Inflation for industrial workers is the highest in 33 months

In this report: the four findings; the rate in each month of 2026; food and the six groups.

In August 2026, inflation for India's industrial workers reached 4.96 per cent, the highest in 33 months, since November 2023.

The rate rose in nine of the ten months that ran from November 2025 to August 2026, and eight of those rises came in a row, which is the longest run in more than 32 years.

Finding	What the Labour Bureau's own data show
The highest in 33 months	In August 2026, inflation for India's industrial workers reached 4.96 per cent, the highest in 33 months, since November 2023.
Nine rises in ten months	The rate rose in nine of the ten months that ran from November 2025 to August 2026, and eight of those rises came in a row, which is the longest run in more than 32 years.
Food rose fastest	Food rose fastest in August. The food and beverages index climbed 2.4 points in one month, from 158.9 to 161.3, a rise of 1.51 per cent, and no other of the six groups rose as much.
A year earlier	A year earlier, in August 2025, the rate was 3.16 per cent, which means that it is now 1.80 percentage points higher.

The index itself rose in every month from March to August 2026, when it went from 148.5 in February and reached 154.4 in August.

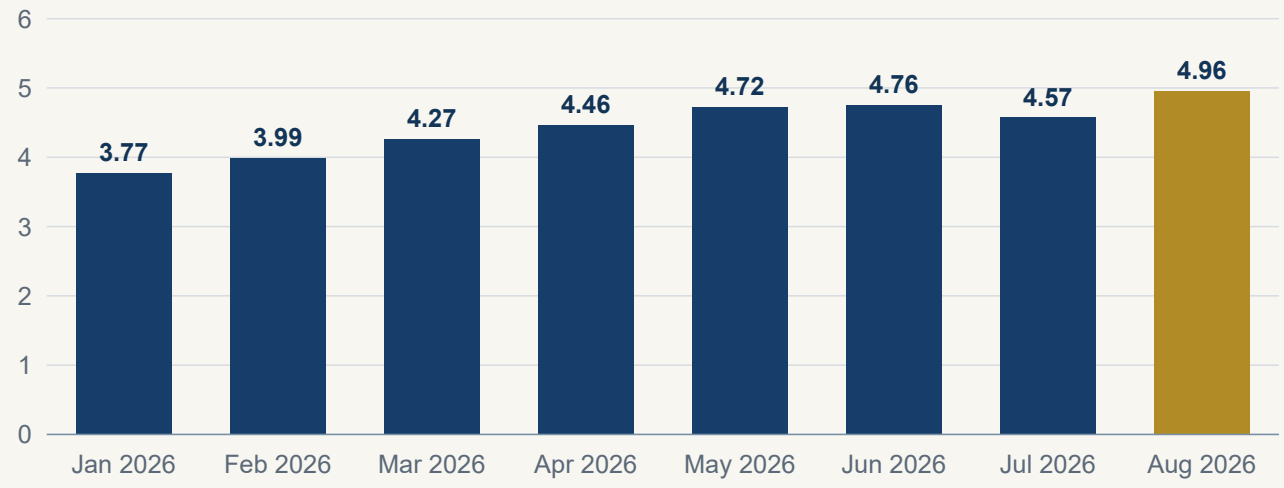
Sources: Read on 27 October 2026. Labour Bureau, release for August 2026, dated 30 September 2026; Reserve Bank, DBIE copy of the Bureau's index, read 11 October 2026.

The rate rose in seven of the eight months of 2026

The rate stood at 3.77 per cent in January 2026 and had reached 4.96 per cent by August. In seven of the eight months of 2026 it was higher than in the month before, and July was the one exception.

Inflation for industrial workers, 2026

Per cent, year on year



Source: Labour Bureau, CPI-IW (2016=100); rates worked out from its index by the office of Shri Ajay Maken.

Each bar shows the year-on-year rate for one month of 2026. The gold bar is August, the highest in 33 months, and the axis starts at zero.

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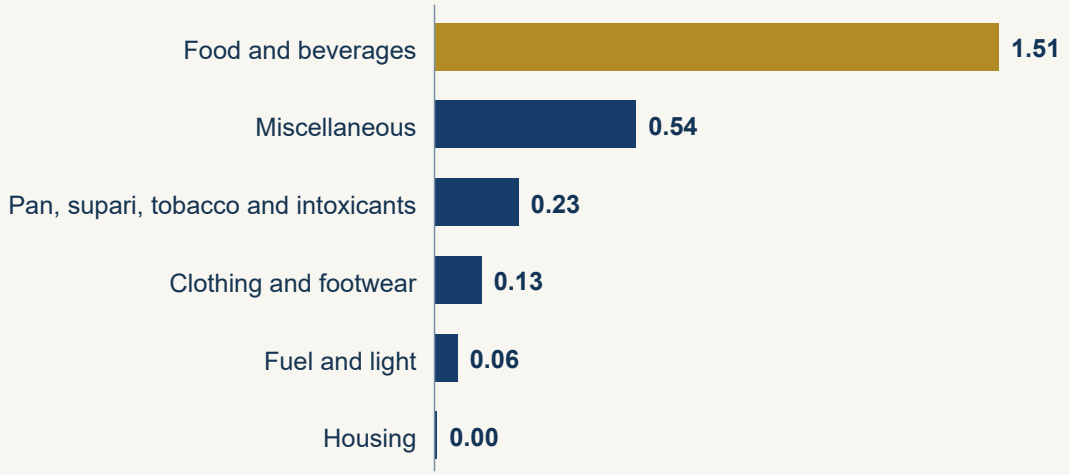
Sources: Read on 27 October 2026. Labour Bureau, release for August 2026, dated 30 September 2026; Reserve Bank, DBIE copy of the Bureau's index, read 11 October 2026.

Food rose fastest in August

Food rose fastest in August. The food and beverages index climbed 2.4 points in one month, from 158.9 to 161.3, a rise of 1.51 per cent, and no other of the six groups rose as much.

Food rose most in August

Per cent change in the group index, July to August 2026



Source: Labour Bureau, CPI-IW (2016=100); rates worked out from its index by the office of Shri Ajay Maken.

Each bar is one group's change from July to August 2026, and the gold bar is food and beverages. The housing index did not move.

The Labour Bureau will release the September figure on 30 October 2026, and that figure will be set against August's 4.96 per cent, the highest in 33 months.

From March to August 2026 the cost of living for industrial workers rose in every month, and in August food rose faster than any other group of the things that they buy.

Sources: Read on 27 October 2026. Labour Bureau, release for August 2026, dated 30 September 2026; Labour Bureau, calendar of CPI-IW releases for 2026.