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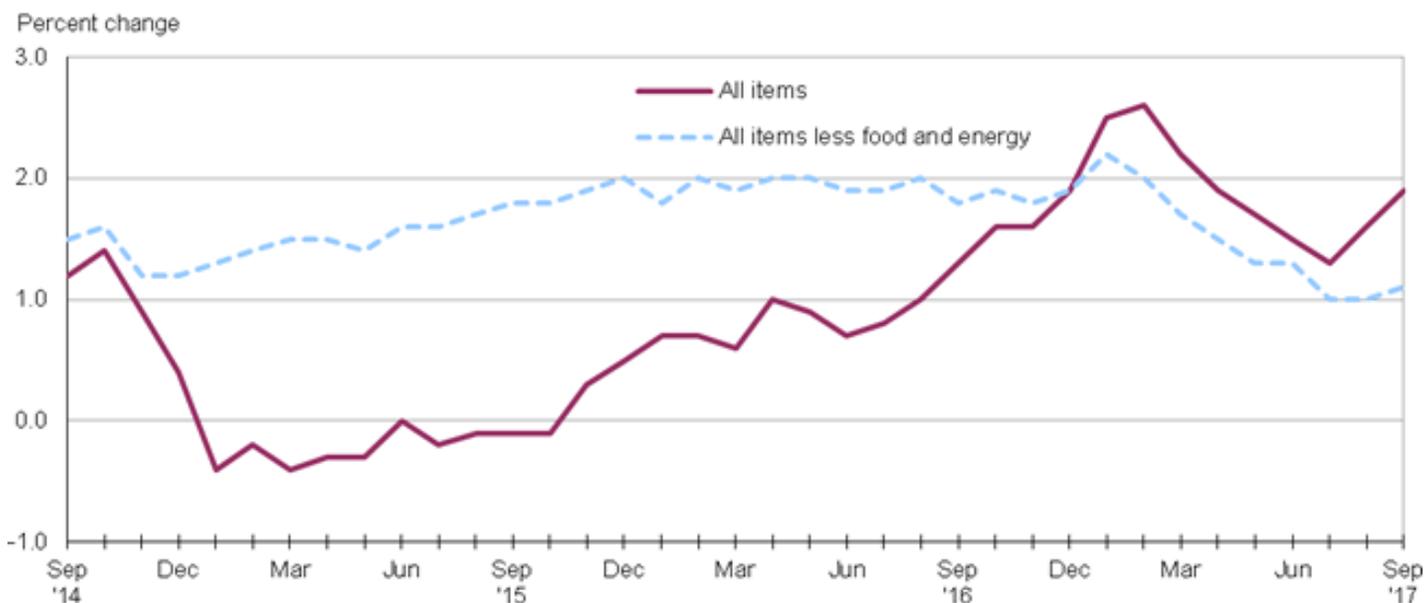
## **Consumer Price Index, Northeast Region – September 2017**

### **Regional prices up 0.5 percent over the month and 1.9 percent over the year**

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Northeast advanced 0.5 percent in September, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau’s regional commissioner, noted that the recent increase was mostly due to a 5.6-percent increase in the energy index. The all items less food and energy index also increased, up 0.2 percent over the month, while the food index inched down 0.1 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 1.9 percent, due to advances in the energy index and all items less food and energy index, up 13.3 and 1.1 percent, respectively. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The food index also increased, up 1.1 percent. (See [table 1](#).)

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Northeast region, September 2014–September 2017**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### **Food**

The food index inched down 0.1 percent since August. Prices for food at home decreased 0.3 percent, while prices for food away from home edged up 0.2 percent.

From September 2016 to September 2017, the food index increased 1.1 percent, as prices for food away from home increased 2.2 percent and prices for food at home rose 0.4 percent.

## Energy

The energy index, which includes prices for household and transportation fuels, increased 5.6 percent since August, reflecting a 12.5-percent rise in gasoline prices. Lower prices for utility (piped) gas service moderated the increase over the month, decreasing 0.5 percent, while prices for electricity were unchanged.

The energy index advanced 13.3 percent since September 2016. The increase was mostly due to a 25.8-percent rise in gasoline prices. Prices also increased over the year for utility (piped) gas service (7.8 percent) and electricity (2.2 percent).

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy edged up 0.2 percent over the month. Price increases for categories including apparel (4.1 percent) and education and communication (0.6 percent), among others, contributed to the rise.

The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.1 percent since September 2016, led by higher prices for shelter (2.0 percent). Prices were also higher over the year for several other categories including recreation (2.6 percent) and medical care (1.6 percent). Meanwhile, prices were lower for new and used motor vehicles (-2.3 percent) and education and communication (-1.5 percent).

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

Month	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	1-month	12-month								
January.....	0.3	1.8	0.6	1.5	-0.2	-0.4	0.0	0.7	0.6	2.5
February.....	0.6	2.0	0.1	1.0	0.2	-0.2	0.2	0.7	0.3	2.6
March.....	0.0	1.5	0.5	1.5	0.3	-0.4	0.2	0.6	-0.1	2.2
April.....	-0.1	1.1	0.0	1.6	0.1	-0.3	0.6	1.0	0.3	1.9
May.....	0.0	1.2	0.4	2.0	0.4	-0.3	0.3	0.9	0.1	1.7
June.....	0.1	1.5	0.0	1.9	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.7	0.0	1.5
July.....	0.2	1.8	0.1	1.8	-0.1	-0.2	0.0	0.8	-0.2	1.3
August.....	0.2	1.5	-0.3	1.3	-0.2	-0.1	0.1	1.0	0.3	1.6
September.....	0.1	1.1	0.0	1.2	0.0	-0.1	0.2	1.3	0.5	1.9
October.....	-0.4	0.7	-0.2	1.4	-0.2	-0.1	0.2	1.6		
November.....	0.1	1.0	-0.4	0.9	0.0	0.3	0.0	1.6		
December.....	0.0	1.3	-0.5	0.4	-0.4	0.5	0.0	1.9		

**The Consumer Price Index for October 2017 is scheduled to be released Wednesday, November 15, 2017, 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](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 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	Jul. 2017	Aug. 2017	Sep. 2017	Sep. 2016	Jul. 2017	Aug. 2017
All items.....		258.833	259.508	260.875	1.9	0.8	0.5
All items (December 1977 = 100).....		407.582	408.647	410.799			
Food and beverages .....		255.795	255.542	255.434	1.1	-0.1	0.0
Food .....		255.978	255.701	255.539	1.1	-0.2	-0.1
Food at home .....		246.937	246.165	245.539	0.4	-0.6	-0.3
Food away from home.....		272.847	273.329	273.880	2.2	0.4	0.2
Alcoholic beverages .....		252.242	252.291	252.882	0.3	0.3	0.2
Housing .....		275.436	276.330	276.269	2.0	0.3	0.0
Shelter .....		341.308	343.129	342.873	2.0	0.5	-0.1
Rent of primary residence(1).....		342.804	344.403	344.669	2.5	0.5	0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(1)(2).....		352.508	353.634	354.088	1.8	0.4	0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(1)(2).....		352.248	353.382	353.839	1.8	0.5	0.1
Fuels and utilities.....		218.125	217.229	218.548	4.5	0.2	0.6
Household energy .....		192.907	191.943	193.353	5.1	0.2	0.7
Energy services(1) .....		195.706	193.794	193.496	3.6	-1.1	-0.2
Electricity(1).....		204.470	202.525	202.494	2.2	-1.0	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service(1).....		163.292	161.586	160.742	7.8	-1.6	-0.5
Household furnishings and operations.....		119.970	119.127	118.693	-1.7	-1.1	-0.4
Apparel.....		126.370	130.769	136.152	-0.4	7.7	4.1
Transportation .....		198.724	199.211	203.650	4.6	2.5	2.2
Private transportation .....		190.125	191.503	196.104	5.1	3.1	2.4
New and used motor vehicles(3).....		95.413	95.120	94.144	-2.3	-1.3	-1.0
New vehicles .....		143.794	143.595	142.569	-2.0	-0.9	-0.7
New cars and trucks(3)(4).....		99.601	99.458	98.759	-2.0	-0.8	-0.7
New cars(4).....		133.605	133.556	132.211	-3.0	-1.0	-1.0
Used cars and trucks.....		145.077	144.782	142.316	-4.6	-1.9	-1.7
Motor fuel .....		201.924	208.871	234.782	25.7	16.3	12.4
Gasoline (all types).....		201.099	208.022	233.951	25.8	16.3	12.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....		198.383	205.490	231.925	26.7	16.9	12.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....		215.216	220.988	244.451	21.5	13.6	10.6
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....		211.711	217.035	238.567	20.5	12.7	9.9
Medical care .....		494.618	495.072	496.216	1.6	0.3	0.2
Medical care commodities.....		387.515	387.268	385.863	-1.5	-0.4	-0.4
Medical care services.....		525.130	525.819	527.818	2.4	0.5	0.4
Professional services .....		377.289	376.998	377.722	1.1	0.1	0.2
Recreation(3).....		124.085	124.053	124.367	2.6	0.2	0.3
Education and communication(3).....		139.069	139.020	139.831	-1.5	0.5	0.6
Other goods and services .....		477.991	476.618	478.584	2.4	0.1	0.4
<b>Commodity and service group</b>							
Commodities .....		185.464	186.303	188.841	1.7	1.8	1.4
Commodities less food and beverages .....		147.631	148.870	152.354	2.2	3.2	2.3
Nondurables less food and beverages.....		187.588	190.785	199.155	5.9	6.2	4.4
Durables.....		102.386	101.984	101.334	-3.0	-1.0	-0.6

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	Jul. 2017	Aug. 2017	Sep. 2017	Sep. 2016	Jul. 2017	Aug. 2017
Services.....		329.545	330.092	330.453	1.9	0.3	0.1
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>							
All items less shelter.....		230.455	230.714	232.689	1.8	1.0	0.9
All items less medical care.....		248.474	249.161	250.538	1.9	0.8	0.6
Commodities less food.....		151.384	152.596	156.015	2.1	3.1	2.2
Nondurables.....		221.448	223.047	227.497	3.3	2.7	2.0
Nondurables less food.....		191.365	194.374	202.279	5.5	5.7	4.1
Services less rent of shelter(2).....		328.325	327.524	328.554	1.9	0.1	0.3
Services less medical care services.....		316.055	316.592	316.845	1.9	0.2	0.1
Energy.....		196.720	198.899	210.049	13.3	6.8	5.6
All items less energy.....		267.808	268.339	268.732	1.1	0.3	0.1
All items less food and energy.....		271.623	272.293	272.782	1.1	0.4	0.2

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.