

Consumer prices of recreational and sporting goods and services

Statistics Explained

*Data extracted in January 2024.
Planned article update: April 2025.*

" After years of moderate price increases, the annual average rate of change for prices of recreational and sporting services in the EU rose by 4.7 % in 2022, accelerating further by 6.1 % in 2023. "

" Prices for 'equipment for camping and open-air recreation' in the EU increased by 6.8 % in 2023 compared to the previous year, while the price increase for 'equipment for sport' goods was 2.9 %. "

This article gives an overview of how prices of recreational and sporting goods and services have changed based on the [harmonised index of consumer prices \(HICP\)](#) .

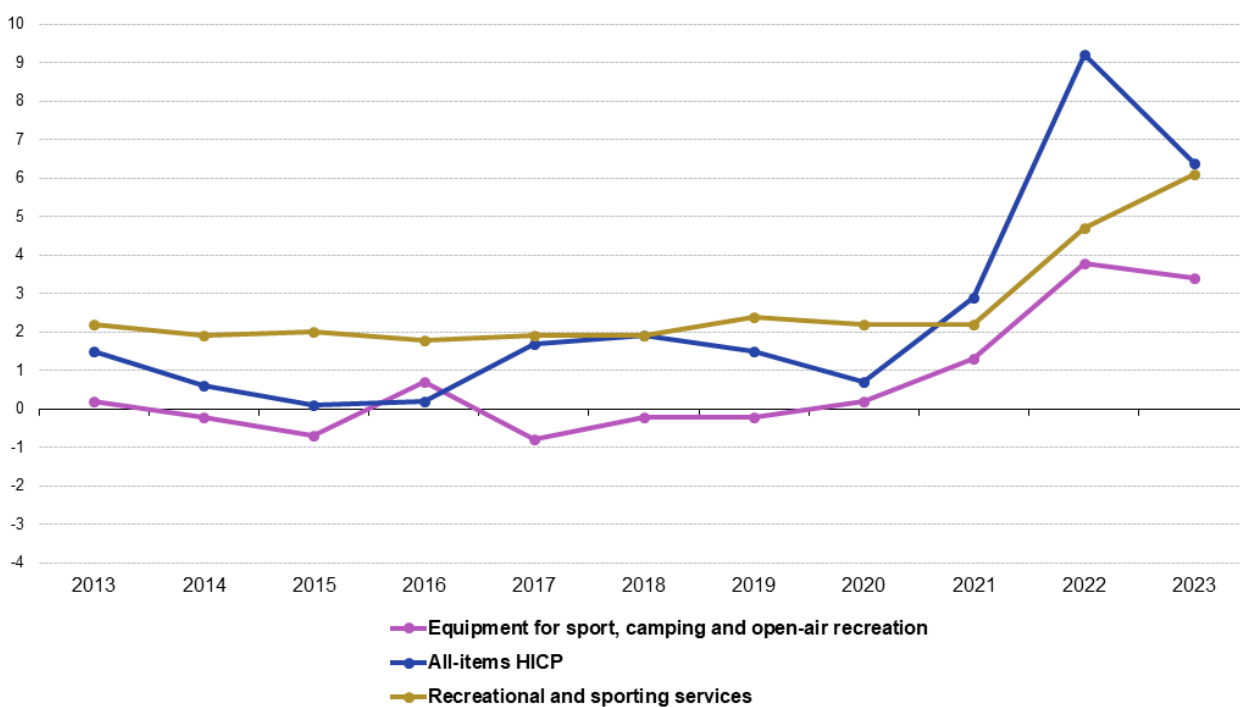
HICP for sporting goods and services – trends at EU level

In the HICP two categories are directly related to sport: [equipment for sport, camping and open-air recreation](#) and [recreational and sporting services](#) , which are further divided into sub-categories [equipment for sport](#) and [equipment for camping and open-air recreation](#) for equipment and [recreational and sporting services - Attendance](#) and [recreational and sporting services - Participation](#) for services.

Over an 11-year period, between 2013 and 2023, the [annual average rate of change](#) for prices of 'recreational and sporting services' in the [European Union \(EU\)](#) was 2.7 %, which was 0.3 percentage points faster than for the all-items HICP (2.4 %). This annual average rate of change was significantly influenced by the accelerating inflation in 2022 and 2023. The annual rate of change of the 'recreational and sporting services' index was 4.7 % in 2022 compared to 2021 and 6.1 % in 2023 compared to 2022. Before 2022, the annual average rate of change stayed around 2 % (see Figure 1).

The annual average rate of change for prices for 'equipment for sport, camping and open-air recreation' was 3.8 % in 2022 and 3.4 % in 2023. Similarly to the sports service prices, this index increased at a much slower pace before 2022. On average, it increased annually by 0.7 % between 2013 and 2023.

The all-items HICP and the HICPs for sporting goods and services, EU, 2013-2023
(%, annual rate of change)



Note: the data refer to the official EU aggregate. Its country coverage changes in line with the addition of new EU Member States and integrates them using a chain-linked index formula.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: prc_hicp_aind)

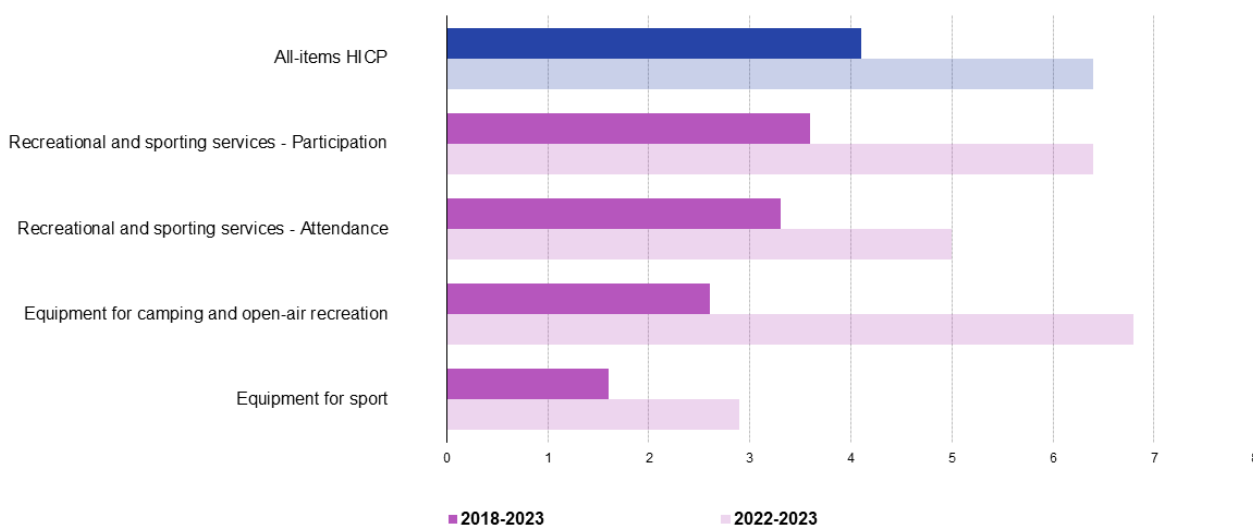


Figure 1: The all-item HICP and the HICPs for sporting goods and services, EU, 2013-2023 (% annual rate of change) Source: Eurostat (prc_hicp_aind)

The annual average rate of change shows that prices for 'recreational and sporting services – participation' and 'recreational and sporting services – attendance' rose on average from 2018 to 2023 by 3.6 % and 3.3 %, respectively, in the EU as a whole. The average annual average rates of change for the same period were lower for 'equipment for camping and open-air recreation' and 'equipment for sport', 2.6 % and 1.6 %, respectively (see Figure 2).

Prices increased faster between 2022 and 2023 than they did between 2018 and 2023 for all sporting goods and services sub-categories. This acceleration in the rate of change for 2023 compared to 2022 was particularly evident for 'equipment for camping and open-air recreation' (6.8 % compared to 2.6 % in 2018-2023) and 'equipment for sport' (2.9 % compared to 1.6 % in 2018-2023).

Harmonised indices of consumer prices for selected sporting goods and services, EU, annual average rates of change 2018-2023 and 2022-2023 (%)



Note: the data refer to the official EU aggregate. Its country coverage changes in line with the addition of new EU Member States and integrates them using a chain-linked index formula.
 Source: Eurostat (online data code: prc_hicp_aind)



Figure 2 - Harmonised indices of consumer prices for selected sporting goods and services, EU, annual average rates of change 2018-2023 and 2022-2023 (%) Source: Eurostat (prc_hicp_aind)

HICP for sporting goods and services – focus on countries

Table 1 provides data on consumer prices for sporting goods and services in EU Member States, three [European Free Trade Association \(EFTA\) countries](#) , four [candidate countries](#) and one potential candidate. All EU Member States recorded an increase in the all-items HICP in 2023 compared to 2018. In 15 EU Member States, the 2018-2023 HICP annual average rate of change was below the EU average of 4.1 %, with the smallest increase seen in Greece (2.6 %). During the same period, prices of 'equipment for sport' fell in five EU Member States, notably in Portugal (-6.9 % per year). An increase in the annual rate of change for 'equipment for camping and open-air recreation' sub-index was observed in 12 EU Member States (data were not available for seven countries).

From 2018 to 2023, prices for both recreational and sporting services increased in all EU Member States where data were available, except in Cyprus where prices of 'recreational and sporting services – attendance' declined (-0.6 %). The biggest increases were recorded in Czechia (9.3 %) for 'recreational and sporting services – attendance' and in Hungary (9.1 %) for 'recreational and sporting services – participation'.

**The all-items HICP and the HICPs for sporting goods and services,
annual average rates of change 2018-2023 and 2022-2023
(%)**

	All-items HICP		Equipment for sport		Equipment for camping and open-air recreation		Recreational and sporting services - Attendance		Recreational and sporting services - Participation	
	2018-2023	2022-2023	2018-2023	2022-2023	2018-2023	2022-2023	2018-2023	2022-2023	2018-2023	2022-2023
EU (*)	4.1	6.4	1.6	2.9	2.6	6.8	3.3	5.0	3.6	6.4
Belgium	3.4	2.3	1.7	4.6	2.5	7.0	4.2	6.8	3.0	5.8
Bulgaria	5.5	8.6	2.2	6.5	:	:	:	:	8.6	15.8
Czechia	7.1	12.0	4.9	7.5	0.0	7.6	9.3	22.6	8.2	14.2
Denmark	2.9	3.4	-1.8	-1.7	-3.0	-7.9	4.3	3.6	3.1	4.7
Germany	3.9	6.0	2.1	0.9	2.6	5.6	3.2	4.5	2.6	5.0
Estonia	6.7	9.1	4.1	5.9	:	:	6.9	12.8	8.5	10.6
Ireland ^(*) ([†])	3.2	5.2	-3.0	1.5	-0.1	4.5	3.2	4.2	3.3	6.0
Greece	2.6	4.2	-0.5	1.8	-0.1	1.4	0.7	2.8	0.8	3.2
Spain ^(*)	3.0	3.4	0.0	-0.7	:	:	5.4	9.0	0.9	2.8
France	3.1	5.7	1.9	3.5	3.4	8.1	1.7	1.9	1.9	4.3
Croatia ^(*)	4.4	8.4	0.4	2.5	-1.2	4.6	7.7	13.6	5.5	14.1
Italy ^(*) ([†])([‡])	3.4	5.9	-0.6	2.1	:	:	4.4	10.0	1.1	-0.7
Cyprus	2.7	3.9	2.0	4.5	:	:	-0.6	8.0	3.0	5.6
Latvia ^(*)	6.3	9.1	0.1	0.5	1.9	2.7	:	:	6.2	10.6
Lithuania	6.9	8.7	4.4	6.4	0.8	-0.3	:	:	6.3	11.9
Luxembourg	3.2	2.9	0.8	2.1	4.5	12.7	4.4	8.6	2.0	2.4
Hungary	8.7	17.0	3.3	8.3	0.4	9.4	6.2	10.3	9.1	22.5
Malta	2.9	5.6	1.3	5.0	:	:	5.3	1.4	5.2	10.2
Netherlands	4.4	4.1	0.3	1.7	4.8	9.4	3.2	5.0	2.7	5.1
Austria ^(*)	4.3	7.7	0.9	3.5	-0.3	7.1	2.4	6.6	4.3	7.1
Poland	6.9	10.9	4.3	13.2	3.4	7.1	6.0	10.8	8.0	12.2
Portugal ^(*)	2.8	5.3	-6.9	-5.1	:	:	6.2	16.4	1.4	3.2
Romania ^(*)	6.4	9.7	4.2	8.8	3.9	9.4	3.6	10.7	5.0	11.4
Slovenia	3.9	7.2	1.9	10.4	3.2	7.0	2.2	10.0	3.5	11.6
Slovakia	6.1	11.0	0.3	3.7	0.8	5.7	9.1	18.0	8.6	16.4
Finland	3.0	4.3	1.6	5.2	-0.5	2.2	5.6	11.4	1.3	3.0
Sweden ^(*)	3.8	5.9	0.1	3.7	-2.3	3.3	2.2	4.6	3.7	7.6
Iceland	4.1	8.0	:	:	:	:	3.1	4.9	4.0	8.1
Norway	3.8	5.8	:	0.9	:	-0.5	:	:	:	:
Switzerland ^(*) ([†])	1.0	2.3	1.2	1.3	:	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.9
North Macedonia ^(*) ([†])	5.6	9.0	-1.3	2.1	:	:	2.1	6.9	3.9	4.0
Albania ^(*)	3.6	5.3	0.6	0.1	:	:	0.0	0.0	1.0	3.7
Serbia ^(*) ([†])([‡])	6.2	12.1	3.2	9.8	8.7	19.0	5.3	3.5	2.8	9.2
Kosovo ^(*) ([†])	4.5	4.9	2.0	7.4	:	:	0.7	2.2	:	:

(¹) The data refer to the official EU aggregate. Its country coverage changes in line with the addition of new EU Member States and integrates them using a chain-linked index formula.
(²) Recreational and sporting services - Attendance: low reliability in 2020.
(³) Recreational and sporting services - Participation: low reliability in 2020.
(⁴) Recreational and sporting services - Attendance: low reliability in 2021.
(⁵) Recreational and sporting services - Participation: low reliability in 2021.
(⁶) Definition differs, see metadata (https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/prc_hicp_esms.htm).
(⁷) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Note the higher of both values in a category is bold
Source: Eurostat (online data code: prc_hicp_aind)



Table 1 - The all-items HICP and the HICPs for sporting goods and services, annual average rates of change 2018-2023 and 2022-2023 (%) Source: Eurostat (prc_hicp_aind)

Source data for tables and graphs

- [HICP - Price development for sporting goods and services: tables and figures](#)

Data sources and methodology

Eurostat publishes [harmonised indices of consumer prices \(HICPs\)](#), which provides a comparable measure of [inflation](#) for EU Member States and various products and services. These indices measure changes over time for prices of consumer goods and services bought by households.

The HICP uses the European classification of individual consumption according to purpose adapted to the needs of the HICP ([ECOICOP-HICP](#)). The following items belong to ECOICOP 'Equipment for sport, camping and open-air recreation':

- **Equipment for sport :**

- gymnastic, physical education and sport equipment such as balls, shuttlecocks, nets, rackets, bats, skis, golf clubs, foils, sabres, poles, weights, discuses, javelins, dumb-bells, chest expanders and other body-building equipment;
- parachutes and other sky-diving equipment;
- firearms and ammunition for hunting, sport and personal protection;
- fishing rods and other equipment for fishing;
- equipment for beach and open-air games, such as bowls, croquet, frisbee, volleyball, and inflatable boats, rafts and swimming pools;
- game-specific footwear (ski boots, football boots, golfing shoes and other such footwear fitted with ice-skates, rollers, spikes, studs, etc.);
- protective headgear for sports;
- other protective gear for sports such as life jackets, boxing gloves, body padding, shin-guards, goggles, belts, supports, etc.

- **Equipment for camping and open-air recreation :**

- tents, sleeping bags, backpacks includes air mattresses and inflating pumps, camping stoves, barbecues and other accessories related to camping.

The following items belong to ECOICOP-HICP 'Recreational and sporting services':

- **Recreational and sporting services — Attendance :**

- services provided by sports stadiums, horse-racing courses, motor-racing circuits, velodromes, etc. for the attendance of a sportive or recreational event;
- services provided by fairgrounds and amusement parks.

- **Recreational and sporting services — Participation :**

- skating rinks, swimming pools, golf courses, gymnasia, fitness centres, tennis courts, squash courts and bowling alleys;
- roundabouts, see-saws and other playground facilities for children;
- pin-ball machines and other games for adults other than games of chance;
- ski slopes, ski lifts and the like;
- hire of equipment and accessories for sport and recreation, such as aeroplanes, boats, horses, skiing and camping equipment;
- out-of-school individual or group lessons in bridge, chess, aerobics, dancing, music, skating, skiing, swimming or other pastimes;
- services of mountain guides, tour guides, etc.;
- navigational aid services for boating;
- hire of game-specific footwear (ski boots, football boots, golfing shoes and other such footwear fitted with ice-skates, rollers, spikes, studs, etc.).

Context

The multiannual work programme ([EU Work plan for Sport for 2021-2024](#)), agreed by the EU Council, sets the priorities and principles for cooperation between the European Commission and the EU Member States in the field of sport.

Several expert groups have been set up to achieve concrete results. Among them, the Expert Group on the Economic Dimension of Sport (XG ECO) and the Expert Group on Health-Enhancing Physical Activity (XG HEPA) play a key role in implementing evidence-based policies in the sports sector. XG ECO, for example, has developed an economic definition of sport (' [Vilnius definition](#) '), and made progress towards developing Sport [Satellite Accounts](#) in some EU countries. XG HEPA is working on implementing the [Council recommendations on physical activity](#) adopted in 2013. These include a monitoring framework with indicators for both the level of physical activity

and policies to promote physical activity in EU countries. Eurostat comparable data on international trade, employment in sport, participation in sporting activities, etc. make a valuable contribution to monitoring and developing the EU's policies in this area.

Other articles

- [Employment in sport](#)
- [International trade in sporting goods](#)
- [Enterprises in the sports sector](#)
- [Household expenditure on sporting goods and services](#)
- [Statistics on sport participation](#)
- [HICP methodology](#) (background article)
- [Culture](#) (all Statistics Explained articles on culture)

Database

- [Sport \(sprt\)](#), see:

Private households expenditure on sport ([sprt_exp](#))

HICP - annual data (average index and rate of change) ([prc_hicp_aind](#))

HICP - monthly data (index) ([prc_hicp_midx](#))

Dedicated section

- [Sport](#)
- [HICP](#)

Publications

- [Leaflet on sport statistics — 2018 edition](#)
- [The economic dimension of sport](#)
- [Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices \(HICP\) Methodological manual – 2024 edition](#)

Methodology

- [Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices \(HICP\) Methodological manual – 2024 edition](#)
- [Harmonised index of consumer prices \(HICP\) \(ESMS metadata file — prc_hicp_esms\)](#)
- [Vilnius definition of sport](#)

Legislation

- [EU Work plan for Sport for 2017–2020](#)
- [EU Work Plan for Sport for 2021–2024](#)

External links

- [DG Education and Culture — Sport policy and programmes](#)
- [Erasmus+ Sport](#)
- [Special Eurobarometer — Sport and physical activity](#)