



For Release: Wednesday, November 14, 2018

18-1854-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

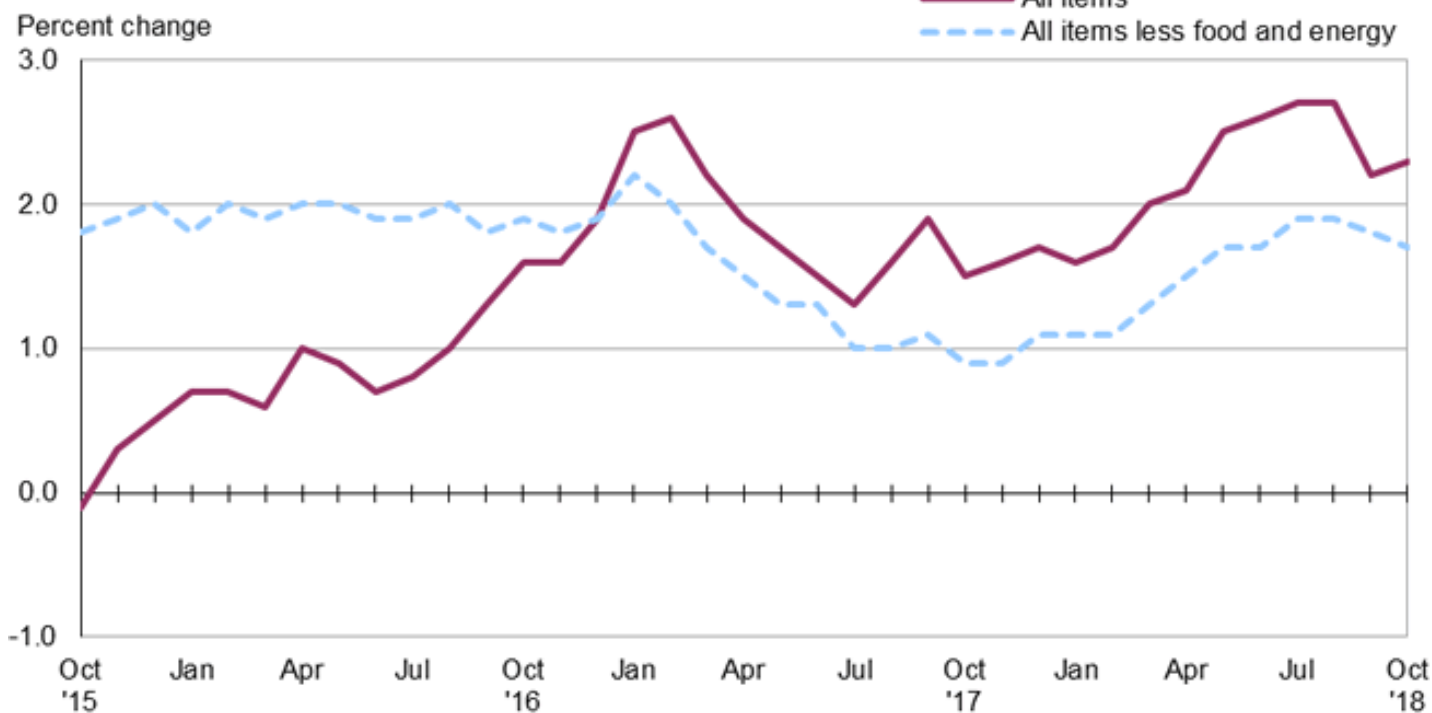
Consumer Price Index, Northeast Region – October 2018

Regional prices decreased 0.1 percent over the month, up 2.3 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Northeast inched down 0.1 percent in October, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau’s regional commissioner, noted that this was due to decreases in the energy index (-0.6 percent) and the food index (-0.4 percent). The all items less food and 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 2.3 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The all items less food and energy index led the advance, rising 1.7 percent. The energy index and the food index also rose, up 9.1 and 1.5 percent, respectively, since October 2017. (See [table 1](#).)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index decreased 0.4 percent since September as prices for food at home declined 0.8 percent. Food away from home prices rose, inching up 0.1 percent.

From October 2017 to October 2018, the food index increased 1.5 percent. Prices for both food away from home and food at home increased over the year, up 2.7 and 0.7 percent, respectively.

Energy

The energy index, which includes prices for household and transportation fuels, declined 0.6 percent in October. Gasoline prices decreased 0.8 percent since September. Prices also decreased for electricity and utility (piped) gas service, down 1.1 and 1.7 percent, respectively.

The energy index advanced 9.1 percent since October 2017. The increase reflected higher prices for gasoline, up 12.2 percent. Prices also increased over the year for electricity (4.3 percent) and utility (piped) gas service (4.0 percent).

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy was unchanged over the month. Higher prices for medical care (0.3 percent) and household furnishings and operations (0.7 percent), among others, were moderated by lower prices for shelter (-0.1 percent) and recreation (-0.3 percent).

The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.7 percent since October 2017, led by higher prices for shelter, up 2.6 percent. Prices also rose over the year for medical care (1.9 percent) and education and communication (1.5 percent), but were lower for apparel (-1.4 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	-0.1	2.3
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 November 2018 is scheduled to be released Wednesday, December 12, 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.


















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	Aug. 2018	Sep. 2018	Oct. 2018	Oct. 2017	Aug. 2018	Sep. 2018
All items.....		266.425	266.709	266.464	2.3	0.0	-0.1
All items (December 1977 = 100).....		419.537	419.984	419.600			
Food and beverages		260.775	261.441	260.464	1.5	-0.1	-0.4
Food		261.235	261.747	260.683	1.5	-0.2	-0.4
Food at home		250.062	250.733	248.743	0.7	-0.5	-0.8
Cereals and bakery products		295.222	297.692	288.786		-2.2	-3.0
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....		252.192	252.235	250.458		-0.7	-0.7
Dairy and related products		227.518	228.371	228.682		0.5	0.1
Fruits and vegetables.....		314.739	314.943	313.208		-0.5	-0.6
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....		173.848	174.920	174.389		0.3	-0.3
Other food at home		224.101	224.313	223.396		-0.3	-0.4
Food away from home.....		281.392	281.681	281.948	2.7	0.2	0.1
Alcoholic beverages		253.746	256.285	256.375	1.2	1.0	0.0
Housing		284.496	284.068	283.911	2.8	-0.2	-0.1
Shelter		353.180	352.325	352.035	2.6	-0.3	-0.1
Rent of primary residence		352.801	352.964	353.833	2.5	0.3	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(1).....		363.229	363.828	364.549	2.7	0.4	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(1)		362.959	363.548	364.265	2.7	0.4	0.2
Fuels and utilities.....		228.798	228.782	227.864	5.7	-0.4	-0.4
Household energy		202.826	202.909	201.897	6.3	-0.5	-0.5
Energy services.....		198.979	198.649	196.096	3.7	-1.4	-1.3
Electricity		206.791	206.649	204.470	4.3	-1.1	-1.1
Utility (piped) gas service		170.756	170.144	167.178	4.0	-2.1	-1.7
Household furnishings and operations.....		119.132	119.799	120.606	1.2	1.2	0.7
Apparel.....		128.098	133.579	134.089	-1.4	4.7	0.4
Transportation		209.626	208.790	208.570	3.6	-0.5	-0.1
Private transportation		202.941	201.641	201.181	4.1	-0.9	-0.2
New and used motor vehicles(2).....		96.666	94.963	94.761	0.7	-2.0	-0.2
New vehicles		142.147	142.888	142.613	-0.3	0.3	-0.2
New cars and trucks(2)(3).....		98.528	99.039	98.849	-0.2	0.3	-0.2
New cars(3).....		131.954	133.164	132.918	0.3	0.7	-0.2
Used cars and trucks.....		147.009	140.686	141.893	0.6	-3.5	0.9
Motor fuel		250.129	250.269	248.302	12.2	-0.7	-0.8
Gasoline (all types).....		249.080	249.207	247.148	12.2	-0.8	-0.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular(3).....		246.777	246.887	244.737	12.3	-0.8	-0.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(3)(4).....		262.230	262.527	260.701	12.1	-0.6	-0.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium(3).....		254.421	254.650	253.383	11.0	-0.4	-0.5
Motor vehicle insurance(5).....		615.044	618.684	623.094		1.3	0.7
Medical care		505.303	506.476	508.049	1.9	0.5	0.3
Medical care commodities.....		393.895	390.537	390.418	0.9	-0.9	0.0
Medical care services.....		537.191	539.751	541.836	2.2	0.9	0.4
Professional services		380.306	384.604	385.673	2.0	1.4	0.3
Recreation(2).....		123.684	124.007	123.586	0.2	-0.1	-0.3
Education and communication(2).....		141.673	142.428	142.199	1.5	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	Aug. 2018	Sep. 2018	Oct. 2018	Oct. 2017	Aug. 2018	Sep. 2018
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(5).....		1,231.560	1,240.184	1,242.209		0.9	0.2
Other goods and services		488.910	488.993	487.718	1.5	-0.2	-0.3
Commodity and service group							
Commodities		191.740	192.297	192.109	2.1	0.2	-0.1
Commodities less food and beverages		154.078	154.560	154.689	2.4	0.4	0.1
Nondurables less food and beverages...		202.015	204.009	204.047	3.8	1.0	0.0
Durables		102.019	101.285	101.471	0.2	-0.5	0.2
Services.....		338.472	338.521	338.222	2.4	-0.1	-0.1
Special aggregate indexes							
All items less shelter.....		236.525	237.234	237.004	2.1	0.2	-0.1
All items less medical care		255.940	256.183	255.855	2.3	0.0	-0.1
Commodities less food		157.722	158.267	158.395	2.3	0.4	0.1
Nondurables		231.630	233.034	232.603	2.7	0.4	-0.2
Nondurables less food.....		205.013	207.039	207.080	3.6	1.0	0.0
Services less rent of shelter(1).....		334.326	335.352	335.007	2.1	0.2	-0.1
Services less medical care services.....		324.773	324.650	324.187	2.4	-0.2	-0.1
Energy		222.382	222.488	221.078	9.1	-0.6	-0.6
All items less energy		273.607	273.913	273.789	1.7	0.1	0.0
All items less food and energy		277.552	277.826	277.855	1.7	0.1	0.0

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.