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Use of COICOP in the European Union

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In the EU, three versions of COICOP are used:

1. COICOP/HICP which is used in the context of the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices.
2. COICOP/NA/PPS used in National Accounts, mainly for the definition of the Purchasing Power Parities (PPP), and developed in cooperation with the OECD.
3. COICOP/HBS used in the Household Budget Surveys¹.

The table below presents some information on these classifications.

Table 1: Main characteristics of detailed classifications used

Classification	No of levels	No of positions in total	Characteristics
COICOP/HICP	4	127	
COICOP/PPS/NA	5	350	Additional information on food but also on actual rentals, furnishings and motor cars.
COICOP/HBS	5	380	Additional information on mainly food

Compared to the COICOP/HICP, PPS/NA and HBS classifications as have more detail, particularly as regards 01 Food, 03 Clothing, 05 Furnishings and, to a lesser extent, 07 Transport, 08 Communication and 10 Education.

PPS/NA and HBS are very similar with a few exceptions: HBS recommends more detail on fruit and vegetables compared to PPS/NA, whereas the PPS/NA classification shows more detail in relation to 04.1 Actual rentals, 05.1 Furnishings and 07.1 Motor cars.

COICOP/HICP

The mandatory use of COICOP/HICP 2000 was established via an EU Commission regulation of 1996, for the monthly provision of indices and sub-indices of consumer prices. A revised version of COICOP/HICP is being developed, which includes more details (around 900 positions, adding 5th and 6th digit), taking into account national practices in several EU Member States.

COICOP/HICP includes detailed explanatory notes.

The table below presents an overview over the indicative number of positions which was set out initially and the achieved number given the structure of the EU25 weights for 2004.

¹ As recommended in the Structured Project Descriptions (SPDs) developed by the World Bank through the International Comparison Programme (ICP). The background and the use of SPDs are described in chapter 5 of the ICP handbook.

Table: Number of detailed COICOP/HICP 2007 positions

COI-COP	Label	EU25 weights	Position at 5th level	Positions at 6th level
01	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	152	54	77
02	Alcoholic beverages, tobacco	44	13	13
03	Clothing and footwear	71	20	36
04	Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	145	18	28
05	Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the House	75	39	77
06	Health	37	15	0
07	Transport	149	25	41
08	Communication	29	8	18
09	Recreation and culture	104	45	127
10	Education	11	5	11
11	Restaurants and hotels	99	11	24
12	Miscellaneous goods and services	85	25	42
Total		1000	278	494
Cumulative total (rounded)		127*	405	899

* Cumulative total for first four levels.

Next activities

Within the activities related to the implementation of NACE Rev. 2 and CPA 2007, the Eurostat Classification Section intends to develop correspondence tables between the three versions of COICOP mentioned above and CPA 2007. Whenever possible, the work will be performed in cooperation with the relevant international organisations (UNSD, OECD, WB).