

## Consumer price indices

*March 2012*

The Consumer Price Index measures the change in prices over time of a set of goods and services (CPI basket) representative of Italian household consumption.

In March 2012:

- the National Consumer Price Index for the whole nation **CPI** (see Italian **NIC**) – used to measure inflation over the entire Italian economic system – rose by 0.5% to the previous month and by 3.3% in comparison to the same month of the previous year;
- the EU Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices **HICP** (see Italian **IPCA**) – developed to facilitate the comparison of inflation between Member States – rose by 2.5% compared to the previous month and by 3.8% in comparison to the same month of the previous year.

Starting from data referred to March 2012, Istat releases for the first time the Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices at constant tax rates (**HICP-CT**). The HICP-CT follows the same computation principles as the HICP, but is based on prices ‘at constant tax rates’. It provides a measure of the theoretical impact of changes of indirect taxes (e.g. VAT and excise duties) on the overall HICP inflation (see attached Methodological Note).

In March 2012:

- the EU Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices at Constant Tax rates **HICP-CT** (see Italian **IPCA-TC**) rose by 2.5% compared to the previous month and by 2.7% in comparison to the same month of the previous year.

Consumer price indices. March 2012

	Indices	Percentage changes on the previous month	Percentage changes on the same month of the previous year
CPI (base 2010=100)	105.3	+0.5	+3.3
HICP (base 2005=100)	117.3	+2.5	+3.8
HICP-CT (base 2005=100)	116.0	+2.5	+2.7

## National Consumer Prices Index (CPI). March 2012

Divisions	Indices	Percentage changes on the previous month	Percentage changes on the same month of the previous year
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	104.7	+0.1	+2.5
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	109.1	+1.3	+7.5
Clothing and footwear	103.9	+0.4	+3.0
Housing. water. electricity. gas and other fuel	110.5	+0.3	+7.0
Furnishings. household equipment and routine maintenance of the house	103.6	+0.3	+2.4
Health	100.4	-0.3	-0.4
Transport	112.6	+1.8	+8.0
Communications	98.1	+0.5	-1.8
Recreation and culture	100.4	-0.9	+0.7
Education	103.8	0.0	+2.1
Hotels. cafes and restaurants	102.3	+0.5	+1.0
Miscellaneous goods and services	104.9	+0.2	+2.8
<b>All-items</b>	<b>105.3</b>	<b>+0.5</b>	<b>+3.3</b>

## Harmonized Index of Consumer Price (HICP). March 2012

Divisions	Indices	Percentage changes on the previous month	Percentage changes on the same month of the previous year
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	117.8	0.0	+2.6
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	131.5	+1.2	+7.4
Clothing and footwear	110.6	+25.8	+2.8
Housing. water. electricity. gas and other fuel	129.4	+0.3	+7.0
Furnishings. household equipment and routine maintenance of the house	114.2	+1.0	+2.2
Health	117.7	+0.1	+6.7
Transport	127.0	+1.8	+8.0
Communications	82.4	+0.6	-1.8
Recreation and culture	105.3	-1.0	+0.8
Education	117.0	0.0	+2.0
Hotels. cafes and restaurants	113.0	+0.4	+1.0
Miscellaneous goods and services	120.4	+0.8	+2.8
<b>All-items</b>	<b>117.3</b>	<b>+2.5</b>	<b>+3.8</b>

For more detailed information please refer to the Italian version

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Consumer price statistics

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