

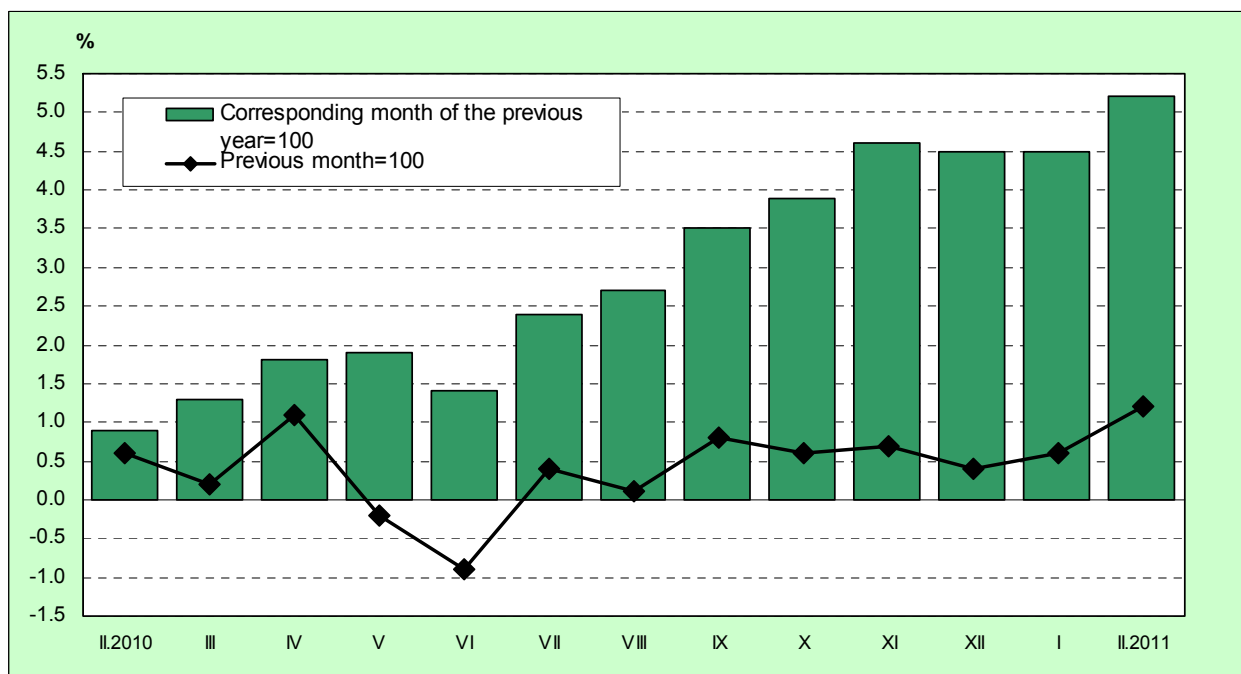


INFLATION AND CONSUMER PRICE INDICES IN FEBRUARY 2011

The **consumer price index** (CPI) in February 2011 compared to January 2011 was **101.2%**, i.e. the monthly inflation was **1.2%**. The inflation rate since the beginning of the year (February 2011 compared to December 2010) was **1.9%** and the annual inflation in February 2011 compared to February 2010 was **5.2%** (Table 1).

The annual average inflation, measured by CPI, in the last 12 months (March 2010 - February 2011) compared to the previous 12 months (March 2009 - February 2010) was **3.1%**.

Figure 1. Inflation measured by CPI by months



In February 2011 compared to the previous month the prices of goods and services in the main consumer groups have been changed as follows:

- Food and non-alcoholic beverages - an increase of **3.1%**;
- Alcoholic beverages and tobacco - an increase of **0.2%**;
- Clothing and footwear - a decrease of **1.1%**;
- Housing (rentals, maintenance and repair), water, electricity, gas and other fuels - the prices have remained at the level of the previous month;
- Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house - the prices have remained at the level of the previous month;
- Health - an increase of **0.1%**;
- Transport - an increase of **1.2%**;
- Communications - the prices have remained at the level of the previous month;
- Recreation and culture - an increase of **0.1%**;
- Education - a decrease of **0.1%**;

- Restaurants and hotels - an increase of **0.2%**;
- Miscellaneous goods and service - an increase of **0.3%**.

According to the final data of the NSI, the consumer price index in January 2011 compared to December 2010 was **100.6%**, i.e. the monthly inflation was **0.6%** (Table 4).

The **harmonized index of consumer prices** (HICP) in February 2011 compared to January 2011 was **100.6%**, i.e. the monthly inflation was **0.6%**. The inflation rate since the beginning of the year (February 2011 compared to December 2010) was **1.0%** and the annual inflation in February 2011 compared to February 2010 was **4.6%** (Table 2).

The annual average inflation, measured by HICP, in the last 12 months (March 2010 - February 2011) compared to the previous 12 months (March 2009 - February 2010) was **3.5%**.

In terms of HICP in February 2011 compared to the previous month the prices of goods and services in the main consumer groups have been changed as follows:

- Food and non-alcoholic beverages - an increase of **2.2%**;
- Alcoholic beverages and tobacco - an increase of **0.2%**;
- Clothing and footwear - a decrease of **0.9%**;
- Housing (rentals, maintenance and repair), water, electricity, gas and other fuels - the prices have remained at the level of the previous month;
- Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house - a decrease of **0.1%**;
- Health - an increase of **0.1%**;
- Transport - an increase of **0.8%**;
- Communications - the prices have remained at the level of the previous month;
- Recreation and culture - the prices have remained at the level of the previous month;
- Education - a decrease of **0.1%**;
- Restaurants and hotels - a decrease of **0.3%**;
- Miscellaneous goods and service - an increase of **0.1%**.

According to the final data of the NSI, the harmonized index of consumer prices in January 2011 compared to December 2010 was **100.5%**, i.e. the monthly inflation was **0.5%** (Table 5).

The **price index of a small basket** (PISB) in February 2011 compared to January 2011 was **102.2%** and the overall increase since the beginning of the year (February 2011 compared to December 2010) was **103.2%** (Table 3).

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

- Food products - an increase of **3.6%**;
- Non-food products - a decrease of **0.1%**;
- Services - an increase of **0.1%**.

According to the final data of the NSI, the price index of a small basket in January 2011 compared to December 2010 was **101.0%** (Table 6).



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 and it is calculated by applying the structure of the final monetary consumption expenditures of the Bulgarian households. The main source of information for the expenditures is the household budget survey in the country. 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 of price stability and for readiness of Bulgaria to join the euro-zone. 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 respect to the used weights. HICP is calculated through the use of weights, which reflect the individual and the collective consumption of all households (incl. institutional and foreign households) on the economic territory of the country. The main source of information for HICP weights is the national accounts data. HICP in year t is calculated with the weights of year $t-3$.

The **Price Index of a Small Basket (PISB)** is a measurement of the relative average price changes of 100 socially useful and vital for the living goods and services. The weights of this index reflect the expenditures of the 20% lowest income households. The source of weights information 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 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 having occurred 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 with respect to December of previous year. Consumer price indices over December of the previous year are used as measures of the **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**.

January 2011 price indices are released as preliminary since they are calculated with the household budget data for the period October 2009 – September 2010. **The final January 2011 consumer price indices**, calculated with the annual 2010 household budget data for the weights, are released along with the February 2011 data.



Annexes

Table 1

CONSUMER PRICE INDICES: FEBRUARY 2011

(Per cent)

Commodity groups	2010 weights - %	February 2011		
		Previous month = 100	December 2010 = 100	Corresponding month of the previous year = 100
00 Total CPI	100.000	101.2	101.9	105.2
01 Food and non-alcoholic beverages	36.588	103.1	104.5	106.2
02 Alcoholic beverages, tobacco	5.414	100.2	100.3	124.1
03 Clothing and footwear	3.411	98.9	97.6	101.2
04 Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	17.174	100.0	99.6	102.4
05 Furnishing, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house	4.069	100.0	100.0	99.5
06 Health	6.656	100.1	101.1	102.2
07 Transport	7.367	101.2	102.7	111.2
08 Communications	5.585	100.0	99.9	98.8
09 Recreation and culture	3.670	100.1	100.3	97.1
10 Education	0.488	99.9	100.1	101.5
11 Restaurants and hotels	5.601	100.2	100.4	101.4
12 Miscellaneous goods and services	3.976	100.3	100.7	104.7
Foods	37.903	103.0	104.4	106.2
Non-foods	30.159	100.2	100.5	107.6
Catering	5.287	100.3	100.5	102.1
Services	26.651	100.0	100.1	101.4



Table 2

HARMONISED INDICES OF CONSUMER PRICES: FEBRUARY 2011

(Per cent)

Commodity groups	2008 - weights - ‰	February 2011			
		2005 = 100	Previous month = 100	December 2010 = 100	Corresponding month of the previous year = 100
00 Total HICP	1000.000	140.71	100.6	101.0	104.6
01 Food and non-alcoholic beverages	204.178	146.02	102.2	103.2	104.9
02 Alcoholic beverages, tobacco	109.003	264.19	100.2	100.4	123.4
03 Clothing and footwear	34.492	126.15	99.1	98.0	101.4
04 Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	77.973	133.71	100.0	99.4	102.7
05 Furnishing, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house	78.591	115.43	99.9	99.6	99.5
06 Health	50.077	131.45	100.1	103.1	104.2
07 Transport	170.839	137.92	100.8	101.6	108.2
08 Communications	56.378	93.22	100.0	99.8	98.6
09 Recreation and culture	71.156	115.76	100.0	99.9	96.7
10 Education	10.876	160.83	99.9	100.1	101.6
11 Restaurants and hotels	69.176	155.94	99.7	100.1	100.3
12 Miscellaneous goods and services	67.260	161.77	100.1	100.7	109.6

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: FEBRUARY 2011**

(Per cent)

Commodity groups	2010 weights - %	February 2011
		Previous month = 100
Total PISB	100.000	102.2
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	58.653	103.6
Clothing and footwear	2.765	99.6
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	21.623	100.1
Furnishing, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house	2.728	100.1
Health	5.982	99.8
Transport	1.908	100.3
Communications	1.709	100.0
Recreation and culture	0.579	100.0
Miscellaneous goods and services	4.054	100.1
Foods	58.653	103.6
Non-foods	19.631	99.9
Services	21.716	100.1



Annexes

Table 4

CONSUMER PRICE INDICES: JANUARY 2011 (FINAL DATA)

(Per cent)

Commodity groups	2010 weights - %	January 2011		
		Previous month = 100	December 2010 = 100	Corresponding month of the previous year = 100
00 Total CPI	100.000	100.6	100.6	104.5
01 Food and non-alcoholic beverages	36.588	101.4	101.4	104.6
02 Alcoholic beverages, tobacco	5.414	100.2	100.2	125.4
03 Clothing and footwear	3.411	98.7	98.7	100.8
04 Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	17.174	99.6	99.6	102.5
05 Furnishing, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house	4.069	100.0	100.0	99.5
06 Health	6.656	101.0	101.0	101.7
07 Transport	7.367	101.5	101.5	110.0
08 Communications	5.585	99.9	99.9	98.8
09 Recreation and culture	3.670	100.2	100.2	97.8
10 Education	0.488	100.2	100.2	101.8
11 Restaurants and hotels	5.601	100.2	100.2	101.2
12 Miscellaneous goods and services	3.976	100.4	100.4	104.5
Foods	37.903	101.4	101.4	104.6
Non-foods	30.159	100.2	100.2	107.4
Catering	5.287	100.2	100.2	101.9
Services	26.651	100.0	100.0	101.5



Table 5

HARMONISED INDICES OF CONSUMER PRICES: JANUARY 2011 (FINAL DATA)

(Per cent)

Commodity groups	2008 - weights - ‰	January 2011			
		2005 = 100	Previous month = 100	December 2010 = 100	Corresponding month of the previous year = 100
00 Total HICP	1000.000	139.94	100.5	100.5	104.3
01 Food and non-alcoholic beverages	204.178	142.93	101.0	101.0	104.1
02 Alcoholic beverages, tobacco	109.003	263.69	100.2	100.2	124.6
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04 Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	77.973	133.70	99.4	99.4	102.8
05 Furnishing, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house	78.591	115.57	99.7	99.7	99.6
06 Health	50.077	131.38	103.1	103.1	103.9
07 Transport	170.839	136.82	100.8	100.8	107.3
08 Communications	56.378	93.23	99.8	99.8	98.6
09 Recreation and culture	71.156	115.78	99.9	99.9	97.2
10 Education	10.876	160.96	100.1	100.1	101.9
11 Restaurants and hotels	69.176	156.47	100.4	100.4	100.5
12 Miscellaneous goods and services	67.260	161.57	100.6	100.6	109.7

Table 6

**PRICE INDICES OF 100 SOCIALLY USEFUL AND VITAL FOR THE
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(FINAL DATA)**

(Per cent)

Commodity groups	2010 weights - %	January 2011 Previous month = 100
Total PISB	100.000	101.0
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Clothing and footwear	2.765	99.3
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Recreation and culture	0.579	100.0
Miscellaneous goods and services	4.054	100.0
Foods	58.653	101.7
Non-foods	19.631	100.0
Services	21.716	99.9