

JOS Call for Papers – Price Statistics (Journal of Official Statistics)

The JOS Editorial Board invites submissions to the Special Issue on Price Indices in Official Statistics – New Developments

The JOS Editorial Board invites submissions to a special issue on new developments in price statistics.

The increased availability of alternative data sources, such as scanner data, web-scraped online prices and administrative data, present new opportunities for national statistical institutes to produce relevant, timely and improved price statistics. However, in order to get the full benefit of these new data sources, a number of theoretical, practical and technical challenges need to be addressed.

In addition, user requirements in different areas of price statistics continue to increase. For example, property price indices have grown more important following the recent global financial crisis.

Finally, the growing digital economy creates new measurement problems for today's price index methodology; for example, how should products provided free of charge and digitally intermediated services be accounted for in a Consumer Price Index?

The aim of the special issue is to present new developments in the field of price indices in official statistics. We invite submissions especially in the following areas, the list of topics being non-exhaustive: Uses of alternative data sources, production of property price indices, methods for quality adjustment, measuring digital economy and meeting multiple user needs.

Deadline for submissions is 3 July 2020.

Special Issue Guest Editors

Jörgen Dalén, Independent expert and consultant, Sweden

Jens Mehrhoff, Special Adviser, Deutsche Bundesbank,

Germany Olivia Ståhl, Statistician, Statistics Sweden

Li-Chun Zhang, Professor of Social Statistics at the University of Southampton, UK, Senior Researcher at Statistics Norway, Professor of Official Statistics at the University of Oslo, Norway

Special Issue: Price Indices in Official Statistics – New Developments

The aim of the special issue is to present new developments in the field of price statistics. We invite submissions especially in the areas listed below:

1. New data sources

New alternative data sources, such as scanner data, web-scraped online prices and administrative data present opportunities to produce more relevant and timely official statistics than traditional sample survey data. We invite submissions that examine the various practical and technical issues encountered while attempting to use alternative data sources to construct price indices.

2. Compiling property price indices

Property price indices, both residential and commercial, have increased in importance in recent years. Submissions on this topic could examine the methodological and conceptual challenges faced by price statisticians when compiling property price indices, including issues related to the different possible data sources.

3. Quality adjustment

Pricing to constant quality is a key requirement for price indices and a continuous challenge for price statisticians. This is particularly true for products where attrition is high, such as clothing and high technology goods, but also for online and transaction data where information is often unstructured. We

invite submissions that examine the various approaches used by price statisticians to address these challenges.

4. Measuring the digital economy

The growing digital economy presents challenging conceptual and practical measurement problems for price statisticians. Submissions on this topic could address adjustments for quality change when new and typically improved varieties of digital products emerge, or the treatment of digital products as they replace non-digital ones. Other possible topics include the treatment of products provided free of charge, as well as digitally intermediated services. The impact of an increased variety of goods being available for purchase could also be addressed.

5. Price statistics that meet multiple user needs

User requirements for price statistics continue to increase, while resources at national statistical offices are under pressure. We invite papers that consider the approaches taken by statistical offices in trying to meet multiple user needs within a single coherent framework and/or using the same input data. Approaches to ensure international harmonisation of price statistics could also be discussed.

6. Other topics

In addition to the topics listed above, the JOS Editorial Board encourages authors to submit papers on other price-related topics, including, for example, index number formulae and the treatment of challenging areas of measurement (such as services), as well as zero prices, seasonal products and other special cases.

Submission guidelines

Manuscripts should be submitted through the JOS Manuscript Central site:

<https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/joffstats>

All manuscripts must adhere to the JOS submission and peer review rules and will go through the usual JOS review process. Instructions for authors are available at:

http://www.degruyter.com/view/supplement/s20017367_Instructions_for_Authors.pdf