

Whereas the CPI and PPI measure a benchmark approach to price levels, the BEA's Personal Consumption Expenditures uses a chain-weight approach which links weighted averages from adjoining years.

Other measures of inflation include the futures price and spot market price indexes from the Commodity Research Bureau and the employment cost, hourly compensation, and unit labor cost indexes from the BLS. Found in Section 12, Labor Force, Employment, and Earnings, these BLS indexes are used as a measure of the change in cost of the labor factor of production and changes in long-term interest rates that are often used to measure changes in the cost of the capital factor of production.

International price indexes—The BLS International Price Program produces export and import price indexes for non-military goods traded between the United States and the rest of the world.

The export price index provides a measure of price change for all products sold

by U.S. residents to foreign buyers. The import price index provides a measure of price change for goods purchased from other countries by U.S. residents. The reference period for the indexes is 2005 = 100, unless otherwise indicated. The product universe for both the import and export indexes includes raw materials, agricultural products, semifinished manufactures, and finished manufactures, including both capital and consumer goods. Price data for these items are collected primarily by mail questionnaire. In nearly all cases, the data are collected directly from the exporter or importer.

To the extent possible, the data gathered refer to prices at the U.S. border for exports and at either the foreign border or the U.S. border for imports. For nearly all products, the prices refer to transactions completed during the first week of the month. Survey respondents are asked to indicate all discounts, allowances, and rebates applicable to the reported prices, so that the price used in the calculation of the indexes is the actual price for which the product was bought or sold.

Table 724. Purchasing Power of the Dollar: 1950 to 2010

[Indexes: PPI, 1982 = \$1.00; CPI, 1982-84 = \$1.00. Producer prices prior to 1961, and consumer prices prior to 1964, exclude Alaska and Hawaii. Producer prices based on finished goods index. Obtained by dividing the average price index for the 1982 = 100, PPI; 1982-84 = 100, CPI base periods (100.0) by the price index for a given period and expressing the result in dollars and cents. Annual figures are based on average of monthly data]

Year	Annual average as measured by—		Year	Annual average as measured by—	
	Producer prices	Consumer prices		Producer prices	Consumer prices
1950	3.546	4.151	1981	1.041	1.098
1952	3.268	3.765	1982	1.000	1.035
1953	3.300	3.735	1983	0.984	1.003
1954	3.289	3.717	1984	0.964	0.961
1955	3.279	3.732	1985	0.955	0.928
1956	3.195	3.678	1986	0.969	0.913
1957	3.077	3.549	1987	0.949	0.880
1958	3.012	3.457	1988	0.926	0.846
1959	3.021	3.427	1989	0.880	0.807
1960	2.994	3.373	1990	0.839	0.766
1961	2.994	3.340	1991	0.822	0.734
1962	2.985	3.304	1992	0.812	0.713
1963	2.994	3.265	1993	0.802	0.692
1964	2.985	3.220	1994	0.797	0.675
1965	2.933	3.166	1995	0.782	0.656
1966	2.841	3.080	1996	0.762	0.638
1967	2.809	2.993	1997	0.759	0.623
1968	2.732	2.873	1998	0.765	0.613
1969	2.632	2.726	1999	0.752	0.600
1970	2.545	2.574	2000	0.725	0.581
1971	2.469	2.466	2001	0.711	0.565
1972	2.392	2.391	2002	0.720	0.556
1973	2.193	2.251	2003	0.698	0.543
1974	1.901	2.029	2004	0.673	0.529
1975	1.718	1.859	2005	0.642	0.512
1976	1.645	1.757	2006	0.623	0.496
1977	1.546	1.649	2007	0.600	0.482
1978	1.433	1.532	2008	0.565	0.464
1979	1.289	1.380	2009	0.580	0.466
1980	1.136	1.215	2010 ¹	0.556	0.459

¹ PPI data are preliminary.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, CPI Detailed Report, monthly, and at <http://www.bls.gov/cpi/cpi_dr.htm>. See also Monthly Labor Review at <<http://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/welcome.htm>> and Producer Price Indexes, monthly and annual.