

Suriname

A: Identification

Title of the CPI: Consumenten Prijs Index (Consumer Price Index)

Organisation responsible: General Bureau of Statistics (GBS)

Periodicity: Monthly

Price reference period: April-June 2009 = 100

Index reference period: April-June 2009 = 100

Weights reference period: April - June 2009

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, computation of purchasing power of households, macroeconomic modelling and other analytic uses.

B: CPI Coverage

Geographical Coverage

Weights: Nation-wide

Price collection: Nation-wide

Population coverage: Resident households of nationals and resident households of foreigners in the country.

Population groups excluded: Institutional households (1.2%).

Consumption expenditure includes:

- Foods produced for own final consumption;
- Other goods produced for own final consumption;
- Services produced for own final consumption;
- Food consumed away from home;
- Income in-kind receipts of goods;
- Income in-kind receipts of services;
- In-kind goods received as gifts;
- In-kind services received as gifts;
- Purchase of owner-occupied housing;
- Mortgage repayments;
- Mortgage interest;
- Housing maintenance, minor repairs;

- Purchase of gifts of goods and services given to others outside the household;
- Second hand goods purchased;
- Luxury goods;
- Interest payments (excluding mortgage interest payments);
- Non-life insurance premiums (e.g. vehicle, housing, other property, medical), gross of claims;
- Life insurance premiums;
- Occupational expenditures;
- Other business-related expenditures

Consumption expenditure excludes:

- Major repairs, conversions and extensions to owner occupied housing;
- Financial services (including fees for financial advice, brokerage fees);
- Licences and fees (e.g. driver's licence, hunting licence, vehicle registration);
- Gambling expenditure, gross of winnings;
- Investment-related expenditures (e.g. purchase of shares/stocks);
- Social transfers in-kind of goods and services from government and No-profit institutions serving households;
- Expenditures abroad

C: Concepts, definitions, classifications and weights

Definition of the CPI and its objectives: CPI is an index that measures the average rate at which prices of consumption goods and services change periodically and is used as an indicator of inflation.

Definition of consumption expenditures: Consumption expenditure is a mix of acquisition, use and payment, but acquisitions definition is predominantly used.

Classification: COICOP (Classification of individual consumption by purpose). It is modified to some extent at the lower levels according to the national situation.

Weights include value of consumption from own production: Yes

Sources of weights: Household expenditure surveys.

Frequency of weight updates: Above 5 years

Price updating of weight reference period to the index reference period: Yes

Weights for different population groups or regions: No.

D: Sample design

Sampling methods:

Localities: Judgmental sampling

Outlets: Stratified sampling with PPS sampling in each stratum

Products: Stratified sampling with PPS sampling in each stratum

Frequency of sample updates:

Localities: At the time of conducting HES.

Outlets: At the time of conducting HES.

Products: At the time of conducting HES.

If sample updates are irregular indicate when last updates were introduced: April–June 2009, after HES (2007/2008)

Criteria used for determining the optimal sample sizes and the coverage of localities, outlets, items and variety samples: Localities: population size and logistics.

Outlets: popularity (market share) and distribution over localities.

Items: at least three (3) per group

Criteria used for selecting an item variety in the outlet in case of loose specifications provided by the central office: Variety: popularity and geographic distribution

E: Data Collection

Approximate number of localities, outlets and price observations: Localities: 6 of 10 districts, grouped into 4 domains, Outlets: 415, Price observations: 6,000

Frequency with which prices are collected: Food and non-alcoholic beverages – daily; Alcoholic beverages and tobacco, clothing and footwear, household furnishings, transportation, communication, recreation, culture and education, food away from home – monthly; Housing and utilities – monthly and quarterly; Health care and miscellaneous goods and services – monthly and annually.

Reference period for data collection: The price collection starts every month on the first working day and ends on the last working day of the month. Agriculture and fish prices are collected three times a week in two districts, in three districts twice a week and in one district once a week.

Methods of Price Collection

- Personal data collection
- Telephone interviews for various items (if change detected follow up by personal data collection)
- Official tariffs for water, electricity, telephone and selected medical services.

Treatment of:

Discounts and sales prices: Included, if they are not limited to selected consumers.

Black market prices: If wide spread, included with all other prices.

Second hand purchases: Included.

Missing or faulty prices: Extrapolation by using the change in prices of similar products.

Period for allowing imputed missing prices: Prices are imputed for a maximum of three months, after which expert judgement is used for selecting a close substitution in the same outlet.

Disappearance of a given type or quality from the market: Replacement

Quality differences: Expert judgement used.

Treatment of seasonal items and seasonality

Items that have a seasonal character and their treatment: Fresh fruits and fish.

Seasonal food items: Seasonal food items are included in the CPI using fixed weights approach: the weights are kept constant over the year, while prices of out-of season products are estimated or imputed.

Seasonal Clothing: Seasonal clothing items are included in the CPI using fixed weights approach: the weights are kept constant over the year, while prices of out-of season products are estimated or imputed.

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

Treatment of housing

Types of dwellings covered by the rent data: All available types of dwellings are covered, information is collected quarterly.

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: Laspeyre's index formula.

Formula of aggregating regional/population group indices into national index: For the national figure, each main group or subgroup is weighted by the weight per domain.

Monthly and annual average prices: No average prices are calculated.

Software used for calculating the CPI: Dbase IV

G: Editing and validation procedures

Control procedures used to ensure the quality of data collected: The data collection sheet used has various instructions and checks for the price collectors.

Control procedures used to ensure the quality of data processed: Price changes beyond certain limits are flagged. Outliers are confirmed with respondents and a record of this is kept. Surveys are audited randomly. Compilation procedures minimize processing errors. Adjustments to records are made only when clearly warranted, normally with one month time lag. Imputation procedures have a sound basis. Mainly using group imputations (occasionally the last price is carried forward). Quality adjustments are made to goods and services defined as heterogeneous.

H: Documentation and dissemination

Timeliness of dissemination of the CPI data: The CPI is disseminated not later than the 22nd of the month following the reference month; occasionally, if 22nd is not a working day, the next working day after the 22nd.

Level of detailed CPI published

Paper publication: All items CPI, Division-level (12 Divisions), Group-level app. 40 groups

Online: All items CPI, Division-level (12 Divisions), Group-level app. 40 groups

Documentation

Publications and websites where indices can be found: National publication is: Consumentenprijscijfers en Inflatie (Consumer price-index numbers and Inflation) Internet website: www.statistics-suriname.org

Publications and websites where methodological information can be found: The GBS publication: Consumer Price Index and Inflation in Suriname since 1954 contains a detailed statement of the methodology in Dutch. The latest information about the methodology regards the HBS 2007/2008 publications (volume I, II and III). The following volumes were released: 1) Household Budget Survey 2007/2008 Vol. 1 (Rev1): Final results for all 4 strata combined (totals); 2) Household Budget Survey 2007/2008 Vol. II: Final results for all 4 strata combined (the lower 50% and the upper 50%); 3) Household Budget Survey 2007/2008 Vol. III: Results per stratum

I: Other Information

Reported by the country in 2012.