

Inflation has risen in every month of 2026

The Government's own figures show inflation rising in every month of 2026. Consumer prices were 4.82 per cent higher in August 2026 than a year before, and that rate is the highest in 20 months.

The rate has risen for 10 months in a row, which is the longest run in the Ministry's series, whose rates begin in January 2012.

Finding	What the official figures show
Food: the highest rate in 19 months	Food prices rose 5.95 per cent in the year to August 2026, which is the highest food rate in 19 months. That rate too rose in every month of 2026.
The village pays more	The rural rate was 5.23 per cent in August 2026, while the urban rate was 4.31 per cent, and the rural rate has been higher in every month since February 2026.
Farm labourers: food up 6.41 per cent	The agricultural labourer's index rose 5.18 per cent, and its food index rose 6.41 per cent, which is the highest of the five food rates published for August 2026.
The Reserve Bank expects 6.0 per cent	On 7 October 2026 the Reserve Bank raised the repo rate to 5.50 per cent, which makes borrowing dearer, and it said that rate cuts are off the table. It expects inflation of 6.0 per cent for October to December 2026, which is the top of its tolerance band, and almost 5.8 per cent on average over the next three quarters.

Source: [MoSPI press release, 14 September 2026, CPI for August 2026](#); [MoSPI eSankhyiki interface, CPI base 2024, read 11 October 2026](#); [Labour Bureau press release, 18 September 2026, CPI-AL and CPI-RL for August 2026](#); [RBI Monetary Policy Committee resolution, 7 October 2026](#).

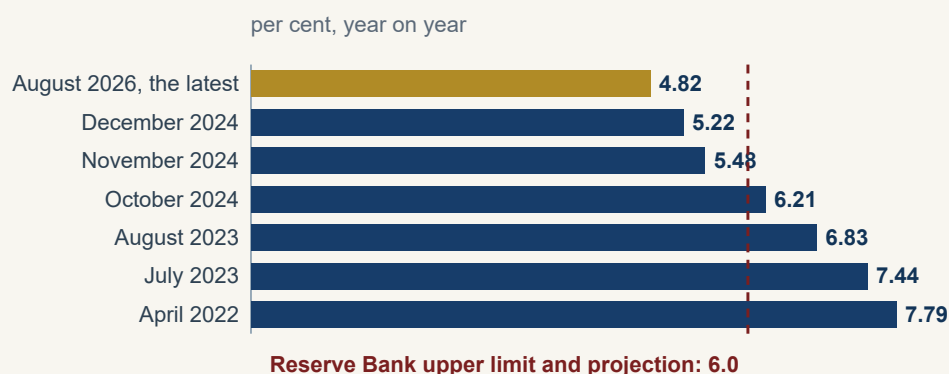
The September figure, due on Monday 12 October, and what it would be the highest since

In this summary: The September figure; Eight months of 2026; Who pays most; A food bill a year on.

The Ministry's release of 14 September 2026 says: "CPI for September 2026 will be released on 12th October, 2026 (Monday) or the next working day in case of 12th being a holiday." The August figure went up at 4 pm on 14 September 2026. The September figure is the rate for September 2026 measured against September 2025, and it is the Ministry's own.

The Bank's 4.9 per cent for July to September was published on 7 October 2026, when the Ministry had already printed July at 4.45 per cent and August at 4.82 per cent. If the quarter's figure is the average of its three months, it implies a September rate near 5.4 per cent, between about 5.3 and 5.6 after the Bank's rounding to one decimal. Every figure in that range is above the 5.22 per cent of December 2024, so it would be at least the highest since November 2024. That is arithmetic on the Bank's published figures, and the Ministry's own figure arrives on Monday.

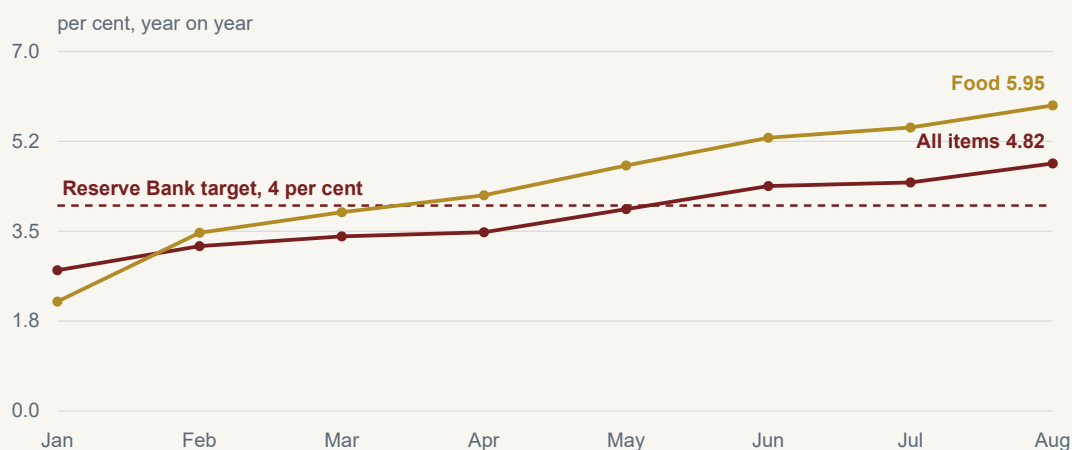
August's 4.82 per cent is already the highest rate in 20 months. Any September figure above it makes eleven months of rising inflation in a row, and the highest rate since December 2024. A figure above 5.22 per cent would be the highest since November 2024, and one above 5.48 per cent the highest since October 2024. At 6.0 per cent the rate reaches the Reserve Bank's upper limit, and 6.0 per cent is what the Bank itself projects for the quarter after September's, which is October to December 2026.



Source: [MoSPI press release, 14 September 2026, CPI for August 2026](#); [RBI Monetary Policy Committee resolution, 7 October 2026](#); [MoSPI eSankhyiki interface, CPI base 2012, read 11 October 2026](#); [MoSPI eSankhyiki interface, back series 2013 to 2024, read 11 October 2026](#).

Eight months of 2026

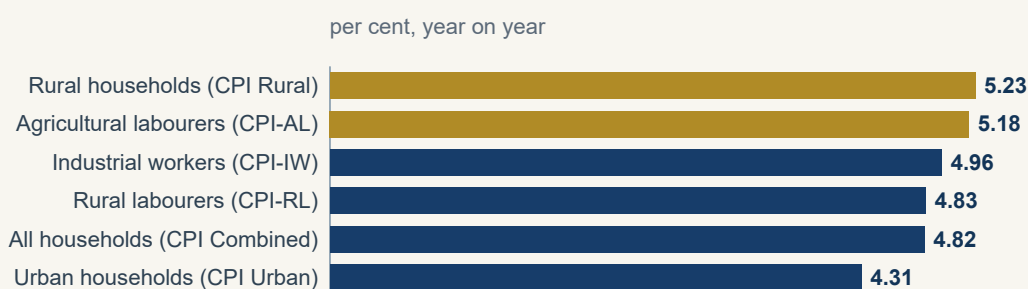
The all-items rate climbed from 2.74 per cent in January to 4.82 per cent in August 2026, and the food rate from 2.13 per cent to 5.95 per cent. The food rate crossed the Reserve Bank's 4 per cent target in April 2026 and the all-items rate crossed it in June 2026, and both have stayed above it since. The August 2026 rate is the highest in 20 months, and the food rate the highest in 19 months.



Five divisions of the basket rose faster than the Reserve Bank's 4 per cent target, and three of them rose faster than the headline rate of 4.82 per cent. Personal care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services rose 15.17 per cent. Inside that division, the Ministry's group of other personal effects, which holds jewellery, rose 44.56 per cent. The Ministry's release lists silver jewellery at 107.11 per cent and gold, diamond and platinum jewellery at 35.53 per cent among its five items with the highest rates. Restaurants and accommodation services rose 8.38 per cent and food and beverages 5.66 per cent. Paan, tobacco and intoxicants and transport also rose faster than the target.

Who pays most, and a food bill a year on

The Government publishes six consumer price indices for the same month: the Ministry's rural, urban and all-India combined indices, and the Labour Bureau's three for industrial workers, agricultural labourers and rural labourers. In August 2026 the rural household's rate was the highest, at 5.23 per cent, and even the urban household's rate, at 4.31 per cent, was above the Reserve Bank's 4 per cent target. The agricultural labourer's rate was 5.18 per cent, and the industrial worker's was 4.96 per cent, while the rural labourer's was 4.83 per cent.



Food that cost Rs 10,000 in August 2025 cost Rs 10,595 in August 2026, because the Ministry's combined food rate is 5.95 per cent. A village household, whose food prices rose 6.13 per cent, paid Rs 10,613 for the same food, and a farm labourer's household, whose food index rose 6.41 per cent, paid Rs 10,641. Each figure is the same bill multiplied by one published rate.

The same food bill a year on, at three published rates

Household and rate	August 2025	August 2026
All households, combined food index, 5.95 per cent	Rs 10,000	Rs 10,595
Rural households, rural food index, 6.13 per cent	Rs 10,000	Rs 10,613
Agricultural labourers, food index, 6.41 per cent	Rs 10,000	Rs 10,641

Ten months of rising inflation, and every figure is the Government's own.

Source: MoSPI press release, 14 September 2026, CPI for August 2026; Labour Bureau press release, 30 September 2026, CPI-IW for August 2026; Labour Bureau press release, 18 September 2026, CPI-AL and CPI-RL for August 2026.