

## FEATURE

Damon Wingfield  
Office for National Statistics

# CPI and RPI: the 2007 basket of goods and services

## SUMMARY

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 2007 are summarised in Annexes A and B of the full article, which can be downloaded from the National Statistics website at [www.statistics.gov.uk/articles/nojournal/CPI&RPI\\_basket\\_2007.pdf](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/articles/nojournal/CPI&RPI_basket_2007.pdf)

The main changes from the 2006 price collection are discussed below. Similar articles have been published in previous years. Unlike previous articles, this one also looks at the evolution of expenditure weights since the last RPI rebasing in 1987.

The most useful way to think about both the consumer prices index (CPI) and retail prices index (RPI) 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, around 120,000 separate price quotations are used every month in compiling the indices, covering some 650 representative consumer goods and services for which prices are collected in around 150 areas throughout the UK.

Within each year, the RPI and CPI 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 in estimating price changes more generally, 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 RPI and CPI indices from month to month reflect only changes in prices, and not ongoing variations in consumer purchasing patterns.

However, the contents of the RPI and CPI baskets of goods and services and their associated expenditure weights are updated annually. This is important in helping to avoid potential biases in consumer price indices that might otherwise develop over time, for example, due to the development of entirely new goods and services, or the tendency for consumers to substitute purchases away from those particular goods and services for which prices have risen relatively rapidly. For example, if tea showed a dramatic rise in prices during one year, consumers might switch their spending towards other beverages, making it necessary to adjust the expenditure weights accordingly in the following year.

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 household 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 in the basket to improve measurement of price changes in this area: examples include internet subscriptions, playgroup and nanny fees.

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, for technical reasons, it is necessary to chain-link the published index twice each year rather than only once as in the RPI.<sup>1</sup>

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 (2006) *Consumer Price Indices – Technical Manual* (see references at the end of this article).

### 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 school fees, petrol, telephone charges, and electricity and gas supply.

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 garden spades might be considered representative of price changes for other garden 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) restrict the use of traditional random sampling methods when choosing the representative items.

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, for which prices are collected 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.<sup>2</sup>

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. Similarly, the weight of garden spades would be derived from all spending on garden tools.

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 2007 index, and RPI section weights will be revised with effect from the February 2007 index, at which point the weights for the more detailed (unpublished) item indices are also revised. A brief comparison of high-level RPI weights since 1987 is shown in **Table 2** later in this article, including the new weights for 2007. A more detailed article on changes to the published CPI and RPI weights will be published on the National Statistics website in April 2007.

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. These differences are described in greater detail in Roe and Fenwick (2004). 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.<sup>3</sup>

### Selecting the representative items

A number of factors need to be taken into account when choosing representative items. Of course, the items must be easy to find by price collectors, so ensuring 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 is clearly seasonal, and so these goods require a slightly different treatment in the indices.

The number of items chosen to represent each product group within the CPI and RPI depends both on the weight (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, it is sufficient to collect prices for only a few.<sup>4</sup> 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.

Following from this, 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 is allocated to the restaurants and hotels division, reflecting greater similarity in observed price changes. In some cases, such as transport and housing, apparently low allocations of items are explained by the presence of some dominant individual items (for example, car purchase or housing rents); abstracting from these, the case for adding further items to improve coverage of these divisions' remaining index weights is much weaker – instead, it is far more important to ensure that the sampling of prices for these heavily weighted items is as comprehensive as possible.

The analysis also helps to highlight those areas of the index which might benefit most from improved coverage, such as miscellaneous goods and services. The current allocation of items to the division is broadly comparable to its index weight but variation in price changes appears relatively high, possibly reflecting the diversity of goods and services covered by this division. As discussed later, this has motivated some

**Table 1**  
**Allocation of items to CPI divisions in 2007**

		CPI weight (per cent)	Observed variation in price changes <sup>1</sup>	Representative Items <sup>2</sup> (per cent of total)
1	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	10.3	High	22
2	Alcohol and tobacco	4.3	Low	4
3	Clothing and footwear	6.2	Medium	11
4	Housing and household services	11.5	Medium	5
5	Furniture and household goods	6.8	Medium	11
6	Health	2.4	Low	3
7	Transport	15.2	High	6
8	Communication	2.4	Low	1
9	Recreation and culture	15.3	High	17
10	Education <sup>3</sup>	1.8	Low	1
11	Restaurants and hotels	13.8	Low	8
12	Miscellaneous goods and services	10.0	High	11

**Notes:**

- 1 Based on an analysis of variation in price changes between the individual items chosen to represent each division in the period 1999 to 2003.
- 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 be merged to form a single item representing a wider, more heterogeneous, spending category. See footnote 3 for a specific example.
- 3 The item 'University tuition fees' is classified as one separate item, but the index takes into account prices for several hundred courses, including undergraduate, postgraduate and part-time.

of the changes to the basket introduced in 2007. 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.<sup>5</sup> Conversely, where spending on items falls below the £100 million mark, 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 electrical 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.

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 and questionnaires filled in by people taking part in the ONS Expenditure and Food Survey, a continuous survey of over 6,000 households each year. This is supplemented by detailed analyses of trends presented by market research companies, trade journals and in press reports. Changes in the retail environment are also reported to ONS by the price collectors, and together these various sources of information help to ensure that the goods and services that the average household spends its money on are appropriately represented in the CPI and RPI baskets.

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 accorded significance 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. For example, olive oil, which is introduced to the basket in 2007, has been available for many years and has experienced gradually increasing expenditure for several years. It is not the case that between 2006 and 2007 there has been a sudden increase in spending, rather that the spending has reached a point where it is now a more representative item than other cooking oils. In any particular year, changes to the basket 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 collected.

Indeed, within each product grouping, there is usually a point at which the exact number, choice of items and the precise weights attached to them becomes a matter of relatively fine judgement. At this detailed level, it is unlikely that such choices would have any significant impact on the CPI and RPI indices. 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.

Finally, it should also be noted that the vast majority of the 650 or so representative items remain unchanged in 2007.

**Changes to the basket in 2007**

Changes to the basket of goods and services this year were introduced with the February 2007 consumer price indices published on 20 March; that is, monthly changes in prices from February 2007 to January 2008 inclusive are estimated with reference to the updated basket. The basket will be updated again at the same time next year.

New additions to the basket in 2007 and those items removed, along with a brief summary of the motivation for these changes, are set out in **Table 3** and **Table 4**. Reasons for these changes are diverse. As in previous years, changes to the basket in 2007 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. Note that all of the changes to the basket in 2007 affect both the CPI and RPI indices.

The bullet points below give a brief summary and explanation of the themes behind the changes to the basket for 2007:

- 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:
  - financial services (12.6), with new items introduced to represent credit card fees and mortgage arrangement fees
  - other appliances and products for personal care (12.1.2), through the addition of toothbrushes
- 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 portable electric fans (representing the market for personal cooling/heating), and mobile phone downloads (to represent all forms of media downloaded to mobile phones). In addition, as noted above, credit card charges and mortgage arrangement fees are brought into the basket in 2007 to increase the coverage of the heavily weighted financial services class

- in addition, three high-technology goods are introduced to the basket this year that can be seen as representing evolving trends: DVD recorders, satellite navigation systems and DAB radios. 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, a new non-film pre-recorded DVD has been introduced to supplement the existing film DVD item introduced in 2004 to better represent the high spending on DVDs. Similarly, shower heads are introduced to the basket to improve coverage of bathroom fixtures and fittings and computer printers are added to the collection of computer peripherals already collected (previously these were only included if bundled with personal computers). Although already included in the basket, a detailed review of the computer games market has been undertaken and, from 2007, more prices from a wider range of outlets will be collected to represent the high weight of this item
- in other cases, the new items are direct replacements for similar products that leave the basket in 2006. For example, recordable DVDs replace blank VHS cassette tapes, broccoli replaces Brussels sprouts and olive oil replaces vegetable oil
- 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 onboard snack or drink purchases which will be collected from train buffet cars and trolleys and

domestic flights, and vending machine drinks. Such snacks and drinks are already included in the basket, but significant purchases through these specific retail channels have not previously been explicitly represented

- finally, the seasonality of some items within the basket is also reviewed. For example, strawberries have historically been collected only during the summer months with prices carried forward out of season. Strawberries are now readily available throughout the year and, for the first time in 2007, strawberry prices will be collected every month

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 2007 to make room for the new additions. Note that the removal of these items from the basket does not necessarily imply that the markets for these goods and services are 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, mail order develop and print has been replaced with digital photograph processing although both products represent photographic developing. 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, brie has been removed this year so that the market for functional foods can be represented by probiotic drinks

- In some cases a product will still remain represented in the basket even if there is no longer an explicit item. For example, although the designer spectacle frames have been removed from the basket, the remaining spectacle frame item description has 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 car CD player/autochanger, child's wellington boot and decorative plant pot, all of which leave the basket in 2007 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

### Petrol prices

Another change to the CPI shopping basket from 2007 relates to the collection of petrol prices. From February 2007, these will be calculated as the average price prevailing on each of the Mondays in

**Table 2**  
**Changes in high-level RPI weights<sup>1</sup>**

RPI group	1987	1992	1997	2002	2005	2006	2007
Food	167	152	136	114	110	105	105
Catering	46	47	49	52	49	50	47
Alcohol	76	80	80	68	67	67	66
Tobacco	38	36	34	31	29	29	29
Housing	157	172	186 <sup>2</sup>	199	224	222	238
Fuel and light	61	47	41	31	31	33	39
Household goods	73	77	72	73	71	71	66
Household services	44	48	52	60	61	66	65
Clothing and footwear	74	59	56	51	48	49	44
Personal goods and services	38	40	40	43	41	41	39
Motoring expenditure	127	143	128	141	136	140	133
Fares and other travel costs	22	20	20	20	19	19	20
Leisure goods	47	47	47	48	46	41	41
Leisure services	30	32	59 <sup>3</sup>	69	68	67	68

#### Notes:

- 1 Weights are specified as parts per thousand of the all items RPI.
- 2 Depreciation costs were added to the housing group in 1995.
- 3 Foreign holiday costs were added to the leisure services group in 1993, followed by UK holidays a year later.

**Table 3**  
**Additions to the CPI and RPI basket in 2007**

CPI class	RPI section	New item	Notes
01.1.5 Oils and fats	2114 Oils and fats	Olive oil	Replaces vegetable oil. Olive oil has gradually risen in expenditure, exceeding vegetable oil in 2003 and continues to grow.
01.2.2 Mineral waters, soft drinks and juices	2118 Milk products	Probiotic drink	To improve coverage of the functional foods market. Currently no item representing yoghurt-style bacteria drinks.
01.1.7 Vegetables	2125 Fresh vegetables	Courgettes	Replaces pre-packed vegetables and included to represent spending on 'other vegetables'. Courgettes are available all year round even at many independent outlets.
01.1.7 Vegetables	2125 Fresh vegetables	Broccoli	Replaces sprouts. Spending on broccoli is higher, it is easier to collect and readily available all year round.
11.1.1 Restaurants and cafes	2201 Restaurant meals	On board catering (rail, sea and air)	Spending on 'In transport catering' currently unrepresented in basket.
11.1.1 Restaurants and cafes	2203 Takeaway meals	Vending machine – can/bottle of fizzy drink	Vending machine spending currently unrepresented in basket.
04.3.1 Products for the regular repair and maintenance of the dwelling	4106 DIY materials	Shower head	Introduced to improve coverage of household and bathroom fixtures and fittings.
05.3.1 Major household appliances	4303 Electrical appliances	Electric fan, portable or free-standing	Current fan heater item has a high weight – portable fan will split this weight and also represents the 'cooling' market which is currently not represented.
12.6.2 Financial Services	4402 Fees and subscriptions	Credit card charges	New item in the basket for 2007. Introduced to improve coverage of financial services. Charges include late payment fee and balance transfers.
12.6.2 Financial Services	4402 Fees and subscriptions	Mortgage fees	New item in the basket for 2007. Introduced to improve coverage of financial services. Charges include fees for setting up a mortgage and early repayment.
08.2.1 Telephone equipment and services	4404 Telephone charges	Mobile downloads (for example, ringtones)	To represent a significant and growing market. Mobile downloads are currently not represented in the basket. The market has been growing rapidly since 2004 with individual downloads often costing £3.
12.3.1 Jewellery, clocks and watches	5201 Personal articles	Diamond solitaire ring, specify carat of diamond	Replaces gemstone cluster ring which was difficult to collect and to choose replacements for.
12.1.2 Other appliances and products for personal care	5202 Chemists' goods	Toothbrush	To represent personal oral hygiene in an under-represented class.
07.2.1 Spare parts and accessories	6301 Audiovisual goods	Satellite navigation system	New item for 2007, to represent an emerging market.
09.1.1 Equipment for the reproduction of sound and audio	6301 Audiovisual goods	Flat panel television (14-25")	To replace portable CRT style television. Spending on conventional 'cathode ray tube' TVs has decreased and item no longer warrants inclusion. This becomes the second 'flat panel' television in the basket, alongside the larger version. Expenditure on flat panel televisions is high enough to warrant inclusion of two items.
09.1.1 Equipment for the reproduction of sound and audio	6301 Audiovisual goods	Digital (DAB) radio	Replaces radio CD cassette player. Expenditure on these has decreased to the point where item no longer warrants inclusion. DAB radio market has grown steadily in recent years and now warrants inclusion.
09.1.4 Recording media	6302 CDs and tapes	Pre-recorded DVD (non-film) from chart	To replace pre-recorded video that leaves the basket in 2007 and to supplement existing pre-recorded DVD (film) item.
09.1.4 Recording media	6302 CDs and tapes	Recordable DVD, price per DVD from pack of 5-25	Replaces blank VHS video cassette and will represent visual recording media.
09.4.2 Cultural services	6303 Toys, photographic and sports equipment	Digital processing, print of up to 50 photographs	Replaces mail order develop and print. Digital processing has grown in line with digital cameras and is now readily available in many shops and supermarkets. Spending on this 'convenient' method of developing photographs now warrants inclusion in the basket.

**Table 4**  
**Items removed from the CPI and RPI basket in 2007**

CPI class	RPI section	Dropped item	Notes
01.1.5 Oils and fats	2114 Oils and fats	Vegetable oil	Replaced. Makes way for olive oil (see above) which now attracts the higher spending. Spending on cooking oil is not large enough to justify more than one item.
01.1.4 Milk, cheese and eggs	2115 Cheese	Brie	Removed from basket. Low weighted item within over-represented CPI class. Continental cheeses already represented by other items within this class. Entered basket in the mid 1980s.
01.1.7 Vegetables	2125 Fresh vegetables	Brussels sprouts	Replaced. Low weighted item within CPI class. Only collected in winter months due to seasonality and spending is low in months other than December. Winter vegetables continue to be well represented and broccoli has been introduced in 2007. Entered basket in 1947.
01.1.7 Vegetables	2125 Fresh vegetables	Pre-packed fresh vegetables	Replaced. Low weighted item within CPI class. Replaced by courgettes (which can be collected pre-packed or loose) which attract the highest spend of other vegetables not already included in the basket. Entered basket in 1995.
03.2 Footwear	5105 Footwear	Child's wellington boots	Removed. Very low weighted item within over-represented CPI class. Children's footwear remains well represented. Entered basket in 1947.
03.2 Footwear	5105 Footwear	Men's leather boot	Removed. Very low weighted item within over-represented CPI class. Men's footwear (including boots) continues to be well represented by existing items. Entered basket in 1997.
06.1.2 Other medical and therapeutic products	5201 Personal articles	Sunglasses, non-designer UV frames	Removed. Very low weighted item within well represented class.
06.1.2 Other medical and therapeutic products	5201 Personal articles	Spectacle frames, designer	Removed. Analysis showed price movements of designer and non-designer frames were broadly similar. Designer frames continue to be represented in generic spectacle frames item which collects both designer and non-designer varieties.
12.3.1 Jewellery, clocks and watches	5201 Personal articles	Gemstone cluster ring	Replaced. Difficult to collect and choose replacements for, replaced by diamond solitaire ring.
09.1.1 Equipment for the reproduction of sound and audio	6301 Audio-visual products	Portable colour television (CRT)	Replaced. Low spending on item and has become increasingly difficult to collect in recent years. Spending has moved towards flat panel (Plasma and LCD type) displays and new item (see above), flat panel television (14-25") represents this. Entered basket pre-1987.
	6301 Audio-visual products	VHS video recorder	Replaced. Low weighted item with diminishing expenditure as people switch new purchases to DVD recorders.
	6301 Audio-visual products	Portable CD radio cassette	Replaced. This item has gradually become more difficult to find in line with the phasing out of cassettes and spending on varieties with cassette players has decreased in recent years as technology has advanced with the advent of mp3 players and DAB radio. Increasing expenditure on DAB radios means these are now a more representative item. Entered basket in 1997.
	6301 Audio-visual products	Car CD/radio auto-changer	Removed. Extremely low weighted item within CPI class. Class remains well represented with a variety of other audio equipment. Entered basket in 2003.

Table 4 - *continued***Items removed from the CPI and RPI basket in 2007**

CPI class	RPI section	Dropped item	Notes
	6301 Audio-visual products	Widescreen (CRT) television	Removed. Spending on CRT televisions has continued to decrease and these are now very difficult to find in most outlets as flat panel televisions have become cheaper and the preferred choice of most consumers. Televisions continue to be represented by the two flat panel varieties, 14-25" and 26-42".
09.1.4 Recording media	6302 CDs and tapes	Blank VHS cassette	Replaced. Low weighted item within CPI class with decreasing expenditure. As people have shifted towards digital media and DVD recorders, so writable DVDs have become more representative of recording media. Entered basket in the mid-1980s.
09.1.4 Recording media	6302 CDs and tapes	Pre-recorded video	Replaced by a second pre-recorded DVD item. Spending on pre-recorded videos has decreased and this has been reflected in shops stocking far fewer pre-recorded videos, in turn causing collection and coverage difficulties. Spending has decreased to the point where the item no longer warrants inclusion. Entered basket in 1991.
09.1.2 Photographic equipment	6303 Toys, photographic and sports equipment	35mm compact camera	Removed. Digital cameras now dominate the photographic market. Disposable (non-digital) camera still remains to accompany digital cameras and digital camcorder. 35mm camera film and processing remain in the basket. Entered basket in mid 1970s.
09.4.2 Cultural services	6303 Toys, photographic and sports equipment	Develop and print, mail order	Replaced. Removed to make way for digital photo processing which attracts higher expenditure. In shop develop and print of 35mm films remains in the basket.
09.3.3 Gardens, plants and flowers	6305 Gardening products	Decorative outdoor plant pot	Removed. Very low weighted item in well represented class.
09.4.2 Cultural services	6401 Television licenses and rentals	Digital television installation fee	Removed. Very low weight as this fee is waived for most people who take out a subscription at the point of installation.

**Note:**

'Low weighted' denotes an item with a CPI weight of less than 0.5 parts per thousand in 2006.

the month, in accordance with a new EU Regulation aimed at spreading collection for those items with volatile prices across the month. Petrol prices used in the RPI will continue to relate to a single day in the month as recommended by RPI Advisory Committees. That day will be the Monday preceding index day.

## Weights

Table 2 gives a snapshot of how the high-level weights in the RPI have changed over the last 21 years, since the last rebasing of the series.<sup>6</sup>

The table illustrates that over the period there are some clear shifts in expenditure. Broadly speaking, weights for services have increased while those for goods have decreased. The most recent weights in the table also illustrate that changes from one year to the next are less marked – for this reason, users should guard against drawing conclusions about evolving spending patterns just from the update of the basket in any one year.

## Notes

1 CPI indices are first chain-linked 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.

- 2 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.
- 3 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).
- 4 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.
- 5 Under CPI regulations, items should be included in the CPI where estimated consumers' expenditure is one part per thousand or more of all expenditure covered by the CPI; based on household final consumption data underpinning calculation of the 2007 CPI weights, this is equivalent to around £650 million.
- 6 Coverage extensions during the development of the CPI/HICP mean that long-term comparisons of weights within CPI are more difficult.

## CONTACT

 [elmr@ons.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:elmr@ons.gsi.gov.uk)

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- Office for National Statistics (2006) *Consumer Price Indices – Technical Manual* and at [www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=2328](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=2328)



## ANNEX A: CONSUMER PRICES INDEX: REPRESENTATIVE ITEMS IN 2007

### 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
Corn based snacks	Doughnuts
Sponge cakes	Crackers
Pack of individually wrapped cakes	Frozen pizzas
Fruit pies	Dehydrated noodles / pasta
Plain and chocolate wafers	

#### 01.1.2 Meat

##### Beef

Rump steak	Braising steak
Mince	Topside
Frozen burgers	

##### Lamb

Loin chops - home and imported	Lamb shoulder
Lamb leg	

##### Pork

Loin chops	Shoulder
Bacon gammon	Bacon back

##### Chicken

Fresh / chilled whole chicken	
Fresh chicken breasts	Frozen chicken breasts

##### Other Meats

Pork sausages	Meat pies
Cooked meats – eg Ham	Fresh turkey steaks
Canned meats	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	
Fresh cream	Milk products
Yoghurt	Chilled pot dessert
Cheddar – home-produced and imported	Fromage frais
Selected speciality cheeses	Other regional cheeses
Various sized eggs	Cheese spread

#### 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	Salted peanuts

### 01.1.7 Vegetables

White loose and pre-packed potatoes - old and new varieties	
Crisps – single and multi-packs	Other potato-based snacks
Frozen chips	Fresh tomatoes
Cabbage	Cauliflower
Carrots	Mushrooms
Onions	Lettuce
Cucumbers	Canned baked beans
Organic vegetable	Broccoli
Canned tomatoes	Courgettes
Canned sweet corn	Frozen peas
Vegetarian burger/grills	Vegetarian meals
Vegetable pickles	

### 01.1.8 Sugar, Jam, Honey, Syrups, Chocolates and Confectionery

Sugar	Various jams
Ice cream	
Gum – chewing and bubble	
Various selected popular brands of sweets, chocolates and mints	

### 01.1.9 Food Products (not elsewhere classified)

Soup	Ready cooked meals
Various sauces – eg tomato sauce, mayonnaise	
Baby food	

## 1.2 Non - Alcoholic Beverages

### 01.2.1 Coffee, Tea and Cocoa

Tea bags	Ground coffee
Instant coffee	

### 01.2.2 Mineral Water, Soft Drinks and Juices

Various pure fruit juices	Squashes
Mineral water	Various fizzy drinks – cans and bottles
Energy drinks	Pro-biotic drink

## 02.1 Alcoholic Beverages (Off Sales)

### 02.1.1 Spirits

Whisky	Vodka
Brandy	Spirit based drinks

### 02.1.2 Wine

Bottled white wine	Bottled red wine
Champagne	Wine purchased in boxes
Bottled cider	Fortified wine

### 02.1.3 Beer

Canned lager	Canned draught flow bitter
Bottled lager	

## 02.2 Tobacco

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

## 03.1 Clothing

### 03.1.2 Garments

#### Mens' Clothing

Suits	Casual coat
Trousers - formal, casual	Casual jacket
Fleece	Jeans
Jumper	Various shirts
Tracksuit bottoms	T-shirts

Shorts	Replica football team shirts
Underwear	Socks
Branded sports sweatshirt	
Womens' Clothing	
Blouses	Skirts
Dresses	Trousers
Jeans	T Shirt
Tops	Shorts
Cardigans	Jackets
Casual coats	Jumpers
Rainwear	Swimwear
Underwear	Tights
Nightwear	
Childrens' Clothing	
Schoolwear – trousers, skirts	Tops – sports and fashion
Jumpers / sweatshirts	Jeans
Underwear	Jackets
Pyjamas	Socks
Babygro / sleepsuit	Trousers

#### 03.1.3 Other Clothing and Clothing Accessories

Mens' ties	Knitting wool
Ladies scarves	

#### 03.1.4 Cleaning, Repair and Hire of Clothing

Dry-cleaning

### 03.2 Footwear Including Repairs

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

### 04.1 Rents

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

### 04.3 Regular Repair and Maintenance of the Dwelling

#### 04.3.1 Materials for Maintenance and Repair

Ready mixed filler	Wallpaper
Wallpaper paste	Paint
Varnish	Paintbrush
Taps	Ceramic tiles
Hardboard	Softwood
Shower head	

#### 04.3.2 Services for Maintenance and Repair

Fees charged by plumbers, electricians, carpenters and decorators  
Hire of domestic steam wallpaper stripper  
Gas service charges

### 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

##### 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 – various kitchen units

Office furniture – eg home office desk

Outdoor furniture – eg wooden patio set

##### 05.1.2 Carpets and Other Floor Coverings

Selected carpets

Other floor coverings - laminate

Rug

#### **05.2 Household Textiles**

Curtains

Fabric roller blind

Duvet

Duvet cover

Bed sheet

Towels

#### **05.3 Household Appliances**

##### 05.3.1/2 All Major Appliances and Small Electrical Appliances

Cooker - electric

Cooker - gas

Fridge / freezer

Microwave oven

Dishwasher

Vacuum cleaner

Washing machine

Gas Fire

Selected small appliances - eg iron, kettle, fan heater, electric fan

##### 05.3.3 Repair of Household Appliances

Electrical service charges

Charge for various electrical equipment repairs - 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

Other gardening equipment – eg spade

Power tools – eg hammer drill

Other tools – eg screwdriver

Door handles

Power points

Ladders

#### **05.6 Goods and Services for Household Maintenance**

##### 05.6.1 Non-Durable Household Goods

Washing powder

Washing-up liquid

Dishwasher tablets

Aluminium foil

Bin liners

Household cleaner

Fabric conditioner	Bleach
Kitchen roll	
<b>05.6.2 Domestic Services and Household Services</b>	
Domestic help fees	Window cleaning fees
Gardeners' fees	Nanny fees

### **06.1 Medical Products, Appliances and Equipment**

<b>06.1.1 Pharmaceutical Products</b>	
NHS prescription charges	Multi-vitamins tablets
Selected medicines – eg indigestion tablets, aspirin, packets of cold/flu drink powder	
<b>06.1.2/3 Other Medical and Therapeutic Products</b>	
Condoms	Plasters
Spectacle frames	Prescription lenses
Contact lenses	

### **06.2 Out-Patient Services**

<b>06.2.1/3 Medical Services and Paramedical Services</b>	
Eye test charges	
Non NHS medical services – eg physiotherapy, chiropractic medicine	
<b>06.2.2 Dental Services</b>	
NHS dental charges	Private dental exam

### **06.3 Hospital Services**

Hospital charges, including private surgery fees  
Nursing homes

### **07.1 Purchase of Vehicles**

<b>07.1.1a New Cars</b>	
New cars	
<b>07.1.1b Second Hand Cars</b>	
Second hand cars	
<b>07.1.2/3 Motorcycles and Bicycles</b>	
New motorcycles	Second-hand motorcycles
Bicycles	

### **07.2 Operation of Personal Transport Equipment**

<b>07.2.1 Spare Parts and Accessories</b>	
Selected spare parts and accessories - eg wiper blades, battery, tyres	
Car steering lock	Satellite navigation system
<b>07.2.2 Fuels and Lubricants</b>	
Ultra low sulphur petrol	Ultra low sulphur diesel
Motor oil	
<b>07.2.3 Vehicle Maintenance and Repairs</b>	
Vehicle service	Labour charge for vehicle repairs
Automatic car wash	Roadside recovery services
Exhaust / brake fitting at fast fit auto centre	
<b>07.2.4 Other Services</b>	
Mot test fee	Car park charges
Driving lesson fee	Driving test fees
Road tolls	Self-drive car and van hire charges

### **07.3 Transport Services**

<b>07.3.1 Passenger Transport by Railway</b>	
UK rail fares	London transport fares
	Cross channel rail fares

#### 07.3.2 Passenger Transport by Road

Bus fares	Minicab fares
Coach fares	Taxi fares
Charge for home removals	

#### 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 telephones	Mobile phone handsets
BT charges – eg line/instrument rentals, call and operator charges	
Cable supplier charges – calls and line rentals	
Mobile phone charges – PAYG and contract	Cost of directory enquiries
Subscription to the Internet	Mobile phone downloads

### 09.1 Audio-Visual Equipment and Related Products

#### 09.1.1 Reception and Reproduction of Sound and Pictures

DVD player	Audio systems
DVD recorder	Personal MP3 player
Flat panel televisions	Digital (DAB) radio

#### 09.1.2 Photographic, Cinematographic and Optical Equipment

Digital cameras	Disposable cameras
Digital camcorders	

#### 09.1.3 Data Processing Equipment

PCs – desktop and laptop	PC peripherals
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#### 09.1.4 Recording Media

CDs, including CDs purchased over the Internet	
Pre-recorded DVDs, including DVDs purchased over the Internet	
Recordable CD	Selected CD-ROMs
Camera film	Recordable DVD

#### 09.1.5 Repair of Audio Visual Equipment and Related Products

Various electrical equipment repair charges - eg TV, PC

### 09.2 Other Major Durables for Recreation and Culture

#### 09.2.1/2 Major Durables for In/Outdoor Recreation including musical instruments

Caravans	Boats
Acoustic guitar	
Water sports equipment – eg windsurfing equipment	

### 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	Child's trike
Computer games consoles	Computer games
Board 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 seeds	
09.3.4/5 Pets, Related Products and Services	
Cat and dog food – moist and dry	
Small pet – eg hamster	Animal cage
Vets' fees	Annual booster injection
Dog kennel boarding fees	

#### 09.4 Recreational and Cultural Services

09.4.1 Recreation and Sporting Services	
Squash court hire	Slimming clubs
Night-club admission	Private health club / gym membership
Charges for Exercise classes	Ten-Pin bowling session
Golf green fees	Horseracing admissions
Evening classes	
Admission to football matches, swimming pools, leisure centres, leisure parks and other attractions	
09.4.2 Cultural Services	
Rentals for DVD and video cassette recorder	Rentals for various types of TV
Cable TV subscriptions	Rentals for video / DVD films
Digital TV monthly subscription	Film processing
Music downloads	Digital photo processing
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	
Adults' periodicals	Childrens' periodicals
09.5.3/4 Misc. Printed Matter, Stationery, Drawing Materials	
Ball point pen	Envelopes
Wrapping paper	Greeting card
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
International Student Fees	UK university tuition fees

#### 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	Vending machine fizzy drink
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 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	

## 11.2 Accommodation Services

Youth Hostel Association	Halls of residence
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	Toothbrush
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	
Umbrella	Handbag
Luggage – trolley case	Picture / photo frame
Push chairs	

## 12.4 Social Protection

Residential home fees	In home care assistants' fees
Local authority supported residents in retirement homes	
Child minder fees	Nursery fees
Play-group fees	After school club charges



## **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

Foreign holidays insurance

## **12.6 Financial Services** (not elsewhere classified)

### 12.6.2 Other Financial Services

Foreign exchange commission

Various bank charges – eg overdraft fees

Unit trust fees and commissions

Stockbrokers' fees

Money transfer fees

Credit card fees

Mortgage arrangement fees

## **12.7 Other Services** (not elsewhere classified)

Charges for advertisements in newspapers - local and national

Solicitors' fees – including will drafting fee

Fee for birth and death certificates

Marriage licenses

Passport fees

Cost of basic funeral / cremation

Delivered flowers

Home delivery charges

Self-storage fees

Surveyors' fee for house valuation

## ANNEX B: RETAIL PRICES INDEX (RPI): REPRESENTATIVE ITEMS IN 2007

### Food

Bread		
	Large white loaves - sliced and unsliced	
	Large wholemeal loaf	Bread rolls
	Pitta bread	
Cereal		
	Flour	Rice
	Pasta	Breakfast cereals
	Corn based snacks	
Biscuits and Cakes		
	Plain biscuits	
	Sponge cakes	Doughnuts
	Pack of individually wrapped cakes	Fruit pies
	Crackers	
Beef		
	Rump steak	Braising steak
	Mince	Topside
	Frozen beefburgers	
Home-Killed Lamb		
	Loin chops	Shoulder
Imported Lamb		
	Loin chops	Leg
Pork		
	Loin chops	Shoulder
Bacon		
	Gammon	Back
Poultry		
	Fresh / chilled chicken	Fresh chicken breasts
	Frozen chicken breasts	Fresh turkey steaks
Other Meat		
	Pork sausages	Cooked meats – eg ham
	Meat pies	Canned meats
	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		
	Full-fat, semi-skimmed and skimmed milk - shop-bought and delivered	
Milk Products		
	Fresh cream	Pro-biotic drink
	Yoghurt	Fromage frais
	Chilled pot dessert	
Tea		
	Tea bags	

Soft Drinks	
Various pure fruit juices	Squashes
Lemonade	Cola
Mineral water	Various fizzy drinks – cans and bottles
Energy drinks	
Sugar and Preserves	
Sugar	Various jams
Sweets and Chocolates	
Various selected popular brands of sweets, chocolates, gum and mints	
Unprocessed Potatoes	
White loose and pre-packed potatoes – old and new varieties	
Processed Potatoes	
Crisps - single and multi-packs	Other potato-based snacks
Frozen chips	
Fresh Vegetables	
Fresh tomatoes	Cabbages
Cauliflowers	Carrots
Mushrooms	Onions
Lettuce	Cucumbers
Courgettes	Organic vegetable
Broccoli	
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	Salted peanuts
Other Foods	
Soup	
Various sauces – eg tomato sauce, mayonnaise, pickle	
Ready cooked meals	
Other convenience foods – eg frozen pizza, dehydrated noodles / pasta	
Ice cream	Baby food
Coffee and Hot Drinks	
Ground coffee	Instant coffee

## Catering

Restaurant Meals	
Restaurant main course	Restaurant sweet course
Restaurant cup of coffee	Pub hot meal
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-away 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	Vending machine drink

## 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 drink
Mixer	
Wines and Spirits 'Off' Sales	
Whisky	Vodka
Brandy	Bottled white wine
Bottled red wine	Champagne
Wine purchases in boxes	Fortified wine
Spirit based drink	

## 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	
Average interest payments on a typical repayment mortgage (estimated/modelled)	
Depreciation	
Depreciation costs proxy (price index for houses purchased with a mortgage)	
Council Tax	
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	
Repair and Maintenance Charges	
Fees charged by plumbers, electricians, carpenters and decorators	
Gas service charges	
DIY Materials	
Ready mixed filler	Wallpaper
Wallpaper paste	Paint
Varnish	Paint brush
Various tools - eg hammer drill, screwdriver	Aluminium ladder
Door handle	Taps
Power point	Shower head
Pieces of timber	Ceramic tiles
Hire of domestic steam wallpaper stripper	Woodscrews
Dwelling Insurance and Ground Rent	
Dwelling insurance premiums of selected companies	
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	



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  
Charge for home buyers' survey  
Fee for birth and death certificates  
Passport fee  
Money transfer fees  
Driving test fees  
Evening classes  
UK University tuition fees  
Pet insurance  
Charges for advertisements in newspapers - local, national

Surveyors' fee for house valuation  
Home contents' insurance premiums  
Marriage licences  
Various bank fees – eg overdraft charges  
Foreign exchange commission  
Private school fees  
Solicitors' fees – including will drafting  
Cost of basic funeral / cremation

### **Clothing**

Mens' Outerwear  
Suit  
Trousers - formal, casual  
Fleece  
Jumper  
Tracksuit bottoms  
Shorts  
Branded sports sweatshirt

Womens' Outerwear  
Blouses  
Dresses  
Jeans  
Tops  
Cardigan  
Casual Coat  
Rainwear

Childrens' Outerwear  
Schoolwear – trousers, skirts  
Jeans  
Jumpers/sweatshirts  
Babygro/sleepsuit

Other Clothing  
Underwear – eg pants and bra  
Tights  
Tie  
Knitting wool

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

Casual Coat  
Casual jacket  
Jeans  
Various shirts  
T-shirts  
Replica football team shirt

Skirts  
Trousers  
T-shirt  
Shorts  
Jackets  
Jumper  
Swimwear

Tops – sports and fashion

Jackets  
Trousers

Socks  
Nightwear – eg nightdress/pyjamas  
Scarf

### **Personal Goods and Services**

Personal Articles  
Umbrella  
Watch  
Prescription lenses  
Luggage – trolley case  
Picture / photo frame  
Various items of personal jewellery

Handbag  
Spectacle frames  
Contact lenses  
Flower vase  
Wall hanging mirror

## Chemists' Goods

NHS prescription charges	Multi-vitamins tablets
Condoms	Tampons
Disposable nappies	Tissues
Selected medicines and surgical goods - eg indigestion tablets, pain killer tablets, packets of cold/flu drink powder, plasters	
Toiletries - eg toilet soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, 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	Dental charges
Eye tests charges	Dental insurance
Subscriptions to private medical plans	Private surgery fees
Non NHS medical services – eg physiotherapy, chiropractic medicine	
Residential and nursing home fees	
Slimming club fees	Delivered flowers

## Motoring Expenditure

Purchase of Motor Vehicles	
Second-hand cars	Proxy for new cars
New motorcycles	Second-hand motorcycles
Caravans	
Maintenance of Motor Vehicles	
Car service	MOT test fee
Roadside recovery services	Car steering lock
Automatic car wash	
Exhaust / brake fitting at fast fit auto centre	
Hourly labour charge for car mechanical repairs	
Selected spare parts and accessories - eg wiper blade, battery, tyres	
Petrol and Oil	
Ultra low sulphur petrol	Ultra low sulphur diesel
Motor oil	
Vehicle Tax and Insurance	
Vehicle excise duty	
Selection of premiums charged by a sample of motor insurance companies	

## Fares and Other Travel Costs

Rail Fares	
UK rail fares	London Transport fares
EuroTunnel 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 flat panel large and small sizes	
DVD player	Digital radio
DVD recorder	Personal MP3 player
PCs – desktop and laptop	Audio systems
PC peripherals	Satellite navigation system
CDs and Tapes	
Pre-recorded DVDs, including DVDs purchased over the Internet	
CDs, including CDs purchased over the Internet	
Recordable CD	Selected CD-ROMs
Recordable DVD	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 games consoles

Computer games

Digital camera

Digital camcorder

Disposable cameras

Camera film

Film and digital processing

Acoustic guitar

Child's swing

Child's tricycle

Sleeping bag

Barbecue (gas)

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

Adults' periodicals

Childrens' periodicals

#### Gardening Products

Compost

Selected varieties of plants, bushes, cut flowers, seeds

Garden sundries - eg garden spade, gloves

Lawnmowers

### Leisure Services

#### TV Licences and rental

Television licence fees

Rentals for various types of TV

DVD and video cassette recorder rental

Rentals for DVD films

Digital television monthly subscription fees

Cable TV subscriptions

#### Entertainment and Recreation

Squash court hire

Fees for leisure evening classes

Charges for exercise classes

Private health club / gym membership

Ten-pin bowling session

Horse racing admissions

Golf green fees

Admission to cinemas, theatres, dancing, live music, football matches, historic monuments, museums, leisure parks and other attractions, swimming pools, leisure centres

#### Foreign Holidays

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

Holiday insurance

#### UK Holidays

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