NEWS RELEASE
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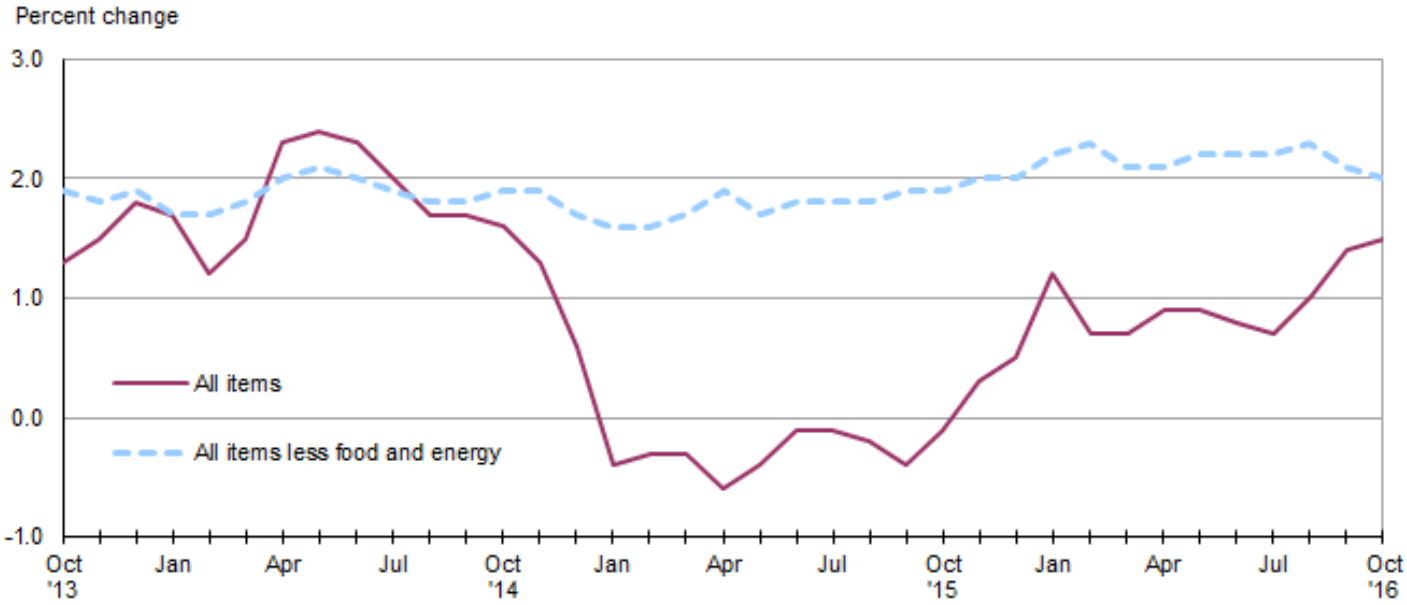
Consumer Price Index, South Region – October 2016

Prices up 0.1 percent over the month and 1.5 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South was up 0.1 percent in October, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The all items less food and energy index edged up 0.2 percent over the month. The energy index declined 0.9 percent and the food index inched down 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 1.5 percent. The all items less food and energy index increased 2.0 percent over the year reflecting price increases for shelter and medical care. (See chart 1.)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index inched down 0.1 percent in October, led by a decline in the food at home index (-0.1 percent). The food away from home index inched up 0.1 percent over the month.

The food index declined 0.7 percent over the year. The food at home index declined 2.4 percent since October 2015, while the food away from home index was up 1.7 percent.

Energy

The energy index declined 0.9 percent in October, reflecting a price decrease for electricity (-4.9 percent). Prices for motor fuel and utility (piped) gas service advanced over-the-month, up 3.1 and 1.5 percent, respectively.

From October 2015—October 2016, energy prices rose 0.9 percent, led by price increases for motor fuel (3.1 percent) and utility (piped) gas service (5.1 percent). Since October 2015, prices for electricity declined 1.6 percent.

All items less food and energy

The all items less food and energy index edged up 0.2 percent in October. Price increases for shelter (0.4 percent) and apparel (2.6 percent) were partially offset by price declines for education and communication (-0.5 percent) and medical care (-0.2 percent).

Since October 2015, the all items less food and energy index advanced 2.0 percent—led by increases in shelter (2.8 percent) and medical care (4.7 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	0.4	0.9
June	-0.2	1.7	0.4	1.9	0.2	2.3	0.5	-0.1	0.4	0.8
July	-0.2	1.4	0.2	2.2	-0.1	2.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	0.7
August	0.6	1.6	0.1	1.7	-0.2	1.7	-0.2	-0.2	0.1	1.0
September	0.5	2.1	0.0	1.3	0.1	1.7	-0.2	-0.4	0.2	1.4
October	-0.2	2.1	-0.2	1.3	-0.3	1.6	0.0	-0.1	0.1	1.5
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 November 2016 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, December 15, 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-		
	Aug. 2016	Sep. 2016	Oct. 2016	Oct. 2015	Aug. 2016	Sep. 2016
Expenditure category						
All Items	233.561	234.069	234.337	1.5	0.3	0.1
All items (December 1977=100)	378.869	379.692	380.128	-	-	-
Food and beverages	245.933	246.124	246.050	-0.6	0.0	0.0
Food	247.244	247.447	247.297	-0.7	0.0	-0.1
Food at home	236.995	237.115	236.767	-2.4	-0.1	-0.1
Food away from home	265.365	265.693	265.836	1.7	0.2	0.1
Alcoholic beverages	227.167	227.177	228.258	0.9	0.5	0.5
Housing	227.181	227.706	227.449	2.1	0.1	-0.1
Shelter	258.699	259.223	260.226	2.8	0.6	0.4
Rent of primary residence [1]	267.107	267.808	268.955	3.2	0.7	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	260.583	261.457	262.428	2.7	0.7	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	260.572	261.447	262.417	2.7	0.7	0.4
Fuels and utilities	234.622	235.682	228.479	0.0	-2.6	-3.1
Household energy	191.542	192.583	184.770	-0.8	-3.5	-4.1
Energy services [1]	192.289	193.282	185.252	-0.8	-3.7	-4.2
Electricity [1]	192.398	193.321	183.807	-1.6	-4.5	-4.9
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	175.598	176.981	179.609	5.1	2.3	1.5
Household furnishings and operations	121.468	121.655	121.665	-0.1	0.2	0.0
Apparel	131.921	135.785	139.363	0.5	5.6	2.6
Transportation	194.845	195.556	197.032	1.8	1.1	0.8
Private transportation	192.984	193.812	195.115	2.0	1.1	0.7
New and used motor vehicles [3]	103.168	102.438	101.834	-0.8	-1.3	-0.6
New vehicles	152.844	152.553	152.471	-0.1	-0.2	-0.1
New cars and trucks [3] [4]	104.035	103.834	103.841	0.0	-0.2	0.0
New cars [4]	152.825	152.288	152.259	-0.6	-0.4	0.0
Used cars and trucks	145.339	143.055	140.499	-3.6	-3.3	-1.8
Motor fuel	181.044	186.719	192.419	3.1	6.3	3.1
Gasoline (all types)	180.147	185.815	191.516	3.2	6.3	3.1
Unleaded regular [4]	175.370	181.138	186.837	3.2	6.5	3.1
Unleaded midgrade [4] [5]	200.720	205.793	211.713	3.7	5.5	2.9
Unleaded premium [4]	201.483	205.730	210.816	3.5	4.6	2.5
Medical care	448.279	449.332	448.472	4.7	0.0	-0.2
Medical care commodities	363.459	365.160	366.759	6.0	0.9	0.4
Medical care services	476.586	477.364	475.525	4.3	-0.2	-0.4
Professional services	366.437	367.080	366.426	2.4	0.0	-0.2
Recreation [3]	117.345	116.218	116.389	0.4	-0.8	0.1
Education and communication [3]	137.224	136.917	136.266	-0.5	-0.7	-0.5
Other goods and services	415.343	416.491	416.906	1.6	0.4	0.1
Commodity and service group						
All Items	233.561	234.069	234.337	1.5	0.3	0.1
Commodities	179.538	180.284	180.964	-0.3	0.8	0.4
Commodities less food and beverages	148.138	149.086	150.048	-0.1	1.3	0.6
Nondurables less food and beverages	188.364	191.404	194.275	1.7	3.1	1.5
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	223.612	226.285	228.846	2.1	2.3	1.1
Durables	109.861	109.229	108.745	-2.0	-1.0	-0.4
Services	287.926	288.208	288.084	2.6	0.1	0.0
Rent of shelter [2]	265.498	266.051	267.094	2.8	0.6	0.4
Transportation services	326.442	326.236	329.382	4.9	0.9	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-		
	Aug. 2016	Sep. 2016	Oct. 2016	Oct. 2015	Aug. 2016	Sep. 2016
Other services	340.084	338.969	338.439	1.3	-0.5	-0.2
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	221.849	222.327	222.646	1.2	0.4	0.1
All items less food	231.224	231.778	232.111	1.9	0.4	0.1
All items less shelter	224.826	225.330	225.297	0.9	0.2	0.0
Commodities less food	150.575	151.503	152.471	-0.1	1.3	0.6
Nondurables	215.664	217.340	218.802	0.4	1.5	0.7
Nondurables less food	190.333	193.211	195.986	1.6	3.0	1.4
Nondurables less food and apparel	222.822	225.268	227.699	2.0	2.2	1.1
Services less rent of shelter [(2)]	325.150	325.096	323.480	2.5	-0.5	-0.5
Services less medical care services	270.966	271.211	271.203	2.4	0.1	0.0
Energy	182.890	185.958	184.284	0.9	0.8	-0.9
All items less energy	239.992	240.219	240.703	1.6	0.3	0.2
All items less food and energy	239.128	239.360	239.956	2.0	0.3	0.2
Commodities less food and energy commodities	147.713	147.984	148.302	-0.5	0.4	0.2
Energy commodities	184.244	189.972	195.691	3.0	6.2	3.0
Services less energy services	297.949	298.150	298.926	2.9	0.3	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.