

## Consumer price index (CPI and HICP base 2025=100)

### Scope

The geographic coverage is the national territory of France, including four of the five overseas departments.

The scope of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) covers actual final consumption of market goods and services, excluding imputed rents from owner-occupiers. The coverage rate of this scope<sup>1</sup> by the CPI was 95.5% in 2025. Products currently not covered include life insurance and Financial Intermediation Services Indirectly Measured (FISIM).

The scope of the harmonised index of consumer prices (HICP) corresponds to the monetary expenditure on final consumption by households, excluding imputed rents from owner-occupiers, and including, unlike the CPI, non-market education and non-market health. The coverage rate of this field by the HICP<sup>1</sup> is 95.0%. Gambling is covered by the HICP from 2026 onwards following the revision of the European regulation<sup>2</sup>.

### Overview of the CPI and the HICP

#### Goals

CPI and HICP are the instruments used to measure inflation. They enable the variation in the general price level of goods and services consumed by households in France to be estimated between two given periods. It is a synthetic measure of price changes at constant quality.

Consumer price indices play a threefold role:

- 1- **economic**: it provides a monthly tracking of inflation. The CPI is also used as a deflator for many economic aggregates such as consumption and income: their movements can thus be calculated in volume terms or real terms (i.e., in "constant euros").
- 2- **socio-economic**: the CPI, published in the *Journal officiel* (official government bulletin) every month, is used for the index-linking of many private contracts, maintenance payments, annuities, and the minimum wage ("Smic").
- 3- **monetary and financial**: within the context of the price stability objective of the European Central Bank, the HICP is the main instrument for steering Euro zone monetary policy.

#### Production and publication

The basic structure is the international classification of household consumption functions, COICOP version 2, for its first four levels, to which a fifth level specific to the CPI is added. It comprises 13 divisions, 52 groups, 146 classes, 298 sub-classes and 440 items, to which are added a few specific economic groupings (food, services, energy, etc.) and indices by household category.

The National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE) publishes a provisional index at the end of each month (flash estimate). This index is subject to revision by the final index and should not be used for contractual revaluations.

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1 [Amended European Regulation No. 2016/792 on harmonised indices of consumer prices and the house price index and its implementing texts](#)

2 [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2024/3159 of 2 September 2024](#)

The definitive CPI is published monthly around the 13<sup>th</sup> of the following month in an issue of the short-term publication *Informations Rapides*. All final series are published up to level 4 of the nomenclature. Furthermore, INSEE publishes about sixty series of average prices for individual items.

Every year, at mid-January, an *Informations Rapides* is published which includes the annual averages by functions, groups and posts. Those are simple averages of the monthly indexes. Indices by household category are also published annually.

## Collection methods

### *Historical summary*

The first generation of indexes dates from 1914. Over the years, the CPI coverage has broadened both in geographic terms and in terms of population represented and of consumption tracked. The 2025 base CPI is the ninth-generation index.

The HICP was introduced in 1997 and is undergoing its second base changeover.

### *Statistical unit surveyed*

Prices are collected from two kinds of statistical units:

- outlets, including Internet;
- national or regional providers for tariffs: electricity, telecommunications, rail and airfares, health, etc.;
- households in the specific case of measuring private sector rents (Rents and Charges surveys) and social landlords for measuring rents in the social sector (survey of rents among social landlords).

### *Frequency and collection method*

Prices are collected monthly and all over the month.

The collection methods are varied:

- by INSEE collectors in stores;
- on the Internet either manually by INSEE agents, or assisted by robot (web scraping);
- by transmission of scanner data for supermarkets and hypermarkets; this comprehensive data source transmitted by large retailers (supermarkets, hypermarkets, multi-businesses) has been used in the field of food products (excluding fresh products), clearing and personal care products since January 2020;
- from administrative or private databases (e.g. health insurance data, administrative declarations of fuel prices, etc.);
- Rent and Charges Survey and Rent Survey of Social Landlords.

### *Sampling frame and number of units surveyed*

About the prices collected in stores, the sampling is stratified according to three criteria:

- **geographic criterion:** around 140,000 prices are collected every month in 87 urban units of more than 2,000 inhabitants throughout metropolitan France and in five overseas departments;
- **product types:** a sample of slightly over 1,200 goods and services families (5,000 including overseas departments), called "items" (*variétés*), is defined to address product heterogeneity within 440 groups of products. The item is the basic level for tracking goods and services and calculating the index. The list of varieties is published annually with the basic weightings. A few average prices for a sample of products and services are published each month at this level.
- **type of sales outlet:** a sample of 30,000 outlets, stratified by sales channel, was constructed to represent goods and services diversity by brand, distributor, and consumer-purchasing modes, and to take into account the differences in price movements for each sales channel including Internet.

In addition, nearly 600 varieties from scanner data add to this count. They allow you to follow a basket of nearly 80 million products (an item given at a point of sale) whose prices are tracked throughout the month.

More than 2,500,000 prices, collected on the internet, complete this sample of products.

The sample is updated annually to reflect the changing patterns of consumption behaviour and, in particular, to introduce new goods and services. Revisions concern the list and content of items as well as the distribution by form of sale and by urban unit.

## Calculation method

The CPI and HICP are annually chained Laspeyres index.

It summarises the elementary indexes for each items. In addition to the sample composition, the weightings used to aggregate these elementary indexes are also updated annually. These weightings express the share of expenditures on a given aggregate in the total household consumption expenditures tracked by the CPI or HICP.

Most weightings are obtained from the annual assessments of household consumption expenditures in the National Accounts.

Specific methods are used for seasonal items, and for determining “pure” price movements on a constant-quality basis, when a product disappears and is replaced by another within the year.

## Producer unit and dissemination unit

Producer unit: *Insee, Direction Générale, direction des Statistiques démographiques et sociales (DSDS), division Prix à la consommation.*

### **Timetable**

The flash estimate for a given month is published at the end of that month.

The definitive index is published around the 13th of the following month. It is accompanied by all the detailed figures.

Insee publishes, at the same time, the seasonally adjusted monthly series for the all-item index, the index excluding public-sector charges and volatile-price products adjusted for tax measures (i.e., the “core inflation” index), and the European-Harmonised index (HICP). Those indexes are yearly revised.

The indices for each overseas department are published approximately two weeks after the final index for mainland France.

### **Publications**

- 1- *Informations Rapides*, Consumer price index - provisional results;
- 2- *Informations Rapides*, Consumer price index - final results: it gives the main results detailed by sector with a brief comment;
- 3- *Informations Rapides*, Price Index – Annual average rates of change : .at the end of January of each year, the publication presents the annual averages of the price indices.