

13 March, 2009

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

March 2009

Consumer Prices down to -0.4% in March on a year earlier

The Portuguese Consumer Price Index (CPI) went down to -0.4% in March 2009 when compared with March 2008. Since the beginning of the sixties, it is the first time this rate attained negative values. However, excluding energy and unprocessed food, the change rate remained positive, although slightly below the one registered in the previous month. On a monthly basis, the CPI increased 0.8% (0.0% in February 2009 and 1.5% in March 2008). The CPI 12-month average rate of change decreased to 1.9% in March.

In March, the Portuguese Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) annual inflation rate was -0.6% (down from 0.2% in February), 1.2 percentage points (p.p.) below the rate estimated by Eurostat for the Euro area.

The annual inflation rate measured by the CPI dropped to -0.4% in March 2009, 0.6 p.p. lower than the observed in the previous month (see figure 1).

The largest downward pressure on the overall annual rate of change came from changes in the prices of Transports, in particular in fuels and lubricants.

The core inflation index, which excludes energy components and fresh unprocessed food products lowered to 0.9% (it was 1.4% in February 2009). The difference between the CPI and the core inflation index increased to 1.3 p.p..

In March the CPI monthly rate was 0.8%. The main upward contribution to this result came from changes in the prices of Clothing and footwear (20.0%), due to the end of sales period and to the introduction of new Spring and Summer collections.

In March 2009, the Portuguese HICP annual inflation rate was -0.6%, 0.7 p.p. lower than the observed in the previous month. On a monthly basis the HICP increased to 0.8%. The HICP 12-month average rate decreased to 1.9%.

In February 2009 the gap between the Portuguese and the Euro-area annual rate of change was -1.1 p.p. and it is estimated to be -1.2 p.p. in March 2009 (see figure 2).

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

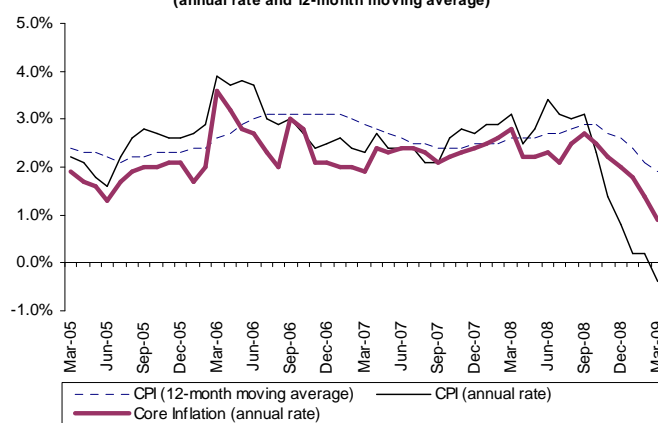
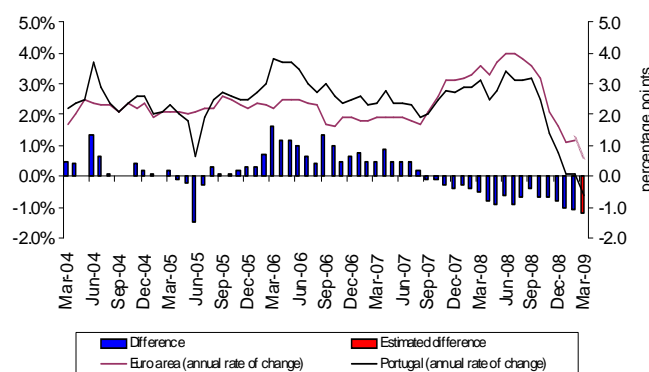


Fig. 2 - Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices
(Portugal and the Euro area)



The March 2009 CPI/HICP will be released on May 13th 2009

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 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.

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.



Annexes:

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													
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	
2008	3.7	7.5	1.6	3.9	1.7	1.4	1.5	-2.1	0.6	4.2	3.7	2.5	2.6	
	Annual rate													
2007	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	2.8	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	3.4	3.7	2.8	3.1
	April	3.0	6.5	2.0	4.4	1.7	-0.2	2.0	-0.8	0.0	4.4	3.4	2.4	2.5
	May	3.9	6.9	1.7	4.4	1.6	0.1	2.6	-0.9	0.0	4.4	3.5	2.3	2.8
	June	5.8	6.8	1.5	4.5	1.7	0.3	3.4	-0.9	0.3	4.4	3.7	2.4	3.4
	July	5.7	7.1	-2.1	3.5	1.8	0.5	3.6	-3.2	0.3	4.5	3.6	2.6	3.1
	August	5.0	6.9	1.5	3.6	1.8	0.6	2.9	-3.0	0.7	4.5	3.6	2.7	3.0
	September	4.7	7.1	4.1	3.7	1.8	0.9	2.5	-3.0	1.0	4.5	3.7	2.6	3.1
	October	3.5	7.0	1.3	4.2	1.9	0.6	0.5	-2.7	1.2	3.3	4.3	2.9	2.3
	November	2.8	7.1	1.1	3.8	1.8	0.2	-3.1	-2.9	0.6	3.4	4.1	2.8	1.4
	December	2.4	7.2	0.2	3.6	1.9	0.0	-5.5	-2.4	1.1	3.4	4.3	2.8	0.8
2009	January	1.3	7.0	-1.4	2.9	2.5	-0.4	-6.3	-2.9	0.0	3.4	2.8	2.7	0.2
	February	1.0	4.2	-1.4	2.6	2.2	-0.8	-4.9	-3.0	-2.0	3.5	2.8	2.6	0.2
	March	-0.5	3.2	-0.5	2.4	2.1	-1.1	-5.7	-1.9	-1.7	3.5	2.8	2.3	-0.4

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)⁽¹⁾

	AE-16 ⁽²⁾	IEPC ⁽³⁾	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
Taxa de variação média anual																													
2006	2,2	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	3,0	6,6	2,5	4,3	1,3	1,5	2,3
2007	2,1	2,3	1,8	7,6	3,0	1,7	2,3	6,7	3,0	2,8	1,6	2,9	2,0	2,2	10,1	5,8	2,7	7,9	0,7	1,6	2,2	2,6	2,4	4,9	3,8	1,9	1,6	1,7	2,3
2008	3,3	3,7	4,5	12,0	6,3	3,6	2,8	10,6	4,2	4,1	3,2	3,1	3,5	4,4	15,3	11,1	4,1	6,0	4,7	2,2	3,2	4,2	2,7	7,9	5,5	3,9	3,9	3,3	3,6
Taxa de variação homóloga																													
2007	1,9	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	2,4	3,7	2,6	2,1	1,6	1,6	3,1
Abril	1,9	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	2,8	3,8	2,9	2,0	1,5	1,6	2,8
Maio	1,9	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	2,4	3,9	3,1	1,5	1,3	1,2	2,5
Junho	1,9	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	2,4	3,9	3,8	1,5	1,4	1,3	2,4
Julho	1,8	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	2,3	4,1	4,0	1,2	1,6	1,4	1,9
Agosto	1,7	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	1,9	5,0	3,4	1,2	1,3	1,2	1,8
Setembro	2,1	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	2,0	6,1	3,6	1,7	1,7	1,6	1,8
Outubro	2,6	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	2,5	6,9	5,1	2,4	1,8	1,9	2,1
Novembro	3,1	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	2,8	6,8	5,7	2,3	2,2	2,4	2,1
Dezembro	3,1	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	2,7	6,7	5,7	2,5	1,9	2,5	2,1
2008	3,2	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	2,9	7,3	6,4	3,2	3,5	3,0	2,2
Fevereiro	3,3	3,5	3,6	12,2	7,6	3,3	3,0	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	3,1	4,6	2,9	8,0	6,4	3,4	3,3	2,9	2,5
Março	3,6	3,8	4,4	13,2	7,1	3,3	3,3	11,2	4,4	4,6	3,5	3,7	3,6	4,4	16,6	11,4	4,4	6,7	4,3	1,9	3,5	4,4	3,1	8,7	6,6	3,6	3,6	3,3	2,5
Abril	3,3	3,6	4,1	13,4	6,7	3,4	2,6	11,6	4,4	4,2	3,4	3,3	3,6	4,3	17,4	11,9	4,3	6,8	4,1	1,7	3,4	4,3	2,5	8,7	6,2	3,7	3,3	3,2	3,0
Maio	3,7	4,0	5,1	14,0	6,8	3,6	3,1	11,4	4,9	4,7	3,7	3,7	3,7	4,6	17,7	12,3	4,8	6,9	4,1	2,1	3,7	4,3	2,8	8,5	6,2	4,0	4,1	3,7	3,3
Junho	4,0	4,3	5,8	14,7	6,6	4,2	3,4	11,5	4,9	5,1	4,0	3,9	4,0	5,2	17,5	12,7	5,3	6,6	4,4	2,3	4,0	4,3	3,4	8,7	6,8	4,3	4,3	4,0	3,8
Julho	4,0	4,4	5,9	14,4	6,8	4,4	3,5	11,2	4,9	5,3	4,0	3,6	4,0	5,3	16,5	12,4	5,8	7,0	5,6	3,0	3,8	4,5	3,1	9,1	6,9	4,4	4,3	3,8	4,4
Agosto	3,8	4,3	5,4	11,8	6,2	4,8	3,3	11,1	4,8	4,9	3,5	3,2	4,2	5,1	15,6	12,2	4,8	6,4	5,4	3,0	3,6	4,4	3,1	8,1	6,0	4,4	4,6	4,1	4,7
Setembro	3,6	4,2	5,5	11,4	6,4	4,5	3,0	10,8	4,7	4,6	3,4	3,2	3,9	5,0	14,7	11,3	4,8	5,6	4,9	2,8	3,7	4,1	3,2	7,3	5,6	4,5	4,7	4,2	5,2
Outubro	3,2	3,7	4,8	11,2	5,7	3,8	2,5	10,1	4,0	3,6	3,0	2,7	3,6	4,8	13,7	10,7	3,9	5,1	5,7	2,5	3,0	4,0	2,5	7,4	4,8	4,2	4,4	3,4	4,5
Novembro	2,1	2,8	3,2	8,8	4,1	2,8	1,4	8,5	3,0	2,4	1,9	2,1	2,7	3,1	11,6	9,2	2,0	4,1	4,9	1,9	2,3	3,6	1,4	6,8	2,9	3,9	3,5	2,4	4,1
Dezembro	1,6	2,2	2,7	7,2	3,3	2,4	1,1	7,5	2,2	1,5	1,2	1,3	2,4	1,8	10,4	8,5	0,7	3,4	5,0	1,7	1,5	3,3	0,8	6,4	1,8	3,5	3,4	2,1	3,1
2009	1,1	1,8 Rc	2,1	6,0	1,4	1,7	0,9	4,7	2,0	0,8	0,8	1,1	1,4	0,9	9,7	9,5	0,0	2,4	3,1	1,7	1,2	3,2 Rc	0,1	6,8	1,4	2,7	2,5	2,0	3,0
Fevereiro	1,2 Po	1,7 f	1,9	5,4	1,3	1,7	1,0	3,9	1,8	0,7	1,0	0,1	1,5	0,6	9,4	8,5	0,7	2,9	3,5	1,9 Po	1,4 Po	3,6	0,1	6,9	2,1	2,4	2,7	2,2	x
Março	0,6 f	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-0,6	x	x	x	x	x	x

Símbolos: f valor previsto Po valor provisório Rc valor rectificado 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 Área do Euro: AE13 até Dezembro de 2007, AE15 até Dezembro de 2008, AE16 a partir de Janeiro 2009 (entrada da Eslováquia).

(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:

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