

Import Price Index

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2. Metadata update	
2.1. Metadata last certified	February 20, 2023
2.2. Metadata last posted	February 20, 2023
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3. Statistical presentation	
3.1. Data description	
The import price index measures the average price level of products produced abroad and imported to the country, compared to the reference period.	
3.2. Classification system	
The structure of import price index follows the Statistical Classification of Products by Activity (CPA 2008).	
3.3. Sector coverage	
From 2020, transition has happened from CPA 1996 to CPA 2008. According to CPA 2008 the index covers the following parts: mining and quarrying (B-section); manufactured products (C-section); electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning (D-section); water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation services (E-section).	
3.4. Statistical concepts and definitions	
The following information is published: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Import price index to the previous month; • Import price index to the same month of the previous year; • Import price index 12-month average over the previous 12-month average. 	
3.5. Statistical unit	
The observable statistical unit is importer organization that imports products in the country.	
3.6. Statistical population	
The selection of observable importer organizations across the country is based on the external trade statistics data. Organizations that import products in the CPA class are sampled selectively. The selection base comprises of up to 9 332 enterprises, of which 1 069 enterprises are selected this year. As a result, the selected enterprises cover 74% of the whole sample (in terms of value).	
3.7. Reference area	
The prices are collected on products imported in the country (occupied territories are not considered).	
3.8. Time coverage	
According to CPA 1996 – 2017-2019; According to CPA 2008 – from 2020.	
3.9. Base period	
Previous year, same month of the previous year, previous 12 month average.	

4. Unit of measure	
Index.	

5. Reference period	
Month.	

6. Institutional mandate
6.1. Legal acts and other agreements
The Law of Georgia on Official Statistics; https://www.geostat.ge/media/20817/latest-Law-of-Georgia_2018.pdf Statistical Work Programme (annual); https://www.geostat.ge/en/modules/categories/307/statistical-work-programme Charter of the National Statistics Office of Georgia. https://www.geostat.ge/media/20845/10%2Csaqstatis-konsolidirebuli-debuleba.pdf
6.2. Data sharing
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7. Confidentiality
7.1. Confidentiality – policy
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Law of Georgia on Official Statistics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to the article 4 of the law individual data collected by statistical agencies for statistical compilation, whether they refer to natural or legal persons, are to be strictly confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes. According to the article 28 (Observing Confidentiality of Statistical Data) of the law 1. The data collected for the purpose of producing official statistics shall be confidential if it allows for identification of observation unit or it is possible to identify such data through it. 2. The confidential statistical data shall not be issued or disseminated or used for a non-statistical purpose but for the exceptions envisaged by the Georgian legislation. 3. When producing the official statistics, it is obligatory to destroy or store separately the identity data including the questionnaires containing such data and used for statistical surveys according to the rules defined in the Georgian legislation. According to the article 29 (The Obligations and Responsibilities of the Employees of the Geostat) of the law the confidential statistical data collected and processed for the purpose of statistical survey shall not be used or disseminated by the employees of the units of the Geostat. https://www.geostat.ge/media/20817/latest-Law-of-Georgia_2018.pdf Data Confidentiality Policy at Geostat https://www.geostat.ge/media/20860/Data-Confidentiality-Policy-at-Geostat_En.pdf Public Use Microdata Dissemination Policy at Geostat https://www.geostat.ge/media/20862/Microdata-Dissemination-Policy_Eng.pdf The Law of Georgia on Personal Data Protection https://matsne.gov.ge/en/document/view/1561437?publication=9
7.2. Confidentiality – data treatment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confidentiality guidelines. Written undertakings by an employee of Geostat on ensuring confidentiality of gained/collected data as a result of official duties.

8. Release policy
8.1. Release calendar
Data dissemination dates are defined according to the Advance release calendar, which is available on the website of Geostat and publicly accessible.
8.2. Release calendar access
https://www.geostat.ge/en/calendar
8.3. User access
All users have the equal access to the statistical data simultaneously.

9. Frequency of dissemination
Monthly.

10. Accessibility and clarity
10.1. News release

<p>Press release for the Producer and Import Price Indices is published through Geostat’s website on a monthly basis. It contains information about monthly and annual index rates, as well as the contributions of sections and divisions to the index formation. Press release also includes a time series graph.</p> <p>It is available on the following link: https://www.geostat.ge/en/news?year=&month=&category=7</p>
10.2. Publications
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10.3. On-line database
<p>Data are available to all users on the website of Geostat: https://www.geostat.ge/en/modules/categories/31/import-price-index</p>
10.4. Micro-data access
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10.5. Other
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10.6. Documentation on methodology
<p>The Producer and Import Price Indices technical manual is available on Geostat’s website: https://www.geostat.ge/en/modules/categories/122/methodologia-price-statistics</p>
10.7. Quality documentation
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11. Quality management
11.1. Quality assurance
<p>To ensure the quality of the statistical processes and products Geostat follows Article 4 – Basic principles of official statistics – of the Law of Georgia on Official Statistics, as well as the European Statistics Code of Practice, the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF).</p>
11.2. Quality assessment
<p>Methodology and Quality Management Division of Geostat, along with the sectoral departments, is responsible for the quality of the produced statistical products and processes. The Division carries out quality audit of statistical processes and assesses the risks associated with production of statistical data. Geostat has developed policy documents, guidelines and standard routine descriptions. These documents ensure the standardization of statistical processes and products and the establishment of a unified quality assurance system.</p>

12. Relevance
12.1. User needs
<p>The import price index is used for the following purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The index has an important role in deflating different economic indicators; •The index is an analytical instrument for researchers and representatives of business sector. <p>The main users of the import price index are: public agencies, international organizations, researchers and students, media representatives and other stakeholders.</p>
12.2. User satisfaction
<p>In 2021 user satisfaction survey was conducted, the target of the survey was to analyze the assessment of quality of statistical data by users and explore ways to improve user services. The survey report is available on the website of Geostat (in Georgian): https://www.geostat.ge/ka/page/customer-service</p>
12.3. Completeness
Data are consistent to the international standards.

13. Accuracy and reliability
13.1. Overall accuracy
Accuracy of data is ensured by compliance with international methodology of research and calculation methods.
13.2. Sampling error
There is no assessment of selective fallacy of the import price index. The extent of sampling available from existing set

of studies is optimal, given the research objectives and limited resources.
13.3. Non-sampling error
Non-sampling errors in the import price index are not assessed. To minimize this kind of errors, the index calculation step involves several levels of control.
14. Timeliness and punctuality
14.1. Timeliness
Data are published on the 19-22nd of the following month of the reporting month.
14.2. Punctuality
The data is published according to the date specified in the statistical work program. There has not been any violation of publication dates.
15. Coherence and comparability
15.1. Comparability – geographical
The prices are collected on products imported in the country. The principles of price collection and index compilation are based on international methodology and are consistent with it. Furthermore, in all regions the prices are collected based on the unified methodology and ensures the comparability of data across the country.
15.2. Comparability – over time
The index is comparable for the whole period.
15.3. Coherence – cross domain
Data are coherent.
15.4. Coherence – internal
Indices are coherent with the initial data – indices on the aggregate level are compiled using the lowest level indices through a clearly defined procedure.
16. Cost and burden
The annual budget for statistical survey of prices (including consumer, producer and import prices) in 2023 is 255 200 GEL.
17. Data revision
17.1. Data revision – policy
Statistical data revision policy is available on the website of Geostat: https://www.geostat.ge/media/44385/Revision-policy-and-error-correction_Geo.pdf
17.2. Data revision – practice
Planned revision of data is not carried out. An Unplanned revision (to clarify data) was not carried out in 2022.
18. Statistical processing
18.1. Source data
For the index calculation, the primary data are the prices of imported products. In 2023 prices will be collected from up to 901 organizations and up to 3 493 prices will be registered on monthly bases. The observable price is the price (the so-called cost, insurance and freight (C.I.F.) price) of imported product. The imported price includes: the transaction value of the product, also, the cost of delivery of the product to the border of importer country. The use of C.I.F. price is recommended by the United Nations. The selection of observable importer organizations across the country is based on the external trade statistics data. Organizations, presented in the class of the Statistical Classification of Products by Activity (CPA), that import products are sampled selectively. After sampling organizations, they are surveyed in order to determine the products in the CPA class. For this purpose, organizations are provided by additional electronic questionnaires and are required to indicate the following information: the name of the top four products in the class of the CPA with the largest import share, that are imported in the reporting period, corresponding measurement unit, importer country and the percentage share of each imported product in the selected CPA class. During the products selection process their detailed specifications are determined. Following the specifications is the most important part of price registration since the monthly recorded price difference should be caused by the pure

price change of a product, rather than changes in characteristics, or a product itself. Relying on the obtained survey the prices for sampled products are recorded across the year. Products sample is updated annually.

18.2. Frequency of data collection

Price collection fieldworks are conducted monthly, on the same date of the following month of the reporting period, from the 1st to the 8th day.

18.3. Data collection

The prices for imported products are collected by price enumerators. The importer organizations indicate the measurement unit, importer country and prices in the base, reference, previous and current months for the four selected products. Besides, the reason of a price change or any other relevant information is indicated in the comment field. The questionnaires are filled in the online form. The organizations fill the questionnaire independently or with the help of price enumerator. Online questionnaires are on the following address:

<http://database.geostat.ge/portal/ent/index.php>

It is possible to see the questionnaires on the website of Geostat, on the following link:

<https://www.geostat.ge/en/modules/categories/557/questionnaires-price-statistics>

18.4. Data validation

The validation procedure for the import price index is conducted in two stages:

On the first stage validation takes place simultaneously with the price registration fieldworks. In case of price change, the person responsible for filling the questionnaire is required to define by the comment the reason of the change.

After the data are sent to the central office, a responsible employee conducts analysis and logical control of the data.

On the second stage accuracy of the price, which are extremely deviated from the price of the previous month, is checked after calculating the overall index.

18.5. Data compilation

If a price for a product is not indicated by an organization in the reporting period, one of the following two methods of price imputation is applied: using the upper level group index or using carry-forward method.

The weights for individual products in the import price index are updated annually based on the external trade statistics data and reflects the latest information on the imported products. The obtained weights represent the share of the imported product value in the overall value of the imported products. The weights for a reporting period t are calculated based on t-2 period information. The list of imported products included in the index may also be changed while updating the weights.

During the import price index calculation, an elementary price index is the index calculated for each individual product imported by an organization. The elementary price index compared to the price reference period is obtained from the ratio of reporting (t) and reference period product prices.

The long term index for the total import compared to the price reference period is calculated using Laspeyres-type formula. The short term index compared to the previous month is obtained from the ratio of long term indices in the reporting and previous months, calculated to the price reference period.

In the process of time, an organization may not import a product of the same quality anymore, for which prices have been observed. In order to ensure the comparability of prices for old and new products, a quality adjustment method should be used, for which an imputed base price is calculated using several methods.

During the annual update of samples of organizations and import products or their specifications in the update period, December, prices are collected for products both in old and new samples. This enables chain-linking of indices, calculated for two different samples. Chaining enables to calculate indices with a long term reference period, notwithstanding the changes in the weights.

18.6. Adjustment

Not applied.

19. Comment

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