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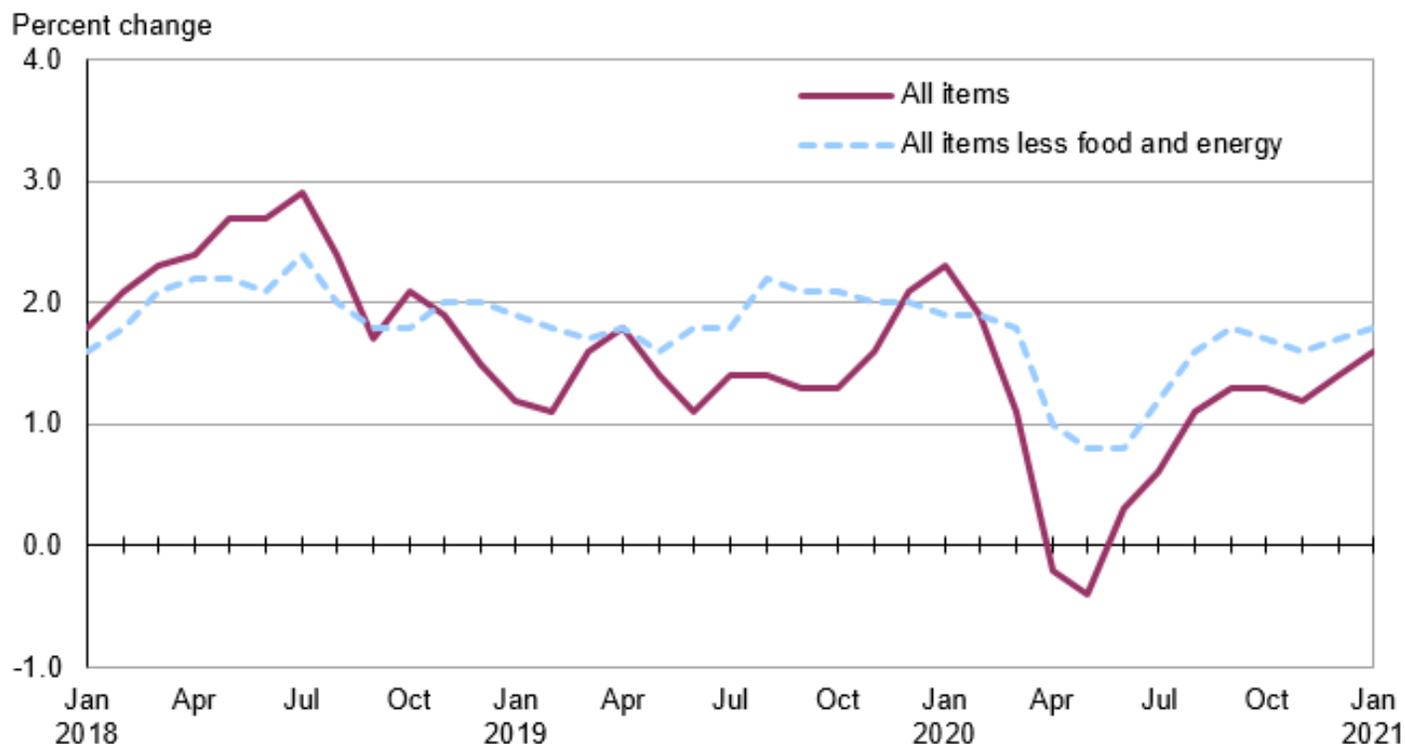
Consumer Price Index, South Region – January 2021

Prices in the South up 0.5 percent over the month and 1.6 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South rose 0.5 percent in January, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The energy index increased 3.7 percent over the month, while the index for all items less food and energy edged up 0.3 percent. The food index rose 0.5 percent in January. (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 1.6 percent for the 12 months ending January 2021. The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.8 percent over the past year, while the food index advanced 3.7 percent. In contrast, the energy index declined 3.8 percent over the past 12 months. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, South region, January 2018–January 2021



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index rose 0.5 percent in January. The food at home index and the food away from home index increased over the month, up 0.5 percent and 0.4 percent, respectively.

The food index advanced 3.7 percent for the 12 months ending in January, reflecting increases in the food at home (3.7 percent) and food away from home (3.6 percent) indexes.

Energy

The energy index increased 3.7 percent in January, reflecting an 8.3-percent increase in the gasoline index. The electricity index edged down 0.2 percent in January, while the utility (piped) gas service index declined 0.3 percent over the month.

The energy index declined 3.8 percent for the 12 months ending in January, reflecting an 8.3-percent fall in the gasoline index. The utility (piped) gas service index increased 4.0 percent over the past year, while the electricity index rose 0.4 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.3 percent in January. Several indexes increased over the month, including shelter (0.3 percent) and medical care (0.8 percent).

The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.8 percent for the 12 months ending in January, led by a 2.0-percent increase in the shelter index. Over the past year, the used cars and trucks index jumped 9.5 percent, while the medical care index advanced 2.4 percent—reflecting a 3.3-percent increase in the medical care services index. Apparel (-3.3 percent) was among the indexes to decline over the year.

Geographic divisions

Additional price indexes are now available for the three divisions of the South. Over the month, the all items CPI-U advanced 0.9 percent in the East South Central division. The all items index also increased in the South Atlantic and West South Central divisions in January, up 0.5 percent and 0.4 percent, respectively.

Over the year, the all items index advanced 2.2 percent in the East South Central division. The all items index rose 1.8 percent in the South Atlantic division and 1.0 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	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	1-month	12-month								
January.....	0.5	2.6	0.5	1.8	0.2	1.2	0.3	2.3	0.5	1.6
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	-0.2	-0.4		
June.....	0.2	1.5	0.2	2.7	-0.1	1.1	0.6	0.3		
July.....	-0.2	1.6	0.0	2.9	0.3	1.4	0.6	0.6		
August.....	0.4	1.9	-0.1	2.4	-0.1	1.4	0.4	1.1		
September.....	0.7	2.4	0.0	1.7	0.0	1.3	0.2	1.3		
October.....	-0.2	2.0	0.2	2.1	0.2	1.3	0.1	1.3		
November.....	-0.1	2.1	-0.3	1.9	0.0	1.6	-0.1	1.2		
December.....	-0.1	1.8	-0.5	1.5	0.0	2.1	0.2	1.4		

The Consumer Price Index for February 2021 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. (ET).

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact on January 2021 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 January 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.

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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-		
	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2020	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2020
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	250.255	250.693	252.067	1.6	0.7	0.5
All items (December 1977=100).....	405.948	406.658	408.888	-	-	-
Food and beverages	264.708	264.929	266.178	3.5	0.6	0.5
Food	266.363	266.717	268.038	3.7	0.6	0.5
Food at home	248.472	248.420	249.764	3.7	0.5	0.5
Cereal and bakery products	289.993	290.178	290.597	3.8	0.2	0.1
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	259.046	257.114	258.919	4.6	0.0	0.7
Dairy and related products	229.524	231.963	231.092	3.8	0.7	-0.4
Fruits and vegetables	288.455	287.711	293.002	2.4	1.6	1.8
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....	173.863	173.569	176.653	3.7	1.6	1.8
Other food at home	219.127	220.064	218.937	3.8	-0.1	-0.5
Food away from home.....	295.680	296.626	297.930	3.6	0.8	0.4
Alcoholic beverages	241.455	239.884	240.168	0.4	-0.5	0.1
Housing	251.126	251.340	252.143	1.9	0.4	0.3
Shelter	291.301	291.652	292.522	2.0	0.4	0.3
Rent of primary residence	307.514	308.157	308.875	2.7	0.4	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1).....	294.448	295.103	295.773	2.4	0.4	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)	294.446	295.102	295.774	2.4	0.5	0.2
Fuels and utilities.....	242.207	242.278	242.209	1.6	0.0	0.0
Household energy	192.472	192.226	191.945	0.9	-0.3	-0.1
Energy services.....	192.880	192.567	192.128	0.9	-0.4	-0.2
Electricity	190.057	189.435	189.034	0.4	-0.5	-0.2
Utility (piped) gas service	195.726	197.490	196.832	4.0	0.6	-0.3
Household furnishings and operations.....	126.908	126.780	127.819	1.6	0.7	0.8
Apparel	124.596	122.932	124.118	-3.3	-0.4	1.0
Transportation	202.005	203.954	206.520	-0.6	2.2	1.3
Private transportation	201.983	204.288	207.214	0.1	2.6	1.4
New and used motor vehicles(2).....	106.027	105.825	105.194	4.1	-0.8	-0.6
New vehicles	153.609	154.331	155.094	0.7	1.0	0.5
New cars and trucks(2)(3).....	104.582	105.073	105.596	0.7	1.0	0.5
New cars(3).....	152.070	152.771	153.652	0.4	1.0	0.6
Used cars and trucks.....	153.497	151.978	150.478	9.5	-2.0	-1.0
Motor fuel	170.948	179.237	194.099	-8.4	13.5	8.3
Gasoline (all types).....	169.958	178.186	193.021	-8.3	13.6	8.3
Unleaded regular(3)	164.181	172.657	187.486	-8.5	14.2	8.6
Unleaded midgrade(3)(4)	198.764	205.825	220.045	-6.9	10.7	6.9
Unleaded premium(3).....	200.920	205.790	218.975	-6.9	9.0	6.4
Motor vehicle insurance(5).....	899.496	921.782	929.296	-3.4	3.3	0.8
Medical care	490.370	489.780	493.592	2.4	0.7	0.8
Medical care commodities.....	348.368	348.391	348.707	-1.2	0.1	0.1
Medical care services.....	538.444	537.648	542.638	3.3	0.8	0.9
Professional services	374.973	375.268	379.388	3.3	1.2	1.1
Recreation(2).....	122.364	122.526	123.295	1.5	0.8	0.6
Education and communication(2).....	136.393	136.554	136.575	2.0	0.1	0.0
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(5) ..	1,374.115	1,374.049	1,376.880	1.4	0.2	0.2
Other goods and services	446.410	446.748	447.634	2.7	0.3	0.2
Commodity and service group						
All Items.....	250.255	250.693	252.067	1.6	0.7	0.5
Commodities	183.795	184.216	186.048	1.3	1.2	1.0

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-		
	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2020	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2020
Commodities less food and beverages	147.022	147.498	149.460	0.0	1.7	1.3
Nondurables less food and beverages	183.639	185.081	189.849	-2.8	3.4	2.6
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	220.166	223.325	230.151	-2.7	4.5	3.1
Durables	110.146	110.016	110.160	2.8	0.0	0.1
Services	317.392	317.840	318.698	1.9	0.4	0.3
Rent of shelter(1)	299.371	299.735	300.597	2.1	0.4	0.3
Transportation services	352.057	353.988	351.566	-2.4	-0.1	-0.7
Other services	357.070	357.249	358.365	2.2	0.4	0.3
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	237.206	237.692	238.940	1.6	0.7	0.5
All items less food	247.527	247.976	249.358	1.3	0.7	0.6
All items less shelter	235.344	235.817	237.389	1.4	0.9	0.7
Commodities less food	149.810	150.237	152.166	0.0	1.6	1.3
Nondurables	222.055	222.912	225.994	0.6	1.8	1.4
Nondurables less food	186.718	187.977	192.468	-2.6	3.1	2.4
Nondurables less food and apparel	220.972	223.690	229.893	-2.4	4.0	2.8
Services less rent of shelter(1)	350.049	350.613	351.495	1.6	0.4	0.3
Services less medical care services	297.631	298.171	298.701	1.7	0.4	0.2
Energy	178.100	181.834	188.611	-3.8	5.9	3.7
All items less energy	258.926	259.037	259.880	2.1	0.4	0.3
All items less food and energy	258.059	258.129	258.890	1.8	0.3	0.3
Commodities less food and energy commodities	147.327	146.835	147.250	1.4	-0.1	0.3
Energy commodities	174.532	182.870	197.867	-8.3	13.4	8.2
Services less energy services	330.573	331.099	332.092	1.9	0.5	0.3

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.