

News

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EMPLOYMENT COST INDEX -- SEPTEMBER 1996

The Employment Cost Index (ECI) increased 0.8 percent before seasonal adjustment in the three months that ended September 1996, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The ECI measures changes in compensation costs, which include wages, salaries, and employer costs for employee benefits. The September 1996 ECI level of 130.2 was 2.8 percent higher than the level in September 1995.

Quarterly changes, seasonally adjusted

On a seasonally adjusted basis, compensation costs for civilian workers (private industry plus state and local governments) rose 0.6 percent during the June-September 1996 period. The March-June 1996 increase was 0.8 percent. Wages and salaries increased 0.6 percent from June to September, following gains of 0.9 and 1.0 percent in the second and first quarters of 1996. Benefit costs also increased 0.6 percent in September, about the same as in June; in March, there was no change in benefit costs.

Table A. Percent changes in Employment Cost Index for civilian workers

Compensation component	Seasonally adjusted 3-months ended								Unadjusted 12-months ended Sept. 1996
	Dec. 1994	Mar. 1995	June 1995	Sept 1995	Dec. 1995	Mar. 1996	June 1996	Sept. 1996	
Compensation costs	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.6	2.8
Wages and salaries	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.0	0.9	0.6	3.2
Benefit costs	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.7	0.6	1.8

Compensation costs for private industry workers increased 0.6 percent during the June-September 1996 period. Over the past two years, compensation increases ranged from 0.6 to 0.8 percent in private industry. Wages and salaries increased 0.6 percent in September; in June, the increase was 0.9 percent. The benefits cost increase of 0.7 percent in September was the same as in June; in March, benefit costs declined 0.1 percent. (See table 1.)

Compensation costs for state and local government workers increased 0.5 percent in the June-September period. Wages and salaries increased 0.6 percent; in June, the increase was 0.8 percent. Benefit costs were unchanged from June to September compared to the 0.6 percent increase for the March-June period.

Over-the-year changes, unadjusted

Compensation costs for civilian workers (not seasonally adjusted) increased 2.8 percent for the year ended September 1996, about the same as the increase during the 12-month period that ended September 1995. (See table 2.) Compensation costs in private industry increased 2.9 percent; and state and local government rose 2.5 percent for the year that ended September 1996. (See table 3.)

For private industry, wages and salaries increased 3.3 percent for the 12-month period ended September 1996 compared with 2.8 percent for the September 1994-1995 period. (See table 6.) Benefit costs for private industry workers increased 1.8 percent, compared with 1.7 percent for the September 1994-1995 period. (See table 8.)

In private industry, over-the-year compensation cost increases were 3.2 percent for white-collar workers, 2.4 percent for blue-collar workers, and 2.2 percent for service occupations. Among occupational groups, increases ranged from 1.6 percent for transportation and material moving occupations to 3.7 percent for executive, administrative, and managerial occupations.

For the year ended September 1996, compensation cost gains in private industry were similar for goods-producing and service-producing industries. For the year ended September 1995, however, compensation costs increased more in service-producing than in goods-producing industries.

Over-the-year compensation cost increases in private industry were 2.9 percent for nonunion workers and 2.6 percent for union workers. The pattern was similar for workers in goods-producing industries where compensation costs increased 3.2 percent for nonunion workers and 2.0 percent for union workers. In service-producing industries, the opposite was true with compensation cost increases of 2.9 percent for nonunion workers and 3.3 percent for union workers. (See table 4.)

The ECI for December 1996 is scheduled to be released Tuesday, January 28, 1997, at 8:30 A.M. (EST).

BLS Data Now Available on the World Wide Web

ECI data, as well as other data produced by BLS, are now available on the World Wide Web. To access ECI data use the address: <http://stats.bls.gov/ecthome.htm>. To access the BLS Home Page use: <http://stats.bls.gov>. There is no charge from BLS for using this service; however, there may be a charge from your Internet service provider. To access data using GOPHER or Anonymous FTP, use the Internet address: stats.bls.gov.

For technical assistance in using the BLS Internet site, send e-mail to: labstat.helpdesk@bls.gov. For ECI data requests, send e-mail to: ocltinfo@bls.gov.

Chart A. Changes in wages and salaries and benefit costs, private industry

Wages & salaries — Benefits —

12-month percent change

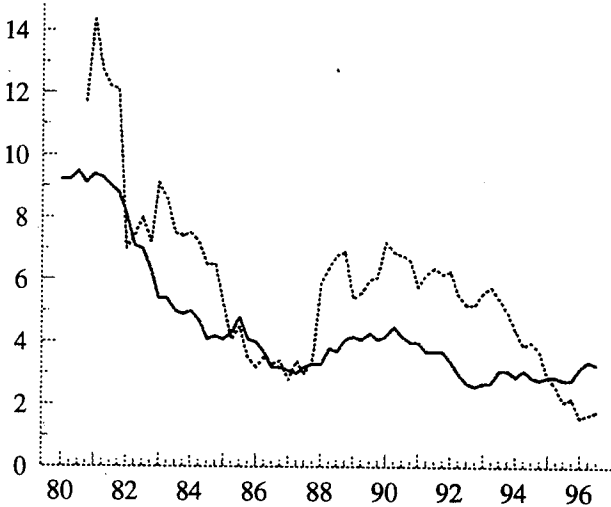


Chart B. Changes in benefits, seasonally adjusted and not seasonally adjusted, private industry

Seasonally adjusted — Not seasonally adjusted - - -

3-month percent change

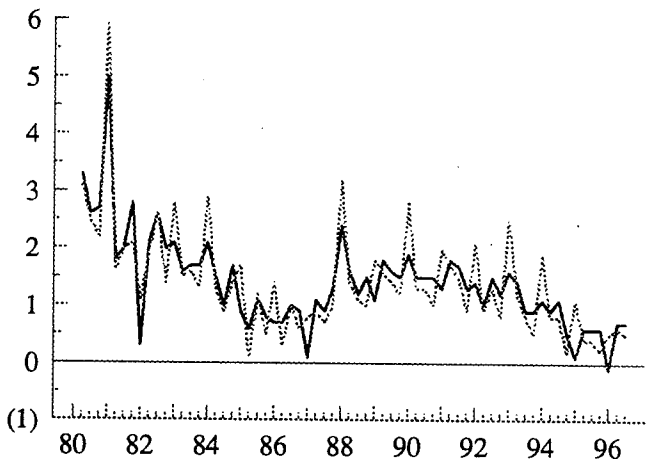


Chart C. Changes in benefits by industry sector, private industry

Goods-producing — Service-producing - - -

12-month percent change

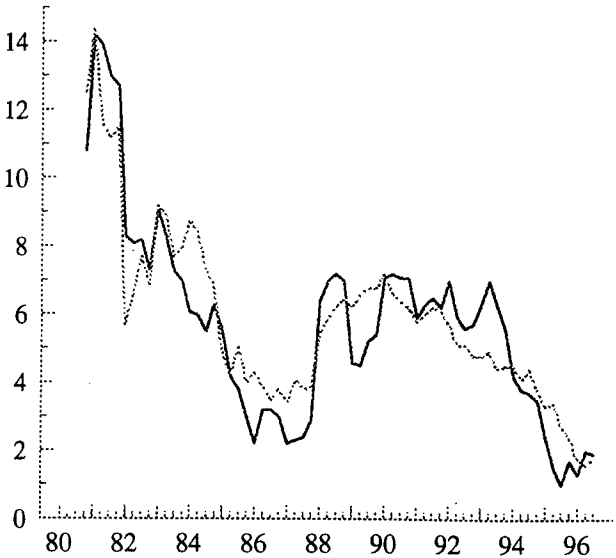


Chart D. Changes in benefits, by bargaining status, private industry

Union — Nonunion - - -

12-month percent change

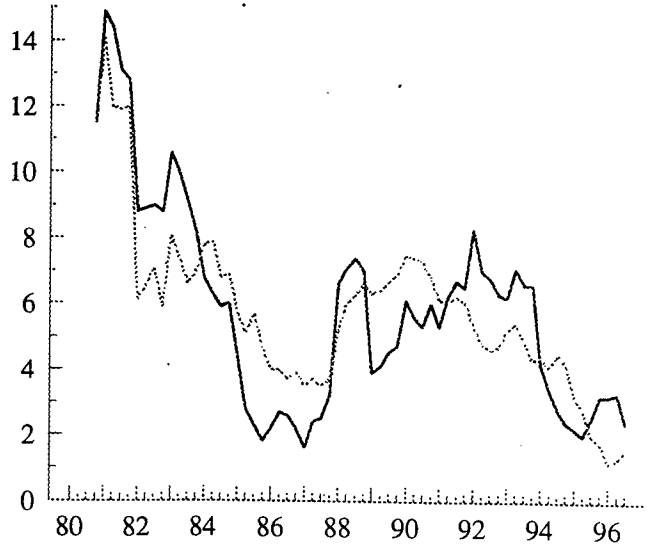


Table 1. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: Employment Cost Index for total compensation, wages and salaries, and benefit costs, by industry and occupational group

Series	Indexes (June 1989=100)		Percent changes for 3-months ended							
	Jun. 1996	Sep. 1996	Dec. 1994	Mar. 1995	June 1995	Sep. 1995	Dec. 1995	Mar. 1996	June 1996	Sep. 1996
COMPENSATION										
Civilian workers	129.2	130.0	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.6
State and local government	130.8	131.4	.6	.8	1.0	.5	.7	.6	.7	.5
Private industry workers	128.8	129.6	.6	.7	.7	.6	.7	.7	.8	.6
White-collar occupations	129.9	131.0	.6	.7	.7	.7	.7	.9	.8	.8
Blue-collar occupations	127.5	128.0	.5	.5	.7	.6	.6	.6	.8	.4
Service occupations	126.3	127.1	.9	.6	.6	.5	.5	.3	.6	.6
Goods-producing industries ¹ ...	129.4	130.3	.6	.7	.6	.6	.8	.4	.9	.7
Construction	125.2	125.5	.0	.2	.5	.7	.7	.6	.6	.2
Manufacturing	130.2	131.3	.6	.6	.6	.6	.8	.5	.9	.8
Durables	131.2	131.9	.7	.6	.7	.4	.8	.2	1.3	.5
Nondurables	128.7	130.2	.5	.4	.6	.6	1.0	.7	.5	1.2
Service-producing industries ²	128.5	129.4	.6	.9	.7	.7	.6	.8	.8	.7
Transportation and public utilities	128.4	129.2	.9	1.1	.8	1.0	.9	.5	.6	.6
Wholesale trade	129.0	129.9	.9	1.4	.9	1.3	.9	.4	1.0	.7
Retail trade	124.5	125.9	.2	.7	.2	.7	.6	1.5	-.2	1.1
Finance, insurance, and real estate ³	126.3	126.7	.3	1.1	1.3	.7	.3	1.1	1.4	.3
Services	131.8	132.6	.6	.6	.7	.5	.5	.8	.9	.6
Nonmanufacturing industries ...	128.2	128.9	.5	.7	.8	.6	.7	.8	.8	.5
WAGES AND SALARIES										
Civilian workers	126.2	127.0	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.0	0.9	0.6
State and local government	128.8	129.6	.8	.8	.7	.7	.8	.6	.8	.6
Private industry workers	125.6	126.4	.6	.8	.7	.7	.7	1.1	.9	.6
White-collar occupations	127.0	127.9	.7	.7	.8	.7	.7	1.2	.9	.7
Blue-collar occupations ³	123.7	124.3	.4	.8	.9	.6	.5	.9	1.0	.5
Service occupations	123.1	124.1	1.1	.5	.6	.6	.5	.7	.7	.8
Goods-producing industries ^{1,3}	125.1	126.1	.6	.7	.8	.6	.7	.8	1.0	.8
Construction	119.6	120.1	.4	.3	.5	.6	.9	.9	.8	.4
Manufacturing ³	126.5	127.7	.7	.9	.8	.5	.6	.9	.9	.9
Durables ³	126.5	127.7	.8	.9	.8	.6	.6	.6	1.1	.9
Nondurables	126.3	127.7	.4	.7	.7	.6	.9	1.0	.4	1.1
Service-producing industries ²	125.8	126.5	.6	.8	.7	.7	.7	1.2	.8	.6
Transportation and public utilities	124.9	125.9	.8	1.1	.7	.8	.8	.5	.3	.8
Wholesale trade	127.7	128.6	.7	1.2	1.0	1.3	1.1	.8	1.0	.7
Retail trade	122.9	124.0	.3	.9	.3	.7	.5	2.0	-.2	.9
Finance, insurance, and real estate ³	121.9	122.2	.4	.7	1.7	.9	.3	1.2	1.8	.2
Services	128.9	129.7	.7	.7	.6	.6	.6	1.2	1.1	.6
Nonmanufacturing industries ...	125.1	125.7	.5	.7	.8	.7	.7	1.1	.9	.5

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: Employment Cost Index for total compensation, wages and salaries, and benefit costs, by industry and occupational group — Continued

Series	Indexes (June 1989=100)		Percent changes for 3-months ended							
	Jun. 1996	Sep. 1996	Dec. 1994	Mar. 1995	June 1995	Sep. 1995	Dec. 1995	Mar. 1996	June 1996	Sep. 1996
	BENEFIT COSTS									
Civilian workers	136.6	137.4	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.7	0.6
State and local government	135.6	135.6	.4	.6	1.1	.4	.5	.7	.6	.0
Private industry workers	136.9	137.8	.5	.1	.6	.6	.6	-.1	.7	.7
White-collar occupations	138.2	139.5	.8	.7	.7	.7	.6	-.1	.7	.9
Blue-collar occupations	136.0	136.1	.2	.2	.3	.4	.8	-.1	.7	.1
Service occupations	136.2	136.3	.4	-.1	.5	.2	.3	-.5	.5	.1
Goods-producing industries ¹ ...	138.4	138.9	.4	.0	.2	.4	1.0	-.4	.9	.4
Manufacturing	138.4	139.0	.5	.0	.2	.4	1.0	-.1	1.0	.4
Service-producing industries ² ...	136.0	137.1	.6	.7	.8	.7	.4	.0	.6	.8
Nonmanufacturing industries	136.5	137.4	.5	.5	.7	.7	.4	-.1	.6	.7

¹ Includes mining, construction, and manufacturing.

² Includes transportation, communication, and public utilities; wholesale and retail

trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; and service industries.

³ No identifiable seasonality was found for this series.

Table 2. COMPENSATION (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED): Employment Cost Index for total compensation, civilian and state and local government workers, by industry and occupational group

Series	Indexes (June 1989=100)			Percent changes for					
	Sept. 1995	June 1996	Sept. 1996	3 months ended			12 months ended		
				Sept. 1995	June 1996	Sept. 1996	Sept. 1995	June 1996	Sept. 1996
Civilian workers	126.6	129.2	130.2	0.8	0.7	0.8	2.7	2.9	2.8
Excluding sales	126.9	129.4	130.5	.8	.6	.9	2.6	2.8	2.8
Workers, by occupational group									
White-collar occupations	127.4	130.0	131.3	.9	.7	1.0	2.8	2.9	3.1
Excluding sales	128.0	130.5	131.9	.9	.6	1.1	2.8	2.8	3.0
Professional specialty and technical ...	128.9	131.4	132.6	1.1	.6	.9	2.5	3.1	2.9
Executive, administrative, and managerial	126.7	129.1	131.1	.8	.5	1.5	3.1	2.7	3.5
Administrative support, including clerical	128.1	130.8	132.0	.6	.5	.9	2.8	2.7	3.0
Blue-collar occupations	125.2	127.7	128.3	.6	.8	.5	2.3	2.6	2.5
Service occupations	126.7	128.7	129.7	.7	.5	.8	2.6	2.3	2.4
Workers, by industry division									
Goods-producing ¹	126.5	129.3	130.1	.4	.8	.6	2.1	2.6	2.8
Manufacturing	127.3	130.4	131.3	.3	.9	.7	2.3	2.8	3.1
Service-producing ²	126.6	129.1	130.2	.9	.7	.9	2.8	2.9	2.8
Services	128.9	131.2	132.5	.9	.6	1.0	2.5	2.7	2.8
Health services	131.1	133.4	134.1	.7	.7	.5	2.6	2.5	2.3
Hospitals	130.4	132.9	133.6	.5	.5	.5	2.3	2.5	2.5
Educational services	129.8	130.8	133.2	1.9	.2	1.8	3.0	2.7	2.6
Public administration	127.4	129.6	130.7	1.0	.3	.8	3.0	2.8	2.6
Nonmanufacturing	126.3	128.8	129.8	.9	.7	.8	2.7	2.9	2.8
State and local government workers	128.7	130.2	131.9	1.4	.2	1.3	3.0	2.6	2.5
Workers, by occupational group									
White-collar occupations	128.6	129.9	131.8	1.6	.2	1.5	3.0	2.6	2.5
Professional specialty and technical ...	128.4	129.5	131.6	1.7	.3	1.6	2.7	2.5	2.5
Executive, administrative, and managerial	129.1	131.0	132.0	1.3	.2	.8	3.5	2.8	2.2
Administrative support, including clerical	128.4	130.4	131.8	1.2	.3	1.1	2.8	2.8	2.6
Blue-collar occupations	127.2	129.5	130.3	.7	.4	.6	2.4	2.5	2.4
Service occupations	130.1	132.3	133.6	1.0	.3	1.0	3.3	2.7	2.7
Workers, by industry division									
Services	129.2	130.3	132.4	1.7	.2	1.6	2.9	2.5	2.5
Excluding schools ³	128.9	130.8	131.9	.9	.4	.8	3.2	2.4	2.3
Health services	131.0	133.1	134.0	.9	.5	.7	3.0	2.5	2.3
Hospitals	131.1	133.2	134.2	.9	.5	.8	3.2	2.5	2.4
Educational services	129.0	130.0	132.3	1.7	.2	1.8	2.8	2.5	2.6
Schools	129.4	130.3	132.6	1.8	.2	1.8	2.8	2.5	2.5
Elementary and secondary	129.8	130.5	132.6	1.9	.2	1.6	2.8	2.4	2.2
Colleges and universities	128.0	129.9	132.5	1.5	.4	2.0	2.8	3.0	3.5
Public administration	127.4	129.6	130.7	1.0	.3	.8	3.0	2.8	2.6

¹ Includes mining, construction, and manufacturing.

² Includes transportation, communication, and public utilities; wholesale and retail

trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; service industries; and public administration.

³ Formerly called hospitals and other services.

Table 3. COMPENSATION (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED): Employment Cost Index for total compensation, private industry workers, by industry and occupational group

Series	Indexes (June 1989=100)			Percent changes for					
	Sept. 1995	June 1996	Sept. 1996	3 months ended			12 months ended		
				Sept. 1995	June 1996	Sept. 1996	Sept. 1995	June 1996	Sept. 1996
Private industry workers	126.2	129.0	129.8	0.6	0.9	0.6	2.6	2.9	2.9
Excluding sales	126.5	129.2	130.2	.6	.7	.8	2.5	2.8	2.9
White-collar occupations	127.0	130.0	131.1	.6	.8	.8	2.8	3.0	3.2
Excluding sales	127.8	130.7	132.0	.6	.6	1.0	2.7	2.9	3.3
Professional specialty and technical	129.3	132.6	133.3	.7	.8	.5	2.4	3.3	3.1
Executive, administrative, and managerial	126.2	128.8	130.9	.6	.6	1.6	2.9	2.7	3.7
Sales	123.2	126.9	126.7	.7	1.7	-.2	3.4	3.7	2.8
Administrative support, including clerical	128.1	130.8	132.0	.6	.5	.9	2.9	2.7	3.0
Blue-collar occupations	125.1	127.6	128.1	.6	.8	.4	2.3	2.6	2.4
Precision production, craft, and repair	125.4	127.7	128.2	.8	.9	.4	2.4	2.7	2.2
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	125.1	128.1	128.7	.2	.8	.5	1.8	2.6	2.9
Transportation and material moving	122.9	124.7	124.9	.4	.6	.2	2.2	1.9	1.6
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	125.9	129.3	130.0	.5	.6	.5	2.6	3.2	3.3
Service occupations	124.7	126.5	127.4	.6	.6	.7	2.4	2.0	2.2
Production and nonsupervisory occupations 1	125.8	128.6	129.2	.6	.9	.5	2.6	2.9	2.7
Goods-producing industries 2	126.5	129.3	130.1	.5	.9	.6	2.1	2.7	2.8
Excluding sales occupations	126.1	129.0	129.8	.4	.8	.6	2.1	2.7	2.9
White-collar occupations	128.1	131.0	132.2	.4	.8	.9	2.4	2.7	3.2
Excluding sales	127.2	130.2	131.5	.4	.6	1.0	2.5	2.8	3.4
Blue-collar occupations	125.5	128.3	128.9	.5	.9	.5	1.9	2.7	2.7
Service occupations 3	128.8	130.1	-	.7	.4	-	1.8	1.7	-
Construction	123.1	125.3	125.9	.9	.8	.5	1.4	2.7	2.3
Manufacturing	127.3	130.4	131.3	.3	.9	.7	2.3	2.8	3.1
White-collar occupations	128.7	131.6	132.8	.5	.8	.9	3.0	2.8	3.2
Excluding sales	127.4	130.5	131.8	.6	.8	1.0	3.1	3.1	3.5
Blue-collar occupations	126.3	129.5	130.2	.2	.9	.5	1.9	2.8	3.1
Service occupations 3	129.5	131.0	-	.7	.5	-	2.0	1.9	-
Durables	128.2	131.2	131.9	.4	1.2	.5	2.5	2.7	2.9
Nondurables	125.7	128.9	130.0	.2	.5	.9	2.0	2.8	3.4
Service-producing industries 4	125.8	128.6	129.5	.7	.8	.7	2.9	3.0	2.9
Excluding sales occupations	126.6	129.2	130.3	.6	.6	.9	2.7	2.7	2.9
White-collar occupations	126.5	129.6	130.6	.7	.9	.8	2.9	3.2	3.2
Excluding sales	128.0	130.9	132.2	.7	.7	1.0	2.7	3.0	3.3
Blue-collar occupations	123.9	126.0	126.4	.6	.6	.3	2.7	2.4	2.0
Service occupations	124.2	126.1	127.1	.5	.6	.8	2.4	2.0	2.3
Transportation and public utilities	126.0	128.4	129.3	1.0	.4	.7	3.8	3.0	2.6
Transportation	124.7	127.7	128.2	1.4	.6	.4	4.2	3.8	2.8
Public utilities	127.5	129.1	130.4	.6	.2	1.0	3.2	1.8	2.3
Communications	127.4	127.5	129.1	.6	-.4	1.3	3.7	.7	1.3
Electric, gas, and sanitary services	127.7	131.1	132.0	.6	.8	.7	2.7	3.2	3.4
Wholesale and retail trade	123.8	126.4	127.5	.8	.7	.9	2.7	2.9	3.0
Excluding sales occupations	124.1	126.4	128.0	.8	.4	1.3	2.6	2.7	3.1

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. COMPENSATION (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED): Employment Cost Index for total compensation, private industry workers, by industry and occupational group — Continued

Series	Indexes (June 1989=100)			Percent changes for					
	Sept. 1995	June 1996	Sept. 1996	3 months ended			12 months ended		
				Sept. 1995	June 1996	Sept. 1996	Sept. 1995	June 1996	Sept. 1996
Wholesale trade	126.1	129.3	129.9	1.0	1.4	0.5	4.6	3.6	3.0
Excluding sales occupations	126.2	128.7	130.0	.9	1.0	1.0	4.0	2.9	3.0
Retail trade	122.6	124.8	126.2	.7	.2	1.1	1.8	2.5	2.9
General merchandise stores	121.0	123.6	124.6	.2	1.0	.8	1.9	2.4	3.0
Food stores	121.8	124.4	127.0	.9	.6	2.1	1.2	3.1	4.3
Finance, insurance, and real estate	122.7	126.3	126.7	.7	1.4	.3	3.5	3.7	3.3
Excluding sales occupations	125.4	128.5	129.7	.6	.8	.9	3.2	3.1	3.4
Banking, savings and loan, and other credit agencies	124.8	128.2	130.3	.6	1.0	1.6	3.3	3.3	4.4
Insurance	124.9	128.2	129.3	.2	.5	.9	2.8	2.9	3.5
Excluding sales occupations	129.6	132.7	133.4	.5	.5	.5	2.9	2.9	2.9
Services	128.9	131.7	132.7	.5	.8	.8	2.4	2.7	2.9
Business services	125.7	129.2	130.2	.3	.2	.8	2.7	3.1	3.6
Health services	131.3	133.5	134.2	.8	.7	.5	2.7	2.5	2.2
Hospitals	130.3	132.8	133.4	.5	.5	.5	2.0	2.4	2.4
Nursing homes	-	-	-	.5	1.0	.2	2.9	3.1	2.8
Educational services	133.2	134.8	137.5	2.2	.3	2.0	3.9	3.5	3.2
Colleges and universities	134.6	136.2	138.6	2.5	.2	1.8	4.7	3.7	3.0
Nonmanufacturing industries	125.5	128.2	129.1	.7	.8	.7	2.6	2.9	2.9
White-collar occupations	126.5	129.5	130.5	.7	.8	.8	2.8	3.1	3.2
Excluding sales	128.0	130.8	132.1	.7	.6	1.0	2.6	2.9	3.2
Blue-collar occupations	123.5	125.6	125.9	.8	.8	.2	2.5	2.5	1.9
Service occupations	124.2	126.0	127.0	.6	.6	.8	2.4	2.0	2.3

¹ This series has the same industry and occupational coverage as the Hourly Earnings Index, which was discontinued in January 1989.

² Includes mining, construction, and manufacturing.

³ Publication of data for service occupations in manufacturing and other

goods-producing industries has been discontinued due to insufficient sample size.

⁴ Includes transportation, communication, and public utilities; wholesale and retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; and service industries.

- Data not available.

Table 4. COMPENSATION (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED): Employment Cost Index for total compensation, private industry workers, by bargaining status, region, and area size

Series	Indexes (June 1989=100)			Percent changes for					
	Sept. 1995	June 1996	Sept. 1996	3 months ended			12 months ended		
				Sept. 1995	June 1996	Sept. 1996	Sept. 1995	June 1996	Sept. 1996
Workers, by bargaining status									
Union	126.8	129.7	130.1	0.8	0.9	0.3	2.4	3.1	2.6
Blue-collar occupations	125.7	128.0	128.3	.7	.9	.2	2.1	2.6	2.1
Goods-producing industries ¹	126.7	129.0	129.2	.6	.9	.2	1.8	2.5	2.0
Service-producing industries ²	126.8	130.3	131.0	1.0	1.0	.5	3.2	3.7	3.3
Manufacturing	127.1	129.8	129.8	.4	.8	.0	1.4	2.5	2.1
Blue-collar occupations	126.8	129.4	129.5	.3	.9	.1	1.4	2.4	2.1
Nonmanufacturing	126.2	129.2	129.9	1.0	.9	.5	2.9	3.4	2.9
Nonunion	126.0	128.7	129.7	.6	.8	.8	2.7	2.8	2.9
Blue-collar occupations	124.5	127.3	127.8	.5	.8	.4	2.3	2.7	2.7
Goods-producing industries ¹	126.4	129.4	130.4	.4	.9	.8	2.3	2.8	3.2
Service-producing industries ²	125.6	128.3	129.2	.6	.8	.7	2.8	2.8	2.9
Manufacturing	127.3	130.5	131.7	.3	.9	.9	2.7	2.8	3.5
Blue-collar occupations	125.7	129.3	130.3	.2	.9	.8	2.2	3.0	3.7
Nonmanufacturing	125.3	128.0	128.9	.6	.8	.7	2.5	2.8	2.9
Workers, by region ³									
Northeast	127.4	129.7	130.6	.6	.6	.7	2.7	2.4	2.5
South	125.2	127.8	128.8	.7	.6	.8	2.8	2.8	2.9
Midwest	127.7	130.7	131.3	.6	.9	.5	2.5	3.0	2.8
West	123.9	127.3	128.3	.4	1.1	.8	2.1	3.2	3.6
Workers, by area size									
Metropolitan areas	126.2	129.1	130.0	.6	.9	.7	2.7	3.0	3.0
Other areas	126.1	128.0	128.7	.6	.6	.5	2.4	2.2	2.1

¹ Includes mining, construction, and manufacturing.

² Includes transportation, communication, and public utilities; wholesale and retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; and service industries.

³ The regional coverage is as follows: Northeast—Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont; South—Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South

Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia; Midwest—Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin; and West—Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

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

Table 5. WAGES AND SALARIES (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED): Employment Cost Index for wages and salaries only, civilian and state and local government workers, by industry and occupational group

Series	Indexes (June 1989=100)			Percent changes for					
	Sept. 1995	June 1996	Sept. 1996	3 months ended			12 months ended		
				Sept. 1995	June 1996	Sept. 1996	Sept. 1995	June 1996	Sept. 1996
Civilian workers	123.2	126.1	127.2	0.8	0.8	0.9	2.8	3.2	3.2
Excluding sales	123.4	126.2	127.5	.8	.7	1.0	2.7	3.1	3.3
Workers, by occupational group									
White-collar occupations	124.3	127.3	128.6	1.0	.8	1.0	2.9	3.4	3.5
Excluding sales	125.0	127.8	129.4	1.0	.6	1.3	2.9	3.2	3.5
Professional specialty and technical ...	126.1	128.8	130.2	1.1	.6	1.1	2.7	3.3	3.3
Executive, administrative, and managerial	123.8	127.0	129.0	.8	.6	1.6	3.0	3.4	4.2
Administrative support, including clerical	124.3	127.1	128.4	.7	.6	1.0	2.8	3.0	3.3
Blue-collar occupations	121.1	123.9	124.5	.7	.9	.5	2.8	3.0	2.8
Service occupations	122.8	124.9	126.2	.8	.6	1.0	2.8	2.5	2.8
Workers, by industry division									
Goods-producing ¹	122.1	125.1	126.1	.6	1.0	.8	2.6	3.0	3.3
Manufacturing	123.5	126.5	127.7	.5	.9	.9	2.9	2.9	3.4
Service-producing ²	123.7	126.5	127.7	1.0	.7	.9	2.9	3.3	3.2
Services	126.2	128.9	130.3	1.1	.7	1.1	2.8	3.3	3.2
Health services	127.5	130.0	130.8	.7	.5	.6	2.5	2.7	2.6
Hospitals	126.8	129.2	130.0	.6	.5	.6	2.3	2.5	2.5
Educational services	127.8	129.1	131.6	2.2	.2	1.9	3.2	3.2	3.0
Public administration	123.2	125.3	126.6	.7	.3	1.0	2.8	2.5	2.8
Nonmanufacturing	123.1	125.9	127.0	1.0	.7	.9	2.8	3.3	3.2
State and local government workers	126.6	128.1	130.1	1.6	.2	1.6	3.1	2.8	2.8
Workers, by occupational group									
White-collar occupations	126.8	128.2	130.3	1.8	.2	1.6	3.2	2.9	2.8
Professional specialty and technical ...	127.4	128.6	131.1	1.9	.2	1.9	3.1	2.9	2.9
Executive, administrative, and managerial	126.0	128.0	129.3	1.4	.2	1.0	3.6	3.0	2.6
Administrative support, including clerical	124.4	126.1	127.7	1.2	.2	1.3	2.9	2.6	2.7
Blue-collar occupations	124.8	127.0	127.9	.8	.3	.7	2.5	2.6	2.5
Service occupations	126.6	128.6	130.1	1.1	.4	1.2	3.2	2.7	2.8
Workers, by industry division									
Services	127.6	128.9	131.2	2.0	.2	1.8	3.2	3.0	2.8
Excluding schools ³	126.9	128.7	130.1	1.1	.4	1.1	3.0	2.5	2.5
Health services	127.9	129.9	131.1	1.0	.5	.9	2.6	2.6	2.5
Hospitals	127.6	129.7	130.9	1.0	.5	.9	2.7	2.7	2.6
Educational services	127.7	128.8	131.3	2.2	.2	1.9	3.3	3.1	2.8
Schools	127.8	128.9	131.4	2.2	.2	1.9	3.2	3.0	2.8
Elementary and secondary	128.7	129.5	132.0	2.3	.2	1.9	3.4	2.9	2.6
Colleges and universities	125.0	127.1	129.8	1.7	.2	2.1	2.9	3.4	3.8
Public administration	123.2	125.3	126.6	.7	.3	1.0	2.8	2.5	2.8

¹ Includes mining, construction, and manufacturing.

² Includes transportation, communication, and public utilities; wholesale and retail

trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; service industries; and public administration.

³ Formerly called hospitals and other services.

Table 6. WAGES AND SALARIES (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED): Employment Cost Index for wages and salaries only, private industry workers, by industry and occupational group

Series	Indexes (June 1989=100)			Percent changes for					
	Sept. 1995	June 1996	Sept. 1996	3 months ended			12 months ended		
				Sept. 1995	June 1996	Sept. 1996	Sept. 1995	June 1996	Sept. 1996
Private industry workers	122.4	125.6	126.5	0.7	1.0	0.7	2.8	3.4	3.3
Excluding sales	122.6	125.7	126.8	.7	.8	.9	2.7	3.2	3.4
White-collar occupations	123.6	127.0	128.0	.7	1.0	.8	2.8	3.5	3.6
Excluding sales	124.3	127.6	129.0	.7	.7	1.1	2.7	3.4	3.8
Professional specialty and technical	125.3	128.8	129.6	.7	.8	.6	2.5	3.5	3.4
Executive, administrative, and managerial	123.4	126.8	128.9	.7	.7	1.7	2.8	3.5	4.5
Sales	120.5	124.4	123.9	1.0	2.0	-.4	3.4	4.3	2.8
Administrative support, including clerical	124.3	127.3	128.5	.6	.6	.9	2.8	3.1	3.4
Blue-collar occupations	120.8	123.7	124.3	.6	1.0	.5	2.8	3.0	2.9
Precision production, craft, and repair	121.0	123.7	124.2	.9	1.1	.4	2.7	3.2	2.6
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	121.4	124.5	125.4	.4	.9	.7	2.9	3.0	3.3
Transportation and material moving	118.5	120.6	121.0	.6	.5	.3	2.9	2.4	2.1
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	121.5	125.1	125.8	.2	.7	.6	3.1	3.2	3.5
Service occupations	120.8	123.0	124.1	.7	.7	.9	2.7	2.5	2.7
Production and nonsupervisory occupations ¹	121.8	124.9	125.6	.7	1.0	.6	2.8	3.2	3.1
Goods-producing industries ²	122.1	125.1	126.1	.6	1.0	.8	2.7	3.0	3.3
Excluding sales occupations	121.6	124.6	125.7	.6	.9	.9	2.7	3.1	3.4
White-collar occupations	124.4	127.3	128.6	.5	.9	1.0	2.7	2.8	3.4
Excluding sales	123.2	126.3	127.7	.6	.8	1.1	2.8	3.1	3.7
Blue-collar occupations	120.7	123.7	124.5	.7	1.1	.6	2.7	3.2	3.1
Service occupations ³	122.8	124.6	-	.7	.2	-	2.2	2.2	-
Construction	116.8	119.6	120.4	1.0	1.1	.7	1.9	3.4	3.1
Manufacturing	123.5	126.5	127.7	.5	.9	.9	2.9	2.9	3.4
White-collar occupations	125.3	128.2	129.6	.5	.9	1.1	3.0	2.8	3.4
Excluding sales	123.9	127.0	128.4	.6	.8	1.1	3.1	3.1	3.6
Blue-collar occupations	122.2	125.4	126.3	.5	1.0	.7	2.9	3.1	3.4
Service occupations ³	123.7	125.7	-	.7	.5	-	2.6	2.4	-
Durables	123.6	126.5	127.7	.6	1.1	.9	3.2	2.9	3.3
Nondurables	123.3	126.5	127.6	.3	.6	.9	2.5	2.9	3.5
Service-producing industries ⁴	122.6	125.8	126.7	.8	.9	.7	2.9	3.5	3.3
Excluding sales occupations	123.4	126.5	127.6	.7	.7	.9	2.7	3.3	3.4
White-collar occupations	123.2	126.8	127.8	.7	1.0	.8	2.8	3.7	3.7
Excluding sales	124.7	128.1	129.5	.7	.7	1.1	2.6	3.5	3.8
Blue-collar occupations	121.1	123.5	123.8	.7	.7	.2	3.1	2.7	2.2
Service occupations	120.7	122.8	124.0	.8	.7	1.0	2.9	2.5	2.7
Transportation and public utilities	122.9	125.0	125.9	.7	.3	.7	3.4	2.5	2.4
Transportation	121.0	123.2	123.8	1.0	.2	.5	3.7	2.8	2.3
Public utilities	125.2	127.1	128.4	.6	.5	1.0	3.1	2.1	2.6
Communications	125.3	126.5	128.2	.6	.3	1.3	3.6	1.5	2.3
Electric, gas, and sanitary services	125.2	127.7	128.5	.6	.6	.6	2.7	2.7	2.6
Wholesale and retail trade	121.6	124.8	125.8	.8	.7	.8	2.8	3.5	3.5
Excluding sales occupations	121.9	124.9	126.5	.8	.4	1.3	2.7	3.3	3.8

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 6. WAGES AND SALARIES (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED): Employment Cost Index for wages and salaries only, private industry workers, by industry and occupational group — Continued

Series	Indexes (June 1989=100)			Percent changes for					
	Sept. 1995	June 1996	Sept. 1996	3 months ended			12 months ended		
				Sept. 1995	June 1996	Sept. 1996	Sept. 1995	June 1996	Sept. 1996
Wholesale trade	123.9	128.0	128.5	1.0	1.5	0.4	4.2	4.3	3.7
Excluding sales occupations	123.7	127.6	128.9	.7	1.0	1.0	3.4	3.8	4.2
Retail trade	120.5	123.1	124.4	.8	.2	1.1	2.1	2.9	3.2
General merchandise stores	119.0	121.7	122.6	.3	.6	.7	2.1	2.6	3.0
Food stores	118.6	121.2	123.1	.9	.6	1.6	1.0	3.1	3.8
Finance, insurance, and real estate	118.0	121.9	122.2	.9	1.8	.2	3.7	4.2	3.6
Excluding sales occupations	121.1	124.5	126.0	.7	.9	1.2	3.3	3.6	4.0
Banking, savings and loan, and other credit agencies	120.4	124.2	126.8	.6	1.2	2.1	3.3	3.8	5.3
Insurance	121.1	124.1	125.4	.2	.4	1.0	2.9	2.7	3.6
Excluding sales occupations	125.7	128.6	129.3	.4	.5	.5	2.8	2.7	2.9
Services	125.3	128.7	129.7	.7	.9	.8	2.5	3.5	3.5
Business services	123.6	127.7	128.5	.6	.6	.6	3.1	3.9	4.0
Health services	127.5	130.1	130.8	.6	.6	.5	2.6	2.7	2.6
Hospitals	126.6	129.1	129.7	.6	.5	.5	2.2	2.5	2.4
Nursing homes	-	-	-	.5	.6	.4	3.0	2.8	2.8
Educational services	128.6	130.4	133.3	2.1	.2	2.2	3.0	3.6	3.7
Colleges and universities	129.0	130.9	133.4	2.5	.2	1.9	3.6	4.0	3.4
Nonmanufacturing industries	121.9	125.1	125.9	.8	1.0	.6	2.7	3.5	3.3
White-collar occupations	123.1	126.6	127.6	.8	1.0	.8	2.8	3.7	3.7
Excluding sales	124.4	127.8	129.2	.7	.7	1.1	2.6	3.5	3.9
Blue-collar occupations	119.4	122.0	122.4	.8	.9	.3	2.6	3.0	2.5
Service occupations	120.6	122.7	123.9	.7	.6	1.0	2.8	2.4	2.7

¹ This series has the same industry and occupational coverage as the Hourly Earnings Index, which was discontinued in January 1989.

² Includes mining, construction, and manufacturing.

³ Publication of data for service occupations in manufacturing and other

goods-producing industries has been discontinued due to insufficient sample size.

⁴ Includes transportation, communication, and public utilities; wholesale and retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; and service industries.

- Data not available.

Table 7. WAGES AND SALARIES (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED): Employment Cost Index for wages and salaries only, private industry workers, by bargaining status, region, and area size

Series	Indexes (June 1989=100)			Percent changes for					
	Sept. 1995	June 1996	Sept. 1996	3 months ended			12 months ended		
				Sept. 1995	June 1996	Sept. 1996	Sept. 1995	June 1996	Sept. 1996
Workers, by bargaining status									
Union	121.5	124.2	124.8	0.7	1.1	0.5	2.4	3.0	2.7
Blue-collar occupations	120.0	122.0	122.8	.8	.9	.7	2.3	2.4	2.3
Goods-producing industries ¹	120.2	122.5	123.2	.8	1.0	.6	2.3	2.7	2.5
Service-producing industries ²	123.2	126.2	126.8	.7	1.1	.5	2.6	3.2	2.9
Manufacturing	121.3	123.9	124.5	.7	.8	.5	2.4	2.8	2.6
Blue-collar occupations	121.0	123.5	124.2	.7	.9	.6	2.3	2.7	2.6
Nonmanufacturing	121.6	124.3	124.9	.8	1.2	.5	2.5	3.1	2.7
Nonunion	122.6	125.9	126.9	.7	.9	.8	2.9	3.4	3.5
Blue-collar occupations	121.4	124.7	125.2	.6	.9	.4	3.1	3.3	3.1
Goods-producing industries ¹	122.9	126.1	127.3	.6	1.0	1.0	2.8	3.2	3.6
Service-producing industries ²	122.4	125.7	126.6	.7	.9	.7	2.9	3.5	3.4
Manufacturing	124.3	127.5	128.8	.4	1.0	1.0	3.2	3.0	3.6
Blue-collar occupations	123.1	126.7	127.8	.4	1.0	.9	3.4	3.3	3.8
Nonmanufacturing	121.9	125.2	126.1	.7	.8	.7	2.7	3.5	3.4
Workers, by region ³									
Northeast	123.1	126.0	127.0	.8	.9	.8	2.6	3.2	3.2
South	121.8	125.1	126.0	.8	.8	.7	2.8	3.6	3.4
Midwest	123.0	126.2	126.9	.7	.9	.6	2.9	3.3	3.2
West	121.4	124.8	125.8	.4	1.2	.8	2.8	3.2	3.6
Workers, by area size									
Metropolitan areas	122.4	125.8	126.7	.7	1.0	.7	2.8	3.5	3.5
Other areas	122.1	124.2	125.0	.7	.6	.6	3.0	2.4	2.4

¹ Includes mining, construction, and manufacturing.

² Includes transportation, communication, and public utilities; wholesale and retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; and service industries.

³ The regional coverage is as follows: Northeast—Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont; South—Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South

Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia; Midwest—Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin; and West—Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

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

Table 8. BENEFITS (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED): Employment Cost Index for benefits only, civilian, state and local, and private industry workers, by industry and occupational group

Series	Indexes (June 1989=100)			Percent changes for					
	Sept. 1995	June 1996	Sept. 1996	3 months ended			12 months ended		
				Sept. 1995	June 1996	Sept. 1996	Sept. 1995	June 1996	Sept. 1996
Civilian workers	135.2	136.9	137.7	0.5	0.5	0.6	2.2	1.8	1.8
State and local government workers	133.6	135.1	136.1	1.1	.3	.7	2.5	2.2	1.9
Private industry workers	135.6	137.4	138.1	.4	.6	.5	2.1	1.7	1.8
Workers, by occupational group									
White-collar occupations	136.6	138.4	139.5	.4	.5	.8	2.9	1.8	2.1
Blue-collar occupations	134.1	136.1	136.2	.4	.7	.1	1.1	1.9	1.6
Service occupations	135.7	136.3	136.2	.1	.4	-.1	1.1	.5	.4
Workers, by industry division									
Goods-producing industries ¹	136.2	138.6	138.8	.2	.7	.1	1.0	2.0	1.9
Service-producing industries ²	134.8	136.2	137.2	.5	.5	.7	2.7	1.6	1.8
Manufacturing	135.5	138.5	138.8	.2	.7	.2	1.2	2.4	2.4
Nonmanufacturing	135.4	136.7	137.5	.5	.5	.6	2.4	1.5	1.6
Workers, by bargaining status									
Union workers	136.6	140.0	139.9	.8	.6	-.1	2.5	3.3	2.4
Nonunion workers	135.2	136.5	137.4	.3	.5	.7	2.0	1.3	1.6

¹ Includes mining, construction, and manufacturing.

² Includes transportation, communication, and public utilities; wholesale and retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; and service industries.

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

Table 9. AEROSPACE (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED): Employment Cost Index for workers in aerospace manufacturing, by industry and occupation

Series	Indexes (June 1989=100)			Percent changes for					
	Sept. 1995	June 1996	Sept. 1996	3 months ended			12 months ended		
				Sept. 1995	June 1996	Sept. 1996	Sept. 1995	June 1996	Sept. 1996
COMPENSATION									
Aircraft manufacturing (SIC 3721)	131.5	138.2	138.2	0.4	0.9	0.0	2.2	5.5	5.1
White-collar occupations	127.8	133.9	133.8	.5	1.1	-.1	2.0	5.3	4.7
Blue-collar occupations	136.3	144.1	144.4	.1	.6	.2	2.3	5.9	5.9
WAGES AND SALARIES									
Aircraft manufacturing (SIC 3721)	127.4	130.3	130.6	0.7	1.0	0.2	2.7	3.0	2.5
White-collar occupations	122.7	125.9	126.1	.9	1.5	.2	2.4	3.5	2.8
Blue-collar occupations	134.1	136.4	137.0	.4	.2	.4	3.0	2.1	2.2
BENEFIT COSTS									
Aircraft manufacturing (SIC 3721)	140.5	155.4	154.8	-0.2	0.8	-0.4	1.3	10.4	10.2
White-collar occupations	139.9	152.9	152.1	-.2	.6	-.5	1.4	9.1	8.7
Blue-collar occupations	140.6	158.4	158.4	-.2	1.1	.0	1.2	12.4	12.7

NOTE: SIC refers to the 1987 Standard Industrial Classification System code as defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The Employment Cost Index (ECI) is a measure of the change in the cost of labor, free from the influence of employment shifts among occupations and industries. The compensation series includes changes in wages and salaries and employer costs for employee benefits. The wage and salary series and the benefit cost series provide the change for the two components of compensation.

Wages and salaries are defined as the hourly straight-time wage rate or, for workers not paid on an hourly basis, straight-time 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, shift differentials, and nonproduction bonuses such as lump-sum payments provided in lieu of wage increases. Production bonuses, incentive earnings, commission payments, and cost-of-living adjustments are included in straight-time wage and salary rates.

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 such as lump-sum payments provided in lieu of wage increases); insurance benefits (life, health, sickness and accident, and long-term disability); retirement and savings benefits (defined benefit and defined contribution); legally required benefits (social security, Federal and State unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, and other legally required benefits such as State temporary disability); and other benefits (severance pay and supplemental unemployment plans).

The ECI provides data for the civilian economy, which includes the total private economy and the public sector--excluding farms, households, and the Federal government. The private industry series and the State and local government series provide data for the two sectors separately.

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 nearly 20,000 occupations within about 4,700 sample establishments in private industry and nearly 4,500 occupations within about 900 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.

The sample establishments are classified in industry categories based on the 1987 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. From June 1986 through December 1994, the jobs were classified according to definitions used in the 1980 Census. Prior to June 1986, they were classified according to the 1970 Census. 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. Beginning with March 1995, the jobs are classified according to the 1990 Census, which differs little from the 1980 Census.

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. Beginning in March 1995, 1990 employment counts primarily from the Bureau's Occupational Employment Survey were used. A description of the reweighting is included in an article "Introducing 1990 Weights for the Employment Cost Index," that was published in the June 1995 issue of Compensation and Working Conditions and that is available upon request. From June 1986 through December 1994, employment counts from the 1980 Census were used as weights. Prior to June 1986, employment counts from the 1970 Census were used.

For the series based on bargaining status, region, or area size, universe employment counts are not available. Thus, the employment weights are reallocated within these series each quarter based on the current ECI 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.

Beginning with the March 1990 ECI release, indexes were rebased to June 1989=100. A description of the rebasing is included in the article "Employment Cost Index Rebased to June 1989," in the April 1990 issue of the Monthly Labor Review.

Beginning with the December 1990 ECI release, seasonally adjusted data are available for selected ECI series. Seasonal adjustment removes the effects of events that follow a more or less regular pattern each year. These adjustments make nonseasonal patterns easier to spot. ECI series are seasonally adjusted using either direct or composite seasonally adjusted estimates. Industry and occupational series, such as construction and service occupations, are adjusted directly. More aggregate series, such as civilian or private industry workers, use composite estimates. The composite estimates could be obtained by aggregating either the industry or the occupational components, and the results may differ depending on which method is used. The aggregate seasonally adjusted ECI series are estimated by aggregating the component seasonally adjusted industry series, so they are not necessarily a weighted average of the component occupation series.

The costs per hour worked of compensation components, based on March 1996 data from the ECI, are published in a separate news release titled "Employer Costs for Employee Compensation - March 1996." A description of the cost levels is provided in the article "Analyzing employers' costs for wages, salaries, and benefits" in the October 1987 issue of the Monthly Labor Review. The cost levels, which are published annually, are calculated with current employment weights, rather than the fixed 1990 weights used in computing the ECI. Therefore, year-to-year changes in the cost levels will usually differ from those in the ECI.

More detailed information on the ECI is available in several sources. These include an annual bulletin, Employment Cost Indexes and Levels, 1975-95, (Bulletin 2466); a chapter in the BLS Handbook of Methods (Bulletin 2414), "The Employment Cost Index;" and several articles published in the Monthly Labor Review. The annual bulletin is available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, or Bureau of Labor Statistics, Publications Sales Center, P.O. Box 2145, Chicago, Illinois 60690. Reprints of the articles plus other descriptive pieces and a complete historical listing are available upon request. ECI historical data are also available on data diskettes.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-606-7828, Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) phone: 202-606-5897, TDD Message Referral Phone Number: 1-800-326-2577.