



For Release: Friday, August 11, 2017

17-1137-PHI

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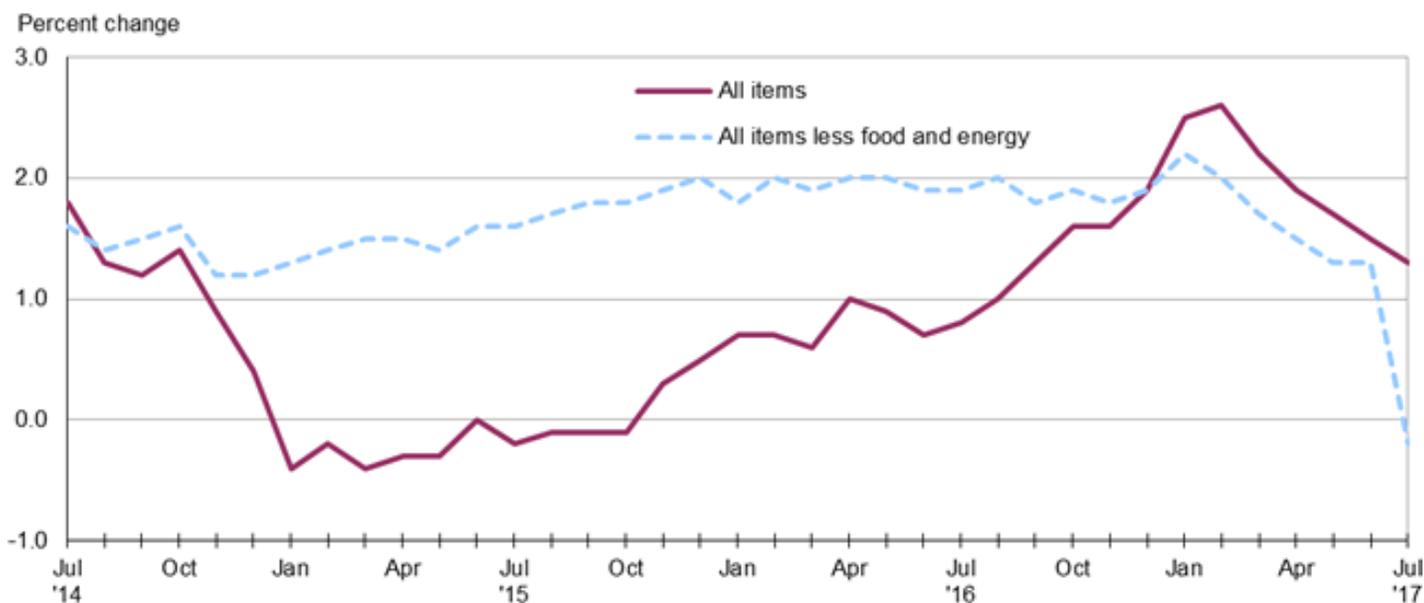
Consumer Price Index, Northeast Region – July 2017

Regional prices down 0.2 percent over the month; up 1.3 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Northeast edged down 0.2 percent in July, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that the recent decrease was largely due to a 0.2-percent decline in the all items less food and energy index. The energy index also decreased, down 1.1 percent over the month, while the food index rose 0.4 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 largely to a 1.0-percent advance in the all items less food and energy index. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The energy index and food index also increased, up 5.2 and 1.4 percent, respectively. (See [table 1](#).)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index increased 0.4 percent since June. Prices for both food at home and food away from home rose over the month, up 0.5 and 0.3 percent, respectively.

From July 2016 to July 2017, the food index increased 1.4 percent, as prices for food away from home increased 2.2 percent and prices for food at home rose 0.9 percent.

Energy

The energy index, which includes prices for household and transportation fuels, decreased 1.1 percent since June, reflecting a 1.5-percent decline in gasoline prices. Prices for utility (piped) gas service and electricity also decreased over the month, down 1.8 and 0.2 percent, respectively.

The energy index rose 5.2 percent since July 2016. The increase was led by a 5.7-percent rise in gasoline prices. Prices also increased over the year for electricity (3.3 percent) and utility (piped) gas service (9.2 percent).

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy edged down 0.2 percent over the month. Price decreases for categories including apparel (-2.5 percent) and household furnishings and operations (-1.3 percent) were nearly offset by price increases for shelter (0.1 percent) and medical care (0.2 percent), among others.

The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.0 percent since July 2016, led by higher prices for shelter (1.8 percent). Prices were also higher over the year for several other categories including recreation (2.6 percent) and medical care (1.6 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								
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	0.3	2.6
March.....	0.0	1.5	0.5	1.5	0.3	-0.4	0.2	0.6	-0.1	2.2
April.....	-0.1	1.1	0.0	1.6	0.1	-0.3	0.6	1.0	0.3	1.9
May.....	0.0	1.2	0.4	2.0	0.4	-0.3	0.3	0.9	0.1	1.7
June.....	0.1	1.5	0.0	1.9	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.7	0.0	1.5
July.....	0.2	1.8	0.1	1.8	-0.1	-0.2	0.0	0.8	-0.2	1.3
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 August 2017 is scheduled to be released Thursday, September 14, 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	May 2017	Jun. 2017	Jul. 2017	Jul. 2016	May 2017	Jun. 2017
All items.....		259.386	259.335	258.833	1.3	-0.2	-0.2
All items (December 1977 = 100).....		408.453	408.373	407.582			
Food and beverages		254.764	254.878	255.795	1.4	0.4	0.4
Food		254.942	254.968	255.978	1.4	0.4	0.4
Food at home		246.032	245.729	246.937	0.9	0.4	0.5
Food away from home.....		271.597	272.129	272.847	2.2	0.5	0.3
Alcoholic beverages		251.273	252.521	252.242	0.6	0.4	-0.1
Housing		275.226	275.597	275.436	1.9	0.1	-0.1
Shelter		340.473	340.804	341.308	1.8	0.2	0.1
Rent of primary residence(1).....		341.964	342.498	342.804	2.4	0.2	0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(1)(2)		351.775	352.080	352.508	1.9	0.2	0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(1)(2).....		351.501	351.811	352.248	1.9	0.2	0.1
Fuels and utilities.....		218.578	219.462	218.125	4.4	-0.2	-0.6
Household energy		193.549	194.376	192.907	4.8	-0.3	-0.8
Energy services(1)		195.078	196.977	195.706	4.8	0.3	-0.6
Electricity(1).....		203.013	204.883	204.470	3.3	0.7	-0.2
Utility (piped) gas service(1).....		164.472	166.297	163.292	9.2	-0.7	-1.8
Household furnishings and operations.....		121.371	121.533	119.970	-0.7	-1.2	-1.3
Apparel.....		131.475	129.609	126.370	-0.7	-3.9	-2.5
Transportation		201.706	200.687	198.724	0.8	-1.5	-1.0
Private transportation		192.370	191.246	190.125	0.9	-1.2	-0.6
New and used motor vehicles(3).....		96.416	96.121	95.413	-2.2	-1.0	-0.7
New vehicles		145.820	145.076	143.794	-1.3	-1.4	-0.9
New cars and trucks(3)(4).....		101.004	100.485	99.601	-1.3	-1.4	-0.9
New cars(4).....		136.286	135.161	133.605	-2.2	-2.0	-1.2
Used cars and trucks.....		146.746	145.717	145.077	-4.9	-1.1	-0.4
Motor fuel		209.584	205.060	201.924	5.7	-3.7	-1.5
Gasoline (all types).....		208.757	204.234	201.099	5.7	-3.7	-1.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....		206.171	201.519	198.383	5.8	-3.8	-1.6
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....		222.606	218.029	215.216	5.1	-3.3	-1.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....		218.104	214.862	211.711	5.5	-2.9	-1.5
Medical care		491.976	493.415	494.618	1.6	0.5	0.2
Medical care commodities.....		387.188	387.343	387.515	-0.2	0.1	0.0
Medical care services.....		521.731	523.590	525.130	2.0	0.7	0.3
Professional services		376.923	377.001	377.289	0.9	0.1	0.1
Recreation(3).....		124.085	124.041	124.085	2.6	0.0	0.0
Education and communication(3).....		139.595	139.480	139.069	-1.3	-0.4	-0.3
Other goods and services		474.721	477.410	477.991	3.1	0.7	0.1
Commodity and service group							
Commodities		187.166	186.401	185.464	0.4	-0.9	-0.5
Commodities less food and beverages		150.356	149.273	147.631	-0.2	-1.8	-1.1
Nondurables less food and beverages.....		191.816	189.782	187.588	1.6	-2.2	-1.2
Durables		103.680	103.440	102.386	-2.7	-1.2	-1.0

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	May 2017	Jun. 2017	Jul. 2017	Jul. 2016	May 2017	Jun. 2017
Services.....		329.095	329.674	329.545	1.8	0.1	0.0
Special aggregate indexes							
All items less shelter.....		231.524	231.332	230.455	1.1	-0.5	-0.4
All items less medical care.....		249.171	249.053	248.474	1.3	-0.3	-0.2
Commodities less food.....		154.018	152.996	151.384	-0.2	-1.7	-1.1
Nondurables.....		223.235	222.195	221.448	1.5	-0.8	-0.3
Nondurables less food.....		195.283	193.445	191.365	1.5	-2.0	-1.1
Services less rent of shelter(2).....		328.266	329.130	328.325	1.8	0.0	-0.2
Services less medical care services.....		315.798	316.293	316.055	1.8	0.1	-0.1
Energy.....		200.152	198.853	196.720	5.2	-1.7	-1.1
All items less energy.....		268.076	268.150	267.808	1.1	-0.1	-0.1
All items less food and energy.....		272.112	272.195	271.623	1.0	-0.2	-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.