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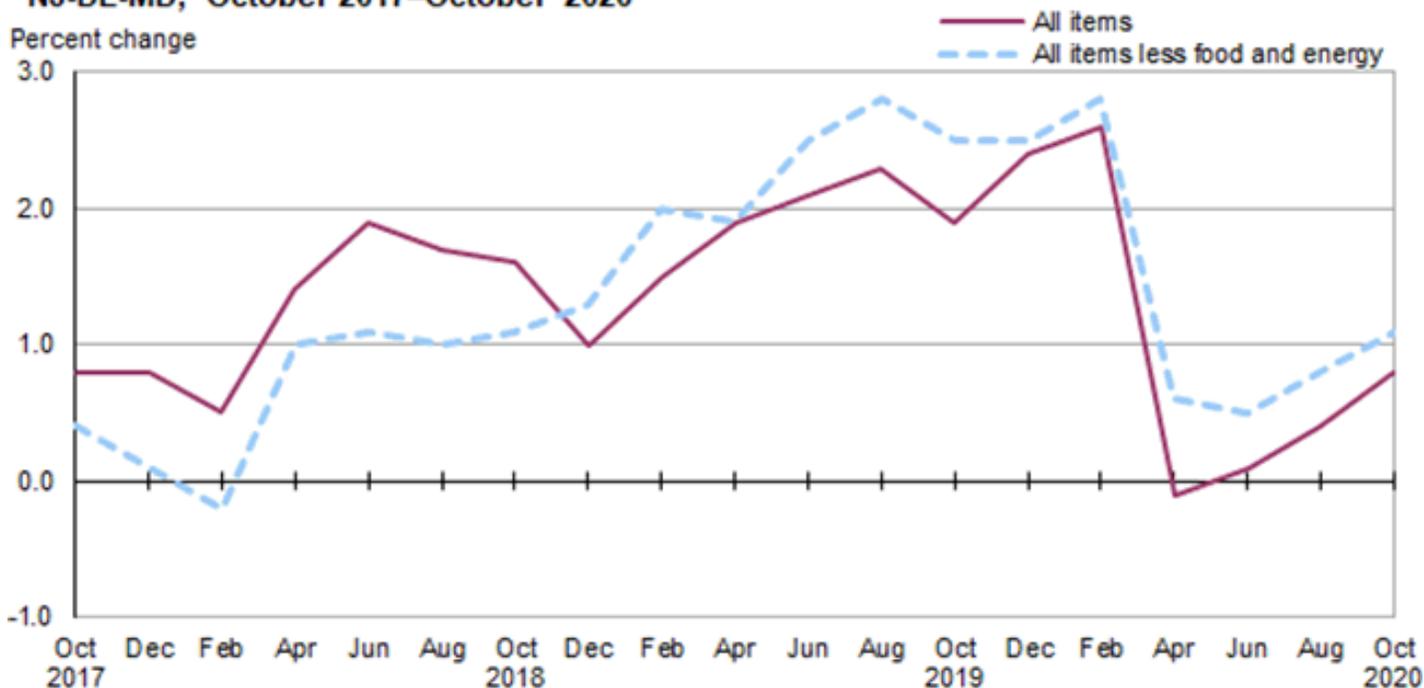
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## **Consumer Price Index, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington – October 2020** **Area prices unchanged since August; up 0.8 percent over the year**

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington was unchanged from August to October, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Acting Regional Commissioner Maureen McDevitt Greene noted that a 0.1-percent rise in the all items less food and energy index was offset by declines in the food index and energy index, down 0.3 and 0.2 percent, respectively. (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 CPI-U rose 0.8 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The over-the-year rise was due to increases in the all items less food and energy (1.1 percent) and the food index (3.3 percent). The energy index declined since October 2019, down 7.9 percent. (See [table 1](#).)

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD, October 2017–October 2020**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Food

The food index decreased 0.3 percent over the last two months. Prices for food at home decreased since August, down 1.1 percent, while those for food away from home rose 0.7 percent. Within the food at home component, prices were lower for items such as cheese and related products as well as breakfast cereal, while prices were higher for chicken and carbonated drinks.

Over the year, the food index increased 3.3 percent. Prices for food away from home rose 4.9 percent, and those for food at home were up 2.2 percent.

## Energy

The energy index, which includes prices for household and transportation fuels, edged down 0.2 percent since August. The two-month decline was due to a 1.9-percent decrease in electricity prices. Prices were higher for gasoline (2.2 percent) and utility (piped) gas service (0.7 percent) since August.

Over the year, the energy index decreased 7.9 percent, led by a decline in gasoline prices, down 8.2 percent. Prices were also lower for utility (piped) gas service and electricity, down 7.5 and 0.8 percent, respectively.

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy inched up 0.1 percent from August to October. Higher prices for new and used motor vehicles (3.0 percent) and household furnishings and operations (2.2 percent), among others, were moderated by lower prices for apparel (-3.3 percent) and shelter (-0.3 percent).

Since October 2019, the index for all items less food and energy rose 1.1 percent. Prices were higher for shelter (1.3 percent), including owners' equivalent rent of residences (2.6 percent), among others.

**Table A. Philadelphia CPI-U 2-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted**

Month	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	2-month	12-month								
February .....	0.3	0.3	0.7	2.1	0.4	0.5	0.8	1.5	1.0	2.6
April .....	0.9	0.6	0.0	1.3	0.9	1.4	1.3	1.9	-1.3	-0.1
June .....	0.3	0.1	-0.3	0.7	0.2	1.9	0.5	2.1	0.6	0.1
August .....	-0.2	0.4	0.5	1.4	0.3	1.7	0.5	2.3	0.8	0.4
October .....	0.6	1.3	0.0	0.8	0.0	1.6	-0.4	1.9	0.0	0.8
December .....	-0.1	1.7	-0.1	0.8	-0.7	1.0	-0.3	2.4		

**The Consumer Price Index for December 2020 is scheduled to be released Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 8:30 am (ET).**

## **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on October 2020 Consumer Price Index Data**

Data collection by personal visit for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program has been suspended since March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in October was affected by the temporary closing or limited operations of certain types of establishments. These factors resulted in an increase in the number of prices considered temporarily unavailable and imputed.

While the CPI program attempted to collect as much data as possible, many indexes are based on smaller amounts of collected prices than usual, and a small number of indexes that are normally published were not published this month. Additional information is available at [www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.htm](http://www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.htm).

### **Technical Note**

The Consumer Price Index for Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington is published bi-monthly. 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](http://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](http://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 **Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD, Core Based Statistical Area** includes Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties in Pennsylvania; Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Salem Counties in New Jersey; New Castle County in Delaware; and Cecil County in Maryland.

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, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD, (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted)**

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	Aug. 2020	Sep. 2020	Oct. 2020	Oct. 2019	Aug. 2020	Sep. 2020
All items.....		259.965		259.979	0.8	0.0	
All items (1967 = 100).....		751.024		751.064			
Food and beverages.....		247.708		247.051	3.2	-0.3	
Food.....		248.538		247.742	3.3	-0.3	
Food at home.....		249.641	246.760	246.780	2.2	-1.1	0.0
Cereals and bakery products.....		326.923		321.042	6.2	-1.8	
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....		276.408		272.367	1.2	-1.5	
Dairy and related products.....		206.977		202.787	-2.8	-2.0	
Fruits and vegetables.....		272.037		282.903	2.5	4.0	
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1).....		170.459		163.669	2.4	-4.0	
Other food at home.....		228.318		222.392	2.6	-2.6	
Food away from home.....		241.139		242.828	4.9	0.7	
Alcoholic beverages.....		233.059		234.544	1.2	0.6	
Housing.....		271.400		271.197	0.8	-0.1	
Shelter.....		341.300	341.697	340.424	1.3	-0.3	-0.4
Rent of primary residence.....		318.309	319.145	319.729	2.2	0.4	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(2).....		353.144	353.953	353.507	2.6	0.1	-0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(2).....		353.144	353.953	353.507	2.6	0.1	-0.1
Fuels and utilities.....		204.899		202.342	-5.0	-1.2	
Household energy.....		164.402	162.862	161.337	-7.4	-1.9	-0.9
Energy services.....		179.562	179.254	177.499	-3.4	-1.1	-1.0
Electricity.....		180.376	179.756	176.864	-0.8	-1.9	-1.6
Utility (piped) gas service.....		165.887	166.266	167.062	-7.5	0.7	0.5
Household furnishings and operations.....		115.948		118.459	2.9	2.2	
Apparel.....		107.278		103.780	-5.6	-3.3	
Transportation.....		203.815		206.646	-2.5	1.4	
Private transportation.....		206.790		208.411	-0.9	0.8	
New and used motor vehicles(3).....		100.092		103.127	3.9	3.0	
New vehicles(1).....		175.581		178.113	-0.6	1.4	
Used cars and trucks(1).....		277.154		286.146	12.0	3.2	
Motor fuel.....		215.549	220.271	220.157	-8.5	2.1	-0.1
Gasoline (all types).....		212.971	217.699	217.615	-8.2	2.2	0.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....		209.552	214.318	214.274	-8.3	2.3	0.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....		222.765	227.771	227.030	-6.9	1.9	-0.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....		219.771	223.729	223.450	-7.5	1.7	-0.1
Motor vehicle insurance(1).....		709.881		633.992	-11.1	-10.7	
Medical care.....		564.443		560.624	2.6	-0.7	
Recreation(3).....		126.137		125.998	3.0	-0.1	
Education and communication(3).....		133.349		133.607	0.7	0.2	
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1).....		1,048.279		1,053.842	0.1	0.5	
Other goods and services.....		564.057		568.161	2.4	0.7	
<b>Commodity and service group</b>							

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, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD, (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted) - Continued**

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	Aug. 2020	Sep. 2020	Oct. 2020	Oct. 2019	Aug. 2020	Sep. 2020
Commodities .....		182.043		182.653	0.6	0.3	
Commodities less food and beverages .....		146.884		147.995	-1.0	0.8	
Nondurables less food and beverages...		185.195		184.866	-4.2	-0.2	
Durables .....		103.901		105.874	3.1	1.9	
Services.....		338.541		337.943	0.8	-0.2	
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>							
All items less shelter.....		233.102		233.420	0.6	0.1	
All items less medical care .....		247.092		247.268	0.6	0.1	
Commodities less food.....		149.970		151.097	-1.0	0.8	
Nondurables .....		217.383		216.890	-0.3	-0.2	
Nondurables less food.....		188.026		187.796	-3.8	-0.1	
Services less rent of shelter(2).....		343.142		342.826	0.4	-0.1	
Services less medical care services.....		321.440		321.174	0.6	-0.1	
Energy .....		182.794	183.528	182.517	-7.9	-0.2	-0.6
All items less energy .....		270.214		270.255	1.4	0.0	
All items less food and energy .....		276.495		276.696	1.1	0.1	

Footnotes

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