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## Consumer Price Index, Chicago-Naperville-Elgin — March 2019

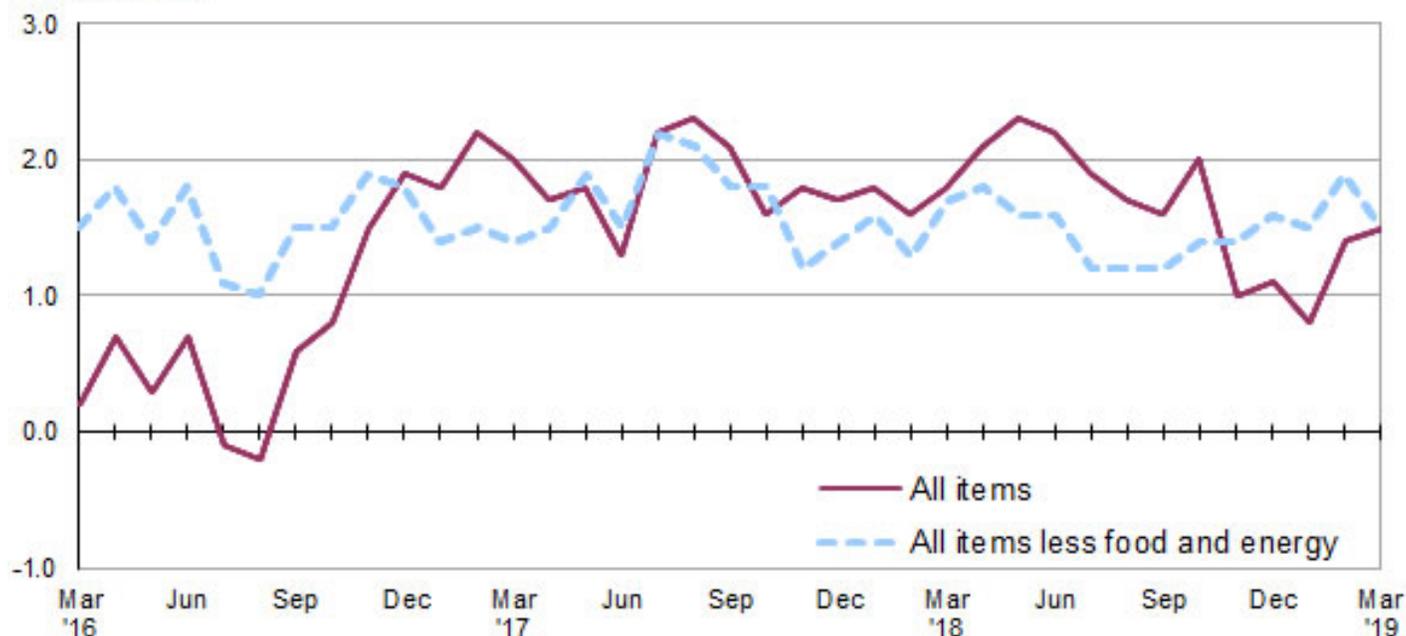
### Local prices up 1.5 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin area edged up 0.1 percent in March, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that food prices fell 0.9 percent and the energy index increased 6.2 percent in March. The all items less food and energy index decreased 0.2 percent over the month. Within the all items less food and energy category, prices were lower over the month for new and used motor vehicles, household furnishings and operations, and apparel; while shelter moved higher. (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 1.5 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) Over the year, the energy index rose 1.0 percent. The increase in the energy index was primarily due to higher gasoline prices and electricity costs. The food index and the all items less food and energy index rose 2.0 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, March 2016–March 2019**

Percent change



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Food

Food prices fell 0.9 percent in March. Of the two components within the food index, prices for food at home (groceries) decreased 1.8 percent, while prices for food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) increased 0.2 percent. Within the food at home group, indexes were lower in March for other fresh fruits, snacks, and cheese and related products; while higher for tomatoes and uncooked other beef and veal.

From March 2018 to March 2019, the food index increased 2.0 percent. Over the year, grocery prices increased 0.9 percent, while costs for food away from home rose 3.2 percent.

## Energy

The energy index increased 6.2 percent in March. During the same period, gasoline prices rose 14.5 percent. In March, electricity costs were unchanged, while utility (piped) gas service costs fell 5.4 percent.

Over the year, the Chicago area energy index rose 1.0 percent. From March 2018 to March 2019, gasoline prices and electricity prices increased 2.0 percent and 2.7 percent, respectively. Utility (piped) gas service costs fell 4.9 percent over the year.

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy declined 0.2 percent in March. Among the index's components, prices were lower over the month for new and used motor vehicles (-1.6 percent), household furnishings and operations (-2.3 percent), and apparel (-2.1 percent); while shelter rose (0.2 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.5 percent. Increases in the indexes for shelter (3.0 percent) and medical care (1.9 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	0.6	1.4
March.....	0.7	-0.6	0.1	0.2	-0.1	2.0	0.0	1.8	0.1	1.5
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 April 2019 Consumer Price Index for Chicago is scheduled to be released on Friday, May 10, 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](http://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](http://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, 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.

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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-		
	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019	Mar. 2019	Mar. 2018	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items.....	238.218	239.669	240.019	1.5	0.8	0.1
All items (1967=100).....	711.695	716.030	717.078	-	-	-
Food and beverages.....	251.866	253.094	250.878	1.8	-0.4	-0.9
Food.....	251.246	252.424	250.201	2.0	-0.4	-0.9
Food at home.....	237.538	239.795	235.401	0.9	-0.9	-1.8
Cereals and bakery products.....	264.429	266.273	260.574	0.8	-1.5	-2.1
Meats, poultry, fish and eggs.....	251.028	256.487	251.520	0.3	0.2	-1.9
Dairy and related products.....	210.614	213.362	210.761	1.1	0.1	-1.2
Fruits and vegetables.....	322.427	323.345	310.498	1.4	-3.7	-4.0
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1).....	191.976	196.862	192.026	2.6	0.0	-2.5
Other food at home.....	189.714	189.499	189.781	0.4	0.0	0.1
Food away from home.....	265.341	265.129	265.703	3.2	0.1	0.2
Alcoholic beverages.....	259.089	261.104	259.026	-0.6	0.0	-0.8
Housing.....	251.759	251.967	251.639	2.4	0.0	-0.1
Shelter.....	317.912	318.536	319.278	3.0	0.4	0.2
Rent of primary residence(2).....	337.168	337.025	338.592	3.1	0.4	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3).....	325.159	325.373	326.161	3.6	0.3	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(2)(3).....	325.159	325.373	326.161	3.6	0.3	0.2
Fuels and utilities.....	210.178	207.556	205.512	1.7	-2.2	-1.0
Household energy.....	164.738	162.038	158.545	-0.2	-3.8	-2.2
Energy services(2).....	168.039	165.209	161.618	-0.3	-3.8	-2.2
Electricity(2).....	163.447	163.432	163.355	2.7	-0.1	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service(2).....	160.810	154.160	145.803	-4.9	-9.3	-5.4
Household furnishings and operations.....	91.210	91.693	89.545	-2.5	-1.8	-2.3
Apparel.....	83.447	88.446	86.560	0.9	3.7	-2.1
Transportation.....	178.081	181.862	187.012	1.2	5.0	2.8
Private transportation.....	174.388	178.381	183.529	1.3	5.2	2.9
New and used motor vehicles(4).....	96.742	97.292	95.755	0.3	-1.0	-1.6
New vehicles(1).....	174.875	176.023	174.440	1.3	-0.2	-0.9
Used cars and trucks(1).....	265.184	266.241	269.512	-0.1	1.6	1.2
Motor fuel.....	196.029	213.190	243.864	2.0	24.4	14.4
Gasoline (all types).....	193.754	210.828	241.378	2.0	24.6	14.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular(5).....	185.562	202.427	232.376	2.2	25.2	14.8
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(5)(6).....	219.979	237.395	267.596	1.5	21.6	12.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium(5).....	224.022	237.378	265.458	1.1	18.5	11.8
Motor vehicle insurance(1).....	554.435	554.435	552.335	3.0	-0.4	-0.4
Medical care.....	510.187	509.601	506.633	1.9	-0.7	-0.6
Recreation(4).....	113.224	113.046	112.794	-0.6	-0.4	-0.2
Education and communication(4).....	141.771	142.033	141.432	-1.6	-0.2	-0.4
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare(1) ...	1,176.216	1,175.261	1,175.303	-0.7	-0.1	0.0
Other goods and services.....	390.962	393.986	402.569	1.9	3.0	2.2
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items.....	238.218	239.669	240.019	1.5	0.8	0.1
Commodities.....	165.178	167.323	168.279	1.0	1.9	0.6
Commodities less food and beverages.....	122.823	125.104	127.048	0.4	3.4	1.6
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	161.638	167.176	173.134	1.5	7.1	3.6
Durables.....	86.397	86.256	85.281	-1.1	-1.3	-1.1
Services.....	307.719	308.469	308.220	1.8	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-		
	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019	Mar. 2019	Mar. 2018	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	226.540	228.082	228.578	1.5	0.9	0.2
All items less shelter .....	211.243	212.988	213.203	0.8	0.9	0.1
Commodities less food .....	127.445	129.757	131.652	0.4	3.3	1.5
Nondurables .....	206.378	210.112	212.536	1.7	3.0	1.2
Nondurables less food.....	167.695	173.133	178.793	1.4	6.6	3.3
Services less rent of shelter(3).....	312.706	313.582	312.249	0.5	-0.1	-0.4
Services less medical care services.....	293.018	293.842	293.726	1.9	0.2	0.0
Energy .....	174.844	180.717	191.949	1.0	9.8	6.2
All items less energy .....	246.186	247.230	246.554	1.6	0.1	-0.3
All items less food and energy .....	246.154	247.180	246.752	1.5	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.