

The Standard-of-Living Index in the U. S., 1800-2020

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Introduction

- This presentation shows the median standard of living index in the U. S. between 1800 and 2020
- The Standard of Living Index (SLI) is defined as the ratio of median income index (MII) to consumer price index (CPI):
 - $SLI = 100 * (MII / CPI)$
 - The MII and CPI are both normalized to 1913 (=100), thus the SLI is also normalized to 1913
- All the charts shown herein are extracted from:
 - Edward D. Duvall, *The Control and Manipulation of Money*, Queen Creek, AZ: Fremont Valley Books, 2022
 - Free download at <https://fremontvalleybooks.com>

Source Data for CPI

- 1791-1945: Average of L-1 and L-15 data from *Historical Statistics of the United States, 1789-1945, A Supplement to the Statistical Abstract of the United States*, Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce, Washington DC, 1949
 - L-1 is Snyder-Tucker (a general price index including wholesale prices, wages, cost of living and rents)
 - L-15 includes wholesale prices, all commodities
- 1946-2020: Bureau of Labor Statistics, series CUUR0000AA0R (Urban, all commodities, not seasonally adjusted)

Source Data for Income Index

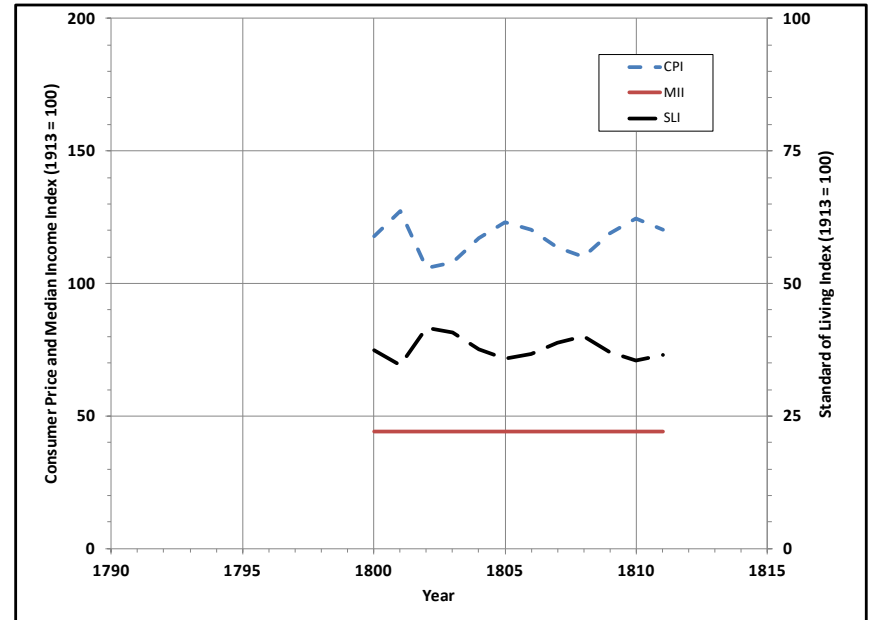
- 1800-1908: S. Lebergott, "*Wage Trends 1800-1900*"; Conference on Income and Wealth (1960); and H. U. Faulkner, *American Economic History*, (1938)
- 1909-1918: Mitchell, King, Macauley, & Knauth, *Income in the United States, Its Amount and Distribution* (1918)
- 1919-1928: Fairchild, Furniss, and Buck, *Elementary Economics* (1927), and U. S. Department of Labor, "Employment and Earnings", Vol. 7, No. 2, (1960)
- 1929-1953: U. S. Census Bureau (demographia.com), U. S. Department of Commerce P-60 Series
- 1954-2020: U. S. Census Bureau, Median Family Income in the U. S. (Series MEFAINUSA646N)

Preliminary Comments

- The following charts show two sets of data
 - The left chart shows an annual tabulation of consumer price index (CPI), median income index (MII), standard-of-living index (SLI), and % annual change in SLI
 - On the right is shown the same data graphically, except for the change in SLI
- CPI generally tracks the growth of the per-capita money supply
- Keep in mind that the CPI data used here applies only to urban workers
 - Includes all races and commodities
- The chart intervals correspond to changes in the banking system per *The Control and Manipulation of Money*

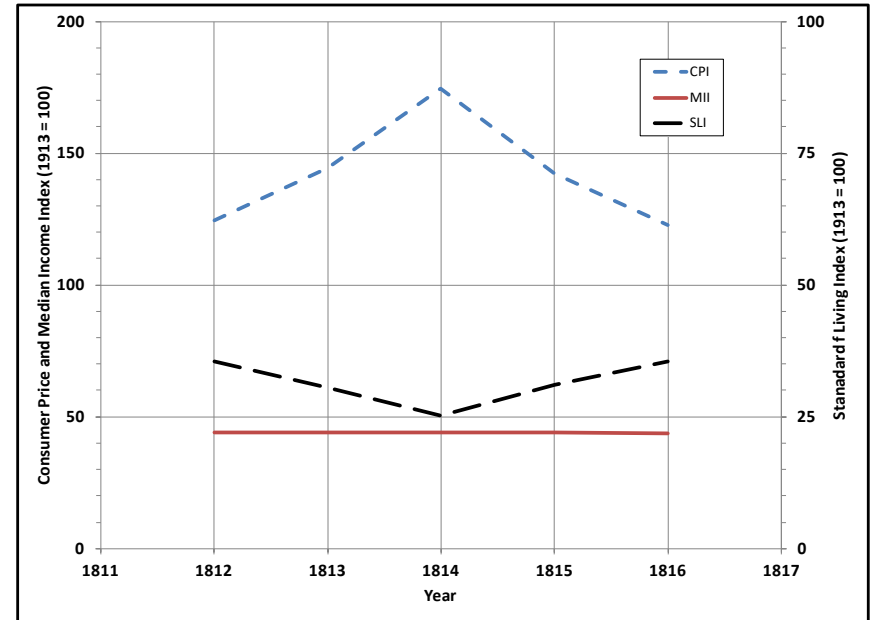
CPI, MII, and SLI, 1800-1811

Year	CPI	MII	SLI	% Change, SLI
1800	117.904	44.092	37.396	
1801	127.336	44.092	34.626	-7.41
1802	105.809	44.092	41.671	20.34
1803	108.064	44.092	40.802	-2.09
1804	117.258	44.092	37.602	-7.84
1805	122.942	44.092	35.864	-4.62
1806	120.109	44.092	36.710	2.36
1807	113.718	44.092	38.773	5.62
1808	109.964	44.092	40.097	3.41
1809	118.802	44.092	37.114	-7.44
1810	124.399	44.092	35.444	-4.50
1811	120.443	44.092	36.608	3.28



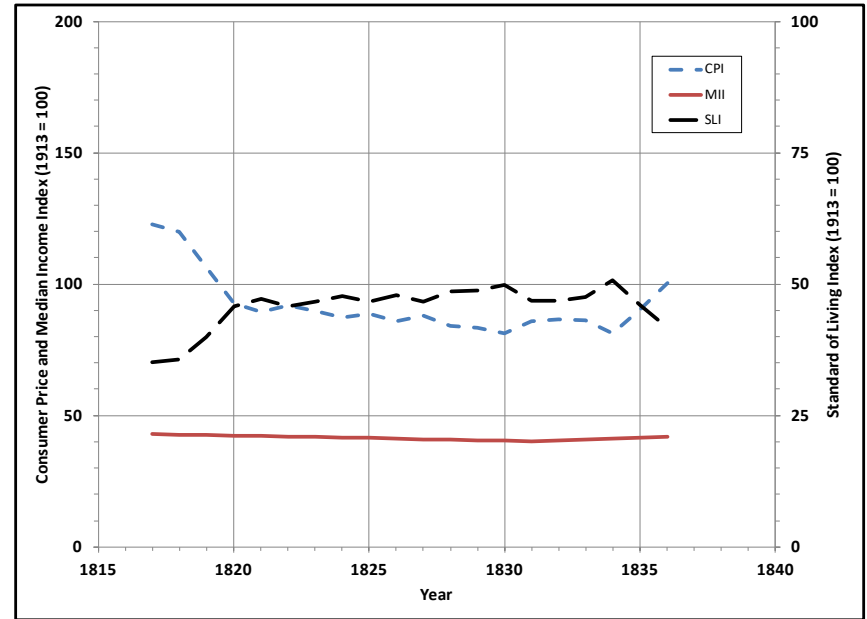
CPI, MII, and SLI, 1812-1816

Year	CPI	MII	SLI	% Change, SLI
1812	124.446	44.092	35.430	-3.22
1813	144.489	44.092	30.516	-13.87
1814	174.345	44.092	25.290	-17.12
1815	142.234	44.092	30.999	22.58
1816	122.590	43.544	35.520	14.58



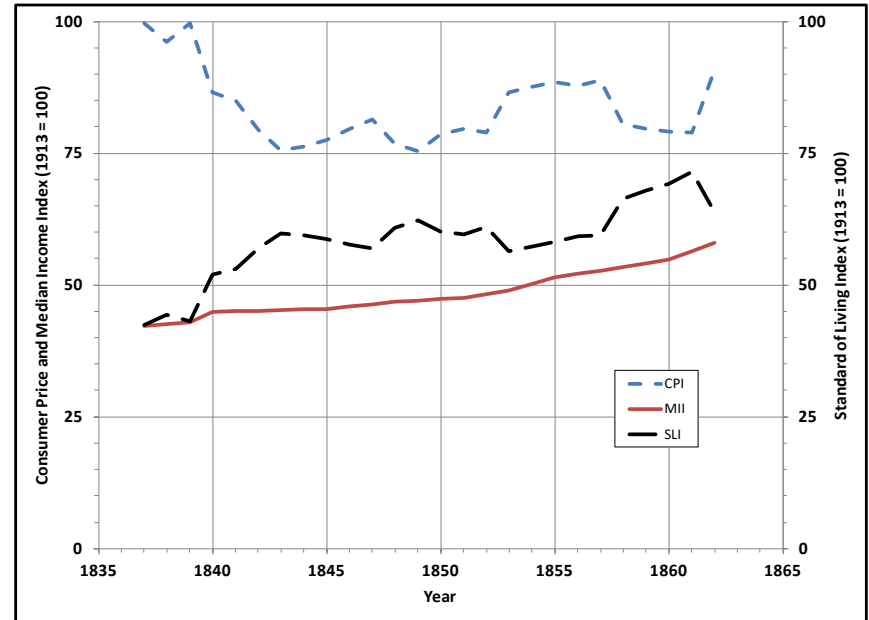
CPI, MII, and SLI, 1817-1836

Year	CPI	MII	SLI	% Change, SLI
1817	122.642	42.996	35.058	-1.30
1818	119.909	42.723	35.629	1.63
1819	106.605	42.533	39.898	11.98
1820	92.671	42.343	45.692	14.52
1821	89.436	42.154	47.133	3.15
1822	91.768	41.964	45.728	-2.98
1823	89.683	41.775	46.580	1.86
1824	87.181	41.585	47.699	2.40
1825	88.583	41.395	46.731	-2.03
1826	85.931	41.206	47.952	2.61
1827	87.983	41.016	46.618	-2.78
1828	83.976	40.827	48.617	4.29
1829	83.424	40.637	48.711	0.19
1830	81.191	40.447	49.817	2.27
1831	85.830	40.258	46.904	-5.85
1832	86.731	40.592	46.803	-0.22
1833	86.130	40.927	47.518	1.53
1834	81.291	41.262	50.758	6.82
1835	90.588	41.597	45.918	-9.53
1836	100.364	41.931	41.779	-9.01



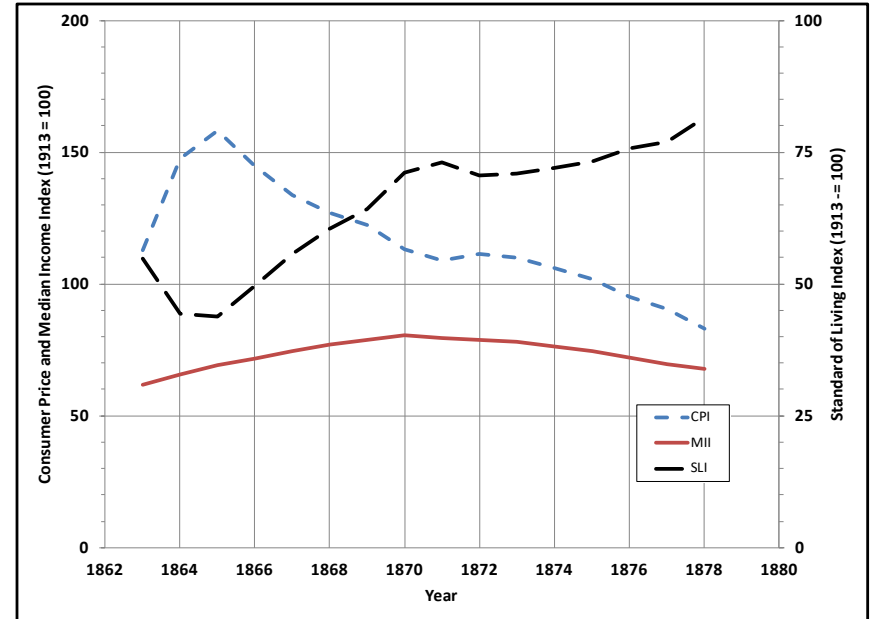
CPI, MII, and SLI, 1837-1862

Year	CPI	MII	SLI	% Change, SLI
1837	99.662	42.266	42.409	1.51
1838	96.077	42.601	44.340	4.55
1839	99.664	42.936	43.080	-2.84
1840	86.531	44.913	51.904	20.48
1841	84.951	45.023	52.998	2.11
1842	79.363	45.133	56.868	7.30
1843	75.619	45.242	59.829	5.21
1844	76.234	45.352	59.490	-0.57
1845	77.542	45.461	58.627	-1.45
1846	79.668	45.911	57.628	-1.70
1847	81.390	46.362	56.963	-1.16
1848	76.869	46.812	60.898	6.91
1849	75.402	46.958	62.278	2.26
1850	78.586	47.287	60.172	-3.38
1851	79.653	47.524	59.664	-0.85
1852	78.971	48.218	61.058	2.34
1853	86.614	48.912	56.471	-7.51
1854	87.534	50.153	57.296	1.46
1855	88.455	51.395	58.103	1.41
1856	87.855	52.070	59.268	2.01
1857	88.869	52.746	59.353	0.14
1858	80.463	53.421	66.393	11.86
1859	79.546	54.097	68.007	2.43
1860	79.125	54.772	69.223	1.79
1861	78.911	56.397	71.469	3.25
1862	90.861	58.022	63.858	-10.65



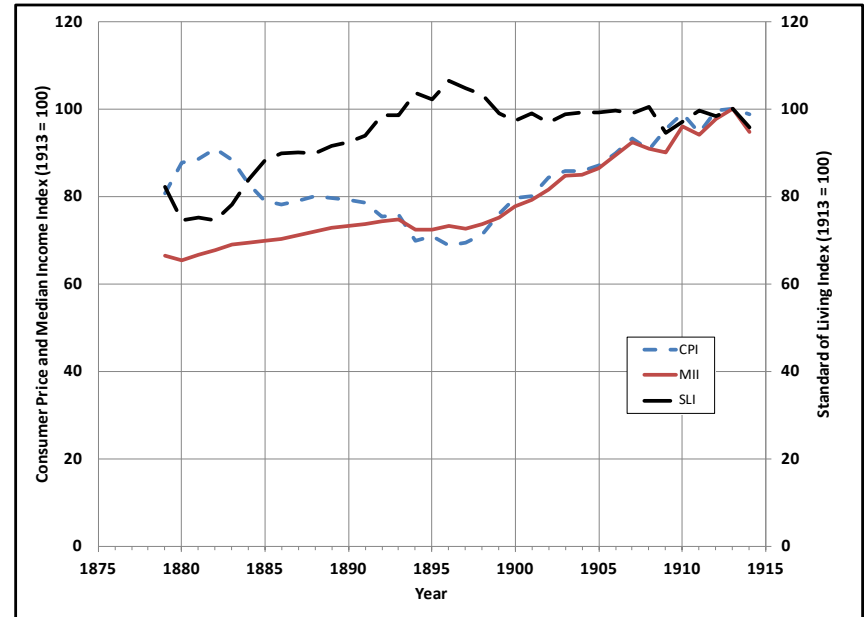
CPI, MII, and SLI, 1863-1878

Year	CPI	MII	SLI	% Change, SLI
1863	112.828	61.777	54.753	-14.26
1864	147.595	65.532	44.400	-18.91
1865	158.056	69.287	43.837	-1.27
1866	144.809	71.825	49.600	13.15
1867	133.643	74.363	55.643	12.18
1868	126.986	76.901	60.558	8.83
1869	122.477	78.708	64.263	6.12
1870	113.106	80.516	71.186	10.77
1871	108.812	79.566	73.122	2.72
1872	111.530	78.799	70.653	-3.38
1873	109.957	78.032	70.966	0.44
1874	106.023	76.262	71.929	1.36
1875	101.659	74.491	73.275	1.87
1876	95.076	71.989	75.718	3.33
1877	90.352	69.488	76.908	1.57
1878	83.198	67.900	81.612	6.12



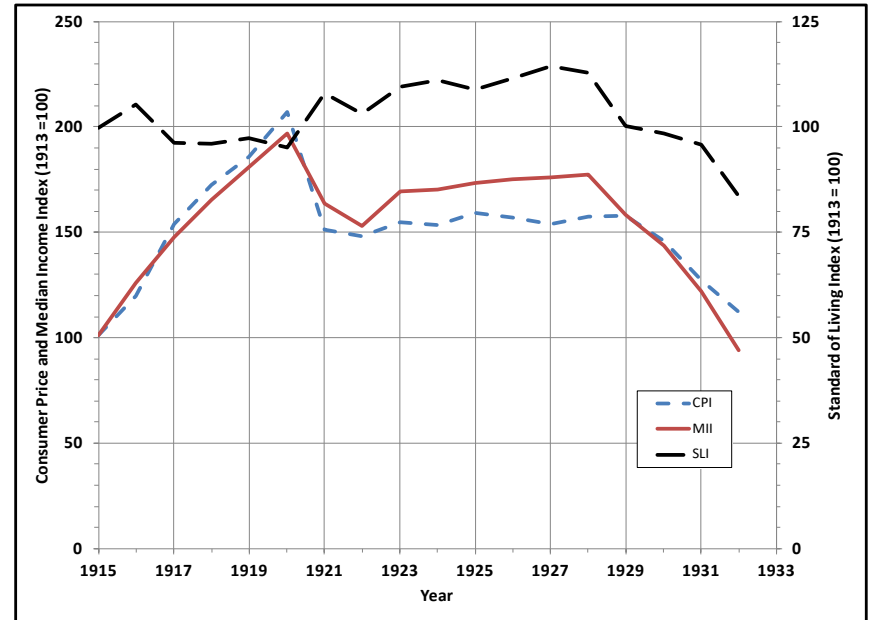
CPI, MII, and SLI, 1879-1914

Year	CPI	MII	SLI	% Change, SLI
1879	80.620	66.311	82.251	0.78
1880	87.633	65.362	74.586	-9.32
1881	88.632	66.538	75.073	0.65
1882	90.850	67.715	74.535	-0.72
1883	88.275	68.892	78.042	4.70
1884	82.838	69.399	83.776	7.35
1885	79.044	69.723	88.208	5.29
1886	78.115	70.230	89.907	1.93
1887	78.901	71.103	90.116	0.23
1888	80.117	71.975	89.837	-0.31
1889	79.617	72.847	91.497	1.85
1890	79.258	73.176	92.326	0.91
1891	78.471	73.617	93.813	1.61
1892	75.393	74.308	98.561	5.06
1893	75.752	74.653	98.550	-0.01
1894	69.812	72.424	103.741	5.27
1895	70.957	72.455	102.111	-1.57
1896	68.809	73.237	106.435	4.23
1897	69.381	72.642	104.699	-1.63
1898	71.242	73.542	103.228	-1.41
1899	75.893	75.121	98.984	-4.11
1900	79.686	77.582	97.360	-1.64
1901	80.113	79.266	98.943	1.63
1902	84.192	81.578	96.895	-2.07
1903	85.693	84.650	98.782	1.95
1904	85.765	85.008	99.118	0.34
1905	87.052	86.331	99.173	0.06
1906	89.769	89.324	99.504	0.33
1907	93.205	92.279	99.007	-0.50
1908	90.557	90.960	100.445	1.45
1909	95.424	90.113	94.434	-5.98
1910	98.930	96.045	97.084	2.81
1911	94.490	94.068	99.553	2.54
1912	99.499	97.740	98.233	-1.33
1913	100.000	100.000	100.000	1.80
1914	98.782	94.633	95.799	-4.20



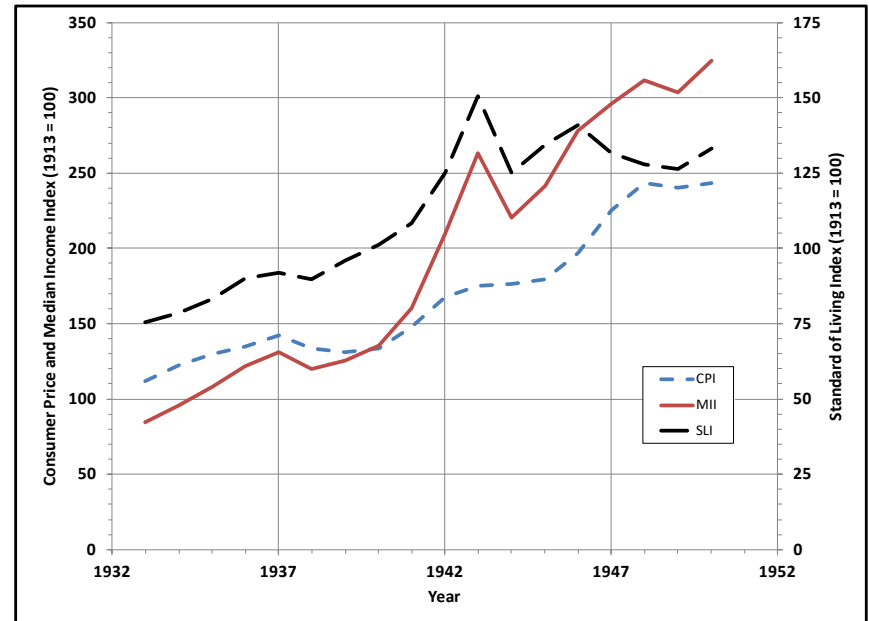
CPI, MII, and SLI, 1915-1932

Year	CPI	MII	SLI	% Change, SLI
1915	101.285	101.130	99.847	4.22
1916	119.746	125.989	105.213	5.37
1917	153.669	147.740	96.142	-8.62
1918	172.554	165.537	95.933	-0.22
1919	185.784	180.791	97.313	1.44
1920	207.102	196.893	95.071	-2.30
1921	151.414	163.559	108.021	13.62
1922	148.269	152.879	103.109	-4.55
1923	154.563	169.288	109.527	6.22
1924	153.272	170.109	110.985	1.33
1925	159.140	173.254	108.869	-1.91
1926	157.133	175.168	111.478	2.40
1927	153.838	175.852	114.310	2.54
1928	157.269	177.493	112.859	-1.27
1929	157.766	158.120	100.224	-11.20
1930	145.891	143.638	98.456	-1.76
1931	127.292	121.782	95.672	-2.83
1932	112.418	94.053	83.664	-12.55



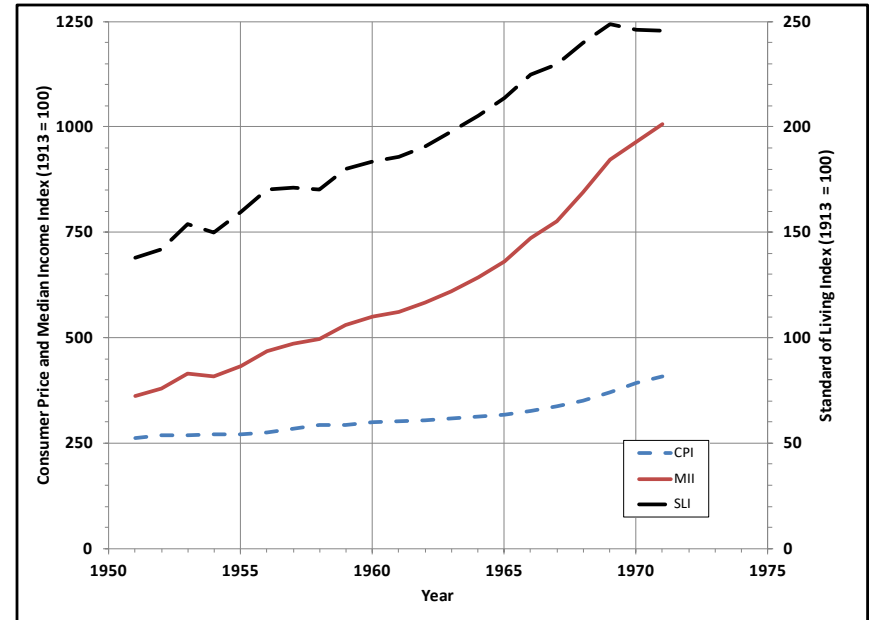
CPI, MII, and SLI, 1933-1950

Year	CPI	MII	SLI	% Change, SLI
1933	111.706	84.283	75.450	-9.82
1934	122.153	95.933	78.535	4.09
1935	129.807	107.976	83.182	5.92
1936	134.880	121.539	90.109	8.33
1937	142.319	130.858	91.946	2.04
1938	133.304	119.614	89.730	-2.41
1939	130.760	125.607	96.059	7.05
1940	133.304	135.097	101.345	5.50
1941	148.059	160.398	108.334	6.90
1942	167.562	209.532	125.047	15.43
1943	174.855	263.041	150.434	20.30
1944	176.382	220.593	125.066	-16.86
1945	179.434	241.407	134.538	7.57
1946	196.970	277.787	141.030	4.83
1947	225.253	296.268	131.527	-6.74
1948	243.434	311.516	127.967	-2.71
1949	240.404	303.697	126.328	-1.28
1950	243.434	324.419	133.268	5.49



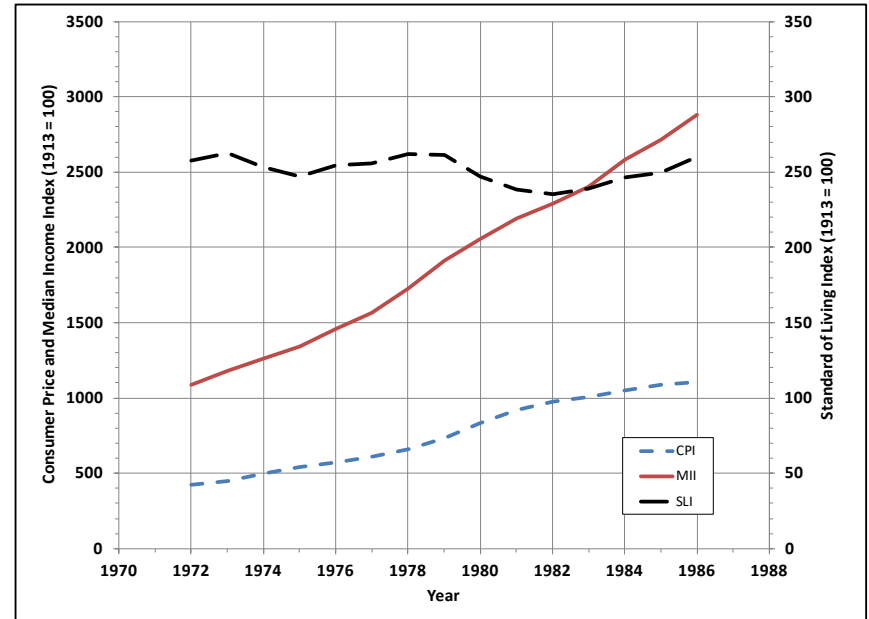
CPI, MII, and SLI, 1951-1971

Year	CPI	MII	SLI	% Change, SLI
1951	262.626	362.540	138.044	3.58
1952	267.677	380.232	142.049	2.90
1953	269.697	414.638	153.742	8.23
1954	271.717	407.307	149.901	-2.50
1955	270.707	431.842	159.524	6.42
1956	274.747	467.226	170.056	6.60
1957	283.838	485.407	171.015	0.56
1958	291.919	497.234	170.333	-0.40
1959	293.939	529.490	180.136	5.76
1960	298.990	549.332	183.729	1.99
1961	302.020	560.573	185.608	1.02
1962	305.051	582.175	190.845	2.82
1963	309.091	610.815	197.616	3.55
1964	313.131	642.093	205.056	3.76
1965	318.182	680.019	213.720	4.23
1966	327.273	736.223	224.957	5.26
1967	337.374	775.419	229.840	2.17
1968	351.515	843.743	240.030	4.43
1969	370.707	922.038	248.724	3.62
1970	391.919	964.460	246.086	-1.06
1971	409.091	1005.317	245.744	-0.14



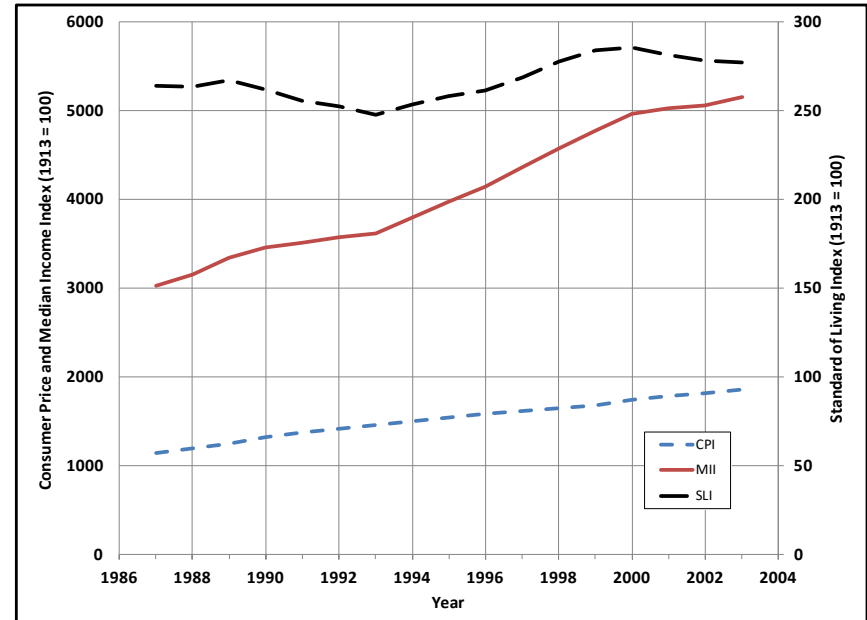
CPI, MII, and SLI, 1972-1986

Year	CPI	MII	SLI	% Change, SLI
1972	422.222	1086.544	257.339	4.72
1973	448.485	1177.937	262.648	2.06
1974	497.980	1261.119	253.247	-3.58
1975	543.434	1340.977	246.760	-2.56
1976	574.747	1462.084	254.387	3.09
1977	612.121	1564.815	255.638	0.49
1978	658.586	1724.239	261.809	2.41
1979	733.333	1914.550	261.075	-0.28
1980	832.323	2054.914	246.889	-5.43
1981	918.182	2188.337	238.334	-3.47
1982	974.747	2290.481	234.982	-1.41
1983	1006.061	2402.596	238.812	1.63
1984	1049.495	2583.719	246.187	3.09
1985	1086.869	2710.985	249.431	1.32
1986	1107.071	2879.401	260.092	4.27



CPI, MII, and SLI, 1987-2003

Year	CPI	MII	SLI	% Change, SLI
1987	1147.475	3027.193	263.813	1.43
1988	1194.949	3146.541	263.320	-0.19
1989	1252.525	3344.183	266.995	1.40
1990	1320.202	3455.614	261.749	-1.96
1991	1375.758	3512.893	255.342	-2.45
1992	1417.172	3574.864	252.253	-1.21
1993	1459.596	3612.594	247.506	-1.88
1994	1496.970	3790.785	253.231	2.31
1995	1539.394	3969.562	257.865	1.83
1996	1584.848	4134.655	260.886	1.17
1997	1621.212	4356.343	268.709	3.00
1998	1646.465	4568.354	277.464	3.26
1999	1682.828	4773.034	283.632	2.22
2000	1739.394	4958.849	285.091	0.51
2001	1788.889	5024.827	280.891	-1.47
2002	1817.172	5051.512	277.988	-1.03
2003	1858.586	5149.258	277.052	-0.34



CPI, MII, and SLI, 2004-2020



Year	CPI	MII	SLI	% Change, SLI
2004	1908.081	5284.245	276.940	-0.04
2005	1972.727	5492.737	278.434	0.54
2006	2036.364	5709.049	280.355	0.69
2007	2093.939	5997.204	286.408	2.16
2008	2174.747	6013.430	276.512	-3.46
2009	2166.667	5873.360	271.078	-1.97
2010	2202.020	5887.827	267.383	-1.36
2011	2271.717	5959.963	262.355	-1.88
2012	2319.192	6083.807	262.324	-0.01
2013	2353.535	6399.527	271.911	3.65
2014	2390.909	6513.010	272.407	0.18
2015	2393.939	6910.347	288.660	5.97
2016	2424.242	7106.817	293.156	1.56
2017	2475.758	7441.890	300.590	2.54
2018	2536.364	7687.330	303.085	0.83
2019	2581.818	8407.229	325.632	7.44
2020	2629.091	8211.000	312.313	-4.09

