

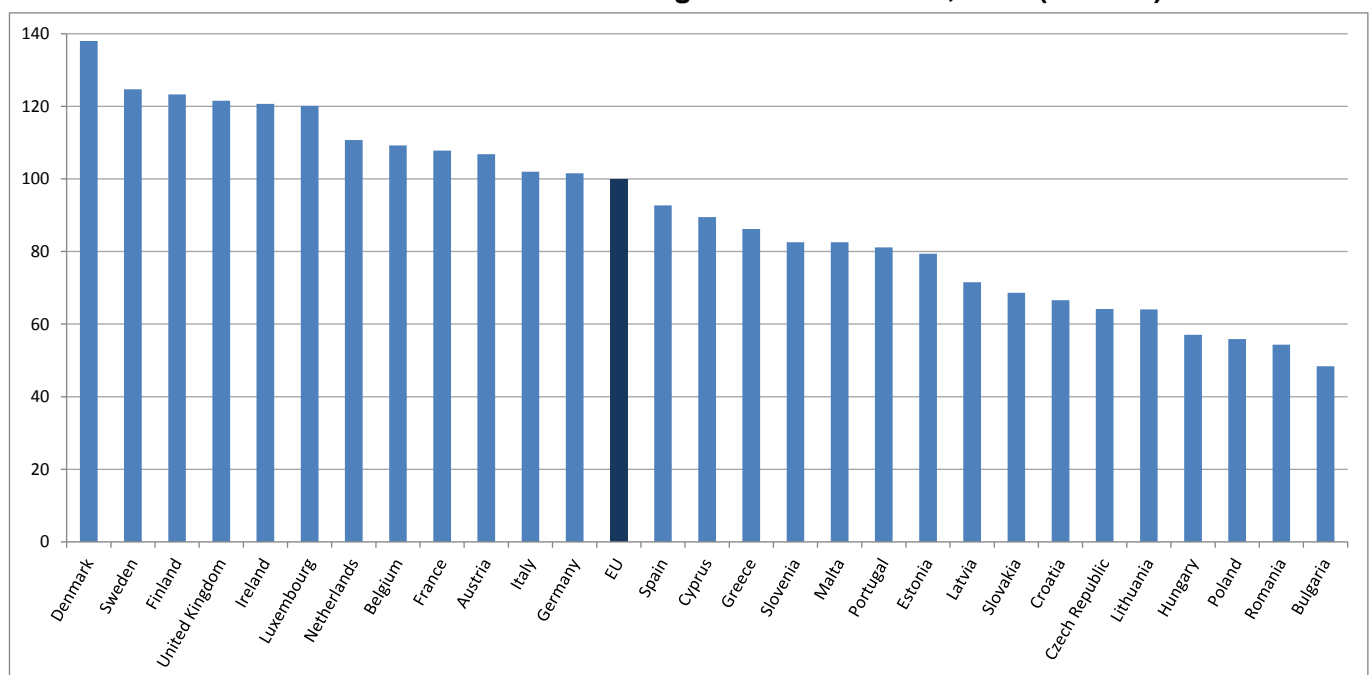
Consumer price levels in 2014

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

Widest gap for alcohol and tobacco

In 2014, price levels for consumer goods and services¹ differed widely in the **European Union (EU)**: Poland was cheapest both for food and consumer electronics, while alcohol & tobacco as well as restaurants & hotels were the least expensive in Bulgaria. Prices for clothing were lowest in Hungary, while the Czech Republic was least expensive for both consumer electronics and personal transport equipment such as cars. Overall, price levels ranged from 48% of the EU average in **Bulgaria** to 138% in **Denmark**.

Price level indices for consumer goods and services, 2014 (EU=100)



These data on consumer price levels in 2014 come from an [article](#)² published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.

Food price levels highest in Denmark, lowest in Poland

Price levels for food & non-alcoholic beverages in 2014 ranged from 61% of the EU average in **Poland** to 139% of the average in **Denmark**. Differences in price levels between Member States were less pronounced for this product group than for the total of goods and services. Price levels for alcoholic beverages & tobacco varied by one to three, the lowest prices being registered in **Bulgaria** (58% of the average) and **Hungary** (65%), and the highest in **Ireland** (170%) and the **United Kingdom** (165%). It should be noted that this large price variation is mainly due to differences in taxation of these products among Member States.

Clothes most expensive in Sweden, cheapest in Hungary

Clothing is one of the groups of products showing a smaller price variation among Member States, with **Hungary** (70% of the average) cheapest and **Sweden** (121%) most expensive. Consumer electronics is another group of products where prices differed less among Member States, ranging from 85% of the average in both the **Czech Republic** and **Poland** to 116% in **Malta**.

With the noticeable exception of **Denmark** (151% of the average), price differences among Member States were also limited for personal transport equipment, from 75% in the **Czech Republic** to 114% in **Portugal** and 117% in the **Netherlands**. In contrast, prices for restaurants & hotels showed more significant variations, with price levels ranging from 46% of the average in **Bulgaria** to 147% of the average in **Denmark**.

EU Member States with highest and lowest price level indices for selected consumer goods and services, 2014

	Rank	Food & non-alcoholic beverages	Rank	Alcoholic beverages & tobacco	Rank	Clothing
Highest price levels	1	Denmark	1	Ireland	1	Sweden
	2	Austria	2	United Kingdom	2	Denmark
	3	Finland	3	Finland	3	Finland
Lowest price levels	26	Bulgaria	25	Czech Republic	26	Poland
	27	Romania		Romania	27	Bulgaria
	28	Poland	27	Hungary	28	Hungary
			28	Bulgaria		
	Rank	Consumer electronics	Rank	Personal transport equipment	Rank	Restaurants & hotels
Highest price levels	1	Malta	1	Denmark	1	Denmark
	2	Cyprus	2	Netherlands	2	Sweden
	3	Denmark	3	Portugal	3	Finland
Lowest price levels	24	Bulgaria	26	Bulgaria	26	Romania
		Luxembourg		Poland	27	Hungary
		Hungary	28	Czech Republic	28	Bulgaria
	27	Czech Republic				
		Poland				

- The data in this article are based on the results of price surveys covering more than 2400 consumer goods and services across Europe, which are 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.

- Eurostat, Statistics Explained article, "**Comparative price levels of consumer goods and services**": http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Comparative_price_levels_of_consumer_goods_and_services

Price level indices for consumer goods and services¹, 2014 (EU=100)

	Total	Food & non-alcoholic beverages	Alcoholic beverages & tobacco	Clothing	Consumer electronics	Personal transport equipment	Restaurants & hotels
EU	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Belgium	109	111	98	105	108	104	116
Bulgaria	48	70	58	79	91	83	46
Czech Republic	64	81	72	85	85	75	54
Denmark	138	139	121	120	109	151	147
Germany	102	109	89	101	95	96	97
Estonia	79	88	83	105	105	86	80
Ireland	121	115	170	92	100	108	127
Greece	86	99	89	89	102	91	84
Spain	93	93	86	85	95	101	88
France	108	107	108	102	101	104	112
Croatia	67	90	77	86	105	89	72
Italy	102	112	95	104	98	99	109
Cyprus	89	106	95	89	111	89	96
Latvia	72	87	84	101	99	87	77
Lithuania	64	78	73	99	99	85	65
Luxembourg	120	119	86	99	91	94	107
Hungary	57	76	65	70	91	84	51
Malta	83	100	101	94	116	101	89
Netherlands	111	97	106	101	100	117	115
Austria	107	124	90	95	98	103	107
Poland	56	61	74	84	85	83	72
Portugal	81	89	85	91	95	114	76
Romania	54	68	72	86	107	86	52
Slovenia	83	99	83	94	103	87	86
Slovakia	69	88	78	97	92	84	67
Finland	123	123	136	114	105	112	128
Sweden	125	119	131	121	100	101	136
United Kingdom	122	106	165	104	108	102	113
Iceland	117	127	172	139	148	121	129
Norway	148	169	239	127	108	150	176
Switzerland	154	153	119	122	94	105	152
Montenegro	57	77	57	92	102	86	62
Former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia	47	58	38	76	92	82	40
Albania	50	69	45	66	108	77	42
Serbia	53	74	53	92	94	83	50
Turkey	61	84	87	63	87	110	74
Bosnia & Herzegovina	53	74	50	85	98	84	57

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