

## Inflation – consumer price indices in March 2026

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### Inflation slowed to 3.5% in March, marking its lowest level in 15 months

Month-on-month inflation in March was positively affected by lower prices of food, non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages, and recreation, housing and transport costs rose. Year-on-year inflation slowed mainly due to weaker price growth in food, non-alcoholic beverages, goods and services related to recreation and culture, and restaurant and accommodation services. Rising fuel prices had an adverse effect on inflation.

In March, consumer prices of goods and services rose by only 0.1% month-on-month, which was the same rate as in February and significantly lower than in January. Year-on-year inflation reached 3.5%, the lowest value in the past 15 months. The slowdown in inflation reflected weaker price increases in most of the 13 divisions of the consumer basket.

Inflation rates – the development of consumer prices has been influenced by **three main changes** since January 2026. The first was the introduction of the new, revised classification COICOP 2018 / ECOICOP rev. 2, followed by a new base period (the average of 12 months of 2025), as well as the recalculation of new weights for individual items in the consumer basket for 2026.

Along with the March data, the Statistical Office of the SR published recalculated data reflecting these new methodological changes in a time series starting from January 2021.

### Month-on-month development – March 2026 compared with February 2026

In March, consumer prices rose month-on-month in 10 out of a total of 13<sup>1)</sup> divisions (household expenditure groups), ranging from 0.1% for **personal care** goods and services as well as **information and communication** to 1.7% in **transport**. Prices dropped in 2 divisions, namely **food and non-alcoholic beverages** by 1.4% and **recreation and culture** by 0.5%. Prices of **educational services** remained unchanged.

The month-on-month inflation rate was mainly driven by a more significant price decrease in the **food and non-alcoholic beverages** division, which represents the second largest component in the expenditure structure of Slovak households (21%). Food prices dropped by 1.5% month-on-month, with 8 out of 9 **food components**<sup>2)</sup> becoming cheaper. The largest price drops were of milk, dairy products and eggs by 2.4%, oils and fats by 5.1%, bread and cereals by 1.1%, as well as sugar and confectionery by 2.3%. Only prices of fruit and nuts increased month-on-month. Prices of **non-alcoholic beverages**<sup>2)</sup> further decreased in March (-1.2%), across all categories of non-alcoholic beverages.

The second most significant impact on month-on-month inflation was the price increase in the **housing and energy** division by 0.5% and in **transport** by 1.7%. Prices increased mainly for imputed rentals for housing, water supply, and services related to the maintenance of multi-dwelling buildings.

A significant impact was also recorded from the increase in prices in the **transport** division by 1.7%, mainly due to higher prices of fuels and lubricants for personal transport equipment by 4.5%.

An adverse effect on month-on-month inflation was also driven by higher prices in the **alcoholic beverages and tobacco** division (+1%), where the rise in prices of tobacco products by 4.1% following the February increase in excise duty was partially offset by pre-Easter price declines of alcoholic beverages by 1.5%.

## Year-on-year development – March 2026 compared to March 2025

Inflation, i.e. the year-on-year increase in prices, reached 3.5% in March. This was the lowest value since December 2024. Compared with March 2025, prices were higher in all 13 divisions<sup>1)</sup> (household expenditure groups), ranging from 0.9% in the **information and communication** division to 6.4% in the **insurance and financial services** division.

A significant impact on the growth of year-on-year inflation in March came from the largest item in the expenditure structure of Slovak households- **housing and energy** (+6.3%). The effect of the regulatory measures introduced in January was also reflected in March prices, with year-on-year increases affecting mainly energy for heating (+27.7%). Higher prices than a year ago were also recorded for imputed rents, water supply and other services related to housing.

In the second most significant component of household expenditure, **food and non-alcoholic beverages**<sup>2)</sup>, year-on-year growth slowed markedly to 1.3% (in February, growth was still 2.7%). This was the lowest value in the last four months. **Food** prices were 0.7% higher year-on-year, with increases observed in 6 out of 9 food categories. Consumers were most affected by higher prices of cereals, including bread, up by 3.1%, and milk, cheese and eggs, up by 0.6%. Prices also rose for vegetables as well as fruit and nuts. Conversely, prices declined for meat (-1.2%), oils and fats, and sugar and confectionery. A significant year-on-year slowdown was also recorded in the growth of prices of **non-alcoholic beverages** to a single-digit rate of +7.9%, which was the lowest value since December 2024.

An improved year-on-year inflation outcome was supported by a slowdown in price growth also in the division **recreation, sport and culture** (+4.9%), as well as in the division **restaurants and accommodation services** (+5.8%).

After two months of decline, the **transport** division recorded a more significant increase in prices again in March, by 2.1%, mainly due to higher fuel prices.

As a result of higher prices of wine and tobacco, prices also increased in the division **alcoholic beverages and tobacco** (+3%), and in the division **health** (+4.8%), mainly driven by higher prices of pharmaceuticals and dental services.

**In total, in the first three months of 2026, consumer prices rose by 3.7% year-on-year.** Začiatok formulára

## Development of core and net inflation

In March, the year-on-year inflation rate was 3.5%, **core inflation** reached 1.9% and **net inflation** reached 2.6%. On a month-to-month basis, core inflation remained unchanged, while net inflation reached 0.3%.

Core inflation tracks the growth of the price level after excluding the impact of changes in regulated prices (e.g. energy prices) and other administrative measures (e.g. tax adjustments, etc.). Net inflation is core inflation excluding changes in food prices.

## New consumer basket for 2026

The Statistical Office of the SR, together with price changes, also adjusts the weights of individual divisions in the **structure of the consumer basket** every January. For 2026, the weights were revised according to household consumption in 2024 in line with international methodology. At the same time, following the implementation of the new COICOP 2018 classification, the consumer basket is divided into 13 divisions (until the end of 2025 it consisted of 12 divisions).

Under the national CPI inflation methodology, the shares of the two largest items in household expenditure decreased. Housing and energy currently represents 21.8% of household expenditure (last year it was 23.3%). Food and non-alcoholic beverages account for 20.9%, while last year their share was 21.2%. A comparison of the consumer basket structures for 2025 and 2026 is provided in the document [Comparison\\_consumption\\_expenditure\\_structure\\_CPI\\_2025\\_2026](#) (ZIP 15,5 kB).

## Supplementary statistical outputs on the topic of inflation

The Statistical Office of the SR publishes additional supplementary data on national inflation 10 days after the first publication of the total monthly inflation, approximately around the 26th day of the month. Structured data are available in the public database DATAcube. within the Chapter [2.3.1.1 - Consumer Price Indices](#). Data for March 2026 will be published on April 27, 2026.

These are outputs on the topics:

- changes in consumer prices for specific social groups (households of pensioners, employees, low-income households)
- average consumer prices of selected specific goods and services from the consumer basket (including food)<sup>3</sup>.

- <sup>1)</sup> Since January 2026, according to the new COICOP 2018 classification (also referred to as ECOICOP ver. 2), it has been divided into 13 divisions.
- <sup>2)</sup> According to the new COICOP 2018 classification, some divisions and groups have a new, more detailed breakdown into lower levels (classes) or have modified names.
- <sup>3)</sup> The cube mentioned contains data from January 2023. Older data are stored in the archive data cube [sp2042ms]. For the purposes of comparison in a long time series, it is possible to combine data from both cubes only for goods and services with the exception of those belonging to divisions 1 - food and non-alcoholic beverages; 2 alcoholic beverages and tobacco. For these two divisions (1; 2), data are processed until the end of 2022 using the original field collection methodology and from January 2023 using the new methodology and data sources from the so-called scanner data.

### Data source: DATAcube. database:

#### Price growth indices (inflation) - month-on-month and year-on-year

- Indices of consumer prices (divisions) to three bases - monthly [sp0110ms]
- Indices of consumer prices (detailed data) to two bases- monthly [sp0111ms]

#### Price growth indices (inflation) - year-on-year

- Indices of consumer prices year-on-year (divisions)-quarterly [sp0112qs]

#### Price growth indices to the base period, core and net inflation

- Development of core and net inflation change in comparison with corresponding period of previous year in % - monthly [sp0008ms]
- Development of core and net inflation change in comparison with previous period in % - monthly [sp0007ms]
- Development of core and net inflation change in comparison with December of previous year in % - monthly [sp0009ms]

#### Consumer baskets

- The Universal Consumer Basket 2026 [sp0039rs]
- The Universal Consumer Basket 2026 - representative items [sp0040rs]

#### Consumer price indices for specific social groups – month-on-month and year-on-years

- Indices of consumer prices (households in total) to three bases - monthly [sp1028ms]
- Indices of consumer prices (households with low money incomes) to three bases - monthly [sp1027ms]
- Indices of consumer prices (pensioners) to three bases - monthly [sp1026ms]

#### Average prices of selected goods

- Average consumer prices of selected products - monthly (since 2023) [sp1828ms]

### Outputs for inflation:

#### Published types of inflation

The Statistical Office of the SR publishes two types of inflation:

- development of consumer prices based on national methodology – Inflation – Consumer Price Indices (the English abbreviation CPI - Consumer Price Index is used)
- development of consumer prices based on internationally harmonized EU methodology - **Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices** (HICP - Harmonized Indices of Consumer Prices)

The prices are monitored based on consumer basket, which is composed of selected representatives for selected types of goods and services included into 12 divisions, 44 groups and 101 classes according to COICOP classification. Internationally comparable inflation (HICP) differs from the national methodology (CPI inflation) in the structure of the prices of goods and services (it does not include the item "imputed rent" and selected items of major household repairs and maintenance) and, consequently, the value of the weights in the consumption basket. HICP data are published monthly, a few days after the national CPI inflation in terms of the [First Release Calendar](#) in the DATAcube database chapter: [2. 3. 3 - Harmonized indices of consumer prices \(HICP inflation\)](#) and also in the database and in the press release on the Eurostat website.

### Change in methodology in determining consumer prices

The Statistical Office of the SR uses a new source of data on prices, the so-called scanner data/transactional data of business chains to obtain prices for 2 of the 12 divisions of the required basket, for food and non-alcoholic beverages (from January 1, 2024) and for alcoholic beverages and tobacco (from January 1, 2025). Scanner data replaced traditional field surveys, thus significantly expanding the output of consumer prices in the mentioned segments while maintaining and increasing its quality. Their use is an important part of the modernization of price statistics. [More in the methodological notes - CPI.](#)

### Consumption basket - structure of household expenses

The Statistical Office of the SR publishes the Structure of Household Expenditure graph, which presents [the consumer basket valid for the year 2025](#). It indicates how much the household spends on specific expenditure groups of products and services in everyday life. Knowing the structure of household expenses is an essential part of determining the amount of inflation (price growth), because it determines the weights of expenditure items for its calculation. The weights are revised annually according to data from previous periods on household consumption.

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