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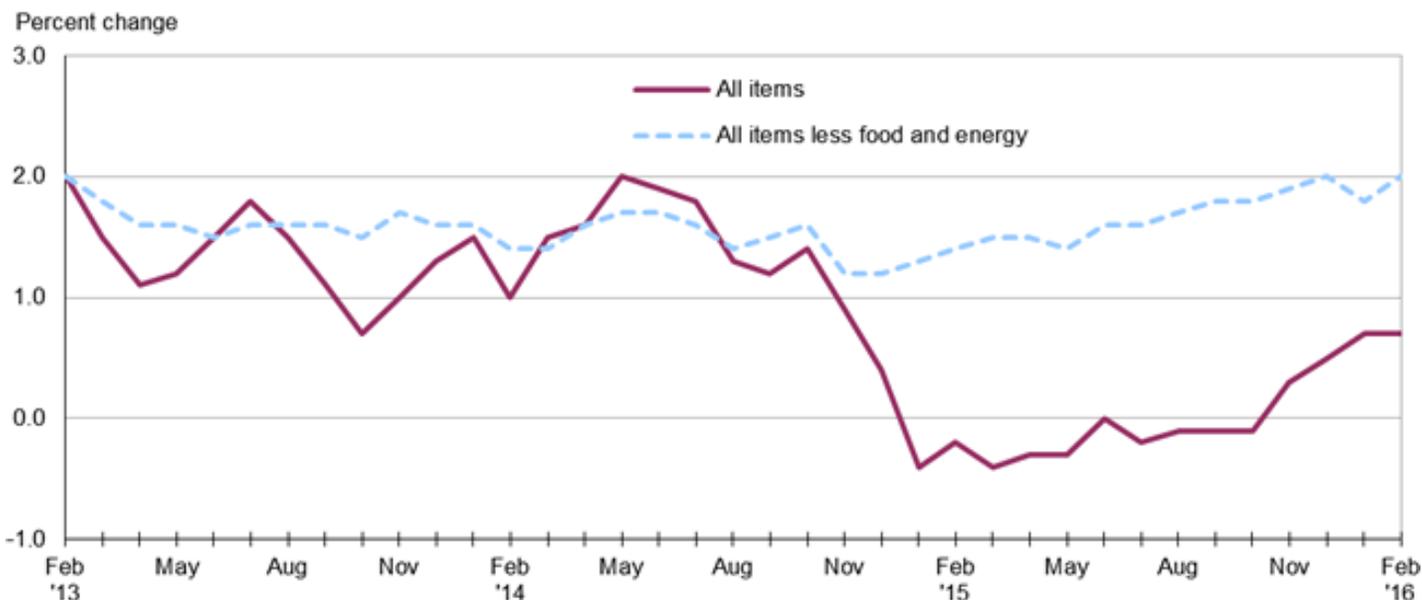
Consumer Price Index, Northeast Region – February 2016

Regional prices up 0.2 percent over the month and 0.7 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Northeast edged up 0.2 percent in February, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau’s regional commissioner, noted that the recent increase was due to a 0.5-percent increase in the all items less food and energy index. Partially offsetting the overall increase was a one-month decrease in the energy index, down 3.4 percent. The food index also decreased, down 0.1 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 increased 0.7 percent, due mostly to a 2.0-percent advance in the all items less food and energy index. Food prices also rose, up 0.9 percent over the year. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The increase was moderated by a 14.6-percent decline in the energy index since February 2015. (See [table 1](#).)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index inched down 0.1 percent since January. Prices for one of its two components, food at home, decreased 0.3 percent, while prices for the other, food away from home, increased 0.1 percent over the month.

From February 2015 to February 2016, the food index increased 0.9 percent. Prices for food away from home rose 2.5 percent over the year, while those for food at home edged down 0.2 percent.

Energy

The energy index, which includes prices for household and transportation fuels, decreased 3.4 percent since January, led by a 7.6-percent decline in gasoline prices. Prices for electricity and utility (piped) gas service also decreased over the month, down 0.7 and 0.6 percent, respectively.

The energy index fell 14.6 percent since February 2015, led by an 18.3-percent drop in gasoline prices. Prices for electricity and utility (piped) gas service also decreased over the year, down 8.6 and 13.1 percent, respectively.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.5 percent in February. The index's increase was led by higher prices for shelter (0.4 percent), apparel (3.5 percent), and medical care (1.1 percent), among others.

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 2.0 percent, led by higher prices for shelter (2.6 percent), particularly owners' equivalent rent of residences (2.6 percent). Prices were also higher over the year for medical care (2.9 percent) and education and communication (2.3 percent).

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	0.2	0.7
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 March 2016 is scheduled to be released Thursday, April 14, 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/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	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016	Feb. 2016	Feb. 2015	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016
All items.....		251.670	251.739	252.250	0.7	0.2	0.2
All items (December 1977 = 100).....		396.303	396.412	397.217			
Food and beverages		252.100	253.328	253.212	0.9	0.4	0.0
Food		252.268	253.531	253.261	0.9	0.4	-0.1
Food at home		247.883	249.096	248.472	-0.2	0.2	-0.3
Food away from home.....		261.919	263.274	263.547	2.5	0.6	0.1
Alcoholic beverages		248.763	249.519	251.396	0.8	1.1	0.8
Housing		265.320	265.610	266.340	0.9	0.4	0.3
Shelter		328.018	328.130	329.542	2.6	0.5	0.4
Rent of primary residence (1).....		330.296	330.856	331.634	3.0	0.4	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of residences (1) (2)		340.368	340.963	341.632	2.6	0.4	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence (1) (2)		340.105	340.696	341.362	2.6	0.4	0.2
Fuels and utilities.....		203.697	205.630	204.437	-9.9	0.4	-0.6
Household energy		179.319	181.149	179.675	-12.3	0.2	-0.8
Energy services (1).....		181.210	184.665	183.484	-9.8	1.3	-0.6
Electricity (1).....		192.558	197.527	196.205	-8.6	1.9	-0.7
Utility (piped) gas service (1).....		144.327	144.319	143.522	-13.1	-0.6	-0.6
Household furnishings and operations		122.920	122.619	122.529	-0.3	-0.3	-0.1
Apparel		128.090	127.645	132.054	0.7	3.1	3.5
Transportation		193.211	191.225	189.627	-2.8	-1.9	-0.8
Private transportation		184.880	182.965	180.554	-3.3	-2.3	-1.3
New and used motor vehicles (3).....		97.113	97.288	97.467	0.1	0.4	0.2
New vehicles		145.024	145.381	145.899	0.3	0.6	0.4
New cars and trucks (3) (4)		100.482	100.725	101.085	0.3	0.6	0.4
New cars (4)		137.230	137.396	138.047	-0.5	0.6	0.5
Used cars and trucks.....		149.144	149.383	150.792	0.2	1.1	0.9
Motor fuel		180.925	170.044	157.071	-18.5	-13.2	-7.6
Gasoline (all types).....		180.106	169.283	156.349	-18.3	-13.2	-7.6
Gasoline, unleaded regular (4).....		177.112	166.101	152.914	-19.3	-13.7	-7.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade (4) (5).....		194.852	184.655	173.232	-14.7	-11.1	-6.2
Gasoline, unleaded premium (4).....		193.420	184.381	173.424	-12.2	-10.3	-5.9
Medical care		470.813	473.711	478.863	2.9	1.7	1.1
Medical care commodities.....		369.270	371.929	377.418	-0.6	2.2	1.5
Medical care services.....		499.719	502.663	507.637	3.8	1.6	1.0
Professional services		365.933	367.213	369.841	2.5	1.1	0.7
Recreation (3).....		120.123	120.471	120.729	0.5	0.5	0.2
Education and communication (3).....		141.178	141.275	141.130	2.3	0.0	-0.1
Other goods and services		455.714	455.999	458.077	3.0	0.5	0.5
Commodity and service group							
Commodities		183.806	183.250	182.954	-1.7	-0.5	-0.2
Commodities less food and beverages		146.883	145.631	145.277	-3.6	-1.1	-0.2
Nondurables less food and beverages.....		181.895	178.955	177.997	-5.6	-2.1	-0.5
Durables		105.554	105.735	105.885	-0.7	0.3	0.1

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	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016	Feb. 2016	Feb. 2015	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016
Services.....		317.353	317.977	319.212	1.9	0.6	0.4
Special aggregate indexes							
All items less shelter.....		225.495	225.549	225.732	-0.4	0.1	0.1
All items less medical care.....		242.052	241.994	242.297	0.5	0.1	0.1
Commodities less food.....		150.554	149.353	149.062	-3.4	-1.0	-0.2
Nondurables.....		216.645	215.643	215.073	-2.1	-0.7	-0.3
Nondurables less food.....		185.805	183.087	182.297	-5.1	-1.9	-0.4
Services less rent of shelter (2).....		316.938	318.143	319.221	1.1	0.7	0.3
Services less medical care services.....		304.753	305.224	306.212	1.7	0.5	0.3
Energy.....		180.170	176.949	170.903	-14.6	-5.1	-3.4
All items less energy.....		261.518	261.920	263.099	1.9	0.6	0.5
All items less food and energy.....		264.856	265.116	266.546	2.0	0.6	0.5

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.