

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)

	Nov 2013	Dec 2013	Jan 2014	Feb 2014		Nov 2013	Dec 2013	Jan 2014	Feb 2014
EU 28	101,0	101,0	100,9	100,8p					
Belgium	100,9	101,2	101,1	101,0	Czech Republic	101,0	101,5	100,3	100,3
Germany	101,6	101,2	101,2	101,0	Denmark	100,3	100,4	100,8	100,3
Greece	97,1	98,2	98,6	99,1	Estonia	102,1	102,0	101,6	101,1
Spain	100,3	100,3	100,3	100,1	Cyprus	99,2	98,7	98,4	98,7
France	100,8	100,8	100,8	101,1	Latvia	99,7	99,6	100,5	100,5
Ireland	100,3	100,4	100,3	100,1	Lithuania	100,5	100,4	100,2	100,3
Italy	100,7	100,7	100,6	100,4	Hungary	100,4	100,6	100,8	100,3
Luxembourg	101,1	101,5	101,5	100,8	Malta	100,3	101,0	100,9	101,6
Netherlands	101,2	101,4	100,8	100,4	Poland	100,5	100,6	100,6	100,7
Austria	101,5	102,0	101,5	101,5p	Slovenia	101,2	100,9	100,9	100,2
Portugal	100,1	100,2	100,1	99,9	Slovakia	100,5	100,4	100,0	99,9
Finland	101,8	101,9	101,9	101,6	Sweden	100,3	100,4	100,2	100,1
Bulgaria	99,0	99,1	98,6r	97,9	United Kingdom	102,1	102,0	101,9	.
Croatia	100,7	100,5	100,4	99,8	Romania	101,3	101,3	101,2	101,3

* p - preliminary

r - revised

Source: Eurostat http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=prc_hicp_manr&lang=en