

Technical Note

This document provides estimates from 1975 to the present reference month for industry and occupational series that have been determined to be continuous between the old and new classification systems.

Beginning with December 2013, estimates are based on 2012 employment weights, using Occupational Employment Statistics employment counts.

Beginning with estimates for March 2006, the following changes were introduced to the ECI:

- The Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) System was replaced by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) for classifying establishments by industry.
- The Occupational Classification System (OCS) Manual was replaced by the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Manual for classifying occupations.
- Estimates were weighted to 2002 fixed employment counts until December 2013 (see above). For March 1995 through December 2005, ECI estimates were weighted on 1990 fixed employment counts. A report on the 1990 reweighting, "Introducing 1990 Weights for the ECI," from the June 1995 issue of Compensation and Working Conditions is available upon request.
- The ECI base was changed to December 2005=100. Prior to this, the base was June 1989=100, which was used from March 1990 through December 2005. December 2005=100 indexes were calculated by dividing the June 1989=100 index values for each series by the December 2005 index value for that series and then multiplying by 100. Three- and 12-month percent changes were then calculated from the rebased indexes. These percent changes may differ from those calculated from the June 1989=100 indexes because of rounding. The change to the June 1989=100 base is explained in the technical note, "ECI Rebased to June 1989," in the April 1990 issue of the Monthly Labor Review (www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/1990/04/rpt1full.pdf).

For more information on these changes, see articles in the April 2006 issue of the Monthly Labor Review (www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2006).

Fixed employment data are not available for the series based on bargaining status, census region and division, metropolitan area status, and series excluding incentive paid occupations. Therefore, the employment weights are reallocated within these series for each reference period based on the current ECI sample. The indexes for these series, consequently, are not strictly comparable with those for the aggregate industry and occupational series. A fuller explanation of the calculation of index numbers appears in an article, "Estimation Procedures for the ECI" in the May 1982 issue of the Monthly Labor Review (www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/1982/05/rpt3full.pdf).

When using the ECI for escalation contracts, users should review "How to Use the ECI for Escalation" (www.bls.gov/ect/escalator.htm).

This historical listing includes Employment Cost Index estimate corrections as announced on the Bureau's errata page, see www.bls.gov/bls/erratabysubject.htm.

More information on the ECI is available from several sources. These include: "National Compensation Measures," in the BLS Handbook of Methods (www.bls.gov/opub/hom/ncs/home.htm), and several articles published in the Monthly Labor Review (www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/mlrhome.htm). These articles, and other descriptive pieces, are also available by calling (202) 691-6199 or sending e-mail to NCSinfo@bls.gov.

