

ISSUES RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE TASK FORCES AND
INTER-SECRETARIAT WORKING GROUPS

Inter-secretariat Working Group on Price Statistics
Note by ILO

1. A brief note on the work of the Inter-secretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (IWGPS) was presented to the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities at its last session in Vienna.
2. Since the last meeting of the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities in September 2001, the work on the revision of CPI and PPI manuals have advanced and most of the chapters are being finalised.
3. The technical expert group on the Consumer Price Index (TEG-CPI) and on Producer Price Indices (TEG-PPI) met formally once in Geneva, 31 October 2001, and for the second time in London, 19-21 March 2002. A joint session of TEG-CPI and TEG-PPI and IWGPS were held during the London meeting. The purpose of these meetings was to review the overall content and pending substantive issues, sign off completed chapters, focus and agree on the plan for finalizing the work and to develop publication strategies.
4. The structure, content and chapter ordering of the CPI manual were reviewed once again to accommodate the concerns expressed at various meetings that to many users the manual would come across as too theoretical for their needs. There was a general agreement that a better balance between operational and theoretical chapters could be achieved by: (1) elaborating more on issues that are particularly relevant for developing countries, e.g. price collection from outlets without permanent address and bargaining prices; (2) simplifying and shortening the theoretical chapters to the extent possible; (3) moving theoretical chapters to the end of the manual; and (4) providing an introductory overview of all the issues discussed in the Manual with detailed references to how these were discussed in both the operational and the theoretical chapters respectively. The new chapter sequencing is attached to this note. It was agreed that the PPI manual would conform to the structure of the CPI manual.
5. Publication of one single book on each price index is expected to be preferable from users' point of view as well as the most cost-effective option. It is anticipated that the final versions of the manuals will be available by the end of 2002.
6. The progress report of the work of the Inter-secretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (ISWGPS) was presented to the UN Statistical Commission at its March 2002 Session in New York.
7. There are no major issues of coordination to be raised.

CPI Manual

List of chapters

Preface (including acknowledgements)

Reader's guide

- Chapter 1 Introduction
- Chapter 2 Uses of CPIs
- Chapter 3 Concepts, scope and classifications
- Chapter 4 Expenditure weights
- Chapter 5 Sampling issues
- Chapter 6 Price collection
- Chapter 7 Adjusting for quality change
- Chapter 8 Item substitution and new products
- Chapter 9 An overview of CPI calculation
- Chapter 10 Some special cases
- Chapter 11 Errors and bias
- Chapter 12 Organization and management
- Chapter 13 Publication and dissemination
- Chapter 14 The system of price indices
- Chapter 15 Basic index theory
- Chapter 16 The axiomatic and stochastic approaches to indices
- Chapter 17 The economic approach
- Chapter 18 Aggregation issues
- Chapter 19 Numerical examples
- Chapter 20 Elementary indices
- Chapter 21 Quality change and hedonics
- Chapter 22 Seasonal products
- Chapter 23 Durables and user costs

Glossary

References

- Annex 1 The EU harmonized index
- Annex 2 COICOP
- Annex 3 The ILO Resolution
- Annex 4 CPIs and purchasing power parities