

Poland

A: Identification

Title of the CPI: Consumer Price Index

Organisation responsible: Central Statistical Office (CSO)

Periodicity: Monthly

Index reference period: Previous year =100

Weights reference period: Previous calendar year.

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 , macroeconomic modelling and other analytic uses.

B: CPI Coverage

Geographical Coverage

Weights: Nation-wide

Price collection: Nation-wide

Population coverage: Resident households of nationals.

Population groups excluded: Institutional households.

Consumption expenditure excludes:

- In-kind goods received as gifts;
- In-kind services received as gifts;
- Life insurance premiums

C: Concepts, definitions, classifications and weights

Definition of the CPI and its objectives: The CPI is the average measure of change in the prices of goods and services bought for consumption purposes by the households in Poland.

Classification: COICOP (Classification of individual consumption by purpose)

Sources of weights: Household expenditure surveys and national accounts.

Frequency of weight updates: Annual

Price updating of weight reference period to the index reference period: No, not needed.

D: Sample design

Sampling methods:

Outlets: Judgmental sampling

Products: Purposive sampling

Frequency of sample updates:

Outlets: Continuous (on a rotating basis)

Products: Annual

Criteria used for determining the optimal sample sizes and the coverage of localities, outlets, items and variety samples: Item selection: Purposive. Selected items should represent price movement of the commodity or service group and should be available for reasonable length of time. Number of representative goods and services per group depends on its weight and variability of price movement in the group. A list of representative items is updated annually. Selection of products/varieties is also purposive. Within item specification, price collectors, in cooperation with shop assistants, select products with significant market share.

Outlet selection: Price collection is done in various types of outlets, such as those of middle size and common type, specialized in certain assortments, departmental stores, supermarkets, big trade centers, and also pharmacies, petrol station, kiosks and permanent open-air market-places. Prices are not collected in temporary sales points.

Sample sizes: On average, there are about 220,000 prices collected each month in 209 price survey regions.

Criteria used for selecting an item variety in the outlet in case of loose specifications provided by the central office: CSO supplies general specifications for most of the items to price collectors (e.g., women's jacket), who record detailed descriptions covering characteristics, such as brand, size, fabric/material, etc. However, fairly narrow descriptions for some items are also applied.

E: Data Collection

Approximate number of localities, outlets and price observations: Localities: 209, Price observations: 220,000

Frequency with which prices are collected: Prices of goods and services are collected monthly, fresh fruits and vegetables prices are collected twice a month.

Reference period for data collection: Price collection is spread over between the 5th and 22nd of each month.

Methods of Price Collection

- Personal data collection
- Telephone interviews for centrally priced items.
- Internet
- Price lists sent by mail for centrally priced items.

Treatment of:

Missing or faulty prices: When a price observation is temporarily unavailable in a given month, its price is imputed.

Disappearance of a given type or quality from the market: If an item becomes permanently unavailable, a replacement is selected. The price collector is asked to find another item meeting the specification.

Quality differences: Quality parameters of products surveyed are carefully observed to ensure their comparability. Each change in their descriptions is considered. In case of quality change bridged overlap, 50%-option or option costs methods are mainly applied. If it is assessed not to be any substantial quality change then the price change is recorded as affecting the index 1:1. Hedonic methods are studied and some research is carried out.

Appearance of new items: The list of representative items is updated annually based on information gathered by price collectors during the year. Usually, the RSOs (regional statistical offices) are asked in August to send to the CSO their suggestions for changes. If their justifications for introducing new products on the list (or, conversely, deleting existing ones) are convincing and there are more such cases in the country, the proposal is considered at the annual meeting of CSO and RSO staff. New candidate products must represent a significant (and increasing) share in the turnover for the relevant group. Although it is recommended that the RSOs should keep the list of chosen products stable, replacements are necessary during the surveyed year if a new product appears on the market with a significant share of turnover.

Treatment of seasonal items and seasonality

Seasonal food items: Seasonal food items are included in the CPI using variable weights approach: the weights vary over the year.

Seasonal Clothing: Seasonal clothing items are included in the CPI using variable weights approach: the weights vary over the year.

Method to impute the price of seasonal items: Prices are imputed by using price development of in-season products.

Treatment of housing

Treatment of owner-occupied housing: Not included in the CPI.

F: Computation

Formula used for calculation of elementary indices: The ratio of geometric mean prices (Jevons index) (Chained form)

Formula to aggregate elementary indices to higher level indices: Aggregation Laspeyre's formula is applied for calculating price indices to higher levels of aggregation using weights from previous year.

Seasonally adjusted indices: Data are not seasonally adjusted.

G: Editing and validation procedures

Control procedures used to ensure the quality of data collected: Collectors verify all price changes and are required to provide explanation for unusual movements. Special software is used for this purpose. Statisticians analyze every item index to ensure that price movements are consistent with external information, such as market observation results, trade statistics and producer price statistics.

Control procedures used to ensure the quality of data processed: Compilers, analysts and statisticians check all stages of index compilation.

H: Documentation and dissemination

Timeliness of dissemination of the CPI data: 13 to 15 days after the end of the reference month.

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: New release: Preliminary Results published in both Polish and English; Monthly: Statistical Bulletin published in both Polish and English; Quarterly: Poland—Quarterly Statistics is published in English; Other: The Statistical Yearbook published in Polish only; Internet website:

http://www.stat.gov.pl/gus/komunikaty_ENG_HTML.htm for the data published in Preliminary Results, Statistical Bulletin and Prices in the National Economy.

Publications and websites where methodological information can be found: The “Prices in the National Economy”, the Statistical Bulletin, and “Poland—Quarterly Statistics” publish information on methodological changes. In addition, major changes in methodology are announced about six months in advance in the “Statistical Survey Program of Official Statistics”.

I: Other Information

Completed by ILO in 2013.