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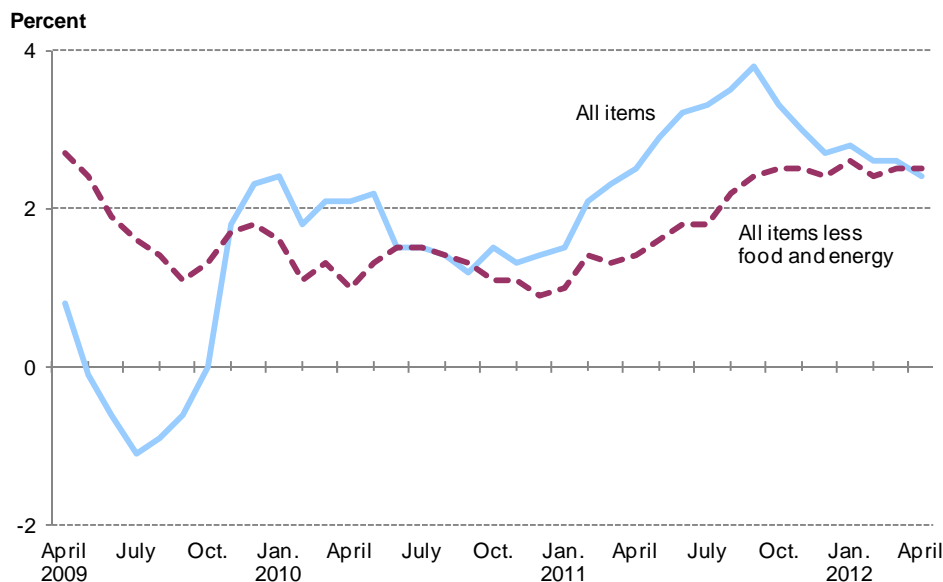
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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, NEW YORK-NORTHERN NEW JERSEY – APRIL 2012
Area prices up 0.2 percent over the month and 2.4 percent over the year

Prices in the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), edged up 0.2 percent in April, after rising between 0.4 and 0.6 percent in each of the prior three months, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Deborah A. Brown primarily attributed the increase to a rise in the price of gasoline that was partly offset by lower prices for shelter. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

For the year ended in April 2012, the CPI-U rose 2.4 percent, reflecting higher prices for shelter and food. The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.5 percent, about the same rate it has been since September. During the same time period, the 12-month percentage change in the all-items index dropped 1.4 percentage points. (See table A and chart 1.)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, April 2009–April 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 inched up 0.2 percent, following a 0.1-percent dip in March. Prices for food at home were unchanged in April. Higher prices for breakfast cereal, eggs, ground beef, and cakes, cupcakes and cookies were offset by price declines for other groceries, including soups, frozen food, salad dressing, and butter and margarine. In contrast, food away from home rose 0.3 percent.

For the 12 months ended in April, food rose 3.7 percent. Food at home increased 4.2 percent, while food away from home rose 3.0 percent. (See table 1.)

Energy

The energy index posted a 0.9-percent rise, which followed an advance of 2.8 percent in March. The index mirrored a slowdown in price increases for gasoline, which rose 3.2 percent, after climbing 5.4 percent in February and 4.4 percent in March. In April, higher gasoline prices were largely offset by lower charges for household energy services—prices for natural gas dropped 3.3 percent, while prices for electricity decreased 0.7 percent.

From April 2011 to April 2012, energy decreased 0.9 percent, marking the first decline in the 12-month rate since December 2009. Household energy services fell 6.5 percent, primarily reflecting a 15.2-percent drop in the price of natural gas, which has recorded over-the-year declines for 37 consecutive months.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy ticked up 0.1 percent, following a 0.6-percent rise in March. Prices for household furnishings and operations jumped 1.2 percent over the month. Medical care prices rose 0.2 percent for the second consecutive month, and prices also increased for airline fares, other intercity transportation, and new and used motor vehicles. On the other hand, prices for shelter turned negative (-0.1 percent), with lower prices for out-of-town lodging outweighing a 0.2-percent increase in residential rent.

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 2.5 percent. Shelter prices increased 1.9 percent, with residential rent rising 2.2 percent. Prices for medical care increased 4.8 percent.

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	0.4	2.6
March	0.7	2.9	0.9	3.8	0.2	0.8	0.5	2.1	0.7	2.3	0.6	2.6
April	0.5	2.5	0.3	3.6	0.2	0.8	0.2	2.1	0.4	2.5	0.2	2.4
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 April, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 248.706, up 0.2 percent over the month. The CPI-W increased 2.5 percent over the year.

The May 2012 Consumer Price Index for New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island is scheduled to be released on Thursday, June 14, 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 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 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/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.

Table 1. 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—		
	Feb. 2012	Mar. 2012	Apr. 2012	Apr. 2011	Feb. 2012	Mar. 2012
Expenditure category						
All items	250.285	251.887	252.349	2.4	0.8	0.2
All items (1967=100)	723.540	728.171	729.507	-	-	-
Food and beverages	242.470	242.203	242.597	3.5	.1	.2
Food	242.208	241.884	242.256	3.7	.0	.2
Food at home	243.360	242.428	242.545	4.2	-.3	.0
Food away from home	247.169	247.632	248.345	3.0	.5	.3
Alcoholic beverages	242.387	242.927	243.636	.6	.5	.3
Housing	262.504	263.648	263.310	1.2	.3	-.1
Shelter	320.751	322.080	321.721	1.9	.3	-.1
Rent of primary residence ¹	324.670	325.323	326.117	2.2	.4	.2
Owners' equivalent rent of residences ^{1 2}	327.814	328.984	329.219	1.7	.4	.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	327.659	328.833	329.059	1.7	.4	.1
Fuels and utilities	194.362	196.419	194.044	-4.4	-.2	-1.2
Household energy	190.831	193.145	190.355	-5.5	-.2	-1.4
Energy services ¹	172.204	174.637	171.964	-6.5	-.1	-1.5
Electricity ¹	175.962	176.213	174.990	-2.0	-.6	-.7
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	159.461	166.159	160.683	-15.2	.8	-3.3
Household furnishings and operations	122.507	122.266	123.736	1.5	1.0	1.2
Apparel	119.832	127.061	127.399	4.1	6.3	.3
Transportation	226.009	228.950	231.835	3.4	2.6	1.3
Private transportation	215.867	218.496	220.918	3.5	2.3	1.1
Motor fuel	288.323	300.810	310.219	4.0	7.6	3.1
Gasoline (all types)	287.100	299.659	309.185	3.9	7.7	3.2
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	291.156	304.028	313.535	3.8	7.7	3.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	286.330	298.680	308.666	4.5	7.8	3.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	278.905	290.438	300.082	4.2	7.6	3.3
Medical care	408.337	409.317	410.020	4.8	.4	.2
Recreation ⁵	118.512	118.547	118.524	3.4	.0	.0
Education and communication ⁵	138.570	138.471	138.576	2.2	.0	.1
Other goods and services	388.643	391.090	391.012	2.5	.6	.0
Commodity and service group						
All items	250.285	251.887	252.349	2.4	.8	.2
Commodities	192.473	194.735	195.827	2.9	1.7	.6
Commodities less food and beverages	158.812	162.193	163.571	2.5	3.0	.8
Nondurables less food and beverages	201.293	207.455	209.459	3.0	4.1	1.0
Durables	104.634	104.776	105.396	1.8	.7	.6
Services	299.875	300.914	300.840	2.1	.3	.0
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	243.263	244.878	245.329	2.2	.8	.2
All items less shelter	222.789	224.500	225.286	2.6	1.1	.4
Commodities less food	162.316	165.626	166.990	2.4	2.9	.8
Nondurables	224.297	227.455	228.715	3.1	2.0	.6
Nondurables less food	204.127	209.984	211.920	2.8	3.8	.9
Services less rent of shelter ²	287.545	288.292	288.548	2.3	.3	.1
Services less medical care services	291.014	292.085	291.895	1.9	.3	-.1
Energy	230.974	237.342	239.373	-.9	3.6	.9
All items less energy	253.938	255.079	255.390	2.7	.6	.1
All items less food and energy	257.658	259.089	259.389	2.5	.7	.1

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.