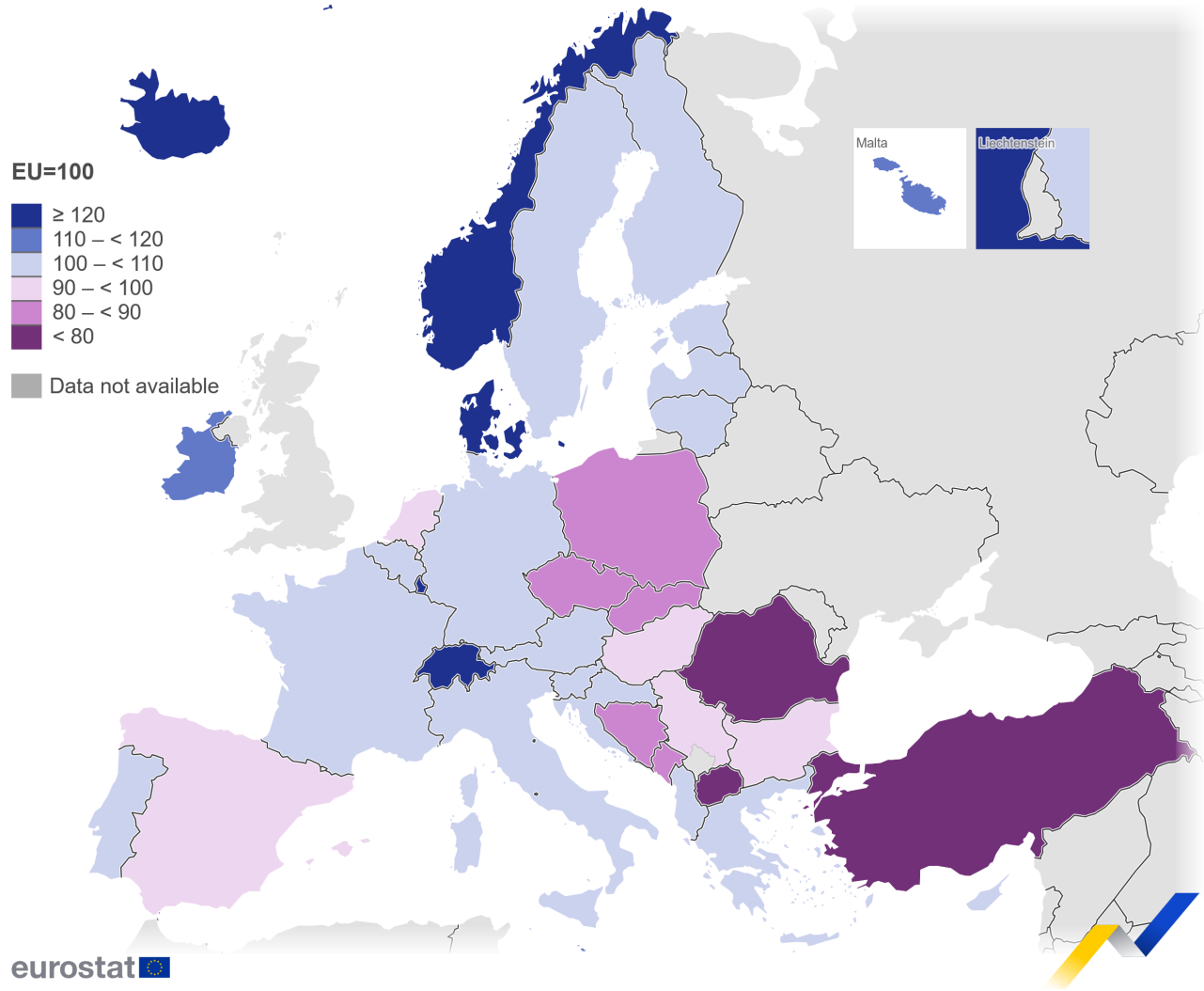
Comparative price levels for food, beverages and tobacco

Statistics Explained

Data from 17 June 2026
Planned article update: December 2026

Highlights

In 2025, price levels for food and non-alcoholic beverages were 22% above the EU average in Luxembourg, followed by Denmark with 21% above the average. On the other hand, Romania's prices were 20% below the EU average, followed by Slovakia at 17%.In 2025, Romania was the cheapest country for bread and cereals and for fish and Slovakia was the cheapest country for meat and for dairy products (milk, cheese and eggs).In 2025, Romania was the cheapest country for fruits and nuts and for vegetables, Spain was cheapest for oils and fats and Poland for other food products.



Map 1: Price level index for food and non-alcoholic beverages 2025 Source: Eurostat (prc_ppp_ind_1)

This article focuses on price levels for food, beverages and tobacco in 36 European countries. The country groups included in the analysis are the 27 European Union (EU) countries, 3 EFTA countries (Iceland, Norway and Switzerland) and 6 candidate countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Türkiye).

Overview

The results of the survey are expressed in price level indices , which provide a comparison of each country's price levels with respect to the European Union average. Map 1 and Figure 1 show the 2025 price level indices for food and non-alcoholic beverages, while the tables present price level indices for sub-groups of products.

Price levels for food, beverages and tobacco

Table 1 shows the price level indices for 4 important groups: food, non-alcoholic beverages, alcoholic beverages and tobacco. These groups represented on average 15%, 2%, 2% and 2% of household expenditure respectively. For reference, the price level indices of total household final consumption expenditure (HFCE) are also presented.

The highest and lowest price level indices per product group among the 27 EU countries are marked in bold. The shaded fields indicate the highest and lowest price level indices. At the bottom of the table, coefficients of variation are provided for the euro area / (EA21) , the current composition of the EU (27 countries) and the group of all countries participating in the programme. The coefficient of variation is defined as the standard deviation of the price level indices of the respective group of countries as a percentage of their average price level index. The higher the coefficients of variation, the higher is the price dispersion in the respective product group.

Price levels for food, beverages and tobacco vary considerably across the EU countries. In 2025, Romania was the cheapest country (21% below EU average) and Luxembourg was the most expensive country for food (23% above average). Non-alcoholic beverages were most expensive in Ireland at 37% above the EU average and least expensive in Italy at 18% below. Alcohol was priced in Finland at 107% above the EU average, while in Italy it was at 18% below. For tobacco, the highest prices were observed in Ireland (162% above the EU average), while the lowest were recorded in Bulgaria (50% below).

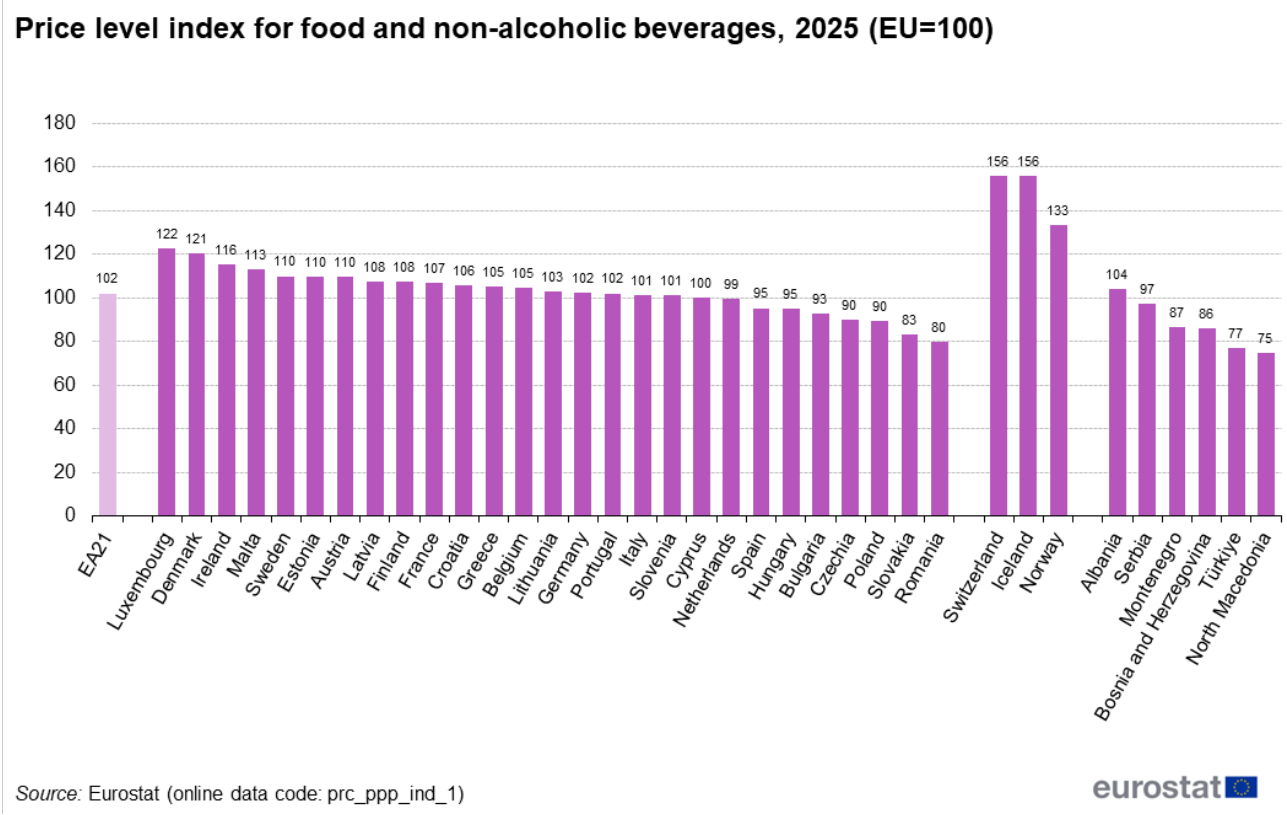


Figure 1: Price level index for food and non-alcoholic beverages, 2025 (EU=100) Source: Eurostat (prc_ppp_ind_1)

Price level indices for food, beverages and tobacco, 2025 (EU=100)

	HFCE	Food	Non-alcoholic beverages	Alcoholic beverages	Tobacco
Denmark	**139.7**	119.7	129.9	122.4	119.9
Ireland	136.2	113.3	**137.1**	192.1	**261.5**
Luxembourg	131.5	**123.5**	114.9	102.0	87.5
Sweden	121.0	109.5	113.7	149.8	104.9
Finland	120.8	105.7	124.8	**207.3**	159.9
Belgium	116.2	104.5	104.9	112.7	144.4
Netherlands	115.6	97.4	121.6	99.5	172.4
Austria	113.0	110.2	105.1	89.1	89.1
France	110.3	107.9	96.1	100.9	191.1
Germany	108.3	102.7	100.8	85.9	116.1
EA21	103.4	102.3	99.3	97.3	104.2
Estonia	101.2	108.5	124.4	135.6	83.6
Italy	97.1	103.3	**81.8**	**81.9**	82.2
Malta	91.9	111.7	124.1	124.1	79.9
Spain	91.6	94.9	98.9	90.1	81.2
Czechia	89.4	89.8	90.3	91.8	94.6
Slovenia	89.3	100.1	110.6	108.8	74.8
Cyprus	89.2	100.2	99.3	113.8	68.8
Greece	87.4	104.7	111.8	154.0	65.8
Portugal	86.6	101.4	108.9	107.1	82.8
Slovakia	85.2	82.1	95.8	97.6	75.6
Latvia	83.2	105.0	135.0	137.0	82.6
Lithuania	82.8	101.4	121.6	130.9	78.7
Croatia	78.4	102.3	133.5	133.9	64.6
Hungary	77.5	94.3	104.4	98.9	80.2
Poland	73.3	88.4	100.6	108.5	73.5
Romania	65.1	**78.9**	90.5	97.3	83.5
Bulgaria	**62.5**	91.0	110.1	109.0	**50.2**
Iceland	173.5	158.8	132.4	298.2	199.4
Switzerland	171.3	158.8	129.9	154.0	129.9
Norway	128.6	132.3	141.8	226.4	207.4
Albania	72.6	102.9	114.3	159.0	47.2
Serbia	68.0	96.6	103.2	116.3	51.0
Montenegro	66.1	84.6	105.9	128.8	42.9
Türkiye	59.6	75.6	92.1	210.2	25.4
Bosnia and Herzegovina	59.2	84.6	97.7	92.6	48.6
North Macedonia	54.8	74.3	79.9	99.0	38.1
Coefficients of variation					
EA-21	18.4	8.0	12.7	26.7	48.9
EU	21.0	9.9	13.1	25.3	45.1
All 36	30.1	17.8	14.3	35.5	53.5

Notes: countries are sorted according to their overall price level for household final consumption expenditure in the first column.
The highest and lowest PLIs per product group among the 27 EU Member States are marked in bold.
The shaded fields indicate the highest and lowest PLIs among all 36 participating countries.
Source: Eurostat (online data code: prc_ppp_ind_1)

eurostat

Table 1: Price level indices for food, beverages and tobacco, 2025 (EU=100) Source: Eurostat (prc_ppp_ind_1)

Price levels for bread and cereals, meat, fish and dairy products

The PPP results also provide an insight into the different sub-groups of products for all participating countries. Table 2 presents the price level indices for 4 sub-groups of food: bread and cereals, meat, fish and dairy products (milk, cheese and eggs). These 4 sub-groups represented on average 16%, 21%, 5% and 17% of household expenditure on food, respectively. For comparison, this table includes the price level indices for food as a whole.

In 2025, Romania was the cheapest and Denmark was the most expensive country for bread and cereals and for fish. Slovakia was the cheapest and Luxembourg was the most expensive country for meat. Slovakia was the cheapest also for dairy products (milk, cheese and eggs), whilst Greece was the most expensive country for this sub-group.

The level of dispersion of prices varies across these 4 sub-groups. Meat showed the highest price dispersion.

Price levels for 4 subcategories of food, 2025 (EU=100)

	Food	Bread and cereals	Meat	Fish	Milk, cheese and eggs
Luxembourg	**123.5**	128.8	**136.0**	111.4	118.4
Denmark	119.7	**136.1**	103.5	**127.4**	122.7
Ireland	113.3	118.7	102.2	105.3	113.0
Malta	111.7	106.9	99.1	98.5	123.5
Austria	110.2	120.4	118.8	123.5	102.2
Sweden	109.5	108.7	108.7	98.8	108.2
Estonia	108.5	105.3	97.8	92.5	117.4
France	107.9	110.5	128.4	108.5	93.3
Finland	105.7	108.6	100.9	102.5	104.2
Latvia	105.0	101.4	82.4	109.2	119.0
Greece	104.7	104.2	96.8	112.7	**129.9**
Belgium	104.5	106.0	121.3	97.8	100.3
Italy	103.3	106.4	104.1	95.8	105.3
Germany	102.7	101.8	114.5	117.0	96.1
EA21	102.3	103.3	106.0	100.7	99.9
Croatia	102.3	106.2	90.9	110.3	111.2
Portugal	101.4	102.6	88.5	95.4	107.4
Lithuania	101.4	104.7	80.6	91.0	117.1
Cyprus	100.2	104.2	83.5	103.2	127.1
Slovenia	100.1	107.1	95.3	93.6	107.3
Netherlands	97.4	89.9	113.4	87.3	99.3
Spain	94.9	94.0	92.2	95.4	95.3
Hungary	94.3	100.1	77.2	101.5	97.1
Bulgaria	91.0	81.4	71.5	87.1	126.2
Czechia	89.8	87.1	87.2	109.3	97.2
Poland	88.4	88.9	80.2	96.5	92.7
Slovakia	82.1	82.2	**67.0**	91.0	**88.0**
Romania	**78.9**	**68.4**	70.4	**81.1**	104.7
Iceland	158.8	160.4	181.3	117.6	195.2
Switzerland	158.8	159.8	219.0	153.7	144.0
Norway	132.3	134.0	137.6	105.1	135.7
Albania	102.9	84.0	98.0	96.5	135.6
Serbia	96.6	87.3	86.1	106.7	107.1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	84.6	82.0	83.0	88.3	92.0
Montenegro	84.6	81.6	71.0	90.2	95.0
Türkiye	75.6	71.4	65.0	98.9	96.9
North Macedonia	74.3	65.9	77.6	80.5	89.6
Coefficients of variation					
EA-21	8.0	10.5	17.7	9.7	10.7
EU	9.9	13.6	18.1	10.8	10.7
All 36	17.8	20.9	30.4	13.6	18.0

Notes: countries are sorted according to their overall price level for food in the first column.
The highest and lowest PLIs per product group among the 27 EU Member States are marked in bold.
The shaded fields indicate the highest and lowest PLIs among all 36 participating countries.
Source: Eurostat (online data code: prc_ppp_ind_1)

eurostat

Table 2: Price levels for 4 subcategories of food, 2025 (EU=100) Source: Eurostat (prc_ppp_ind_1)

Price levels for oils and fats, fruits, vegetables, potatoes and other food products

Table 3 shows the price level indices for 4 further sub-groups of food products: oils and fats; fruits and nuts; vegetables; and other food products. These sub-groups represented on average 4%, 9%, 12% and 10% of household expenditure for food, respectively.

In 2025, Spain had the lowest price level for oils and fats, and Latvia had the highest price level for oils and fats. Romania was the least expensive country, and France was the most expensive country for fruits and nuts. In Romania, also the price level of vegetables was lowest within the EU, while the price level was highest in Denmark.

Denmark was the most expensive country also for other food products, while Poland was the cheapest country.

Within these 4 sub-groups, price dispersion was in general less pronounced in the euro area than in the EU as a whole.

Price levels for 4 subcategories of food, 2025 (EU=100)

	Food	Oils and fats	Fruits and nuts	Vegetables	Other food
Luxembourg	**123.5**	131.1	124.3	120.2	119.7
Denmark	119.7	122.0	98.5	**125.3**	**138.7**
Ireland	113.3	114.7	103.5	112.3	133.6
Malta	111.7	137.7	118.4	105.6	126.9
Austria	110.2	114.1	93.1	111.2	109.2
Sweden	109.5	127.6	106.7	122.3	115.4
Estonia	108.5	127.2	116.6	107.5	122.9
France	107.9	109.8	**125.1**	111.9	92.7
Finland	105.7	115.0	104.5	116.8	114.7
Latvia	105.0	**145.1**	103.4	101.6	130.4
Greece	104.7	107.5	84.9	93.2	129.2
Belgium	104.5	112.8	98.8	98.1	106.3
Italy	103.3	93.0	107.2	100.1	117.9
Germany	102.7	106.7	107.7	103.1	92.4
EA21	102.3	98.9	104.2	101.9	100.6
Croatia	102.3	112.5	85.7	93.3	125.2
Portugal	101.4	95.9	95.0	101.4	137.7
Lithuania	101.4	130.2	99.1	103.2	118.5
Cyprus	100.2	113.4	95.0	90.6	107.3
Slovenia	100.1	118.6	83.4	89.8	115.2
Netherlands	97.4	126.9	93.5	95.0	93.6
Spain	94.9	**73.2**	101.2	98.6	104.2
Hungary	94.3	116.1	95.4	99.4	110.9
Bulgaria	91.0	141.9	87.2	83.0	97.6
Czechia	89.8	114.8	77.4	83.6	91.7
Poland	88.4	94.3	88.3	93.0	**89.9**
Slovakia	82.1	111.2	78.8	83.3	91.3
Romania	**78.9**	99.4	**65.5**	**74.2**	92.5
Iceland	158.8	136.0	127.4	155.3	155.0
Switzerland	158.8	178.0	122.2	137.9	162.2
Norway	132.3	123.3	121.5	158.6	134.6
Albania	102.9	112.5	92.1	91.2	128.2
Serbia	96.6	128.4	95.9	91.0	111.2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	84.6	99.2	71.2	75.9	95.5
Montenegro	84.6	119.4	77.9	74.5	108.0
Türkiye	75.6	95.5	79.4	51.7	82.5
North Macedonia	74.3	95.0	52.4	72.0	80.9
Coefficients of variation					
EA-21	8.0	14.2	12.8	9.9	12.5
EU	9.9	13.6	14.2	12.4	13.6
All 36	17.8	15.8	17.9	21.4	17.1

Notes: countries are sorted according to their overall price level for food in the first column.
The highest and lowest PLIs per product group among the 27 EU Member States are marked in bold.
The shaded fields indicate the highest and lowest PLIs among all 36 participating countries.
Source: Eurostat (online data code: prc_ppp_ind_1)

eurostat

Table 3: Price levels for 4 subcategories of food, 2025 (EU=100) Source: Eurostat (prc_ppp_ind_1)

EFTA countries

All EFTA countries showed higher price levels for food than EU countries. For non-alcoholic beverages only Norway and for alcoholic beverages both Iceland and Norway showed higher price levels than any EU country. Tobacco prices were lower than in the most expensive EU country.

Iceland and Switzerland showed higher price levels for bread and cereals than EU countries. All EFTA countries showed higher price levels for meat and dairy products than any EU country. Only Switzerland showed higher price level for fish than the most expensive EU country.

The price level for oils and fats was higher in Switzerland than in the EU countries. Iceland was most expensive for fruits and nuts. All EFTA countries showed higher price levels for vegetables than EU countries. Iceland and Switzerland were more expensive for other food products than the most expensive EU country.

Candidate countries

Only Türkiye and North Macedonia were less expensive for food than EU countries. Non-alcoholic beverages were less expensive in North Macedonia than in EU countries, and no candidate country was less expensive for alcoholic beverages than the cheapest EU country. Tobacco was in general less expensive in candidate countries than in the EU.

Only North Macedonia had lower price levels for bread and cereals and for fish, and only Türkiye had lower price level for meat than EU countries. Dairy products were generally more expensive than in the cheapest EU country. Price levels for oils and fats were generally higher than in the cheapest EU country. Only North Macedonia had lower price level for fruits and nuts than EU countries. Türkiye and North Macedonia were less expensive for vegetables and other food products than EU countries.

Source data for tables and graphs

- Comparative price levels for food, beverages and tobacco

Data sources

The data in this article are produced by the Eurostat-OECD Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) programme. The full methodology used in the programme is described in the Eurostat-OECD Methodological manual on purchasing power parities.

Starting this year, the basic heading classification for Household Final Consumption Expenditure has been updated to reflect the COICOP 2018 classification, the internationally accepted standard endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission. This ensures that Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) are calculated using a classification consistent with recent changes in consumption patterns and technological developments, as reflected in national accounts data and consumer price statistics.

The implementation of COICOP 2018 applies only to the years since 2022. Data for previous years (1995–2021) have been estimated only for GDP and its main components and are published in the new Eurobase dataset. Data for the former analytical categories, based on the previous COICOP classification, remain available in the earlier dataset.

The PPP concept

Purchasing power parities (PPPs) are price relatives that show the ratio of the prices in national currencies of the same good or service in different countries. For example, if the price of a hamburger in Sweden is 28.60 Swedish krona and in Italy it is € 2.76, the PPP for hamburgers between Sweden and Italy is 28.60 krona to € 2.76 or 10.36 krona to the euro. In other words, for every euro spent on hamburgers in Italy, 10.36 krona would have to be spent in Sweden in order to obtain the same quantity and quality – or volume – of hamburgers.

The provisional PPP estimates for year t are released at t+6 months. The data release is accompanied by two news items presenting the provisional estimates of Actual Individual Consumption (AIC) per capita and volume indices of AIC and GDP, and the price levels for a selection of analytical categories comprising household expenditure.

By the end of September (t+9 months) each year, countries report for the first time the expenditures at basic heading level for the year t. The PPPs calculated with these expenditures are released in t+12 months and referred to as first estimates. At the same time as the first estimates of PPPs are calculated for t, the second or intermediate estimates of PPPs for the year t-1 and the third or final estimates of PPPs for the year t-2 are calculated.

Price level indices

Price levels as presented in this publication are the ratios of PPPs to exchange rates. They provide a measure of the differences in price levels between countries by indicating for a given product group the number of units of common currency needed to buy the same volume of the product group or aggregate in each country.

Price level indices provide a comparison of the countries' price levels relative to the European Union average: if the price level index is higher than 100, the country concerned is relatively expensive compared with the EU average, while if the price level index is lower than 100, then the country is relatively cheap compared with the EU average. The EU average is calculated as the weighted average of the national price level indices, weighted with expenditures from national accounts, corrected for price level differences.

Price level indices are not intended to rank countries strictly. In fact, they only provide an indication of the order of magnitude of the price level in one country in relation to others, particularly when countries are clustered around a very narrow range of outcomes. The degree of uncertainty associated with the basic price data and the methods used for compiling PPPs may cause minor differences between the price level indices and result in differences in ranking which are not statistically or economically significant.

The impact of exchange rate changes on price level indices

Price level index for a given country is calculated as its purchasing power parity (PPP) divided by its annual average exchange rate to the euro . This implies that exchange rate movements have an impact on the price level indices. A depreciation of a country's currency against the euro will make the country cheaper compared with euro area countries and this will show as a decrease of the relative price level expressed in the price level index. The price level change for Türkiye observed in 2025 can be at least partly explained by fluctuations of country's currency against the Euro. In 2025 the national currency of Türkiye showed a large depreciation (26% between 2024 and 2025).

Organisation

Within the framework of the Eurostat-OECD Purchasing Power Parities (PPP) programme, surveys on prices of household goods and services are carried out cyclically by the National Statistical Institutes (NSIs). Each survey cycle comprises 6 surveys, each related to a particular group of household consumption products. As 2 surveys are run per year, the whole survey cycle takes 3 years to conclude, before the next cycle starts. The prices used for this publication were collected in spring 2024 and have been extrapolated to the year 2025 using detailed consumer price indices. The price level indices presented in this article are based on annual national average prices for 508 goods in total. The expenditure shares reported in this article are based on national accounts data for 2025 and represent the average over all participating countries. The national accounts data are also used as weights in the aggregation of detailed price level indices to aggregate price level indices such as for household final consumption expenditure (HFCE).

Definition of the product groups

The food sub-groups presented in the article include the following types of products:

- **bread and cereals** : rice, other cereals, flour and other cereal products, bread, other bakery products, pasta products;
- **meat** : beef and veal, pork, lamb, mutton and goat, poultry, other meats and edible offal, delicatessen and other meat preparations;
- **fish** : fresh, chilled or frozen fish and seafood, preserved or processed fish and seafood;

- **milk, cheese, eggs** : fresh milk, preserved milk and other milk products, cheese, eggs and egg-based products;
- **oils and fats** : butter, margarine, other edible oils and fats;
- **fruits and nuts** : fresh or chilled fruit, frozen, preserved or processed fruit and fruit-based products, dates, figs, citrus, berries;
- **vegetables** : fruit bearing vegetables, green vegetables;
- **other food products' '** prepared baking powder and yeast, bouillon cubes, soap bases, other ready made food , food products n.e.c.;
- **non-alcoholic beverages** : coffee, tea and cocoa, mineral waters, soft drinks and concentrates, fruit and vegetable juices;
- **alcoholic beverages** : spirits, wine, beer;
- **tobacco** : tobacco.

Purchasing power parities (PPPs) are indicators of price level differences across countries. PPPs tell us how many currency units a given quantity of goods and services costs in different countries. PPPs can thus be used as currency conversion rates to convert expenditures expressed in national currencies into an artificial common currency, the purchasing power standard , eliminating the effect of price level differences across countries.

The main use of PPPs is to convert national accounts aggregates, like the gross domestic product (GDP) of different countries, into comparable volume aggregates. Applying nominal exchange rates in this process would overestimate the GDP of countries with high price levels relative to countries with low price levels. The use of PPPs ensures that the GDP of all countries is valued at a uniform price level and thus reflects only differences in the actual volume of the economy.

PPPs are also applied in analyses of relative price levels across countries. For this purpose, the PPPs are divided by the current nominal exchange rate to obtain a price level index which expresses the price level of a given country relative to another, or relative to a group of countries like the EU.

The common rules for the provision of input data, and for the calculation and dissemination of PPPs, are laid down in Regulation 1445/2007 of 11 December 2007.

Explore further

Other articles

- Comparative price levels of consumer goods and services
- GDP per capita, consumption per capita and price level indices
- Comparative price levels for investment

Database

- Purchasing power parities (prc_ppp) , see:

Purchasing power parities (PPPs), price level indices and real expenditures for ESA2010 aggregates (prc_ppp_ind)

Convergence indicators (prc_ppp_conv)

- Purchasing power parities (t_prc_ppp) , see:

Comparative price levels (tec00120)

Price and volume convergence between EU countries (tec00121)

GDP per capita in PPS (tec00114)

Thematic section

- Purchasing power parities (PPPs)
- Harmonized Indices of Consumer Prices (HICP)

Methodology

- Eurostat-OECD Methodological manual on purchasing power parities
- Product list 2022-2024
- Purchasing power parities (ESMS metadata file — prc_ppp_esms)

Legislation

- Regulation (EC) No 1445/2007 of 11 December 2007 establishing common rules for the provision of basic information on Purchasing Power Parities and for their calculation and dissemination
- Summaries of EU Legislation: Purchasing power parities

External links

- OECD - Purchasing Power Parities (PPP)
- World Bank - International Comparison Programme (ICP)