

News

United States
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EMPLOYMENT COST INDEX - JUNE 1986

The Employment Cost Index (ECI) increased 0.7 percent in the 3 months ended in June 1986, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The March-June 1986 increase matched the 0.7 percent gain in the same 3-month period last year. For the year ended June 1986, the ECI rose 4.0 percent--down from 4.6 percent a year ago. The ECI measures changes in compensation costs, which include wages, salaries, and employer costs for employee benefits.

Wages and salaries alone rose 4.1 percent over the year ended June 1986. The increase was higher for State and local government workers (5.7 percent) than for private industry workers (3.7 percent), who make up a great majority of employees covered by the ECI.

June 1985-86 pay increases in private industry were higher for workers in service-producing industries (4.1 percent) than for those in goods-producing industries (3.3 percent). Among goods-producing industries, increases ranged from 2.7 percent in construction to 4.3 percent in nondurable goods manufacturing. Pay gains in service-producing industries ranged from 2.5 percent in transportation to 5.2 percent in finance, insurance, and real estate, which was influenced by commission earnings of sales workers. (See table 4.)

Over-the-year wage and salary increases in private industry were higher for white-collar occupations (4.5 percent) than for blue-collar or service occupations (2.8 percent and 2.9 percent, respectively).

* Beginning with this release, ECI measures are based on *
* fixed employment counts from the 1980 Census of Popula- *
* tion rather than from the 1970 Census. The 1980 Census *
* occupational classification system specified new titles *
* for the occupational categories. See the explanatory *
* note for a comparison of the 1970 and 1980 titles. *
* *
* ECI estimates for the period March 1985 to March 1986 *
* will be recalculated, using the 1980 Census weights. The *
* recalculations, which will be available in September *
* 1986, will provide a one-year overlap for ECI estimates *
* based on 1970 and 1980 Census weights. *

Pay increases for nonunion workers (4.1 percent) exceeded those of union workers (2.5 percent) during the June 1985-86 period. This relationship held in goods-producing industries (3.9 percent compared with 2.3 percent), as well as in service-producing industries (4.4 and 2.9 percent, respectively). (See table 6.) Since the year which ended in December 1983, over-the-year pay gains for nonunion workers have consistently outpaced those of union workers.

The June 1986 ECI level stood at 131.5 for compensation costs, based on June 1981=100. Compensation cost increases over the 5-year period (June 1981-86) were 39.7 percent for State and local government workers, compared with 29.9 percent for private industry workers. Increases in private industry were larger for white-collar (32.5 percent) than for blue-collar (26.3 percent) occupations; larger for workers in service-producing (31.6 percent) than goods-producing (27.8 percent) industries; and larger for nonunion (30.2 percent) than for union (28.7 percent) workers.

The ECI covers private industry workers (excluding farms and households) and State and local government workers. It is not seasonally adjusted.

ECI data for September 1986 will be released on Tuesday, October 28, 1986, at 10:00 a.m. E.S.T.

COMPENSATION

Table 1. Employment Cost Index by occupation and industry group
(Not seasonally adjusted)

Series	Indexes (June 1981=100)				Percent Changes for						
	June 1985	March 1986	June 1986	June 1986	3 Months Ended		12 Months Ended		June 1985	March 1986	June 1986
					June 1985	March 1986	June 1986	June 1985			
Civilian workers	126.4	130.6	131.5	0.7	1.1	0.7	4.6	4.1	4.6	4.1	4.0
Workers, by occupational group											
White-collar occupations.....	128.3	133.1	134.2	.8	1.1	.8	5.1	4.6	5.1	4.6	4.6
Blue-collar occupations.....	123.1	126.2	126.8	.7	1.0	.5	3.8	3.3	3.8	3.3	3.0
Service occupations.....	128.0	133.1	133.7	.2	1.0	.5	4.8	4.1	4.8	4.1	4.5
Workers, by industry division											
Goods-producing 1/.....	123.9	126.9	128.1	.6	1.1	.9	4.2	3.0	4.2	3.0	3.4
Manufacturing.....	124.6	127.7	128.7	.6	1.3	.8	4.6	3.1	4.6	3.1	3.3
Service-producing 2/.....	127.9	132.9	133.7	.8	1.1	.6	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.5
Services.....	132.6	138.8	139.4	.5	1.2	.4	5.7	5.2	5.7	5.2	5.1
Health services.....	-	-	-	.5	1.2	1.0	-	3.6	-	3.6	4.1
Public administration	130.3	136.8	138.0	.2	1.5	.9	5.3	5.1	5.3	5.1	5.9
Nonmanufacturing.....	127.2	131.9	132.8	.8	1.0	.7	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.4
Private industry workers	125.2	128.9	129.9	.8	1.1	.8	4.2	3.8	4.2	3.8	3.8
Workers, by occupational group											
White-collar occupations.....	127.1	131.3	132.5	1.0	1.2	.9	4.7	4.4	4.7	4.4	4.2
Blue-collar occupations.....	122.8	125.7	126.3	.7	1.0	.5	3.7	3.1	3.7	3.1	2.9
Service occupations.....	126.5	130.9	131.1	.2	1.1	.2	4.4	3.6	4.4	3.6	3.6
Workers, by industry division											
Goods-producing 1/.....	123.8	126.7	127.8	.7	1.1	.9	4.2	3.0	4.2	3.0	3.2
Service-producing 2/.....	126.4	130.8	131.6	1.0	1.1	.6	4.2	4.5	4.2	4.5	4.1
State and local government workers.....	132.0	138.9	139.7	.2	1.0	.6	6.1	5.5	6.1	5.5	5.8
Workers, by occupational group											
White-collar occupations.....	132.9	140.0	140.5	.3	1.0	.4	6.3	5.7	6.3	5.7	5.7
Blue-collar occupations.....	128.5	134.7	136.3	.3	1.5	1.2	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.2	6.1
Workers, by industry division											
Services.....	133.2	140.4	140.8	.3	.9	.3	6.6	5.7	6.6	5.7	5.7
Hospitals and other services 3/.....	131.5	136.8	137.9	.3	1.2	.8	4.6	4.3	4.6	4.3	4.9
Health services.....	-	-	-	.1	.8	1.0	-	4.2	-	4.2	5.1
Schools.....	133.7	141.5	141.7	.2	.9	.1	7.2	6.1	7.2	6.1	6.0
Elementary and secondary.....	134.6	143.0	143.2	.1	.7	.1	7.1	6.4	7.1	6.4	6.4
Public administration	130.3	136.8	138.0	.2	1.5	.9	5.3	5.1	5.3	5.1	5.9

- Data not available.
NOTE: See footnotes at end of tables.

WAGES AND SALARIES

Table 2. Employment Cost Index for wages and salaries only, by occupation and industry group
(Not seasonally adjusted)

Series	Indexes (June 1981=100)				Percent Changes for					
	June 1985		June 1986		3 Months Ended		June 1986		12 Months Ended	
	June 1985	March 1986	June 1986	March 1986	June 1985	March 1986	June 1986	March 1986	June 1986	June 1986
Civilian workers	124.2	128.3	129.3	128.3	0.9	1.0	0.8	4.5	4.2	4.1
Workers, by occupational group										
White-collar occupations	126.4	131.2	132.4	132.4	1.0	1.1	.9	5.0	4.8	4.7
Blue-collar occupations	120.5	123.4	124.1	124.1	1.0	.9	.6	3.8	3.4	3.0
Service occupations	125.3	129.8	130.0	130.0	.4	.9	.2	4.6	4.0	3.8
Workers, by industry division										
Goods-producing 1/	121.5	124.4	125.6	125.6	1.0	1.1	1.0	4.3	3.4	3.4
Manufacturing	122.3	125.3	126.5	126.5	1.1	1.2	1.0	4.7	3.6	3.4
Service-producing 2/	125.8	130.7	131.5	131.5	.9	1.0	.6	4.6	4.8	4.5
Services	130.5	136.4	137.0	137.0	.6	1.2	.4	5.4	5.2	5.0
Health services	-	-	-	-	.7	1.1	.7	-	3.4	3.4
Public administration	127.2	133.8	134.6	134.6	.2	1.4	.6	4.9	5.4	5.8
Nonmanufacturing	125.0	129.6	130.4	130.4	.9	.9	.6	4.4	4.6	4.3
Private industry workers	123.3	126.8	127.9	127.9	1.1	1.0	.9	4.3	3.9	3.7
Workers, by occupational group										
White-collar occupations	125.5	129.6	131.1	131.1	1.2	1.0	1.2	4.7	4.5	4.5
Blue-collar occupations	120.3	123.1	123.7	123.7	1.0	.9	.5	3.8	3.4	2.8
Service occupations	124.4	128.0	128.0	128.0	.5	1.1	.0	4.3	3.4	2.9
Workers, by industry division										
Goods-producing 1/	121.4	124.2	125.4	125.4	1.0	1.1	1.0	4.3	3.3	3.3
Service-producing 2/	124.8	129.0	129.9	129.9	1.1	.9	.7	4.3	4.5	4.1
State and local government workers	128.7	135.5	136.0	136.0	.2	1.0	.4	5.5	5.5	5.7
Workers, by occupational group										
White-collar occupations	129.6	136.6	137.0	137.0	.2	1.0	.3	5.8	5.6	5.7
Blue-collar occupations	124.5	130.4	131.9	131.9	.2	1.6	1.2	4.1	5.0	5.9
Workers, by industry division										
Services	129.7	136.8	137.1	137.1	.2	.9	.2	5.9	5.7	5.7
Hospitals and other services 3/	128.0	132.4	133.3	133.3	.2	1.1	.7	4.0	3.7	4.1
Health services	-	-	-	-	.1	.7	.7	-	3.7	4.3
Schools	130.2	138.0	138.2	138.2	.2	.7	.1	6.5	6.2	6.1
Elementary and secondary	131.1	139.4	139.4	139.4	.2	.6	.0	6.6	6.6	6.3
Public administration	127.2	133.8	134.6	134.6	.2	1.4	.6	4.9	5.4	5.8

- Data not available.
NOTE: See footnotes at end of tables.

COMPENSATION

Table 3. Employment Cost Index, private industry workers, by occupation and industry group
(Not seasonally adjusted)

Series	Indexes (June 1981=100)				Percent Changes for						
	June 1985	March 1986	June 1986	June 1985	3 Months Ended		12 Months Ended		June 1985	March 1986	June 1986
					March 1986	June 1986	June 1985	March 1986			
Private industry workers	125.2	128.9	129.9	0.8	1.1	0.8	4.2	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8
Excluding sales	125.5	129.1	130.0	.8	1.2	.7	4.1	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.6
Workers, by occupational group											
White-collar occupations	127.1	131.3	132.5	1.0	1.2	.9	4.7	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.2
Excluding sales	128.1	132.2	133.4	1.1	1.4	.9	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.1
Professional specialty and technical	-	-	-	-	1.1	.7	-	-	-	-	-
Executive, administrative, and managerial	-	-	-	-	1.6	1.1	-	-	-	-	-
Administrative support, including clerical	-	-	-	-	1.3	.8	-	-	-	-	-
Blue-collar occupations	122.8	125.7	126.3	.7	1.0	.5	3.7	3.1	3.1	2.9	2.9
Precision production, craft, and repair	-	-	-	-	1.3	.5	-	-	-	-	-
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	-	-	-	-	1.0	.5	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation and material moving	-	-	-	-	.6	.7	-	-	-	-	-
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	-	-	-	-	.6	.3	-	-	-	-	-
Service occupations	126.5	130.9	131.1	.2	1.1	.2	4.4	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6
Workers, by industry division											
Goods-producing 1/	123.8	126.7	127.8	.7	1.1	.9	4.2	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.2
Construction	-	-	-	1.1	.3	1.6	-	2.8	2.8	3.3	3.3
Manufacturing	124.6	127.7	128.7	.6	1.3	.8	4.6	3.1	3.1	3.3	3.3
Durables	-	-	-	-	1.2	.5	-	-	-	-	-
Nondurables	-	-	-	-	1.3	1.3	-	-	-	-	-
Service-producing 2/	126.4	130.8	131.6	1.0	1.1	.6	4.2	4.5	4.5	4.1	4.1
Transportation and public utilities	-	-	-	.9	1.3	.2	-	4.0	4.0	3.4	3.4
Transportation	-	-	-	.8	2.0	-.2	-	4.3	4.3	3.2	3.2
Public utilities	-	-	-	.8	.3	.5	-	3.7	3.7	3.4	3.4
Wholesale and retail trade	-	-	-	1.7	.6	.9	-	4.2	4.2	3.4	3.4
Retail trade	-	-	-	1.4	.4	.8	-	4.3	4.3	3.6	3.6
Finance, insurance, and real estate	-	-	-	-.2	.9	.8	-	4.3	4.3	5.3	5.3
Services	-	-	-	.8	1.5	.6	-	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.7
Health services	-	-	-	.7	1.2	.5	-	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.3
Nonmanufacturing	125.6	129.7	130.6	1.0	1.0	.7	4.1	4.3	4.3	4.0	4.0

- Data not available.

NOTE: See footnotes at end of tables.

WAGES AND SALARIES

Table 4. Employment Cost Index for wages and salaries only, private industry workers, by occupation and industry group
(Not seasonally adjusted)

Series	Indexes (June 1981=100)						Percent Changes for					
	June 1985		March 1986		June 1986		3 Months Ended		June 1986		12 Months Ended	
	June 1985	March 1986	June 1986	June 1985	March 1986	June 1986	June 1985	March 1986	June 1986	March 1986	June 1986	June 1986
Private industry workers	123.3	126.8	127.9	1.1	1.0	0.9	4.3	3.9	3.7			
Excluding sales	123.9	127.3	128.2	1.1	1.1	.7	4.3	3.9	3.5			
Workers, by occupational group												
White-collar occupations	125.5	129.6	131.1	1.2	1.0	1.2	4.7	4.5	4.5			
Excluding sales	127.1	131.1	132.4	1.2	1.3	1.0	4.7	4.4	4.2			
Professional, specialty and technical	128.7	132.7	134.0	.8	.9	1.0	4.0	3.9	4.1			
Executive, administrative, and managerial	126.5	130.5	132.1	2.2	1.6	1.2	6.1	5.4	4.4			
Sales	117.4	122.4	124.3	.9	-1	1.6	4.9	5.2	5.9			
Administrative support, including clerical	125.6	129.6	130.8	.7	1.3	.9	4.1	3.9	4.1			
Blue-collar occupations	120.3	123.1	123.7	1.0	.9	.5	3.8	3.4	2.8			
Precision production, craft, and repair	122.0	125.3	125.7	1.0	1.2	.3	4.0	3.7	3.0			
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	120.1	122.6	123.6	1.0	.8	.8	3.7	3.1	2.9			
Transportation and material moving	115.7	118.0	118.9	1.0	.2	.8	2.7	3.1	2.8			
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	118.5	120.0	120.3	1.5	.2	.3	3.9	2.8	1.5			
Service occupations	124.4	128.0	128.0	.5	1.1	.0	4.3	3.4	2.9			
Workers, by industry division												
Goods-producing 1/	121.4	124.2	125.4	1.0	1.1	1.0	4.3	3.3	3.3			
Construction	116.6	118.3	119.8	1.0	.3	1.3	2.3	2.4	2.7			
Manufacturing	122.3	125.3	126.5	1.1	1.2	1.0	4.7	3.6	3.4			
Durables	122.0	124.8	125.8	1.2	1.1	.8	4.6	3.5	3.1			
Nondurables	122.6	126.1	127.9	.8	1.2	1.4	4.7	3.7	4.3			
Service-producing 2/	124.8	129.0	129.9	1.1	.9	.7	4.3	4.5	4.1			
Transportation and public utilities	122.8	126.3	126.6	1.0	.9	.2	2.9	3.8	3.1			
Transportation	-	-	-	1.0	1.1	-1	-	3.6	2.5			
Public utilities	-	-	-	1.7	.5	.8	-	4.0	4.1			
Wholesale and retail trade	121.1	124.5	125.8	1.9	.6	1.0	4.4	4.8	3.9			
Wholesale trade	126.8	129.7	131.2	2.5	1.1	1.2	5.7	4.9	3.5			
Retail trade	118.9	122.5	123.7	1.7	.5	1.0	3.9	4.8	4.0			
Finance, insurance, and real estate	121.7	126.6	128.0	-.2	1.1	1.1	4.1	3.8	5.2			
Services	131.0	136.2	136.9	.8	1.6	.5	5.1	4.8	4.5			
Health services	-	-	-	.9	1.2	.8	-	3.3	3.2			
Nonmanufacturing	123.9	127.7	128.7	1.1	.9	.8	4.1	4.2	3.9			

- Data not available.
NOTE: See footnotes at end of tables.

COMPENSATION

Table 5. Employment Cost Index, private industry workers, by bargaining status, region, and area size (Not seasonally adjusted)

Series	Indexes (June 1981=100)				Percent Changes for					
	June 1985	March 1986	June 1986		3 Months Ended			12 Months Ended		
					June 1985	March 1986	June 1986	June 1985	March 1986	June 1986
Workers, by bargaining status										
Union.....	125.5	128.4	128.7	0.6	1.0	0.2	3.1	2.9	2.5	
Goods-producing 1/.....	123.9	126.4	126.7	.2	1.0	.2	2.9	2.3	2.3	
Service-producing 2/.....	128.0	131.6	131.9	1.0	1.1	.2	3.6	3.9	3.0	
Nonunion.....	124.2	127.0	126.9	.0	1.2	-.1	3.1	2.3	2.2	
Manufacturing.....	126.6	129.7	130.4	1.0	.9	.5	3.1	3.5	3.0	
Nonmanufacturing.....	125.0	129.0	130.2	1.0	1.2	.9	4.9	4.2	4.2	
Goods-producing 1/.....	123.5	126.7	128.2	.9	1.3	1.2	5.5	3.5	3.8	
Service-producing 2/.....	125.8	130.4	131.4	.9	1.1	.8	4.4	4.6	4.5	
Manufacturing.....	124.8	128.1	129.7	1.0	1.4	1.2	5.9	3.6	3.9	
Nonmanufacturing.....	125.1	129.5	130.4	1.0	1.1	.7	4.4	4.5	4.2	
Workers, by region										
Northeast.....	126.4	131.6	133.3	1.0	1.3	1.3	4.7	5.2	5.5	
South.....	125.2	128.7	129.6	.8	1.2	.7	3.7	3.6	3.5	
Midwest (formerly North Central).....	122.7	125.9	126.2	.6	1.0	.2	4.1	3.2	2.9	
West.....	127.9	130.8	131.6	.9	.8	.6	4.7	3.2	2.9	
Workers, by area size										
Metropolitan areas.....	125.7	129.5	130.5	.8	1.1	.8	4.2	3.8	3.8	
Other areas.....	122.5	125.5	126.4	.9	1.3	.7	4.3	3.4	3.2	

NOTE: The indexes for these series are not strictly comparable to those for the aggregate, occupation, and industry series. See explanatory note.

See footnotes at end of tables.

WAGES AND SALARIES

Table 6. Employment Cost Index for wages and salaries only, private industry workers, by bargaining status, region, and area size

(Not seasonally adjusted)

Series	Indexes (June 1981=100)			Percent Changes for					
	June 1985	March 1986	June 1986	3 Months Ended			12 Months Ended		
				June 1985	March 1986	June 1986	June 1985	March 1986	June 1986
Workers, by bargaining status									
Union.....	123.0	125.6	126.1	1.1	0.7	0.4	3.4	3.2	2.5
Goods-producing ^{1/}	121.3	123.4	124.1	1.1	.6	.6	3.5	2.8	2.3
Service-producing ^{2/}	125.7	129.0	129.3	1.2	.9	.2	3.1	3.9	2.9
Nonunion.....	121.7	124.2	124.6	1.1	.7	.3	3.9	3.2	2.4
Manufacturing.....	124.1	126.9	127.4	1.1	.8	.4	2.8	3.3	2.7
Nonmanufacturing.....	123.4	127.3	128.5	1.1	1.1	.9	4.8	4.3	4.1
Goods-producing ^{1/}	121.4	124.5	126.1	1.0	1.2	1.3	4.9	3.6	3.9
Service-producing ^{2/}	124.4	128.9	129.9	1.1	.9	.8	4.6	4.7	4.4
Manufacturing.....	122.8	126.1	127.7	1.1	1.4	1.3	5.4	3.8	4.0
Nonmanufacturing.....	123.6	127.8	128.9	1.1	.9	.9	4.5	4.5	4.3
Workers, by region									
Northeast.....	124.6	129.2	131.3	1.3	.9	1.6	4.8	5.0	5.4
South.....	123.4	126.8	127.8	.9	1.1	.8	3.7	3.7	3.6
Midwest (formerly North Central).....	121.1	124.2	124.4	1.3	1.1	.2	4.4	3.8	2.7
West.....	125.1	128.1	128.9	.9	.8	.6	4.6	3.3	3.0
Workers, by area size									
Metropolitan areas.....	123.8	127.4	128.5	1.1	.9	.9	4.4	4.1	3.8
Other areas.....	120.6	123.6	124.5	.8	1.3	.7	4.0	3.3	3.2

NOTE: The indexes for these series are not strictly comparable to those for the aggregate, occupation, and industry series. See explanatory note.

- ^{1/} Includes mining, construction, and manufacturing.
- ^{2/} Includes transportation, public utilities, trade, finance, insurance, real estate, services, and, where applicable, public administration in State and local governments.
- ^{3/} Includes, for example, library, social, and health services.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Employment Cost Index (ECI) is a measure of the change in the price of labor, free from the influence of employment shifts among occupations and industries. The ECI wage and salary series is limited to changes in wage and salary rates, defined as the hourly straight-time wage rate or, for workers not paid on an hourly basis, earnings divided by the corresponding hours. Straight-time wage and salary rates are total earnings before payroll deductions, excluding premium pay for overtime and for work on weekends and holidays, and shift differentials. Production bonuses, incentive earnings, commission payments, and cost-of-living adjustments are included in straight-time wage and salary rates.

The compensation series includes employer costs for employee benefits as well as wages and salaries. Benefits covered by the ECI are: Paid leave (vacations, holidays, sick leave, and other leave); supplemental pay (premium pay for overtime, shift differentials, and nonproduction bonuses); insurance benefits (life, health, and sickness and accident); retirement and savings benefits (pension and other retirement plans and savings and thrift plans); legally required benefits (social security, railroad retirement and supplemental retirement, railroad unemployment insurance, Federal and State unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, and other legally required benefits such as State temporary disability); and other benefits (severance pay, supplemental unemployment plans, and merchandise discounts in department stores).

The ECI provides data for both the private and public sectors, which are published separately and also combined as the total civilian economy. The private sector includes the total private economy, excluding farms and households. The public sector covers State and local governments, but excludes the Federal government.

Each quarter, straight-time average hourly wage and salary rates and benefit cost data (cents-per-hour-worked) are collected from a probability sample of about 14,000 occupations within 2,500 sample establishments in private industry and about 3,500 occupations within 700 sample establishments in State and local governments. Data are collected for the pay period including the 12th day of the survey months of March, June, September, and December. ECI statistics are neither annualized nor adjusted for seasonal influences.

The sample establishments are classified in industry categories based on the 1972 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC), as defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

Within an establishment, specific job categories are selected to represent broader occupational definitions. Beginning with June 1986, the jobs are classified according to definitions used in the 1980 Census. Prior to June 1986, they were classified according to the 1970 Census. The titles of the published 1970 and 1980 occupation groups are listed below for comparison. Differences between the two classification systems are slight, as indicated in the article "Introducing new weights for the Employment Cost Index," in the June 1985 issue of the Monthly Labor Review.

<u>1970 Census Category</u>	<u>1980 Census Category</u>
Managers and administrators	Executive, administrative, and managerial occupations
Professional and technical workers	Professional specialty and technical occupations
Sales workers	Sales occupations
Clerical workers	Administrative support occupations, including clerical
Craft and kindred workers	Precision production, craft, and repair occupations
Operatives, except transport	Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors
Transport equipment operatives	Transportation and material moving occupations
Nonfarm laborers	Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers
Service workers	Service occupations

Fixed employment weights are used each quarter to calculate the most aggregate indexes—civilian, private, and State and local governments. These fixed weights are also used to derive all of the industry and occupation series indexes.

For the series based on bargaining status, region, or area size, employment data are not available from the Census. The employment weights are reallocated within these series each quarter based on the current sample. The indexes for these series, consequently, are not strictly comparable to those for the aggregate, industry, and occupation series. A fuller explanation of the calculation of index numbers appears in an article, "Estimation procedures for the Employment Cost Index," in the May 1982 issue of the Monthly Labor Review.

More detailed information on the ECI is available in several articles and publications. These include a chapter in the BLS Handbook of Methods (Bulletin 2134-1), "The Employment Cost Index." Two articles also appeared in the Monthly Labor Review: "Employment Cost Index: a measure of change in the 'price of labor'," July 1975; and "How benefits will be incorporated into the Employment Cost Index," January 1978. Reprints of these articles plus several other descriptive pieces and a historical listing of ECI data are available upon request.