



For Release: Friday, May 22, 2015

15-992-CHI

MIDWEST INFORMATION OFFICE: Chicago, Ill.

Technical information: (312) 353-1880 BLSInfoChicago@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/midwest

Media contact: (312) 353-1138

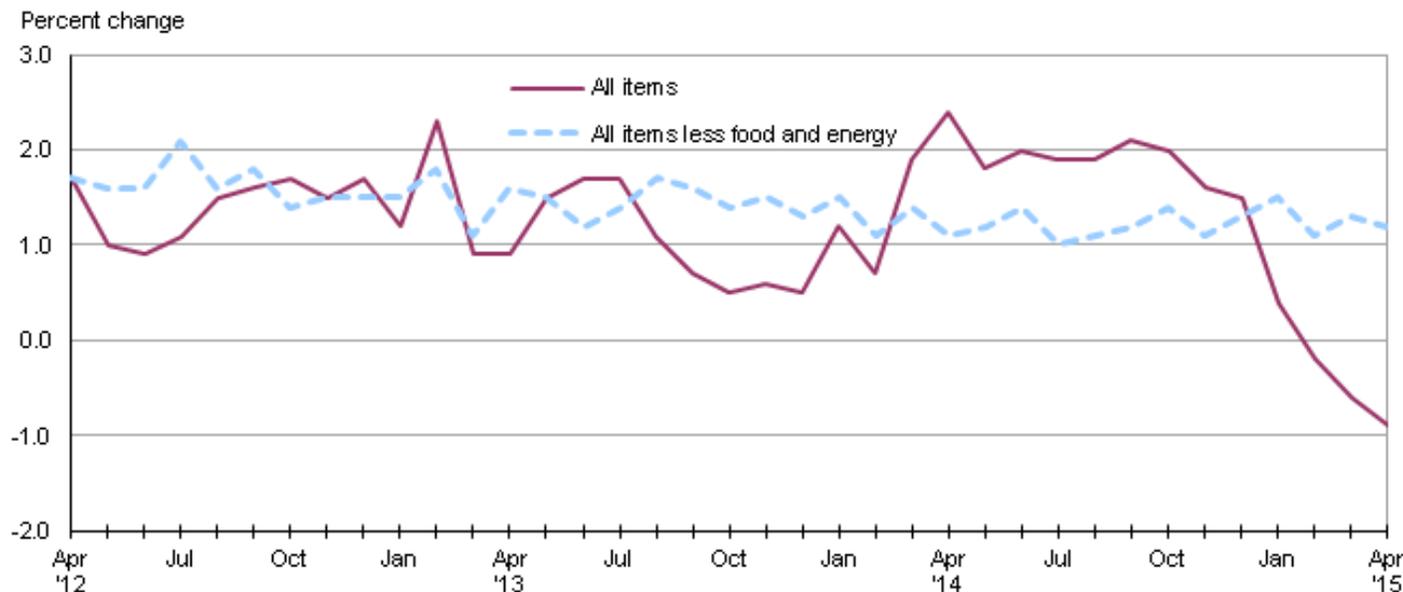
Consumer Price Index, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha — April 2015

Local prices declined 0.9 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Chicago-Gary-Kenosha area edged up 0.1 percent in April, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that energy prices rose 0.9 percent and food prices increased 0.6 percent in April. The all items less food and energy index was unchanged over the month. Among the indexes within the all items less food and energy index, prices rose for medical care, but were lower for apparel, education and communication, and recreation in April. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the Chicago area all items CPI-U decreased 0.9 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The energy index fell 23.5 percent over the year as falling gasoline prices and utility (piped) gas service costs overcame increases in electricity costs. The all items less food and energy index was 1.2 percent higher over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Chicago, April 2012–April 2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices rose 0.6 percent in April following a 0.3 percent increase in March. Of the two components within the food index, prices for food at home (groceries) rose 0.6 percent and prices for food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) increased 0.5 percent, over the month. Within the food at home group, categories experiencing increases included citrus fruits along with cakes, cupcakes, and cookies. Prices were lower for lettuce, cheese and related products, and carbonated drinks.

From April 2014 to April 2015, the food index increased 2.6 percent. Grocery food prices rose 2.5 percent over the year, while prices for food eaten away from home increased 2.8 percent compared to last April.

Energy

The energy index was up 0.9 percent in April due mostly to a 3.3 percent increase in gasoline prices. The electricity index rose 1.6 percent and utility (piped) gas service costs fell 5.5 percent from March to April.

On an annual basis, the Chicago area energy index declined 23.5 percent. Over the year, gasoline prices and utility (piped) gas service costs fell 31.2 percent and 45.0 percent, respectively, while the index for electricity rose 26.3 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy was unchanged in April. Among the index's components, prices were higher for medical care (0.5 percent). In contrast, prices were lower for apparel (-2.7 percent), education and communication (-0.3 percent), and recreation (-0.4 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.2 percent. Annual increases in the indexes for shelter (2.8 percent) and medical care (3.1 percent) were the major contributing factors. In contrast, apparel prices were down 7.9 percent over the year.

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

Month	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	1-month	12-month								
January.....	0.6	1.4	0.6	2.1	0.2	1.2	0.9	1.2	-0.2	0.4
February.....	0.5	1.8	0.0	1.6	1.1	2.3	0.5	0.7	0.0	-0.2
March.....	0.8	2.3	1.2	2.1	-0.1	0.9	1.1	1.9	0.7	-0.6
April.....	0.4	2.7	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.9	0.5	2.4	0.1	-0.9
May.....	0.6	3.3	-0.1	1.0	0.5	1.5	-0.1	1.8		
June.....	0.0	3.8	-0.1	0.9	0.1	1.7	0.4	2.0		
July.....	-0.4	3.2	-0.2	1.1	-0.2	1.7	-0.4	1.9		
August.....	0.2	3.2	0.6	1.5	0.1	1.1	0.1	1.9		
September.....	0.2	3.1	0.3	1.6	-0.2	0.7	0.0	2.1		
October.....	-0.2	2.9	-0.2	1.7	-0.3	0.5	-0.4	2.0		
November.....	-0.2	2.9	-0.4	1.5	-0.3	0.6	-0.8	1.6		
December.....	-0.5	2.1	-0.3	1.7	-0.3	0.5	-0.4	1.5		

The May 2015 Consumer Price Index for Chicago is scheduled to be released on Thursday, June 18, 2015, at 7:30 a.m. (CT).

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 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total 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 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 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 (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

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-Gary-Kenosha, Ill.-Ind.-Wis.** consolidated area covered in this release is comprised of Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties in Illinois; Lake and Porter Counties in Indiana; and Kenosha County 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 Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Feb. 2015	Mar. 2015	Apr. 2015	Apr. 2014	Feb. 2015	Mar. 2015
Expenditure category						
All items	225.763	227.405	227.704	-0.9	0.9	0.1
All items (1967=100)	674.487	679.392	680.286	-	-	-
Food and beverages	239.125	239.642	241.043	2.4	0.8	0.6
Food	238.529	239.237	240.620	2.6	0.9	0.6
Food at home	236.419	237.289	238.796	2.5	1.0	0.6
Food away from home	236.108	236.570	237.745	2.8	0.7	0.5
Alcoholic beverages	246.250	243.936	245.591	-1.4	-0.3	0.7
Housing	231.163	232.224	232.153	0.8	0.4	0.0
Shelter	285.694	286.671	286.671	2.8	0.3	0.0
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	302.719	303.496	303.791	3.7	0.4	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ^{(1) (2)}	290.960	291.752	291.986	2.5	0.4	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)}	290.960	291.752	291.986	2.5	0.4	0.1
Fuels and utilities	200.001	203.423	202.433	-9.9	1.2	-0.5
Household energy	166.431	169.157	167.189	-14.7	0.5	-1.2
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	169.744	172.461	170.426	-14.8	0.4	-1.2
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	174.159	174.586	177.353	26.3	1.8	1.6
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	147.670	153.300	144.816	-45.0	-1.9	-5.5
Household furnishings and operations	97.047	96.867	97.179	-1.3	0.1	0.3
Apparel	87.730	92.226	89.776	-7.9	2.3	-2.7
Transportation	178.625	183.032	185.375	-10.5	3.8	1.3
Private transportation	174.975	179.873	181.510	-10.9	3.7	0.9
Motor fuel	210.332	231.701	239.373	-31.2	13.8	3.3
Gasoline (all types)	207.984	229.201	236.865	-31.2	13.9	3.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽³⁾	201.849	223.218	230.614	-31.9	14.3	3.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{(3) (4)}	226.320	246.112	254.831	-29.3	12.6	3.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽³⁾	215.707	233.685	241.629	-27.5	12.0	3.4
Medical care	463.965	460.288	462.420	3.1	-0.3	0.5
Recreation ⁽⁵⁾	108.898	108.913	108.482	0.0	-0.4	-0.4
Education and communication ⁽⁵⁾	141.542	142.282	141.864	0.5	0.2	-0.3
Other goods and services	378.645	381.130	379.669	-1.0	0.3	-0.4
Commodity and service group						
All items	225.763	227.405	227.704	-0.9	0.9	0.1
Commodities	165.278	167.830	168.328	-4.7	1.8	0.3
Commodities less food & beverages	127.742	131.098	131.186	-9.7	2.7	0.1
Nondurables less food & beverages	164.122	171.084	171.338	-13.7	4.4	0.1
Durables	92.820	92.765	92.697	-1.8	-0.1	-0.1
Services	283.054	283.839	283.951	1.3	0.3	0.0
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	215.555	217.435	217.653	-1.3	1.0	0.1
All items less shelter	205.651	207.536	207.942	-2.7	1.1	0.2
Commodities less food	132.021	135.252	135.383	-9.4	2.5	0.1
Nondurables	202.179	206.146	206.952	-5.4	2.4	0.4
Nondurables less food	169.529	176.032	176.362	-12.9	4.0	0.2
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	295.044	295.657	295.894	-0.2	0.3	0.1
Services less medical care services	269.296	270.312	270.354	1.1	0.4	0.0
Energy	183.155	193.126	194.911	-23.5	6.4	0.9
All items less energy	231.608	232.468	232.627	1.5	0.4	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-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Feb. 2015	Mar. 2015	Apr. 2015	Apr. 2014	Feb. 2015	Mar. 2015
All items less food and energy	231.173	232.064	231.998	1.2	0.4	0.0

Footnotes

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

(2) Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

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

(4) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

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

- Data not available.

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