



**For Release: Wednesday, February 13, 2019**

**19-273-NEW**

NEW YORK–NEW JERSEY INFORMATION OFFICE: New York City, N.Y.

Technical information: (646) 264-3600 BLSinfoNY@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/new-york-new-jersey

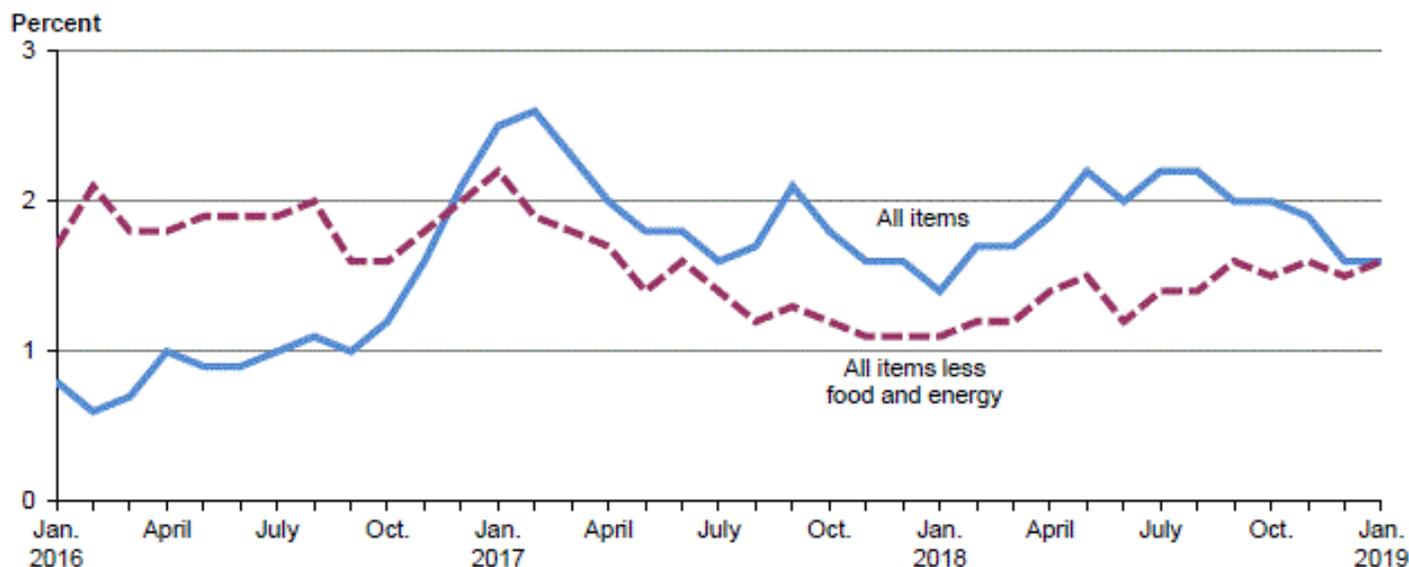
Media contact: (646) 264-3620

## **Consumer Price Index, New York-Newark-Jersey City – January 2019** **Area prices up 0.5 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 0.5 percent in January, following three consecutive declines, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Chief Regional Economist Martin Kohli attributed the upturn to higher prices for food, apparel, and housing. (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 also rose 1.6 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, January 2016–January 2019**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### **Food**

The food index increased 0.6 percent, after edging up 0.2 percent in December. Prices for food at home advanced 0.7 percent, with higher prices in four of the six grocery groups. Carbonated drinks and candy and chewing gum were among the grocery items with higher prices in January. Prices for food away from home rose 0.4 percent.

Over the year, the food index increased 2.5 percent. Prices rose 2.8 percent for food-away-from-home and 2.2 percent for food-at-home.

## Energy

The energy index dipped 0.1 percent, after declining 2.8 percent in each of the two prior months. Gasoline prices dropped 5.5 percent, after falling 6.7 percent in December and 4.4 percent in November. On the other hand, household energy prices rose 3.7 percent, with charges increasing 4.8 percent for electricity and 3.3 percent for natural gas.

From January 2018 to January 2019, the energy index inched up 0.1 percent. A 4.8-percent rise in household energy prices was largely offset by a 6.6-percent decline in gasoline prices. Within household energy, natural gas prices advanced 18.9 percent while electricity prices ticked up 0.1 percent.

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.5 percent, the largest rise in almost three years. Prices for apparel rose 3.4 percent, and prices for household furnishings and operations jumped 3.0 percent, the largest increase recorded since February 1991. Shelter prices rose 0.2 percent, with higher prices for residential rent (0.3 percent) and for lodging away from home. Price increases of 0.9 percent for medical care and 0.7 percent for new and used motor vehicles also contributed to the rise.

For the year ending in January 2019, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 1.6 percent. Shelter prices rose 1.9 percent, including a 2.2-percent rise in residential rent and a 2.1-percent increase in 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 (3.0 percent); and other goods and services (2.4 percent). In contrast, household furnishings and operations were down 3.5 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		
March.....	0.4	1.3	0.2	-0.1	0.2	0.7	0.0	2.3	0.0	1.7		
April.....	0.0	1.6	0.1	0.0	0.4	1.0	0.1	2.0	0.3	1.9		
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 <sup>(r)</sup>	0.9 <sup>(r)</sup>	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 January, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 269.659, up 0.5 percent over the month. The CPI-W rose 1.5 percent over the year.

**The February 2019 Consumer Price Index for New York-Newark-Jersey City is scheduled to be released on 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](http://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](http://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.

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

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Nov. 2018	Dec. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2018	Nov. 2018	Dec. 2018
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items .....	274.478	273.836	275.144	1.6	0.2	0.5
All items (1967=100) .....	793.479	791.621	795.404			
Food and beverages .....	267.789	268.413	269.800	2.5	0.8	0.5
Food .....	267.775	268.381	269.865	2.5	0.8	0.6
Food at home .....	256.920	257.467	259.288	2.2	0.9	0.7
Cereals and bakery products .....	297.196	299.450	298.472	1.9	0.4	-0.3
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .....	254.660	254.975	252.938	-0.1	-0.7	-0.8
Dairy and related products .....	226.092	224.573	228.319	1.8	1.0	1.7
Fruits and vegetables .....	332.100	336.830	337.497	3.7	1.6	0.2
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1) .....	248.387	246.390	258.466	3.5	4.1	4.9
Other food at home .....	225.480	225.145	226.663	3.1	0.5	0.7
Food away from home.....	290.423	291.130	292.168	2.8	0.6	0.4
Alcoholic beverages .....	263.475	264.326	264.364	3.3	0.3	0.0
Housing .....	298.697	299.249	301.140	2.3	0.8	0.6
Shelter .....	378.954	379.546	380.188	1.9	0.3	0.2
Rent of primary residence .....	392.388	392.999	394.041	2.2	0.4	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(2) .....	387.794	388.356	388.442	2.1	0.2	0.0
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(2) .....	387.314	387.875	387.961	2.1	0.2	0.0
Fuels and utilities.....	193.428	193.771	200.021	4.7	3.4	3.2
Household energy .....	184.917	184.852	191.719	4.8	3.7	3.7
Energy services.....	173.185	176.312	183.767	6.7	6.1	4.2
Electricity .....	172.410	171.536	179.787	0.1	4.3	4.8
Utility (piped) gas service .....	164.370	173.498	179.292	18.9	9.1	3.3
Household furnishings and operations .....	107.772	108.368	111.667	3.5	3.6	3.0
Apparel .....	121.875	117.528	121.501	-2.2	-0.3	3.4
Transportation .....	221.386	216.186	214.294	-1.4	-3.2	-0.9
Private transportation .....	207.861	204.137	201.636	-1.7	-3.0	-1.2
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	89.145	89.426	90.020	-1.8	1.0	0.7
New vehicles(1).....	202.727	201.708	203.109	-0.2	0.2	0.7
Used cars and trucks(1).....	264.798	264.360	266.225	1.7	0.5	0.7
Motor fuel .....	225.903	210.915	199.239	-6.5	-11.8	-5.5
Gasoline (all types).....	224.810	209.860	198.224	-6.6	-11.8	-5.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	223.756	208.405	196.469	-7.0	-12.2	-5.7
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	233.920	220.941	210.273	-4.4	-10.1	-4.8
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	234.106	222.012	212.662	-3.6	-9.2	-4.2
Motor vehicle insurance(1).....	756.979	756.993	757.926	1.8	0.1	0.1
Medical care .....	496.557	497.055	501.396	3.7	1.0	0.9
Recreation(3).....	123.800	124.279	124.605	-0.2	0.7	0.3
Education and communication(3).....	142.920	142.726	143.331	0.9	0.3	0.4
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1) .....	1,195.654	1,197.848	1,200.430	3.0	0.4	0.2
Other goods and services .....	430.765	432.511	432.522	2.4	0.4	0.0

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, 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-		
	Nov. 2018	Dec. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2018	Nov. 2018	Dec. 2018
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	274.478	273.836	275.144	1.6	0.2	0.5
Commodities .....	190.751	188.586	189.572	0.4	-0.6	0.5
Commodities less food and beverages .....	144.192	140.883	141.627	-1.4	-1.8	0.5
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	185.396	179.128	178.573	-2.7	-3.7	-0.3
Durables .....	92.353	92.459	94.605	1.4	2.4	2.3
Services.....	345.233	345.596	347.191	2.1	0.6	0.5
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	264.835	264.143	265.321	1.4	0.2	0.4
All items less shelter.....	233.082	231.888	233.510	1.4	0.2	0.7
Commodities less food .....	148.664	145.461	146.188	-1.2	-1.7	0.5
Nondurables .....	228.181	225.014	225.360	0.2	-1.2	0.2
Nondurables less food.....	190.158	184.263	183.739	-2.3	-3.4	-0.3
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	319.628	319.746	322.447	2.3	0.9	0.8
Services less medical care services.....	332.629	332.933	334.186	1.8	0.5	0.4
Energy .....	203.113	197.330	197.187	0.1	-2.9	-0.1
All items less energy .....	283.332	283.194	284.654	1.7	0.5	0.5
All items less food and energy .....	287.979	287.724	289.192	1.6	0.4	0.5

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.