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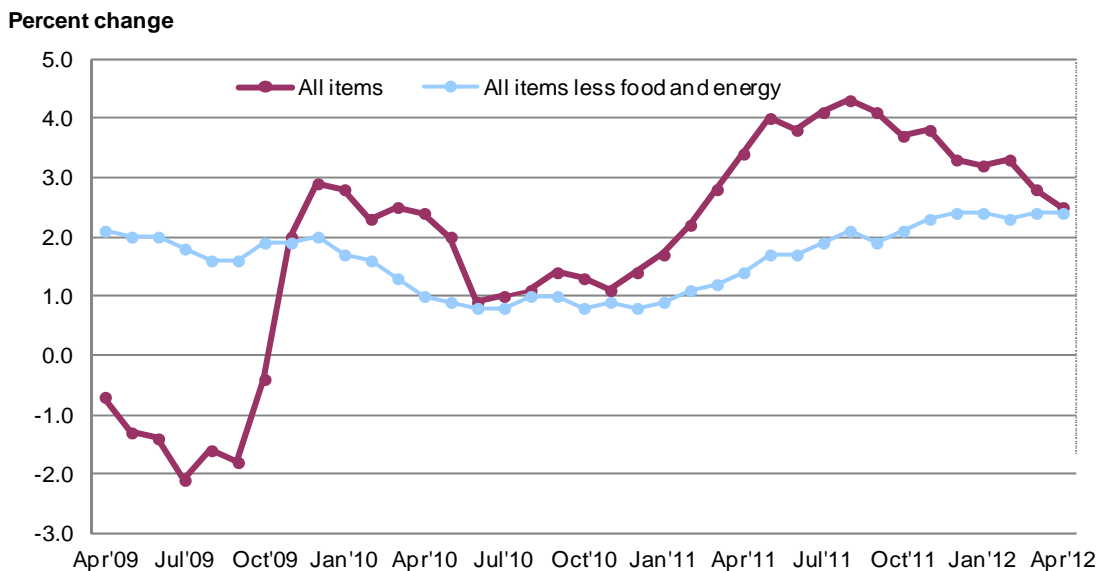
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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, SOUTH REGION – APRIL 2012
Prices in the South up 0.4 percent over the month and 2.5 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South increased 0.4 percent in April, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that energy prices advanced 1.9 percent over the month and the index for all items less food and energy edged up 0.2 percent. Within the all items less food and energy group, shelter and used cars and trucks were among those indexes that recorded increases. Food prices rose 0.3 percent over the month. (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 2.5 percent. The index for all items less food and energy rose 2.4 percent over the year. (See chart 1.)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Food

Food prices rose 0.3 percent in April. Prices for food at home increased 0.4 percent over the month and prices for food away from home edged up 0.2 percent.

Since April 2011, the index for food advanced 3.3 percent as prices for both food at home and food away from home increased, up 3.7 and 2.6 percent, respectively.

Energy

The energy index rose 1.9 percent in April, led by a 2.8-percent advance in motor fuel prices. Electricity and utility (piped) gas service each increased 0.5 percent over the month.

Over the year, energy prices advanced 1.8 percent as motor fuel prices increased 3.6 percent and prices for electricity rose 1.2 percent. A 7.8-percent drop in prices for utility (piped) gas service helped moderate the overall increase in the energy index.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy edged up 0.2 percent in April. Among the components of the index recording increases were shelter (0.2 percent), used cars and trucks (1.6 percent), and apparel (0.7 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.4 percent, led by price increases for shelter (2.3 percent), medical care (3.7 percent), and education and communication (2.6 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	-	-
June	0.4	2.7	1.1	5.3	1.0	-1.4	-0.1	0.9	-0.2	3.8	-	-
July	-0.1	2.3	0.5	5.8	-0.3	-2.1	-0.1	1.0	0.2	4.1	-	-
August	-0.3	2.0	-0.4	5.6	0.1	-1.6	0.2	1.1	0.4	4.3	-	-
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 May 2012 Consumer Price Index for the South region is scheduled to be released on Thursday, June 14, 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 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.**

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; 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, South (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Feb. 2012	Mar. 2012	Apr. 2012	Apr. 2011	Feb. 2012	Mar. 2012
Expenditure category						
All Items	221.802	223.314	224.275	2.5	1.1	0.4
All items (December 1977=100)	359.793	362.247	363.806	-	-	-
Food and beverages	231.038	231.128	231.858	3.2	0.4	0.3
Food	232.026	232.120	232.868	3.3	0.4	0.3
Food at home	229.662	229.613	230.556	3.7	0.4	0.4
Food away from home	238.077	238.396	238.849	2.6	0.3	0.2
Alcoholic beverages	216.650	216.677	217.143	2.4	0.2	0.2
Housing	205.748	205.902	206.344	2.0	0.3	0.2
Shelter	228.953	229.559	229.971	2.3	0.4	0.2
Rent of primary residence (1)	230.952	231.251	231.577	2.8	0.3	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of residences (1) (2)	232.389	232.812	233.301	2.1	0.4	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence (1) (2)	232.377	232.801	233.289	2.1	0.4	0.2
Fuels and utilities	216.461	214.833	216.285	1.3	-0.1	0.7
Household energy	181.665	179.653	180.496	0.0	-0.6	0.5
Energy services (1)	180.963	178.814	179.740	0.0	-0.7	0.5
Electricity (1)	179.440	177.701	178.624	1.2	-0.5	0.5
Utility (piped) gas service (1)	175.870	171.226	172.100	-7.8	-2.1	0.5
Household furnishings and operations	126.916	126.737	126.539	0.7	-0.3	-0.2
Apparel	131.898	136.320	137.318	4.0	4.1	0.7
Transportation	216.121	221.532	224.411	3.2	3.8	1.3
Private transportation	214.719	220.123	222.915	3.3	3.8	1.3
New and used motor vehicles (3)	100.846	101.240	101.644	2.3	0.8	0.4
New vehicles	149.871	149.849	149.553	2.0	-0.2	-0.2
New cars and trucks (3) (4)	101.958	101.939	101.742	2.0	-0.2	-0.2
New cars (4)	153.837	153.510	153.356	2.3	-0.3	-0.1
Used cars and trucks	145.694	147.255	149.572	3.9	2.7	1.6
Motor fuel	309.196	327.880	336.942	3.6	9.0	2.8
Gasoline (all types)	307.842	326.609	335.932	3.5	9.1	2.9
Unleaded regular (4)	307.333	326.407	335.828	3.5	9.3	2.9
Unleaded midgrade (4) (5)	319.583	338.268	347.962	3.6	8.9	2.9
Unleaded premium (4)	302.167	319.469	327.968	3.6	8.5	2.7
Medical care	390.451	391.985	392.696	3.7	0.6	0.2
Medical care commodities	312.951	314.571	315.456	3.1	0.8	0.3
Medical care services	416.533	417.996	418.614	3.8	0.5	0.1
Professional services	337.571	338.519	339.012	1.4	0.4	0.1
Recreation (3)	114.094	114.799	114.791	0.5	0.6	0.0
Education and communication (3)	129.902	129.844	129.905	2.6	0.0	0.0
Other goods and services	382.425	383.842	385.596	2.1	0.8	0.5

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-		
	Feb. 2012	Mar. 2012	Apr. 2012	Apr. 2011	Feb. 2012	Mar. 2012
Commodity and service group						
All Items	221.802	223.314	224.275	2.5	1.1	0.4
Commodities	188.600	191.202	192.462	2.7	2.0	0.7
Commodities less food and beverages	166.620	170.199	171.647	2.4	3.0	0.9
Nondurables less food and beverages	220.622	227.992	230.810	3.3	4.6	1.2
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	274.686	283.854	287.743	3.1	4.8	1.4
Durables	116.046	116.001	116.140	0.8	0.1	0.1
Services	256.031	256.526	257.215	2.4	0.5	0.3
Rent of shelter (2)	235.247	235.848	236.279	2.3	0.4	0.2
Transportation services	282.662	284.125	285.284	2.5	0.9	0.4
Other services	308.828	309.631	310.523	2.4	0.5	0.3
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	212.230	213.726	214.687	2.4	1.2	0.4
All items less food	220.002	221.735	222.728	2.4	1.2	0.4
All items less shelter	220.447	222.351	223.549	2.6	1.4	0.5
Commodities less food	168.339	171.838	173.265	2.4	2.9	0.8
Nondurables	226.246	230.296	232.165	3.3	2.6	0.8
Nondurables less food	220.233	227.227	229.924	3.3	4.4	1.2
Nondurables less food and apparel	268.519	276.928	280.531	3.1	4.5	1.3
Services less rent of shelter (2)	290.199	290.574	291.612	2.5	0.5	0.4
Services less medical care services	241.437	241.865	242.545	2.2	0.5	0.3
Energy	235.949	243.392	247.957	1.8	5.1	1.9
All items less energy	220.810	221.623	222.159	2.5	0.6	0.2
All items less food and energy	219.214	220.157	220.656	2.4	0.7	0.2
Commodities less food and energy commodities	149.175	150.320	150.572	2.0	0.9	0.2
Energy commodities	313.344	331.969	340.895	3.6	8.8	2.7
Services less energy services	263.787	264.592	265.250	2.6	0.6	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) 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.