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Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP)
December 2018(p)

Average annual inflation in 2018, measured by HICP was 2.9%

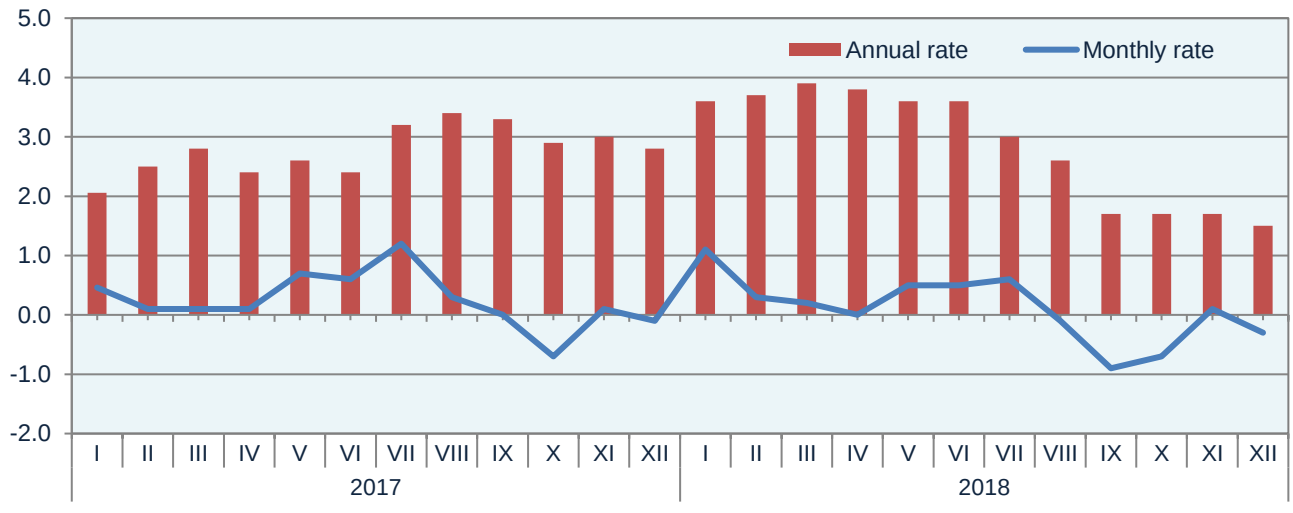
Monthly inflation measured by Harmonised index of consumer prices was -0.3% in December 2018, while the annual inflation was 1.5%. This was influenced mostly by decrease in prices of: fuels and lubricants for personal transport equipment; garments; vegetables; meat; shoes and other footwear; food products n.e.c.; etc. Consumer prices in period January-December 2018 compared to the same period of previous year, measured by HICP, were higher for 2.9% in average.

Observing the main groups monthly drop of prices was noticed in the following groups: Clothing and footwear (-3.4%); Transport (-2.8%); Recreation and culture (-0.2%); Food and non-alcoholic beverages (-0.1%); Alcoholic beverages and tobacco (-0.1%); Furnishing, household equipment and routine household maintenance (-0.1%); Communication (-0.1%), while a growth of prices was recorded in the following groups: Restaurants and hotels (1.4%); Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (0.2%); Health (0.2%); Miscellaneous goods and service (0.1%).

Prices of other products and services mostly remained unchanged.

Positive annual inflation rates in December 2018 were observed in the following groups: Alcoholic beverages and tobacco (6.3%); Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (2.4%); Food and non-alcoholic beverages (1.8%); Miscellaneous goods and service (1.4%); Transport (1.3%); Furnishing, household equipment and routine household maintenance (1.2%); Restaurants and hotels (1.1%); Communication (0.9%), while negative annual inflation rates were observed in the following groups: Clothing and footwear (-1.4%); Recreation and culture (-0.8%); Health (-0.4%).

Chart 1. Annual and monthly rates of inflation (HICP)

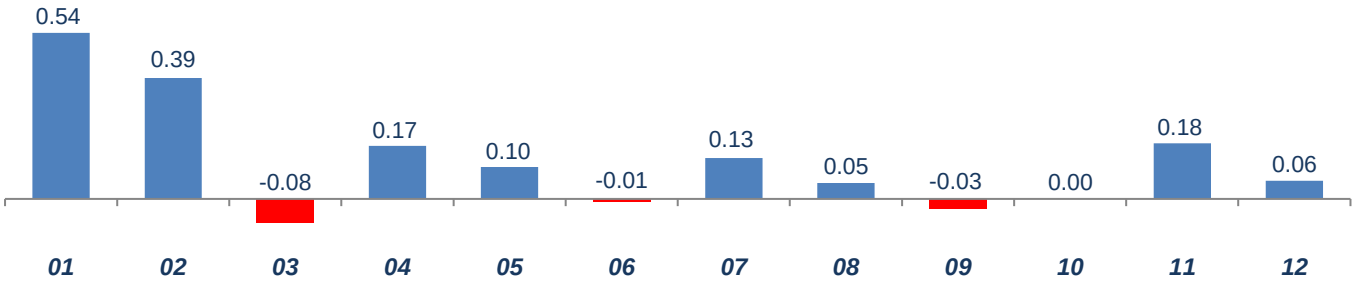


(p) - Preliminary data

Table 1. Inflation rates measured by Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices, in %

	Name	Weights ‰	Dec 2018 Ø 2015	Dec 2018 Nov 2018	Dec 2018 Dec 2017	Jan-Dec 2018 Jan-Dec 2017
00	**HICP - total**	***1000.0***	**5.2**	**-0.3**	**1.5**	**2.9**
01	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	*289.7*	2.0	-0.1	1.8	0.6
02	Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	*61.9*	23.8	-0.1	6.3	17.8
03	Clothing and footwear	*57.4*	8.8	-3.4	-1.4	3.9
04	Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	*70.0*	4.4	0.2	2.4	1.4
05	Furnishing, household equipment and routine household maintenance	*83.7*	-0.5	-0.1	1.2	1.1
06	Health	*25.9*	4.7	0.2	-0.4	0.1
07	Transport	*101.7*	4.4	-2.8	1.3	4.6
08	Communications	*55.7*	1.6	-0.1	0.9	1.4
09	Recreation and culture	*37.3*	-1.3	-0.2	-0.8	-0.2
10	Education	*12.0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
11	Restaurants and hotels	*164.4*	10.3	1.4	1.1	3.2
12	Miscellaneous goods and services	*40.3*	2.8	0.1	1.4	1.2
Special aggregates						
Products		*688.5*	4.7	-0.8	1.9	3.2
Services		*311.5*	6.4	0.7	0.9	2.2
HICP - excluding food, alcoholic beverages and tobacco		*648.4*	4.9	-0.4	0.8	2.3
Energy		*94.2*	6.4	-2.9	3.0	5.1
Administrative inflation[(1)]		*53.7*	2.4	0.0	1.8	1.8

Chart 2. Divisions with largest impacts on the annual inflation rate (in %), December 2018



(1) *Inflation which measures trend of administratively established prices, and the following prices are covered under this: water supply, sewerage collection, refuse collection, electricity, maintenance charges in multi-occupied buildings, co-payments for medical services, MOT test, parking services (hire of parking spaces), costs of driving lessons, postal services, entrance fees for national parks, school textbooks, pre-primary education, public kindergarten, motor vehicle insurance and issuing of administrative documents such as birth certificates.*

Table 2. Groups with most important impacts on monthly inflation rate, December 2018

ECOICOP	Group	Weights ‰	Monthly inflation %	Influence in percentage points
1120	Accommodation services	*56.1*	2.7	0.15
1111	Restaurants, cafes and the like	*108.3*	0.6	0.06
0111	Bread and cereals	*44.9*	0.4	0.02
0454	Solid fuels	*12.3*	1.2	0.01
0122	Mineral waters, soft drinks, fruit and vegetable juices	*14.5*	1.0	0.01
0114	Milk, cheese and eggs	*61.8*	0.2	0.01
0119	Food products n.e.c.	*7.5*	-1.0	-0.01
0321	Shoes and other footwear	*25.0*	-0.6	-0.02
0112	Meat	*68.5*	-0.4	-0.03
0117	Vegetables	*32.3*	-1.0	-0.03
0312	Garments	*31.6*	-5.8	-0.18
0722	Fuels and lubricants for personal transport equipment	*43.2*	-6.3	-0.27

Table 3. Groups with most important impacts on annual inflation rate, December 2018

ECOICOP	Group	Weights ‰	Annual inflation %	Influence in percentage points
0117	Vegetables	*32.3*	11.9	0.39
0220	Tobacco	*37.9*	6.3	0.24
1111	Restaurants, cafes and the like	*108.3*	2.0	0.23
0561	Non-durable household goods	*33.1*	6.5	0.22
0122	Mineral waters, soft drinks, fruit and vegetable juices	*14.5*	8.0	0.12
0722	Fuels and lubricants for personal transport equipment	*43.2*	2.5	0.12
0451	Electricity	*38.5*	2.6	0.10
0114	Milk, cheese and eggs	*61.8*	1.4	0.09
0830	Telephone and telefax services	*50.6*	1.7	0.09
0732	Passenger transport by road	*13.9*	5.6	0.08
0113	Fish and seafood	*9.3*	6.3	0.06
0520	Household textiles	*4.7*	-5.5	-0.03
0111	Bread and cereals	*44.9*	-0.8	-0.03
0820	Telephone and telefax equipment	*4.5*	-7.4	-0.03
0531	Major household appliances whether electric or not	*14.3*	-2.7	-0.04
1120	Accommodation services	*56.1*	-1.1	-0.06
0711	Motor cars	*20.9*	-3.4	-0.07
0116	Fruit	*15.5*	-6.3	-0.10
0312	Garments	*31.6*	-3.8	-0.12

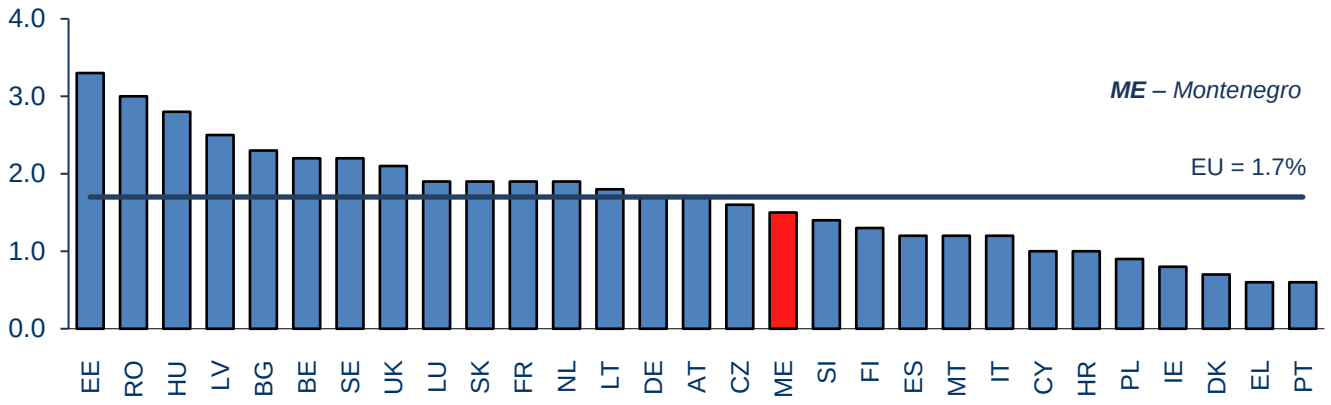
Table 4. Inflation rates in the EU measured by HICP, in %

	Dec-17 / Dec-16	Jul-18 / Jul-17	Aug-18 / Aug-17	Sep-18 / Sep-17	Oct-18 / Oct-17	Nov-18 / Nov-17	Dec-18 / Dec-17	Dec-18 / Nov-18
Euro area	**1.4**	**2.1**	**2.0**	**2.1**	**2.2**	**1.9**	**1.6**	**0.0**
European union	**1.7**	**2.2**	**2.2**	**2.1**	**2.2**	**2.0**	**1.7**	**0.0**
Belgium (BE)	2.1	2.7	2.6	2.8	3.2	2.9	2.2	-0.2
Bulgaria (BG)	1.8	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.0	2.3	0.0
Czech Republic (CZ)	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.1	2.0	1.6	1.6	0.0
Denmark (DK)	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.7	-0.4
Germany (DE)	1.6	2.1	1.9	2.2	2.4	2.2	1.7	0.3
Estonia (EE)	3.8	3.3	3.5	3.5	4.5	3.2	3.3	-0.3
Ireland (IE)	0.5	1.0	0.9	1.2	1.1	0.8	0.8	-0.1
Greece (EL)	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.1	1.8	1.1	0.6	-0.1
Spain (ES)	1.2	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.3	1.7	1.2	-0.5
France (FR)	1.2	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.2	1.9	0.1
Croatia (HR)	1.3	2.2	2.1	1.6	1.7	1.3	1.0	-0.6
Italy (IT)	1.0	1.9	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.2	-0.1
Cyprus (CY)	-0.4	1.4	1.7	1.7	1.9	1.6	1.0	-0.9
Latvia (LV)	2.2	2.7	2.8	3.3	3.2	2.9	2.5	-0.3
Lithuania (LT)	3.8	2.3	1.8	2.4	2.8	2.4	1.8	-0.5
Luxembourg (LU)	1.6	2.5	2.4	2.7	2.8	2.6	1.9	-0.7
Hungary (HU)	2.2	3.4	3.4	3.7	3.9	3.2	2.8	-0.4
Malta (MT)	1.3	2.1	2.4	2.5	2.1	1.4	1.2	-0.2
Netherlands (NL)	1.2	1.9	1.9	1.6	1.9	1.8	1.9	0.0
Austria (AT)	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.4	2.3	1.7	0.1
Poland (PL)	1.7	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.1	0.9	0.0
Portugal (PT)	1.6	2.2	1.3	1.8	0.8	0.9	0.6	-0.4
Romania (RO)	2.6	4.3	4.7	4.7	4.2	3.2	3.0	0.1
Slovenia (SI)	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.1	1.4	-0.6
Slovakia (SK)	2.0	2.6	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.0	1.9	-0.1
Finland (FI)	0.5	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.7	1.4	1.3	-0.2
Sweden (SE)	1.7	2.2	2.1	2.5	2.4	2.1	2.2	0.5
United Kingdom (UK)	3.0	2.5	2.7	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.1	0.2

Source: EUROSTAT

***** - revised data; **…** = not available*

Chart 3. Annual inflation rate measured by HICP, December 2018



Euro area annual inflation rate was 1.6% in December 2018, down from 1.9% in November 2018. **European Union** annual inflation was 1.7% in December 2018, down from 2.0% in November 2018.

METODOLOGICAL NOTES

Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) is the basis for comparative measurement of inflation in the European Union, and it estimates a monetary value in the Eurozone. As a difference to Consumer Index Index Price (CPI), it uses different methodological concept which is used by all EU members.

Dec 2018 month of the current year
Ø 2015 average of base year

This rate indicates a change in average prices in current month when compared with average prices in the base year.

Dec 2018 month of the current year
Nov 2018 previous month

Monthly inflation rate (current month compared with previous month) measures a change of average prices of current months compared with average prices of previous month. Monthly inflation rate can be under the influence of seasonal effects.

Dec 2018 month of the current year
Dec 2017 the same month of previous year

Annual inflation rate (month of the current year compared with the same month of previous year) measures a change in average prices in current month compared with average prices in the same month of previous year. In the presence of a stable seasonal pattern, seasonal effects do not influence this measure.

Jan-Dec 2018 the average rate of 12 months
Jan-Dec 2017 the average rate of the previous 12 months

This rate (the 12-month average rate) indicates the change in the average index of 12 months (one year not as a calendar year, except for December) compared with the average index of the previous 12 months ("year") expressed as a percentage.

The influence of certain groups on inflation rate indicates how much that certain group has influenced on the total inflation rate. The influence depends on weights and inflation rate of given group. The weights represents a relative share of household consumption of certain groups or subgroup of products in the total consumption. Consequently, weights have an important role in the calculation of inflation rate. They represent "importance" of certain product group in the total household consumption in certain reference period. For example, if during certain month prices of bread increases for 10%, this will influence for approx. 0.5 percenatge points (10*5%=0.5 percentage pionts - since the share of bread in the total expenses is 5%). But, if the prices of medicaments increase 12%, this will increase the inflation for 0.06 percentage points (12*0.5%=0.06 percentage points - since the share of medicaments in the total expenses 0.5%). This simple example indicates how much large influence have weights on the final number presenting the inflation. Summing up the influence in percentage points of all subgroups the final result should equal the all-items index rate of change in percentage.

The last published data are considered **preliminary**, and becomes final within the defined deadline, as forseen by the Statistical Release Calendar.

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