

A provisional PPI for courier services

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Dutch Couriers PPI

Courier services are the “collection, transport and delivery of information carriers, parcels and other small pieces with an emphasis on speed, trustworthiness (personal accompaniment) and door-to-door transport” (ISIC & CPA)

Related services: post, road haulage and armoured transport of valuables.



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Main price determining factors

- Weight and/or size
- Duration between pickup and delivery
- Destination ('zone' classification)
- Insurance (value of the content)
- Tracking
- Inclusion of customs formalities
- Inclusion of extra services (wrapping, sorting, payment)
- Bulk discounts



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Collected Prices

List prices

Example: Delivery of type 'Economy Express' of a parcel of a "volume weight" of 10 kg to the capital of a 'zone 4' country.

Fictitious prices

Example: Parcel of 10 x 50 x 50 cm, 10 kilograms, Rotterdam to London, 9:00 AM delivery next day.

Real transaction prices

Example: Medical equipment in a parcel, 21 kg, from Voorburg to Amsterdam, client number 104602.



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Quality development

Production processes and the structure of the industry change continuously.

On the other hand, outputs stay comparatively constant.

An output PPI is therefore approached with simple methods for quality adjustment and product substitution, like the 'overlap' method.

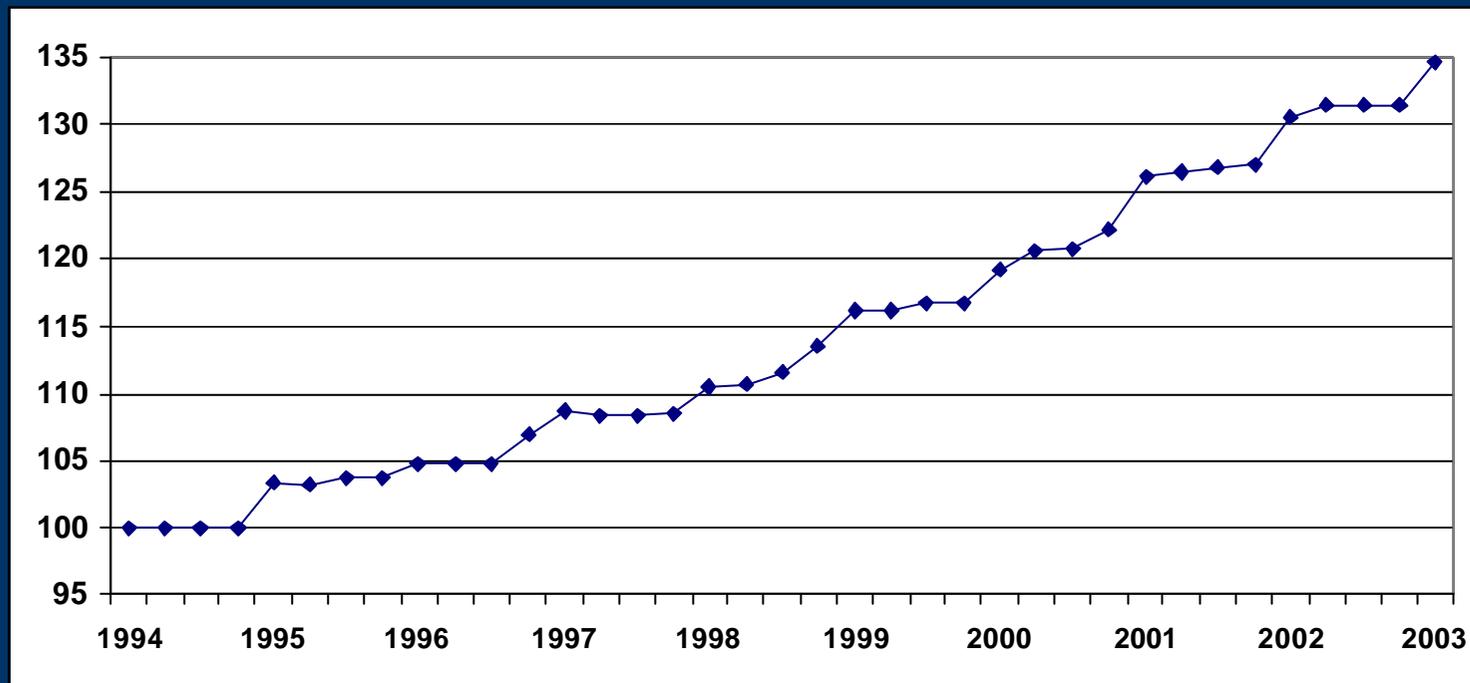
Some quality factors are not addressed. For instance, changes in the reliability or in the percentage of on time deliveries.



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Challenges and future plans

- Delineation between couriers and post or road haulage
- Discounts on list prices or in bulk contracts
- Quarterly price changes



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Other future plans

- **Rebasing (present weights date from 1992)**
- **Update of the survey panel**
- **Consideration of separate indices for sub-markets**



