



INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

Middle East Regional Technical Assistance Center

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Webinar on business continuity of producer price indexes (PPI) and export and import price indexes (XMPI)

METAC delivered a regional webinar on business continuity of producer price indexes (PPI) and export and import price indexes (XMPI) to METAC-member countries. The webinar was attended by 26 participants from eight METAC members: Afghanistan, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, West Bank and Gaza, Tunisia, and Yemen. It included presentations offering guidelines on dealing with issues affecting the routine compilation and dissemination of national statistics as a result of measures put in place to limit the spread of COVID-19. The webinar also included a question and answer session to address issues raised by participants. Topics discussed during the webinar included data collection challenges and treatment of missing prices. The experts gave examples of using alternative sources to impute a missing index and presented good practices for transparency. During the discussion session, participating countries identified and discussed their current compilation challenges and issues. A big challenge facing countries is the treatment of missing data due to temporary closures and restrictions on movement. Another was how to use alternative data sources such as counterpart country price indexes, and how to adjust for fluctuating exchange rates.