



For Release: Tuesday, December 15, 2015

15-2424-PHI

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

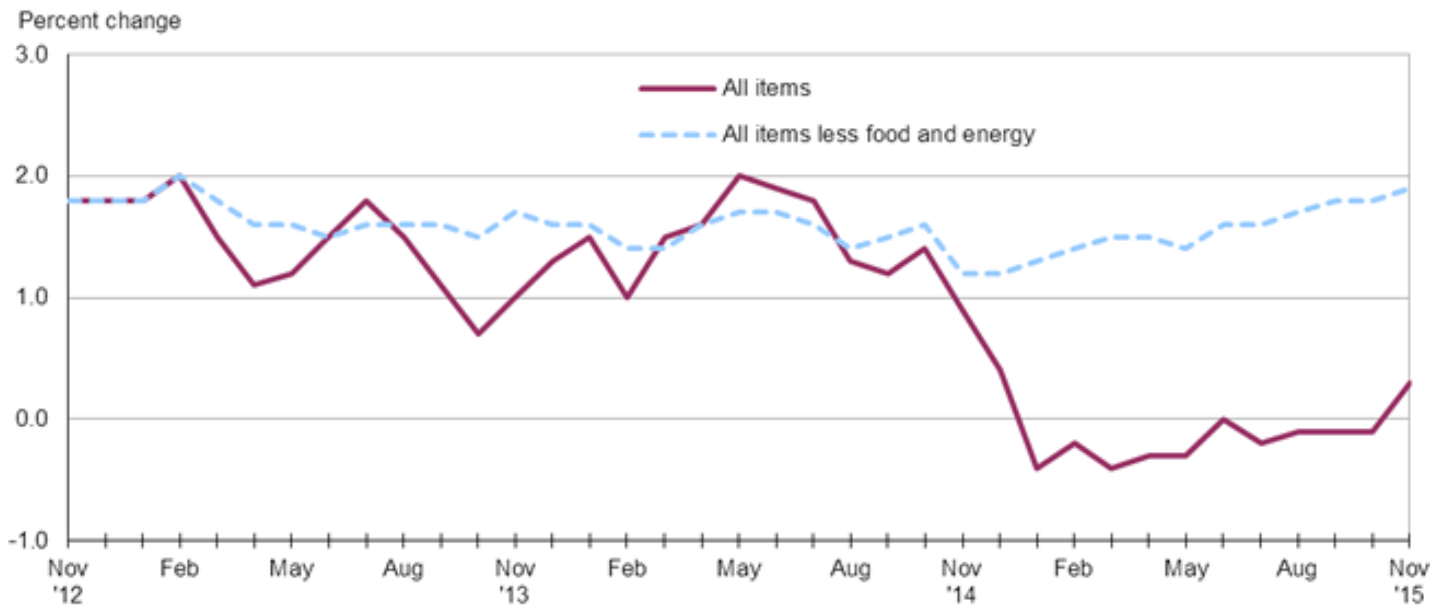
Consumer Price Index, Northeast Region – November 2015

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

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Northeast was unchanged in November, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that a 0.9-percent increase in the energy index was moderated by a 0.2-percent decrease in the food index. The all items less food and energy index was unchanged over the month. (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 edged up 0.3 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The all items less food and energy index increased 1.9 percent over the year, and food prices advanced 1.2 percent. The advance was moderated by a 16.6-percent decline in the energy index since November 2014. (See [table 1](#).)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index edged down 0.2 percent since October. Prices for food at home declined by 0.5 percent, while prices for food away from home rose 0.2 percent over the month.

From November 2014 to November 2015, the food index increased 1.2 percent. Prices for food away from home rose 2.2 percent over the year and those for food at home increased 0.5 percent.

Energy

The energy index, which includes prices for household and transportation fuels, increased 0.9 percent since October, led by a 7.1-percent rise in utility (piped) gas prices. Electricity prices also increased over the month, up 1.0 percent, while gasoline prices declined 0.6 percent.

The energy index fell 16.6 percent since November 2014, due almost entirely to a 26.3-percent drop in gasoline prices. Prices for utility (piped) gas and electricity also decreased over the year, down 9.7 and 1.5 percent, respectively.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy was unchanged in November. Lower prices for apparel (-2.1 percent) and recreation (-0.4 percent), were moderated by higher prices for education and communication (0.3 percent) and other goods and services (0.4 percent) since October.

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.9 percent, led by higher prices for shelter (2.7 percent). Prices were also higher for several other categories including education and communication (2.6 percent) and medical care (2.7 percent). Prices were lower over the year for categories including apparel (-1.1 percent) and new and used motor vehicles (-0.3 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	0.0	0.3
December.....	-0.3	2.9	-0.3	1.8	0.0	1.3	-0.5	0.4		

The Consumer Price Index for December 2015 is scheduled to be released Wednesday, January 20, 2016, 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.












Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

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	Sep. 2015	Oct. 2015	Nov. 2015	Nov. 2014	Sep. 2015	Oct. 2015
All items		252.922	252.504	252.573	0.3	-0.1	0.0
All items (December 1977 = 100)		398.275	397.616	397.726			
Food and beverages		252.559	252.759	252.167	1.1	-0.2	-0.2
Food		252.707	252.919	252.328	1.2	-0.1	-0.2
Food at home		249.251	249.465	248.120	0.5	-0.5	-0.5
Food away from home		260.986	261.198	261.719	2.2	0.3	0.2
Alcoholic beverages		249.465	249.500	248.902	0.2	-0.2	-0.2
Housing		265.767	265.348	265.874	1.4	0.0	0.2
Shelter		327.736	327.847	327.989	2.7	0.1	0.0
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾		328.146	328.864	329.456	2.9	0.4	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of residences ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾		338.861	339.116	339.816	2.7	0.3	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾		338.611	338.861	339.561	2.7	0.3	0.2
Fuels and utilities		208.285	204.297	207.541	-6.2	-0.4	1.6
Household energy		184.239	179.901	183.405	-7.8	-0.5	1.9
Energy services ⁽¹⁾		184.686	179.883	184.232	-3.7	-0.2	2.4
Electricity ⁽¹⁾		197.596	192.385	194.217	-1.5	-1.7	1.0
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾		143.950	140.377	150.364	-9.7	4.5	7.1
Household furnishings and operations		122.855	123.219	123.105	-0.2	0.2	-0.1
Apparel		135.089	133.577	130.735	-1.1	-3.2	-2.1
Transportation		197.063	194.865	195.171	-6.5	-1.0	0.2
Private transportation		188.944	186.260	186.101	-7.1	-1.5	-0.1
New and used motor vehicles ⁽³⁾		98.191	97.504	97.255	-0.3	-1.0	-0.3
New vehicles		145.681	145.103	145.486	0.8	-0.1	0.3
New cars and trucks ⁽³⁾ ⁽⁴⁾		100.955	100.560	100.812	0.8	-0.1	0.3
New cars ⁽⁴⁾		137.675	137.195	137.282	-0.1	-0.3	0.1
Used cars and trucks		155.663	152.746	150.002	-1.0	-3.6	-1.8
Motor fuel		198.489	187.946	186.892	-26.3	-5.8	-0.6
Gasoline (all types)		197.630	187.075	186.046	-26.3	-5.9	-0.6
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽⁴⁾		194.913	184.097	183.124	-27.1	-6.0	-0.5
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ⁽⁴⁾ ⁽⁵⁾		211.909	202.372	200.784	-23.9	-5.2	-0.8
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽⁴⁾		208.779	200.149	198.643	-21.6	-4.9	-0.8
Medical care		469.086	471.457	472.096	2.7	0.6	0.1
Medical care commodities		375.944	375.766	371.518	-0.8	-1.2	-1.1
Medical care services		495.109	498.330	500.650	3.7	1.1	0.5
Professional services		363.152	362.999	367.449	3.2	1.2	1.2
Recreation ⁽³⁾		120.700	120.907	120.427	1.0	-0.2	-0.4
Education and communication ⁽³⁾		140.674	141.127	141.499	2.6	0.6	0.3
Other goods and services		452.607	454.368	456.362	2.7	0.8	0.4
Commodity and service group							
Commodities		187.271	186.071	185.183	-3.2	-1.1	-0.5
Commodities less food and beverages		151.497	149.744	148.766	-6.1	-1.8	-0.7
Nondurables less food and beverages		189.688	186.619	185.059	-9.5	-2.4	-0.8
Durables		107.057	106.580	106.182	-0.5	-0.8	-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	Sep. 2015	Oct. 2015	Nov. 2015	Nov. 2014	Sep. 2015	Oct. 2015
Services.....		316.624	316.906	317.843	2.3	0.4	0.3
Special aggregate indexes							
All items less shelter.....		227.339	226.717	226.760	-1.0	-0.3	0.0
All items less medical care		243.424	242.892	242.938	0.1	-0.2	0.0
Commodities less food.....		155.069	153.363	152.393	-5.8	-1.7	-0.6
Nondurables		221.026	219.481	218.367	-4.0	-1.2	-0.5
Nondurables less food.....		193.166	190.287	188.786	-8.8	-2.3	-0.8
Services less rent of shelter (2).....		315.697	316.171	318.026	1.7	0.7	0.6
Services less medical care services.....		304.262	304.366	305.215	2.1	0.3	0.3
Energy		190.364	183.436	185.044	-16.6	-2.8	0.9
All items less energy		261.856	262.108	262.019	1.8	0.1	0.0
All items less food and energy		265.178	265.439	265.439	1.9	0.1	0.0

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.