

Cameroon

A: Identification

Title of the CPI: National Consumer Price Index

Organisation responsible: Institut National de la Statistique (INS)

Periodicity: The three indices (Yaoundé, Douala and the national index) of final household consumption prices are produced on a *monthly* basis. The national index is published quarterly.

Index reference period: 2011 = 100

Weights reference period: 2007 Cameroonian Household Survey.

Main uses of CPI: Indexation of wages, pensions and/or social security payment, indexation of rents, contracts and/or other payments, main inflation indicator used for monetary policy, deflate household expenditures in national accounts, macroeconomic modelling and other analytic uses.

B: CPI Coverage

Geographical Coverage

Weights: Nation-wide

Price collection: Nation-wide

Population coverage: Resident households of nationals.

C: Concepts, definitions, classifications and weights

Definition of the CPI and its objectives: The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is the instrument used to measure variations in the general level of prices in Cameroon between two given periods. These prices correspond to goods and services available to consumers throughout the country.

Classification: COICOP (Classification of individual consumption by purpose) with 12 consumption divisions.

Sources of weights: Household expenditure surveys.

Frequency of weight updates: Every 3-5 years

Weights for different population groups or regions: Regional weights are computed and regional indices are weighted by the total consumption expenditure of each region.

D: Sample design

Sampling methods:

Outlets: Judgmental sampling

Products: Judgmental sampling

Frequency of sample updates:

Outlets: Regularly

Criteria used for determining the optimal sample sizes and the coverage of localities, outlets, items and variety samples: Item selection: The number of observed variety depends on different areas of observations. The choice of varieties in a basket region depends on the volume of consumption by the people in that region. The total consumption of varieties of the basket is greater than 90% of the consumption total in each city. Varieties with a high weighting significantly influence the variation of the index including food.

Samples of goods and service: The sample of goods and services is representative of the consumption of households belonging to the reference population. The sampling of goods and services is carried out in each defined stratum of household consumption. The selection criteria is based on; i) consumption of a subgroup show a particular price movement; ii) The prices of product varieties should be reasonably similar in their movements; iii) Product varieties should not be too difficult to observe in the field; in particular, their characteristics should be easily observable.

Outlets selection: The sales outlets are not selected at random, but on the basis of rational parameters: geographical location and the estimated frequency of consumer visits. In addition price observation points must follow three criteria; i) It must sell goods or services contained in the basket; ii) It must be easily accessible; and iii) It must be considered to have temporal permanence.

E: Data Collection

Approximate number of localities, outlets and price observations: Outlets: 3,656, Price observations: 24,207

Frequency with which prices are collected: Prices are collected monthly.

Reference period for data collection: The prices of all products and services are collected in the first and second halves of the month.

Methods of Price Collection

- Personal data collection for most of the items.
- Price lists of distribution companies for electricity and water.

Treatment of:

Discounts and sales prices: The prices of promotional items may be recorded if the length of such offers is more than one month. If these special prices are recorded, they must be indicated as such.

Missing or faulty prices: If the disappearance from the sales outlet under observation is temporary, no price is recorded during the visit in question (and therefore no price is recorded on the data sheet).

Period for allowing imputed missing prices: If a product is observed to be lacking for two consecutive months, a suitable replacement for the product must be found as of the third month.

Disappearance of a given type or quality from the market: After three months of observation, if a product is still not found at its usual observation point, it is considered to have permanently disappeared from that sales outlet. Such products may be replaced by: (a) An equivalent product at the same sales outlet; (b) Failing this, the same product or an equivalent product at another sales outlet of the same type; (c) Failing this, the same product or an equivalent product at another sales outlet of a different type; (d) Failing this, a different product at the same sales outlet; (e) Failing this, a different product at another sales outlet; (f) Or, failing this, an equivalent product at a sales outlet of a different type; (g) Or, failing this, another product deemed to be sufficiently similar at the same sales outlet; (h) Or, failing this, another product deemed to be sufficiently similar at a sales outlet of a different type. Only the head of department is authorized to make such replacements. All replacement products should be expressly indicated so that they may be properly taken into account in calculating the index.

Treatment of seasonal items and seasonality

Treatment of housing

F: Computation

Formula used for calculation of elementary indices: The ratio of arithmetic mean prices (Dutot index) (Direct form)

Formula to aggregate elementary indices to higher level indices: Aggregation of elementary indices is by Laspeyre's formula.

G: Editing and validation procedures

Control procedures used to ensure the quality of data collected: Two types of checks are done; i) Completeness checks, these aim at ensuring that all data sheets have been filled in (prices and weights) properly, that is, that the prices of all product varieties have been recorded. Omissions are corrected immediately given that some are due to a temporary shortage of a product at a particular observation point, to a permanent shortage or to unavailability at the time of the collection. The head of the department determines the appropriate corrective measure to be taken in each case. ii) Coherence checks, these aim at

identifying incorrect data resulting from collection errors or inaccurate completion of data sheets (during weighing, for example) and at taking the appropriate corrective measures. Even though certain errors sometimes come to light after processing, manual or visual checks are always performed beforehand. Checks are always made to find whether prices have changed significantly from one month to the next and, if so, a note explaining the reasons for the price change should be submitted.

H: Documentation and dissemination

Timeliness of dissemination of the CPI data: Six days after the reference month for the Yaoundé index, by means of an INS announcement to the public. Ten days after the end of the reference month for the Douala index, by means of an INS announcement to the public. 1 month after the end of the reference quarter for the National Price Index.

Level of detailed CPI published

Paper publication: All items CPI, Division-level (12 Divisions)

Online: All items CPI, Division-level (12 Divisions)

Documentation

Publications and websites where indices can be found: The National Price Index is published “Évolution des Prix à la Consommation finale des Ménages au ...ème Trimestre...(année)” (Trends in household final consumption prices in the nth quarter of ...(year)) Internet website: <http://www.statistics-cameroon.org>.

Publications and websites where methodological information can be found: Link to methodology: <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/ece/ces/ge.22/2008/mtg1/zip.57.e.pdf>.

I: Other Information

Completed by ILO in 2013.