



Cass County Department Heads

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Finance Director

Paul Fracassi
Tax Director

Deb Moeller
Recorder

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State's Attorney

Jason Benson
Highway Engineer

Jesse Jahner
Sheriff

Terry Schmaltz
Info Technology Director

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MEMO

TO: Cass County Commissioners
FROM: Robert Wilson, County Administrator
DATE: June 10, 2020
SUBJECT: COLA Recommendation for 2021 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 recently 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. Department heads recommend no COLA increase to the Cass County salary scale for 2021 based on the CPI information which shows a decrease of -0.7%.

Gallagher Benefit Services conducted an extensive comprehensive salary survey recently and they are in the process of preparing their recommendations for the county. My plan is to discuss the survey and the recommendations with the board next month prior to budget hearings.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

Move to recommend a 0% COLA based upon the Department of Labor Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Midwest region.



**Transmission of material in this release is embargoed until
 8:30 a.m. (EDT) May 12, 2020**

USDL-20-0918

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX – APRIL 2020

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) declined 0.8 percent in April on a seasonally adjusted basis, the largest monthly decline since December 2008, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Over the last 12 months, the all items index increased 0.3 percent before seasonal adjustment.

A 20.6-percent decline in the gasoline index was the largest contributor to the monthly decrease in the seasonally adjusted all items index, but the indexes for apparel, motor vehicle insurance, airline fares, and lodging away from home all fell sharply as well. In contrast, food indexes rose in April, with the index for food at home posting its largest monthly increase since February 1974. The energy index declined mostly due to the decrease in the gasoline index, though some energy component indexes rose.

The index for all items less food and energy fell 0.4 percent in April, the largest monthly decline in the history of the series, which dates to 1957. Along with the indexes mentioned above, the indexes for used cars and trucks and recreation also declined. The indexes for rent, owners’ equivalent rent, medical care, and household furnishings and operations all increased in April.

The all items index increased 0.3 percent for the 12 months ending April, the smallest 12-month increase since October 2015. The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.4 percent over the last 12 months, its smallest increase since April 2011. The energy index fell 17.7 percent over the last year. In contrast, the food index rose 3.5 percent over the last 12 months, its largest 12-month increase since February 2012.

Chart 1. One-month percent change in CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), seasonally adjusted, Apr. 2019 - Apr. 2020
 Percent change

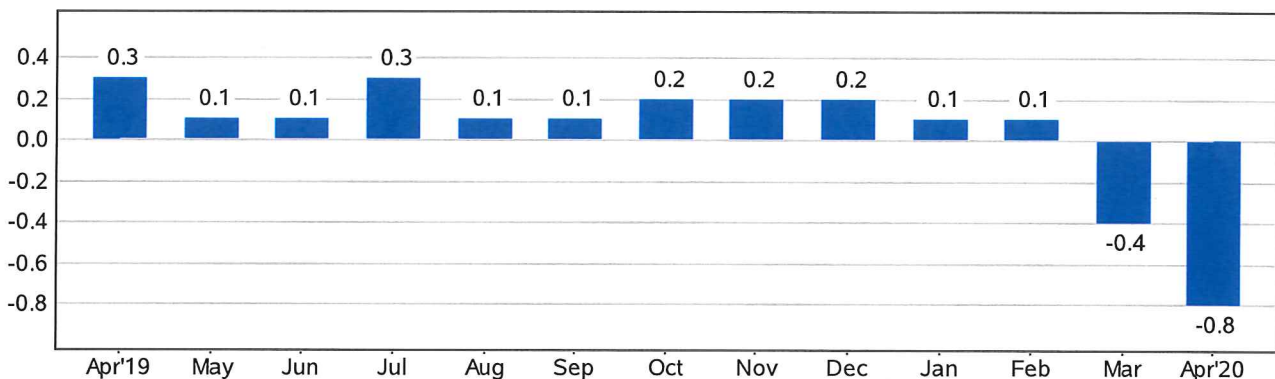


Chart 2. 12-month percent change in CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), not seasonally adjusted, Apr. 2019 - Apr. 2020
Percent change

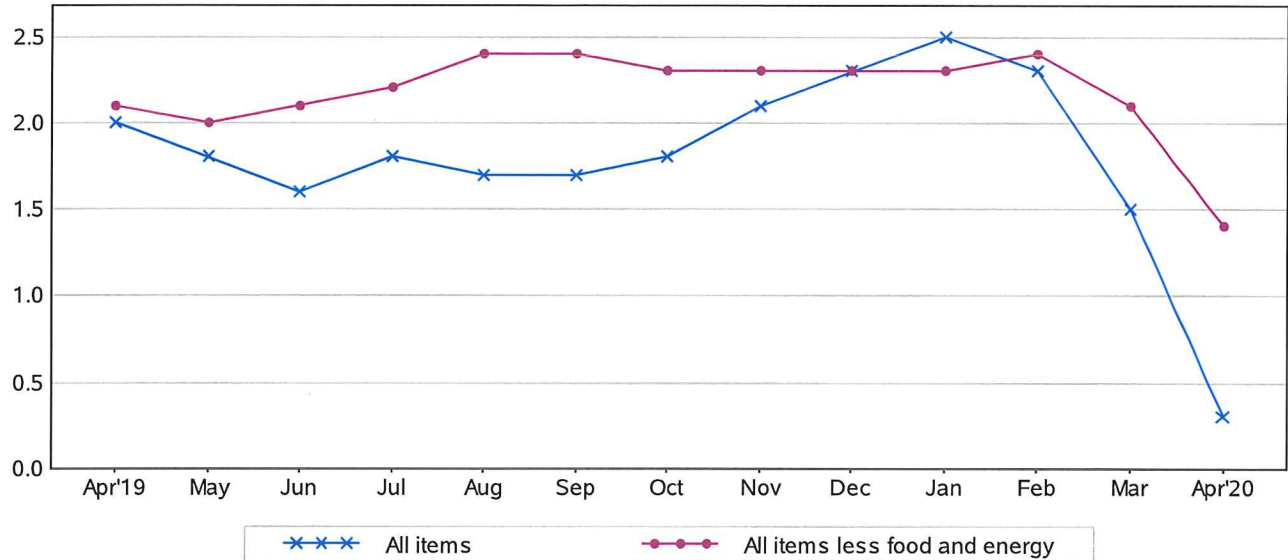


Table A. Percent changes in CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): U.S. city average

	Seasonally adjusted changes from preceding month							Un-adjusted 12-mos. ended Apr. 2020
	Oct. 2019	Nov. 2019	Dec. 2019	Jan. 2020	Feb. 2020	Mar. 2020	Apr. 2020	
All items.....	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	-0.4	-0.8	0.3
Food.....	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3	1.5	3.5
Food at home.....	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.5	2.6	4.1
Food away from home ¹	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	2.8
Energy.....	1.7	0.8	1.6	-0.7	-2.0	-5.8	-10.1	-17.7
Energy commodities.....	2.6	1.2	3.0	-1.6	-3.5	-10.4	-20.0	-31.4
Gasoline (all types).....	2.7	1.2	3.1	-1.6	-3.4	-10.5	-20.6	-32.0
Fuel oil.....	1.1	1.0	1.1	-0.4	-8.5	-13.7	-15.6	-33.2
Energy services.....	0.7	0.2	-0.2	0.6	-0.3	-0.5	0.1	-0.2
Electricity.....	0.6	0.2	-0.2	0.4	-0.1	-0.2	0.1	0.2
Utility (piped) gas service.....	1.2	0.5	-0.5	1.0	-0.9	-1.4	0.2	-1.9
All items less food and energy.....	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	-0.1	-0.4	1.4
Commodities less food and energy commodities.....	-0.4	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	-0.3	-0.7	-0.9
New vehicles.....	-0.1	-0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	-0.4	0.0	-0.6
Used cars and trucks.....	-1.2	-0.7	-0.4	-1.2	0.4	0.8	-0.4	-0.7
Apparel.....	-1.7	0.6	0.1	0.7	0.4	-2.0	-4.7	-5.7
Medical care commodities.....	1.0	0.0	1.0	-0.6	-0.6	0.0	-0.1	0.7
Services less energy services.....	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.0	-0.4	2.2
Shelter.....	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	2.6
Transportation services.....	0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.3	0.3	-1.9	-4.7	-5.5
Medical care services.....	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.5	5.8

¹ Not seasonally adjusted.

Table 4. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Selected areas, all items index, April 2020
 [1982-84=100, unless otherwise noted]

Area	Pricing Schedule ¹	Percent change to Apr. 2020 from:			Percent change to Mar. 2020 from:		
		Apr. 2019	Feb. 2020	Mar. 2020	Mar. 2019	Jan. 2020	Feb. 2020
U.S. city average.....	M	0.3	-0.9	-0.7	1.5	0.1	-0.2
Region and area size²							
Northeast.....	M	0.8	-0.6	-0.4	1.7	0.1	-0.2
Northeast - Size Class A.....	M	1.0	-0.7	-0.6	1.9	0.1	-0.1
Northeast - Size Class B/C ³	M	0.6	-0.6	-0.3	1.4	0.0	-0.3
New England ⁴	M	0.7	-0.5	-0.3	1.5	0.0	-0.2
Middle Atlantic ⁴	M	0.9	-0.7	-0.5	1.8	0.1	-0.2
Midwest.....	M	-0.4	-1.6	-1.1	1.0	-0.2	-0.5
Midwest - Size Class A.....	M	-0.1	-1.8	-1.3	1.3	-0.3	-0.5
Midwest - Size Class B/C ³	M	-0.7	-1.6	-1.0	0.8	-0.2	-0.5
East North Central ⁴	M	-0.5	-1.8	-1.2	1.0	-0.4	-0.6
West North Central ⁴	M	-0.3	-1.3	-0.9	1.0	0.3	-0.4
South.....	M	-0.2	-0.9	-0.8	1.1	0.1	-0.1
South - Size Class A.....	M	-0.2	-0.9	-0.7	1.1	0.0	-0.2
South - Size Class B/C ³	M	-0.3	-0.9	-0.8	1.0	0.1	-0.1
South Atlantic ⁴	M	0.2	-0.7	-0.6	1.3	0.1	-0.2
East South Central ⁴	M	-0.6	-0.9	-0.8	0.4	0.0	0.0
West South Central ⁴	M	-0.8	-1.2	-1.1	0.9	0.0	-0.1
West.....	M	1.3	-0.5	-0.4	2.5	0.2	-0.2
West - Size Class A.....	M	1.1	-0.8	-0.6	2.4	0.2	-0.3
West - Size Class B/C ³	M	1.5	-0.2	-0.2	2.5	0.3	0.0
Mountain ⁴	M	2.1	-0.4	-0.3	3.2	0.0	-0.1
Pacific ⁴	M	0.9	-0.6	-0.4	2.2	0.3	-0.2
Size classes							
Size Class A ⁵	M	0.5	-1.0	-0.7	1.7	0.1	-0.2
Size Class B/C ³	M	0.2	-0.8	-0.6	1.4	0.1	-0.2
Selected local areas							
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI.....	M	0.3	-1.7	-0.9	1.1	-0.7	-0.7
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA.....	M	0.7	-1.0	-0.3	1.9	-0.4	-0.7
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA.....	M	1.1	-0.7	-0.5	2.0	0.0	-0.2
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA.....	2	-0.3	-1.8				
Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD ⁶	2	0.1	-0.1				
Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI.....	2	-0.8	-2.7				
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX.....	2	-1.3	-1.6				
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL.....	2	-0.5	-1.0				
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD.....	2	-0.1	-1.3				
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ ⁷	2	1.5	-1.4				
San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA.....	2	1.1	-0.5				
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA.....	2	1.3	-0.6				
St. Louis, MO-IL.....	2	-0.6	-1.6				
Urban Alaska.....	2	-2.5	-1.6				
Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH.....	1				1.8	0.1	
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX.....	1				1.0	0.0	
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO.....	1				2.2	-0.3	
Minneapolis-St.Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI.....	1				1.2	-0.3	
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA ⁴	1				2.3	0.0	
San Diego-Carlsbad, CA.....	1				1.8	0.0	
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL ⁸	1				2.1	0.2	
Urban Hawaii.....	1				1.8	0.6	
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV ⁶	1				0.4	-0.4	

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.