

PRINCIPAL JOB AND HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT	PRIMARY OR SECONDARY WORK ACTIVITY ON PRINCIPAL JOB IS R&D?					
	NO		YES		TOTAL	
	Total in Head count	Median Annual Salary	Total in Head count	Median Annual Salary	Total in Head count	Median Annual Salary
Computer and Mathematical scientists	1.112.216	67.000,00	896.279	70.000,00	2.008.496	70.000,00
Biological, agricultural and other life scientists	115.467	46.000,00	328.303	50.000,00	443.770	49.000,00
Physical and related scientists	97.549	52.000,00	217.514	60.000,00	315.063	58.000,00
Social and related scientists	272.423	50.000,00	222.161	50.000,00	494.584	50.000,00
Engineers	530.560	73.000,00	1.024.296	73.000,00	1.554.857	73.000,00
S&E related occupations	4.284.498	53.000,00	1.046.457	52.000,00	5.330.955	53.000,00
Non-S&E related occupations	6.697.962	49.000,00	1.175.371	55.000,00	7.873.332	50.000,00
TOTAL	13.110.676	53.000,00	4.910.381	62.000,00	18.021.057	55.000,00

Table 26 – Total Number and median annual salary of people carrying out R&D as primary or secondary work activity, per level of educational attainment. Data from the “National Survey of College graduates 2003” of the National Science Foundation, United States

5.4 Annex 4: Principal indexes and cost of living indicators

In this annex, the available data of the principal indexes and cost of living indicators chosen for the study are presented.

5.4.1 Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures the change in the cost of a bundle of consumer goods and services. The bundle includes about 200 types of goods and thousands of actual products, ranging from foods and energy to expensive consumer goods. The prices are measured by taking a sample of prices at different stores. The CPI is also important because it is used to adjust the annual changes to Social Security payments. This way it provides a measure of inflation. This is why frequently the CPI is called a cost-of-living index. But it differs in important ways from a complete cost-of-living measure. A cost-of-living index is a conceptual measurement goal, however, not a straightforward alternative to the CPI. A cost-of-living index would measure changes over time in the amount that consumers need to spend to reach a certain utility level or standard of living. User fees (such as water and sewer service) and sales and excise taxes paid by the consumer are included in CPI, while income taxes and investments items (like stocks, bonds, life insurance and homes) are not included. It is very difficult to determine the proper treatment of public goods, such as safety and education, and other broad concerns, such as health, water quality, and crime that would constitute a complete cost-of-living framework.

The CPI is used all around the world as an important economic indicator, principally to measure inflation. However, its calculation is different between Europe and the United States:

- The “CPI” in the Eurozone

In addition to their national consumer price indices, the Member States of the European Union also produce a harmonised index of consumer prices (HICP), published by the European Central Bank (ECB). The HICPs have been set up to provide the best measure for international comparisons of household inflation within the Euro-zone and the EU.

- CPI in the United States

On the other hand, concerning the calculation and use of the CPI in the US, most of the specific CPI indexes have a 1982-84 reference base in Bureau of Labour Statistics (BLS) (www.bls.gov), who sets the average index level (representing the average price level) for the 36-month period covering the years 1982, 1983, and 1984 equal to 100.

The CPI reflects spending patterns for each of two population groups: all urban consumers and urban wage earners and clerical workers. The price change experience of the all urban consumer group is measured by two indexes:

- The traditional Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)

- The newer Chained Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (C-CPI-U).

The following table shows a comparison between the European HICP and the CPI-U as calculated by the BLS.

Category	European HICP	CPI-U
Definition	Measure of the average change in the prices of goods and services available for purchase in the economic territory of the member State for purposes of directly satisfying consumer's needs	Measure of the average change over time in the prices of consumer items—that is, goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living
Geographic and population coverage	All households in the territory of the member State	Non-institutional urban population of the United States
Item coverage	Private consumption, except owner-occupied housing, gambling, lotteries, and life insurance	Includes owner-occupied housing and excludes gambling, lotteries, and life insurance
Formula	Laspeyres	Laspeyres
Weight update interval	At least 5 yearly updates, annual review	Biennial
Elementary aggregate formula	Ratio of geometric to arithmetic mean	Weighted geometric or arithmetic mean
Classification	Classification of individual consumption by purpose (COICOP)	U.S. CPI item classification structure
Level of detail	94 classes, 160 sub-indexes	211 item strata, 38 index areas

Table 27 – Differences between the Harmonized Index of Consumer prices and the CPI-U

The geographic and population coverage of the European HICP seems to be decisive criteria for the selection of HICP index instead of the CPI-U index as calculated by the BLS for the purpose of the study.

The following table presents HICPs as calculated by the ECB in April 2006.