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SOUTHEAST INFORMATION OFFICE: Atlanta, Ga.

Technical information: (404) 893-4222 BLSInfoAtlanta@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/southeast

Media contact: (404) 893-4220

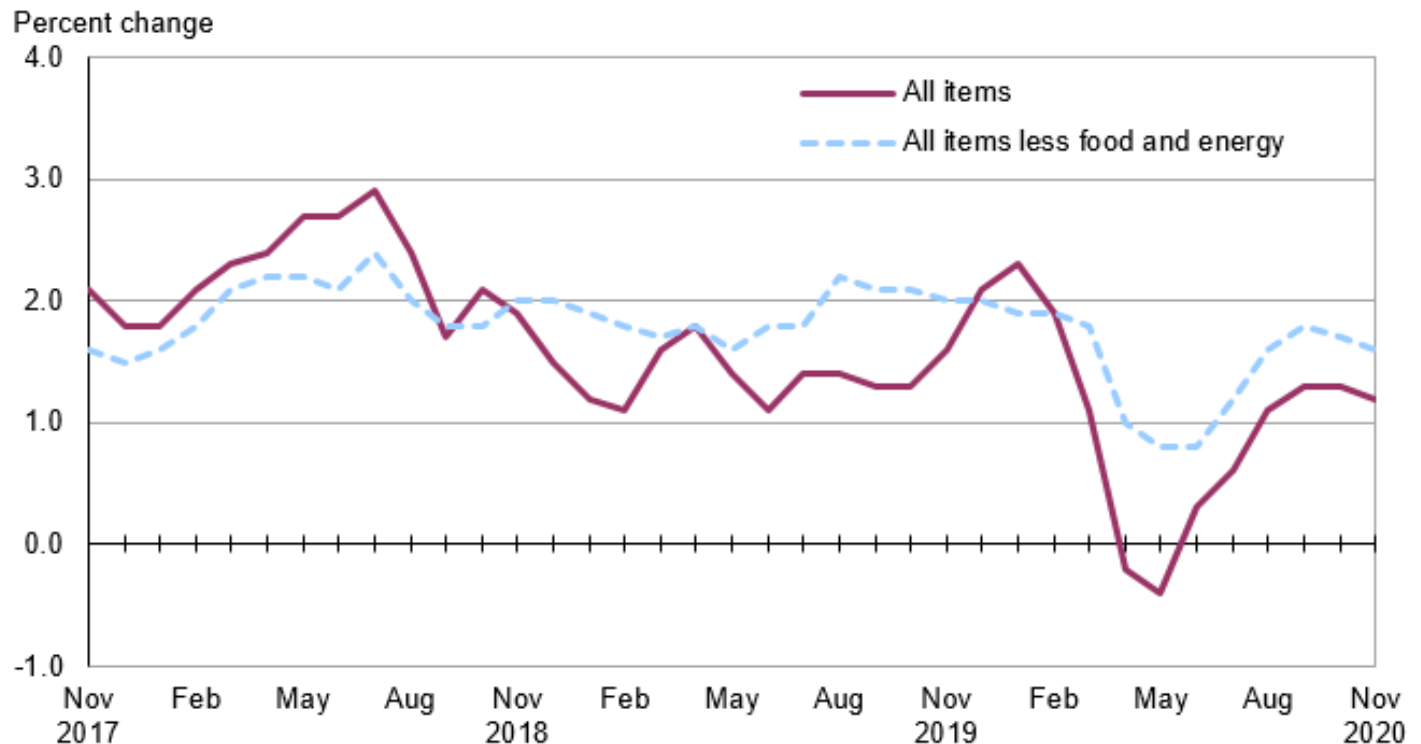
Consumer Price Index, South Region – November 2020

Prices in the South down 0.1 percent over the month; up 1.2 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South declined 0.1 percent in November, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The energy index declined 1.5 percent over the month, while the food index edged down 0.2 percent. The index for all items less food and energy was unchanged in November. (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 rose 1.2 percent for the 12 months ending November 2020. The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.6 percent over the past year, while the food index advanced 3.7 percent. In contrast, the energy index fell 8.6 percent over the past 12 months. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index edged down 0.2 percent in November, reflecting a 0.6 percent decrease in the food at home index. In contrast, the food away from home index rose 0.3 percent over the month.

The food index advanced 3.7 percent for the 12 months ending in November, reflecting increases in the food at home (4.0 percent) and food away from home (3.2 percent) indexes.

Energy

The energy index declined 1.5 percent in November, reflecting decreases in the gasoline (-3.5 percent) and electricity (-0.4 percent) indexes. The utility (piped) gas service index increased 3.6 percent over the month.

The energy index fell 8.6 percent for the 12 months ending in November, led by a 18.6-percent drop in the gasoline index. The electricity and the utility (piped) gas service indexes increased over the past year, up 1.2 percent and 4.5 percent, respectively.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy was unchanged in November. Several indexes increased over the month, including motor vehicle insurance (1.0 percent), education and communication (0.3 percent), and shelter (0.1 percent). Among the indexes to decline in November include used cars and trucks (-1.4 percent), apparel (-1.3 percent), and recreation (-0.5 percent).

The index for all items less food and energy rose 1.6 percent for the 12 months ending in November, led by a 2.2-percent increase in the shelter index. Over the past year, the used cars and trucks index jumped 10.6 percent, while the medical care index advanced 2.4 percent—a result of a 3.2-percent increase in the medical care services index. Apparel (-6.7 percent) and motor vehicle insurance (-6.2 percent) were among the indexes to decline 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 edged down 0.2 percent in November. The all items index also decreased for the South Atlantic and the East South Central divisions in November, down 0.1 percent each.

Over the year, the all items index advanced 1.6 percent in the South Atlantic division. The all items index rose 1.2 percent in the East South Central division and 0.4 percent in the West South Central division.

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

Month	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.0	1.2	0.5	2.6	0.5	1.8	0.2	1.2	0.3	2.3
February.....	0.1	0.7	0.2	2.8	0.6	2.1	0.5	1.1	0.2	1.9
March.....	0.6	0.7	0.0	2.2	0.2	2.3	0.7	1.6	-0.1	1.1
April.....	0.4	0.9	0.2	2.0	0.4	2.4	0.5	1.8	-0.8	-0.2
May.....	0.4	0.9	0.0	1.7	0.3	2.7	-0.1	1.4	-0.2	-0.4
June.....	0.4	0.8	0.2	1.5	0.2	2.7	-0.1	1.1	0.6	0.3
July.....	-0.2	0.7	-0.2	1.6	0.0	2.9	0.3	1.4	0.6	0.6
August.....	0.1	1.0	0.4	1.9	-0.1	2.4	-0.1	1.4	0.4	1.1
September.....	0.2	1.4	0.7	2.4	0.0	1.7	0.0	1.3	0.2	1.3
October.....	0.1	1.5	-0.2	2.0	0.2	2.1	0.2	1.3	0.1	1.3
November.....	-0.1	1.6	-0.1	2.1	-0.3	1.9	0.0	1.6	-0.1	1.2
December.....	0.1	2.0	-0.1	1.8	-0.5	1.5	0.0	2.1		

The Consumer Price Index for December 2020 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, January 13, 2021.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact on November 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 November 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/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.htm.

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 U.S. population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 percent of the total U.S. 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 6,000 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; for most of the CPI-U the reference base is 1982-84 equals 100. An increase of 7 percent from the reference base, for example, is shown as 107.000. Alternatively, that relationship can also be expressed as the price of a base period market basket of goods and services rising from \$100 to \$107. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the CPI section of the BLS Handbook of Methods available on the internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/.

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-		
	Sep. 2020	Oct. 2020	Nov. 2020	Nov. 2019	Sep. 2020	Oct. 2020
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	250.193	250.542	250.255	1.2	0.0	-0.1
All items (December 1977=100).....	405.847	406.415	405.948	-	-	-
Food and beverages	264.368	265.137	264.708	3.5	0.1	-0.2
Food	266.052	266.835	266.363	3.7	0.1	-0.2
Food at home	249.182	249.979	248.472	4.0	-0.3	-0.6
Cereal and bakery products	290.255	291.226	289.993	3.7	-0.1	-0.4
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	258.581	259.841	259.046	6.2	0.2	-0.3
Dairy and related products	231.513	231.033	229.524	2.7	-0.9	-0.7
Fruits and vegetables	287.116	289.543	288.455	2.9	0.5	-0.4
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....	177.118	178.083	173.863	3.4	-1.8	-2.4
Other food at home	219.764	219.555	219.127	3.9	-0.3	-0.2
Food away from home.....	293.894	294.665	295.680	3.2	0.6	0.3
Alcoholic beverages	240.727	241.302	241.455	1.1	0.3	0.1
Housing	250.701	251.051	251.126	2.0	0.2	0.0
Shelter	290.417	291.148	291.301	2.2	0.3	0.1
Rent of primary residence	306.246	307.332	307.514	2.8	0.4	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1).....	293.143	294.216	294.448	2.4	0.4	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)	293.141	294.215	294.446	2.4	0.4	0.1
Fuels and utilities.....	242.841	241.757	242.207	2.0	-0.3	0.2
Household energy	193.607	192.226	192.472	1.5	-0.6	0.1
Energy services.....	194.100	192.665	192.880	1.6	-0.6	0.1
Electricity	192.547	190.845	190.057	1.2	-1.3	-0.4
Utility (piped) gas service	188.411	188.868	195.726	4.5	3.9	3.6
Household furnishings and operations.....	127.310	127.271	126.908	1.1	-0.3	-0.3
Apparel	125.739	126.286	124.596	-6.7	-0.9	-1.3
Transportation	202.301	202.628	202.005	-2.7	-0.1	-0.3
Private transportation	203.361	203.199	201.983	-2.1	-0.7	-0.6
New and used motor vehicles(2).....	105.359	106.095	106.027	5.2	0.6	-0.1
New vehicles	152.647	153.660	153.609	1.3	0.6	0.0
New cars and trucks(2)(3).....	103.927	104.620	104.582	1.3	0.6	0.0
New cars(3).....	152.146	152.581	152.070	0.5	0.0	-0.3
Used cars and trucks.....	154.324	155.685	153.497	10.6	-0.5	-1.4
Motor fuel	180.363	177.125	170.948	-18.7	-5.2	-3.5
Gasoline (all types).....	179.410	176.178	169.958	-18.6	-5.3	-3.5
Unleaded regular(3)	173.733	170.433	164.181	-19.2	-5.5	-3.7
Unleaded midgrade(3)(4)	207.647	204.934	198.764	-15.2	-4.3	-3.0
Unleaded premium(3).....	208.219	206.022	200.920	-14.2	-3.5	-2.5
Motor vehicle insurance(5).....	901.172	890.770	899.496	-6.2	-0.2	1.0
Medical care	492.009	491.017	490.370	2.4	-0.3	-0.1
Medical care commodities.....	350.093	349.128	348.368	-1.3	-0.5	-0.2
Medical care services.....	540.055	539.054	538.444	3.2	-0.3	-0.1
Professional services	374.947	375.417	374.973	2.2	0.0	-0.1
Recreation(2).....	122.694	122.955	122.364	0.5	-0.3	-0.5
Education and communication(2).....	135.932	136.026	136.393	2.1	0.3	0.3
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(5) ..	1,372.016	1,373.882	1,374.115	1.3	0.2	0.0
Other goods and services	445.382	445.724	446.410	2.8	0.2	0.2
Commodity and service group						
All Items.....	250.193	250.542	250.255	1.2	0.0	-0.1
Commodities	184.581	184.829	183.795	0.2	-0.4	-0.6

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-		
	Sep. 2020	Oct. 2020	Nov. 2020	Nov. 2019	Sep. 2020	Oct. 2020
Commodities less food and beverages	148.177	148.229	147.022	-1.9	-0.8	-0.8
Nondurables less food and beverages	186.660	186.004	183.639	-6.6	-1.6	-1.3
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	224.279	222.954	220.166	-6.6	-1.8	-1.3
Durables	110.107	110.559	110.146	3.2	0.0	-0.4
Services	316.419	316.871	317.392	1.8	0.3	0.2
Rent of shelter(1)	298.468	299.232	299.371	2.2	0.3	0.0
Transportation services	343.429	344.680	352.057	-3.5	2.5	2.1
Other services	356.738	357.514	357.070	2.3	0.1	-0.1
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	237.060	237.474	237.206	1.0	0.1	-0.1
All items less food	247.502	247.786	247.527	0.8	0.0	-0.1
All items less shelter	235.597	235.802	235.344	0.7	-0.1	-0.2
Commodities less food	150.923	150.988	149.810	-1.8	-0.7	-0.8
Nondurables	223.468	223.493	222.055	-1.1	-0.6	-0.6
Nondurables less food	189.510	188.928	186.718	-6.1	-1.5	-1.2
Nondurables less food and apparel	224.629	223.482	220.972	-5.9	-1.6	-1.1
Services less rent of shelter(1)	348.956	349.034	350.049	1.4	0.3	0.3
Services less medical care services	296.465	297.026	297.631	1.6	0.4	0.2
Energy	183.065	180.850	178.100	-8.6	-2.7	-1.5
All items less energy	258.361	258.969	258.926	1.9	0.2	0.0
All items less food and energy	257.450	258.029	258.059	1.6	0.2	0.0
Commodities less food and energy commodities	147.487	147.933	147.327	1.0	-0.1	-0.4
Energy commodities	183.862	180.657	174.532	-18.4	-5.1	-3.4
Services less energy services	329.373	330.020	330.573	1.8	0.4	0.2

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.