

## Consumer price indices in March 2020

15.04.2020

 **4.6%**

an increase compared with the corresponding month of the previous year

**Consumer prices in March 2020 compared with the corresponding month of the previous year increased by 4,6% (with an increase of prices of services – by 6,5% and goods – by 3,8%).**

**As related to the previous month consumer prices increased by 0,2% (with an increase of prices of services – by 0,3% and goods by 0,2%).**

As a result of restrictions on trade and the movement of people, introduced gradually in the past weeks to prevent the coronavirus from spreading, many shops and points providing personal services were closed. The organization of cultural and sporting events was suspended. Travel and accommodation services have been significantly reduced. These changes strongly affected the possibility of collecting retail price data.

Major problems concern the data collection in the field. In March of the current year, however, it was possible to collect a large share of the information on prices during the period when sales took place under unchanged conditions. The missing data was completed by the price collectors primarily in a remote way – by e-mail, telephone, through websites. Prices that could not be collected using these methods were estimated according to current methodological procedures and Eurostat guidelines in this regard. The largest share of missing observations requiring imputation was recorded in the case of recreation and culture, especially for package international holidays, transport, health, clothing and footwear as well as for some products in the food and non-alcoholic beverages division.

If the restrictions on retail trade continue it is expected that the number of missing price recordings in April will be significantly higher than in March of the current year. The increase in the share of missing observations will require a special approach for estimating the prices of goods and services. The calculations will apply the rules developed by Eurostat in cooperation with EU countries for calculating consumer price indices during the crisis related to COVID-19.<sup>a</sup>

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<sup>a</sup> Document 'Guidance on the compilation of the HICP in the context of the COVID-19 crisis' was published by Eurostat under the link [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/10186/10693286/HICP\\_guidance.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/10186/10693286/HICP_guidance.pdf)

The guidelines recommended by Eurostat concerning consumer price indices are also presented in Polish under the link <https://stat.gov.pl/obszary-tematyczne/ceny-handel/wskazniki-cen/wytyczne-dotyczace-opracowania-hicp-w-kontekscie-kryzysu-zwiazanego-z-covid-19,19,1.html>

**Table 1. Consumer price indices in March 2020**

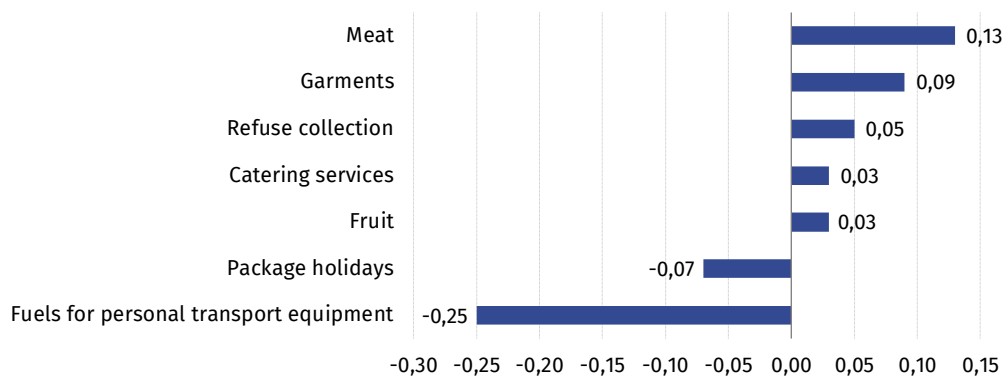
SPECIFICATION	III 2020			I-III 2020		CONTRIBUTION OF CHANGES II 2020= =100
	III 2019= =100	XII 2019= =100	II 2020= =100	I-III 2019=100	X-XII 2019=100	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>104,6</b>	<b>101,8</b>	<b>100,2</b>	<b>104,5</b>	<b>102,0</b>	<b>x</b>
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	108,0	103,6	100,8	107,7	103,6	0,21
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	104,3	103,4	100,4	103,6	102,7	0,02
Clothing and footwear	98,3	96,7	102,5	98,5	94,9	0,12
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	107,5	104,9	100,4	107,0	104,3	0,07
Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	100,6	100,5	100,4	100,4	100,1	0,02
Health	104,2	101,6	100,6	103,9	101,2	0,03
Transport	98,6	96,3	97,5	100,7	100,2	-0,24
Communication	102,4	100,9	100,4	102,1	100,6	0,02
Recreation and culture	102,5	100,5	99,1	103,1	101,4	-0,06
Education	105,0	100,9	100,1	104,9	100,8	0,00
Restaurants and hotels	106,3	102,0	100,4	106,0	101,7	0,02
Miscellaneous goods and services	102,6	100,0	100,2	102,1	100,6	0,01

### Contribution of price changes to the total consumer price index

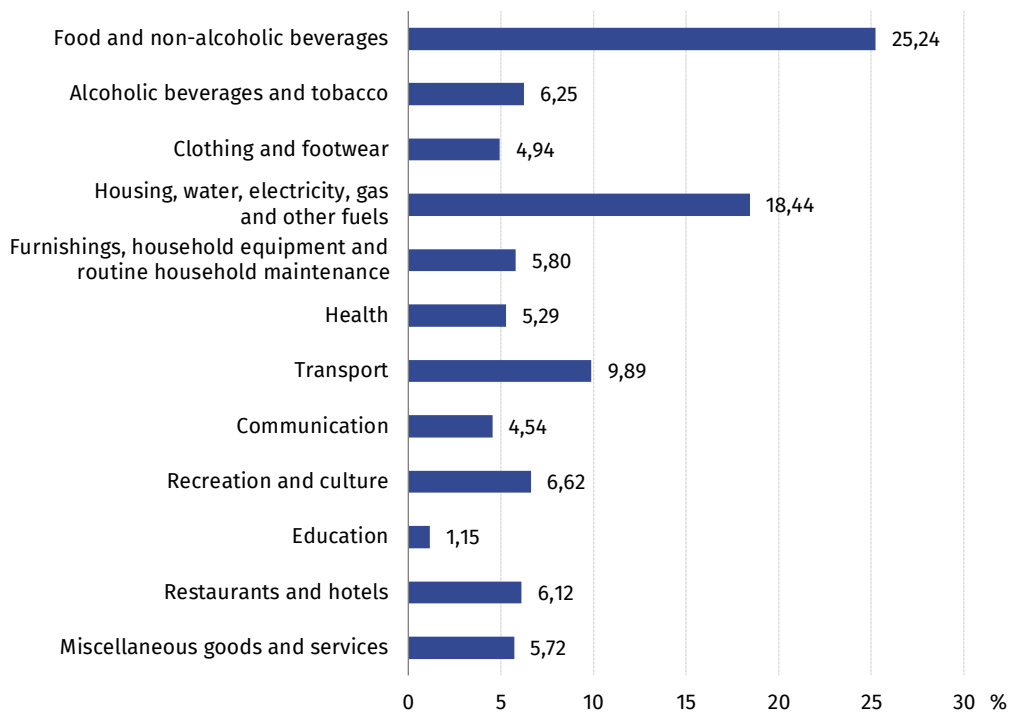
In March of the current year, compared with the previous month, the highest contribution to the total consumer price index came from higher prices of Food (by 0,9%), Clothing and footwear (by 2,5%) and Dwelling (by 0,4%), which increased the index by 0,20 pp, 0,12 pp and 0,09 pp, respectively. Lower prices related to Transport (by 2,5%) and Recreation and culture (by 0,9%) decreased the index by 0,24 pp and 0,06 pp, respectively.

Compared with the corresponding month of the previous year, higher prices of Food (by 8,6%) and related to Dwelling (by 5,9%) increased the index by 1,97 pp and 1,42 pp, respectively. Lower prices related to Transport (by 1,4%) and Clothing and Footwear (by 1,7%) lowered the index by 0,14 pp and 0,09 pp, respectively.

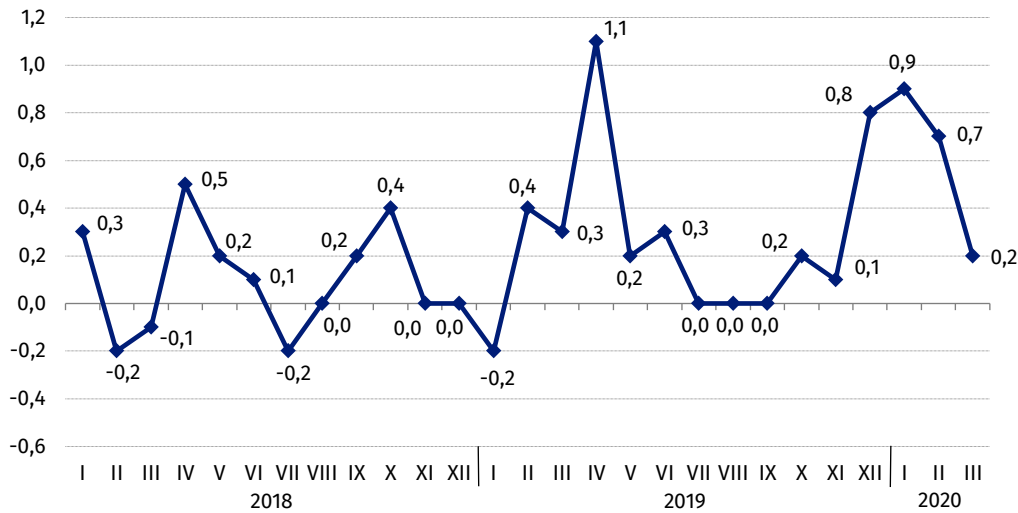
**Chart 1. Contribution of price changes of selected groups of consumer goods and services in March 2020 (change in pp compared with the previous period)**



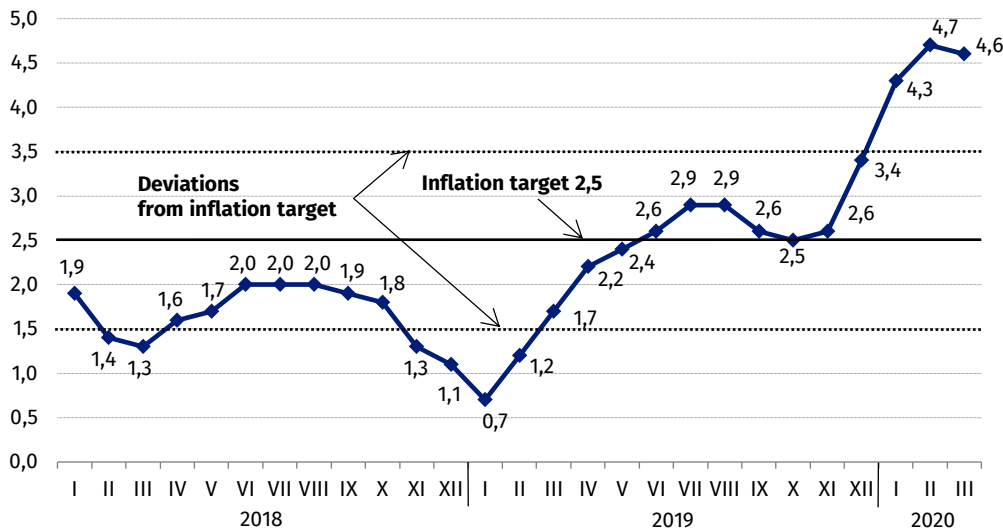
**Chart 2. Weighting system used in the compilations of consumer price indices in 2020**



**Chart 3. Consumer prices (change in % compared with the previous period)**

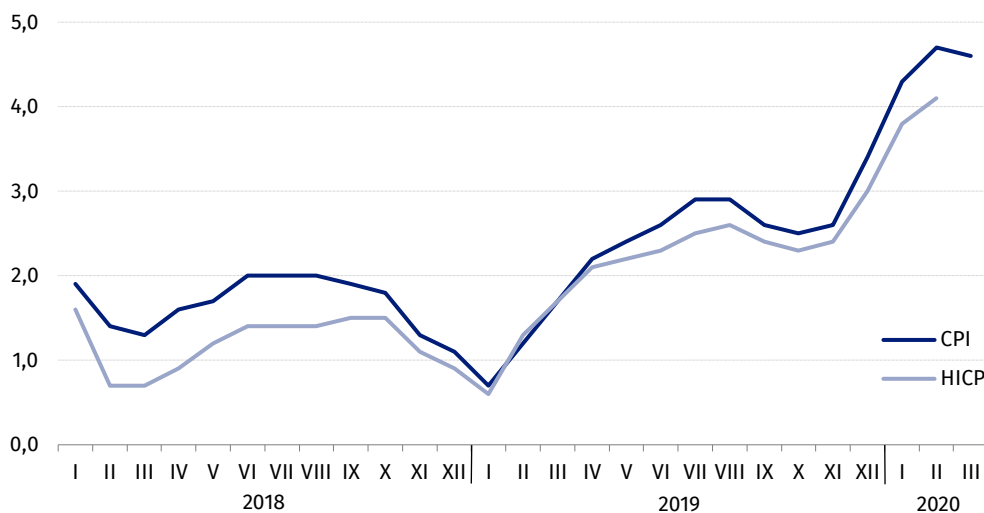


**Chart 4. Consumer prices (change in % compared with the corresponding period of the previous year)**



In March 2020 the consumer price index was above the upper band for deviations from inflation target determined by the Monetary Policy Council (2,5% +/- 1 pp)

**Chart 5. Consumer price index (CPI) and harmonised index of consumer prices (HICP) (change in % compared with the corresponding period of the previous year)**



**Table 2. Consumer price indices in March 2020**

SPECIFICATION	III 2020			I-III 2020	
	III 2019= =100	XII 2019= =100	II 2020= =100	I-III 2019= =100	X-XII 2019= =100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>104,6</b>	<b>101,8</b>	<b>100,2</b>	<b>104,5</b>	<b>102,0</b>
Goods	103,8	101,7	100,2	103,9	101,8
Services	106,5	102,0	100,3	106,3	102,3
FOOD, NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO	107,3	103,5	100,7	106,9	103,4
FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	108,0	103,6	100,8	107,7	103,6
Food	108,6	103,8	100,9	108,3	103,9
of which:					
Rice	106,3	101,7	100,3	106,2	100,6
Flour	104,8	103,7	101,3	104,8	101,8
Bread	108,5	104,2	101,1	107,5	103,5
Pasta products and couscous	104,3	101,5	100,5	104,0	101,1
Meat	115,3	103,6	102,0	114,5	104,4
of which:					
Beef	103,1	101,9	100,7	102,4	102,0
Veal	104,2	101,5	100,6	103,9	101,3
Pork	127,1	101,7	102,1	125,8	106,0
Poultry	108,3	107,1	105,2	108,4	104,3
Dried, salted or smoked meat	115,2	103,6	101,1	114,1	104,1
Fish and seafood	104,7	101,8	100,1	104,9	101,5
Milk, cheese and eggs	103,3	101,8	100,4	102,8	101,8
of which:					
Milk	107,0	103,0	100,4	105,6	103,5
Yoghurt, cream, milk-based desserts, milk-based beverages and other simi- lar milk-based products	103,5	101,6	100,3	103,6	101,4
Cheese and curd	102,5	101,6	100,6	102,3	101,4
Eggs	100,7	101,0	100,2	99,1	101,4
Oils and fats	99,3	102,4	100,7	97,9	101,2
Vegetable fats	101,3	102,0	100,6	100,8	100,7
Animal fats	97,8	102,7	100,9	95,7	101,5
of which butter	95,6	102,3	100,8	93,8	100,9
Fruit	119,3	114,9	101,7	118,0	112,1
Vegetables	107,9	104,8	99,4	109,3	107,6
Sugar	106,8	101,6	100,7	110,2	101,3
Non-alcoholic beverages	102,1	101,1	100,4	102,0	100,6
of which:					
Coffee	101,3	101,0	100,6	101,1	100,3
Tea	101,3	101,5	100,2	101,4	101,3
Cocoa and powdered chocolate	104,9	103,0	100,6	104,6	101,8
Mineral or spring waters	102,5	101,6	100,6	102,6	100,4
Fruit and vegetable juices	103,5	101,9	100,1	103,8	101,5

SPECIFICATION	III 2020			I-III 2020	
	III 2019= =100	XII 2019= =100	II 2020= =100	I-III 2019= =100	X-XII 2019= =100
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO	104,3	103,4	100,4	103,6	102,7
Alcoholic beverages	103,5	103,0	100,3	103,1	102,3
Tobacco	106,1	104,6	100,6	105,2	103,8
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	98,3	96,7	102,5	98,5	94,9
of which:					
Garments	97,4	96,5	102,9	97,9	94,7
Footwear	100,4	97,0	101,8	99,8	95,4
DWELLING	105,9	103,8	100,4	105,4	103,3
HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY, GAS AND OTHER FUELS	107,5	104,9	100,4	107,0	104,3
of which:					
Actual rentals for housing	106,3	102,9	100,3	106,4	102,5
Water supply	103,2	100,9	100,1	103,0	100,7
Refuse collection	152,9	126,8	104,0	150,3	122,0
Sewage collection	104,9	102,1	100,4	104,7	101,7
Electricity, gas and other fuels	105,5	104,6	99,9	105,0	104,2
Electricity	113,2	111,7	100,0	111,9	110,3
Gas	98,8	98,9	99,9	98,9	99,2
Liquid and solid fuels	99,8	99,7	99,8	99,7	100,0
Heat energy	102,6	100,9	99,9	102,6	101,1
FURNISHINGS, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND ROUTINE HOUSEHOLD MAINTENANCE	100,6	100,5	100,4	100,4	100,1
of which:					
Furniture and furnishings	99,3	100,6	100,6	98,9	100,0
Household appliances	98,6	100,0	100,2	98,5	99,6
Cleaning and maintenance products	101,6	100,5	100,4	101,3	100,1
Domestic services and household services	106,7	103,0	100,4	106,6	102,6
HEALTH	104,2	101,6	100,6	103,9	101,2
of which:					
Pharmaceutical products	103,8	101,2	100,8	103,3	100,7
Therapeutic appliances and equipment	101,5	100,6	99,9	101,5	100,6
Medical services	107,3	103,1	100,5	107,3	102,7
Dental services	105,9	103,0	100,5	105,6	102,4
Hospital services	103,2	102,2	99,1	102,8	102,7
TRANSPORT	98,6	96,3	97,5	100,7	100,2
of which:					
Purchase of vehicles	96,8	100,3	99,9	97,3	100,3
of which motor cars	96,6	100,3	99,8	97,1	100,3
Fuels for personal transport equipment	97,1	95,2	95,4	101,0	100,3
Diesel	94,8	95,7	94,5	99,9	101,5
Petrol	98,4	95,9	96,3	101,5	98,9
Liquid petroleum gas and other fuels for personal transport equipment	96,7	88,6	92,1	101,1	105,5
Transport services	103,6	86,3	101,1	101,8	96,1

SPECIFICATION	III 2020			I-III 2020	
	III 2019= =100	XII 2019= =100	II 2020= =100	I-III 2019= =100	X-XII 2019= =100
COMMUNICATION	102,4	100,9	100,4	102,1	100,6
of which:					
Telephone and telefax equipment	90,1	96,3	99,2	90,4	94,8
Telephone and telefax services	102,9	101,0	100,5	102,5	100,8
RECREATION AND CULTURE	102,5	100,5	99,1	103,1	101,4
of which:					
Audio-visual, photographic and information processing equipment	95,9	99,1	100,1	95,6	98,8
Recreational and cultural services	102,2	101,7	100,4	102,4	101,2
of which:					
Recreational and sporting services	104,6	102,4	100,9	104,4	101,7
Cultural services	101,3	101,5	100,2	101,5	101,0
of which television and radio licence fees, subscriptions	98,6	100,9	100,6	99,3	99,9
Books	104,5	95,9	100,7	105,2	97,3
Newspapers and periodicals	105,9	103,9	100,3	104,8	103,5
Stationery and drawing materials	103,3	100,6	100,1	103,2	100,7
Package holidays	104,9	99,0	95,7	107,7	103,0
Package domestic holidays	107,4	102,4	99,7	107,0	103,0
Package international holidays <sup>u</sup>	103,0	96,5	92,9	108,1	102,9
EDUCATION	105,0	100,9	100,1	104,9	100,8
RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	106,3	102,0	100,4	106,0	101,7
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES	102,6	100,0	100,2	102,1	100,6
of which:					
Personal care	102,4	100,8	99,9	102,2	100,7
of which:					
Hairdressing salons and personal grooming establishments	107,7	104,3	100,6	107,5	103,7
Articles for personal hygiene and wellness, esoteric products and beauty products	101,3	100,1	99,8	101,1	100,0
Social protection	108,2	104,7	100,4	108,0	104,0
Insurance	103,6	95,7	100,9	101,3	99,4
Charges by banks and post offices	101,1	100,0	100,0	101,1	100,0

<sup>u</sup> The share of estimated data for an aggregate more than 50%

Prepared by:  
**Trade and Services Department**  
**Director Ewa Adach-Stankiewicz**  
Office: tel. (+48 22) 608 31 24

Issued by:  
**The Spokesperson for the President**  
**of Statistics Poland**  
**Karolina Banaszek**  
Mobile: (+48) 695 255 011

**Press Office**

Office: tel. (+48 22) 608 34 91, 608 38 04

**e-mail: [obslugaprasowa@stat.gov.pl](mailto:obslugaprasowa@stat.gov.pl)**



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[Price index of consumer goods and services](#)

[Retail price](#)