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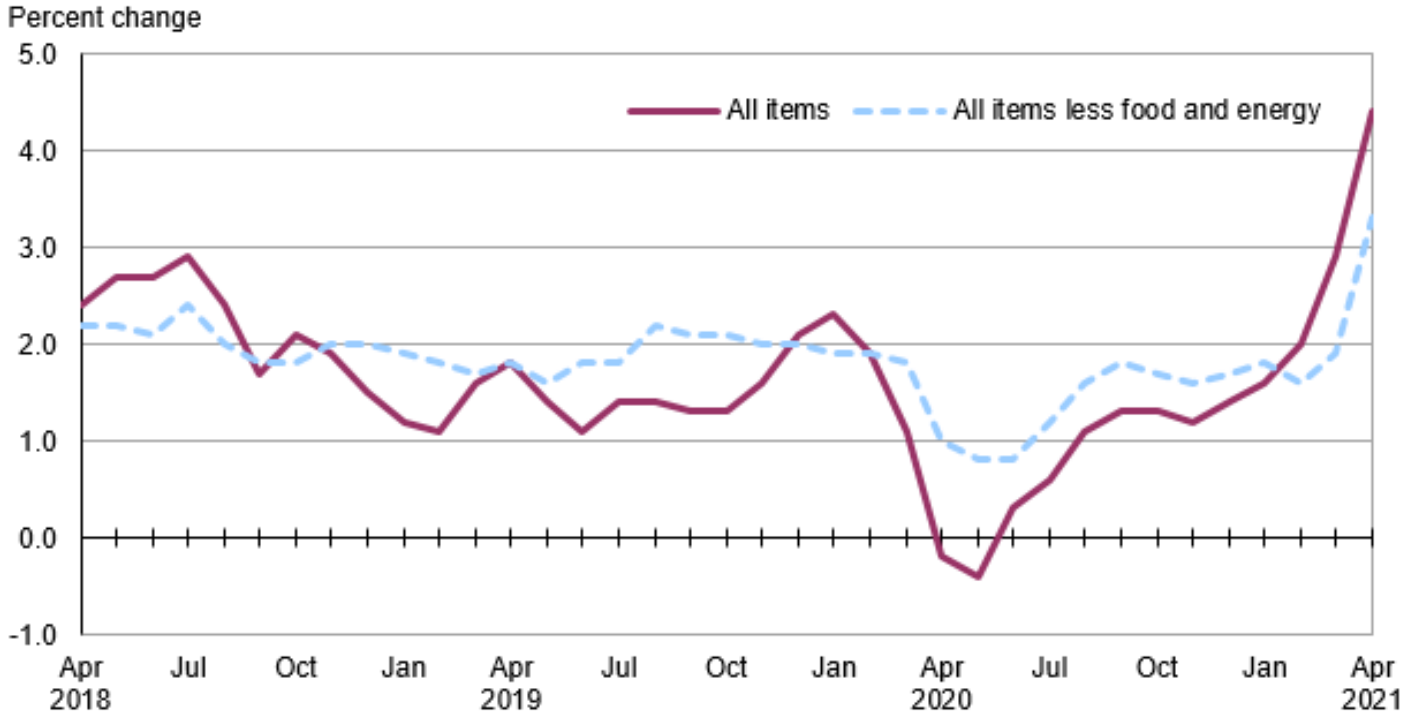
Consumer Price Index, South Region — April 2021

Prices in the South up 0.7 percent over the month and 4.4 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South rose 0.7 percent in April, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.8 percent over the month. The energy index increased 0.7 percent in April, while the food index inched up 0.2 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 4.4 percent for the 12 months ending April. This is the largest 12-month increase since a 5.4-percent increase for the period ending September 2008. The index for all items less food and energy increased 3.3 percent over the past year, while the energy index jumped 24.9 percent. The food index rose 2.1 percent over the past year. (See chart 1 and table 1.)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food
The food index inched up 0.2 percent in April. The food away from home and the food at home indexes each increased over the month, up 0.3 percent and 0.2 percent, respectively.

The food index rose 2.1 percent for the 12 months ending in April, reflecting increases in the food away from home (2.8 percent) and food at home (1.6 percent) indexes.

Energy
The energy index rose 0.7 percent in April, led by a 0.9-percent increase in the gasoline index. The electricity index edged up 0.3 percent in April, while the utility (piped) gas service index rose 0.8 percent over the month.

The energy index jumped 24.9 percent for the 12 months ending in April, reflecting 54.3-percent sharp increase in the gasoline index. The electricity and utility (piped) gas service indexes also increased over the year, up 2.0 percent and 11.3 percent, respectively.

All items less food and energy
The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.8 percent in April. Several indexes increased over the month, most notably, new and used motor vehicles (4.1 percent)—reflecting a 9.7-percent increase in the used cars and trucks index. The shelter index edged up 0.3 percent in April, while the medical care index declined 0.4 percent over the month.

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 3.3 percent for the 12 months ending in April, reflecting increases across many components. The new and used motor vehicles index jumped 10.0 percent over the past year, led by a 20.4 percent sharp increase in the used cars and trucks index. Shelter (2.5 percent) and medical care (1.8 percent) were among the indexes to increase over the past 12 months.

Geographic divisions
Additional price indexes are now available for the three divisions of the South. The all items CPI-U advanced 0.8 percent in the East South Central division in April. The all items index also increased in the South Atlantic and West South Central divisions over the month, up 0.7 percent each.

Over the year, the all items index advanced 5.7 percent in the East South Central division. The all items index rose 4.3 percent in the West South Central division and 4.2 percent in the South Atlantic 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	0.8	2.9
April	0.2	2.0	0.4	2.4	0.5	1.8	-0.8	-0.2	0.7	4.4
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 May 2021 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, June 10, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. (ET).

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

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measures 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-		
	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021	Apr. 2021	Apr. 2020	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021
Expenditure category						
All Items	253.386	255.319	257.207	4.4	1.5	0.7
All items (December 1977=100)	411.027	414.162	417.225	-	-	-
Food and beverages	267.034	267.188	267.864	2.1	0.3	0.3
Food	268.872	268.796	269.430	2.1	0.2	0.2
Food at home	251.276	251.902	252.429	1.6	0.5	0.2
Cereal and bakery products	293.685	292.410	291.735	0.6	-0.7	-0.2
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	260.973	262.199	265.295	2.5	1.7	1.2
Dairy and related products	229.703	229.155	230.689	0.6	0.4	0.7
Fruits and vegetables	296.994	299.852	302.532	4.5	1.9	0.9
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials	176.053	177.055	173.844	-1.1	-1.3	-1.8
Other food at home	220.335	220.207	220.016	1.0	-0.1	-0.1
Food away from home	297.797	296.709	297.504	2.8	-0.1	0.3
Alcoholic beverages	241.320	244.542	245.797	2.4	1.9	0.5
Housing	252.607	253.492	254.420	2.7	0.7	0.4
Shelter	293.177	294.135	295.035	2.5	0.6	0.3
Rent of primary residence	308.989	309.371	309.792	2.2	0.3	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)	296.515	297.083	297.504	2.5	0.3	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)	296.514	297.083	297.506	2.5	0.3	0.1
Fuels and utilities	243.008	244.545	245.347	3.5	1.0	0.3
Household energy	192.635	194.231	195.071	3.5	1.3	0.4
Energy services	192.647	194.267	195.060	3.2	1.3	0.4
Electricity	189.473	190.686	191.344	2.0	1.0	0.3
Utility (piped) gas service	197.847	202.030	203.654	11.3	2.9	0.8
Household furnishings and operations	127.518	127.802	128.853	2.9	1.0	0.8
Apparel	126.931	127.426	127.227	0.6	0.2	-0.2
Transportation	209.818	217.108	223.261	15.4	6.4	2.8
Private transportation	210.802	218.620	224.089	15.8	6.3	2.5
New and used motor vehicles(2)	105.425	106.964	111.368	10.0	5.6	4.1
New vehicles	155.593	156.265	156.554	2.3	0.6	0.2
New cars and trucks(2)(3)	105.937	106.392	106.589	2.3	0.6	0.2
New cars(3)	153.991	154.715	154.691	1.8	0.5	0.0
Used cars and trucks	150.892	154.649	169.650	20.4	12.4	9.7
Motor fuel	208.138	235.367	237.619	53.6	14.2	1.0
Gasoline (all types)	207.043	234.240	236.444	54.3	14.2	0.9
Unleaded regular(3)	201.594	228.671	230.643	56.2	14.4	0.9
Unleaded midgrade(3)(4)	233.679	259.696	264.393	44.9	13.1	1.8
Unleaded premium(3)	230.617	256.154	259.787	40.2	12.6	1.4
Motor vehicle insurance(5)	936.937	941.732	953.621	4.6	1.8	1.3
Medical care	496.035	497.142	495.347	1.8	-0.1	-0.4
Medical care commodities	349.056	349.702	349.242	-1.4	0.1	-0.1
Medical care services	545.787	547.050	544.805	2.5	-0.2	-0.4
Professional services	382.348	383.208	383.737	4.0	0.4	0.1
Recreation(2)	123.795	124.032	125.196	2.7	1.1	0.9
Education and communication(2)	136.293	135.862	136.995	2.2	0.5	0.8
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(5)	1,378.109	1,362.743	1,366.035	0.4	-0.9	0.2
Other goods and services	450.650	452.223	452.159	3.2	0.3	0.0
Commodity and service group						
All Items	253.386	255.319	257.207	4.4	1.5	0.7
Commodities	187.809	190.590	193.144	7.1	2.8	1.3

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. 2021	Mar. 2021	Apr. 2021	Apr. 2020	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021
Commodities less food and beverages	151.469	155.072	158.189	10.4	4.4	2.0
Nondurables less food and beverages	194.771	202.107	203.199	13.2	4.3	0.5
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	236.338	247.560	249.379	17.3	5.5	0.7
Durables	110.284	111.360	115.299	7.6	4.5	3.5
Services	319.519	320.505	321.644	2.8	0.7	0.4
Rent of shelter(1)	301.368	302.362	303.298	2.6	0.6	0.3
Transportation services	351.827	353.713	362.159	5.2	2.9	2.4
Other services	359.111	359.375	360.409	2.5	0.4	0.3
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	240.196	242.161	244.221	4.7	1.7	0.9
All items less food	250.749	252.985	255.063	4.8	1.7	0.8
All items less shelter	238.967	241.280	243.553	5.4	1.9	0.9
Commodities less food	154.160	157.766	160.849	10.0	4.3	2.0
Nondurables	228.969	232.867	233.759	6.9	2.1	0.4
Nondurables less food	197.156	204.232	205.332	12.4	4.1	0.5
Nondurables less food and apparel	235.596	246.042	247.801	15.8	5.2	0.7
Services less rent of shelter(1)	352.404	353.413	354.842	3.1	0.7	0.4
Services less medical care services	299.334	300.292	301.684	2.8	0.8	0.5
Energy	195.501	208.996	210.474	24.9	7.7	0.7
All items less energy	260.649	261.438	263.378	3.1	1.0	0.7
All items less food and energy	259.650	260.589	262.756	3.3	1.2	0.8
Commodities less food and energy commodities	147.830	148.704	151.883	4.6	2.7	2.1
Energy commodities	212.077	239.263	241.579	52.7	13.9	1.0
Services less energy services	332.945	333.867	335.043	2.8	0.6	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.