مـركـز الإحـصـاء
STATISTICS CENTRE



2026

METHODOLOGY OF
Consumer Price Index

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1. Introduction

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is one of the most important statistical indicators produced by the Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi (SCAD). It measures the average change over time in the prices paid by households for a fixed basket of goods and services, and serves as the principal measure of inflation in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

The CPI is grounded in the fixed basket approach, which measures the change in the cost of purchasing a fixed representative basket of goods and services of constant quality. This approach is the internationally recommended standard for national statistical offices as it is transparent, reproducible, and computationally tractable.

This document sets out SCAD's methodology for compiling, validating, and disseminating the CPI for the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. It reflects SCAD's current practices under the 2024=100 base year series and is aligned with the CPI Manual 2020 (ILO/IMF/OECD/UNECE/Eurostat/World Bank) and GCC-Stat regional harmonization standards.

A base year rebasing was undertaken in 2024, replacing the previous 2021=100 series with the current 2024=100 series, incorporating an updated Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES), a revised COICOP 2018-aligned basket, and separate weight structures for Emirati and Non-Emirati households.

2. Statistical Information

2.1. Importance and Objectives

The CPI serves the following primary objectives in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi:

- To provide the data required for calculating monthly and annual inflation rates.
- To serve as a key input into the GDP deflator and national accounts at constant prices.
- To support the adjustment of wages, salaries, pensions, and social benefits in response to changes in the cost of living.
- To inform monetary policy decisions and economic planning by government entities and the private sector.
- To enable international and GCC-level comparability of price developments in Abu Dhabi.

2.2. Key Outputs

- Inflation Rate (Current Month Compared to Same Month of Previous Year) – Monthly
- Inflation Rate by Region and Main Expenditure Group (Current Month Compared to Previous Month) - Monthly
- Inflation Rate (Current Quarter Compared to Same Quarter of Previous Year) – Quarterly
- Inflation Rate by Household Type (Current Quarter Compared to Previous Quarter) - Quarterly
- Inflation Rate (Current Year Compared to Previous Year) – Annually
- Inflation Rate by Household Welfare Level (Current Quarter Compared to Previous Quarter) – Quarterly
- Inflation Rate by Region (Current Quarter Compared to Previous Quarter) - Quarterly
- Consumer Price Index by Main Expenditure Group – Monthly
- Consumer Price Index by Main Expenditure Group - Quarterly
- Consumer Price Index by Main Expenditure Group - Annually
- Consumer Price Index by Household Welfare Level - Monthly
- Consumer Price Index by Household Welfare Level – Annually
- Consumer Price Index by Household Type - Monthly
- Consumer Price Index by Household Type – Annually
- Consumer Price Index by Region – Monthly
- Consumer Price Index by Region - Quarterly
- Consumer Price Index by Region – Annually Consumer Price Index by Income Level – Monthly
- Consumer Price Index by Income Level - Quarterly
- Consumer Price Index by Sub Expenditure Group – Monthly
- Consumer Price Index by Sub Expenditure Group - Quarterly
- Average Prices of Consumer Price Index Basket – Monthly
- Average Prices of Consumer Price Index Basket – Quarterly
- Consumer Price Index – Quarterly
- Consumer Price Index by Region and Main Expenditure Group – Monthly
- Consumer Price Index by Sub Expenditure Group and Household Type – Monthly
- Consumer Price Index by Sub Expenditure Group and Household Type – Quarterly
- Consumer Price Index for Emirati Households – Quarterly
- Consumer Price Index for Non-Emirati Households – Quarterly
- Consumer Price Index in Abu Dhabi Region – Quarterly
- Consumer Price Index in Al Ain Region – Quarterly
- Consumer Price Index in Al Dhafra Region – Quarterly
- Core Inflation - Monthly

2.3. Concepts and Definitions

The following terms and definitions apply throughout this methodology:

- **Consumer Price Index (CPI):** an index measuring the average change in the prices of a basket of goods and services consumed by households over time. [Source: CPI Manual 2020]
- **Fixed Basket Approach:** measures the change in the cost of purchasing a fixed representative basket of goods and services of constant quality. This is the approach adopted by SCAD. [Source: CPI Manual 2020]
- **Basket of Goods and Services:** the fixed set of items for which price changes are monitored, structured according to COICOP 2018. [Source: COICOP 2018]
- **Base Period:** The base period is usually understood to mean the period with which all the other periods are compared. The term may, however, have different meanings in different contexts. Three types of base period may be distinguished: The price reference period, The weight reference period, The index reference period [Source OECD]
- **Weight Reference Period**: The period whose value shares serve as weights for a set of price relatives or elementary price indices. It does not have to have the same duration as the periods for which the index is calculated. [Source: CPI manual theory and practice]
- **Elementary Aggregate**: the lowest level of aggregation for which weights are available; price observations are collected within these strata. [Source: CPI Manual 2020]
- **Price Relative:** The ratio of the price of a specific product in one period to the price of the same product in some other period. [Source: OECD]
- **Household Type:** SCAD classification of households into Emirati, and Non-Emirati each carrying a separate weight structure. [Source: ADRD]
- **Household Welfare Level**: five expenditure-based strata: Bottom, Bottom-Middle, Middle, Top-Middle, and Top. [Source: SCAD internal]
- **Inflation Rate:** The average rate of change in consumer prices between two periods is called the first period of the base period and the second period of comparison. The calculation of the inflation rate is based on the consumer price index (CPI). [Source: The General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT)]
- Core Inflation (Underlying Inflation): The percent change in the consumer price index for goods and services, excluding food and energy. [source: IMF]

2.4. Classifications and Standards Applied

The following international classifications and standards are applied in the compilation of the CPI:

- **COICOP 2018 (Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose)[1]:** The international classification system used to categorize household consumption expenditures

[1] UN Statistics Division — COICOP 2018 official page

according to their purpose. COICOP 2018 provides a standardized hierarchical structure for classifying goods and services consumed by households and is used as the classification framework for the Consumer Price Index (CPI), ensuring consistency, comparability, and alignment with international statistical standards.

- **ISIC Rev.4 (International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities)[2]:** The international reference classification used to categorize economic activities based on the type of goods and services produced or activities performed. ISIC Rev.4 provides a standardized hierarchical structure for classifying economic units and is widely used in economic statistics, including business registers, economic surveys, and the compilation of national accounts and other economic indicators.
- **Abu Dhabi Reference Data (ADRD)[3]:** is a strategic project at the Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi (SCAD) that aims to establishing a unified, structured, and technically sound framework for reference data governance, management, and usage across the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. It aims to provide a consistent basis for collecting, compiling, organizing and analyzing data. It contributes to enhancing data integration, comparability, and the production of accurate and reliable statistical indicators, while fostering collaboration among all stakeholders within the Abu Dhabi data ecosystem.

  CPI Manual 2020 – Consumer Price Index Manual: Concepts and Methods:[4] An international methodological standard that provides concepts, principles, recommended methods, and practical guidance for the compilation of Consumer Price Indices (CPI). It covers key aspects including CPI scope and classification, expenditure weights, sampling, price collection, quality

2.5. Available Breakdown

CPI publishes 49 statistical indicators under the 2024=100 base year series. The breakdowns available are as follows:

- Inflation Rate (Current Month Compared to Same Month of Previous Year) – Monthly
- Inflation Rate by Region and Main Expenditure Group
- Consumer Price Index by Main Expenditure Group – 13 group
- Consumer Price Index by Household Welfare Level (Bottom Level, Bottom Middle Level, Middle Level, Top Level, Top-Middle Level)
- Consumer Price Index by Household Type – (Emirati household, non-Emirati household)
- Consumer Price Index by Region – (Abu Dhabi Region, Al Ain Region, Al Dhafra Region)

[2] https://unstats.un.org/unsd/classifications/Family/Detail/27?utm_source=chatgpt.com
[3] Abu Dhabi Reference Data (ADRD) - SCAD
[4] https://www.imf.org/en/data/statistics/cpi-manual?utm_source=chatgpt.com

- Consumer Price Index by Income Level – (Lower level for low income, Upper level for low income, Lower level for middle income, Upper level for middle income, Lower level for high income, Upper level for high income)
- Consumer Price Index by Sub Expenditure Group - Monthly
- Average Prices of Consumer Price Index Basket – Monthly
- Fuel Prices at Service Stations by Month and Type of Fuel
- Core Inflation – Monthly

2.6. Statistical Population

The statistical population of the CPI comprises all private households' resident in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, including Emirati and Non-Emirati private households. The CPI basket reflects the consumption expenditure patterns of this population as observed in the 2024 Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES).

The following population groups are explicitly excluded from the CPI reference population, consistent with international standard: institutional households (hospitals, prisons, military barracks) and non-resident households (tourists, short-term visitors).

2.7. Statistical Unit

The statistical unit for CPI price collection is the product specification priced at a sampled outlet within a defined geographic stratum. For weight derivation, the statistical unit is the private household as surveyed in the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES).

2.8. Geographic Coverage

The CPI covers the entire Emirate of Abu Dhabi, disaggregated into three geographic regions: Abu Dhabi Region, Al Ain Region, and Al Dhafra Region. The emirate-level index is a weighted aggregate of the three regional indices, where regional weights reflect each region's share of total household consumption expenditure as derived from the 2024 HIES.

2.9. Unit of Measure

The CPI is expressed as a pure index number (2024=100). Derived inflation rate indicators are expressed as percentage (%). Average basket price indicators are expressed in Emirati Dirham (AED).

2.10. Reference Period

The reference period is the calendar month for monthly indicators and the calendar quarter for quarterly indicators. Annual indicators refer to the full calendar year. The index value represents the average price level observed across all price collection visits within the reference period.

2.11. Timeliness

The CPI is published according to the following timeliness targets:

- Monthly indicators: published within 1 month after the end of the reference month (T+1 month).
- Quarterly indicators: published within 2 months after the end of the reference quarter (T+2 months).
- Annual indicators: published within 2 months after the end of the reference year (T+2 months).

2.12. Frequency of Dissemination

Statistical values are disseminated monthly, quarterly, and annually as specified per indicator in Annex (2), The dissemination frequency is fixed and aligned with the pre-announced release calendar published on the SCAD website.

2.13. Data Time Series

The available time series for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) varies by indicator and reference period, reflecting the progressive expansion of statistical coverage and subsequent developments in data collection practices over the period 2014–2026. All CPI series are presented on a common base year of 2024 (2024 = 100).

2.14. Abu Dhabi Special Considerations

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is compiled based on a survey specifically designed and tailored to reflect the economic and consumption patterns of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. In addition, relevant administrative data are available specifically for the Abu Dhabi region, providing comprehensive and representative data sources for CPI compilation. Therefore, the CPI for Abu Dhabi can be considered robust and accurate, with no specific constraints that would materially affect the quality or reliability of the resulting index.

In addition, a separate CPI is compiled and published at the national level for the United Arab Emirates, based on data covering the country as a whole.

3. Statistical Processing

3.1. Data Sources

The CPI draws on three categories of data source: (1) the Household Income and Expenditure Survey for basket weights; (2) the CPI Monthly Survey and web scraping for price collection; and (3) administrative data for selected administered and regulated price components.

3.1.1. Weights Data Source — Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES)

The Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES)2024 is the primary source for CPI basket weights. SCAD conducts the HIES as a stratified random sample survey of private households in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, covering all three regions and both Emirati and Non-Emirati private households. The HIES is conducted every 5 years, with the most recent reference period being 2024. Weights are used at the detailed product level and throughout the CPI classification hierarchy. They are also available for the relevant regions and for population groups such as welfare groups, income groups, and household types.

3.1.2. Price Collection Sources

Web Scraping

Web scraping is the primary price-collection method for COICOP categories in which online retail represents a significant share of household expenditure. Automated tools collect prices from participating online retailers on a daily basis, enhancing the timeliness, coverage, and representativeness of price data for digitally traded goods and services.

Two web-scraping approaches are applied:

- Exhaustive Scraping: Collects the complete assortment of products available within a defined product category on a retailer's website. This approach generates a large and dynamic sample, in which products may enter or leave the observed assortment between collection periods.

- By-Link Scraping: Collects prices for a fixed, pre-selected set of products, with each product tracked through its specific product URL. This approach provides a stable and predefined sample and is more closely aligned with traditional targeted price collection.

Covariance-based validation checks are applied to price data collected through both scraping approaches to identify potential inconsistencies and validate the collected observations. The Matched-Model Method (3M) is applied exclusively to exhaustive-scraping data, matching identical products observed in consecutive periods to calculate price relatives while accounting for the continuous entry and exit of products. The 3M approach is not required for by-link scraping, as the products are pre-selected and continuously tracked by their designated URLs.

Validated prices from both modes are integrated into the CPI compilation system alongside field-collected and administrative prices.

CPI filed Survey

The CPI Monthly Survey is conducted by SCAD and is the secondary source of price data for CPI compilation. Trained price collectors visit 299 sampled outlets across all three regions and record prices for 466 varieties specifications within 129 elementary aggregates (products).

Data is collected weekly and monthly and submitted to a centralized data management system for validation and compilation.

Administrative Data

Three administrative data sources provide price inputs for components where direct field collection is not applied, each supplying data under a formal data-sharing MOU:

- The Abu Dhabi Real Estate Register provides rental data, utility tariffs, and housing-related administered prices. From this source, SCAD derives the Residential Rent Price Index (RRPI), which is used for residential rent movements (COICOP 041) and as the basis for the imputed rent calculation for owner-occupied housing (COICOP 042).
- The Department of Education and Knowledge provides education fee schedules and tuition tariffs annually at the start of the academic year. These are used to compile the Education Price Index (ECI), which is incorporated into the relevant education expenditure component of the CPI (COICOP 10).
- The Department of Health – Abu Dhabi provides healthcare tariffs and out-of-pocket health costs on a monthly basis, updated as tariffs change. These are used to compile the Health Price Index (HPI), which is incorporated into the relevant health expenditure component of the CPI (COICOP 06).

3.2. Data Validation and Editing

3.2.1. Data Validation

SCAD applies a three-stage data validation procedure to all price data prior to index compilation. First, a completeness check verifies that all required price observations have been received for the reference period; missing observations are flagged for investigation and imputation. Second, a time-series consistency check compares each current-period price to the prior-period price for the same specification and outlet; changes outside defined thresholds are flagged for review (interquartile bounds of the last 12 months observations). Third, cross-source validation compares field-collected

prices for scraping items against scraping data from the relevant outlet, with discrepancies resolved before compilation. All flagged observations are reviewed by subject matter experts, and all decisions are documented in the data management system.

3.2.2. Missing Data Adjustments

When a price observation is missing, it is replaced by an imputed value. The imputation method depends on the nature of the product; three rules are applied in the following priority order:

- **Targeted imputation**: comparable items within the same elementary aggregate: the price change of comparable items within the same elementary aggregate is used to estimate the missing price. The growth factor of those items is applied to the previous-period price of the missing observation. Comparable items may be drawn from any outlet within the same elementary aggregate, not restricted to the same outlet or geographic stratum.

- **Class means imputation**: elementary aggregate average: where targeted imputation is not possible, the average price change of all matched items within the same elementary aggregate is applied to the previous-period price of the missing observation.

- **Carry-forward**: fallback for temporary unavailable items: the previous period's price is repeated when the current observation is unavailable and neither of the above rules can be applied. Carry-forward is limited to a maximum of three consecutive months, after which the item is referred for specification review and replacement. All imputed values are flagged in the data management system and monitored periodically.

- **Fixed and administered prices**: absence of genuine price change: where a product's price is known to be fixed or officially administered and the current observation is unavailable, the previous period's price is recorded as unchanged. This is not a carry-forward imputation but a reflection of a confirmed absence of price change

- **Seasonal products**: missing prices for seasonal products are addressed through the seasonal treatment which applies the historical price movement of the same product in the corresponding period of the previous year. This is kept separate from the general imputation hierarchy as it reflects a structural seasonal pattern rather than a temporary data gap.

When a product specification is replaced, a quality adjustment is applied if the replacement differs in quality from the original. Methods are applied in priority order:

- Explicit quality adjustment — directly estimate the value of the quality difference using pricing or cost data (preferred method).

- Option cost method — adjust by the manufacturer's price of the added or removed optional feature, used for motor vehicles.
- Overlap pricing — use the overlapping period where both old and new specifications are priced to estimate the quality-adjusted change.
- Class mean imputation — use the average price change of the elementary aggregate as a fallback where no explicit quality data are available.

3.3. Statistical Calculation Method

3.3.1. Matched Model Method (3M) for Exhaustively Scraped Products

Exhaustively scraped product markets are dynamic: individual varieties may enter, exit, temporarily disappear, or reappear from one month to the next. A simple geometric mean of all products available in a given month would be affected by changes in sample composition rather than by genuine price movements alone. For example, the entry of a high-priced variety or the exit of a low-priced variety would produce an apparent price change even if the prices of continuing products were entirely unchanged. To control for this composition effect, exhaustively scraped products are processed using a Chained Jevons Price Index based on the Matched Model Method (3M), which measures month-to-month price change only for varieties matched in two consecutive periods and chain-links that movement to the previously calculated price level. The Matched Model Method is not applied to field-collected or link-based scraped products, as those sources identify the intended product directly.

Step 1: Baseline Month: For the first month of the series, the baseline price level is calculated as the unadjusted geometric mean of the prices of all eligible varieties available in that month:

$$p_1 = Geometric\ mean\ of (p_{1,i}) for\ i = 1\ to\ N_1$$

Where:

p_1 *= baseline price level;*

$p_{1,i}$ *= price of variety I in month 1;*

N_1 *= number of eligible varieties available in Month 1*

Step 2: Identify the Matched Sample: From the second month onward, only varieties present in both the current and the immediately preceding month are retained for the price-change calculation:

$$M_t = V_t\ intersection\ V_{t-1}$$

Where:

M_t *= matched set.*

V_t *= varieties available in month t.*

V_{t-1}*= varieties available in month t-1.*

Step 3: Calculate the Matched Jevons Growth Factor; The geometric mean of the price relatives of all matched varieties gives the month-to-month growth factor. New or exiting varieties do not affect this factor:

$$G_t = Geometric\ mean\ of \frac{p_{i,t}}{p_{i,t-1}}\ for\ i \in M_t$$

Where:

G_t*= matched Jevons growth factor.*

$p_{i,t}$*= price of variety i in Month t.*

$p_{i,t-1}$*= price of variety i in Month t−1.*

M_t *= number of matched varieties between month t and month t−1.*

Step 4: Chain-Link the Monthly Movement: The growth factor is applied to the previous month's chained price level, preserving all accumulated price history:

$$p_t = p_{t-1} * G_t$$

Each month is linked to the immediately preceding month, preventing composition changes from being misread as price change.

A newly entering variety can contribute to the growth factor only once it has a valid price in two consecutive months. A variety that exists or is temporarily unavailable is excluded from the matched set for that period. If it later reappears, it re-enters the calculation once a valid consecutive-period match is available.

3.3.2. Aggregation Procedure

Regional Aggregation to Emirate Level: After the elementary index has been calculated for each product and each region using the Jevons formula, the three regional indices are aggregated into the emirate-level index. Each region contributes in proportion to its regional expenditure weight, expressed as a share of 100. The three regional weights collectively sum to 100:

$$Emirate\ Index = Sum\ over\ of (Regional\ Index_r * Regional\ Weight_r/100)$$

Where:

r denotes each region (Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, Al Dhafra);

regional weights collectively sum to 100.

This step ensures that the emirate-level index reflects both the price change observed in each region and the relative economic importance of each region in the overall household expenditure structure.

Chain-Linked Laspeyres Aggregation: The SCAD CPI uses a chain-linked Laspeyres approach for upper-level aggregation. Under this approach, the short-term index movement between two consecutive periods is calculated using the HIES 2024 weight structure and is then linked to the previously published index level. This preserves the continuity of the CPI time series while maintaining the representativity of the weight structure throughout the current 5-year cycle. The current index level is obtained by applying the current period's short-term movement to the previous period's published index:

$$Indexlevel_t = Index\ level_{t-1} * \left(\frac{short\ _term\ index_t}{100}\right)$$

The $short\ _term\ index$ *represents the current-period movement used to link the series from period t-1 to period t.*

Following regional aggregation, the CPI is compiled upward through the full classification hierarchy. The detailed Level 9 indices and their HIES-based expenditure weights form the starting point. At each successive stage, component indices are combined in proportion to their normalized expenditure weights until the General CPI Index is produced:

$$\text{Higher_Level Index } = Sum\ Over\ i\ of\ (\text{Component Index}_i * \text{ Normalised Weight}_i)$$

Weights at each aggregation stage are the normalized expenditure shares of the components at that level.

Welfare, Income, and Household-Type Indices: In addition to the overall CPI for all households combined, SCAD compiles separate indices for welfare groups, income groups, and household types. These group-specific indices use the same emirate-level detailed price indices that underpin the overall CPI, but apply the expenditure weight structures specific to each group. At the detailed product level, the group index is computed as the weighted sum of the emirate-level detailed indices using the relevant group's weights:

$$I_g = Sum\ Over\ i\ of \left(W_{g,i} * I_i\right)$$

Where:

I_g *= index for group g.*

$W_{g,i}$ *= expenditure weight of product i for group g.*

I_i *= emirate-level detailed index for product i.*

The same weighted aggregation is then applied upward through the classification hierarchy until the General Index for each group is produced. Differences between group-specific indices therefore arise entirely from differences in expenditure patterns across groups, while the underlying detailed price movements are identical across all indices, ensuring full internal consistency between the overall CPI and all group-specific sub-indices.

3.3.3. Weighting System and Basket construction

The CPI basket is a representative set of goods and services whose prices are monitored to reflect household consumption expenditure patterns. Its construction is based on two principles: fixity, whereby the basket remains stable during the measurement cycle so that index movements primarily reflect price changes, and representativity, whereby item weights reflect their relative shares of household expenditure.

HIES is the primary source for CPI expenditure weights. SCAD uses the HIES to capture household expenditure across Abu Dhabi's three regions and Emirati and Non-Emirati households over a full 12-month period, with survey design weights applied before aggregation. CPI weights represent each item's share of total household consumption expenditure and are derived from the 2024 HIES. The weight reference period is 2024.

Separate weight structures are derived from the 2024 HIES microdata for the three regions of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and separately for Emirati and non-Emirati households. The resulting weights are normalized to sum to 100,000. Health and education weights reflect out-of-pocket household expenditure only, not total cost including government subsidies or insurance, consistent with the CPI reference population definition.

SCAD uses COICOP 2018 as the classification framework, comprising 12 standard divisions and an additional Insurance and Financial Services group, resulting in 13 main expenditure groups in the Abu Dhabi CPI basket. COICOP includes Division, Group, Class, and Subclass levels, while SCAD extends the hierarchy with two additional levels to provide greater detail for classification, weight allocation, and representative product selection.

Basket construction follows four sequential stages:

- Ensuring hierarchical completeness, with all 13 main expenditure groups represented;
- Deriving and validating expenditure weights from the HIES and HFCE;

- Selecting representative products based on expenditure importance, specification stability, and consumer representativity; and
- Documenting precise product specifications to ensure consistent like-for-like price comparisons over time.

Within each COICOP subclass, SCAD selects representative products based on three criteria: expenditure importance, specification stability, and consumer representativity. Products should have sufficient expenditure importance to affect the CPI, with a minimum weight threshold of 0.001% of total expenditure. Each product must have a clear and stable specification, including description, unit/package size, and relevant characteristics such as grade, composition, and origin, to ensure consistent price comparison over time. Products should also represent consumption patterns common to a meaningful segment of households and serve as appropriate proxies for similar products within the elementary aggregate.

The number of price observations is determined based on statistical precision, using the target coefficient of variation (CV), estimated price-relative variance, and a 95% confidence level. As a general guideline, at least 8–10 price observations per elementary aggregate should be considered, subject to the variability and characteristics of the aggregate. Scanner and web-scraped data, where available, can provide supplementary evidence for validating product representativity and identifying emerging or frequently purchased products

Finally, the basket is subject to regular review and maintenance. Comprehensive weight and classification reviews are conducted when new HIES results become available, with a maximum five-year interval, while the representative product list should be reviewed annually or biennially to reflect new, discontinued, or changing products and to maintain price comparability. All basket changes are documented and their impact on index continuity assessed.

3.3.4. Owner-Occupied Housing Treatment

Owner-occupiers do not pay actual rent, making housing cost estimation one of the most methodologically complex elements of the CPI. SCAD addresses this through the rental equivalence approach, recorded under COICOP 042 — Accrued Housing Rents, which estimates the housing cost of owner-occupiers as the rent they would pay for a comparable dwelling on the open market. This is consistent with the SNA 2008 imputed rent concept and the CPI Manual 2020.

The procedure follows five steps.

- First, owner-occupied dwelling units are identified from Population and Housing Census data, classified by dwelling type (apartment, villa), and geographic location(region).
- Second, actual market rent data for comparable dwelling units are collected from the Abu Dhabi Real Estate Centre using the same classification dimensions.
- Third, the rental equivalent for each owner-occupied unit is determined by matching its characteristics to comparable units in the active rental market.

- Fourth, the owner-occupied housing price index is computed by comparing the rental equivalents in the current period to those of the base period (2024=100) and is integrated into the CPI under COICOP 042.
- Fifth, the estimated rental value of owner-occupied units is added to actual rents (COICOP 041) when deriving expenditure weights from the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES), in order to obtain total housing expenditure.:

Imputed Rent Index = 0.70 × Villa Rent Index + 0.30 × Apartment Rent Index

The 70%/30% split reflects the predominance of villa ownership among owner-occupied households. The weighted index is assigned to COICOP 042 before upper-level aggregation. In the final step, the estimated rental value of owner-occupied units is added to actual rents (COICOP 041) when deriving HIES-based expenditure weights, ensuring total housing expenditure is fully captured.

Because home ownership rates are significantly higher among Emirati households than non-Emirati households, the weight assigned to COICOP 042 is considerably larger in the Emirati household weight structure.

3.3.5. Base Year Change and Historical Rebasing

The current base year is 2024. Base year changes are triggered by the completion of a new HIES on the 5-year cycle. The rebasing procedure involves:

- compiling new weights from the updated HIES;
- Re-expressing the index on the new base (=100);
- Applying chain-linking at the link year to create a continuous historical series;
- SCAD compiled all back series starting from year 2014
- Pre-announce the change to users at least one month before implementation.

3.4. Seasonal Adjustment

Seasonal adjustment has not yet been formally assessed for any SCAD CPI series. All published indices are unadjusted (raw) series.

4. Methodology Changes

The following methodological changes have been implemented in the CPI series starting from May 2026:

- 2024 Base Year Rebasing (2021=100 to 2024=100): The base year has been updated from 2021=100 to 2024=100, with new expenditure weights derived from the 2024 Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) replacing the previous weights based on the 2021 HIES. This change reflects the routine five-year basket update in line with the HIES cycle.
- Index Calculation Method: The compilation methodology has been revised from a fixed-base Laspeyres index to a modified Laspeyres index with chain linking.
- Data Source: The Department of Health has been incorporated as an additional administrative data source And web scraping has become the primary price-collection method for COICOP categories in which online retail represents a significant share of household expenditure

5. Revision Policy

Continuous data refinement is mandated to ensure the accuracy of data and statistical products provided by the Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi. This involves revising official statistics published through printed documents or approved dissemination channels. The policy outlines general rules for reviewing and publishing statistics, informing users of potential review reasons, categorizing refinements, and documenting all review aspects. This framework allows producers to determine review mechanisms based on specific characteristics. The refinement policy covers all indicators, statistics, and time series of varying periodicities. Additionally, the Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi publishes a general data refinement policy applicable to all statistics under its responsibility, ensuring adaptability to the distinct characteristics of various statistics and allowing for specialized refinement policies in alignment with the general policy.

6. Statistical Quality

The quality of statistical data focuses on the concept of (data relevance for use) by preparing statistical data characterized by a set of traits and properties that meet and align with the data requirements of users and decision-makers. Thus, statistical quality exists within an institutional environment that is characterized by professionalism, integrity, and neutrality, closely related to the set objectives for the data and the needs of users. This is achieved through the use of a clear, standardized framework that ensures the data's reliability, realism, comparability, efficiency, accessibility, and flexibility, and that it is available to all within an appropriate timeframe and in an easily accessible and usable manner.

Statistical product quality reports are prepared by the Quality Team in SCAD.

7. Appendix Table

S.V. Code	Indicator Name	اسم المؤشر
EC_PRI_MM_3D_9009	Consumer Price Index by Sub Expenditure Group and Household Type - Monthly	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك حسب مجموعة الإنفاق الفرعية ونوع الأسرة - شهري
EC_PRI_QQ_3D_8980	Consumer Price Index by Sub Expenditure Group and Household Type - Quarterly	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك حسب مجموعة الإنفاق الفرعية ونوع الأسرة - ربع سنوي
EC_PRI_MM_3D_8171	Consumer Price Index by Region and Main Expenditure Group - Monthly	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك حسب المنطقة ومجموعة الإنفاق الرئيسية - شهري
EC_PRI_YY_1D_5654	Consumer Price Index by Household Type - Annually	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك حسب نوع الأسرة - سنوي
EC_PRI_YY_1D_5653	Consumer Price Index by Household Welfare Level - Annually	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك حسب مستوى رفاه الأسرة - سنوي
EC_PRI_YY_1D_5652	Consumer Price Index by Region - Annually	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك حسب المنطقة - سنوي
EC_PRI_YY_1D_5651	Consumer Price Index by Main Expenditure Group - Annually	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك حسب مجموعة الإنفاق الرئيسية - سنوي
EC_PRI_MM_2D_5775	Consumer Price Index by Sub Expenditure Group - Monthly	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك حسب مجموعة الإنفاق الفرعية - شهري
EC_PRI_QQ_2D_5802	Average Prices of Consumer Price Index Basket - Quarterly	متوسط أسعار سلة الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك - ربع سنوي
EC_PRI_MM_2D_5801	Average Prices of Consumer Price Index Basket - Monthly	متوسط أسعار سلة الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك - شهري
EC_PRI_QQ_2D_5774	Consumer Price Index by Sub Expenditure Group - Quarterly	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك حسب مجموعة الإنفاق الفرعية - ربع سنوي
EC_PRI_QQ_0D_4672	Consumer Price Index by Main Expenditure Group - Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels - Quarterly	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك حسب مجموعة الإنفاق الرئيسية - السكن، المياه، الكهرباء، الغاز، وأنواع الوقود الأخرى - ربع سنوي
EC_PRI_QQ_0D_4694	Consumer Price Index in Abu Dhabi Region - Quarterly	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك في منطقة أبوظبي - ربع سنوي
EC_PRI_QQ_0D_4691	Consumer Price Index for Emirati Households - Quarterly	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك للأسر الإماراتية - ربع سنوي
EC_PRI_QQ_0D_4693	Consumer Price Index for Collective Households - Quarterly	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك للأسر الجماعية - ربع سنوي

S.V. Code	Indicator Name	اسم المؤشر
EC_PRI_QQ_0D_4692	Consumer Price Index for Non-Emirati Households - Quarterly	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك للأسر غير الإماراتية - ربع سنوي
EC_PRI_QQ_0D_4680	Consumer Price Index by Main Expenditure Group - Communication - Quarterly	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك حسب مجموعة الإنفاق الرئيسية - الاتصالات - ربع سنوي
EC_PRI_QQ_1D_4687	Consumer Price Index by Income Level - Quarterly	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك حسب مستوى الدخل - ربع سنوي
EC_PRI_QQ_0D_4697	Consumer Price Index in Al Dhafra Region - Quarterly	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك في منطقة الظفرة - ربع سنوي
EC_PRI_QQ_0D_4696	Consumer Price Index - Quarterly	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك - ربع سنوي
EC_PRI_QQ_0D_4695	Consumer Price Index in Al Ain Region - Quarterly	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك في منطقة العين - ربع سنوي
EC_PRI_QQ_0D_4681	Consumer Price Index by Main Expenditure Group - Recreation and Culture - Quarterly	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك حسب مجموعة الإنفاق الرئيسية - الترويح والثقافة - ربع سنوي
EC_PRI_QQ_0D_4679	Consumer Price Index by Main Expenditure Group - Transport - Quarterly	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك حسب مجموعة الإنفاق الرئيسية - النقل - ربع سنوي
EC_PRI_QQ_0D_4684	Consumer Price Index by Main Expenditure Group - Insurance and Financial Services - Quarterly	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك حسب مجموعة الإنفاق الرئيسية - التأمين والخدمات المالية - ربع سنوي
EC_PRI_QQ_0D_4685	Consumer Price Index by Main Expenditure Group - Personal Care, Social Protection and Miscellaneous Goods - Quarterly	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك حسب مجموعة الإنفاق الرئيسية - العناية الشخصية والحماية الاجتماعية والسلع المتنوعة - ربع سنوي
EC_PRI_QQ_1D_4632	Consumer Price Index by Region - Quarterly	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك حسب المنطقة - ربع سنوي
EC_PRI_QQ_1D_4633	Consumer Price Index by Household Type - Quarterly	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك حسب نوع الأسرة - ربع سنوي
EC_PRI_QQ_0D_4678	Consumer Price Index by Main Expenditure Group - Health - Quarterly	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك حسب مجموعة الإنفاق الرئيسية - الصحة - ربع سنوي
EC_PRI_QQ_0D_4673	Consumer Price Index by Main Expenditure Group - Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household maintenance - Quarterly	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك حسب مجموعة الإنفاق الرئيسية - التجهيزات والمعدات المنزلية وأعمال الصيانة الاعتيادية للبيوت - ربع سنوي
EC_PRI_QQ_0D_4669	Consumer Price Index by Main Expenditure Group - Food and Beverages - Quarterly	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك حسب مجموعة الإنفاق الرئيسية - الأغذية والمشروبات - ربع سنوي
EC_PRI_QQ_1D_4630	Consumer Price Index by Main Expenditure Group - Quarterly	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك حسب مجموعة الإنفاق الرئيسية - ربع سنوي
EC_PRI_QQ_0D_4670	Consumer Price Index by Main Expenditure Group - Tobacco - Quarterly	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك حسب مجموعة الإنفاق الرئيسية - التبغ - ربع سنوي

S.V. Code	Indicator Name	اسم المؤشر
EC_PRI_QQ_0D_4671	Consumer Price Index by Main Expenditure Group - Clothing and Footwear - Quarterly	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك حسب مجموعة الإنفاق الرئيسية - الملابس والأحذية - ربع سنوي
EC_PRI_MM_1D_3886	Consumer Price Index by Main Expenditure Group - Monthly	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك حسب مجموعة الإنفاق الرئيسية - شهري
EC_PRI_QQ_1D_4631	Consumer Price Index by Household Welfare Level - Quarterly	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك حسب مستوى رفاه الأسرة - ربع سنوي
EC_PRI_MM_2D_3888	Consumer Price Index by Household Welfare Level - Monthly	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك حسب مستوى رفاه الأسرة - شهري
EC_PRI_QQ_0D_4683	Consumer Price Index by Main Expenditure Group - Restaurants and Hotels - Quarterly	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك حسب مجموعة الإنفاق الرئيسية - المطاعم والفنادق - ربع سنوي
EC_PRI_MM_1D_3890	Consumer Price Index by Region - Monthly	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك حسب المنطقة - شهري
EC_PRI_QQ_0D_4682	Consumer Price Index by Main Expenditure Group - Education - Quarterly	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك حسب مجموعة الإنفاق الرئيسية - التعليم - ربع سنوي
EC_PRI_MM_1D_3889	Consumer Price Index by Household Type - Monthly	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك حسب نوع الأسرة - شهري
EC_PRI_MM_1D_4686	Consumer Price Index by Income Level - Monthly	الرقم القياسي لأسعار المستهلك حسب مستوى الدخل - شهري
EC_PRI_MM_0D _9912	Core Inflation - Monthly	التضخم الأساسي - شهري

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