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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

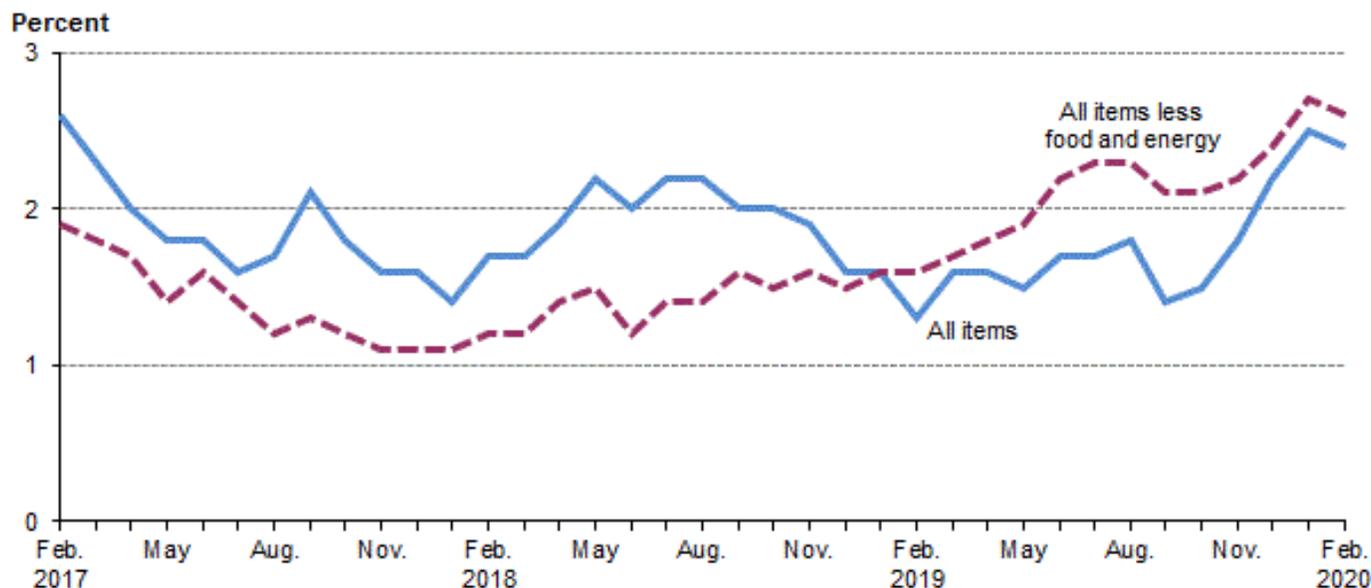
Consumer Price Index, New York-Newark-Jersey City – February 2020

Area prices up 0.2 percent over the month and 2.4 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), inched up 0.2 percent in February, after rising 0.8 percent in January, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Chief Regional Economist Martin Kohli noted that the increase was partially driven by rising shelter 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 advanced 2.4 percent. The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.6 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, February 2017–February 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index was unchanged in February after rising 0.5 percent in each of the two previous months. With half of the six grocery groups declining, the food-at-home index inched down 0.2 percent. Citrus fruits were among grocery items with lower February prices. In contrast, prices for food away from home increased 0.3 percent.

Over the year, the food index increased 1.5 percent. Prices for food away from home were up 2.5 percent, and prices for food at home rose 0.8 percent.

Energy

The energy index decreased 2.3 percent in February, following a 1.4-percent rise in January. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for gasoline (-3.3 percent). Household energy prices declined 1.6 percent, with lower prices for natural gas (-3.5 percent) and fuel oil and other fuels, partially offset by higher prices for electricity (1.2 percent).

Energy prices rose 2.1 percent over the year. Gasoline prices increased 5.7 percent. Electricity prices rose 2.8 percent, while natural gas prices dropped 5.3 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.4 percent, after jumping 0.8 percent in January. Shelter prices rose 0.3 percent, driven by price increases for lodging away from home. Apparel prices, often up in February, rose 1.7 percent. Medical care prices increased 1.2 percent, with higher prices reported for eyeglasses and eye care and nonprescription drugs. Tuition, other school fees, and childcare rose 1.2 percent. Used cars and trucks advanced 1.1 percent, while new vehicles rose 0.6 percent. Higher prices were also reported for motor vehicle insurance, up 1.1 percent, and airline fares. Recreation rose 0.6 percent.

From February 2019 to February 2020, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.6 percent. A 2.5-percent increase in shelter prices included a 2.7-percent rise in residential rent and a 2.4-percent increase in owners' equivalent rent. Medical care prices rose 5.7 percent. A 4.3-percent rise in prices for tuition, other school fees, and childcare contributed to a 3.4-percent increase in prices for education and communication. Prices for recreation rose 3.4 percent.

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

Month	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	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.....	0.1	-0.5	0.2	0.8	0.6	2.5	0.4	1.4	0.5	1.6	0.8	2.5
February.....	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.3	2.6	0.5	1.7	0.2	1.3	0.2	2.4
March.....	0.2	-0.1	0.2	0.7	0.0	2.3	0.0	1.7	0.3	1.6		
April.....	0.1	0.0	0.4	1.0	0.1	2.0	0.3	1.9	0.3	1.6		
May.....	0.4	-0.1	0.3	0.9	0.1	1.8	0.4	2.2	0.2	1.5		
June.....	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	-0.1	-0.1	1.0	-0.2	1.6	0.0	2.2	0.0	1.7		
August.....	0.1	0.1	0.2	1.1	0.2	1.7	0.1	2.2	0.2	1.8		
September.....	0.2	0.3	0.2	1.0	0.5	2.1	0.4	2.0	0.0	1.4		
October.....	-0.1	0.4	0.1	1.2	-0.2	1.8	-0.1	2.0	0.0	1.5		
November.....	-0.2	0.6	0.2	1.6	-0.1	1.6	-0.2	1.9	0.1	1.8		
December.....	-0.4	0.7	0.1	2.1	0.1	1.6	-0.2	1.6	0.1	2.2		

Footnotes:
(R) = revised.

CPI-W

In February, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 276.412, up 0.1 percent over the month. The CPI-W rose 2.3 percent over the year.

The March 2020 Consumer Price Index for New York-Newark-Jersey City is scheduled to be released on Friday, April 10, 2020, 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-		
	Dec. 2019	Jan. 2020	Feb. 2020	Feb. 2019	Dec. 2019	Jan. 2020
Expenditure category						
All items	279.816	282.020	282.577	2.4	1.0	0.2
All items (1967=100)	808.908	815.281	816.892			
Food and beverages	272.644	274.084	274.109	1.6	0.5	0.0
Food	272.678	274.070	274.120	1.5	0.5	0.0
Food at home	258.504	261.131	260.651	0.8	0.8	-0.2
Cereals and bakery products	302.844	306.081	304.005	-0.4	0.4	-0.7
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	256.300	256.578	257.609	2.5	0.5	0.4
Dairy and related products	227.681	231.648	229.092	2.2	0.6	-1.1
Fruits and vegetables	334.575	340.468	332.596	-0.3	-0.6	-2.3
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1)	245.190	254.065	257.741	0.4	5.1	1.4
Other food at home	226.983	226.667	229.000	0.4	0.9	1.0
Food away from home.....	300.220	299.909	300.707	2.5	0.2	0.3
Alcoholic beverages	267.591	269.654	269.341	2.2	0.7	-0.1
Housing	305.331	307.061	307.210	2.0	0.6	0.0
Shelter	387.979	389.790	390.984	2.5	0.8	0.3
Rent of primary residence	404.797	405.906	406.261	2.7	0.4	0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(2)	395.838	397.709	397.890	2.4	0.5	0.0
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(2)	395.348	397.216	397.398	2.4	0.5	0.0
Fuels and utilities.....	195.743	198.531	195.727	0.3	0.0	-1.4
Household energy	186.140	189.053	185.940	-0.2	-0.1	-1.6
Energy services.....	175.579	178.787	178.215	0.2	1.5	-0.3
Electricity	171.328	176.820	178.913	2.8	4.4	1.2
Utility (piped) gas service	171.997	170.390	164.497	-5.3	-4.4	-3.5
Household furnishings and operations	109.437	110.276	108.883	-1.6	-0.5	-1.3
Apparel	115.059	125.131	127.306	-0.3	10.6	1.7
Transportation	220.151	221.885	221.716	3.0	0.7	-0.1
Private transportation	208.085	209.161	207.689	2.8	-0.2	-0.7
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	90.297	90.470	90.129	-1.1	-0.2	-0.4
New vehicles(1).....	202.882	206.151	207.401	1.4	2.2	0.6
Used cars and trucks(1).....	264.946	263.204	266.104	-0.6	0.4	1.1
Motor fuel	212.729	215.275	208.115	5.7	-2.2	-3.3
Gasoline (all types).....	211.706	214.243	207.070	5.7	-2.2	-3.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	210.067	212.656	205.231	5.7	-2.3	-3.5
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	222.782	224.941	218.955	5.5	-1.7	-2.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	225.454	227.640	222.350	5.9	-1.4	-2.3
Motor vehicle insurance(1).....	781.508	782.017	790.503	3.6	1.2	1.1
Medical care	519.528	523.628	529.911	5.7	2.0	1.2
Recreation(3).....	128.159	128.629	129.424	3.4	1.0	0.6
Education and communication(3).....	147.649	148.031	147.979	3.4	0.2	0.0
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1)	1,241.750	1,241.750	1,256.467	4.3	1.2	1.2
Other goods and services	439.804	440.288	441.273	1.4	0.3	0.2

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-		
	Dec. 2019	Jan. 2020	Feb. 2020	Feb. 2019	Dec. 2019	Jan. 2020
Commodity and service group						
All items	279.816	282.020	282.577	2.4	1.0	0.2
Commodities	189.876	192.635	191.973	1.1	1.1	-0.3
Commodities less food and beverages	140.753	143.937	143.006	0.6	1.6	-0.6
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	179.142	184.854	183.067	1.6	2.2	-1.0
Durables	92.176	92.779	92.708	-1.2	0.6	-0.1
Services.....	355.073	356.925	358.410	3.0	0.9	0.4
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	269.408	271.530	271.847	2.2	0.9	0.1
All items less shelter.....	236.889	239.249	239.554	2.4	1.1	0.1
Commodities less food	145.433	148.602	147.685	0.7	1.5	-0.6
Nondurables	227.011	230.748	229.808	1.5	1.2	-0.4
Nondurables less food.....	184.455	189.961	188.257	1.6	2.1	-0.9
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	330.667	332.594	334.401	3.6	1.1	0.5
Services less medical care services.....	340.973	342.543	343.722	2.6	0.8	0.3
Energy	198.837	201.655	196.980	2.1	-0.9	-2.3
All items less energy	289.655	291.832	292.832	2.5	1.1	0.3
All items less food and energy	294.570	296.892	298.055	2.6	1.2	0.4

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.