

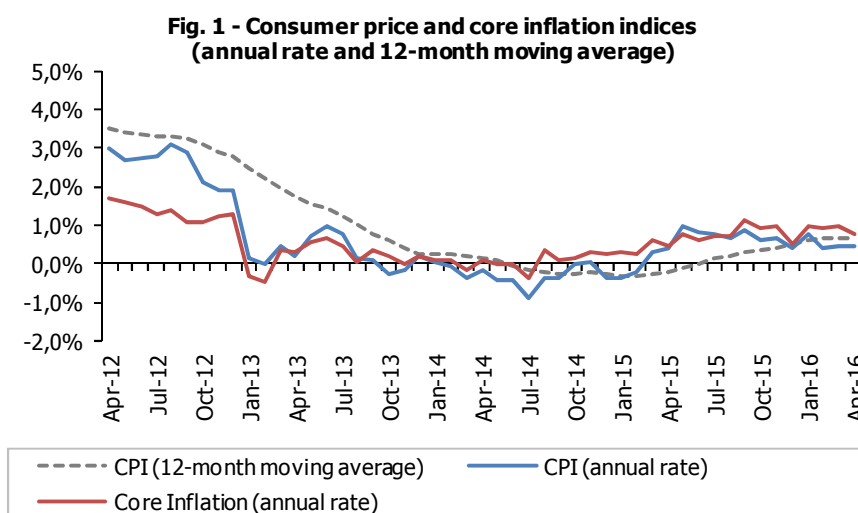
May 11, 2016

Consumer Prices Index  
April 2016

**CPI annual rate of change was 0.5% in April**

The CPI annual rate was 0.5% in April 2016 (0.4% in the previous month). The annual core inflation rate, which excludes energy and unprocessed food products components, was 0.8% (1.0% in March).

The CPI monthly rate was 0.4% (1.9% in March and 0.3% in April 2015), while the CPI 12-month average was 0.7%. In April 2016, the Portuguese Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) annual rate of change was 0.5% (the same value as in the previous month), 0.7 p.p. above the rate estimated by Eurostat for the Euro area (in March this difference was 0.5 p.p.).



In April 2016, the annual inflation rate measured by the CPI was 0.5%, 0.1 p.p. above the rate of the previous month (see Fig. 1).

The annual core inflation rate, which excludes energy and unprocessed food products components, was 0.8% (1.0% in the previous month). The unprocessed food aggregate recorded an annual rate of 1.2% in April (-0.4% in March) while energy presented an annual rate of -3.0% (-3.4% in March).

The largest downward pressure on the overall annual rate of change came from decreases in the prices of *Alcoholic beverages and tobacco* and *Health* while upward pressures came from changes in the prices of *Food and non-alcoholic beverages* and *Transports*.

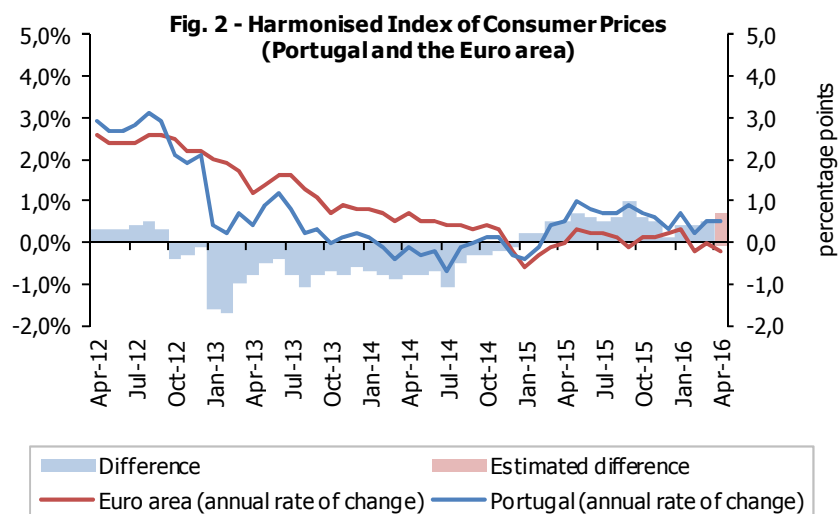
In April, the CPI monthly rate was 0.4% (1.9% in March and 0.3% in April 2015). The main upward contribution to this result came from changes in the prices of *Food and non-alcoholic beverages*. On the opposite side, decreases were observed in the prices of *Recreation and culture*.

The CPI 12-month average rate stood at 0.7% in April, 0.1 p.p. above the previous month rate.

In April 2016, the HICP annual rate was 0.5% (the same value as in the previous month) while the HICP monthly rate was 0.4% (the same value as in April 2015).

In March, the annual rate of change of the Portuguese HICP was 0.5 p.p. higher than the annual rate of change for the Euro area. That difference is estimated to have increased to 0.7 p.p. in April 2016.

The HICP 12-month average rate was 0.6% in April (the same value as in March).



### Housing Rents

In April the monthly rate of change of the average value of rents by net area for the whole country was 0.1% (-0.1% in the previous month).

The main increase was recorded in the Açores region (1.4%), while the Centro region recorded the main decrease (-0.6%).

The annual change rate of the housing rents for the whole country was 1.9% in April. The main increase was observed in the Açores region (5.5%) and all the other regions presented positive rates.

## Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures the change over time of the prices of a certain basket of goods and services bought by a "typical" consumer. The CPI has been designed to capture price changes and not to measure price levels.

The CPI is updated every year with the most recent information on prices and quantities. The 2016 CPI weighting structure and the sample of goods and services included in the basket are a result of the combination of three fundamental sources of information: results of the Portuguese National Accounts complemented with the Household Budget Survey and the Census for more detailed levels of expenditure. Administrative data is also used.

The CPI is compiled through the aggregation of seven regional price indexes and the goods and services included in the index are grouped according to the COICOP classification.

**Table 1: CPI - COICOP Divisions**

01	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	07	Transports
02	Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	08	Communications
03	Clothing and footwear	09	Recreation and culture
04	Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	10	Education
05	Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house	11	Restaurants and hotels
06	Health	12	Miscellaneous goods and services

<sup>1</sup>COICOP: Classification Of Individual Consumption by Purpose

### Monthly rate

The monthly rate is the change in the index of a certain month compared with the index of the previous month expressed as a percentage. Although up-to-date, this measure can be affected by seasonal and other effects.

### Annual rate

The annual rate is the change in the index of a certain month compared with the index of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage. In the presence of a stable seasonal pattern, seasonal effects do not influence this measure.

### 12-month average rate

The 12-month average rate is the change in the average index of one year compared with the average index of the previous year expressed as a percentage. This moving average is less sensitive to transient changes in prices.

### Core inflation index (all items CPI excluding unprocessed food and energy products)

The core inflation index is compiled by excluding the prices of unprocessed food and energy products from the all items CPI. The primary objective of this index is to capture the underlying inflation pressures in the economy.

### Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices

The Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) is compiled in each member state of the European Union for the purposes of inflation comparisons across EU countries, as required by the Treaty on European Union<sup>1</sup>. This index plays an important role as a guideline for the achievement of the European System of Central Banks primary objective: price stability. In 1998, the European Central Bank adopted the HICP as "the most appropriate price measure" for its definition of price stability in the Euro area<sup>2</sup>.

With the release of the January 2016 HICP, the index reference period changed to 2015 = 100, in line with the procedure adopted at European level: [Council Regulation \(EU\) 2015/2010 of the Commission](#) of 11 November 2015, as regards the common index reference period for the harmonised index of consumer prices. The new regulation is based on the need to "ensure the comparability and relevance of the HICP" as a result of "changes to the sub-index classification of the HICP and the alignment of sub-indices that have been linked to the HICP after the introduction of 2005 = 100". The historical information available on the previous base (2005 = 100) was thus replaced. More detailed information on the new reporting period can be found at <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/hicp/methodology/reference-year-2015>.

<sup>1</sup> Article 109j and protocol on the convergence criteria referred to in that article.

<sup>2</sup> A stability oriented monetary policy strategy for the ESCB". ECB press notice released on 13 October 1998.

The HICP is produced in each Member State following a harmonized methodology developed by experts in the field of price statistics, under the "Price Statistics Working Group" and related Task Forces. From the methodological point of view, there are no major differences between the HICP and CPI. However, the different scope of coverage leads to differences in the weighting structure, mainly in Restaurants and hotels. This is mostly an effect of the inclusion of non-residents expenditure ("tourists") in the HICP and the corresponding exclusion from the CPI.

Additional information on the methodology of the HICP is available at <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/hicp>.

**Table 2: CPI and HICP 2016 weighting structure**

COICOP divisions		CPI	HICP
01	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	207,9	200,2
02	Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	40,2	39,4
03	Clothing and footwear	69,0	70,1
04	Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	102,7	97,0
05	Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house	62,4	60,9
06	Health	63,4	60,8
07	Transport	139,6	137,9
08	Communication	36,8	34,7
09	Recreation and culture	72,2	61,0
10	Education	16,7	15,7
11	Restaurants and hotels	85,5	123,7
12	Miscellaneous goods and services	103,6	98,5
00	All items	<b>1000</b>	<b>1000<sup>2</sup></b>

<sup>1</sup> COICOP: Classification Of Individual Consumption by Purpose.

<sup>2</sup> Due to rounding, the sum of the parts may not add exactly to 1000.

### Presentation of data and rounding rules

Since the release of the January 2013 CPI indices are published with base 100 in the year 2012.

Due to rounding procedures, those indices may not reproduce exactly the published rates of change. However, it should be noted that the published rates prevail.

In this press release the descriptive analysis is based on rounded values to one decimal.

### Next press release

The April 2016 CPI/HICP will be released on June 9<sup>th</sup> 2016.

**Annex:**

**CPI rate of change (index division and all items CPI)**

	Index divisions <sup>(1)</sup>												All-items CPI
	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	
	Annual average rate												
2013	1.94	4.05	-3.31	2.15	-0.51	1.49	-2.32	0.45	0.41	1.18	1.65	-0.61	0.27
2014	-1.34	3.09	-2.11	2.22	-0.38	0.66	-1.20	1.10	-1.49	0.43	0.97	-0.46	-0.28
2015	1.01	4.09	-2.02	0.23	0.67	0.41	-0.99	4.12	-0.63	0.65	1.31	0.42	0.49
	Annual rate												
2014 April	-0.93	2.36	-1.82	2.10	-0.91	0.16	0.26	1.61	-1.33	0.46	0.13	-0.70	-0.14
May	-2.33	2.14	-1.65	2.15	-0.83	0.29	-0.52	1.58	-1.18	0.41	0.65	-0.72	-0.44
June	-2.53	2.88	-1.45	2.32	-1.00	0.74	0.15	0.36	-1.80	0.40	0.62	-0.63	-0.42
July	-3.05	3.11	-7.45	2.15	-0.77	0.81	0.09	0.37	-1.94	0.36	0.84	0.22	-0.87
August	-3.17	3.38	-0.67	2.18	-0.34	0.71	0.58	0.39	-0.99	0.37	1.28	-0.24	-0.36
September	-2.19	3.70	-0.98	2.34	-0.60	0.81	-1.09	-0.14	-2.41	0.37	1.94	-0.63	-0.37
October	-0.63	3.17	-2.20	2.62	0.72	0.39	-1.39	0.68	-1.46	0.57	1.63	-0.70	0.00
November	-0.53	3.13	-1.63	2.40	1.15	0.46	-1.84	0.27	-1.72	0.57	1.44	-0.42	0.02
December	-0.38	3.09	-1.84	1.92	1.12	0.32	-4.38	0.28	-1.24	0.60	1.64	-0.48	-0.36
2015 January	-0.13	3.09	-1.48	1.05	0.99	0.34	-4.21	1.19	-1.32	0.60	1.34	-0.55	-0.39
February	0.01	3.19	-1.84	0.20	0.84	0.65	-2.78	2.80	-1.52	0.60	1.78	-0.85	-0.21
March	0.29	2.60	-1.99	0.32	0.76	0.59	-0.26	3.63	-0.93	0.54	1.98	-0.61	0.31
April	1.18	4.04	-2.44	0.50	0.64	0.50	-1.40	3.55	-1.40	0.49	1.89	-0.02	0.40
May	2.07	5.07	-2.54	0.48	0.60	0.56	1.04	3.58	-0.82	0.50	1.57	-0.02	0.95
June	1.95	4.91	-3.44	0.62	0.78	0.49	-0.20	4.90	-0.53	0.51	1.54	0.02	0.80
July	1.53	4.97	-2.86	0.24	1.15	0.34	-0.42	4.98	-0.48	0.59	1.43	0.41	0.77
August	1.71	4.36	-2.65	0.05	1.14	0.47	-1.83	4.96	-0.42	0.58	1.51	1.08	0.66
September	1.98	4.28	-0.23	-0.22	1.19	0.29	-1.11	5.53	-0.54	0.59	1.03	1.02	0.88
October	1.27	3.89	-0.90	-0.32	-0.10	0.19	-0.85	4.77	-0.54	0.93	0.95	1.60	0.63
November	0.36	4.31	-1.68	-0.16	-0.01	0.18	0.36	4.73	0.81	0.95	0.51	1.69	0.64
December	0.00	4.32	-2.28	0.04	0.05	0.28	-0.09	4.93	0.21	0.93	0.23	1.33	0.40
2016 January	0.21	4.37	0.16	-0.07	0.77	-0.01	0.04	5.31	0.98	0.91	0.60	1.60	0.78
February	-0.62	4.06	-0.23	0.59	1.14	-0.19	-1.28	3.95	1.90	0.92	0.15	1.09	0.40
March	-0.73	4.38	0.02	0.62	1.22	-0.16	-1.43	3.30	1.26	0.93	1.77	0.90	0.45
April	0.09	2.41	0.04	0.69	0.89	-0.92	-0.93	2.95	0.74	0.94	1.99	0.43	0.48

**Symbols:** f estimated Po provisional x not available

**Note:** (1) The names of the divisions are given in the explanatory notes.

**Source:** INE - Portugal

