

## Consumer price levels in 2008

# Price levels varied by one to three across the EU27 Member States

In 2008, price levels for consumer goods and services<sup>1</sup> differed widely across Member States. **Denmark** (141% of the EU27 average) had the highest price level, followed by **Ireland** (127%) and **Finland** (125%). Price levels of 10% to 20% above the EU27 average were found in **Luxembourg** (116% of the EU27 average), **Sweden** (114%), **Belgium** and **France** (both 111%), while **Italy** and **Austria** (both 105%), **Germany** (104%) and the **Netherlands** (103%) were just above the average. The **United Kingdom** (99% of the EU27 average), **Spain** (96%) and **Greece** (94%) were just below the average, while **Cyprus** (90%), **Portugal** (87%) and **Slovenia** (83%) were between 10% and 20% below. Price levels between 20% and 30% below the average were observed in **Malta** (78%), **Estonia** (77%), **Latvia** (75%), the **Czech Republic** (72%), **Hungary** and **Slovakia** (both 70%). The lowest price levels were found in **Bulgaria** (51%), **Romania** (62%), **Lithuania** (67%) and **Poland** (69%).

These data come from a report<sup>2</sup> published by Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities.

### Highest price level in Denmark and lowest in Bulgaria

Price levels for food and non-alcoholic beverages<sup>3</sup> in 2008 ranged from 67% of the EU27 average in **Bulgaria** to 147% of the average in **Denmark**. Among Member States, differences in price levels were smaller for this product group than for total goods and services. For alcoholic beverages and tobacco<sup>4</sup>, prices were lowest in **Romania** (61% of the average) and highest in **Ireland** (184%). 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 the smallest price variation among Member States. The **United Kingdom** (83% of the average) was cheapest and **Finland** (123% of the average) was most expensive for clothing.

Consumer electronics<sup>6</sup> is another group of products where prices differed less among Member States. The lowest prices for these products were found in the **United Kingdom** (86% of the average) and the highest in **Malta** (126%). Excluding **Denmark**, price differences among Member States were also limited for personal transport equipment<sup>7</sup>. Price levels varied from 84% of the EU27 average in **Romania** to 174% of the average in **Denmark** and 125% in **Ireland**.

For restaurants and hotels<sup>8</sup>, price variations were more significant, with price levels ranging from 40% of the average in **Bulgaria** to 151% of the average in **Denmark**.

**Price level indices for consumer goods and services, 2008 (EU27=100)**

	Total	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	Clothing	Consumer electronics	Personal transport equipment	Restaurants and 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>	111	113	101	113	106	100	111
<b>Bulgaria</b>	51	67	63	84	96	85	40
<b>Czech Republic</b>	72	82	85	113	108	101	65
<b>Denmark</b>	141	147	120	110	121	174	151
<b>Germany</b>	104	106	97	107	101	101	100
<b>Estonia</b>	77	87	74	108	96	88	81
<b>Ireland</b>	127	127	184	91	111	125	137
<b>Greece</b>	94	101	89	113	112	93	96
<b>Spain</b>	96	94	75	99	103	98	94
<b>France</b>	111	104	108	95	106	99	116
<b>Italy</b>	105	115	107	110	116	101	106
<b>Cyprus</b>	90	106	98	101	120	99	103
<b>Latvia</b>	75	85	78	100	99	90	80
<b>Lithuania</b>	67	76	63	88	101	90	72
<b>Luxembourg</b>	116	117	89	112	108	96	106
<b>Hungary</b>	70	83	71	95	102	101	67
<b>Malta</b>	78	89	96	110	126	123	84
<b>Netherlands</b>	103	88	99	101	102	118	103
<b>Austria</b>	105	112	92	108	104	106	101
<b>Poland</b>	69	75	74	104	103	101	83
<b>Portugal</b>	87	86	90	98	103	121	75
<b>Romania</b>	62	71	61	86	101	84	62
<b>Slovenia</b>	83	95	74	112	107	94	85
<b>Slovakia</b>	70	81	73	112	108	104	61
<b>Finland</b>	125	125	137	123	117	118	135
<b>Sweden</b>	114	117	136	119	102	93	126
<b>United Kingdom</b>	99	104	150	83	86	91	103
<b>Croatia</b>	75	94	87	118	103	103	83
<b>Former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia</b>	47	59	43	71	103	100	45
<b>Turkey</b>	73	87	91	76	113	104	90
<b>Iceland</b>	117	120	139	117	117	93	135
<b>Norway</b>	139	154	217	125	121	107	168
<b>Switzerland</b>	130	135	95	124	96	153	125
<b>Albania</b>	53	74	57	90	122	98	44
<b>Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina</b>	56	75	45	94	111	95	58
<b>Montenegro</b>	62	77	41	113	93	92	59
<b>Serbia</b>	58	82	54	104	101	98	62

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.
2. Eurostat, Statistics in Focus, 50/2009, "**Wide spread in consumer prices across Europe in 2008**", available free of charge in pdf format on the Eurostat web site.
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.

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