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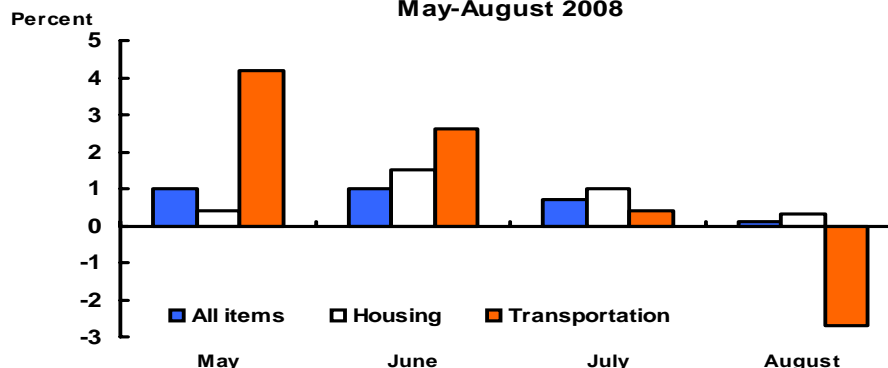
NEW YORK-NORTHERN NEW JERSEY CPI INCHED UP 0.1 PERCENT IN AUGUST, 5.4 PERCENT INCREASE FROM YEAR AGO

Retail prices in the greater New York area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), inched up 0.1 percent in August, following an increase of 0.7 percent in July. Michael L. Dolfman, Regional Commissioner of the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, said the August index reflected increases in housing and apparel. Higher prices for education and communication and food and beverages also contributed to the rise. These increases were largely offset by lower prices for transportation. For the year ended in August 2008, the CPI-U advanced 5.4 percent, the largest increase since June 2006, and core inflation, as measured by the all items less food and energy index, was 2.8 percent.

The housing index rose 0.3 percent in August, after increasing 1.0 percent in July. (See chart A.) The August increase was primarily due to a rise in the shelter component. Shelter rose 0.5 percent, with owners' equivalent rent and residential rent increasing 0.3 and 0.6 percent, respectively. Increases in dormitory charges also contributed to the shelter rise. In the fuels and utilities component, lower charges for natural gas (down 7.9 percent) and for heating oil outweighed a 6.9-percent advance in electricity prices. Despite the August decline, fuels and utilities prices climbed 23.7 percent over the year.

The apparel index, often up at this time of year with the introduction of fall and winter lines, rose 4.5 percent, with increases for women's apparel, including suits and separates. The August increase followed decreases in both June and July. From August 2007, apparel prices rose 3.0 percent, the largest 12-month increase since September 2005.

Chart A. Over-the-month percent changes in consumer price indexes, New York-Northern New Jersey, May-August 2008



Round-the-clock recorded messages for the Consumer Price Index and a variety of other *Bureau of Labor Statistics* data are available by dialing the *New York Information Office's* main telephone number: (646) 264-3600. For recorded messages, press '2'.

New York-Northern New Jersey CPI monthly and annual percent changes
(not seasonally adjusted)

| Month | 2003 | | 2004 | | 2005 | | 2006 | | 2007 | | 2008 | |
|-----------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
| | Monthly | Annual | Monthly | Annual | Monthly | Annual | Monthly | Annual | Monthly | Annual | Monthly | Annual |
| January | 0.8 | 3.3 | 0.3 | 2.7 | 0.6 | 4.1 | 0.8 | 3.7 | 0.2 | 2.7 | 0.2 | 3.7 |
| February | 0.8 | 3.3 | 0.6 | 2.5 | 0.4 | 3.9 | 0.2 | 3.6 | 0.6 | 3.1 | 0.5 | 3.6 |
| March | 0.5 | 3.1 | 1.1 | 3.2 | 1.7 | 4.4 | 0.8 | 2.7 | 0.7 | 2.9 | 0.9 | 3.8 |
| April | -0.2 | 2.6 | 0.3 | 3.7 | 0.0 | 4.2 | 0.9 | 3.6 | 0.5 | 2.5 | 0.3 | 3.6 |
| May | 0.1 | 2.8 | 0.2 | 3.9 | -0.5 | 3.4 | 0.6 | 4.8 | 0.6 | 2.5 | 1.0 | 4.0 |
| June | 0.1 | 2.8 | 0.8 | 4.6 | -0.3 | 2.3 | 0.5 | 5.6 | 0.5 | 2.5 | 1.0 | 4.5 |
| July | 0.4 | 3.0 | -0.2 | 3.9 | 0.9 | 3.4 | 0.2 | 5.0 | 0.2 | 2.5 | 0.7 | 5.1 |
| August | 0.7 | 3.1 | 0.1 | 3.3 | 0.8 | 4.1 | 0.4 | 4.7 | -0.1 | 1.9 | 0.1 | 5.4 |
| September | 0.3 | 3.3 | 0.1 | 3.2 | 0.8 | 4.8 | -0.5 | 3.3 | 0.0 | 2.4 | | |
| October | 0.2 | 3.3 | 0.7 | 3.7 | 0.4 | 4.5 | -0.5 | 2.4 | 0.1 | 3.1 | | |
| November | -0.3 | 3.1 | 0.0 | 3.9 | -0.6 | 3.9 | -0.4 | 2.6 | 0.4 | 3.9 | | |
| December | -0.1 | 3.2 | -0.2 | 3.8 | -0.5 | 3.6 | 0.2 | 3.3 | 0.0 | 3.7 | | |

Transportation prices decreased 2.7 percent in August, the first decline in six months. The transportation index decline was largely due to a 7.4-percent drop in gasoline prices. The August index also reflected price cuts for other motor fuels, as well as used cars and trucks. Over the year, transportation prices increased 11.2 percent.

The education and communication index rose 1.6 percent over the month, reflecting seasonal tuition increases, along with higher charges for long distance telephone service. The food and beverages index rose 0.6 percent. Prices for food at home rose 0.8 percent for the second consecutive month. The August index included higher prices for citrus fruits; apples; other fats and oils, including peanut butter; canned fruits and vegetables; salad dressing; and potatoes. Since August 2007, grocery prices have climbed 7.8 percent, the largest 12-month increase since October 1990.

Among other expenditure categories, the recreation index inched up 0.1 percent in August, with price increases for newspapers and magazines. Medical care also rose 0.1 percent, while the index for other goods and services was unchanged.

With the New York-Northern New Jersey Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers at 240.550 in August (1982-84=100), \$24.06 was required to purchase what \$10 could in the 1982-84 base period. The purchasing power of the dollar was 41.6 cents in 1982-84 dollars and 14.4 cents in 1967 dollars. In August, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 235.510, unchanged over the month. The CPI-W rose 6.1 percent over the year. On a 1967 base, the August CPI-W was 670.557.

Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences. 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.

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)

| Item and Group | Indexes | | | Percent change from— | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | June 2008 | July 2008 | Aug. 2008 | Aug. 2007 | June 2008 | July 2008 |
| Expenditure category | | | | | | |
| All items | 238.580 | 240.273 | 240.550 | 5.4 | 0.8 | 0.1 |
| All items (1967=100) | 689.702 | 694.595 | 695.396 | - | - | - |
| Food and beverages | 221.658 | 223.278 | 224.520 | 6.0 | 1.3 | .6 |
| Food | 220.934 | 222.523 | 223.732 | 6.1 | 1.3 | .5 |
| Food at home | 221.524 | 223.293 | 225.000 | 7.8 | 1.6 | .8 |
| Food away from home | 226.122 | 227.536 | 228.174 | 4.1 | .9 | .3 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 228.273 | 230.313 | 232.027 | 4.5 | 1.6 | .7 |
| Housing | 257.051 | 259.706 | 260.568 | 4.6 | 1.4 | .3 |
| Shelter | 304.891 | 307.161 | 308.643 | 2.9 | 1.2 | .5 |
| Rent of primary residence ¹ | 294.696 | 297.326 | 299.103 | 5.9 | 1.5 | .6 |
| Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2} | 312.623 | 313.335 | 314.378 | 3.5 | .6 | .3 |
| Fuels and utilities | 227.924 | 236.499 | 235.786 | 23.7 | 3.4 | -.3 |
| Household energy | 233.487 | 242.451 | 241.662 | 25.6 | 3.5 | -.3 |
| Gas (piped) and electricity ¹ | 214.201 | 223.953 | 227.868 | 19.2 | 6.4 | 1.7 |
| Electricity ¹ | 197.607 | 206.046 | 220.254 | 21.9 | 11.5 | 6.9 |
| Utility (piped) gas service ¹ | 243.987 | 256.392 | 236.195 | 11.7 | -3.2 | -7.9 |
| Household furnishings and operations | 127.815 | 127.691 | 127.318 | -1.9 | -.4 | -.3 |
| Apparel | 107.067 | 106.470 | 111.287 | 3.0 | 3.9 | 4.5 |
| Transportation | 217.187 | 218.149 | 212.162 | 11.2 | -2.3 | -2.7 |
| Private transportation | 207.008 | 208.336 | 201.938 | 11.4 | -2.4 | -3.1 |
| Motor fuel | 315.400 | 319.030 | 295.412 | 34.9 | -6.3 | -7.4 |
| Gasoline (all types) | 313.724 | 317.421 | 293.916 | 34.7 | -6.3 | -7.4 |
| Gasoline, unleaded regular ³ | 319.984 | 323.309 | 297.984 | 35.7 | -6.9 | -7.8 |
| Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4} | 309.132 | 314.032 | 294.113 | 33.6 | -4.9 | -6.3 |
| Gasoline, unleaded premium ³ | 304.244 | 308.351 | 287.718 | 31.9 | -5.4 | -6.7 |
| Medical care | 368.419 | 369.528 | 369.816 | 2.1 | .4 | .1 |
| Recreation ⁵ | 115.674 | 115.350 | 115.423 | 1.1 | -.2 | .1 |
| Education and communication ⁵ | 128.943 | 129.762 | 131.880 | 4.5 | 2.3 | 1.6 |
| Other goods and services | 349.941 | 352.966 | 352.883 | 4.9 | .8 | .0 |
| Commodity and service group | | | | | | |
| All items | 238.580 | 240.273 | 240.550 | 5.4 | .8 | .1 |
| Commodities | 185.345 | 186.181 | 184.969 | 7.4 | -.2 | -.7 |
| Commodities less food and beverages | 158.661 | 159.077 | 156.739 | 8.5 | -1.2 | -1.5 |
| Nondurables less food and beverages | 198.938 | 200.119 | 196.430 | 15.0 | -1.3 | -1.8 |
| Durables | 107.284 | 106.819 | 106.094 | -3.0 | -1.1 | -.7 |
| Services | 284.256 | 286.672 | 288.192 | 4.2 | 1.4 | .5 |
| Special aggregate indexes | | | | | | |
| All items less medical care | 232.589 | 234.288 | 234.562 | 5.5 | .8 | .1 |
| All items less shelter | 212.859 | 214.322 | 214.078 | 7.0 | .6 | -.1 |
| Commodities less food | 161.774 | 162.241 | 160.006 | 8.3 | -1.1 | -1.4 |
| Nondurables | 212.970 | 214.380 | 212.998 | 10.2 | .0 | -.6 |
| Nondurables less food | 201.185 | 202.415 | 199.000 | 14.2 | -1.1 | -1.7 |
| Services less rent of shelter ² | 271.532 | 274.238 | 275.872 | 6.3 | 1.6 | .6 |
| Services less medical care services | 276.853 | 279.306 | 280.888 | 4.3 | 1.5 | .6 |
| Energy | 268.490 | 275.268 | 264.974 | 29.5 | -1.3 | -3.7 |
| All items less energy | 237.309 | 238.515 | 239.829 | 3.3 | 1.1 | .6 |
| All items less food and energy | 241.782 | 242.923 | 244.264 | 2.8 | 1.0 | .6 |

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.

- Data not available.

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