

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)

	Dec 2008	Jan 2009	Feb 2009	Mar 2009		Dec 2008	Jan 2009	Feb 2009	Mar 2009
EU 27	102,2	101,7	101,8r	101,3	Czech Republic	103,3	101,4	101,3	101,7
Belgium	102,7	102,1	101,9	100,6	Denmark	102,4	101,7	101,7	101,6
Germany	101,1	100,9	101,0	100,4	Estonia	107,5	104,7	103,9	102,5
Greece	102,2	102,0	101,8	101,5	Cyprus	101,8	100,9	100,6	100,9
Spain	101,5	100,8	100,7	99,9	Latvia	110,4	109,7	109,4	107,9
France	101,2	100,8	101,0	100,4	Lithuania	108,5	109,5	108,5	107,4
Ireland	101,3	101,1	100,1	99,3	Hungary	103,4	102,4	102,9	102,8
Italy	102,4	101,4	101,5	101,1	Malta	105,0	103,1	103,5	103,9
Luxembourg	100,7	100,0	100,7	99,7	Poland	103,3	103,2	103,6	104,0
Netherlands	101,7	101,7	101,9	101,8p	Slovenia	101,8	101,4	102,1	101,6
Austria	101,5	101,2	101,4	100,7p	Slovakia	103,5	102,7	102,4	101,8
Portugal	100,8	100,1	100,1	99,4	Sweden	102,1	102,0	102,2	101,9
Finland	103,4	102,5	102,7	102,0	United Kingdom	103,1	103,0	103,2	.
Bulgaria	107,2	106,0	105,4	104,0	Romania	106,4	106,8	106,9	106,7

* p - preliminary

r - revised

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