



Cass County Department Heads

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Administrator

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Auditor

Charlotte Sandvik
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Paul Fracassi
Tax Director

Jewel Spies
Recorder

Birch Burdick
State's Attorney

Jason Benson
Highway Engineer

Paul Laney
Sheriff

Terry Schmaltz
Info Technology Director

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Veteran's Service Officer

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MEMO

TO: Cass County Commissioners

FROM: Robert Wilson, County Administrator

DATE: May 25, 2018

SUBJECT: COLA Recommendation for 2019 Budget

Cost of Living Adjustment

Each year county department heads review U.S. Department of Labor consumer price index (CPI) data and recommend a cost of living adjustment (COLA) for budgeting purposes.

Department heads met on May 23rd to review the most current CPI data for all urban consumers in the Midwest region for communities with populations of 50,000 to 1,500,000. The relevant information is included on Table 4 (CPI-U) of the report and based on that report, department heads recommend a 1.4% COLA increase to the Cass County salary scale for 2019.

SUGGESTED MOTION: Move that the county authorize the use of a 1.4% COLA salary scale adjustment for 2019 budget development purposes.



**Transmission of material in this release is embargoed until
 8:30 a.m. (EDT) May 10, 2018**

USDL-18-0744

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX – APRIL 2018

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased 0.2 percent in April on a seasonally adjusted basis after falling 0.1 percent in March, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Over the last 12 months, the all items index rose 2.5 percent before seasonal adjustment.

The indexes for gasoline and shelter were the largest factors in the seasonally adjusted increase in the all items index, although the food index increased as well. The gasoline index increased 3.0 percent, more than offsetting declines in other energy component indexes and led to a 1.4-percent rise in the energy index. The food index rose 0.3 percent, with the food at home index rising 0.3 percent and the index for food away from home increasing 0.2 percent.

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.1 percent in April. The shelter index rose 0.3 percent, with other indexes mixed. The indexes for household furnishings and operations, personal care, tobacco, medical care, and apparel all increased in April, while those for used cars and trucks, new vehicles, recreation, and airline fares all declined.

The all items index rose 2.5 percent for the 12 months ending April; this figure has been mostly trending upward since it was 1.6 percent for the period ending June 2017. The index for all items less food and energy rose 2.1 percent for the 12 months ending April. The food index increased 1.4 percent, and the energy index rose 7.9 percent.

Chart 1. One-month percent change in CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), seasonally adjusted, Apr. 2017 - Apr. 2018
 Percent change

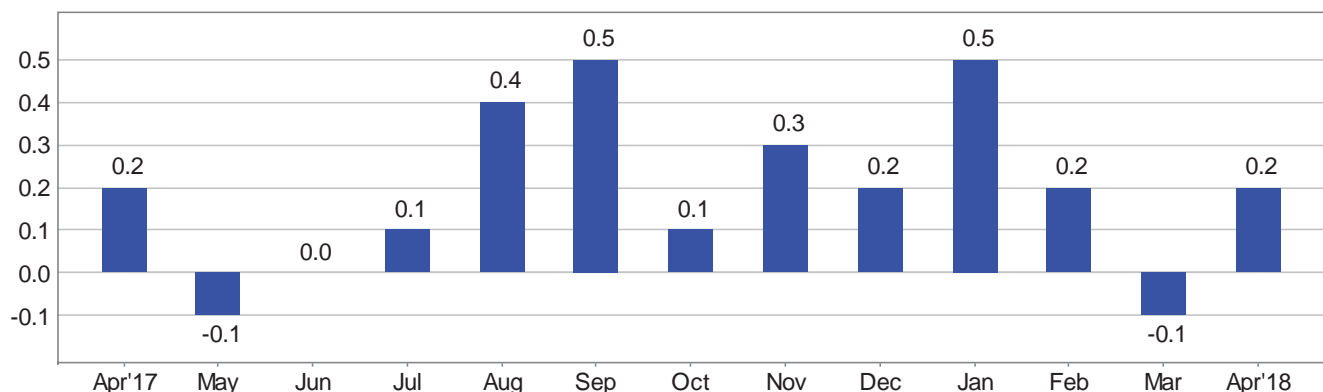


Chart 2. 12-month percent change in CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), not seasonally adjusted, Apr. 2017 - Apr. 2018

Percent change

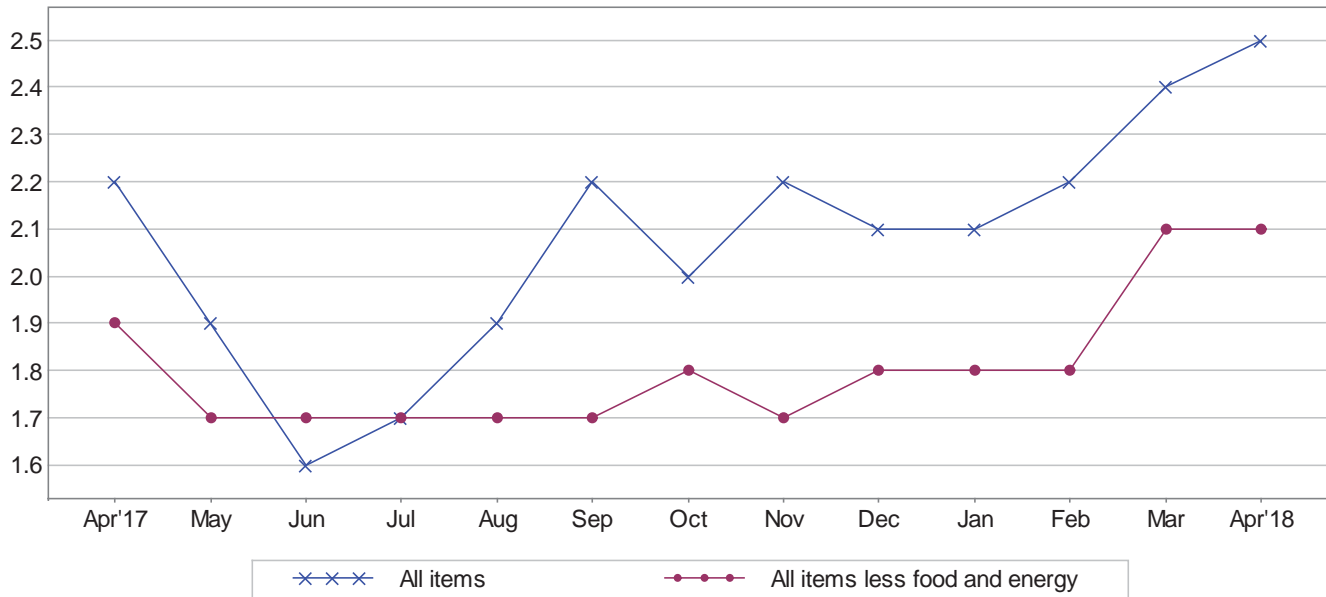


Table A. Percent changes in CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): U.S. city average

	Seasonally adjusted changes from preceding month							Un-adjusted 12-mos. ended Apr. 2018
	Oct. 2017	Nov. 2017	Dec. 2017	Jan. 2018	Feb. 2018	Mar. 2018	Apr. 2018	
All items .....	.1	.3	.2	.5	.2	-.1	.2	2.5
Food .....	.1	.0	.2	.2	.0	.1	.3	1.4
Food at home .....	.1	-.1	.2	.1	-.2	.1	.3	.5
Food away from home ¹ .....	.1	.2	.2	.4	.2	.1	.2	2.5
Energy	-1.4	3.2	-.2	3.0	.1	-2.8	1.4	7.9
Energy commodities	-3.0	5.8	-.7	5.8	-.9	-4.7	3.0	13.7
Gasoline (all types)	-3.2	6.0	-.8	5.7	-.9	-4.9	3.0	13.4
Fuel oil	1.4	5.6	.9	9.5	-3.6	-.7	2.7	22.6
Energy services .....	.4	.5	.4	-.8	1.4	-.2	-.5	1.2
Electricity .....	.4	.5	.2	-.2	.4	.0	-.6	1.2
Utility (piped) gas service .....	.4	.7	1.0	-2.6	4.7	-1.2	-.4	1.0
All items less food and energy .....	.2	.1	.2	.3	.2	.2	.1	2.1
Commodities less food and energy commodities .....	.0	-.1	.2	.4	.1	-.1	-.1	-.4
New vehicles	-.2	-.2	.5	-.1	-.5	.0	-.5	-1.6
Used cars and trucks .....	.7	.5	.7	.4	-.3	-.3	-1.6	-.9
Apparel	-.2	-.9	-.3	1.7	1.5	-.6	.3	.8
Medical care commodities .....	.0	.5	.9	-.1	-.3	.1	-.2	1.9
Services less energy services .....	.3	.2	.3	.3	.2	.3	.2	2.9
Shelter .....	.3	.2	.3	.2	.2	.4	.3	3.4
Transportation services .....	.4	.1	.3	.8	1.0	.2	-.4	4.1
Medical care services .....	.3	-.1	.2	.6	.0	.5	.2	2.2

¹ Not seasonally adjusted.

Table 4. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Selected areas, all items index, April 2018
 [1982-84=100, unless otherwise noted]

Area	Pricing Schedule ¹	Percent change to Apr. 2018 from:			Percent change to Mar. 2018 from:		
		Apr. 2017	Feb. 2018	Mar. 2018	Mar. 2017	Jan. 2018	Feb. 2018
U.S. city average.....	M	2.5	0.6	0.4	2.4	0.7	0.2
Region and area size²							
Northeast.....	M	2.1	0.5	0.4	2.0	0.5	0.1
Northeast - Size Class A.....	M	2.0	0.5	0.4	1.9	0.6	0.1
Northeast - Size Class B/C ³	M	2.3	0.6	0.5	2.1	0.5	0.1
New England ⁴	M		0.7	0.4		0.7	0.3
Middle Atlantic ⁴	M		0.5	0.4		0.5	0.0
Midwest.....	M	1.8	0.6	0.4	1.8	0.4	0.2
Midwest - Size Class A.....	M	1.8	0.6	0.5	1.8	0.3	0.2
Midwest - Size Class B/C ³	M	1.4	0.6	0.4	1.4	0.5	0.2
East North Central ⁴	M		0.6	0.5		0.2	0.1
West North Central ⁴	M		0.5	0.2		0.8	0.3
South.....	M	2.4	0.6	0.4	2.3	0.8	0.2
South - Size Class A.....	M	2.7	0.4	0.4	2.6	0.8	0.0
South - Size Class B/C ³	M	2.3	0.7	0.4	2.1	0.7	0.3
South Atlantic ⁴	M		0.5	0.2		0.9	0.3
East South Central ⁴	M		0.8	0.5		0.8	0.3
West South Central ⁴	M		0.6	0.6		0.5	-0.1
West.....	M	3.2	0.8	0.4	3.2	0.9	0.4
West - Size Class A.....	M	3.6	0.8	0.4	3.5	1.0	0.4
West - Size Class B/C ³	M	2.6	0.8	0.4	2.6	0.8	0.3
Mountain ⁴	M		0.9	0.6		0.7	0.3
Pacific ⁴	M		0.8	0.3		1.0	0.4
Size classes							
Size Class A ⁵	M	2.6	0.6	0.4	2.5	0.7	0.2
Size Class B/C ³	M	2.2	0.7	0.4	2.1	0.6	0.3
Selected local areas							
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI.....	M	2.1	0.7	0.7	1.8	0.1	0.0
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA.....	M	4.0	0.8	0.4	3.8	1.1	0.4
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA.....	M	1.9	0.3	0.3	1.7	0.5	0.0
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA.....	2	2.8	0.2				
Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD ⁶	2		-0.1				
Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI.....	2	2.3	0.9				
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX.....	2	2.4	0.2				
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL.....	2	3.5	-0.1				
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD.....	2	1.4	0.9				
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ ⁷	2		1.2				
San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA.....	2	3.2	0.8				
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA.....	2	3.3	0.8				
St. Louis, MO-IL.....	2		0.7				
Urban Alaska.....	2		0.4				
Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH.....	1				3.6	0.9	
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX.....	1				2.9	0.5	
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO.....	1					0.3	
Minneapolis-St.Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI.....	1					0.5	
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA ⁴	1					1.0	
San Diego-Carlsbad, CA.....	1					0.9	
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL ⁸	1					0.6	
Urban Hawaii.....	1					0.5	
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV ⁶	1				1.8	-0.1	

¹ Foods, fuels, and several other items are priced every month in all areas. Most other goods and services are priced as indicated: M - Every month. 1 - January, March, May, July, September, and November. 2 - February, April, June, August, October, and December.

² Regions defined as the four Census regions.

³ Indexes on a December 1996=100 base.

⁴ Indexes on a December 2017=100 base.

⁵ Indexes on a December 1986=100 base.

⁶ 1998 - 2017 indexes based on substantially smaller sample.

⁷ Indexes on a December 2001=100 base.

⁸ Indexes on a 1987=100 base.

NOTE: Local area indexes are byproducts of the national CPI program. Each local index has a smaller sample size than the national index and is, therefore, subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are similar. Therefore, the Bureau of Labor Statistics strongly urges users to consider adopting the national average CPI for use in their escalator clauses.

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