

Harmonised index of consumer prices

Harmonised indices of consumer prices (HICP) in the European Union were built in response to the need of having comparable consumer price indices enabling us to measure the trends of inflation in EU member states as a criterion for membership of the Monetary Union. There are no expectations, however, that the HICP would substitute the national consumer price indices. Many technical aspects of HICP calculation are used in national indices anyway. For example, having one set of sampling rules for the national CPI and another for the HICP would not be cost effective. We assume that the national indices and the HICP are likely to converge in the future.

There are certain differences between the structure of the consumer basket for the Czech Republic's national CPI and that for the HICP. The HICP weights include revenue from non-residents spending in the Czech Republic but they do not include imputed rentals. On the other hand, the national CPI weights do not include non-residents spending but they do include imputed rentals.

Starting from 2001, in compliance with the rules for candidate countries, the Czech Republic provides Eurostat with the indices of consumer prices whose calculation incorporates all methodological and computation procedures of harmonisation. According to current standards for candidate countries, the HICP is fully comparable with the HICP of other countries from the beginning of 2001.

HICP (corresponding month of the previous year = 100)

	May 2008	June 2008	July 2008	Aug 2008		May 2008	June 2008	July 2008	Aug 2008
EU 27	104,0	104,2r	104,4	104,2p	Czech Republic	106,8	106,6	106,8	106,2
Belgium	105,1	105,8	105,9	105,4	Denmark	103,6	104,2	104,4	104,8
Germany	103,1	103,4	103,5	103,3	Estonia	111,4	111,5	111,2	111,1
Greece	104,9	104,9	104,9	104,8	Cyprus	104,6	105,2	105,3	105,1
Spain	104,7	105,1	105,3	104,9	Latvia	117,7	117,5	116,5	115,6
France	103,7	104,0	104,0	103,5	Lithuania	112,3	112,7	112,4	112,2
Ireland	103,7	103,9	103,6	103,2	Hungary	106,9	106,6	107,0	106,4
Italy	103,7	104,0	104,0	104,2	Malta	104,1	104,4	105,6	105,4
Luxembourg	104,8	105,3	105,8	104,8	Poland	104,3	104,3	104,5	104,4
Netherlands	102,1	102,3	103,0	103,0p	Slovenia	106,2	106,8	106,9	106,0
Austria	103,7	104,0	103,8	103,6p	Slovakia	104,0	104,3	104,4	104,4
Portugal	102,8	103,4	103,1	103,1	Sweden	103,7r	104,0r	103,8r	104,1
Finland	104,1	104,3	104,3	104,6	United Kingdom	103,3	103,8	104,4	.
Bulgaria	114,0	114,7	114,4	111,8	Romania	108,5	108,7	109,1	108,1

* p - preliminary
r - revised

Source: Eurostat http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=2714.1.2714_61582043&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL