NEWS RELEASE
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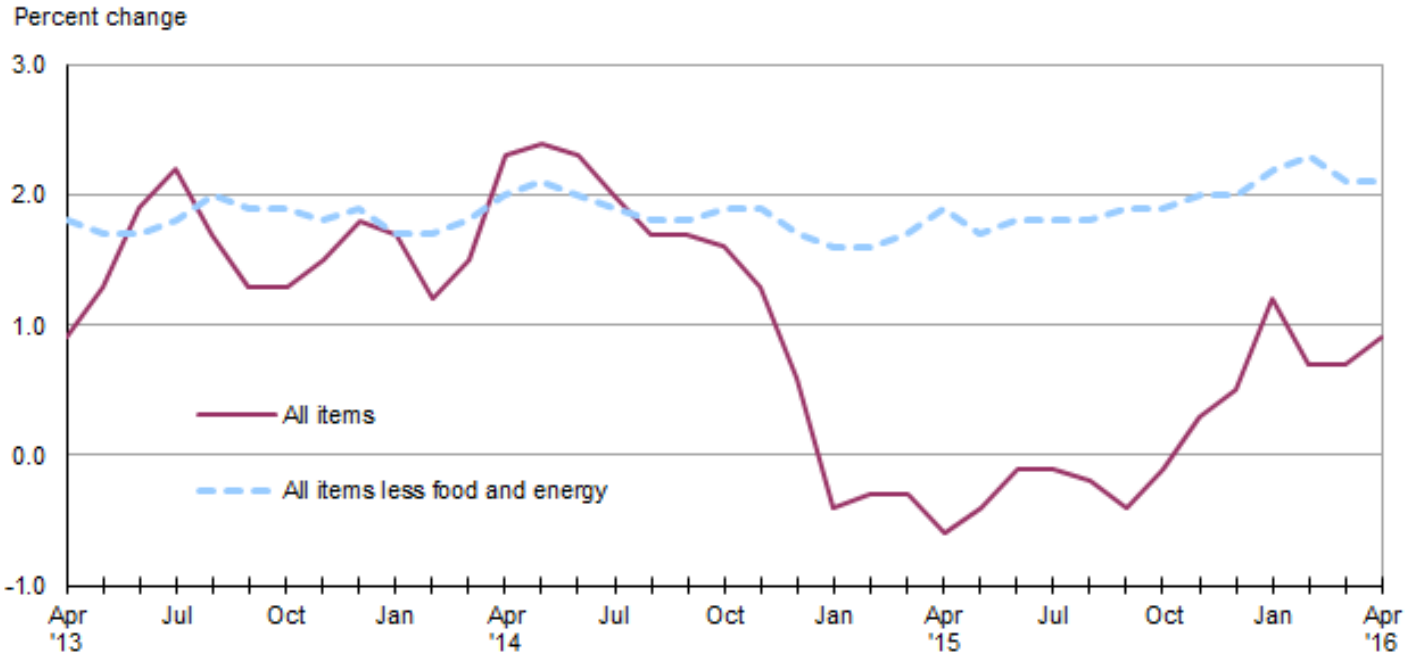
Consumer Price Index, South Region – April 2016

Prices up 0.4 percent over the month and 0.9 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South was up 0.4 percent in April, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The energy index advanced 3.2 percent over the month and the all items less food and energy index edged up 0.3 percent. The food index was unchanged in April. (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 0.9 percent. The all items less food and energy index increased 2.1 percent over the year reflecting price increases for shelter, medical care, and education and communication. (See chart 1.)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, South region, April 2013–April 2016



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index was unchanged in April. Prices for food away from home inched up 0.1 percent over the month, while those for food at home were unchanged.

Since April 2015, the food index rose 0.7 percent, reflecting higher prices for food away from home (2.1 percent). The food at home index edged down 0.3 percent over the year.

Energy

The energy index advanced 3.2 percent in April, led by an 8.1-percent rise in motor fuel prices. The electricity and utility (piped) gas service indexes each declined over the month, down 0.6 and 0.8 percent, respectively.

Over the year, energy prices declined 9.7 percent, reflecting a 15.0-percent drop in motor fuel prices. Prices for electricity (-3.8 percent) and utility (piped) gas service (-6.3 percent) also declined over the year.

All items less food and energy

The all items less food and energy index edged up 0.3 percent in April led by an increase in the shelter index (0.3 percent).

Since April 2015, the all items less food and energy index advanced 2.1 percent, led by increases in several indexes, most notably, shelter (2.7 percent), medical care (3.6 percent), and education and communication (1.6 percent).

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

Month	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January	0.5	3.2	0.4	1.6	0.3	1.7	-0.7	-0.4	0.0	1.2
February	0.6	3.3	0.9	1.8	0.4	1.2	0.5	-0.3	0.1	0.7
March	0.7	2.8	0.3	1.5	0.6	1.5	0.6	-0.3	0.6	0.7
April	0.4	2.5	-0.2	0.9	0.5	2.3	0.3	-0.6	0.4	0.9
May	-0.4	1.6	0.0	1.3	0.2	2.4	0.4	-0.4		
June	-0.2	1.7	0.4	1.9	0.2	2.3	0.5	-0.1		
July	-0.2	1.4	0.2	2.2	-0.1	2.0	-0.1	-0.1		
August	0.6	1.6	0.1	1.7	-0.2	1.7	-0.2	-0.2		
September	0.5	2.1	0.0	1.3	0.1	1.7	-0.2	-0.4		
October	-0.2	2.1	-0.2	1.3	-0.3	1.6	0.0	-0.1		
November	-0.5	1.6	-0.3	1.5	-0.6	1.3	-0.2	0.3		
December	-0.1	1.7	0.1	1.8	-0.6	0.6	-0.4	0.5		

The Consumer Price Index for May 2016 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, June 16, 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-		
	Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016	Apr. 2016	Apr. 2015	Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016
Expenditure category						
All Items	229.646	230.977	231.975	0.9	1.0	0.4
All items (December 1977=100)	372.517	374.676	376.295	-	-	-
Food and beverages	246.728	246.284	246.329	0.7	-0.2	0.0
Food	248.101	247.659	247.685	0.7	-0.2	0.0
Food at home	240.210	239.226	239.123	-0.3	-0.5	0.0
Food away from home	262.719	263.080	263.298	2.1	0.2	0.1
Alcoholic beverages	227.009	226.532	226.871	0.6	-0.1	0.1
Housing	223.206	223.438	223.762	1.6	0.2	0.1
Shelter	254.928	255.585	256.290	2.7	0.5	0.3
Rent of primary residence [1]	262.581	263.374	264.147	3.4	0.6	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	257.037	257.340	258.039	2.5	0.4	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	257.028	257.330	258.028	2.5	0.4	0.3
Fuels and utilities	223.084	222.014	221.103	-2.6	-0.9	-0.4
Household energy	180.066	178.979	177.943	-4.3	-1.2	-0.6
Energy services [1]	180.436	179.357	178.301	-4.1	-1.2	-0.6
Electricity [1]	180.587	179.393	178.394	-3.8	-1.2	-0.6
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	164.448	164.225	162.875	-6.3	-1.0	-0.8
Household furnishings and operations	121.849	121.449	121.265	-1.2	-0.5	-0.2
Apparel	132.186	136.650	136.869	-2.0	3.5	0.2
Transportation	186.352	190.858	194.784	-2.2	4.5	2.1
Private transportation	183.783	188.487	192.535	-2.3	4.8	2.1
New and used motor vehicles [3]	103.611	104.169	104.353	0.1	0.7	0.2
New vehicles	154.845	154.794	154.445	0.1	-0.3	-0.2
New cars and trucks [3] [4]	105.455	105.423	105.171	0.1	-0.3	-0.2
New cars [4]	155.362	155.228	154.659	-0.5	-0.5	-0.4
Used cars and trucks	144.670	146.816	148.060	-1.1	2.3	0.8
Motor fuel	146.874	163.840	177.154	-15.0	20.6	8.1
Gasoline (all types)	145.991	163.061	176.441	-14.9	20.9	8.2
Unleaded regular [4]	141.180	158.432	171.956	-15.6	21.8	8.5
Unleaded midgrade [4] [5]	166.183	183.692	195.669	-12.1	17.7	6.5
Unleaded premium [4]	169.145	183.411	195.403	-10.6	15.5	6.5
Medical care	435.890	436.755	437.480	3.6	0.4	0.2
Medical care commodities	349.499	349.968	351.695	4.0	0.6	0.5
Medical care services	464.990	466.003	466.316	3.5	0.3	0.1
Professional services	358.899	360.226	360.276	1.4	0.4	0.0
Recreation [3]	116.974	118.139	118.426	1.5	1.2	0.2
Education and communication [3]	137.103	137.169	137.200	1.6	0.1	0.0
Other goods and services	410.899	411.505	412.283	2.1	0.3	0.2
Commodity and service group						
All Items	229.646	230.977	231.975	0.9	1.0	0.4
Commodities	176.861	178.844	180.223	-1.7	1.9	0.8
Commodities less food and beverages	144.146	147.046	148.920	-3.3	3.3	1.3
Nondurables less food and beverages	177.682	183.961	187.988	-4.5	5.8	2.2
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	206.749	214.168	220.353	-5.3	6.6	2.9
Durables	110.975	111.241	111.435	-1.4	0.4	0.2
Services	282.779	283.493	284.133	2.5	0.5	0.2
Rent of shelter [2]	261.600	262.272	263.010	2.7	0.5	0.3
Transportation services	319.862	321.415	325.023	5.0	1.6	1.1

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-		
	Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016	Apr. 2016	Apr. 2015	Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016
Other services	337.634	339.449	339.754	2.7	0.6	0.1
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	218.356	219.699	220.702	0.6	1.1	0.5
All items less food	226.578	228.181	229.327	0.9	1.2	0.5
All items less shelter	220.823	222.442	223.568	0.0	1.2	0.5
Commodities less food	146.660	149.489	151.333	-3.1	3.2	1.2
Nondurables	210.472	213.535	215.657	-1.9	2.5	1.0
Nondurables less food	180.216	186.133	189.963	-4.2	5.4	2.1
Nondurables less food and apparel	207.383	214.132	219.817	-4.9	6.0	2.7
Services less rent of shelter [(2)]	318.256	319.045	319.580	2.3	0.4	0.2
Services less medical care services	266.328	267.011	267.663	2.4	0.5	0.2
Energy	161.619	168.538	173.868	-9.7	7.6	3.2
All items less energy	237.975	238.695	239.219	1.8	0.5	0.2
All items less food and energy	236.605	237.529	238.141	2.1	0.6	0.3
Commodities less food and energy commodities	147.921	148.832	149.111	-0.7	0.8	0.2
Energy commodities	150.400	167.238	180.474	-15.0	20.0	7.9
Services less energy services	293.582	294.498	295.329	3.0	0.6	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.