

Asia Pacific 2009 PPP Update Price Collection Tool [PCT]

Instruction manual

Price Collection Tool [PCT] to be used in the 2009 Update is built on MS Excel platform in order to be simple to install and use. Using MS Excel platform also allows simplifying the data flow and data processing.

Installation

PCT is contained in an MS Excel file. No special installation is necessary. Depending on Excel version and settings, one may need to enable Macros in Excel. While in Excel, check the following settings: Click on Tools -> Macro -> Security, and select Security Level as Medium. This will allow choosing whether you want to run macros. When opening the file with PCT, select “Enable Macros” in the dialog box if it appears.

Setup

Setup of the individual PCTs is carried out by the regional coordinator. The countries receive PCTs ready to use, no additional setup is required. Only cells where data entry is expected can be written to. Other cells are blocked from being modified. The columns A-G are preset by the regional coordinator, and populated according to the requirements of data collection, including item specifications, units of measurements, expected range and preferred quantity. The current PCT is intended to be used in one quarter.

Operation Modes

PCT has two modes of operation: (1) data entry mode, and (2) analysis mode.

Data entry

To enter the data entry mode please click on “Enter data” label in cell C2. The user will have to enter outlet/location code, observed quantity and observed price:

n1		
Outlet/Loc	obs. qty	obs. price

Data analysis

To enter the data analysis mode, one needs to click on “Analyze data” label in cell C4. Relevant columns will open while the columns used for data entry will become hidden. Summary statistics include the following entries:

SUMMARY STATISTICS

AVG	QUOTES	CV	MIN	MAX	Min/Max Ratio
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I.e., average price (AVG), number of quotations (QUOTES), variation coefficient (CV), minimum price (MIN), maximum price (MAX) and minimum/maximum price ratio (min/max ratio), respectively. All prices are converted prices, based on the inputs made during data entry.

Next to the summary statistics, a section with average converted prices is shown.

Once in Data Analysis Mode, the user can plot average item prices on graph by clicking on the label in cell K1. To delete all graphs, the user must click on the label in cell L1.

Some useful analytical parameters are shown in range J2:L4 when in Analysis mode as well:

obs	5	15
cv	0.2	0.3
min/max	0.8	0.6

Those parameters are applicable to the Summary Statistics section. Data entries are highlighted according to these parameters: for example, CV of more than 30% will be marked red, between 20% and 30% - yellow, and no color would correspond to a CV of less than 20%. Same color scheme would be applicable to the number of observations and min/max ratio. In addition, the converted prices themselves are marked according to the following color scheme: the entries with prices above one CV from the mean are marked red, below one CV are marked blue.

This simple diagnostics, together with the graph plotting facility allows the national coordinator to analyze price data inputs, and to make necessary corrections if needed.