

Syrian Arab Republic

A: Identification

Title of the CPI: Consumer Price Index

Organisation responsible: Central Bureau of Statistics

Periodicity: Monthly

Index reference period: 2005 = 100

Weights reference period: 2003 – 2004 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, main inflation indicator used for monetary policy, deflate household expenditures in National Accounts and 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) measures the price change in a fixed basket of goods and services acquired by households for final consumption purposes.

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

Sources of weights: Household expenditure surveys.

Frequency of weight updates: Every 3-5 years

D: Sample design

Sampling methods:

Products: Cut-off sampling (the elements with the highest sales or value of other auxiliary variable are included into the sample)

Criteria used for determining the optimal sample sizes and the coverage of localities, outlets, items and variety samples: Item selection: Both the representative items and varieties are selected with an emphasis on goods and services that are most frequently purchased by households. Also, preference is given to items that are expected to be continuously available.

E: Data Collection

Approximate number of localities, outlets and price observations: Localities: 980 urban and rural areas

Frequency with which prices are collected: Prices for certain foodstuffs, such as fruits, vegetables, meat, and eggs, are collected weekly. For other food items and non-food items, prices are collected monthly.

Reference period for data collection: Prices for certain foodstuffs, such as fruits, vegetables, meat, and eggs, are collected on Saturdays and Mondays of each week. Prices for other food items are collected during the 1st - 14th of each month. Prices for non-food items are also collected during the 15th -23rd of each month.

Methods of Price Collection

- Personal data collection
- Official tariffs

Treatment of:

Missing or faulty prices: Prices for missing items are replaced by the average price of the group.

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: The resulting lowest level indices are aggregated to weighted indices for categories and the total using the standard Laspeyres index

Seasonally adjusted indices: Seasonally adjusted indices are not computed.

G: Editing and validation procedures

Control procedures used to ensure the quality of data collected: Verification of price quotes is conducted at the CBS headquarters. In particular, checks are made on changes of prices reported for the previous period and prices for the same item in different markets. Follow-up usually is by telephone. No use is made of automated verification processes. Unannounced inspection visits in local markets are also conducted.

H: Documentation and dissemination

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

Level of detailed CPI published

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

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

Documentation

I: Other Information

Completed by ILO in 2013.