

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The development of consumer price indices (cost of living) is observed on consumer baskets based on the set of selected kinds of goods and services paid by the population. These baskets are updated annually (always since January of the given year).

The new revised consumer baskets (index schemes) and the methodology of the consumer price index processing were determined on the base of the requirements of Eurostat resulting from the consumer price indices harmonization and comments and suggestions of the Consulting Commission for the Consumer Price Statistics consisting of representatives of ministries, the CNB, research institutes, the Economic University Prague, trade unions, organisations of the retired and selected departments of the CZSO.

A new weighting system was constructed for the consumer baskets within a revision, which took place for individual price areas in 2021. Starting from January 2018, detailed consumer price indices are calculated based on the ECOICOP classification (European Classification of Individual Consumption according to Purpose), which replaced the original classification (CZ-COICOP – Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose). The ECOICOP introduced a more detailed breakdown into the consumer basket; the classification of products and services into **12 divisions** remains. This change occurred according to the Regulation (EU) 2016/792 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

1. **Food and non-alcoholic beverages** – comprises all food including non-alcoholic beverages.
2. **Alcoholic beverages and tobacco** – comprises alcoholic beverages and tobacco products.
3. **Clothing and footwear** – comprises clothing materials, garments, clothing accessories, haberdashery, footwear including hire and repair.
4. **Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels** – comprises rentals including imputed rentals, payments for the use of cooperative dwellings, miscellaneous services relating to the dwelling, materials and services for the maintenance and repair of the dwelling, water supply and sewage collection, refuse collection, all kinds of energy (gas, electricity, heat), solid fuels.
5. **Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance** – comprises furniture and furnishing, carpets and other floor coverings, household textiles including bed linen, household appliances, glassware, porcelain, tableware and household utensils, goods and services for routine household maintenance, different tools and equipment for house and garden.
6. **Health** – comprises pharmaceutical and other medical products, dental products, services of optometrists, services of physicians, thermal bath care, regulatory fee per using a medical emergency facility.
7. **Transport** – comprises personal transport equipment including repair and spare parts, automotive fuel, transport services (by railway, by road, by air, local), school transport services.
8. **Communication** – comprises postal services, telephone equipment (mobile phones), telephone services.
9. **Recreation and culture** – comprises radio and television receivers, tape and cassette recorders, computer technology, musical instruments, sport equipment including repair, books, periodicals, toys, stationery, cultural services, sporting services, domestic and foreign holiday, flowers and flower products, pets and related products including veterinary services.
10. **Education** – comprises all levels of education including language teaching and art education.
11. **Restaurants and hotels** – comprises meals and drinks provided by restaurants, dinners in works canteens, catering services of canteens in schools and universities, accommodation services of hotels, boarding houses, chalets, accommodation in boarding schools and universities.
12. **Miscellaneous goods and services** – comprises personal care services, electrical appliances for personal care, beauty products, jewellery, clocks, leather fancy goods, insurance (insurance connected

with the dwelling, insurance connected with health, insurance connected with transport), social and financial services, administrative fees.

Consumer price survey method

Prices of individual kinds of goods and services are collected monthly, directly in selected shops (about 8 500) by statistical staff in 35 chosen districts across Czechia and in the Capital City of Prague.

The **average price** of individual price representatives for Czechia is calculated from the collected prices, which is involved in the calculation of all types of consumer price indices except indices for households living in the Capital City of Prague. Average prices of representatives involved in the calculation of indices for households living in the Capital City of Prague are the same as average prices collected in the Capital City of Prague for the calculation of consumer price indices for Czechia. For some price representatives, the average consumer prices for Czechia are taken account (e.g. therapeutic stays at a spa, ski lift ticket, catering services in the university canteen, accommodation services of universities, and the majority of representatives with centrally surveyed prices).

Since 2019 scanner data (SD, data from retail chain cash registers) were gradually implemented into the process of calculation of inflation rate. At the beginning, the prices from the field price survey for selected price representatives were being replaced by prices from the SD only partially. With the increasing number of chains that provide data on a regular basis, the share of prices collected by the field price survey decreased gradually, until SD fully replaced field price collection in these areas. Since January 2021, it concerned divisions of the ECOICOP 01 – Food and non-alcoholic beverages, 02 – Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and groups 05.61 – Non-durable household goods and 12.13 – Other appliances, articles and products for personal care. Since January 2022 groups 06.11 – Pharmaceutical products, 06.12 – Other medical products, 06.139 – Other therapeutic appliances and equipment, 09.342 – Products for pets, 09.541 – Paper products were added. All significant items enter into calculation there with price indices at ECOICOP5 level only as output.

For selected representatives of the divisions of the ECOICOP (05 – Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance, 06 – Health, 09 – Recreation and culture, 12 – Other goods and services), prices from the field price survey are still only partially replaced by SD prices.

Selection of representatives

The price representatives are especially products and services which have a significant share in population's expenditure and cover the entire sphere of consumption.

The numbers of price representatives in the new consumer basket for calculation of the consumer price indices are as follows:

| Group of goods and services | Number of representatives |
|---|---------------------------|
| Total | 459 |
| 1. Food and non-alcoholic beverages | - |
| 2. Alcoholic beverages and tobacco | - |
| 3. Clothing and footwear | 67 |
| 4. Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels | 40 |
| 5. Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance | 60 |
| 6. Health | 13 |
| 7. Transport | 87 |
| 8. Communication | 7 |
| 9. Recreation and culture | 99 |
| 10. Education | 12 |
| 11. Restaurants and hotels | 42 |
| 12. Miscellaneous goods and services | 32 |

The selection of price representatives is the same for all types of indices but some products and services are not represented in particular social groups of households.

Weighting system

A revision of the weighting system was carried out in 2021. The weights are updated since January 2022 on the basis of the average of household expenditure of national accounts statistics in the years 2019 – 2021. The weights for detailed elementary aggregates are updated using Household Budget Survey extended by other available sources and surveys. Price indices that are counted according to new revised index patterns are published since January 2022.

The weights are calculated for the following groups of households: **households in total, households of pensioners, households living in the Capital City of Prague.**

The consumer price index has weights based on the structure of average expenditure of all households; the consumer price indices for the Capital City of Prague are based on the structure of expenditure of households living in the Capital City of Prague and indices for households of pensioners are based on the structure of expenditure of households of pensioners.

Households of pensioners – for the purposes of the household budget statistics they have been defined as households without economically active members, i.e. households with the head, who receives any type of pension (except the orphan pension) or who is at pensionable age not entitled to any kind of pension, who does not work at all or has only a limited range of work activities; also any other member of the household does not work.

Computation of indices

Calculation of the consumer price indices (cost-of-living) is based on constant weights according to the Laspeyres formula:

$$I = \frac{\sum \frac{p_1}{p_0} * p_0 q_0}{\sum p_0 q_0} * 100$$

p_1 = the price of goods (service) in the reference (current) period.

p_0 = the price of goods (service) in the base period.

$p_0 q_0$ = constant weight: household expenditure on goods (service) in the base period.

Starting from January 2022, the price reference period of December 2019 for the price indices is changed to December 2021. Indices calculated with the new base December 2021 = 100 are chained at all levels of the consumer basket to the current index time series on the base average of 2015 = 100. Thereby, a continuation of the current index time series, from which indices to other bases are derived (previous month = 100, corresponding period of previous year = 100 and annual rolling average, i.e. the average of index numbers over the last 12 months to the average for the previous 12 months) is ensured.