

14 April, 2008

## PRESS RELEASE

### CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

March 2008

## CONSUMER PRICES UP 3.1 IN MARCH ON A YEAR EARLIER

The Portuguese Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 3.1% in March 2008 when compared with March 2007. On a monthly basis, the CPI increased 1.5%. The CPI 12-month average rate of change increased from 2.5% in February 2008 to 2.6% in March 2008.

In March, the Portuguese Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) increased 3.1% when compared with the same month of the previous year.

Consumer prices increased 3.1% in March 2008 when compared with March of the previous year, 0.2 percentage points higher than in the previous month (see figure 1).

The core inflation index, which excludes energy components and fresh unprocessed food products, rose at a lower rate than the CPI (2.8%), although 0.2 p.p. higher than in the previous month.

The main upward pressure on the overall annual rate of change came from changes in the costs associated with food products, transports and housing.

The main upward contributions to the CPI monthly rate (almost 70% for the total change in CPI) came from changes in the prices of clothing and footwear (18,9%). The monthly indexes of those products increased, on average, 21.4% and 14.3%, respectively. The main driving factor contributing to the observed price rises came from the introduction of new Spring and Summer collections.

Recreation and culture had a negative impact on March's month-on-month results, as the main downward contribution to the CPI monthly rate was found in gardening, with a monthly rate of -22.9%. The prices decreases observed in cars, fish and vegetables also contributed to the downward effect in total CPI.

In March, the HICP for Portugal rose 3.1% when compared with March 2007, 0.2 p.p. higher than the previous month. The HICP remained constant between January and February 2008. The HICP increased 1.5% between February and March 2008. The HICP 12-month average rate was 2.6%, 0.1 p.p. higher than in the previous month.

In February 2008 the gap between the Portuguese and the Euro-area annual rate of change was -0.4 p.p. and is estimated to have remained unchanged in March 2008 (see figure 2).

Fig. 1 - Consumer price and core inflation indexes  
(annual rate and 12-month moving average)

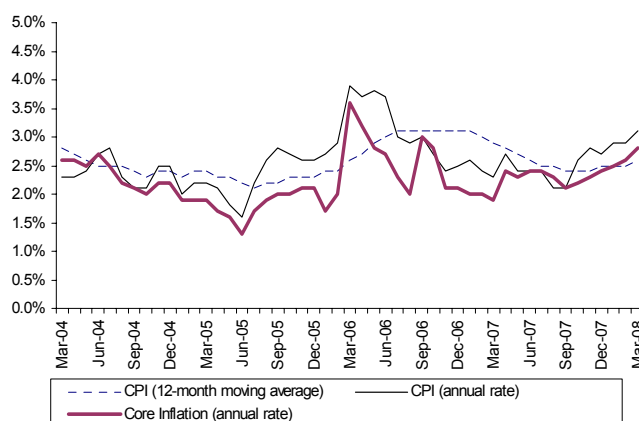
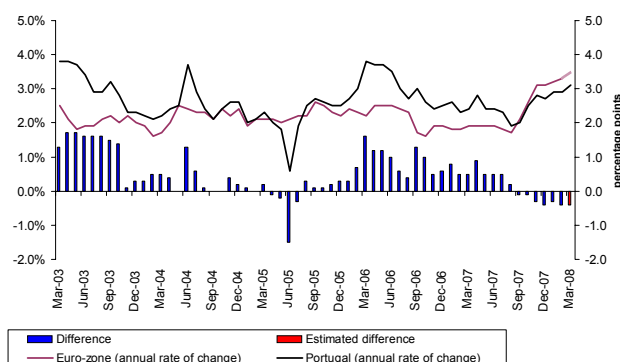


Fig. 2 - Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices  
(Portugal and the Euro area)



The April 2008 CPI/HICP will be released on May 15<sup>th</sup> 2008

## Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is an indicator showing how the prices of a certain basket of goods and services bought by a “typical” consumer change over time. The CPI has been designed to capture price changes and not to measure price levels. Both the consumption pattern and the goods and services included in the CPI basket were derived from the year 2000 Household Budget Survey and are updated annually with the most recent information on prices and quantities. 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 Index 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

## 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. In the publication *Síntese Económica de Conjuntura* is released a core inflation indicator based on a different methodological approach (factorial analysis) and, for this reason, it is possible that differences between the values shown by the two measures exist.

## 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>.

<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.



**Annexes:**

**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												
2005	-0.6	4.8	-1.1	4.4	1.3	0.9	5.8	-0.2	1.6	7.0	2.4	2.2	2.3
2006	2.7	9.7	0.5	3.9	1.0	1.5	5.5	-0.9	1.2	5.2	2.3	3.3	3.1
2007	2.4	4.9	2.2	3.6	1.6	7.4	1.6	-1.8	0.3	3.7	2.6	2.4	2.5
	Annual rate												
2006 March	1.3	9.4	12.1	4.4	0.7	0.1	7.8	-0.5	1.2	5.7	2.1	2.5	3.9
April	1.7	9.4	5.4	4.1	0.9	0.5	7.9	-0.7	1.7	5.7	2.6	2.9	3.7
May	2.6	9.0	0.9	4.1	1.0	0.7	8.5	-0.6	1.9	5.7	2.3	3.6	3.8
June	3.9	9.2	-0.9	4.1	1.0	0.8	7.4	-0.6	2.2	5.7	2.3	3.6	3.7
July	3.1	9.3	-2.7	3.8	1.2	0.7	6.1	-0.9	1.6	5.7	2.2	3.5	3.0
August	3.2	9.5	-3.0	3.8	0.9	1.2	5.2	-0.9	1.0	5.7	1.7	3.3	2.9
September	3.1	9.3	8.9	3.7	0.9	1.4	2.5	-1.0	0.7	5.9	2.3	3.7	3.0
October	3.6	9.3	6.4	3.3	0.9	2.7	0.8	-1.0	0.4	4.0	2.5	3.9	2.7
November	3.3	9.4	-0.6	3.2	0.9	4.3	1.5	-1.0	0.2	4.0	2.6	3.7	2.4
December	3.1	9.4	-0.9	3.2	0.8	5.5	2.2	-1.3	0.7	4.0	2.2	3.7	2.5
2007 January	4.1	0.8	1.9	3.9	1.5	5.5	1.5	-1.3	0.6	4.0	2.3	3.3	2.6
February	3.6	0.4	0.7	3.6	1.4	6.0	0.8	-1.1	1.8	3.9	2.5	3.2	2.4
March	3.1	0.5	1.0	3.5	2.1	6.3	1.7	-1.8	0.1	3.5	2.4	3.1	2.3
April	3.5	6.1	1.4	3.5	1.7	10.6	1.3	-2.2	0.1	3.5	2.5	2.9	2.7
May	2.2	6.3	1.5	3.5	1.8	9.6	1.2	-2.0	0.2	3.5	2.5	2.5	2.4
June	1.4	6.5	2.9	3.5	1.8	9.3	1.6	-1.9	-0.1	3.5	2.6	2.3	2.4
July	1.8	6.3	4.8	3.8	1.5	8.9	0.7	-1.9	-0.2	3.4	2.6	2.2	2.4
August	1.6	6.3	2.8	3.8	1.7	8.3	-0.2	-2.0	0.0	3.4	2.8	2.3	2.1
September	1.8	6.2	0.6	3.7	1.6	7.9	0.7	-2.0	0.3	2.9	2.8	1.7	2.1
October	2.4	6.3	2.8	3.3	1.4	6.8	2.3	-1.9	0.3	4.5	2.5	1.8	2.6
November	2.2	6.3	2.9	3.6	1.2	5.5	3.6	-1.9	0.7	4.4	2.5	2.4	2.8
December	1.7	6.3	3.1	3.7	1.1	4.7	3.5	-1.6	0.4	4.4	2.8	1.8	2.7
2008 January	2.0	6.5	3.1	3.9	1.2	5.2	3.4	-1.7	0.3	4.3	3.5	2.2	2.9
February	2.3	9.4	3.1	3.8	1.4	4.3	2.9	-1.9	0.8	4.4	3.4	2.2	2.9
March	3.6	12.1	2.3	4.0	1.4	4.3	2.3	-1.4	0.6	4.4	3.7	2.4	3.1

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

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

**Source:** INE - Portugal



**Taxa de variação do IHPC (comparação entre países da UE)<sup>(1)</sup>**

	UE-15 <sup>(2)</sup>	IEPC <sup>(3)</sup>	BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	EL	ES	FR	IE	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE	UK
<b>Taxa de variação média anual</b>																													
2005	<b>2.2</b>	2.2	2.5	6.0	1.6	1.7	1.9	4.1	3.5	3.4	1.9	2.2	2.2	2.0	6.9	2.7	3.8	3.5	2.5	1.5	2.1	2.2	<b>2.1</b>	9.1	2.5	2.8	0.8	0.8	2.1
2006	<b>2.2</b>	2.2	2.3	7.4	2.1	1.9	1.8	4.4	3.3	3.6	1.9	2.7	2.2	2.2	6.6	3.8	3.0	4.0	2.6	1.7	1.7	1.3	<b>3.0</b>	6.6	2.5	4.3	1.3	1.5	2.3
2007	<b>2.1</b>	2.3	1.8	7.6	3.0	1.7	2.3	6.7	3.0	2.8	1.6	x	2.0	2.2	10.1	5.8	2.7	7.9	0.7	1.6	2.2	2.6	<b>2.4</b>	4.9	3.8	1.9	1.6	1.7	2.3
<b>Taxa de variação homóloga</b>																													
2006 Março	<b>2.2</b>	2.1	2.2	9.1	2.4	1.8	1.9	4.0	3.3	3.9	1.7	2.8	2.2	2.6	6.6	3.1	3.7	2.4	2.9	1.4	1.3	0.9	<b>3.8</b>	8.5	2.0	4.3	1.2	1.5	1.8
Abril	<b>2.5</b>	2.3	2.6	8.5	2.3	1.8	2.3	4.3	3.5	3.9	2.0	2.7	2.3	2.5	6.1	3.4	3.5	2.4	3.5	1.8	2.1	1.2	<b>3.7</b>	7.0	2.8	4.4	1.5	1.8	2.0
Maio	<b>2.5</b>	2.4	2.8	9.0	2.8	2.1	2.1	4.6	3.3	4.1	2.4	3.0	2.3	2.5	7.1	3.6	3.6	2.9	3.5	1.8	2.1	1.5	<b>3.7</b>	7.3	3.4	4.8	1.7	1.9	2.2
Junho	<b>2.5</b>	2.4	2.5	8.4	2.3	2.1	2.0	4.4	3.4	4.0	2.2	2.9	2.4	2.6	6.3	3.7	3.9	2.9	3.3	1.8	1.9	1.5	<b>3.5</b>	7.2	3.0	4.5	1.5	1.9	2.5
Julho	<b>2.4</b>	2.4	2.4	7.8	2.4	2.0	2.1	4.5	3.9	4.0	2.2	2.9	2.3	2.8	6.9	4.4	3.4	3.2	3.6	1.7	2.0	1.4	<b>3.0</b>	6.2	1.9	5.0	1.4	1.8	2.4
Agosto	<b>2.3</b>	2.3	2.3	7.0	2.6	1.9	1.8	5.0	3.4	3.8	2.1	3.2	2.3	2.7	6.8	4.3	3.1	4.7	3.0	1.9	2.1	1.7	<b>2.7</b>	6.1	3.1	5.0	1.3	1.6	2.5
Setembro	<b>1.7</b>	1.9	1.9	5.4	2.2	1.5	1.0	3.8	3.1	2.9	1.5	2.2	2.4	2.2	5.9	3.3	2.0	5.9	3.1	1.5	1.3	1.4	<b>3.0</b>	5.5	2.5	4.5	0.8	1.2	2.4
Outubro	<b>1.6</b>	1.8	1.7	5.2	0.8	1.4	1.1	3.8	3.1	2.6	1.2	2.2	1.9	1.7	5.6	3.7	0.6	6.3	1.7	1.3	1.3	1.1	<b>2.6</b>	4.8	1.5	3.1	0.9	1.2	2.4
Novembro	<b>1.9</b>	2.1	2.0	5.9	1.0	1.8	1.5	4.7	3.2	2.7	1.6	2.4	2.0	1.3	6.3	4.4	1.8	6.4	0.9	1.6	1.6	1.3	<b>2.4</b>	4.7	2.4	3.7	1.3	1.5	2.7
Dezembro	<b>1.9</b>	2.2	2.1	6.1	1.5	1.7	1.4	5.1	3.2	2.7	1.7	3.0	2.1	1.5	6.8	4.5	2.3	6.6	0.8	1.7	1.6	1.4	<b>2.5</b>	4.9	3.0	3.7	1.2	1.4	3.0
2007 Janeiro	<b>1.8</b>	2.1	1.7	6.8	1.4	1.8	1.8	5.0	3.0	2.4	1.4	2.9	1.9	1.4	7.1	4.0	2.3	8.4	1.2	1.2	1.7	1.6	<b>2.6</b>	4.1	2.8	2.2	1.3	1.6	2.7
Fevereiro	<b>1.8</b>	2.1	1.8	4.6	1.7	1.9	1.9	4.6	3.0	2.5	1.2	2.6	2.1	1.2	7.2	4.4	1.8	9.0	0.8	1.4	1.7	1.9	<b>2.3</b>	3.9	2.3	2.0	1.2	1.7	2.8
Março	<b>1.9</b>	2.3	1.8	4.4	2.1	1.9	2.0	5.6	2.8	2.5	1.2	2.9	2.1	1.4	8.5	4.8	2.4	9.0	0.5	1.9	1.9	2.4	<b>2.4</b>	3.7	2.6	2.1	1.6	1.6	3.1
Abril	<b>1.9</b>	2.2	1.8	4.4	2.7	1.7	2.0	5.6	2.6	2.5	1.3	2.9	1.8	1.6	8.8	4.9	2.5	8.7	-1.1	1.9	1.8	2.2	<b>2.8</b>	3.8	2.9	2.0	1.5	1.6	2.8
Maio	<b>1.9</b>	2.1	1.3	4.5	2.4	1.7	2.0	5.9	2.6	2.4	1.2	2.7	1.9	1.9	7.8	5.0	2.3	8.4	-1.0	2.0	1.9	2.3	<b>2.4</b>	3.9	3.1	1.5	1.3	1.2	2.5
Junho	<b>1.9</b>	2.1	1.3	5.3	2.6	1.3	2.0	6.0	2.6	2.5	1.3	2.8	1.9	1.7	8.9	5.0	2.3	8.5	-0.6	1.8	1.9	2.6	<b>2.4</b>	3.9	3.8	1.5	1.4	1.3	2.4
Julho	<b>1.8</b>	2.0	1.3	6.8	2.5	1.1	2.0	6.5	2.7	2.3	1.2	2.7	1.7	2.3	9.5	5.1	2.0	8.3	-0.2	1.4	2.0	2.5	<b>2.3</b>	4.1	4.0	1.2	1.6	1.4	1.9
Agosto	<b>1.7</b>	1.9	1.2	9.3	2.6	0.9	2.0	6.1	2.7	2.2	1.3	2.3	1.7	2.2	10.2	5.6	1.9	7.1	0.6	1.1	1.7	2.1	<b>1.9</b>	5.0	3.4	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.8
Setembro	<b>2.1</b>	2.2	1.4	11.0	2.8	1.2	2.7	7.5	2.9	2.7	1.6	2.9	1.7	2.3	11.5	7.1	2.5	6.4	0.9	1.3	2.1	2.7	<b>2.0</b>	6.1	3.6	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.8
Outubro	<b>2.6</b>	2.7	2.2	10.6	4.0	1.8	2.7	8.7	3.0	3.6	2.1	3.0	2.3	2.7	13.2	7.6	3.6	6.9	1.6	1.6	2.9	3.1	<b>2.5</b>	6.9	5.1	2.4	1.8	1.9	2.1
Novembro	<b>3.1</b>	3.1	2.9	11.4	5.1	2.5	3.3	9.3	3.9	4.1	2.6	3.5	2.6	3.2	13.7	7.9	4.0	7.2	2.9	1.8	3.2	3.7	<b>2.8</b>	6.8	5.7	2.3	2.2	2.4	2.1
Dezembro	<b>3.1</b>	3.2	3.1	11.6	5.5	2.4	3.1	9.7	3.9	4.3	2.8	3.2	2.8	3.7	14.0	8.2	4.3	7.4	3.1	1.6	3.5	4.2	<b>2.7</b>	6.7	5.7	2.5	1.9	2.5	2.1
2008 Janeiro	<b>3.2</b>	3.4	3.5	11.7	7.9	3.0	2.9	11.3	3.9	4.4	3.2	3.1	3.1	4.1	15.6	10.0	4.2	7.4	3.8	1.8	3.1	4.4	<b>2.9</b>	7.3	6.4	3.2	3.5	3.0	2.2
Fevereiro	<b>3.3 Po</b>	3.4 Po	3.6	12.2	7.6	3.3	2.9	11.5	4.5	4.4	3.2	3.5	3.1	4.7	16.5	10.9	4.2	6.7	4.0	2.0 Po	3.1 Po	4.6	<b>2.9</b>	8.0	6.4	3.4	3.3	2.9	x
Março	<b>3.5 f</b>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	<b>3.1</b>	x	x	x	x	x	x

**Símbolos:** f valor previsto Po valor provisório Rc valor retificado x não disponível

**Notas:** (1) A partir de Janeiro de 2006: base 100=2005, divulgação de índices a duas casas decimais e variações calculadas com base nesse nível de precisão.

(2) Estados Membros pertencentes à Zona Euro: UE13 até Dezembro de 2007, UE15 a partir de 1 de Janeiro de 2008 (entrada de Malta e Chipre).

(3) Índice Europeu de Preços no Consumidor: UE-15 até Abril de 2004, UE-25 até Dezembro de 2006 e UE-27 a partir de Janeiro de 2007.

**Fonte:** INE e Eurostat.

**Síglas dos Estados Membros:**

<b>BE</b> Bélgica	<b>EE</b> Estónia	<b>IT</b> Itália	<b>HU</b> Hungria	<b>PT</b> Portugal	<b>SE</b> Suécia
<b>BG</b> Bulgária	<b>EL</b> Grécia	<b>CY</b> Chipre	<b>MT</b> Malta	<b>RO</b> Roménia	<b>UK</b> Reino Unido
<b>CZ</b> República Checa	<b>ES</b> Espanha	<b>LV</b> Letónia	<b>NL</b> Países Baixos	<b>SI</b> Eslovénia	
<b>DK</b> Dinamarca	<b>FR</b> França	<b>LT</b> Lituânia	<b>AT</b> Áustria	<b>SK</b> Eslováquia	
<b>DE</b> Alemanha	<b>IE</b> Irlanda	<b>LU</b> Luxemburgo	<b>PL</b> Polónia	<b>FI</b> Finlândia	