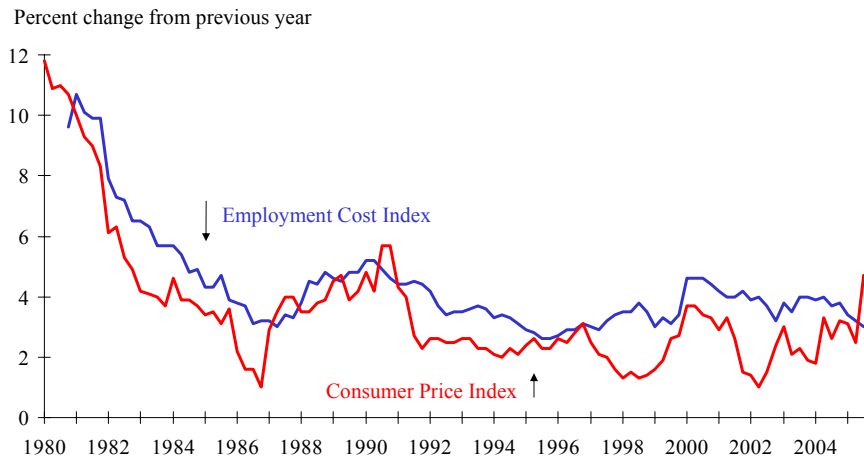


### Chart 1-16. Consumer prices usually increase more slowly than private employers' compensation costs

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NOTE: The Employment Cost Index is for private-sector workers. The Consumer Price Index is the CPI-U-RS research series.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics

### Chart 1-16. 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, however, increases in consumer prices exceeded growth in private employers' compensation costs.