



PRESS RELEASE

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: January 2015 (2009=100.0)

The Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT), as already announced in the Press Release on the CPI for January 2014, is now compiling the CPI implementing the chain linking method, which allows for the annual update of CPI, thus ensuring its representativeness. Therefore, during 2014, ELSTAT undertook a number of actions aimed at updating the CPI, which were included in its annual statistical work programme for 2014.

More specifically ELSTAT:

- implemented the new European classification of individual consumption by purpose, COICOP5;
- updated the CPI items, i.e., the basket of goods and services;
- updated the sample areas and the price collection outlets;
- increased the number of prices collection cities by adding three new ones, namely Chania, Ermoupolis and Chios;
- updated the weights of the index on the basis of the latest available data from the 2013 Households Budget Survey;
- improved the methodology for calculating the population weights by taking into account expenditure data.

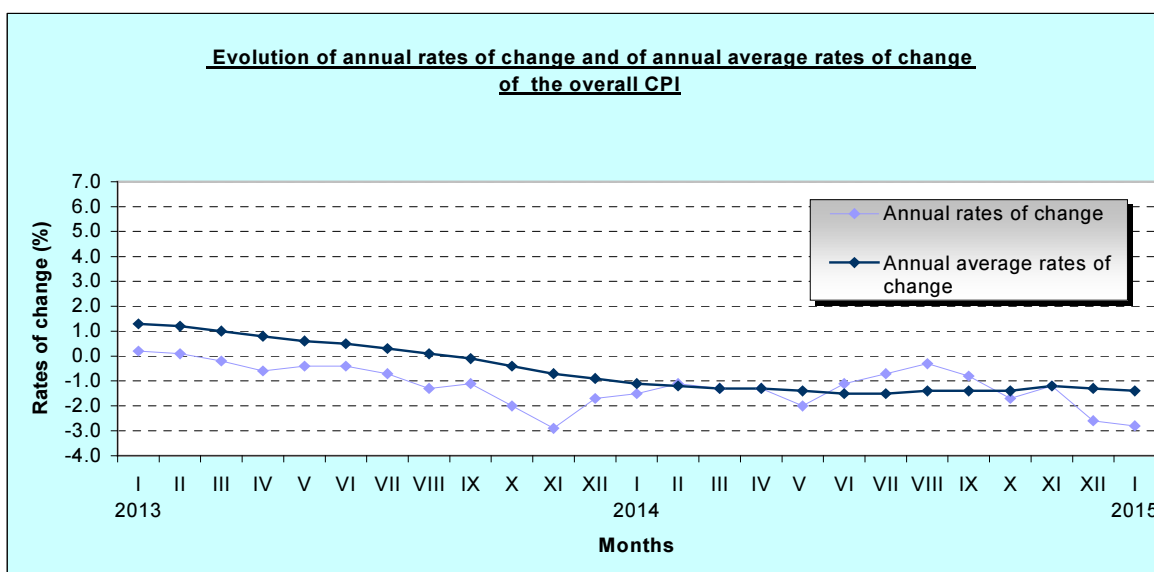
A relevant information note pertaining to the above changes is posted on the website of ELSTAT at the following link:

http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/BUCKET/A0515/Other/A0515_DKT87_MT_MM_01_2015_01_2099_01B_F_EN.pdf

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) in January 2015 compared with January 2014 decreased by 2.8%. In January 2014, the annual rate of change of the CPI was -1.5% (Table 2).

The CPI in January 2015 compared with December 2014 decreased by 1.4%. In January 2014, the monthly rate of change of the CPI was -1.2% (Table 1).

In the twelve-month period from February 2014 to January 2015, compared with the period from February 2013 to January 2014, the annual average rate of change of the CPI was -1.4%. The corresponding annual average rate of change of the CPI in the previous year (February 2013 to January 2014) was -1.1% (Table 3).



Information:

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Table 1
Monthly rates of change of the Consumer Price Index – January 2015
(2009=100.0)

	Main groups of goods and services	Weights HBS 2013 (‰)	2015	2014	Rate of change %	2014	2013	Rate of change %
			January	December		January	December	
1	Food & non-Alcoholic Beverages	210.47	103.51	102.08	1.4	104.00	103.31	0.7
2	Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco	44.80	133.05	132.32	0.6	129.57	128.48	0.8
3	Clothing and Footwear	62.81	90.26	105.24	-14.2	92.95	109.48	-15.1
4	Housing	135.43	120.95	122.43	-1.2	131.48	131.74	-0.2
5	Household Equipment	58.21	93.04	96.28	-3.4	95.25	97.95	-2.8
6	Health	74.95	96.44	96.72	-0.3	97.60	97.70	-0.1
7	Transport	123.26	113.02	116.69	-3.1	121.44	121.86	-0.3
8	Communication	43.00	98.41	98.41	0.0	98.46	98.46	0.0
9	Recreation and Culture	44.59	93.43	93.50	-0.1	94.67	95.14	-0.5
10	Education	32.71	90.41	90.41	0.0	93.34	93.34	0.0
11	Hotels Cafés & Restaurants	98.58	101.81	101.75	0.1	102.54	102.99	-0.4
12	Miscellaneous Goods & Services	71.19	98.83	99.45	-0.6	101.22	101.94	-0.7
	Overall Index	1000.0	104.32	105.79	-1.4	107.37	108.62	-1.2

Note: 1. The indices are calculated with infinite decimal figures and rounded up to two decimal figures when published.
2. Percentage changes are calculated on the basis of indices with infinite decimal figures and rounded up to one decimal figure when published.

Table 2
Annual rates of change of the Consumer Price Index – January 2015
(2009=100.0)

		I			
Main groups of goods and services		January		Rate of change (%)	Effect
		2014	2013		
1	Food and non Alcoholic Beverages	104.00	104.79	-0.8	-0.1520
2	Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	129.57	126.97	2.0	0.0975
3	Clothing and Footwear	92.95	95.70	-2.9	-0.1632
4	Housing	131.48	133.71	-1.7	-0.3073
5	Household Equipment	95.25	96.67	-1.5	-0.0766
6	Health	97.60	96.33	1.3	0.0783
7	Transport	121.44	125.13	-2.9	-0.4318
8	Communication	98.46	98.41	0.0	0.0018
9	Recreation and Culture	94.67	97.69	-3.1	-0.1165
10	Education	93.34	97.15	-3.9	-0.1128
11	Hotels Cafés and Restaurants	102.54	105.95	-3.2	-0.3082
12	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	101.22	105.78	-4.3	-0.2814
Overall Index		107.37	108.97	-1.5	

		II			
Main groups of goods and services		January		Rate of change (%)	Effect
		2015	2014		
1	Food and non Alcoholic Beverages	103.51	104.00	-0.5	-0.0970
2	Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	133.05	129.57	2.7	0.1455
3	Clothing and Footwear	90.26	92.95	-2.9	-0.1571
4	Housing	120.95	131.48	-8.0	-1.3278
5	Household Equipment	93.04	95.25	-2.3	-0.1194
6	Health	96.44	97.60	-1.2	-0.0808
7	Transport	113.02	121.44	-6.9	-0.9670
8	Communication	98.41	98.46	0.0	-0.0019
9	Recreation and Culture	93.43	94.67	-1.3	-0.0513
10	Education	90.41	93.34	-3.1	-0.0893
11	Hotels Cafés and Restaurants	101.81	102.54	-0.7	-0.0674
12	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	98.83	101.22	-2.4	-0.1586
Overall Index		104.32	107.37	-2.8	

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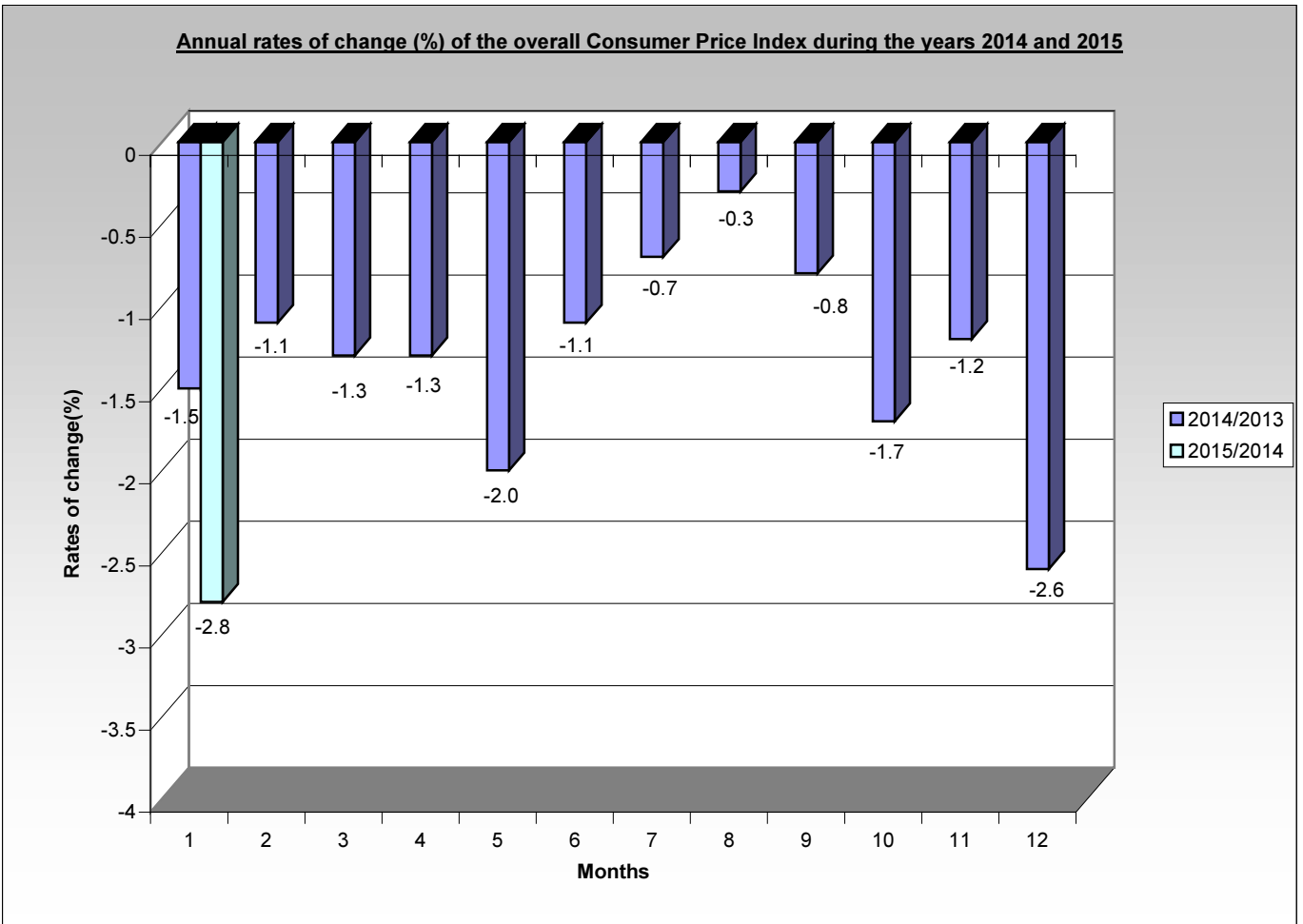
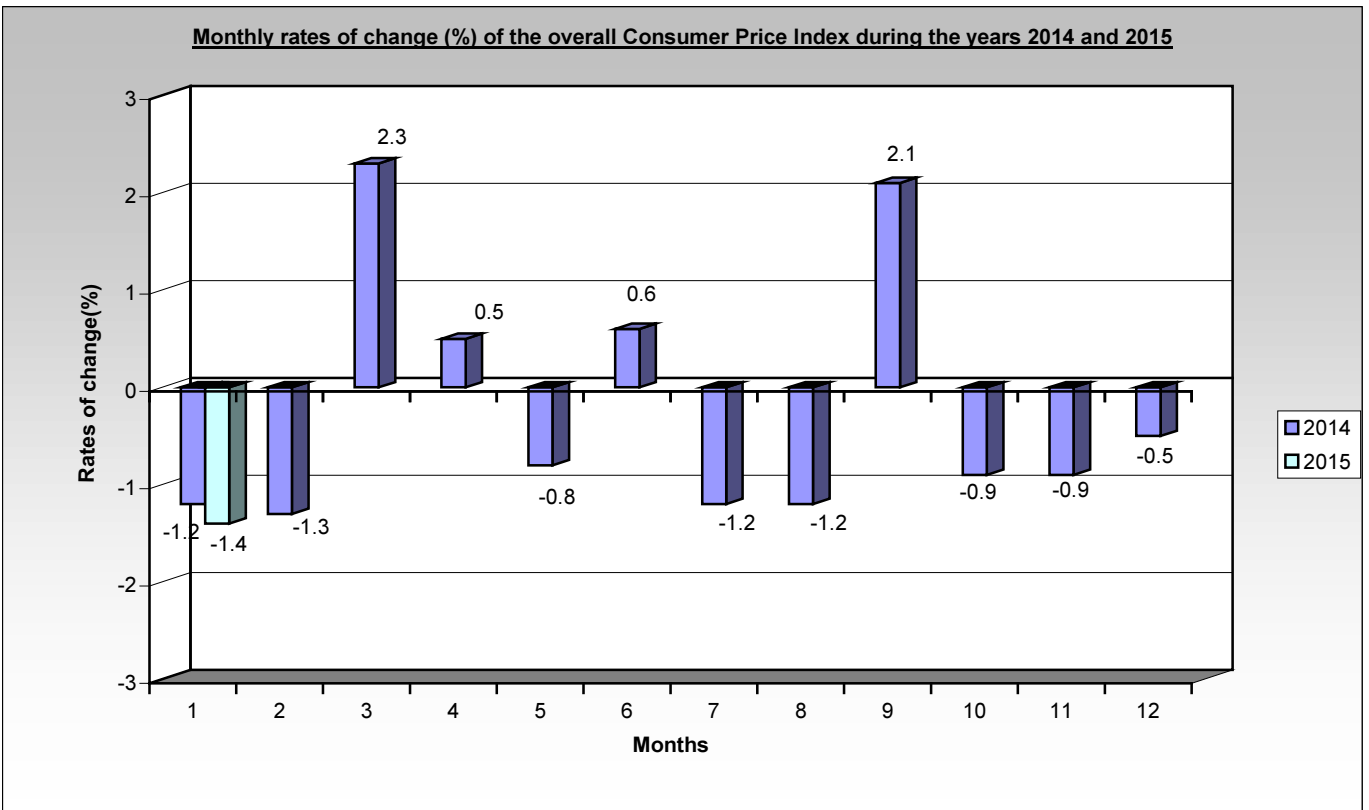
Table 3
Comparisons of the overall Consumer Price Index
(2009=100.0)

Year and month	Overall index	Monthly rates of change %	Annual rates of change %	Annual average index (moving average)	Annual average rates of change %
2012 : 1	108.75	-0.8	2.3	108.41	3.1
2	107.10	-1.5	2.1	108.59	2.9
3	110.13	2.8	1.7	108.74	2.7
4	111.07	0.8	1.9	108.91	2.5
5	110.71	-0.3	1.4	109.04	2.3
6	110.37	-0.3	1.3	109.16	2.2
7	108.88	-1.4	1.3	109.28	2.1
8	107.78	-1.0	1.7	109.43	2.1
9	110.44	2.5	0.9	109.51	1.9
10	111.34	0.8	1.6	109.66	1.8
11	110.80	-0.5	1.0	109.75	1.6
12	110.51	-0.3	0.8	109.82	1.5
<i>Annual average</i>	<i>109.82</i>	-	-	<i>109.82</i>	<i>1.5</i>
2013 : 1	108.97	-1.4	0.2	109.84	1.3
2	107.17	-1.6	0.1	109.85	1.2
3	109.90	2.5	-0.2	109.83	1.0
4	110.41	0.5	-0.6	109.78	0.8
5	110.21	-0.2	-0.4	109.73	0.6
6	109.95	-0.2	-0.4	109.70	0.5
7	108.13	-1.7	-0.7	109.64	0.3
8	106.41	-1.6	-1.3	109.52	0.1
9	109.20	2.6	-1.1	109.42	-0.1
10	109.13	-0.1	-2.0	109.23	-0.4
11	107.64	-1.4	-2.9	108.97	-0.7
12	108.62	0.9	-1.7	108.81	-0.9
<i>Annual average</i>	<i>108.81</i>	-	-	<i>108.81</i>	<i>-0.9</i>
2014 : 1	107.37	-1.2	-1.5	108.68	-1.1
2	105.94	-1.3	-1.1	108.58	-1.2
3	108.42	2.3	-1.3	108.45	-1.3
4	108.92	0.5	-1.3	108.33	-1.3
5	108.05	-0.8	-2.0	108.15	-1.4
6	108.75	0.6	-1.1	108.05	-1.5
7	107.40	-1.2	-0.7	107.99	-1.5
8	106.09	-1.2	-0.3	107.96	-1.4
9	108.29	2.1	-0.8	107.88	-1.4
10	107.30	-0.9	-1.7	107.73	-1.4
11	106.30	-0.9	-1.2	107.62	-1.2
12	105.79	-0.5	-2.6	107.38	-1.3
<i>Annual average</i>	<i>107.38</i>	-	-	<i>107.38</i>	<i>-1.3</i>
2015 : 1	104.32	-1.4	-2.8	107.13	-1.4

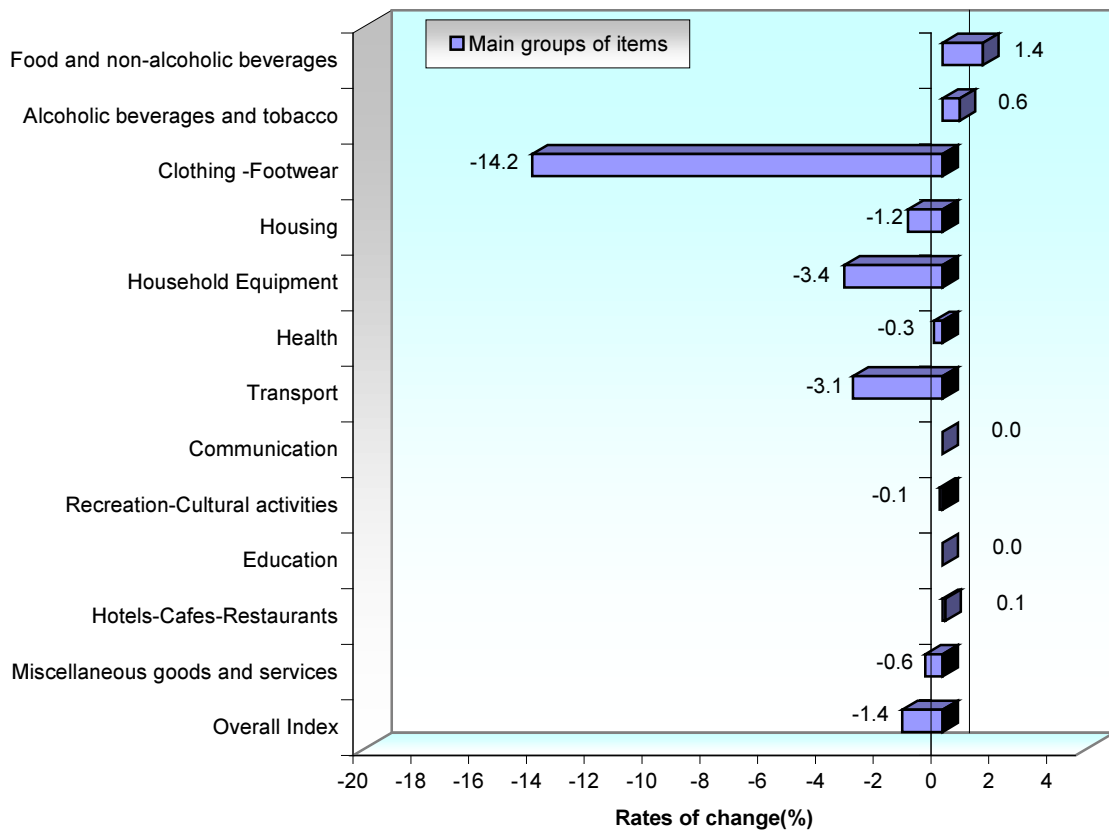
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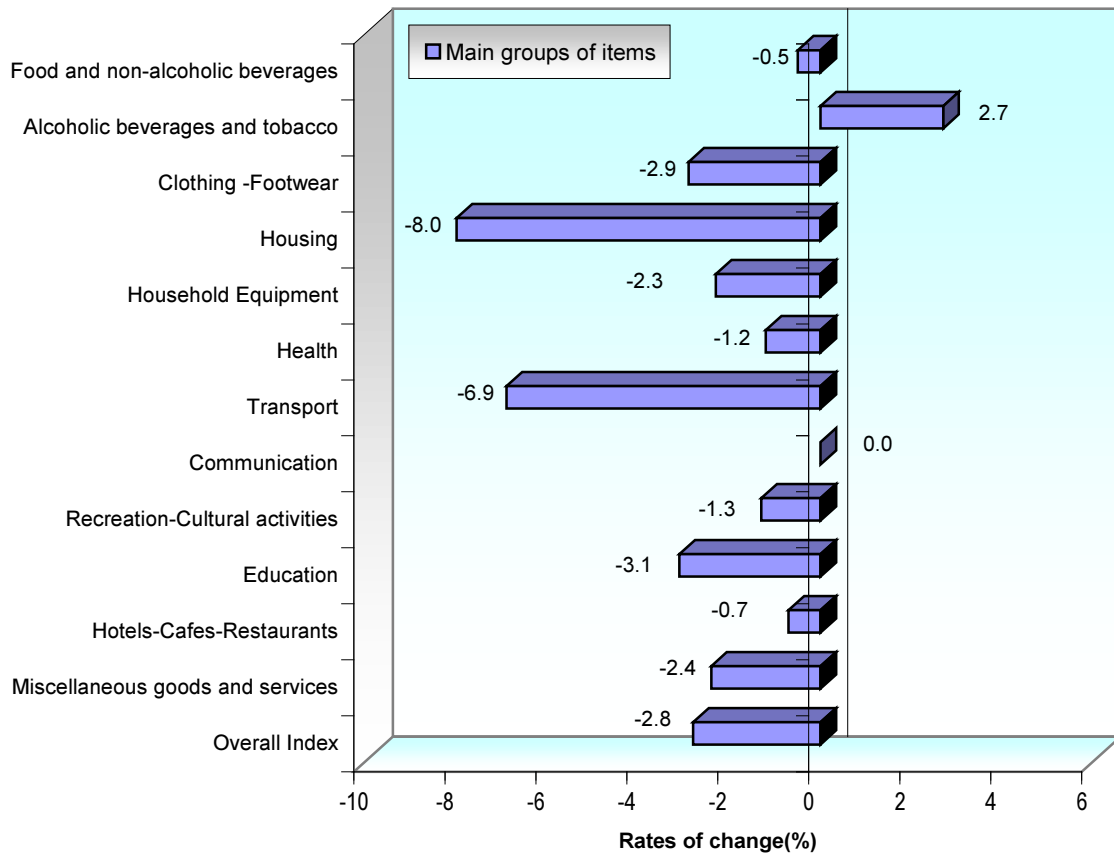
DIAGRAMS



Monthly rates of change (%) of the CPI between January 2015 and December 2014



Annual rates of change (%) of the CPI between January 2015 and January 2014



METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Generally	The Consumer Price Index (CPI) in Greece is compiled by the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) since 1959. Up to the year 2000, the CPI referred to the urban areas of the country, while from 2001 onwards it refers to the whole country.
Purpose of the index	The purpose of the Consumer Price Index is to measure the general level of prices of goods and services purchased by the average Greek household.
Legal basis	Law 3832/10
Reference period	Month
Base	December of the previous year
Reference year	2009=100.0
New CPI	<p>Until 2013, the weights underlying the CPI were revised periodically (usually every five years) on the basis of the results of the latest Household Budget Survey (HBS), which was conducted every 5 years. Until December 2013, the CPI was a fixed-base index with the reference year being 2009=100.0. From January 2014 onwards, the revised CPI index follows the chain linking method, where new weights are introduced annually with every year having as a base the December of the previous year. The weights are estimated on the basis of the most recent available data from the Household Budget Survey, which is now conducted on an annual basis, extrapolated in the prices of December.</p> <p>The new CPI, adjusted on an annual basis to the latest consumption expenditure pattern of the private households of the country, ensures the representativity of goods and services, which compose the “basket” of purchases of the average household.</p>
Geographical and population coverage of the CPI	<p>The CPI refers to the whole of the country covering the urban, semi-urban and rural areas.</p> <p>As regards the population coverage of the Index, in terms of the weights, it covers the resident households of the territory excluding collective households (hospital homes for the elderly, boarding homes, prisons, etc.) and non-resident households (tourists, and expatriates visiting home) in the country.</p>
Classification of items	The classification of items (goods and services) that are included in the HICP is based on the international classification COICOP (Classification of Individual consumption by Purpose) and, in particular, as this has been adapted to the needs of the HICPs, thus creating the COICOP5/HICP classification.
Weights of items	From December 2013, the weights of items will be renewed every year, on the basis of the most recent available data from the Household Budget Survey. The weights are calculated as the share (‰) of the expenditures for each group, subgroup and item (good or service) to the total household expenditure of the average household.
Price collection Cities	The prices of the items of CPI are collected in 27 cities, aiming at a representative coverage of the 13 Regions of the country. The selection criteria of the price collection cities are the size and the particularities of their markets, the possibility of continuous price collection and the comparability of the index and the required cost of price collection.
Population weights	The calculation of the population weights by regions is based on the population data of the General Population Census for the year 2011 and the expenditure data of the HBS by regions for the years 2012 and 2013.
Selection of items	The composition of the “household basket” i.e. the selection of goods and services which are included in the calculation of CPI will be updated annually from December 2014 using the results of the latest available Household Budget Survey, other market research, etc. 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 take part in the calculation of groups and subgroups of CPI.

Price collection- Outlets Prices for CPI's items are collected from retail sales outlets, enterprises providing services, street markets etc. (price collection outlets) which are considered representative of the branches of shops, where the households make their purchases in the 27 selected price collection cities. The new methodology allows the renewal of price collection sources in order to maintain their representativeness in the calculation of CPI.

Prices are collected by experienced and well-trained staff of ELSTAT. They visit the selected outlets within a certain time period of a month (monthly prices) or on a certain day of the week (weekly prices) and register the prices into special price collection forms (questionnaires). The collected prices correspond to the prices actually faced by the consumer.

Specification- Substitution of items All the items, for which prices are collected, are defined by the specification, that is the particular characteristics which determine the quality, the trade show and the identity, in general, of goods (such as brand, weight, package etc), in order to avoid any price variations attributable to differences in the specification.

When a specified item (good or service) is no longer available in the market or has ceased to be important, as regards consumption, then it is replaced by a newly specified item, which has taken its place in the market.

Calculation of the Consumer Price Index The Consumer Price Index is a Laspeyres-type index and it is calculated based on December of the previous year.

Implementation of formula in five-digit level of COICOP5

Specifically, if the five-digit item h includes q price collected items, then its index in month t of year T, $R_h^{t,T}$, is given by the formula below:

$$R_h^{t,T} = R_h^{12,T-1} \left[\frac{\sum_{i=1}^q w_i^T R_i^{t,T} / R_i^{12,T-1}}{\sum_{i=1}^q w_i^T} \right],$$

where:

$R_h^{12,T-1}$ = the index of the four-digit item h, in December of year T-1,

w_i^T = the weight of the price collected item i, in year T,

$R_i^{t,T}$ = the index of the price collected item i, in month t of year T,

$R_i^{12,T-1}$ = the index of the price collected item i, in December of year T-1.

A similar methodology is followed for the calculation of indices in the upper levels (two-digit, three-digit and four-digit) of COICOP5 and the calculation of the overall CPI as well.

Publication of data The available time series of the Consumer Price Index with the same reference year (2009=100.0) starts back from January 1959 onwards.

The CPI data are released each month in the anticipated press release to a pre-defined timetable, which is normally based on the previous years publication dates. These data is posted on the ELSTAT website (www.statistics.gr), under the link "timeseries".

References Further information concerning the Consumer Price Index can be found in the Methodological Publication CPI (2009=100.0), and also in the information note for CPI of January 2015, which are posted on the homepage of ELSTAT (www.statistics.gr).