

MNI Eurozone Inflation Insight – Feb 2026

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Key February preliminary HICP prints

- **Eurozone** Headline 1.90% Y/Y (MNI Median 1.7%, Jan 1.66%)
 - Core 2.41% Y/Y (Median 2.2%, Jan 2.18%)
 - Services 3.38% Y/Y (Median 3.2%, Jan 3.16%)
 - Non-energy manufactured goods 0.66% Y/Y (Median 0.4%, Jan 0.38%)
 - Energy -3.15% Y/Y (Median -3.1%, Jan -3.97%)
 - Food, alcohol, tobacco 2.56% Y/Y (Median 2.5%, Jan 2.61%)
- **Germany**: 2.01% Y/Y (cons 2.1%, 2.12% prior)
- **France**: 1.12% Y/Y (cons 0.8%, 0.40% prior)
- **Italy**: 1.6% Y/Y (cons 1.1%, 1.0% prior)
- **Spain**: 2.47% Y/Y (cons 2.3%, 2.42% prior)
- **Netherlands**: 2.26% Y/Y (cons 2.0%, 2.18% prior)

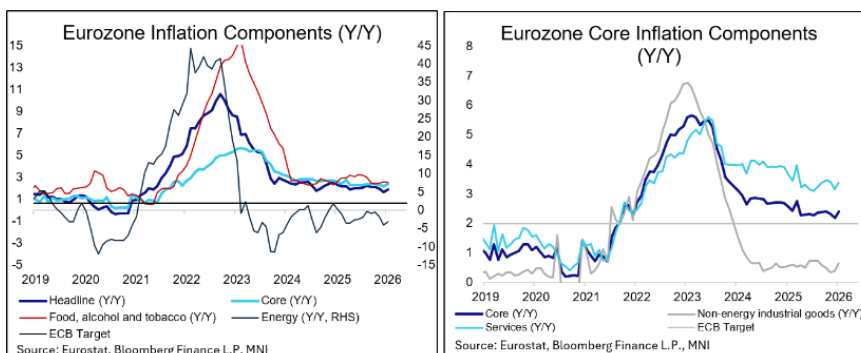
Core Surprises Higher With Energy Set To Add

Eurozone February headline HICP printed 0.2pp above consensus at 1.90%. The print also showed a core overshoot of a notable 0.2pp at 2.41% Y/Y, driven by both services and core goods, while the non-core aggregates energy and food/alcohol/tobacco saw less of a surprise in February.

While around half of the services upside vs consensus was driven by Italian hospitality prices, likely influenced by the Winter Olympics, the other half is a bit more unclear with mixed country-level evidence from transport / airfares inflation. Also keeping in mind the core goods upside, this means uncertainty remains on how persistent the February core surprise will turn out to be. Higher services this time follows the January report showing the annual repricing in a large set of categories at the beginning of the year seemingly progressing well (meaning, lower rates). Final data for the Eurozone available on February 18 will inform further here to some extent.

Across countries, ahead of the Eurozone-wide release, firmer prints around France's 1.12% Y/Y (0.8% cons), Spain's 2.47% (2.3% cons) as well as Netherland's 2.26% (2.0% cons) helped counter surprisingly soft Germany at 2.01% Y/Y (2.1% cons). Released simultaneously with the bloc release, Italy then surprised meaningfully to the upside at 1.6% Y/Y (1.1% cons) although, again, this release was likely impacted by exceptionals from the Winter Olympics.

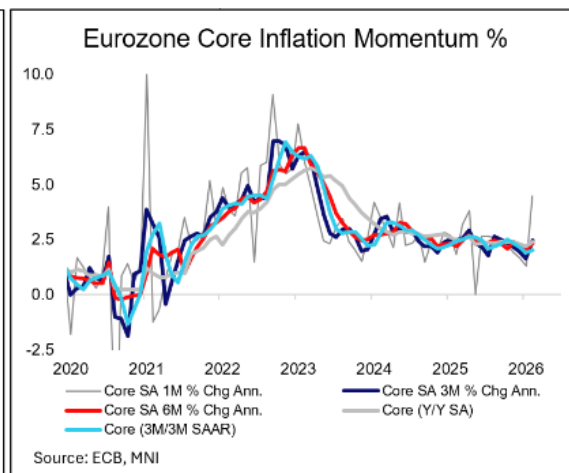
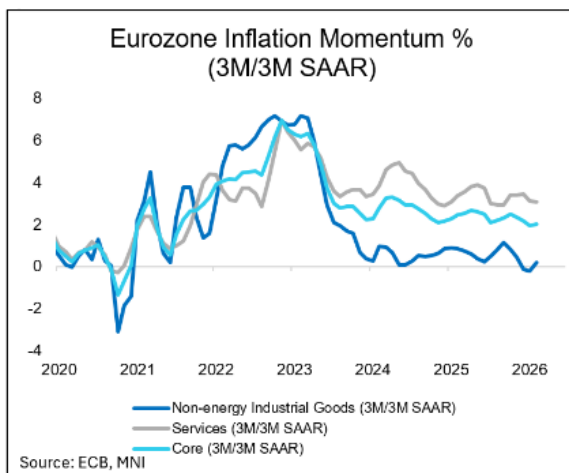
Near-term focus ahead lies on the feedthrough of higher crude and gas prices on the back of the Iran conflict. ECB policymakers already have flagged that a prolonged conflict would also see an impact on Eurozone inflation, and ECB analysis shows a 10% change in oil prices gives rise to a "0.4 percentage point impact via direct effects on the energy component – most of which would happen relatively quickly – and an approximate 0.2 percentage point impact via other HICP components over a period of up to three years". This already resulted in a hawkish shift in market pricing for ECB decisions ahead, with now around 13bps of policy tightening priced in, after 15bps of easing priced just last Friday.



Core Momentum Spikes In February

Eurozone sequential core inflation spiked higher in February after a benign January print, according to seasonally adjusted data released by the ECB. The pickup was broad-based across services and core goods on a sequential basis, consistent with the upside surprise in the NSA flash release. Despite the firm sequential reading, core momentum (3m/3m SAAR) remains below its 2025 average this time.

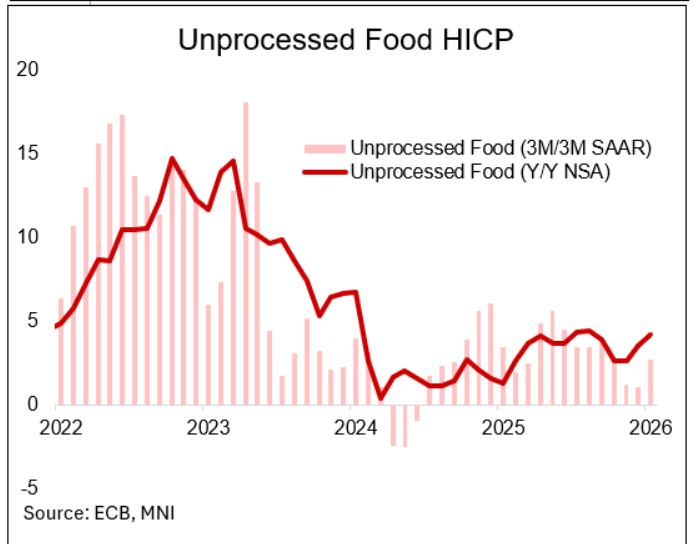
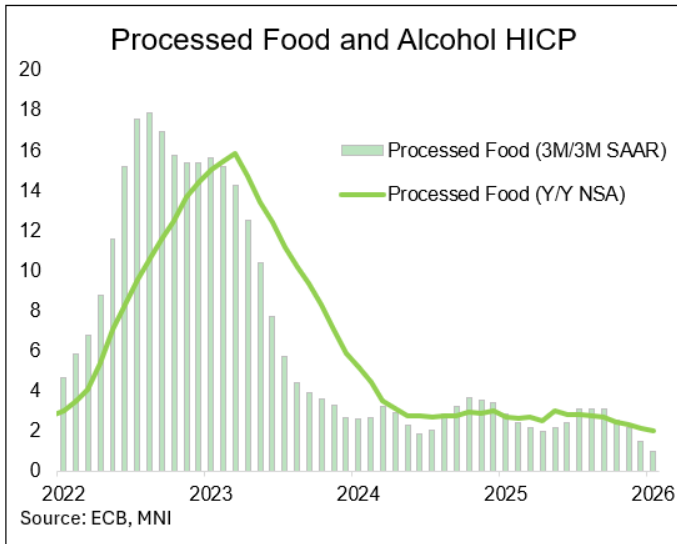
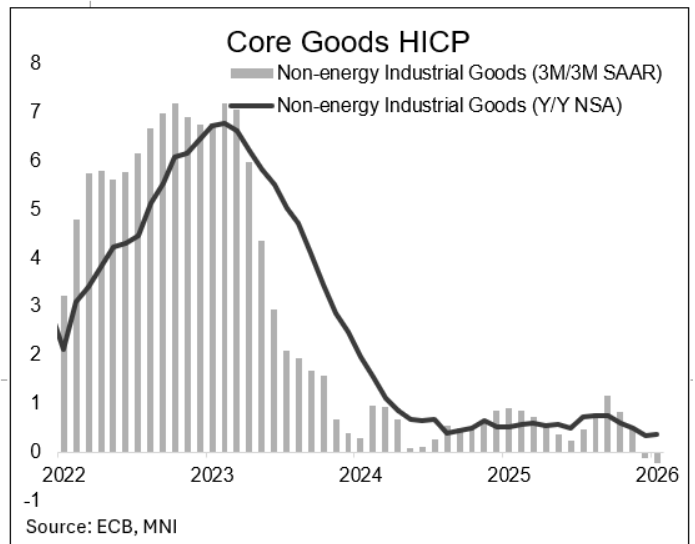
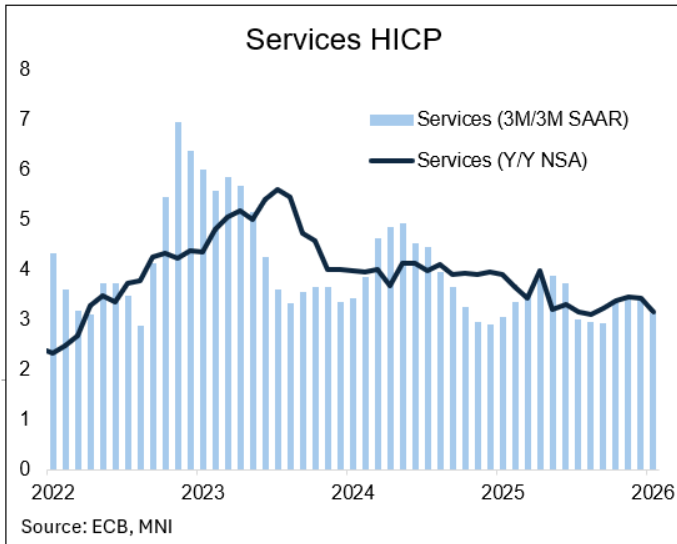
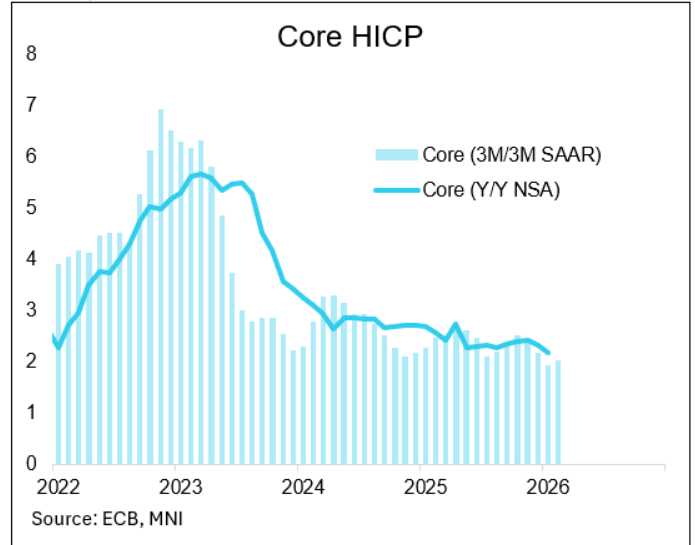
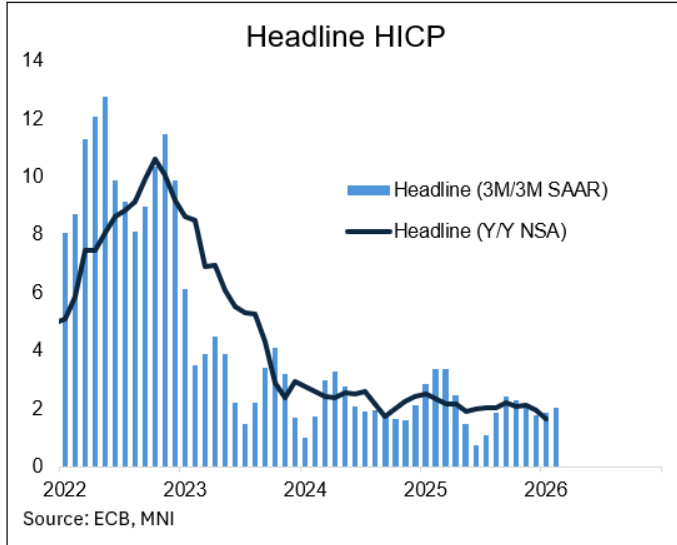
- **Core inflation** momentum was 2.03% in February after 1.92% in January, calculated here as a 3m/3m annualised rate using ECB seasonally adjusted data. This is below the 2025 average in the series which stands at 2.38%, with the 2026 YTD average now at 1.98%.
- However, on a sequential basis, core prices rose by a firm 0.37% M/M vs 0.11% in Jan and 0.14% in Dec – a notable pickup.
- **Services** inflation momentum decreased marginally to 3.06% (3.12% Jan), remaining in recent ranges.
- Monthly services inflation came in at 0.36% M/M after 0.16% in Jan and 0.26% in Dec, a firmer reading that is consistent with the services overshoot in the NSA data (3.38% Y/Y vs 3.2% median). Italian hospitality will have been an upside driver here, and should pare back in March again to some degree.
- **Core goods** momentum bounced back into positive territory at 0.19% (-0.21% Jan), having recorded its lowest rate since December 2020 in January. On a sequential comparison, core goods rose 0.36% M/M (0.04% Jan), also on the firm side in February.



Component	Weights	Y/Y (HICP)							M/M (HICP)
	2026	Feb-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Feb-26
All-items HICP	1000.00	2.32	2.23	2.10	2.14	1.97	1.67	1.90	0.66
All-items excluding									
>energy	909.71	2.58	2.49	2.41	2.40	2.36	2.27	2.44	0.67
>energy, unprocessed food	858.32	2.58	2.41	2.39	2.38	2.29	2.16	2.31	0.65
>energy, food, alcohol & tobacco	720.80	2.56	2.36	2.39	2.41	2.32	2.19	2.41	0.76
Food, alcohol and tobacco	188.91	2.65	3.01	2.49	2.39	2.51	2.62	2.56	0.31
>processed food, alcohol and tobacco	137.53	2.65	2.70	2.42	2.29	2.14	2.03	1.81	0.06
>unprocessed food	51.39	2.66	3.87	2.66	2.66	3.53	4.19	4.61	0.99
Energy	90.29	0.18	-0.38	-0.93	-0.48	-1.94	-3.98	-3.15	0.56
Non-energy industrial goods	252.55	0.57	0.74	0.59	0.51	0.34	0.40	0.66	0.67
Services	468.25	3.66	3.25	3.38	3.47	3.42	3.17	3.38	0.82

Source: Eurostat, MNI. Note: Blue highlights indicate preliminary readings. HICP monthly figures are not seasonally adjusted.

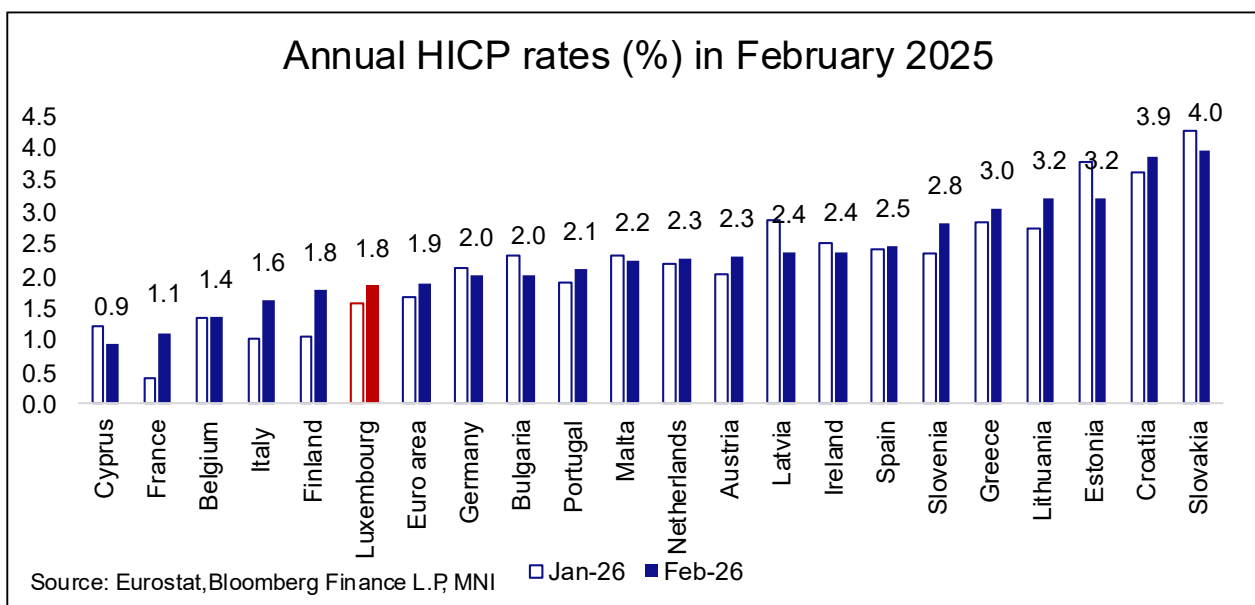
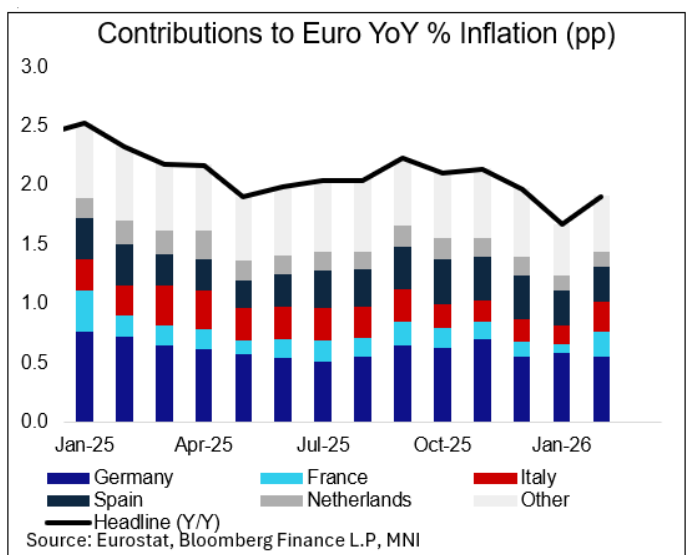
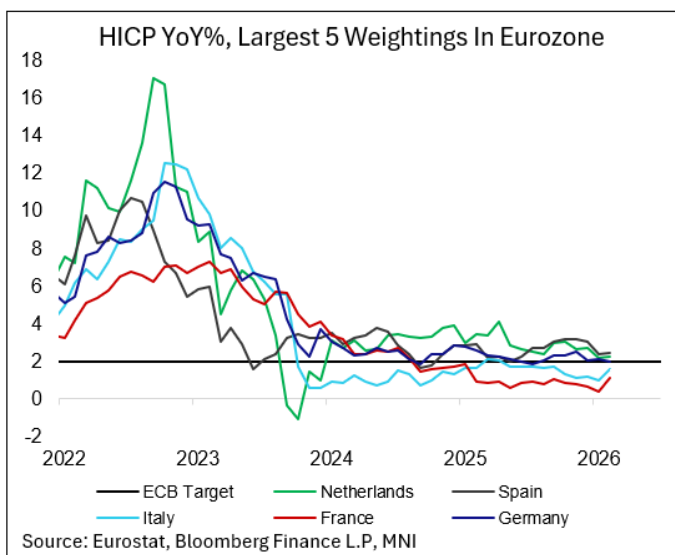
Inflation Momentum Chart Pack



National Inflation Prints

At a country level, headline Y/Y inflation decelerated in 8 of 21 countries in February compared to January, accelerated in 13 and was steady in 0.

- 13 countries had Y/Y rates above the ECB's 2% target, vs 12 in January. With the average rate below target, this highlights well that the larger Eurozone countries are currently running lower than their smaller peers.
- Slovakia and Croatia again had the highest Y/Y rates, at 4.0% and 3.9% at 3.8% (vs 4.3% and 3.6% prior).
- The lowest Y/Y rate was seen in Cyprus (0.9% Y/Y vs 0.5% prior), followed by France (1.1% Y/Y vs 0.4% prior) and Belgium (1.4% Y/Y vs 1.4% prior).
- See below for further details on the main individual country releases.



Germany (28% of Eurozone HICP in 2026)

- **HICP 2.01% Y/Y (vs 2.12% prior); 0.38% M/M**
- **CPI 1.9% Y/Y (vs 2.1% prior); 0.2% M/M**
- German headline HICP came in at 2.01% Y/Y in February, one tenth below pre-state consensus for both M/M and Y/Y. Core was 2.50%, slightly above January's 2.43% but roughly in line with December's rate.
- Core goods HICP was behind the core acceleration in February, coming in at 0.88% Y/Y (0.59% M/M), while services was roughly unchanged at 3.48% (3.53% Jan). Looking at the non-core aggregates shows processed foods / alcohol / tobacco and unprocessed foods much lower than before at 1.55% and 3.92%, respectively – also food CPI (non-HICP) saw a 1.0pp deceleration in February. Finally, energy moved further into deflationary territory on the back of base effects, to -2.24% Y/Y (-1.90% Jan).

Looking at the details of the German state-level CPI Y/Y data for February:

- The services stabilization comes amid airfares likely being a little softer than previously while the more persistent services-heavy divisions were mixed this time.
- Specifically, we see healthcare at 2.0% Y/Y (1.9% prior), communication at 0.4-0.5% Y/Y (-0.5% prior), recreation and culture at 1.4% Y/Y (1.5% prior), and education at 4.5% Y/Y (4.8% prior). A sharp increase in Deutsche Telekom prices could have been behind the relative acceleration in communications.
- Restaurants and hotels meanwhile appear to have slowed marginally to 3.2% this time (3.3% prior). The division remains in focus as a 12pp restaurant food VAT decrease counteracts an 8.3% minimum wage increase currently in terms of input price pressures (both changes in effect as of January).
- Core goods CPI may have accelerated marginally on net but it's tough to judge at the current juncture (only HICP data released on this yet). While clothing and footwear seems much higher than before (1.3-1.4% vs -0.1% prior), furnishings and household equipment likely decelerated to around 0.3% (0.5% prior), and if both core and services CPI held steady in February this doesn't leave too much room for a core goods acceleration.
- The mixed-weighting (across goods and services) transport division meanwhile is likely to print marginally higher than before at 2.3% Y/Y (2.2% prior) despite the likely slightly lower airfares and energy CPI also seemingly a little softer than before. Car prices and non-airfare public transport are other items flowing into the calculation here.
- The main non-core headline downside driver in February was food, which has decelerated by 1pp this time to 1.1%.

France (18% of Eurozone HICP in 2026)

- **HICP 1.12% Y/Y (vs 0.40% prior); 0.76% M/M**
- **CPI 1.0% Y/Y (vs 0.3% prior); 0.7% M/M**

French flash February HICP was above consensus at 1.12% Y/Y (vs 0.40% prior). The range of estimates submitted to Bloomberg was 0.6%-1.2%, with a median of 0.8%.

- CPI was 0.97% Y/Y (vs 0.29% prior), also above the 0.8% consensus median.
- Manufactured product inflation bounced 1.19% M/M, bringing the annual rate to -0.34% Y/Y (vs -1.19% prior). This rebound was expected, owing to the timing/number of clothing and footwear sales days in 2026 versus 2025.
- A base effect saw energy inflation rise to -2.99% Y/Y (vs -7.62% prior). This related to regulated electricity price dynamics (which saw a significant fall in Feb 2025)
- Elsewhere, services inflation was 1.76% Y/Y, above the 1.68% in January but still below December's 2.12%. INSEE notes that this was "driven by the seasonal rebound in transport services" – that suggests volatile categories like airfares may have played a role. Focus in the final report will be on more underlying services categories (e.g. insurance, which was firmer than expected in January)
- Food inflation was 2.14% Y/Y (vs 1.86% prior), with a significant rise in the volatile fresh produce category. Tobacco inflation was 2.95% Y/Y (vs 2.70% prior).

Italy (16% of Eurozone HICP in 2026)

- **HICP 1.6% Y/Y (vs 1.0% prior); 0.6% M/M**
- **CPI 1.6% Y/Y (vs 1.0% prior); 0.8% M/M**

Italy February flash HICP printed a notable 0.5ppt firmer than expected at 1.6% Y/Y (1.1% cons, 1.0% prior), led by strong price rises in services (led by restaurants/accommodation services) and food, alcohol and tobacco (led by unprocessed food).

- The headline surprise looks to be services-driven, with services HICP rising to 3.9% Y/Y (2.7% prior) likely driven by the Winter Olympics. Within this, there was a large rise in restaurants and accommodation services to 6.1% Y/Y (3.5% prior) - which contributed around +0.77ppt to the headline rate (0.33ppt higher than its January contribution). Also, transport (-0.5% Y/Y from -1.4%) which contains both goods and services components may have been impacted (but in particular the transport services may have been Olympic-impacted).
- Core HICP (excl. energy and FAT) jumped to 2.7% Y/Y from 1.8% in January. (Using the Istat definition of core - excluding energy and unprocessed food was 2.7% Y/Y from 1.9% in January).
- Food, alcohol and tobacco inflation rose to 2.6% Y/Y (2.2% prior), contributing around +0.08ppt to the change in headline. This was driven mainly by unprocessed food, which saw a large jump to 3.6% Y/Y (2.5% prior), while processed food (inc alcohol and tobacco) fell 0.1ppt to 2.0% Y/Y - so the higher food inflation didn't really feed through to the stronger core figure.
- Energy remains the main downward driver, falling to -6.6% Y/Y (from -6.2% Y/Y). Driving this, the household/water/household fuels ECOICOP2 division fell to -2.1% Y/Y from -1.8%, contributing -0.26ppt, after last month's reading was revised down notably between flash and final.
- On a monthly basis, prices rose 0.6% M/M (0.1% cons, -1.0% prior).
- National CPI (non-HICP) was also firmer than expected at 0.8% M/M, 1.6% Y/Y (0.4% M/M, 1.0% Y/Y Jan). Core CPI (Istat definition) grew to 2.4% Y/Y (1.7% Jan).

Spain (12% of Eurozone HICP in 2026)

- **HICP 2.47% Y/Y (vs 2.42% prior); 0.44% M/M**
- **CPI 2.3% Y/Y (vs 2.3% prior); 0.4% M/M**

Spain February HICP, contrary to expectations, accelerated on the yearly rate, to 2.5% Y/Y (2.3% cons; 2.4% prior). Sequentially, HICP was 0.4% M/M (0.3% cons).

- National CPI (non-HICP) meanwhile remained unchanged at 2.3% Y/Y (2.2% cons; 2.3% prior). Sequentially, CPI was 0.4% (0.4% cons). Core CPI printed also slightly higher than expected at 2.7% Y/Y (2.6% cons and prior).
- In the press release, INE comments briefly on the CPI drivers, saying electricity prices, which rose in February 2025, exerted downside pressure this time. "Meanwhile, the upward influence of fuels and lubricants for personal vehicles, restaurants and accommodation services, and food and non-alcoholic beverages stands out, as their prices are rising more than in the same month last year."

Netherlands (5.8% of Eurozone HICP in 2026)

- **HICP 2.26% Y/Y (vs 2.18% prior); 1.50% M/M**
- **CPI 2.4% Y/Y (vs 2.4% prior); -0.7% M/M**

Dutch flash HICP inflation came in above consensus in preliminary February data, at 2.26% Y/Y (2.0% consensus which only consists of four analysts, 2.18% January).

- Core HICP was 2.70% in February after January's 2.45%.
- This came as services, at 4.19% Y/Y, accelerating back up to a pace seen at the end of last year (following January's drop to 3.60%). This outweighed lower core goods (0.35% Y/Y, vs 0.61% Jan).
- The non-core category aggregates both decelerated in February, with FAT (food, alcohol and tobacco) at 1.37% Y/Y (1.99% Jan, the category has been a notable downside driver over the last quarters as it ran above 7% as recently as May-25). Energy meanwhile saw a modest sequential 0.15% M/M which was cushioned even further by base effects in terms of impact on Y/Y (0.01% Feb vs 0.34% Jan).

- The national CPI was also above expectations, at 2.4% in February (2.2% cons, 2.4% January).

Belgium (3.9% of Eurozone HICP in 2026)

- **HICP 1.36% Y/Y (vs 1.35% prior); 2.45% M/M**
- **CPI 1.5% Y/Y (vs 1.1% prior); 0.5% M/M**

Belgium HICP was unchanged in February at 1.4% Y/Y according to the Statbel flash estimate, consolidating a recent downtrend after December's 2.2% and November's 2.6%. National CPI (non HICP) inflation meanwhile accelerated, to 1.45% in February from 1.10% in January.

- Sticking to the non-HICP details, core CPI (ex energy & unprocessed food) was the main driver here, ticking up to 2.83% Y/Y (vs 2.54% Jan).
- Services CPI rose to 4.75% Y/Y (4.32% prior).
- (Volatile) airfares have been a services upward driver this time, as they accelerated sharply to 35.0% Y/Y in February from 13.3% in January. Looking at correlations between that series and its equivalent in Eurozone HICP suggests that co-movements are mostly seasonally driven, not by non-seasonal idiosyncratic shocks. That takes away from any feedthrough inference of the strong Belgium M/M print in the category seen this time.
- "Regarding energy, inflation stands at -7.89% this month, compared to -9.24% in January and -5.00% in December" while "inflation for food products (including alcoholic beverages) reached 0.66% this month, compared to 0.44% the previous month."

Austria (3.4% of Eurozone HICP in 2026)

- **HICP 2.31% Y/Y (vs 2.03% prior); 0.78% M/M**
- **CPI 2.2% Y/Y (vs 2.0% prior); 0.8% M/M**

Austrian HICP accelerates back above the ECB's 2% target at 2.3% in February after January's 2.0% print was the lowest since December 2024.

- National CPI accelerated in a similar vein, to 2.2% Y/Y (2.0% Jan). The statistics office comments on some of its details:
- "Services were once again the main driver of inflation, with prices rising by 4.0%, after 3.8% in January. Energy prices fell by 4.1%, a significantly smaller decline than in January, when they fell by 4.9%. Fuel prices in particular had less of a dampening effect on inflation."
- "Prices for food, tobacco and alcohol rose by 3.0% in February, which was stronger than in January, when the increase was 2.7%. Cigarettes in particular became noticeably more expensive in February" on the back of a tobacco tax increase.

Portugal (2.6% of Eurozone HICP in 2026)

- **HICP 2.11% Y/Y (vs 1.92% prior); 0.11% M/M**

Portugal HICP accelerated to 2.1% Y/Y in February according to the Statistics Portugal flash release (1.9% January). The 1.9% in January followed three other sub-2% readings last year with 1.9% in Sept, 1.7% in May and 1.9% in March, having broadly returned to the 2% target albeit with a reasonable range around it. National-level CPI meanwhile saw an acceleration of similar magnitude to 2.10% (1.92% January), for which the statistical agency offers some details on:

- Core CPI (excl. unproc. food and energy) saw a moderate acceleration to 1.94% Y/Y from 1.80% in January.
- "The annual rate of change of the index for energy products remained at -2.2%, and the estimated index for unprocessed food presented a rate of change of 6.6% (5.8% in the previous month)."