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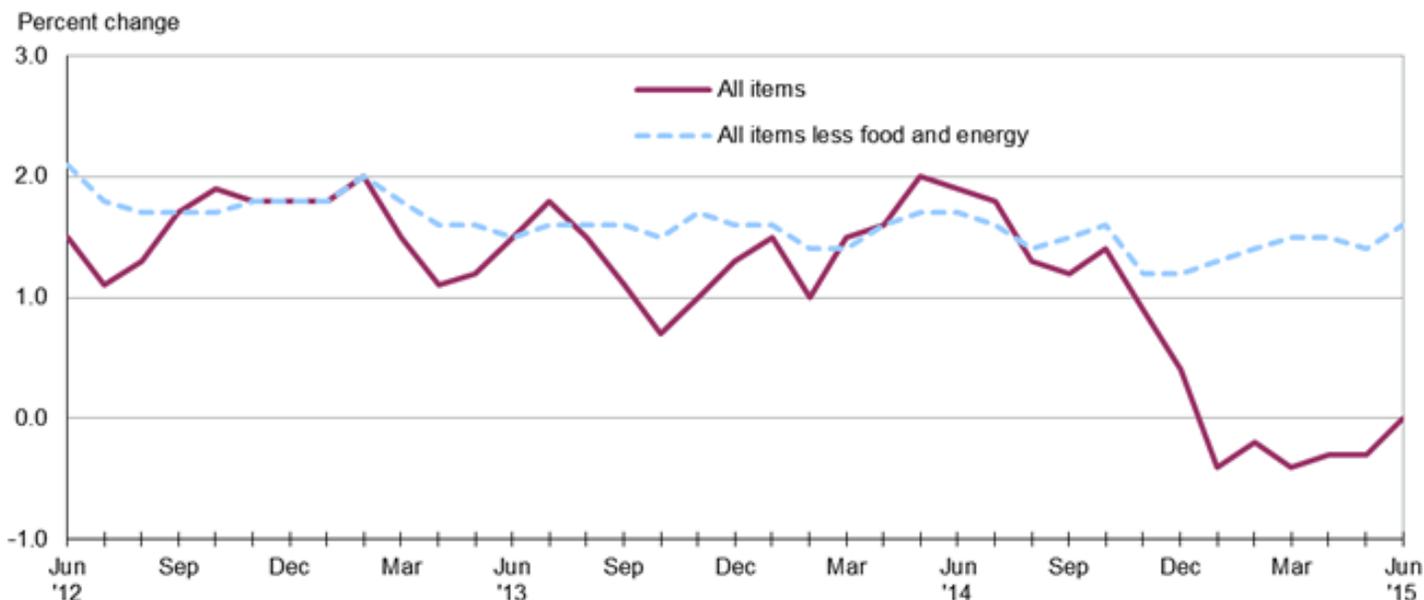
Consumer Price Index, Northeast Region – June 2015

Regional prices up 0.3 percent over the month; unchanged over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Northeast increased 0.3 percent in June, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau’s regional commissioner, noted that this was mostly due to increases in the energy index and the all items less food and energy index, up 2.4 and 0.2 percent, respectively. The food index also rose over the month, edging up 0.2 percent. (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 Northeast all items CPI-U was unchanged—the first time this index has reported no change over the year since its inception in 1967. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Increases in the all items less food and energy index (1.6 percent) and the food index (2.0 percent) were offset by a drop in the energy index (-15.7 percent) since June 2014. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Northeast region, June 2012–June 2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index edged up 0.2 percent since May. Prices for food away from home and food at home increased, up 0.3 and 0.2 percent, respectively.

From June 2014 to June 2015, the food index increased 2.0 percent. Prices for food away from home rose 2.7 percent over the year and those for food at home increased 1.6 percent.

Energy

The energy index, which includes prices for household and transportation fuels, increased 2.4 percent since May. Prices were higher over the month for electricity and gasoline, up 4.8 and 2.5 percent, respectively. The increase was moderated by a 1.7-percent decrease in utility (piped) gas prices.

The energy index fell 15.7 percent since June 2014, mostly due to a 25.0-percent drop in gasoline prices. Prices for utility (piped) gas service also fell over the year, down 15.3 percent, while the electricity index increased 3.5 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy edged up 0.2 percent in June. Shelter prices rose over the month, as the owners' equivalent rent of residences component also rose (0.3 percent each). Moderating the overall increase in the all items less food and energy index were a seasonal decrease in apparel prices (-1.9 percent) and lower prices for medical care (-0.4 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.6 percent, led by higher prices for shelter (2.2 percent). Prices were also higher for several other categories including medical care and other goods and services (2.6 percent each).

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

Month	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	1-month	12-month								
January.....	0.4	1.6	0.4	2.9	0.3	1.8	0.6	1.5	-0.2	-0.4
February.....	0.5	2.0	0.4	2.8	0.6	2.0	0.1	1.0	0.2	-0.2
March.....	0.8	2.5	0.5	2.5	0.0	1.5	0.5	1.5	0.3	-0.4
April.....	0.5	2.8	0.3	2.3	-0.1	1.1	0.0	1.6	0.1	-0.3
May.....	0.5	3.2	-0.1	1.7	0.0	1.2	0.4	2.0	0.4	-0.3
June.....	0.1	3.4	-0.2	1.5	0.1	1.5	0.0	1.9	0.3	0.0
July.....	0.2	3.6	-0.1	1.1	0.2	1.8	0.1	1.8		
August.....	0.3	3.8	0.5	1.3	0.2	1.5	-0.3	1.3		
September.....	0.1	4.0	0.5	1.7	0.1	1.1	0.0	1.2		
October.....	-0.1	3.6	0.1	1.9	-0.4	0.7	-0.2	1.4		
November.....	-0.1	3.2	-0.2	1.8	0.1	1.0	-0.4	0.9		
December.....	-0.3	2.9	-0.3	1.8	0.0	1.3	-0.5	0.4		

The Consumer Price Index for July 2015 is scheduled to be released Wednesday, August 19, 2015, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).

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 approximately 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 4,000 housing units and approximately 26,000 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/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 Northeast region is comprised of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Northeast Region, (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted)

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	Apr. 2015	May 2015	Jun. 2015	Jun. 2014	Apr. 2015	May 2015
All items.....		251.760	252.770	253.626	0.0	0.7	0.3
All items (December 1977 = 100).....		396.445	398.035	399.384			
Food and beverages		250.844	251.356	251.852	2.0	0.4	0.2
Food		251.004	251.457	252.005	2.0	0.4	0.2
Food at home		248.741	248.838	249.264	1.6	0.2	0.2
Food away from home.....		257.490	258.477	259.212	2.7	0.7	0.3
Alcoholic beverages		247.604	248.871	248.698	1.4	0.4	-0.1
Housing		264.249	263.998	265.278	1.1	0.4	0.5
Shelter		322.783	323.612	324.500	2.2	0.5	0.3
Rent of primary residence (1).....		322.634	323.764	324.535	2.6	0.6	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of residences (1) (2)		334.155	334.672	335.723	2.2	0.5	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence (1) (2)		333.963	334.468	335.490	2.2	0.5	0.3
Fuels and utilities.....		218.143	213.340	217.557	-4.7	-0.3	2.0
Household energy		195.470	190.234	194.781	-5.8	-0.4	2.4
Energy services (1).....		193.183	187.136	193.073	-1.6	-0.1	3.2
Electricity (1).....		205.243	197.806	207.265	3.5	1.0	4.8
Utility (piped) gas service (1).....		153.948	151.500	148.862	-15.3	-3.3	-1.7
Household furnishings and operations		124.634	123.998	124.590	-0.7	0.0	0.5
Apparel		132.034	131.321	128.839	0.4	-2.4	-1.9
Transportation		199.572	205.061	206.823	-7.1	3.6	0.9
Private transportation		191.261	195.963	197.526	-7.6	3.3	0.8
New and used motor vehicles (3).....		98.601	98.504	98.829	0.1	0.2	0.3
New vehicles		145.555	145.380	145.957	0.9	0.3	0.4
New cars and trucks (3) (4)		100.850	100.743	101.138	0.9	0.3	0.4
New cars (4)		138.111	137.704	138.407	0.2	0.2	0.5
Used cars and trucks.....		156.913	157.983	158.465	-0.6	1.0	0.3
Motor fuel		207.583	228.019	233.607	-25.0	12.5	2.5
Gasoline (all types).....		206.474	227.031	232.646	-25.0	12.7	2.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular (4).....		205.052	226.196	231.928	-25.5	13.1	2.5
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade (4) (5).....		216.578	235.448	240.649	-23.8	11.1	2.2
Gasoline, unleaded premium (4).....		210.162	227.283	232.359	-22.7	10.6	2.2
Medical care		468.386	469.261	467.204	2.6	-0.3	-0.4
Medical care commodities.....		378.248	377.639	377.849	2.3	-0.1	0.1
Medical care services.....		493.380	494.757	491.942	2.7	-0.3	-0.6
Professional services		361.375	362.359	362.485	2.6	0.3	0.0
Recreation (3).....		121.013	121.212	121.629	0.9	0.5	0.3
Education and communication (3).....		137.871	137.969	138.130	0.4	0.2	0.1
Other goods and services		445.107	446.595	451.869	2.6	1.5	1.2
Commodity and service group							
Commodities		188.007	189.705	190.030	-3.1	1.1	0.2
Commodities less food and beverages		153.257	155.395	155.633	-6.3	1.6	0.2
Nondurables less food and beverages.....		192.195	196.733	196.973	-9.4	2.5	0.1
Durables		108.036	107.924	108.143	-1.0	0.1	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, Northeast Region, (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted) - Continued

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	Apr. 2015	May 2015	Jun. 2015	Jun. 2014	Apr. 2015	May 2015
Services.....		313.724	314.128	315.480	1.8	0.6	0.4
Special aggregate indexes							
All items less shelter.....		227.595	228.684	229.538	-1.1	0.9	0.4
All items less medical care.....		242.245	243.258	244.233	-0.2	0.8	0.4
Commodities less food.....		156.726	158.846	159.073	-6.0	1.5	0.1
Nondurables.....		221.553	224.220	224.583	-3.7	1.4	0.2
Nondurables less food.....		195.409	199.746	199.961	-8.6	2.3	0.1
Services less rent of shelter (2).....		314.968	314.906	316.813	1.3	0.6	0.6
Services less medical care services.....		301.306	301.649	303.246	1.7	0.6	0.5
Energy.....		200.716	206.175	211.160	-15.7	5.2	2.4
All items less energy.....		259.490	260.049	260.486	1.6	0.4	0.2
All items less food and energy.....		262.678	263.260	263.680	1.6	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) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

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