Discussant

*Treatment for Missing Prices in the U.S. CPI due to COVID, BLS*

UNECE – OG webinars on producing the CPI under lockdown (Session 3)

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Imputations for missing prices

• **Impute with the price change from the home cell or similar cells**: minimum number of prices; importance of the regional dimension in the selection of donor cells

• **Beyond the ‘standard’ imputation methods**: carry forward as a last resort; issues with specific product categories

• **Scope of the imputations**: less frequent than monthly price collection; seasonal products; replacements; collected price of a service not supplied

• **Measuring and monitoring the impact of imputations**: ‘number’ versus ‘weight’ of imputed prices; other metrics; link to the compilation method and measurement objective; informing users about imputations