



# Minnesota Department of Transportation

## Project Management and Technical Support

395 John Ireland Boulevard, Mail Stop 692

Saint Paul, MN 55155

Office Tel: (651) 366-4639

Fax: (651) 366-4699

# Memo

**TO:** Addresses

**FROM:** Nancy Sannes  
Estimates Engineer

**DATE:** October 19, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Construction Cost Index First Quarter 2016

### Estimates Engineer - 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2016 Notes:

The First Quarter 2016 Minnesota Highway Construction Composite Cost Index was not computed due to the absence of the structural steel indicator item.

The First Quarter of 2016 costs *nationally*, as reported by Engineering News Record, indicated a modest increase in all of the Cost Index Items with the exception of Asphalt which indicated a discernable decrease. *Locally*, trends are a bit different. The Engineering News Record indicated a modest decrease in all of the Cost Index Items with the exception of Bituminous Surfacing which indicated a slightly more substantial decrease. Another source of *local* asphalt pricing indicates a much more substantial decrease which is commensurate with the bids for Bituminous Surfacing experienced between the First Quarter of 2015 and 2016.

The first quarter index was based on \$76.81 million of work considered from 31 Projects. First quarter 2016 cost information is compared to first quarter 2015 below.

- The average Excavation cost was \$7.02/CY, up \$2.59/CY from the first quarter of 2015. Six projects were considered this quarter. The price increase is largely indicative of the types of projects let in this quarter. First quarter 2016 Projects were smaller and there were fewer of them.
- The average Reinforcing Steel cost was \$1.26/lb, down \$0.12/lb from the first quarter of 2015. Thirteen projects were considered this quarter. This decrease is largely explained by the inclusion of a large and unusual project in the first quarter of 2015 data. The project had just one bidder and an unusually high price for this item.
- The average Structural Steel indicator item was absent of data.
- The average Structural Concrete cost was \$647.62/CY, down \$72.86/CY from the first quarter of 2015. Six projects were considered this quarter.
- The average Concrete Pavement cost was \$138.79/CY, down \$16.34/CY from the first quarter of 2015. Nine projects were considered this quarter including two larger projects in Greater Minnesota where costs tend to be lower.
- The average Plant Mixed Bituminous cost was \$46.28/ton, down \$9.03/ton from the first quarter of 2015. Nineteen projects were considered this quarter. Of little surprise, costs have dropped dramatically as the price of oil has fallen over the past year.

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First quarter, 2016 project information is compared to first quarter, 2015 below.

**Table 1: Indicator Costs**

Item	First Quarter 2015			First Quarter 2016		
	Quantity	Cost *	Unit Cost	Quantity	Cost *	Unit Cost
Excavation	2,064,123 CY	\$9.15	\$4.43/CY	607,972 CY	\$4.27	\$7.02
Reinforcing Steel	1,474,502 LB	\$2.03	\$1.38/LB	1,633,449 LB	\$2.06	\$1.26
Structural Steel	**	**	**	**	**	**
Structural Concrete	10,279 CY	\$7.40	\$720.48/CY	9,266 CY	\$6.00	\$647.62
Concrete Pavement	135,431 CY	\$21.01	\$155.13/CY	240,791 CY	\$33.42	\$138.79
Plant-Mixed Bit.	790,264 ton	\$43.71	\$55.31/ton	671,274 ton	\$31.06	\$46.28
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$83.31</b>			<b>\$76.81</b>	

\* Millions of dollars    \*\* Not computed due to absent of data.

**Table 2: Minnesota Highway Construction Project Summary**

	First Quarter 2015	First Quarter 2016
Number of Projects Awarded	70	72
Awarded Amount (\$ million)	\$362.23	\$270.49
Total Number of Bidders	227	283
Average Number of Bidders	3.24	3.93
Number of Cost Index Projects	23	31
Cost Index Amount (\$ million)	\$83.31	\$76.81
Excavation Index	221.14	350.11
Structures Index	***	***
Surfacing Index	311.49	263.93
Composite Cost Index (CI)	***	***

\*\*\* Not computed due to absence of data for associated indicator items.

The average number of bidders per project was 3.93 for the first quarter of 2016. In comparison, the average number of first quarter bidders in 2015 was 3.24.

Attached is an explanation of the derivation of the Minnesota Cost index, and charts of quarterly and annual Minnesota highway construction cost trends.

cc: File

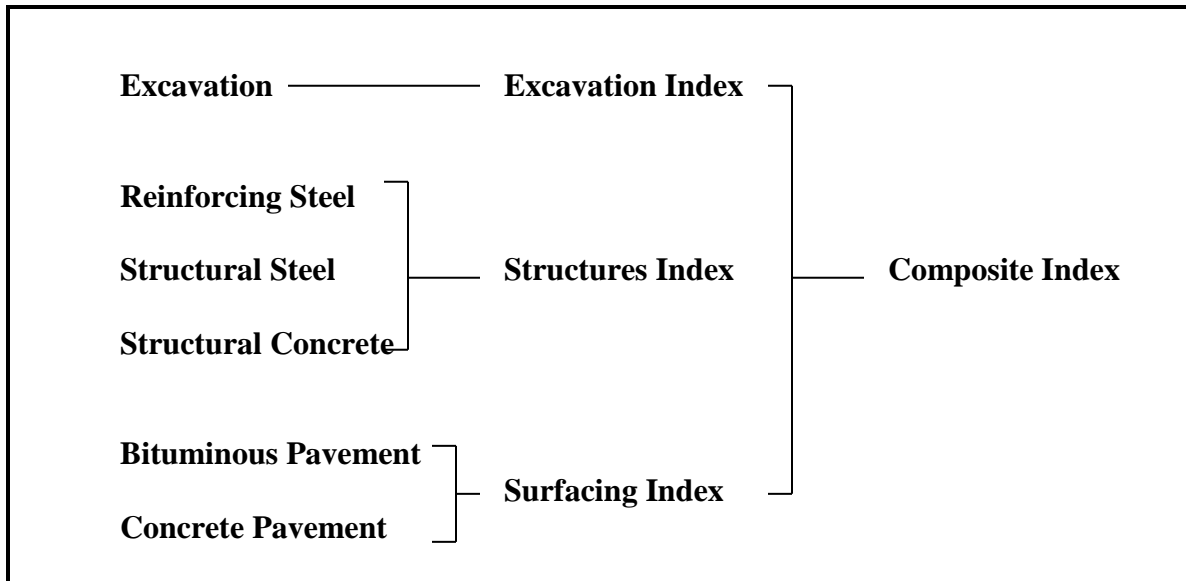
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# Minnesota Construction Cost Index

The Minnesota Construction Cost Index is an indicator of price trends for highway construction.

It is composed of six indicator items: roadway excavation, to indicate the price trends for all roadway excavation; concrete pavement and plant-mixed bituminous, to indicate the price trend for all surfacing types; and reinforcing steel, structural steel, and structural concrete, to indicate the price trend for structures.

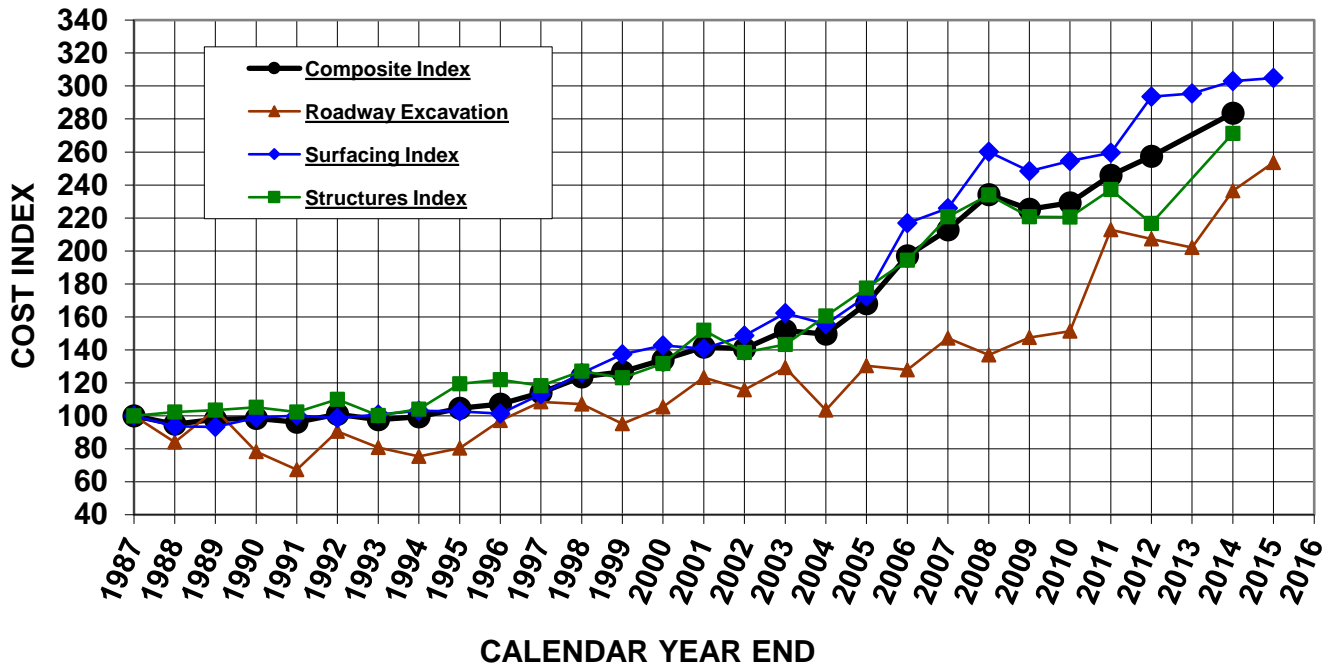


Each quarter, an average unit price is computed for each indicator item. The unit price is based upon the actual bids from projects **excluding Design Build and CMGC projects**, costing more than \$100,000, and let during that quarter. These unit prices include the cost of material, labor, equipment, overhead and profit.

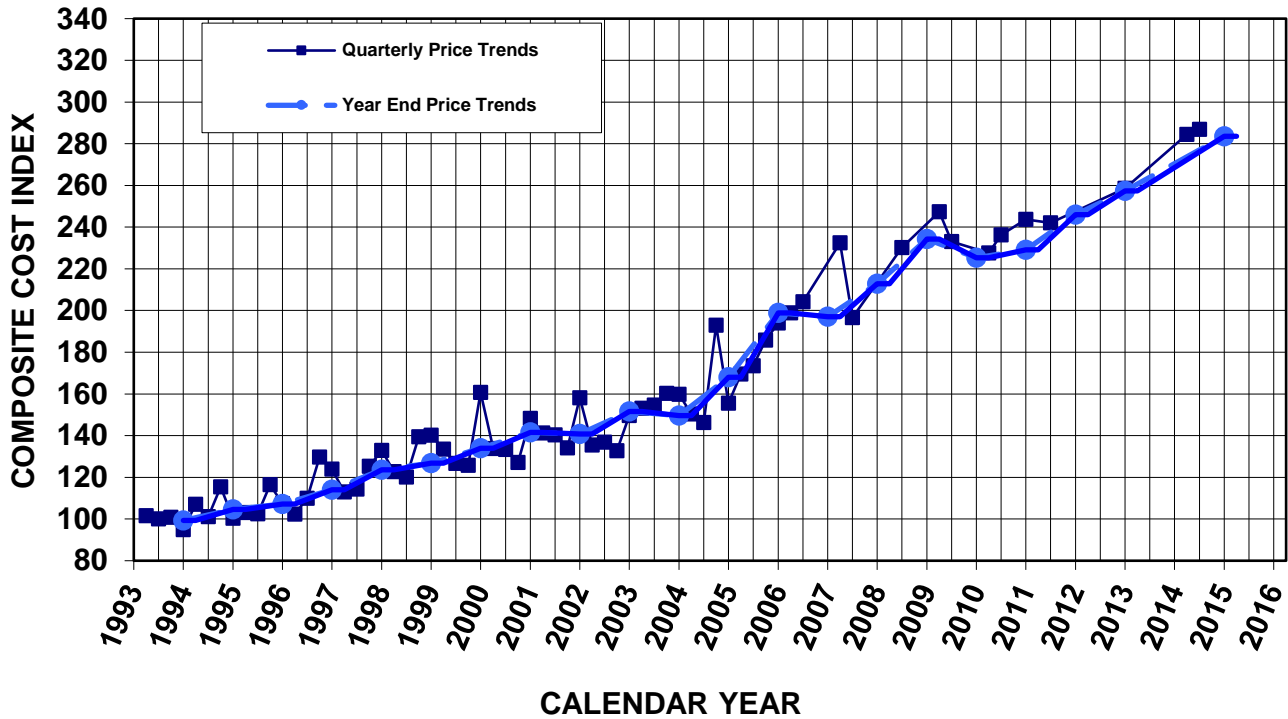
These unit prices along with the 1987 base unit prices and quantities are used to compute the Excavation, Surfacing, Structures and Composite Index.

## Minnesota Highway Construction Cost Trends

### ANNUAL PRICE TRENDS



### YEARLY & QUARTERLY PRICE TRENDS



**MN/DOT COST INDEX**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Roadway Excavation</u>	<u>Bituminous Surfacing</u>	<u>Concrete Surfacing</u>	<u>Surfacing Index</u>	<u>Reinforce. Steel</u>	<u>Structural Steel</u>	<u>Structural Concrete</u>	<u>Structures Index</u>	<u>Composite Index</u>
<b>1987</b>	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
<b>1988</b>									
1st Quarter	66.35	92.87	76.99	89.60	108.25	113.11	91.18	98.44	88.98
2nd Quarter	111.84	96.02	107.04	98.29	107.22	103.87	95.60	99.37	100.58
3rd Quarter	87.81	94.14	104.76	96.33	110.27	110.57	110.45	110.43	99.46
4th Quarter	89.72	103.63		103.63	115.44	107.04	94.37	100.80	100.39
Year End	84.08	95.68	85.55	93.59	109.73	109.34	97.90	102.26	94.90
<b>1989</b>									
1st Quarter	121.34	88.57	92.72	89.42	120.87	141.72	101.41	112.36	101.11
137.56	70.45	90.06	87.63	89.56	108.73	102.24	98.24	101.04	90.35
3rd Quarter	137.56	107.54	135.39	113.28	116.66	107.48	94.73	101.34	113.09
4th Quarter		91.13		91.13	138.53	121.78	146.33	140.47	111.64
Year End	103.72	92.01	94.50	93.23	115.99	111.15	97.29	103.45	97.90
<b>1990</b>									
1st Quarter	75.54	100.19	81.67	96.37	115.62	140.73	102.05	111.55	98.06
2nd Quarter	67.71	96.79	104.57	98.39	122.11	105.43	110.57	111.97	98.17
3rd Quarter	97.07	122.17	102.13	118.04	117.17	112.70	92.03	100.67	109.65
4th Quarter	66.99	106.72	148.85	115.41	118.55	108.99	133.76	126.38	111.83
Year End	78.30	100.58	97.24	98.89	117.48	112.81	99.09	105.17	98.41
<b>1991</b>									
1st Quarter	86.48	103.02	111.23	104.71	115.23	123.22	91.37	101.72	101.16
2nd Quarter	67.72	96.75	105.58	98.57	110.99	128.81	103.22	109.27	97.43
3rd Quarter	105.04				122.95		110.48	113.49	110.44
4th Quarter	47.98	81.65	111.81	87.87	106.38	84.44	80.29	86.22	81.62
Year End	67.31	97.72	109.11	100.07	111.54	121.31	93.98	102.28	96.04
<b>1992</b>									
1st Quarter	134.20	110.24	90.36	106.14	106.10	96.66	92.71	96.07	107.07
2nd Quarter	84.69	95.94	103.65	97.53	119.25	109.95	112.93	113.67	100.67
3rd Quarter	90.06	102.36	92.40	100.31	99.53	108.35	131.75	121.22	105.29
4th Quarter	99.54	105.41		105.41	105.69	91.58	116.35	109.83	106.01
Year End	90.60	99.05	97.07	98.64	106.37	105.54	112.38	109.98	100.98
<b>1993</b>									
1st Quarter	81.02	104.73	87.06	101.08	118.06	139.75	102.08	111.88	101.53
2nd Quarter	81.51	101.97	101.79	101.93	109.83	128.78	97.52	105.46	100.08
3rd Quarter		117.01		117.01	97.06		65.66	73.25	100.83
4th Quarter	73.97	94.47	84.12	92.33	119.80	112.58	104.90	109.22	94.91
Year End	80.75	101.91	96.30	100.75	108.13	127.30	90.07	100.21	97.70
<b>1994</b>									
1st Quarter	115.56	97.54	95.57	97.13	115.00	95.98	123.67	120.83	107.11
2nd Quarter	75.92	102.90	104.22	103.17	114.87		109.55	110.84	101.09
3rd Quarter	152.37	109.02	136.56	114.70	99.78	111.66	96.09	99.56	115.44
4th Quarter	65.52	110.42	103.89	109.08	109.23	98.51	98.97	100.93	100.29
Year End	75.38	102.48	104.96	102.99	105.52	110.88	101.55	103.98	99.32
<b>1995</b>									
1st Quarter	85.69	95.53	115.74	99.70	120.72	122.37	114.68	117.23	103.10
2nd Quarter	71.02	99.49		99.49	121.32	132.48	117.95	121.17	102.42
3rd Quarter	77.42	113.46	111.29	113.02	151.42		144.16	145.92	116.46
4th Quarter	92.70	107.55	109.43	107.93	121.52		111.82	114.16	107.29
Year End		99.81	113.94	102.73	121.47	126.83	116.53	119.32	104.63
<b>1996</b>									
1st Quarter	83.05	92.20	123.35	98.62	118.80	178.06	100.96	118.05	102.38
2nd Quarter	119.58	95.01	113.11	98.74	130.48		127.59	128.29	109.88
3rd Quarter	124.27	131.87	150.79	135.77	120.96		119.41	119.79	129.72
4th Quarter	95.12	124.66	113.40	122.34	141.02		144.36	143.55	123.91
Year End	97.01	97.12	117.89	101.40	120.85	178.06	106.59	121.98	107.13
<b>1997</b>									
1st Quarter	117.41	107.57	112.89	108.66	117.44	93.82	125.60	118.39	112.93
2nd Quarter	96.00	107.53	153.26	116.96	129.60	107.48	117.89	118.40	114.38
3rd Quarter	122.35	130.99		130.99	124.92	119.62	116.28	118.59	125.27
4th Quarter	127.75	134.59	0.00	134.59					132.88
Year End	108.51	109.84	125.63	113.10	122.08	99.44	122.32	118.25	114.03
<b>1998</b>									
1st Quarter	100.29	124.56	135.20	126.75	130.86		125.58	126.86	122.75
2nd Quarter	104.63	122.21	133.04	124.44	123.71		118.20	119.53	120.10
3rd Quarter	135.95	150.01	129.84	145.85	133.21		126.04	127.51	139.40
4th Quarter		155.16		155.16	122.66	146.08	110.58	119.22	140.22
Year End	106.99	124.06	132.22	125.95	127.70	146.08	121.58	127.10	123.58
<b>1999</b>									
1st Quarter	90.59	130.95	210.30	147.31	133.64		126.39	128.14	133.51
2nd Quarter	92.34	137.50	139.09	137.83	121.34		121.92	121.78	126.58
3rd Quarter	85.22	135.66		135.66	125.58	168.87	121.78	130.81	125.78
4th Quarter	182.25	143.08	202.56	155.34	132.10	107.12	183.75	160.00	160.66
Year End	95.07	135.87	142.46	137.23	124.73	114.64	124.72	122.95	126.75
<b>2000</b>									
1st Quarter	96.35	141.29	153.08	143.73	142.36	151.96	125.61	133.57	133.77
2nd Quarter	111.93	138.88	158.17	142.86	137.49	136.03	120.21	126.43	133.33
3rd Quarter	102.18	128.03		128.03	137.29		140.48	139.71	127.13
4th Quarter	115.61	136.47	170.73	143.53	149.27		185.41	176.66	148.21
Year End	105.38	138.87	157.19	142.65	139.49	137.59	127.59	131.71	133.91
<b>2001</b>									
1st Quarter	91.27	131.58	133.42	131.96	166.65		196.86	189.55	141.28
2nd Quarter	116.05	135.28	149.20	138.15	135.53	219.62	144.03	155.60	140.36
3rd Quarter	109.17	130.04	154.51	135.09	140.67	166.76	138.68	144.01	134.11
4th Quarter	157.83	160.90	185.56	165.98	149.31	86.82	158.62	144.16	158.06
Year End	123.17	137.25	153.92	140.69	142.53	171.70	149.25	151.85	141.61

**MN/DOT COST INDEX**  
(CONTINUED)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Roadway Excavation</u>	<u>Bituminous Surfacing</u>	<u>Concrete Surfacing</u>	<u>Surfacing Index</u>	<u>Reinforce. Steel</u>	<u>Structural Steel</u>	<u>Structural Concrete</u>	<u>Structures Index</u>	<u>Composite Index</u>
<b>2002</b>									
1st Quarter	123.44	147.14	119.78	141.50	151.68	143.03	120.19	130.48	135.49
2nd Quarter	148.48	149.69	140.07	147.71	150.31	165.23	85.03	112.13	136.82
3rd Quarter		132.77		132.77					132.77
4th Quarter	95.26	157.12	161.93	158.12	167.64	154.74	158.85	159.88	149.61
Year End	115.64	150.27	142.16	148.60	159.74	157.32	126.43	138.49	140.73
<b>2003</b>									
1st Quarter	119.16	168.38	149.65	164.51	165.32	124.83	149.85	148.55	153.05
2nd Quarter	149.11	166.29	171.88	167.44	168.38	109.25	130.53	134.34	154.57
3rd Quarter	126.34	162.12	190.96	168.07	166.04		161.37	162.50	160.21
4th Quarter	142.18	144.11		144.11	162.08	139.53	213.05	189.98	159.77
Year End	129.12	163.83	156.17	162.25	166.37	116.91	143.23	143.23	151.60
<b>2004</b>									
1st Quarter	89.34	157.99	145.67	155.45	184.40	166.06	166.16	169.78	150.36
2nd Quarter	101.93	156.99	153.21	156.21	193.40		135.92	149.83	146.23
3rd Quarter	156.87	173.66	220.06	183.23	231.70	126.15	253.80	226.99	192.95
4th Quarter	171.37	153.88	126.70	148.28	175.45	195.43	146.69	160.98	155.53
Year End	103.48	159.35	141.15	155.60	191.19	162.96	150.02	160.50	149.61
<b>2005</b>									
1st Quarter	91.95	159.35	221.30	172.12	206.72	281.37	176.99	201.24	169.57
2nd Quarter	152.75	163.52	230.40	177.31	206.89	201.87	159.27	176.24	173.44
3rd Quarter	135.85	214.40	173.97	206.06	195.34	199.90	158.17	172.91	185.71
4th Quarter	131.93	211.41		211.41	219.49		192.75	199.22	193.94
Year End	130.43	169.66	183.55	172.53	202.26	201.13	162.78	177.39	167.97
<b>2006</b>									
1st Quarter	179.64	216.37	168.40	206.48	209.17	167.23	196.99	194.19	198.82
2nd Quarter	137.70	241.00	191.38	230.77	192.81	194.21	184.52	187.87	204.11
3rd Quarter	137.17	217.53	*	**	257.26	*	230.67	**	**
4th Quarter	95.01	228.13	*	**	247.81	*	212.00	**	**
Year End	127.80	228.04	173.91	216.88	205.99	183.53	193.74	194.39	197.10
<b>2007</b>									
1st Quarter	190.17	255.61	222.49	248.78	236.81	283.08	202.21	223.31	232.47
2nd Quarter	114.76	224.06	155.14	209.85	221.84	187.19	214.66	211.27	196.60
3rd Quarter	*/**	213.40	*	**	*	*	*	**	**
4th Quarter	117.03	209.36	*	**	*	*	*	**	**
Year End	147.02	232.91	198.59	225.84	233.69	262.24	204.79	220.64	212.88
<b>2008</b>									
1st Quarter	143.43	235.23	361.90	261.34	409.19	*	189.70	**	**
2nd Quarter	134.37	278.48	170.51	256.22	286.47	267.39	199.61	228.83	230.20
3rd Quarter	*/**	314.60	*	**	295.44	215.32	196.42	219.48	**
4th Quarter	217.71	350.82	*	**	242.71	*	187.20	**	**
Year End	136.85	282.00	175.62	260.06	349.63	239.92	195.24	233.87	234.22
<b>2009</b>									
1st Quarter	130.35	267.53	179.27	249.34	212.65	703.64	212.26	298.60	247.42
2nd Quarter	205.07	254.33	210.92	245.38	220.70	249.11	218.60	224.37	233.08
3rd Quarter	*/**	293.20	*	**	*	*	*	**	**
4th Quarter	255.96	266.65	174.42	247.63	202.59	*	211.65	**	**
Year End	147.46	265.08	184.33	248.43	213.94	252.12	214.03	220.70	225.32
<b>2010</b>									
1st Quarter	118.81	297.94	155.03	268.47	215.46	171.69	212.82	206.13	227.65
2nd Quarter	207.89	271.58	181.95	253.10	226.17	253.31	208.48	219.88	236.32
3rd Quarter	266.22	268.87	*	**	*	*	*	**	**
4th Quarter	263.08	260.16	186.16	244.90	222.91	197.32	245.20	232.35	243.64
Year End	151.35	277.15	167.66	254.58	222.32	197.81	226.24	220.47	229.17
<b>2011</b>									
1st Quarter	282.29	277.18	138.12	248.51	267.60	*	233.93	**	**
2nd Quarter	187.26	289.19	147.37	259.95	249.70	216.82	236.44	235.64	241.97
3rd Quarter	206.87	306.20	130.31	269.94	*	*	*	**	**
4th Quarter	290.62	311.17	161.76	280.36	253.69	*	261.73	**	**
Year End	212.74	289.32	145.22	259.61	254.49	216.82	237.48	237.25	245.95
<b>2012</b>									
1st Quarter	168.12	330.92	164.11	296.53	282.92	*	274.47	**	**
2nd Quarter	251.04	318.01	191.58	291.94	267.40	*	218.35	**	**
3rd Quarter	220.88	351.69	154.88	311.11	228.22	*	*	**	**
4th Quarter	206.53	308.84	260.42	298.86	260.22	221.19	193.13	211.43	258.54
Year End	207.23	322.38	182.48	293.54	261.73	221.19	201.04	257.36	257.36
<b>2013</b>									
1st Quarter	192.74	299.93	211.51	281.70	237.57	*	236.42	**	**
2nd Quarter	185.76	337.29	208.92	310.83	259.80	*	294.45	**	**
3rd Quarter	*	*	*	**	*	*	*	**	**
4th Quarter	304.08	329.32	181.06	298.75	284.22	*	304.71	**	**
Year End	201.96	320.88	197.83	295.51	277.52	*	285.73	**	**
<b>2014</b>									
1st Quarter	296.52	316.42	211.06	294.70	276.99	210.59	269.59	260.71	284.46
2nd Quarter	252.80	335.14	191.32	305.49	266.37	307.37	260.77	270.06	286.95
3rd Quarter	175.49	353.17	195.49	320.66	*	*	*	**	**
4th Quarter	186.92	331.02	219.23	307.97	280.50	*	353.97	**	**
Year End	236.40	329.72	199.71	302.92	274.37	247.88	276.96	271.34	283.58
<b>2015</b>									
1st Quarter	221.14	320.13	278.25	311.49	314.58	*	346.21	**	**
2nd Quarter	246.97	329.07	286.36	320.27	307.64	*	323.07	**	**
3rd Quarter	*	315.16	*	**	*	*	*	**	**
4th Quarter	328.75	287.05	252.29	279.88	286.55	*	283.49	**	**
Year End	253.63	314.25	268.68	304.86	307.10	*	327.03	**	**
<b>2016</b>									
1st Quarter	350.11	267.82	248.95	263.93	287.15	*	311.20	**	**

\* No information available

\*\*Not computed due to the absence of data for indicator item(s).