

National Consumer Price Index (CPI), March 2026

Next release on April inflation: April 9, 2026

Headline Inflation and Outlook

On a monthly basis, headline inflation accelerated for the third consecutive month, reaching 0.86%, the highest for a March since 2022 and for any month since July 2024. This was driven by a sharp rebound in non-core inflation, which stood at 2.46% month-over-month. **Compared with equivalent periods, non-core inflation ended a three-year streak of contractions and recorded its highest level for a March since 1995.**

Within non-core inflation, it is worth noting that the **agricultural component posted inflation of 4.52% month-over-month, the highest for an equivalent period since 2013.** This was driven by an increase in fruit and vegetable inflation, which reached 10.75% month-over-month, the highest on record when compared with equivalent months. It should be noted that the agricultural sector is currently facing several challenges, including: 1) security-related issues, 2) lack of government support, 3) strikes and protests, and 4) lower tomato production following the imposition of a 17% tariff by the United States on imports. All these factors have constrained supply, leading to significant increases in prices.

Meanwhile, the energy and government-administered prices subcomponent recorded inflation of 0.85% month-over-month, after two months fluctuating around 0.00%. Within this category, **energy inflation accelerated to 1.06%**, following two months in contraction, reaching its highest level for an equivalent month since 2022. **This reflects that the increase in global energy prices, because of the conflict between the United States and Iran, is already beginning to be reflected in hydrocarbon prices in Mexico and threatens to have second-round effects on the prices of other goods in the coming months.**

In contrast, core inflation decelerated for the second consecutive month, standing at 0.38%, the lowest for an equivalent period since 2020. Within core inflation, both subcomponents also decelerated. On the one hand, merchandise inflation stood at 0.29%, the lowest for an equivalent month since 2024. This was due to the slowdown in both of its categories: food merchandise inflation, which stood at 0.26% (the lowest for an equivalent month since 2018), and non-food merchandise inflation, which declined to 0.31%. However, the latter remains elevated, as when compared with equivalent months, it is the highest since 2023. On the other hand, services inflation decelerated to 0.48%. This downward inertia was driven by the education services category, whose inflation fell to 0.05% (the lowest for an equivalent period since 2024), and by other services inflation, which stood at 0.65%. However, housing services inflation accelerated slightly to 0.36% and, when compared with equivalent periods, is the highest since 2024.

On an annual basis, headline inflation accelerated to 4.59%, marking its second consecutive month above 4% and recording the highest inflation rate since October 2024. This was driven by the significant rebound in non-core inflation, which accelerated to 5.05% year-over-year, its highest level since May 2025.

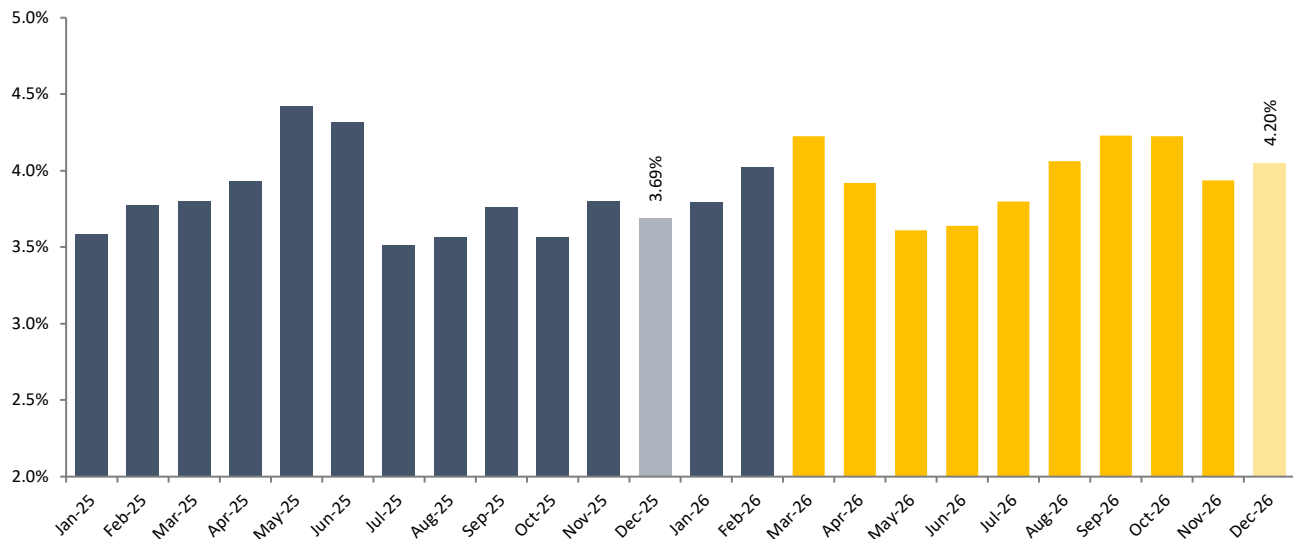
Agricultural product inflation accelerated sharply to 8.77% year-over-year, after standing at 4.50% in the previous month and having remained below 3% from July 2025 to January 2026. This is the result of supply-side problems in the agricultural sector, which are causing a strong rebound in fruit and vegetable prices in Mexico, pushing their inflation up to 21.77% year-over-year. It is worth noting that inflation in this category had been on a downward trend, after declining by 9.08% from November 2024 to January 2026. In contrast, livestock product inflation limited the overall increase in the subcomponent, standing at 0.34% year-over-year, marking its second consecutive month below 1%.

Energy and government-administered prices inflation accelerated to 2.21%, its highest level since November 2025. Within this category, **government-administered prices inflation rose to 6.03% year-over-year, surpassing the 6% threshold for the first time since June 2023.** Meanwhile, energy inflation stood at 0.13%, breaking a streak of two consecutive months in contraction. Despite this rebound, energy inflation remains low, having not exceeded 1.1% since June 2025.

Core inflation decelerated for the second consecutive month, standing at 4.45%. However, it remains elevated, recording eleven consecutive months above 4%. Therefore, it would be premature to argue that this component is signaling convergence toward Banco de México's 3% target. Within core inflation, the main concern lies in the services component, whose inflation accelerated to 4.51%, the highest since June 2025, showing a clear resistance to decline.

In this context, Grupo Financiero BASE revises its inflation forecast upward to 4.20%, mainly driven by the effects of the conflict between the United States and Iran on global commodity prices, the persistence of high services inflation, and public insecurity, which has affected crop production and continues to put upward pressure on fruit and vegetable prices. As a result, Banco de México should adjust its stance and communication, keeping the policy rate unchanged. Upside risks to inflation have materialized, and inflation could continue rising if the conflict in Iran and public insecurity in Mexico persist. **Although monetary policy does not directly affect non-core inflation, there is a risk of second-round effects on other goods within core inflation. This is particularly relevant for Banco de México's monetary policy, as the expectations channel is one of the most important transmission mechanisms. In this sense, interest rate decisions act as signals of the degree of commitment or complacency toward combating high inflation.**

Figure 1. Mexico's consumer inflation. Annual change



Source: Grupo Financiero BASE with information from INEGI and own estimates.

Table 1. Monthly and Annual inflation

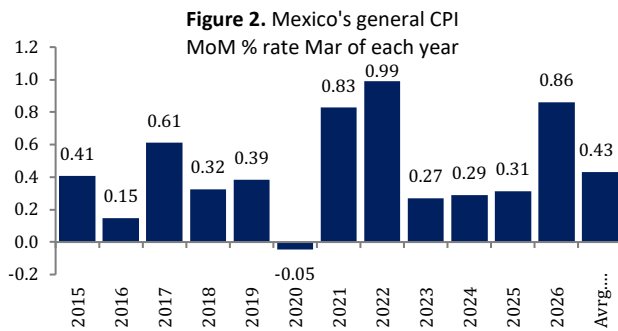
March 2026 (monthly data)	Monthly Inflation	Annual inflation Mar '26 vs. Mar '25	Highest annual inflation since	Consecutive months of acceleration at annual rate
Headline Inflation	0.86%	4.59%	October 2024	3
Core Inflation	0.38%	4.45%	February 2026	0
Goods	0.29%	4.38%	February 2026	0
Food goods	0.26%	5.78%	February 2026	0
Non-food goods	0.31%	3.18%	January 2026	1
Services	0.48%	4.51%	June 2025	1
Housing	0.36%	3.53%	May 2025	1
Education	0.05%	5.96%	February 2026	0
Other services	0.65%	5.26%	January 2026	1
Non-core Inflation	2.46%	5.05%	May 2025	2
Agriculture	4.52%	8.77%	November 2024	3
Fruits and vegetables	10.75%	21.77%	August 2017	2
Livestock	0.09%	0.34%	February 2026	0
Energy and authorized tariffs	0.85%	2.21%	November 2025	1
Energy	1.06%	0.13%	December 2025	1
Authorized tariffs	0.50%	6.03%	June 2023	1

Source: Grupo Financiero BASE with information from INEGI.

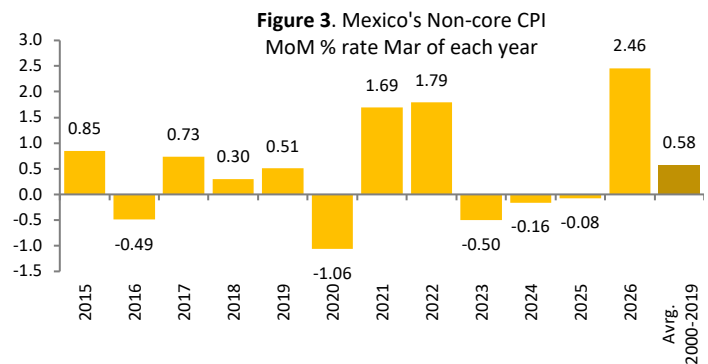
Monthly Inflation

In March, **headline inflation accelerated for the third consecutive month, reaching 0.86%**, the highest for a March since 2022 and for any month since July 2024 (Figure 2).

This was driven by the sharp rebound in **non-core inflation, which stood at 2.46%** month-over-month. When compared with equivalent periods, non-core inflation ended a streak of three consecutive years of contractions and recorded its highest level for a March since 1995 (Figure 3).



Source: Grupo Financiero BASE with information from INEGI.



Both subcomponents of non-core inflation recorded acceleration, with the following standing out:

- The **agricultural subcomponent posted inflation of 4.52% month-over-month**, the highest for an equivalent period since 2013. This was driven by an increase in **fruit and vegetable inflation, which stood at 10.75% month-over-month**, the highest on record when compared with equivalent periods.

It should be noted that the agricultural sector is currently facing several challenges, including: 1) security-related issues, 2) lack of government support, 3) strikes and protests, and 4) lower tomato

production following the imposition of a 17% tariff by the United States on imports. All these factors have constrained supply, leading to significant increases in prices.

- **Livestock product inflation stood at 0.09% month-over-month**, the lowest for an equivalent month since 2023. This category has limited the rebound of the overall agricultural subcomponent, as it has declined in six of the last eight months.

This is consistent with the behavior of individual agricultural items, as those registering the largest price increases were within the fruits and vegetables category: cucumber (42.71%), tomato (42.01%), poblano chili (36.96%), serrano chili (24.02%), and other fresh chilies (18.79%). In contrast, the items with the lowest inflation were: nopales (-8.86%), peach (-5.29%), papaya (-4.40%), other fruits (-3.77%), and other vegetables and legumes (-1.98%).

Table 2. Agricultural products with the largest and smallest monthly price changes in March 2026.

Mar-26	Fruits and Vegetables	Monthly change	Livestock	Monthly change
Items with largest increase	Cucumber	42.71%	Pollo	2.82%
	Tomato	42.01%		
	Poblano chili	36.96%		
	Serrano chili	24.02%		
	Other fresh chilies	18.79%		
	Lemon	18.26%		
	Green tomato	16.46%		
	Potatoes and other tubers	14.92%		
	Zucchini	14.36%		
	Green beans	8.72%		

Source: Grupo Financiero BASE with information from INEGI.

Table 3. Agricultural products with the largest and smallest monthly price decreases in March 2026.

Mar-26	Fruits and vegetables	Monthly change	Livestock	Monthly change
Items with the largest decrease	Nopales	-8.86%	Egg	-2.69%
	Peach	-5.29%	Pork	-1.28%
	Papaya	-4.40%	Fish	-1.12%
	Other fruits	-3.77%	Beef offal	-0.62%
	Other vegetables and legumes	-1.98%	Beef	-0.13%
	Chayote	-1.45%	Lard	-0.07%
	Beans	-1.34%	Shrimp	-0.04%
	Onion	-1.19%		
	Cilantro, epazote and parsley	-0.96%		
	Pear	-0.74%		

Source: Grupo Financiero BASE with information from INEGI.

- **The energy and government-administered prices subcomponent recorded inflation of 0.85% month-over-month**, after two months fluctuating around 0.00%. Within this category, energy inflation

accelerated to 1.06%, following two months in contraction, reaching its highest level for an equivalent month since 2022. **This reflects that the increase in global energy prices, particularly oil and its derivatives, because of the conflict between the United States and Iran, is already beginning to be reflected in hydrocarbon prices in Mexico.**

In contrast, **government-administered prices inflation decelerated to 0.50%**, a level around which it has fluctuated in three of the last four months. However, when compared with equivalent periods, it is the highest since 2023.

Analyzing the behavior of individual items, natural gas recorded a monthly inflation of 4.86%, high-octane gasoline 3.46%, followed by increases in parking (2.73%), electricity (2.17%), taxi fares (1.23%), and LP gas (1.00%). **Notably, no item within the energy and government-administered prices category recorded a monthly decline in prices.**

Table 4. Energy and government-administered tariffs with the highest and lowest monthly price changes in March 2026

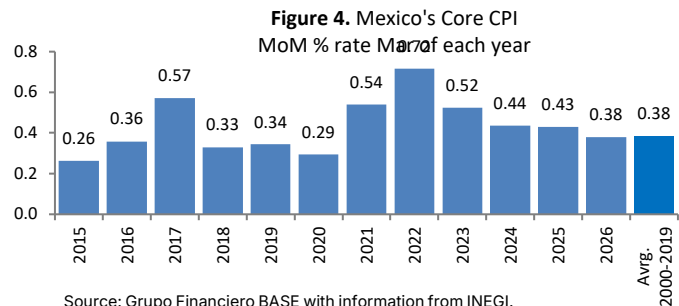
Mar-26	Energy	Monthly change	Authorized tariffs	Monthly change
Items with largest increase	Natural gas	4.86%	Park	2.73%
	High octane gas	3.46%	Taxi	1.23%
	Electricity	2.17%	Water supply fees	0.75%
	LP gas	1.00%	Vehicle related fees	0.75%
	Low octane gas	0.30%	Issuance of public-sector documents	0.15%
			Bus	0.11%
			Urban bus	0.10%
			Metro	0.05%
			Highway tolls	0.03%

Source: Grupo Financiero BASE with information from INEGI.

In contrast, **core inflation decelerated** for the second consecutive month, **standing at 0.38%**, the lowest for an equivalent period since 2020.

Within core inflation, it is worth noting that both of its subcomponents also decelerated:

On the one hand, **goods inflation stood at 0.29%**, the lowest for an equivalent month since 2024. This was driven by the slowdown in both of its categories:



Source: Grupo Financiero BASE with information from INEGI.

Food goods inflation, which stood at 0.26% (the lowest for an equivalent month since 2018), and **non-food goods inflation, which declined to 0.31%**. However, the latter remains elevated, as when compared with equivalent periods, it is the highest since 2023.

Analyzing individual items, **the effect of the increase in the excise tax (IEPS) on sugary beverages persists, as soft drink concentrates recorded a monthly inflation of 4.97%**. This was followed by expectorants and decongestants (2.71%), watches, jewelry and costume jewelry (2.63%), other liquors (2.20%), and

powdered gelatin (2.10%). In contrast, the items that recorded negative inflation were refrigerators (-1.65%), mayonnaise and mustard (-1.51%), blenders (-1.48%), and other dried legumes (-1.47%).

Table 5. Goods with highest and lowest monthly price changes in March 2026

Mar-26	Goods	MoM % Change	Mar-26	Goods	MoM % Change
items with largest increase	Soft drink concentrates	4.97%	items with largest decrease	Refrigerators	-1.65%
	Expectorants and decongestants	2.71%		Mayonnaise and mustard	-1.51%
	Watches, jewelry and costume jewelry	2.63%		Blenders	-1.48%
	Other liquors	2.20%		Other dried legumes	-1.47%
	Powdered gelatin	2.10%		Plants and flowers	-1.38%
	Lotions and perfumes	2.10%		Washing machines	-1.34%
	Air fresheners	2.01%		Motorcycles	-0.88%
	Skin creams	1.88%		Manchego and Chihuahua cheese	-0.87%
	Rum	1.76%		Gastrointestinal medicines	-0.86%
	Cold medicines	1.60%		Men's suit	-0.83%

Source: Grupo Financiero BASE with information from INEGI.

On the other hand, **services inflation decelerated to 0.48%**. This downward inertia was driven by the **education services category, whose inflation declined to 0.05%** (the lowest for an equivalent period since 2024), and by **other services inflation, which stood at 0.65%**. However, **housing services inflation accelerated slightly to 0.36%** and, when compared with equivalent periods, is the highest since 2024.

Among its individual items, notable increases were observed in air transport (26.28%), package tourism services (5.90%), movie theaters (1.96%), hotels (1.84%), and dental consultations and prosthetics (1.48%). In contrast, the items that recorded price declines were internet and telephone bundles (-3.59%), movie and music streaming (-2.03%), internet service (-1.24%), and mobile service (-0.01%).

Table 6. Services with the highest and lowest monthly price change in March 2026

Mar-26	Services	MoM % Change	Mar-26	Services	MoM % Change
items with largest increase	Air transport	26.28%	items with largest decrease	Internet and telephone bundles	-3.59%
	Package tourism services	5.90%		Movie and music streaming	-2.03%
	Movie theaters	1.96%		Internet services	-1.24%
	Hoteles	1.84%		Mobile services	-0.01%
	Dental consultations and prosthetics	1.48%			
	Dry cleaning services	1.29%			
	Museums and cultural sites	1.29%			
	Pet services	1.16%			
	Childbirth hospitalization	1.16%			
	Sports club	1.15%			

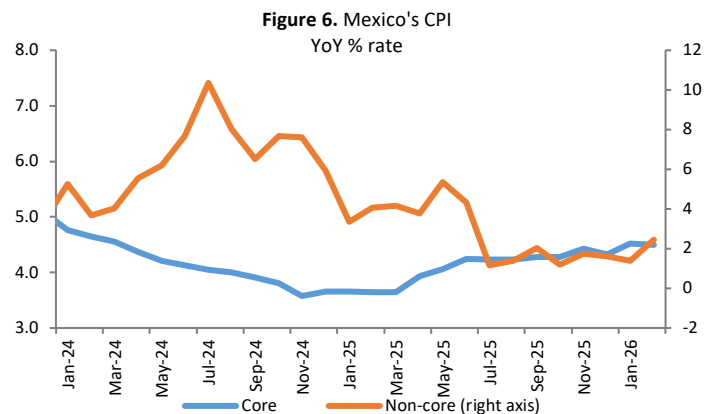
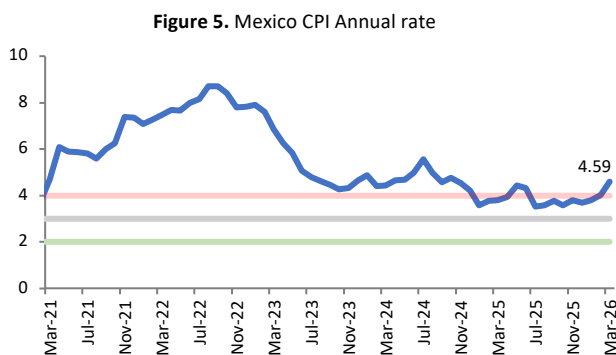
Source: Grupo Financiero BASE with information from INEGI.

Annual Inflation

On an annual basis, **headline inflation accelerated to 4.59%**, marking its second consecutive month above 4% and recording the highest inflation rate since October 2024 (Figure 5). This was driven by the **significant rebound in non-core inflation, which accelerated to 5.05% year-over-year**, its highest level since May 2025 (Figure 6). Within this component, the following stood out:

- **Agricultural product inflation accelerated sharply to 8.77%**, after standing at 4.50% in the previous month and having remained below 3% from July 2025 to January 2026. **This is the result of supply-side issues in the agricultural sector, which are driving a strong rebound in fruit and vegetable prices in Mexico, pushing their inflation up to 21.77% year-over-year, the highest since August 2017.** It is worth noting that inflation in this category had been on a downward trend, after declining by 9.08% from November 2024 to January 2026. In contrast, **livestock product inflation limited the increase in the overall subcomponent, standing at 0.34% year-over-year**, marking its second consecutive month below 1%.
- **Energy and government-administered prices inflation accelerated to 2.21%**, its highest level since November 2025. Within this category, **government-administered prices inflation rose to 6.03% year-over-year**, surpassing the 6% threshold for the first time since June 2023. Meanwhile, **energy inflation stood at 0.13%**, breaking a streak of two consecutive months in contraction. Despite this rebound, energy inflation remains low, having not exceeded 1.1% since June 2025.

Core inflation decelerated for the second consecutive month, standing at 4.45%. However, it remains elevated, recording eleven consecutive months above 4% (Figure 6). Therefore, **it would be premature to argue that this component is signaling convergence toward Banco de México's 3% target.** Within core inflation, the main concern lies in the **services component, whose inflation accelerated to 4.51%**, the highest since June 2025, showing a clear resistance to decline below 4.35%.



Source: Grupo Financiero BASE with information from INEGI.

In this context, Grupo Financiero BASE revises its inflation forecast upward to 4.20%, mainly driven by the effects of the conflict between the United States and Iran on global commodity prices, the persistence of elevated services inflation, and public insecurity, which has affected crop production and continues to put upward pressure on fruit and vegetable inflation. **This forecast does not yet incorporate second-round effects on other prices and therefore could be revised further upward if this risk materializes.**

Trimmed Mean Inflation

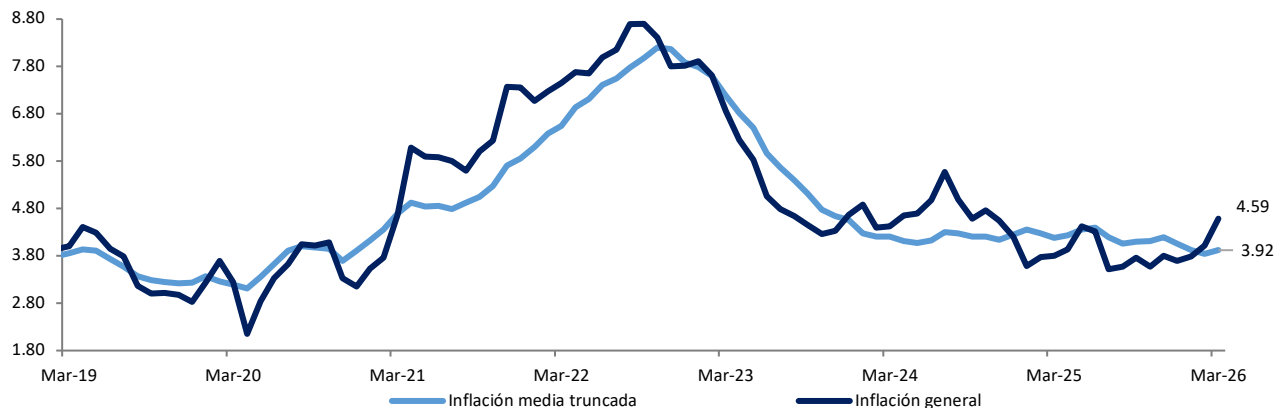
The trimmed mean inflation indicator is useful for analyzing inflation dynamics over the medium term. Unlike headline inflation, this indicator excludes certain components (individual items) that exhibit extreme variations. It is important to highlight that the trimmed mean inflation indicator is also different from core inflation, since the components excluded by core inflation are always 1) agricultural products, and 2) energy and government-administered prices. These can be referred to as “fixed-exclusion elements.”

By contrast, the items with high variation that are excluded from trimmed mean inflation change from month to month (dynamic weights). The extreme variations excluded by trimmed mean inflation include both very high increases and sharp contractions, but both must be associated with temporary effects due to atypical, short-term situations, rather than structural or persistent changes in price formation.

That said, in March 2026, trimmed mean inflation stood at 3.92%, accelerating relative to the previous month, but marking three consecutive months below 4%. This could be considered positive, as trimmed mean inflation had remained above that level for 60 months. At the same time, this is the second consecutive month in which trimmed mean inflation has been below headline inflation. All of this suggests that the bulk of items, excluding those with extreme variations, experienced downward pressures in March.

However, it would still be premature to assume that inflationary pressures will dissipate, as the March data reflect the initial impact of the conflict between the United States and Iran on global energy and goods prices, which were effectively “filtered out” by the trimmed mean inflation measure due to its methodology.

Figure 7. Mexico's CPI. YoY % rate



Source: Grupo Financiero BASE with information from INEGI.

Consumer Price Index for the Minimum Consumption Basket

The minimum consumption basket price index tracks price variations of a basket composed of 176 generic goods and services from the INPC basket. This indicator allows for the analysis of the impact of inflation on the purchasing power of essential needs. On the one hand, it includes goods that meet nutritional recommendations in the food category, and on the other, it includes essential non-food goods and services.

In March 2026, prices in the minimum consumption basket increased 0.91% month-over-month, marking their third consecutive month of acceleration and the highest inflation rate for a February since 2022. As a result, on an annual basis, inflation in the minimum consumption basket stood at 4.56%, the highest since June 2025, ending a streak of eight consecutive months below 4%.

This month's acceleration indicates that these essential goods and services for the population are also experiencing upward price pressures, in line with headline inflation. This is negative for the population in Mexico, as this minimum consumption basket contains the indispensable goods and services required to meet the needs of lower-income households. Moreover, the outlook is unfavorable, considering that core inflation remains elevated above 4%, with no clear signs of deceleration in the short term. At the same time, non-core inflation is showing upward pressures, driven by increases in fruit and vegetable prices, and these pressures are expected to remain elevated in the near term due to the global rise in energy prices, which will likely also be reflected in inflation in Mexico and in the minimum consumption basket.

Gabriela Siller Pagaza, PhD
Director of Economic and Financial Analysis
gsiller@bancobase.com

Jesús Anacarsis López Flores
Deputy Director of Economic and Financial Analysis
jlopezf@bancobase.com

Hernán Ayrton González Cruz
Economic and Financial Analyst
hgonzalez@bancobase.com

This document has been prepared by Banco BASE for INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY, based on information and data from sources considered to be reliable. However, Banco BASE assumes no responsibility whatsoever for any interpretation, decision, and/or use that any third party may make based on the information contained herein. The information presented is intended solely as a supporting tool and shall not, under any circumstances, be used by any third party for political, partisan, and/or any other similar purposes.

Annex 1. 10 items with largest monthly price variation in March 2026

Category	Items	Monthly change
Fruits and vegetables	Cucumber	42.71%
Fruits and vegetables	Tomato	42.01%
Fruits and vegetables	Poblano chili	36.96%
Other services	Air transport	26.28%
Fruits and vegetables	Serrano chili	24.02%
Fruits and vegetables	Other fresh chilies	18.79%
Fruits and vegetables	Lemon	18.26%
Fruits and vegetables	Green tomato	16.46%
Fruits and vegetables	Potatoes and other tubers	14.92%
Fruits and vegetables	Zucchini	14.36%

Source: Grupo Financiero BASE with information from INEGI.

Annex 2. 10 items with smallest monthly price variation in March 2026

Category	Items	Monthly change
Fruits and vegetables	Nopales	-8.86%
Fruits and vegetables	Peach	-5.29%
Fruits and vegetables	Papaya	-4.40%
Fruits and vegetables	Other fruits	-3.77%
Other services	Internet and telephone bundles	-3.59%
Agricultural products	Eggs	-2.69%
Other services	Movies and music streaming	-2.03%
Fruits and vegetables	Other vegetables and legumes	-1.98%
Goods	Refrigerators	-1.65%
Goods	Mayonnaise and mustard	-1.51%

Source: Grupo Financiero BASE with information from INEGI.