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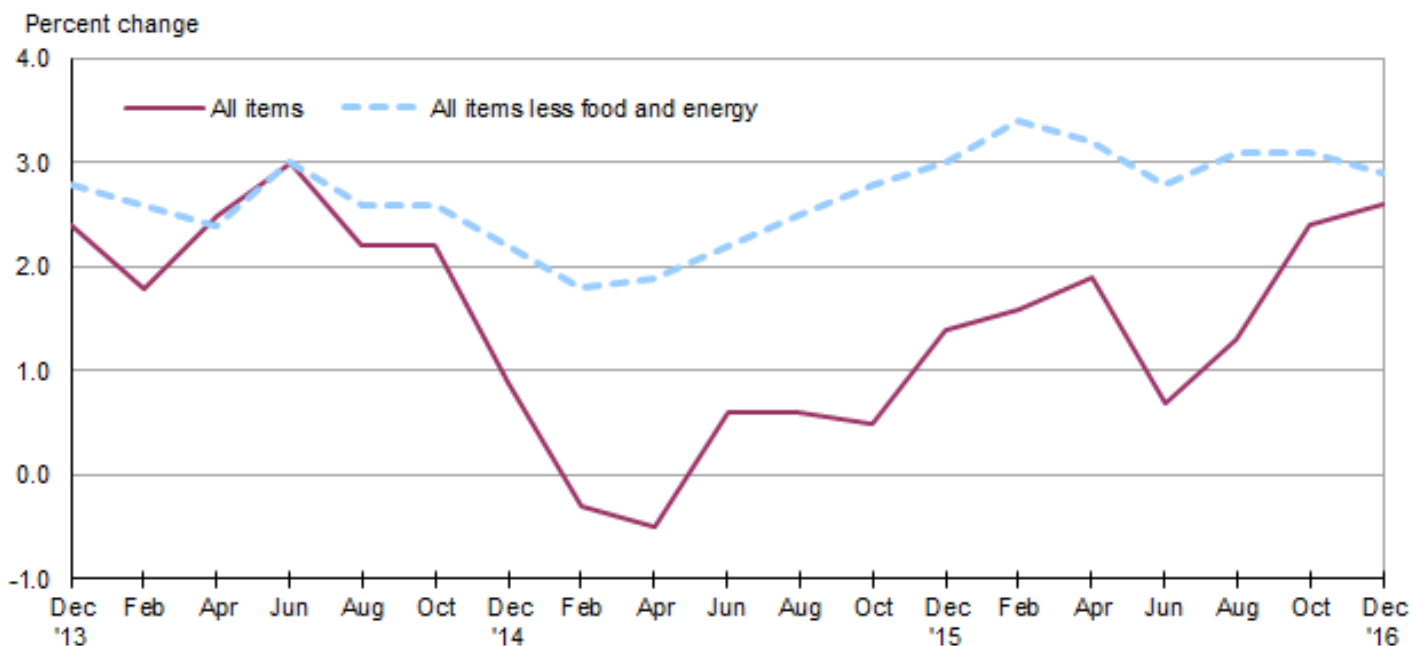
Consumer Price Index, Atlanta – December 2016

Area prices down 0.4 percent over the two months; up 2.6 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Atlanta declined 0.4 percent over the November-December pricing period, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that the energy index declined 3.0 percent and the all items less food and energy index edged down 0.2 percent. The food index inched up 0.1 percent during the November-December 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 all items CPI-U increased 2.6 percent. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.9 percent over the year reflecting price increases for shelter and medical care. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Atlanta, December 2013–December 2016



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices inched up 0.1 percent during the November-December pricing period as prices for food away from home advanced 0.7 percent. Prices for food at home edged down 0.3 percent over the two months.

Over the year, the food index decreased 0.9 percent, reflecting a 3.4-percent decline in the food at home index. Since December 2015, the food away from home index advanced 2.3 percent.

Energy

The energy index declined 3.0 percent during the November-December pricing period, reflecting a 3.8 percent decrease in motor fuel prices and a 4.2-percent seasonal decline in electricity prices. Over the two months, prices for utility (piped) gas service increased 3.7 percent.

Over the year, the energy index advanced 5.9 percent, led by a 12.0-percent increase in motor fuel prices. Since December 2015, utility (piped) gas service prices rose 7.6 percent, while electricity prices declined 1.8 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy edged down 0.2 percent during the November-December pricing period as a seasonal decline in prices for apparel (-9.6 percent) were largely offset by a price increase for shelter (0.7 percent).

From December 2015 to December 2016, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.9 percent—led by increases for shelter (5.0 percent) and medical care (6.5 percent).

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

Month	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month
February	1.0	2.4	1.9	2.1	1.3	1.8	0.0	-0.3	0.3	1.6
April	1.1	1.8	0.1	1.1	0.8	2.5	0.7	-0.5	1.0	1.9
June	0.6	1.5	1.0	1.4	1.5	3.0	2.5	0.6	1.3	0.7
August	0.6	1.5	0.7	1.5	-0.1	2.2	-0.1	0.6	0.5	1.3
October	-1.2	1.8	-1.0	1.6	-1.1	2.2	-1.2	0.5	-0.1	2.4
December	-0.9	1.2	-0.2	2.4	-1.5	0.9	-0.6	1.4	-0.4	2.6

The Consumer Price Index for January 2017 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, February 15, 2017.

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-		
	Oct. 2016	Nov. 2016	Dec. 2016	Dec. 2015	Oct. 2016	Nov. 2016
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	227.675	-	226.739	2.6	-0.4	-
All items (1967=100).....	686.599	-	683.776	-	-	-
Food and beverages.....	248.266	-	248.549	-0.8	0.1	-
Food.....	258.778	-	259.160	-0.9	0.1	-
Food at home.....	243.572	247.035	242.843	-3.4	-0.3	-1.7
Food away from home.....	283.511	-	285.554	2.3	0.7	-
Alcoholic beverages.....	154.439	-	153.844	1.1	-0.4	-
Housing.....	225.868	-	226.670	4.2	0.4	-
Shelter.....	247.223	248.186	248.998	5.0	0.7	0.3
Rent of primary residence(1).....	251.903	253.299	254.752	5.8	1.1	0.6
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2).....	241.585	242.985	243.571	4.8	0.8	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	241.585	242.985	243.571	4.8	0.8	0.2
Fuels and utilities.....	275.411	-	270.820	0.4	-1.7	-
Household energy.....	234.651	227.392	229.513	0.6	-2.2	0.9
Energy Services(1).....	233.324	226.014	228.093	0.6	-2.2	0.9
Electricity(1).....	206.015	197.311	197.311	-1.8	-4.2	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service(1).....	257.128	257.499	266.669	7.6	3.7	3.6
Household furnishings and operations.....	123.319	-	123.142	2.3	-0.1	-
Apparel.....	151.009	-	136.525	2.2	-9.6	-
Transportation.....	191.448	-	189.143	2.9	-1.2	-
Private transportation.....	189.702	-	188.229	3.5	-0.8	-
Motor fuel.....	205.699	198.441	197.842	12.0	-3.8	-0.3
Gasoline (all types).....	204.530	197.229	196.619	12.1	-3.9	-0.3
Unleaded regular(3).....	200.636	193.244	192.592	12.3	-4.0	-0.3
Unleaded midgrade(3)(4).....	253.324	246.158	245.030	11.8	-3.3	-0.5
Unleaded premium(3).....	219.082	213.051	213.033	10.7	-2.8	0.0
Medical Care.....	443.470	-	441.391	6.5	-0.5	-
Recreation(5).....	85.224	-	84.906	-2.1	-0.4	-
Education and communication(5).....	134.788	-	134.383	-0.2	-0.3	-
Other goods and services.....	362.462	-	366.978	0.7	1.2	-
Commodity and service group						
All Items.....	227.675	-	226.739	2.6	-0.4	-
Commodities.....	177.684	-	175.059	1.4	-1.5	-
Commodities less food & beverages.....	146.036	-	142.217	3.2	-2.6	-
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	182.175	-	174.760	5.8	-4.1	-
Durables.....	108.687	-	108.487	-0.7	-0.2	-
Services.....	275.009	-	275.531	3.2	0.2	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care.....	216.259	-	215.381	2.2	-0.4	-
All items less shelter.....	223.673	-	221.453	1.4	-1.0	-
Commodities less food.....	145.960	-	142.283	3.1	-2.5	-
Nondurables.....	210.634	-	206.761	2.1	-1.8	-
Nondurables less food.....	178.816	-	171.978	5.4	-3.8	-
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	321.626	-	320.482	1.3	-0.4	-
Services less medical care services.....	258.068	-	258.639	3.1	0.2	-
Energy.....	200.189	193.566	194.194	5.9	-3.0	0.3
All items less energy.....	230.429	-	229.999	2.3	-0.2	-

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-		
	Oct. 2016	Nov. 2016	Dec. 2016	Dec. 2015	Oct. 2016	Nov. 2016
All items less food and energy	226.391	-	225.831	2.9	-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) 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.