

INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTADISTICA



Main methodological novelties of the Consumer Price Index

Base 2025

January 2026

Contents

I	Introduction	3
II	Main new feature of CPI Base 2025	4
1	Structure-related changes	4
2	Methodological treatments	7

I Introduction

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) methodology indicates that base changes will occur every five years. This rule was implemented with the entry into force for the 2001 base year, which was complied with until base 2021.

Since base 2001, the CPI production system has consisted of introducing the most relevant changes necessary (whether methodological or the updating of weightings, the shopping basket or the sample of municipalities and establishments) when the base year change process is performed, plus less significant modifications each year (these are the updating of weightings to more aggregated levels or certain less significant methodological changes).

Continuing with this established rule, the next base year for the CPI should have been 2026, with the first reference month coming into effect in January 2027. However, the implementation of the new consumption classification, ECOICOP v2, in the National Accounts (NA), the Household Budget Survey (HBS) and in the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) makes it necessary to adjust this work plan. So, **European Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/3159 states that ECOICOP v2 will be implemented in January 2026, with base 2025, in all countries of the European Union (EU).**

This change in classification directly affects the CPI, as the design of the HICP is such that it is calculated using data from this indicator. It is therefore imperative that the change of classification is also implemented to the Spanish CPI. Because this classification change entails numerous modifications to the placement of goods and services in the shopping basket, it is advisable that the change be conducted using a base change process, which involves bringing forward the next base year to 2025, and its entry into force in January 2026.

The changes introduced in the new 2025 base year can be grouped into two large blocks:

1. Structure-related changes

- Implementation of the new ECOICOP v2 classification and updating of the shopping basket.
- Updates to the weighting structure

2. Methodological treatments and processes

- Introduction of a new product change process
- Expanding the use of automatic data collection methods

II Main new feature of CPI Base 2025

1 Structure-related changes

This block includes the revisions that affect structural elements of the survey. The objective is to keep the CPI updated, so that it adequately represents the household consumption habits.

In the 2025 base year, the most important change is the implementation of the new classification used in the CPI. However, as in all IPC base year changes, the two components that reflect the behaviour of households regarding consumption are updated: the content of the sample of goods and services that make up the shopping basket, and the weighting structure, or relative importance of the same, based on the expenditure that households make in each one of them.

CLASSIFICATION CHANGE

The change from the ECOICOP classification to ECOICOP v2 affects, to a greater or lesser extent, the entire hierarchical structure of the CPI classification. Therefore, the operation of changing from one to the other consisted of adapting the shopping basket to the new classification, and then analysing the content of each new aggregation to see if it is sufficiently representative or if the content needs some fine-tuning. The adaptation phases are as follows:

1. Relocation of items in the shopping basket.

As an initial approach to the new classification, the first thing that was done was to place each of the items in the shopping basket in the subclass (highest level of disaggregation) where it belongs in the new classification.

2. Obtaining the new weighting structure

The main source of information for defining the weighting structure is the NA. The process of obtaining the weights of each subclass is detailed in a separate dedicated section dedicated.

3. Selection of significant subclasses

Based on the weighting structure, it was verified which subclasses have a relevant relative importance and which do not. Therefore, those subclasses that do not exceed 0.03% of total spending are not considered in the calculation of the CPI.

The number of subclasses after this selection is 196. The new subclasses are as follows:

New subclasses. CPI, base 2025

Code	Subclass
02190	Other alcoholic beverages
05112	Garden and camping furniture
06133	Assistive products for mobility and daily living
06219	Other preventive care services
06221	Preventive dental services
06232	Long-term outpatient care services
06320	Long-term inpatient services

06410	Medical imaging and laboratory services
07244	Rental of personal vehicles, without driver
07492	Delivery services
09121	Motorhomes, caravans and trailers
09421	Rental, maintenance, and repair of motorhomes and caravans
09461	Services for recreational and leisure purposes
09690	Other cultural services
10501	Unregulated education
12299	Other financial services n.e.c.

The following table contains the list of subclasses that are no longer published in the new base.

Subclasses that disappear in the CPI, base 2025

Code	Subclass
03131	Other articles of clothing
06121	Medical diagnostic products

4. Study of the composition of each subclass

The composition (which items in the shopping basket represent it after relocation) and weighting were studied for each subclass. Based on these two parameters, it was decided which subclasses needed to incorporate more item to represent them, and which could be done without, either because they were overrepresented or because they had lost relevance in overall consumption in recent years.

As a result of these adjustments, the CPI base 2021 shopping basket now has 487 items, compared to 462 in the previous base.

5. Obtaining retrospective series

One of the priorities when implementing a new CPI base is to obtain the retrospective series of the indicator in order to be able to calculate the rates of change for periods of any length of time. The fundamental requirement for calculating these series is that the rates of change already published in previous months do not undergo modification by the change.

When there are many changes in the classification, as in this case, the following situations can occur:

- **Subclasses that existed in base 2021, but not in base 2025.** In this case, the series ends in December 2025.
- **New subclasses in base 2025 that did not exist in base 2021.** These subclasses are new, so retrospective indices cannot be calculated.
- **Subclasses that already existed in base 2021 database and also in base 2025.** In this case, the retrospective series is calculated. It is important to note that the name of the subclass in the new classification may differ from the old one.

All these series have been recalculated since 2017 (the date on which ECOICOP vers.1 was implemented).

Furthermore, the linkage of those aggregations whose content is mostly the same in both classifications has been made since 2002.

On the other hand, there are new subclasses that could not be linked because they did not have their counterpart in the previous classification. However, these have been obtained as an aggregation of several previous series. In this case, they have been calculated since 2002.

UPDATES TO THE WEIGHTING STRUCTURE

The other element that is updated is the **weighting structure**. In this case, the aim is to obtain a new structure that adapts to household consumption patterns, based on expenditure information provided by the National Accounts (Household Final Consumption Expenditure) and supplemented with information from the Household Budget Survey (HBS), plus the use of available statistics on different economic sectors

Weightings are updated through the process outlined below:

1. Obtaining the 5-digit weighting structure of ECOICOP v2 for the national index.

Based on data from Household Final Consumption expenditure, the weighting structure for a 4-digit level of disaggregation of the ECOICOP v2 is obtained. However, the highest level of breakdown needed for the CPI is 5 digits (the so-called CPI subclasses).

To obtain the 5-digit weighting structure, information on household spending provided by the HBS is used, as well as information provided by sources from various economic sectors. This way the NA weightings are distributed according to the proportions obtained from these sources.

2. Obtaining the updated weighting structure as of December 2025

The NA and HBS data refer to the year 2024. However, the formula used in the CPI (a chained Laspeyres-type index) requires that the weightings refer to the month of December of the year prior to the entry into force of the new index, that is, December 2025. To update the structure to that month, the price evolution in the subclasses or updated information from certain sectors is used.

Whenever there is relevant up-to-date information for any of the sectors studied, it is used. If not, data from the CPI itself is used: if the index in December 2025 for a subclass is above the general CPI, the weighting of that subclass is increased proportionally, and vice versa.

3. Updating the item weightings

The weighting obtained for each subclass is distributed among the items included in it. This provides the structure for all levels of disaggregation of the ECOICOP v2 classification.

4. Updating the weightings for autonomous communities and provinces

The structure for the autonomous communities and provinces is calculated using a process similar to that of obtaining the weights for the items, basing it on information coming mostly from the HBS and the Regional Accounts.

The following table shows the weightings of the thirteen major groups in the national index used in the year 2026:

Group weightings (how much per hundred)

ECOICOP Group Vers.2	2026
01. Food and non-alcoholic beverages	17.41
02. Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	3.51
03. Clothes and footwear	3.58
04. Housing	12.26
05. Furniture and household goods	4.74
06. Health care	5.23
07. Transportation	15.47
08. Information and Communications	3.75
09. Recreational activities, sport, and culture	7.48
010. Education services	1.61
011. Restaurants and accommodation services	17.03
012. Insurance and financial services	2.27
013. Personal care, social protection, and miscellaneous goods and services	5.67
TOTAL	100

2 Methodological treatments

INTRODUCTION OF A NEW PRODUCT CHANGE PROCESS

CPI base 2025 incorporates an improvement to the price collection and recording process. Until now, if any relevant change in product characteristics was detected in the price collection, the adjustment was incorporated into the CPI calculation one month after it had occurred. This was because the interviewer had to write down the characteristics of the new product on the questionnaire, then record them in the office, and the survey supervisor had to approve them.

With the new procedure, and thanks to the use of electronic devices for collecting prices, this process is carried out practically at the same time, which allows these product changes to be incorporated into the CPI calculation in the same month in which they have been detected.

This represents a clear improvement in the accuracy of price tracking, especially for products where changes occur more frequently, such as clothing. When a season begins (spring/summer, in March, or autumn/winter, in September) new garments enter the market, which in many cases are not the same as those of the previous season. Therefore, there must be a product change process. This process will now allow the majority of these changes to be included in the CPI in March or September, and not in April or October as before, which is more representative of what is happening in the market.

EXPANDING THE USE OF AUTOMATIC DATA COLLECTION METHODS

Over the last few years, the information used by the CPI from company databases or collected by telematic methods has been increasing. This avoids having to visit the establishments to collect the prices and the main characteristics of the products in the sample.

The most widely used procedures in most of the countries around us are web scraping, based on extracting information from the web pages of the most representative companies in each sector, and scanner data, consisting of requesting the company the databases of sales data of the products in all its establishments.

These two methods were joined in 2023 by the collection of prices in establishments using computer devices, which gave the CPI greater dynamism and, as has been evident, increased the degree of precision in the process of collecting and recording information. The use of these methods continues to expand in base 2025 and over the next few years efforts will continue in order to apply it to more sectors.