

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

For release: Wednesday, October 19, 2011

NYLS – 7512

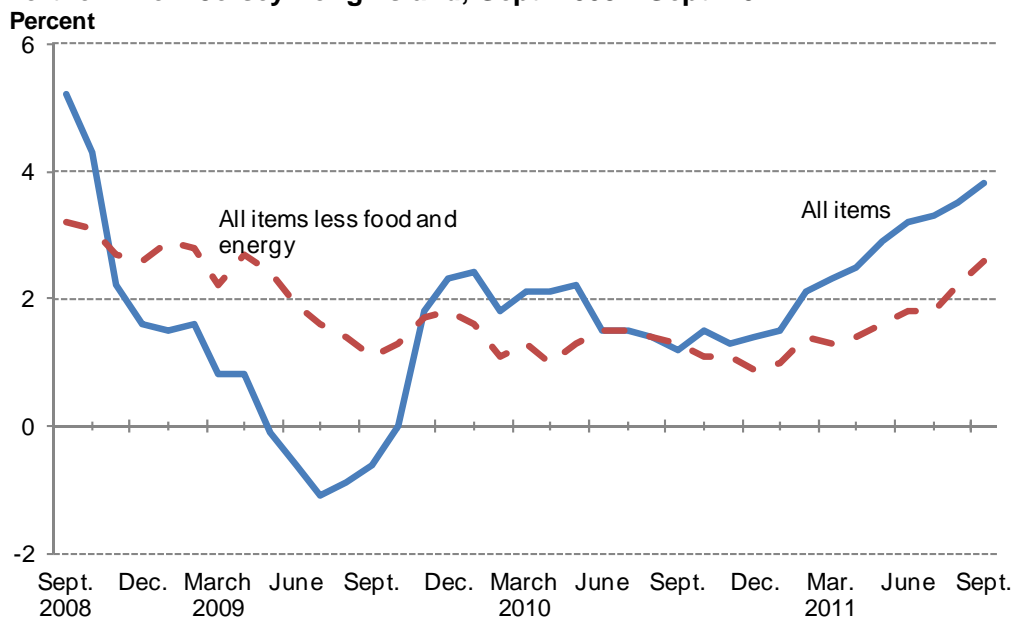
Technical information: Martin Kohli (646) 264-3620 • BLSInfoNY@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/ro2
Media contact: Michael L. Dolfman (212) 337-2500

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, NEW YORK-NORTHERN NEW JERSEY – SEPTEMBER 2011
Area prices up 0.2 percent over the month and 3.8 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), advanced 0.2 percent in September after increasing 0.4 percent in August, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Michael L. Dolfman attributed the rise to higher prices for food and seasonal increases for apparel. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

For the 12 months ended in September 2011, the CPI-U rose 3.8 percent, primarily because of higher energy and shelter prices. The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.4 percent. (See table A and chart 1.) September marked the second consecutive month that both indexes logged over-the-year increases above 2.0 percent

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



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 0.3 percent in September, for the fifth consecutive monthly increase. The food at home index increased 0.4 percent. Higher prices were reported for apples, flour and prepared flour mixes, butter and margarine, eggs, and pork chops. Prices for food away from home edged up 0.1 percent.

For the 12 months ended in September, the food index increased 4.1 percent, with food at home rising 5.2 percent and food away from home, 2.9 percent. (See table 1.)

Energy

The energy index declined 0.4 percent, following a 1.7-percent drop in August. Gasoline prices, down 1.7 percent, decreased for the fourth straight month in September. Household energy prices increased 0.8 percent, largely due to a 2.7-percent increase in electricity charges, partially offset by a 1.6-percent decrease in natural gas.

From September 2010 to September 2011, energy prices increased 18.0 percent, with gasoline prices climbing 38.3 percent and household energy prices rising 3.6 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.3 percent, after increasing 0.6 percent in August. Apparel, often up in September, increased 4.1 percent after a 6.5-percent jump in August. Shelter prices edged down 0.2 percent, with a seasonal decrease in charges for out-of-town lodging. Residential and owners' equivalent rent increases of 0.1 percent each partially offset the seasonal decline. Education and communication advanced 1.0 percent. Higher prices for child care and nursery school and elementary and high school tuition and fees accounted for much of the increase.

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 2.4 percent, largely because of a 2.0-percent rise in shelter, which was the largest 12-month increase recorded since June 2009. Apparel (4.7 percent), medical care (3.5 percent), and education and communication (1.2 percent) also contributed to the over-the-year increase.

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		
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 September, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 246.877, up 0.3 percent over the month. The CPI-W increased 4.3 percent over the year.

The October 2011 Consumer Price Index for New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, November 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/pub/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—		
	July 2011	Aug. 2011	Sep. 2011	Sep. 2010	July 2011	Aug. 2011
Expenditure category						
All items	249.164	250.058	250.559	3.8	0.6	0.2
All items (1967=100)	720.299	722.882	724.331	-	-	-
Food and beverages	238.507	238.836	239.485	4.0	.4	.3
Food	237.950	238.290	238.897	4.1	.4	.3
Food at home	238.315	238.417	239.259	5.2	.4	.4
Food away from home	243.772	244.417	244.746	2.9	.4	.1
Alcoholic beverages	242.641	242.808	244.056	2.2	.6	.5
Housing	264.345	264.070	263.675	1.9	-.3	-.1
Shelter	319.961	320.827	320.128	2.0	.1	-.2
Rent of primary residence ¹	321.621	322.568	322.860	2.0	.4	.1
Owners' equivalent rent of residences ^{1 2}	326.507	327.476	327.705	2.0	.4	.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	326.405	327.383	327.590	2.0	.4	.1
Fuels and utilities	212.587	207.154	208.442	3.5	-1.9	.6
Household energy	211.282	205.162	206.711	3.6	-2.2	.8
Energy services ¹	197.166	190.447	193.096	-.5	-2.1	1.4
Electricity ¹	199.148	189.274	194.413	.9	-2.4	2.7
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	186.217	186.656	183.742	-3.6	-1.3 -1.6	
Household furnishings and operations	121.987	121.234	120.678	-1.2	-1.1	-.5
Apparel	116.446	124.029	129.120	4.7	10.9	4.1
Transportation	227.624	227.498	227.394	13.0	-.1	.0
Private transportation	216.745	216.329	216.148	13.9	-.3	-.1
Motor fuel	296.992	295.758	290.859	38.1	-2.1	-1.7
Gasoline (all types)	296.301	295.095	290.095	38.3	-2.1	-1.7
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	300.301	299.121	293.682	39.1	-2.2	-1.8
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	296.317	294.972	290.541	36.4	-1.9	-1.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	288.470	286.977	283.403	36.1	-1.8	-1.2
Medical care	391.951	393.550	395.266	3.5	.8	.4
Recreation ⁵	115.909	117.520	116.904	.9	.9	-.5
Education and communication ⁵	135.830	136.512	137.840	1.2	1.5	1.0
Other goods and services	382.953	383.657	384.235	.7	.3	.2
Commodity and service group						
All items	249.164	250.058	250.559	3.8	.6	.2
Commodities	190.692	192.129	192.772	6.5	1.1	.3
Commodities less food and beverages	158.128	160.014	160.619	8.3	1.6	.4
Nondurables less food and beverages	199.598	203.282	204.658	11.9	2.5	.7
Durables	105.031	104.737	104.414	.7	-.6	-.3
Services	299.323	299.779	300.169	2.4	.3	.1
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	242.671	243.535	243.993	3.8	.5	.2
All items less shelter	221.549	222.461	223.471	4.9	.9	.5
Commodities less food	161.665	163.510	164.138	8.0	1.5	.4
Nondurables	221.566	223.737	224.796	7.8	1.5	.5
Nondurables less food	202.561	206.069	207.442	11.3	2.4	.7
Services less rent of shelter ²	287.236	287.212	288.929	2.9	.6	.6
Services less medical care services	291.253	291.679	292.009	2.3	.3	.1
Energy	246.942	242.773	241.718	18.0	-2.1	-.4
All items less energy	251.207	252.588	253.241	2.6	.8	.3
All items less food and energy	255.194	256.774	257.439	2.4	.9	.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.