

Statistical bulletin

Consumption per head in the UK: 2017

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.

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1 . Consumption per head in the UK is fifth highest in the EU

In 2017, consumption per head in the UK, measured using Actual Individual Consumption (AIC) per head was the fifth highest in the EU, behind Luxembourg, Germany, Austria and Denmark. 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 Union¹, on 13 December 2018.

AIC, which is a measure of material welfare of households, was 14% higher in the UK than the EU28 average; this compares with 15% higher in 2016. Luxembourg was again the highest in the EU (32% above the EU28 average), with Bulgaria the lowest (54% of the EU28 average). AIC per head is often used as a measure of households material welfare; it consists of consumer goods and services consumed by individuals, irrespective of whether these goods and services are purchased and paid for by households, by non-profit organisations or by government such as health and education services.

The data presented in this release for all countries in the EU are produced collaboratively by the Eurostat and OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) Purchasing Power Parities Programme. Harmonised methodology and surveys are used to create direct comparisons between countries.

In 2017, [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, 39% above the average, whilst in Bulgaria the price level was 50% below the EU average. The UK had price levels of 16% above the EU average.

Tables 1 and 2 detail EU, European Free Trade Association, candidate and accession countries' ranking per capita in 2017, by actual individual consumption and gross domestic product respectively.

Table 1: Countries ranking by actual individual consumption (AIC) per capita in 2017

Sorted by 1) AIC in 2017 and 2) protocol order in case all being equal

AIC volume index per capita, EU28=100			
	2015	2016	2017
EU-28	100	100	100
Luxembourg	140	134	132
Germany	122	122	122
Austria	121	119	117
Denmark	116	113	114
United Kingdom	115	115	114
Belgium	114	113	112
Finland	114	113	112
Netherlands	115	111	111
Sweden	113	110	109
France	110	110	108
Italy	97	98	98
Ireland	94	94	93
Cyprus	91	92	92
Spain	89	89	89
Lithuania	83	85	88
Czech Republic	78	79	82
Portugal	82	82	82
Malta	79	78	78
Slovenia	76	76	77
Greece	79	77	76
Poland	74	74	76
Slovakia	76	76	76
Estonia	71	72	73
Latvia	66	65	68
Romania	58	65	68
Croatia	59	61	62
Hungary	63	62	62
Bulgaria	53	53	54
EFTA¹ Countries			
Norway	130	127	127
Switzerland	131	126	124
Iceland	116	116	117
EU Candidate Countries			

Turkey	67	67	68
Montenegro	54	56	56
Serbia	46	46	45
FYR of Macedonia	41	42	41
Albania	38	37	39
Accession Country			
Bosnia and Herzegovina	41	41	41

Notes:

¹European Free Trade Association

Table 2: Countries ranking by gross domestic product (GDP) per capita in 2017

Sorted by 1) GDP in 2017 and 2) protocol order in case of all being equal

GDP volume index per capita, EU28=100			
	2015	2016	2017
EU-28	100	100	100
Luxembourg	266	260	253
Ireland	178	177	181
Netherlands	130	128	128
Denmark	127	126	128
Austria	129	128	127
Germany	124	124	124
Sweden	125	122	121
Belgium	118	118	117
Finland	109	109	109
United Kingdom	109	107	105
France	105	104	104
Italy	95	97	96
Malta	92	94	96
Spain	91	91	92
Czech Republic	87	88	89
Slovenia	82	83	85
Cyprus	82	84	85
Estonia	76	77	79
Lithuania	75	75	78
Portugal	77	77	77
Slovakia	77	77	76
Poland	69	68	70
Hungary	68	67	68
Greece	69	68	67
Latvia	64	64	67
Romania	56	59	63
Croatia	59	61	62
Bulgaria	47	48	49
EFTA¹ Countries			
Switzerland	165	160	156
Norway	156	145	146
Iceland	126	131	130
EU Candidate Countries			

Turkey	67	66	67
Montenegro	42	44	46
FYR of Macedonia	36	37	36
Serbia	36	37	36
Albania	30	30	30
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Accession Country			
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Bosnia and Herzegovina	30	31	32
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Notes:

1. European Free Trade Association

Notes on: Consumption per head in the UK is fifth highest in the EU

1. ONS also produces economic well-being indicators for the UK in a quarterly release that 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.