NEWS RELEASE
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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ERRATA Incorrect prices for prescription drugs were used for the CPI-U and CPI-W indexes from May through August 2016 in a number of areas. Several indexes were affected, including the all items and medical care indexes. A list of the series affected can be found at www.bls.gov/bls/errata/cpi-price-corrections-10182016.htm, and the corrected data are available in the CPI database (www.bls.gov/cpi/data.htm).

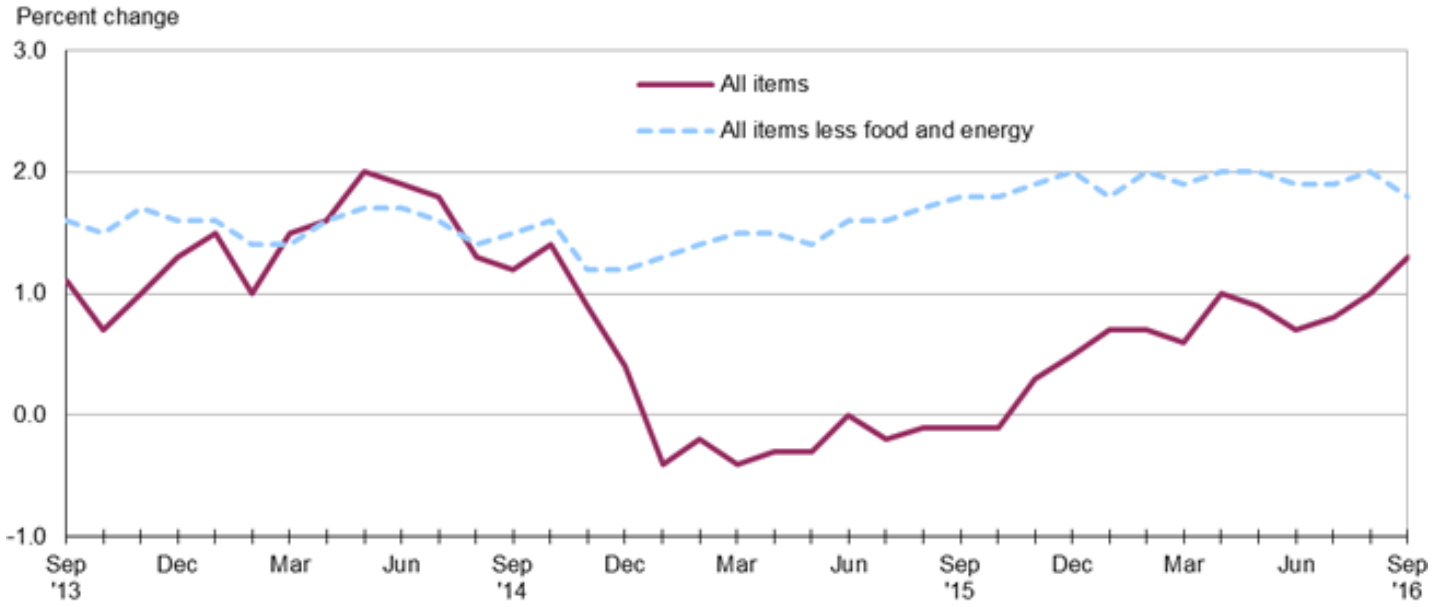
Consumer Price Index, Northeast Region – September 2016

Regional prices up 0.2 over the month and 1.3 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Northeast edged up 0.2 percent in September, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that the all items less energy index and the energy index increased over the month, up 0.1 and 1.3 percent, respectively. Food prices also rose since August, inching up 0.1 percent. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the Northeast all items CPI-U increased 1.3 percent, due to a 1.8-percent advance in the all items less food and energy index. (See chart 1 and table A.) The energy index declined 2.6 percent, while the food index was unchanged. (See table 1.)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Northeast region, September 2013–September 2016



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index inched up 0.1 percent over the month. Prices for food away from home edged up 0.3 percent, while prices for food at home were unchanged.

From September 2015 to September 2016, the food index was unchanged as a 1.8-percent decrease in prices for food at home was offset by a 2.6-percent increase in those for food away from home.

Energy

The energy index, which includes prices for household and transportation fuels, rose 1.3 percent since August, due largely to a 1.9-percent increase in gasoline prices. Prices also increased for electricity and utility (piped) gas service, up 0.8 and 0.7 percent, respectively.

The energy index declined 2.6 percent since September 2015, led by a 5.9-percent decrease in gasoline prices. Prices for utility (piped) gas service and electricity advanced over the year, up 3.6 and 0.3 percent, respectively.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy inched up 0.1 percent in September, led by a seasonal increase in apparel prices (3.9 percent). Prices for education and communication also increased, up 0.3 percent over the month. These and other increases were moderated by a 0.8-percent decline in prices for new and used motor vehicles.

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.8 percent, led by higher prices for shelter (2.6 percent). Prices were also higher over the year for medical care (4.2 percent), among others.

Table A. Northeast region CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January	0.4	2.9	0.3	1.8	0.6	1.5	-0.2	-0.4	0.0	0.7
February	0.4	2.8	0.6	2.0	0.1	1.0	0.2	-0.2	0.2	0.7
March	0.5	2.5	0.0	1.5	0.5	1.5	0.3	-0.4	0.2	0.6
April	0.3	2.3	-0.1	1.1	0.0	1.6	0.1	-0.3	0.6	1.0
May	-0.1	1.7	0.0	1.2	0.4	2.0	0.4	-0.3	0.3	0.9
June	-0.2	1.5	0.1	1.5	0.0	1.9	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.7
July	-0.1	1.1	0.2	1.8	0.1	1.8	-0.1	-0.2	0.0	0.8
August	0.5	1.3	0.2	1.5	-0.3	1.3	-0.2	-0.1	0.1	1.0
September	0.5	1.7	0.1	1.1	0.0	1.2	0.0	-0.1	0.2	1.3
October	0.1	1.9	-0.4	0.7	-0.2	1.4	-0.2	-0.1		
November	-0.2	1.8	0.1	1.0	-0.4	0.9	0.0	0.3		
December	-0.3	1.8	0.0	1.3	-0.5	0.4	-0.4	0.5		

The Consumer Price Index for October 2016 is scheduled to be released Thursday, November 17, 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 4,000 housing units and approximately 26,000 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 Northeast region is comprised of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Northeast Region, (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted)

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	Jul. 2016	Aug. 2016	Sep. 2016	Sep. 2015	Jul. 2016	Aug. 2016
All items		(r) 255.386	(r) 255.545	256.085	1.3	(r) 0.3	(r) 0.2
All items (December 1977 = 100)		(r) 402.155	(r) 402.405	403.256			
Food and beverages		252.342	252.298	252.703	0.1	0.1	0.2
Food		252.378	252.325	252.651	0.0	0.1	0.1
Food at home		244.816	244.587	244.649	-1.8	-0.1	0.0
Food away from home		266.926	267.145	267.880	2.6	0.4	0.3
Alcoholic beverages		250.699	250.758	252.193	1.1	0.6	0.6
Housing		270.407	270.680	270.956	2.0	0.2	0.1
Shelter		335.313	336.263	336.165	2.6	0.3	0.0
Rent of primary residence [1]		334.853	335.487	336.255	2.5	0.4	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of residences [1] [2]		346.019	346.822	347.977	2.7	0.6	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence [1] [2]		345.739	346.541	347.698	2.7	0.6	0.3
Fuels and utilities		208.943	207.358	209.038	0.4	0.0	0.8
Household energy		184.098	182.288	184.037	-0.1	0.0	1.0
Energy services [1]		186.676	185.251	186.718	1.1	0.0	0.8
Electricity [1]		197.943	196.601	198.193	0.3	0.1	0.8
Utility (piped) gas service [1]		149.579	148.078	149.177	3.6	-0.3	0.7
Household furnishings and operations		120.854	120.230	120.761	-1.7	-0.1	0.4
Apparel		127.212	131.494	136.636	1.1	7.4	3.9
Transportation		197.243	194.974	194.673	-1.2	-1.3	-0.2
Private transportation		188.370	186.611	186.546	-1.3	-1.0	0.0
New and used motor vehicles [3]		97.594	97.158	96.364	-1.9	-1.3	-0.8
New vehicles		145.629	145.616	145.498	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1
New cars and trucks [3] [4]		100.885	100.875	100.799	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1
New cars [4]		136.594	136.451	136.312	-1.0	-0.2	-0.1
Used cars and trucks		152.541	151.755	149.137	-4.2	-2.2	-1.7
Motor fuel		190.982	183.214	186.738	-5.9	-2.2	1.9
Gasoline (all types)		190.233	182.452	185.974	-5.9	-2.2	1.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular [4]		187.561	179.498	183.112	-6.1	-2.4	2.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade [4] [5]		204.866	197.839	201.184	-5.1	-1.8	1.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium [4]		200.745	195.160	198.018	-5.2	-1.4	1.5
Medical care		(r) 486.995	(r) 488.309	488.584	4.2	(r) 0.3	(r) 0.1
Medical care commodities		(r) 388.179	(r) 388.987	391.669	4.2	(r) 0.9	(r) 0.7
Medical care services		(r) 514.773	(r) 516.243	515.694	4.2	(r) 0.2	(r) -0.1
Professional services		374.076	374.265	373.646	2.9	-0.1	-0.2
Recreation [3]		120.913	121.040	121.237	0.4	0.3	0.2
Education and communication [3]		140.870	141.590	142.021	1.0	0.8	0.3
Other goods and services		463.534	466.240	467.312	3.2	0.8	0.2
Commodity and service group							
Commodities		(r) 184.642	(r) 184.513	185.596	-0.9	(r) 0.5	(r) 0.6
Commodities less food and beverages		(r) 147.917	(r) 147.760	149.063	-1.6	(r) 0.8	(r) 0.9
Nondurables less food and beverages		(r) 184.618	(r) 184.781	188.047	-0.9	(r) 1.9	(r) 1.8
Durables		105.176	104.785	104.437	-2.4	-0.7	-0.3

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, Northeast Region, (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted) - Continued

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	Jul. 2016	Aug. 2016	Sep. 2016	Sep. 2015	Jul. 2016	Aug. 2016
Services		(r) 323.701	(r) 324.117	324.190	2.4	(r) 0.2	(r) 0.0
Special aggregate indexes							
All items less shelter		(r) 227.921	(r) 227.790	228.569	0.5	(r) 0.3	(r) 0.3
All items less medical care		245.212	245.319	245.872	1.0	0.3	0.2
Commodities less food		(r) 151.619	(r) 151.468	152.782	-1.5	(r) 0.8	(r) 0.9
Nondurables		(r) 218.223	(r) 218.290	220.237	-0.4	(r) 0.9	(r) 0.9
Nondurables less food		(r) 188.480	(r) 188.638	191.794	-0.7	(r) 1.8	(r) 1.7
Services less rent of shelter (2)		(r) 322.464	(r) 322.326	322.581	2.2	(r) 0.0	(r) 0.1
Services less medical care services		310.518	310.865	310.978	2.2	0.1	0.0
Energy		187.052	182.872	185.329	-2.6	-0.9	1.3
All items less energy		(r) 264.954	(r) 265.552	265.904	1.5	(r) 0.4	(r) 0.1
All items less food and energy		(r) 268.874	(r) 269.587	269.946	1.8	(r) 0.4	(r) 0.1

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) 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.
(R) Revised
Note: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.