

Updated CPI-U-RS, All Items and All items less food and energy, 1978-2008

BLS Statement on the Use of the CPI-U-RS

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has made numerous improvements to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) over the past thirty-plus years. While these improvements make the present and future CPI more accurate, historical price index series are not adjusted to reflect the improvements. Many researchers, however, expressed an interest in having a historical series that was measured consistently over the entire period. Accordingly, the Consumer Price Index research series using current methods (CPI-U-RS) presents an estimate of the CPI for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U) from 1978 to present that incorporates most of the improvements made over that time span into the entire series.

The CPI-U-RS is in some ways an extension of the CPI-U-X1, an experimental series that shows what the inflation rate in the CPI-U might have been, if the current rental-equivalence method of measuring the cost of homeownership had been in place prior to 1983.

The CPI-U-RS has some limitations. First, most estimates are based on BLS research covering a short period of time and extrapolated to a longer period. Therefore, there is considerable uncertainty surrounding the magnitude of the adjustments. Second, there have been several improvements in the CPI not incorporated into the CPI-U-RS, either because they do not represent changes in methodology, because they had negligible impacts on the CPI's growth rate, or because it was impossible to systematically estimate the impacts of the new methods in past years.

Nonetheless, the CPI-U-RS can serve as a valuable proxy for researchers needing a historical estimate of inflation using current methods. The direct adjustment of individual CPI index series makes this the most detailed and systematic estimate available of a consistent CPI series.

CPI-U-RS All Items

U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Washington, D.C. 20212

Consumer Price Index Research Series Using Current Methods (CPI-U-RS)

U.S. city average

All items

December 1977=100

YEAR	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEP.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	AVG.
1977												100.0	
1978	100.5	101.1	101.8	102.7	103.6	104.6	105.0	105.5	106.1	106.7	107.3	107.9	104.4
1979	108.7	109.7	110.7	111.8	113.0	114.1	115.2	116.0	117.1	117.9	118.5	119.5	114.4
1980	120.9	122.4	123.8	124.8	125.8	126.7	127.6	128.6	130.0	130.8	131.5	132.4	127.1
1981	133.6	135.3	136.4	137.1	137.9	138.7	139.7	140.7	141.8	142.4	142.9	143.4	139.2
1982	144.2	144.7	144.9	145.1	146.1	147.5	148.5	148.8	149.5	150.2	150.5	150.7	147.6
1983	151.1	151.2	151.3	152.4	153.2	153.8	154.4	154.8	155.6	156.0	156.2	156.4	153.9
1984	157.3	158.0	158.4	159.1	159.5	160.0	160.5	161.1	161.9	162.3	162.3	162.4	160.2
1985	162.6	163.3	164.0	164.7	165.3	165.8	166.1	166.4	167.0	167.4	167.9	168.3	165.7
1986	168.8	168.3	167.5	167.1	167.7	168.5	168.5	168.7	169.7	169.7	169.8	169.9	168.7
1987	170.9	171.6	172.3	173.2	173.7	174.3	174.6	175.6	176.4	176.8	176.9	176.8	174.4
1988	177.3	177.6	178.3	179.2	179.8	180.5	181.1	181.9	183.0	183.5	183.6	183.7	180.8
1989	184.6	185.2	186.2	187.5	188.4	188.8	189.3	189.5	190.2	190.9	191.2	191.5	188.6
1990	193.3	194.2	195.2	195.5	195.8	196.9	197.6	199.3	200.9	202.1	202.3	202.4	198.0
1991	203.3	203.5	203.6	203.9	204.4	204.9	205.0	205.6	206.4	206.6	207.1	207.2	205.1
1992	207.5	208.1	209.0	209.3	209.6	210.1	210.4	211.0	211.6	212.2	212.5	212.3	210.3
1993	212.9	213.7	214.3	214.9	215.3	215.5	215.6	216.1	216.4	217.1	217.3	217.1	215.5
1994	217.4	218.0	218.8	219.0	219.2	219.9	220.4	221.1	221.5	221.6	221.9	221.8	220.1
1995	222.6	223.3	224.0	224.7	225.1	225.6	225.7	226.1	226.5	227.1	226.9	226.8	225.4
1996	227.9	228.7	229.8	230.6	231.2	231.3	231.7	232.0	232.7	233.4	233.8	233.8	231.4
1997	234.5	235.2	235.6	235.9	235.8	236.2	236.3	236.7	237.5	237.9	237.8	237.4	236.4
1998	237.8	238.2	238.6	239.1	239.4	239.6	239.8	240.2	240.5	241.0	241.0	240.7	239.7
1999	241.4	241.7	242.4	244.1	244.1	244.2	244.9	245.6	246.7	247.2	247.3	247.3	244.7
2000	248.0	249.4	251.4	251.6	251.8	253.2	253.7	253.8	255.1	255.5	255.7	255.5	252.9
2001	257.1	258.2	258.8	259.8	260.9	261.4	260.6	260.7	261.8	260.9	260.4	259.4	260.0
2002	260.1	261.1	262.5	264.0	264.0	264.2	264.5	265.3	265.8	266.3	266.3	265.7	264.2
2003	266.8	268.9	270.5	269.9	269.5	269.8	270.1	271.1	271.9	271.7	270.9	270.6	270.1
2004	272.0	273.5	275.2	276.1	277.6	278.5	278.2	278.3	278.8	280.4	280.5	279.5	277.4
2005	280.0	281.6	283.8	285.7	285.5	285.6	286.9	288.3	291.9	292.5	290.2	288.9	286.7
2006	291.2	291.8	293.5	295.9	297.3	297.9	298.8	299.5	298.0	296.4	295.9	296.4	296.1
2007	297.2	298.8	301.6	303.5	305.4	306.0	305.9	305.3	306.2	306.8	308.6	308.4	304.5
2008	310.0	310.9	313.6	315.5	318.1	321.3	323.0	321.7	321.3	318.0	311.9	308.7	316.2

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1977												100.0	
1978	100.3	100.7	101.3	102.0	102.7	103.4	103.8	104.3	105.1	105.8	106.5	106.9	103.6
1979	107.2	107.8	108.5	109.2	110.1	110.6	111.1	111.8	112.6	113.5	114.2	114.8	111.0
1980	115.6	116.6	117.6	118.4	119.4	120.3	120.9	121.9	123.5	124.6	125.5	126.2	120.9
1981	126.9	127.7	128.5	129.6	130.6	131.4	132.4	133.7	135.1	136.1	137.0	137.6	132.2
1982	138.2	138.8	139.6	140.3	141.2	141.9	142.8	143.4	144.4	145.4	146.1	146.5	142.4
1983	147.2	147.7	148.1	148.9	149.3	149.7	150.4	151.1	152.2	153.0	153.7	153.9	150.4
1984	154.5	154.9	155.6	156.4	156.9	157.3	158.0	158.7	159.8	160.4	160.8	161.0	157.9
1985	161.4	162.2	162.9	163.4	163.9	164.2	164.6	165.3	166.2	167.1	167.9	168.0	164.8
1986	168.6	168.9	169.5	170.2	170.5	170.8	171.3	171.9	173.0	173.8	174.2	174.3	171.4
1987	174.7	175.2	176.1	177.1	177.4	177.4	177.8	178.8	179.9	180.8	181.2	181.1	178.1
1988	181.6	182.1	183.2	184.0	184.3	184.6	185.0	185.7	187.0	188.0	188.5	188.6	185.2
1989	189.1	189.7	190.8	191.2	191.7	191.9	192.6	193.0	194.1	195.3	195.9	196.0	192.6
1990	196.7	197.8	199.3	199.7	200.0	200.6	201.5	202.7	203.8	204.7	205.0	205.2	201.4
1991	206.5	207.8	208.6	208.7	208.9	209.0	209.6	210.5	211.5	212.2	212.8	212.8	209.9
1992	213.4	214.4	215.4	215.8	215.8	215.7	216.2	216.8	217.4	218.5	219.0	218.8	216.4
1993	219.5	220.7	221.5	222.0	222.1	222.1	222.4	223.1	223.4	224.2	224.7	224.6	222.5
1994	225.0	225.8	226.8	227.1	227.2	227.4	227.7	228.2	228.6	229.4	229.6	229.3	227.7
1995	230.2	231.2	232.3	232.8	232.9	233.0	233.3	233.9	234.7	235.6	235.8	235.4	233.4
1996	236.2	237.3	238.3	238.5	238.6	238.6	239.0	239.4	240.2	241.0	241.3	241.1	239.1
1997	241.6	242.6	243.6	244.2	244.2	244.1	244.4	244.5	245.2	246.2	246.2	246.0	244.4
1998	246.8	248.0	248.8	249.4	249.3	249.2	249.5	250.1	250.7	251.4	251.6	251.6	249.7
1999	252.2	252.8	253.6	254.5	254.2	254.2	254.6	254.9	255.9	256.7	256.9	256.6	254.8
2000	257.3	258.3	259.7	260.3	260.3	260.4	260.8	261.5	262.2	263.0	263.3	263.0	260.8
2001	263.9	265.3	266.5	267.0	266.9	267.4	267.8	268.4	269.1	269.9	270.6	270.2	267.8
2002	270.7	272.1	273.0	273.7	273.6	273.5	273.7	274.7	275.2	275.9	275.9	275.3	273.9
2003	275.9	277.0	277.7	277.7	277.9	277.6	277.9	278.3	278.5	279.4	279.0	278.4	277.9
2004	279.1	280.4	282.1	282.7	282.7	282.8	282.8	283.1	284.0	285.1	285.0	284.5	282.9
2005	285.4	286.9	288.7	289.0	288.8	288.6	288.8	289.2	289.6	290.9	291.0	290.7	289.0
2006	291.5	292.9	294.7	295.6	295.9	296.3	296.6	297.4	298.1	299.0	298.6	298.2	296.2
2007	299.2	300.8	302.0	302.5	302.5	302.8	303.2	303.7	304.4	305.4	305.6	305.5	303.1
2008	306.6	307.6	309.1	309.4	309.5	310.1	310.8	311.4	311.9	312.2	311.7	310.9	310.1