

**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Commerce & Industry**  
**OFFICE OF THE ECONOMIC ADVISER**

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**MANUAL ON COMPILATION OF**  
**INDEX NUMBER OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN INDIA**

**About the Price Index**

The price index is an indicator of the average price movement over time of a fixed basket of goods and services. The constitution of the basket of goods and services is done keeping in to consideration whether the changes are to be measured in retail, wholesale, or producer prices etc. The basket will also vary for economy-wide, regional, or sector specific series. At present, separate series of index numbers are compiled to capture the price movements at retail and wholesale level in India. There are four main series of price indices compiled at the national level. Out of these four, Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW), Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers / Rural Labourers (CPI -AL/RL), Consumer Price Index for Urban Non-Manual Employees (CPI-UNME) are consumer price indices. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) number is a weekly measure of wholesale price movement for the economy. Some states also compile variants of CPI and WPI indices at the state level.

WPI is also compiled by many states covering state level wholesale transactions. Presently WPI series compiled are -- Assam (base 1993-94), Bihar (1991-92), Haryana (1980-81), Karnataka (1981-82), Punjab (1979-82), U.P.(1970-71) and West Bengal (1980-81). Most of the state series are cover agricultural commodities only.

**Step-wise introduction to compilation of WPI**