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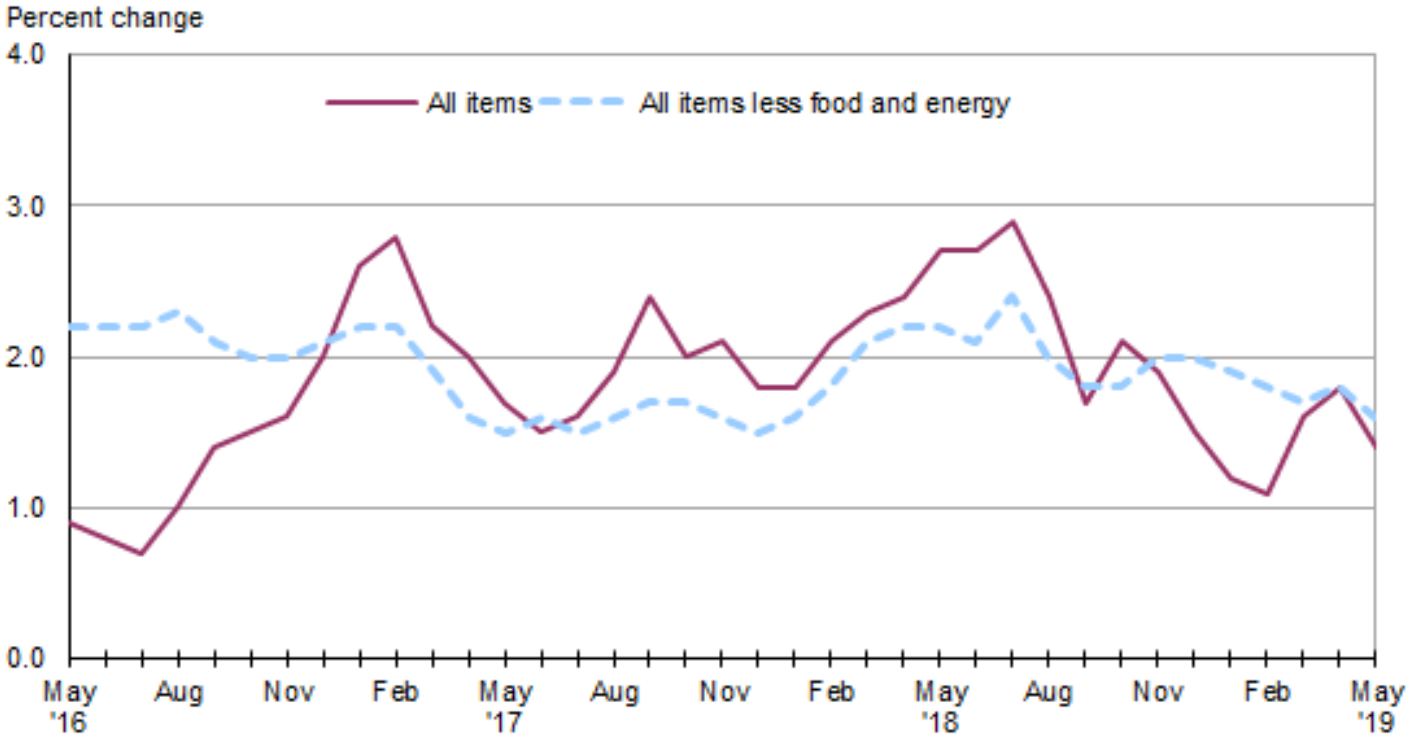
Consumer Price Index, South Region – May 2019

Prices in the South down 0.1 percent over the month; up 1.4 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South declined 0.1 percent in May, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The all items less food and energy index inched down 0.1 percent and the food index edged down 0.2 percent over the month. The energy index also declined in May, down 0.1 percent. (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 increased 1.4 percent from May 2018 to May 2019. Over the year, the all items less food and energy index advanced 1.6 percent and the food index rose 1.9 percent. The energy index declined 1.7 percent over the 12 months. (See chart 1 and table 1.)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, South region, May 2016–May 2019



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food
The food index edged down 0.2 percent in May, led by a 0.4 percent decline in the food at home index as the index for fruits and vegetables fell 2.1 percent. The food away from home index was little changed from April, up 0.1 percent in May.

The food index advanced 1.9 percent since May 2018, reflecting increases in the food away from home index (3.1 percent) and the food at home index (1.0 percent).

Energy
The energy index inched down 0.1 percent in May, reflecting declines in the gasoline index (-0.1 percent) and the utility (piped) gas service index (-1.2 percent). In contrast, the electricity index edged up 0.2 percent over the month.

The energy index decreased 1.7 percent for the 12 months ending May 2019, led by declines in the gasoline index (-3.5 percent) and the utility (piped) gas service index (-2.3 percent). Over the year, the electricity index was up 1.1 percent.

All items less food and energy
The index for all items less food and energy inched down 0.1 percent in May. Several categories recorded declines, most notably recreation (-1.2 percent) and new and used motor vehicles (-0.8 percent). The shelter and medical care indexes edged up slightly over the month, up 0.3 and 0.2 percent, respectively.

Since May 2018, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 1.6 percent, reflecting increases for the shelter index (2.9 percent) and the recreation index (2.6 percent).

Geographic divisions
Additional price indexes are now available for the three divisions of the South. Since April, the all items CPI-U inched down 0.1 percent in the South Atlantic and the East South Central divisions. The all items index in the West South division was unchanged.

Since May 2018, the all items index advanced 1.9 percent in the South Atlantic division. Over the year, the all items index rose 1.0 percent in the West South Central division and 0.3 percent in the East South Central division.

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

Month	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January	-0.7	-0.4	0.0	1.2	0.5	2.6	0.5	1.8	0.2	1.2
February	0.5	-0.3	0.1	0.7	0.2	2.8	0.6	2.1	0.5	1.1
March	0.6	-0.3	0.6	0.7	0.0	2.2	0.2	2.3	0.7	1.6
April	0.3	-0.6	0.4	0.9	0.2	2.0	0.4	2.4	0.5	1.8
May	0.4	-0.4	0.4	0.9	0.0	1.7	0.3	2.7	-0.1	1.4
June	0.5	-0.1	0.4	0.8	0.2	1.5	0.2	2.7		
July	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	0.7	-0.2	1.6	0.0	2.9		
August	-0.2	-0.2	0.1	1.0	0.4	1.9	-0.1	2.4		
September	-0.2	-0.4	0.2	1.4	0.7	2.4	0.0	1.7		
October	0.0	-0.1	0.1	1.5	-0.2	2.0	0.2	2.1		
November	-0.2	0.3	-0.1	1.6	-0.1	2.1	-0.3	1.9		
December	-0.4	0.5	0.1	2.0	-0.1	1.8	-0.5	1.5		

The Consumer Price Index for June 2019 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, July 11, 2019.

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.

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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-		
	Mar. 2019	Apr. 2019	May 2019	May 2018	Mar. 2019	Apr. 2019
Expenditure category						
All Items	245.554	246.847	246.667	1.4	0.5	-0.1
All items (December 1977=100)	398.323	400.419	400.128	-	-	-
Food and beverages	254.988	255.061	254.705	2.0	-0.1	-0.1
Food	256.326	256.387	255.978	1.9	-0.1	-0.2
Food at home	240.947	240.477	239.622	1.0	-0.5	-0.4
Cereal and bakery products	281.405	280.806	280.568	1.3	-0.3	-0.1
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	242.755	242.725	243.770	-0.2	0.4	0.4
Dairy and related products	220.743	221.183	219.780	0.9	-0.4	-0.6
Fruits and vegetables	293.784	293.617	287.366	1.5	-2.2	-2.1
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials	171.784	169.856	169.855	2.9	-1.1	0.0
Other food at home	210.701	210.464	210.338	0.6	-0.2	-0.1
Food away from home	281.996	282.804	283.012	3.1	0.4	0.1
Alcoholic beverages	235.885	236.128	236.554	2.4	0.3	0.2
Housing	242.290	242.715	243.136	2.5	0.3	0.2
Shelter	279.940	280.555	281.372	2.9	0.5	0.3
Rent of primary residence	291.899	293.032	293.788	3.4	0.6	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)	281.175	282.154	282.696	3.0	0.5	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)	281.171	282.153	282.698	3.0	0.5	0.2
Fuels and utilities	237.465	236.765	236.775	0.9	-0.3	0.0
Household energy	190.571	189.722	189.698	0.6	-0.5	0.0
Energy services	190.672	189.806	189.793	0.6	-0.5	0.0
Electricity	188.748	187.991	188.298	1.1	-0.2	0.2
Utility (piped) gas service	187.655	186.107	183.880	-2.3	-2.0	-1.2
Household furnishings and operations	123.671	124.156	123.579	1.5	-0.1	-0.5
Apparel	135.636	136.487	135.596	-3.4	0.0	-0.7
Transportation	209.792	214.361	213.605	-0.5	1.8	-0.4
Private transportation	208.776	213.339	212.324	-0.5	1.7	-0.5
New and used motor vehicles(2)	102.548	102.708	101.927	0.5	-0.6	-0.8
New vehicles	154.512	154.906	154.037	1.0	-0.3	-0.6
New cars and trucks(2)(3)	105.196	105.467	104.876	1.0	-0.3	-0.6
New cars(3)	154.414	154.950	153.797	1.2	-0.4	-0.7
Used cars and trucks	141.988	141.706	139.834	0.0	-1.5	-1.3
Motor fuel	215.717	234.413	234.131	-3.5	8.5	-0.1
Gasoline (all types)	214.333	233.301	232.977	-3.5	8.7	-0.1
Unleaded regular(3)	209.064	227.884	227.542	-3.6	8.8	-0.2
Unleaded midgrade(3)(4)	237.862	256.958	256.452	-2.8	7.8	-0.2
Unleaded premium(3)	235.636	253.801	253.724	-2.5	7.7	0.0
Motor vehicle insurance(5)	954.844	949.752	944.421	0.3	-1.1	-0.6
Medical care	468.551	470.483	471.203	1.3	0.6	0.2
Medical care commodities	356.655	357.944	357.919	-3.0	0.4	0.0
Medical care services	506.308	508.458	509.438	2.4	0.6	0.2
Professional services	366.632	366.274	366.107	0.1	-0.1	0.0
Recreation(2)	121.886	121.906	120.480	2.6	-1.2	-1.2
Education and communication(2)	132.249	132.496	132.605	0.3	0.3	0.1
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(5)	1,330.374	1,330.655	1,332.079	2.7	0.1	0.1
Other goods and services	430.284	428.586	429.763	0.6	-0.1	0.3
Commodity and service group						
All Items	245.554	246.847	246.667	1.4	0.5	-0.1
Commodities	184.978	186.863	186.256	0.0	0.7	-0.3

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-		
	Mar. 2019	Apr. 2019	May 2019	May 2018	Mar. 2019	Apr. 2019
Commodities less food and beverages	152.007	154.428	153.763	-1.1	1.2	-0.4
Nondurables less food and beverages	198.968	204.815	204.604	-2.2	2.8	-0.1
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	238.288	246.911	247.045	-1.9	3.7	0.1
Durables	108.660	108.713	107.825	0.4	-0.8	-0.8
Services	306.479	307.121	307.399	2.3	0.3	0.1
Rent of shelter(1)	287.469	288.109	288.952	3.0	0.5	0.3
Transportation services	359.605	360.450	360.953	0.5	0.4	0.1
Other services	346.110	346.329	345.063	1.7	-0.3	-0.4
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	233.373	234.628	234.404	1.4	0.4	-0.1
All items less food	243.646	245.120	244.975	1.3	0.5	-0.1
All items less shelter	233.164	234.716	234.159	0.7	0.4	-0.2
Commodities less food	154.574	156.959	156.315	-1.0	1.1	-0.4
Nondurables	225.520	228.733	228.455	-0.1	1.3	-0.1
Nondurables less food	200.833	206.390	206.212	-2.0	2.7	-0.1
Nondurables less food and apparel	236.947	244.878	245.034	-1.6	3.4	0.1
Services less rent of shelter(1)	339.988	340.656	340.259	1.6	0.1	-0.1
Services less medical care services	288.450	288.971	289.193	2.3	0.3	0.1
Energy	198.068	206.745	206.597	-1.7	4.3	-0.1
All items less energy	251.680	252.140	251.957	1.7	0.1	-0.1
All items less food and energy	251.283	251.812	251.666	1.6	0.2	-0.1
Commodities less food and energy commodities	147.404	147.543	146.842	-0.4	-0.4	-0.5
Energy commodities	219.502	238.169	237.877	-3.5	8.4	-0.1
Services less energy services	318.723	319.531	319.841	2.4	0.4	0.1

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.