

# Statistical Indices

## Learning Goals

- understand and use indices

### Statistical Index

- a weighted mean used to show changes over time
- used to show trends
- often uses 100 as a base

→ easy to use  
as a %

### Consumer Price Index (CPI)

- measures price changes in consumer goods (milk, phone services...)
- shows inflation
- shows overall increase in price over time
- over 600 items are used

**(4.6) Understanding Indices**

Gasoline Prices (¢/L)		Gas Price as Percent
	base price	
2006	January	95.0
	March	93.3
	May	104.6
	July	109.7
	September	89.7
2007	January	86.5
	March	87.1
	May	102.4
	July	111.5

This table gives the bi-monthly gas prices in cents/Litre 2006-2007.

Graph the data on the grid:

Calculate the gas price as a percent of the price in January 2006.

Ex. March '06 =  $\frac{93.3}{95} \times 100\% = 98.2$

Then graph the percents on the grid in a different colour.

Compare the two graphs.  
Is there information that each graph shows that the other does not? If so, what type of information?

- actual price
- how price changes as a %

Create a question about the increase/decrease of gas prices that could be answered using the graph of gas as a percent.

When is gas cheapest/most expensive?

When was the largest/smallest change in prices?

**Price Indices**

**Definition:**  
Describes the changes compared to the base value.

**Uses:**  
Using the changes, predict future inflation.

**Examples:**  
Housing Market  
CPI  
consumer price index

**Consumer Price Index (CPI)**

Example: Use the following CPI graph to answer the questions below.

- What is the base year for this CPI?  
The base year is when CPI is 100.  
That occurs in the year 2002.
- When was the cost of the basket of goods 110% of the base cost?  
The year 2006.

c) What was the CPI in 1993? What does this mean?

The CPI was 86 in 1993.

This means that the cost of basket goods in 1993 was 86% of the base cost.

d) Describe the change in CPI between 1990-1991. Why is this change significant?

The CPI changed from 78 to 83. This is a change of 5%.

This is the largest change in any time period.

e) What is the overall trend in CPI during this time frame?

The CPI is increasing overall.

This means that Canadians are spending more for the same basket goods.

f) Calculate the average annual rate of increase for CPI from 1990 to 2006.

$$\text{annual rate of increase} = \frac{\text{total increase}}{\text{number years}} = \frac{110 - 78}{2006 - 1990} = \frac{32}{16}$$

g) Use your answer in f) to predict the CPI in 2015.  $\therefore 2\%$  increase/year

2006  $\rightarrow$  2015  $\Rightarrow$  9 years

2006 CPI = 110  $\rightarrow$   $9 \times 2\% = 18\%$

2015  $110 + 18 = 128$

$$m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$$

If Kendra brought a pair of shoes for \$130.00 in 2002.  
How much would the same pair of shoes cost in 1997?

2002 CPI 100  
1997 CPI 90  $\rightarrow -10\%$

Option 1

$$130 (0.90)$$

$$= 117$$

Option 2

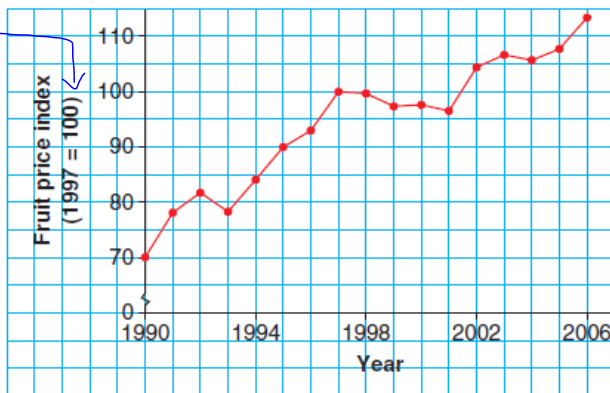
$$130 (0.10) = 13$$

$$130 - 13 = 117$$

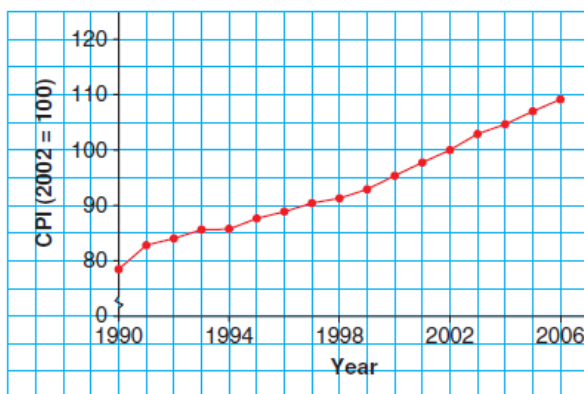
$\therefore$  the shoes would cost \$117 in 1997.

1. a) What is this price index measuring? *change in the price of fruit*  
 b) What is the base year for the index? *1997*  
 c) Estimate the index value for each year.  
 i) 1994 *84* ii) 2002 *104*

Farm Product Price Index (FPPI) for Fruit



Consumer Price Index (CPI)



5. Use the Consumer Price Index graph in *Example 1* to answer these questions.

- a) What was the CPI in January 1996? What does this value mean? *89*  
 b) What was the CPI in January 2001? What does this value mean? *98*  
 c) Describe the change in the CPI from January 1996 to January 2001. *9% ↑*  
 d) Calculate the average annual inflation rate from January 1996 to January 2001.

$$\frac{\text{total increase}}{\text{\# of years}} = \frac{98 - 89}{2001 - 1996} = \frac{9}{5} = 1.8$$

*∴ 1.8% / year*

2. For each price, calculate the percent price increase from a base value of \$124.  
Round each answer to the nearest percent.

- a) \$186      b) \$155      c) \$248      d) \$131

$$\frac{186 - 124}{124} = \frac{62}{124} = 50\%$$

25%      100%      6%

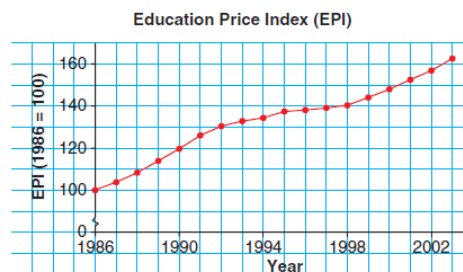
3. For each price, calculate the percent price decrease from a base value of \$124.  
Round each answer to the nearest percent.

- a) \$92      b) \$62      c) \$115      d) \$25

$$\frac{92 - 124}{124} = -26\%$$

50%      7%      80%

Use this graph to answer questions 9, 10, and 11. It shows an index for government spending on education in Canada from 1986 to 2003.



9. a) What is the base year for this index? Explain how you know. *1986*  
 b) Estimate the EPI for each year.  
 i) 1992 *130*    ii) 1998 *140*    iii) 2003 *164*  
 c) By what percent did spending on education rise during each time period?  
 i) Base year to 1992    ii) 1992 to 1998    iii) 1998 to 2003  
 d) Compare your answers to part c. Which period had the greatest increase? Which period had the least increase? How does this relate to the line segments on the graph? Explain your thinking.

slope

$$\frac{130 - 100}{100} = 30\%$$

Seatwork

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