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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

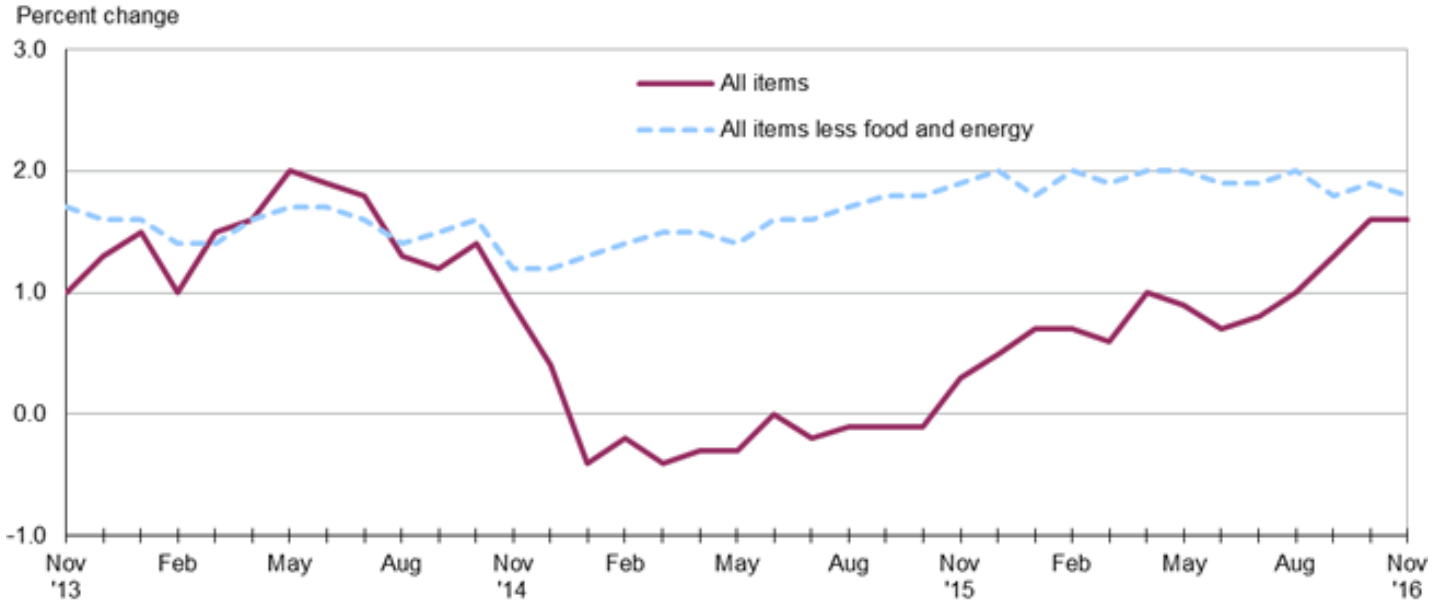
Consumer Price Index, Northeast Region – November 2016

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

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Northeast was unchanged in November, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that a 1.4-percent increase in the energy index was offset by a 0.1-percent decrease in the all items less food and energy index and a 0.2-percent decline in the food index over the month. (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 1.8-percent advance in the all items less food and energy index. (See chart 1 and table A.) The energy index also increased, up 1.7 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, November 2013–November 2016



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index edged down 0.2 percent since October. Prices for food at home declined 0.5 percent, while prices for food away from home inched up 0.1 percent over the month.

From November 2015 to November 2016, the food index declined 0.1 percent, as a 2.0-percent decrease in prices for food at home was nearly 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, increased 1.4 percent since October, led by a 2.5-percent rise in gasoline prices. Prices for utility (piped) gas service also increased over the month, up 4.2 percent, while electricity prices declined 0.4 percent.

The energy index increased 1.7 percent since November 2015, led by a 4.3-percent increase in gasoline prices. Prices for utility (piped) gas service also increased over the year, up 3.2 percent, while prices decreased for electricity, down 0.8 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy inched down 0.1 percent over the month, led by a seasonal decrease in apparel prices (-4.1 percent). Prices for new and used motor vehicles also decreased, down 0.9 percent over the month. These and other decreases were moderated by a 0.2-percent increase in shelter prices.

The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.8 percent since November 2015, led by higher prices for shelter (3.1 percent). Prices were also higher over the year for several categories including medical care (3.5 percent).

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	0.0	1.6
December	-0.3	1.8	0.0	1.3	-0.5	0.4	-0.4	0.5		

The Consumer Price Index for December 2016 is scheduled to be released Wednesday, January 18, 2017, 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	Sep. 2016	Oct. 2016	Nov. 2016	Nov. 2015	Sep. 2016	Oct. 2016
All items		256.085	256.605	256.541	1.6	0.2	0.0
All items (December 1977 = 100)		403.256	404.075	403.973			
Food and beverages		252.703	252.757	252.154	0.0	-0.2	-0.2
Food		252.651	252.692	252.075	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2
Food at home		244.649	244.455	243.192	-2.0	-0.6	-0.5
Food away from home		267.880	268.284	268.657	2.7	0.3	0.1
Alcoholic beverages		252.193	252.416	251.988	1.2	-0.1	-0.2
Housing		270.956	271.486	271.939	2.3	0.4	0.2
Shelter		336.165	337.408	338.115	3.1	0.6	0.2
Rent of primary residence(1)		336.255	337.863	338.469	2.7	0.7	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(1)(2)		347.977	349.352	350.317	3.1	0.7	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(1)(2)		347.698	349.062	350.027	3.1	0.7	0.3
Fuels and utilities		209.038	207.521	208.707	0.6	-0.2	0.6
Household energy		184.037	182.415	183.514	0.1	-0.3	0.6
Energy services(1)		186.718	183.315	184.805	0.3	-1.0	0.8
Electricity(1)		198.193	193.371	192.593	-0.8	-2.8	-0.4
Utility (piped) gas service(1)		149.177	149.029	155.236	3.2	4.1	4.2
Household furnishings and operations		120.761	120.438	119.519	-2.9	-1.0	-0.8
Apparel		136.636	137.452	131.786	0.8	-3.5	-4.1
Transportation		194.673	195.764	196.399	0.6	0.9	0.3
Private transportation		186.546	187.453	188.061	1.1	0.8	0.3
New and used motor vehicles(3)		96.364	96.303	95.391	-1.9	-1.0	-0.9
New vehicles		145.498	146.020	145.323	-0.1	-0.1	-0.5
New cars and trucks(3)(4)		100.799	101.159	100.677	-0.1	-0.1	-0.5
New cars(4)		136.312	137.127	136.450	-0.6	0.1	-0.5
Used cars and trucks		149.137	146.400	144.118	-3.9	-3.4	-1.6
Motor fuel		186.738	190.178	194.889	4.3	4.4	2.5
Gasoline (all types)		185.974	189.394	194.119	4.3	4.4	2.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4)		183.112	186.638	191.318	4.5	4.5	2.5
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5)		201.184	203.945	208.414	3.8	3.6	2.2
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4)		198.018	200.670	205.602	3.5	3.8	2.5
Medical care		488.584	488.866	488.452	3.5	0.0	-0.1
Medical care commodities		391.669	391.216	388.107	4.5	-0.9	-0.8
Medical care services		515.694	516.222	516.733	3.2	0.2	0.1
Professional services		373.646	372.793	373.255	1.6	-0.1	0.1
Recreation(3)		121.237	121.178	121.568	0.9	0.3	0.3
Education and communication(3)		142.021	142.152	142.221	0.5	0.1	0.0
Other goods and services		467.312	468.052	468.986	2.8	0.4	0.2
Commodity and service group							
Commodities		185.596	185.898	184.812	-0.2	-0.4	-0.6
Commodities less food and beverages		149.063	149.451	148.224	-0.4	-0.6	-0.8
Nondurables less food and beverages		188.047	189.667	188.250	1.7	0.1	-0.7
Durables		104.437	103.829	102.868	-3.1	-1.5	-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, Northeast Region, (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted) - Continued

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	Sep. 2016	Oct. 2016	Nov. 2016	Nov. 2015	Sep. 2016	Oct. 2016
Services		324.190	324.914	325.751	2.5	0.5	0.3
Special aggregate indexes							
All items less shelter		228.569	228.826	228.477	0.8	0.0	-0.2
All items less medical care		245.872	246.403	246.354	1.4	0.2	0.0
Commodities less food		152.782	153.167	151.956	-0.3	-0.5	-0.8
Nondurables		220.237	221.134	220.088	0.8	-0.1	-0.5
Nondurables less food		191.794	193.330	191.973	1.7	0.1	-0.7
Services less rent of shelter(2)		322.581	322.767	323.772	1.8	0.4	0.3
Services less medical care services		310.978	311.713	312.570	2.4	0.5	0.3
Energy		185.329	185.717	188.253	1.7	1.6	1.4
All items less energy		265.904	266.443	266.115	1.6	0.1	-0.1
All items less food and energy		269.946	270.572	270.290	1.8	0.1	-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.
Note: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.