World and regional trends

Unemployment

Unemployment. Percentage change over the same period of the previous year[1]

	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08	Jan-09*	Feb-09*	Mar-09*
Developed countrie	-3.0	-1.5	-4.6	2.6	4.7	10.0	9.4	9.2	9.0	7.3	7.3	14.7	25.3	36.9	73.1
Developing countri	-6.1	-4.9	-4.8	-5.6	-8.1	-5.1	-2.6	1.0	0.5	0.4	6.6	6.9	9.5	20.6	17.6
World	-5.6	-4.3	-4.8	-4.3	-6.0	-2.7	-0.7	2.4	1.9	1.5	6.7	8.2	12.1	23.2	26.6

The estimate should be interpreted with caution because of the limited number of countries for which the data are available. The estimate may change significantly as more data become available.

Unemployment rate. Change over the same period of the previous year[2]

	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08	Jan-09*	Feb-09*	Mar-09*
Developed countrie	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.5	1.4	1.9	3.8
Developing countri	-0.5	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.5	-0.4	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.6
World	-0.4	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.4	-0.3	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.6	1.1

The estimate should be interpreted with caution because of the limited number of countries for which the data are available. The estimate may change significantly as more data become available.

Total employment

Employment. Percentage change over the same period of the previous year[1]

	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08	Jan-09*	Feb-09*	Mar-09*
Developed countrie	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.4	0.3	0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.5	-0.6	-0.7	0.3	-1.0	-3.1	-3.6
Developing countri	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.1	1.9	1.9	1.4	-0.8
World	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1	1.7	1.6	1.4	0.7	-1.3

The estimate should be interpreted with caution because of the limited number of countries for which the data are available. The estimate may change significantly as more data become available.

Employment in non agricultural activities. Percentage change over the same period of the previous year[1]

	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08	Jan-09*	Feb-09*	Mar-09*
Developed countrie	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	-0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	-0.2	0.2	-2.9	-3.1	-3.6
Developing countri	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.2	-0.5	-0.7	-1.0
World	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.8	-0.9	-1.1	-1.4

The estimate should be interpreted with caution because of the limited number of countries for which the data are available. The estimate may change significantly as more data become available.

Employment in manufacturing. Percentage change over the same period of the previous year[1]

	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08	Jan-09*	Feb-09*	Mar-09*
Developed countrie	0.2	-1.9	-1.6	-0.8	-1.6	0.2	-1.3	1.3	-2.2	-4.2	-4.2	-4.2	-9.8	-9.5	-11.7
Developing countri	2.6	1.8	2.0	2.9	2.9	2.9	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.0	-0.7	-2.4	-2.3	-3.4	-7.0
World	2.2	1.2	1.4	2.3	2.1	2.4	1.0	1.4	0.9	0.2	-1.3	-2.7	-3.5	-4.4	-7.7

The estimate should be interpreted with caution because of the limited number of countries for which the data are available. The estimate may change significantly as more data become available.

Paid employment

Paid employment. Percentage change over the same period of the previous year[1]

	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08	Jan-09*	Feb-09*	Mar-09*
Developed countrie	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.1	0.0	-2.4
Developing countri	4.0	3.4	3.7	4.7	5.3	5.3	2.1	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.8	0.8	2.8	2.1	0.5
World	3.6	3.2	3.4	4.2	4.6	4.7	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.6	1.6	0.8	2.3	1.8	0.0

The estimate should be interpreted with caution because of the limited number of countries for which the data are available. The estimate may change significantly as more data become available.

Paid employment in non agricultural activities. Percentage change over the same period of the previous year[1]

	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08	Jan-09*	Feb-09*	Mar-09*
Developed countrie	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.1	0.0	-0.2	0.1	0.6	0.4	0.0	0.0	-2.6	-3.1	-4.0
Developing countri	2.2	1.9	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.8	2.8	0.8	-0.3	12.0	9.2 NA	
World	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.6	2.4	0.7	-0.3	9.6	7.2 NA	

The estimate should be interpreted with caution because of the limited number of countries for which the data are available. The estimate may change significantly as more data become available.

Paid employment in manufacturing. Percentage change over the same period of the previous year[1]

	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08	Jan-09*	Feb-09*	Mar-09*
Developed countrie	-2.0	-2.2	-1.4	-1.6	-1.6	-1.6	-2.4	-2.4	-2.8	-4.0	-4.6	-4.6	-8.1	-9.1	-9.9
Developing countri	0.0	-0.3	-0.7	-0.7	-1.4	-1.5	-1.9	-2.1	-2.3	-3.3	-4.1	-5.1	-3.0	-3.7 NA	
World	-0.3	-0.6	-0.8	-0.9	-1.5	-1.5	-1.9	-2.2	-2.4	-3.4	-4.2	-5.0	-3.8	-4.6 NA	

The estimate should be interpreted with caution because of the limited number of countries for which the data are available. The estimate may change significantly as more data become available.

Consumer Price Index

All items: Change over the same period of the previous year[1]

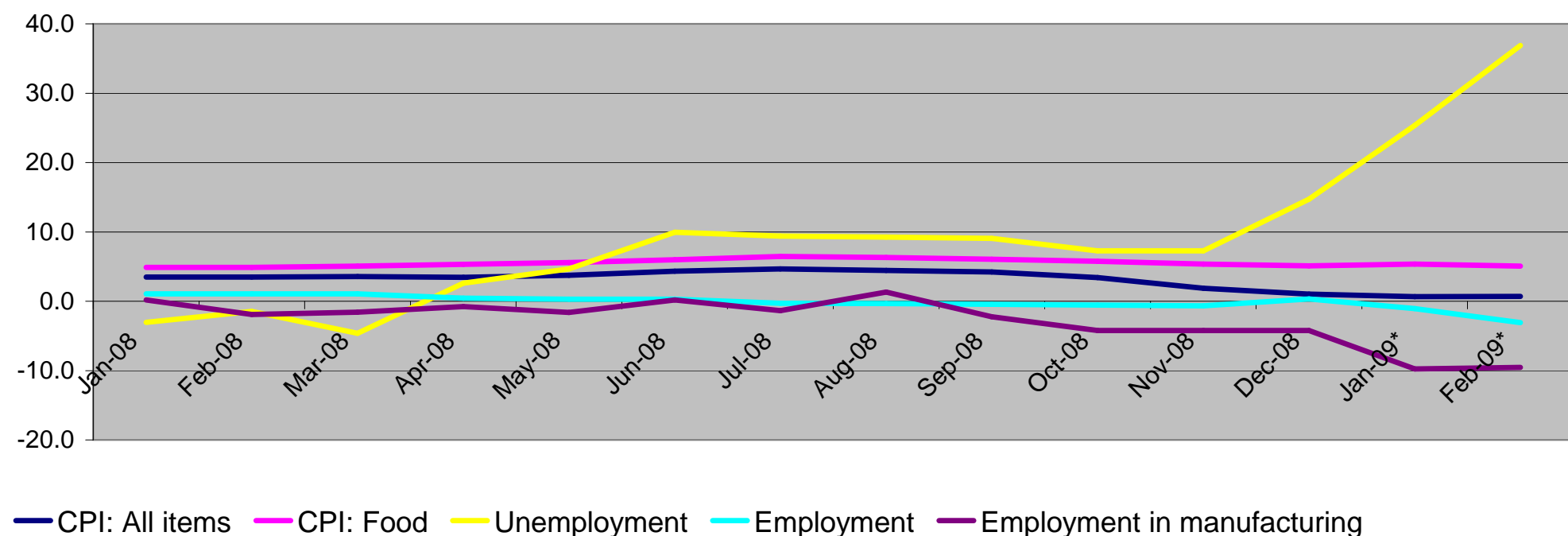|	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08	Jan-09*	Feb-09*	Mar-09*
Developed countrie	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.8	4.3	4.7	4.5	4.2	3.4	1.9	1.0	0.6	0.7	0.3
Developing countri	7.7	8.4	9.0	9.5	9.9	10.1	10.2	9.9	9.8	9.5	8.8	8.0	7.5	7.0	6.6
World	5.3	5.6	5.9	6.1	6.4	6.8	7.1	6.9	6.6	6.1	4.9	4.1	3.6	3.4	3.0

Food: Change over the same period of the previous year[1]

	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08	Jan-09*	Feb-09*	Mar-09*
Developed countrie	4.9	4.9	5.1	5.3	5.6	6.0	6.5	6.3	6.1	5.8	5.4	5.1	5.3	5.1	4.7
Developing countri	12.6	14.5	15.2	16.5	16.8	16.7	16.0	15.0	14.5	13.7	13.0	11.9	10.6	9.2	8.7
World	8.2	9.0	9.4	10.1	10.4	10.6	10.6	10.1	9.7	9.2	8.7	8.1	7.6	6.9	6.4

The estimate should be interpreted with caution because of the limited number of countries for which the data are available. The estimate may change significantly as more data become available.

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[1] $(m - m_{-12})/ m_{-12}$
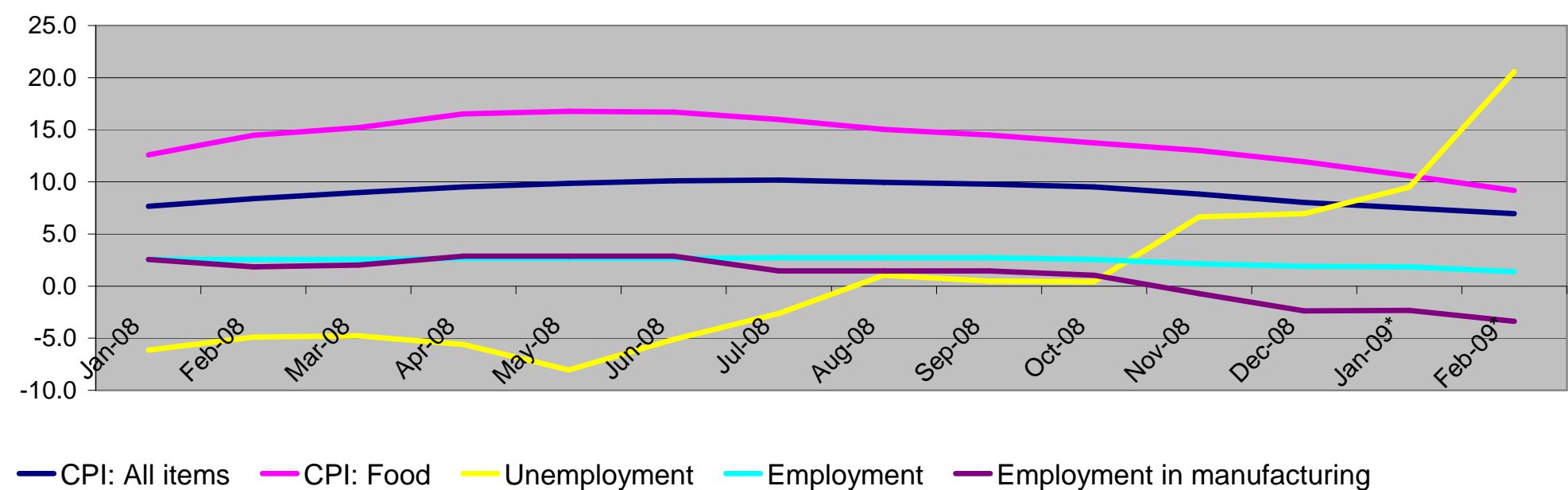
[2] $m - m_{-12}$

World: Percentage change over the same period of the previous year

CPI: All items — CPI: Food — Unemployment — Employment — Employment in manufacturing
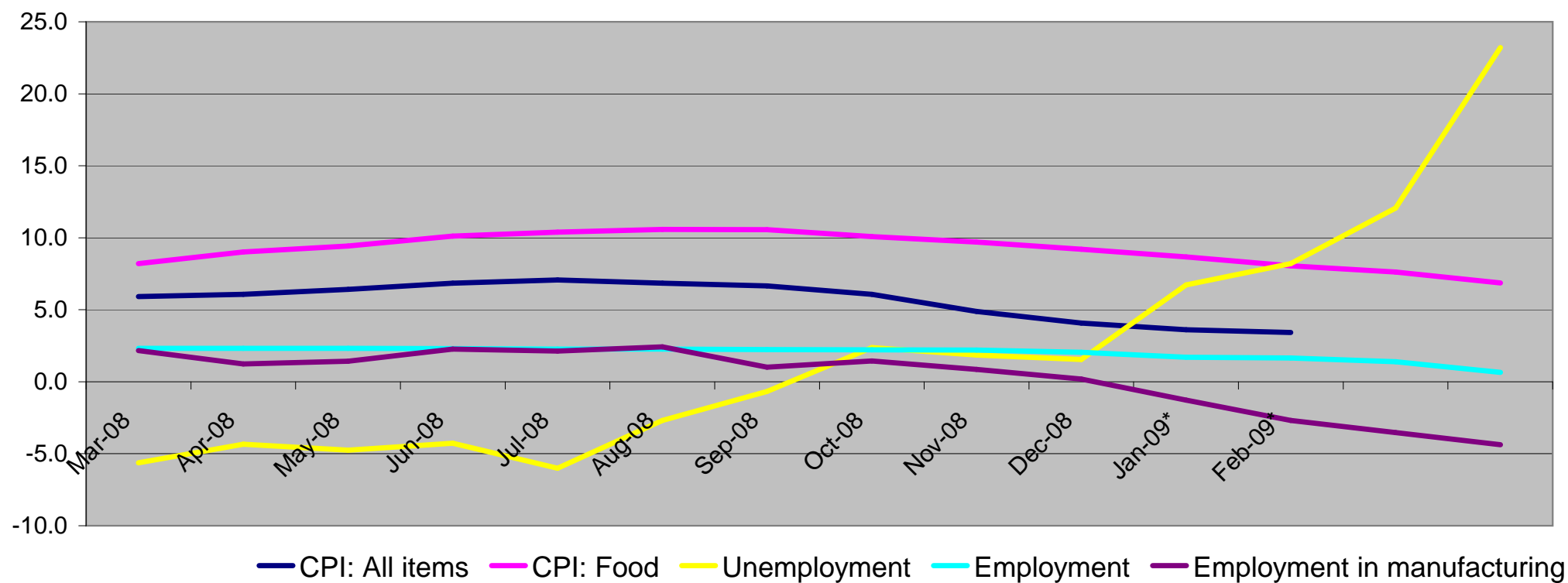
Developed countries: Percentage change over the same period of the previous year

CPI: All items — CPI: Food — Unemployment — Employment — Employment in manufacturing

Developing countries: Percentage change over the same period of the previous year

CPI: All items — CPI: Food — Unemployment — Employment — Employment in manufacturing

Methodological notes on global and regional estimates

The 2008 financial crisis (credit crisis leading to the bankruptcy of large and well established investment banks as well as commercial banks in various countries around the world) and high primary products are believed to have a negative impact on the economic activities and labour markets around the world.

In order to quickly estimate the impact of financial crisis on the labour market, the ILO Bureau of Statistics, has developed a methodology for estimating the changes in the current levels or rates of global employment and unemployment. These estimates provide only an indication of the recent and short term changes in the world labour force.

In developing the methodology for estimating the global changes, various methods were tested. Given

(i) the differences in the trends of the changes between the developed and developing countries,
(ii) the limited number of countries with current data (monthly or quarterly).

it was considered appropriate (a) to separately analyse developed and developing countries[1], and (b) to use the weighted median change across countries with data within each group, without any imputations for missing values, as a summary statistics for the distribution of these changes across countries.

The decision in (b) assumes that the changes in the countries without data, belonging to the same group, are so distributed across the weighted median of countries with data, that the latter would not be much different from the weighted median of changes for all countries in the group. The weighted median is a measure of the central location of the distribution of changes that is more robust in the presence of extreme values than is the mean. Also the weighted median is more suitable than the mean for uses in situations where some values are not known since it is not necessary to impute the values of all these missing values to derive a value for it.

In order to determine the median for each group of countries, the changes in each country[2] are arranged in ascending order of magnitude. The figure for each country or area is weighted appropriately to determine the median of the changes across countries and areas. The weights represent each country's share in the total economically active population in that same group[3]. The median value obtained is considered as a summary measure of the distribution of changes in the labour markets in each of the two groups of countries.

Global estimates of the changes in the employment and unemployment levels and rates are calculated as weighted means of the median changes in the developed and developing countries. The weights represent each group's share in the global work force[3].

Various tests were made to asses the quality and reliability of the estimates, including (i) differences between the estimates based on annual and on monthly data, (ii) differences between the medians based on a maximum number of monthly/quarterly observations and on observations for two thirds of the series, (iii) upper and lower limits of the median when the values for countries without data are imputed. Additional tests were done by imputing the values for China and India based on the annual change in their employment/unemployment.

Given the large number of developing countries without data[4], including China and India, the estimates for the developing countries should be interpreted with caution.

Global and regional changes are estimated for the following series:
(i) unemployment (level and rate);
(ii) employment total, total and paid
(iii) employment in non-agriculture, total and paid;
(iv) employment in manufacturing, total and paid;
(v) CPI, all items and food.

Global estimates of the consumer price inflation are calculated as a weighted geometric average of national price indices, with the weights being each respective country's 2007 GDP estimates (adjusted for purchasing power parity (PPP)[5]). The weight of a country is its share in the total GDP for the world.[6]

Global and regional estimates of the changes are based on official national data that have been collected by the ILO Bureau of Statistics from official national statistical publications and websites, or received routinely from national statistical services.

Global estimates are for the last two months should be interpreted with caution. They may change significantly as more data become available. The estimates for the previous periods may also be subject to revisions.

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[1] The groups are based on UN classification of economic groupings available at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/m49regin.htm

[2] The number of countries with available data per indicator varies between 50 and 65, out of which about half are from the developing world.

[3] The ILO estimates of economically active population are available at http://laborsta.ilo.org.

[4] The data are available for about 30 developing countries comprising only 15% of the total economically active population in the developing world.

[5] World Bank estimates of PPP (http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DATASTATISTICS/Resources/GDP_PPP.pdf).

[6] More information on the methodology used is presented in the Bulletin of Labour Statistics 2006-2 (http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/stat/papers/listart.htm).