

Statistical bulletin

# Consumption per head in the UK is fourth highest in the EU

A measure of material welfare of households of the 28 member states of the European Union using actual individual consumption per capita and gross domestic product per capita.

Contact:  
Sharne Bailey  
UKPPP@ons.gov.uk  
+44 (0) 1633 455894

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# 1 . Consumption per head in the UK is fourth highest in the EU

In 2016, consumption per head in the UK, measured using actual individual consumption (AIC) per head was fourth highest in the EU, behind Luxembourg, Germany and Austria. This is according to [new figures](#) recorded by Office for National Statistics (ONS) and compiled and released by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union<sup>1</sup>, on 14th December 2017.

AIC, which is a measure of material welfare of households, was 16% higher in the UK than the EU28 average; this compares with 15% higher in 2015. Luxembourg was again the highest in the EU (32% above the EU28 average), with Bulgaria the lowest (53% of the EU28 average). AIC per head is often used as a measure of households' material welfare as it incorporates all goods and services that a household consumes, whether they have purchased and paid for them themselves or not.

The data in this release for all countries within the EU use harmonised methodology and surveys to create a direct comparison between countries produced by the Eurostat Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) purchasing power parities programme.

In 2016, [price levels for consumer goods and services](#) differed widely across Europe. Price levels provide a comparison of countries price levels relative to the EU average. Denmark has the highest price levels among EU Member States, 41% above the average, whilst in Bulgaria the price level was 52% below the EU average. The UK had price levels of 22% above the EU average.

Tables 1 and 2 detail EU, European Free Trade Association, candidate and accession countries' ranking per capita in 2016 by actual individual consumption and gross domestic product respectively.



**Table 1: Countries' ranking by actual individual consumption (AIC) per capita in 2016**

sorted by 1) AIC in 2016 and 2) protocol order in case of all being equal

	AIC volume index per capita, EU28=100		
	2014	2015	2016
<b>EU-28</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Luxembourg	138	135	132
Germany	124	122	122
Austria	122	121	119
United Kingdom	115	115	116
Finland	114	114	114
Denmark	115	115	113
Belgium	115	114	112
France	112	111	111
Netherlands	113	112	111
Sweden	112	112	110
Italy	97	97	98
Ireland	94	96	96
Cyprus	89	91	91
Spain	87	89	89
Lithuania	81	83	85
Portugal	81	82	82
Malta	79	81	81
Czech Republic	78	78	78
Greece	80	79	77
Slovenia	76	76	76
Slovakia	76	76	76
Poland	74	74	74
Estonia	69	71	72
Latvia	65	65	67
Hungary	62	63	63
Romania	56	58	61
Croatia	59	59	59
Bulgaria	51	53	53
<b>EFTA<sup>1</sup> Countries</b>			
Norway	135	135	133
Switzerland	131	131	128
Iceland	113	112	114

**EU Candidate Countries**

Turkey	63	64	64
Montenegro	52	53	56
Serbia	46	46	46
FYR of Macedonia	40	41	41
Albania	37	38	37

**Accession Country**

Bosnia and Herzegovina	41	41	41
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Notes:

1. European Free Trade  
Association



**Table 2: Countries ranking by gross domestic product (GDP) per capita in 2016**



sorted by 1) GDP in 2016 and 2) protocol order in case of all being equal

GDP volume index per capita, EU28=100			
	2014	2015	2016
<b>EU-28</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Luxembourg	270	267	258
Ireland	137	181	183
Austria	130	130	128
Netherlands	130	129	128
Denmark	128	127	124
Germany	126	124	123
Sweden	124	125	123
Belgium	119	119	118
Finland	111	109	109
United Kingdom	109	108	107
France	107	105	104
Italy	96	95	97
Malta	90	93	96
Spain	90	91	92
Czech Republic	86	87	88
Cyprus	81	82	83
Slovenia	82	82	83
Portugal	77	77	77
Slovakia	77	77	77
Lithuania	75	75	75
Estonia	76	75	75
Greece	72	69	68
Poland	67	68	68
Hungary	68	68	67
Latvia	64	64	65
Croatia	59	59	60
Romania	55	56	58
Bulgaria	47	47	49
<b>EFTA<sup>1</sup> Countries</b>			
Switzerland	165	166	161
Norway	176	161	148

Iceland	119	123	128
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#### **EU Candidate Countries**

Turkey	64	65	64
Montenegro	41	42	45
Serbia	37	36	37
FYR of Macedonia	36	36	37
Albania	30	29	29

#### **Accession Country**

Bosnia and Herzegovina	31	31	32
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Notes:

1. European Free Trade Association

#### **Notes:**

1. ONS also produces economic well-being indicators for the UK in a quarterly release which presents indicators that adjust or supplement more traditional measures such as GDP to give a rounded and comprehensive basis for assessing changes in economic well-being.