

### **Inflation decreased to 1.2% in December 2020 (HICP: 1.0%)**

**Vienna**, 2021-01-20 – In December 2020, the **inflation rate** was 1.2%, as Statistics Austria reports (November 2020: 1.3%). Housing, water and energy (+2.1% compared to December 2019) remained the most important price driver. The index level of the consumer price index 2015 (CPI 2015) was 109.4 in December 2020. Compared to the previous month, the average price level increased by 0.6%.

The measures to contain COVID-19 and the "hard lockdown" in December had a strong impact on the **calculation** of the December inflation rate. Several measures affected the sectors gastronomy, culture, tourism, entertainment, leisure and sport as in November ("lockdown light"). Furthermore, the price surveys for the consumer price index were changed from in-store collection to other methods like internet price collection (in particular the retail sector) and the use of scanner data (in particular supermarkets and drugstores). Where necessary, imputation methods like seasonal imputation, all items imputation or carry-forward were applied. In total, this affected about 20.3% of the weight of the basket of goods and services. For further in-depth explanation of the general principles and applied computation methods, 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 109.79 in December 2020, with a harmonised inflation rate at 1.0%.

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