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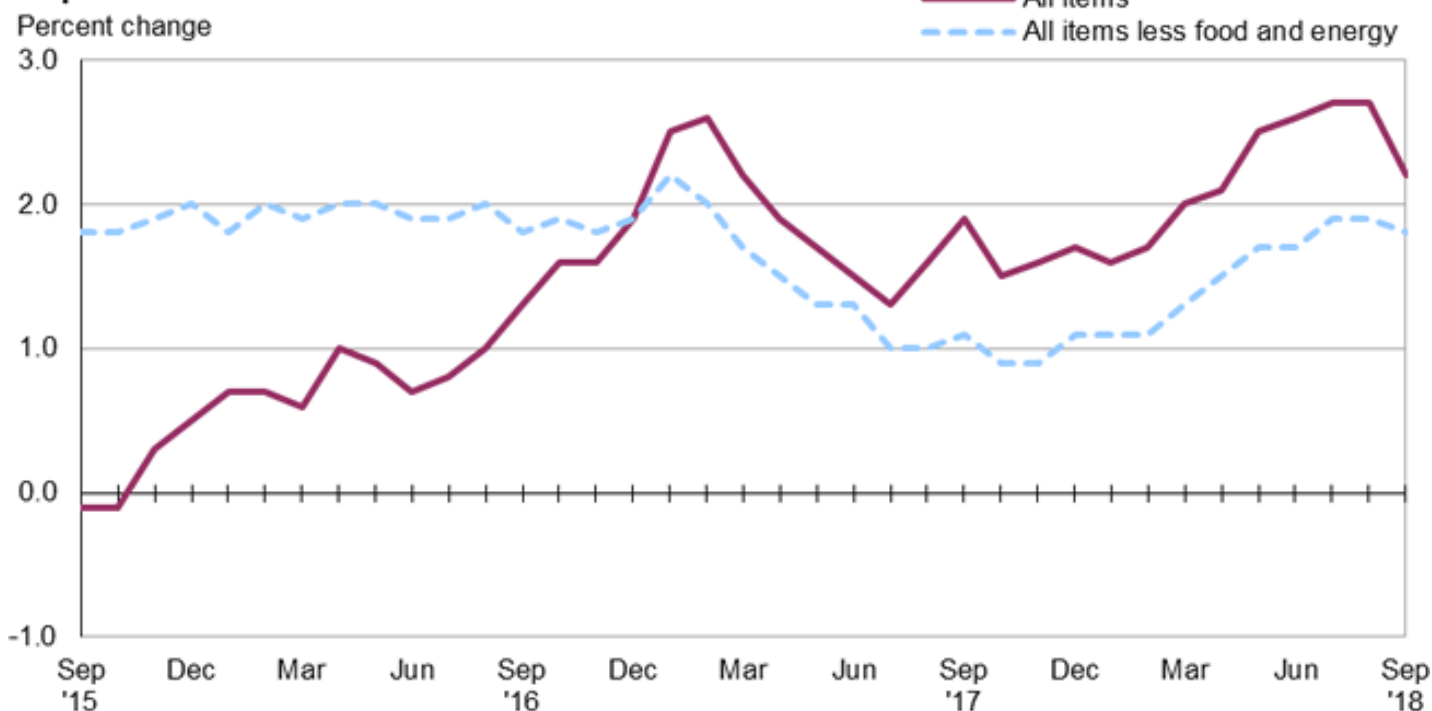
Consumer Price Index, Northeast Region – September 2018

Regional prices increased 0.1 percent over the month, 2.2 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Northeast inched up 0.1 percent in September, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau’s regional commissioner, noted that this was mostly due to a 0.1-percent increase in the all items less food and energy index. The food index also increased over the month, up 0.2 percent, while the energy index was unchanged. (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 2.2 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The all items less food and energy index led the advance, rising 1.8 percent. The energy index and the food index also rose, up 5.9 and 2.4 percent, respectively, since September 2017. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Northeast region, September 2015–September 2018



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index edged up 0.2 percent since August as prices for food at home increased 0.3 percent. Food away from home prices also rose, inching up 0.1 percent.

From September 2017 to September 2018, the food index increased 2.4 percent. Prices for both food away from home and food at home increased over the year, up 2.8 and 2.1 percent, respectively.

Energy

The energy index, which includes prices for household and transportation fuels, was unchanged in September. Gasoline prices inched up 0.1 percent since August, while prices for utility (piped) gas service and electricity decreased, down 0.4 and 0.1 percent, respectively.

The energy index advanced 5.9 percent since September 2017. The increase reflected higher prices for gasoline, up 6.5 percent. Prices also increased over the year for utility (piped) gas service (5.8 percent) and electricity (2.1 percent).

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy inched up 0.1 percent over the month. Higher prices for apparel (4.3 percent), among others, were moderated by lower prices for new and used motor vehicles (-1.8 percent) and shelter (-0.2 percent).

The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.8 percent since September 2017, led by higher prices for shelter, up 2.8 percent. Prices also rose over the year for medical care (2.1 percent) and education and communication (1.9 percent), but were lower for apparel (-1.9 percent), among others.

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

Month	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.6	1.5	-0.2	-0.4	0.0	0.7	0.6	2.5	0.5	1.6
February.....	0.1	1.0	0.2	-0.2	0.2	0.7	0.3	2.6	0.4	1.7
March.....	0.5	1.5	0.3	-0.4	0.2	0.6	-0.1	2.2	0.1	2.0
April.....	0.0	1.6	0.1	-0.3	0.6	1.0	0.3	1.9	0.4	2.1
May.....	0.4	2.0	0.4	-0.3	0.3	0.9	0.1	1.7	0.4	2.5
June.....	0.0	1.9	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.7	0.0	1.5	0.0	2.6
July.....	0.1	1.8	-0.1	-0.2	0.0	0.8	-0.2	1.3	0.0	2.7
August.....	-0.3	1.3	-0.2	-0.1	0.1	1.0	0.3	1.6	0.2	2.7
September.....	0.0	1.2	0.0	-0.1	0.2	1.3	0.5	1.9	0.1	2.2
October.....	-0.2	1.4	-0.2	-0.1	0.2	1.6	-0.1	1.5		
November.....	-0.4	0.9	0.0	0.3	0.0	1.6	0.0	1.6		
December.....	-0.5	0.4	-0.4	0.5	0.0	1.9	0.1	1.7		

The Consumer Price Index for October 2018 is scheduled to be released Wednesday, November 14, 2018, 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 93 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 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 75 urban areas across the country from about 5,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 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	Jul. 2018	Aug. 2018	Sep. 2018	Sep. 2017	Jul. 2018	Aug. 2018
All items.....		265.830	266.425	266.709	2.2	0.3	0.1
All items (December 1977 = 100).....		418.601	419.537	419.984			
Food and beverages		260.347	260.775	261.441	2.4	0.4	0.3
Food		260.792	261.235	261.747	2.4	0.4	0.2
Food at home		249.803	250.062	250.733	2.1	0.4	0.3
Cereals and bakery products		293.679	295.222	297.692		1.4	0.8
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....		253.426	252.192	252.235		-0.5	0.0
Dairy and related products		227.522	227.518	228.371		0.4	0.4
Fruits and vegetables.....		311.877	314.739	314.943		1.0	0.1
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....		173.237	173.848	174.920		1.0	0.6
Other food at home		224.812	224.101	224.313		-0.2	0.1
Food away from home.....		280.675	281.392	281.681	2.8	0.4	0.1
Alcoholic beverages		253.506	253.746	256.285	1.3	1.1	1.0
Housing		283.331	284.496	284.068	2.8	0.3	-0.2
Shelter		351.001	353.180	352.325	2.8	0.4	-0.2
Rent of primary residence		351.404	352.801	352.964	2.4	0.4	0.0
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(1).....		362.176	363.229	363.828	2.8	0.5	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(1)		361.919	362.959	363.548	2.7	0.5	0.2
Fuels and utilities.....		230.350	228.798	228.782	4.7	-0.7	0.0
Household energy		204.419	202.826	202.909	4.9	-0.7	0.0
Energy services.....		201.014	198.979	198.649	2.7	-1.2	-0.2
Electricity		208.488	206.791	206.649	2.1	-0.9	-0.1
Utility (piped) gas service		173.183	170.756	170.144	5.8	-1.8	-0.4
Household furnishings and operations.....		119.322	119.132	119.799	0.9	0.4	0.6
Apparel.....		124.772	128.098	133.579	-1.9	7.1	4.3
Transportation		210.687	209.626	208.790	2.5	-0.9	-0.4
Private transportation		203.643	202.941	201.641	2.8	-1.0	-0.6
New and used motor vehicles(2).....		97.374	96.666	94.963	0.9	-2.5	-1.8
New vehicles		143.208	142.147	142.888	0.2	-0.2	0.5
New cars and trucks(2)(3).....		99.247	98.528	99.039	0.3	-0.2	0.5
New cars(3).....		132.623	131.954	133.164	0.7	0.4	0.9
Used cars and trucks.....		146.608	147.009	140.686	-1.1	-4.0	-4.3
Motor fuel		250.214	250.129	250.269	6.6	0.0	0.1
Gasoline (all types).....		249.152	249.080	249.207	6.5	0.0	0.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular(3).....		246.882	246.777	246.887	6.5	0.0	0.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(3)(4).....		261.981	262.230	262.527	7.4	0.2	0.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium(3).....		254.288	254.421	254.650	6.7	0.1	0.1
Motor vehicle insurance(5).....		615.988	615.044	618.684		0.4	0.6
Medical care		504.541	505.303	506.476	2.1	0.4	0.2
Medical care commodities.....		390.243	393.895	390.537	1.2	0.1	-0.9
Medical care services.....		537.320	537.191	539.751	2.3	0.5	0.5
Professional services		380.806	380.306	384.604	1.8	1.0	1.1
Recreation(2).....		123.961	123.684	124.007	-0.3	0.0	0.3
Education and communication(2).....		141.292	141.673	142.428	1.9	0.8	0.5

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	Jul. 2018	Aug. 2018	Sep. 2018	Sep. 2017	Jul. 2018	Aug. 2018
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(5)		1,220.420	1,231.560	1,240.184		1.6	0.7
Other goods and services		488.926	488.910	488.993	2.2	0.0	0.0
Commodity and service group							
Commodities		191.270	191.740	192.297	1.8	0.5	0.3
Commodities less food and beverages		153.618	154.078	154.560	1.4	0.6	0.3
Nondurables less food and beverages...		200.744	202.015	204.009	2.4	1.6	1.0
Durables		102.233	102.019	101.285	0.0	-0.9	-0.7
Services.....		337.754	338.472	338.521	2.4	0.2	0.0
Special aggregate indexes							
All items less shelter.....		236.513	236.525	237.234	2.0	0.3	0.3
All items less medical care		255.352	255.940	256.183	2.3	0.3	0.1
Commodities less food		157.267	157.722	158.267	1.4	0.6	0.3
Nondurables		230.734	231.630	233.034	2.4	1.0	0.6
Nondurables less food.....		203.805	205.013	207.039	2.4	1.6	1.0
Services less rent of shelter(1).....		335.164	334.326	335.352	2.1	0.1	0.3
Services less medical care services.....		323.997	324.773	324.650	2.5	0.2	0.0
Energy		223.343	222.382	222.488	5.9	-0.4	0.0
All items less energy		272.843	273.607	273.913	1.9	0.4	0.1
All items less food and energy		276.730	277.552	277.826	1.8	0.4	0.1

Footnotes

- (1) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.
- (2) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.
- (3) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.
- (4) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.
- (5) Indexes on a December 1977=100 base.