

## First Release

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# CONSUMER PRICE INDICES, MARCH 2025

In March 2025 compared to March 2024 (at the annual level), the prices of goods and services for personal consumption, measured by the consumer price index, increased by **3.2%** on average, while, compared to February 2025 (at the monthly level), they increased by **0.4%** on average.

**Observing the main divisions of the ECOICOP classification, at the annual level**, the highest increase on average in consumer prices was recorded in the following divisions: Restaurants and hotels, of 9.4% (contribution to the growth of +0.48 percentage points), Recreation and culture as well as Miscellaneous goods and services, of 5.7% in each division (contribution to the growth of +0.30 percentage points in the division Recreation and culture and +0.36 percentage points in the division Miscellaneous goods and services), Health, of 5.4% (+0.17 percentage points), Education, of 5.3% (+0.04 percentage points), Food and non-alcoholic beverages, of 4.7% (+1.25 percentage points), Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels, of 4.5% (+0.76 percentage points) and Alcoholic beverages and tobacco, of 2.6% (+0.13 percentage points). The increase in prices at the annual level was alleviated by a decrease in the prices in the divisions of Clothing and footwear, of 2.7% (contribution to the decrease of -0.18 percentage points) and Communication, of 1.3% (-0.07 percentage points).

**At the monthly level**, the highest increase in prices on average was recorded in the divisions of Clothing and footwear, of 8.9% (contribution to the increase of +0.60 percentage points), Communication, of 2.2% (+0.11 percentage points), Health as well as Restaurants and hotels, of 1.0% in each division (contribution to the increase of +0.03 percentage points in the division Health and +0.05 percentage points in the division Restaurants and hotels). The increase in prices at the monthly level was alleviated by a decrease in the prices in the divisions Transport, of 1.3% (contribution to the decrease of -0.18 percentage points), Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance, of 0.7% (-0.04 percentage points), Recreation and culture, of 0.6% (-0.03 percentage points) and Food and non-alcoholic beverages, of 0.3% (-0.08 percentage points).

**According to the main components of the index (special aggregates), at the annual level**, an increase in prices was recorded in the components of Services, of 6.0%, Food, beverages and tobacco, of 4.4%, and Energy, of 1.9%. The increase in prices at the annual level was alleviated by a decrease in prices in the component of Non-food industrial goods without energy, of 0.2%. **At the monthly level**, an increase in prices was recorded in the components of Non-food industrial goods without energy, of 2.1%, and Services, of 0.7%, while a decrease in prices was recorded in the components of Energy, of 1.5% and Food, beverages and tobacco, of 0.2%.

## Harmonised index of consumer prices

In March 2025, the prices of goods and services for personal consumption, measured by the harmonised index of consumer prices, increased by **4.3%** on average compared to March 2024 (at the annual level) and by **0.4%** on average compared to February 2025 (at the monthly level).

## 1 CONSUMER PRICE INDICES, MARCH 2025, RATES OF CHANGE<sup>1)</sup>

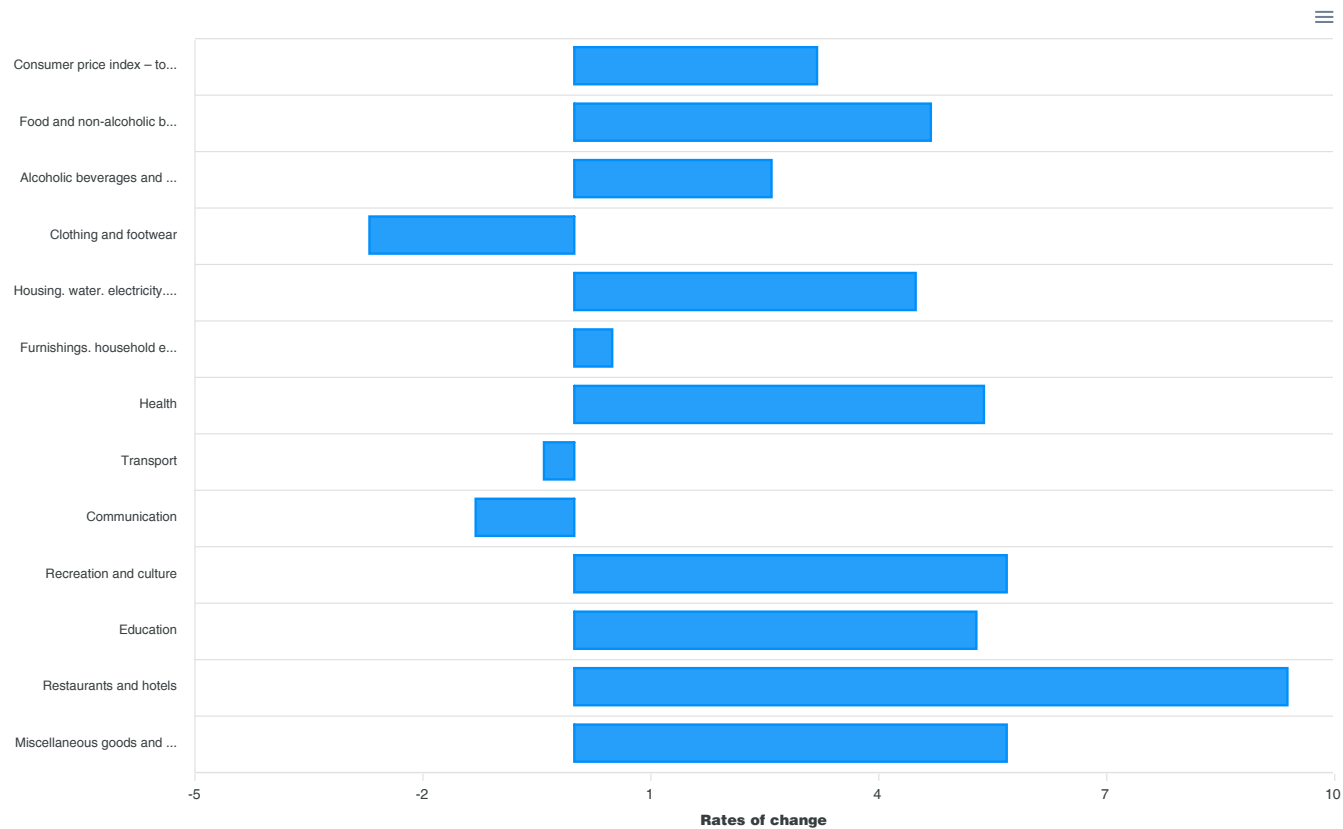
ECOICOP		Weights <sup>2)</sup>	<u>III 2025</u> <sup>3)</sup> Ø 2015	<u>III 2025</u> III 2024	<u>III 2025</u> II 2025
<b>00</b>	<b>Consumer price index – total</b>	<b>1 000,00</b>	<b>132,3</b>	<b>3,2</b>	<b>0,4</b>
01	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	266,48	149,5	4,7	-0,3
02	Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	49,84	140,2	2,6	0,2
03	Clothing and footwear	67,06	111,2	-2,7	8,9
04	Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	168,88	124,3	4,5	0,1
05	Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	56,59	129,0	0,5	-0,7
06	Health	31,50	125,8	5,4	1,0
07	Transport	136,27	124,5	-0,4	-1,3
08	Communication	50,00	101,1	-1,3	2,2
09	Recreation and culture	51,84	127,9	5,7	-0,6
10	Education	7,10	116,2	5,3	0,0
11	Restaurants and hotels	51,13	176,5	9,4	1,0
12	Miscellaneous goods and services	63,31	134,7	5,7	0,2

1) Detailed ECOICOP classification and time series of the consumer price indices can be downloaded at [PC-AXIS databases](#) under Prices section.

2) Weights of the consumer price indices according to the detailed ECOICOP classification can be downloaded at [PC-AXIS databases](#) under Prices section.

3) Indices.

G-1 CONSUMER PRICE INDICES, MARCH 2025, MONTHLY RATES OF CHANGE



G-2 CONSUMER PRICE INDICES, MARCH 2005 – MARCH 2025, ANNUAL RATES OF CHANGE



## 2 CONSUMER PRICE INDICES, SPECIAL AGGREGATES, MARCH 2025, RATES OF CHANGE

	Weights	III 2025 <sup>1)</sup> Ø 2015	III 2025 III 2024	III 2025 II 2025
<b>Goods</b>	<b>739,86</b>	<b>132,2</b>	<b>2,2</b>	<b>0,3</b>
Food, beverages and tobacco	316,32	148,1	4,4	-0,2
Unprocessed food	85,95	139,8	4,4	-0,4
Processed food	230,37	151,5	4,4	-0,1
Energy	158,20	125,1	1,9	-1,5
Non-food industrial goods without energy	265,34	119,0	-0,2	2,1
<b>Services</b>	<b>260,14</b>	<b>132,2</b>	<b>6,0</b>	<b>0,7</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 000,00</b>	<b>132,3</b>	<b>3,2</b>	<b>0,4</b>
Total, without energy	841,80	133,7	3,5	0,8
Total, without energy and food	602,07	127,9	3,2	1,2
Total, without energy, food, beverages and tobacco	525,48	125,6	2,9	1,4
Total, without energy and unprocessed food	755,85	133,2	3,3	0,9

1) Indices.

## 3 HARMONISED INDICES OF CONSUMER PRICES, MARCH 2025, RATES OF CHANGE<sup>1)</sup>

ECOICOP		Weights <sup>2)</sup>	III 2025 <sup>3)</sup> Ø 2015	III 2025 III 2024	III 2025 II 2025
<b>00</b>	<b>Harmonised index of consumer prices – total</b>	<b>1 000,00</b>	<b>135,28</b>	<b>4,3</b>	<b>0,4</b>
01	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	266,48	149,97	5,1	-0,3
02	Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	49,84	144,55	5,6	0,4
03	Clothing and footwear	67,06	111,73	-2,6	9,5
04	Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	168,88	125,76	4,9	-0,3
05	Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	56,59	126,40	0,5	-0,6
06	Health	31,50	129,42	5,4	1,0
07	Transport	136,27	123,53	-0,2	-1,2
08	Communication	50,00	100,19	-2,3	1,7
09	Recreation and culture	51,84	126,92	6,0	-0,9
10	Education	7,10	116,20	5,4	0,0
11	Restaurants and hotels	51,13	168,41	10,4	1,6
12	Miscellaneous goods and services	63,31	135,38	5,6	0,1

1) Detailed ECOICOP classification and time series of the consumer price indices can be downloaded at [PC-AXIS databases](#) under Prices section and on the [Eurostat website](#).

2) Weights of the consumer price indices according to the detailed ECOICOP classification can be downloaded at [PC-AXIS databases](#) under Prices section and on the [Eurostat website](#).

3) Indices.

# NOTES ON METHODOLOGY

## Definitions

**Consumer price index (CPI)** is used as a general measure of inflation in the Republic of Croatia and reflects the changes in the prices of goods and services acquired, used or paid over time by a reference population (private households) for consumption purposes. In addition, it is used to guarantee the value of contracts with index clauses (e.g. for indexing wages and salaries in collective agreements, for indexing pensions, etc.), as well as for the comparison of the price movements within a particular country between different economy sectors, it can serve as a basis for deflating individual categories of national accounts data and other statistical series as well as for analytical purposes.

**Harmonised index of consumer prices (HICP)** is a set of European consumer price indices calculated according to a harmonised approach and a special set of definitions, which enable a comparable measure of inflation in the euro area, the European Union, the European Economic Area, and in candidate countries.

CPI and HICP are calculated on the basis of the same representative basket of goods and services. The main difference is the coverage of the population (HICP includes the total consumption of institutional households and non-residents in the economic territory and this consumption is not included in the national consumer price index).

While the CPI is most often applied as a general measure of inflation within the national framework, the HICP is a comparable measure of inflation among the countries of the European Union.

## Coverage and price collection

The CPI covers all goods and services purchased by the reference population for the purpose of final consumption. Imputed rents, expenditure on lotteries and gambling as well as life insurance services are not included.

Most of the prices of goods and services from the basket are collected by authorised price collectors using tablet computers at nine geographical locations (Zagreb, Slavonski Brod, Osijek, Sisak, Rijeka, Pula, Split, Dubrovnik and Varaždin). For the selected products from the basket, price collectors independently choose a specific product offer whose price will be recorded at the outlet. In order to make sure that collectors record the prices of the same items each month as well as to monitor which product offers are selected at outlets, price collectors also record a pre-defined set of additional product characteristics. Such a method of price collection enables the monitoring of changes in prices between two periods, but not the comparison of average prices between different geographic locations.

In addition to the prices collected directly by price collectors at outlets (local price collection), data on nationally homogenous prices are collected directly from reporting units or via the internet (central price collection).

The majority of prices collected using the traditional method are monitored once a month, on approximately the same day of the month. The prices of agricultural products sold in marketplaces and the prices of passenger air transport are recorded twice a month. The prices of fuel for passenger cars, the prices of package holidays, the prices of apartment rents, and the prices of accommodation in camps are recorded weekly. The prices of schoolbooks and education fees are recorded once a year.

In addition to the traditional data collection method for selected groups of products (market rents, household appliances, and electronics), prices are also collected twice a week using the web scraping technique. Since January 2025, concerning the selected products according to the European Classification of Individual Consumption according to Purpose (hereinafter referred to as: ECOICOP) in the divisions of Food and non-alcoholic beverages and Alcoholic beverages, scanner data for the first two full weeks from three retail chains (Monday to Sunday) have been used for the calculation of indices.

## Weights

The weights used for calculating the indices reflect the relative importance of the sampled goods or services in the total consumption of households within the domestic territory.

The main data source for determining the weights used in the calculation of the CPIs is the Household Budget Survey (HBS), which is supplemented by available additional data sources. Since January 2025, the calculation of the CPIs has been based on the weights derived from data on household expenditures from the HBS, recalculated to December 2024 prices.

The main data source for determining the weights for the calculation of the HICP at higher levels of aggregation are the national accounts data, whereas for lower levels of aggregation, the data from the HBS are used. Since January 2025, the calculation of the HICP has been based on estimated national accounts data on household final consumption expenditure for 2024, supplemented by additional available data sources and recalculated to the difference between the 2024 average and December 2024.

## Classification

The classification of products is carried out according to ECOICOP.

## Calculation of indices

### The traditional data collection method

The elementary aggregate indices are compiled as a ratio of the geometric means of prices for each geographical location. It means that prices for product-offers within elementary aggregates in the current month are compared to prices of the reference period (December of the previous year). From the elementary aggregate indices at the level of geographical locations, the elementary aggregate indices at the national level are calculated using the formula for the weighted arithmetic mean.

## Scanner data

For each retail chain, average unit prices at the GTIN code level are calculated, dividing the turnover by the quantities sold per item. A dynamic basket uses a set of filters and algorithms to select a matched sample of items for each month compared to the previous one. From the calculated average unit prices at the GTIN code level which constitute the elementary aggregate, the geometric mean of the price relatives for each retail chain is calculated by comparing all unit prices of the current month with the unit prices of the previous month (unweighted Jevons formula).

For each elementary aggregate by retail chain, indices are calculated in relation to the reference period (December of the previous year). From the monthly indices in relation to the reference period, the indices of elementary aggregates at the national level are calculated by the weighted arithmetic mean, with the weights of retail chains constituting their market shares.

## Aggregating of indices

Aggregated indices, i.e. indices at higher levels according to the Laspeyres-type formula, are calculated using weighted arithmetic mean from integrated individual indices of elementary aggregates.

## Harmonised index of consumer prices at constant tax rates (HICP-CT)

HICP-CT is the harmonised index of consumer prices where the rates of taxes on products are kept constant in the observation period compared to the reference period, i.e. through time. In the event of a tax rate change, the difference between the current HICP-CT and the HICP indicates the effect of the tax rate change on the price changes assuming that changes in tax rates are applied instantaneously and fully.

Time series of the total HICP-CT can be downloaded on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics at [PC-AXIS databases](#) under Prices section, while a detailed breakdown according to the ECOICOP classification is available on the [Eurostat website](#).

## Abbreviations

ECOICOP	European Classification of Individual Consumption according to Purpose
Eurostat	Statistical Office of the European Union
GTIN	Global Trade Item Number

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