

The zip file (statecpi.zip) from which this was extracted contains an annual cost of living index for the American states developed by Berry, Fording and Hanson. The index is described in:

Berry, William D., Richard C. Fording and Russell L. Hanson, "An Annual Cost of Living Index for the American States, 1960-95," *Journal of Politics*, vol. 60, no. 2, May 2000: 550-67.

The index described in the article was constructed for the period 1960-1995, but has now been updated through 2000. Data on housing values for the 1990s that recently became available allowed us to improve our original estimates of cost of living for the period 1991-1995. **Thus, the revised cost of living index (available for 1960-2000) has different values for 1991-1995 than the original index (available for 1960-1995).** When using the revised cost of living index, to clearly distinguish it from the original, please cite the *Journal of Politics* article, but identify the index as the "revised 2000 version of the Berry-Fording-Hanson state cost of living index" (available from the publication related archive of ICPSR).

The zip file from which this was extracted includes several files:

**readme.pdf**: this document.

**state cpi 1960-2000.xls**: the values of the cost of living index for the period 1960-2000 (where 100 represents the median cost of living in 2000 – the average value of the index for the two "middle states," South Dakota and Delaware, in 2000). There are four columns of data:

Column	Variable Label	Meaning
A	statenm	state name (postal abbreviation)
B	state	state numerical code (1-50, alphabetical order)
C	year	year
D	cpi2000	cost of living index (100 = median state cost of living in 2000)

To verify that the data you have obtained are accurate, we recommend confirming that the file has 1969 lines (including the variable labels in the first line), and that the sum of the columns are as follows:

Column	Sum
B	51742
C	3896640
D	98015.43

**statecpi.wk1**: the values of the cost of living index for the period 1960-1995 (set to 100 for Texas/1960) as described in the published article. There are four columns of data:

Column	Variable Label	Meaning
A	statenm	state name (postal abbreviation)
B	state	state numerical code (1-50, alphabetical order)
C	year	last 2 digits of year
D	statecpi	cost of living index (100 = TX in 1960)

To verify that the data you have obtained are accurate, we recommend confirming that the file has 1729 lines (including the variable labels in the first line), and that the average value of the columns are as follows:

Column	Average Value
B	45432
C	133920
D	483265.07

**method notes 2000 index.pdf**: a description of minor changes in methodology introduced when updating the cost of living index through 2000.

**unpubsup.pdf**: an unpublished supplement to the article that is referenced in the text of the article.

Inquires about the paper or data should be directed to Berry ([wberry@garnet.acns.fsu.edu](mailto:wberry@garnet.acns.fsu.edu)) or Fording ([rford@uky.edu](mailto:rford@uky.edu)).