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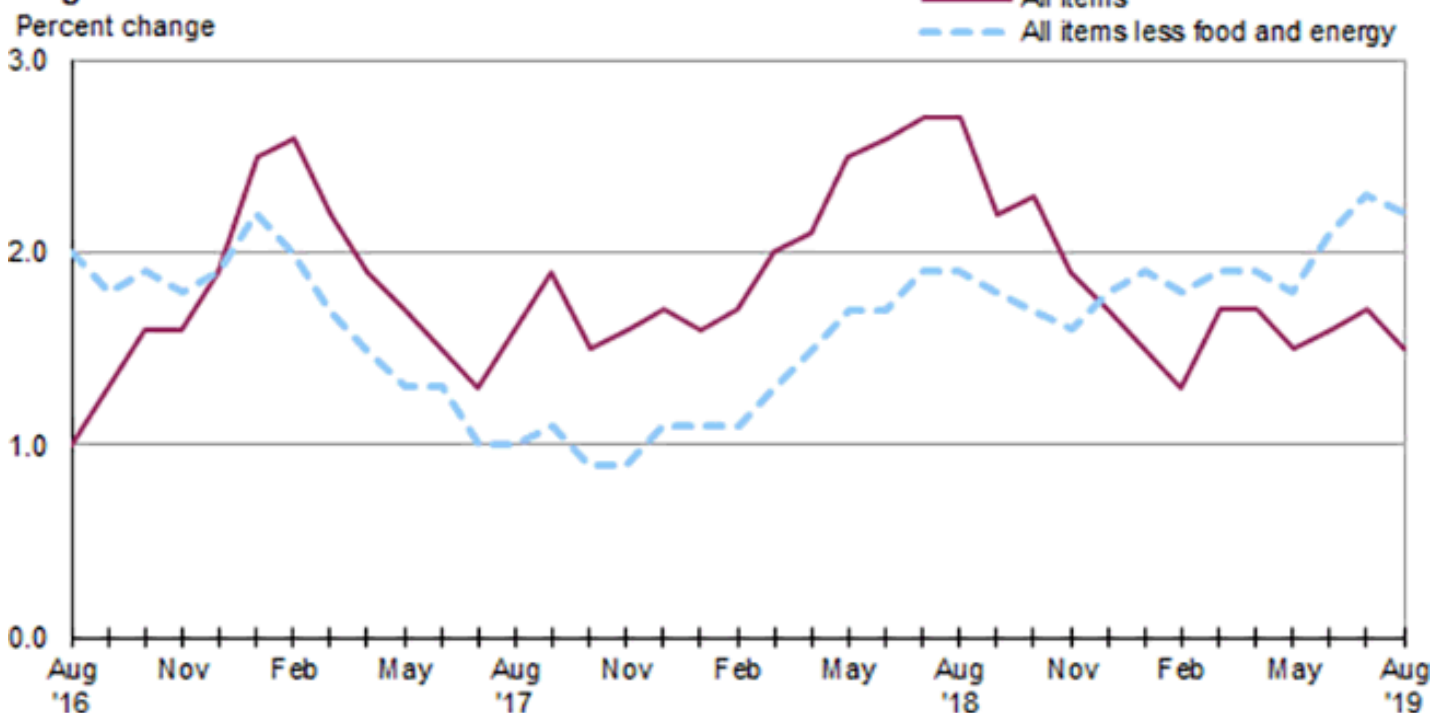
Consumer Price Index, Northeast Region – August 2019

Regional prices increased 0.1 percent over the month; up 1.5 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Northeast inched up 0.1 percent in August, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau’s regional commissioner, noted that this was due to an increase in the all items less food and energy index (0.2 percent). The food index also increased over the month, up 0.3 percent, while the energy index decreased since July, down 1.8 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 1.5 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) This was due almost entirely to an advance in the all items less food and energy index, up 2.2 percent. The food index also rose, up 1.5 percent since August 2018, while the energy index declined 4.8 percent. (See [table 1](#).)

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



Food

The food index increased 0.3 percent since July. Prices for food away from home were up 0.3 percent, while those for food at home edged up 0.2 percent.

From August 2018 to August 2019, the food index increased 1.5 percent. Prices for both food away from home and food at home increased over the year, up 3.0 and 0.3 percent, respectively.

Energy

The energy index, which includes prices for household and transportation fuels, declined 1.8 percent in August, due mostly to lower gasoline prices, down 2.9 percent. Prices were also lower for electricity (-1.2 percent) while those for utility (piped) gas service were higher (0.1 percent).

The energy index decreased 4.8 percent since August 2018. The decline reflected lower prices for gasoline, down 6.9 percent, and electricity, down 2.6 percent. Utility (piped) gas service prices also decreased (-1.4 percent) over the year.

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 education and communication (1.0 percent), apparel (1.8 percent), and medical care (0.5 percent) among others.

The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.2 percent since August 2018, led by higher prices for shelter, up 2.0 percent. Prices also rose over the year for medical care (4.6 percent) and education and communication (2.4 percent), among others.

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	0.5	1.7
April.....	0.1	-0.3	0.6	1.0	0.3	1.9	0.4	2.1	0.4	1.7
May.....	0.4	-0.3	0.3	0.9	0.1	1.7	0.4	2.5	0.3	1.5
June.....	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.7	0.0	1.5	0.0	2.6	0.1	1.6
July.....	-0.1	-0.2	0.0	0.8	-0.2	1.3	0.0	2.7	0.1	1.7
August.....	-0.2	-0.1	0.1	1.0	0.3	1.6	0.2	2.7	0.1	1.5
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 inched up 0.1 percent each in the New England division and the Middle Atlantic division.

Over the year, the all items index advanced 2.0 percent in the New England division. (See [table B.](#)) Prices also rose in the Middle Atlantic division, up 1.4 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.....	0.1	1.5
New England Division	0.1	2.0
Middle Atlantic Division.....	0.1	1.4

The Consumer Price Index for September 2019 is scheduled to be released Thursday, October 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	Jun. 2019	Jul. 2019	Aug. 2019	Aug. 2018	Jun. 2019	Jul. 2019
All items.....		270.133	270.381	270.548	1.5	0.2	0.1
All items (December 1977 = 100).....		425.377	425.767	426.030			
Food and beverages		263.945	263.657	264.398	1.4	0.2	0.3
Food		264.562	264.282	265.040	1.5	0.2	0.3
Food at home		251.013	250.175	250.784	0.3	-0.1	0.2
Cereals and bakery products		298.218	296.600	301.038	2.0	0.9	1.5
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....		251.473	252.380	250.926	-0.5	-0.2	-0.6
Dairy and related products		227.682	228.844	228.880	0.6	0.5	0.0
Fruits and vegetables.....		313.129	312.912	310.602	-1.3	-0.8	-0.7
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....		178.917	175.045	176.897	1.8	-1.1	1.1
Other food at home		224.488	223.386	225.010	0.4	0.2	0.7
Food away from home.....		288.223	288.751	289.738	3.0	0.5	0.3
Alcoholic beverages		254.995	254.608	255.136	0.5	0.1	0.2
Housing		288.767	288.869	288.578	1.4	-0.1	-0.1
Shelter		359.255	359.887	360.222	2.0	0.3	0.1
Rent of primary residence		361.358	362.099	363.327	3.0	0.5	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(1).....		369.402	369.958	371.150	2.2	0.5	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(1)		369.099	369.656	370.844	2.2	0.5	0.3
Fuels and utilities.....		228.663	225.985	224.096	-2.1	-2.0	-0.8
Household energy		201.520	198.572	196.855	-2.9	-2.3	-0.9
Energy services.....		199.478	196.140	194.676	-2.2	-2.4	-0.7
Electricity		206.863	203.907	201.494	-2.6	-2.6	-1.2
Utility (piped) gas service		171.916	168.209	168.411	-1.4	-2.0	0.1
Household furnishings and operations.....		120.883	121.195	119.941	0.7	-0.8	-1.0
Apparel.....		128.893	126.511	128.731	0.5	-0.1	1.8
Transportation		209.993	210.070	208.236	-0.7	-0.8	-0.9
Private transportation		201.448	202.161	200.355	-1.3	-0.5	-0.9
New and used motor vehicles(2).....		97.145	97.511	97.267	0.6	0.1	-0.3
New vehicles		146.411	145.271	143.365	0.9	-2.1	-1.3
New cars and trucks(2)(3).....		101.479	100.688	99.368	0.9	-2.1	-1.3
New cars(3).....		134.819	134.019	132.525	0.4	-1.7	-1.1
Used cars and trucks.....		147.068	149.210	150.275	2.2	2.2	0.7
Motor fuel		237.616	239.743	232.861	-6.9	-2.0	-2.9
Gasoline (all types).....		236.565	238.722	231.814	-6.9	-2.0	-2.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular(3).....		233.954	236.158	228.994	-7.2	-2.1	-3.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(3)(4).....		250.774	252.455	247.018	-5.8	-1.5	-2.2
Gasoline, unleaded premium(3).....		244.834	246.585	241.819	-5.0	-1.2	-1.9
Motor vehicle insurance(5).....		621.462	620.674	620.674	0.9	-0.1	0.0
Medical care		522.800	526.016	528.447	4.6	1.1	0.5
Medical care commodities.....		402.677	404.997	409.247	3.9	1.6	1.0
Medical care services.....		557.284	560.760	562.622	4.7	1.0	0.3
Professional services		392.274	394.032	393.389	3.4	0.3	-0.2
Recreation(2).....		126.575	126.962	127.197	2.8	0.5	0.2
Education and communication(2).....		142.817	143.618	145.094	2.4	1.6	1.0

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	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	Jun. 2019	Jul. 2019	Aug. 2019	Aug. 2018	Jun. 2019	Jul. 2019
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(5).....		1,253.804	1,258.407	1,276.125	3.6	1.8	1.4
Other goods and services		495.992	499.857	502.699	2.8	1.4	0.6
Commodity and service group							
Commodities		192.352	192.355	192.100	0.2	-0.1	-0.1
Commodities less food and beverages		153.661	153.777	153.149	-0.6	-0.3	-0.4
Nondurables less food and beverages...		199.965	199.845	199.319	-1.3	-0.3	-0.3
Durables		102.909	103.196	102.550	0.5	-0.3	-0.6
Services.....		345.002	345.471	346.016	2.2	0.3	0.2
Special aggregate indexes							
All items less shelter.....		239.388	239.495	239.601	1.3	0.1	0.0
All items less medical care		259.021	259.133	259.196	1.3	0.1	0.0
Commodities less food		157.352	157.454	156.855	-0.5	-0.3	-0.4
Nondurables		231.969	231.770	231.824	0.1	-0.1	0.0
Nondurables less food.....		203.162	203.026	202.563	-1.2	-0.3	-0.2
Services less rent of shelter(1).....		341.482	341.788	342.571	2.5	0.3	0.2
Services less medical care services.....		330.371	330.634	331.088	1.9	0.2	0.1
Energy		216.394	215.570	211.696	-4.8	-2.2	-1.8
All items less energy		278.374	278.737	279.332	2.1	0.3	0.2
All items less food and energy		282.588	283.058	283.631	2.2	0.4	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.