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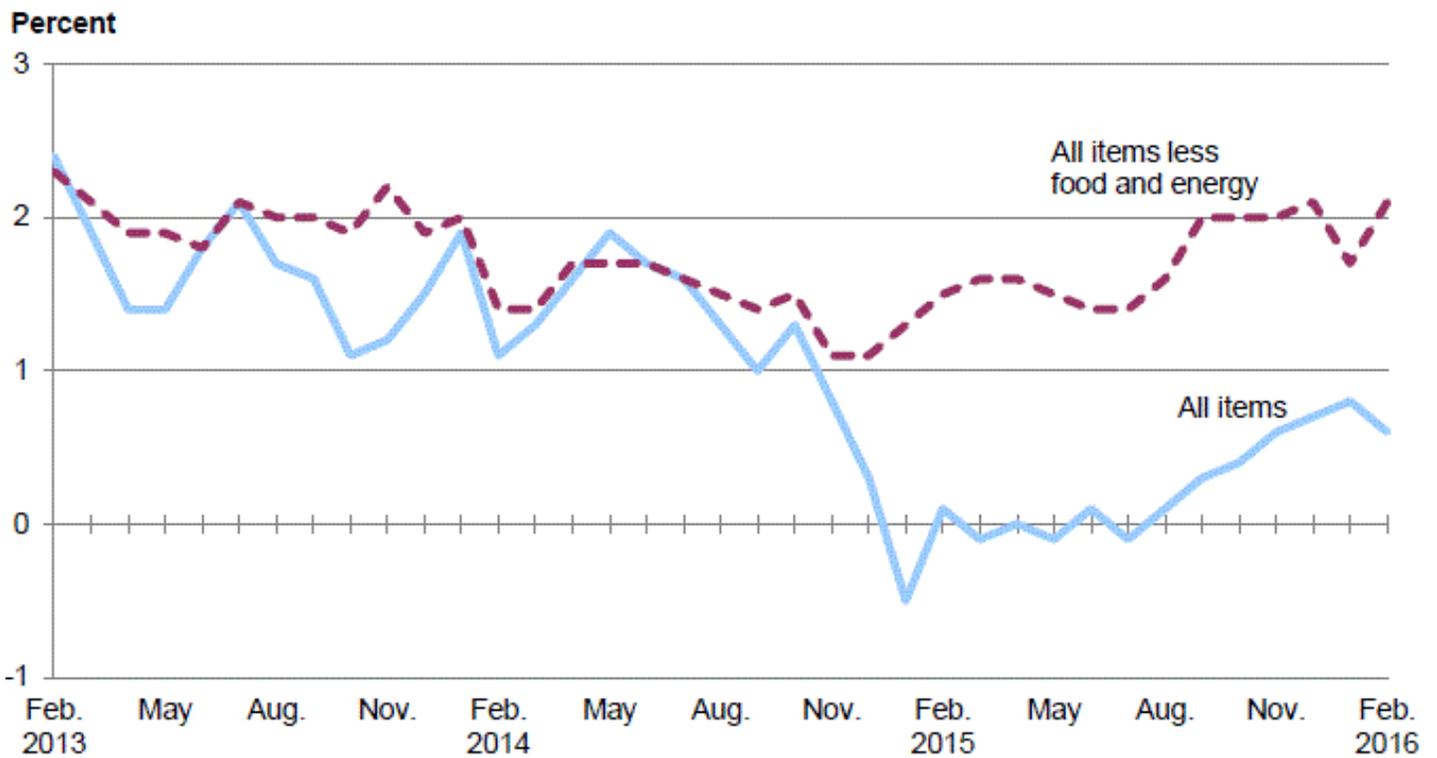
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Consumer Price Index, New York-Northern New Jersey – February 2016 **Area prices up 0.2 percent over the month and 0.6 percent over the year**

Prices in the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), edged up 0.2 percent for the second consecutive month in February, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Chief Regional Economist Martin Kohli attributed the increase to higher prices for shelter and apparel. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the year, the CPI-U was up 0.6 percent. (See [table A](#).) The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.1 percent. (See [chart 1](#).) Higher prices for shelter drove the 12-month change in both indexes. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, February 2013–February 2016



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index declined 0.4 percent in February—the largest decrease in over a year—due to lower prices for food at home (-0.8 percent). Lower prices for tomatoes, lettuce, and citrus fruits contributed to the decline in grocery prices. By contrast, prices for food away from home edged up 0.2 percent.

Over the year, the food index increased 0.8 percent. While at-home food prices declined 0.8 percent, away-from-home food prices rose 2.9 percent.

Energy

The energy index fell 4.0 percent, marking the eighth consecutive decline, the longest stretch of monthly declines in the history of the series which began in 1977. Gasoline prices dropped 7.5 percent, following a 6.0 percent decrease in January. Within household energy, electricity and natural gas were down, 1.8 percent and 1.5 percent, respectively.

For the year ended in February 2016, the energy index fell 17.6 percent. The decline was driven by a 17.3-percent drop in electricity prices—the largest 12-month decrease since the series start in 1971. Natural gas prices also declined, 9.7 percent. Gasoline prices were down 18.4 percent over the year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.6 percent. Shelter prices rose 0.4 percent, with seasonal increases for out-of-town lodging, along with increases in both residential rent (0.3 percent), and owners' equivalent rent (0.2 percent). Apparel prices, often up at this time of year, rose 3.7 percent. Medical care prices increased 1.2 percent, following a 1.4-percent increase in January. Higher prices were also reported for airline fares and for other goods and services (0.7 percent).

From February 2015 to February 2016, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.1 percent. Shelter prices rose 3.0 percent, reflecting higher prices for residential rent (4.0 percent) and owners' equivalent rent (2.9 percent). Other categories with higher prices included other goods and services (3.0 percent), education and communication and medical care (2.2 percent each), and apparel (0.9 percent).

Table A. New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

Month	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	1-month	12-month										
January.....	0.3	1.5	0.4	2.8	0.5	2.2	0.9	1.9	0.1	-0.5	0.2	0.8
February.....	0.5	2.1	0.4	2.6	0.6	2.4	-0.2	1.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.6
March.....	0.7	2.3	0.6	2.6	0.1	1.9	0.4	1.3	0.2	-0.1		
April.....	0.4	2.5	0.2	2.4	-0.2	1.4	0.0	1.6	0.1	0.0		
May.....	0.6	2.9	0.1	1.8	0.1	1.4	0.5	1.9	0.4	-0.1		
June.....	0.2	3.2	-0.1	1.6	0.3	1.8	0.0	1.7	0.2	0.1		
July.....	0.3	3.3	-0.2	1.1	0.2	2.1	0.1	1.6	-0.1	-0.1		
August.....	0.4	3.5	0.6	1.4	0.1	1.7	-0.2	1.3	0.1	0.1		
September.....	0.2	3.8	0.4	1.6	0.3	1.6	0.0	1.0	0.2	0.3		
October.....	-0.2	3.3	-0.1	1.7	-0.6	1.1	-0.2	1.3	-0.1	0.4		
November.....	-0.3	3.0	0.0	2.0	0.1	1.2	-0.4	0.8	-0.2	0.6		
December.....	-0.4	2.7	-0.3	2.1	0.0	1.5	-0.5	0.3	-0.4	0.7		

CPI-W

In February, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 255.246, up 0.1 percent over the month. The CPI-W rose 0.5 percent over the year.

The March 2016 Consumer Price Index for New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island is scheduled to be released Thursday, April 14, 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 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 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 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 New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, N.Y.-N.J.-Conn.-Pa. consolidated area covered in this release is comprised of Bronx, Dutchess, Kings, Nassau, New York, Orange, Putnam, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester Counties in New York State; Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren Counties in New Jersey; Fairfield County and parts of Litchfield, Middlesex, and New Haven Counties in Connecticut; and Pike County in Pennsylvania.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, New York-Northern N.J.-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)(not seasonally adjusted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016	Feb. 2016	Feb. 2015	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016
Expenditure category						
All items	259.941	260.342	260.875	0.6	0.4	0.2
All items (1967=100)	751.453	752.612	754.153			
Food and beverages	256.782	258.139	257.176	0.8	0.2	-0.4
Food	256.735	258.143	257.139	0.8	0.2	-0.4
Food at home	253.938	254.764	252.679	-0.8	-0.5	-0.8
Food away from home.....	267.390	269.680	270.223	2.9	1.1	0.2
Alcoholic beverages	253.029	253.675	253.288	1.4	0.1	-0.2
Housing	280.056	280.378	280.952	0.9	0.3	0.2
Shelter	353.825	354.211	355.645	3.0	0.5	0.4
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	366.776	367.552	368.693	4.0	0.5	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of residences ^{(1) (2)} ...	360.779	361.376	362.154	2.9	0.4	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)}	360.339	360.930	361.705	2.8	0.4	0.2
Fuels and utilities.....	172.253	173.800	171.281	-14.5	-0.6	-1.4
Household energy	163.172	164.783	161.641	-17.2	-0.9	-1.9
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	158.123	161.094	158.285	-15.5	0.1	-1.7
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	172.137	175.765	172.533	-17.3	0.2	-1.8
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	124.975	126.638	124.721	-9.7	-0.2	-1.5
Household furnishings and operations	113.360	112.542	112.376	-2.0	-0.9	-0.1
Apparel	125.502	126.608	131.283	0.9	4.6	3.7
Transportation	206.918	204.878	203.647	-2.7	-1.6	-0.6
Private transportation	192.802	190.689	187.944	-3.5	-2.5	-1.4
Motor fuel	169.153	159.057	147.105	-18.4	-13.0	-7.5
Gasoline (all types).....	168.382	158.357	146.459	-18.4	-13.0	-7.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽³⁾	165.856	155.611	143.421	-19.5	-13.5	-7.8
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{(3) (4)}	183.124	174.355	164.097	-12.9	-10.4	-5.9
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽³⁾	187.281	178.737	168.610	-11.3	-10.0	-5.7
Medical care	445.724	451.773	457.224	2.2	2.6	1.2
Recreation ⁽⁵⁾	118.415	118.595	118.637	-0.3	0.2	0.0
Education and communication ⁽⁵⁾	143.473	143.617	143.642	2.2	0.1	0.0
Other goods and services	407.622	409.048	411.739	3.0	1.0	0.7
Commodity and service group						
All items	259.941	260.342	260.875	0.6	0.4	0.2
Commodities	184.499	184.350	184.012	-1.8	-0.3	-0.2
Commodities less food and beverages	140.499	139.661	139.632	-4.0	-0.6	0.0
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	173.015	171.401	171.271	-5.2	-1.0	-0.1
Durables	97.775	97.767	97.839	-1.7	0.1	0.1
Services.....	323.982	324.812	326.020	1.7	0.6	0.4
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	251.839	252.005	252.333	0.5	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, New York-Northern N.J.-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)(not seasonally adjusted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016	Feb. 2016	Feb. 2015	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016
All items less shelter.....	222.794	223.204	223.371	-0.9	0.3	0.1
Commodities less food.....	144.744	143.948	143.907	-3.7	-0.6	0.0
Nondurables.....	216.210	215.997	215.464	-1.8	-0.3	-0.2
Nondurables less food.....	177.874	176.390	176.245	-4.7	-0.9	-0.1
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	302.096	303.449	304.439	0.0	0.8	0.3
Services less medical care services.....	314.042	314.510	315.500	1.6	0.5	0.3
Energy.....	167.724	164.917	158.388	-17.6	-5.6	-4.0
All items less energy.....	270.652	271.356	272.554	1.9	0.7	0.4
All items less food and energy.....	274.920	275.510	277.089	2.1	0.8	0.6

Footnotes

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

(2) Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

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

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

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

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

The New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA consolidated area comprises the five boroughs of New York City, Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Dutchess, and Orange Counties in New York State; Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Monmouth, Middlesex, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren Counties in New Jersey; Fairfield County and parts of Litchfield, New Haven, and Middlesex Counties in Connecticut; and Pike County in Pennsylvania.