

Innovations in measuring the economy: new approaches to price statistics

William Wiatrowski
Deputy Commissioner
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

National Association for Business Economics

March 3, 2025



‘Traditional’ versus ‘alternative’ data sources and collection methods

- Traditionally BLS uses surveys with probability sampling.
- Alternative data **sources** are also known as ‘non-traditional’ and ‘non-survey’ sources.
- Alternative collection **methods** *may* use survey sources but deliver ‘large’ datasets with observations that do not undergo probabilities of selection.



Why BLS is trying to use 'alternative' data

Improved accuracy

Improved representativeness

Reduced respondent burden

Ability to publish more data and at greater level of detail

Reduced costs

Addresses concerns with survey response

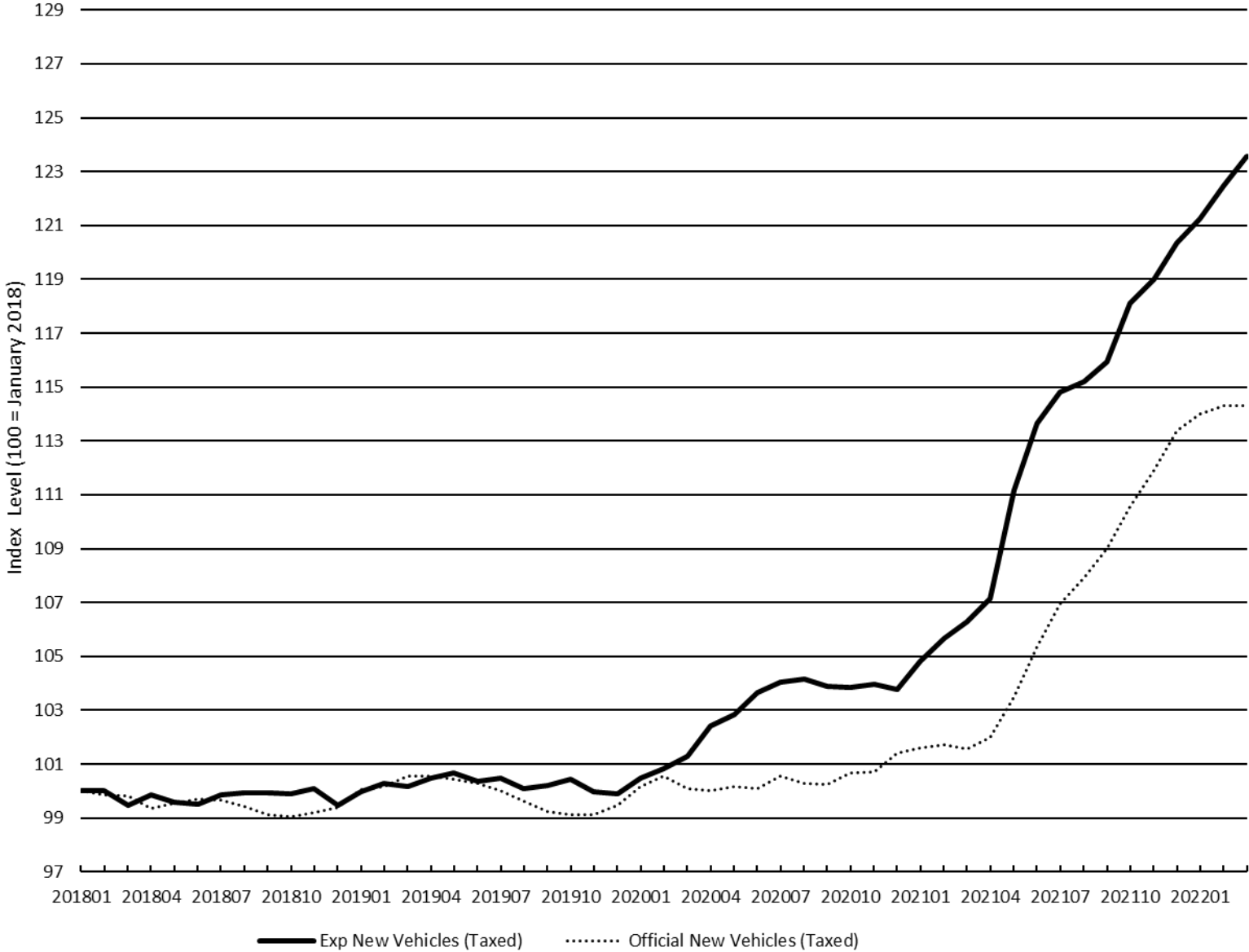


Alternative data sources and collection methods

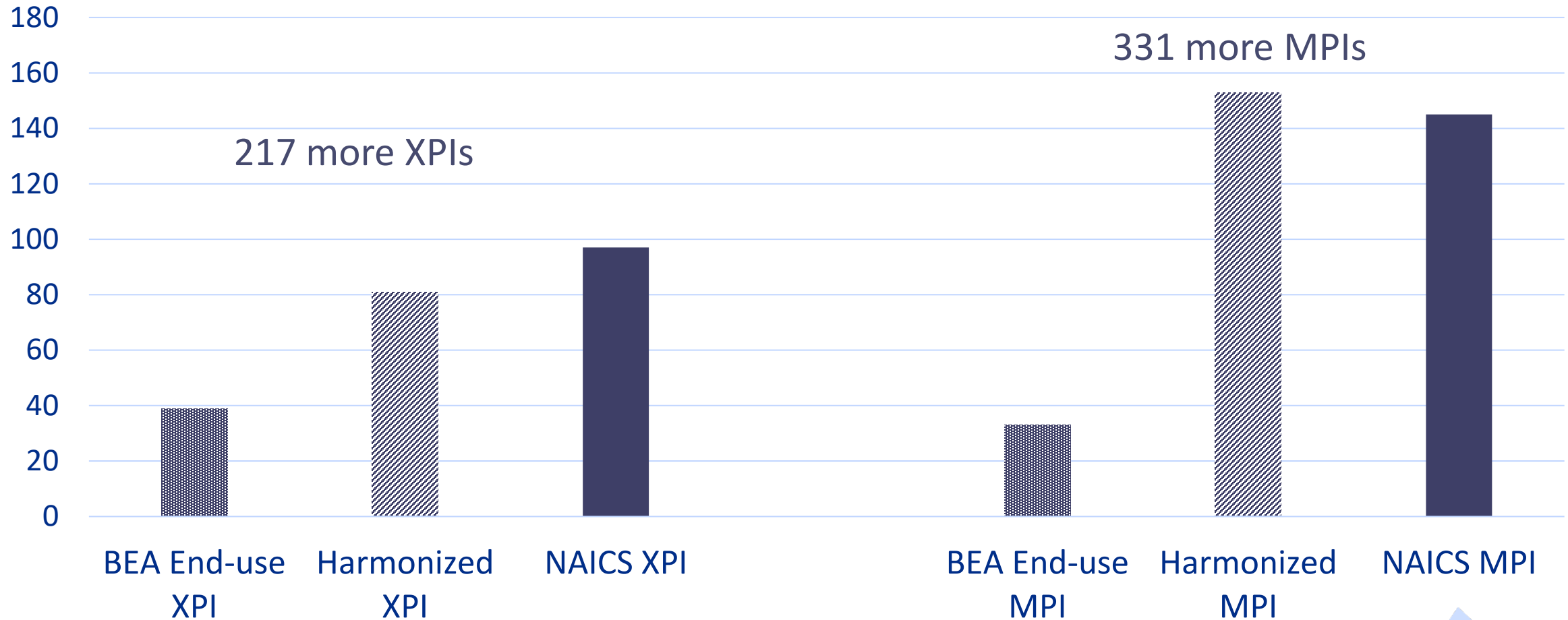
- Corporate supplied data.
- Web data.
- Secondary source data.
 - ▶ From vendors and aggregators.
 - ▶ From administrative data.



National Research Index for CPI New Vehicles (Taxed)

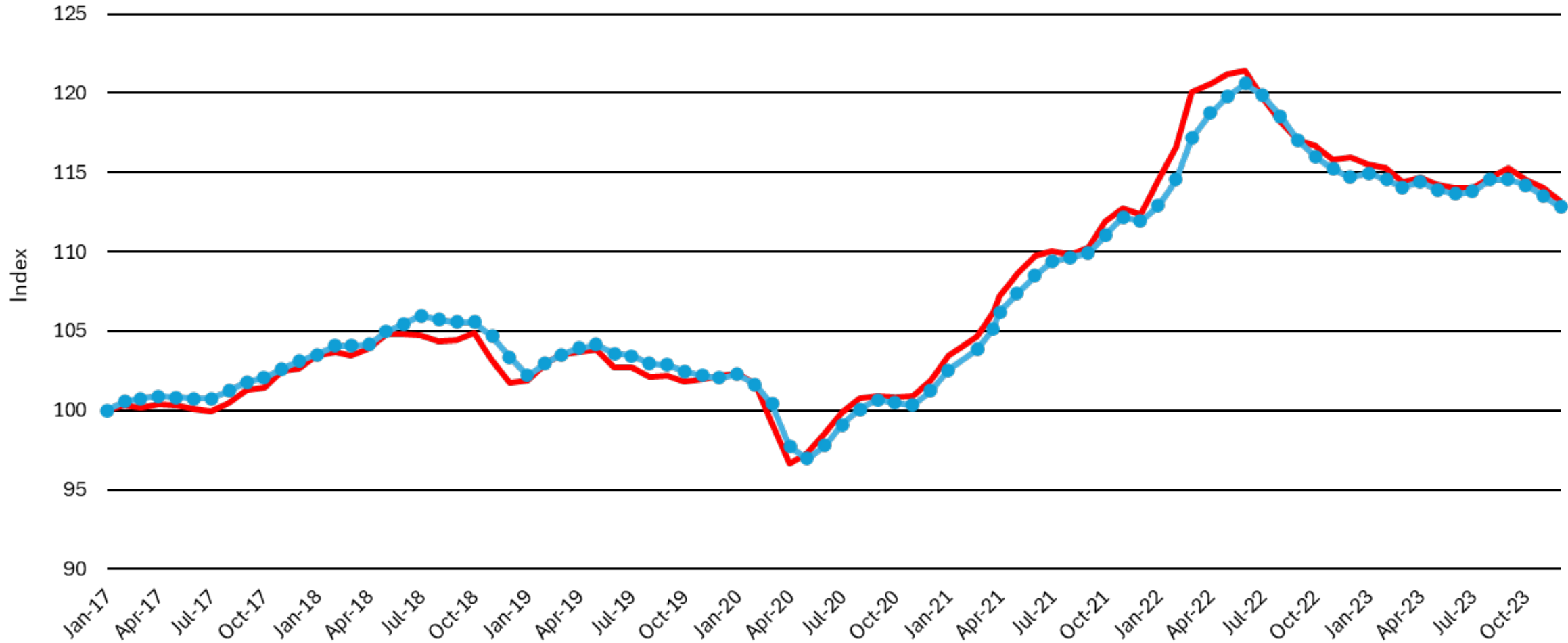


In March 2025, BLS expands the number of MXPIs by 50%!



Comparison of official and research MPI for All goods January 2017 - December 2023

Jan. 2017 = 100



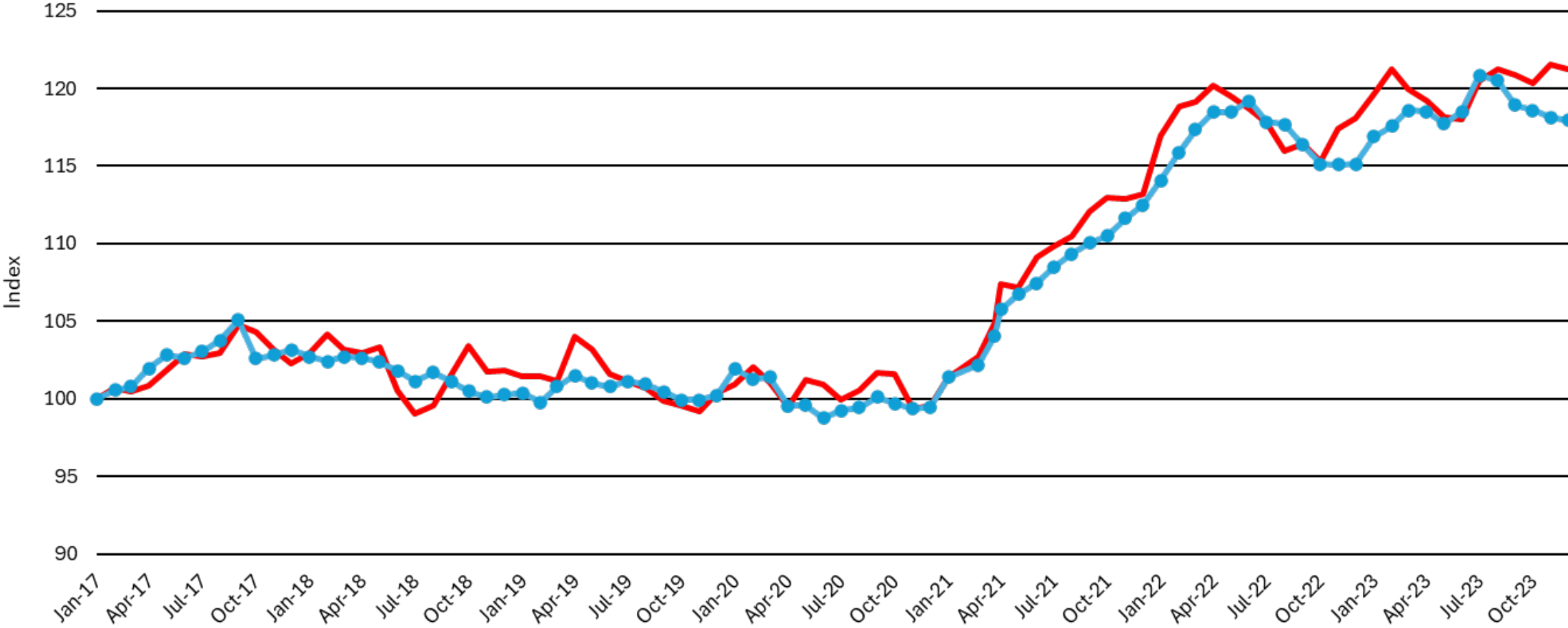
Note: BEA End Use Classification
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

— Official MPI —●— Research MPI



Comparison of official and research MPI for Foods, feeds, and beverages January 2017 - December 2023

Jan. 2017 = 100



Note: BEA End Use Classification
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

— Official MPI —●— Research MPI



BLS is being careful!



Contact Information

Consumer Price Index

cpi.info@bls.gov | 202.691.7000

Producer Price Index

ppi-info@bls.gov | 202.691.7705

Import and Export Price Indexes

mxp@bls.gov | 202.691.7101

