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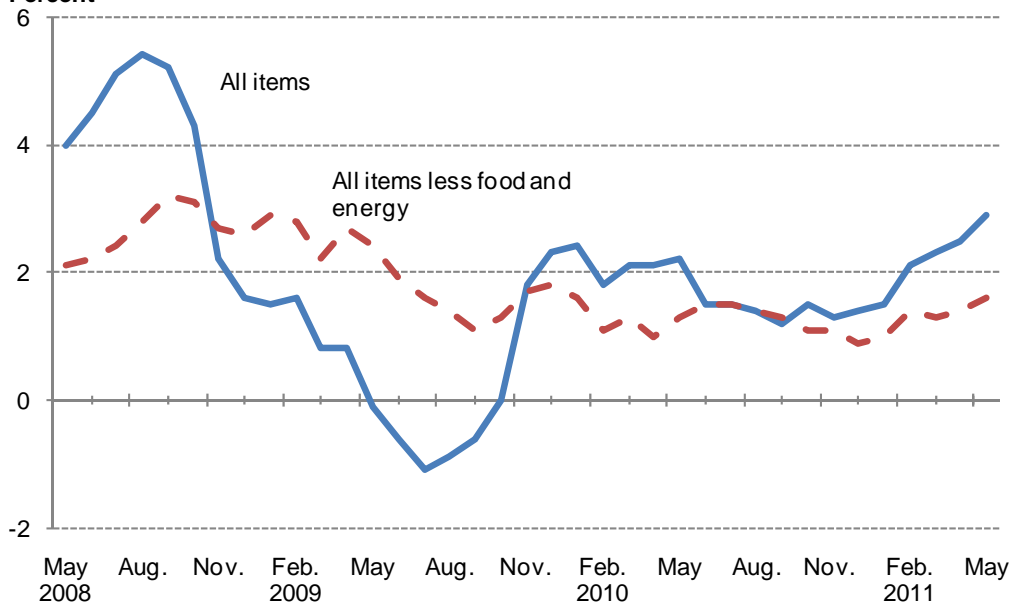
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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, NEW YORK-NORTHERN NEW JERSEY – MAY 2011
Area prices up 0.6 percent over the month and 2.9 percent over the year

Prices in the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), increased 0.6 percent in May, after rising 0.4 percent in April, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Michael L. Dolfman attributed the May increase to higher prices for energy, shelter, and food. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

For the 12 months ended in May 2011, the CPI-U advanced 2.9 percent, the highest rate posted since October 2008. (See table A.) May marked the sixth successive increase in the 12-month rate. (See chart 1.) The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.6 percent.

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, May 2008 - May 2011
Percent



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'.

Food

The food index increased 0.4 percent, after recording no change for the prior two months. Prices for food at home rose 0.4 percent, reflecting higher prices for a wide range of groceries including pork, milk, ice cream, lettuce, and candy and chewing gum. Prices for food away from home rose 0.3 percent in May, the sixth consecutive month with an increase.

From May 2010 to May 2011, food prices rose 2.7 percent, with food at home increasing 2.9 percent and food away from home, 2.5 percent. (See table 1.)

Energy

The energy index advanced 3.8 percent, after increasing 3.1 percent in April. Gasoline prices rose 5.8 percent, following sharp increases of 7.7 percent in April and 9.6 percent in March. The household energy component recorded its largest increase in 18 months, 1.9 percent. The rise was primarily due to higher prices for electricity, which jumped 4.6 percent over the month.

Over the year, the energy index advanced 17.2 percent, with gasoline prices climbing 37.7 percent. Prices for household energy increased 1.6 percent, despite a 2.7-percent decline in electricity prices and a 7.1-percent drop in natural gas prices.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.4 percent, after inching up 0.1 percent in April. Shelter prices increased 0.3 percent, with higher charges recorded for lodging away from home. Prices for household furnishings and operations increased 1.0 percent, as did prices for recreation. Higher prices were also reported for new vehicles, used cars and trucks, and airline fares. These increases were partly offset by a 0.6-percent decline in apparel prices. Other major index components, including medical care, were little changed over the month.

For the 12 months ended in May 2011, the index for all items less food and energy rose 1.6 percent. Prices for medical care and other goods and services each rose by 2.7 percent. The apparel component registered a 1.9 percent increase and shelter, 1.2 percent. Recreation, however, edged down 0.2 percent.

Table A. New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island CPI-U monthly and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

Month	2006		2007		2008		2009		2010		2011	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
January	0.8	3.7	0.2	2.7	0.2	3.7	0.2	1.5	0.2	2.4	0.3	1.5
February	0.2	3.6	0.6	3.1	0.5	3.6	0.5	1.6	0.0	1.8	0.5	2.1
March	0.8	2.7	0.7	2.9	0.9	3.8	0.2	0.8	0.5	2.1	0.7	2.3
April	0.9	3.6	0.5	2.5	0.3	3.6	0.2	0.8	0.2	2.1	0.4	2.5
May	0.6	4.8	0.6	2.5	1.0	4.0	0.2	-0.1	0.2	2.2	0.6	2.9
June	0.5	5.6	0.5	2.5	1.0	4.5	0.5	-0.6	-0.1	1.5		
July	0.2	5.0	0.2	2.5	0.7	5.1	0.2	-1.1	0.1	1.5		
August	0.4	4.7	-0.1	1.9	0.1	5.4	0.3	-0.9	0.2	1.4		
September	-0.5	3.3	0.0	2.4	-0.2	5.2	0.1	-0.6	0.0	1.2		
October	-0.5	2.4	0.1	3.1	-0.7	4.3	-0.1	0.0	0.2	1.5		
November	-0.4	2.6	0.4	3.9	-1.6	2.2	0.2	1.8	0.0	1.3		
December	0.2	3.3	0.0	3.7	-0.6	1.6	-0.1	2.3	0.0	1.4		

CPI-W

In May, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 244.316, up 0.7 percent over the month. The CPI-W increased 3.5 percent over the year.

The June 2011 Consumer Price Index for New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island is scheduled to be released on Friday, July 15, 2011 at 8:30 a.m. (EDT).

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 87 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 32 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 4,000 housing units and approximately 25,000 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/pub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

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 New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, N.Y.-N.J.-Conn.-Pa. consolidated area covered in this release is comprised of 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.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone number: 1-800-877-8339.

For personal assistance or further information on Consumer Price Indexes, as well as other Bureau products, contact the New York-New Jersey Information Office at (646) 264-3600 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET.

HU*Y%*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—		
	Mar. 2011	Apr. 2011	May 2011	May 2010	Mar. 2011	Apr. 2011
Expenditure category						
All items	245.617	246.489	248.073	2.9	1.0	0.6
All items (1967=100)	710.044	712.565	717.146	-	-	-
Food and beverages	234.456	234.501	235.301	2.6	.4	.3
Food	233.707	233.709	234.567	2.7	.4	.4
Food at home	233.763	232.804	233.769	2.9	.0	.4
Food away from home	239.802	241.003	241.751	2.5	.8	.3
Alcoholic beverages	241.396	242.067	242.023	1.3	.3	.0
Housing	259.985	260.194	261.585	1.2	.6	.5
Shelter	315.119	315.673	316.755	1.2	.5	.3
Rent of primary residence ¹	318.089	318.941	319.343	2.4	.4	.1
Owners' equivalent rent of residences ^{1 2}	322.657	323.641	324.371	1.0	.5	.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	322.572	323.545	324.271	1.0	.5	.2
Fuels and utilities	205.191	203.060	206.475	1.7	.6	1.7
Household energy	203.567	201.378	205.224	1.6	.8	1.9
Energy services ¹	187.612	183.857	188.937	-4.1	.7	2.8
Electricity ¹	181.699	178.480	186.777	-2.7	2.8	4.6
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	194.340	189.529	187.367	-7.1	-3.6	-1.1
Household furnishings and operations	121.270	121.965	123.163	.1	1.6	1.0
Apparel	124.689	122.438	121.764	1.9	-2.3	-6
Transportation	219.405	224.287	229.350	12.0	4.5	2.3
Private transportation	208.010	213.453	218.818	12.9	5.2	2.5
Motor fuel	277.441	298.398	315.319	37.5	13.7	5.7
Gasoline (all types)	276.239	297.447	314.765	37.7	13.9	5.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	280.562	302.180	319.765	38.2	14.0	5.8
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	275.129	295.490	313.316	36.8	13.9	6.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	267.035	287.877	304.078	36.0	13.9	5.6
Medical care	390.308	391.303	391.113	2.7	.2	.0
Recreation ⁵	113.540	114.657	115.758	-2	2.0	1.0
Education and communication ⁵	135.650	135.584	135.337	.3	-.2	-.2
Other goods and services	380.788	381.455	381.133	2.7	.1	-.1
Commodity and service group						
All items	245.617	246.489	248.073	2.9	1.0	.6
Commodities	188.510	190.342	191.993	6.0	1.8	.9
Commodities less food and beverages	156.943	159.522	161.489	8.4	2.9	1.2
Nondurables less food and beverages	199.718	203.395	206.359	12.5	3.3	1.5
Durables	102.327	103.540	104.276	-.1	1.9	.7
Services	294.625	294.719	296.263	1.4	.6	.5
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	239.085	239.947	241.580	2.9	1.0	.7
All items less shelter	218.515	219.528	221.337	3.9	1.3	.8
Commodities less food	160.470	163.007	164.926	8.1	2.8	1.2
Nondurables	219.724	221.758	223.757	7.4	1.8	.9
Nondurables less food	202.608	206.136	208.949	11.7	3.1	1.4
Services less rent of shelter ²	282.571	282.115	284.264	1.5	.6	.8
Services less medical care services	286.470	286.516	288.109	1.3	.6	.6
Energy	234.401	241.571	250.728	17.2	7.0	3.8
All items less energy	248.488	248.768	249.645	1.7	.5	.4
All items less food and energy	252.737	253.069	253.955	1.6	.5	.4

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.