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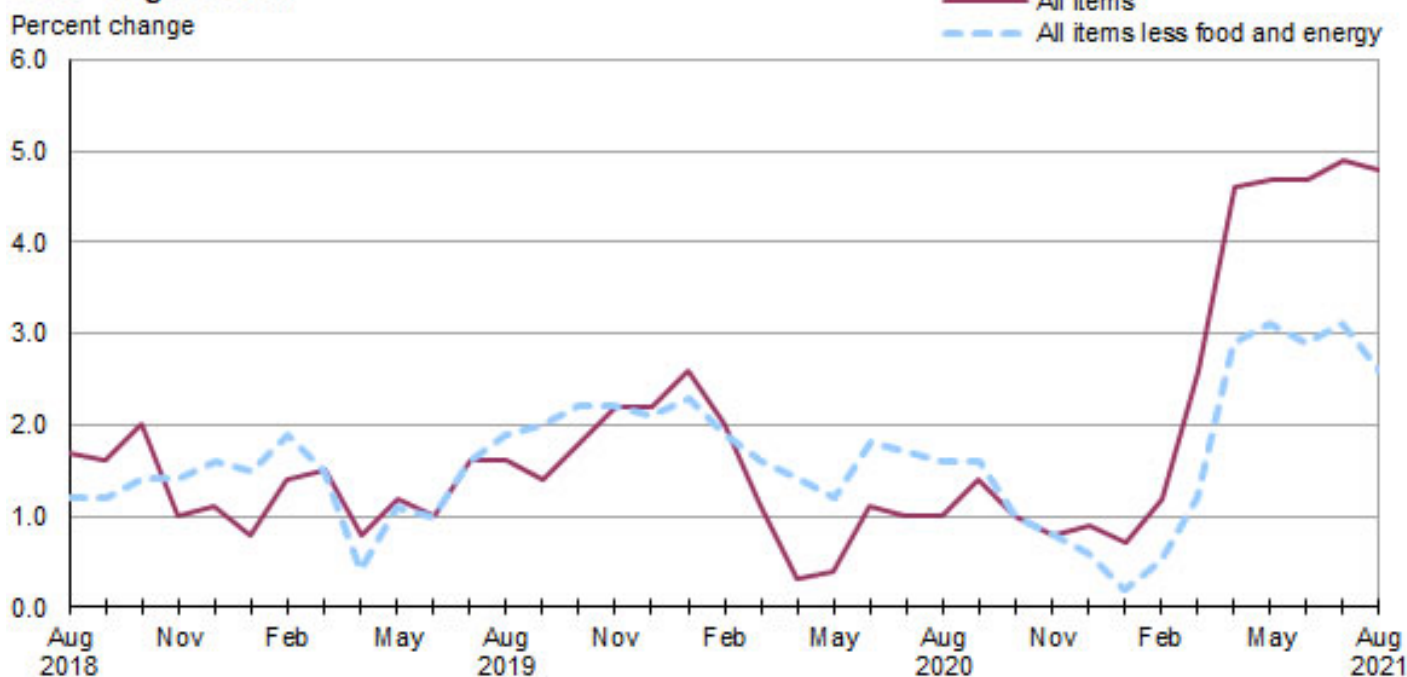
Consumer Price Index, Chicago-Naperville-Elgin — August 2021

Area prices were up 0.1 percent over the past month, up 4.8 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), were up 0.1 percent in August, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Jason Palmer noted that food prices increased 1.1 percent over the month, and energy costs rose 0.4 percent. The index for all items less food and energy fell 0.2 percent in August. Decreases in the indexes for recreation, used cars and trucks, and household furnishings and operations contributed to the decline in the all items less food and energy category. (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 rose 4.8 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.6 percent over the year. Energy prices jumped 30.0 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. Food prices rose 6.8 percent. (See [table 1](#).)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices rose 1.1 percent for the month of August. Prices for food at home (groceries) increased 0.8 percent, and prices for food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) advanced 1.4 percent for the same period. Within the food at home group, indexes were higher in August for citrus fruits, uncooked beef steaks, and uncooked ground beef. In contrast, the indexes for tomatoes and fresh fish and seafood were lower.

Over the year, food prices rose 6.8 percent. Prices for food at home rose 3.2 percent since a year ago, and prices for food away from home jumped 11.3 percent.

Energy

The energy index rose 0.4 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for utility (piped) gas service (1.7 percent). Prices for electricity increased 0.7 percent, while gasoline prices declined 0.4 percent for the same period.

Energy prices jumped 30.0 percent over the year, largely due to higher gasoline prices (43.9 percent). Prices paid for utility (piped) gas service jumped 46.9 percent, and electricity prices increased 1.2 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy decreased 0.2 percent in August. Lower prices for recreation (-1.8 percent), used cars and trucks (-1.4 percent), and household furnishings and operations (-0.6 percent) were partially offset by higher prices for shelter (0.4 percent) and apparel (1.0 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 2.6 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (3.0 percent) and new and used motor vehicles (10.5 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	1.0	4.7
June.....	0.0	1.3	-0.2	2.2	-0.4	1.0	0.3	1.1	0.4	4.7
July.....	0.0	2.2	-0.3	1.9	0.3	1.6	0.2	1.0	0.4	4.9
August.....	0.3	2.3	0.1	1.7	0.2	1.6	0.1	1.0	0.1	4.8
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 September 2021 Consumer Price Index for the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin area is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, October 13, 2021.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on August 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 August 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-		
	Jun. 2021	Jul. 2021	Aug. 2021	Aug. 2020	Jun. 2021	Jul. 2021
Expenditure category						
All items	254.974	255.929	256.078	4.8	0.4	0.1
All items (1967=100)	761.756	764.608	765.053	-	-	-
Food and beverages	273.992	274.345	276.951	6.3	1.1	0.9
Food	274.439	274.437	277.419	6.8	1.1	1.1
Food at home	251.539	252.314	254.308	3.2	1.1	0.8
Cereals and bakery products	280.096	284.106	278.433	1.0	-0.6	-2.0
Meats, poultry, fish and eggs	276.451	281.029	286.647	8.6	3.7	2.0
Dairy and related products	226.946	226.935	228.340	-2.3	0.6	0.6
Fruits and vegetables	318.730	311.374	316.065	2.6	-0.8	1.5
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1)	210.524	212.208	212.448	3.0	0.9	0.1
Other food at home	200.580	201.129	203.039	2.1	1.2	0.9
Food away from home	300.483	299.383	303.692	11.3	1.1	1.4
Alcoholic beverages	266.701	271.657	269.388	0.8	1.0	-0.8
Housing	268.334	270.272	271.127	4.5	1.0	0.3
Shelter	337.136	339.328	340.516	3.0	1.0	0.4
Rent of primary residence(2)	357.057	358.024	359.380	2.5	0.7	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3)	346.814	348.254	348.476	2.3	0.5	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(2)(3)	346.814	348.254	348.476	2.3	0.5	0.1
Fuels and utilities	234.597	236.913	239.073	14.3	1.9	0.9
Household energy	185.719	187.802	189.986	18.0	2.3	1.2
Energy services(2)	189.545	191.661	193.908	18.0	2.3	1.2
Electricity(2)	163.739	168.414	169.620	1.2	3.6	0.7
Utility (piped) gas service(2)	212.479	210.607	214.220	46.9	0.8	1.7
Household furnishings and operations	95.973	96.935	96.400	6.7	0.4	-0.6
Apparel	81.435	83.308	84.164	5.4	3.4	1.0
Transportation	207.171	207.066	205.010	13.9	-1.0	-1.0
Private transportation	206.448	208.500	208.377	15.7	0.9	-0.1
New and used motor vehicles(4)	107.722	108.859	108.894	10.5	1.1	0.0
New vehicles(1)	179.175	181.514	183.566	6.0	2.5	1.1
Used cars and trucks(1)	383.377	386.794	381.320	32.4	-0.5	-1.4
Motor fuel	295.598	300.216	299.142	43.9	1.2	-0.4
Gasoline (all types)	292.987	297.569	296.467	43.9	1.2	-0.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular(5)	283.147	287.550	286.414	44.9	1.2	-0.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(5)(6)	318.980	324.246	323.652	40.0	1.5	-0.2
Gasoline, unleaded premium(5)	310.365	315.484	315.105	34.6	1.5	-0.1
Motor vehicle insurance(1)	523.915	523.915	523.915	-3.1	0.0	0.0
Medical care	532.015	529.040	527.899	-1.5	-0.8	-0.2
Recreation(4)	116.658	117.210	115.074	0.5	-1.4	-1.8
Education and communication(4)	141.478	141.562	141.425	-0.1	0.0	-0.1
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare(1) ..	1,228.788	1,231.457	1,230.836	1.2	0.2	-0.1
Other goods and services	409.666	412.393	413.270	1.0	0.9	0.2
Commodity and service group						
All items	254.974	255.929	256.078	4.8	0.4	0.1
Commodities	180.538	181.857	182.520	8.8	1.1	0.4
Commodities less food and beverages	134.666	136.246	136.162	10.7	1.1	-0.1
Nondurables less food and beverages	178.210	180.934	179.901	10.8	0.9	-0.6
Durables	93.778	94.488	94.996	10.5	1.3	0.5
Services	325.139	325.646	325.220	2.5	0.0	-0.1

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-		
	Jun. 2021	Jul. 2021	Aug. 2021	Aug. 2020	Jun. 2021	Jul. 2021
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	243.161	244.304	244.515	5.5	0.6	0.1
All items less shelter	227.108	227.652	227.457	5.7	0.2	-0.1
Commodities less food	139.328	141.009	140.868	10.1	1.1	-0.1
Nondurables	226.036	227.665	228.352	8.2	1.0	0.3
Nondurables less food	183.960	186.825	185.715	9.8	1.0	-0.6
Services less rent of shelter ⁽³⁾	328.855	327.544	325.425	1.9	-1.0	-0.6
Services less medical care services	309.020	309.827	309.442	3.0	0.1	-0.1
Energy	228.513	231.596	232.465	30.0	1.7	0.4
All items less energy	259.839	260.619	260.707	3.3	0.3	0.0
All items less food and energy	258.095	259.018	258.583	2.6	0.2	-0.2

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.