



Monthly Bulletin for Consumer Price Index and Inflation in Syria

Issue (3) – March 2025



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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
SYP-GA	Transitional Caretaker Government Areas
TL	Turkish Lira
TL-GA	Transitional Caretaker Government Areas
USD	United States Dollar
Y-o-Y	Year on year

1. Preamble

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 **March 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.

This periodic bulletin reviews the most important developments in the Syrian economic landscape during March 2025, focusing on measuring the Consumer Price Index, analyzing inflation drivers, and estimating poverty lines.

The results of this month confirm the continuation of economic fragmentation between the different areas of control, recording a monthly inflation of 1.2 per cent and an annual inflation of 14.8 per cent, indicating structural price pressures. These figures gain special importance as they coincide with a wave of political developments, including the issuance of the "Constitutional Declaration",¹ the "formation of the Transitional Government",² and the "initial agreement on integrating the Syrian Democratic Forces into Syrian state institutions".³ However, economic data indicates that these developments have not yet translated into tangible stability in the markets.

The bulletin revealed the repercussions of security disturbances and new internal displacement, as occurred in the coastal governorates and west-central Syria,⁴ causing an immediate shock in the housing market and reinforcing the "dollarization" of rents, which underscores the close and direct link between political/security factors and price performance. This reveals that the housing sector and related services are the main contributor to price increases alongside rising demand and costs.

The analysis indicates the continuous erosion of the real value of wages, which do not cover the minimum living requirements, especially in the public sector where the average monthly wage covers only 5.6 per cent of the upper poverty line, providing evidence of the

¹ The Official Gazette of the Syrian Arab Republic. Part I, Issue (7 Supplement). (2025, March 15). The Constitutional Declaration of the Syrian Arab Republic.

² "The Official Gazette of the Syrian Arab Republic. Part I, Issue (10). (2025, March 29). Presidential Decree No. 9 of 2025."

³ In March 2025, Syria saw contradictory developments. On March 11, the Syrian transitional authorities and the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) agreed to integrate the SDF into state institutions, including key economic provisions like handing over border crossings and managing the oil sector. This aimed to reunify the country. However, on March 10, the Autonomous Administration in North and East Syria approved its 2025 budget with a USD 234.6 million deficit, highlighting the ongoing administrative and financial separation and continued political fragmentation. Sources: France Diplomatie (March 11, 2025). [Agreement between the Syrian transitional authorities and the Syrian Democratic Forces \(SDF\)](#). and Hawar News Agency (March 11, 2025). [The Democratic People's Council approves the 2025 budget](#).

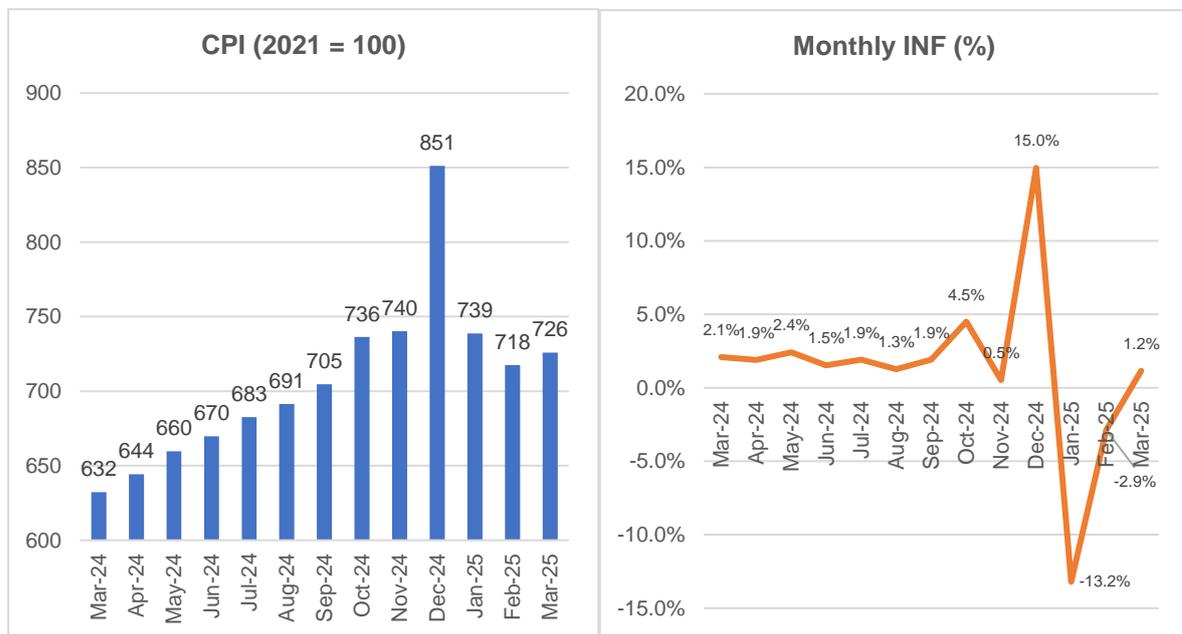
⁴ The total number of fatalities reached 2,089, including both civilian and military personnel, between March 6th and March 17th, according to the [Syrian Observatory for Human Rights](#). Conversely, [the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic](#) reported 1,400 deaths, the majority of whom were civilians, including 100 women.

weak purchasing power of the largest segment of the population. This reflects a continued exacerbation of poverty and deprivation rates across various regions.

2. Inflation in Syria, March 2025

Inflationary pressures began to affect consumer goods prices in March 2025, as a result of increased demand for housing and a general rise in service prices, in addition to the decline in the value of the Syrian Pound (SYP) against the dollar. With the continuation of fragmentation between regions, prices witnessed an increase following the decreases that followed the inflationary shock in December 2024; the price index recorded a monthly inflation of 1.2 per cent in March 2025 compared to the previous month. The annual inflation rate also reached 14.8 per cent compared to March 2024.

Figure (1): Consumer Price Index and Monthly Inflation (M-o-M) in Syria during the period (March 2024 – March 2025), (Base Year 2021 = 100) and (Inflation in per cent)



Source: Syrian Syrian Center for Policy Research (SCPR) 2024 and 2025, Monthly Consumer Price Survey in Syria

Prices of the Clothes and Footwear group rose by 4.5 per cent in March 2025 compared to the previous month. This increase is attributed to the arrival of the Eid al-Fitr season and increased demand for clothes and shoes; the price of local men's jeans reached SYP 140,000, imported jeans SYP 225000, a blended women's shirt SYP 139000, boys' jeans SYP 110000, and the price of imported sports shoes reached around SYP 300000.

The Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and Other Fuels group recorded an increase of 2.1 per cent. At the level of its subgroups, the housing rents group witnessed an increase of 2.3 per cent; the rent group was affected by increased demand for housing due to the displacement of a large number of residents from Tartous, Lattakia, Homs, and Hama following the significant violence that occurred in those governorates from March 6 to 10, 2025, as well as a shortage of housing unit supply, rent dollarization, and absence of legal oversight. Rents vary between regions and governorates, with a very large disparity between Damascus governorate and the rest of the governorates.

The Electricity, Gas, and Fuel group also recorded an increase of 1.2 per cent amidst rising prices of domestic gas and free-market heating oil (Mazout) in the Autonomous

Administration (AA) areas. It is worth noting that the Syrian Ministry of Electricity reduced the price per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for lines exempt from rationing by 21 per cent. This decision includes industrial cities and areas.⁵

Table (1): Monthly Consumer Price Inflation in Syria for March 2025 by Consumption Groups, (Base Year 2021 = 100) and (Inflation in per cent)

#	Group	CPI in February 2025	CPI in March 2025	Monthly Inflation (M-o-M)
	All commodities	718	726	%1.2
1	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	535	538	%0.6
2	Tobacco	404	406	%0.5
3	Clothes and shoes	566	591	%4.5
4	Housing, water, electricity, and other fuel oils	1,174	1,199	%2.1
5	Household equipment, supplies, and maintenance	508	503	%1.0-
6	Health	751	754	%0.4
7	Transportation	969	961	%0.8-
8	Communications	231	231	%0.3
9	Entertainment and culture	478	486	%1.8
10	Education	735	730	%0.7-
11+12	Various commodities and services	696	709	%1.8

Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research (SCPR) 2025, Monthly Consumer Price Survey in Syria.

⁵ Syrian Ministry of Electricity. Decision No. 340 of March 27, 2025

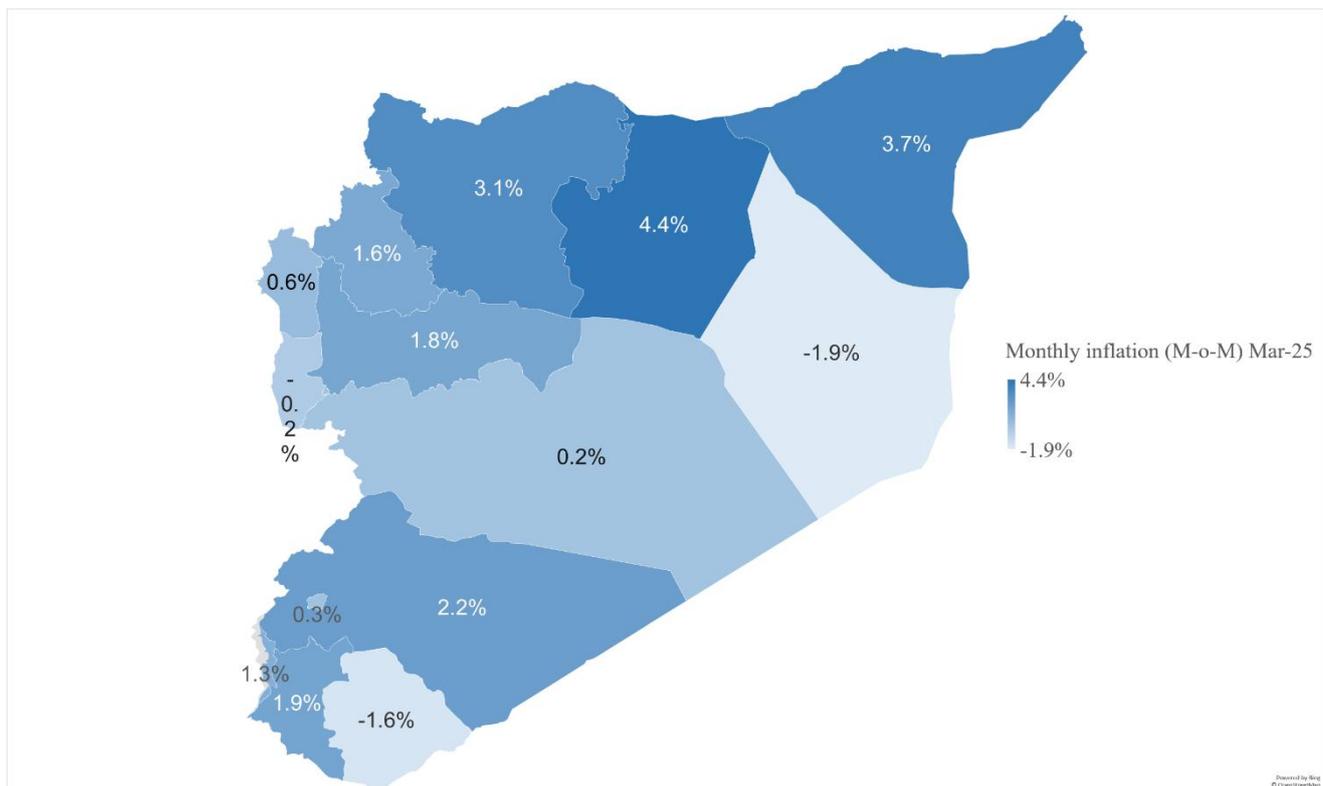
3. Inflation by Governorate

Syrian governorates witnessed a disparity in monthly inflation rates during March 2025. The majority of governorates recorded an increase in consumer goods prices, with increase rates ranging between 0.2 per cent and 4.4 per cent. Ar-Raqqa governorate recorded the highest monthly inflation rate at 4.4 per cent, followed by Al-Hasakeh at 3.7 per cent, then Aleppo at 3.1 per cent.

In contrast, four governorates witnessed a decrease in prices: Deir-Ezzor by 1.9 per cent, followed by As-Sweida by 1.6 per cent, then Quneitra by 1.3 per cent, and finally Tartous by 0.6 per cent. Meanwhile, other governorates such as Homs, Lattakia, Damascus, and Rural Damascus recorded a slight increase in prices.

The disparity in inflation rates between Syrian regions indicates a direct link to the circulating currency. The Transitional Caretaker Government Areas (TL-GA) (Idleb and Aleppo countryside) recorded the highest inflation rate at 3 per cent, followed by the Autonomous Administration (AA) areas dealing in SYP at 1.5 per cent, while the Transitional Caretaker Government Areas (SYP-GA) witnessed the lowest inflation rate at 1 per cent during March 2025.

Figure (2): Monthly Consumer Price Inflation in Syria during March 2025 (in per cent)



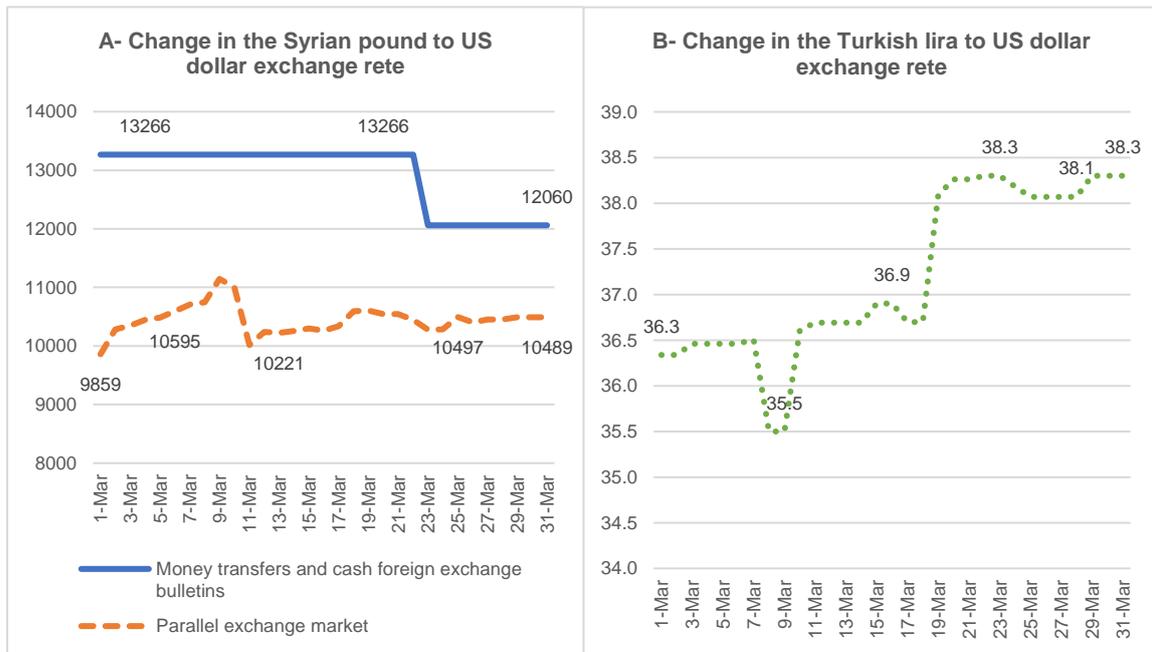
Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research (SCPR) 2025, Monthly Consumer Price Survey in Syria

4. Exchange Rate Changes

March 2025 witnessed a decline in the unofficial exchange rate of the Syrian Pound by 7.3 per cent against the US Dollar, with the average rate reaching SYP 10446 per dollar compared to SYP 9738 in February 2025. It is worth noting that the gap between the official and unofficial rates narrowed after the Central Bank of Syria's decision on March 23, 2025, to set the official rate at SYP 12060 per dollar, after it had been SYP 13266 in the previous period.⁶

The Central Bank of Syria issued a decision allowing foreign currency trading in commercial transactions, representing a major shift from previous policies that criminalized this. Despite this decision, the Bank continued to apply a policy of restricting liquidity, as the ceiling for fund withdrawals from deposits remained capped at SYP 1 million weekly in two installments. The policy of restricting cash withdrawals for bank depositors also continued. Exchange companies do not adhere to the official exchange rate but rather rely on the unofficial market rate when delivering financial remittances.

Figure (3): Exchange Rate Changes of the Syrian Pound and Turkish Lira against the United States Dollar during March 2025



Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research (SCPR) 2025, Monthly Consumer Price Survey in Syria.

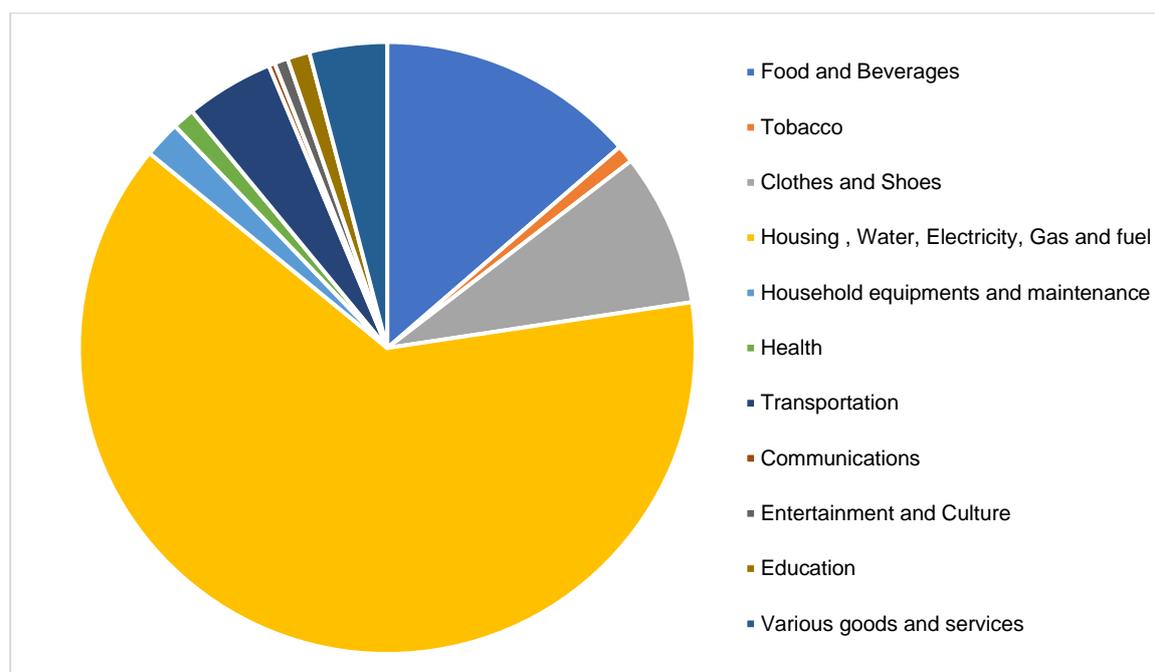
On the other hand, the Turkish Lira (TL) recorded a decline in value in northwest Syria regions by 2.5 per cent, where the average TL exchange rate against the US dollar reached TL 37.2 per dollar in March 2025, after being around TL 36.3 per dollar the previous month. The month of March 2025 closed at an exchange rate of TL 38.3 per US Dollar.

⁶ Central Bank of Syria (Decision No. 230 of the Central Bank of Syria Management Committee dated 03/23/2025)

5. Contributors to Inflation

The Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and Other Fuels group achieved the largest contribution to the monthly inflation rate of 1.2 per cent during March 2025, representing a contribution of 74.4 per cent. This was followed by the Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages group at 16.5 per cent.

Figure (4): Contribution of Main Consumption Groups to the Monthly Inflation Rate (M-o-M) for March 2025 (in per cent)



Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research (SCPR) 2025, Monthly Consumer Price Survey in Syria.

At the level of different control areas, the contribution of the Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and Other Fuels group was the largest to monthly inflation during March 2025, reaching 74 per cent in the Transitional Caretaker Government Areas (SYP-GA) (formerly Regime areas), 38 per cent in the Transitional Caretaker Government Areas (TL-GA) (formerly SIG & SSG areas), and 45 per cent in the Autonomous Administration (AA) areas.

The Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages group came in second place in terms of contribution to monthly inflation, contributing 44 per cent in the Autonomous Administration (AA) areas, 33 per cent in the Transitional Caretaker Government Areas (TL-GA), and 20 per cent in the Transitional Caretaker Government Areas (SYP-GA).

6. Wages in Syria, March 2025

The average monthly wage for a university-educated employee in the public sector (at entry level) in Syria reached approximately SYP 628,000 in March 2025. Meanwhile, the average monthly wage for a worker in the private sector reached SYP 1.06 million, whereas an employee in the civil sector recorded SYP 2.25 million during the same month.

A decree was issued to pay an additional month's salary to all state workers and retirees on the occasion of Eid al-Fitr (bonus/grant), but the delivery was not made on time (before the Eid) due to the liquidity crisis.⁷

When comparing nominal wages (at current prices) between control areas, it becomes clear that wages in both the public and private sectors in the Transitional Caretaker Government Areas (TL-GA) (formerly Interim and Salvation areas) were the highest, followed by wages in the Autonomous Administration (AA) areas, while wages in the Transitional Caretaker Government Areas (SYP-GA) (formerly Regime areas) came in last place. It is worth noting that new employees in the police and security sector receive wages four times higher than those of their former counterparts.⁸

Differences between the wages of workers in the public and private sectors and those in the civil sector remain noticeably apparent; private sector worker wages equal 47 per cent of civil sector worker wages, while public sector worker wages equal 28 per cent of civil sector worker wages at the Syria level.⁹

Table (2): Average Monthly Wages in Syria during March 2025 (in Syrian Pounds)

	SYP Areas (GoS formerly)	TL Areas (SIG & SSG formerly)	AA areas	Syria
A- Public sector workers				
Employee Wage (University Professor)	1090044	5013354	3090000	1889412
Employee Wage (University Grad)	311501	1832990	1060000	627550
Employee Wage (4th band)	286038	1234093	1040000	531757
B- Private sector workers				
Company Manager Wage	2921970	3788146	2165143	2976827
Shop Worker Wage	1041288	1186367	1000143	1066685
C- Civil sector workers				
Employee Wage (University Grad)	1624361	4281979	3501373	2254333

Note: Wages of workers in former Salvation Government areas (Idleb) are set in US Dollars or their equivalent in Turkish Lira, and workers in former Syrian Interim Government areas (Aleppo countryside) receive their wages in Turkish Lira. Wage values in this table have been converted to Syrian Pounds for comparison with the rest of the regions.

Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research (SCPR) 2025, Monthly Consumer Price Survey in Syria.

⁷ SANA Agency. (March 15, 2025). [The Ministry of Finance issues executive instructions for the decision to disburse a financial grant on the occasion of Eid al-Fitr.](#)

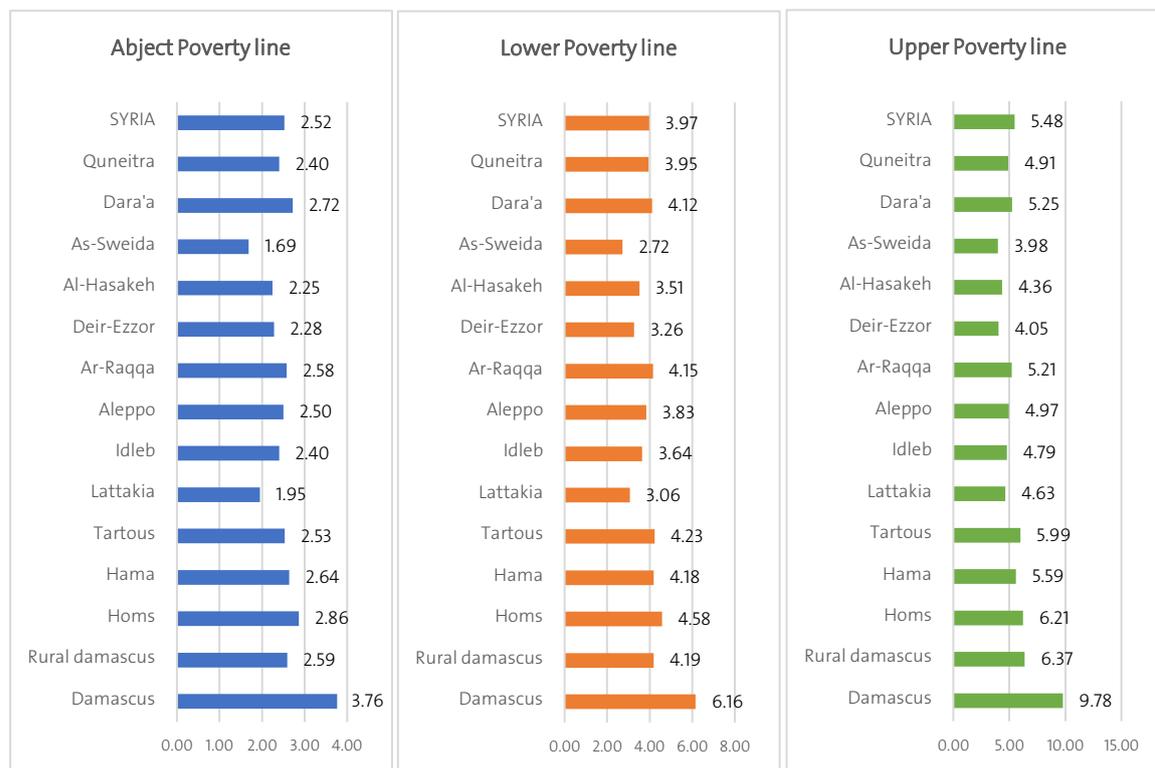
⁸ Syria TV (March 23, 2025). [With a four-fold increase, police salaries in Sweida begin to be paid.](#)

⁹ 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 45 percent of those in temporary and rescue zones as of March 2025.

7. Poverty Lines in Syria March 2025

The abject Poverty Line for a family (as an indicator of food deprivation)¹⁰ at the Syria-wide level reached SYP 2.52 million per month in March 2025. The Lower Poverty Line reached SYP 3.97 million, and the Upper Poverty Line rose to SYP 5.48 million. The highest poverty lines were recorded in the governorates of Damascus, Homs, Rural Damascus, and Tartous, while As-Suwayda, Deir Ezzor, and Lattakia registered the lowest values.

Figure (5): Monthly Poverty Lines in Syria during March 2025 (SYP million)



Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research (SCPR) 2025, Monthly Consumer Price Survey in Syria.

The coverage ratio of public sector worker wages for the abject poverty line reached only about 25 per cent during March 2025, 42 per cent for private sector workers, and 89 per cent for civil sector workers. Civil sector worker wages in the Transitional Caretaker Government Areas (TL-GA) (formerly Interim and Salvation areas) covered 183 per cent of the abject poverty line, while coverage was around 152 per cent in the Autonomous Administration (AA) areas. In contrast, civil sector wages in the Transitional Caretaker Government Areas (SYP-GA) (formerly Regime areas) were 36 per cent lower than the abject poverty line. This indicates a large disparity in wage levels between regions, in addition to the relative rise of civil sector wages in TL and AA areas compared to other sectors.

¹⁰ Poverty lines (abject, lower, and upper) were calculated by measuring the effect of inflation on the 2009 poverty lines.

**Table (3): Monthly Wage Coverage of Poverty Lines in Syria during March 2025
(in per cent)**

	SYP Areas (GoS formerly)	TL Areas (SIG & SSG formerly)	AA areas	Syria
A- Wage Coverage of Abject Poverty Line				
Public Employee (Uni Grad)	12.2%	78.2%	46.0%	24.9%
Private Sector Worker	40.9%	50.6%	43.4%	42.3%
Civil Sector Employee	63.8%	182.8%	152.0%	89.3%
B- Wage Coverage of Lower Poverty Line				
Public Employee (Uni Grad)	7.7%	51.4%	30.0%	15.8%
Private Sector Worker	25.9%	33.2%	28.3%	26.9%
Civil Sector Employee	40.4%	120.0%	99.1%	56.8%
C- Wage Coverage of Upper Poverty Line				
Public Employee (Uni Grad)	5.6%	39.3%	24.1%	11.4%
Private Sector Worker	18.7%	25.4%	22.7%	19.5%
Civil Sector Employee	29.2%	91.8%	79.6%	41.1%

Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research (SCPR) 2025, Monthly Consumer Price Survey in Syria.

Comparing the average wages of workers in the public, private, and civil sectors in all areas of control with the lower poverty line reveals that all of them were below this line, meaning the country suffers from a generally low level of wages. This crisis is exacerbated by decisions to suspend thousands of state employees from work in official institutions, increasing unemployment rates and weakening the possibility of their economic stability.

Annex

Annex (1): Consumer Price Index in Syria by Major Consumption Groups and Governorate in March 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	1,050	804	966	848	924	781	513	747	617	644	729	801	699	808	726
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	630	556	638	615	628	538	518	571	497	631	620	550	545	564	538
Tobacco	382	388	429	461	436	382	499	418	351	621	415	404	299	304	406
Clothing and Shoes	590	555	635	678	624	661	708	569	653	547	833	694	494	395	591
Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels	1,660	1,445	1,752	1,469	1,504	1,279	608	996	954	774	995	1,605	1,263	1,476	1,199
Household equipment and maintenance	661	488	560	865	546	431	482	418	463	549	760	436	609	539	503
Health	822	799	750	710	814	858	540	727	905	675	733	869	905	685	754
Transportation	1,535	1,319	1,382	1,441	1,524	1,565	537	784	694	699	962	886	789	1,503	961
Communications	330	328	329	328	327	327	100	503	329	332	328	330	331	329	231
Culture and entertainment	411	434	489	397	585	402	382	545	1,279	449	553	431	344	324	486
Education	833	605	827	729	892	771	1,017	681	630	567	801	636	939	740	730
Various goods and services	851	698	817	640	965	613	454	766	634	735	499	820	712	599	709

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



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