



For Release: Tuesday, March 12, 2019

19-432-PHI

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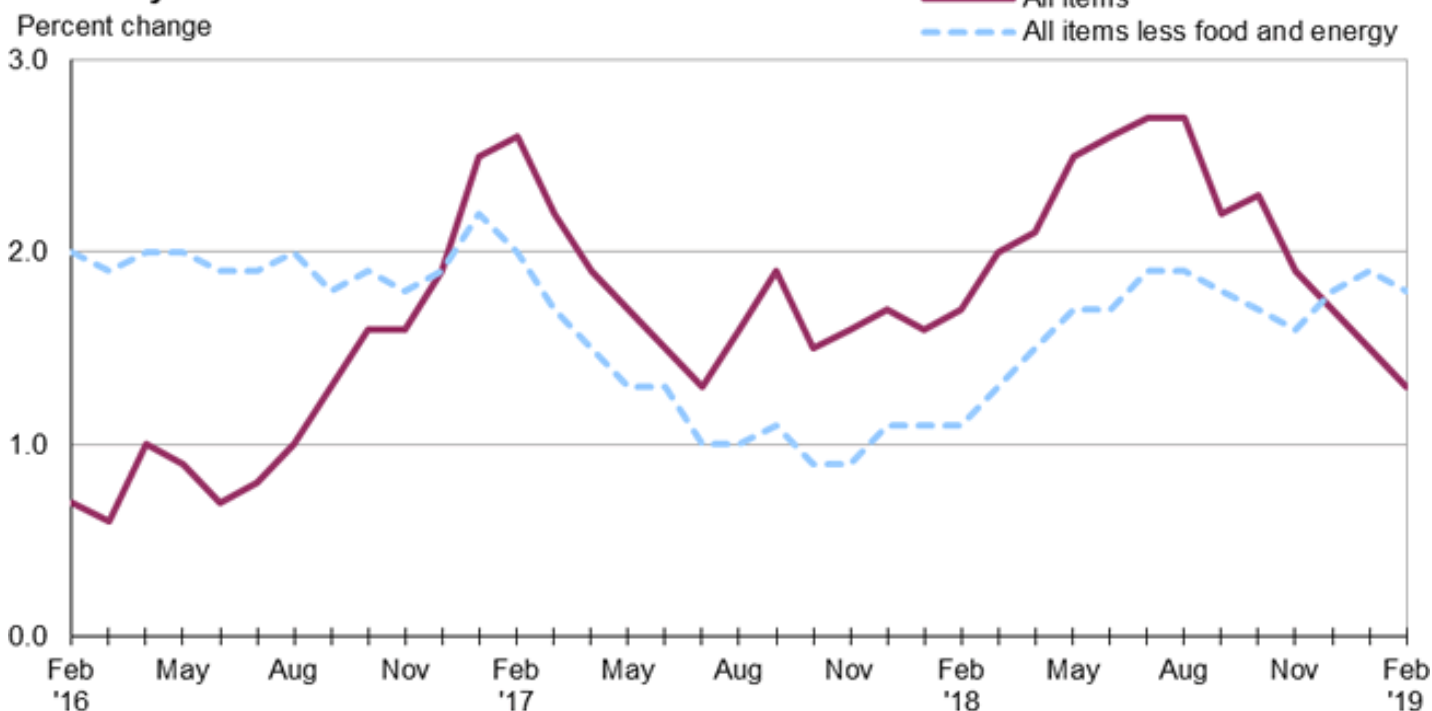
Consumer Price Index, Northeast Region – February 2019

Regional prices increased 0.2 percent over the month; up 1.3 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 this was due mostly to a 0.2-percent increase in the all items less food and energy index. The energy index also increased over the month, up 0.3 percent, while the food 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 1.3 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The all items less food and energy index led the advance, rising 1.8 percent. The food index also rose, up 1.7 percent since February 2018, while the energy index declined 4.2 percent. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Northeast region, February 2016–February 2019



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index was unchanged since January as higher prices for food away from home (0.2 percent) were offset by lower prices for food at home (-0.1 percent).

From February 2018 to February 2019, the food index increased 1.7 percent. Prices for both food away from home and food at home increased over the year, up 2.6 and 1.1 percent, respectively.

Energy

The energy index, which includes prices for household and transportation fuels, edged up 0.3 percent in February. Electricity prices rose 1.8 percent since January. Prices were also higher for gasoline (0.4 percent), while prices declined for utility (piped) gas service (-3.1 percent).

The energy index decreased 4.2 percent since February 2018. The decline reflected lower prices for gasoline, down 9.9 percent. Utility (piped) gas service prices also decreased (-0.1 percent) over the year, while electricity prices advanced 1.1 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy edged up 0.2 percent over the month. Prices were higher for apparel (2.6 percent), new vehicles (1.0 percent), and medical care (0.2 percent), among others.

The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.8 percent since February 2018, led by higher prices for shelter, up 2.6 percent. Prices also rose over the year for medical care (2.0 percent) and education and communication (1.5 percent), but were lower for apparel (-1.0 percent).

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

Month	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	-0.2	-0.4	0.0	0.7	0.6	2.5	0.5	1.6	0.3	1.5
February.....	0.2	-0.2	0.2	0.7	0.3	2.6	0.4	1.7	0.2	1.3
March.....	0.3	-0.4	0.2	0.6	-0.1	2.2	0.1	2.0		
April.....	0.1	-0.3	0.6	1.0	0.3	1.9	0.4	2.1		
May.....	0.4	-0.3	0.3	0.9	0.1	1.7	0.4	2.5		
June.....	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.7	0.0	1.5	0.0	2.6		
July.....	-0.1	-0.2	0.0	0.8	-0.2	1.3	0.0	2.7		
August.....	-0.2	-0.1	0.1	1.0	0.3	1.6	0.2	2.7		
September.....	0.0	-0.1	0.2	1.3	0.5	1.9	0.1	2.2		
October.....	-0.2	-0.1	0.2	1.6	-0.1	1.5	-0.1	2.3		
November.....	0.0	0.3	0.0	1.6	0.0	1.6	-0.4	1.9		
December.....	-0.4	0.5	0.0	1.9	0.1	1.7	-0.1	1.7		

Geographic divisions

Additional price indexes are now available for the two divisions of the Northeast. Over the month, the all items CPI-U rose 0.3 percent in the Middle Atlantic division, and inched down 0.1 percent in the New England division.

Over the year, the all items index advanced 1.6 percent in the New England division. (See [table B.](#)) Prices also rose in the Middle Atlantic division, up 1.2 percent.

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

Area	1-month change	12-month change
Northeast.....	0.2	1.3
New England Division	-0.1	1.6
Middle Atlantic Division.....	0.3	1.2

The Consumer Price Index for March 2019 is scheduled to be released Wednesday, April 10, 2019, 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.

The **New England division** is comprised of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

The **Middle Atlantic division** is comprised of New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania.


















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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. 2018	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019	Feb. 2018	Dec. 2018	Jan. 2019
All items.....		265.286	266.109	266.706	1.3	0.5	0.2
All items (December 1977 = 100).....		417.745	419.040	419.981			
Food and beverages		260.652	262.254	262.304	1.6	0.6	0.0
Food		261.088	262.757	262.792	1.7	0.7	0.0
Food at home		248.585	250.946	250.641	1.1	0.8	-0.1
Cereals and bakery products		292.791	296.536	296.997	1.7	1.4	0.2
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....		249.562	252.542	250.074	0.4	0.2	-1.0
Dairy and related products		228.000	229.934	226.344	0.3	-0.7	-1.6
Fruits and vegetables.....		317.072	317.510	317.052	0.9	0.0	-0.1
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....		172.071	176.152	176.845	2.4	2.8	0.4
Other food at home		221.318	222.401	224.535	1.3	1.5	1.0
Food away from home.....		283.176	283.866	284.393	2.6	0.4	0.2
Alcoholic beverages		253.928	254.697	254.936	0.4	0.4	0.1
Housing		284.854	286.006	286.342	2.4	0.5	0.1
Shelter		353.372	354.236	354.639	2.6	0.4	0.1
Rent of primary residence		355.513	356.335	357.009	2.5	0.4	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(1).....		366.078	366.621	367.145	2.6	0.3	0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(1)		365.781	366.325	366.857	2.6	0.3	0.1
Fuels and utilities.....		229.456	231.293	232.067	0.6	1.1	0.3
Household energy		203.302	205.230	205.890	0.2	1.3	0.3
Energy services.....		200.965	203.244	203.254	0.7	1.1	0.0
Electricity		201.123	202.479	206.023	1.1	2.4	1.8
Utility (piped) gas service		185.096	188.706	182.939	-0.1	-1.2	-3.1
Household furnishings and operations.....		119.864	121.577	121.406	2.0	1.3	-0.1
Apparel.....		124.092	126.648	129.882	-1.0	4.7	2.6
Transportation		202.527	200.914	201.759	-2.0	-0.4	0.4
Private transportation		195.500	193.595	194.061	-2.1	-0.7	0.2
New and used motor vehicles(2).....		95.611	96.598	96.730	0.5	1.2	0.1
New vehicles		142.086	144.093	145.594	0.0	2.5	1.0
New cars and trucks(2)(3).....		98.487	99.883	100.901	0.0	2.5	1.0
New cars(3).....		131.357	132.910	134.393	-0.3	2.3	1.1
Used cars and trucks.....		143.692	144.452	145.124	1.4	1.0	0.5
Motor fuel		219.308	206.413	207.184	-9.8	-5.5	0.4
Gasoline (all types).....		218.038	205.140	205.908	-9.9	-5.6	0.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular(3).....		215.103	202.043	202.865	-10.3	-5.7	0.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(3)(4).....		234.590	222.149	222.237	-7.8	-5.3	0.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium(3).....		229.384	218.398	218.805	-7.2	-4.6	0.2
Motor vehicle insurance(5).....		622.122	622.423	623.964	0.6	0.3	0.2
Medical care		509.755	512.667	513.713	2.0	0.8	0.2
Medical care commodities.....		393.047	392.591	392.718	-0.2	-0.1	0.0
Medical care services.....		543.251	547.184	548.506	2.5	1.0	0.2
Professional services		384.184	385.347	385.907	1.6	0.4	0.1
Recreation(2).....		124.041	124.676	124.988	0.6	0.8	0.3
Education and communication(2).....		142.062	142.389	142.359	1.5	0.2	0.0

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	Historical data	Indexes			Percent change from		
		Dec. 2018	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019	Feb. 2018	Dec. 2018	Jan. 2019
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(5).....		1,246.131	1,249.035	1,252.490	3.2	0.5	0.3
Other goods and services		490.191	492.072	493.249	1.6	0.6	0.2
Commodity and service group							
Commodities		188.005	188.382	189.028	-0.5	0.5	0.3
Commodities less food and beverages		149.150	149.030	149.871	-1.9	0.5	0.6
Nondurables less food and beverages...		192.485	190.795	192.427	-3.2	0.0	0.9
Durables		101.133	102.241	102.388	0.1	1.2	0.1
Services.....		339.604	340.839	341.407	2.2	0.5	0.2
Special aggregate indexes							
All items less shelter.....		234.884	235.698	236.372	0.6	0.6	0.3
All items less medical care		254.542	255.270	255.848	1.2	0.5	0.2
Commodities less food		152.917	152.822	153.650	-1.8	0.5	0.5
Nondurables		226.335	226.147	227.067	-0.7	0.3	0.4
Nondurables less food.....		196.071	194.529	196.077	-2.9	0.0	0.8
Services less rent of shelter(1).....		336.455	338.113	338.878	1.7	0.7	0.2
Services less medical care services.....		325.567	326.617	327.132	2.2	0.5	0.2
Energy		209.780	205.512	206.219	-4.2	-1.7	0.3
All items less energy		273.668	275.035	275.627	1.8	0.7	0.2
All items less food and energy		277.647	278.975	279.662	1.8	0.7	0.2

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.