



Harmonized Indexes of Consumer Prices

Eight Countries or Areas, 1996-2008

**Division of International Labor Comparisons
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These tables present Harmonized Indexes of Consumer Prices (HICP), an internationally comparable measure of consumer price inflation originally developed by the European Union for its member countries. This annual report covers eight countries or areas, the United States, Japan, the European Union, the euro area, France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom. The data for each country or area are presented as indexes and average annual growth rates from 1996 to 2008. For more consumer price information see the Division of International Labor Comparisons Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/ilc/#cpi>.

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Table A. Annual indexes: 2005 = 100

Table B. Average annual percent change

These indexes and percent changes conform, insofar as possible, to the conceptual basis of the European Union's Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices (HICP). The HICP is the standard price index that EU Member States must produce for comparisons across countries. It is used by the European Central Bank for the conduct of monetary policy in the euro area. The index covers all households in each country and excludes owner-occupied housing costs.

The 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. These U.S. 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," on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2006/05/art3full.pdf>.

The data for Japan on this table refer to the published "General, excluding imputed rent" CPI which covers households with two or more persons in the entire country and excludes owner-occupied housing costs. The data shown on this table for the United States and Japan have not been otherwise adjusted for comparability. Differences may exist, for example, with respect to the frequency of market basket weight changes, aggregation methods, and quality adjustments.

Percent change in table B is computed using the compound rate method. The figures may differ from official percent changes published by national statistical agencies because of rounding.

Annual indexes: 2005 = 100

Years	United States	Japan	European Union (1)	Euro area (2)	France	Germany	Italy	United Kingdom
1996		101.8	84.9	84.6	86.6	88.6	81.8	88.1
1997		103.4	86.4	85.9	87.8	90.0	83.3	89.7
1998		104.1	87.5	86.9	88.3	90.5	85.0	91.1
1999		103.7	88.5	87.9	88.8	91.1	86.4	92.3
2000		102.8	90.2	89.7	90.5	92.4	88.6	93.1
2001		101.8	92.2	91.8	92.1	94.1	90.7	94.2
2002	91.6	100.7	94.1	93.9	93.9	95.4	93.1	95.4
2003	93.7	100.4	96.0	95.8	95.9	96.4	95.7	96.7
2004	96.3	100.4	97.9	97.9	98.1	98.1	97.8	98.0
2005	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
2006	103.2	100.3	102.2	102.2	101.9	101.8	102.2	102.3
2007	105.9	100.4	104.6	104.4	103.6	104.1	104.3	104.7
2008	110.6	102.0	108.4	107.8	106.8	107.0	108.0	108.5

See notes at end of tables.

Average annual percent change

Years	United States	Japan	European Union (1)	Euro area (2)	France	Germany	Italy	United Kingdom
1996-2008		0.0	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.6	2.3	1.8
2006-2008	3.5	0.8	3.0	2.7	2.4	2.5	2.8	3.0
1996-2001		0.0	1.7	1.6	1.2	1.2	2.1	1.3
2002-2008	3.2	0.2	2.4	2.3	2.2	1.9	2.5	2.2
1996-1997		1.6	1.7	1.6	1.3	1.6	1.8	1.8
1997-1998		0.7	1.3	1.1	0.7	0.6	2.0	1.6
1998-1999		-0.4	1.2	1.1	0.6	0.7	1.6	1.3
1999-2000		-0.9	1.9	2.1	1.8	1.4	2.5	0.9
2000-2001		-1.0	2.2	2.4	1.8	1.8	2.4	1.2
2001-2002		-1.1	2.1	2.2	1.9	1.4	2.6	1.3
2002-2003	2.3	-0.3	2.0	2.1	2.2	1.0	2.8	1.4
2003-2004	2.8	0.0	2.0	2.1	2.3	1.8	2.2	1.3
2004-2005	3.9	-0.4	2.2	2.2	1.9	1.9	2.2	2.0
2005-2006	3.2	0.3	2.2	2.2	1.9	1.8	2.2	2.3
2006-2007	2.6	0.1	2.3	2.1	1.6	2.3	2.1	2.3
2007-2008	4.4	1.6	3.7	3.3	3.2	2.8	3.5	3.6

See notes at end of tables.

Notes

(1) 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) 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 EU index for 2008 is the household expenditure-weighted average for 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. For analytical purposes, Eurostat also makes available historical series covering all the current EU countries.

(2) 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 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 index for this group for 2008 is the household expenditure-weighted average for the following 16 countries: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Spain. For analytical purposes, Eurostat also makes available historical series covering all the current euro area countries.