Quick Guide: Some Popular BEA Price Indexes

Measures prices for final goods and services that are:

Bought by consumers

Bought by businesses & governments

Produced in U.S.

Imported to U.S.

Exported from U.S.



PCE Price Index

Personal Consumption Expenditures Price Index











- Closely watched by the Federal Reserve
- Similar to the BLS Consumer Price Index; the formulas and uses differ
- Captures consumers' changing behavior and a wide range of expenses

Core PCE Price Index

PCE Price Index, Excluding Food and Energy











- Closely watched by the Federal Reserve
- Excludes two categories prone to volatile prices that may distort overall trends

Gross Domestic Purchases Price Index











• BEA's featured measure of inflation in the U.S. economy overall

GDP Price Index

Gross Domestic Product
Price Index











Measures only U.S.-produced goods and services

GDP Price Deflator

Gross Domestic Product Implicit Price Deflator











- Closely mirrors the GDP price index, although calculated differently
- Used by some firms to adjust payments in contracts