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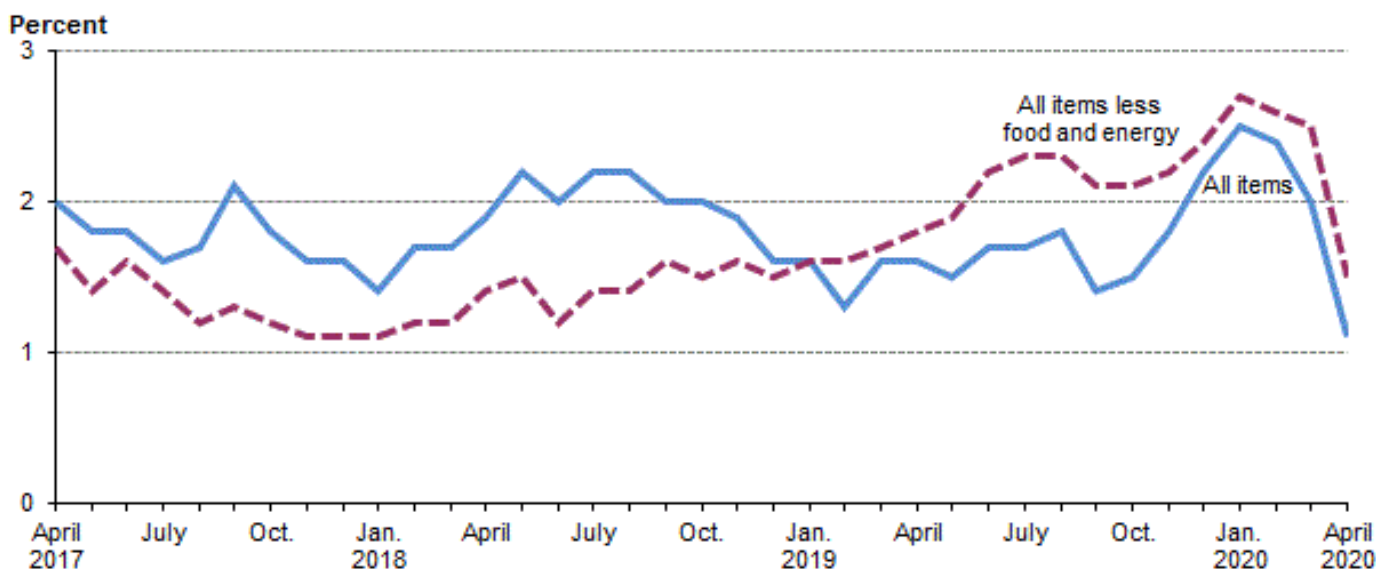
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## **Consumer Price Index, New York-Newark-Jersey City – April 2020** **Area prices down 0.5 percent over the month and up 1.1 percent over the year**

Prices in the New York-Newark-Jersey City area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), declined 0.5 percent in April, after edging down 0.2 percent in March, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Chief Regional Economist Martin Kohli attributed the decrease to lower prices for energy and a variety of items other than food. (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 increased 1.1 percent, the slowest rate in three years. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.5 percent. Price increases for shelter drove the 12-month change in both indexes. (See [table 1.](#))

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, New York-Newark-Jersey City, April 2017–April 2020**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Food

The food index jumped 2.6 percent in April, the largest increase in more than 30 years. Prices for food at home advanced 3.6 percent, with each of the six major grocery groups recording an increase of more than 2.0 percent. Among the groceries with higher April prices were eggs, potatoes, and citrus fruits. Prices for food away from home advanced 1.2 percent.

For the year ended in April 2020, the food index increased 4.1 percent. At-home food prices advanced 4.8 percent, and away-from-home food prices rose 3.3 percent.

## Energy

The energy index fell 5.2 percent in April, following declines in March (3.7 percent) and in February (2.3 percent). Gasoline prices dropped 8.9 percent, and household energy prices decreased 3.0 percent. Lower prices for electricity (-1.4 percent) and for natural gas (-0.9 percent) led to a 1.2-percent decline for energy services.

Over the year, energy prices were down 11.0 percent, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-20.4 percent). Household energy prices declined 4.3 percent; among energy services, a 0.9-percent decrease in electricity charges were offset by a 0.6-percent rise in prices for natural gas.

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy declined 0.6 percent in April, the largest decrease in more than 11 years. Apparel prices, often down in April, fell 6.6 percent. Shelter prices edged down 0.2 percent, with declining prices for out-of-town lodging outweighing price increases for owners' equivalent rent (0.2 percent) and for residential rent (0.1 percent). Lower prices were also reported for new and used motor vehicles (-0.7 percent) and for motor vehicle insurance (-13.1 percent).

From April 2019 to April 2020, the index for all items less food and energy rose 1.5 percent. A 1.9-percent increase in shelter prices included a 2.6-percent rise in owners' equivalent rent and a 2.1-percent increase in residential rent. Medical care prices rose 5.3 percent, and a 4.3-percent rise in prices for tuition, other school fees, and childcare contributed to a 2.7-percent increase in prices for education and communication. Prices for recreation rose 4.2 percent. Partly offsetting these increases were declines in apparel (-3.1 percent) and in motor vehicle insurance (-9.7 percent).

**Table A. New York-Newark-Jersey City CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)**

Month	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	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.....	0.1	-0.5	0.2	0.8	0.6	2.5	0.4	1.4	0.5	1.6	0.8	2.5
February.....	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.3	2.6	0.5	1.7	0.2	1.3	0.2	2.4
March.....	0.2	-0.1	0.2	0.7	0.0	2.3	0.0	1.7	0.3	1.6	-0.2	2.0
April.....	0.1	0.0	0.4	1.0	0.1	2.0	0.3	1.9	0.3	1.6	-0.5	1.1
May.....	0.4	-0.1	0.3	0.9	0.1	1.8	0.4	2.2	0.2	1.5		
June.....	0.2	0.1	0.2 <sup>(R)</sup>	0.9 <sup>(R)</sup>	0.2	1.8	0.1	2.0	0.3	1.7		
July.....	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	1.0	-0.2	1.6	0.0	2.2	0.0	1.7		
August.....	0.1	0.1	0.2	1.1	0.2	1.7	0.1	2.2	0.2	1.8		
September.....	0.2	0.3	0.2	1.0	0.5	2.1	0.4	2.0	0.0	1.4		
October.....	-0.1	0.4	0.1	1.2	-0.2	1.8	-0.1	2.0	0.0	1.5		
November.....	-0.2	0.6	0.2	1.6	-0.1	1.6	-0.2	1.9	0.1	1.8		
December.....	-0.4	0.7	0.1	2.1	0.1	1.6	-0.2	1.6	0.1	2.2		

Footnotes:  
(R) = revised.

## **CPI-W**

In April, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 274.876, down 0.4 percent over the month. The CPI-W rose 1.1 percent over the year.

**The May 2020 Consumer Price Index for New York-Newark-Jersey City is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, June 10, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).**

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact on April 2020 Consumer Price Index Data**

Data collection by personal visit for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program has been suspended since March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in April was affected by the temporary closing or limited operations of certain types of establishments. These factors resulted in an increase in the number of prices considered temporarily unavailable and imputed. While the CPI program attempted to collect as much data as possible, many indexes are based on smaller amounts of collected prices than usual, and a small number of indexes that are normally published were not published this month. Additional information is available at [www.bls.gov/bls/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-bls-price-indexes.htm#CPI](http://www.bls.gov/bls/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-bls-price-indexes.htm#CPI).

### **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 93 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 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 75 urban areas across the country from about 5,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 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](http://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](http://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-Newark-Jersey City, N.Y.-N.J.-Pa., Core Based Statistical Area includes Bronx, Dutchess, Kings, Nassau, New York, Orange, Putnam, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester Counties in New York; Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, and Union Counties in New Jersey; and Pike County in Pennsylvania.

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**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA, not seasonally adjusted (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Feb. 2020	March 2020	April 2020	April 2019	Feb. 2020	March 2020
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items.....	282.577	281.975	280.623	1.1	-0.7	-0.5
All items (1967=100).....	816.892	815.152	811.241			
Food and beverages.....	274.109	274.523	281.042	4.0	2.5	2.4
Food.....	274.120	274.371	281.380	4.1	2.6	2.6
Food at home.....	260.651	261.184	270.644	4.8	3.8	3.6
Cereals and bakery products.....	304.005	303.916	310.214	3.1	2.0	2.1
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	257.609	261.942	270.179	6.2	4.9	3.1
Dairy and related products.....	229.092	228.607	238.563	4.7	4.1	4.4
Fruits and vegetables.....	332.596	330.553	341.610	5.0	2.7	3.3
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1).....	257.741	257.368	266.718	4.6	3.5	3.6
Other food at home.....	229.000	228.597	239.915	4.4	4.8	5.0
Food away from home.....	300.707	300.566	304.310	3.3	1.2	1.2
Alcoholic beverages.....	269.341	271.981	271.661	3.2	0.9	-0.1
Housing.....	307.210	307.537	306.467	1.3	-0.2	-0.3
Shelter.....	390.984	392.352	391.605	1.9	0.2	-0.2
Rent of primary residence.....	406.261	406.933	407.462	2.1	0.3	0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(2).....	397.890	398.790	399.954	2.6	0.5	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(2).....	397.398	398.296	399.459	2.6	0.5	0.3
Fuels and utilities.....	195.727	191.388	186.538	-3.2	-4.7	-2.5
Household energy.....	185.940	181.048	175.677	-4.3	-5.5	-3.0
Energy services.....	178.215	176.333	174.143	0.0	-2.3	-1.2
Electricity.....	178.913	176.153	173.661	-0.9	-2.9	-1.4
Utility (piped) gas service.....	164.497	164.509	163.078	0.6	-0.9	-0.9
Household furnishings and operations.....	108.883	108.719	108.897	-0.5	0.0	0.2
Apparel.....	127.306	125.096	116.808	-3.1	-8.2	-6.6
Transportation.....	221.716	216.549	207.798	-7.0	-6.3	-4.0
Private transportation.....	207.689	206.133	197.195	-6.4	-5.1	-4.3
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	90.129	91.029	90.428	-0.6	0.3	-0.7
New vehicles(1).....	207.401	206.395	206.343	0.9	-0.5	0.0
Used cars and trucks(1).....	266.104	271.931	269.102	-0.6	1.1	-1.0
Motor fuel.....	208.115	197.019	179.650	-20.2	-13.7	-8.8
Gasoline (all types).....	207.070	195.949	178.549	-20.4	-13.8	-8.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	205.231	193.704	176.078	-21.2	-14.2	-9.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	218.955	211.825	196.358	-14.3	-10.3	-7.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	222.350	213.898	198.041	-14.5	-10.9	-7.4
Motor vehicle insurance(1).....	790.503	792.842	688.887	-9.7	-12.9	-13.1
Medical care.....	529.911	530.628	531.356	5.3	0.3	0.1
Recreation(3).....	129.424	130.358	130.864	4.2	1.1	0.4
Education and communication(3).....	147.979	148.035	148.037	2.7	0.0	0.0
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1).....	1,256.467	1,256.467	1,256.467	4.3	0.0	0.0
Other goods and services.....	441.273	440.648	442.267	1.9	0.2	0.4

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA, not seasonally adjusted (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Feb. 2020	March 2020	April 2020	April 2019	Feb. 2020	March 2020
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	282.577	281.975	280.623	1.1	-0.7	-0.5
Commodities .....	191.973	190.403	189.595	-0.8	-1.2	-0.4
Commodities less food and beverages .....	143.006	140.638	136.573	-4.9	-4.5	-2.9
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	183.067	178.482	170.999	-6.9	-6.6	-4.2
Durables .....	92.708	92.559	91.955	-1.1	-0.8	-0.7
Services.....	358.410	358.515	356.716	1.9	-0.5	-0.5
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	271.847	271.191	269.752	0.8	-0.8	-0.5
All items less shelter.....	239.554	238.170	236.577	0.6	-1.2	-0.7
Commodities less food .....	147.685	145.452	141.473	-4.5	-4.2	-2.7
Nondurables .....	229.808	227.565	226.725	-0.7	-1.3	-0.4
Nondurables less food.....	188.257	184.087	177.013	-6.1	-6.0	-3.8
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	334.401	333.199	330.281	1.9	-1.2	-0.9
Services less medical care services.....	343.722	343.745	341.700	1.4	-0.6	-0.6
Energy .....	196.980	189.692	179.746	-11.0	-8.7	-5.2
All items less energy .....	292.832	292.781	292.130	1.9	-0.2	-0.2
All items less food and energy .....	298.055	297.954	296.045	1.5	-0.7	-0.6

Footnotes

- (1) Indexes on a December 1977=100 base.
- (2) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.
- (3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.
- (4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.
- (5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.