



For Release: Wednesday, May 12, 2021

21-848-CHI

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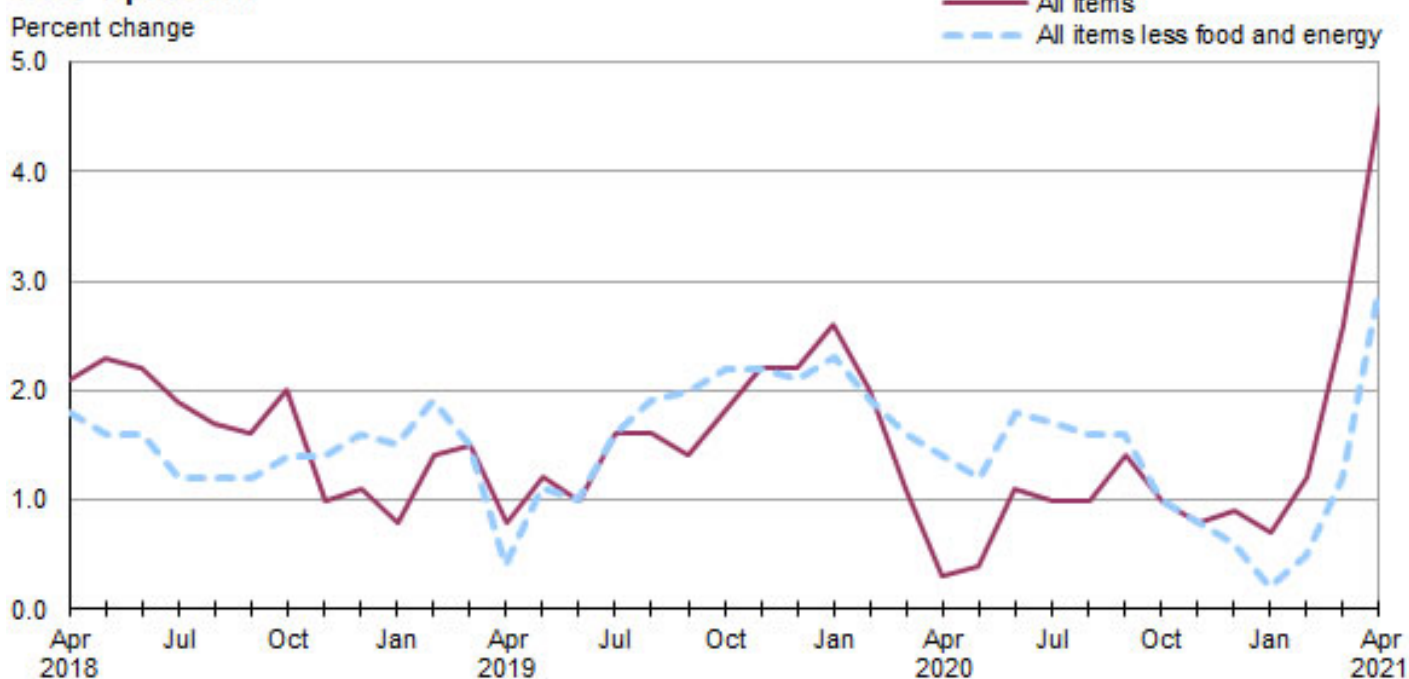
Consumer Price Index, Chicago-Naperville-Elgin — April 2021

Area prices were up 1.0 percent over the past month, up 4.6 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 1.0 percent in April, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Jason Palmer noted that the food index increased 0.3 percent and the energy index rose 4.5 percent in April. The all items less food and energy index rose 0.8 percent, largely due to an increase in household furnishings and operations. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U increased 4.6 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The index for all items less food and energy rose 2.9 percent over the year. Energy prices increased 33.1 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. Food prices increased 3.5 percent. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI, April 2018–April 2021



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices rose 0.3 percent for the month of April. Prices for food at home (groceries) increased 0.3 percent, and prices for food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) advanced 0.4 percent for the same period. Within the food at home group, indexes were higher in April for other pork including roasts, steaks, and ribs; citrus fruits; and uncooked beef steaks. In contrast the indexes for uncooked ground beef; bacon, breakfast sausage, and related products; and pork chops were lower.

Over the year, food prices increased 3.5 percent. Prices for food at home increased 0.7 percent since a year ago, and prices for food away from home increased 7.0 percent.

Energy

The energy index rose 4.5 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for utility (piped) gas service (18.5 percent). Prices for gasoline increased 3.8 percent, while prices for electricity declined 3.3 percent for the same period.

Energy prices advanced 33.1 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (59.2 percent). Prices paid for utility (piped) gas service increased 40.0 percent, while prices for electricity were down 0.2 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.8 percent in April. Higher prices for household furnishings and operations (3.4 percent) and shelter (0.4 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for apparel (-3.3 percent) and medical care (-0.1 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 2.9 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (2.5 percent) and household furnishings and operations (7.2 percent). Partly offsetting the increases was a price decrease in education and communication (-0.7 percent).

Table A. Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI, CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.7	1.8	0.8	1.8	0.6	0.8	0.9	2.6	0.7	0.7
February.....	0.1	2.2	0.0	1.6	0.6	1.4	0.0	2.0	0.6	1.2
March.....	-0.1	2.0	0.0	1.8	0.1	1.5	-0.7	1.1	0.6	2.6
April.....	0.4	1.7	0.7	2.1	-0.1	0.8	-0.9	0.3	1.0	4.6
May.....	0.2	1.8	0.4	2.3	0.8	1.2	1.0	0.4		
June.....	0.0	1.3	-0.2	2.2	-0.4	1.0	0.3	1.1		
July.....	0.0	2.2	-0.3	1.9	0.3	1.6	0.2	1.0		
August.....	0.3	2.3	0.1	1.7	0.2	1.6	0.1	1.0		
September.....	0.4	2.1	0.4	1.6	0.2	1.4	0.6	1.4		
October.....	-0.4	1.6	0.0	2.0	0.3	1.8	-0.1	1.0		
November.....	0.4	1.8	-0.6	1.0	-0.2	2.2	-0.4	0.8		
December.....	-0.4	1.7	-0.3	1.1	-0.2	2.2	-0.2	0.9		

The May 2021 Consumer Price Index for the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin area is scheduled to be released on Thursday, June 10, 2021.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on April 2021 Consumer Price Index Data

Data collection by personal visit for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program has been suspended since March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in April was affected by the temporary closing or limited operations of certain types of establishments. These factors resulted in an increase in the number of prices considered temporarily unavailable and imputed.

While the CPI program attempted to collect as much data as possible, many indexes are based on smaller amounts of collected prices than usual, and a small number of indexes that are normally published were not published this month. Additional information is available at www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.htm.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 93 percent of the total U.S. population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 percent of the total U.S. population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 retail establishments—department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date; for most of the CPI-U the reference base is 1982-84 equals 100. An increase of 7 percent from the reference base, for example, is shown as 107.000. Alternatively, that relationship can also be expressed as the price of a base period market basket of goods and services rising from \$100 to \$107. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the CPI section of the BLS Handbook of Methods available on the internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The **Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI, Core Based Statistical Area** covered in this release is comprised of Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties in Illinois; Jasper, Lake, Newton, and Porter Counties in Indiana; and Kenosha County in Wisconsin.

Information in this release will be made available to individuals with sensory impairments upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021	Apr. 2021	Apr. 2020	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021
Expenditure category						
All items.....	247.387	248.984	251.491	4.6	1.7	1.0
All items (1967=100).....	739.089	743.860	751.350	-	-	-
Food and beverages.....	269.599	269.122	269.948	3.5	0.1	0.3
Food.....	269.334	269.011	269.946	3.5	0.2	0.3
Food at home.....	247.034	249.130	249.805	0.7	1.1	0.3
Cereals and bakery products.....	283.585	280.212	277.875	0.1	-2.0	-0.8
Meats, poultry, fish and eggs.....	262.222	270.461	266.578	0.3	1.7	-1.4
Dairy and related products.....	228.352	224.547	227.370	-1.9	-0.4	1.3
Fruits and vegetables.....	307.816	315.041	325.463	6.5	5.7	3.3
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1).....	212.581	208.186	210.875	-1.2	-0.8	1.3
Other food at home.....	198.055	200.363	199.123	-0.5	0.5	-0.6
Food away from home.....	294.649	290.915	292.196	7.0	-0.8	0.4
Alcoholic beverages.....	271.539	269.074	268.487	4.0	-1.1	-0.2
Housing.....	261.111	262.721	265.555	3.8	1.7	1.1
Shelter.....	332.520	332.735	334.088	2.5	0.5	0.4
Rent of primary residence(2).....	355.015	354.530	355.331	2.3	0.1	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3).....	343.187	343.264	344.709	2.5	0.4	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(2)(3).....	343.187	343.264	344.709	2.5	0.4	0.4
Fuels and utilities.....	211.752	219.721	228.663	11.2	8.0	4.1
Household energy.....	163.304	171.438	180.510	14.5	10.5	5.3
Energy services(2).....	166.578	174.913	184.223	14.5	10.6	5.3
Electricity(2).....	162.441	170.315	164.628	-0.2	1.3	-3.3
Utility (piped) gas service(2).....	159.093	167.434	198.335	40.0	24.7	18.5
Household furnishings and operations.....	90.626	92.382	95.484	7.2	5.4	3.4
Apparel.....	82.551	83.350	80.630	5.4	-2.3	-3.3
Transportation.....	183.848	189.653	196.186	16.4	6.7	3.4
Private transportation.....	185.258	192.062	196.350	16.3	6.0	2.2
New and used motor vehicles(4).....	99.255	100.995	102.787	5.7	3.6	1.8
New vehicles(1).....	178.926	180.384	179.779	3.2	0.5	-0.3
Used cars and trucks(1).....	288.278	295.243	325.653	21.6	13.0	10.3
Motor fuel.....	234.916	261.431	271.152	58.5	15.4	3.7
Gasoline (all types).....	232.627	258.891	268.634	59.2	15.5	3.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular(5).....	223.654	249.810	259.291	61.1	15.9	3.8
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(5)(6).....	260.261	283.516	293.742	50.3	12.9	3.6
Gasoline, unleaded premium(5).....	258.655	278.755	288.399	41.9	11.5	3.5
Motor vehicle insurance(1).....	502.996	504.085	522.145	11.0	3.8	3.6
Medical care.....	533.523	533.409	532.683	0.3	-0.2	-0.1
Recreation(4).....	117.597	116.734	118.887	4.7	1.1	1.8
Education and communication(4).....	141.553	141.645	141.608	-0.7	0.0	0.0
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare(1).....	1,221.704	1,221.704	1,221.704	1.0	0.0	0.0
Other goods and services.....	403.580	403.499	409.363	0.0	1.4	1.5
Commodity and service group						
All items.....	247.387	248.984	251.491	4.6	1.7	1.0
Commodities.....	172.650	174.843	176.451	7.5	2.2	0.9
Commodities less food and beverages.....	126.039	129.053	130.835	10.7	3.8	1.4
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	167.029	172.549	173.221	13.9	3.7	0.4
Durables.....	87.625	88.780	91.060	7.1	3.9	2.6
Services.....	318.245	319.107	322.490	3.0	1.3	1.1

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021	Apr. 2021	Apr. 2020	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	235.110	236.795	239.466	5.1	1.9	1.1
All items less shelter	218.563	220.612	223.492	5.7	2.3	1.3
Commodities less food	130.963	133.865	135.604	10.3	3.5	1.3
Nondurables	217.950	220.682	221.435	7.7	1.6	0.3
Nondurables less food.....	173.715	178.769	179.366	13.0	3.3	0.3
Services less rent of shelter(3).....	319.193	320.796	326.529	3.5	2.3	1.8
Services less medical care services.....	301.338	302.282	306.013	3.3	1.6	1.2
Energy	190.938	206.370	215.646	33.1	12.9	4.5
All items less energy	254.777	255.190	257.135	3.0	0.9	0.8
All items less food and energy	253.022	253.570	255.705	2.9	1.1	0.8

Footnotes

(1) Index on a December 1977=100 base.

(2) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(3) Index on a December 1982=100 base.

(4) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(5) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(6) Index on a December 1993=100 base.

- Data not available.

Note: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.