CONSUMER PRICES INDICES

Basket, weight and survey updates

Year 2026

In 2026 the main new development affecting the consumer price survey concerns the adoption of the new ECOICOP classification (European Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose, version 2), which incorporates the changes introduced by COICOP 2018. ECOICOP v2 is divided into four hierarchically ordered classification levels: 13 Divisions (there were twelve in the previous version of the classification), 47 Groups, 122 Classes and 234 Subclasses.

Istat further breaks down the expenditure groupings corresponding to the subclasses of the new ECOICOP into 392 Consumption Segments and 531 Product Aggregates for the NIC and FOI indices (for the HICP index, the number of Product Aggregates is 537). The index series for the period 1996–2025 have been reconstructed to obtain directly comparable data ("Focus", see p. 9).

In addition to the change in classification, the base year of the consumer price indices has been updated: starting from 2026, the series are expressed with the new base year 2025=100 (the procedures for transitioning to the new base year are described in "Focus" (p. 9).

As every year the rebasing of consumer price indices provides an opportunity to undertake a comprehensive revision of the weighting structures, update the sampling design, and incorporate methodological improvements as well as new data sources.

Concerning the data sources, the main development concerns the use of the IVASS database for the two-wheel sector (since 2024, this database has also been employed to collect information on the prices of motor third-party liability insurance services).

In total over 29 million price quotations are used each month to estimate Italian inflation. They come from different sources: almost 402,000 of them are collected locally by the Municipal Offices of Statistics (MOS) and concern 49.9% of the basket in terms of weight; around 187,000 are collected directly by Istat (25.6% of the basket) and about 27 million come from scanner data (13.3% of the basket). Then, around 203,000 quotes are collected from automotive fuels prices database of the Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy (4.5% of the basket). In addition, 807 price quotations relating to tobacco products are collected from Customs and Monopolies Agency for the detection of tobacco (3.8% of the basket) and one and half million house rent prices are available from the Real Estate Market Observatory of the Tax Office (2.9% of the basket).

Data coming from 80 municipalities are processed to estimate monthly inflation; the coverage of territorial survey, with reference to provincial population, is equal to 84.0%. An additional group of 10 municipalities participate in the territorial survey about a subset of products (local tariffs and some services) and for this subset, the territorial coverage is up to 89.1%.

In the municipalities, prices are collected for more than 46,000 statistical units (including outlets, enterprises and institutions) and rents are collected for more than 2,900 dwellings for social housing.

Price quotes collected through scanner data come from a sample of over 4,250 outlets including hypermarkets, supermarkets, discounts, small sales areas and specialist drugs, which are representative of the whole Italian national territory and of 19 large retail chains.

The consumer prices of automotive/motor fuels (petrol, gas oil, LPG and methane) for the whole national territory are collected through the data base of t Ministry of Economic Development. Istat uses information provided by around 20,700 petrol stations (92.7% of those in the data base).

The update of the basket of goods and services for 2026

In 2026, the set of indicators calculated based on price information collected for the goods and services included in the basket comprises 531 Product aggregates for the NIC and FOI indices (the lowest level of expenditure breakdown at which price indices are calculated at national level) (Table 1). As regards the HICP, the number of Product aggregates is 537[1] .

TABLE 1. **CLASSIFICATION STRUCTURE FOR NIC AND FOI INDICES.** Year 2026

Year 2026
13 expenditure divisions
47 product groups
122 product classes
234 product sub-classes
392 consumption segments
531 product aggregates

The main new elements that expand the coverage of household consumption expenditure concern the following Product aggregates (corresponding to an equal number of new Subclasses), collected by local survey:

▶ *School uniforms*, classified under the Class *Garments*;

▶ *Clothing accessories*, classified under the Class *Other articles of clothing and clothing accessories*;

▶ *Security equipment*, classified under the Class *Security equipment and materials for dwelling maintenance and repair*;

▶ *Charcoal*, classified under the Class *Solid fuels*;

▶ *Bath mats*, classified under the Class *Household textiles*;

▶ *Transport by private ambulance*, classified under the Class *Patient emergency transportation and emergency rescue services*;

▶ *Equipment for camping*, classified under the Class *Sporting, camping and open-air recreation equipment*.

In addition, the following new centrally collected aggregate has been introduced:

▶ *Software and antivirus,* classified under the corresponding Class *Software, excluding games.*

In accordance with the new European provisions, from 2026 the HICP will also be calculated including the prices of games of chance, lotteries and betting services, which were already contributing to the measurement of inflation as captured by the NIC and FOI indices.

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[1] The difference between the two baskets is mainly due to two elements: on the one hand in the HICP basket (but not in the NIC/FOI one), contributions to the NHS for pharmaceutical products, specialist practices and services of medical analysis (six items) are included; on the other hand in the NIC/FOI basket (but not in the HICP one).

The weighting structure

The weighting coefficients of indices are determined based on the values of the household final consumption expenditure and of the household final monetary consumption expenditure (for HICP), as derived from National Accounts. Additional information used to define weights is originated from the Household Budget Survey, from other Istat surveys and from external sources, which have an auxiliary function, such as NielsenIQ Italy S.r.l., GfK Italia S.r.l..

To preserve consistency between the weighting structure of the indices and that of household budgets—in compliance with Eurostat guidelines—the most recent data from the main Istat sources were used to revise the weights. Specifically, the reference data refer to 2025 for the National Accounts source and 2024 for the Household Expenditure Survey.

For timeliness reasons, the weighting system used for the preliminary estimate of inflation for January 2026 was calculated based on National Accounts data for the first three quarters of the year (data available as of December 2025). The extension of the information to cover the entire calendar year, available at the beginning of February 2026, then allowed for a further refinement of the weighting structures when the definitive estimates were released

Table 3 shows the 2026 weighting structures by expenditure division of NIC, HICP and FOI indices and their differences. By ordering expenditure divisions according to their relative weights, the three indices, except for *Health*, show relatively small differences. For all the indices, the expenditure divisions with a comparatively higher weight are *Food and non-alcoholic beverages*, *Transport*, *Restaurants and accommodation services, a*nd *Housing*, *water*, *electricity gas and other fuels*[2].

TABLE 3. WEIGHTS USED TO CALCULATE CONSUMER PRICE INDICES BY EXPENDITURE DIVISION. 2026, percentage values

EXPENDITURE DIVISIONS	WEIGHTS		
	NIC	HICP	FOI
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	17,2256	17,9043	15,6500
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	2,9104	3,0265	3,1901
Clothing and footwear	6,0192	6,7505	6,1708
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	12,0000	12,4803	12,7237
Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	6,7696	7,0640	6,5151
Health	8,1502	3,9870	7,2952
Transport	15,4540	16,0350	17,5806
Information and communication	2,8613	2,9758	3,1942
Recreation, sport and culture	5,8992	6,1241	6,0249
Education services	0,9678	1,0067	1,1721
Restaurants and accommodation services	12,1827	12,6720	11,5396
Insurance and financial services	2,6667	2,7733	2,4246
Personal care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services	6,8933	7,2005	6,5191
ALL ITEMS	100,0000	100,0000	100,0000

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[2] In Italy, as in the other European countries for HICP, items in the expenditure division *Housing*, *water*, *electricity*, *gas and other fuels* exclude dwelling purchase, as it is an investment and not a consumer item. This expenditure division includes actual rentals for housing, regarding about 17.8% of Italian households, according to survey of Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) 2024.

The differences among the weighting structures of NIC and HICP indices are largely due to the different definition of the reference economic aggregate for the two indices. This issue has relevant consequences for determining the weight of the expenditure division *Health*, and particularly the weight of pharmaceutical products. The NIC (and FOI) indices include expenditure incurred by public administration for the household consumption of pharmaceutical products and health services, whereas this expenditure is excluded from the calculation of the HICP. Therefore, the weight of *Health* in the basket of the harmonised index of consumer prices (4.0%) is significantly lower than the weight calculated for the national indices (8.2%).

The weights of the ECOICOPv2 expenditure divisions for the NIC index are compared with those of the divisions reconstructed for 2025 (Table 4). The highest increase in absolute terms concerns the expenditure division *Restaurants and accommodation services* (+0.2640), determined by the increase in both Restaurants and Accommodation services. The increase in the weight of *Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance* (0.2280) is mainly due to the increase of Tools and equipment for house and garden and Household appliances, while the increase of *Clothing and footwear* (0.1266) is affected by both Clothing and Footwear. The increase registered by the weight of *Food and non-alcoholic beverages* (+0.1187) is due to that of Food products, partly contained by a reduction in the weight of Non-alcoholic beverages while the increase of *Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels* (0.0492) is mainly due to the Actual rental payments made for housing. The increase in the weight of *Education services* (+0.0468) concerns almost all the underlying groupings while that of *Personal care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services* (+0.0435) is related to Social protection.

Looking at the expenditure divisions with reduced weight in the 2026 NIC basket, the largest decrease concerns the weight of *Information and communication* (-0.3478) mainly due to Information and communication equipment. The decline of *Recreation, sport and culture* (-0.2087 percentage points) is mainly due to the decline of Garden products and pets and of Recreational services. The decline in the weights of *Transport* (-0.1624) is largely due to Operation of personal transport equipment while that of *Alcoholic beverages, tobacco* (-0.1008) is affected by the decline of Alcoholic beverages. The weight of *Insurance and financial services* show smaller decreases (-0.0568) caused by Insurance. The almost stability of the weight of *Health* (-0.0003 percentage points) is the result between the reduction of Other health services and the increase of Inpatient care services and Outpatient care services.

TABLE 4. NIC INDEX: WEIGHTING STRUCTURE BY EXPENDITURE DIVISION. 2025 (reconstructed data) and 2026, percentage values and absolute differences

EXPENDITURE DIVISION	2025[3]	2026	Absolute difference	Percentage difference
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	17.1069	17.2256	0.1187	0.69
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco	3.0112	2.9104	-0.1008	-3.35
Clothing and footwear	5.8926	6.0192	0.1266	2.15
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	11.9508	12.0000	0.0492	0.41
Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	6.5416	6.7696	0.2280	3.49
Health	8.1505	8.1502	-0.0003	0.00
Transport	15.6164	15.4540	-0.1624	-1.04
Information and communication	3.2091	2.8613	-0.3478	-10.84
Recreation, sport and culture	6.1079	5.8992	-0.2087	-3.42
Education services	0.9210	0.9678	0.0468	5.08
Restaurants and accomodation services	11.9187	12.1827	0.2640	2.22
Insurance and financial services	2.7235	2.6667	-0.0568	-2.09
Personal care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services	6.8498	6.8933	0.0435	0.64
ALL ITEMS	**100.0000**	**100.0000**		

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[3] The weights refer to 2025 reconstructed according to the new classification

Looking at the weighting structure by product type (Table 5), in 2026 the weight of goods shows a slight increase in favor of that of services: the former goes to 55.77% (from 55.72% in 2025 reconstructed) while the latter falls to 44.23% (from 44.28%).

With reference to goods, in 2026 the weight of *Energy* decreases (10.51, from 10.64% in 2025) mainly due to the component of *Non-regulated energy products* and marginally of *Regulated energy products*. As for the other typologies of goods: *Food including alcohol* records a slight increase in the weight (18.11% from 18.07) due to the increase of *Unprocessed foods* (6.98% from 6.21%) largely offset by the decline in the weight of *Processed foods including alcohol* (11.12% from 11.85%); the weight of *Tobacco* records a slight decrease (2.03% from 2.05%). Finally, the modest increase in the weight of *Non energy industrial goods* (25.12% from 24.96%) is the result of the increase in *Semi-durable goods* and the reduction in *Non-durable goods* and *Durable goods*.

As for services, the largest increase (in the comparison with the reconstructed 2025 weights) concerns the weight of *Services related to communication* (1.40% from 1.27%. Lower increases are registered for the weights of *Services – miscellaneous* (11.41 from 11.31%), *Services related to recreation, including repair and personal care* (17.35% from 17.29%) and *Services related to housing* (6.94%, from 6.91%). At the opposite, there is a decrease in the weights of *Services related to transport* (7.14% from 7.50%).

In the 2026 weighting structure, the overall index excluding energy and unprocessed food (Core inflation) has a lower weight than in the reconstructed 2025 structure (82.50% compared to 83.15%).

TABLE 5. NIC INDEX: WEIGHTING STRUCTURE BY TYPE OF PRODUCT. 2025 (reconstructed data) and 2026, percentage values and absolute differences

SPECIAL AGGREGATES	2025	2026	Absolute difference	Percentage difference
Food including alcohol:	18.0670	18.1055	0.0385	0.2131
Processed food including alcohol	11.8526	11.1222	-0.7304	-6.1624
Unprocessed food	6.2144	6.9833	0.7689	12.3729
Energy:	10.6390	10.5124	-0.1266	-1.1900
Regulated energy products	0.7331	0.6982	-0.0349	-4.7606
Non-regulated energy products	9.9059	9.8142	-0.0917	-0.9257
Tobacco	2.0511	2.0305	-0.0206	-1.0043
Non energy industrial goods:	24.9645	25.1172	0.1527	0.6117
Durable goods	9.1976	9.1549	-0.0427	-0.4643
Non-durable goods	6.2215	6.1497	-0.0718	-1.1541
Semi-durable goods	9.5454	9.8126	0.2672	2.7993
Goods	**55.7216**	**55.7656**	**0.0440**	**0.0790**
Services related to housing	6.9120	6.9410	0.0290	0.4196
Services related to communication	1.2700	1.3964	0.1264	9.9528
Services related to recreation, including repair and personal care	17.2904	17.3454	0.0550	0.3181
Services related to transport	7.4957	7.1442	-0.3515	-4.6894
Services – miscellaneous	11.3103	11.4074	0.0971	0.8585
Services	**44.2784**	**44.2344**	**-0.0440**	**-0.0994**
ALL ITEMS	**100.0000**	**100.0000**		
All items excluding energy and unprocessed food (Core inflation)	83.1466	82.5043	-0.6423	-0.7725
All items excluding energy, food, alcohol and tobacco	69.2429	69.3516	0.1087	0.1570
All items excluding energy	89.3610	89.4876	0.1266	0.1417
Grocery and unprocessed food	20.4080	20.4361	0.0281	0.1377

Finally, concerning products by purchase frequency (Table 6), the weights of *High-frequency* and *Medium-frequency* purchases is higher than the recalculated weight for 2025, while the weights of *Low-frequency* purchases is lower.

TABLE 6. NIC INDEX: WEIGHTING STRUCTURE BY PURCHASE FREQUENCY 2025 (reconstructed data) and 2026, percentage values and absolute differences

PURCHASE FREQUENCY	2025	2026	Absolute difference
High-frequency purchases	40.6516	40.9790	0.3274
Medium-frequency purchases	39.8412	39.9634	0.1222
Low-frequency purchases	19.5072	19.0576	-0.4496
ALL ITEMS	**100.0000**	**100.0000**	

Geographical basis and coverage rate of the survey carried out by Municipal Offices of Statistics (MOS)

In 2026, the geographical basis of the survey is made up of 80 municipalities, which contribute to the indices calculation of all the product aggregates included in the basket. Other 10 municipalities[4] participate in the survey for a subset of products which includes local tariffs (water supply, solid waste, sewerage collection, urban transport, taxi, car transfer ownership, canteens in schools, public day nursery, etc.) and some local services (sport events, cinemas, theatre shows, secondary school education, canteens in universities, etc.).

For the whole basket, the coverage of the index in terms of resident population in the provinces, whose chief towns take part in the survey, is 84.0%. The participation of provincial chief towns is total for six regions (Valle D'Aosta, Trentino-Alto Adige, Veneto, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Emilia-Romagna and Umbria) but it is still incomplete for the others, in particular Abruzzo (48.2%), Sardinia (56.8%) and Puglia (55.3%).

At the macro-area level, coverage is total in the North-East, it is equal to 89.7% in the North-West, 83.3% in the Centre, 69.9% in the South and 71.6% in the Islands.

Concerning the basket subset including local tariffs and some local services - whose weight on the NIC basket is equal to 3.2% - considering the participation of the other 10 municipalities, the coverage of the survey, in terms of provincial resident population, rises to 89.1%.

Price data sources and survey methods

Data contributing to the calculation of monthly consumer price indices are traditionally collected using different sources: the *local survey*, carried out by municipal statistics offices, under Istat supervision and coordination; the *central survey* carried out directly by Istat or through different data providers; the *scanner data*; the *administrative sources*.

In 2026, the weight of the products exclusively collected through the local survey is equal to 49.9% and that of products collected through the central survey is 25.6%. In addition to these two ways, the acquisition of elementary prices (for grocery products) is carried out through scanner data with regard to the large-scale retail trade distribution channels that are hypermarkets, supermarkets, discounts, small sales areas and specialist drug (for 13.3% in terms of weight), where traditional data collection is no longer carried out. Finally, administrative sources are used: the database of fuel prices of Ministry of Economic Development whose weight is equal to 4.5%; the data provided by the Real Estate Market Observatory of the Tax Office for the survey of the prices of real rentals for private dwellings which weighs 2.9% and the Excise, Customs and Monopolies Agency for the survey on tobacco products, which accounts for 3.8% of the basket.

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[4] Asti, Chieti, Foggia, Frosinone, l'Aquila, Matera, Prato, Ragusa, Verbania and Vibo Valentia.

Local survey

In the 90 municipalities (80 for the full basket and 10 for a subset of products) taking part in the 2026 survey, prices are collected for more than 46,000 statistical units (including outlets, enterprises and institutions) and rents are collected for more than 2,900 dwellings for social housing. Almost 402,000 price quotes are sent by Municipal Offices of Statistics to Istat each month (about 388,000 in 2025).

Central survey

In 2026, prices/quotes collected each month directly by Istat are around 187,000 thorugh the web, also with the use of web scraping procedures, or collecting data from different providers.

✓ The main dato providers for the central price data collection are the following:

- ▶ Institute for the Supervision of Insurance (Ivass) for car insurances;

- ▶ National association of builders (ANCE) for carpenters' and painters' services;

- ▶ Italian Association of Concessionaries Highways and Tunnels (Aiscat), SPN and ASTM for motorway tolls;

- ▶ Farmadati, for pharmaceutical products;

- ▶ Italian Association of Publishers (AIE), for prices of school books;

- ▶ Specialized magazine "Quattroruote" for prices quotes of cars and second hand cars;

- ▶ Sanguinetti Editore, for prices of cars, motorcycles and motorbikes, caravans and motorhomes;

- ▶ GfK Italia S.r.l., for information on a large sub-set of technical consumer goods;

- ▶ Portal offers, public website created and managed by *Acquirente Unico*, in accordance with the procedures established by the Regulatory Authority for Energy Networks and Environment (*ARERA*), for the collection of offers of electricity and natural gas free market;

- ▶ Regulatory Authority for Energy Networks and Environment (ARERA), for the collection of offers of electricity and natural gas regulated market;

✓ about 400 quotes directly provided by insurance companies which refer to protection against most risks connected to property, such as fire, theft and other damages and are used for the Housing insurance services price index compilation.

Scanner data

Since 2018, Istat has been using scanner data of grocery products (excluding fresh food) in the production process of the consumer price indices.

A probabilistic sampling is used for the selection of outlets and the dynamic approach has been implemented to the selection of the elementary items.

At present, scanner data feed the calculation of 179 sub-indices ("aggregate of products") belonging to six ECOICOP Divisions (01, 02, 05, 06, 09, 13).

In agreement with large scale retail trade chains (RTCs) and with the fruitful collaboration of the Association of Modern Distribution and NielsenIQ, Istat receives scanner data for 4,278 outlets, including 475 hypermarkets, 1,594 supermarkets, 598 discounts, 1,065 outlets with surface between 100 and 400 s.m. and 546 specialist drug. These outlets belong to the main 19 RTCs and they cover the entire national territory. Istat receives scanner data on a weekly basis at item code level. The sample of outlets is stratified by provinces and retail trade channels (5).

About 22 million price quotes are collected each week to estimate inflation. For each barcode (GTIN), prices are calculated considering turnover and quantities (weekly price=weekly turnover/weekly quantities). Monthly prices are calculated as the arithmetic mean of weekly prices weighted with quantities.

Concerning the selection of the sample of items, a dynamic approach has been adopted. Specifically, in each month a sample of GTINs is selected within each outlet and ECR[5] market (representative of elementary aggregates). A set of filters have been implemented to select the matched sample each month comparing the current month with the preceding month. In January, the sample includes about 13 million references thereof about 27 million elementary prices enter the indices compilation.

Scanner data indices of ECR market are calculated at outlet level as unweighted Jevons index (geometric mean) of GTINs elementary indices. The ECR market indices are then linked to the base period (December of the previous year). In turn, provincial indices of ECR market are calculated as the weighted arithmetic means using sampling weights of outlets and turnover by retail trade channel. Finally, provincial indices of aggregate of products are calculated as the weighted arithmetic mean of ECR markets using expenditure shares (referred to one year before) for the weights.

Administrative sources

The administrative data sources for the calculation of consumer prices are several. Among these are those relating to tobacco whose data are provided by the Excise, Customs and Monopolies Agency (ADM). The indices calculated relate to three products: Cigarettes, Cigars and cigarillos and Other tobacco (shredded for cigarettes, snuff and chewing tobacco, other smoking tobacco, inhalation tobacco). The sample and the weighting system are obtained based on the annual sales value of the main manufactured tobacco products on the market. The Tobacco price indices are calculated by processing 807 price quotations (140 Cigarettes, 402 Cigars and cigarillos, 265 Other tobacco).

Starting from 2017 also the automotive fuels price indices are calculated from administrative data using the database supplied by the Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy that collects prices for these products. In 2026, around 203,000 price quotes are monthly used to estimate inflation and they come from around 19,500 fuel stations on the territory that is 81,3% of the ones present in Ministry database.

Starting from 2022 the estimation of private housing rents index is based on administrative data in particular rents contracts database provided by the Real Estate Market Observatory of the Tax Office. The production of the indices benefits from the collaboration of the Central Directorate for Real Estate Market Observatory and Estimating Services (OMISE) of the Tax Office. The new data source contains information about rents contracts registered in the reference period (starting from January 2022 data are released with both quarterly and monthly frequency). Only contracts where the property owner is a person and referring to some cadastral categories (civil properties, economic properties and popular properties) are used for inflation estimation. Stratification has been carried out for index calculation. In particular, dwellings have been stratified according to:

• the position in terms of OMI zones distinguishing between urban macro area if existing or, alternatively, to groups of zones;

• the type of the contract (free or agreed fee contract) and the duration (long or short term contract);

• the surface classes.

After data cleaning and integration more than one and a half million rents are available for monthly estimation; part of them refers to contracts to be updated according to the consumer prices for blue and white-collar worker households index (FOI).

The methodology used for calculation is the same as the methodology used for other products in the basket but the set of internal weights is constructed in a different way. In particular:

- the product aggregate index of the provincial capital city is calculated as the weighted arithmetic means of strata calculated for the provincial capital city and for the non-capital municipalities belonging to the provincial capital (these are 171 non-capital municipalities selected so as to ensure an adequate number of observations per month); the weights of the strata are calculated on the basis of administrative data and are updated on an annual basis; the aggregate product index in the region is calculated as the arithmetic means of the indices of the capital city of the region weighted on the bases of the population living in rented houses.

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[5] ECR markets are the lowest level of the ECR classification (classification shared by industrial and distribution companies) and they have been linked to the aggregates of product of ECOICOP classification.

Focus

Adoption of version 2 of the ECOICOP classification of individual consumption by purpose.

Since 1995, consumer price indices have been structured according to the international COICOP classification (Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose), developed within the United Nations, which represents the standard to which European statistics must also conform.

Since 2016, with the framework regulation on harmonised indices of consumer prices and the house price index (Regulation (EU) 2016/792), the European version of COICOP – the so-called ECOICOP – has been developed and adopted. Compared with the original international version (structured into Division, Group and Class), it introduced a fourth level (Subclass).

In Italy, an additional level of expenditure breakdown (the fifth) has also been introduced which, in the nomenclature adopted by Istat, is referred to as the Consumption segment.

In 2015, the United Nations Statistical Commission launched a lengthy process to revise the classification in order to take account of changes in household consumption patterns, and in March 2018 the new COICOP was approved. Consequently, it became necessary to align ECOICOP with the new international standard.

With Regulation (EU) 2024/3159, the European Commission established the procedures and timetable for the introduction of ECOICOP version 2 in the compilation of the Harmonised Indices of Consumer Prices.

Starting from the provisional estimates for January 2026, the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP), together with the Consumer Price Index for the whole community (NIC), will move to the new classification system; for the Consumer Price Index for blue- and white-collar households (FOI), the transition will instead be implemented with the release of the final January indices.

The introduction of the new classification entails a break in the continuity of the historical series, making it necessary to reconstruct the consumer price index series according to ECOICOP version 2 for the period 1996–2025.

From 1996 to 2009 inclusive, the indices for Divisions, Groups and Classes were reclassified; from 2010 to 2025, those for Subclasses and Consumption segments were also reclassified.

For the reconstruction, the reallocation method was used, based on assigning elementary aggregates within the categories of the new scheme. This methodology, discussed and agreed with Eurostat, ensures that the overall HICP, NIC and FOI indices remain unchanged.

With the provisional data for January 2026, HICP indices will continue to be released up to the level of Classes; during 2026, the level of publication detail is expected to be extended to Consumption segments.

NIC indices are published, for the entire national territory, down to the level of Consumption segments and, at territorial level (Geographical area, Region, Province), down to that of Product groups.

National and provincial FOI indices will continue to be published up to the level of Expenditure divisions.

Update of the reference base year to 2025

Consumer price indices are calculated using the chained Laspeyres formula, in which the basket of products and the weighting system are updated annually. Monthly indices for the current year are calculated with reference to December of the previous year (calculation base) and then chain-linked to the period chosen as the reference base, in order to measure price dynamics over a period longer than a year.

Up to the data for December 2025, consumer price indices have 2015 as their reference base year. Under European regulation (Regulation (EU) 2025/1182 of 18 June 2025), the reference period must be updated every ten years; therefore, starting from the provisional data for January 2026, the Harmonised Index is compiled with reference base year 2025 (=100).

The historical series of the HICP according to version 2 of the ECOICOP classification will be rebased to the new reference year.

As regards the NIC and FOI indices, the corresponding linking coefficients are provided in order to ensure temporal comparability between the series expressed in the new reference base and those in the previous bases.

For more details please refer to the Italian version

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