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Inflation in March according to flash estimate at 3.1%

Higher prices for fuels and heating oil are responsible for the increase

Vienna, 2026-03-31 – The inflation rate in March 2026 is expected to be 3.1%, according to a flash estimate by Statistics Austria. Compared to the previous month, consumer prices increased by 1.1%.

“According to a flash estimate, the inflation rate for March 2026 is expected to stand at 3.1%. This marks a return to the levels seen in the first half of 2025, following a rate of 2.2% in February 2026. The 0.9 percentage point rise is almost entirely attributable to price surges in fuel and heating oil. In February, energy prices had fallen by 4.1% year-on-year, but in March energy prices rose by 6.1%. However, the main driver of inflation remained services, which became 4.5% more expensive in March, following a 4.0% price increase in February,” says Manuela Lenk, Director General Statistics at Statistics Austria

Consumer Price Index (CPI), March 2026

- +3.1% yearly rate of change (estimate)
- +1.1% monthly rate of change (estimate)

The flash estimate already provides insight into the rates of change of components of the consumer price index and their impact on the inflation rate. The special aggregates industrial goods (A), energy (E), food, alcohol and tobacco (F) and services (S) together sum up to the overall inflation. The special aggregates industrial goods (A) and services (S) together add up to the core inflation (see table).

Special aggregates of the National Consumer Price Index (Flash Estimate)

CPI - total index/subindex	Weight	Change to March 2025	Impact to March 2025
	in percent	+/- %	+/- percentage points
CPI – total index	100,00	3.1	3.1
A+S – core inflation	76.75	3.0	2.240
A – industrial goods	27.25	0.5	0.134
E – energy	8.19	6.1	0.498
F – food, tobacco, alcohol	15.06	2.4	0.362
S – services	49.50	4.5	2.108

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, monthly price collection.

Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP), March 2026

- +3.1% yearly rate of change (estimate)
- +1.1% monthly rate of change (estimate)

The index level of the consumer price index and further results for March 2026 will be announced on 16 April 2026. For detailed results and further information please refer to our [website](#).

Information on methodology, definitions: The flash estimates are based on the price data stock existing at the time of publication for the compilation of the consumer price index at the end of a respective reference month. Usually, about 80% to 90% of the prices collected for the CPI can be used for the flash estimate, but without having gone through the full price statistical validation checks. Price reports received later or delayed for the reference month, as well as the corrections made in the course of the usual data compilation process, mean that the CPI flash estimates can differ from the annual and monthly rates of change of the consumer price index published in the middle of the following month (see CPI publication dates). It is not permissible to use the CPI flash estimate for contractual value adjustments or to equate it with the results of the consumer price index or the harmonised consumer price index.

Further information of the definition of the special aggregates A, E, F and S can be found on our [website](#) (available in German only).

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 foreign 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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