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MID-ATLANTIC INFORMATION OFFICE: Philadelphia, Pa.

Technical information: (215) 597-3282 BLSInfoPhiladelphia@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/mid-atlantic

Media contact: (215) 861-5600 BLSMediaPhiladelphia@bls.gov

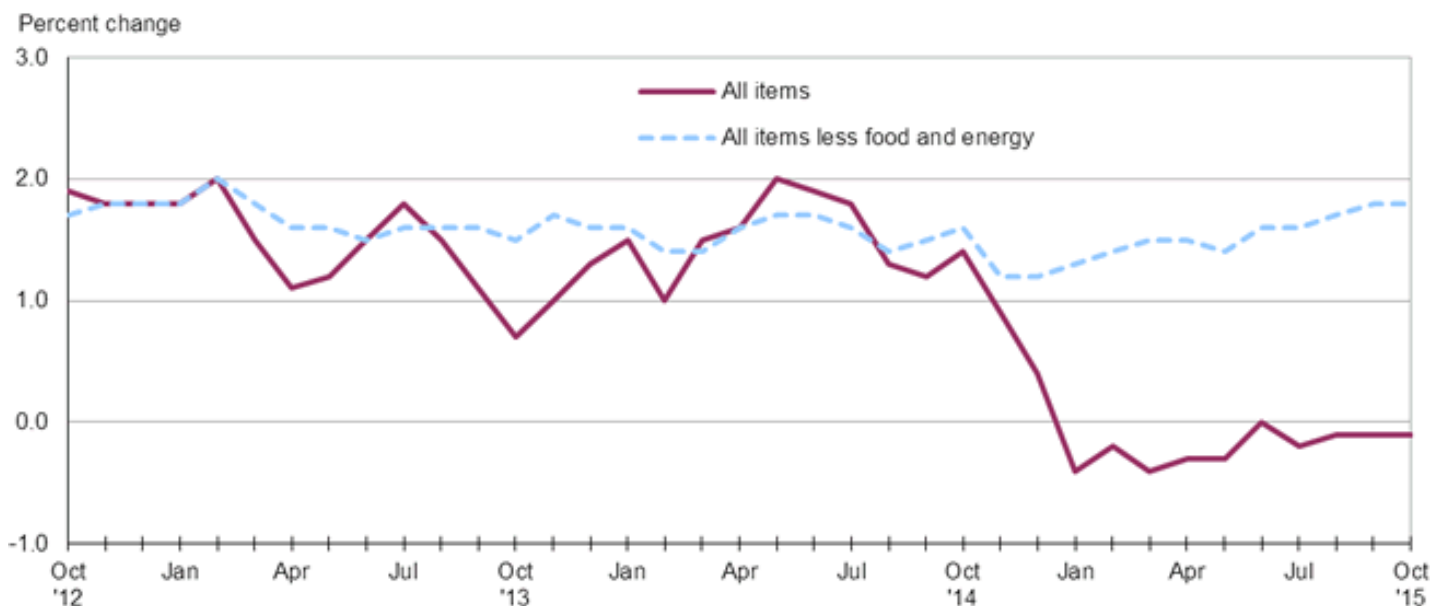
Consumer Price Index, Northeast Region – October 2015

Regional prices down 0.2 percent over the month and 0.1 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Northeast edged down 0.2 percent in October, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that a 3.6-percent decrease in the energy index was moderated by 0.1-percent increases in both the all items less food and energy index and the food index. (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 inched down 0.1 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) The energy index fell 19.7 percent over the year, while the all items less food and energy index increased 1.8 percent. Food prices also advanced from October 2014, up 1.3 percent. (See [table 1.](#))

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index inched up 0.1 percent since September. Food at home prices and food away from home prices also rose 0.1 percent each over the month.

From October 2014 to October 2015, the food index increased 1.3 percent. Prices for food away from home rose 2.1 percent over the year and those for food at home increased 0.9 percent.

Energy

The energy index, which includes prices for household and transportation fuels, decreased 3.6 percent since September. This was led by a 5.3-percent decline in gasoline prices. Electricity and utility (piped) gas service prices also decreased over the month, down 2.6 and 2.5 percent, respectively.

The energy index fell 19.7 percent since October 2014, due almost entirely to a 31.7-percent drop in gasoline prices. Prices for utility (piped) gas service also dropped, down 12.6 percent, while electricity prices increased 0.5 percent over the year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.1 percent in October, led by higher prices for medical care (0.5 percent) and education and communication (0.3 percent). Lower prices for apparel (-1.1 percent) and new and used motor vehicles (-0.7 percent) moderated the rise in the all items less food and energy index since September.

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.8 percent, led by higher prices for shelter (2.6 percent). Prices were also higher for several other categories including medical care and education and communication, up 3.0 and 2.1 percent, respectively. Apparel prices were down 1.2 percent over the year; household furnishings and operations prices declined 1.1 percent.

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	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	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	-0.1	-0.2
August.....	0.3	3.8	0.5	1.3	0.2	1.5	-0.3	1.3	-0.2	-0.1
September.....	0.1	4.0	0.5	1.7	0.1	1.1	0.0	1.2	0.0	-0.1
October.....	-0.1	3.6	0.1	1.9	-0.4	0.7	-0.2	1.4	-0.2	-0.1
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 November 2015 is scheduled to be released Tuesday, December 15, 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	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015	Oct. 2015	Oct. 2014	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015
All items		252.903	252.922	252.504	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2
All items (December 1977 = 100)		398.245	398.275	397.616			
Food and beverages		252.060	252.559	252.759	1.3	0.3	0.1
Food		252.149	252.707	252.919	1.3	0.3	0.1
Food at home		249.021	249.251	249.465	0.9	0.2	0.1
Food away from home		259.933	260.986	261.198	2.1	0.5	0.1
Alcoholic beverages		249.726	249.465	249.500	0.7	-0.1	0.0
Housing		264.975	265.767	265.348	1.3	0.1	-0.2
Shelter		326.509	327.736	327.847	2.6	0.4	0.0
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾		326.086	328.146	328.864	3.1	0.9	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of residences ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾		337.290	338.861	339.116	2.6	0.5	0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾		337.060	338.611	338.861	2.6	0.5	0.1
Fuels and utilities		208.839	208.285	204.297	-6.1	-2.2	-1.9
Household energy		184.901	184.239	179.901	-7.7	-2.7	-2.4
Energy services ⁽¹⁾		185.115	184.686	179.883	-2.9	-2.8	-2.6
Electricity ⁽¹⁾		198.006	197.596	192.385	0.5	-2.8	-2.6
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾		144.401	143.950	140.377	-12.6	-2.8	-2.5
Household furnishings and operations		122.483	122.855	123.219	-1.1	0.6	0.3
Apparel		131.766	135.089	133.577	-1.2	1.4	-1.1
Transportation		201.447	197.063	194.865	-8.7	-3.3	-1.1
Private transportation		193.503	188.944	186.260	-9.5	-3.7	-1.4
New and used motor vehicles ⁽³⁾		98.407	98.191	97.504	-0.7	-0.9	-0.7
New vehicles		145.295	145.681	145.103	0.5	-0.1	-0.4
New cars and trucks ⁽³⁾ ⁽⁴⁾		100.687	100.955	100.560	0.6	-0.1	-0.4
New cars ⁽⁴⁾		138.007	137.675	137.195	0.1	-0.6	-0.3
Used cars and trucks		158.308	155.663	152.746	-1.7	-3.5	-1.9
Motor fuel		217.280	198.489	187.946	-31.7	-13.5	-5.3
Gasoline (all types)		216.425	197.630	187.075	-31.7	-13.6	-5.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽⁴⁾		214.499	194.913	184.097	-32.6	-14.2	-5.5
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ⁽⁴⁾ ⁽⁵⁾		228.398	211.909	202.372	-28.6	-11.4	-4.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽⁴⁾		222.643	208.779	200.149	-26.1	-10.1	-4.1
Medical care		468.451	469.086	471.457	3.0	0.6	0.5
Medical care commodities		379.329	375.944	375.766	0.7	-0.9	0.0
Medical care services		493.092	495.109	498.330	3.6	1.1	0.7
Professional services		363.222	363.152	362.999	2.2	-0.1	0.0
Recreation ⁽³⁾		120.955	120.700	120.907	1.3	0.0	0.2
Education and communication ⁽³⁾		139.296	140.674	141.127	2.1	1.3	0.3
Other goods and services		452.607	452.607	454.368	2.2	0.4	0.4
Commodity and service group							
Commodities		188.337	187.271	186.071	-4.2	-1.2	-0.6
Commodities less food and beverages		153.193	151.497	149.744	-7.8	-2.3	-1.2
Nondurables less food and beverages		193.123	189.688	186.619	-11.6	-3.4	-1.6
Durables		107.112	107.057	106.580	-1.1	-0.5	-0.4

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	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015	Oct. 2015	Oct. 2014	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015
Services.....		315.622	316.624	316.906	2.2	0.4	0.1
Special aggregate indexes							
All items less shelter.....		227.776	227.339	226.717	-1.5	-0.5	-0.3
All items less medical care		243.430	243.424	242.892	-0.3	-0.2	-0.2
Commodities less food.....		156.728	155.069	153.363	-7.4	-2.1	-1.1
Nondurables		222.625	221.026	219.481	-5.0	-1.4	-0.7
Nondurables less food.....		196.408	193.166	190.287	-10.8	-3.1	-1.5
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾		314.888	315.697	316.171	1.7	0.4	0.2
Services less medical care services.....		303.327	304.262	304.366	2.1	0.3	0.0
Energy		198.583	190.364	183.436	-19.7	-7.6	-3.6
All items less energy		260.984	261.856	262.108	1.7	0.4	0.1
All items less food and energy		264.244	265.178	265.439	1.8	0.5	0.1

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.