

CONSUMER PRICE INDICES METHODOLOGICAL CHANGES FROM 2026

Introduction

With the publication of data for January 2026, several methodological changes are introduced in the calculation and publication of the national Consumer Price Index (CPI), the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) and the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices at Constant Tax Rates (HICP-CT).

In line with the [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2024/3159](#), that amended the Regulation (EU) 2016/792, harmonised indices of consumer prices are compiled according to the new [European Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose, version 2](#) (ECOICOP ver. 2) and a new category 'Games of chance' is included in the calculation.

In accordance with the [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2025/1182](#), the reference period for indices (base year) for harmonised indices of consumer prices is changed from 2015 = 100 to 2025 = 100.

Given that the national CPI is calculated according to a methodology that is in line with Eurostat's methodology for the harmonised indices of consumer prices, all changes are simultaneously applied to the national CPI as well.

ECOICOP, version 2

The Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP) is the international standard classification of household expenditure developed by the United Nations Statistical Commission, adopted in 1999. The European Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (ECOICOP) was developed by Eurostat at the five-digit level. It is based on COICOP and aligned with the UN four-digit version.

The [UN COICOP 2018](#) is the most recent COICOP, endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2018 as the internationally accepted standard. Within the EU, the COICOP 2018 is referred to as the European Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose, version 2 (ECOICOP ver. 2). The ECOICOP ver. 2 is identical to the UN COICOP 2018 down to the five-digit level.

The main differences between ECOICOP and ECOICOP ver. 2:

- ECOICOP ver. 2 distinguishes between goods and services wherever possible, and new classes and subclasses for services such as repair, maintenance, installation, and rental of products have been created. Changes in classes and subclasses have resulted from reclassifications and changes in their content.
- ECOICOP division 07 (Transport) contains transportation of passengers, while the ECOICOP ver. 2 also includes the transportation of goods (delivery fees), previously included in the purchase of goods.
- ECOICOP divisions 08 (Communication) and 09 (Recreation and culture) have been significantly revised. In the ECOICOP ver. 2, division 08 is renamed to Information and communication and includes new types of information and communications equipment and services. Also, it includes some products and services previously classified in division 09 (Recreation, sport and culture).
- ECOICOP division 12 (Miscellaneous goods and services) was too heterogeneous, and it was split in the ECOICOP ver. 2 into division 12 (Insurance and financial services) and division 13 (Personal care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services).

The ECOICOP ver. 2 classification and the correspondence table to the ECOICOP classification can be found on the Eurostat website: [Classifications – Eurostat](#).

The Croatian Bureau of Statistics (CBS) publishes data on the national consumer price index and harmonised indices according to the ECOICOP ver. 2, with the January 2026 index. The transition to the ECOICOP ver. 2 classification does not change the publication date in the [Calendar of Statistical Data Issues](#) of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics.

Previously disseminated data according to the ECOICOP classification are frozen and remain available in the database of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics.

The historical back series according to the ECOICOP ver. 2 is published as well and it covers the period from 1999 to 2025 for the CPI, the period from 1998 to 2025 for the HICP and the period from 2003 to 2025 for the HICP-CT. The compilation of the back series according to the ECOICOP ver. 2 followed the harmonised HICP methodology defined by Eurostat.

According to the Eurostat requirement for the HICP, the total indices according to the ECOICOP ver.2 should remain the same for the whole back series up to the second decimal place.

Reference period for indices 2025 = 100

In accordance with the [Regulation \(EU\) 2016/792](#), the harmonised indices of consumer prices have to be rescaled to a new common reference period for indices every 10 years after the last rescaling, starting from 2015. The rescaling according to the new reference period for indices takes effect with the index for January of the following year, after the reference period for indices.

Pursuant to the [Regulation \(EU\) 2016/792](#) and in accordance with the [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2025/1182](#), the new common reference period for the harmonised indices shall be 2025.

In line with the Commission Implementing Regulation, and with the publication of data for January 2026, the new reference period for indices (base period) for the HICP and the HICP-CT is 2025 = 100, replacing the previous reference period for indices of 2015 = 100. The change of the reference period for indices is simultaneously applied to the national CPI as well.

Historical series of consumer price indices are rescaled to 2025 = 100 at the same time as the introduction of the ECOICOP ver. 2.

Although rescaling to the new base period for indices of 2025 = 100 does not in principle affect the previously published rates of change, in some cases slight changes may occur due to rounding.

1. Games of chance

Games of chance were historically not covered in the calculation of indices because of the lack of sufficient methodological harmonisation at the European level. The necessary harmonised methodology for games of chance was established in December 2024, when Eurostat's [recommendations on the classification of the category 'Games of chance' in the HICP](#) were introduced.

In line with the [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2024/3159](#), starting from January 2026, adding the category 'Games of chance' into the calculation for the HICP is mandatory for all EU countries. According to the ECOICOP ver. 2, games of chance are included in division 09 Recreation, sport and culture, under the code 09.4.7 Games of chance, as part of the group 'Recreational services'.

The Croatian Bureau of Statistics introduces the category 'Games of chance' simultaneously in both the national CPI and the HICP.