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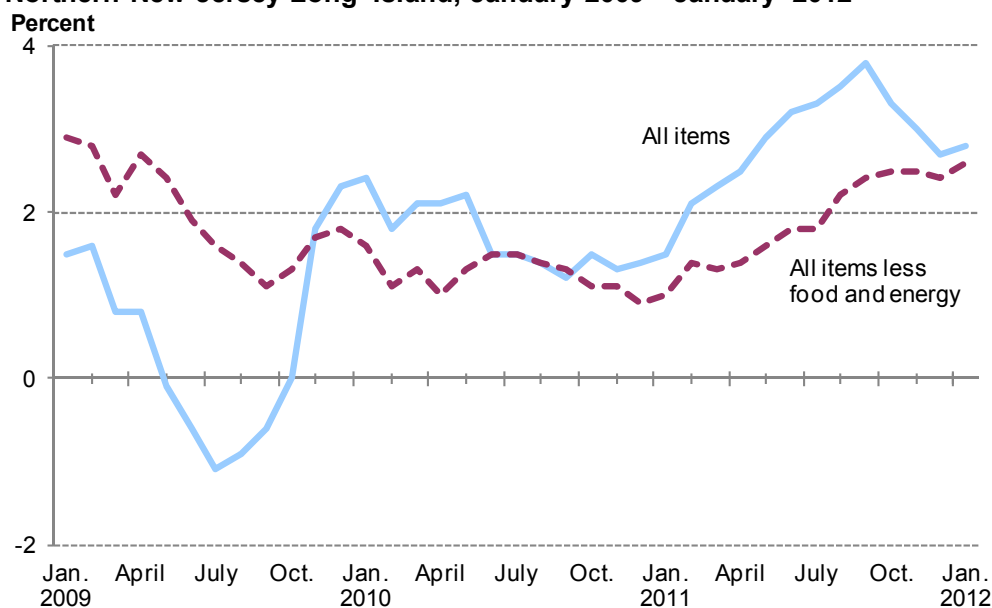
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**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, NEW YORK-NORTHERN NEW JERSEY – JANUARY 2012**  
**Area prices up 0.4 percent over the month and 2.8 percent over the year**

Prices in the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), rose 0.4 percent in January, after falling in each of the prior three months, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Acting Regional Commissioner Denis M. McSweeney attributed the upturn to higher prices for food, energy, and other items, including medical care. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

For the year ended January 2012, the CPI-U rose 2.8 percent, reflecting higher shelter and food prices. The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.6 percent, the highest rate posted since April 2009. (See table A and chart 1.)

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, January 2009 – January 2012**



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



**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-New Jersey Information Office's** main telephone number: **(646) 264-3600**. For recorded messages, press '2'.

## Food

The food index increased 0.4 percent, after rising 0.7 percent in December. Prices for food away from home rose 0.8 percent, and grocery prices increased 0.6 percent, with higher prices recorded for poultry; pork chops; cheese products; frozen foods; and spices, seasonings, and condiments.

Over the year, food rose 4.1 percent, with food at home increasing 4.6 percent, and food away from home, 3.5 percent. (See table 1.)

## Energy

The energy index advanced 1.7 percent, after five monthly declines. Gasoline prices turned up 2.8 percent, following a streak of seven consecutive decreases. Within the household energy component, a 2.7-percent rise in electricity prices and higher charges for fuel oil outweighed a 3.5-percent fall in prices for natural gas.

For the year ended January 2012, energy rose 2.7 percent, with gasoline prices increasing 9.8 percent. In contrast, household energy prices declined 3.4 percent. Prices for electricity dropped 2.1 percent, while natural gas charges fell 13.5 percent, the largest over-the-year decrease recorded since December 2009.

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.3 percent, after decreasing 0.4 percent in December. Prices for medical care, often up in January, climbed 2.1 percent over the month, the largest one-month increase in 33 years. The increase reflected higher prices for prescription drugs and for hospital and nursing home services. Shelter prices, including residential rent, increased 0.3 percent. Household furnishings and operations advanced 0.7 percent, with higher prices reported for major appliances and cookware and tableware. These increases were partially offset by a seasonal decline in apparel prices, which were down 0.8 percent, with post-holiday sales.

From January 2011 to January 2012, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.6 percent. Shelter prices increased 2.0 percent, and residential rent rose 2.7 percent. Medical care registered a 5.5-percent rise, the largest over-the-year increase recorded since 2007.

**Table A. New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island CPI-U monthly and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)**

Month	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
January	0.2	2.7	0.2	3.7	0.2	1.5	0.2	2.4	0.3	1.5	0.4	2.8
February	0.6	3.1	0.5	3.6	0.5	1.6	0.0	1.8	0.5	2.1		
March	0.7	2.9	0.9	3.8	0.2	0.8	0.5	2.1	0.7	2.3		
April	0.5	2.5	0.3	3.6	0.2	0.8	0.2	2.1	0.4	2.5		
May	0.6	2.5	1.0	4.0	0.2	-0.1	0.2	2.2	0.6	2.9		
June	0.5	2.5	1.0	4.5	0.5	-0.6	-0.1	1.5	0.2	3.2		
July	0.2	2.5	0.7	5.1	0.2	-1.1	0.1	1.5	0.3	3.3		
August	-0.1	1.9	0.1	5.4	0.3	-0.9	0.2	1.4	0.4	3.5		
September	0.0	2.4	-0.2	5.2	0.1	-0.6	0.0	1.2	0.2	3.8		
October	0.1	3.1	-0.7	4.3	-0.1	0.0	0.2	1.5	-0.2	3.3		
November	0.4	3.9	-1.6	2.2	0.2	1.8	0.0	1.3	-0.3	3.0		
December	0.0	3.7	-0.6	1.6	-0.1	2.3	0.0	1.4	-0.4	2.7		

## CPI-W

In January, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 245.541, up 0.4 percent over the month. The CPI-W increased 3.0 percent over the year.

**The February 2012 Consumer Price Index for New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island is scheduled to be released on Friday, March 16, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. (EDT).**

## 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 87 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 32 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 25,000 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](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 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.

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.

For personal assistance or further information on Consumer Price Indexes, as well as other Bureau products, contact the New York-New Jersey Information Office at (646) 264-3600 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

HU\*Y% 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—		
	Nov. 2011	Dec. 2011	Jan. 2012	Jan. 2011	Nov. 2011	Dec. 2011
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items .....	249.317	248.307	249.322	2.8	0.0	0.4
All items (1967=100) .....	720.740	717.820	720.754	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	239.385	240.948	242.539	3.9	1.3	.7
Food .....	238.869	240.450	242.086	4.1	1.3	.7
Food at home .....	239.140	241.762	243.238	4.6	1.7	.6
Food away from home .....	244.831	245.155	247.043	3.5	.9	.8
Alcoholic beverages .....	242.925	244.206	245.153	1.8	.9	.4
Housing .....	262.528	261.610	262.677	1.4	.1	.4
Shelter .....	320.318	319.315	320.412	2.0	.0	.3
Rent of primary residence <sup>1</sup> .....	324.090	323.923	324.920	2.7	.3	.3
Owners' equivalent rent of residences <sup>1 2</sup> .....	327.977	327.406	328.120	1.9	.0	.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence <sup>1 2</sup> .....	327.849	327.263	327.973	1.9	.0	.2
Fuels and utilities .....	199.732	195.905	197.277	-2.8	-1.2	.7
Household energy .....	196.935	192.588	194.115	-3.4	-1.4	.8
Energy services <sup>1</sup> .....	181.240	176.287	177.444	-6.0	-2.1	.7
Electricity <sup>1</sup> .....	177.956	173.910	178.691	-2.1	.4	2.7
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>1</sup> .....	182.399	175.620	169.534	-13.5	-7.1	-3.5
Household furnishings and operations .....	120.032	121.548	122.360	.8	1.9	.7
Apparel .....	126.712	120.247	119.285	2.7	-5.9	-8
Transportation .....	223.567	221.334	222.709	5.8	-.4	.6
Private transportation .....	211.998	210.394	212.431	6.4	.2	1.0
Motor fuel .....	274.793	266.344	273.712	10.0	-.4	2.8
Gasoline (all types) .....	273.528	264.876	272.330	9.8	-.4	2.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>3</sup> .....	276.093	267.285	275.529	9.6	-.2	3.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>3 4</sup> .....	275.866	267.373	272.921	10.0	-1.1	2.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>3</sup> .....	269.327	260.878	266.482	10.1	-1.1	2.1
Medical care .....	396.753	399.502	407.792	5.5	2.8	2.1
Recreation <sup>5</sup> .....	116.565	116.489	117.031	3.7	.4	.5
Education and communication <sup>5</sup> .....	138.172	138.132	138.439	2.1	.2	.2
Other goods and services .....	387.114	387.276	387.179	1.9	.0	.0
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	249.317	248.307	249.322	2.8	.0	.4
Commodities .....	191.082	189.805	191.069	3.9	.0	.7
Commodities less food and beverages .....	158.268	155.718	156.761	3.9	-1.0	.7
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	200.774	195.597	197.447	4.6	-1.7	.9
Durables .....	103.939	104.565	104.666	2.4	.7	.1
Services .....	299.282	298.482	299.385	2.2	.0	.3
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	242.667	241.539	242.332	2.6	-.1	.3
All items less shelter .....	221.617	220.595	221.559	3.2	.0	.4
Commodities less food .....	161.810	159.359	160.404	3.8	-.9	.7
Nondurables .....	222.623	220.525	222.279	4.3	-.2	.8
Nondurables less food .....	203.692	198.845	200.648	4.4	-1.5	.9
Services less rent of shelter <sup>2</sup> .....	286.743	286.160	286.935	2.5	.1	.3
Services less medical care services .....	291.044	290.025	290.660	2.0	-.1	.2
Energy .....	229.351	223.324	227.181	2.7	-.9	1.7
All items less energy .....	253.046	252.506	253.300	2.8	.1	.3
All items less food and energy .....	257.213	256.281	256.953	2.6	-.1	.3

<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 December 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.