



SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE
61 FORSYTH STREET, SW, ROOM 7T50
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303
TELEPHONE: 404-893-4222
Media Contact: Karen Ransom
(404) 893-4220
Internet address: www.bls.gov/ro4/home.htm

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR ATLANTA—JUNE 2009

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Atlanta increased 2.2 percent over the two months ending in June to 203.585 (1982-84=100), not seasonally adjusted, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that higher costs for housing and transportation were primarily responsible for the increase. For the 12 months ending in June 2009, the CPI-U for Atlanta decreased 4.0 percent.

Over the two months, food costs declined 0.8 percent while energy costs increased 20.4 percent; the largest two-month increase in the history of the energy index dating back to February 1978. Excluding food and energy, the CPI-U for Atlanta rose 0.5 percent in the May-June pricing period. Since June 2008, food costs in the Atlanta area increased 0.6 percent while energy costs declined 26.5 percent. Excluding food and energy costs, the CPI-U for Atlanta edged down 0.2 percent over the year.

Table A. Percent changes in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for Atlanta by expenditure category (not seasonally adjusted).

Expenditure category	Percentage change	
	Over 12 months since June 2008	Over 2 months since April 2009
All items	-4.0	2.2
Food and beverages	0.6	-0.8
Housing	-2.0	2.2
Apparel	2.3	-2.7
Transportation	-17.5	6.9
Medical care	0.3	-0.2
Recreation 1/	-5.9	1.8
Education and communication 1/	5.3	3.0
Other goods and services	-2.9	0.7

1/ Index on a December 1997=100 base.

Among the major index groups, the housing index increased 2.2 percent in the May-June pricing period. The index for fuels and utilities increased 12.7 percent over the two months, dominated by a 23.4-percent rise in electricity costs. The shelter index, which measures changes in the cost for rent of primary residence, lodging away from home, owners' equivalent rent of primary residence, and tenants' and household insurance, increased 0.6 percent over the two months. Costs for household furnishings and operations increased 0.3 percent in the two-month pricing period. Housing costs decreased 2.0 percent over the year, as fuel and utilities costs declined 9.0 percent and shelter costs dropped 0.9 percent. Costs for household furnishings and operations increased 2.4 percent over the year.

The transportation index increased 6.9 percent during the May-June pricing period, as motor fuel prices rose 25.9 percent. Over the year, transportation costs decreased 17.5 percent, dominated by a 38.0-percent drop in motor fuel costs.

Over the two months, the education and communication index increased 3.0 percent; 5.3 percent higher than its year-ago level. The index for recreation increased 1.8 percent over the two months. Since last year, recreation costs have declined 5.9 percent; the ninth consecutive annual decrease.

During the May-June pricing period, the other goods and services index (which includes tobacco and smoking products, personal care products and services, and miscellaneous personal goods) rose 0.7 percent. The other goods and services index decreased 2.9 percent over the year.

The remaining three indexes declined over the two-month pricing period. Apparel costs decreased 2.7 percent over the two months. Since June 2008, apparel costs increased 2.3 percent.

The index for food and beverages in the Atlanta area declined 0.8 over the two months, as costs for food at home declined 1.6 percent. During the May-June pricing period, costs for food away from home edged up 0.1 percent. The index measuring alcoholic beverages decreased 0.7 percent over the same period. Since June 2008, the food and beverages index rose 0.6 percent. Over the year, costs for food away from home increased 2.2 percent while costs for food at home declined 0.8 percent. The alcoholic beverages index decreased 1.1 percent over the year.

Over the two months, costs for medical care edged down 0.2 percent. The medical care index increased 0.3 percent over the year.

Consumer Price Index for the South and Miami-Fort Lauderdale

Consumer price indexes are published for the Miami-Fort Lauderdale area and the South (which includes the Atlanta and Miami-Fort Lauderdale areas). For the two months ending in June, consumer prices rose 1.3 percent in the South and increased 0.3 percent in the Miami-Fort Lauderdale area. Over the past 12 months, the all items index for the South decreased 1.4 percent, while the Miami-Fort Lauderdale index declined 1.6 percent.

Technical Notes

The Consumer Price Index for Atlanta is published bi-monthly. Prior to 1998, Atlanta data were available for only the first and second halves of the year and as an annual average. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has updated the consumption expenditure weights in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) to the 2005-06 period. The updated expenditure weights for this index replace the 2003-2004 weights that were introduced with the January 2006 CPI release. As originally announced by BLS in December 1998, CPI expenditure weights will continue to be updated at two-year intervals.

The CPI program has completed its conversion to Computer Assisted Data Collection (CADC). Due to the efficiencies gained from conversion to CADC, BLS has extended data collection to cover the entire month, beginning with data for January 2004. CPI data collection is scheduled in terms of business days – weekdays excluding holidays. Formerly, data collection covered three pricing periods, each comprising six business days in most months and five days in November and December. Consequently, the last day of scheduled data collection was usually the 18th business day of the month. This allowed time during the end of the month for the mailing of paper schedules back to the Washington Office and the data entry of the information on these schedules. Starting in January 2004, the three pricing periods now have variable lengths, between six and eight business days long. The third pricing period normally will end on the last business day of the month.

Local area CPI indexes are by-products of the national CPI program. Because each local index is a small subset of the national index, it has a smaller sample size and is, therefore, subject to substantially more sampling and measurement error than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. The Bureau of Labor Statistics strongly urges users to consider adopting the national average CPI for use in escalator clauses.

We encourage users interested in learning more about changes to the CPI to contact the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Information on the Consumer Price Index and other surveys are available on our web site at www.bls.gov. Current and historical BLS data are also posted on our Internet page at www.bls.gov/ro4/home.htm. If you have additional questions, you can contact the Atlanta information office directly by dialing (404) 893-4222. Information from the Consumer Price Index program is available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200, Federal Relay Services: 1-800-877-8339.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers and Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, Atlanta, Georgia, (1982-84=100), not seasonally adjusted

Item and group	All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)			Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W)		
	Index	Percent change from		Index	Percent change from	
	Jun. 2009	Jun. 2008	Apr. 2009	Jun. 2009	Jun. 2008	Apr. 2009
All items	203.585	-4.0	2.2	202.632	-4.4	2.5
All items (1967 = 100)	613.951	-	-	612.685	-	-
Food and beverages	218.054	0.6	-0.8	215.176	0.7	-0.8
Food	226.913	0.6	-0.8	222.133	0.7	-0.8
Food at home	217.036	-0.8	-1.6	209.345	-0.9	-1.7
Food away from home	241.854	2.2	0.1	242.848	2.5	0.2
Alcoholic beverages	138.742	-1.1	-0.7	137.590	-1.1	-0.5
Housing	204.003	-2.0	2.2	201.257	-2.0	2.3
Shelter	217.512	-0.9	0.6	210.635	-0.8	0.4
Rent of primary residence (1)	219.630	-1.0	0.6	219.630	-1.0	0.6
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence (1) (2)	212.923	-0.8	0.1	198.196	-0.8	0.1
Fuels and utilities	259.120	-9.0	12.7	257.951	-8.7	13.1
Household energy	237.976	-12.5	16.0	235.651	-11.9	16.2
Gas (piped) and electricity (1)	237.929	-12.2	16.2	236.098	-11.7	16.5
Electricity (1)	225.962	3.8	23.4	225.960	3.8	23.4
Utility (piped) gas service (1)	219.369	-40.2	-1.3	219.371	-40.2	-1.3
Household furnishings and operations	130.161	2.4	0.3	136.141	1.9	0.4
Apparel	122.560	2.3	-2.7	126.051	2.3	-2.3
Transportation	171.888	-17.5	6.9	170.420	-19.6	8.5
Private transportation	171.916	-17.3	8.2	168.699	-19.6	9.5
Motor fuel	219.720	-38.0	25.9	219.746	-38.0	26.0
Gasoline (all types)	220.477	-37.2	27.0	220.482	-37.2	27.0
Gasoline unleaded regular (3)	217.097	-37.9	28.5	217.090	-37.9	28.5
Gasoline unleaded midgrade (3) (4)	267.266	-36.1	24.9	267.266	-36.1	24.9
Gasoline unleaded premium (3)	225.328	-34.7	22.5	225.317	-34.7	22.5
Medical care	320.149	0.3	-0.2	316.060	0.6	-0.2
Recreation (5)	106.564	-5.9	1.8	103.946	-4.8	1.3
Education and communication (5)	118.916	5.3	3.0	115.365	4.4	2.2
Other goods and services	309.385	-2.9	0.7	356.210	2.9	0.9
Commodities	165.880	-7.4	2.5	171.379	-9.1	3.3
Services	240.872	-1.9	2.0	239.207	-1.6	2.1
All items less shelter	201.227	-5.7	3.2	204.551	-6.6	3.9
All items less medical care	196.435	-4.2	2.3	196.111	-4.6	2.6
Energy	208.819	-26.5	20.4	209.856	-26.2	20.5
All items less energy	202.951	-0.1	0.3	200.899	0.0	0.3
All items less food and energy	199.576	-0.2	0.5	197.470	-0.1	0.4

Footnotes

(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Indexes for CPI-U on a December 1982=100 base; CPI-W on a December 1984=100 base.

(3) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(4) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(5) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole not to any specific date.