Doron Sayag

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Dear members of the selection committee,

I am writing to apply for the Robert Summers Fellowship on Economic Measurement of the Conference on Research on Income and Wealth.

I have been working at the Israel Central Bureau of Statistics (ICBS) for almost two decades. At first, I worked as an economist and later as the Head of the Consumer Prices Division. Currently, I am working as a professional expert in the ICBS' Chief Statistician Office. This experience gave me a deep practical understanding of statistical processes.

My current duties and responsibilities include:

1. Assisting and advising the Chief Statistician and the Deputy of the Chief Statistician on professional matters.
2. Heading various research projects.
3. Implementing economic, econometric, and statistical methods and tools to improve the quality, accuracy, and usefulness of the statistical series published by the ICBS.
4. Engaging in the analysis, evaluation, and enrichment of administrative data sources.
5. Participating in professional teams on statistical and economic issues at the ICBS, in various governmental forums, and at international working groups.
6. Leading the development of an advanced information infrastructure of real estate, retail prices, and other economic data issues.

Besides my work at the ICBS, I am also an advanced PhD student in the Department of Economics at Bar-Ilan University, under the supervision of Professor Daniel Levy. I expect to complete my Ph.D. thesis, titled "Empirical Examination of Two Leading Theories of Price Rigidity," this year.

My main research fields are urban economics and applied microeconomics with a focus on measurement methods of price indices and on price rigidity. I am also a member of the Ottawa Group - a forum of specialists that share their experiences and discuss research results and ideas on the challenges of measuring prices and price changes. As a member of the Group, I co-authored several studies related to official statistics. The studies were published in ***Regional Science and Urban Economics***, ***International Journal of Forecasting***, ***Behavioral and Experimental Economics***, and ***Israel Economic Review***. One of the studies I have co-authored, focusing on the Measurement of the Prices of Seasonal Products in the CPI, was published as Chapter 9 in the IMF's CPI manual.

The combination of practical experience in building statistical products along with the research experience I have gained, allows me to contribute to methodological developments.

I will very much appreciate it if you consider my candidacy. I hope to meet you during the CRIW meeting, at the NBER Summer Institute.

Letters of reference will be provided upon request.

I thank you for your consideration and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Doron Sayag

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Personal Details

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Higher Education

- 2018 – Present: PhD student in the department of Economics at Bar-Ilan University, under the supervision of Prof. Daniel Levy.
- 2009 - Master's Degree in the department of Economics, Environment and Management at the Hebrew University, under the supervision of Prof. Avi Simhon.
- 2001 - BA in Economics and Business Administration, University of Haifa.

Employment History

- 2010 – Present: A Professional Expert in the Chief Statistician's Office, Israel Central Bureau of Statistics (ICBS).

  My current duties and responsibilities include:

  7. Assisting and advising the Chief Statistician and the Deputy of the Chief Statistician on professional matters.
  8. Heading various research projects.
  9. Implementing economic, econometric, and statistical methods and tools to improve the quality, accuracy, and usefulness of the statistical series published by the ICBS.
  10. Engaging in the analysis, evaluation, and enrichment of administrative data sources.
  11. Participating in professional teams on statistical and economic issues at the ICBS, in various governmental forums, and at international working groups.
  12. Leading the development of an advanced information infrastructure of real estate, retail prices, and other economic data issues.

- 2004 – 2010: Head of Consumer Prices Unit, ICBS.

  Job duties and responsibilities include:

  1. Responsible for the ongoing activity required to produce the Consumer Price Index.
  2. Guiding the unit's employees in professional and methodological issues.
  3. Participation in professional teams on statistical-economic issues at the CBS, in government forums.

- 2001-2004: CPI analyst in the Consumer Prices Unit, ICBS.

  Job duties and responsibilities include:

  1. Calculate the housing price index in the Consumer Price Index.
  2. Conduct quality checks, inquiries regarding price changes, overseeing the sampling of the respondents and the products
  3. Preparing the data for publications

Technical Skills

Control and experience in the following statistical software: **SAS**, **Stata** ,**R**, and **E-views**

Relevant Courses

- Applied statistics
- Seasonality analysis
- Time series analysis
- Methods for imputing missing data
- Econometric methods in microeconomics
- Advanced programming in SAS
- Estimation methods
- Artificial Intelligence

Languages

Hebrew (native), English (fluent), Arabic (basic).

Public Positions

- Coordinator of the Public Advisory Committee of the Public Council for Statistics on "Construction, Housing and Real Estate", (Chairman Prof. Dani Ben-Shahar). Co-Author of the Public Advisory Committee report.
- Coordinator of the Public Advisory Committee of the Public Council for Statistics on "Financial Literacy" (Chairman of the Committee - Prof. Eugene Kandel).
- Member of the Public Advisory Committee on the "Consumer Price Index" of the Public Council for Statistics
- Member of the inter-ministerial team of the Ministry of Finance to improve real estate data in Israel.
- Member of the Quality and Reliability Standardization Committee - The Israeli Standards Institute.

Publications

1. Sayag D. (2012). Measuring Local House Price Movements in Israel and Estimating Price Elasticity. ***Israel Economic Review***, 10(1)
2. Sayag D. and Zussman N. (2020). Who benefits from rental assistance? Evidence from a natural experiment. ***Regional Science and Urban Economics***, vol. 80.
3. Sayag, D., Ben-hur, D., and Pfeffermann, D. (2022). Reducing revisions in hedonic house price indices by the use of nowcasts. ***International Journal of Forecasting***, 38(1), 253-266.
4. Diewert W. Erwin, Finkel Yoel, Sayag Doron (2022). The Measurement of Seasonal Products, Seventeenth Meeting of the Ottawa Group, Rome. (IMF, CPI manual Ch.9).
5. Dahan, M., & Sayag, D. (2024). Scarcity and consumption priorities. ***Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics***, 108, 102147.

Working Papers

1. Ribon, S. and Sayag, D. (2013). Price Setting Behavior in Israel – An Empirical Analysis Using Micro Data. *Central Bureau of Statistics, Working Papers* No. 76.
2. Knotek II, E. S., Sayag D. and Snir A. (2019). The Effects of Price Endings on Price Rigidity: Evidence from VAT Changes. Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, Working Paper no. 19-24. https://doi. org/10.26509/frbc-wp-201924
3. Sayag D., Levy D. and Snir A. (2024)**.** Small Price Changes, Sales Volume and Menu Cost. Bar-Ilan University, Working Paper 02/24 https://econ.biu.ac.il/sites/econ/files/working-papers/2024-03.pdf
4. Fleishman L., Sayag D. and Koblyakova A. (2024). Housing Affordability Matrix: Methodology of Measurement, Israeli Case Study. *Central Bureau of Statistics, Working Papers* No. 127.

Works in Progress

1. Sayag D., Levy D. and Snir A. Sticky Information, Price Controls, and Inattention: Evidence from a Natural Experiment.
2. Sayag D. and Zussman N. The Effect of the Jerusalem Light Rail System on Real Estate Prices.
3. Nagar W. and Sayag D. Constructing a Hedonic Price Index for Residential Land in Israel.
4. Sayag D. On the Accuracy of the Food Price Index into its Components: An Empirical Examination Using Scanner Data.

Presentations at Conferences and Seminars

1. Joint seminar of the Bank of Israel and the Central Bureau of Statistics. Bank of Israel, October 2010.
2. The Annual Conference of the Research Division at the Bank of Israel. Tel Aviv, December 2010.
3. 12th Conference of the International Working Group on Price Indices, Wellington, New Zealand. May 2011.
4. The 29th Annual Conference of the Israel Economic Association. Tel Aviv, June 2013.
5. American Economic Association, Annual Conference, a session on "Price Stickiness: Causes and Consequences," Philadelphia, PA, January 2014.
6. The 30th Annual Conference of the Israel Economic Association. Ben-Gurion University, Beer-Sheva, May 2014
7. Brandeis Annual Summer Workshop on International Economics and Finance, 2014.
8. Annual Conference of the Israel Statistics Association. May 2015.
9. Conference on Housing Affordability, University of California, Los Angeles. September 2015.
10. North American Meeting of the Regional Science Association International, Portland, Oregon. November 2015.
11. The 56th Geographical Society Conference. The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, December 2015.
12. Bank of Israel Research Division Conference on "Issues in the Housing Market." Jerusalem, December 2016.
13. Conference on Housing Affordability, American Enterprise Institute, Washington, DC. April 2017.

14. Annual Conference of the Israeli Statistical Association. Ben-Gurion University, Beer-Sheva, May 2017.
15. Israel Real Estate Conference 2018. Tel Aviv, April 2018.
16. The 34th Annual Conference of the Israel Economic Association. The College of Management, Rishon LeZion, June 2018.
17. A Conference on “The Real Estate Market in a Changing Reality,” Tel Aviv-Yafo Academic College, July 2018.
18. 16th Meeting of the International Working Group on Price Indices, Ottawa Group, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. May 2019.
19. Departmental Seminar, Department of Public Policy, Hebrew University, May 2021.
20. The Research Centre for Economic Analysis (RCEA), 3rd Warsaw Money-Macro-Finance Conference. June 2021.
21. A Conference on “Quality of Life Indicators in Israel.” Central Bureau of Statistics, Jerusalem, March 2022.
22. The 38th Annual Conference of the Israel Economic Association. Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan, June 2022.
23. 17th Meeting of the International Working Group on Price Indices, Ottawa Group, Rome. June 2022.
24. The 12th Annual Meeting of the Armenian Economic Association, Yerevan State University. July 2022.
25. The 5th Alrov Symposium on New Research in Real Estate, Regional, and Urban Economics, Tel Aviv University. December 2022.
26. The 39th Annual Conference of the Israel Economic Association. Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, June 2023.
27. International Conference on Empirical Economics, Pennsylvania State University at Altoona. August 2023.
28. 6th Annual Conference on Law and Macroeconomics, Tulane Law School in New Orleans, Louisiana. November 2023.