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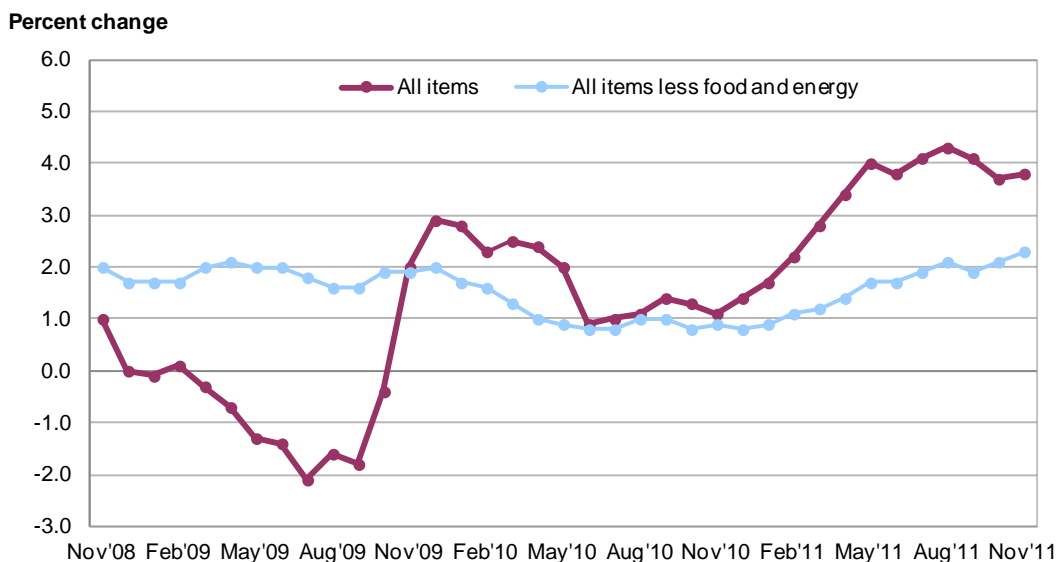
## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, SOUTH REGION – NOVEMBER 2011

### Prices in the South were unchanged over the month; up 3.8 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South was unchanged in November, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau’s regional commissioner, noted that energy prices declined 1.3 percent over the month, while the index for food was unchanged. The index for all items less food and energy edged up 0.2 percent in November. Within the all items less food and energy group, price increases for items including medical care, shelter, and apparel were largely offset by price decreases for used cars and trucks and recreation, among others. (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 3.8 percent. The index for all items less food and energy rose 2.3 percent over the year. (See chart 1.)

**Chart 1. 12-month percent change in CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), South region, November 2008–November 2011**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Food

Food prices were unchanged in November as a 0.2-percent decline in prices for food at home was offset by a 0.3-percent rise in prices for food away from home.

Since November 2010, the index for food advanced 4.9 percent, reflecting over-the-year increases in prices for food at home (6.3 percent) and food away from home (3.0 percent).

## Energy

The energy index declined 1.3 percent in November, reflecting decreases in prices for electricity (-1.9 percent), motor fuel (-1.0 percent), and utility (piped) gas service (-0.8 percent).

Over the year, energy prices advanced 13.7 percent, dominated by a 20.9-percent jump in motor fuel prices. During the same period, prices for electricity and utility (piped) gas service rose 4.1 and 1.4 percent, respectively.

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy edged up 0.2 percent in November. Among the components of the index recording increases were medical care (0.7 percent), shelter (0.1 percent), and apparel (0.6 percent). Lower prices for used cars and trucks (-1.3 percent) and recreation (-0.3 percent) helped to moderate the overall advance.

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.3 percent, reflecting higher prices for a number of components, led by shelter (1.9 percent), medical care (3.5 percent), and new and used motor vehicles (3.4 percent).

**The Consumer Price Index for December 2011 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, January 19, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. (ET).**

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

| Month     | 2006    |          | 2007    |          | 2008    |          | 2009    |          | 2010    |          | 2011    |          |
|-----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|
|           | 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   | 0.7     | 4.3      | 0.1     | 1.8      | 0.5     | 4.9      | 0.4     | -0.1     | 0.3     | 2.8      | 0.5     | 1.7      |
| February  | 0.2     | 3.8      | 0.5     | 2.2      | 0.3     | 4.6      | 0.5     | 0.1      | 0.0     | 2.3      | 0.5     | 2.2      |
| March     | 0.5     | 3.7      | 1.0     | 2.6      | 0.8     | 4.4      | 0.3     | -0.3     | 0.6     | 2.5      | 1.2     | 2.8      |
| April     | 1.0     | 4.0      | 0.9     | 2.5      | 0.7     | 4.2      | 0.3     | -0.7     | 0.1     | 2.4      | 0.7     | 3.4      |
| May       | 0.4     | 4.4      | 0.6     | 2.7      | 0.9     | 4.6      | 0.3     | -1.3     | 0.0     | 2.0      | 0.5     | 4.0      |
| June      | 0.4     | 4.5      | 0.4     | 2.7      | 1.1     | 5.3      | 1.0     | -1.4     | -0.1    | 0.9      | -0.2    | 3.8      |
| July      | 0.4     | 4.5      | -0.1    | 2.3      | 0.5     | 5.8      | -0.3    | -2.1     | -0.1    | 1.0      | 0.2     | 4.1      |
| August    | 0.1     | 4.1      | -0.3    | 2.0      | -0.4    | 5.6      | 0.1     | -1.6     | 0.2     | 1.1      | 0.4     | 4.3      |
| September | -0.7    | 2.0      | 0.3     | 3.0      | 0.1     | 5.4      | 0.0     | -1.8     | 0.2     | 1.4      | 0.0     | 4.1      |
| October   | -0.6    | 1.1      | 0.2     | 3.8      | -1.2    | 3.9      | 0.2     | -0.4     | 0.1     | 1.3      | -0.2    | 3.7      |
| November  | -0.2    | 1.9      | 0.6     | 4.7      | -2.2    | 1.0      | 0.2     | 2.0      | 0.0     | 1.1      | 0.0     | 3.8      |
| December  | 0.3     | 2.5      | 0.0     | 4.4      | -1.0    | 0.0      | -0.1    | 2.9      | 0.2     | 1.4      | -       | -        |

## 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 87 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 32 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 and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, *The Consumer Price Index*, available on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/cpi](http://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](http://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 Mid-Atlantic Information Office at (215) 597-3282 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 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- |           |           |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|
|  | Sep. 2011 | Oct. 2011 | Nov. 2011 | Nov. 2010            | Sep. 2011 | Oct. 2011 |
| <b>Expenditure category</b>                      |           |           |           |                      |           |           |
| All Items  | 220.371   | 219.969   | 219.961   | 3.8                  | -0.2      | 0.0       |
| All items (December 1977=100)                    | 357.472   | 356.820   | 356.807   | -                    | -         | -         |
| Food and beverages                               | 228.473   | 229.311   | 229.243   | 4.6                  | 0.3       | 0.0       |
| Food   | 229.526   | 230.382   | 230.365   | 4.9                  | 0.4       | 0.0       |
| Food at home                                     | 227.191   | 228.378   | 227.816   | 6.3                  | 0.3       | -0.2      |
| Food away from home                              | 235.519   | 235.923   | 236.665   | 3.0                  | 0.5       | 0.3       |
| Alcoholic beverages                              | 212.954   | 213.554   | 212.806   | 1.2                  | -0.1      | -0.4      |
| Housing  | 205.067   | 204.716   | 204.579   | 2.1                  | -0.2      | -0.1      |
| Shelter  | 226.320   | 227.027   | 227.341   | 1.9                  | 0.5       | 0.1       |
| Rent of primary residence (1)                    | 228.177   | 229.174   | 229.801   | 2.9                  | 0.7       | 0.3       |
| Owners' equiv. rent of residences (1) (2)        | 230.017   | 230.742   | 231.249   | 1.7                  | 0.5       | 0.2       |
| Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence (1) (2) | 230.001   | 230.727   | 231.235   | 1.7                  | 0.5       | 0.2       |
| Fuels and utilities                              | 227.082   | 219.539   | 216.830   | 4.1                  | -4.5      | -1.2      |
| Household energy                                 | 194.264   | 185.827   | 182.761   | 4.2                  | -5.9      | -1.6      |
| Energy services (1)                              | 194.147   | 185.417   | 182.189   | 3.8                  | -6.2      | -1.7      |
| Electricity (1)                                  | 191.604   | 182.489   | 179.049   | 4.1                  | -6.6      | -1.9      |
| Utility (piped) gas service (1)                  | 194.283   | 189.035   | 187.576   | 1.4                  | -3.5      | -0.8      |
| Household furnishings and operations             | 125.545   | 126.191   | 126.131   | 0.7                  | 0.5       | 0.0       |
| Apparel  | 133.593   | 135.906   | 136.744   | 4.1                  | 2.4       | 0.6       |
| Transportation                                   | 214.303   | 211.041   | 210.402   | 9.1                  | -1.8      | -0.3      |
| Private transportation                           | 212.706   | 209.368   | 208.729   | 9.3                  | -1.9      | -0.3      |
| New and used motor vehicles (3)                  | 101.336   | 100.857   | 100.351   | 3.4                  | -1.0      | -0.5      |
| New vehicles                                     | 147.301   | 147.228   | 147.112   | 3.2                  | -0.1      | -0.1      |
| New cars and trucks (3) (4)                      | 100.269   | 100.224   | 100.139   | 3.2                  | -0.1      | -0.1      |
| New cars (4)                                     | 152.434   | 152.093   | 151.876   | 4.3                  | -0.4      | -0.1      |
| Used cars and trucks                             | 151.329   | 149.668   | 147.733   | 4.9                  | -2.4      | -1.3      |
| Motor fuel                                       | 304.408   | 292.481   | 289.582   | 20.9                 | -4.9      | -1.0      |
| Gasoline (all types)                             | 303.366   | 291.179   | 287.917   | 20.7                 | -5.1      | -1.1      |
| Unleaded regular (4)                             | 302.543   | 290.203   | 286.906   | 20.9                 | -5.2      | -1.1      |
| Unleaded midgrade (4) (5)                        | 315.962   | 303.731   | 300.111   | 20.3                 | -5.0      | -1.2      |
| Unleaded premium (4)                             | 298.404   | 286.969   | 284.333   | 19.7                 | -4.7      | -0.9      |
| Medical care                                     | 381.856   | 383.731   | 386.472   | 3.5                  | 1.2       | 0.7       |
| Medical care commodities                         | 306.607   | 307.737   | 308.507   | 2.7                  | 0.6       | 0.3       |
| Medical care services                            | 407.102   | 409.272   | 412.843   | 3.8                  | 1.4       | 0.9       |
| Professional services                            | 336.500   | 337.107   | 337.430   | 2.4                  | 0.3       | 0.1       |
| Recreation (3)                                   | 113.630   | 113.622   | 113.320   | 0.5                  | -0.3      | -0.3      |
| Education and communication (3)                  | 128.626   | 128.847   | 129.152   | 1.9                  | 0.4       | 0.2       |
| Other goods and services                         | 380.752   | 381.696   | 383.115   | 2.1                  | 0.6       | 0.4       |

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- |              |              |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
|   | Sep.<br>2011 | Oct.<br>2011 | Nov.<br>2011 | Nov.<br>2010         | Sep.<br>2011 | Oct.<br>2011 |
| <b>Commodity and service group</b>            |              |              |              |                      |              |              |
| All Items                                     | 220.371      | 219.969      | 219.961      | 3.8                  | -0.2         | 0.0          |
| Commodities                                   | 187.163      | 186.510      | 186.215      | 5.6                  | -0.5         | -0.2         |
| Commodities less food and beverages           | 165.692      | 164.434      | 164.052      | 6.2                  | -1.0         | -0.2         |
| Nondurables less food and beverages           | 218.730      | 216.479      | 216.156      | 9.0                  | -1.2         | -0.1         |
| Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel | 270.760      | 265.929      | 264.955      | 10.6                 | -2.1         | -0.4         |
| Durables                                      | 116.104      | 115.773      | 115.336      | 1.6                  | -0.7         | -0.4         |
| Services                                      | 254.546      | 254.386      | 254.658      | 2.5                  | 0.0          | 0.1          |
| Rent of shelter (2)                           | 232.604      | 233.319      | 233.635      | 1.9                  | 0.4          | 0.1          |
| Transportation services                       | 280.696      | 280.889      | 282.604      | 3.5                  | 0.7          | 0.6          |
| Other services                                | 306.266      | 306.889      | 307.157      | 2.3                  | 0.3          | 0.1          |
| <b>Special aggregate indexes</b>              |              |              |              |                      |              |              |
| All items less medical care                   | 211.104      | 210.616      | 210.497      | 3.8                  | -0.3         | -0.1         |
| All items less food                           | 218.745      | 218.144      | 218.137      | 3.6                  | -0.3         | 0.0          |
| All items less shelter                        | 219.523      | 218.647      | 218.502      | 4.6                  | -0.5         | -0.1         |
| Commodities less food                         | 167.325      | 166.117      | 165.724      | 6.0                  | -1.0         | -0.2         |
| Nondurables                                   | 224.000      | 223.175      | 222.969      | 6.9                  | -0.5         | -0.1         |
| Nondurables less food                         | 218.209      | 216.122      | 215.775      | 8.6                  | -1.1         | -0.2         |
| Nondurables less food and apparel             | 264.556      | 260.215      | 259.265      | 9.8                  | -2.0         | -0.4         |
| Services less rent of shelter (2)             | 290.196      | 288.866      | 289.087      | 3.0                  | -0.4         | 0.1          |
| Services less medical care services           | 240.436      | 240.148      | 240.230      | 2.3                  | -0.1         | 0.0          |
| Energy  | 240.549      | 230.716      | 227.826      | 13.7                 | -5.3         | -1.3         |
| All items less energy                         | 218.746      | 219.413      | 219.732      | 2.7                  | 0.5          | 0.1          |
| All items less food and energy                | 217.224      | 217.859      | 218.239      | 2.3                  | 0.5          | 0.2          |
| Commodities less food and energy commodities  | 148.829      | 149.273      | 149.254      | 2.1                  | 0.3          | 0.0          |
| Energy commodities                            | 308.395      | 296.583      | 293.771      | 20.8                 | -4.7         | -0.9         |
| Services less energy services                 | 260.713      | 261.468      | 262.113      | 2.4                  | 0.5          | 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.