NEWS RELEASE
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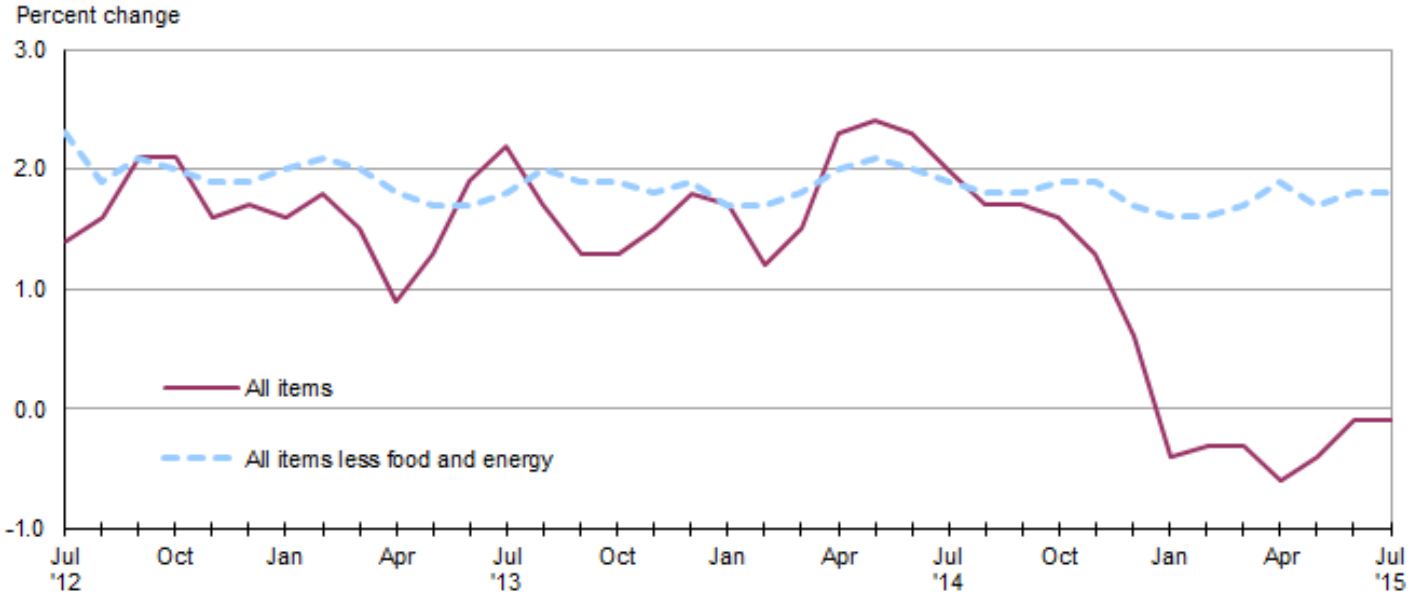
Consumer Price Index, South Region – July 2015

Prices down 0.1 percent over the month and 0.1 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South inched down 0.1 percent in July, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The energy index declined by 1.2 percent over the month. The all items less food and energy index inched down 0.1 percent while 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 seventh 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, July 2012–July 2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index rose 0.2 percent in July. Prices for food away from home edged up 0.2 percent and prices for food at home inched up 0.1 percent over the month.

Since July 2014, the food index advanced 1.8 percent, reflecting price increases for both food away from home and food at home, up 3.1 and 0.9 percent, respectively.

Energy

The energy index declined 1.2 percent in July led by a 2.5-percent decrease in motor fuel prices. Over the month, prices for utility (piped) gas service rose 1.6 percent and prices for electricity were unchanged.

Over the year, energy prices fell 16.3 percent, reflecting a 25.8-percent drop in motor fuel prices. Electricity prices declined 2.0 percent since July 2014 and utility (piped) gas service prices decreased 13.1 percent.

All items less food and energy

The all items less food and energy index inched down 0.1 percent in July, as a seasonal decline in apparel prices (-3.1 percent), was largely offset by an increase in prices for shelter (0.3 percent).

Since July 2014, the all items less food and energy index advanced 1.8 percent as several indexes increased, most notably shelter (3.1 percent). Medical care, fueled by increases in both medical care services (1.8 percent) and medical care commodities (3.1 percent), rose 2.1 percent over-the-year. Other indexes with over-the-year increases included other goods and services (1.5 percent), education and communication (0.5 percent), and recreation (0.4 percent). The apparel index declined 1.1 percent since July 2014.

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		
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 August 2015 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, September 16, 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.

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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-		
	May 2015	Jun. 2015	Jul. 2015	Jul. 2014	May 2015	Jun. 2015
Expenditure category						
All Items	230.886	232.026	231.719	-0.1	0.4	-0.1
All items (December 1977=100)	374.529	376.378	375.880	-	-	-
Food and beverages	244.851	245.240	245.647	1.8	0.3	0.2
Food	246.196	246.670	247.118	1.8	0.4	0.2
Food at home	239.835	240.253	240.573	0.9	0.3	0.1
Food away from home	258.529	259.094	259.735	3.1	0.5	0.2
Alcoholic beverages	225.458	224.657	224.514	1.0	-0.4	-0.1
Housing	220.528	222.222	222.664	1.9	1.0	0.2
Shelter	249.802	250.743	251.494	3.1	0.7	0.3
Rent of primary residence [1]	255.748	256.660	257.795	3.8	0.8	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	251.990	252.938	253.735	3.1	0.7	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	251.982	252.929	253.724	3.1	0.7	0.3
Fuels and utilities	227.574	235.930	236.532	-2.0	3.9	0.3
Household energy	186.421	195.537	195.880	-3.8	5.1	0.2
Energy services [1]	186.536	195.913	196.320	-3.5	5.2	0.2
Electricity [1]	186.980	197.714	197.764	-2.0	5.8	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	168.220	167.997	170.692	-13.1	1.5	1.6
Household furnishings and operations	122.777	122.551	121.793	-0.7	-0.8	-0.6
Apparel	136.621	134.364	130.264	-1.1	-4.7	-3.1
Transportation	204.147	206.437	204.570	-7.9	0.2	-0.9
Private transportation	201.689	203.934	202.684	-8.0	0.5	-0.6
New and used motor vehicles [3]	104.313	104.054	103.762	0.3	-0.5	-0.3
New vehicles	154.261	153.737	153.000	0.5	-0.8	-0.5
New cars and trucks [3] [4]	105.005	104.662	104.153	0.5	-0.8	-0.5
New cars [4]	155.354	155.010	153.830	-0.5	-1.0	-0.8
Used cars and trucks	150.400	150.507	150.635	-0.5	0.2	0.1
Motor fuel	226.151	235.267	229.495	-25.8	1.5	-2.5
Gasoline (all types)	225.036	234.270	228.523	-25.8	1.5	-2.5
Unleaded regular [4]	221.807	231.110	224.939	-26.4	1.4	-2.7
Unleaded midgrade [4] [5]	239.714	249.024	245.005	-24.1	2.2	-1.6
Unleaded premium [4]	234.639	243.022	239.763	-22.4	2.2	-1.3
Medical care	423.536	424.087	424.259	2.1	0.2	0.0
Medical care commodities	340.143	340.501	341.679	3.1	0.5	0.3
Medical care services	451.591	452.215	451.948	1.8	0.1	-0.1
Professional services	355.712	356.515	356.626	1.3	0.3	0.0
Recreation [3]	116.554	116.487	116.483	0.4	-0.1	0.0
Education and communication [3]	134.875	134.843	135.008	0.5	0.1	0.1
Other goods and services	404.332	406.407	406.867	1.5	0.6	0.1
Commodity and service group						
All Items	230.886	232.026	231.719	-0.1	0.4	-0.1
Commodities	184.788	185.371	184.195	-3.6	-0.3	-0.6
Commodities less food and beverages	155.777	156.422	154.644	-6.8	-0.7	-1.1
Nondurables less food and beverages	200.889	202.634	199.505	-10.2	-0.7	-1.5
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	240.844	244.888	242.254	-12.7	0.6	-1.1
Durables	112.907	112.615	112.021	-1.1	-0.8	-0.5
Services	277.576	279.264	279.793	2.2	0.8	0.2
Rent of shelter [2]	256.266	257.266	258.078	3.1	0.7	0.3
Transportation services	312.266	313.286	312.300	2.9	0.0	-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-		
	May 2015	Jun. 2015	Jul. 2015	Jul. 2014	May 2015	Jun. 2015
Other services	330.600	330.904	331.674	1.9	0.3	0.2
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	220.191	221.344	221.020	-0.3	0.4	-0.1
All items less food	228.298	229.539	229.116	-0.4	0.4	-0.2
All items less shelter	224.706	225.936	225.189	-1.5	0.2	-0.3
Commodities less food	157.980	158.588	156.850	-6.5	-0.7	-1.1
Nondurables	221.992	223.112	221.617	-4.4	-0.2	-0.7
Nondurables less food	202.050	203.653	200.692	-9.6	-0.7	-1.5
Nondurables less food and apparel	238.346	241.960	239.551	-11.7	0.5	-1.0
Services less rent of shelter [(2)]	313.063	315.678	315.864	1.3	0.9	0.1
Services less medical care services	261.755	263.476	264.043	2.3	0.9	0.2
Energy	200.710	209.641	207.200	-16.3	3.2	-1.2
All items less energy	234.996	235.265	235.197	1.8	0.1	0.0
All items less food and energy	233.433	233.667	233.509	1.8	0.0	-0.1
Commodities less food and energy commodities	149.613	149.007	147.839	-0.6	-1.2	-0.8
Energy commodities	229.848	238.861	233.040	-25.7	1.4	-2.4
Services less energy services	287.109	287.919	288.460	2.7	0.5	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.