

# Trinidad and Tobago

## A: Identification

**Title of the CPI:** Index of Retail Prices

**Organisation responsible:** Central Statistical Office

**Periodicity:** Monthly

**Index reference period:** January 2003 = 100

**Weights reference period:** 1997/1998 Household Budgetary 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.

### Consumption expenditure includes:

- Mortgage interest;
- Major repairs, conversions and extensions to owner occupied housing;
- Non-life insurance premiums (e.g. vehicle, housing, other property, medical), gross of claims

### Consumption expenditure excludes:

- Mortgage repayments;
- Life insurance premiums;
- 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

## C: Concepts, definitions, classifications and weights

**Definition of the CPI and its objectives:** The Index of Retail Prices is a weighted average of the proportionate changes in the prices of a specified set or 'basket' of consumer goods and services between two periods of time. It should be noted that the Index is not strictly a

measure of general inflation, since it excludes non-consumer prices. However, consumer expenditure constitutes a large proportion of total final expenditure and thus the Index can be assumed to measure general inflation.

**Classification:** COICOP (Classification of individual consumption by purpose)

**Sources of weights:** Household expenditure surveys.

**Frequency of weight updates:** Above 5 years

## **D: Sample design**

**Sampling methods:**

**Frequency of sample updates:**

**Criteria used for determining the optimal sample sizes and the coverage of localities, outlets, items and variety samples:** Locality selection: Pricing areas are selected basing on three criteria: i) The relative importance of the area, as determined by its relative share of expenditure (based on the Household Budgetary Survey, 1997/1998); ii) Geographic distribution; and iii) Practical considerations concerning field staff resources.

## **E: Data Collection**

**Frequency with which prices are collected:** Prices are collected for food & non-alcoholic beverages, alcoholic beverages & tobacco, clothing & footwear and health on a monthly basis. Certain items in these categories, together with items in all other sections are collected on a quarterly basis.

**Reference period for data collection:** Price collection commences on the Wednesday following the second Monday of each month and continues for a period of one week.

### **Methods of Price Collection**

- Personal data collection
- Official tariffs for license fees, charges for electricity, telephone, vehicle insurance etc.

### **Treatment of:**

**Discounts and sales prices:** Prices may include sales prices.

**Missing or faulty prices:** Imputation of missing prices is done using the geometric mean of available items.

### **Treatment of seasonal items and seasonality**

### **Treatment of housing**

**Treatment of owner-occupied housing:** The rental equivalent approach is used for owner occupied housing.

**Types of dwellings covered by the rent data:** For rent, a sample of rental units is drawn from the Continuous Sample Survey of Population (CSSP) records which list all households in Trinidad and Tobago. The sample selected spans all income groups and represents both urban and sub urban areas.

## **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 modified Laspeyres formula is used for aggregating elementary indices into higher level indices.

## **G: Editing and validation procedures**

**Control procedures used to ensure the quality of data collected:** The field supervisor can select any area at random each month to validate the prices collected. The officers who compute the index also call the outlets where prices reported do not look realistic.

## **H: Documentation and dissemination**

**Timeliness of dissemination of the CPI data:** Data is disseminated 12 days following the end of a reference period. In the event of this day being a public holiday or weekend, data is disseminated on the next working day.

### **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:** Monthly: Trinidad and Tobago Gazette, Internet website: [www.cso.gov.tt](http://www.cso.gov.tt).

**Publications and websites where methodological information can be found:** The Methodology of the Index of Retail Prices is available at the Central Statistical Office, and can be accessed on request.

## **I: Other Information**

Completed by ILO in 2013.