



For Release: Tuesday, October 13, 2020

20-1923-NEW

NEW YORK–NEW JERSEY INFORMATION OFFICE: New York City, N.Y.

Technical information: (646) 264-3600 BLSinfoNY@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/new-york-new-jersey

Media contact: (646) 264-3620

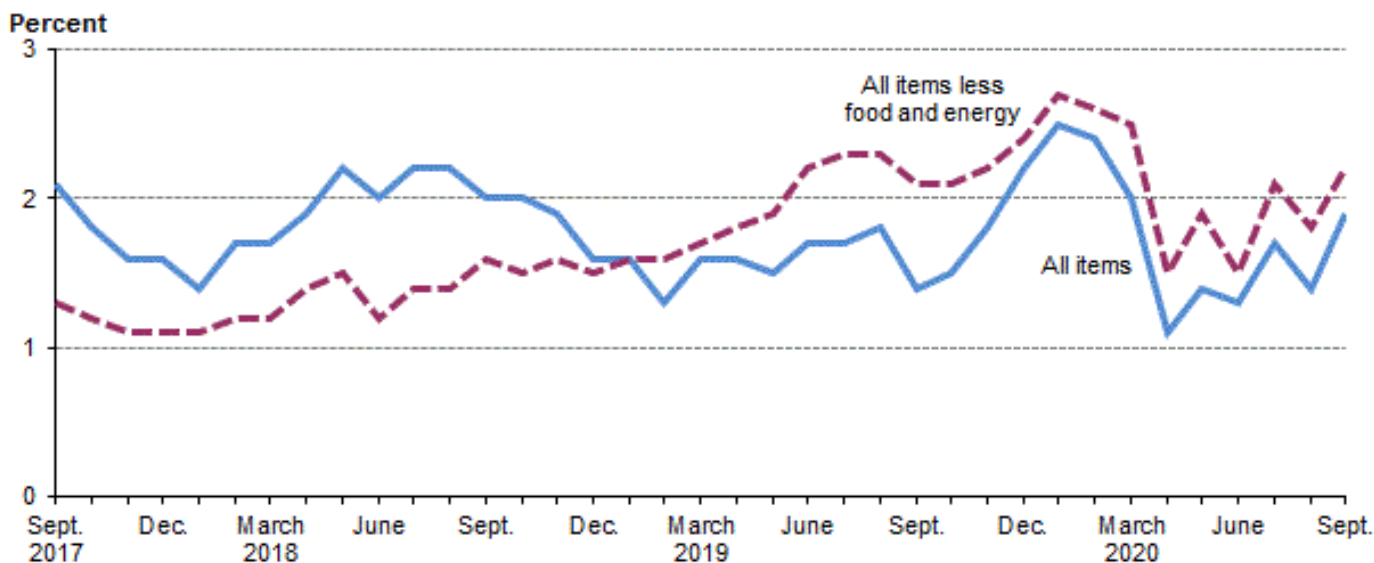
Consumer Price Index, New York-Newark-Jersey City – September 2020

Area prices up 0.4 percent over the month and 1.9 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 0.4 percent in September, after ticking down 0.1 percent in August, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Chief Regional Economist Martin Kohli attributed the upturn primarily to increases in apparel and shelter prices. (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 1.9 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The index for all items less food and energy rose 2.2 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, September 2017–September 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index edged down 0.1 percent in September, after no change in August. Prices for food at home declined 0.5 percent, with lower prices reported in four of the six major grocery groups. Among groceries with lower prices in September were ground beef; and spices, seasonings, condiments, sauces. By contrast, prices for food away from home rose 0.4 percent.

For the year ended in September 2020, the food index rose 3.7 percent. Prices for food at home and for food away from home rose 3.7 percent each.

Energy

The energy index increased 0.2 percent in September, after a 1.8-percent decline in August. Gasoline prices advanced 0.8 percent, after retreating 0.6 percent in August. Household energy declined 0.2 percent, with price increases for electricity (0.7 percent) offset by declines for natural gas (-1.2 percent).

Over the year, energy prices dropped 7.2 percent, primarily due to a 16.4-percent fall in gasoline prices. A 1.0-percent decline in household energy prices included declines for natural gas (-0.5 percent) among other items, and increases for electricity (2.7 percent).

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 0.5 percent in September, after no change in August. A seasonal increase in apparel prices (5.3 percent) was among the components with higher prices in September. Shelter prices rose 0.3 percent, with increases reported for residential rent (0.2 percent), owners' equivalent rent (0.1 percent), and out-of-town lodging. These increases were partially offset by a 2.8-percent decrease in the index for recreation.

From September 2019 to September 2020, the index for all items less food and energy rose 2.2 percent. A 1.6-percent increase in shelter prices included a 2.1-percent rise in owners' equivalent rent and a 1.6-percent increase in residential rent. Recreation prices advanced 6.8 percent, medical care prices rose 3.6 percent, and new and used motor vehicles rose 5.8 percent. A 2.7-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	0.4	1.9
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 September, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 278.916, up 0.4 percent over the month. The CPI-W rose 1.9 percent over the year.

The October 2020 Consumer Price Index for New York-Newark-Jersey City is scheduled to be released on Thursday, November 12, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on September 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 September 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.

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.

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-		
	July 2020	Aug. 2020	Sept. 2020	Sept. 2019	July 2020	Aug. 2020
Expenditure category						
All items.....	283.624	283.478	284.551	1.9	0.3	0.4
All items (1967=100).....	819.917	819.497	822.597			
Food and beverages.....	281.823	282.014	281.898	3.6	0.0	0.0
Food.....	282.301	282.440	282.165	3.7	0.0	-0.1
Food at home.....	270.732	269.424	268.109	3.7	-1.0	-0.5
Cereals and bakery products.....	324.531	313.247	307.449	1.2	-5.3	-1.9
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	270.862	270.925	267.103	5.6	-1.4	-1.4
Dairy and related products.....	238.469	240.784	239.143	3.8	0.3	-0.7
Fruits and vegetables.....	340.323	339.187	340.519	2.5	0.1	0.4
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1).....	263.544	260.941	266.563	4.3	1.1	2.2
Other food at home.....	235.371	235.980	234.735	4.5	-0.3	-0.5
Food away from home.....	306.433	308.617	309.803	3.7	1.1	0.4
Alcoholic beverages.....	270.502	271.408	273.471	1.8	1.1	0.8
Housing.....	308.945	308.825	309.494	1.5	0.2	0.2
Shelter.....	392.217	392.469	393.526	1.6	0.3	0.3
Rent of primary residence.....	408.845	409.042	409.663	1.6	0.2	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(2).....	400.502	400.991	401.553	2.1	0.3	0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(2).....	400.007	400.495	401.056	2.1	0.3	0.1
Fuels and utilities.....	199.345	194.955	194.692	-0.2	-2.3	-0.1
Household energy.....	189.199	184.341	184.050	-1.0	-2.7	-0.2
Energy services.....	186.915	181.590	181.764	2.6	-2.8	0.1
Electricity.....	193.784	185.850	187.088	2.7	-3.5	0.7
Utility (piped) gas service.....	160.179	160.473	158.493	-0.5	-1.1	-1.2
Household furnishings and operations.....	111.080	112.355	112.355	2.2	1.1	0.0
Apparel.....	114.472	119.120	125.376	0.2	9.5	5.3
Transportation.....	214.264	209.508	214.911	-2.1	0.3	2.6
Private transportation.....	204.084	204.697	205.508	-0.3	0.7	0.4
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	93.556	94.374	94.067	5.8	0.5	-0.3
New vehicles(1).....	210.085	208.100	206.180	1.9	-1.9	-0.9
Used cars and trucks(1).....	273.042	289.087	295.322	10.6	8.2	2.2
Motor fuel.....	179.673	178.672	179.975	-16.3	0.2	0.7
Gasoline (all types).....	178.664	177.649	179.004	-16.4	0.2	0.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	176.016	174.825	176.367	-17.0	0.2	0.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	195.698	195.991	195.894	-13.1	0.1	0.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	199.925	200.242	200.198	-12.2	0.1	0.0
Motor vehicle insurance(1).....	772.419	767.531	755.232	-0.3	-2.2	-1.6
Medical care.....	539.187	539.804	536.138	3.6	-0.6	-0.7
Recreation(3).....	133.697	135.169	131.429	6.8	-1.7	-2.8
Education and communication(3).....	149.780	150.265	150.721	2.4	0.6	0.3
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1).....	1,263.874	1,267.144	1,274.912	2.7	0.9	0.6
Other goods and services.....	445.023	444.398	448.398	2.1	0.8	0.9

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-		
	July 2020	Aug. 2020	Sept. 2020	Sept. 2019	July 2020	Aug. 2020
Commodity and service group						
All items	283.624	283.478	284.551	1.9	0.3	0.4
Commodities	190.178	191.619	192.413	0.4	1.2	0.4
Commodities less food and beverages	137.031	138.946	140.101	-2.3	2.2	0.8
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	170.691	173.121	175.587	-4.3	2.9	1.4
Durables	93.050	94.311	94.180	1.5	1.2	-0.1
Services.....	361.612	360.276	361.587	2.4	0.0	0.4
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	272.547	272.370	273.640	1.7	0.4	0.5
All items less shelter.....	240.526	240.223	241.302	2.0	0.3	0.4
Commodities less food	141.885	143.783	144.972	-2.0	2.2	0.8
Nondurables	226.938	228.325	229.582	0.2	1.2	0.6
Nondurables less food.....	176.655	178.999	181.444	-3.8	2.7	1.4
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	339.715	336.710	338.308	3.4	-0.4	0.5
Services less medical care services.....	346.257	344.830	346.372	2.1	0.0	0.4
Energy	188.409	184.925	185.227	-7.2	-1.7	0.2
All items less energy	294.692	294.824	295.972	2.4	0.4	0.4
All items less food and energy	298.894	299.026	300.415	2.2	0.5	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.