



The effect of House Market downturn on House price index.

Rósmundur Guðnason, Statistics Iceland
Guðrún R. Jónsdóttir, Statistics Iceland
Lára G. Jónasdóttir, Statistics Iceland

*11th meeting of the International Working Group on Price
Indices (The Ottawa Group), Neuchâtel, Switzerland, 27-29
May 2009*

Slowdown in the housing market

- Started in the beginning of 2008 Speeded up by the bank crash
- Sales changes 2007-2009:
 - 11.000 in 2007
 - 4.000 in 2008
 - 2.000 in 2009
- Prices changes 2007-2009: cash value/real
 - 9,4%/8,7% in 2007
 - 6,2%/-5,3% in 2008
 - -11,0%/-21,0% in 2009

Stratification/weight structure

- Prices, three months moving average
 - 2000 sales are equivalent to 6.000
- Weights, sales, three year moving average
 - Laspeyres 2005-2008
 - Paasche 2006-2009
- Stratification structure
 - Four regions
 - Two types of housing.
 - 4-5 sizes, 30-69,70-109 etc, fixed
 - 26 strata/cells in the index

Problem in economic crises

- Fall problematic, random sales, quality differs better or worse properties sell, fewer prices, more volatility.
- Two main problem arise in the economic downturn
 - Fall in salesvolumes
 - No prices in a cell
 - Less than five contracts in a sell
 - Non monetary transactions
 - By a house and part of the payment is your own housing

Problem with fewer prices

- Missing prices

- Last available price used
 - CPI rules used, if not available for three months, price change in cell, or total price change
- At least five contracts in a sell, volatility criteria.
 - Fewer contracts, fill up to five, last available
 - Using all available price information.

Size of the problem

- 2008 there were 5% of prices in a cell not available or less than five
 - Missing, 1%, less than five, 4%
- In 2009 this figure was nearly 20%
 - Missing 4%, five or less, 15%,
- Biggest problem, single houses in the capital area 2009, 70%
 - Missing 27%, five or less 43%

Non monetary transactions

- Pay for a property not with money but with other forms of payments such as houses, apartments, cars, caravans.
 - Nearly 30% with houses, 3% other
- The house traded is here similar to monetary transaction and treated as such in the house price index

How is this form of payment treated

- Price concept in the House price index: the present value
- Money in the future not as valuable as of today.
- Same method in this case.
 - The rate of return similar as in the use cost model.
 - Highest real interest rate + inflation

Example

- With a property that you buy for 30 million ISK:
 - Your house 10 million
 - Money 20 million
 - Rate of return 25%
- Present value of the contract.
 - $10/1,25 + 20 = 28$
- Price change: $28,5/30 = -7,1\%$

Influence on the index

- If nothing had been done the index would have measured 2.9% higher house prices.
- This form is most common in the capital area and the effect 4.8%
- Not as big outside the capital area single flat houses there -7.9%