NEWS RELEASE
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

For Release: Thursday, November 17, 2016 **16-2202-PHI**

MID-ATLANTIC INFORMATION OFFICE: Philadelphia, Pa.
Technical information: (215) 597-3282 BLSInfoPhiladelphia@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/mid-atlantic
Media contact: (215) 861-5600 BLSMediaPhiladelphia@bls.gov

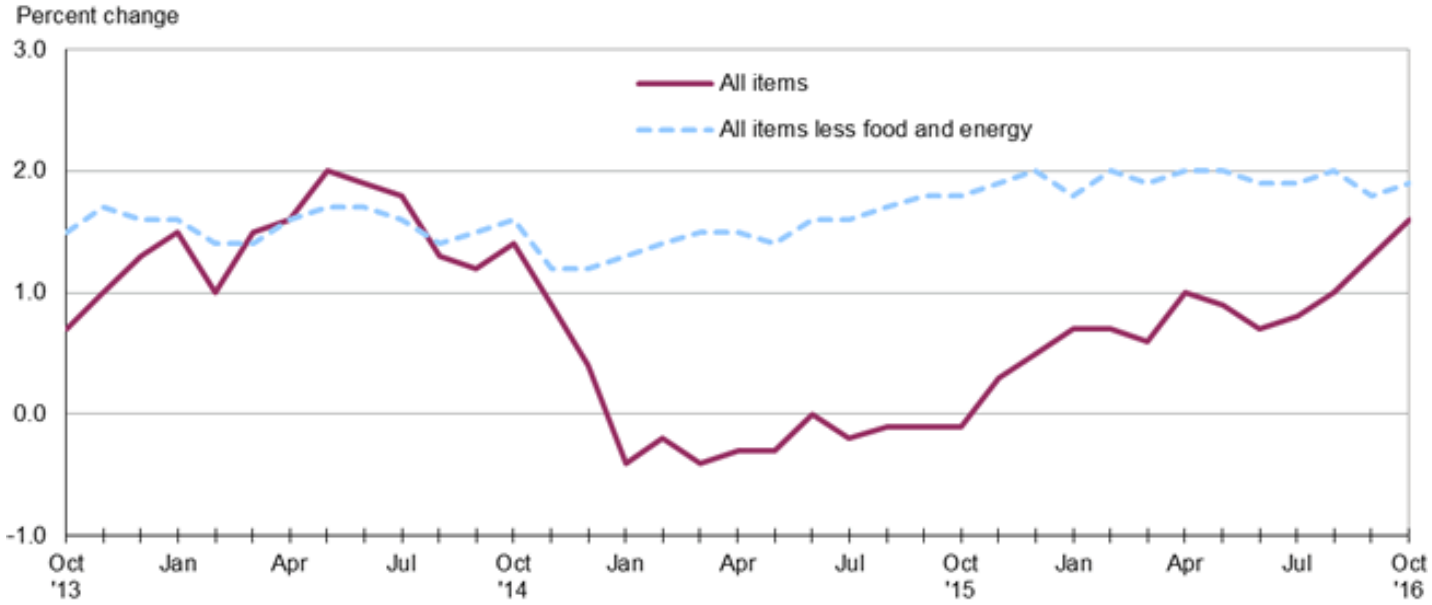
Consumer Price Index, Northeast Region – October 2016

Regional prices up 0.2 over the month and 1.6 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Northeast edged up 0.2 percent in October, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that the all items less food and energy index and the energy index increased over the month, up 0.2 percent each. Food prices were unchanged since September. (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 1.6 percent, due almost entirely to a 1.9-percent advance in the all items less food and energy index. (See chart 1 and table A.) The energy index also increased, up 1.2 percent, while the food index inched down 0.1 percent. (See table 1.)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index was unchanged over the month as prices for food away from home edged up 0.2 percent and prices for food at home inched down 0.1 percent.

From October 2015 to October 2016, the food index declined 0.1 percent, as a 2.0-percent decrease in prices for food at home was mostly offset by a 2.7-percent increase in those for food away from home.

Energy

The energy index, which includes prices for household and transportation fuels, rose 0.2 percent since September, due to a 1.8-percent increase in gasoline prices. Prices decreased for electricity and utility (piped) gas service, down 2.4 and 0.1 percent, respectively.

Over the year, the energy index increased 1.2 percent, the first 12-month increase in this index since July 2014. The advance was led by a 6.2-percent rise in utility (piped) gas service prices. Prices for gasoline and electricity also rose over the year, up 1.2 and 0.5 percent, respectively.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy edged up 0.2 percent over the month, led by an increase in shelter prices (0.4 percent). Prices for apparel also increased, up 0.6 percent over the month. These and other increases were moderated by a 1.8-percent decline in prices for used cars and trucks.

The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.9 percent since October 2015, led by higher prices for shelter (2.9 percent). Prices were also higher over the year for medical care (3.7 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	0.2	1.6
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 November 2016 is scheduled to be released Thursday, December 15, 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.

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

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	Aug. 2016	Sep. 2016	Oct. 2016	Oct. 2015	Aug. 2016	Sep. 2016
All items		255.545	256.085	256.605	1.6	0.4	0.2
All items (December 1977 = 100)		402.405	403.256	404.075			
Food and beverages		252.298	252.703	252.757	0.0	0.2	0.0
Food		252.325	252.651	252.692	-0.1	0.1	0.0
Food at home		244.587	244.649	244.455	-2.0	-0.1	-0.1
Food away from home		267.145	267.880	268.284	2.7	0.4	0.2
Alcoholic beverages		250.758	252.193	252.416	1.2	0.7	0.1
Housing		270.680	270.956	271.486	2.3	0.3	0.2
Shelter		336.263	336.165	337.408	2.9	0.3	0.4
Rent of primary residence [1]		335.487	336.255	337.863	2.7	0.7	0.5
Owners' equivalent rent of residences [1] [2]		346.822	347.977	349.352	3.0	0.7	0.4
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence [1] [2]		346.541	347.698	349.062	3.0	0.7	0.4
Fuels and utilities		207.358	209.038	207.521	1.6	0.1	-0.7
Household energy		182.288	184.037	182.415	1.4	0.1	-0.9
Energy services [1]		185.251	186.718	183.315	1.9	-1.0	-1.8
Electricity [1]		196.601	198.193	193.371	0.5	-1.6	-2.4
Utility (piped) gas service [1]		148.078	149.177	149.029	6.2	0.6	-0.1
Household furnishings and operations		120.230	120.761	120.438	-2.3	0.2	-0.3
Apparel		131.494	136.636	137.452	2.9	4.5	0.6
Transportation		194.974	194.673	195.764	0.5	0.4	0.6
Private transportation		186.611	186.546	187.453	0.6	0.5	0.5
New and used motor vehicles [3]		97.158	96.364	96.303	-1.2	-0.9	-0.1
New vehicles		145.616	145.498	146.020	0.6	0.3	0.4
New cars and trucks [3] [4]		100.875	100.799	101.159	0.6	0.3	0.4
New cars [4]		136.451	136.312	137.127	0.0	0.5	0.6
Used cars and trucks		151.755	149.137	146.400	-4.2	-3.5	-1.8
Motor fuel		183.214	186.738	190.178	1.2	3.8	1.8
Gasoline (all types)		182.452	185.974	189.394	1.2	3.8	1.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular [4]		179.498	183.112	186.638	1.4	4.0	1.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade [4] [5]		197.839	201.184	203.945	0.8	3.1	1.4
Gasoline, unleaded premium [4]		195.160	198.018	200.670	0.3	2.8	1.3
Medical care		488.309	488.584	488.866	3.7	0.1	0.1
Medical care commodities		388.987	391.669	391.216	4.1	0.6	-0.1
Medical care services		516.243	515.694	516.222	3.6	0.0	0.1
Professional services		374.265	373.646	372.793	2.7	-0.4	-0.2
Recreation [3]		121.040	121.237	121.178	0.2	0.1	0.0
Education and communication [3]		141.590	142.021	142.152	0.7	0.4	0.1
Other goods and services		466.240	467.312	468.052	3.0	0.4	0.2
Commodity and service group							
Commodities		184.513	185.596	185.898	-0.1	0.8	0.2
Commodities less food and beverages		147.760	149.063	149.451	-0.2	1.1	0.3
Nondurables less food and beverages		184.781	188.047	189.667	1.6	2.6	0.9
Durables		104.785	104.437	103.829	-2.6	-0.9	-0.6

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	Aug. 2016	Sep. 2016	Oct. 2016	Oct. 2015	Aug. 2016	Sep. 2016
Services		324.117	324.190	324.914	2.5	0.2	0.2
Special aggregate indexes							
All items less shelter		227.790	228.569	228.826	0.9	0.5	0.1
All items less medical care		245.319	245.872	246.403	1.4	0.4	0.2
Commodities less food		151.468	152.782	153.167	-0.1	1.1	0.3
Nondurables		218.290	220.237	221.134	0.8	1.3	0.4
Nondurables less food		188.638	191.794	193.330	1.6	2.5	0.8
Services less rent of shelter [2]		322.326	322.581	322.767	2.1	0.1	0.1
Services less medical care services		310.865	310.978	311.713	2.4	0.3	0.2
Energy		182.872	185.329	185.717	1.2	1.6	0.2
All items less energy		265.552	265.904	266.443	1.7	0.3	0.2
All items less food and energy		269.587	269.946	270.572	1.9	0.4	0.2

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