

Glossary: Harmonised index of consumer prices (HICP)

Statistics Explained

The **harmonised index of consumer prices** , abbreviated as **HICP** , is the [consumer price index](#) as it is calculated in the [European Union \(EU\)](#) , according to a harmonised approach and a single set of definitions. It is mainly used to measure [inflation](#) .

There are several types of HICP depending on the geographic area under consideration. The most important ones are:

- the **Monetary Union index of consumer prices (MUICP)** — an aggregate index covering the countries in the [euro area](#) ;
- the **European index of consumer prices (EICP)** — for the whole European Union, the euro area plus the other Member States;
- the national HICPs — for each of the EU Member States.

In addition to the EU HICPs, an additional HICP aggregate index for the [European Economic Area \(EEA\)](#) is calculated:

- the **European Economic Area index of consumer prices (EEAICP)** , which in addition to the EU also covers Iceland and Norway.

Further information

- [HICP methodology](#) (background article)

Related concepts

- [Consumer price index](#)
- [Inflation rate](#)

Statistical data

- [Archive:Household consumption expenditure - national accounts](#)