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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-Naperville-Elgin — January 2019

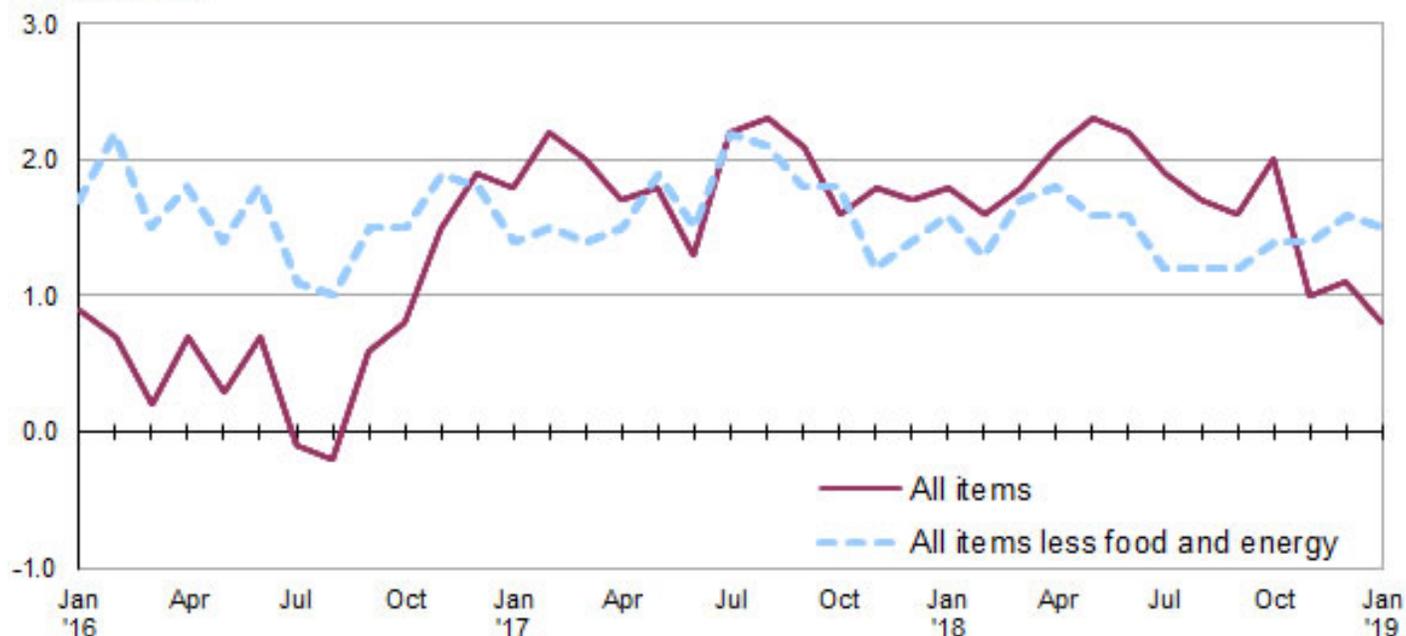
Local prices increased 0.8 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin area increased 0.6 percent in January, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that food prices rose 0.9 percent and the energy index decreased 1.5 percent in January. The all items less food and energy index increased 0.7 percent over the month. Within the all items less food and energy category, prices were higher for shelter, recreation, and apparel over the month. (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 increased 0.8 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) Over the year, the energy index fell 9.7 percent. The decline in the energy index was primarily due to lower gasoline prices. The food index and the all items less food and energy index rose 2.5 percent and 1.5 percent, respectively, over the year. (See [table 1.](#))

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI, January 2016–January 2019

Percent change



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices rose 0.9 percent in January. Of the two components within the food index, prices for food at home (groceries) increased 1.6 percent, while prices for food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) edged up 0.1 percent. Within the food at home group, indexes were higher in January for carbonated drinks, uncooked beef steaks, and canned fruits and vegetables. Prices were lower for chicken and other pork including roasts, steaks, and ribs.

From January 2018 to January 2019, the food index increased 2.5 percent. Over the year, grocery prices increased 1.7 percent, while costs for food away from home rose 3.3 percent.

Energy

The energy index decreased 1.5 percent in January. During the same period, gasoline prices declined 4.0 percent. In January, electricity costs rose 3.5 percent, while utility (piped) gas service costs fell 2.8 percent.

Over the year, the Chicago area energy index fell 9.7 percent. From January 2018 to January 2019, gasoline prices and electricity prices fell 19.6 percent and 0.6 percent, respectively. Utility (piped) gas service costs increased 5.3 percent over the year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.7 percent in January. Among the index's components, prices were higher for shelter (0.6 percent), recreation (1.6 percent), and apparel (2.8 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.5 percent. Increases in the indexes for shelter (3.1 percent) and medical care (2.5 percent) over the year were contributing factors.

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

Month	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	1-month	12-month								
January.....	-0.2	0.4	0.8	0.9	0.7	1.8	0.8	1.8	0.6	0.8
February.....	0.0	-0.2	-0.2	0.7	0.1	2.2	0.0	1.6		
March.....	0.7	-0.6	0.1	0.2	-0.1	2.0	0.0	1.8		
April.....	0.1	-0.9	0.6	0.7	0.4	1.7	0.7	2.1		
May.....	0.3	-0.5	0.0	0.3	0.2	1.8	0.4	2.3		
June.....	0.2	-0.7	0.5	0.7	0.0	1.3	-0.2	2.2		
July.....	-0.1	-0.5	-0.8	-0.1	0.0	2.2	-0.3	1.9		
August.....	0.4	-0.1	0.2	-0.2	0.3	2.3	0.1	1.7		
September.....	-0.3	-0.4	0.6	0.6	0.4	2.1	0.4	1.6		
October.....	-0.1	-0.2	0.1	0.8	-0.4	1.6	0.0	2.0		
November.....	-0.4	0.2	0.2	1.5	0.4	1.8	-0.6	1.0		
December.....	-0.6	0.0	-0.2	1.9	-0.4	1.7	-0.3	1.1		

The February 2019 Consumer Price Index for Chicago is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, March 12, 2019.

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 population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 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 75 urban areas across the country from about 5,000 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 (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/pdf/homch17.pdf.

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, Ill.-Ind.-Wis., 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.

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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-		
	Nov. 2018	Dec. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2018	Nov. 2018	Dec. 2018
Expenditure category						
All items.....	237.511	236.796	238.218	0.8	0.3	0.6
All items (1967=100).....	709.583	707.446	711.695	-	-	-
Food and beverages.....	249.430	249.765	251.866	2.3	1.0	0.8
Food.....	248.560	248.944	251.246	2.5	1.1	0.9
Food at home.....	233.710	233.684	237.538	1.7	1.6	1.6
Cereals and bakery products.....	262.931	259.640	264.429	2.9	0.6	1.8
Meats, poultry, fish and eggs.....	249.317	249.942	251.028	-0.5	0.7	0.4
Dairy and related products.....	207.163	208.431	210.614	1.0	1.7	1.0
Fruits and vegetables.....	311.407	311.582	322.427	3.0	3.5	3.5
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1).....	186.143	188.709	191.976	4.2	3.1	1.7
Other food at home.....	188.214	187.363	189.714	1.1	0.8	1.3
Food away from home.....	264.147	265.049	265.341	3.3	0.5	0.1
Alcoholic beverages.....	260.660	260.212	259.089	-0.3	-0.6	-0.4
Housing.....	249.225	250.166	251.759	2.8	1.0	0.6
Shelter.....	315.856	316.087	317.912	3.1	0.7	0.6
Rent of primary residence(2).....	335.604	336.495	337.168	2.8	0.5	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3).....	322.748	324.089	325.159	4.0	0.7	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(2)(3).....	322.748	324.089	325.159	4.0	0.7	0.3
Fuels and utilities.....	204.979	208.655	210.178	2.8	2.5	0.7
Household energy.....	159.619	163.350	164.738	1.7	3.2	0.8
Energy services(2).....	162.798	166.612	168.039	1.8	3.2	0.9
Electricity(2).....	157.904	157.902	163.447	-0.6	3.5	3.5
Utility (piped) gas service(2).....	156.437	165.432	160.810	5.3	2.8	-2.8
Household furnishings and operations.....	88.904	90.262	91.210	0.6	2.6	1.1
Apparel.....	83.301	81.197	83.447	-5.8	0.2	2.8
Transportation.....	183.765	178.453	178.081	-3.7	-3.1	-0.2
Private transportation.....	179.788	174.985	174.388	-4.2	-3.0	-0.3
New and used motor vehicles(4).....	96.218	95.459	96.742	0.9	0.5	1.3
New vehicles(1).....	173.737	172.484	174.875	0.4	0.7	1.4
Used cars and trucks(1).....	263.433	263.530	265.184	1.0	0.7	0.6
Motor fuel.....	224.447	204.212	196.029	-19.5	-12.7	-4.0
Gasoline (all types).....	221.888	201.810	193.754	-19.6	-12.7	-4.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular(5).....	213.248	193.675	185.562	-19.8	-13.0	-4.2
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(5)(6).....	248.018	227.201	219.979	-18.3	-11.3	-3.2
Gasoline, unleaded premium(5).....	248.023	228.621	224.022	-16.3	-9.7	-2.0
Motor vehicle insurance(1).....	555.038	554.435	554.435	3.4	-0.1	0.0
Medical care.....	505.134	505.970	510.187	2.5	1.0	0.8
Recreation(4).....	110.265	111.485	113.224	-1.0	2.7	1.6
Education and communication(4).....	141.669	141.704	141.771	-0.9	0.1	0.0
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare(1).....	1,174.119	1,175.348	1,176.216	-0.6	0.2	0.1
Other goods and services.....	399.515	392.895	390.962	-0.5	-2.1	-0.5
Commodity and service group						
All items.....	237.511	236.796	238.218	0.8	0.3	0.6
Commodities.....	165.228	163.869	165.178	-1.3	0.0	0.8
Commodities less food and beverages.....	123.704	121.885	122.823	-3.7	-0.7	0.8
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	166.215	161.024	161.638	-6.4	-2.8	0.4
Durables.....	84.664	85.311	86.397	0.0	2.0	1.3
Services.....	306.273	306.200	307.719	2.0	0.5	0.5

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-		
	Nov. 2018	Dec. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2018	Nov. 2018	Dec. 2018
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	226.023	225.239	226.540	0.7	0.2	0.6
All items less shelter	211.004	209.956	211.243	-0.3	0.1	0.6
Commodities less food	128.354	126.534	127.445	-3.6	-0.7	0.7
Nondurables	207.908	205.078	206.378	-1.8	-0.7	0.6
Nondurables less food.....	172.185	167.153	167.695	-6.0	-2.6	0.3
Services less rent of shelter(3).....	311.860	311.455	312.706	0.8	0.3	0.4
Services less medical care services.....	291.748	291.620	293.018	2.1	0.4	0.5
Energy	184.213	177.589	174.844	-9.7	-5.1	-1.5
All items less energy	244.519	244.358	246.186	1.6	0.7	0.7
All items less food and energy	244.647	244.397	246.154	1.5	0.6	0.7

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.