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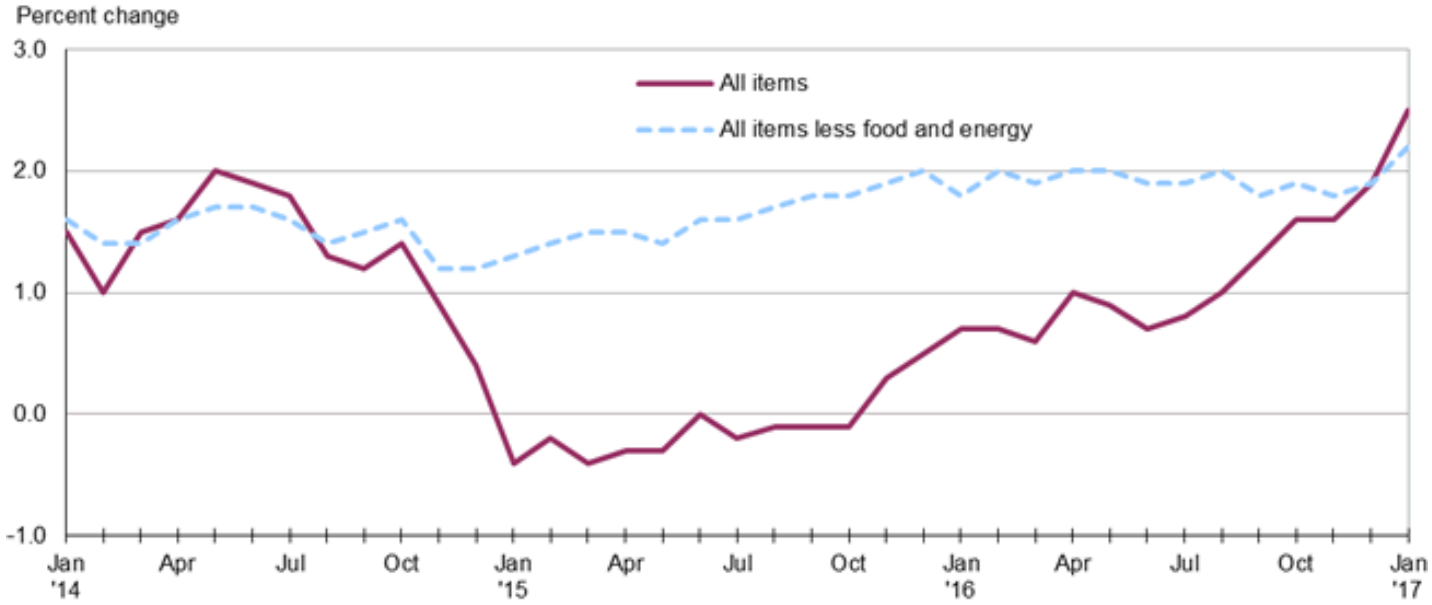
Consumer Price Index, Northeast Region – January 2017

Regional prices up 0.6 over the month and 2.5 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Northeast increased 0.6 percent in January, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's Regional Commissioner, noted that the recent increase was due mostly to a 0.4-percent increase in the all items less food and energy index and a 3.5-percent advance in the energy index. The food index also rose over the month, up 0.6 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 2.5 percent, due largely to a 2.2-percent advance in the all items less food and energy index. (See chart 1 and table A.) The energy index also increased, up 12.1 percent, while the food index edged down 0.2 percent. (See table 1.)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Northeast region, January 2014–January 2017



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index increased 0.6 percent since December. Prices for both food at home and food away from home increased over the month, up 0.8 and 0.3 percent, respectively.

From January 2016 to January 2017, the food index edged down 0.2 percent, as a 1.9-percent decrease in prices for food at home was nearly offset by a 2.3-percent increase in those for food away from home.

Energy

The energy index, which includes prices for household and transportation fuels, increased 3.5 percent since December, led by a 5.4-percent rise in gasoline prices. Prices for electricity and utility (piped) gas service also increased over the month, up 1.6 and 3.3 percent, respectively.

The energy index increased 12.1 percent since January 2016. The increase was led by a 23.4-percent jump in gasoline prices, the largest over-the-year increase in this index since October 2011. Prices also increased over the year for utility (piped) gas service (13.5 percent), while those for electricity declined (-0.5 percent).

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.4 percent over the month, mostly due to an increase in apparel prices (2.8 percent). Prices for medical care also rose, up 0.6 percent over the month. These and other increases were moderated by a 0.2-percent decrease in used cars and trucks prices.

The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.2 percent since January 2016, led by higher prices for shelter (3.2 percent). Prices were also higher over the year for several other 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	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January	0.3	1.8	0.6	1.5	-0.2	-0.4	0.0	0.7	0.6	2.5
February	0.6	2.0	0.1	1.0	0.2	-0.2	0.2	0.7		
March	0.0	1.5	0.5	1.5	0.3	-0.4	0.2	0.6		
April	-0.1	1.1	0.0	1.6	0.1	-0.3	0.6	1.0		
May	0.0	1.2	0.4	2.0	0.4	-0.3	0.3	0.9		
June	0.1	1.5	0.0	1.9	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.7		
July	0.2	1.8	0.1	1.8	-0.1	-0.2	0.0	0.8		
August	0.2	1.5	-0.3	1.3	-0.2	-0.1	0.1	1.0		
September	0.1	1.1	0.0	1.2	0.0	-0.1	0.2	1.3		
October	-0.4	0.7	-0.2	1.4	-0.2	-0.1	0.2	1.6		
November	0.1	1.0	-0.4	0.9	0.0	0.3	0.0	1.6		
December	0.0	1.3	-0.5	0.4	-0.4	0.5	0.0	1.9		

The Consumer Price Index for February 2017 is scheduled to be released Wednesday, March 15, 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	Nov. 2016	Dec. 2016	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2016	Nov. 2016	Dec. 2016
All items		256.541	256.427	258.073	2.5	0.6	0.6
All items (December 1977 = 100)		403.973	403.794	406.386			
Food and beverages		252.154	251.736	253.083	-0.1	0.4	0.5
Food		252.075	251.703	253.132	-0.2	0.4	0.6
Food at home		243.192	242.625	244.450	-1.9	0.5	0.8
Food away from home		268.657	268.580	269.414	2.3	0.3	0.3
Alcoholic beverages		251.988	250.978	251.263	0.7	-0.3	0.1
Housing		271.939	272.396	273.398	2.9	0.5	0.4
Shelter		338.115	338.128	338.518	3.2	0.1	0.1
Rent of primary residence(1)		338.469	339.530	339.655	2.7	0.4	0.0
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(1)(2)		350.317	350.544	350.741	2.9	0.1	0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(1)(2)		350.027	350.256	350.458	2.9	0.1	0.1
Fuels and utilities		208.707	211.471	215.555	4.8	3.3	1.9
Household energy		183.514	186.353	190.529	5.2	3.8	2.2
Energy services(1)		184.805	186.605	190.411	3.1	3.0	2.0
Electricity(1)		192.593	193.575	196.590	-0.5	2.1	1.6
Utility (piped) gas service(1)		155.236	158.648	163.863	13.5	5.6	3.3
Household furnishings and operations		119.519	119.814	120.698	-1.6	1.0	0.7
Apparel		131.786	126.535	130.053	1.9	-1.3	2.8
Transportation		196.399	196.679	199.351	4.2	1.5	1.4
Private transportation		188.061	188.848	191.740	4.8	2.0	1.5
New and used motor vehicles(3)		95.391	95.217	95.794	-1.5	0.4	0.6
New vehicles		145.323	144.960	146.615	0.8	0.9	1.1
New cars and trucks(3)(4)		100.677	100.422	101.561	0.8	0.9	1.1
New cars(4)		136.450	135.511	137.263	-0.1	0.6	1.3
Used cars and trucks		144.118	143.634	143.346	-4.0	-0.5	-0.2
Motor fuel		194.889	199.091	209.828	23.4	7.7	5.4
Gasoline (all types)		194.119	198.287	208.971	23.4	7.7	5.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4)		191.318	195.695	206.543	24.3	8.0	5.5
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5)		208.414	211.936	222.388	20.4	6.7	4.9
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4)		205.602	208.136	217.274	17.8	5.7	4.4
Medical care		488.452	486.991	490.069	3.5	0.3	0.6
Medical care commodities		388.107	383.992	385.054	3.5	-0.8	0.3
Medical care services		516.733	516.196	519.924	3.4	0.6	0.7
Professional services		373.255	373.178	375.941	2.4	0.7	0.7
Recreation(3)		121.568	121.630	122.442	1.6	0.7	0.7
Education and communication(3)		142.221	142.746	142.889	1.1	0.5	0.1
Other goods and services		468.986	468.699	473.450	3.8	1.0	1.0
Commodity and service group							
Commodities		184.812	184.215	186.458	1.8	0.9	1.2
Commodities less food and beverages		148.224	147.583	150.078	3.1	1.3	1.7
Nondurables less food and beverages		188.250	187.393	191.747	7.1	1.9	2.3
Durables		102.868	102.457	103.266	-2.3	0.4	0.8

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	Nov. 2016	Dec. 2016	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2016	Nov. 2016	Dec. 2016
Services		325.751	326.063	327.218	2.9	0.5	0.4
Special aggregate indexes							
All items less shelter		228.477	228.316	230.438	2.2	0.9	0.9
All items less medical care		246.354	246.301	247.884	2.4	0.6	0.6
Commodities less food		151.956	151.302	153.746	2.9	1.2	1.6
Nondurables		220.088	219.430	222.405	3.1	1.1	1.4
Nondurables less food		191.973	191.107	195.218	6.6	1.7	2.2
Services less rent of shelter(2)		323.772	324.414	326.410	2.6	0.8	0.6
Services less medical care services		312.570	312.937	313.921	2.8	0.4	0.3
Energy		188.253	191.636	198.426	12.1	5.4	3.5
All items less energy		266.115	265.647	266.791	1.9	0.3	0.4
All items less food and energy		270.290	269.803	270.907	2.2	0.2	0.4

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.