

Household final consumption expenditure in the European Union

Data 1995-99

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EUROPEAN
COMMISSION



THEME 2
Economy
and
finance



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It can be accessed through the Europa server (<http://europa.eu.int>).

Cataloguing data can be found at the end of this publication.

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PREFACE

This study focuses on a detailed description of the consumption of households by purpose. A large range of data are presented and analysed, with a breakdown by 12 items of consumption, detailed for 15 Member States, for the European Union and the euro-zone. Data analysis has been subjected to certain limitations: with the introduction of the European System of Accounts 1995 (ESA 95), the structure of data has been changed. In the new statistical system there are twelve main functions of consumption, while in the ESA 79 system there were only eight. The series presented in this study refer to the first transmission of data in the new system, and for most countries the reference period is limited to five years (1995/1999).

The most recent data refer to 1999, which is not a particularly fresh reference. However, as the publication focuses on the structure and developments in consumption, and since in developed countries the consumption is not a dynamic variable, this lack of freshness is not of so much importance for EU countries. In order to assess changes in the structure, changes in differences between Member States and the reactivity of consumption, long series are necessary. Therefore, back-recalculation of the series has been performed by Eurostat and results have been presented separately, in Boxes 1 and 2.

The first part of the publication is dedicated to the description of consumption by main function. Three main elements have been illustrated: the **structure**, the **evolution** and the **absolute change**. In all chapters the percentages of total consumption, growth rates and growth indices have been presented. Special attention is paid to the EU and the euro-zone figures, which are produced by Eurostat unit B2 (Economic Accounts and International Markets: Production and Analysis). Also, comparison between Member States is briefly presented, focusing on extreme values, on similarities and differences.

Unfortunately, Purchasing Power Parities for specific items have not yet been calculated for the new ESA 95 structure. Comparison of the levels in euro among Member States is fairly meaningless for consumption, as the level of prices is particularly important in the decisions of consumers. Therefore, in this publication, per capita values have not been included.

The evolution and changes of prices have been illustrated beside the figures of expenditure for each function. In particular, the sub-indices for the specific items of consumption of Harmonized Consumer Price indices are illustrated.

The second part of this publication is dedicated to specific analysis of data, and series have been recalculated to cover a longer reference period: 1990/1999. A more detailed analysis has been devoted to the structure of consumption of households and, in particular, to the changes in the models of consumption (Box 1). A special section (Box 2) shows the differences in the models of consumption among Member States. In particular, the comparison has been made on the basis of the calculation of the dispersion of values.

As mentioned, this publication is aimed at supplying a complete description of consumption data in the EU countries. The first two sections can be considered as a guide for exploring the extensive data set. In order to give readers access to the complete set of information, in the third section (Appendix) data are given in detail by country.

FINAL HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE

COICOP 2-DIGITS

BREAKDOWN BY 12 CONSUMPTION PURPOSES

Food and non-alcoholic beverages (Food)

Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics (Alcoholic bev.)

Clothing and footwear (Clothing)

Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (Housing)

Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house (Furnishings)

Health (Health)

Transport (Transport)

Communications (Commun.)

Recreation and culture (Recreation)

Education (Education)

Restaurants and hotels (Restaurants)

Miscellaneous goods and services (Miscell.)

In this publication, these twelve consumption purposes have been put together in five groups for the ease of presentation.

Introduction: an overview of household consumption

Consumption is certainly one of the most important variables in determining the economic result of a country. Moreover, consumption covers an important role not only as an economic indicator, but it also reflects social conditions, in particular related to the welfare of a country.

Data presented in this publication refer to National Accounting, those series are the most suitable indication for economic developments, but the breakdown ⁽¹⁾ is extremely limited when referring to social conditions ⁽²⁾. However, the description of the different items that compose the expenditure for consumption of households points towards the models of consumption, strictly related to social and cultural conditions.

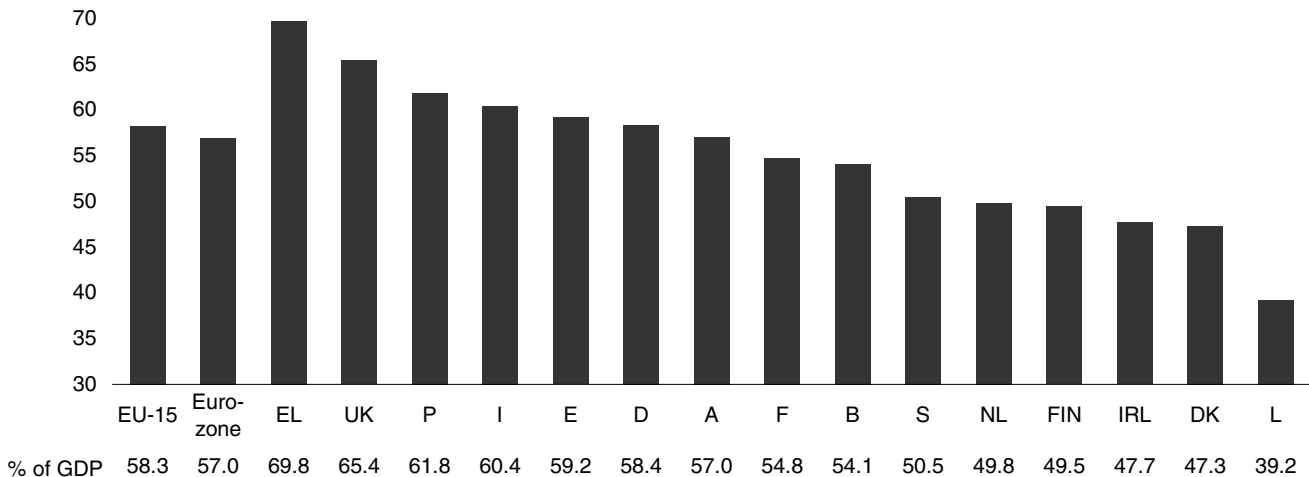
The expenditure of households ⁽³⁾ for consumption represents the largest part of Gross Domestic Product. In fact, in 1999 the consumption of households was the major part of the EU Gross Domestic Product, with a share of 58.2%. Household consumption was the main component of GDP in every Member State, with figures ranging from 69.8% in Greece to 39.2% in Luxembourg.

In 2000 households in the EU spent EUR 4 303 billion for their consumption at current prices. When calculating per capita figures, the average spending of households in the EU in 2000 has been by EUR 13 100 per head. In order to better compare Member States, consumption per head has been calculated in Purchasing Power Standards ⁽⁴⁾ (PPS). In 2000 the United Kingdom, alongside Luxembourg, stands out as having per capita figures well above the average of other Member States: + 32.1% for Luxembourg and + 14.5% for the UK. The lowest figures have been registered in Portugal (22.1% below the EU value), Greece and Spain (respectively 16.8% and 16.0% under EU average).

Turning to growth, the EU consumption during the period under consideration recorded the highest 3.3% growth rate in 1999, afterwards spending for consumption came to a slowdown, realizing + 2.8% growth in 2000. In general, household consumption has not been the most dynamic component of GDP.

When considering absolute growth (1995=100) in volume, household consumption in 2000 was by 13.8% higher than in the reference year. Among Member States,

Household and NPISH final consumption expenditure, percentage share of GDP, 2000



⁽¹⁾ Data have been extracted in November 2001 and the breakdown refers to COICOP 2 nomenclature.

⁽²⁾ For the breakdown of consumption data by age, sex, social condition etc. Please refer to data collected by the Household Budget Surveys.

⁽³⁾ It should be noted that we refer to expenditure consumption of households including NPISH (Non Profit Institutions Serving Households).

⁽⁴⁾ Purchasing Power Standards are derived from national currencies using Purchasing Power Parities. These represent the relationship between the amounts of national currency needed to purchase a comparable, representative basket of goods in the country concerned. PPS have been calculated only for total consumption; that is the reason why per head figures for specific functions have not been presented.

Household and NPISH final consumption expenditure per head, 2000, in PPS

	PPS	EU-15=100	EU-15 average
EU-15	13 100	100.0	
EUR	12 900	98.5	
L	17 300	132.1	
UK	15 000	114.5	
A	14 200	108.4	
I	13 900	106.1	
D	13 800	105.3	
B	13 000	99.2	
DK	12 900	98.5	
NL	12 900	98.5	
IRL	12 700	96.9	
F	12 200	93.1	
S	11 600	88.5	
FIN	11 400	87.0	
E	11 000	84.0	
EL	10 900	83.2	
P	10 200	77.9	

the largest increase (volume growth) in household consumption occurred in Ireland where 2000 figure was by 46.1 % higher than in the reference year (1995). With growth rates around 21 %, the Netherlands (21.7 %), the United Kingdom (21.5 %), Portugal (20.6 %) and Finland (20.4 %) followed. At the opposite, household consumption expanded least in Denmark (7.7 %), Germany (8.1 %), and France (+ 10.6 %).

Even if consumption, as a total, has a relevant role in the determination of economic results, when splitting household consumption into different items the underlying considerations become more interesting. This publication is aimed essentially at the determination of consumption patterns, at defining differences and similarities in the models of consumption, and at pointing out the evolution of the spending of EU households.

Figures lack of freshness and the last generally available period for the breakdown by purpose is still 1999. But, even if those data would not be suitable for an

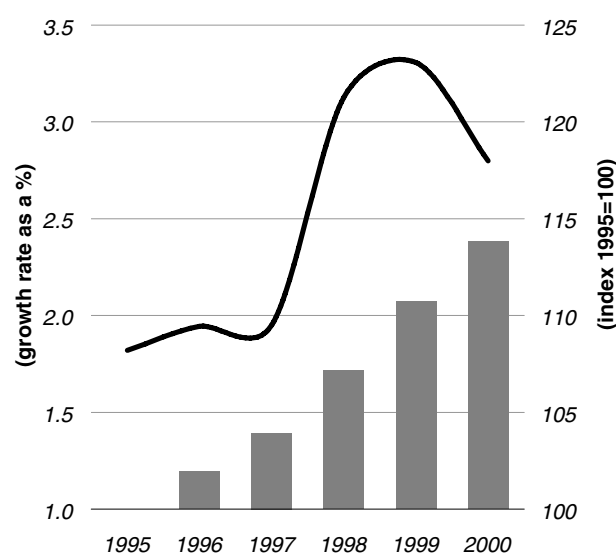
economic analysis of the macroeconomic developments, under a microeconomic point of view the freshness of data affect only to a limited extent the results of this study.

A first relevant observation is that the three items take up the largest part of household consumption, defining clearly the "basic" consumption items in the EU: nearly the half of total spending goes for *Food, Housing and Transport*. One third of household consumption is dedicated to more "recreational" items. The remaining third is spent for minor sub-items of consumption.

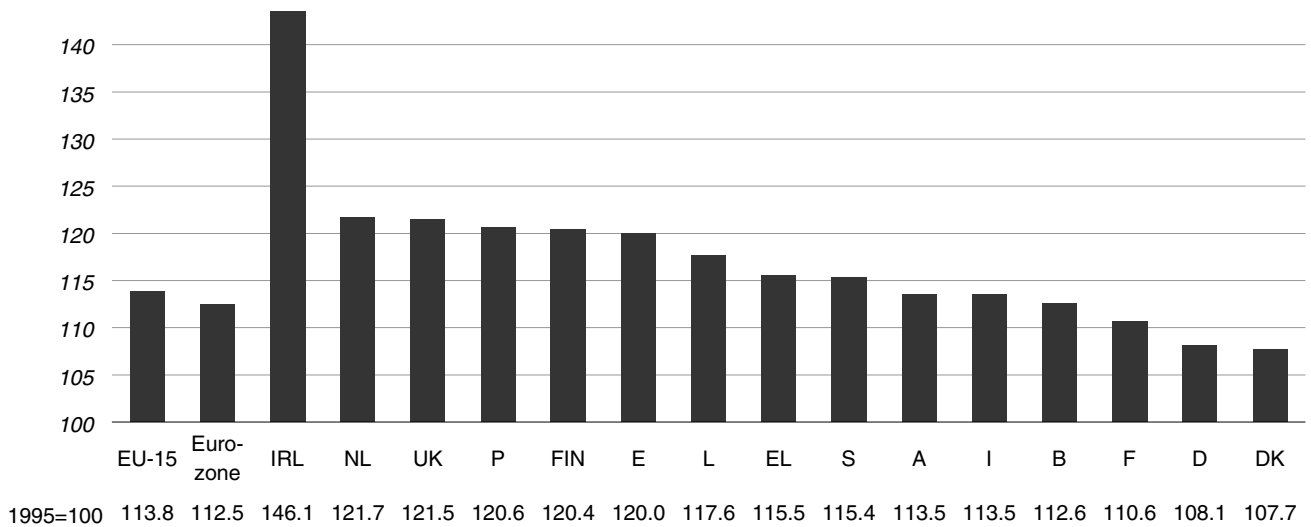
Looking at the trend in consumption items the first evidence is that the share of food consumption in household spending is getting lower and lower. This is a natural evolution in developed countries, as the EU's. *Housing* is generally becoming the most important item in household spending for consumption, followed by expenses for *Transports*.

Moreover, the differences in the structure among EU countries give a quite good indication of the existing models of consumption. Particular to households structure, the relationship between the country's welfare and the pattern of consumption is confirmed by the fact that Greece and Portugal, which show the smallest GDP per capita figures (here as indication of the country's welfare), also show the largest parts of consumption dedicated to *Food*.

Growth of Household and NPISH final consumption expenditure in the EU



As well, though somewhat less unambiguous, at least an indication of a certain preference in the pattern of consumption is given by the fact that the largest shares of food consumption are recorded in Mediterranean countries. Opposite but with the same viewpoint, in Northern countries households dedicate the largest parts of their consumption for housing. Considerations

Household and NPISH final consumption growth, in volume, 2000 (1995=100)


related to the models of consumption include a large range of factors that make figures not easily comparable, therefore the figures here should be considered as a simple indication of different models of consumption.

In terms of evolution, expenditure for *Food* and for *Housing* have been rather steady, while spending for *Transport* showed higher growth rates. By far, the most dynamic function of consumption in the EU has been expenditure for *Communications*, but still representing a minor part in total spending (2.3 % in 1999). Among Member States, the highest growth rates have been recorded in the Netherlands and in Finland. Other items of consumption showing particular dynamic growth rates have been that for *Recreation* and for *Transport*.

Growth in the expenditure for *Communication* is especially evident when considering absolute growth (growth indices 1996=100). Since 1996 EU household spending for *Communication* expanded by 43.7 %. Variations in household spending for *Recreation* (+ 15.7 %) and for *Transport* (+ 12.4 %) were much more modest.

In order to give a simple reading map of such a large data-set, only 3 major functions of consumption have been described in detail, describing the structure, the evolution and the change. In addition, another group for consideration has been made by grouping those items of consumption considered "recreational": the definition of "recreational" is purely discretionary and simply in opposition to "basic" consumption. Finally, a short description of minor items has also been done.

1. Food and non-alcoholic beverages

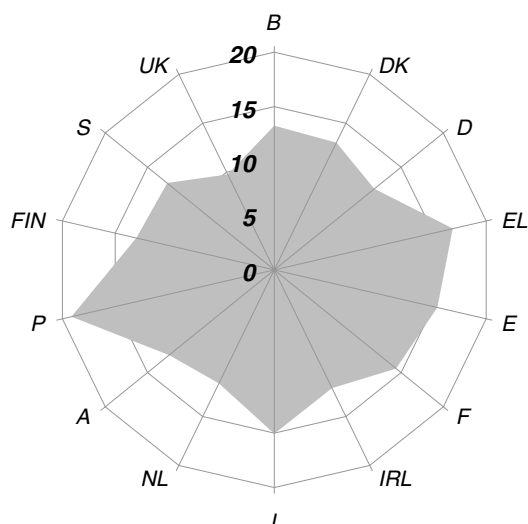
Households in the Mediterranean countries spend more on food and non-alcoholic beverages

In calculating and comparing household expenditure on *food and non-alcoholic beverages*, an initial picture is provided by calculating this heading as a percentage **share** of total consumer spending. In 1999 the highest figures for household expenditure on *food and non-alcoholic beverages* were recorded in the Mediterranean countries of the EU. Portugal came first among the Member States, with *food and non-alcoholic beverages* accounting for 19.1 % of total expenditure. Next came Greece (16.8 %), followed by Italy (15.0 %). Households in the United Kingdom spent least on *food and non-alcoholic beverages*: only 9.8 % of total expenditure. Figure 1 shows the figures for expenditure on *food and non-alcoholic beverages*. This web chart provides an initial indication of the range of figures. In the unlikely event that all the Member States recorded exactly the same figure, the chart would show a circle; the more irregular the shape, the greater the differences in expenditure on *food and non-alcoholic beverages* as a percentage of total household spending in the EU.

A closer look at the "big four" Member States shows contrasting figures in the United Kingdom and Italy, as noted with the UK recording the lowest rate and Italy one of the highest. Contrasting are also figures for France and Germany: the figure for this item of consumption is quite high in France (14.4 %), and much lower in Germany (11.8 %).

When the structure of expenditure in 1999 (the most recent year for which data are available) is compared

Fig. 1. Share of the expenditure for Food and non-alcoholic beverages in total household consumption, 1999 (as a %)



with the figures for 1995 (the first year for which data compiled according to the ESA95 are available for every Member State), it can clearly be seen that expenditure on *food and non-alcoholic beverages* is declining as a share of total household spending in all Member States. This is normal in countries where living standards are high and where spending is thus channelled in other directions. In the European Union the part of the spending for *food and non-alcoholic beverages* decreased by 1.3 percentage points during the five years under review. The biggest reductions occurred in Ireland, where the spending as a percentage of total expenditure fell by 3.7 points, and Spain (down by 2.4 points).

The quota remained more or less unchanged in France and Germany (– 0.7 points both), while in Italy and the United Kingdom household expenditure on *food and non-alcoholic beverages* fell by 1.8 and 1.5 percentage points respectively (see Table 1).

Tab. 1. Expenditure for consumption of Food and non-alcoholic beverages, 1995/99

	(as a % of total consumption)	
	■ 1999	■ 1995
EU-15	12.9	14.2
EUR	13.6	14.6
P	19.1	20.7
EL	16.8	18.2
E	15.3	17.7
I	15.0	16.8
F	14.4	15.1
B	13.2	14.5
DK	13.0	14.0
FIN	13.0	14.8
S	12.6	14.4
A	12.4	13.4
IRL	12.0	15.7
D	11.8	12.5
NL	11.6	13.0
UK	9.7	11.2

The spread between the highest figure (Portugal) and the lowest (United Kingdom) was 9.4 points, virtually the same as the range recorded in 1995, when the same two countries recorded the highest and lowest figures. The figures reveal that households in Portugal dedicate a part of their consumption almost twice as big as that dedicated by households in the United Kingdom.

To give a more accurate picture of the degree of dispersion of the figures (which are absolute in this instance) from the EU average ⁽¹⁾, the standard deviation has been calculated, i.e. the sum of the differences of each country's figures from the average. In 1999 the relative standard deviation was 17.0 %, meaning that the figures recorded in the Member States differed on average by 17.0 % from the EU average. The 1999 figure is slightly higher than those of previous years, but it is still the lowest among the functions of consumption for which ESA95 data are available (see box 2). Comparing the same measure over the period under consideration, the gap among EU countries for consumption of *food and non-alcoholic beverages* expanded: in 1995 the same figure was 16.0 %.

Lastly, one final element in the description of the function of consumption for *food and non-alcoholic beverages* is the trend, which on the one hand shows the pat-

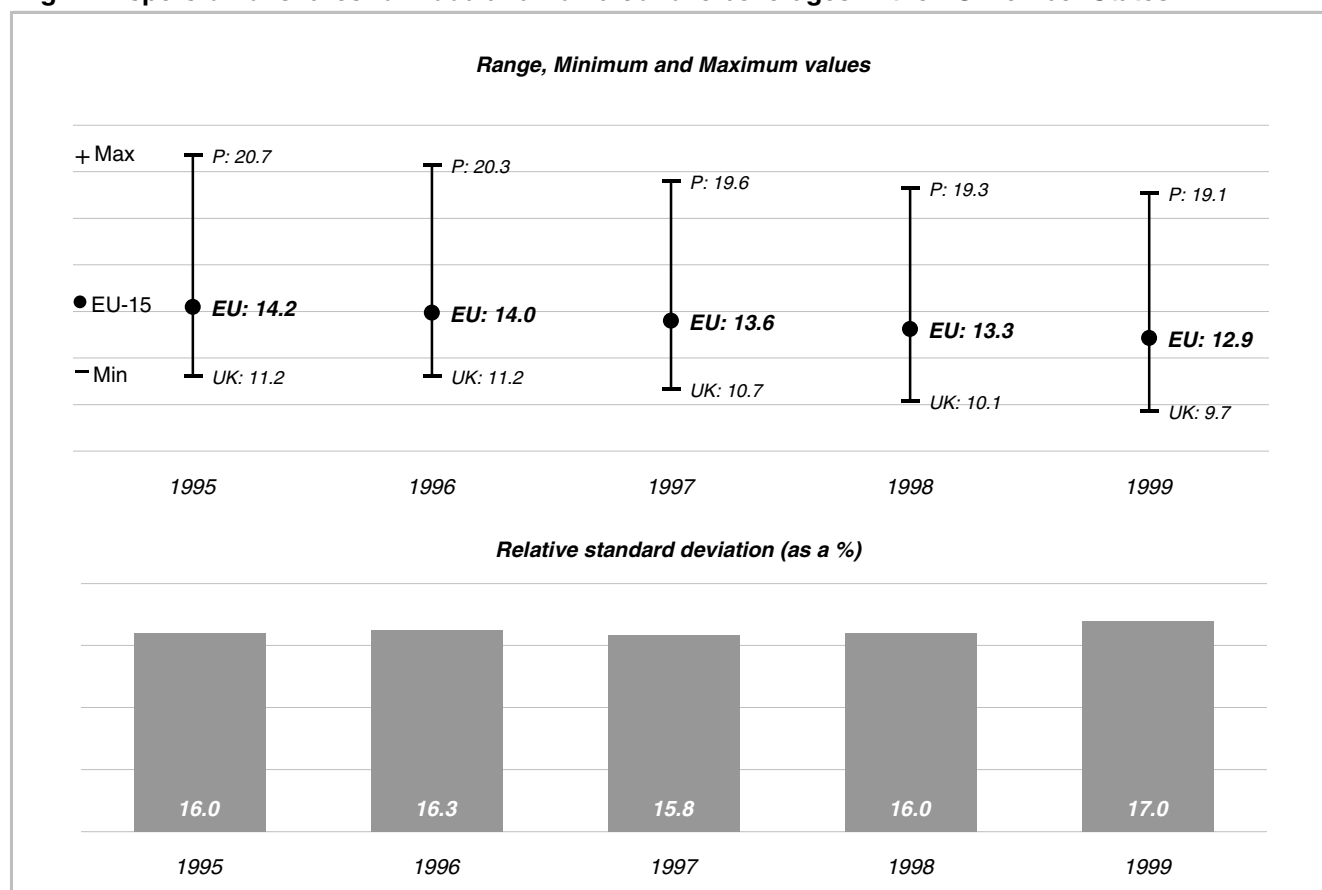
tern (with growth rates) and on the other indicates the change in absolute terms over the period under review (with growth indices).

Generally, expenditure on *food and non-alcoholic beverages* in the EU has not grown very much, although there was a steady increase during the period under review (1995/99). The biggest increase was in fact recorded in 1997, when volume growth was + 1.3 %. Again Mediterranean countries stood out from the other Member States by virtue of their very high growth rates throughout the five-year period. There was a noticeable increase in Portugal and Spain, both of which recorded growth of + 2.9 % in 1999. The most vigorous growth, though, occurred in Ireland, + 5.7 % in 1996. Contrasting, in Austria consumption of *food and non-alcoholic beverages* remained virtually unchanged.

A look at the "big four" in the EU reveals spending on *food and non-alcoholic beverages* tended to show a slow growth. In 1999 consumption was up in France (+ 1.3 %) and Germany (+ 1.4 %), remained more or less stable in the United Kingdom (+ 1.0 %) and fell very slightly in Italy (- 0.7 %).

Table 2 shows the **growth rates** for expenditure on *food and non-alcoholic beverages* in every EU country.

Fig. 2. Dispersion of shares for Food and non-alcoholic beverages in the EU Member States



⁽¹⁾ See Box 1 for a more detailed description of variations in the structure of consumption.

Tab. 2. Growth of the expenditure for Food and non-alcoholic beverages (as a %)

Volume growth rates				
	1996	1997	1998	1999
EU-15	0.6	1.3	1.0	1.2
	↑	↑	↑	↑
EUR	0.2	1.1	1.2	1.3
	↗	↑	↑	↑
B	-0.8	0.4	1.2	-1.7
	↓	↗	↑	↓↓
DK	-0.5	3.0	-0.4	0.7
	↓	↑↑	↙	↑
D	0.0	0.2	1.5	1.4
	↔	↗	↑↑	↑
EL	1.6	2.9	1.9	1.6
	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑
E	1.3	2.2	0.4	2.9
	↑	↑↑	↗	↑↑
F	0.0	0.9	0.9	1.3
	↔	↑	↑	↑
IRL	5.7	0.7	1.4	1.0
	↑↑	↑	↑	↑
I	-1.1	1.8	1.6	0.7
	↓	↑↑	↑↑	↑
NL	1.8	2.1	1.3	0.9
	↑↑	↑↑	↑	↑
A	1.8	0.8	0.1	0.2
	↑↑	↑	↗	↗
P	2.1	2.4	2.5	2.9
	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑
FIN	1.2	1.4	2.0	2.1
	↑	↑	↑↑	↑↑
S	2.4	1.3	0.7	0.9
	↑↑	↑	↑	↑
UK	3.4	1.7	-0.3	1.0
	↑↑	↑↑	↙	↑

Price growth rates				
	1996	1997	1998	1999
EU-15	2.4	1.7	1.3	1.3
	↑↑	↑↑	↑	↑
EUR	2.1	1.6	1.1	1.1
	↑↑	↑↑	↑	↑
B	1.7	1.5	0.9	1.2
	↑↑	↑↑	↑	↑
DK	2.0	1.9	1.4	2.0
	↑↑	↑↑	↑	↑↑
D	1.2	1.5	0.6	0.7
	↑	↑↑	↑	↑
EL	7.9	5.4	4.6	2.2
	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑
E	3.5	1.9	1.8	2.2
	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑
F	2.0	1.3	0.7	0.5
	↑↑	↑	↑	↑
IRL	4.7	1.2	2.2	2.5
	↑↑	↑	↑↑	↑↑
I	4.0	1.9	2.0	1.7
	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑
NL	1.4	1.9	1.8	2.0
	↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑
A	1.7	1.2	0.8	0.5
	↑↑	↑	↑	↑
P	2.9	1.9	2.3	2.1
	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑
FIN	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.3
	↑	↑	↑	↑
S	0.8	1.9	1.0	0.5
	↑	↑↑	↑	↑
UK	2.5	1.8	1.6	1.4
	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑

Note: arrows indicate trend in growth rate

strong growth ↑↑ (more than +1.5%) ↓↓ (more than -1.5%)
 normal growth ↑ (more than +0.5%) ↓ (more than -0.5%)
 slight growth ↗ (between 0 and +0.5%) ↘ (between -0.5 and 0%)
 when referring to prices we intend the Harmonised consumer price indices.

↔ stable growth (0.0%)

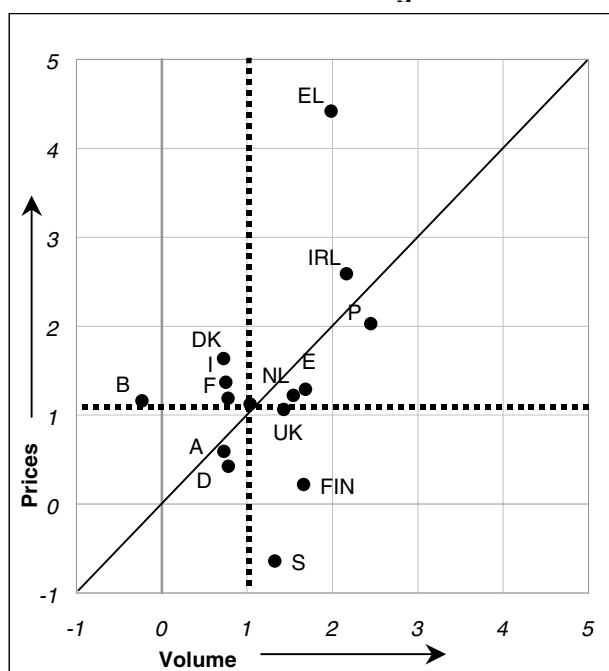
Also shown are the growth rates of consumer prices for the function in question, since they provide a very useful guide to understanding the trend in expenditure. While the mass of data may appear confusing, arrows have been included in the table to make it easier to see at a glance how trends are developing.

To provide an overview, Figure 3 shows the average growth rates for the period under review (1995/99) for both volumes and prices. Right away it can be seen how Greece, Ireland and Portugal stand out with their vigorous growth for both variables. It can also be seen that Sweden and Finland showed little change. The dotted lines make it possible to compare each country with the EU average. Austria and Germany were the only Member States below the EU average growth rate for both volumes and prices.

In Table 3 the growth indices were calculated in order to determine the absolute variation. These indices show how much volumes and prices went up between 1996 and 1999. The indices were calculated with 1996 as the reference year because also price indices are illustrated and 1996 is the base year for HICP. Overall in the European Union, the 1999 figure for *food and non-alcoholic beverages* was 3.6 % above the 1996 figure; price growth was lower (2.6 %).

In 1999 the biggest absolute growth was achieved by Portugal, where spending on *food and non-alcoholic beverages* was up by 7.9 % in comparison with the

Fig. 3. Average growth rates 1995/99 in volume and for specific prices, Food and non-alcoholic beverages



Note: dotted lines indicate EU figures.

Tab. 3. Growth index of the expenditure for Food and non alcoholic-beverages, in volume and for specific prices, 1999

	(1996=100)		
	■ Volume	■ Price	
EU-15	103.6	102.6	
EUR	103.7	102.5	
P	107.9	106.2	
EL	106.4	111.4	
FIN	105.6	102.8	
E	105.5	101.8	
NL	104.4	105.2	
I	104.2	101.7	
DK	103.4	104.8	
D	103.1	101.1	
F	103.1	103.6	
IRL	103.1	108.9	
S	102.9	103.8	
UK	102.4	101.2	
A	101.2	102.5	
B	99.9	104.1	

reference year (1996=100). Next came Greece (+ 6.4 %) and Finland (+ 5.6 %). It should be noted that price evolution has been very different: in Portugal prices grew only by 6.2 %, but in Greece (+ 11.4 %) prices grew much more, even more than volumes. In Belgium and, in Austria the 1999 volume growth figures were basically the same as those for the reference year. But price growth was more important, in particular in Ireland where in 1999 price were 8.9 % higher than the benchmark while volume grew by 3.1 % only (see Table 3).

Table 4 also attempts to provide a picture of trends in the consumption as well as in the prices of *food and non-alcoholic beverages*: the boxes indicate the possible combinations linking volume and price trends, and the countries' positions reveal those with similar trends and those where the trends differ. Table 4 shows that differences in the trend pattern are common among the EU Member States.

Tab. 4. Trend in volume and prices growth for Food and non-alcoholic beverages consumption

	<i>P</i> ++	<i>P</i> +~	<i>P</i> -~	<i>P</i> -+	<i>P</i> --
<i>V</i> ++		F FIN	EUR P		
<i>V</i> +~		B D NL	I		
<i>V</i> -~		DK EL	EU-15 IRL	E	
<i>V</i> -+	S	A	UK		
<i>V</i> --					

Note:

++: trend always increasing
 --: trend always decreasing
 +~: trend at first increasing then decreasing
 -+: trend at first decreasing and increasing
 ~: erratic trend

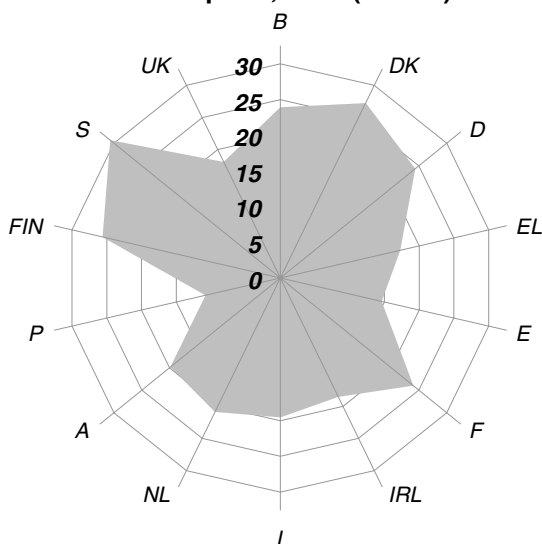
Gray shaded cells indicate opposite trend in volume and prices growth. It should be noted that signs refer to growth trend. A negative sign thus indicates a slowdown in growth and not that growth rates were negative.

2. Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels

Housing accounts for bigger shares of total expenditure in Scandinavian countries

The biggest share of total household consumption in the European Union goes on *Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels*. This heading accounted for just over a fifth (21.2 %) of all household spending in the Union in 1999. The figure was particularly high among the Nordic members of the EU: 30.6 % in Sweden, 27.3 % in Denmark and 25.5 % in Finland. But at the other end of the scale shares were particularly low in Portugal (10.7 in 1999), in Spain (14.5 %) and in Greece (17.2 %).

Fig. 1. Share of the expenditure for Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels in total household consumption, 1999 (as a %)



When it comes to the significance of expenditure on *Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels* as a share of total spending, there are two distinct geographic groups. On the one side there is the Nordic group (Denmark, Finland and Sweden) where the figures are high; on the other side, there are three Mediterranean countries — i.e. a southern group comprising Portugal, Greece and Spain — where the figures are low.

In the "big four" EU countries there are also two distinct groups, with France and Germany spending roughly the same on *Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels* (24.3 % and 23.9 % respectively in 1999), while in Italy (19.5 %) and the United Kingdom (18.1 %) the figures are much lower.

When changes in the structure of household consumption are compared over the period from 1995 to 1999 — which is the only period for which harmonised ESA95 data are available for nearly all Member States — it can be seen that spending as a percentage on *Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels* stayed more or less the same. There was very little change in the percentage figure between 1995 and 1999, with a reduction of only 0.2 percentage points from 21.4 % to 21.2 %. In virtually every Member State the change was negligible over the five years under review. There was a significant change only in Ireland, where spending on *Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels* increased by 2.6 percentage points. However in Sweden, the Member State that spends most on *Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels* as a percentage of total household consumption, the figure fell by 1.9 points.

Tab. 1. Expenditure for consumption of Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels, 1995/99

		(as a % of total consumption)	
	1999	1995	
EU-15	21.2	21.4	
EUR	21.6	21.5	
S	30.6	32.5	
DK	27.3	27.4	
FIN	25.5	25.3	
D	24.3	23.4	
F	23.9	23.8	
B	23.9	23.9	
NL	20.8	21.4	
A	19.7	18.8	
I	19.5	19.4	
IRL	18.5	15.9	
UK	18.1	19.0	
EL	17.2	17.6	
E	14.5	14.7	
P	10.7	10.7	

Fig. 2. Dispersion of shares for Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels consumption in the EU Member States

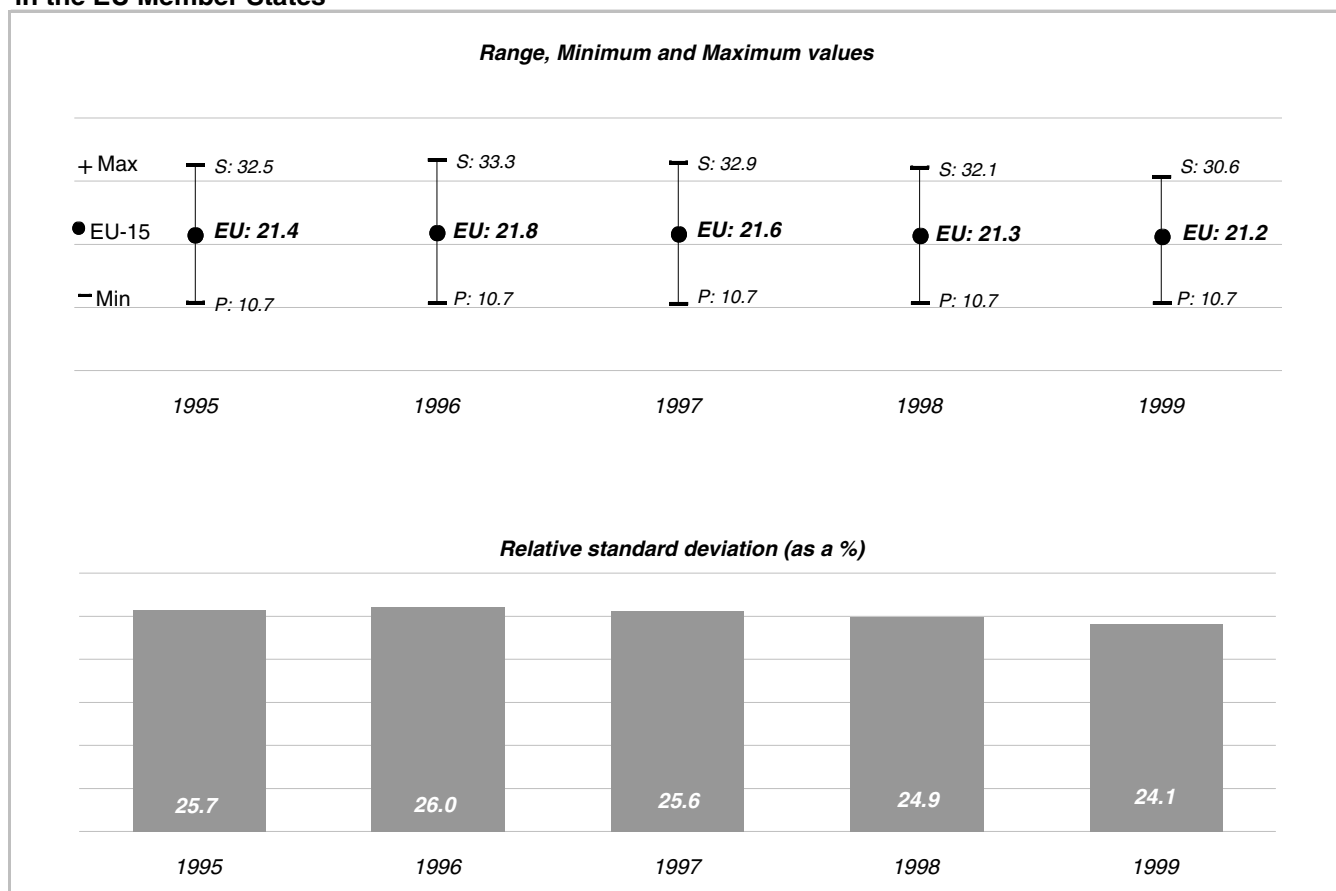


Figure 1 shows the figures for all the Member States in 1999. It can be seen that the pattern is very irregular, clearly revealing the extent of the differences among the Member States.

As was said at the start, spending in 1999 on *Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels* accounted for the biggest share of total household expenditure in Sweden (30.6 %) and the smallest in Portugal (10.7 %). The range of figures in the Member States was thus 19.9 points, with the figures showing that households in Sweden spent three times as much on *Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels* than those in Portugal (see Figure 2).

An idea of the spread of the figures can be obtained by looking at the standard deviation, which shows to what extent each country's figures differ from the average. In 1999 the Member States' data on consumption varied from the average by 24.1 %. The trend over the period under review was for the gap to narrow, since in 1995 the figure was in fact 25.7 %. This shows that the Member States' figures for spending on *Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels* in the Union are gradually getting closer.

Prices rise faster than volumes in Denmark, Italy and the Netherlands

Table 2 shows the growth rates for both volumes and prices as a way of indicating trends in spending on *Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels*.

To provide an overview of the situation, Figure 3 shows the average growth rates for 1995-1999. The good thing about a scatter graph is that it reveals at a glance the extreme values. Here, it can clearly be seen that both volumes and prices grew at a fast rate in Greece and Finland. In Sweden, on the other hand, consumption in volume remained basically unchanged, while prices showed a modest growth.

The exactly opposite situation prevailed in Ireland, where average prices were fairly stable but average volumes increased at the fastest. A common feature of most of the Member States during the period under review was that the growth rates for volumes of spending tended to ease in 1997 before picking up again in the next two years. The exceptions to the rule occurred in Ireland and Finland, where the volume growth

Tab. 2. Growth of the expenditure for Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (as a %)

Volume growth rates				
	1996	1997	1998	1999
EU-15	2.6 ↑↑	0.8 ↑	1.8 ↑↑	1.5 ↑↑
EUR	2.7 ↑↑	0.8 ↑	1.9 ↑↑	1.6 ↑↑
B	2.7 ↑↑	0.5 ↑	2.8 ↑↑	1.3 ↑
DK	3.0 ↑↑	-0.7 ↓	1.2 ↑	2.2 ↑↑
D	3.5 ↑↑	1.2 ↑	1.4 ↑	1.2 ↑
EL	2.3 ↑↑	1.7 ↑↑	3.4 ↑↑	2.5 ↑↑
E	1.7 ↑↑	1.5 ↑↑	4.0 ↑↑	3.2 ↑↑
F	2.2 ↑↑	0.4 ↗	2.3 ↑↑	2.1 ↑↑
IRL	4.1 ↑↑	5.6 ↑↑	5.3 ↑↑	4.1 ↑↑
I	1.9 ↑↑	-0.3 ↙	1.1 ↑	1.1 ↑
NL	3.6 ↑↑	-0.2 ↙	1.3 ↑	1.8 ↑↑
A	2.8 ↑↑	1.9 ↑↑	1.6 ↑↑	0.6 ↑
P	2.5 ↑↑	2.4 ↑↑	2.9 ↑↑	3.4 ↑↑
FIN	1.7 ↑↑	2.3 ↑↑	2.6 ↑↑	2.1 ↑↑
S	0.4 ↗	-0.5 ↓	0.5 ↑	0.1 ↗
UK	2.1 ↑↑	1.2 ↑	1.4 ↑	1.0 ↑

Prices growth rates				
	1996	1997	1998	1999
EU-15	3.1 ↑↑	2.7 ↑↑	1.2 ↑	1.5 ↑↑
EUR	2.9 ↑↑	2.8 ↑↑	1.0 ↑	1.4 ↑
B	3.4 ↑↑	1.4 ↑	0.8 ↑	1.9 ↑↑
DK	3.6 ↑↑	3.0 ↑↑	2.8 ↑↑	3.8 ↑↑
D	1.9 ↑↑	2.8 ↑↑	0.6 ↑	1.6 ↑↑
EL	8.8 ↑↑	2.3 ↑↑	3.0 ↑↑	0.9 ↑
E	3.8 ↑↑	3.4 ↑↑	1.5 ↑↑	2.1 ↑↑
F	2.9 ↑↑	1.5 ↑↑	0.5 ↑	0.0 ↔
IRL	2.5 ↑↑	-0.8 ↓	-0.5 ↓	3.2 ↑↑
I	3.8 ↑↑	4.0 ↑↑	2.2 ↑↑	1.7 ↑↑
NL	4.8 ↑↑	5.1 ↑↑	2.7 ↑↑	2.8 ↑↑
A	5.3 ↑↑	3.3 ↑↑	0.8 ↑	1.2 ↑
P	0.9 ↑	4.1 ↑↑	2.5 ↑↑	1.0 ↑
FIN	3.8 ↑↑	2.5 ↑↑	1.6 ↑↑	2.2 ↑↑
S	4.9 ↑↑	3.7 ↑↑	1.1 ↑	-0.9 ↓
UK	3.2 ↑↑	1.7 ↑↑	1.2 ↑	2.2 ↑↑

Note: arrows indicate trend in growth rate

strong growth ↑↑ (more than +1.5%) ↓↓ (more than -1.5%)
 normal growth ↑ (more than +0.5%) ↓ (more than -0.5%)
 slight growth ↗ (between 0 and +0.5%) ↘ (between -0.5 and 0%)
 when referring to prices we intend the Harmonised consumer price indices.

↔ stable growth (0.0 %)

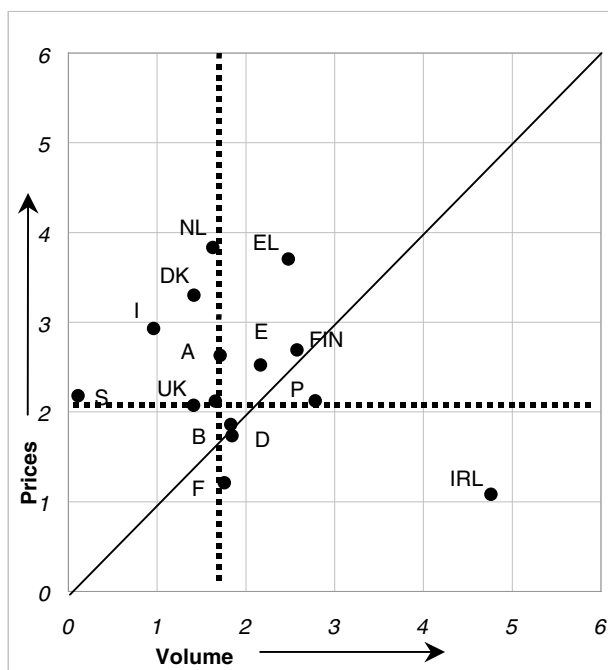
rates increased steadily throughout the whole period. Sweden and Austria were the only country where the growth rate for expenditure on *Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels* tended to slow down.

Prices showed more or less the same pattern: a slow-down at the start of the period, with an upturn in 1999. But the pattern was less uniform among the Member States. In France and Sweden there was a linear reduction in prices over the period under review. In Italy, the Netherlands and Portugal, on the other hand, prices moved upwards and then declined at the end of the period. Table 4 shows the trends of the volume and price variables, indicating where possible any similarities between Member States.

Lastly, as a way of indicating absolute changes in volumes and prices during the review period, Table 3 shows the growth indices. In 1999 expenditure volumes for *Housing, water and electricity gas and other fuels* were up by 4.1 % compared with the reference year; prices showed an even bigger variation

(+ 5.3 %). Among the "big four" France showed the biggest volumes variation (+ 4.9 %), while Germany (+3.9%), the United Kingdom (+ 3.6 %) and Italy (+ 2.0 %) recorded more modest growth indices. The opposite stands for prices: in France prices in 1999 were 2.0 % higher than figure in the reference year, but in Italy (+ 8.1 %), in Germany (+ 5.1 %) and in the United Kingdom (+ 5.2 %) the variation was much bigger. Among all Member States Ireland (+ 13.3 %) and Portugal (+ 8.9 %) recorded the biggest absolute volume growth in the expenditure for *Housing, water and electricity gas and other fuels*.

Fig. 3. Average growth rates 1995/99 in volume and for specific prices, Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels



Note: dotted lines indicate EU figures.

Tab. 3. Growth index of the expenditure for Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels, in volume and for specific prices, 1999

	(1996=100)		
	Volume	Price	
EU-15	104.1	105.5	
EUR	104.4	105.3	
IRL	115.7	101.9	
E	108.9	107.1	
P	108.9	107.8	
EL	107.8	106.3	
FIN	107.1	106.4	
F	104.9	102.0	
B	104.7	104.1	
A	104.1	105.4	
D	103.9	105.1	
UK	103.6	105.2	
NL	103.0	110.9	
DK	102.7	109.9	
I	102.0	108.1	
S	100.1	103.9	

Tab. 4. Trend in volume and prices growth for Housing, water, gas and other fuels consumption

	P_{++}	P_{+-}	P_{\sim}	P_{-+}	P_{--}
V_{++}					
V_{+-}				IRL FIN	
V_{\sim}			EL D	EU15 B UK EUR E	F S
V_{-+}		I	NL	DK P	
V_{--}				A	

Note:

- ++: trend always increasing
- : trend always decreasing
- +-: trend at first increasing then decreasing
- +: trend at first decreasing and increasing
- ~: erratic trend

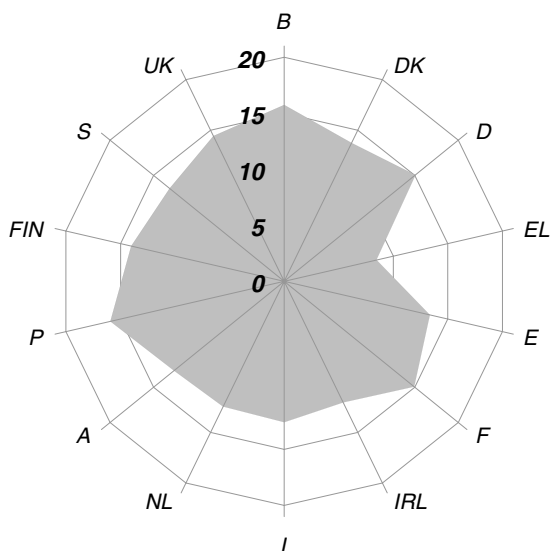
Gray shaded cells indicate opposite trend in volume and prices growth. It should be noted that signs refer to growth trend. A negative sign thus indicates a slowdown in growth and not that growth rates were negative.

3. Transport

European households spend much the same on Transport as on Food

Transport takes third place in expenditure by households in the European Union, after *Housing* and *Food*: in 1999, *Transport* accounted for 14.1 % of total consumption in the Union, a share roughly equivalent to household spending on *Food, non-alcoholic beverages, tobacco*. The highest relative rates of household spending on *Transport*, at around 16 %, were recorded in Portugal and Belgium. In Greece (8.4 %), on the other hand, *Transport* is least significant, at one-half of the Portuguese rate. The share of household expenditure on *Transport* in Greece stands apart from the values observed in the other EU countries.

Fig. 1. Share of the expenditure for Transport in total household consumption, 1999 (as a %)



In France and Germany, *Transport* represents some 15 % of household spending; in the United Kingdom, it is only slightly less (14.4 %), while the share for Italian households (12.6 %) is more modest, and one of the lowest in the Union.

Over the period under review, there was little change in the percentage of expenditure devoted to *Transport* in the Union (+ 0.6 percentage points between 1995 and 1999) or in most Member States. Belgium is conspicuous in that household expenditure on *Transport* soared over the period: in 1999 it was by almost 3 percentage points higher than in 1995 and the second highest on record in the EU. The rates rose in Spain, Finland and Sweden, too, albeit more moderately. Greece is

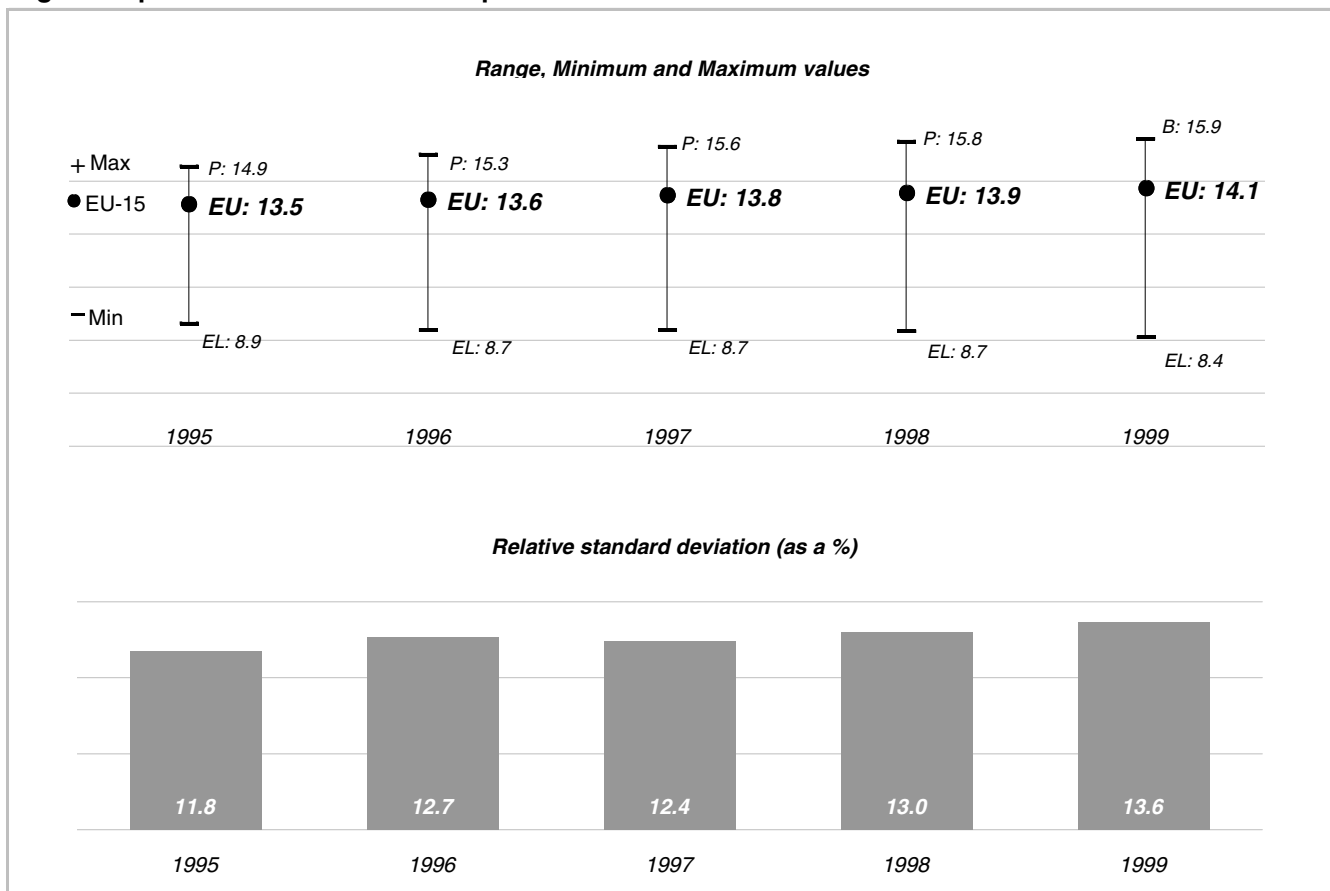
unique in that spending on *Transport* declined through the period 1995-1999.

Figure 1 shows how *Transport*'s rates are broadly similar, with a fairly regular pattern other than in Greece, where the percentage falls well below those recorded in the other Member States. In 1999, the range, or the distance between the extremes, was 8 percentage points, although this declines to only 3.8 percentage points if Greece is excluded.

Considering **standard deviation**, a more comprehensive measure of data dispersion, the Member States' *Transport* data are closely grouped: in 1999, the data varied from the average by 14.3 %, the lowest value among the 12 functions of consumption analysed in this study.

Tab. 1. Expenditure for consumption of Transport, 1995/99

	(as a % of total consumption)	
	1999	1995
EU-15	14.1	13.5
EUR	14.1	13.5
P	15.9	14.9
B	15.7	12.9
D	15.1	14.2
F	15.0	14.6
UK	14.4	14.2
FIN	14.0	12.8
DK	13.8	13.5
E	13.4	11.6
S	13.2	12.1
A	12.7	12.6
I	12.6	12.3
NL	12.4	12.2
IRL	12.0	11.4
EL	8.4	8.9

Fig. 2. Dispersion of shares for Transport in the EU Member States


Prices grew steadily while spending volumes are more volatile

As in previous chapters, Table 2 shows growth rates calculated for volumes and prices for the entire period under investigation.

Growth of household expenditure in the EU was fairly dynamic during the whole period considered and in 1999 consumption grew at 4.0 % rate. In Germany (+ 3.3 %), volume growth was consistently below average, while in France (+ 5.1 %) and the United Kingdom (+ 2.8 %), the evolution of consumption for *Transport* was less clear-cut. In Italy, growth was variable and in 1999 it almost came to a halt (+ 0.2 %). Price evolution was steadier: in the EU in 1999 prices for *Transport* grew at 2.0 %. In Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom prices in 1999 grew at a rate around 2 %, while in France growth was sluggish (+ 1.1 %).

Figure 3 resumes average growth rates for volumes and for prices over the period 1995/99. This figure has the advantage to highlight countries with significant deviations from the EU average and at the same time to illustrate an overall picture of the two values.

Average volume growth rose to extraordinary rates in Ireland and Spain, and was still very high in Belgium and Finland. The bisecting line describes all the points at which the average growth rates in volumes and pri-

ces are equal. It is thus clear that the volume component was more dynamic than prices in all countries, in that every point is located to the left of the bisecting line.

When considering absolute growth (growth index 1996=100), it is again evident that volumes had a bigger variation than prices: in 1999 expenditure for *Transport* in the EU was by 12.4 % higher than the same figure recorded in the reference year, while prices variation was only at 4.9%. In the "big four" countries changes in household expenditure for *Transport* were quite similar in the United Kingdom (+ 10.2 %), Germany (+ 8.9 %) and France (+ 8.4 %). In Italy absolute growth was more pronounced (+ 14.3 %).

Expenditure for *Transport* (at constant prices) had an extraordinary increase in Ireland and Spain, where in 1999 figure was around one third higher than the benchmark figure (1996).

Individual growth **trends** in EU countries show a common marked upswing in prices in 1999; the pattern for volumes was more changeable as in many countries a downturn in 1997 was followed by a recovery in 1998 and another decline in 1999. As in previous chapters, the table sets out the different trends drawn from the figure, identifying groups of countries with comparable trends and those which stand out by virtue of their marked differences.

Tab. 2. Growth of the expenditure for Transport (as a %)

Volume growth rates				
	1996	1997	1998	1999
EU-15	2.9	3.1	4.8	4.0
	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑
EUR	2.8	2.7	5.2	4.3
	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑
B	7.8	3.4	9.0	6.9
	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑
DK	4.1	3.5	6.4	-3.6
	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↓↓
D	2.5	1.3	4.1	3.3
	↑↑	↑	↑↑	↑↑
EL	1.6	6.4	5.5	2.9
	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑
E	5.3	9.3	9.1	10.2
	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑
F	2.5	-3.1	6.5	5.1
	↑↑	↓↓	↑↑	↑↑
IRL	11.1	11.3	10.1	8.9
	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑
I	-0.1	11.2	2.6	0.2
	↙	↑↑	↑↑	↗
NL	2.9	3.9	5.7	6.6
	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑
A	4.3	0.0	3.2	4.2
	↑↑	↔	↑↑	↑↑
P	5.5	4.4	3.5	4.0
	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑
FIN	6.6	4.3	9.5	5.2
	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑
S	1.1	4.5	4.2	8.5
	↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑
UK	3.6	4.4	2.7	2.8
	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑

Price growth rates				
	1996	1997	1998	1999
EU-15	3.2	2.1	0.7	2.0
	↑↑	↑↑	↑	↑↑
EUR	3.1	1.5	0.3	2.0
	↑↑	↑↑	↗	↑↑
B	3.5	2.1	-0.7	3.0
	↑↑	↑↑	↓	↑↑
DK	2.7	2.2	0.7	4.2
	↑↑	↑↑	↑	↑↑
D	2.5	1.6	-0.1	2.5
	↑↑	↑↑	↘	↑↑
EL	5.5	5.2	2.9	-1.6
	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↓↓
E	4.3	2.5	-0.1	2.3
	↑↑	↑↑	↘	↑↑
F	3.2	1.1	0.0	1.1
	↑↑	↑	↔	↑
IRL	2.9	3.2	0.9	2.2
	↑↑	↑↑	↑	↑↑
I	4.3	1.5	1.3	2.1
	↑↑	↑↑	↑	↑↑
NL	0.6	1.2	0.2	2.8
	↑	↑	↗	↑↑
A	4.1	1.2	-0.4	1.1
	↑↑	↑	↘	↑
P	4.3	3.6	3.5	2.8
	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑
FIN	3.1	0.5	1.6	2.4
	↑↑	↑	↑↑	↑↑
S	1.6	1.3	-0.1	1.6
	↑↑	↑	↘	↑↑
UK	3.8	4.9	2.4	2.0
	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑

Note: arrows indicate trend in growth rate

strong growth ↑↑ (more than +1.5%)

normal growth ↑ (more than +0.5%)

slight growth ↗ (between 0 and +0.5%)

when referring to prices we intend the Harmonised consumer price indices.

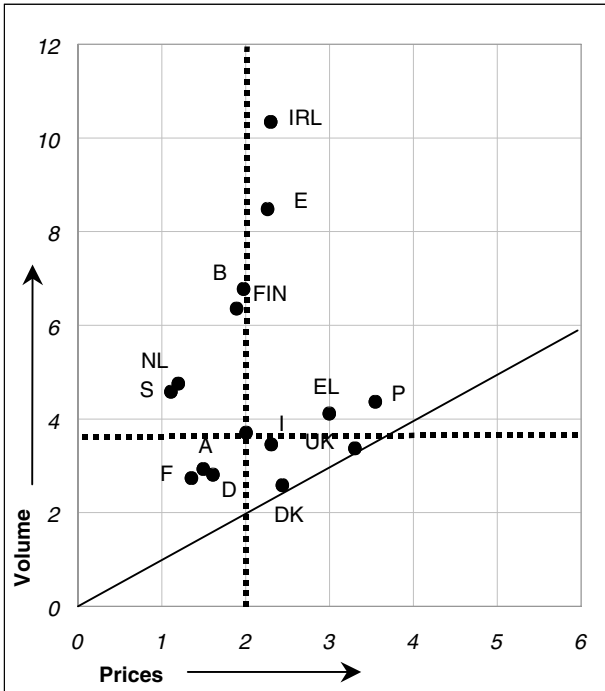
↓↓ (more than -1.5%)

↓ (more than -0.5%)

↘ (between -0.5 and 0%)

↔ stable growth (0.0%)

Fig. 3. Average growth rates 1995/99 in volume and for specific prices, Transport



Note: the dotted lines indicate EU figures. It should be noted that the axes have been interchanged with respect to similar figures in previous chapters. Since axes have different scales, the bisecting line has been added as a reference

Tab. 3. Growth index of the expenditure for Transport, in volume and for specific prices, 1999

	(1996=100)		
	Volume	Price	
EU-15	112.4	104.9	
EUR	112.8	103.8	
IRL	133.4	106.4	
E	131.4	104.8	
B	120.5	104.4	
FIN	120.0	104.5	
S	118.2	102.8	
NL	117.0	104.2	
EL	115.6	106.5	
I	114.3	105.0	
P	112.4	110.2	
UK	110.2	109.6	
D	108.9	104.0	
F	108.4	102.2	
A	107.6	101.9	
DK	106.1	107.2	

Tab. 4. Trend in volume and prices growth for Transport consumption

	<i>P</i> ++	<i>P</i> +~	<i>P</i> ~	<i>P</i> -+	<i>P</i> --
<i>V</i> ++			NL		
<i>V</i> +~			IRL	EU-15 I	EL
<i>V</i> ~		UK		EUR B DK D E F S FIN	P
<i>V</i> -+				A	
<i>V</i> --					

Note:
 ++: trend always increasing
 --: trend always decreasing
 +- : trend at first increasing then decreasing
 -+ : trend at first decreasing and increasing
 ~: erratic trend
 Gray shaded cells indicate opposite trend in volume and prices growth. It should be noted that signs refer to growth trend. A negative sign thus indicates a slowdown in growth and not that growth rates were negative.

4. "Recreational": Recreation and culture, Restaurants and hotels, Alcoholic beverages and tobacco

We have seen that nearly half of all household consumption focuses on the three components of expenditure that have just been described. In the European Union in 1999, households spent 48.1 % of total expenditure on *Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels, Transport and Food and non-alcoholic beverages*.

If we regard these headings as items of "basic" consumption, it is then possible to identify those that can be better described as "recreational". Generally speaking, we can say that recreational covers *Recreation and culture, Restaurants and hotels and Alcoholic beverages and tobacco*. If the figures for these three headings of household consumption are added together, we find that in the EU in 1999 recreational spending accounted for 21.8 % of total expenditure, or well under half of the figure for basic spending.

Figure 2 shows the totals for "basic" and "recreational" consumption in the EU. It is interesting to see how the pattern over time is perfectly symmetrical, "recreational" consumption increased the share of total spending by less than 1 percentage point, and "basic" consumption decreased by 1 percentage point.

Fig. 1. Share of expenditure for "recreational" and "basic" consumption items in the EU, 1999 (as a %)

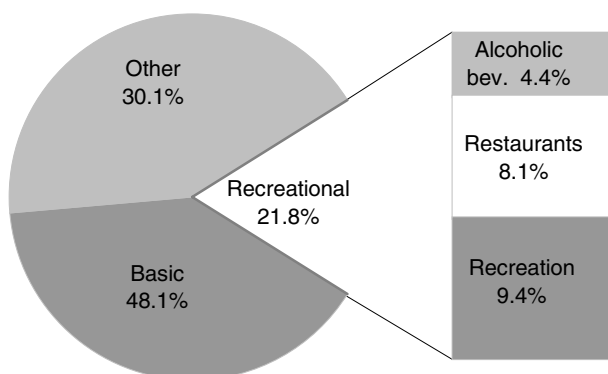
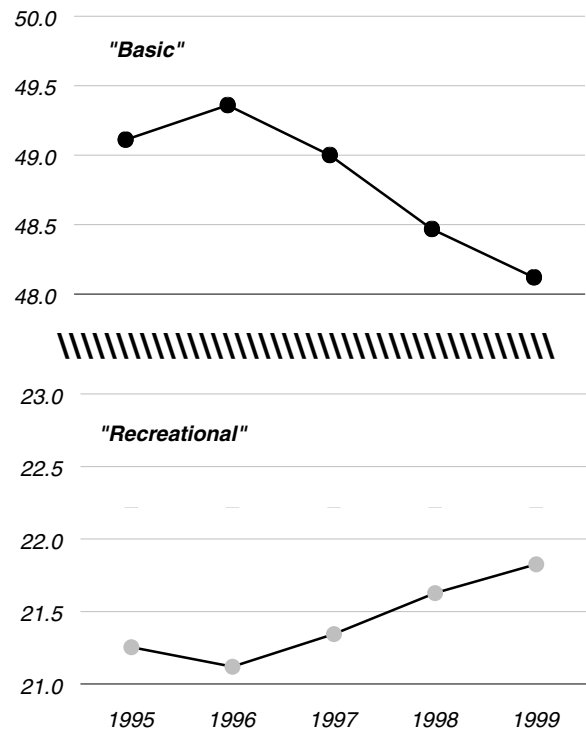


Table 1 gives the figures for "basic" and "recreational" consumption. It can be seen that in 1999 households in Spain, Ireland and the United Kingdom were remarkable for their high levels of "recreational" consumption. In Ireland and the United Kingdom, spending on *alcoholic beverages and tobacco* was particularly high, well above the figures recorded in the other Member

Fig. 2. Evolution in the share of expenditure for "recreational" and "basic" consumption items in the EU (as a %)



States. In the case of Spain and Ireland the significance of spending on *restaurants and hotels* was another reason for their high ranking with respect to "recreational" spending.

A closer look at "recreational" consumption reveals that in 1999 households in the European Union spent 9.4 % of their total expenditure on *recreation and culture*, 8.1% on *restaurants and hotels* and 4.4 % on *alcoholic beverages and tobacco*.

The highest figures for percentage spending on *recreation and culture* in the EU were recorded in the United Kingdom, Austria, Finland, the Netherlands, Sweden and Denmark, with figures of around 11 %. Greece was at the other extreme, with a figure of 4.7 %.

For *restaurants and hotels*, it is Spain that is well ahead of the other Member States, with Spanish households devoting 18.6 % of their total expenditure to this heading in 1999. Next come Greece and Ireland, with figures of 15.7 % and 15.1 % respectively. The countries where households spend least on *restaurants and hotels* are Germany and Sweden, where the figure is about 5 %.

Tab.1. Share of expenditure for "recreational" and "basic" consumption items in the EU, 1999, (as a %)

	■ Recr.	■ Basic
EU-15	21.8	48.1
EUR	20.5	49.3
E	30.5	43.2
IRL	28.0	42.6
UK	27.1	42.2
A	25.5	44.8
EL	24.9	42.5
FIN	23.9	52.6
DK	21.0	54.0
S	20.2	56.4
NL	20.2	44.8
F	19.5	53.3
P	19.1	45.7
I	19.1	47.1
D	18.2	51.2
B	17.4	52.9

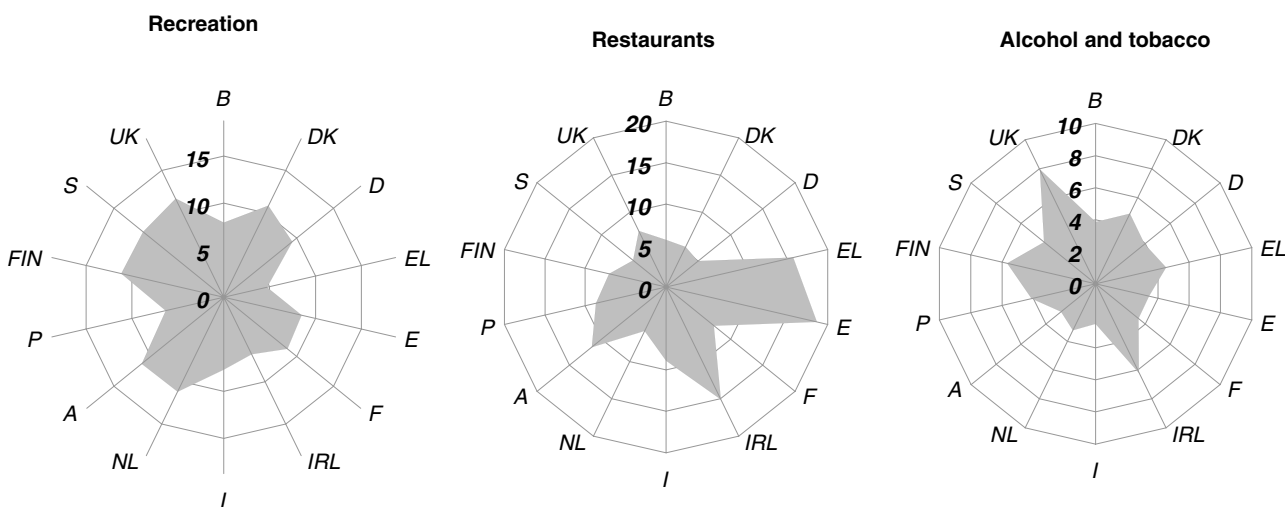
We have already said that the United Kingdom and Ireland head the list of EU countries for spending on *alcoholic beverages and tobacco*, with figures of 7.9 % and 6.2% in 1999. Next, with much lower figures, come Finland (5.7 %) and Denmark (4.9 %). Italian households spend least on *alcoholic beverages and tobacco*: only 2.5% of total expenditure.

Table 2 shows the figures for the three categories of spending in 1995 and 1999, with an indication also of the percentage change. In general, the figures for recreational consumption remained fairly stable. The biggest variations occurred in the United Kingdom, where spending on *alcoholic beverages and tobacco* fell by 0.6 percentage points, while *recreation and culture* increased by 1.3 points. There was also a noticeable change in spending on *recreation and culture* in Ireland, where the figure fell by 0.9 points, while in Greece, the share of expenditure for *Hotels and Restaurants* increased by 1.1 %.

In order to get an idea of the range of figures and of the differences among the Member States, Figure 3 shows the maximum and minimum figures and the relative standard deviation. It can be seen that for *recreation and culture* it is the minimum figure (4.7 % in Greece) that differs most from the EU average of 9.4 %, while for *alcoholic beverages and tobacco* and *restaurants and hotels* the biggest deviations occur with the maximum figures.

When the figures are considered in terms of the spread around the average, they appear fairly similar in the case of *recreation and culture* but more varied when it comes to *alcoholic beverages and tobacco*. However, the biggest differences among the Member States occur with *restaurants and hotels*.

Fig. 3. Share of consumption expenditure by item, 1999 (as a % of total consumption)



Tab. 2. Shares of consumption by item in the EU, 1995/99 (as a % of total consumption)

	Recreation			Restaurants and hotels			Alcohol and tobacco		
	1995	1999	diff	1995	1999	diff	1995	1999	diff
EU-15	9.0	9.4	0.3	8.0	8.1	0.1	4.3	4.4	0.1
EUR	8.8	8.8	0.0	8.1	8.2	0.0	3.5	3.5	0.0
B	8.4	7.9	-0.5	5.9	5.7	-0.2	3.8	3.9	0.1
DK	10.6	10.8	0.2	5.4	5.4	0.0	5.0	4.9	-0.1
D	9.4	9.3	-0.1	5.5	5.0	-0.5	3.9	3.9	0.0
EL	4.5	4.7	0.2	14.7	15.7	1.1	4.2	4.5	0.3
E	8.5	8.4	-0.1	18.9	18.6	-0.2	2.7	3.4	0.7
F	8.5	8.7	0.2	7.3	7.4	0.1	3.4	3.4	0.0
IRL	7.7	6.7	-0.9	14.6	15.1	0.5	6.6	6.2	-0.4
I	7.3	7.7	0.4	8.7	8.9	0.1	2.5	2.5	0.0
L	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
NL	11.0	11.1	0.1	5.8	5.9	0.0	3.5	3.2	-0.3
A	11.0	11.2	0.2	12.0	11.5	-0.4	2.7	2.8	0.1
P	5.5	6.3	0.8	8.8	8.7	-0.1	4.2	4.1	-0.1
FIN	11.0	11.1	0.2	7.2	7.1	-0.1	6.1	5.7	-0.4
S	10.2	11.0	0.8	4.6	5.1	0.5	4.6	4.1	-0.4
UK	10.3	11.6	1.3	7.1	7.5	0.4	8.5	7.9	-0.6

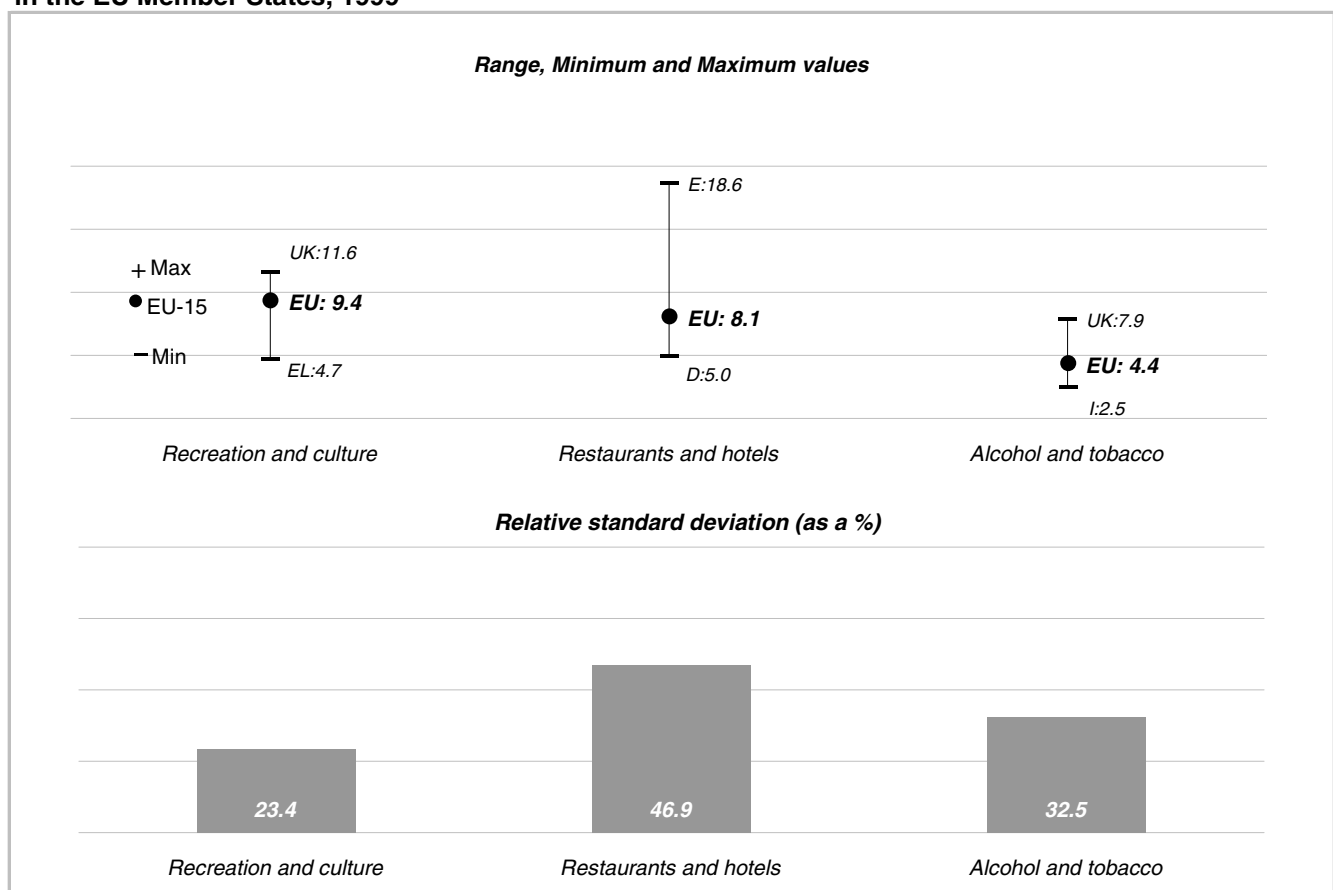
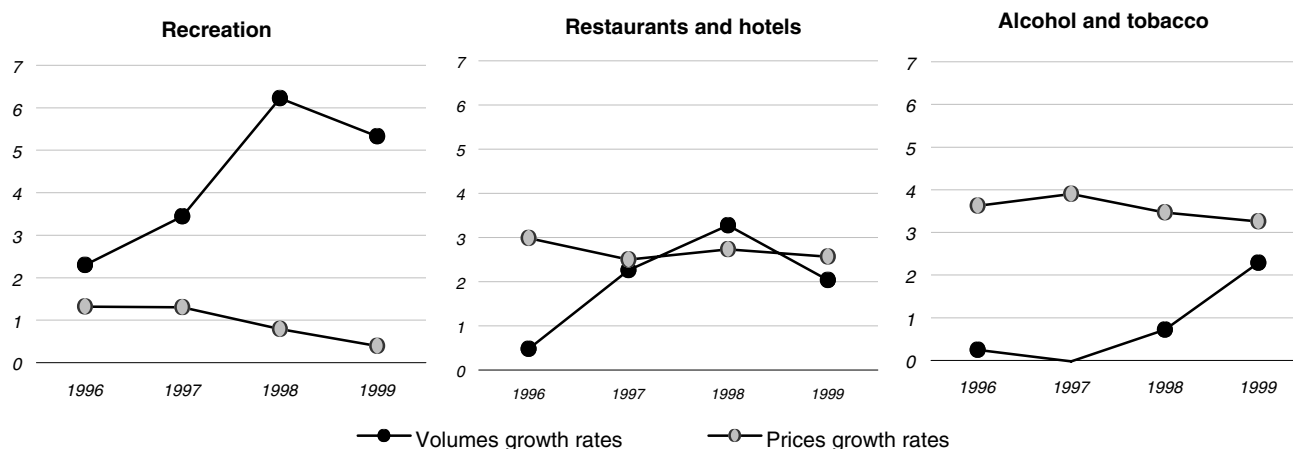
Fig. 4. Dispersion of shares for Recreation and culture, restaurants and hotels, alcoholic beverages in the EU Member States, 1999


Fig. 5. Evolution of the expenditure for "recreational" items of consumption and related prices in the EU15 (as a %)



Note: When referring to prices we intend the Harmonised consumer price indices.

The relative standard deviation for *Restaurants and hotels* is the highest of the functions considered, meaning that there are substantial differences among the Member States.

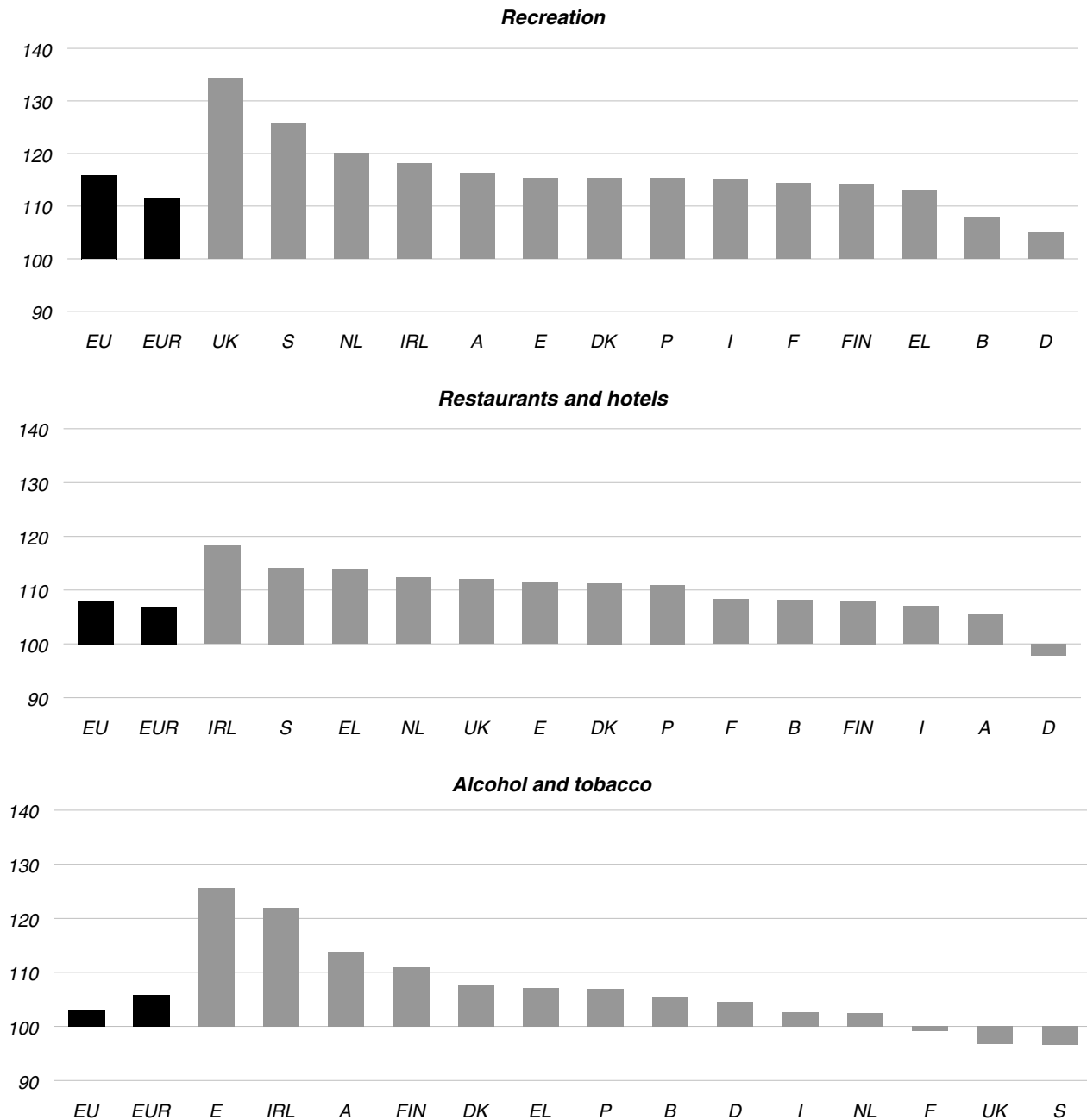
For a picture of how volumes and prices have evolved, Figure 5 shows the growth rates in the EU. In the case of *recreation and culture*, the trend with regard to consumption in volume terms was particularly vigorous, exceeding 5% in the last two years under review. For *restaurants and hotels*, the increase was more modest, while there was hardly any change for *alcoholic beverages*

and tobacco — apart from 1999 when the figure was +2.3%.

In order to show the general picture by country, Table 3 gives the growth indices and Figure 6 the changes in volume in order of importance. It can be seen that in the United Kingdom consumption in volume terms for *recreation and culture* grew most in the five-year review period, and in 1999 it was 34.4% higher than in the reference year of 1996. In the Union as a whole, the figure showed a rise of 15.7%, and there were substantial rises in most Member States.

Tab.3. Growth index of the expenditure for "recreational" items of consumption, in volume and for specific prices, 1999 (1996=100)

	Recreation		Restaurants and hotels		Alcohol and tobacco	
	Volume	Prices	Volume	Prices	Volume	Prices
EU	115.7	102.5	107.8	108.0	103.0	111.0
EUR	111.4	102.6	106.6	106.6	105.8	108.8
B	107.7	101.7	108.1	105.6	105.3	107.5
DK	115.3	103.4	111.3	107.7	107.8	105.0
D	105.0	103.0	97.9	103.8	104.5	105.2
EL	113.1	113.6	113.7	122.9	107.1	122.7
E	115.3	106.8	111.5	110.2	125.6	123.1
F	114.3	100.0	108.3	105.3	99.2	110.7
IRL	118.1	106.5	118.3	111.3	122.0	111.3
I	115.2	103.3	107.0	108.4	102.7	110.5
L	:	102.7	:	105.1	:	107.5
NL	120.1	103.0	112.3	107.6	102.4	109.5
A	116.3	100.4	105.5	105.3	113.9	103.3
P	115.2	101.4	110.9	108.3	106.9	114.5
FIN	114.2	102.4	108.1	107.4	111.0	105.1
S	125.9	98.9	114.1	105.0	96.6	111.4
UK	134.4	101.9	112.0	111.5	96.7	116.8

Fig. 6. Growth index of the expenditure for "recreational" items of consumption, 1999 (1996=100)


The smallest changes were in Belgium (+ 7.7 %) and Germany (+ 5.0 %). The changes were generally less marked in the case of *restaurants and hotels*, for which in the EU as a whole the increase over the period was 7.8 %. There was a big rise only in Ireland, where the figure for *restaurants and hotels* posted an increase of 18.3 % in relation to the reference year. In Germany, on the other hand, the 1999 figure was actually down by 2.1 % on the 1996 figure.

The changes were, on average, even smaller for *alcoholic beverages and tobacco*, which recorded an increase of only 3.0 % in the EU during the review period. The highest growth indices were achieved in Spain (+ 25.6 %) and Ireland (+ 22.0 %), but increases were much less marked in the other Member States. Indeed, in Sweden and the United Kingdom the 1999 figures were down on those of the reference year: - 3.4 % and - 3.3 % respectively.

5. Other consumption items

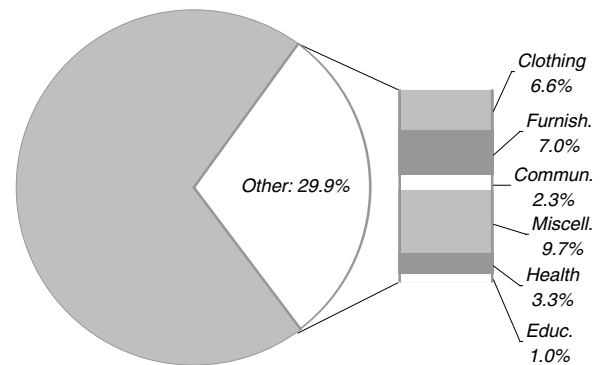
In the next section we describe the remaining functions of consumption. Those items have been grouped for being of minor importance in total consumption or for lack of consistency among data. In the following a description of the expenses for *Clothing and footwear*, for *Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house* and for *Communication* is given. As for the other functions, *Health, Education and Miscellaneous of goods and services*, only a short graphical illustration of basic figures will be done.

Altogether, the six items of consumption accounted for only less than one third of total expenditure of households for consumption in the EU (see Figure 1).

In 1999 expenditure for *Clothing and footwear* in the European Union was 6.6 % of total consumption. Among Member States in three southern countries the expenditure for *Clothing and footwear* was proportionally the highest: Greece (11.0 %), Italy (9.3 %) and in Portugal (8.1 %).

At the opposite end of the scale, households in Finland (4.6 %) and Denmark (5.0 %) spent the smallest relative amount on this item. Over the period under review all Member States except for Greece and Sweden reduced the proportion spent on clothing and footwear (see Table 1).

Fig. 1. Part of "other" consumption items in the EU, 1999 (as a % of total consumption)



Considering the **absolute growth** over the period considered (1996=100), in the EU spending at constant prices for buying *Clothing and footwear* increased by 6.5 %.

The corresponding prices had a smaller variation, they grew only by 1.6 %. Among Member States, in Ireland spending on this item had the most substantial increase, the 1999 figure was 54.5 % higher than the benchmark value. The next largest variations were recorded in Portugal and the United Kingdom (around + 16 %).

Tab. 1. Shares of consumption by item in the EU, 1995/99 (as a % of total consumption)

	Clothing			Furnishings			Communications		
	1995	1999		1995	1999		1995	1999	
EU-15	7.0	6.6	↓	7.1	7.0	↓	2.0	2.3	↑
EUR	7.1	6.7	↓	7.5	7.3	↓	1.9	2.4	↑
B	6.7	5.6	↓	6.6	5.7	↓	1.5	2.0	↑
DK	5.2	5.0	↓	5.8	5.6	↓	1.7	1.8	↑
D	7.1	6.5	↓	7.6	7.2	↓	2.0	2.3	↑
EL	10.9	11.0	↑	6.6	6.4	↓	1.5	2.2	↑
E	6.8	6.5	↓	6.2	6.1	↓	1.8	2.1	↑
F	5.5	5.2	↓	6.3	6.4	↑	1.8	1.9	↑
IRL	7.3	6.9	↓	7.0	7.4	↑	1.8	2.0	↑
I	9.6	9.3	↓	9.6	9.5	↓	2.1	2.9	↑
L	:	:		:	:		:	:	
NL	6.5	6.2	↓	7.4	7.4	↔	2.1	3.2	↑
A	7.1	6.7	↓	8.9	8.6	↓	2.0	2.8	↑
P	8.2	8.1	↓	6.6	7.0	↑	2.0	2.4	↑
FIN	4.8	4.6	↓	4.5	4.6	↑	1.9	2.7	↑
S	5.4	5.4	↔	4.6	4.8	↑	2.3	3.0	↑
UK	6.6	6.1	↓	5.9	6.2	↑	2.1	2.2	↑

It should be noted that in those three countries, in relation to the large increase in spending, prices recorded a contraction (see Table 2).

Spending for *Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house* in 1999 took a **share** of 7.0 % in total consumption — this items is thus slightly ahead *Clothing and footwear*.

Households in Italy (9.5 %) and in Austria (8.6 %) dedicated the largest parts of total spending to this item, in Sweden (4.8 %) and Finland (4.6 %) the smallest.

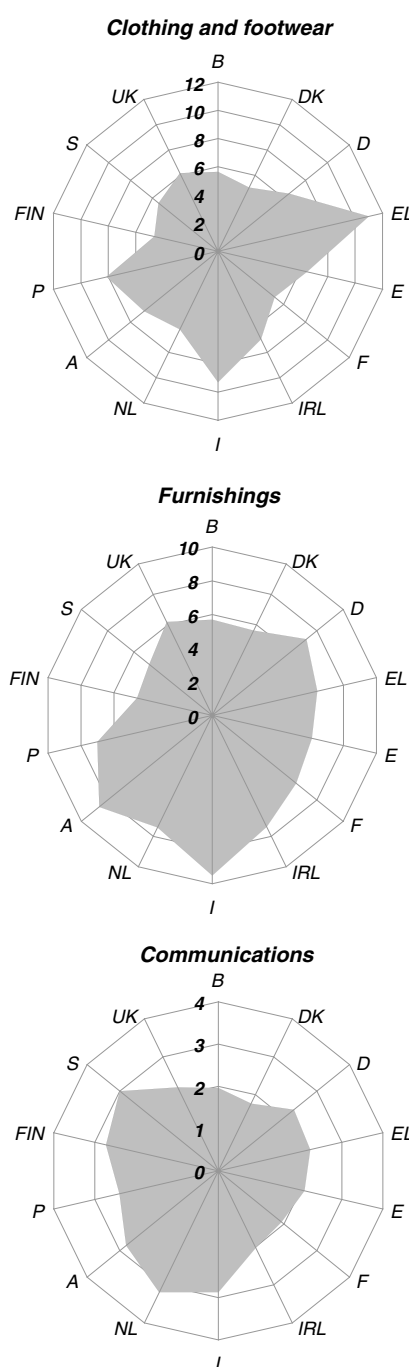
Over last five years this figure for the EU as a whole slightly reduced. Specifically, in Germany and Italy this item lost importance in household total consumption, whilst in France and the United Kingdom the quota increased. In all Member States this item did not come to radical changes and variations in the shares were fairly modest (see Table 1).

When considering the **absolute growth** of household spending for *Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house* the variations are more important: in 1999 spending in Sweden (+ 22.3 %), Ireland (+ 21.3 %) and the United Kingdom (+ 21.2 %) was much higher than the same figure

recorded in 1996 (the reference year). Prices tended to increase in all Member States, the only exception being in Sweden. (see Table 3).

As a **percentage** of total consumption, the households in the Union dedicated 2.3 % of their total consumption to *communication* spending. Dutch and Swedish households showed the largest quotas (respectively with 3.2 % and 3.0 %), while in Denmark and France this item accounted for only less than 2 % of total consumption.

Fig. 2. Shares of consumption by item in EU countries, 1999 (as a % of total consumption)



Tab. 2. Growth index of the expenditure for Clothing and footwear, in volume and for specific prices, 1999

	(1996=100)		
	Volume	Prices	
EU-15	106.5	101.6	
EUR	104.6	103.4	
IRL	154.5	82.7	
P	116.8	95.6	
UK	116.4	88.8	
FIN	113.9	99.0	
NL	111.5	104.3	
E	111.3	106.7	
S	110.3	102.1	
DK	110.1	92.0	
EL	107.2	117.2	
A	106.7	99.4	
F	106.4	100.4	
I	103.1	107.4	
D	100.2	101.1	
B	93.8	102.6	

Over the period under consideration (1995/1999) this item expanded its importance in all Member States. In particular, the part of spending for *Communication* increased most in the Netherlands, in Italy, in Austria and in Finland — in those countries the quota increased by roughly one percentage point. Even if relatively small, spending for *Communication* has been the most dynamic item in household consumption: in the EU in 1999 spending for *Communication* grew by 19.1 %, whilst related prices dropped by 4.1 %.

Considering **absolute growth** over the 1996/99 period the spending for consumption in the EU in 1999 was 43.7 % higher than the benchmark figure. In the Netherlands spending nearly doubled over the referen-

Tab. 3. Growth index of the expenditure for Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house, in volume and for specific prices, 1999

		(1996=100)			
	■ Volume	■ Prices			
EU-15	109.1	103.2			
EUR	107.0	103.6			
S	122.3	99.2			
IRL	121.3	107.7			
UK	121.2	101.6			
FIN	118.5	101.5			
P	116.8	105.5			
NL	116.4	104.9			
E	114.5	107.7			
DK	108.7	104.8			
EL	108.1	114.7			
A	108.0	104.4			
I	107.6	106.1			
F	107.3	102.0			
B	102.6	101.9			
D	102.5	102.2			

ce period, in Finland it increased by 76.0 % and in Ireland by 64.6 %. The smallest variation has been recorded in France, where spending in 1999 was by 16.5 % higher than in the reference year.

Even considering the reduction in prices, expenditure for *Communication* recorded an extraordinary development in EU countries. Prices tended to fall, with the exception of Spain (+ 4.7 % in 1999 compared to 1996), Sweden (+ 3.2 %) and Greece and Italy, where prices remained stable (see Table 4.).

Tab. 4. Growth index of the expenditure for Communications, in volume and for specific prices, 1999

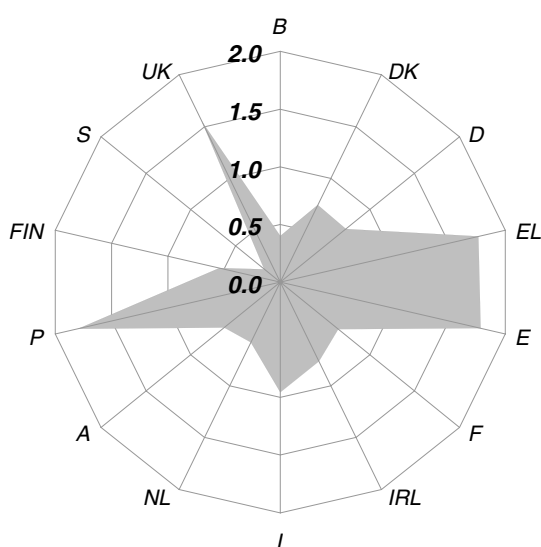
		(1996=100)			
	■ Volume	■ Prices			
EU-15	143.7	93.9			
EUR	145.8	93.5			
NL	190.7	96.2			
FIN	176.0	98.2			
IRL	164.6	85.8			
A	158.2	95.8			
I	154.9	99.5			
D	154.7	87.4			
UK	141.0	93.0			
B	136.5	97.9			
E	127.5	104.7			
S	126.9	103.2			
P	125.9	95.4			
DK	122.6	94.2			
EL	118.2	100.2			
F	116.5	94.1			

Education

Spending for *Education*, as well as for *Health*, is strongly influenced by the specific structure of these sectors. In particular for *Education* the schooling system differs widely among Member States. Therefore figures are not fully comparable and in this section only a limited presentation will be given.

As a general matter the part of spending for *Education* is small, ranging from 1.8 % in Spain, Greece and Portugal to a mere 0.2 % in Sweden.

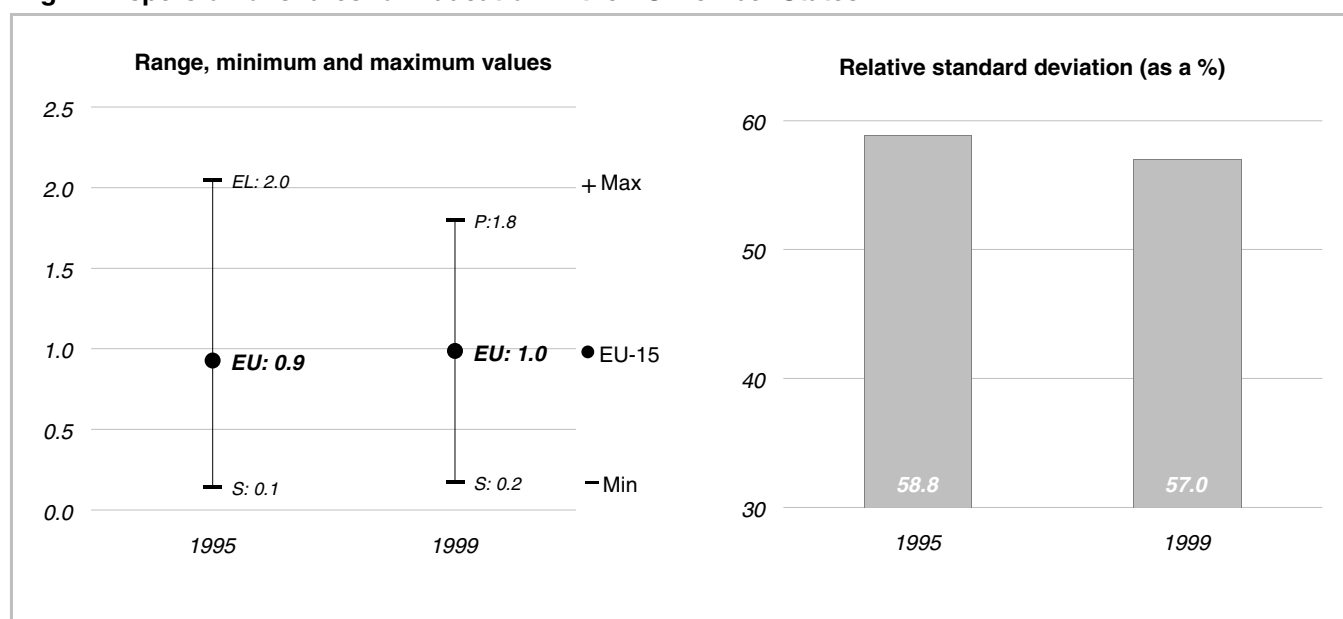
Fig. 3. Share of the expenditure for Education in total household consumption, 1999 (as a %)



Tab. 5. Volume growth of expenditure for Education expenses (as a %)

	1996	1997	1998	1999
EU-15	1.3	3.2	0.1	1.0
EUR	2.0	3.9	0.4	0.9
B	-0.3	14.1	-0.2	1.9
DK	6.6	0.0	0.2	7.3
D	0.4	1.8	-3.4	-0.1
EL	-7.4	0.1	-3.2	2.5
E	5.1	5.0	4.1	2.0
F	0.4	12.9	2.7	1.3
IRL	6.4	6.4	11.1	10.7
I	2.1	0.5	-0.7	-0.3
L	:	:	:	:
NL	0.1	1.3	-0.2	-1.6
A	1.4	-1.7	-0.6	1.8
P	4.2	-5.9	1.0	3.4
FIN	5.0	20.2	-0.1	-0.5
S	14.0	9.9	1.2	1.8
UK	0.1	1.4	-0.2	0.6

Fig. 4. Dispersion of shares for Education in the EU Member States

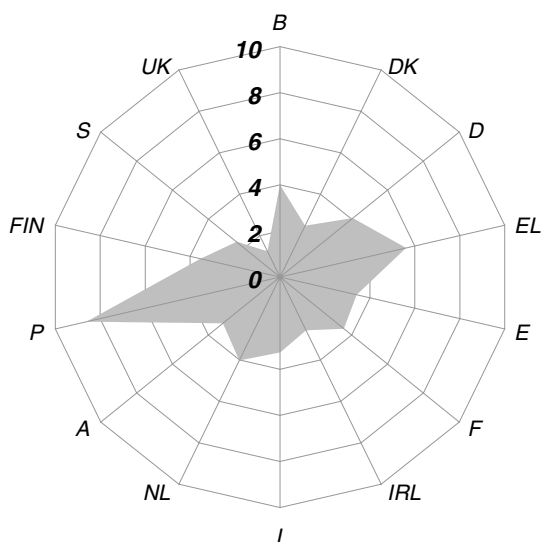


Health

Health expenses is the function of consumption showing the widest variety amongst countries, chiefly because the dominance of either private or public health services influences the amount of private expenditure under this heading.

In 1999, the highest share for health expenditure in total consumption has been recorded in Portugal (8.6%), followed by Greece with 5.6%. The smallest share was 1.2% recorded in the United Kingdom.

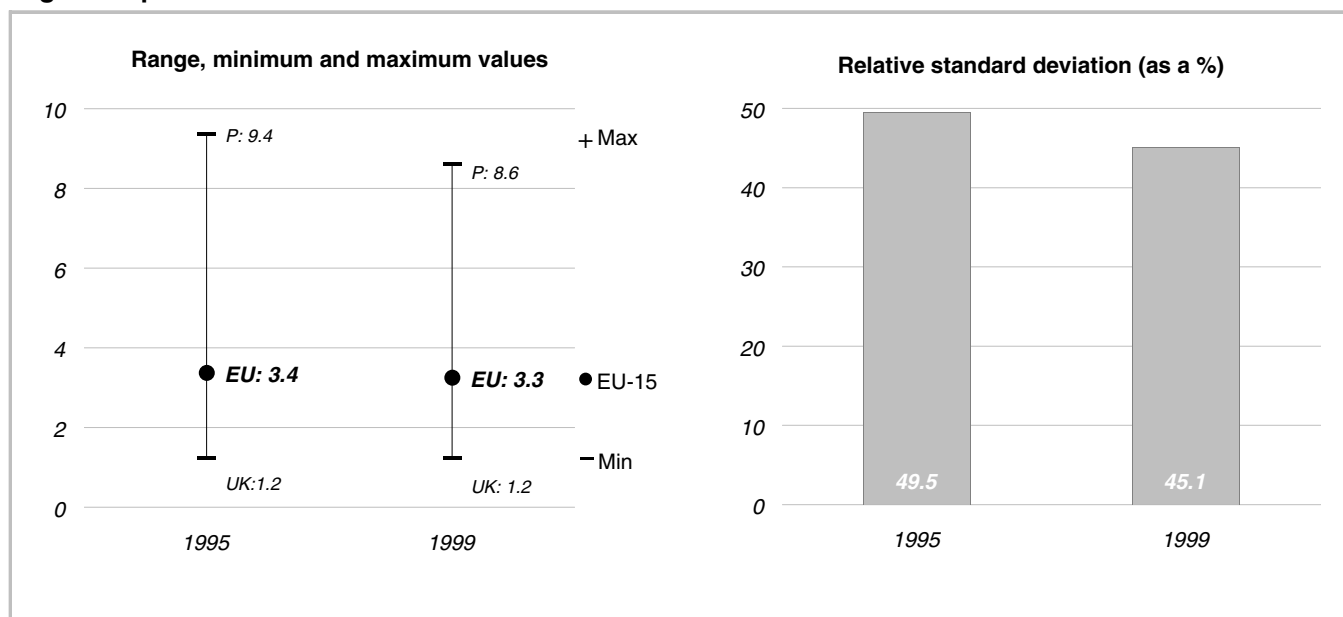
Fig. 5. Share of the expenditure for Health in total household consumption, 1999 (as a %)



Tab. 6. Volume growth of expenditure for Health (as a %)

	1996	1997	1998	1999
EU-15	1.1	0.9	1.8	3.0
EUR	1.1	1.0	1.4	3.1
B	1.4	1.4	-2.5	2.5
DK	5.1	4.4	5.8	3.5
D	-2.5	0.0	-0.9	3.0
EL	-5.0	3.6	2.0	1.6
E	2.6	2.8	7.0	7.0
F	1.5	0.5	3.1	2.4
IRL	2.0	5.4	-1.6	4.3
I	2.1	3.1	1.7	1.3
L	:	:	:	:
NL	25.1	0.4	0.0	6.0
A	5.1	2.0	4.2	2.6
P	-7.6	-1.0	3.5	2.1
FIN	4.2	3.0	2.1	6.1
S	1.8	-0.7	6.0	-2.4
UK	3.8	-3.1	4.6	3.0

Fig. 6. Dispersion of shares for Health in the EU Member States



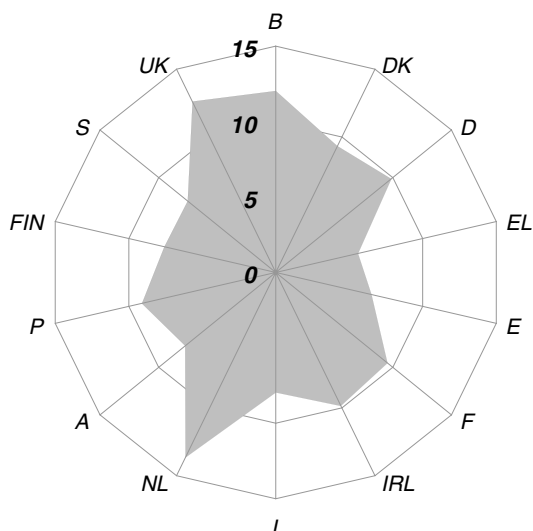
Miscellaneous goods and services

Because of the disparate composition of this function of consumption, little can be said about trends in miscellaneous goods and services. Under this heading the following items of consumption are included (n.e.c. = not elsewhere covered):

- Personal care
- Insurance
- Financial services n.e.c.
- Personal effects n.e.c.
- Other services n.e.c.
- Social protection

However it is interesting to note that it accounts for a quite large proportion of total consumption: in 1999, in the EU it represented a share of 9.7 %. The highest

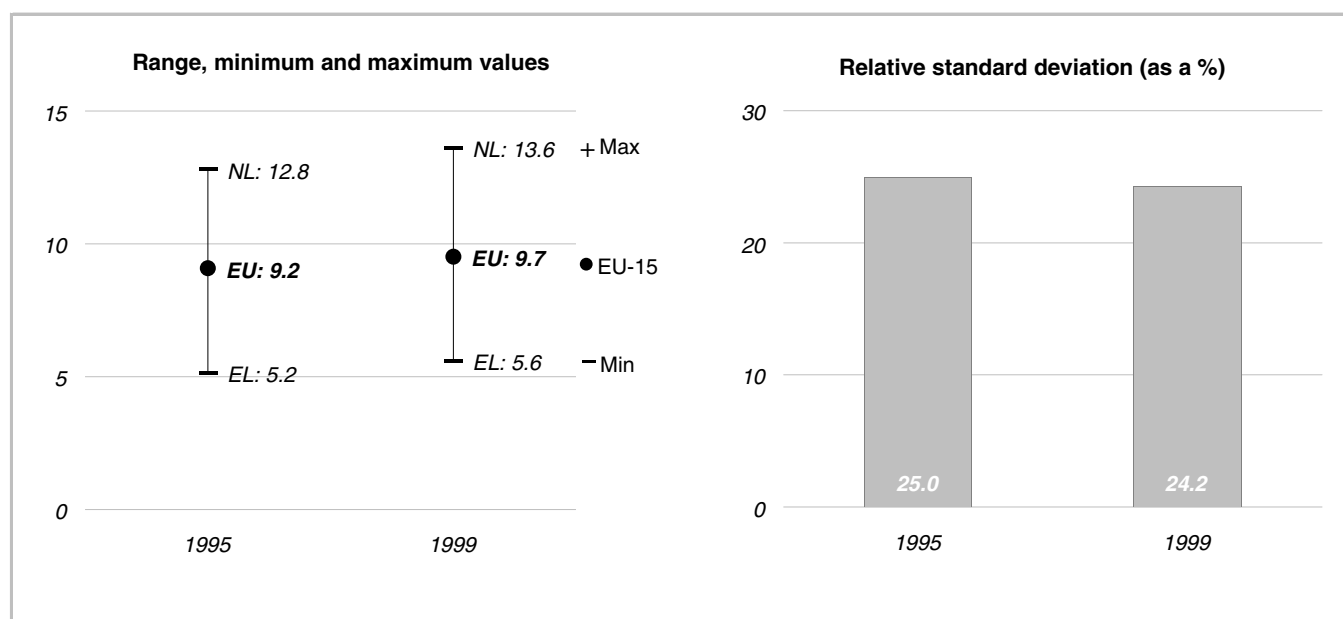
Fig. 7. Share of expenditure for Miscellaneous goods and services in total household consumption, 1999 (as a %)



Tab. 7. Volume growth of expenditure for Miscellaneous goods and services (as a %)

	1996	1997	1998	1999
EU-15	2.3	2.4	3.8	3.8
EUR	1.7	2.2	4.1	3.6
B	-1.3	6.5	6.4	2.6
DK	4.0	4.9	-2.1	10.0
D	0.4	0.8	2.2	4.4
EL	3.6	4.3	6.4	5.6
E	5.7	4.2	5.4	6.7
F	2.6	1.1	3.3	2.1
IRL	4.3	12.5	19.6	16.2
I	-1.2	2.9	7.1	1.5
L	:	:	:	:
NL	5.9	4.5	6.0	4.1
A	2.5	2.6	1.5	3.1
P	8.7	4.8	2.9	4.6
FIN	10.7	1.0	9.5	1.8
S	-0.3	3.9	4.7	3.6
UK	4.7	2.8	2.8	4.0

quota has been recorded in the Netherlands, where spending for this item (13.6 %) was even higher than for food consumption.



Box 1: Changes in the structure of household consumption

The structure of consumption, or how much each function of expenditure contributes to total consumption, is illustrated in the description of the functions themselves, although only for the last five years (1995/99), as this is the only period for which data are available for every Member State using the new ESA95 system. Changes in consumer habits are slow, of course, and it is therefore definitely more interesting to analyse structural changes over a longer period.

The values for the entire decade 1990/99 were therefore calculated by backward calculation, at the cost of sacrificing the greater detail offered by ESA95, which provides data for twelve functions of consumption, as against ESA79's eight.

In analysing the changes in the structure of consumption for the EU, the most striking phenomenon to emerge is the drift between expenditure on *Food and beverages* (including alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages and tobacco) and *Housing* (including expenditure on water, electricity, gas and other fuels). As the decade progressed, outgoings on housing claimed an ever-increasing share of households' expenditure in the European Union, and outstripped food as the leading item of expenditure.

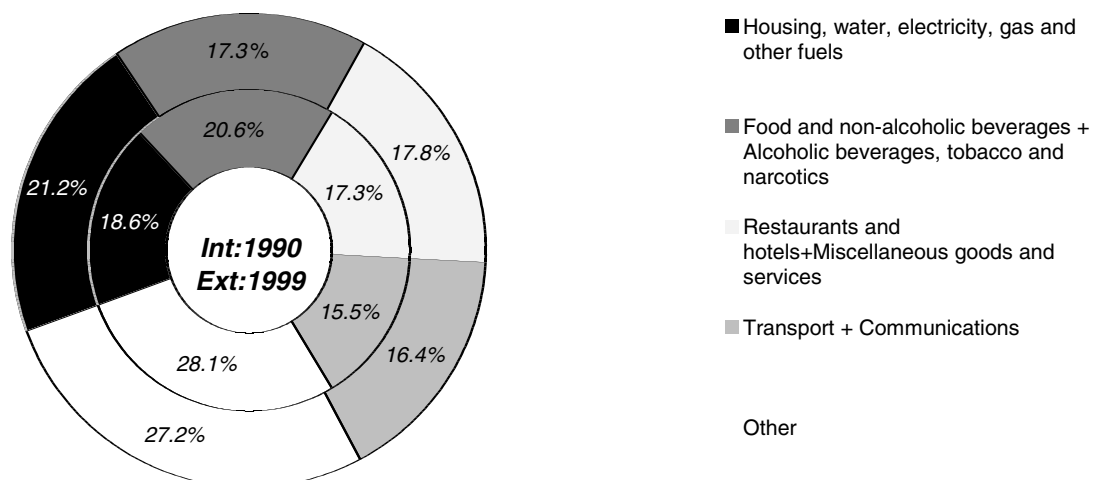
Figure 1 illustrates the changes in the main items of household expenditure in the EU over

the last decade. Early on 1990, therefore, *Food and beverages* and *Housing* accounted for roughly comparable shares of total expenditure (*Food and beverages* 20.6 %, *Housing* 18.6 % in 1990). Subsequently, however, expenditure on *Housing* increased inexorably to 21.2 % in 1999, while expenditure on food declined consistently to 17.3% of total consumption by 1999.

Expenditure on Restaurants and hotels plus Miscellaneous goods and services ⁽¹⁾ also increased over the period under investigation, and even overtook expenditure on *food and beverages* in the last year under analysis (17.8 %). Expenditure on *Transport and communications* also gained importance over the decade and increased by 0.9 percentage points. In 1999 this item accounted for 16.4 of total consumption.

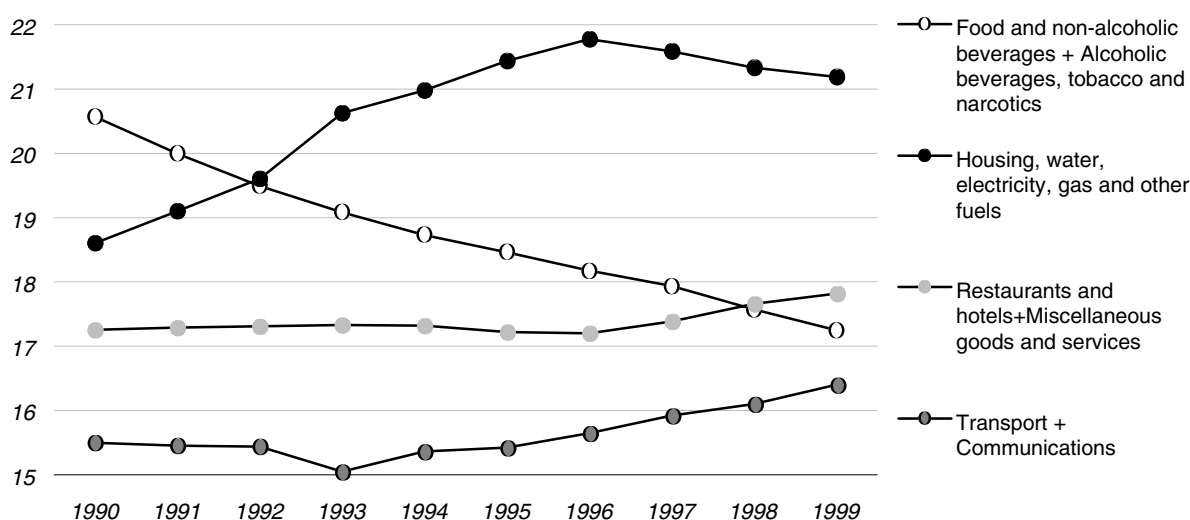
Looking at the overall structural changes, and measuring the differences between the percentages recorded in 1990 and those for 1999, of the main headings only *Food and beverages* declined, by 3.3 percentage points of overall consumption. *Housing* expanded by 2.6 points, and expenditure on *Restaurants and hotels and Miscellaneous goods and services* increased by 0.9 points. Overall, the rise in the latter two items of expenditure absorbed the entire percentage decline in *Food and beverages*. Taking all functions together, the decline in households' expenditure on *food and beverages* was matched by a marked shift as consumer spending became more concentrated on *Housing, Restaurants and hotels and Miscellaneous goods and services*.

Fig. 1. Structure of consumption in the EU in 1990 and 1999 (as a % of total consumption)



⁽¹⁾ Restaurants and hotels include Catering services, Accommodation services; Miscellaneous goods and services include Personal care, Prostitution, Personal effects n.e.c., Social protection, Insurance, Financial services n.e.c., Other services n.e.c.

Fig. 2. Changes in the relative shares of the main functions of total household consumption of total household consumption (as a %)



Overall, the four components of expenditure described account for the bulk of consumption: in 1999, they represented 72.8 % of household expenditure, while the other three items together made up no more than roughly one quarter of total consumption. This breakdown barely changed over the decade.

To complete the picture, Figure 3 illustrates the shares for the smaller functions of consumption: expenditure on *Health and Recreation and culture + Education* held steady; spending on *Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house* dipped slightly, and the rate for *Clothing and footwear* fell by more than one percentage point.

It is difficult to draw general conclusions on consumer behaviour and changing tastes in European households because the functions of consumption presented are highly aggregated. It is, however, clear that housing has absolute priority for households in the EU, while spending on *food and beverages* is losing ground. It is harder to single out the most important component of expenditure on *Restaurants and hotels + Miscellaneous goods and services*: while a lifestyle which favours eating out is clearly on the increase, the statistical data do not provide any information in this

Fig. 3. Minor functions of consumption relative to total household consumption, (as a %)

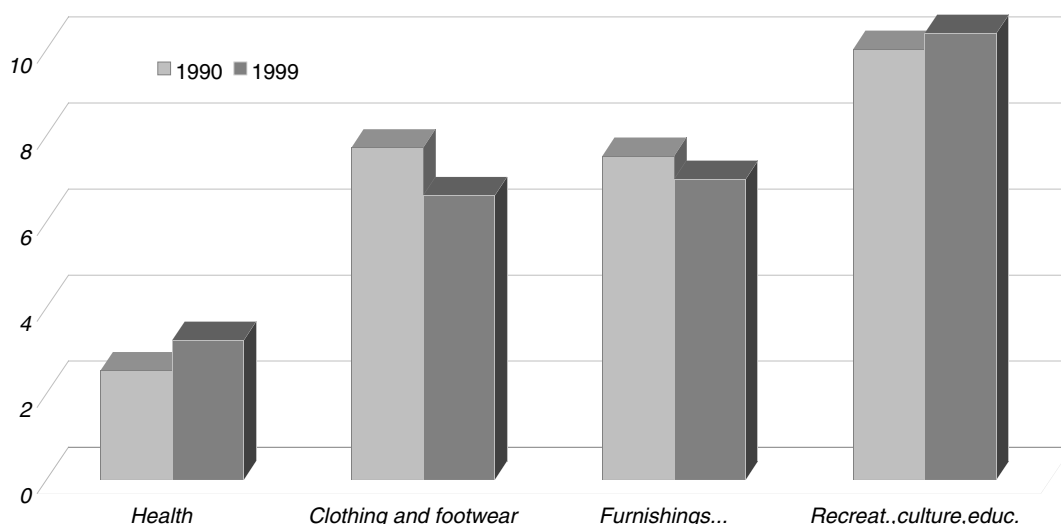
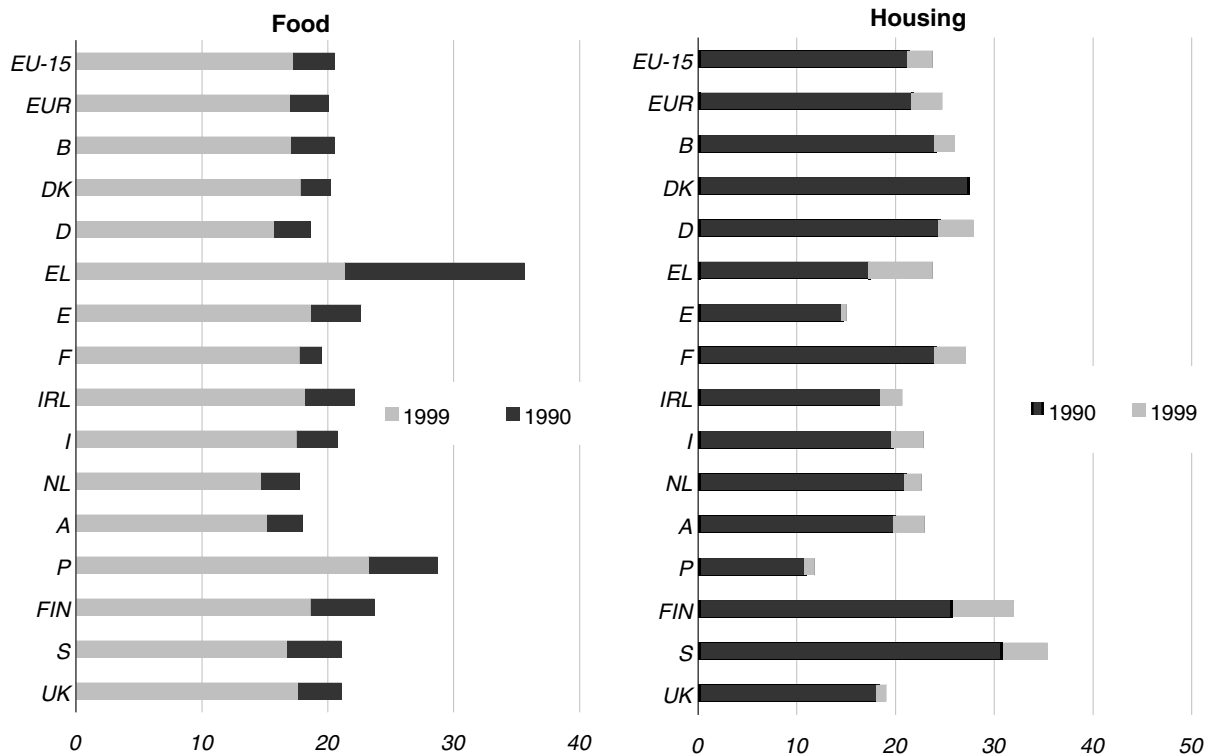


Fig. 4. Change in expenditure on food and housing within total household consumption, between 1990 and 1999 (as a %)



Note: Food = Food and non-alcoholic beverages + Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics; Housing = Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels.

regard. It is similarly difficult to form an opinion on the many functions of expenditure which are not strictly "necessary": thus, while it would appear that less importance is attached to expenditure on home decoration and clothing, households do not seem to be going without entertainment, and rates of expenditure on *Recreation and culture* plus *Education* have held their ground within overall consumption. As for *Health*, the health systems in EU countries are so diverse that the data for the EU are of scant significance.

Looking at the changing structures of consumption in EU countries, all show a marked decline in relative expenditure on *food*. In Greece in particular, where *Food and beverages* represented more than one-third of total expenditure at the beginning of the decade, the rate slumped. Substantial decreases were also recorded in Portugal, Ireland and Finland.

Increased outgoings on *Housing* within household expenditure are also common to virtually

every Member State; only Denmark, recorded a broadly stable rate over the decade. It should, however be noted that expenditure on *Housing* is already a very substantial part of outgoings in Denmark. In Finland and Greece, housing costs as a proportion of household expenditure soared.

Spending on *Recreation and culture* plus *Education* was particularly to the fore in the United Kingdom and Portugal, but also in Greece and Austria.

Practically every EU country recorded a downturn in the consumption of *Clothing and footwear* and *Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house*, while expenditure on *Transport and communications* increased in all Member States. Households in different Member States showed different patterns of recreational expenditure: the percentage accounted for by *Recreation and culture* plus *Education* surged in Greece and Portugal, as well as in the United Kingdom and Sweden. In the Netherlands and Ireland, on the other hand, this item decreased.

Tab. 1. Changes in the structure of consumption in EU countries (1990/99), (as a % of total consumption)

	Food and non-alcoholic beverages + Alcoholic beverages, tobacco			Clothing and footwear			Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels			Furnishings, household equip. and routine maint. of the house		
	1990	1999		1990	1999		1990	1999		1990	1999	
EU-15	20.6	17.3	↓	8.0	6.6	↓	18.6	21.2	↑	7.4	7.0	↘
EUR	20.1	17.1	↓	8.3	6.7	↓	18.5	21.6	↑	7.8	7.3	↘
B	20.5	17.1	↓	7.3	5.6	↓	21.9	23.9	↑	7.2	5.7	↓
DK	20.2	17.9	↓	5.4	5.0	↘	28.1	27.3	↘	6.4	5.6	↘
D	18.7	15.7	↓	8.2	6.5	↓	20.7	24.3	↑	7.8	7.2	↘
EL	35.7	21.3	⊖	8.4	11.0	↑	10.7	17.2	⊖	7.8	6.4	↓
E	22.7	18.7	↓	8.1	6.5	↓	14.0	14.5	↔	6.5	6.1	↘
F	19.5	17.8	↓	6.7	5.2	↓	20.7	23.9	↑	6.8	6.4	↘
IRL	23.2	18.2	⊖	6.9	6.9	↔	16.3	18.5	↑	7.2	7.4	↗
I	20.8	17.5	↓	10.6	9.3	↓	16.2	19.5	↑	9.8	9.5	↘
L	:	:		:	:		:	:		:	:	
NL	17.8	14.8	↓	7.7	6.2	↓	19.1	20.8	↑	8.1	7.4	↘
A	18.0	15.2	↓	8.8	6.7	↓	16.6	19.7	↑	8.8	8.6	↘
P	28.7	23.2	⊖	8.6	8.1	↘	9.6	10.7	↑	7.2	7.0	↘
FIN	23.7	18.6	⊖	5.8	4.6	↓	19.1	25.5	⊖	5.1	4.6	↘
S	21.1	16.8	↓	7.1	5.4	↓	25.8	30.6	↑	5.3	4.8	↘
UK	21.1	17.6	↓	6.9	6.1	↘	17.1	18.1	↑	6.0	6.2	↗

	Health			Transport + Communications			Recreation and culture+Education			Restaurants and hotels+Miscellaneous goods and services		
	1990	1999		1990	1999		1990	1999		1990	1999	
EU-15	2.7	3.3	↗	15.5	16.4	↗	10.0	10.3	↗	17.3	17.8	↗
EUR	3.1	3.7	↗	15.3	16.5	↑	9.8	9.7	↘	17.2	17.4	↗
B	3.5	4.0	↗	15.0	17.7	↑	9.1	8.3	↘	16.3	17.7	↑
DK	2.6	2.5	↘	13.0	15.5	↑	11.1	11.5	↗	13.6	14.7	↑
D	3.4	4.1	↗	16.0	17.4	↑	10.5	10.1	↘	14.7	14.8	↗
EL	3.1	5.6	↑	12.9	10.7	↓	5.5	6.5	↑	16.0	21.3	⊖
E	2.5	3.4	↗	13.3	15.4	↑	9.8	10.2	↗	23.5	25.2	↑
F	3.4	3.6	↗	17.1	16.9	↘	9.3	9.3	↔	16.6	16.9	↗
IRL	2.7	2.6	↘	13.2	14.1	↗	8.5	7.5	↓	20.9	24.9	↑
I	3.2	3.3	↗	14.5	15.4	↗	8.7	8.6	↘	15.9	16.8	↗
L	:	:		:	:		:	:		:	:	
NL	3.5	4.0	↗	13.9	15.6	↑	12.6	11.7	↘	17.7	19.5	↑
A	2.7	3.2	↗	14.9	15.5	↗	11.0	11.8	↗	19.1	19.2	↗
P	7.9	8.6	↗	15.8	18.3	↑	5.7	8.1	↑	16.5	17.8	↑
FIN	2.9	3.5	↗	16.6	16.8	↗	11.5	11.7	↗	15.2	14.6	↘
S	1.5	2.4	↗	15.0	16.2	↑	11.3	11.2	↘	13.2	12.6	↘
UK	1.1	1.2	↗	17.1	16.6	↘	10.9	13.2	↑	19.8	20.1	↗

Note: arrows indicate the change in the shares; p.p. stands for percentage point

strong growth ⊕ (more than 5 p.p)

⊖ (more than -5 p.p)

normal growth ↑ (more than 1 p.p)

↓ (more than -1 p.p)

slight growth ↗ (between 0 and 1 p.p)

↘ (between 0 and -1 p.p)

Box 2: Deviation

Another aspect of some importance for the analysis of family consumption is identifying differences between spending patterns within the European Union.

A quick and very simple approach to highlighting the differences between consumption models in Europe is to do a graphic comparison of consumption structures. A web figure indicates immediately whether or not data are similar, and also shows which countries differ from the rest. If all figures were the same, that is if the particular function of consumption accounted for the same share of total consumption in each Member State, the result would be a neat circle. The more irregular the resulting line, the greater the differences between Member States.

It thus becomes apparent that the shares of spending on *Transport, Food and non-alcoholic beverages* and *Furnishings* are fairly similar from one Member State to another, whilst the figures illustrating the shares of expenditure on *Alcoholic beverages, Health and Education* are very irregular indeed. Graphic analysis of this type does not allow the dispersion of values to be quantified. But in addition to its simplicity and immediacy, it does allow the exceptional values to be identified, i.e. those countries which are notable for the share of consumption under consideration.

If we consider the three most significant functions of consumption, we note first that for *Food and non alcoholic beverages* it is the low figure in Greece which stands out, and this contrasts with data previously published by Eurostat. In fact, under ESA79, *Food* also included *Alcoholic beverages* and Greece returned figures well above the average; in ESA95 the two headings are separate and the value for *Food and non alcoholic beverages* is in line with the average whilst that for *Alcoholic beverages* is somewhat higher.

In *Transport*, Portugal has significantly higher figures indicated by a peak on the web. Portugal is also notable in *Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels* but for significantly lower figures than other EU Member States. The reader may examine for himself the budgetary coefficients (the function of consumption expressed as a percentage of

total consumption) set out under each consumption item.

Again highlighting the values which stand out from those of the other Member States, Figure 2 illustrates maximum and minimum values. The line between the two is the range (i.e. the distance between the two extremes); this is also an indication of the dispersion of data, although a fairly rough one since it does not take account of all data.

More interesting is the position of the EU15 average vis-à-vis the extremes. This tells us whether the dispersion is greater on the higher side or the lower. Figure 2 also shows side by side the data for 1995 and 1999, giving an idea of the changes over time.

Still focusing on the principal functions of expenditure, we can see that for *Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels* the distances between average and extremes are more or less symmetrical, with Sweden heading the table in both years (32.5 % in 1995, 30.6 % in 1999), and Portugal having the lowest values (10.7 % in 1999, practically unchanged since 1995). It can thus be seen that, interestingly, the extreme values are fairly symmetrical around the average, and that only the maximum has changed over time.

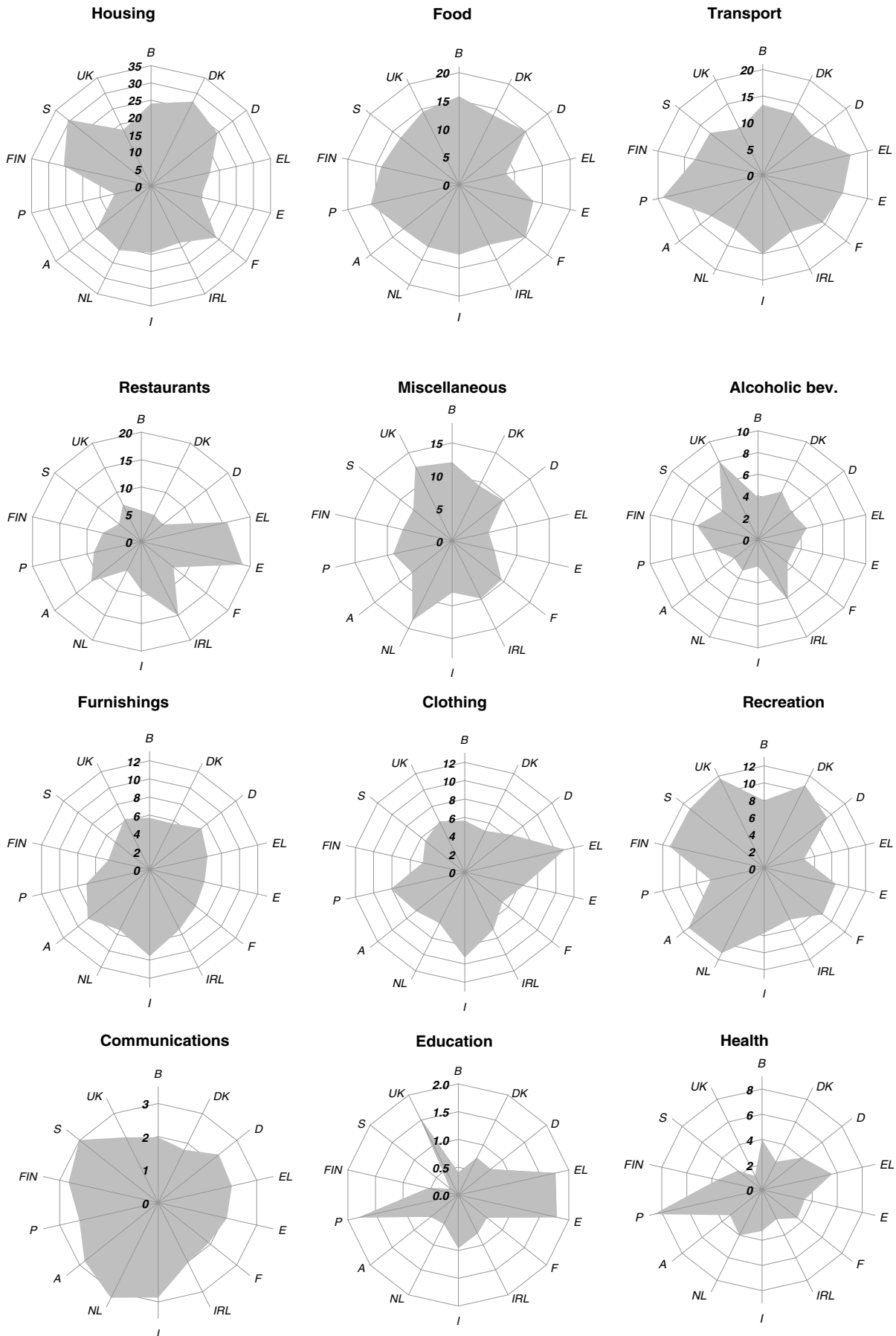
For *Food and non alcoholic beverages* the extremes are represented by Portugal (20.7 % in 1995, 19.1 % in 1999) and the United Kingdom (11.2 % in 1995, 9.7 % in 1999). Here the average is closer to the bottom than the top but over the five-year period, the highest value drew closer to other the EU values, whilst the lower extreme moved slightly further away.

For *Transport*, finally, the highest percentages for 1999 were recorded by Portugal (15.9 %) and Belgium (15.7%), although in 1995 Belgium's figure had been in line with the other Member States'. The lowest value was that in Greece, 8.4 % which decreased from 1995 to 1999. The maximum values are very close to the mean, and for this reason Greece is clearly distinct from the other Member States, and has remained so over time.

Figure 2 shows the detail of all functions of consumption. In this way, the maximum, minimum and range are shown for every heading.

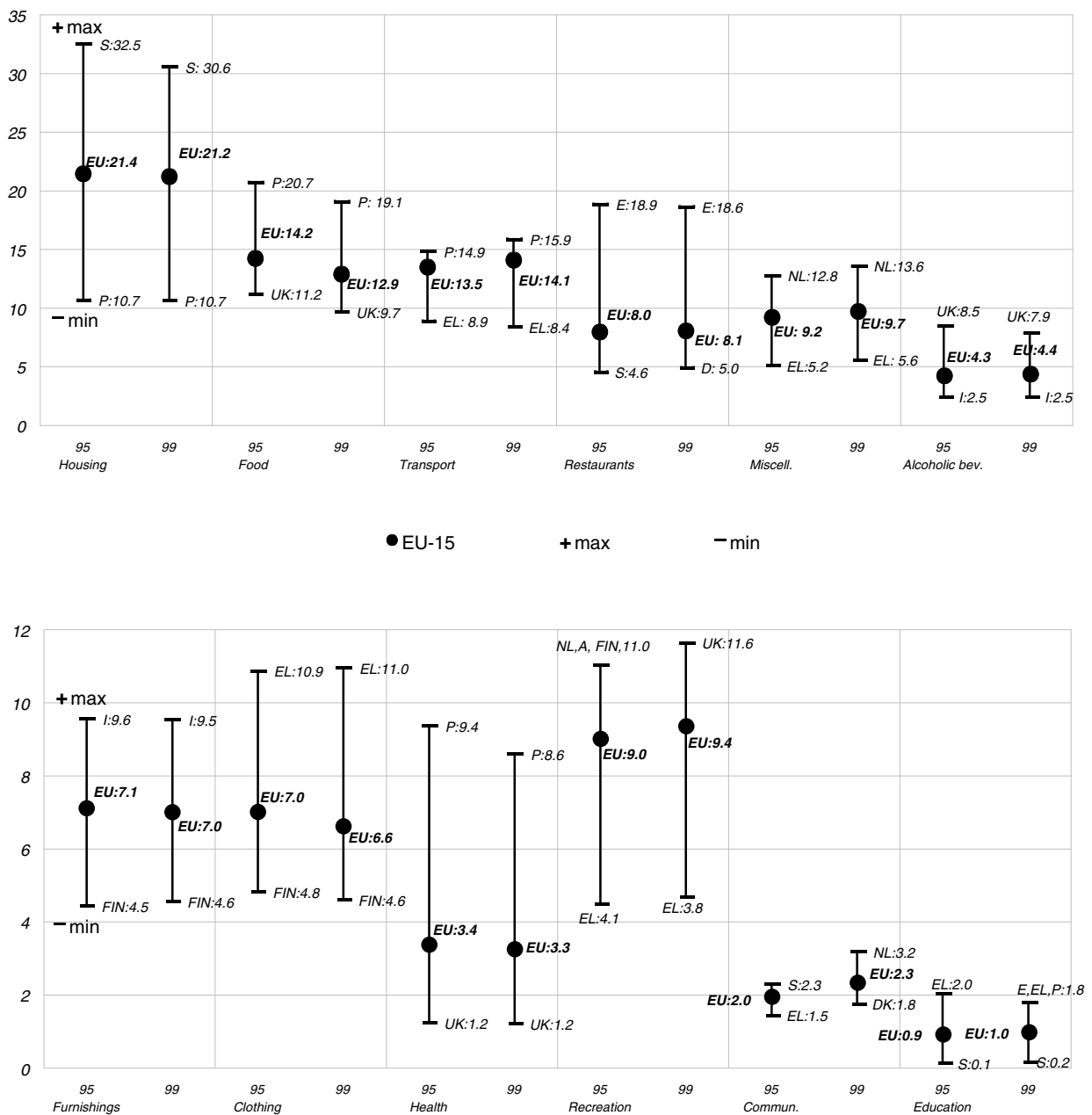
Another broad measure of the dispersion of values around the (unweighted) mean (and in this case not around the EU15 value which is a weighted average) is the standard deviation, which shows how far the values deviate from that mean. Its advantages are first

Fig. 1. Share of spending (as a % of total consumption), 1999



Note: axes have different reference values.

Fig. 2. Dispersion of shares of consumption, maximum and minimum values, and range — 1995 and 1999



that it takes account of all values in the series, and not just the extremes, and secondly that its results are comparable between functions of consumption. To permit comparison, the standard deviation is computed by reference to the mean itself (relative standard deviation).

This reveals that households spend a remarkably similar proportion of their budgets on *Transport* and on *Food and non alcoholic*

beverages: 1999 values of expenditure deviate on average from the mean by only 11.8 % for *Transport* and 16.0 % for *Food and non-alcoholic beverages*.

This is highly significant since these two functions of expenditure alone account for a major part of total consumption.

The third function which takes a particularly large share of household consumption is *Housing, water,*

electricity, gas and other fuels and here the 1999 relative standard deviation around the mean was higher at 25.7 %.

The functions of consumption where household budget shares ranged particularly widely were *Education* (58.8 % in 1999), *Health* (49.5 %) and *Restaurants and Hotels* (46.2 %). Remembering that expenditure on both Education and Health are heavily influenced by the social and health structures of the country concerned, these figures are not greatly significant.

Overall, the differences are thus relatively small for the principal functions of consumption, and it can be concluded that basic household spending patterns are fairly similar throughout the European Union.

The evolution of the standard deviation over time (1) shows that for *Alcoholic beverages and tobacco* and *Health* the deviation from the mean has narrowed (between 1995 and 1999 the relative standard deviation fell by 4.5 % and 4.4 %, respectively), but that the dispersions for *Communications* have risen significantly (+ 6.6 %).

Thus although the dispersion in basic spending patterns is essentially limited, it does seem to be widening. Meanwhile, the values for the relative standard deviation in respect of the spending we have defined as "recreational" seem to remain fairly stable (*Recreation and culture* and *Restaurants and hotels*), while that of *Alcoholic beverages and tobacco* has diminished greatly. However, these functions of consumption do show high levels of dispersion, with *Recreation and culture*, for example deviating from the mean by 23.4 % in 1999.

Fig. 3. Difference in standard deviation between 1995 and 1999 values (as a %)

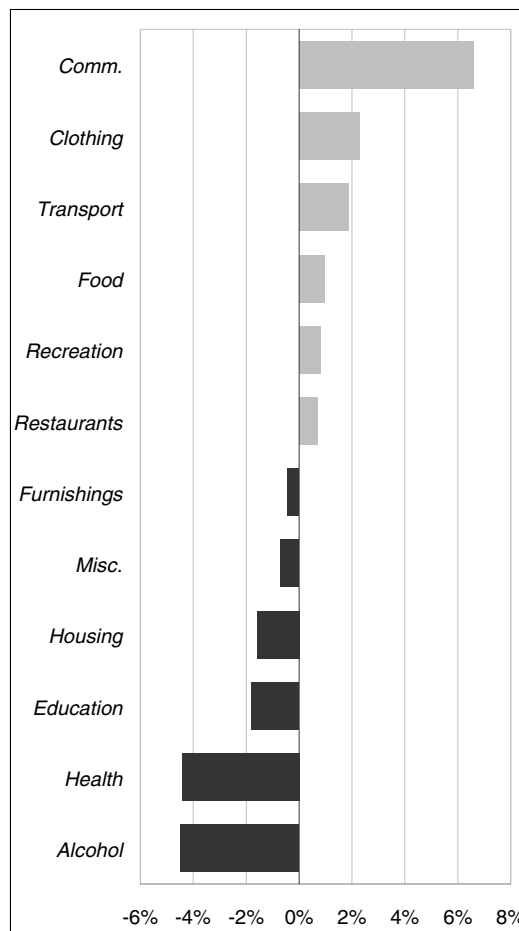
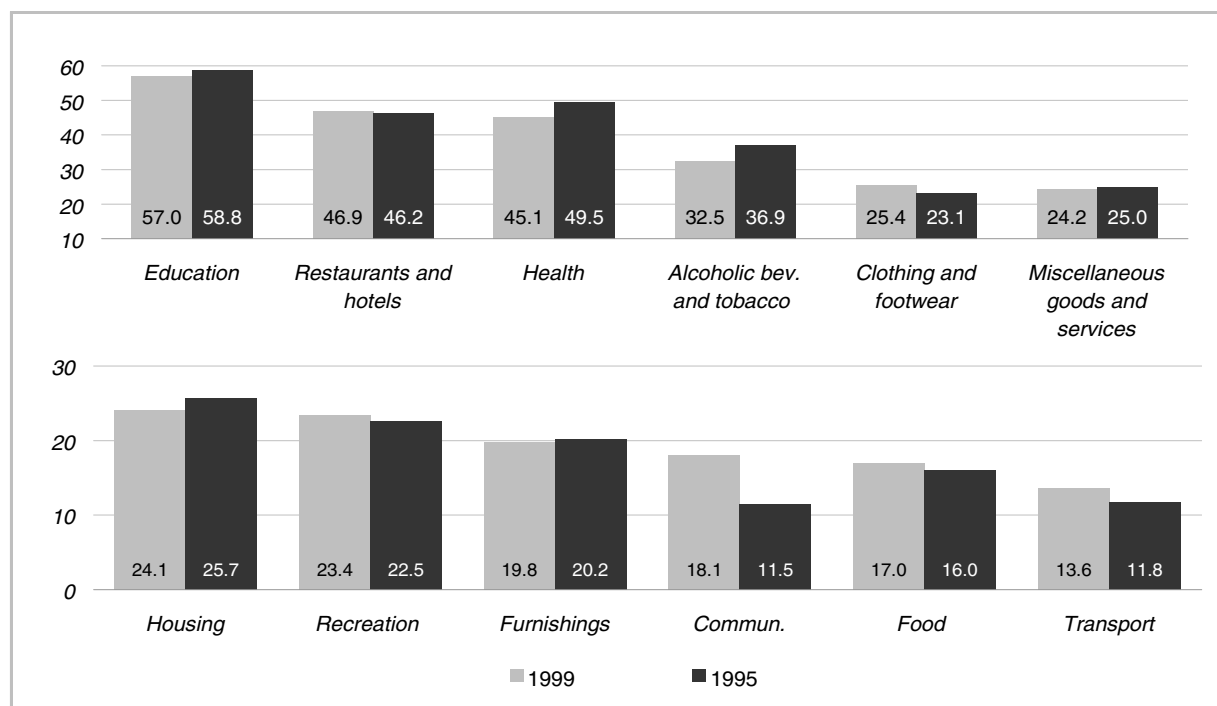


Fig. 4. Relative standard deviation among Member States



(1) In this case we have preferred the twelve-heading breakdown of COICOP, though this limits the reference period to 1995 to 1999.

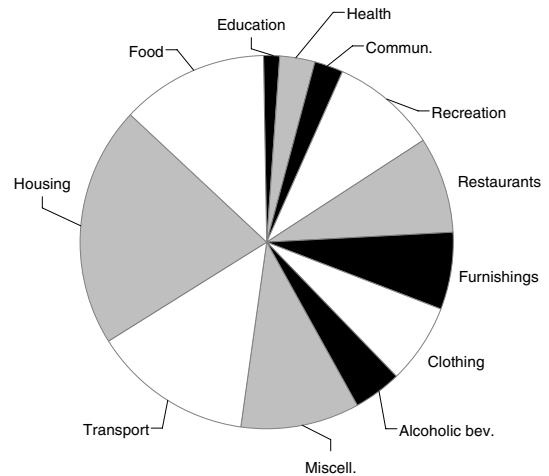
ANNEX

EUROPEAN UNION (EU15)

Structure (as a % of total consumption)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Food	14.2	14.0	13.6	13.3	12.9
Alcoholic bev.	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.4
Clothing	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.7	6.6
Housing	21.4	21.8	21.6	21.3	21.2
Furnishings	7.1	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0
Health	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3
Transport	13.5	13.6	13.8	13.9	14.1
Communications	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.3
Recreation	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.3	9.4
Education	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0
Restaurants	8.0	7.9	8.0	8.0	8.1
Miscellaneous	9.2	9.3	9.4	9.6	9.7
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100

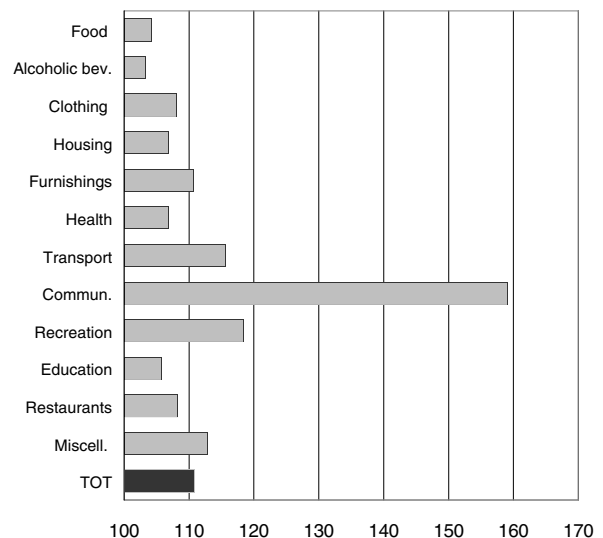
Consumption structure 1999 (as a % of total consumption)



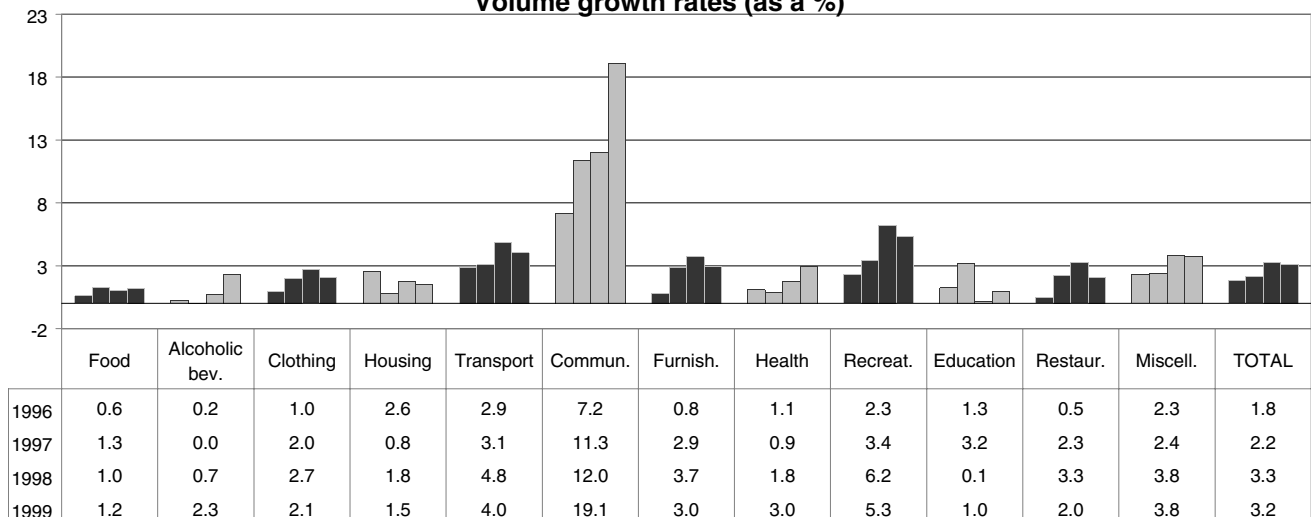
Volume index (1995 = 100)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Food	100	100.6	101.9	102.9	104.2
Alcoholic bev.	100	100.2	100.2	100.9	103.3
Clothing	100	101.0	103.0	105.8	108.1
Housing	100	102.6	103.3	105.2	106.8
Furnishings	100	100.8	103.7	107.6	110.8
Health	100	101.1	101.9	103.7	106.8
Transport	100	102.9	106.1	111.2	115.7
Communications	100	107.2	119.3	133.7	159.1
Recreation	100	102.3	105.8	112.4	118.4
Education	100	101.3	104.5	104.7	105.7
Restaurants	100	100.5	102.8	106.1	108.3
Miscellaneous	100	102.3	104.7	108.7	112.8
TOTAL	100	101.8	104.0	107.4	110.8

Volume index 1999 (1995=100)



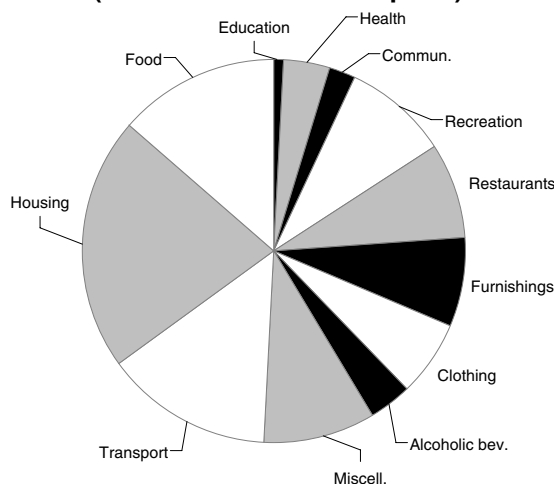
Volume growth rates (as a %)



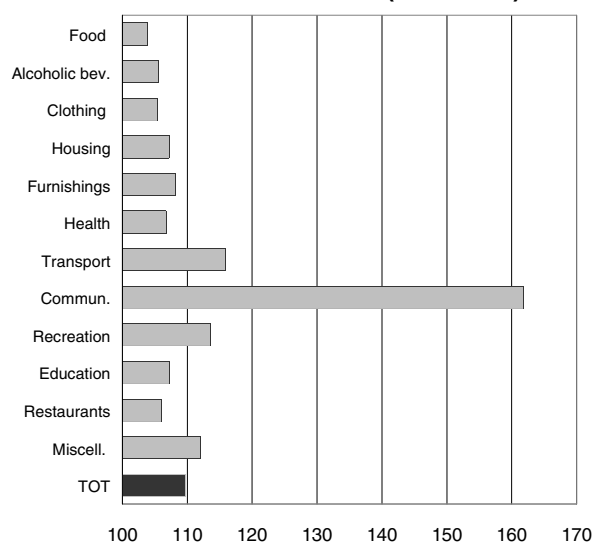
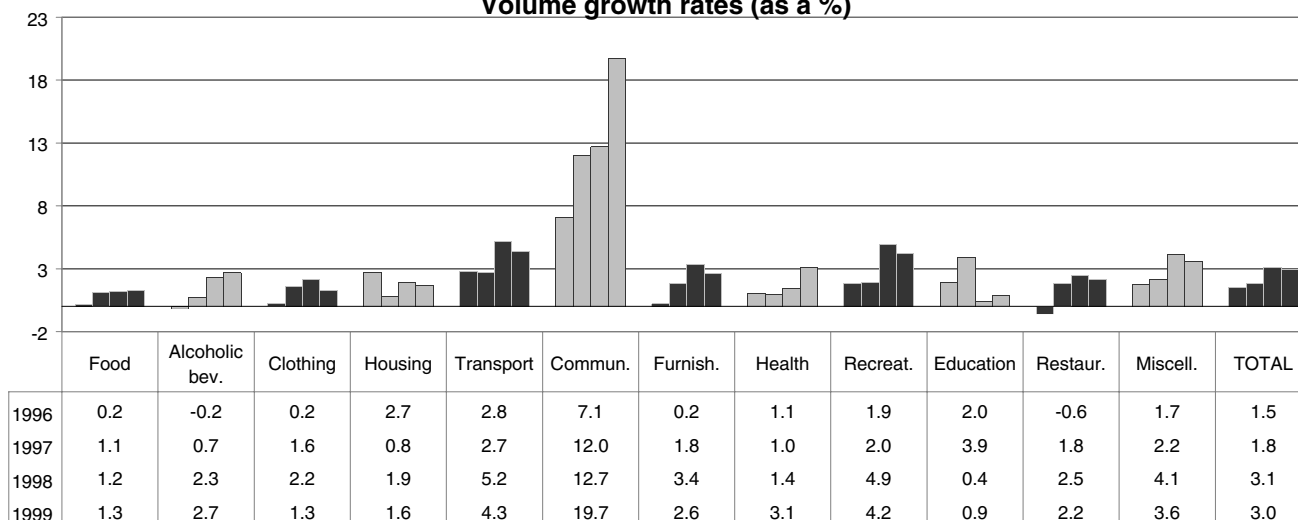
EUR

Structure (as a % of total consumption)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Food	14.6	14.4	14.2	13.9	13.6
Alcoholic bev.	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5
Clothing	7.1	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.7
Housing	21.5	21.9	21.9	21.7	21.6
Furnishings	7.5	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.3
Health	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.7
Transport	13.5	13.7	13.7	13.8	14.1
Communications	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.3	2.4
Recreation	8.8	8.7	8.7	8.8	8.8
Education	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Restaurants	8.1	8.0	8.1	8.1	8.2
Miscellaneous	8.9	8.9	8.9	9.1	9.2
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100

**Consumption structure 1999
(as a % of total consumption)****Volume index (1995 = 100)**

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Food	100	100.2	101.3	102.5	103.9
Alcoholic bev.	100	99.8	100.5	102.9	105.6
Clothing	100	100.2	101.8	104.1	105.4
Housing	100	102.7	103.5	105.5	107.2
Furnishings	100	100.2	102.0	105.5	108.2
Health	100	101.1	102.1	103.5	106.7
Transport	100	102.8	105.6	111.1	115.9
Communications	100	107.1	120.0	135.2	161.8
Recreation	100	101.9	103.8	108.9	113.5
Education	100	102.0	106.0	106.4	107.3
Restaurants	100	99.4	101.2	103.7	106.0
Miscellaneous	100	101.7	103.9	108.2	112.1
TOTAL	100	101.5	103.3	106.5	109.7

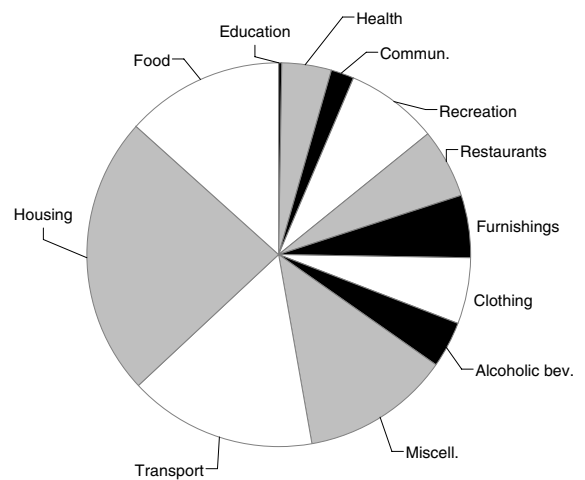
Volume index 1999 (1995=100)**Volume growth rates (as a %)**

BELGIUM

Structure (as a % of total consumption)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Food	14.5	14.2	14.1	13.9	13.2
Alcoholic bev.	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.9
Clothing	6.7	6.5	5.8	5.8	5.6
Housing	23.9	24.6	24.2	24.0	23.9
Furnishings	6.6	6.0	6.3	5.8	5.7
Health	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Transport	12.9	14.0	14.2	14.8	15.7
Communications	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	2.0
Recreation	8.4	8.1	8.0	8.0	7.9
Education	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Restaurants	5.9	5.5	5.7	5.6	5.7
Miscellaneous	11.5	11.2	11.6	12.0	12.0
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100

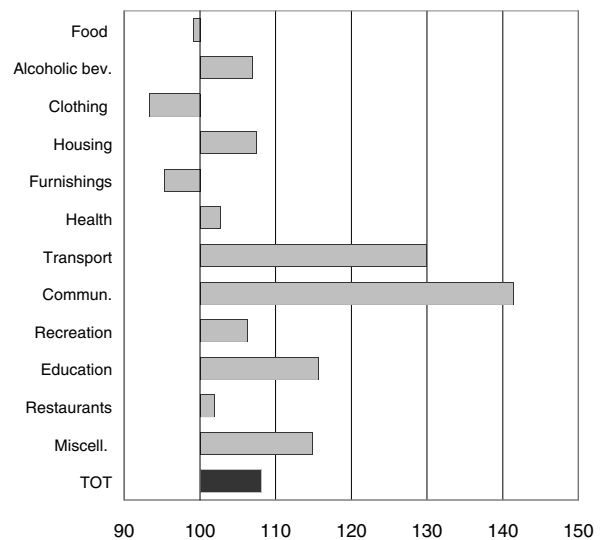
Consumption structure 1999 (as a % of total consumption)



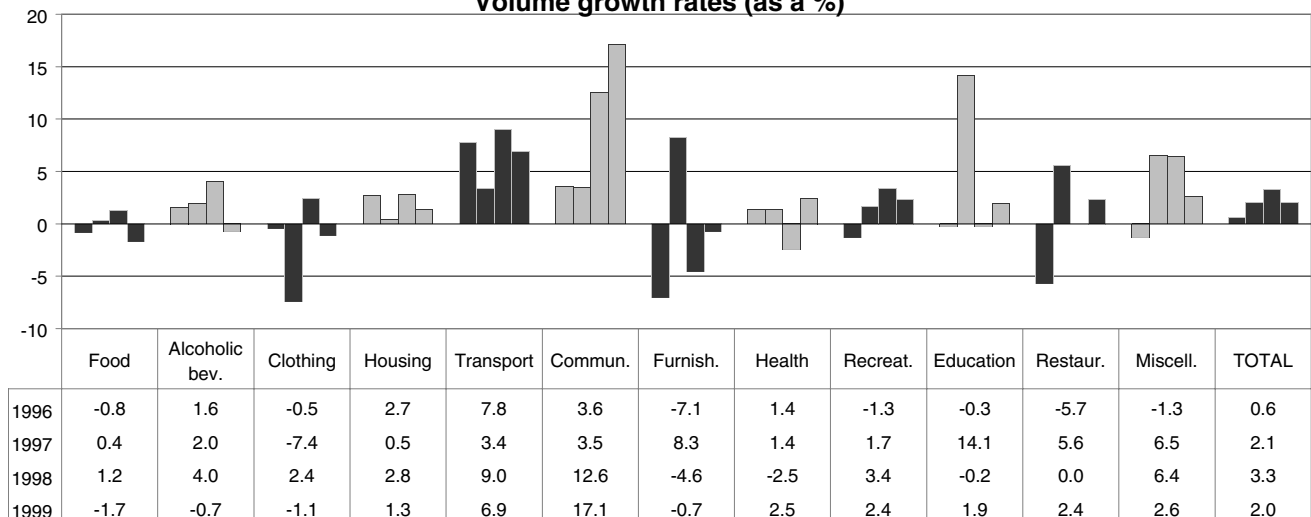
Volume index (1995 = 100)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Food	100	99.2	99.6	100.8	99.1
Alcoholic bev.	100	101.6	103.6	107.8	107.0
Clothing	100	99.5	92.2	94.4	93.3
Housing	100	102.7	103.2	106.1	107.5
Furnishings	100	92.9	100.6	96.1	95.4
Health	100	101.4	102.7	100.2	102.7
Transport	100	107.8	111.4	121.5	129.9
Communications	100	103.6	107.2	120.7	141.4
Recreation	100	98.7	100.4	103.8	106.3
Education	100	99.7	113.8	113.5	115.7
Restaurants	100	94.3	99.6	99.6	101.9
Miscellaneous	100	98.7	105.2	112.0	114.8
TOTAL	100	100.6	102.7	106.0	108.2

Volume index 1999 (1995=100)



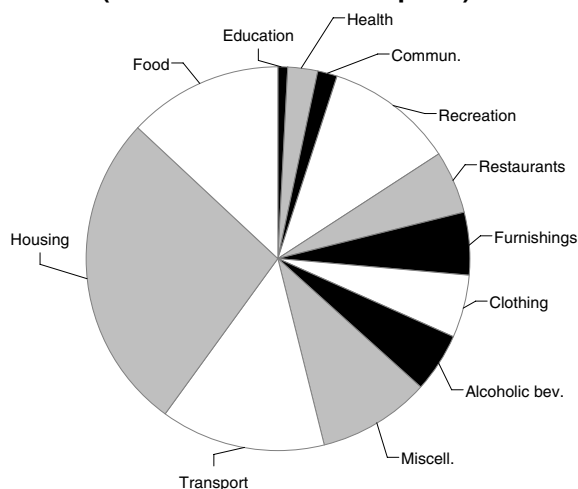
Volume growth rates (as a %)



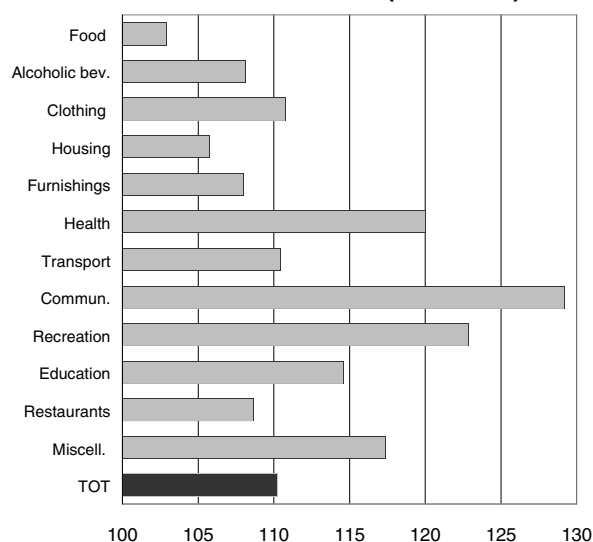
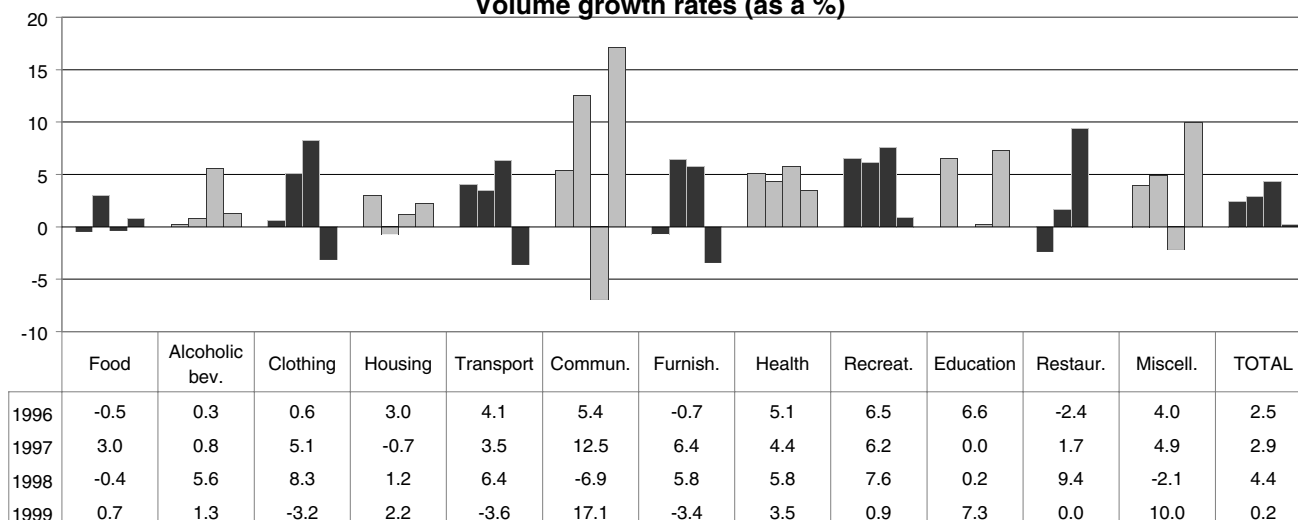
DENMARK

Structure (as a % of total consumption)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Food	14.0	13.5	13.4	13.3	13.0
Alcoholic bev.	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.9
Clothing	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.0
Housing	27.4	27.7	27.2	27.2	27.3
Furnishings	5.8	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.6
Health	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.5
Transport	13.5	13.8	13.9	14.1	13.8
Communications	1.7	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.8
Recreation	10.6	10.6	10.7	10.7	10.8
Education	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7
Restaurants	5.4	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.4
Miscellaneous	8.3	8.6	8.9	9.1	9.3
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100

**Consumption structure 1999
(as a % of total consumption)****Volume index (1995 = 100)**

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Food	100	99.5	102.5	102.2	102.9
Alcoholic bev.	100	100.3	101.1	106.8	108.1
Clothing	100	100.6	105.7	114.4	110.8
Housing	100	103.0	102.2	103.5	105.8
Furnishings	100	99.3	105.7	111.8	108.0
Health	100	105.1	109.7	116.0	120.0
Transport	100	104.1	107.7	114.6	110.4
Communications	100	105.4	118.6	110.3	129.2
Recreation	100	106.5	113.2	121.7	122.9
Education	100	106.6	106.6	106.8	114.6
Restaurants	100	97.6	99.3	108.6	108.6
Miscellaneous	100	104.0	109.1	106.8	117.4
TOTAL	100	102.5	105.4	110.0	110.2

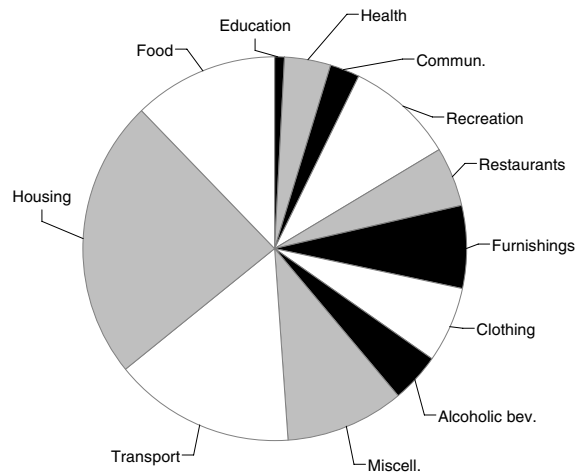
Volume index 1999 (1995=100)**Volume growth rates (as a %)**

GERMANY

Structure (as a % of total consumption)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Food	12.5	12.3	12.2	12.1	11.8
Alcoholic bev.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9
Clothing	7.1	6.9	6.8	6.6	6.5
Housing	23.4	24.2	24.5	24.3	24.3
Furnishings	7.6	7.5	7.3	7.3	7.2
Health	4.0	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.1
Transport	14.2	14.5	14.5	14.7	15.1
Communications	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.3
Recreation	9.4	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3
Education	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Restaurants	5.5	5.3	5.2	5.1	5.0
Miscellaneous	9.4	9.4	9.5	9.6	9.8
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100

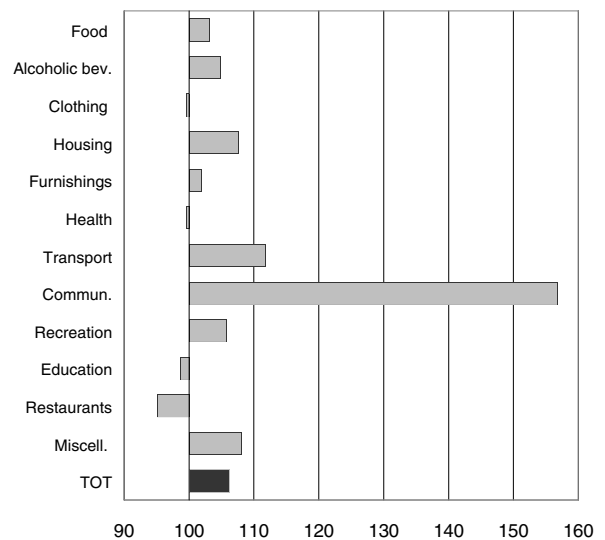
Consumption structure 1999 (as a % of total consumption)



Volume index (1995 = 100)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Food	100	100.0	100.2	101.7	103.2
Alcoholic bev.	100	100.3	100.6	102.0	104.8
Clothing	100	99.4	99.5	99.2	99.6
Housing	100	103.5	104.8	106.3	107.6
Furnishings	100	99.4	99.5	101.7	101.9
Health	100	97.5	97.5	96.7	99.6
Transport	100	102.5	103.9	108.1	111.7
Communications	100	101.3	116.2	129.8	156.8
Recreation	100	100.8	100.1	103.0	105.8
Education	100	100.4	102.2	98.8	98.7
Restaurants	100	97.1	96.3	96.0	95.1
Miscellaneous	100	100.4	101.2	103.4	108.0
TOTAL	100	101.0	101.8	103.8	106.3

Volume index 1999 (1995=100)



Volume growth rates (as a %)

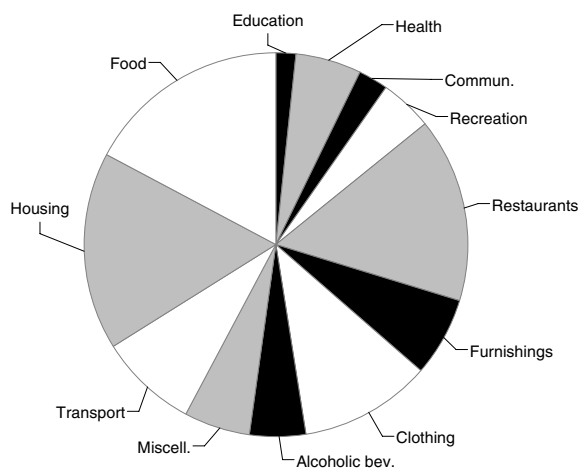
	Food	Alcoholic bev.	Clothing	Housing	Transport	Commun.	Furnish.	Health	Recreat.	Education	Restaur.	Miscell.	TOTAL
1996	0.0	0.3	-0.6	3.5	2.5	1.3	-0.6	-2.5	0.8	0.4	-2.9	0.4	1.0
1997	0.2	0.3	0.0	1.2	1.3	14.7	0.2	0.0	-0.7	1.8	-0.8	0.8	0.8
1998	1.5	1.5	-0.2	1.4	4.1	11.7	2.2	-0.9	2.9	-3.4	-0.3	2.2	2.0
1999	1.4	2.7	0.4	1.2	3.3	20.8	0.2	3.0	2.7	-0.1	-0.9	4.4	2.4

GREECE

Structure (as a % of total consumption)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Food	18.2	17.8	17.4	17.0	16.8
Alcoholic bev.	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.5
Clothing	10.9	11.1	10.9	10.9	11.0
Housing	17.6	17.9	17.5	17.4	17.2
Furnishings	6.6	6.5	6.3	6.4	6.4
Health	5.7	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.6
Transport	8.9	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.4
Communications	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.8	2.2
Recreation	4.5	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.7
Education	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.8
Restaurants	14.7	14.9	16.1	16.2	15.7
Miscellaneous	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.3	5.6
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100

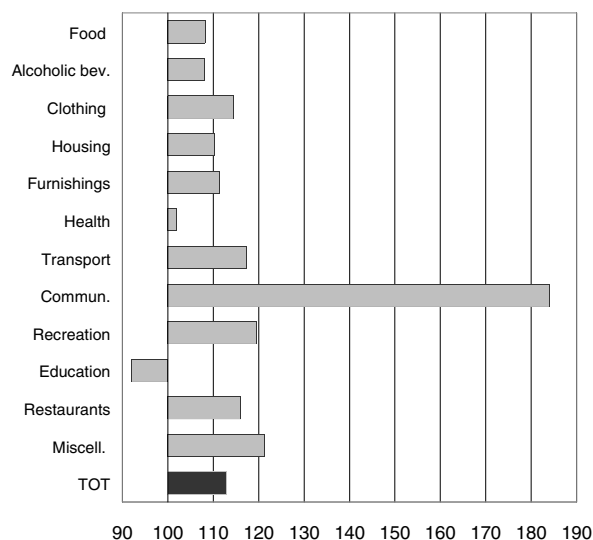
Consumption structure 1999 (as a % of total consumption)



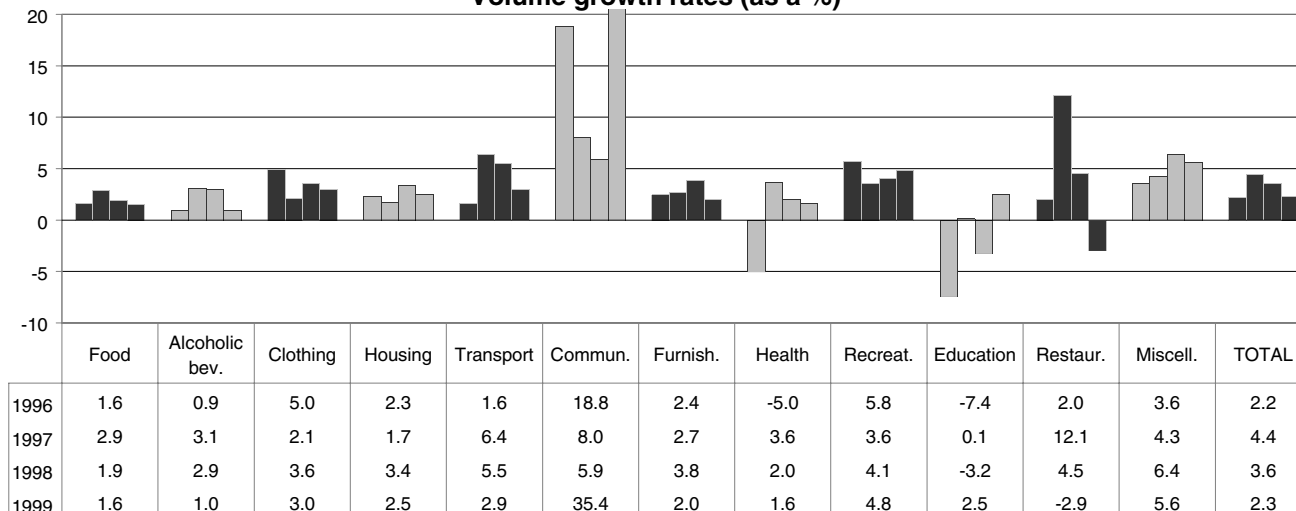
Volume index (1995 = 100)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Food	100	101.6	104.5	106.5	108.2
Alcoholic bev.	100	100.9	104.0	107.0	108.1
Clothing	100	105.0	107.2	111.1	114.4
Housing	100	102.3	104.1	107.6	110.3
Furnishings	100	102.4	105.2	109.2	111.4
Health	100	95.0	98.4	100.4	102.0
Transport	100	101.6	108.1	114.1	117.4
Communications	100	118.8	128.3	135.9	184.0
Recreation	100	105.8	109.6	114.0	119.6
Education	100	92.6	92.7	89.7	91.9
Restaurants	100	102.0	114.4	119.6	116.1
Miscellaneous	100	103.6	108.0	114.9	121.3
TOTAL	100	102.2	106.7	110.5	113.0

Volume index 1999 (1995=100)



Volume growth rates (as a %)

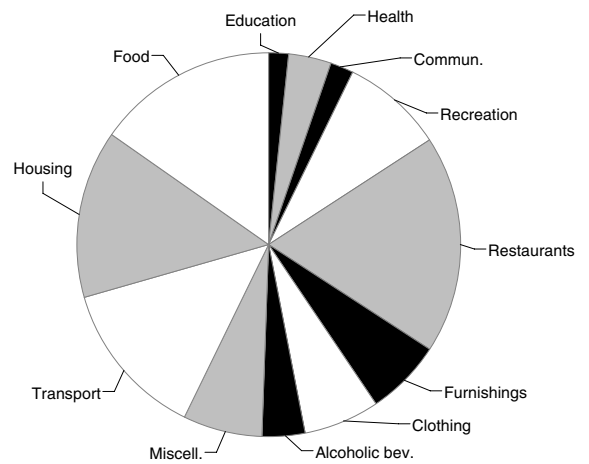


SPAIN

Structure (as a % of total consumption)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Food	17.7	17.4	16.7	15.8	15.3
Alcoholic bev.	2.7	2.7	3.0	3.2	3.4
Clothing	6.8	6.8	6.5	6.5	6.5
Housing	14.7	14.9	14.9	14.8	14.5
Furnishings	6.2	6.1	6.0	6.1	6.1
Health	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.4
Transport	11.6	11.9	12.6	12.8	13.4
Communications	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.1
Recreation	8.5	8.5	8.3	8.6	8.4
Education	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
Restaurants	18.9	18.6	18.7	18.6	18.6
Miscellaneous	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.5
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100

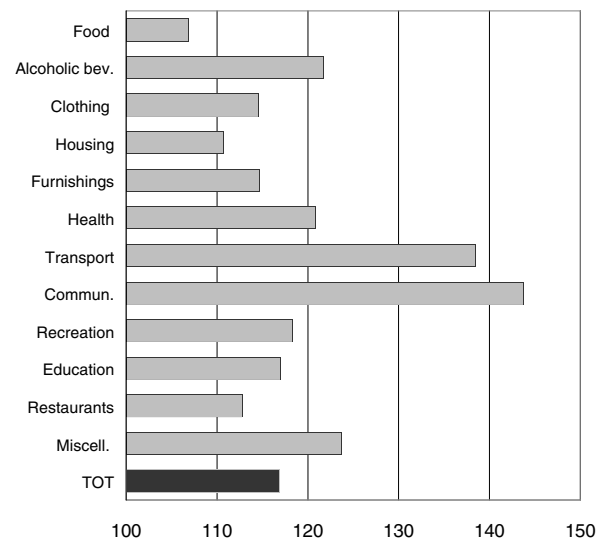
Consumption structure 1999 (as a % of total consumption)



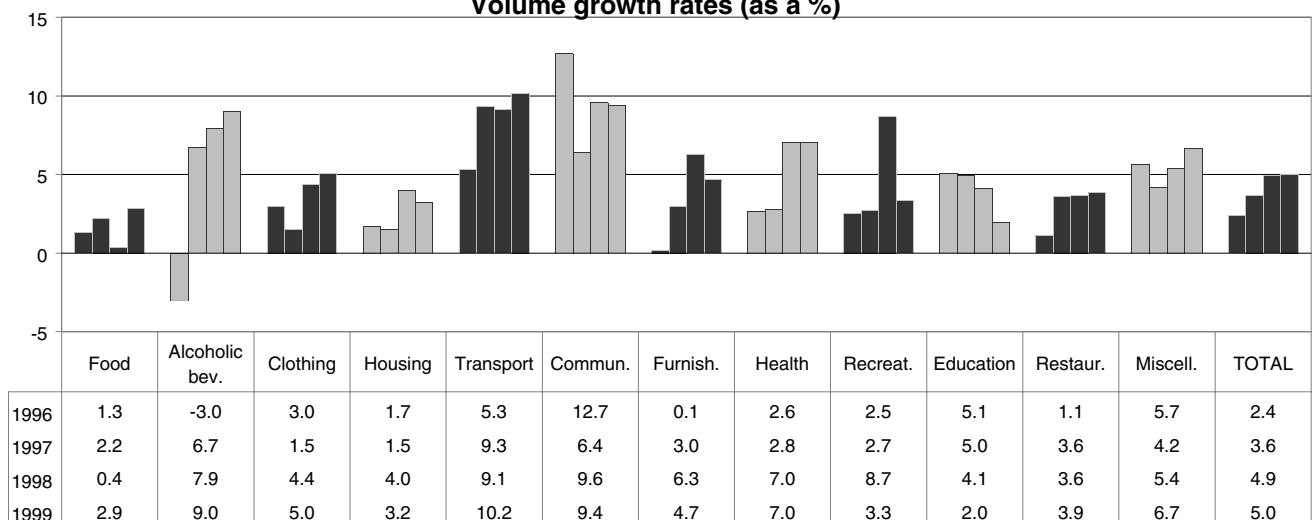
Volume index (1995 = 100)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Food	100	101.3	103.5	103.9	106.9
Alcoholic bev.	100	97.0	103.5	111.7	121.7
Clothing	100	103.0	104.5	109.1	114.6
Housing	100	101.7	103.2	107.3	110.7
Furnishings	100	100.1	103.1	109.6	114.7
Health	100	102.6	105.5	112.9	120.9
Transport	100	105.3	115.1	125.6	138.4
Communications	100	112.7	119.9	131.3	143.7
Recreation	100	102.5	105.3	114.4	118.3
Education	100	105.1	110.3	114.8	117.0
Restaurants	100	101.1	104.8	108.6	112.8
Miscellaneous	100	105.7	110.1	116.0	123.7
TOTAL	100	102.4	106.1	111.3	116.9

Volume index 1999 (1995=100)



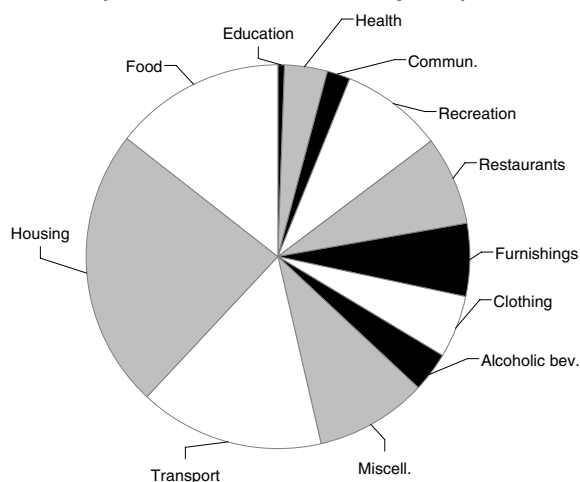
Volume growth rates (as a %)



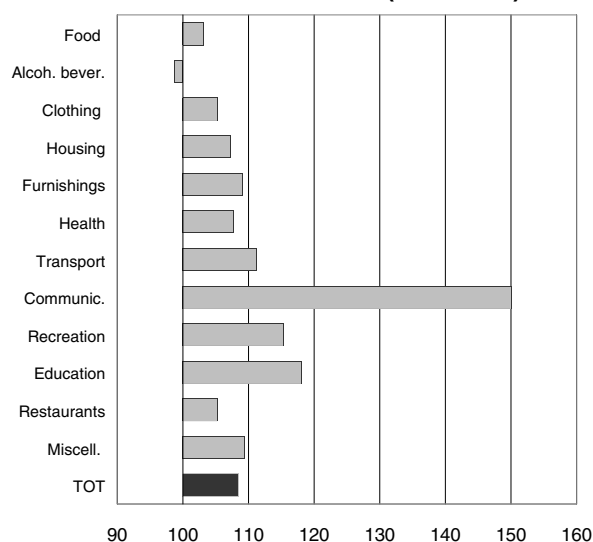
FRANCE

Structure (as a % of total consumption)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Food	15.1	14.7	14.8	14.6	14.4
Alcoholic bev.	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.4
Clothing	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.2
Housing	23.8	24.2	24.2	24.1	23.9
Furnishings	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.4
Health	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.6
Transport	14.6	14.9	14.3	14.5	15.0
Communications	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
Recreation	8.5	8.4	8.5	8.6	8.7
Education	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6
Restaurants	7.3	7.0	7.2	7.3	7.4
Miscellaneous	9.3	9.4	9.6	9.5	9.5
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100

**Consumption structure 1999
(as a % of total consumption)****Volume index (1995 = 100)**

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Food	100	100.0	100.9	101.9	103.1
Alcoholic bev.	100	99.6	97.6	99.9	98.8
Clothing	100	99.8	101.1	103.9	105.2
Housing	100	102.2	102.6	105.0	107.2
Furnishings	100	100.9	102.2	105.8	109.1
Health	100	101.5	102.0	105.2	107.6
Transport	100	102.5	99.3	105.7	111.2
Communications	100	106.1	111.1	120.9	150.0
Recreation	100	100.8	103.3	109.3	115.3
Education	100	100.4	113.4	116.5	118.0
Restaurants	100	97.1	98.8	102.5	105.2
Miscellaneous	100	102.6	103.7	107.1	109.4
TOTAL	100	101.2	101.6	105.2	108.4

Volume index 1999 (1995=100)**Volume growth rates (as a %)**

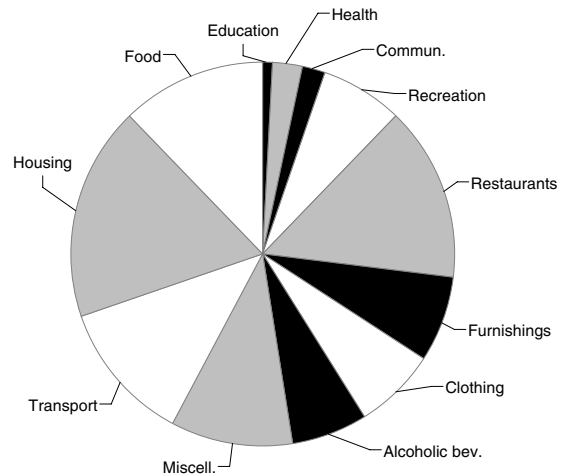
	Food	Alcoholic bev.	Clothing	Housing	Transport	Commun.	Furnish.	Health	Recreat.	Education	Restaur.	Miscell.	TOTAL
1996	0.0	-0.4	-0.2	2.2	2.5	6.1	0.9	1.5	0.8	0.4	-2.9	2.6	1.2
1997	0.9	-2.0	1.2	0.4	-3.1	4.7	1.3	0.5	2.4	12.9	1.7	1.1	0.4
1998	0.9	2.3	2.8	2.3	6.5	8.8	3.6	3.1	5.8	2.7	3.8	3.3	3.5
1999	1.3	-1.1	1.3	2.1	5.1	24.1	3.1	2.4	5.5	1.3	2.6	2.1	3.1

IRELAND

Structure (as a % of total consumption)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Food	15.7	15.2	13.8	13.0	12.0
Alcoholic bev.	6.6	6.3	6.2	6.0	6.2
Clothing	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.2	6.9
Housing	15.9	16.2	17.2	18.1	18.5
Furnishings	7.0	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.4
Health	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.6
Transport	11.4	11.8	12.1	12.1	12.0
Communications	1.8	2.0	2.1	1.9	2.0
Recreation	7.7	7.7	7.1	6.8	6.7
Education	1.3	1.3	1.0	0.8	0.8
Restaurants	14.6	14.5	15.3	15.3	15.1
Miscellaneous	7.9	7.7	8.1	9.1	9.8
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100

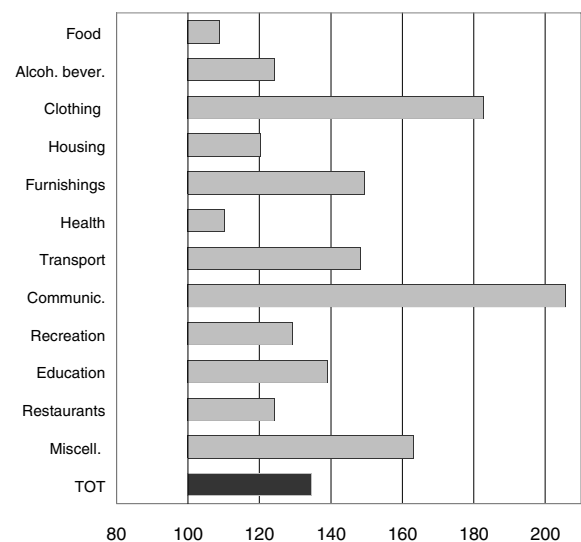
Consumption structure 1999 (as a % of total consumption)



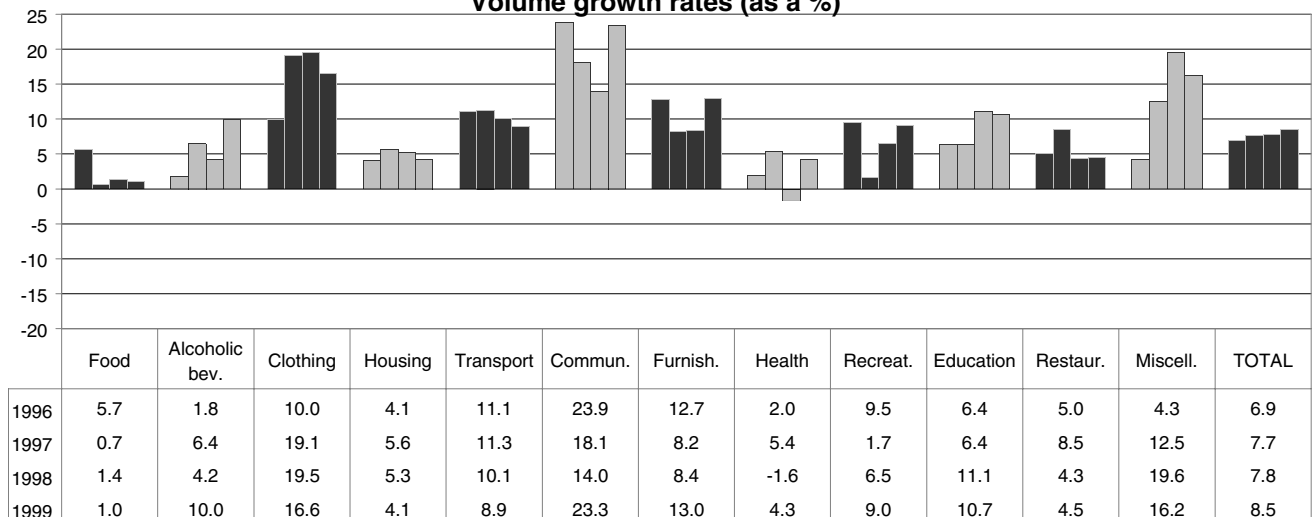
Volume index (1995 = 100)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Food	100	105.7	106.4	107.8	109.0
Alcoholic bev.	100	101.8	108.3	112.9	124.1
Clothing	100	110.0	131.0	156.6	182.5
Housing	100	104.1	109.9	115.7	120.4
Furnishings	100	112.7	122.0	132.2	149.4
Health	100	102.0	107.5	105.8	110.3
Transport	100	111.1	123.7	136.1	148.3
Communications	100	123.9	146.3	166.8	205.8
Recreation	100	109.5	111.4	118.6	129.3
Education	100	106.4	113.2	125.7	139.2
Restaurants	100	105.0	114.0	118.9	124.2
Miscellaneous	100	104.3	117.3	140.2	163.0
TOTAL	100	106.9	115.1	124.1	134.7

Volume index 1999 (1995=100)



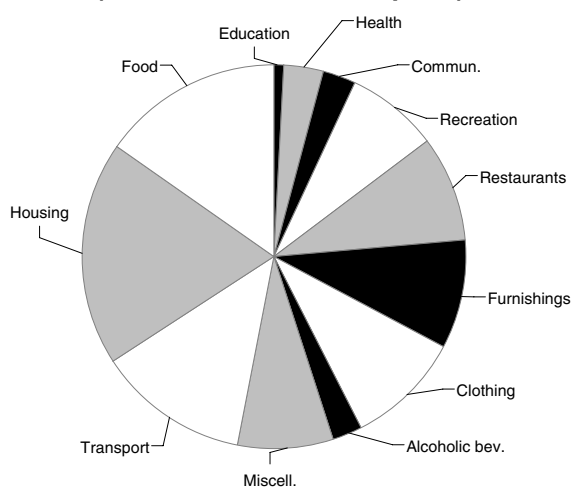
Volume growth rates (as a %)



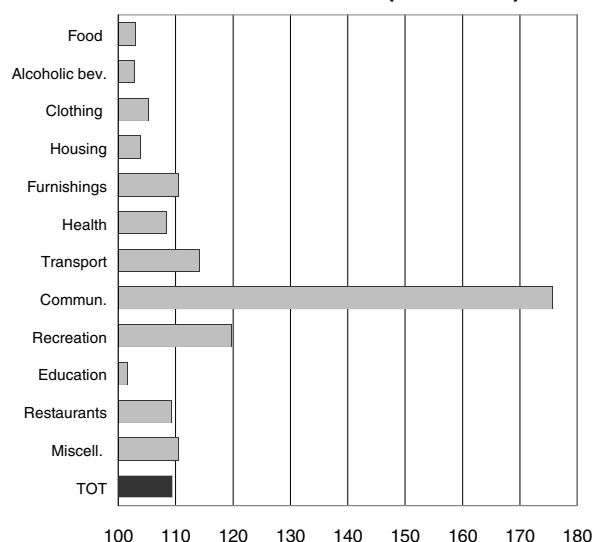
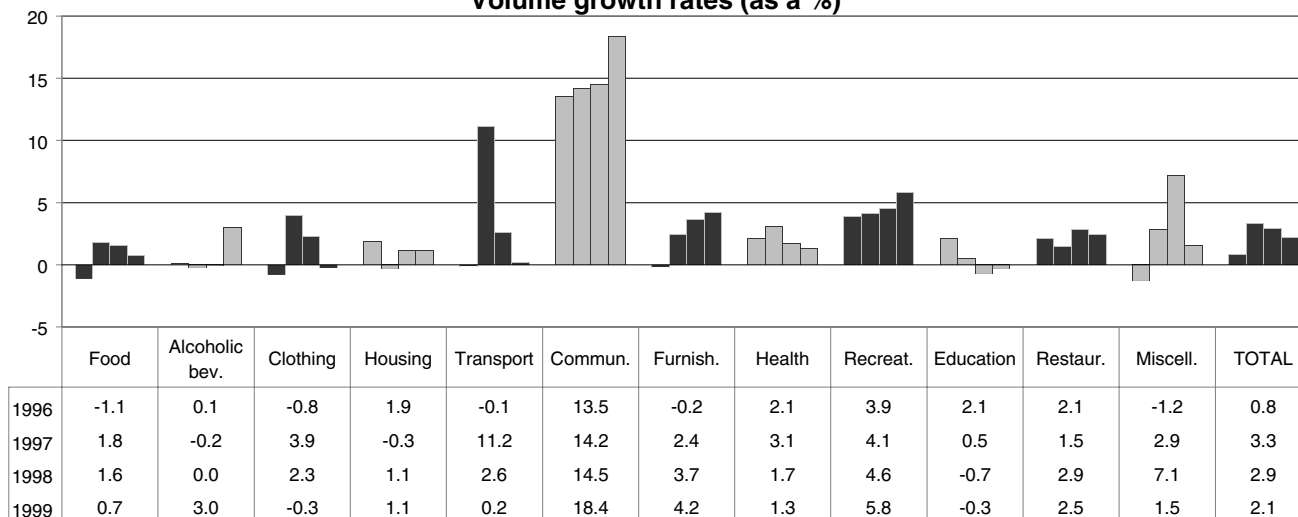
ITALY

Structure (as a % of total consumption)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Food	16.8	16.4	15.8	15.4	15.0
Alcoholic bev.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Clothing	9.6	9.4	9.5	9.5	9.3
Housing	19.4	19.9	19.6	19.4	19.5
Furnishings	9.6	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.5
Health	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.3
Transport	12.3	12.1	12.9	12.8	12.6
Communications	2.1	2.2	2.4	2.6	2.9
Recreation	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.5	7.7
Education	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Restaurants	8.7	8.8	8.7	8.8	8.9
Miscellaneous	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.9	7.9
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100

**Consumption structure 1999
(as a % of total consumption)****Volume index (1995 = 100)**

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Food	100	98.9	100.7	102.3	103.0
Alcoholic bev.	100	100.1	99.8	99.8	102.8
Clothing	100	99.2	103.1	105.5	105.2
Housing	100	101.9	101.6	102.7	103.9
Furnishings	100	99.8	102.2	106.0	110.5
Health	100	102.1	105.2	107.1	108.5
Transport	100	99.9	111.0	113.9	114.2
Communications	100	113.5	129.6	148.4	175.7
Recreation	100	103.9	108.2	113.1	119.7
Education	100	102.1	102.6	101.9	101.6
Restaurants	100	102.1	103.6	106.6	109.2
Miscellaneous	100	98.8	101.6	108.8	110.5
TOTAL	100	100.8	104.1	107.1	109.5

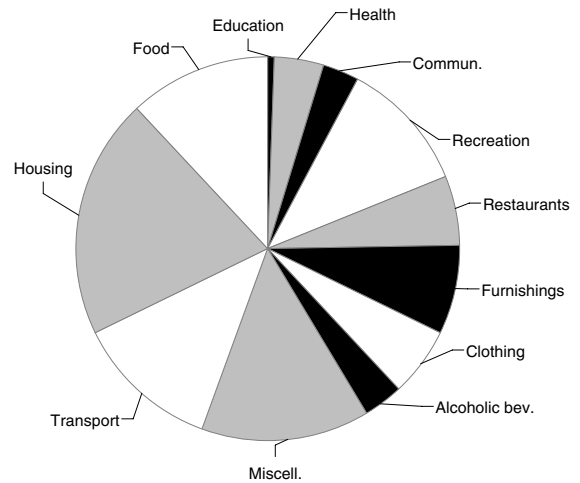
Volume index 1999 (1995=100)**Volume growth rates (as a %)**

NETHERLANDS

Structure (as a % of total consumption)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Food	13.0	12.6	12.4	12.1	11.6
Alcoholic bev.	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.2
Clothing	6.5	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.2
Housing	21.4	21.8	21.5	21.1	20.8
Furnishings	7.4	7.3	7.2	7.4	7.4
Health	3.5	4.1	4.0	3.8	4.0
Transport	12.2	12.0	12.0	12.1	12.4
Communications	2.1	2.4	2.6	3.0	3.2
Recreation	11.0	10.8	11.0	11.2	11.1
Education	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Restaurants	5.8	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.9
Miscellaneous	12.8	13.0	13.2	13.5	13.6
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100

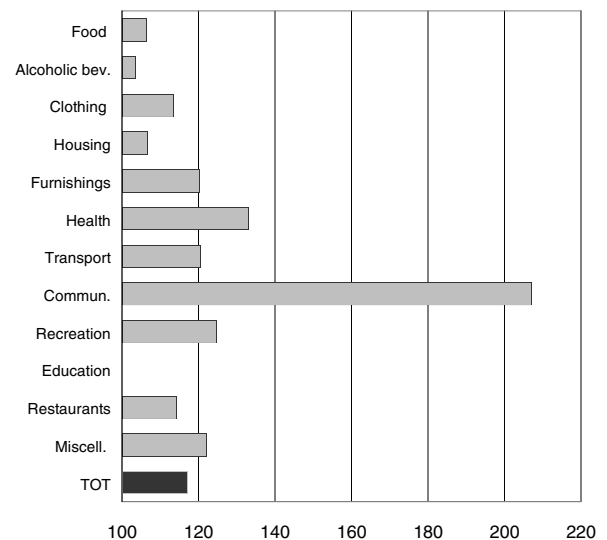
Consumption structure 1999 (as a % of total consumption)



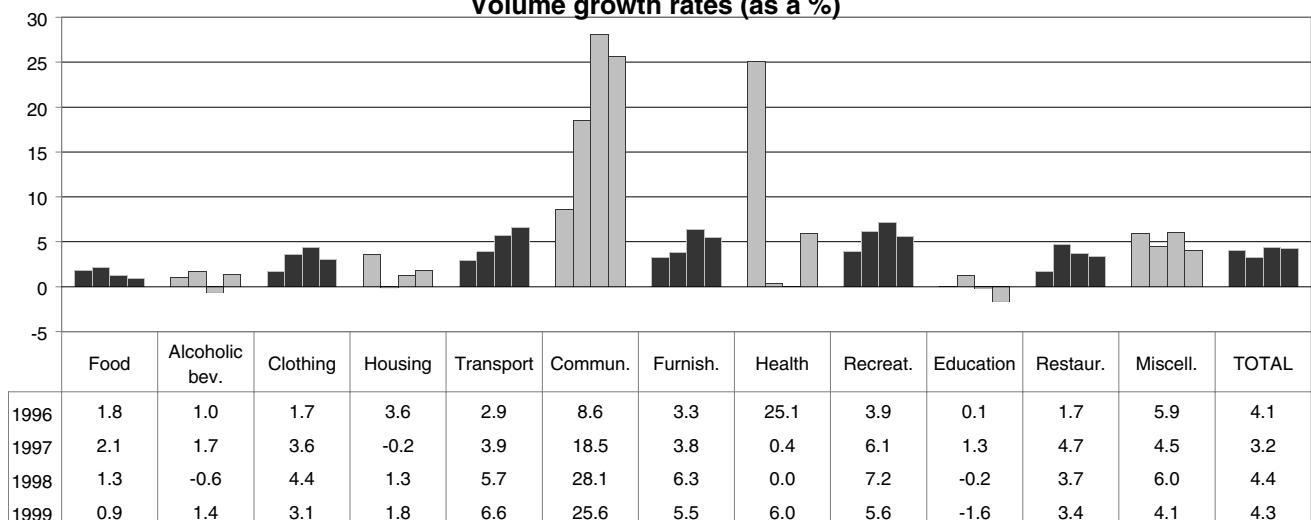
Volume index (1995 = 100)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Food	100	101.8	104.0	105.3	106.3
Alcoholic bev.	100	101.0	102.7	102.0	103.4
Clothing	100	101.7	105.4	110.0	113.4
Housing	100	103.6	103.4	104.8	106.7
Furnishings	100	103.3	107.2	114.0	120.2
Health	100	125.1	125.7	125.7	133.2
Transport	100	102.9	106.9	113.0	120.4
Communications	100	108.6	128.7	164.8	207.1
Recreation	100	103.9	110.3	118.2	124.8
Education	100	100.1	101.4	101.2	99.5
Restaurants	100	101.7	106.5	110.4	114.2
Miscellaneous	100	105.9	110.7	117.3	122.1
TOTAL	100	104.1	107.5	112.2	117.0

Volume index 1999 (1995=100)



Volume growth rates (as a %)

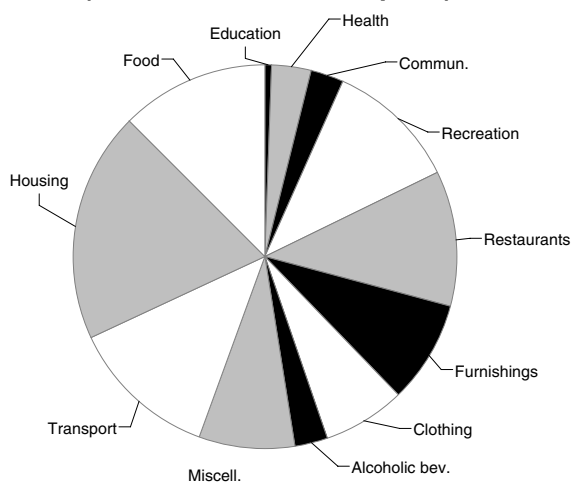


AUSTRIA

Structure (as a % of total consumption)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Food	13.4	13.1	13.0	12.8	12.4
Alcoholic bev.	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.8
Clothing	7.1	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.7
Housing	18.8	19.6	20.0	19.6	19.7
Furnishings	8.9	8.7	8.5	8.7	8.6
Health	3.2	3.3	3.1	3.2	3.2
Transport	12.6	12.9	12.6	12.4	12.7
Communications	2.0	2.1	2.5	2.6	2.8
Recreation	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.3	11.2
Education	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Restaurants	12.0	11.5	11.3	11.4	11.5
Miscellaneous	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.7
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100

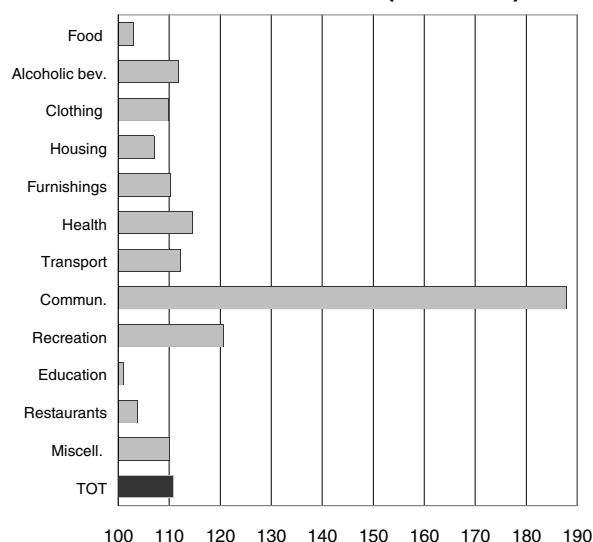
Consumption structure 1999 (as a % of total consumption)



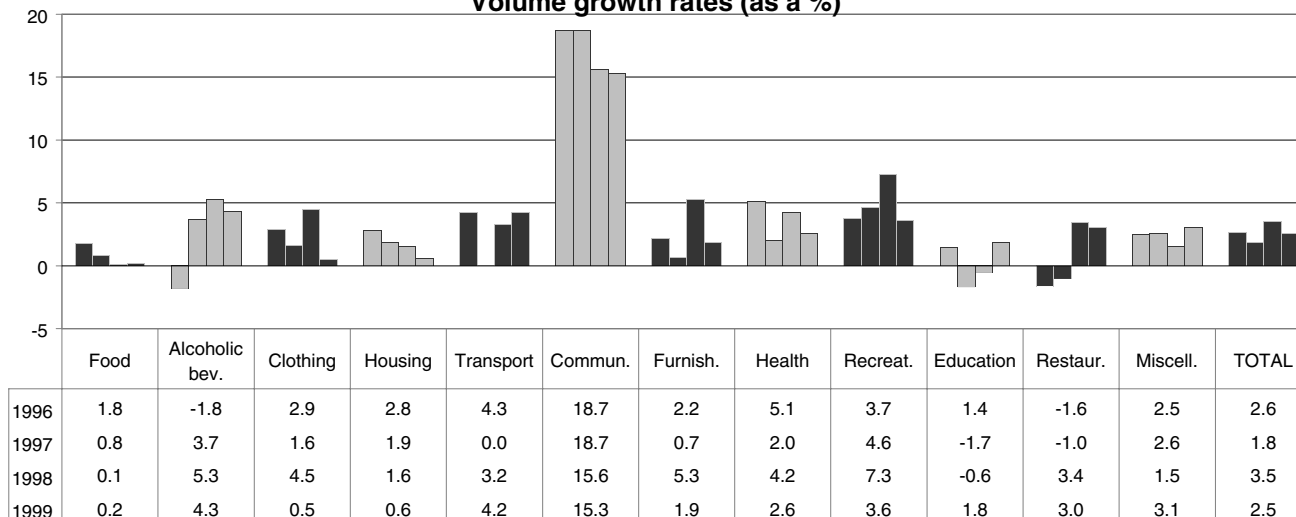
Volume index (1995 = 100)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Food	100	101.8	102.6	102.8	103.0
Alcoholic bev.	100	98.2	101.8	107.2	111.8
Clothing	100	102.9	104.6	109.3	109.8
Housing	100	102.8	104.7	106.4	107.0
Furnishings	100	102.2	102.9	108.3	110.3
Health	100	105.1	107.2	111.7	114.6
Transport	100	104.3	104.3	107.7	112.2
Communications	100	118.7	140.9	162.9	187.8
Recreation	100	103.7	108.5	116.4	120.7
Education	100	101.4	99.7	99.2	101.0
Restaurants	100	98.4	97.4	100.7	103.8
Miscellaneous	100	102.5	105.2	106.8	110.0
TOTAL	100	102.6	104.5	108.1	110.9

Volume index 1999 (1995=100)



Volume growth rates (as a %)

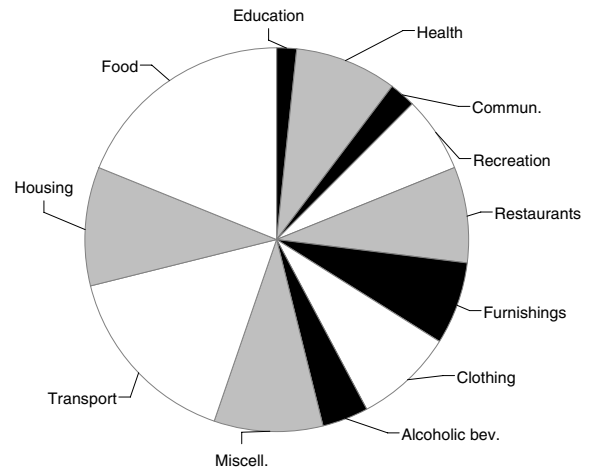


PORTUGAL

Structure (as a % of total consumption)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Food	20.7	20.3	19.6	19.3	19.1
Alcoholic bev.	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1
Clothing	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1
Housing	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.7
Furnishings	6.6	6.8	6.9	6.9	7.0
Health	9.4	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6
Transport	14.9	15.3	15.6	15.8	15.9
Communications	2.0	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.4
Recreation	5.5	5.8	6.0	6.2	6.3
Education	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8
Restaurants	8.8	8.6	8.7	8.7	8.7
Miscellaneous	7.9	8.6	8.9	9.0	9.1
TOTAL	101	101	101	102	102

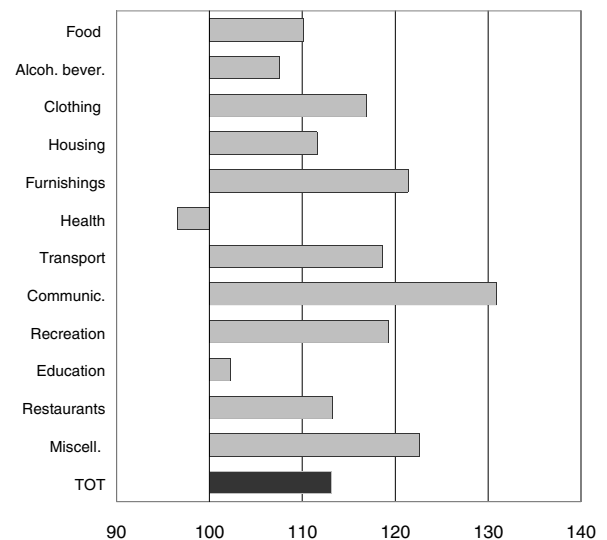
Consumption structure 1999 (as a % of total consumption)



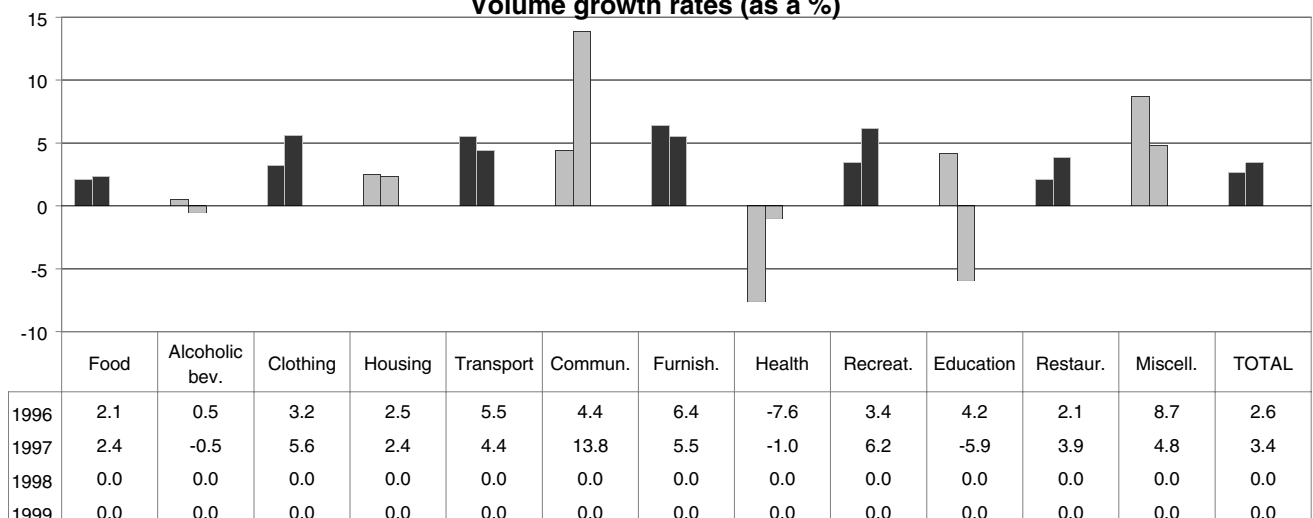
Volume index (1995 = 100)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Food	100	102.1	104.5	107.1	110.2
Alcoholic bev.	100	100.5	100.0	104.0	107.5
Clothing	100	103.2	109.0	111.7	116.9
Housing	100	102.5	104.9	108.0	111.6
Furnishings	100	106.4	112.3	115.8	121.4
Health	100	92.4	91.4	94.6	96.6
Transport	100	105.5	110.2	114.1	118.7
Communications	100	104.4	118.9	121.2	130.9
Recreation	100	103.4	109.8	113.3	119.2
Education	100	104.2	98.0	99.0	102.3
Restaurants	100	102.1	106.0	109.6	113.2
Miscellaneous	100	108.7	113.9	117.2	122.6
TOTAL	100	102.6	106.1	109.4	113.1

Volume index 1999 (1995=100)



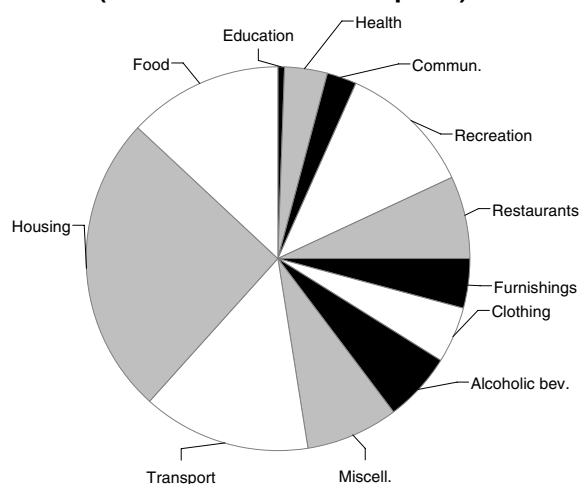
Volume growth rates (as a %)



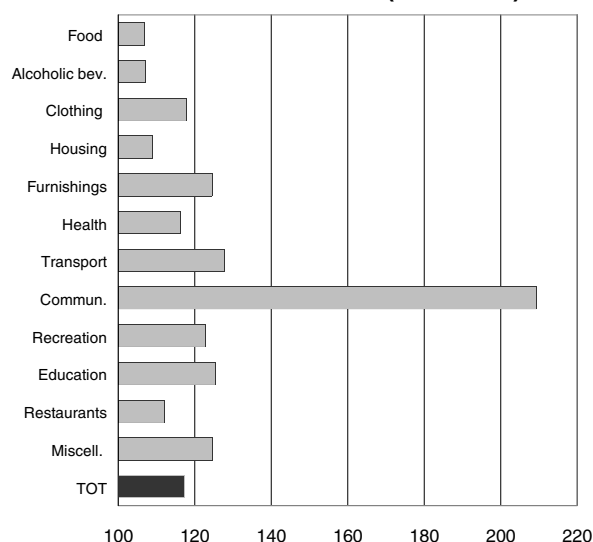
FINLAND

Structure (as a % of total consumption)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Food	14.8	14.0	13.7	13.3	13.0
Alcoholic bev.	6.1	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.7
Clothing	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.6
Housing	25.3	25.3	25.8	25.5	25.5
Furnishings	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.6
Health	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.5
Transport	12.8	13.3	13.3	13.7	14.0
Communications	1.9	2.1	2.4	2.6	2.7
Recreation	11.0	11.3	11.3	11.2	11.1
Education	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5
Restaurants	7.2	7.1	7.3	7.1	7.1
Miscellaneous	7.6	8.0	7.1	7.9	7.6
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100

**Consumption structure 1999
(as a % of total consumption)****Volume index (1995 = 100)**

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Food	100	101.2	102.6	104.6	106.8
Alcoholic bev.	100	96.4	100.2	103.3	107.0
Clothing	100	103.5	107.6	114.3	117.9
Housing	100	101.7	104.1	106.7	108.9
Furnishings	100	105.1	111.9	120.2	124.6
Health	100	104.2	107.3	109.6	116.3
Transport	100	106.6	111.1	121.6	127.9
Communications	100	118.9	149.1	182.8	209.3
Recreation	100	107.6	112.3	118.5	122.8
Education	100	105.0	126.2	126.1	125.6
Restaurants	100	103.7	109.6	109.7	112.1
Miscellaneous	100	110.7	111.8	122.5	124.7
TOTAL	100	104.1	108.0	113.4	117.3

Volume index 1999 (1995=100)**Volume growth rates (as a %)**

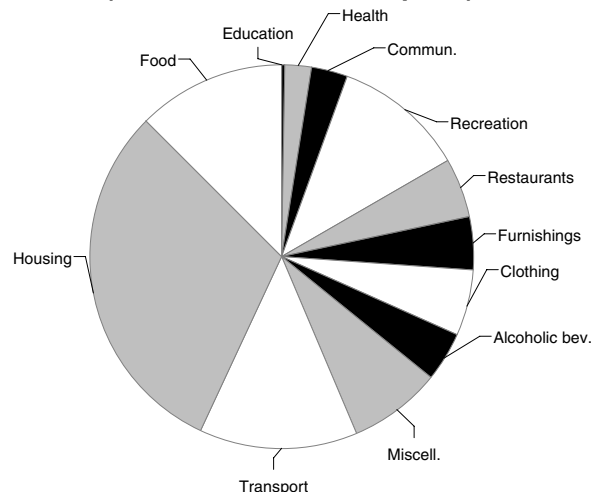
	Food	Alcoholic bev.	Clothing	Housing	Transport	Commun.	Furnish.	Health	Recreat.	Education	Restaur.	Miscell.	TOTAL
1996	1.2	-3.6	3.5	1.7	6.6	18.9	5.1	4.2	7.6	5.0	3.7	10.7	4.1
1997	1.4	3.9	4.0	2.3	4.3	25.4	6.4	3.0	4.4	20.2	5.7	1.0	3.8
1998	2.0	3.1	6.2	2.6	9.5	22.6	7.5	2.1	5.5	-0.1	0.0	9.5	5.0
1999	2.1	3.6	3.1	2.1	5.2	14.5	3.6	6.1	3.7	-0.5	2.2	1.8	3.4

SWEDEN

Structure (as a % of total consumption)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Food	14.4	13.4	13.2	12.9	12.6
Alcoholic bev.	4.6	4.4	4.2	4.0	4.1
Clothing	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.4
Housing	32.5	33.3	32.9	32.1	30.6
Furnishings	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.8
Health	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.4
Transport	12.1	12.2	12.4	12.4	13.2
Communications	2.3	2.6	2.7	2.9	3.0
Recreation	10.2	10.2	10.4	10.7	11.0
Education	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Restaurants	4.6	4.8	4.8	5.0	5.1
Miscellaneous	6.9	7.0	7.2	7.4	7.5
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100

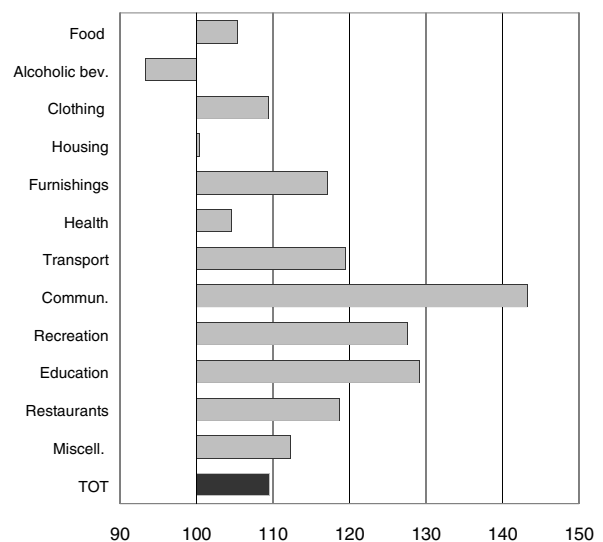
Consumption structure 1999 (as a % of total consumption)



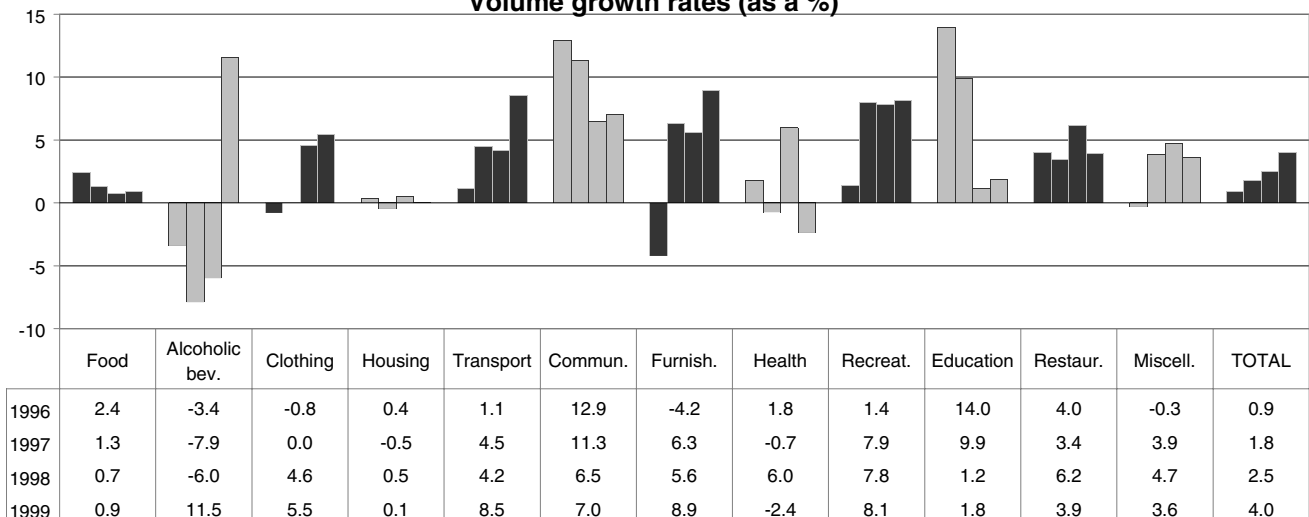
Volume index (1995 = 100)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Food	100	102.4	103.7	104.5	105.4
Alcoholic bev.	100	96.6	89.0	83.7	93.3
Clothing	100	99.2	99.2	103.8	109.5
Housing	100	100.4	99.9	100.4	100.4
Furnishings	100	95.8	101.9	107.6	117.2
Health	100	101.8	101.1	107.1	104.6
Transport	100	101.1	105.7	110.1	119.5
Communications	100	112.9	125.7	133.8	143.3
Recreation	100	101.4	109.4	118.0	127.6
Education	100	114.0	125.3	126.8	129.1
Restaurants	100	104.0	107.6	114.2	118.7
Miscellaneous	100	99.7	103.6	108.4	112.3
TOTAL	100	100.9	102.7	105.3	109.5

Volume index 1999 (1995=100)



Volume growth rates (as a %)

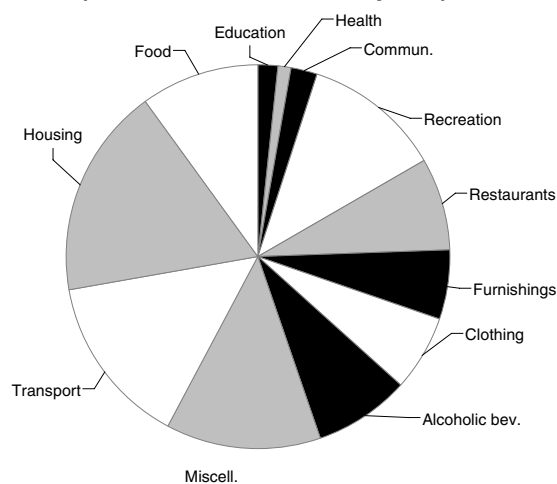


UNITED KINGDOM

Structure (as a % of total consumption)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Food	11.2	11.2	10.7	10.1	9.7
Alcoholic bev.	8.5	8.5	8.2	7.9	7.9
Clothing	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.1
Housing	19.0	18.7	18.4	18.1	18.1
Furnishings	5.9	6.0	6.2	6.2	6.2
Health	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2
Transport	14.2	14.3	14.9	14.7	14.4
Communications	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.2
Recreation	10.3	10.3	10.7	11.3	11.6
Education	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.5
Restaurants	7.1	7.3	7.3	7.5	7.5
Miscellaneous	12.1	12.3	12.3	12.6	12.6
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	99

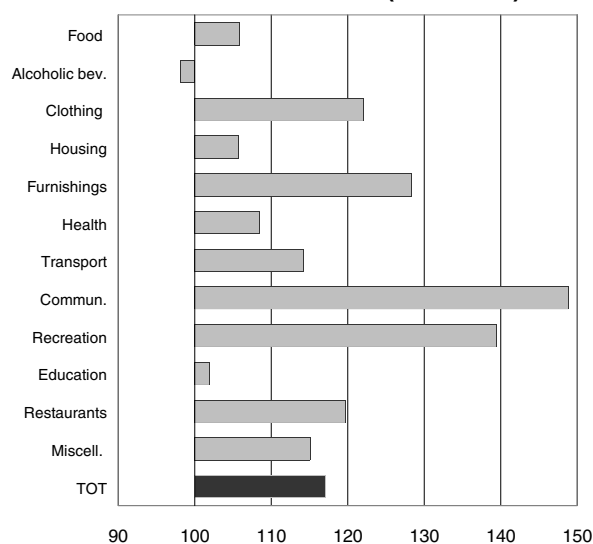
Consumption structure 1999 (as a % of total consumption)



Volume index (1995 = 100)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Food	100	103.4	105.1	104.8	105.8
Alcoholic bev.	100	101.5	100.2	97.4	98.2
Clothing	100	104.9	109.4	114.7	122.1
Housing	100	102.1	103.2	104.7	105.8
Furnishings	100	105.9	115.7	122.0	128.4
Health	100	103.8	100.6	105.3	108.5
Transport	100	103.6	108.2	111.1	114.2
Communications	100	105.6	114.0	128.0	148.8
Recreation	100	103.8	113.4	126.7	139.5
Education	100	100.1	101.5	101.4	102.0
Restaurants	100	106.9	109.4	116.7	119.8
Miscellaneous	100	104.7	107.6	110.7	115.1
TOTAL	100	103.7	107.8	112.1	117.1

Volume index 1999 (1995=100)



Volume growth rates (as a %)

