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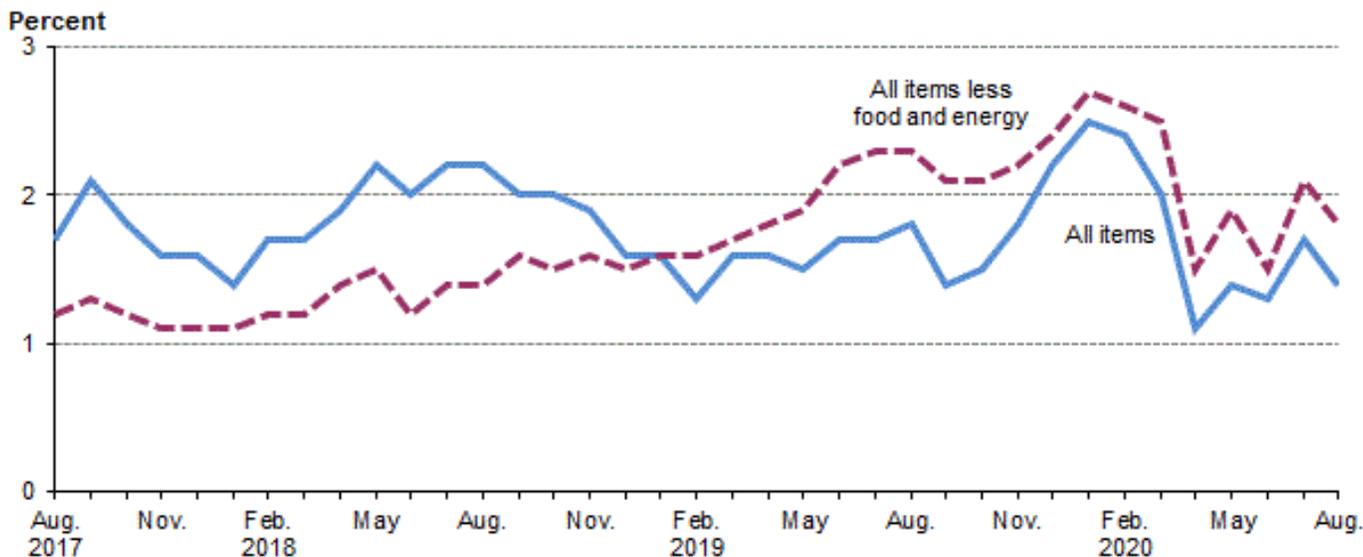
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Consumer Price Index, New York-Newark-Jersey City – August 2020 **Area prices down 0.1 percent over the month and up 1.4 percent over the year**

Prices in the New York-Newark-Jersey City area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), ticked down 0.1 percent in August, after increasing 0.5 percent in July, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Chief Regional Economist Martin Kohli attributed the downturn to falling prices for energy. (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 rose 1.8 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, August 2017–August 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index was unchanged in August, after dropping 0.8 percent in July. A 0.7-percent rise in prices for food away from home was offset by a 0.5-percent decline in prices for food at home. Among the groceries with lower prices in August were uncooked beef steaks; rice, pasta, cornmeal; and snacks.

For the year ended in August 2020, the food index rose 3.9 percent. Prices for food at home increased 4.4 percent, and prices for food away from home rose 3.3 percent.

Energy

The energy index declined 1.8 percent in August, after a 0.2-percent rise in July. Prices for household energy decreased 2.6 percent. Often down in August, electricity prices fell 4.1 percent. By contrast, prices for natural gas edged up 0.2 percent. Gasoline prices retreated 0.6 percent in August after advancing 2.5 percent in July and 2.6 percent in June.

Over the year, energy prices dropped 8.9 percent, primarily due to a 21.0-percent fall in gasoline prices. Household energy prices edged down 0.2 percent, with price declines for fuel oil and other fuels largely offset by increases in prices for electricity (3.6 percent) and for natural gas (0.7 percent).

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy was flat in August, after advancing 0.7 percent in July. A seasonal increase in apparel prices (4.1 percent) led the components with higher prices in August. Other categories with rising prices included recreation (1.1 percent), used cars and trucks (5.9 percent), and household furnishings and operations (1.1 percent). These increases were partly offset by price declines for new vehicles (-0.9 percent) and motor vehicle insurance (-0.6 percent).

From August 2019 to August 2020, the index for all items less food and energy rose 1.8 percent. A 1.7-percent increase in shelter prices included a 2.2-percent rise in owners' equivalent rent and a 1.7-percent increase in residential rent. Recreation prices advanced 6.6 percent, and medical care prices rose 4.6 percent. A 2.6-percent rise in prices for tuition, other school fees, and childcare contributed to a 2.4-percent increase in prices for education and communication.

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 ^(r)	0.9 ^(r)	0.2	1.8	0.1	2.0	0.3	1.7	0.1	1.3
July.....	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	1.0	-0.2	1.6	0.0	2.2	0.0	1.7	0.5	1.7
August.....	0.1	0.1	0.2	1.1	0.2	1.7	0.1	2.2	0.2	1.8	-0.1	1.4
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		

Footnotes:
(R) = revised.

CPI-W

In August, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 277.920, unchanged over the month. The CPI-W rose 1.5 percent over the year.

The September 2020 Consumer Price Index for New York-Newark-Jersey City is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on August 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 August 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 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 (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-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-		
	June 2020	July 2020	Aug. 2020	Aug. 2019	June 2020	July 2020
Expenditure category						
All items.....	282.333	283.624	283.478	1.4	0.4	-0.1
All items (1967=100).....	816.185	819.917	819.497			
Food and beverages.....	283.866	281.823	282.014	3.8	-0.7	0.1
Food.....	284.462	282.301	282.440	3.9	-0.7	0.0
Food at home.....	272.888	270.732	269.424	4.4	-1.3	-0.5
Cereals and bakery products.....	319.724	324.531	313.247	2.5	-2.0	-3.5
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	280.832	270.862	270.925	7.0	-3.5	0.0
Dairy and related products.....	242.453	238.469	240.784	5.6	-0.7	1.0
Fruits and vegetables.....	338.841	340.323	339.187	4.7	0.1	-0.3
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1).....	265.127	263.544	260.941	2.0	-1.6	-1.0
Other food at home.....	234.973	235.371	235.980	3.4	0.4	0.3
Food away from home.....	308.662	306.433	308.617	3.3	0.0	0.7
Alcoholic beverages.....	270.889	270.502	271.408	1.9	0.2	0.3
Housing.....	308.680	308.945	308.825	1.7	0.0	0.0
Shelter.....	391.894	392.217	392.469	1.7	0.1	0.1
Rent of primary residence.....	408.318	408.845	409.042	1.7	0.2	0.0
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(2).....	400.381	400.502	400.991	2.2	0.2	0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(2).....	399.885	400.007	400.495	2.2	0.2	0.1
Fuels and utilities.....	200.896	199.345	194.955	0.5	-3.0	-2.2
Household energy.....	191.006	189.199	184.341	-0.2	-3.5	-2.6
Energy services.....	189.809	186.915	181.590	3.5	-4.3	-2.8
Electricity.....	197.758	193.784	185.850	3.6	-6.0	-4.1
Utility (piped) gas service.....	160.704	160.179	160.473	0.7	-0.1	0.2
Household furnishings and operations.....	109.907	111.080	112.355	3.1	2.2	1.1
Apparel.....	112.850	114.472	119.120	-3.6	5.6	4.1
Transportation.....	212.644	214.264	209.508	-6.0	-1.5	-2.2
Private transportation.....	201.678	204.084	204.697	-2.5	1.5	0.3
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	93.299	93.556	94.374	4.3	1.2	0.9
New vehicles(1).....	207.321	210.085	208.100	3.1	0.4	-0.9
Used cars and trucks(1).....	264.089	273.042	289.087	4.4	9.5	5.9
Motor fuel.....	175.435	179.673	178.672	-20.9	1.8	-0.6
Gasoline (all types).....	174.363	178.664	177.649	-21.0	1.9	-0.6
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	171.671	176.016	174.825	-21.8	1.8	-0.7
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	191.973	195.698	195.991	-16.2	2.1	0.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	195.890	199.925	200.242	-15.3	2.2	0.2
Motor vehicle insurance(1).....	746.338	772.419	767.531	1.3	2.8	-0.6
Medical care.....	536.188	539.187	539.804	4.6	0.7	0.1
Recreation(3).....	129.484	133.697	135.169	6.6	4.4	1.1
Education and communication(3).....	147.716	149.780	150.265	2.4	1.7	0.3
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1).....	1,258.241	1,263.874	1,267.144	2.6	0.7	0.3
Other goods and services.....	439.746	445.023	444.398	1.0	1.1	-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-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA, not seasonally adjusted (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	June 2020	July 2020	Aug. 2020	Aug. 2019	June 2020	July 2020
Commodity and service group						
All items	282.333	283.624	283.478	1.4	0.4	-0.1
Commodities	189.546	190.178	191.619	-0.4	1.1	0.8
Commodities less food and beverages	135.230	137.031	138.946	-3.9	2.7	1.4
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	168.504	170.691	173.121	-6.9	2.7	1.4
Durables	91.778	93.050	94.311	1.9	2.8	1.4
Services.....	359.791	361.612	360.276	2.1	0.1	-0.4
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	271.329	272.547	272.370	1.2	0.4	-0.1
All items less shelter.....	238.851	240.526	240.223	1.3	0.6	-0.1
Commodities less food	140.139	141.885	143.783	-3.6	2.6	1.3
Nondurables	226.759	226.938	228.325	-0.9	0.7	0.6
Nondurables less food.....	174.616	176.655	178.999	-6.2	2.5	1.3
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	336.311	339.715	336.710	2.7	0.1	-0.9
Services less medical care services.....	344.585	346.257	344.830	1.7	0.1	-0.4
Energy	187.978	188.409	184.925	-8.9	-1.6	-1.8
All items less energy	293.315	294.692	294.824	2.1	0.5	0.0
All items less food and energy	296.928	298.894	299.026	1.8	0.7	0.0

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.