

YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH OF CONSUMER PRICES UNCHANGED FOR THIRD CONSECUTIVE MONTH

Consumer price indices – April 2013

Consumer prices in April increased by 0.1% compared with March. This rise came primarily from price increases in 'clothing and footwear' and 'alcoholic beverages, tobacco'. The year-on-year growth of consumer prices amounted to 1.7% in April (the same as in February and March).

The **month-on-month** increase in consumer prices came primarily from the seasonal growth of prices in clothing and footwear (3.7% and 9.2%, respectively). In alcoholic beverages, prices of spirits rose by 5.1%, beer by 1.3% and wine by 0.8%. In 'miscellaneous goods and services', prices of beauty products were higher by 3.1%.

A contrary effect on the consumer price level owed mainly to a decrease in prices in 'food and non-alcoholic beverages', where prices of rolls and baguettes dropped by 4.3%, eggs by 6.6%, yoghurts by 4.0%, fruit by 1.7%, vegetables by 1.8%, sugar by 1.0%. In 'communication', prices of telephone and telefax services and prices of mobile phones were lower (-1.5% and -2.3%, respectively). Prices of automotive fuel, after three consecutive months of growth, fell (-1.3%) in April.

Prices of goods in total rose (0.3%), while prices of services decreased (-0.1%).

In terms of the **year-on-year** comparison, in April, the increase in consumer prices was 1.7% (the same as in March). However, the price development was for some divisions of the consumer basket different in these months. An acceleration of the price growth was shown in 'alcoholic beverages, tobacco', where prices of spirits rose by 8.2% in April (a drop by 0.9% in March). In 'food and non-alcoholic beverages', the increase in prices accelerated in April primarily due to the rise in prices of bread and cereals to 3.0% from 1.2% in March, milk to 6.4% from 3.8% in March, oils and fats to 3.1% from 0.7% in March, potatoes to 58.8% from 51.6% in March, vegetables cultivated for their fruit to 13.3% from 3.3% in March, cocoa to 10.2% from 4.8% in March. On the other hand, a more significant fall in prices in April compared with March occurred primarily in 'communication', where prices of telephone and telefax services were lower by 6.4% (4.4% in March). Similarly, in 'transport', the drop in prices deepened due to lower prices of automotive fuel by 3.7% (0.9% in March).

A decisive upward effect on the y-o-y consumer price level came, as before, from prices in 'food and non-alcoholic beverages' and 'housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels'. In 'housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels', the net actual rentals went up by 2.7%, water supply by 6.6%, sewerage collection by 7.1%, prices of natural gas by 2.1%, electricity by 3.3%, heat and hot water by 4.5%. In 'health', amounts paid by patients for drugs were up 5.8%. In 'miscellaneous goods and services', prices of social protection rose by 4.8%.

The reduction of the y-o-y price growth came, albeit in a slightly slower rate, from a drop in prices in 'clothing and footwear' by 2.5% (-3.4% in March).

Prices of goods in total and prices of services rose (2.0% and 1.4%, respectively). The overall consumer price index excluding imputed rentals was 101.9%, year-on-year.

Inflation rate, i.e. the increase in the average consumer price index in the twelve months to April 2013 compared with the average CPI in the previous twelve months, stood at 2.7% in April.

According to preliminary data of Eurostat, the year-on-year increase in the average **harmonized index of consumer prices** (HICP)¹⁾ in the **EU27 member states** was 1.9% in **March**, i.e. 0.1 percentage point down on February. The highest annual rate was observed in Romania (4.4%). On the other hand, a y-o-y price drop (-0.2%) occurred in Greece in March. In Germany, the price rise amounted to 1.8% in March (the same as in February). In Slovakia, the price increase slowed down to 1.9% in March (2.2% in February). According to preliminary calculations, the HICP in the Czech Republic in **April 2013** amounted to 0.2%, **month-on-month**, and was 1.7% (1.5% in March), **year-on-year**. The MUICP (Monetary Union Index of Consumer Prices) flash estimate for the **Eurozone** in **April 2013** was 1.2%, y-o-y, as Eurostat announced (more information on the Eurostat's web pages: [HICP](#)).

¹⁾ So far, imputed rentals have been excluded from the HICP

In April, in comparison to March, consumer prices increased in **households of pensioners** (0.2%). In 'clothing and footwear', a higher consumer price index was recorded (4.3%). The increase was affected particularly by higher prices of footwear and garments. In 'alcoholic beverages, tobacco', the growth of prices was shown (1.6%) due primarily to a rise in prices of spirits and beer. In 'miscellaneous goods and services', the consumer price level went up (1.1%). An upward effect on the consumer price level came mainly from the increase in prices of beauty products and fees paid for social protection. On the other hand, in 'communication', a lower consumer price index was registered (-1.0%) due to the drop in prices of telephone and telefax services and mobile phones. A drop was recorded also for 'food and non-alcoholic beverages' (-0.5%), where the decrease in prices of fruit and vegetables was primarily shown.

In the capital city of Prague, the overall consumer price index (cost of living) rose by 0.1% month-on-month (0.1% in the whole Czech Republic as well). The consumer price index for 'clothing and footwear' rose by 5.0% (4.8% in the Czech Republic) due mainly to higher prices of footwear and also garments. In 'alcoholic beverages, tobacco', Prague registered a higher index by 0.4% (1.2% in the Czech Republic) due particularly to higher prices of wine and beer. In 'miscellaneous goods and services', the consumer price level went up by 0.4% (0.8% in the Czech Republic). An upward effect on the consumer price level came mainly from the rise in prices of beauty products. On the other hand, the drop in prices in 'communication', amounted to 1.2% (-1.6% in the Czech Republic). It was a result of lower prices of mobile phones and telephone and telefax services. In 'transport', prices decreased by 0.6% (-0.5% in the Czech Republic) due to the drop in prices of automobile fuel.