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Inflation at 2.2% in February 2026

Household energy and fuels dampened inflation less than recently

Vienna, 2026-03-18 – According to Statistics Austria, the consumer price index (CPI 2025, base year 2025) reached 101.4 points in February 2026. Thus, prices were 2.2% higher on average than one year earlier. Compared to the previous month January 2026, the average price level increased by 0.8%. The harmonised index of consumer prices (HICP 2025) stood at 2.3%.

“As expected in the flash estimate at the beginning of March, inflation rose to 2.2% in February 2026. In January 2026, it had been at 2.0%. The slight increase is mainly due to the fact that household energy and fuel had a less dampening effect on inflation, and tobacco products were significantly more expensive than in January. However, the main contributor to inflation continued to be above-average rises in service prices. Food price inflation in February was slightly above the overall inflation rate. Coffee prices continued to rise sharply year-on-year, but price pressure has eased noticeably compared with January,” says Manuela Lenk, Director General Statistics at Statistics Austria.

In February 2026, restaurants and accommodation services had the most significant upward impact on inflation (+5.1% compared to February 2025; food and beverage serving services +5.4%, accommodation services +3.2%), followed by housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (+1.5%; electricity, gas and other fuels –3.3%, including electricity –7.6%, liquid fuels –7.2%, gas –1.0%, other energy for heating and cooling +2.8%, solid fuels +7.5%; actual rental payments made for housing +4.5%; maintenance, repair and security of the dwelling +2.4%). The third strongest contributor to price increases was food and non-alcoholic beverages (+2.4%; food +2.4%, non-alcoholic beverages +3.3%). Prices for recreation, sport and culture showed a price increase of 2.3% (recreational services +3.3%, newspapers, books and stationery +5.4%, recreational durables –2.7%). Alcoholic beverages and tobacco rose by 5.3% (tobacco +8.8%, alcoholic beverages +0.9%). Transport prices showed a plus of 0.8% (maintenance and repair of personal transport equipment +4.7%, second-hand passenger cars +3.4%, air tickets +0.8%, fuels –5.1%).

The index level of the harmonised index of consumer prices (HICP 2025) was 101.47 in February 2026 (January 2026: revised 100.68), with a harmonised inflation rate of 2.3% (January: 2.0%).

For more information on the consumer price index, please refer to our [website](#).

Information on methodology, definitions: A new index period with the base year 2025 has been published for the CPI since January 2026. Previous time series are continued concatenated. Each index series is labelled with the base year, i.e. the average annual measure of the new consumer price index 2025 (CPI 2025) is standardised to 100.0 for the base year 2025. The HICP has been published also with the base year 2025 (since January 2026)

New classification: With the January 2026 index, COICOP18/ECOICOP vers.2 replaces the COICOP 1999 version. This results in a new assignment of basket items to ECOICOPvers.2 aggregates. From January 2026 onwards, there are 13 main groups instead of 12. The old classification with the 12 main groups ends in 2025. Old ECOICOP aggregates cannot be directly compared with the new aggregates. The structure and a reconciliation table are available in the classification database [classification database](#). The legal basis is [EU Regulation 2024/3159](#).

The **inflation rate** is the average price development over a twelve-month period.

Harmonised index of consumer prices (HICP): Differences between the consumer price index (CPI) and the EU-wide comparable harmonised index of consumer prices (HICP) are primarily based on weighting differences. While the CPI only takes into account households living in Austria, the HICP also covers expenditure by non-resident tourists.

Statistics Austria is the central organisation for official data and statistics on society, the economy, the state and the environment. As a national statistical institute, it is committed to the statutory principles of independence, impartiality and objectivity. Statistics Austria is headed by Manuela Lenk, Director General Statistics, and Franz Haslauer, Director General Finance.

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