



For Release: Friday, September 11, 2020

20-1741-ATL

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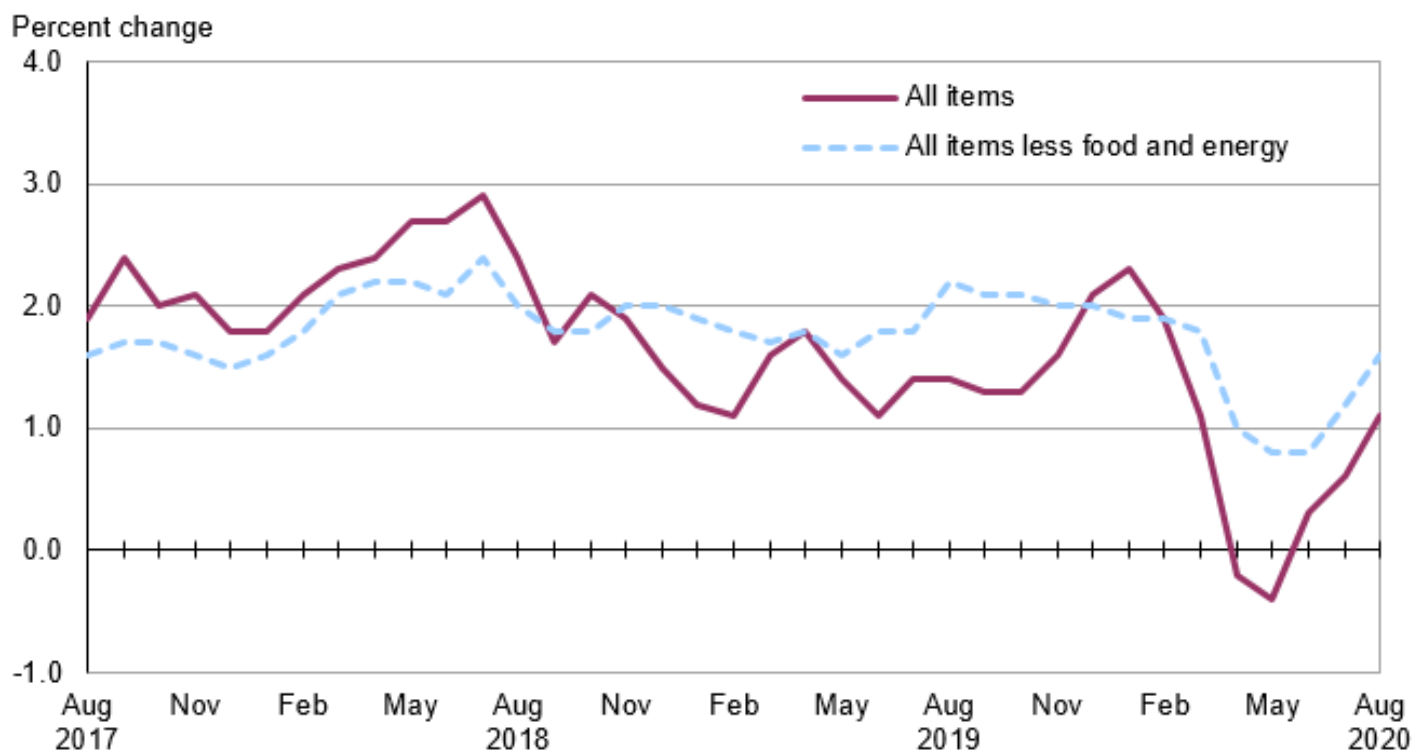
Consumer Price Index, South Region – August 2020

Prices in the South up 0.4 percent over the month and 1.1 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South rose 0.4 percent in August, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.6 percent from July to August, while the energy index declined 0.5 percent. The food index was unchanged over the month. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

The all items CPI-U for the South rose 1.1 percent for the 12 months ending August 2020. The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.6 percent over the past year, while the food index advanced 3.9 percent. In contrast, the energy index declined 9.4 percent over the past 12 months. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, South region, August 2017–August 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index was unchanged in August. The food away from home index edged up 0.2 percent over the month, while the food at home index inched down 0.1 percent.

The food index advanced 3.9 percent for the 12 months ending in August, reflecting increases in the food at home (4.9 percent) and food away from home (2.6 percent) indexes.

Energy

The energy index declined 0.5 percent in August, reflecting decreases in the gasoline (-0.7 percent), utility (piped) gas service (-2.3 percent), and electricity (-0.1 percent) indexes.

The energy index declined 9.4 percent for the 12 months ending in August, led by a 17.4-percent drop in the gasoline index. The electricity and the utility (piped) gas service indexes also declined over the past year, down 1.2 percent and 2.4 percent, respectively.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.6 percent in August. Several indexes increased over the month, most notably used cars and trucks (5.9 percent) and shelter (0.3 percent).

The index for all items less food and energy rose 1.6 percent for the 12 months ending in August. The shelter index increased 2.4 percent over the 12-month span, and the medical care index rose 3.6 percent—reflecting a 4.9 percent increase for medical care services. Apparel was among the indexes to decline over the year, down 7.4 percent.

Geographic divisions

Additional price indexes are now available for the three divisions of the South. The all items CPI-U for the South Atlantic division rose 0.5 percent in August. The all items index for the East South Central and West South Central divisions also increased in August, up 0.3 percent and 0.2 percent, respectively.

The all items index advanced 1.5 percent in the South Atlantic division for the 12 months ending in August. Over the past year, the all items index rose 1.0 percent in the East South Central division and 0.4 percent in the West South Central division.

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

Month	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.0	1.2	0.5	2.6	0.5	1.8	0.2	1.2	0.3	2.3
February.....	0.1	0.7	0.2	2.8	0.6	2.1	0.5	1.1	0.2	1.9
March.....	0.6	0.7	0.0	2.2	0.2	2.3	0.7	1.6	-0.1	1.1
April.....	0.4	0.9	0.2	2.0	0.4	2.4	0.5	1.8	-0.8	-0.2
May.....	0.4	0.9	0.0	1.7	0.3	2.7	-0.1	1.4	-0.2	-0.4
June.....	0.4	0.8	0.2	1.5	0.2	2.7	-0.1	1.1	0.6	0.3
July.....	-0.2	0.7	-0.2	1.6	0.0	2.9	0.3	1.4	0.6	0.6
August.....	0.1	1.0	0.4	1.9	-0.1	2.4	-0.1	1.4	0.4	1.1
September.....	0.2	1.4	0.7	2.4	0.0	1.7	0.0	1.3		
October.....	0.1	1.5	-0.2	2.0	0.2	2.1	0.2	1.3		
November.....	-0.1	1.6	-0.1	2.1	-0.3	1.9	0.0	1.6		
December.....	0.1	2.0	-0.1	1.8	-0.5	1.5	0.0	2.1		

The Consumer Price Index for September 2020 is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, October 13, 2020.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact on August 2020 Consumer Price Index Data

Data collection by personal visit for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program has been suspended since March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in August was affected by the temporary closing or limited operations of certain types of establishments. These factors resulted in an increase in the number of prices considered temporarily unavailable and imputed. While the CPI program attempted to collect as much data as possible, many indexes are based on smaller amounts of collected prices than usual, and a small number of indexes that are normally published were not published this month. Additional information is available at www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.htm.

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 93 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 75 urban areas across the country from about 5,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 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.

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.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (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. 2020	Jul. 2020	Aug. 2020	Aug. 2019	Jun. 2020	Jul. 2020
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	247.223	248.619	249.639	1.1	1.0	0.4
All items (December 1977=100).....	401.030	403.295	404.949	-	-	-
Food and beverages	265.795	264.373	264.458	3.7	-0.5	0.0
Food	267.440	266.084	266.136	3.9	-0.5	0.0
Food at home	253.705	250.534	250.281	4.9	-1.3	-0.1
Cereal and bakery products	291.619	292.139	291.189	3.5	-0.1	-0.3
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	274.815	265.055	260.434	7.2	-5.2	-1.7
Dairy and related products	228.151	226.335	231.615	5.2	1.5	2.3
Fruits and vegetables	289.884	288.508	287.130	1.2	-1.0	-0.5
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....	178.786	177.456	178.385	5.8	-0.2	0.5
Other food at home	221.096	219.653	220.955	5.5	-0.1	0.6
Food away from home.....	290.776	292.021	292.515	2.6	0.6	0.2
Alcoholic beverages	242.664	240.369	240.886	1.0	-0.7	0.2
Housing	248.845	249.635	250.273	2.0	0.6	0.3
Shelter	288.558	289.271	290.072	2.4	0.5	0.3
Rent of primary residence	304.267	305.309	305.966	3.1	0.6	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1).....	291.061	292.061	292.725	2.6	0.6	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)	291.065	292.066	292.729	2.6	0.6	0.2
Fuels and utilities.....	240.051	240.888	240.691	-0.3	0.3	-0.1
Household energy	191.329	192.190	191.407	-1.3	0.0	-0.4
Energy services.....	191.845	192.625	191.812	-1.4	0.0	-0.4
Electricity	190.648	191.208	190.939	-1.2	0.2	-0.1
Utility (piped) gas service	183.975	186.156	181.795	-2.4	-1.2	-2.3
Household furnishings and operations.....	126.023	126.993	127.567	2.1	1.2	0.5
Apparel	123.677	122.242	123.292	-7.4	-0.3	0.9
Transportation	193.989	199.550	201.553	-4.0	3.9	1.0
Private transportation	194.101	200.137	202.515	-3.1	4.3	1.2
New and used motor vehicles(2).....	100.595	102.133	104.424	1.5	3.8	2.2
New vehicles	152.551	152.806	152.499	-0.4	0.0	-0.2
New cars and trucks(2)(3).....	103.866	104.036	103.824	-0.4	0.0	-0.2
New cars(3).....	152.070	152.137	151.954	-0.8	-0.1	-0.1
Used cars and trucks.....	138.443	142.878	151.267	4.2	9.3	5.9
Motor fuel	168.104	178.531	177.321	-17.4	5.5	-0.7
Gasoline (all types).....	166.921	177.501	176.306	-17.4	5.6	-0.7
Unleaded regular(3)	161.303	171.837	170.595	-18.0	5.8	-0.7
Unleaded midgrade(3)(4)	194.187	204.942	204.100	-14.4	5.1	-0.4
Unleaded premium(3).....	196.945	206.574	205.964	-13.3	4.6	-0.3
Motor vehicle insurance(5).....	848.411	924.471	929.647	-2.3	9.6	0.6
Medical care	489.332	491.186	492.367	3.6	0.6	0.2
Medical care commodities.....	351.561	351.776	350.592	-1.9	-0.3	-0.3
Medical care services.....	535.983	538.389	540.367	4.9	0.8	0.4
Professional services	372.352	374.077	374.339	2.1	0.5	0.1
Recreation(2).....	121.338	120.971	121.889	1.3	0.5	0.8
Education and communication(2).....	133.907	134.999	135.936	2.2	1.5	0.7
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(5) ..	1,361.098	1,363.901	1,371.846	2.1	0.8	0.6
Other goods and services	439.636	442.820	443.482	2.8	0.9	0.1
Commodity and service group						
All Items.....	247.223	248.619	249.639	1.1	1.0	0.4
Commodities	181.866	182.854	183.915	-0.3	1.1	0.6

Note: 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. 2020	Jul. 2020	Aug. 2020	Aug. 2019	Jun. 2020	Jul. 2020
Commodities less food and beverages	144.096	145.904	147.270	-2.7	2.2	0.9
Nondurables less food and beverages	182.176	184.897	185.024	-6.5	1.6	0.1
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	218.370	223.410	223.040	-6.3	2.1	-0.2
Durables	106.699	107.789	109.716	1.3	2.8	1.8
Services	313.226	315.038	315.995	2.0	0.9	0.3
Rent of shelter(1)	296.546	297.272	298.111	2.4	0.5	0.3
Transportation services	335.516	347.221	347.612	-3.5	3.6	0.1
Other services	351.047	352.837	354.860	2.6	1.1	0.6
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	234.090	235.457	236.464	0.8	1.0	0.4
All items less food	243.872	245.686	246.852	0.6	1.2	0.5
All items less shelter	232.191	233.855	234.962	0.5	1.2	0.5
Commodities less food	146.975	148.689	150.039	-2.6	2.1	0.9
Nondurables	221.810	222.551	222.658	-1.0	0.4	0.0
Nondurables less food	185.416	187.833	187.983	-6.0	1.4	0.1
Nondurables less food and apparel	219.457	223.811	223.523	-5.6	1.9	-0.1
Services less rent of shelter(1)	344.078	347.300	348.434	1.5	1.3	0.3
Services less medical care services	293.366	295.117	295.987	1.6	0.9	0.3
Energy	176.191	181.487	180.522	-9.4	2.5	-0.5
All items less energy	255.764	256.779	258.003	1.9	0.9	0.5
All items less food and energy	254.164	255.588	257.015	1.6	1.1	0.6
Commodities less food and energy commodities	144.501	145.197	146.846	0.0	1.6	1.1
Energy commodities	171.552	182.064	180.870	-17.1	5.4	-0.7
Services less energy services	326.079	328.000	329.140	2.2	0.9	0.3

Footnotes

- (1) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.
- (2) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.
- (3) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.
- (4) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.
- (5) Indexes on a December 1977=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.