



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique



WORKSHOP ON UPDATING THE WEIGHT REFERENCE PERIOD OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

29 May – 1 June 2017

Noumea, New Caledonia

OUTCOME DOCUMENT

1. The Workshop on updating the weight reference period for the Consumer Price Index conducted by the Pacific Community (SPC) and Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in Nouméa, New Caledonia over the period 29 May – 1 June 2017. It was attended by statisticians from SPC member Pacific Island Countries and countries participating in the bilateral aid programme for the Pacific of ABS.

The need for a workshop

2. Periodic weight adjustments and reviews of the basket of goods and services are necessary to maintain the representativity of the consumer price index (CPI). Internationally, statisticians advise to implement a CPI rebase at least once every five years.
3. CPI rebases can be complex, and require an understanding of the theoretical and conceptual basis of the CPI, which goes beyond that required for the regular production and compilation of the CPI.
4. Because of the infrequent nature of CPI rebases, many PICT NSOs lack hands on experience with the rebase process and struggle with implementing the various steps and procedures required to successfully integrate new expenditure data and complex new goods and services into the CPI.

Objective

5. The objective of the workshop was to train price index statisticians in internationally recommended techniques and guidelines for the implementation of a revision of the weight reference period of the CPI.
6. This was done by bringing together statisticians from PICTs and providing training in methods and techniques to implement a CPI rebase in line with international best practices and guidelines.
7. The objective of the workshop is in line with the mandate from the **Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS)** and strives for greater harmonisation of statistical standards, classifications, methods and systems.

Pacific Community (SPC) Headquarters: Noumea, New Caledonia. Regional offices: Suva, Fiji, and Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.
Country office: Honiara, Solomon Islands.

For contact details – Website: www.spc.int Email: spc@spc.int

Siège de la Communauté du Pacifique (CPS) : Nouméa (Nouvelle-Calédonie), Antennes régionales : Suva (Fidji) et Pohnpei (États fédérés de Micronésie)
Bureau de pays : Honiara, (Îles Salomon).
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Outcomes

8. Following the workshop, participants are able to apply the acquired and techniques and knowledge in implementing a CPI rebase in their countries. In particular, they have acquired knowledge on how to:
 - a. Derive COICOP based expenditure weights from datasets containing expenditure data.
 - b. Determine the scope and target of their CPI and to adjust the weights accordingly;
 - c. Apply commodity flow techniques to check the derived weights against other data sources;
 - d. Review the basket of goods and services covered by the CPI, creating elementary aggregates and selecting representative items;
9. By bringing the countries together that are facing similar issues, the workshop has facilitated closer regional partnerships and relations, thereby improving countries' ability to leverage expertise available at other NSOs in the region.

Evaluation

A. Overall Assessment	Poor					Excellent		NA	Average
	1	2	3	4	5				
1. Did the content of the workshop meet your expectations?	-	-	-	2	13	-	-	4.9	
2. How relevant was the training to your current role?	-	-	1	3	11	-	-	4.7	
3. Were the discussions useful?	-	-	-	1	14	-	-	4.9	
4. How effective was the trainer/s?	-	-	-	1	13	1	-	4.9	
5. Was there adequate time allotted for each of the training objectives?	-	-	1	8	6	-	-	4.3	
6. Overall how would you rate this course?	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	5.0	

B. Other Questions	Most Common Answers
7. How do you plan to use the skills you developed in this training?	- Skills will be used in implementing upcoming rebase in country
8. What aspects of the training did you like most?	- Interaction between theory and excel based exercises - Using commodity flow techniques and alternative data for weight corrections
9. What aspects of the training could be improved?	- Data cleaning / preparing data should be covered more in depth - For the number of topics covered the training should be longer
10. Which topic areas covered in the training would you like more training on?	- Chain linking / Splicing of indices and compiling long time series - Advanced excel training
11. What other areas of need do you have that were not covered in the workshop?	- Chain linking / Splicing of indices and compiling long time series - Determining base period prices for new items - Outlet selection methods
12. Any other comments?	- Great to have a workshop that has not just theory, but also practical examples and exercises - Noumea is beautiful, but expensive and hard to get to. Might be a good idea to consider a more central location in the Pacific for future workshops.

Annex 1: List of Participants

Country	Name	Organisation
Cook Islands	Ms Anne Tangimetua	Cook Islands Statistics Office
Fiji Islands	Mr Sikivou Sitiveni Naciriyawa	Fiji Bureau of Statistics
	Ms Wakalo Leba Kalo	
Niue	Mr Kimray Vaha	Statistics office, Finance and Planning
Papua New Guinea	Mr Pauka Karafa	National Statistics Office
	Mr Jeffrey Wara	
	Mr Henau Kari	
Vanuatu	Ms Rosella Mavute	Vanuatu National Statistics Office
	Mrs Vania Kalomor	
Solomon Islands	Mrs Anna Luvu	Ministry of Finance & Treasury
	Ms Betsy Uruhiaro	
Northern Mariana Islands	Mr Justin H. Andrew	Department of Commerce
Tonga	Mrs Masila Masiva'ilo	Tonga Department of Statistics
	Ms Ofa Ki Saione Takai	
Timor Leste	Mr Avelino Maria de Jesus Marcal	General Directorate of Statistics
	Ms Antonia de Jesus Carvalho	
Trainers		
	Michael Morgan	Australian Bureau of Statistics
	Mr Rens Hendriks	Pacific Community

Annex 2: Workshop Agenda

Monday 29 May		
Time	What's on	By who
08:00 - 08:30	Registration of participants	SPC, ABS
08:30 - 08:45	Opening	SPC, ABS
08:45 - 09:00	Roundtable: Introductions	SPC, ABS
09:00 - 09:15	Workshop overview and Expected outcomes	SPC, ABS
09:15 - 09:30	Importance of regular weight updates	SPC, ABS
09:30 - 10:00	Session 1: Weight derivation	
10:00 - 10:30	Tea Break	
10:30 - 12:00	Session 1: Weight derivation <i>cont.</i>	SPC, ABS
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch Break	
13:00 - 15:00	Session 1: Weight derivation <i>cont.</i>	SPC, ABS
15:00 - 15:30	Tea Break	
15:00 - 17:00	Session 1: Weight derivation <i>cont.</i>	SPC, ABS
17:00 - 19:00	Welcome drinks	

Tuesday 30 May		
Time	What's on	By who
08:30 - 10:00	Session 1: Weight derivation <i>cont.</i>	SPC, ABS
10:00 - 10:30	Tea Break	
10:30 - 12:00	Session 2: Revising the basket of goods and services	SPC, ABS
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch Break	
13:00 - 15:00	Session 2: Revising the basket of goods and services <i>cont.</i>	SPC, ABS
15:00 - 15:30	Tea Break	
15:30 - 16:30	Side session: The system of price indices and its role in macroeconomic statistics	SPC, ABS
16:30 - 17:00	Session 2: Revising the basket of goods and services <i>cont.</i>	SPC, ABS

Wednesday 31 May		
Time	What's on	By who
08:30 - 10:00	Session 3: Implementing the Rebase	SPC, ABS
10:00 - 10:30	Tea Break	
10:30 - 12:00	Session 3: Implementing the Rebase <i>cont.</i>	SPC, ABS
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch Break	
13:00 - 15:00	Session 3: Implementing the Rebase <i>cont.</i>	SPC, ABS
15:00 - 15:30	Tea Break	
15:30 - 17:00	Session 3: Implementing the Rebase <i>cont.</i>	SPC, ABS

Thursday 1 June		
Time	What's on	By who
Session 3: Implementation <i>Cont.</i>		
08:30 – 10:00	Session 3: Implementing the Rebase <i>cont.</i>	SPC, ABS
10:00 – 10:30	Tea Break	
10:30 – 12:00	Session 3: Implementing the Rebase <i>cont.</i>	SPC, ABS
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch Break	
Session 5: Country presentation		
13:00 – 14:30	Cook Islands, CNMI	Participants
13:30 – 14:00	Fiji, Niue	Participants
14:00 – 14:30	Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands	Participants
14:30 – 15:00	Timor-Leste, Tonga	Participants
15:00 – 15:30	Tea Break	
15:30 – 16:00	Tuvalu, Vanuatu	Participants
16:00 – 16:30	Wrap up	SPC, ABS
16:30 – 16:45	Award of certificates	SPC, ABS
16:45 – 17:00	Closing remarks	SPC, ABS