



**An  
Phríomh-Oifig  
Staidrimh**

Central  
Statistics  
Office

# **Standard SIMS Report: Services Producer Prices Index**



# **Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS) Report**

## **For**

# **Services Producer Prices Index**

This documentation applies to the reporting period:  
**2022**

Last edited: 27/09/2022



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## 2. Introduction

Services producer price indices are intended to trace price movements that reflect the supply and demand conditions in the service markets with a view to facilitate the analysis of macro-economic conditions and to monitor inflationary pressures. They are also used as deflators in national accounts to convert the value of service output into volume measures. Volume measures of service output of various periodicities are essential for economic analysis. Producer price indices for services are also useful to the business community in evaluating particular markets.

## 3. Contact

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## 4. Metadata Update

### 4.1. Metadata last certified

15/11/2022

### 4.2. Metadata last posted

15/11/2022

### 4.3. Metadata last update

27/09/2022



## 5. Statistical Presentation

### 5.1. Data Description

The Service Producer Price Index (SPPI) is made up of a set of individual price indices that measure changes in the average level of prices charged by producers for a selected range of services supplied to businesses and government. In most cases these services are provided to business customers only and so individual price indices should not be considered indicative of more general price trends in the economy.

The index covers transaction costs from business to business and excludes consumers who are covered in the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

The individual price indices are aggregated together to create a “services industry” index that is limited in coverage. The underlying data in the Services Producer Price Indices releases are based on CSO surveys.

The SPPI is experimental, under development and may be subject to methodological improvement. Figures should therefore be treated as provisional and subject to revision. The index is published to engage users in the ongoing development of the methodology.

### 5.2. Classification System

The business activity classifications used in this Statistical release are based on the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community i.e. Nace Rev 2. The descriptions of particular NACE Rev 2 sectors are shown in abbreviated form in the release. For further information on the NACE Rev 2 classifications, visit the Eurostat NACE coder at:

[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/nomenclatures/index.cfm?TargetUrl=LST\\_NOM\\_DTL&StrNom=NACE\\_REV2&StrLanguageCode=EN&IntPcKey=&StrLayoutCode=HIERARCHIC&CFID=1110191&CFTOKEN=3ca0f6dadb71d377-1F2DE4F0-F7BF-BCAE-31C18C386EA88F92&jsessionid=f900daad75c14b465532m](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/nomenclatures/index.cfm?TargetUrl=LST_NOM_DTL&StrNom=NACE_REV2&StrLanguageCode=EN&IntPcKey=&StrLayoutCode=HIERARCHIC&CFID=1110191&CFTOKEN=3ca0f6dadb71d377-1F2DE4F0-F7BF-BCAE-31C18C386EA88F92&jsessionid=f900daad75c14b465532m)

### 5.3. Sector Coverage

The services producer price index covers a limited range of service industries as set by the European Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) No 2152/2019 (consolidated).

The following industries are selected (based on the NACE Rev 2 Classification):

<b>H</b>	<b>Transportation &amp; Storage</b>
49.4	Freight transport by road and removal services
50.1/50.2	Sea and coastal transport
51	Air transport
52.1/52.24	Warehousing, storage and cargo handling
53.1/53.2	Postal and courier activities
<b>J</b>	<b>Information &amp; Communication</b>
62	Computer programming and consultancy
<b>M</b>	<b>Professional, Scientific &amp; Technical Activities</b>
69.1/69.2/70.2	Legal, accounting, public relations and business management and consultancy
71.1/71.2	Architecture, engineering and technical testing
73.1/73.2	Advertising, media representation and market research
<b>N</b>	<b>Administrative and Support Services Activities</b>
78	Employment activities
80	Security and investigation activities
81.2	Industrial and building Cleaning



At present the quality of indices for the telecommunications (61) and information service activities (63) are deemed insufficient for publication.

The published index accounts for approximately 43% of the total value of the traded services sector, excluding Wholesale and Retail Trade, when measured by sales.

## **5.4. Statistical Concepts and definitions**

The Services Producer Price Index is an indicator the prices of services delivered by resident business service providers to economic units or persons representing economic units.

## **5.5. Statistical Unit**

Enterprise

## **5.6. Statistical Population**

All Enterprises wholly or primarily engaged in distribution and services whose main business activity is classified to one of the NACE Rev. 2 codes listed in 'sector coverage'.

## **5.7. Reference Area**

Irish State.

## **5.8. Time Coverage**

2015-2022.

## **5.9. Base period**

The base year is 2015 = 100

## **6. Unit of Measure**

Index

## **7. Reference Period**

Quarter 2 2022

## **8. Institutional Mandate**

### **8.1. Legal Acts and other agreements**

The prices aspect of the survey is conducted under S.I. No. 566/2019 - Statistics (Producer Prices Survey) Order 2019 made under the Statistics Act 1993.

At European level the survey is conducted under Council Regulation (EC) No. **2152/2019** of 27 November 2019 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).

The turnover aspect isn't covered by the above legal basis; however, it is necessary for determining the overall importance of each product group in the sector.



## 8.2. Data Sharing

Not applicable.

## 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

All data from respondents are treated as strictly confidential in accordance with the Statistics Act 1993. Confidentiality is not an issue due to the level of aggregation in the release.

The Office may provide, for statistical purposes only, information obtained in any way under this Act or the repealed enactments, in such form that it cannot be directly or indirectly related to an identifiable person or undertaking, to such persons and subject to such charges, conditions and restrictions as the Director General may determine.

## 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](http://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 as well as on the CSO website ([www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie)). Selected extracts from the results are posted on the CSO's data dissemination database, PxStat.

There is no advance dissemination to data users. Results are released via the CSO website at 11.00am on the day of publication. No prior access is granted. Data is transmitted to Eurostat on or just before the day of national release in SDMX format using eDamis.

## 11. Frequency of Dissemination

Quarterly

## 12. Accessibility and clarity

### 12.1. News release

There is no press statement associated with the release

### 12.2. Publications

The Service Producer Price Index is disseminated in Electronic Release format. The release can be accessed on the CSO website directly from this link: <https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-sppi/servicesproducerpriceindexquarter12022/>

### 12.3. On-line database

Final data are available on the CSO's online database PxStat the tables can be accessed directly from the following link:

<https://data.cso.ie/product/SPPI>

#### 12.3.1. AC 1. Data tables - consultations

Consultations are calculated retrospectively annually; data in relation to this release is not yet available. During the period 1/1/2021 to 2/11/2021 the releases for the year were accessed a total of 1135 times. 1127 of those were unique page views.

### 12.4. Micro-data Access

Anonymised macro aggregated survey information may be provided to government departments, approved organisations and approved researchers for statistical purposes only.

### 12.5. Other

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

#### 12.5.1. AC2. Metadata consultations

Not calculated.

### 12.6. Documentation on Methodology

Background Notes and Quality Reports are available on the CSO website at:

<https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-sppi/servicesproducerpriceindexquarter22022/backgroundnotes/>



Redevelopment of Services Producer Prices Index notice is available at:

<https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/prices/servicesproducerpriceindex/servicesproducerpricesredevelopment-informationpage/>

Methodological information on SPPI's is available from the Eurostat OECD Methodological guide for developing producer price indices for services which can be viewed at:

<http://www.oecd.org/std/prices-ppp/eurostat-oecd-methodological-guide-for-developing-producer-price-indices-for-services-9789264220676-en.htm>

Additional methodological information can be found on the website of the Voorburg Group on Services Statistics at: <https://www.voorburggroup.org/>.

Methodological information on Short Term Statistics can be found

at: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/1916593/1917176/KS-BG-06-001-EN.pdf/973bf1c8-e598-4228-9d18-2f7704a95e45>

#### **12.6.1. AC3 – Metadata completeness – rate**

Not calculated.

### **12.7. Quality Documentation**

Further information regarding the quality of the Services Producer Price Index can be found in the CSO's

Methods page directly from this link: <https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/prices/servicesproducerpriceindex/>

## **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 (ESCoP). 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**

A review of the SPPI process is currently underway as part of a redevelopment which will extend to coverage of the SPPI to meet the new EBS requirements. The review covers all aspects of the SPPI survey, including sample design, respondent management, aggregation, imputation etc. The redevelopment webpage can be viewed here:

<https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/prices/servicesproducerpriceindex/servicesproducerpricesredevelopment-informationpage/>

## **14. Relevance**

### **14.1. User Needs**

There are two main uses of SPPI: as a short-term indicator of the business cycle and to provide deflators for National Accounts.



Results are used by Eurostat and help to compare developments in Ireland with other EU Member States.

#### **14.1.1. Main National Users**

- CSO's National Accounts
- General Public

#### **14.1.2. Principal External Users**

- Eurostat

### **14.2. User Satisfaction**

Not measured.

### **14.3. Data Completeness**

Indices have been developed for all sectors specified in the Short-Term Statistics Regulation (EC) No 1165/1998, At present the quality of indices for the telecommunications (61) and information service activities (63) are deemed insufficient for publication. Indices for all other sectors specified in the Short-Term Statistics Regulation are transmitted to Eurostat quarterly.

#### **14.3.1. Data Completeness rate**

Not calculated.

## **15. Accuracy and reliability**

### **15.1. Overall accuracy**

CSO has not estimated the accuracy of the service producer price index.

### **15.2. Sampling Error**

Sampling error for the index has not been estimated.

#### **15.2.1. A1. Sampling error indicator**

Not calculated.

### **15.3. Non-sampling Error**

There is very little non-sampling error due to non-response or processing errors. The amount of error in the data returned by the surveyed enterprises has not been estimated.

#### **15.3.1. Coverage error**

Not calculated.

##### **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**

As the questionnaire is straight forward and the data required is easily available there is a low risk of measurement errors.

#### **15.3.3. Non-Response Error**

A matched sample of respondents is used each quarter and in general the respondents reply either by post, email or by follow-up telephone calls.

##### **15.3.3.1. Unit non-response rate**

The unweighted mean response rate for the 4 quarters of 2021 was 76%.

##### **15.3.3.2. Item non-response rate**

Not calculated.

#### **15.3.4. Processing error**

Data is keyed and then checked by someone else. Then edits are run.

#### **15.3.5. Model assumption error**

Weighting is based on the weights that pertained in the base year so may have changed since the base year.

## **16. Timeliness and punctuality**

### **16.1. Timeliness**

#### **16.1.1. TP1. Time lag – First results**

The quarterly results are published at or before T + 84 days

#### **16.1.2. TP2. Time lag – Final results**

Quarterly data is sent to Eurostat 3 months after reference quarter.  
The annual data is included in the Quarter 1.

### **16.2. Punctuality**

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

#### **16.2.1. TP3. Punctuality – Punctuality - delivery and publication**

The statistics were released in accordance with the dates set out on the CSO Release Calendar. The national quarterly release was published on 15 September 2022



## 17. Comparability

### 17.1. Comparability – Geographical

It is possible to compare the Irish indices with those of other European countries using the Nace Rev. 2 industry classification system, however this activity is not carried out at national level.

#### 17.1.1. CCI. Asymmetry for mirror flow statistics

Not applicable at national level.

### 17.2. Comparability over time

Data are available from the first quarter of 2006 onwards and data has been fully comparable since.

#### 17.2.1. Length of Comparable Time series

16 years.

### 17.3. Coherence – cross domain

It would be possible to compare indices in some industries with the equivalent industries in the Consumer Price Index. But the results should be somewhat different as the SPPI is for business-to-business prices only.

#### 17.3.1. Coherence – Sub annual and annual statistics

CSO Consumer Price Index is used in the compilation of Services Producer Prices Index

#### 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/methods/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**

Revisions are rare but if occur are included in the next release.

### **19.2.1. Data Revision – Average size**

Not calculated.

## **20. Statistical processing**

### **20.1. Source Data**

There are two main sources of data used for the compilation of the SPPI: the CSO SPPI Survey and the CSO Consumer Price Index, which provides the air transport index.

#### **20.1.1. Population and sampling frame**

The survey population is all businesses where the prices they receive for the services offered. It is not possible to survey all businesses; therefore a sample survey of businesses is used.

The frame on which the sample was based was the CSO Business Register.

#### **20.1.2. Sampling design**

For the sample survey a sample of businesses is selected, and this sample is used until the next base year.

Enterprises are selected from the CSO's business register on a probability by size basis. This means a larger enterprise has more chance of being selected than a small enterprise. This is due to the influence a larger enterprise may have on the sector as well as ensuring there isn't too much burden placed on the small enterprises. The SPPI survey will also implement sample rotation after a number of years where possible.

#### **20.1.3. Survey size**

Approximately 200 enterprises are surveyed by post each quarter.



#### **20.1.4. Survey technique**

Data are collected electronically. Email and telephone calls are used to seek the return of forms from non-respondents.

The sampled enterprises are asked to update price observations for a list of specific items they sell. These items were agreed with the enterprises during a canvassing stage. In some cases the enterprises specify the hourly rate for a particular type of employee. The surveyed enterprises return a total of approximately 1200 such price observations.

All indices in the series are based on price observations collected on a quarterly basis, using either the average price per quarter or the price on the 15th of the middle month of the reference period.

Prices used in the compilation of these indices are:

- Exclusive of VAT
- Inclusive of surcharges (such as for fuel)
- The Air Transport index is constructed using data collected by the Consumer Price Section.
- The Employment and Human Resource Activities index is constructed using a combination of survey data and data from the Earnings, Hours and Employment Cost Survey.

### **20.2. Frequency of data collection**

Quarterly.

### **20.3. Data Collection**

Data is collected electronically.

#### **20.3.1. Type of Survey/Process**

Services Producer Price Indices are compiled using survey data. Data is received from a sample of respondents by post, phone and email.

#### **20.3.2. Questionnaire (including explanations)**

Businesses are asked to list the current quarter's prices for each of the products listed on the questionnaire.

#### **20.3.3. Survey Participation**

The survey is statutory.

#### **20.3.4. Data Capture**

Manual data entry into datasets.

### **20.4. Data Validation**

Data entered is verified by a supervisor. The edits are range edits comparing the prices with the corresponding prices of the previous quarter.

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. Micro and macro edit checks are carried out on survey data. Respondents are contacted to confirm the accuracy of their data where necessary.



## 20.5. Data Compilation

Prices are collected for all categories. VAT is excluded. Survey return data forms the majority of the price indices.

The movement of the SPPI is expressed as percentage change, rather than a change in index points, because index point changes are affected by the level of the index in relation to its base period, whereas percentage changes are not.

The example below illustrates the computation of a percentage change

Percentage Change Calculation	
Current Index	102.6
Less Previous Index	103.7
Equals in index points	-1.1
Divided by the previous index	103.7
Equals	-0.0106
Results multiplied by 100	-0.0106*100
Equals percentage change	-1.1%

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

Imputation is not used.

#### 20.5.1.1. A7. Imputation rate

Not applicable.

### 20.5.2. Grossing and Weighting

Grossing is not applied in SPPI.

Weighting scheme is made up of three different weights. For the overall SPPI index, is weighted using the weight of each NACE code with weight data taken from the Annual Services Inquiry. Each NACE code is weighted by the size of company that operates within that NACE with weights taken from data from the Business Register. Finally, the weight of each product within the company is determined from a canvas of respondents.

## 20.6. Adjustment

Not applicable.

### 20.6.1. Seasonal Adjustment

Not applicable.

## 21. Comment