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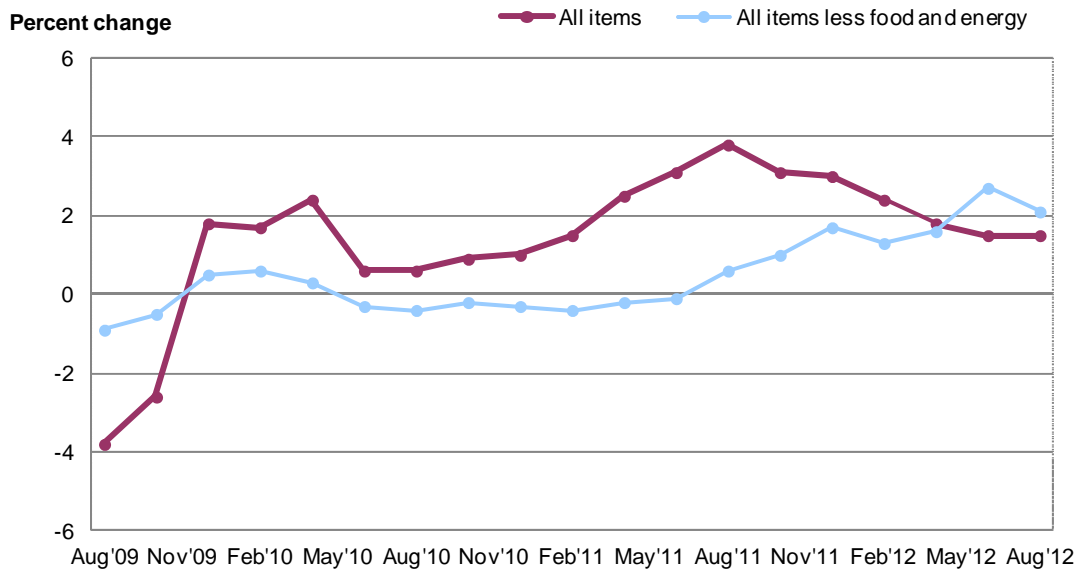
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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, ATLANTA—AUGUST 2012
Area prices up 0.6 percent over the two months and 1.5 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Atlanta increased 0.6 percent over the two months, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that energy prices increased 5.7 percent while food prices were unchanged. The index for all items less food and energy edged down 0.2 percent in August. (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 rose 1.5 percent. Annual increases were registered in a number of categories, including medical care and shelter. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.1 percent over the year. (See chart 1.)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Food

Food prices were unchanged during the July-August pricing period. Prices for both food away from home and food at home were little changed.

Over the year, the food index rose 1.7 percent as prices increased for both food at home (1.6 percent) and food away from home (1.9 percent).

Energy

The energy index advanced 5.7 percent over the two-month pricing period, primarily due to a 10.0 percent rise in motor fuel prices. Utility (piped) gas service prices rose 4.6 percent, while prices for electricity inched down 0.1 percent.

Over the year, the energy index declined 1.6 percent. Price decreases were recorded for utility (piped) gas service (-7.3 percent) and electricity (-2.1 percent), while prices for motor fuel increased 0.4 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy edged down 0.2 percent during the July-August pricing period, reflecting price decreases for shelter and recreation. Over the two months, price decreases were noted for used cars and trucks.

From August 2011 to August 2012, the index for all items less food and energy increased 2.1 percent. Within the all items less food and energy group, shelter (1.1 percent) and education and communication (2.1 percent) were among the indexes to record over-the-year increases.

Table A. Atlanta metropolitan area CPI-U 2-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month
February	0.0	2.7	0.7	4.8	1.1	-2.4	1.1	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.0	2.4
April	2.1	2.7	1.1	3.7	0.0	-3.5	0.7	2.4	1.7	2.5	1.1	1.8
June	1.6	3.2	2.7	4.9	2.2	-4.0	0.3	0.6	0.9	3.1	0.6	1.5
August	-0.5	2.0	-0.3	5.0	-0.1	-3.8	-0.1	0.6	0.6	3.8	0.6	1.5
October	0.3	4.8	-2.4	2.2	-1.1	-2.6	-0.8	0.9	-1.5	3.1	-	-
December	0.4	4.1	-4.6	-2.9	-0.3	1.8	-0.2	1.0	-0.3	3.0	-	-

The October 2012 Consumer Price Index for Atlanta is scheduled to be released on Thursday, November 15, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. (ET).

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index for Atlanta is published bi-monthly. 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/homch17_a.htm.

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.**

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.

For personal assistance or further information on Consumer Price Indexes, as well as other Bureau products, contact the Southeast Information Office at (404) 893-4222 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Atlanta, GA (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
Expenditure category						
All Items	214.277	-	215.504	1.5	0.6	-
All items (1967=100)	646.194	-	649.894	-	-	-
Food and beverages	235.276	-	235.410	1.9	-0.7	-
Food	245.034	-	245.091	1.7	0.0	-
Food at home	238.562	239.174	238.220	1.6	-0.1	-0.4
Food away from home	255.834	-	256.460	1.9	0.2	-
Alcoholic beverages	148.074	-	148.886	3.3	0.5	-
Housing	204.258	-	203.762	0.5	-0.2	-
Shelter	211.276	209.165	210.180	1.1	-0.5	0.5
Rent of primary residence (1)	207.109	206.563	207.176	0.7	0.0	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences (1) (2)	208.533	206.222	207.226	1.3	-0.6	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence (1) (2)	208.533	206.222	207.226	1.3	-0.6	0.5
Fuels and utilities	298.730	-	301.209	-1.9	0.8	-
Household energy	268.936	270.105	271.642	-4.1	1.0	0.6
Energy Services (1)	268.195	269.511	270.959	-4.1	1.0	0.5
Electricity (1)	261.020	260.993	260.740	-2.1	-0.1	-0.1
Utility (piped) gas service (1)	230.924	235.643	241.447	-7.3	4.6	2.5
Household furnishings and operations	132.354	-	132.325	-0.4	0.0	-
Apparel	131.856	-	131.397	-4.8	-0.3	-
Transportation	207.264	-	214.485	1.6	3.5	-
Private transportation	205.826	-	214.217	1.5	4.1	-
Motor fuel	291.794	294.268	321.060	0.4	10.0	9.1
Gasoline (all types)	290.147	292.688	319.539	0.3	10.1	9.2
Unleaded regular (3)	287.522	290.262	317.114	0.3	10.3	9.3
Unleaded midgrade (3) (4)	350.125	352.695	384.954	0.3	9.9	9.1
Unleaded premium (3)	289.435	291.398	317.171	0.1	9.6	8.8
Medical Care	375.050	-	379.110	15.6	1.1	-
Recreation (5)	90.449	-	90.014	-0.5	-0.5	-
Education and communication (5)	126.957	-	128.272	2.1	1.0	-
Other goods and services	317.739	-	316.930	1.0	-0.3	-
Commodity and service group						
All Items	214.277	-	215.504	1.5	0.6	-
Commodities	181.819	-	184.721	0.5	1.6	-
Commodities less food & beverages	155.559	-	159.475	-0.2	2.5	-
Nondurables less food & beverages	195.229	-	203.245	-1.3	4.1	-
Durables	115.511	-	114.706	0.6	-0.7	-
Services	247.233	-	247.135	2.1	0.0	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	205.321	-	206.423	0.6	0.5	-
All items less shelter	221.082	-	223.463	1.5	1.1	-
Commodities less food	154.923	-	158.709	-0.1	2.4	-
Nondurables	213.425	-	218.108	0.4	2.2	-
Nondurables less food	190.530	-	197.984	-1.0	3.9	-
Services less rent of shelter (2)	305.481	-	306.841	2.7	0.4	-
Services less medical care services	232.099	-	231.729	0.8	-0.2	-
Energy	255.905	257.566	270.451	-1.6	5.7	5.0
All items less energy	209.360	-	209.038	2.0	-0.2	-
All items less food and energy	204.156	-	203.779	2.1	-0.2	-

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) 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. Data not seasonally adjusted.