

Topics for the 15th Meeting of the Ottawa Group on Price Indices 10 – 12 May 2017, Eltville am Rhein, Germany

1. **New data sources to compile price indices**
'Big data', whether they are scanner/data, website/online data or administrative data present opportunities to produce more relevant and timely official statistics than traditional data sources such as sample surveys. Incorporating transaction data into the compilation of key economic statistics such as the consumer price index is a specific example which has recently received significant attention by price statisticians. Papers for presentation may examine the various practical and technical issues encountered while attempting to use 'Big data' to construct price indices. Other challenges faced when utilising large volumes of detailed, high frequency data are also of interest.
2. **Compiling property price indices**
Property price indices, both residential and commercial, have increased in importance following the recent global financial crisis. Papers for presentation may examine the various data sources as well as methodological and conceptual challenges faced by price statisticians to compile these indices.
3. **Index number formulae**
Papers for presentation may consider the various index formulae used in practice and the appropriate circumstances for their use, e.g. the issue of price-updating in chained indices. The latest developments in index formulae may also be considered, including the determination of target indices and the reconciliation of upper and lower-level indices.
4. **Price statistics that meet multiple user needs**
User requirements for price statistics continue to evolve and, in some cases, increase while resources for national statistical offices are under pressure. Papers for presentation may consider the approaches/considerations of statistical offices to meet multiple user needs within a single, coherent price statistics framework; integrating purchaser power parities and the consumer price index is one example for consideration. Further, discussion of approaches to ensure international harmonisation of price statistics could also be discussed.
5. **Quality adjustment**
Pricing to constant quality is a key requirement of pure price indices. This objective is a challenge for price statisticians, particularly for products where attrition is high such as clothing and high technology goods but also for transactions data where in addition information is unstructured. Papers for presentation may examine the various approaches used by price statisticians to address these challenges.
6. **Pricing seasonal products**
The pricing of seasonal products presents challenges for price statisticians when compiling indices including the consumer price index. Papers for presentation may examine the various approaches used to address these challenges.
7. **Other topics**
The Ottawa Group Steering Committee encourages authors to submit papers for consideration on other prices-related topics that may be of interest to the meeting participants, e.g. challenging areas of measurement (such as services) or the treatment of special cases (such as zero prices).