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Inflation rose to 3.4% in April 2026

Fuel and heating oil prices account for nearly a third of inflation

Vienna, 2026-05-20 – According to Statistics Austria, the consumer price index (CPI 2025) reached 103.0 points in April 2026. Thus, prices were 3.4% higher on average than one year earlier. In March, year-on-year inflation stood at 3.2%. Compared to the previous month March 2026, the average price level increased by 0.4%. The harmonised index of consumer prices (HICP 2025) stood at 3.4%.

"In April 2026, inflation in Austria rose to 3.4%. This was 0.1 percentage points higher than expected in the flash estimate at the end of April. Rising fuel and heating oil prices account for around 1 percentage point of inflation – in other words, just under a third of the inflation. The introduction of the fuel price cap prevented inflation from rising by a further 0.2 percentage points. Easter falling 2 weeks earlier than the previous year led to cheaper package holidays in April, thereby also dampening inflation by 0.2 percentage points. Services remained the main driver of inflation. Prices in this sector continued to rise at an above-average rate, though not as sharply as recently. Food price inflation, on the other hand, was below overall inflation, as in the previous month," says Manuela Lenk, Director General Statistics at Statistics Austria.

In April 2026, transport had the most significant upward impact on inflation (+7.7% compared to April 2025; fuels +28.0%, maintenance and repair of personal transport equipment +4.4%, second-hand passenger cars +3.4%, air tickets −7.5%), followed by housing, water, electricity as well as gas and other fuels (+3.3%; actual rental payments made for housing +5.0%, maintenance, repair and security of the dwelling +2.9%, electricity, gas and other fuels +1.5%, including liquid fuels +62.6%, solid fuels +10.3%, gas +3.8%, other energy for heating and cooling +2.2%, electricity −10.2%). The third strongest contributor to price increases was restaurants and accommodation services (+4.9%; food and beverage serving services +5.3%, accommodation services +4.3%). Food and non-alcoholic beverages rose by 2.4% (food +2.2%, non-alcoholic beverages +3.2%). Prices for recreation, sport and culture showed a price increase of 0.9% (recreational services +3.7%, package holidays −1.5%).

The index level of the harmonised index of consumer prices (HICP 2025) was 103.15 in April 2026 (March 2026: revised 102.62), with a harmonised inflation rate of 3.4% (March: revised 3.2%).

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 considers 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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