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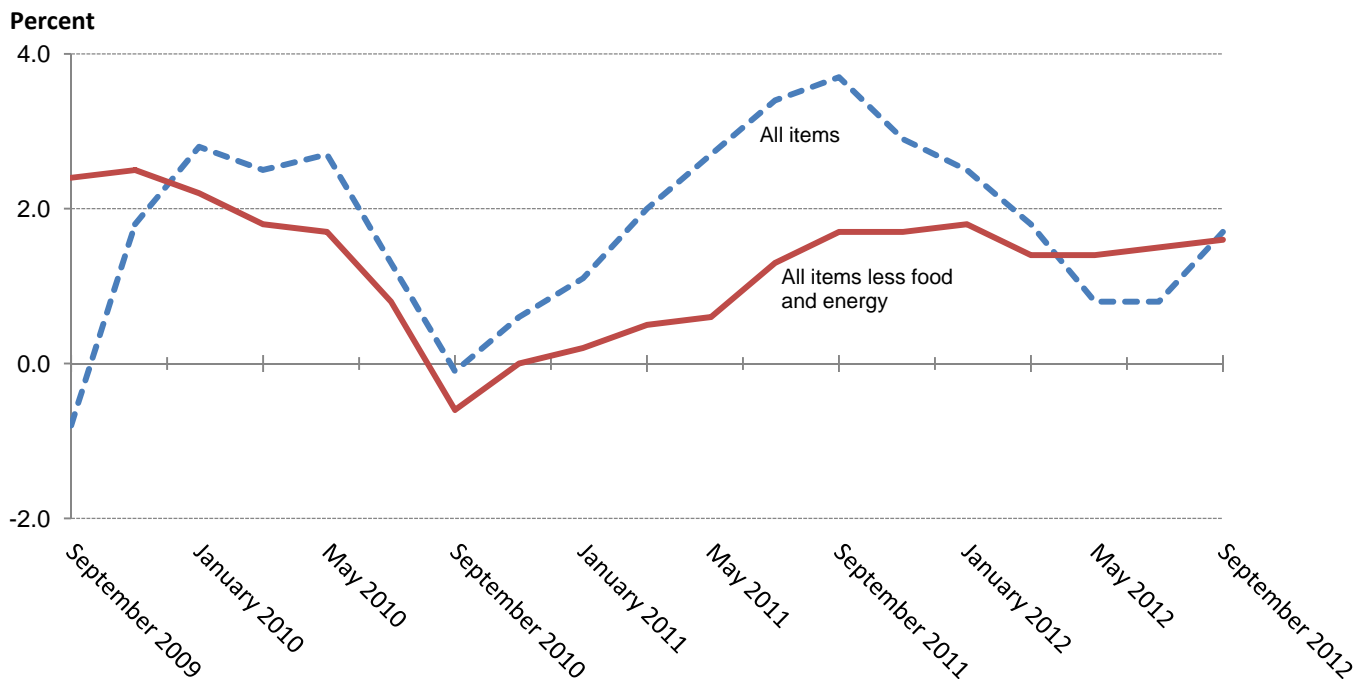
## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, BOSTON-BROCKTON-NASHUA— SEPTEMBER 2012

### Area prices rose 1.3 percent over two months; up 1.7 percent from a year ago

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Boston-Brockton-Nashua area increased 1.3 percent in September, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Deborah A. Brown, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that the two-month increase was the largest since September 2009 and was mainly due to higher energy prices. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, bimonthly changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months the Boston CPI-U was up 1.7 percent. The increase was attributable to gains in the all items less food and energy index (1.6 percent), and to a lesser extent, the food index (1.8 percent) and the energy index (1.9 percent). (See chart 1.)

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Boston-Brockton-Nashua, September 2009 - September 2012**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

## **Food**

Food prices rose 0.3 percent in September, with higher restaurant prices, up 0.5 percent, leading the increase. Grocery prices, also known as food at home, rose 0.2 percent.

From September 2011 to September 2012, the index for food increased 1.8 percent, as restaurant prices were up 2.4 percent and grocery store prices rose 1.5 percent.

## **Energy**

The energy index increased 8.3 percent in September, as rising gasoline prices were accompanied by higher costs for fuel oil and utility (piped) gas. Gasoline prices posted their largest two-month increase since May 2011, rising 37 cents to \$3.897 per gallon. Utility (piped) gas prices rose 13.5 percent while electricity prices were unchanged.

The energy index rose 1.9 percent over the year. Gasoline prices were 6.6 percent higher than the prior year, an increase that was partially offset by lower prices for utility (piped) gas (-7.2 percent) and electricity (-2.0 percent).

## **All items less food and energy**

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.7 percent in September. Though the increase was broadly based across the expenditure categories, a 2.6-percent increase in education and communication and a 6.6-percent seasonal increase in the apparel index were the main drivers.

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 1.6 percent. The increase was mainly attributed to a 2.1-percent gain in shelter costs, and to a lesser extent, increases in apparel and education and communication.

## **CPI-W**

In September, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 250.910, up 1.3 percent from July. The CPI-W increased 1.8 percent over the year.

**The November 2012 Consumer Price Index for Boston-Brockton-Nashua is scheduled to be released on Friday, December 14, 2012, 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 88 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 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 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 change 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/homch17\\_a.htm](http://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 Boston-Brockton-Nashua, Mass.-N.H.-Maine-Conn. consolidated area covered in this release is comprised of Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth and Suffolk Counties and parts of Bristol, Hampden, and Worcester Counties in Massachusetts; parts of Hillsborough, Merrimack, Rockingham, and Strafford Counties in New Hampshire; part of York County in Maine; and part of Windham County in Connecticut.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone number: 1-800-877-8339.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

**Boston-Brockton-Nashua, MA-NH-ME-CT** (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	July 2012	Aug. 2012	Sep. 2012	Sep. 2011	July 2012	Aug. 2012
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items .....	246.326	-	249.488	1.7	1.3	-
All items (1967=100) .....	715.954	-	725.144	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	245.686	-	246.506	1.8	.3	-
Food .....	246.156	-	246.994	1.8	.3	-
Food at home .....	237.383	238.562	237.929	1.5	.2	-0.3
Food away from home .....	260.767	-	262.102	2.4	.5	-
Alcoholic beverages .....	243.289	-	243.889	1.8	.2	-
Housing .....	238.520	-	240.138	1.6	.7	-
Shelter .....	280.643	281.255	281.293	2.1	.2	.0
Rent of primary residence <sup>1</sup> .....	288.249	289.543	290.065	3.1	.6	.2
Owners' equivalent rent of residences <sup>1 2</sup> .....	296.974	297.800	298.073	1.8	.4	.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence <sup>1 2</sup> .....	296.974	297.800	298.073	1.8	.4	.1
Fuels and utilities .....	220.153	-	231.086	-1.6	5.0	-
Household energy .....	181.704	184.319	192.518	-3.3	6.0	4.4
Energy services <sup>1</sup> .....	161.166	161.159	168.070	-5.1	4.3	4.3
Electricity <sup>1</sup> .....	178.616	178.617	178.617	-2.0	.0	.0
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>1</sup> .....	129.222	129.203	146.662	-7.2	13.5	13.5
Household furnishings and operations .....	130.497	-	129.530	2.0	-7	-
Apparel .....	142.364	-	151.706	6.4	6.6	-
Transportation .....	203.310	-	208.724	1.5	2.7	-
Private transportation .....	202.305	-	208.495	2.2	3.1	-
Motor fuel .....	299.546	316.788	330.504	6.6	10.3	4.3
Gasoline (all types) .....	296.089	313.187	326.767	6.6	10.4	4.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>3</sup> .....	294.370	311.949	325.251	6.7	10.5	4.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>3 4</sup> .....	300.871	316.534	331.272	6.9	10.1	4.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>3</sup> .....	287.159	302.322	315.612	5.6	9.9	4.4
Medical care .....	571.101	-	573.953	1.2	.5	-
Recreation <sup>5</sup> .....	112.543	-	114.068	-2	1.4	-
Education and communication <sup>5</sup> .....	142.670	-	146.361	2.1	2.6	-
Other goods and services .....	425.277	-	423.966	1.2	-3	-
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	246.326	-	249.488	1.7	1.3	-
Commodities .....	193.977	-	197.563	2.1	1.8	-
Commodities less food and beverages .....	166.199	-	170.895	2.3	2.8	-
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	219.409	-	230.957	4.0	5.3	-
Durables .....	114.264	-	113.071	-4	-1.0	-
Services .....	292.556	-	295.247	1.4	.9	-
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	233.640	-	236.774	1.7	1.3	-
All items less shelter .....	235.411	-	239.595	1.5	1.8	-
Commodities less food .....	169.272	-	173.861	2.2	2.7	-
Nondurables .....	231.242	-	237.570	2.9	2.7	-
Nondurables less food .....	219.644	-	230.426	3.8	4.9	-
Services less rent of shelter <sup>2</sup> .....	321.836	-	327.194	.8	1.7	-
Services less medical care services .....	273.606	-	276.176	1.5	.9	-
Energy .....	230.639	239.347	249.837	1.9	8.3	4.4
All items less energy .....	251.421	-	253.044	1.7	.6	-
All items less food and energy .....	252.984	-	254.758	1.6	.7	-

<sup>1</sup> This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

<sup>2</sup> Index is on a November 1982=100 base.

<sup>3</sup> Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

<sup>4</sup> Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

<sup>5</sup> Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

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