

# CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

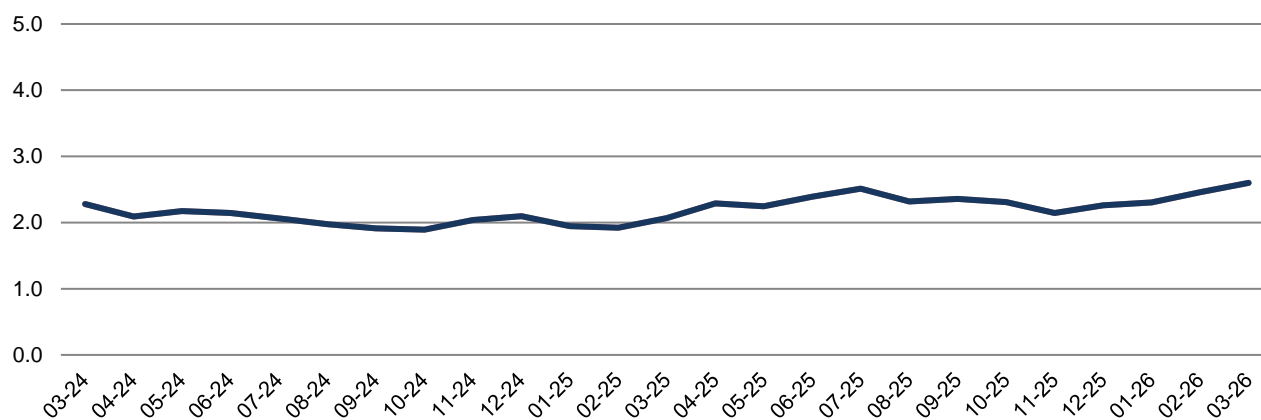
March 2026

The annual inflation rate, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), in March 2026 was 2.6 percent, compared to 2.1 percent in March 2025.

Compared to February 2026, consumer prices increased by 0.7 percent.

The annual increase in prices in March 2026 was mainly influenced by the group "Transport" with 7.5 %, followed by "Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels" with 4.8 %, "Insurance and financial services" with 4.5 %, "Recreation, sport and culture" with 2.9 %, "Furniture, household equipment and routine household maintenance" with 2.6 %, "Restaurants and accommodation services" with 2.4 %, "Alcoholic beverages and tobacco" and "Personal care and miscellaneous goods and services" with 2.0 % each, "Education services" with 1.9 %, "Food and non-alcoholic beverages" with 1.3 %, etc.

**FIG. 1. ANNUAL CHANGES IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (%)**



Compared to February 2026, the largest increase in prices was observed in the group "Transport" at 7.1%, followed by "Food and non-alcoholic beverages" at 0.7 %, "Furniture, household equipment and routine household maintenance" at 0.4 %, "Recreation, sport and culture" at 0.3 %, and "Health" and "Restaurants and accommodation services" at 0.1 % each.

On the other hand, prices in the group "Clothing and footwear" decreased by 0.3 %, followed by the groups "Personal care and miscellaneous goods and services" at 0.2 % and "Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels" at 0.1 %.

**FIG. 2 - CONTRIBUTION OF GROUPS TO THE ANNUAL CHANGE**

### Contribution of main groups to the annual change

The annual increase in prices in March was mainly influenced by the group "Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels" with +0.95 percentage points, followed by the group "Transport" with +0.48 percentage points.

In addition, prices of the group "Food and non-alcoholic beverages" contributed +0.44 percentage points, "Furniture, household equipment and routine household maintenance" +0.18 percentage points, "Restaurants and accommodation services" +0.13 percentage points, "Alcoholic beverages and tobacco" +0.10 percentage points, "Personal care and miscellaneous goods and services" +0.08 percentage points, "Insurance and financial services" +0.07 percentage points, the groups "Recreation, sport and culture" and "Education services" +0.06 percentage points each, and the groups "Health" and "Information and communication" +0.02 percentage points each.

TAB. 1 CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Code	Divisions	Weights	03-26/Year 2025	03-26/02-26	03-26/03-25
	<b>Gjithsej</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>102.6</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>2.6</b>
01.	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	34.1	103.0	0.7	1.3
02.	Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics	5.0	101.7	0.0	2.0
03.	Clothing and footwear	3.8	99.9	-0.3	0.1
04.	Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	20.2	102.9	-0.1	4.8
05.	Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	7.0	102.0	0.4	2.6
06.	Health	3.2	100.5	0.1	0.6
07.	Transport	6.4	107.2	7.1	7.5
08.	Information and communication	3.6	100.4	0.0	0.6
09.	Recreation, sport and culture	2.0	102.2	0.3	2.9
10.	Education services	3.0	101.3	0.0	1.9
11.	Restaurants and accommodation services	5.7	101.5	0.1	2.4
12.	Insurance and financial services	1.5	104.4	0.0	4.5
13.	Personal care and miscellaneous goods and services	4.5	101.5	-0.2	2.0

**Note to users:**

Detailed monthly and annual data by groups are available in INSTAT's statistical database: [Consumer Price Index](#)

# Methodology

## Methodological changes

Starting from February 2026, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is calculated according to the ECOICOP 2018 classification. The transition to the new classification includes the restructuring of basket items and the reclassification of certain products. The ECOICOP ver. 2 structure consists of 13 main divisions, further detailed into groups, classes, and subclasses. The implementation of this classification is in line with Regulation (EU) 2024/3159, ensuring full harmonisation with European and international statistical practices.

The index reference period has been changed from December 2020 = 100 to 2025 = 100.

In addition, in January, as every year, the Consumer Price Index incorporates several methodological updates in accordance with international compilation standards. These include:

- Update of weights: Weights are changed; they are now based on the average expenditure from 2023 Household Budget Survey.
- Update of basket: The list of goods and service content 411 products.
- Updating the list of outlets where prices are collected.

## Definitions

**The Consumer Price Index (CPI)** is the official measure of inflation in Albania. The index measures the relative changes in prices of goods and services used by households for their own consumption and is calculated using the structure of final household consumption expenditure. The main source of expenditure information is the Household Budget Survey.

**The annual change** measures the change in the price index between the current month and the same month of the previous year. This change reflects current movements in price levels but may also be influenced by one-off effects in any given month.

**The monthly change** measures the change in the price index of the current month compared with the previous month. This indicator is sensitive to seasonal effects.

**The 12-month average** change measures the change in the average consumer price index over the last 12 months compared with the average index of the preceding 12 months.