

Annual inflation rate in Saudi Arabia reaches 1.8% in March 2026 compared to March 2025

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) in Saudi Arabia recorded an annual increase of 1.8% in March 2026, compared to the same month of the previous year (March 2025). This increase was mainly driven by a rise in housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuel prices by 3.9% transport prices by 0.9% and prices of restaurant and accommodation services by 2.2% (Figure 1).

Rental prices are the main driver of inflation in March 2026 compared to March 2025

Prices of the housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels division increased by 3.9% in March 2026, driven by a 4.8% rise in actual rentals for the housing group.

Similarly, the transport division rose by 0.9% influenced by a 5.5% increase in passenger transport services. The restaurant and accommodation services division rose by 2.2% driven by a 4.0% increase in accommodation services prices. Prices of personal care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services division increased by 8.2% driven by a 27.3% rise in the prices of other personal effects, mainly due to higher prices of jewelry and watches by 29.5%. The prices of insurance and financial services division also increased by 2.1% driven by a 3.6% rise in the prices of the insurance group. The prices of recreation, sport and culture division increased by 2.0% driven by a 2.9% increase in the prices of package holidays.

Additionally, the prices of education services increased by 1.4% affected by 1.6% increase in the prices of secondary education. The information and communications prices also increased by 1.0% driven by a 1.8% rise in the prices of the information and communications group. Food and beverage prices rose by 0.3% driven by a 1.9% increase in the prices of fresh, chilled or frozen meat.

On the other hand, the prices of furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance decreased by 0.5% affected by the decline in the prices of furniture, furnishings and loose carpets by 2.3%

The prices of clothing and footwear also decreased by 0.1% affected by the decrease in the prices of the clothing group by 0.2% (Figure 2).

Month-on-month price increase in March 2026 compared to February 2026

On a monthly basis, the CPI in March 2026 recorded a relative increase of 0.3% compared to February 2026, as the prices of the food and beverage division increased by 0.5% driven by a 0.5% increase in the food group. The prices of the housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels division increased by 0.2% the restaurants and accommodation services division by 0.6% the personal care, social protection and other goods and services division by 0.7% and the entertainment, sports and culture division by 0.4% insurance and financial services division by 0.9% information and communications division by 0.1% furniture and home appliances and periodic home maintenance division by 0.1% clothing and shoes division by 0.3%

On the other hand, the prices of the transport division decreased by 0.2%

The prices of education, health, and tobacco services remained stable, and there was no significant relative change in March 2026.

Figure 1: Annual change in CPI

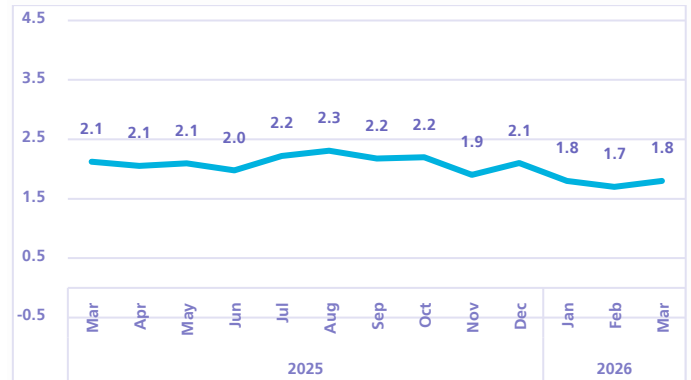
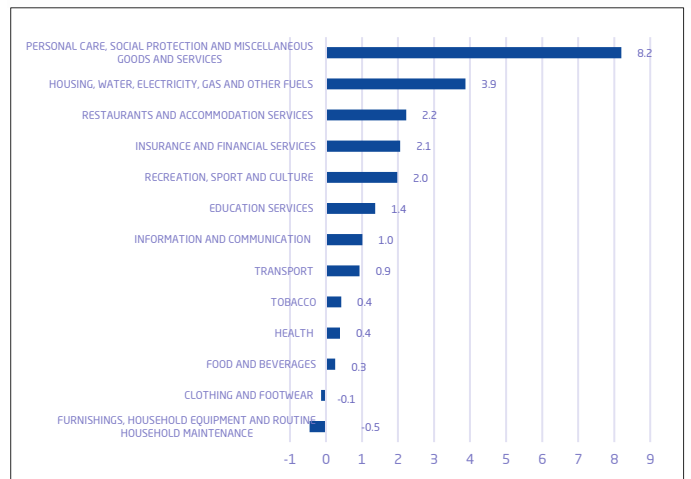


Figure 2: Annual change in CPI by division (March 2026)



Methodology and quality

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) reflects changes in prices paid by consumers for a fixed basket of goods and services consisting of 582 items. The items of this basket were selected based on the results of the Household Expenditure and Income Survey conducted in 2023, and their weights were determined accordingly, in addition to other supplementary data sources related to household final consumption expenditure.

The General Authority for Statistics has adopted a new methodology for compiling the Consumer Price Index, aiming to improve data quality in line with the best international practices. This has been achieved through expanding geographical coverage, increasing the number of points of sale, broadening basket items, and adopting new data sources for regular price collection. Data has been published in accordance with the updated methodology starting from August 2025.

For more details, click [Methodology and Quality Table](#)