INFLATION AND CONSUMER PRICE INDICES - OCTOBER 2026

The monthly inflation rate was 1.2%, while the annual inflation rate was 6.0%. The inflation rate is measured by the CPI, with monthly inflation referring to October 2026 compared to the previous month, and the annual inflation is for October 2026 compared to the same month of the previous year.

In October 2026, compared to the previous month, the highest increase was registered in the following groups: 'Clothing and footwear' (7.4%), 'Recreation, sport and culture' (7.0%), 'Education services' (2.5%) and 'Alcoholic beverages, tobacco' (1.1%).

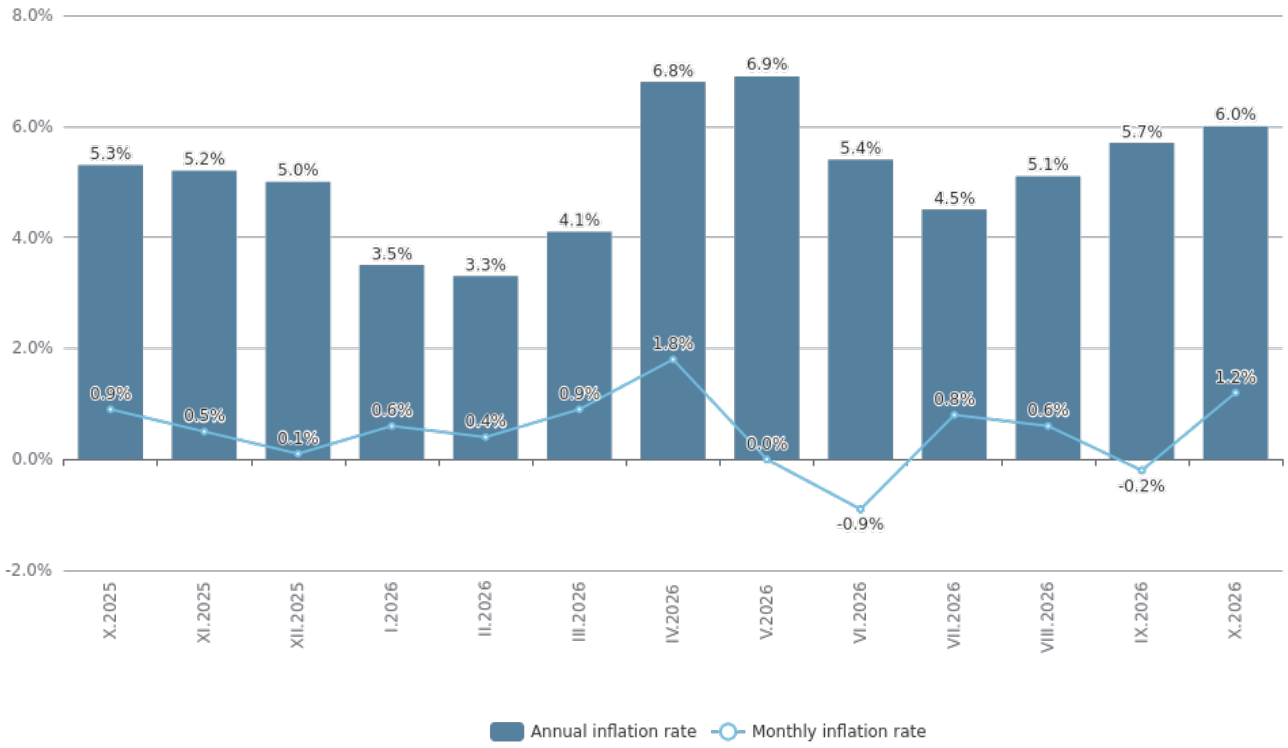
In October 2026, the monthly change in the prices of major food products by group was as follows: 'Meat, offal and meat products' (0.6%) and 'Milk, dairy products and eggs' (0.5%). The prices of the goods in following group 'Bread and bakery products' remained unchanged.

Consumer Price Index (CPI)

In October 2026, the **monthly inflation** rate, measured by CPI, was 1.2% and the **annual inflation** rate in October 2026 compared to October 2025 was 6.0%. The inflation rate since the beginning of the year (October 2026 compared to December 2025) was 5.4%[1].

The annual average inflation rate for the period November 2025 - October 2026 compared to the period November 2024 - October 2025 was 5.1%.

Figure 1. Inflation, measured by CPI, by month



Monthly inflation

In terms of CPI, in October 2026, the prices of goods and services increased in the following consumer groups:

- 'Clothing and footwear' - an increase of 7.4%;
- 'Recreation, sport and culture' - an increase of 7.0%;
- 'Education services' - an increase of 2.5%;
- 'Alcoholic beverages, tobacco' - an increase of 1.1%;
- 'Insurance and financial services' - an increase of 0.7%;
- 'Food and non-alcoholic beverages' - an increase of 0.6%;
- 'Health' - an increase of 0.4%;
- 'Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance' - an increase of 0.4%;
- 'Personal care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services' - an increase of 0.4%;
- 'Information and communication' - an increase of 0.4%;
- 'Restaurants and accommodation services' - an increase of 0.3%;
- 'Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels' - an increase of 0.3%.

The prices of the goods and services in following group ‘Transport’ remained unchanged.

Accumulated inflation

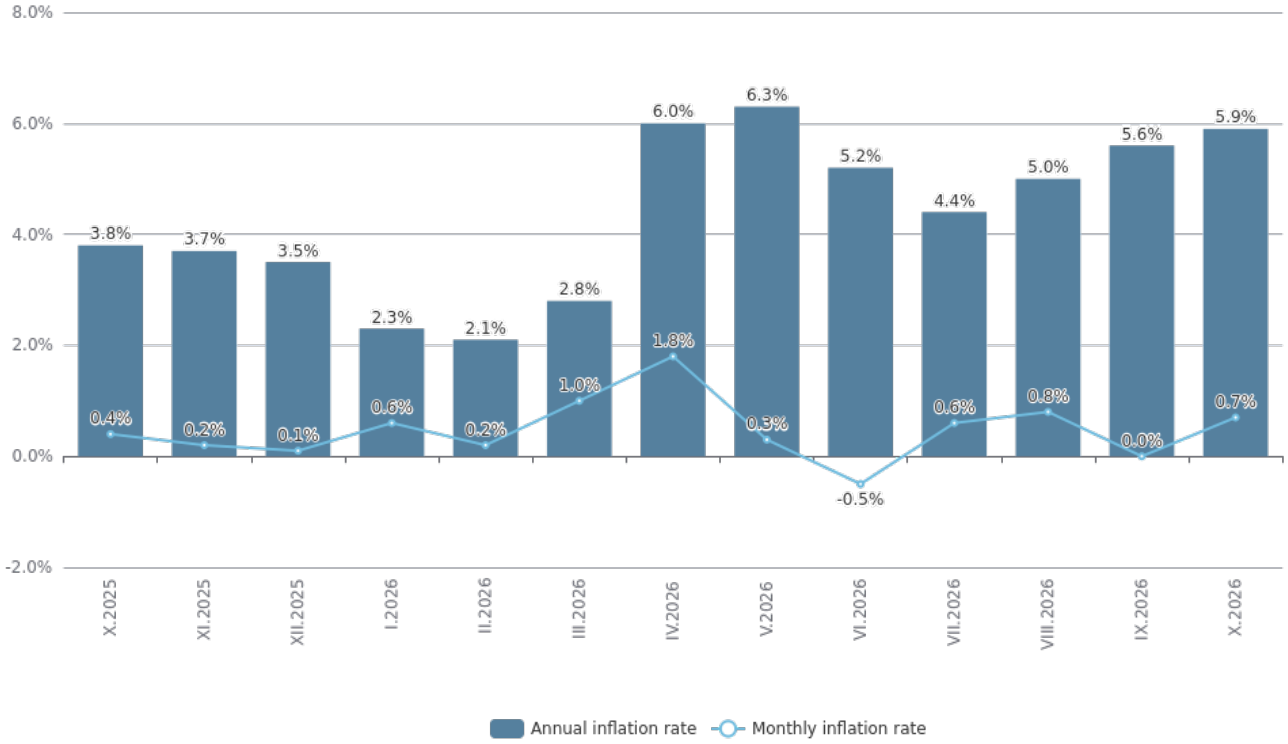
The accumulated inflation, measured by CPI, for the last three years (October 2026 compared to October 2023) was 13.7% and for the last five years (October 2026 compared to October 2021) was 41.5%.

Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices (HICP)

In October 2026, the **monthly inflation** rate, measured by HICP, was 0.7% and the **annual inflation** rate in October 2026 compared to October 2025 was 5.9%. The inflation rate since the beginning of the year (October 2026 compared to December 2025) was 5.6%[2].

The annual average inflation rate for the period November 2025 - October 2026 compared to the period November 2024 - October 2025 was 4.4%.

Figure 2. Inflation, measured by HICP, by month



Monthly inflation

In terms of HICP, in October 2026, the prices of goods and services increased in the following consumer groups:

- ‘Clothing and footwear’ - an increase of 7.1%;
- ‘Recreation, sport and culture’ - an increase of 2.5%;
- ‘Education services’ - an increase of 2.5%;
- ‘Alcoholic beverages, tobacco’ - an increase of 1.1%;
- ‘Information and communication’ - an increase of 0.8%;
- ‘Food and non-alcoholic beverages’ - an increase of 0.5%;
- ‘Health’ - an increase of 0.4%;
- ‘Insurance and financial services’ - an increase of 0.4%;
- ‘Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels’ - an increase of 0.3%;
- ‘Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance’ - an increase of 0.3%;
- ‘Personal care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services’ - an increase of 0.2%.

The prices of goods and services decreased in the following consumer groups:

- ‘Transport’ - a decrease of 0.6%;
- ‘Restaurants and accommodation services’ - a decrease of 0.1%.

Accumulated inflation

The accumulated inflation, measured by HICP, for the last three years (October 2026 compared to October 2023) was 12.2% and for the last five years (October 2026 compared to October 2021) was 36.4%.

Price Index of a Small Basket (PISB)

In October 2026, the monthly rate, measured by PISB, was 0.7% and the annual rate in October 2026 compared to October 2025 was 2.4%[3].

In October 2026, compared to the previous month, the prices of goods and services in the small basket for the 20% of households with the lowest income changed as follows:

- ‘Non-food products’ - an increase of 1.4%;
- ‘Food products’ - an increase of 0.7%;
- ‘Services’ - an increase of 0.1%.

Methodological notes

In compliance with **Regulation (EC) No. 2024/3159** since January 2026 NSI applies new European Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose version 2, aligned with the United Nations UN COICOP 2018 classification for **CPI, HICP and PISB**.

In compliance with **Implementing Regulation (EC) No. 2025/1182 since January 2026** the base year for **CPI, HICP and PISB** has been changed and the all indices have been calculated and published at **2025 as a base year** (www.nsi.bg).

In compliance with **Regulation (EC) No. 2024/3159 since January 2026 Games of chance** has been included in the **CPI and HICP** as part of Recreation services under the division of Recreation, sport and culture.

The **Consumer Price Index (CPI) is the official measure of inflation in the Republic of Bulgaria.** It measures the total relative price change of goods and services used by households for private (non-production) consumption. It is calculated by applying the structure of Bulgarian households' final monetary consumption expenditures. The main source of information for the expenditures is the household budget survey in the country. The CPI in year ***t*** is calculated with the expenditures' structure of year ***t - 1.***

The **Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) is the comparable measure of inflation across EU Member States. It is one of the criteria for price stability and the readiness of Bulgaria to join the Eurozone.** HICP, as well as CPI, measures the total relative price change of goods and services. Both indices are calculated using the same basket of goods and services but differ with concern to the weights used. HICP is calculated using weights, which reflect the individual and collective consumption of all households (incl. institutional and foreign households) in the country's economic territory. The main source of information for HICP weights is the national accounts (NA) data. For calculating the HICP in 2026, NA data for households' final monetary consumption expenditures (HFMCE) - domestic concept in 2024 is used. NA 2024 data are reviewed and updated to make them representative of 2025.

The **Price Index of a Small Basket (PISB)** measures the relative average price changes of 100 socially useful and vital living goods and services. The weights of this index reflect the expenditures of the 20% lowest households' incomes. The source of the information on weights is the Households Budget Survey in the country. This index in year ***t*** is calculated with the weights of year ***t - 1.***

The **chain** consumer price indices measure the price change in the current month compared to the previous month. The chain consumer price indices are used as a measure of **monthly inflation.**

The **12-month** consumer price indices measure the price changes occurring between the current month and the same month of the previous year. The 12-month consumer price indices are used as a measure of **annual inflation.**

Consumer price indices **over December of the previous year** measure the accumulated changes in prices of the current month concerning December of the previous year. Consumer price indices over December of the previous year are used as measures of **inflation since the beginning of the year.** In December of each year, the 12-month index is equal to the index over December of the previous year.

The **annual average** consumer price indices measure the average price change during the 12 months of the current year compared to the average price change during the 12 months of the previous year. The annual average consumer price indices are used as a measure of the **annual average inflation.**

In relation to the membership of Bulgaria in the euro area from the 1st of January 2026, the National Statistical Institute (NSI) is obliged to produce and publish inflation flash estimate. This is valid for all country members of the euro area. The NSI publishes on its website a press release for the inflation flash estimate, according to the Release Calendar of statistical information.

Statistical area: Inflation and Consumer Price Indices:

Inflation and Consumer Price Indices|National Statistical Institute (nsi.bg)

IS Infostat: Consumer prices:

https://infostat.nsi.bg/infostat/pages/module.jsf?x_2=68

Metadata and Methodology:

Consumer Price Indices (CPI)|National Statistical Institute (nsi.bg)

Inflation Rate Calculator:

Inflation Rate Calculator|National Statistical Institute (nsi.bg)

Annex

Table 1

Consumer Price Indices in October 2026

Code	Commodity groups	October 2026 compared to September 2026	October 2026 compared to December 2025	October 2026 compared to October 2025
		%	%	%
00	Total CPI	101.2	105.4	106.0
01	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	100.6	101.8	102.0
02	Alcoholic beverages, tobacco	101.1	107.1	107.5
03	Clothing and footwear	107.4	102.7	100.3
04	Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	100.3	105.6	105.6
05	Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	100.4	100.1	100.1
06	Health	100.4	102.9	103.2
07	Transport	100.0	123.8	126.2
08	Information and communication	100.4	104.2	101.9
09	Recreation, sport and culture	107.0	102.2	109.1
10	Education services	102.5	109.1	109.2
11	Restaurants and accommodation services	100.3	108.8	109.8
12	Insurance and financial services	100.7	100.8	101.9
13	Personal care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services	100.4	105.2	105.3
	Foods	100.7	101.8	102.0
	Non-foods	101.1	108.1	108.1
	Catering	100.6	108.6	109.7
	Services	101.9	105.6	107.3

Table 2

Harmonised Indices of Consumer Prices in October 2026

Code	Commodity groups	October 2026 compared to September 2026	October 2026 compared to December 2025	October 2026 compared to October 2025
		%	%	%
00	Total HICP	100.7	105.6	105.9
01	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	100.5	101.7	101.8
02	Alcoholic beverages, tobacco	101.1	106.5	107.0
03	Clothing and footwear	107.1	102.9	101.2
04	Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	100.3	105.4	105.4
05	Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	100.3	100.9	100.9
06	Health	100.4	102.9	103.2
07	Transport	99.4	114.9	116.5
08	Information and communication	100.8	102.9	101.2
09	Recreation, sport and culture	102.5	104.5	106.6
10	Education services	102.5	109.1	109.2
11	Restaurants and accommodation services	99.9	109.2	110.0
12	Insurance and financial services	100.4	100.5	101.0
13	Personal care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services	100.2	108.8	109.1

Table 3

Indices of 100 socially useful and vital for the living goods and services in the small basket for the 20% lowest income households in October 2026

Code	Commodity groups	October 2026 compared to September 2026	October 2026 compared to October 2025
		%	%
00	Total PISB	100.7	102.4
01	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	100.7	102.0
03	Clothing and footwear	107.7	99.0
04	Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	100.0	104.3
05	Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	100.7	104.7
06	Health	100.4	100.8
07	Transport	100.4	101.3
08	Information and communication	100.0	100.0
09	Recreation, sport and culture	100.6	102.7
13	Personal care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services	101.7	103.2
	Foods	100.7	102.0
	Non-foods	101.4	101.7
	Services	100.1	104.3

[1] According to the CPI methodology. For more information, see the Methodological notes and Annex, Table 1.

[2] According to the HICP methodology. For more information, see the Methodological notes and Annex, Table 2.

[3] For more information, see the Methodological notes and Annex, Table 3.