

# APC trends for gold and hybrid Open Access uncovered:

Analysis of an unpublished, longitudinal dataset of list-price APCs for 7.000 hybrid journals collected by the oa.finder

## Data and method

### Source:

- oa.finder ([description and source code](#))
- Observations from 2021 to 2026
- 340,297 annual data points
- 68,610 distinct L-ISSNs
- Hybrid, gold OA, gratis, closed access journals
- 125,889 annual APC data points, converted at historical spot rates to EUR
- Self-collected APC price lists from publisher websites for hybrid journals
- DOAJ journal data dumps for gold OA journal APCs

### Sample:

- Hybrid and gold OA journals with APC  $\geq 0$
- Scopus-indexed in 2025 with publication output 2021–2024 available (Scopus Scholarly Output: articles, reviews, conference papers, book chapters, data papers)

### List price APCs for hybrid journals of (since):

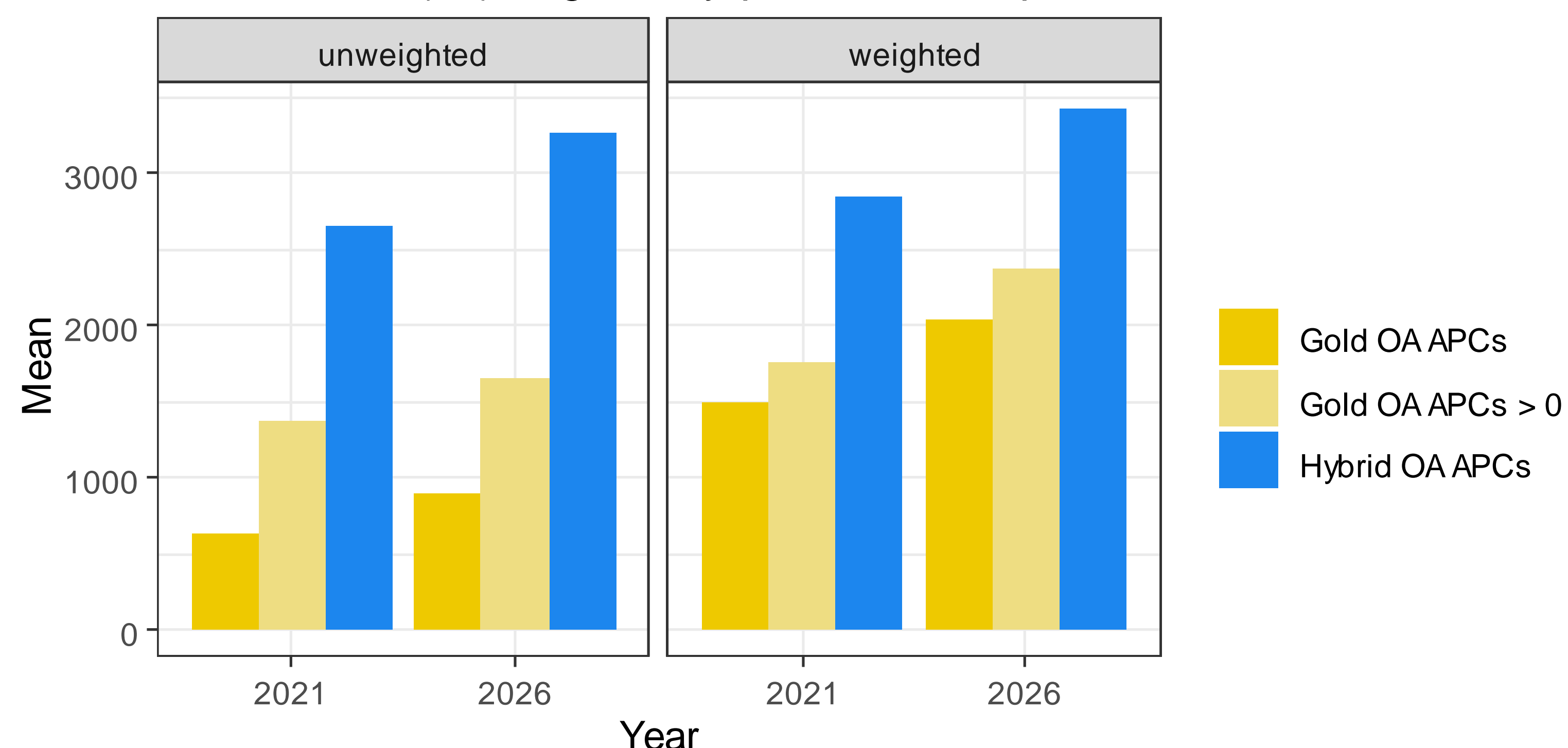
- Wiley (2021)
- Springer Nature (2021)
- Elsevier (2021)
- OUP (2021)
- De Gruyter (2021)
- ACS (2021)
- APS (2021)
- RSC (2021)
- IOP (2021)
- John Benjamins P. (2023)
- Duncker & Humblot (2024)
- SAGE (2024)
- AACR (2025)
- CUP (2026)
- IEEE (2026)

**Gold OA: Sharp APC increase in 2022 after publication peak in 2021**

**Hybrid: Steady price increases along inflation rate**

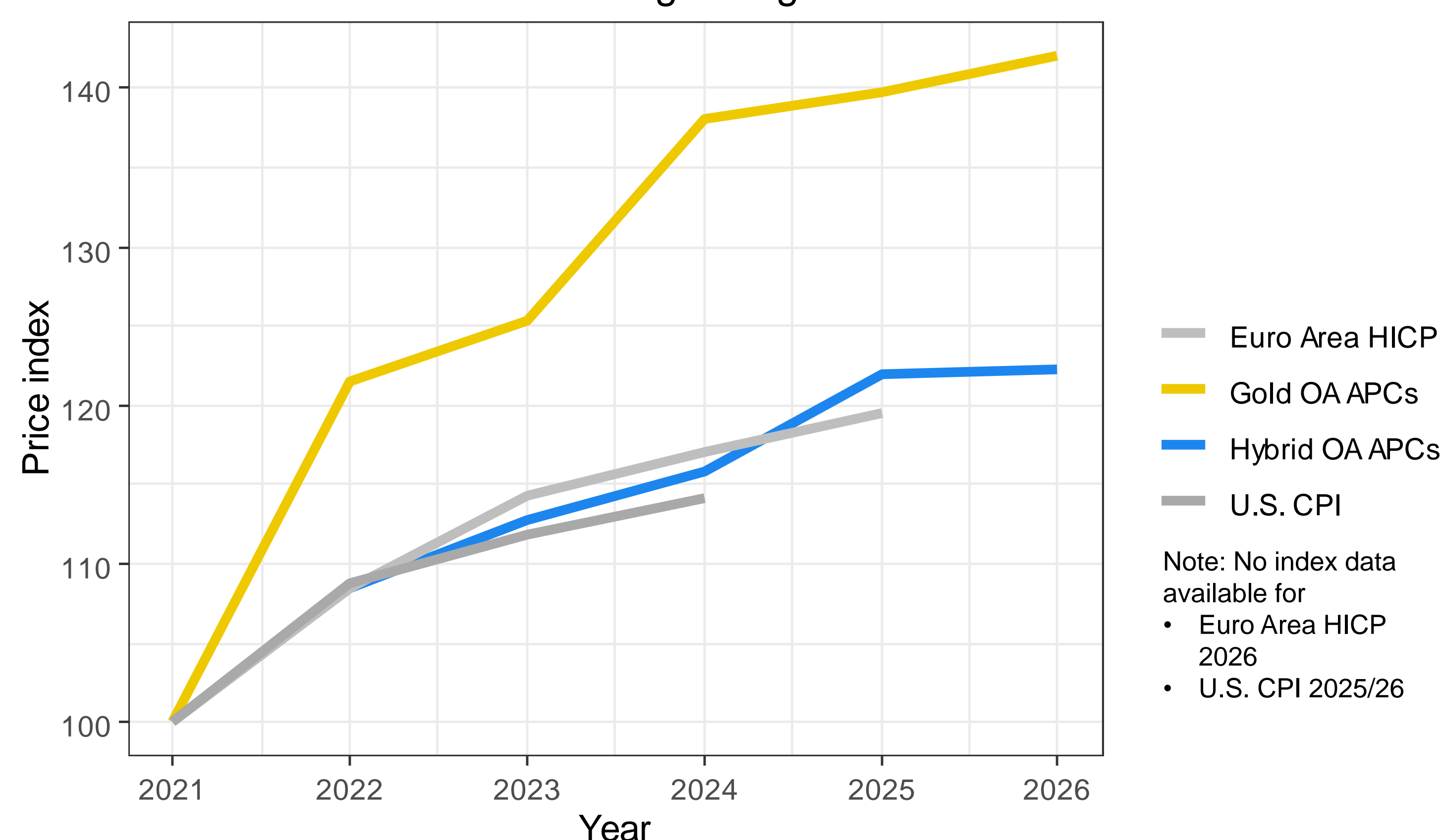
## Publication output and zero APCs matter

Mean APCs, (un)weighted by publication output



## Rise in gold APCs exceeds inflation by far

Price Index: Article Processing Charges vs. Consumer Prices

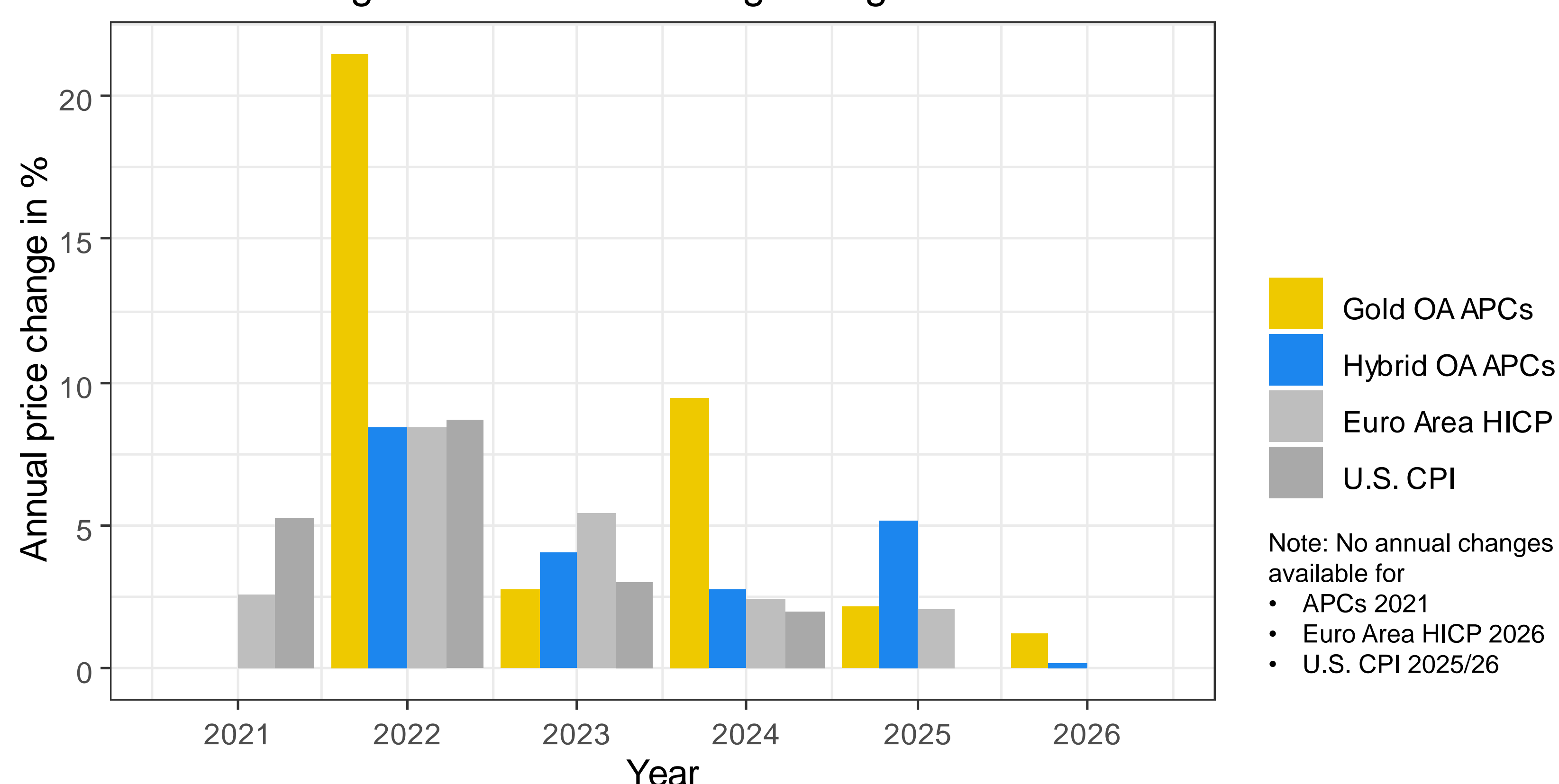


### Method:

- Calculation of a Laspeyres/Paasche-type price index
- Publication output per journal 2021–2024 as constant item weights
- Base year: 2021
- For two sectors: gold OA and hybrid OA
- Price index and period-over-period changes
- Comparison with the Euro Area Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) and the U.S. Consumer Price Index (CPI), source: Eurostat

## Hybrid APCs change equally to consumer prices

Percent changes: Article Processing Charges vs. Consumer Prices



No. of obs.	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
Gold OA APCs	5350	6052	6704	7035	7200	7058	39399
Hybrid OA APCs	5696	5555	5681	6585	6577	6955	37049
Total	11046	11607	12385	13620	13777	14013	76448