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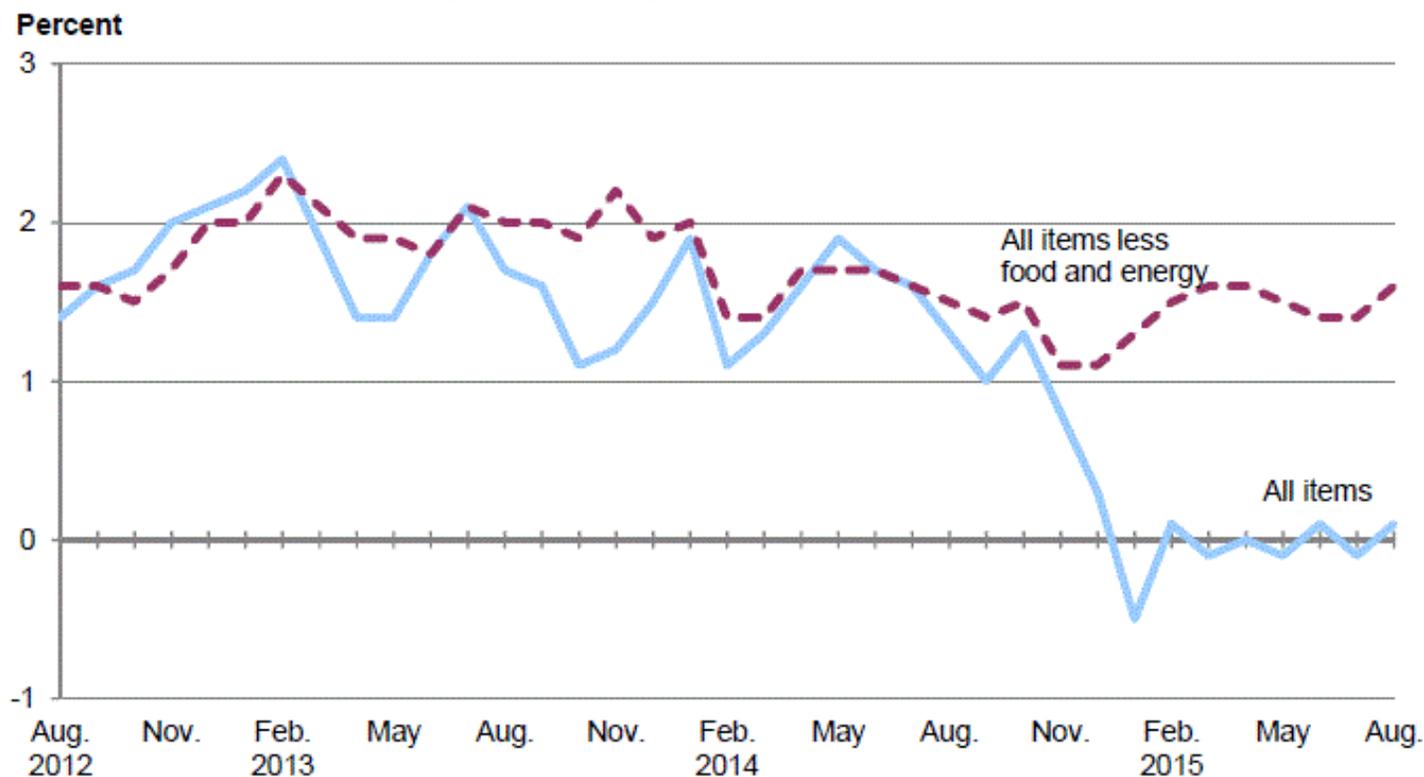
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Consumer Price Index, New York-Northern New Jersey – August 2015 **Area prices up 0.1 percent over the month and 0.1 percent over the year**

Prices in the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), ticked up 0.1 percent, after a downtick of 0.1 percent in July, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Chief Regional Economist Martin Kohli noted that higher prices for apparel and shelter were largely offset by lower energy prices. (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 was up 0.1 percent. (See [table A.](#)) Since February, the 12-month percent change has remained relatively flat, within a range of -0.1 to 0.1 percent. (See [chart 1.](#)) The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.6 percent. (See [table 1.](#))

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, August 2012–August 2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index increased 0.3 percent in August, following a 0.2-percent decline in July. Higher prices for fresh fish and seafood, nonfrozen noncarbonated juices and drinks, and eggs contributed to a 0.5-percent increase in prices for food at home. In contrast, prices for food away from home were unchanged.

Over the year, the food index increased 1.8 percent. At-home food prices rose 1.6 percent, while away-from-home food prices rose 2.0 percent.

Energy

The energy index declined 4.0 percent, largely due to a 6.2-percent drop in gasoline prices. Household energy prices also declined (-2.4 percent). A reduction in electricity charges (-1.8 percent), coupled with lower prices for fuel oil, led to the downturn in household energy prices.

For the year ended August 2015, the energy index fell 17.7 percent; gasoline prices decreased 26.7 percent, and household energy prices declined 9.9 percent. Within household energy, natural gas prices were down 11.1 percent, and electricity prices were down 3.1 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.4 percent after little or no change in June and July. Apparel prices, often up at this time of year with the introduction of fall and winter lines, rose 4.9 percent. Shelter prices advanced 0.3 percent, reflecting a 0.4-percent increase for owners' equivalent rent and a 0.3-percent increase for residential rent. Medical care prices (0.5 percent) and education and communication (0.3 percent) also increased. By contrast, prices for recreation (-0.4 percent) and household furnishings and operations (-0.1 percent) declined.

From August 2014 to August 2015, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.6 percent. A 2.3-percent advance in shelter prices was due in part to a 2.8-percent rise in residential rent. Apparel prices increased 3.6 percent, and medical care prices rose 2.0 percent.

Table A. New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

Month	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	1-month	12-month										
January.....	0.2	2.4	0.3	1.5	0.4	2.8	0.5	2.2	0.9	1.9	0.1	-0.5
February.....	0.0	1.8	0.5	2.1	0.4	2.6	0.6	2.4	-0.2	1.1	0.3	0.1
March.....	0.5	2.1	0.7	2.3	0.6	2.6	0.1	1.9	0.4	1.3	0.2	-0.1
April.....	0.2	2.1	0.4	2.5	0.2	2.4	-0.2	1.4	0.0	1.6	0.1	0.0
May.....	0.2	2.2	0.6	2.9	0.1	1.8	0.1	1.4	0.5	1.9	0.4	-0.1
June.....	-0.1	1.5	0.2	3.2	-0.1	1.6	0.3	1.8	0.0	1.7	0.2	0.1
July.....	0.1	1.5	0.3	3.3	-0.2	1.1	0.2	2.1	0.1	1.6	-0.1	-0.1
August.....	0.2	1.4	0.4	3.5	0.6	1.4	0.1	1.7	-0.2	1.3	0.1	0.1
September.....	0.0	1.2	0.2	3.8	0.4	1.6	0.3	1.6	0.0	1.0		
October.....	0.2	1.5	-0.2	3.3	-0.1	1.7	-0.6	1.1	-0.2	1.3		
November.....	0.0	1.3	-0.3	3.0	0.0	2.0	0.1	1.2	-0.4	0.8		
December.....	0.0	1.4	-0.4	2.7	-0.3	2.1	0.0	1.5	-0.5	0.3		

CPI-W

In August, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 256.038, virtually unchanged over the month. The CPI-W decreased 0.3 percent over the year.

The September 2015 Consumer Price Index for New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island is scheduled to be released Thursday, October 15, 2015, 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 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 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/homch17_a.htm.

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-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, N.Y.-N.J.-Conn.-Pa. consolidated area covered in this release is comprised of Bronx, Dutchess, Kings, Nassau, New York, Orange, Putnam, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester Counties in New York State; Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren Counties in New Jersey; Fairfield County and parts of Litchfield, Middlesex, and New Haven Counties in Connecticut; 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-Northern N.J.-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)(not seasonally adjusted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	June 2015	July 2015	Aug. 2015	Aug. 2014	June 2015	July 2015
Expenditure category						
All items	261.512	261.199	261.347	0.1	-0.1	0.1
All items (1967=100)	755.996	755.091	755.517			
Food and beverages	255.896	255.558	256.254	1.7	0.1	0.3
Food	255.920	255.400	256.147	1.8	0.1	0.3
Food at home	254.763	253.429	254.656	1.6	0.0	0.5
Food away from home.....	264.286	264.876	264.980	2.0	0.3	0.0
Alcoholic beverages	251.093	253.525	253.419	1.5	0.9	0.0
Housing	279.665	279.811	279.988	0.9	0.1	0.1
Shelter	348.425	349.931	351.038	2.3	0.7	0.3
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	357.922	359.322	360.239	2.8	0.6	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of residences ^{(1) (2)} ...	355.525	355.990	357.346	2.4	0.5	0.4
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)}	355.136	355.598	356.962	2.4	0.5	0.4
Fuels and utilities.....	193.123	189.206	185.294	-8.4	-4.1	-2.1
Household energy	186.936	182.362	177.971	-9.9	-4.8	-2.4
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	178.813	174.437	172.104	-5.4	-3.8	-1.3
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	195.445	190.894	187.481	-3.1	-4.1	-1.8
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	139.717	135.821	135.772	-11.1	-2.8	0.0
Household furnishings and operations	115.347	113.431	113.295	-3.3	-1.8	-0.1
Apparel	126.205	125.403	131.507	3.6	4.2	4.9
Transportation	221.481	219.546	215.733	-6.3	-2.6	-1.7
Private transportation	205.629	205.477	201.825	-7.5	-1.8	-1.8
Motor fuel	221.242	220.073	206.476	-26.7	-6.7	-6.2
Gasoline (all types).....	220.269	219.119	205.570	-26.7	-6.7	-6.2
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽³⁾	220.453	218.778	204.321	-27.5	-7.3	-6.6
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{(3) (4)}	224.650	226.041	216.306	-24.4	-3.7	-4.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽³⁾	224.191	225.834	217.238	-22.7	-3.1	-3.8
Medical care	444.312	445.132	447.186	2.0	0.6	0.5
Recreation ⁽⁵⁾	119.294	119.097	118.631	0.1	-0.6	-0.4
Education and communication ⁽⁵⁾	140.695	140.798	141.283	-0.1	0.4	0.3
Other goods and services	404.141	404.439	404.239	1.8	0.0	0.0
Commodity and service group						
All items	261.512	261.199	261.347	0.1	-0.1	0.1
Commodities	190.200	189.533	189.319	-2.8	-0.5	-0.1
Commodities less food and beverages	149.081	148.289	147.649	-6.2	-1.0	-0.4
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	187.080	186.067	185.517	-8.2	-0.8	-0.3
Durables	100.100	99.588	98.894	-2.2	-1.2	-0.7
Services.....	322.317	322.279	322.714	1.5	0.1	0.1
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	253.519	253.164	253.238	0.0	-0.1	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-Northern N.J.-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)(not seasonally adjusted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	June 2015	July 2015	Aug. 2015	Aug. 2014	June 2015	July 2015
All items less shelter.....	227.346	226.257	225.997	-1.3	-0.6	-0.1
Commodities less food.....	153.078	152.375	151.745	-5.9	-0.9	-0.4
Nondurables.....	223.245	222.544	222.589	-2.9	-0.3	0.0
Nondurables less food.....	191.125	190.294	189.766	-7.5	-0.7	-0.3
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	304.731	302.901	302.539	0.3	-0.7	-0.1
Services less medical care services.....	312.586	312.560	312.851	1.5	0.1	0.1
Energy.....	202.639	199.302	191.334	-17.7	-5.6	-4.0
All items less energy.....	269.051	269.025	269.948	1.6	0.3	0.3
All items less food and energy.....	273.167	273.229	274.190	1.6	0.4	0.4

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) Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(4) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(5) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

Note: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.

The New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA consolidated area comprises the five boroughs of New York City, Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Dutchess, and Orange Counties in New York State; Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Monmouth, Middlesex, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren Counties in New Jersey; Fairfield County and parts of Litchfield, New Haven, and Middlesex Counties in Connecticut; and Pike County in Pennsylvania.