INTERNATIONAL LABOR COMPARISONS

International Indexes of Consumer Prices

Country Notes and Data Sources

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This file contains country specific information for data products associated with monthly and annual updates of The Conference Board "International Indexes of Consumer Prices," which can be found at www.conference-board.org/ilcprogram/consumerpricesmonthly and www.conference-board.org/ilcprogram/consumerpricesannual. The scope of coverage and definitions explained in the Technical Notes apply generally to all countries in the International Labor Comparisons (ILC) consumer prices series. In this document, each country note consists of two parts: when applicable, the first part lists differences from the standard series coverage and definitions included in the Technical Notes (summarized below); the second part lists the data sources of underlying price indexes.

Standard Coverage for Comparability

- All price indexes have been adjusted to a common base year of 2005.
- The harmonized index of consumer prices (HICP) is an internationally comparable measure of consumer price inflation. The HICP is the standard price index that European Union member states must produce for comparisons across countries. The index represents urban and rural households in each country and excludes the market basket component for owner-occupied housing costs.
- Each country produces its own consumer price index (CPI) using unique methods and concepts. For this reason, CPI data are not fully comparable across countries. Differences exist mainly in population coverage (e.g., urban households versus all urban and rural households), frequency of market basket weight changes, and treatment of homeowner costs. Although the change in the base year allows for some degree of comparison, ILC does not further adjust the indexes for strict comparability to accommodate differences in national methodologies.

Monthly ILC reports discontinued; related data available via other programs

Monthly reports on consumer prices and employment have been discontinued as part of the International Labor Comparisons (ILC) program.

The underlying data tables will continue to be published on the ILC website through Spring 2015, after which, monthly data series will be available via the Business Cycle Indicators program on a subscription basis.

For additional information, see the announcement on our website.

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Country Notes and Data Sources

Australia. The national CPI is calculated as the weighted average of CPI data for eight capital cities. CPI data refer only to urban wage-earning households prior to September 1998, and to all urban households from September 1998 onward. HICP data are not available for Australia.

Data Sources. Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Austria. CPI data refer only to worker households prior to 1966, and to all households from 1966 onward.

Data Sources. Statistics Austria, Eurostat.

Belgium. CPI data exclude expenditures on rent and several other services prior to 1976.

Data Sources. Statistics Belgium, Eurostat.

Canada. CPI data refer only to middle-income urban households prior to September 1978, to all urban households from September 1978 to December 1994, and to all households from January 1995 onward. HICP data are not available for Canada.

Data Sources. Statistics Canada.

Denmark. CPI data exclude expenditures on rent prior to 1964.

Data Sources. Statistics Denmark, Eurostat.

Euro Area. HICP data for the euro area refer to the Monetary Union Index of Consumer Prices (MUICP), the official series published by Eurostat for the EU member countries that have adopted the euro as the common currency. The MUICP is the household expenditure-weighted aggregate of the HICPs of the euro area. The composition of the euro area has changed over the years. As the euro area expands, data for new member countries are linked to this moving coverage series. Thus, the euro area index changes its geographical coverage according to the composition of the euro area during the period to which the data refer. The MUICP (EA17) index for 2013 refers to the following 17 countries: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Spain. The MUICP (EA18) index for 2014 includes Lativa. For analytical purposes, Eurostat also makes available historical series covering all the current euro area countries. For more information, see the Eurostat web site at http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu.

Data Sources. Eurostat.

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European Union. HICP data for the European Union refer to the European Index of Consumer Prices (EICP), the official series published by Eurostat for the European Union (EU). The EICP is the household expenditure-weighted aggregate of the HICPs of the EU member countries. The composition of the EU has changed over the years. As EU membership expands, data for new member countries are linked to this moving coverage series. Thus, the EU index changes its geographical coverage according to the composition of the EU during the period to which the data refer. The ECIP (EU27) index for 2013 refers to the following 27 countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. The ECIP (EU28) index for 2014 includes Croatia. For analytical purposes, Eurostat also makes available historical series covering all the current EU countries. For more information, see the Eurostat web site at http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu.

Data Sources. Eurostat.

France. CPI data refer only to worker households in Paris prior to 1962, to urban worker households from 1962 to 1990, and to all households (including overseas departments) from 1991 onward.

Data Sources. National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE), Eurostat.

Germany. CPI data refer to four person households of salaried employees and wage earners with "medium" income prior to 1962, and to all households from 1962 onward. Data refer to the former West Germany prior to 1991.

Data Sources. DeStatis, Eurostat.

Italy. Data Sources. Istat, Eurostat.

Japan. HICP data refer to the CPI index for “all items, less imputed rent.”

Data Sources. Statistics Japan.

Netherlands. Data Sources. Statistics Netherlands (CBS), Eurostat.

Norway. CPI data refer only to urban worker households prior to 1960, and to all households from 1960 onward.

Data Sources. Statistics Norway, Eurostat.

Spain. CPI data refer only to middle-income households prior to 1993, and to all households from 1993 onward.

Data Sources. Instituto Nacional de Estadistica (INE), Eurostat.

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Sweden. Data Sources. Statistics Sweden, Eurostat.

Switzerland. CPI data refer only to urban worker households prior to May 1993, and to all households from May 1993 onward.

Data Sources. Federal Statistics Office (BFS), Eurostat.

United Kingdom. CPI data refer to the Retail Prices Index (RPI). CPI data exclude consumption of high-income households in the top 4 percent of the income distribution and pensioner households that receive more than 75 percent of income and benefits from the state.

Data Sources. Office for National Statistics, Eurostat.

United States. CPI data refer only to urban wage earners and clerical workers prior to 1978, and to all urban consumers from 1978 onward. HICP data refer to urban households prior to December 2001, and to all households from December 2001 onward. HICP data for the United States are an "experimental" Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) series adjusted to the concepts of the EU HICP in that they are expanded to cover the entire (non-institutional) population and narrowed to remove owner-occupied housing costs that the HICP excludes from its scope. US HICP data are produced outside of regular BLS production systems and, consequently, with less than full production quality. For more information, see "Comparing U.S. and European inflation: the CPI and the HICP," at http://stats.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2006/05/art3full.pdf.

Data Sources. US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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