

Harmonization of base years for index numbers
Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities
September 2003

<i>Title of the index number</i>	<i>Agency</i>	<i>Present base year</i>	<i>Date of implementation of the last rebase-ment</i>	<i>Planned or envisaged rebase-ment</i>		<i>Methodological comments related to base year</i>
				<i>New base year</i>	<i>Date of imple-mentation</i>	
<i>Demography and population</i>						
<i>Housing</i>						
<i>Labour</i>						
Manufacturing Wage Indices	ILO	1990	1999			Published in Key Indicators of the Labour Market
Occupational Wage Indices	ILO	1990	2001			Published in Key Indicators of the Labour Market
Labour Productivity and Labour Cost in Total Economy	ILO	1980	2001	1990	2005	Published in Key Indicators of the Labour Market
Labour Productivity and Labour Cost in Manufacturing	ILO	1980	2001	1990	2005	Published in Key Indicators of the Labour Market
Labour Productivity in Transport and Communication	ILO	1980	2001	1990	2005	Published in Key Indicators of the Labour Market
Labour Productivity in Trade	ILO	1980	2001	1990	2005	Published in Key Indicators of the Labour Market
Labour Productivity in Agriculture	ILO	1980	2003	1990	2005	Published in Key Indicators of the Labour Market
Wages	IMF	1995	1999	2000	2004	Country indices either are computed from absolute wage data or are as reported by the country. Absolute data are converted into an index with a fixed base year. Index aggregates for industrial countries as a group are weighted by value added in industry for the base year period, as derived from individual countries' national accounts, expressed in U.S. dollars.
Employment	IMF	1995	1999	2000	2004	Country indices either are computed from absolute employment data or are as reported by the country. Absolute data are converted into an index with a fixed base year. Index aggregates for industrial countries as a group are weighted by value added in industry for the base year period, as derived from individual countries' national accounts, expressed in U.S. dollars.
Quarterly Labor Forces (QLFS)	OECD	1995		2000	2004	Indices are provided in QLFS for the civilian employment series (disaggregated by total, agriculture, industry and services) with a base reference year 1995=100. The last rebase for QLFS took place in June 1999 and the intention is to move to a 2000 base year at the same time as MEI in 2004.
<i>Education and training</i>						

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Education for All literacy estimate	UNESCO	2000	2001			Assume that the illiteracy <u>trend</u> remains unchanged between 2000 and 2015. Compute a Simple Index using 2000 figure as Constant Base. Take index value in 2015 and see whether it's less or more than 0.5 (50% if in percentage). Note: Literacy projections carried out in order to meet the requirements of Education for All Goal 4 'Expand adult literacy. Achieve a 50% improvement in levels of adult literacy by 2015, especially for women, and equitable access to basic and continuing education for all adults. Simple projections of school enrolment.
Enrolment in primary school	UNESCO	2000	2001			Note: Enrolment statistics used to meet the requirements of monitoring Education for All Goal 2 (Millennium Development Goal 2) that all children of primary school age will enter and complete primary school education by the year 2015.
<i>Culture</i>						
Culture	UNESCO					Indices do not use base line years.
<i>Household incomes and expenditures</i>						
<i>Social security</i>						
<i>Health</i>						
Implicit price index: total expenditure on health	OECD	1995	1999	2000	2004	The health data collection follows with its dates of rebase-ment the common practice of OECD Annual National Accounts.
Price index: pharmaceutical retail sales	OECD	1995	1999	2000	2004	The health data collection follows with its dates of rebase-ment the common practice of OECD Annual National Accounts.
<i>Gender</i>						
Gender parity index (education enrolment pre-primary through to tertiary level)	UNESCO	2000	2001			Female enrolment rates compared with male rates on a year to year basis. Assume trend is unchanged to project outcomes for 2005 and 2015. Note: Gender parity indices compiled to meet the requirements of Education for All Goal 5 (Millennium Development Goal 3) 'Eliminate gender disparities. Eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005, and achieve gender equality in education by 2015, with a focus on ensuring girls' full and equal access to and achievement in basic education of good quality.'
Gender parity index (literacy)	UNESCO	2000	2001			Female literacy/illiteracy rates compared with male rates on a year to year basis. Computed using Simple index on Current Base.

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<i>National accounts</i>						
National accounts	ECLAC	1995	1998	2000	2004	
GDP Volume Index	IMF	1995	1999	2000	2004	Country indices are derived from the GDP volume series reported by national compilers. They are linked by splicing at overlap years and referenced to a fixed base year. World and area aggregates are weighted by the purchasing power parity (PPP) value of GDP in the base year.
GDP Deflator	IMF	1995	1999	2000	2004	Country indices are derived from GDP at current prices and GDP volume series referenced to a fixed base year. World and area aggregates are weighted by the purchasing power parity (PPP) value of GDP in the base year.
National accounts (base year)	OECD	1995	1999	2000	2004	The recommendation is to change the current base or reference year every five years.
National accounts	Statistical Committee of the CIS	2000	2001			From 1991 to 2000 the base year was the previous year. As an average for the CIS the volume index of gross domestic product is calculated.
GDP	WTO	1990	1994	1995	2003	
Merchandise production (agriculture + Mining + Manufacturing)	WTO	1990	1994	1995	2003	
<i>Agriculture</i>						
Production indices	ECLAC	1995	1998	2000	2004	
EU Agricultural Price Indices	Eurostat	1995	2001	2000	end 2003, start 2004	Target for the implementation of a new base year is n+3. However, some countries make the change of the base year conditional from the availability of "definitive" data for the weighting schemes (which, in their turn, are in general derived from the Economic Accounts for Agriculture, EAA). With these data being considered as provisional for a number of years, the delay of n+3 is still too short for a few countries. A higher degree of flexibility could be obtained by allowing for revisions in the weighting schemes, and thus to enable to inclusion of provisional data.
Economic Accounts for Agriculture (EAA), index numbers (volumes and prices) derived from EAA at "constant" prices	Eurostat	1995 (if not already n-1)	1999 to 2000	2000 (and/or n-1)	2003 to 2004	The 1995 rebasing was linked to the implementation of a new methodology (in line with the ESA95). In general, rebasing and revisions of the EAA will follow the national accounts practice (ESA).

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Indices of agricultural production	FAO	1989-1991	1995	1999 - 2001	2004	The FAO indices of agricultural production are calculated by the Laspeyres formula at the country, regional and world levels using 1989-91 average international commodity prices for compiling weighting diagram. For further details please refer to: http://www.fao.org/waicent/faostat/agricult/indices-e.htm .
Agriculture	OECD	1995		2000	2004	There are discussions between European countries on this issue, as 2005 will be the year of the allocation of FISIM. In this context, they could recommend to wait until 2005 to introduce the change of the reference year at the same time of the allocation of FISIM. However, this is technically independent from the change in OECD databases. It would nevertheless be useful to know what the Europeans and Eurostat will do.
Volume index number of agricultural products	Statistical Committee of the CIS	2000	2001			From 1991 to 2000 the base year was 1983. As an average for the CIS the volume index of agricultural products is calculated.
<i>Forestry and fishery</i>						
Production indices	ECLAC	1995	1998	2000	2004	
Index number of fishery world production.	FAO	1989-1991	1995	1999-2001	2003	Published in FAO Yearbook on Fishery statistics – commodities. In the past FAO also used to calculate annually-for inclusion in the FAO annual publication State of Food and Agriculture-weighted indices of fishery trade (value, quantity, unit value) for (1) world (2) developed countries (3) developing countries. The organisation is planning to re-introduce these indices in the Fishery Commodities Yearbook (edition of 2004) with 1999–2001 base.
Index number of total live weight equivalent of quantities exported	FAO	1989-1991	1995	1999-2001	2003	Published in FAO Yearbook on Fishery statistics – commodities. In the past FAO also used to calculate annually-for inclusion in the FAO annual publication State of Food and Agriculture-weighted indices of fishery trade (value, quantity, unit value) for (1) world (2) developed countries (3) developing countries. The organisation is planning to re-introduce these indices in the Fishery Commodities Yearbook (edition of 2004) with 1999–2001 base.
<i>Industry</i>						
Production indices	ECLAC	1995	1998	2000	2004	

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Industrial Production/ Manufacturing Production/Other production indices	IMF	1995	1999	2000	2004	Country indices are reported by the country and referenced to a fixed base year. Industrial country aggregates are derived using weighted geometric mean, whereby the country series are weighted by value added in industry as derived from individual countries' national accounts, expressed in U.S. dollars.
Volume index of industrial production	Statistical Committee of the CIS	2000	2001			From 1991 to 2000 the base year was 1983. As an average for the CIS the volume index of industrial production is calculated.
Index numbers of industrial production at the 2- digit level of ISIC (Rev.3) and the 3- digit level of ISIC (Rev.2)	UNIDO	1990	1996	1995	2003/2004	The indexes are derived from those originally compiled by UNSD and provided to UNIDO to incorporate in the UNIDO Industrial Statistics Database, and from UNIDO estimates.
Index number of industrial production	UNSD	1995	Feb. 2002	2000	Feb. 2006	Regular re-basing /five-year cycle
Energy						
Production indices	ECLAC	1995	1998	2000	2004	
Distributive trade						
Distributive trade	ECLAC	1995	1998	2000	2004	
Volume indices of retail trade turnover and market services	Statistical Committee of the CIS	Previous year.	1991			CIS Statcommittee possesses volume indices of retail trade turnover and market services. These indices are received from national statistical services which calculate them by chain method.
International trade						
Value indices	ECLAC	1995	1998	2000	2004	
Unit value indices	ECLAC	1995	1998	2000	2004	
Quantum indices	ECLAC	1995	1998	2000	2004	
Unit value indices	Eurostat	2000	2002	No decision taken		-Fisher indices chained year to year -Backward calculation for 1995-1999 is ongoing. Data are expected for end 2003
Indices of agricultural trade (value, volume and unit values of exports and imports)	FAO	1989-1991	1996	1999 - 2001	2004	Six different indices are calculated independently, for the value, volume and unit values of exports and of imports for the aggregate <i>agricultural</i> and aggregate <i>food</i> products. Trade indices relate only to continental and world totals. For further details please see: http://www.fao.org/waicent/faostat/agricult/tin-e.htm .
Volume of Exports	IMF	1995	1999	2000	2004	Country indices are reported by countries. World and area aggregates are weighted by the value of exports (in U.S. dollars) in the base year.

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Volume of Imports	IMF	1995	1999	2000	2004	Country indices are reported by countries. World and area aggregates are weighted by the value of imports (in U.S. dollars) in the base year.
Export Price Index	IMF	1995	1999	2000	2004	Country indices are reported by countries. World and area aggregates are weighted by the value of exports (in U.S. dollars) in the base year.
Import Price Index	IMF	1995	1999	2000	2004	Country indices are reported by countries. World and area aggregates are weighted by the value of imports (in U.S. dollars) in the base year.
Export Unit Value Index	IMF	1995	1999	2000	2004	Country indices are reported by countries. World and area aggregates are weighted by the value of exports (in U.S. dollars) in the base year.
Import Unit Value Index	IMF	1995	1999	2000	2004	Country indices are reported by countries. World and area aggregates are weighted by the value of imports (in U.S. dollars) in the base year.
Trade indicators	OECD	1995		2000	2004	A June 2004 to change to a base year 2000 would be reasonable.
Volume indices of and price indices of exports and imports	Statistical Committee of the CIS	Previous year.	1991			CIS Statcommittee possesses volume indices of and price indices of exports and imports. These indices are received from national statistical services which calculate them by chain method.
Merchandise Value	UNCTAD	1990	2000	2000	2004	
Merchandise Volume	UNCTAD	1990	2000	2000	2004	
Merchandise Unit Value	UNCTAD	1990	2000	2000	2004	
Unit value index numbers of total imports	UNSD	1990	1994	2000	2004	World level and/or regional indices; obtained by aggregation of country indices; 1990 is used as a reference period for publication purposes. UNSD plans to change the reference period to 2000 by the end of this year.
Unit value index numbers of total exports	UNSD	1990	1994	2000	2004	World level and/or regional indices; obtained by aggregation of country indices; 1990 is used as a reference period for publication purposes. UNSD plans to change the reference period to 2000 by the end of this year.
Volume index numbers of total exports	UNSD	1990	1994	2000	2004	World level and/or regional indices; obtained by aggregation of country indices; 1990 is used as a reference period for publication purposes. UNSD plans to change the reference period to 2000 by the end of 2003.
Volume index numbers of total imports	UNSD	1990	1994	2000	2004	World level and/or regional indices; obtained by aggregation of country indices; 1990 is used as a reference period for publication purposes. UNSD plans to change the reference period to 2000 by the end of 2003.

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Unit value index numbers of manufactured goods exports	UNSD	1990	1994	2000	2004	World level and/or regional indices; obtained by aggregation of country indices; 1990 is used as a reference period for publication purposes. UNSD plans to change the reference period to 2000 by the end of 2003.
Unit value index numbers of fuel imports	UNSD	1990	1994	2000	2004	World level and/or regional indices; obtained by aggregation of country indices; 1990 is used as a reference period for publication purposes. UNSD plans to change the reference period to 2000 by the end of 2003.
Volume index numbers of manufactured goods exports	UNSD	1990	1994	2000	2004	World level and/or regional indices; obtained by aggregation of country indices; 1990 is used as a reference period for publication purposes. UNSD plans to change the reference period to 2000 by the end of 2003.
Volume index numbers of fuel imports	UNSD	1990	1994	2000	2004	World level and/or regional indices; obtained by aggregation of country indices; 1990 is used as a reference period for publication purposes. UNSD plans to change the reference period to 2000 by the end of 2003.
Merchandise Value	WTO	1990	1994	1995	2003	
Merchandise Volume	WTO	1990	1994	1995	2003	
Merchandise Unit Value	WTO	1990	1994	1995	2003	
<i>Transport</i>						
Investments in transport infrastructures	ECMT-OECD	1995	2000	-	-	No rebasement is planned or envisaged.
Short-term trends	ECMT-OECD	1995	2000	-	-	No rebasement is planned or envisaged.
Volume index of cargo transportation by transportation organization (excluding pipelines)	Statistical Committee of the CIS	n.a.				CIS Statcommittee calculates as an average for the CIS: volume index of cargo transportation by transportation organization (excluding pipelines). The calculation is done by comparable structure. The base year is not applicable because the indices are calculated on the basis of quantity indicators.
Volume index of passenger transportation	Statistical Committee of the CIS	n.a.				CIS Statcommittee calculates as an average for the CIS: volume index of passenger transportation. The calculation is done by comparable structure. The base year is not applicable because the indices are calculated on the basis of quantity indicators.
<i>Communications</i>						

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Production indices	ECLAC	1995	1998	2000	2004	
<i>Tourism</i>						
<i>Other services</i>						
Production indices	ECLAC	1995	1998	2000	2004	
Volume index of investments in fixed capital	Statistical Committee of the CIS	2000	2001			From 1991 to 2000 the base year was the previous year. CIS Statcommittee calculates the volume index of investments in fixed capital as an average for the CIS.
<i>Money, finance and insurance</i>						
Income velocity of money plus Quasi-Money	IMF	1995	1999	2000	2004	List of countries is shown in the world tables section of the International Financial Statistics Yearbook
Indices of nominal money income of the population, money income with the account of inflation rates; growth rates of credits provided to enterprises, organizations and individuals.	Statistical Committee of the CIS	Previous year.	1991			CIS Statcommittee calculates indices of nominal money income of the population, money income with the account of inflation rates; growth rates of credits provided to enterprises, organizations and individuals.
<i>Fiscal</i>						
<i>Balance of payments</i>						
Series at constant prices	ECLAC	1995	1998	2000	2004	
<i>Prices</i>						
Production price	ECLAC	1995	1998	2000	2004	
Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices (HICP)	Eurostat	1996		2000 or 2005	2005 at the earliest	The HICP is in principle a chained Laspeyres-type index, which annual chain-links in December every year. The index reference period is thus the December of the previous year. The HICP is presented as having index base year 1996=100. This is for historical reasons hard coded in the EU Council Regulation on HICPs. This Regulation needs to be amended before the base year can change. Alternative solutions are under consideration, but no decision has been taken yet.
Index number of producer prices for crop and livestock products	FAO			1999-2001	2004	This index is going to be introduced for the first time by the FAO. It will be a Layspeyres type index using international \$ prices (being estimated for index number of agricultural production) for preparing the weighting diagram.

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Consumer Price Indices (All-items, Food and non-alcoholic beverages, Clothing and footwear, Electricity, gas and other fuels, Rent, All-items excl. shelter)	ILO	1990	1995	2000	2004/2005	1990 base was implemented in the 1995 edition of the ILO Yearbook of Labour Statistics. The change of the base year is implemented on the ILO suggestion. Other UN organizations and ACC Sub-committee on SA were consulted. The index base period has changed at regular intervals (approx. Every 10 years) to ensure that the index numbers remain easy to present and understand (It may be chosen to coincide with the base period of other statistical series i.e. for other price series, wage series, national accounts, etc. The period chosen as base has always been a single calendar year (to eliminate the problem of seasonal fluctuations). A month or quarter is too short a period, since any one month or quarter is likely to be unusual due to accidental or seasonal influences. The countries' practices are mixed.
Producer Price Index/ Wholesale Price Index	IMF	1995	1999	2000	2004	Country indices are reported versions of national indices that are linked by splicing at overlap years and referenced to a fixed base year. PPI/WPI aggregates are derived using weighted geometric mean, whereby the country series are weighted by the purchasing power parity (PPP) value of GDP in the base year.
Consumer Price Index	IMF	1995	1999	2000	2004	Country indices are reported versions of national indices that are linked by splicing at overlap years and referenced to a fixed base year. CPI aggregates are derived using weighted geometric mean, whereby the country series are weighted by the purchasing power parity (PPP) value of GDP in the base year.
Share Price Indices	IMF	1995	1999	2000	2004	Indices are as reported by countries, adjusted for changes in quoted nominal capital of companies. Indices, in general, are base weighted arithmetic averages with market value of outstanding shares as weights. Base period's of reported indices differ among countries and are referenced to a fixed base year.
Commodity Price Indices	IMF	1995	1999	2000	2004	Indices are prepared by the Commodities Unit of the IMF Research Department. They are compiled as period averages in terms of U.S. dollars.
Industrial producers price index	Statistical Committee of the CIS	2000	2001			From 1983 to 2000 the base year was 1982. As an average for the CIS the industrial producers price index is calculated. The volume of industrial production is taken for the weights in the calculation of this index.
Consumer price index	Statistical Committee of the CIS	Previous year.	1991			For the analysis of consumer prices dynamics as an average for the CIS countries, the aggregate index is calculated annually. Consumer expenditure of the population are the weights in calculation of this index.
Price indices of primary commodities exported by developing countries	UNCTAD	1985	1989	2000	2004	The weights used in the calculation of the commodity price indice are based on exports of developing countries in 1984, 1985 and 1986.
Consumer price index	UNSD	1990	1995			When ILO rebase

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Producers' or wholesale price indices	UNSD	1990	1995			
Exports prices of primary commodities	WTO	1990	1994	1995	2003	
<i>Science and technology</i>						
<i>National resources and environment</i>						
<i>Main Economic Indicators</i>						
Main Economic Indicators (MEI)	OECD	1995	1999	2000	2004	<p>MEI provides an extensive range of indices for key economic indicators such as industrial production, construction, retail trade volume, consumer prices, producer prices, hourly earnings, civilian employment, share prices, monetary aggregates, effective exchange rates, and quarterly national accounts.</p> <p>For the 30 OECD Member countries almost all indexed series are presently presented with base reference year 1995=100, the last rebase taking place in June 1999 when new automated facilities with the migration from mainframe to server based technologies and required national accounts data became available. The new server facilities made the rebase a far less time consuming exercise.</p> <p>National accounts data are presented in prices of each country's weight reference year, typically 1995. The main series that are not expressed in 1995 prices are Turkey, 1987; Iceland, Switzerland, 1990; Mexico, 1993; New Zealand, 1995-96; United States, 1996; Canada, 1997; Australia, Finland, Hungary, Norway, 2000; Euro area, 2001. One other MEI index series in each of Canada, Australia and Norway also have a non 1995 base year.</p> <p>For the non-Member countries whose short-term economic indicators are published in MEI at this stage the intention is to move to a 2000 base reference year for MEI index series ar</p>

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Constant price series	UN-ECE	2000				<p>UN-ECE Statistical Division rebases only constant price series on a systematic basis. The statistical division receives a range of constant price data (e.g. expenditure-based GDP, output-based GDP, industrial production, total and components, and some other) from countries, with varying base years. The countries originally compile these data in a base year of their choice, e.g. 1992, 1995, previous year's prices, etc. In order to have constant price series on a consistent base year basis we convert nationally reported series to a common base year (currently 2000, no plans to change in the near future).</p> <p>The rebasing is a simple rescaling of aggregates and their components. A chained index series, base year 2000, is first computed from nationally reported constant price series which are then applied to current price values of year 2000.</p> <p>In both cases, because we rebase aggregates and components with the same approach, rather than defining aggregates as a sum of rebased components, components no longer add to totals. This is, however, a well known and accepted issue with chain indices.</p> <p>Outside of constant price series, UN-ECE is not too concerned about the "base" year, as re</p>
CPI, wage indices, constant price national accounts etc.	World Bank	1995				<p>As the Bank does not calculate any composite indicators at a regular basis, only one-dimensional indicators like the CPI and wage indices are stored in our central databases. Nevertheless, the Bank re-references these indicators (CPI, wage indices etc) as well as the constant price national accounts data to a common reference year, 1995.</p>
<i>Meteorology</i>						