



STATISTICAL RELEASE

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EXPORT AND IMPORT PRICE INDICES (XMPI) FOR DECEMBER, 2017

Background notes

Definition

The Export and Import Price Indices (XMPI) are measures of price changes of goods imported into or exported outside the country. The XMPI are used to analyse Terms of Trade (ToT) which is the ratio of Export Price Index (XPI) to the Import Price Index (MPI).

Weights and a reference period

The XMPI weights are based on values of imported and exported commodities for the years 2006 to 2010. A top-down approach was taken in the determination of the index structure and composition and the allocation of the weights. The aim was to maximize the indirect representation of un-priced commodities in the index, through a chain of representation. The price reference period is the quarter ending March 2013.

Product Classification

The products are classified according to the United Nations Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS). The HS is an international nomenclature for the classification of products.

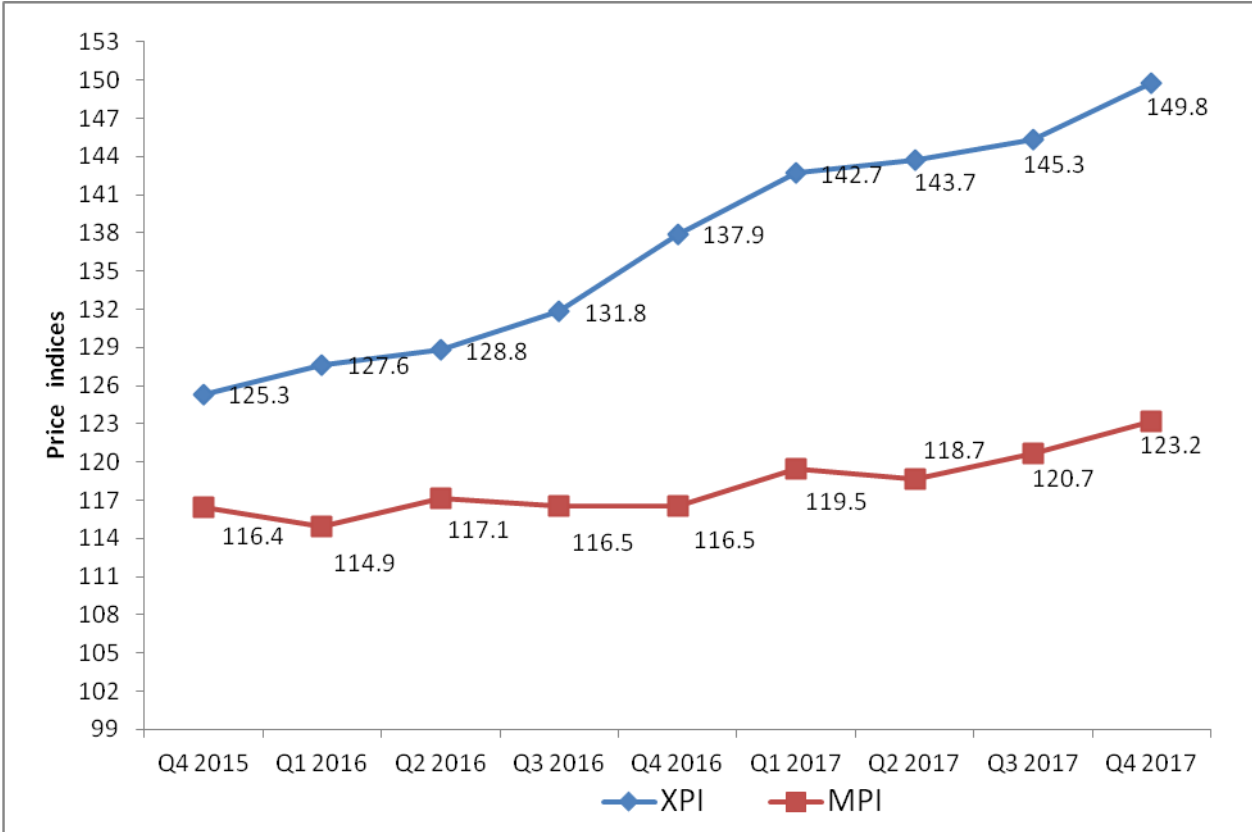
Methodology

Selection of items: In the selection of items, a top - down procedure was applied in three steps. First the major 2 digit HS chapters contributing to the total value of imports in terms of the sum of values for the year 2006 and 2010 were selected for direct inclusion in the indices. 12 chapters (2 digit HS codes) were selected for imports and 8

chapters for exports out of 99 chapters representing 80 percent or more depending on the degree of concentration. Secondly, the process was repeated at 4 digit level of HS; 56 items were selected for imports and 10 items were selected for exports. Finally the procedure was repeated at 8 digit level of the HS by selecting 170 items for imports and 18 items for exports. The result of these procedures was the derivation of the structure and composition of the indices.

The XMPI has incorporated a number of methodological improvements including the use of geometric means for compiling elementary index aggregates, the use of an improved index compilation system, and improved procedures for collecting and processing prices. The Laspeyres index formula was used to compute higher level aggregates for the XMPI. **Chart 1** depicts trend of XPI and MPI in the selected quarters.

Chart 1: Quarterly Export and Import Price Indices (Q1 2013=100).



Q1=January-March, Q2=April-June, Q3=July-September, Q4=October-December

Export Price Index

Structure of the XPI

The XPI covers 8 chapters out of 99 chapters, namely; (i) Fish and crustacean, mollusk and other aquatic invertebrate, (ii) Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers, (iii) Edible fruits and nuts, peel of citrus fruit or melons, (iv) Coffee, tea, mate and spices, (v) Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes, (vi) Ores, slag and ash, (vii) cotton and (viii) Natural/cultured pearls, precious stones and metals, coin, etc. The sampled eight chapters constitute 80 percent of total value of exports, aggregated from 2006 to 2010.

Quarterly Export Price Index

The overall export price index during the fourth quarter of 2017 increased by 3.1 percent to 149.8 compared to 145.3 recorded in the preceding quarter. The rise was mainly explained by the increase in prices of edible fruits and nuts especially the dried raw cashew nuts. When compared to the corresponding quarter of 2016 the export price index increased by 8.6 percent (**Table1**).

Table 1: Quarterly Export Price Indices by Chapter (Base year Q1 2013= 100)

Chapter	Description	Weight	2016	2017				% Change on Previous Quarter	% Change the same Quarter last year
			Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
03	Fish & crustacean, mollusc & other aquatic invertebrate	9.5	149.6	154.9	151.1	153.3	158.3	3.3	5.8
07	Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers	1.8	153.4	156.3	156.6	158.7	159.1	0.3	3.7
08	Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons	4.5	159.3	161.7	167.6	168.0	204.1	21.5	28.1
09	Coffee, tea, mate and spices	8.3	127.5	147.2	143.4	152.6	146.7	-3.9	15.1
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	11.6	161.8	165.2	165.6	165.9	164.7	-0.7	1.8
26	Ores, slag and ash	16.7	119.5	120.5	120.8	121.0	121.4	0.3	1.6
52	Cotton	4.6	131.8	135.0	140.0	136.5	137.4	0.7	4.2
71	Natural/cultured pearls, precious stones & metals, coin etc	43.0	100.4	101.0	104.4	106.1	106.7	0.6	6.3
	Overall	100	137.9	142.7	143.7	145.3	149.8	3.1	8.6

Q1=January-March, Q2=April-June, Q3=July-September, Q4=October-December

Sub indices by Chapter

In order to understand movements of export price indices, chapter by chapter analysis has been undertaken.

Chapter 03: Fish and crustacean, mollusk and other aquatic invertebrate

During the fourth quarter of 2017, the index for "Fish and crustacean, mollusk and other aquatic invertebrate" which account for 9.5 percent of the total weight increased by 3.3 percent to 158.3. This was mainly due to the increase in prices of frozen and fresh Nile perch fillets. Likewise, when compared to the corresponding quarter of 2016 the export price index increased by 5.8 percent

Chapter 07: Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers

This chapter contributed 1.8 percent of the total weight of the exported commodities and the index for this chapter increased slightly by 0.3 percent from 158.7 in the third quarter of 2017 to 159.1 in the fourth quarter of 2017. Similarly, when compared to the corresponding quarter of 2016 the export price index increased by 3.7 percent.

Chapter 08: Edible fruits and nuts, peel of citrus fruit or melons

The export price index for "Edible fruits and nuts" increased by 21.5 percent to 204.1 in the fourth quarter of 2017 when compared to the preceding quarter. This was mainly explained by the increase in prices of the dried raw cashew nuts. Likewise, when compared to the corresponding quarter in 2016, the index increased by 28.1 percent.

Chapter 09: Coffee, tea, mate and spices

This chapter contributed 8.3 percent of the total weight of exported commodities. During the fourth quarter of 2017, "Coffee, tea, mate and spices" recorded XPI of 146.7, equivalent to 3.9 percent decrease compared to XPI of 152.6 recorded during the third quarter of 2017. The decrease was due to a fall in price of coffee in the world market. Nonetheless, when compared to the similar quarter in the previous year, the XPI increased by 15.0 percent.

Chapter 24: Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes

During the fourth quarter of 2017, index for "Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes" decreased slightly to 164.7 compared to 165.9 recorded in the third quarter

of 2017. However, when compared to the same quarter in the previous year, the XPI increased by 1.8 percent.

Chapter 26: Ores, slag and ash

The export price index for "Ores, slag and ash" slightly increased to 121.4 in the fourth quarter of 2017 which is an increase of 0.3 percent compared to XPI of 121.0 recorded in the third quarter of 2017. Likewise, when compared to the same quarter in the previous year, the index increased by 1.6 percent.

Chapter 52: Cotton

During the fourth quarter of 2017 the export price index for "Cotton" slightly increased by 0.6 percent to 137.4 compared to 136.5 XPI recorded in the third quarter of 2017. Similarly, when compared to the same quarter last year, the index rose by 4.2 percent.

Chapter 71: Natural/cultured pearls, precious stones and metals, coin etc

The export price index for "Natural/cultured pearls, precious stones and metals, coin etc" which account for 43.0 percent of the total weight of exported commodities increased slightly by 0.6 percent from 106.1 in the third quarter of 2017 to 106.7 recorded in the fourth quarter of 2017. When compared to the similar quarter last year, the index increased by 6.3 percent.

Import Price Index

Structure of the MPI

The MPI covers 12 chapters out of 99 chapters, namely; (i) Cereals, (ii) Animal fats and oil & their cleavage product, (iii) Mineral fuels, oils and product of their distillation, (iv) Pharmaceutical products, (v) Fertilizers, (vi) Plastics and articles thereof, (vii) Rubber and articles thereof, (viii) Iron and steel, (ix) Articles of iron and steel, (x) Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and machinery appliance, parts, (xi) Electrical machinery equipments parts thereof; sound recorder etc, and (xii) Vehicles other than railway/transport way rool-stock, parts and accessories. The sampled twelve chapters constitute 80 percent of total value of imports aggregated from 2006 to 2010.

Quarterly Import Price Index

The overall Import Price Index for the fourth quarter of 2017 increased by 2.0 percent to 123.2 compared to 120.7 recorded in the preceding quarter. This was mainly attributed to the rise in prices of mineral fuel and cereals. Likewise, when compared to the same quarter of 2016 the index increased by 5.8 percent (**Table 2**).

Table 2: Quarterly Import Price Indices by Chapter (Base year Q1 2013= 100)

Chapter	Commodity Description	Weight	2016		2017				% change on Previous Quarter	% change in the same Quarter last year
			Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
10	Cereals	2.7	102.5	94.8	95.0	95.2	102.0	7.1	-0.5	
15	Animal fats and oil and their cleavage product	2.1	149.6	150.9	151.6	151.8	157.0	3.4	4.9	
27	Mineral fuels, oils and product of their distillation	24.2	68.0	79.9	64.8	76.0	85.0	11.8	25.0	
30	Pharmaceutical products	2.2	108.7	112.9	112.2	112.4	112.7	0.3	3.7	
31	Fertilizers	1.3	102.9	105.4	105.5	104.7	108.4	3.5	5.3	
39	Plastics and articles thereof	3.9	106.0	108.6	111.9	111.2	112.2	0.9	5.8	
40	Rubber and articles thereof	1.9	110.4	113.0	113.1	113.7	114.0	0.3	3.3	
72	Iron and steel	4.4	105.6	107.2	107.4	117.2	117.5	0.3	11.3	
73	Articles of iron and steel	1.2	124.7	128.9	129.2	131.2	133.2	1.5	6.8	
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliance; parts	20.6	136.8	140.0	140.2	140.8	140.9	0.1	3.0	
85	Electrical machinery equipment parts thereof; sound recorder etc	11.1	140.8	146.7	147.9	148.5	148.0	-0.3	5.1	
87	Vehicles other than railway/transport ways rool-stock	20.3	141.7	145.7	145.6	146.1	147.3	0.8	4.0	
	Overall	100	116.5	119.5	118.7	120.7	123.2	2.0	5.8	

Q1=January-March, Q2=April-June, Q3=July-September, Q4=October-December

Sub indices by Chapter

This section analyses movements of import price indices for each chapter.

Chapter 10: Cereals

During the fourth quarter of 2017, the import price index for "Cereals" increased by 7.1 percent to 102.0 from 95.2 recorded in the preceding quarter. The increase was due to a rise in price of wheat in the world market. However, when compared to the same quarter in the preceding year the index decreased slightly by 0.5 percent.

Chapter 15: Animal fats and oil and their cleavage product

This chapter contributes 2.1 percent of the total weight of the imported commodities and recorded MPI of 157.0 in the fourth quarter of 2017, representing an increase of 3.4 percent from the level recorded in the third quarter of 2017. The increase was due to a

rise in price of both crude palm oil and palm olein. Likewise, when compared to the same quarter in the previous year the index increased by 4.9 percent.

Chapter 27: Mineral fuels, oils and product of their distillation

During the fourth quarter of 2017, import price index for "Mineral fuels, oils and product of their distillation" which contributes 24.2 percent to the total weight of the imported commodities increased by 11.8 percent to 85.0 from 76.0 recorded in the third quarter of 2017. The increase was associated with the rise of prices of the white petroleum products. Similarly, when compared to the corresponding quarter in 2016, the index increased significantly by 25.0 percent.

Chapter 30: Pharmaceutical products

The index for "Pharmaceutical products" which represent about 2.0 percent of the total weight increased marginally from 112.4 in the third quarter of 2017 to 112.7 recorded in the fourth quarter of 2017. Likewise, when compared to similar quarter in the previous year, the index increased by 3.7 percent.

Chapter 31: Fertilizers

The index for "Fertilizers" which accounts for 1.3 percent of the total weight of the imported commodities increased by 3.5 percent to 108.4 during the fourth quarter of 2017 compared to 104.7 recorded in the third quarter of 2017. The increase was mainly attributed by a rise in the price of urea in the world market. Likewise, when compared with the same quarter in the preceding year the index increased by 5.3 percent.

Chapter 39: Plastics and articles thereof

This chapter contributes 3.9 percent to the total weight of imported commodities. The index increased slightly by 0.9 percent to 112.2 in the fourth quarter of 2017. When compared to the same quarter in the previous year the index increased by 5.8 percent.

Chapter 40: Rubber and articles thereof

During the fourth quarter of 2017, the index for "Rubber and articles thereof" which contributes 1.9 percent to the total weight of imported commodities, slightly increased to 114.0 from 113.7 that was recorded in the third quarter of 2017. Likewise, the index increased by 3.3 percent when compared to the same quarter in 2016.

Chapter 72: Iron and steel

In the fourth quarter of 2017, the index for "Iron and steel" increased slightly by 0.3 percent to 117.5 from 117.2 registered in the third quarter of 2017. Likewise, when compared with the corresponding quarter of 2016 the index rose by 11.3 percent from 105.6 recorded in 2016.

Chapter 73: Articles of iron and steel

During the fourth quarter of 2017, the index for "Articles of iron and steel" went up by 1.5 percent to 133.2 when compared to the preceding quarter. The rise was mainly explained by the increase in prices of galvanized and black pipes. Likewise, when compared to the corresponding quarter in 2016, the index increased by 6.8 percent.

Chapter 84: Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliance and parts

The index for "Boilers, machinery and machinery appliance" which accounts for 20.6 of total weight of imported commodities slightly increased by 0.1 percent to 140.9 in the fourth quarter of 2017 compared to 140.8 recorded in the third quarter of 2017. Likewise, when compared to the same quarter in 2016, the index increased by 3.0 percent.

Chapter 85: Electrical machinery equipment and parts thereof

The index for "Electrical machinery equipment and parts thereof" decreased marginally by 0.3 percent to 148.0 in the fourth quarter of 2017 compared with 148.5 recorded in the preceding quarter. Nonetheless, when compared to the corresponding quarter of the year 2016 the index increased by 5.1 percent.

Chapter 87: Vehicles other than railway/transport ways rool-stock

The index for "Vehicles other than railway/transport ways rool-stock" which accounts for 20.3 percent of total weight marginally increased by 0.8 percent to 147.3 in the fourth quarter of 2017 compared to 146.1 recorded in the third quarter of 2017. Likewise, when compared to the same quarter in 2016 the index increased by 4.0 percent.

Terms of Trade

The term of trade index is the ratio of export price index to import price index. During the fourth quarter of 2017, terms of trade index remained favourable displaying the increase of 1.2 points to 121.6 compared to 120.4 recorded in the preceding quarter. When compared to the same quarter in 2016, terms of trade increased by 2.6 percent (**Table 3**).

Table 3: Quarterly Terms of Trade (Base year Q1 2013 = 100)

Indices				2016				2017			
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
EXPI	118.4	121.3	125.3	127.6	128.8	131.8	137.9	142.7	143.7	145.3	149.8
MPI	113.2	115.1	116.4	114.9	117.1	116.5	116.5	119.5	118.7	120.7	123.2
TOT	104.6	105.4	107.6	111.1	110.0	113.1	118.4	119.4	121.1	120.4	121.6

Note;

Q1=January-March, Q2=April-June, Q3=July-September, Q4=October-December

XPI = Export Price Index

MPI = Import Price Index

ToT = Terms of Trade

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