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QUALITY REPORT 2018

Purchasing power parities

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1. Introduction – Basic information about the survey

1.1 Purpose, goal and subject of the survey

Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) is an efficient mean in the cross-country comparisons of gross domestic product. Since it also includes the price influence, this is the best indicator of economic situation in one country. Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) are currency conversion rates that are applied in order to convert economic indicators from national currency to an artificial common currency - called the Purchasing Power Standard (PPS), which equalizes the purchasing power of different national currencies and enables meaningful volume comparison between countries.

The Purchasing Power Standard (PPS) is an artificial currency unit that eliminates price level differences between countries. Thus one PPS buys the same volume of goods and services in all countries. This unit allows meaningful volume comparison of economic indicators across countries. The greatest impact on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita measured by purchasing power standards has the size of GDP estimated by expenditure method, the level of consumer prices and population.

1.2 Legal basics

The Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 18/12) defines provisions for collection, processing, and dissemination of data. The Law provides to the Statistical Office clear and wide legal powers to collect and access the data necessary for the implementation of Programme and Annual Plan. The Law gives a priority to the use of administrative data and right of access to individual data that are a result of survey of other official statistical producers. As an annex to legal provisions, Statistical Office has signed several memoranda on cooperation with administrative data providers.

1.3 Statistical units

PPPs are calculated for each of the participant countries in European comparison program, for the EU as a whole, and for the euro area.

1.4 Coverage and scope of survey

1.4.1 Sectors

PPPs are calculated for GDP and its various sub-aggregates on the expenditure side of national accounts.

1.4.2 Statistical population

The expenditure side of national accounts, as defined in ESA 2010, defines the statistical population.

1.5 Referent geographical area

Eurostat is charge of the annual calculation and dissemination of PPPs for 37 European countries. This includes the 28 EU member states, 3 EFTA countries (Iceland, Norway and Switzerland), 5 candidate countries (Montenegro, Serbia, North Macedonia, Turkey, and Albania) and Bosnia and Herzegovina as a potential candidate. Each participating country collects a sufficient number of prices for each of the selected products and services, in order to ensure a reliable average price per product and service, taking into account the market structure in the country. Prices are collected in capital city in shops which are representative for a specific group of products and they represent national average prices.

1.6 Concepts and definitions

Purchasing power parities - PPPs are a means of converting national currencies into a common currency that equalizes the purchasing power of different national currencies.

This means that a certain amount of national currency is converted into another common currency by purchasing power parity, corresponding to the amount needed to purchase the same basket of goods and services in all countries.

In the simplest form, PPPs represent the ratio of the prices of certain products and services in national currencies between countries. Today we know that for the certain amount of money, for example, less goods can be bought, than we could buy for the same amount, month ago, of course, much less than a year or several years ago. Purchasing power of 1 euro is lower due to price increases. In other words, the same amount of purchasing power is reduced because the price level for the products and services we bought today, is higher than a few months, year or several years ago. In the simplest form, PPPs is the ratio of the prices of individual products and services in national currencies between countries.

1.7 Classifications

PPPs are produced in accordance with the final expenditure classification of the European Standard of Accounts (ESA '2010). PPPs are classified by type of final expenditure - actual individual consumption expenditure (AIC), actual collective consumption expenditure and capital expenditure - and, in the case of actual individual consumption expenditure, by purchaser - households, non-profit institutions serving households (NPISHs) and general government. The prices underlying the calculation of PPPs adhere to the definitions, concepts, classifications and accounting rules of ESA.

1.8 Frequency of data collection

Price collection is a continuous process and is carried out in the following way:

1. Household consumption - contains six surveys covering different parts of household consumption, carried out over a three-year cycle (two surveys per year).
 - I survey: Food, drink and tobacco;
 - II survey: Personal appearance;
 - III survey: House and garden;
 - IV survey: Transport, hotels and restaurants;
 - V survey: Services;
 - VI survey: Furniture and health.
2. Government consumption - Contains annual survey of the compensation of public sector employees, annual education database.
3. Gross fixed capital formation - Surveys of equipment goods are carried out every second year, while since 2010, construction survey is reported annually. Expenditure weights and auxiliary data are reported annually.

1.9 Frequency of data dissemination

The data are published twice a year.

1.10 Methodology

The latest version of the 'EUROSTAT-OECD Methodological manual on purchasing power parities' is available online: [PPP Methodology](#)

1.11 Base period

Not relevant.

1.12 Unit of measure

PPPs can be interpreted as the exchange rates of countries national currencies against the PPS. They express the number of currency units per PPS. Real expenditures are expenditures in national currency converted to PPS using PPPs. They are thus denominated in PPS.

PLIs and volume indices per capita are indices that, in Eurostat's database, use EU28, EU27 or EU15 as "base country" (EU28=100, EU27=100 or EU15=100, depending on the user's choice).

1.13 Source of data

For surveys conducted within the framework of consumer goods and services, data sources are: retail stores (mini-markets, supermarkets, kiosks, and specialty stores), entrepreneurs, public enterprises, internet, CPI, etc. Prices are collected in the capital and its surroundings. Prices are collected over a period of three years, within six separate surveys, two surveys per year.

Housing receives special treatment. In most of the countries, a survey of actual rentals is carried out annually. Depending on the data we have, there are two approaches used to compare rents and expenditures for this purpose: price approach and quantitative approach.

For investment goods and services two surveys are carried out. One survey for machinery and equipment (conducted once in two years) and one for construction (conducted annually). Prices for equipment goods are obtained from producers, importers, distributors or actual purchasers. Prices for construction are collected using a set of standard construction projects covering different types of buildings and civil engineering works.

1.14 Method of data collection

For the purposes of prices collecting MONSTAT engage interviewers (price collectors). Data are obtained in Podgorica, by visiting sales outlets. Price collectors from coordinators project receives, instruction concerning data collection, a detailed list of specified products and the list of representative stores where will be carried out prices collecting. Methods for price collecting are different and depend on the types of products or services (telephone interview, websites or special surveys). The price survey on construction projects is a special case, and required an external construction experts to conduct this survey and provide price estimates for the sample of construction projects. Same concerns the equipment goods survey. Data on rents and the compensation of employees are usually collected from sources that already exist at the institution or in other government agencies.

2. Relevance – Data users

2.1 User needs

International users:

- Eurostat,
- World Bank,
- UN organizations,
- International Monetary Fund

National users:

- Ministries and other public administration bodies,
- Local government and other local government bodies,
- Central bank,
- Non-governmental organizations,

- Students,
- Researchers,
- Media.

2.2 User satisfaction

The Statistical Office has adopted the Quality Management Strategy, the Guidebook to the Implementation of the Quality Management Strategy, as well as the Plan for the Implementation of the Quality Policy. In order to measure the degree to which fulfills obligations towards users and within the new quality policy, the Statistical Office conducted User satisfaction survey. Data collection was carried out through a web survey, in the period from 1 September to 20 October, 2017.

The results of the survey are available on the Statistical Office website, at the following link:

<http://www.monstat.org/userfiles/file/KVALITET/Izvestaj%20o%20zadovoljstvu%20korisnika%20eng.pdf>

3. Accuracy and reliability

3.1 Accuracy – Overall remark

The precision of PPPs increases with the level of aggregation. This means that the PPP at GDP level will be more reliable, or precise, than the PPP for final household consumption or gross capital formation. Similarly, the PPP for final household consumption will be more reliable than the PPP for "food and non-alcoholic beverages", or "clothing and footwear", the latter two being sub-aggregates of final household consumption.

3.2 Measurement error

Measurement errors are only possible in the phases of collecting or entering data by price collectors or by persons who enter the data. Questionnaires and methodological instructions were provided to price collectors and with regular interactive communication with them we are trying to minimize the errors. Possible recording and entry errors are corrected before calculating the average prices and consumer price indices, so subsequent revisions were not carried out.

3.3 Non-response error

Not available.

Unit non-response rate (A4)

Not available.

3.4 Seasonal adjustment

Not relevant.

3.5 Revision

3.5.1 Data revision policy

Statistical Office has adopted the revision policy and it is available at the following link: [Revision policy](#)
Revision of PPP data is defined by Eurostat's revision policy.

3.5.2 Data revision practice

In order to obtain the highest level of coherence with national accounts, in December 2016, after the introduction of ESA 2010, a complete series of PPP data was revised.

3.5.3 Data revision - average size (A6)

Not available.

4. Timeliness and punctuality

4.1 Timeliness

EUROSTAT publishes the results on PPP and GDP in PPS annually.

For the same reference year (t) both sets of the results are regularly produced and published four times:

- After t+6 months: First preliminary results, based on extrapolations from year t-1 and on the new data for year t that are available at that time;
- 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.

Time lag of the first results

reference period (t)	first preliminary results (t+6)	preliminary results (t+12)	Revised, preliminary results (t+24)
2018	Jun-2019	Dec-2019	Dec-2020

Time lag of the final results

reference period (t)	final results (t+36)
2018	Dec-2021

4.2 Punctuality

PPPs are always published in June and December in accordance with the Statistical Release Calendar of MONSTAT for 2018 which is in line with EUROSTAT release calendar.

5. Availability and clarity

5.1 Data Release Calendar

The Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 18/12) stipulates that official statistical producers prepare, update, and publish Statistical Release Calendar. It is published on the website of Statistical Office not later than 20 December for the next year, for all official statistical producers that includes date of releasing statistical data. Any change in date of releasing in the Calendar is published in advance in accordance with the Procedure on Unplanned Revisions.

5.2 Access to data release calendar

[Statistical Release Calendar](#)

5.3 Release

EUROSTAT publishes two annual releases in June and December each year:

Gross Domestic Product and Actual Individual Consumption per capita in PPS and Price Level Indices for household final consumption expenditure.

After official release by Eurostat, MONSTAT publishes a compilation of above mentioned press releases which are available at the following link: [Releases](#)

5.4 Publication

All publications published by Statistical Office are available at the following link: [Publications](#).

5.5 Online database

[Data](#)

[Eurostat database](#)

5.6 Access to microdata

The Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 18/12) regulates rules under which external users can obtain an access to individual data for needs of research.

Article 58 defines types of scientific and research organizations that can obtain such data. Providing individual data without identifier is possible only upon a written request of scientific and research institutions, with purpose of performing scientific and research activities as well as international statistical organizations and statistical producers from other countries. Research entity signs the agreement with Statistical Office, and it signs the statement on respecting the confidentiality principle. Official statistical producers keep separate records on users and purpose of using the statistical data given to these users.

5.7 Metadata completeness rate

Not available.

6. Comparability

6.1 Comparability - geographical

PPPs are primarily spatial price level indicators, and the comparability of the results across countries can be assumed to be very good.

6.2 Comparability - over time

PPPs are spatial price level indicators, and thus primarily suitable in comparisons referring to several geographical locations at a given point in time. Unlike the item sampling and price collection that underlie consumer price indices, the sampling of items and the price collection for PPPs are not designed to capture price changes over time, but rather price differences across countries or other geographical units. If necessary, product samples will be changed between two consecutive surveys in order to maintain or improve comparability across countries.

Nevertheless, PPPs and PPP-based indicators may be used in inter-temporal comparisons under certain circumstances, provided that the results are interpreted with sufficient care.

Time comparability indicator

Not available.