

# QUALITY DECLARATION

## Producer and Import Price Index (PPI)

**Subject area**

Prices and consumption

**Statistical area**

Producer and Import Price Index

**Product code**

PR0301

**Reference time**

2024 (Month, quarter, and year)

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## Quality of the statistics

### 1 Relevance

#### 1.1 Purpose and information needs

##### 1.1.1 Purpose of the statistics

The statistics provide the average price development in the producer and import stages, in total and for different product groups that are either sold by Swedish producers (the first distribution stage) or bought from foreign suppliers (the first stage of purchase).

##### 1.1.2 User information needs

The statistics are primarily used by

- a) Statistics Sweden for the conversion of nominal amounts to amounts in fixed prices in the National Accounts and other economic statistics, such as foreign trade in goods e.g.
- b) The Riksbank (Swedish central bank), National Institute of Economic Research and others for economic analysis, including as a basis for economic policy decisions.
- c) Enterprises, municipalities and county councils for price regulation in long-term agreements.

#### 1.2 Content of the statistics

The statistical target characteristics are price indices with a given base year equal to 100. From these indices, users can calculate new indices or ratios between any periods.

##### 1.2.1 Unit and population

The population of interest consists of all transactions in the total population carried out by Swedish producers, as well as the total import/entry<sup>1</sup> regarding the Swedish market.

The target population is limited to all the transactions referring to sales at the production level and purchases at the import level, of products related to product groups in sections under SPIN 2015<sup>2</sup>, see Table 1. SPIN 2015 refers to a classification of products based on activities under the Swedish Standard of Industry Classification, SNI 2007, and uses the same names for products as SNI 2007 for the corresponding activities.

Imports/arrivals by household is included in the population of interest, but is excluded from the target population. The same applies to imports/arrivals of products for further export, that is, products that are not consumed or processed in Sweden. These are excluded from imports/arrivals and from exports/dispatches.

<sup>1</sup>Imports refer to products brought in from countries outside of the EU. Arrivals refer to products brought in from other EU countries

<sup>2</sup>Swedish Standard for product classification by industry 2015

**Table 1.** Overview of sections\* of product codes, defined in SPIN2015.

Section	Description
A	Agriculture, forestry and fishing
B	Mining and quarrying
C	Manufacturing
D	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply
E	Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities
G	Wholesale and retail trade
H	Transport and storage services
I	Hotel and restaurant services
J	Information and communication services
K	Financial and insurance services
L	Property services
M	Legal, accounting, scientific and engineering services
N	Rental and leasing, real estate and travel services
R	Services related to culture, entertainment and recreation
S	Other services

\*Each section includes main groups, each of which consist of subgroups, consisting of detail groups. The lowest aggregation level of product codes within each section is seven digit groups.

The observation units are individual transactions for the corresponding product offer, divided into three groups according to the type of market, i.e. export, import and the Swedish market. A product offer is the combination of company and product that is to be priced.

The target units correspond to the observation objects.

Data sources are mainly companies and authorities (hereinafter referred to as companies).

### 1.2.2 Variables

The observation variable is the transaction price, that is, the price of the transaction that the buyer actually pays for the product offer sampled. The price should represent the average price for the month to which the price measurement refers, and it should be reported in the trading currency (even if conversion to Swedish kronor is accepted). This makes it possible to use a uniform exchange rate (the Swedish Customs 'courses for sections A-E, Securities Statistics' courses for sections G-S, see Table 1). The prices should be valued at basic prices, i.e. the amount receivable by the producer exclusive of taxes payable on products and inclusive of subsidies receivable on products. With regard to Swedish-made products, the *ex works* price is primarily referred to for sales on the Swedish market, and *free on board* (f.o.b.) for export sales. With regard to import prices, *cost, insurance, freight* (c.i.f.) are referred to primarily.

*The target variable* is the price in Swedish kronor, and it is derived from the observation variable through the conversion using a uniform exchange rate, given that a conversion is needed.

The variable of interest is the same as the target variable.

### **1.2.3 Statistical measures**

PPI is defined as a chain index with yearly links of Laspeyres type. The index is published using the base year 2020 = 100. The index figures mainly reflect the development of an average price for the period of interest. Annual average indices are unweighted arithmetic averages of the period indices calculated within the year of interest. For the complete description of the index construction, see section 2.7.2 in Statistics Sweden's presentation, [www.scb.se/PR0301](http://www.scb.se/PR0301).

### **1.2.4 Study domains**

Indexes are calculated for five different series:

- The Domestic Market Price Index, which is a producer price index for the Swedish market and therefore shows the price development on Swedish-made products sold in Sweden;
- The Export Price Index, which is a producer price index for the export market, and therefore shows the price development on Swedish-made products that are sold outside of Sweden;
- The Import Price Index, which shows the price development on products brought into Sweden;
- The Producer Price Index, which shows the total price development on Swedish-made products, and which is obtained through a weighted total of the Domestic Market Price Index and the Export Price Index;
- The Price Index for Domestic Supply, that shows the total price development on products sold in Sweden, and which is obtained through a weighted total of the Domestic Market Price Index and the Import Price Index.

Indexes are published for each one of the series, divided into product groups according to SPIN 2015 (see table 1). The five series are published monthly for sections A-E, and quarterly for sections G-S. The level of detail differs between various product areas, depending on their economic significance, the number of enterprises submitting data, and the degree of concentration, which is relevant for confidentiality assessment. The most detailed statistics are found in the Statistical Database, where index figures for some product areas are published at the five-digit level.

### **1.2.5 Reference times**

Indexes are calculated and published monthly for sections A-E, and quarterly for sections G-S (see Table 1).

## **2 Accuracy**

### **2.1 Overall accuracy**

Overall, the accuracy at an aggregated level is considered high, due to low non-response, accurate sampling frames and frequent use of internationally

recommended methods. However, uncertainty increases on more detailed levels.

## **2.2 Sources of uncertainty**

Measurement and various model assumptions are considered to be the largest sources of uncertainty. Sampling is considered the second largest source of uncertainty. Besides the sampling uncertainty, it is not possible to quantify the uncertainty linked to the other sources of uncertainty.

### **2.2.1 Sampling**

Every year, a PPS sample of product offers is drawn. Each product offer represents a combination of enterprise (identified by corporate identity number), a certain product, and one of the three markets of interest, that is, Export, Import or Domestic Market. Some sampling units come into the sample with the probability 1, while the remaining ones are drawn with the probability less than 1.

In summary, sample uncertainty is judged to be relatively low for estimates at the aggregated product group levels, while for estimates at the lower product group levels sampling uncertainty is considered greater.

### **2.2.2 Frame coverage**

Deficiencies in frame coverage can lead to undercoverage and/or overcoverage. Undercoverage means that some units in the population are missing in the sample frame. Overcoverage occurs if an object in the frame does not belong to the target population. The definition of overcoverage includes three cases, each of which results in no price for a product offer being observed: (1) the enterprise is no longer active, for example the enterprise has gone bankrupt, (2) the enterprise is active, but the product has been discontinued, and (3) the enterprise is active, the product has not been discontinued, but the product has not been sold or bought by the enterprise in question. The occurrence of (3) may be due to the fact that some products are not fully standardized, which makes it impossible to observe them each period. In such cases, the enterprise might report a model price, i.e. what the price of the product would have been if it had been sold. See also 2.2.6 Model assumptions.

Since the sample is drawn once a year, overcoverage is determined on an annual basis. In other words, among all product offers in the sample, one identifies only those product offers that meet the definition of the overcoverage throughout the reference year.

In 2023, overcoverage transactions accounted for 2 % of all transactions in the sample. This is comparable to 2022, during which the overcoverage also was approx. 2 %.

The basis of the frame for PPI originates in other Statistics Sweden surveys: Production of commodities and industrial services (Prodcom), Structural Business Statistics (SBS), Foreign trade - exports and imports of goods (FTG) and Foreign trade in services (FTS). The level of non-response in these surveys are very low, and existing non-response is estimated using tools such as model calculations.

FTG has some overcoverage as a result of products imported to Sweden and then exported with no further processing. Not only does this lead to overcoverage in the frames for the Import Price Index and the Export Price Index, it also leads to undercoverage in the Domestic Market Price Index, since there is a risk that too much of the production is counted as export. These types of transactions are eliminated as far as possible before weight calculations begin. If this is done properly there should be no overcoverage, only undercoverage. The frame is assessed to approximate the target population well.

The PPI sample selection uses the most recent available versions of the frames, which at the time of using refers to the nearest completed full year.

To alleviate burden on small enterprises, a cut-off is applied. This means that enterprises with a turnover below SEK 10 million in the sampling stratum cannot be selected.

The source of uncertainty *Frame coverage* as a whole probably contributed little to the overall uncertainty.

### **2.2.3 Measurement**

Measurement is done once per reference period and product offering, and is expected to refer to the measurement period's average transaction price.

For measurement, a web-based solution called SIV, which is standard at Statistics Sweden, is primarily used. The vast majority of data providers submit prices via this solution. A small number of data providers submit prices via email.

A measurement error arises when submitted information does not agree with the "true" value according to the definition of the variable. There are many reasons for this, for example that the question does not match the respondent's accounting, the question is ambiguously worded, the person has an insufficient memory, the respondent could be careless, the measurement methods could be marred by deficiencies, and more. Measurement errors naturally contribute to the uncertainty of statistics, and can do this in a systematic way (resulting in bias), as well as in a random way (does not lead to bias but increases uncertainty).

The use of list prices is one example of a measurement error. Primarily, the real average transaction price is to be reported, but in some cases list prices are reported anyway, which risks giving an erroneous picture of the price development. The difference between list prices and transaction prices includes any discounts given to customers. A higher discount is to be regarded as a lower price. Another source of uncertainty can consist of transfer prices/internal prices that do not reflect a market price.

Another measurement error arises when selected specifications are not able to specify the product to a sufficient extent, so that not only the genuine price change is shown in the index change. This might be expressed in an erroneously volatile price development, but also in a long-term systematic error due to a shift in quality.

In many product categories, it is difficult to find representative products to monitor over time, and time-based methods are used instead. For example, the hourly rate of a legal consultant is often measured, rather than the handling of an actual case. A problem with measuring hourly rates is that they involve a bias in the price index on productivity development. If the legal consultant in the example above becomes more efficient and can handle more cases in one hour, this does not show, since only the hourly rate is reported. Time-based measurement methods are mainly used in SPIN 69, 70, and 71.

Yet another possible measurement error occur when price measurements are taken on non-comparable products. This happens when new modified products replace those measured during previous periods. In order to ensure that only a genuine price change is being reflected in the index, various quality assessment methods, permitting for eliminating price changes due to changes in quality of products, are used. The methods are described in the manual produced by the International Monetary Fund (IMF, Chapter 7 <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/ppi/2010/manual/ppi.pdf>). In the Swedish PPI, the most commonly used methods are simple quantity adjustment, adjustment with the help of an expert and overlap (unless explicit assessment can be made). Since adjustments for quality changes are performed, the impact of this kind of measurement error on the accuracy of the statistics is assessed to be small (for the brief description of the assumptions associated with the quality adjustment methods see Sec. 2.2.6).

To summarise, the total contribution of various types of measurement errors to the accuracy of the statistics is assessed to be substantial.

#### **2.2.4 Non-response**

There is an obligation under the law for selected enterprises to submit price information. Despite this, the non-response is observed every measurement month. The proportion of enterprises in the 2023 sample, which did not submit the price of all product offers with which they are associated with (the so-called object non-response with regard to enterprises), varied between 12% and 16%, with the largest proportion in June. Object non-response in 2022 was higher as it varied between 13% and 17%. The proportion of enterprises in the 2023 sample that submitted the price of all but a few product offers that they are associated with (the so-called partial non-response with respect to enterprises), was about 3% every month. This is slightly lower compared to 2022, when the partial non-response constituted approximately 5%.

In terms of product offers, which are selected with predetermined selection probabilities, weighted non-response rates are calculated for two groups of sections described in Table 1. For the sections A-E, weighted monthly rates of non-response in 2023 were approximately 7% to 11%. For sections G-S, weighted quarterly rates of non-response varied between 20% and 28%. If one focuses on annual non-response rates across sections A-E, the non-response rate of product offers in 2023 was somewhat greater than in 2022. Compare 8.4% observed in 2023 with 6.8% observed in 2022.

To be able to calculate the estimates of price indices, one compensates the non-response by imputing the price of missing transactions. A standard imputation approach is a targeted mean imputation. According to this approach, price

developments in the most recent period for an appropriate aggregate is used to estimate a price development for the missing observation. The same approach is also applied in cases where no sales or import occurred during the measurement month.

In sum, since (1) the response rate among the enterprises is high, and (2) the non-response is compensated via imputations, the total effect of the non-response on the statistics is judged to be relatively small.

### **2.2.5 Data processing**

A production system, Pi09, was developed to perform most of the PPI calculations. Quality assurance of software and IT systems is now in place and therefore the risk of processing errors is minor. It is not possible to assess the consequences of different types of data processing.

All collected price information is reviewed at the micro level and at the macro level. Price observations with very large changes or with a major effect on the total result are put on a special list for extra examination. In the event of any uncertainty, the data provider is contacted.

This source of uncertainty is considered giving a minor contribution to overall uncertainty in the estimates of PPI.

### **2.2.6 Model assumptions**

Calculations of PPI are associated with many assumptions. To begin with, regarding transactions related to the companies that are below the sample cut-off limit, one assumes that they have the same price development as the transactions surveyed. This assumption rests on the economic theory of small enterprises as price takers, not price setters.

Further, when standardized products are not available, a comparable price cannot be reported between different periods. This means that the price development cannot be based on actual transactions prices. Model pricing can be used in such cases. A product specification can be constructed by the respondent and the price of this model specification, had it been sold, is reported.

As emphasised in Sec. 2.2.3, time-based methods are used when it is difficult to find representative products to monitor over time. The methods are applied under the assumption that the price development between periods is the same both for the total service and for working time. The assumption can be problematic for two reasons. The first reason, is that it does not capture any changes in productivity that might occur. The second reason, is where the service that is sold is a total service, that is not comparable over time. Nevertheless, the time based methods possess an advantage, namely that it is feasible for the respondent to report.

To compensate for non-response, one uses the method of targeted mean imputation. The method is the internationally most recommend imputation method, and it assumes that the imputed price can be derived from the price development of at least three other similar products.

As mentioned in Sec. 2.2.3, the quality assessment methods are also associated with different assumptions, in particular the methods associated with the

hedonic approach and the method of overlap. The latter method assumes simply that the new product has the same price development as the old one replaced by this new product. The hedonic methods are more sophisticated in the sense that they involve several assumptions of both statistical and subject-related character. The latter type of the assumptions requires a good substantive knowledge about all major characteristics of the product in question that might influence price, albeit the new product may differ from the old one only by one or two characteristics. Finally, quality adjustments performed by means of an expert do not involve explicit and, in addition, common to all experts assumptions. Instead, they are solely based on subjective judgements, which makes it very difficult to evaluate the contribution of this approach to the total uncertainty in the statistics.

In cases where prices are reported in foreign currency for products in sections A-E, the Swedish Customs' exchange rates are used to recalculate the value to Swedish kronor. The reason for using this method, instead of, for example the Riksbank (Swedish central bank) average rates, is in order to promote the usability of the index as a deflator for foreign trade estimation of export and import values in current prices. In total, about 50 percent of all export price information and about 60 percent of all import price information is submitted in foreign currency, while other prices are reported in Swedish kronor. For sections G-S the exchange rates used come from the survey Securities statistics at Statistics Sweden.

When the data provider recalculates price information from foreign currency to Swedish kronor, hedged or pre-defined rates and similar are used. This can lead to the index not reflecting current values of the Swedish krona.

In summary, although it is difficult to evaluate the individual impact of each of the model assumptions applied for deriving PPI, it is judged that they together contribute considerably to overall uncertainty in the estimates of PPI.

### **2.3 Preliminary statistics compared with final statistics**

The statistics is final at the time of publication.

## **3 Timeliness and punctuality**

### **3.1 Production time**

For Sec. A-E indices are published about 25 days after the end of the measurement period. For sections G-S indices are published about 40 days after the end of the measurement period.

The same production time applies for yearly publications.

### **3.2 Frequency**

Price indices for the study domains in Chapter 1.2.4 are published monthly for sections A-E and quarterly for sections G-S.

### **3.3 Punctuality**

The statistics are published (at 08:00) on the date indicated in the publishing calendar.

## **4 Accessibility and clarity**

### **4.1 Access to the statistics**

The statistics are made available via statistical news and via the Statistical Database on Statistics Sweden's website. Some percentage changes (relating to the export, import and producer price indices) are made available electronically as Economic indicators in connection with publication. The most detailed publication is available in the Statistical Database, where index series down to the four digit level are published. For some commodity.

### **4.2 Possibility of additional statistics**

See the website for more information:

[www.scb.se/hitta-statistik/statistik-efter-amne/priser-och-konsumtion/prisindex-i-producent-och-importled/prisindex-i-producent-och-importled-ppi/produktrelaterat/Fordjupad-information/skraddarsydd-statistik](http://www.scb.se/hitta-statistik/statistik-efter-amne/priser-och-konsumtion/prisindex-i-producent-och-importled/prisindex-i-producent-och-importled-ppi/produktrelaterat/Fordjupad-information/skraddarsydd-statistik)

Primary data is available after special assessment and anonymization for research purposes.

### **4.3 Presentation**

Key figures for Sweden (that is, the Producer Price Index, the Import Price Index, the Export Price Index, the Domestic Market Index, and the Price Index for domestic supply, presented in Chapter 1.2.4) are presented and explained on [www.scb.se](http://www.scb.se). This also applies to all results in tables and figures.

### **4.4 Documentation**

For more documentation, see the tab Documentation on [www.scb.se/PR0301](http://www.scb.se/PR0301).

There are manuals released by international organizations, such as IMF, OECD and ILO, that specifies best practices in the area of price statistics.

The manuals are available on the following websites <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/ppi/2010/manual/ppi.pdf>

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-manuals-and-guidelines/-/KS-04-14-661>

<https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Manuals-Guides/Issues/2016/12/31/Export-and-Import-Price-Index-Manual-Theory-and-Practice-19587>

## **5 Comparability and coherence**

The same target variables, methods and assumptions, which were used before 2023, were used also in 2023. This implies that neither comparability nor coherence either over time or between groups has been affected

### **5.1 Comparability over time**

As of the publication of the January index for 2017 (27 February 2017), PPI transitioned to the product classification SPIN 2015. The differences between SPIN 2015 and SPIN 2007 are very small. Index figures according to SPIN 2007 are calculated up to the end of 2018, and published in the Statistical Database.

Index figures according to SPIN 2002 with base year 1990 are available in the Statistical Database up until 2009. Index figures according to Prod-SNI 97 are backcasted for the period 1990-1994, based on weighting figures that reflect the composition of production and foreign trade in 1993. For earlier indices, up to December 1994, sampling allocation, weight calculations, and reporting were based on a production classification according to an older industry classification, SNI 69. This series was reported with the reference year 1968=100. The differences between this and Prod-SNI 97 are significant. The recommendation is, if possible, to use the old series for the time before 1995. For linking, the recommendation is that linking be used at December 1994.

Change of commodity classification was done in part for the measurement year 1988, from CCCN to HS classification, in part for the measurement year 1998 from HS to KN classification. These changes have not affected the published classification, but they have made weight calculation more difficult.

Indices up to 1979 were calculated as a fixed base index, which means that a yearly update of weights was not made.

## **5.2 Comparability among groups**

The PPI measures the average price development using the same index formula for all subgroups included in the survey. It is therefore possible to compare the price development between product groups.

## **5.3 Other coherence**

The SPIN 2015 classification that is used is comparable with the European Classification of Products by Activity (CPA 2.1). This enables comparison of the price development both for product groups and for the total PPI between European countries.

An important use of PPI is the recalculation of amounts in current prices to a value in fixed prices, in the national accounts system, foreign trade statistics and other economic statistics. The delimitations and standards that are used agree reasonably well. On the other hand, the short period economic statistics are not distributed by product groups, which is why fixed price calculation is somewhat more schematic there.

Comparisons with the price development for consumer prices (Consumer Price Index, CPI) are difficult for several reasons, for example because taxes are handled differently, and because weighting figures differ. In addition, there are methodological differences between the statistics, for example quality adjustments can be carried out using different methods.

## **5.4 Numerical consistency**

Published values include all index figures and combined aggregate values of these. There are no shortcomings in the numerical consistency between these statistical values.

## General information

### A The classification Official Statistics of Sweden

With regard to statistics included in Official Statistics of Sweden (SOS), special rules apply for quality and accessibility, see the Official Statistics Act ([2001:99](#)) and the Official Statistics Ordinance ([2001:100](#)), and the Statistics Sweden Regulations on the Quality of the Official Statistics ([SCB-FS 2016:17](#)).

### B Confidentiality and the handling of personal data

For confidentiality regarding the authority's specific task for the production of statistics, Chapter 24, Sec. 8 of the Public Access to Information and Secrecy Act ([2009:400](#)) applies.

To safeguard that information subject to confidentiality belong to natural persons or enterprises, it is ensured that the information cannot be disclosed directly or indirectly in the statistics that is published.

Rules for handling personal data are contained in the Personal Data Act (1998:204), the Official Statistics Act (2001:99) and the Official Statistics Ordinance (2001:100). Everyone has the right to receive information free of charge once per calendar year about his/her own personal data that is handled by Statistics Sweden. If the personal information is handled in conflict with the Personal Data Act, the individual has the right to request that the personal data is corrected, blocked or erased.

Information about the contact person for the survey is saved to facilitate any future contacts.

### C Storage and elimination

There is a culling decision, under National Archives culling decision RA-MS 1998:7 (with changes including 2006:57), that states that forms may be discarded after two years.

Submitted information is subject to the provisions of Chapter 24, Sec. 8 of the Public Access to Information and Secrecy Act (2009:400). On publication, no single data provider or their information will be identifiable.

The final observation register is saved in Statistics Sweden's internal databases according to storage decision RA-MS 2019:63.

### D Obligation to provide information

The obligation to provide information applies under the Official Statistics Act ([2001:99](#)), the Official Statistics Ordinance ([2001:100](#)), and Statistics Sweden's Regulation ([SCB-FS 2021:39](#)).

### E EU regulation and international reporting

Regulation (EU) [2019/2152](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2019 on European business statistics, repealing 10 legal acts in the field of business statistics.

Statistics Sweden reports indices for different product groups to Eurostat. This is done in connection with publishing. Other international reporting takes place via an email form sent to various international organisations.

## **F History**

Price index series divided into rough product groups have been calculated and are available from 1860. From 1920, a wholesale price index with a more fixed structure and detailed product group classification than before is reported monthly. Statistics were given their modern design in 1963, when a more systematic international industry classification was introduced.

As the production of services has had an increasing significance in Swedish economy, the need for good price statistics in this area has also increased. In the mid-1990s, the development of the Producer Price Index for services (TPI) with indices for rents, hotel services and domestic air travel began. Subsequently, the TPI was developed for even more product groups and continues to be developed.

## **G Contact details**

<b>Statistical agency</b>	Statistics Sweden
<b>Contact information</b>	Producer and import price index
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