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Consumer Price Index, Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington — March 2021

Area prices were up 1.1 percent over the past two months, up 3.0 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), increased 1.1 percent for the two months ending in March 2021, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Jason Palmer noted that the food index increased 0.7 percent, and the energy index rose 12.5 percent from January to March. The all items less food and energy index rose 0.4 percent over the past two months. Among the indexes within the all items less food and energy category, prices were higher for medical care and shelter, but lower for apparel. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, bi-monthly changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U increased 3.0 percent. (See [table A](#).) The index for all items less food and energy rose 2.0 percent over the year. Energy prices advanced 18.2 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. Food prices increased 3.5 percent. (See [table 1](#).)

Food

Food prices rose 0.7 percent for the two months ending in March. Prices for food at home (groceries) advanced 1.1 percent, and prices for food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) were unchanged for the same period.

Over the year, food prices advanced 3.5 percent. Prices for food at home advanced 3.6 percent since a year ago, and prices for food away from home rose 3.3 percent.

Energy

The energy index increased 12.5 percent for the two months ending in March. The increase was mainly due to higher gasoline prices (23.1 percent). Electricity prices increased 2.2 percent, and prices for utility (piped) gas service were up 0.2 percent for the same period.

Energy prices advanced 18.2 percent over the year, largely due to higher gasoline prices (27.5 percent). Prices paid for utility (piped) gas service rose 15.9 percent, and electricity prices increased 4.2 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 0.4 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for medical care (2.4 percent) and shelter (0.2 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for apparel (-3.6 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 2.0 percent. Components contributing to the increase included medical care (6.1 percent), new and used motor vehicles (6.6 percent), and household furnishings and operations (5.3 percent). Partly offsetting the increases was a price decrease in recreation (-2.5 percent).

Table A. Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI, CPI-U 2-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2018		2019		2020		2021	
	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month
January.....	0.3		0.4	1.4	0.6	3.0	0.4	1.6
March	0.5		1.4	2.3	-0.3	1.2	1.1	3.0
May.....	1.0		1.0	2.3	-0.1	0.0		
July	0.3		0.3	2.2	-0.1	-0.3		
September.....	0.3		-0.2	1.7	2.1	1.9		
November.....	-1.2	1.3	-0.2	2.8	-0.4	1.7		

The May 2021 Consumer Price Index for Minneapolis is scheduled to be released on Thursday, June 10, 2021.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on March 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 March 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 **Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI, Core Based Statistical Area** covered in this release is comprised of Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Isanti, LeSueur, Mille Lacs, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, Washington, and Wright Counties in Minnesota; and Pierce and St. Croix Counties in Wisconsin.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals 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 Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021	Mar. 2020	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021
Expenditure category						
All items	256.379	-	259.187	3.0	1.1	-
All items (1967=100)	805.679	-	814.501	-	-	-
Food and beverages	296.741	-	297.779	3.2	0.3	-
Food	285.124	-	287.023	3.5	0.7	-
Food at home	255.581	257.756	258.456	3.6	1.1	0.3
Cereals and bakery products	270.449	-	265.669	-6.7	-1.8	-
Meats, poultry, fish and eggs	282.637	-	286.456	9.4	1.4	-
Dairy and related products	279.334	-	283.091	0.5	1.3	-
Fruits and vegetables	346.251	-	350.254	3.5	1.2	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1)	159.630	-	165.684	6.2	3.8	-
Other food at home	204.869	-	206.665	3.7	0.9	-
Food away from home	327.304	-	327.411	3.3	0.0	-
Alcoholic beverages	398.303	-	386.516	-0.1	-3.0	-
Housing	245.447	-	246.332	1.9	0.4	-
Shelter	291.475	292.620	292.167	0.9	0.2	-0.2
Rent of primary residence(2)	301.674	302.235	302.352	1.7	0.2	0.0
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3)	311.020	311.644	311.758	2.9	0.2	0.0
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(2)(3)	311.020	311.644	311.758	2.9	0.2	0.0
Fuels and utilities	213.209	-	215.688	7.1	1.2	-
Household energy	187.060	194.061	189.928	8.7	1.5	-2.1
Energy services(2)	188.477	193.618	191.379	8.0	1.5	-1.2
Electricity(2)	255.619	259.823	261.359	4.2	2.2	0.6
Utility (piped) gas service(2)	131.024	137.225	131.329	15.9	0.2	-4.3
Household furnishings and operations	126.054	-	126.831	5.3	0.6	-
Apparel	138.724	-	133.734	1.1	-3.6	-
Transportation	192.870	-	204.030	8.6	5.8	-
Private transportation	183.543	-	196.117	11.0	6.9	-
New and used motor vehicles(4)	92.919	-	94.798	6.6	2.0	-
New vehicles(1)	160.020	-	159.430	6.7	-0.4	-
Used cars and trucks(1)	296.939	-	306.503	11.1	3.2	-
Motor fuel	182.945	197.272	224.591	26.8	22.8	13.8
Gasoline (all types)	183.280	197.818	225.659	27.5	23.1	14.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular(5)	183.725	198.371	226.649	28.5	23.4	14.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(5)(6)	183.861	200.761	226.838	18.8	23.4	13.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium(5)	225.126	241.265	270.728	17.4	20.3	12.2
Motor vehicle insurance(1)	502.358	-	510.388	8.5	1.6	-
Medical care	590.900	-	604.866	6.1	2.4	-
Recreation(4)	131.674	-	132.860	-2.5	0.9	-
Education and communication(4)	140.034	-	139.020	1.4	-0.7	-
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare(1) ..	1,131.870	-	1,131.870	3.9	0.0	-
Other goods and services	400.953	-	407.868	3.9	1.7	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	256.379	-	259.187	3.0	1.1	-
Commodities	191.326	-	193.866	4.8	1.3	-
Commodities less food and beverages	145.848	-	148.658	5.8	1.9	-
Nondurables less food and beverages	190.753	-	197.894	7.4	3.7	-
Durables	106.920	-	106.616	3.9	-0.3	-
Services	314.256	-	317.271	2.0	1.0	-

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 Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021	Mar. 2020	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	241.351	-	243.690	2.7	1.0	-
All items less shelter	242.405	-	246.120	4.1	1.5	-
Commodities less food	154.499	-	157.093	5.5	1.7	-
Nondurables	239.913	-	244.600	5.1	2.0	-
Nondurables less food	204.333	-	210.766	6.7	3.1	-
Services less rent of shelter(3)	352.974	-	359.208	3.2	1.8	-
Services less medical care services	289.263	-	291.265	1.4	0.7	-
Energy	187.453	198.430	210.896	18.2	12.5	6.3
All items less energy	266.990	-	268.231	2.2	0.5	-
All items less food and energy	264.408	-	265.555	2.0	0.4	-

Footnotes

(1) Index on an April 1978=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.