

3 January 2011

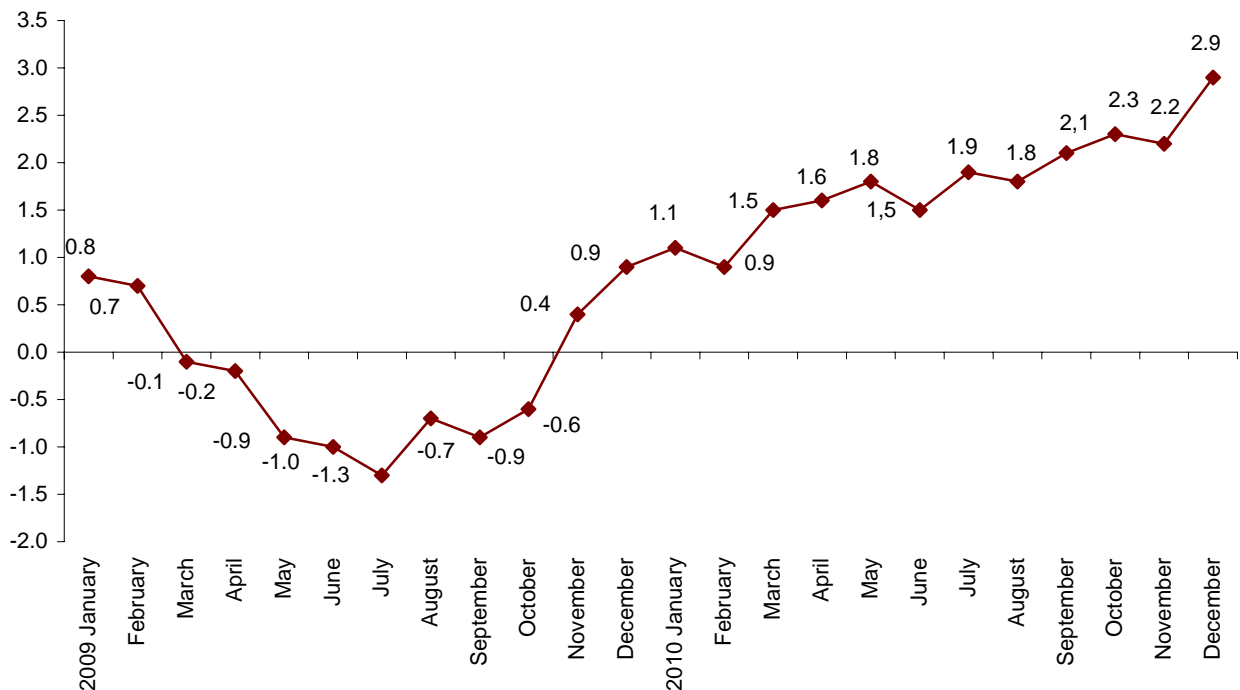
**Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) flash estimate
December 2010**

**The HICP flash estimate registers its annual change as 2% in
December**

The HICP annual inflation is expected to be 2.9% in December 2010, according to the flash estimate produced by the INE.

This indicator provides a preview of the HICP that, if confirmed, would imply a decrease of seven tenths in its annual change, since in November this change was 2.2%. This performance was mostly explained by the increase in prices of *tobacco* and of *fuels and lubricants for personal transport equipment*.

**Annual evolution of the HICP ⁽¹⁾
Overall index**



⁽¹⁾ The last figure refers to the flash estimate

Methodological note

The INE prepares this indicator with the aim of incorporating it into the calculation of the HICP flash estimate of the European Monetary Union (EMU) published by Eurostat. Obtaining this EMU flash estimate forms part of the Eurostat and European Central Bank policy of offering timely and quality data that is comparable with that produced by the United States.

The flash estimate is calculated using the same methodology as that used for the HICP. The difference between both indicators lies in the information used. In the case of the flash estimate, several statistical modelling methods are used to estimate the information that is not yet available at the time of publication.

The flash estimate provides information only as a guideline, and therefore it does not have to coincide with the HICP data.

For further information see [INEbase-\[www.ine.es/en/welcome_en.htm\]\(http://www.ine.es/en/welcome_en.htm\)](http://www.ine.es/en/welcome_en.htm) All press releases at: www.ine.es/en/prensa/prensa_en.htm

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