NEWS RELEASE
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

For Release: Wednesday, February 13, 2019 **19-288-PHI**

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

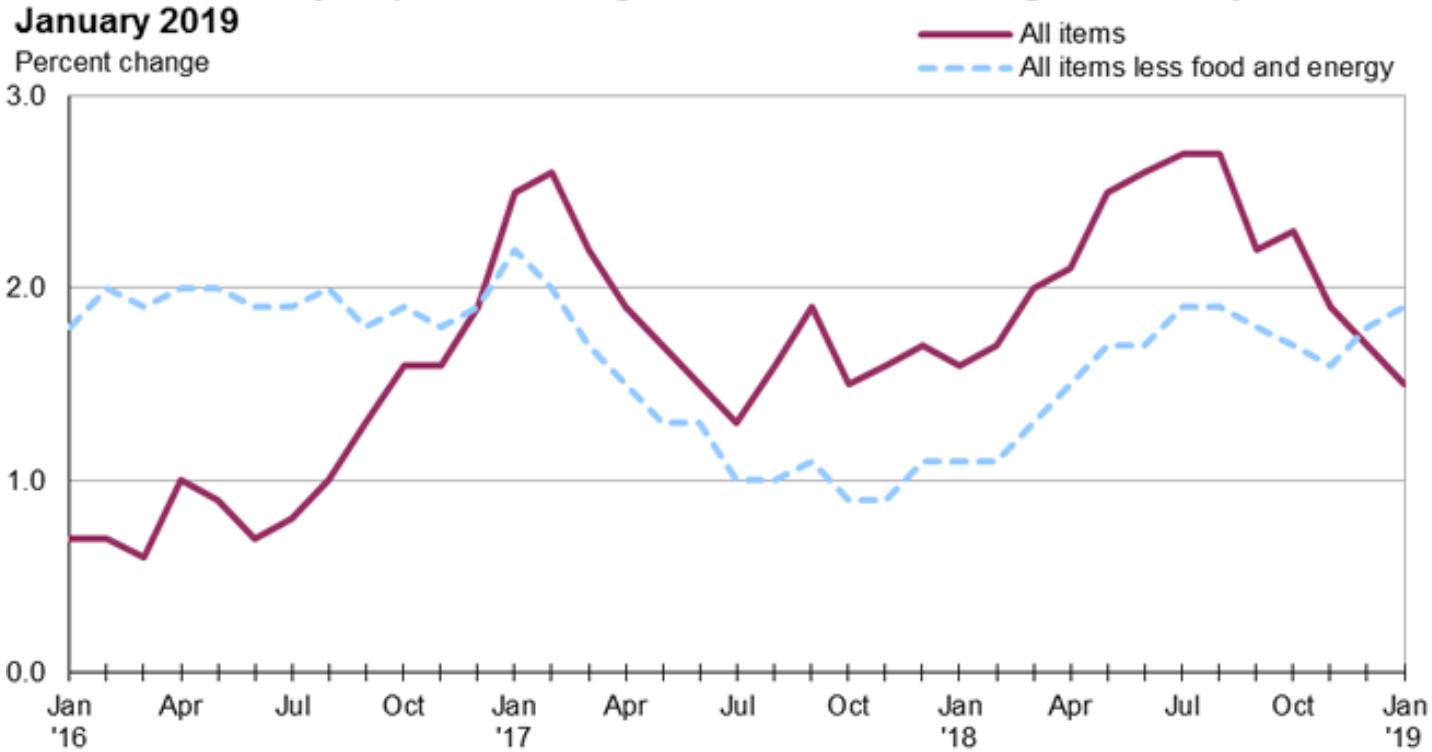
Consumer Price Index, Northeast Region – January 2019

Regional prices increased 0.3 percent over the month; up 1.5 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Northeast edged up 0.3 percent in January, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that this was due to a 0.5-percent increase in the all items less food and energy index. The food index also increased over the month, up 0.6 percent, while the energy index decreased 2.0 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.) The all items less food and energy index led the advance, rising 1.9 percent. The food index also rose, up 1.8 percent since January 2018, while the energy index declined 3.0 percent. (See table 1.)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index increased 0.6 percent since December as prices increased for both food at home (0.9 percent) and food away from home (0.2 percent).

From January 2018 to January 2019, the food index increased 1.8 percent. Prices for both food away from home and food at home increased over the year, up 2.6 and 1.2 percent, respectively.

Energy

The energy index, which includes prices for household and transportation fuels, declined 2.0 percent in January. Gasoline prices decreased 5.9 percent since December, while prices increased for utility (piped) gas service (2.0 percent) and electricity (0.7 percent).

The energy index decreased 3.0 percent since January 2018. The decline reflected lower prices for gasoline, down 8.8 percent. Electricity prices also decreased (-0.8 percent) over the year, while utility (piped) gas service prices advanced 10.3 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.5 percent over the month. Prices were higher for shelter (0.2 percent), new and used motor vehicles (1.0 percent), apparel (2.1 percent), and household furnishings and operations (1.4 percent), among others.

The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.9 percent since January 2018, led by higher prices for shelter, up 2.7 percent. Prices also rose over the year for medical care (2.0 percent) and household furnishings and operations (3.4 percent), but were lower for new vehicles (-1.8 percent).

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		
March	0.3	-0.4	0.2	0.6	-0.1	2.2	0.1	2.0		
April	0.1	-0.3	0.6	1.0	0.3	1.9	0.4	2.1		
May	0.4	-0.3	0.3	0.9	0.1	1.7	0.4	2.5		
June	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.7	0.0	1.5	0.0	2.6		
July	-0.1	-0.2	0.0	0.8	-0.2	1.3	0.0	2.7		
August	-0.2	-0.1	0.1	1.0	0.3	1.6	0.2	2.7		
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 prices indexes are now available for the two divisions of the Northeast. Over the month, the all items CPI-U rose 0.5 percent in the New England division, and edged up 0.2 percent in 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 1.3 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	0.3	1.5
New England Division	0.5	2.0
Middle Atlantic Division	0.2	1.3

The Consumer Price Index for February 2019 is scheduled to be released Tuesday, March 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 **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.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

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. 2018	Dec. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2018	Nov. 2018	Dec. 2018
All items		265.487	265.286	266.109	1.5	0.2	0.3
All items (December 1977 = 100)		418.060	417.745	419.040			
Food and beverages		260.165	260.652	262.254	1.7	0.8	0.6
Food		260.486	261.088	262.757	1.8	0.9	0.6
Food at home		248.204	248.585	250.946	1.2	1.1	0.9
Cereals and bakery products		290.822	292.791	296.536	2.1	2.0	1.3
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs		250.984	249.562	252.542	1.1	0.6	1.2
Dairy and related products		227.607	228.000	229.934	1.6	1.0	0.8
Fruits and vegetables		311.019	317.072	317.510	0.5	2.1	0.1
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials		172.694	172.071	176.152	1.9	2.0	2.4
Other food at home		222.785	221.318	222.401	0.7	-0.2	0.5
Food away from home		282.244	283.176	283.866	2.6	0.6	0.2
Alcoholic beverages		254.841	253.928	254.697	0.9	-0.1	0.3
Housing		283.660	284.854	286.006	2.6	0.8	0.4
Shelter		351.890	353.372	354.236	2.7	0.7	0.2
Rent of primary residence		354.649	355.513	356.335	2.4	0.5	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(1)		365.388	366.078	366.621	2.6	0.3	0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(1)		365.097	365.781	366.325	2.5	0.3	0.1
Fuels and utilities		228.761	229.456	231.293	1.8	1.1	0.8
Household energy		202.792	203.302	205.230	1.6	1.2	0.9
Energy services		197.834	200.965	203.244	2.9	2.7	1.1
Electricity		200.395	201.123	202.479	-0.8	1.0	0.7
Utility (piped) gas service		178.279	185.096	188.706	10.3	5.8	2.0
Household furnishings and operations		119.170	119.864	121.577	3.4	2.0	1.4
Apparel		128.267	124.092	126.648	-0.5	-1.3	2.1
Transportation		205.639	202.527	200.914	-1.6	-2.3	-0.8
Private transportation		198.184	195.500	193.595	-1.8	-2.3	-1.0
New and used motor vehicles(2)		94.811	95.611	96.598	0.4	1.9	1.0
New vehicles		141.826	142.086	144.093	-1.8	1.6	1.4
New cars and trucks(2)(3)		98.302	98.487	99.883	-1.8	1.6	1.4
New cars(3)		131.632	131.357	132.910	-2.3	1.0	1.2
Used cars and trucks		143.578	143.692	144.452	1.9	0.6	0.5
Motor fuel		234.717	219.308	206.413	-8.7	-12.1	-5.9
Gasoline (all types)		233.474	218.038	205.140	-8.8	-12.1	-5.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular(3)		230.811	215.103	202.043	-9.2	-12.5	-6.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(3)(4)		248.923	234.590	222.149	-6.4	-10.8	-5.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium(3)		242.038	229.384	218.398	-6.0	-9.8	-4.8
Motor vehicle insurance(5)		622.117	622.122	622.423	-0.1	0.0	0.0
Medical care		508.360	509.755	512.667	2.0	0.8	0.6
Medical care commodities		393.018	393.047	392.591	0.0	-0.1	-0.1
Medical care services		541.442	543.251	547.184	2.4	1.1	0.7
Professional services		383.705	384.184	385.347	1.4	0.4	0.3
Recreation(2)		124.174	124.041	124.676	0.3	0.4	0.5
Education and communication(2)		142.042	142.062	142.389	1.4	0.2	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, Northeast Region, (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted) - Continued

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	Nov. 2018	Dec. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2018	Nov. 2018	Dec. 2018
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(5)		1,244.334	1,246.131	1,249.035	3.0	0.4	0.2
Other goods and services		488.435	490.191	492.072	2.1	0.7	0.4
Commodity and service group							
Commodities		189.817	188.005	188.382	-0.3	-0.8	0.2
Commodities less food and beverages		151.753	149.150	149.030	-1.6	-1.8	-0.1
Nondurables less food and beverages		198.378	192.485	190.795	-2.8	-3.8	-0.9
Durables		100.936	101.133	102.241	0.1	1.3	1.1
Services		338.384	339.604	340.839	2.4	0.7	0.4
Special aggregate indexes							
All items less shelter		235.710	234.884	235.698	0.9	0.0	0.3
All items less medical care		254.816	254.542	255.270	1.5	0.2	0.3
Commodities less food		155.484	152.917	152.822	-1.5	-1.7	-0.1
Nondurables		229.349	226.335	226.147	-0.4	-1.4	-0.1
Nondurables less food		201.662	196.071	194.529	-2.5	-3.5	-0.8
Services less rent of shelter(1)		335.509	336.455	338.113	2.1	0.8	0.5
Services less medical care services		324.387	325.567	326.617	2.4	0.7	0.3
Energy		215.922	209.780	205.512	-3.0	-4.8	-2.0
All items less energy		273.243	273.668	275.035	1.9	0.7	0.5
All items less food and energy		277.248	277.647	278.975	1.9	0.6	0.5

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.