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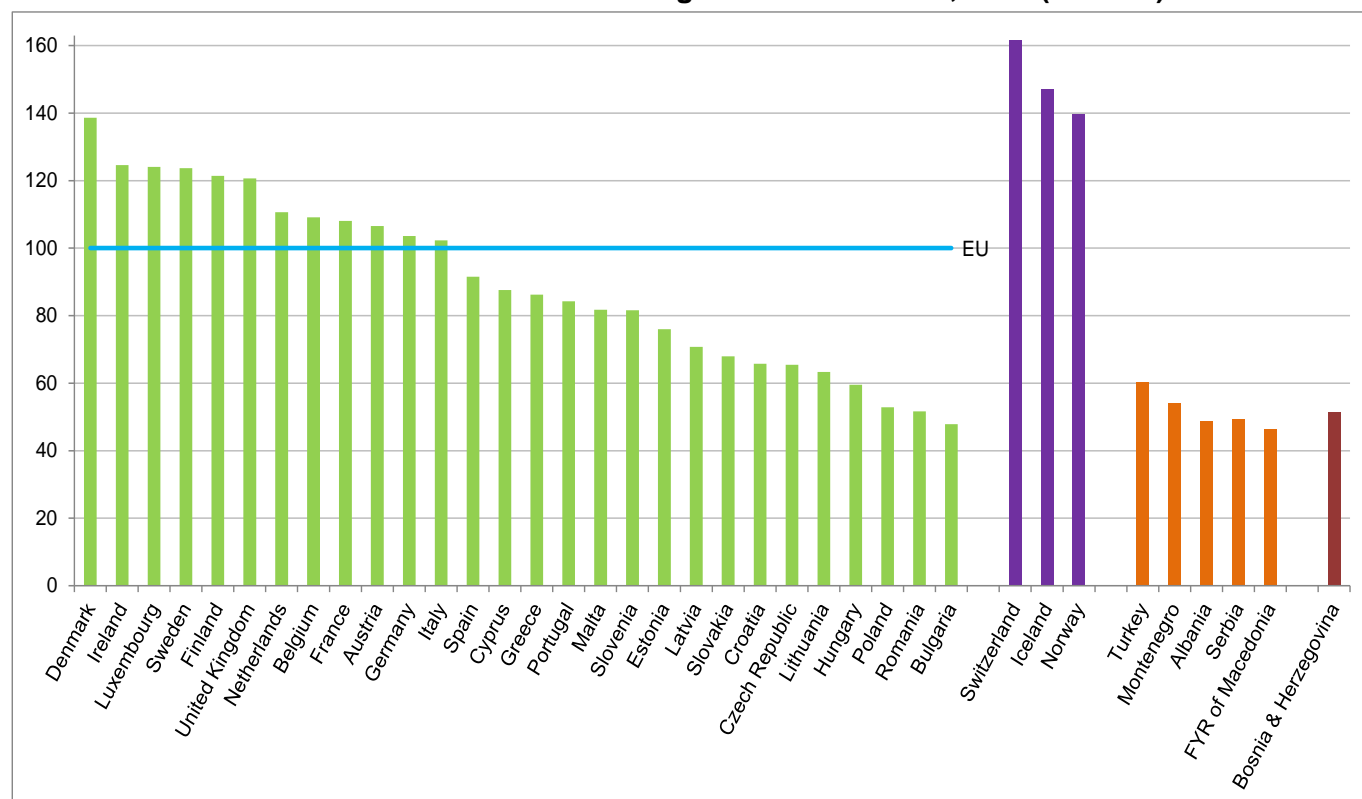
Consumer price levels in 2016

Price levels varied by almost one to three across the EU Member States

Widest gap for "Restaurants & hotels" and "Alcohol & tobacco"

In 2016, price levels for consumer goods and services differed widely in the **European Union (EU)**. **Denmark** (139% of the EU average) had the highest price level, followed by **Ireland** (125%), **Luxembourg** and **Sweden** (both 124%), **Finland** and the **United Kingdom** (both 121%). At the opposite end of the scale, the lowest price level was found in **Bulgaria** (48%), while **Poland** (53%) and **Romania** (52%) were just above 50% the average. In other words, price levels for consumer goods and services in the EU varied by almost one to three between the cheapest and the most expensive Member State.

Price level indices for consumer goods and services, 2016 (EU=100)



These data on consumer price levels in 2016 come from an [article](#) published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.

Food price levels highest in Denmark, lowest in Poland and Romania

In 2016, the price level of a comparable basket of food and non-alcoholic beverages across the EU was more than twice as high in the most expensive Member State than in the cheapest one. Price levels ranged from 62% of the EU average in both **Poland** and **Romania** to almost 150% of the average in **Denmark** (148%), followed by **Sweden** (126%), **Austria** (123%), **Luxembourg** (121%), **Ireland** and **Finland** (both 120%).

Alcohol and tobacco most expensive in Ireland and the United Kingdom

With a variation by over one to three between Member States, price levels for alcoholic beverages and tobacco showed significant variations. The lowest price level in 2016 was registered in **Bulgaria** (56% of the average), ahead of **Hungary** (67%), **Poland** (68%) and **Romania** (69%). At the opposite end of the scale, the highest prices were observed in **Ireland** (175%) and the **United Kingdom** (162%), followed at a distance by the three Nordic EU Member States – **Finland** (135%), **Sweden** (128%) and **Denmark** (122%). It should be noted that this large price variation is mainly due to differences in taxation of these products among Member States.

Restaurants and hotels more than 3 times more expensive in Denmark than in Bulgaria

Restaurants & hotels is another category where differences in price levels were most pronounced. Price levels ranged from less than 60% of the EU average in **Bulgaria** (44%), **Romania** (53%) and the **Czech Republic** (56%) to 150% in **Denmark** and 144% in **Sweden**.

Smaller disparities for consumer electronics, personal transport equipment and clothes

Consumer electronics is a group of products where prices differed less among Member States, ranging from 86% of the average in **Poland** to 115% in **Denmark**. Clothing is another group of products showing a smaller price disparity among Member States, with **Bulgaria** (81% of the average) cheapest and **Sweden** (136%) most expensive. With the noticeable exception of **Denmark** (146% of the average), price differences among Member States were also limited for personal transport equipment, from 78% in the **Czech Republic** to 119% in the **Netherlands**.

EU Member States with highest and lowest price level indices for selected consumer goods and services, 2016

| | Rank | Food & non-alcoholic beverages | Rank | Alcoholic beverages & tobacco | Rank | Clothing |
|----------------------|------|--------------------------------|------|-------------------------------|------|----------------------|
| Highest price levels | 1 | Denmark | 1 | Ireland | 1 | Sweden |
| | 2 | Sweden | 2 | United Kingdom | 2 | Denmark |
| | 3 | Austria | 3 | Finland | 3 | Finland |
| Lowest price levels | 26 | Bulgaria | 26 | Poland | 26 | United Kingdom |
| | 27 | Romania | 27 | Hungary | 27 | Hungary |
| | | Poland | 28 | Bulgaria | 28 | Bulgaria |
| | Rank | Consumer electronics | Rank | Personal transport equipment | Rank | Restaurants & hotels |
| Highest price levels | 1 | Denmark | 1 | Denmark | 1 | Denmark |
| | 2 | France | 2 | Netherlands | 2 | Sweden |
| | 3 | Cyprus | 3 | Ireland | 3 | Finland |
| Portugal | | Finland | | | | |
| Lowest price levels | 26 | Romania | 25 | Lithuania | 26 | Czech Republic |
| | 27 | Czech Republic | | Poland | 27 | Romania |
| | 28 | Poland | 27 | Slovakia | 28 | Bulgaria |
| | | | 28 | Czech Republic | | |

Geographical information

The **European Union** (EU) includes Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Methods and definitions

Data presented in this news release are based on the results of a price survey covering more than 2400 consumer goods and services across Europe, which is part of the Eurostat-OECD Purchasing Power Parity program. **Price level indices** (PLIs) provide a comparison of countries' price levels relative to the European Union average: if the price level index is higher than 100, the country concerned is relatively more expensive than the EU average, while if the price level index is lower than 100, then the country is relatively cheaper than the EU average.

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 following subcategories are shown in this News Release:

| Subcategories | Include |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Food & non-alcoholic beverages | Bread and cereals, meat, fish, milk, cheese, eggs, oils and fats, fruits, vegetables, potatoes, other food, non-alcoholic beverages. |
| Alcoholic beverages & tobacco | E.g. spirits, wine, beer, tobacco. |
| Clothing | 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. |
| Consumer electronics | 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. |
| Personal transport equipment | Motor cars, motor cycles and bicycles and excludes maintenance and repair of personal transport equipment, spare parts and fuel. |
| Restaurants & hotels | E.g. restaurants, cafés, pubs, bars, canteens, hotels, youth hostels. |

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.

For more information

Eurostat [website section](#) dedicated to purchasing power parities.

Eurostat [database](#) on purchasing power parities.

Eurostat [metadata](#) on purchasing power parities.

Eurostat [Statistics Explained article](#) on comparative price levels of consumer goods and services.

Eurostat ["Theme in the spotlight"](#) website section highlighting some facts and figures about comparative price levels in the EU.

Eurostat [News Release 91/2017](#) of 13 June 2017 on consumption and GDP per capita in 2016.

Issued by: **Eurostat Press Office**

Vincent BOURGEOIS
Tel: +352-4301-33 444
eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu


Production of data:

Marjanca GASIC
Tel: +352-4301-37 531
marjanca.gasic@ec.europa.eu

 [EurostatStatistics](#)

 ec.europa.eu/eurostat

 [@EU_Eurostat](#)

 **Media requests:** Eurostat media support / Tel: +352-4301-33 408 / eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu

Price level indices for consumer goods and services, 2016 (EU=100)

| | Total | Food & non-alcoholic beverages | Alcoholic beverages & tobacco | Clothing | Personal transport equipment | Consumer electronics | Restaurants & hotels |
|-----------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| EU | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Belgium | 109 | 112 | 102 | 112 | 104 | 106 | 117 |
| Bulgaria | 48 | 71 | 56 | 81 | 86 | 94 | 44 |
| Czech Republic | 65 | 81 | 71 | 96 | 78 | 91 | 56 |
| Denmark | 139 | 148 | 122 | 131 | 146 | 115 | 150 |
| Germany | 104 | 106 | 95 | 103 | 99 | 98 | 109 |
| Estonia | 76 | 90 | 86 | 113 | 86 | 99 | 80 |
| Ireland | 125 | 120 | 175 | 112 | 111 | 100 | 120 |
| Greece | 86 | 105 | 91 | 100 | 95 | 101 | 81 |
| Spain | 92 | 95 | 86 | 91 | 88 | 100 | 86 |
| France | 108 | 112 | 104 | 104 | 104 | 112 | 117 |
| Croatia | 66 | 94 | 72 | 99 | 91 | 104 | 71 |
| Italy | 102 | 112 | 97 | 104 | 101 | 104 | 104 |
| Cyprus | 88 | 109 | 91 | 100 | 89 | 109 | 91 |
| Latvia | 71 | 91 | 84 | 104 | 85 | 94 | 82 |
| Lithuania | 63 | 80 | 73 | 104 | 83 | 95 | 65 |
| Luxembourg | 124 | 121 | 90 | 105 | 99 | 100 | 111 |
| Hungary | 60 | 80 | 67 | 82 | 87 | 95 | 60 |
| Malta | 82 | 108 | 99 | 101 | 102 | 105 | 81 |
| Netherlands | 111 | 101 | 109 | 111 | 119 | 102 | 109 |
| Austria | 107 | 123 | 91 | 102 | 101 | 100 | 103 |
| Poland | 53 | 62 | 68 | 90 | 83 | 86 | 71 |
| Portugal | 84 | 96 | 89 | 100 | 108 | 109 | 75 |
| Romania | 52 | 62 | 69 | 92 | 84 | 93 | 53 |
| Slovenia | 82 | 99 | 81 | 98 | 90 | 100 | 82 |
| Slovakia | 68 | 88 | 71 | 104 | 80 | 94 | 74 |
| Finland | 121 | 120 | 135 | 122 | 111 | 108 | 127 |
| Sweden | 124 | 126 | 128 | 136 | 99 | 109 | 144 |
| United Kingdom | 121 | 98 | 162 | 89 | 102 | 94 | 111 |
| Iceland | 147 | 146 | 196 | 163 | 129 | 145 | 162 |
| Norway | 140 | 163 | 223 | 129 | 137 | 112 | 161 |
| Switzerland | 161 | 173 | 128 | 143 | 103 | 97 | 167 |
| Montenegro | 54 | 78 | 59 | 100 | 84 | 98 | 55 |
| Former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia | 46 | 58 | 39 | 80 | 88 | 97 | 41 |
| Albania | 49 | 72 | 53 | 96 | 81 | 101 | 40 |
| Serbia | 49 | 69 | 49 | 93 | 85 | 105 | 49 |
| Turkey | 60 | 86 | 84 | 62 | 107 | 99 | 68 |
| Bosnia & Herzegovina | 51 | 74 | 51 | 95 | 83 | 104 | 55 |

The source dataset can be found [here](#).