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PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

for the

PREPARATION OF WHOLESALE PRICE INDICES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

(Memorandum submitted by the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

1. INPUT INDICES

(a) Sector Indices for materials entering into industry.

Materials used in home agriculture;
Materials used in manufacturing industry;
Materials used in non-food manufacturing industry;
Foodstuffs used as materials by food manufacturing industries;
Mechanical engineering materials, other than fuel;
Electrical engineering materials, other than fuel;
Textile industry materials, other than fuel;
Building and civil engineering materials;
House-building materials;
All fuel used in manufacturing industry.

(b) Commodity Indices for materials entering into industry.

A large number of Commodity Indices are available, although only a selection are published. These range from individual items such as non-ferrous metals, most of which are imported into the United Kingdom, to home-produced commodities like leather for footwear.

2. OUTPUT INDICES

(a) Sector Indices for output (including exports) of industry.

Output of home agriculture;
Finished products of manufacturing industry;
Finished products of non-food manufacturing industry;
Manufactured foodstuffs;
Iron and steel products;
Mechanical engineering products;

Electrical engineering products;
Textile products;
Clothing;
Footwear;
Chemicals and allied products;
Timber products;
Paper products.

(b) Indices for individual commodities and groups of commodities produced in the United Kingdom.

Indices for as many important commodities and group of commodities as possible are prepared, although only a selection are published. So far as possible all individual industry headings included in the United Kingdom Standard Industrial Classification are represented by the commodities for which price indices are available. The commodities include semi-manufactures which do not enter into the output of the sectors for which indices are published.

3. CONSUMPTION INDICES'

(a) Sector Indices for groups of commodities entering into final consumption (including imports and excluding exports).

(i) Capital goods:

- (a) Plant and machinery;
- (b) Buildings;
- (c) Vehicles (other than ships and aircraft);
- (d) Ships.

(The preparation of price indices for aircraft is particularly intractable).

(ii) Consumer goods:

- (a) Food (including output of home agriculture, imported food and food manufactured at home);
- (b) Clothing and footwear;
- (c) Durable household goods;
- (d) Chemists goods;
- (e) Domestic fuel, etc.

(b) Indices for individual commodities not covered under Input or Output Indices.

It will be observed that in this programme an index for a particular "commodity" (or for a narrow "sector") could appear, e.g. both as an output and consumption index. The indices would, of course, differ in their composition according to their form and significance, exports being included and imports excluded in an output index and the reverse being true in a consumption index. In presenting these indices, however, an index of a given commodity coverage will in general be published in the way which is most informative, e.g. the index published for potatoes in the United Kingdom would be that appropriate to sales off farms.

The various price series used in these indices can, of course, if desired, also be averaged to provide an all commodities index.