

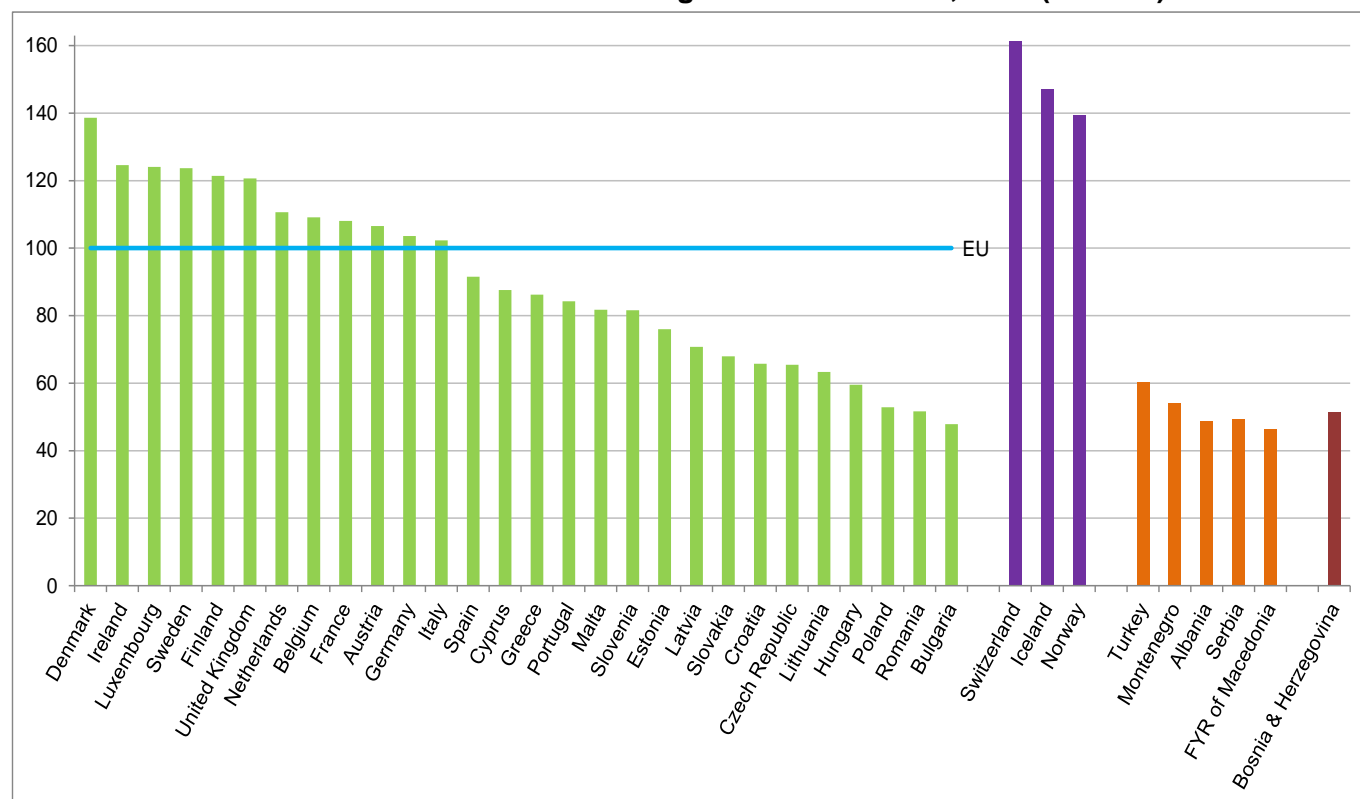
Consumer price levels in 2016

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

Widest gap for "Restaurants & hotels" and "Alcohol & tobacco"

In 2016, price levels for consumer goods and services differed widely in the **European Union (EU)**. **Denmark** (139% of the EU average) had the highest price level, followed by **Ireland** (125%), **Luxembourg** and **Sweden** (both 124%), **Finland** and the **United Kingdom** (both 121%). At the opposite end of the scale, the lowest price level was found in **Bulgaria** (48%), while **Poland** (53%) and **Romania** (52%) were just above 50% the average. 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, 2016 (EU=100)



These data on consumer price levels in 2016 come from an [article](#) published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.

Food price levels highest in Denmark, lowest in Poland and Romania

In 2016, the price level of a comparable basket of food and non-alcoholic beverages across the EU was more than twice as high in the most expensive Member State than in the cheapest one. Price levels ranged from 62% of the EU average in both **Poland** and **Romania** to almost 150% of the average in **Denmark** (148%), followed by **Sweden** (126%), **Austria** (123%), **Luxembourg** (121%), **Ireland** and **Finland** (both 120%).

Alcohol and tobacco most expensive in Ireland and the United Kingdom

With a variation by over one to three between Member States, price levels for alcoholic beverages and tobacco showed significant variations. The lowest price level in 2016 was registered in **Bulgaria** (56% of the average), ahead of **Hungary** (67%), **Poland** (68%) and **Romania** (69%). At the opposite end of the scale, the highest prices were observed in **Ireland** (175%) and the **United Kingdom** (162%), followed at a distance by the three Nordic EU Member States – **Finland** (135%), **Sweden** (128%) and **Denmark** (122%). It should be noted that this large price variation is mainly due to differences in taxation of these products among Member States.

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

Restaurants & hotels is another category where differences in price levels were most pronounced. Price levels ranged from less than 60% of the EU average in **Bulgaria** (44%), **Romania** (53%) and the **Czech Republic** (56%) to 150% in **Denmark** and 144% in **Sweden**.

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 86% of the average in **Poland** to 115% in **Denmark**. Clothing is another group of products showing a smaller price disparity among Member States, with **Bulgaria** (81% of the average) cheapest and **Sweden** (136%) most expensive. With the noticeable exception of **Denmark** (146% of the average), price differences among Member States were also limited for personal transport equipment, from 78% in the **Czech Republic** to 119% in the **Netherlands**.

EU Member States with highest and lowest price level indices for selected consumer goods and services, 2016

	Rank	Food & non-alcoholic beverages	Rank	Alcoholic beverages & tobacco	Rank	Clothing
Highest price levels	1	Denmark	1	Ireland	1	Sweden
	2	Sweden	2	United Kingdom	2	Denmark
	3	Austria	3	Finland	3	Finland
Lowest price levels	26	Bulgaria	26	Poland	26	United Kingdom
	27	Romania	27	Hungary	27	Hungary
		Poland	28	Bulgaria	28	Bulgaria
	Rank	Consumer electronics	Rank	Personal transport equipment	Rank	Restaurants & hotels
Highest price levels	1	Denmark	1	Denmark	1	Denmark
	2	France	2	Netherlands	2	Sweden
	3	Cyprus	3	Ireland	3	Finland
Portugal		Finland				
Lowest price levels	26	Romania	25	Lithuania	26	Czech Republic
	27	Czech Republic		Poland	27	Romania
	28	Poland	27	Slovakia	28	Bulgaria
			28	Czech Republic		

Geographical information

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

Methods and definitions

Data presented in this news release are based on the results of a price survey covering more than 2400 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, camcorders, 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 ["Theme in the spotlight"](#) website section highlighting some facts and figures about comparative price levels in the EU.

Eurostat [News Release 91/2017](#) of 13 June 2017 on consumption and GDP per capita in 2016.

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Price level indices for consumer goods and services, 2016 (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	109	112	102	112	104	106	117
Bulgaria	48	71	56	81	86	94	44
Czech Republic	65	81	71	96	78	91	56
Denmark	139	148	122	131	146	115	150
Germany	104	106	95	103	99	98	109
Estonia	76	90	86	113	86	99	80
Ireland	125	120	175	112	111	100	120
Greece	86	105	91	100	95	101	81
Spain	92	95	86	91	88	100	86
France	108	112	104	104	104	112	117
Croatia	66	94	72	99	91	104	71
Italy	102	112	97	104	101	104	104
Cyprus	88	109	91	100	89	109	91
Latvia	71	91	84	104	85	94	82
Lithuania	63	80	73	104	83	95	65
Luxembourg	124	121	90	105	99	100	111
Hungary	60	80	67	82	87	95	60
Malta	82	108	99	101	102	105	81
Netherlands	111	101	109	111	119	102	109
Austria	107	123	91	102	101	100	103
Poland	53	62	68	90	83	86	71
Portugal	84	96	89	100	108	109	75
Romania	52	62	69	92	84	93	53
Slovenia	82	99	81	98	90	100	82
Slovakia	68	88	71	104	80	94	74
Finland	121	120	135	122	111	108	127
Sweden	124	126	128	136	99	109	144
United Kingdom	121	98	162	89	102	94	111
Iceland	147	146	196	163	129	145	162
Norway	140	163	223	129	137	112	161
Switzerland	161	173	128	143	103	97	167
Montenegro	54	78	59	100	84	98	55
Former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia	46	58	39	80	88	97	41
Albania	49	72	53	96	81	101	40
Serbia	49	69	49	93	85	105	49
Turkey	60	86	84	62	107	99	68
Bosnia & Herzegovina	51	74	51	95	83	104	55

The source dataset can be found [here](#).