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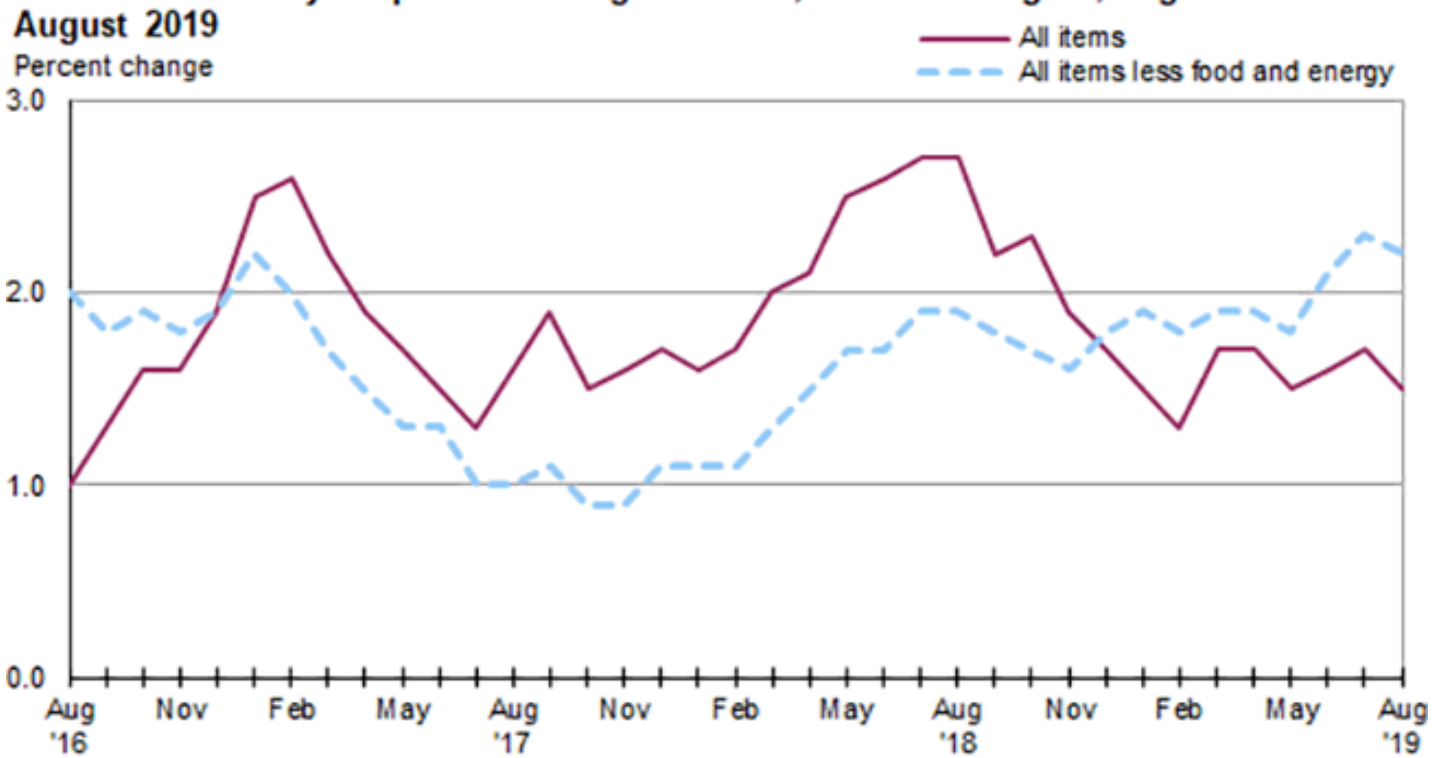
# Consumer Price Index, Northeast Region – August 2019

## Regional prices increased 0.1 percent over the month; up 1.5 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Northeast inched up 0.1 percent in August, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that this was due to an increase in the all items less food and energy index (0.2 percent). The food index also increased over the month, up 0.3 percent, while the energy index decreased since July, down 1.8 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 1.5 percent. (See chart 1 and table A.) This was due almost entirely to an advance in the all items less food and energy index, up 2.2 percent. The food index also rose, up 1.5 percent since August 2018, while the energy index declined 4.8 percent. (See table 1.)

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Northeast region, August 2016–August 2019**




Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Food

The food index increased 0.3 percent since July. Prices for food away from home were up 0.3 percent, while those for food at home edged up 0.2 percent.

From August 2018 to August 2019, the food index increased 1.5 percent. Prices for both food away from home and food at home increased over the year, up 3.0 and 0.3 percent, respectively.

## Energy

The energy index, which includes prices for household and transportation fuels, declined 1.8 percent in August, due mostly to lower gasoline prices, down 2.9 percent. Prices were also lower for electricity (-1.2 percent) while those for utility (piped) gas service were higher (0.1 percent).

The energy index decreased 4.8 percent since August 2018. The decline reflected lower prices for gasoline, down 6.9 percent, and electricity, down 2.6 percent. Utility (piped) gas service prices also decreased (-1.4 percent) over the year.

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy edged up 0.2 percent over the month. Prices were higher for education and communication (1.0 percent), apparel (1.8 percent), and medical care (0.5 percent) among others.

The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.2 percent since August 2018, led by higher prices for shelter, up 2.0 percent. Prices also rose over the year for medical care (4.6 percent) and education and communication (2.4 percent), among others.

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

| Month | 2015 | | 2016 | | 2017 | | 2018 | | 2019 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1-month | 12-month | 1-month | 12-month | 1-month | 12-month | 1-month | 12-month | 1-month | 12-month |
| January | -0.2 | -0.4 | 0.0 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 2.5 | 0.5 | 1.6 | 0.3 | 1.5 |
| February | 0.2 | -0.2 | 0.2 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 2.6 | 0.4 | 1.7 | 0.2 | 1.3 |
| March | 0.3 | -0.4 | 0.2 | 0.6 | -0.1 | 2.2 | 0.1 | 2.0 | 0.5 | 1.7 |
| April | 0.1 | -0.3 | 0.6 | 1.0 | 0.3 | 1.9 | 0.4 | 2.1 | 0.4 | 1.7 |
| May | 0.4 | -0.3 | 0.3 | 0.9 | 0.1 | 1.7 | 0.4 | 2.5 | 0.3 | 1.5 |
| June | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 1.5 | 0.0 | 2.6 | 0.1 | 1.6 |
| July | -0.1 | -0.2 | 0.0 | 0.8 | -0.2 | 1.3 | 0.0 | 2.7 | 0.1 | 1.7 |
| August | -0.2 | -0.1 | 0.1 | 1.0 | 0.3 | 1.6 | 0.2 | 2.7 | 0.1 | 1.5 |
| September | 0.0 | -0.1 | 0.2 | 1.3 | 0.5 | 1.9 | 0.1 | 2.2 | | |
| October | -0.2 | -0.1 | 0.2 | 1.6 | -0.1 | 1.5 | -0.1 | 2.3 | | |
| November | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 1.6 | 0.0 | 1.6 | -0.4 | 1.9 | | |
| December | -0.4 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 1.9 | 0.1 | 1.7 | -0.1 | 1.7 | | |

## Geographic divisions

Additional price indexes are now available for the two divisions of the Northeast. Over the month, the all items CPI-U inched up 0.1 percent each in the New England division and the Middle Atlantic division.

Over the year, the all items index advanced 2.0 percent in the New England division. (See table B.) Prices also rose in the Middle Atlantic division, up 1.4 percent.

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

| Area | 1-month change | 12-month change |
|---|---|---|
| Northeast | 0.1 | 1.5 |
| New England Division | 0.1 | 2.0 |
| Middle Atlantic Division | 0.1 | 1.4 |

**The Consumer Price Index for September 2019 is scheduled to be released Thursday, October 10, 2019, 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 93 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 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 75 urban areas across the country from about 5,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 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.

The **New England division** is comprised of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

The **Middle Atlantic division** is comprised of New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania.

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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 | Jun. 2019 | Jul. 2019 | Aug. 2019 | Aug. 2018 | Jun. 2019 | Jul. 2019 |
| All items | | 270.133 | 270.381 | 270.548 | 1.5 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| All items (December 1977 = 100) | | 425.377 | 425.767 | 426.030 | | | |
| Food and beverages | | 263.945 | 263.657 | 264.398 | 1.4 | 0.2 | 0.3 |
| Food | | 264.562 | 264.282 | 265.040 | 1.5 | 0.2 | 0.3 |
| Food at home | | 251.013 | 250.175 | 250.784 | 0.3 | -0.1 | 0.2 |
| Cereals and bakery products | | 298.218 | 296.600 | 301.038 | 2.0 | 0.9 | 1.5 |
| Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs | | 251.473 | 252.380 | 250.926 | -0.5 | -0.2 | -0.6 |
| Dairy and related products | | 227.682 | 228.844 | 228.880 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.0 |
| Fruits and vegetables | | 313.129 | 312.912 | 310.602 | -1.3 | -0.8 | -0.7 |
| Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials | | 178.917 | 175.045 | 176.897 | 1.8 | -1.1 | 1.1 |
| Other food at home | | 224.488 | 223.386 | 225.010 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.7 |
| Food away from home | | 288.223 | 288.751 | 289.738 | 3.0 | 0.5 | 0.3 |
| Alcoholic beverages | | 254.995 | 254.608 | 255.136 | 0.5 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| Housing | | 288.767 | 288.869 | 288.578 | 1.4 | -0.1 | -0.1 |
| Shelter | | 359.255 | 359.887 | 360.222 | 2.0 | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| Rent of primary residence | | 361.358 | 362.099 | 363.327 | 3.0 | 0.5 | 0.3 |
| Owners' equivalent rent of residences(1) | | 369.402 | 369.958 | 371.150 | 2.2 | 0.5 | 0.3 |
| Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(1) | | 369.099 | 369.656 | 370.844 | 2.2 | 0.5 | 0.3 |
| Fuels and utilities | | 228.663 | 225.985 | 224.096 | -2.1 | -2.0 | -0.8 |
| Household energy | | 201.520 | 198.572 | 196.855 | -2.9 | -2.3 | -0.9 |
| Energy services | | 199.478 | 196.140 | 194.676 | -2.2 | -2.4 | -0.7 |
| Electricity | | 206.863 | 203.907 | 201.494 | -2.6 | -2.6 | -1.2 |
| Utility (piped) gas service | | 171.916 | 168.209 | 168.411 | -1.4 | -2.0 | 0.1 |
| Household furnishings and operations | | 120.883 | 121.195 | 119.941 | 0.7 | -0.8 | -1.0 |
| Apparel | | 128.893 | 126.511 | 128.731 | 0.5 | -0.1 | 1.8 |
| Transportation | | 209.993 | 210.070 | 208.236 | -0.7 | -0.8 | -0.9 |
| Private transportation | | 201.448 | 202.161 | 200.355 | -1.3 | -0.5 | -0.9 |
| New and used motor vehicles(2) | | 97.145 | 97.511 | 97.267 | 0.6 | 0.1 | -0.3 |
| New vehicles | | 146.411 | 145.271 | 143.365 | 0.9 | -2.1 | -1.3 |
| New cars and trucks(2)(3) | | 101.479 | 100.688 | 99.368 | 0.9 | -2.1 | -1.3 |
| New cars(3) | | 134.819 | 134.019 | 132.525 | 0.4 | -1.7 | -1.1 |
| Used cars and trucks | | 147.068 | 149.210 | 150.275 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 0.7 |
| Motor fuel | | 237.616 | 239.743 | 232.861 | -6.9 | -2.0 | -2.9 |
| Gasoline (all types) | | 236.565 | 238.722 | 231.814 | -6.9 | -2.0 | -2.9 |
| Gasoline, unleaded regular(3) | | 233.954 | 236.158 | 228.994 | -7.2 | -2.1 | -3.0 |
| Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(3)(4) | | 250.774 | 252.455 | 247.018 | -5.8 | -1.5 | -2.2 |
| Gasoline, unleaded premium(3) | | 244.834 | 246.585 | 241.819 | -5.0 | -1.2 | -1.9 |
| Motor vehicle insurance(5) | | 621.462 | 620.674 | 620.674 | 0.9 | -0.1 | 0.0 |
| Medical care | | 522.800 | 526.016 | 528.447 | 4.6 | 1.1 | 0.5 |
| Medical care commodities | | 402.677 | 404.997 | 409.247 | 3.9 | 1.6 | 1.0 |
| Medical care services | | 557.284 | 560.760 | 562.622 | 4.7 | 1.0 | 0.3 |
| Professional services | | 392.274 | 394.032 | 393.389 | 3.4 | 0.3 | -0.2 |
| Recreation(2) | | 126.575 | 126.962 | 127.197 | 2.8 | 0.5 | 0.2 |
| Education and communication(2) | | 142.817 | 143.618 | 145.094 | 2.4 | 1.6 | 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 | Jun. 2019 | Jul. 2019 | Aug. 2019 | Aug. 2018 | Jun. 2019 | Jul. 2019 |
| Tuition, other school fees, and child care(5) | | 1,253.804 | 1,258.407 | 1,276.125 | 3.6 | 1.8 | 1.4 |
| Other goods and services | | 495.992 | 499.857 | 502.699 | 2.8 | 1.4 | 0.6 |
| **Commodity and service group** | | | | | | | |
| Commodities | | 192.352 | 192.355 | 192.100 | 0.2 | -0.1 | -0.1 |
| Commodities less food and beverages | | 153.661 | 153.777 | 153.149 | -0.6 | -0.3 | -0.4 |
| Nondurables less food and beverages | | 199.965 | 199.845 | 199.319 | -1.3 | -0.3 | -0.3 |
| Durables | | 102.909 | 103.196 | 102.550 | 0.5 | -0.3 | -0.6 |
| Services | | 345.002 | 345.471 | 346.016 | 2.2 | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| **Special aggregate indexes** | | | | | | | |
| All items less shelter | | 239.388 | 239.495 | 239.601 | 1.3 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| All items less medical care | | 259.021 | 259.133 | 259.196 | 1.3 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Commodities less food | | 157.352 | 157.454 | 156.855 | -0.5 | -0.3 | -0.4 |
| Nondurables | | 231.969 | 231.770 | 231.824 | 0.1 | -0.1 | 0.0 |
| Nondurables less food | | 203.162 | 203.026 | 202.563 | -1.2 | -0.3 | -0.2 |
| Services less rent of shelter(1) | | 341.482 | 341.788 | 342.571 | 2.5 | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| Services less medical care services | | 330.371 | 330.634 | 331.088 | 1.9 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| Energy | | 216.394 | 215.570 | 211.696 | -4.8 | -2.2 | -1.8 |
| All items less energy | | 278.374 | 278.737 | 279.332 | 2.1 | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| All items less food and energy | | 282.588 | 283.058 | 283.631 | 2.2 | 0.4 | 0.2 |

Footnotes
(1) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.
(2) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.
(3) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.
(4) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.
(5) Indexes on a December 1977=100 base.