

International Comparison Program

[01.02]

2011 ICP Regional Progress Reports

Updated as of September 16, 2013



**10th Regional Coordinators' Meeting
September 23-24, 2013
Washington DC**

Contents

Africa	2
Asia and the Pacific	2
Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).....	3
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	3
Western Asia	3
Pacific Islands	4
Georgia	4
Iran	5
Eurostat-OECD PPP Program.....	5

ICP Regional Status Reports

Africa

The regional program in Africa is progressing as expected. An iterative price data validation process has continued between the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Global Office and participating countries. Following the Price Data Validation Workshop held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire from March 11- 22, 2013, the AfDB submitted price data for 50 countries which have since been reviewed by the Global Office and sent back to the AfDB to perform another round of data validation. A re-submission of the data along with the survey framework questionnaires, population data, and exchange rates was completed in July 2013. For national accounts, following the Regional Data Validation Workshop held in Nairobi, Kenya July 15-19, 2013, the AfDB has since submitted national accounts data for 50 countries to the Global Office. The Global Office and international consultants assisted with the computation of results during the first week of September 2013.

The Africa regional coordination team held a retreat to review computation procedures and draft the outline of the ICP regional report. In parallel, the data were fine-tuned to further assure the quality before proceeding with PPP computations and other indicators. Following this process, data was resubmitted to the Global Office by the end of August 2013. The AfDB plans to submit the preliminary results to ICP participating countries at the end of September, which may require marginal revisions prior to submitting the final results and metadata to the Global Office in October 2013. The preliminary results will be presented to the AfDB in early November 2013 followed by a press release and a presentation of the final results to NSO Director Generals in December 2013. Publication of the main report, report summary and a user-friendly report titled, "Africa in the World" is planned for April-June 2014.

Asia and the Pacific

The Asia Pacific regional program is progressing well with most of the outstanding issues being resolved. On gross domestic expenditure values by 155 basic headings, all countries have submitted their preliminary data. However, selected countries have indicated that the 2011 preliminary GDP data is being finalized and revisions would be submitted to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) by mid-September 2013. On the prices front, while major issues on both household and non-household sectors have been resolved, dwelling services still remains to be finalized. At a May 2013 Experts Group meeting convened by the ADB with participation by members of the Technical Advisory Group, a mixed quantity and rental approach was explored, but data limitations forestalled this approach. Subsequently, at the Expert Group meeting July 31-August 1, 2013, various other options were explored to use the quality adjusted quantity data with a second level of quality adjustment to dwelling services to reflect the quality differences of houses among the various income groups of countries in the Asia Pacific region, yet no decision was finalized. Overall, the Asia Pacific results are currently undergoing review as further analysis is needed, and with technical assistance from the Global Office, the region should be able to meet the October deadline.

Until the region has plausible explanations for the present state of the results, ADB is unable to commit to a release date in any form. A report, similar to the report released by the ADB for the 2005 ICP is expected to be published once the information is available.

Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)

The work on comparisons in the CIS region is being carried out in a timely manner in accordance with the adopted schedule. In July 2013, the CIS-Stat updated the CIS ICP data based on validation discussions with countries and comparisons of the final results. These data were submitted to the ICP Global Office at the end of July 2013 and were also forwarded to the CIS countries for final verification and confirmation. After receiving updates from countries, the CIS-Stat will submit final data to the Global Office by the end of October 2013. The remaining submission of ICP Quality Assurance Framework checklists will be done by the end of October 2013.

An experimental linking of the CIS to the global results will be discussed between CIS experts and the Global Office in October 2013. Also in October 2013, the members of the CIS ICP Coordination Council will discuss the obtained results of the CIS ICP 2011 and decide on the set of results to be published. In November-December 2013, the CIS-Stat will publish an electronic version and a hard copy of the regional results, accompanied by a press release. In April 2014, the members of the CIS ICP Coordination Council will determine the dissemination policy for 2011 ICP results, which will contain brief methodological recommendations and result tables. All efforts will be made to disseminate global and regional 2011 ICP results via press conferences, presentations at regional and national users' meetings, and the CIS-Stat website.

Latin America and the Caribbean

The regional program in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) is progressing in a timely manner. In July 2013, a set of revised data and metadata for the two regions were sent to the Global Office, incorporating the feedback received during the 9th Regional Coordinators' meeting. Pending issues include an evaluation of the data for Cuba, validation of construction data for the Caribbean, and a review of the preliminary results for the Caribbean. ECLAC is working to solve the issues. Although the full data set will be accounted for in the final submission, some Caribbean data did not meet the deadlines for the VEG/CoTaF submission and hence will not be reviewed in the upcoming meetings. Furthermore, LAC provided water data that may not be used due to their items list management system. Consequently, the Global Office is expected to have the full set of data and metadata by the end of October 2013.

A high-level LAC meeting in Santiago took place from September 9-10 to discuss preliminary/final results with member countries. The results will be shown to Heads of NSOs during the meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas in November 2013 in Santiago. Final results will be released in December 2013. ECLAC plans to publish the results before or simultaneous to the release of the global results. Latin America and the Caribbean will have separate press releases and publications of their data, which will contain all of the statistics and methodological details, including an analysis of final results.

Western Asia

The Western Asia regional program is progressing according to the globally set timetable as deadlines imposed by the World Bank for the delivery of obtained data were timely met by the regional office. The region was assiduous about the quality of collected data since it plays the major role in the obtainment of the final indicators, and was thus very keen about submitting clean and valid data to the World Bank. In this perspective, the region introduced the participating countries to the many surveys of the program and provided them with the required training for the usage of the ICP Kit. Moreover, the regional office maintains daily contact with the national offices through emails and phone conversations, and provides them with the needed technical support. Extra Rounds of intra and inter-country validation were performed at the regional office to ensure the validity and the reliability of the submitted data.

Furthermore, the regional office organized regional workshops for the 2011 ICP round in addition to two national accounts workshops, as well as a national training and technical assistance workshop for most of the participating countries. That being said, some discrepancies of lesser importance still exist in the Western Asia price and national accounts data for which the regional office has launched a final revision round. This revision round will be concluded with some last minute fine tuning at the upcoming workshop that the regional office is holding in late October 2013, in Istanbul, Turkey.

Western Asia submitted the full data sets in March 2013 and the regional program is on track to submit the final set of data and metadata to the Global Office by the end of October 2013, as scheduled. The electronic version should be released in December 2013 whereas the publication of the complete hard copy will be launched in March 2014. Upon the completion of the 2011 ICP round, the region will publish the final PPP tables, final global and regional results, and the analysis of the acquired results in addition to the major findings. The Western Asia regional office is considering different mediums of communications and the choices are still under study. Outreach activities are also being considered to promote the program on both regional and global levels; however, the details of these activities will be disclosed in the near future.

Pacific Islands

The regional program for the Pacific is progressing on schedule. A fourth and final data validation workshop was held in Brisbane, Australia in June 2013 and all countries have been asked to formally sign off on their data by September 13, 2013. The Pacific is also finalizing expenditure weights and importance indicators.

The Pacific expects to deliver a final dataset of prices, importance indicators and (proxy) expenditure weights, together with updated metadata questionnaires, to the Global Office in October 2013. Some further work will be required to implement the proposed method for linking the Pacific using three suggested linking countries, for which Global Office advice will be required.

Given the limited nature of the dataset for the Pacific, publication of the results could take place shortly after submission of final data to the Global Office. The final report will likely include the results of the current round, lessons learned, and plans for ensuring that the Pacific is able to participate more fully in the next round. With the data and metadata nearly close to final, the region intends to convene a round of meetings with key stakeholders to discuss outreach/communication issues and other issues associated with the publication of results.

Georgia

The bilateral comparison between Georgia and Armenia has been completed and finalized. The proposed text, along with the four tables to be included in the report, have been sent to the Global Office. Two of the tables cover, with some additions and omissions, the standard ICP analytical categories. One table refers to 2011, the other to 2005. The two other tables refer to 2011. One covers goods and services by type of good or service; the other provides a breakdown of final consumption expenditure. The report still needs to be approved by senior management in Geostat and Armstat. Publication is expected to be towards the end of the third quarter of 2013. Dissemination will be through the Geostat and Armstat websites. The Global Office will be asked to put the report up on its website. The Global Office has already received final price data and metadata. Revised expenditure and population data will be sent shortly. No outreach activities are planned.

Iran

The bilateral comparison between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Turkey is being carried out according to the agreed schedule. Preliminary price and metadata were submitted to the Global Office in August 2013 with a plan to send the final data and metadata by the end of October 2013. The results of the bilateral comparison will be included in the Global ICP publication, while the country level publication, outreach and communication activities are yet to be decided by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the ICP national coordinating agency for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Eurostat-OECD PPP Program

The Eurostat-OECD PPP program is progressing in a timely manner. New data are still being collected and validated up to and including November 2013. The final data, including revised 2005 expenditures, will be submitted by the end of November 2013 as previously agreed. Provisionally, Eurostat and OECD will release the 2011 PPP data on December 12, 2013 in the form of a press release and a database release. Consideration is underway for a special joint OECD/Eurostat press release on the day of the ICP release.