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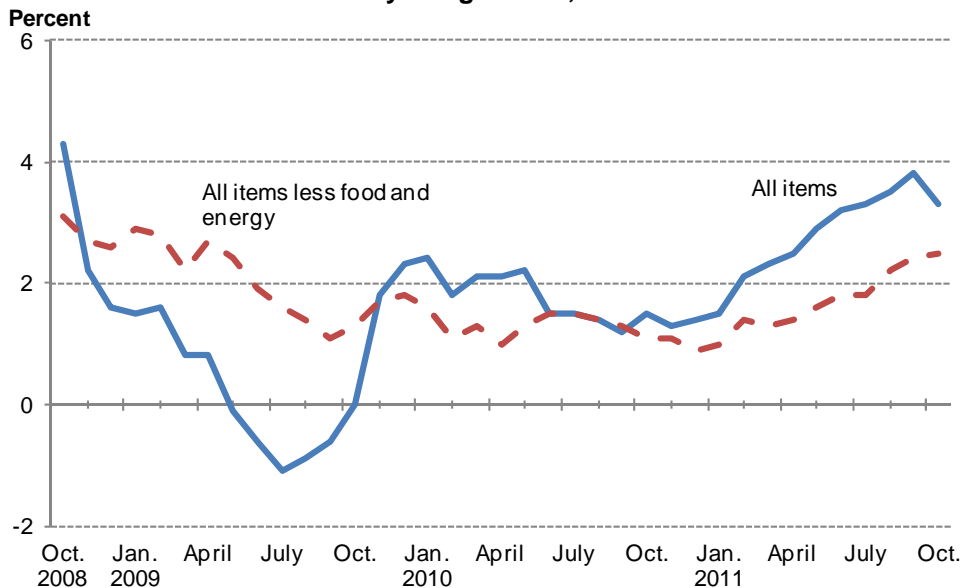
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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, NEW YORK-NORTHERN NEW JERSEY – OCTOBER 2011
Area prices down 0.2 percent over the month and up 3.3 percent over the year

Prices in the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), retreated 0.2 percent in October after advancing for nine consecutive months, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The over-the-month decline was the largest since December 2008. (See table A.) Regional Commissioner Michael L. Dolfman attributed the monthly decrease to lower prices for energy, which were partially offset by higher prices for food, shelter, and apparel. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

For the 12 months ended in October 2011, the CPI-U rose 3.3 percent, primarily because of higher energy and shelter prices. The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.5 percent, the highest rate posted since April 2009. (See chart 1.)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, October 2008 – October 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 increased 0.3 percent for the second consecutive month. Prices for food at home rose 0.4 percent. Higher prices were reported for tomatoes, salad dressing, and sugar and artificial sweeteners. Prices for food away from home ticked up 0.1 percent.

Over the year, the food index rose 3.8 percent, with food at home advancing 4.6 percent and food away from home, 2.9 percent. (See table 1.)

Energy

The energy index fell 4.4 percent, the fourth decline in five months. Household energy prices retreated 4.6 percent, the largest one-month price decrease in three years, reflecting a sharp 7.1-percent drop in electricity charges (due, in part, to the removal of summer surcharges), along with a 2.7-percent decrease in natural gas prices. Gasoline prices receded for the fifth consecutive month (-4.3 percent).

From October 2010 to October 2011, energy prices rose 11.8 percent, with gasoline prices rising 26.2 percent and household energy prices increasing 1.0 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy edged up 0.2 percent, after posting a 0.3-percent rise in September. Shelter prices inched up 0.2 percent, with residential rent rising 0.3 percent. Apparel prices increased 1.1 percent over the month, and other goods and services, 0.5 percent. Higher prices were reported for cosmetics and motor vehicle insurance.

For the 12 months ended in October, the index for all items less food and energy rose 2.5 percent, led by increases for apparel (4.8 percent) and medical care (3.4 percent). Shelter prices rose 2.1 percent.

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		
December	0.2	3.3	0.0	3.7	-0.6	1.6	-0.1	2.3	0.0	1.4		

CPI-W

In October, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 246.297, down 0.2 percent over the month. The CPI-W increased 3.7 percent over the year.

The November 2011 Consumer Price Index for New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island is scheduled to be released on Friday, December 16, 2011 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.

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—		
	Aug. 2011	Sep. 2011	Oct. 2011	Oct. 2010	Aug. 2011	Sep. 2011
Expenditure category						
All items	250.058	250.559	250.051	3.3	0.0	-0.2
All items (1967=100)	722.882	724.331	722.862	-	-	-
Food and beverages	238.836	239.485	240.155	3.7	.6	.3
Food	238.290	238.897	239.606	3.8	.6	.3
Food at home	238.417	239.259	240.312	4.6	.8	.4
Food away from home	244.417	244.746	245.045	2.9	.3	.1
Alcoholic beverages	242.808	244.056	244.149	1.2	.6	.0
Housing	264.070	263.675	262.854	1.7	-5.1	-3.3
Shelter	320.827	320.128	320.655	2.1	-1.1	.2
Rent of primary residence ¹	322.568	322.860	323.820	2.1	.4	.3
Owners' equivalent rent of residences ^{1 2}	327.476	327.705	328.100	2.0	.2	.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	327.383	327.590	327.983	2.0	.2	.1
Fuels and utilities	207.154	208.442	200.050	1.1	-3.4	-4.0
Household energy	205.162	206.711	197.295	1.0	-3.8	-4.6
Energy services ¹	190.447	193.096	181.957	-3.5	-4.5	-5.8
Electricity ¹	189.274	194.413	180.675	-1.4	-4.5	-7.1
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	186.656	183.742	178.691	-7.8	-4.3	-2.7
Household furnishings and operations	121.234	120.678	120.356	-1.6	-7.7	-3.3
Apparel	124.029	129.120	130.489	4.8	5.2	1.1
Transportation	227.498	227.394	224.943	10.1	-1.1	-1.1
Private transportation	216.329	216.148	213.589	10.3	-1.3	-1.2
Motor fuel	295.758	290.859	278.707	26.1	-5.8	-4.2
Gasoline (all types)	295.095	290.095	277.757	26.2	-5.9	-4.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	299.121	293.682	280.644	26.2	-6.2	-4.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	294.972	290.541	279.482	26.5	-5.3	-3.8
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	286.977	283.403	272.727	25.8	-5.0	-3.8
Medical care	393.550	395.266	395.287	3.4	.4	.0
Recreation ⁵	117.520	116.904	116.651	1.4	-7.7	-2.2
Education and communication ⁵	136.512	137.840	138.075	1.6	1.1	.2
Other goods and services	383.657	384.235	385.998	1.5	.6	.5
Commodity and service group						
All items	250.058	250.559	250.051	3.3	.0	-2.2
Commodities	192.129	192.772	192.254	5.3	.1	-3.3
Commodities less food and beverages	160.014	160.619	159.568	6.5	-3.3	-7.7
Nondurables less food and beverages	203.282	204.658	203.183	9.5	.0	-7.7
Durables	104.737	104.414	103.890	.1	-8.8	-5.5
Services	299.779	300.169	299.664	2.3	.0	-2.2
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	243.535	243.993	243.470	3.3	.0	-2.2
All items less shelter	222.461	223.471	222.524	4.1	.0	-4.4
Commodities less food	163.510	164.138	163.115	6.2	-2.2	-6.6
Nondurables	223.737	224.796	224.304	6.5	.3	-2.2
Nondurables less food	206.069	207.442	206.046	8.9	.0	-7.7
Services less rent of shelter ²	287.212	288.929	287.193	2.6	.0	-6.6
Services less medical care services	291.679	292.009	291.465	2.3	-1.1	-2.2
Energy	242.773	241.718	231.151	11.8	-4.8	-4.4
All items less energy	252.588	253.241	253.685	2.7	.4	.2
All items less food and energy	256.774	257.439	257.837	2.5	.4	.2

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.