

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates 3-5 June 2008

Question: bet 59

Topic: International Consumer Price Index

Hansard Page: E125

Senator Abetz asked:

Senator ABETZ—Do other countries use a consumer price index for the purpose of measuring real growth in government spending?

Mr Harper—I am not aware of what is used in other countries.

Senator ABETZ—Would that information be readily available to you or not? I do not want to impose a workload on you by asking you to take that sort of information on notice if it would require a lot of work.

Mr Harper—We could certainly look into what might be readily available. It is not a measure that is typically compiled by statistical agencies. It would be measures that would be compiled by governments themselves.

Answer:

The ABS has readily available information for the United States and the United Kingdom. Both the United States and the United Kingdom use the GDP implicit price deflator for their presentation of real measures of government expenditure and revenue.