

New York–New Jersey Information Office

PRINT: Search New York–New Jersey Region **Go**

[NY-NJ Home](#) | [NY-NJ Geography](#) | [NY-NJ Subjects](#) | [NY-NJ Archives](#) | [Contact NY-NJ](#)

[Geographic Information](#) > [New York–New Jersey](#) > News Release

Consumer Price Index, New York-Northern New Jersey – December 2015

Area prices down 0.4 percent over the month and up 0.7 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), fell 0.4 percent after a 0.2-percent decline in November, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Chief Regional Economist Martin Kohli attributed the decrease partly to lower prices for energy. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the year, the CPI-U was up 0.7 percent. (See [table A](#).) The December increase was the largest since November 2014. (See [chart 1](#).) The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.1 percent. (See [table 1](#).) Higher prices for shelter drove the 12-month change in both indexes.

News Release Information

16-130-NEW
Wednesday, January 20, 2016

Contacts

Technical information:

(646) 264-3600
BLInfoNY@bls.gov
www.bls.gov/regions/new-york-new-jersey

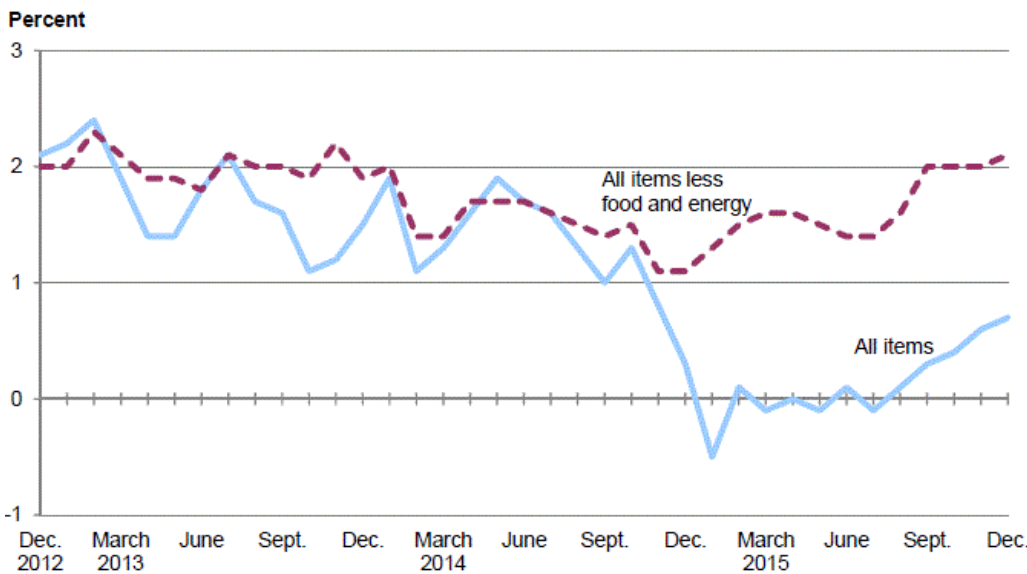
Media contact:

(646) 264-3620

PDF

[PDF version](#)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, December 2012–December 2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index inched down 0.1 percent in December after a 0.2-percent decline in November. Lower prices for uncooked ground beef, among other items, contributed to a 0.2-percent decrease in prices for food at home. Prices for food away from home were unchanged.

Over the year, the food index increased 0.8 percent. At-home food prices inched down 0.1 percent, while away-from-home food prices rose 2.1 percent.

Energy

The energy index fell 3.5 percent over the month, due to widespread price decreases including natural gas (-6.7 percent), gasoline (-3.1 percent), electricity (-2.0 percent), and fuel oil.

For the year ended in December 2015, the energy index fell 16.0 percent, reflecting a 22.7-percent drop in gasoline prices. The household energy index fell 11.1 percent, due to lower prices for natural gas (-12.0 percent), electricity (-6.4 percent), and fuel oil.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy edged down 0.2 percent for the second consecutive month due in part to lower prices for apparel (-1.2 percent), medical care (-0.6 percent), and lodging away from home. Offsetting the decrease in prices for lodging away from home, residential rent and owners' equivalent rent rose 0.3 and 0.2 percent, respectively; as a result, shelter prices were unchanged.

From December 2014 to December 2015, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.1 percent. Shelter prices rose 3.1 percent, reflecting higher prices for residential rent and owners' equivalent rent, which rose 3.8 and 3.0 percent, respectively. Other categories with higher prices included apparel (4.5 percent), other goods and services (2.4 percent), and education and communication (1.9 percent).

Table A. New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

| Month | 2010 | | 2011 | | 2012 | | 2013 | | 2014 | | 2015 | |
|-----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|
| | 1-month | 12-month | 1-month | 12-month | 1-month | 12-month | 1-month | 12-month | 1-month | 12-month | 1-month | 12-month |
| January | 0.2 | 2.4 | 0.3 | 1.5 | 0.4 | 2.8 | 0.5 | 2.2 | 0.9 | 1.9 | 0.1 | -0.5 |
| February | 0.0 | 1.8 | 0.5 | 2.1 | 0.4 | 2.6 | 0.6 | 2.4 | -0.2 | 1.1 | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| March | 0.5 | 2.1 | 0.7 | 2.3 | 0.6 | 2.6 | 0.1 | 1.9 | 0.4 | 1.3 | 0.2 | -0.1 |
| April | 0.2 | 2.1 | 0.4 | 2.5 | 0.2 | 2.4 | -0.2 | 1.4 | 0.0 | 1.6 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| May | 0.2 | 2.2 | 0.6 | 2.9 | 0.1 | 1.8 | 0.1 | 1.4 | 0.5 | 1.9 | 0.4 | -0.1 |
| June | -0.1 | 1.5 | 0.2 | 3.2 | -0.1 | 1.6 | 0.3 | 1.8 | 0.0 | 1.7 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| July | 0.1 | 1.5 | 0.3 | 3.3 | -0.2 | 1.1 | 0.2 | 2.1 | 0.1 | 1.6 | -0.1 | -0.1 |
| August | 0.2 | 1.4 | 0.4 | 3.5 | 0.6 | 1.4 | 0.1 | 1.7 | -0.2 | 1.3 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| September | 0.0 | 1.2 | 0.2 | 3.8 | 0.4 | 1.6 | 0.3 | 1.6 | 0.0 | 1.0 | 0.2 | 0.3 |
| October | 0.2 | 1.5 | -0.2 | 3.3 | -0.1 | 1.7 | -0.6 | 1.1 | -0.2 | 1.3 | -0.1 | 0.4 |
| November | 0.0 | 1.3 | -0.3 | 3.0 | 0.0 | 2.0 | 0.1 | 1.2 | -0.4 | 0.8 | -0.2 | 0.6 |
| December | 0.0 | 1.4 | -0.4 | 2.7 | -0.3 | 2.1 | 0.0 | 1.5 | -0.5 | 0.3 | -0.4 | 0.7 |

CPI-W

In December, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 254.441, down 0.4 percent over the month. The CPI-W rose 0.5 percent over the year.

The January 2016 Consumer Price Index for New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island is scheduled to be released Friday, February 19, 2016, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).

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 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 28 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 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 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/pdf/homch17.pdf.

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; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

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)(not seasonally adjusted)

| Item and Group | Indexes | | | Percent change from- | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | Oct. 2015 | Nov. 2015 | Dec. 2015 | Dec. 2014 | Oct. 2015 | Nov. 2015 |
| Expenditure category | | | | | | |
| All items | 261.515 | 261.009 | 259.941 | 0.7 | -0.6 | -0.4 |
| All items (1967=100) | 756.003 | 754.540 | 751.453 | | | |
| Food and beverages | | | | | | |
| Food | 257.485 | 257.088 | 256.782 | 0.9 | -0.3 | -0.1 |
| Food at home | 257.468 | 257.038 | 256.735 | 0.8 | -0.3 | -0.1 |
| Food away from home | 255.938 | 254.510 | 253.938 | -0.1 | -0.8 | -0.2 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 266.390 | 267.327 | 267.390 | 2.1 | 0.4 | 0.0 |
| | 253.265 | 253.392 | 253.029 | 1.6 | -0.1 | -0.1 |
| Housing | | | | | | |
| Shelter | 280.808 | 280.746 | 280.056 | 1.6 | -0.3 | -0.2 |
| Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾ | 353.807 | 353.678 | 353.825 | 3.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Owners' equivalent rent of residences ^{(1) (2)} | 364.511 | 365.524 | 366.776 | 3.8 | 0.6 | 0.3 |
| Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)} | 359.793 | 360.154 | 360.779 | 3.0 | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)} | 359.380 | 359.730 | 360.339 | 3.0 | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| Fuels and utilities | | | | | | |
| Household energy | 177.376 | 177.913 | 172.253 | -9.3 | -2.9 | -3.2 |
| Energy services ⁽¹⁾ | 168.873 | 169.516 | 163.172 | -11.1 | -3.4 | -3.7 |
| Electricity ⁽¹⁾ | 162.600 | 163.433 | 158.123 | -7.9 | -2.8 | -3.2 |
| Electricity ⁽¹⁾ | 174.991 | 175.602 | 172.137 | -6.4 | -1.6 | -2.0 |
| Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾ | 132.664 | 133.930 | 124.975 | -12.0 | -5.8 | -6.7 |
| Household furnishings and operations | 113.679 | 113.377 | 113.360 | -1.3 | -0.3 | 0.0 |
| Apparel | | | | | | |
| | 132.622 | 127.008 | 125.502 | 4.5 | -5.4 | -1.2 |
| Transportation | | | | | | |
| Private transportation | 209.410 | 209.745 | 206.918 | -4.5 | -1.2 | -1.3 |
| Motor fuel | 194.577 | 194.066 | 192.802 | -5.5 | -0.9 | -0.7 |
| Gasoline (all types) | 175.975 | 174.566 | 169.153 | -22.8 | -3.9 | -3.1 |
| Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽³⁾ | 175.165 | 173.767 | 168.382 | -22.7 | -3.9 | -3.1 |
| Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{(3) (4)} | 172.554 | 171.284 | 165.856 | -23.5 | -3.9 | -3.2 |
| Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽³⁾ | 191.207 | 188.849 | 183.124 | -20.2 | -4.2 | -3.0 |
| Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽³⁾ | 194.610 | 192.346 | 187.281 | -18.1 | -3.8 | -2.6 |
| Medical care | | | | | | |
| | 452.809 | 448.440 | 445.724 | 0.7 | -1.6 | -0.6 |
| Recreation ⁽⁵⁾ | | | | | | |
| | 119.023 | 118.727 | 118.415 | 0.0 | -0.5 | -0.3 |
| Education and communication ⁽⁵⁾ | | | | | | |
| | 142.863 | 143.590 | 143.473 | 1.9 | 0.4 | -0.1 |
| Other goods and services | | | | | | |
| | 406.409 | 408.579 | 407.622 | 2.4 | 0.3 | -0.2 |
| Commodity and service group | | | | | | |
| All items | 261.515 | 261.009 | 259.941 | 0.7 | -0.6 | -0.4 |
| Commodities | 187.444 | 185.890 | 184.499 | -2.1 | -1.6 | -0.7 |
| Commodities less food and beverages | 144.375 | 142.342 | 140.499 | -4.6 | -2.7 | -1.3 |
| Nondurables less food and beverages | 179.477 | 176.158 | 173.015 | -6.2 | -3.6 | -1.8 |
| Durables | 98.710 | 98.145 | 97.775 | -1.3 | -0.9 | -0.4 |

| Item and Group | Indexes | | | Percent change from- | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | Oct. 2015 | Nov. 2015 | Dec. 2015 | Dec. 2014 | Oct. 2015 | Nov. 2015 |
| Services | 324.499 | 324.813 | 323.982 | 2.0 | -0.2 | -0.3 |
| Special aggregate indexes | | | | | | |
| All items less medical care | 253.196 | 252.840 | 251.839 | 0.7 | -0.5 | -0.4 |
| All items less shelter | 225.062 | 224.390 | 222.794 | -0.8 | -1.0 | -0.7 |
| Commodities less food | 148.540 | 146.556 | 144.744 | -4.3 | -2.6 | -1.2 |
| Nondurables | 219.980 | 218.027 | 216.210 | -2.3 | -1.7 | -0.8 |
| Nondurables less food | 184.023 | 180.878 | 177.874 | -5.7 | -3.3 | -1.7 |
| Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾ | 303.266 | 304.120 | 302.096 | 0.6 | -0.4 | -0.7 |
| Services less medical care services | 314.275 | 314.827 | 314.042 | 2.1 | -0.1 | -0.2 |
| Energy | 173.933 | 173.801 | 167.724 | -16.0 | -3.6 | -3.5 |
| All items less energy | 271.795 | 271.249 | 270.652 | 1.9 | -0.4 | -0.2 |
| All items less food and energy | 276.144 | 275.574 | 274.920 | 2.1 | -0.4 | -0.2 |

Footnotes

- (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.

Note: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.
 The New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA consolidated area comprises the five boroughs of New York City, Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Dutchess, and Orange Counties in New York State; Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Monmouth, Middlesex, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren Counties in New Jersey; Fairfield County and parts of Litchfield, New Haven, and Middlesex Counties in Connecticut; and Pike County in Pennsylvania.

Last Modified Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2016

RECOMMEND THIS PAGE USING:  Facebook  Twitter  LinkedIn

TOOLS

- Areas at a Glance
- Industries at a Glance
- Economic Releases
- Databases & Tables
- Maps

CALCULATORS

- Inflation
- Location Quotient
- Injury And Illness

HELP

- Help & Tutorials
- FAQs
- Glossary
- About BLS
- Contact Us

INFO

- What's New
- Careers @ BLS
- Find It! DOL
- Join our Mailing Lists
- Linking & Copyright Info

RESOURCES

- Inspector General (OIG)
- Budget and Performance
- No Fear Act
- USA.gov
- Benefits.gov
- Disability.gov

[Freedom of Information Act](#) | [Privacy & Security Statement](#) | [Disclaimers](#) | [Customer Survey](#) | [Important Web Site Notices](#)

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics | New York-New Jersey Information Office, Suite 808, 201 Varick Street, New York, NY 10014
www.bls.gov/regions/new-york-new-jersey | Telephone: 1-646-264-3600 | [Contact New York-New Jersey](#)