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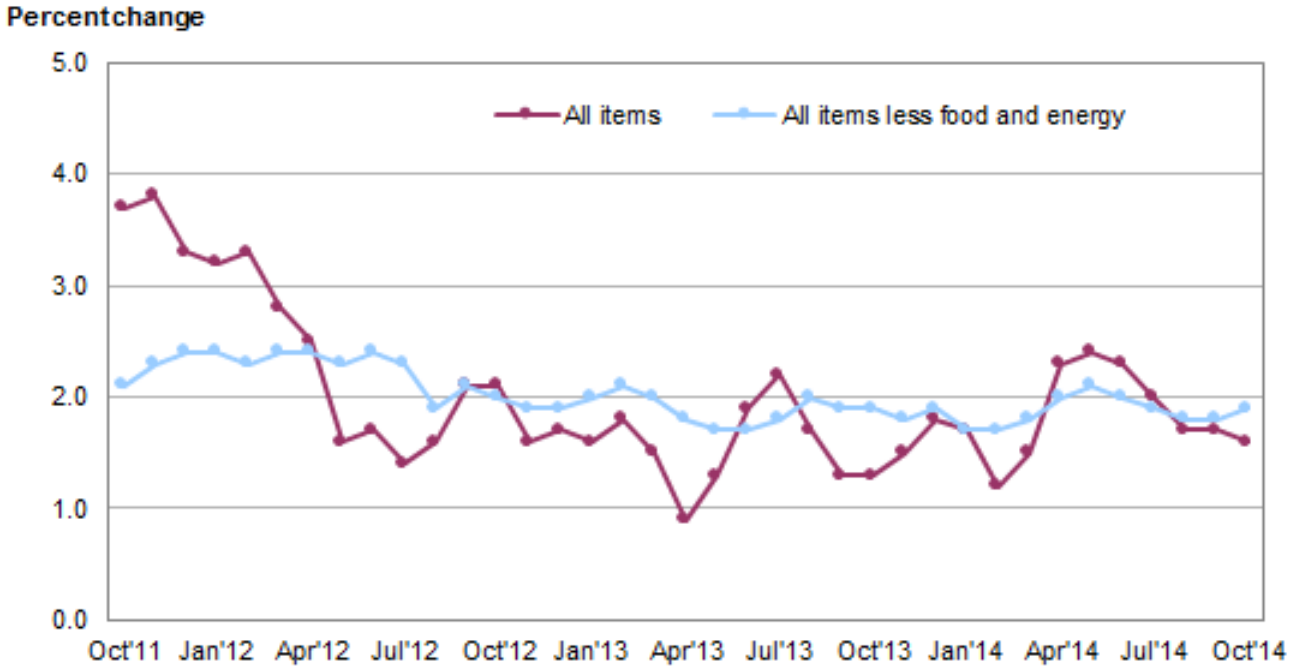
Consumer Price Index, South Region-October 2014

Prices in the South down 0.3 percent in October; up 1.6 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South declined 0.3 percent in October, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The energy index decreased 5.1 percent since September 2014. The all items less food and energy index was up 0.3 percent over the month, as price increases for apparel and shelter were largely offset by price decreases in a few categories, most notably used cars and trucks. The food index inched up 0.1 percent in October. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the all items CPI-U advanced 1.6 percent. The index for all items less food and energy rose 1.9 percent over the year. (See chart 1.)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, South region, October 2011–October 2014



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index inched up 0.1 percent in October. Prices for food away from home and food at home increased 0.2 and 0.1 percent, respectively.

Since October 2013, the food index advanced 2.6 percent, reflecting higher prices for both food at home (2.7 percent) and food away from home (2.6 percent).

Energy

The energy index declined 5.1 percent over the month, led by price decreases in motor fuel and electricity, down 5.5 and 5.3 percent, respectively. Prices for utility (piped) gas service inched down 0.1 percent in October.

Over the year, energy prices decreased 1.6 percent, as a 5.4-percent decrease in motor fuel prices was partially offset by price increases for electricity (3.5 percent) and utility (piped) gas service (3.1 percent).

All items less food and energy

The all items less food and energy index rose 0.3 percent in October, mainly reflecting a seasonal increase in apparel prices (2.6 percent). A price increase was also noted for shelter, which edged up 0.2 percent. These advances were largely offset by a 2.1-percent decrease in prices for used cars and trucks.

Since October 2013, the all items less food and energy index advanced 1.9 percent, led by a price increase for shelter (3.4 percent).

Table A. South region CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	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	0.4	-0.1	0.3	2.8	0.5	1.7	0.5	3.2	0.4	1.6	0.3	1.7
February	0.5	0.1	0.0	2.3	0.5	2.2	0.6	3.3	0.9	1.8	0.4	1.2
March	0.3	-0.3	0.6	2.5	1.2	2.8	0.7	2.8	0.3	1.5	0.6	1.5
April	0.3	-0.7	0.1	2.4	0.7	3.4	0.4	2.5	-0.2	0.9	0.5	2.3
May	0.3	-1.3	0.0	2.0	0.5	4.0	-0.4	1.6	0.0	1.3	0.2	2.4
June	1.0	-1.4	-0.1	0.9	-0.2	3.8	-0.2	1.7	0.4	1.9	0.2	2.3
July	-0.3	-2.1	-0.1	1.0	0.2	4.1	-0.2	1.4	0.2	2.2	-0.1	2.0
August	0.1	-1.6	0.2	1.1	0.4	4.3	0.6	1.6	0.1	1.7	-0.2	1.7
September	0.0	-1.8	0.2	1.4	0.0	4.1	0.5	2.1	0.0	1.3	0.1	1.7
October	0.2	-0.4	0.1	1.3	-0.2	3.7	-0.2	2.1	-0.2	1.3	-0.3	1.6
November	0.2	2.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	3.8	-0.5	1.6	-0.3	1.5	-	-
December	-0.1	2.9	0.2	1.4	-0.2	3.3	-0.1	1.7	0.1	1.8	-	-

The November 2014 Consumer Price Index for the South region is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, December 17, 2014 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 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 4,000 housing units and approximately 26,000 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 **South region** is comprised of Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods South (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Aug. 2014	Sep. 2014	Oct. 2014	Oct. 2013	Aug. 2014	Sep. 2014
Expenditure category						
All Items	231.611	231.762	231.131	1.6	-0.2	-0.3
All items (December 1977=100)	375.705	375.950	374.926			
Food and beverages	242.188	242.958	243.349	2.5	0.5	0.2
Food	243.595	244.435	244.771	2.6	0.5	0.1
Food at home	239.635	240.648	240.848	2.7	0.5	0.1
Food away from home	252.353	252.945	253.489	2.6	0.5	0.2
Alcoholic beverages	221.932	221.751	222.879	0.7	0.4	0.5
Housing	218.657	218.871	218.180	2.8	-0.2	-0.3
Shelter	244.437	244.915	245.401	3.4	0.4	0.2
Rent of primary residence [1]	248.868	249.696	250.536	3.6	0.7	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	246.947	247.408	248.066	3.1	0.5	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	246.947	247.405	248.064	3.1	0.5	0.3
Fuels and utilities	240.622	240.094	232.365	3.4	-3.4	-3.2
Household energy	202.457	201.820	192.649	3.4	-4.8	-4.5
Energy services [1]	202.315	201.702	192.414	3.5	-4.9	-4.6
Electricity [1]	201.483	200.986	190.427	3.5	-5.5	-5.3
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	190.984	189.676	189.416	3.1	-0.8	-0.1
Household furnishings and operations	122.775	122.581	122.608	-1.3	-0.1	0.0
Apparel	131.830	137.500	141.107	0.7	7.0	2.6
Transportation	218.549	216.416	212.800	-1.2	-2.6	-1.7
Private transportation	217.161	215.116	211.206	-1.1	-2.7	-1.8
New and used motor vehicles [3]	103.794	103.447	103.008	0.1	-0.8	-0.4
New vehicles	152.785	152.721	152.959	0.5	0.1	0.2
New cars and trucks [3] [4]	103.992	103.944	104.116	0.6	0.1	0.2
New cars [4]	154.191	154.279	154.584	0.2	0.3	0.2
Used cars and trucks	151.912	149.946	146.766	-1.6	-3.4	-2.1
Motor fuel	294.814	288.305	272.547	-5.4	-7.6	-5.5
Gasoline (all types)	293.183	286.657	270.847	-5.4	-7.6	-5.5
Unleaded regular [4]	290.648	284.020	267.838	-5.7	-7.8	-5.7
Unleaded midgrade [4] [5]	308.751	302.405	286.894	-4.7	-7.1	-5.1
Unleaded premium [4]	296.237	290.420	277.087	-3.8	-6.5	-4.6
Medical care	415.472	415.075	415.601	1.6	0.0	0.1
Medical care commodities	332.789	332.659	332.811	2.2	0.0	0.0
Medical care services	443.374	442.868	443.547	1.4	0.0	0.2
Professional services	352.442	351.940	352.557	0.9	0.0	0.2
Recreation [3]	115.344	115.376	115.723	0.1	0.3	0.3
Education and communication [3]	135.248	135.561	135.265	1.3	0.0	-0.2
Other goods and services	400.864	400.392	402.960	2.3	0.5	0.6
Commodity and service group						
All Items	231.611	231.762	231.131	1.6	-0.2	-0.3
Commodities	190.079	190.179	189.105	-0.1	-0.5	-0.6
Commodities less food and beverages	164.104	163.933	162.303	-1.5	-1.1	-1.0
Nondurables less food and beverages	218.263	218.400	215.384	-1.6	-1.3	-1.4
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	271.086	268.090	261.266	-2.2	-3.6	-2.5
Durables	113.421	112.999	112.579	-1.5	-0.7	-0.4
Services	273.900	274.102	273.893	2.8	0.0	-0.1
Rent of shelter [2]	250.779	251.270	251.791	3.3	0.4	0.2
Transportation services	302.795	301.863	304.560	2.1	0.6	0.9

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 South (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Aug. 2014	Sep. 2014	Oct. 2014	Oct. 2013	Aug. 2014	Sep. 2014
Other services	326.112	326.664	327.327	1.9	0.4	0.2
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	221.285	221.457	220.784	1.6	-0.2	-0.3
All items less food	229.531	229.576	228.798	1.5	-0.3	-0.3
All items less shelter	227.957	227.973	226.875	0.9	-0.5	-0.5
Commodities less food	166.013	165.841	164.280	-1.5	-1.0	-0.9
Nondurables	230.107	230.539	229.096	0.4	-0.4	-0.6
Nondurables less food	218.253	218.373	215.588	-1.4	-1.2	-1.3
Nondurables less food and apparel	265.587	262.843	256.725	-2.0	-3.3	-2.3
Services less rent of shelter [(2)]	311.581	311.420	310.276	2.3	-0.4	-0.4
Services less medical care services	258.424	258.665	258.406	2.9	0.0	-0.1
Energy	240.328	237.036	225.058	-1.6	-6.4	-5.1
All items less energy	231.359	231.897	232.537	2.0	0.5	0.3
All items less food and energy	229.610	230.096	230.790	1.9	0.5	0.3
Commodities less food and energy commodities	148.860	149.611	150.101	-0.4	0.8	0.3
Energy commodities	299.000	292.465	276.664	-5.3	-7.5	-5.4
Services less energy services	281.234	281.528	282.350	2.7	0.4	0.3

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) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.
(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.
(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.
- Data not available.
Regions defined as the four Census regions. South includes Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.
NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.