

# News

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Bureau of Labor Statistics

New York Office

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## **NEW YORK-NORTHERN NEW JERSEY CPI INCHES UP 0.1 PERCENT IN SEPTEMBER; 3.2 PERCENT INCREASE FROM YEAR AGO**

Retail prices in the greater New York area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), inched up 0.1 percent in September. The increase followed a 0.1-percent rise in August and a 0.2-percent decline in July. Michael L. Dolfman, Regional Commissioner of the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, said that in September higher prices for apparel, typically up at this time of year with the introduction of fall and winter lines, and increases for education and communication, were largely offset by declines for energy and shelter, and lower prices for household furnishings and operations. For the year ended September 2004, the CPI-U rose 3.2 percent, and core inflation, as measured by the all items less food and energy index, was up 2.8 percent.

Apparel prices rose 5.1 percent in September, led by increases for men's suits, sportcoats, and outerwear, and boy's and girls' apparel. The September rise followed a 2.0 percent increase in August. Despite the increase of the past two months, apparel prices are down 4.4 percent over the year.

The education and communication index rose 1.2 percent in September, reflecting higher charges for telephone services and increases in elementary and high school tuition fees. The September increase followed a 0.6-percent rise in August.

The housing index declined 0.4 percent in September, largely based on a drop in out-of-town lodging charges. Declines of 3.4 percent for electricity and 1.8 percent for natural gas, and lower prices for household furnishings and operations also contributed to the decline. These declines were in part offset by increases of 0.3 percent for owners' equivalent rent and 0.5 percent for residential rent, as well as higher prices for residential fuel oil.

The transportation index was down 0.4 percent in September, primarily due to a 3.2 percent drop in gasoline prices. The September decline in the price of gasoline followed decreases of 2.3 percent in August, and 3.6 percent in July. Despite the declines of the past three months, the gasoline index is up 6.5 percent over the year.



**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 Information Office's** main telephone number: **(212) 337-2400**. For recorded messages, press '2.' Press '1' for 24-hour Fax-on-Demand service.

**New York-Northern New Jersey CPI monthly and annual percent changes**

(not seasonally adjusted)

Month	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
January	0.2	1.7	0.4	2.5	0.4	3.1	0.6	1.9	0.8	3.3	0.3	2.7
February	0.1	1.4	0.7	3.1	0.2	2.7	0.7	2.5	0.8	3.3	0.6	2.5
March	0.2	1.4	0.6	3.4	0.6	2.7	0.6	2.5	0.5	3.1	1.1	3.2
April	0.3	1.7	-0.1	3.1	0.1	2.9	0.4	2.8	-0.2	2.6	0.3	3.7
May	0.1	1.8	0.0	3.0	0.4	3.3	-0.2	2.2	0.1	2.8	0.2	3.9
June	0.4	2.1	0.3	2.9	0.5	3.5	0.1	1.7	0.1	2.8	0.8	4.6
July	0.2	2.1	0.4	3.2	-0.3	2.7	0.3	2.2	0.4	3.0	-0.2	3.9
August	0.2	2.0	0.2	3.1	0.2	2.7	0.6	2.7	0.7	3.1	0.1	3.3
September	0.3	2.2	0.7	3.5	-0.1	2.0	0.1	2.8	0.3	3.3	0.1	3.2
October	0.4	2.3	0.1	3.2	-0.1	1.7	0.2	3.1	0.2	3.3		
November	-0.1	2.3	0.0	3.2	0.0	1.7	-0.2	3.0	-0.3	3.1		
December	-0.1	2.2	-0.2	3.1	-0.3	1.7	-0.2	3.1	-0.1	3.2		

The food and beverages index edged down 0.2 percent in September, reflecting a 0.4 percent decline in the food at home component, with lower prices for beef roasts, eggs, milk, apples and tomatoes. The food away from home index was unchanged over the month, while the alcoholic beverages index rose by 0.3 percent.

Among the remaining expenditure categories, the other goods and services index, which includes tobacco and smoking products, personal care products, and personal expenses, rose 0.6 percent in September. The medical care index edged up 0.2 percent, while the recreation index was unchanged over the month.

With the New York-Northern New Jersey Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers at 205.9 in September (1982-84=100), \$20.59 was required to purchase what \$10 could in the 1982-84 base period. The purchasing power of the dollar was 48.6 cents in 1982-84 dollars and 16.8 cents in 1967 dollars.

In September, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 200.6, also up 0.1 percent over the month. The CPI-W rose 2.9 percent over the year. On a 1967 base, the September CPI-W was 571.1.

Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month to month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences. 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.

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 2004	Aug. 2004	Sep. 2004	Sep. 2003	July 2004	Aug. 2004
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items .....	205.5	205.7	205.9	3.2	0.2	0.1
All items (1967=100) .....	594.2	594.7	595.2	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	192.1	192.5	192.2	4.2	.1	-.2
Food .....	190.9	191.5	191.1	4.3	.1	-.2
Food at home .....	190.9	191.7	191.0	5.0	.1	-.4
Food away from home .....	196.2	196.3	196.3	3.4	.1	.0
Alcoholic beverages .....	206.9	204.8	205.4	2.3	-.7	.3
Housing .....	218.5	219.0	218.2	4.6	-.1	-.4
Shelter .....	262.3	263.2	262.8	5.2	.2	-.2
Rent of primary residence <sup>1</sup> .....	244.5	245.1	246.3	4.8	.7	.5
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence <sup>1 2</sup> .....	271.3	272.0	272.8	4.2	.6	.3
Fuels and utilities .....	149.5	149.0	147.0	3.8	-1.7	-1.3
Fuels .....	149.0	148.5	145.8	3.7	-2.1	-1.8
Gas (piped) and electricity <sup>1</sup> .....	157.4	155.1	150.7	.1	-4.3	-2.8
Electricity <sup>1</sup> .....	149.7	146.2	141.2	.1	-5.7	-3.4
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>1</sup> .....	168.3	168.9	165.9	-.8	-1.4	-1.8
Household furnishings and operations .....	131.9	131.4	130.0	-.1	-1.4	-1.1
Apparel .....	107.6	109.7	115.3	-4.4	7.2	5.1
Transportation .....	174.1	172.1	171.4	1.6	-1.6	-.4
Private transportation .....	165.1	163.4	162.8	1.9	-1.4	-.4
Motor fuel .....	159.2	155.5	150.6	6.5	-5.4	-3.2
Gasoline (all types) .....	158.6	155.0	150.0	6.5	-5.4	-3.2
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>3</sup> .....	160.4	156.6	151.4	6.1	-5.6	-3.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>3 4</sup> .....	158.9	155.0	150.2	6.9	-5.5	-3.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>3</sup> .....	157.4	154.1	149.9	7.2	-4.8	-2.7
Medical care .....	319.9	319.2	319.7	2.8	-.1	.2
Recreation <sup>5</sup> .....	112.8	112.8	112.8	1.2	.0	.0
Education and communication <sup>5</sup> .....	112.8	113.5	114.9	1.8	1.9	1.2
Other goods and services .....	318.7	320.1	322.1	2.4	1.1	.6
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	205.5	205.7	205.9	3.2	.2	.1
Commodities .....	159.3	159.6	160.2	1.7	.6	.4
Commodities less food and beverages .....	135.7	136.0	137.0	-.1	1.0	.7
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	151.9	152.9	154.8	.8	1.9	1.2
Durables .....	112.2	111.6	111.7	-.8	-.4	.1
Services .....	245.2	245.3	245.0	3.9	-.1	-.1
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	200.3	200.5	200.6	3.1	.1	.0
All items less shelter .....	183.4	183.3	183.7	1.9	.2	.2
Commodities less food .....	138.7	138.9	139.9	-.1	.9	.7
Nondurables .....	173.8	174.5	175.3	2.6	.9	.5
Nondurables less food .....	155.5	156.3	158.1	.8	1.7	1.2
Services less rent of shelter <sup>2</sup> .....	235.0	234.1	234.1	2.2	-.4	.0
Services less medical care services .....	238.8	239.0	238.7	4.0	.0	-.1
Energy .....	154.8	152.9	149.3	4.8	-3.6	-2.4
All items less energy .....	211.8	212.2	212.7	3.0	.4	.2
All items less food and energy .....	217.1	217.4	218.1	2.8	.5	.3

<sup>1</sup> This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

<sup>2</sup> Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

<sup>3</sup> Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

<sup>4</sup> Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

<sup>5</sup> Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

Regions defined as the four Census regions. See map in technical notes.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.