

FEATURE

Damon Wingfield and Philip Gooding
Office for National Statistics

CPI and RPI: the 2008 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 2008 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/cci/article.asp?id=1951

The main changes from the 2007 price collection are discussed. Similar articles have been published in previous years. This article also describes two changes to the methodology used to compile the CPI and RPI. These relate to the measurement of gas and electricity, and fresh fruit and vegetable prices.

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. These might include 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 instance, 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 over the last 20 years. 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, and 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.¹

ONS (2004) 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 (2007).

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 judgemental; the significant difficulties involved in defining an adequate sampling frame, that is, a list of all the individual goods and services bought by households, restricts 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.²

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 2008 index, and RPI section weights with effect from the February 2008 index, at which point the weights for the more detailed (unpublished) item indices were also revised. A brief comparison of high-level RPI weights since 1987 is shown later in this article, including the new weights for 2008. A more detailed article on changes to the published CPI and RPI weights will be published on the National Statistics website in April 2008.

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.³

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.⁴ 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, apparent 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 of the changes to the basket introduced in 2008. Conversely, it also helps to highlight areas where there is scope to remove items

Table 1
Allocation of items to CPI divisions in 2008

	CPI weight (per cent)	Observed variation in price changes ¹	Representative items ² (percentage of total)
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	10.9	High	22
Alcohol and tobacco	4.2	Low	4
Clothing and footwear	6.3	Medium	11
Housing and household services	11.5	Medium	5
Furniture and household goods	6.7	Medium	11
Health	2.2	Low	3
Transport	15.2	High	6
Communication	2.3	Low	1
Recreation and culture	15.2	High	17
Education ³	1.9	Low	1
Restaurants and hotels	13.7	Low	8
Miscellaneous goods and services	9.9	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 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.

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 indicate 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.⁵ 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 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. 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.

Although the process for the 2008 basket review has been similar to those conducted in previous years, fewer changes are being made to the basket as the focus has been slightly different for two main reasons:

- when considering changes to the basket for 2008, extra attention was given to where and how price quotes for existing items are collected. Where suboptimal sampling techniques or problems existed with collection for an item, resources were dedicated towards those items. For example, class 12.1.2, appliances and products for personal care, was identified as one such area. Although no items within this class have changed for 2008, the range of shops for certain items has been broadened, and the number of prices collected increased to attempt to reduce the volatility that frequent half-price sales for certain items within this class can have. Similarly, for class 5.1.1, furniture and furnishings, it was recognised that the retailing sales and recovery cycles for furniture were becoming more dramatic, with less than half-price sales commonplace. To attempt to reduce the impact of any one shop, the sampling of each item was reviewed and, in 2008, additional outlets have been added to the collection, and
- existing item descriptions have also been a particular focus. For example, a thorough review of existing item descriptions in the light of coverage – the number of non-zero prices collected as a proportion of those attempted to be collected – for each item has been reviewed. In some cases, this has revealed that the item description specification is so narrow as to preclude certain varieties or supermarket own-brands

None of these points should undermine the basket review, however. Changes where spending demands inclusion/exclusion from the basket are being made, along with refinements to existing item descriptions or sampled outlets.

Finally, it should also be noted that the vast majority of 650 or so representative items remains unchanged in 2008.

Table 2
Additions to the basket in 2008

CPI class	RPI section	New item	Notes
01.2.2 Mineral waters, soft drinks and juices	2120 Soft drinks	Pure fruit smoothie	New item. Introduced to represent distinct and emerging market and diversify range of soft drinks collected.
01.1.7 Vegetables	2125 Fresh vegetables	Peppers	New item. Introduced to increase number of fresh vegetables prices collected. Although spending does not demand that peppers be included in the basket, vegetable prices vary greatly so it is beneficial to collect across as broad a range of items as possible. Previously in the basket (as green pepper), removed in late 1990s.
01.1.6 Fruit	2127 Fresh fruit	Small-type oranges	New item. Can take various forms, for example, clementines and mandarins. As with peppers (see above), spending does not demand inclusion, but fruit prices are volatile and so it is beneficial to collect across a broad range of items.
11.1.1 Restaurants and cafes	2201 Restaurant meals	Muffin	New item. While beverages from coffee shops and bakeries are adequately represented in the basket already, a snack item is also being included from 2008 in the shape of the muffin. This is to represent spending on all such snacks (such as croissants and cakes) that are typically bought with a coffee. Prices collected will be for 'eat-in' wherever possible.
02.1.3 Beer	3102 Beer off-sales	20 bottles lager (4.3–7.5%)	Replaces 'stubbies' item, to be collected from supermarkets and some off-licences only. Stubbies have become an increasingly difficult item to collect and monitor due to range of sizes and alcohol content. Whereas previously much supermarket space was devoted to stubbies, it has now switched to full size (330ml) bottles of lager.
12.7.0 Other services (not elsewhere classified)	5203 Personal services	Flower bouquet, next day delivery	Replaces long standing 'Red rose to Watford' item. This replacement represents changes in flower delivery over recent years and is a cost saving. A limited number of companies, so currently offer delivery, with price independent of region rather than collect these throughout the country, it makes sense to collect directly from the main companies.
09.1.4 Recording media	6302 CDs and tapes	Non-chart CD album	New item. Introduced to split high weight of CD albums (chart CD album item remains in basket). Will represent purchase of 'classic' albums, prices for which may change differently from those for chart CDs.
09.1.4 Recording media	6303 Toys, photographic and sports equipment	Portable digital storage device	New item. Represents growing market for all forms of portable storage, including camera memory cards, sticks etc, those used in mobile telephones and USB memory 'keys', typically used in personal computers.
09.2.1/2 Major durables for in/outdoor recreation and culture	6402 Entertainment and other recreation	Livery charges	New item in the basket for 2008. Improves coverage of an under-represented class in CPI and represents a distinct market not currently represented.

Changes to the basket in 2008

Changes to the basket of goods and services this year were introduced with the February 2008 consumer price indices published on 18 March; that is, monthly changes in prices from February 2008 to January 2009 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 2008 and those items removed are set out in **Table 2** and **Table 3**, together with a brief summary of the motivation for these changes. As the tables make clear, these motivations are diverse. As in previous years, changes to the basket in 2008 should certainly not

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 2008 affect both the CPI and RPI indices.

The following bullet points give a brief summary and explanation of the themes behind the changes to the basket for 2008:

- 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:

- furniture and furnishing (5.1.1), with price collectors visiting an increased number of stores and several hundred more prices collected throughout the country for existing items
- other appliances and products for personal care (12.1.2), with more prices collected for existing items in the field, especially for electric razors and hair dryers
- 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. For example, pure fruit smoothies, introduced to represent the growing consumer demand for healthy crushed pure fruit drinks. In recent years, supermarkets have devoted an increasing amount of space to smoothies, as choice and, in turn, consumer spending have increased. The introduction of this item can also be seen to diversify the current sampling of fruit drinks – already the basket covers a wide range of fruit juice drinks, although nothing specifically targeting the smoothie

- as in most years, some of the new additions do represent developments in technology, illustrating evolving trends. In 2008, portable digital storage media is included for the first time – this item should not necessarily be

seen as a direct replacement for the 35mm camera film, as it covers far more than just camera memory cards. Aside from use in cameras to store photographs, portable storage media, in the form of various memory cards and USB storage sticks (all of which can be selected by price collectors), can give added functionality to portable music (mp3) players, games consoles, mobile telephones, transporting files between computers and so on. The market for digital storage has been growing steadily in recent years and the item now warrants inclusion in the basket

- 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-chart pre-recorded CD has been introduced to supplement the existing CD item to better represent the high spending on CD albums. Similarly, new items in the form of peppers and small-type oranges (such as mandarins, satsumas and clementines) are added to fresh vegetables and fruit, respectively, in 2008. This is to increase the coverage of two classes with particularly high variability in prices

- in other cases, the new items are direct replacements for similar products that leave the basket in 2008. For example, large crates of regular sized (275–330ml) bottled lager replace the lager stubbies item which was more popular ten years ago. This is also partly for operational reasons – varieties

Table 3
Items removed from the basket in 2008

CPI class	RPI section	Dropped item	Notes
01.1.7 Vegetables	2129 Other foods	Frozen vegetarian ready meal	Removed. Very low-weighted item. Ready meals and convenience foods remain represented in basket by chilled ready meal, frozen pizza and frozen non-vegetarian meal. Removal allows improvement of coverage of fresh vegetables.
02.1.3 Beer	3102 Beer off-sales	Lager stubbies	Replaced. Stubbies have become difficult to collect and coverage has decreased over 2007. Even in supermarkets it has proven difficult to collect a long run series of prices as pack sizes and alcohol contents vary so greatly. Shelf space has become dominated by regular bottled lager and the new lager item (see Table 2) represents this.
05.1.2 Carpets and other floor coverings	4302 Furnishings	Washable carpet	Removed. Spending on washable carpets is low and decreasing. Class is already well represented with a number of other carpet items.
05.3.1 Major appliances and small electrical goods	4303 Electrical appliances	Microwave oven	Removed. Very low-weighted item. Removal of this item represents falling expenditure on microwaves over the past decade, due to the fact that unit prices are now so low.
09.1.5 Repair of audio-visual equipment and related products	4401 Domestic services	TV repair	Removed. Low-weighted item. Spending on TV repair has been low and decreasing for a number of years as television prices fall and technology (and reliability) improves. Increasingly, people replace broken televisions rather than fix them, especially with the current dominance of flat panel televisions.
07.2.1 Spare parts and accessories	6102 Maintenance of motor vehicles	Steering lock device	Removed. Spending has decreased in line with improved 'on-board' security of newer cars, for example, automatic steering wheel locks.
09.1.4 Recording media	6302 CDs and tapes	CD single (top 40)	Removed. Very low-weighted item within well-represented class. Removal allows introduction of a second CD album item. Popularity of music downloads has led spending on (and shop space devoted to) CD singles to decrease in recent years. Audio CDs remain represented with two CD album items in the basket.
09.1.4 Recording media	6303 Toys, photographic and sports goods	35mm camera film	Replaced by portable digital storage media. Low-weighted item within well-represented class. Follows the removal of the 35mm camera last year. Spending on camera films has naturally declined with the popularity and affordability of digital cameras and photography.

Note:

'Low-weighted' denotes an item with a CPI weight of less than 0.5 parts per thousand in 2007.

of stubbies in supermarkets change frequently and achieving a consistent sample in terms of alcohol content, brand and size can be tricky. It should be stressed that bottled lager is in no way a new item in 2008 – smaller size packs of lager are already priced in the basket and this new item purely represents bulk purchases (20 bottles) in supermarkets

- 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 some changes made to the outlet sample drawn for furniture items (mentioned above) and for fast-food burger takeaway. During 2007, research was undertaken into both of these commodities, seeking to improve representation in the furniture collection and streamline that for fast-food burgers. For furniture, more outlets will be visited in 2008, with more prices being collected than in the past. For burgers, the review has improved the efficiency of collection and will reduce the number of prices collected in some locations
- finally, as in 2007, the seasonality of some items within the basket is also reviewed. For example, peaches have historically been collected during the summer months, with prices carried forward out of season. In 2008, attempts will be made to collect peaches in as many months as they are widely available

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 have therefore been removed from the basket in 2008 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, one of the existing fruit juice items is removed in 2008 to be replaced by the pure fruit smoothie, although both products represent pure fruit juice drinks. 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, 35mm camera films have been removed this year so that the market for portable storage media can be represented
- in some cases, a product will still remain represented in the basket even if there is no longer an explicit item. For example, although two king-size cigarette items have been removed from the basket, one new item has been included, which effectively covers the two

- 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 vehicle steering locks and microwaves, both of which leave the basket in 2008 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

Methodological changes

Two methodological changes were also introduced with the February index. These relate to the measurement of gas and electricity and fresh fruit and vegetable prices.

Previously, gas and electricity price changes were phased in over a four-month period to reflect the fact that the tariff rate did not change for a customer until the day the meter was read (or the bill was estimated). It is clear that tariff increases are now implemented at the time the change is made, regardless of when the meter is read. As a result, the phasing in of price changes ceased with the publication on 18 March. Any residual phasing effects from tariff changes which had not fed through completely by February were also introduced in full in the February index.

The item weights for fresh fruit and vegetables including potatoes have previously varied throughout the year to reflect differing spending patterns. However, the higher-level section weights have been fixed so that the principle of the fixed basket of goods is maintained. From the February index, the seasonal weights were replaced by annual weights. The change reflects the fact that most types of fruit and vegetable are available in shops all year round.

Weights

Table 4 gives a snapshot of how the high-level weights in the RPI⁶ have changed over the last 22 years, since the last rebasing of the series.

The table illustrates that, over the period, there are some clear shifts in expenditure.

Table 4

High-level weights¹ in RPI since 1987

RPI group	1987	1992	1997	2002	2006	2007	2008
Food	167	152	136	114	105	105	111
Catering	46	47	49	52	50	47	47
Alcohol	76	80	80	68	67	66	59
Tobacco	38	36	34	31	29	29	27
Housing	157	172	186 ²	199	222	238	254
Fuel and light	61	47	41	31	33	39	33
Household goods	73	77	72	73	71	66	66
Household services	44	48	52	60	66	65	64
Clothing and footwear	74	59	56	51	49	44	42
Personal goods and services	38	40	40	43	41	39	41
Motoring expenditure	127	143	128	141	140	133	133
Fares and other travel costs	22	20	20	20	19	20	20
Leisure goods	47	47	47	48	41	41	38
Leisure services	30	32	59 ³	69	67	68	65

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.

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 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.
- 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 2008 CPI weights, this is equivalent to around £680 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

REFERENCES

Roe D and Fenwick D (2004) 'The New Inflation Target: the Statistical Perspective', *Economic Trends* 602, pp 24–46 and at www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/article.asp?id=688

Office for National Statistics (2004) 'Consumer price indices – a brief guide' at www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=62

Office for National Statistics (2007) 'Consumer Price Indices – Technical Manual' at www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=2328

ANNEX A: CONSUMER PRICES INDEX: REPRESENTATIVE ITEMS IN 2008

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
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 and semi-skimmed milk – shop-bought and delivered	
Fresh cream	Pro-biotic drink
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	Olive 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
	Small oranges

01.1.7 Vegetables

White loose and pre-packed potatoes - old and new varieties	
Crisps – single and multi-packs	Peppers
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	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	

01.2 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	Fruit smoothie

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

Men's Clothing

Suit	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	
Women's Clothing	
Blouses	Skirts
Dresses	Trousers
Jeans	T Shirt
Tops	Shorts
Cardigans	Jackets
Casual coats	Jumpers
Rainwear	Swimwear
Underwear	Tights
Nightwear	
Children's 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

Men's 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	Woodscrews

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 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 – various kitchen units

Office furniture – 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 Dishwasher

Vacuum clean 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

Aluminium 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	
05.6.2 Domestic Services and Household Services	
Domestic help fees	Window cleaning fees
Gardeners' fees	Nanny fees

06.1 Medical Products, Appliances and Equipment

06.1.1 Pharmaceutical Products	
NHS prescription charges	Multi-vitamins tablets
Selected medicines – eg indigestion tablets, aspirin, packets of cold/flu drink powder	
06.1.2/3 Other Medical and Therapeutic Products	
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 homes

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	
New motorcycles	Second-hand motorcycles
Bicycles	

07.2 Operation of Personal Transport Equipment

07.2.1 Spare Parts and Accessories	
Selected spare parts and accessories - eg wiper blades, battery, tyres	
Satellite navigation system	
07.2.2 Fuels and Lubricants	
Ultra low sulphur petrol	Ultra low sulphur diesel
Motor oil	
07.2.3 Vehicle Maintenance and Repairs	
Vehicle service	Labour charge for vehicle repairs
Automatic car wash	Roadside recovery services
Exhaust / brake fitting at fast fit auto centre	
07.2.4 Other Services	
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

07.3.1 Passenger Transport by Railway	
UK rail fares	London transport fares
Euro Tunnel fares	Other underground/metro fares

- 07.3.2 Passenger Transport by Road
 - Bus fares
 - Coach 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
- Fixed line telephone charges – eg line/instrument rentals, call and operator charges
- Mobile phone charges – PAYG and contract
- Subscription to the Internet
- Minicab fares
- Taxi fares
- Mobile phone handsets
- Cost of directory enquiries
- Mobile phone downloads

09.1 Audio-Visual Equipment and Related Products

- 09.1.1 Reception and Reproduction of Sound and Pictures
 - DVD player
 - DVD recorder
 - Flat panel televisions
- 09.1.2 Photographic, Cinematographic and Optical Equipment
 - Digital cameras
 - Digital camcorders
 - Disposable cameras
- 09.1.3 Data Processing Equipment
 - PCs – desktop and laptop
 - PC peripherals
- 09.1.4 Recording Media
 - CDs, including CDs purchased over the Internet
 - Pre-recorded DVDs, including DVDs purchased over the Internet
 - Recordable CD
 - Recordable DVD
 - Portable digital storage device
 - Selected CD-ROMs
 - Music downloads
- 09.1.5 Repair of Audio Visual Equipment and Related Products
 - Various electrical equipment repair charges - eg PC

09.2 Other Major Durables for Recreation and Culture

- 09.2.1/2 Major Durables for In/Outdoor Recreation including musical instruments
 - Caravans
 - Acoustic guitar
 - Water sports equipment – eg windsurfing equipment
 - Boats
 - Livery charges

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 games consoles
 - Board games
 - Child's tricycle
 - Computer games
- 09.3.2 Equipment for Sport and Open Air Recreation
 - Sports equipment - eg golf balls, squash racquet, 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 including flowers purchased over the internet

- Compost
- 09.3.4/5 Pets, Related Products and Services
 - Cat and dog food – moist and dry
 - Small pet – eg hamster
 - Vets' fees
 - Dog kennel boarding fees
- Animal cage
- Annual booster injection

09.4 Recreational and Cultural Services

- 09.4.1 Recreation and Sporting Services
 - Squash court hire
 - Night-club admission
 - Charges for Exercise classes
 - Golf green fees
 - Fees for leisure 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
 - Cable TV subscriptions
 - Digital TV monthly subscription
 - Music downloads
 - Admission to cinemas, theatres, dancing, live music, historic monuments, leisure parks and other attractions
- Slimming clubs
- Private health club / gym membership
- Ten-Pin bowling session
- Horseracing admissions
- Rentals for various types of TV
- Rentals for video / DVD films
- Film processing
- Digital photo processing

09.5 Books, Newspapers and Stationery

- 09.5.1 Books
 - Adult and children's fiction and non-fiction paperback and hardback books – including some books purchased over the Internet
- 09.5.2 Newspapers and Periodicals
 - National daily newspapers
 - Provincial newspapers
 - Adults' periodicals
- 09.5.3/4 Misc. Printed Matter, Stationery, Drawing Materials
 - Ball point pen
 - Wrapping paper
 - Printer paper
 - Clear sticky tape
 - Sunday newspapers
 - Envelopes
 - Greeting card
 - Inkjet cartridge

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
- International Student Fees
- Evening Classes
- UK university tuition fees

11.1 Catering Services

- 11.1.1 Restaurants and Cafes
 - Restaurants
 - Restaurant main course
 - Restaurant cup of coffee
 - Pub cold snack
 - In store cafeteria meal
 - Take-Away and Snacks
 - Fish and chips
- Restaurant sweet course
- Pub hot meals
- Burgers in bun – eat in
- Muffin
- 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	On board catering
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
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	
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 licences

Passport fees

Cost of basic funeral / cremation

Flower delivery

Home delivery charges

Self-storage fees

Surveyors' fee for house valuation

ANNEX B: RETAIL PRICES INDEX (RPI): REPRESENTATIVE ITEMS IN 2008

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	Chocolate wafers
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	Olive oil
Cheese	
Cheddar - home-produced and imported	Other regional cheeses
Selected speciality cheeses	Cheese spread
Eggs	
Various sized eggs	
Milk	
Full-fat and semi-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	Fruit smoothie
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	
Frozen chips	
Fresh Vegetables	
Fresh tomatoes	Cabbages
Cauliflowers	Carrots
Mushrooms	Onions
Lettuce	Cucumbers
Courgettes	Organic vegetable
Broccoli	Peppers
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
Small oranges	
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
On board catering	Muffin
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 stout

Bottled lager

Draught Lager

Draught cider

Bottled cider

Beer 'Off' Sales

Canned lager

Bottled cider

Canned draught flow bitter

Bottled lager

Wines and Spirits 'On' Sales

Whisky

Wine

Liqueurs

Mixer

Vodka

Champagne

Spirit based drink

Wines and Spirits 'Off' Sales

Whisky

Brandy

Bottled red wine

Wine purchases in boxes

Spirit based drink

Vodka

Bottled white wine

Champagne

Fortified wine

Tobacco

Cigarettes

Selected brands

Mentholated

Vending machine cigarettes

Other Tobacco

Cigars

Hand rolling tobacco

Housing

Rent

Private furnished rent

Local authority rent

Private unfurnished rent

Registered Social Landlord (RSL) rent

Mortgage Interest

Average interest payments (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 paste

Varnish

Various tools - eg hammer drill, screwdriver

Door handle

Power point

Pieces of timber

Hire of domestic steam wallpaper stripper

Wallpaper

Paint

Paint brush

Aluminium ladder

Taps

Shower head

Ceramic tiles

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	
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 – various kitchen units	
Office furniture – home office desk	
Outdoor furniture – eg wooden patio set	
Furnishings	
Selected carpets	Other floor coverings - laminate
Rug	Curtains
Fabric roller blind	Duvet
Duvet cover	Bed sheet
Towels	
Electrical Appliances	
Cooker – electric	Washing machine
Fridge / freezer	Dishwasher
Vacuum cleaner	Cordless telephone
Mobile phone handsets	
Selected small appliances – eg iron, kettle, fan heater, fan	
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 roll	Fabric conditioner
Bin liners	Household cream cleaner
Bleach	
Ball point pen	Wrapping paper
Envelopes	Greeting card
Printer paper	Inkjet cartridge
Clear sticky tape	Batteries
Pet Care	
Cat and dog food – moist and dry	
Small pet – eg hamster	Animal cage
Vets' fees	Annual booster injection
Dog kennel boarding fees	

Household Services

Postal Charges	
Charges for letters, parcels, postal orders	
Telephone Charges	
Fixed line telephone charges – eg line/instrument rentals, call and operator charges	
Mobile phone charges – PAYG and contract	Mobile downloads
Subscription to the Internet	Cost of directory enquiries
Domestic Services	
Domestic help fees	In home care assistant fees
Childminder fees	Nanny fees
Playgroup fees	After school club charges
Gardeners' fees	Window cleaning

Dry cleaning charges	Driving lesson fee
Home delivery charges	Charge for home removals
Self-storage fees	
Charge for various electrical equipment repairs - eg washing machine, 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 fee	Various bank fees – eg overdraft charges
Money transfer fees	Foreign exchange commission
Driving test fees	Private school fees
Evening classes	Solicitors' fees – including will drafting
UK University tuition fees	Cost of basic funeral / cremation
Pet insurance	Nursery fees
Mortgage arrangement fees	
Charges for advertisements in newspapers - local, national	

Clothing and footwear

Men's Outerwear

Suit	Casual Coat
Trousers - formal, casual	Casual jacket
Fleece	Jeans
Jumper	Various shirts
Tracksuit bottoms	T-shirts
Shorts	Replica football team shirt
Branded sports sweatshirt	

Women's Outerwear

Blouses	Skirts
Dresses	Trousers
Jeans	T-shirt
Tops	Shorts
Cardigan	Jackets
Casual Coat	Jumper
Rainwear	Swimwear

Children's Outerwear

Schoolwear – trousers, skirts	Tops – sports and fashion
Jeans	Jumpers/sweatshirts
Jackets	Babygro/sleepsuit
Trousers	

Other Clothing

Underwear – eg pants and bra	Socks
Tights	Nightwear – eg nightdress/pyjamas
Tie	Scarf
Knitting wool	

Footwear

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

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
Various items of personal jewellery	

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
Flower delivery	

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	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	Other underground/metro 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
Push chairs	

Leisure Goods

Audio-visual Equipment

Flat panel televisions	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

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

Portable digital storage device

Books and Newspapers

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

National daily newspapers

Sunday newspapers

Provincial newspapers

Adults' periodicals

Gardening Products

Compost

Selected varieties of plants, bushes, cut flowers, seeds including flowers purchased over the internet

Garden sundries - eg garden spade

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

Livery charges

Admission to cinemas, theatres, dancing, live music, football matches, historic monuments, 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