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# Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP)
## *March 2018*

**Monthly inflation in March 2018, measured by HICP was 0.2%**

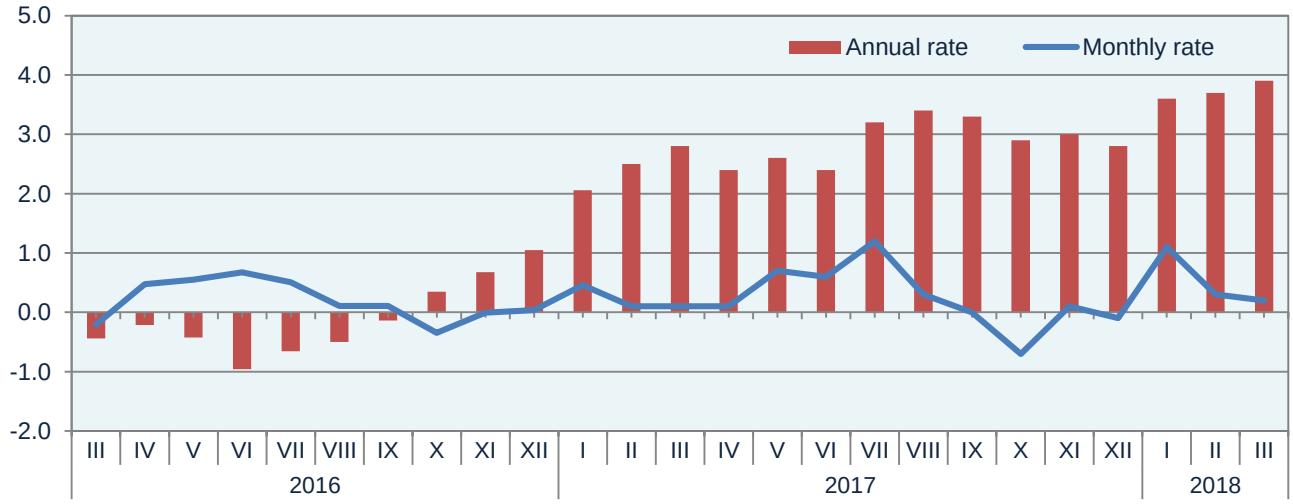
*Monthly inflation measured by Harmonised index of consumer prices was 0.2% in March 2018, while the annual inflation was 3.9%. This was influenced mostly by increase in prices of: vegetables; garments; non-durable household goods; fruit; shoes and other footwear; meat; milk, cheese and eggs; restaurants, cafes and the like.*

*Observing the main groups monthly growth of prices was noticed in the following groups: Clothing and footwear (1.7%); Furnishing, household equipment and routine household maintenance (0.7%); Food and non-alcoholic beverages (0.4%); Miscellaneous goods and service (0.2%), while a drop of prices was recorded in the following groups: Transport (-0.3%); Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (-0.2%); Restaurants and hotels (-0.2%).*

*Prices of other products and services mostly remained unchanged.*

*Positive annual inflation rates in March 2018 were observed in the following groups: Alcoholic beverages and tobacco (27.6%); Clothing and footwear (7.0%); Restaurants and hotels (6.2%); Transport (3.9%); Furnishing, household equipment and routine household maintenance (2.3%); Communications (1.8%); Miscellaneous goods and service (1.7%); Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (1.4%); Recreation and culture (0.4%); Health (0.3%), while negative annual inflation rate was observed in group Food and non-alcoholic beverages (-0.6%).*

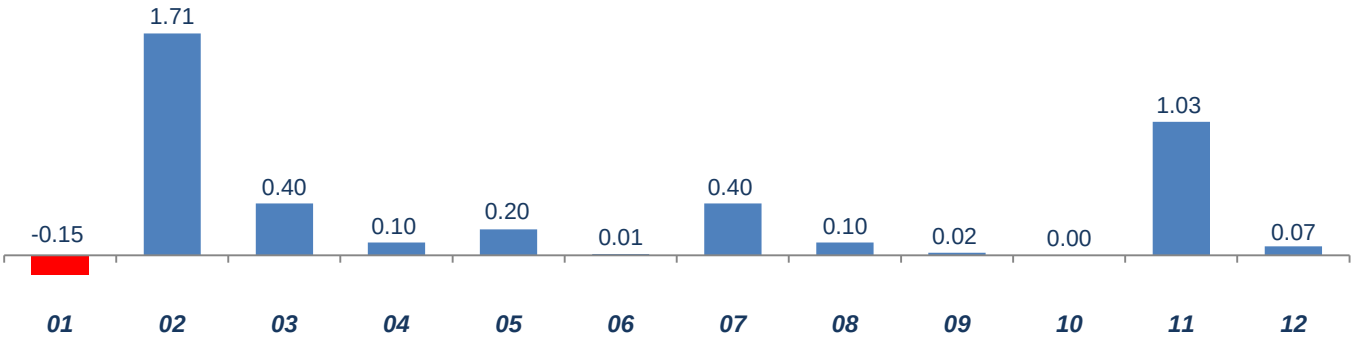
**Chart 1. Annual and monthly rates of inflation (HICP)**



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

| | Name | Weights ‰ | Mar 2018 Ø 2015 | Mar 2018 Feb 2018 | Mar 2018 Mar 2017 | Mar 2018 Dec 2017 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **00** | **HICP - total** | ***1000.0*** | **5.3** | **0.2** | **3.9** | **1.6** |
| 01 | Food and non-alcoholic beverages | *289.7* | 1.1 | 0.4 | -0.6 | 0.9 |
| 02 | Alcoholic beverages and tobacco | *61.9* | 32.4 | 0.0 | 27.6 | 13.7 |
| 03 | Clothing and footwear | *57.4* | 9.9 | 1.7 | 7.0 | -0.3 |
| 04 | Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels | *70.0* | 2.5 | -0.2 | 1.4 | 0.5 |
| 05 | Furnishing, household equipment and routine household maintenance | *83.7* | 0.4 | 0.7 | 2.3 | 2.1 |
| 06 | Health | *25.9* | 5.2 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| 07 | Transport | *101.7* | 5.0 | -0.3 | 3.9 | 1.9 |
| 08 | Communications | *55.7* | 2.3 | 0.0 | 1.8 | 1.6 |
| 09 | Recreation and culture | *37.3* | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 0.7 |
| 10 | Education | *12.0* | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 11 | Restaurants and hotels | *164.4* | 8.5 | -0.2 | 6.2 | -0.6 |
| 12 | Miscellaneous goods and services | *40.3* | 2.0 | 0.2 | 1.7 | 0.7 |
| ***Special aggregates*** | | | | | | |
| Products | | *688.5* | 5.3 | 0.4 | 3.9 | 2.4 |
| Services | | *311.5* | 5.4 | -0.1 | 4.0 | -0.1 |
| HICP - excluding food, alcoholic beverages and tobacco | | *648.4* | 4.7 | 0.1 | 3.6 | 0.6 |
| Energy | | *94.2* | 4.6 | -0.4 | 3.6 | 1.3 |
| 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 %), March 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, March 2018

| ECOICOP | Group | Weights ‰ | Monthly inflation % | Influence in percentage points |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0117 | Vegetables | *32.3* | 3.1 | 0.10 |
| 0312 | Garments | *31.6* | 2.0 | 0.06 |
| 0561 | Non-durable household goods | *33.1* | 1.9 | 0.06 |
| 0116 | Fruit | *15.5* | 2.8 | 0.04 |
| 0321 | Shoes and other footwear | *25.0* | 1.3 | 0.03 |
| 0112 | Meat | *68.5* | 0.3 | 0.02 |
| 0114 | Milk, cheese and eggs | *61.8* | 0.3 | 0.02 |
| 1111 | Restaurants, cafes and the like | *108.3* | 0.1 | 0.01 |
| 0113 | Fish and seafood | *9.3* | 0.7 | 0.01 |
| 0454 | Solid fuels | *12.3* | -0.9 | -0.01 |
| 0111 | Bread and cereals | *44.9* | -0.4 | -0.02 |
| 0115 | Oils and fats | *10.5* | -2.8 | -0.03 |
| 0722 | Fuels and lubricants for personal transport equipment | *43.2* | -0.7 | -0.03 |
| 1120 | Accommodation services | *56.1* | -0.7 | -0.04 |

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

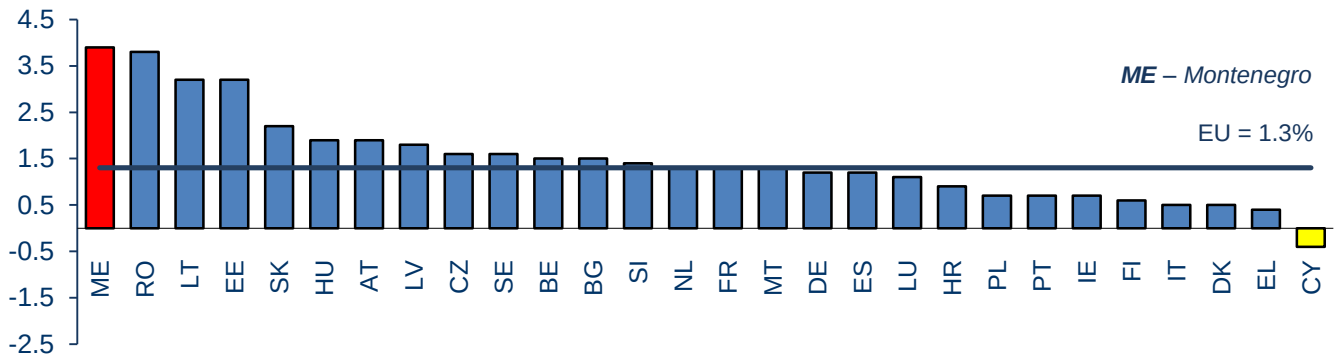
| ECOICOP | Group | Weights ‰ | Annual inflation % | Influence in percentage points |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0220 | Tobacco | *37.9* | 43.1 | 1.64 |
| 1120 | Accommodation services | *56.1* | 10.4 | 0.59 |
| 1111 | Restaurants, cafes and the like | *108.3* | 4.0 | 0.44 |
| 0722 | Fuels and lubricants for personal transport equipment | *43.2* | 5.9 | 0.26 |
| 0321 | Shoes and other footwear | *25.0* | 9.3 | 0.23 |
| 0561 | Non-durable household goods | *33.1* | 6.6 | 0.22 |
| 0312 | Garments | *31.6* | 5.3 | 0.17 |
| 0451 | Electricity | *38.5* | 2.6 | 0.10 |
| 0830 | Telephone and telefax services | *50.6* | 1.7 | 0.09 |
| 0116 | Fruit | *15.5* | 4.1 | 0.06 |
| 0732 | Passenger transport by road | *13.9* | 4.4 | 0.06 |
| 0118 | Sugar, jam, honey, chocolate and confectionery | *13.8* | -1.6 | -0.02 |
| 0115 | Oils and fats | *10.5* | -2.5 | -0.02 |
| 0112 | Meat | *68.5* | -0.5 | -0.03 |
| 0531 | Major household appliances whether electric or not | *14.3* | -2.1 | -0.03 |
| 0114 | Milk, cheese and eggs | *61.8* | -0.7 | -0.04 |
| 0117 | Vegetables | *32.3* | -5.9 | -0.19 |

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

| | Feb-17 / Feb-16 | Sep-17 / Sep-16 | Oct-17 / Oct-16 | Nov-17 / Nov-16 | Dec-17 / Dec-16 | Jan-18 / Jan-17 | Feb-18 / Feb-17 | Feb-18 / Jan-18 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Euro area** | **2.0** | **1.5** | **1.4** | **1.5** | **1.4** | **1.3** | **1.1** | **0.2** |
| **European union** | **2.0** | **1.8** | **1.7** | **1.8** | **1.7** | **1.6** | **1.3** | **0.1** |
| Belgium (BE) | 3.3 | 2.0 | 1.8 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 1.8 | 1.5 | 1.6 |
| Bulgaria (BG) | 0.9 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.9 | 1.8 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 0.2 |
| Czech Republic (CZ) | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.8 | 2.5 | 2.2 | 2.1 | 1.6 | -0.1 |
| Denmark (DK) | 0.9 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 0.8 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.6 |
| Germany (DE) | 2.2 | 1.8 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 0.5 |
| Estonia (EE) | 3.4 | 3.9 | 4.0 | 4.5 | 3.8 | 3.6 | 3.2 | 1.0 |
| Ireland (IE) | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.7 | 0.9 |
| Greece (EL) | 1.4 | 1.0 | 0.5 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.1 |
| Spain (ES) | 3.0 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 1.2 | 0.7 | 1.2 | 0.1 |
| France (FR) | 1.4 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 0.0 |
| Croatia (HR) | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 0.9 | -0.1 |
| Italy (IT) | 1.6 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 0.5 | -0.5 |
| Cyprus (CY) | 1.4 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 0.2 | -0.4 | -1.5 | -0.4 | 1.2 |
| Latvia (LV) | 3.2 | 3.0 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.2 | 2.0 | 1.8 | 0.2 |
| Lithuania (LT) | 3.2 | 4.6 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 3.8 | 3.6 | 3.2 | -0.1 |
| Luxembourg (LU) | 2.7 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 1.6 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 1.2 |
| Hungary (HU) | 2.9 | 2.5 | 2.2 | 2.6 | 2.2 | 2.1 | 1.9 | 0.2 |
| Malta (MT) | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 0.6 |
| Netherlands (NL) | 1.7 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.2 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 0.7 |
| Austria (AT) | 2.4 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.3 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 0.3 |
| Poland (PL) | 1.9 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 2.0 | 1.7 | 1.6 | 0.7 | -0.4 |
| Portugal (PT) | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.9 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 1.1 | 0.7 | -0.6 |
| Romania (RO) | 0.5 | 1.3 | 2.0 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 3.4 | 3.8 | 0.2 |
| Slovenia (SI) | 2.5 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.9 | 1.7 | 1.4 | 0.6 |
| Slovakia (SK) | 1.2 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 2.6 | 2.2 | 0.2 |
| Finland (FI) | 1.4 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 0.9 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 0.6 | 0.5 |
| Sweden (SE) | 1.9 | 2.2 | 1.7 | 1.9 | 1.7 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 0.8 |
| United Kingdom (UK) | 2.3 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 3.0 | ... | ... |

*Source: EUROSTAT* *… = not available*

## Chart 3. Annual inflation rate measured by HICP, February 2018




**Euro area** annual inflation rate was 1.1% in February 2018, down from 1.3% in January. In February 2017, the rate was 2.0%. **European Union** annual inflation was 1.3% in February 2018, down from 1.6% in January.

## 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.

**Mar 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.

**Mar 2018 month of the current year**
**Feb 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.

**Mar 2018 month of the current year**
**Mar 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.

**Mar 2018 month of the current year**
**Dec 2017 December of the previous year**

This rate indicates a change in average prices in current month compared with average prices in December of the previous year. In December this rate is equal the annual inflation rate.

**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.

According to the Revision policy of the Statistical Office, the final data shall be published with the date defined by the Statistical Release Calendar.

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