NEWS RELEASE
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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ERRATA Incorrect prices for prescription drugs were used for the CPI-U and CPI-W indexes from May through August 2016 in a number of areas. Several indexes were affected, including the all items and medical care indexes. A list of the series affected can be found at www.bls.gov/bls/errata/cpi-price-corrections-10182016.htm, and the corrected data are available in the CPI database (www.bls.gov/cpi/data.htm).

Consumer Price Index, Northeast Region – July 2016

Regional prices unchanged over the month; up 0.8 percent over the year

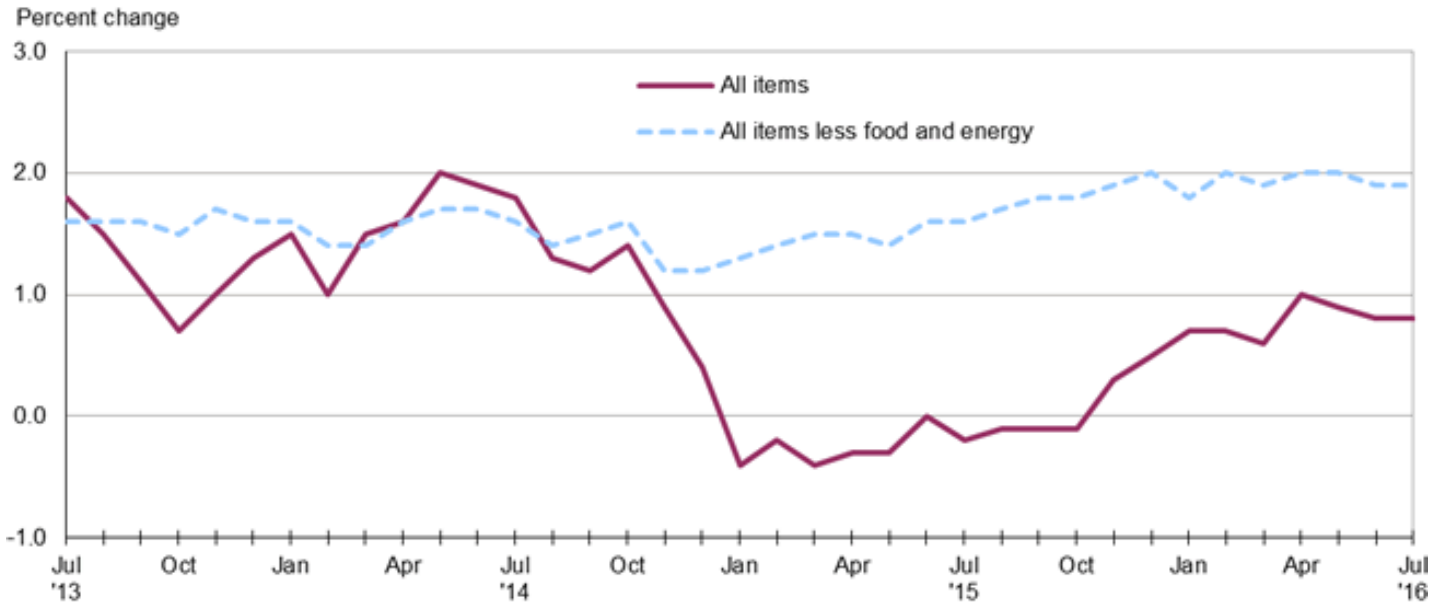
The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Northeast was unchanged in July, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that a decrease in the energy index (-1.9 percent) was offset by increases in the all items less food and energy index (0.1 percent) and the food index (0.2 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 0.8 percent, due mostly to a 1.9-percent advance in the all items less food and energy index. (See chart 1 and table A.) The food index also increased over the year, up 0.2 percent, while the energy index declined 9.6 percent. (See table 1.)

Food

The food index edged up 0.2 percent since June. Prices for its two components, food away from home and food at home, both increased over the month, up 0.3 and 0.1 percent, respectively.

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Northeast region, July 2013–July 2016



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

From July 2015 to July 2016, the food index edged up 0.2 percent. Prices for food away from home increased 2.6 percent over the year, while those for food at home decreased 1.5 percent.

Energy

The energy index, which includes prices for household and transportation fuels, decreased 1.9 percent since June, due mostly to a 4.1-percent decline in gasoline prices. Prices also fell for electricity, down 1.0 percent, while prices rose for utility (piped) gas service, up 1.6 percent.

The energy index fell 9.6 percent since July 2015, led by a 17.8-percent drop in gasoline prices. Prices for electricity also decreased over the year, down 0.7 percent, while prices increased for utility (piped) gas service, up 2.8 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy inched up 0.1 percent in July, led by higher prices for shelter (0.5 percent). Prices for medical care also increased, up 0.4 percent over the month. Nearly offsetting the increase in the all items less food and energy index was a 1.7-percent seasonal decrease in apparel prices, among others.

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.9 percent, led by higher prices for shelter (2.8 percent). Prices were also higher over the year for medical care (4.5 percent), education and communication (1.6 percent), and other goods and services (2.4 percent).

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

Month	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January	0.4	2.9	0.3	1.8	0.6	1.5	-0.2	-0.4	0.0	0.7
February	0.4	2.8	0.6	2.0	0.1	1.0	0.2	-0.2	0.2	0.7
March	0.5	2.5	0.0	1.5	0.5	1.5	0.3	-0.4	0.2	0.6
April	0.3	2.3	-0.1	1.1	0.0	1.6	0.1	-0.3	0.6	1.0

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

Month	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
May	-0.1	1.7	0.0	1.2	0.4	2.0	0.4	-0.3	0.3	0.9
June	-0.2	1.5	0.1	1.5	0.0	1.9	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.8
July	-0.1	1.1	0.2	1.8	0.1	1.8	-0.1	-0.2	0.0	0.8
August	0.5	1.3	0.2	1.5	-0.3	1.3	-0.2	-0.1		
September	0.5	1.7	0.1	1.1	0.0	1.2	0.0	-0.1		
October	0.1	1.9	-0.4	0.7	-0.2	1.4	-0.2	-0.1		
November	-0.2	1.8	0.1	1.0	-0.4	0.9	0.0	0.3		
December	-0.3	1.8	0.0	1.3	-0.5	0.4	-0.4	0.5		

The Consumer Price Index for August 2016 is scheduled to be released Friday, September 16, 2016, 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 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 28 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 87 urban areas across the country from about 4,000 housing units and approximately 26,000 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.

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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	May 2016	Jun. 2016	Jul. 2016	Jul. 2015	May 2016	Jun. 2016
All items		255.021	255.532	255.449	0.8	0.2	0.0
All items (December 1977 = 100)		401.581	402.384	402.255			
Food and beverages		251.988	251.811	252.342	0.2	0.1	0.2
Food		252.040	251.891	252.378	0.2	0.1	0.2
Food at home		245.302	244.570	244.816	-1.5	-0.2	0.1
Food away from home		265.316	266.064	266.926	2.6	0.6	0.3
Alcoholic beverages		250.139	249.592	250.699	0.3	0.2	0.4
Housing		268.462	269.752	270.407	1.9	0.7	0.2
Shelter		332.503	333.809	335.313	2.8	0.8	0.5
Rent of primary residence [1]		333.497	333.885	334.853	2.8	0.4	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of residences [1] [2]		343.877	345.267	346.019	2.9	0.6	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence [1] [2]		343.604	344.991	345.739	2.9	0.6	0.2
Fuels and utilities		205.628	209.618	208.943	-1.3	1.6	-0.3
Household energy		180.656	184.895	184.098	-2.2	1.9	-0.4
Energy services [1]		183.015	187.310	186.676	0.1	2.0	-0.3
Electricity [1]		193.940	199.940	197.943	-0.7	2.1	-1.0
Utility (piped) gas service [1]		146.902	147.273	149.579	2.8	1.8	1.6
Household furnishings and operations		122.689	122.032	120.854	-2.0	-1.5	-1.0
Apparel		132.910	129.357	127.212	-0.2	-4.3	-1.7
Transportation		199.134	199.495	197.243	-4.0	-0.9	-1.1
Private transportation		189.500	189.906	188.370	-4.5	-0.6	-0.8
New and used motor vehicles [3]		98.010	97.405	97.594	-1.0	-0.4	0.2
New vehicles		145.390	145.220	145.629	0.1	0.2	0.3
New cars and trucks [3] [4]		100.720	100.601	100.885	0.1	0.2	0.3
New cars [4]		136.986	136.206	136.594	-1.0	-0.3	0.3
Used cars and trucks		154.544	153.492	152.541	-3.8	-1.3	-0.6
Motor fuel		194.905	199.089	190.982	-17.8	-2.0	-4.1
Gasoline (all types)		194.228	198.374	190.233	-17.8	-2.1	-4.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular [4]		191.798	195.996	187.561	-18.6	-2.2	-4.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade [4] [5]		207.412	211.598	204.866	-15.1	-1.2	-3.2
Gasoline, unleaded premium [4]		203.184	206.724	200.745	-13.8	-1.2	-2.9
Medical care		484.043	486.391	488.465	4.5	0.9	0.4
Medical care commodities		386.506	392.462	393.316	3.9	1.8	0.2
Medical care services		511.420	512.509	514.973	4.6	0.7	0.5
Professional services		370.515	371.300	374.076	3.2	1.0	0.7
Recreation [3]		121.149	121.264	120.913	-0.5	-0.2	-0.3
Education and communication [3]		140.730	140.844	140.870	1.6	0.1	0.0
Other goods and services		458.073	459.081	463.534	2.4	1.2	1.0
Commodity and service group							
Commodities		185.990	185.727	184.764	-2.5	-0.7	-0.5
Commodities less food and beverages		149.887	149.603	148.082	-4.3	-1.2	-1.0
Nondurables less food and beverages		187.635	187.694	184.975	-5.5	-1.4	-1.4
Durables		106.142	105.620	105.176	-2.3	-0.9	-0.4

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	May 2016	Jun. 2016	Jul. 2016	Jul. 2015	May 2016	Jun. 2016
Services		321.813	323.018	323.713	2.6	0.6	0.2
Special aggregate indexes							
All items less shelter		228.455	228.676	228.008	-0.3	-0.2	-0.3
All items less medical care		244.963	245.392	245.212	0.5	0.1	-0.1
Commodities less food		153.527	153.235	151.781	-4.1	-1.1	-0.9
Nondurables		219.678	219.626	218.415	-2.5	-0.6	-0.6
Nondurables less food		191.284	191.307	188.817	-5.1	-1.3	-1.3
Services less rent of shelter [2]		321.504	322.633	322.490	2.3	0.3	0.0
Services less medical care services		308.730	309.940	310.518	2.4	0.6	0.2
Energy		186.534	190.756	187.052	-9.6	0.3	-1.9
All items less energy		264.601	264.741	265.024	1.7	0.2	0.1
All items less food and energy		268.516	268.707	268.957	1.9	0.2	0.1

Footnotes
(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.
(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.
Note: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.