

Consumer price index

5 □ 1991 Monthly

PRICES: Significant increase for EUR 12 in April (+ 0.6 %)

Annual inflation rate down to 5.0%

Sharp rises in the United Kingdom, Greece and Portugal caused an increase of 0.6% in the CPI for the Community as a whole between March and April 1991.

As usual, the UK index for the month of April reflects the consequences of the measures announced in the budget. Rises in excise duties on alcohol, tobacco and petrol, as well as the rise in VAT from 15% to 17.5%, pushed up the index. On the other hand, a 30% reduction in the Community Charge and reduced mortgage interest rates partly offset these rises. All these elements together led to a growth in the index of 1.3%.

Greece recorded a particularly large price increase in April of 3.4%, with rises across all groups of consumption due mainly to seasonal factors, such as the end of winter sales for clothing and durable goods, as well as rises in public tariffs.

The Portuguese index rose by 0.8% between March and April, and rises in the other Member States were as follows: Germany 0.5%, Italy 0.4%, Netherlands 0.3%, France, Spain and Denmark all 0.2%, Belgium 0.1% and a decrease of 0.4% for Luxemburg.

The quarterly index for Ireland will be available next month.

The inflation rate over the year for EUR 12 as measured by comparing the CPI for April 1991 with that for April 1990 is 5.0%; a year ago it was 5.4%.

The corresponding rates for the USA and Japan are respectively 4.9% and 3.6%.

The inflation rates over 12 months for the EC Member States for April 1991 and April 1990 were as follows:

	<u>April '91</u> April '90	<u>April '90</u> April '89		<u>April '91</u> April '90	<u>April '90</u> April '89
Denmark	2.6%	2.4%	France	3.0%	3.2%
Netherlands	2.6%	2.2%	Spain	5.9%	7.0%
Ireland	2.6%*	4.2%*	Italy	6.4%	6.2%
Germany	2.8%	2.3%	United Kingdom	6.4%	9.4%
Belgium	2.9%	3.2%	Portugal	11.8%	12.9%
Luxemburg	2.9%	3.6%	Greece	21.5%	17.9%

* For Ireland: Feb. '91/Feb. '90 and Feb. '90/Feb. '89.



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VERBRAUCHERPREISE

CONSUMER PRICES

PRIX A LA CONSOMMATION

GESAMTINDEX

GENERAL INDEX

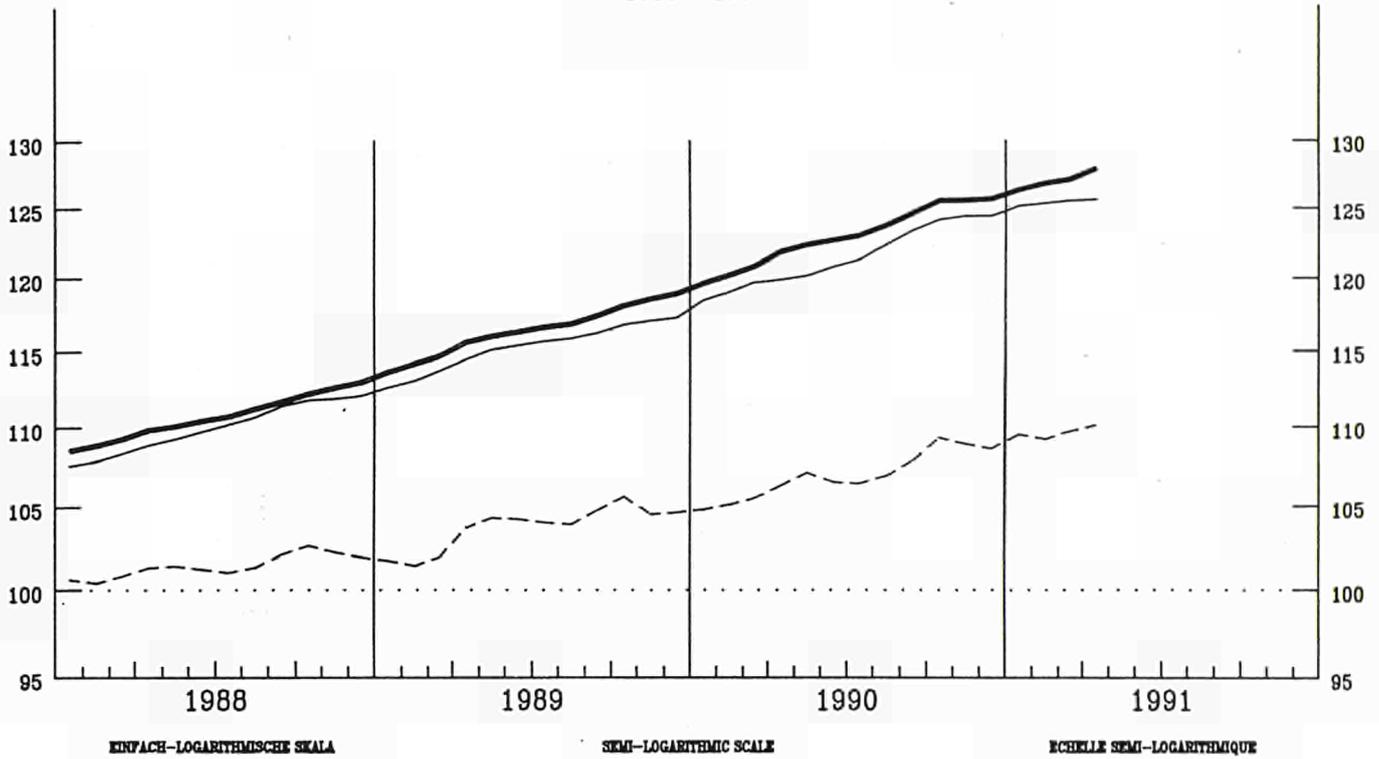
INDICE GENERAL

— USA

— EUR 12

- - - JAPAN

1985 = 100



VERÄNDERUNG % T/T-12

VARIATION % T/T-12

VARIATION % T/T-12

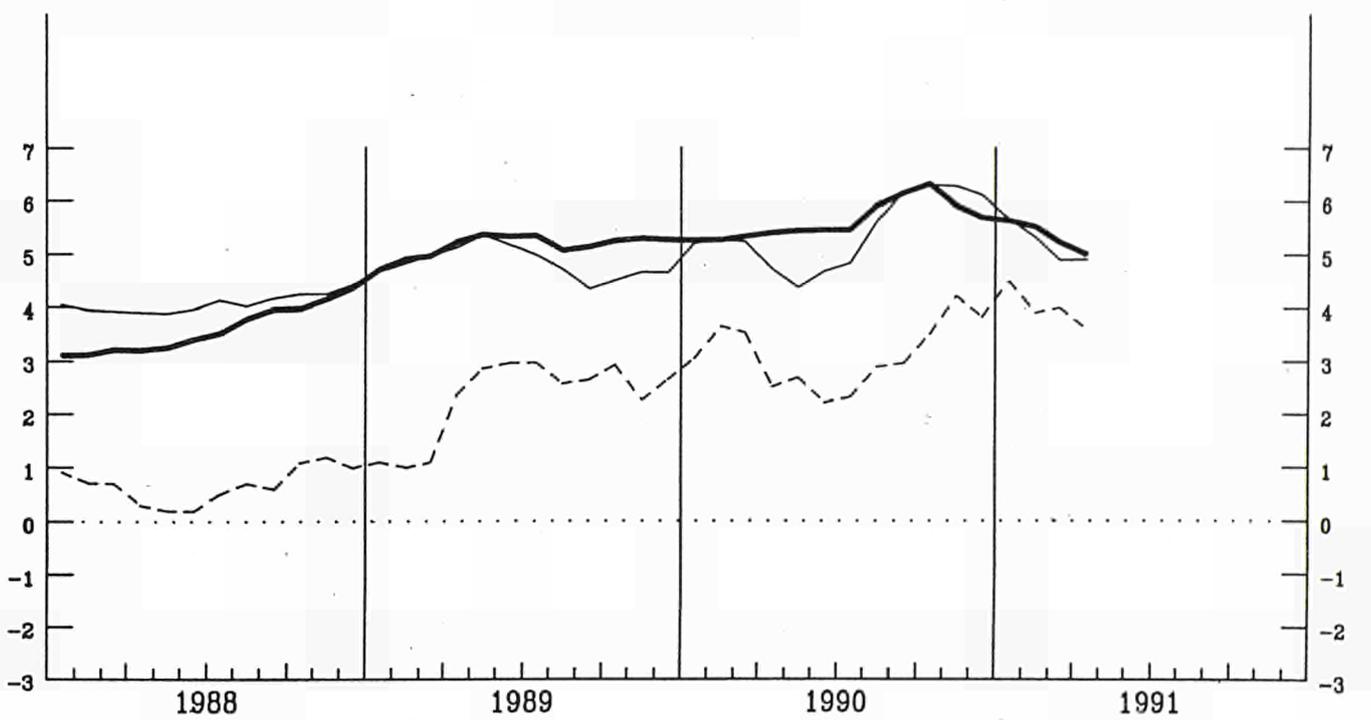


TABLE I

CONSUMER PRICES

GENERAL INDEX

	EUR 12	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	P	UK	
	Price indices							1985=100						
Annual average														
1987	106.9	102.9	107.8	100.1	143.2	114.5	105.9	107.1	110.9	100.2	99.8	122.2	107.7	
1988	110.7	104.1	112.7	101.4	162.5	120.0	108.7	109.4	116.5	101.7	100.6	133.9	113.0	
1989	116.4	107.3	118.1	104.2	184.9	128.2	112.5	113.9	123.8	105.1	101.7	150.8	121.8	
1990	123.0	111.0	121.2	107.0	222.6	136.8	116.3	117.6	131.8	109.0	104.2	170.9	133.3	
1990														
April	121.8	110.2	120.2	106.5	212.6	134.9	115.4	:	130.2	108.1	103.7	167.4	132.2	
May	122.3	110.2	121.1	106.7	218.9	134.9	115.7	117.1	130.6	108.3	103.8	169.2	133.4	
June	122.7	110.3	120.8	106.8	223.8	135.3	115.9	:	131.2	108.3	103.7	169.8	133.9	
July	123.0	110.7	120.4	106.8	223.2	137.0	116.2	:	131.6	108.5	104.0	171.0	134.0	
August	123.7	111.3	121.7	107.1	224.5	137.7	116.9	118.0	132.5	109.0	104.4	173.1	135.4	
September	124.6	112.4	122.7	107.5	232.3	139.2	117.5	:	133.2	109.7	105.3	175.1	136.7	
October	125.5	113.1	122.9	108.2	237.9	140.5	118.2	:	134.3	110.8	105.6	177.0	137.7	
November	125.6	112.7	122.8	108.0	241.3	140.2	118.0	118.7	135.1	111.4	105.6	178.2	137.4	
December	125.7	112.6	122.5	108.1	245.4	140.5	117.9	:	135.4	111.3	105.4	179.6	137.3	
1991														
January	126.3	113.4	122.5	108.8	244.9	142.2	118.4	:	136.3	111.2	105.5	181.4	137.6	
February	126.8P	113.8	122.8	109.1	245.3	142.0	118.6	119.6	137.5P	111.4	105.6	184.6	138.4	
March	127.1P	113.3	123.0	109.0	249.7	142.5	118.7	:	137.9P	111.6	106.2	185.5	138.9	
April	127.9P	113.4	123.3	109.5	258.3	142.8	118.9P	:	138.5P	111.2	106.5	187.0	140.7	
	Rates of increase over one month (IRL 3 months)							(T/T-1)						
1990														
April/March	0.9	0.5	0.1	0.2	1.7	0.2	0.4	:	0.4	0.4	0.5	1.2	3.0	
May/April	0.4	0.0	0.7	0.2	3.0	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	1.1	0.9	
June/May	0.3	0.1	-0.2	0.1	2.2	0.3	0.2	:	0.5	0.0	-0.1	0.3	0.4	
July/June	0.3	0.4	-0.3	0.0	-0.2	1.3	0.3	:	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.1	
August/July	0.6	0.6	1.0	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.4	1.3	1.0	
Sept./August	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.4	3.5	1.0	0.5	:	0.5	0.6	0.9	1.1	0.9	
Oct./Setp.	0.7	0.7	0.2	0.7	2.4	0.9	0.5	:	0.8	1.0	0.3	1.1	0.8	
Nov./Oct.	0.0	-0.4	-0.1	-0.2	1.4	-0.1	-0.2	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.0	0.7	-0.2	
Dec./Nov.	0.1	-0.1	-0.3	0.1	1.7	0.2	-0.1	:	0.2	0.0	-0.2	0.8	-0.1	
1991														
Jan/Dec	0.5	0.8	0.0	0.6	-0.2	1.2	0.4	:	0.7	0.1	0.1	1.0	0.2	
Feb./Jan.	0.4P	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1	-0.1	0.2	0.8	0.9P	0.1	0.1	1.8	0.5	
March/Feb.	0.2P	-0.4	0.2	-0.1	1.8	0.3	0.1	:	0.3P	0.2	0.6	0.5	0.4	
April/March	0.6P	0.1	0.2	0.5	3.4	0.2	0.2P	:	0.4P	-0.4	0.3	0.8	1.3	
	Rates of increase over 12 months							(T/T-12)						
1990/89														
April	5.4	3.2	2.4	2.3	17.9	7.0	3.2	:	6.2	3.6	2.1	12.9	9.4	
May	5.4	3.1	2.4	2.3	21.0	6.8	3.0	3.5	6.0	3.4	2.2	14.0	9.7	
June	5.4	3.0	2.5	2.3	21.7	6.6	3.0	:	6.1	3.1	2.2	13.6	9.8	
July	5.5	3.0	2.1	2.4	21.6	6.2	3.0	:	6.2	3.0	2.3	13.3	9.8	
August	5.9	3.3	2.6	2.8	21.9	6.5	3.5	2.8	6.7	3.3	2.4	12.7	10.6	
September	6.1	3.7	3.1	3.1	21.8	6.4	3.8	:	6.7	3.7	2.7	13.7	10.9	
October	6.3	4.3	2.7	3.3	22.3	7.0	3.9	:	6.8	4.2	2.9	14.4	10.9	
November	5.9	4.0	2.2	3.0	22.9	6.7	3.5	2.7	6.8	4.5	2.9	14.1	9.7	
December	5.7	3.5	1.9	2.8	22.8	6.5	3.4	:	6.6	4.4	2.7	13.7	9.3	
1991/90														
January	5.6	3.9	2.5	2.8	21.7	6.7	3.5	:	6.3	3.0	2.9	12.9	9.0	
February	5.5P	4.0	2.6	2.7	21.8	5.9	3.5	2.6	6.4P	3.2	2.6	12.3	8.9	
March	5.2P	3.3	2.3	2.5	19.5	5.9	3.2	:	6.3P	3.5	2.8	12.2	8.2	
April	5.0P	2.9	2.6	2.8	21.5	5.9	3.0P	:	6.4P	2.9	2.6	11.8	6.4	

TABLE II

CONSUMER PRICES

GENERAL INDEX

	U.S.A	Japan	Switzerland	Austria	Norway	Sweden	Finland	Canada
	Price indices				1985=100			
Annual average								
1987	105.7	100.7	102.2	103.1	116.5	108.6	107.1	108.7
1988	110.0	101.4	104.2	105.1	124.3	114.9	112.6	113.1
1989	115.3	103.7	107.4	107.8	130.0	122.3	120.0	118.7
1990	121.5	107.0	113.2	111.3	135.4	135.1	127.3	124.4
1990								
April	119.9	106.3	111.8	110.4	134.5	133.5	126.4	123.0
May	120.1	107.1	112.3	110.5	134.8	134.2	127.0	123.6
June	120.8	106.5	112.5	110.8	135.2	134.1	127.3	124.1
July	121.3	106.4	112.6	112.2	135.4	135.4	127.5	124.7
August	122.4	106.9	113.8	112.8	135.2	136.3	128.1	124.8
September	123.4	107.9	114.3	112.6	136.5	137.9	128.8	125.2
October	124.1	109.3	115.0	112.7	137.6	138.8	129.2	126.2
November	124.4	108.9	116.0	112.3	137.6	139.3	129.1	126.9
December	124.4	108.8	116.0	112.3	137.2	139.1	129.0	126.8
1991								
January	125.2	109.5	117.0	112.9	137.8	142.4	130.9	130.2
February	125.4	109.2	118.1	113.7	138.3	146.3	131.6	130.2
March	125.5	109.7	118.1	114.0	139.3	146.9	131.7	130.7
April	125.6	110.1P	118.3	:	139.7	147.6	132.2	130.7
	Rates of increase over one month (IRL 3 months)				(T/T-1)			
1990								
April/March	0.2	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.0	-0.1	0.6	0.1
May/April	0.2	0.8	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.5	0.5
June/May	0.5	-0.6	0.2	0.2	0.3	-0.1	0.2	0.4
July/June	0.4	-0.1	0.1	1.3	0.1	1.0	0.2	0.5
August/July	0.9	0.5	1.1	0.5	-0.1	0.7	0.5	0.1
Sept./August	0.8	0.9	0.4	-0.2	1.0	1.1	0.5	0.3
Oct./Sept.	0.6	1.3	0.7	0.1	0.8	0.7	0.3	0.9
Nov./Oct.	0.2	-0.4	0.9	-0.4	0.0	0.3	-0.1	0.6
Dec./Nov.	0.0	-0.3	0.0	0.0	-0.3	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1
1991								
Jan/Dec	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.4	2.3	1.5	2.6
Feb./Jan.	0.1	-0.3	1.0	0.7	0.3	2.8	0.5	0.0
March/Feb.	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.1	0.4
April/March	0.1	0.4P	0.2	:	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.0
	Rates of increase over 12 months				(T/T-12)			
1990/89								
April	4.7	2.5	4.7	3.1	4.0	10.0	6.1	5.0
May	4.4	2.7	5.0	3.0	3.9	10.2	6.3	4.5
June	4.7	2.2	5.0	2.9	3.6	9.7	5.6	4.3
July	4.8	2.3	5.3	3.0	3.6	10.8	5.8	4.1
August	5.6	2.9	6.1	3.2	3.8	11.1	6.2	4.1
September	6.2	3.0	6.0	3.7	3.9	11.5	5.7	4.3
October	6.3	3.5	6.4	3.7	4.6	11.3	5.6	4.8
November	6.3	4.2	6.0	3.9	4.5	11.4	5.6	5.0
December	6.1	3.8	5.3	3.5	4.4	10.9	4.9	5.0
1991/90								
January	5.7	4.5	5.5	3.4	4.0	10.0	4.9	6.8
February	5.3	3.9	6.2	3.3	4.0	12.6	5.0	6.2
March	4.9	4.0	5.8	3.5	3.5	9.9	4.8	6.3
April	4.9	3.6P	5.8	:	3.8	10.6	4.6	6.3

EXPLANATORY NOTES

METHODOLOGY

The consumer price indices given here are the national indices which have different names in each country. As far as trends are concerned, the general index published by EUROSTAT always corresponds to the general index published by the country. The component items of this general index are groups of national indices aggregated according to a harmonized classification conforming to the ESA (European System of Integrated Economic Accounts). For these groups, the price trends correspond to the trends noted by the national indices for the same classification field. The field covered by the general index varies according to country; as regards the population concerned (specific income bracket, certain socio-professional categories or total households), the geographical areas used (capital, urban areas, country as a whole, etc.) or differences in treatments of expenditure on rent, health care, etc... Finally, there is no uniform method for seasonal adjustments. A fixed system is used in some countries, whereas in others a chain system is used (variable weightings). The reference years used at national level for the indices vary according to country. For ease of comparison, EUROSTAT has chosen 1985 as the common year for the presentation of these indices.

THE CALCULATION OF THE EUR-12 INDEX

The EUR-12 index as calculated by EUROSTAT is a weighted average of national price indices. The weight used is the proportion of each country in the final consumption of households for EUR-12. The values of this consumption in national currency are converted into purchasing power standard (PPS); for this purpose the purchasing power parities of the G.D.P. are used. Up to 1987 purchasing power parities are those which result from the 1980 enquiry, from 1988 onwards they are those from the 1985 enquiry. The index calculated is a chain index of the "Laspeyres" type with weights changing each year. However, the weights are lagged by three years since the national accounts data needed become available only after three years. For example: the weights used for 1991 are those of 1988, for 1990 those of 1987. Moreover, national accounts data are often revised leading to revisions of the consumption weights. In order to avoid continuous modifications in the EUR-12 index for previous periods, EUROSTAT has decided to "freeze" the weights which are used. Thus the EUR-12 index will not be affected by revisions of the national accounts. However when Member States carry out major revisions in the price series for past years, EUR-12 data will be calculated using these new series.

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