NEWS RELEASE
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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ERRATA Incorrect prices for prescription drugs were used for the CPI-U and CPI-W indexes from May through August 2016 in a number of areas. Several indexes were affected, including the all items and medical care indexes. A list of the series affected can be found at www.bls.gov/bls/errata/cpi-price-corrections-10182016.htm, and the corrected data are available in the CPI database (www.bls.gov/cpi/data.htm).

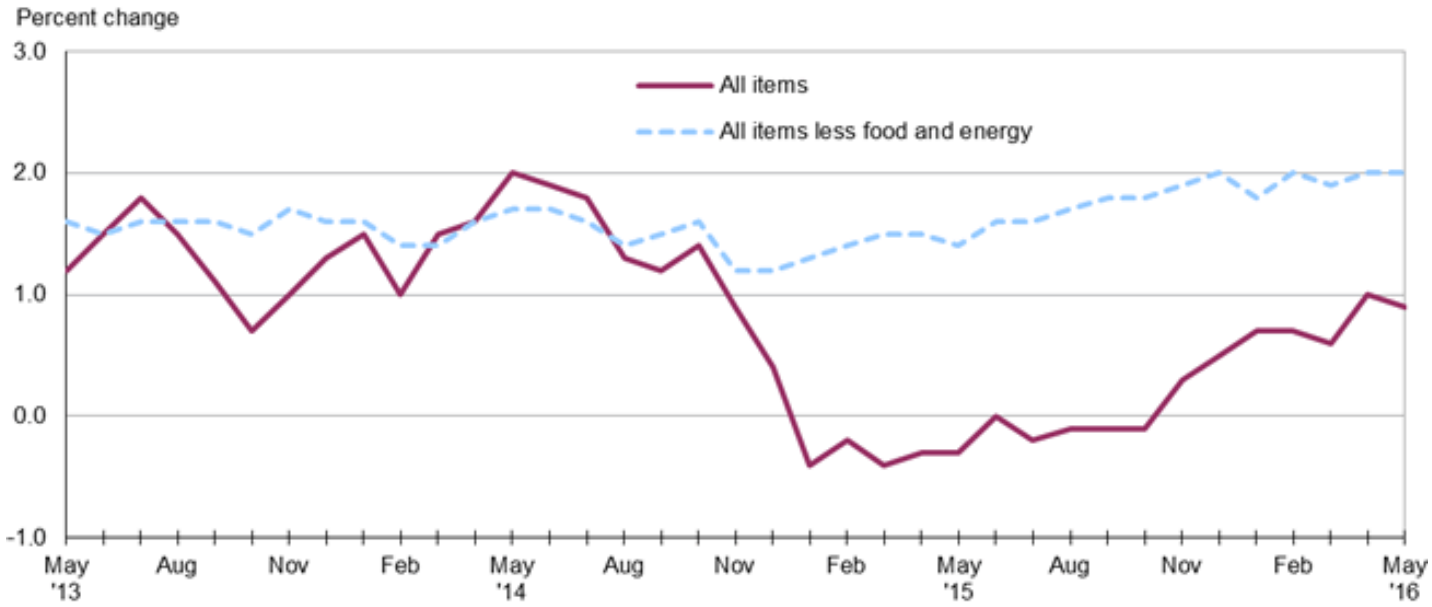
Consumer Price Index, Northeast Region – May 2016

Regional prices up 0.3 percent over the month and 0.9 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Northeast advanced 0.3 percent in May, 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 0.2-percent rise in the all items less food and energy index and a 2.4-percent advance in the energy index. Partially offsetting the overall increase was a one-month decrease in the food index, down 0.4 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 0.9 percent, due mostly to a 2.0-percent advance in the all items less food and energy index. Food prices also rose, up 0.2 percent over the year. (See chart 1 and table A.) The increase was moderated by a 9.5-percent decline in the energy index since May 2015. (See table 1.)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index fell 0.4 percent since April. Prices for one of its two components, food at home, decreased 0.8 percent, while prices for the other, food away from home, inched up 0.1 percent over the month.

From May 2015 to May 2016, the food index increased 0.2 percent. Prices for food away from home rose 2.6 percent over the year, while those for food at home declined 1.4 percent.

Energy

The energy index, which includes prices for household and transportation fuels, increased 2.4 percent since April, due to a 7.1-percent rise in gasoline prices. Prices for electricity and utility (piped) gas service decreased over the month, down 1.4 and 1.6 percent, respectively.

The energy index fell 9.5 percent since May 2015, led by a 14.4-percent drop in gasoline prices. Prices for electricity and utility (piped) gas service also decreased over the year, down 2.0 and 3.0 percent, respectively.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy edged up 0.2 percent in May. The index's increase was led by higher prices for shelter (0.4 percent). Prices for medical care also increased, up 0.3 percent over the month, while those for recreation and education and communication decreased, down 0.3 and 0.1 percent, respectively.

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 2.0 percent, led by higher prices for shelter (2.7 percent). Prices were also higher over the year for medical care (3.2 percent) and education and communication (2.0 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	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	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	0.2	0.6
April	0.3	2.3	-0.1	1.1	0.0	1.6	0.1	-0.3	0.6	1.0
May	-0.1	1.7	0.0	1.2	0.4	2.0	0.4	-0.3	0.3	0.9
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 June 2016 is scheduled to be released Friday, July 15, 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	Mar. 2016	Apr. 2016	May 2016	May 2015	Mar. 2016	Apr. 2016
All items		252.854	254.270	255.021	0.9	0.9	0.3
All items (December 1977 = 100)		398.168	400.397	401.581			
Food and beverages		252.308	253.098	251.988	0.3	-0.1	-0.4
Food		252.236	253.153	252.040	0.2	-0.1	-0.4
Food at home		246.278	247.349	245.302	-1.4	-0.4	-0.8
Food away from home		264.313	265.001	265.316	2.6	0.4	0.1
Alcoholic beverages		252.050	251.194	250.139	0.5	-0.8	-0.4
Housing		267.159	267.721	268.462	1.7	0.5	0.3
Shelter		330.202	331.180	332.503	2.7	0.7	0.4
Rent of primary residence [1]		332.072	332.609	333.497	3.0	0.4	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of residences [1] [2]		342.247	342.984	343.877	2.8	0.5	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence [1] [2]		341.976	342.709	343.604	2.7	0.5	0.3
Fuels and utilities		206.830	206.666	205.628	-3.6	-0.6	-0.5
Household energy		182.209	181.920	180.656	-5.0	-0.9	-0.7
Energy services [1]		186.299	185.770	183.015	-2.2	-1.8	-1.5
Electricity [1]		197.366	196.766	193.940	-2.0	-1.7	-1.4
Utility (piped) gas service [1]		149.653	149.311	146.902	-3.0	-1.8	-1.6
Household furnishings and operations		122.791	122.538	122.689	-1.1	-0.1	0.1
Apparel		132.779	132.911	132.910	1.2	0.1	0.0
Transportation		190.762	195.913	199.134	-2.9	4.4	1.6
Private transportation		181.751	186.608	189.500	-3.3	4.3	1.5
New and used motor vehicles [3]		97.686	97.946	98.010	-0.5	0.3	0.1
New vehicles		145.652	145.410	145.390	0.0	-0.2	0.0
New cars and trucks [3] [4]		100.909	100.740	100.720	0.0	-0.2	0.0
New cars [4]		137.514	137.174	136.986	-0.5	-0.4	-0.1
Used cars and trucks		153.201	154.668	154.544	-2.2	0.9	-0.1
Motor fuel		161.526	181.944	194.905	-14.5	20.7	7.1
Gasoline (all types)		160.807	181.275	194.228	-14.4	20.8	7.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular [4]		157.741	178.765	191.798	-15.2	21.6	7.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade [4] [5]		175.802	194.214	207.412	-11.9	18.0	6.8
Gasoline, unleaded premium [4]		175.394	191.315	203.184	-10.6	15.8	6.2
Medical care		479.701	482.472	484.043	3.2	0.9	0.3
Medical care commodities		381.577	383.681	386.506	2.3	1.3	0.7
Medical care services		507.331	510.297	511.420	3.4	0.8	0.2
Professional services		368.111	369.611	370.515	2.3	0.7	0.2
Recreation [3]		121.334	121.453	121.149	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3
Education and communication [3]		141.145	140.887	140.730	2.0	-0.3	-0.1
Other goods and services		459.605	459.280	458.073	2.6	-0.3	-0.3
Commodity and service group							
Commodities		183.369	185.241	185.990	-2.0	1.4	0.4
Commodities less food and beverages		146.206	148.423	149.887	-3.5	2.5	1.0
Nondurables less food and beverages		179.738	184.211	187.635	-4.6	4.4	1.9
Durables		106.093	106.343	106.142	-1.7	0.0	-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	Mar. 2016	Apr. 2016	May 2016	May 2015	Mar. 2016	Apr. 2016
Services		319.998	321.041	321.813	2.4	0.6	0.2
Special aggregate indexes							
All items less shelter		226.320	227.908	228.455	-0.1	0.9	0.2
All items less medical care		242.892	244.247	244.963	0.7	0.9	0.3
Commodities less food		149.987	152.128	153.527	-3.3	2.4	0.9
Nondurables		215.583	218.360	219.678	-2.0	1.9	0.6
Nondurables less food		183.973	188.127	191.284	-4.2	4.0	1.7
Services less rent of shelter [2]		320.143	321.303	321.504	2.1	0.4	0.1
Services less medical care services		307.068	307.983	308.730	2.3	0.5	0.2
Energy		174.204	182.145	186.534	-9.5	7.1	2.4
All items less energy		263.437	264.208	264.601	1.8	0.4	0.1
All items less food and energy		267.116	267.868	268.516	2.0	0.5	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.