NEWS RELEASE
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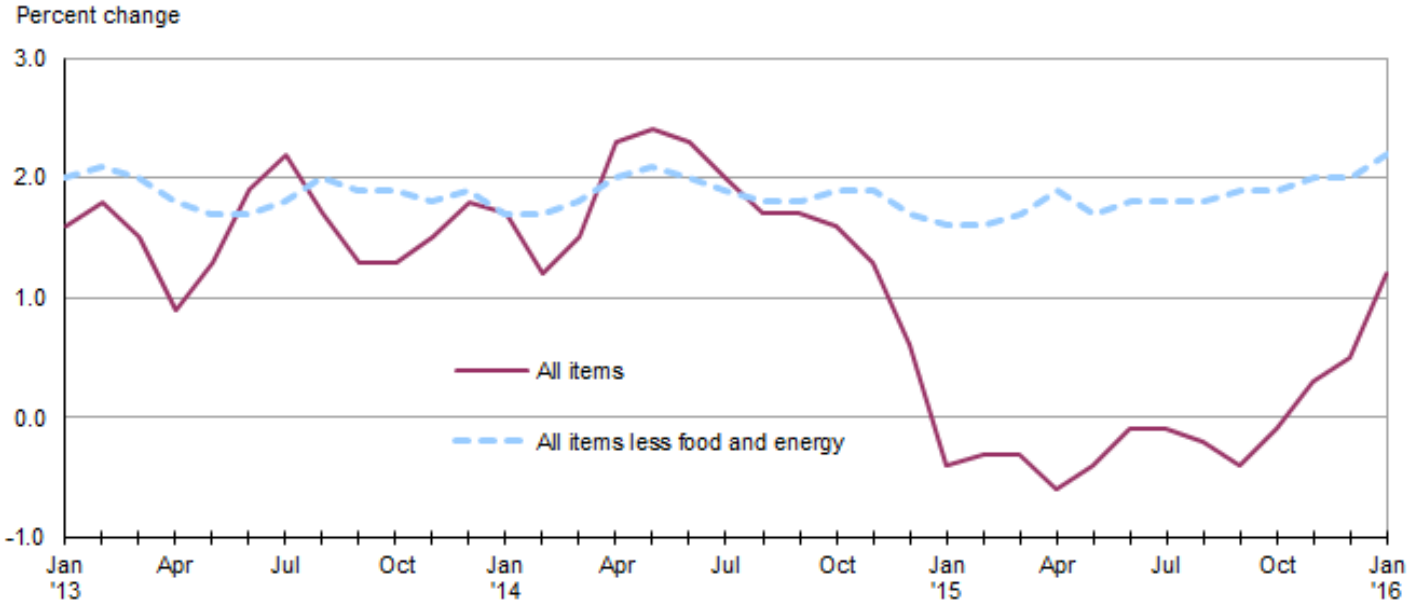
Consumer Price Index, South Region – January 2016

Prices unchanged over the month; up 1.2 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South was unchanged in January, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The energy index declined 3.3 percent over the month. The all items less food and energy index edged up 0.3 percent in January, while the food index was unchanged 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 1.2 percent. The all items less food and energy index advanced 2.2 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, January 2013–January 2016



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index was unchanged in January. Prices for food at home inched down 0.1 percent over the month, while those for food away from home edged up 0.2 percent.

Since January 2015, the food index advanced 0.5 percent, reflecting higher prices for food away from home (2.6 percent). The food at home index declined 1.0 percent over the year.

Energy

The energy index decreased 3.3 percent in January, led by a 6.4-percent decline in motor fuel prices. The electricity and utility (piped) gas service indexes also decreased over the month, down 0.9 and 1.4 percent, respectively.

Over the year, energy prices declined 8.2 percent, reflecting a 12.6-percent drop in motor fuel prices. Prices for electricity (-3.5 percent) and utility (piped) gas service (-10.9 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 January as several indexes increased including shelter (0.3 percent), medical care (0.8 percent), recreation (0.3 percent), and other goods and services (0.3 percent). The apparel index had a seasonal decline of 1.9 percent over the month.

Since January 2015, the all items less food and energy index advanced 2.2 percent, led by increases for shelter (3.0 percent), medical care (3.5 percent), and education and communication (1.8 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		
March	0.7	2.8	0.3	1.5	0.6	1.5	0.6	-0.3		
April	0.4	2.5	-0.2	0.9	0.5	2.3	0.3	-0.6		
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 February 2016 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, March 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-		
	Nov. 2015	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2015	Nov. 2015	Dec. 2015
Expenditure category						
All Items	230.422	229.581	229.469	1.2	-0.4	0.0
All items (December 1977=100)	373.776	372.412	372.230	-	-	-
Food and beverages	246.957	246.125	246.208	0.6	-0.3	0.0
Food	248.396	247.543	247.542	0.5	-0.3	0.0
Food at home	241.401	239.762	239.421	-1.0	-0.8	-0.1
Food away from home	261.693	261.992	262.498	2.6	0.3	0.2
Alcoholic beverages	226.257	225.705	227.087	1.5	0.4	0.6
Housing	222.564	222.710	223.068	1.9	0.2	0.2
Shelter	253.487	253.815	254.654	3.0	0.5	0.3
Rent of primary residence [1]	261.335	261.682	262.351	3.5	0.4	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	256.092	256.398	256.983	2.8	0.3	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	256.079	256.387	256.973	2.8	0.3	0.2
Fuels and utilities	225.933	225.482	223.934	-2.7	-0.9	-0.7
Household energy	183.332	182.721	180.941	-4.6	-1.3	-1.0
Energy services [1]	183.643	183.050	181.291	-4.5	-1.3	-1.0
Electricity [1]	183.295	182.834	181.197	-3.5	-1.1	-0.9
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	170.711	169.306	166.878	-10.9	-2.2	-1.4
Household furnishings and operations	121.614	121.533	121.496	-0.5	-0.1	0.0
Apparel	136.716	130.231	127.750	-1.0	-6.6	-1.9
Transportation	192.674	190.467	188.529	-1.0	-2.2	-1.0
Private transportation	190.298	188.175	186.199	-1.0	-2.2	-1.1
New and used motor vehicles [3]	102.111	102.262	102.782	0.8	0.7	0.5
New vehicles	152.539	153.011	153.743	0.5	0.8	0.5
New cars and trucks [3] [4]	103.826	104.155	104.659	0.5	0.8	0.5
New cars [4]	152.684	153.465	154.322	0.3	1.1	0.6
Used cars and trucks	143.435	142.825	143.234	1.5	-0.1	0.3
Motor fuel	180.994	170.941	160.040	-12.6	-11.6	-6.4
Gasoline (all types)	179.960	169.930	159.143	-12.2	-11.6	-6.3
Unleaded regular [4]	175.445	165.316	154.454	-12.9	-12.0	-6.6
Unleaded midgrade [4] [5]	199.105	189.665	178.593	-10.0	-10.3	-5.8
Unleaded premium [4]	199.001	189.917	180.635	-7.8	-9.2	-4.9
Medical care	429.361	428.859	432.458	3.5	0.7	0.8
Medical care commodities	346.645	344.468	345.566	3.7	-0.3	0.3
Medical care services	457.012	457.246	461.806	3.5	1.0	1.0
Professional services	358.863	358.852	358.699	1.1	0.0	0.0
Recreation [3]	115.582	115.861	116.211	0.2	0.5	0.3
Education and communication [3]	137.092	137.064	137.146	1.8	0.0	0.1
Other goods and services	409.946	410.087	411.232	1.8	0.3	0.3
Commodity and service group						
All Items	230.422	229.581	229.469	1.2	-0.4	0.0
Commodities	180.266	178.113	177.079	-1.2	-1.8	-0.6
Commodities less food and beverages	148.729	146.106	144.653	-2.3	-2.7	-1.0
Nondurables less food and beverages	188.611	183.278	179.681	-3.5	-4.7	-2.0
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	221.338	216.563	212.273	-4.3	-4.1	-2.0
Durables	110.450	110.173	110.366	-0.9	-0.1	0.2
Services	281.024	281.443	282.219	2.6	0.4	0.3
Rent of shelter [2]	260.134	260.430	261.308	3.0	0.5	0.3
Transportation services	317.389	318.421	319.075	4.3	0.5	0.2

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-		
	Nov. 2015	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2015	Nov. 2015	Dec. 2015
Other services	334.801	335.662	336.477	2.6	0.5	0.2
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	219.462	218.616	218.332	0.9	-0.5	-0.1
All items less food	227.427	226.589	226.460	1.3	-0.4	-0.1
All items less shelter	222.521	221.191	220.685	0.3	-0.8	-0.2
Commodities less food	151.122	148.549	147.158	-2.2	-2.6	-0.9
Nondurables	216.361	213.102	211.267	-1.3	-2.4	-0.9
Nondurables less food	190.506	185.442	182.112	-3.1	-4.4	-1.8
Nondurables less food and apparel	220.651	216.256	212.443	-3.8	-3.7	-1.8
Services less rent of shelter [(2)]	316.082	316.668	317.339	2.1	0.4	0.2
Services less medical care services	265.019	265.440	265.952	2.5	0.4	0.2
Energy	178.574	173.686	167.911	-8.2	-6.0	-3.3
All items less energy	236.962	236.573	237.084	2.0	0.1	0.2
All items less food and energy	235.362	235.053	235.655	2.2	0.1	0.3
Commodities less food and energy commodities	148.263	146.744	146.663	-0.3	-1.1	-0.1
Energy commodities	184.518	174.457	163.543	-12.6	-11.4	-6.3
Services less energy services	291.268	291.800	292.863	3.1	0.5	0.4

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.