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Source: R.S. MEANS

Year	Index	Difference	% Increase	Direct Cost Multiplier	Period in Years	Average Annual Escalation	Month
2016	207.2	0	0.00%	1.0000	0	n/a	Estimated as of January
2015	206.2	1	0.48%	1.0048	1	0.48%	As of January
2014	204.9	2.3	1.12%	1.0112	2	0.56%	As of January
2013	201.2	6	2.98%	1.0298	3	0.98%	As of January
2012	194.6	12.6	6.47%	1.0647	4	1.58%	As of January
2011	191.2	16	8.37%	1.0837	5	1.62%	As of January
2006	162.0	45.2	27.90%	1.2790	10	2.49%	As of January
2001	125.1	82.1	65.63%	1.6563	15	3.42%	As of January

R S Means Company maintains a construction cost database for North America that is updated quarterly (4 times per year). The current company was incorporated in 1984, but has existed in other forms previously. The company claims to have maintained cost data for over 70 years. In addition to current costs for both materials and labor, R S Means maintains a historical index of these costs, which they publish for a time period going back 20 years.

DMA uses these historical indexes as a logic base for projecting future construction cost escalation (inflation). In order to have a logical basis for the inflation rate used in this study, we offer this guide to selecting the rate that the association wants to use. Generally, the longer the look-back period (say 15 years vs. 5 years) the more conservative your future inflation projection will be.

In making a selection for future inflation, keep in mind that if your selected rate varies significantly from the current inflation rate, you should make a corresponding adjustment for the projected interest or earnings rate on your money kept in a savings or money market account, as those rates follow (but do not equal) inflation rates.