Lesotho

A: Identification

Title of the CPI: Consumer Price Index

Organisation responsible: Ministry of Finance and Bureau of Statistics.

Periodicity: Monthly

Index reference period: March 2010 = 100


Main uses of CPI: Indexation of wages, pensions and/or social security payment, indexation of rents, contracts and/or other payments, main inflation indicator used for monetary policy and computation of purchasing power of households.

B: CPI Coverage

Geographical Coverage

Weights: Nation-wide

Price collection: Nation-wide

Population coverage: Resident households of nationals.

Consumption expenditure includes:

- Housing maintenance, minor repairs;
- Financial services (including fees for financial advice, brokerage fees);
- Non-life insurance premiums (e.g. vehicle, housing, other property, medical), gross of claims;
- Life insurance premiums

C: Concepts, definitions, classifications and weights

Definition of the CPI and its objectives: The consumer price index is a measure of the change in the cost of a fixed basket of goods and services purchased by the private consumer, and it is the official measure of inflation in the country.

Classification: COICOP (Classification of individual consumption by purpose) with 12 divisions.

Sources of weights: Household expenditure surveys.

Frequency of weight updates: Every 3-5 years
D: Sample design

E: Data Collection

Approximate number of localities, outlets and price observations: Outlets: 780, Price observations: 15,000

Frequency with which prices are collected: Food and non-food items – monthly; Prices for water, electricity and telephone charges are collected on annual basis; Government health centers are visited once when there is a change in hospital fees; Schools are also visited once at the beginning of the year.

Reference period for data collection: The reference period for data collection on food and non-food items is the first week of every month while for water, electricity and telephone charges is January every year.

Methods of Price Collection

- Personal data collection
- Official tariffs

Treatment of:

Missing or faulty prices: The temporarily missing observation is imputed using the growth rate of the same item obtained from those outlets where the item is available.

Disappearance of a given type or quality from the market: Replacement is done for items which are permanently unavailable from the market. Replacement is made considering the item brands where possible, if not available; the weights are reallocated among the existing items.

Treatment of seasonal items and seasonality

Treatment of housing

F: Computation

Formula used for calculation of elementary indices: The ratio of geometric mean prices (Jevons index) (Chained form)

Formula to aggregate elementary indices to higher level indices: The modified Laspeyres index formula is used to aggregate the elementary indices into higher level indices.

G: Editing and validation procedures

H: Documentation and dissemination
**Timeliness of dissemination of the CPI data:** The monthly CPI is released on the 20th day of the month following the reference month.

**Level of detailed CPI published**

**Paper publication:** All items CPI, Division-level (12 Divisions), Group-level app. 40 groups

**Online:** All items CPI, Division-level (12 Divisions), Group-level app. 40 groups

**Documentation**

**Publications and websites where indices can be found:** BOS CPI Monthly Report available at [http://www.bos.gov.ls/](http://www.bos.gov.ls/)

**Publications and websites where methodological information can be found:** [http://www.bos.gov.ls/](http://www.bos.gov.ls/)

**I: Other Information**

Completed by ILO in 2013.