

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)

	Feb 2015	Mar 2015	Apr 2015	May 2015		Feb 2015	Mar 2015	Apr 2015	May 2015
EU 28	99,7	99,9	100,0	100,3					
Belgium	99,6	99,9	100,4	100,8	Czech Republic	99,9	100,1	100,5	100,7
Germany	100,0	100,2	100,3	100,7	Denmark	100,0	100,3	100,4	100,4
Greece	98,1	98,1	98,2	98,6	Estonia	99,8	100,0	100,4	100,5
Spain	98,8	99,2	99,3	99,7	Cyprus	99,2	98,6	98,3	98,3
France	99,7	100,0	100,1	100,3	Latvia	100,0	100,5	100,6	101,2
Ireland	99,6	99,7	99,6	100,2	Lithuania	98,5	98,9	99,4	99,9
Italy	100,1	100,0	99,9	100,2	Hungary	99,0	99,5	100,0	100,6
Luxembourg	99,7	100,1	100,0	100,4	Malta	100,6	100,5	101,4	101,3
Netherlands	99,5	99,7	100,0	100,7	Poland	98,7	98,8	99,1	99,4
Austria	100,5	100,9	100,9	101,0p	Slovenia	99,5	99,6	99,3	99,2
Portugal	99,9	100,4	100,5	101,0	Slovakia	99,4	99,6	99,9	99,9
Finland	99,9	100,0	99,9	100,1	Sweden	100,7	100,7	100,5	100,9
Bulgaria	98,3	98,9	99,1	99,7	United Kingdom	100,0	100,0	99,9	100,1
Croatia	99,6	100,0	99,9	100,0	Romania	100,4	100,8	100,6	101,3

* p - preliminary

r - revised

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