

SOUTHEAST INFORMATION OFFICE
Atlanta, Ga.

For release: Thursday, January 19, 2012

12-85-ATL

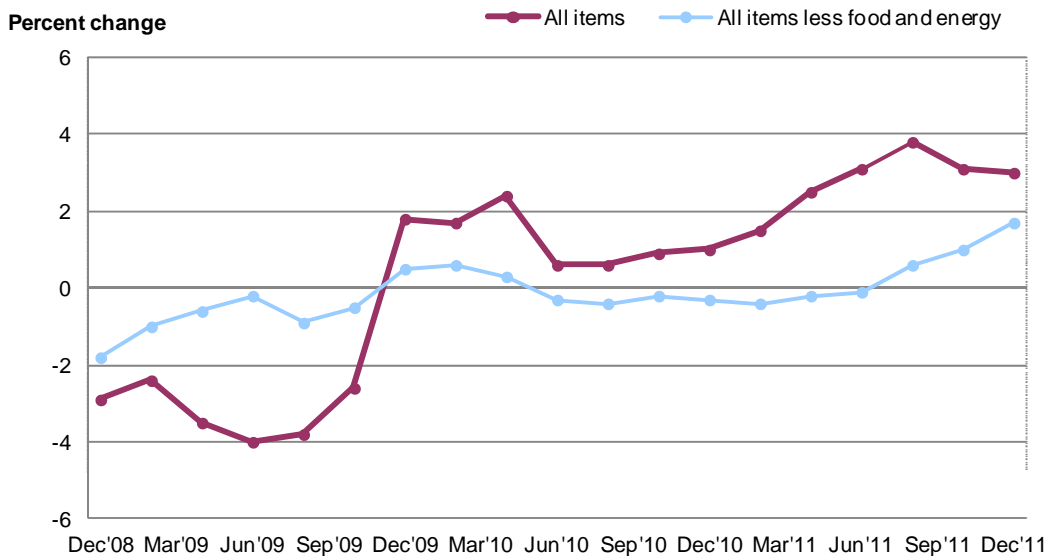
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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, ATLANTA—DECEMBER 2011
Area prices down 0.3 percent over the two months; up 3.0 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Atlanta decreased 0.3 percent over the two months, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that energy prices decreased 3.3 percent over the two months. During the same period, food prices rose 0.8 percent and the all items less food and energy category was unchanged. Within the all items less food and energy group, the shelter, recreation, and education and communication indexes were among those that registered increases, while the apparel index decreased over the two months. (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 CPI-U rose 3.0 percent. Annual increases were registered in a number of categories, notably food, motor fuel, and housing. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 1.7 percent over the year. (See chart 1.)

Chart 1. 12-month percent change in CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), Atlanta, December 2008–December 2011



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Food

Food prices rose 0.8 percent during the November-December pricing period, reflecting increases in prices for food at home (0.9 percent) and food away from home (0.8 percent). Price increases were noted for snacks in this category.

Over the year, the food index advanced 5.3 percent as prices increased for both food at home (8.7 percent) and food away from home (1.7 percent).

Energy

The energy index decreased 3.3 percent over the two-month pricing period. Within the energy group, price declines were measured for motor fuel (-4.2 percent), electricity (-2.4 percent), and utility (piped) gas service (-1.3 percent).

Over the year, the energy index rose 8.6 percent, led by a 10.8-percent jump in motor fuel costs. Prices for electricity rose 9.6 percent while those for utility (piped) gas service declined 2.9 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy was unchanged during the November-December pricing period. Among the components of the index, prices advanced for shelter (1.1 percent), recreation (1.4 percent), and education and communication (0.5 percent), while prices for apparel declined 12.3 percent. Price increases were noted for new vehicles and audio equipment.

From December 2010 to December 2011, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.7 percent. Within the all items less food and energy group, over-the-year increases were registered in shelter (0.6 percent), and medical care (2.9 percent).

The Consumer Price Index for February 2012 is scheduled to be released on Friday, March 16, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. (ET).

Table A. Atlanta metropolitan area CPI-U 2-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2006		2007		2008		2009		2010		2011	
	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month
February	0.6	2.4	0.0	2.7	0.7	4.8	1.1	-2.4	1.1	1.7	1.6	1.5
April	2.2	3.1	2.1	2.7	1.1	3.7	0.0	-3.5	0.7	2.4	1.7	2.5
June	1.1	3.4	1.6	3.2	2.7	4.9	2.2	-4.0	0.3	0.6	0.9	3.1
August	0.7	4.1	-0.5	2.0	-0.3	5.0	-0.1	-3.8	-0.1	0.6	0.6	3.8
October	-2.3	-0.6	0.3	4.8	-2.4	2.2	-1.1	-2.6	-0.8	0.9	-1.5	3.1
December	1.1	3.2	0.4	4.1	-4.6	-2.9	-0.3	1.8	-0.2	1.0	-0.3	3.0

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index for Atlanta is published bi-monthly. 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 87 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 32 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 4,000 housing units and approximately 25,000 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 the 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.**

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

For personal assistance or further information on Consumer Price Indexes, as well as other Bureau products, contact the Southeast Information Office at (404) 893-4222 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Atlanta, GA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Oct. 2011	Nov. 2011	Dec. 2011	Dec. 2010	Oct. 2011	Nov. 2011
Expenditure category						
All Items	209.182	-	208.59	3.0	-0.3	-
All items (1967=100)	630.828	-	629.044	-	-	-
Food and beverages	231.881	-	234.023	1.9	-0.7	-
Food	241.688	-	243.734	5.3	0.8	-
Food at home	235.823	235.063	237.915	8.7	0.9	1.2
Food away from home	251.586	-	253.599	1.7	0.8	-
Alcoholic beverages	144.163	-	147.243	5.5	2.1	-
Housing	198.172	-	199.264	1.4	0.6	-
Shelter	208.022	208.698	210.281	0.6	1.1	0.8
Rent of primary residence (1)	205.452	206.190	209.563	1.4	2.0	1.6
Owners' equiv. rent of residences (1) (2)	205.032	205.862	207.470	0.4	1.2	0.8
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence (1) (2)	205.032	205.862	207.470	0.4	1.2	0.8
Fuels and utilities	265.770	-	261.409	5.7	-1.6	-
Household energy	236.394	232.174	231.470	5.9	-2.1	-0.3
Gas (piped) and electricity (1) (3)	235.214	230.852	230.306	5.9	-2.1	-0.2
Electricity (1)	210.834	206.260	205.844	9.6	-2.4	-0.2
Utility (piped) gas service (1)	251.805	249.279	248.455	-2.9	-1.3	-0.3
Household furnishings and operations	132.898	-	132.450	1.9	-0.3	-
Apparel	141.269	-	123.955	0.6	-12.3	-
Transportation	203.498	-	200.239	6.3	-1.6	-
Private transportation	202.873	-	199.746	6.6	-1.5	-
Motor fuel	293.327	293.258	280.934	10.8	-4.2	-4.2
Gasoline (all types)	291.779	291.294	278.747	10.4	-4.5	-4.3
Unleaded regular (4)	289.059	288.503	275.838	10.6	-4.6	-4.4
Unleaded midgrade (4) (5)	352.539	351.498	336.895	10.1	-4.4	-4.2
Unleaded premium (4)	291.021	291.321	279.393	10.0	-4.0	-4.1
Medical Care	329.432	-	329.426	2.9	0.0	-
Recreation (6)	90.044	-	91.288	2.7	1.4	-
Education and communication (6)	126.193	-	126.870	2.5	0.5	-
Other goods and services	318.401	-	317.906	1.6	-0.2	-
Commodity and service group						
All Items	209.182	-	208.590	3.0	-0.3	-
Commodities	181.411	-	178.825	5.1	-1.4	-
Commodities less food & beverages	156.370	-	151.960	5.0	-2.8	-
Nondurables less food & beverages	199.336	-	189.226	4.9	-5.1	-
Durables	113.431	-	114.617	5.2	1.0	-
Services	238.050	-	239.182	1.7	0.5	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	201.860	-	201.256	3.0	-0.3	-
All items less shelter	215.129	-	212.985	4.3	-1.0	-
Commodities less food	155.560	-	151.439	5.0	-2.6	-
Nondurables	214.066	-	209.424	5.1	-2.2	-
Nondurables less food	194.027	-	184.932	4.9	-4.7	-
Services less rent of shelter (2)	287.759	-	286.813	3.1	-0.3	-
Services less medical care services	225.688	-	226.834	1.5	0.5	-
Energy	241.778	239.882	233.799	8.6	-3.3	-2.5
All items less energy	205.289	-	205.583	2.3	0.1	-
All items less food and energy	199.995	-	200.015	1.7	0.0	-

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) In January 2011 this series will be re-titled Energy services.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(6) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.