

News

United States
Department
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

Technical, historical contact:
Felicia Nathan (202) 523-1165

USDL: 87-315.

Media contact: (202) 523-1913

FOR RELEASE: 10:00 A.M. E.D.T.
Tuesday, July 28, 1987

EMPLOYMENT COST INDEX - JUNE 1987

The Employment Cost Index (ECI) increased 0.7 percent in the 3 months ended in June 1987, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. For the year ended in June 1987, the increase was 3.3 percent. The June 1987 ECI level stood at 135.9, based on June 1981=100. The ECI measures changes in compensation costs--wages, salaries, and employer costs for employee benefits. It is not seasonally adjusted.

The 3.3 percent compensation cost increase for the year ended in June 1987 was below the 4.0 percent gain a year ago. A similar pattern was recorded for wages and salaries alone (3.2 percent, down from 4.1 percent)--indicating the slowdown occurred for both wages and salaries and benefit costs. The deceleration of benefit cost increases reflected decreases in pension costs that were partially offset by higher insurance costs.

The June 1986-87 slowdown in wage and salary increases held for both state and local government workers (5.0 percent, down from 5.7 percent) and private industry workers (3.0 percent, down from 3.7 percent). The 3.0 percent increase for private industry workers was the lowest over-the-year pay gain recorded in the 11-year history of the series. Other record-low private industry wage and salary increases covered workers in:

- * White-collar occupations (3.3 percent)
- * Executive and managerial occupations (3.3 percent)
- * Nonunion occupations (3.3 percent)
- * Manufacturing (2.4 percent)
- * Goods-producing industries (2.3 percent)
- * The West region (1.7 percent)

Over-the-year pay gains of 3.4 percent for private sector workers in service-producing industries as a whole exceeded the record-low 2.3 percent pay gain for those in goods-producing industries. There was considerable variation among the service-producing industries, with wage and salary increases ranging from 1.8 percent in transportation to 5.1 percent in health services. (See table 6.)

The private industry slowdown in pay gains was more pronounced for white-collar workers (3.3 percent, down from 4.5 percent) than for blue-collar workers (2.3 percent, down from 2.8 percent). When sales occupations are excluded from the white-collar series, the white-collar slowdown (3.5 percent, down from 4.2 percent) was similar to that of blue-collar workers. (Sales worker pay is heavily influenced by volatile commission earnings.)

In contrast to the slowdown for white-collar and blue-collar workers, pay gains for private industry service workers for the year ended in June 1987 (3.0 percent) were similar to those a year ago (2.9 percent). (See table 4.)

Although over-the-year pay gains for nonunion workers averaged a record-low 3.3 percent, they outpaced the 1.7 percent increase for union workers. This relationship held in goods-producing industries (2.8 percent compared with 1.4 percent) and service-producing industries (3.6 percent compared with 2.2 percent). (See table 8.)

 * The Bureau of Labor Statistics plans to publish a new measure *
 * of employer costs for employee compensation in the October 1987 *
 * issue of the Monthly Labor Review (MLR). The new cost levels, *
 * based on data from the March 1987 ECI, cover private industry *
 * workers, with detail for major occupational groups and industry *
 * divisions. These new cost levels are calculated with March 1987 *
 * employment weights, rather than the fixed 1980 Census weights *
 * used in computing the ECI. *
 * *
 * The cost levels will not be included in the ECI news release. *
 * Reprints of the MLR article that presents the data will be *
 * available upon request after the October MLR is published in *
 * late October. *

ECI data for September 1987 will be released on Tuesday, October 27, at 10:00 a.m. E.S.T.

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 1986		June 1987	3 Months Ended		June 1986		12 Months Ended	
	June 1986	March 1987	June 1987	June 1986	March 1987	June 1987	June 1986	March 1987	June 1987
Civilian workers	129.3	132.8	133.5	0.8	1.0	0.5	4.1	3.5	3.2
Workers, by occupational group									
White-collar occupations.....	132.4	136.6	137.3	.9	1.2	.5	4.7	4.1	3.7
Blue-collar occupations.....	124.1	126.2	127.1	.6	.5	.7	3.0	2.3	2.4
Service occupations.....	130.0	134.2	134.7	.2	1.1	.4	3.8	3.4	3.6
Workers, by industry division									
Goods-producing 1/.....	125.6	127.8	128.5	1.0	.6	.5	3.4	2.7	2.3
Manufacturing.....	126.5	128.7	129.5	1.0	.6	.6	3.4	2.7	2.4
Service-producing 2/.....	131.5	135.8	136.5	.6	1.2	.5	4.5	3.9	3.8
Services.....	137.0	142.7	143.4	.4	1.1	.5	5.0	4.6	4.7
Health services.....	-	-	-	.7	1.3	.6	3.4	5.0	5.0
Hospitals.....	-	-	-	-	1.2	.7	-	-	4.7
Public administration.....	134.6	140.5	141.0	.6	1.7	.4	5.8	5.0	4.8
Nonmanufacturing.....	130.4	134.5	135.2	.6	1.1	.5	4.3	3.8	3.7
Private industry workers	127.9	130.8	131.7	.9	1.0	.7	3.7	3.2	3.0
Workers, by occupational group									
White-collar occupations.....	131.1	134.6	135.4	1.2	1.4	.6	4.5	3.9	3.3
Blue-collar occupations.....	123.7	125.6	126.6	.5	.4	.8	2.8	2.0	2.3
Service occupations.....	128.0	131.4	131.9	.0	1.0	.4	2.9	2.7	3.0
Workers, by industry division									
Goods-producing 1/.....	125.4	127.5	128.3	1.0	.6	.6	3.3	2.7	2.3
Service-producing 2/.....	129.9	133.4	134.3	.7	1.4	.7	4.1	3.4	3.4
State and local government workers.....	136.0	142.5	142.8	.4	.8	.2	5.7	5.2	5.0
Workers, by occupational group									
White-collar occupations.....	137.0	143.9	144.1	.3	.8	.1	5.7	5.3	5.2
Blue-collar occupations.....	131.9	136.3	136.9	1.2	.9	.4	5.9	4.5	3.8
Workers, by industry division									
Services.....	137.1	143.9	144.2	.2	.4	.2	5.7	5.2	5.2
Hospitals and other services 3/.....	133.3	138.6	139.4	.7	.9	.6	4.1	4.7	4.6
Health services.....	-	-	-	.7	.7	.6	4.3	4.1	4.1
Schools.....	138.2	145.5	145.6	.1	.3	.1	6.1	5.4	5.4
Elementary and secondary.....	139.4	146.5	146.6	.0	.1	.1	6.3	5.1	5.2
Public administration.....	134.6	140.5	141.0	.6	1.7	.4	5.8	5.0	4.8

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

COMPENSATION

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

Series	Indexes (June 1981=100)		Percent Changes for			
	June 1986	March 1987	3 Months Ended		12 Months Ended	
			June 1986	March 1987	June 1986	June 1987
Civilian workers	131.5	135.0	0.7	0.9	0.7	3.3
Workers, by occupational group						
White-collar occupations.....	134.2	138.5	.8	1.2	.6	3.8
Blue-collar occupations.....	126.8	129.1	.5	.5	.8	2.6
Service occupations.....	133.7	138.0	.5	1.0	.4	3.6
Workers, by industry division						
Goods-producing 1/.....	128.1	130.2	.9	.5	.7	2.3
Manufacturing.....	128.7	130.7	.8	.5	.6	2.2
Service-producing 2/.....	133.7	138.1	.6	1.2	.6	3.9
Services.....	139.4	145.2	.4	1.1	.4	4.6
Health services.....	-	-	.7	1.2	.6	4.7
Hospitals.....	-	-	-	1.0	.8	4.5
Public administration	138.0	144.1	.9	1.8	.4	4.9
Nonmanufacturing.....	132.8	136.9	.7	1.1	.7	3.8
Private industry workers	129.9	132.9	.8	1.0	.7	3.0
Workers, by occupational group						
White-collar occupations.....	132.5	136.1	.9	1.3	.7	3.4
Blue-collar occupations.....	126.3	128.4	.5	.5	.9	2.5
Service occupations.....	131.1	134.7	.2	.9	.4	3.1
Workers, by industry division						
Goods-producing 1/.....	127.8	129.9	.9	.5	.7	2.3
Service-producing 2/.....	131.6	135.3	.6	1.3	.7	3.6
State and local government workers.....	139.7	145.9	.6	.8	.3	4.7
Workers, by occupational group						
White-collar occupations.....	140.5	147.2	.4	.8	.2	5.0
Blue-collar occupations.....	136.3	140.8	1.2	.9	.4	3.7
Workers, by industry division						
Services.....	140.8	147.3	.3	.5	.2	4.8
Hospitals and other services 3/.....	137.9	142.5	.8	1.0	.6	3.9
Health services.....	-	-	1.0	.8	.6	3.8
Schools.....	141.7	148.9	.3	.3	.1	5.2
Elementary and secondary.....	143.2	150.5	.1	.1	.1	5.2
Public administration	138.0	144.1	.9	1.8	.4	4.9

- 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 group
(Not seasonally adjusted)

Series	Indexes (June 1981=100)		Percent Changes for					
			3 Months Ended		12 Months Ended			
	June 1986	June 1987	June 1986	March 1987	June 1986	June 1987	March 1987	June 1987
Private industry workers	127.9	130.8	131.7	1.0	0.7	3.7	3.2	3.0
Excluding sales.....	128.2	131.2	132.1	1.0	.7	3.5	3.1	3.0
Workers, by occupational group								
White-collar occupations.....	131.1	134.6	135.4	1.4	.6	4.5	3.9	3.3
Excluding sales.....	132.4	136.2	137.1	1.4	.7	4.2	3.9	3.5
Professional specialty and technical.....	134.0	138.4	139.1	1.5	.5	4.1	4.3	3.8
Executive, administrative, and managerial.....	132.1	135.6	136.4	1.6	.6	4.4	3.9	3.3
Sales.....	124.3	126.7	127.1	1.4	.3	5.9	3.5	2.3
Administrative support, including clerical.....	130.8	134.3	135.5	1.2	.9	4.1	3.6	3.6
Blue-collar occupations.....	123.7	125.6	126.6	.4	.8	2.8	2.0	2.3
Precision production, craft, and repair.....	125.7	127.9	128.8	.4	.7	3.0	2.1	2.5
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors.....	123.6	125.5	126.7	.5	1.0	2.9	2.4	2.5
Transportation and material moving.....	118.9	120.5	121.5	.3	.8	2.8	2.1	2.2
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers.....	120.3	121.9	122.6	.4	.6	1.5	1.6	1.9
Service occupations.....	128.0	131.4	131.9	1.0	.4	2.9	2.7	3.0

NOTE: See footnotes at end of tables.

COMPENSATION

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

Series	Indexes (June 1981=100)		Percent Changes for						
	June 1986	March 1987	June 1987	3 Months Ended		12 Months Ended		June 1987	
				June 1986	March 1987	June 1986	March 1987		
Private industry workers	129.9	132.9	133.8	0.8	1.0	0.7	3.8	3.1	3.0
Excluding sales	130.0	133.1	134.1	.7	1.0	.8	3.6	3.1	3.2
Workers, by occupational group									
White-collar occupations									
Excluding sales	132.5	136.1	137.0	.9	1.3	.7	4.2	3.7	3.4
Professional specialty and technical	133.4	137.2	138.2	.9	1.3	.7	4.1	3.8	3.6
Executive, administrative, and managerial	-	-	-	.7	1.2	.6	-	3.7	3.5
Sales	-	-	-	1.1	1.8	.7	-	4.3	3.9
Administrative support, including clerical	-	-	-	1.2	1.1	.5	-	2.8	2.1
Administrative support, including clerical	-	-	-	.8	1.1	1.0	-	3.4	3.5
Blue-collar occupations	126.3	128.4	129.5	.5	.5	.9	2.9	2.1	2.5
Precision production, craft, and repair	-	-	-	.5	.5	.8	-	2.1	2.4
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	-	-	-	.5	.5	1.0	-	2.2	2.7
Transportation and material moving	-	-	-	.7	.5	1.1	-	2.6	3.0
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	-	-	-	.3	.3	.5	-	1.8	2.0
Service occupations	131.1	134.7	135.2	.2	.9	.4	3.6	2.9	3.1

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

WAGES AND SALARIES

Table 6. Employment Cost Index for wages and salaries only, private industry workers, by industry group
(Not seasonally adjusted)

Series	Indexes (June 1981=100)			Percent Changes for						
				3 Months Ended			12 Months Ended			
	June 1986	March 1987	June 1987	June 1986	March 1987	June 1987	June 1986	March 1987	June 1987	
Workers, by industry division										
Goods-producing 1/	125.4	127.5	128.3	1.0	0.6	0.6	3.3	2.7	2.3	2.4
Excluding sales occupations	125.3	127.6	128.3	.9	.7	.5	3.2	2.7	2.4	2.4
Construction	119.8	121.7	122.7	1.3	.7	.8	2.7	2.9	2.4	2.4
Manufacturing	126.5	128.7	129.5	1.0	.6	.6	3.4	2.7	2.4	2.4
Durables	125.8	127.7	128.7	.8	.4	.8	3.1	2.3	2.3	2.3
Nondurables	127.9	130.5	131.0	1.4	.9	.4	4.3	3.5	2.4	2.4
Service-producing 2/	129.9	133.4	134.3	.7	1.4	.7	4.1	3.4	3.4	3.4
Excluding sales occupations	130.8	134.4	135.5	.6	1.2	.8	3.8	3.4	3.6	3.6
Transportation and public utilities	126.6	128.1	129.3	.2	.5	.9	3.1	1.4	2.1	2.1
Transportation	-	-	-	-.1	.3	1.3	2.5	.4	1.8	1.8
Public utilities	-	-	-	.8	.7	.7	4.1	2.7	2.6	2.6
Wholesale and retail trade	125.8	127.9	129.9	1.0	.8	1.6	3.9	2.7	3.3	3.3
Wholesale trade	131.2	134.8	137.2	1.2	1.3	1.8	3.5	3.9	4.6	4.6
Retail trade	123.7	125.2	127.1	1.0	.6	1.5	4.0	2.2	2.7	2.7
Finance, insurance, and real estate	128.0	133.5	131.5	1.1	2.7	-1.5	5.2	5.5	2.7	2.7
Excluding sales occupations	130.0	134.7	135.0	.8	2.0	.2	4.7	4.4	3.8	3.8
Banking, savings and loan, and other credit agencies	-	-	-	-	-2.5	1.1	-	-	-	-
Services	136.9	141.8	142.8	.5	1.6	.7	4.5	4.1	4.3	4.3
Business services	-	-	-	-	1.7	1.3	-	-	-	-
Health services	-	-	-	.8	1.4	.7	3.2	5.2	5.1	5.1
Hospitals	-	-	-	-	1.3	.7	-	-	4.8	4.8
Nonmanufacturing	128.7	131.9	132.8	.8	1.2	.7	3.9	3.3	3.2	3.2

- Data not available.

NOTE: See footnotes at end of tables.

COMPENSATION

Table 5. Employment Cost Index, private industry workers, by industry group
(Not seasonally adjusted)

Series	Indexes (June 1981=100)		Percent Changes for								
	June 1986	March 1987	3 Months Ended		6 Months Ended		12 Months Ended				
			June 1986	March 1987	June 1987	June 1986	March 1987	June 1987			
Workers, by industry division											
Goods-producing 1/	127.8	129.9	0.9	0.5	0.7	3.2	2.5	2.3			
Excluding sales occupations	127.5	129.7	.9	.6	.6	3.2	2.6	2.4			
Construction	-	-	1.6	.9	1.3	3.3	3.4	3.1			
Manufacturing	128.7	130.7	.8	.5	.6	3.3	2.3	2.2			
Durables	-	-	.5	.3	.7	-	1.9	2.0			
Nondurables	-	-	1.3	.8	.5	-	3.4	2.6			
Service-producing 2/	131.6	135.3	.6	1.3	.7	4.1	3.4	3.6			
Excluding sales occupations	132.4	136.3	.6	1.3	.8	3.9	3.6	3.8			
Transportation and public utilities	-	-	.2	.9	1.1	3.4	1.9	2.8			
Transportation	-	-	-.2	1.0	1.4	3.2	1.2	2.8			
Public utilities	-	-	.5	.9	.9	3.4	2.6	2.9			
Wholesale and retail trade	-	-	.9	.8	1.5	3.4	2.8	3.4			
Wholesale trade	-	-	1.1	1.2	1.5	-	3.9	4.3			
Retail trade	-	-	.8	.6	1.4	3.6	2.3	3.0			
Finance, insurance, and real estate	-	-	.8	2.6	-1.0	5.3	4.9	3.0			
Excluding sales occupations	-	-	.7	2.2	.3	4.8	4.4	4.0			
Banking, savings and loan, and other credit agencies	-	-	-	2.7	1.1	-	-	-			
Services	-	-	.6	1.5	.6	4.7	4.3	4.3			
Business services	-	-	-	1.4	1.1	-	-	-			
Health services	-	-	.5	1.3	.7	3.3	4.9	5.0			
Hospitals	-	-	-	1.1	.7	-	-	4.6			
Nonmanufacturing	130.6	134.1	.7	1.3	.7	4.0	3.4	3.4			

- Data not available.

NOTE: See footnotes at end of tables.

COMPENSATION

Table 7. Employment Cost Index, private industry workers, by bargaining status, region, and area size
(Not seasonally adjusted)

Series	Indexes (June 1981=100)			Percent Changes for					
				3 Months Ended		6 Months Ended		12 Months Ended	
	June 1986	March 1987	June 1987	June 1986	March 1987	June 1987	June 1986	March 1987	June 1987
Workers, by bargaining status									
Union.....	128.7	130.5	131.2	0.2	0.5	0.5	2.5	1.6	1.9
Goods-producing 1/.....	126.7	128.0	128.7	.2	.4	.5	2.3	1.3	1.6
Service-producing 2/.....	131.9	134.4	135.2	.2	.7	.6	3.0	2.1	2.5
Nonunion.....	126.9	128.0	128.7	-.1	.1	.5	2.2	.8	1.4
Manufacturing.....	130.4	132.6	133.5	.5	.8	.7	3.0	2.2	2.4
Nonmanufacturing.....	130.2	133.6	134.6	.9	1.1	.7	4.2	3.6	3.4
Goods-producing 1/.....	128.2	130.8	131.8	1.2	.6	.8	3.8	3.2	2.8
Service-producing 2/.....	131.4	135.3	136.4	.8	1.4	.8	4.5	3.8	3.8
Manufacturing.....	129.7	132.2	133.2	1.2	.6	.8	3.9	3.2	2.7
Nonmanufacturing.....	130.4	134.3	135.3	.7	1.4	.7	4.2	3.7	3.8
Workers, by region									
Northeast.....	133.3	137.4	138.6	1.3	1.6	.9	5.5	4.4	4.0
South.....	129.6	132.1	133.2	.7	.5	.8	3.5	2.6	2.8
Midwest (formerly North Central).....	126.2	129.1	130.2	.2	.8	.9	2.9	2.5	3.2
West.....	131.6	134.1	134.2	.6	1.0	.1	2.9	2.5	2.0
Workers, by area size									
Metropolitan areas.....	130.5	133.5	134.4	.8	1.0	.7	3.8	3.1	3.0
Other areas.....	126.4	129.0	130.2	.7	.9	.9	3.2	2.8	3.0

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 8. 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 1986	March 1987	June 1987	3 Months Ended		12 Months Ended		June 1986	March 1987	June 1987
				June 1986	March 1987	June 1986	March 1987			
Workers, by bargaining status										
Union.....	126.1	127.7	128.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	2.5	1.7	1.7	1.7
Goods-producing ^{1/}	124.1	125.0	125.8	.6	.2	.6	2.3	1.3	1.4	1.4
Service-producing ^{2/}	129.3	131.7	132.2	.2	.6	.4	2.9	2.1	2.1	2.2
Nonunion.....	124.6	125.6	126.2	.3	.1	.5	2.4	1.1	1.1	1.3
Manufacturing.....	127.4	129.5	130.1	.4	.6	.5	2.7	2.0	2.0	2.1
Nonunion.....	128.5	131.8	132.8	.9	1.2	.8	4.1	3.5	3.5	3.3
Goods-producing ^{1/}	126.1	128.8	129.6	1.3	.8	.6	3.9	3.5	3.5	2.8
Service-producing ^{2/}	129.9	133.6	134.6	.8	1.4	.7	4.4	3.6	3.6	3.6
Manufacturing.....	127.7	130.6	131.5	1.3	.8	.7	4.0	3.6	3.6	3.0
Nonmanufacturing.....	128.9	132.4	133.4	.9	1.4	.8	4.3	3.6	3.6	3.5
Workers, by region										
Northeast.....	131.3	135.4	136.6	1.6	1.7	.9	5.4	4.8	4.8	4.0
South.....	127.8	130.1	131.1	.8	.5	.8	3.6	2.6	2.6	2.6
Midwest (formerly North Central).....	124.4	127.4	128.5	.2	1.0	.9	2.7	2.6	2.6	3.3
West.....	128.9	131.2	131.1	.6	.8	-.1	3.0	2.4	2.4	1.7
Workers, by area size										
Metropolitan areas.....	128.5	131.6	132.4	.9	1.1	.6	3.8	3.3	3.3	3.0
Other areas.....	124.5	126.6	127.8	.7	.8	.9	3.2	2.4	2.4	2.7

^{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.

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

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 16,000 occupations within 3,000 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 in 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 complete historical listing of ECI data are available upon request.