



For Release: Wednesday, November 13, 2019

19-2036-PHI

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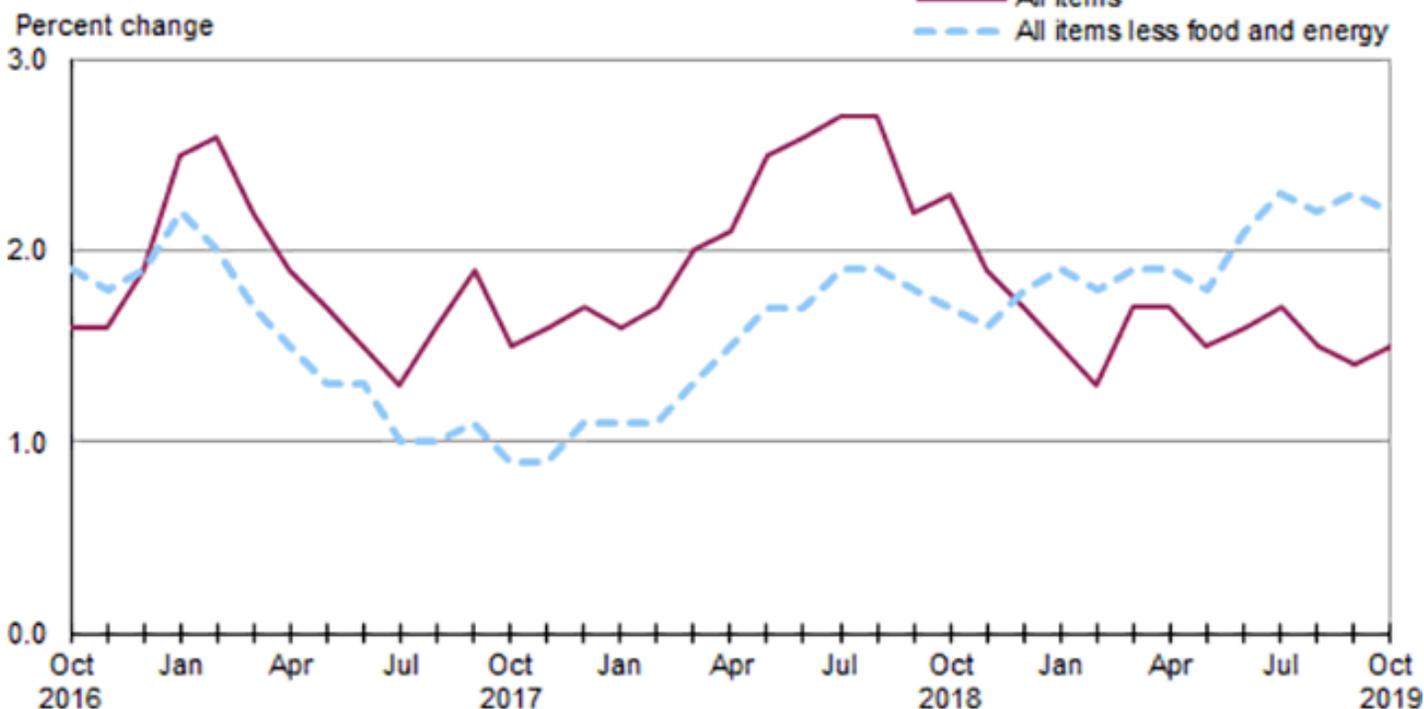
Consumer Price Index, Northeast Region – October 2019

Regional prices down 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 down 0.1 percent in October, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau’s regional commissioner, noted that over-the-month decreases in the all items less food and energy index (-0.1 percent) and the energy index (-0.8 percent) were nearly offset by an increase in the food index, up 0.3 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 2.0 percent since October 2018, while the energy index declined 6.5 percent. (See [table 1](#).)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index edged up 0.3 percent since September. Prices were higher for food at home (0.5 percent) and for food away from home (0.1 percent).

From October 2018 to October 2019, the food index increased 2.0 percent. Prices for food away from home increased over the year, up 3.1 percent; those for food at home rose 1.1 percent.

Energy

The energy index, which includes prices for household and transportation fuels, declined 0.8 percent in October, reflecting lower electricity prices, down 2.8 percent. Prices were also lower for gasoline (-0.7 percent) while those for utility (piped) gas service were higher (1.8 percent).

The energy index decreased 6.5 percent since October 2018. The decline reflected lower prices for gasoline (-9.9 percent) and electricity (-4.1 percent), while those for utility (piped) gas service increased (1.4 percent) over the year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy inched down 0.1 percent over the month. Lower prices for shelter (-0.3 percent) and apparel (-0.9 percent) were nearly offset by increases for medical care (0.7 percent) and recreation (0.4 percent), among others.

The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.2 percent since October 2018, led by higher prices for shelter and medical care, up 2.3 and 5.4 percent, respectively. Prices also rose over the year for education and communication (2.6 percent) and other goods and services (3.2 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								
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	0.0	1.4
October.....	-0.2	-0.1	0.2	1.6	-0.1	1.5	-0.1	2.3	-0.1	1.5
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 decreased 0.3 percent in the New England division, while remaining unchanged in the Middle Atlantic 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 1.4 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	-0.3	1.6
Middle Atlantic Division.....	0.0	1.4

The Consumer Price Index for November 2019 is scheduled to be released Wednesday, December 11, 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	Aug. 2019	Sep. 2019	Oct. 2019	Oct. 2018	Aug. 2019	Sep. 2019
All items.....		270.548	270.563	270.348	1.5	-0.1	-0.1
All items (December 1977 = 100).....		426.030	426.053	425.715			
Food and beverages		264.398	264.364	265.226	1.8	0.3	0.3
Food		265.040	264.884	265.790	2.0	0.3	0.3
Food at home		250.784	250.048	251.386	1.1	0.2	0.5
Cereals and bakery products		301.038	296.708	294.753	2.1	-2.1	-0.7
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....		250.926	251.040	252.590	0.9	0.7	0.6
Dairy and related products		228.880	231.171	230.748	0.9	0.8	-0.2
Fruits and vegetables.....		310.602	308.132	318.688	1.7	2.6	3.4
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....		176.897	177.425	177.088	1.5	0.1	-0.2
Other food at home		225.010	224.071	223.231	-0.1	-0.8	-0.4
Food away from home.....		289.738	290.422	290.713	3.1	0.3	0.1
Alcoholic beverages		255.136	256.592	256.910	0.2	0.7	0.1
Housing		288.578	289.142	288.158	1.5	-0.1	-0.3
Shelter		360.222	361.023	359.999	2.3	-0.1	-0.3
Rent of primary residence		363.327	364.306	364.141	2.9	0.2	0.0
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(1).....		371.150	372.187	372.237	2.1	0.3	0.0
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(1)		370.844	371.881	371.941	2.1	0.3	0.0
Fuels and utilities.....		224.096	223.836	222.250	-2.5	-0.8	-0.7
Household energy		196.855	196.550	194.836	-3.5	-1.0	-0.9
Energy services.....		194.676	194.092	191.649	-2.3	-1.6	-1.3
Electricity		201.494	201.717	196.035	-4.1	-2.7	-2.8
Utility (piped) gas service		168.411	166.552	169.593	1.4	0.7	1.8
Household furnishings and operations.....		119.941	120.344	119.838	-0.6	-0.1	-0.4
Apparel.....		128.731	133.298	132.042	-1.5	2.6	-0.9
Transportation		208.236	205.461	204.991	-1.7	-1.6	-0.2
Private transportation		200.355	197.262	196.710	-2.2	-1.8	-0.3
New and used motor vehicles(2).....		97.267	95.594	95.380	0.7	-1.9	-0.2
New vehicles		143.365	142.589	142.586	0.0	-0.5	0.0
New cars and trucks(2)(3).....		99.368	98.833	98.823	0.0	-0.5	0.0
New cars(3).....		132.525	131.742	132.089	-0.6	-0.3	0.3
Used cars and trucks.....		150.275	144.821	144.517	1.8	-3.8	-0.2
Motor fuel		232.861	225.375	223.918	-9.8	-3.8	-0.6
Gasoline (all types).....		231.814	224.264	222.797	-9.9	-3.9	-0.7
Gasoline, unleaded regular(3).....		228.994	221.232	219.798	-10.2	-4.0	-0.6
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(3)(4).....		247.018	241.042	239.266	-8.2	-3.1	-0.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium(3).....		241.819	236.103	234.466	-7.5	-3.0	-0.7
Motor vehicle insurance(5).....		620.674	620.671	619.421	-0.6	-0.2	-0.2
Medical care		528.447	531.412	535.250	5.4	1.3	0.7
Medical care commodities.....		409.247	403.746	401.027	2.7	-2.0	-0.7
Medical care services.....		562.622	568.174	574.009	5.9	2.0	1.0
Professional services		393.389	398.975	398.920	3.4	1.4	0.0
Recreation(2).....		127.197	125.380	125.822	1.8	-1.1	0.4
Education and communication(2).....		145.094	145.964	145.951	2.6	0.6	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	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	Aug. 2019	Sep. 2019	Oct. 2019	Oct. 2018	Aug. 2019	Sep. 2019
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(5).....		1,276.125	1,289.058	1,289.693	3.8	1.1	0.0
Other goods and services		502.699	502.159	503.443	3.2	0.1	0.3
Commodity and service group							
Commodities		192.100	191.429	191.268	-0.4	-0.4	-0.1
Commodities less food and beverages		153.149	152.269	151.720	-1.9	-0.9	-0.4
Nondurables less food and beverages...		199.319	198.855	198.011	-3.0	-0.7	-0.4
Durables		102.550	101.433	101.164	-0.3	-1.4	-0.3
Services.....		346.016	346.636	346.370	2.4	0.1	-0.1
Special aggregate indexes							
All items less shelter.....		239.601	239.324	239.408	1.0	-0.1	0.0
All items less medical care		259.196	259.075	258.674	1.1	-0.2	-0.2
Commodities less food		156.855	156.038	155.511	-1.8	-0.9	-0.3
Nondurables		231.824	231.553	231.488	-0.5	-0.1	0.0
Nondurables less food.....		202.563	202.215	201.441	-2.7	-0.6	-0.4
Services less rent of shelter(1).....		342.571	343.012	343.562	2.6	0.3	0.2
Services less medical care services.....		331.088	331.370	330.685	2.0	-0.1	-0.2
Energy		211.696	208.392	206.786	-6.5	-2.3	-0.8
All items less energy		279.332	279.697	279.627	2.1	0.1	0.0
All items less food and energy		283.631	284.084	283.854	2.2	0.1	-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.