

NEW YORK – NEW JERSEY INFORMATION OFFICE
New York City, N.Y.

For release: Thursday, January 19, 2012

12-78-NEW

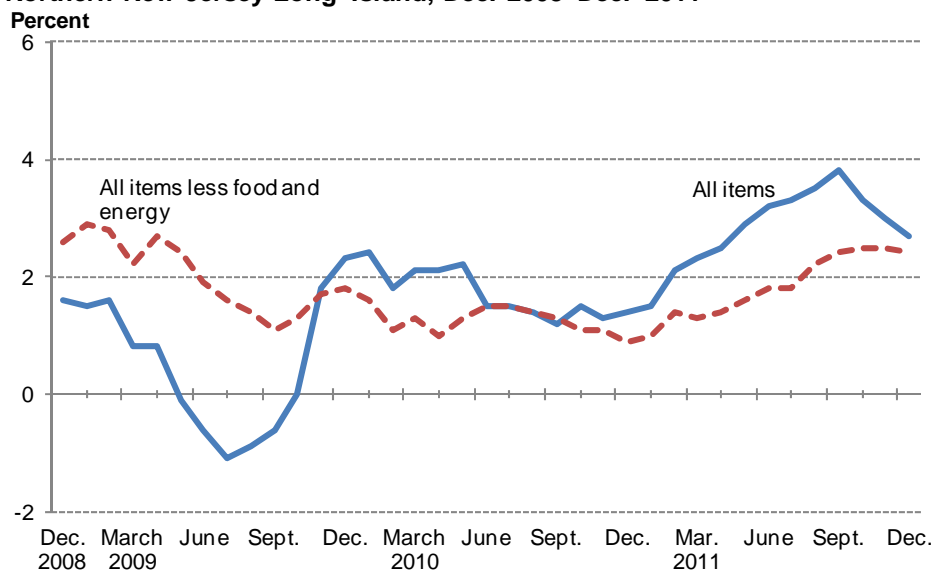
Technical information: Martin Kohli (646) 264-3620 • BLSInfoNY@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/ro2
Media contact: Denis M. McSweeney (212) 337-2500

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, NEW YORK-NORTHERN NEW JERSEY – DECEMBER 2011
Area prices down 0.4 percent over the month and up 2.7 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), decreased 0.4 percent in December, after dropping 0.3 percent in November and 0.2 percent in October, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Acting Regional Commissioner Denis M. McSweeney said the decline reflected lower prices for energy and other items, which more than offset an increase for food. Not since the last quarter of 2008 has the CPI-U fallen for three consecutive months. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

For the year ended December 2011, the CPI-U rose 2.7 percent, largely attributable to higher shelter and food prices. The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.4 percent. (See table A and chart 1.)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, Dec. 2008–Dec. 2011



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

Food prices rose 0.7 percent, after dropping 0.3 percent in November. A 1.1-percent jump in prices for food at home lifted the index, while prices for food away from home inched up 0.1 percent. Higher prices were reported for bread, eggs, lettuce, uncooked beef roasts, and other fresh fruits.

From December 2010 to December 2011, the food index advanced 4.3 percent, with prices for food at home increasing 5.5 percent. (See table 1.)

Energy

The energy index fell 2.6 percent, after decreasing 0.8 percent in November. Gasoline prices dropped 3.2 percent, marking the seventh consecutive decline, the longest streak recorded in the area since 2001-02. Prices for household energy decreased 2.2 percent, reflecting lower charges for electricity (-2.3 percent) and natural gas (-3.7 percent).

Over the year, energy prices increased 2.4 percent, led by a 9.9-percent rise in gasoline prices. In contrast, household energy prices retreated 3.9 percent, with natural gas and electricity charges falling 9.3 and 7.1 percent, respectively.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy dropped 0.4 percent, the largest decline posted since November 2008. The fall of the index was largely driven by seasonal discounting of apparel (-5.1 percent). Shelter prices also decreased in December, with residential rent dipping 0.1 percent and owners' equivalent rent edging down 0.2 percent. Lower prices were also reported for toys, televisions, and used cars and trucks. In contrast, medical care prices advanced 0.7 percent over the month.

For the year ended December 2011, the index for all items less food and energy rose 2.4 percent. Shelter prices increased 1.8 percent, and residential rent rose 2.1 percent. Apparel prices advanced 3.1 percent, and prices for medical care climbed 4.0 percent, the largest over-the-year change recorded since January 2008.

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

| Month | 2006 | | 2007 | | 2008 | | 2009 | | 2010 | | 2011 | |
|-----------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
| | Monthly | Annual | Monthly | Annual | Monthly | Annual | Monthly | Annual | Monthly | Annual | Monthly | Annual |
| January | 0.8 | 3.7 | 0.2 | 2.7 | 0.2 | 3.7 | 0.2 | 1.5 | 0.2 | 2.4 | 0.3 | 1.5 |
| February | 0.2 | 3.6 | 0.6 | 3.1 | 0.5 | 3.6 | 0.5 | 1.6 | 0.0 | 1.8 | 0.5 | 2.1 |
| March | 0.8 | 2.7 | 0.7 | 2.9 | 0.9 | 3.8 | 0.2 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 2.1 | 0.7 | 2.3 |
| April | 0.9 | 3.6 | 0.5 | 2.5 | 0.3 | 3.6 | 0.2 | 0.8 | 0.2 | 2.1 | 0.4 | 2.5 |
| May | 0.6 | 4.8 | 0.6 | 2.5 | 1.0 | 4.0 | 0.2 | -0.1 | 0.2 | 2.2 | 0.6 | 2.9 |
| June | 0.5 | 5.6 | 0.5 | 2.5 | 1.0 | 4.5 | 0.5 | -0.6 | -0.1 | 1.5 | 0.2 | 3.2 |
| July | 0.2 | 5.0 | 0.2 | 2.5 | 0.7 | 5.1 | 0.2 | -1.1 | 0.1 | 1.5 | 0.3 | 3.3 |
| August | 0.4 | 4.7 | -0.1 | 1.9 | 0.1 | 5.4 | 0.3 | -0.9 | 0.2 | 1.4 | 0.4 | 3.5 |
| September | -0.5 | 3.3 | 0.0 | 2.4 | -0.2 | 5.2 | 0.1 | -0.6 | 0.0 | 1.2 | 0.2 | 3.8 |
| October | -0.5 | 2.4 | 0.1 | 3.1 | -0.7 | 4.3 | -0.1 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 1.5 | -0.2 | 3.3 |
| November | -0.4 | 2.6 | 0.4 | 3.9 | -1.6 | 2.2 | 0.2 | 1.8 | 0.0 | 1.3 | -0.3 | 3.0 |
| December | 0.2 | 3.3 | 0.0 | 3.7 | -0.6 | 1.6 | -0.1 | 2.3 | 0.0 | 1.4 | -0.4 | 2.7 |

CPI-W

In December, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 244.586, down 0.4 percent over the month. The CPI-W increased 3.0 percent over the year.

The January 2012 Consumer Price Index for New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island is scheduled to be released on Friday, February 17, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. (EST).

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 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 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 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— | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | Oct. 2011 | Nov. 2011 | Dec. 2011 | Dec. 2010 | Oct. 2011 | Nov. 2011 |
| Expenditure category | | | | | | |
| All items | 250.051 | 249.317 | 248.307 | 2.7 | -0.7 | -0.4 |
| All items (1967=100) | 722.862 | 720.740 | 717.820 | - | - | - |
| Food and beverages | 240.155 | 239.385 | 240.948 | 4.1 | .3 | .7 |
| Food | 239.606 | 238.869 | 240.450 | 4.3 | .4 | .7 |
| Food at home | 240.312 | 239.140 | 241.762 | 5.5 | .6 | 1.1 |
| Food away from home | 245.045 | 244.831 | 245.155 | 2.9 | .0 | .1 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 244.149 | 242.925 | 244.206 | 1.3 | .0 | .5 |
| Housing | 262.854 | 262.528 | 261.610 | 1.1 | -.5 | -.3 |
| Shelter | 320.655 | 320.318 | 319.315 | 1.8 | -.4 | -.3 |
| Rent of primary residence ¹ | 323.820 | 324.090 | 323.923 | 2.1 | .0 | -.1 |
| Owners' equivalent rent of residences ^{1 2} | 328.100 | 327.977 | 327.406 | 1.7 | -.2 | -.2 |
| Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2} | 327.983 | 327.849 | 327.263 | 1.7 | -.2 | -.2 |
| Fuels and utilities | 200.050 | 199.732 | 195.905 | -3.1 | -2.1 | -1.9 |
| Household energy | 197.295 | 196.935 | 192.588 | -3.9 | -2.4 | -2.2 |
| Energy services ¹ | 181.957 | 181.240 | 176.287 | -7.8 | -3.1 | -2.7 |
| Electricity ¹ | 180.675 | 177.956 | 173.910 | -7.1 | -3.7 | -2.3 |
| Utility (piped) gas service ¹ | 178.691 | 182.399 | 175.620 | -9.3 | -1.7 | -3.7 |
| Household furnishings and operations | 120.356 | 120.032 | 121.548 | -.3 | 1.0 | 1.3 |
| Apparel | 130.489 | 126.712 | 120.247 | 3.1 | -7.8 | -5.1 |
| Transportation | 224.943 | 223.567 | 221.334 | 6.2 | -1.6 | -1.0 |
| Private transportation | 213.589 | 211.998 | 210.394 | 6.3 | -1.5 | -.8 |
| Motor fuel | 278.707 | 274.793 | 266.344 | 10.2 | -4.4 | -3.1 |
| Gasoline (all types) | 277.757 | 273.528 | 264.876 | 9.9 | -4.6 | -3.2 |
| Gasoline, unleaded regular ³ | 280.644 | 276.093 | 267.285 | 9.6 | -4.8 | -3.2 |
| Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4} | 279.482 | 275.866 | 267.373 | 10.8 | -4.3 | -3.1 |
| Gasoline, unleaded premium ³ | 272.727 | 269.327 | 260.878 | 10.8 | -4.3 | -3.1 |
| Medical care | 395.287 | 396.753 | 399.502 | 4.0 | 1.1 | .7 |
| Recreation ⁵ | 116.651 | 116.565 | 116.489 | 2.8 | -.1 | -.1 |
| Education and communication ⁵ | 138.075 | 138.172 | 138.132 | 2.0 | .0 | .0 |
| Other goods and services | 385.998 | 387.114 | 387.276 | 1.6 | .3 | .0 |
| Commodity and service group | | | | | | |
| All items | 250.051 | 249.317 | 248.307 | 2.7 | -.7 | -.4 |
| Commodities | 192.254 | 191.082 | 189.805 | 4.0 | -1.3 | -.7 |
| Commodities less food and beverages | 159.568 | 158.268 | 155.718 | 3.9 | -2.4 | -1.6 |
| Nondurables less food and beverages | 203.183 | 200.774 | 195.597 | 4.9 | -3.7 | -2.6 |
| Durables | 103.890 | 103.939 | 104.565 | 1.9 | .6 | .6 |
| Services | 299.664 | 299.282 | 298.482 | 2.0 | -.4 | -.3 |
| Special aggregate indexes | | | | | | |
| All items less medical care | 243.470 | 242.667 | 241.539 | 2.6 | -.8 | -.5 |
| All items less shelter | 222.524 | 221.617 | 220.595 | 3.2 | -.9 | -.5 |
| Commodities less food | 163.115 | 161.810 | 159.359 | 3.8 | -2.3 | -1.5 |
| Nondurables | 224.304 | 222.623 | 220.525 | 4.5 | -1.7 | -.9 |
| Nondurables less food | 206.046 | 203.692 | 198.845 | 4.7 | -3.5 | -2.4 |
| Services less rent of shelter ² | 287.193 | 286.743 | 286.160 | 2.2 | -.4 | -.2 |
| Services less medical care services | 291.465 | 291.044 | 290.025 | 1.8 | -.5 | -.4 |
| Energy | 231.151 | 229.351 | 223.324 | 2.4 | -3.4 | -2.6 |
| All items less energy | 253.685 | 253.046 | 252.506 | 2.7 | -.5 | -.2 |
| All items less food and energy | 257.837 | 257.213 | 256.281 | 2.4 | -.6 | -.4 |

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.