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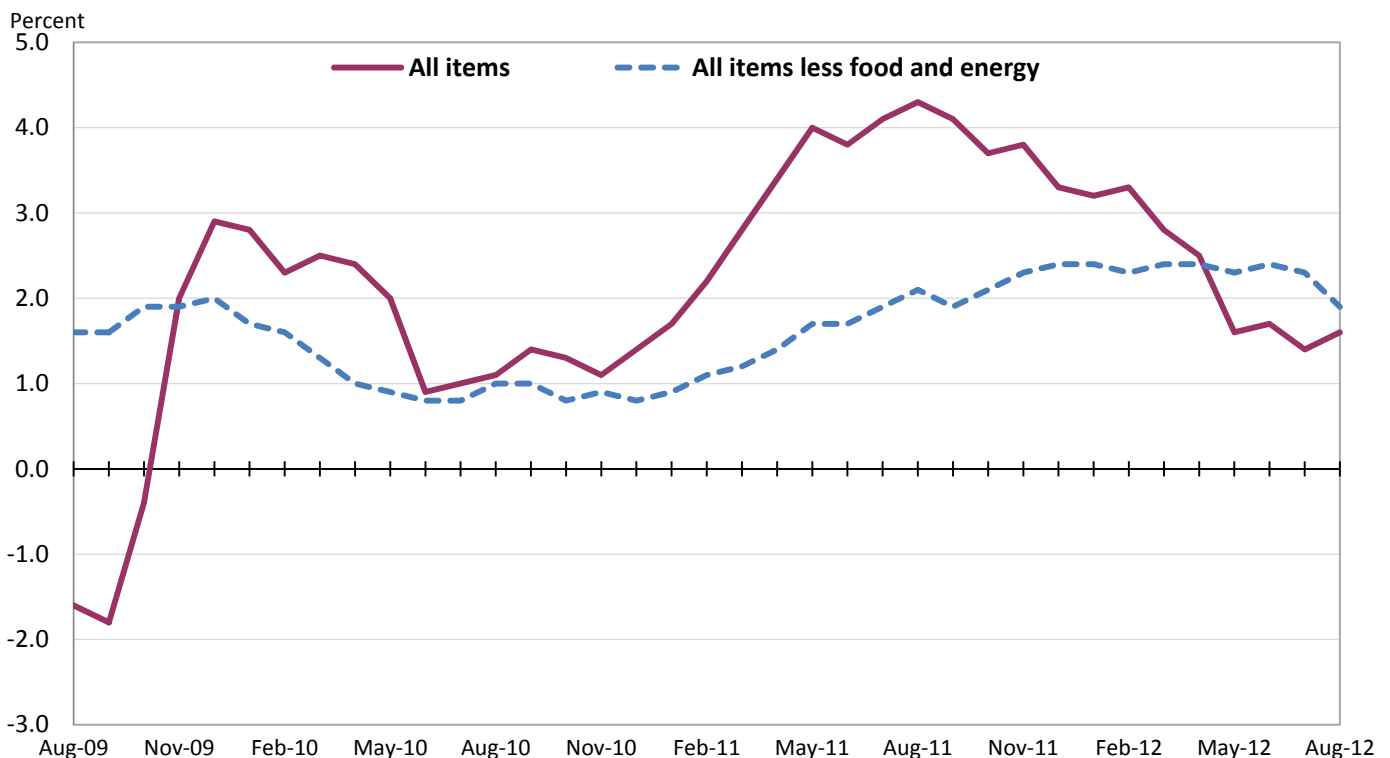
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**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, SOUTH REGION – AUGUST 2012**  
**Prices in the South up 0.6 percent over the month and 1.6 percent over the year**

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South rose 0.6 percent in August, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that energy prices increased 4.9 percent over the month. Food prices edged up 0.2 percent and the all items less food and energy index was unchanged since July. Within the all items less food and energy group, small price increases for components including shelter and education and communication were offset by declines in prices for others such as medical care and recreation. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U advanced 1.6 percent. The index for all items less food and energy rose 1.9 percent over the year. (See chart 1.)

**Chart 1. 12-month percent change in CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), South region, August 2009–August 2012**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Food

Food prices increased 0.2 percent in August as prices for both food at home and food away from home edged up (0.2 percent each).

Since August 2011, the index for food advanced 2.1 percent. Prices for food away from home and food at home increased 2.7 and 1.7 percent, respectively.

## Energy

The energy index increased 4.9 percent in August, dominated by an 8.3-percent rise in motor fuel prices. Utility (piped) gas service prices rose 4.2 percent, while prices for electricity inched down 0.1 percent over the month.

Over the year, energy prices decreased 1.6 percent, primarily reflecting declines in electricity and utility (piped) gas service, down 1.8 and 11.6 percent, respectively. Motor fuel prices edged down 0.2 percent over the year.

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy was unchanged in August, as small increases for a few components including shelter (0.1 percent) and education and communication (0.3 percent) were offset by price decreases led by medical care (-0.4 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 1.9 percent, led by price increases for shelter (2.2 percent) and medical care (4.0 percent).

**Table A. South region CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted**

Month	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January	0.1	1.8	0.5	4.9	0.4	-0.1	0.3	2.8	0.5	1.7	0.5	3.2
February	0.5	2.2	0.3	4.6	0.5	0.1	0.0	2.3	0.5	2.2	0.6	3.3
March	1.0	2.6	0.8	4.4	0.3	-0.3	0.6	2.5	1.2	2.8	0.7	2.8
April	0.9	2.5	0.7	4.2	0.3	-0.7	0.1	2.4	0.7	3.4	0.4	2.5
May	0.6	2.7	0.9	4.6	0.3	-1.3	0.0	2.0	0.5	4.0	-0.4	1.6
June	0.4	2.7	1.1	5.3	1.0	-1.4	-0.1	0.9	-0.2	3.8	-0.2	1.7
July	-0.1	2.3	0.5	5.8	-0.3	-2.1	-0.1	1.0	0.2	4.1	-0.2	1.4
August	-0.3	2.0	-0.4	5.6	0.1	-1.6	0.2	1.1	0.4	4.3	0.6	1.6
September	0.3	3.0	0.1	5.4	0.0	-1.8	0.2	1.4	0.0	4.1	-	-
October	0.2	3.8	-1.2	3.9	0.2	-0.4	0.1	1.3	-0.2	3.7	-	-
November	0.6	4.7	-2.2	1.0	0.2	2.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	3.8	-	-
December	0.0	4.4	-1.0	0.0	-0.1	2.9	0.2	1.4	-0.2	3.3	-	-

**The September 2012 Consumer Price Index for the South region is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, October 16, 2012 at 7:30 a.m. (CT).**

## 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 88 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 29 percent of the total 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 87 urban areas across the country from about 4,000 housing units and approximately 26,000 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 the items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi) and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, *The Consumer Price Index*, available on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf).

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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**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—		
	June 2012	July 2012	Aug. 2012	Aug. 2011	June 2012	July 2012
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items .....	223.004	222.667	223.919	1.6	0.4	0.6
All items (December 1977=100) .....	361.744	361.197	363.228	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	231.951	231.977	232.303	2.0	.2	.1
Food .....	232.986	233.034	233.486	2.1	.2	.2
Food at home .....	229.811	229.606	230.036	1.7	.1	.2
Food away from home .....	240.314	240.756	241.247	2.7	.4	.2
Alcoholic beverages .....	216.868	216.560	215.009	1.0	-9	-7
Housing .....	207.997	208.087	208.260	1.5	.1	.1
Shelter .....	230.470	231.018	231.197	2.2	.3	.1
Rent of primary residence <sup>1</sup> .....	231.863	232.700	232.796	2.2	.4	.0
Owners' equivalent rent of residences <sup>1 2</sup> .....	233.718	234.211	234.868	2.1	.5	.3
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence <sup>1 2</sup> .....	233.703	234.195	234.854	2.1	.5	.3
Fuels and utilities .....	225.946	223.698	224.660	-1.2	-6	.4
Household energy .....	190.640	187.787	188.566	-3.1	-1.1	.4
Energy services <sup>1</sup> .....	190.530	187.611	188.379	-3.2	-1.1	.4
Electricity <sup>1</sup> .....	191.785	188.364	188.164	-1.8	-1.9	-1
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>1</sup> .....	166.529	167.119	174.145	-11.6	4.6	4.2
Household furnishings and operations .....	126.525	126.687	126.228	.5	-2	-4
Apparel .....	134.757	130.628	130.673	-7	-3.0	.0
Transportation .....	213.034	212.387	218.593	.9	2.6	2.9
Private transportation .....	211.190	210.708	217.218	1.1	2.9	3.1
New and used motor vehicles <sup>3</sup> .....	102.441	102.371	102.167	.3	-3	-2
New vehicles .....	149.780	149.165	148.974	1.1	-5	-1
New cars and trucks <sup>3 4</sup> .....	101.889	101.467	101.355	1.1	-5	-1
New cars <sup>4</sup> .....	153.525	152.850	152.604	.2	-6	-2
Used cars and trucks .....	153.513	154.020	153.174	-1	-2	-5
Motor fuel .....	290.491	288.059	311.984	-2	7.4	8.3
Gasoline (all types) .....	289.064	286.683	310.801	-3	7.5	8.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>4</sup> .....	287.841	285.586	309.802	-4	7.6	8.5
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>4 5</sup> .....	301.525	298.567	323.485	-3	7.3	8.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>4</sup> .....	286.322	283.928	307.045	.4	7.2	8.1
Medical care .....	397.266	397.983	396.445	4.0	-2	-4
Medical care commodities .....	314.938	316.520	315.740	3.3	.3	-2
Medical care services .....	425.349	425.666	423.823	4.2	-4	-4
Professional services .....	343.929	343.948	345.137	2.6	.4	.3
Recreation <sup>3</sup> .....	115.108	114.859	114.747	.9	-3	-1
Education and communication <sup>3</sup> .....	130.225	130.080	130.494	1.8	.2	.3
Other goods and services .....	385.413	385.498	385.888	2.1	.1	.1
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	223.004	222.667	223.919	1.6	.4	.6
Commodities .....	187.647	186.881	189.172	.9	.8	1.2
Commodities less food and beverages .....	164.918	163.844	166.892	.2	1.2	1.9
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	216.525	214.331	221.052	.5	2.1	3.1
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel .....	266.640	265.471	276.044	.8	3.5	4.0
Durables .....	116.641	116.638	116.168	-4	-4	-4
Services .....	259.297	259.363	259.643	2.1	.1	.1
Rent of shelter <sup>2</sup> .....	236.795	237.356	237.539	2.1	.3	.1
Transportation services .....	285.464	285.620	286.428	2.2	.3	.3

See footnotes at end of table.

**Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods-Continued**

**South** (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	June 2012	July 2012	Aug. 2012	Aug. 2011	June 2012	July 2012
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
Other services .....	311.814	311.721	312.393	2.3	0.2	0.2
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	213.180	212.801	214.159	1.4	.5	.6
All items less food .....	221.242	220.845	222.221	1.5	.4	.6
All items less shelter .....	221.527	220.816	222.527	1.3	.5	.8
Commodities less food .....	166.682	165.624	168.563	.2	1.1	1.8
Nondurables .....	224.437	223.255	227.061	1.2	1.2	1.7
Nondurables less food .....	216.356	214.258	220.558	.6	1.9	2.9
Nondurables less food and apparel .....	261.156	260.061	269.638	.9	3.2	3.7
Services less rent of shelter <sup>2</sup> .....	295.752	295.188	295.602	2.0	-.1	.1
Services less medical care services .....	244.309	244.358	244.760	1.9	.2	.2
Energy .....	232.149	229.546	240.837	-1.6	3.7	4.9
All items less energy .....	222.610	222.541	222.605	1.9	.0	.0
All items less food and energy .....	221.168	221.077	221.072	1.9	.0	.0
Commodities less food and energy commodities .....	150.265	149.402	149.052	.4	-.8	-.2
Energy commodities .....	294.413	291.982	315.756	-.3	7.2	8.1
Services less energy services .....	266.295	266.713	266.935	2.5	.2	.1

<sup>1</sup> This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

<sup>2</sup> Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

<sup>3</sup> Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

<sup>4</sup> Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

<sup>5</sup> Indexes on a December 1993=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.

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