

# NEWS RELEASE

## BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

U. S. D E P A R T M E N T O F L A B O R



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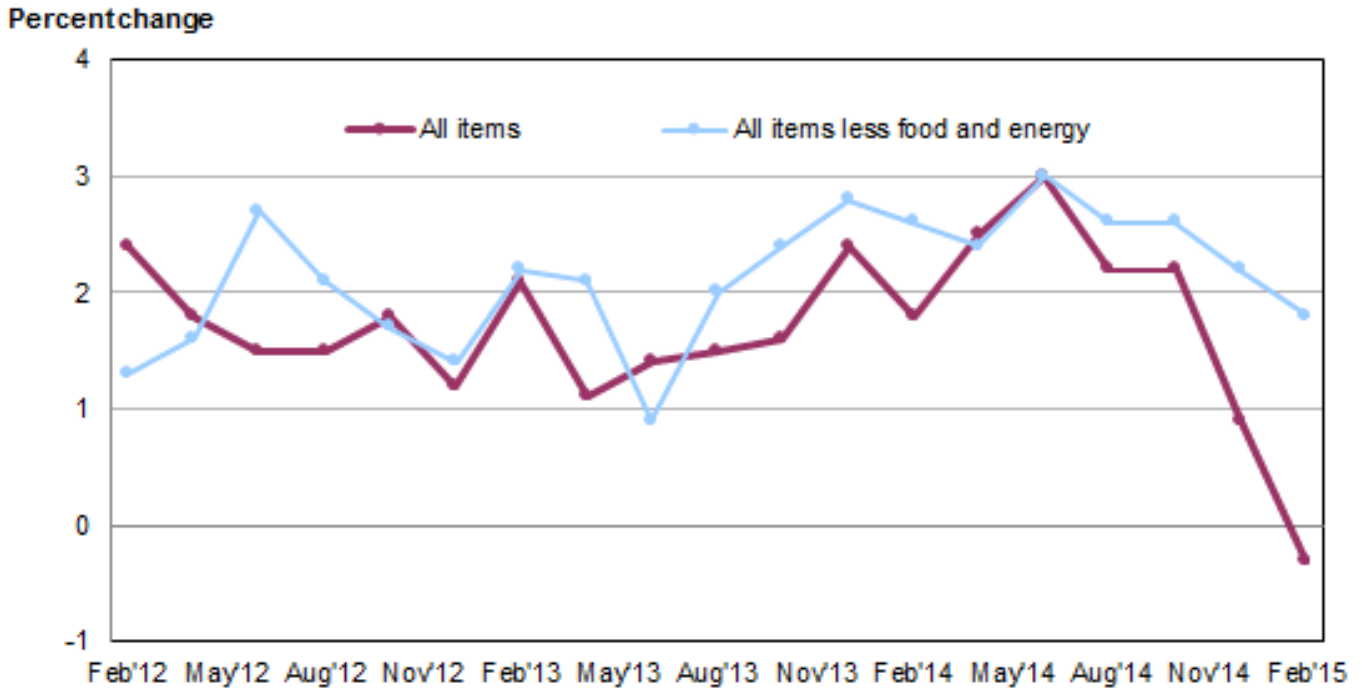
### **Consumer Price Index, Atlanta – February 2015**

#### **Area prices unchanged over the two months; down 0.3 percent over the year**

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Atlanta was unchanged over the two months, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that energy prices decreased 7.0 percent over the two-month pricing period. The all items less food and energy group increased 0.6 percent and the food index rose 1.4 percent over the January-February 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 declined 0.3 percent, as price decreases for motor fuel, apparel, and household furnishings and operations were largely offset by an increase in prices for shelter and medical care. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 1.8 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, February 2012–February 2015**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**Food**

Food prices increased 1.4 percent during the January-February pricing period. Prices rose 3.5 percent for food away from home and inched up 0.1 percent for food at home during the two month pricing period.

Over the year, the food index rose 3.6 percent, reflecting price increases for both food away from home (6.3 percent) and food at home (2.0 percent).

**Energy**

The energy index fell 7.0 percent over the two-month pricing period, led by a 13.5-percent drop in motor fuel prices. Also contributing to the decrease was a 6.3-percent decline in prices for utility (piped) gas service. Prices for electricity rose 2.1 percent over the two months.

Over the year, the energy index decreased 19.9 percent, primarily due to a 32.7-percent drop in motor fuel prices. Prices for utility (piped) gas service decreased 15.2 percent since February 2014, while electricity prices rose 1.9 percent.

**All items less food and energy**

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.6 percent during the January-February pricing period, reflecting higher prices for shelter (0.7 percent), a seasonal increase in apparel prices (5.0 percent), and higher medical care prices (1.6 percent). The education and communication index decreased 0.9 percent during the two-month pricing period.

From February 2014 to February 2015, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 1.8 percent. Price increases were noted for several indexes including shelter (3.7 percent), medical care (6.2 percent) and other goods and services (1.3 percent). The apparel index declined 7.6 percent during the pricing period.

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

Month	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	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 .....	1.1	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.0	2.4	1.9	2.1	1.3	1.8	0.0	-0.3
April .....	0.7	2.4	1.7	2.5	1.1	1.8	0.1	1.1	0.8	2.5	-	-
June .....	0.3	0.6	0.9	3.1	0.6	1.5	1.0	1.4	1.5	3.0	-	-
August .....	-0.1	0.6	0.6	3.8	0.6	1.5	0.7	1.5	-0.1	2.2	-	-
October .....	-0.8	0.9	-1.5	3.1	-1.2	1.8	-1.0	1.6	-1.1	2.2	-	-
December .....	-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 March 2015 is scheduled to be released on Friday, April 17, 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](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/homch17\\_a.htm](http://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 periods Atlanta, GA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Dec. 2014	Jan. 2015	Feb. 2015	Feb. 2014	Dec. 2014	Jan. 2015
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All Items.....	218.058		218.123	-0.3	0.0	
All items (1967=100).....	657.597		657.793			
Food and beverages.....	247.678		250.989	3.4	1.3	
Food.....	258.636		262.161	3.6	1.4	
Food at home.....	253.109	251.961	253.277	2.0	0.1	0.5
Food away from home.....	267.895		277.176	6.3	3.5	
Alcoholic beverages.....	149.876		151.287	0.8	0.9	
Housing.....	211.579		212.524	2.4	0.4	
Shelter.....	226.473	227.952	227.984	3.7	0.7	0.0
Rent of primary residence (1).....	227.608	229.535	230.417	4.9	1.2	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of residences (1) (2).....	222.879	223.777	224.152	3.6	0.6	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence (1) (2).....	222.879	223.777	224.152	3.6	0.6	0.2
Fuels and utilities.....	276.935		276.109	-1.5	-0.3	
Household energy.....	235.994	235.917	235.053	-3.8	-0.4	-0.4
Energy Services (1).....	234.610	234.678	233.742	-3.5	-0.4	-0.4
Electricity (1).....	202.910	207.168	207.168	1.9	2.1	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service (1).....	271.842	258.449	254.771	-15.2	-6.3	-1.4
Household furnishings and operations.....	126.382		126.062	-2.6	-0.3	
Apparel.....	129.478		135.990	-7.6	5.0	
Transportation.....	192.809		185.844	-11.4	-3.6	
Private transportation.....	192.316		184.638	-11.7	-4.0	
Motor fuel.....	223.895	186.586	193.764	-32.7	-13.5	3.8
Gasoline (all types).....	222.064	184.972	192.224	-32.7	-13.4	3.9
Unleaded regular (3).....	218.664	181.874	188.931	-33.1	-13.6	3.9
Unleaded midgrade (3) (4).....	273.177	226.724	238.236	-31.0	-12.8	5.1
Unleaded premium (3).....	230.340	194.607	202.286	-29.7	-12.2	3.9
Medical Care.....	402.706		409.031	6.2	1.6	
Recreation (5).....	84.864		85.259	-0.1	0.5	
Education and communication (5).....	133.507		132.311	-0.5	-0.9	
Other goods and services.....	343.856		343.388	1.3	-0.1	
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All Items.....	218.058		218.123	-0.3	0.0	
Commodities.....	176.914		175.525	-5.1	-0.8	
Commodities less food & beverages.....	144.547		141.571	-9.8	-2.1	
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	176.800		170.333	-14.6	-3.7	
Durables.....	111.466		111.684	-2.3	0.2	
Services.....	258.059		259.276	2.4	0.5	
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care.....	208.095		207.903	-0.8	-0.1	
All items less shelter.....	219.317		218.654	-2.4	-0.3	
Commodities less food.....	144.408		141.590	-9.4	-2.0	
Nondurables.....	208.024		205.676	-6.1	-1.1	
Nondurables less food.....	173.643		167.769	-13.8	-3.4	
Services less rent of shelter (2).....	310.002		310.906	1.0	0.3	
Services less medical care services.....	242.232		243.152	2.2	0.4	
Energy.....	209.037	191.511	194.495	-19.9	-7.0	1.6
All items less energy.....	218.767		220.396	2.0	0.7	

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Dec. 2014	Jan. 2015	Feb. 2015	Feb. 2014	Dec. 2014	Jan. 2015
All items less food and energy .....	212.996		214.374	1.8	0.6	

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) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

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

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

Blank: Data not available.

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