



**An
Phríomh-Oifig
Staidrimh**

Central
Statistics
Office

Standard SIMS Report: Wholesale Price Index



Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS) Report

For

Wholesale Price Index

This documentation applies to the reporting period:
2022

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2. Introduction

Wholesale Price Indices are a collection of Producer and Wholesale Prices for calculation of indices published in a monthly release. The indices are used as a short-term indicator of the business cycle. Some of these indices are required as deflator of industrial production by National Accounts. Some indices are used for contractual purposes in the construction industry.

The principal subject area is the measurement of producer prices and wholesale prices for goods.

3. Contact

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4. Metadata Update

4.1. Metadata last certified

05/10/2022

4.2. Metadata last posted

05/10/2022

4.3. Metadata last update

05/10/2022



5. Statistical Presentation

5.1. Data Description

The Wholesale Price Index release, which is produced on monthly basis by the CSO, contains 4 price indices:

- Industrial producer price index
- Wholesale price index for building and construction materials
- Wholesale price index for capital goods price index
- Wholesale price index for energy products

The industrial producer price index for a specific sector measures, in index form, changes in prices received by Irish manufacturers for goods fully or partially produced in Ireland or under contract abroad and sold to the home and export markets by that sector. The other three wholesale price index series incorporate imported and home-produced goods sold by manufacturers and wholesale outlets.

The percentage contribution of each sector to the overall percentage change is also published. The Wholesale Price Indices for Building and Construction Materials, Capital Goods Price Indices, and Wholesale Price Indices for Energy products incorporate imported and home-produced goods sold by manufacturers and wholesale outlets.

Nationally the total for both the domestic and non-domestic markets are published combined. The EU is provided with an additional breakdown of the domestic and non-domestic markets and in the case of the non-domestic market a breakdown of eurozone/non-eurozone is also provided

All constituent series are compiled using a Laspeyres type index formula. Identical items are priced each month so that changes in the cost of this constant basket reflect pure price changes only

5.2. Classification System

The classification used is NACE Rev 2.

5.3. Sector Coverage

Local Units in NACE Rev. 2 Divisions 05-35 (Sections B, C and D).

Data on NACE division E36 is currently not collected. The weight share of this division is currently below 0.5% of the total of sectors B, C, D and E36, and prices in E36 are generally stable. For this reason, the aggregate index covering sections B, C, D and E36 provided to Eurostat is based on the index for sections B, C and D.

5.4. Statistical Concepts and definitions

The producer price index covers products that are fully or partially manufactured in Ireland, or produced under contract abroad, and sold to the domestic and export market. The three wholesale price series incorporate imported and home produced goods sold by both manufacturers and wholesale outlets. These are approximately 7,000 price quotations taken each month across 1,500 commodity groupings.

Output prices include special taxes, transport costs, discounts and other reductions, and customs duties.

5.5. Statistical Unit

The sampling units are local units in the NACE Rev 2 groups listed in the Sector Coverage section. Within these local units, prices for a sample of products are collected.

The local unit is defined as an enterprise or part thereof (e.g. a workshop, factory, warehouse, office, mine or depot) situated in a geographically identified place. At or from this place economic activity is carried



out for which - save for certain exceptions - one or more persons work (even if only part-time) for one and the same enterprise.

5.6. Statistical Population

The statistical population is all local units whose main business activity is classified to one of the NACE Rev. 2 codes listed under Classification System. There were approximately 16,000 active enterprises in these sectors in the base year 2015.

5.7. Reference Area

The Republic of Ireland

5.8. Time Coverage

Data from the current series are available from January 2015 to 2022. Previous series are also available nationally as a data source since 1975.

5.9. Base period

2015=100

6. Unit of Measure

The following units are used:

- Index point
- Percentage change on the same period of the previous year;
- Percentage change on the previous period;
- Percentage share of the total.

7. Reference Period

2022

8. Institutional Mandate

8.1. Legal Acts and other agreements

The Wholesale Price Inquiry is a statutory statistical survey conducted each month under the provisions of the Statistics (Producer Prices Survey) Order 2019 (S.I. No. 566 of 2019) made under the Statistics Act, 1993. <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2019/si/566/made/en/print>

The survey is also conducted in compliance with Council Regulation (EC) No 1165/98 of 19 May 1998 concerning short-term statistics (Official Journal L 1 62, 05/06/1998) amended in 2005 by Regulation (EC) no 1158/2005 (Official Journal L191/1, 22/07/2005). and with EBS Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 on 27 November 2019 and the Commission implementing Regulation 2020/1197.

8.2. Data Sharing

Data is shared with Eurostat as provided for under the relevant European legislation.



9. Confidentiality

9.1. Confidentiality – policy

All information supplied to the CSO is treated as strictly confidential. The Statistics Act, 1993 sets stringent confidentiality standards: Information collected may be used only for statistical purposes, and no details that might be related to an identifiable person or business undertaking may be divulged to any other government department or body.

These national statistical confidentiality provisions are reinforced by the following EU legislation: Council Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics for data collected for EU statistical purposes. Further details are outlined in the CSO's Code of Practice on Statistical Confidentiality.

For more information on the CSO confidentiality policy please visit:
<https://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lgdp/csodatapolicies/statisticalconfidentiality/>

9.2. Confidentiality – data treatment

At national level, some confidential headings are aggregated with non-confidential headings to produce non-confidential aggregates, while others are treated by suppression.

For Eurostat transmissions, confidential data are treated by suppression.

10. Release Policy

10.1. Release Calendar

The date of dissemination of all statistics released by CSO can be found in the Release Calendar published in CSO.ie. This calendar is regularly updated.

10.2. Release calendar access

The release calendar can be accessed via the CSO website, www.cso.ie, or directly from this link:
<https://www.cso.ie/en/csolatestnews/releasecalendar/>

10.3. User access

In accordance with Principle 6 of the European Statistics Code of Practice all users of CSO statistics have equal access via the CSO website at the same time of 11 am. Any privileged pre-release access to any outside user is limited, controlled and publicised. In the event that leaks occur, pre-release arrangements are revised so as to ensure impartiality.

The CSO recognises that in very limited circumstances a business need for pre-release access may be substantiated. Any form of pre-release access is a privilege and a strict CSO pre-release access policy is adhered to for these special requests. The full pre-release access policy can be accessed at
<https://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lgdp/csodatapolicies/csopolicyonpre-releaseaccess/>

The various results are published nationally in statistical release format on the CSO website (www.cso.ie). Selected extracts from the results are posted on the CSO's data dissemination database at
<https://data.cso.ie/>

An email link to the statistical release or publication is issued to interested parties at 11.00 am. In addition, the full text of all releases and publications is made available on the CSO website at 11.00 am at
<https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/prices/wholesalepriceindex/>

Data are transmitted to Eurostat by SDMX after publication.



11. Frequency of Dissemination

Monthly.

12. Accessibility and clarity

12.1. News release

There is no news release associated with this publication.

12.2. Publications

The data is made available on the CSO website at 11am on the day of publication. The most recent releases can be found via this link: <https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/prices/wholesalepriceindex/>

A summary of the main findings is presented on the front page of the Wholesale Price Index release each month. Background notes on the indices are also included in each monthly release.

12.3. On-line database

Industrial Price Index (Excl VAT), Industrial Price Index, Wholesale Price Index (Excl VAT), Capital Goods Price Index & Wholesale Price Index, (Excl VAT) for Building and Construction Materials are accessible from the CSO dissemination database, PxStat, via this link <https://data.cso.ie/product/wpim>

12.3.1. AC1. Data tables – consultations

In the period 01/01/2021 to 02/11/2021 the Wholesale Price Index had 14,132 page views. Unique web-hits information is not available

12.4. Micro-data Access

A Producer Price Index Research Microdata File (RMF) is available to researchers subject to meeting criteria as set out in the Policy on access to Research Microdata Files. This link has further details: <https://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lqdp/csodatapolicies/dataforresearchers/rmfregister/>

12.5. Other

Data are sent to Eurostat to be used in European aggregates and/or to be released as national data.

Statistical Yearbook

<http://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/statisticalyearbookofireland/>

Eurostat - Statistics Explained

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Statistics_Explained

IMF – Quarterly Certification of Metadata

<http://dsbb.imf.org/Pages/SDDS/DOAFBase.aspx?ctycode=IRL&catcode=PPI00>

Eurostat (in respect of Industrial Producer Price Indices);

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/short-term-business-statistics/data/database>

12.5.1. AC2. Metadata consultations

Not calculated.



12.6. Documentation on Methodology

WPI Survey and Methodology information is available on the CSO website:

<https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/prices/wholesalepriceindex/>

<https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/prices/wholesalepriceindex/methodologydocumentation/>

Rebasing information is available at:

<https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/prices/wholesalepriceindex/rebaseinformation/>

The methodology of the current series is described in the document Wholesale Price Index: Introduction of Updated Series Base Year 2015=100 which was revised in December 2020:

https://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/methods/wholesalepriceindex/WPI_Revised_Introduction_to_Series_2015=100.pdf

12.6.1. AC3 – Metadata completeness – rate

Not Calculated

12.7. Quality Documentation

Further information on the quality of this release is available from the CSO methods page:

<https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/prices/wholesalepriceindex/>

IMF – Quarterly Certification of Metadata

<http://dsbb.imf.org/Pages/SDDS/DQAFBase.aspx?ctycode=IRL&catcode=PPI00>

Eurostat - Statistics Explained

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Statistics_Explained

13. Quality Management

13.1. Quality Assurance

Quality Management Framework

The CSO avails of an office wide Quality Management Framework (QMF). This framework allows all CSO processes and outputs to meet the required standard as set out in the European Statistics Code of Practice (ESCP). The QMF foundations are based on establishing the UNECE's Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) as the operating statistical production model to achieve a standardised approach to Quality Management. All and any changes implemented to CSO processes and outputs require adherence to the QMF.

13.2. Quality Assessment

The CSO conducts self-assessment reviews on all their published processes on an annual basis. The last iteration of this review identified that a detailed expert review was required for various aspects of the survey process including the sample design and the aggregation. Experts from the University of Southampton were contracted to carry out this review which is currently in progress. Once the review is complete, its recommendations will be used to improve the quality of the process going forward.

14. Relevance

14.1. User Needs

The indices are short term indicators used both nationally and by the EU.



The WPI is a general national requirement and is required to comply with European Union short term statistics regulations.

The industrial producer price index is used by Eurostat as a measure of short- and medium-term economic activity of the individual Member States of the EU and of the Union as a whole.

The indices are used by economists and expert users to evaluate and analyse developing price trends and as an indication of inflationary processes in the overall economy. These indices are used within the CSO for deflation purposes (constant prices).

The indices are also used in contracts by the building and construction industry as a measure of allowable price increases or decreases over the term of these contracts (i.e. elements of a contract price can be linked to the relevant index within the WPI).

14.1.1. Main National Users

- National Accounts Division, CSO.
- Monthly Industrial Production section, CSO.
- Agriculture Prices Section, CSO.
- Building and Construction Section, CSO.
- Researchers/Economists
- Government Departments and Agencies
- The General Public and Business
- Professional Bodies

14.1.2. Principal External Users

- Eurostat
- IMF

14.2. User Satisfaction

Not Measured

14.3. Data Completeness

All Eurostat requirements are met.

14.3.1. Data Completeness rate

100%

15. Accuracy and reliability

15.1. Overall accuracy

Due to the nature of the sample design, quality metrics like confidence intervals are not available for the industrial producer price index.

The main quality issue is ensuring that the sample of respondents and products remains representative in between base years. A canvass of companies is conducted periodically to increase overall coverage levels. Non respondents are routinely followed up.



15.2. Sampling Error

Due to the nature of the sample (sample of local units from the population of all local units, and non-probability sample of products within each local unit) the sampling error for the index has not been estimated.

15.2.1. A1. Sampling error indicator

Information on standard errors is not calculated as part of the aggregation process. The survey is designed to ensure that companies responsible for 50% gross output of a NACE sector. However as this reflects output in the base year it may not necessarily represent 50% of gross output in current year.

15.3. Non-sampling Error

The main sources of non-sampling error are explained in the following sections.

15.3.1. Coverage error

Percentage coverage within each NACE heading is estimated annually for domestic and export sales. PRODCOM data is compared with quotations to ensure that an enterprise's main products are included in the survey.

A canvass of companies is conducted periodically to increase overall coverage levels. Non respondents are routinely followed up. Overall target is to achieve greater than 50% coverage of the gross output of the NACE sector. Periodically, canvassing is used to ensure coverage and to keep the selection of products and companies up to date.

15.3.1.1. A2. Over coverage rate

Not calculated

15.3.1.2. A3. Common units – proportion

Not calculated.

15.3.2. Measurement error

An incorrect price may be keyed in error. A price increase/decrease of 3% or greater is flagged and checked with the company. Data is used for some articles such as wages which are based on regulatory agreements. This data may not reflect actual transactions.

15.3.3. Non-Response Error

Non-response error is minimised by following up with non-respondents using telephone or e-mail contacts.

Generally, if no price update is received for a month, the unchanged price is used in the calculation of the index.

15.3.3.1. Unit non-response rate

The unweighted unit response rate (proportion of local units responding) for the respondents in the Wholesale Prices Survey who provide data for Producer Price Indices during 2021 was 58.3%.

15.3.3.2. Item non-response rate

Not calculated.



15.3.4. Processing error

Data capture errors of ><3% are identified and investigated. Data editing is done until all price changes are accounted for. If there are issues with the coding of a new commodity then the company is consulted.

15.3.5. Model assumption error

The model assumes that where the price of a product is not obtained it remains unchanged. In the case of prices in a foreign currency denomination the price used in calculations is changed on the basis of change in exchange rates of the foreign currency. In some cases, even where market price remains the same, changes in currency exchange rates may result in actual price changes in the index. Weighting is based on the weights that pertained in the base year so may have changed considerably since base year.

16. Timeliness and punctuality

16.1. Timeliness

The release is published on or before the 22nd of the month for the previous month. It is considered definitive on publication.

16.1.1. TP1. Time lag – First results

Provisional results are not published for the Wholesale Price Index.

16.1.2. TP2. Time lag – Final results

Publication of results is on or before the 22nd of the month for the previous month. The data is sent to Eurostat on the day of publication.

16.2. Punctuality

The publication dates of all CSO releases are specified in the public release calendar available from CSO.ie. The 'Wholesale Price Index' release was disseminated in accordance with the date determined in the calendar.

16.2.1. TP3. Punctuality – Punctuality - delivery and publication

0 days, the release was delivered within the time frame specified in the release calendar.

17. Comparability

17.1. Comparability – Geographical

The Industrial Producer Price indices are produced in line with international standards as set out in the IMF Producer Price Index Manual

<https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/ppi/2010/manual/ppi.pdf>

Comparable indices are produced throughout the European Union and are available on Eurostat's website: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/short-term-business-statistics/data/database>

17.1.1. CC1. Asymmetry for mirror flow statistics

Not applicable



17.2. Comparability over time

The Wholesale Price Index has been recorded since 1938. Data is available from 1995 onwards at CSO's PxStat at <https://data.cso.ie/product/WPIM>. However, the latest CSO electronic release covers WPI from year 2015.

17.2.1. Length of Comparable Time series

7 years.

17.3. Coherence – cross domain

Consistency checks are done on a regular basis with the most recent PRODCOM results and Monthly Production results. Differences are verified and this can lead to improved quality. In certain instances comparison with other data sources such as Consumer Price Index and Trade are conducted.

17.3.1. Coherence – Sub annual and annual statistics

Not applicable

17.3.2. Coherence with National Accounts

Not applicable

17.4. Coherence – internal

Aggregates are consistent with their sub-aggregates.

18. Cost and Burden

Estimates of Cost and Burden can be obtained from the Response Burden Barometer <https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/multisectoral/responseburdenbarometer/>

Survey specific information is available via CSO's dissemination database PxStat. <https://data.cso.ie/product/RBB>

19. Data Revision

19.1. Data Revision Policy

Published statistics are subject to correction and revision for a variety of reasons. The most common reasons include the receipt of additional information (for example, late survey responses) and updated seasonal factors. Occasional revisions also occur as a result of changes to definitions, methodology, classifications and general updating of statistical series.

It is recognised internationally that the existence of a sound revisions policy maintains credibility in official statistics. The CSO General Revisions Policy, which details how revisions should be managed and communicated to users, outlines the three main types of revisions:

- Planned Routine Revisions
- Planned Major Revisions
- Unplanned Revisions.

One reason for unplanned revisions occurring can be when errors are detected after publication. The 'CSO Error Correction Policy – How to deal with Publication Errors' outlines the steps taken when these errors are detected. As required under Principle 6.3 of the European Statistics Code of Practice, errors detected in published statistics are corrected at the earliest possible date and users are informed. An important step in



the process is the documentation and analysis of errors that have occurred and their causes. This allows the CSO to take measures preventing similar errors from occurring in the future and uniformity in dealing with them when they do.

The data revision policy that CSO statistics adheres to can be found via the following link:
<https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/quality/treatmentofrevisions/>

19.2. Data Revision Practice

Results are generally not revised unless exceptional calculation errors are discovered. The same revision policy is applied nationally and in transmissions to Eurostat. No revision calendar exists. No benchmarking is done at the aggregate level.

The WPI 2015=100 series which includes the PPI was revised on 22/10/2020. See here for further information:

<https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/in/wpi/informationnote-wholesalepriceindexrevision2020/>

There have been no revisions to the PPI since then, up to the current date (October 2022).

19.2.1. Data Revision – Average size

The Mean Revision for these changes for the index B_C over the 48 months from January 2018 - December 2021 was 0.98.

The Mean Absolute Revision (MAR) for B_C for the same time period was 2.27.

The aggregate index B_C was used to compare the two versions, since this is the highest level aggregate available in the two versions. The old version did not include sector D. Neither version contains E36.

Note that no data was published under the old version from August - December 2021 and so the value of the revision for these 17 months is zero.

20. Statistical processing

20.1. Source Data

The primary data source is micro-data (i.e. prices) collected from individual enterprises or local units. In addition, regulatory information is used for such items as wages and salaries in construction.

The Electricity Index (NACE 351) is used as the basis for the Sector D Producer Price index. This is due to the small weight of NACE 352 compared to 351 in Sector D, and the strong relationship between gas and electricity prices, due to the use of gas in the production of electricity. NACE 353 has a negligible weight in the overall Sector D.

20.1.1. Population and sampling frame

Data collection is based on a sample survey using Central Business Register as the frame. Local units in NACE sectors B and C (Manufacturers and Wholesale Outlets) with 3 or more persons employed are in scope.

The producer price index covers products that are fully or partially manufactured in Ireland and sold to the domestic and export market, while the three wholesale price series incorporate imported and home produced goods sold by both manufacturers and wholesale outlets.



20.1.2. Sampling design

The sample includes a large selection of local units from each NACE heading. The sample size of the four series are as follows:

- industrial producer price indices classified by NACE Rev 2 – sample size of approximately 1,000 local units;
- wholesale price indices for building and construction materials – sample size of approximately 250 local units;
- wholesale price indices for capital goods – sample size of approximately 50 local units;
- wholesale price indices for energy products purchased by manufacturing industry – sample size of
- approximately 10 local units in addition to data sourced from the Single Electricity Market Operator (SEMO)

20.1.3. Survey size

Each month approximately 7,000 price quotations taken each month across 1,500 commodity groupings. provided by a panel of approximately 1,200 respondent firms.

20.1.4. Survey technique

Data is collected by postal questionnaire, email, price lists, telephone and electronic questionnaire.

20.2. Frequency of data collection

The survey is carried out monthly with information collected referring to the 15th of each month.

20.3. Data Collection

A canvas form is issued to respondents when they are first selected into the sample. On this survey form, they are asked to self-select a sample of their most important products. In subsequent months, they are sent a survey form requesting up-to-date prices for this product sample. The sample of local units and products is updated on an ongoing basis.

For Sector D, wholesale price of electricity on the Integrated Single Electricity Market for Ireland and Northern Ireland is used for NACE 351.

The wholesale price of electricity is comprised of a number of components:

- the Single Market Price or SMP (the energy component of the price)
- Capacity Charges.
- Imperfection Charges = the costs of deviations between the market schedule and dispatch, uninstructed imbalances, etc.
- Market Operator Charges

Up until December 2018, the electricity index for this series (2015=100) is based on the above data which is sourced from the Single Electricity Market Operator's (SEMO) website <http://www.sem-o.com>. The Day Ahead price is used as the wholesale electricity price, since it accounts for over 90% of the market and is the most accurate representation of the wholesale energy price. It should be noted that the remaining electricity charges which make up the retail price such as, Transmission, Distribution, the CER's levy and other supply company charges are not included.

SEMO launched a new market on October 1st 2018 and this required changes to the calculation of the CSO's electricity index. From January 2019 onwards, only the Day Ahead Single Market Price was used in the index, and the Pass Through costs for Generation (i.e. Capacity Payments, Market Operators Costs and Imperfection Changes) were not included.



20.3.1. Type of Survey/Process

The survey is a sample survey of enterprises. The survey is primarily an electronic survey however data is also collected via:

- Paper forms,
- E-mail,
- Price lists and
- Telephone.

20.3.2. Questionnaire (including explanations)

The price sought is the price invoiced to customers for an item on the 15th day of the month (i.e. mid-month).

The paper Wholesale Price Index - Inquiry Form can be accessed via the following link;

<https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/surveyforms/wholesalepriceindex/>

20.3.3. Survey Participation

There is a statutory obligation to provide the required data for those enterprises selected in the sample. Nonresponse is routinely followed up.

20.3.4. Data Capture

Data capture is by loading of electronic data returns into the CSO's Data Management System (DMS) or by direct data entry for non-electronic forms.

20.4. Data Validation

Edits compare values against previous returns (range checks). If differences exceed specified thresholds, an edit is raised. These are then analysed and records are corrected as appropriate.

During data entry any data that shows a 3% increase/decrease is automatically flagged and the price checked to ensure the cause of the increase/decrease is correct. Any erroneous prices are corrected.

The indices are checked during the calculation procedure at various levels. Any price changes of more than 20% are verified with the relevant company. Also, where NACE indices change more than 5% in the month, the product groups and prices causing the change are identified and verification/reason for the change is sought from the relevant companies.

20.5. Data Compilation

For information on the generation of the index please check the methodology documentation available at <https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/prices/wholesalepriceindex/methodologydocumentation/>

20.5.1. Imputation (for Non-Response or Incomplete Data Sets)

Generally, if no price update is received for a month, the unchanged price is used in the calculation of the index. Pricing procedures are strictly based on the principle that identical items must be priced by respondents on each occasion (i.e. matched basket approach). If discontinuities occur, such as an item becoming unavailable, respondents are asked to price a suitable replacement product. The relevant price is excluded from the index calculations until two consecutive monthly quotations are obtained for the substitute. Where replacement products are excluded from the month's calculations the price trend for all other products in that product group is taken as the price trend for the product excluded. Indirectly, by doing this, a valuation is put on any quality change. This is known as an indirect or implicit method of quality adjustment.



20.5.1.1. A7. Imputation rate

Not calculated.

20.5.2. Grossing and Weighting

Initial weightings used in the compilation of the index are taken from the Census of Industrial Production indices and are compiled for the domestic, non-domestic, and total market. This is not published at a NACE level but is provided to Eurostat.

The three-digit NACE sectoral weights used in the Industrial Producer Price Index are based on gross output figures as reported in the 2015 Census of Industrial Production. Price indices are published for major three-digit NACE sectors or appropriate two-digit groupings. At the three-digit NACE level these sectoral indices approximate closely to price indices for the commodities characteristic of these sectors since the compilations are based on local units for price reporting and weighting purposes. It is possible to derive indices at higher levels from combinations of two- and three-digit NACE sector indices. In this way overall producer price indices are derived and published.

Price indices are calculated for all Building and Construction Materials combined and 11 separate categories of materials. Home produced and imported commodities are covered. The weightings have been updated based on a dedicated survey of all trades undertaken by the CSO in 1998. This survey requested a breakdown of materials used by building, civil engineering and other trade firms. All firms with more than 20 employees and a sample of those with less than 20 employees were surveyed. The results have been cross-checked for consistency against Census of Building results regarding overall purchases of materials. For each of the commodity headings the monthly price relatives are derived as the simple arithmetic average of the monthly relatives for the constituent varieties surveyed.

An average of these commodity price relatives is taken to provide the published price indices using the Laspeyres index.

In the case of the Capital Goods Indices a distinction is made between

- (i) Transportable capital goods and
- (ii) Building and construction. Indices for Transportable capital goods are separately presented for three sectors, namely Agriculture, Industry and all other activity. For the industrial sector, separate indices are also provided for private vehicles and commercial vehicles. Equivalent indices for other specific capital goods items cannot be satisfactorily compiled since they have a high import content and it is generally not possible to price a sufficient number of identical products on a regular basis because of the infrequent and unique nature of most transactions. The Building and construction capital index is derived by combining a special hourly wage rate index for employees in the building and construction sector with the price index for Building and construction materials. The index for Energy Purchased by Manufacturing Industry is compiled using weights based on the costs of different types of fuels purchased by industrial establishments.

20.6. Adjustment

The data is not seasonally adjusted.

20.6.1. Seasonal Adjustment

Not applicable.

21. Comment

Since its introduction in 1938 the WPI has been updated a number of times:



(i) Index with base October 1938 as 100

The monthly General Wholesale Price Index was introduced in the Irish Trade Journal and Statistical Bulletin in June 1946 and was the first official index of wholesale prices compiled for the State. Weights for commodities were based on their exchange value (i.e. sales value) during 1936. Difficulties were experienced in establishing a base period due to abnormal production patterns during the 1939 to 1945 war years. Approximately 1,050 price quotations were used in all. Data was collected for both home produced and imported goods and indices were classified by 9 commodity groups.

(ii) Index with base 1953 as 100

The second series was introduced in the March 1955 issue of the Trade Journal and Statistical Bulletin. It was compiled for each month beginning with January 1954. The weights were based on 1950 Census of Industrial Production, external trade and agriculture output data. Approximately 2,380 price quotations were collected in all and indices were calculated and published for 12 commodity groups. As opposed to the “exchange” principle previously used, an “Economic Flow” principle was then adopted in the development of weights and commodity groups. Under this system transactions between members of the same sector were ignored – i.e. only transactions external to the sector were used in the index calculation.

(iii) Index with base 1975 as 100

A major canvassing operation preceded the introduction of the third wholesale price index series which was introduced in the March 1978 issue of the Irish Statistical Bulletin. The number of price quotations had increased to 3,300 and the number of sectors for which indices were published was expanded from 12 to 24. A number of major changes were made to the structure of the index. The NACE1 70 classification system was adopted, and the main thrust of data collection was now the collection of output prices for Irish Manufacturers. The published data focused more on the “Output of Manufacturing Industry” as opposed to the General Wholesale Price Index (although this index was retained). New tables for Building and Construction Materials and Capital Goods Price Indices were introduced. Much of the formatting and methodology introduced in this series has been retained up to the current series.

(iv) Index with base 1985 as 100

The fourth series was introduced in September 1989. Weights for industrial producer price indices were based on 1985 Census of Industrial Production figures. Canvassing to improve coverage was again a major feature of the updating program and at this point in excess of 4,000 price quotations were being collected. The methodology and format of the 1975=100 series were retained. By this time a new table for Energy Products Purchased by Manufacturing Industry had been introduced.

(v) Index with base 1995 as 100

This series was introduced in March 2002 with the publication of the January 2002 index. This series incorporated a number of technical changes as well as an updating of weights, sample of companies surveyed and products priced. The coding for the producer price indices was updated from NACE 70 to NACE Rev.1. The EU Prodcom coding system was introduced for commodity groupings. The weights were updated to 1995 levels from a number of sources, notably the 1995 Census of Industrial Production, 1995 Prodcom Inquiry and National Accounts data.

(vi) Index with base 2000 as 100

This series was introduced in March 2003 with the publication of the January 2003 index. This series incorporated a number of technical changes as well as an updating of weights, sample of companies surveyed and products priced.

The coding for the producer price indices was updated from NACE Rev.1 to NACE Rev.1.1. The weights were updated to 2000 levels from a number of sources, notably the 2000 Census of Industrial Production, 2000 Prodcom Inquiry and National Accounts data.

(vii) Index with base 2005 as 100

This series was introduced in June 2010 with the publication of the April 2010 index. This series incorporated a number of technical changes as well as an updating of weights, sample of companies surveyed and products priced. The coding for the producer price indices was updated from NACE Rev.1.1 to NACE Rev.2. The weights were updated to 2005 levels from a number of sources, notably the 2005 Census



of Industrial Production, 2005 Prodcum Inquiry and National Accounts data. 1 Statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community.

(vii) Index with base 2010 as 100

This series was introduced in October 2013. It incorporated a number of technical changes as well as an updating of weights. The weights were updated to 2010 levels primarily from the 2010 Census of Industrial Production, 2010 Prodcum Inquiry and National Accounts Data. The change in base year from 2005 to 2010 (particularly with reference to the Producer Price Index series in tables 1 and 2) is required under EU regulations governing short term statistics. The WPI is currently at base year 2015 equals 100. This series was introduced in March 2018. It incorporated a number of technical changes as well as an updating of weights. The weights were updated to 2015 levels primarily from the 2015 Census of Industrial Production. The change in base year from 2010 to 2015 (particularly with reference to the Producer Price Index series in tables 1) and 2) is required under EU regulations governing short term statistics.