

# **Trends in telecommunications prices**

**March 2021**

## Contents

1. Trends in telecommunications prices in March 2021 .....	5
2. Trend in telecommunications prices in the EU in March 2021 .....	10
3. Minimum monthly charge per service and offer.....	15
Methodological note .....	20
Annex .....	22

## Index of tables

Table 1 - Trends in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and telecommunications prices .....	5
Table 2 - Price per minute of international calls to other EU states originating on the mobile network .....	9
Table 3 - Price per minute of calls to other EU states originated on the fixed network (peak hours) .....	9
Table 4 - Trends in telecommunications prices: Portugal vs EU .....	10
Table 5 - Minimum monthly charge per type of offer - March 2021 .....	15
Table 6 - Year-on-year rate of change of the minimum monthly charge per type of offer - March 2021 .....	17
Table 7 - Average variation rate of the last 12 months in the minimum monthly charge by type of offer – March 2021 .....	18
Table 8 – Average variation in EU telecommunications prices of the last 12 months, March 2021 .....	22

## Index of figures

Figure 1 – Year-on-year variation in CPI and telecommunications prices.....	6
Figure 2 – Average variation rate of the last 12 months of the CPI and telecommunications prices.....	7
Figure 3 – CPI and telecommunications price trends in Portugal (2010M12 = Base 100).....	8
Figure 4 – Average variation rate over previous 12 months – telecommunications prices: Portugal vs EU .....	11
Figure 5 – Variation in telecommunications HICP in the EU between December 2009 and March 2021 .....	12
Figure 6 - Trend in telecommunications prices in Portugal and in the EU (2009M12 = Base 100) .....	13
Figure 7 – Telecommunications prices in Portugal, Belgium, Germany and Luxembourg (2009M12 = Base 100).....	14
Figure 8 – Services/offers with the lowest monthly charge in Portugal per provider - March 2021 .....	16
Figure 9 - Number of changes in minimum monthly charges compared to the previous month.....	19

## Executive summary

- In March 2021, telecommunications prices in Portugal, measured using the sub-index of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), increased by 0.4% compared to the previous month. This change resulted from increases in the prices of some quadruple-play bundles.
- Compared to March 2020, the reported variation in prices was -0.8%. Since November 2017, the annual variation in telecommunications prices has been below the rate of the CPI.
- The average change in telecommunications prices over the last twelve months (-1.2%) was 1.2 percentage points below the change in CPI (0.0%). This reduction in prices reflects the entry into force of new European rules on 15 May 2019, regulating the prices of intra-EU communications, as well as a reduction in the monthly charges of some post-paid offers of mobile broadband via PC/Tablet and some bundled offers.
- In cumulative terms, telecommunications prices have increased by 8.9 percentage points since the end of 2010, while the CPI increased by 10.0 percentage points. The reported divergence between the two indexes, first appearing in 2015 and increasing in 2016, is associated with the “price adjustments” applied by the principal telecommunications providers. As of May 2019, divergence between the two indexes narrowed, mainly due to the entry into force of Regulation (EU) 2018/1971 of the European Parliament and of the Council, which made intra-EU international calls and SMS messages subject to a maximum price.

If it were not for the price reduction in intra-EU calls, it is estimated that telecommunications prices would have increased by 12.5 percentage points since the end of 2010, in accumulative terms 2.5 percentage points above the change in CPI over this period.

- In March 2021, the average variation rate of telecommunications prices in Portugal was lower than in the European Union (-1.1 percentage points). The average variation rate of telecommunications prices over the last twelve months in Portugal was the 10th lowest (18th highest) among EU countries. The country that reported the largest

increase in prices was Poland (+5.1%), while the largest reduction occurred in Denmark (-3.5%). On average, telecommunications prices in the EU decreased by 0.1%.

- Between the end of 2009 and March 2021, telecommunications prices in Portugal increased by 6.9%, while in the EU they fell by 9.9%. The difference has narrowed following the entry into force of new European rules regulating the prices of intra-EU communications on 15 May 2019.

A more detailed comparative analysis with a set of Central European countries shows that, between the end of 2009 and March 2021, whereas prices in Portugal increased by 6.9%, telecommunications prices in Germany fell by 13.6%, in Luxembourg by 7.7% and in Belgium by 2.1%.

- The lowest monthly charges are offered by NOWO in seven services/offers from a range of thirteen services/offers, while MEO, NOS and Vodafone each have the lowest monthly charges for two types of services/offers.
- Compared to March 2020, there were 17 variations in the minimum monthly charges of services/offers, of which 14 were price increases and 3 were reductions.
- The following price variations are of particular note: the minimum monthly charge for quadruple-play offers decreased by 1.1% (50% reduction in the monthly charge of with-box offers for the first 6 months); and the minimum monthly charge for stand-alone fixed broadband (FBB) increased by 4.3%, with discontinuation of NOWO's offer waiving the first monthly charge for its basic service.
- By provider, MEO reduced the minimum monthly charge for one service/offer in relation to March 2020 and increased the monthly charge for four services/offers. One of the services from MEO with a significant decrease in the monthly charge was the offer of the mobile telephone service with mobile phone internet (UZO offer); this offer now has a monthly charge approaching the level of the lowest monthly charge (as provided by NOWO). NOS increased its minimum monthly charges for five services/offers and Vodafone increased the minimum monthly charges for four services/offers. Particular note should be made of the increases in the monthly charges of the triple-play offers of MEO, NOS and Vodafone, occurring in October and November 2020<sup>1</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup>See: <https://www.anacom.pt/render.jsp?contentId=1586142&languageId=1>.

## 1. Trends in telecommunications prices in March 2021

According to INE - Statistics Portugal, in March 2021, telecommunications prices decreased by 0.4% compared to the previous month. This resulted from changes in some “quadruple-play” offers.

Compared to March 2020, the year-on-year variation in telecommunications prices (-0.8%) was the 27th highest variation (or 17th lowest) among the 43 considered subgroups of goods and services (Table1).

**Table 1 - Trends in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and telecommunications prices**

	Year-on-year variation	March 2021 Average variation of the last 12 months	Variation from last month	2020 Average variation of last 12 months
<b>IPC (%)</b>	0.5	0.0	1.4	0.0
.. Telecommunications (%)	-0.8	-1.2	-0.4	-2.1
... Mobile telephone services* (%)	0.2	-0.3	0.0	-1.9
Relative position (descending order among the 43 subgroups of goods and services)	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>31</b>

Unit: %

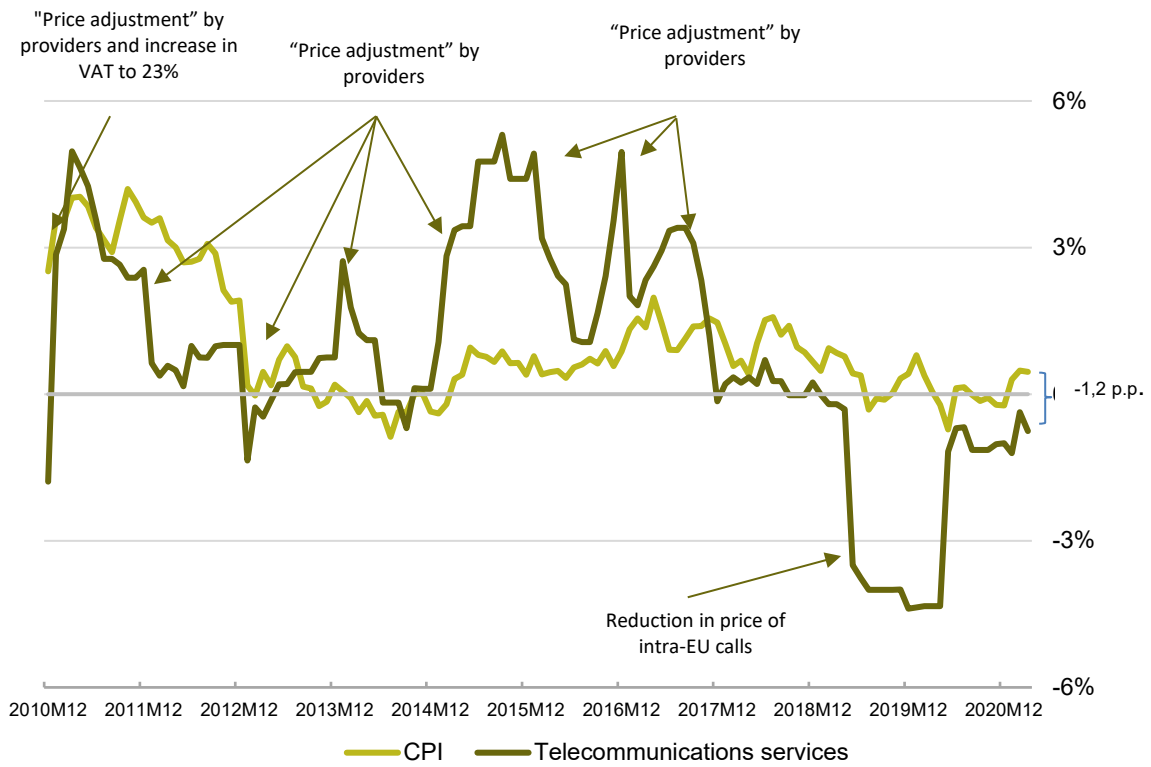
Source: INE - Statistics Portugal, Eurostat

Note\*: HICP “Wireless telephone services” sub-index, which is incorporated in the “Telephone and telefax services” sub-index.

Between August 2013 and October 2017, the growth in telecommunications prices in year-on-year terms was almost always higher than the growth reported in CPI, due to “price adjustments” made by providers, usually at the beginning of each year. However, the situation was reversed in November 2017.

In March 2021, divergence from the CPI was -1.2 percentage points (Figure 1).

**Figure 1 – Year-on-year variation in CPI and telecommunications prices**



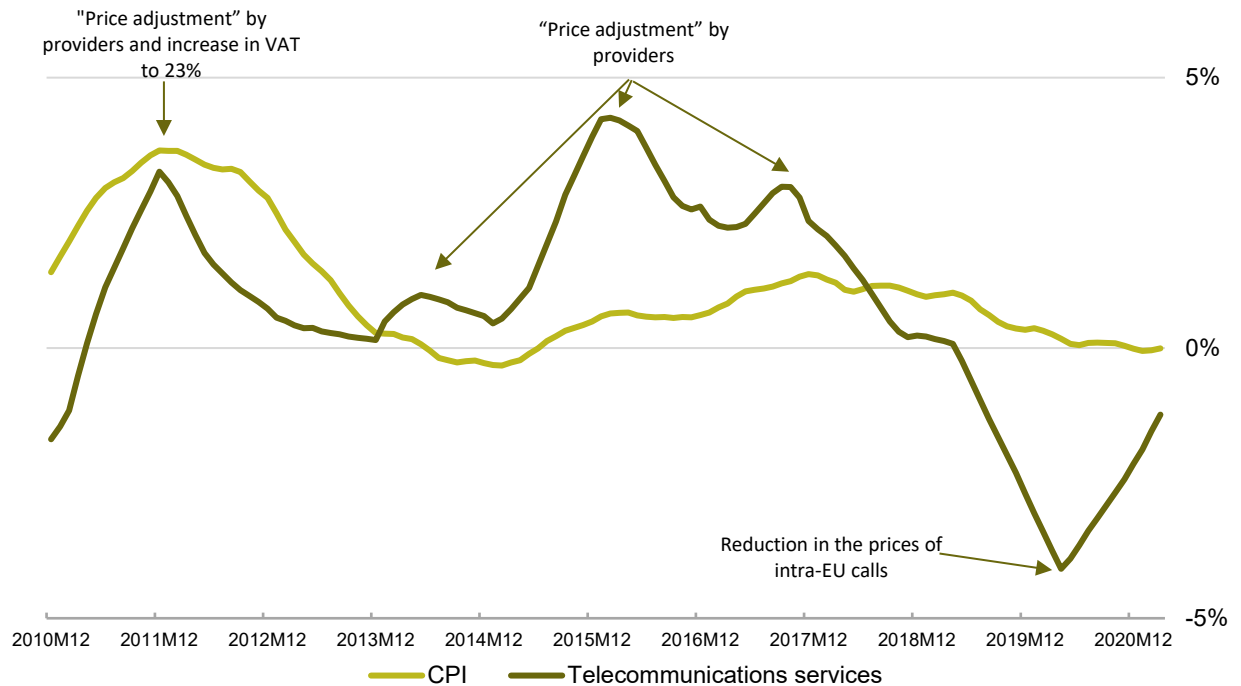
Unit: %

Source: Statistics Portugal

The average variation in telecommunications prices of the last twelve months (-1.2%) was the 27th highest in the ranking of 43 considered subgroups of goods and services. The reported reduction was less than the variation reported in the prices of “Footwear” and “Transport services” and more than the price variation reported for “Hospital services” and “Water supply”.

The difference between the average variation rate in telecommunications prices and the CPI of the last twelve months was -1.2 percentage points in March 2021. Telecommunications prices have increased at rates below CPI (Figure 2) in 69 out of 124 months since December 2010. The positive difference in trend between telecommunications prices and the CPI, along with the most significant increases in telecommunications prices in Portugal, resulted from the “price adjustments” made by the providers.

**Figure 2 – Average variation rate of the last 12 months of the CPI and telecommunications prices**



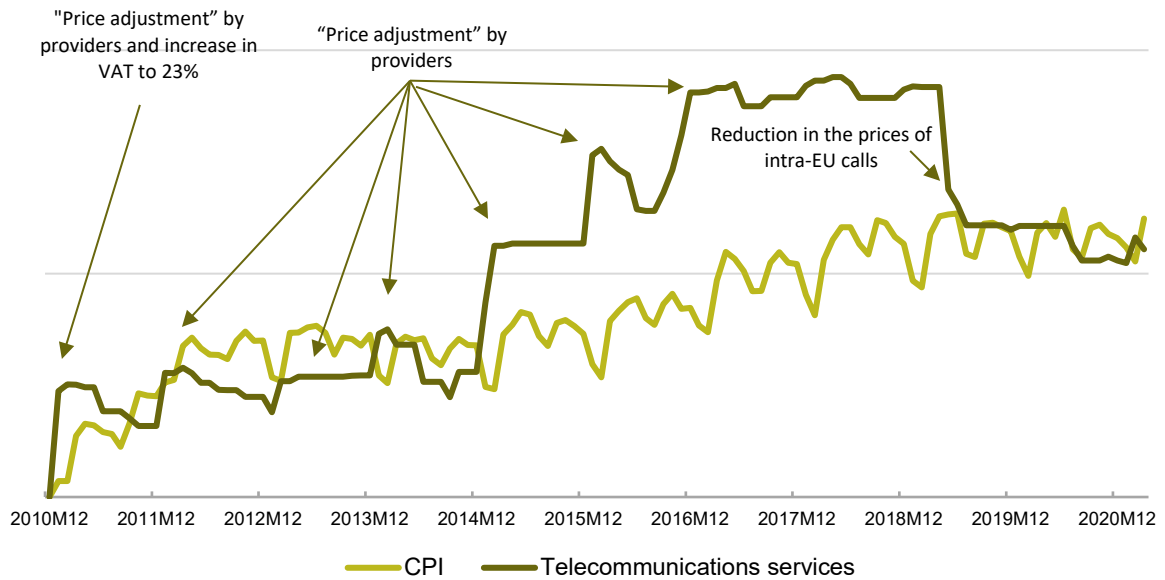
Unit: %

Source: INE - Statistics Portugal

In cumulative terms, telecommunications prices have increased by 8.9 percentage points since the end of 2010, while the CPI increased by 10.0 percentage points. Divergence between the two indexes, first appearing in 2015 and increasing in 2016, is associated with the “price adjustments” applied by the principal providers (Figure 3). As of May 2019, the narrowing divergence between the two indexes was primarily due to the entry into force of Regulation (EU) 2018/1971 of the European Parliament and of the Council, which applied a maximum price to intra-EU international calls and text messages (SMS) (see Box 1).

If it were not for the price reduction in intra-EU calls, it is estimated that telecommunications prices would have increased by 12.5 percentage points since the end of 2010, 2.5 percentage points in accumulative terms above the change in CPI over this period.

**Figure 3 – CPI and telecommunications price trends in Portugal (2010M12 = Base 100)**



Unit: index (2010M12 = Base 100)

Source: ANACOM, based on data from INE - Statistics Portugal

### Box 1 – Reduction in prices of intra-EU calls

New European rules entered into force on 15 May 2019, applying maximum limits to the retail prices charged to consumers for regulated intra-EU communications<sup>1</sup>. These new rules are applicable to international communications (fixed and mobile voice, and SMS) made from a number in one EU Member State to a number in another Member State, where fully or partially charged based on actual consumption.

Calls made by consumers in one EU country to a number (fixed or mobile) in another EU country were made subject to a maximum limit of 0.19 euros per minute (excluding VAT), payable by the consumer making the call. Text messages (SMS) sent by a consumer in one EU country to a number (fixed or mobile) in another EU country were made subject to a maximum limit of 0.06 euros per SMS (excluding VAT), payable by the consumer sending the message.

In May 2019, telecommunications prices fell by 3.2%.

<sup>1</sup> According to Article 5 of Regulation (EU) 2015/2120, as amended by article 50 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1971 of the European Parliament and Council, available at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L:2018:321:TOC>.



The following tables show some examples of changes in the pricing of international calls occurring subsequent to the entry into force of the above Regulation.

Between April and May 2019, prices per minute for mobile calls included in offers from MEO, NOS and Vodafone decreased, in some cases, between 33.1% and 72.0% (Table 2).

**Table 2- Price per minute of international calls to other EU states originating on the mobile network**

	April-2019	May-2019	Variation (%) May 2019 / April 2019
MEO	0.50	0.23	-54.0
NOS	0.35 – 0.84	0.23	-33.1 / -72.0
NOWO	0.23	0.23	0.0
Vodafone	0.51 – 0.53	0.23	-53.9 / -56.0

Unit: euros, %

Source: ANACOM

Note: The prices considered were those of offers which were active in April and May 2019, particularly 4P and 5P bundles with the mobile telephone service, post-paid offers (*Unlimited, Smart, NOWO pós-pago, Red*) and pre-paid offers (*TOP, Flex, Start, Moche, Tudo, Livres, Mundo, WTF, NOWO pré-pago, Directo, Easy, World, Flat, You, Yorn*).

In the case of the fixed network, prices per minute for calls made to other EU countries during peak times fell by between 44.3% and 60.8% (Table 3).

**Table 3- Price per minute of calls to other EU states originated on the fixed network (peak hours)**

	April-2019	May-2019	Variation (%) May 2019 / April 2019
MEO	0.50 - 0.52	0.23	-54.0 / -55.3
NOS	0.53 – 0.54	0.23	-56.6 / -57.2
NOWO	0.60	0.23	-60.8
Vodafone	0.42	0.23	-44.3

Unit: euros, %

Source: ANACOM

Note 1: Peak time corresponds to calls made on working days between 9 am and 9 pm.

Note 2: The prices considered were those of offers which were active in April and May 2019, particularly prices of bundles with the fixed telephone service and of single-play offers (*MEO Telefone, Tarifário Base, Casa M Fixo, Plano Poupança, Vodafone Voz Fixa*).

## 2. Trend in telecommunications prices in the EU in March 2021

According to Eurostat, in March 2021, the average variation in the prices of telecommunications services in Portugal of the last twelve months was 1.1 percentage points lower than the EU average, with Portugal ranked as having the 10th lowest price variation (or 18th highest variation). The countries reporting the largest price increases were Poland (+ 5.1%), Lithuania (+ 2.7%) and Finland (+ 2.0%), while Denmark (-3.5%), Luxembourg (- 3.1%) and Ireland (-2.8%) reported the largest decreases.

Compared to March 2020, the year-on-year variation in telecommunications prices in Portugal was 11th lowest (or the 17th highest) among the 27 countries considered (Table 4).

**Table 4 - Trends in telecommunications prices: Portugal vs EU**

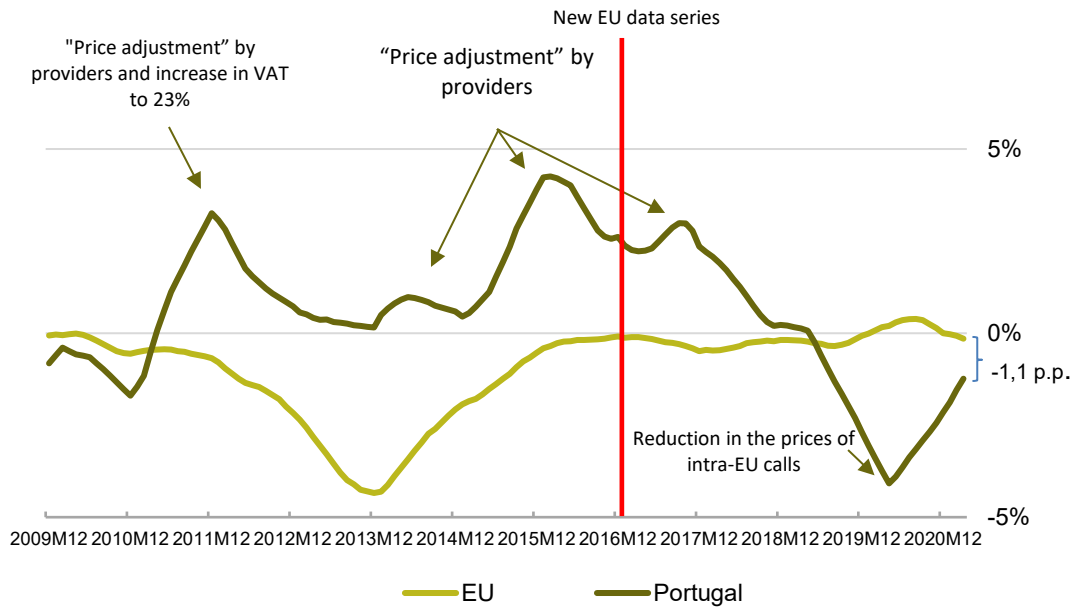
	March 2021			2020
	Year-on-year variation	Average variation of last 12 months	Variation from previous month	Average variation of last 12 months
EU (%)	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.0
<b>PT / EU difference (p.p.)</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>-2.1</b>
<i>Relative position (descending order among 27 countries)</i>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>22</b>

Unit: %, percentage points.

Source: Eurostat

Between April 2011 and May 2019, telecommunications prices increased by more in Portugal than in the EU (in terms of the average variation rate of the last twelve months), due in most part to the provider “price adjustments” referred to above. However, since June 2019, the variation in telecommunications prices in Portugal has been lower than the EU average; this is due to the entry into force of Regulation (EU) 2018/1971 of the European Parliament and of the Council and due to reductions in the monthly charges of some post-paid offers of mobile broadband via PC/tablet and of some bundled offers (Figure 4) .

**Figure 4– Average variation rate of last 12 months – telecommunications prices: Portugal vs EU**



Unit: %

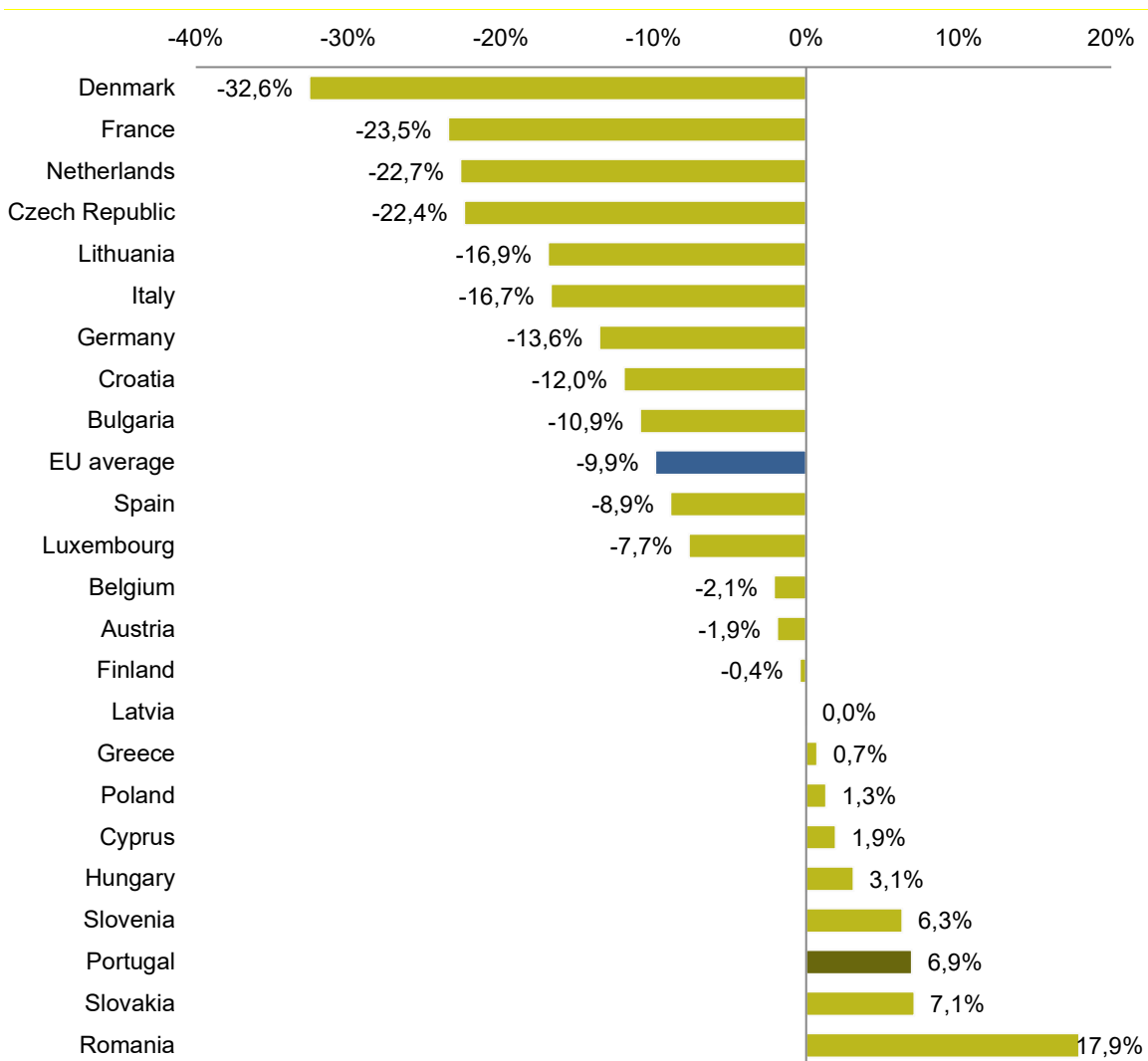
Source: ANACOM, based on data from Eurostat

Note 1: From Eurostat's publication of data on 25 February 2016, referring to January 2016, the reference year of the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) was changed from 2005 to 2015. There may be differences in the series due to rounding effects.

Note 2: EU telecommunications prices from December 2016 differ from those published previously due to changes made by Eurostat. Information up to November 2016 was compiled on 16 March 2018. Information from December 2016 onwards was compiled on 16 April 2021.

Between the end of 2009 and March 2021, telecommunications prices in Portugal increased by 6.9%, while falling by 9.9% in the EU. The difference narrowed with the entry into force of new European rules on 15 May 2019 regulating the prices of intra-EU communications (Figure 5).

**Figure 5 – Variation in telecommunications HICP in the EU between December 2009 and March 2021**



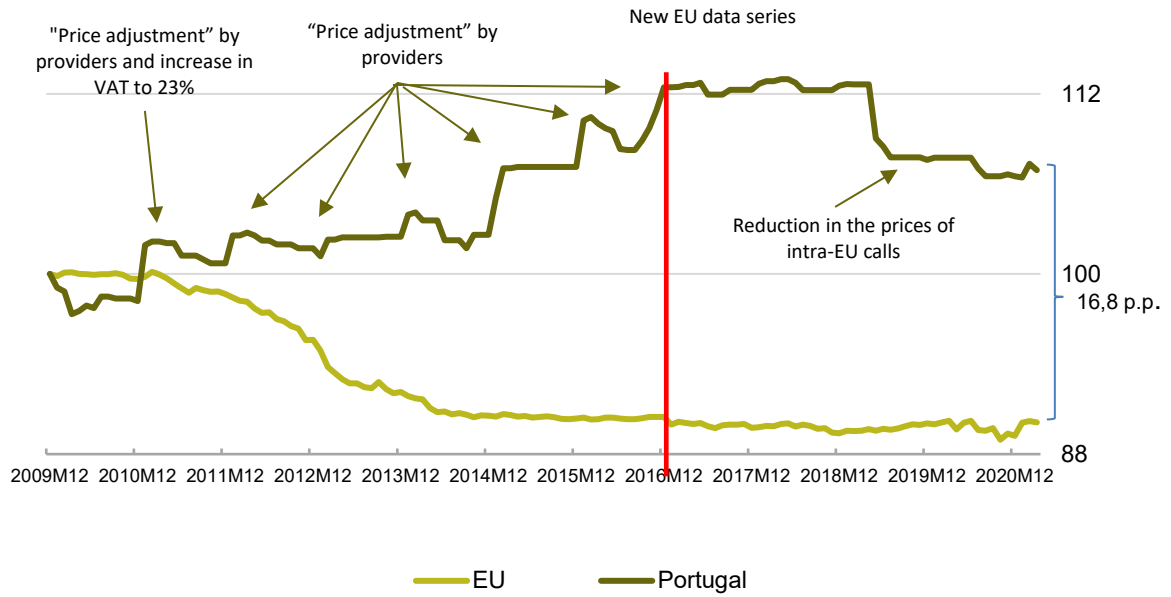
Unit: %

Source: ANACOM, based on Eurostat data

Note: Information not available for the United Kingdom, Ireland, Malta, Sweden and Estonia.

The differences between the trend in telecommunications prices in Portugal and in the EU (+16.8 percentage points, in cumulative terms) were due to the “price adjustments” made by the providers, normally occurring in the first months of each year (Figure 6).

**Figure 6- Trend in telecommunications prices in Portugal and in the EU (2009M12 = Base 100)**



Unit: index (2009M12 = Base 100)

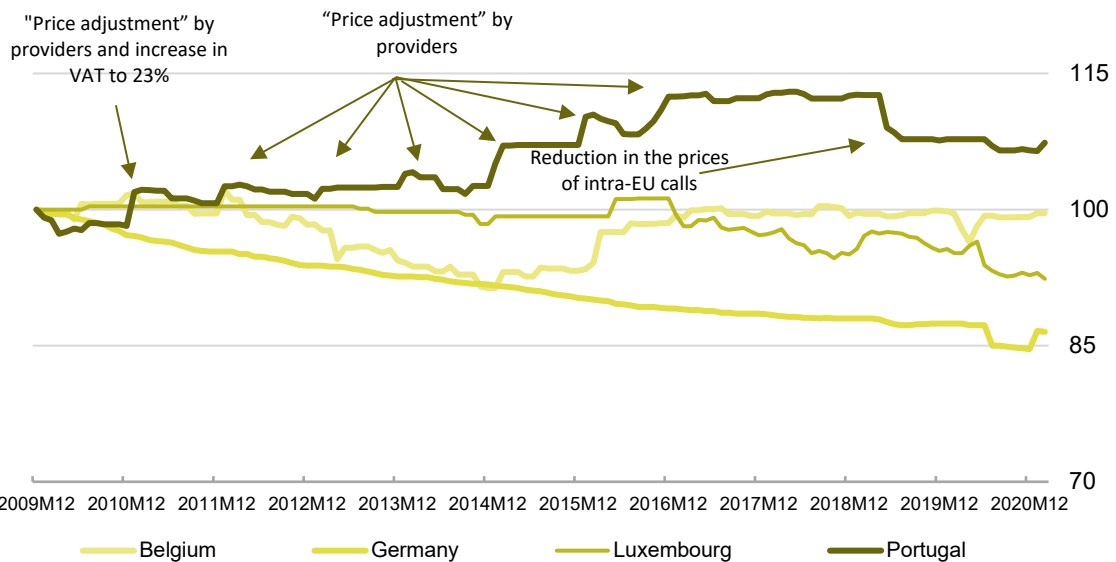
Source: ANACOM, based on Eurostat data

Note: EU telecommunications prices from December 2016 differ from those published previously due to changes made by Eurostat. Information up to November 2016 was compiled on 16 March 2018. Information from December 2016 onwards was compiled on 16 April 2021.

**Box 2 – Comparison between the trend in prices in Portugal and three countries of Central Europe**

Between the end of 2009 and March 2021, telecommunications prices decreased by 13.6% in Germany, by 7.7% in Luxembourg and by 2.1% in Belgium, while prices in Portugal increased by 6.9%. The differences between the trend in telecommunications prices in Portugal and in these countries were influenced by the “price adjustments” implemented by providers in Portugal, normally occurring in the first months of each year, as well as other effects related to the dynamics of each market.

**Figure 7 – Telecommunications prices in Portugal, Belgium, Germany and Luxembourg (2009M12 = Base 100)**



Unit: Index (2009M12 = Base 100)

Source: ANACOM, based on Eurostat data

### 3. Minimum monthly charge per service and offer

Table 5 shows the minimum monthly charges of the various services and offers in March 2021, according to publicly available information posted on the websites of the four providers with the largest shares of subscribers.

As can be seen, the minimum monthly charges of the 3P, 4P, 5P bundles and one of the 2P bundles offered by MEO, NOS and Vodafone are very similar.

**Table 5- Minimum monthly charge per type of offer - March 2021**

	MEO	NOS	NOWO	Vodafone
STV	17.06	<b>13.49</b>	21.56	30.90
FBB	24.99	24.99	<b>20.00</b>	25.90
FTS	14.99	12.58	21.56	<b>0.29</b>
MTS	<b>0.36</b>	1.11	4.79	1.11
MTS with mobile phone Internet	5.00	12.00	<b>4.79</b>	12.50
MBB on PC/Tablet	<b>13.41</b>	15.00	-	16.00
FBB+STV	30.99	30.99	<b>21.56</b>	30.90
FBB+FTS	26.99	30.99	<b>21.56</b>	25.90
STV+FTS	30.47	<b>13.49</b>	23.96	30.90
FBB+STV+FTS	30.99	30.99	<b>23.96</b>	30.90
FBB+STV+FTS+MTS	49.82	49.82	<b>28.44</b>	49.74
FBB+STV+FTS+MTS with mobile phone internet	49.82	49.82	<b>28.44</b>	49.74
FBB+TV+FTS+MTS with mobile phone Internet + MBB on PC/Tablet	54.62	54.62	-	<b>54.53</b>

Unit: Euros including VAT

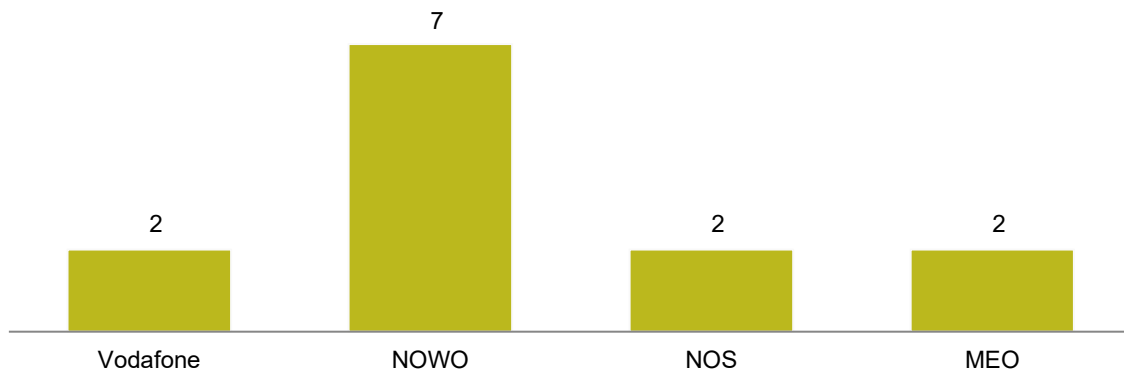
Source: ANACOM

Note 1: STV – Subscription TV signal distribution service; FBB – Fixed broadband; FTS – Fixed telephone service; MTS – Mobile telephone service; MBB – Mobile broadband supported by PC/tablet.

Note 2: The minimum lowest charge for each service/offer is indicated in bold.

Among the services/offers considered, the lowest monthly charges are offered by NOWO in seven services/offers, out of a total of 13 services/offers, while MEO, NOS and Vodafone offered the lowest monthly charges for two types of services/offers each (Figure 8).

**Figure 8 – Services/offers with the lowest monthly charge in Portugal per provider - March 2021**



Unit: Number of services/offers

Source: ANACOM

Compared to March 2020, the following prices variations are of note (Table 6) :

- The lowest monthly charge of the stand-alone fixed broadband (FBB) service increased by 4.3%, as NOWO's offer waiving the first monthly charge of its basic service was discontinued.
- The lowest monthly charge among 4P offers decreased by 1.1% as a result of the reduction seen in the average monthly charge for NOWO's offer (50% reduction in the monthly charge for with-box offers in the first 6 months).



**Table 6 - Year-on-year rate of change of the minimum monthly charge per type of offer - March 2021**

	Total	MEO	NOS	NOWO	Vodafone
STV	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.3
FBB	4.3	0.0	0.0	4.3	0.0
FTS	0.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MTS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MTS with mobile phone Internet	0.0	-33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
MBB PC/Tablet	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	0.0
MBB+STV	0.0	3.3	3.3	0.0	3.3
MBB+FTS	0.0	0.0	3.3	0.0	0.0
STV+FTS	0.0	1.6	0.0	0.0	3.3
FBB+STV+FTS	0.0	3.3	3.3	0.0	3.3
FBB+STV+FTS+MTS	-1.1	0.0	4.0	-1.1	0.0
FBB+STV+FTS+MTS with mobile phone Internet	-1.1	0.0	4.0	-1.1	0.0
FBB+STV+FTS+MTS with mobile phone Internet +MBB PC/Tablet	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	0.0

Unit: %

Source: ANACOM

Note 1: STV – Subscription TV signal distribution service; FBB – Fixed broadband; FTS – Fixed telephone service; MTS – Mobile telephone service; MBB – Mobile broadband supported by PC/tablet.

Note 2: The “-” symbol indicates an offer that is unavailable.

Compared to March 2020, there were 17 variations in the minimum monthly charges of services/offers, of which 14 variations were price increases and 3 were reductions.

By provider, MEO reduced the minimum monthly charge for one service/offer in relation to March 2020 and increased the monthly charge for four services/offers. One of the services from MEO with a significant decrease in the monthly charge was the offer of the mobile telephone service with mobile phone internet (UZO offer); this offer now has a monthly charge approaching the level of the lowest monthly charge (provided by NOWO). NOS increased the minimum monthly charges for five services/offers and Vodafone increased the minimum monthly charges for four services/offers. Note should be made of the

increases in the monthly charges of the triple-play offer provided by MEO, NOS and Vodafone, occurring in October and November 2020<sup>2</sup>.

Table 7 shows the average rate of change over the last 12 months for each type of offer. The discontinuation of a NOWO offer in August 2019 (“quadruple play” offer with a monthly charge of 19.99 euros) contributed to the increase in the average rate of change of 2P, 3P and 4P offers. In the cases of MEO and Vodafone, discontinuation of the customised offers “*MEO by*” (in September 2019) and “*Fibra ID*” (in May 2019) contributed to the increase in the average variation rate of the quadruple-play and quintuple-play offers over this period.

**Table 7- Average variation rate of the last 12 months in the minimum monthly charge by type of offer – March 2021**

	Total	MEO	NOS	NOWO	Vodafone
STV	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.9	3.2
FBB	8.3	1.7	8.0	8.3	3.8
FTS	0.0	20.0	0.9	3.9	0.0
MTS	0.0	0.0	12.7	-22.5	12.7
MTS with mobile phone Internet	-22.5	-11.1	0.0	-22.5	0.0
MBB PC/Tablet	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	0.0
MBB+STV	3.9	2.4	6.2	3.9	3.2
MBB+FTS	3.9	5.2	12.6	3.9	2.5
STV+FTS	0.0	0.8	0.0	7.2	3.2
FBB+STV+FTS	7.2	1.7	3.5	7.2	3.2
FBB+STV+FTS+MTS	12.2	5.2	3.3	12.2	1.2
FBB+STV+FTS+MTS with mobile phone Internet	12.2	5.2	3.3	12.2	1.2
FBB+STV+FTS+MTS with mobile phone Internet +MBB PC/Tablet	6.7	6.3	-1.5	-	1.4

Unit: %

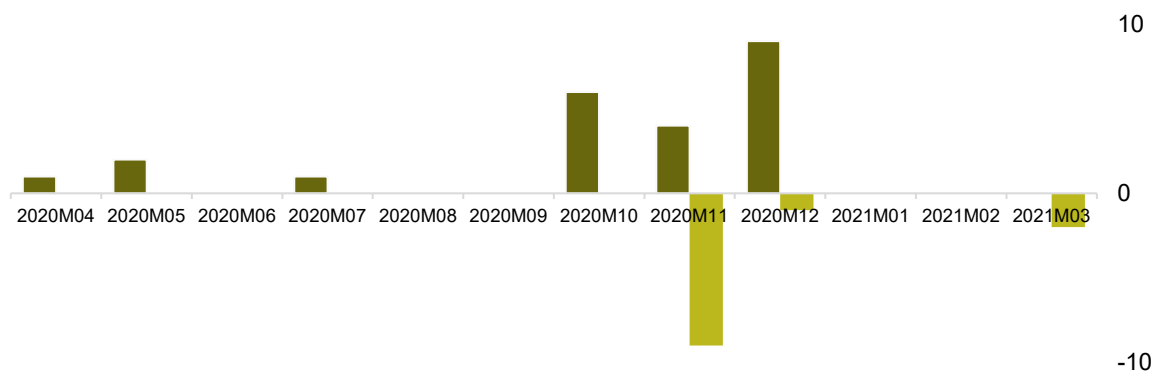
Source: ANACOM

Note: STV – Subscription TV signal distribution service; FBB – Fixed broadband; FTS – Fixed telephone service; MTS – Mobile telephone service; MBB – Mobile broadband supported by PC/tablet.

<sup>2</sup> See “MEO, NOS and Vodafone increase monthly charges of 3P bundles by 3.3% and reduce quality”, available at <https://www.anacom.pt/render.jsp?contentId=1586142&languageId=1>.

Over the last twelve months, there were 23 increases and 12 decreases in minimum monthly charges compared to the previous month. In October and November there were 10 increases in minimum monthly charges. In November, nine minimum monthly charges decreased due to "Black Friday" promotional campaigns. The prices of these services/offers rose again in December (Figure 9).

**Figure 9- Number of changes in minimum monthly charges compared to the previous month**



Unit: Number of changes in minimum monthly charges  
 Source: ANACOM

## Methodological note

### a. Sources

- “Consumer Price Index – March 2021” (INE - Statistics Portugal, 2021), available at [https://www.ine.pt/xportal/xmain?xpid=INE&xpgid=ine\\_destaquas&DESTAQUESdest\\_boui=471122515&DESTAQUESmodo=2](https://www.ine.pt/xportal/xmain?xpid=INE&xpgid=ine_destaquas&DESTAQUESdest_boui=471122515&DESTAQUESmodo=2)
- “HICP – monthly data” (Eurostat, 2021), available at [http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=prc\\_hicp\\_midx&lang=en](http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=prc_hicp_midx&lang=en). The methodology used is available at [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/HICP\\_methodology](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/HICP_methodology)
- Tariff information available on the websites of the four providers with the highest share of national coverage (MEO, NOS, NOWO and Vodafone).

### b. Definitions

- Year-on-year rate of change: compares the level of the variable between the current month and the same month a year earlier. In the face of a stable seasonal pattern, this rate of change is not affected by this type of swing. However, it may be influenced by effects in one (or both) of the months compared - See <http://smi.ine.pt/VariavelFisica/Detalhes?id=4263&LANG=EN>
- Average variation rate of the last twelve months: compares the level of the average price index of the last twelve-month period with the level of the prior twelve-month period. As a moving average, this variation rate is less sensitive to sporadic prices changes. The value obtained in the month of December has been used as a reference in the context of social dialogues and is associated with the annual inflation rate - See [https://www.ine.pt/bddXplorer/htdocs/minfo.jsp?var\\_cd=0002390&lingua=PT](https://www.ine.pt/bddXplorer/htdocs/minfo.jsp?var_cd=0002390&lingua=PT)

### c. Notes

- The trends in telecommunications prices presented in this report are derived from the reported variations of the “Telephone and telefax services” sub-index of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP), which aggregates the voice, Internet and subscription TV signal distribution services (acquired as stand-alone services or as part of a bundle). The information presented in this report should be taken in conjunction with an appraisal of the features of each offer; these features are detailed in the reports on “Bundles of electronic communications services”, “Fixed telephone and nomadic VoIP service”, “Mobile services”, “Internet access service” and “Subscription television service”, all available on ANACOM's website.
- EU telecommunications prices do not include information from the United Kingdom.
- EU telecommunications prices from December 2016 differ from those published previously due to changes made by Eurostat. Information up to November 2016 was compiled on 16 March 2018. Information from December 2016 onwards was compiled on 16 April 2021.

#### **d. Trend in the minimum monthly charge per type of offer**

For each type of stand-alone service and bundled offer, the minimum monthly charge was estimated without regard to the offer characteristics, usage requirements or the number of services included, while considering a contract period of 24 months. The data presented corresponds to the average monthly charge over this 24-month period. In the case of mobile offers, the level of usage considered is of 1 call/1 SMS (call duration of 2 minutes and 37 seconds to the same network, with billing per second), in order to take the prepaid voice/SMS offers into account. In the case of fixed telephone service offers, usage of 1 call is considered (call duration of 4 minutes and 11 seconds to the fixed network). In the case of offers with the TV signal distribution service, the monthly fee for the box has been added in cases where the service is not available without a box.

The monthly tariffs are compiled from the websites of the four providers with the highest shares of national coverage (MEO, NOS, NOWO and Vodafone); these providers represent about 99% of the Portuguese telecommunications market.

The calculated indicators are: monthly variation, variation compared to the same month of the previous year and average variation of the last twelve months. These indicators were calculated in accordance with the formulas and calculation rules used by INE - Statistics Portugal in compiling the Consumer Price Index (CPI) - see <https://smi.ine.pt/VariavelFisica/Detalhes?id=4263&LANG=en>  
[https://www.ine.pt/bddXplorer/htdocs/minfo.jsp?var\\_cd=0002390&lingua=PT](https://www.ine.pt/bddXplorer/htdocs/minfo.jsp?var_cd=0002390&lingua=PT)

## Annex

**Table 8 – Average variation in EU telecommunications prices of the last 12 months, March 2021**

	Average variation of the last 12 months
Poland	5.1
Lithuania	2.7
Finland	2.0
Slovakia	1.9
Croatia	1.7
Slovenia	1.3
Romania	1.2
Latvia	1.0
France	0.5
Netherlands	0.5
Hungary	0.4
Sweden	0.3
Bulgaria	0.2
Malta	-0.3
Italy	-0.6
Belgium	-0.6
Estonia	-0.8
Portugal	-1.2
Cyprus	-1.4
Spain	-1.6
Germany	-1.8
Austria	-1.9
Greece	-2.4
Czech Republic	-2.5
Ireland	-2.8
Luxembourg	-3.1
Denmark	-3.5

Unit: %

Source: Eurostat