NEWS RELEASE
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

For Release: Friday, September 16, 2016 **16-1871-ATL**

SOUTHEAST INFORMATION OFFICE: Atlanta, Ga.
Technical information: (404) 893-4222 BLSInfoAtlanta@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/southeast
Media contact: (404) 893-4220

ERRATA Incorrect prices for prescription drugs were used for the CPI-U and CPI-W indexes from May through August 2016 in a number of areas. Several indexes were affected, including the all items and medical care indexes. A list of the series affected can be found at (www.bls.gov/bls/errata/cpi-price-corrections-10182016.htm), and the corrected data are available in the CPI database (www.bls.gov/cpi/data.htm).

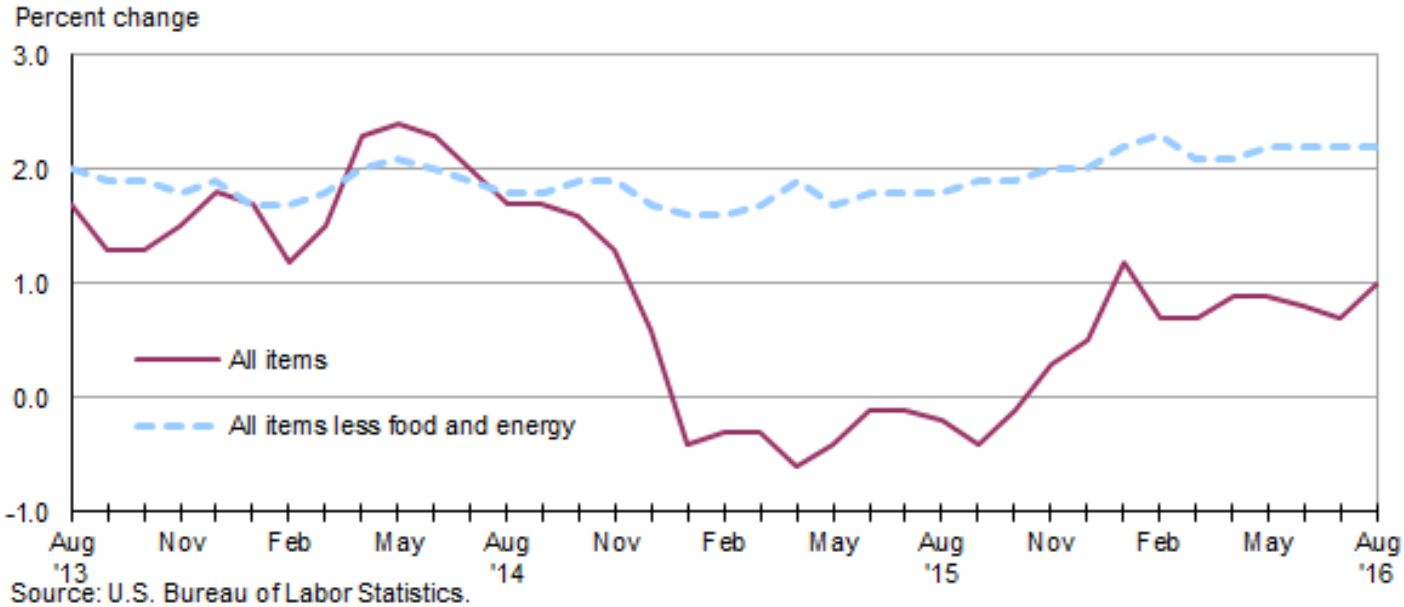
Consumer Price Index, South Region – August 2016

Prices up 0.1 percent over the month and 1.0 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South inched up 0.1 percent in August, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The all items less food and energy index and the food index each edged up 0.2 percent over the month. The energy index declined 1.0 percent in August. (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 1.0 percent. The all items less food and energy index increased 2.2 percent over the year reflecting price increases for several categories, most notably shelter and medical care. (See chart 1.)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, South region, August 2013–August 2016



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Prices for food edged up 0.2 percent in August. Prices for food away from home (0.3 percent) and for food at home (0.1 percent) also increased over the month.

The food index edged down 0.2 percent over the year, reflecting a 1.8 percent decline in the food at home index. The food away from home index was up 2.0 percent from August 2015 to August 2016.

Energy

The energy index decreased 1.0 percent in August, led by a 2.4 percent decline in motor fuel prices. The utility (piped) gas service index rose 1.1 percent over-the-month, while the electricity index was unchanged.

From August 2015 to August 2016, energy prices decreased 8.2 percent, reflecting price declines for motor fuel (-14.9 percent) and electricity (-2.4 percent). Utility (piped) gas service prices were up 2.8 percent over the year.

All items less food and energy

The all items less food and energy index edged up 0.2 percent in August. Price increases for medical care (1.4 percent), shelter (0.2 percent), and education and communication (0.4 percent) were largely offset by price decreases for recreation (-0.5 percent) and apparel (-0.6 percent).

Since August 2015, the all items less food and energy index advanced 2.2 percent, led by increases in several indexes, most notably shelter (2.7 percent) and medical care (5.0 percent).

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

Month	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January	0.5	3.2	0.4	1.6	0.3	1.7	-0.7	-0.4	0.0	1.2
February	0.6	3.3	0.9	1.8	0.4	1.2	0.5	-0.3	0.1	0.7
March	0.7	2.8	0.3	1.5	0.6	1.5	0.6	-0.3	0.6	0.7
April	0.4	2.5	-0.2	0.9	0.5	2.3	0.3	-0.6	0.4	0.9
May	-0.4	1.6	0.0	1.3	0.2	2.4	0.4	-0.4	0.4	0.9
June	-0.2	1.7	0.4	1.9	0.2	2.3	0.5	-0.1	0.4	0.8
July	-0.2	1.4	0.2	2.2	-0.1	2.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	0.7
August	0.6	1.6	0.1	1.7	-0.2	1.7	-0.2	-0.2	0.1	1.0
September	0.5	2.1	0.0	1.3	0.1	1.7	-0.2	-0.4		
October	-0.2	2.1	-0.2	1.3	-0.3	1.6	0.0	-0.1		
November	-0.5	1.6	-0.3	1.5	-0.6	1.3	-0.2	0.3		
December	-0.1	1.7	0.1	1.8	-0.6	0.6	-0.4	0.5		

The Consumer Price Index for September 2016 is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, October 18, 2016.

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 https://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.

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 South (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jun. 2016	Jul. 2016	Aug. 2016	Aug. 2015	Jun. 2016	Jul. 2016
Expenditure category						
All Items	233.838	233.287	233.508	1.0	-0.1	0.1
All items (December 1977=100)	379.317	378.423	378.783	-	-	-
Food and beverages	245.427	245.569	245.933	-0.2	0.2	0.1
Food	246.622	246.816	247.244	-0.2	0.3	0.2
Food at home	236.877	236.861	236.995	-1.8	0.0	0.1
Food away from home	263.986	264.492	265.365	2.0	0.5	0.3
Alcoholic beverages	228.427	227.781	227.167	1.1	-0.6	-0.3
Housing	226.264	226.738	227.181	1.9	0.4	0.2
Shelter	257.928	258.147	258.699	2.7	0.3	0.2
Rent of primary residence [1]	265.603	266.237	267.107	3.1	0.6	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	259.261	259.773	260.583	2.5	0.5	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	259.250	259.762	260.572	2.5	0.5	0.3
Fuels and utilities	231.538	234.047	234.622	-0.8	1.3	0.2
Household energy	188.923	191.331	191.542	-2.0	1.4	0.1
Energy services [1]	189.561	191.968	192.289	-1.8	1.4	0.2
Electricity [1]	190.668	192.323	192.398	-2.4	0.9	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	166.364	173.645	175.598	2.8	5.6	1.1
Household furnishings and operations	121.493	121.494	121.468	-0.1	0.0	0.0
Apparel	135.240	132.727	131.921	0.5	-2.5	-0.6
Transportation	199.690	196.101	194.845	-2.6	-2.4	-0.6
Private transportation	197.017	193.899	192.984	-2.7	-2.0	-0.5
New and used motor vehicles [3]	103.558	103.238	103.168	-0.5	-0.4	-0.1
New vehicles	153.173	152.600	152.844	-0.1	-0.2	0.2
New cars and trucks [3] [4]	104.235	103.837	104.035	-0.1	-0.2	0.2
New cars [4]	153.271	152.591	152.825	-0.5	-0.3	0.2
Used cars and trucks	146.666	145.811	145.339	-3.4	-0.9	-0.3
Motor fuel	197.954	185.421	181.044	-14.9	-8.5	-2.4
Gasoline (all types)	197.173	184.548	180.147	-14.9	-8.6	-2.4
Unleaded regular [4]	192.795	179.823	175.370	-15.6	-9.0	-2.5
Unleaded midgrade [4] [5]	215.973	204.883	200.720	-12.5	-7.1	-2.0
Unleaded premium [4]	214.038	205.078	201.483	-10.9	-5.9	-1.8
Medical care	438.307	440.883	447.094	5.0	2.0	1.4
Medical care commodities	350.409	352.624	359.666	4.0	2.6	2.0
Medical care services	467.982	470.670	476.466	5.4	1.8	1.2
Professional services	363.009	366.261	366.437	2.7	0.9	0.0
Recreation [3]	118.389	117.984	117.345	1.2	-0.9	-0.5
Education and communication [3]	136.717	136.731	137.224	0.8	0.4	0.4
Other goods and services	416.425	415.302	415.343	2.0	-0.3	0.0
Commodity and service group						
All Items	233.838	233.287	233.508	1.0	-0.1	0.1
Commodities	181.184	179.664	179.438	-1.9	-1.0	-0.1
Commodities less food and beverages	150.599	148.457	148.000	-3.0	-1.7	-0.3
Nondurables less food and beverages	193.226	188.921	188.047	-3.7	-2.7	-0.5
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	229.431	224.049	223.117	-5.1	-2.8	-0.4
Durables	110.427	109.986	109.861	-1.7	-0.5	-0.1
Services	286.884	287.262	287.919	2.8	0.4	0.2
Rent of shelter [2]	264.687	264.924	265.498	2.7	0.3	0.2
Transportation services	329.461	327.766	326.442	5.0	-0.9	-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-		
	Jun. 2016	Jul. 2016	Aug. 2016	Aug. 2015	Jun. 2016	Jul. 2016
Other services	340.398	339.955	340.084	2.1	-0.1	0.0
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	222.600	221.907	221.849	0.6	-0.3	0.0
All items less food	231.638	230.973	231.163	1.2	-0.2	0.1
All items less shelter	225.537	224.664	224.750	0.2	-0.3	0.0
Commodities less food	153.016	150.901	150.439	-2.8	-1.7	-0.3
Nondurables	217.958	215.780	215.499	-1.9	-1.1	-0.1
Nondurables less food	195.002	190.894	190.034	-3.4	-2.5	-0.5
Nondurables less food and apparel	228.247	223.272	222.369	-4.6	-2.6	-0.4
Services less rent of shelter [(2)]	323.781	324.352	325.132	2.8	0.4	0.2
Services less medical care services	270.445	270.664	270.966	2.5	0.2	0.1
Energy	188.961	184.712	182.890	-8.2	-3.2	-1.0
All items less energy	239.631	239.485	239.933	1.9	0.1	0.2
All items less food and energy	238.812	238.607	239.059	2.2	0.1	0.2
Commodities less food and energy commodities	148.172	147.465	147.557	-0.2	-0.4	0.1
Energy commodities	201.122	188.721	184.244	-14.8	-8.4	-2.4
Services less energy services	297.102	297.249	297.941	3.1	0.3	0.2

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) 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.