

# Philippines - Survey of Retail Prices for the Monthly CPI 2009

**National Statistics Office (NSO), Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS) of  
Department of Agriculture**

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## Overview

### Identification

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ID NUMBER  
PHL-NSO-CPI-2009-v01

### Version

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VERSION DESCRIPTION  
Version1.0 - Basic price data

PRODUCTION DATE  
2010-06-01

### Overview

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ABSTRACT  
The National Statistics Office generates various price indices, one of this is the Consumer Price index (CPI).

The 2009 monthly CPI is generated through the results of the Survey of Retail Prices of Commodities. This is conducted through the collection of prices in selected sample outlets in provinces and selected cities nationwide. The survey covers items and services that are most commonly purchased/availed of by the average income Filipino household.

KIND OF DATA  
Sample survey data [ssd]

UNITS OF ANALYSIS  
Retail prices of selected commodities and services commonly purchased/availed of the average Filipino household.

### Scope

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NOTES  
The survey covers retail prices for selected items for the following commodity groups:

1. Food, Beverages and Tobacco (FBT)
2. Clothing
3. Housing and Repairs (H&R)
4. Fuel, light and water (FLW)
5. Services
6. Miscellaneous Items

### Coverage

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GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE (1)  
Philippines

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE (2)

National Capital Region

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE (3)

CAR - Cordillera Administrative Region

Abra

Benguet

Ifugao

Kalinga

Mountain Province

Baguio City

Apayao

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE (4)

Region I - Ilocos Region

Ilocos Norte

Ilocos Sur

La Union

Pangasinan

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE (5)

Region 2 - Cagayan Valley

Batanes

Cagayan

Isabela

Nueva Viscaya

Quirino

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE (6)

Region 3 - Central Luzon

Bataan

Bulacan

Nueva Ecija

Pampanga

Tarlac

Zambales

Aurora

Olongapo City

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE (7)

Region 4a - CALABARZON

Batangas

Cavite

Laguna

Quezon

Rizal

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE (8)

Region 4b - MIMAROPA

Marinduque

Mindoro Occidental

Mindoro Oriental

Palawan

Romblon

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE (9)

Region 5 - Bicol Region

Albay

Camarines Norte

Camarines Sur

Catanduanes

Masbate

Sorsogon

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE (10)

Region 6 - Western Visayas

Aklan

Antique

Capiz

Iloilo

Negros Occidental

Bacolod City

Iloilo City

Guimaras

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE (11)

Region 7 - Central Visayas

Bohol

Cebu

Negros Oriental

Siquijor

Cebu City

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE (12)

Region 8 - Eastern Visayas

Eastern Samar

Leyte

Biliran

Northern Samar

Western Samar

Southern Leyte

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE (13)

Region 9 - Zamboanga Peninsula

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE

ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR

ZAMBOANGA CITY

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE (14)

Region 10 - Northern Mindanao

Bukidnon

Camiguin

Lanao del Norte

Misamis Occidental

Misamis Oriental

Cagayan De Oro City

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE (15)

Region 11 - Davao

Davao Norte

Davao Sur

Davao Oriental

Davao City

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE (16)

Region 12 - Central Mindanao

North Cotabato

South Cotabato

Sultan Kudarat

Cotabato City

General Santos City

Sarangani

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE (17)

ARMM - Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao

Basilan

Lanao del Sur

Maguindanao

Sulu

Tawi-Tawi

Marawi City

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE (18)

CARAGA

Agusan del Norte

Agusan del Sur

Surigao del Norte

Surigao del Sur

UNIVERSE

The survey covered retail prices of selected commodities and services commonly purchased/availed of the average income Filipino households.

## Producers and Sponsors

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PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR(S)

| Name   | Affiliation |
|--|-------------|
| National Statistics Office (NSO)                                     |             |
| Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS) of Department of Agriculture |             |

## FUNDING

| Name                              | Abbreviation | Role |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|------|
| National Statistics Office        | NSO          |      |
| Bureau of Agricultural Statistics | BAS          |      |

## Metadata Production

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## METADATA PRODUCED BY

| Name               | Abbreviation | Affiliation                     | Role       |
|--------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| Florante C. Varona | fvr          | NSO-Office of the Administrator | Documenter |
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DDI DOCUMENT VERSION  
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DDI DOCUMENT ID  
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## Sampling

### Sampling Procedure

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The market basket used in the construction of the 2000 CPI was drawn from the results of the updating activity of the 1994 market basket. Updating of the 1994 market basket was done through an interview of key informants in various outlets as to the availability and saleability of the items they sell. Provinces and selected cities had their own market baskets. Number of items ranges from 285 (Batanes) to 750 (Negros Occidental).

As the CPI uses Laspeyres formula in the computation which uses fixed number of items and weights, the number of items in the 2009 Survey of Retail Prices for the CPI covered also the items based on the results of the updating activity.

Around 459,000 price quotations are entered in the computation of the monthly CPI.

### Weighting

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NA



# Questionnaires

## Overview

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The survey of retail prices of commodities and services utilizes the following forms:

Prices Form 1-A (Survey of retail prices of agricultural food items)

Prices Form 1-B (Survey of retail prices of processed food items, beverages and tobacco)

Prices Form 1-C (Survey of retail prices of non-food items)

Prices Form 1-D (Survey of costs of fuel, light and water house rentals and services).

## Data Collection

### Data Collection Dates

| Start      | End        | Cycle |
|------------|------------|-------|
| 2009-01-01 | 2009-01-05 | 1     |
| 2009-01-15 | 2009-01-18 | 2     |
| 2009-02-01 | 2009-02-05 | 1     |
| 2009-02-15 | 2009-02-18 | 2     |
| 2009-03-01 | 2009-03-05 | 1     |
| 2009-03-15 | 2009-03-18 | 2     |
| 2009-04-01 | 2009-04-05 | 1     |
| 2009-04-15 | 2009-04-18 | 2     |
| 2009-05-01 | 2009-05-05 | 1     |
| 2009-05-15 | 2009-05-18 | 2     |
| 2009-06-01 | 2009-06-05 | 1     |
| 2009-06-15 | 2009-06-18 | 2     |
| 2009-07-01 | 2009-07-05 | 1     |
| 2009-07-15 | 2009-07-18 | 2     |
| 2009-08-01 | 2009-08-05 | 1     |
| 2009-08-15 | 2009-08-18 | 2     |
| 2009-09-01 | 2009-09-05 | 1     |
| 2009-09-15 | 2009-09-18 | 2     |
| 2009-10-01 | 2009-10-05 | 1     |
| 2009-10-15 | 2009-10-18 | 2     |
| 2009-11-01 | 2009-11-05 | 1     |
| 2009-11-15 | 2009-11-18 | 2     |
| 2009-12-01 | 2009-12-05 | 1     |
| 2009-12-15 | 2009-12-18 | 2     |

### Data Collection Mode

Face-to-face [f2f]

### Data Collection Notes

Collection of data for the CPI is done through the collective effort of the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS) and the NSO. BAS collects price data for agricultural commodities in NCR and in provincial capitals where there are BAS offices while NSO collects prices for all other commodities in all other areas.

Data are collected from the sample outlets (outlets or establishments where prices of commodities/services are collected or quoted)

Except for FBT which is monitored on a weekly basis in NCR, price collection is done twice a month to effectively monitor price changes. First collection phase is done during the first five days of the month while the second phase is on the 15th to 17th day of the month.

#### a. First Collection Phase - Areas Outside the National Capital Region (AONCR)

Prices for all commodities and cost of services must be taken from the same establishments already selected as regular price outlets. Six (6) price quotations are required for every commodity or service listed in the forms. In areas outside NCR, two (2) of these six (6) price quotations are taken from the provincial capital and the other four quotations from the sample municipalities.

#### b. Second Collection Phase - AONCR

Only two (2) price quotations are required for every commodity or service listed in the forms. These are taken from the provincial capital.

#### c. For selected cities, six (6) price quotations are required for every commodity or service listed in the forms during the first

and second collection phases.

#### d. National Capital Region (NCR)

All unprocessed food items are priced every Tuesday of the reference week while all processed food items, beverages and tobacco are priced every Friday/Saturday of the reference week. Prices of non-food items are gathered during the first five days of the month and on the 15th day of each month.

Special attention is given to the pricing of highly perishable goods, e.g., fresh fish, vegetables and fruits. Prices of these goods are taken during the time of the day when most housewives do their marketing, i.e., usually before 10:00 a.m., so to attain a reasonable degree of consistency in pricing identical groups of items in the market.

#### e. Special Items

Prices of some service items are gathered less frequently. School tuition fees are taken twice a year, every beginning of the school semester (June or July and October or November as the case may be).

Elementary and high school tuition fees account for the monthly/annual fees. The entry is carried all through the succeeding months until the next school year.

College fees accounts for the per semester fees. The entry is carried through the succeeding months until the next semester.

Items for personal, recreational, medical and other services are priced semi-annually in NCR, monthly in the sample municipalities, and twice a month in the provincial capitals.

Changes in transportation fares, once implemented, are immediately included in the computation of CPI for NCR and included in the next survey round in areas outside NCR if the implementation date falls after the survey period.

In the case of house rentals, the same addresses or the same housing unit regardless of its occupants must be the source of data in every survey period. If the structure is no longer existing or if it has ceased to be rented, an appropriate substitute should be selected. Thus, if the sample house which is to be replaced has only one bedroom then the replacement must also be a house with only one (1) bedroom. The amount of rental paid monthly by the households must exclude payments made on electricity and/or water. This survey of house rentals is done monthly.

a. First Collection Phase - Areas Outside the National Capital Region (AONCR)

#### Treatment of Specific Products

##### Cars -

Expenditures for cars are included in the computation of CPI weights for miscellaneous items. However, these items are not included in the collection of prices for the 2009 CPI.

##### Transport and airfares -

Changes in land and air transportation fares, once implemented are immediately included in the computation of CPI in NCR and included in the next survey round in areas outside NCR if the implementation date falls after the survey period.

Prices of gasoline products have been deregulated. However, when prices of such products increase, those engaged in the transport sector demand for an increase in land transportation fares. The petition for the increase in land transport fare is submitted to a government regulatory office for a decision after a series of hearings attended by the private and public sectors. The regulation applies to taxis, jeepneys and non-air-conditioned buses.

##### Package holidays/Package tours -

Package tours are included in the CPI weights for transportation and communication. Price collection for purposes of the CPI exclude these items.

##### Telecommunication -

Residential telephone rates are gathered monthly from fixed sample outlets. Value Added Tax (VAT) is included in its

monthly rate.

Government postage charges are regulated -

The charge for internet surfing is priced twice a month in NCR and in the provincial capitals and monthly in the sample municipalities.

Utilities -

Electricity and water rates are collected once a month in NCR and sample municipalities and twice a month in the provincial capitals.

Normally, taxes are already included in pricing commodities and services ( VAT and service charges).

Package of Meals -

Package of meals that include meals eaten outside the home are priced monthly in NCR and sample municipalities and twice a month in the provincial capitals.

Second-hand goods -

Price collection for purposes of the CPI exclude items sold at second-hand stores.

Durable goods bought on credit -

Durable furniture and equipment whether bought in cash or on credit are priced twice a month in NCR and in the provincial capitals and monthly in the sample municipalities.

Health -

Items for medical and services are priced semi-annually in NCR, monthly in the sample municipalities and twice a month in the provincial capitals.

Education -

School tuition are taken twice a year, every beginning of the school semester (June or July and October or November as the case may be).

Elementary and high school tuition fees account for the monthly/annual fees. The entry is carried all through the succeeding months until the next school year.

College fees account for the per semester fees. The entry is carried through the succeeding months until the next semester.

Tuition fees in schools and universities are regulated.

Interest Rates -

In the computation of the CPI in the Philippines, interest rate is not included as one of the commodity items.

Owner-Occupied Housing -

Imputed rents from owner-occupied housing are not included in the monthly price survey.

Rental under the Housing and Repair group is represented by a measure of actual rental rates.

Rental rates are collected from fixed residential units that are actually rented at the time of the survey.

The survey of rental rates is done monthly.

Minor repair is represented by the costs of maintaining the house.

The maintenance cost includes cost of construction materials and wages of carpenters, electricians and plumbers.

## Questionnaires

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Prices Form 1-C (Survey of retail prices of non-food items)

Prices Form 1-D (Survey of costs of fuel, light and water house rentals and services).

## Data Collectors

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| Name                              | Abbreviation | Affiliation                                 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|---|
| National Statistics Office        | NSO          | National Economic and Development Authority |
| Bureau of Agricultural Statistics | BAS          | Department of Agriculture                   |

## Supervision

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Each province has its own number of price collectors. The District Statistics Officers, Statistical Coordination Officers and selected Statistical Researchers in each district in the province acted as price collectors of the NSO. Price collectors from BAS in the provincial capital in each province also collects prices for the CPI. The Provincial Statistics Officer (PSO) of the NSO serves as the overall coordinator and supervisor in the collection of prices in the province.

The Central Office staff conducts spot checking of prices in selected provinces as the need arises.

# Data Processing

## Data Editing

### Editing of Survey Forms

The reliability of the consumer price index to a very large extent, depends on the reliability of the price data obtained during the survey. Immediate verification of the reasonableness and reliability of prices of commodities and services in a given area for a given month is therefore necessary. Hence, processing of price survey forms must be done in the field where immediate verification of price data from outlets could be undertaken.

The editing instructions are as follows:

1. Careful examination of price survey forms - Examine carefully the price survey form. Take note that the prices are entered on the same line with the seven-digit commodity being priced. Cancel entries made opposite those with one, two, three or four digit codes. Use red ballpen in editing the raw data submitted by DSOs/SCOs/SRs. Consolidated reports for a province should be in blue or black ink.

2. Comparison of item prices in different outlets - Compare the prices of commodity taken in different outlets. If there is an unusual price (either very high or very low, e.g., 10% from the others in the group) collected in one of the six outlets, examine closely if the error is due to:

- Wrong placement of the decimal

Example:

Code Commodity Outlets

1 2 3 4 5 6

1131135 Bread Loaf, 250 gms 10.00 11.00 100.00 10.00 10.25 10.50

1131166 Pandesal 0.50 0.40 4.50 0.45 0.45 0.50

Note that the price of loaf bread in outlet 3 is written as 100.00. As it is impossible for a loaf bread to have this price, the error is easily detected to be the absence of a decimal point in the price. The correct price should be P10.00.

Similarly, the price of pandesal in outlet 3 is 4.50. Since the other prices are 0.50, 0.40, or 0.45, then it is assume that the price listed in outlet 3 for pandesal is 0.45.

- Difference in the unit of measure

Example:

Code Commodity Outlets

1 2 3 4 5 6

1431148 Fresh Fish, Dilis, kg 57.00 40.00 6.00 55.00 50.15 55.00

1431153 Fresh Fish, Galunggong, medium, kg. 57.50 52.40 4.50 57.75 52.50 50.00

A close examination of the price dilis and galunggong would reveal that the big difference in the price of two kinds of fish in outlet 3 is not in the wrong placement of decimal point nor in the differences of commodities being priced since the prices in the other outlets are more or less on the same range. It is therefore presumed that the error is in the difference of the unit of measure used. Outlet 3 might be selling by the piece, "heap" or "tumpok" since the price of dilis and galunggong are much lower than in the other outlets. In this case, verify the price data from the outlet. If after verification, the price for outlet 3 is the actual price, a remark should be written on the margins justifying the price(s).

- Different commodity being priced

Example:

## Code Commodity Outlets

1 2 3 4 5 6

1171169 Sotanghon, local, kg. 50.00 52.00 98.00 51.50 53.00 52.00

The marked difference in the price of sotanghon in outlet 3 may be due to pricing of different classes, grade or kind of commodity. The sotanghon being priced here may have been an important one which is much dearer than the locally made sotanghon. Since the sotanghon to be priced should be locally manufactured, verify price from the outlet concerned.

3. Computation of the Arithmetic Average Price of a Commodity - The arithmetic average price is the simple average of the prices. It is the sum of all the prices taken divided by the number of price quotations. If 6 price quotations are taken, simply get the sum of the 6 prices and divide this by 6.

Example:

The prices quoted for a kilo of refined sugar are 24.00, 23.50, 23.65, 23.75, 23.50 and 24.00. The sum of all their prices divided by 6 is

$$= 24.00 + 23.50 + 23.65 + 23.75 + 23.50 + 24.00$$

6

$$142.40$$

$$= \frac{\quad}{6} = 23.73$$

6

Transcribe this computed average price of the commodity on the current month's average column. The odd-even rule in rounding numbers should be followed.

4. Verification of Price Data - Review the reasonableness and completeness of price data and the accuracy in the computation of current average prices by comparing the current outlet price of a commodity and current average price of a commodity with its previous month's price in the outlet and its previous month's average price. If there is a big difference in the two average prices, find out the cause. Verify from the outlets where these prices were taken and write on the survey form a remark or the necessary justification, of the marked differences in the two months average prices of a commodity.

## Other Processing

The decentralized machine processing of price data for the generation of the CPI uses the provincial, regional and Central Office systems.

For the provincial system, the following procedures are done:

1. DATE ENTRY - this option allow the encoder to key-in the prices from the survey forms
2. KEY VERIFY- this is done to enable the verifier to check the correctness of prices entered by rekeying all the data in the survey forms.
3. BROWSE / UPDATE- this allows the verifier/encoder to browse and at the same time update the data if there are some corrections on the current price/s displayed on screen
4. The VALIDATE / REJECT LISTING - this is used to list all records with questionable prices and their corresponding ERROR / WARNING messages.
5. The MERGING OF THE 1ST & 2ND SURVEYS Option - this is used to merge the first and second phase data into one file which will be needed for the computation of provincial CPI.
6. The COMPUTE PRELIMINARY INDEX option will allow you to compute the current month's preliminary provincial Consumer Price Index.

The regional system has also the same features. Particularly, the system is capable of computing the preliminary regional CPI by merging the first and second phase data files submitted by the province.

Likewise, the Central Office system has also the same capabilities as that of the provincial and regional system. Specifically, the system is able to generate and compute the national CPI.

## Data Appraisal

### **Estimates of Sampling Error**

Not Applicable

### **Other forms of Data Appraisal**

The decentralized CPI system has the following error messages when the generate reject listing option is run:

1. The current month's price of an item for a particular outlet is 15% higher than its corresponding previous month's price - verification of the price of the item in that particular outlet is required. If after verification, the price entered is found correct, the entry is accepted and the necessary remarks are written on the reject listing to be sent to the Central Office. Otherwise, the correct price is reflected in the data file using the Browse/Update Option.
2. The current monthly average price of the commodity exceeds 50% compared to its last month's average - verification of the prices of the commodity by outlet is also required. If the entries for that commodity are verified correct, all the entries for that commodity will be accepted. Otherwise, the price will be corrected using the Browse/Update option.