This month’s ICP Tracker reads 130: number of countries/economies (out of 198) that started collecting data for the main price survey on household consumption goods and services. This includes the Eurostat-OECD group (47) and 83 economies from ICP regions: Africa (25); Asia-Pacific (23); Latin America (17); CIS (10); Western Asia (8); and Georgia. Graph 3 shows the status of survey start expressed in percentages of the total number of economies in the regions.

Surveys in the Caribbean and Pacific islands will be carried out in 2012.

As shown in graph 4, the number of products surveyed in the regions varies from 590 in Latin America to 2344 in CIS. All regional lists include global core items (from 396 in Asia-Pacific to 601 in Western Asia).

**E-Discussions**

**eScoop**

The Global Office launched online discussion groups through the Bank’s external social network services, known as eScoop. This initiative will facilitate active discussion between members in each of three governance bodies, Executive Board, TAG, Regional Coordinators as well as those in two working groups, INAG and CoTaF.

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<th>ICP in Georgia</th>
<th>Upcoming events</th>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>2</td>
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**Regional Activities**

**Asia and Pacific**

The conference on developments in the ICP for Asia and the Pacific was held in Manila, Philippines on March 8-12, 2011. The meetings brought together officials of national implementing agencies, statisticians, and economists from national and international organizations to present and discuss the methodology and results of the research initiatives on updating the 2005 PPPs to 2009, developments in ICP in the region, and field assessment of the 2011 ICP Household Product List.

A training session on ICP Kit Software was held as a part of National ICP Workshop in Kunming, Yunnan Province, China, from 1 to 4 March, 2011. The workshop was organized by the National Bureau of Statistics and hosted by the Yunnan Survey Bureau in Kunming.

**Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)**

The meeting on harmonization of investment representative goods was held on March 23-25, 2011 in Moscow, Russia.

**Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)**

The ICP workgroup meeting on price statistics was jointly organized by CARI-COM and UNECLAC and took place in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago on March 21-23, 2011.

**Western Asia**

Eight countries in the region have started full or at least partial surveys in the first quarter of 2011 and five countries are expected to take off in the second quarter.

**Graphs**

**Graph 1 - Population of Regions (in million)**

- Africa 999
- Asia-Pacific 3,485
- CIS 269
- LAC 575
- Western Asia 253
- Pacific Islands 8
- Singleton 82

**Graph 2 - Number of Participating Countries/Economies**

- Africa 52
- Asia-Pacific 23
- CIS 30
- Latin America 17
- Western Asia 13
- Singleton Economies 3
- OECD/Eurostat 47
- Caribbean 21
- Pacific Islands 15
- Dual Participation 3
- Total 198

**Graph 3 - Start of Main Price Surveys**

- Africa 48%
- Asia-Pacific 100%
- CIS 100%
- Latin America 100%
- Western Asia 62%
- Singleton Economies 33%
- OECD/Eurostat 100%

**Graph 4 - Number of Items on Regional Lists**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Africa</th>
<th>Asia-Pacific</th>
<th>CIS</th>
<th>Latin America</th>
<th>Western Asia</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>573</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>599</td>
<td>472</td>
<td>601</td>
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<tr>
<td>442</td>
<td>521</td>
<td>1,745</td>
<td>442</td>
<td>458</td>
<td>917</td>
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<tr>
<td>917</td>
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<td>2,344</td>
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**Graph 4 - Number of Items on Regional Lists**

- Global Core
- Regional
The Global Office is preparing an ICP Book on *Measuring the Size of the World Economy*, which aims to bring together a presentation of the methodology for international comparisons, the choices made for the 2005 ICP, the outcome of those choices, and how lessons learned are guiding the framework for ICP 2011. The book is providing a forward looking view of methodological developments. Several of the chapters have been the basis for discussions by the Technical Advisory Group and are leading to improved methods for the ICP 2011. The book is being authored by eminent statisticians and economists who so far include: Angus Deaton, Paul McCarthy, Erwin Dievert, Fred Vogel, Prasada Rao, David Roberts, Derek Blades, Alan Heston, the US Federal Reserve Bank, and the IMF. Some of these people have authored multiple chapters.

The editing process requires several rounds of development, writing, review, and updating. The chapters are being added to the ICP website as they are completed. So far the following has been posted:
- Foreword -Reshaping the World
- Chapter 2 -Governance Structure of the ICP 2005
- Chapter 3 -National Accounts Framework for International Comparisons: GDP Compilation and Breakdown Process
- Chapter 7 -The Survey Framework: Household Consumption
- Chapter 11 -Health and Education
- Chapter 13 -Construction
- Chapter 14 -Machinery and Equipment
- Chapter15 -Government Services: Compensation
- Chapter16 -Government Services: Productivity Adjustments
- Chapter 23 -Purchasing Power Parity Estimates: Applications by the International Monetary Fund

Some chapters provided the background for operational materials prepared for the regional comparisons. All are being used to develop training materials. The goal is to complete the book by mid-2011 so that data users can be informed of new methods and their expected impact before the 2011 results are published.

**Upcoming Events**

<table>
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<th>April 2011</th>
<th>18</th>
<th>19</th>
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<td>ICP-kit Workshop</td>
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**ICP in Georgia**

A second mission of World Bank consultants was undertaken to the National Statistics Office of Georgia on March 7-11, 2011, as Georgia would participate in the ICP through a bilateral comparison with Armenia. Its aim was to review the progress achieved since the first mission, to finalize the work program and timetable for the bilateral comparison (including the timing of future consultations) and to address any technical or other issues outstanding. The officials from the National Statistics Service of the Republic of Armenia including Head of Price Statistics, came to Tbilisi, Georgia to participate in the discussions.