



For Release: Wednesday, May 12, 2021

21-894-PHI

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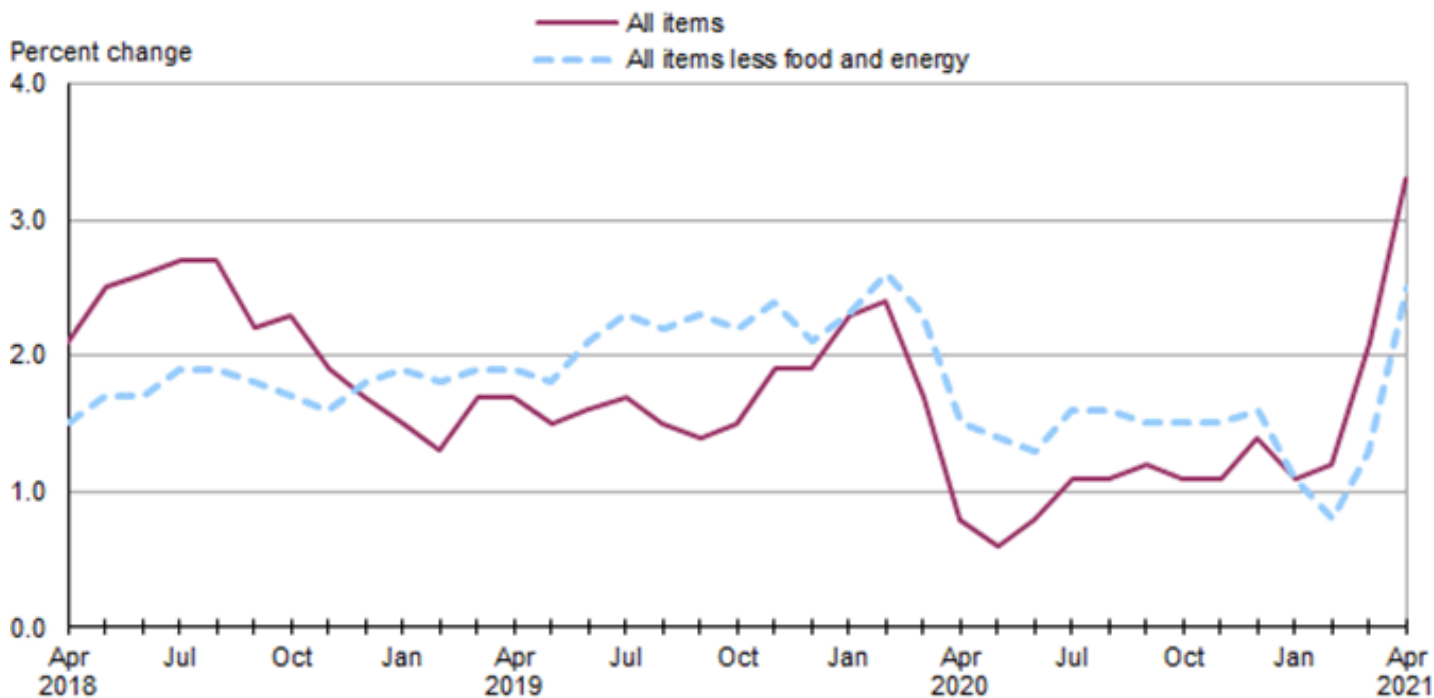
Consumer Price Index, Northeast Region – April 2021

Regional prices up 0.7 percent over the month; up 3.3 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Northeast increased 0.7 percent in April, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Alexandra Hall Bovee noted that the recent increase reflected advances in the all items less food and energy index (0.7 percent) since March. The food index and the energy index also increased over the month, up 0.6 and 1.0 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 Northeast all items CPI-U increased 3.3 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) This reflected advances in the all items less food and energy index, up 2.5 percent, and the energy index, up 18.1 percent. The food index also rose since April 2020, up 1.7 percent. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Northeast region, April 2018–April 2021



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index increased 0.6 percent since March. Prices were higher for both food at home and food away from home, up 0.8 and 0.5 percent, respectively.

From April 2020 to April 2021, the food index increased 1.7 percent. Prices for food away from home increased over the year, up 4.1 percent; those for food at home were unchanged over the year.

Energy

The energy index, which includes prices for household and transportation fuels, rose 1.0 percent in April, due to a 3.8-percent advance in electricity prices. Prices were also higher for gasoline (0.3 percent), while those for utility (piped) gas service inched down 0.1 percent over the month.

The energy index rose 18.1 percent since April 2020. The increase reflected a rise in prices for gasoline (35.0 percent). Prices for electricity and utility (piped) gas service also advanced over the year, up 3.5 and 5.7 percent, respectively.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.7 percent since March. Over-the-month price increases were led by used cars and trucks (9.7 percent), as well as shelter (0.3 percent) and public transportation (5.3 percent). Prices for apparel helped to moderate the overall rise, down 0.8 percent.

The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.5 percent since April 2020, led by higher prices for new and used motor vehicles (10.6 percent), particularly those for used cars and trucks (21.2 percent). Prices also increased for shelter (1.5 percent), and household furnishings and operations (4.9 percent), among others, while medical care commodities declined, down 2.9 percent.

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

Month	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.6	2.5	0.5	1.6	0.3	1.5	0.7	2.3	0.4	1.1
February	0.3	2.6	0.4	1.7	0.2	1.3	0.3	2.4	0.4	1.2
March	-0.1	2.2	0.1	2.0	0.5	1.7	-0.2	1.7	0.6	2.1
April	0.3	1.9	0.4	2.1	0.4	1.7	-0.4	0.8	0.7	3.3
May	0.1	1.7	0.4	2.5	0.3	1.5	0.0	0.6		
June.....	0.0	1.5	0.0	2.6	0.1	1.6	0.3	0.8		
July	-0.2	1.3	0.0	2.7	0.1	1.7	0.4	1.1		
August	0.3	1.6	0.2	2.7	0.1	1.5	0.1	1.1		
September	0.5	1.9	0.1	2.2	0.0	1.4	0.1	1.2		
October.....	-0.1	1.5	-0.1	2.3	-0.1	1.5	-0.2	1.1		
November	0.0	1.6	-0.4	1.9	0.1	1.9	0.1	1.1		
December	0.1	1.7	-0.1	1.7	-0.1	1.9	0.2	1.4		

Geographic divisions

Additional price indexes are now available for the two divisions of the Northeast. Over the month, the all items CPI-U increased in the Middle Atlantic division, up 0.8 percent, and the New England division, up 0.5 percent.

Over the year, prices rose in the Middle Atlantic division, up 3.5 percent. The all items index also rose in the New England division (2.7 percent). (See [table B](#).)

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.....	0.7	3.3
New England Division	0.5	2.7
Middle Atlantic Division.....	0.8	3.5

The Consumer Price Index for May 2021 is scheduled to be released Thursday, June 10, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on April 2021 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 April 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.

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 U.S. population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 percent of the total U.S. 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 6,000 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; for most of the CPI-U the reference base is 1982-84 equals 100. An increase of 7 percent from the reference base, for example, is shown as 107.000. Alternatively, that relationship can also be expressed as the price of a base period market basket of goods and

services rising from \$100 to \$107. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the CPI section of the BLS Handbook of Methods available on the internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/.

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	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021	Apr. 2021	Apr. 2020	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021
All items		276.473	278.197	280.234	3.3	1.4	0.7
All items (December 1977 = 100).....		435.361	438.075	441.283			
Food and beverages		275.338	276.783	278.408	1.8	1.1	0.6
Food		276.024	277.661	279.404	1.7	1.2	0.6
Food at home		259.405	260.243	262.195	0.0	1.1	0.8
Cereals and bakery products		305.845	305.942	309.941	-1.1	1.3	1.3
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....		264.981	267.033	271.443	1.0	2.4	1.7
Dairy and related products		239.434	239.061	236.485	-1.9	-1.2	-1.1
Fruits and vegetables		323.135	325.273	326.498	1.9	1.0	0.4
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....		180.307	180.914	180.578	-0.6	0.2	-0.2
Other food at home		230.211	230.228	232.722	-0.6	1.1	1.1
Food away from home.....		304.423	307.319	308.751	4.1	1.4	0.5
Alcoholic beverages		265.449	264.273	264.290	2.1	-0.4	0.0
Housing		296.629	297.291	298.589	2.4	0.7	0.4
Shelter		368.060	369.937	370.994	1.5	0.8	0.3
Rent of primary residence		373.037	373.351	373.814	1.3	0.2	0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(1).....		382.844	383.526	384.500	1.4	0.4	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(1)		382.520	383.196	384.169	1.4	0.4	0.3
Fuels and utilities.....		236.725	231.807	235.379	7.1	-0.6	1.5
Household energy		207.974	202.646	206.020	7.5	-0.9	1.7
Energy services.....		207.387	200.205	205.281	4.2	-1.0	2.5
Electricity		212.415	201.762	209.376	3.5	-1.4	3.8
Utility (piped) gas service		182.220	182.207	182.056	5.7	-0.1	-0.1
Household furnishings and operations.....		125.504	125.826	126.519	4.9	0.8	0.6
Apparel		125.518	126.937	125.916	2.6	0.3	-0.8
Transportation		204.854	210.476	216.319	12.4	5.6	2.8
Private transportation		200.630	207.196	212.347	13.7	5.8	2.5
New and used motor vehicles(2).....		99.098	101.246	106.106	10.6	7.1	4.8
New vehicles		145.605	146.136	147.518	2.4	1.3	0.9
New cars and trucks(2)(3).....		100.909	101.285	102.251	2.4	1.3	1.0
New cars(3).....		137.258	137.174	138.243	3.9	0.7	0.8
Used cars and trucks.....		157.018	160.571	176.132	21.2	12.2	9.7
Motor fuel		222.021	242.183	242.832	34.7	9.4	0.3
Gasoline (all types).....		221.060	241.208	241.857	35.0	9.4	0.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular(3).....		218.055	238.438	238.981	36.3	9.6	0.2
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(3)(4).....		237.307	256.052	258.571	28.2	9.0	1.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium(3).....		232.903	250.493	251.661	26.8	8.1	0.5
Motor vehicle insurance(5).....		603.610	610.393	609.564	7.2	1.0	-0.1
Medical care		549.824	548.730	550.365	0.2	0.1	0.3
Medical care commodities.....		378.260	378.497	378.807	-2.9	0.1	0.1
Medical care services.....		600.187	598.682	600.724	0.8	0.1	0.3
Professional services		417.577	415.405	418.685	4.4	0.3	0.8
Recreation(2).....		128.468	128.684	129.835	1.1	1.1	0.9
Education and communication(2).....		149.138	149.349	149.478	1.7	0.2	0.1

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	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021	Apr. 2021	Apr. 2020	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(5)			1,310.643	1,311.727	1,311.727	0.8	0.1	0.0
Other goods and services			513.550	520.572	522.862	2.3	1.8	0.4
Commodity and service group								
Commodities			194.769	197.254	199.229	5.5	2.3	1.0
Commodities less food and beverages			152.419	155.199	157.217	8.4	3.1	1.3
Nondurables less food and beverages.....			194.410	199.422	199.655	8.9	2.7	0.1
Durables			104.831	105.749	108.724	7.7	3.7	2.8
Services.....			354.874	355.873	357.972	2.1	0.9	0.6
Special aggregate indexes								
All items less shelter.....			244.859	246.534	248.927	4.2	1.7	1.0
All items less medical care			264.420	266.273	268.330	3.6	1.5	0.8
Commodities less food			156.434	159.124	161.101	8.1	3.0	1.2
Nondurables			234.350	237.662	238.568	4.8	1.8	0.4
Nondurables less food.....			198.566	203.208	203.428	8.3	2.4	0.1
Services less rent of shelter(1).....			352.782	352.858	356.127	2.8	0.9	0.9
Services less medical care services.....			337.972	339.144	341.246	2.3	1.0	0.6
Energy			213.744	218.736	221.008	18.1	3.4	1.0
All items less energy			285.709	287.157	289.199	2.4	1.2	0.7
All items less food and energy			289.246	290.670	292.778	2.5	1.2	0.7

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.