

Consumer price levels in 2019

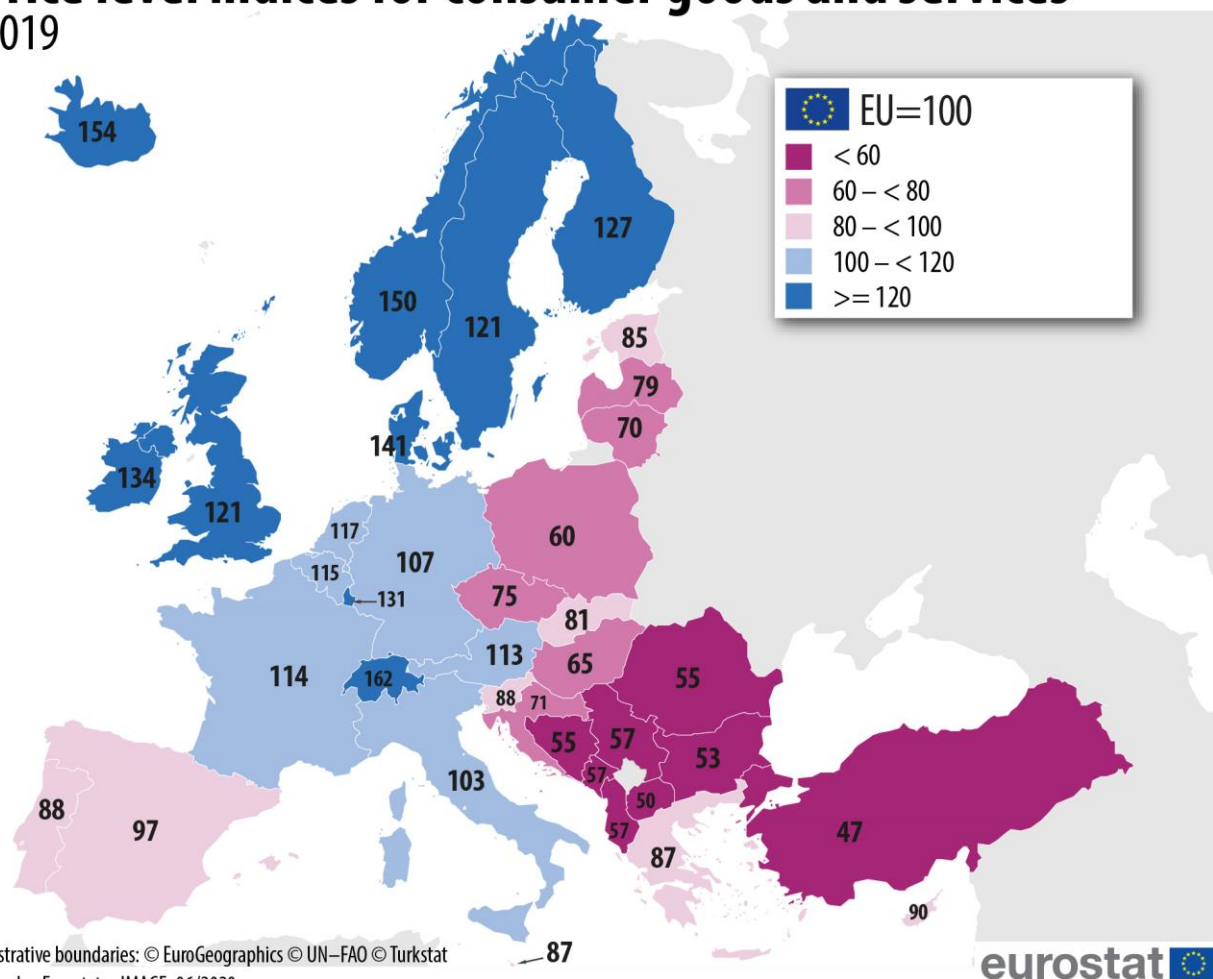
Price levels varied by almost one to three across the EU Member States

Widest gap for restaurants & hotels and for alcohol & tobacco

In 2019, the year before COVID-19 containment measures began to be widely introduced by Member States, price levels for consumer goods and services differed widely in the **European Union of 27 Member States (EU)**. **Denmark** (141% of the EU average) had the highest price level, followed by **Ireland** (134%), **Luxembourg** (131%), **Finland** (127%) and **Sweden** (121%).

At the opposite end of the scale, the lowest price levels were found in **Bulgaria** (53%) and **Romania** (55%). In other words, price levels for consumer goods and services in the EU varied by almost one to three between the cheapest and the most expensive Member State.

Price level indices for consumer goods and services 2019



These data on consumer price levels in 2019 come from an [article](#) published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.

Food price levels highest in Denmark, lowest in Romania

In 2019, the price level of a comparable basket of food & non-alcoholic beverages across the EU was almost twice as high in the most expensive Member State as in the cheapest one. Price levels ranged from 66% of the EU average in **Romania** and 70% in **Poland**, to 129% of the average in **Denmark**, followed by **Luxembourg** and **Austria** (both 124%), **Finland** (119%), **Ireland** (116%), **France** (115%), **Sweden** (114%), **Malta** (113%) and **Belgium** (112%).

Alcohol & tobacco most expensive in Ireland

Price levels for alcoholic beverages & tobacco showed significant variations between the EU Member States. The lowest price level in 2019 was registered in **Bulgaria** (62% of the average), ahead of **Poland** (74%), **Hungary** and **Romania** (both 75%). At the opposite end of the scale, the highest prices were observed in **Ireland** (188%), followed at a distance by **Finland** (157%), **Sweden** (131%), **France** (126%) and **Denmark** (119%). It should be noted that this large price variation is mainly due to differences in taxation of these products among Member States.

Restaurants & hotels more than 3 times more expensive in Denmark than in Bulgaria

Restaurants & hotels is another category where large differences in price levels were observed. Price levels ranged from 60% or less of the EU average in **Bulgaria** (45%) and **Romania** (54%) to 156% in **Denmark**.

Smaller disparities for consumer electronics, personal transport equipment and clothes

Consumer electronics is a group of products where prices differed less among Member States, ranging from 91% of the average in **Poland** to 111% in **France**.

Clothing is another group of products showing a smaller price disparity among Member States, with **Bulgaria** (79% of the average) cheapest and **Denmark** (132%) most expensive, followed at a distance by **Sweden** (118%) and **Finland** (115%).

With the noticeable exception of **Denmark** (138% of the average) and the **Netherlands** (121%), price differences among Member States were also limited for personal transport equipment, from 82% in **Slovakia** to 114% in **Ireland**.

EU Member States with highest and lowest price level indices for selected consumer goods and services, 2019

	Rank	Food & non-alcoholic beverages	Rank	Alcoholic beverages & tobacco	Rank	Clothing
Highest price levels	1	Denmark	1	Ireland	1	Denmark
	2	Luxembourg	2	Finland	2	Sweden
		Austria	3	Sweden	3	Finland
	3	Finland				
Lowest price levels	25	Bulgaria	25	Hungary	25	Romania
	26	Poland		Romania	26	Hungary
	27	Romania	26	Poland	27	Bulgaria
			27	Bulgaria		
	Rank	Consumer electronics	Rank	Personal transport	Rank	Restaurants & hotels
Highest price levels	1	France	1	Denmark	1	Denmark
	2	Malta	2	Netherlands	2	Finland
		Portugal	3	Ireland		Sweden
	3	Sweden			3	Ireland
Lowest price levels	25	Czechia	25	Cyprus	25	Hungary
	26	Bulgaria	26	Poland	26	Romania
	27	Poland	27	Slovakia	27	Bulgaria

Geographical information

The **European Union (EU27)** includes Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland and Sweden.

The United Kingdom left the European Union on 31 January 2020. Information on dissemination of European statistics from 1 February 2020 is published on the [Eurostat website](#).

Methods and definitions

Data presented in this news release are based on the results of a price survey covering more than 2 000 consumer goods and services across Europe, which is part of the Eurostat-OECD Purchasing Power Parity program. **Price level indices (PLIs)** provide a comparison of countries' price levels relative to the European Union average: if the price level index is higher than 100, the country concerned is relatively more expensive than the EU average, while if the price level index is lower than 100, then the country is relatively cheaper than the EU average.

The overall price levels included in this News Release relate to the concept of household final consumption expenditure (HFCE), which consists of all expenditure incurred by households on goods and services for consumption, including also rents for housing. HFCE does not include expenditure on goods or services that are consumed by households but incurred by government or non-profit institutions, for instance, government education services or healthcare. Furthermore, the HFCE does not include purchase of housing. The following subcategories are shown in this News Release:

Subcategories	Include
Food & non-alcoholic beverages	Bread and cereals, meat, fish, milk, cheese, eggs, oils and fats, fruits, vegetables, potatoes, other food, non-alcoholic beverages.
Alcoholic beverages & tobacco	E.g. spirits, wine, beer, tobacco.
Clothing	Clothing materials, men's, women's, children's and infant's clothing, other articles of clothing and clothing accessories. Excludes cleaning, repair and hire of clothing.
Consumer electronics	E.g. televisions, DVD players, receivers, audio systems, MP3 players, cameras, desktop and laptop computers, monitors, printers, scanners, software, music CDs, movie DVDs, empty CDs and DVDs. Excludes repair of such equipment.
Personal transport equipment	Motor cars, motor cycles and bicycles and excludes maintenance and repair of personal transport equipment, spare parts and fuel.
Restaurants & hotels	E.g. restaurants, cafés, pubs, bars, canteens, hotels, youth hostels.

The subcategories shown in the News Release comprise only a part of total HFCE, and therefore the total price level index for a Member State is not the aggregation of these six subcategories.

For more information

Eurostat [website section](#) dedicated to purchasing power parities

Eurostat [database](#) on purchasing power parities

Eurostat [metadata](#) on purchasing power parities

Eurostat [Statistics Explained article](#) on comparative price levels of consumer goods and services

Eurostat [visualisation tool](#) on comparative price levels in the EU

Eurostat News Release [98/2020](#) of 18 June 2020 on first estimates of purchasing power parities for 2019

European Statistics [Code of Practice](#)

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Price level indices for consumer goods and services in 2019 (EU*=100)

	Total	Food & non-alcoholic beverages	Alcoholic beverages & tobacco	Clothing	Personal transport equipment	Consumer electronics	Restaurants & hotels
EU*	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Belgium	115	112	112	104	101	105	122
Bulgaria	53	78	62	79	87	92	45
Czechia	75	84	79	98	86	93	64
Denmark	141	129	119	132	138	106	156
Germany	107	101	101	99	100	98	104
Estonia	85	96	99	110	86	99	95
Ireland	134	116	188	104	114	102	128
Greece	87	104	101	96	92	105	88
Spain	97	94	89	89	96	101	91
France	114	115	126	106	102	111	123
Croatia	71	96	83	93	93	106	82
Italy	103	109	101	100	102	94	103
Cyprus	90	106	94	96	85	107	94
Latvia	79	94	92	104	89	101	87
Lithuania	70	82	83	102	88	97	70
Luxembourg	131	124	96	109	97	108	123
Hungary	65	85	75	81	85	98	62
Malta	87	113	105	103	101	110	88
Netherlands	117	102	112	105	121	104	108
Austria	113	124	100	103	104	96	111
Poland	60	70	74	93	84	91	76
Portugal	88	97	98	99	108	109	73
Romania	55	66	75	82	86	97	54
Slovenia	88	96	82	100	88	102	85
Slovakia	81	96	81	102	82	97	83
Finland	127	119	157	115	106	104	133
Sweden	121	114	131	118	91	109	133
United Kingdom	121	94	170	88	96	95	105
Iceland	154	140	213	136	121	134	176
Norway	150	157	236	123	131	112	167
Switzerland	162	163	131	127	103	100	166
Montenegro	57	79	74	88	85	102	57
North Macedonia	50	61	48	76	90	97	45
Albania	57	82	68	97	89	106	46
Serbia	57	78	62	94	86	113	51
Turkey	47	74	73	45	106	99	51
Bosnia & Herzegovina	55	76	60	95	85	107	55

* EU represents the European Union of 27 Member States after 1 February 2020.

Source dataset: [prc_ppp_ind](#)