



Monthly analysis of inflation developments

November 2014



Article 3 (1) of the Central Bank Act (Act CXXXIX of 2013 on the Magyar Nemzeti Bank) defines the achievement and maintenance of price stability as the Magyar Nemzeti Bank's primary objective. Assessments of inflation developments have key importance in monetary policy decision-making. The MNB attaches a high priority to informing the general public on a continuous basis and thereby to improving the transparency and predictability of its decisions. Consistent with this principle, the Magyar Nemzeti Bank produces publicly available analyses of its assessments of inflation developments and the extent of medium-term inflationary effects on a monthly basis.

The analysis has been prepared by the Economic Forecasts and Analysis Directorate and approved by Dániel Palotai, Executive Director responsible for monetary policy.

The publicly available analyses and the related statistical databases are accessible on the MNB's website at:

http://english.mnb.hu/Statiztika/data-and-information/mnben_statiztikai_idosorok/mnben_elv_prices/underlying_inflation_indicators_MNB

ASSESSMENT OF INFLATION DATA FOR NOVEMBER 2014

In November 2014, the consumer price index stood at -0.7 per cent. Core inflation and core inflation adjusted for the effects of indirect taxes were 1.2 per cent in the month. Both consumer price inflation and core inflation fell by 0.3 percentage point relative to October. The fall in inflation in November was mainly accounted for by the decline in the price index for motor fuels (Chart 1).

The Bank's measures of *underlying inflation developments* (annual inflation rates of demand-sensitive and sticky-price products) were broadly unchanged *relative to the previous month* and have remained in the of range 1.5–2.0 per cent for a period of nearly two years now. The levels of the measures continue to indicate a moderate inflation environment (Chart 2).

Below is a brief analysis of changes in the prices of items determining medium-term inflation developments.

Tradables prices rose slightly relative to the same period a year earlier. Inflation of both durable and *non-durable goods* reflected moderate dynamics in the month.

Services prices were unchanged compared with October (Chart 3). Price changes were generally modest within this product group. In the case of market services, end-of-year repricing is rather rare.

The seasonally adjusted level of *processed food* prices fell relative to the previous month, mainly reflecting the decline in the price index for dairy products.

Budapest, 11 December 2014

Chart 1: The consumer price index and core inflation excluding indirect taxes
(annual percentage changes, January 2007 – November 2014)

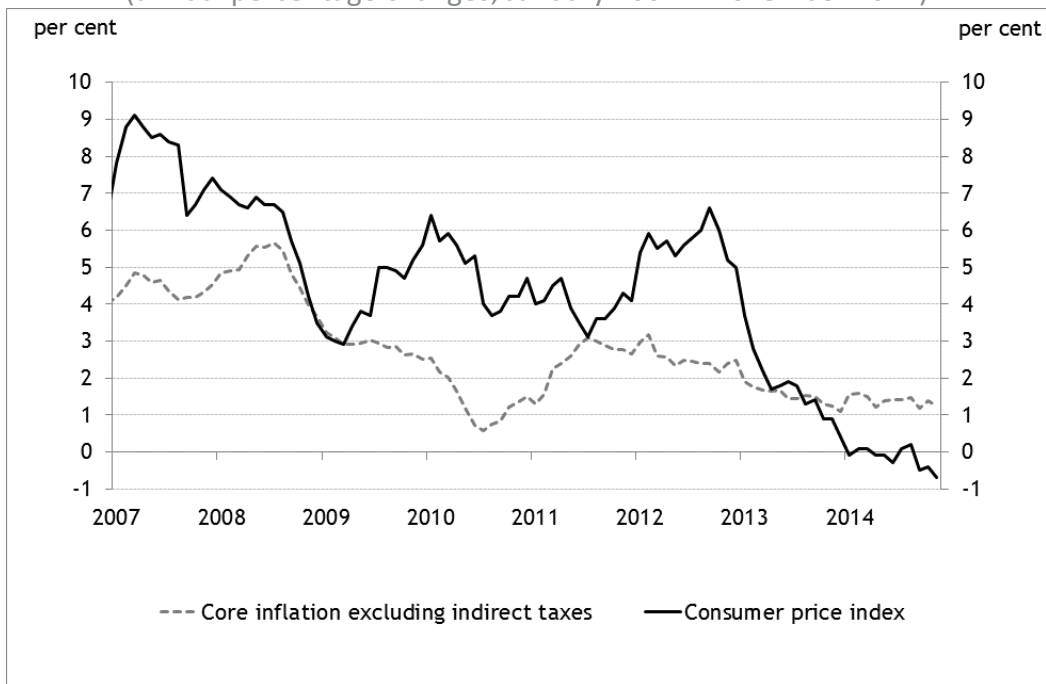
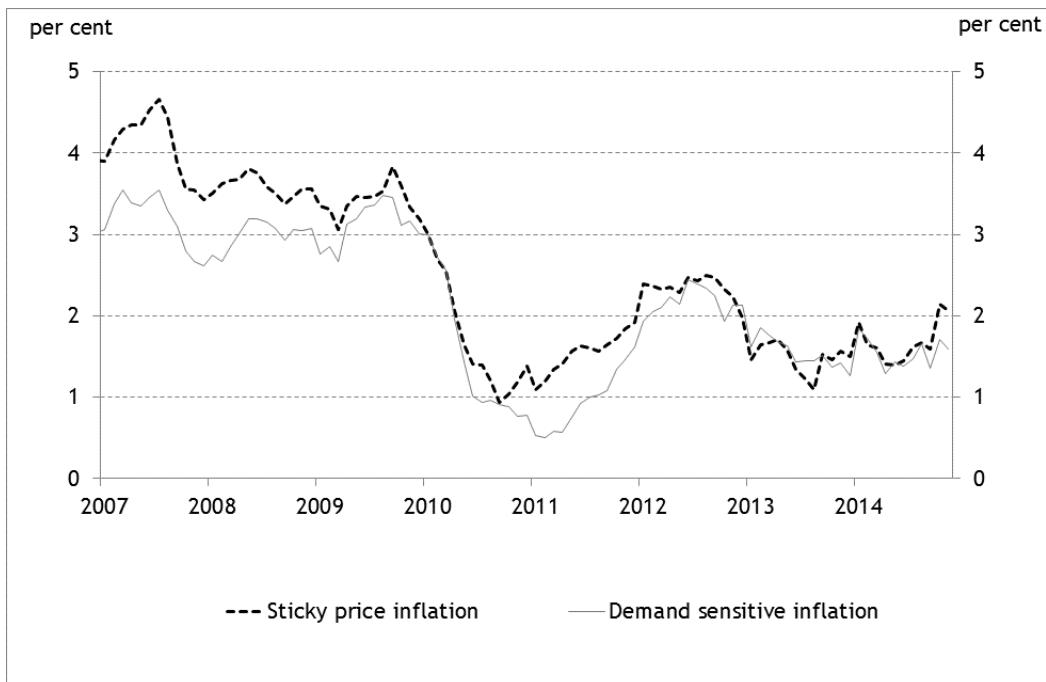


Chart 2: Underlying inflation indicators

(excluding indirect taxes, annual percentage changes, January 2007 – November 2014)



Note: Demand-sensitive inflation is derived by eliminating processed food prices from core inflation. Inflation of sticky-price products is composed of items of the consumer price index where maximum 15 per cent of elementary prices change monthly on average. MNB calculation based on data released by the CSO.

Table 1: Annual change in the consumer price index and contribution of the measures of underlying inflation

Consumer price index, November 2014 (CSO)					
-0.7% (annual change)					
MNB underlying inflation indicators (MNB calculation)					
Contribution of sticky price inflation (percentage point), weight 31,3%	0.6	Contribution of demand sensitive inflation (percentage point), weight 52,8%	0.8	Contribution of core inflation excluding indirect taxes (percentage point), weight 65.6%	0.8
Contribution of other items (percentage point)	-1.3	Contribution of other items (percentage point)	-1.5	Contribution of other items (percentage point)	-1.5

Sources: CSO and the MNB's own calculations.

The sum of contributions may differ from the official figures due to rounding.