

Qatar

A: Identification

Title of the CPI: Consumer Price Index

Organisation responsible: Qatar Statistics Authority

Periodicity: Quarterly

Index reference period: 2007 = 100

Weights reference period: 2006 – 2007 Household Income and Expenditure Survey.

Main uses of CPI: Indexation of wages, pensions and/or social security payment, indexation of rents, contracts and/or other payments and main inflation indicator used for monetary policy.

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 CPI is a measure of price changes for goods and services consumed by all households in the country.

Sources of weights: Household expenditure surveys.

Frequency of weight updates: Above 5 years.

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

D: Sample design

Sampling methods:

Outlets: Purposive sampling

Criteria used for determining the optimal sample sizes and the coverage of localities, outlets, items and variety samples: The selection of items is based on their relative importance.

The selection of outlets is based on purposive sampling (as opposed to random sampling), where the SD (statistics department) selects the outlets based on their size and product range.

E: Data Collection

Approximate number of localities, outlets and price observations: Outlets: 400, Price observations: 3,000

Frequency with which prices are collected: The frequency of price collection depends on the item. Prices for vegetables, fruits and fish are collected at least once a week, but most prices are collected quarterly. Some prices are collected semi-annually or annually.

Reference period for data collection: The bulk of the prices are collected during the first half of each reference quarter.

Methods of Price Collection

- Personal data collection
- Official tariffs

Treatment of:

Missing or faulty prices: Missing prices are replaced with prices for the preceding quarter.

Quality differences: No explicit adjustments for quality changes are made to the CPI. However, when a new product replaces an old one, the method of overlapping is applied.

Treatment of seasonal items and seasonality

Treatment of housing

F: Computation

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

Formula to aggregate elementary indices to higher level indices: The Laspeyres formula is used in the index calculations.

G: Editing and validation procedures

H: Documentation and dissemination

Timeliness of dissemination of the CPI data: The CPI data is disseminated within 6 weeks.

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 QCB (Quarterly Statistical Bulletin) and the SD (Annual Statistical Abstract) publish the CPI as a monthly index, even though monthly prices are collected for food items only. The QCB Quarterly Statistical Bulletin publishes annual CPI series (general CPI and indices for 8 major groups) for previous four years and quarterly series for previous one year. The SD/PC Annual Statistical Abstract publishes annual overall CPI data for seventeen years and monthly CPI for the reporting year (by 8 major groups and by 27 categories).

Publications and websites where methodological information can be found: Except from a summary documentation of the methodology in the Annual Bulletin of Prices and Index Numbers, which also includes an appendix with a description of the complete compilation process illustrated for a subgroup, there is no publicly available documentation of the methodology.

I: Other Information

Completed by ILO in 2013.