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Japanese commercial restaurant prices rose 4.8% in October

The annual increase eased from 4.9% in September, leaving menu inflation about twice the pace of the broader eating-out measure

Monday, November 23, 2026



Consumer prices at Japanese commercial restaurants were 4.8% higher in October than a year earlier, showing that inflation in that part of the service sector remained close to 5% even as it eased slightly from September.

The figure comes from Japan’s national consumer price index for October, released by the Statistics Bureau of Japan on Friday, November 20. The bureau’s tables show that the restaurant component within market services rose 0.5% from September and reached an index level of 106.0, using 2025 as the base year of 100.

The October reading was down by 0.1 percentage point from the 4.9% annual increase recorded in September. The monthly increase was unchanged at 0.5%.

The data point to a narrower and more persistent price increase in commercial dining than in the broader eating-out category. That broader aggregate, which also includes public services, rose 2.4% in October from a year earlier, down from 2.5% in September. It also increased 0.5% from the previous month.

The gap between the two measures matters because the broader eating-out figure can make inflation in private restaurant services appear weaker than it is. The market-services restaurant component isolates prices charged in commercial food service, while the wider category blends those prices with other services. In October, that distinction left a difference of 2.4 percentage points between the two annual rates.

The index measures prices paid by consumers. It does not show restaurant sales, customer traffic or company profits. The figures therefore indicate that households faced higher menu prices in October, but they do not establish whether the increase came from stronger demand, higher operating costs or wider business margins.

Japan’s official release did not assign a single cause to the October increase in restaurant prices in the material cited in the bulletin’s tables. The data instead show the pace of change across categories and how that pace compared with earlier months. In this case, the main signal is that price growth in commercial dining stayed elevated, even after losing some momentum from September.

The October index level of 106.0 means prices in this component were 6.0% above the 2025 base level. Month-to-month changes in consumer price data can be affected by seasonal patterns and pricing adjustments, but the annual comparison provides a clearer picture of the longer trend. On that basis, Japanese restaurant prices in the commercial segment continued to rise at roughly twice the pace seen in the broader

eating-out measure.

The figures were published in tables 2 and 4 of the national October CPI bulletin on the Statistics Bureau of Japan’s official e-Stat platform. The release adds to evidence that services inflation in Japan remains uneven across categories, with commercial restaurants showing stronger price pressure than the headline eating-out aggregate.