

# use of Hand Held for CPI Price Data Collection in Egypt

prepared by

Noura Hassan Ahamed Talat

Email: [yoyo447\\_2010@yahoo.com](mailto:yoyo447_2010@yahoo.com) Or [Pres\\_capmas.gov.eg](mailto:Pres_capmas.gov.eg)

## Abstract:

*Handheld electronics is a common name for light mobile devices. Handheld electronics include personal digital assistants (PDAs), such as Palm Pilots or cellular telephones with connectivity to a network such as the internet. Due to limited size of these machines, developers of this system and applications face many challenges. For example, a PDA is typically about 6 inches (152 mm) in height and 3 inches (76 mm) in width and it weighs less than 1.5 pounds (680 g).*

*Handheld devices have become spread for use in mobile field management. Uses include digitizing notes, sending and receiving invoices, asset management, recording signatures, managing parts, and scanning barcodes.*

*This paper discusses statistical and practical issues in relation to the use of hand-held computers, or Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), for the collection of price data for the compilation of Consumer Price Indices (CPI).*

*The paper aims to assess the main advantages and challenges associated with introducing a system of electronic data collection in the context of two practical pilot studies carried out by CAPMAS Office for National Statistics in Egypt. The main focus of these studies was whether or not it is currently appropriate to further consider the use of handheld technology for CPI data collection in circumstances pertinent to Egypt. Although the assessment presented here is in the context of the countries involved, it is also hoped that the study will inform other countries considering the adoption of such technology for CPI data collection.*

**Key Words:** *Consumer Price Indices, Price Collection, Statistical Capacity Building, PDA, Hand-held Computers.*