

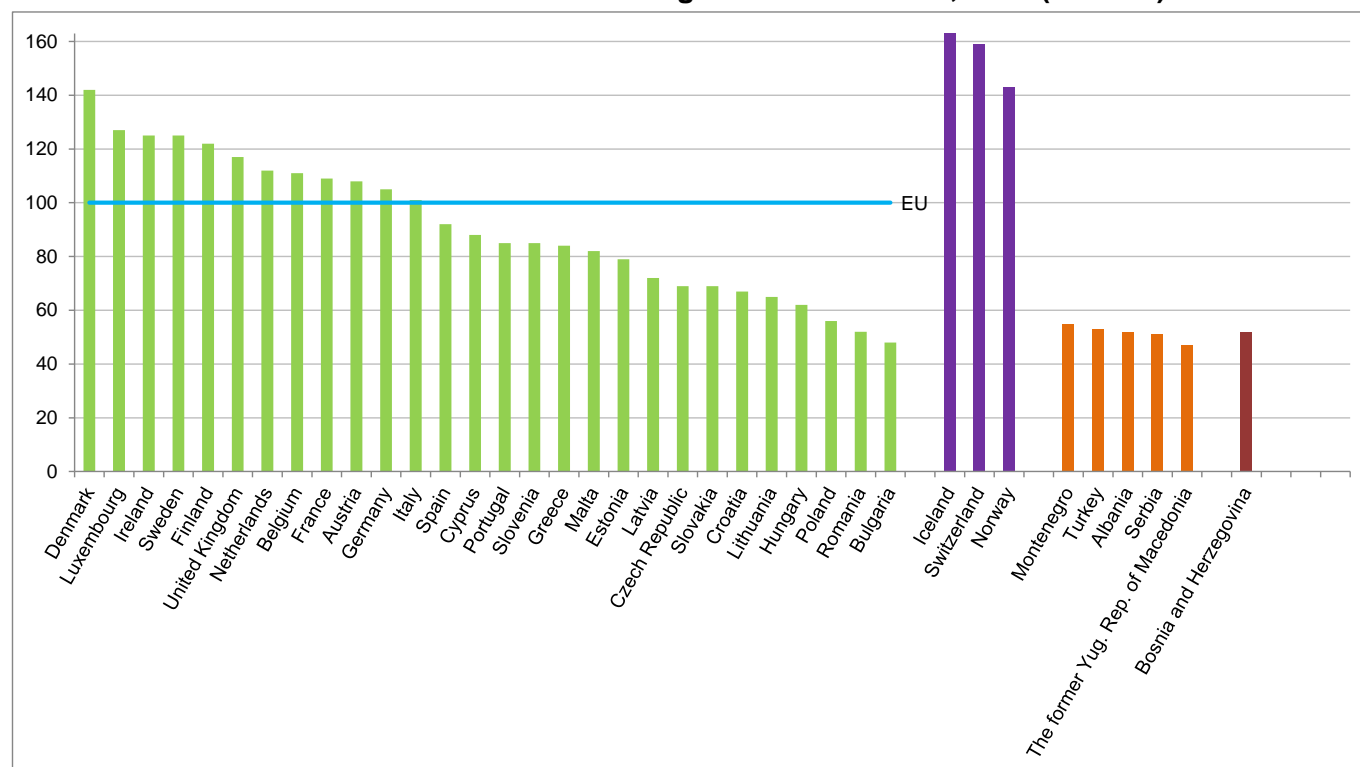
## Consumer price levels in 2017

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

Widest gap for restaurants and hotels and for alcohol and tobacco

In 2017, price levels for consumer goods and services differed widely in the **European Union (EU)**. **Denmark** (142% of the EU average) had the highest price level, followed by **Luxembourg** (127%), **Ireland** and **Sweden** (both 125%), **Finland** (122%) and the **United Kingdom** (117%). At the opposite end of the scale, the lowest price level was found in **Bulgaria** (48%), while **Romania** (52%) and **Poland** (56%) were just above 50% of 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, 2017 (EU=100)



These data on consumer price levels in 2017 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 2017, 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 **Romania** and 65% in **Poland**, to 150% of the average in **Denmark**, followed by **Sweden** (126%), **Austria** (125%), **Luxembourg** (123%), **Finland** (118%), **Ireland** (117%), **Belgium**, **France** and **Italy** (all 112%).

## Alcohol and tobacco most expensive in Ireland and the United Kingdom

Price levels for alcoholic beverages and tobacco showed significant variations between the EU Member States. The lowest price level in 2017 was registered in **Bulgaria** (56% of the average), ahead of **Romania** (69%) and **Hungary** (70%). At the opposite end of the scale, the highest prices were observed in **Ireland** (174%) and the **United Kingdom** (157%), followed at a distance by the three Nordic EU Member States – **Finland** (139%), **Sweden** (127%) and **Denmark** (123%). 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 and 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%), **Romania** (53%) and the **Czech Republic** (60%) to 151% in **Denmark** and 146% 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 **Ireland** to 110% in **Denmark** and **France**. Clothing is another group of products showing a smaller price disparity among Member States, with **Bulgaria** (80% of the average) cheapest and **Sweden** (134%) most expensive. With the noticeable exception of **Denmark** (144% of the average) and the **Netherlands** (121%), price differences among Member States were also limited for personal transport equipment, from 81% in **Slovakia** to 111% in **Finland**, **Ireland** and **Portugal**.

**EU Member States with highest and lowest price level indices for selected consumer goods and services, 2017**

	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	Hungary	26	United Kingdom
	27	Poland	27	Romania	27	Hungary
	28	Romania	28	Bulgaria	28	Bulgaria
	Rank	Consumer electronics	Rank	Personal transport equipment	Rank	Restaurants & hotels
Highest price levels	1	Denmark	1	Denmark	1	Denmark
		France	2	Netherlands	2	Sweden
	2	Cyprus Portugal	3	Finland Ireland Portugal	3	Finland
3	Croatia					
Lowest price levels	26	Czech Republic	26	Romania	26	Czech Republic
	27	Poland	27	Czech Republic	27	Romania
	28	Ireland	28	Slovakia	28	Bulgaria

## 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:

<b>Subcategories</b>	<b>Include</b>
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 "[Theme in the spotlight](#)" website section highlighting some facts and figures about comparative price levels in the EU.

Eurostat News Release [101/2018](#) of 19 June 2018 on consumption and GDP per capita in 2017.


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Price level indices for consumer goods and services, 2017 (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	111	112	104	113	105	106	119
Bulgaria	48	73	56	80	86	93	45
Czech Republic	69	86	74	99	82	92	60
Denmark	142	150	123	130	144	110	151
Germany	105	108	96	105	100	99	110
Estonia	79	94	93	115	86	98	85
Ireland	125	117	174	108	111	86	122
Greece	84	104	95	100	93	100	82
Spain	92	95	86	92	89	99	86
France	109	112	105	105	105	110	118
Croatia	67	96	73	101	94	108	73
Italy	101	112	97	106	102	105	105
Cyprus	88	107	88	100	88	109	93
Latvia	72	95	84	104	85	96	82
Lithuania	65	82	80	105	84	97	69
Luxembourg	127	123	91	107	101	98	112
Hungary	62	82	70	84	89	95	61
Malta	82	110	100	99	103	107	81
Netherlands	112	103	109	111	121	103	112
Austria	108	125	93	105	103	105	105
Poland	56	65	71	88	84	89	74
Portugal	85	96	90	98	111	109	77
Romania	52	62	69	92	83	95	53
Slovenia	85	100	82	97	92	100	82
Slovakia	69	91	72	105	81	101	76
Finland	122	118	139	121	111	105	129
Sweden	125	126	127	134	98	107	146
United Kingdom	117	93	157	87	98	93	107
Iceland	166	156	228	171	131	148	186
Norway	143	161	226	129	139	113	165
Switzerland	159	168	125	153	100	95	163
Montenegro	55	79	63	102	84	97	58
The former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia	47	58	41	81	90	103	43
Albania	52	75	54	97	79	106	40
Serbia	51	72	52	93	85	108	51
Turkey	53	79	77	54	105	89	63
Bosnia & Herzegovina	52	75	53	88	84	106	55

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