NEWS RELEASE
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

For Release: Friday, July 17, 2015 **15-1440-ATL**

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

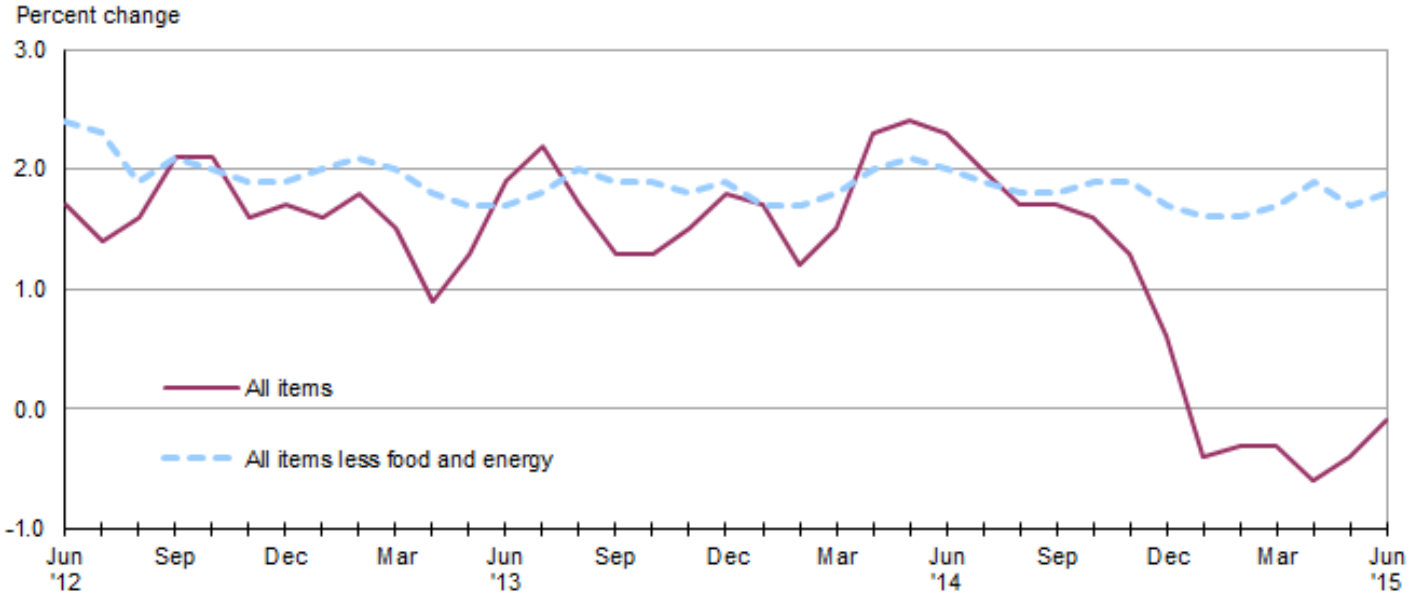
Consumer Price Index, South Region – June 2015

Prices up 0.5 percent over the month; down 0.1 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South increased 0.5 percent in June, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The rise of the overall index was led by a 4.4-percent increase in the energy index. The all items less food and energy index inched up 0.1 percent and 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 inched down 0.1 percent, the sixth consecutive month of over-the-year declines for this index. The all items less food and energy index advanced 1.8 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, June 2012–June 2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index rose 0.2 percent in June, as prices for both food at home and food away from home edged up 0.2 percent each.

Since June 2014, the food index advanced 1.7 percent, reflecting price increases for both food away from home and food at home, up 3.1 and 0.7 percent, respectively.

Energy

The energy index rose 4.4 percent in June led by price increases for electricity (5.7 percent) and motor fuel (4.0 percent). Over the month, prices for utility (piped) gas service inched down 0.1 percent.

Over the year, energy prices fell 15.8 percent, reflecting a 24.9-percent drop in motor fuel prices. Utility (piped) gas service prices declined 14.9 percent since June 2014 and electricity prices decreased 1.8 percent.

All items less food and energy

The all items less food and energy index inched up 0.1 percent in June, as a price increase for shelter (0.4 percent) was partially offset by a 1.7-percent seasonal decline in apparel prices.

Since June 2014, the all items less food and energy index advanced 1.8 percent as several indexes saw increases, most notably shelter (3.1 percent). Medical care, fueled by increases in both medical care services (1.9 percent) and medical care commodities (3.1 percent), rose 2.2 percent over-the-year. Indexes that declined since June 2014 included recreation (-0.2 percent) and apparel (-0.3 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		
August	0.4	4.3	0.6	1.6	0.1	1.7	-0.2	1.7		
September	0.0	4.1	0.5	2.1	0.0	1.3	0.1	1.7		
October	-0.2	3.7	-0.2	2.1	-0.2	1.3	-0.3	1.6		
November	0.0	3.8	-0.5	1.6	-0.3	1.5	-0.6	1.3		
December	-0.2	3.3	-0.1	1.7	0.1	1.8	-0.6	0.6		

The Consumer Price Index for July 2015 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, August 19, 2015.

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 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.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

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-		
	Apr. 2015	May 2015	Jun. 2015	Jun. 2014	Apr. 2015	May 2015
Expenditure category						
All Items	229.957	230.886	232.026	-0.1	0.9	0.5
All items (December 1977=100)	373.023	374.529	376.378	-	-	-
Food and beverages	244.636	244.851	245.240	1.6	0.2	0.2
Food	245.962	246.196	246.670	1.7	0.3	0.2
Food at home	239.926	239.835	240.253	0.7	0.1	0.2
Food away from home	257.813	258.529	259.094	3.1	0.5	0.2
Alcoholic beverages	225.502	225.458	224.657	0.8	-0.4	-0.4
Housing	220.275	220.528	222.222	2.0	0.9	0.8
Shelter	249.515	249.802	250.743	3.1	0.5	0.4
Rent of primary residence [1]	255.547	255.748	256.660	3.7	0.4	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	251.632	251.990	252.938	3.0	0.5	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	251.622	251.982	252.929	3.0	0.5	0.4
Fuels and utilities	227.105	227.574	235.930	-2.0	3.9	3.7
Household energy	185.968	186.421	195.537	-3.8	5.1	4.9
Energy services [1]	186.013	186.536	195.913	-3.5	5.3	5.0
Electricity [1]	185.509	186.980	197.714	-1.8	6.6	5.7
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	173.902	168.220	167.997	-14.9	-3.4	-0.1
Household furnishings and operations	122.784	122.777	122.551	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2
Apparel	139.604	136.621	134.364	-0.3	-3.8	-1.7
Transportation	199.151	204.147	206.437	-7.7	3.7	1.1
Private transportation	197.101	201.689	203.934	-7.8	3.5	1.1
New and used motor vehicles [3]	104.254	104.313	104.054	0.6	-0.2	-0.2
New vehicles	154.314	154.261	153.737	0.8	-0.4	-0.3
New cars and trucks [3] [4]	105.042	105.005	104.662	0.8	-0.4	-0.3
New cars [4]	155.468	155.354	155.010	-0.1	-0.3	-0.2
Used cars and trucks	149.632	150.400	150.507	0.0	0.6	0.1
Motor fuel	208.485	226.151	235.267	-24.9	12.8	4.0
Gasoline (all types)	207.214	225.036	234.270	-24.9	13.1	4.1
Unleaded regular [4]	203.761	221.807	231.110	-25.4	13.4	4.2
Unleaded midgrade [4] [5]	222.556	239.714	249.024	-23.8	11.9	3.9
Unleaded premium [4]	218.536	234.639	243.022	-22.2	11.2	3.6
Medical care	422.149	423.536	424.087	2.2	0.5	0.1
Medical care commodities	338.125	340.143	340.501	3.1	0.7	0.1
Medical care services	450.505	451.591	452.215	1.9	0.4	0.1
Professional services	355.417	355.712	356.515	1.2	0.3	0.2
Recreation [3]	116.731	116.554	116.487	-0.2	-0.2	-0.1
Education and communication [3]	135.079	134.875	134.843	0.6	-0.2	0.0
Other goods and services	403.625	404.332	406.407	1.4	0.7	0.5
Commodity and service group						
All Items	229.957	230.886	232.026	-0.1	0.9	0.5
Commodities	183.405	184.788	185.371	-3.4	1.1	0.3
Commodities less food and beverages	153.965	155.777	156.422	-6.3	1.6	0.4
Nondurables less food and beverages	196.880	200.889	202.634	-9.7	2.9	0.9
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	232.803	240.844	244.888	-12.3	5.2	1.7
Durables	112.983	112.907	112.615	-0.8	-0.3	-0.3
Services	277.077	277.576	279.264	2.1	0.8	0.6
Rent of shelter [2]	255.972	256.266	257.266	3.0	0.5	0.4
Transportation services	309.595	312.266	313.286	2.2	1.2	0.3

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-		
	Apr. 2015	May 2015	Jun. 2015	Jun. 2014	Apr. 2015	May 2015
Other services	330.713	330.600	330.904	1.7	0.1	0.1
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	219.292	220.191	221.344	-0.3	0.9	0.5
All items less food	227.264	228.298	229.539	-0.4	1.0	0.5
All items less shelter	223.505	224.706	225.936	-1.5	1.1	0.5
Commodities less food	156.212	157.980	158.588	-6.1	1.5	0.4
Nondurables	219.734	221.992	223.112	-4.3	1.5	0.5
Nondurables less food	198.270	202.050	203.653	-9.1	2.7	0.8
Nondurables less food and apparel	231.027	238.346	241.960	-11.4	4.7	1.5
Services less rent of shelter [(2)]	312.288	313.063	315.678	1.2	1.1	0.8
Services less medical care services	261.302	261.755	263.476	2.2	0.8	0.7
Energy	192.447	200.710	209.641	-15.8	8.9	4.4
All items less energy	234.887	234.996	235.265	1.8	0.2	0.1
All items less food and energy	233.346	233.433	233.667	1.8	0.1	0.1
Commodities less food and energy commodities	150.118	149.613	149.007	-0.3	-0.7	-0.4
Energy commodities	212.298	229.848	238.861	-24.7	12.5	3.9
Services less energy services	286.614	287.109	287.919	2.6	0.5	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.