

# **Standard-documentation Meta information**

**(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)**

on

## **Wholesale Price Index**

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## Executive summary

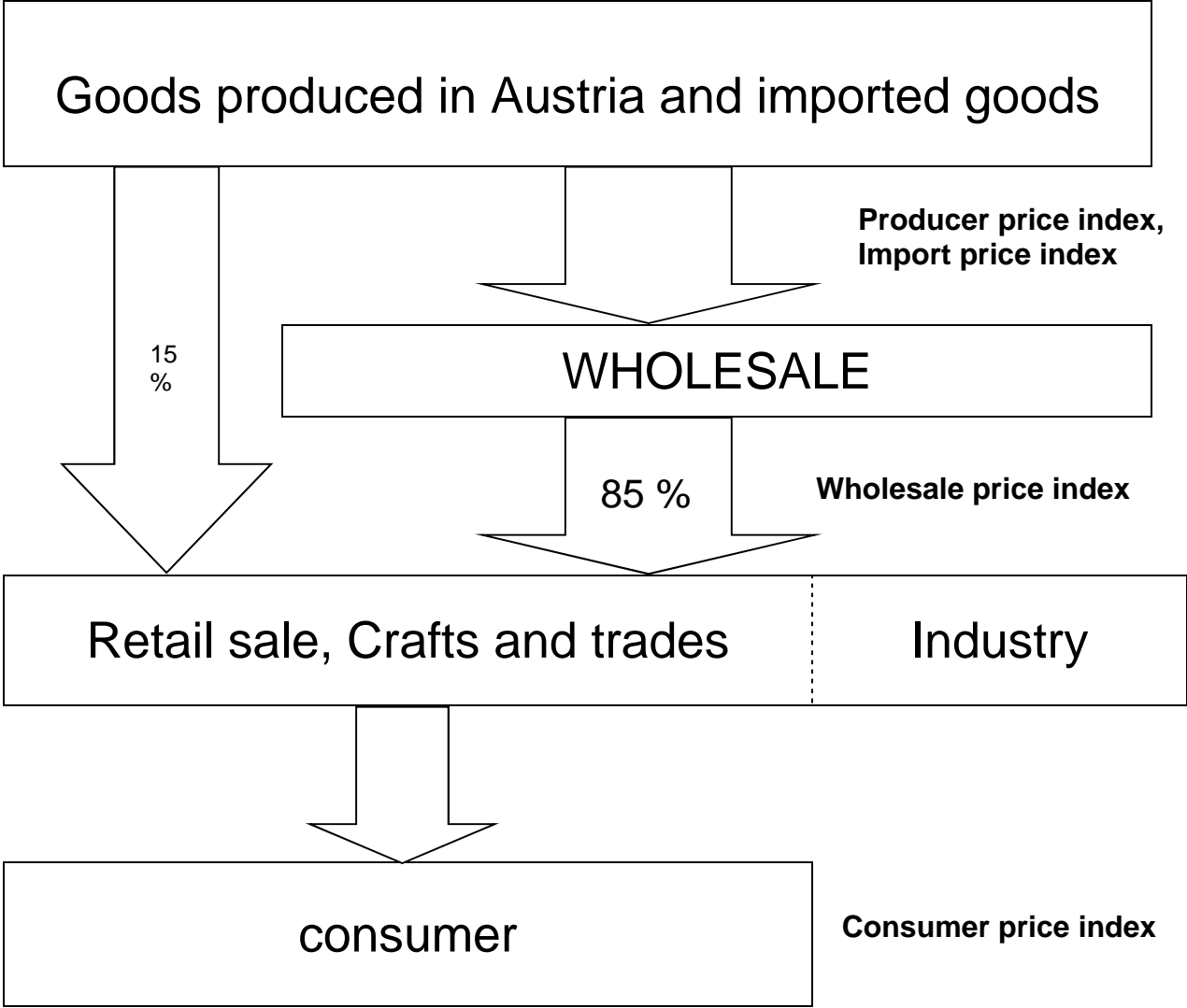
The Wholesale Price Index measures the price changes of goods sold by wholesale enterprises. The Wholesale Price Index is used by public institutions as well as by domestic and foreign enterprises in many contracts (for indexation). Furthermore the Wholesale Price Index is used as deflator for the monthly turnover indices in wholesale and in National Accounts. Selected sub-indices of the Wholesale Price Index are used for the calculation of the Construction Costs Index.

The Wholesale Price Index is available in a long-term series at the level of an all-items index beginning in 1947 (base: Schilling-price March 1938=100). Over the years the Wholesale Price Index has been subject to several revisions, which were executed in ten-year intervals up to the year 2000. Since the year 2000 the Wholesale Price Index is revised every 5 years. Comparisons over a longer time period can be achieved by chain-linking the indices of different base-years.

The Wholesale Price Index is calculated monthly and is published between the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 7<sup>th</sup> of the following month as preliminary and after another month as final index. Since 1973 the wholesaler's selling prices (exclusive of VAT) are used for calculating the Wholesale Price Index. Until the end of 1972 the index was computed on the basis of wholesaler's selling prices including turnover tax. The **wholesaler's selling price** is the price that a wholesaler realizes when selling goods to non-consumers such as retailers or commercial and industrial enterprises. Currently about 470 wholesale enterprises are reporting monthly, on a voluntary basis, 2400 selling prices to the 384 commodities that make up the basket of goods of the Wholesale Price Index. The basket of goods is compiled in cooperation with wholesalers, with experts from the Austrian Economic Chambers of Commerce and experts of other institutions representing various branches of wholesale. The weighting of the Wholesale Price Index on the level of branches is based on the results of the Structural Business Statistics concerning revenues and income in wholesale in the various branches. The weights on the level of commodities are derived from various statistical data of Statistics Austria (e.g. transport, agriculture, energy), sections of the Austrian Economic Chambers, wholesale enterprises as well as experts of institutions representing various branches of wholesale. The calculation of the index is based on the [index formula of Laspeyres](#) with a fixed base year.

The Wholesale Price Index is part of a comprehensive system of price indices, which consists – among others - of the Producer Price Index, the Import Price Index and the Consumer Price Index and represents the price developments at the different stages of the economic process. The purpose of the Wholesale Price Index is to depict the development of wholesaler's selling prices (excl.VAT) for goods, which are sold by wholesale enterprises allocated - according to the Business Register - to ÖNACE 2008-divisions [“45 Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles”](#) and [“46 Wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles”](#). The Wholesale Price Index comprises those parts of wholesale, which are carried out by institutional wholesalers (ÖNACE 2008-divisions 45 and 46). Functional wholesale activities of industrial or service enterprises are not depicted by the Wholesale Price Index. About 85% of the functional turnover in wholesale is transacted by institutional wholesale enterprises (according to the results of the Structural Business Statistics 2015 - revenues in wholesale). The Wholesale Price Index represents also transactions among big corporations (e.g. the supply of chain stores), which are not exposed to competition.

Commodity flow in wholesale as a percentage of turnover



Source: Structural Business Statistics 2015, revenues in wholesale - 85% of the functional turnover in wholesale is transacted by institutional wholesale enterprises, 15% by enterprises allocated to ÖNACE 2008-sections C-K

<b>Wholesale Price Index – Main Features</b>	
<b>Subject Matter</b>	Measurement of the price development of goods sold by wholesale enterprises
<b>Population</b>	All transactions to non-consumers executed by enterprises allocated- according to the Business Register- to ÖNACE 2008-divisions “45 Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles” and “46 Wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles”
<b>Type of statistics</b>	Price index
<b>Data sources/Survey techniques</b>	2400 selling prices to the 384 commodities that make up the basket of goods, reported by about 470 wholesale enterprises
<b>Reference period or due day</b>	Calendar month, reference date is the 15th of each month
<b>Periodicity</b>	Monthly
<b>Survey participation (in case of a survey)</b>	Mandatory
<b>Main legal acts</b>	<a href="#">Federal Law GAZETTE II No.147/2007</a> , regulation concerning the compilation of indices of the price development in economy <b>Amendment</b> <a href="#">BGBl. II Nr. 222/2015</a>
<b>Most detailed regional breakdown</b>	Austria, no regional subdivision
<b>Availability of results</b>	Preliminary data: t + 7 days Final data: t + 37 days
<b>Other</b>	Since 2006 on behalf of the Federal Guild “Metall-Elektro-Sanitär-KFZ” the Wholesale Price Index for Copper material is computed and published