

EMPLOYMENT COST INDEX—SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

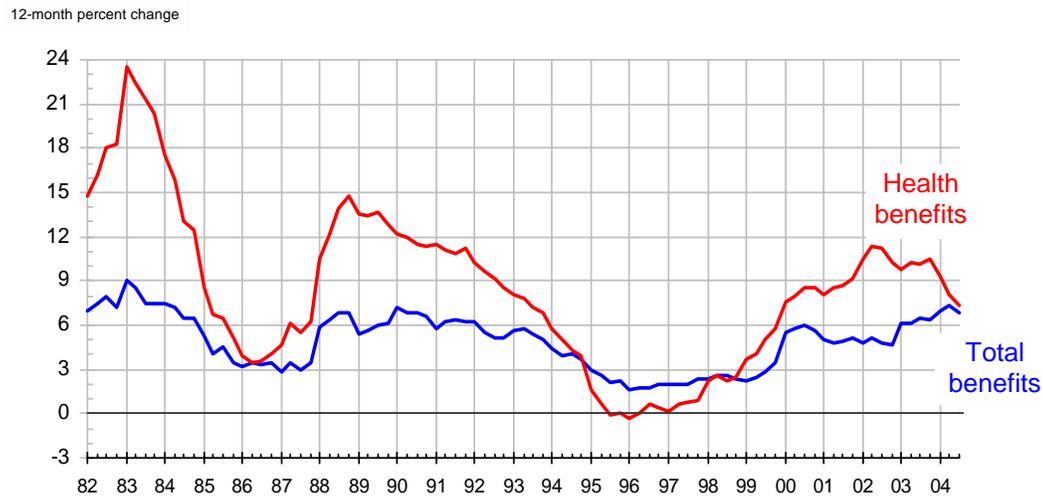
Health insurance, private industry, 12-month percent change in employer costs per hour worked

Year	March	June	Sept.	Dec.
1982	14.7	16.2	18.1	18.3
1983	23.5	22.4	21.3	20.4
1984	17.6	15.9	13.1	12.5
1985	8.5	6.7	6.5	5.2
1986	3.9	3.5	3.6	4.1
1987	4.7	6.1	5.5	6.3
1988	10.5	12.2	13.9	14.7
1989	13.6	13.4	13.7	12.8
1990	12.2	12.0	11.5	11.3
1991	11.5	11.1	10.9	11.2
1992	10.3	9.6	9.2	8.6
1993	8.1	7.8	7.2	6.9
1994	5.7	5.0	4.3	3.9
1995	1.6	0.6	-0.1	0.1
1996	-0.3	0.1	0.7	0.4
1997	0.2	0.7	0.8	0.9
1998	2.2	2.6	2.2	2.5
1999	3.7	4.0	5.0	5.8
2000	7.6	8.0	8.5	8.5
2001	8.1	8.6	8.7	9.2
2002	10.5	11.4	11.2	10.2
2003	9.8	10.3	10.1	10.5
2004	9.3	8.1	7.3	

NOTE: The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes a quarterly index, the Employment Cost Index (ECI) that includes measures of change in the cost of employee benefits. Data are collected for individual benefits within several benefit categories: paid leave, supplemental pay, insurance benefits, retirement and savings, legally required benefits, and other benefits. The measure of change in the cost of health insurance presented here is the only benefit for which BLS makes separate data available.

The 12-month percent change in health insurance from the ECI should be used with caution. First, estimated variances have not been calculated for this series, which means there is no basis for assessing its precision. Second, employer nonresponse for the health insurance component is substantial, which may affect the quality of the estimate. Third, there are fewer observations supporting health insurance estimates as compared with total benefit estimates. Finally, in some cases, respondents are able to report only a single cost for a combination of benefits (for example, life insurance and health insurance); in these instances, BLS allocates the cost among the benefits. Users should also be aware that the ECI may understate health insurer increases for a fixed set of plans because employers may reduce their contributions or employees may switch to lower cost health plans where there is an employee contribution. For these reasons, please exercise care in using and interpreting these estimates.

Employment Cost Index, private industry, 12-month percent change,
Total benefits and health benefits



See note above.