

QUALITY REPORT FOR STATISTICAL SURVEY

Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices for 2024

Organisation unit: Price Statistics and European Comparison Programme Department
Prepared by: Sanja Jurleka

0. Basic information

- Purpose, goal, and subject of the survey

The Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) is an economic indicator that measures the change in the prices of goods and services acquired, used or paid by households over time. As such, it represents a group of European consumer price indices calculated according to the harmonised approach and a separate set of definitions, which provides a comparable measure of inflation in the euro area, the European Union, the European Economic Area and the candidate countries.

- Reference period

Month

- Legal acts and other agreements

[Regulation \(EC\) No 2016/792 of the European Parliament and Council of 11 May 2016 on the harmonised indices of consumer prices and the house price index, and repealing Council Regulation \(EC\) No 2494/95.](#)

[Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2020/1148 of 31 July 2020 laying down the methodological and technical specifications in accordance with Regulation \(EU\) 2016/792 of the European Parliament of the Council as regards harmonised indices of consumer prices and the house price index.](#)

Official Statistics Act (NN, Nos 25/20 and 155/23)

Programme of Statistical Activities of the Republic of Croatia

Annual Implementation Plan of Statistical Activities of the Republic of Croatia

- Classification system

The classification of products European Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose ([ECOICOP](#)) is used.

- Statistical concepts and definitions

The main statistical variables are price indices.

- Statistical units

The basic unit of statistical observation are prices for personal consumption.

- Statistical population

HICP covers the household final monetary consumption expenditure on the economic territory of a country of both resident and non-resident households. The household sector to which the definition refers includes all individuals or groups of individuals irrespective the type of area in which they live, their position in the income distribution and their nationality or residence status.

1. Relevance

1.1 Data users

National users: national state institutions, financial institutions, economic analysts, the media, students, enterprises and the public.

International users: European Central Bank, International Monetary Fund, United Nations, etc.

Internal users: departments in the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS).

1.1.1 User needs

While the Consumer Price Index is mostly used as a general measure of inflation in the national context, the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices represents a comparable measure of inflation in the European Union.

1.1.2 User satisfaction

The level of user satisfaction is measured by [User satisfaction surveys](#). The first user satisfaction survey was conducted in 2013, the second one in 2015, and the last one at the end of 2022. Detailed [results of the User Satisfaction Survey 2022](#) are available on the CBS website under the section Quality.

1.2. Completeness

Concepts and definitions are fully harmonised with the Eurostat regulations and guidelines.

1.2.1 Data completeness rate

The data completeness rate is: 100%

2. Accuracy and reliability

2.1. Sampling error

Numerical estimates errors are not calculated because they are difficult to quantify due to the complexity of price index structures and due to use of non-probability sampling. The CBS tries to reduce the sampling errors by using a sample of consumer prices that is as large as possible given resource constraints. In order to minimise the variance of the total index, the number of prices that should be observed in each geographical location for each chosen item is selected.

2.1.1 Sampling error indicators

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.2. Non-sampling error

Non-sampling errors are not quantified. Non-sampling errors are reduced through continuous methodological improvements and survey process improvements which can help avoid coding and typing errors.

2.2.1. Coverage error

The coverage error is not used.

2.2.2. Over-coverage rate

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.2.3. Measurement error

Errors can be made when editing price data and additional descriptions into tablet computers, but errors are minimised as special controls are included in the data entry program (e.g. code entry controls, minimum and maximum allowed deviations from prices, comment entry, historical price review and additional descriptions up to 12 months back, etc.).

During the data processing, a detailed logical and arithmetical control of all received data on prices is conducted, as well as their methodological compliance (e.g. percentage change for each product compared to the previous month, indicating changes compared to the previous period regarding quantity, code or product description etc.).

2.2.4. Non-response error

Retail prices for selected representative goods and services are recorded at the outlets selected by price collectors based on their knowledge and experience. The number of outlets that should be included in the sample is pre-defined by the Croatian Bureau of Statistics and it does not change as a rule. However, in case of missing price observations, it is important to identify whether the product is missing temporarily or permanently. For non-seasonal items, which are no longer available at the outlet (for two consecutive months), or their importance is reduced, replacement items are selected. In such cases, price collectors select a similar and comparable product (if possible) of the same quality and at the same or similar outlet. If the product is missing temporarily (e.g. seasonal products), prices are then estimated.

2.2.5. Unit non-response rate

Unweighted unit non-response rate

Domain	Domain value	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average
Croatia	Croatia	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

2.2.6. Item non-response rate

Unweighted item non-response rate

Variable	Domain	Domain value	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average
Non-resposne rate for all variables	Croatia	Croatia	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%

2.2.7. Processing error

The classification of goods and services included in the scope of the harmonised index of consumer prices is done according to the ECOICOP classification. At the beginning of each year, the harmonisation of goods and services included in the survey is checked with the ECOICOP classification, thus reducing inaccurate classification to a minimum.

2.2.8. Imputation rate

Unweighted imputation rate

Variable	Domain	Domain value	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average
Non-resposne rate for all variables	Croatia	Croatia	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%

2.2.9. Model assumption error

Assessment calculating model is not used.

2.3. Data revision

2.3.1. Data revision – policy

The HICP series, including back data, is revisable under the terms set in Articles 17-20 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1148.

The users of statistical data are informed about revisions on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics, on the link [General Revision Policy of the CBS](#).

The Flash estimate concerns to provisional data for the current month. This data is confirmed or revised with the final data within the second week of the following month.

2.3.2. Data revision – practice

No cases of mistakes in the compilation of the total harmonised index of consumer prices that would require revisions have arisen so far.

2.3.3. Data revision – average size

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.4. Seasonal adjustment

Not applied.

3. Timeliness and Punctuality

3.1. Timeliness

HICP is published two weeks after the end of the reference month with an exception for December and January data, which are published no later than three weeks after the end of the reference month.

3.1.1. Time lag – first results

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

3.1.2. Time lag – final results

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

3.2. Punctuality

There has been no time difference between announced and publishing date so far.

3.2.1. Punctuality – delivery and publication

Delivery and publication is: 100

4. Accessibility and clarity

Monthly First Releases [Consumer Price Indices](#), [PC-Axis database](#).

The data are available on the CBS website.

4.1. News release

The HICP is published together with the CPI in the form of the First Release [Consumer Price Indices](#), which is available on the CBS website.

4.2. On-line database

On the CBS website in PC Axis database under the [Prices](#) section.

4.3. Micro-data access

The conditions under which certain users can access microdata are regulated by the [Ordinance on Conditions and Terms of Access and Use of Confidential Statistical Data of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics for Scientific Purposes](#) (NN, No. 5/23).

4.4. Documentation on methodology

Description of the methodology can be found at the end of each First Release: [Consumer Price Indices](#).

5. Comparability over time

5.1. Asymmetry for mirror flows statistics

Not applied.

5.2. Comparability - over time

The data is fully comparable over time. There have been several improvements in methodology since harmonised index of consumer prices was introduced with the aim of improving reliability and comparability of the index.

5.2.1. Length of comparable time series

Domain	Domain value	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Croatia	Croatia	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312

5.2.2. Reasons for break in time series

There is no break in time series.

5.3. Coherence – subannual and annual statistics

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

5.4. Coherence – national accounts

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

5.5. Coherence – administrative sources

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

6. Cost and burden

6.1. Cost

Not available.

6.2. Burden

Not available.