



For Release: Wednesday, October 13, 2021

21-1762-CHI

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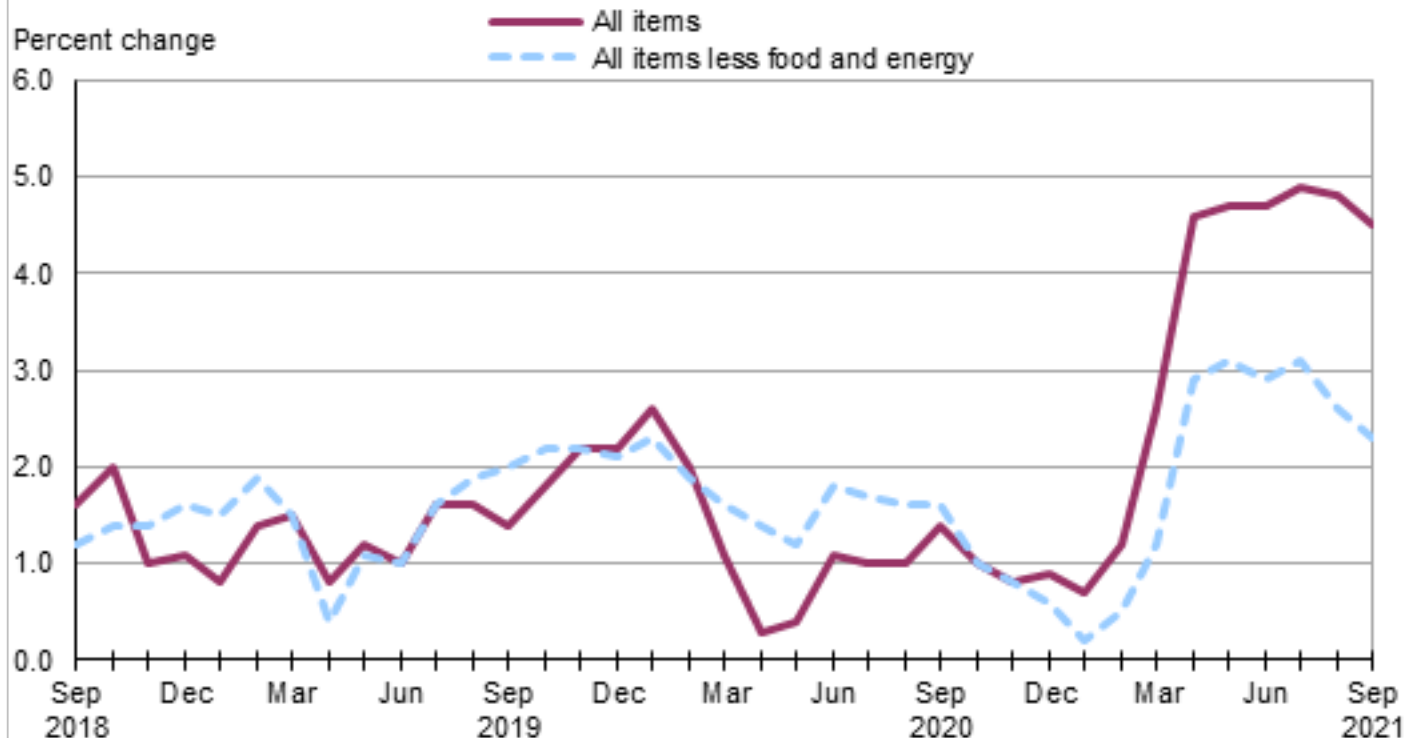
Consumer Price Index, Chicago-Naperville-Elgin — September 2021

Area prices were up 0.3 percent over the past month, up 4.5 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), increased 0.3 percent in September, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Jason Palmer noted that food prices increased 1.3 percent over the month, and energy costs declined 0.5 percent. The index for all items less food and energy was up 0.2 percent in September. Increases in the indexes for shelter, household furnishings and operations, and apparel contributed to the increase 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 4.5 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.3 percent over the year. Energy prices jumped 30.8 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. Food prices increased 6.1 percent. (See [table 1](#).)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices advanced 1.3 percent for the month of September. Prices for food at home (groceries) increased 2.1 percent, and prices for food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) were up 0.4 percent for the same period. Within the food at home group, indexes were higher in September for other fresh fruits; bacon, breakfast sausage, and related products; and spices, seasonings, condiments, and sauces. In contrast, the indexes for other meats and pork chops were lower.

Over the year, food prices increased 6.1 percent. Prices for food at home advanced 5.5 percent since a year ago, and prices for food away from home rose 6.8 percent.

Energy

The energy index decreased 0.5 percent over the month. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for electricity (-2.6 percent). Prices for utility (piped) gas service advanced 0.7 percent, and prices for gasoline increased 0.1 percent for the same period.

Energy prices increased 30.8 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (47.0 percent). Prices paid for utility (piped) gas service jumped 42.6 percent, and prices for electricity were up 1.3 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy was up 0.2 percent in September. Higher prices for shelter (0.5 percent), household furnishings and operations (2.8 percent), and apparel (1.9 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for recreation (-5.1 percent) and used cars and trucks (-3.8 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 2.3 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (3.3 percent) and new and used motor vehicles (9.8 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	0.3	4.5
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 October 2021 Consumer Price Index for the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin area is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, November 10, 2021.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on September 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 September 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-		
	Jul. 2021	Aug. 2021	Sep. 2021	Sep. 2020	Jul. 2021	Aug. 2021
Expenditure category						
All items	255.929	256.078	256.881	4.5	0.4	0.3
All items (1967=100)	764.608	765.053	767.454	-	-	-
Food and beverages	274.345	276.951	280.544	5.8	2.3	1.3
Food	274.437	277.419	281.139	6.1	2.4	1.3
Food at home	252.314	254.308	259.773	5.5	3.0	2.1
Cereals and bakery products	284.106	278.433	284.875	2.2	0.3	2.3
Meats, poultry, fish and eggs	281.029	286.647	289.035	8.1	2.8	0.8
Dairy and related products	226.935	228.340	226.562	-0.5	-0.2	-0.8
Fruits and vegetables	311.374	316.065	327.230	10.6	5.1	3.5
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1)	212.208	212.448	222.590	5.0	4.9	4.8
Other food at home	201.129	203.039	207.527	4.1	3.2	2.2
Food away from home	299.383	303.692	304.862	6.8	1.8	0.4
Alcoholic beverages	271.657	269.388	271.316	2.2	-0.1	0.7
Housing	270.272	271.127	272.852	5.0	1.0	0.6
Shelter	339.328	340.516	342.328	3.3	0.9	0.5
Rent of primary residence(2)	358.024	359.380	362.153	3.1	1.2	0.8
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3)	348.254	348.476	350.722	2.8	0.7	0.6
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(2)(3)	348.254	348.476	350.722	2.8	0.7	0.6
Fuels and utilities	236.913	239.073	237.382	13.7	0.2	-0.7
Household energy	187.802	189.986	187.962	17.1	0.1	-1.1
Energy services(2)	191.661	193.908	191.802	17.1	0.1	-1.1
Electricity(2)	168.414	169.620	165.248	1.3	-1.9	-2.6
Utility (piped) gas service(2)	210.607	214.220	215.666	42.6	2.4	0.7
Household furnishings and operations	96.935	96.400	99.131	9.6	2.3	2.8
Apparel	83.308	84.164	85.786	-2.0	3.0	1.9
Transportation	207.066	205.010	204.876	15.1	-1.1	-0.1
Private transportation	208.500	208.377	207.862	16.5	-0.3	-0.2
New and used motor vehicles(4)	108.859	108.894	108.192	9.8	-0.6	-0.6
New vehicles(1)	181.514	183.566	184.682	7.8	1.7	0.6
Used cars and trucks(1)	386.794	381.320	366.769	24.2	-5.2	-3.8
Motor fuel	300.216	299.142	299.410	46.9	-0.3	0.1
Gasoline (all types)	297.569	296.467	296.726	47.0	-0.3	0.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular(5)	287.550	286.414	286.690	48.2	-0.3	0.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(5)(6)	324.246	323.652	323.909	41.3	-0.1	0.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium(5)	315.484	315.105	315.064	35.9	-0.1	0.0
Motor vehicle insurance(1)	523.915	523.915	521.978	2.3	-0.4	-0.4
Medical care	529.040	527.899	526.810	-2.2	-0.4	-0.2
Recreation(4)	117.210	115.074	109.241	-5.0	-6.8	-5.1
Education and communication(4)	141.562	141.425	141.882	-0.3	0.2	0.3
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare(1)	1,231.457	1,230.836	1,232.924	1.3	0.1	0.2
Other goods and services	412.393	413.270	417.439	2.2	1.2	1.0
Commodity and service group						
All items	255.929	256.078	256.881	4.5	0.4	0.3
Commodities	181.857	182.520	184.340	8.4	1.4	1.0
Commodities less food and beverages	136.246	136.162	137.218	10.4	0.7	0.8
Nondurables less food and beverages	180.934	179.901	182.771	10.4	1.0	1.6
Durables	94.488	94.996	94.826	10.5	0.4	-0.2
Services	325.646	325.220	324.862	2.2	-0.2	-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-		
	Jul. 2021	Aug. 2021	Sep. 2021	Sep. 2020	Jul. 2021	Aug. 2021
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	244.304	244.515	245.411	5.3	0.5	0.4
All items less shelter	227.652	227.457	227.926	5.1	0.1	0.2
Commodities less food	141.009	140.868	141.957	10.0	0.7	0.8
Nondurables	227.665	228.352	231.602	7.7	1.7	1.4
Nondurables less food	186.825	185.715	188.535	9.6	0.9	1.5
Services less rent of shelter(3)	327.544	325.425	322.517	1.0	-1.5	-0.9
Services less medical care services	309.827	309.442	309.123	2.9	-0.2	-0.1
Energy	231.596	232.465	231.369	30.8	-0.1	-0.5
All items less energy	260.619	260.707	261.683	2.9	0.4	0.4
All items less food and energy	259.018	258.583	259.066	2.3	0.0	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.