

# RETAIL PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

## LEGISLATION

The survey of retail prices of agricultural products is conducted pursuant to the Official Statistics Law (Official gazette RS, no 104/09) and the Regulation on statistical surveys (Official gazette RS, no 110/2009).

## METHODOLOGICAL BACKGROUNDS

### Objective and scope of statistical survey

The main objective of price statistics is to compile data required for the calculation of indicators of price volume and dynamics. This statistical survey anticipates a fortnightly collecting of retail prices of agricultural products, based on which the prices by towns are followed. The scanned price for each selected product is the price at which the major quantities of the subject product are sold.

### Reporting units

Green markets and all kinds of shops where the major turnover of agricultural products is made among population shall be regarded as reporting units.

Observation unit – statistical unit anticipates agricultural products that population purchase for individual consumption in trade shops and markets, which comply with the product description as in the list of representative products and they partly create the basis for calculating Consumer price index by COICOP. In the case of this survey, this is the expression of market price level.

The basic principle for the product selection is the share of a product group in individual consumption and therefore selected were representative products for all classes of COICOP HICP classification with the share in consumption exceeding 0.1%.

Retail prices of agricultural products are scanned twice monthly, on a *market* day falling between 01-07 and 15-21 day of a month. The list of reporting units shall be defined in the beginning of a year and shall not be changed during the year.

The number of scanning places is in accordance with the size of place, i.e. town.

In case a scanning place has been closed during a year, the replacement shall be made as envisaged in the Guidelines for price scanning.

### Coverage

The data on retail prices of agricultural products are compiled in towns that are administrative and commercial centers.

The list of products includes 65 products (fruit, vegetables, milk and dairy products, meat, fish and eggs). These are the representative items for all agricultural products used for household consumption and the list shall be revised every year.

### Method, timing and data sources

The collection of data on retail prices of agricultural products is defined in details in the Guidelines for price scanning, which make a composite part of the methodology. The prices shall be scanned at precisely defined places, in the set time on a *market* day falling from 01-07 and 15-21 day in a month.

The price scanning activities are performed by statisticians who live in the selected towns and are familiar with the actual situation in field.

In green market, only the prices at which sole agricultural producers sell their products shall be scanned. Firstly, the market is generally surveyed and the quantities of products and market supply is estimated, whereupon the scanning of prices is started.

Scanning the prices of agricultural products in shops and stores anticipates that selected shops (hyper- and mini- markets, specialized and other stores with considerable turnover of these products) are visited, the prices envisaged for scanning are checked and recorded and the sold quantities are estimated together with shop managers.

## Individual data protection

The data obtained from field operations and from other sources shall be regarded as business secret and the provisions of confidentiality shall apply (Article 44, the Official statistics law).

## Survey main features

For each product and at each scanning place, three prices are scanned: usual, top and bottom price.

1. Usual price at scanning place (shop or green market) anticipates the price at which the major quantities of a certain product are sold.
2. Usual price in trade network is one of the most frequent prices scanned in selected shops, at which the major quantities of the respective product are sold.
3. Usual price in green market is one of the most frequent prices scanned in green markets, at which sole agricultural producers sell the major quantities of a product, i.e. the usual price at scanning place is at the same time the usual price in green market in cases when price scanning is carried out in one market place.
4. Usual price in a town anticipates either the usual price in shops or the usual price in green market, depending on where the major quantities of a product are sold in the time of scanning.
5. Top and bottom price in town are the limits of the range within which the prices of a certain product are found at all scanning places.
6. Kilogram is the measurement unit for all products, except for cow milk (liter) and eggs (number of eggs).

## SURVEY ORGANIZATION

---

### Authority

Pursuant to the Official statistics law, the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia is the authorized producer of statistics, in charge of preparing, collecting, processing, analysis and publishing the data on retail prices of agricultural products.

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia is obliged to create the guidelines for price scanning and the methodology applicable for data collection and processing. The SORS organizes regular meeting with the price collectors, prepares forms and is otherwise active at upgrading methodology, data analysis and dissemination.

### Responsiveness

Pursuant to Act 26, the Official statistics law, reporting units are obliged to provide, timely and free of charge, accurate, complete and up-to-date data.

### Timetable

The survey shall be implemented in several stages:

- Creating the list of products and C11a form (end of year for the following year);
- Price scanning and in-field checking, completing forms and forwarding to the SORS (deadline: 7<sup>th</sup>, i.e. 21<sup>st</sup> day of a month);
- Data receipt, detailed checking and final validation of prices, producing and publishing releases (deadline: 5<sup>th</sup>, i.e. 20<sup>th</sup> day of a month).

## SURVEY INSTRUMENTS

---

- Form C11a, annex;
- Retail prices of agricultural products are published as statistical releases twice monthly (on the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> day of a month). These releases are found at the SORS internet presentation ([www.stat.gov.rs](http://www.stat.gov.rs)).

Contact person – Dragoljub Milutinović, Ext. 326