

Thailand

A: Identification

Title of the CPI: Consumer Price Index

Organisation responsible: Bureau of Trade and Economic Indices, Ministry of Commerce

Periodicity: Monthly

Index reference period: 2011 = 100

Weights reference period: 2007 Calendar year.

Main uses of CPI: 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: Urban areas

Population coverage: Resident households of nationals.

Consumption expenditure includes:

- Food consumed away from home

Consumption expenditure excludes:

- In-kind goods received as gifts;
- In-kind services received as gifts;
- 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 price index measures the average changes in prices paid by urban consumers for a fixed basket of goods and services.

Classification: COICOP (Classification of individual consumption by purpose)

Sources of weights: Household expenditure surveys and market share information.

Frequency of weight updates: Every 3-5 years

Price updating of weight reference period to the index reference period: Weights are price updated.

Weights for different population groups or regions: Regional weights (i.e. Bangkok and 4 regions) are calculated.

D: Sample design

Sampling methods:

Outlets: Judgmental sampling

Products: Judgmental sampling

Criteria used for determining the optimal sample sizes and the coverage of localities, outlets, items and variety samples: Outlet selection is judgmental depending on sales volumes, location, and cooperativeness of price informant (voluntary).

Items selection is also judgmental depending on weight (relative importance), feasibility of obtaining prices in a timely and regular basis, trend in consumption and popularity among consumers. The item specifications are reviewed every year.

Sample sizes: Approximately 62,026 price quotations are collected each month from 32,523 outlets.

Criteria used for selecting an item variety in the outlet in case of loose specifications provided by the central office: Item specifications (such as brand, weight, size, package, and so on) are defined centrally so that the price collectors can identify the items.

E: Data Collection

Approximate number of localities, outlets and price observations: Outlets: 32,523, Price observations: 62,026

Frequency with which prices are collected: Most prices are collected monthly; prices of fresh food are collected weekly, gasoline prices are collected daily.

Reference period for data collection: Food items are priced during the first week (Monday to Tuesday). Clothing is priced during the third week (Tuesday to Wednesday). Miscellaneous items (i.e. personal items, housing items, kitchen items, and medicines) are priced during the third week (Tuesday - Thursday) and rentals for housing are collected divided by type of houses every 6 months (during second week from Tuesday to Wednesday).

Methods of Price Collection

- Personal data collection for most retail prices.
- Telephone interviews for prices on utilities and centrally administered prices.

- Official tariffs for utilities and centrally administered prices.

Treatment of:

Discounts and sales prices: Discounts and sales prices are included within the period of collecting prices

Missing or faulty prices: When a price is temporarily unavailable, the previous price is carried forward.

Period for allowing imputed missing prices: Imputation of a missing price is up to 3 months.

Disappearance of a given type or quality from the market: Price collectors select products with the same quality and closely approximate specification of the previous variety

Quality differences: No special adjustment for quality change is made; direct substitution of comparable item is used when item changes permanently.

Appearance of new items: Items' specifications are regularly revised using information from the annual survey of merchants and retailers, market information and collector reports.

Treatment of seasonal items and seasonality

Items that have a seasonal character and their treatment: Few seasonal items are included in the CPI basket. Last available price is carried forward for month's out-of-season.

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: The method used to impute price development in out-of season periods is carrying forward the last observed price.

Treatment of housing

Treatment of owner-occupied housing: Actual and imputed rents are used as the estimates of both rentals and owner-occupied housing. Both the weights of the rental and owner-occupied housing are used in calculating the CPI. And also both actual rentals and owner-occupied housing are used to calculate the rent index.

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: Modified Laspeyres methodology in which weighted average of regional weights (Bangkok and 4 regions) are combined.

Seasonally adjusted indices: No seasonal adjustment is undertaken.

G: Editing and validation procedures

Control procedures used to ensure the quality of data collected: Economists at the central office check the price quotations reported by the collectors. Large variation of prices is identified and the collectors are asked to provide the explanations for unusual movements. The price collectors are supervised annually in the field by the central officials.

Control procedures used to ensure the quality of data processed: The data for compiling CPI for each region and each product group are carefully checked. Each CPI staff is responsible for the certain product categories (to be specialized) for the whole country so that it could prevent the inconsistent imputation for missing data.

H: Documentation and dissemination

Timeliness of dissemination of the CPI data: CPI data is disseminated not later than one week after the end of the reference month.

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: New release: "Price Indices" is available in both Thai and English, The semi-annual "Price Indices" is available with statistical tables in both Thai and English from the Ministry of Commerce; Internet website: <http://www.bot.or.th/English/Statistics/Standard/SDDS/Pages/Sdds.aspx> and <http://www.bot.or.th/English/Statistics/EconomicAndFinancial/RealSector/Pages/Index.aspx>

Publications and websites where methodological information can be found: An English summary of the methodology is available on request. Explanatory notes are also provided in footnotes in the Ministry of Commerce monthly "Price Indices". In addition, a detailed description of the methodology and sources used to compile the CPI is available on request in Thai only.

I: Other Information

Completed by ILO in 2013.