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Inflation at 4.3% in February 2024 according to flash estimate

Price increases for food significantly weaker than recently

Vienna, 2024-03-01 – The inflation rate for February 2024 is expected to be 4.3%, according to calculations by Statistics Austria as part of a flash estimate. Compared to the previous month, consumer prices rise by 0.7%.

"According to a flash estimate, inflation in Austria fell to an average of 4.3% in February 2024. This is the lowest figure since December 2021, with food prices in particular currently driving inflation much less than a year ago. Household energy prices are now also having a dampening effect on inflation, having risen sharply in February last year. Fuel prices, on the other hand, have remained at the same level as last year", says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

Consumer Price Index (CPI), February 2024

- +4.3% yearly rate of change (estimate)
- +0.7% monthly rate of change (estimate)

Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP), February 2024

- +4.2% yearly rate of change (estimate)
- +0.7% monthly rate of change (estimate)

The index level of the consumer price index and further results for February 2024 will be announced on 18 March 2024. For more information on the consumer price index, please refer to our <u>website</u>.

Information on methodology, definitions: The flash estimates are based on the price data stock existing at the time of publication for the compilation of the consumer price index at the end of a respective reference month. Usually about 80% to 90% of the prices collected for the CPI can be used for the flash estimate, but without having gone through the full price statistical validation checks. Price reports received later or delayed for the reference month, as well as the corrections made in the course of the usual data compilation process, mean that the CPI flash estimates can differ from the annual and monthly rates of change of the consumer price index published in the middle of the following month (see CPI publication dates). It is not permissible to use the CPI flash estimate for contractual value adjustments or to equate it with the results of the consumer price index or the harmonised consumer price index.

Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP): Differences between the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the EU-wide comparable Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) are primarily based on weighting differences. While the CPI only takes into account households living in Austria, the HICP also covers expenditure by foreign tourists.

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