

# Price Indices and the Measurement of Quality Changes

Mannheim, April 25-26, 2002

This is a **Call for Papers** for a joint conference of the ZEW and the Federal Statistical Office Germany on the impact of quality change and new products on economic measurement. The conference's objective is to bring together statisticians, academics and others using price statistics. Recent scientific contributions on the issue of quality measurement are discussed together with experiences from the day-to-day use of applied statistics.

## Topics of interest

### Measurement of Quality Change

- Implications of an adequate measurement of quality change for the users of macroeconomic analysis (e.g. production, capital stock, growth and inflation measures).
- Measurement of quality change in services.
- How to reflect new products in price indices adequately? When should a product be treated as a new product and when should it be treated as a variation of an existing product?
- Are market structure, product differentiation, and duration of product life cycles potential sources of measurement errors using different methods of quality adjustment?

### Hedonic Price Indices

- Theoretical and econometric issues with special emphasis on the specification and identification of hedonic models.
- Testing of hedonic models.

### Implementation Issues

- To what extent can methods of quality adjustment be implemented for day-to-day compilation of price index series?
- What are the data requirements and what problems occur during the collection of data?
- Should the definition of products be flexible or precise?
- What are the experiences with the implementation of hedonic price index series in the international practice of statistical agencies?
- Does the implementation of harmonized price indices with hedonic methods impose further restrictions? What possibilities exist for cooperations on an international level?

Theoretical, empirical, and policy-oriented contributions are welcome. We also encourage the submission of reports focussing on the experience of hedonic methods in statistical offices.

**Organizers:** Dietmar Moch (ZEW) · Johann Szenzenstein (Federal Statistical Office Germany) · Jack Triplett (The Brookings Institution, Washington D.C.)

**Registration:** The deadline for the submission of papers has expired.  
Please register before March, 15th.

For further information, please correspond to the address given below or visit the conference home page.

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### PI-conference organizing committee

Attn. Dietmar Moch  
ZEW, Centre for European Economic Research,  
P.O. Box 103443 · D-68034 Mannheim · Germany  
Phone: +49/621/1235-187 · Fax:+49/621/1235-170  
E-mail: [moch@zew.de](mailto:moch@zew.de)  
Internet: [www.zew.de/hedonics](http://www.zew.de/hedonics)