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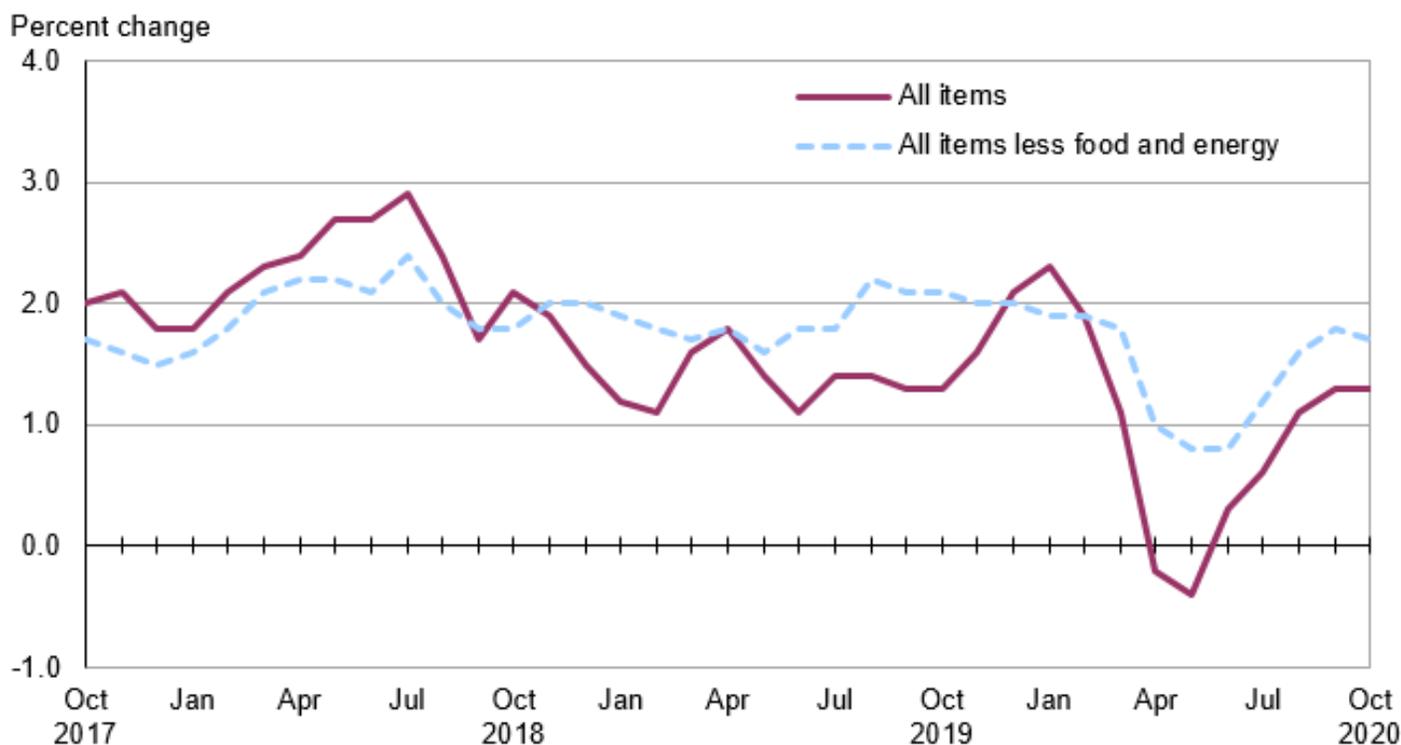
## **Consumer Price Index, South Region – October 2020**

**Prices in the South up 0.1 percent over the month and 1.3 percent over the year**

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South rose 0.1 percent in October, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The index for all item less food and energy edged up 0.2 percent from September to October, while the food index rose 0.3 percent. In contrast, the energy index declined 1.2 percent over the month. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

The all items CPI-U for the South rose 1.3 percent for the 12 months ending October 2020. The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.7 percent over the past year, while the food index advanced 3.7 percent. In contrast, the energy index fell 8.3 percent over the past 12 months. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, South region, October 2017–October 2020**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Food

The food index edged up 0.3 percent in October. The food at home and the food away from home indexes each rose 0.3 percent over the month.

The food index advanced 3.7 percent for the 12 months ending in October, reflecting increases in the food at home (4.1 percent) and food away from home (3.2 percent) indexes.

## Energy

The energy index declined 1.2 percent in October, reflecting decreases in the gasoline (-1.8 percent) and electricity (-0.9 percent) indexes. The utility (piped) gas service index rose 0.2 percent over the month.

The energy index fell 8.3 percent for the 12 months ending in October, led by a 16.6-percent drop in the gasoline index. The utility (piped) gas service and electricity indexes increased over the past year, up 1.2 percent and 0.2 percent, respectively.

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy edged up 0.2 percent in October. Several indexes increased over the month, including shelter (0.3 percent), new vehicles (0.7 percent), and used cars and trucks (0.9 percent). Among the indexes to decline in October include motor vehicle insurance (-1.2 percent) and medical care (-0.2 percent).

The index for all items less food and energy rose 1.7 percent for the 12 months ending in October, led by a 2.3-percent increase in the shelter index. Over the past year, the used cars and trucks index jumped 11.5 percent, while the medical care index advanced 3.0 percent. Apparel (-5.0 percent) and motor vehicle insurance (-7.3 percent) were among the indexes to decline over the year.

## Geographic divisions

Additional price indexes are now available for the three divisions of the South. Over the month, the all items CPI-U rose 0.2 percent in the South Atlantic and the East South Central divisions. The all items index in the West South Central division was unchanged over the month.

Over the year, the all items index advanced 1.7 percent in the South Atlantic division. The all items index rose 1.3 percent in the East South Central division and 0.4 percent in the West South Central division.

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

Month	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	1-month	12-month								
January.....	0.0	1.2	0.5	2.6	0.5	1.8	0.2	1.2	0.3	2.3
February.....	0.1	0.7	0.2	2.8	0.6	2.1	0.5	1.1	0.2	1.9
March.....	0.6	0.7	0.0	2.2	0.2	2.3	0.7	1.6	-0.1	1.1
April.....	0.4	0.9	0.2	2.0	0.4	2.4	0.5	1.8	-0.8	-0.2
May.....	0.4	0.9	0.0	1.7	0.3	2.7	-0.1	1.4	-0.2	-0.4
June.....	0.4	0.8	0.2	1.5	0.2	2.7	-0.1	1.1	0.6	0.3
July.....	-0.2	0.7	-0.2	1.6	0.0	2.9	0.3	1.4	0.6	0.6
August.....	0.1	1.0	0.4	1.9	-0.1	2.4	-0.1	1.4	0.4	1.1
September.....	0.2	1.4	0.7	2.4	0.0	1.7	0.0	1.3	0.2	1.3
October.....	0.1	1.5	-0.2	2.0	0.2	2.1	0.2	1.3	0.1	1.3
November.....	-0.1	1.6	-0.1	2.1	-0.3	1.9	0.0	1.6		
December.....	0.1	2.0	-0.1	1.8	-0.5	1.5	0.0	2.1		

**The Consumer Price Index for November 2020 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, December 10, 2020.**

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact on October 2020 Consumer Price Index Data**

Data collection by personal visit for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program has been suspended since March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in October was affected by the temporary closing or limited operations of certain types of establishments. These factors resulted in an increase in the number of prices considered temporarily unavailable and imputed. While the CPI program attempted to collect as much data as possible, many indexes are based on smaller amounts of collected prices than usual, and a small number of indexes that are normally published were not published this month. Additional information is available at [www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.htm](http://www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.htm).

### **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 93 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 29 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 75 urban areas across the country from about 5,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 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/pdf/homch17.pdf](http://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-		
	Aug. 2020	Sep. 2020	Oct. 2020	Oct. 2019	Aug. 2020	Sep. 2020
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All Items.....	249.639	250.193	250.542	1.3	0.4	0.1
All items (December 1977=100).....	404.949	405.847	406.415	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	264.458	264.368	265.137	3.5	0.3	0.3
Food .....	266.136	266.052	266.835	3.7	0.3	0.3
Food at home .....	250.281	249.182	249.979	4.1	-0.1	0.3
Cereal and bakery products .....	291.189	290.255	291.226	3.1	0.0	0.3
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	260.434	258.581	259.841	5.8	-0.2	0.5
Dairy and related products .....	231.615	231.513	231.033	3.5	-0.3	-0.2
Fruits and vegetables .....	287.130	287.116	289.543	1.8	0.8	0.8
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....	178.385	177.118	178.083	5.7	-0.2	0.5
Other food at home .....	220.955	219.764	219.555	4.0	-0.6	-0.1
Food away from home.....	292.515	293.894	294.665	3.2	0.7	0.3
Alcoholic beverages .....	240.886	240.727	241.302	1.0	0.2	0.2
Housing .....	250.273	250.701	251.051	2.0	0.3	0.1
Shelter .....	290.072	290.417	291.148	2.3	0.4	0.3
Rent of primary residence .....	305.966	306.246	307.332	3.1	0.4	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1).....	292.725	293.143	294.216	2.6	0.5	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1) .....	292.729	293.141	294.215	2.6	0.5	0.4
Fuels and utilities.....	240.691	242.841	241.757	0.9	0.4	-0.4
Household energy .....	191.407	193.607	192.226	0.2	0.4	-0.7
Energy services.....	191.812	194.100	192.665	0.3	0.4	-0.7
Electricity .....	190.939	192.547	190.845	0.2	0.0	-0.9
Utility (piped) gas service .....	181.795	188.411	188.868	1.2	3.9	0.2
Household furnishings and operations.....	127.567	127.310	127.271	1.3	-0.2	0.0
Apparel .....	123.292	125.739	126.286	-5.0	2.4	0.4
Transportation .....	201.553	202.301	202.628	-2.9	0.5	0.2
Private transportation .....	202.515	203.361	203.199	-2.0	0.3	-0.1
New and used motor vehicles(2).....	104.424	105.359	106.095	4.8	1.6	0.7
New vehicles .....	152.499	152.647	153.660	0.9	0.8	0.7
New cars and trucks(2)(3).....	103.824	103.927	104.620	0.9	0.8	0.7
New cars(3).....	151.954	152.146	152.581	0.2	0.4	0.3
Used cars and trucks.....	151.267	154.324	155.685	11.5	2.9	0.9
Motor fuel .....	177.321	180.363	177.125	-16.6	-0.1	-1.8
Gasoline (all types).....	176.306	179.410	176.178	-16.6	-0.1	-1.8
Unleaded regular(3) .....	170.595	173.733	170.433	-17.1	-0.1	-1.9
Unleaded midgrade(3)(4) .....	204.100	207.647	204.934	-13.2	0.4	-1.3
Unleaded premium(3).....	205.964	208.219	206.022	-12.6	0.0	-1.1
Motor vehicle insurance(5).....	929.647	901.172	890.770	-7.3	-4.2	-1.2
Medical care .....	492.367	492.009	491.017	3.0	-0.3	-0.2
Medical care commodities.....	350.592	350.093	349.128	-1.0	-0.4	-0.3
Medical care services.....	540.367	540.055	539.054	3.9	-0.2	-0.2
Professional services .....	374.339	374.947	375.417	2.3	0.3	0.1
Recreation(2).....	121.889	122.694	122.955	1.2	0.9	0.2
Education and communication(2).....	135.936	135.932	136.026	2.0	0.1	0.1
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(5) ..	1,371.846	1,372.016	1,373.882	1.3	0.1	0.1
Other goods and services .....	443.482	445.382	445.724	2.6	0.5	0.1
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All Items.....	249.639	250.193	250.542	1.3	0.4	0.1
Commodities .....	183.915	184.581	184.829	0.4	0.5	0.1

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-		
	Aug. 2020	Sep. 2020	Oct. 2020	Oct. 2019	Aug. 2020	Sep. 2020
Commodities less food and beverages .....	147.270	148.177	148.229	-1.4	0.7	0.0
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	185.024	186.660	186.004	-5.7	0.5	-0.4
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel .....	223.040	224.279	222.954	-5.9	0.0	-0.6
Durables .....	109.716	110.107	110.559	3.0	0.8	0.4
Services .....	315.995	316.419	316.871	1.8	0.3	0.1
Rent of shelter(1) .....	298.111	298.468	299.232	2.4	0.4	0.3
Transportation services .....	347.612	343.429	344.680	-5.5	-0.8	0.4
Other services .....	354.860	356.738	357.514	2.7	0.7	0.2
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	236.464	237.060	237.474	1.1	0.4	0.2
All items less food .....	246.852	247.502	247.786	0.9	0.4	0.1
All items less shelter .....	234.962	235.597	235.802	0.8	0.4	0.1
Commodities less food .....	150.039	150.923	150.988	-1.3	0.6	0.0
Nondurables .....	222.658	223.468	223.493	-0.7	0.4	0.0
Nondurables less food .....	187.983	189.510	188.928	-5.2	0.5	-0.3
Nondurables less food and apparel .....	223.523	224.629	223.482	-5.3	0.0	-0.5
Services less rent of shelter(1) .....	348.434	348.956	349.034	1.2	0.2	0.0
Services less medical care services .....	295.987	296.465	297.026	1.5	0.4	0.2
Energy .....	180.522	183.065	180.850	-8.3	0.2	-1.2
All items less energy .....	258.003	258.361	258.969	2.0	0.4	0.2
All items less food and energy .....	257.015	257.450	258.029	1.7	0.4	0.2
Commodities less food and energy commodities .....	146.846	147.487	147.933	1.2	0.7	0.3
Energy commodities .....	180.870	183.862	180.657	-16.4	-0.1	-1.7
Services less energy services .....	329.140	329.373	330.020	1.9	0.3	0.2

Footnotes

- (1) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.
  - (2) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.
  - (3) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.
  - (4) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.
  - (5) Indexes on a December 1977=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.