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Inflation rose to 3.7% in May 2026

Airfares, fuel and heating oil put pressure on inflation rate

Vienna, 2026-06-17 – According to Statistics Austria, the consumer price index (CPI 2025) reached 103.1 points in May 2026. Thus, prices were 3.7% higher on average than one year earlier. Compared to the previous month April 2026, the average price level increased by 0.1%. The harmonised index of consumer prices (HICP 2025) stood at 3.7% as well.

"As expected in the flash estimate released in early June, inflation rose to 3.7% in May 2026. In April 2026, it had stood at 3.4%. Sharp rises in airfares were the main factor behind the increase in the inflation rate. As a result, the services sector further increased its share as the most significant price driver. Fuel and heating oil rose less sharply than recently, but still contributed a full percentage point to inflation. For food, price rises were significantly lower than overall inflation," says Manuela Lenk, Director General Statistics at Statistics Austria.

In May 2026, transport had the most significant upward impact on inflation (+8.8% compared to May 2025; fuels +26.5%, air tickets 13.8%, maintenance and repair of personal transport equipment +4.3%, second-hand passenger cars +2.6%), followed by housing, water, electricity as well as gas and other fuels (+3.3%; actual rental payments made for housing +5.1%, maintenance, repair and security of the dwelling +3.1%, electricity, gas and other fuels +0.9%, including liquid fuels +53.7%, solid fuels +11.5%, gas +4.2%, district heating +1.9%, electricity −10.3%). The third strongest contributor to price increases were restaurants and accommodation services (+4.7%; food and beverage serving services +4.9%, accommodation services +4.8%). Food and non-alcoholic beverages rose by 2.2% (food +2.3%, non-alcoholic beverages +1.4%). Prices for health showed an increase of 4.4% (outpatient care services +7.4%, inpatient care services +5.0%).

The index level of the harmonised index of consumer prices (HICP 2025) was 103.25 in May 2026, with a harmonised inflation rate of 3.7% (April: 3.4%).

For detailed results and further information 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 ECOICOP vers.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. The legal basis is EU Regulation 2024/3159.

The **inflation rate** is the average price development over a 12-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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