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**Coverage**  
United Kingdom

**Theme**  
The Economy



## CPI down to 2.2 per cent as food inflation slows

Consumer Prices Index (CPI) annual inflation – the Government's target measure – fell to 2.2 per cent in May, down from 2.3 per cent in April.

Annual inflation measured by the Retail Prices Index (RPI) - which includes housing costs such as mortgage interest payments and council tax – was -1.1 per cent in May, compared with -1.2 per cent in April.

The largest downward pressure on CPI inflation came from food and non-alcoholic beverages, in part due to meat prices rising by less than a year ago.

Housing and household services also contributed to the decline, mainly due to electricity bills, where tariffs fell this year.

The largest upward pressure on the CPI came from alcoholic beverages and tobacco, reflecting the increase in excise duty in this year's budget. Last year this effect was seen in April.

Further upward pressures came from recreation and culture, including an effect from recording media such as pre-recorded DVDs where prices rose this year but fell a year ago.

The main factors affecting the CPI also affected the RPI, although the RPI also experienced an upward pressure from housing where the largest effect came from mortgage interest payments.

RPIX inflation – the all-items RPI excluding mortgage interest payments – was 1.6 per cent in May, down from 1.7 per cent in April.

The CPI/RPI figures for June are published on 14 July 2009.

**Issued by**

Office for National Statistics  
Government Buildings  
Cardiff Road  
Newport  
NP10 8XG

**Contacts**

Media Relations 0845 604 1858  
On-call 07867 906 553

[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

## BACKGROUND NOTES

1. More details of these figures are found in the Consumer Price Indices statistical bulletin published today at:  
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/cpi0609.pdf>
2. Both the CPI and the RPI are compiled each month using the same underlying price data, based on a large and representative selection of more than 650 separate goods and services for which price movements are measured in around 150 areas throughout the UK. Around 120,000 separate price quotations are used each month to compile the indices. For further information please go to the ONS website at:  
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/about/newsroom/statements/measuring-the-cost-of-living.html>
3. The Government's target for the inflation rate is 2.0 per cent – based on the CPI measure.
4. ONS has a personal inflation calculator on its website as a guide for the public to measure their own inflation. For further details go to: <http://www.ons.gov.uk>
5. **National Statistics** are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference. © Crown copyright 2009.