Pacific Consumer Price Index (CPI) Regional Workshop
(Nadi, Fiji, 2–6 November 2026)

ANNEX II – CONCEPT NOTE

The consumer price index (CPI) measures changes over time in the general level of prices of goods and services that households acquire (pay for or use) for the purpose of consumption. In many jurisdictions, CPI were originally introduced to provide a measure or proxy to track the changes in the living costs faced by workers, so that wage increases could be adjusted to changing levels of prices. However, over the years, CPIs have widened their scope and are now commonly used as a macroeconomic indicator of inflation, as a monetary policy tool by governments and central banks, and as deflators in the national accounts. With the globalisation of trade and production and the liberalisation of the markets, national governments, central banks, and international organisations place great importance on the quality and accuracy of national CPIs, and their international comparability.

CPIs are official statistics that are usually produced by NSOs, Ministries of Finance and Labour, or central banks. They are published as quickly as possible, generally within a month after the end of the reference period.

This face-to-face course, hosted jointly by UN-SIAP, Stats NZ, and SPC, aims to build capacity and improve CPI compilation to reflect international standards and best practice as described in the 2020 CPI Manual. Course topics will include an overview of index calculation methods, developing of weights, selecting samples, imputation methods, and data collection techniques. The workshop will include interactive discussions to share country experiences, practical exercises to apply concepts and methods discussed, and presentations.

TARGET AUDIENCE

This course is designed for government officials who are assigned to work on economic statistics with duties that include the data collection and compilation of the official CPI for their respective jurisdiction.

TARGET COUNTRIES

The course is designed for the Pacific region, including the PACSTAT member countries comprising of: Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Papua New Guinea (PNG), Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, participants will be able to;

a) Identify key uses of CPI data and explain key consumer price index concepts and definitions and how these are applied in practice.
b) Identify and explain differences between the different index calculation formulas.
c) Define and explain the different levels of sampling in a CPI and how these sampling methods are applied in practice.
d) Identify and explain the different methods for the treatment of missing prices and describe how these are applied in practice.

FACILITATORS

SPC staff: Geoffrey Wong (Economic Advisor - Prices)

SIAP staff: Ana Francesca Rosales (Statistician – National Accounts)

Stats NZ staff: Jason Attewell (General Manager, Macroeconomic Statistics)

Sessions will be conducted in English and no translations will be provided to the participants.

BUDGET AND RESOURCES

PACSTAT participants' attendance and air fare will be covered by SPC. SPC will also cover venue and catering cost.

SIAP-sponsored participants are required to arrange, book and pay for their own accommodation in Nadi from the daily subsistence allowance (DSA) received. No hotel booking will be organized by SIAP.

Self-funded participants are also invited to the workshop but must cover their own travel, accommodation, and daily expenses, while still meeting official registration deadlines and qualification criteria set by SPC.

It is intended that each PICT will nominate One (1) participant based on the following criteria:

- The nominee should be responsible for the collection, preparation and/or compilation of price statistics. Priority should be given to a staff member who has a stronger understanding of economic statistics and has been working on the price statistics.

SOURCE MATERIAL

This course draws upon:

The Consumer Price Index Manual, 2020: Concepts and Methods.
https://doi.org/10.5089/9781484354841.069

FOR MORE INFORMATION

SPC Contact: Geoffrey Wong - geoffreyw@spc.int