

INFLATION AND CONSUMER PRICE INDICES IN SEPTEMBER 2023

The monthly inflation rate was -0.1%, while the annual inflation rate was 6.3%. The inflation rate is measured by the CPI, with monthly inflation referring to the month of September 2023 compared to the previous month, and annual inflation being for September 2023 compared to the same month of the previous year.

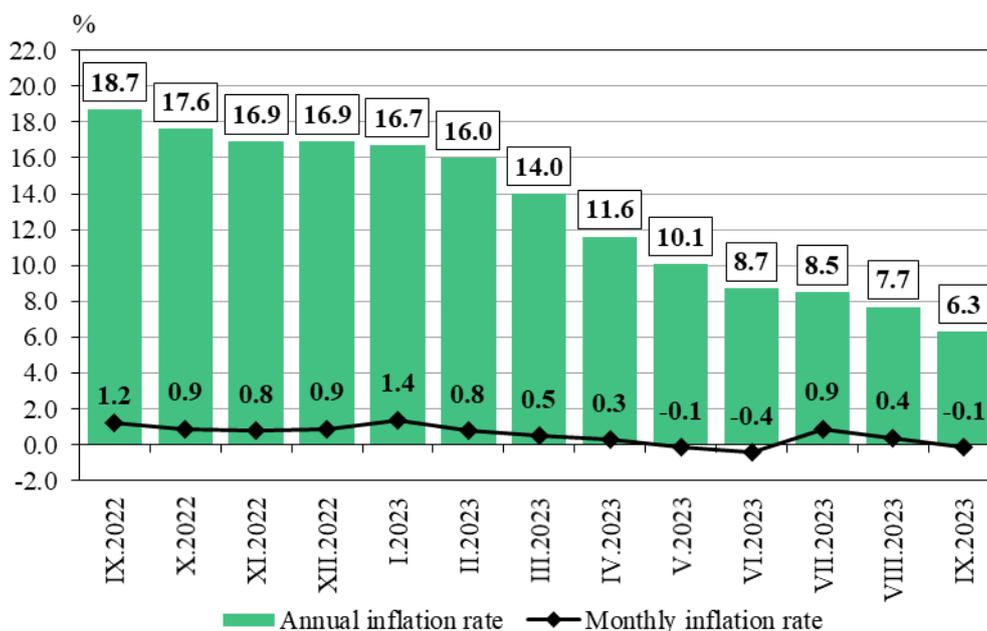
In September 2023, compared to the previous month, a decrease was registered for Recreation and culture (-10.1%) and Restaurants and hotels (-1.9%). The highest increase was recorded in the prices for Education (+4.0), Transport (+2.7%), Clothing and footwear (+0.6%), Health (+0.6%) and Food and non-alcoholic beverages (+0.5%).

Consumer Price Index (CPI)

In September 2023, the **monthly inflation** rate was -0.1% compared to the previous month, and the **annual inflation** rate in September 2023 compared to September 2022 was 6.3%¹.

The inflation rate since the beginning of the year (September 2023 compared to December 2022) was 3.6%, and the annual average inflation rate for the period October 2022 - September 2023 compared to the period October 2021 - September 2022 was 12.4%.

Figure 1. Inflation, measured by CPI, by month



In September 2023, compared to the previous month, the prices of goods and services decreased in the following consumer groups:

¹ According to the CPI methodology. For more information, see the Methodological notes on pages 4 and 5 and Annex, Table 1.

- Recreation and culture - a decrease of 10.1%;
- Restaurants and hotels - a decrease of 1.9%.

In September 2023, compared to the previous month, the prices of goods and services increased in the following consumer groups:

- Education - an increase of 4.0%;
- Transport - an increase of 2.7%;
- Clothing and footwear - an increase of 0.6%;
- Health - an increase of 0.6%;
- Food and non-alcoholic beverages - an increase of 0.5%;
- Miscellaneous goods and services - an increase of 0.3%;
- Alcoholic beverages and tobacco - an increase of 0.1%;
- Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels - an increase of 0.1%;
- Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house - an increase of 0.1%.

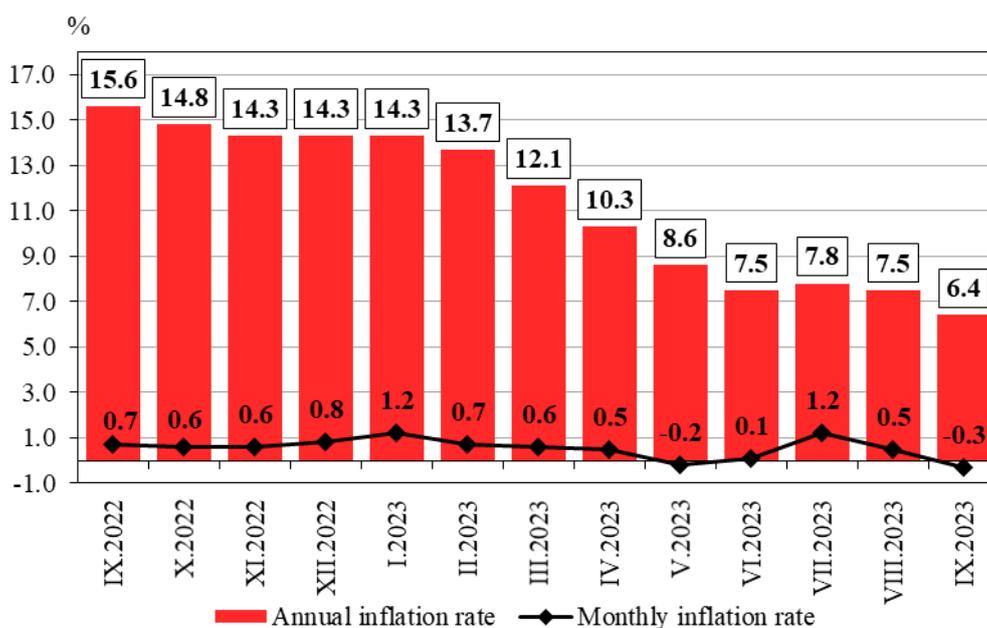
The prices of goods and services in Communications remained unchanged.

Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices (HICP)

In September 2023, the **monthly inflation** rate, measured by HICP, was -0.3% compared to the previous month, and the **annual inflation** rate in September 2023 compared to September 2022 was 6.4%¹.

The inflation rate since the beginning of the year (September 2023 compared to December 2022) was 4.2%, and the annual average inflation rate for the period October 2022 - September 2023 compared to the period October 2021 - September 2022 was 10.8%.

Figure 2. Inflation, measured by HICP, by month



¹ According to the HICP methodology. For more information, see the Methodological notes on pages 4 and 5 and Annex, Table 2.

In terms of HICP, in September 2023, compared to the previous month, the prices of goods and services decreased in the following consumer groups:

- Restaurants and hotels - a decrease of 6.5%;
- Recreation and culture - a decrease of 4.6%.

In September 2023, compared to the previous month, the prices of goods and services increased in the following consumer groups:

- Education - an increase of 4.2%;
- Transport - an increase of 1.8%;
- Clothing and footwear - an increase of 0.9%;
- Health - an increase of 0.6%;
- Food and non-alcoholic beverages - an increase of 0.5%;
- Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house - an increase of 0.3%;
- Miscellaneous goods and services - an increase of 0.3%;
- Alcoholic beverages and tobacco - an increase of 0.2%;
- Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels - an increase of 0.1%.

The prices of goods and services in Communications remained unchanged.

Price Index of a Small Basket (PISB)

In September 2023, a price increase of 0.5%, measured by the **Price Index of a Small Basket**, was registered on a monthly basis, and a price increase of 3.7% since the beginning of the year (September 2023 compared to December 2022)¹.

In September 2023, 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:

- Food products - an increase of 0.7%;
- Non-food products - an increase of 0.6%;
- Services - an increase of 0.1%.

¹ For more information, see the Methodological notes on pages 4 and 5 and Annex, Table 3.



Methodological notes

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 2023, NA data for households' final monetary consumption expenditures (HFMCE) - domestic concept in 2021 is used. NA 2021 data are reviewed and updated to make them representative of 2022, following Eurostat's methodological guidance on the compilation of HICP weights in case of large changes in consumer expenditures¹.

In compliance with Regulation (EC) No. 2015/2010, **since January 2016, the base year for the HICP has changed**, and all indices have been calculated and published using **2015 as a base year**. The time series have been recalculated according to the new base year and have been posted on the NSI website (www.nsi.bg).

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**.

¹ Guidance on the compilation of HICP weights in case of large changes in consumer expenditures, Eurostat, Directorate C, Macro-economic statistics, 3.02.2020:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/10186/10693286/Guidance-on-the-compilation-of-HICP-weights-in-case-of-large-changes-in-consumer-expenditures.pdf>.



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**.

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 September 2023

(Per cent)

Commodity groups	Weights	September 2023		
		August 2023 = 100	December 2022 = 100	September 2022 = 100
00 Total CPI	100.000	99.9	103.6	106.3
01 Food and non-alcoholic beverages	31.198	100.5	105.2	110.5
02 Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	4.615	100.1	105.4	106.5
03 Clothing and footwear	3.996	100.6	98.9	105.2
04 Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	17.219	100.1	99.4	96.6
05 Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	5.381	100.1	104.5	106.1
06 Health	8.120	100.6	107.2	113.7
07 Transport	9.544	102.7	105.8	101.4
08 Communication	5.107	100.0	102.9	105.8
09 Recreation and culture	5.069	89.9	93.3	107.0
10 Education	0.330	104.0	107.0	109.0
11 Restaurants and hotels	4.764	98.1	107.9	111.2
12 Miscellaneous goods and services	4.656	100.3	107.9	111.4
Foods	32.435	100.5	105.2	110.4
Non-foods	36.889	100.9	102.9	104.4
Catering	4.284	100.5	107.6	111.6
Services	26.393	97.6	101.9	102.8



Table 2

Harmonized Indices of Consumer Prices in September 2023

Commodity groups	Weights	September 2023			
		2015 = 100	August 2023 = 100	December 2022 = 100	September 2022 = 100
	%	%			
00 Total HICP	1000.000	135.18	99.7	104.2	106.4
01 Food and non-alcoholic beverages	238.994	166.80	100.5	105.6	110.8
02 Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	51.169	123.88	100.2	105.4	106.7
03 Clothing and footwear	35.637	106.31	100.9	99.3	105.3
04 Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	115.668	146.61	100.1	100.7	96.3
05 Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	61.905	125.43	100.3	104.1	105.6
06 Health	83.555	122.99	100.6	107.1	113.5
07 Transport	134.623	122.63	101.8	104.7	101.7
08 Communication	50.200	94.20	100.0	102.9	105.8
09 Recreation and culture	79.503	117.00	95.4	98.1	104.0
10 Education	17.724	148.50	104.2	106.5	108.8
11 Restaurants and hotels	71.010	158.39	93.5	108.6	110.7
12 Miscellaneous goods and services	60.012	137.89	100.3	106.2	110.2

Table 3

Price indices of 100 socially useful and vital for the living goods and services in the small basket for the 20% lowest income households in September 2023

Commodity groups	Weights	(Per cent)
		September 2023 August 2023 = 100
Total PISB	100.000	100.5
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	49.304	100.7
Clothing and footwear	4.182	100.2
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	26.367	100.0
Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	2.488	101.5
Health	11.196	101.7
Transport	1.158	100.3
Communication	0.089	100.0
Recreation and culture	0.551	100.5
Miscellaneous goods and services	4.665	99.3
Foods	49.304	100.7
Non-foods	30.412	100.6
Services	20.284	100.1