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Consumer Price Index, New York-Newark-Jersey City – October 2020 **Area prices down 0.2 percent over the month and up 1.7 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), decreased 0.2 percent in October, following a 0.4-percent increase in September, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Chief Regional Economist Martin Kohli noted that lower prices for apparel, shelter, and energy factored into the downturn. (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 rose 1.7 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.0 percent. 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, October 2017–October 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index increased 0.5 percent in October, after ticking down 0.1 percent in September. Prices for food away from home advanced 1.0 percent, in contrast to prices for food at home which were flat. Among the six major grocery groups, four had higher prices, but these increases were offset by lower prices for dairy and related products and for nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.

Over the year, the food index rose 3.7 percent. Away-from-home food prices advanced 4.8 percent, and at-home food prices rose 2.9 percent.

Energy

The energy index declined 1.8 percent in October, after edging up 0.2 percent in September. Household energy prices decreased 2.5 percent, led by a 3.9-percent fall in electricity prices which are typically down this time of year. Prices for natural gas decreased 0.9 percent. Gasoline prices declined 0.7 percent.

For the year ended in October 2020, energy prices decreased 7.4 percent, primarily due to a 16.1-percent drop in gasoline prices. Household energy prices declined 1.5 percent. In contrast, electricity prices rose 4.4 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy inched down 0.1 percent in October, following a 0.5-percent advance in September. Apparel, with a seasonal reduction in prices (-5.5 percent), and shelter (-0.4 percent) pulled the index down, but these declines were tempered by a 1.9-percent increase in recreation prices, as well as higher prices for airline fares.

From October 2019 to October 2020, the index for all items less food and energy increased 2.0 percent. A 1.6-percent increase in shelter prices included a 1.9-percent rise in owners' equivalent rent and a 1.7-percent increase in residential rent. Recreation prices rose 5.5 percent, and medical care prices increased 3.3 percent. Apparel prices, on the other hand, were down 4.0 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	-0.2	2.0
April.....	0.1	0.0	0.4	1.0	0.1	2.0	0.3	1.9	0.3	1.6	-0.5	1.1
May.....	0.4	-0.1	0.3	0.9	0.1	1.8	0.4	2.2	0.2	1.5	0.5	1.4
June.....	0.2	0.1	0.2 ^(r)	0.9 ^(r)	0.2	1.8	0.1	2.0	0.3	1.7	0.1	1.3
July.....	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	1.0	-0.2	1.6	0.0	2.2	0.0	1.7	0.5	1.7
August.....	0.1	0.1	0.2	1.1	0.2	1.7	0.1	2.2	0.2	1.8	-0.1	1.4
September.....	0.2	0.3	0.2	1.0	0.5	2.1	0.4	2.0	0.0	1.4	0.4	1.9
October.....	-0.1	0.4	0.1	1.2	-0.2	1.8	-0.1	2.0	0.0	1.5	-0.2	1.7
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 October, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 278.297, down 0.2 percent over the month. The CPI-W rose 1.8 percent over the year.

The November 2020 Consumer Price Index for New York-Newark-Jersey City is scheduled to be released on Thursday, December 10, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on October 2020 Consumer Price Index Data

Data collection by personal visit for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program has been suspended since March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in October was affected by the temporary closing or limited operations of certain types of establishments. These factors resulted in an increase in the number of prices considered temporarily unavailable and imputed.

While the CPI program attempted to collect as much data as possible, many indexes are based on smaller amounts of collected prices than usual, and a small number of indexes that are normally published were not published this month. Additional information is available at

<https://www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.htm>.

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 U.S. population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 percent of the total U.S. 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 6,000 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/pub/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, NY-NJ-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-		
	Aug. 2020	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2020	Oct. 2019	Aug. 2020	Sept. 2020
Expenditure category						
All items.....	283.478	284.551	284.121	1.7	0.2	-0.2
All items (1967=100).....	819.497	822.597	821.355			
Food and beverages.....	282.014	281.898	283.288	3.7	0.5	0.5
Food.....	282.440	282.165	283.504	3.7	0.4	0.5
Food at home.....	269.424	268.109	268.221	2.9	-0.4	0.0
Cereals and bakery products.....	313.247	307.449	309.804	1.4	-1.1	0.8
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	270.925	267.103	267.554	3.9	-1.2	0.2
Dairy and related products.....	240.784	239.143	238.447	3.8	-1.0	-0.3
Fruits and vegetables.....	339.187	340.519	340.972	2.0	0.5	0.1
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1).....	260.941	266.563	258.466	0.7	-0.9	-3.0
Other food at home.....	235.980	234.735	236.981	4.4	0.4	1.0
Food away from home.....	308.617	309.803	312.912	4.8	1.4	1.0
Alcoholic beverages.....	271.408	273.471	275.545	3.0	1.5	0.8
Housing.....	308.825	309.494	308.123	1.5	-0.2	-0.4
Shelter.....	392.469	393.526	392.135	1.6	-0.1	-0.4
Rent of primary residence.....	409.042	409.663	409.322	1.7	0.1	-0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(2).....	400.991	401.553	401.223	1.9	0.1	-0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(2).....	400.495	401.056	400.726	2.0	0.1	-0.1
Fuels and utilities.....	194.955	194.692	190.687	-0.6	-2.2	-2.1
Household energy.....	184.341	184.050	179.454	-1.5	-2.7	-2.5
Energy services.....	181.590	181.764	176.265	2.1	-2.9	-3.0
Electricity.....	185.850	187.088	179.729	4.4	-3.3	-3.9
Utility (piped) gas service.....	160.473	158.493	157.117	-3.9	-2.1	-0.9
Household furnishings and operations.....	112.355	112.355	112.634	3.3	0.2	0.2
Apparel.....	119.120	125.376	118.483	-4.0	-0.5	-5.5
Transportation.....	209.508	214.911	216.154	-1.5	3.2	0.6
Private transportation.....	204.697	205.508	204.563	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	94.374	94.067	94.748	6.6	0.4	0.7
New vehicles(1).....	208.100	206.180	204.696	1.3	-1.6	-0.7
Used cars and trucks(1).....	289.087	295.322	298.465	12.0	3.2	1.1
Motor fuel.....	178.672	179.975	178.728	-16.0	0.0	-0.7
Gasoline (all types).....	177.649	179.004	177.803	-16.1	0.1	-0.7
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	174.825	176.367	175.184	-16.6	0.2	-0.7
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	195.991	195.894	194.001	-13.2	-1.0	-1.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	200.242	200.198	198.960	-12.1	-0.6	-0.6
Motor vehicle insurance(1).....	767.531	755.232	731.880	-3.5	-4.6	-3.1
Medical care.....	539.804	536.138	535.668	3.3	-0.8	-0.1
Recreation(3).....	135.169	131.429	133.937	5.5	-0.9	1.9
Education and communication(3).....	150.265	150.721	150.858	2.6	0.4	0.1
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1).....	1,267.144	1,274.912	1,275.436	2.7	0.7	0.0
Other goods and services.....	444.398	448.398	445.601	0.9	0.3	-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, 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-		
	Aug. 2020	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2020	Oct. 2019	Aug. 2020	Sept. 2020
Commodity and service group						
All items	283.478	284.551	284.121	1.7	0.2	-0.2
Commodities	191.619	192.413	191.470	0.0	-0.1	-0.5
Commodities less food and beverages	138.946	140.101	138.164	-3.1	-0.6	-1.4
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	173.121	175.587	171.431	-5.9	-1.0	-2.4
Durables	94.311	94.180	94.419	2.1	0.1	0.3
Services.....	360.276	361.587	361.529	2.4	0.3	0.0
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	272.370	273.640	273.212	1.6	0.3	-0.2
All items less shelter.....	240.223	241.302	241.254	1.8	0.4	0.0
Commodities less food	143.783	144.972	143.143	-2.8	-0.4	-1.3
Nondurables	228.325	229.582	228.039	-0.4	-0.1	-0.7
Nondurables less food.....	178.999	181.444	177.646	-5.2	-0.8	-2.1
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	336.710	338.308	339.630	3.4	0.9	0.4
Services less medical care services.....	344.830	346.372	346.352	2.2	0.4	0.0
Energy	184.925	185.227	181.818	-7.4	-1.7	-1.8
All items less energy	294.824	295.972	295.786	2.3	0.3	-0.1
All items less food and energy	299.026	300.415	299.979	2.0	0.3	-0.1

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.