

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

Middle East Regional Technical Assistance Center



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Webinar on Consumer Price Index Business Continuity

The last in a series of three regional webinars on consumer price index (CPI) business continuity was delivered to METAC-member countries. The webinar was attended by 27 participants from ten METAC members: Afghanistan, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, West Bank and Gaza, Syria, Tunisia, and Yemen. The event included a brief presentation on imputation methods for missing prices. Topics discussed included treatment of increases in local transportation prices, when to replace disappearing varieties, and the need for flexibility with regard to the number of months non-seasonal items can be imputed. Some of the participating countries are struggling with both the effects of COVID-19 and other issues such as on-going conflict and economic decline. Issues related to variety samples and outdated index weights were also discussed.