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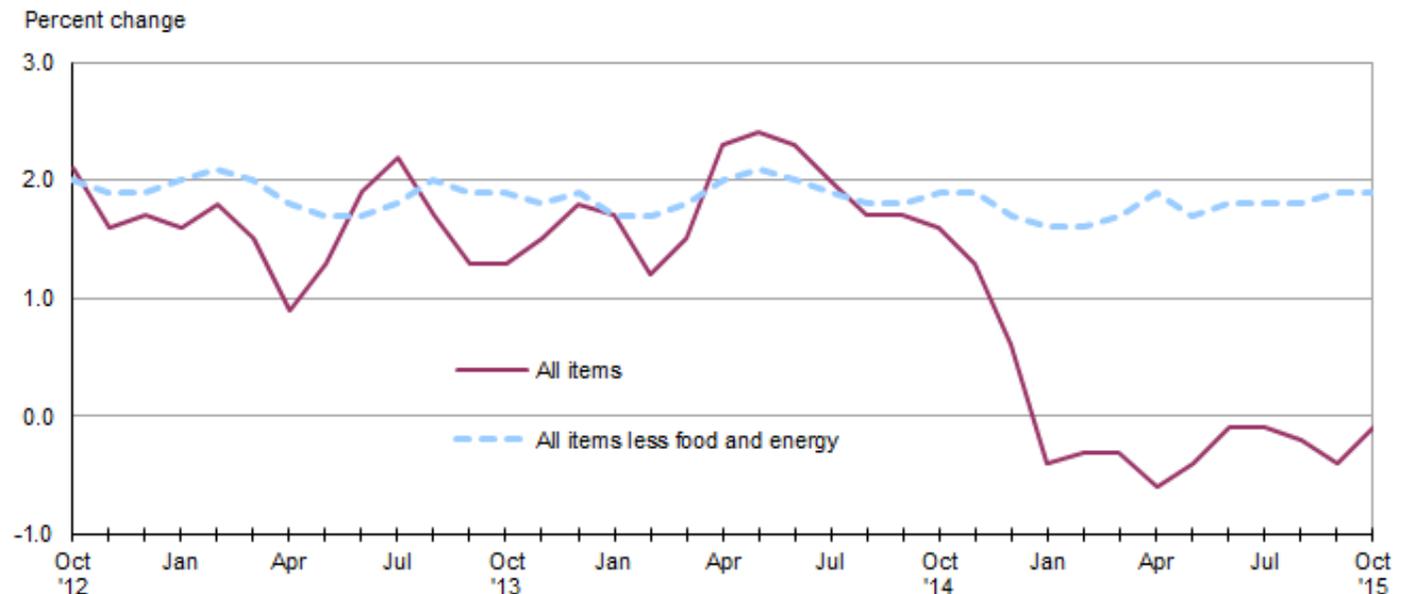
Consumer Price Index, South Region – October 2015

Prices unchanged over the month; down 0.1 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South was unchanged in October, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The energy index declined by 3.7 percent over the month. The all items less food and energy index rose 0.3 percent and the food index edged up 0.2 percent in October. (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 inched down 0.1 percent, the tenth consecutive month of over-the-year declines for this index. The all items less food and energy index advanced 1.9 percent over the year as several categories within this group recorded increases. (See [chart 1.](#))

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, South region, October 2012–October 2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index edged up 0.2 percent in October as prices for food way from home and for food at home rose 0.3 and 0.2 percent, respectively.

Since October 2014, the food index advanced 1.7 percent, reflecting a 3.1 percent increase for food away from home. Over the year, prices for food at home rose 0.8 percent.

Energy

The energy index declined 3.7 percent in October, led by a seasonal decrease in prices for electricity (-5.3 percent). Over the month, motor fuel prices declined 2.6 percent, while prices for utility (piped) gas service edged up 0.2 percent.

Over the year, energy prices fell 18.8 percent, reflecting a 31.5-percent drop in motor fuel prices. Prices for electricity and utility (piped) gas service also declined over the year, down 1.9 and 9.8 percent, respectively.

All items less food and energy

The all items less food and energy index edged up 0.3 percent in October, as increases were noted in several categories, including shelter (0.4 percent), apparel (1.7 percent), and medical care (0.4 percent).

Since October 2014, the all items less food and energy index advanced 1.9 percent as several indexes recorded increases, most notably shelter (3.2 percent). Medical care, fueled by increases in both medical care services (2.8 percent) and medical care commodities (4.0 percent), rose 3.1 percent over the year. Other indexes with over-the-year increases included education and communication (1.3 percent) and other goods and services (1.8 percent).

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

Month	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	1-month	12-month								
January.....	0.5	1.7	0.5	3.2	0.4	1.6	0.3	1.7	-0.7	-0.4
February.....	0.5	2.2	0.6	3.3	0.9	1.8	0.4	1.2	0.5	-0.3
March.....	1.2	2.8	0.7	2.8	0.3	1.5	0.6	1.5	0.6	-0.3
April.....	0.7	3.4	0.4	2.5	-0.2	0.9	0.5	2.3	0.3	-0.6
May.....	0.5	4.0	-0.4	1.6	0.0	1.3	0.2	2.4	0.4	-0.4
June.....	-0.2	3.8	-0.2	1.7	0.4	1.9	0.2	2.3	0.5	-0.1
July.....	0.2	4.1	-0.2	1.4	0.2	2.2	-0.1	2.0	-0.1	-0.1
August.....	0.4	4.3	0.6	1.6	0.1	1.7	-0.2	1.7	-0.2	-0.2
September.....	0.0	4.1	0.5	2.1	0.0	1.3	0.1	1.7	-0.2	-0.4
October.....	-0.2	3.7	-0.2	2.1	-0.2	1.3	-0.3	1.6	0.0	-0.1
November.....	0.0	3.8	-0.5	1.6	-0.3	1.5	-0.6	1.3		
December.....	-0.2	3.3	-0.1	1.7	0.1	1.8	-0.6	0.6		

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 <http://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 **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-		
	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015	Oct. 2015	Oct. 2014	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	231.260	230.913	230.860	-0.1	-0.2	0.0
All items (December 1977=100).....	375.136	374.573	374.487	-	-	-
Food and beverages.....	246.347	246.906	247.559	1.7	0.5	0.3
Food.....	247.855	248.458	249.050	1.7	0.5	0.2
Food at home.....	241.461	242.232	242.704	0.8	0.5	0.2
Food away from home.....	260.258	260.619	261.397	3.1	0.4	0.3
Alcoholic beverages.....	224.702	224.656	226.136	1.5	0.6	0.7
Housing.....	222.880	223.144	222.701	2.1	-0.1	-0.2
Shelter.....	251.897	252.260	253.160	3.2	0.5	0.4
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	258.980	259.653	260.738	4.1	0.7	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ^{(1) (2)}	254.229	254.559	255.561	3.0	0.5	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)}	254.219	254.547	255.548	3.0	0.5	0.4
Fuels and utilities.....	236.424	236.402	228.373	-1.7	-3.4	-3.4
Household energy.....	195.374	195.283	186.316	-3.3	-4.6	-4.6
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	195.803	195.854	186.709	-3.0	-4.6	-4.7
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	197.147	197.257	186.767	-1.9	-5.3	-5.3
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	170.870	170.528	170.886	-9.8	0.0	0.2
Household furnishings and operations.....	121.579	121.708	121.789	-0.7	0.2	0.1
Apparel.....	131.214	136.367	138.679	-1.7	5.7	1.7
Transportation.....	200.086	194.788	193.612	-9.0	-3.2	-0.6
Private transportation.....	198.354	192.886	191.369	-9.4	-3.5	-0.8
New and used motor vehicles ⁽³⁾	103.662	103.148	102.623	-0.4	-1.0	-0.5
New vehicles.....	152.957	152.905	152.584	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2
New cars and trucks ^{(3) (4)}	104.103	104.064	103.853	-0.3	-0.2	-0.2
New cars ⁽⁴⁾	153.609	153.488	153.118	-0.9	-0.3	-0.2
Used cars and trucks.....	150.471	148.289	145.776	-0.7	-3.1	-1.7
Motor fuel.....	212.686	191.621	186.574	-31.5	-12.3	-2.6
Gasoline (all types).....	211.730	190.591	185.552	-31.5	-12.4	-2.6
Unleaded regular ⁽⁴⁾	207.729	186.241	181.117	-32.4	-12.8	-2.8
Unleaded midgrade ^{(4) (5)}	229.330	209.123	204.210	-28.8	-11.0	-2.3
Unleaded premium ⁽⁴⁾	226.214	208.018	203.732	-26.5	-9.9	-2.1
Medical care.....	425.673	426.865	428.455	3.1	0.7	0.4
Medical care commodities.....	345.766	346.016	346.080	4.0	0.1	0.0
Medical care services.....	452.177	453.755	455.976	2.8	0.8	0.5
Professional services.....	356.817	357.740	357.889	1.5	0.3	0.0
Recreation ⁽³⁾	115.982	115.907	115.958	0.2	0.0	0.0
Education and communication ⁽³⁾	136.115	136.792	137.002	1.3	0.7	0.2
Other goods and services.....	407.078	408.546	410.318	1.8	0.8	0.4
Commodity and service group						
All Items.....	231.260	230.913	230.860	-0.1	-0.2	0.0
Commodities.....	182.861	181.614	181.512	-4.0	-0.7	-0.1
Commodities less food and beverages.....	152.534	150.599	150.198	-7.5	-1.5	-0.3
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	195.322	191.401	191.118	-11.3	-2.2	-0.1
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel.....	235.088	225.956	224.198	-14.2	-4.6	-0.8
Durables.....	111.708	111.492	111.006	-1.4	-0.6	-0.4
Services.....	280.175	280.693	280.687	2.5	0.2	0.0
Rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	258.498	258.876	259.813	3.2	0.5	0.4
Transportation services.....	310.768	311.561	314.114	3.1	1.1	0.8

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-		
	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015	Oct. 2015	Oct. 2014	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015
Other services.....	333.022	333.882	334.204	2.1	0.4	0.1
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care.....	220.486	220.076	219.953	-0.4	-0.2	-0.1
All items less food.....	228.476	227.984	227.832	-0.4	-0.3	-0.1
All items less shelter.....	224.371	223.727	223.279	-1.6	-0.5	-0.2
Commodities less food.....	154.795	152.906	152.553	-7.1	-1.4	-0.2
Nondurables.....	219.690	217.839	217.990	-4.8	-0.8	0.1
Nondurables less food.....	196.754	193.051	192.866	-10.5	-2.0	-0.1
Nondurables less food and apparel.....	233.041	224.721	223.245	-13.0	-4.2	-0.7
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	316.209	316.921	315.714	1.8	-0.2	-0.4
Services less medical care services.....	264.427	264.871	264.730	2.4	0.1	-0.1
Energy.....	199.299	189.683	182.677	-18.8	-8.3	-3.7
All items less energy.....	235.572	236.264	236.990	1.9	0.6	0.3
All items less food and energy.....	233.821	234.530	235.281	1.9	0.6	0.3
Commodities less food and energy commodities.....	147.897	148.788	149.114	-0.7	0.8	0.2
Energy commodities.....	216.277	195.106	190.061	-31.3	-12.1	-2.6
Services less energy services.....	288.943	289.513	290.545	2.9	0.6	0.4

⁽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.