

Discussion on inflation measurement by the Irving Fisher Committee on Central Bank Statistics

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Inflation measures are of key importance to central banks, whose primary objective is to maintain price stability. The Irving Fisher Committee on Central Bank Statistics (IFC), which operates under the aegis of the Bank for International Settlements and is affiliated with the International Statistical Institute, has been discussing a number of aspects of inflation measurement at various meetings over the last ten years. This has included

- CPI measurement;
- Core inflation measures;
- Measures of Inflation expectations;
- The development of property price indices.

In addition, the BIS Data Bank includes detailed price statistics contributed by the participating central banks. These data provide a wealth of information on price measurement practices in different countries. Data on property prices have also been disseminated on the BIS website in order to facilitate international research and policy analysis.

The findings of the IFC discussions and the BIS data collections have been shared at meetings of senior central bank executives as well as with other international organisations and groups interested in price measurement. The paper will highlight the crucial importance of micro data in assessing the trends in domestic and international inflation and explains some econometric and statistical issues that have emerged from it.

Key Words: Consumer Price Index measurement, core inflation, inflation expectations, property price indices