



Monthly Bulletin for Consumer Price Index and Inflation in Syria

Issue (1) – January 2025



Preface

The bulletin provides an independent assessment of consumer prices and inflation rates in all Syrian regions based on a monthly survey of consumer prices carried out by the Syrian Center for Policy Research (SCPR) since October 2020. The SCPR had developed a methodology for building a price index based on components of the consumer basket, weighting, and market selection (See [SCPR's Consumer Price Index in Syria](#))

This bulletin presents the findings of the monthly consumer price survey and the changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for **January 2025** (with 2021 as the base year) broken down by region and the major consumption groups. Based on the CPI changes, the bulletin provides an estimate of the cost of living and poverty lines at the local level in all Syrian regions.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AA	Autonomous Administration
CPI	Consumer Price Index
GoS	Government of Syrian regime
M-o-M	Month on month
SCPR	Syrian Center for Policy Research
SIG	Syrian Interim Government
SSG	Syrian Salvation Government
SYP	Syrian Pound
TL	Turkish Lira
USD	United States Dollar
Y-o-Y	Year on year

1. Declining prices and damage to local production

More than a month following the freeing of Syria from the former regime's despotism, the nation remains fragmented into multiple control areas. Although the Syrian Interim Caretaker Government has established authority over all border crossings previously managed by the former regime, significant disparities persist in pricing policies, currency exchange, and wage structures across these regions. Furthermore, the fragmentation of legal and educational frameworks continues to be a prominent issue, with each area operating under distinct judicial and educational systems.

This month was marked by a considerable number of ministerial decisions enacted in the absence of a legislative body to oversee legal regulations. The executive branch effectively took on the responsibilities of the legislative body, with its decisions superseding existing laws and being implemented immediately without prior deliberation. These decisions had a direct impact on consumer goods prices and the exchange rate of the local currency. Below is a succinct overview of the most significant decisions issued during January 2025:

- **On the monetary level**

During January 2025, the Central Bank of Syria issued a series of critical monetary decisions, most notably: canceling Decision 16/988 issued on January 14, 2023, which set a ceiling for daily transfers of 5 million Syrian pounds, and opening the ceiling for permissible daily domestic transfers. It also granted banking institutions operating in Syria greater flexibility in managing bank accounts by liberalizing all accounts in terms of deposits, withdrawals, and transfers. It also postponed loan installments for three months for customers affected by the current emergency circumstances, to protect them from financial distress. It also suspended the acceptance or renewal of foreign currency deposits in banks and suspended the issuance of interest rate bulletins on foreign currency deposits. The value of each outstanding deposit shall be transferred to the cash current account of the relevant bank, in addition to the transfer of the accrued interest amount. It is worth noting that all of these decisions were issued by the Central Bank's management, indicating a freeze on the Monetary and Credit Council.

The liquidity crisis persists, as banks refuse to release outstanding deposits or current accounts to depositors in Syrian pounds. Banks set a daily limit on the amount allowed, ranging between 200,000 and 500,000 Syrian pounds. This situation has led to a loss of confidence in the banking system in Syria and negatively impacted economic activity, especially since depositors can only withdraw a small portion of their Syrian pounds, forcing them to stand in lines at ATMs daily. Furthermore, despite the transition to a free market economy, the Central Bank of Syria did not adjust the official exchange rate during the month, despite a 10 percent difference between the official and parallel market rates. The bank also failed to purchase dollars from citizens, and exchange companies did not adhere to the official rate, instead relying on the parallel market rate, allowing speculators to control the local currency's price. This has led to an illusory improvement in the exchange rate of the Syrian pound against the US dollar, as citizens have been forced to exchange their dollar savings at low rates due to their spending needs.

- **On the fiscal level**

On January 6, 2025, the Minister of Finance suspended the 2025 state budget and implemented the twelfth budget system as a temporary measure until the political and economic situation in Syria stabilizes. This decision permitted the allocation of salaries and compensations to exceed the original limits to fulfill the actual amounts owed to employees in ministries and public entities. Additionally, it mandated adjustments to the fuel allocation (gasoline, diesel) by the currently approved prices, while maintaining the allocated quantities. The directive emphasized the necessity of restricting public expenditures to essential needs only, ensuring that resources are utilized efficiently and effectively.¹

The caretaker government suspended the salaries of both active and retired military personnel following 2011 and submitted their names to human rights committees for evaluation and recommendations regarding the resolution of their salary issues. For military retirees prior to 2011, the government pledged to ensure the disbursement of their full retirement salaries; however, after a two-month period, neither the retirees nor their beneficiaries received these payments. It is crucial to emphasize that all retirees contributed to their salary installments on a monthly basis throughout their service to qualify for retirement benefits, and it is unlawful to interrupt these retirement payments.

Regarding government employees, salaries and wages have not been paid to most government employees in areas previously controlled by the former regime for the second consecutive month. The renewal of most annual and seasonal contracts has also been halted. The caretaker government has begun a job restructuring process since assuming power, dismissing a large number of current employees or placing them on three-month leave pending review of their status.² It is worth noting that not only have former ministers been replaced by Salvation Government ministers, but also assistant ministers, general managers, and directors of public institutions have been replaced by individuals affiliated with the Salvation Government, without regard to competency.

¹ Enab Baladi. (January 6, 2025). [What is the “Twelver” principle adopted for Syria’s budget?](#)

² Al Jazeera. (January 7, 2025). [Syrian Finance Minister Reveals to Al Jazeera the Extent of Favoritism and Mediation in the Assad Era](#)

- **On the level of foreign trade policy and customs duties**

The interim caretaker government pursued a policy of open imports without significant restrictions, which led to a flood of Syrian markets with imported and smuggled foreign products, particularly in the categories of food, clothing, durable goods, mobile phones, and electronics. The phenomenon of smuggled fuel sales on the roads also spread, in addition to a booming automobile market. On the other hand, many local factories ceased production due to high production costs and their weak ability to compete with the increasing demand for foreign products and the low customs duties imposed on them. A large number of industrialists turned to importers due to the higher profitability of foreign products compared to local manufacturing. Syria's imports recorded a significant increase during December 2024 and January 2025, with the value of imports from Turkey and other countries exceeding USD 500 million during these two months.³

After the caretaker government dissolved the Customs Police, with all its various designations and formations, across Syria on the 18th of last month, the General Directorate of Customs issued a series of separate decisions, dismissing a number of customs directors at land and sea ports and appointing replacements. At the end of December 2024, the government announced the establishment of a General Authority for Land and Sea Ports, with the Customs and Border Centers Directorate and the Free Zones Corporation attached to it. It was granted administrative and financial independence and was directly linked to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. The authority was tasked with supervising and regulating humanitarian and commercial entry and exit operations, in addition to overseeing maritime navigation and maritime transport operations and owning and leasing commercial vessels and real estate necessary for its operations. The General Company for the Port of Tartous, the General Company for the Port of Lattakia, the General Directorate of Customs and Border Centers, the General Directorate of Ports, the General Corporation for Maritime Transport, the General Corporation for Free Zones, and the Shipping Agencies Company all came under its management.⁴

Ten days following its establishment, the Land and Sea Ports Authority issued a directive to standardize customs duties across all crossings in Syria.⁵ This directive mandates the implementation of a unified customs duties bulletin applicable to all customs offices at land and sea ports and airports, effective January 11, 2024.⁶ Consequently, this decision resulted in an increase in customs duties on goods in regions governed by the Salvation Government (SSG), where previously, most imported goods (excluding vehicles) were exempt from customs duties, with traders only incurring a "service fee." Conversely, the unification decision led to a reduction in customs duties in areas previously administered by the former regime.⁷

³ Syriasteps. (2025, February 15). [\\$500 million in Syrian imports in just two months.](#)

⁴ Enab Baladi. (2025, January 4). [Fears of chaos in the creation of the Ports Authority in Syria.](#)

⁵ It is important to note that, according to Article 15 of Customs Law No. 38 of 2006, customs duties are imposed, amended, or abolished by decree upon the proposal of the Tariff Council, which consists of the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade, the Minister of Industry, and the Director General of Customs. However, at this stage, a decision to amend the customs tariff has been issued by the Land and Sea Ports Authority, which was formed by a decision of the Prime Minister.

⁶ Enab Baladi. (2025- January 13). [What is the impact of unifying customs duties in Syria?](#)

⁷ It cannot be asserted that the decision to amend customs duties is the main reason for the reduction in prices in areas that were under the control of the regime. In the previous law, customs duties were not

Box 1: The most important amendments to customs duties in Syria during January 2025

Pursuant to a decision by the Land and Sea Ports Authority, customs duties were unified at all Syrian border crossings, with the exception of the Autonomous Administration's crossings. Customs duties were amended for all items included in the unified customs tariff without exception. The customs duty value was set in US dollars instead of the percentages used in the previous law. The ton or piece unit was adopted for calculating the customs duty, whereby the importer must pay a specific amount in US dollars for each ton imported or for each piece if the imported item is a machine, a production line, a living organism, or electronic devices. Customs duties were not imposed on transport vehicles of all types nor on components used to manufacture imported cars, helicopters, airplanes, ships, and vessels in the unified tariff schedules. However, a decision attributed to the interim government was circulated allowing the import of cars manufactured after 2010, subject to customs duties. A service fee of approximately one-third of the customs duty value was also added to all items, in addition to the imposition of export fees on most items.⁸

Technically, a fixed amount was set for each ton of imported material, without taking into account its global price or the large price differences between exporting countries. This method is considered primitive for calculating customs duties, as countries do not usually adopt it and require constant adjustment to reflect global price changes. Furthermore, the decision does not distinguish between customs duties on raw materials and semi-finished goods, imposing the same customs duty on all.

The decision regarding cars led to a significant increase in their imports into Syria, causing large amounts of foreign currency to leave the country. All car owners were negatively affected, losing more than half the value of their vehicles. Meanwhile, major car dealers and wealthy individuals benefited from this decision, with some importing luxury cars (model years 2021-2025) for prices exceeding USD 30000, with customs duties not exceeding USD 2500, representing approximately 8 per cent of the car's price. This customs duty is considered very low compared to someone who imported a 2015-2020 model car worth USD 10000 and paid customs duties of USD 1500, equivalent to 15 percent of its value.

high; rather, the additions to them were significant, in addition to the fees and bribes that merchants are forced to pay to clear the goods.

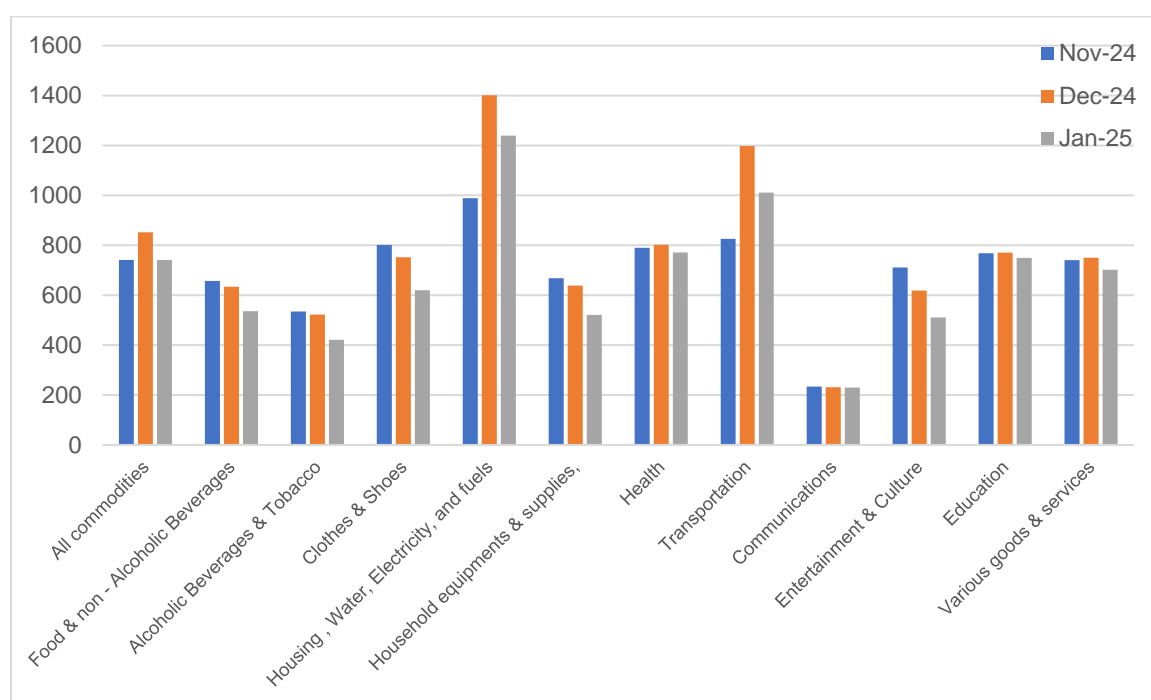
⁸ The competent authorities issued a decision specifying the customs duties imposed on cars imported through the Nassib crossing, according to the year of manufacture of the car, with the aim of regulating the import process and setting the fees in line with the year of manufacture of the cars. According to a decision attributed to customs, the value of customs duties for cars manufactured between 2011 and 2015 is 1,500 US dollars. Cars manufactured between 2016 and 2020 are 2,000 US dollars, and cars manufactured in 2021 and later are 2,500 US dollars. Source: Sham Network. (2025, January 4). [Sham Economic Report 01-04-2025](#).

2. Changes in the composition of inflation after the fall of the regime

After a significant increase in consumer goods prices in Syria last December, with the monthly inflation rate exceeding 15 per cent compared to November 2024, the consumer price index (CPI) saw a 13 per cent monthly decline in January 2025. Despite this decline in prices and the general price index approaching its November 2024 levels, the composition of inflation has undergone significant changes since the fall of the regime. This is due to the liberalization of gasoline, gas, and diesel prices, on the one hand, and the reduction of customs duties on imported goods, on the other.

The overall price level of the Clothing and Shoes group decreased by 23 per cent, the Household Equipment group by 22 per cent, the Tobacco group by 21 per cent, and the Food and Non-Alcoholic beverages group by 18 per cent in January 2025 compared to November 2024. In contrast, the prices of the Housing, water, electricity, and gas group increased by 25 per cent, and the Transportation group increased by 22 per cent. The Education, Health, and Communications groups maintained their prices during both months.

Figure (1): Consumer Price Index in Syria during the period (November 2024 - January 2025), (the base year 2021 = 100)



Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research, Monthly consumer price survey in Syria 2025.

3. Inflation in Syria, January 2025

The consumer price index (CPI) in January 2025 witnessed a significant decline of 13 per cent month-on-month (M-o-M), with the annual inflation rate (Y-o-Y) reaching 22.8 per cent in January 2025 compared to the same month of the previous year. The CPI witnessed a decline across all consumption groups during January 2025, with declines ranging between 0.4 per cent and 19.5 per cent. Among the groups that did not experience significant price declines were the communications, health, and education groups, unlike the other consumption groups.

Table (1): Monthly consumer price inflation in Syria for January 2025 by consumption group (base year 2021 =100) and (inflation in percentages)

#	Group	CPI in January 2025	CPI in December 2024	Monthly Inflation (M-o-M)
	All commodities	741	852	%13.0-
1	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	536	634	%15.5-
2	Tobacco	421	523	%19.5-
3	Clothes and shoes	620	752	%17.5-
4	Housing, water, electricity, and other fuel oils	1,241	1,401	%11.4-
5	Household equipment, supplies, and maintenance	522	639	%18.3-
6	Health	771	802	%3.8-
7	Transportation	1,008	1,198	%15.9-
8	Communications	230	231	%0.4-
9	Entertainment and culture	517	619	%16.5-
10	Education	742	771	%3.7-
11+12	Various commodities and services	701	750	%6.5-

Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research, Monthly consumer price survey in Syria 2025.

3.1 The Communications Group

The Communications group experienced a decline of 0.4 per cent, attributed to the stabilization of telephone and cellular call prices, alongside the initiation of the MTN network in Northern Syria. Additionally, there was a reduction in mobile device prices following the adjustment of customs duties on imported mobile phones, which now range from USD 7 to USD 100, a significant decrease from over 50 per cent of the mobile phone price under the previous regime.⁹ Conversely, telecommunications companies have substantially increased their internet package prices, which remain high relative to the quality of service offered.

3.2 The Health Group

The Health group prices witnessed a decrease of 3.8 per cent with the stability of medical services fees, and a slight decrease in the prices of imported medical supplies with the improvement of the Syrian pound's exchange rate against the dollar. However, the prices of local medicines remained high, and the prices of some foreign medicines became

⁹ According to the customs tariff decision, customs duties on smartphones are divided into 4 brackets: the first bracket is \$7 (5 customs duties + 2 service fees), the second bracket is \$20 (15 customs duties + 5 service fees), the third bracket is \$54 (40 customs duties + 14 service fees), the fourth bracket is \$100 (75 customs duties + 25 service fees)

cheaper than locally manufactured medicines in light of the lack of supervision over local pharmaceutical companies that benefited greatly from the improvement of the Syrian pound's exchange rate against the US dollar.

3.3 The Education Group

The Education group experienced a monthly price reduction of 3.7 per cent, primarily attributed to a decrease in the cost of private lessons, which are often utilized during examination periods. In contrast, private schools and universities maintained their fee structures, as it is standard practice for these institutions to revise their fees at the commencement of each new academic year.

3.4 The Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverage Group

The Food group price index experienced a decline of 15.5 per cent. Within its sub-groups, the prices for legumes and vegetables decreased by 23 per cent, Fats and oils by 20.4 per cent, Fisheries and sea food by 19.9 per cent, and Sugar, Jam, and sweets by 19.8 per cent.

The price index for the Non-alcoholic Beverages category experienced a notable decline of 16.9 per cent. This reduction is attributed to the decrease in the price of mineral water, which fell from SYP 5500 for 1.5 liters to SYP 4500. This shift coincided with the introduction of both locally produced and imported bottled water from Turkey into all governorates in Northern Syria, resulting in comparatively lower prices than those in other regions. Additionally, the price of black tea per kilogram decreased to approximately SYP 126000, down from around SYP 162000 the previous month. Similarly, the price of coffee (excluding cardamom) also decreased, dropping from SYP 160000 to SYP 136000.

3.5 The Tobacco Group

The price index for the Tobacco group experienced a decline of 19.5 per cent, attributed to the proliferation of smuggled foreign tobacco across Syria. This decrease in prices, relative to the previous period, is largely due to the absence of regulatory restrictions and ongoing violations.

3.6 The Household equipment, supplies, and maintenance Group

The price index for Household Equipment and Supplies, along with the recreation and culture group, experienced a decline of 18.3 per cent. This decrease can be attributed to the influx of both foreign and Turkish durable goods into various regions of Syria, facilitated by low customs duties. Consequently, traders were compelled to liquidate their local inventory at cost price to make way for more profitable Turkish products, which have seen a surge in demand. As a result, local companies found it necessary to reduce their product prices by approximately 50 per cent, reflecting their diminished capacity to compete with foreign offerings.

3.7 The Clothing and Shoes Group

The CPI for the Clothing and Shoes group has experienced a decline of 17.5 per cent, primarily attributed to reduced demand for clothing stemming from the population's diminished purchasing power and a growing preference for low-cost foreign bales. Historically, during the previous regime, customs officials would frequently raid bale markets, confiscating foreign goods or accepting substantial bribes, which had a direct impact on pricing. Currently, these practices have ceased, allowing foreign clothing and

Shoes to permeate all governorates at competitive prices. Consequently, local brand owners are compelled to implement significant discounts to remain competitive against imported products.

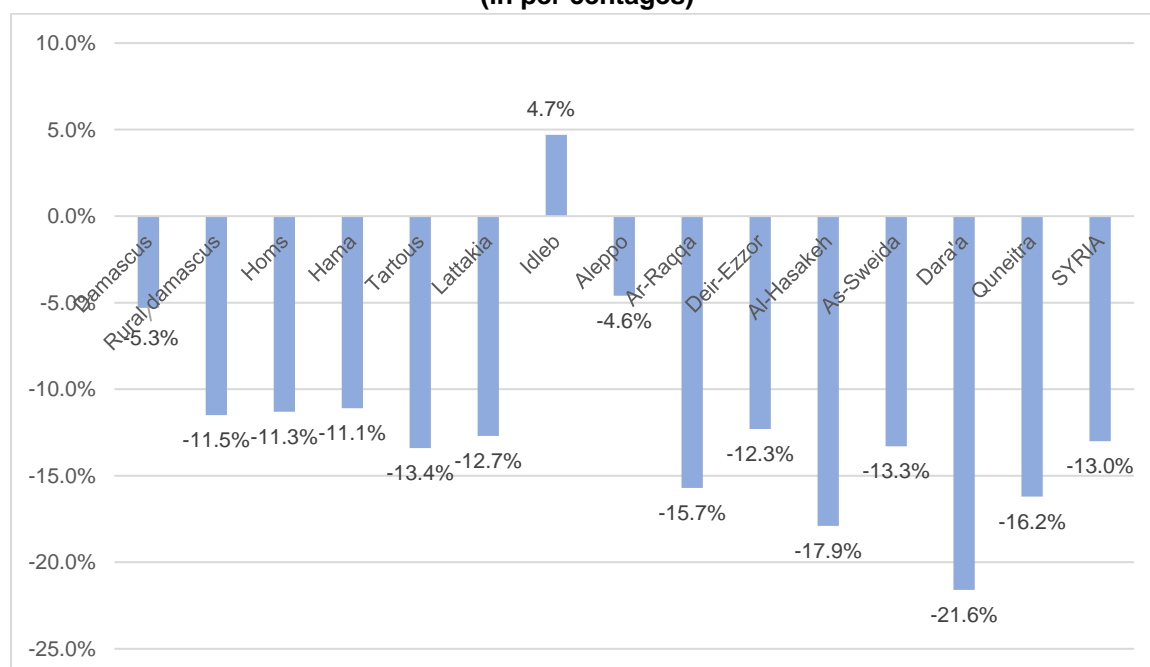
3.8 The Transportation Group

The Transportation group price index experienced a decline of 16 per cent. Diesel, gasoline, and gas prices have remained stable in US dollars while decreasing in Syrian pounds, priced based on the dollar. The cost of a liter of subsidized gasoline fluctuated between SYP 11000 and SYP 14000, whereas free gasoline was priced between SYP 10000 and SYP 13000. Increased government regulation has decreased Internal transportation fares to approximately SYP 3000. Additionally, transportation fares between governorates have reduced to around SYP 390 per kilometer, down from approximately SYP 441 the previous month.

4. Inflation by Governorate

All Syrian governorates, except Idleb and Aleppo countryside, recorded a decline in consumer commodity prices during January 2025. The declines ranged between 5.3 per cent and 21.6 per cent. Daraa governorate topped the list with a significant decrease of 21.6 per cent compared to the previous month, followed by Al-Hasakeh governorate with a 17.9 per cent decline, Quneitra governorate with a 16.2 per cent decline, and Ar-Raqqa governorate with a 15.7 per cent decline. In contrast, Aleppo governorate recorded a decline of only 4.6 per cent, a lower percentage than the other governorates due to a 0.3 per cent price increase in Aleppo countryside areas under the control of the SIG. Idleb governorate, on the other hand, saw an increase in CPI by 4.7 per cent.

Figure (2): Monthly inflation (M-o-M) of consumer prices in Syria during January 2025 (in per centages)



Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research, Monthly consumer price survey in Syria 2025.

The pricing dynamics in Idlib province and the Aleppo countryside, governed by the Syrian Interim Government (SIG), have been significantly influenced by the recent decision of the "Border Crossings and Outlets Authority" to standardize customs tariffs across Syria. This policy has resulted in a substantial increase in customs duties in Northern Syria. Specifically, the customs tariff for a ton of flour has escalated from USD 2 to USD 20, sugar from USD 35 to USD 54 per ton, and rice from USD 10 to USD 27.¹⁰ Notably, the impact in Idlib province has been more pronounced compared to the Aleppo countryside, attributed to a surge of consumers in Idlib purchasing foreign goods, durable items, and vehicles. Furthermore, major traders in Idlib have capitalized on the heightened demand spurred by domestic tourism, further exacerbating the price increases.

Box 2: Consumer commodity prices in Idlib Governorate during January 2025

In January 2025, the prices within the Clothing and Shoes group in Idlib province experienced a significant increase of 28 per cent compared to December 2024. Notably, the cost of imported jeans surged to TL 667, up from approximately TL 430 in the preceding month. Similarly, the price of natural leather shoes rose to TL 600, compared to TL 394 previously.

The Household equipments and supplies, ordinary maintenance works group also saw a notable price increase of 21 per cent, with the price of a standard 19-foot refrigerator reaching TL 15,400, up from around TL 12,600 in the prior month.

In the Health group, prices increased by 19.8 per cent, as evidenced by the price of a packet of paracetamol, which rose to TL 11.5 from TL 9.

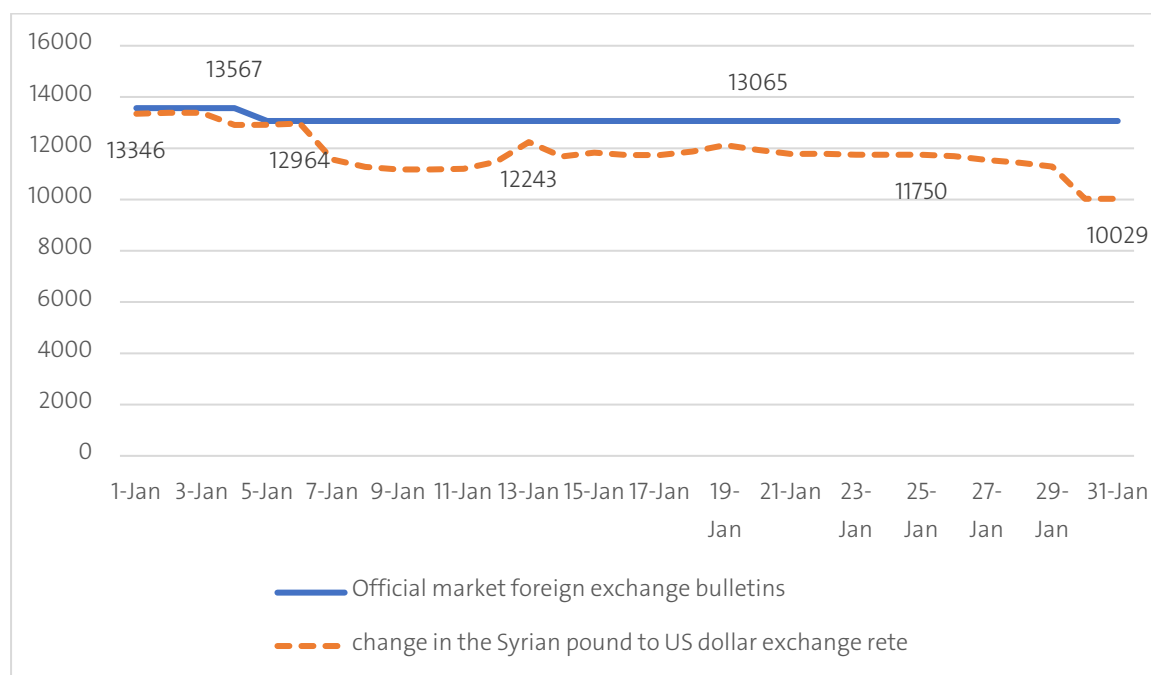
The Food and non-Alcoholic Beverages group recorded a more modest increase of 6.8 per cent. The price of a kilogram of pasta reached TL 30, up from approximately TL 25. Additionally, the cost of a liter of vegetable oil increased to TL 56 from TL 48, while a 160-gram can of tuna rose to TL 43 from TL 35. Lastly, the price of a kilogram of sugar increased to TL 28, up from TL 25.

¹⁰ Enab Baladi. (2025, January 13). [What is the impact of unifying customs duties in Syria?](#)

5. Changes in exchange rates

In January 2025, the unofficial exchange rate of the Syrian pound experienced a notable improvement, appreciating by 22.9 per cent against the US dollar. The average exchange rate for the Syrian pound was recorded at SYP 11830 per USD, a significant decrease from SYP 15337 per USD in December 2024. By the end of January 2025, the exchange rate closed at SYP 10029 per USD. Concurrently, the official exchange rate was adjusted on January 5, 2025, to SYP 13065 per USD, down from a previous fixed rate of SYP 13567 per USD, and this new rate remained stable throughout the month.

Figure (3): Changes in the exchange rate of the SYP during January 2025

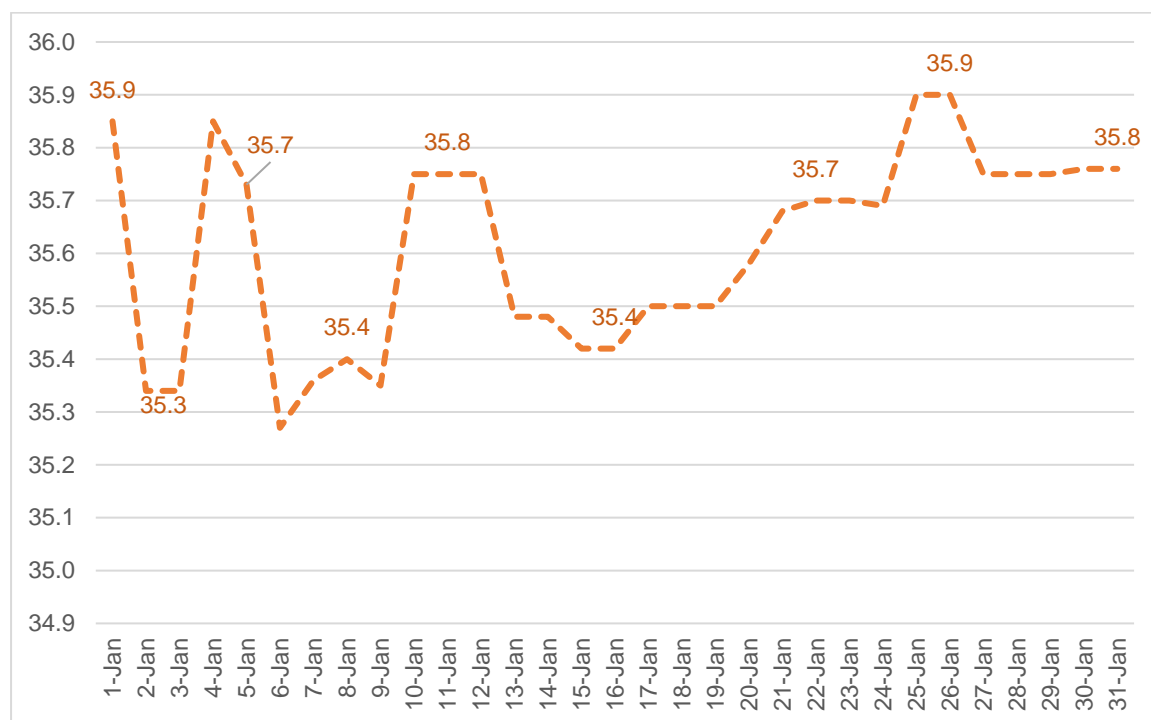


Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research, Monthly consumer price survey in Syria 2025.

The recent appreciation of the Syrian pound against the US dollar can be linked to the ongoing liquidity crisis faced by the country, exacerbated by the transitional government's suspension of salary payments to a significant portion of government employees. Financial institutions have imposed a cap on the daily withdrawal limits for retirees, set at SYP 200 thousand, while depositors are restricted to amounts ranging from SYP 200 to 500 thousand. Furthermore, traders who had previously deposited funds on the import platform, totaling approximately SYP 1.5 trillion, are not receiving any disbursements, despite the issuance of a new directive aimed at restructuring these payments to be disbursed over six months.

In January 2025, the Turkish lira experienced a depreciation of 1.7 per cent in the Northwestern regions of Syria. The average exchange rate for the Turkish lira against the US dollar was recorded at TL 35.6 per USD, a slight increase from approximately TL 35.01 per USD in December 2024. By the end of January 2025, the exchange rate settled at TL 35.8 per USD.

Figure (4): Changes in the Turkish Lira exchange rate in Northwestern Syria against the US dollar during January 2025

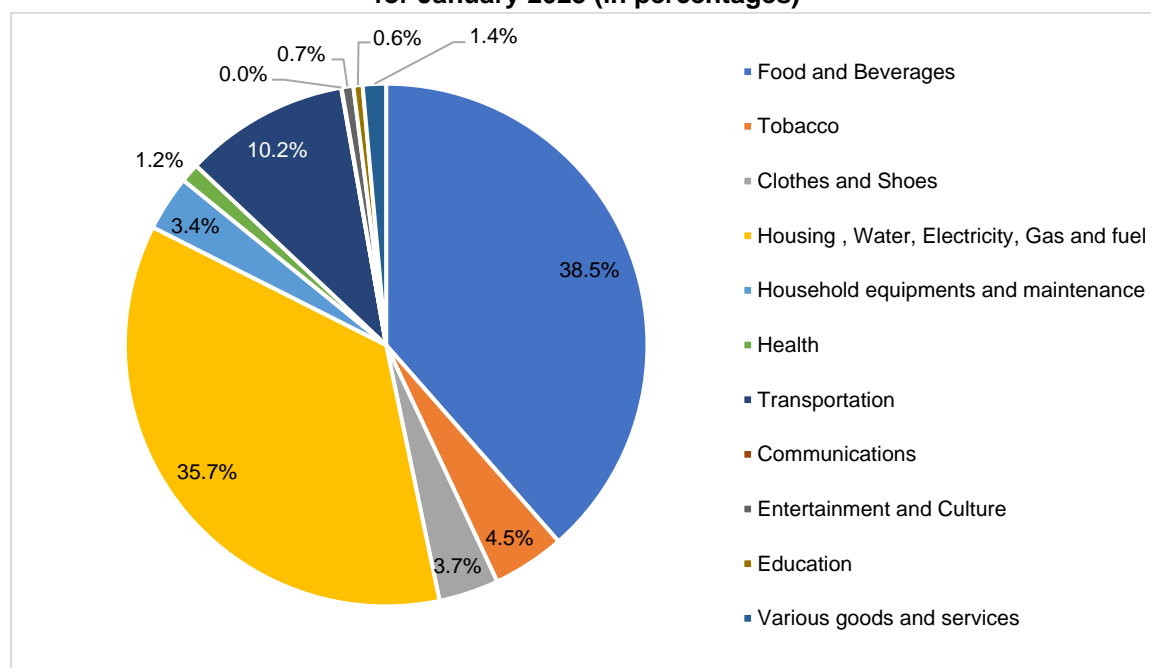


Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research, Monthly consumer price survey in Syria 2025.

6. Contributors to Inflation

In January 2025, the monthly inflation rate experienced a significant decline of (-13) per cent, primarily driven by a decrease in the prices within the Food and Non-Alcoholic beverages category, which accounted for the largest share of this reduction at 38.5 per cent.¹¹ This was followed by the Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and other Fuels group, contributing 35.7 per cent, and the Transportation group, which contributed 10.2 per cent to the overall decline.

Figure (5): Contribution of major consumption groups to the monthly inflation rate (M-o-M) for January 2025 (in percentages)



Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research, Monthly consumer price survey in Syria 2025.

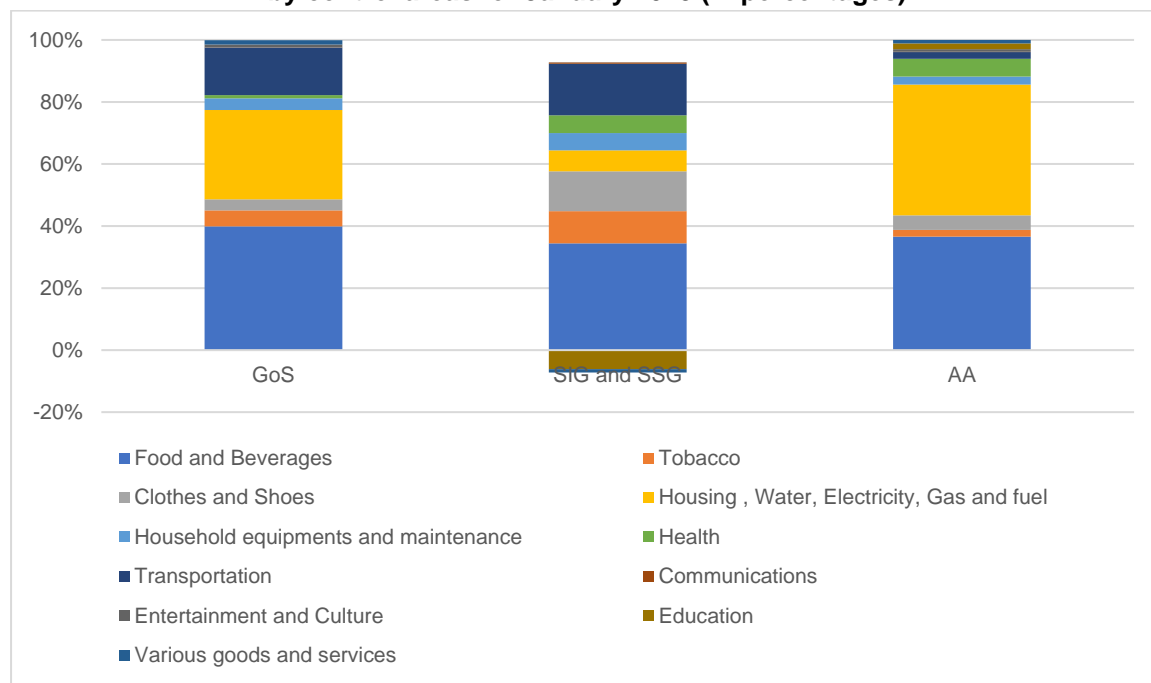
The group encompassing Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and other Fuels exhibited the most significant impact on the decline of the price index, recording a decrease of 15.8 per cent in AA areas, with a contribution rate of 42.2 per cent. This was succeeded by the Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages group, which contributed at a rate of 35.6 per cent.

In regions governed by the caretaker administration, excluding Idleb, the price index experienced a decline of 12.7 per cent. The most significant factor contributing to this decrease was the Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages group, which accounted for 40 per cent of the reduction. This was followed by the Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and other Fuels group, contributing 29 per cent, and the Transportation group, which contributed 15 per cent.

¹¹ The inflation contribution ratio refers to the proportionate impact of each consumption group on annual inflation, expressed as a percentage of the total, which sums to 100%.

The Food and non-Alcoholic Beverages group significantly impacted the monthly inflation rates in the SIG & SSG areas, contributing 2.8 per cent and accounting for 40 per cent of the overall contribution. This was followed by the Transportation group, which contributed 19 per cent, and the Clothing and Shoes group, which accounted for 15 per cent.

Figure (6): Contribution of major consumption groups to the monthly inflation rate (M-o-M) by control areas for January 2025 (in percentages)



Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research, Monthly consumer price survey in Syria 2025.

7. Wages in Syria, January

The average monthly salary for university employees in the public sector in Syria, at the commencement of their appointment, was approximately SYP 620 thousand in January 2025. In contrast, the average monthly salary for private sector workers reached SYP 1.02 million, while civil sector employees earned an average of SYP 2.38 million during the same period.

The analysis of nominal wages at current prices across various control areas reveals that the highest wages are found in the public and private sectors within SIG & SSG zones. This is followed by wages in AA areas, with the lowest wages observed in regions governed by the caretaker government, excluding Idlib. Furthermore, it is apparent that the wage levels for workers in both the public and private sectors are significantly lower than those in the civil sector. Specifically, wages in the private sector represent 43 per cent of civil sector wages, while public sector wages account for only 26 per cent of civil sector wages throughout Syria.¹²

Table (2): Average monthly wages in Syria during January 2025 (SYP)

	Caretaker government areas (except Idlib)	SIG and SSG areas	AA areas	Whole of Syria
A- Public sector workers				
Staff wages (professor)	1090044	5940233	3090000	2002660
Staff wages (university-educated)	311501	1873333	1060000	619986
Staff wages (4th band)	286038	1295067	1040000	530473
B- Private sector workers				
Company director salary	2894697	4659612	2184987	3022315
Shop worker salary	971905	1305238	1007209	1019710
C- Civil sector workers				
Staff wages (university-educated)	1598696	5400213	3633111	2383321

Note: Employees' wages in the SSG areas are denominated in USD dollars or their equivalent in Turkish lira, and those in the SIG areas are paid in Turkish lira. The wage values in this table have been converted to the Syrian pound for comparison with other areas.

Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research, Monthly consumer price survey in Syria 2025.

It is important to highlight that a significant portion of government employees in regions governed by the caretaker administration (excluding Idlib) have not received their wages for the second consecutive month. Conversely, the caretaker government has allocated salaries for recruits in the Internal Security Forces, amounting to approximately \$125 per member per month. In the AA areas, wage levels have remained unchanged. Meanwhile,

¹² Despite the comparatively high wages offered in both the public and private sectors, civil sector workers in regions governed by the Syrian government receive significantly lower compensation relative to other areas. Their earnings amount to only 44 percent of the wages earned by civil sector workers in self-administered regions and 30 percent of those in temporary and rescue zones as of January 2025.

the Syrian Interim Government in the Aleppo countryside has implemented wage increases for its institutional workers, with adjustments ranging from 75 per cent to 91 per cent during January 2025.

Table (3): Comparison of wages of workers in the interim government areas before and after the increase approved in January 2025 (in Turkish lira)

	December 2024 (Single)	December 2024 (Married)	January 2025 (Single/Married)
Chairman of the Association	6400	6900	11750
Local Council Members	4200	4600	7850
Expert Doctors	10700	12000	20400
Practicing Doctors	8000	8600	14650
Teacher	2700	2800	4800
Judge	6750	7000	11900
Notary Public	3500	3800	6500
Mufti	3200	3500	5950
Customs Officer	2900	3200	5450
Civil Servant	2000	2100	3600

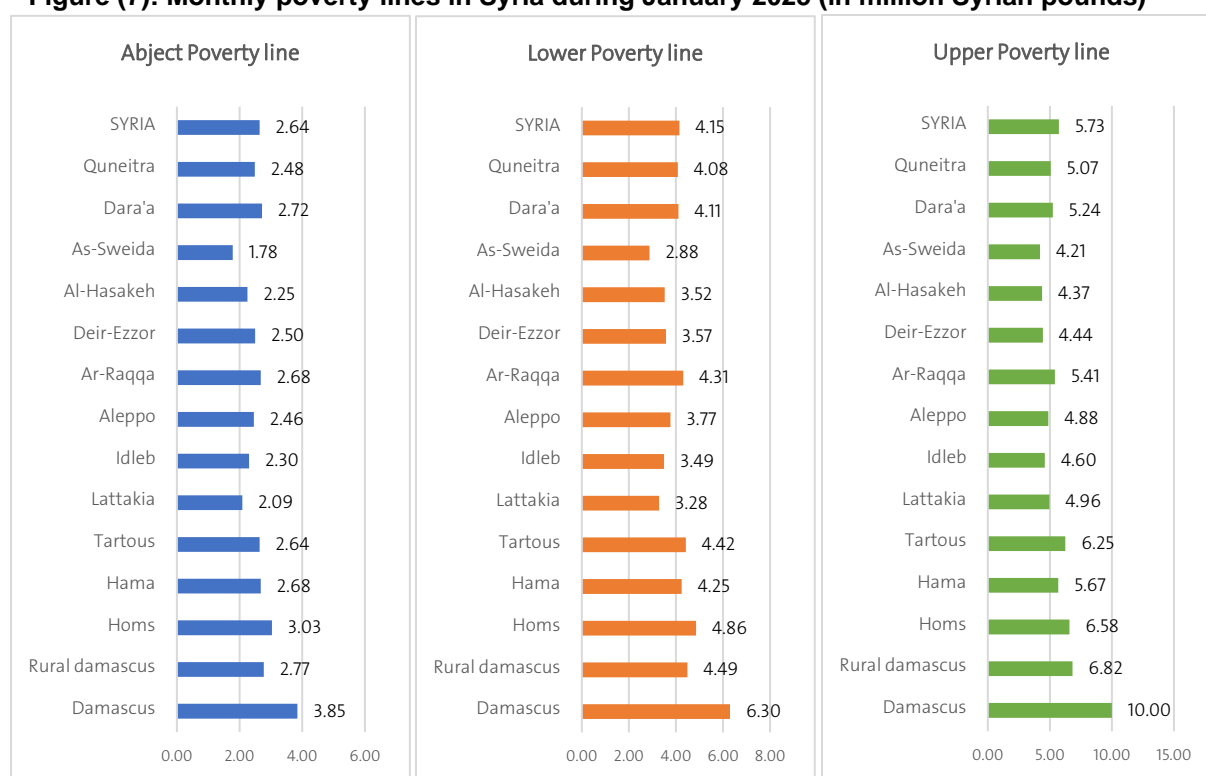
Note: Single wages were unified with married wages in the latest increase.

Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research 2025, Monthly Consumer Price Survey in Syria based on salary and wage tables in the Syrian Interim Government (SIG) areas.

8. Poverty Lines in Syria, January 2025

In January 2025, the abject poverty line for families in Syria,¹³ indicative of food deprivation, was established at SYP 2.64 million per month, reflecting a reduction of SYP 450 thousand from December 2024. The lower poverty line was recorded at SYP 4.15 million, marking a decrease of SYP 706 thousand compared to the preceding month. Additionally, the upper poverty line reached SYP 5.73 million, which is a decline of SYP 975 thousand from the previous month. Notably, the highest poverty line levels were observed in the governorates of Damascus, Homs, and Rural Damascus, whereas the lowest values were found in the governorates of Sweida, Al-Hasakeh, and Idlib during January 2025.

Figure (7): Monthly poverty lines in Syria during January 2025 (in million Syrian pounds)



Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research, Monthly consumer price survey in Syria 2025.

¹³ Poverty lines (abject, lower, and upper) were calculated by measuring the effect of inflation on the 2009 poverty lines.

An examination of nominal wages to monthly poverty thresholds indicates a notable wage disparity.¹⁴ As of January 2025, the wage gap for university employees in the public sector was approximately 76.5 per cent in comparison to the abject poverty line. Conversely, private sector workers encountered a wage gap of 61.4 per cent, while employees in the civil sector experienced a comparatively lower gap of 9.7 per cent.

In January 2025, civil sector workers in SIG & SSG areas earned wages that were 145 per cent above the extreme poverty line, whereas those in AA areas received wages 50 per cent above the same threshold. Conversely, civil sector wages in regions governed by the transitional caretaker government, excluding Idlib, were reported to be 40 per cent below the abject poverty line. This data highlights a notable wage disparity across different regions, as well as the comparatively higher wages in the civil sector relative to all sectors within the SIG & SSG areas and AA areas.

**Table (4): Monthly wage gap from poverty lines in Syria during January 2025
(in percentages)**

	Areas that were under the control of the Syrian government	SIG and SSG areas	AA areas	Whole of Syria
A- Wage gap from the abject poverty line				
University-educated employees in the public sector	-88.4%	-14.9%	-56.1%	-76.5%
Private sector worker	-63.7%	-40.7%	-58.3%	-61.4%
Civil sector worker	-40.3%	145.4%	50.4%	-9.7%
B- Wage gap from the lower poverty line				
University-educated employees in the public sector	-92.6%	-44.1%	-71.4%	-85.1%
Private sector worker	-77.0%	-61.1%	-72.8%	-75.4%
Civil sector worker	-62.2%	61.1%	-1.9%	-42.6%
C- Wage gap from the upper poverty line				
University-educated employees in the public sector	-94.7%	-57.2%	-77.0%	-89.2%
Private sector worker	-81.6%	-77.8%	-78.3%	-77.3%
Civil sector worker	-72.7%	23.3%	-21.2%	-58.4%

Note: Negative (-) indicates a gap and positive (+) indicates excess.

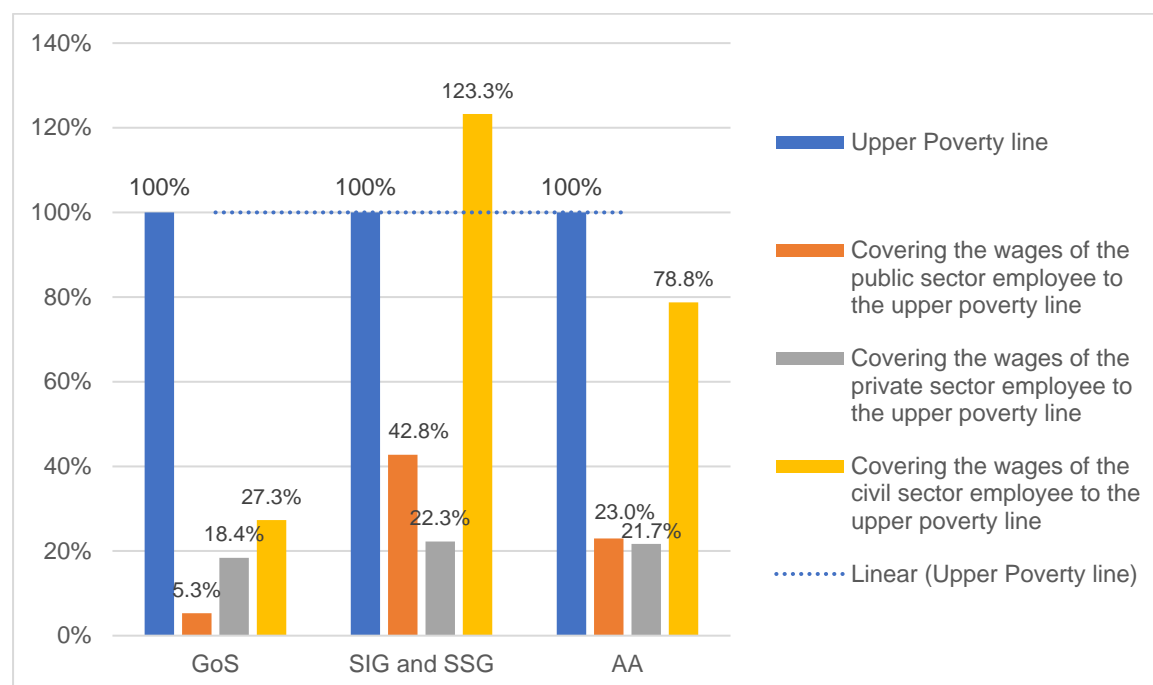
Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research, Monthly consumer price survey in Syria 2025.

The wage disparity among public sector employees in regions governed by the transitional government (excluding Idlib) has reached a concerning 94.7 per cent above the upper poverty line. In contrast, areas under self-administration report a wage coverage of 77 per cent. Furthermore, in SIG & SSG areas, this figure stands at 57.2 per cent as of January 2025. This alarming trend indicates that government employees across these three regions are receiving compensation insufficient to meet the minimum requirements for essential goods and services necessary for a dignified standard of living. The extent of hardship experienced varies by region; employees in areas previously controlled by the Syrian government face the most severe challenges, with their wages covering merely 5.3 per cent of their fundamental needs. Conversely, employees in AA areas have wages that

¹⁴ The relative difference between the monthly wage and the poverty line is a critical measure. For further details, please refer to the International Labor Organization. International Labour Organization. (2013). Equal Pay – an introductory guide. Geneva.

meet 23 per cent of their basic necessities, while those in SIG & SSG areas receive compensation that covers 42.8 per cent of their essential requirements for a decent life.

Figure (8): Coverage of workers' wages for the upper poverty line in Syria during January 2025



Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research, Monthly consumer price survey in Syria 2025.

Appendix

Appendix (1): Consumer Price Index in Syria by Major Consumption Groups and Governorate in January 2025, (2021 = 100)

	Damascus	Rural Damascus	Homs	Hama	Tartous	Lattakia	Idleb	Aleppo	Ar- Raqqqa	Deir- Ezzor	Al- Hasakeh	As- Sweida	Dara'a	Quneitra	SYRIA
All commodities	1,064	822	989	842	953	808	487	728	622	685	709	826	691	823	741
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	624	559	616	579	604	591	481	535	482	695	590	556	501	547	536
Tobacco	433	417	448	492	530	348	454	374	397	632	385	427	326	312	421
Clothing and Shoes	574	627	666	684	698	750	668	554	686	562	896	793	548	386	620
Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels	1,671	1,478	1,808	1,504	1,643	1,270	535	985	993	804	959	1,664	1,274	1,551	1,241
Household equipment and maintenance	788	516	640	748	584	461	457	435	482	550	737	431	625	537	522
Health	822	843	792	707	843	896	534	726	929	673	772	869	918	678	771
Transportation	1,708	1,345	1,523	1,518	1,466	1,611	554	777	714	758	970	967	860	1,551	1,008
Communications	330	329	330	329	330	328	96	498	329	332	329	331	331	329	230
Culture and entertainment	442	439	545	423	628	494	373	583	1,208	433	561	487	487	363	517
Education	833	736	820	737	906	741	1,012	669	744	508	814	636	939	683	742
Various goods and services	848	587	882	660	958	593	418	761	630	725	464	827	728	717	701

Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research, Monthly consumer price survey in Syria 2025.



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