



2011 INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON PROGRAM

2011 ICP DATA ACCESS AND ARCHIVING POLICY
STAGE I: GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR DATA ACCESS

4th ICP Executive Board Meeting
February 20, 2011
New York

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Purpose

The purpose of this document is to outline proposed objectives and guiding principles of the 2011 International Comparison Program (ICP) Data Access and Archiving Policy for ICP Executive Board consideration. The document also describes the timeline for developing the procedures, conditions and limitations for implementing these guiding principles.

Context

The ICP entails large price data collection and detailed national accounts expenditure data compilation for participating countries. The resulting ICP databases could support the statistical and analytical uses of policy makers and researchers at international, regional, and national agencies and ministries, as well as universities and research centres. This rich data set is an important contributor to the value of the ICP.

In the 2005 round, the Data Archive and Access Policy strongly limited access to detailed PPP data (i.e. data below the 155 basic heading level data for each country) and components. For example, to access price data at the product level, users could only gain access in selected regions where memoranda of understanding between regional coordinating agencies and countries preventing data sharing had not been established. By the end of the 2005 round, it was clear that the user community would press for greater access to more detailed data in subsequent ICP rounds.

With these mounting demands for more detailed data, the ICP Executive Board agreed that the 2011 ICP should attempt to improve access to more detailed data while respecting confidentiality constraints and data quality limitations. To increase the quality and utility of the data collected, the 2011 ICP round will also focus on collecting, archiving, and providing access to metadata.

Following guidance from Board members at the October 2010 meeting, a critical first step is to seek agreement on the specific objectives of improved data access and archiving and the guiding principles to meet these objectives. These objectives and guiding principles must be acceptable to the vast majority of participating countries to ensure maximum compliance. They are discussed below in turn.

Improved Data Access Objectives

The overall objective is as follows: *Data derived from the ICP should be utilized to the maximum extent possible for statistical and analytical purposes.* Specifically, the objective is to provide users with access to detailed data beyond what was accessible through the 2005 ICP as follows:

1. PPPs, Price Level Indexes (PLIs) and Expenditure data for all countries are published at the analytical level, with supporting metadata. The analytical level is the level of detail (i.e. *Aggregates, Categories, Groups, and Classes*) for which the Global Office, OECD, Eurostat and Regional Coordinating Agencies will agree to publish data in the 2011 ICP.

2. PPPs, PLIs and Expenditure data at various levels of detail below the published level (i.e. *Categories, Groups, Classes, and Basic Headings*) for all countries are available to data users, with supporting metadata.
3. National Average Price data at the product level for items on the global core list for all countries - with appropriate disaggregation, measures of quality and supporting metadata - are available to data users.
4. National Average Price data at the product level for regional items not on the global core list for all countries - with appropriate disaggregation, measures of quality and supporting metadata - are available to data users.
5. Individual Price Observations with supporting metadata are available where permitted by the laws of individual countries as long as confidentiality is protected.

More information on the ICP classification and levels of disaggregation can be found in Annex 1. Annex 2 provides a pictorial description of the data access objectives for the 2011 ICP round and how it compares with the 2005 data access policy. Annexes 3 and 4 provide additional information on ICP datasets and the accompanying metadata respectively.

Guiding Principles

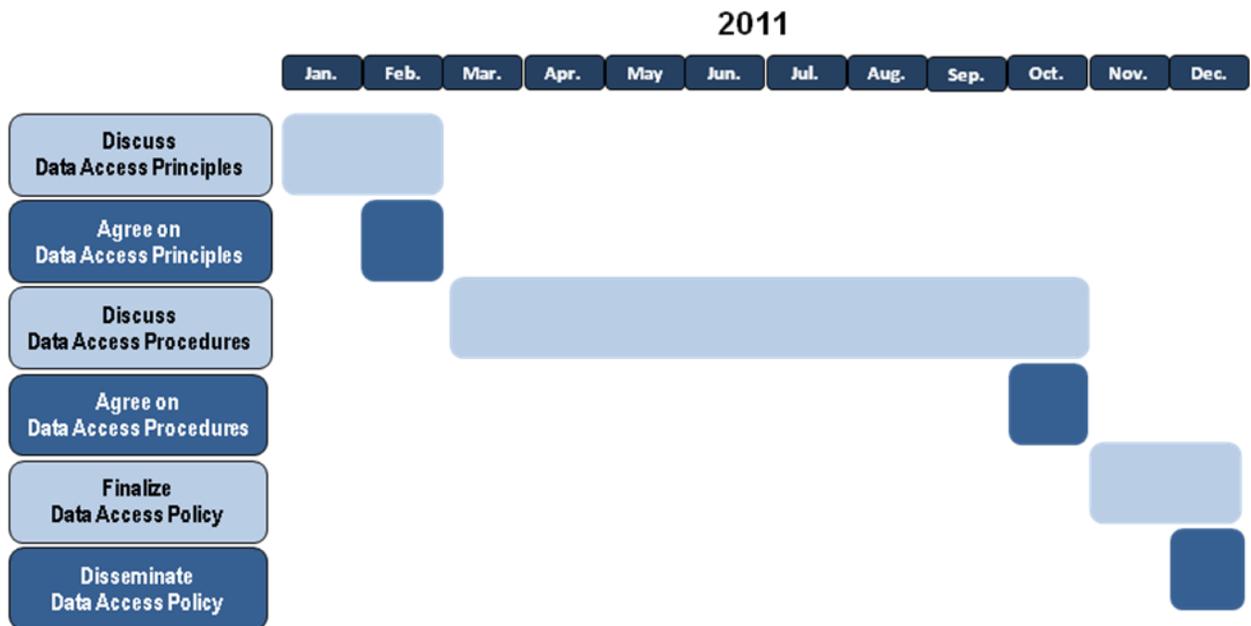
The following Guiding Principles support the objective of greater data access:

1. **Appropriate use:** data should only be made available for analytical and statistical purposes.
2. **Preservation of microdata confidentiality:** provision of data should be consistent with legal and other necessary arrangements that ensure the confidentiality of country microdata.
3. **Transparency:** the principles and procedures for access to detailed ICP data, as well as the uses of this data, should be transparent and publicly available.
4. **Consistency:** the principles and procedures for data access should strive to be consistent across all regions and countries, to promote equality in the treatment of all countries and reciprocity between countries to the maximum extent possible.
5. **Reliability:** releases of ICP data should be accompanied by appropriate metadata, including metadata that describes the quality limitations of the data.
6. **Quality limitations:** access to ICP data should be limited to users who are informed of the quality limitations and agree that the data is still useful for their purposes.
7. **Serviceability:** the ICP data should be archived to ensure it can be used to service future approved requests for access to data, it is available for possible use in future ICP rounds, and it is available as back-up in case this data is lost through disaster or other reasons by a region or a country.

8. **Disclosure limitations:** researchers accessing the detailed ICP data should ensure that their published results do not reveal directly or indirectly more detailed data than what the ICP has published.
9. **Ease of access:** data access procedures should ensure a simple and expedited process for access to ICP data.

Timeline to Finalize the 2011 ICP Data Access Policies and Procedures

Guidance from the Board at the October 2010 meeting also indicated the need to agree on the procedures through which data would be archived and accessed once objectives and guiding principles are agreed to. The Global Office is proposing the following timetable and milestones for finalizing and disseminating the 2011 ICP Data Access Policy:

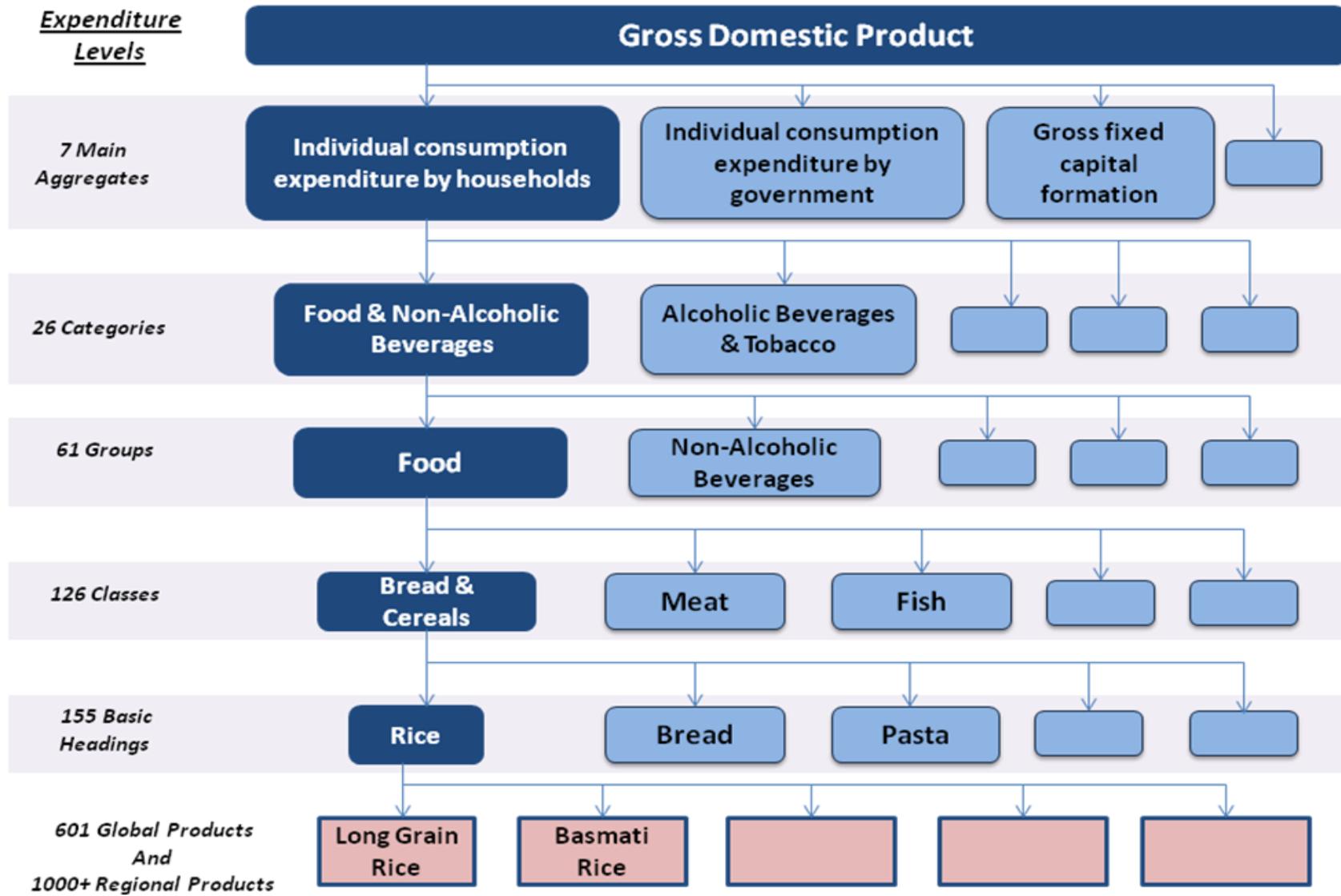


Issues for Discussion

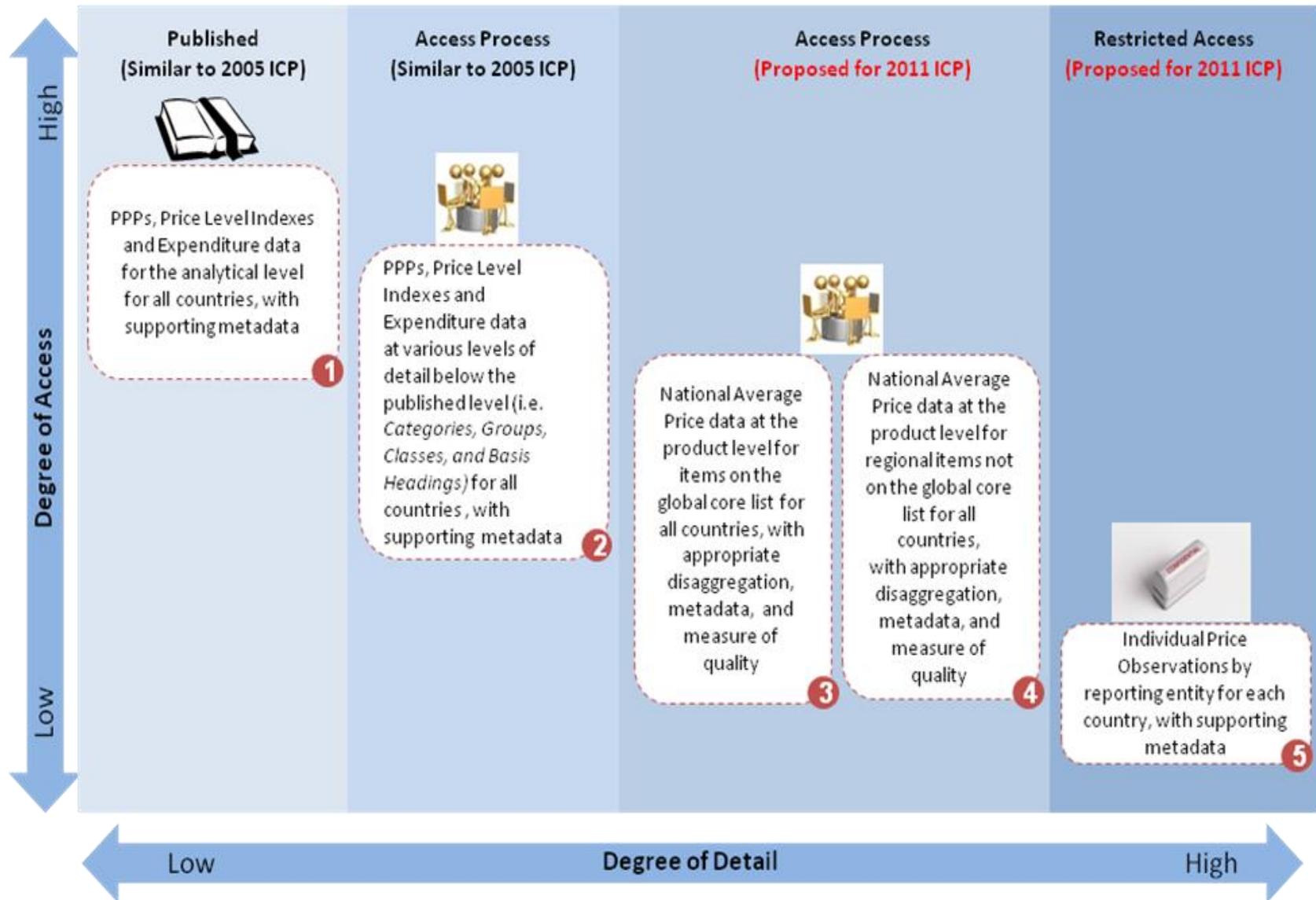
Feedback from the ICP Executive Board is sought on the following issues:

1. Is there an agreement to the proposed objectives?
2. Are the suggested guiding principles exhaustive?
3. Is there an agreement to the suggested guiding principles?
4. Is there an agreement to the proposed timeline?

Annex 1: ICP Classification of Final Expenditure on GDP



Annex 2: Summary of Proposed Data Access for 2011 ICP Related Variables



Annex 3: Further Distinctions between ICP Datasets

A. Global Data

- a. Individual price observations at the product level (microdata) for the products on the Global Core list with identifiers for type of outlet, and urban/rural designation.
- b. National annual average prices for the products on the Global Core list. These include the prices for consumer goods and services from the Global Core list plus the price or quantity data for the global product lists for housing, health, education, government, equipment, and construction.
- c. Disaggregated national annual average prices (according to agreed levels of disaggregation such as urban/rural or capital city vs. other geographical regions).
- d. PPPs, PLIs and expenditure data for the unpublished categories and basic headings for all countries.
- e. PPPs, PLIs and expenditure data at the agreed analytical level for all countries.
- f. Population data and exchange rates for all countries (they are the same as the population data and exchange rates under Regional data below).
- g. Metadata including estimates for the coefficients of variation.

B. Regional Data

- a. Individual price observations at the product level (microdata) with identifiers for type of outlet, and urban/rural designation.
- b. National annual average prices used to compute basic heading purchasing power parities (PPPs) in each of the regional programs. These include the prices for consumer goods and services from the regional product lists (which includes items selected from the Global Core list) plus the price or quantity data for the global product lists for housing, health, education, government, equipment, and construction.
- c. Disaggregated national annual average prices (according to agreed levels of disaggregation such as urban/rural or capital city vs. other geographical regions).
- d. PPPs, PLIs and expenditure data for the unpublished categories and basic headings.
- e. PPPs, PLIs and expenditure data at the agreed analytical level.
- f. Population data and exchange rates.
- g. Metadata including estimates for the coefficients of variation.

Annex 4: ICP Metadata

A. At the global level

1. Broad description of the ICP methodology, including description of methodologies for comparison resistant areas
2. Global product lists, with supporting descriptions, grouped by basic headings
3. Table showing which countries collected price data for particular global products
4. Matrix of importance of Global Core items for all countries
5. National Accounts reporting forms and related instruction notes
6. Table showing which countries collected direct prices for machinery and equipment and/or implemented the alternative approach of the Price Factor Method
7. PPPs which were imputed and the source of the reference PPPs
8. The relative weight of reference PPPs basic headings in the total GDP for each country

B. At the regional level

1. Regional product lists, with supporting descriptions, grouped by basic headings
2. Table showing which countries collected price data for particular regional products
3. Table showing which countries provided other basic data for basic headings for which such data were required
4. Table showing which countries implemented the proposed three methods for housing
5. Table showing which countries provided expenditure data for the different basic headings
6. PPPs which were imputed and the source of the reference PPPs
7. The relative weight of reference PPPs basic headings in the total GDP for each country

C. At the national level

1. Table showing products for which price data were collected
2. Sample framework for ICP

3. Quarters for which prices were collected
4. Estimation method for national average prices (especially when price survey was not spatially representative)
5. Price indices used to adjust prices collected to the entire year 2011, when the price survey did not exactly cover the year 2011
6. Imputations used in lieu of data collection
7. Methodology for deriving expenditure data
8. Methodologies used for housing
9. Methodology used for machinery and equipment