

## Consumer price levels

# Price levels varied in 2011 from 51% of the EU27 average in Bulgaria to 142% in Denmark

In 2011, price levels for consumer goods and services<sup>1</sup> differed widely across Member States. **Denmark** (142% of the EU27 average) had the highest price level, followed by **Sweden** (128%), **Finland** (125%) and **Luxembourg** (122%). Price levels of 10% to 20% above the EU27 average were found in **Ireland** (117%), **Belgium** (112%) and **France** (111%), while the **Netherlands** (108%), **Austria** (107%), **Germany** and **Italy** (both 103%) and the **United Kingdom** (102%) had levels up to 10% above the average.

**Spain** (97% of the EU27 average) and **Greece** (95%) were just below the average, while **Cyprus** (89%), **Portugal** (87%) and **Slovenia** (84%) were between 10% and 20% below. Price levels between 20% and 30% below the average were observed in **Estonia** (79%), **Malta** (78%), the **Czech Republic** (77%), **Latvia** (74%) and **Slovakia** (72%), and levels between 30% and 40% below in **Lithuania** (66%), **Hungary** (64%), **Poland** and **Romania** (both 60%). The lowest price levels were found in **Bulgaria** (51%).

These data come from a report<sup>2</sup> published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

## Food price levels varied by one to two across the Member States

Price levels for food and non-alcoholic beverages<sup>3</sup> in 2011 ranged from 67% of the EU27 average in **Bulgaria** to 136% of the average in **Denmark**. Differences in price levels between Member States were less for this product group than for total goods and services. For alcoholic beverages and tobacco<sup>4</sup>, prices were lowest in **Hungary** (63% of the average) and highest in **Ireland** (163%). This large price variation is mainly due to differences in taxation of these products among Member States.

Clothing<sup>5</sup> is one of the groups of products showing a smaller price variation among Member States, with **Bulgaria** (75% of the average) cheapest and **Sweden** (133%) most expensive. Consumer electronics<sup>6</sup> is another group of products where prices differed less among Member States, ranging from 89% of the average in **Poland** to 125% in **Malta**.

Excluding **Denmark** (167% of the average), price differences among Member States were also limited for personal transport equipment<sup>7</sup>, with levels varying from 83% of the average in **Bulgaria** to 122% in **Portugal**.

For restaurants and hotels<sup>8</sup>, price variations were more significant, with price levels ranging from 45% of the average in **Bulgaria** to 154% of the average in **Denmark**.

## Price level indices for consumer goods and services, 2011 (EU27=100)

	Total	Food & non-alcoholic beverages	Alcoholic beverages & tobacco	Clothing	Consumer electronics	Personal transport equipment	Restaurants & hotels
<b>EU27</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	112	115	97	113	104	101	113
<b>Bulgaria</b>	51	67	64	75	92	83	45
<b>Czech Republic</b>	77	80	85	96	98	87	60
<b>Denmark</b>	142	136	125	119	116	167	154
<b>Germany</b>	103	110	97	103	99	101	103
<b>Estonia</b>	79	86	83	101	100	90	74
<b>Ireland</b>	117	118	163	92	93	108	126
<b>Greece</b>	95	103	92	103	108	91	98
<b>Spain</b>	97	93	83	88	99	99	94
<b>France</b>	111	108	109	104	101	103	104
<b>Italy</b>	103	106	103	99	107	100	108
<b>Cyprus</b>	89	108	97	94	110	96	100
<b>Latvia</b>	74	88	85	97	95	89	77
<b>Lithuania</b>	66	76	75	93	93	89	65
<b>Luxembourg</b>	122	115	87	102	104	95	108
<b>Hungary</b>	64	83	63	85	101	92	52
<b>Malta</b>	78	94	91	85	125	116	77
<b>Netherlands</b>	108	95	101	100	99	112	105
<b>Austria</b>	107	116	92	103	107	104	106
<b>Poland</b>	60	69	73	89	89	85	76
<b>Portugal</b>	87	90	85	93	99	122	79
<b>Romania</b>	60	68	66	93	105	88	50
<b>Slovenia</b>	84	97	81	93	104	91	79
<b>Slovakia</b>	72	83	84	100	102	84	72
<b>Finland</b>	125	116	133	120	105	114	130
<b>Sweden</b>	128	120	145	133	113	101	147
<b>United Kingdom</b>	102	103	147	97	95	93	105
<b>Iceland</b>	114	114	155	133	148	120	119
<b>Norway</b>	151	164	250	134	122	162	184
<b>Switzerland</b>	162	156	124	138	111	115	157
<b>Croatia</b>	74	92	80	96	105	94	90
<b>Montenegro</b>	59	77	56	100	99	84	63
<b>Former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia</b>	45	51	39	75	97	90	41
<b>Serbia</b>	57	72	53	101	102	85	57
<b>Turkey</b>	62	80	92	65	94	104	71
<b>Albania</b>	51	70	50	72	108	98	42
<b>Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina</b>	57	75	58	92	112	85	60

1. The overall price levels included in this News Release relate to the concept of household final consumption expenditure (HFCE), which consists of all expenditure incurred by households on goods and services for consumption, including also rents for housing. HFCE does not include expenditure on goods or services that are consumed by households but incurred by government or non-profit institutions, for instance, government education services or healthcare. Furthermore, the HFCE does not include purchase of housing. The subcategories shown in the News Release comprise only a part of total HFCE, and therefore the total price level index for a Member State is not the aggregation of these six subcategories.
2. Eurostat, Statistics in Focus, 26/2012, "**Major dispersions in consumer prices across Europe**", available free of charge in pdf format on the Eurostat web site. See also the Statistics Explained article: [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics\\_explained/index.php/Comparative\\_price\\_levels\\_of\\_consumer\\_goods\\_and\\_services](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Comparative_price_levels_of_consumer_goods_and_services)
3. Includes bread and cereals, meat, fish, milk, cheese, eggs, oils and fats, fruits, vegetables, potatoes, other food, non-alcoholic beverages.

4. Includes spirits, wine, beer and tobacco.
5. Includes clothing materials, men's, women's, children's and infant's clothing, other articles of clothing and clothing accessories. Excludes cleaning, repair and hire of clothing.
6. Includes e.g. televisions, DVD players, receivers, audio systems, MP3 players, cameras, camcorders, desktop and laptop computers, monitors, printers, scanners, software, music CDs, movie DVDs, empty CDs and DVDs. Excludes repair of such equipment.
7. Includes motor cars, motor cycles and bicycles and excludes maintenance and repair of personal transport equipment, spare parts and fuel.
8. Includes e.g. restaurants, cafés, pubs, bars, canteens, hotels, youth hostels.

Issued by: **Eurostat Press Office**

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