STATISTICS AND DATA DIRECTORATE
COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS AND STATISTICAL POLICY

Working Party on National Accounts

Meeting on the Measurement of Prices and Volumes in a Digitalised World

Draft Annotated Agenda

2-3 July 2019, OECD Conference Centre, Paris

The draft Agenda has been further revised to take into account updated information on Items 3 and 5.

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Tuesday 2 July 2019 (14:00 - 17:00)

Item 1. Welcome, background and goals for the meeting (14:00 - 14:15)
Paul SCHREYER (OECD)

Item 2. Digitalisation and implicit price deflators in national accounts: How price changes may affect volume estimates (14:15 - 15:00)

This session will present some implicit price deflators used in compiling current national account aggregates. By creating implicit deflators for products impacted by digitalisation and comparing these across countries and industries, it can provide information on where different methodologies of measuring price changes may be affecting the volume estimates observed in the national accounts.

Item 2.a. Cross-country comparisons of national accounts price deflators likely impacted by digitalisation
John MITCHELL or Jorrit ZWIJNENBURG (OECD)

Coffee break (15:00 - 15:30)
Item 3. E-commerce and CPI measurement (15:30 - 17:00)
Chair: Erich STRASSNER (BEA)

The increasing share of e-commerce in household consumption creates challenges and opportunities for CPI measurement. This session will discuss how online and offline prices compare to each other, how to adjust for quality differences between products available online and in traditional stores, and how to include online prices in CPI compilations. It will start with a review of the empirical literature, followed by a discussion of the Canadian, French and Belgian experiences.

Item 3.a. E-commerce and CPI measurement: Overview of challenges and opportunities
Pierre-Alain PIONNIER (OECD)

Item 3.b. Pricing dynamics and levels of online and in-store prices in Canada
Daniela RAVINDRA (Statcan)

Item 3.c. Distinguishing price and quality effects for electronic goods: How information collected online can help estimate hedonic models
Jean-Daniel ZAFAR (INSEE, France)

Wednesday 3 July 2019 (9:00 - 17:15)

Item 4. Collection of prices on web platforms (9:00 - 11:00)
Chair: Richard HEYS (ONS)

Web platforms provide new ways to purchase goods and services, and new data sources for the measurement of prices. This session will discuss how web platforms can be used to measure the prices of accommodation services, video games and fuels.

Item 4.a. Web-scraped data on prices of paid residential accommodation in Tokyo
Yuko UENO (Cabinet Office, Japan)

Item 4.b. Measuring prices and volumes for the game industry: The Finnish experience
Susanna TAG (Statistics Finland)

Item 4.c. Measuring price change for motor fuel using web collected data
Anya STOCKBURGER (BLS)

Coffee break (11:00 - 11:30)
Item 5. Price and volume measurement of telecommunication services (11:30 - 12:30 / 14:00 -15:00)
Chair: Paul KONIJN (Eurostat)

Rapid technological change and the fact that telecommunication devices and services are often sold in bundles make it difficult to measure prices and volumes of telecommunication services. This session will discuss the Canadian, US and British experiences in this area.

Item 5.a. Disentangling the prices of smartphones and of related services: The Canadian experience
Daniela RAVINDRA (Statcan)

Item 5.b. Disentangling cell phone spending from cellular telephone services
Ana AIZCORBE (BEA)

Item 5.c. CPI Telecommunications: US experience improving the measurement and quality adjustment of smartphones and telecommunication services
Anyia STOCKBURGER (BLS)

Lunch break (12:30 – 14:00)

Item 5.d. Telecom deflators: A story of volume and revenue weights (title tbc)
Richard HEYS (ONS, UK)

Item 5.e. Telecom deflators: Combination of the services producer price index and the harmonised index of consumer prices
Ildikö Holocsy (KSH)

Coffee break (15:00 – 15:30)

Item 6. Panel discussion (15:30 - 17:00)
Chair: Peter VAN DE VEN
Participants: Paul SCHREYER (OECD), Paul KONIJN (Eurostat), Ana AIZCORBE (BEA), Yuko UENO (Cabinet Office, Japan), Michael MACHUENE MANAMELA (Statistics South Africa)

This panel will discuss how to organise the dialogue between national accountants and price statisticians for the measurement of prices and volumes in a digitalised world, what should be the priorities for the research agenda, and where methodologies need to be harmonised across countries.

Item 7. Conclusions and wrap-up (17:00 - 17:15)