periodically revised to correspond to current available data.

In order to avoid correlation bias between weights and relatives in a time series for all possible cases of positive, zero, or negative correlation between relatives and weights it is absolutely necessary to use fixed or constant weights whether the index numbers are computed for two periods or for more than two periods. These fixed weights measure only approximately the relative importance of the different commodities in the different years. As new weights become available tests should be made of the effect of using such new weights. If the effect is significant these new fixed weights should, in general, supplant the old weights.

Comprehensive averages of price changes for widely different (from an economic point of view) places or periods of time may be impossible to obtain, not because of the lack of satisfactory methods of averaging, but because of the lack of homogeneous data to be averaged. In such cases we are limited to the comparison of price changes of those commodities bought and sold in economically significant and comparable amounts in the periods compared.