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CONSUMER PRICE INDICES, MARCH 2022

In March 2022 compared to February 2022, the prices of goods and services for personal consumption, measured by the consumer price index, increased by 2.1% on average. Compared to March 2021, that is, at the annual level, they increased by 7.3% on average, while on the annual average they increased by 4.1%.

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: Transport, of 14.4%, Food and non-alcoholic beverages, of 10.8%, Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance, of 8.4%, Restaurants and hotels, of 7.9%, Clothing and footwear, of 5.2%, Recreation and culture, of 4.7%, Miscellaneous goods and services, of 4.5%, and Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels, of 3.8%.

The largest contribution to the growth rate of the annual index came from the following divisions: Food and non-alcoholic beverages (+2.80 percentage points), Transport (+2.12 percentage points), and Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (+0.64 percentage points).

Observing the selected groups, the highest increase on average in consumer prices at the annual level was recorded in the groups Energy, of 13.3% (contribution to the growth of +2.23 percentage points), Goods without electricity and water supply, of 9.9% (+6.52 percentage points), Goods without electricity, of 9.6% (+6.55 percentage points), Unprocessed food, of 9.5% (+0.80 percentage points), and Food, beverages and tobacco, of 9.2% (+2.85 percentage points).

At the monthly level, the highest increase on average in consumer prices was recorded in the divisions Clothing and footwear, of 12.2% (contribution to the growth of +0.71 percentage points), Transport, of 5.3% (+0.78 percentage points), Restaurants and hotels, of 1.8% (+0.09 percentage points), Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance, of 1.1% (+0.06 percentage points), Food and non-alcoholic beverages as well as Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels, of 0.9% in each group (Food and non-alcoholic beverages +0.23 percentage points and Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels +0.15 percentage points), Recreation and culture as well as Miscellaneous goods and services, of 0.5% (+0.03 percentage points) in each group.

Harmonised index of consumer prices

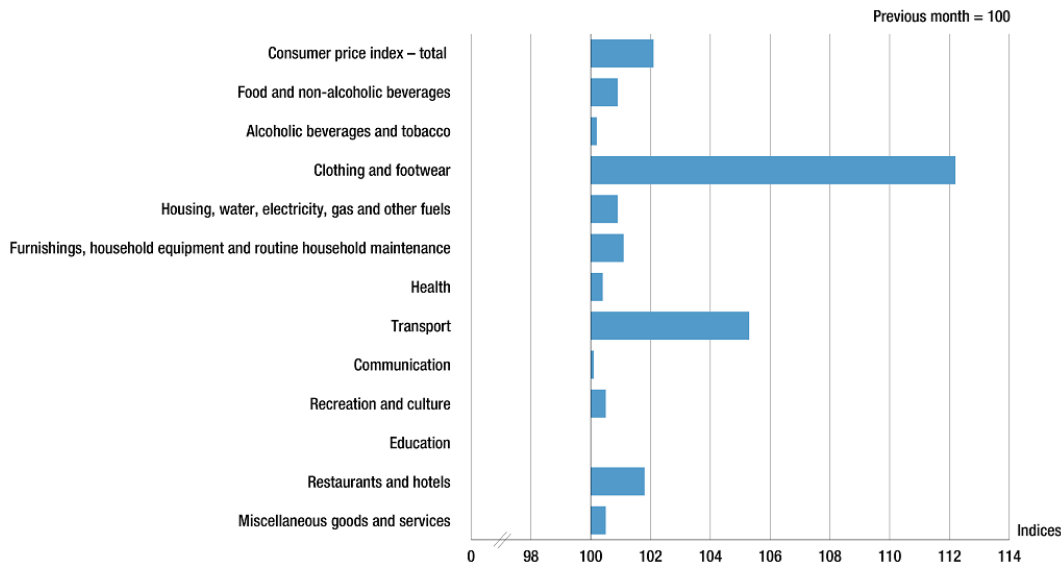
The prices of goods and services for personal consumption, measured by the harmonised index of consumer prices, increased by 1.9% on average in March 2022 compared to February 2022. Compared to March 2021, that is, at the annual level, they increased by 7.3% on average, while, on the annual average, they increased by 4.1%.

1 CONSUMER PRICE INDICES, MARCH 2022¹⁾

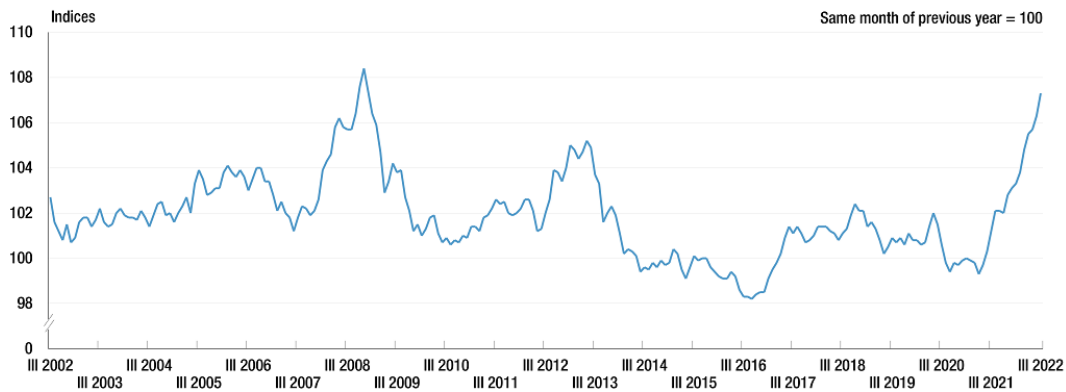
ECOICOP		Structure (%)	III 2022 Ø 2015	III 2022 III 2021	III 2022 II 2022	IV 2021 – III 2022 IV 2020 – III 2021
00	Consumer price index – total	100,00	111,3	107,3	102,1	104,1
01	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	25,93	116,3	110,8	100,9	104,4
02	Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	5,10	123,3	101,1	100,2	105,4
03	Clothing and footwear	5,84	103,0	105,2	112,2	100,8
04	Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	16,87	103,8	103,8	100,9	102,5
05	Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	5,70	110,0	108,4	101,1	102,7
06	Health	3,21	106,5	100,8	100,4	100,6
07	Transport	14,72	118,4	114,4	105,3	111,1
08	Communication	5,47	98,2	100,7	100,1	101,0
09	Recreation and culture	5,27	107,3	104,7	100,5	102,3
10	Education	0,71	102,2	100,4	100,0	100,6
11	Restaurants and hotels	4,99	124,1	107,9	101,8	104,2
12	Miscellaneous goods and services	6,19	108,3	104,5	100,5	101,5

1) Time series of consumer price indices according to the ECOICOP classification can be downloaded on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics within the Databases section under [PC AXIS Databases](#).

G-1 MONTHLY CONSUMER PRICE INDICES, MARCH 2022



G-2 ANNUAL CONSUMER PRICE INDICES, MARCH 2002 – MARCH 2022



2 CONSUMER PRICE INDICES, BY SELECTED GROUPS, MARCH 2022

	Structure (%)	III 2022 Ø 2015	III 2022 III 2021	III 2022 II 2022	IV 2021 – III 2022 IV 2020 – III 2021
Goods	73,81	112,4	108,9	102,5	104,9
Services	26,19	108,1	102,6	100,8	101,7
Total, without energy	83,22	111,0	106,1	101,5	102,9
Total, without energy and food	59,85	108,9	104,1	101,7	102,1
Total, without energy, food, beverages and tobacco	52,20	107,2	104,2	102,0	101,8
Total, without energy and unprocessed food	74,76	111,0	105,7	101,7	102,7
Goods without electricity	68,26	113,5	109,6	102,7	105,2
Goods without electricity and water supply	65,89	113,8	109,9	102,8	105,4
Non-food industrial goods without energy	26,01	106,1	105,8	103,1	101,8
Energy	16,78	112,9	113,3	104,7	110,3
Food, beverages and tobacco	31,03	117,4	109,2	100,8	104,6
Goods without food, beverages and tobacco	42,78	108,6	108,7	103,8	105,1
Unprocessed food	8,46	111,6	109,5	100,4	104,0
Processed food	22,56	119,9	109,0	101,0	104,8

3 HARMONISED INDICES OF CONSUMER PRICES, MARCH 2022, RATES OF CHANGE¹⁾

ECOICOP		III 2022 ²⁾ Ø 2015	III 2022 III 2021	III 2022 II 2022	IV 2021 – III 2022 IV 2020 – III 2021
00	Harmonised index of consumer prices – total	111,93	7,3	1,9	4,1
01	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	116,43	10,8	0,8	4,5
02	Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	120,61	2,2	0,4	4,5
03	Clothing and footwear	103,45	5,6	12,9	0,9
04	Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	107,59	7,7	2,3	5,8
05	Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	109,02	7,7	1,1	2,3
06	Health	109,58	0,9	0,4	0,6
07	Transport	115,94	12,6	4,9	9,7
08	Communication	98,90	2,0	0,1	1,7
09	Recreation and culture	106,45	4,7	0,4	2,2
10	Education	102,16	0,4	0,0	0,6
11	Restaurants and hotels	116,03	8,1	1,9	4,1
12	Miscellaneous goods and services	109,34	4,6	0,5	1,5

1) Time series of the harmonised index of consumer prices according to the ECOICOP classification can be downloaded on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics within the [Statistics in Line](#) section under Prices and on the [Eurostat website](#).

2) 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 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 representative basket for monitoring consumer prices consists of about 900 products. About 38 000 prices are collected each month in predefined outlets. 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.

The coverage of goods and services is revised once a year in order to ensure the representativeness of the basket with respect to consumer tastes and their purchasing habits.

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, Slavonki 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). Since January 2021, the prices for selected groups of products (market rents, household appliances and electronics) are collected using the web scraping technique.

The majority of prices are collected once a month, on a working day (prices are not collected during weekends and public holidays), on approximately the same day of the month. The prices of agricultural products sold in market places, the prices of passenger air transport and the prices collected using the web scraping technique 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 school books and education fees are recorded once a year.

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the data on retail prices that could not be collected are treated in accordance with the [Eurostat recommendations](#) for the HICP. The guidelines define the following basic principles, which are applied accordingly: the stability of the weighting structure, the calculation of the index for all categories of the ECOICOP classification and the minimisation of the number of imputed prices. According to the recommendations, indices are marked as having low reliability if the number of imputed prices for an aggregate exceeds 50% or if the weight of the imputed part of an aggregate exceeds 50%.

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 CPI is the Household Budget Survey (HBS), conducted on a regular basis by the Croatian Bureau of Statistics since 1998. This data source is supplemented by available additional data sources. Since January 2022, the compilation of CPIs has been based on the weights derived from data on household expenditures from the 2019 HBS recalculated to December 2021 prices. The COVID-19 pandemic has largely affected household personal consumption and therefore, for the calculation of weights in 2022, data from the 2019 HBS were further updated with estimated national accounts data on household final consumption expenditure for 2021.

The main data source for determining the weights for the calculation of the HICP at higher levels of aggregation are the national accounts data, and for lower levels of aggregation, the data from the HBS are used. Since January 2022, the calculation of the HICP has been based on estimated national accounts data on household final consumption expenditure for 2021, supplemented by additional available data sources and recalculated to the difference between the 2021 average and December 2021 according to the [Eurostat recommendations](#).

Classification

The European Classification of Individual Consumption according to Purpose (ECOICOP) is used for the classification of products.

Calculation of indices

The calculation of the CPIs begins with the computation of the elementary aggregate indices.

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 elementary aggregate indices at the level of geographical locations, elementary aggregate indices at national level are then calculated using the formula for the weighted arithmetic mean.

Elementary aggregate indices at national level are aggregated to higher index levels using the Laspeyres' type formula.

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 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 within the [Statistics in Line](#) section under Prices, while a detailed breakdown according to the ECOICOP classification is available on the [Eurostat website](#).

Abbreviations

COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease-19
EU	European Union
Eurostat	Statistical Office of the European Communities

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