



HELLENIC REPUBLIC



HELLENIC STATISTICAL
AUTHORITY

Pireaus, 10 February 2026

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF STATISTICS
POPULATION, EMPLOYMENT AND
COST OF LIVING STATISTICS DIVISION
SECTION OF RETAIL PRICE INDICES

INFORMATION NOTE

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW COICOP18 CLASSIFICATION IN CPI AND HICP

NEW REFERENCE YEAR 2025=100.0 IN HICP

INCLUSION OF GAMES OF CHANCE IN CPI AND HICP

ELSTAT informs users that the Hellenic Consumer Price Index and the Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices (CPI and HICP respectively) will be published on 12 February 2026, following the implementation of the scheduled CPI revisions announced in ELSTAT's Statistical Programme for 2026, concerning:

- i) the implementation of the new COICOP18 classification in the Hellenic CPI and the HICP;
- ii) the change of the reference year to 2025=100.0 in the HICP; and,
- iii) the inclusion of Games of chance in Division 09 - Recreation and culture.

The implementation of the new classification will be combined with the use of a new electronic application for data collection and processing.

Detailed information regarding the above changes is provided below.

COICOP CLASSIFICATION COMPARED TO COICOP 2018 CLASSIFICATION

The Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP) is the international classification for household expenditure. Its purpose is to provide a framework of homogeneous categories of goods and services, which are considered as function or purpose of household consumption expenditure. In accordance with [Regulation \(EU\) 2016/792](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council, the HICP must be compiled using these classification categories.

UN COICOP 2018 is the most updated version of the Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose, approved by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) in March 2018. It replaces the COICOP 1999 version, which was used until 2025. The relevant publication is available on the [UNSD — Classifications on economic statistics](#)

UN COICOP 2018 reflects significant changes in the nature of goods and services, as well as evolutions in household consumption patterns since the introduction of COICOP 1999. The revision also improves the linkage with other classifications and addresses new statistical and policy needs identified by international Organisations.

In the European Union (EU), for HICP purposes, COICOP18 is referred to as the European Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose, version 2 (ECOICOP ver. 2).

The COICOP18 classification is available on Eurostat's website:

[Classifications - Eurostat](#)

ECOICOP CLASSIFICATION COMPARED TO COICOP18

The transition from ECOICOP to COICOP18 is necessary because of extensive changes in consumer markets since the implementation of ECOICOP in 2015. More specifically:

- certain categories became outdated,
- new products and services were difficult to classify,
- the boundaries between certain categories were not clearly defined.

COICOP18 addresses the above challenges as follows:

- it contributes to adapting the classification to modern economic needs and consumption patterns, thereby ensuring the quality of the CPI and HICP;
- it provides a clearer and more consistent structure for the classification of consumer goods and services;
- it meets the need for harmonisation of classifications across different domains, including national accounts, household budget survey and purchasing power parities;
- it ensures the international comparability of European statistics.

The revised COICOP18 classification was approved by the United Nations Statistical Commission as an international standard. The implementation of COICOP18 aligns European statistics with this standard.

The most significant differences between ECOICOP and COICOP18 are:

- COICOP18 distinguishes between goods and services where possible, and new categories and subcategories have been created for services such as repair, maintenance, installation and rental of products. Changes to categories and subcategories resulted from reclassification and changes to their content.
- In COICOP18, Group 08: *Information and communication* and Group 09: *Recreation, sport and culture* have been extensively revised.
- In COICOP18, Group 07: *Transport*, which previously focused on passenger transport, now also includes the category "Delivery fees", which had previously been included in the price of goods.
- COICOP18 introduces the new Group 13: *Personal care, Social protection and Other goods and services*.

COICOP18 CLASSIFICATION

COICOP18 is mandatory for the HICP pursuant to [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2024/3159](#), which amended Regulation (EU) 2016/792. The new requirements apply to the transmission of HICP and HICP-CT data from January 2026 onwards.

The Hellenic CPI follows the same classification as the HICP, in order to ensure comparability between the indices.

The already published inflation data of CPI and HICP will not change, as they are subject to a strict requirement: the all-items index must remain unchanged for any month and year, in all countries, with precision up to the second decimal place.

Details on the methods used to compile the back series based on COICOP18 are available in Eurostat metadata ([Eurostat's HICP database](#)).

Users will continue to be able to reproduce the all-items HICP and any other category on the basis of the published sub-indices and their corresponding weights.

The published index time series of CPI and HICP for January 2026 fully reflect the changes resulting from the implementation of COICOP18. As the classification structure follows COICOP18, users will observe changes in the names of groups, categories, subcategories, etc., as well as in the content of the explanatory notes.

In addition, index time series for CPI and HICP based on the new COICOP18 classification will be available and more specifically, for the Hellenic CPI from 2010 onwards (Table 7: Monthly sub-indices of CPI groups and sub-groups (2020=100.0)), and for the HICP from 2015 onwards (Table 4: Monthly sub-indices of HICP groups and sub-groups (2025=100.0)).

REFERENCE YEAR OF HICP 2025=100.0

At the same time as the introduction of COICOP18, the HICP and the HICP at Constant Taxes (HICP-CT) are rebased to the reference year 2025=100.0, replacing the previous reference period 2015=100.0.

Member States apply the new common reference period for the harmonised indices and sub-indices starting with the index for January 2026.

The reasons for this rebasing are as follows:

- the readability and interpretation of the index are significantly improved;
- usability is enhanced, as the reference year is aligned with a more recent point in time, which users generally prefer compared with an older reference period.

Users often attach greater importance and credibility to index values closer to 100.0 rather than to a lot larger numbers.

The rebasing of the HICP to the reference year 2025=100.0 does not affect the published inflation rates.

GAMES OF CHANCE

The inclusion of Games of chance into the Hellenic CPI and HICP from January 2026 represents a significant enhancement in the product coverage of the indices. In the past, the lack of sufficient methodological harmonisation resulted in Games of chance not being covered. The publication of [Eurostat's Recommendations on the treatment of the games of chance in the HICP](#) in December 2024 established the necessary harmonised methodology for their integration.

Although in many Member States this category represents a sufficiently significant share of household consumption expenditure to merit its inclusion in the HICP, it is not expected to have a significant impact on inflation rates. Member States do not expect a significant impact on the all-items HICP as a result of the integration of games of chance.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

More information on the HICP can be found in the [HICP dedicated section](#) and in the [HICP data tables](#). Relevant information is also included in the [HICP methodological manual](#).