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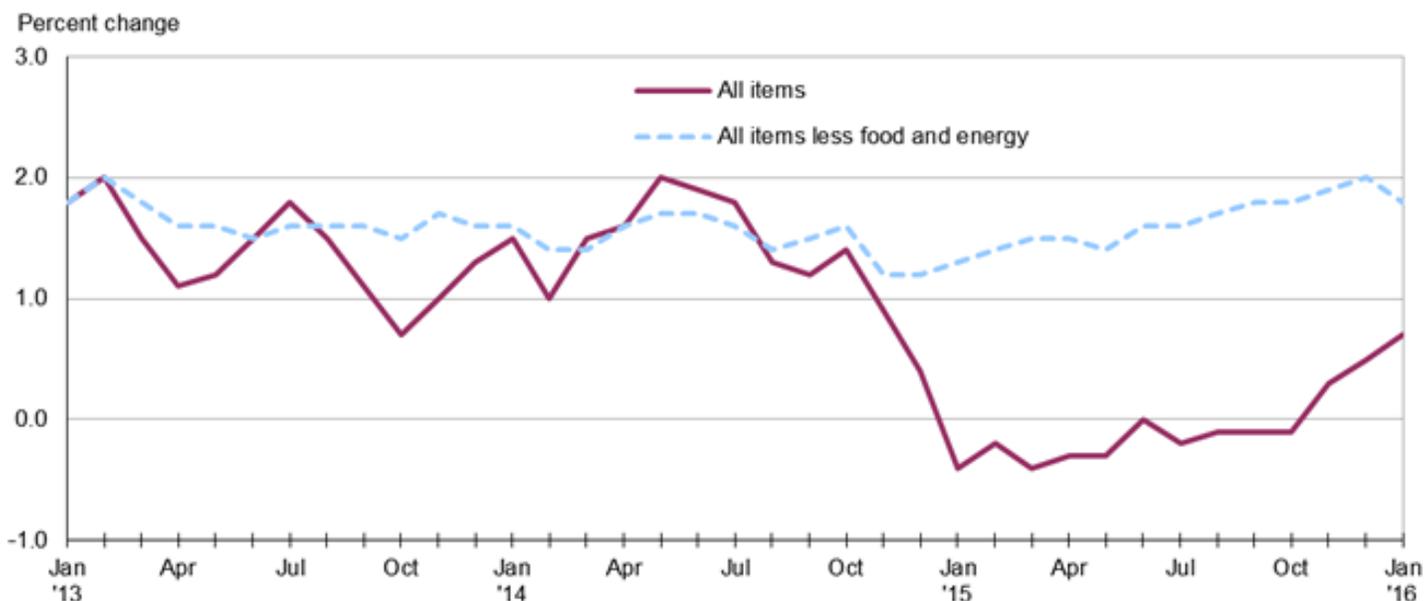
## **Consumer Price Index, Northeast Region – January 2016**

### **Regional prices unchanged over the month and up 0.7 percent over the year**

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Northeast was unchanged in January, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau’s regional commissioner, noted that the energy index declined 1.8 percent since December, while the all items less food and energy index and the food index both increased over the month, up 0.1 percent and 0.5 percent, respectively. (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 increased 0.7 percent, due mostly to a 1.8-percent advance in the all items less food and energy index. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) Food prices also rose, up 1.1 percent over the year. The increase was moderated by an 11.8-percent decline in the energy index since January 2015. (See [table 1.](#))

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Northeast region, January 2013–January 2016**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### **Food**

The food index increased 0.5 percent since December. Prices for both food at home and food away from home also increased 0.5 percent over the month.

From January 2015 to January 2016, the food index increased 1.1 percent. Prices for food away from home rose 2.5 percent over the year, and those for food at home inched up 0.1 percent.

## Energy

The energy index, which includes prices for household and transportation fuels, decreased 1.8 percent since December, led by a 6.0-percent decline in gasoline prices. Prices for electricity increased over the month, up 2.6 percent, while prices for utility (piped) gas service were unchanged.

The energy index fell 11.8 percent since January 2015, led by a 13.3-percent drop in gasoline prices. Prices for electricity and utility (piped) gas service also decreased over the year, down 6.2 and 14.9 percent, respectively.

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy inched up 0.1 percent in January. The index's increase was led by higher prices for medical care (0.6 percent) and recreation (0.3 percent). The increase was moderated by a seasonal decline in apparel prices (-0.3 percent) and lower prices for household furnishings and operations (-0.2 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.8 percent, led by higher prices for shelter (2.4 percent), particularly owners' equivalent rent of residences (2.6 percent). Prices were also higher over the year for medical care (2.5 percent) and education and communication (2.3 percent), among others.

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

Month	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	1-month	12-month								
January.....	0.4	2.9	0.3	1.8	0.6	1.5	-0.2	-0.4	0.0	0.7
February.....	0.4	2.8	0.6	2.0	0.1	1.0	0.2	-0.2		
March.....	0.5	2.5	0.0	1.5	0.5	1.5	0.3	-0.4		
April.....	0.3	2.3	-0.1	1.1	0.0	1.6	0.1	-0.3		
May.....	-0.1	1.7	0.0	1.2	0.4	2.0	0.4	-0.3		
June.....	-0.2	1.5	0.1	1.5	0.0	1.9	0.3	0.0		
July.....	-0.1	1.1	0.2	1.8	0.1	1.8	-0.1	-0.2		
August.....	0.5	1.3	0.2	1.5	-0.3	1.3	-0.2	-0.1		
September.....	0.5	1.7	0.1	1.1	0.0	1.2	0.0	-0.1		
October.....	0.1	1.9	-0.4	0.7	-0.2	1.4	-0.2	-0.1		
November.....	-0.2	1.8	0.1	1.0	-0.4	0.9	0.0	0.3		
December.....	-0.3	1.8	0.0	1.3	-0.5	0.4	-0.4	0.5		

**The Consumer Price Index for February 2016 is scheduled to be released Wednesday, March 16, 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](http://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/pdf/homch17.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf).

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	Nov. 2015	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2015	Nov. 2015	Dec. 2015
All items.....		252.573	251.670	251.739	0.7	-0.3	0.0
All items (December 1977 = 100).....		397.726	396.303	396.412			
Food and beverages .....		252.167	252.100	253.328	1.0	0.5	0.5
Food .....		252.328	252.268	253.531	1.1	0.5	0.5
Food at home .....		248.120	247.883	249.096	0.1	0.4	0.5
Food away from home.....		261.719	261.919	263.274	2.5	0.6	0.5
Alcoholic beverages .....		248.902	248.763	249.519	0.3	0.2	0.3
Housing .....		265.874	265.320	265.610	0.9	-0.1	0.1
Shelter .....		327.989	328.018	328.130	2.4	0.0	0.0
Rent of primary residence (1).....		329.456	330.296	330.856	3.0	0.4	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of residences (1) (2) .....		339.816	340.368	340.963	2.6	0.3	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence (1) (2) .....		339.561	340.105	340.696	2.6	0.3	0.2
Fuels and utilities.....		207.541	203.697	205.630	-8.7	-0.9	0.9
Household energy .....		183.405	179.319	181.149	-10.9	-1.2	1.0
Energy services (1).....		184.232	181.210	184.665	-8.5	0.2	1.9
Electricity (1).....		194.217	192.558	197.527	-6.2	1.7	2.6
Utility (piped) gas service (1).....		150.364	144.327	144.319	-14.9	-4.0	0.0
Household furnishings and operations .....		123.105	122.920	122.619	-0.5	-0.4	-0.2
Apparel .....		130.735	128.090	127.645	-0.1	-2.4	-0.3
Transportation .....		195.171	193.211	191.225	-2.1	-2.0	-1.0
Private transportation .....		186.101	184.880	182.965	-2.2	-1.7	-1.0
New and used motor vehicles (3).....		97.255	97.113	97.288	0.3	0.0	0.2
New vehicles .....		145.486	145.024	145.381	0.3	-0.1	0.2
New cars and trucks (3) (4) .....		100.812	100.482	100.725	0.3	-0.1	0.2
New cars (4) .....		137.282	137.230	137.396	-0.7	0.1	0.1
Used cars and trucks.....		150.002	149.144	149.383	0.6	-0.4	0.2
Motor fuel .....		186.892	180.925	170.044	-13.5	-9.0	-6.0
Gasoline (all types).....		186.046	180.106	169.283	-13.3	-9.0	-6.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular (4).....		183.124	177.112	166.101	-14.0	-9.3	-6.2
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade (4) (5).....		200.784	194.852	184.655	-11.4	-8.0	-5.2
Gasoline, unleaded premium (4).....		198.643	193.420	184.381	-9.0	-7.2	-4.7
Medical care .....		472.096	470.813	473.711	2.5	0.3	0.6
Medical care commodities.....		371.518	369.270	371.929	-0.8	0.1	0.7
Medical care services.....		500.650	499.719	502.663	3.4	0.4	0.6
Professional services .....		367.449	365.933	367.213	2.3	-0.1	0.3
Recreation (3).....		120.427	120.123	120.471	0.8	0.0	0.3
Education and communication (3).....		141.499	141.178	141.275	2.3	-0.2	0.1
Other goods and services .....		456.362	455.714	455.999	1.6	-0.1	0.1
<b>Commodity and service group</b>							
Commodities .....		185.183	183.806	183.250	-1.3	-1.0	-0.3
Commodities less food and beverages .....		148.766	146.883	145.631	-2.9	-2.1	-0.9
Nondurables less food and beverages.....		185.059	181.895	178.955	-4.5	-3.3	-1.6
Durables .....		106.182	105.554	105.735	-0.6	-0.4	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	Nov. 2015	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2015	Nov. 2015	Dec. 2015
Services.....		317.843	317.353	317.977	1.8	0.0	0.2
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>							
All items less shelter.....		226.760	225.495	225.549	-0.3	-0.5	0.0
All items less medical care.....		242.938	242.052	241.994	0.5	-0.4	0.0
Commodities less food.....		152.393	150.554	149.353	-2.8	-2.0	-0.8
Nondurables.....		218.367	216.645	215.643	-1.5	-1.2	-0.5
Nondurables less food.....		188.786	185.805	183.087	-4.1	-3.0	-1.5
Services less rent of shelter (2).....		318.026	316.938	318.143	1.0	0.0	0.4
Services less medical care services.....		305.215	304.753	305.224	1.6	0.0	0.2
Energy.....		185.044	180.170	176.949	-11.8	-4.4	-1.8
All items less energy.....		262.019	261.518	261.920	1.7	0.0	0.2
All items less food and energy.....		265.439	264.856	265.116	1.8	-0.1	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.