



NEWS RELEASE



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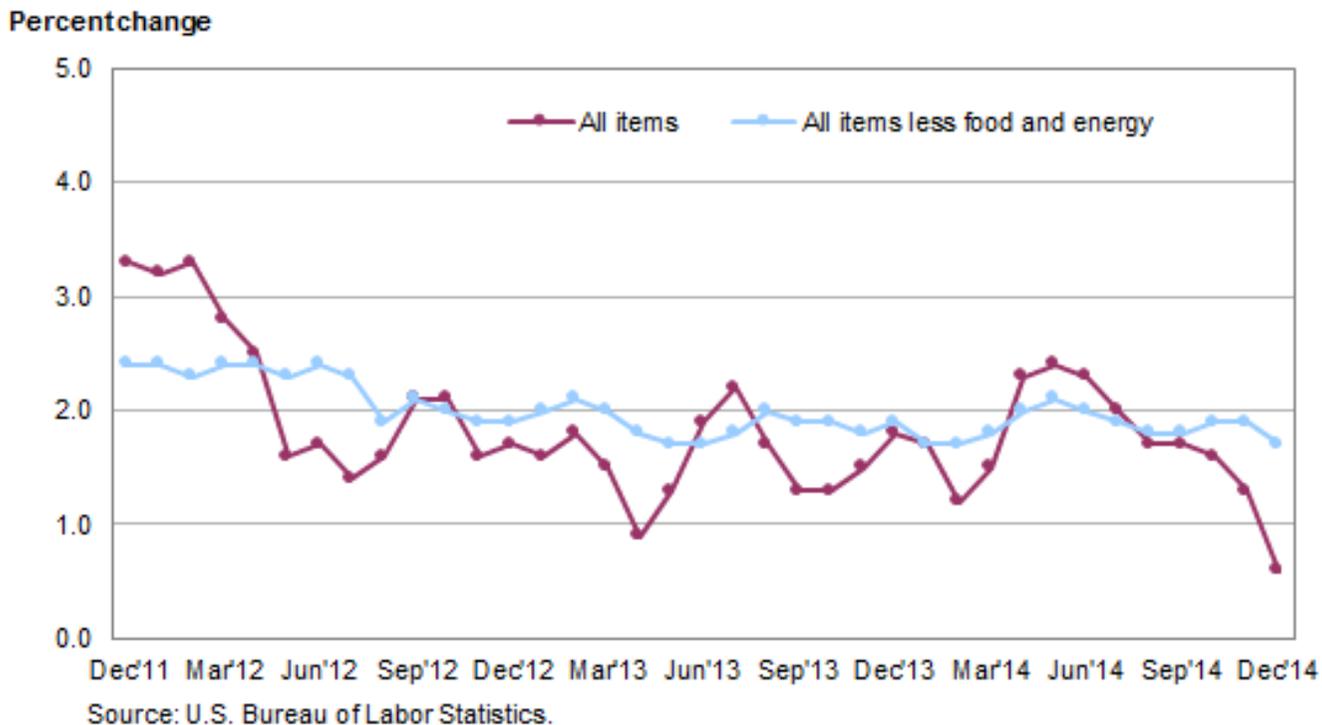
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Consumer Price Index, South Region-December 2014 **Prices in the South down 0.6 percent in December; up 0.6 percent over the year**

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South declined 0.6 percent in December, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The energy index decreased 5.1 percent since November 2014. The all items less food and energy index edged down 0.2 percent in December, as price decreases for apparel were partially offset by price increases for shelter. The food index edged up 0.2 percent over the month. (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 all items CPI-U rose 0.6 percent. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 1.7 percent over the year. (See [chart 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, South region, December 2011–December 2014



Food

The food index edged up 0.2 percent in December, reflecting a 0.4-percent increase in prices for food away from home. Prices for food at home remained unchanged over the month.

Since December 2013, the food index advanced 3.2 percent, as prices increased for both food at home (3.5 percent) and food away from home (2.9 percent).

Energy

The energy index declined 5.1 percent over the month, led by a price decrease for motor fuel (-10.9 percent). Prices increased for both electricity (1.7 percent) and utility (piped) gas service (1.4 percent) in December.

Over the year, energy prices decreased 11.3 percent, reflecting a 22.6-percent drop in motor fuel prices. Since December 2013, prices for electricity and utility (piped) gas service increased 4.5 and 3.3 percent, respectively.

All items less food and energy

The all items less food and energy index edged down 0.2 percent in December, as seasonal price decreases for apparel (4.3 percent) were partially offset by an increase in shelter prices (0.2 percent).

Since December 2013, the all items less food and energy index advanced 1.7 percent, led by price increases for shelter (3.2 percent), medical care (2.5 percent), and other goods and services (2.0 percent).

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

Month	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	1-month	12-month										
January.....	0.4	-0.1	0.3	2.8	0.5	1.7	0.5	3.2	0.4	1.6	0.3	1.7
February.....	0.5	0.1	0.0	2.3	0.5	2.2	0.6	3.3	0.9	1.8	0.4	1.2
March.....	0.3	-0.3	0.6	2.5	1.2	2.8	0.7	2.8	0.3	1.5	0.6	1.5
April.....	0.3	-0.7	0.1	2.4	0.7	3.4	0.4	2.5	-0.2	0.9	0.5	2.3
May.....	0.3	-1.3	0.0	2.0	0.5	4.0	-0.4	1.6	0.0	1.3	0.2	2.4
June.....	1.0	-1.4	-0.1	0.9	-0.2	3.8	-0.2	1.7	0.4	1.9	0.2	2.3
July.....	-0.3	-2.1	-0.1	1.0	0.2	4.1	-0.2	1.4	0.2	2.2	-0.1	2.0
August.....	0.1	-1.6	0.2	1.1	0.4	4.3	0.6	1.6	0.1	1.7	-0.2	1.7
September.....	0.0	-1.8	0.2	1.4	0.0	4.1	0.5	2.1	0.0	1.3	0.1	1.7
October.....	0.2	-0.4	0.1	1.3	-0.2	3.7	-0.2	2.1	-0.2	1.3	-0.3	1.6
November.....	0.2	2.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	3.8	-0.5	1.6	-0.3	1.5	-0.6	1.3
December.....	-0.1	2.9	0.2	1.4	-0.2	3.3	-0.1	1.7	0.1	1.8	-0.6	0.6

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 **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-		
	Oct. 2014	Nov. 2014	Dec. 2014	Dec. 2013	Oct. 2014	Nov. 2014
Expenditure category						
All Items	231.131	229.845	228.451	0.6	-1.2	-0.6
All items (December 1977=100)	374.926	372.840	370.578			
Food and beverages	243.349	243.889	244.250	3.1	0.4	0.1
Food	244.771	245.205	245.663	3.2	0.4	0.2
Food at home	240.848	240.939	241.044	3.5	0.1	0.0
Food away from home	253.489	254.433	255.417	2.9	0.8	0.4
Alcoholic beverages	222.879	224.885	223.922	1.1	0.5	-0.4
Housing	218.180	217.990	218.569	2.9	0.2	0.3
Shelter	245.401	246.003	246.380	3.2	0.4	0.2
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	250.536	251.781	252.723	3.8	0.9	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ^{(1) (2)}	248.066	248.944	249.315	3.0	0.5	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)}	248.064	248.934	249.309	3.0	0.5	0.2
Fuels and utilities	232.365	228.352	231.030	4.1	-0.6	1.2
Household energy	192.649	187.777	190.676	4.0	-1.0	1.5
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	192.414	187.502	190.560	4.3	-1.0	1.6
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	190.427	185.032	188.123	4.5	-1.2	1.7
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	189.416	188.053	190.639	3.3	0.6	1.4
Household furnishings and operations	122.608	122.278	122.128	-0.7	-0.4	-0.1
Apparel	141.107	138.597	132.677	-3.7	-6.0	-4.3
Transportation	212.800	206.773	199.639	-7.0	-6.2	-3.5
Private transportation	211.206	204.697	197.594	-7.2	-6.4	-3.5
New and used motor vehicles ⁽³⁾	103.008	102.443	102.071	-0.3	-0.9	-0.4
New vehicles	152.959	153.371	153.346	1.2	0.3	0.0
New cars and trucks ^{(3) (4)}	104.116	104.410	104.390	1.2	0.3	0.0
New cars ⁽⁴⁾	154.584	155.148	154.711	0.6	0.1	-0.3
Used cars and trucks	146.766	143.143	141.243	-4.0	-3.8	-1.3
Motor fuel	272.547	247.707	220.729	-22.6	-19.0	-10.9
Gasoline (all types)	270.847	245.843	218.795	-22.8	-19.2	-11.0
Unleaded regular ⁽⁴⁾	267.838	242.473	215.110	-23.4	-19.7	-11.3
Unleaded midgrade ^{(4) (5)}	286.894	262.525	236.285	-20.7	-17.6	-10.0
Unleaded premium ⁽⁴⁾	277.087	254.811	230.519	-19.4	-16.8	-9.5
Medical care	415.601	416.704	417.474	2.5	0.5	0.2
Medical care commodities	332.811	332.818	334.991	4.2	0.7	0.7
Medical care services	443.547	445.104	445.252	2.0	0.4	0.0
Professional services	352.557	354.405	354.606	1.2	0.6	0.1
Recreation ⁽³⁾	115.723	115.626	115.502	0.2	-0.2	-0.1
Education and communication ⁽³⁾	135.265	135.056	134.559	0.8	-0.5	-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 South (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
Other goods and services	402.960	402.176	403.484	2.0	0.1	0.3
Commodity and service group						
All Items	231.131	229.845	228.451	0.6	-1.2	-0.6
Commodities	189.105	186.334	183.139	-2.6	-3.2	-1.7
Commodities less food and beverages	162.303	158.283	153.753	-5.8	-5.3	-2.9
Nondurables less food and beverages	215.384	207.305	197.983	-8.6	-8.1	-4.5
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel ..	261.266	249.889	238.475	-10.1	-8.7	-4.6
Durables	112.579	112.074	111.685	-1.4	-0.8	-0.3
Services	273.893	274.028	274.359	2.8	0.2	0.1
Rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	251.791	252.409	252.770	3.2	0.4	0.1
Transportation services	304.560	306.485	305.249	1.6	0.2	-0.4
Other services	327.327	327.332	326.734	1.7	-0.2	-0.2
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	220.784	219.409	217.937	0.4	-1.3	-0.7
All items less food	228.798	227.250	225.575	0.2	-1.4	-0.7
All items less shelter	226.875	224.799	222.662	-0.6	-1.9	-1.0
Commodities less food	164.280	160.410	155.964	-5.6	-5.1	-2.8
Nondurables	229.096	224.998	220.148	-2.9	-3.9	-2.2
Nondurables less food	215.588	208.074	199.223	-8.1	-7.6	-4.3
Nondurables less food and apparel	256.725	246.534	236.059	-9.3	-8.0	-4.2
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	310.276	309.801	310.105	2.3	-0.1	0.1
Services less medical care services	258.406	258.453	258.789	2.8	0.1	0.1
Energy	225.058	211.214	200.483	-11.3	-10.9	-5.1
All items less energy	232.537	232.656	232.305	1.9	-0.1	-0.2
All items less food and energy	230.790	230.855	230.362	1.7	-0.2	-0.2
Commodities less food and energy commodities	150.101	149.232	148.011	-0.9	-1.4	-0.8
Energy commodities	276.664	251.820	224.803	-22.4	-18.7	-10.7
Services less energy services	282.350	283.059	283.079	2.6	0.3	0.0

⁽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⁾ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

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

⁽⁵⁾ Indexes on a December 1993=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.

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