

Press release: 12.241-081/20

Inflation decreased to 1.5% in April 2020 (HICP: 1.5%)

Vienna, 2020-05-20 – In April 2020, the **inflation rate** was 1.5%, as Statistics Austria reports (March 2020: 1.6%). Lower prices for fuels were mainly responsible for the decrease of the April inflation rate. Price increases for housing, water and energy (+2.3% compared to April 2019) remained the most important price driver, followed by those for food (+2.6%). The index level of the consumer price index 2015 (CPI 2015) was 108.1 in April 2020. Compared to the previous month, the average price level remained unchanged with $\pm 0.0\%$.

COVID-19 lockdown measures had a significant impact on the **calculation** of the April inflation rate. The price surveys for the consumer price index were changed from in-store collection to other methods like internet price collection and the use of scanner data. Where necessary, imputation methods like seasonal imputation, all items imputation or carry-forward were applied. For about 26% of the weight of the basket of goods and services, various other methods were applied due to missing price information in April 2020. For further in-depth explanation of the general principles and applied computation rules, please refer to the [methodological information note](#) on the compilation of the CPI in the context of COVID-19.

The index level of the **harmonised index of consumer prices (HICP 2015)** was 108.75 in April 2020, with the harmonised inflation rate amounting to 1.5%.

For more detailed information please refer to the [German version](#).