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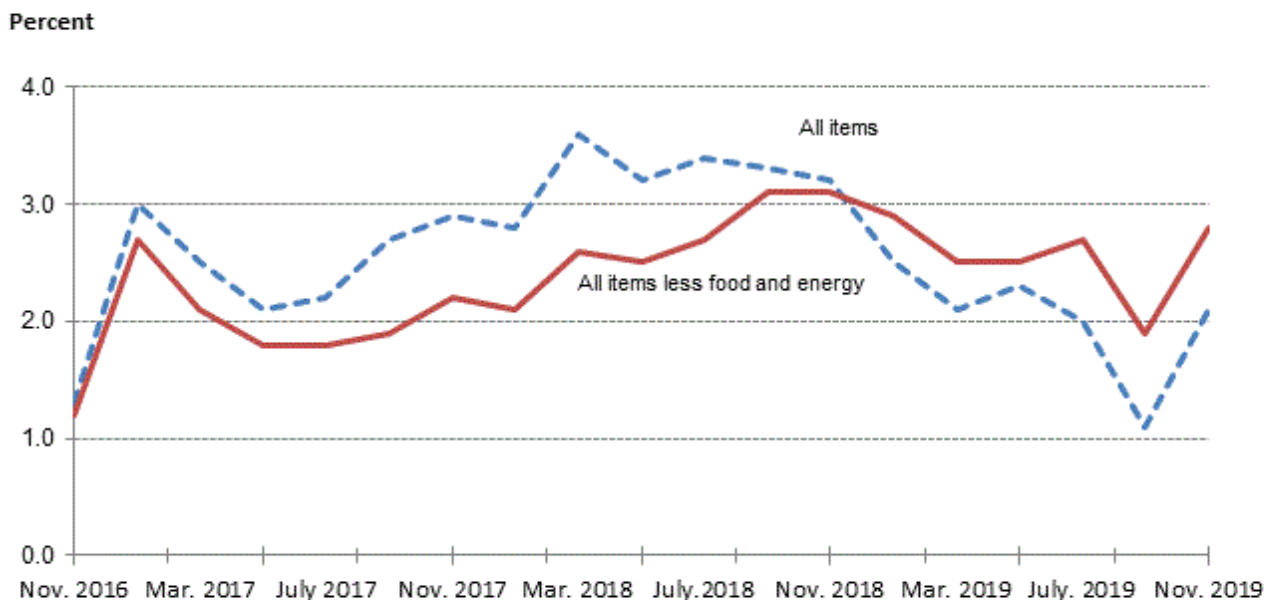
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Consumer Price Index, Boston-Cambridge-Newton — November 2019
Area prices increased by 0.7 percent over two months; up 2.1 percent from a year ago

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Boston-Cambridge-Newton area increased 0.7 percent in November, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Deborah A. Brown noted that this was mainly attributable to higher energy prices, up 5.7 percent. To a lesser extent, higher prices for all items less food and energy, up 0.2 percent, and higher food prices, up 1.2 percent, contributed to the increase. (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 2.1 percent. The increase was largely attributable to higher shelter costs within all items less food and energy, up 4.0 percent, and, to a lesser extent, higher food prices, up 1.3 percent. Lower energy prices, down 3.9 percent, partially offset the increase. (See [chart 1.](#))

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Boston-Cambridge-Newton, November 2016 - November 2019



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices increased 1.2 percent since September, mainly due to higher food at home or grocery store prices, up 2.0 percent. Lower food away from home or restaurant prices, down 0.1 percent, partially offset the increase. Higher food at home prices were mainly driven by higher fruits and vegetables prices, up 9.2 percent.

Food prices increased 1.3 percent over the year, mainly due to higher restaurant prices, up 2.0 percent, and, to a lesser extent, higher grocery store prices, up 0.8 percent.

Energy

The energy index increased 5.7 percent over the two months, mainly driven by higher utility (piped) gas prices, up 31.9 percent, as suppliers switched to winter rate schedules. To a lesser extent, higher electricity prices, up 5.2 percent, also contributed. Lower gasoline prices, down 1.5 percent, partially offset the increase in energy prices since September.

Energy prices were down 3.9 percent from a year ago, largely attributable to lower gasoline prices, down 7.7 percent. Lower prices for utility (piped) gas, down 1.7 percent, contributed to the decrease to a lesser extent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy edged up from September (0.2 percent) mainly due to higher medical care costs, up 1.6 percent. To a lesser extent, higher costs for education and communication and new and used motor vehicles, up 1.0 and 1.2 percent, respectively, also contributed. Lower apparel and household furnishings costs, down 6.4 and 1.4 percent, respectively, partially offset the overall increase.

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 2.8 percent, with higher shelter costs being the main driver of the increase, up 4.0 percent. Within shelter, higher costs for owners' equivalent rent of residences, up 3.1 percent, and to a lesser extent, rent of primary residence, up 2.5 percent, led the increase. Higher medical care costs, up 6.9 and, to a lesser extent, higher costs within education and communication and household furnishings, up 3.2 and 4.2 percent, respectively, also contributed to the overall increase.

CPI-W

In November, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 282.162. The CPI-W increased 0.8 percent over two months and 1.7 percent over the year.

The January 2020 Consumer Price Index for Boston-Cambridge-Newton is scheduled to be released on Thursday, February 13, 2020, 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 94 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 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 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 Boston-Cambridge-Newton, Mass.-N.H. Core Based Statistical Area covered in this release is comprised of Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk Counties in Massachusetts; Rockingham, Strafford Counties in New Hampshire.















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

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	Sep. 2019	Oct. 2019	Nov. 2019	Nov. 2018	Sep. 2019	Oct. 2019
All items.....		281.603		283.526	2.1	0.7	
All items (1967 = 100).....		818.486		824.078			
Food and beverages		265.357		268.345	1.5	1.1	
Food		266.716		269.785	1.3	1.2	
Food at home		246.839	252.522	251.768	0.8	2.0	-0.3
Cereal and bakery products		297.248		301.156	3.0	1.3	
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....		254.149		256.055	0.3	0.7	
Dairy and related products		280.547		284.327	-1.0	1.3	
Fruits and vegetables		292.654		319.517	1.6	9.2	
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1)		162.724		162.868	-0.3	0.1	
Other food at home		201.911		200.391	0.6	-0.8	
Food away from home.....		301.568		301.331	2.0	-0.1	
Alcoholic beverages		254.180		256.274	3.8	0.8	
Housing		294.677		297.126	3.5	0.8	
Shelter		352.054	351.791	352.412	4.0	0.1	0.2
Rent of primary residence(2).....		363.530	362.925	364.041	2.5	0.1	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(2)(3)(4)		373.432	372.072	374.641	3.1	0.3	0.7
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(2)(3)(4).....		373.432	372.072	374.641	3.1	0.3	0.7
Fuels and utilities.....		275.390		302.251	-1.0	9.8	
Household energy		229.750	230.000	255.453	-1.1	11.2	11.1
Energy services(2)		237.064	237.064	268.780	-0.6	13.4	13.4
Electricity(2).....		289.144	289.144	304.177	0.1	5.2	5.2
Utility (piped) gas service(2).....		151.689	151.689	200.074	-1.7	31.9	31.9
Household furnishings and operations.....		130.939		129.152	4.2	-1.4	
Apparel.....		144.971		135.676	-4.0	-6.4	
Transportation		189.679		190.692	-3.2	0.5	
Private transportation		190.479		191.576	-3.2	0.6	
New and used motor vehicles(5).....		101.698		102.885	-1.5	1.2	
New Vehicles(1)		201.777		205.236	-1.1	1.7	
Used cars and trucks(1)		318.547		316.390	0.3	-0.7	
Motor fuel		226.427	223.287	223.122	-7.7	-1.5	-0.1
Gasoline (all types).....		223.820	220.707	220.542	-7.7	-1.5	-0.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular(6).....		216.739	213.524	213.377	-8.1	-1.6	-0.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(6)(7).....		240.597	237.255	237.105	-6.2	-1.5	-0.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium(6).....		237.523	235.749	235.471	-4.7	-0.9	-0.1
Motor vehicle insurance(1).....							
Medical care		690.706		701.424	6.9	1.6	
Recreation(5).....		121.200		122.090	-1.5	0.7	
Education and communication(5).....		169.723		171.341	3.2	1.0	
Tuition, other fees, and child care(1).....		1,394.175		1,394.215	3.4	0.0	
Other goods and services		502.331		504.393	3.0	0.4	
Commodity and service group							
Commodities		191.569		191.527	-0.3	0.0	

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	Sep. 2019	Oct. 2019	Nov. 2019	Nov. 2018	Sep. 2019	Oct. 2019
Commodities less food and beverages		153.096		151.686	-1.7	-0.9	
Nondurables less food and beverages...		201.886		198.167	-3.2	-1.8	
Durables		106.719		107.282	0.8	0.5	
Services.....		362.744		366.356	3.2	1.0	
Special aggregate indexes							
All items less shelter.....		255.735		258.471	0.9	1.1	
All items less medical care		266.040		267.678	1.8	0.6	
Commodities less food		157.148		155.855	-1.4	-0.8	
Nondurables		232.730		232.324	-0.6	-0.2	
Nondurables less food.....		204.727		201.444	-2.6	-1.6	
Services less rent of shelter(3).....		391.224		399.799	2.1	2.2	
Services less medical care services.....		339.300		342.394	2.6	0.9	
Energy		226.643	225.419	239.561	-3.9	5.7	6.3
All items less energy		290.696		291.668	2.6	0.3	
All items less food and energy		295.690		296.308	2.8	0.2	

Footnotes

(1) Indexes on a January 1978=100 base.

(2) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(3) Indexes on a November 1982=100 base.

(4) 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.

(5) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(6) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(7) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

Note: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.