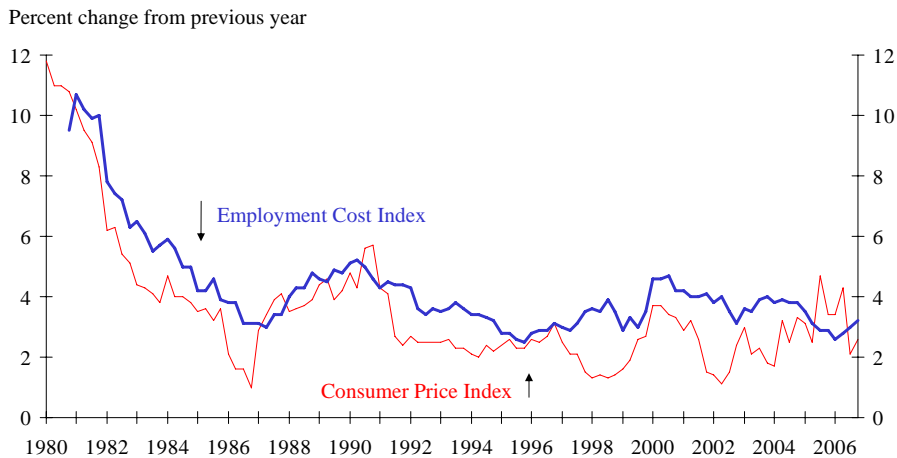


### Chart 1-15. Consumer prices usually increase more slowly than private employers' compensation costs

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NOTE: The Employment Cost Index is for private-sector workers. Beginning in 2001, data reflect NAICS-based classification of industries. The Consumer Price Index is the CPI-U-RS research series as of April 2007.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics

### Chart 1-15. Consumer prices usually increase more slowly than private employers' compensation costs

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- The Employment Cost Index (ECI) measures the costs to employers of both employee wages and benefits, and the Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures the average change in prices paid by consumers for a variety of goods and services.
- Changes in the ECI and the CPI have tracked fairly closely over time, though increases in the CPI tend to be smaller than those for the ECI.
- In 2005 and 2006, however, increases in consumer prices exceeded growth in private employers' compensation costs.