

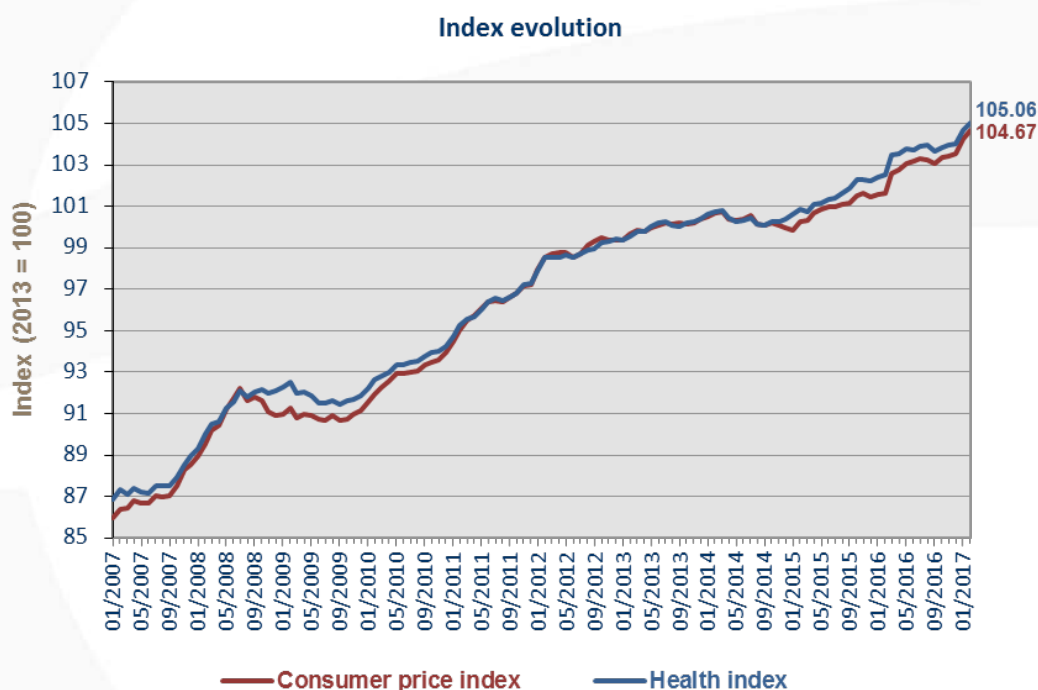
Inflation increases from 2.65% to 2.97%

Consumer price index of February 2017

- **Inflation** in February has gone up from 2.65% to 2.97%.
- The consumer price index increased by 0.39 point or 0.37% this month.
- Inflation based on the **health index** has increased to 2.47%, up from 2.18%.
- The main **upward pressure** in February came from vegetables, domestic heating oil, natural gas, cut flowers, package holidays in Belgium, electricity, rents and fresh fruit. The products with the largest **downward** pressure were package holidays abroad.

The consumer price index was running at 104.67 points in February 2017. The index has increased by 0.39 point over the month. Inflation has edged up to 2.97% from 2.65%. The health index has gained 0.41 point to 105.06 points. Inflation based on the health index has accelerated to 2.47%, up from 2.18%. The most significant price increases this month have been registered for vegetables, domestic heating oil, natural gas, cut flowers, package holidays in Belgium, electricity, rents and fresh fruit. These have been partially compensated by price decreases for package holidays abroad.

The **consumer price index** rose by 0.39 point or 0.37% to 104.67 points in February 2017, compared to 104.28 points in January 2017 (2013=100).



The **health index** has gone up by 0.41 points to 105.06 points in February, compared to 104.65 points in January. The **smoothed health index** stood at 102.34 points in February. The **central index** for public services and social benefits, set at 103.04 points, has not been exceeded over the month. The last time the central index was exceeded was in May 2016.

Products with the largest increasing effect in February were vegetables, domestic heating oil, natural gas, cut flowers, package holidays in Belgium, electricity, rents and fresh fruit. Package holidays abroad provided the largest downward pressure compared to last month. The most important trends this month are:

<u>Upward:</u>	<u>Effect:</u>	<u>Downward:</u>	<u>Effect:</u>
Vegetables	+0.080 point	Package holidays abroad	-0.045 point
Domestic heating oil	+0.050 point		
Natural gas	+0.045 point		
Cut flowers	+0.040 point		
Package holidays in Belgium	+0.035 point		
Electricity	+0.025 point		
Rent	+0.025 point		
Fresh fruit	+0.025 point		

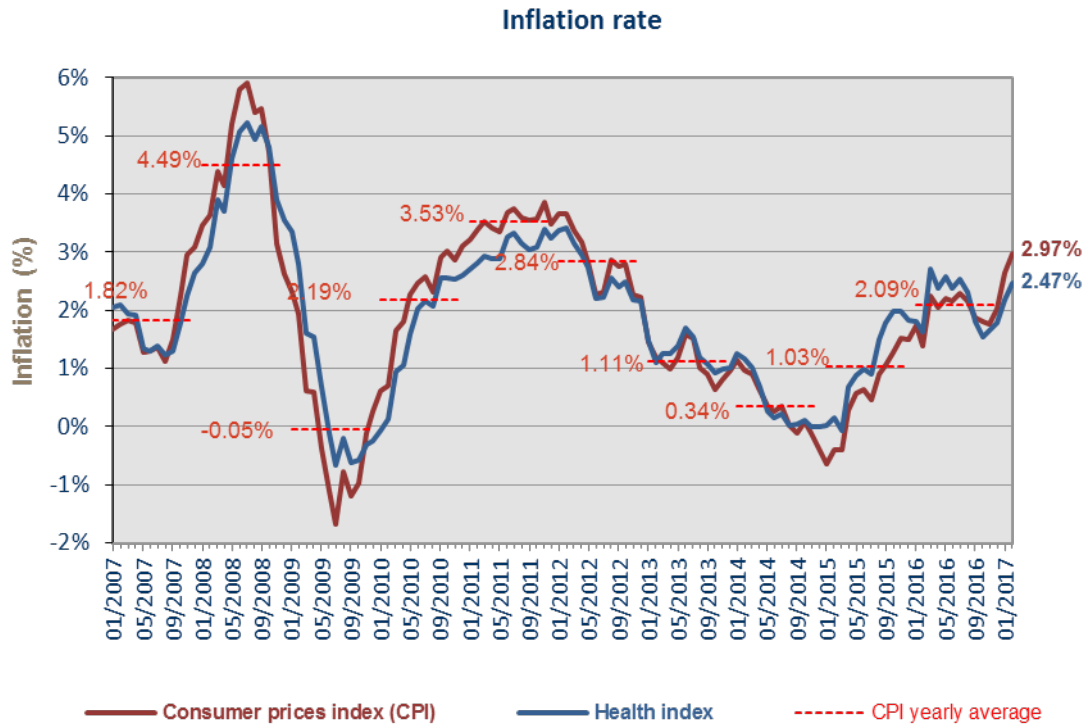
Vegetables have become on average 4.5% more expensive. Prices for **domestic heating oil**, calculated based on a smoothed 12-month moving average, have gone up by 4.3%. Prices for **natural gas** have increased on average by 2.5%. Prices for **cut flowers** were up on average by 6.9%. As every year in February, higher prices were registered especially for roses due to Valentine's Day. **Package holidays in Belgium** have become on average 9.5% more expensive this month. Prices of **electricity** have increased on average by 0.6%. **Rents** have gone up by 0.3% on average. Prices for **fresh fruit** increased on average by 2.3% this month.

After seasonal adjustment, **package holidays abroad** have been on average 2.1% less expensive this month.

Inflation stands now at 2.97% compared to 2.65% in January and 2.03% in December. **Inflation** based on the **health index** also increased to 2.47% compared to 2.18% in January and 1.78% in December. **Inflation without energy** has decreased to 1.73% in February compared to 1.74% last month and 1.65% in December. **Core inflation**, which does not take into account price evolutions of energy products and unprocessed food, amounts to 1.49% in February, compared to 1.54% in January and 1.53% in December.

Food inflation is now up to 2.33% from 2.01% last month and 1.94% in December. Fish and shellfish prices are now 8.4% higher than in February last year. Within this product group, fresh fish and shellfish have increased in price by respectively 13.5% and 5.1% compared with February 2016. Oils and fats have gone up by 6.5% in a year. Fresh fruit now costs 1.6% more than in February 2016. Fresh vegetable prices are also on the rise: 19.0% on an annual basis. Prices for non-alcoholic beverages are now 1.4% higher than in February 2016. For alcoholic beverages, consumers now have to pay 0.2% less than in February last year. Tobacco now costs 5.1% more than in February last year.

Energy inflation is now running at 14.80%, up from 11.18% in January and 5.49% in December. This is the highest inflation level for this product group since December 2011, when it amounted to 13.77%. Electricity is now 21.2% more expensive than a year ago. Natural gas is 2.6% more expensive than in February last year. Prices for domestic heating oil, calculated based on a smoothed 12-month moving average, have declined by 0.3% over a year. Motor fuels are now 21.7% more expensive than a year ago. Inflation for **services** has decreased to 2.17% from 2.39%. Especially telecommunications services (5.3%), transport services (3.4%) and restaurants and bars (2.9%) experienced a high inflation rate. Inflation for **rents** increased to 1.08% from 0.94% last month.



2013 = 100	November 2016	December 2016	January 2017	February 2017
Consumer price index	103.41	103.54	104.28	104.67
Inflation rate	1.77%	2.03%	2.65%	2.97%
Health index	103.97	104.05	104.65	105.06
Smoothed health index *	101.79	101.81	102.05	102.34

* defined in the law of 23 April 2015 on the promotion of employment (Belgian Official Journal of 27 April 2015)

Additional information

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Source

Statistics Belgium

Additional figures

Tables with detailed data can be found on:

<http://statbel.fgov.be/nl/statistieken/cijfers/economie/consumptieprijzen/>

Consumer price index in open data format

Statistics Belgium now also offers the consumer price index in open data format.

Open Data

The general file contains the general consumer price index from 1920 onwards. The second file contains an overview of the indices from 1998 onwards for the twelve main groups according to the [COICOP classification](#).

- [Consumer price index, general: from 1920 onwards](#)
- [Consumer price index, per group: from 1998 onwards](#)