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TRENDS IN  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
PRICES  
DEC '17

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ANACOM



AUTORIDADE  
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DE COMUNICAÇÕES

# Changes in telecommunications prices<sup>1</sup>

## Summary

- In December 2017, telecommunications prices<sup>1</sup> did not undergo any alteration compared to the previous month (+1.24% in December 2016).

On a year-on-year basis, prices decreased (-0.15%).

In average annual terms, prices increased by 2.35%, 0.98 percentage points (p.p.) over inflation (1.37%). The increase in prices reported was the 10th highest among the 43 products/services considered.

Since January 2014, telecommunications prices<sup>1</sup> have been increasing at average annual rates above the rate of change reported in the CPI.

- In December 2017, in average annual terms, Portugal reported the second highest increase in prices in the EU. On average, telecommunications prices<sup>1</sup> in the EU fell by 0.9%.

Since March 2011, telecommunications prices<sup>1</sup> have risen more in Portugal than in the EU.

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<sup>1</sup> "Telephone and telefax services" sub-index of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and of the Harmonized Indices of Consumer Prices (HICP), which comprises voice, Internet and subscription TV (STV) services acquired on a stand-alone basis or as part of a bundle of services. Analysis of the prices presented in this report should be complemented by an examination of the characteristics of the offers; this information is available in the reports: "Electronic communications bundles", "Fixed telephone service and nomadic VoIP", "Mobile services", "Internet access service" and "Subscription television service", all available on ANACOM's website.

## 1. Changes in telecommunications prices<sup>1</sup> in December 2017

According to INE<sup>2</sup>, in December 2017, telecommunications prices did not undergo any alteration compared to the previous month (+1.24% in December 2016)<sup>1</sup>.

Compared with the corresponding month of the previous year, and the average in the last 12 months, telecommunications prices<sup>1</sup> changed by -0.15% and by 2.35%, respectively.

**Table 1 - Change in Consumer Price Index (CPI) and in telecommunications prices<sup>1</sup>**

	December 2017			2016 Var. average 12 months
	Var. Year-on- year change	Var. average 12 months	Var. previous month	
<b>CPI</b>	1.47%	1.37%	-0.04%	0.61%
..Telecommunications <sup>1</sup>	-0.15%	2.35%	0.00%	2.61%
<b>Ranking in descending order (43 groups)</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>7</b>

Source: INE

Unit: %

**Note:** The difference between the average variation in the CPI and the telecommunications sub-index from the table in the last 12 months is different from that mentioned in the text due to rounding up.

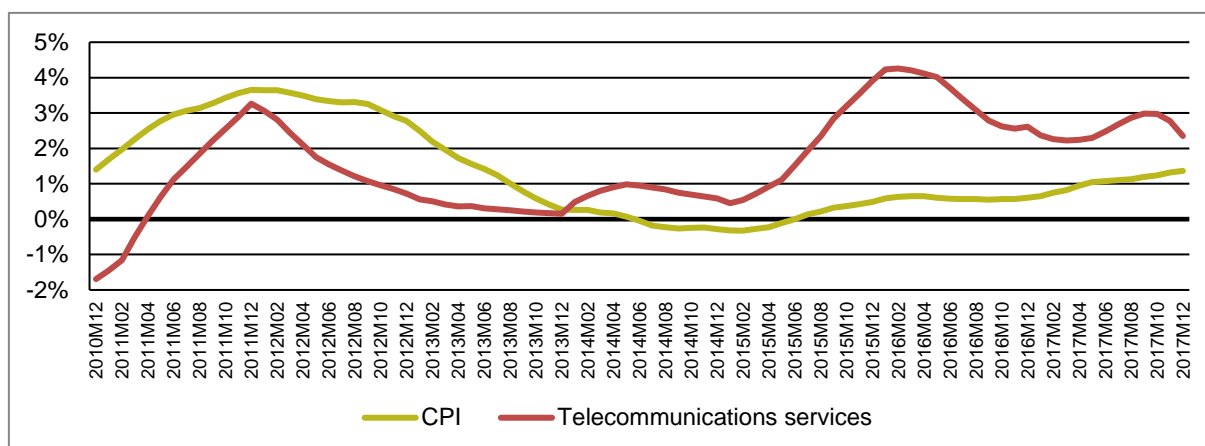
On a year-on-year basis, the decrease in prices (-0.15%) was the 31st highest among the sectors of the Portuguese economy. The year-on-year rate of change has not been negative since September 2014. The difference between the CPI was -1.61 percentage points (p.p.), the highest negative difference since September 2012.

In average annual terms, the increase in prices reported (2.35%) was the 10th highest among 43 products/services considered.

Since January 2014, telecommunications prices<sup>1</sup> have been increasing at average annual rates above the rate of change reported in the CPI. In December 2017, the difference between the two rates was reported at 0.98 percentage points (p.p.), the narrowest since February 2015.

<sup>2</sup> See "Consumer Price Index – December 2017" (INE, 2018), available at [https://www.ine.pt/xportal/xmain?xpid=INE&xpgid=ine\\_destaquas&DESTAQUESdest\\_boui=281092574&DESTAQUESmodo=2](https://www.ine.pt/xportal/xmain?xpid=INE&xpgid=ine_destaquas&DESTAQUESdest_boui=281092574&DESTAQUESmodo=2)

**Graph 1 -Average 12-month change in CPI and telecommunications prices<sup>1</sup>**



Source: INE  
Unit: %

## 2. Changes in telecommunication prices<sup>1</sup> in the UE.<sup>3</sup> in December 2017

According to EUROSTAT<sup>4</sup>, in December 2017, the increase in prices in average annual terms reported in Portugal was 3.3 percentage points above the EU average<sup>3</sup>, with Portugal the EU country with the second highest increase in prices. Latvia was the country where prices increased more than in Portugal.

On a year-on-year basis, the variation in telecommunications prices<sup>1</sup> in Portugal was the 13th highest among the EU countries<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> Information not available for the United Kingdom. Information available for Ireland from December 2016.

<sup>4</sup> See HICP- monthly data (EUROSTAT, 2017), 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 described at [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/HICP\\_methodology](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/HICP_methodology)

**Table 2 – Changes in telecommunications prices<sup>1</sup>: Portugal vs EU<sup>3</sup>**

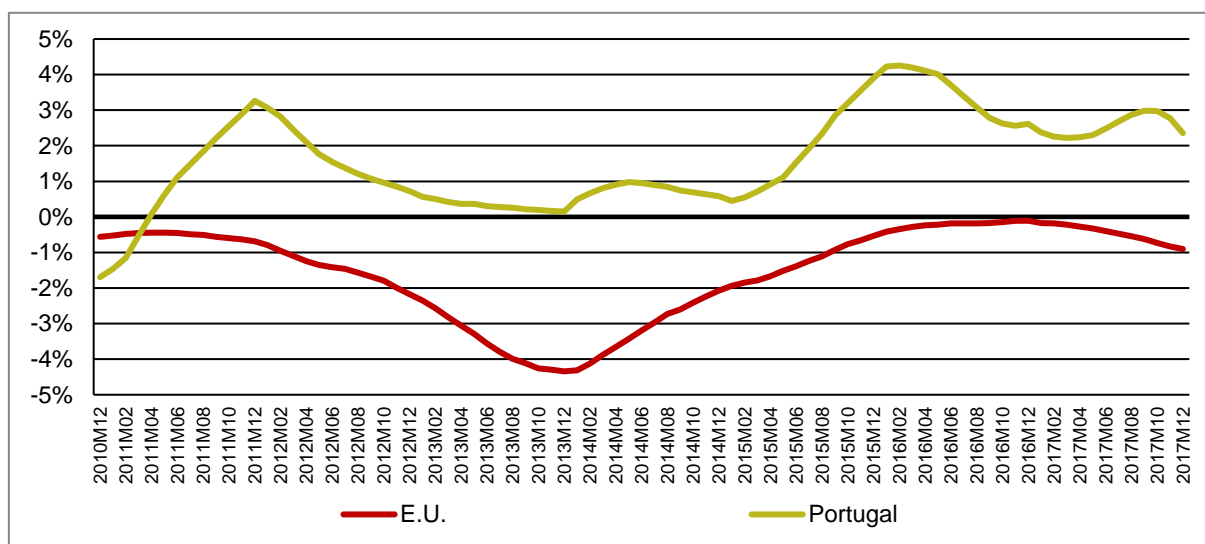
	December 2017			2016
	Var. Year-on-year change	Var. average 12 months	Var. previous month	Var. average 12 months
EU <sup>3</sup>	-1.0%	-0.9%	-0.1%	-0.1%
Portugal	-0.1%	2.4%	0.0%	2.6%
<b>Difference PT / E.U.<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>0.9 p.p.</b>	<b>3.3 p.p.</b>	<b>0.1 p.p.</b>	<b>2.7 p.p.</b>
<b>Ranking in descending order (26 countries)</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>

Source: EUROSTAT  
Unit: %, p.p.

**Note:** Information not available for the United Kingdom. Ireland was also not included in the ranking due to a lack of available information before December 2016.

Since April 2011, telecommunications prices<sup>1</sup> have risen more in Portugal than in the EU<sup>3</sup> (in average annual terms).

**Graph 2 - Average rate of change over the previous 12 months - telecommunications prices: Portugal vs EU<sup>3</sup>**



Source: EUROSTAT  
Unit: %

**Note:** From the publication, by EUROSTAT, on 25 February 2016, of data for January 2016, the reference year of the HICP series was changed from 2005 to 2015. There may be differences in the series due to rounding effects<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> For further information, go to <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/272892/272971/HICP+reference+year+2015%3D100/>.

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