

## **Methodological note on the consumer price index for April 2020 (impact of COVID19)**

As a result of the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), special measures of the Slovak government were in place in April to restrict the movement of people, to close outlets (excluding food shops, drugstores, pharmacies, fuel stations) and to stop selected services, which had a direct impact on the household consumption and consumer price index. The traditional survey of prices of goods and services was severely limited in April.

In this situation, Eurostat has laid down methodological guidelines for dealing with the harmonized price index (HICP), the calculation being guided by the following main principles: the stability of the HICP weights over the reference year; coverage of all price indices of the ECOICOP structure; minimizing the number of imputed (computed) indices. Uncollected prices due to closed outlets and stopped service operations and the cessation of field surveys should be replaced by prices from other available sources, e.g. sales websites, telephone and e-mail findings, scanner data.

If prices are not available, they must be imputed. The use of imputation methods is justified by the fact that even with the difficult compilation of CPI and HICP, it is necessary to maintain long-term time series of price indices, year-on-year developments and ensure calculation of mainly higher aggregates of the whole structure of ECOICOP classification and aggregate index.

The Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic used alternative data sources - scanner data - for the calculation of indices for food and alcoholic beverages. In other divisions, when imputing uncollected prices, the method of calculating prices by applying the month-on-month index from the previous year (April 2019 / March 2019) to the price from March 2020 was used, as well as the "carry forward" method. j. direct use of the March price as the April price.

Prices in the consumer basket, which are standardly collected from available price lists and web portals, from administrative sources were collected in the same way in April. This is a large part of the items, e.g. in the field of housing (prices of water, sewerage, energy and others), internet shopping, insurance, motor vehicles, telecommunications services, financial and legal services, pharmaceutical products.

You can find the relevant Eurostat documents [HERE](#)