

## Harmonized indices of consumer prices in March 2026

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### Harmonized annual inflation slowed to 3.7% in March

In March 2026 the annual inflation<sup>1)</sup> in the Slovak Republic, according to the common European methodology reached 3.7%. It was the lowest value in the previous 15 months. Up and down price movements across the various categories of the consumer basket resulted in zero month-on-month HICP inflation. **The average annual HICP inflation rate for the period April 2025 to March 2026 (compared to the period April 2024 to March 2025)<sup>2)</sup> reached for the fifth month in a row the value 4.2%.**

The **annual** harmonized inflation rate in the Slovak Republic was higher than the value recorded within the national methodology published on 15 April 2026 in the statistical product [Inflation - consumer price indices in March 2026](#).

In the **month-on-month** development, prices increased in 9 out of 13 divisions (household expenditure groups) ranging from 0.1% in **Personalcare, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services** division to 1.7% in **Transport** division. A month-on-month price decrease was recorded in **Recreation, sport and culture** division (-0.5%) and **Food and non-alcoholic beverages** division (-1.5%).

In **annual** comparison harmonized inflation reached 3.7% in March 2026, which was the lowest value since December 2024. Prices increased in all 13 divisions, ranging from 0.9% in **Information and communication** division to 9.5% in **Housing and energy** division.

The values of harmonized inflation for March 2026 in the EU and EFTA countries will be published by Eurostat on 16 April 2026 at 11 a.m. on its [website](#).

- 1) annual inflation compares the change in the price level in the monitored month of a given year compared to the price level of the same month in the previous year
- 2) average annual HICP inflation rate compares the change in the average price level for the average of the Harmonized indices of consumer prices for the last 12 months to the average of the previous 12 months

#### Data source: DATAcube. database

##### Harmonized indices of consumer prices – monthly data:

- Harmonized indices of consumer prices (divisions) to four bases - monthly [\[sp0109ms\]](#)
- Harmonized indices of consumer prices - average of year 2025 (detailed structure) - monthly [\[sp1024ms\]](#)
- Harmonized inflation - rate of change (detailed structure) - monthly [\[sp1025ms\]](#)

##### Harmonized indices of consumer prices – yearly data:

- Harmonized indices of consumer prices (divisions) to three bases - yearly [\[sp1021rs\]](#)
- Harmonized indices of consumer prices - average of year 2025 (detailed structure) - yearly [\[sp1022rs\]](#)
- Harmonized average annual inflation - rate of change (detailed structure) – yearly [\[sp1023rs\]](#)

## Outputs on the topic Harmonized Indices of Consumer Prices (Harmonized Inflation):

### Changes from January 2026:

- Inflation measured by the **Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices (HICP)** - European methodology; and inflation measured by the national **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** - national methodology are published according to the new **European Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose, version 2 (ECOICOP ver.2)**, which is aligned with the UN classification **COICOP 2018**. Goods and services are in this classification organized into 13 divisions instead of 12 divisions in the previous classification. The names and content of some divisions, groups and classes have changed.
- The Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic introduced a **new basis for calculating of basic index - common for both HICP and CPI**, which is the **average of the year 2025 = 100**. Until December 2025, the base period for the HICP was the average of the year 2015 = 100, for the CPI the base period was December 2000 = 100.
- As every year, the weights of representative items of consumer basket are updated according to the final household consumption calculated within the statistical outputs of the national accounts for 2024 and current household budget survey or other external and administrative sources. At the same time, from January 2026, Games of chance are included in both the CPI and HICP as part of recreational services within the division "09 Recreation, sports and culture".
- More in the methodology for [Consumerprices and prices of production statistics](#).

### Consumer price survey

The Statistical Office of the SR processes price outputs for **Food and non-alcoholic beverages** division (from January 2024) and for **Alcoholic beverages and tobacco** division (from January 2025) from a new data source - from **scanner data**, i.e. from the transaction data of retails chains, which replaced the traditional field survey. These changes significantly expanded inputs on consumer prices in the mentioned divisions. The use of scanner data is an important part of the modernization of price statistics while maintaining and increasing its quality.

### Harmonised inflation in the EU (HICP)

**Inflation** measured by **Harmonized Indices of Consumer Prices (HICP)** or, in short, **harmonized inflation** is calculated according to a common methodology EU for **comparability** of inflation across countries. **Annual average rate of change** measured by the Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices, is an important indicator of price stability in a country and its level is assessed as one of the four so-called Maastricht criteria before a country enters the euro area. The Statistical Office publishes data on the Harmonized Indices of Consumer Prices and HICP inflation monthly, on the day of publication of the data by Eurostat - in accordance with [the First release calendar](#) in the DATAcube database chapter [2. 3. 3 - Harmonized Indices of Consumer Prices \(HICP inflation\)](#).

HICP inflation is published usually a few days after the publication of inflation calculated according to the national methodology (CPI inflation). The consumer baskets of HICP and CPI differ slightly from each other; HICP, unlike CPI, does not include the item "Imputed rent" and selected items related to major household repairs and maintenance, which results in some differences in the weights of other items.

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