

31 August 2020

Consumer Price Index

August 2020 – Flash estimate

CPI annual rate of change estimated at 0.0%

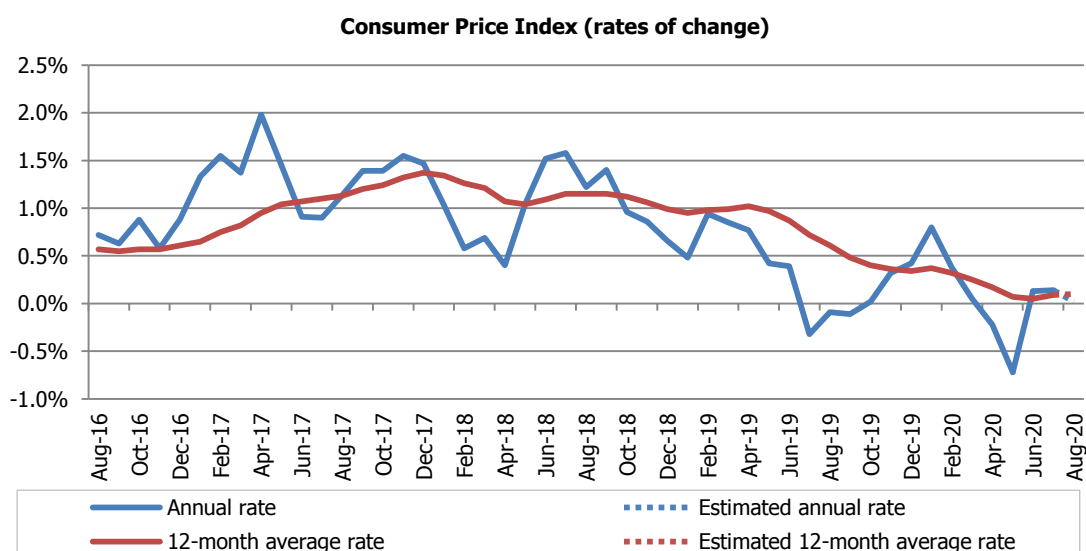
Based on the information made available until the date of the present press release, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) annual rate is estimated to be nil in August 2020 (0.1 percentage points (p.p.) below the previous month). The core inflation index, which excludes energy and unprocessed food products components, was also nil (0.1% in July). The annual rate of change of the index for energy products is estimated to be -5.0% (-5.3% in July).

The estimated CPI monthly rate was -0.2% (in July, the final value was -1.3% and -0.1% in August 2019), while the CPI 12-month average rate was estimated at 0.1% (the same rate as in the previous month).

The estimate of the Portuguese Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) annual rate of change was -0.2% (-0.1% in July).

The June CPI final results will be released on September 10th, 2020.

Despite the circumstances determined by the pandemic COVID 19, Statistics Portugal will try to maintain the statistical production and release calendar, although some adjustments might occur associated with the impact of the pandemic in obtaining primary information. For this reason, Statistics Portugal asks for the best collaboration by firms, households and public entities in answering to Statistics Portugal's requests to obtain information, using Internet and telephone as alternative channels to face-to-face contacts. The quality of official statistics, particularly its ability to identify the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, depends crucially on this collaboration that Statistics Portugal is grateful for in advance.



	Monthly rate (%) ¹		Annual rate (%) ¹		12-month average rate (%) ¹	
	Jul-20	Aug-20 (e)	Jul-20	Aug-20 (e)	Jul-20	Aug-20 (e)
CPI						
Total	-1,29	-0,24	0,14	0,02	0,09	0,10
All items excluding housing	-1,36	-0,26	0,05	-0,08	-0,04	-0,03
All items excl. unproc. food and energy	-1,65	-0,26	0,08	-0,04	0,16	0,14
Unprocessed food	-0,54	-0,26	4,80	4,22	2,78	3,10
Energy	1,66	-0,04	-5,28	-4,96	-4,00	-4,12
HICP						
Total	-2,0	-0,2	-0,1	-0,2	0,1	0,1

(e) estimated values.

¹Rounded values to two and one decimals. For more information see the final notes.

Next releases

The August CPI/HICP will be released on September 10th, 2020.

The September 2020 flash estimate will be released on September 30th.

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.

For a more detailed analysis, please check the monthly CPI/HICP Press Releases.

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.

Presentation of data and rounding rules

Indices are published with base 100 in 2012 since the release of the January 2013 CPI.

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.

CPI/HICP flash estimate

Statistics Portugal publishes a CPI/HICP flash estimate based on provisional data and price estimates.

This publication presents estimates for the annual and monthly rates of change of those indices, following a long period of compilation and internal evaluation of their quality compared to the published final figures. Additional details can be found in the [January 2018 flash estimate press release](#).

In line with the dissemination practices followed by Eurostat and some EU countries this information will be disseminated on the last working day of each month.

Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent restrictions forced Statistics Portugal to an unprecedented challenge in the CPI/HICP compilation from April to July. In August, the CPI/HICP was again produced with in-store price collection, as was the practice until March. It must be noted that the CPI takes into account a significant number of prices obtained from administrative data, such as for housing rents, for which price collection was unaffected.

Statistics Portugal is applying a set of recommendations that were published by Eurostat regarding the end of this exceptional period and the return to the previously implemented HICP compilation methods:
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/10186/10693286/HICP_lifting_lockdown_measures_guidance.pdf.

These recommendations aim to ensure that the alternative methods that were used during the lockdown period do not have a lasting impact on the annual rates of change to be published in the coming months.