



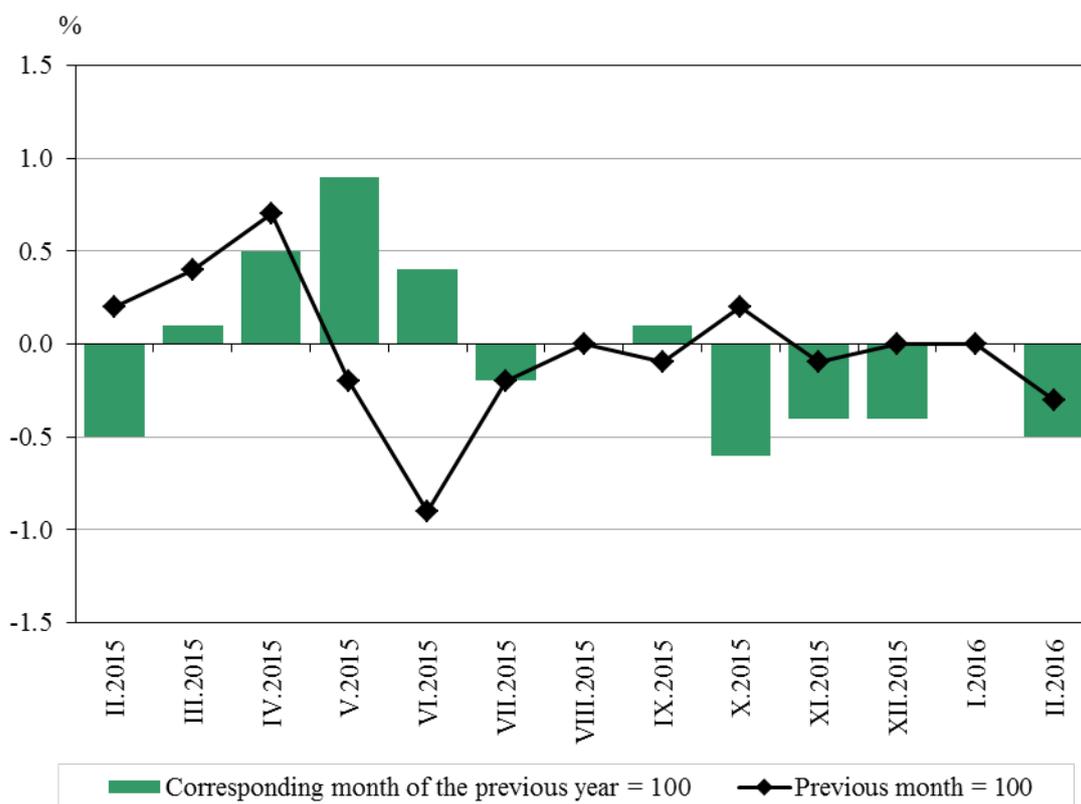
INFLATION AND CONSUMER PRICE INDICES IN FEBRUARY 2016

Consumer price index (CPI)

The **consumer price index** in February 2016 compared to January 2016 was 99.7%, i.e. the monthly inflation was -0.3%. The inflation rate since the beginning of the year (February 2016 compared to December 2015) has been -0.3% and the annual inflation in February 2016 compared to February 2015 was -0.5% (Figure 1 and Annex, Table 1).

The annual average inflation, measured by CPI, in the last 12 months (March 2015 - February 2016) compared to the previous 12 months (March 2014 - February 2015) was 0.0%.

Figure 1. Inflation measured by CPI by months



In February 2016 compared to the previous month the prices of goods and services in the main consumer groups changed as follows:

- Food and non-alcoholic beverages - an increase of 0.5%;
- Alcoholic beverages and tobacco - an increase of 0.2%;
- Clothing and footwear - a decrease of 2.8%;
- Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels - the prices remained at the level of the previous month;



- Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house - a decrease of 0.9%;
- Health - an increase of 0.2%;
- Transport - a decrease of 3.2%;
- Communications - a decrease of 0.1%;
- Recreation and culture - a decrease of 0.5%;
- Education - an increase of 0.2%;
- Restaurants and hotels - the prices remained at the level of the previous month;
- Miscellaneous goods and service - a decrease of 0.5%.

According to the final data of the NSI, the consumer price index in January 2016 compared to December 2015 was 100.0%, i.e. the monthly inflation was 0.0% (Annex, Table 4).

Harmonized index of consumer prices (HICP)

The **harmonized index of consumer prices** in February 2016 compared to January 2016 was 99.5%, i.e. the monthly inflation was -0.5%. The inflation rate since the beginning of the year (February 2016 compared to December 2015) has been -0.7% and the annual inflation in February 2016 compared to February 2015 was -1.0% (Annex, Table 2).

The annual average inflation, measured by HICP, in the last 12 months (March 2015 - February 2016) compared to the previous 12 months (March 2014 - February 2015) was -0.8%.

In terms of HICP, in February 2016 compared to the previous month the prices of goods and services in the main consumer groups changed as follows:

- Food and non-alcoholic beverages - an increase of 0.4%;
- Alcoholic beverages and tobacco - an increase of 0.1%;
- Clothing and footwear - a decrease of 2.2%;
- Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels - an increase of 0.1%;
- Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house - a decrease of 0.7%;
- Health - an increase of 0.2%;
- Transport - a decrease of 2.5%;
- Communications - a decrease of 0.4%;
- Recreation and culture - a decrease of 0.5%;
- Education - an increase of 0.2%;
- Restaurants and hotels - a decrease of 0.3%;
- Miscellaneous goods and service - a decrease of 0.4%.

According to the final data of the NSI, the harmonized index of consumer prices in January 2016 compared to December 2015 was 99.8%, i.e. the monthly inflation was -0.2% (Annex, Table 5).



Price index of a small basket (PISB)

The **price index of a small basket** in February 2016 compared to January 2016 was 100.4% and the overall increase since the beginning of the year (February 2016 compared to December 2015) has been 100.9% (Annex, Table 3).

In February 2016 compared to the previous month the prices of goods and services in the small basket for the 20% households with the lowest income changed as follows:

- Food products - an increase of 0.9%;
- Non-food products - a decrease of 0.3%;
- Services - the prices remained at the level of the previous month.

According to the final data of the NSI, the price index of a small basket in January 2016 compared to December 2015 was 100.5% (Annex, 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 is calculated by applying the structure of the final monetary consumption expenditures of 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 readiness of Bulgaria to join the euro-zone. HICP, as well as CPI, measure 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 weights used. 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 $t-2$.

In compliance with Regulation (EC) No 2015/2010 since **January 2016 the base year for HICP has been changed** and the all indices have been calculated and published at **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)** is a measurement of the relative average price changes of 100 socially useful and vital for living goods and services. The weights of this index reflect the expenditures of the 20% lowest household's incomes. 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 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-months 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 the 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-months 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 2016 price indices were released as preliminary since they were calculated with the household budget data for the period October 2014 - September 2015. **The final January 2016 consumer price indices**, calculated with the annual 2015 household budget data for the weights, are released along with the February 2016 data.



Annex

Table 1

Consumer price indices in February 2016

(Per cent)

Commodity groups	2015 weights	February 2016		
		Previous month = 100	December 2015 = 100	Corresponding month of the previous year = 100
00 Total CPI	100.000	99.7	99.7	99.5
01 Food and non-alcoholic beverages	31.842	100.5	101.3	99.8
02 Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	5.259	100.2	100.7	101.4
03 Clothing and footwear	4.305	97.2	95.2	101.5
04 Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	17.350	100.0	100.0	99.9
05 Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	4.517	99.1	98.7	99.9
06 Health	6.579	100.2	100.1	99.3
07 Transport	8.961	96.8	95.1	94.5
08 Communication	5.274	99.9	99.7	99.0
09 Recreation and culture	5.285	99.5	99.6	99.4
10 Education	0.634	100.2	100.1	102.5
11 Restaurants and hotels	5.382	100.0	100.3	101.5
12 Miscellaneous goods and service	4.612	99.5	98.6	99.4
Foods	33.250	100.4	101.2	99.8
Non-foods	33.186	98.8	98.0	99.3
Catering	4.833	100.1	100.3	101.6
Services	28.732	99.7	99.8	99.1



Table 2

Harmonized indices of consumer prices in February 2016

Commodity groups	2014 weights	February 2016			
		2015 = 100	Previous month = 100	December 2015 = 100	Corresponding month of the previous year = 100
	%	%			
00 Total HICP	1000.000	98.89	99.5	99.3	99.0
01 Food and non-alcoholic beverages	209.799	100.44	100.4	101.0	99.9
02 Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	78.922	101.01	100.1	100.6	101.3
03 Clothing and footwear	37.124	98.26	97.8	96.1	101.8
04 Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	103.166	99.42	100.1	100.0	98.7
05 Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	77.477	99.33	99.3	99.3	99.6
06 Health	58.442	100.07	100.2	100.1	99.6
07 Transport	159.516	93.45	97.5	96.0	94.7
08 Communication	64.338	98.73	99.6	99.5	98.5
09 Recreation and culture	65.636	99.93	99.5	99.6	99.3
10 Education	9.090	101.33	100.2	100.1	101.9
11 Restaurants and hotels	80.952	101.45	99.7	100.3	101.2
12 Miscellaneous goods and service	55.538	98.83	99.6	98.3	99.7

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 February 2016

(Per cent)

Commodity groups	2015 weights	February 2016
		Previous month = 100
Total PISB	100.000	100.4
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	52.986	100.9
Clothing and footwear	3.664	97.8
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	26.594	100.1
Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	2.309	99.6
Health	7.832	100.4
Transport	1.422	99.8
Communication	0.659	100.0
Recreation and culture	0.693	100.4
Miscellaneous goods and service	3.841	99.1
Foods	52.986	100.9
Non-foods	24.728	99.7
Services	22.285	100.0



Table 4

Consumer price indices in January 2016 (final data)

(Per cent)

Commodity groups	2015 weights	January 2016		
		Previous month = 100	December 2015 = 100	Corresponding month of the previous year = 100
00 Total CPI	100.000	100.0	100.0	100.0
01 Food and non-alcoholic beverages	31.842	100.8	100.8	100.5
02 Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	5.259	100.5	100.5	101.1
03 Clothing and footwear	4.305	97.9	97.9	101.7
04 Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	17.350	100.0	100.0	99.8
05 Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	4.517	99.6	99.6	99.6
06 Health	6.579	99.9	99.9	99.2
07 Transport	8.961	98.3	98.3	97.3
08 Communication	5.274	99.9	99.9	99.2
09 Recreation and culture	5.285	100.2	100.2	99.8
10 Education	0.634	99.9	99.9	102.6
11 Restaurants and hotels	5.382	100.3	100.3	101.6
12 Miscellaneous goods and service	4.612	99.1	99.1	99.5
Foods	33.250	100.8	100.8	100.5
Non-foods	33.186	99.2	99.2	99.9
Catering	4.833	100.2	100.2	101.5
Services	28.732	100.0	100.0	99.3



Table 5

Harmonized indices of consumer prices in January 2016 (final data)

Commodity groups	2014 weights	January 2016			
		2015 = 100	Previous month = 100	December 2015 = 100	Corresponding month of the previous year = 100
		%			
00 Total HICP	1000.000	99.40	99.8	99.8	99.6
01 Food and non-alcoholic beverages	209.799	100.08	100.6	100.6	100.7
02 Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	78.922	100.86	100.5	100.5	101.1
03 Clothing and footwear	37.124	100.48	98.2	98.2	101.7
04 Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	103.166	99.36	100.0	100.0	98.6
05 Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	77.477	100.04	100.1	100.1	100.3
06 Health	58.442	99.91	99.9	99.9	99.5
07 Transport	159.516	95.80	98.4	98.4	96.7
08 Communication	64.338	99.08	99.9	99.9	98.8
09 Recreation and culture	65.636	100.40	100.0	100.0	99.5
10 Education	9.090	101.11	99.9	99.9	102.1
11 Restaurants and hotels	80.952	101.78	100.6	100.6	101.4
12 Miscellaneous goods and service	55.538	99.27	98.7	98.7	99.9

Table 6

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 January 2016 (final data)

(Per cent)

Commodity groups	2015 weights	January 2016
		Previous month = 100
Total PISB	100.000	100.5
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	52.986	101.0
Clothing and footwear	3.664	98.7
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	26.594	100.1
Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	2.309	98.7
Health	7.832	99.9
Transport	1.422	100.0
Communication	0.659	100.0
Recreation and culture	0.693	99.7
Miscellaneous goods and service	3.841	101.2
Foods	52.986	101.0
Non-foods	24.728	99.9
Services	22.285	100.0