

Slovenia

A: Identification

Title of the CPI: Consumer Price Index

Organisation responsible: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

Periodicity: Monthly

Price reference period: 2005

Index reference period: 2005

Weights reference period: Year t-2

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.

Population groups excluded: Institutional households.

Consumption expenditure includes:

- Foods produced for own final consumption;
- Other goods produced for own final consumption;
- Food consumed away from home;
- Housing maintenance, minor repairs;
- Purchase of gifts of goods and services given to others outside the household;
- Second hand goods purchased (Only second hand cars);
- Financial services (including fees for financial advice, brokerage fees);
- Non-life insurance premiums (e.g. vehicle, housing, other property, medical), gross of claims;
- Licences and fees (e.g. driver's licence, hunting licence, vehicle registration);
- Investment-related expenditures (e.g. purchase of shares/stocks);
- Expenditures abroad

Consumption expenditure excludes:

- 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;
- Major repairs, conversions and extensions to owner occupied housing;
- Luxury goods;
- Interest payments (excluding mortgage interest payments);
- Life insurance premiums;
- Gambling expenditure, gross of winnings;
- Occupational expenditures;
- Other business-related expenditures;
- Social transfers in-kind of goods and services from government and No-profit institutions serving households

C: Concepts, definitions, classifications and weights

Definition of the CPI and its objectives: Consumer prices index measures changes in the level of retail prices of goods and services from the point of view of the expenditure structure, which the resident population intends for final consumption at home and abroad (national concept).

Definition of consumption expenditures: Allocated assets include value of purchased goods and services, irrespective of whether they were paid in cash or bought on credit. Covered is all expenditure of household members, irrespective of whether used for their personal needs or for gifts to other persons.

Classification: COICOP (Classification of individual consumption by purpose), at 4th level

Weights include value of consumption from own production: Yes

Sources of weights: Household expenditure surveys, national accounts, consumer surveys and data on sales from retail trade.

Frequency of weight updates: Annual

Price updating of weight reference period to the index reference period: The weights for calculating the index in a certain year are based on expenditure from household budget surveys as the main data source. These data are supplemented and verified with other statistical and non-statistical sources; e.g. in 2011 weights are based on the average of expenditure from surveys in 2009 recalculated (indexed) to the prices of December 2010, which is also the index base month.

Weights for different population groups or regions: No

D: Sample design

Sampling methods:

Localities: Stratified sampling with PPS sampling in each stratum, judgmental sampling, in all cases combination of sampling methods is used.

Outlets: Stratified sampling with PPS sampling in each stratum, judgmental sampling, cut-off sampling (the elements with the highest sales or value of other auxiliary variable are included into the sample), in all cases combination of sampling methods is used.

Products: Stratified sampling with PPS sampling in each stratum, judgmental sampling, cut-off sampling (the elements with the highest sales or value of other auxiliary variable are included into the sample), quota sampling (a priori fixing of the number of elements), in all cases combination of sampling methods is used.

Frequency of sample updates:

Localities: The sample of localities remains the same.

Outlets: Annual

Products: Annual

Criteria used for determining the optimal sample sizes and the coverage of localities, outlets, items and variety samples: The criteria used for item selection is choosing items with the most important share in total consumption and whose changes of prices best reflect the changes of prices of related products.

Criteria used for selecting an item variety in the outlet in case of loose specifications provided by the central office: Representativity, popularity, selling well.

E: Data Collection

Approximate number of localities, outlets and price observations: Localities: 4, Outlets: 1,300, Price observations: 16,500

Frequency with which prices are collected: Prices of agricultural products and air plane tickets are collected twice a month, prices of other goods and services are collected once a month.

Reference period for data collection: Agricultural products (observed in the 1st and 3rd week), non-food products (between 1st and 15th of the month), food products (between 16th and 21st of the month), services (between 22nd and 25th of the month), fuels (between 1st and 25th of the month)

Methods of Price Collection

- Personal data collection for most of the items.

- Mailed questionnaires for accommodation services.
- Telephone interviews for services.
- Internet for PC's, air plane tickets
- Official tariffs for notary fees, expense of identity card, etc.
- Special database for some pharmaceutical products and second-hand motor cars.

Treatment of:

Discounts and sales prices: Included in the index if they are available to all potential customers with no special condition attached.

Black market prices: Not collected.

Second hand purchases: Included for second-hand motor cars only.

Missing or faulty prices: Missing prices are treated by carrying forward the previous observation.

Period for allowing imputed missing prices: For up to two months / Substitution with the most comparable one in the same outlet if possible.

Disappearance of a given type or quality from the market: Substitution with the similar item using one of the methods of quality adjustment if necessary.

Quality differences: Explicit methods (direct price comparison, option pricing, judgmental QA, package size adjustment), Implicit methods (overlap, bridge overlap), Mixed approaches.

Appearance of new items: Newly significant goods and services are included when the basket of goods and services is updated at the end of each year.

Treatment of seasonal items and seasonality

Items that have a seasonal character and their treatment: Seasonal products include the following subgroups of goods and services; fresh fruits, fresh vegetables, women's clothing, footwear, household appliances, sports equipment and recreational services (Regulation concerning minimum standards for the treatment of seasonal products in the Harmonized Indices of Consumer Prices, which came into force in January 2011).

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.

Treatment of housing

Treatment of owner-occupied housing: Owner occupied housing is not included in the CPI

Types of dwellings covered by the rent data: Actual rents for housing (non-profit and profit rents).

F: Computation

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

Formula to aggregate elementary indices to higher level indices: Laspeyre's index formula expressed as:

$$I_{t/d} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{P_{ti}}{P_{di}} \times w_{di}}{\sum_{i=1}^n w_{di}}$$

Formula of aggregating regional/population group indices into national index: When for a particular month all prices are collected, firstly average prices are computed and then price indices. The average price of each individual product in the locality is calculated with simple arithmetic mean from prices collected in all places of observation in that locality. The average national price of each product is calculated with weighted arithmetic mean from previously calculated average prices in the locality. From average national prices in each current and base month (December of the previous year), individual indices for each individual product are calculated. From individual indices, weighted arithmetic mean aggregate indices, i.e. indices of groups and the total price index are calculated.

Monthly and annual average prices: In each region, for each individual item, prices are collected and a ratio of average prices is calculated. Then ratios for each region are multiplied with weights for these regions and weighted average price for this item (on monthly level) are obtained. Annual average price is the arithmetic mean of monthly prices.

Seasonally adjusted indices: No

Software used for calculating the CPI: Blaise NT4 Windows, Excel 2010, SAS, Oracle.

G: Editing and validation procedures

Control procedures used to ensure the quality of data collected: Each price collector's work is checked in the field 1 – 2 times per year to ensure that central office guidelines are being followed. If there are doubts about the reliability of one or several prices, these prices are checked once again by contacting price collectors or, if necessary, checked directly in the field.

Control procedures used to ensure the quality of data processed: All collected prices are reviewed by price collectors before being entered into the computer; the second phase of control is incorporated in the computer program for data entry and in the end all data are manually checked by a person in the unit.

H: Documentation and dissemination

Timeliness of dissemination of the CPI data: CPI is disseminated 1 week after the reference month.

Level of detailed CPI published

Paper publication: Class-level (100 classes) and Average prices

Online: Class-level (100 classes), Average prices

Restricted Access: All items CPI

Separate indices published for specific population groups: No

Type of products for which average prices are calculated and disseminated: From each subgroup average prices of some products are published.

Documentation

Publications and websites where indices can be found: First Release, Statistical Yearbook, Statistical Office's website: http://www.stat.si/eng/tema_ekonomsko.asp

Average prices are available at
http://pxweb.stat.si/pxweb/Database/Economy/04_prices/04110_average_retail_prices/04110_average_retail_prices.asp

Publications and websites where methodological information can be found: CPI methodological explanations are available at <http://www.stat.si/doc/statinf/04-SI-136-1201.pdf> and http://www.stat.si/doc/metod_pojasnila/04-136-ME.htm

I: Other Information

Reported by the country in 2012.