

Webinars on producing the CPI under lockdown Programme

21, 28 October and 4, 11 November 2020, starting at 13:00 CET

Wednesday 21 October, 13:00 – 15:00 CET (11.00 – 13.00 UCT)	
Theoretical considerations	
	The webinar will discuss theoretical foundations on which a CPI may be estimated during a period of lockdown and the practical guidance that can be derived on this background.
	Chair: Jens Mehrhoff, German Bundesbank Moderator: Carsten Boldsen, UNECE
13:00 – 13:10	Opening and overview of the webinars
13:10 – 14:00	<i>Measuring real Consumption and CPI Bias under Lockdown Conditions</i> Kevin Fox, University of New South Wales, Australia Discussant: Bernhard Goldhammer, European Central Bank Discussion
14:00 – 14:05	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
14:05 – 14:50	Discussant: Peter Nilsson, Statistics Sweden Discussion
14:50 – 15:00	Conclusion and closing of the webinar
Wednesday 28 October, 13:00 – 15:00 CET (12.00 – 14.00 UCT)	
Data collection	
	The webinar will discuss but are not limited to the following topics and issues: price collectors: organisational, managerial and practical issues; communication with outlets and respondents; collecting prices from alternative sources – advantages and disadvantages of different methods (websites, newspapers advertisements, telephone, e-mail, in person price collection by NSO staff, scanner data, unit values for homogenous products); instructions and considerations for recommencement of regular price collection following the lifting of lockdown restrictions.
	Chair: Christopher Jenkins, Office for National Statistics, United Kingdom Moderator: Jens Mehrhoff, German Bundesbank
13:00 – 13:05	Opening
13:05 – 13:35	<i>Collection in the Time of COVID</i> Rob Cage and Ursula Oliver, Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States. Discussant: Rui Evangelista, Eurostat Discussion

13:35 – 14:05	<i>Managing CPI price collection during and after the UK lockdown</i> Mike Hardie and Chris Payne, Office for National Statistics, United Kingdom Discussant: Heidi Ertl, Statistics Canada Discussion
14:05 – 14:10	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
14:10 – 14:40	<i>Collection Of Vital Inflation Data: There and back again</i> Patrick Kelly, Statistics South Africa Discussant: Federico Polidoro, Istat, Italy Discussion
14:40 – 15:00	Conclusion and closing of the webinar

Wednesday 4 November, 13:00 – 15:00 CET (12.00 – 14.00 UCT)

Imputations for missing observations

	The webinar will discuss imputation methods for products that are still available in the market and for products where there are no transactions. The following topics may be discussed: different imputation methods and their advantages/disadvantages; products with strong seasonal price variation; updates of the sample basket; expenditure weights; a decision tree (a set of rules or algorithms) that can be adapted and used by NSOs as part of contingency planning in cases of lockdown. The webinar will also discuss calculation methods when the lockdown is lifted.
	Chair: Patrick Kelly, Statistics South Africa Moderator: Christopher Jenkins, Office for National Statistics, United Kingdom
13:00 – 13:05	Opening
13:05 – 13:35	<i>IWGPS continuity guidance for CPI</i> Carsten Boldsen, UNECE Discussant: Corrine Becker-Vermeulen, Statistics Switzerland Discussion
13:35 – 14:05	<i>Accounting for missing prices in CPI during and after the UK lockdown</i> Mike Hardie and Chris Payne, Office for National Statistics, United Kingdom Discussant: Jens Mehrhoff, German Bundesbank Discussion
14:05 – 14:10	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
14:10 – 14:40	<i>Treatment for Missing Prices in the U.S. CPI due to COVID</i> Rob Cage and Mark Bowman, Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Discussant: Claude Lamboray, Eurostat Discussion
14:40 – 15:00	Conclusion and closing of the webinar

Wednesday 11 November, 13:00 – 15:00 CET (12.00 – 14.00 UCT)	
Communication	
	The webinar will discuss the following topics: dissemination of index series and documentation; communication with users; analysis of the impact of lockdown, for example supplementary analysis that assesses the impact of reweighting the CPI basket to remove those items not available during lockdown.
	Chair: Vagner Ardeo, Fundação Getulio Vargas, Brazil Moderator: Christopher Jenkins, Office for National Statistics, United Kingdom
13:00 – 13:05	Opening
13:05 – 13:30	<i>Importance of effective communication and engagement in response to Covid-19</i> Leigh Merrington, Australian Bureau of Statistics Discussion
13:30 – 13:55	<i>CPI in the time of Covid: communication about the quality and computation of alternative indices</i> Marie Leclair, INSEE, France Discussion
13:55 – 14:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
14:00 – 14:25	<i>Analysis of impact of re-weighting the CPI basket</i> Rakesh Kumar, National Statistical Office, India Discussion
14:25 – 14:50	<i>Producing supplementary analysis to assess the impact of lockdown on CPI</i> Helen Sands, Office for National Statistics, United Kingdom Discussion
14:50 – 15:00	Conclusion and closing of the webinar