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## **Consumer Price Index, South Region-December 2014**

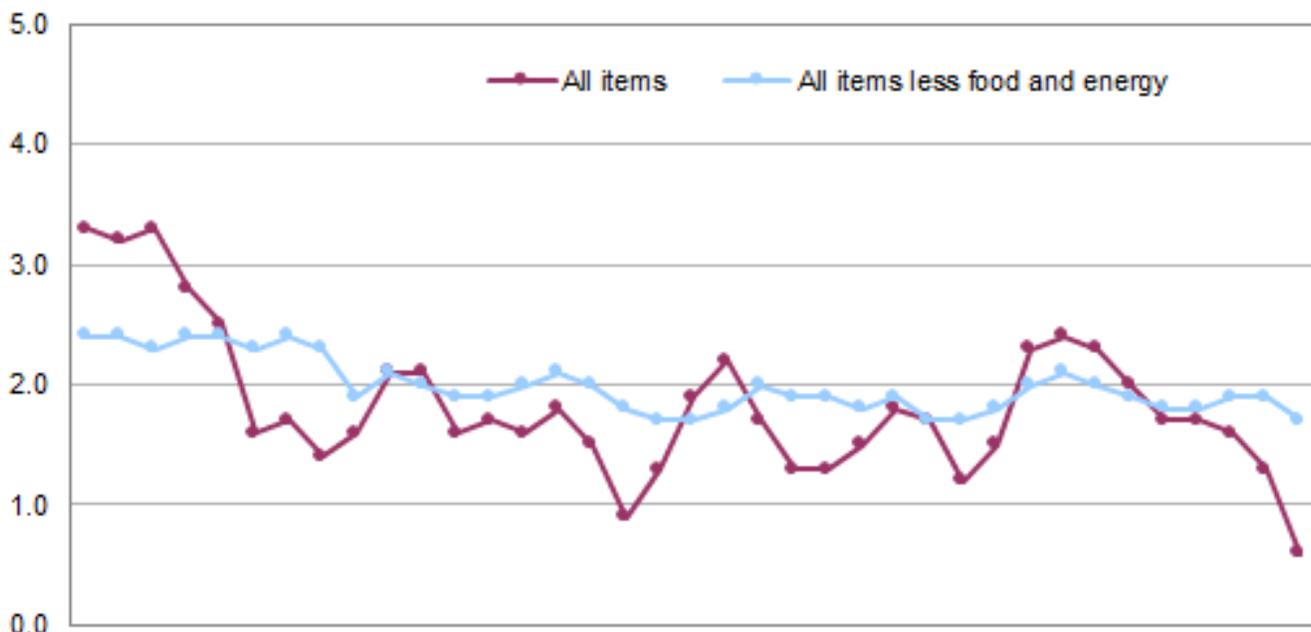
**Prices in the South down 0.6 percent in December; up 0.6 percent over the year**

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South declined 0.6 percent in December, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The energy index decreased 5.1 percent since November 2014. The all items less food and energy index edged down 0.2 percent in December, as price decreases for apparel were partially offset by price increases for shelter. The food index edged up 0.2 percent over the month. (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 0.6 percent. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 1.7 percent over the year. (See [chart 1.](#))

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

**Percent change**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Food

The food index edged up 0.2 percent in December, reflecting a 0.4-percent increase in prices for food away from home. Prices for food at home remained unchanged over the month.

Since December 2013, the food index advanced 3.2 percent, as prices increased for both food at home (3.5 percent) and food away from home (2.9 percent).

## Energy

The energy index declined 5.1 percent over the month, led by a price decrease for motor fuel (-10.9 percent). Prices increased for both electricity (1.7 percent) and utility (piped) gas service (1.4 percent) in December.

Over the year, energy prices decreased 11.3 percent, reflecting a 22.6-percent drop in motor fuel prices. Since December 2013, prices for electricity and utility (piped) gas service increased 4.5 and 3.3 percent, respectively.

## All items less food and energy

The all items less food and energy index edged down 0.2 percent in December, as seasonal price decreases for apparel (4.3 percent) were partially offset by an increase in shelter prices (0.2 percent).

Since December 2013, the all items less food and energy index advanced 1.7 percent, led by price increases for shelter (3.2 percent), medical care (2.5 percent), and other goods and services (2.0 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 |
| 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      | -0.6    | 1.3      |
| December.....  | -0.1    | 2.9      | 0.2     | 1.4      | -0.2    | 3.3      | -0.1    | 1.7      | 0.1     | 1.8      | -0.6    | 0.6      |

**The Consumer Price Index for January 2015 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, February 26, 2015 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](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/homch17\\_a.htm](http://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- |              |              |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
|   | Oct.<br>2014 | Nov.<br>2014 | Dec.<br>2014 | Dec.<br>2013         | Oct.<br>2014 | Nov.<br>2014 |
| <b>Expenditure category</b>                                       |              |              |              |                      |              |              |
| All Items.....  | 231.131      | 229.845      | 228.451      | 0.6                  | -1.2         | -0.6         |
| All items (December 1977=100).....                                | 374.926      | 372.840      | 370.578      |                      |              |              |
| Food and beverages .....  | 243.349      | 243.889      | 244.250      | 3.1                  | 0.4          | 0.1          |
| Food .....  | 244.771      | 245.205      | 245.663      | 3.2                  | 0.4          | 0.2          |
| Food at home .....  | 240.848      | 240.939      | 241.044      | 3.5                  | 0.1          | 0.0          |
| Food away from home.....  | 253.489      | 254.433      | 255.417      | 2.9                  | 0.8          | 0.4          |
| Alcoholic beverages .....   | 222.879      | 224.885      | 223.922      | 1.1                  | 0.5          | -0.4         |
| Housing .....   | 218.180      | 217.990      | 218.569      | 2.9                  | 0.2          | 0.3          |
| Shelter .....   | 245.401      | 246.003      | 246.380      | 3.2                  | 0.4          | 0.2          |
| Rent of primary residence <sup>(1)</sup> .....                    | 250.536      | 251.781      | 252.723      | 3.8                  | 0.9          | 0.4          |
| Owners' equiv. rent of residences <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....        | 248.066      | 248.944      | 249.315      | 3.0                  | 0.5          | 0.1          |
| Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence <sup>(1) (2)</sup> ..... | 248.064      | 248.934      | 249.309      | 3.0                  | 0.5          | 0.2          |
| Fuels and utilities.....  | 232.365      | 228.352      | 231.030      | 4.1                  | -0.6         | 1.2          |
| Household energy .....  | 192.649      | 187.777      | 190.676      | 4.0                  | -1.0         | 1.5          |
| Energy services <sup>(1)</sup> .....                              | 192.414      | 187.502      | 190.560      | 4.3                  | -1.0         | 1.6          |
| Electricity <sup>(1)</sup> .....                                  | 190.427      | 185.032      | 188.123      | 4.5                  | -1.2         | 1.7          |
| Utility (piped) gas service <sup>(1)</sup> .....                  | 189.416      | 188.053      | 190.639      | 3.3                  | 0.6          | 1.4          |
| Household furnishings and operations.....                         | 122.608      | 122.278      | 122.128      | -0.7                 | -0.4         | -0.1         |
| Apparel.....  | 141.107      | 138.597      | 132.677      | -3.7                 | -6.0         | -4.3         |
| Transportation .....  | 212.800      | 206.773      | 199.639      | -7.0                 | -6.2         | -3.5         |
| Private transportation .....                                      | 211.206      | 204.697      | 197.594      | -7.2                 | -6.4         | -3.5         |
| New and used motor vehicles <sup>(3)</sup> .....                  | 103.008      | 102.443      | 102.071      | -0.3                 | -0.9         | -0.4         |
| New vehicles .....  | 152.959      | 153.371      | 153.346      | 1.2                  | 0.3          | 0.0          |
| New cars and trucks <sup>(3) (4)</sup> .....                      | 104.116      | 104.410      | 104.390      | 1.2                  | 0.3          | 0.0          |
| New cars <sup>(4)</sup> .....                                     | 154.584      | 155.148      | 154.711      | 0.6                  | 0.1          | -0.3         |
| Used cars and trucks.....   | 146.766      | 143.143      | 141.243      | -4.0                 | -3.8         | -1.3         |
| Motor fuel .....  | 272.547      | 247.707      | 220.729      | -22.6                | -19.0        | -10.9        |
| Gasoline (all types).....   | 270.847      | 245.843      | 218.795      | -22.8                | -19.2        | -11.0        |
| Unleaded regular <sup>(4)</sup> .....                             | 267.838      | 242.473      | 215.110      | -23.4                | -19.7        | -11.3        |
| Unleaded midgrade <sup>(4) (5)</sup> .....                        | 286.894      | 262.525      | 236.285      | -20.7                | -17.6        | -10.0        |
| Unleaded premium <sup>(4)</sup> .....                             | 277.087      | 254.811      | 230.519      | -19.4                | -16.8        | -9.5         |
| Medical care .....  | 415.601      | 416.704      | 417.474      | 2.5                  | 0.5          | 0.2          |
| Medical care commodities.....                                     | 332.811      | 332.818      | 334.991      | 4.2                  | 0.7          | 0.7          |
| Medical care services.....  | 443.547      | 445.104      | 445.252      | 2.0                  | 0.4          | 0.0          |
| Professional services .....                                       | 352.557      | 354.405      | 354.606      | 1.2                  | 0.6          | 0.1          |
| Recreation <sup>(3)</sup> .....                                   | 115.723      | 115.626      | 115.502      | 0.2                  | -0.2         | -0.1         |
| Education and communication <sup>(3)</sup> .....                  | 135.265      | 135.056      | 134.559      | 0.8                  | -0.5         | -0.4         |
| Other goods and services .....                                    | 402.960      | 402.176      | 403.484      | 2.0                  | 0.1          | 0.3          |
| <b>Commodity and service group</b>                                |              |              |              |                      |              |              |
| All Items.....  | 231.131      | 229.845      | 228.451      | 0.6                  | -1.2         | -0.6         |
| Commodities .....   | 189.105      | 186.334      | 183.139      | -2.6                 | -3.2         | -1.7         |
| Commodities less food and beverages .....                         | 162.303      | 158.283      | 153.753      | -5.8                 | -5.3         | -2.9         |
| Nondurables less food and beverages.....                          | 215.384      | 207.305      | 197.983      | -8.6                 | -8.1         | -4.5         |
| Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel .....               | 261.266      | 249.889      | 238.475      | -10.1                | -8.7         | -4.6         |
| Durables .....  | 112.579      | 112.074      | 111.685      | -1.4                 | -0.8         | -0.3         |
| Services.....   | 273.893      | 274.028      | 274.359      | 2.8                  | 0.2          | 0.1          |
| Rent of shelter <sup>(2)</sup> .....                              | 251.791      | 252.409      | 252.770      | 3.2                  | 0.4          | 0.1          |
| Transportation services .....                                     | 304.560      | 306.485      | 305.249      | 1.6                  | 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 South (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued**

| Item and Group  | Indexes      |              |              | Percent change from- |              |              |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
|   | Oct.<br>2014 | Nov.<br>2014 | Dec.<br>2014 | Dec.<br>2013         | Oct.<br>2014 | Nov.<br>2014 |
| Other services .....                                  | 327.327      | 327.332      | 326.734      | 1.7                  | -0.2         | -0.2         |
| <b>Special aggregate indexes</b>                      |              |              |              |                      |              |              |
| All items less medical care .....                     | 220.784      | 219.409      | 217.937      | 0.4                  | -1.3         | -0.7         |
| All items less food .....                             | 228.798      | 227.250      | 225.575      | 0.2                  | -1.4         | -0.7         |
| All items less shelter.....                           | 226.875      | 224.799      | 222.662      | -0.6                 | -1.9         | -1.0         |
| Commodities less food .....                           | 164.280      | 160.410      | 155.964      | -5.6                 | -5.1         | -2.8         |
| Nondurables .....                                     | 229.096      | 224.998      | 220.148      | -2.9                 | -3.9         | -2.2         |
| Nondurables less food.....                            | 215.588      | 208.074      | 199.223      | -8.1                 | -7.6         | -4.3         |
| Nondurables less food and apparel.....                | 256.725      | 246.534      | 236.059      | -9.3                 | -8.0         | -4.2         |
| Services less rent of shelter <sup>(2)</sup> .....    | 310.276      | 309.801      | 310.105      | 2.3                  | -0.1         | 0.1          |
| Services less medical care services.....              | 258.406      | 258.453      | 258.789      | 2.8                  | 0.1          | 0.1          |
| Energy .....  | 225.058      | 211.214      | 200.483      | -11.3                | -10.9        | -5.1         |
| All items less energy .....                           | 232.537      | 232.656      | 232.305      | 1.9                  | -0.1         | -0.2         |
| All items less food and energy .....                  | 230.790      | 230.855      | 230.362      | 1.7                  | -0.2         | -0.2         |
| Commodities less food and energy<br>commodities ..... | 150.101      | 149.232      | 148.011      | -0.9                 | -1.4         | -0.8         |
| Energy commodities.....                               | 276.664      | 251.820      | 224.803      | -22.4                | -18.7        | -10.7        |
| Services less energy services.....                    | 282.350      | 283.059      | 283.079      | 2.6                  | 0.3          | 0.0          |

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.