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Joint UNECE/ILO Meeting on Consumer Price Indices

Ninth meeting

Geneva, 8-9 May 2008

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

**FUTURE CHALLENGES AND THE ROLE OF THE JOINT CONSUMER PRICE
INDICES MEETINGS**

A LOOK BACK AT THE FIRST THIRTY YEARS AND A LOOK FORWARD

Note by the Office for National Statistics, United Kingdom

Summary

This paper reviews the work undertaken in connection with the joint UNECE/ILO meetings on consumer price indices and provides some pointers for future agendas. It does this by reference to the range of the topics which have been discussed, the current practices in compiling consumer price indices, and the identification of the main outstanding issues. It also looks at practical issues relating to compliance with the International Labour Office resolution.

Keywords: consumer price indices, International Labour Office resolution, compilation practices, practical solutions, bias, harmonisation, unresolved issues, forward work programmes, country participation.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The first joint meeting of the ECE/ILO on consumer price indices took place in 1978 from an initiative led by the International Labour Office (ILO) to promulgate good practice in index compilation by sharing good practice and discussing mutual problems confronted by index compilers. There have been twelve meetings in total, with over 200 papers by representatives of about fifty-five organisations worldwide and by specialist consultants.
2. The meetings also have been an important forum for developing/transition countries to get involved with the international community on consumer price indices. Representatives from at least 20 countries which may be considered as developing or in transition have presented papers at one, or some, of the meetings and many others have participated without presenting a paper.

II. TOPICS COVERED

3. Information relating to the inaugural joint meeting in 1978 is very sparse and it is only from the next meeting in 1981 that detailed records can be found. That said, the minutes for the first meeting have been located and our Consumer Price Indices (CPI) colleagues then were already grappling with some of the issues we are hotly debating today such as: the statistical requirements of a CPI being dependent on its use (with the implication that more than one measure is needed); domestic and national concepts of consumption (i.e. the treatment of foreign visitors); the pros and cons of using imputed rents for owner-occupier housing costs; whether personal insurance includes an element for the “feeling of security”. There was informed debate although, perhaps not surprisingly, very little in terms of solutions offered.
4. The papers presented at each of the previous meetings are listed at Annex A and make for an impressive listing. The more active participation in recent years by developing countries is a welcome trend and probably reflects, at least in some part, the increased statistical capacity of these countries.
5. More helpful for the purposes of the current paper, is table 1. This groups the papers by subject area. Whilst the categorisation of papers is broad-brush and does not take into account the relative importance of each topic in terms of discussion time it is nonetheless instructive. Overall it reveals a wide range of issues being discussed covering practically all areas of Consumer Price Index compilation.
6. Looking at the table in more detail some interesting points emerge:
 - (a) A significant proportion of the papers presented – accounting for more papers than any other topic - relate to individual countries reporting on ‘*national methodological changes*’. Papers explaining how (and why) countries have updated their CPI methodology have provided countries with a good opportunity to share with other index compilers best practice, detailed practical guidance and lessons learned together with any residual issues. This fulfils one of the purposes of the joint meetings.

- (b) The opportunity taken to share best practice or issues of mutual interest is reinforced by countries presenting papers under the label of ‘general national examples’, that is, papers which raise *specific country issues* or perhaps introduce the group to that country’s CPI methodology and its uses. It has also allowed countries to seek advice from their peers on issues that they are facing.
- (c) Countries are confronting but still appear to be grappling with basic conceptual issues and the associated challenges of practical measurement. For instance, there have been a number of papers on *cost-of-living indices* and a consensus is emerging on their position in a *family of indices* but few countries compile these on a regular basis and there is limited evidence that progress has been made by countries to systematically review the coherence and fit-for-purpose of the indices they publish. Thus work has focussed on improving indices currently compiled rather than reviewing the range of indices published.
- (d) *Quality management* of the CPI compilation process has also captured the attention of countries attending the joint meetings, reflecting, perhaps, the growing importance of the CPI and its higher profile plus an awareness of the reputation consequences of publishing an incorrect figure and the impact on users.
- (e) Other, more specific, topics that have been widely discussed include:
 - (i) *Owner Occupier Housing*. This includes how owner occupier housing is currently covered in the CPI and the issues which arise, and where it is not included, possible ways of introducing it. This reflects both the increasing importance of home-ownership in many countries and the inherent problems confronted by the international CPI community in agreeing a conceptual approach and in meeting the challenges of finding a suitable practical methodology. Access to relevant data also seems to be a barrier to making practical progress.
 - (ii) *Quality change, including hedonics*. This covers discussions both on what is meant by quality change, particularly in the context of services, and on how to take it into account in practice. An examination of past papers indicates that there is a diverse range of views and practices and there is very little evidence of a systematic approach. For example, there is no agreement on the detailed application of hedonics either in theory or in practice and attempts to prioritise the application of explicit quality adjustment in a CPI have been of only limited success. Very limited progress has been made in adjusting for quality change in services
 - (iii) *Services*. The measurement of services continues to be a challenge not just in the context of housing. For instance, in more recent years discussions have taken place on the treatment and measurement of prices relating to financial services.
 - (iv) The potential uses of *scanner data* either to improve the quality of the CPI or to increase the efficiency of compilation. Papers relating to scanner data provide evidence both of the potential of this data and its adoption in practice. Experiences to date suggest that the benefits of using this data directly in index construction are finely balanced against data handling and data cleaning issues and limited access and coverage. But scanner data has been proven useful for benchmarking CPIs and for improving sample selection and design.

- (i) A more general review of sampling including outlets as well as products, particularly in the context of both *outlet and product substitution bias and sampling efficiency*. The Boskin Report¹ has led to a growing awareness of the potential for the former to make an index unfit for purpose. Budget constraints, set against the increasing costs of price collection, have led to the latter.

III. ACHIEVEMENTS

7. In providing the opportunity for CPI compilers to debate the subject areas outlined above, the joint ECE/ILO meetings have contributed to countries adopting international best practices in key areas of CPI compilation. This is evident from some of the methodological improvements to their CPIs that countries have reported to the meeting and in papers in subsequent meetings reporting similar and in some cases better improvements.

8. The meetings have also been active in raising conceptual and methodological issues for carrying forward in other forums, most particularly the Ottawa Group on Price Indexes. The close working relationship with this group, facilitated by an overlap in membership and more formal contact through the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Consumer Price Indices, has been particularly productive and this can be seen in common themes (although clearly with different focuses) appearing in respective agendas. The contribution from the knowledge accumulated from the development by Eurostat of the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) - both directly from papers offered by Eurostat or indirectly from active attendance by CPI compilers from the member states of the European Union should not be overlooked.

9. It can also be noted that it was a recommendation emerging from the joint meeting of the ECE/ILO on Consumer Price Indices held 1997 that led to the commissioning of the ILO Manual on Consumer Price Indices. The resolution concerning consumer price indices, adopted by the Seventeenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 2003, also benefited from the input of a number of active attendees of the joint meetings.

IV. THE CURRENT STATE OF INDEX COMPILATION AND A LOOK AHEAD: IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE WORK

10. Surveying the CPI methodologies used by National Statistical Institutes through the available metadata, it can be observed that limited progress has been made in adopting a common approach to CPI compilation. In some cases this is despite reaching a consensus on what should be done in theory. By way of example, of thirty six countries surveyed:

- (a) At least ten still do not include owner-occupier housing costs in their domestic measure of inflation and where these costs are included many countries use rental

¹ Final Report of the Commission to Study the Consumer Price Index. U.S. Senate, Committee on Finance (Washington DC: U.S. Government Printing Office).

equivalence, some the acquisition or user cost² approach. Arguably this is the most important and difficult outstanding issue confronted by compilers of CPIs. There is no consensus on the way forward.

- (b) On country coverage, eleven collect prices only for urban areas. It cannot be deduced whether this reflects a resource issue or the geographical and retailing characteristics of the countries concerned.
- (c) Price collection reference periods vary from one day to one month.

11. The differences in practical application by National Statistical Institutes not only impacts on comparability and generally how useful the CPI is in meeting user needs but also can mean an unfavourable comparison when benchmarked against the 2003 CPI Resolution. For instance, paragraph 13 of the resolution states that “the CPI should conceptually cover all types of consumer goods and services of significance to the reference population”, which clearly includes owner-occupier housing costs. But at least ten countries do not do this, and currently it is not included in Eurostat’s HICP. A more prescriptive resolution would encourage greater harmonisation (and best practice) but may not be realistic in the short-term but greater compliance with the current resolution should be a realistic goal, as would be following more closely the spirit of the resolution. For instance, paragraph 6 of the resolution states that “Given that the CPI may be used for many purposes, it is unlikely that one index can perform equally satisfactorily in all applications. It may therefore be appropriate to construct a number of alternative price indices for specific purposes”. In reality a significant number of National Statistics Institutes still publish only one “all purpose” consumer price index, which as a result is compromised.

12. The adoption by National Statistical Institutes of a more systematic approach to index development with a statement of longer-term strategic aims would help facilitate this together with continued close working with the Ottawa Group on Price Indexes to resolve and provide advice on methodological issues.

V. CONCLUSIONS

13. The joint meetings of the ECE/ILO on consumer price indices have provided a valuable forum for discussion of practical issues on index compilation and for the sharing of solutions. The close working with the Ottawa Group on Price Indexes has added further value. But a review of countries’ CPIs indicates that many countries fall short of following best practice in constructing their CPIs and in some instances this leaves them non-compliant with the ILO Resolution on Consumer Price Indices, in spirit if not in law. The implication for future working is as follows:

² Opposing arguments have been put forward for the use, payments and acquisitions approaches. This has resulted in a limited coverage of owner-occupier housing costs in CPIs, for instance it is not as yet included in the European HICP, and where it is included this has often been by way of a compromise in terms of the conceptual consistency of the index. For example, in the UK the Retail Prices Index includes mortgage interest payments, which can be viewed as important from the perspective of income related-uses of the RPI even though the index can be seen as acquisition-based in most other expenditure areas.

- (a) Work should be undertaken to identify those methodological issues which have potentially the biggest impact on the quality of the index- firstly in terms of bias and secondly in terms of precision.
- (b) Where this leads to non-compliance with the ILO resolution, in spirit if not in law, this should be noted.
- (c) Priority should be given to the treatment of owner-occupier housing costs and its inclusion in a CPI. This includes guidance on concepts and practical recommendations on the compilation of house price indices.
- (d) Harmonisation should be seen as an important issue, particularly with increased globalisation and free markets.
- (e) Important methodological issues, where practical index construction issues act as a barrier to implementation and cannot be resolved, should be referred back to the Ottawa Group for advice.
- (f) Where the conceptual principles cannot be put into operation for practical reasons which are unlikely to be resolved, the Ottawa Group should be approached to provide guidance on alternative solutions.
- (g) This process should be used to inform future programmes.
- (h) To carry through these recommendations detailed and more systematic feedback should be sort from National Statistics Institutes on their CPIs and the problems they face.

Table 1. Topics Discussed (1978 – 2006)

Topic	Count	%
National Methodological Changes	17	8
Housing	14	7
Quality Change	14	7
General National Examples	11	5
Sampling	10	5
Hedonics	9	4
Scanner Data	9	4
Taxes	9	4
Quality Management	8	4
Calculation	7	3
COLI	7	3
Core Inflation	7	3
General Measurement Issues	6	3
Price Collection	6	3
Seasonality	6	3
Family of Indices	5	2
HICP	5	2
Errors	4	2
Regional/Population specific CPIs	4	2
Weights	4	2
Financial Services	4	2
CPI Manual	3	1
International Methodology	3	1
International Regulations/Meetings	3	1
Terminology	3	1
Bias	2	1
E-commerce	2	1
Import Prices	2	1
International CPI	2	1
Output Prices	2	1

ANNEX

Joint ECE/ILO meetings 1978 – 2006: papers presented

1978	ILO	Some problems of CPI
	ECE Secretariat - L. Drechsler (Consultant)	CPI
1981	IRISH Central Statistics Office	Irish constant tax price index
	Fed. Stat. Office of YUGOSLAVIA	Computation of the effects of changes in import prices in Yugoslavia
	Governments of CANADA, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY and U.K.	Treatment of quality changes
	STATEC Luxembourg	Treatment of quality changes
	Governments of CYPRUS, DENMARK, FINLAND, IRELAND and SWEDEN	Treatment of quality changes
	ECE Secretariat	Treatment of quality changes
	ILO - Ralph Turvey	Durable goods, dwellings and credit in CPI
	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics - Robert Gillingham	Measuring the cost of shelter for homeowners: Theoretical and empirical considerations
	National Institute of Stat. of SPAIN	Housing in the Spanish CPI
	INSEE France	Measurement of price movements when the supply of goods and services varies: durable goods and rents
	Statistics CANADA - Bohdan Szulc	The treatment of owned accommodation in the Canadian CPI
	Fed. Stat. Office of Fed. Rep. of GERMANY - S. Guckes	Calculation of consumer expenditure parities for various national uses
	U.K. Central Stat. Office	Excluding the effects of changes in import prices from a CPI
	U.K. Central Stat. Office - Deo Remprakash	The U.K. tax and price index (TPI)
	Central Bureau of Stat. NETHERLANDS - J. Egbers	The Netherlands' price index number of the cost of living, base 1951=100
	National Central Bureau of Stat. SWEDEN	Some methodological problems in the computation of a net price index
Central Bureau of Stat. NETHERLANDS - B.M. Balk and H.W.J. Donkers	Adjusting the CPI for changes in the rates of indirect taxes and subsidies	
DENMARK Statistics	Comparison of retail price indices with and without indirect taxes 1963-1981: A case study of an index which excludes indirect taxes	
1986	Central Statistical Office of FINLAND	Relations between indices of consumer prices and other price indices in Finland
	ILO - Ralph Turvey	The international comparability of consumer price indices
	IMF	Compilation of world and area CPI
	ILO - Ralph Turvey	First draft of ICLS resolution concerning CPI

	Central Stat. Office of U.K. - Deo Ramprakash	The U.K. tax and price index (TPI)
	Central Bureau of Stat. NETHERLANDS - H.W.J. Donkers and A.C. van der Zwan	Analysing consumer price changes using input-output tables
	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics - R. Gillingham and John S. Greenlees	The impact of direct taxes on the cost of living
	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics - K.D. Zieschang	Output price measurement when product design is endogenous
	Ministry of Finance, Republic of CYPRUS	Problems of seasonality in the compilation of the CPI in Cyprus
	ILO - Ralph Turvey	Seasonal items in CPI - A proposal
	AUSTRALIAN Bureau of Statistics - L.C. Clements	Treatment of seasonal fresh fruit and vegetables in CPI
	ILO - Ralph Turvey	What is the question?
	UNITED NATIONS Statistical Office	Selected problems in CPI computations
	Central Statistical Office of POLAND	Methods of correction & computations of CPI in Poland
	INSEE France - A. Marret	The problem of measurement of time-to-time changes of damage. Insurance premiums & its inclusion in the CPI
	Statistical Office of CZECHOSLOVAKIA	Observing the development of consumer prices when changes occur in the assortment, and observing the development of prices of seasonal goods
	Department of Employment of the U.K. - D.J. Sellwood	Reduction of errors in a CPI
	Central Bureau of Stat. NETHERLANDS - B.M. Balk and H.M.P. Kersten	On the precision of CPI caused by the sampling variability of budget surveys
	Fed.Stat.Office of the FED. REP. OF GERMANY - Oswald Angermann	The treatment of quality changes in price statistics
1991	National Comm. for Stat. of ROMANIA - V.V. Dumitrescu and G. Borcan	Considerations on the CPI during the transition period in Romania
	National Stat. Board of ROMANIA - Neagu Camelia	Current problems as regards the statistics of financial and insurance services
	Fed. Stat. Office of SWITZERLAND	Treatment of incentive taxes in the Swiss CPI
	USSR State Committee on Statistics	Problems of price monitoring in the USSR
	The WORLD BANK - Sultan Ahmad and John O'Connor	Harmonization of work on prices among national accounting, CPI and ICP
	Central Bureau of Stat. NETHERLANDS	Estimating the precision of a CPI; some experiences from the Netherlands
	Stat. SWEDEN - Jörgen Dalén	Revising the calculation methods for basic aggregates in the Swedish CPI
	Stat. SWEDEN - Jörgen Dalén	The work with an error model and error calculations in the Swedish CPI

	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics - P.A. Armknecht	Replication and regression: Modern solutions to age old problems in price index construction
	Central Stat. Office of BULGARIA - V. Ranguélova and G. Miléva	Certain problems in the calculation of the CPI in Bulgaria
1993	Fed. Stat. Office of SWITZERLAND	Owner-occupied housing: Feasibility of a cost-oriented approach
	Stat. SWEDEN - Anders Norberg	Considerations on computing a hedonic price index for clothing in the Swedish CPI
	State Commit. on Stat. of the RUSSIAN FED. - Ya Goldina, T.M. Pchelkina and I.I. Dmitrievich	Improvement of CPI methodology in the Russian Federation
	Central Stat. Office of HUNGARY - Mihaly Zafir	Recent improvements in the Hungarian CPI
	EUROSTAT	Harmonization of CPI - Progress report
	Central Bureau of Stat. NETHERLANDS - B.M. Balk	The new CPI of the Netherlands: An outline
	U.K.	The treatment of non-market goods in CPI: Owner-occupied housing
	Central Bureau Statistics ISRAEL - Miri Sabag and Yoel Finkel	The Israeli CPI: Alternative computing methods for an "Item price index"
	Fed. Stat. Office of SWITZERLAND	Taking changes in product range and quality into account in the CPI
	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics - P.A. Armknecht	Effects on changing market baskets and product substitution in the U.S. CPI
1995	U.K. Central Stat. Office	Some problems in the application of hedonic regression
	U.K. Central Stat. Office	Owner-occupied housing in the retail prices index
	U.K. Central Stat. Office	Wider inflation measures: The expenditure approach
	U.K. Central Stat. Office	Sampling errors in the U.K. retail prices index
	U.K. Central Stat. Office	A new sampling scheme for the U.K. retail prices index
	U.K. Central Stat. Office	Construction of net price indices - The U.K. experience
	Statistics NETHERLANDS - Bert M. Balk	On the use of unit value indices as consumer price subindices
	Central Bureau Statistics ISRAEL - M. Sabag	Updating the consumer price index
	State Commit. on Stat. of the RUSSIAN FED.	Refinement of procedures for the monitoring of prices for goods & services and CPI calculation in the Russian Federation
	Fed. Stat. Office of SWITZERLAND	Determination of the smooth component: Low pass filter VS census-X-11
ILO Bureau of Stat.	The treatment of owner-occupied housing in national consumer price indices	

	Stat. NETHERLANDS - Martin Boon and Jan de Haan	Estimating accurate consumer price indices for small reference populations
	AUSTRIAN Central Stat. Office - A. Franz	European comparison programme and quality adjustment issues
	ECE Secretariat	National experience in the treatment of owner-occupied housing in CPI
	CZECH REPUBLIC Stat. Office	The 1993 revision of CPI in the Czech Republic
	EUROSTAT	The "comparability" of CPIs in the European Union
	EUROSTAT	Harmonisation of CPI
	INSEE France	Laspeyres price indices - Substitutions and quality adjustments
	INSEE France - Lionel Viglino	On the usefulness of the geometric mean
	Statistics CANADA - Bohdan Schultz	Treatment of owned accommodation
	Statistics CANADA - Bohdan Schultz	Choice of price index formulae at the micro-aggregation level: The Canadian empirical evidence
1997	State Statist. Committee AZERBAIJAN	Improvement of the methodology for the monitoring of prices of goods and services and CPI calculation in the Azerbaijani Republic
	ECE Secretariat - Lidia Bratanova	New developments in CPI methodologies in ECE Member Countries
	INSEE France	Extension of distribution to include two new indices, and improvement of the CPI methodology
	Fed. Stat. Office of SWITZERLAND - Claude Vuffray	Calculation of a rent index: The example of Switzerland
	Stat. NETHERLANDS - Martin Boon	Sampling designs in constructing CPI: Current practices at statistical offices
	ILO Bureau of Stat. - B.J. Hannon (external consultant)	Data collection and quality assurance problems in CPI
	Office for National Stat. U.K. - David Fenwick	Quality management of the monthly processing for the U.K. retail prices index
	CZECH REPUBLIC Stat. Office	Problems of data collection and quality control of data
	State Commit. on Stat. of the RUSSIAN FED.	CPI Compilation in the Russian Federation in the context of high (decelerating) inflation
	ECE Secretariat - Peter Hill	Non-market goods and services in CPI
	ILO Bureau of Stat.	New developments in CPI methodologies
	Central Bureau Statistics ISRAEL - M. Sabag-Endewald/ H. Bezabel and Y. Finkel	Treatment of seasonal goods in a CPI. The case of fresh fruits & vegetables
	State Institute of Stat. TURKEY	Survey of national practices in constructing of 1994=100 based CPI
	Statistics CANADA - Terri Markle	An application of the hedonic approach to clothing in the CPI

	Statistics CANADA - Terri Markle	An application of the hedonic approach to clothing in the CPI - A pilot study using checklists
	Statistics CANADA - Robin Lowe	Item selection and quality change
	State Commit. on Stat. of UZBEKISTAN	Survey of national practice in constructing a CPI in the Republic of Uzbekistan
	Stat. DENMARK - Carsten Hansen	The effects of changing method for price collection for clothing from questionnaires sent by mail to price collectors visiting the outlets
	ECE Secretariat - Peter Hill	The measurement of inflation and changes in the cost of living
	EUROSTAT	Progress report on harmonization of CPI in the European Union
	Stat. NETHERLANDS - Jan de Haan	Item sampling in the CPI: A case study using scanner data
	Stat. FINLAND - M. Arja Kinnunen	Hedonic methods and their implementation
	National Comm. for Stat. of ROMANIA - Marcela. Volintiru	Methodology of computing CPI in Romania starting with 1997
	Stat. NETHERLANDS - Martin Boon	Effects of outlet sampling on CPI: A case study using scanner data
	ECE Secretariat	National practices in quality adjustments for specific items
	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics - Jim Saxton	Measurement issues in the CPI
	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	Testimony of Katharine G. Abraham Before the Sub-Committee on Human Resources House Committee on Government reform and oversight
	ISTAT ITALY - Franco Mostacci	The weighting structure of CPI: An analysis of two possible alternatives
	Central Stat. Office of POLAND - Bogumila Uminska	Issues connected with terminology and definitions of terms applicable to the consumer price statistics
	Stat. NORWAY	Data editing with Artificial Neural networks
	Central Stat. Office of POLAND	Instability in the provision system and difficulties with proper goods identification. Problems and practical solutions applicable to CPI computations in GUS
	Depart. of Stat. of LITHUNIA - Nadiezda Alejeva	Problems of data collection and the quality control of the data
1999	OECD - Carl Obst	A review of BIAS in the CPI
	EUROSTAT - Ralph Turvey	CPI Terminology
	IMF - Kim Zieschang	A framework for price statistics - Chapter 2 of Manuals on compiling the CPI
	ECE Secretariat - Peter Hill (Consultant)	Inflation, the cost of living and the Domain of a CPI
	Statistics CANADA - Marie Allard-Saulnier	Report on the CPI Sample diversification Project - Phase I

	Central Stat. Office of AUSTRIA - Paul Haschka	Price collection
	Stat. NETHERLANDS - Jan de Haan	Item sampling in the CPI: The success of cut-off selection methods
	Stat. NETHERLANDS - Martin Boon	Sampling and non-sampling errors in a CPI
	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics - John S. Greenlees	CPI: Methods for quality and variety change
	Stat. FINLAND - J. Hyrkkö, A. Kinnunen and Y. Vartia.	Implementation of hedonic methods in Statistics Finland
	Stat. NETHERLANDS - Bert Balk	On curing the CPI's substitution and new goods BIAS
	U.K. Office for National Statistics - David Fenwick	Quality management and auditing of CPI
	Central Bureau Statistics ISRAEL - Y. Finkel and Israël Givol	Training and modern technology in a CPI framework
	Stat. NETHERLANDS - Martin Boon	Quality assurance in a CPI: A conceptual framework
	ILO - Valentina Stoevska	CPI methodologies in transition countries
	State Commit. on Stat. of the RUSSIAN FED. - Irina Goryacheva	Methodology for measuring inflation in the Russian Federation
	Statistical Office of SLOVENIA - Ema Misic	New ways of monitoring consumer prices
	Fed. Stat. Office of SWITZERLAND - Corinne Becker	Revision of the Swiss CPI 2000: Principal methodological and technical changes
	State Commit. on Stat. of AZERBAIJAN	Sampling and data collection, selection of outlets and items, use of scanner data, etc. in Azerbaijan
	ECE Secretariat	CPI glossaries used by selected national statistical offices
	Government of INDIA	An overview of price indices compilation in India
	Ottawa Group - W. Erwin Diewert	The CPI and index number purpose
	Reserve Bank of NEW ZEALAND and The Treasury - Dr Denis Lawrence & Prof. Erwin Diewert	Measuring New Zealand's productivity
	ISTAT ITALY - F. Mostacci & F. Di Iorio	Practical Implications of the transition to a chain index
	Management & Coordination Agency of Japan - Masato Okamoto	Empirical study of outlet sampling using scanner data
2001	University of British Columbia, CANADA - Erwin Diewert	Hedonic regressions: A consumer theory approach
	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics - John S. Greenlees	The U.S. CPI and the cost-of-living objective
	Stat. NETHERLANDS - Cecile Schut	Using scanner data to compile price indices: Practical problems
	State Commit. on Stat. of the RUSSIAN FED. - Irina Goryacheva	Introduction of paperless technology for collecting information on prices in the Russian Federation

	Statistics CANADA - Marie Allard-Saulnier & Robin Lowe	Practical issues in maintaining representative price samples
	Office of National Statistics of U.K. - David Fenwick & Adrian Ball	Sampling in CPI: How scanner data might help
	Statistics SWEDEN - M. Ribe	Cost-of-living index (COLI) as target for the Swedish CPI
	Fed. Stat. Office of SWITZERLAND - Corinne Becker Vermeulen	Subcontracting of price collection: The Swiss experience
	National Statistical Committee KYRGYZSTAN - Nailya Ruslanovna Butabayeva	Practical issues in maintaining representative price samples for compiling the CPI in Kyrgyzstan
	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics - Mick Silver and Saeed Heravi	Why the CPI matched models method may fail us: Results from an hedonic and matched experiment using scanner data
	Bureau of Statistics of AUSTRALIA - Keith Woolford	Electronic commerce and the CPI
	Statistics FINLAND - Timo Koskimäki	Classification strategies for excessively detailed data
	INSEE France (not translated) - I. Le Boette & C. Barret	Evaluation des micro-données et de l'IPC - cas des lave-vaisselle et des télévisions
	Federal Statistical Office of YUGOSLAVIA - Vidosava Lukic	Review of food balance sheets in Yugoslavia
	Statistics Bureau of JAPAN - Masato Okamoto	Study of variations of midpoint-year basket indices
	Statistics Bureau of JAPAN - Masato Okamoto	Application of midpoint-period method to compilation of hedonic indices from scanner data
	Central Statistical Office POLAND - Teresa Smi'owska	Introducing qualitative components into price surveys
	National Statistical Office GREECE (not translated) - J.I. Moshakis	Une méthode de calcul du sous-indice pour les appels téléphoniques à l'indice de prix à la consommation grec
	Central Bureau of Statistics ISRAEL - Yoel Finkel & Merav Oren	Experimental CPI for the elderly population
2003	National Statistical Committee KYRGYZSTAN	Sampling and quality adjustment
	Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts & Telecommunications JAPAN - N. Sakashita & Shin-ichi Takahashi	Analysis on Item Sampling using Scanner Data
	Fed. Stat. Office of SWITZERLAND - Agnès Schüpbach	CPI for different population groups
	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics - Nicole Rope	Apparel hedonic regression models: Improvements after more than a decade of use in the U.S. CPI
	State Commit. on Stat. of AZERBAIJAN	Data quality

	Statistics SWEDEN - Martin Ribe	Swedish re-considerations of user-cost approaches to owner occupied housing
	Bureau of Statistics of AUSTRALIA - Stephen Frost	Experimental price indices for financial services
	Central Statistical Office of POLAND - Alina Gluchowska & Jolanta Lesiuk	System of regional CPI compilation in Poland
	INSEE France - Thierry Lacroix	Report of the 7th meeting of the Ottawa Group
	National Bureau of Statistics, PEOPLE'S REP. CHINA - Huang Langhui	Compilation method & quality control of CPI in China
	IMF - Kim Zieschang	Weight updates and revisions in the CPI
	Office for National Statistics U.K. - David Fenwick	Core inflation, seasonal adjustment and measures of the underlying trend
	ISTAT ITALY - Luigi Biggeri & Laura Leoni	Family of indices for different purposes
	EUROSTAT - J.C. Roman and C. Olsson	A harmonized price index for owner occupied housing experiences from the Eurostat pilot study
	Statistics CANADA - Marc Prud'Homme	Updating the Canadian CPI expenditure weights: Past experiences, current practices and future prospects
	Statistics ICELAND - Rósmundur Guonason	Owner occupied housing: Market price approach to user cost
	Central Bureau of Statistics of ISRAEL - Yoel Finkel & Yevgeny Artzev	The treatment of seasonal products in a CPI
2006	Central Statistical Office of POLAND - Alina Gluchowska	Further development of the Polish CPI
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