

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION



_____)) PUBLIC
In the Matter of))
INTEL CORPORATION,)) DOCKET NO. 9341
a corporation.))
_____)

**COMPLAINT COUNSEL’S ANSWERS AND OBJECTIONS TO RESPONDENT’S
FIRST SET OF REQUESTS FOR ADMISSION**

Pursuant to Rule 3.32 of the Federal Trade Commission’s Rules of Practice, Complaint Counsel hereby responds to Respondent Intel Corporation’s (“Intel’s”) First Set of Requests for Admission.

These Requests seek admissions relating to data published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (“BLS”). Intel claims in its Answer and in its summary of the case at the first status conference that the BLS data somehow proves that Intel lacks monopoly power in the relevant product markets in this case. After a reasonable inquiry, the BLS data appears irrelevant to this case. First, PCU 33441333441312 aggregates the prices of *any* product classified as a “microprocessor” by a manufacturer participating in the survey – including those in cell phones, traffic lights, televisions, automobiles, etc. – as well as a variety of other products. The inclusion of these other products renders the BLS “Microprocessor” data irrelevant to this case. The Complaint is limited to allegations in the markets for CPUs and GPUs used in desktop, notebook, netbook (or nettop) computers, servers, and narrower relevant markets contained therein. Complaint ¶¶ 32, 37. Second, Intel – which accounts for sales of between 70 and 85 percent of x86 microprocessor sales, Answer ¶¶ 3, 41 – has admitted that it did not contribute pricing data to the BLS between 1999 and 2008. Respondent’s Answers and Objections to

Complaint Counsel's First Set of Requests for Admission, 8, 9 (Mar. 1, 2010) at <http://www.ftc.gov/os/adjpro/d9341/100301respswandobjecttoccfirstset.pdf>.

Through Requests for Admissions, Intel asks Complaint Counsel to substantiate Intel's inaccurate claims. This is an inappropriate use of requests for admissions. For the reasons set forth below, we cannot do so. Furthermore, due to the disparities between the BLS data, in Intel's interpretation of that data, and in Intel's assertions in its Answer and Affirmative Defenses, any responses to these Requests for Admissions could easily be misinterpreted or misused.

Nevertheless, subject to the General and Specific Objections below, Complaint Counsel answers as follows:

SPECIFIC OBJECTIONS AND RESPONSES

In addition to the General Objections set forth below, Complaint Counsel specifically objects to Respondent's Requests for Admissions 1, 2, 5, 7, and 8 on the grounds that the use of the term "microprocessor" in those requests is vague and ambiguous. These requests each apparently use the term "microprocessors" as that term is used in the BLS series PCU33441333441312. BLS defines this series to include "microprocessors and microcontrollers and related devices." The BLS series PCU33441333441312 thus includes data for a wide variety of microprocessors as well as variety of other devices that are not microprocessors. Thus the requests are not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence.

Neither party has used the term "microprocessor" as it is defined by BLS in its series PCU33441333441312.¹ The parties have used "microprocessor" to refer to central processing units ("CPUs") or graphic processing units ("GPUs") used in desktops, notebooks, servers, and

¹ To our knowledge, the BLS does not publish separate data for the CPUs and GPUs that are the subject of this case.

netbooks which are the subject of this litigation. There is no obligation on our part, in responding to a request for admission, to conduct discovery regarding the methodologies that BLS used to collect and process its data, or to independently assess whether the findings BLS issued regarding “microprocessors and microcontrollers and related devices” are somehow applicable to CPUs or GPUs.

In preparing our responses to Requests Nos. 1, 2, 5, 7, and 8, we have interpreted the term “microprocessors” consistent with the definition of BLS series PCU33441333441312, which includes “microprocessors and microcontrollers and related devices.” However, our admissions with respect to statements about “microprocessors and microcontrollers and related devices,” as that term is defined by BLS, cannot be regarded as an admission – or even as relevant to the allegations in our Complaint – regarding CPUs or GPUs.

REQUEST NO. 1: *Admit that the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (“BLS”) has published monthly from January 1998 to the present a Producer Price Index (“PPI”) for numerous product categories, including Microprocessors, series PCU33441333441312, which series includes x86 microprocessors.*

RESPONSE: Complaint Counsel incorporates its General Objections in its response to this Request for Admission. Complaint Counsel also incorporates its Specific Objection with respect to the definition and use of the term “microprocessor.”

Subject to these objections, Complaint Counsel admits that (i) the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (“BLS”) has published monthly from January 1998 to the present a Producer Price Index (“PPI”) for numerous product categories, and (ii) that one product category tracked by the BLS is PCU33441333441312. After reasonable inquiry, Complaint Counsel does not have sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny Request No. 1 to the extent it states that series PCU33441333441312 includes x86 microprocessors.

REQUEST NO. 2: *Admit that microprocessors designed for computer applications (“computer microprocessors” or “CMPUs”) account for over 70% of the revenue in the microprocessor commodity series PCU33441333441312.*

RESPONSE: Complaint Counsel incorporates its General Objections in its response to this Request for Admission. Complaint Counsel also incorporates its Specific Objection with respect to the definition and use of the term “microprocessor.” Complaint Counsel further objects to this Request for Admission on the ground that the terms “computer applications”, “computer microprocesors”, and “CMPUs” are ambiguous in that it is unclear whether these terms encompass only CPUs used in servers, desktops, notebooks, and netbooks, which are the subject of this litigation, or if these terms encompass additional products.

Subject to these objections and qualifications, Complaint Counsel admits that PCU33441333441312 is defined broadly enough to potentially include microprocessors designed for servers, desktops, notebooks, and netbooks. Complaint Counsel further admits that PCU33441333441312 is defined broadly enough to include a number of other products that are not relevant to this case. After reasonable inquiry, Complaint Counsel does not have sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny that microprocessors designed for servers, desktops, notebooks, and netbooks account for over 70% of the revenue in the microprocessor commodity series PCU3344133441312.

REQUEST NO. 3: *Admit that since January 1998, the performance of x86 microprocessors has improved because of various factors, including increased processing speeds, the introduction of x86 multi-core processors, the increase in the number of transistors per microprocessor, better power efficiency, greater cache size, and lower heat generation.*

RESPONSE: Complaint Counsel incorporates its General Objections in its response to this Request for Admission.

Subject to these objections, Complaint Counsel admits the performance of x86 microprocessors has generally improved since January 1998 because of various factors, including increased processing speeds, the introduction of x86 multi-core processors, the increase in the number of transistors per microprocessor, better power efficiency, greater cache

size, and lower heat generation since 1998. After reasonable inquiry, Complaint Counsel does not have sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny Request No. 3 to the extent it states that there has been any specific improvements in any specific x86 microprocessor since January 1998.

REQUEST NO. 4: *Admit that process improvements in microprocessor manufacturing, such as increasing wafer sizes and shrinking circuit sizes, have allowed manufacturers to increase the performance of x86 microprocessors.*

RESPONSE: Complaint Counsel incorporates its General Objections in its response to this Request for Admission.

Subject to these objections, Complaint Counsel admits that shrinking circuit sizes has allowed manufacturers to increase the performance of x86 microprocessors. After reasonable inquiry, Complaint Counsel does not have sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny Request No. 4 to the extent it suggests that increasing wafer sizes have allowed manufacturers to increase the performance of x86 microprocessors. Furthermore, after reasonable inquiry, Complaint Counsel does not have sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny Request No. 4 to the extent it suggests that increasing wafer sizes have allowed manufacturers to increase the performance of x86 microprocessor or shrinking circuit sizes has allowed any particular manufacturer to increase the performance of any specific x86 microprocessor.

REQUEST NO. 5: *Admit that the BLS monthly price series for Microprocessors, like the PPI series for most products, incorporates adjustments for quality changes so that the PPI data are comparable over time. See BLS Handbook of Methods, Chap. 14, pp. 4-5.*

RESPONSE: Complaint Counsel incorporates its General Objections in its response to this Request for Admission. Complaint Counsel also incorporates its Specific Objection with respect to the definition and use of the term “microprocessor.”

Subject to these objections, Complaint Counsel admits that the BLS monthly price series for PCU33441333441312, like the PPI series for most products, attempts to incorporate

adjustments for quality changes so that the PPI data are comparable over time. After reasonable inquiry, Complaint Counsel is unable to admit or deny whether the BLS is successful in its efforts to incorporate adjustments for quality changes in series PCU33441333441312 so that the PPI data is comparable over time. The BLS acknowledges that the effort to incorporate adjustments for quality changes is incredibly difficult in semiconductor markets. *See* BLS Handbook of Methods, Chap. 14, pp. 4-5 (“It has been very difficult to estimate the value of improvements or deteriorations in products, such as computers, semiconductors, and so forth, manufactured by companies included in ‘high-tech’ industries.”).

REQUEST NO. 6: *Admit that the BLS PPI is a widely recognized price index relied on by economists in government and industry to determine price trends.*

RESPONSE: Complaint Counsel incorporates its General Objections in its response to this Request for Admission.

Subject to these objections, Complaint Counsel denies Request No. 6 to the extent that the request seeks an admission that economists in general use this data to determine price trends in the relevant markets in this case. Complaint Counsel admits that the BLS PPI may be relied on by some economists in government and industry as one tool in determining price trends for particular purposes, but not others. After reasonable inquiry, the information known to or readily obtainable by Complaint Counsel is insufficient to enable us to admit or deny (i) whether any BLS PPI is widely used by economists in government and industry, (ii) whether the microprocessor commodity series PCU33441333441312 is relied upon by economists in government and industry, (iii) whether the microprocessor commodity series PCU33441333441312 is relied upon by economists in government and industry to determine price trends for microprocessors in general or x86 microprocessors in particular, or (iv) the remaining factual statements in Request No. 6.

REQUEST NO. 7: *Admit that, on a quality adjusted basis, the Microprocessor price index, as reflected in BLS series PCU33441333441312 (Attachment 1 hereto), has declined substantially, from 43,477.6 in January 1998 to 57.8 in September 2009.*

RESPONSE: Complaint Counsel incorporates its General Objections in its response to this Request for Admission. Complaint Counsel also incorporates its Specific Objection with respect to the definition and use of the term “microprocessor.”

Subject to these objections, Complaint Counsel admits that the BLS series PCU33441333441312 in January 1998 was 43,477.6. Complaint Counsel admits that the BLS series PCU33441333441312 in September 2009 was 57.8. After reasonable inquiry, the information known to or readily obtainable by Complaint Counsel is insufficient to enable us to admit or deny whether the decline is attributable, in part or in whole, to a change in prices in CPUs included in series PCU 3334133441312 or to other products in that category. After reasonable inquiry, the information known to or readily obtainable by Complaint Counsel is insufficient to enable us to admit or deny whether the decline was “substantial.” Further, after reasonable inquiry, the information known to or readily obtainable by Complaint Counsel is insufficient to enable us to admit or deny or whether the quality adjustments made by the BLS for that time period were accurate.

REQUEST NO. 8: *Admit that, the rate of price decline for the BLS PPI series of Microprocessors, reflected in PCU33441333441312, is greater than the rate of price decline in the PPI series for Computer Storage Devices (PCU3341123341121 (Attachment 2 hereto)), Personal Computers and Workstations (PCU3341113341173 (Attachment 3 hereto)), and Portable Computers, Laptops, PDAs and Other Single User Computers (PCU3341113341172 (Attachment 4 hereto)) over the period from January 1998 to September 2009.*

RESPONSE: Complaint Counsel incorporates its General Objections in its response to this Request for Admission. Complaint Counsel also incorporates its Specific Objection with respect to the definition and use of the term “microprocessor.”

Subject to these objections, Complaint Counsel admits that the rate of price decline for the BLS PPI series of Microprocessors, reflected in PCU33441333441312, is greater than the

rate of price decline in the PPI series for Computer Storage Devices (PCU3341123341121 (Attachment 2 hereto)), Personal Computers and Workstations (PCU3341113341173 (Attachment 3 hereto)), and Portable Computers, Laptops, PDAs and Other Single User Computers (PCU3341113341172 (Attachment 4 hereto)) over the period from January 1998 to September 2009.

REQUEST NO. 9: *Admit that, since 1998, BLS has obtained Intel x86 microprocessor price and revenue data from third party sources used in the industry that BLS views as reliable.*

RESPONSE: Complaint Counsel incorporates its General Objections in its response to this Request for Admission.

Subject to these objections, after reasonable inquiry, the information known to or readily obtainable by Complaint Counsel is insufficient to enable us to admit or deny whether the BLS has obtained x86 microprocessor and revenue data from third party sources used in the industry. Furthermore, after reasonable inquiry, the information known to or readily obtainable by Complaint Counsel is insufficient to enable us to admit or deny whether BLS views that data as reliable.

General Objections

The following General Objections apply to all of Respondent's Requests for Admission and are incorporated by reference into each response. The assertion of the same, similar, or additional objections or the provision of partial answers in response to an individual request for admissions does not waive any of Complaint Counsel's general objections as to the other requests for admission.

1. Complaint Counsel objects to Respondent's Requests for Admission to the extent they seek information that relates to issues that may be the subject of expert testimony in this case. Under the Scheduling Order in this case, expert discovery is not scheduled to begin for several months.

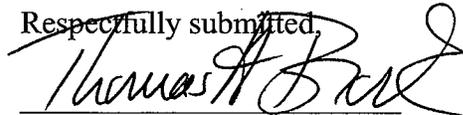
2. Complaint Counsel objects to Respondent's Requests for Admission to the extent they are overly broad, vague, ambiguous, unduly burdensome, oppressive, and are not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence.
 3. Complaint Counsel objects to Respondent's Requests for Admission to the extent that they call for information previously provided to Respondent or information that may be less onerously obtained through other means.
 4. Complaint Counsel objects to Respondent's Requests for Admission to the extent that they seek information protected by deliberative process privilege, law enforcement investigative privilege, informant's privilege, or attorney work product doctrine.
 5. Complaint Counsel objects to Respondent's Requests for Admission to the extent they do not relate to statements or opinions of fact or of the application of law to fact, and thereby exceed the scope of Rule 3.32, governing admission.
 6. Complaint Counsel objects to Respondent's Requests for Admission to the extent that any Request quotes from a document or references a statement and solicits an admission that the quote or statement is evidence of the truth of the matter asserted.
 7. Complaint Counsel reserves all of its evidentiary objections or other objections to the introduction or use of any response at the hearing in this action and does not, by any response to any request for information, waive any objection to that request for admission, stated or unstated.
 8. Complaint Counsel does not, by any response to any Request, admit to the validity of any legal or factual contention asserted or assumed in the text of any Request.
 9. Complaint Counsel's discovery and investigation in this matter are continuing.
- Complaint Counsel reserves the right to assert additional objections to Respondent's First

Set of Requests for Admission, and to amend or supplement these objections and its responses as necessary.

10. Complaint Counsel objects to Respondent Intel Corporation's First Set of Requests for Admissions to the extent they are directed to the Federal Trade Commission rather than Complaint Counsel.

May 5, 2010

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas H. Brock
Counsel Supporting the Complaint
Bureau of Competition
Federal Trade Commission
601 New Jersey Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20580

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I filed via hand and electronic mail delivery an original and two copies of the foregoing Answers and Objections to Respondent's First Set of Requests for Admission with:

Donald S. Clark
Secretary
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Rm. H-159
Washington, DC 20580

I also certify that I delivered via electronic and hand delivery a copy of the foregoing Answers and Objections to Respondent's First Set of Requests for Admission to:

The Honorable D. Michael Chappell
Administrative Law Judge
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Rm. H-113
Washington, DC 20580

I also certify that I delivered via electronic mail a copy of the foregoing Answers and Objections to Respondent's First Set of Requests for Admission to:

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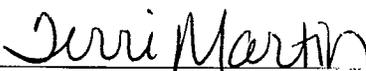
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May 5, 2010

By:


Terri Martin
Federal Trade Commission
Bureau of Competition

Attachment 1



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Producer Price Index Industry Data

Series Id: PCU33441333441312
Industry: Semiconductors and related device mfg
Product: Microprocessors, including microcontrollers and related devices
Base Date: 200706

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
1998	43477.6	36005.2	36005.2	34659.1	29658.4	26545.5	26064.5	22961.8	19751.7	19603.8	17210.9	17210.9	27429.5
1999	15897.6	15558.2	13868.7	12865.0	11378.3	10886.2	10886.2	9872.3	7905.5	7905.5	7220.1	7057.8	10941.8
2000	7007.2	5849.9	4554.7	4549.8	3914.1	3229.6	3241.6	2952.8	2609.1	2501.8	2162.9	2103.0	3723.0
2001	2099.3	1932.3	1854.6	1801.8	1725.5	1608.2	1608.2	1597.7	1406.4	1406.4	1406.4	1289.1	1644.7
2002	1193.5	1074.7	1043.2	1037.3	982.9	850.2	847.8	840.9	786.4	786.4	701.7	687.2	902.7
2003	687.2	680.8	578.4	578.4	500.3	420.0	417.9	415.2	376.0	362.8	324.8	324.8	472.2
2004	324.8	324.8	307.1	291.4	291.4	289.2	289.2	281.6	248.0	248.0	244.4	244.4	282.0
2005	244.4	237.9	232.5	232.5	231.1	231.1	231.1	220.1	191.4	191.4	190.4	190.4	218.7
2006	186.3	185.4	185.4	185.4	168.1	157.0	157.0	133.2	133.2	133.2	125.4	125.4	156.2
2007	125.4	114.8	114.8	113.4	100.1	100.0	99.7	92.3	82.7	82.5	80.6	80.6	98.9
2008	77.8	76.7	75.9	74.2	74.2	74.2	74.1	72.3	72.3	72.3	69.0	68.9	73.5
2009	66.7	66.6	66.6	65.1	65.1	60.9	60.0	60.0	57.8	57.6(P)	57.5(P)	57.5(P)	61.8(P)

P : Preliminary. All indexes are subject to revision four months after original publication.

Attachment 2



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Producer Price Index Industry Data

Series Id: PCU3341123341121

Industry: Computer storage device manufacturing

Product: Computer storage devices (except parts, attachments and accessories)

Base Date: 200412

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
1998	400.2	390.2	387.6	379.9	379.0	374.7	371.2	365.7	362.6	360.4	357.9	357.4	373.9
1999	354.7	352.2	350.7	351.2	351.2	350.7	330.4	330.2	326.2	326.4	320.0	318.4	338.5
2000	318.3	317.9	310.9	309.3	308.3	306.6	309.6	309.6	309.6	309.6	309.6	300.6	310.0
2001	300.6	281.0	281.2	281.2	278.4	277.5	277.5	270.2	270.2	268.7	265.0	261.8	276.1
2002	228.5	225.7	223.2	218.0	209.6	200.2	195.3	193.5	193.1	186.3	181.4	182.3	203.1
2003	181.7	181.7	169.0	167.5	154.8	154.1	153.3	147.7	147.5	145.1	135.0	132.4	155.8
2004	132.4	127.5	127.0	126.7	118.9	116.0	115.4	118.6	116.4	113.4	100.0	100.0	117.7
2005	100.0	96.6	95.9	95.9	95.6	92.8	89.4	87.5	84.7	80.4	80.4	75.0	89.5
2006	74.7	73.6	73.6	73.7	70.6	69.0	68.9	67.8	66.3	65.8	65.7	65.6	69.6
2007	65.5	65.0	64.9	64.2	62.0	61.9	61.4	60.3	60.1	60.1	59.7	59.7	62.1
2008	59.6	59.6	58.5	58.8	57.8	57.6	57.3	55.5	55.4	55.0	53.9	53.2	56.9
2009	53.2	51.5	51.4	51.2	49.9	50.0	49.9	49.8	49.6	49.5(P)	47.1(P)	46.4(P)	49.9(P)

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Attachment 3



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Producer Price Index Industry Data

Series Id: PCU33411133411173
Industry: Electronic computer manufacturing
Product: Personal computers and workstations (excluding portable computers)
Base Date: 200706

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
1998	1514.9	1417.8	1391.6	1291.9	1253.4	1207.6	1165.2	1008.6	989.3	951.4	911.7	883.9	1165.6
1999	844.9	827.2	820.7	793.3	782.3	759.1	752.3	740.2	731.1	689.7	680.3	682.8	758.7
2000	682.4	670.5	660.0	650.4	640.5	620.4	619.6	573.3	565.0	559.3	556.4	548.1	612.2
2001	497.9	484.2	462.3	457.2	447.2	445.4	426.9	401.1	400.5	396.2	388.1	374.4	431.8
2002	375.8	353.4	351.5	354.4	354.4	353.2	332.9	320.7	318.2	311.5	304.9	301.5	336.0
2003	299.9	275.4	274.0	275.1	273.3	269.5	264.6	262.1	262.4	260.2	257.4	252.7	268.9
2004	251.2	250.5	250.1	249.0	250.6	243.4	242.9	235.8	226.9	226.3	218.3	216.6	238.5
2005	205.9	206.4	198.7	193.2	185.8	178.8	173.0	172.5	163.6	157.8	155.0	150.3	178.4
2006	147.1	147.4	146.8	140.0	139.0	132.3	125.2	122.8	119.5	117.6	117.0	115.6	130.9
2007	113.9	113.6	111.8	109.7	105.0	100.0	95.5	89.3	86.9	85.1	82.6	81.6	97.9
2008	78.7	77.2	72.7	72.2	71.6	72.7	72.6	69.9	69.2	65.5	64.7	64.7	71.0
2009	63.0	56.7	56.3	55.5	55.5	54.5	53.1	53.6	52.7	52.8(P)	50.4(P)	50.8(P)	54.6(P)

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Producer Price Index Industry Data

Series Id: PCJ33411133411172

Industry: Electronic computer manufacturing

Product: Portable computers, laptops, PDAs and other single user computers

Base Date: 200706

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
1998	2310.9	2188.5	2111.0	2088.1	1917.1	1906.5	1711.8	1562.6	1407.2	1370.4	1359.2	1256.7	1765.8
1999	1222.5	1125.1	1113.8	1073.1	1006.7	1005.3	977.9	976.8	967.9	951.9	940.4	931.1	1024.4
2000	949.2	864.2	843.9	835.2	833.6	816.8	816.3	797.2	775.8	756.4	689.4	681.0	804.9
2001	585.9	575.7	567.8	555.7	543.4	545.3	548.8	541.9	536.9	535.6	474.9	465.9	540.6
2002	450.4	442.6	443.0	411.6	403.4	401.1	392.1	389.4	379.5	373.4	332.7	332.4	396.0
2003	325.8	323.4	322.4	322.3	308.5	302.2	299.2	293.4	293.9	274.7	267.7	264.0	299.8
2004	261.8	260.4	259.3	250.3	240.5	238.1	236.0	235.5	234.5	233.5	231.4	229.8	242.6
2005	215.4	209.5	203.7	199.6	192.6	190.5	188.8	180.7	178.1	176.3	166.4	156.6	188.2
2006	151.9	145.8	139.6	132.3	131.0	131.3	124.4	118.3	119.2	117.4	113.1	109.8	127.8
2007	106.7	104.3	103.4	101.3	101.5	100.0	98.2	94.5	91.9	89.9	86.6	86.4	97.1
2008	80.3	78.0	74.7	70.5	70.9	71.3	70.1	70.1	67.6	68.0	65.8	63.4	70.9
2009	62.7	62.1	60.3	57.3	57.1	53.6	53.6	53.6	53.5	53.1(P)	52.0(P)	51.1(P)	55.8(P)

P : Preliminary. All indexes are subject to revision four months after original publication.