

The aim of the UN Task Team on Scanner Data is to increase the effective use of scanner data in official statistics. These data can produce more timely and granular inflation statistics for businesses, individuals and government. While some NSOs have been able to move these data into their production systems, the majority of offices are still in the research phase of this implementation process. Therefore, having a collaborative approach to this research will greatly improve the speed at which these data can be implemented in production.

In line with the strategic area on innovation and modernization of national statistical systems of the Cape Town Global Action Plan¹ for Sustainable Development Data (CTGAP) of the United Nations Statistical Commission² (UNSC), the Global Working Group³ (GWG) on Big Data for Official Statistics has launched an UN Global Platform to connect national and international data and technology partners from the public and private sector to facilitate data collaboration in the use of Big Data through subject matter Task Teams. This is where the work of the UN Task Team on Scanner Data comes in. The aim of the task team will be met by providing access to training and guidance material for these data and how they can be used to produce consumer price indices. Historical expenditure and volume data of a sample scanner data set allows us to test new methodologies and algorithms for price index calculation in an online collaborative environment facilitated by the UN Global Platform.

We would welcome the opportunity to present this outcome of the task team (capabilities, data set, methodology code set, learning materials, etc.) at the Ottawa group. This opportunity would give a venue to receive feedback from our international colleagues as well as increase awareness of the material available to facilitate adoption of scanner data within NSOs.

¹ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/hlg/cape-town-global-action-plan/>

² <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/>

³ <https://unstats.un.org/bigdata/>