

In January the monthly change of the consumer price index was mainly influenced by electricity and urban transport

According to Statistics Estonia, in January 2013 compared to December 2012, the change of the consumer price index was 0.7% and compared to January of the previous year 3.4%.

Goods were 2.9% and services 4.4% more expensive compared to January 2012.

Regulated prices of goods and services have risen by 2.9% and non-regulated prices by 3.6% compared to January of the previous year.

Compared to January 2012, the consumer price index was mainly influenced by housing expenditures, which gave nearly a half of the total increase. Of which in turn almost two thirds gave 26.9% more expensive electricity arrived at homes. 6.9% more expensive alcoholic beverages and 7.9% more expensive tobacco products gave a sixth of the total increase. In January 2013, motor fuel was 0.2% cheaper than a year earlier. Compared to the previous year, of food products, the prices of eggs and potatoes have increased the most (37% and 26%, respectively) and the prices of coffee and groats have decreased the most (9%).

In January compared to December, the consumer price index was mainly influenced by home arrived electricity, which was 23.6% more expensive. Urban transport, which for residents of Tallinn became free of charge, lowered the index of short-distance and urban transport by 34%; the sales of clothing and footwear and termination of sales of alcoholic beverages also had a bigger impact on the index. During the month the prices of grapes increased the most (33%) and the prices of mandarins decreased the most (21%).

Due to continuous changes in consumption patterns and prices, Statistics Estonia updates the weights system of the consumer price index and the representative goods every year. In 2013, the weights system of the consumer price index corresponds to the average expenditure structure of the population in 2012. The base prices used for calculations are December prices of the year 2012. To ensure the comparability with the previous periods, the consumer price index is continued to be published on the base 1997 = 100. The linking month is December 2012.

The table presents the expenditure structure (weights) used in 2012, as well as the expenditure structure used since January index of 2013.

Consumer price index by commodity groups, January 2013

Commodity group	Weight 2012, ‰	Weight 2013, ‰	December 2012 – January 2013, %	January 2012 – January 2013, %
TOTAL	1000.0	1000.0	0.7	3.4
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	237.5	237.4	0.8	5.5
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	79.1	81.0	2.4	7.2
Clothing and footwear	50.5	48.7	-4.9	5.1
Housing	171.5	169.9	5.1	9.7
Household goods	49.8	51.3	-0.1	1.5
Health	37.8	38.8	1.1	-0.5
Transport	146.6	150.6	-2.0	-2.4
Communications	49.8	48.8	-1.8	-7.2
Recreation and culture	79.1	76.2	-0.3	0.7
Education	16.6	15.5	0.8	2.3
Hotels, cafés and restaurants	33.0	31.9	1.1	5.2
Miscellaneous goods and services	48.7	49.9	0.0	1.6

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