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

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ERRATA As initially published, the time period stated in the second paragraph under the Energy heading incorrectly stated: From February 2015—February 2016. The release was republished with the time period corrected to: From February 2016—February 2017.

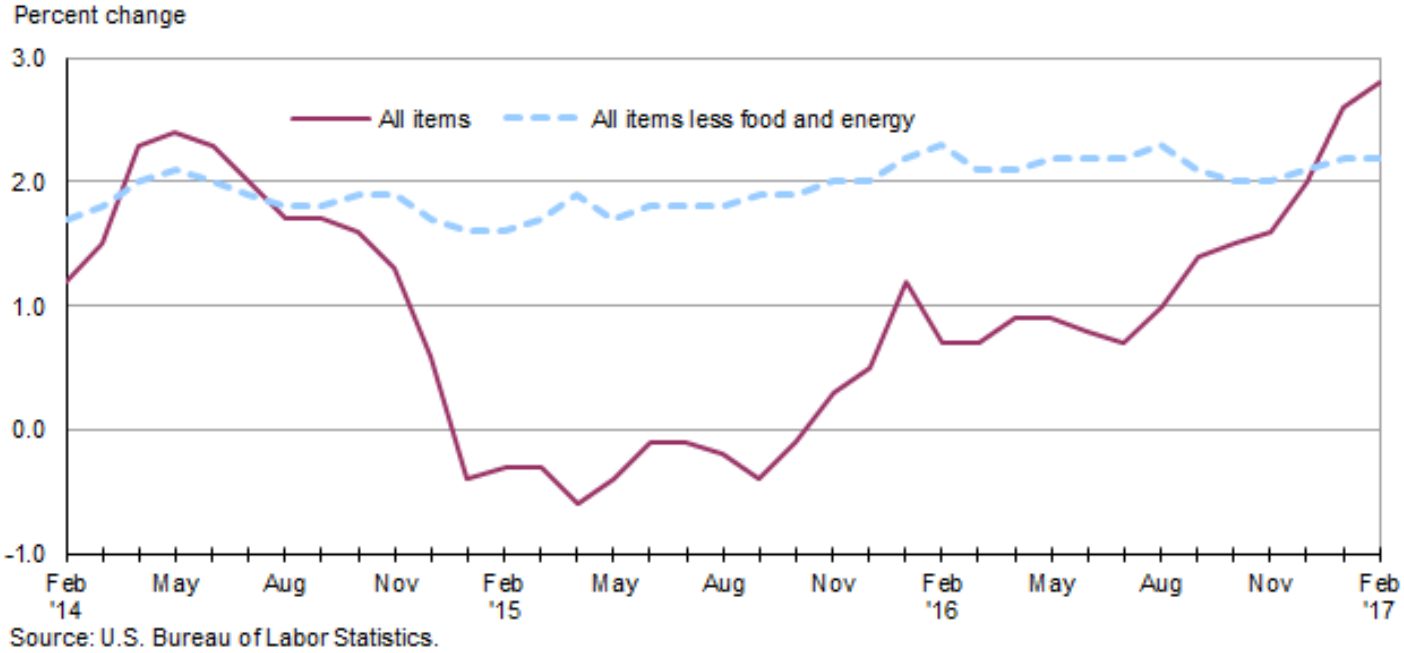
Consumer Price Index, South Region – February 2017

Prices up 0.2 percent over the month and 2.8 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South edged up 0.2 percent in February, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The all items less food and energy index rose 0.4 percent over the month. The food index inched up 0.1 percent, while the energy index declined 1.1 percent in February. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

The all items CPI-U advanced 2.8 percent since February 2016. The all items less food and energy index increased 2.2 percent over the last 12 months and the energy index increased 15.4 percent, its largest 12-month increase since September 2011. In contrast, the food index was unchanged over the past year. (See chart 1.)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, South region, February 2014–February 2017



Food

The food index inched up 0.1 percent in February, led by an increase in the food at home index (0.2 percent). The food away from home index was unchanged over the month.

The food index was unchanged over the year. The food at home index fell 1.5 percent since February 2016, while the food away from home index was up 2.0 percent.

Energy

The energy index declined 1.1 percent in February, led by a 3.2-pecent decline in the motor fuel index. The electricity index was up 0.8 percent and the utility (piped) gas service index advanced 1.3 percent over the month.

From February 2016—February 2017, energy prices advanced 15.4 percent, reflecting price increases for motor fuel (32.4 percent), electricity (2.3 percent), and utility (piped) gas service (15.7 percent).

All items less food and energy

The all items less food and energy index was up 0.4 percent in February. Several categories recorded increases, most notably medical care (1.5 percent), shelter (0.3 percent), and apparel (1.6 percent).

Since February 2016, the all items less food and energy index advanced 2.2 percent—led by increases in shelter (3.0 percent) and medical care (5.1 percent).

Table A. South region CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January	0.4	1.6	0.3	1.7	-0.7	-0.4	0.0	1.2	0.5	2.6
February	0.9	1.8	0.4	1.2	0.5	-0.3	0.1	0.7	0.2	2.8
March	0.3	1.5	0.6	1.5	0.6	-0.3	0.6	0.7		

Table A. South region CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted - Continued

Month	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
April	-0.2	0.9	0.5	2.3	0.3	-0.6	0.4	0.9		
May	0.0	1.3	0.2	2.4	0.4	-0.4	0.4	0.9		
June	0.4	1.9	0.2	2.3	0.5	-0.1	0.4	0.8		
July	0.2	2.2	-0.1	2.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	0.7		
August	0.1	1.7	-0.2	1.7	-0.2	-0.2	0.1	1.0		
September	0.0	1.3	0.1	1.7	-0.2	-0.4	0.2	1.4		
October	-0.2	1.3	-0.3	1.6	0.0	-0.1	0.1	1.5		
November	-0.3	1.5	-0.6	1.3	-0.2	0.3	-0.1	1.6		
December	0.1	1.8	-0.6	0.6	-0.4	0.5	0.1	2.0		

The Consumer Price Index for March 2017 is scheduled to be released on Friday, April 14, 2017.

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-		
	Dec. 2016	Jan. 2017	Feb. 2017	Feb. 2016	Dec. 2016	Jan. 2017
Expenditure category						
All Items	234.204	235.492	236.052	2.8	0.8	0.2
All items (December 1977=100)	379.912	382.001	382.908	-	-	-
Food and beverages	245.520	246.452	246.796	0.0	0.5	0.1
Food	246.747	247.693	248.056	0.0	0.5	0.1
Food at home	235.233	236.101	236.647	-1.5	0.6	0.2
Food away from home	266.747	267.820	267.916	2.0	0.4	0.0
Alcoholic beverages	228.026	228.750	228.805	0.8	0.3	0.0
Housing	227.697	228.679	229.355	2.8	0.7	0.3
Shelter	261.061	261.775	262.560	3.0	0.6	0.3
Rent of primary residence(1)	270.779	271.433	272.144	3.6	0.5	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2)	263.599	264.106	264.575	2.9	0.4	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2)	263.588	264.095	264.566	2.9	0.4	0.2
Fuels and utilities	226.973	229.891	231.397	3.7	1.9	0.7
Household energy	182.833	185.703	187.268	4.0	2.4	0.8
Energy services(1)	183.116	185.954	187.538	3.9	2.4	0.9
Electricity(1)	180.898	183.384	184.826	2.3	2.2	0.8
Utility (piped) gas service(1)	182.862	187.842	190.252	15.7	4.0	1.3
Household furnishings and operations	121.013	121.672	121.403	-0.4	0.3	-0.2
Apparel	132.997	131.261	133.371	0.9	0.3	1.6
Transportation	197.939	201.201	200.134	7.4	1.1	-0.5
Private transportation	196.169	199.549	198.310	7.9	1.1	-0.6
New and used motor vehicles(3)	101.741	102.490	102.557	-1.0	0.8	0.1
New vehicles	153.638	155.821	155.457	0.4	1.2	-0.2
New cars and trucks(3)(4)	104.653	106.164	105.899	0.4	1.2	-0.2
New cars(4)	153.872	156.147	155.754	0.3	1.2	-0.3
Used cars and trucks	138.051	138.088	138.625	-4.2	0.4	0.4
Motor fuel	191.344	200.901	194.500	32.4	1.6	-3.2
Gasoline (all types)	190.368	199.933	193.474	32.5	1.6	-3.2
Unleaded regular(4)	185.594	195.212	188.604	33.6	1.6	-3.4
Unleaded midgrade(4)(5)	210.919	219.859	214.617	29.1	1.8	-2.4
Unleaded premium(4)	210.550	218.880	214.032	26.5	1.7	-2.2
Medical care	448.393	451.354	458.149	5.1	2.2	1.5
Medical care commodities	364.080	367.199	368.535	5.4	1.2	0.4
Medical care services	476.493	479.353	488.257	5.0	2.5	1.9
Professional services	368.037	367.591	368.344	2.6	0.1	0.2
Recreation(3)	116.351	116.842	117.675	0.6	1.1	0.7
Education and communication(3)	136.085	136.461	135.664	-1.0	-0.3	-0.6
Other goods and services	418.568	416.620	417.039	1.5	-0.4	0.1
Commodity and service group						
All Items	234.204	235.492	236.052	2.8	0.8	0.2
Commodities	179.734	181.182	180.946	2.3	0.7	-0.1
Commodities less food and beverages	148.572	150.187	149.726	3.9	0.8	-0.3
Nondurables less food and beverages	191.577	193.840	192.789	8.5	0.6	-0.5
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	228.060	232.541	229.755	11.1	0.7	-1.2
Durables	108.248	109.293	109.289	-1.5	1.0	0.0
Services	289.007	290.153	291.485	3.1	0.9	0.5
Rent of shelter(2)	267.954	268.694	269.510	3.0	0.6	0.3
Transportation services	334.999	336.274	338.266	5.8	1.0	0.6

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-		
	Dec. 2016	Jan. 2017	Feb. 2017	Feb. 2016	Dec. 2016	Jan. 2017
Other services	339.068	339.880	340.022	0.7	0.3	0.0
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	222.512	223.712	223.978	2.6	0.7	0.1
All items less food	232.042	233.381	233.970	3.3	0.8	0.3
All items less shelter	224.763	226.297	226.767	2.7	0.9	0.2
Commodities less food	151.020	152.619	152.169	3.8	0.8	-0.3
Nondurables	217.142	218.767	218.383	3.8	0.6	-0.2
Nondurables less food	193.420	195.601	194.608	8.0	0.6	-0.5
Nondurables less food and apparel	226.961	231.118	228.574	10.2	0.7	-1.1
Services less rent of shelter(2)	324.513	326.209	328.239	3.1	1.1	0.6
Services less medical care services	272.110	273.123	273.929	2.9	0.7	0.3
Energy	182.769	188.535	186.545	15.4	2.1	-1.1
All items less energy	240.722	241.521	242.363	1.8	0.7	0.3
All items less food and energy	240.074	240.848	241.776	2.2	0.7	0.4
Commodities less food and energy commodities	146.754	147.256	147.622	-0.2	0.6	0.2
Energy commodities	194.807	204.425	198.078	31.7	1.7	-3.1
Services less energy services	300.196	301.145	302.444	3.0	0.7	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.