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

Monthly inflation in August 2018, measured by HICP was -0.1%

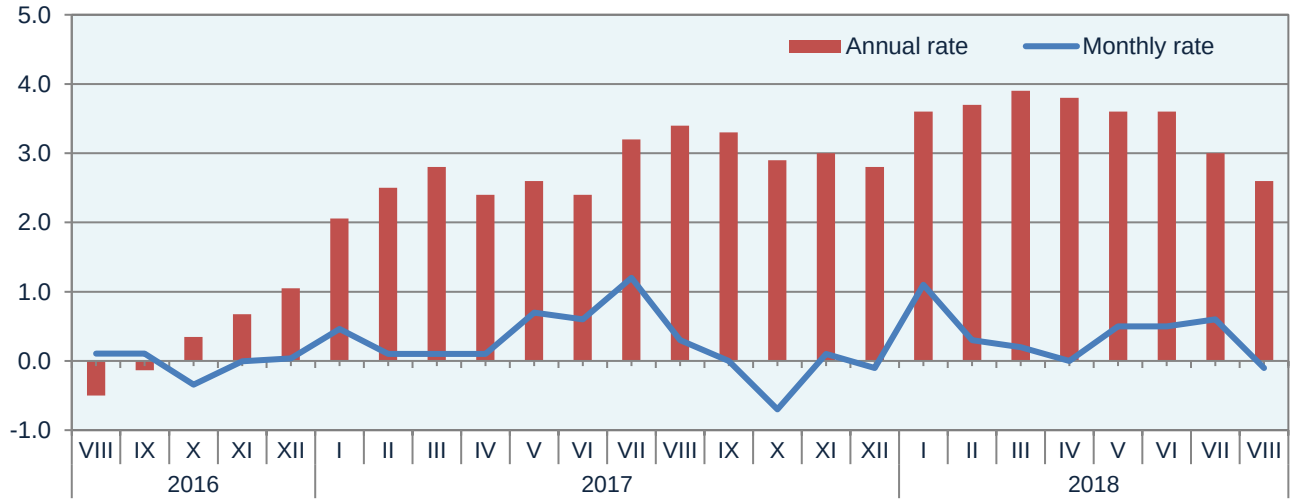
Monthly inflation measured by Harmonised index of consumer prices was -0.1% in August 2018, while the annual inflation was 2.6%. This was influenced mostly by decrease in prices of: shoes and other footwear; motor cars; garments; fruit; etc.

Observing the main groups monthly drop of prices was noticed in the following groups: Clothing and footwear (-2.5%); Transport (-0.6%); Recreation and culture (-0.3%); Health (-0.1%), while a growth of prices was recorded in the following groups: Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (1.0%); Miscellaneous goods and service (0.2%); Food and non-alcoholic beverages (0.1%).

Prices of other products and services mostly remained unchanged.

Positive annual inflation rates in August 2018 were observed in the following groups: Alcoholic beverages and tobacco (13.9%); Transport (5.3%); Clothing and footwear (2.8%); Restaurants and hotels (2.2%); Food and non-alcoholic beverages (1.7%); Communications (1.2%); Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (1.0%); Furnishing, household equipment and routine household maintenance (0.6%); Miscellaneous goods and service (0.5%); Health (0.2%), while negative annual inflation rate was observed in the group Recreation and culture (-0.6%).

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

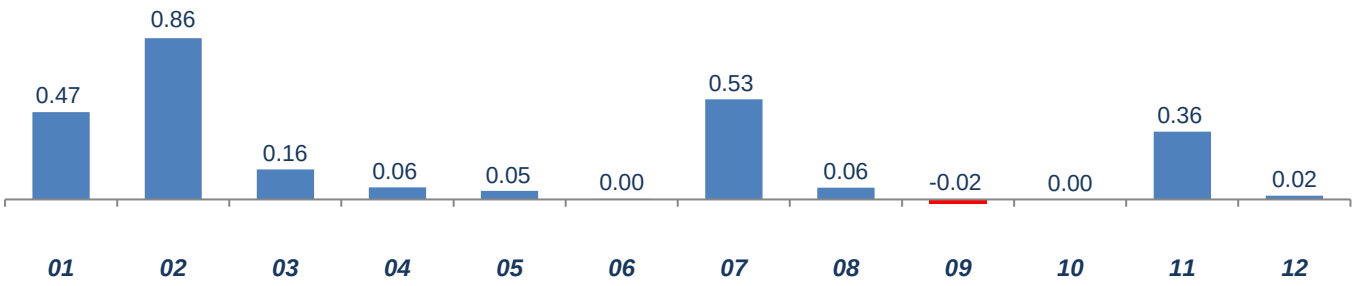


(p) - Preliminary data

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

	Name	Weights ‰	Aug 2018 Ø 2015	Aug 2018 Jul 2018	Aug 2018 Aug 2017	Aug 2018 Dec 2017
00	**HICP - total**	***1000.0***	**7.0**	**-0.1**	**2.6**	**3.3**
01	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	*289.7*	2.5	0.1	1.7	2.3
02	Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	*61.9*	32.6	0.0	13.9	13.9
03	Clothing and footwear	*57.4*	4.0	-2.5	2.8	-5.7
04	Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	*70.0*	2.5	1.0	1.0	0.6
05	Furnishing, household equipment and routine household maintenance	*83.7*	-0.5	0.0	0.6	1.2
06	Health	*25.9*	5.3	-0.1	0.2	0.1
07	Transport	*101.7*	6.6	-0.6	5.3	3.5
08	Communications	*55.7*	1.8	0.0	1.2	1.1
09	Recreation and culture	*37.3*	-0.9	-0.3	-0.6	-0.4
10	Education	*12.0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
11	Restaurants and hotels	*164.4*	18.1	0.0	2.2	8.2
12	Miscellaneous goods and services	*40.3*	1.9	0.2	0.5	0.6
Special aggregates						
Products		*688.5*	5.5	-0.2	3.2	2.6
Services		*311.5*	10.5	0.0	1.4	4.8
HICP - excluding food, alcoholic beverages and tobacco		*648.4*	6.6	-0.2	1.7	2.4
Energy		*94.2*	7.5	0.7	6.3	4.0
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 %), August 2018



ECOICOP divisions

(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, August 2018

ECOICOP	Group	Weights ‰	Monthly inflation %	Influence in percentage points
0454	Solid fuels	*12.3*	6.1	0.07
0114	Milk, cheese and eggs	*61.8*	0.4	0.03
0117	Vegetables	*32.3*	0.7	0.02
0112	Meat	*68.5*	0.1	0.01
0118	Sugar, jam, honey, chocolate and confectionery	*13.8*	0.6	0.01
0561	Non-durable household goods	*33.1*	0.2	0.01
1213	Other appliances, articles and products for personal care	*21.3*	0.3	0.01
0111	Bread and cereals	*44.9*	-0.2	-0.01
0520	Household textiles	*4.7*	-2.0	-0.01
0733	Passenger transport by air	*2.4*	-6.2	-0.01
0116	Fruit	*15.5*	-2.5	-0.04
0312	Garments	*31.6*	-1.4	-0.05
0711	Motor cars	*20.9*	-2.5	-0.05
0321	Shoes and other footwear	*25.0*	-3.9	-0.10

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

ECOICOP	Group	Weights ‰	Annual inflation %	Influence in percentage points
0220	Tobacco	*37.9*	17.9	0.68
0722	Fuels and lubricants for personal transport equipment	*43.2*	12.5	0.55
0117	Vegetables	*32.3*	14.6	0.47
0561	Non-durable household goods	*33.1*	5.0	0.17
1111	Restaurants, cafes and the like	*108.3*	1.4	0.17
0321	Shoes and other footwear	*25.0*	5.5	0.14
1120	Accommodation services	*56.1*	2.2	0.13
0451	Electricity	*38.5*	2.6	0.10
0114	Milk, cheese and eggs	*61.8*	1.5	0.10
0830	Telephone and telefax services	*50.6*	1.7	0.09
0122	Mineral waters, soft drinks, fruit and vegetable juices	*14.5*	5.8	0.09
0111	Bread and cereals	*44.9*	-1.0	-0.04
0454	Solid fuels	*12.3*	-3.8	-0.05
0531	Major household appliances whether electric or not	*14.3*	-3.5	-0.05
0112	Meat	*68.5*	-0.8	-0.05
0116	Fruit	*15.5*	-3.8	-0.06
0711	Motor cars	*20.9*	-3.4	-0.07

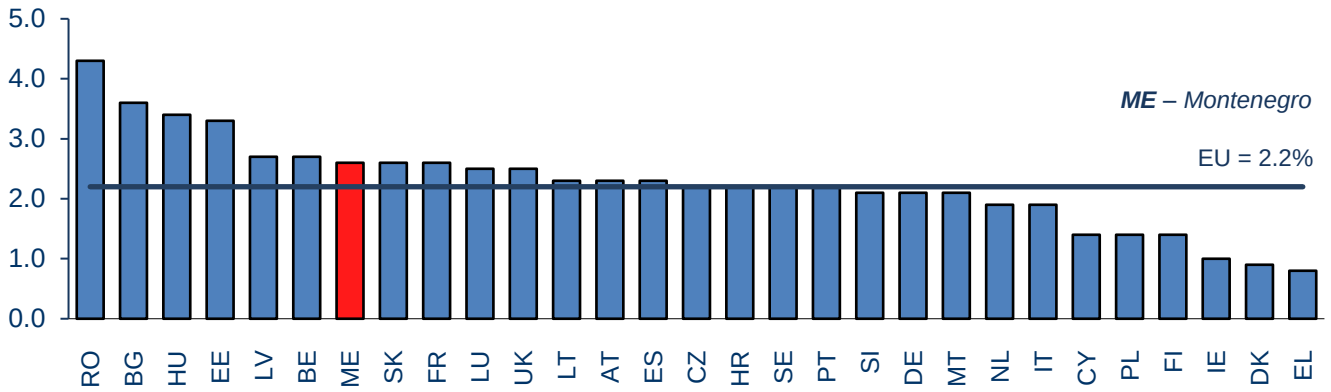
Table 4. Inflation rates in the EU measured by HICP, in %

	Jul-17 / Jul-16	Feb-18 / Feb-17	Mar-18 / Mar-17	Apr-18 / Apr-17	May-18 / May-17	Jun-18 / Jun-17	Jul-18 / Jul-17	Jul-18 / Jun-18
Euro area	**1.3**	**1.1**	**1.3**	**1.3**	**1.9**	**2.0**	**2.1**	**-0.3**
European union	**1.5**	**1.4**	**1.5**	**1.5**	**2.0**	**2.1***	**2.2**	**-0.2**
Belgium (BE)	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.6	2.3	2.6	2.7	-0.7
Bulgaria (BG)	0.6	1.5	1.9	1.7	2.3	3.0	3.6	1.0
Czech Republic (CZ)	2.4	1.6	1.6	1.8	2.0	2.4	2.2	0.2
Denmark (DK)	1.5	0.5	0.4	0.7	1.0	1.1	0.9	0.8
Germany (DE)	1.5	1.2	1.5	1.4	2.2	2.1	2.1	0.4
Estonia (EE)	3.9	3.2	2.9	2.9	3.1	3.9	3.3	0.2
Ireland (IE)	-0.2	0.7	0.5	-0.1	0.7	0.7	1.0	0.4
Greece (EL)	0.9	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.8	1.0	0.8	-1.4
Spain (ES)	1.7	1.2	1.3	1.1	2.1	2.3	2.3	-1.2
France (FR)	0.8	1.3	1.7	1.8	2.3	2.3	2.6	-0.1
Croatia (HR)	1.2	0.9	1.2	1.4	1.8	2.2	2.2	0.1
Italy (IT)	1.2	0.5	0.9	0.6	1.0	1.4	1.9	-1.4
Cyprus (CY)	-0.1	-0.4	-0.4	-0.3	1.0	1.7	1.4	-0.2
Latvia (LV)	2.6	1.8	2.3	2.1	2.4	2.7	2.7	-0.8
Lithuania (LT)	4.1	3.2	2.5	2.2	2.9	2.6	2.3	-0.5
Luxembourg (LU)	1.8	1.1	1.1	1.3	2.1	2.4	2.5	-0.9
Hungary (HU)	2.2	1.9	2.0	2.4	2.9	3.2	3.4	0.3
Malta (MT)	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.7	2.0	2.1	0.2
Netherlands (NL)	1.5	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.9	1.7	1.9	1.1
Austria (AT)	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.3	2.3	-0.6
Poland (PL)	1.4	0.7	0.7	0.9	1.2	1.4	1.4	-0.2
Portugal (PT)	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.3	1.4	2.0	2.2	-0.4
Romania (RO)	0.9	3.8	4.0	4.3	4.6	4.7	4.3	-0.4
Slovenia (SI)	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.9	2.2	2.3	2.1	-0.8
Slovakia (SK)	1.5	2.2	2.5	3.0	2.7	2.9	2.6	-0.2
Finland (FI)	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.4	-0.2
Sweden (SE)	2.3	1.6	2.0	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.2	0.6
United Kingdom (UK)	2.6	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.5	0.0

Source: EUROSTAT

***** = revised data; **...** = not available*

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



Euro area annual inflation rate was 2.1% in July 2018, up from 2.0% in June 2018. **European Union** annual inflation was 2.2% in July 2018, up from 2.1% in June.

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.

Aug 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.

Aug 2018 month of the current year
Jul 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.

Aug 2018 month of the current year
Aug 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.

Aug 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.

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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