

Food prices

EU food prices up by 7.1% year-on-year in April 2008

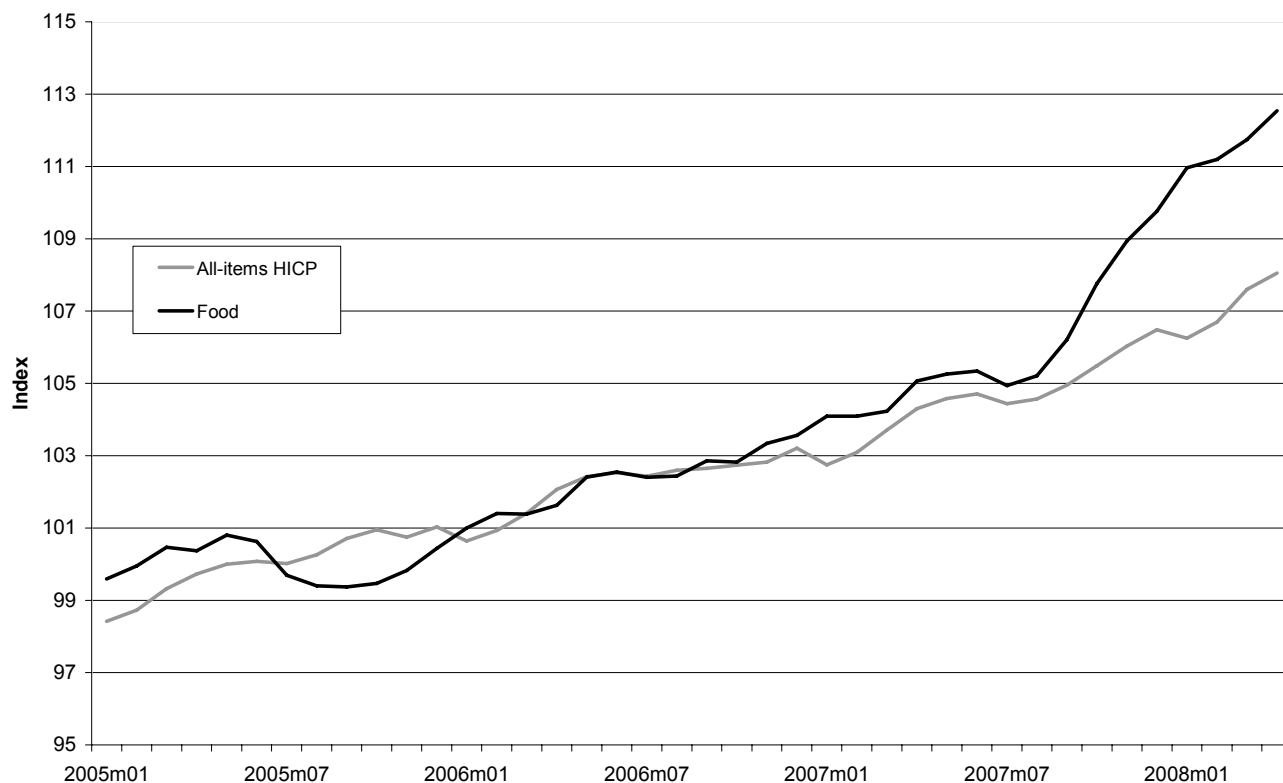
Impact on total inflation differs between Member States

Since the end of 2006, but particularly since July 2007, food prices¹ in the **EU**² have increased more rapidly than overall inflation. The same pattern was observed for the **euro area**³. In April 2008, the annual increase in food prices in the **EU** was 7.1%, compared with 3.6% for overall inflation, as measured by the all-items HICP. In the **euro area**, the annual increase in food prices was 6.2%, compared with 3.3% for overall inflation.

March and April 2008 recorded the highest annual increases in food prices in both the **EU** and the **euro area** since the beginning of the series in 1996. However, between 1996 and April 2008, food prices have risen in total at a similar rate to overall inflation: +31% and +27% respectively in the **EU**, and +30% and +27% respectively in the **euro area**.

These figures come from **Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities**.

EU all-items HICP and food price index
2005=100



Annual increases of food prices ranged from 3.2% in Portugal to 25.4% in Bulgaria

The weight of food in the all-items HICP reflects the share of food purchases in household consumption expenditure. This share is 14.6% at the **EU** level. The weight of food in the index varies from 9.5% in the **United Kingdom** and 9.7% in **Luxembourg**, to 34.5% in **Romania** and 23.2% in **Lithuania**.

In April 2008, the highest yearly increases in food prices were found in **Bulgaria** (25.4%), **Latvia** (21.7%), **Estonia** (18.3%) and **Lithuania** (18.1%). The lowest increases were registered in **Portugal** (3.2%), **Netherlands** (5.4%), **France** (5.5%), **Cyprus** (5.8%) and **Italy** (5.9%).

The impact of food prices on overall annual inflation depends on both the weight of food in the all-items HICP and the annual price changes for food, and therefore differs significantly between Member States. The largest upward impacts from food prices on overall annual inflation in April 2008 were found in **Bulgaria** (+3.4 percentage points), **Lithuania** and **Romania** (both +1.9 pp), while the smallest upward impacts were recorded in **Portugal** (+0.1 pp) and **Luxembourg** (+0.2 pp).

Annual price changes for all-items HICP and food, %

	HICP			Weight, %	Food			
	<u>Apr 07</u> Apr 06	<u>Apr 08</u> Apr 07	Index, Apr 08 (2005 = 100)		<u>Apr 07</u> Apr 06	<u>Apr 08</u> Apr 07	Index, Apr 08 (2005 = 100)	Impact (percentage points) Apr 08
EU	2.2	3.6	108.1	14.6	3.4	7.1	112.5	0.6
Euro area	1.9	3.3	107.6	14.4	2.5	6.2	110.9	0.5
Belgium	1.8	4.1	108.5	16.0	4.9	6.1	113.7	0.4
Bulgaria	4.4	13.4	127.7	22.9	4.5	25.4	144.1	3.4
Czech Rep.	2.7	6.7	111.4	17.1	4.7	9.9	115.1	0.6
Denmark	1.7	3.4	107.1	13.7	5.4	7.5	114.3	0.6
Germany	2.0	2.6	106.3	10.6	2.8	6.4	111.0	0.4
Estonia	5.6	11.6	121.9	19.3	9.1	18.3	133.3	1.5
Ireland	2.9	3.3	108.8	12.5	1.7	8.4	112.0	0.7
Greece	2.6	4.4	111.2	16.5	0.7	7.0	113.2	0.5
Spain	2.5	4.2	110.9	19.2	3.2	6.8	113.9	0.7
France	1.3	3.4	106.7	14.8	1.1	5.5	108.3	0.4
Italy	1.8	3.6	107.8	16.6	2.8	5.9	110.1	0.5
Cyprus	1.6	4.3	108.5	16.1	6.7	5.8	118.7	0.3
Latvia	8.8	17.4	134.1	22.0	12.5	21.7	145.1	1.3
Lithuania	4.9	11.9	120.9	23.2	10.2	18.1	136.3	1.9
Luxembourg	2.5	4.3	109.8	9.7	2.9	6.3	111.4	0.2
Hungary	8.7	6.8	118.7	17.2	13.4	14.8	137.8	1.6
Malta	-1.1	4.1	107.2	15.9	0.3	9.7	113.6	1.0
Netherlands	1.9	1.7	105.8	12.4	1.3	5.4	108.2	0.5
Austria	1.8	3.4	107.1	11.5	4.3	7.6	112.7	0.5
Poland	2.2	4.3	107.7	20.9	4.6	6.8	112.2	0.6
Portugal	2.8	2.5	108.5	18.0	3.6	3.2	109.1	0.1
Romania	3.8	8.7	119.5	34.5	-0.3	12.4	118.2	1.9
Slovenia	2.9	6.2	111.8	15.8	6.4	12.2	120.5	1.1
Slovakia	2.0	3.7	109.9	16.1	4.3	7.9	114.9	0.8
Finland	1.5	3.3	106.5	14.0	3.0	6.4	111.5	0.5
Sweden	1.6	3.2	106.5	13.6	3.0	6.8	110.2	0.5
United Kingdom	2.8	3.0	107.6	9.5	6.0	7.2	113.6	0.4

Milk, cheese and eggs prices rose by 15% between April 2007 and April 2008 in the EU

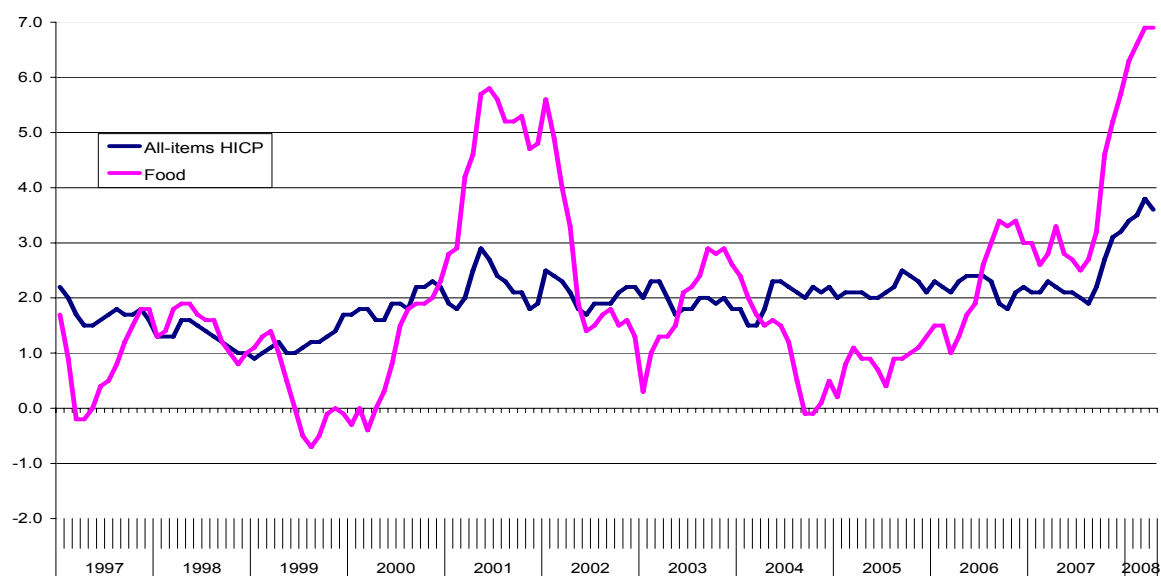
Among the nine food classes, the three main classes at EU level are meat, bread & cereals and milk, cheese & eggs. They make up 60% of the food component. In April 2008, the annual price increase in the **EU** was 14.9% for milk, cheese & eggs, 10.7% for bread & cereals and 4.1% for meat. For the remaining food classes, price changes ranged from -1.2% for vegetables to +13.2% for oils & fats.

In April 2008, among the Member States, annual price increases for meat ranged from 0.7% in **Portugal** to 19.1% in **Lithuania**, for bread & cereals from 6.3% in the **Netherlands** to 38.4% in **Bulgaria**, and for milk, cheese & eggs from 3.4% in **Cyprus** to 35.4% in **Estonia**.

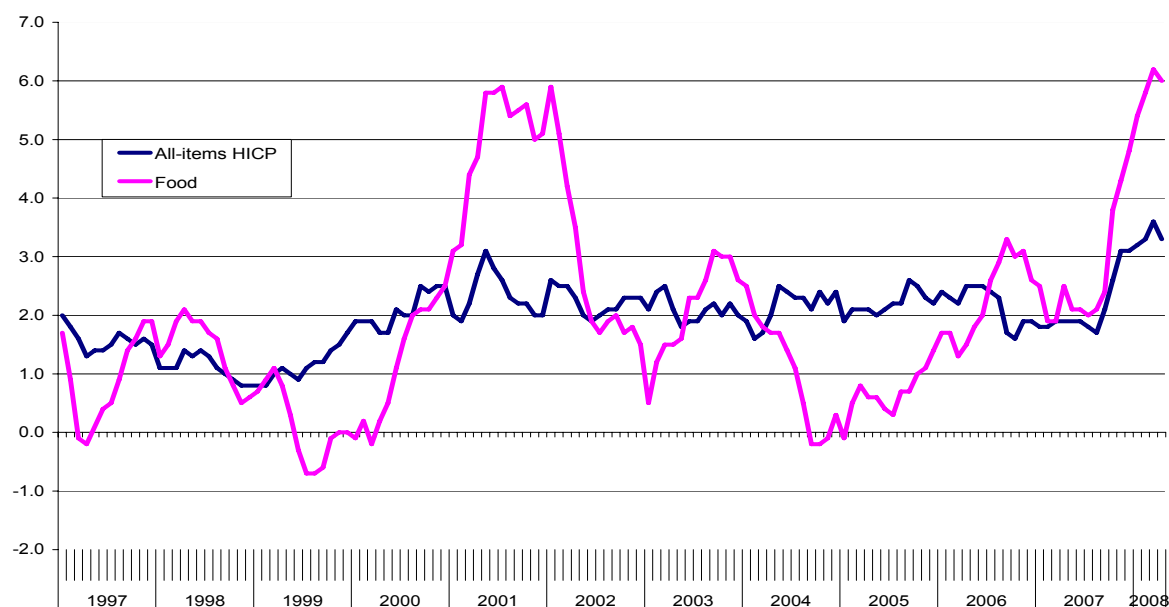
Weight in % of HICP and annual price changes in % for food classes, April 2008

	Food		Bread & cereals		Meat		Fish & seafood		Milk, cheese & eggs		Oils & fats		Fruit		Vegetables		Sugar, jam & chocolate		Other food products	
	Weight	Apr 08 Apr 07	Weight	Apr 08 Apr 07	Weight	Apr 08 Apr 07	Weight	Apr 08 Apr 07	Weight	Apr 08 Apr 07	Weight	Apr 08 Apr 07	Weight	Apr 08 Apr 07	Weight	Apr 08 Apr 07	Weight	Apr 08 Apr 07	Weight	Apr 08 Apr 07
EU	14.6	7.1	2.7	10.7	3.7	4.1	1.0	3.3	2.4	14.9	0.6	13.2	1.2	10.7	1.6	-1.2	1.1	4.2	0.4	4.2
Euro area	14.4	6.2	2.6	9.2	3.7	3.6	1.1	3.1	2.3	14.4	0.6	8.3	1.2	8.2	1.6	-2.0	1.0	4.1	0.4	3.9
Belgium	16.0	6.1	3.3	11.5	4.5	3.1	1.0	7.0	2.2	16.9	0.4	13.4	1.1	9.3	1.6	-9.7	1.1	2.8	0.7	6.9
Bulgaria	22.9	25.4	5.7	38.4	4.0	11.0	0.4	7.2	3.9	25.9	1.3	85.8	1.4	45.7	3.6	15.8	1.8	6.2	0.6	11.9
Czech Republic	17.1	9.9	3.0	23.5	4.4	5.7	0.5	5.7	3.5	19.3	0.8	18.0	1.6	11.8	1.6	-17.3	1.2	6.6	0.6	7.2
Denmark	13.7	7.5	2.5	12.1	3.0	3.2	0.6	4.2	2.3	15.2	0.4	21.6	1.0	7.1	1.9	0.8	1.6	6.3	0.5	4.6
Germany	10.6	6.4	1.9	8.4	2.4	2.6	0.4	1.9	1.9	21.6	0.3	18.2	1.1	7.0	1.3	-7.7	0.9	6.0	0.5	3.8
Estonia	19.3	18.3	3.2	25.6	5.2	12.3	0.9	4.4	4.0	35.4	0.7	30.7	1.4	30.0	1.9	-0.5	1.4	11.9	0.5	8.5
Ireland	12.5	8.4	2.5	11.9	2.9	5.7	0.4	3.8	1.6	22.2	0.3	14.9	0.9	2.0	1.8	1.1	1.1	9.7	0.9	5.1
Greece	16.5	7.0	2.2	14.8	3.9	2.6	1.3	4.1	3.2	8.1	1.7	5.8	1.3	11.4	2.0	6.0	1.0	4.4	0.1	4.1
Spain	19.2	6.8	3.1	10.1	5.0	3.5	2.8	2.1	2.9	16.6	0.7	2.9	1.7	10.1	1.8	1.9	0.7	3.8	0.4	8.0
France	14.8	5.5	2.3	6.6	4.3	4.7	1.3	3.6	2.4	11.1	0.4	10.3	1.1	8.8	1.4	-3.1	1.1	4.8	0.6	3.8
Italy	16.6	5.9	3.5	10.7	4.2	3.7	1.2	3.7	2.4	8.6	0.8	3.6	1.3	6.2	1.9	3.3	1.2	2.1	0.0	3.1
Cyprus	16.1	5.8	3.0	11.4	4.0	2.2	0.7	-0.3	3.1	3.4	0.6	5.3	1.6	22.7	2.1	1.3	0.8	-2.4	0.3	0.9
Latvia	22.0	21.7	4.3	31.9	5.9	16.1	1.1	9.8	4.4	34.3	0.8	34.4	1.5	36.8	2.0	-4.2	1.5	11.2	0.5	17.2
Lithuania	23.2	18.1	4.6	26.6	6.5	19.1	1.4	7.0	3.9	24.1	1.0	32.3	1.5	32.9	1.8	-6.0	1.7	5.9	0.8	11.9
Luxembourg	9.7	6.3	2.1	8.2	2.3	5.6	0.6	-0.7	1.7	14.0	0.3	10.9	0.7	6.7	0.8	-2.3	0.8	3.7	0.4	4.1
Hungary	17.2	14.8	3.2	21.6	4.0	8.4	0.2	6.8	3.6	21.3	0.9	30.0	1.3	38.6	2.0	-5.9	1.2	1.6	0.7	8.5
Malta	15.9	9.7	3.2	10.9	3.6	3.6	1.0	7.0	2.6	14.2	0.6	15.8	1.5	15.4	2.2	13.8	0.8	1.6	0.4	1.9
Netherlands	12.4	5.4	2.6	6.3	2.6	1.7	0.5	3.5	1.8	16.4	0.2	12.7	1.0	9.0	1.4	0.7	1.0	2.0	1.3	0.1
Austria	11.5	7.6	2.3	11.0	2.8	4.5	0.3	6.1	2.1	16.1	0.4	14.4	0.9	7.6	1.3	-1.3	1.0	4.7	0.4	3.1
Poland	20.9	6.8	4.1	13.0	6.0	4.6	0.7	2.9	3.4	14.6	1.3	14.2	1.2	27.7	2.0	-13.5	1.5	-0.4	0.8	5.1
Portugal	18.0	3.2	3.2	9.2	4.6	0.7	3.2	3.3	2.4	14.1	0.8	11.1	1.5	5.8	1.6	-17.0	0.5	1.9	0.2	1.6
Romania	34.5	12.4	8.2	12.3	8.9	2.9	1.1	2.5	5.7	11.4	1.9	50.2	2.2	24.1	4.0	22.7	1.8	2.0	0.6	3.2
Slovenia	15.8	12.2	3.0	16.9	4.1	9.2	0.5	9.8	2.8	32.8	0.6	37.5	1.4	15.2	1.5	-14.2	1.2	4.6	0.6	8.7
Slovakia	16.1	7.9	2.8	19.4	4.5	4.5	0.3	2.5	3.4	14.5	0.9	22.8	1.3	21.0	1.5	-12.9	1.1	-1.1	0.5	8.1
Finland	14.0	6.4	2.6	8.3	3.1	6.7	0.7	3.5	2.7	11.3	0.3	10.7	1.2	12.8	1.6	-7.4	1.4	5.2	0.4	3.7
Sweden	13.6	6.8	2.2	11.8	2.7	6.3	0.9	3.3	2.5	10.9	0.4	9.2	1.1	15.1	1.5	-4.5	1.6	3.6	0.7	3.2
United Kingdom	9.5	7.2	1.6	8.5	2.1	4.1	0.5	4.6	1.4	15.7	0.2	15.8	0.9	7.4	1.5	3.8	1.1	6.2	0.2	2.3

EU all-items HICP and food price index, annual change, %



Euro area all-items HICP and food price index, annual change, %



Highest annual price changes in the EU for all-items HICP and food, 1996-2008

	Annual rate,%		Highest annual rate 1997-2008		Total increase since 1996, %
	April 2007	April 2008	Month	%	
All-items HICP	2.2	3.6	March 2008	3.8	27.2
Food	3.4	7.1	March 2008	7.2	31.1
Bread and cereals	3.6	10.7	April 2008	10.7	33.6
Meat	3.5	4.1	June 2001	8.6	25.2
Fish and seafood	3.5	3.3	June 1998	7.2	46.5
Milk, cheese and eggs	1.5	14.9	April 2008	14.9	31.0
Oils and fats	-3.0	13.2	April 2008	13.2	23.1
Fruit	2.1	10.7	July 2001	11.4	39.7
Vegetables	9.9	-1.2	January 2002	17.5	34.4
Sugar, jam, chocolate etc.	1.9	4.2	April 2008	4.2	25.1
Other food products	1.2	4.2	April 2008	4.2	18.9

Highest annual price changes in the euro area for all-items HICP and food, 1996-2008

	Annual rate, %		Highest annual rate 1997-2008		Total increase since 1996, %
	April 2007	April 2008	Month	%	
All-items HICP	1.9	3.3	March 2008	3.6	27.1
Food	2.5	6.2	March 2008	6.5	29.8
Bread and cereals	2.4	9.2	April 2008	9.2	31.9
Meat	3.3	3.6	June 2001	9.0	26.0
Fish and seafood	2.8	3.1	June 1998	6.9	44.7
Milk, cheese and eggs	0.6	14.4	April 2008	14.4	29.2
Oils and fats	-4.9	8.3	July 2006	12.5	20.5
Fruit	2.2	8.2	July 2001	11.5	37.6
Vegetables	7.6	-2.0	January 2002	18.9	32.4
Sugar, jam, chocolate etc.	1.0	4.1	April 2003	4.3	21.5
Other food products	0.5	3.9	April 2008	3.9	18.2

1. Food (COICOP 01.1) includes those products generally purchased for consumption at home and therefore excludes products sold in hotels, cafés, restaurants and the like.
2. The EU includes Belgium (BE), Bulgaria (BG), the Czech Republic (CZ), Denmark (DK), Germany (DE), Estonia (EE), Ireland (IE), Greece (EL), Spain (ES), France (FR), Italy (IT), Cyprus (CY), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Luxembourg (LU), Hungary (HU), Malta (MT), the Netherlands (NL), Austria (AT), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT), Romania (RO), Slovenia (SI), Slovakia (SK), Finland (FI), Sweden (SE) and the United Kingdom (UK).
EU inflation is measured by the EICP ('European Index of Consumer Prices' as defined in Council Regulation (EC) No 2494/95 of 23 October 1995) which is the official EU aggregate. The EU included 15 Member States until 30 April 2004, 25 Member States from 1 May 2004 until 31 December 2006 and 27 Member States from 1 January 2007. New Member States are integrated into the EICP using a chain index formula.
3. Euro area inflation is measured by the MUICP ('Monetary Union Index of Consumer Prices' as defined in Council Regulation (EC) No 2494/95 of 23 October 1995) which is the official euro area aggregate. New Member States are integrated into the MUICP using a chain index formula. The euro area initially included Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Spain, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland. Greece was included from 1 January 2001, Slovenia from 1 January 2007, and Cyprus and Malta from 1 January 2008.
Please note that all April 2008 data for the Netherlands and Austria as well as European aggregates are provisional.

Issued by: **Eurostat Press Office**

For further information on the data:

Johan WULLT
Tel: +352-4301-33 444
eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu

Jan WALSCHOTS
Tel: +352-4301-38 137
estat-hicp-methods@ec.europa.eu

Eurostat News Releases on the Internet: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>