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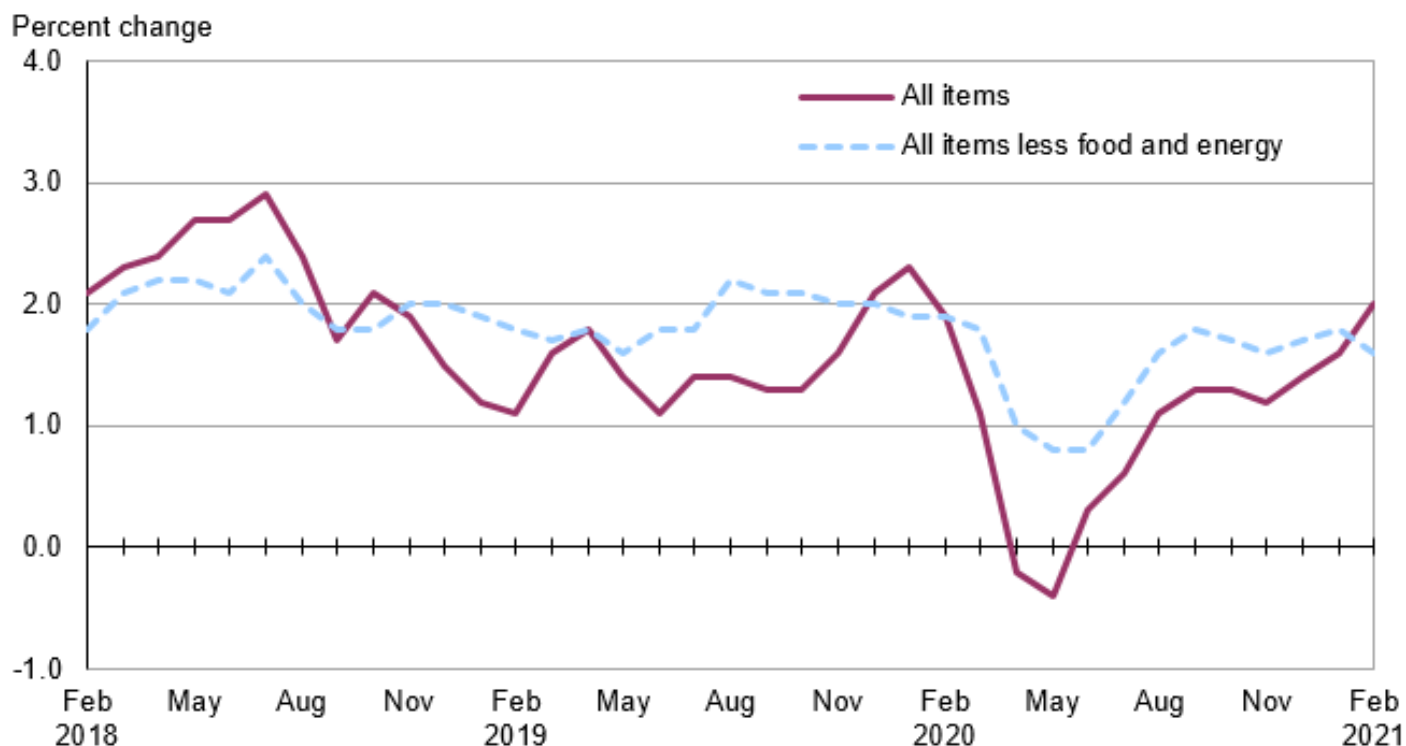
Consumer Price Index, South Region – February 2021

Prices in the South up 0.5 percent over the month and 2.0 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South rose 0.5 percent in February, 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 also increased in February, up 0.3 percent. (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 advanced 2.0 percent for the 12 months ending February 2021. The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.6 percent over the past year, while the food index advanced 3.8 percent and the energy index rose 2.7 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

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



Food

The food index rose 0.3 percent in February, reflecting a 0.6-percent increase in the food at home index. The food away from home index was unchanged over the month.

The food index advanced 3.8 percent for the 12 months ending in February, reflecting increases in the food at home (4.2 percent) and food away from home (3.4 percent) indexes.

Energy

The energy index increased 3.7 percent in February, led by a 7.3-percent increase in the gasoline index. The electricity index edged up 0.2 percent in February, while the utility (piped) gas service index rose 0.5 percent over the month.

The energy index rose 2.7 percent for the 12 months ending in February, reflecting increases in the gasoline (4.0 percent), utility (piped) gas service (7.2 percent), and electricity (0.7 percent) indexes.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.3 percent in February. Several indexes increased over the month, including shelter (0.2 percent), apparel (2.3 percent), and medical care (0.5 percent).

The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.6 percent for the 12 months ending in February, led by a 2.0-percent increase in the shelter index. The used cars and trucks index jumped 8.7 percent over the past year, while the medical care index advanced 2.8 percent—reflecting a 3.7-percent increase in the medical care services index. Apparel (-4.5 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. The all items CPI-U advanced 0.6 percent in the East South Central and the West South Central divisions in February. The all items index in the South Atlantic division rose 0.5 percent over the past month.

Over the year, the all items index advanced 2.9 percent in the East South Central division. The all items index rose 2.1 percent in the South Atlantic division and 1.5 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	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	0.5	1.6
February.....	0.2	2.8	0.6	2.1	0.5	1.1	0.2	1.9	0.5	2.0
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 March 2021 is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. (ET).

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact on February 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 February 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-		
	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021	Feb. 2020	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	250.693	252.067	253.386	2.0	1.1	0.5
All items (December 1977=100).....	406.658	408.888	411.027	-	-	-
Food and beverages	264.929	266.178	267.034	3.6	0.8	0.3
Food	266.717	268.038	268.872	3.8	0.8	0.3
Food at home	248.420	249.764	251.276	4.2	1.1	0.6
Cereal and bakery products	290.178	290.597	293.685	4.4	1.2	1.1
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	257.114	258.919	260.973	5.5	1.5	0.8
Dairy and related products	231.963	231.092	229.703	2.6	-1.0	-0.6
Fruits and vegetables	287.711	293.002	296.994	4.9	3.2	1.4
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....	173.569	176.653	176.053	3.3	1.4	-0.3
Other food at home	220.064	218.937	220.335	3.4	0.1	0.6
Food away from home.....	296.626	297.930	297.797	3.4	0.4	0.0
Alcoholic beverages	239.884	240.168	241.320	0.4	0.6	0.5
Housing	251.340	252.143	252.607	1.9	0.5	0.2
Shelter	291.652	292.522	293.177	2.0	0.5	0.2
Rent of primary residence	308.157	308.875	308.989	2.5	0.3	0.0
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1).....	295.103	295.773	296.515	2.5	0.5	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)	295.102	295.774	296.514	2.5	0.5	0.3
Fuels and utilities.....	242.278	242.209	243.008	2.1	0.3	0.3
Household energy	192.226	191.945	192.635	1.6	0.2	0.4
Energy services.....	192.567	192.128	192.647	1.6	0.0	0.3
Electricity	189.435	189.034	189.473	0.7	0.0	0.2
Utility (piped) gas service	197.490	196.832	197.847	7.2	0.2	0.5
Household furnishings and operations	126.780	127.819	127.518	1.4	0.6	-0.2
Apparel	122.932	124.118	126.931	-4.5	3.3	2.3
Transportation	203.954	206.520	209.818	1.6	2.9	1.6
Private transportation	204.288	207.214	210.802	2.7	3.2	1.7
New and used motor vehicles(2).....	105.825	105.194	105.425	3.9	-0.4	0.2
New vehicles	154.331	155.094	155.593	1.0	0.8	0.3
New cars and trucks(2)(3).....	105.073	105.596	105.937	1.0	0.8	0.3
New cars(3).....	152.771	153.652	153.991	0.3	0.8	0.2
Used cars and trucks.....	151.978	150.478	150.892	8.7	-0.7	0.3
Motor fuel	179.237	194.099	208.138	3.9	16.1	7.2
Gasoline (all types).....	178.186	193.021	207.043	4.0	16.2	7.3
Unleaded regular(3)	172.657	187.486	201.594	4.2	16.8	7.5
Unleaded midgrade(3)(4)	205.825	220.045	233.679	4.1	13.5	6.2
Unleaded premium(3).....	205.790	218.975	230.617	2.4	12.1	5.3
Motor vehicle insurance(5).....	921.782	929.296	936.937	-3.0	1.6	0.8
Medical care	489.780	493.592	496.035	2.8	1.3	0.5
Medical care commodities.....	348.391	348.707	349.056	-1.2	0.2	0.1
Medical care services.....	537.648	542.638	545.787	3.7	1.5	0.6
Professional services	375.268	379.388	382.348	4.0	1.9	0.8
Recreation(2).....	122.526	123.295	123.795	1.4	1.0	0.4
Education and communication(2).....	136.554	136.575	136.293	1.8	-0.2	-0.2
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(5) ..	1,374.049	1,376.880	1,378.109	1.4	0.3	0.1
Other goods and services	446.748	447.634	450.650	3.0	0.9	0.7
Commodity and service group						
All Items.....	250.693	252.067	253.386	2.0	1.1	0.5
Commodities	184.216	186.048	187.809	2.3	2.0	0.9

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-		
	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021	Feb. 2020	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021
Commodities less food and beverages	147.498	149.460	151.469	1.5	2.7	1.3
Nondurables less food and beverages	185.081	189.849	194.771	0.2	5.2	2.6
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	223.325	230.151	236.338	1.7	5.8	2.7
Durables	110.016	110.160	110.284	2.7	0.2	0.1
Services	317.840	318.698	319.519	1.8	0.5	0.3
Rent of shelter(1)	299.735	300.597	301.368	2.0	0.5	0.3
Transportation services	353.988	351.566	351.827	-3.6	-0.6	0.1
Other services	357.249	358.365	359.111	2.4	0.5	0.2
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	237.692	238.940	240.196	1.9	1.1	0.5
All items less food	247.976	249.358	250.749	1.7	1.1	0.6
All items less shelter	235.817	237.389	238.967	2.0	1.3	0.7
Commodities less food	150.237	152.166	154.160	1.4	2.6	1.3
Nondurables	222.912	225.994	228.969	2.1	2.7	1.3
Nondurables less food	187.977	192.468	197.156	0.3	4.9	2.4
Nondurables less food and apparel	223.690	229.893	235.596	1.6	5.3	2.5
Services less rent of shelter(1)	350.613	351.495	352.404	1.6	0.5	0.3
Services less medical care services	298.171	298.701	299.334	1.6	0.4	0.2
Energy	181.834	188.611	195.501	2.7	7.5	3.7
All items less energy	259.037	259.880	260.649	1.9	0.6	0.3
All items less food and energy	258.129	258.890	259.650	1.6	0.6	0.3
Commodities less food and energy commodities	146.835	147.250	147.830	1.0	0.7	0.4
Energy commodities	182.870	197.867	212.077	3.9	16.0	7.2
Services less energy services	331.099	332.092	332.945	1.8	0.6	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.