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Macro Roundup Article

Headline: How Inflation and Relative Price Increases Differ

Article Link: https://www.stlouisfed.org/on-the-economy/2023/feb/how-inflation-relative-price-inc reases-differ

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Tweet: .@stlouisfed researchers examined components of the CPI since 2000 and found wide differences by sector: the overall basket increased 1.8X from January 2000 to December 2022, while education prices grew to 2.6X and communication prices fell to 0.8X.

Summary: The figure below shows the U.S. consumer price index (CPI) for various expenditure types, as computed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. For each series, the units are chosen to equal \$1 in January 2000 so that their evolution over time can be compared. The "All" line (solid red) increased from \$1 in January 2000 to about \$1.80 in December 2022. This means that a person needed about \$1.80 in December 2022 to purchase the same basket as he or she could have purchased with \$1 in January 2000. One extreme case is that of education-related expenditures (solid gray line): Their prices have multiplied by 2.6 since January 2000. Another extreme case is communication-related expenditures (solid blue line): Their prices have decreased from \$1 to about \$0.80.

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Primary Topic: Inflation

Topics: Database, GDP, Government/NGO, Graph, Inflation

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