NEWS RELEASE
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SOUTHEAST INFORMATION OFFICE: Atlanta, Ga.
Technical information: (404) 893-4222 BLSInfoAtlanta@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/southeast
Media contact: (404) 893-4220

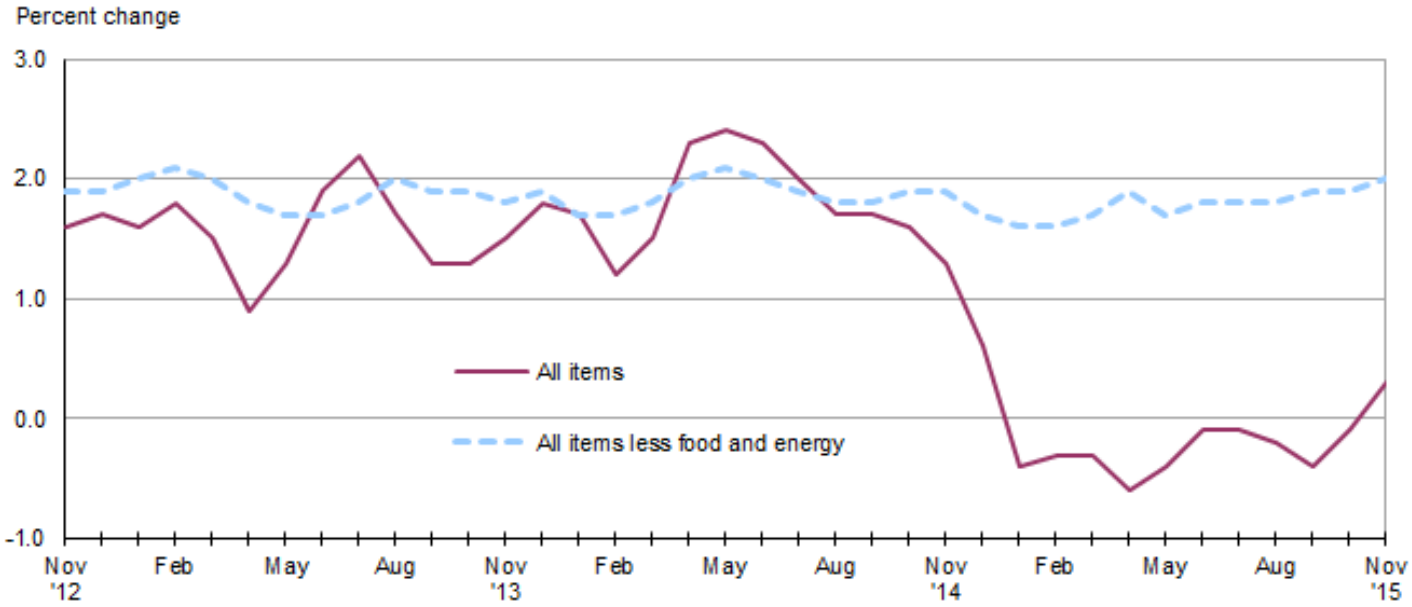
Consumer Price Index, South Region – November 2015

Prices down 0.2 percent over the month; up 0.3 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South edged down 0.2 percent in November, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The energy index declined 2.2 percent over the month and the food index decreased 0.3 percent. The all items less food and energy index was unchanged in November. (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 rose 0.3 percent, the first 12-month increase for this index since December 2014. The all items less food and energy index advanced 2.0 percent over the year as several categories within this group recorded increases. (See chart 1.)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, South region, November 2012–November 2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index declined 0.3 percent in November. Prices for food home at home decreased 0.5 percent over the month, while those for food away from home inched up 0.1 percent.

Since November 2014, the food index advanced 1.3 percent, reflecting higher prices for food away from home (2.9 percent) and food at home (0.2 percent).

Energy

The energy index declined 2.2 percent in November, led by a 3.0-percent decline in motor fuel prices and a 1.9-percent seasonal decrease in electricity prices. Utility (piped) gas service prices inched down 0.1 percent over the month.

Over the year, energy prices fell 15.5 percent, reflecting a 26.9-percent drop in motor fuel prices. Prices for utility (piped) gas service and electricity also declined over the year, down 9.2 and 0.9 percent, respectively.

All items less food and energy

The all items less food and energy index was unchanged in November. A seasonal decline in apparel prices (-1.4 percent), was largely offset by an increase in prices for shelter (0.1 percent) over the month.

Since November 2014, the all items less food and energy index advanced 2.0 percent as several indexes recorded increases, most notably shelter (3.0 percent). Medical care, fueled by increases in both medical care services (2.7 percent) and medical care commodities (4.2 percent), rose 3.0 percent over the year. Other indexes with over-the-year increases included education and communication (1.5 percent) and other goods and services (1.9 percent).

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

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

The Consumer Price Index for December 2015 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, January 20, 2016.

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 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 https://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 **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-		
	Sep. 2015	Oct. 2015	Nov. 2015	Nov. 2014	Sep. 2015	Oct. 2015
Expenditure category						
All Items	230.913	230.860	230.422	0.3	-0.2	-0.2
All items (December 1977=100)	374.573	374.487	373.776	-	-	-
Food and beverages	246.906	247.559	246.957	1.3	0.0	-0.2
Food	248.458	249.050	248.396	1.3	0.0	-0.3
Food at home	242.232	242.704	241.401	0.2	-0.3	-0.5
Food away from home	260.619	261.397	261.693	2.9	0.4	0.1
Alcoholic beverages	224.656	226.136	226.257	0.6	0.7	0.1
Housing	223.144	222.701	222.564	2.1	-0.3	-0.1
Shelter	252.260	253.160	253.487	3.0	0.5	0.1
Rent of primary residence [1]	259.653	260.738	261.335	3.8	0.6	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	254.559	255.561	256.092	2.9	0.6	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	254.547	255.548	256.079	2.9	0.6	0.2
Fuels and utilities	236.402	228.373	225.933	-1.1	-4.4	-1.1
Household energy	195.283	186.316	183.332	-2.4	-6.1	-1.6
Energy services [1]	195.854	186.709	183.643	-2.1	-6.2	-1.6
Electricity [1]	197.257	186.767	183.295	-0.9	-7.1	-1.9
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	170.528	170.886	170.711	-9.2	0.1	-0.1
Household furnishings and operations	121.708	121.789	121.614	-0.5	-0.1	-0.1
Apparel	136.367	138.679	136.716	-1.4	0.3	-1.4
Transportation	194.788	193.612	192.674	-6.8	-1.1	-0.5
Private transportation	192.886	191.369	190.298	-7.0	-1.3	-0.6
New and used motor vehicles [3]	103.148	102.623	102.111	-0.3	-1.0	-0.5
New vehicles	152.905	152.584	152.539	-0.5	-0.2	0.0
New cars and trucks [3] [4]	104.064	103.853	103.826	-0.6	-0.2	0.0
New cars [4]	153.488	153.118	152.684	-1.6	-0.5	-0.3
Used cars and trucks	148.289	145.776	143.435	0.2	-3.3	-1.6
Motor fuel	191.621	186.574	180.994	-26.9	-5.5	-3.0
Gasoline (all types)	190.591	185.552	179.960	-26.8	-5.6	-3.0
Unleaded regular [4]	186.241	181.117	175.445	-27.6	-5.8	-3.1
Unleaded midgrade [4] [5]	209.123	204.210	199.105	-24.2	-4.8	-2.5
Unleaded premium [4]	208.018	203.732	199.001	-21.9	-4.3	-2.3
Medical care	426.865	428.455	429.361	3.0	0.6	0.2
Medical care commodities	346.016	346.080	346.645	4.2	0.2	0.2
Medical care services	453.755	455.976	457.012	2.7	0.7	0.2
Professional services	357.740	357.889	358.863	1.3	0.3	0.3
Recreation [3]	115.907	115.958	115.582	0.0	-0.3	-0.3
Education and communication [3]	136.792	137.002	137.092	1.5	0.2	0.1
Other goods and services	408.546	410.318	409.946	1.9	0.3	-0.1
Commodity and service group						
All Items	230.913	230.860	230.422	0.3	-0.2	-0.2
Commodities	181.614	181.512	180.266	-3.3	-0.7	-0.7
Commodities less food and beverages	150.599	150.198	148.729	-6.0	-1.2	-1.0
Nondurables less food and beverages	191.401	191.118	188.611	-9.0	-1.5	-1.3
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	225.956	224.198	221.338	-11.4	-2.0	-1.3
Durables	111.492	111.006	110.450	-1.4	-0.9	-0.5
Services	280.693	280.687	281.024	2.6	0.1	0.1
Rent of shelter [2]	258.876	259.813	260.134	3.1	0.5	0.1
Transportation services	311.561	314.114	317.389	3.6	1.9	1.0

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-		
	Sep. 2015	Oct. 2015	Nov. 2015	Nov. 2014	Sep. 2015	Oct. 2015
Other services	333.882	334.204	334.801	2.3	0.3	0.2
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	220.076	219.953	219.462	0.0	-0.3	-0.2
All items less food	227.984	227.832	227.427	0.1	-0.2	-0.2
All items less shelter	223.727	223.279	222.521	-1.0	-0.5	-0.3
Commodities less food	152.906	152.553	151.122	-5.8	-1.2	-0.9
Nondurables	217.839	217.990	216.361	-3.8	-0.7	-0.7
Nondurables less food	193.051	192.866	190.506	-8.4	-1.3	-1.2
Nondurables less food and apparel	224.721	223.245	220.651	-10.5	-1.8	-1.2
Services less rent of shelter [(2)]	316.921	315.714	316.082	2.0	-0.3	0.1
Services less medical care services	264.871	264.730	265.019	2.5	0.1	0.1
Energy	189.683	182.677	178.574	-15.5	-5.9	-2.2
All items less energy	236.264	236.990	236.962	1.9	0.3	0.0
All items less food and energy	234.530	235.281	235.362	2.0	0.4	0.0
Commodities less food and energy commodities	148.788	149.114	148.263	-0.6	-0.4	-0.6
Energy commodities	195.106	190.061	184.518	-26.7	-5.4	-2.9
Services less energy services	289.513	290.545	291.268	2.9	0.6	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) 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.