



For Release: Friday, September 16, 2016

16-1797-CHI

MIDWEST INFORMATION OFFICE: Chicago, Ill.

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

Media contact: (312) 353-1138

ERRATA

Incorrect prices for prescription drugs were used for the CPI-U and CPI-W indexes from May through August 2016 in a number of areas. Several indexes were affected, including the all items and medical care indexes. A list of the series affected can be found at www.bls.gov/bls/errata/cpi-price-corrections-10182016.htm, and the corrected data are available in the CPI database (www.bls.gov/cpi/data.htm).

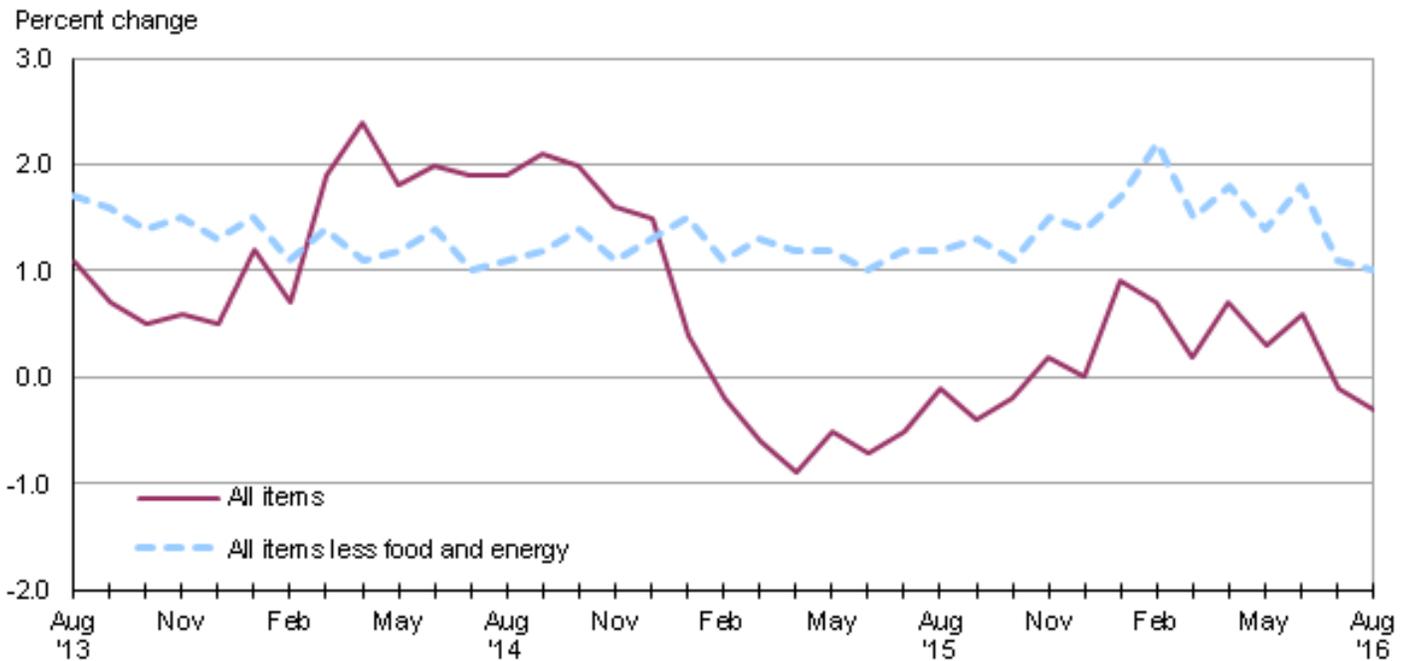
Consumer Price Index, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha — August 2016

Local prices decline 0.3 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Chicago-Gary-Kenosha area rose 0.2 percent in August, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that energy prices remained unchanged and food prices rose 0.5 percent in August. The all items less food and energy index increased 0.2 percent over the month. Among the indexes within the all items less food and energy category, prices were higher for apparel; education and communication; and shelter. (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 was down 0.3 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The energy index fell 13.1 percent over the year as prices declined for gasoline and electricity. The all items less food and energy index was 1.0 percent higher over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Chicago, August 2013–August 2016



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices rose 0.5 percent in August following a 0.3-percent decrease in July. Between the two components within the food index, prices for food at home (groceries) increased 0.7 percent, while prices for food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) were up 0.2 percent over the month. Within the food at home group, prices were higher for chicken, milk, and citrus fruits. In contrast, the indexes for eggs and pork chops decreased.

From August 2015 to August 2016, the food index decreased 0.2 percent. Grocery prices declined 2.8 percent over the year, while prices for food eaten away from home rose 3.6 percent.

Energy

The energy index remained unchanged in August. Utility (piped) gas service costs increased 4.0 percent over the month, while gasoline prices decreased 0.9 percent and the electricity index fell 1.2 percent.

Over the year, the Chicago area energy index declined 13.1 percent. The major contributing factor in the energy index’s decline was a 22.1-percent decrease in gasoline prices from August 2015. The electricity index fell 6.5 percent, while utility (piped) gas service costs rose 2.6 percent during the same period.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.2 percent in August. Prices were higher for apparel (7.3 percent); education and communication (0.8 percent); and shelter (0.1 percent). The index for recreation saw a 2.1-percent decrease over the month.

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.0 percent. Increases in the indexes for shelter (2.6 percent); medical care (2.4 percent); and education and communication (1.0 percent) were major contributing factors. In contrast, prices were down for recreation (-4.6 percent); household furnishings and operations (-3.1 percent); and apparel (-2.5 percent).

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

Month	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	1-month	12-month								
January.....	0.6	2.1	0.2	1.2	0.9	1.2	-0.2	0.4	0.8	0.9
February.....	0.0	1.6	1.1	2.3	0.5	0.7	0.0	-0.2	-0.2	0.7
March.....	1.2	2.1	-0.1	0.9	1.1	1.9	0.7	-0.6	0.1	0.2
April.....	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.9	0.5	2.4	0.1	-0.9	0.6	0.7
May.....	-0.1	1.0	0.5	1.5	-0.1	1.8	0.3	-0.5	0.0	0.3
June.....	-0.1	0.9	0.1	1.7	0.4	2.0	0.2	-0.7	0.5	0.6
July.....	-0.2	1.1	-0.2	1.7	-0.4	1.9	-0.1	-0.5	-0.8	-0.1
August.....	0.6	1.5	0.1	1.1	0.1	1.9	0.4	-0.1	0.2	-0.3
September.....	0.3	1.6	-0.2	0.7	0.0	2.1	-0.3	-0.4		
October.....	-0.2	1.7	-0.3	0.5	-0.4	2.0	-0.1	-0.2		
November.....	-0.4	1.5	-0.3	0.6	-0.8	1.6	-0.4	0.2		
December.....	-0.3	1.7	-0.3	0.5	-0.4	1.5	-0.6	0.0		

The September 2016 Consumer Price Index for Chicago is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, October 18, 2016.

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/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-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-		
	Jun. 2016	Jul. 2016	Aug. 2016	Aug. 2015	Jun. 2016	Jul. 2016
Expenditure category						
All items	230.307	228.415	228.918	-0.3	-0.6	0.2
All items (1967=100)	688.060	682.408	683.912	-	-	-
Food and beverages	242.182	241.241	242.333	-0.2	0.1	0.5
Food	241.914	241.147	242.266	-0.2	0.1	0.5
Food at home	233.889	232.479	234.034	-2.8	0.1	0.7
Food away from home	248.330	248.595	248.998	3.6	0.3	0.2
Alcoholic beverages	244.426	240.915	241.621	-0.4	-1.1	0.3
Housing	236.478	236.119	236.599	1.7	0.1	0.2
Shelter	297.282	295.812	296.090	2.6	-0.4	0.1
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	312.688	313.464	314.221	2.5	0.5	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ^{(1) (2)}	300.313	301.197	301.764	2.7	0.5	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)}	300.313	301.197	301.764	2.7	0.5	0.2
Fuels and utilities	192.555	195.983	197.235	-0.4	2.4	0.6
Household energy	150.516	154.165	155.478	-3.5	3.3	0.9
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	153.429	157.234	158.436	-3.5	3.3	0.8
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	153.072	154.689	152.881	-6.5	-0.1	-1.2
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	140.672	147.672	153.617	2.6	9.2	4.0
Household furnishings and operations	92.198	92.718	93.307	-3.1	1.2	0.6
Apparel	86.203	83.354	89.479	-2.5	3.8	7.3
Transportation	185.633	179.372	177.796	-6.4	-4.2	-0.9
Private transportation	182.195	176.753	175.155	-6.6	-3.9	-0.9
Motor fuel	237.082	209.896	208.017	-22.1	-12.3	-0.9
Gasoline (all types)	234.900	207.812	205.974	-22.1	-12.3	-0.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽³⁾	226.215	198.982	197.257	-23.2	-12.8	-0.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{(3) (4)}	260.830	234.994	232.343	-18.6	-10.9	-1.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽³⁾	255.671	233.594	231.797	-15.5	-9.3	-0.8
Medical care	473.136	473.725	475.360	2.4	0.5	0.3
Recreation ⁽⁵⁾	110.079	107.508	105.200	-4.6	-4.4	-2.1
Education and communication ⁽⁵⁾	141.753	142.423	143.579	1.0	1.3	0.8
Other goods and services	385.358	383.769	383.113	-0.1	-0.6	-0.2
Commodity and service group						
All items	230.307	228.415	228.918	-0.3	-0.6	0.2
Commodities	166.941	164.020	164.821	-3.6	-1.3	0.5
Commodities less food & beverages	128.560	124.986	125.631	-6.4	-2.3	0.5
Nondurables less food & beverages	169.989	163.058	165.505	-7.2	-2.6	1.5
Durables	89.952	89.035	88.342	-3.9	-1.8	-0.8
Services	290.325	289.480	289.681	1.7	-0.2	0.1
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	219.900	217.897	218.351	-0.5	-0.7	0.2
All items less shelter	207.737	205.693	206.276	-1.6	-0.7	0.3
Commodities less food	132.793	129.184	129.837	-6.1	-2.2	0.5
Nondurables	206.680	202.582	204.397	-3.4	-1.1	0.9
Nondurables less food	174.988	168.212	170.574	-6.7	-2.5	1.4
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	297.861	297.653	297.781	0.7	0.0	0.0
Services less medical care services	276.461	275.548	275.577	1.6	-0.3	0.0
Energy	183.772	175.478	175.553	-13.1	-4.5	0.0
All items less energy	236.610	235.294	235.842	0.8	-0.3	0.2

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-		
	Jun. 2016	Jul. 2016	Aug. 2016	Aug. 2015	Jun. 2016	Jul. 2016
All items less food and energy	236.480	235.060	235.505	1.0	-0.4	0.2

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.