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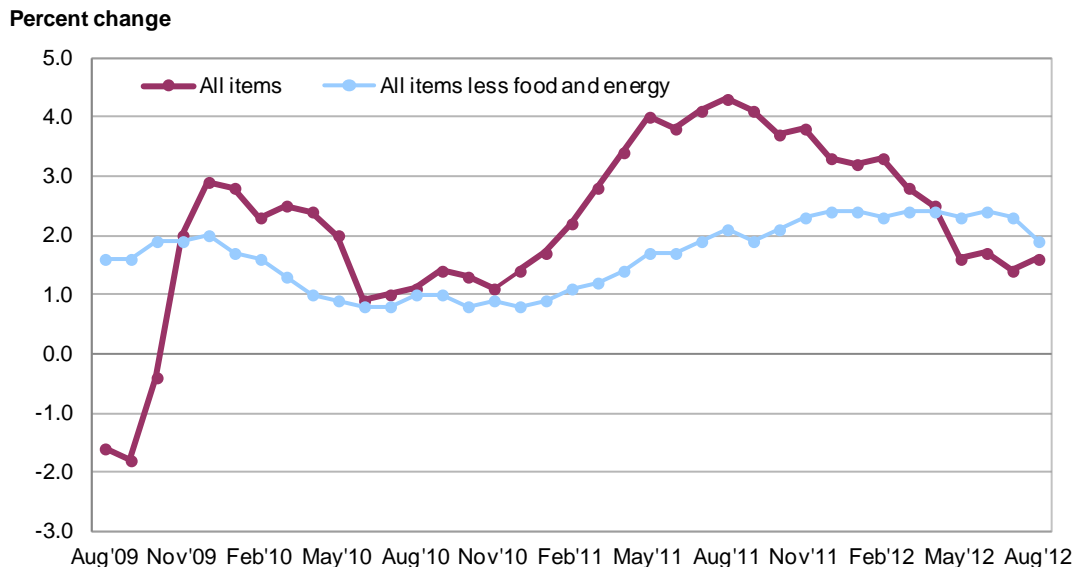
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**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, SOUTH REGION – AUGUST 2012**  
**Prices in the South up 0.6 percent over the month and 1.6 percent over the year**

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. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau’s regional commissioner, 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 8:30 a.m. (ET).**

## Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time of goods and services purchased by households. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) the CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), which covers 29 percent of the total population and (2) the CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) and the Chained CPI for All Urban Consumers (C-CPI-U), which cover approximately 88 percent of the total population and include, in addition to wage earners and clerical worker households, 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 CPIs are 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. Prices are collected each month 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 items are included in the index.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights, which represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. For the CPI-U and CPI-W separate indexes are also published by size of city, by region of the country, for cross-classifications of regions and population-size classed, and for 27 local areas. Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices among cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period. For the C-CPI-U, data are issued only at the national level. It is important to note that the CPI-U and CPI-W are considered final when released, but the C-CPI-U is issued in preliminary form and subject to two annual revisions.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date. For the CPI-U and the CPI-W the reference base is 1982-84 equals 100. The reference base for the C-CPI-U is December 1999 equals 100. An increase of 16.5 percent from the reference base, for example, is shown as 116.500. 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.

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.

For further details visit the CPI home page on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi) or contact our CPI Information and Analysis Section at (202) 691-7000.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; TDD message referral phone number: (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-		
	Jun. 2012	Jul. 2012	Aug. 2012	Aug. 2011	Jun. 2012	Jul. 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	0.2	0.1
Food	232.986	233.034	233.486	2.1	0.2	0.2
Food at home	229.811	229.606	230.036	1.7	0.1	0.2
Food away from home	240.314	240.756	241.247	2.7	0.4	0.2
Alcoholic beverages	216.868	216.560	215.009	1.0	-0.9	-0.7
Housing	207.997	208.087	208.260	1.5	0.1	0.1
Shelter	230.470	231.018	231.197	2.2	0.3	0.1
Rent of primary residence (1)	231.863	232.700	232.796	2.2	0.4	0.0
Owners' equiv. rent of residences (1) (2)	233.718	234.211	234.868	2.1	0.5	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence (1) (2)	233.703	234.195	234.854	2.1	0.5	0.3
Fuels and utilities	225.946	223.698	224.660	-1.2	-0.6	0.4
Household energy	190.640	187.787	188.566	-3.1	-1.1	0.4
Energy services (1)	190.530	187.611	188.379	-3.2	-1.1	0.4
Electricity (1)	191.785	188.364	188.164	-1.8	-1.9	-0.1
Utility (piped) gas service (1)	166.529	167.119	174.145	-11.6	4.6	4.2
Household furnishings and operations	126.525	126.687	126.228	0.5	-0.2	-0.4
Apparel	134.757	130.628	130.673	-0.7	-3.0	0.0
Transportation	213.034	212.387	218.593	0.9	2.6	2.9
Private transportation	211.190	210.708	217.218	1.1	2.9	3.1
New and used motor vehicles (3)	102.441	102.371	102.167	0.3	-0.3	-0.2
New vehicles	149.780	149.165	148.974	1.1	-0.5	-0.1
New cars and trucks (3) (4)	101.889	101.467	101.355	1.1	-0.5	-0.1
New cars (4)	153.525	152.850	152.604	0.2	-0.6	-0.2
Used cars and trucks	153.513	154.020	153.174	-0.1	-0.2	-0.5
Motor fuel	290.491	288.059	311.984	-0.2	7.4	8.3
Gasoline (all types)	289.064	286.683	310.801	-0.3	7.5	8.4
Unleaded regular (4)	287.841	285.586	309.802	-0.4	7.6	8.5
Unleaded midgrade (4) (5)	301.525	298.567	323.485	-0.3	7.3	8.3
Unleaded premium (4)	286.322	283.928	307.045	0.4	7.2	8.1
Medical care	397.266	397.983	396.445	4.0	-0.2	-0.4
Medical care commodities	314.938	316.520	315.740	3.3	0.3	-0.2
Medical care services	425.349	425.666	423.823	4.2	-0.4	-0.4
Professional services	343.929	343.948	345.137	2.6	0.4	0.3
Recreation (3)	115.108	114.859	114.747	0.9	-0.3	-0.1
Education and communication (3)	130.225	130.080	130.494	1.8	0.2	0.3
Other goods and services	385.413	385.498	385.888	2.1	0.1	0.1

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-		
	Jun. 2012	Jul. 2012	Aug. 2012	Aug. 2011	Jun. 2012	Jul. 2012
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All Items	223.004	222.667	223.919	1.6	0.4	0.6
Commodities	187.647	186.881	189.172	0.9	0.8	1.2
Commodities less food and beverages	164.918	163.844	166.892	0.2	1.2	1.9
Nondurables less food and beverages	216.525	214.331	221.052	0.5	2.1	3.1
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	266.640	265.471	276.044	0.8	3.5	4.0
Durables	116.641	116.638	116.168	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4
Services	259.297	259.363	259.643	2.1	0.1	0.1
Rent of shelter (2)	236.795	237.356	237.539	2.1	0.3	0.1
Transportation services	285.464	285.620	286.428	2.2	0.3	0.3
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	0.5	0.6
All items less food	221.242	220.845	222.221	1.5	0.4	0.6
All items less shelter	221.527	220.816	222.527	1.3	0.5	0.8
Commodities less food	166.682	165.624	168.563	0.2	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	0.6	1.9	2.9
Nondurables less food and apparel	261.156	260.061	269.638	0.9	3.2	3.7
Services less rent of shelter (2)	295.752	295.188	295.602	2.0	-0.1	0.1
Services less medical care services	244.309	244.358	244.760	1.9	0.2	0.2
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	0.0
All items less food and energy	221.168	221.077	221.072	1.9	0.0	0.0
Commodities less food and energy commodities	150.265	149.402	149.052	0.4	-0.8	-0.2
Energy commodities	294.413	291.982	315.756	-0.3	7.2	8.1
Services less energy services	266.295	266.713	266.935	2.5	0.2	0.1

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) Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

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

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

(5) 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. Data not seasonally adjusted.