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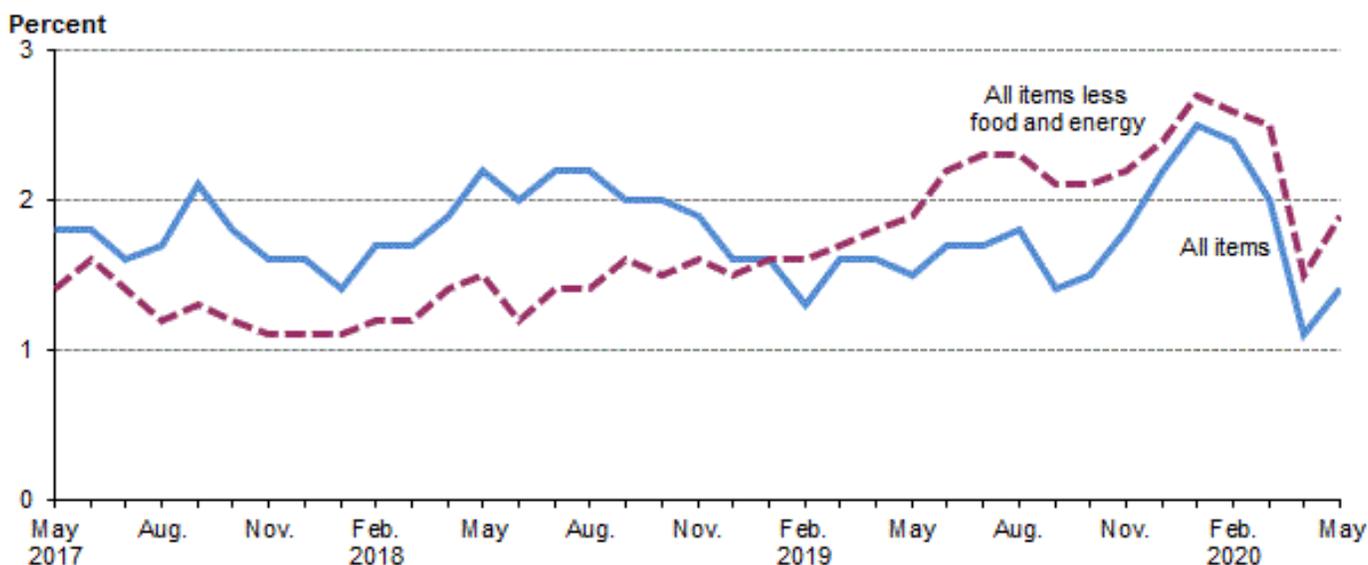
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## **Consumer Price Index, New York-Newark-Jersey City – May 2020** **Area prices up 0.5 percent over the month and 1.4 percent over the year**

Prices in the New York-Newark-Jersey City area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), rose 0.5 percent in May, after declining 0.5 percent in April, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Chief Regional Economist Martin Kohli attributed the increase to higher prices for food and for other non-energy items. (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 increased 1.4 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The index for all items less food and energy advanced 1.9 percent. Price increases 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-Newark-Jersey City, May 2017–May 2020**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Food

The food index rose 1.2 percent in May, after jumping 2.6 percent in April. Prices for food at home increased 1.5 percent, with higher prices reported for three of the six major grocery groups, led by a 5.3-percent rise in meats, poultry, fish, and eggs. Among the items in that group with May price increases were beef roasts, beef steaks, and chicken. Prices for food away from home rose 0.7 percent.

From May 2019 to May 2020, the food index advanced 5.6 percent. Prices for food at home climbed 7.1 percent, and prices for food away from home rose 3.7 percent.

## Energy

The energy index declined 1.2 percent, after decreasing 5.2 percent in April. Gasoline prices declined 4.8 percent in May, following an 8.9-percent fall one month earlier. In contrast, prices for energy services increased 1.0 percent, reflecting a 1.7-percent rise in electricity charges that was partly offset by a 0.5-percent decline in natural gas prices.

For the year ended in May 2020, energy prices dropped 13.5 percent, primarily due to a 28.3-percent fall in gasoline prices. Prices for energy services advanced 2.6 percent, with higher prices for electricity (2.5 percent) and for natural gas (1.2 percent).

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.5 percent in May, following a 0.6-percent decline in April. Prices rose for recreation (6.7 percent) and for new and used vehicles (3.1 percent). Within shelter, residential rent and owners' equivalent rent each ticked up 0.1 percent. Medical care prices also inched up 0.1 percent. These increases were tempered by a seasonal decline in apparel prices (-3.6 percent), as well as by price reductions for motor vehicle insurance (-1.0 percent), household furnishings and operations (-0.8 percent), and other goods and services (-0.4 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 1.9 percent. A 2.0-percent increase in shelter prices included a 2.7-percent rise in owners' equivalent rent and a 2.1-percent increase in residential rent. Recreation and medical care prices rose 10.7 and 5.2 percent, respectively. A 4.3-percent rise in prices for tuition, other school fees, and childcare contributed to a 2.5-percent increase in prices for education and communication. Partly offsetting these increases were declines for apparel (-7.7 percent) and for motor vehicle insurance (-10.5 percent).

**Table A. New York-Newark-Jersey City CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)**

Month	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.1	-0.5	0.2	0.8	0.6	2.5	0.4	1.4	0.5	1.6	0.8	2.5
February.....	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.3	2.6	0.5	1.7	0.2	1.3	0.2	2.4
March.....	0.2	-0.1	0.2	0.7	0.0	2.3	0.0	1.7	0.3	1.6	-0.2	2.0
April.....	0.1	0.0	0.4	1.0	0.1	2.0	0.3	1.9	0.3	1.6	-0.5	1.1
May.....	0.4	-0.1	0.3	0.9	0.1	1.8	0.4	2.2	0.2	1.5	0.5	1.4
June.....	0.2	0.1	0.2 <sup>(r)</sup>	0.9 <sup>(r)</sup>	0.2	1.8	0.1	2.0	0.3	1.7		
July.....	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	1.0	-0.2	1.6	0.0	2.2	0.0	1.7		
August.....	0.1	0.1	0.2	1.1	0.2	1.7	0.1	2.2	0.2	1.8		
September.....	0.2	0.3	0.2	1.0	0.5	2.1	0.4	2.0	0.0	1.4		
October.....	-0.1	0.4	0.1	1.2	-0.2	1.8	-0.1	2.0	0.0	1.5		
November.....	-0.2	0.6	0.2	1.6	-0.1	1.6	-0.2	1.9	0.1	1.8		
December.....	-0.4	0.7	0.1	2.1	0.1	1.6	-0.2	1.6	0.1	2.2		

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes:  
(R) = revised.

## **CPI-W**

In May, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 276.413, up 0.6 percent over the month. The CPI-W rose 1.4 percent over the year.

**The June 2020 Consumer Price Index for New York-Newark-Jersey City is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, July 14, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).**

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on May 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 May 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

<https://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 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 New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA Core Based Statistical Area includes Bronx, Dutchess, Kings, Nassau, New York, Orange, Putnam, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester Counties in New York; Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, and Union Counties in New Jersey; 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-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA, not seasonally adjusted (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	March 2020	April 2020	May 2020	May 2019	March 2020	April 2020
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items.....	281.975	280.623	282.092	1.4	0.0	0.5
All items (1967=100).....	815.152	811.241	815.490			
Food and beverages.....	274.523	281.042	284.171	5.4	3.5	1.1
Food.....	274.371	281.380	284.654	5.6	3.7	1.2
Food at home.....	261.184	270.644	274.785	7.1	5.2	1.5
Cereals and bakery products.....	303.916	310.214	308.436	0.8	1.5	-0.6
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	261.942	270.179	284.368	13.9	8.6	5.3
Dairy and related products.....	228.607	238.563	244.577	9.2	7.0	2.5
Fruits and vegetables.....	330.553	341.610	339.187	3.2	2.6	-0.7
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1).....	257.368	266.718	273.103	8.7	6.1	2.4
Other food at home.....	228.597	239.915	239.612	5.8	4.8	-0.1
Food away from home.....	300.566	304.310	306.452	3.7	2.0	0.7
Alcoholic beverages.....	271.981	271.661	272.738	2.5	0.3	0.4
Housing.....	307.537	306.467	306.606	1.5	-0.3	0.0
Shelter.....	392.352	391.605	391.742	2.0	-0.2	0.0
Rent of primary residence.....	406.933	407.462	407.966	2.1	0.3	0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(2).....	398.790	399.954	400.201	2.7	0.4	0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(2).....	398.296	399.459	399.705	2.7	0.4	0.1
Fuels and utilities.....	191.388	186.538	188.427	-1.1	-1.5	1.0
Household energy.....	181.048	175.677	177.215	-2.1	-2.1	0.9
Energy services.....	176.333	174.143	175.941	2.6	-0.2	1.0
Electricity.....	176.153	173.661	176.674	2.5	0.3	1.7
Utility (piped) gas service.....	164.509	163.078	162.310	1.2	-1.3	-0.5
Household furnishings and operations.....	108.719	108.897	107.991	-2.2	-0.7	-0.8
Apparel.....	125.096	116.808	112.596	-7.7	-10.0	-3.6
Transportation.....	216.549	207.798	209.149	-7.8	-3.4	0.7
Private transportation.....	206.133	197.195	197.741	-7.2	-4.1	0.3
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	91.029	90.428	93.208	3.5	2.4	3.1
New vehicles(1).....	206.395	206.343	210.982	3.3	2.2	2.2
Used cars and trucks(1).....	271.931	269.102	267.082	-0.3	-1.8	-0.8
Motor fuel.....	197.019	179.650	171.070	-28.1	-13.2	-4.8
Gasoline (all types).....	195.949	178.549	169.939	-28.3	-13.3	-4.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	193.704	176.078	167.074	-29.3	-13.7	-5.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	211.825	196.358	188.304	-22.0	-11.1	-4.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	213.898	198.041	192.902	-20.6	-9.8	-2.6
Motor vehicle insurance(1).....	792.842	688.887	681.767	-10.5	-14.0	-1.0
Medical care.....	530.628	531.356	531.938	5.2	0.2	0.1
Recreation(3).....	130.358	130.864	139.590	10.7	7.1	6.7
Education and communication(3).....	148.035	148.037	147.976	2.5	0.0	0.0
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1).....	1,256.467	1,256.467	1,257.297	4.3	0.1	0.1
Other goods and services.....	440.648	442.267	440.712	1.2	0.0	-0.4

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-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA, not seasonally adjusted (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	March 2020	April 2020	May 2020	May 2019	March 2020	April 2020
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	281.975	280.623	282.092	1.4	0.0	0.5
Commodities .....	190.403	189.595	189.287	-1.7	-0.6	-0.2
Commodities less food and beverages .....	140.638	136.573	134.733	-7.7	-4.2	-1.3
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	178.482	170.999	167.136	-11.0	-6.4	-2.3
Durables .....	92.559	91.955	92.107	-1.3	-0.5	0.2
Services.....	358.515	356.716	359.558	2.7	0.3	0.8
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	271.191	269.752	271.257	1.1	0.0	0.6
All items less shelter.....	238.170	236.577	238.576	1.1	0.2	0.8
Commodities less food .....	145.452	141.473	139.709	-7.1	-3.9	-1.2
Nondurables .....	227.565	226.725	226.177	-1.8	-0.6	-0.2
Nondurables less food.....	184.087	177.013	173.433	-9.9	-5.8	-2.0
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	333.199	330.281	335.975	3.5	0.8	1.7
Services less medical care services.....	343.745	341.700	344.625	2.3	0.3	0.9
Energy .....	189.692	179.746	177.516	-13.5	-6.4	-1.2
All items less energy .....	292.781	292.130	293.925	2.4	0.4	0.6
All items less food and energy .....	297.954	296.045	297.611	1.9	-0.1	0.5

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.