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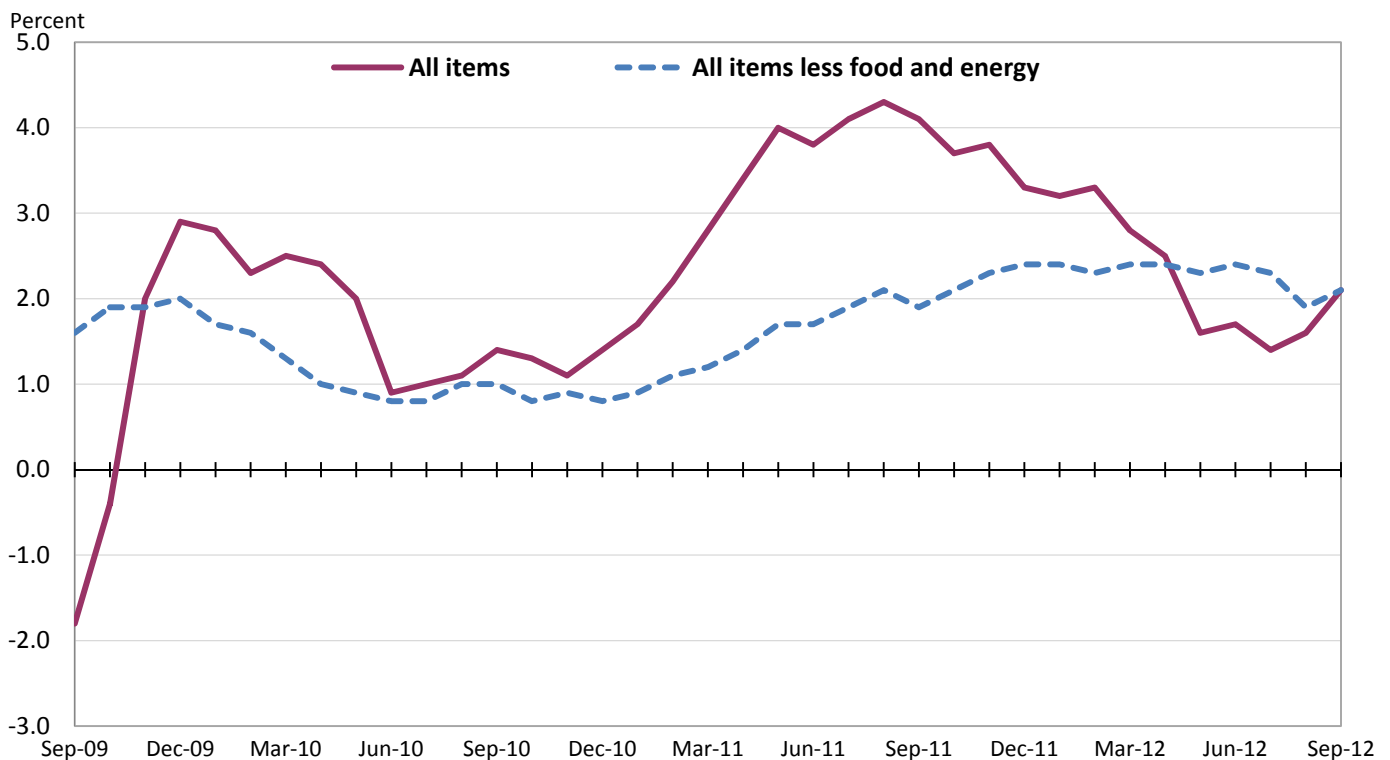
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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, SOUTH REGION – SEPTEMBER 2012
Prices in the South up 0.5 percent over the month and 2.1 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South rose 0.5 percent in September, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that energy prices increased 2.3 percent over the month. Food prices edged up 0.2 percent and the all items less food and energy index rose 0.3 percent. Within the all items less food and energy group, price increases were noted for a number of components including apparel, shelter, and education and communication. (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 2.1 percent. The index for all items less food and energy also rose 2.1 percent over the year. (See chart 1.)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Food

Food prices increased 0.2 percent in September as prices for food away from home rose 0.3 percent and those for food at home inched up 0.1 percent.

Since September 2011, the index for food advanced 1.9 percent. Prices for food away from home and food at home increased 2.7 and 1.4 percent, respectively.

Energy

The energy index advanced 2.3 percent in September led by a 4.5-percent rise in motor fuel prices. Electricity prices decreased 0.5 percent and utility (piped) gas service prices declined 2.6 percent over the month.

Over the year, energy prices rose 2.4 percent, primarily reflecting a 7.1-percent increase in motor fuel prices. This increase was partially offset by price declines for electricity and utility (piped) gas service, down 2.3 and 12.7 percent, respectively.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy edged up 0.3 percent, led by a seasonal advance in apparel prices (4.1 percent). Higher prices for several other components including shelter (0.3 percent) and education and communication (0.3 percent) also contributed to the overall rise.

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.1 percent, led by price increases for shelter (2.4 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	0.5	2.1
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 October 2012 Consumer Price Index for the South region is scheduled to be released on Thursday, November 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 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.

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—		
	July 2012	Aug. 2012	Sep. 2012	Sep. 2011	July 2012	Aug. 2012
Expenditure category						
All items	222.667	223.919	225.052	2.1	1.1	0.5
All items (December 1977=100)	361.197	363.228	365.066	-	-	-
Food and beverages	231.977	232.303	232.677	1.8	.3	.2
Food	233.034	233.486	233.900	1.9	.4	.2
Food at home	229.606	230.036	230.277	1.4	.3	.1
Food away from home	240.756	241.247	241.937	2.7	.5	.3
Alcoholic beverages	216.560	215.009	214.769	.9	-.8	-.1
Housing	208.087	208.260	208.411	1.6	.2	.1
Shelter	231.018	231.197	231.840	2.4	.4	.3
Rent of primary residence ¹	232.700	232.796	233.476	2.3	.3	.3
Owners' equivalent rent of residences ^{1 2}	234.211	234.868	235.475	2.4	.5	.3
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	234.195	234.854	235.460	2.4	.5	.3
Fuels and utilities	223.698	224.660	223.272	-1.7	-.2	-.6
Household energy	187.787	188.566	187.166	-3.7	-.3	-.7
Energy services ¹	187.611	188.379	186.963	-3.7	-.3	-.8
Electricity ¹	188.364	188.164	187.246	-2.3	-.6	-.5
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	167.119	174.145	169.592	-12.7	1.5	-2.6
Household furnishings and operations	126.687	126.228	125.699	.1	-.8	-.4
Apparel	130.628	130.673	136.002	1.8	4.1	4.1
Transportation	212.387	218.593	221.886	3.5	4.5	1.5
Private transportation	210.708	217.218	220.575	3.7	4.7	1.5
New and used motor vehicles ³	102.371	102.167	101.321	.0	-1.0	-.8
New vehicles	149.165	148.974	148.866	1.1	-.2	-.1
New cars and trucks ^{3 4}	101.467	101.355	101.282	1.0	-.2	-.1
New cars ⁴	152.850	152.604	152.162	-.2	-.5	-.3
Used cars and trucks	154.020	153.174	149.538	-1.2	-2.9	-2.4
Motor fuel	288.059	311.984	325.908	7.1	13.1	4.5
Gasoline (all types)	286.683	310.801	324.748	7.0	13.3	4.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁴	285.586	309.802	324.073	7.1	13.5	4.6
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{4 5}	298.567	323.485	337.264	6.7	13.0	4.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁴	283.928	307.045	319.409	7.0	12.5	4.0
Medical care	397.983	396.445	397.093	4.0	-.2	.2
Medical care commodities	316.520	315.740	314.590	2.6	-.6	-.4
Medical care services	425.666	423.823	425.257	4.5	-.1	.3
Professional services	343.948	345.137	345.383	2.6	.4	.1
Recreation ³	114.859	114.747	114.805	1.0	.0	.1
Education and communication ³	130.080	130.494	130.860	1.7	.6	.3
Other goods and services	385.498	385.888	386.390	1.5	.2	.1
Commodity and service group						
All items	222.667	223.919	225.052	2.1	1.1	.5
Commodities	186.881	189.172	190.961	2.0	2.2	.9
Commodities less food and beverages	163.844	166.892	169.224	2.1	3.3	1.4
Nondurables less food and beverages	214.331	221.052	226.817	3.7	5.8	2.6
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	265.471	276.044	282.177	4.2	6.3	2.2
Durables	116.638	116.168	115.209	-.8	-1.2	-.8
Services	259.363	259.643	260.167	2.2	.3	.2
Rent of shelter ²	237.356	237.539	238.199	2.4	.4	.3
Transportation services	285.620	286.428	287.502	2.4	.7	.4

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—		
	July 2012	Aug. 2012	Sep. 2012	Sep. 2011	July 2012	Aug. 2012
Commodity and service group						
Other services	311.721	312.393	313.283	2.3	0.5	0.3
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	212.801	214.159	215.301	2.0	1.2	.5
All items less food	220.845	222.221	223.465	2.2	1.2	.6
All items less shelter	220.816	222.527	223.874	2.0	1.4	.6
Commodities less food	165.624	168.563	170.836	2.1	3.1	1.3
Nondurables	223.255	227.061	230.369	2.8	3.2	1.5
Nondurables less food	214.258	220.558	226.016	3.6	5.5	2.5
Nondurables less food and apparel	260.061	269.638	275.245	4.0	5.8	2.1
Services less rent of shelter ²	295.188	295.602	295.967	2.0	.3	.1
Services less medical care services	244.358	244.760	245.218	2.0	.4	.2
Energy	229.546	240.837	246.437	2.4	7.4	2.3
All items less energy	222.541	222.605	223.211	2.0	.3	.3
All items less food and energy	221.077	221.072	221.714	2.1	.3	.3
Commodities less food and energy commodities	149.402	149.052	149.522	.5	.1	.3
Energy commodities	291.982	315.756	329.546	6.9	12.9	4.4
Services less energy services	266.713	266.935	267.685	2.7	.4	.3

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.