

# Consumer price index

9 □ 1992      Monthly

## PRICES: EC annual inflation rate remains at 4.1% in August.

The annual inflation rate for the EC as a whole remained unchanged between July and August at a level of 4.1%.

There was an increase of 0.2% in the monthly index for EUR 12, thanks to low increases in most of the Member States: 0.1% in Denmark, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom and 0.2% in Germany, whereas there was a decrease of 0.2% in the Belgian index.

The quarterly index for Ireland rose by 0.6% from mid-May to mid-August, which corresponds to an average increase of 0.2% per month.

On the other hand marked increases were recorded in Portugal ( 0.5% ), the Netherlands ( 0.8% ), Spain ( 0.9% ) and Greece ( 1.4% ).

The rise in the Netherlands index was due to increased costs of medical care (4.0%), that for Spain was mainly caused by higher prices for food (1.9%), whilst the Greek index rose sharply as a result of big price increases in different sectors (clothing 3.5%, housing 4.6%, transport 6.8%).

Since August 1991 the EC inflation rate has stabilised between 4 and 5 per cent.

For the individual Member States the annual rates in increasing order of current inflation, are as follows:

	<u>August 92</u>		<u>August 92</u>
	<u>August 91</u>		<u>August 91</u>
Belgium	2.1%	Netherlands	3.6%
Denmark	2.1%	United Kingdom	3.6%
France	2.7%	Italy	4.9%
Ireland	2.8%	Spain	5.7%
Luxembourg	3.1%	Portugal	9.2%
Germany*	3.5%	Greece	15.3%

The corresponding rates for the USA and Japan were 3.1% and 1.7% respectively, whereas that for Canada was only 1.2% , the lowest rate of all the 20 countries published in this bulletin.

\* The CPI for the Federal Republic of Germany continues to reflect the geographic borders prior to 3 October 1990.



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**VERBRAUCHERPREISE**  
GESAMTINDEX  
VEARENDERUNG % T/T-12

**CONSUMER PRICES**  
GENERAL INDEX  
VARIATION % T/T-12

**PRIX A LA CONSOMMATION**  
INDICE GENERAL  
VARIATION % T/T-12

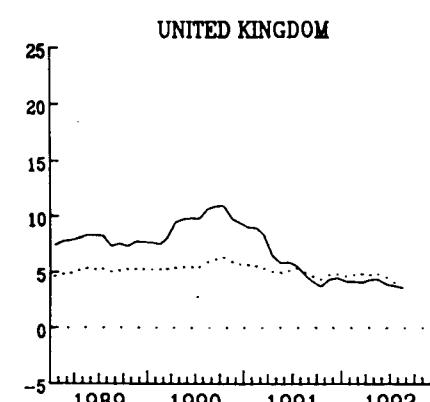
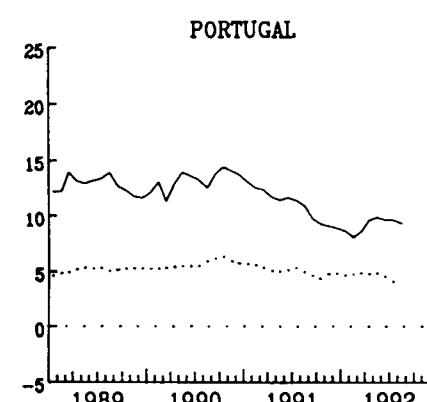
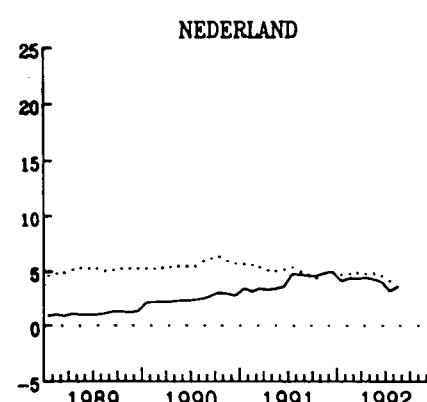
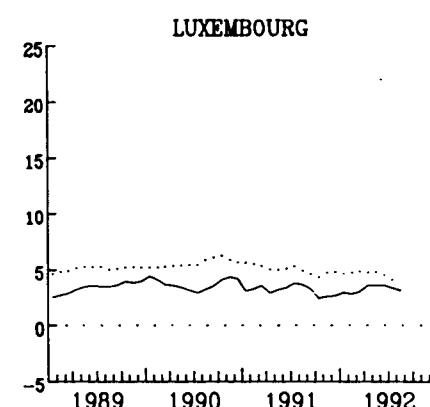
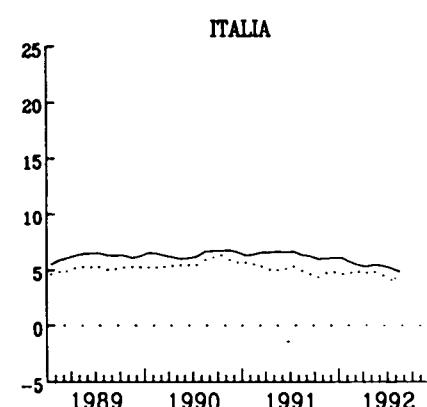
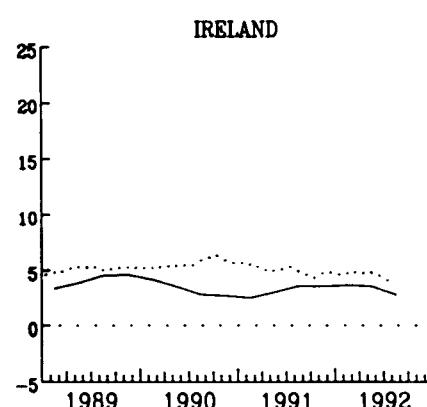
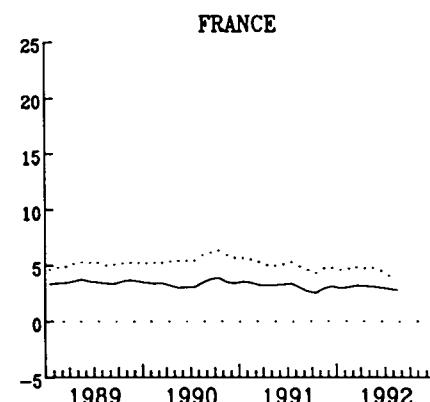
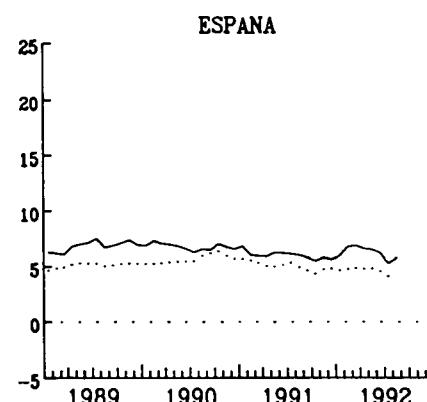
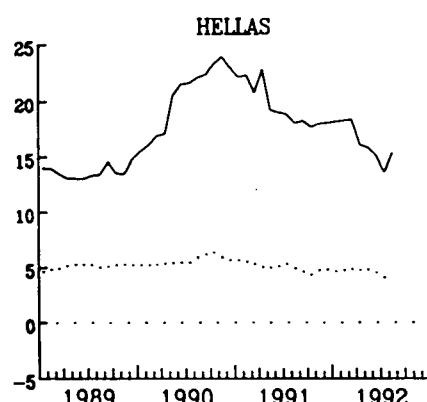
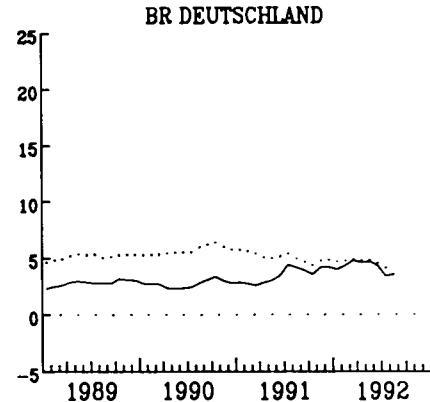
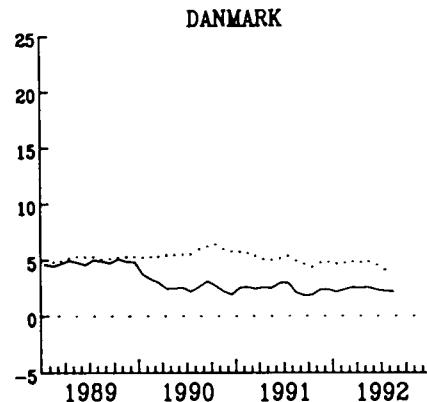
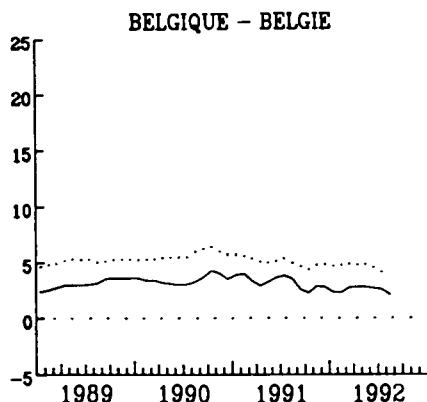


TABLE I

## CONSUMER PRICES

## GENERAL INDEX

	EUR 12	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	P	UK
Price indices													
<b>1985=100</b>													
Annual average													
1988	110.7	104.1	112.7	101.4	162.6	120.0	108.7	109.4	116.5	101.7	100.7	133.9	113.0
1989	116.3	107.3	118.1	104.2	184.9	128.2	112.7	113.9	123.8	105.1	101.7	151.0	121.8
1990	122.9	111.0	121.2	107.0	222.6	136.8	116.5	117.6	131.8	109.0	104.3	170.9	133.3
1991P	129.0	114.6	124.1	110.7	265.9	145.0	120.0	121.3	140.2P	112.4	108.4	189.5	141.1
1991													
August	129.7	115.3	124.2	111.5	263.5	146.0	120.4	122.2	140.9	112.8	109.4	191.9	141.8
September	130.3	115.2	124.9	111.7	275.4	147.1	120.6	:	141.6	113.1	110.1	192.1	142.3
October	130.9	115.6	125.1	112.0	280.7	148.1	121.1	:	142.3	113.4	110.5	193.3	142.8
November	131.4	115.9	125.7	112.5	285.2	148.3	121.5	122.9	143.3	114.0	110.7	194.3	143.3
December	131.6	115.7	125.3	112.6	290.1	148.4	121.6	:	143.7	114.1	110.6	195.5	143.4
1992													
January	132.1	116.0	125.1	113.1	290.4	150.6	121.9	:	144.6	114.5	110.3	197.2	143.3
February	132.8	116.4	125.7	113.8	291.2	151.6	122.2	124.0	145.2	114.5	110.7	199.7	144.1
March	133.2	116.4	126.2	114.2	297.1	152.2	122.5	:	145.8	115.0	111.4	201.6	144.5
April	134.0	116.5	126.4	114.5	301.6	152.1	122.8	:	146.3	115.1	111.9	204.8	146.7
May	134.5P	117.0	127.3	115.0	301.6	152.5	123.2	124.9	147.0P	115.7	112.0	206.9	147.3
June	134.6P	117.3	127.3	115.2	306.7	152.5	123.3	:	147.4P	115.9	111.8	207.7	147.3
July	134.7P	117.9	126.7	115.2	301.0	153.0	123.6	:	147.6P	116.2	112.4	208.7	146.7
August	135.0P	117.7	126.8	115.4	305.2	154.4	123.7P	125.6	147.7P	116.3	113.3	209.7	146.8
Rates of increase over one month (IRL 3 months)													
1991													
August/July	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.0	-0.1	0.4	0.2	1.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.2
Sept./August	0.4	-0.1	0.6	0.2	4.1	0.8	0.2	:	0.5	0.2	0.6	0.1	0.4
Oct./Sept.	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.3	1.9	0.6	0.4	:	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.4
Nov./Oct.	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	1.6	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.5	0.4
Dec./Nov.	0.1	-0.2	-0.3	0.1	1.7	0.1	0.1	:	0.3	0.0	-0.1	0.6	0.1
1992													
Jan/Dec	0.4	0.3	-0.2	0.4	0.1	1.5	0.3	:	0.6	0.4	-0.3	0.9	-0.1
Feb./Jan.	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.9	0.5	0.0	0.4	1.3	0.5
March/Feb.	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.4	2.0	0.4	0.3	:	0.4	0.4	0.6	1.0	0.3
April/March	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.3	1.5	-0.1	0.3	:	0.4	0.2	0.4	1.6	1.5
May/April	0.4P	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.5P	0.5	0.1	1.0	0.4
June/May	0.1P	0.3	0.0	0.2	1.7	0.0	0.1	:	0.3P	0.2	-0.2	0.4	0.0
July/June	0.1P	0.5	-0.4	0.0	-1.9	0.3	0.3	:	0.2P	0.2	0.5	0.5	-0.4
August/July	0.2P	-0.2	0.1	0.2	1.4	0.9	0.1P	0.6	0.1P	0.1	0.8	0.5	0.1
Rates of increase over 12 months													
1991/90													
August	4.9	3.5	2.1	4.1	18.0	6.0	3.0	3.6	6.3	3.6	4.7	10.9	4.7
September	4.6	2.5	1.8	3.9	18.2	5.8	2.6	:	6.3	3.2	4.6	9.7	4.1
October	4.3	2.2	1.8	3.5	17.7	5.5	2.5	:	6.0	2.4	4.5	9.2	3.7
November	4.7	2.8	2.3	4.2	18.0	5.8	3.0	3.6	6.0	2.6	4.8	9.0	4.3
December	4.8	2.8	2.3	4.2	18.0	5.6	3.1	:	6.1	2.6	4.9	8.9	4.5
1992/91													
January	4.6	2.3	2.1	4.0	18.1	5.9	2.9	:	6.1	2.9	4.1	8.6	4.1
February	4.7	2.3	2.3	4.3	18.2	6.7	3.0	3.7	5.7	2.8	4.3	8.0	4.1
March	4.8	2.7	2.6	4.8	18.3	6.8	3.2	:	5.4	3.0	4.3	8.5	4.0
April	4.8	2.8	2.5	4.6	16.0	6.5	3.1	:	5.4	3.6	4.4	9.6	4.3
May	4.8P	2.8	2.5	4.6	15.8	6.5	3.1	3.6	5.5P	3.6	4.3	9.8	4.3
June	4.5P	2.6	2.3	4.3	15.1	6.2	3.0	:	5.4P	3.6	4.0	9.6	3.9
July	4.1P	2.6	2.2	3.3	13.6	5.2	2.9	:	5.2P	3.3	3.1	9.6	3.7
August	4.1P	2.1	2.1	3.5	15.3	5.7	2.7P	2.8	4.9P	3.1	3.6	9.2	3.6

TABLE II

## CONSUMER PRICES

## GENERAL INDEX

	U.S.A	Japan	Switzerland	Austria	Norway	Sweden	Finland	Canada
<b>Price indices</b>								
<b>1985=100</b>								
Annual average								
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	106.9	113.2	111.3	135.4	135.1	127.3	124.4
1991	126.6	110.4	119.8	115.0	140.0	147.8	132.6	131.4
1991								
August	127.0	110.4	120.6	117.0	140.1	147.4	132.8	132.1
September	127.6	110.6	120.8	116.1	141.1	149.1	133.0	131.9
October	127.8	111.8	120.9	115.7	141.1	149.7	133.3	131.7
November	128.1	112.0	122.4	115.9	141.2	150.4	133.4	132.2
December	128.2	111.4	122.1	115.7	141.2	150.1	134.0	131.6
1992								
January	128.4	111.2	122.6	117.3	141.2	149.7	134.7	132.2
February	128.9	111.1	123.5	118.4	141.5	149.8	135.0	132.3
March	129.5	111.7	123.9	118.7	142.8	150.4	135.4	132.8
April	129.7	112.8	124.0	118.7	143.1	150.8	135.9	132.9
May	129.9	112.9	124.4	119.1	143.3	150.9	136.0	133.1
June	130.4	112.8	124.9	119.5	143.6	150.6	136.3	133.4
July	130.7	112.0	124.5	120.9	143.7	150.4	136.1	133.7
August	131.0	112.3P	124.9	121.4	143.3	150.5	135.9	133.7
<b>Rates of increase over one month (IRL 3 months)</b>								
1991								
August/July	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.0	-0.1	0.1	0.1
Sept./August	0.4	0.2	0.2	-0.7	0.7	1.1	0.2	-0.2
Oct./Sept.	0.1	1.1	0.1	-0.4	0.0	0.4	0.2	-0.2
Nov./Oct.	0.3	0.2	1.2	0.2	0.0	0.5	0.1	0.4
Dec./Nov.	0.1	-0.5	-0.2	-0.2	0.0	-0.2	0.4	-0.5
1992								
Jan/Dec	0.1	-0.2	0.5	1.3	0.0	-0.3	0.5	0.5
Feb./Jan.	0.4	-0.1	0.7	1.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.1
March/Feb.	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.9	0.4	0.3	0.3
April/March	0.1	1.1	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.1
May/April	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2
June/May	0.4	-0.1	0.4	0.3	0.2	-0.2	0.2	0.2
July/June	0.2	-0.8	-0.3	1.2	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.2
August/July	0.3	0.3P	0.3	0.4	-0.2	0.1	-0.1	0.0
<b>Rates of increase over 12 months</b>								
1991/90								
August	3.8	3.3	6.0	3.7	3.6	8.2	3.7	5.8
September	3.4	2.7	5.7	3.2	3.3	8.1	3.3	5.4
October	2.9	2.7	5.1	2.7	2.5	7.8	3.2	4.4
November	3.0	3.1	5.5	3.3	2.6	8.0	3.3	4.2
December	3.1	2.7	5.2	3.1	2.9	7.9	3.9	3.8
January	2.6	1.8	4.9	3.9	2.4	5.2	2.9	1.6
February	2.8	2.0	4.6	4.1	2.3	2.4	2.6	1.7
March	3.2	2.0	4.9	4.1	2.5	2.4	2.8	1.6
April	3.2	2.4	4.8	4.0	2.4	2.1	2.8	1.7
May	3.0	2.0	4.2	4.3	2.4	2.1	2.4	1.3
June	3.1	2.3	4.2	4.0	2.5	2.0	2.7	1.1
July	3.2	1.7	3.8	4.0	2.5	1.9	2.6	1.3
August	3.1	1.7P	3.5	3.8	2.3	2.0	2.3	1.2

## **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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