

UN Statistical Commission

March 2004 session

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 UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) at its March 2003 Session in New York.
2. Since then, the preparation of the new CPI and PPI manuals has been completed; the manuals are being printed and will be available for distribution in mid-2004.
3. The IWGPS met in Geneva, December 2003, after the 17th International Conference of Labour Statisticians. The following items were discussed:
 - Succession of the Secretariat: As the first phase of IWGPS work has been completed, it was agreed that the IMF should succeed the ILO as IWGPS Secretariat, with effect from 1 April 2004.
 - Status and promotion of the manuals: The possibility of organising a joint conference to launch both manuals together is under discussion along with other promotional activities. The CPI Manual is expected to be translated into Spanish, French and possibly Russian.
 - Plans for the continuous updating of the manuals: The mechanism for updating the manuals was elaborated; ILO will provide for Web discussion on the CPI manual.
 - Future projects for the IWGPS: The IWGPS will undertake a new project to produce an Export and Import Price Index Manual with IMF as coordinating agency. Other possible future project is a Manual on land and house (real estate) price indices.