

In April 2023, food became the main driver of inflation disparities between household categories.

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In April 2023, inflation in Metropolitan France stood at 5.9% year-on-year, i.e. a similar level to January (6.0% year-on-year). Inflation disparities between household categories appear less pronounced than at the start of the year, however, at least according to age or type of municipality of residence (► **Figure 1**). In particular, the oldest households (over 75 years old) face an average inflation 1.1 points higher than the youngest (under 30 years old), a gap that stood at 2.5 points in January. Disparities according to type of municipality of residence are also reduced: for households living in the Paris conurbation or in major cities, inflation is significantly closer to the average than it was in January; this is also the case for households living outside urban units.

However, when comparing standards of living, inflation disparities remain comparable to January: in particular, inflation in April 2023 for the least well-off households (first standard of living quintile) has deviated a little further from the household average (+0.3 points against +0.2 points in January).

In April, energy contributed moderately or even minimally to inflation disparities between household categories, whereas in January it had been one of the main factors (and the main factor in April 2022). In fact, energy inflation dropped substantially between January (+16.4% year-on-year in Metropolitan France) and April (+6.9%). In particular, the year-on-year variation

in petroleum prices became slightly negative in April (-1.2%). As a result, fuel now contributes marginally to inflation differentials between household categories and the contribution of housing energy is much less than in January.

Food, on the other hand, with inflation at 15.1% year-on-year in April 2023 in Metropolitan France, has become the main factor of inflation disparities between household categories. In particular, it contributes to increasing inflation for the oldest households, and reducing inflation for the youngest households, in line with the share of the budget spent on food by these two categories, which is higher for older people. Food is also the main factor in the inflation gap between the poorest and the richest households, as the share spent on food is greater in low-income households.

Within each household category, inflation was still dispersed across households in April 2023 in relatively similar proportions to those measured in January (► **Figure 2**). Among the oldest households, however, the dispersal of inflation eased somewhat in April: the interquartile gap stood at 3.5 points (against 3.7 points in January). Comparing households in the Paris conurbation and those living outside urban units, inflation appears to be dispersed at similar magnitudes. Finally, the interquartile gap remains higher for the least well-off households, compared to the wealthiest. ●

► **1. Inflation by category of household in April 2023, compared to average inflation in Metropolitan France** (in percentage points)



Note: the municipality of residence is understood to mean belonging to an urban unit of large or small size. How to read it: in April 2023, for households whose reference person is over 75, inflation was 0.3 points higher. Housing energy contributed +0.2 points to this difference and food +0.7 points.

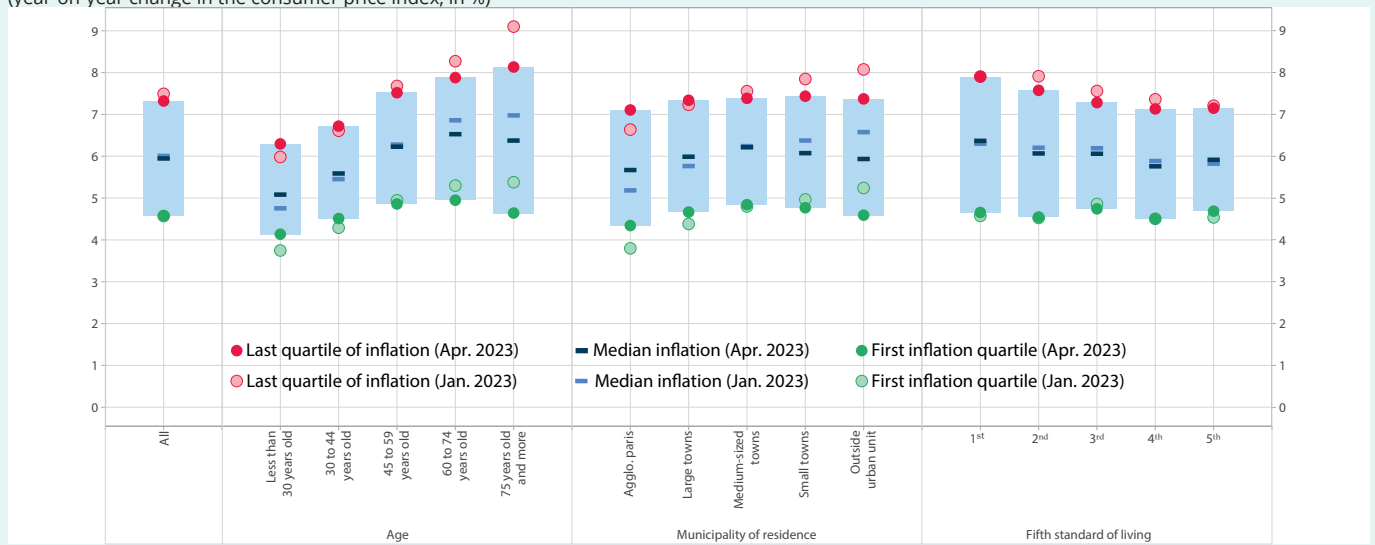
Scope: households living in ordinary housing in Metropolitan France.

Source: Consumer price indices, 2017 Family Budget survey, INSEE calculations.

French economic outlook

► 2. Dispersal of inflation within each category of household, in April 2023

(year-on-year change in the consumer price index, in %)



Note: the municipality of residence is understood to mean belonging to an urban unit of large or small size.

How to read it: in April 2023 in households where the reference person is under 30, median inflation was 5.1% (4.8% in January 2023). 25% of households experienced inflation lower than 4.1% (3.7% in January 2023) and 25% experienced inflation higher than 6.3% (6.0% in January 2023).

Scope: households living in ordinary housing in Metropolitan France.

Source: Consumer price indices, 2017 Family Budget survey, INSEE calculations.