Consumer Price Index – August 2026

Inflation in Saudi Arabia reaches 1.8% in August 2026 compared to August 2025

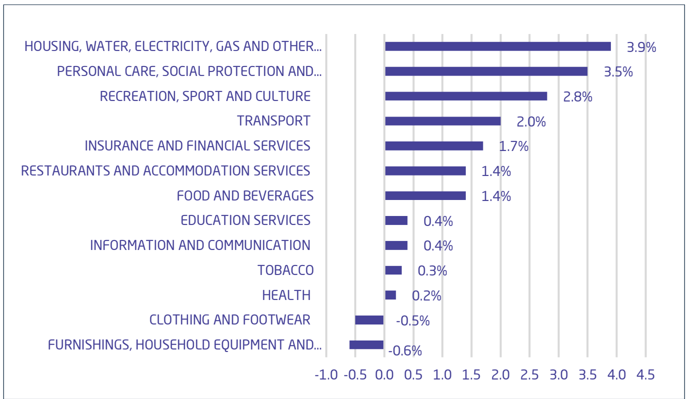
The Consumer Price Index (CPI) in Saudi Arabia recorded an annual increase of 1.8% in August 2026, compared to the same month of the previous year (August 2025). This increase was mainly driven by a rise in housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuel prices by 3.9%, food and beverage prices by 1.4%, and transport prices by 2.0% (Figure 1).

Figure (1): Annual change in CPI (%)

Annual change in consumer prices by division

The prices of the housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels division increased by 3.9%, as a result of the increase in the prices of the actual rental group for housing by 3.9%, followed by the personal care, social protection and other goods and services division by 3.5%, driven by the increase in the prices of other personal effects by 13.3%, which was affected by the increase in the prices of jewelry and watches by 14.4%, followed by the entertainment, sports and culture division by 2.8%, driven by the increase in the prices of the holiday package by 4.7%. On the other hand, the prices of furniture, home appliances and periodic home maintenance division decreased by 0.6%, while the clothing and footwear division decreased by 0.5% (Figure 2).

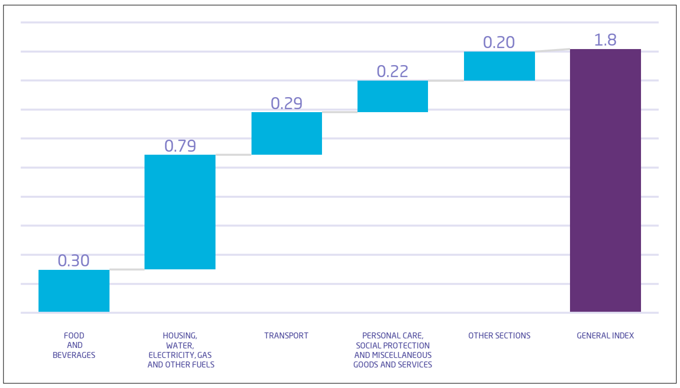
Figure (2): Annual change in the CPI by division for August 2026 (%)



Divisions' contribution to the annual inflation rate

The housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels division was the main contributor to the annual inflation with a contribution of 0.8 percentage points, followed by the food and beverages division with a contribution of 0.3 percentage points, in addition to the transport division with a contribution of 0.3 percentage points. The personal care, social protection and other goods and services division contributed with 0.2 percentage points, while the other divisions collectively contributed 0.2 percentage points (Figure 3).

Figure (3): Divisions' contribution to the annual inflation rate



Monthly change in consumer prices

On a monthly basis, the (CPI) recorded a relative increase of 0.1% in August 2026 compared to July 2026 (Figure 4), mainly due to the increase in the prices of the housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels division by 0.2%, driven by a 0.2% increase in the prices of the actual rent group for housing. The prices of the transport division also increased by 0.6%, while personal care, social protection and other goods and services division increased by 0.8%, and the insurance and financial services division rose by 0.5%. On the other hand, the prices of the food and beverage division decreased by 0.1%, while the restaurants and accommodation services division decreased by 0.4% (Figure 5).

Figure (4): Change in the CPI on a monthly basis (%)

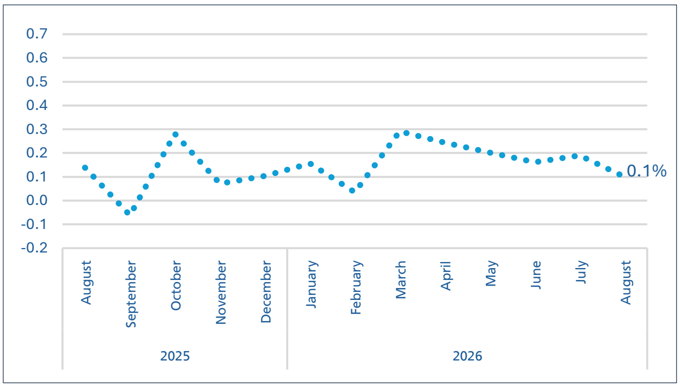
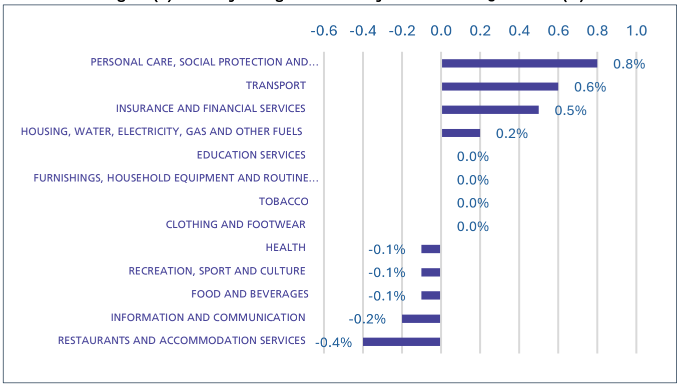


Figure (5): Monthly change in the CPI by division for August 2026 (%)



Methodology and quality

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) reflects changes in the prices paid by consumers for a fixed basket of goods and services consisting of 582 items. The items included in this basket were selected based on the results of the 2023 Household Income and Expenditure Survey, and their weights were determined accordingly, in addition to other supplementary data sources on household final consumption expenditure.

The General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT) has adopted a new methodology for calculating the Consumer Price Index, aimed at improving data quality in line with international best practices. This has been achieved through expanded geographic coverage, increased coverage of points of sale and basket items, and the adoption of new data sources for the regular collection of price information.

Data based on the updated methodology have been published starting from August 2025. For further details, please refer to Methodology and Quality ,Table