

# **Pricing seasonal products: the imputation techniques**

**Swiss Federal Statistical Office**

**November 2018**

Abstract:

The imputation techniques are very widespread for dealing with the problem of seasonal products. However, it has significant effects on the results, depending on the assumptions made, the level of imputation and the structure of the basket of goods and services. Moreover, when seasonality is combined with a frequent change of assortment and very volatile prices, as in clothing and footwear, the situation becomes even more complicated. Through concrete simulations and a practical example with footwear, this document discusses the imputation techniques, which are not as simple to apply, as it seems and which could hide undesirable effects.