

CONSUMER PRICES ROSE MODERATELY YEAR-ON-YEAR

Consumer price indices – inflation – July 2016

Consumer prices in July increased compared with June by 0.3%. This development was primarily due to a growth of prices in 'recreation and culture' and further in 'food and non-alcoholic beverages' and 'alcoholic beverages and tobacco'. The year-on-year rise in consumer prices accelerated to 0.5% in July from 0.1% in June.

The **month-on-month** increase in consumer prices in 'recreation and culture' came from the rise in seasonal prices of package holidays by 12.8%. In 'food and non-alcoholic beverages', prices of the majority kinds of food went up. Prices of cheese were higher by 3.9%, pork by 3.5%, sugar by 6.5%, poultry by 1.6%, non-alcoholic beverages by 0.8%, chocolate and chocolate-based products by 2.8%, butter by 3.9%. In 'alcoholic beverages and tobacco', prices of wine and beer rose in particular (2.7% and 1.7%, respectively).

A decrease in the price level came primarily from a price drop in 'clothing and footwear', where prices of garments dropped by 1.5% and prices of shoes and other footwear by 3.5%. In 'transport', prices of automotive fuel went down by 0.4%. In food, fruit prices decreased by 1.1% and vegetable prices by 2.9%, of which potato prices by 13.4%.

Prices of goods in total went up by 0.1% and prices of services by 0.9%.

In terms of the **year-on-year** comparison, in July, the consumer prices increased by 0.5%, i.e. 0.4 percentage points up on June. This change was especially due to a substantial reduction of the price decline in 'food and non-alcoholic beverages'. Prices of eggs were lower by 11.4% in July (-12.9% in June), cheese by 5.5% (-11.0% in June), yoghurts by 10.4% (-11.6% in June), other milk products by 4.4% (-7.3% in June), butter by 7.9% (-10.5% in June), fruit by 3.1% (-5.7% in June), sugar by 1.0% (-6.7% in June), non-alcoholic beverages by 0.3% (-1.5% in June). Vegetable prices were higher by 9.9% in July (2.1% in June). In 'clothing and footwear', prices of garments went up by 1.9% (0.4% in June). The rise in prices of shoes and other footwear slowed down slightly to 4.9% (5.2% in June). In 'miscellaneous goods and services', prices of personal care rose by 1.5% (0.6% in June) and prices of financial services by 2.6% (2.1% in June).

The biggest influence on the growth of the y-o-y price level in July came, as before, from prices in 'alcoholic beverages and tobacco' due to the increase in prices of tobacco products and alcoholic beverages (5.4% and 3.0%, respectively). An influence on the rise had also prices in 'housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels', where prices of the net actual rentals increased by 1.6%, water supply by 1.6%, sewage collection by 5.3%, electricity by 1.2%, heat and hot water by 1.0%. In 'recreation and culture', prices of recreational and cultural services went primarily up by 2.3%. In 'restaurants and hotels', prices of catering services were higher by 1.2% and prices of accommodation services by 0.9%. In 'health', prices of therapeutic stays at a spa rose by 4.4%.

A reduction in the y-o-y price level came, as before, from the price decrease in 'transport' due to a decline in automotive fuel prices by 10.6%. The drop in prices continued, albeit with significantly lower effect in 'food and non-alcoholic beverages'. In 'housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels', prices of natural gas went down by 6.9%.

Prices of goods in total rose by 0.1% and prices of services by 1.4%. The overall consumer price index excluding imputed rentals was 100.5%, year-on-year.

Inflation rate, i.e. the increase in the average consumer price index in the twelve months to July 2016 compared with the average CPI in the previous twelve months, amounted to 0.3% in July.

According to preliminary data of Eurostat, the **year-on-year** change in the average **harmonized index of consumer prices (HICP)**¹⁾ in the **EU28 member states** amounted to 0.0% in June i.e. 0.1 percentage point more than in May. Prices went up the most in Belgium (1.8%) and Sweden (1.2%). On the other hand, the decrease occurred in thirteen EU countries, of which the largest in Cyprus (-2.0%) and Bulgaria (-1.9%). In Slovakia, prices went down by 0.7% in June (the same as in May). In Germany, the year-on-year price increase was 0.2% in June (0.0% in May). According to preliminary calculations, the HICP in the Czech Republic in July was 0.4%, **month-on-month**, and the **year-on-year** change was 0.5% (-0.1% in June). The MUICP (Monetary Union Index of Consumer Prices) flash estimate for the **Eurozone in July 2016** amounted to 0.2%, 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 July, in comparison to June, consumer prices in **households of pensioners** rose by 0.4%. In 'recreation and culture', the increase in prices occurred by 2.2%. Prices of package holidays went primarily up. In 'alcoholic beverages and tobacco', the consumer price index rose by 0.6%. Prices of wine and beer went up in particular. In 'food and non-alcoholic beverages', prices increased by 0.4%. It was shown mainly the growth of prices of sugar, non-confectionary and butter. On the other hand, the decrease in prices by 1.8% occurred in 'clothing and footwear'. The decline was caused by lower prices of shoes and other footwear and prices of garments. In 'transport', the price drop was recorded by 0.1%. It was mainly due to lower prices of automobile fuel.

In the capital city of Prague, the overall consumer price index (cost of living) rose by 0.5%, month-on-month (0.3% in the whole Czech Republic). In 'recreation and culture', the consumer price index increased by 2.9% (2.5% in the Czech Republic). Prices of package holidays went particularly up. In 'alcoholic beverages and tobacco', Prague registered a higher price index by 0.9% (0.8% in the Czech Republic). There occurred an increase in prices of wine and beer in particular. On the other hand, in 'clothing and footwear', the consumer price index fell by 1.6% (-1.9% in the Czech Republic). Lower prices of garments and prices of shoes and other footwear were collected. In 'furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance', consumer prices went down by 0.3% (0.0% in the Czech Republic). The more significant drop was recorded for refrigerators and freezers.