

Appendix 1. Characteristics of the Consumer Price Index, 1890 to date

Date	Survey providing expenditure weight		Base period	Census providing population weights	Number of areas included	Family composition	Earnings of chief earner	Source and amount of family income	Length of employment	Economic level, length of residence, nativity, and race	Title(s)
	Group weights	Item weights									
1890 ¹ ...	None	1901	Varied	None	Varied	Two or more persons.	Salaried worker earning \$1,200 or less during year. No limitation on wage earners.	No limitation	No limitation	No limitation	
1919 Feb. 1921	1917-19	1917-19	1913		² 32	Minimum of husband, wife, and one child who was not a boarder or lodger. No boarders nor more than three lodgers present.	Salaried worker earning \$2,000 or less. No limitation on wage earners.	At least 75 percent from principal earner or others who contributed to earnings to family fund.		No slum or charity families; white only; in area entire year and in United States 5 years or more; no non-English speaking families.	Cost-of-living.
Sept. 1935... Dec. 1935... Aug. 1940 ⁵	1934-36	⁶ 1934-36	1923-35 1935-39	³ Average 1920-30 1930	⁷ 33	Two or more persons. Not more than two boarders or lodgers, or guests for more than 26 guest-weeks.	At least \$300. Salaried worker earning less than \$2,000 during year or less than \$200 during any month. No upper limitation on wage earners.	At least \$500. Less than one-fourth interest, dividends, royalties, speculative gains, rents, gifts, or income in rent in payment of services. Less than 3 months' free rent. No subsidiary clerical worker earning \$2,000 or over.	At least 1,008 hours spread over 36 weeks	No relief families, either on direct or work relief; white only, except where black population was significant part of total; in area 9 months or more.	Indexes of the cost of living of wage earners and lower-salaried workers in large cities.
May 1941 ⁸ July 1943 Sept. 1945				⁹ 1940	34						Consumer's Price Index for Moderate Income Families in Large Cities.
Jan. 1951 ¹⁰ ...	1947-49	¹¹ 1934-36		1950		Two or more persons.	No limitation. (Family income not in excess of \$10,000.)	Family income under \$10,000 after taxes in the survey year. No minimum income limit, except that families with no income from wage or salaries were excluded.	Family head must have been employed at least 26 weeks.	No exclusion for receipt of relief as such, but only families with wage or salary earnings included. No length of residence, nativity or racial limitations.	
Jan. 1953 ¹² ..	¹³ 1950	¹³ 1950	¹⁴ 1947-49		46				No specific requirement, but major portion of income of family head must be from employment as wage earner or salaried clerical worker.		Shorttitle: Consumer Price Index Complete name: Index of Change in Prices of Goods and Services Purchased by City Wage-Earner and Clerical-Worker Families to Maintain Their Level of Living.

See footnotes at end of table.

Appendix 1. Characteristics of the Consumer Price Index, 1890 to date—Continued

Date	Survey providing expenditure weight		Base period	Census providing population weights	Number of areas included	Family composition	Earnings of chief earner	Source and amount of family income	Length of employment	Economic level, length of residence, nativity, and race	Title(s)
	Group weights	Item weights									
Jan. 1962 Jan. 1964 ¹⁶	¹⁷ 1960-61	¹⁷ 1960-61	¹⁵ 1957-59	1960	50	Families of two or more persons and single workers; at least one full-time wage earner.	No limitation	More than half of combined family income from wage-earner or clerical-worker occupation.	A minimum of 37 weeks for at least 1 family member.	No restrictions other than the wage-earners and clerical-worker definition.	Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners Clerical Workers.
Jan. 1966 ¹⁸ Jan. 1971 ¹⁹ Jan. 1978 ²⁰	²¹ 1972-73	²² 1974	1967	1970	85	Same as above for earner and clerical-worker index. No limitation for urban consumer index.		Same as above for wage-earner and clerical-worker index. No limitation for urban consumer index.	Same as above for wage-earner and clerical-worker index. No employment required for urban consumer index.	Same as above for wage-earner and clerical-worker index. No limitation for urban consumer index. ²³	1) Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). 2) Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U).
Jan. 1983 ²⁴ Jan. 1985 ²⁵ Jan. 1987 ²⁶	²⁷ 1982-84	²⁸ 1985-89		1980	91	Similar to above except student residing in college-regulated housing are treated as separate family units	CPI-U CPI-W				
Jan. Jan. 1988 Jan. 1998 ³⁰ Jan. 2002 ³³	³¹ 1993-95	³² 1992-96	²⁹ 1982-84	1990							
July 2002 ³⁶	1999-00	³⁵ 1997-01	Dec. 1999			Same as CPI-U population					Chained Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (C-CPI-U)

- ¹Food price indexes only.
- ²For 19 cities, data were available back to December 1914 and, for 13 cities, back to 1917. For the United States, data were available back to the 1913 annual average.
- ³Indexes between 1918 and 1929 were recomputed retroactively with population weights based on the average of the 1920 and 1930 censuses.
- ⁴Index published in December 1935 for July 15, 1935; indexes also were calculated on the 1913 = 100 base.
- ⁵Indexes between 1925 and 1929 were recomputed retroactively with group weights based on the average of 1917-19 and 1934-36; indexes between March 15, 1930, and March 15, 1940, were recomputed retroactively using 1934-36 group weights.
- ⁶During World War II, weights were adjusted to account for rationing and shortages.
- ⁷Data for 51 to 56 cities included in the food index.
- ⁸Index published in May 1941 for March 14, 1941. Food indexes were based on 51 cities.
- ⁹The 1940 census data were supplemented by ration book registration data.
- ¹⁰Index published in March 1951 for January 1951.
- ¹¹Indexes between January 1950 and January 1951 were revised retroactively for all items and group indexes. Indexes for rent and all items were corrected for the new-unit bias from 1940. Old series also published through 1952.
- ¹²Item weights were revised for only the seven cities for which 1947-49 expenditure data were available. Index published in February and January 1953. Linked to old series as of December 1952. Old series also published for a 6-month overlap period.
- ¹³Data were adjusted to 1952 for weight derivation.
- ¹⁴Indexes also were calculated on the base of 1935-39 = 100 through December 1957.
- ¹⁵Index published in February for January 1962. Indexes also were calculated on bases of 1947-49 = 100 and 1939 = 100.
- ¹⁶Index published March 3 for January 1964. Linked to old series as of December 1963. Old series also published for a 6-month overlap period.
- ¹⁷Data were adjusted to December 1963 for weight derivation.
- ¹⁸Index published in February for January 1966. Linked to old series as of December 1965.
- ¹⁹Index published in February for January 1971. Indexes were also calculated on the 1957-59 = 100 base.
- ²⁰Index published in February for January 1978. Linked to old series as of December 1977. Old series also published for a 6-month overlap period.
- ²¹Data were adjusted to December 1977 for weight derivation.
- ²²Item weights based on Points of Purchase Survey in 1974.
- ²³Coverage was expanded to include wage earners and clerical workers in the entire nonfarm parts of the metropolitan areas in addition to those living within the urbanized areas of the metropolitan areas and urban places of 2,500 or more inhabitants.
- ²⁴Changed homeowners' costs from asset approach to flow-of-service approach (rental equivalence).
- ²⁵Changed homeowners' costs from asset approach to flow-of-service approach (rental equivalence).
- ²⁶Index published in February for January 1987. Linked to old series as of December 1986. Old series also published for a 6-month overlap period.
- ²⁷Data were adjusted to December 1986 for weight derivation.
- ²⁸Item weights based on Continuing Point of Purchase Survey (CPOPS) from 1985-89; first "rolling revision."
- ²⁹Index published in February for January 1988. Indexes also calculated on the 1967 = 100 base.
- ³⁰Index published in February for January 1989. Linked to old series as of December 1997. Old series also published for a 6-month overlap period.
- ³¹Data adjusted to December 1997 for weight derivation.
- ³²At time of revision the CPOPS covered 1992-96. The revised TPOPS began being introduced in 1998.
- ³³Index published in February for January 2002. Linked to old series as of December 2001. Old series also published for a 6-month overlap period.
- ³⁴Data were adjusted to December 2001 for weight deviation.
- ³⁵TPOPS on 4-year rotation at the time of expenditure weight update largely reflected data from 1997 forward.
- ³⁶New, supplemental index. First issued in preliminary form (initial); subject to revision in February (interim) and again the following February (final). Elementary indexes aggregated using an adjusted geometric mean for the initial and interim versions, and a Tornqvist formula for the final version. Data calculated for 2000 forward.