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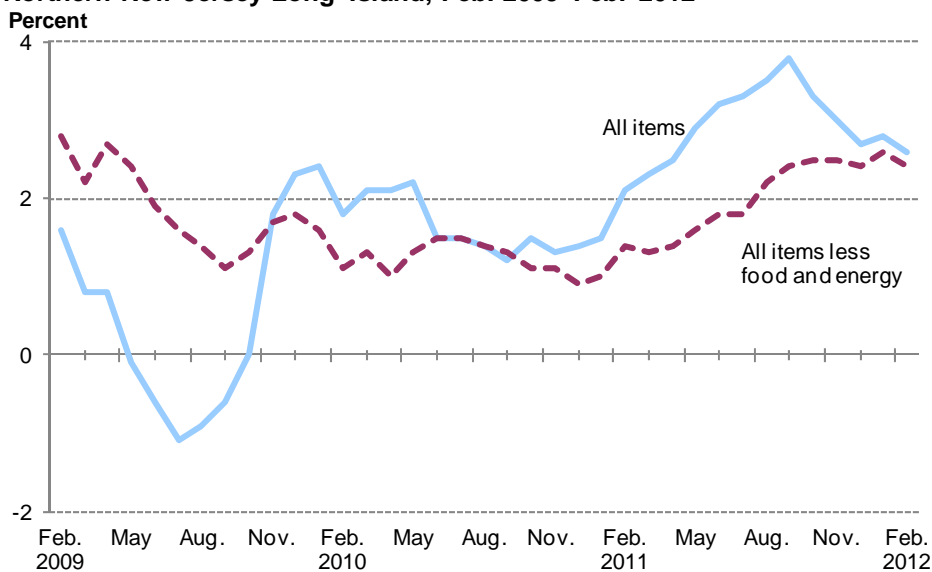
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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, NEW YORK-NORTHERN NEW JERSEY – FEBRUARY 2012
Area prices up 0.4 percent over the month and 2.6 percent over the year

Prices in the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), increased 0.4 percent for the second consecutive month in February, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Acting Regional Commissioner Joyce A. Sweeney said the rise primarily reflected higher prices for gasoline and other items, including recreation. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

For the year ended in February 2012, the CPI-U rose 2.6 percent, reflecting higher prices for shelter, food, and gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.4 percent. For both indexes, the 12-month percent increase has changed relatively little since December. (See table A and chart 1.)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, Feb. 2009–Feb. 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 0.1 percent, after rising 0.4 percent in January. Food at and away from home each ticked up 0.1 percent, as higher prices were reported for soups, other bakery products, and other sweets.

From February 2011 to February 2012, food rose 3.7 percent, with food at home rising 4.1 percent, and food away from home, 3.2 percent. (See table 1.)

Energy

The energy index registered a 1.7-percent increase for the second consecutive month. Gasoline prices advanced 5.4 percent, after rising 2.8 percent in January. Prices for fuel oil also increased, in contrast to prices for household energy services—over the month, natural gas and electricity prices declined 5.9 and 1.5 percent, respectively.

For the year ended in February 2012, energy rose 3.2 percent, with gasoline prices climbing 13.9 percent. In contrast, household energy services dropped 8.4 percent. Prices for electricity decreased 2.5 percent, while natural gas prices fell 19.5 percent, the largest 12-month decline recorded since October 2009.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.3 percent, as it did in January. Recreation prices jumped 1.3 percent. Apparel prices, often higher this time of year with the introduction of new spring lines, rose 0.5 percent. Shelter prices edged up 0.1 percent, despite 0.1-percent decreases for residential and owners' equivalent rent. Higher charges were reported for out-of-town lodging, not unusual for February. Shelter prices have not changed by more than 0.3 percent in any of the past seven months. Prices also rose for intercity transportation, motor vehicle insurance, and major appliances. In contrast, prices for alcoholic beverages fell 1.1 percent, the largest decrease reported since May 2004.

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 2.4 percent. Shelter prices increased 2.1 percent, with residential rent rising 2.5 percent. Recreation prices advanced 3.9 percent, and medical care charges climbed 5.2 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		
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 February, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 246.539, up 0.4 percent over the month. The CPI-W increased 2.8 percent over the year.

The March 2012 Consumer Price Index for New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island is scheduled to be released on Friday, April 13, 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 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—		
	Dec. 2011	Jan. 2012	Feb. 2012	Feb. 2011	Dec. 2011	Jan. 2012
Expenditure category						
All items	248.307	249.322	250.285	2.6	0.8	0.4
All items (1967=100)	717.820	720.754	723.540	-	-	-
Food and beverages	240.948	242.539	242.470	3.5	.6	.0
Food	240.450	242.086	242.208	3.7	.7	.1
Food at home	241.762	243.238	243.360	4.1	.7	.1
Food away from home	245.155	247.043	247.169	3.2	.8	.1
Alcoholic beverages	244.206	245.153	242.387	.5	-.7	-1.1
Housing	261.610	262.677	262.504	1.3	.3	-.1
Shelter	319.315	320.412	320.751	2.1	.4	.1
Rent of primary residence ¹	323.923	324.920	324.670	2.5	.2	-.1
Owners' equivalent rent of residences ^{1 2}	327.406	328.120	327.814	1.8	.1	-.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	327.263	327.973	327.659	1.8	.1	-.1
Fuels and utilities	195.905	197.277	194.362	-4.9	-.8	-1.5
Household energy	192.588	194.115	190.831	-5.8	-.9	-1.7
Energy services ¹	176.287	177.444	172.204	-8.4	-2.3	-3.0
Electricity ¹	173.910	178.691	175.962	-2.5	1.2	-1.5
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	175.620	169.534	159.461	-19.5	-9.2	-5.9
Household furnishings and operations	121.548	122.360	122.507	1.4	.8	.1
Apparel	120.247	119.285	119.832	.0	-.3	.5
Transportation	221.334	222.709	226.009	5.9	2.1	1.5
Private transportation	210.394	212.431	215.867	6.9	2.6	1.6
Motor fuel	266.344	273.712	288.323	14.0	8.3	5.3
Gasoline (all types)	264.876	272.330	287.100	13.9	8.4	5.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	267.285	275.529	291.156	14.0	8.9	5.7
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	267.373	272.921	286.330	13.9	7.1	4.9
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	260.878	266.482	278.905	13.6	6.9	4.7
Medical care	399.502	407.792	408.337	5.2	2.2	.1
Recreation ⁵	116.489	117.031	118.512	3.9	1.7	1.3
Education and communication ⁵	138.132	138.439	138.570	2.2	.3	.1
Other goods and services	387.276	387.179	388.643	2.2	.4	.4
Commodity and service group						
All items	248.307	249.322	250.285	2.6	.8	.4
Commodities	189.805	191.069	192.473	3.8	1.4	.7
Commodities less food and beverages	155.718	156.761	158.812	4.0	2.0	1.3
Nondurables less food and beverages	195.597	197.447	201.293	4.8	2.9	1.9
Durables	104.565	104.666	104.634	2.5	.1	.0
Services	298.482	299.385	299.875	2.1	.5	.2
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	241.539	242.332	243.263	2.5	.7	.4
All items less shelter	220.595	221.559	222.789	3.0	1.0	.6
Commodities less food	159.359	160.404	162.316	3.8	1.9	1.2
Nondurables	220.525	222.279	224.297	4.1	1.7	.9
Nondurables less food	198.845	200.648	204.127	4.5	2.7	1.7
Services less rent of shelter ²	286.160	286.935	287.545	2.0	.5	.2
Services less medical care services	290.025	290.660	291.014	1.8	.3	.1
Energy	223.324	227.181	230.974	3.2	3.4	1.7
All items less energy	252.506	253.300	253.938	2.6	.6	.3
All items less food and energy	256.281	256.953	257.658	2.4	.5	.3

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.