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8:30 a.m. (EST), Friday, January 15, 2010**

NYLS – 7412

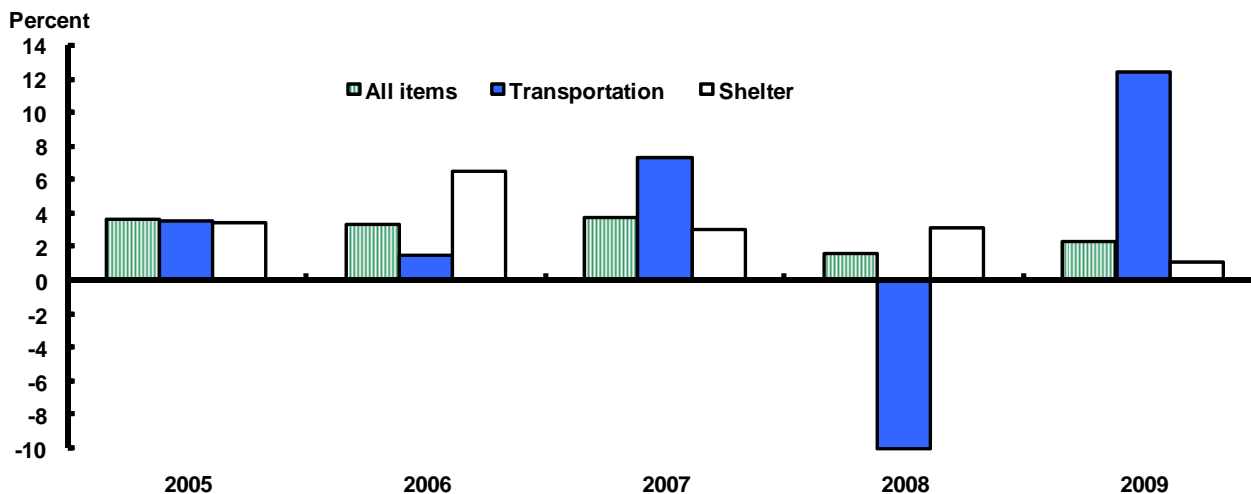
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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, NEW YORK-NORTHERN NEW JERSEY – DECEMBER 2009
Area prices down 0.1 percent over the month; up 2.3 percent from year ago

Retail prices in the greater New York area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), ticked down 0.1 percent in December, after increasing 0.2 percent in November, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Michael L. Dolfman, Regional Commissioner, attributed the December downturn to declining prices for apparel, recreation, groceries, and gasoline. These decreases were largely offset by slightly higher prices for shelter. For the 12 months ended in December 2009, the CPI-U rose 2.3 percent. (See chart 1.) The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.8 percent.

The apparel index, usually down in December with seasonal price reductions, fell 2.6 percent. Women’s suits and separates, outerwear, and dresses posted lower prices, along with girls’ apparel. Despite the fall over the month, the apparel index was up 7.6 percent since December 2008, the largest 12-month change since August 2005. The recreation index recorded its fourth consecutive decline, -1.3 percent; lower prices for photographic equipment and supplies contributed to the December drop, the largest one-month decrease since the series start in 1998.

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent changes in consumer price indexes, New York-Northern New Jersey, 2005-09 (as of December)



Round-the-clock recorded messages for the **Consumer Price Index** and a variety of other **Bureau of Labor Statistics** data are available by dialing the **New York-New Jersey Information Office’s** main telephone number: **(646) 264-3600**. For recorded messages, press ‘2’.

**New York-Northern New Jersey CPI-U monthly and annual percent changes
(not seasonally adjusted)**

Month	2004		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
January	0.3	2.7	0.6	4.1	0.8	3.7	0.2	2.7	0.2	3.7	0.2	1.5
February	0.6	2.5	0.4	3.9	0.2	3.6	0.6	3.1	0.5	3.6	0.5	1.6
March	1.1	3.2	1.7	4.4	0.8	2.7	0.7	2.9	0.9	3.8	0.2	0.8
April	0.3	3.7	0.0	4.2	0.9	3.6	0.5	2.5	0.3	3.6	0.2	0.8
May	0.2	3.9	-0.5	3.4	0.6	4.8	0.6	2.5	1.0	4.0	0.2	-0.1
June	0.8	4.6	-0.3	2.3	0.5	5.6	0.5	2.5	1.0	4.5	0.5	-0.6
July	-0.2	3.9	0.9	3.4	0.2	5.0	0.2	2.5	0.7	5.1	0.2	-1.1
August	0.1	3.3	0.8	4.1	0.4	4.7	-0.1	1.9	0.1	5.4	0.3	-0.9
September	0.1	3.2	0.8	4.8	-0.5	3.3	0.0	2.4	-0.2	5.2	0.1	-0.6
October	0.7	3.7	0.4	4.5	-0.5	2.4	0.1	3.1	-0.7	4.3	-0.1	0.0
November	0.0	3.9	-0.6	3.9	-0.4	2.6	0.4	3.9	-1.6	2.2	0.2	1.8
December	-0.2	3.8	-0.5	3.6	0.2	3.3	0.0	3.7	-0.6	1.6	-0.1	2.3

The food and beverages index inched down 0.1 percent after three consecutive increases. A 0.3-percent fall in the food-at-home component reflected lower prices for fresh vegetables (other than potatoes, lettuce, and tomatoes); salad dressing; and bacon, breakfast sausage, and related products. Food away from home and alcoholic beverages were little changed. From December 2008 to December 2009, the food and beverages index was unchanged.

The housing index was unchanged over the month, after rising 0.1 percent in November. A 0.1-percent increase in shelter prices was offset by a 0.5-percent drop in household furnishings and operations coupled with a 0.1-percent decline in fuels and utilities. Within shelter, owners' equivalent rent and residential rent each rose by 0.1 percent. Over the year, owners' equivalent rent increased by 0.9 percent, the smallest 12-month change since the start of the series in 1983. Residential rent advanced 1.9 percent since December 2008, marking the smallest increase since July 1994.

The transportation index rose 0.4 percent, with higher prices for used cars and trucks, motor vehicle insurance, and intercity transportation (other than airline). These increases outweighed a 0.7-percent decrease in the price of gasoline. For the year ending in December 2009, transportation prices advanced 12.4 percent; gasoline prices jumped 48 percent. In contrast, in December 2008, transportation prices were down 10 percent, and gasoline prices had fallen 40.6 percent from a year earlier.

Among other expenditure categories, medical care declined 0.4 percent. Other goods and services dipped 0.1 percent, and education and communication was unchanged.

With the New York-Northern New Jersey CPI-U at 238.427 in December (1982-84=100), \$23.84 was required to purchase what \$10 could in the 1982-84 base period. The purchasing power of the dollar was 41.9 cents in 1982-84 dollars and 14.5 cents in 1967 dollars. In December, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 233.448, down 0.2 percent. The CPI-W increased 2.7 percent over the year. On a 1967 base, the December CPI-W was 664.684.

Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences. The New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, N.Y.-N.J.-Conn.-Pa. consolidated area comprises Bronx, Dutchess, Kings, Nassau, New York, Orange, Putnam, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester Counties in New York State; Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren Counties in New Jersey; Fairfield County and parts of Litchfield, Middlesex, and New Haven Counties in Connecticut; and Pike County in Pennsylvania.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

New York-Northern N.J.-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	Oct. 2009	Nov. 2009	Dec. 2009	Dec. 2008	Oct. 2009	Nov. 2009
Expenditure category						
All items	238.380	238.777	238.427	2.3	0.0	-0.1
All items (1967=100)	689.123	690.272	689.261	-	-	-
Food and beverages	227.547	228.525	228.186	.0	.3	-.1
Food	226.554	227.570	227.198	-.1	.3	-.2
Food at home	224.186	225.807	225.118	-1.4	.4	-.3
Food away from home	235.475	235.786	235.787	1.5	.1	.0
Alcoholic beverages	238.102	238.482	238.653	1.1	.2	.1
Housing	256.273	256.464	256.523	.4	.1	.0
Shelter	311.411	310.570	310.819	1.1	-.2	.1
Rent of primary residence ¹	307.574	308.977	309.229	1.9	.5	.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2 3}	319.705	319.987	320.430	.9	.2	.1
Fuels and utilities	193.113	198.359	198.210	-2.5	2.6	-.1
Household energy	192.766	198.499	198.325	-3.2	2.9	-.1
Gas (piped) and electricity ¹	189.744	194.372	194.175	-4.2	2.3	-.1
Electricity ¹	184.199	184.115	182.422	3.5	-1.0	-.9
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	194.827	210.228	213.523	-16.5	9.6	1.6
Household furnishings and operations	123.386	123.901	123.291	-3.5	-.1	-.5
Apparel	122.091	119.304	116.240	7.6	-4.8	-2.6
Transportation	195.770	198.462	199.307	12.4	1.8	.4
Private transportation	185.250	188.110	188.823	14.1	1.9	.4
Motor fuel	201.648	211.602	210.128	46.9	4.2	-.7
Gasoline (all types)	201.023	210.955	209.510	48.0	4.2	-.7
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁴	202.677	213.059	211.357	51.5	4.3	-.8
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{4 5}	202.567	212.114	211.335	41.3	4.3	-.4
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁴	199.149	207.729	206.941	39.7	3.9	-.4
Medical care	374.115	373.340	371.910	1.2	-.6	-.4
Recreation ⁶	116.856	116.310	114.834	-.3	-1.7	-1.3
Education and communication ⁶	135.506	135.354	135.364	1.1	-.1	.0
Other goods and services	366.539	369.386	369.117	5.5	.7	-.1
Commodity and service group						
All items	238.380	238.777	238.427	2.3	.0	-.1
Commodities	178.506	179.414	178.568	4.5	.0	-.5
Commodities less food and beverages	146.008	146.839	145.789	8.3	-.1	-.7
Nondurables less food and beverages	178.199	179.635	177.401	12.3	-.4	-1.2
Durables	104.242	104.356	104.685	1.3	.4	.3
Services	289.590	289.564	289.626	1.2	.0	.0
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	232.200	232.632	232.320	2.4	.1	-.1
All items less shelter	209.723	210.667	210.050	3.2	.2	-.3
Commodities less food	149.699	150.521	149.500	7.9	-.1	-.7
Nondurables	204.677	205.916	204.556	5.4	-.1	-.7
Nondurables less food	181.995	183.381	181.266	11.4	-.4	-1.2
Services less rent of shelter ³	275.712	276.737	276.561	1.5	.3	-.1
Services less medical care services	282.011	282.017	282.114	1.2	.0	.0
Energy	197.212	204.724	204.008	13.4	3.4	-.3
All items less energy	244.062	243.767	243.450	1.5	-.3	-.1
All items less food and energy	248.790	248.244	247.936	1.8	-.3	-.1

¹ This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

² This index series will undergo a change in composition in January, 2010. The expenditure class will include weight from secondary residences, and will be re-titled Owners' equivalent rent of residences. The item stratum Owners' equivalent rent of primary residences, which prior to January, 2010 is identical to the EC, will be published as well.

³ Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

⁴ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

⁵ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

⁶ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

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