

Tunisia

A: Identification

Title of the CPI: Consumer Price Index

Organisation responsible: National Statistical Institute

Periodicity: Monthly

Index reference period: 2005 = 100

Weights reference period: 2005 (12 months).

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, macroeconomic modelling and other analytic uses.

B: CPI Coverage

Geographical Coverage

Weights: Nation-wide

Price collection: Urban areas

Population coverage: Resident households of nationals.

C: Concepts, definitions, classifications and weights

Definition of the CPI and its objectives: CPI is the measure of price change in a basket of consumer goods and services (constant quality and quantity).

Classification: COICOP (Classification of individual consumption by purpose)

Sources of weights: Household expenditure surveys, weights for fresh products are obtained from supplies to wholesale markets and statistics from the fisheries board.

Frequency of weight updates: Every 3-5 years

Price updating of weight reference period to the index reference period: No, not needed.

D: Sample design

Sampling methods:

Localities: Judgmental sampling

Outlets: Judgmental sampling

Products: Judgmental sampling

Criteria used for determining the optimal sample sizes and the coverage of localities, outlets, items and variety samples: Item selection: Products included in the index basket are those with a significant weight in the expenditure structure. Fresh products in the index basket are those most widely sold products in the markets.

Outlets are selected to represent all commercial activities, and are chosen judiciously in each type of neighborhood (i.e medina, modern and suburban neighborhoods).

E: Data Collection

Approximate number of localities, outlets and price observations: Outlets: 3115

Frequency with which prices are collected: The frequency of price collection is as follows; fresh products are observed daily in the markets, department stores are visited weekly and speciality stores are visited monthly.

Methods of Price Collection

- Personal data collection for most of the items.

Treatment of:

Discounts and sales prices: Discounts are excluded from price collection.

Missing or faulty prices: If a product is temporarily unavailable, the previous price is repeated for the following month.

Period for allowing imputed missing prices: Imputation of a missing price is allowed up to six months

Disappearance of a given type or quality from the market: A product is considered permanently unavailable after six months and it is replaced with a similar item. If the replacement item is dissimilar (different quality and price), adjustments are made to the base price in relationship to the new price and the index level of the product.

Appearance of new items: If a significant new product is introduced before the base of the index is revised, the product's price is observed with a view to establishing price series for the next revision of the index.

Treatment of seasonal items and seasonality

Items that have a seasonal character and their treatment: A special procedure based on moving averages is used for fresh (seasonal) products, in order to eliminate seasonal effects from the index.

Treatment of housing

Treatment of owner-occupied housing: Not included in the CPI.

F: Computation

Formula to aggregate elementary indices to higher level indices: Local indices are calculated using the Laspeyre's method, based on monthly prices and indices with the 2005 average as a base.

Formula of aggregating regional/population group indices into national index: Regional indices calculated are aggregated by the share of the products in overall consumption to calculate the national consumer price index.

Monthly and annual average prices: For homogeneous products, the monthly price average is calculated based on the data obtained at the different outlets and the various rounds of visits.

Seasonally adjusted indices: The CPI is seasonally adjusted. Survey based adjustments for seasonal effects are made for fresh fruits, vegetables, and fish, and for clothing (out-of-season products are not observed).

G: Editing and validation procedures

Control procedures used to ensure the quality of data collected: Prices are monitored when average prices are calculated by locality and when the prices are input in Tunis. A monitoring and verification report of the prices that are input is then printed before the index is calculated. Finally, a verification of the results of the index is performed at the lowest level of the nomenclature after the index is calculated.

H: Documentation and dissemination

Timeliness of dissemination of the CPI data: CPI data is released not later than 15 days after the end of the reference month.

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: New release: Evolution des prix a la consommation, in French, INS publication Bulletin Mensuel de la Statistique, in Arabic and French; Internet: INS website: <http://www.INS.nat.tn> where the household consumer price index is published.

Publications and websites where methodological information can be found: A full description of the methodology and sources used to prepare the index is published in French in Méthodes Statistiques [Statistical Methods], No. 1, available from the INS.

I: Other Information

Completed by ILO in 2013.