

Consumer price index

3 □ 1994 Monthly

Prices : EU annual inflation slightly down in February (3.3%).

The annual inflation rate for the EU as measured by the CPI went down from 3.4% in January to 3.3% in February. A year ago this rate was 3.5% and it has remained little changed since.

At present annual inflation rates for the individual Member States are as follows:
(February 1994 compared with February 1993 and February 1993 compared with February 1992);

	<u>Febr.'94</u> <u>Febr.'93</u>	<u>Febr.'93</u> <u>Febr.'92</u>		<u>Febr.'94</u> <u>Febr.'93</u>	<u>Febr.'93</u> <u>Febr.'92</u>
Ireland	1.7%	1.9%	Netherlands**	3.0%p	2.6%
France	1.7%p	2.1%	Germany *	3.4%	4.2%
Denmark	1.8%	1.3%	Italy	4.4%p	4.5%
United Kingdom	2.4%	1.8%	Spain	5.0%	4.1%
Belgium	2.5%	2.8%	Portugal	6.1%	8.0%
Luxembourg	2.6%	3.8%	Greece	11.0%	14.5%

Inflation rates are lower than a year ago in all Member States, except the United Kingdom, Spain, the Netherlands and Denmark.

The rates for the applicant Member States are : Finland 0.3% (2.9%), Norway 1.4% (2.6%), Sweden 1.9% (4.9%) and Austria 3.1% (3.7%).

The corresponding rates for major non-EU countries are : USA 2.5% (3.2%), Japan 1.1% (1.4%), Canada 0.2% (2.3%) and Switzerland 1.8% (3.4%).

The monthly index for the EU rose by 0.4% between January and February, as a result of low to moderate increases in all Member States, ranging from 0.1% in Spain, 0.2% in France and Greece, 0.3% in Belgium, Germany and Luxemburg, 0.4% in Denmark and Italy, 0.5% in the Netherlands to 0.6% in the United Kingdom and Portugal.

The quarterly index for Ireland rose by 0.6% from November 1993 to February 1994, which corresponds to an average increase of 0.2% per month.

One of the criteria on economic convergence required by the Treaty on European Union is that annual inflation in the Member States must not exceed by more than 1.5 percentage points that of the three best performing countries.

In February 1994 the average of the three lowest annual rates was 1.7%; the countries falling within 1.5 percentage points of this figure are : Ireland, France, Denmark, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Luxemburg, and the Netherlands.

*	The CPI for the Federal Republic of Germany continues to reflect borders price to 3 October 1990.
**	New series for the Netherlands starting from February 1994.
p	Provisional



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VERBRAUCHERPREISE
GESAMTINDEX
 VEARENDRUNG % T/T-12

CONSUMER PRICES
GENERAL INDEX
 VARIATION % T/T-12

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

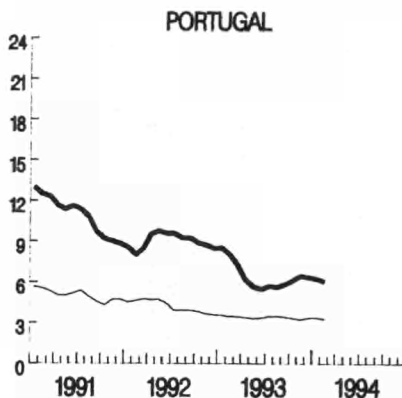
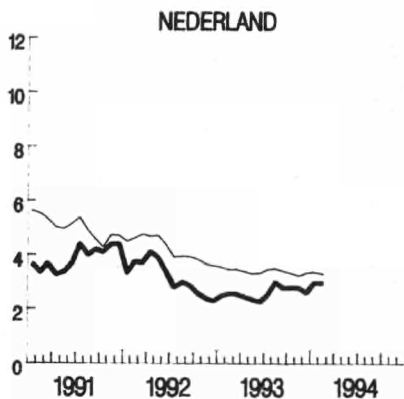
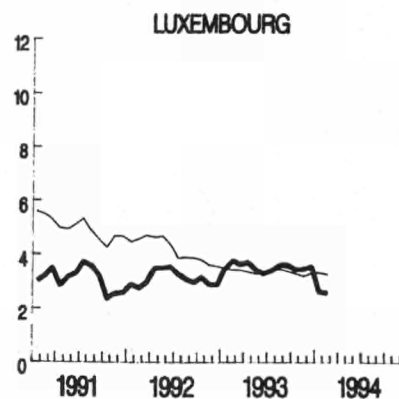
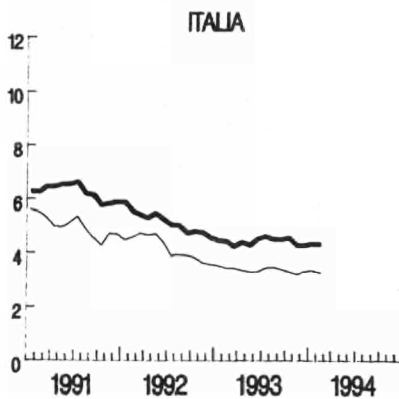
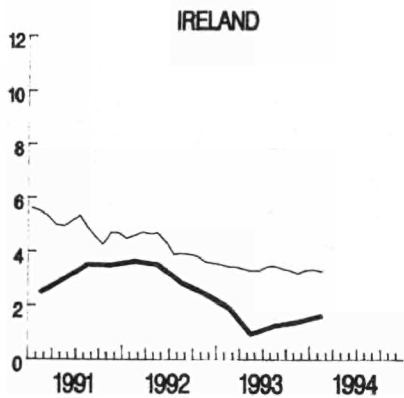
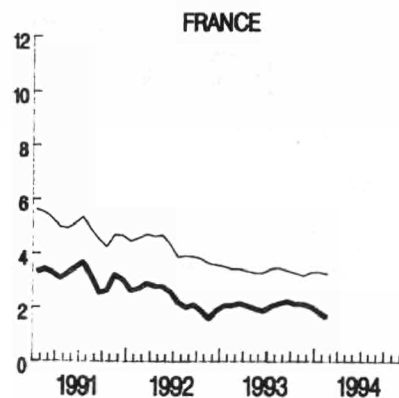
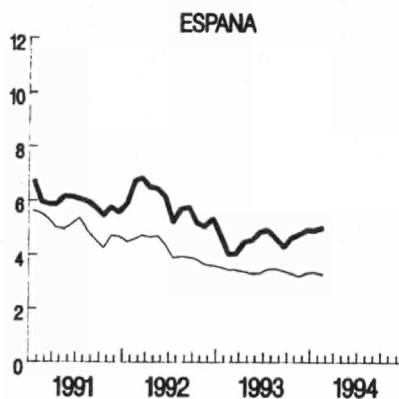
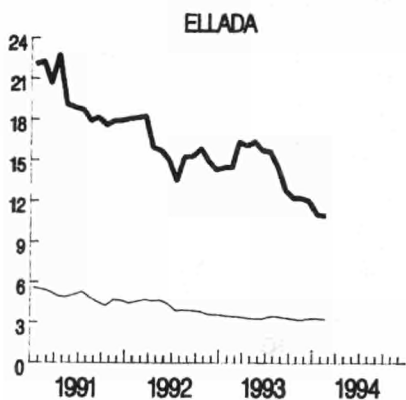
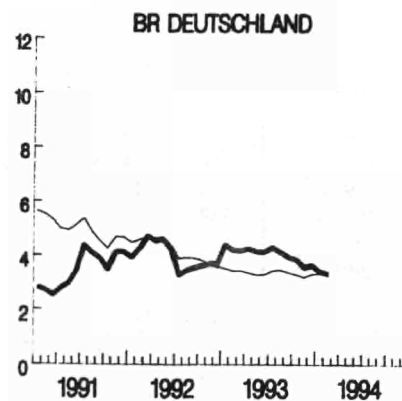
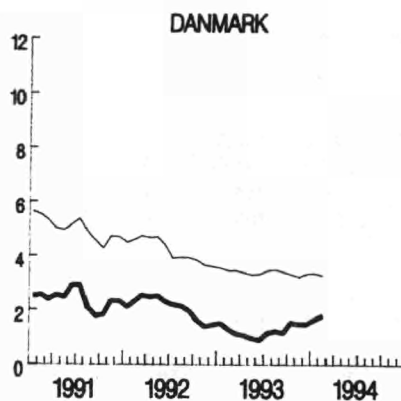
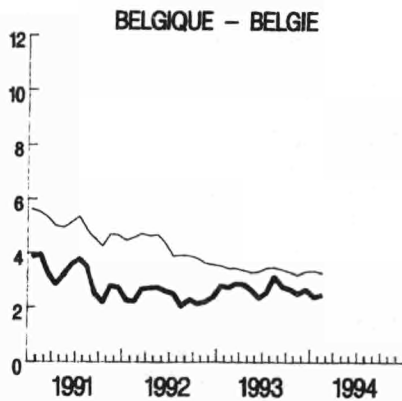


TABLE I

CONSUMER PRICES

GENERAL INDEX

	EUR 12	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	P	UK	
	Price indices							1985=100						
Annual average														
1990	122.9	111.0	121.2	107.0	222.6	136.8	116.5	117.6	131.8	109.0	104.2	170.9	133.3	
1991	129.1	114.6	124.1	110.7	265.9	145.0	120.2	121.3	140.2	112.4	108.4	189.5	141.1	
1992	134.5	117.3	126.7	115.1	308.1	153.5	123.0	125.1	147.3	115.9	112.5	206.7	146.4	
1993	139.1	120.6	128.3	119.8	352.6	160.6	125.6	126.9	153.8	120.1	114.9	220.0	148.7	
1993														
February	137.3	119.6	127.3	118.6	335.5	157.8	124.7	126.4	151.4	118.9	113.2	215.7	146.7	
March	137.9	119.8	127.6	119.0	345.9	158.4	125.3	:	151.8	119.2	113.9	216.4	147.3	
April	138.5	119.9	127.7	119.4	350.4	159.0	125.4	:	152.5	119.5	114.3	217.5	148.6	
May	138.9	120.1	128.5	119.8	351.2	159.5	125.7	126.1	153.2	119.7	114.2	218.6	149.2	
June	139.1	120.1	128.4	120.0	355.1	159.9	125.5	:	153.9	119.8	113.8	219.1	149.0	
July	139.2	120.9	128.2	120.2	348.3	160.5	125.7	:	154.3	120.2	114.6	220.6	148.7	
August	139.6	121.4	128.4	120.2	349.8	161.5	125.7	127.3	154.6	120.6	115.3	221.5	149.4	
September	140.0	121.2	128.8	120.3	358.5	162.4	126.1	:	154.9	120.7	116.0	222.2	150.0	
October	140.4	121.4	129.2	120.6	365.4	163.0	126.4	:	155.8	121.1	116.0	223.5	149.9	
November	140.6	121.5	129.4	120.9	368.3	163.3	126.5	127.7	156.3	121.5	116.0	225.0	149.7	
December	140.8	121.7	129.1	121.1	371.9	164.0	126.4	:	156.4	121.6	115.5	225.6	150.0	
1994														
January	141.3P	122.2	129.2	122.2	369.3	165.6	126.6	:	157.4P	121.6	115.9	227.4	149.4	
February	141.8P	122.6	129.6	122.6	370.1	165.7	126.8P	128.5	158.0P	122.0	116.5P	228.8	150.3	
	Rates of increase over one month (IRL 3 months)							(T/T-1)						
1993														
Feb./Jan.	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.8	0.7	
March/Feb.	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3	3.7	0.4	0.5	:	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.4	
April/March	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.3	1.3	0.4	0.1	:	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.9	
May/April	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	-0.2	0.4	0.2	-0.1	0.5	0.4	
June/May	0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.2	1.1	0.3	-0.1	:	0.5	0.1	-0.1	0.2	-0.1	
July/June	0.1	0.7	-0.2	0.2	-1.9	0.4	0.1	:	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.7	-0.2	
August/July	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.6	0.0	1.0	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.4	
Sept./August	0.3	-0.2	0.3	0.1	2.5	0.6	0.4	:	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.3	0.4	
Oct./Setp.	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.2	1.9	0.4	0.2	:	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.6	-0.1	
Nov./Oct.	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.8	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.7	-0.1	
Dec./Nov.	0.1	0.2	-0.2	0.2	1.0	0.5	-0.1	:	0.1	0.1	-0.5	0.3	0.2	
1994														
Jan./Dec.	0.4P	0.4	0.1	0.9	-0.7	1.0	0.2	:	0.6P	0.0	0.4	0.8	-0.4	
Feb./Jan.	0.4P	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2P	0.6	0.4P	0.3	0.5P	0.6	0.6	
	Rates of increase over 12 months							(T/T-12)						
1993/92														
February	3.5	2.8	1.3	4.2	14.5	4.1	2.1	1.9	4.5	3.8	2.6	8.0	1.8	
March	3.5	2.9	1.1	4.2	16.4	4.1	2.2	:	4.3	3.7	2.6	7.3	1.9	
April	3.4	2.9	1.1	4.3	16.2	4.5	2.1	:	4.4	3.8	2.4	6.2	1.3	
May	3.3	2.7	1.0	4.2	16.4	4.6	2.0	1.0	4.3	3.5	2.4	5.7	1.3	
June	3.3	2.4	0.9	4.2	15.8	4.9	1.9	:	4.6	3.3	2.3	5.5	1.2	
July	3.5	2.6	1.2	4.3	15.7	4.9	2.1	:	4.6	3.5	2.5	5.7	1.4	
August	3.5	3.2	1.2	4.2	14.6	4.6	2.2	1.3	4.5	3.7	3.0	5.6	1.7	
September	3.4	2.8	1.2	4.0	12.8	4.3	2.3	:	4.5	3.7	2.8	5.9	1.8	
October	3.3	2.7	1.5	3.9	12.3	4.6	2.2	:	4.6	3.5	2.8	6.3	1.4	
November	3.2	2.5	1.5	3.6	12.3	4.8	2.2	1.5	4.3	3.5	2.8	6.6	1.4	
December	3.4	2.7	1.5	3.7	12.1	4.9	2.1	:	4.3	3.6	2.6	6.4	1.9	
1994/93														
January	3.4P	2.4	1.8	3.5	11.1	5.0	1.9	:	4.4P	2.6	3.0	6.4	2.5	
February	3.3P	2.5	1.8	3.4	11.0	5.0	1.7P	1.7	4.4P	2.6	3.0P	6.1	2.4	

TABLE II

CONSUMER PRICES

GENERAL INDEX

	U.S.A	Japan	Switzerland	Austria	Norway	Sweden	Finland	Canada
	Price indices				1985=100			
Annual average								
1990	121.5	106.9	113.2	111.3	135.4	135.1	127.4	124.4
1991	126.6	110.4	119.8	115.0	140.0	147.8	132.8	131.4
1992	130.5	112.3	124.6	119.7	143.3	151.1	136.7	133.4
1993	134.3	113.8	128.7	124.0	146.5	158.2	139.7	135.8
1993								
February	133.1	112.7	127.7	122.8	145.1	157.1	139.4	135.4
March	133.5	113.0	128.4	123.3	146.4	157.9	139.5	135.3
April	133.9	113.8	128.8	123.3	146.8	158.5	140.1	135.3
May	134.1	113.9	128.9	123.5	146.8	158.1	140.2	135.5
June	134.3	113.8	128.9	123.8	146.9	157.6	140.0	135.6
July	134.3	114.1	128.7	125.2	146.8	157.3	139.7	135.9
August	134.6	114.4	129.3	125.6	146.4	158.2	139.4	136.0
September	134.9	114.5	129.2	124.7	147.1	159.0	139.7	136.1
October	135.5	114.4	129.3	124.6	147.2	159.5	139.9	136.3
November	135.6	113.8	129.2	124.7	147.1	159.5	139.7	137.0
December	135.6	113.9	129.3	124.9	147.0	158.9	139.6	136.7
1994								
January	136.0	114.0	129.5	125.8	146.7	159.7	139.3	136.7
February	136.4	114.0P	130.0	126.6	147.2	160.2	139.8	135.7
	Rates of increase over one month (IRL 3 months)				(T/T-1)			
1993								
Feb./Jan.	0.4	0.1	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.3
March/Feb.	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.9	0.5	0.1	-0.1
April/March	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.0
May/April	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	-0.2	0.1	0.2
June/May	0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	-0.3	-0.2	0.1
July/June	0.0	0.3	-0.1	1.2	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	0.2
August/July	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.3	-0.2	0.6	-0.2	0.1
Sept/August	0.2	0.1	-0.1	-0.7	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.1
Oct./Setp.	0.4	-0.1	0.1	-0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2
Nov./Oct.	0.1	-0.6	-0.1	0.1	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.5
Dec./Nov.	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	-0.1	-0.4	-0.1	-0.2
1994								
Jan./Dec.	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.7	-0.2	0.5	-0.3	0.0
Feb./Jan.	0.3	0.0P	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.4	-0.8
	Rates of increase over 12 months				(T/T-12)			
1993/92								
February	3.2	1.4	3.4	3.7	2.6	4.9	2.9	2.3
March	3.1	1.2	3.7	3.9	2.5	4.9	2.7	1.9
April	3.2	0.9	3.8	3.9	2.6	5.1	2.6	1.8
May	3.2	0.9	3.6	3.7	2.5	4.8	2.6	1.8
June	3.0	0.9	3.2	3.6	2.3	4.7	2.0	1.6
July	2.8	1.9	3.4	3.5	2.2	4.6	2.1	1.6
August	2.8	1.9	3.6	3.4	2.2	5.2	2.1	1.7
September	2.7	1.5	3.4	3.4	2.2	4.2	1.7	1.9
October	2.8	1.3	3.3	3.5	2.0	4.3	1.6	1.9
November	2.7	0.9	2.3	3.5	1.9	4.8	1.4	1.9
December	2.7	1.0	2.5	3.5	1.8	4.0	1.6	1.7
1994/93								
January	2.5	1.2	2.1	3.1	1.4	1.9	0.2	1.3
February	2.5	1.1P	1.8	3.1	1.4	1.9	0.3	0.2

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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