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FOOD PRICE LEVELS IN EUROPE

Framework of price surveys

The Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat), in conjunction with the statistical services of the fifteen EU Member States, as well as those of Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Poland, carries out price surveys on household consumer goods and services every year.

These surveys are part of the work involved in making annual volume comparisons of the main National Accounts aggregates: gross domestic product (GDP) and its components.

Each of these surveys concerns a certain group of products. This publication presents the results of the survey "Food, beverages and tobacco", carried out in Spring 1995 and covering a total of about 900 products.

Each price survey is based on a list of products, which is drawn up in accordance with the following general rules:

- the list covers and is representative of the group of products concerned.
- products are selected so as to guarantee representativity of the consumption of each participating country.
- products are defined in an exhaustive way so as to ensure comparability between countries.

For more information see Eurostat publication "Comparison in real terms of the aggregates of ESA - Results for 1994".

The results

The table presented here contains the price level indices, based on EUR15 = 100. They show the price level in each country compared to the European Union average.

The results refer to 60 groups of products within the heading "Food,

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beverages and tobacco", at different aggregation levels.

They are based on annual and national average prices.

Example: for "Rice", the price level index in Germany is 125, whereas the one for France is 94. This means that "Rice" is, in general, 25% more expensive in Germany in relation to the European Union average and that it is 6% less expensive in France in relation to the European Union average.

The comparison of price level indices for each group of products allows also to deduce relative price levels between countries. In the example mentioned above, the ratio of price level indices between Germany and France (125 : 94 = 1,33) shows a price level for "Rice" which is 33% higher in Germany than in France.

Interpretation of the results

Different kinds of studies can be carried out on the basis of these results.

One can verify for example a characteristic phenomenon in the price domain, i.e. the negative correlation that usually exists between relative prices and relative consumed quantities. In other words, the larger the consumption of a product, the lower the price.

Some examples:

- The consumption of pasta is much more characteristic in Italy than in the Nordic countries; as a consequence the price level is lower in Italy (85), than in Sweden (161), in Denmark (140) and in Finland (148).
- Butter is more representative of cooking habits in Germany (price level index = 88) than in Spain (163) and in Italy (125). The opposite situation is true for oils (Germany = 175, Spain = 87, Italy = 87).

N.B.: the calculations of the aggregates have been made using the 1995 weighting structures which were available in December 1996.

To know more about:

Publication "Comparison in real terms of the aggregates of ESA - Results for 1994"
Statistics in Focus "Comparison in real terms of the Gross Domestic Product for the European Union, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Poland - 1995" (in preparation).
EUROSTAT - B3: 352-4301.34122 G. Amerini

PRICE LEVEL INDICES (EUR15 = 100)

	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL
FOOD, BEVERAGES, TOBACCO	107	141	107	81	82	109	102	91	103	100
FOOD	106	137	110	82	87	113	89	94	111	100
Bread and cereals	99	137	113	93	94	116	83	90	106	91
Rice	100	102	125	117	109	94	114	98	101	87
Flour and other cereals	93	142	93	121	101	101	84	114	103	85
Bread	93	134	121	79	85	135	74	85	111	87
Pastries, cakes and biscuits	109	143	110	107	102	109	88	100	103	96
– Rusks, biscuits, cream crackers	104	158	119	94	95	105	82	110	106	100
– Pastries and cakes	113	131	104	122	111	112	95	92	101	95
Noodles, macaroni, spaghetti ...	111	140	106	97	113	106	112	85	127	115
Other cereal products	89	141	107	117	110	96	95	125	99	88
Meat	110	139	116	73	75	115	84	94	123	120
Beef	112	151	136	66	82	112	88	90	126	135
Veal	135	176	144	77	76	128	152	107	140	136
Pork	98	150	109	72	73	109	85	94	111	121
Mutton, lamb or goat's meat	140	133	159	66	101	142	77	94	162	148
Poultry	150	133	133	98	74	120	114	101	138	127
Delicatessen: sausages, salami, bacon, hams, pâtés...	103	144	100	87	72	114	66	102	122	110
Processed meats and other products containing meat: corned beef, lasagne bolognese, oxtail soup, meat extract	97	131	121	104	100	101	95	80	106	96
Other meats, fresh, frozen or deep-frozen: tongue, liver, heart, tripes and offals, rabbit	108	115	125	63	74	148	55	84	143	123
Fish	124	134	127	84	90	112	81	108	125	98
Fish, fresh, frozen or deep-frozen	140	146	139	87	82	118	87	111	132	108
Fish, dried or smoked	126	158	112	72	99	137	73	139	137	127
Other seafoods: crustacea, molluscs, shell-fish	117	94	136	86	102	99	93	87	139	98
Fish and other sea products, preserved or processed	107	127	113	97	124	109	70	123	110	77
Milk, cheese and eggs	114	121	94	94	92	111	108	102	100	95
Milk: full cream or skimmed milk, pasteurised or sterilised	106	116	87	118	93	117	108	119	108	89
Preserved milk: powdered milk, evaporated milk	94	—	94	87	136	103	95	175	100	112
Other milk products (excluding cheese): fresh cream, yoghourts and other similar milk products	132	92	86	144	127	110	110	124	110	82
Cheese	119	145	108	76	91	109	108	91	98	111

A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS	N	CH	POL	
110	79	133	129	95	139	156	141	57	FOOD, BEVERAGES, TOBACCO
112	81	120	121	84	129	139	151	53	FOOD
109	71	137	131	75	127	135	140	36	Bread and cereals
96	75	117	—	96	90	140	82	45	Rice
119	58	133	99	93	84	123	122	46	Flour and other cereals
101	55	135	119	71	128	135	144	23	Bread
114	104	142	152	70	141	142	147	63	Pastries, cakes and biscuits
111	101	151	172	69	102	138	160	66	– Rusks, biscuits, cream crackers
119	108	137	142	72	189	146	143	60	– Pastries and cakes
133	88	148	161	102	104	128	126	65	Noodles, macaroni, spaghetti ...
139	96	148	126	93	124	127	140	90	Other cereal products
122	74	119	125	82	156	144	186	44	Meat
121	81	126	118	87	163	138	226	38	Beef
137	108	155	—	139	88	133	228	32	Veal
115	75	102	125	85	179	179	205	49	Pork
117	77	129	—	85	150	156	217	—	Mutton, lamb or goat's meat
129	62	163	133	79	381	284	226	73	Poultry
134	62	112	125	80	147	152	151	38	Delicatessen: sausages, salami, bacon, hams, pâtés...
110	128	131	137	88	104	134	153	56	Processed meats and other products containing meat: corned beef, lasagne bolognese, oxtail soup, meat extract
108	72	90	—	57	77	77	168	—	Other meats, fresh, frozen or deep-frozen: tongue, liver, heart, tripes and offals, rabbit
120	84	92	101	75	87	111	156	57	Fish
129	85	101	113	81	93	132	176	47	Fish, fresh, frozen or deep-frozen
107	84	74	121	88	82	117	184	29	Fish, dried or smoked
112	101	109	86	91	71	84	152	—	Other seafoods: crustacea, molluscs, shell-fish
121	85	92	92	58	102	96	97	94	Fish and other sea products, preserved or processed
105	83	107	109	92	126	147	146	56	Milk, cheese and eggs
106	86	108	103	89	111	146	148	52	Milk: full cream or skimmed milk, pasteurised or sterilised
106	126	99	—	80	—	193	138	62	Preserved milk: powdered milk, evaporated milk
79	64	99	96	95	120	122	147	49	Other milk products (excluding cheese): fresh cream, yoghourts and other similar milk products
116	101	126	121	95	137	159	137	69	Cheese

PRICE LEVEL INDICES (EUR15 = 100)

	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL
Eggs	116	165	105	94	69	133	119	99	86	102
Oils and fats	115	116	104	111	94	108	91	89	114	88
Butter	112	111	88	160	163	108	85	125	106	97
Margarine	121	95	95	122	126	119	103	93	135	78
Oils	129	194	175	113	87	121	110	87	130	126
Other animal and vegetable fats	108	144	104	103	106	126	75	124	99	66
Fruit and vegetables, other than potatoes and similar tuber vegetables	108	149	118	69	90	114	100	87	116	102
Fresh fruit	108	144	136	60	84	126	101	86	125	105
– Citrus fruit, bananas and other exotic fruit	118	149	140	68	86	122	98	92	144	114
– Apples, pears, peaches, grapes, strawberries, cherries, apricots, figs	101	138	131	56	82	127	101	79	112	98
Dried fruit and nuts	125	171	77	111	117	125	111	91	125	106
Fruit, frozen, preserved and juice	104	125	101	107	103	94	111	90	118	94
Fresh vegetables	113	179	124	59	90	119	110	85	110	109
– Vegetables, leafy or stalked: cabbage, salad, spinach, leeks	112	186	120	78	110	115	121	90	109	100
– Tomatoes, cucumbers, courgette, pulses and other vegetables cultivated for their fruit	121	186	124	51	81	129	128	85	125	125
– Radish, turnip, celeriac, onions, carrots, mushrooms, asparagus	99	151	122	56	78	108	79	70	91	101
Dried vegetables: dried beans, lentils, chick peas	141	216	82	111	100	91	120	113	104	87
Frozen and deep-frozen vegetables and other frozen edible plants	96	126	117	101	93	109	84	111	102	89
Preserved or processed vegetables, soups and other vegetable-based products	107	135	110	126	110	93	84	96	114	100
Potatoes, manioc and other tuber vegetables	69	189	98	56	85	121	87	97	84	84
Sugar	96	117	96	121	93	123	110	91	103	92
Coffee, tea, cocoa	96	124	121	99	85	89	69	100	103	81
Other food: jams, honey, chocolate products, confectionery, edible ice, spices, salt...	103	146	103	110	107	114	86	105	105	92
NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	106	172	111	88	78	95	120	72	90	97
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	109	145	91	91	70	99	178	78	99	111
Liquors and spirits	102	221	92	69	65	105	134	69	90	112
Wine	104	168	123	109	63	94	223	77	101	125
Beer	138	119	78	100	93	114	210	103	118	111
Wine-based aperitifs, sparkling wines and other alcoholic beverages	91	129	92	102	81	104	154	75	91	100
TOBACCO	104	160	111	66	60	98	131	87	85	97

A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS	N	CH	POL	
143	64	87	147	111	217	172	216	62	Eggs
120	91	130	122	87	105	131	182	73	Oils and fats
111	109	94	92	80	83	92	198	48	Butter
113	110	141	118	94	111	138	171	80	Margarine
155	97	274	242	110	174	214	201	118	Oils
127	86	110	—	60	120	142	138	81	Other animal and vegetable fats
109	84	125	133	107	119	149	139	66	Fruit and vegetables, other than potatoes and similar tuber vegetables
105	87	110	117	108	108	140	128	72	Fresh fruit
107	84	106	123	105	106	137	120	58	– Citrus fruit, bananas and other exotic fruit
103	87	112	112	108	110	141	131	83	– Apples, pears, peaches, grapes, strawberries, cherries, apricots, figs
106	98	118	139	115	127	118	108	94	Dried fruit and nuts
96	105	95	120	99	95	114	104	63	Fruit, frozen, preserved and juice
120	70	175	165	130	169	201	170	64	Fresh vegetables
125	79	156	—	123	114	196	182	61	– Vegetables, leafy or stalked: cabbage, salad, spinach, leeks
122	59	196	186	152	258	245	161	81	– Tomatoes, cucumbers, courgette, pulses and other vegetables cultivated for their fruit
106	66	160	141	110	123	155	157	46	– Radish, turnip, celeriac, onions, carrots, mushrooms, asparagus
135	78	174	134	96	142	148	129	104	Dried vegetables: dried beans, lentils, chick peas
125	88	—	123	70	125	120	141	38	Frozen and deep-frozen vegetables and other frozen edible plants
118	140	143	137	81	111	145	144	72	Preserved or processed vegetables, soups and other vegetable-based products
107	85	117	123	120	199	122	161	62	Potatoes, manioc and other tuber vegetables
99	149	124	133	89	108	146	99	63	Sugar
117	98	116	104	70	106	120	111	85	Coffee, tea, cocoa
106	109	130	121	73	128	138	129	65	Other food: jams, honey, chocolate products, confectionery, edible ice, spices, salt...
88	92	131	147	110	157	170	116	61	NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
108	76	218	187	134	235	249	140	124	ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
111	82	201	184	113	221	235	171	128	Liquors and spirits
122	77	219	188	163	266	252	141	125	Wine
106	81	250	212	145	237	282	133	128	Beer
103	81	200	151	113	238	209	149	119	Wine-based aperitifs, sparkling wines and other alcoholic beverages
109	66	142	134	124	122	196	99	34	TOBACCO

