

Can Adalimumab Serve as 'Big Mac Index' for Pharmaceutical Prices?

Team: Valentin Kandler, Stefan Fischer, Peter Schneider

Background

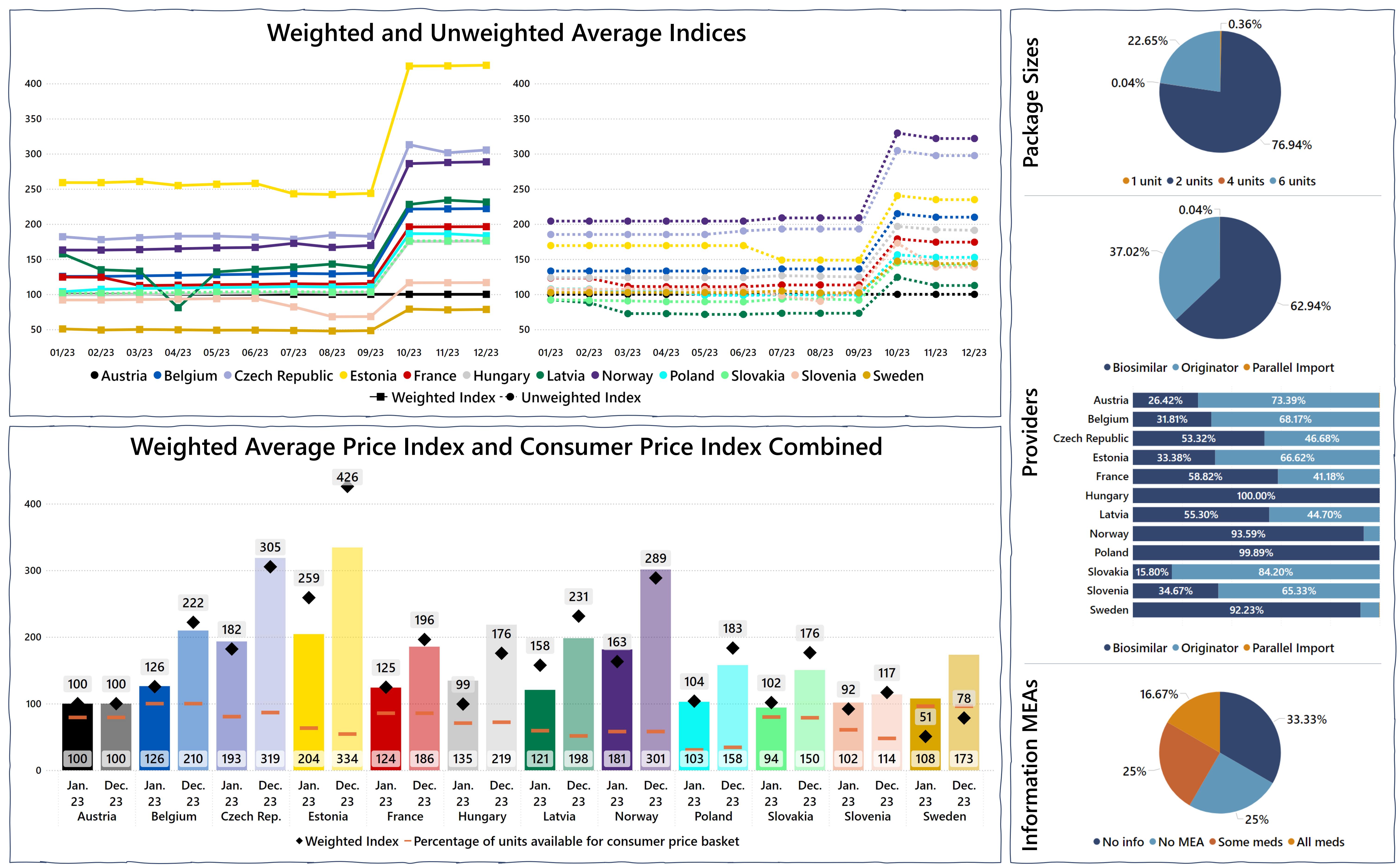
- Indices offer a statistical overview of pharmaceutical prices across countries.
- But there are challenges: Products may not be available in all countries, and outliers must be identified and excluded.

Methods

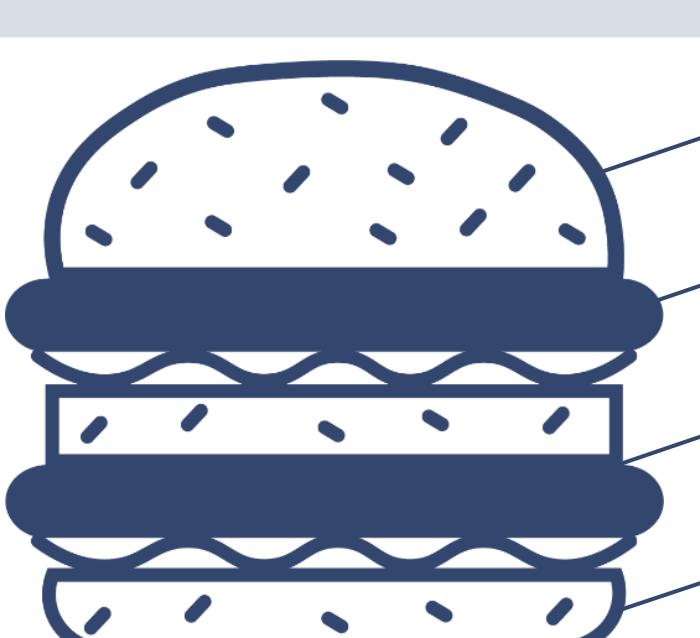
- Data source: EURIPID Database (2023 prices and volumes).
- Products: Original manufacturer + 7 biosimilars (adalimumab 40 mg, TNF-alpha inhibitor).
- Index calculation: Based on unweighted and weighted average ex-factory prices, using fixed exchange rate.
- Consumer price index calculation: Jan & Dec 2023, 18 pharmaceutical presentations with >1% share of total units, covering >95% of total units, comparable averages used when data was missing.

Results

- Price and volume data for 12 countries (AT, BE, CZ, EE, FR, HU, LV, NO, PO, SI, SK, SE), providing volume information for 56 and price information for 88 pharmaceutical presentations, totaling 6,859 prices and 2,748 volumes.



Conclusion



- Weighted average prices address key comparison challenges.
- Impact: Reflects real differences in price levels and prescription volumes.
- Advantage: More accurate representation of relevance of different products.
- Analogy: Like the Big Mac Index, it enables fast, harmonised cross-country price comparisons.

Gesundheit Österreich GmbH, Stubenring 6, 1010 Wien www.goeg.at