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Wholesale Price Index

In this method, a set of 435 commodities and their price change are used for the calculation. The selected commodities are supposed to represent various strata of an economy and supposed to give a Comprehensive WPI value for the economy.

WPI is calculated on a base year and WPI for the base year is assumed to be 100. To show the calculation, let's assume the base year to be 1970. The date of wholesale prices of all the 435 commodities in the base year and the time for which WPI is to be calculated is gathered.

In this way individual WPI values for the remaining 434 commodities are calculated and then the weighted average of individual WPI figures are found out to arrive at the overall Wholesale Price Index. Commodities are given weight-age depending upon its influence in economy.

Consumer Price Index

The CPI represents all goods and services produced for consumption by the reference population. Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers or Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers.)

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has classified all expenditure items into more than 200 categories, arranged into eight major groups.

• Food and Beverages (breakfast, cereal, milk, coffee, chicken, wine, full service meals and snacks):

• Housing (rent of primary residence, owners equivalent rent, fuel oil, bedroom furniture, apparel: men's shirts and sweaters, women dresses, jewelry).

• Transportation: (New vehicles, airline fares, gas, airline motor vehicle insurance).

• Medical Care (Prescription drug and medical supplies, physicians services, eyeglasses and eye care, hospital services).

• Education and communication: (College tuition, postage, telephone services, computer software and accessories).

The CPI also includes taxes, such as sales and excise tax, that are directly associated with the price of goods and services.