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SOUTHEAST INFORMATION OFFICE: Atlanta, Ga.

Technical information: (404) 893-4222 BLSInfoAtlanta@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/southeast

Media contact: (404) 893-4220

Consumer Price Index, Atlanta – October 2015

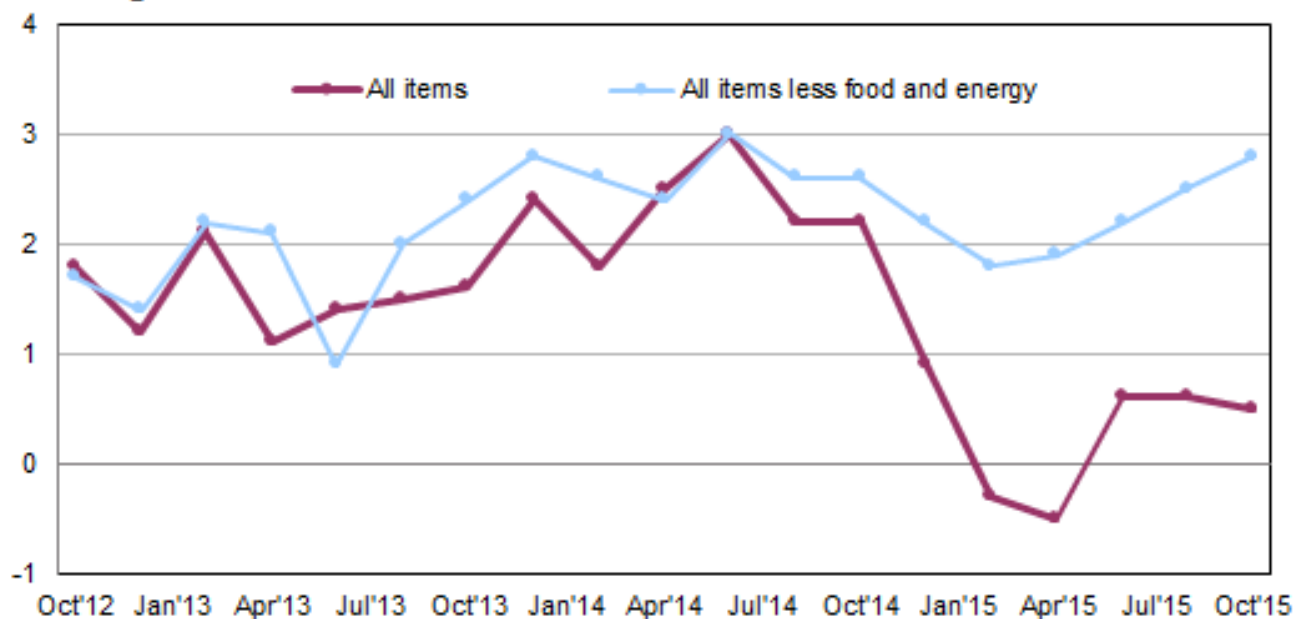
Area prices down 1.2 percent over the two months; up 0.5 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Atlanta declined 1.2 percent over the September-October pricing period, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that the energy index was down 16.1 percent over the two months. The all items less food and energy index increased 0.5 percent and the food index edged down 0.3 percent during the September-October 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 increased 0.5 percent. Annual increases were registered in a number of categories, most notably shelter. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.8 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, October 2012–October 2015

Percent change



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices edged down 0.3 percent during the September-October pricing period, reflecting a 0.7-percent price decrease in food at home. Prices for food away from home increased 0.5 percent over the two months.

Over the year, the food index rose 1.5 percent, led by a 5.5-percent increase for food away from home. Prices for food at home declined 0.9 percent since October 2014.

Energy

The energy index declined 16.1 percent over the two-month pricing period, led by a seasonal decline in electricity prices (-22.4 percent). Prices for motor fuel and utility (piped) gas service decreased 14.6 and 1.1 percent, respectively.

Over the year, the energy index fell 18.5 percent. Within the energy group, prices for motor fuel dropped 31.8 percent and utility (piped) gas service prices declined 7.5 percent. Since October 2014, prices for electricity rose 0.5 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.5 percent during the September-October pricing period, led by price increases for shelter (0.5 percent) and apparel (4.4 percent).

From October 2014 to October 2015, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.8 percent. Price increases were noted for shelter (4.0 percent), apparel (8.9 percent), medical care (3.7 percent), and other goods and services (6.6 percent).

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	0.7	-0.5
June	0.3	0.6	0.9	3.1	0.6	1.5	1.0	1.4	1.5	3.0	2.5	0.6
August	-0.1	0.6	0.6	3.8	0.6	1.5	0.7	1.5	-0.1	2.2	-0.1	0.6
October	-0.8	0.9	-1.5	3.1	-1.2	1.8	-1.0	1.6	-1.1	2.2	-1.2	0.5
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 November 2015 is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, December 15, 2015.

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 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 **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.

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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-		
	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015	Oct. 2015	Oct. 2014	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	225.027	-	222.282	0.5	-1.2	-
All items (1967=100).....	678.614	-	670.333	-	-	-
Food and beverages.....	251.045	-	250.612	1.5	-0.2	-
Food.....	262.336	-	261.675	1.5	-0.3	-
Food at home.....	252.933	251.300	251.144	-0.9	-0.7	-0.1
Food away from home.....	278.242	-	279.518	5.5	0.5	-
Alcoholic beverages.....	150.308	-	151.872	0.8	1.0	-
Housing.....	221.339	-	217.731	2.7	-1.6	-
Shelter.....	234.063	234.958	235.296	4.0	0.5	0.1
Rent of primary residence (1).....	237.216	237.840	238.270	5.1	0.4	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences (1) (2).....	229.619	230.350	231.465	4.0	0.8	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence (1) (2).....	229.619	230.350	231.465	4.0	0.8	0.5
Fuels and utilities.....	321.348	-	277.560	-1.6	-13.6	-
Household energy.....	286.893	286.900	236.976	-1.9	-17.4	-17.4
Energy Services (1).....	286.157	286.175	235.757	-1.8	-17.6	-17.6
Electricity (1).....	272.243	273.396	211.290	0.5	-22.4	-22.7
Utility (piped) gas service (1).....	252.181	248.555	249.473	-7.5	-1.1	0.4
Household furnishings and operations.....	124.014	-	124.888	-2.0	0.7	-
Apparel.....	143.610	-	149.977	8.9	4.4	-
Transportation.....	193.104	-	185.651	-11.1	-3.9	-
Private transportation.....	193.117	-	184.277	-11.7	-4.6	-
Motor fuel.....	225.391	202.094	192.506	-31.8	-14.6	-4.7
Gasoline (all types).....	223.935	200.703	191.152	-31.8	-14.6	-4.8
Unleaded regular (3).....	220.036	196.805	187.311	-32.4	-14.9	-4.8
Unleaded midgrade (3) (4).....	274.113	249.392	237.278	-29.9	-13.4	-4.9
Unleaded premium (3).....	237.127	215.533	206.609	-27.1	-12.9	-4.1
Medical Care.....	411.374	-	413.619	3.7	0.5	-
Recreation (5).....	87.485	-	86.277	2.4	-1.4	-
Education and communication (5).....	135.112	-	135.226	1.0	0.1	-
Other goods and services.....	364.669	-	364.330	6.6	-0.1	-
Commodity and service group						
All Items.....	225.027	-	222.282	0.5	-1.2	-
Commodities.....	179.715	-	176.882	-3.9	-1.6	-
Commodities less food & beverages.....	147.030	-	143.477	-6.9	-2.4	-
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	183.002	-	175.770	-10.2	-4.0	-
Durables.....	110.568	-	110.394	-1.9	-0.2	-
Services.....	268.563	-	265.793	2.9	-1.0	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care.....	214.917	-	211.997	0.2	-1.4	-
All items less shelter.....	226.149	-	221.327	-1.4	-2.1	-
Commodities less food.....	146.814	-	143.447	-6.7	-2.3	-
Nondurables.....	213.058	-	208.674	-4.6	-2.1	-
Nondurables less food.....	179.400	-	172.830	-9.6	-3.7	-
Services less rent of shelter (2).....	325.106	-	316.253	1.7	-2.7	-
Services less medical care services.....	252.790	-	249.771	3.0	-1.2	-
Energy.....	232.182	221.262	194.753	-18.5	-16.1	-12.0
All items less energy.....	223.996	-	224.967	2.7	0.4	-

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-		
	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015	Oct. 2015	Oct. 2014	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015
All items less food and energy	218.410	-	219.590	2.8	0.5	-

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.

- Data not available.

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