

Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS v2.0)

(user oriented)

Country: Greece

Compiling agency: ELSTAT

Domain name: Harmonized Indices of Consumer Prices (HICP)

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1. Contact Top	
1.1 Contact organisation	Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT)
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1.4 Contact person function	a) Head of Retail Price Indices Section b) Employee of Retail Price Indices Section
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2. Metadata update

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2.1 Metadata last certified	29/04/2022
2.2 Metadata last posted	29/04/2022
2.3 Metadata last update	29/04/2022

3. Statistical presentation

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3.1 Data description

The harmonised index of consumer prices (HICP) is a consumer price index (CPI) that is calculated according to a common approach. It measures the change over time of the prices of consumer goods and services acquired by households. Because of the common methodology, the HICPs of the countries and European aggregates can be directly compared.

3.2 Classification system

The applied classification of items (goods and services) included in the HICP is the European Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (ECOICOP), which is based on the corresponding international classification.

The main groups of the classification are:

- 00 All-items index
- 01 Food and non-alcoholic beverages
- 02 Alcoholic beverages and tobacco
- 03 Clothing and footwear
- 04 Housing
- 05 Household equipment
- 06 Health
- 07 Transport
- 08 Communication
- 09 Recreation and culture
- 10 Education
- 11 Hotels - Cafés - Restaurants
- 12 Miscellaneous goods and services

The structure of the classification COICOP5/HICP has five levels:

- Level 1: All items index – Overall index
- Level 2: 12 Divisions – 2-digit codes
- Level 3: 47 Groups – 3-digit codes
- Level 4: 117 Classes – 4-digit codes
- Level 5: 303 Sub-classes – 5-digit codes

3.3 Sector coverage

The HICP covers the final monetary consumption expenditure of the household sector.

3.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

The main statistical variables are price indices.

The data are published as follows:

HICP

1. Monthly data

- Indices (2015=100.0)
- Annual rates of change (%)
- Monthly rates of change (%)
- 12-month average rate of change (%)

2. Annual data

- Average index and rate of change (%)
- Item weights

HICP-CT

3. Monthly data (2015=100)

- Indices (2015=100.0)
- Annual rates of change (%)
- Monthly rate of change (%)

3.5 Statistical unit

The basic unit of statistical observation are prices for consumer products.

3.6 Statistical population

3.6.1 Statistical target population

The target statistical universe is the “household final monetary consumption expenditure” (HFMCE) on the economic territory of the country by both resident and non-resident households. The household sector to which the definition refers includes all individuals or groups of individuals irrespective of, in particular, the type of area in which they live, their position in the income distribution and their nationality or residence status. These definitions follow the national accounts concepts in the European System of Accounts.

3.6.2. Coverage error population

There is no coverage error population.

3.7 Reference area

The Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices refers to the economic territory of the Country. Prices are collected in 27 cities; the markets of these cities are considered to be representative centres of wider geographic areas. The sample of geographical regions covered by the HICP has been designed in order to cover representatively all the Regions (NUTS 2) of the Country in terms of price collection.

From each Region (NUTS 2), according to the size and specificity of their purchases and the costs incurred, 1-2 cities of collection are selected, with the exception of the Region of Kentriki Makedonia and Kriti, where 3 cities are selected.

The cities for which prices are collected are presented by Region in the following table:

Region (NTUTS2)	Price collection cities
1. Anatoliki Makedonia, Thraki	Kavala, Komotini
2. Kentriki Makedonia	Thessaloniki, Serres, Edessa
3. Dytiki Makedonia	Kozani, Grevena
4. Ipeiros	Ioannina, Igoumenitsa
5. Thessalia	Larisa, Volos
6. Ionia Nisia	Kerkyra, Lefkada
7. Dytiki Ellada	Patra, Mesolongi
8. Sterea Ellada	Lamia, Amfissa
9. Attiki	Greater Athens area
10. Peloponnisos	Kalamata, Tripoli
11. Voreio Aigaio	Mytilini, Chios
12. Notio Aigaio	Rodos, Ermoupolis
13. Kriti	Irakleio, Agios Nikolaos, Chania

3.8 Time coverage

From January 1996 onwards, the time series data of the Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices, with base year 2015 = 100.0, are available on a monthly basis.

3.9 Base period

The reference year of the index is 2015 (2015= 100.0).

4. Unit of measure

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The following units of measure are used (Indices 2015=100.0):

- Annual rate of change (percentage change on the same period of the previous year).
- Monthly rate of change (percentage change on the previous month).
- 12-month average rate of change (average of the annual rate of change of the last 12 months).
- Item weights (percentage share of the total 'household final monetary consumption expenditure').

5. Reference period

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One month (indices and rates).

One year (weights, indices and rates).

6. Institutional mandate

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6.1 Legal acts and other agreements

The legal act governing the compilation of the HICP is:

- [Regulation \(EU\) 2016/792](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on harmonised indices of consumer prices and the house price index repeals [Council Regulation \(EC\) No 2494/95](#) of 23 October 1995 and resets the legal basis for establishing a harmonised methodology for the compilation of the HICP, the euro area and the EU inflation figures. In addition, the Commission has brought forward detailed regulations establishing the specific rules governing the production of harmonized indices.

The legal framework concerning the organization and operation of ELSTAT is as follows:

- **Law 3832/2010** (Government Gazette No 38, Issue A): *"Hellenic Statistical System Establishment of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) as an Independent Authority"*, as amended and in force
- **Regulation on the Operation and Administration of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT)**, 2012, (Government Gazette No 2390, Issue B, 28-8-2012)
- **Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council**, on the European statistics (Official Journal of the European Union L 87/164).
- **Article 14 of the Law 3470/2006** (Government Gazette No 132, Issue A): *"National Export Council, tax regulations and other provisions"*.
- **Article 3, paragraph 1c, of the Law 3448/2006** (Government Gazette No 57, Issue A): *"For the further use of information coming from the public sector and the settlement of matters falling within the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization"*.
- **European Statistics Code of Practice**, adopted by the Statistical Programme Committee on 24 February 2005 and promulgated in the Commission Recommendation of 25 May 2005 on the independence, integrity and accountability of the national and Community statistical Authorities, after its revision, which was adopted on 28 September 2011 by the European Statistical System Committee.
- **Presidential Decree 73/2019** (Government Gazette No 114, Issue A, 04.07.2019): *"Organization of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT)"*.

- **Articles 4, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 of the Law 2392/1996** (Government Gazette No 60, Issue A): *"Access of the General Secretariat of the National Statistical Service of Greece to administrative sources and administrative files, Statistical Confidentiality Committee, settlement of matters concerning the conduct of censuses and statistical works, as well as of matters of the General Secretariat of the National Statistical Service of Greece"*.

The Legal Framework is detailed at the following link:

<http://www.statistics.gr/en/legal-framework>

6.2 Data sharing

None.

7. Confidentiality

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7.1 Confidentiality - policy

The issues concerning the observance of statistical confidentiality by the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) are arranged by articles 7, 8 and 9 of the Law 3832/2010 as in force, by Articles 8, 10 and 11(2) of the Regulation on Statistical Obligations of the agencies of the Hellenic Statistical System and by Articles 10 and 15 of the Regulation on the Operation and Administration of ELSTAT.

More precisely:

ELSTAT disseminates the statistics in compliance with the statistical principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice and in particular with the principle of statistical confidentiality.

<http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistical-confidentiality?inheritRedirect=true>

Protection of personal data

ELSTAT abides by the commitments and obligations arising from the applicable EU and national legislation on the protection of the individual from the processing of personal data and the relevant decisions, guidelines and regulatory acts of the Hellenic Data Protection Authority.

Pursuant to the Regulation on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data [Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 (General Data Protection Regulation - GDPR)], ELSTAT implements the appropriate technical and organisational measures for ensuring adequate level of security against risks for the personal data it collects and has access to, in the context of carrying out its tasks, in order to meet the requirements of this Regulation and to protect these personal data from any unauthorised access or illegal processing.

The personal data collected by ELSTAT are used exclusively for purposes related to the conduct of surveys and the production of relevant statistics. Only ELSTAT has access to the data. The controller is the person appointed by law pursuant to the relevant provisions concerning the Legal Entities of Public Law and the Independent Authorities. The data are stored in the databases of ELSTAT for as long as required by the relevant legislation.

Legal basis of the processing: Article 6, para 1(c) and 1(d) of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

<https://www.statistics.gr/el/privacy-info>

7.2 Confidentiality - data treatment

ELSTAT protects and does not disseminate data it has obtained or it has access to, which enable the direct or indirect identification of the statistical units that have provided them by the disclosure of individual information directly received for statistical purposes or indirectly supplied from administrative or other sources. ELSTAT takes all appropriate preventive measures so as to render impossible the identification of individual statistical units by technical or other means that might reasonably be used by a third party. Statistical data that could potentially enable the identification of the statistical unit are disseminated by ELSTAT if and only if:

a) these data have been treated, as it is specifically set out in the Regulation on Statistical Obligations of the agencies of the Hellenic Statistical System (ELSS), in such a way that their dissemination does not prejudice statistical confidentiality or

b) the statistical unit has given its consent, without any reservations, for the disclosure of data.

The confidential data that are transmitted by ELSS agencies to ELSTAT are used exclusively for statistical purposes and the only persons who have the right to have access to these data are the personnel engaged in this task and appointed by an act of the President of ELSTAT.

ELSTAT may grant researchers conducting statistical analyses for scientific purposes access to data that enable the indirect identification of the statistical units concerned. The access is granted provided the following conditions are satisfied:

a) an appropriate request together with a detailed research proposal in conformity with current scientific standards have been submitted;

b) the research proposal indicates in sufficient detail the set of data to be accessed, the methods of analyzing them, and the time needed for the research;

c) a contract specifying the conditions for access, the obligations of the researchers, the measures for respecting the confidentiality of statistical data and the sanctions in case of breach of these obligations has been signed by the individual researcher, by his/her institution, or by the organization commissioning the research, as the case may be, and by ELSTAT.

Issues referring to the observance of statistical confidentiality are examined by the Statistical Confidentiality Committee (SCC) operating in ELSTAT.

The responsibilities of this Committee are to make recommendations to the President of ELSTAT on:

- The level of detail at which statistical data can be disseminated, so as the identification, either directly or indirectly, of the surveyed statistical unit is not possible;
- the anonymization criteria for the microdata provided to users;
- the granting to researchers access to confidential data for scientific purposes.

The staff of ELSTAT, under any employment status, as well as the temporary survey workers who are employed for the collection of statistical data in statistical surveys conducted by ELSTAT, who acquire access by any means to confidential data, are bound by the principle of confidentiality and must use these data exclusively for the statistical purposes of ELSTAT. After the termination of their term of office, they are not allowed to use these data for any purpose.

Violation of data confidentiality and/or statistical confidentiality by any civil servant or employee of ELSTAT constitutes the disciplinary offence of violation of duty and may be punished with the penalty of final dismissal.

ELSTAT, by its decision, may impose a penalty amounting from ten thousand (10,000) up to two hundred thousand (200,000) Euros to anyone who violates the confidentiality of data and/or statistical confidentiality. The penalty is always imposed after the hearing of the defense of the person liable for the breach, depending on the gravity and the repercussions of the violation. Any relapse constitutes an aggravating factor for the assessment of the administrative sanction.

Pursuant to the Regulation on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data [Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 27 April 2016 (General Data Protection Regulation - GDPR)], ELSTAT implements the appropriate technical and organisational measures for ensuring adequate level of security against risks for the personal data it collects and has access to, in the context of carrying out its tasks, in order to meet the requirements of this Regulation and to protect these personal data from any unauthorised access or illegal processing.

8. Release policy

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8.1 Release calendar

The release dates for HICP are set out at the end of the first semester of the previous calendar year and they figure in

the Press Releases Calendar of ELSTAT (in Greek-English).

8.2 Release calendar access

The Press Releases Calendar is disseminated to the media and it is available to users for free. The release calendar is also posted on the website of ELSTAT (www.statistics.gr/en/calendar), "Press Releases" / "Release Calendar" (Greek-English).

8.3 User access

In compliance with Community legislation and the European Statistics Code of Practice, ELSTAT disseminates national statistical data on its website, fully observing professional independence and with a view to ensuring the simultaneous, equal and timely access of all users to statistical data.

Data are released simultaneously to all interest parties and to all users through the press release on the HICP, which is released on the website of ELSTAT (www.statistics.gr) according to the release calendar and it can also be transmitted to users by e-mail.

Neither users nor any government bodies have access to data before their official release.

9. Frequency of dissemination

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The HICP is disseminated on a monthly basis.

10. Accessibility and clarity

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10.1 News release

The HICP and HICP-CT data are published on a monthly basis through a scheduled press release, during the first 10 days after the end of each reference month (excluding the January Index, which is released on February 20). Every month, on a specific date and at 12:00, a press release is announced which presents the currently compiled indices and their changes in the Greek and English language. This press release is disseminated to the media and to other users, free of charge, through e-mail and is also available on the website of ELSTAT:

<http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/-/publication/DKT90/>

10.2 Publications

The HICP is included in the following publications:

- "[Greece in figures](#)" where annual average indices are published at the level of the general index and at the level of major groups.
- "[The Greek Economy](#)" where monthly and annual index data and rate changes are published for the last four years at the level of the general index.

10.3 On-line database

None.

10.3.1 Data tables - consultations

In 2021, users' consultations, as regards the HICP data, amounted to 116,586 webpage hits. It is not possible to distinguish between data consultations and metadata consultations.

10.4 Micro-data access

Micro-data are made available to users after submitting a relevant request to the:

Statistical Information and Publications Division

46, Pireos & Eponiton Str, PO Box 80847

18510 Piraeus

Tel: +30 213 135 2022

e-mail: data.dissem@statistics.gr

For confidentiality reasons, access to micro-data is granted to users only under strict conditions and by always adhering to the relevant procedure
http://www.statistics.gr/en/scientific_provision_data.

10.5 Other

Users can be given data or other statistical analysis, through e-mail, upon request, after submitting an application to the Population Employment and Cost of Living Statistics Division-Retail Price Indices Section (B44) or to the Statistical Data Dissemination Section (A54).

The contact e-mail addresses are:

cpu@statistics.gr, a.kourtaki@statistics.gr, data.dissem@statistics.gr
data.supply@statistics.gr, data.source@statistics.gr

Users can have access to ELSTAT publications, even for previous years, where they can find data on the HICP, which are posted on the digital library of ELSTAT, through:

<http://dlib.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/>

The results of the Harmonized Consumer Price Index are posted on the website of ELSTAT, at the link:

[http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/-/publication/DKT90/-](http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/-/publication/DKT90/)

Data are sent to Eurostat and published in Eurostat online database.

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/hicp/data>.

Users can submit their requests via website:

<http://www.statistics.gr/en/provision-of-statistical-data>.

10.5.1 Metadata – consultations

See paragraph 10.3.1 above.

10.6 Documentation on methodology

A methodological publication containing detailed information on the sources and the related practices used for the compilation of the Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices is available in the Greek and English language on the website of ELSTAT.

http://www.statistics.gr/en/HICP_publication

An information note concerning the updating works for the index is also available at:

http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/-/information_note

http://www.statistics.gr/en/information_note_2015

http://www.statistics.gr/en/information_note_2016

http://www.statistics.gr/en/information_note_2019

10.6.1 Metadata completeness – rate

Metadata for the compilation of the HICP are available on the website of ELSTAT, at the following link:

[http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/-/publication/DKT90/-](http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/-/publication/DKT90/)

Therefore, metadata completeness rates amounts to 100%.

10.7 Quality documentation

Eurostat's regular compliance monitoring visits and related documentation are available on the Eurostat website:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/hicp/methodology>

A concise Quality Report is available at the following link:

[http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/-/publication/DKT90/-](http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/-/publication/DKT90/)

11. Quality management

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11.1 Quality assurance

Quality checks and validation of data are carried out through the whole process of the compilation of the index, from the stage of data collection to the final calculation of the index.

- The Quality Policy and the Quality Manual of ELSTAT are applied:
<http://www.statistics.gr/en/policies>
- At a first stage, each product selected to be monitored is fully and accurately defined on the basis of the characteristics which define it (range, weight, packaging, other quality attributes).
- If certain items or product varieties cease to be representative or alter their determination characteristics, then new items or varieties replace the older ones.
- Well-trained and experienced staff is utilized for all the stages of the compilation of the index, that is, for data collection (including communication with the enterprises), initial checks, data entry and final checks, which are conducted after the calculation of the index. This way, the personnel have a comprehensive and longitudinal image of the enterprises under their responsibilities.
- Data are validated either before or after data entry by means of logical checks. During data processing data are checked in order to identify and correct any errors. When an error is identified, data are further investigated, in cooperation with the enterprises in order to confirm that it is an error or it is just an unusual price. At the same time, data are checked for completeness, accuracy and consistency of the correlating variables.
- The indices are calculated by means of specialised software, through computation routines, thus eliminating any errors to the final results. Nevertheless, even during this stage, consistency checks are carried out to the final results, mainly by means of comparing the percentage changes of the sub-indices and their impact on the overall index.

11.2 Quality assessment

The Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices is considered as a highly reliable index. It is compiled since 1995 in Greece, thus the staff has acquired a lot of experience and expertise in its compilation. The concepts, definitions and methodology of the HICP follow European and international standards and guidelines.

The characteristic of the HICPs is that they must be produced according to several technical measures, as these are defined in the above EC Regulations. The main technical measures are the following:

- Use of a common classification of items (COICOP/HICP).
- Selection of the computation formula for the individual indices.
- Geographic and population coverage of the whole country.
- Renewal of weights of items annually.
- Item coverage and production of specific sub-indices.
- Minimum standards for price collection and sampling.
- Adjustments due to quality differences of items.
- Common treatment of tariffs of Public Utility Services.
- Common reference year (2015=100,0) and retrospective compilation of indices from January 1996 onwards.

12. Relevance

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12.1 User needs

The HICP covers users' needs for international comparisons of inflation.

The HICPs are the basis for compiling the European Index of Consumer Prices (EICP) and the Monetary Union Index of Consumer Prices (MUICP), which provide the official Measures of inflation in the EU28 and the Eurozone, respectively.

The main domestic users of the Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices are the Government, public entities, the Central Bank and commercial banks, enterprises, universities, research organizations, while at international level Eurostat, the European Central Bank (ECB) the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organisation for economic co-operation and development (OECD), the United Nations (UN), the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), etc.

12.2 User satisfaction

Users' needs are monitored on a regular basis by Retail Price Indices Section (B44) and the Statistical Data Dissemination Section (A54) of the Statistical Information and Publications Division, with the aim of meeting their requests. Generally, good cooperation has been established with users and the response to requests is as immediate as possible, with positive comments obtained from users.

At the same time, ELSTAT conducts a user satisfaction survey every six months the results of which are published in the [Library's Newsletter](#) a bilingual publication issued by the Library and Website Content Management Section and the Statistical Data Dissemination Section utilizing the user questionnaire. This publication presents half-yearly data on the number of users, in combination with some other variables, such as the degree of coverage of requests, the type of the requested statistics and the dissemination of statistical information. These characteristics are tabulated into absolute values and in percentages.

ELSTAT, in an effort to explore the basic characteristics of the users of statistical information and record their needs, collects on a daily basis the User Questionnaire in order to collect important information for its products and services and thus contributing to their improvement. These statistical data are presented on an annual basis.

Finally, ELSTAT has been conducting since 2010, annually, a Users Conference. Users Conferences help ELSTAT to draw useful conclusions on the areas where statistical output and services can be improved and to be more responsive to the evolving needs of users. These conclusions are included in the annual and medium term statistical work programmes of ELSTAT.

The results of User Satisfaction Survey are presented at the following link on the portal ELSTAT:

<http://www.statistics.gr/en/user-satisfaction-survey>

12.3 Data completeness

The compilation of the HICP and the information provided are fully inline with the relevant Regulations and EC Directives (Eurostat). All indices and item weights are available since January 1996.

13. Accuracy and reliability

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13.1 Overall accuracy

The accuracy of HICP is generally considered to be high. The accuracy of source data is monitored by assessing the methodological soundness of weight and price sources and the adherence to the methodological recommendations. The National Accounts data and Household Budget Survey (HBS) are the main source for weights every year. Local price collection (visits to local retailers and service providers) and central price collection (post, telephone, e-mail and the internet) are the data sources for prices. The items selected for pricing and the method selected for price collection reflect both consumer choice and behaviour. The type of survey and the price collection methods ensure sufficient coverage and timeliness.

13.2 Sampling error

The sampling errors of the indices are not calculated, because when selecting the sample of the products of the household basket and the outlets that are provided, the method of guided sampling is applied.

13.3 Non-sampling error

The HICP non-sampling errors are not quantified. ELSTAT tries to reduce non-sampling errors through continuous methodological improvements and survey process improvements.

14. Timeliness and punctuality

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14.1 Timeliness

The index is published within the first 10 days after the end of the reference month, except for the index of January, which is announced until the 20th of February.

14.2 Punctuality

The HICP is published according to a pre-announced schedule incorporated to the [Press Releases Calendar](#) of ELSTAT.

15. Coherence and comparability

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15.1 Comparability - geographical

The compilation of the index follows the European regulations and the basic methodological principles of the Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices (HICP). This ensures comparability with other national indices of EU countries, taking always into consideration specific conditions in each country, which may require minor deviations from methodology.

15.1.1 Assymetry for mirror flows statistics – coefficient

Not applicable.

15.2 Comparability over time

The HICP time series data are fully comparable over time. The HICP time series are available from 1996.

15.3 Coherence cross-domain

Checks and comparisons are always carried out on the basis of the national Consumer Price Index (CPI).

The national CPI and the Greek HICP present several similarities but also some differences with the following being the most important.

- The HICP reference year is 2015=100.0 and CPI 2020=100.0.
- The HICP covers all consumption expenditure, which takes place on the economic territory of Greece independently of the consumer (permanent and non permanent residents), while the national CPI covers only the consumption expenditure of private resident households which take place on the economic territory of the country and abroad.
- The HICP weights of the items are calculated based on data of the National Accounts and HBS data while the CPI calculated using only HBS data.

15.3.1 Coherence – sub annual and annual statistics

Not applicable

15.3.2 Coherence – National Accounts

The HICP weights are compiled based on the National Accounts data.

15.4 Coherence - internal

The HICP is internally coherent. Higher-level aggregations are derived from detailed indices according to well-defined procedures.

16. Cost and burden

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Not available.

17. Data revision

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17.1 Revision policy

HICP data are considered final at the time of publication. Nevertheless, published HICP data may be revised due to errors, new or improved information and changes to the harmonized rules system in accordance with [Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 1921/2001](#).

The HICP series, including back data, is revisable at any point in time under the terms set in Articles 17 to 20 of [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2020/1148](#).

17.2 Revision practice

The HICP has not been revised in past years.

18. Statistical processing

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18.1 Source data

The sample of surveyed goods and services is updated annually, using the results of the latest available Household Budget Survey and other market research. The chain linking methodology allows the change of items of the household basket, on an annual basis, in order to ensure the representativeness of items which are to be included in the calculation of groups and sub-groups of the index.

The number of consumer goods and services of the HICP comes to 800 and they are further broken down into a greater number of varieties.

All the items, for which prices are collected, are defined by their specification, namely the particular characteristics which determine the quality, appearance and general commercial identity of the goods (such as brand, variety, weight, packaging, etc.) in order to avoid any price changes, which are due to differences in the specification. The detailed specification of an item is not uniform throughout the Country and may differ not only from one price collection city to another, but also from one store of the city to another, since it is determined on the basis of the economic conditions and the local consumer habits.

Sample size (2022)

		Number of items	Number of prices per month
00	All-items index	799	49,497
01	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	245	16,802
02	Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	14	860
03	Clothing and footwear	92	5,835
04	Housing	27	2,374
05	Household equipment	118	7,254
06	Health	34	2,152
07	Transport	43	2,033
08	Communication	11	338
09	Recreation and culture	89	4,664
10	Education	8	257
11	Hotels - Cafés - Restaurants	45	2,669
12	Miscellaneous goods and services	73	4,241

18.2 Frequency of data collection

The frequency of price collection depends on the nature of goods and services. For the majority of items, the prices are collected once a month. The prices of fresh products (fresh fruit and vegetables, fresh fish), which are affected by external factors (such as weather conditions) are collected every week, always on the same day (Tuesday or Thursday).

For the items whose prices are fixed administratively (public utility tariffs, tickets of public transports, postal services) and for some other items (tuition fees, insurance premiums) the prices are collected once a year (items for yearly price collection). For these items the prices are collected right after the new prices and tariffs are released and put into force. In case the prices of these items change and are readjusted within the same year, their prices are collected again.

For the items whose prices are collected on a monthly basis, price collection takes place, in general, approximately in the middle of the month.

18.3 Data collection

Price collection outlets

The price collection outlets are retail stores and services enterprises, which sell particular species and varieties of species that are consumed by the majority of households in the area.

The selected outlets are representative of the branches of stores in the 27 selected price collection cities where the households make their purchases.

The representativeness criteria for the selection of the outlets are the volume of sales, their geographic location and the availability of items, for which prices are collected, on a continuous basis. The biggest urban centers of Greece, Greater Athens area and Thessaloniki, are divided into zones depending on the income of their inhabitants. Therefore, the price collection outlets in these cities are selected on the basis of the criterion according to which the consumers from all income levels are represented.

The sample of price collection sources does not include shops, mainly small, with low-quality products, as well as some luxury stores with products at extremely high prices. Furthermore, prices are not collected for items sold on street-carts but on the contrary, price collection includes open-air markets but only for fresh fruit and vegetables.

The chain linking methodology allows the annual renewal of collection price outlets and their number, in order to maintain their representativeness on the calculation of HICP. At each updating of the index, only the representative sample price collection outlets are kept, while those that do not fulfil the necessary selection requirements are replaced. Moreover, the sample is extended to cover the price collection of new items.

The sample size of outlets, in each price collection city, depends on the market size (population) of each area.

Depending on the items, the outlets are distinguished in department stores, specialized stores, supermarkets, open-air markets and services enterprises. For certain items whose prices are collected by the central office (electricity, tickets of public transport, etc), the necessary data are collected from the competent corporations, organizations and agencies.

Price Collection

The collection of prices for almost all the items of HICP is carried out by visiting ELSTAT employees on the price collection outlets of a specific period of the month (month/week). Prices are also collected by e-mail (private school fees, car insurance premiums and bicycles, etc.) as well as via the Internet (gas prices, car and bicycle toll rates, mobile telephony prices, ship and plane ticket prices, etc.).

There are some items whose prices are uniform across the country. The prices of these items are collected by the central office of ELSTAT and they are broken down into two categories:

- a) Items whose prices are the same throughout the country and are determined by the forces of supply and demand (cigarettes, motor vehicles, newspapers and magazines, insurance premium, banking services, etc). Their prices are collected on a monthly or yearly basis,
- b) Items whose prices are the same throughout the country and are set by the government (electricity, motor vehicle registration fees, road tolls, medicines, postal services). Their prices are collected on a yearly basis.

18.4 Data validation

Data is validated through regular and logical checks. During data processing any errors are identified and are fully corrected. Special emphasis is placed on the errors that may have major impact on the results. After identifying the errors, they are further checked and cross-checked in cooperation with the enterprises in order to confirm that it is an error or it is just about an unusual price. At the same time, data are checked for completeness, accuracy and consistency of the correlating variables. Data processing and data validation are carried out either during or after data entry.

The data are compared with data from previous months and with data of the corresponding month of previous years and in case of large deviations, a more thorough investigation is necessary.

18.5 Data compilation

Weights of items

The expenditures used for the calculation of the weights of items taken into account for the computation of HICP include the expenditures of private households, the expenditures of foreign visitors and the expenditures of individuals living in institutions, while the expenditures of residents whilst in a foreign country are excluded. The item weights are price updated, every January to the previous December prices. The sources of the expenditure data used

for the calculation of the weights of HICP items are National Accounts and the Household Budget Survey (HBS).

The renewal of weights, which is necessary to ensure their reliability, is governed by Commission Regulation (EC) No 1114/2010, as regards minimum standards for the quality of HICP weightings.

The following table presents the weights of items of the Greek HICP – expressed in (%)-, as these apply, from January 2022, for the 12 main groups of items (two-digit level of COICOP/HICP).

Main groups of items of the COICOP/HICP classification	Weights 2022
1. Food and non-Alcoholic Beverages	210,42
2. Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	47,35
3. Clothing and footwear	58,04
4. Housing	126,35
5. Household Equipment	38,77
6. Health	58,14
7. Transport	130,53
8. Communication	49,86
9. Recreation and Culture	41,68
10. Education	22,49
11. Hotels, Cafés and Restaurants	158,03
12. Miscellaneous Goods and Services	58,34
Total Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices	1000.00

Computation of lowest-level indices

The geometric mean is used for the elementary indices in pricing cities level as no weighting information regarding the outlets/sources level is available and for the calculation of elementary aggregate indices for the whole country, population weights are used for weighting the individual indices of price collection cities.

For the calculation of population weights, the new population data as derived from the 2011 population census and the results of the 2020 Household Budget Survey (HBS) were taken into account.

For the weighting of the sub-indices of some items of the Index (e.g. urban transports), where accurate data on the local consumption value are available, these data are used instead of the above-mentioned population weights.

Missing prices

The treatment of missing prices depends on the category of items, for which prices are collected.

For seasonal items (fresh vegetables, fresh fruit, clothing and footwear, etc.) the standardized method for dealing with the seasonality of these items is applied.

The treatment of missing prices for the other items depends on the duration of the item's absence from the outlet. If the item is absent for a period up to 2 months, then the price, which will be recorded, is the latest regular price observed. If the item is absent for more than 2 months, then the item is replaced, according to the procedure described below "replacement of items".

Replacement of items

When a specified item (variety) is no longer available in the market or it is no longer important, in terms of consumption, because of a new variety, then it is replaced by the item, which has taken its place in the market.

The criterion for this substitution depends on the most sold variety in terms of volume rather than in value for the specific item in the surveyed outlet.

According to the method of "bridged overlap" in the substitution process, either the price of the new product for the previous month is taken into account, if known, or an estimate is made of this price according to the dynamics of the

prices of similar products belonging to the same group with the product to be substituted.

Seasonality of items

a. Fresh fruit and vegetables

The seasonality of fresh fruit and vegetables is addressed by using the method of “*Class-confined seasonal weights*”, which fully meets the requirements of the latest Council Regulation No 330/2009 .

According to the method, when some products are out of season then they remain out of the "basket" with no weighting factors.

b. Clothing and footwear

The same class-confined seasonal weights method is applied to address the seasonality of clothing and footwear.

The items of clothing and footwear of the HICP are divided in the following groups:

- i. Clothing and footwear items available only in winter (winter items)
- ii. Clothing and footwear items available only in summer (summer items)
- iii. Clothing and footwear items available during all of the year (all-seasons items)

The items of the group (i) and (ii) are considered seasonal items.

Prices for the aforementioned seasonal items are collected during:

October-April: winter items

May-September: summer items

Offers and discounts

The reductions in the prices of individual products and services are taken into account for the compilation of the HICP only in the following cases:

- a) The reductions are offered to all potential buyers, without discrimination
- b) The buyer is aware of these reductions the moment he is making his purchases
- c) The reductions can be applied at the moment of the purchase

Therefore, reductions due to special offers or sales, which are offered only to specific consumer groups (e.g, pensioners, cooperative’s members, etc), are not taken into account for the compilation of the HICP. Accordingly, special offers, such as offering another product as a gift, or special offers on goods close to the expiry date or due to damage are not taken into account for the compilation of the HICP.

In addition, for the compilation of the HICP special offers available only in some stores (by means of bonus cards or coupons) are not taken into account because these offers are considered to be discriminatory.

On the contrary, the reduced prices of general offers and discounts are taken into account during the price collection of the HICP, In Greece the general winter and summer sales are established by law as follows:

- Ten days winter discount: 10 first days of November
- Winter sales: mid January - end February
- Ten days summer discount: 10 first days of May
- Summer sales: mid July - end August

After the end of the sales period, the prices come again to their normal level before the sales, therefore not affecting the Index over a 12-month period,

Public Utility Corporations tariffs

The readjustment in the tariffs of public utility corporations (DEH - Electric Power Corporation, EYDAP - Water supply corporation for Athens, etc) are treated by calculating the mean weighted changes in the relevant tariffs, recorded for the total of the household of the country and on the basis of the data provided by the public utility corporations,

These data are provided by the corporations in the framework of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2646/98 "as regards minimum standards for the treatment of tariffs in the compilation of the Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices"

18.6 Adjustment

The methods of quality adjustment which are followed are mainly three: a) the overlap method used in cases where the old (to be replaced) product and the new product have common price collection period, b) the bridged overlap method (connection with increase or decrease in the index) and c) quantity adjustment, (when the quantity of an item changes while its price remains the same),

Therefore, when a good is sold in a higher or lower quantity than usual, with the same price, then the value is adjusted on the basis of the offered quantity (quantitative adjustment),

18.6.1 Seasonal adjustment

Not applicable.

19. Comment

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None.