



---

**United Nations Economic Commission for Europe  
Statistical Division**

**Update of the 2004 CPI Manual  
Intersecretariat Working Group  
on Price Statistics (IWGPS)**

**Meeting of the Group of Experts on Consumer Price Indices  
Geneva, 26-28 May 2014**



---

# Overview



- 1. Background – the IWGPS and its work**
- 2. Reasons and amendments of a possible update**
- 3. Feedback from the participants**

---

# Background

## Mandate of the IWGPS

- Develop international standards and recommendations in price statistics, document best practices and support their implementation
- Provide guidance by e.g. developing new and maintaining existing manuals or handbooks on price statistics

## Members of the IWGPS

- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- Organisation for Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD)
- Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- World Bank



---

# Background

## Manuals and Handbooks produced under IWGPS

- CPI Manual (2004)
- PPI Manual (2004)
- Import and Export Price Index Manual (2009)
- Practical Guide to Producing Consumer Price Indices (2009)
- Handbook on Residential Property Price Indices (2013)

---

## Background

### How the 2004 CPI Manual was produced

- The CPI Expert Group meeting in 1997 recommended an update of the ILO CPI Manual (1989) to reflect developments in methods and practices
- The IWGPS was established in 1998 to coordinate the update of international standards on price statistics
- UNSC endorsed the mandate of IWGPS in 1999
- A Technical Expert Group was established to advice IWGPS and update the manual
- The manual was drafted 1999-2003 and published in 2004

---

## Main reasons for updating the CPI Manual

- Experiences gained on the usefulness of the manual and implementation of recommended methods and practices
- New methods and techniques have emerged
- New data sources and new methods of data collection, including Internet and scanner data
- Growing user needs on:
  - detailed and high-quality CPI series
  - timeliness
  - documentation
  - publication/dissemination
  - international comparability

---

## Possible amendments of an update

- Provide clearer and in some cases more prescriptive recommendations and guidelines where possible and useful
- Incorporate methodological developments, practical experiences and research
- Update material on data sources, data collection and calculation methods to reflect developments since 2004
- More practical recommendations of up-to-date weights and rebasing/chain-linking
- Strengthen recommendations on good documentation and dissemination practices
- Recommendations should be based on agreed methods known to provide good results
- Include theory when necessary to explain methods and recommendations

---

## Your feedback is needed

1. Is there a need to initiate an update of the manual?
2. Should an update provide clearer and more prescriptive recommendations when possible and appropriate?
3. In what areas?
4. Particular topics to be addressed in an update – whether already included in the 2004 Manual, or new ones?
5. How should theory be dealt with?
6. In case of an update: Do you agree that the IWGPS organises the update by establishing a CPI-TEG?
7. Other comments /proposals?



---

## Your feedback is needed



Comments and proposals are welcome and can be sent to

[STDPricesForEver@oecd.org](mailto:STDPricesForEver@oecd.org)

Thank you for your attention!