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Consumer price levels

Price levels of food ranged from 61% of the EU27 average in Poland to 143% in Denmark in 2012

In 2012, the price level¹ of a comparable basket of food and non-alcoholic beverages was more than twice as high in the most expensive **EU27** Member State than in the cheapest one.

Denmark had the highest price level for food and non-alcoholic beverages in the **EU27** in 2012, at 143% of the **EU27** average, followed by **Sweden** (124%), **Austria** (120%), **Finland** (119%), **Ireland** (118%) and **Luxembourg** (116%). The lowest price levels were observed in **Poland** (61%), **Romania** (67%), **Bulgaria** (68%) and **Lithuania** (77%).

These data come from a report² issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**. The results refer to the survey on food, beverage and tobacco prices carried out in 2012 in the 37 participating countries. This survey covered a total of approximately 500 comparable products.

Highest price disparities for tobacco

Data are also available for more detailed breakdowns of food products. For bread and cereals, price levels ranged from 57% of the **EU27** average in **Bulgaria** to 159% in **Denmark**; for meat from 55% in **Poland** to 132% in both **Denmark** and **Austria**; and for milk, cheese & eggs from 63% in **Poland** to 141% in **Cyprus**.

The price levels for alcoholic beverages ranged from one to more than two and a half. The lowest price levels for alcoholic beverages were registered in **Bulgaria** (67% of the **EU27** average), **Romania** (75%), **Hungary** (79%) and **Germany** (82%), and the highest in **Finland** (175%), **Ireland** (162%), **Sweden** (161%) and the **United Kingdom** (143%).

For tobacco, the price levels were almost four times higher in the most expensive Member State than in the cheapest. The lowest price levels were observed in **Hungary** (52% of the **EU27** average), **Lithuania** (55%), **Bulgaria** (57%) and **Poland** (58%), and the highest in **Ireland** (199%), the **United Kingdom** (194%), **Sweden** (132%) and **France** (129%).

Comparative price level indices 2012, EU27=100

	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	Of which:			Alcoholic beverages	Tobacco
		Bread and cereals	Meat	Milk, cheese and eggs		
EU27	100	100	100	100	100	100
Belgium	110	108	118	111	97	95
Bulgaria	68	57	59	92	67	57
Czech Republic	84	74	73	91	96	69
Denmark	143	159	132	117	140	115
Germany	106	104	128	92	82	102
Estonia	87	84	79	88	102	62
Ireland	118	110	110	119	162	199
Greece	104	115	91	132	131	74
Spain	93	111	83	95	87	83
France	109	106	123	100	88	129
Italy	111	114	115	126	98	99
Cyprus	109	121	89	141	110	82
Latvia	87	80	75	96	111	64
Lithuania	77	75	63	90	94	55
Luxembourg	116	117	129	119	90	81
Hungary	81	74	72	88	79	52
Malta	98	94	80	113	109	88
Netherlands	96	90	117	93	96	108
Austria	120	134	132	101	96	86
Poland	61	58	55	63	93	58
Portugal	90	98	75	105	89	84
Romania	67	63	57	93	75	68
Slovenia	97	101	93	101	101	67
Slovakia	87	82	71	97	91	73
Finland	119	130	119	114	175	102
Sweden	124	135	126	112	161	132
United Kingdom	104	89	100	107	143	194
Iceland	118	130	119	112	212	131
Norway	186	183	179	214	288	270
Switzerland	155	148	221	133	120	131
Croatia	92	94	75	97	103	57
Montenegro	76	72	67	77	95	34
Former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia	58	54	55	67	65	25
Serbia	71	64	64	81	78	30
Turkey	88	70	77	122	205	64
Albania	68	66	52	84	72	27
Bosnia-Herzegovina	76	73	69	78	84	34

1. Comparative price levels are expressed in the form of price level indices (PLIs). PLIs provide a comparison of countries' price levels with respect to the European Union average: if the PLI is higher than 100, the country concerned is relatively expensive compared to the EU average and vice versa. However, PLIs 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 data is produced by the Eurostat-OECD Purchasing Power Parities programme. The full methodology used in the programme is described in the *Eurostat-OECD Methodological manual on purchasing power parities* which is available free of charge from the Eurostat website:
http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/product_details/publication?p_product_code=KS-RA-12-023
2. Eurostat, Statistics in Focus, 15/2013, "**Significant differences in price levels for food, beverages and tobacco across Europe in 2012**". Available in Statistics Explained on the Eurostat website:
http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Comparative_price_levels_for_food_beverages_and_tobacco.

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