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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

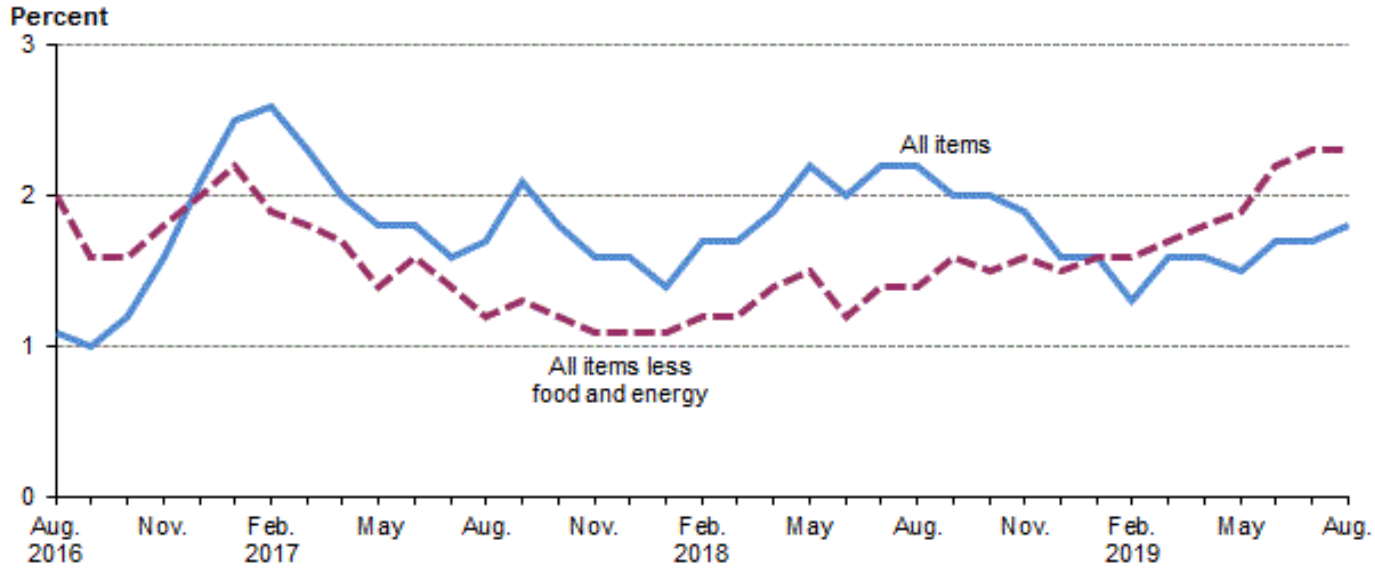
Consumer Price Index, New York-Newark-Jersey City – August 2019

Area prices up 0.2 percent over the month and 1.8 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 0.2 percent in August, after no change in July, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Chief Regional Economist Martin Kohli attributed the rise to higher prices for food and a variety of non-energy items. (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 1.8 percent. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.3 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, August 2016–August 2019



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index rose 0.6 percent after declining 0.3 percent in July. Prices for food away from home jumped 0.7 percent, the largest increase in over a year. Prices for food at home increased 0.5 percent, with higher prices in three of the six grocery groups.

For the year ended in August 2019, the food index increased 1.7 percent. Food-away-from-home prices rose 3.1 percent, while food-at-home prices increased 0.5 percent.

Energy

The energy index declined 1.7 percent, following a 0.8-percent decrease in July. Gasoline prices declined 2.0 percent. Prices for household energy declined 1.5 percent, with a 2.7-percent drop in electricity prices. Natural gas prices, by contrast, increased 0.4 percent.

From August 2018 to August 2019, the energy index declined 4.0 percent. Gasoline prices dropped 4.7 percent. Household energy prices were down 3.5 percent, with a 3.1-percent decline in electricity prices and a 2.6-percent decline in natural gas prices.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.3 percent. Apparel prices jumped 5.7 percent reflecting typical seasonal patterns. Education and communication advanced 1.4 percent—the largest increase in over ten years—with prices for tuition, other school fees, and childcare up 1.8 percent. A 0.3-percent rise in owners' equivalent rent and a 0.2-percent rise in residential rent contributed to the 0.2-percent increase in prices for shelter.

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 2.3 percent. A 2.2-percent increase in shelter prices included a 3.1-percent rise in residential rent and a 1.8-percent increase in owners' equivalent rent. Medical care prices jumped 6.4 percent—the largest increase since October 1992. Among other items with increases of at least 2.0 percent, education and communication rose 2.7 percent and included a 3.6-percent rise in prices for tuition, other school fees, and childcare; recreation rose 3.3 percent; motor vehicle insurance rose 2.4 percent, and used cars and trucks rose 2.1 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	0.2	1.5
June	0.0	1.7	0.2	0.1	0.2(r)	0.9(r)	0.2	1.8	0.1	2.0	0.3	1.7
July	0.1	1.6	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	1.0	-0.2	1.6	0.0	2.2	0.0	1.7
August	-0.2	1.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	1.1	0.2	1.7	0.1	2.2	0.2	1.8
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 August, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 273.903, up 0.2 percent over the month. The CPI-W rose 1.7 percent over the year.

The September 2019 Consumer Price Index for New York-Newark-Jersey City is scheduled to be released on 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 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-		
	June 2019	July 2019	Aug. 2019	Aug. 2018	June 2019	July 2019
Expenditure category						
All items	278.802	278.817	279.428	1.8	0.2	0.2
All items (1967=100)	805.977	806.020	807.788			
Food and beverages	271.178	270.245	271.819	1.7	0.2	0.6
Food	271.257	270.351	271.882	1.7	0.2	0.6
Food at home	258.911	257.017	258.183	0.5	-0.3	0.5
Cereals and bakery products	303.424	301.955	305.701	0.4	0.8	1.2
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	255.910	253.356	253.208	-0.2	-1.1	-0.1
Dairy and related products	228.473	227.060	228.078	1.7	-0.2	0.4
Fruits and vegetables	326.234	326.964	324.092	-0.5	-0.7	-0.9
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1)	261.808	257.320	255.727	2.3	-2.3	-0.6
Other food at home	225.216	223.073	228.253	0.7	1.3	2.3
Food away from home	296.138	296.627	298.723	3.1	0.9	0.7
Alcoholic beverages	265.516	264.232	266.360	1.7	0.3	0.8
Housing	303.608	303.892	303.603	1.7	0.0	-0.1
Shelter	384.598	385.269	385.875	2.2	0.3	0.2
Rent of primary residence	400.852	401.406	402.171	3.1	0.3	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(2)	389.878	391.231	392.323	1.8	0.6	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(2)	389.395	390.747	391.837	1.8	0.6	0.3
Fuels and utilities	198.596	196.557	193.995	-2.8	-2.3	-1.3
Household energy	189.944	187.478	184.654	-3.5	-2.8	-1.5
Energy services	181.158	178.343	175.469	-2.9	-3.1	-1.6
Electricity	187.778	184.352	179.307	-3.1	-4.5	-2.7
Utility (piped) gas service	160.454	158.748	159.393	-2.6	-0.7	0.4
Household furnishings and operations	110.192	110.804	108.954	0.9	-1.1	-1.7
Apparel	122.340	116.924	123.568	-3.1	1.0	5.7
Transportation	224.883	224.120	222.810	-0.2	-0.9	-0.6
Private transportation	210.569	211.012	209.861	-0.9	-0.3	-0.5
New and used motor vehicles(3)	89.297	90.246	90.513	-1.5	1.4	0.3
New vehicles(1)	202.513	202.679	201.823	1.0	-0.3	-0.4
Used cars and trucks(1)	270.613	274.253	276.921	2.1	2.3	1.0
Motor fuel	230.968	230.483	225.993	-4.7	-2.2	-1.9
Gasoline (all types)	229.914	229.436	224.961	-4.7	-2.2	-2.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4)	229.090	228.638	223.659	-5.0	-2.4	-2.2
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5)	235.762	234.997	233.836	-3.6	-0.8	-0.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4)	237.990	237.343	236.399	-2.4	-0.7	-0.4
Motor vehicle insurance(1)	760.120	757.682	757.682	2.4	-0.3	0.0
Medical care	510.146	515.152	516.142	6.4	1.2	0.2
Recreation(3)	126.225	126.941	126.803	3.3	0.5	-0.1
Education and communication(3)	144.133	144.710	146.691	2.7	1.8	1.4
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1)	1,205.806	1,212.901	1,234.606	3.6	2.4	1.8
Other goods and services	436.126	440.573	439.987	1.9	0.9	-0.1

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-		
	June 2019	July 2019	Aug. 2019	Aug. 2018	June 2019	July 2019
Commodity and service group						
All items	278.802	278.817	279.428	1.8	0.2	0.2
Commodities	192.396	191.477	192.325	-0.1	0.0	0.4
Commodities less food and beverages	144.943	144.085	144.551	-1.6	-0.3	0.3
Nondurables less food and beverages	186.153	184.771	185.912	-2.4	-0.1	0.6
Durables	93.064	92.823	92.522	0.3	-0.6	-0.3
Services	351.598	352.251	352.731	2.5	0.3	0.1
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	268.757	268.556	269.151	1.5	0.1	0.2
All items less shelter	236.896	236.624	237.247	1.5	0.1	0.3
Commodities less food	149.458	148.582	149.101	-1.4	-0.2	0.3
Nondurables	230.191	228.990	230.359	-0.2	0.1	0.6
Nondurables less food	190.987	189.606	190.805	-2.1	-0.1	0.6
Services less rent of shelter(2)	326.992	327.641	327.993	3.0	0.3	0.1
Services less medical care services	338.118	338.524	338.971	2.1	0.3	0.1
Energy	208.222	206.481	202.981	-4.0	-2.5	-1.7
All items less energy	287.606	287.795	288.817	2.2	0.4	0.4
All items less food and energy	292.408	292.768	293.719	2.3	0.4	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.