



NEWS RELEASE



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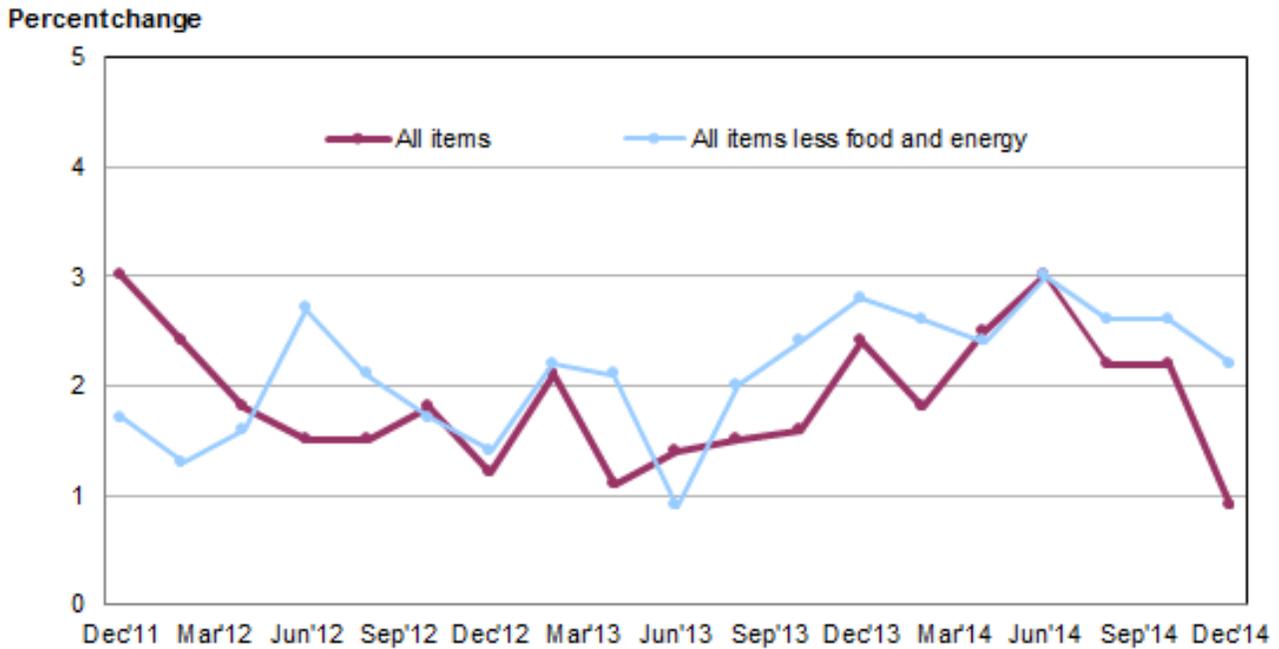
Consumer Price Index, Atlanta-December 2014

Area prices down 1.5 percent over the two months; up 0.9 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Atlanta declined 1.5 percent over the two months, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that energy prices decreased 12.5 percent over the two-month pricing period. The all items less food and energy group edged down 0.2 percent reflecting a seasonal decline in apparel prices. The food index rose 0.4 percent over the November-December pricing period. (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 0.9 percent, as price increases for shelter, food, and medical care were largely offset by a decline in motor fuel prices. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.2 percent over the year. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. 12-month percent change in CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), Atlanta, December 2011–December 2014



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices increased 0.4 percent during the November-December pricing period reflecting higher prices for food away from home (1.1 percent). Prices for food at home inched down 0.1 percent over the two month pricing period.

Over the year, the food index rose 3.5 percent, reflecting price increases for both food at home (3.9 percent) and food away from home (2.8 percent).

Energy

The energy index fell 12.5 percent over the two-month pricing period, led by a 20.7-percent drop in motor fuel prices. This was the largest two-month percent decrease in motor fuel prices since December 2008. Also contributing to the decrease was a 3.5-percent decline in electricity prices. Utility (piped) gas service prices rose 0.8 percent over the two months.

Over the year, the energy index decreased 11.1 percent, primarily due to a 20.8-percent decline in motor fuel prices. Prices for electricity and utility (piped) gas service increased 1.6 and 2.2 percent, respectively.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy edged down 0.2 percent during the November-December pricing period, led by a seasonal decrease in apparel prices (-6.0 percent). Prices for women’s apparel recorded a decline over the two months.

From December 2013 to December 2014, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.2 percent, reflecting higher prices for several indexes including shelter (3.6 percent), medical care (5.1 percent) and other goods and services (3.9 percent).

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

Month	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	2-month	12-month										
February	1.1	-2.4	1.1	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.0	2.4	1.9	2.1	1.3	1.8
April	0.0	-3.5	0.7	2.4	1.7	2.5	1.1	1.8	0.1	1.1	0.8	2.5
June.....	2.2	-4.0	0.3	0.6	0.9	3.1	0.6	1.5	1.0	1.4	1.5	3.0
August	-0.1	-3.8	-0.1	0.6	0.6	3.8	0.6	1.5	0.7	1.5	-0.1	2.2
October.....	-1.1	-2.6	-0.8	0.9	-1.5	3.1	-1.2	1.8	-1.0	1.6	-1.1	2.2
December.....	-0.3	1.8	-0.2	1.0	-0.3	3.0	-0.9	1.2	-0.2	2.4	-1.5	0.9

The Consumer Price Index for January 2015 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, February 26, 2015, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).

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 4,000 housing units and approximately 26,000 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 **Atlanta, Ga.** metropolitan area covered in this release is comprised of Barrow, Bartow, Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Newton, Paulding, Pickens, Rockdale, Spalding, and Walton Counties in Georgia.

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

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

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Oct. 2014	Nov. 2014	Dec. 2014	Dec. 2013	Oct. 2014	Nov. 2014
Expenditure category						
All Items	221.276		218.058	0.9	-1.5	
All items (1967=100).....	667.301		657.597			
Food and beverages	246.927		247.678	3.1	0.3	
Food	257.702		258.636	3.5	0.4	
Food at home.....	253.388	252.797	253.109	3.9	-0.1	0.1
Food away from home	264.879		267.895	2.8	1.1	
Alcoholic beverages	150.737		149.876	-1.7	-0.6	
Housing	212.061		211.579	3.0	-0.2	
Shelter	226.146	225.936	226.473	3.6	0.1	0.2
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	226.640	227.099	227.608	4.2	0.4	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ^{(1) (2)}	222.477	222.616	222.879	3.5	0.2	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)}	222.477	222.616	222.879	3.5	0.2	0.1
Fuels and utilities.....	282.139		276.935	3.1	-1.8	
Household energy.....	241.568	233.991	235.994	1.6	-2.3	0.9
Energy Services ⁽¹⁾	240.057	232.469	234.610	1.8	-2.3	0.9
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	210.264	202.832	202.910	1.6	-3.5	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	269.676	263.668	271.842	2.2	0.8	3.1
Household furnishings and operations	127.428		126.382	-1.9	-0.8	
Apparel.....	137.721		129.478	-2.5	-6.0	
Transportation	208.809		192.809	-7.1	-7.7	
Private transportation	208.579		192.316	-7.0	-7.8	
Motor fuel.....	282.414	253.223	223.895	-20.8	-20.7	-11.6
Gasoline (all types)	280.374	251.260	222.064	-20.9	-20.8	-11.6
Unleaded regular ⁽³⁾	277.061	248.070	218.664	-21.2	-21.1	-11.9
Unleaded midgrade ^{(3) (4)}	338.446	302.832	273.177	-19.6	-19.3	-9.8
Unleaded premium ⁽³⁾	283.258	255.999	230.340	-18.4	-18.7	-10.0
Medical Care	398.831		402.706	5.1	1.0	
Recreation ⁽⁵⁾	84.274		84.864	-0.3	0.7	
Education and communication ⁽⁵⁾	133.896		133.507	0.8	-0.3	
Other goods and services	341.857		343.856	3.9	0.6	
Commodity and service group						
All Items	221.276		218.058	0.9	-1.5	
Commodities	184.089		176.914	-2.4	-3.9	
Commodities less food & beverages	154.190		144.547	-5.4	-6.3	
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	195.815		176.800	-7.8	-9.7	

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Oct. 2014	Nov. 2014	Dec. 2014	Dec. 2013	Oct. 2014	Nov. 2014
Durables	112.486		111.466	-1.9	-0.9	
Services	258.257		258.059	2.8	-0.1	
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	211.567		208.095	0.6	-1.6	
All items less shelter	224.404		219.317	-0.4	-2.3	
Commodities less food	153.726		144.408	-5.3	-6.1	
Nondurables	218.748		208.024	-2.6	-4.9	
Nondurables less food	191.261		173.643	-7.4	-9.2	
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	310.996		310.002	1.9	-0.3	
Services less medical care services	242.541		242.232	2.8	-0.1	
Energy	238.932	221.904	209.037	-11.1	-12.5	-5.8
All items less energy	219.125		218.767	2.4	-0.2	
All items less food and energy	213.521		212.996	2.2	-0.2	

⁽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⁾ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

⁽⁴⁾ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

⁽⁵⁾ 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.