

YEAR-ON-YEAR PRICE GROWTH WAS THE HIGHEST SINCE LAST SEPTEMBER

Consumer price indices – inflation – April 2021

Consumer prices in April increased by 0.5% compared with March. This development came primarily from price rise in 'alcoholic beverages, tobacco' and in 'food and non-alcoholic beverages'. The year-on-year growth of consumer prices amounted to 3.1% in April, which was 0.8 percentage points up on March.

Month-on-month comparison

Price increase in 'alcoholic beverages, tobacco' came mainly from higher prices of tobacco products by 1.9% and spirits by 2.4%. In 'food and non-alcoholic beverages', prices of vegetables went up by 10.9%, pork by 4.4%, oils and fats by 2.8%. Prices of fruit decreased by 4.9%. In 'transport', prices of automotive fuels and lubricants increased by 2.9% and motor cars by 0.3%. Price rise in 'furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance' was influenced mainly by higher prices of goods and services for routine household maintenance by 1.6%.

Prices of goods in total went up by 1.0% and prices of services remained at the same level as in March.

Year-on-year comparison

Consumer prices increased by 3.1% in April, i.e. 0.8 percentage points up on March. This acceleration in the year-on-year price growth came mainly from prices in 'transport', where prices of automotive fuels and lubricants increased by 16.3% (increase by 1.1% in March), mainly due to their month-on-month drop in April 2020 (decrease by 10.5%). In 'alcoholic beverages, tobacco', price rise of spirits accelerated to 5.1% (increase by 1.3% in March), beer to 8.5% (increase by 4.4% in March) and tobacco products to 19.5% (increase by 17.5% in March). Prices of wine turned from a decrease by 3.1% in March into rise by 1.0% in April.

The biggest influence on the growth of the year-on-year price level in April came again from prices in 'alcoholic beverages and tobacco' (increase by 13.0%). Next in the order of influence were prices in 'transport' with year-on-year growth by 9.1%, where prices of motor cars grew up by 8.4%. In 'housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels', prices of actual rentals for housing increased by 1.5%, water supply by 1.9% and sewage collection by 2.3%. Prices of electricity decreased by 3.4% and natural gas by 4.7%. In 'miscellaneous goods and services', prices of financial services were higher by 8.8%. A reduction in the overall price level in April came from prices in 'food and non-alcoholic beverages', where prices of pork were lower by 7.2%, year-on-year, vegetables by 3.4%, of which prices of potatoes decreased by 26.6%.

Prices of goods in total and services went up (3.3% and 2.8%, respectively). The overall consumer price index excluding imputed rentals for housing was 103.1%, year-on-year.

Inflation rate, i.e. the increase in the average consumer price index in the twelve months to April 2021 compared with the average CPI in the previous twelve months, amounted to 2.8%.

Harmonized index of consumer prices (HICP) ¹⁾

According to preliminary calculations, the HICP in Czechia in April went up by 0.6%, **month-on-month** and 3.1%, **year-on-year**. According to flash estimates of Eurostat, the MUICP (Monetary Union Index of Consumer Prices) in April 2021 amounted to 1.6% year-on-year (1.3 in March). In Slovakia, prices were higher by 1.7% in April and in Germany by 2.1%, year-on-year. According to preliminary data of Eurostat, the

¹⁾ Imputed rentals are excluded from the HICP.

year-on-year change in the average **harmonized index of consumer prices** (HICP) in the **EU27 member states** amounted to 1.7% **in March** (0.4 percentage point up on February). The rise in prices was the highest in Poland (4.4%). On the other hand, price reduction occurred only in Greece (−2.0%).

(More information on the Eurostat's web pages: [HICP](#).)

In April, in comparison with the previous month, the overall consumer price level in **households of pensioners** increased by 0.5%. This development was mainly influenced by prices rise in 'food and non-alcoholic beverages' by 0.9%, where mainly prices of vegetables, pork, oils and fats were higher. In 'alcoholic beverages, tobacco' prices increased by 1.3%. Prices of tobacco products and spirits were particularly higher in this division. Price increase in 'transport' by 1.0% was mainly due to an increase in prices of automotive fuels and lubricants.

In the capital city of Prague, consumer prices in total increased by 0.3% compared to the previous month (0.5% in Czechia). The biggest influence on this development had the increase in prices in 'alcoholic beverages, tobacco' by 1.6% (1.6% also in Czechia). There was an increase in tobacco products and spirits in particular. In 'food and non-alcoholic beverages' prices increased by 0.8% (0.8% also in Czechia). In this division, mainly prices of vegetables, pork, oils and fats were higher. In 'transport' prices increased by 0.9% (1.0% in Czechia) due to higher prices of automotive fuels and lubricants.

[Methodological note to consumer price index in April 2021 \(COVID-19\)](#)