



# Monthly Bulletin for Consumer Price Index and Inflation in Syria

Issue (2) – February 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 **February 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.

## Contents

Preface.....	1
List of Tables.....	3
Table of Figures .....	3
Acronyms and Abbreviations .....	4
1. Inflation in Syria, February 2025 .....	5
2. Inflation by Governorate.....	7
3. Changes in exchange rates .....	8
4. Contributors to Inflation.....	10
5. Wages in Syria, February 2025 .....	12
6. Poverty Lines in Syria, February 2025.....	13
Appendix .....	16

### List of Tables

Table (1): Monthly consumer price inflation in Syria for February 2025 by consumption group (base year 2021 =100) and (inflation in percentages) .....	5
Table (2): Average monthly wages in Syria during February 2025.....	12
Table (3): Monthly wage gap from poverty lines in Syria during February 2025 .....	14

### Table of Figures

Figure (1): Monthly inflation (M-o-M) of consumer prices in Syria during February 2025 .	7
Figure (2): Changes in the exchange rate of the SYP during February 2025 .....	8
Figure (3): Changes in the Turkish Lira exchange rate in Northwestern Syria against the US dollar during February 2025 .....	9
Figure (4): Contribution of major consumption groups to the monthly inflation rate (M-o-M) for February 2025 .....	10
Figure (5): Contribution of the main consumption groups to the monthly inflation rate (M-o-M) according to the control areas for February 2025 .....	11
Figure (6): Monthly poverty lines in Syria during February 2025 .....	13
Figure (7): Coverage of workers' wages for the upper poverty line in Syria during February 2025 .....	15

**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. Inflation in Syria, February 2025

The consumer price index (CPI) decreased by 2.9 per cent month-on-month (M-o-M) in February 2025. The annual inflation rate (Y-o-Y) reached 15.9 percent in February 2025 compared to the same month the previous year.

**Table (1): Monthly consumer price inflation in Syria for February 2025 by consumption group (base year 2021 =100) and (inflation in per centages)**

#	Group	CPI in January 2025	CPI in February 2025	Monthly Inflation (M-o-M)
	<b>All commodities</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>%2.9-</b>
1	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	536	535	%0.2-
2	Tobacco	421	404	%3.9-
3	Clothes and shoes	620	566	%8.8-
4	Housing, water, electricity, and other fuel oils	1,241	1,178	%4.6-
5	Household equipment, supplies, and maintenance	522	508	%2.7-
6	Health	771	751	%2.6-
7	Transportation	1,008	969	%3.9-
8	Communications	230	231	%0.2
9	Entertainment and culture	517	478	%7.6-
10	Education	742	735	%1.0-
11+12	Various commodities and services	701	696	%0.7-

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

Clothing and shoes prices fell by 8.8 per cent in February 2025 compared to the previous month. This decline is due to the entry of large quantities of European used clothing into the Syrian market, in addition to the widespread presence of Turkish brands. Furthermore, the lack of liquidity among citizens, as a result of a large number of employees being furloughed for three months and the dismissal of former military personnel and police officers, has prioritized purchasing food and necessities over clothing and footwear. All of these factors led to a significant decline in clothing and footwear prices in February 2025.

The Entertainment and Culture Group recorded a 7.6 per cent decrease in its prices during February 2025 compared to the previous month, as a result of the entry of foreign products with low customs duties, and the pricing of these products in US dollars. The price of a television screen (32 inches) reached SYP 1.2 million, and a laptop for an engineering student reached SYP 6 million.

The Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels price index decreased by 4.6 per cent in February 2025 compared to January 2025. Rental prices fluctuated, declining in some areas and rising in others, linked to landlords' liquidity and demand. In areas with limited demand from expatriates and expatriates, rents declined due to the decline in the dollar against the Syrian pound, in addition to landlords' need for cash to meet their needs. This is particularly true given the Central Bank's continued policy of withholding liquidity, which hinders depositors' ability to withdraw their Syrian pound deposits except for limited amounts not exceeding one million Syrian pounds per week. In contrast, active areas such as Damascus and its countryside witnessed a significant increase in rental prices due to

increased demand for housing, particularly from new employees arriving from northern Syria to work in ministries and general directorates.

Cement and building material prices have dropped in the Syrian market following the introduction of Turkish products. The average price of a 50-kg bag of cement reached SYP 85000, down from around SYP 96000 last month. The price of a kilogram of white paint for house walls also fell to SYP 54300, down from around SYP 60600 the previous month.

The price of subsidized heating oil in Syrian pounds also fell after its price was fixed in US dollars and the pound's value improved against the dollar. The price of one liter reached SYP 11780, down from around SYP 12800 last month.

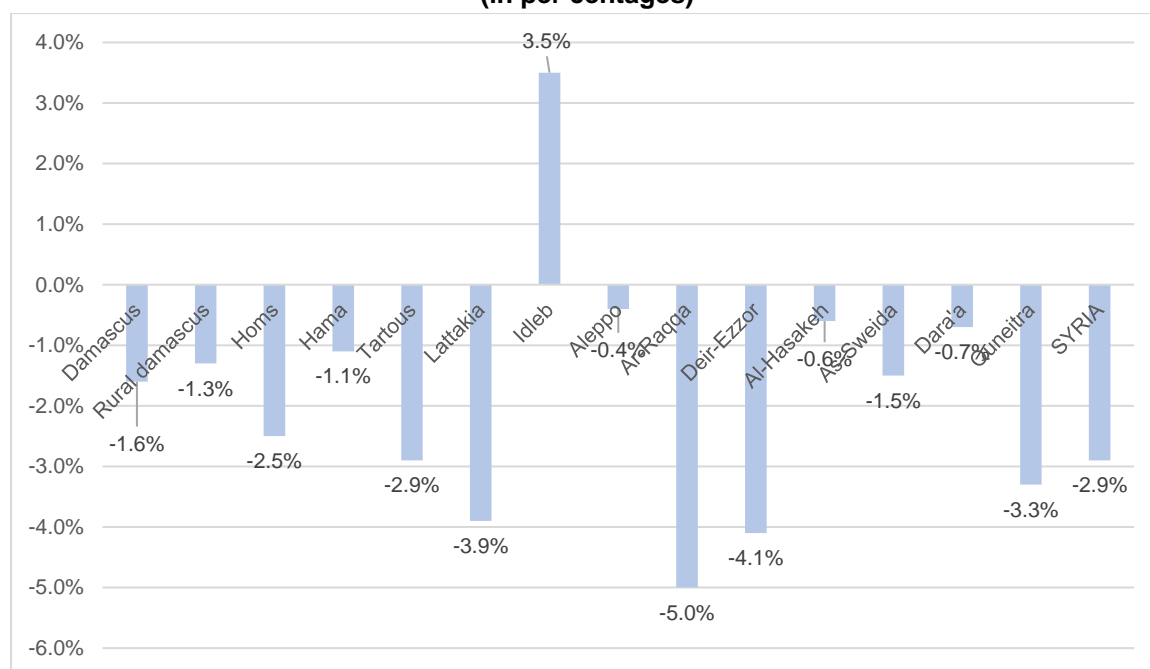
As for subsidized gas, it is still sold via smart card at a price of SYP 160000 per cylinder (10 kg) in areas controlled by the transitional government, and about SYP 110000 in the AA areas.

Transportation group prices witnessed a 3.9 per cent decrease due to a decline in car prices, following a flood of used vehicles imported from the UAE, other Gulf countries, Korea, and the United States, manufactured in 2010 and later. The price of subsidized gasoline also decreased in Syrian pounds due to the pegging of the price to the US dollar and the appreciation of the Syrian pound against the dollar during this month, with the price of a liter of gasoline reaching SYP 11900 in February 2025, compared to SYP 14100 in January 2025. The price of freely available gasoline on the street also decreased, as it is sold for 10 per cent less than the price of subsidized gasoline.

## 2. Inflation by Governorate

Syrian governorates, excluding Idleb and Aleppo countryside, recorded a decline in consumer commodity prices during February 2025. The declines ranged between 0.4 per cent and 5 per cent. Ar-Raqqa governorate topped the list with a 5 per cent decrease compared to the previous month, followed by Deir-Ezzor governorate with a 4.1 per cent decrease, Lattakia governorate with a 3.9 per cent decrease, and Quneitra governorate with a 3.3 per cent decrease. Idleb governorate saw a 3.5 per cent increase in prices, while the Aleppo countryside, which remains under the control of the Syrian Interim Government (SIG), saw a 4.7 per cent increase in February 2025 compared to the previous month.

**Figure (1): Monthly inflation (M-o-M) of consumer prices in Syria during February 2025 (in per centages)**



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

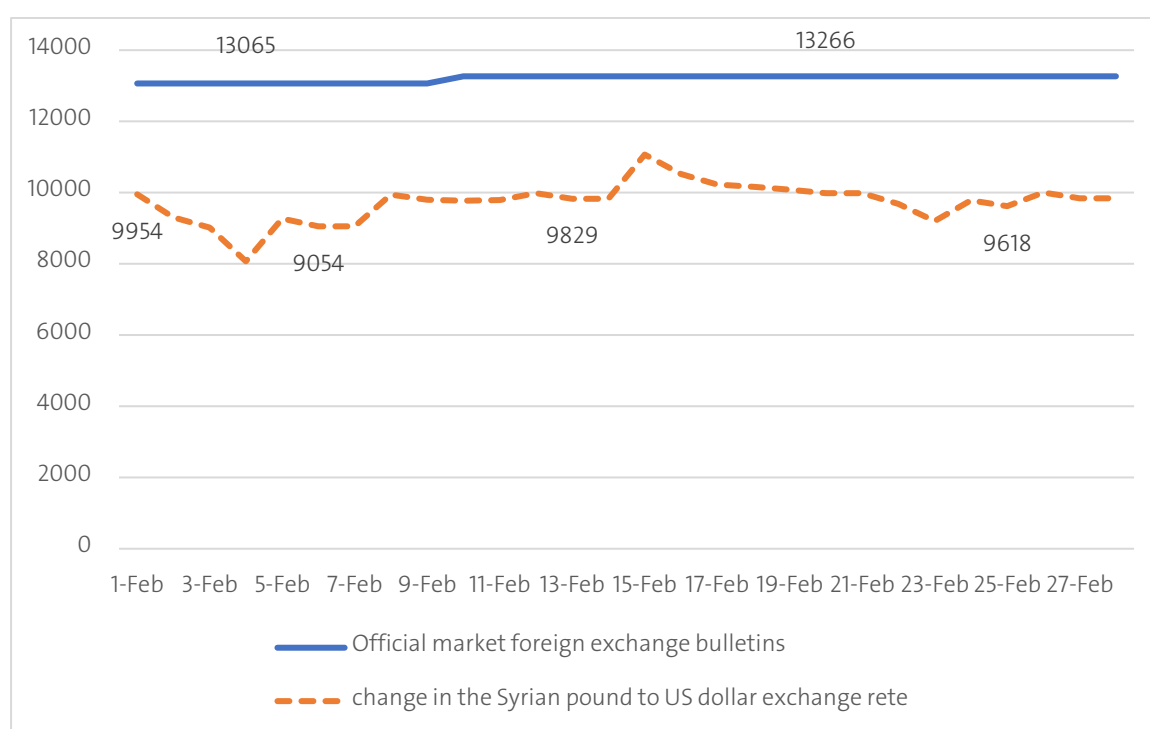
The impact of the unified customs tariff continues to be felt in Idleb province and the Aleppo countryside areas controlled by the SIG. Trade between Northern Syria and other regions has also seen a significant increase, due to Northern Syria's proximity to Turkey and the significant capital held by merchants. These merchants have begun importing large quantities of used cars, clothing, food, and electronics, and bringing them into other provinces.



### 3. Changes in exchange rates

February 2025 witnessed a significant improvement in the exchange rate of the Syrian pound against the US dollar in the unofficial market, by 17.7 per cent. The average exchange rate of the Syrian pound against the US dollar reached SYP 9738 per USD in February 2025, compared to SYP 11830 per USD in January 2025. The exchange rate closed at SYP 9841 per USD in February 2025. The official rate was lowered on February 10, 2025, to SYP 13266 per USD, after having been fixed at SYP 13065 per USD. The new rate remained stable until the end of the month. The Central Bank of Syria did not intervene in the exchange rate, despite the widening gap between the official rate and the parallel market rate, which provided a new opportunity for speculators to profit from the difference between the two rates.

**Figure (2): Changes in the exchange rate of the SYP during February 2025**



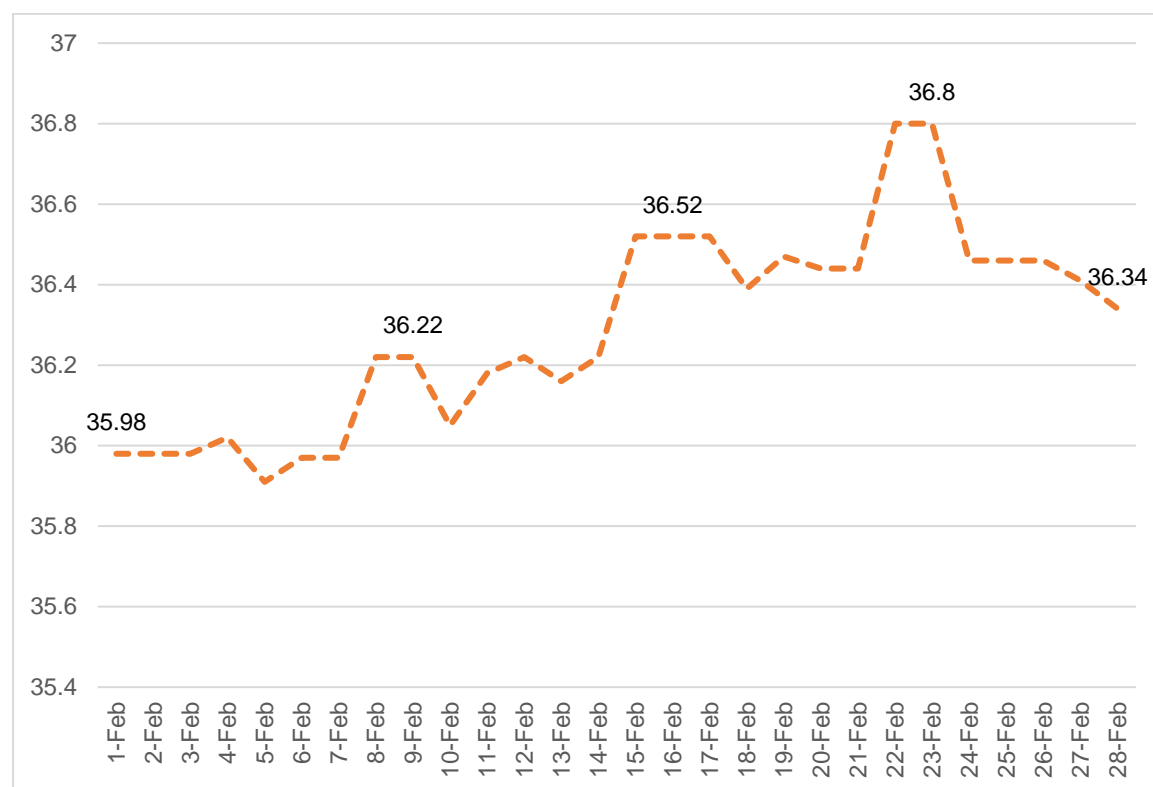
Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research, Monthly consumer price survey in Syria 2025.

The appreciation of the Syrian pound against the US dollar can be attributed to the continued liquidity-retention policy pursued by the Central Bank of Syria since the fall of the regime. This resulted from the transitional government's suspension of salaries for a large number of government employees, and banks' reduction of the maximum amount depositors are allowed to receive to one million Syrian pounds per week, paid in two installments. Furthermore, traders who had previously deposited their funds on the import platform have not received any funds, despite a circular issued two months ago stipulating that they be rescheduled and paid in installments over a six-month period.

Money exchange and transfer companies no longer adhere to the official dollar exchange rate. Instead, they rely on the parallel market rate when delivering remittances to citizens or exchanging them. This has led to a decline in the value of remittances received, negatively impacting their purchasing power.

Meanwhile, the Turkish lira recorded a 1.9 per cent decline in its value in Northwestern Syria, with the average exchange rate against the US dollar reaching TL 36.3 per USD in February 2025, down from around TL 35.6 in the previous month. The exchange rate closed at TL 36.34 per USD in February 2025.

**Figure (3): Changes in the Turkish Lira exchange rate in Northwestern Syria against the US dollar during February 2025**

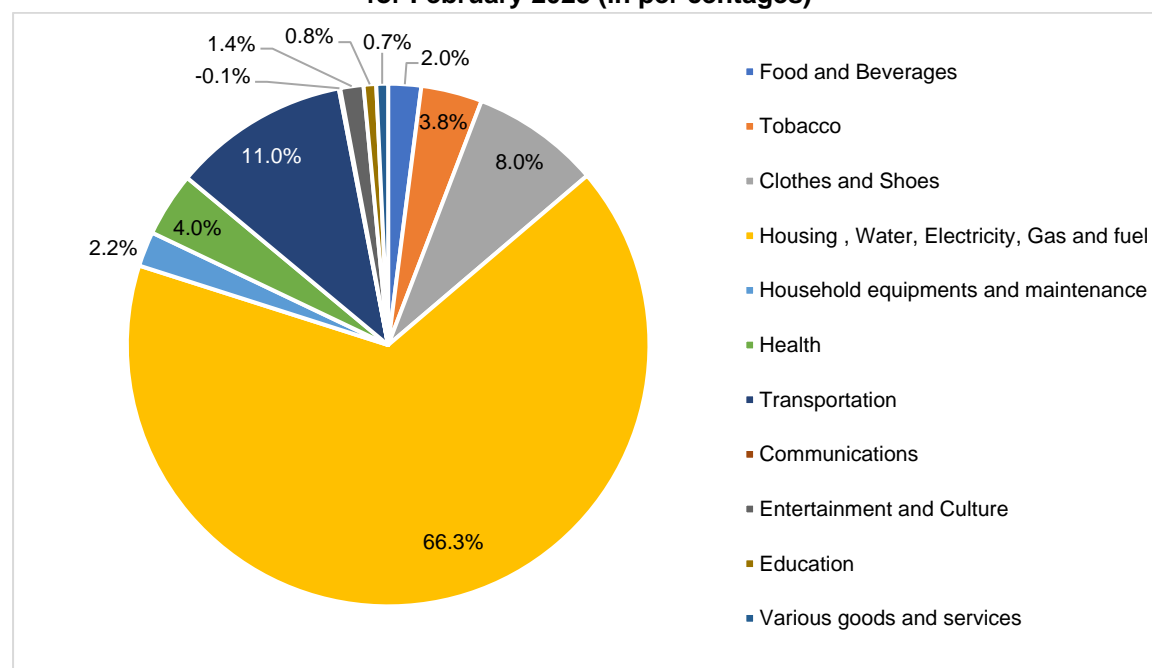


Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research, Monthly consumer price survey in Syria 2025.

#### 4. Contributors to Inflation

In January 2025, the monthly inflation rate experienced a significant decline of (-11.3) 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 41 per cent. This was followed by the Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and other Fuels group, contributing 30.8 per cent, and the Transportation group, which contributed 10 per cent to the overall decline.

**Figure (4): Contribution of major consumption groups to the monthly inflation rate (M-o-M) for February 2025 (in per centages)**



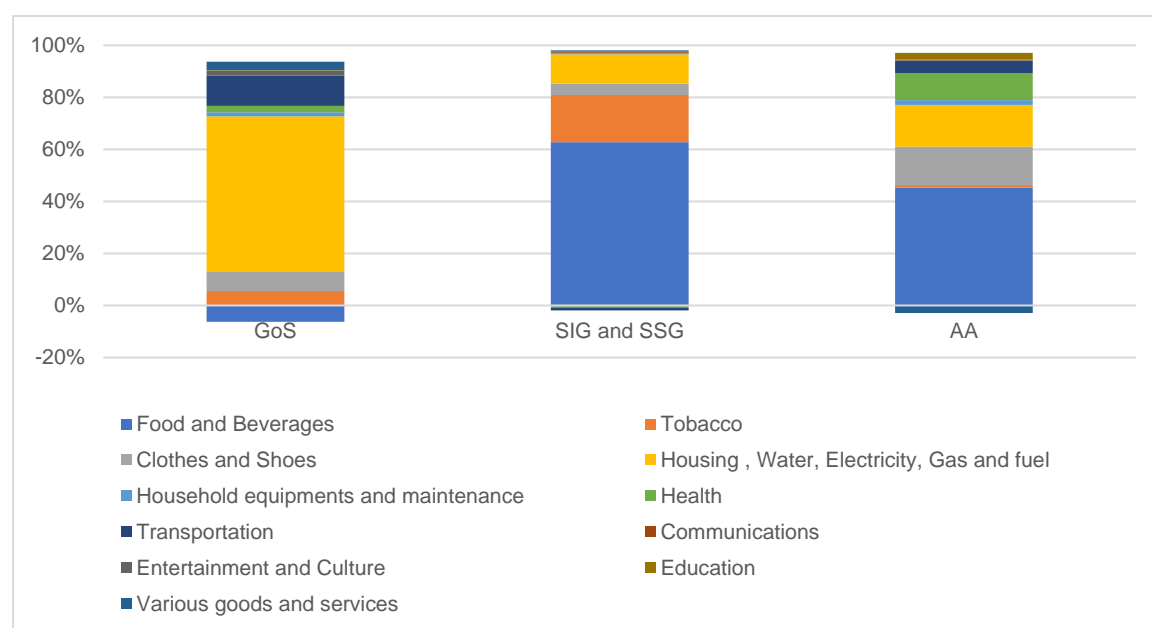
Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research, Monthly consumer price survey in Syria 2025.

The Food and non-Alcoholic Beverages group contributed significantly to the -2.5 per cent drop in the price index in the autonomous regions, accounting for 48 per cent. This was followed by the Housing, water, electricity, and gas group at 17 per cent, the Clothing and Shoes group at 15.6 per cent, and the Health group at 11 per cent.

In areas that were under regime control and are now under the administration of a caretaker government, the price index fell by -2.4 percent. The Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels group contributed the most to this decline, at 69 per cent, followed by the Transportation group, at 13.5 per cent.

The Food and non-alcoholic beverages group contributed the largest share of monthly inflation in the SIG & SSG areas, at 3.7 per cent, accounting for 65 per cent of the total. This was followed by the Tobacco group, which contributed 19 per cent, and the Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels group, which contributed 11.7 per cent.

**Figure (5): Contribution of the main consumption groups to the monthly inflation rate (M-o-M) according to the control areas for February 2025 (in percentages)**



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

## 5. Wages in Syria, February 2025

The average monthly salary for university employees in the public sector in Syria, at the commencement of their appointment, was approximately SYP 580000 in February 2025. In contrast, the average monthly salary for private sector workers reached SYP 990000 million, while civil sector employees earned an average of SYP 2.16 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, 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 46 per cent of civil sector wages, while public sector wages account for only 27 per cent of civil sector wages throughout Syria.<sup>1</sup>

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

	Caretaker government areas (except Idlib)	SIG and SSG areas	AA areas	Whole of Syria
<b>A- Public sector workers</b>				
Staff wages (professor)	1090044	4901526	3090000	<b>1876943</b>
Staff wages (university-educated)	311501	1502332	1060000	<b>580212</b>
Staff wages (4th band)	286038	1028963	1040000	<b>502377</b>
<b>B- Private sector workers</b>				
Company director salary	2781061	3691424	2156043	<b>2803174</b>
Shop worker salary	958268	1044994	991043	<b>989303</b>
<b>C- Civil sector workers</b>				
Staff wages (university-educated)	1568137	4217025	3278500	<b>2156705</b>

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.

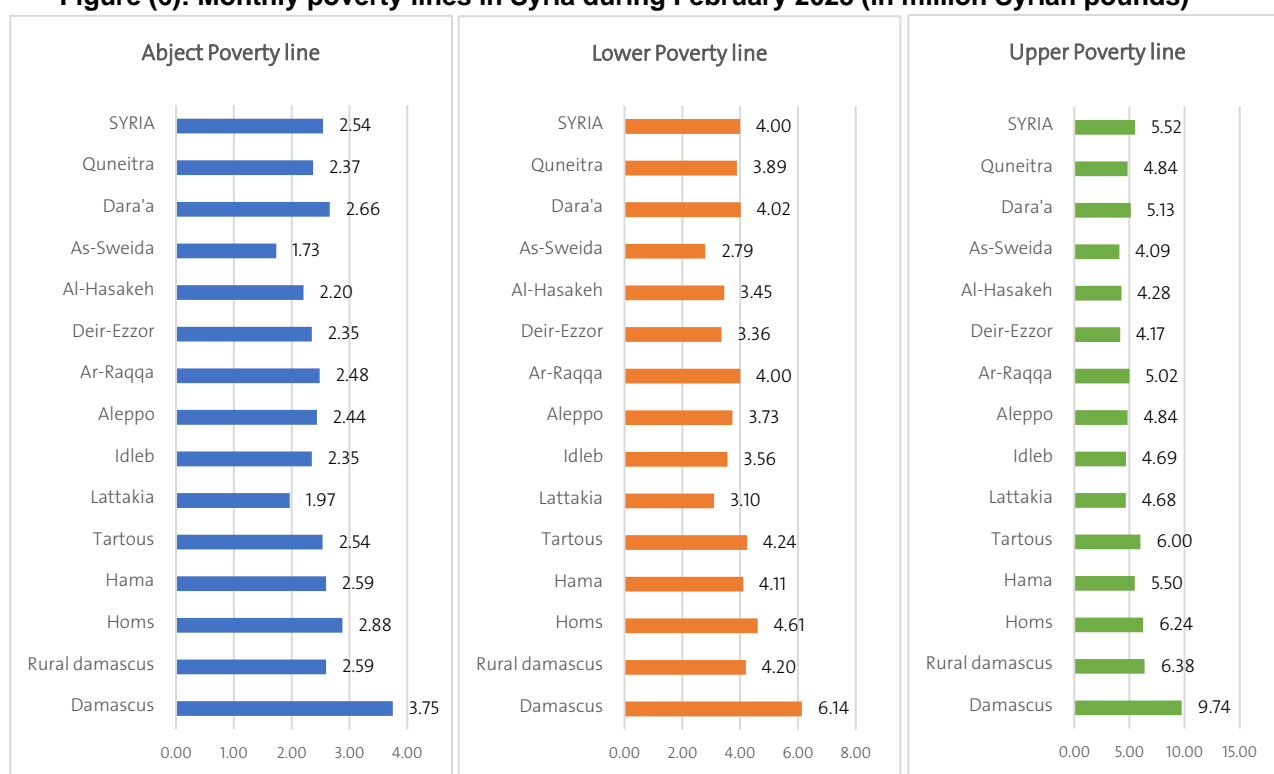
Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research, Monthly consumer price survey in Syria 2025.

<sup>1</sup> 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 37 percent of the wages earned by civil sector workers in self-administered regions and 48 percent of those in temporary and rescue zones as of February 2025.

## 6. Poverty Lines in Syria, February 2025

In February 2025, the absolute poverty line for families in Syria,<sup>2</sup> indicative of food deprivation, was established at 2.54 million Syrian pounds per month, reflecting a reduction of 95000 Syrian pounds from January 2025. The lower poverty line was recorded at 4 million Syrian pounds, marking a decrease of 148000 Syrian pounds compared to the preceding month. Additionally, the upper poverty line reached 5.5 million Syrian pounds, which is a decline of 205000 Syrian pounds 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, Hasakah, Deir-Ezzor, and Lattakia during February 2025.

**Figure (6): Monthly poverty lines in Syria during February 2025 (in million Syrian pounds)**



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

<sup>2</sup> Poverty lines (extreme, 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.<sup>3</sup> As of January 2025, the wage gap for university employees in the public sector was approximately 77.2 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 15.2 per cent.

In February 2025, civil sector workers in SIG & SSG areas earned wages that were 85 per cent above the abject poverty line, whereas those in AA areas received wages 42 per cent above the same threshold. Conversely, civil sector wages in regions governed by the transitional caretaker government, excluding Idlib, were reported to be 39 per cent below the extreme 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 (3): Monthly wage gap from poverty lines in Syria during February 2025  
(in percentages)**

	Areas that were under the control of the Syrian government	SIG and SSG areas	AA areas	Whole of Syria
<b>A- Wage gap from the abject poverty line</b>				
University-educated employees in the public sector	-87.8%	-34.1%	-54.0%	<b>-77.2%</b>
Private sector worker	-62.6%	-54.2%	-57.0%	<b>-61.4%</b>
Civil sector worker	-38.8%	85.0%	42.3%	<b>-15.2%</b>
<b>B- Wage gap from the lower poverty line</b>				
University-educated employees in the public sector	-92.3%	-56.7%	-70.0%	<b>-85.5%</b>
Private sector worker	-76.3%	-69.9%	-72.0%	<b>-75.5%</b>
Civil sector worker	-61.3%	21.4%	-7.2%	<b>-46.1%</b>
<b>C- Wage gap from the upper poverty line</b>				
University-educated employees in the public sector	-94.4%	-66.9%	-75.9%	<b>-89.5%</b>
Private sector worker	-82.9%	-77.0%	-77.5%	<b>-82.2%</b>
Civil sector worker	-72.0%	-7.1%	-25.5%	<b>-61.0%</b>

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

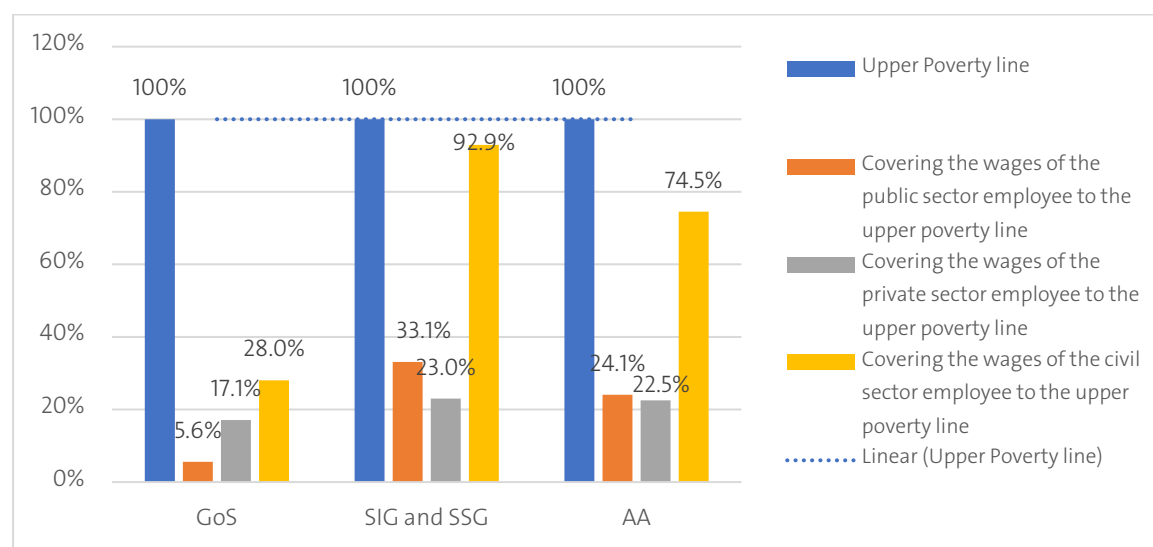
Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research, Monthly consumer price survey in Syria 2025.

The wage disparity among public sector employees in regions governed by the transitional government (excluding Idlib) has reached a concerning 94.4 per cent above the upper poverty line. In contrast, areas under self-administration report a wage coverage of 76 per cent. Furthermore, in SIG & SSG areas, this figure stands at 67 per cent as of February 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

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 5.6 per cent of their fundamental needs. Conversely, employees in AA areas have wages that meet 24 per cent of their basic necessities, while those in SIG & SSG areas receive compensation that covers 33 per cent of their essential requirements for a decent life.

**Figure (7): Coverage of workers' wages for the upper poverty line in Syria during February 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 February 2025, (2021 = 100)

	Damascus	Rural Damascus	Homs	Hama	Tartous	Lattakia	Idleb	Aleppo	Ar- Raqqa	Deir- Ezzor	Al- Hasakeh	As- Sweida	Dara'a	Quneitra	SYRIA
All commodities	1,047	787	964	833	926	776	504	725	591	657	704	814	686	796	719
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	612	564	639	585	629	572	505	545	470	651	595	578	525	556	535
Tobacco	382	386	404	461	461	337	492	410	397	604	402	413	299	300	404
Clothing and Shoes	508	495	563	699	641	639	695	555	565	525	820	726	485	411	566
Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels	1,659	1,347	1,736	1,443	1,473	1,224	611	974	890	801	946	1,598	1,252	1,418	1,178
Household equipment and maintenance	688	508	609	915	586	416	459	413	453	550	745	436	606	554	508
Health	822	780	749	744	834	858	508	714	901	675	727	869	905	666	751
Transportation	1,642	1,374	1,447	1,437	1,595	1,562	531	777	686	697	970	888	781	1,643	969
Communications	330	329	331	328	330	327	97	498	329	332	327	330	331	329	231
Culture and entertainment	408	374	483	398	602	404	373	546	1,182	452	537	453	346	326	478
Education	833	732	827	729	906	748	998	677	741	503	792	636	939	617	735
Various goods and services	862	701	809	645	966	547	421	654	634	725	516	823	712	607	696

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



[scpr-syria.org](http://scpr-syria.org)  
[info@scpr-syria.org](mailto:info@scpr-syria.org)