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EUROSTA-OECD PRACTICE IN PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION OF DATA

This paper describes current approach of publishing PPPs and related information in the Eurostat and OECD dissemination databases and data access policy.

1. DISSEMINATION OF DATA IN EUROSTAT AND OECD AND PUBLISHING POLICY

1.1. Eurostat

Eurostat dissemination database ("Purchasing Power Parities")¹ includes two datasets. In the first dataset² following indicators (price and/or volume indices) are published for 61 so-called "analytical categories"³:

- Purchasing power parities (PPPs)
- Price level indices (PLIs)
- Nominal expenditure in national currency
- Nominal expenditure as percentage of GDP
- Nominal expenditure in euro
- Nominal expenditure per inhabitant in euro
- Real expenditure in PPP
- Real expenditure per inhabitant
- Volume indices of real expenditure per inhabitant

While in the second dataset⁴ the price and volume convergence indicators for GDP (Gross Domestic Product), AIC (Actual Individual Consumption) and HFCE (Household Final Consumption Expenditures) are published.

¹ <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/purchasing-power-parities/overview>

² "Purchasing power parities (PPPs), price level indices and real expenditures for ESA2010 aggregates (coded "prc_ppp_ind")";

³ Analytical categories are aggregations over basic headings. It is at this level that detailed PPP results are published. GDP, as well as AIC, 'bread and cereals' and 'meat' are among the 61 (50 for OECD) analytical categories. They are listed in Box 13.3 of the [Eurostat-OECD Methodological Manual on PPPs](#). Since the publication of the manual the Analytical category hospital services has been added and the classification of GFCF slightly amended.

The reference period is the calendar year. In Eurostat's database, data is available back to the reference year 1995, though not for all 37 countries and all 61 categories.

Data are published in the News Release as well as in "Statistics Explained" articles and updated in the dissemination database twice a year: in June of year t, the preliminary calculation and in December of year t, t-1, t-2 and t-3.

PPPs⁵ for all years before are rescaled to the latest data from the national accounts domain, again at the level of analytical categories. The rescaled PPPs are then applied to the new national accounts data to obtain the real expenditures and volume indices at the level of analytical categories.

PPPs for a given year (t) are published in four steps:

- After t+6 months: First preliminary results, based on all new data for year t that are available at that time, complemented by extrapolations from year t-1
- After t+12 months: Preliminary results, incorporating all new price and expenditure data of year t;
- After t+24 months: Revised, preliminary results, incorporating the most recent expenditure estimates;
- After t+36 months: Final results for year t. These results are "final" in the sense that there will be no further updates when countries revise their National Accounts estimates.

1.2. OECD

PPPs are accessible via several dissemination channels: OECD.Stat (Theme: Prices and Purchasing Power Parities), OECD Data Portal and STD website (<http://www.oecd.org/std/prices-ppp>).

The following datasets are available:

- PPP benchmark results (2005, 2008, and 2011, 2014): PPPs are broken down by analytical category. Price Level Indices (PLIs), national expenditures in domestic currency and US dollars, real expenditures and real expenditures per capita are also provided.
- PPPs and derived indicators: This dataset is updated every month and included in the Main Economic Indicators. It contains headline annual and quarterly national accounts' figures along with appropriate PPPs.
- Monthly Price Level Indices: PLIs are provided at a monthly frequency for each pair of countries in the Eurostat-OECD area and are available with a delay of two months.
- Annual PPP series starting in 1970 for households' actual individual consumption, households' individual consumption expenditure and GDP.

⁴ Convergence indicators (coded "prc_ppp_conv")

⁵ PPPs are produced in accordance with the final expenditure classification of the European Standard of Accounts (ESA 2010).

The reference period is the calendar year. Since 2014 the OECD publication schedule is close to Eurostat' schedule and the revision policy is the same. Data are updated in the dissemination database twice a year: in June of year t, the preliminary calculation and in December of year t, t-1, t-2 and t-3.

Detailed PPP results (i.e. below GDP, ICE and AIC) however continue to be published every three years. If there is a demand for such data in the future, it could be envisaged to publish detailed PPP results every year, as Eurostat currently does, but the priority is now to exploit survey results earlier than before.

1.3. Publishing policy

The publication of PPPs and PLIs is restricted to 61 analytical categories for Eurostat (50 for the OECD). Data below this level are considered as confidential. The analytical categories have been determined and agreed with countries⁶ on the basis of an assessment of the assumed reliability of price and volume data that can be produced at that level. In particular, the reliability of the underlying detailed expenditure data played an important role. In many cases, analytical categories are not further broken down because the underlying expenditure data (and thus the resulting volume indices) are considered too unreliable. If the assessment of reliability would be made on the basis of PPPs and PLIs alone, probably a quite different classification would have been established.

For example, prices and expenditures collected for food and non-alcoholic beverages in Eurostat-OECD countries are considered as reliable which explains why they are published at the class level.

The choice of publishing an analytical category is also linked to the type of product. Clearly analytical categories that include mostly services are less reliable and in that case it is preferable either to publish only PPPs and PLIs (e.g. hospital services, transport services) or not to publish them at all (housing).

On the other hand, purchase of vehicles is an analytical category for which price levels are very homogenous which explains why results are published. Coefficients of variation of the different basic headings including in a category are a good indicator of the reliability of the PPPs calculated. And then in the other cases, decisions can be based on a common sense.

Note that OECD has less analytical categories than Eurostat and has a special policy for balancing items. They are considered as analytical categories but only nominal values (and no indices) are published.

⁶ The methodologies and the publishing policies are decided by the PPP Working Group.

2. DATA ACCESS POLICY

Table 1 gives an overview of the access of different users and parties in the PPP program to different levels of data that are not in the public domain. The access to individual price observations of countries are differently coordinated and granted by Eurostat and OECD. Individual price observations are and will not be distributed to other users, as they fall under confidentiality restrictions.

Average prices and basic heading information are shared among the NSIs participating in the program. Results below the level of the analytical categories are generally not disseminated to the general public. However, Eurostat gives access to users that wish to gain more detailed, confidential PPP data for the purpose of academic research after a declaration of confidentiality and a short description of the research project is provided.

Table 1: Access rights by type of user

| | GDP, main aggregates, analytical categories PPP, PLI, volume index and weights | Basic heading PPP, PLI, volume index and weights | average prices | individual price observations |
|---|---|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| Eurostat | Yes | yes | yes | yes |
| OECD (Statistics Directorate) | Yes | yes | yes | no |
| NSIs | Yes | yes | yes | no |
| ICP Global Office (2011 ICP) | Yes | for the purpose of linking Eurostat comparison into the ICP, no publication | global core list only - for the purpose of linking Eurostat comparison into the ICP, no publication | no |
| Other Commission services, Government departments of the Participating Countries in the ECP, other OECD Directorates | Yes | special access rights, no publication | special access rights, no publication* | no |
| Scientific institutes, researchers | Yes | special access rights, no publication | special access rights, no publication* | no |
| The public | Yes | no | no | no |

* Only for Eurostat results

Note that in columns "average prices" and "individual price observations" are mentioned in particular as regards to consumer goods price surveys. While for other price surveys, such as capital goods surveys:

- for equipment goods, there is no distinction between average prices and individual price observations as only one price per product is reported. All prices are therefore to be seen as confidential and thus not available under the special access rights procedure. Many of the collected prices are probably reported to NSIs on a confidential basis.
- for construction, similarly, individual project prices are to be seen as confidential and not available under the special access rights procedure.

3. PROPOSED ICP PUBLICATION LEVEL⁷

One of the ICP objectives is to make progress on the enhanced access policies and to extend the publication of the ICP results to include more levels of detail, such as groups and classes, where applicable. Thus it was proposed to extend the publication level from 26 headings in the 2011 ICP to 48 headings, as shown in **Table 2**.

As explained in 1.3. Eurostat and OECD are publishing their respective results at a level of detail, covering 61 and 50 headings respectively. Majority of categories proposed by ICP are already published in both databases (41 and 43 respectively out of 48 propose). However, any inclusion of additional aggregates needs to be reviewed and communicated with the countries.

Table 2: Analytical categories for Eurostat and OECD

| Eurostat | OECD | Analytical category- proposed ICP publication level | Note |
|-----------------|-------------|--|--------------------|
| 1 | 1 | Gross domestic product | |
| 2 | 2 | Actual individual consumption | |
| 3 | 3 | Food and non-alcoholic beverages | |
| 4 | 4 | Food | |
| 5 | 5 | Bread and cereals | |
| 6 | 6 | Meat | |
| 7 | 7 | Fish | |
| 8 | 8 | Milk, cheese and eggs | |
| 9 | 9 | Oils and fats | |
| 10 | 10 | Fruits, vegetables and potatoes | |
| 11 | 11 | Other food | |
| 12 | 12 | Non-alcoholic beverages | |
| 13 | 13 | Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics | |
| 14 | 14 | Alcoholic beverages | |
| 15 | 15 | Tobacco | |
| 16 | 16 | Clothing and footwear | |
| 17 | | Clothing | PPPs and PLIs only |
| 18 | | Footwear | PPPs and PLIs only |
| 19 | 17 | Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels | |
| 20 | | Electricity, gas and other fuels | PPPs and PLIs only |
| 21 | 18 | Household furnishings, equipment and maintenance | |
| 22 | | Furniture | PPPs and PLIs only |
| 23 | | Household appliances | PPPs and PLIs only |
| 24 | 19 | Health | |
| 25 | 20 | Hospital services | PPPs and PLIs only |
| 26 | 21 | Transport | |

⁷ See ICP document ICP Data Access and Archiving Policy.docx, August 2017

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|-----------------|-------------|---|---|
| 27 | 22 | Personal transport equipment | |
| 28 | | Transport services | PPPs and PLIs only |
| 29 | 23 | Communication | |
| 30 | 24 | Recreation and culture | |
| 31 | | Audio-visual, photographic and info. processing equipment | PPPs and PLIs only |
| 32 | 25 | Education | |
| 33 | 26 | Restaurants and hotels | |
| 34 | 27 | Miscellaneous goods and services | |
| | 28 | Net purchases abroad | Nominal data only and no indices |
| 35 | 29 | Actual collective consumption | |
| Eurostat | OECD | Analytical category- proposed ICP publication level | Note |
| 36 | 30 | Gross fixed capital formation | |
| 37 | 31 | Machinery and equipment | |
| 38 | | Metal products and equipment (excluding electrical and optical) | PPPs and PLIs only |
| 39 | | Electrical and optical equipment | PPPs and PLIs only |
| 40 | | Transport equipment | PPPs and PLIs only |
| 41 | 32 | Construction | |
| 42 | | Residential buildings | PPPs and PLIs only |
| 43 | | Non-residential buildings | PPPs and PLIs only |
| 44 | | Civil engineering works | PPPs and PLIs only |
| 45 | | Software | PPPs and PLIs only |
| | 33 | Changes in inventories and valuables | Nominal data only and no indices |
| | 34 | Balance of exports and imports | Nominal data only and, no indices, PPPs |
| 46 | 35 | Final consumption expenditure | |
| 47 | 36 | Household final consumption expenditure | |
| 48 | 37 | Government final consumption expenditure: | |
| 49 | 38 | Collective consumption expenditure | |
| 50 | 39 | Individual consumption expenditure | |
| 51 | 40 | Total goods | |
| 52 | 41 | Consumer goods: | |
| 53 | 42 | Non-durable goods | |
| 54 | 43 | Semi-durable goods | |
| 55 | 44 | Durable goods | |
| 56 | 45 | Capital goods | |
| 57 | 46 | Total services | |
| 58 | 47 | Consumer services | |
| 59 | 48 | Government services: | |
| 60 | 49 | Collective services | |
| 61 | 50 | Individual services | |