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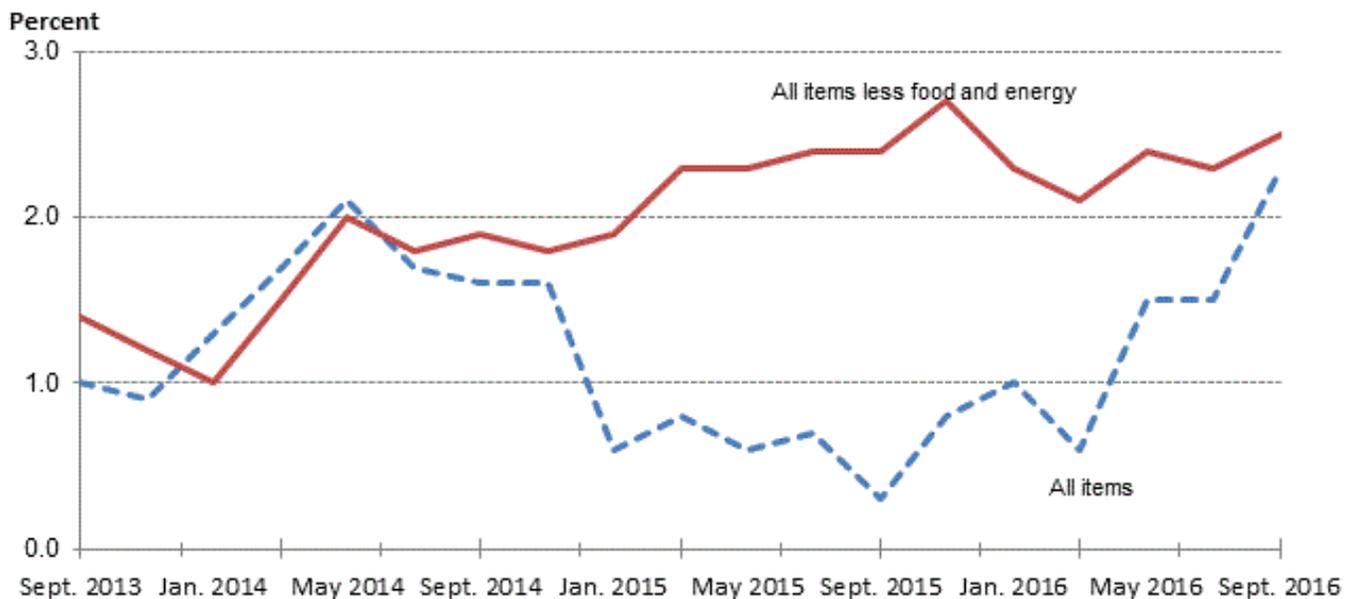
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Consumer Price Index, Boston-Brockton-Nashua — September 2016
Area prices edged up 0.7 percent over two months; up 2.3 percent from a year ago

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Boston-Brockton-Nashua area edged up 0.7 percent in September, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Deborah A. Brown noted that higher prices within all items less food and energy and to a lesser extent, higher energy prices were partially offset by lower food prices. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, bimonthly changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months the Boston CPI-U rose 2.3 percent. This was the largest annual increase since January 2012. The increase was largely attributable to higher prices within all items less food and energy, up 2.5 percent. (See [chart 1.](#)) To a lesser extent, higher energy prices paid by area consumers, up 3.9, and higher food prices up 0.6 percent also contributed to the increase.

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Boston-Brockton-Nashua, September 2013 - September 2016



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices edged down 0.1 percent since July mainly due to lower grocery store or food at home prices, down 0.6 percent. Restaurant prices, or food away from home, edged up 0.8 percent partially offsetting this decrease.

Food prices increased 0.6 percent over the year mainly due to higher restaurant prices, up 3.2 percent. Grocery store prices edged down 0.9 percent partially offsetting the overall increase since last September.

Energy

The energy index increased 0.7 percent over the two months, mainly due to higher utility piped gas (11.0 percent) and to a lesser extent, increases in prices paid by local households for electricity (0.5 percent). Lower prices for gasoline down 2.0 percent, partially offset the overall increase in local energy prices over the period.

Energy prices were up 3.9 percent from a year ago, largely attributable to higher electricity prices, up 14.3 percent and higher costs for utility piped gas up 34.4 percent over the year. The annual increase in energy costs was the first recorded since July 2014. Lower prices for gasoline down 7.0 percent partially offset the overall increase.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy edged up from July (0.8 percent). The rise was mainly attributable to apparel costs, up 15.8 percent. To a lesser extent, increases in shelter costs (0.7 percent) attributed to this overall advance. Within the local shelter index, higher prices for owners' equivalent rent led the advance. Higher education and communication costs (+1.8 percent) were partially offset by lower costs for new and used motor vehicles.

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 2.5 percent, with higher shelter costs being the main driver of the increase up 3.4 percent. Within shelter, higher costs for owners' rental equivalency of residences led the increase, up 3.2 percent. Contributing to the overall increase, but to a lesser extent, were higher prices paid by area consumers for medical care, up 4.6 percent from one year ago, and education and communication, up 2.6 percent over the period.

CPI-W

In September, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 260.483. The CPI-W was up 0.5 percent over two months and increased 2.0 percent over the year.

The November 2016 Consumer Price Index for Boston-Brockton-Nashua is scheduled to be released on Thursday, December 15, 2016, 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 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 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 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 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 change 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 <https://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 Boston-Brockton-Nashua, Mass.-N.H.-Maine-Conn. consolidated area covered in this release is comprised of Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk, Bristol, Hampden, and Worcester Counties in Massachusetts; Hillsborough, Merrimack, Rockingham, and Strafford Counties in New Hampshire; York County in Maine; and Windham County in Connecticut.

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.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Boston-Brockton-Nashua, Ma.-N.H.-Maine-Conn., (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted)

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	Jul. 2016	Aug. 2016	Sep. 2016	Sep. 2015	Jul. 2016	Aug. 2016
All items.....		260.800		262.606	2.3	0.7	
All items (1967 = 100).....		758.023		763.273			
Food and beverages.....		257.607		257.964	0.5	0.1	
Food.....		258.955		258.795	0.6	-0.1	
Food at home.....		245.869	246.945	244.475	-0.9	-0.6	-1.0
Food away from home.....		281.457		283.647	3.2	0.8	
Alcoholic beverages.....		246.406		253.016	-0.3	2.7	
Housing.....		264.491		266.634	3.8	0.8	
Shelter.....		315.483	315.846	317.618	3.4	0.7	0.6
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾		323.237	324.190	325.327	3.2	0.6	0.4
Owners' equivalent rent of residences ^{(1) (2) (3)} ...		334.800	335.430	336.864	3.2	0.6	0.4
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2) (3)}		334.800	335.430	336.864	3.2	0.6	0.4
Fuels and utilities.....		241.268		247.245	11.9	2.5	
Household energy.....		200.476	200.531	205.772	13.3	2.6	2.6
Energy services ⁽¹⁾		213.415	213.951	219.996	18.5	3.1	2.8
Electricity ⁽¹⁾		250.789	251.627	251.938	14.3	0.5	0.1
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾		141.385	141.385	156.910	34.4	11.0	11.0
Household furnishings and operations.....		127.999		127.956	-1.0	0.0	
Apparel		134.230		155.471	6.2	15.8	
Transportation.....		185.882		183.232	-0.6	-1.4	
Private transportation.....		184.426		182.219	-0.4	-1.2	
Motor fuel.....		189.678	184.535	185.953	-7.1	-2.0	0.8
Gasoline (all types).....		187.638	182.502	183.903	-7.0	-2.0	0.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽⁴⁾		181.567	176.287	177.756	-7.1	-2.1	0.8

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Boston-Brockton-Nashua, Ma.-N.H.-Maine-Conn., (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted) - Continued

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	Jul. 2016	Aug. 2016	Sep. 2016	Sep. 2015	Jul. 2016	Aug. 2016
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ⁽⁴⁾ ⁽⁵⁾		200.474	196.235	197.125	-7.0	-1.7	0.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽⁴⁾		200.561	197.622	198.220	-5.9	-1.2	0.3
Medical care		635.449		634.331	4.6	-0.2	
Recreation ⁽⁶⁾		117.012		116.575	-0.7	-0.4	
Education and communication ⁽⁶⁾		156.300		159.091	2.6	1.8	
Other goods and services		451.509		450.971	1.2	-0.1	
Commodity and service group							
Commodities		186.972		188.536	-0.2	0.8	
Commodities less food and beverages		150.067		152.040	-0.9	1.3	
Nondurables less food and beverages		189.434		194.963	-0.9	2.9	
Durables		111.067		110.230	-0.6	-0.8	
Services		327.539		329.559	3.8	0.6	
Special aggregate indexes							
All items less shelter		241.986		243.682	1.8	0.7	
All items less medical care		246.444		248.352	2.2	0.8	
Commodities less food		153.941		156.065	-0.9	1.4	
Nondurables		222.422		225.521	0.0	1.4	
Nondurables less food		192.589		198.173	-0.8	2.9	
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾		358.627		360.590	4.3	0.5	
Services less medical care services		306.717		308.805	3.7	0.7	
Energy		194.338	192.134	195.675	3.9	0.7	1.8
All items less energy		270.900		272.777	2.2	0.7	

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Boston-Brockton-Nashua, Ma.-N.H.-Maine-Conn., (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted) - Continued

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	Jul. 2016	Aug. 2016	Sep. 2016	Sep. 2015	Jul. 2016	Aug. 2016
All items less food and energy.....		273.777		276.008	2.5	0.8	

- (1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.
 - (2) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.
 - (3) This index series underwent a change in composition in January 2010. The expenditure class now includes weight from secondary residences, and has been re-titled "Owners' equivalent rent of residences." The item stratum "Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence" excludes secondary residences.
 - (4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.
 - (5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.
 - (6) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.
- Note: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.