

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.

H I C P (corresponding month of the previous year = 100)

	Dec 2007	Jan 2008	Feb 2008	Mar 2008		Dec 2007	Jan 2008	Feb 2008	Mar 2008
EU 27	103,2	103,4	103,5r	103,7p	Czech Republic	105,5	107,9	107,6	107,1
Belgium	103,1	103,5	103,6	104,4	Denmark	102,4	103,0	103,3	103,3
Germany	103,1	102,9	103,0r	103,3	Estonia	109,7	111,3	111,5	111,2
Greece	103,9	103,9	104,5	104,4	Cyprus	103,7	104,1	104,7	104,4
Spain	104,3	104,4	104,4	104,6	Latvia	114,0	115,6	116,5	116,6
France	102,8	103,2	103,2	103,5	Lithuania	108,2	110,0	110,9	111,4
Ireland	103,2	103,1	103,5	103,7	Hungary	107,4	107,4	106,7	106,7
Italy	102,8	103,1	103,1	103,6	Malta	103,1	103,8	104,0	104,3
Luxembourg	104,3	104,2	104,2	104,4	Poland	104,2	104,4	104,6	104,4
Netherlands	101,6	101,8	102,0	101,9p	Slovenia	105,7	106,4	106,4	106,6
Austria	103,5	103,1	103,1	103,5p	Slovakia	102,5	103,2	103,4	103,6
Portugal	102,7	102,9	102,9	103,1	Sweden	102,5	103,0	102,9	103,2
Finland	101,9	103,5	103,3	103,6	United Kingdom	102,1	102,2	102,5	102,5
Bulgaria	111,6	111,7	112,2	113,2	Romania	106,7	107,3	108,0	108,7

* p - preliminary

r - revised

Source: Eurostat http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=2714,1,2714_61582043&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL