



# ICP Software

*Simplifying the compilation, analysis  
and review of price data for the  
International Comparison Program*



## ICP TOOL PACK

Good quality data are essential to the worldwide acceptance and reliability of the International Comparison Program's final output. The 2003–2006 round of the program has invested substantially in new technology and methodology in order to enhance the quality of data and help countries build sustainable statistical capacity. The task of compiling, analyzing and reviewing price data for the ICP has been simplified by the development of an integrated software system called ICP Tool Pack. The Eurostat-OECD PPP Program contributed towards the validation processes used in the Tool Pack.

# TOOL PACK FACTS

Developed by the World Bank

Distributed free of charge to countries participating in the International Comparison Program and to Regional Coordinating Organizations

Provides a powerful data management capability to store and analyze price data

Stores and displays pictures of products to be priced (thus ensuring that price collectors identify the exact product specified)

Standardizes price collection methods within and across countries

Allows regional stratification and geographic weighting of prices (including urban and rural).

Calculates National average prices, thereby significantly reducing data processing time and improving the overall timeliness of ICP data

Provides systematic data validation of prices within and between countries

Facilitates data archiving, analysis and dissemination

May be used to support the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program in countries and to provide a framework that can serve other price and wage index programs including Producer or Wholesale Price Indices, Import Price Indices and Unit Cost Indices.

Provides computations for all widely used price indices (Laspeyres, Fisher, EKS, Geary-Khamis, Tornquist, Country Product Dummy, etc.)

Allows users to customize reports on prices and expenditures

# ICP SPD SOFTWARE

ICP SPD Software is related to the Tool Pack and designed for the use of the ICP global office, regional coordinator and the country coordinator. It supports the building of regional lists of product specifications using the Structured Product Description (SPD) approach.

The creation of lists of goods and services in the International Comparison Program is the result of intense collaboration between national statistical offices and regional and global coordinators. This coordination is necessary for international consistency and comparability as well as to ensure that representative products are used in the ICP. Developing the final list of products using the SPD Software is an iterative process in which regional coordinators and countries exchange draft product specification files until they reach agreement on common comparable products to price within the region. The SPD software includes a data transfer feature that allows the product lists and specifications to be prepared in a format useable by the Tool Pack.

Features provide users with the capability to

- Customize global SPDs to suit regional needs
- Maintain continuous chain of communication between regional coordinator and countries
- Compare product specifications across countries
- Develop list of common comparable products that may be used for the CPI and other national indices
- Transfer final product specifications to ICP Tool Pack formats
- Generate diagnostic and validation reports

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## The International Comparison Program (ICP)

is a global statistical initiative involving national, regional and international agencies. This unique exercise produces internationally comparable price levels, expenditure values, and Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) estimates informing users such as national policy makers, economists, international organizations and academicians about the relative well-being of citizens of countries. The ICP global office in the World Bank coordinates the collection of price data, compilation of detailed expenditure estimates and calculation of PPPs for 107 countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America, the Commonwealth of Independent States and Western Asia. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat) coordinate activities for their member countries. Results combined with the Eurostat-OECD PPP Program<sup>1</sup> will bring the total number of participating countries to about 150, making it the largest international data collection exercise in the world today. The goal of the ICP and related activities is to provide a reliable and relevant information base, with the ultimate objective of informing policies that affect economic and social development as well as supporting poverty measurement and monitoring efforts. The ICP also provides a data resource that is extremely valuable to businesses involved in production, sales or purchases abroad, or in financial transactions or in setting compensation levels in different countries.

<sup>1</sup> For more information about the Eurostat-OECD PPP Program please visit <http://www.oecd.org> and <http://europa.eu.int>

## ICP TOOL PACK HELP DESK

The International Comparison Program global office has set up a Help Desk through which queries and issues related to the Tool Pack can be reported, coordinated and resolved efficiently.

The ICP global office help desk can be contacted at [icptoolpack@worldbank.org](mailto:icptoolpack@worldbank.org).

For more information about ICP and related activities please contact:

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