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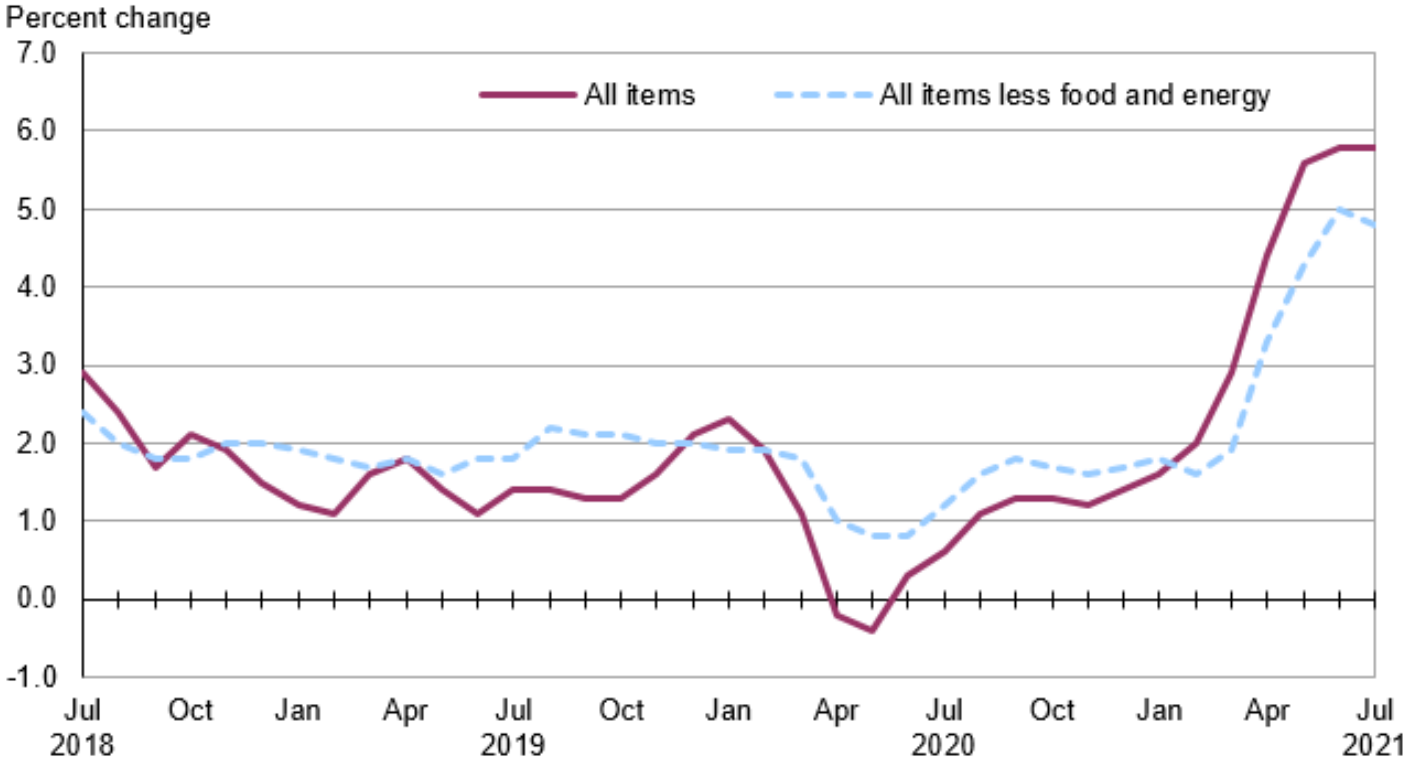
Consumer Price Index, South Region – July 2021

Prices in the South up 0.5 percent over the month and 5.8 percent over the past year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South rose 0.5 percent in July, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.4 percent over the month, while the energy index and the food index rose 1.7 percent and 0.5 percent, respectively. (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 5.8 percent for the 12 months ending in July, after increasing 5.8-percent over the 12 month period ending in June. The index for all items less food and energy increased 4.8 percent over the past year, while the energy index rose 23.2 percent. The food index rose 3.0 percent over the past 12 months. (See chart 1 and table 1.)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index rose 0.5 percent in July. The food away from home and the food at home indexes each increased over the month, up 0.7 percent and 0.5 percent, respectively.

The food index rose 3.0 percent for the 12 months ending in July, led by a 3.8-percent increase in the food away from home index. The food at home index also increased over the year, up 2.3 percent.

Energy

The energy index rose 1.7 percent in July, reflecting increases in the gasoline (2.0 percent), electricity (1.3 percent), and utility (piped) gas service (2.9 percent) indexes.

The energy index rose 23.2 percent for the 12 months ending in July, reflecting a 43.7-percent increase in the gasoline index. The electricity and utility (piped) gas service indexes also increased over the year, up 4.3 percent and 15.0 percent, respectively.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.4 percent in July, led by a 0.5 percent increase in the shelter index. The new and used motor vehicles index rose 1.3 percent in July—reflecting increases in the new vehicles (1.2 percent) and used cars and trucks (0.8 percent) indexes. The medical care index edged up 0.4 percent in July, while the apparel index declined 1.2 percent over the month.

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 4.8 percent for the 12 months ending in July, reflecting increases across many indexes. The new and used motor vehicles index rose 20.6 percent over the past 12 months—led by a 41.1-percent increase in the used cars and trucks index. Shelter (3.3 percent) was also 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 0.6 percent in the West South Central division in July. The all items index rose 0.5 percent in the South Atlantic division and 0.4 percent in the East South Central division.

Over the year, the all items index advanced 6.7 percent in the East South Central division. The all items index rose 5.7 percent in the West South Central division and 5.6 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	0.8	5.6
June	0.2	1.5	0.2	2.7	-0.1	1.1	0.6	0.3	0.9	5.8
July	-0.2	1.6	0.0	2.9	0.3	1.4	0.6	0.6	0.5	5.8
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 August 2021 is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. (ET).

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact on July 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 July 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-		
	May 2021	Jun. 2021	Jul. 2021	Jul. 2020	May 2021	Jun. 2021
Expenditure category						
All Items	259.343	261.668	263.013	5.8	1.4	0.5
All items (December 1977=100)	420.690	424.463	426.643	-	-	-
Food and beverages	268.505	270.730	272.177	3.0	1.4	0.5
Food	270.230	272.556	274.055	3.0	1.4	0.5
Food at home	252.843	255.234	256.411	2.3	1.4	0.5
Cereal and bakery products	291.991	294.672	296.264	1.4	1.5	0.5
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	269.414	277.122	281.129	6.1	4.3	1.4
Dairy and related products	230.855	228.537	230.237	1.7	-0.3	0.7
Fruits and vegetables	303.073	301.215	299.131	3.7	-1.3	-0.7
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials	172.614	175.112	175.028	-1.4	1.4	0.0
Other food at home	218.561	220.019	220.840	0.5	1.0	0.4
Food away from home	298.872	301.136	303.120	3.8	1.4	0.7
Alcoholic beverages	244.295	245.152	245.889	2.3	0.7	0.3
Housing	255.748	257.154	258.418	3.5	1.0	0.5
Shelter	296.073	297.405	298.781	3.3	0.9	0.5
Rent of primary residence	310.396	311.589	312.163	2.2	0.6	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)	298.219	299.448	300.139	2.8	0.6	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)	298.223	299.450	300.143	2.8	0.6	0.2
Fuels and utilities	246.614	250.690	253.624	5.3	2.8	1.2
Household energy	196.381	200.682	203.640	6.0	3.7	1.5
Energy services	196.262	200.603	203.628	5.7	3.8	1.5
Electricity	192.467	196.970	199.513	4.3	3.7	1.3
Utility (piped) gas service	205.288	208.196	214.169	15.0	4.3	2.9
Household furnishings and operations	131.044	131.199	131.194	3.3	0.1	0.0
Apparel	128.801	128.858	127.285	4.1	-1.2	-1.2
Transportation	230.219	237.569	239.749	20.1	4.1	0.9
Private transportation	230.671	238.190	240.933	20.4	4.4	1.2
New and used motor vehicles(2)	115.328	121.568	123.140	20.6	6.8	1.3
New vehicles	158.453	160.462	162.394	6.3	2.5	1.2
New cars and trucks(2)(3)	107.887	109.251	110.583	6.3	2.5	1.2
New cars(3)	156.675	158.225	160.301	5.4	2.3	1.3
Used cars and trucks	180.607	200.075	201.665	41.1	11.7	0.8
Motor fuel	248.189	251.279	256.190	43.5	3.2	2.0
Gasoline (all types)	247.047	250.082	255.015	43.7	3.2	2.0
Unleaded regular(3)	241.252	244.125	249.032	44.9	3.2	2.0
Unleaded midgrade(3)(4)	274.755	279.156	284.242	38.7	3.5	1.8
Unleaded premium(3)	269.234	273.143	277.812	34.5	3.2	1.7
Motor vehicle insurance(5)	954.337	954.793	949.735	2.7	-0.5	-0.5
Medical care	494.859	495.772	497.884	1.4	0.6	0.4
Medical care commodities	348.671	348.692	349.148	-0.7	0.1	0.1
Medical care services	544.344	545.558	548.228	1.8	0.7	0.5
Professional services	383.468	384.060	385.121	3.0	0.4	0.3
Recreation(2)	125.277	124.239	124.913	3.3	-0.3	0.5
Education and communication(2)	137.255	137.344	137.472	1.8	0.2	0.1
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(5)	1,368.951	1,371.709	1,375.613	0.9	0.5	0.3
Other goods and services	451.932	452.648	456.627	3.1	1.0	0.9
Commodity and service group						
All Items	259.343	261.668	263.013	5.8	1.4	0.5
Commodities	195.860	199.052	200.140	9.5	2.2	0.5

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-		
	May 2021	Jun. 2021	Jul. 2021	Jul. 2020	May 2021	Jun. 2021
Commodities less food and beverages	161.532	164.935	165.849	13.7	2.7	0.6
Nondurables less food and beverages	206.612	207.436	208.229	12.6	0.8	0.4
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	253.872	255.132	257.226	15.1	1.3	0.8
Durables	118.240	122.750	123.635	14.7	4.6	0.7
Services	323.120	324.473	326.069	3.5	0.9	0.5
Rent of shelter(1)	304.383	305.768	307.197	3.3	0.9	0.5
Transportation services	368.005	371.325	371.038	6.9	0.8	-0.1
Other services	360.732	359.842	361.663	2.5	0.3	0.5
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	246.476	248.860	250.160	6.2	1.5	0.5
All items less food	257.400	259.723	261.042	6.3	1.4	0.5
All items less shelter	246.118	248.833	250.169	7.0	1.6	0.5
Commodities less food	164.085	167.437	168.350	13.2	2.6	0.5
Nondurables	235.844	237.335	238.439	7.1	1.1	0.5
Nondurables less food	208.445	209.270	210.058	11.8	0.8	0.4
Nondurables less food and apparel	251.732	252.948	254.910	13.9	1.3	0.8
Services less rent of shelter(1)	356.851	358.208	360.062	3.7	0.9	0.5
Services less medical care services	303.298	304.651	306.150	3.7	0.9	0.5
Energy	216.066	219.706	223.507	23.2	3.4	1.7
All items less energy	265.181	267.389	268.496	4.6	1.3	0.4
All items less food and energy	264.734	266.926	267.966	4.8	1.2	0.4
Commodities less food and energy commodities	154.261	157.647	158.099	8.9	2.5	0.3
Energy commodities	252.273	255.411	260.309	43.0	3.2	1.9
Services less energy services	336.548	337.596	339.046	3.4	0.7	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.