

Consumer Prices Index and Retail Prices Index: The 2006 Basket of Goods and Services

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Introduction

As part of a process of continual improvement, and to help ensure that the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) and Retail Prices Index (RPI) are representative of consumer spending patterns, the items that are priced in compiling the indices are reviewed each year. This article describes the review process and explains how and why the various items in the CPI and RPI baskets are chosen. The contents of the CPI and RPI baskets for 2006 are summarised in Annexes A and B, and the main changes from the 2005 price collection are discussed below.

The shopping basket

The most useful way to think about both the CPI and RPI indices is to imagine a 'shopping basket' containing those goods and services on which people typically spend their money. As the prices of the various items in the basket change over time, so does the total cost of the basket. Movements in the CPI and RPI indices represent the changing cost of this representative shopping basket.

In principle, the cost of the basket should be calculated with reference to all consumer goods and services purchased by households, and the prices measured in every shop or outlet that supplies them. In practice, both the CPI and RPI are calculated by collecting a sample of prices for a selection of representative goods and services in a range of UK retail locations. Currently, prices are collected for some 650 representative consumer goods and services from around 150 areas throughout the UK. Multiple price quotations are obtained for those goods and services that either exhibit a greater variation in price or are sold at different outlet types, resulting in around 120,000 separate price quotations in total.

Within each year, the CPI and RPI are described as fixed quantity (Laspeyres-type) price indices; they represent the changing cost of a basket of goods and services of fixed composition, quantity and quality. In practice, this is achieved by holding constant through each year the sample of representative goods and services for which prices are collected each month and applying a fixed set of weights to price changes for each of the items such that their influence on the overall index reflects their importance in the typical household budget. In this way, changes in the CPI and RPI indices from month to month reflect only changes in prices, and not ongoing variations in consumer purchasing patterns.

As the CPI and RPI should only reflect the cost of buying a fixed basket of goods and services of constant quality, a number of procedures are used to account for quality changes. When particular products disappear from the market, care is taken to ensure that replacements are of broadly comparable quality so that price comparisons are not distorted. If this is not possible, prices are adjusted to take

account of the change in quality. Explicit adjustment techniques are used for some electrical goods, for example personal computers (laptops and desktops), digital cameras and mobile phone handsets.¹

Although fixed within each year, the contents of the CPI and RPI baskets of goods and services and their associated expenditure weights are updated annually. This is important to avoid potential biases in consumer price indices that might otherwise develop over time, for example, due to the tendency for consumers to substitute purchases away from those particular goods and services for which prices have risen relatively rapidly, or the development of entirely new goods and services. For example, purchases of vinyl records were common during the 1960's -1970's. However, with the advent of compact discs, records now form a niche market and have not been included as a representative item since the early 1990's.

These procedures also help to ensure that the indices reflect longer-term trends in consumer spending patterns. For example, the proportion of household expenditure devoted to leisure services has risen steadily. This is reflected both in an increasing weight for this component in the CPI and RPI, and the addition of new items to the basket in recent years to improve measurement of price changes in this area; examples include entrance fees to a wide range of sporting venues and subscriptions to recreational and sporting facilities including leisure centres and health clubs/gyms.

For the RPI, changes to the items and weights are introduced in the February index each year, but with an overlapping collection of prices in January. This means that the figures for each year can be 'chain linked' together to form a long-run price index spanning many years. This procedure ensures that the annual changes to the basket and weights have no impact on estimated changes in prices as measured by the indices. The same basic approach is likewise adopted in the CPI although, as the CPI class weights have a reference period of December in line with the other European member states and not January as with the RPI, it is necessary to chain link the published index twice each year rather than only once as in the RPI.²

ONS (2004) '*Consumer Price Indices – a Brief Guide*' provides a helpful introduction to the concepts and procedures underpinning the compilation of the CPI and RPI indices. These are described in much greater detail in ONS (2005) '*Consumer Price Indices – Technical Manual*'. Both of the publications are available to download on the National Statistics website.

Representative items

It would be both impractical and unnecessary to measure price changes of every item bought by every household in compiling the CPI and RPI. There are some individual goods and services where typical household expenditure is sufficiently large that they merit inclusion in the basket in their own right; examples include car purchase and repair, petrol, and utility charges such as those for telephone, electricity and gas supply.

¹ Further details on quality adjustment can be found in: ONS (2005) '*Consumer Price Indices – Technical Manual*' Section 7.2.

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=2328&Pos=&ColRank=2&Rank=27>

² CPI indices are chain-linked first each January, when weights for CPI classes and higher level aggregates are updated, and again in February when changes to the basket are introduced and hence weights for individual item indices are reviewed.

However, more commonly, it is necessary to select a sample of specific goods and services that can give a reliable measure of price movements for a broader range of similar items. For example, price changes for a power drill might be considered representative of price changes for other power tools. These are called *representative items*. The selection of these representative items is purposive or judgmental; the significant difficulties involved in defining an adequate sampling frame (that is, a list of all the individual goods and services bought by households) preclude the use of traditional random sampling methods.

For each product grouping, a number of items are selected for pricing whose price movements, taken together, will provide a good estimate of the overall change in prices for the group as a whole. For example, there are around 20 representative items in the CPI 'furniture and furnishings' class, from bedroom wardrobes to kitchen units, which are used each month to give an overall estimate of price changes for all furniture products. The same approach is adopted in the RPI, although the product classification systems used in each case do differ.³

The prices collected for each product group are then combined to produce the overall CPI and RPI indices, with weights proportional to total expenditure on the entire product group. So the weight given to 'furniture and furnishings' in the CPI shopping basket, or 'furniture' in the RPI basket, will reflect average household spending on all furniture products as opposed to expenditure only on those items that have been chosen to represent the group.

As described above, these weights are also updated annually so that the indices reflect current spending patterns. In line with usual practice, CPI class weights were updated with effect from the January 2006 index, and RPI section weights will be revised with effect from the February 2006 index, at which point the weights for the more detailed (unpublished) item indices are also revised. Changes to the published CPI and RPI weights will be described in an article to be published on the National Statistics website on 20 April 2006.

Note also that there are some specific differences in the commodity coverage of the CPI and RPI indices. For example, the RPI basket includes a number of items chosen to represent owner-occupier housing costs, including mortgage interest payments and depreciation costs, all of which are excluded from the CPI. Conversely, the CPI basket includes some items that represent costs faced by foreign visitors to the UK and also residents of institutional households. These items are excluded from the RPI, whose definition is based exclusively in terms of private UK households. These differences are described in greater detail in Roe, D. and Fenwick, D. (2004), *The New Inflation target: the Statistical Perspective*. Beyond these specific areas, the contents of the CPI and RPI baskets are very similar, although the precise weights attached to the individual items in each index do differ.⁴

³ The CPI is organised according to the internationally agreed COICOP (classification of individual consumption by purpose) system, as used in the UK National Accounts. The RPI uses a classification system specified by an earlier RPI Advisory Committee, and has evolved gradually over the RPI's long history as a published UK official statistic.

⁴ RPI weights are based primarily on household spending estimates derived from the Expenditure and Food Survey, and relate to expenditures by private households only, excluding the top 4 per cent of households by income and those pensioner households mainly dependent on state benefits. CPI weights are based on National Accounts estimates of household final consumption consistent with the wider CPI population coverage (all private households, residents of institutional households and foreign visitors to the UK).

Selecting the representative items

A number of factors need to be taken into account when choosing representative items. Of course, the items must be easily obtainable by price collectors, to ensure that estimates of price change are based on an adequate number of price quotes collected throughout the UK. Since the CPI and RPI are based on the cost of a fixed in-year basket of goods and services, ideally they should also be available for purchase throughout the year. However, availability of some food and clothing items such as sprouts and certain coats for example are seasonal, and therefore require a slightly different treatment in the indices.⁵

The number of items chosen to represent each product group within the CPI and RPI depends both on the weight (i.e. expenditure) of the group and also the variability of price changes between the various items that could be selected to represent the group (reflecting, for example, the diversity of products available). Intuitively, it makes sense to choose more items in product groups where spending is high; this helps to minimise sampling variability in the estimate of price change for high-weighted groups, and therefore in the overall price index. However, if price movements of all possible items in the group are very similar as in the case of cigarettes, it is sufficient to collect prices for only a few.⁶ By contrast, if price movements of all the possible items are very different, prices will be needed for many representative items to get a reliable overall estimate of price change for the group.

For example, in the case of the fuels and lubricants class in the CPI, it is sufficient to monitor just three representative items: ultra low sulphur (i.e. unleaded) petrol, ultra low sulphur diesel and motor oil. While total household spending in this area is high, the three items provide a reliable estimate of price changes for all fuel and lubricant products. By contrast, there are around 15 items representing fruit products in the CPI and RPI baskets, despite the fact that spending on fruit is much lower. This reflects the greater diversity in type and variety of fruit available for purchase. As a consequence there is considerable variation in price changes for these different fruits, as well as between fruits sold in different shops.

Analysis of the balance in the allocation of items to broad commodity groupings, as presented for the 12 divisions of the CPI in Table 1, acts as a useful anchor for the annual review of the basket. The significant allocation of items to the food division relative to its index weight, for example, is partly explained by the relatively high variation in observed price changes between the individual goods in this area. Conversely, a smaller proportion of items relative to index weight are allocated to the restaurants and hotels division, reflecting greater similarity in observed price changes. The analysis presented in Table 1 excludes certain commodity groups where high CPI class weights are dominated by specific items. Such areas include rents, household utilities, vehicle purchase, petrol, transport services, postal services, telecommunications, package holidays, education and insurance. This is to avoid the presence of dominant individual items influencing the observed variation in

⁵ Further details on the treatment of seasonal items can be found in: ONS (2005) 'Consumer Price Indices – Technical Manual' Section 7.4.1

⁶ At the extreme, if price changes for all the possible items that could be selected in a particular group were identical each month, it would be necessary to select only one of the items for inclusion in the basket. Price changes for this one item would be perfectly representative of price changes for the group as a whole.

price changes. Such inclusion would conclude low allocations of items to the relevant divisions.

Table 1: Allocation of items to CPI divisions in 2006

	2006 CPI weights (per cent)	Observed variation in price changes ¹	Representative items ² (per cent of total)	
1	Food & non-alcoholic beverages	10.2	High	21
2	Alcohol & tobacco	4.4	Low	4
3	Clothing & footwear	6.5	Medium	12
4	Housing & household services	10.8	High	5
5	Furniture & household goods	7.3	Medium	11
6	Health	2.4	Low	3
7	Transport	15.5	Low	7
8	Communication	2.5	-	1
9	Recreation & culture	14.7	High	17
10	Education	1.7	-	1
11	Restaurants & hotels	13.4	Low	8
12	Miscellaneous goods & services	10.6	High	10

¹ Based on an analysis of variation in price changes between the individual items chosen to represent each division in the period 1999-2004.

² These figures should be treated as providing only a broad indication of the allocation of items to the 12 CPI divisions. For example, the sample of prices underpinning an existing item might easily be stratified in some way to form two or more distinct items; conversely, items could merged to form a single item representing a wider, more heterogeneous, spending category.

- Division excluded from the analysis of price change. Adequate coverage of these divisions is not strongly dependent on the number of items included but instead on the methodology used in the compilation of specific centrally calculated indices.

The analysis also helps to highlight those areas of the index which might benefit most from improved coverage. As discussed later, this has motivated some of the changes to the basket introduced in 2006. Conversely, it also helps to highlight areas where there is scope to remove items from the basket without any significant loss of precision in the indices. It is important that growth in the overall size of the basket is limited each year so that production costs and processing times may be contained.

Such analysis of course cannot tell us which items should be priced, and so choosing a particular set of items to represent each area remains a matter of judgement. CPI and RPI commodity groupings are regularly reviewed with the aim that all significant items or distinct markets where consumers' expenditure exceeds around £400 million annually are explicitly represented in the basket, except where those items are judged to be adequately represented by other items in the basket.⁷ Conversely, where spending on items falls below £100 million, there should be good reason for their continuing inclusion in the basket. For example, while spending on acoustic guitars and power drills is relatively low, both are included in the basket to represent wider markets (musical instruments and power tools respectively) that would otherwise not be covered explicitly. Trends in expenditure, as well as the latest available figures, help to inform the decisions in all cases.

⁷ Under HICP regulations, items should be included in the CPI where estimated consumers' expenditure is 1 part per thousand or more of all expenditure covered by the CPI; based on household final consumption data underpinning calculation of the 2006 CPI weights, this is equivalent to around £640 million.

This focus on relative expenditures in determining the contents of the basket partly reflects the wealth of data that is available describing household spending patterns. One major source of information comes from the diaries filled in by people taking part in the ONS Expenditure and Food Survey, a continuous survey of over 6000 households each year. This is supplemented by detailed analyses of trends presented by market research companies, trade journals and press reports. Changes in the retail environment are also provided by Research International (RI), a market research company who collect many of the prices on behalf of ONS. Together these various sources of information help to ensure the goods and services that the average household spends its money on are appropriately represented in the CPI and RPI baskets.

Finally, it is very important to note that the contents of the basket and, in particular changes from one year to the next, should not be deemed significant beyond their purpose as representative items used in estimating retail price changes. Changes to the basket will reflect evolving consumer tastes, but only over a long run of years. In any particular year, such changes will reflect a range of considerations such as practical experience in collecting prices, the desire to improve coverage in high spending areas, or analysis that suggests that estimated price changes could be improved at the margin by varying the number or type of representative items employed.

Within each product grouping there is usually a point at which the exact number, selection of items and the precise weights attached to them becomes a matter of relatively fine judgement. For example, a selection of specific household appliances has been chosen to represent spending on small electrical goods, including irons and kettles. However, other representations would clearly be possible and equally valid.

Changes to the basket in 2006

Changes to the basket of goods and services this year are introduced with the February 2006 consumer price indices published on 21 March; that is, monthly changes in prices from February 2006 to January 2007 inclusive are estimated with reference to the updated basket.

The motivation for changes to the basket for 2006, as in previous years, are diverse and certainly cannot be viewed as a simple indicator of those products or services whose popularity has either grown or fallen significantly over the past year.

All of the changes to the basket in 2006 affect both the CPI and RPI indices with the exception of the television licence fee. Following the recent reclassification of the television licence fee as a tax in the UK National Accounts, this item now falls outside the scope of the CPI and will no longer be included in its calculation from 2006 onwards.⁸ This reclassification does not have any implications for the RPI, which includes other taxes such as council tax and vehicle excise duty (VED).

⁸ The CPI does not cover current taxes on income and wealth, which are all compulsory, unrequited payments, in cash or in kind, levied periodically by general government and by the rest of the world on the income of institutional units, and some periodic taxes which are assessed neither on the income nor the wealth. Other current taxes include all those payments by households for licences regarded as taxes, which following reclassification in the UK National Accounts includes the television licence fee. Other such licences include those to own or use vehicles, boats or aircraft.

Further details of this National Accounts reclassification can be found in the article Kellaway, M and Shanks, H (2006) '*National Accounts Classifications: Public Sector Broadcasting*' which is available to download from the National Statistics website.

New additions to the basket and those items removed in 2006 are summarised below. A further, more detailed breakdown is provided in Tables 2 and 3, together with brief summary of the motivation for these changes.

- Analysis of the broad balance of the existing sample of representative items across the CPI highlighted a need to improve coverage of price changes for a number of CPI classes. These areas include:
 - Vehicle maintenance and repairs (07.2.3), with new items introduced to represent the services of fast-fit auto centres, supplementing the existing items for car maintenance and mechanical repairs;
 - Major durables for in/outdoor recreation (09.2.1/2), through the addition of water sports equipment;
 - Games, toys and hobbies (09.3.1), where the addition of child's swing and child's trike both broadens the range of toy items and represents the outdoor toy market not previously covered; and
 - Financial services (12.6), where fees for the transfer of money internationally enter the basket.
- Elsewhere, coverage of services is further improved via the introduction of new items for child care, specifically nanny fees and after school club charges.
- A number of new items are introduced to represent specific markets where consumer spending is significant, and existing items in the basket may not adequately represent price changes for such goods. These include: woodscrews (representing the market for fixings eg screws, nails and bolts), home office desk (to represent home office furniture in general), cold/flu drink powder, (to represent all cold and flu medication), and liquid foundation (to represent face make-up).
- In addition, three high technology goods are introduced to the basket this year; personal MP3 players, flat panel televisions and digital camcorders. Following a period of ONS research into the rate of turnover of the specific models available for purchase it was not considered necessary to use explicit quality adjustment techniques to account for changes in quality of these goods.
- As well as introducing items to represent distinct sectors or markets, a number of items have been introduced to diversify the range of products collected for already established items, usually where spending is significant. For example, chicken Kiev has been introduced to supplement the chicken nugget item introduced last year which represents the processed poultry market; mentholated cigarettes to complement the existing coverage of standard branded varieties; and wine purchased in boxes.
- In other cases, the new items are direct replacements for similar products that leave the basket in 2006. For example, frozen chicken breasts replace frozen chicken thighs, bottle of champagne for home consumption replaces sparkling wine, girl's trousers replaces girl's dress, and women's and men's formal coats have been replaced with more casual types, partly reflecting greater ease of price collection for the new items.

- Finally, it is important that the review of the basket considers not just the list of items to be priced, but also where the prices are collected. This is reflected in the introduction of a bottle of lager purchased in a nightclub and in store cafeteria meal for 2006. In both cases, the same (or similar) food/drink products are already included in the basket, but significant purchases through these specific retail channels have not previously been explicitly represented.

As noted earlier, it is important that growth in the overall size of the basket is limited each year so that production costs and processing times may be contained. A number of items therefore have been removed from the basket in 2006 to make room for the new additions. Note that the removal of these items from the basket does not necessarily imply that the market for these goods and services is either very small or declining significantly in recent years.

- Some items have been removed to make way for new additions to the basket within the same product grouping. For example, personal CD player has been replaced with the MP3 player although both products represent personal audio equipment. In other cases, the items have been removed so that new items may be introduced covering distinct markets not previously represented explicitly within the product grouping. For example, bedside cabinet is removed this year so that the market for home office furniture can be represented through a home office desk.
- In some cases a product will still remain represented in the basket even if the explicit item has been removed. For example, although the muesli item has been removed from the basket the remaining breakfast cereal item descriptions have been amended to allow this product to continue to be priced.
- Elsewhere, analysis suggested that there was scope to remove items from certain product groupings without any significant loss of precision in estimates of price changes overall. Within these groupings, those items with relatively low index weights or those items which are variants of other items have typically been chosen; examples include small brown loaf of bread, coleslaw, multipack of orange juice, dining room table, and child's car seat, all of which leave the basket in 2006 without replacements. In each case, it is judged that price changes for these goods remain adequately represented by those items that remain in the basket. The removal of items in such cases therefore represents a rebalancing of the basket, helping to offset the expansion of coverage in other product areas.

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Table 2: Additions to the basket in 2006

CPI Class	RPI Section	New Item	Notes
01.1.2 Meat	Poultry	Frozen chicken breasts	Replaces frozen chicken thighs due to some difficulties experienced in collecting prices at some locations.
	Other meat	Chicken Kiev	To improve coverage of the processed chicken market which was represented for the first time in 2005 with the introduction of chicken nuggets.
02.1.2 Wine	Wine and spirits 'off' sales	Bottle of champagne 70-75cl	To represent the market for champagne purchased for home consumption and other sparkling wine products more generally. Replace imported sparkling wine. Market research data indicates that expenditure on champagne dominates the entire sparkling wine market.
		Wine box – 3 litres	To improve coverage of wine products.
02.2 Tobacco	Cigarettes	20 Mentholated cigarettes	To represent a significant part of the cigarette market currently not represented.
03.1.2 Garments	Men's outerwear	Men's 3/4 length casual coat	Replacement for men's 3/4 length coat.
	Women's outerwear	Women's 3/4 length casual coat	Replacement for women's overcoat.
	Children's outerwear	Girl's trousers	Replaces girl's dress due to some difficulties collecting prices at certain locations.
04.3.1 Materials for maintenance and repair	Do-it-yourself materials	Woodscrews - steel/zinc plated	To represent the fixings market, improving coverage of spending on DIY materials.
05.1.1 Furniture and furnishings	Furniture	Home office desk	To represent home office furniture.
05.6.2 Domestic services and household services	Domestic services	Nanny fees	To improve coverage of domestic services more generally.
06.1.1 Pharmaceutical products	Chemists goods	Cold/flu drink powder, packet of 10 sachets	To represent the market for cold/flu medication, improving coverage of over the counter pharmaceutical products.
07.2.3 Vehicle maintenance and repairs	Maintenance of motor vehicles	Exhaust fitting in fast fit auto centre	To improve coverage of the vehicle maintenance market and represent an area of consumer spending not previously represented.
		Brake fitting in fast fit auto centre	To improve coverage of the vehicle maintenance market and represent an area of consumer spending not previously represented.

09.1.1 Reception and reproduction of sound and pictures	Audio-visual equipment	Personal MP3 player	Replaces personal CD player and will represent the personal audio market.
		Flat panel television	To represent a significant and growing technology market; previously represented by widescreen and portable CRT televisions.
09.1.2 Photographic, cinematographic and optical equipment	Toys, photographic and sports goods	Digital camcorder	To represent the camcorder market; replaces the analogue camcorder item removed from the 2005 basket due to difficulties in collection. Introduction was pending investigation of the turnover of digital models available for purchase.
09.1.4 Recording media	CDs and tapes	Music downloads	To represent an emerging market not covered by existing items.
09.2.1/2 Major durables for in/outdoor recreation	Toys, photographic and sports goods	Water sports equipment	To improve coverage of major items for recreational activities.
09.3.1 Games, toys and hobbies	Toys, photographic and sports goods	Child's swing	To represent the outdoor toy market and improve the coverage of this class more generally.
		Child's trike for under 5's	To improve coverage of children's toys.
11.1.1 Restaurants and cafes	Restaurant meals	In store cafeteria meal	To represent the market for food purchased within retail outlets; previously collecting prices from pubs, fast food establishments and restaurants only.
	Beer 'on' sales	Bottle of lager in nightclub	To represent alcoholic beverage sales in nightclubs; previously collecting alcoholic beverages in pubs, restaurants and wine bars only.
12.1.2/3 Appliances and products for personal care	Chemists goods	Liquid foundation	To represent a sector of the make-up market not currently represented.
12.4 Social protection	Domestic services	After school club charges	To improve coverage of this CPI class (weight of 12 parts per thousand).
12.6 Financial services	Fees and subscriptions	Fees for international money transfer	To improve coverage of this CPI class (weight of 29 parts per thousand).

Table 3: Items removed from the basket in 2006

(note: "low weighted" denotes an item with a CPI index weight of less than 0.5 parts per thousand in 2005)

CPI Class	RPI Section	Dropped Item	Notes
01.1.1 Breads and cereals	Bread	Small brown sliced loaf ¹	Very low weighted item within CPI class. Well represented by remaining items, with many bread items (including wholemeal) still included in the basket. Entered basket in 1989.
	Cereals	Muesli	Low weighted item within CPI class. Collection of this product will still continue under the breakfast cereal items that will remain in the basket. Entered basket in 1987.
	Biscuits and cakes	Chocolate coated biscuits	Low weighted item within CPI class. Plain biscuits and other chocolate coated products remain. Entered basket in 1962.
		Frozen cake / gateau	Very low weighted item within CPI class. Non frozen cake items remain in the basket. Entered basket in 1995.
01.1.2 Meat	Home-killed lamb	Home killed minced lamb	Very low weighted item within CPI class. Two home-killed and two imported items remain in the basket to represent the market for lamb. Entered basket in 2004.
	Poultry	Frozen roasting chicken, per kg ¹	Very low weighted item within CPI class. Well represented by remaining poultry items, including fresh/chilled roasting chicken. Entered basket in 1970's
		Frozen boneless chicken thighs, per kg	Replaced by frozen chicken breasts due to some difficulties experienced in collecting prices at some locations. Entered basket in 2003.
	Other meat	Salami, sliced	Class adequately represented by other cooked meat items in the basket e.g. ham and turkey. Entered basket in 1998.
01.1.4 Milk, cheese and eggs	Milk products	Flavoured milk	Low weighted item in CPI class. Entered basket in 1996.
01.1.9 Food products (not elsewhere classified)	Other foods	Coleslaw	Extremely low weighted item within CPI class. Class remains well represented overall and includes condiments, sauces, soups and ready meals. Entered basket in 1991.
01.2.1 Coffee, tea and cocoa	Coffee and other hot drinks	Hot milk drink	Low weighted item within CPI class. Class weight is adequately represented by dominant tea and coffee items. Cocoa based drinks included since 1956.

¹ Previously published as an average price.

01.2.2 Mineral waters, soft drinks and juices	Soft drinks	Multipack of pure orange juice	Very low weighted item within CPI class. Numerous fruit juice items remain in the basket including orange juice itself. Entered basket in 1994.
02.1.2 Wine	Wine and spirits 'off' sales	Imported sparkling wine, (75cl bottle)	Replaced by champagne. Market research data indicates that expenditure on champagne dominates the entire sparkling wine market. Entered basket in 2003.
02.2 Tobacco	Cigarettes	<i>Specific brand</i>	Dropped to accommodate menthol cigarettes. Group well represented by remaining cigarette brands.
03.1.2 Garments	Men's outerwear	Long/short sleeved men's casual shirt	Men's clothing adequately represented by remaining items in the basket. A number of shirt items remain including long and short sleeve. Entered basket in 2000.
		Men's 3/4 length coat	Replaced with Men's 3/4 length casual coat.
	Women's outerwear	Women's overcoat	Replaced with Women's 3/4 length casual coat
	Children's outerwear	Girl's dress	Replaced with girl's trousers. Item has become difficult to collect at some locations. Girl's dresses entered basket in 1947.
03.1.3 Other clothing and clothing accessories	Other clothing	Baseball cap	Low weighted item; small class weight adequately represented by remaining items. Entered basket in 2001.
03.2 Footwear including repairs	Footwear	Adult's slippers	Very low weighted item within CPI class. Entered basket in 1947.
		Child's sandals	Very low weighted item in an over-represented class. Sandals will continue to be represented by women's sandals item. Entered basket in 1947.
05.1.1 Furniture and furnishings	Furniture	Bedside cabinet	Removed from basket so that home office desk can be introduced to this class. Spending on bedroom furniture adequately represented by other items including wardrobe and chest of drawers. Entered basket in 1987.
		Dining room table	Low weighted item within CPI class. Other dining room furniture remains in basket including a dining room table and chairs set. Entered basket in 1997.
05.5 Tools and equipment for house and garden	Gardening products	Grass/edge strimmer	Low weighted item in CPI class. Garden equipment eg lawn mower still remains represented within the basket. Entered basket in 2001.
05.6.1 Non-durable household goods	Household consumables	Dishcloths	Low weighted item in CPI class. Other cleaning articles remain represented in the basket. Entered basket in 2002.
06.1.2/3 Other medical and therapeutic equipment	Chemists goods	Contact lens solution	Low weighted item within CPI class. Additionally, the item had become difficult to collect at some outlets. Spectacles and contact lenses remain well represented in the basket. Entered basket in 1994.

09.1.1 Reception and reproduction of sound and pictures	Audio-visual equipment	Personal CD player	Replaced by personal MP3 player. Entered basket in 1998.
09.3.4/5 Pets, related products and services	Pet care	Flea drops	Very low weighted item within CPI class. Pet medication remains well represented by other items in the basket including veterinary fees and booster injections. Entered basket in 2002.
09.4.2 Cultural services	Television licences and rentals	Television licence fee <i>(Removed from the CPI only)</i>	Following the reclassification of the television licence fee as a tax in the National Accounts, this item falls outside the scope of the CPI and as such will no longer be included in its calculation from 2006 onwards. This reclassification does not have any implications for the RPI.
12.3.2 Other personal effects	Maintenance of motor vehicles	Child's car seat	Very low weighted item within CPI class. Entered basket in 1994.

ANNEX A: CONSUMER PRICES INDEX: REPRESENTATIVE ITEMS IN 2006

01.1 Food

01.1.1 Bread and cereals

Large white loaves - sliced and unsliced	
Large wholemeal loaf	Bread rolls
Pitta bread	Flour
Rice	Pasta
Breakfast cereals	Plain biscuits
Chocolate coated wafers	Doughnuts
Corn based snacks	Crackers
Sponge cakes	Frozen pizzas
Pack of individually wrapped cakes	Fruit pies
Dehydrated noodles / pasta	

01.1.2 Meat

Beef

Rump steak	Braising steak
Mince	Topside
Frozen burgers	

Lamb

Loin chops - home and imported	Shoulder
Leg	

Pork

Loin chops	Shoulder
Bacon gammon	Bacon back

Chicken

Fresh / chilled whole chicken	Frozen chicken breasts
Fresh chicken breasts	

Other Meats

Pork sausages	Meat pies
Cooked meats – eg ham	Fresh turkey steaks
Canned meats – eg stewing steak	Frozen chicken nuggets
Chicken Kiev	

01.1.3 Fish

White fish fillets	Salmon fillets
Canned tuna	Fish fingers
Frozen prawns	

01.1.4 Milk, cheese and eggs

Full-fat, semi-skimmed and skimmed milk – shop-bought and delivered	Chilled pot dessert
Fresh cream	Fromage frais
Yoghurt	Other regional cheeses
Cheddar – home-produced and imported	Cheese spread
Selected speciality cheeses	
Various sized eggs	

01.1.5 Oils and fats

Margarine / low fat spread	Cooking oil
Home-produced and imported butter	

01.1.6 Fruit

Cooking apples	Dessert apples
Pears	Bananas
Strawberries	Grapes
Oranges	Grapefruit
Avocado pears	Peaches
Kiwi fruit	Organic fruit
Various canned fruits	Roasted/salted peanuts

- 01.1.7 Vegetables including potatoes and tubers
 - White loose and pre-packed potatoes - old and new varieties
 - Crisps – single and multi-packs
 - Frozen chips
 - Cabbages
 - Carrots
 - Onions
 - Cucumbers
 - Organic vegetables
 - Canned tomatoes
 - Canned sweet corn
 - Vegetarian burger/grills
 - Vegetable pickles
 - Other potato-based snacks
 - Fresh tomatoes
 - Cauliflower
 - Sprouts
 - Mushrooms
 - Lettuce
 - Pre-packed salads and vegetables
 - Canned baked beans
 - Frozen peas
 - Vegetarian meals
- 01.1.8 Sugar, jam, syrups, chocolate and confectionery
 - Sugar
 - Ice cream – bars and tubs
 - Various selected popular brands of sweets, chocolates and mints
 - Various jams
 - Gum – chewing and bubble
- 01.1.9 Food products (not elsewhere classified)
 - Canned soup
 - Cooking sauces
 - Table sauces – eg tomato sauce, mayonnaise
 - Ready cooked meals
 - Baby food

1.2 Non - alcoholic beverages

- 01.2.1 Coffee, tea and cocoa
 - Tea bags
 - Instant coffee
 - Ground coffee
- 01.2.2 Mineral waters, soft Drinks and juices
 - Various pure fruit juices
 - Mineral water
 - Energy and stimulant drinks
 - Squashes
 - Various fizzy drinks – cans and bottles

02.1 Alcoholic beverages (Off Sales)

- 02.1.1 Spirits
 - Whisky
 - Brandy
 - Vodka
 - Spirit based drinks
- 02.1.2 Wine
 - Bottled white wine
 - Champagne
 - Bottled cider
 - Bottled red wine
 - Wine purchased in boxes
 - Fortified wine
- 02.1.3 Beer
 - Canned lager
 - Bottled lager
 - Canned draught flow bitter

02.2 Tobacco

- Selected brand cigarettes
- Mentholated cigarettes
- Cigars
- Vending machine cigarettes
- Hand rolling tobacco

03.1 Clothing

- 03.1.2 Garments
 - Mens' clothing
 - Suits
 - Trousers - formal, casual
 - Fleece
 - Jumpers/sweatshirts
 - Tracksuit bottoms
 - Shorts
 - Underwear
 - Branded sports sweatshirt
 - Casual coats
 - Casual jacket
 - Jeans
 - Various shirts
 - T-shirts
 - Replica football team shirts
 - Socks

- Womens' clothing
 - Blouses
 - Dresses
 - Jeans
 - Tops – sports, fashion
 - Cardigans
 - Casual coats
 - Rainwear
 - Underwear
 - Nightwear
- Childrens' clothing
 - School wear – trousers, skirts
 - Jeans
 - Jumpers / sweatshirts
 - Underwear
 - Pyjamas
- 03.1.3 Other clothing and clothing accessories
 - Mens' ties
 - Knitting wool
- 03.1.4 Cleaning, repair and hire of clothing
 - Dry cleaning charges

- Skirts – formal, casual
- Trousers – formal, casual
- T Shirt
- Shorts
- Jackets – formal, casual
- Jumpers
- Swimwear
- Tights

- Tops – sports and fashion
- Jackets
- Trousers
- Socks
- Babygro / sleepsuit

- Ladies scarves

03.2 Footwear including repairs

- Shoes – formal, school, casual and fashion
- Boots – formal, fashion and outdoor/adventure
- Training shoes – sportswear and casual
- Sandals
- Wellington boots

04.1 Actual rents for housing

- Private furnished rent
- Local authority rent
- UK holiday accommodation (self-catered)
- Private unfurnished rent
- Registered social landlord (RSL) rent

04.3 Regular maintenance and repair of the dwelling

- 04.3.1 Materials for maintenance and repair
 - Ready mixed filler
 - Wallpaper paste
 - Varnish
 - Taps
 - Hardboard
 - Woodscrews
- 04.3.2 Services for maintenance and repair
 - Fees charged by plumbers, electricians, carpenters and decorators
 - Hire of domestic equipment – eg steam wallpaper stripper
 - Gas service charges

- Wallpaper
- Paint - gloss, emulsion
- Paintbrush
- Ceramic tiles
- Softwood

04.4 Water supply and misc. services for the dwelling

- 04.4.1 Water supply
 - Average water charges
- 04.4.3 Sewerage collection
 - Average sewerage and environmental charges

04.5 Electricity, gas and other Fuels

- 04.5.1 Electricity
 - Average of the electricity companies' tariffs
- 04.5.2 Gas
 - Average of the gas companies' tariffs
 - Butane gas
- 04.5.3 Liquid fuels
 - Kerosene

04.5.4 Solid fuels

Coal

Smokeless fuel

05.1 Furniture, furnishings and carpets

05.1.1 Furniture and furnishings

Dining room furniture – eg table, chairs

Bedroom furniture – eg wardrobe, beds, wall hanging mirror

Living room furniture – eg armchair, sofa bed, leather settee, bookcase, table lamp

Kitchen furniture – eg kitchen units

Office furniture – eg home office desk

Outdoor furniture – eg wooden patio set

05.1.2 Carpets and other floor coverings

Selected carpets

Laminate flooring

Rug

05.2 Household textiles

Curtains

Fabric roller blind

Duvet

Duvet cover

Bed sheet

Towels

05.3 Household appliances, fitting and repairs

05.3.1/2 Major appliances and small electrical goods

Cooker – electric and gas

Microwave oven

Fridge / freezer

Vacuum cleaner

Dishwasher

Gas Fire

Washing machine

Selected small appliances - eg iron, kettle, fan heater

05.3.3 Repair of household appliances

Electrical service charges

Electrical equipment repair charges - eg washing machine

05.4 Glassware, tableware and household utensils

Kitchen equipment – eg ovenware, pans, scissors, plastic food container

Tableware – eg crockery set, cutlery set

Glassware – eg tumbler

Flower vase

05.5 Tools and equipment for house and garden

Batteries

Light bulbs

Lawn mowers

Ladders

Other gardening equipment – eg spade

Power points

Power tools – eg hammer drill

Other tools – eg screwdriver

Door handles

05.6 Goods and services for routine maintenance

05.6.1 Non-durable household goods

Washing powder

Washing-up liquid

Dishwasher tablets

Aluminium foil

Bin liners

Household cleaner

Bleach

Kitchen roll

Fabric conditioner

05.6.2 Domestic services and household services

Domestic help fees

Window cleaning charges

Gardeners' fees

Nanny fees

06.1 Medical products, appliances and equipment

06.1.1 Pharmaceutical products

NHS prescription charges

Multi-vitamin tablets

Selected medicines – eg indigestion tablets, pain killer tablets, packets of cold/flu drink powder

06.1.2/3 Other medical and therapeutic equipment

Condoms

Plasters

Spectacle frames

Prescription lenses

Contact lenses

06.2 Out-patient services

06.2.1/3 Medical services and paramedical services

Eye test charges

Non NHS medical services – eg physiotherapy, chiropractic medicine

06.2.2 Dental services

NHS dental charges

Private dental exam

06.3 Hospital services

Hospital charges, including private surgery fees

Nursing home charges

07.1 Purchase of vehicles

07.1.1a New cars

New cars

07.1.1b Second-hand cars

Second-hand cars

07.1.2/3 Motorcycles and bicycles

Motorcycles

Bicycles

07.2 Operation of personal transport equipment

07.2.1 Spare parts and accessories

Selected spare parts and accessories - eg wiper blades, batteries, tyres

Car steering lock

07.2.2 Fuels and lubricants

Ultra low sulphur petrol

Ultra low sulphur diesel

Motor oil

07.2.3 Maintenance and repairs

Vehicle service

Labour charge for vehicle repairs

Automatic car wash charges

Roadside recovery services

Fast fit auto centre charges

07.2.4 Other services

MOT test fee

Car park charges

Driving lesson fee

Driving test fee

Road tolls

Self-drive car and van hire charges

07.3 Transport Services

07.3.1 Passenger transport by railway

British rail fares

London transport fares

Northern Ireland rail fares

Cross channel rail fares

Other underground and metro fares

07.3.2 Passenger transport by road

Bus fares

Minicab fares

Coach fares

Taxi fares

Home removal charges

07.3.3 Passenger transport by air

Air fares

07.3.4 Passenger transport by sea and inland waterway

Various ferry and sea fares

08.1 Postal services

Postal charges

08.2/3 Telephone and telefax equipment and services

Cordless telephone handsets

Mobile phone handsets

Internet subscription charges

Cost of directory enquiries

British Telecom charges – line rental and call charges

Cable supplier's telephone charges – line rental and call charges

Mobile phone charges – PAYG and contract tariff charges

09.1 Audio-visual equipment and related products

- 09.1.1 Reception and reproduction of sound and pictures
 - Colour televisions - including widescreen, portable and flat panel sets
 - Video recorder
 - DVD player
 - Portable CD/radio cassette player
 - Car CD/radio
 - Audio systems
 - Personal MP3 player
- 09.1.2 Photographic, cinematographic and optical equipment
 - Digital cameras
 - Digital camcorders
 - Other cameras – including disposable
- 09.1.3 Data processing equipment
 - PCs – desktop and laptop
 - PC peripherals
- 09.1.4 Recording media
 - Pre-recorded CDs, including CDs purchased over the Internet
 - Pre-recorded and blank video cassettes
 - Pre-recorded DVDs, including DVDs purchased over the Internet
 - Recordable CDs
 - Camera film
 - Selected CD-ROMs
 - Music downloads
- 09.1.5 Repair of audio-visual equipment and related products
 - Charge various electrical equipment repairs - eg TV, PC

09.2 Other major durables for recreation and culture

- 09.2.1/2 Major durables for in/outdoor Recreation
 - Caravans
 - Acoustic guitar
 - Water sports equipment – eg windsurfing equipment
 - Boats

09.3 Other recreational items, gardens and pets

- 09.3.1 Games, toys and hobbies
 - Various toys, including some toys purchased over the Internet – eg soft toys, construction toys, activity toys, dolls
 - Child's swing
 - Computer game consoles
 - Board games
 - Child's trike
 - Computer games
- 09.3.2 Equipment for sport and open-air recreation
 - Sports equipment - eg golf balls, football, fishing rod, football boots
 - Camping equipment - eg sleeping bag
 - Barbecue (gas)
- 09.3.3 Gardens, plants and flowers
 - Selected varieties of plants, bushes, cut flowers, seeds
 - Compost
 - Garden sundries – eg large decorative outdoor plant pot
- 09.3.4/5 Pets, related products and services
 - Cat and dog food – moist and dry
 - Small pet – eg hamster
 - Veterinary fees
 - Dog kennel boarding fees
 - Animal cage
 - Annual booster injection

09.4 Recreational and cultural services

- 09.4.1 Recreational and sporting services
 - Squash court hire
 - Night-club admission
 - Charges for Exercise classes
 - Golf green fees
 - Evening classes
 - Admission to football matches, swimming pools, leisure centres, leisure parks and other attractions
 - Slimming club fees
 - Private health club / gym membership
 - Ten-Pin bowling session
 - Horsereading admissions
- 09.4.2 Cultural services
 - Film processing
 - Cable TV subscriptions
 - Rentals for various types of TV
 - Rentals for DVD and video cassette recorders
 - Digital TV installation fees
 - Digital TV subscriptions
 - Rentals for video / DVD films

Admission to cinemas, theatres, dancing, live music, historic monuments, museums and other attractions

09.5 Books, newspapers and stationery

09.5.1 Books

Adult and childrens' fiction and non-fiction paperback and hardback books – including some books purchased over the Internet

09.5.2 Newspapers and periodicals

National daily newspapers

Sunday newspapers

Provincial newspapers

Periodicals

09.5.3/4 Misc. printed matter, stationery, drawing Materials

Ball point pens

Envelopes

Wrapping paper

Greeting cards

Printer paper

Inkjet cartridge

Clear sticky tape

09.6 Package holidays

Package holidays covering a range of foreign destinations, accommodation and holiday types, including late-booked holidays

Package holidays covering a range of UK destinations, accommodation and holiday types

10.0 Education

Private School Fees

Evening Classes

University tuition fees - international students

University tuition fees - UK students

11.1 Catering services

11.1.1 Restaurants and cafes

Restaurants

Restaurant main course

Restaurant sweet course

Restaurant cup of coffee

Pub hot meals

Pub cold snack

Burgers in bun – eat in

In store cafeteria meal

Take-Away and Snacks

Fish and chips

Pasties/savoury pies

Burgers in bun - takeaway

Kebabs

Sandwiches

Coffee

Tea

Caffe latte

Ethnic take-away

Pizza delivery / takeaway

Soft drinks

Crisps

Cinema popcorn

Beer 'On' Sales

Draught bitter

Draught lager

Draught stout

Draught cider

Bottled lager

Bottled cider

Wines and Spirits 'On' Sales

Whisky

Vodka

Wine

Champagne

Liqueurs

Spirit based drink

Mixer

Soft drinks

Fizzy drinks

Fruit juice

Bottled mineral water

Catering

Cost of catering for a function

11.1.2 Canteens

Staff restaurant main course

Staff restaurant dessert / pudding

Staff restaurant hot snack

Staff restaurant sandwich

Staff restaurant soft drink

Prices for school meals

11.2 Accommodation services

Youth Hostel Association charges

University halls of residence fees

Other accommodation services

12.1 Personal care

12.1.1 Hairdressing and personal grooming establishments

Hairdressing fees Full leg wax
Basic manicure

12.1.2/3 Appliances and products for personal care

Hair dryer Electric razor
Toilet roll Tissues
Disposable nappies Tampons
Various cosmetics – eg lipstick, face cream, perfume, mascara, liquid foundation
Toiletries – eg toilet soap, toothpaste, deodorant, shower gel, shampoo, hair gel,
permanent hair colourant, razor cartridge blades, sunscreen cream / lotion

12.3 Personal effects (not elsewhere classified)

12.3.1 Jewellery, clocks and watches

Watch Charge for watch repairs
Various items of personal jewellery

12.3.2 Other personal effects

Umbrellas Handbags
Luggage – trolley case Picture / photo frame
Sunglasses Pushchairs

12.4 Social Protection

Residential home fees In home care assistant fees
Child minder fees Nursery fees
Playgroup fees After school club charges
Local authority supported residents in retirement homes

12.5 Insurance

12.5.2 House contents insurance

Home contents insurance premiums

12.5.3 Health insurance

Dental insurance Pet insurance
Subscriptions to private medical plans

12.5.4 Transport insurance

Vehicle insurance premiums
Foreign holidays insurance premiums

12.6 Financial services (not elsewhere classified)

12.6.2 Other financial services (not elsewhere classified)

Foreign exchange commission Various bank charges – eg overdraft fees
Unit trust fees and commissions Stockbrokers' fees
Money transfer fees

12.7 Other services (not elsewhere classified)

Charges for advertisements in newspapers - local and national
Solicitors' fees – including will drafting fee Surveyors' fee for house valuation
Fee for birth and death certificates Marriage licences
Passport fees Cost of basic funeral / cremation
Delivered flowers Home delivery charges
Self-storage fees

ANNEX B: RETAIL PRICES INDEX (RPI): REPRESENTATIVE ITEMS IN 2006

Food

Bread	
Large white loaves - sliced and unsliced	Pitta bread
Large wholemeal loaf	Bread rolls
Cereals	
Flour	Rice
Pasta	Breakfast cereals
Corn based snacks	
Biscuits and cakes	
Plain biscuits	Crackers
Sponge cakes	Doughnuts
Pack of individually wrapped cakes	Fruit pies
Chocolate coated wafers	
Beef	
Rump steak	Braising steak
Mince	Topside
Frozen burgers	
Home-killed lamb	
Loin chops	Shoulder
Imported lamb	
Loin chops	Leg
Pork	
Loin chops	Shoulder
Bacon	
Gammon	Back
Poultry	
Fresh / chilled whole chicken	Fresh turkey steaks
Fresh chicken breasts	Frozen chicken breasts
Other meat	
Pork sausages	Cooked meats – eg ham
Meat pies	Canned meats – eg stewing steak
Frozen chicken nuggets	Chicken Kiev
Fresh fish	
White fish fillets	Salmon fillets
Frozen prawns	
Processed fish	
Canned tuna	Fish fingers
Butter	
Home-produced and imported butter	
Oils and fats	
Margarine / low fat spread	Cooking oil
Cheese	
Cheddar - home-produced and imported	Other regional cheeses
Selected speciality cheeses	Cheese spread
Eggs	
Various sized eggs	
Milk, fresh	
Full-fat, semi-skimmed and skimmed milk - shop-bought and delivered	
Milk products	
Fresh cream	Chilled pot dessert
Yoghurt	Fromage frais
Tea	
Tea bags	
Coffee and other hot drinks	
Ground coffee	Instant coffee
Soft drinks	
Various pure fruit juices	Squashes
Mineral water	Various fizzy drinks – cans and bottles
Energy and stimulant drinks	
Sugar and preserves	
Sugar	Various jams

Sweets and Chocolates	
Gum – chewing and bubble	
Various selected popular brands of sweets, chocolates and mints	
Unprocessed potatoes	
White loose and pre-packed potatoes – old and new varieties	
Potato products	
Crisps - single and multi-packs	Frozen chips
Fresh vegetables	
Fresh tomatoes	Cabbages
Cauliflower	Carrots
Sprouts	Onions
Mushrooms	Cucumbers
Lettuce	Organic vegetables
Pre-packed salads and vegetables	
Processed vegetables	
Canned tomatoes	Canned baked beans
Canned sweet corn	Frozen peas
Fresh fruit	
Cooking apples	Dessert apples
Pears	Bananas
Strawberries	Grapes
Oranges	Grapefruit
Avocado pears	Peaches
Kiwi fruit	Organic fruit
Processed fruit	
Various canned fruits	Roasted / salted peanuts
Other foods	
Canned soup	Vegetable pickles
Baby food	Ice cream – bars and tubs
Cooking sauces	
Table sauces – eg tomato sauce, mayonnaise	
Ready cooked meals	
Other convenience foods – eg frozen pizza, dehydrated noodles / pasta, vegetarian burger / grills	

Catering

Restaurant meals	
Restaurant main course	Restaurant sweet course
Restaurant cup of coffee	Pub hot meals
Pub cold snack	Burgers in bun
In store cafeteria meal	Fizzy drinks
Fruit juice	Bottled mineral water
Canteen meals	
Staff restaurant main course	Staff restaurant dessert / pudding
Staff restaurant hot snack	Staff restaurant sandwich
Staff restaurant soft drink	Prices for school meals
Take-aways and snacks	
Fish and chips	Pasties /Savoury pies
Burgers in bun	Kebabs
Sandwiches	Coffee
Tea	Caffe latte
Ethnic take-away	Pizza delivery / takeaway
Soft drinks	Crisps
Cinema popcorn	

Alcoholic drink

Beer 'on' sales	
Draught bitter	Draught lager
Draught stout	Draught cider
Bottled lager	Bottled cider
Beer 'off' sales	
Canned lager	Canned draught flow bitter
Bottled cider	Bottled lager
Wines and spirits 'on' sales	
Whisky	Vodka
Wine	Champagne
Liqueurs	Spirit based drinks
Mixers	
Wines and spirits 'off' sales	
Whisky	Vodka
Brandy	Bottled white wine
Bottled red wine	Champagne
Wine purchases in boxes	Fortified wine
Spirit based drinks	

Tobacco

Cigarettes	
Selected brands	Vending machine cigarettes
Mentholated	
Other tobacco	
Cigars	Hand rolling tobacco

Housing

Rent	
Private furnished rent	Private unfurnished rent
Local authority rent	Registered Social Landlord (RSL) rent
Mortgage interest payments	
Average interest payments on a typical repayment mortgage (estimated/modelled)	
Depreciation	
Depreciation costs proxy (price index for houses purchased with a mortgage)	
Council tax and rates	
Average council tax bills for households in Great Britain	
Average rates bills in Northern Ireland	
Water and other charges	
Average water charges	
Average sewerage and environmental charges	
Repairs and maintenance charges	
Fees charged by plumbers, electricians, carpenters and decorators	
Gas service charges	
Do-it-yourself materials	
Ready mixed filler	Wallpaper
Wallpaper paste	Paint - gloss, emulsion
Varnish	Paintbrush
Power tools - eg hammer drill	Ladders
Other tools - eg screwdriver	Taps
Power points	Door handles
Ceramic tiles	Woodscrews
Hardboard	Softwood
Hire of domestic equipment - eg steam wallpaper stripper	
Dwelling insurance and ground rent	
Dwelling insurance premiums	
Ground rent proxy (price index for houses purchased with a mortgage)	

Fuel and light

Coal and solid fuels	
Coal	Smokeless fuel
Electricity	
Average of the electricity companies' tariffs	

Gas	Average of the gas companies' tariffs
Oil and other fuels	
Butane gas	Kerosene

Household goods

Furniture	
Dining room furniture – eg table, chairs	
Bedroom furniture – eg wardrobe, beds	
Living room furniture – eg armchair, sofa bed, leather settee, bookcase, table lamp	
Kitchen furniture – eg kitchen units	
Office furniture – eg home office desk	
Outdoor furniture – eg wooden patio set	
Furnishings	
Selected carpets	Laminate flooring
Rugs	Curtains
Fabric roller blind	Duvet
Duvet cover	Bed sheet
Towels	
Electrical appliances	
Cooker – electric	Washing machine
Fridge / freezer	Microwave oven
Dishwasher	Vacuum cleaner
Cordless telephone handsets	Mobile phone handsets
Electric shower	
Selected small appliances – eg iron, kettle, fan heater	
Personal appliances – eg hair dryer, electric razor	
Other household equipment	
Cooker - gas	Gas fire
Kitchen equipment - eg ovenware, pans, scissors, plastic food container	
Tableware - eg crockery set, cutlery set	
Glassware - eg tumbler	
Household consumables	
Washing powder	Washing-up liquid
Dishwasher tablets	Light bulbs
Aluminium foil	Toilet rolls
Kitchen rolls	Fabric conditioner
Bin liners	Household cleaner
Bleach	Wrapping paper
Ball point pens	Greeting cards
Envelopes	Inkjet cartridges
Printer paper	Batteries
Clear sticky tape	
Pet care	
Cat and dog food – moist and dry	
Small pet – eg hamster	Animal cage
Veterinary fees	Annual booster injection
Dog kennel boarding fees	

Household services

Postage	
Charges for letters, parcels, postal orders	
Telephones, telemessages, etc	
British Telecom charges – line rental and call charges	
Cable supplier charges – line rental and call charges	
Mobile phone charges – PAYG and contract tariff charges	
Internet subscription charges	Cost of directory enquiries
Domestic services	
Domestic help fees	In home care assistant fees
Child minder fees	Nanny fees
Playgroup fees	After school club charges
Gardeners' fees	Window cleaning charges
Dry cleaning charges	Driving lesson fee

Home delivery charges	Home removal charges
Self-storage fees	
Electrical equipment repair charges - eg washing machine, TV, PC	
Electrical service charges	
Cost of catering for a function	Charge for watch repairs
Fees and subscriptions	
Trade unions and professional organisations subscriptions	
Estate agents' fees	
House conveyancing fees	Surveyors' fee for house valuation
Charge for home buyers' survey	Home contents' insurance premiums
Fee for birth and death certificates	Marriage licences
Passport fees	Various bank fees – eg overdraft charges
Money transfer fees	Foreign exchange commission
Driving test fee	Private school fees
Evening classes	Solicitors' fees – including will drafting
University tuition fees - UK students	Cost of basic funeral / cremation
Pet insurance	Nursery fees
Charges for advertisements in newspapers - local, national	

Clothing and footwear

Men's outerwear	
Suits	Casual coats
Trousers - formal, casual	Casual jacket
Fleece	Jeans
Jumper / sweatshirts	Various shirts
Tracksuit bottoms	T-shirts
Shorts	Replica football team shirt
Branded sports sweatshirt	
Women's outerwear	
Blouses	Skirts - formal, casual
Dresses	Trousers - formal, casual
Jeans	T-shirts
Tops - sports, fashion	Shorts
Cardigans	Jackets - formal, casual
Casual coats	Jumper
Rainwear	Swimwear
Children's outerwear	
School wear – trousers, skirts	Tops – sports, fashion
Jeans	Jackets
Jumpers / sweatshirts	Trousers
Babygro / sleepsuit	
Other clothing	
Underwear	Socks
Tights	Nightwear – eg nightdress / pyjamas
Mens' tie	Ladies scarf
Knitting wool	
Footwear	
Shoes – formal, school, casual and fashion	
Boots – formal, fashion and outdoor/adventure	
Training shoes – sportswear and casual	
Sandals	
Wellington boots	

Personal goods and services

Personal articles	
Umbrella	Handbag
Watch	Spectacle frames
Prescription lenses	Contact lenses
Luggage – trolley case	Flower vase
Picture / photo frame	Wall hanging mirror
Sunglasses	Various items of jewellery

Chemists goods

NHS prescription charges	Multi-vitamins tablets
Condoms	Tampons
Disposable nappies	Tissues
Plasters	
Selected medicines - eg indigestion tablets, pain killer tablets, packets of cold/flu drink powder	
Toiletries - eg toilet soap, toothpaste, deodorant, shower gel, shampoo, hair gel, permanent hair colourant, razor cartridge blades, sunscreen cream / lotion	
Various cosmetics - eg lipstick, face cream, perfume, mascara, liquid foundation	

Personal services

Hairdressing charges	Full leg wax
Basic manicure	Eye test charge
Subscriptions to private medical plans	Private surgery fees
Residential home fees	Nursing home fees
NHS dental charges	Dental insurance
Private dental exam	Slimming club fees
Delivered flowers	
Non NHS medical services – eg physiotherapy, chiropractic medicine	

Motoring expenditure

Purchase of motor vehicles	
Second hand cars	Proxy for new cars
Motorcycles	Caravans
Maintenance of motor vehicles	
Vehicle service	MOT test fee
Roadside recovery services	Car steering lock
Automatic car wash	Fast fit auto centre charges
Labour charge for vehicle repairs	
Selected spare parts and accessories - eg wiper blade, batteries, tyres	
Petrol and oil	
Ultra low sulphur petrol	Ultra low sulphur diesel
Motor oil	
Vehicle tax and insurance	
Vehicle excise duty	Vehicle insurance premiums

Fares and other travel costs

Rail fares	
British rail fares	London Transport fares
Northern Ireland rail fares	Other underground and metro charges
Cross channel rail fares	
Bus and coach fares	
Fares charged by principal bus and coach operators	
Other travel costs	
Taxi fares	Minicab fares
Self-drive car and van hire charges	Various ferry and sea fares
Air fares	Road tolls
Other means of transport - eg bicycles, boats	Car park charges

Leisure goods

Audio-visual equipment	
Colour televisions - including widescreen, portable and flat panel sets	
Video recorder	
Portable CD/radio cassette player	Personal MP3 player
Audio systems	DVD player
Car CD/radio	PCs – desktop and laptop
PC peripherals	
CDs and tapes	
Pre-recorded and blank video cassettes	
Pre-recorded DVDs, including DVDs purchased over the Internet	
Pre-recorded CDs, including CDs purchased over the Internet	
Recordable CDs	Selected CD-ROMs
Music downloads	

Toys, photographic and sports goods

Various toys, including some toys purchased over the Internet – eg soft toys, construction toys, activity toys, dolls

Board games

Computer game consoles

Computer games

Digital camera

Digital camcorders

Other cameras - including disposable

Camera film

Film processing

Acoustic guitar

Child's swing

Child's trike

Barbecue (gas)

Camping equipment – eg sleeping bag

Sports equipment – eg golf balls, squash racquet, football, fishing rod, football boots

Water sports equipment – eg windsurfing equipment

Books and newspapers

Adult and childrens' fiction and non-fiction paperback and hardback books – including some books purchased over the Internet

National daily newspapers

Sunday newspapers

Provincial newspapers

Periodicals

Gardening products

Compost

Lawnmowers

Selected varieties of plants, bushes, cut flowers, seeds

Garden sundries - eg large decorative outdoor plant pot

Other garden equipment – eg garden spade

Leisure Services

Television licences and rentals

Television licence fees

Rentals for various types of TV

Rentals for DVD and video cassette recorder

Rentals for video / DVD films

Digital TV subscriptions

Digital TV installation fees

Cable TV subscriptions

Entertainment and other recreation

Squash court hire

Evening classes

Night-club entry

Private health club / gym membership

Charges for exercise classes

Ten-pin bowling session

Golf green fees

Horse racing admissions

Admission to football matches, swimming pools, leisure centres, leisure parks and other attractions

Admission to cinemas, theatres, live music, historic monuments, museums, leisure parks and other attractions

Foreign holidays

Package holidays covering a range of foreign destinations, accommodation and holiday types, including late-booked holidays

Foreign holiday insurance premiums

UK holidays

Package holidays covering a range of UK destinations, accommodation and holiday types

Youth Hostel Association charges