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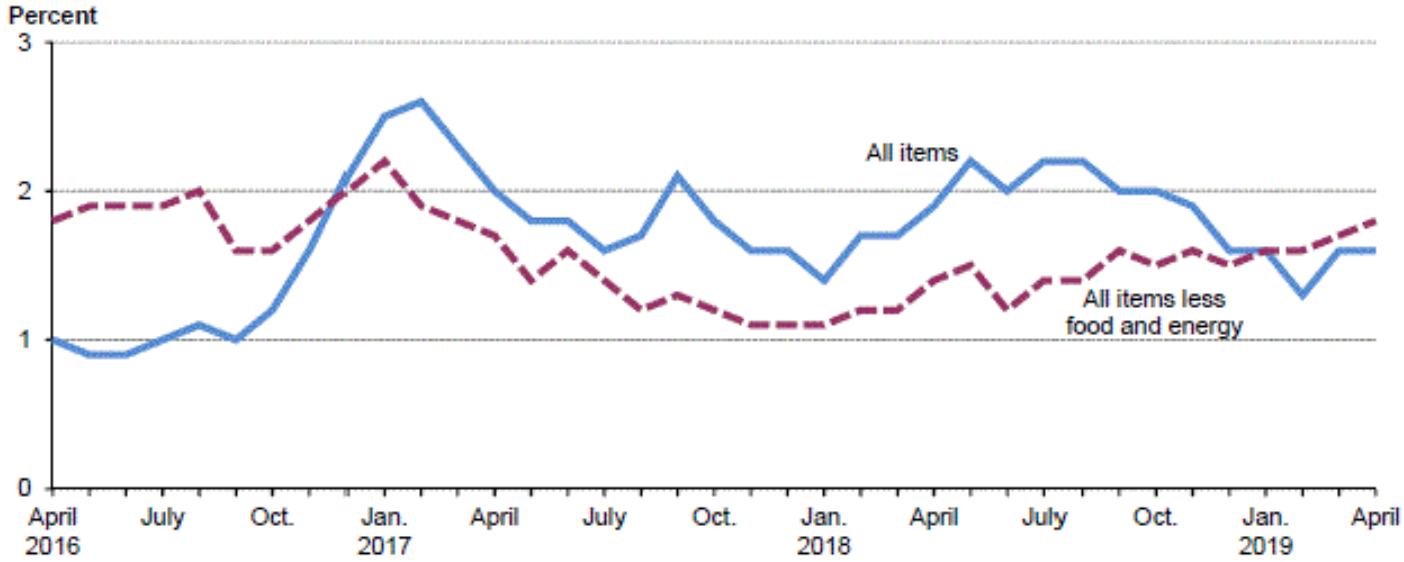
Consumer Price Index, New York-Newark-Jersey City – April 2019

Area prices up 0.3 percent over the month and 1.6 percent over the year

Prices in the New York-Newark-Jersey City area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), rose 0.3 percent for the second consecutive month in April, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Chief Regional Economist Martin Kohli attributed the rise to higher prices for energy and shelter. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the year, the CPI-U increased 1.6 percent. The index for all items less food and energy rose 1.8 percent. (See table A and chart 1.) Price increases for shelter drove the 12-month change in both indexes. (See table 1.)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, New York-Newark-Jersey City, April 2016–April 2019



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index edged down 0.2 percent, after increasing 0.3 percent in March. Prices for food at home dropped 0.5 percent, with price declines in three of the six grocery groups. Groceries with lower prices in April included lettuce and bacon, breakfast sausage, and related products. On the other hand, prices for food away from home increased 0.2 percent.

For the year ending in April 2019, the food index rose 1.7 percent. Food-away-from-home prices advanced 2.6 percent, while food-at-home prices increased 1.0 percent.

Energy

The energy index increased 1.9 percent, following a 2.7-percent rise in March. Gasoline prices jumped 7.9 percent, after rising 6.0 percent the previous month. By contrast, lower prices for natural gas (-3.6 percent) and electricity (-2.0 percent) drove a 2.2-percent decline in household energy prices.

Over the year, the energy index was down 0.9 percent. A 3.1-percent decline in electricity prices, coupled with a 0.2-percent decline in natural gas prices, contributed to a 2.1-percent decline in household energy prices. Gasoline prices rose 0.8 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.3 percent, marking a fourth consecutive increase. Shelter prices jumped 0.5 percent—the largest increase since August 2017—with increases in residential rent (0.5 percent) and owners' equivalent rent (0.3 percent). Higher prices were also reported for recreation (0.9 percent), including club memberships, and education and communication (0.4 percent). Seasonal price declines for apparel (-3.8 percent) partially offset these increases.

From April 2018 to April 2019, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.8 percent. A 2.4-percent rise in shelter prices included increases of 3.0 percent for residential rent and 2.0 percent for owners' equivalent rent. Other expenditure categories posting increases of at least 2.0 percent included medical care (3.7 percent); tuition, other school fees, and childcare (3.3 percent); motor vehicle insurance (2.5 percent); and alcoholic beverages (2.3 percent). In contrast, prices for apparel dropped 5.0 percent.

Table A. New York-Newark-Jersey City CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

Month	2014		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	1-month	12-month
January	0.9	1.9	0.1	-0.5	0.2	0.8	0.6	2.5	0.4	1.4	0.5	1.6
February	-0.2	1.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.3	2.6	0.5	1.7	0.2	1.3
March	0.4	1.3	0.2	-0.1	0.2	0.7	0.0	2.3	0.0	1.7	0.3	1.6
April	0.0	1.6	0.1	0.0	0.4	1.0	0.1	2.0	0.3	1.9	0.3	1.6
May	0.5	1.9	0.4	-0.1	0.3	0.9	0.1	1.8	0.4	2.2		
June	0.0	1.7	0.2	0.1	0.2(r)	0.9(r)	0.2	1.8	0.1	2.0		
July	0.1	1.6	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	1.0	-0.2	1.6	0.0	2.2		
August	-0.2	1.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	1.1	0.2	1.7	0.1	2.2		
September	0.0	1.0	0.2	0.3	0.2	1.0	0.5	2.1	0.4	2.0		
October	-0.2	1.3	-0.1	0.4	0.1	1.2	-0.2	1.8	-0.1	2.0		
November	-0.4	0.8	-0.2	0.6	0.2	1.6	-0.1	1.6	-0.2	1.9		
December	-0.5	0.3	-0.4	0.7	0.1	2.1	0.1	1.6	-0.2	1.6		

Footnotes:
(R) = revised.

CPI-W

In April, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 271.992, up 0.3 percent over the month. The CPI-W rose 1.5 percent over the year.

The May 2019 Consumer Price Index for New York-Newark-Jersey City is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, June 12, 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 New York-Newark-Jersey City, N.Y.-N.J.-Pa., Core Based Statistical Area includes Bronx, Dutchess, Kings, Nassau, New York, Orange, Putnam, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester Counties in New York; Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, and Union Counties in New Jersey; and Pike County in Pennsylvania.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA, not seasonally adjusted (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Feb. 2019	March 2019	April 2019	April 2018	Feb. 2019	March 2019
Expenditure category						
All items	275.823	276.570	277.441	1.6	0.6	0.3
All items (1967=100)	797.367	799.526	802.042			
Food and beverages	269.907	270.636	270.123	1.7	0.1	-0.2
Food	270.046	270.756	270.294	1.7	0.1	-0.2
Food at home	258.689	259.546	258.348	1.0	-0.1	-0.5
Cereals and bakery products	305.249	306.981	300.794	-1.3	-1.5	-2.0
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	251.255	254.454	254.478	0.8	1.3	0.0
Dairy and related products	224.142	225.649	227.752	3.2	1.6	0.9
Fruits and vegetables	333.452	334.342	325.386	-0.8	-2.4	-2.7
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1)	256.656	248.616	255.104	1.6	-0.6	2.6
Other food at home	228.020	230.412	229.749	3.1	0.8	-0.3
Food away from home	293.474	293.993	294.575	2.6	0.4	0.2
Alcoholic beverages	263.448	264.415	263.215	2.3	-0.1	-0.5
Housing	301.233	301.791	302.413	1.9	0.4	0.2
Shelter	381.584	382.414	384.220	2.4	0.7	0.5
Rent of primary residence	395.438	396.754	398.932	3.0	0.9	0.5
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(2)	388.611	388.962	389.944	2.0	0.3	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(2)	388.130	388.481	389.461	2.0	0.3	0.3
Fuels and utilities	195.193	196.239	192.664	-1.3	-1.3	-1.8
Household energy	186.384	187.523	183.483	-2.1	-1.6	-2.2
Energy services	177.937	178.718	174.095	-2.0	-2.2	-2.6
Electricity	173.987	178.798	175.302	-3.1	0.8	-2.0
Utility (piped) gas service	173.755	168.262	162.164	-0.2	-6.7	-3.6
Household furnishings and operations	110.693	109.961	109.450	0.7	-1.1	-0.5
Apparel	127.683	125.298	120.552	-5.0	-5.6	-3.8
Transportation	215.269	218.283	223.336	0.8	3.7	2.3
Private transportation	202.076	205.715	210.603	1.2	4.2	2.4
New and used motor vehicles(3)	91.099	91.127	91.015	-1.0	-0.1	-0.1
New vehicles(1)	204.632	204.123	204.534	1.6	0.0	0.2
Used cars and trucks(1)	267.583	269.956	270.612	1.0	1.1	0.2
Motor fuel	196.935	208.752	225.223	0.8	14.4	7.9
Gasoline (all types)	195.926	207.720	224.169	0.8	14.4	7.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4)	194.232	206.468	223.441	0.8	15.0	8.2
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5)	207.486	216.774	228.991	0.2	10.4	5.6
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4)	209.920	218.523	231.591	0.7	10.3	6.0
Motor vehicle insurance(1)	762.731	763.145	763.145	2.5	0.1	0.0
Medical care	501.561	504.067	504.551	3.7	0.6	0.1
Recreation(3)	125.201	124.499	125.593	1.1	0.3	0.9
Education and communication(3)	143.119	143.612	144.143	1.9	0.7	0.4
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1)	1,204.954	1,204.282	1,204.276	3.3	-0.1	0.0
Other goods and services	435.245	434.964	433.891	1.5	-0.3	-0.2

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, New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA, not seasonally adjusted (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Feb. 2019	March 2019	April 2019	April 2018	Feb. 2019	March 2019
Commodity and service group						
All items	275.823	276.570	277.441	1.6	0.6	0.3
Commodities	189.976	190.914	191.104	0.0	0.6	0.1
Commodities less food and beverages	142.143	143.120	143.619	-1.5	1.0	0.3
Nondurables less food and beverages	180.271	182.224	183.761	-1.9	1.9	0.8
Durables	93.793	93.649	92.979	-0.5	-0.9	-0.7
Services	348.090	348.744	350.122	2.3	0.6	0.4
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	266.022	266.692	267.579	1.5	0.6	0.3
All items less shelter	233.886	234.608	235.082	1.1	0.5	0.2
Commodities less food	146.664	147.646	148.097	-1.3	1.0	0.3
Nondurables	226.347	227.768	228.375	0.1	0.9	0.3
Nondurables less food	185.298	187.203	188.594	-1.6	1.8	0.7
Services less rent of shelter(2)	322.814	323.287	324.226	2.1	0.4	0.3
Services less medical care services	335.097	335.584	336.972	2.0	0.6	0.4
Energy	192.940	198.185	201.948	-0.9	4.7	1.9
All items less energy	285.825	286.132	286.722	1.8	0.3	0.2
All items less food and energy	290.525	290.772	291.529	1.8	0.3	0.3

Footnotes
(1) Indexes on a December 1977=100 base.
(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.