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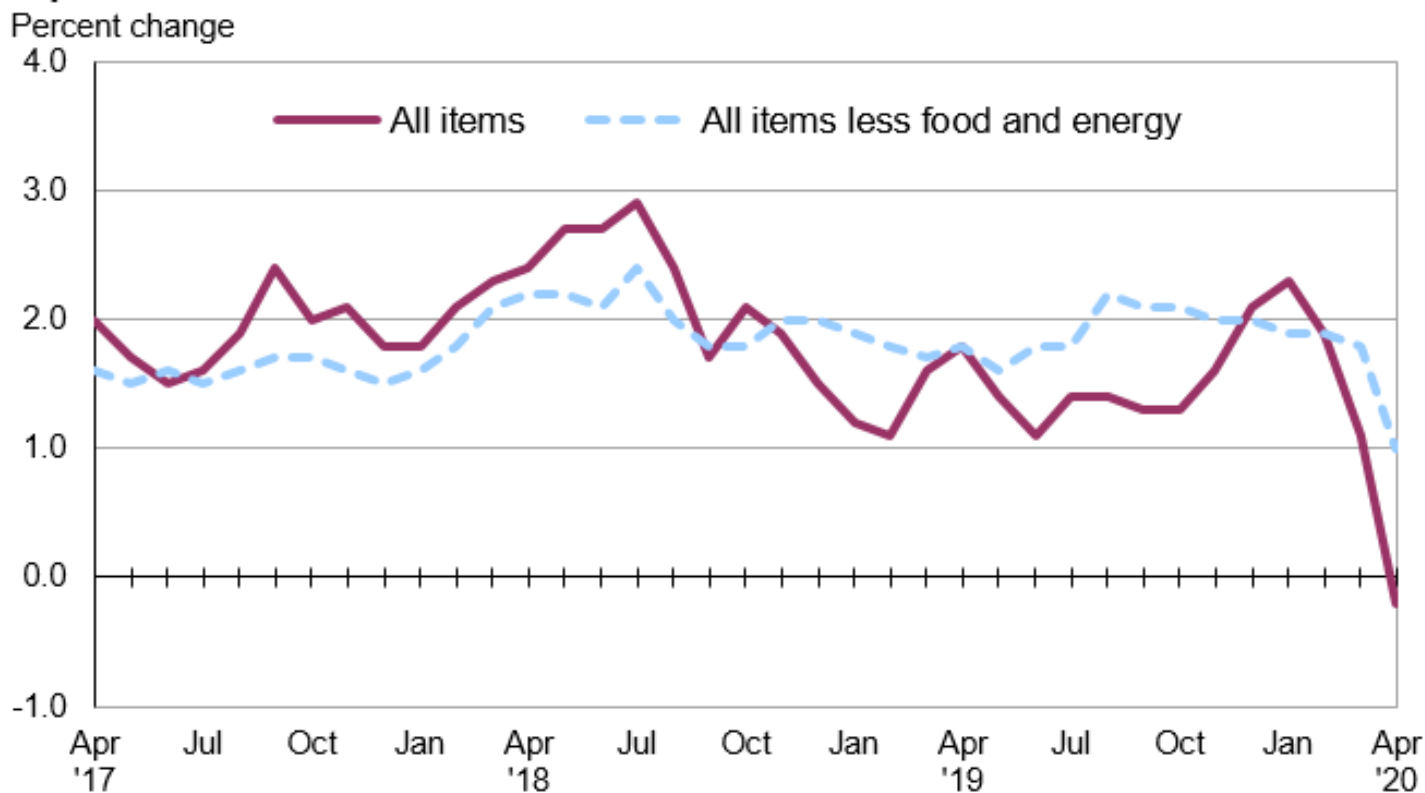
Consumer Price Index, South Region – April 2020

Prices in the South down 0.8 percent over the month and 0.2 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South declined 0.8 percent in April, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The energy index fell 7.9 percent, while the index for all items less food and energy declined 0.5 percent. In contrast, the food index increased 1.4 percent in April. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

The all items CPI-U for the South edged down 0.2 percent for the 12 months ending April. The 12-month decline in the all items index was attributed to an 18.5-percent drop in the energy index. The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.0 percent over the past year, while the food index advanced 2.9 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, South region, April 2017–April 2020



Food

The food index increased 1.4 percent in April, led by a 2.4-percent jump in the food at home index. The food away from home index also rose in April, up 0.2 percent.

The food index advanced 2.9 percent for the 12 months ending April, reflecting increases in the food at home (3.4 percent) and food away from home (2.3 percent) indexes.

Energy

The energy index declined 7.9 percent in April, led by a 16.9-percent drop in the gasoline index. The electricity and the utility (piped) gas service indexes increased in April, up 0.2 percent and 0.7 percent, respectively.

The energy index fell 18.5 percent for the 12 months ending April, led by a 34.3-percent fall in the gasoline index. Over the past year, the electricity index edged down 0.3 percent, while the utility (piped) gas service index declined 1.7 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy declined 0.5 percent in April. Several indexes declined over the month, most notably apparel (-4.7 percent) and motor vehicle insurance (-6.0 percent).

The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.0 percent over the past 12 months. The shelter index rose 2.6 percent over the 12-month span, and the medical care index rose 3.4 percent. In contrast, the apparel index declined 7.4 percent over the past year.

Geographic divisions

Additional price indexes are now available for the three divisions of the South. The all items CPI-U for the West South Central division fell 1.1 percent in April. The all items index for the East South Central and the South Atlantic divisions also declined in April, down 0.8 percent and 0.6 percent, respectively.

Over the year, the all items index declined 0.8 percent in the West South Central division and 0.6 percent in the East South Central division. The all items index rose 0.2 percent in the South Atlantic division over the last 12 months.

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

Month	2017		2018		2019		2020	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.5	2.6	0.5	1.8	0.2	1.2	0.3	2.3
February.....	0.2	2.8	0.6	2.1	0.5	1.1	0.2	1.9
March.....	0.0	2.2	0.2	2.3	0.7	1.6	-0.1	1.1
April.....	0.2	2.0	0.4	2.4	0.5	1.8	-0.8	-0.2
May.....	0.0	1.7	0.3	2.7	-0.1	1.4		
June.....	0.2	1.5	0.2	2.7	-0.1	1.1		
July.....	-0.2	1.6	0.0	2.9	0.3	1.4		
August.....	0.4	1.9	-0.1	2.4	-0.1	1.4		
September.....	0.7	2.4	0.0	1.7	0.0	1.3		
October.....	-0.2	2.0	0.2	2.1	0.2	1.3		
November.....	-0.1	2.1	-0.3	1.9	0.0	1.6		
December.....	-0.1	1.8	-0.5	1.5	0.0	2.1		

The Consumer Price Index for May 2020 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, June 10, 2020.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact on April 2020 Consumer Price Index Data

Data collection by personal visit for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program has been suspended since March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in April was affected by the temporary closing or limited operations of certain types of establishments. These factors resulted in an increase in the number of prices considered temporarily unavailable and imputed. While the CPI program attempted to collect as much data as possible, many indexes are based on smaller amounts of collected prices than usual, and a small number of indexes that are normally published were not published this month. Additional information is available at www.bls.gov/bls/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-bls-price-indexes.htm#CPI.

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 93 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 29 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 75 urban areas across the country from about 5,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 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 **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-		
	Feb. 2020	Mar. 2020	Apr. 2020	Apr. 2019	Feb. 2020	Mar. 2020
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	248.412	248.136	246.254	-0.2	-0.9	-0.8
All items (December 1977=100).....	402.958	402.511	399.459	-	-	-
Food and beverages	257.795	258.934	262.288	2.8	1.7	1.3
Food	259.024	260.215	263.867	2.9	1.9	1.4
Food at home	241.229	242.822	248.549	3.4	3.0	2.4
Cereal and bakery products	281.414	281.210	289.888	3.2	3.0	3.1
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	247.291	249.783	258.935	6.7	4.7	3.7
Dairy and related products	223.818	224.933	229.212	3.6	2.4	1.9
Fruits and vegetables	283.229	283.544	289.588	-1.4	2.2	2.1
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....	170.485	172.012	175.774	3.5	3.1	2.2
Other food at home	213.100	215.280	217.865	3.5	2.2	1.2
Food away from home.....	288.107	288.735	289.440	2.3	0.5	0.2
Alcoholic beverages	240.292	240.710	240.059	1.7	-0.1	-0.3
Housing	247.815	247.958	247.788	2.1	0.0	-0.1
Shelter	287.476	287.956	287.776	2.6	0.1	-0.1
Rent of primary residence	301.558	302.806	303.173	3.5	0.5	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1).....	289.347	289.894	290.162	2.8	0.3	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)	289.360	289.908	290.170	2.8	0.3	0.1
Fuels and utilities.....	237.961	236.851	237.148	0.2	-0.3	0.1
Household energy	189.566	188.293	188.474	-0.7	-0.6	0.1
Energy services.....	189.692	188.514	188.954	-0.4	-0.4	0.2
Electricity	188.118	187.199	187.501	-0.3	-0.3	0.2
Utility (piped) gas service	184.500	181.705	183.022	-1.7	-0.8	0.7
Household furnishings and operations	125.751	125.542	125.161	0.8	-0.5	-0.3
Apparel	132.851	132.705	126.434	-7.4	-4.8	-4.7
Transportation	206.599	203.615	193.489	-9.7	-6.3	-5.0
Private transportation	205.275	202.913	193.478	-9.3	-5.7	-4.6
New and used motor vehicles(2).....	101.455	101.944	101.247	-1.4	-0.2	-0.7
New vehicles	154.110	153.177	153.004	-1.2	-0.7	-0.1
New cars and trucks(2)(3).....	104.926	104.288	104.174	-1.2	-0.7	-0.1
New cars(3).....	153.511	152.313	151.950	-1.9	-1.0	-0.2
Used cars and trucks.....	138.769	142.127	140.915	-0.6	1.5	-0.9
Motor fuel	200.417	185.851	154.746	-34.0	-22.8	-16.7
Gasoline (all types).....	199.037	184.533	153.280	-34.3	-23.0	-16.9
Unleaded regular(3)	193.413	178.781	147.614	-35.2	-23.7	-17.4
Unleaded midgrade(3)(4)	224.535	211.202	182.507	-29.0	-18.7	-13.6
Unleaded premium(3).....	225.289	213.666	185.317	-27.0	-17.7	-13.3
Motor vehicle insurance(5).....	965.423	969.290	911.447	-4.0	-5.6	-6.0
Medical care	482.705	483.983	486.703	3.4	0.8	0.6
Medical care commodities.....	353.282	352.718	354.069	-1.1	0.2	0.4
Medical care services.....	526.543	528.441	531.624	4.6	1.0	0.6
Professional services	367.522	367.843	369.110	0.8	0.4	0.3
Recreation(2).....	122.065	122.344	121.903	0.0	-0.1	-0.4
Education and communication(2).....	133.869	133.811	133.983	1.1	0.1	0.1
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(5) ..	1,358.635	1,360.622	1,361.237	2.3	0.2	0.0
Other goods and services	437.594	439.029	437.990	2.2	0.1	-0.2
Commodity and service group						
All Items.....	248.412	248.136	246.254	-0.2	-0.9	-0.8
Commodities	183.639	182.934	180.342	-3.5	-1.8	-1.4

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-		
	Feb. 2020	Mar. 2020	Apr. 2020	Apr. 2019	Feb. 2020	Mar. 2020
Commodities less food and beverages	149.291	147.956	143.347	-7.2	-4.0	-3.1
Nondurables less food and beverages	194.299	190.260	179.485	-12.4	-7.6	-5.7
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	232.392	226.145	212.663	-13.9	-8.5	-6.0
Durables	107.364	107.723	107.143	-1.4	-0.2	-0.5
Services	313.766	313.956	312.872	1.9	-0.3	-0.3
Rent of shelter(1)	295.355	295.918	295.719	2.6	0.1	-0.1
Transportation services	364.876	361.956	344.099	-4.5	-5.7	-4.9
Other services	350.852	351.316	351.516	1.5	0.2	0.1
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	235.658	235.307	233.208	-0.6	-1.0	-0.9
All items less food	246.523	246.024	243.301	-0.7	-1.3	-1.1
All items less shelter	234.255	233.688	231.148	-1.5	-1.3	-1.1
Commodities less food	152.003	150.706	146.178	-6.9	-3.8	-3.0
Nondurables	224.314	222.752	218.734	-4.4	-2.5	-1.8
Nondurables less food	196.652	192.887	182.736	-11.5	-7.1	-5.3
Nondurables less food and apparel	231.932	226.317	214.057	-12.6	-7.7	-5.4
Services less rent of shelter(1)	346.791	346.522	344.301	1.1	-0.7	-0.6
Services less medical care services	294.677	294.733	293.326	1.5	-0.5	-0.5
Energy	190.334	182.901	168.510	-18.5	-11.5	-7.9
All items less energy	255.665	256.103	255.461	1.3	-0.1	-0.3
All items less food and energy	255.494	255.803	254.422	1.0	-0.4	-0.5
Commodities less food and energy commodities	146.333	146.588	145.162	-1.6	-0.8	-1.0
Energy commodities	204.179	189.511	158.194	-33.6	-22.5	-16.5
Services less energy services	326.898	327.229	325.986	2.0	-0.3	-0.4

Footnotes

(1) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

(2) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

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

(4) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(5) Indexes on a December 1977=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.