

13 April, 2015

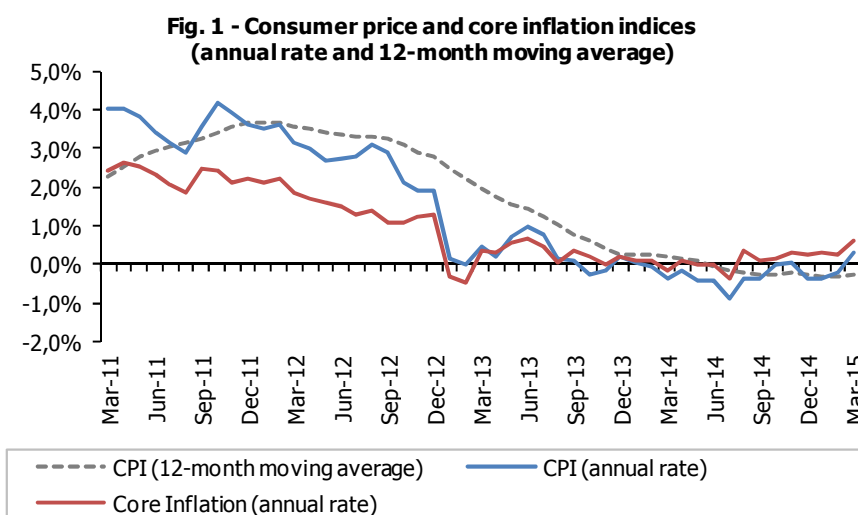
CONSUMER PRICES INDEX

March 2015

CPI annual rate of change was 0.3% in March

The CPI recorded an annual rate of change of 0.3% in March 2015 (-0.2% in the previous month). Excluding energy and unprocessed food, the annual rate was 0.6% in March (0.3% in February). The CPI monthly rate was 1.9% (-0.1% in February and 1.4% in March 2014), while the CPI 12-month average rate maintained the same result as in the previous month (-0.3%).

In March 2015, the Portuguese Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) annual rate of change was 0.4% (-0.1% in February), 0.5 percentage points (p.p.) above the rate estimated by Eurostat for the Euro area (difference of 0.2 p.p. in the previous month).



In March 2015, the annual inflation rate measured by the CPI was 0.3%. It was -0.2% in the previous month (see Fig. 1).

The largest upward pressure on the overall annual rate of change came from increases in the prices of *Restaurants and hotels* and *Communications*. Decreases in prices of *Clothing and footwear* led to an opposite effect.

The annual core inflation rate, which excludes energy and unprocessed food products components, was 0.6%, 0.3 p.p. higher than in the previous month.

The positive annual rate of the overall CPI in March, comparing with February, was determined by the prices of *Transport*, which moved from -2.8% in February to -0.3% in March 2015.

The unprocessed food aggregate recorded an annual increase of 0.5% in March (-0.1% in the previous month).

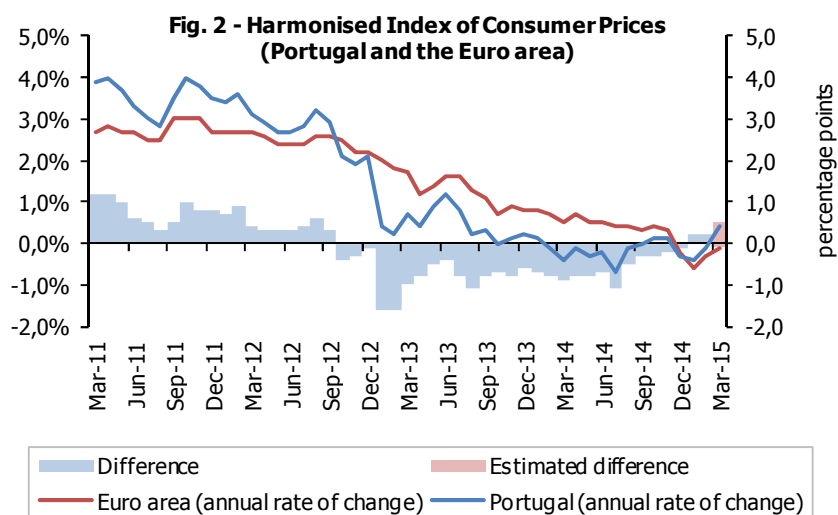
In March, the CPI monthly rate was 1.9% (-0.1% in February and 1.4% in March 2014). The main upward contribution to this result came from changes in the prices of *Clothing and footwear* and *Transport*. On the opposite side, decreases were observed in the prices of *Alcoholic beverages and tobacco*.

The CPI 12-month average rate remained at -0.3% in March.

In March 2015, the HICP annual rate was 0.4% (-0.1% in the previous month). The HICP monthly rate was 1.9% (1.4% in March 2014).

In February, the annual rate of change of the Portuguese HICP was 0.2 p.p. higher than the annual rate of change of the Euro area. That difference is estimated to have increased to 0.5 p.p. in March 2015.

The HICP 12-month average rate was -0.1% in March (-0.2% in February).



Housing Rents

In March 2015 the monthly rate of change of the average value of rents by net area for the whole country was -0.1% (-0.4% in the previous month).

The main decrease was observed in the Madeira region, where the value of rents by net area decreased -1.1%. The main increase was recorded in the Centro region (0.4%).

The annual change rate of the housing rents for the whole country was 0.7% in March (0.3% in February). The main increase was observed in the Centro region (4.4%), while the Madeira region recorded a decrease of -1.3%.

Consumer Price Index 2015 – changes due to the annual chaining of the index

With the publication of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in January of each year, the expenditure structure and the goods and services included in the basket are updated benefiting from the chaining process.

The weighting structure for the 2015 CPI is based on the households' final monetary consumption expenditure of Portuguese National Accounts at three-digit level of the Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP). These results are valued to December prices of the previous year. Due to the new benchmark of the Portuguese National Accounts there were some relevant changes in the CPI weighting structure compared with the previous year.

This complies with the regulations of the European Commission and Eurostat recommendations for the compilation of the Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices, aiming to ensure the highest quality of the information and the comparability among Member States.

Using information from National Accounts as the primary source ensures the appropriate update of the weights at the aggregated level on an annual basis, reflecting not only price changes but also changes in quantities of goods and services purchased by households. Information from National Accounts, which reflects the integration of several sources, including the Household Budget Survey (HBS), ensures a high degree of consistency with other fundamental variables for economic analysis. National Accounts are compiled using supply and use tables, matching available resources of each product (domestic production and imports) and the respective uses (exports and domestic spending) at a relatively detailed level.

Even though, as the number of products included in the CPI is more detailed than that provided by National Accounts, for more disaggregated levels of expenditure information from the HBS and the Census supplemented by other administrative sources is used, as well as from other surveys conducted by Statistics Portugal. This information is also used for updating the goods and services included in the CPI.

With the access to more detailed and updated information, notably coming from administrative sources, changes in the weighting structure and / or samples were also introduced for cigarettes, natural gas, pharmaceutical products, new cars, motorcycles, highway tolls, airline tickets, telecommunications services, newspapers and periodicals, packages holidays, football and betting and gambling.

The following table presents the CPI weights for 2014 and 2015.

COICOP ¹ divisions	2014 weights	2015 weights
01 Food and non-alcoholic beverages	211.8	215.7
02 Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	37.9	41.4
03 Clothing and footwear	69.4	70.9
04 Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	91.3	96.5
05 Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house	64.0	65.0
06 Health	72.0	61.0
07 Transport	126.5	134.3
08 Communication	36.3	36.9
09 Recreation and culture	79.4	76.9
10 Education	15.7	17.8
11 Restaurants and hotels	90.8	82.7
12 Miscellaneous goods and services	105.0	100.9
00 All items	1000	1000

¹ COICOP – Classification Of Individual Consumption by Purpose

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 2015 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 - COICOP¹ 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

¹ 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 Union¹. 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 area².

The current HICP (2005 = 100) is produced in each Member State following a harmonized methodology developed by experts in the field of price statistics, under the Eurostat's "Price Statistics Working Group". 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 can be found on the Eurostat website at <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/hicp/introduction>.

¹ - Article 109j and protocol on the convergence criteria referred to in that article.

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

Table 2: CPI and HICP 2015 weighting structure

COICOP ¹ divisions		CPI	HICP
01	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	215.7	208.2
02	Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	41.4	40.6
03	Clothing and footwear	70.9	71.9
04	Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	96.5	91.7
05	Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house	65.0	63.5
06	Health	61.0	58.8
07	Transport	134.3	132.9
08	Communication	36.9	35.1
09	Recreation and culture	76.9	64.9
10	Education	17.8	16.9
11	Restaurants and hotels	82.7	119.2
12	Miscellaneous goods and services	100.9	96.3
00	All items	1000	1000

¹ COICOP: Classification Of Individual Consumption by Purpose.

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 2015 CPI/HICP will be released on May 13th 2015.

Annex:

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

	Index divisions ⁽¹⁾												All-items CPI	
	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12		
	Annual average rate													
2012	3.20	4.74	-5.24	8.72	-0.47	0.35	3.27	0.46	0.91	1.50	4.47	1.11	2.77	
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	
	Annual rate													
2013	March	2.15	4.46	-4.53	3.11	-0.24	-0.83	-1.96	-0.58	1.60	1.44	1.81	-0.02	0.45
	April	2.02	3.74	-3.63	2.67	-0.21	0.14	-4.38	0.15	1.44	1.45	1.95	0.07	0.18
	May	3.10	4.06	-3.55	2.42	-0.41	2.04	-3.42	0.50	0.88	1.49	2.31	0.00	0.71
	June	2.84	3.98	-3.40	2.20	-0.13	2.57	-1.52	0.53	0.83	1.49	2.18	-0.10	0.98
	July	2.45	2.61	-1.23	1.99	-0.33	2.97	0.05	0.80	0.08	1.49	1.88	-1.26	0.76
	August	2.94	3.30	-2.86	1.84	-0.73	3.47	-1.77	0.78	-0.63	1.47	2.04	-1.48	0.15
	September	1.90	3.51	-2.12	1.44	-0.54	3.53	-3.68	0.85	-0.07	1.45	1.56	-1.02	0.12
	October	0.48	4.15	-2.80	1.09	-0.76	3.19	-4.05	1.14	-0.49	0.39	1.11	-0.98	-0.25
	November	0.53	4.48	-3.08	1.13	-0.96	3.00	-3.47	1.57	-0.68	0.33	0.70	-0.99	-0.15
	December	0.61	4.27	-2.65	0.94	-1.10	3.00	-0.54	1.55	-1.03	0.31	0.55	-0.81	0.20
2014	January	0.20	4.26	-2.63	2.15	-1.18	1.37	-1.38	3.39	-1.40	0.29	0.61	-0.44	0.06
	February	-0.05	3.71	-2.26	2.27	-1.00	1.01	-1.89	2.45	-0.95	0.36	0.63	-0.39	-0.08
	March	-0.42	2.22	-1.02	2.10	-0.92	0.78	-3.08	1.98	-1.48	0.40	0.17	-0.43	-0.37
	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
Symbols:	f	estimated	Po	provisional	x	not available								
Note:	(1) The names of the divisions are given in the explanatory notes.													
Source:	INE - Portugal													

HICP rate of change (international comparison)⁽¹⁾

	EA-19 ⁽²⁾	EICP ⁽³⁾	BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	EL	ES	FR	HR	IE	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE	UK
Annual average rate																														
2012	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.4	3.5	2.4	2.1	4.2	1.0	2.4	2.2	3.4	1.9	3.3	3.1	2.3	3.2	2.9	5.7	3.2	2.8	2.6	3.7	2.8	3.4	2.8	3.7	3.2	0.9	2.8
2013	1.4	1.5	1.2	0.4	1.4	0.5	1.6	3.2	-0.9	1.5	1.0	2.3	0.5	1.3	0.4	0.0	1.2	1.7	1.7	1.0	2.6	2.1	0.8	0.4	3.2	1.9	1.5	2.2	0.4	2.6
2014	0.4 Po	0.6 Po	0.5	-1.6	0.4	0.3	0.8	0.5	-1.4	-0.2	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.2	-0.3	0.7	0.2	0.7	0.0	0.3	0.3	1.5 Po	0.1	-0.2	1.4	0.4	-0.1	1.2	0.2	1.5
Annual rate																														
2013 March	1.7	1.9	1.3	1.6	1.5	0.7	1.8	3.8	-0.2	2.6	1.1	3.4	0.6	1.8	1.3	0.3	1.6	2.0	2.3	1.4	3.2	2.4	1.0	0.7	4.4	2.2	1.9	2.5	0.5	2.8
April	1.2	1.4	1.1	0.9	1.7	0.4	1.1	3.4	-0.6	1.5	0.8	3.1	0.5	1.3	0.1	-0.4	1.4	1.7	1.8	0.9	2.8	2.1	0.8	0.4	4.4	1.6	1.7	2.4	0.0	2.4
May	1.4	1.6	1.1	1.0	1.2	0.6	1.6	3.6	-0.3	1.8	0.9	1.8	0.5	1.3	0.2	-0.2	1.5	1.4	1.8	0.8	3.1	2.4	0.5	0.9	4.4	1.6	1.8	2.5	0.3	2.7
June	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.2	1.6	0.6	1.9	4.1	-0.3	2.2	1.0	2.2	0.7	1.4	0.8	0.2	1.3	2.0	2.0	0.6	3.2	2.2	0.2	1.2	4.5	2.2	1.7	2.3	0.5	2.9
July	1.6	1.7	1.6	0.0	1.4	0.4	1.9	3.9	-0.5	1.9	1.2	2.7	0.7	1.2	0.7	0.5	0.6	1.8	1.7	0.9	3.1	2.1	0.9	0.8	3.4	2.8	1.6	2.5	0.8	2.8
August	1.3	1.5	1.1	-0.7	1.2	0.1	1.6	3.6	-1.0	1.6	1.0	2.4	0.0	1.2	0.1	-0.1	0.5	1.7	1.6	0.7	2.8	2.0	0.9	0.2	2.6	2.2	1.4	2.0	0.8	2.7
September	1.1	1.3	1.0	-1.3	1.0	0.2	1.6	2.6	-1.0	0.5	1.0	1.7	0.0	0.9	0.3	-0.4	0.5	1.5	1.6	0.6	2.4	1.8	0.9	0.3	1.1	1.5	1.1	1.8	0.5	2.7
October	0.7	0.9	0.7	-1.1	0.8	0.3	1.2	2.2	-1.9	0.0	0.7	0.8	-0.1	0.8	-0.5	0.0	0.5	1.0	1.1	0.5	1.3	1.5	0.7	0.0	1.2	1.1	0.7	1.7	0.2	2.2
November	0.9	1.0	0.9	-1.0	1.0	0.3	1.6	2.1	-2.9	0.3	0.8	0.7	0.3	0.7	-0.8	-0.3	0.5	1.1	0.4	0.3	1.2	1.5	0.5	0.1	1.3	1.2	0.5	1.8	0.3	2.1
December	0.8	1.0	1.2	-0.9	1.5	0.4	1.2	2.0	-1.8	0.3	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.7	-1.3	-0.4	0.4	1.5	0.6	1.0	1.4	2.0	0.6	0.2	1.3	0.9	0.4	1.9	0.4	2.0
2014 January	0.8	0.9	1.1	-1.4	0.3	0.8	1.2	1.6	-1.4	0.3	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.6	-1.6	0.5	0.2	1.5	0.8	0.9	0.8	1.5	0.6	0.1	1.2	0.9	0.0	1.9	0.2	1.9
February	0.7	0.8	1.0	-2.1	0.3	0.3	1.0	1.1	-0.9	0.1	1.1	-0.2	0.1	0.4	-1.3	0.5	0.3	0.8	0.3	1.6	0.4	1.5	0.7	-0.1	1.3	0.2	-0.1	1.6	0.1	1.7
March	0.5	0.6	0.9	-2.0	0.3	0.2	0.9	0.7	-1.5	-0.2	0.7	-0.1	0.3	0.3	-0.9	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.2	1.4	0.1	1.4	0.6	-0.4	1.3	0.6	-0.2	1.3	-0.4	1.6
April	0.7	0.8	0.9	-1.3	0.2	0.5	1.1	0.8	-1.6	0.3	0.8	-0.1	0.4	0.5	-0.4	0.8	0.3	0.9	-0.2	0.5	0.6	1.6	0.3	-0.1	1.6	0.5	-0.2	1.3	0.3	1.8
May	0.5	0.6	0.8	-1.8	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.6	-2.1	0.2	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.4	-0.1	0.8	0.1	1.4	0.0	0.4	0.1	1.5	0.3	-0.3	1.3	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.1	1.5
June	0.5	0.7	0.7	-1.8	0.0	0.4	1.0	0.4	-1.5	0.0	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.8	0.3	1.2	-0.1	0.7	0.3	1.7	0.3	-0.2	0.9	1.0	-0.1	1.1	0.5	1.9
July	0.4	0.5	0.6	-1.1	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.0	-0.8	-0.4	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.9	0.6	0.5	1.2	0.5	0.6	0.3	1.7	0.0	-0.7	1.5	0.3	-0.2	1.0	0.4	1.6
August	0.4	0.5	0.4	-1.0	0.7	0.3	0.8	-0.2	-0.2	-0.5	0.5	0.3	0.6	-0.2	0.8	0.8	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.8	0.4	1.5	-0.1	-0.1	1.3	0.0	-0.2	1.2	0.2	1.5
September	0.3	0.4	0.2	-1.4	0.8	0.3	0.8	0.2	-1.1	-0.3	0.4	0.2	0.5	-0.1	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.3	-0.5	0.6	0.2	1.4	-0.2	0.0	1.8	-0.1	-0.1	1.5	0.0	1.2
October	0.4	0.5	0.3	-1.5	0.7	0.3	0.7	0.5	-1.8	-0.2	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.4	-0.3	0.7	0.4	1.4	-0.3	0.1	1.8	0.1	0.0	1.2	0.3	1.3
November	0.3	0.3	0.1	-1.9	0.6	0.2	0.5	0.0	-1.2	-0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.9	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.3	1.5	-0.3	0.1	1.5	0.1	0.0	1.1	0.3	1.0
December	-0.2	-0.1	-0.4	-2.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	-2.5	-1.1	0.1	-0.1	-0.3	-0.1	-1.0	0.3	-0.1	-0.9	-0.8	0.4	-0.1	0.8	-0.6	-0.3	1.0	-0.1	-0.1	0.6	0.3	0.5
2015 January	-0.6	-0.5	-0.6	-2.4 Rc	-0.1	-0.3	-0.5	-0.5	-2.8	-1.5	-0.4	-0.6	-0.4	-0.5	-0.7	-0.3	-1.4	-1.1	-1.4	0.8	-0.7	0.5	-1.0	-0.4	0.5	-0.7	-0.5	-0.1	0.4	0.3
February	-0.3 Po	-0.2 f	-0.4	-1.7	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	-0.2	-1.9	-1.2	-0.3	-0.4	-0.4	0.1	-0.8	0.0	-1.5	-0.3	-1.0	0.6	-0.5	0.5 Po	-1.3	-0.1	0.4	-0.5	-0.6	-0.1	0.7	x
March	-0.1 f	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0.4	x	x	x	x	x	x

Symbols: f estimated Po provisional Rc revised x not available

Notes: (1) From January 2006 onwards: base 100=2005; index rates of change calculated based on indexes rounded up to two decimal places.

(2) Member States belonging to the Euro Area: EA-13 until December 2007, EA-15 until December 2008, EA-16 until December 2010, EA-17 until December 2013, EA-18 until December 2014, EA-19 from January 2015 (including Lithuania).

(3) European Index of Consumer Prices: EU-15 until April 2004, EU-25 until December 2006, EU-27 until June 2013 and EU-28 onwards.

Source: INE-Portugal and Eurostat.

Code abbreviations of the Member States:

BE	Belgium	EE	Estonia	IT	Italy	HR	Croatia	PL	Poland	FI	Finland
BG	Bulgaria	EL	Greece	CY	Cyprus	HU	Hungary	PT	Portugal	SE	Sweden
CZ	Czech Republic	ES	Spain	LV	Latvia	MT	Malta	RO	Romania	UK	United Kingdom
DK	Denmark	FR	France	LT	Lithuania	NL	Netherlands	SI	Slovenia		
DE	Germany	IE	Ireland	LU	Luxembourg	AT	Austria	SK	Slovakia		