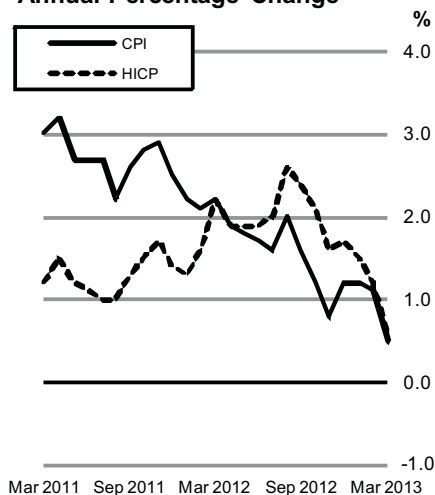




Consumer Price Index March 2013

CPI/HICP - all items Annual Percentage Change



CPI and HICP

	CPI		HICP	
	% monthly change	% annual change	% monthly change	% annual change
Nov 2012	-0.4	+0.8	-0.5	+1.6
Dec 2012	+0.1	+1.2	-	+1.7
Jan 2013	-0.5	+1.2	-0.6	+1.5
Feb 2013	+0.8	+1.1	+0.8	+1.2
Mar 2013	+0.4	+0.5	+0.4	+0.6

Prices rise by 0.5% in the year to March

Consumer Prices in March, as measured by the CPI, increased by 0.4% in the month. This compares to an increase of 1.0% recorded in March of last year. Prices on average, as measured by the CPI, were 0.5% higher in March compared with March 2012.

The most notable changes in the year were increases in *Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco* (+4.8%), *Education* (+4.7%) and *Miscellaneous Goods & Services* (+2.5%). There were decreases in *Communications* (-5.5%), *Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance* (-3.3%) and *Transport* (-1.4%).

The most significant monthly price changes were increases in *Clothing & Footwear* (+3.8%), *Miscellaneous Goods & Services* (+1.3%) and *Transport* (+1.2%).

The main factors contributing to the monthly change were as follows:

- ◆ *Clothing & Footwear* increased due to a further recovery from sales.
- ◆ *Miscellaneous Goods & Services* rose mainly due to increases in health insurance premiums.
- ◆ *Transport* rose mainly due to an increase in airfares and higher petrol and diesel prices.

CPI sub-indices

The annual rate of inflation for Services was 1.2% in the year to March, while Goods decreased by 0.2%. Services, excluding mortgage interest repayments, increased by 2.1% in the year since March 2012.

The CPI excluding tobacco for March increased by 0.5% in the month and was up by 0.5% in the year. The CPI excluding energy products rose by 0.5% in the month and increased by 0.3% in the year. The CPI excluding mortgage interest increased by 0.5% in the month and rose by 1.0% in the year.

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Contributions to the overall CPI

Table 4 shows the contribution of each 2-digit COICOP¹ division to the overall change in the CPI.

The divisions which caused the largest upward contribution to the CPI in the year were *Restaurants & Hotels* (+0.26%), *Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco* (+0.26%), *Miscellaneous Goods & Services* (+0.25%) and *Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages* (+0.17%).

The divisions which caused the largest downward contribution to the CPI in the year were *Transport* (-0.25%), *Communications* (-0.19%) and *Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance* (-0.13%).

The main factors contributing to the annual change were as follows:

- ◆ *Restaurants & Hotels* rose mainly due to higher prices for alcohol consumed on licenced premises.
- ◆ *Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco* rose due to higher prices for alcohol sold in off licences and supermarkets and higher tobacco prices.
- ◆ *Miscellaneous Goods & Services* increased mainly due to higher health insurance premiums.
- ◆ *Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages* rose mainly due to an increase in the price of vegetables and meat.
- ◆ *Transport* fell due to a decrease in airfares.
- ◆ *Communications* fell due to decreases in the cost of telephone and telefax equipment and telephone and telefax services.
- ◆ *Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance* decreased mainly due to furniture and furnishings sales.

A detailed breakdown of the individual components of each of the 12 COICOP divisions is presented in the supplementary Detailed Sub-indices release.

Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices

The EU Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) increased by 0.4 in the month, compared with an increase of 1.0% recorded in March of last year. Prices on average, as measured by the HICP, were 0.6% higher in March compared with March 2012.

The most notable changes in the year were increases in *Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco* (+4.8%), *Education* (+4.7%), *Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels* (+3.4%) and *Restaurants & Hotels* (+1.9%). There were decreases in *Communications* (-5.5%), *Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance* (-3.3%) and *Transport* (-2.5%).

The most significant monthly price changes were increases in *Clothing & Footwear* (+3.9%) and *Transport* (+1.3%). There were decreases in *Communications* (-1.2%) and *Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages* (-0.5%).

European Union comparison

In February 2013², the HICP in the Euro Area increased by 1.8% in the year and by 2.0% for the EU. The highest rate in the EU was in Romania (+4.8%) followed by Estonia (+4.0%) and the Netherlands (+3.2%). Greece had the lowest rate of inflation in the EU, based on the HICP, at +0.1%. In the United Kingdom, the HICP showed an annual increase of 2.8%.

¹ *Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose Adapted to the Needs of Harmonised Indices of Consumer Prices (2000)*.

² *Data for other countries published one month behind due to differences in national publication timeframes.*

Table 1 Consumer Price Index (All Items)

Period	Consumer Price Index (CPI)		Percentage changes			
	Dec. 2011=100 ¹	Dec. 2006=100 ¹	1	3	12	
			month	months	months	
			%	%	%	
2006	Year				+ 4.0	
2007	Year				+ 4.9	
2008	Year				+ 4.1	
2009	Year				- 4.5	
2010	Year				- 1.0	
2011	Year				+ 2.6	
2012	Year	101.1			+ 1.7	
2010	January	95.8	100.0	- 0.6	- 1.1	- 3.9
	February	96.2	100.4	+ 0.4	- 0.7	- 3.2
	March	96.3	100.5	+ 0.1	- 0.1	- 3.1
	April	96.5	100.7	+ 0.2	+ 0.7	- 2.1
	May	97.0	101.3	+ 0.6	+ 0.9	- 1.1
	June	96.9	101.2	- 0.1	+ 0.7	- 0.9
	July	96.9	101.2	-	+ 0.5	- 0.1
	August	97.6	101.9	+ 0.7	+ 0.6	+ 0.2
	September	97.5	101.8	- 0.1	+ 0.6	+ 0.5
	October	97.6	101.8	-	+ 0.6	+ 0.7
	November	97.4	101.7	- 0.1	- 0.2	+ 0.6
	December	97.6	101.9	+ 0.2	+ 0.1	+ 1.3
2011	January	97.4	101.7	- 0.2	- 0.1	+ 1.7
	February	98.3	102.6	+ 0.9	+ 0.9	+ 2.2
	March	99.2	103.5	+ 0.9	+ 1.6	+ 3.0
	April	99.5	103.9	+ 0.4	+ 2.2	+ 3.2
	May	99.6	104.0	+ 0.1	+ 1.4	+ 2.7
	June	99.5	103.9	- 0.1	+ 0.4	+ 2.7
	July	99.5	103.9	-	-	+ 2.7
	August	99.7	104.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.1	+ 2.2
	September	100.0	104.4	+ 0.3	+ 0.5	+ 2.6
	October	100.3	104.7	+ 0.3	+ 0.8	+ 2.8
	November	100.3	104.7	-	+ 0.6	+ 2.9
	December	100.0	104.4	- 0.3	-	+ 2.5
2012	January	99.5	103.9	- 0.5	- 0.8	+ 2.2
	February	100.4	104.8	+ 0.9	+ 0.1	+ 2.1
	March	101.4	105.9	+ 1.0	+ 1.4	+ 2.2
	April	101.4	105.9	-	+ 1.9	+ 1.9
	May	101.4	105.9	-	+ 1.0	+ 1.8
	June	101.2	105.7	- 0.2	- 0.2	+ 1.7
	July	101.1	105.6	- 0.1	- 0.3	+ 1.6
	August	101.7	106.2	+ 0.6	+ 0.3	+ 2.0
	September	101.6	106.0	- 0.1	+ 0.4	+ 1.6
	October	101.5	106.0	- 0.1	+ 0.4	+ 1.2
	November	101.1	105.5	- 0.4	- 0.6	+ 0.8
	December	101.2	105.6	+ 0.1	- 0.4	+ 1.2
2013	January	100.7	105.2	- 0.5	- 0.8	+ 1.2
	February	101.5	105.9	+ 0.8	+ 0.4	+ 1.1
	March	101.9	106.4	+ 0.4	+ 0.7	+ 0.5

¹ Data prior to December 2011 is linked to current Consumer Price Index at mid-December 2011.

Table 2 CPI Subindices, March 2013

Subindices	Weights 2013	Consumer Price Index (CPI)		Percentage changes		
		Dec. 2011=100	Dec. 2006=100	1	3	12
				month	months	months
CPI excluding Tobacco	97.094	101.9	105.6	+ 0.5	+ 0.8	+ 0.5
CPI excluding Housing ¹	88.104	103.0	107.6	+ 0.5	+ 0.8	+ 0.9
CPI excluding Mortgage Interest	94.971	103.0	107.2	+ 0.5	+ 0.9	+ 1.0
CPI excluding Energy Products ²	89.265	101.2	103.1	+ 0.5	+ 0.8	+ 0.3
CPI excluding Energy and Unprocessed Food ³	84.168	101.2	103.5	+ 0.6	+ 0.9	+ 0.2

¹ Housing includes rents, waste collection & disposal charges, mortgage interest, materials for repairs & decoration and house insurance.

² Energy products includes electricity, gas, other domestic and transport fuels.

³ Energy and unprocessed food includes electricity, gas, other domestic & transport fuels, meat, fish, fruit and vegetables.

Table 3 Consumer Price COICOP Division Indices, March 2013

COICOP Division	Weights 2013	Consumer Price Index (CPI)		Percentage changes		
		Dec. 2011=100	Dec. 2006=100	1	3	12
				month	months	months
01 Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	11.481	101.2	103.3	- 0.5	- 0.4	+ 1.6
02 Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	5.401	108.7	119.9	-	+ 5.8	+ 4.8
03 Clothing and Footwear	4.844	98.1	70.7	+ 3.8	- 1.1	- 1.1
04 Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	16.089	98.5	105.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.4	+ 0.3
05 Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	4.847	95.7	83.8	- 0.3	- 1.6	- 3.3
06 Health	2.677	101.5	118.1	+ 0.1	+ 1.4	+ 0.8
07 Transport	14.535	106.6	116.2	+ 1.2	+ 2.3	- 1.4
08 Communications	3.133	94.9	100.5	- 1.1	+ 0.3	- 5.5
09 Recreation and Culture	7.811	99.6	98.3	-	+ 0.2	+ 0.1
10 Education	2.679	104.7	138.0	-	-	+ 4.7
11 Restaurants and Hotels ¹	15.154	102.7	104.4	+ 0.4	+ 1.1	+ 1.9
12 Miscellaneous Goods and Services	11.349	105.7	126.7	+ 1.3	-	+ 2.5
ALL ITEMS	100.000	101.9	106.4	+ 0.4	+ 0.7	+ 0.5
Of which:						
Goods ²	44.984	101.3	99.6	+ 0.3	+ 0.3	- 0.2
Services ³	55.016	102.5	112.5	+ 0.7	+ 1.2	+ 1.2
Energy Products	10.735	107.4	144.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.5	+ 1.8
Utilities and Local Charges ⁴	3.687	107.6	122.5	-	+ 0.5	+ 7.3
Alcohol ⁵	8.926	107.2	108.9	-	+ 4.3	+ 4.8
Tobacco	2.906	105.2	134.1	-	+ 0.1	+ 2.4
Mortgage Interest	5.029	85.0	91.5	-	- 0.5	- 7.0
Services excluding Mortgage Interest	49.987	104.5	115.0	+ 0.8	+ 1.4	+ 2.1

¹ Includes alcoholic beverages consumed on licensed premises.

² Non service items usually purchased and transportable from a retail outlet.

³ Electricity, gas, telecommunications, alcoholic beverages consumed on licensed premises, meals out, housing, rent, mortgage interest repayments, insurance, public transport, entertainment and recreation, education, household services and miscellaneous services including childcare, social protection, package holidays and other services.

⁴ Electricity, gas, landline telecommunications and waste collection & disposal charges.

⁵ Constitutes part of 02 (see page 13 - off-licence sales) and part of 11 (see page 13 - alcohol consumed on licensed premises) giving a combined index for alcohol.

See Background Notes page 13 for definition of COICOP divisions.

Table 4 Contributions to the change in the All Items CPI, March 2013

COICOP Division	Percentage contributions		
	1 month	3 months	12 months ²
01 Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	- 0.05	- 0.04	+ 0.17
02 Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	-	+ 0.31	+ 0.26
03 Clothing and Footwear	+ 0.18	- 0.05	- 0.05
04 Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	+ 0.01	+ 0.06	+ 0.04
05 Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	- 0.01	- 0.08	- 0.13
06 Health	-	+ 0.04	+ 0.01
07 Transport	+ 0.19	+ 0.34	- 0.25
08 Communications	- 0.04	+ 0.01	- 0.19
09 Recreation and Culture	-	+ 0.02	+ 0.01
10 Education	-	-	+ 0.11
11 Restaurants and Hotels	+ 0.05	+ 0.16	+ 0.26
12 Miscellaneous Goods and Services	+ 0.15	-	+ 0.25
ALL ITEMS % change	+ 0.4¹	+ 0.7¹	+ 0.5¹
Goods	+ 0.11	+ 0.13	- 0.08
Services	+ 0.36	+ 0.64	+ 0.66
Energy Products	+ 0.01	+ 0.05	+ 0.21
Tobacco	-	-	+ 0.06
Mortgage Interest	-	- 0.02	- 0.37

¹ Totals may not equal the sum of the categories due to rounding differences.

² Estimated.

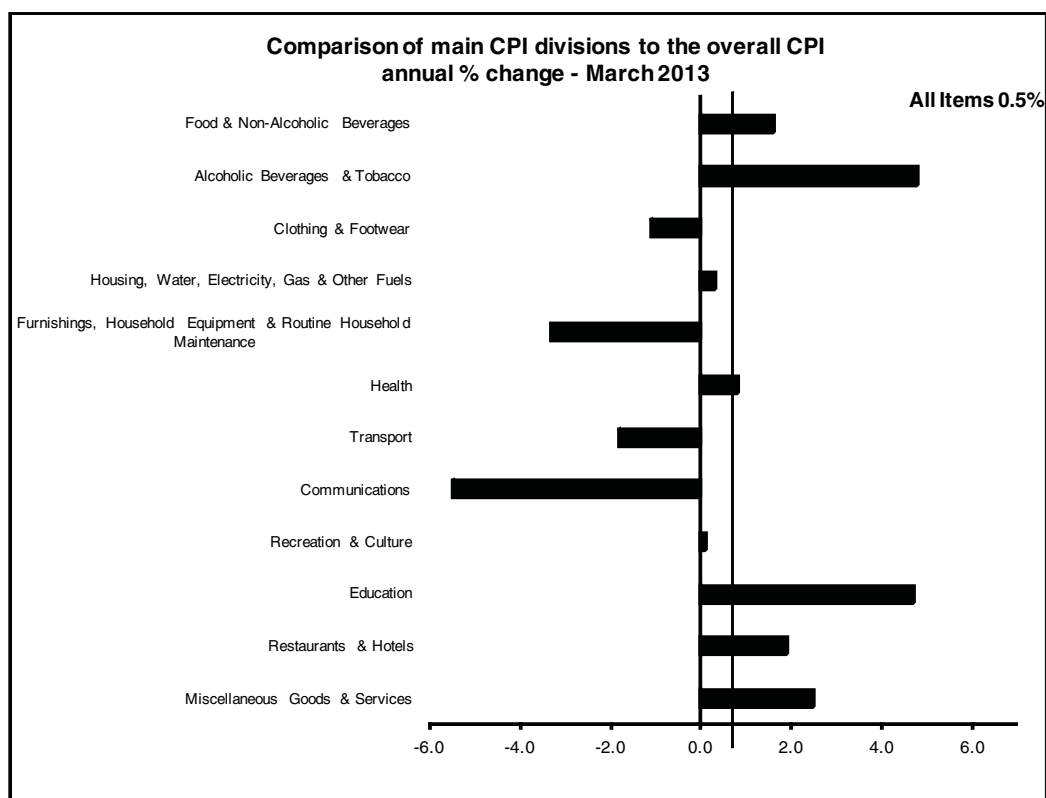


Table 5 EU Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices - Ireland

Period		HICP	Percentage changes	
		Year 2005=100	1 month	12 months
			%	%
2005	Year	100.0		+ 2.2
2006	Year	102.7		+ 2.7
2007	Year	105.6		+ 2.8
2008	Year	108.9		+ 3.1
2009	Year	107.1		- 1.7
2010	Year	105.4		- 1.6
2011	Year	106.6		+ 1.1
2012	Year	108.7		+ 2.0
2010	January	105.0	- 0.7	- 2.4
	February	105.2	+ 0.2	- 2.4
	March	105.3	+ 0.1	- 2.4
	April	105.3	-	- 2.5
	May	105.6	+ 0.3	- 1.9
	June	105.5	- 0.1	- 2.0
	July	105.4	- 0.1	- 1.2
	August	105.6	+ 0.2	- 1.2
	September	105.4	- 0.2	- 1.0
	October	105.5	+ 0.1	- 0.8
	November	105.3	- 0.2	- 0.8
	December	105.5	+ 0.2	- 0.2
2011	January	105.2	- 0.3	+ 0.2
	February	106.1	+ 0.9	+ 0.9
	March	106.6	+ 0.5	+ 1.2
	April	106.9	+ 0.3	+ 1.5
	May	106.9	-	+ 1.2
	June	106.7	- 0.2	+ 1.1
	July	106.5	- 0.2	+ 1.0
	August	106.7	+ 0.2	+ 1.0
	September	106.8	+ 0.1	+ 1.3
	October	107.1	+ 0.3	+ 1.5
	November	107.1	-	+ 1.7
	December	107.0	- 0.1	+ 1.4
2012	January	106.6	- 0.4	+ 1.3
	February	107.8	+ 1.1	+ 1.6
	March	108.9	+ 1.0	+ 2.2
	April	108.9	-	+ 1.9
	May	108.9	-	+ 1.9
	June	108.7	- 0.2	+ 1.9
	July	108.6	- 0.1	+ 2.0
	August	109.5	+ 0.8	+ 2.6
	September	109.4	- 0.1	+ 2.4
	October	109.3	- 0.1	+ 2.1
	November	108.8	- 0.5	+ 1.6
	December	108.8	-	+ 1.7
2013	January	108.2	- 0.6	+ 1.5
	February	109.1	+ 0.8	+ 1.2
	March	109.5	+ 0.4	+ 0.6

Table 6 EU Harmonised Consumer Price COICOP Division Indices, March 2013
Ireland

COICOP Division	HICP	Percentage changes			Percentage contributions	
	2005=100	1	12	1	12	
		month	months	month	months ³	
		%	%	%	%	
01 Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	105.0	- 0.5	+ 1.6	- 0.06	+ 0.20	
02 Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	125.7	- 0.1	+ 4.8	-	+ 0.29	
03 Clothing and Footwear	71.3	+ 3.9	- 1.1	+ 0.19	- 0.06	
04 Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	124.5	-	+ 3.4	-	+ 0.44	
05 Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	82.8	- 0.2	- 3.3	- 0.01	- 0.14	
06 Health	123.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	-	+ 0.01	
07 Transport	116.4	+ 1.3	- 2.5	+ 0.20	- 0.44	
08 Communications	100.0	- 1.2	- 5.5	- 0.04	- 0.21	
09 Recreation and Culture	100.4	-	+ 0.1	-	+ 0.02	
10 Education	149.4	-	+ 4.7	-	+ 0.13	
11 Restaurants and Hotels	109.7	+ 0.4	+ 1.9	+ 0.06	+ 0.28	
12 Miscellaneous Goods and Services	119.7	+ 0.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.02	+ 0.01	
HICP	109.5	+ 0.4	+ 0.6	+ 0.4 ¹	+ 0.6 ¹	
Goods	100.9	+ 0.2	- 0.4	+ 0.11	- 0.09	
Services	118.7	+ 0.4	+ 1.3	+ 0.25	+ 0.71	
HICP excluding Energy and Unprocessed Food ²	105.6	+ 0.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.39	+ 0.18	

¹ Totals may not equal the sum of the categories due to rounding differences.

² Energy and unprocessed food includes electricity, gas, other domestic & transport fuels, meat, fish, fruit and vegetables.

³ Estimated.

Table 7 EU Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices - annual % changes, October 2012 to February 2013

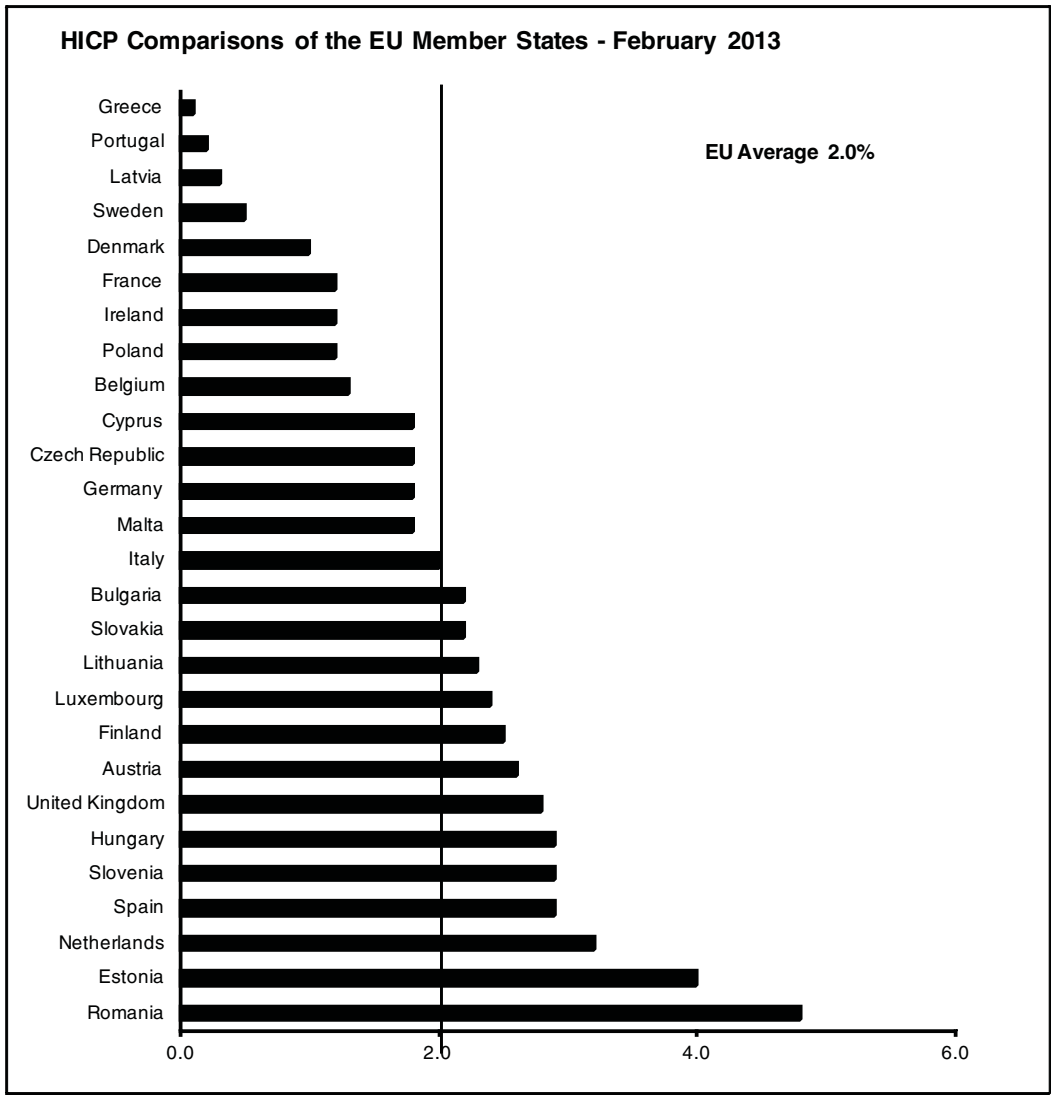
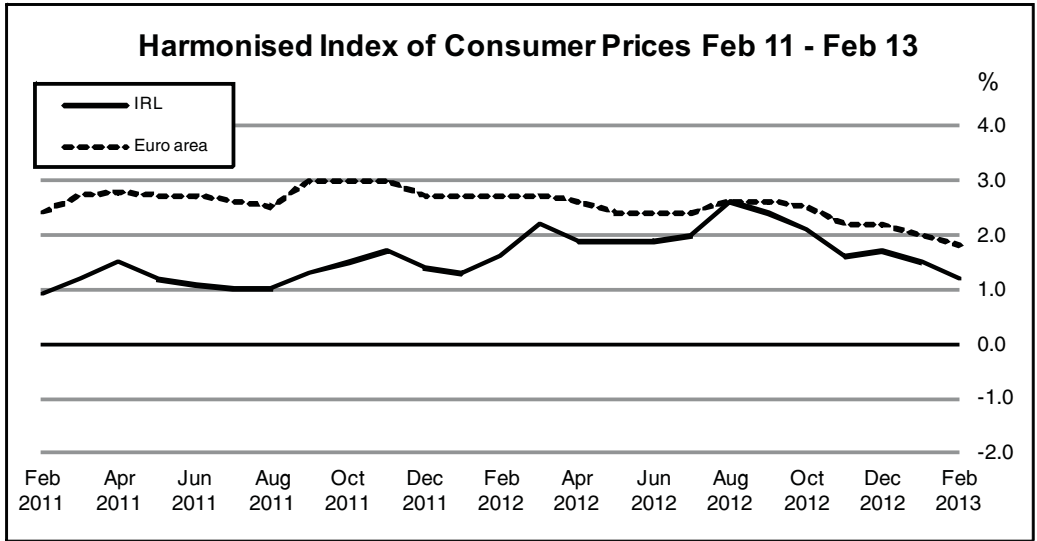
Country	February 2012 February 2013	January 2012 January 2013	December 2011 December 2012	November 2011 November 2012	October 2011 October 2012
Austria	2.6 ¹	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9
Belgium	1.3	1.5	2.1	2.2	2.7 ³
Cyprus	1.8	2.0	1.5	1.4	2.6
Estonia	4.0	3.7	3.6	3.8	4.2
Finland	2.5	2.6	3.5	3.2	3.5
France	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.6	2.1
Germany	1.8	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.1
Greece	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.9
Ireland	1.2	1.5	1.7	1.6	2.1
Italy	2.0	2.4	2.6	2.6	2.8
Luxembourg	2.4	2.1	2.5	2.7	3.2
Malta	1.8	2.4	2.8	3.6	3.2
Netherlands	3.2	3.2	3.4	3.2	3.3
Portugal	0.2	0.4	2.1	1.9	2.1
Slovakia	2.2	2.5	3.4	3.5	3.9
Slovenia	2.9	2.8	3.1	2.8	3.2
Spain	2.9	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.5
Euro Area (MUICP)²	1.8 ¹	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.5
Bulgaria	2.2	2.6	2.8	2.7	3.0
Czech Republic	1.8	1.8	2.4	2.8	3.6
Denmark	1.0	1.0	1.9	2.2	2.3
Hungary	2.9	2.8	5.1	5.3	6.0
Latvia	0.3	0.6	1.6	1.5	1.6
Lithuania	2.3	2.7	2.9	2.8	3.2
Poland	1.2	1.6	2.2	2.7	3.4
Romania	4.8	5.1	4.6	4.4	5.0
Sweden	0.5	0.7	1.0 ³	0.8	1.2
United Kingdom	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7
EU	2.0 ¹	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.6

¹ Provisional

² MUICP (see Background Notes)

³ Revised

Source: Eurostat



**Table 8 Main Categories of EU Harmonised Indices of Consumer Prices - annual % changes
February 2013**

	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12
Euro area	1.8 ¹	2.4 ¹	3.9 ¹	0.1 ¹	3.3 ¹	1.2 ¹	0.2 ¹	2.0 ¹	-4.8 ¹	1.2 ¹	3.4 ¹	2.3 ¹	1.8 ¹
EU	2.0 ¹	2.7 ¹	4.7 ¹	0.0 ¹	3.1 ¹	1.0 ¹	0.7 ¹	1.8 ¹	-3.3 ¹	1.1 ¹	7.3 ¹	2.4 ¹	1.7 ¹
Belgium	1.3	3.3	5.1	1.5	-0.8	1.1	1.2	0.5	-2.9	-0.1	0.5	2.4	2.1
Germany	1.8	2.8	1.5	-0.1	3.0	1.1	-4.1	1.3	-1.6	2.3	2.3	6.4	0.5
Estonia	4.0	5.7	5.7	4.8	10.5	1.5	3.6	-0.8	-8.0	1.4	2.7	5.5	1.1
Ireland	1.2	2.0	5.4	-2.3	3.8	-3.2	0.1	0.4	-4.3	0.1	4.7	1.9	1.2
Greece	0.1	0.2	1.0	1.8	7.6	-3.0	-3.6	0.2	-5.2	-2.4	-4.0	-1.3	-2.1
Spain	2.9	2.8	8.1	0.0	4.4	1.4	12.9	3.7	-1.8	1.3	10.4	0.6	3.4
France	1.2	1.5	5.4	0.3	2.8	1.4	-0.1	1.6	-14.5	0.1	2.2	2.1	1.8
Italy	2.0	2.3	2.7	0.0	4.7	1.5	1.4	2.5	-4.2	-0.2	3.0	1.4	2.3
Cyprus	1.8	1.6	11.4	-2.6	3.0	-0.2	-1.0	4.6	2.1	0.9	0.8	-0.6	1.1
Luxembourg	2.4	3.4	3.7	1.9	2.1	2.3	0.7	1.6	-0.1	2.3	1.2	2.7	3.5
Malta	1.8	4.6	2.4	3.1	1.1	3.2	2.5	0.7	-9.9	2.8	1.7	0.9	2.6
Netherlands	3.2	2.9	7.6	-0.3	3.4	1.5	6.2	4.7	-0.1	2.4	2.1	1.8	5.3
Austria	2.6 ¹	3.5 ¹	1.0 ¹	1.5 ¹	3.6 ¹	2.0 ¹	3.2 ¹	1.7 ¹	0.4 ¹	2.4 ¹	2.9 ¹	3.5 ¹	2.3 ¹
Portugal	0.2	2.0	5.1	-4.9	3.5	-0.2	-1.6	-0.3	-0.4	1.3	1.4	1.3	-0.3
Slovenia	2.9	4.5	11.5	7.6	3.0	-1.5	0.1	2.9	-4.7	-0.6	3.7	4.8	1.5
Slovakia	2.2	5.6	3.5	1.4	-0.4	0.2	4.8	0.1	1.2	2.2	6.6	2.7	3.6
Finland	2.5	6.0	3.4	-3.3	3.3	1.9	-0.2	2.4	-8.3	0.7	3.1	5.0	2.9
Bulgaria	2.2	4.8	0.8	-1.0	8.2	0.8	-0.2	1.2	-0.7	-1.8	3.8	3.0	1.4
Czech Republic	1.8	4.9	3.7	-2.8	3.4	-0.7	3.1	-0.6	-5.1	0.3	1.5	1.6	1.6
Denmark	1.0	1.2	4.9	-0.3	2.3	-0.8	0.4	0.2	-7.1	2.0	2.9	3.2	-0.6
Latvia	0.3	1.8	0.7	-0.9	0.9	-2.2	2.1	-0.6	-6.7	0.1	-1.1	0.5	1.5
Lithuania	2.3	2.5	4.8	3.4	2.1	1.4	2.5	1.4	-2.5	1.6	5.7	2.0	2.7
Hungary	2.9	4.1	16.9	-0.4	-3.9	1.6	2.7	1.3	2.6	0.8	4.0	3.4	6.2
Poland	1.2	2.6	3.8	-4.9	2.0	1.5	2.4	-0.4	-4.5	-0.2	2.1	2.5	1.3
Romania	4.8	7.1	5.7	1.8	7.8	1.5	1.6	3.9	0.8	2.0	3.4	4.1	6.0
Sweden	0.5	1.8	1.6	3.1	0.0	-3.1	1.9	0.2	-3.5	-0.7	2.7	1.8	1.3
United Kingdom	2.8	3.7	7.1	-0.6	4.4	0.7	2.1	1.9	4.0	1.2	19.7	3.1	0.9

¹ Provisional

Source: Eurostat

COICOP/HICP Code

00	HICP (all items index)	06	Health
01	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	07	Transport
02	Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	08	Communications
03	Clothing and footwear	09	Recreation and culture
04	Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	10	Education
05	Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	11	Restaurants and hotels
		12	Miscellaneous goods and services

Background Notes – Consumer Price Index

- Definition** The Consumer Price Index is designed to measure the change in the average level of prices (inclusive of all indirect taxes) paid for consumer goods and services by all private and institutional households in the country and by foreign tourists holidaying in Ireland.
- Consumer Price Index (CPI)** Over 50,000 prices are collected for a representative basket consisting of 632 item headings in a fixed panel of retail and service outlets throughout the country during the week containing the second Tuesday of each month up to and including the third Tuesday of each month. The dates to which the March index relates are Monday 11th to Tuesday, 19th March 2013.
- Scope of the Index**
- (i) **Population Coverage:** All private and institutional households in the State and the expenditure of foreign tourists within Ireland. It does not include the expenditure of other non private households. Expenditure which occurs abroad by Irish residents is also excluded. In statistical terms coverage is referred to as the domestic concept.
 - (ii) **Geographic Coverage:** Covers the whole of the Republic of Ireland. Pricing takes place in 84 locations (cities and towns) throughout the country. These sampling points are located in Dublin city and county, the four regional cities of Cork, Limerick, Galway and Waterford, approx. 80% of towns with a population of 10,000 and over, approx. 70% of towns between 5,000 and 9,999 and a smaller proportion below this threshold. The results are weighted to represent the distribution of the population and its related consumer expenditure.
 - (iii) **Item Coverage:** All goods and services bought by the reference population for the purposes of consumption are included in the index. Expenditure on capital assets and investments, gambling and certain other activities are however excluded. There are 632 item headings and 12 division headings based on the COICOP classification. With each rebase the coverage of goods and services is reviewed to ensure that it continues to be representative of consumer tastes and purchasing practices.
- Price Collection** Personal visits are made to retail outlets by some 80 price collectors on a monthly basis. Approximately 50,000 price quotations are gathered in this way. In addition, 126 special inquiries covering items such as utility charges and services are conducted by post, telephone and e-mail in conjunction with internet price collection. Most prices are collected monthly, some quarterly and others annually. The CSO supplies general specifications to price collectors and price collectors are free initially to select a brand and in certain cases, size. This allows for a wide variety of different brands of the same item to be priced throughout the country. Once selected, the same item/brand is priced on a monthly basis in order to ensure matched price quotations. If an item disappears, substitution can occur but that price is excluded until matched prices are available for the same comparable item for two consecutive months. The CSO wishes to put on record its appreciation of the co-operation and assistance it receives from retail outlets and other business concerns.
- Classification** The classification used in the CPI is based on a version of the Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose Adapted to the Needs of Harmonised Indices of Consumer Prices (2000) (COICOP). This replaced the former national classification which was used up to December 2001. The COICOP classification breaks consumer expenditure into twelve different divisions covering a comprehensive range of consumer goods and services.
- Annual Update of CPI Weights** For 2013, the CPI COICOP class (4-digit) level weights were updated with a reference period of December 2012. The weights were based primarily on the 2011 National Accounts Household Final Monetary Consumption Expenditure (HFMCE) data. The expenditure data were price updated at CPI COICOP class level to December 2012 using the price movement of the corresponding CPI COICOP class indices.

The sample of items in the basket, retail outlets and service providers and locations remains unchanged from the December 2011 rebase.

Background Notes – Consumer Price Index (continued)

CPI Item Weights The CPI measures in index form the monthly changes in the cost of purchasing a fixed representative ‘basket’ of consumer goods and services (i.e. Laspeyres formula). Identical items are priced in the same outlet on each occasion so that changes in the cost of this constant basket reflect only pure price changes. The current basket of goods and services consists of 632 representative items which were selected as part of the December 2011 rebase and remain unchanged for 2013. The representative share of each item in the basket is proportional to the average amount purchased by all households in the State and foreign tourists in Ireland based primarily on the 2009/2010 Household Budget Survey (HBS) and estimates of expenditure by foreign tourists across a range of consumer goods and services. When the new COICOP class (4-digit) level weights were introduced with the January 2013 index, the CPI item weights were also updated. The CPI item weights were calculated on a pro rata basis using proportions from the December 2011 rebase.

Methodological Details A full methodological description of the new series is available in the Consumer Price Index Introduction of Updated Series (Base: December 2011 = 100) which is published on the CSO website at <http://cso.ie/shorturl.aspx/106>.

Rebase The index has been rebased with effect from December 2011, the eleventh series since the foundation of the State.

The rebase of the current CPI resulted in a number of methodological changes:

- Updating the expenditure weights;
- A revision of the sample of goods and services;
- An update of the sample of areas priced;
- Calculation of the mortgage interest component.

Goods and Services The CPI basket can be split into two constituent parts - goods and services according to the following definitions.

Goods Goods are defined as non service items usually purchased and transportable from a retail outlet - the basket excluding services.

Services Services include electricity, gas, telecommunications and other public utilities, alcoholic beverages consumed on licensed premises, meals out, accommodation services, public transport, medical fees, insurances, education fees, hairdressing & other personal services, childcare & social protection, entertainment & recreation services, mortgage interest & rents, package holidays and other miscellaneous services.

Utilities and Local Charges Includes electricity, gas, landline telecommunications and waste collection & disposal charges.

Background Notes – Harmonised Indices of Consumer Prices

- Introduction** The European Union-Harmonised Indices of Consumer Prices (EU-HICP) is calculated in each Member State of the EU. The purpose of this index is to allow the comparison of consumer price trends in the different Member States.
- Comparison with CPI** The methodology now adopted for the construction of the national CPI is identical to that recommended for the HICP. Thus the two indices only differ in respect of the coverage of certain goods and services and the treatment of insurance. The current EU reference base period (Year 2005 = 100) is however retained for ease of comparison with other EU countries.
- Excluded Items** The following items, constituting approximately 8.5% of the Irish CPI expenditure weighting, are excluded from the HICP:
- ◆ mortgage interest
 - ◆ building materials
 - ◆ motor car tax
 - ◆ motor cycle tax
 - ◆ motor car insurance (non-service)
 - ◆ contents insurance (non-service)
 - ◆ dwelling insurance
 - ◆ union subscriptions
- Annual Update of HICP Weights** For 2013, the CPI COICOP class (4-digit) level weights were updated with a reference period of December 2012. The weights were based primarily on the 2011 HFMCE data. The expenditure data were price updated at HICP COICOP class level to December 2012 using the price movement of the corresponding HICP COICOP class indices.
- The sample of items in the basket, retail outlets and service providers and locations remains unchanged from the December 2011 rebase.
- Monetary Union Index of Consumer Prices (MUICP)** Euro area inflation is measured by the MUICP ('Monetary Union Index of Consumer Prices' as defined in Council Regulation (EC) No 2494/95 of 23 October 1995) which is the official euro area aggregate. The MUICP is calculated as a weighted average of HICPs of the 17 countries in the euro area. Country weights are computed every year reflecting the country's share of the household final monetary consumption expenditure in the euro area total.
- Classification System** The coverage of the indices is based on the international classification system, Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose Adapted to the Needs of Harmonised Indices of Consumer Prices (2000) (COICOP).

Background Notes – COICOP

Prior to the introduction of the December 2001 based series in January 2002 the CPI used a national classification while the EU Harmonised Indices of Consumer Prices (HICP) used COICOP. To ensure greater comparability CPI and the HICP have both used the COICOP since December 2001.

The COICOP classification is based on 12 main divisions.

01 Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages	Includes food and non alcoholic beverages purchased in supermarkets, small shops, speciality shops and petrol station forecourt outlets. It excludes meals out which are covered under 11 Restaurants and Hotels.
02 Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	Includes alcoholic beverages purchased in off licences and supermarkets but excludes alcohol consumed on or within licensed premises which is classified under 11 Restaurants and Hotels. It also includes tobacco products.
03 Clothing and Footwear	Mens, ladies and childrens clothing and footwear, sports and leisurewear and services such as laundry and dry cleaning, shoe repair, dress hire and alteration.
04 Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	Covers rents, mortgage interest repayments, waste collection and disposal charges, goods and services for maintaining, decorating and repairing dwellings and domestic energy products such as electricity, gas, home heating oil and solid fuels.
05 Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	Covers household items such as furniture, carpets and other floor coverings, household textiles and soft furnishings, household appliances, and other household items such as utensils, tools, garden equipment and non-durable items for cleaning, washing and other day to day household activity. Also included are services such as electrical repair, cleaning and gardening.
06 Health	Includes medical products, appliances and equipment, hospital charges and out patient services supplied by doctors, dentists, opticians, physiotherapists and practitioners of alternative and complimentary medicine.
07 Transport	Includes the purchase of new and second hand vehicles, spare parts, car maintenance, fuels and lubricants, public transport and services such as parking, motor association subscriptions, car wash, toll charges, driving lessons, driving test, driving licence and car hire.
08 Communications	Postal and telecommunications services.
09 Recreation and Culture	Includes items such as audio visual and photographic equipment, computers, music and DVDs, sports and recreation goods, games and toys, items connected with gardening and pets, recreational, sporting and cultural activities and events, newspapers and other reading material, package holidays and other items connected with recreation and culture.
10 Education	Covers all aspects of education including pre-primary and primary, secondary, third level and other education and training such as night courses and examination fees.
11 Restaurants and Hotels	Includes meals in restaurants and hotels; fast food and takeaways; cafes; canteens; alcohol consumed on or within a licensed premises and accommodation services supplied by hotels, guesthouses and hostels.
12 Miscellaneous Goods and Services	Covers a wide range of items including hairdressing and other grooming; goods for hygiene, hair and body care; personal goods such as jewellery, handbags and wallets; childcare and other social protection services; insurance, financial services and other services including funerals, weddings, legal and professional services. The household charge was added to this division, in the CPI, under the item 'miscellaneous goods and services' in April 2012. The household charge is not included in the HICP.

Background Notes – Calculation of Percentage Changes and Contributions

Calculating percentage changes in the index The movement of the CPI, HICP and their subindices are expressed as percentage changes, rather than changes in index points, because index point changes are affected by the level of the index in relation to its base period, whereas percentage changes are not. The example below illustrates the computation of index point and percentage changes.

Index point change	
Current index	106.7
Less previous index	103.7
Equals index point change	3.0
Percentage change	
Index point change	3.0
Divided by the previous index	103.7
Equals	0.0289
Result multiplied by 100	0.0289 x 100
Equals percentage change	2.9

Estimating Contributions A contribution represents the amount of the overall percentage change in the All Items CPI which is accounted for by any given category. It can be estimated for any category in the CPI (e.g. the twelve COICOP 2 digit divisions) and for any period of time.

Data Required:

1. Base weight for the category for which you wish to estimate the contribution.
2. Current index for the category in question (same base period).
3. Previous index for the category in question (same base period).
4. All Items CPI for the previous period in question (i.e. the start period).

Example: To estimate the contribution of Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages (COICOP 01) to the overall annual percentage change in the CPI up to July 2006 you would need the following data

1. Base weight for COICOP 01 (base December 2001):	14.092%
2. Current Index (i.e. July 2006) for COICOP 01:	103.7
3. Previous Index (i.e. July 2005) for COICOP 01:	102.1
4. All Items CPI for the previous period (i.e. July 2005):	111.3

Steps in the calculation	Step 1: Multiply the base weight by the current index:	14.092 x 103.7
	Equals (1)	1461.3404
	Step 2: Multiply the base weight by the previous index:	14.092 x 102.1
	Equals (2)	1438.7932
	Step 3: Subtract figure (2) from figure (1)	1461.3404 - 1438.7932
	Equals (3)	22.5472
	Step 4: Divide figure (3) by the previous All Items CPI	22.5472 / 111.3
	Equals Contribution	0.20

Therefore your estimated contribution of Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages to the percentage change in the CPI for the year to July 2006 is 0.20. The actual published figure was 0.19. The difference is due to the fact that actual published contributions are calculated using data to more decimal places.

The first and second releases for the two periods involved will contain sufficient information to allow contributions to be estimated for a large number of CPI and HICP categories. It is more complicated to estimate contributions where more than one base period is involved, as the base weights will have changed (e.g. to estimate a contribution for the period January 2000 to January 2005 involves the November 1996=100 base and the December 2001=100 base). For assistance in this regard please contact the CPI section.

Background Notes – Data Dissemination on www.cso.ie

The CSO website (www.cso.ie) now holds a range of CPI data. Within the Consumer Prices section of the website (accessed via the 'Prices' link on the homepage), a range of principle statistics are held including overall annual percentage changes from 1977 to date, All Items CPI annual figures from 1996 to date and COICOP division monthly and annual figures from 2002 to date.

Further data can be accessed at www.cso.ie by clicking on 'Database Direct' and 'CSO Main Data Dissemination Service'. The subject area is 'Economy', 'Prices', 'Consumer Prices' and 'Consumer Prices - Annual Series' or 'Consumer Prices - Monthly Series'. The website is updated each month at 11am on the CPI publication day.

The Database Direct for the CPI contains monthly and annual index numbers and percentage changes for the following categories and time periods:

Category	Period
All Items CPI	1975 to date
12 Main COICOP Divisions	1975 to date
Special CPI Subindices (CPI excluding Tobacco, Energy Products, etc)	1982 to date
Harmonised Indices of Consumer Prices (HICP)	1997 to date

In addition, the following data can also be accessed within Database Direct.

- Monthly index numbers and annual percentage changes for the Constant Tax Price Index from January 1997 to December 2006.
- National average prices for selected CPI goods and services from January 1997 to date.
- All Items CPI numbers for various base periods from 1922 to date.
- Detailed sub-indices are available from 2003 to date.

Any queries relating to the usage of the web dissemination database for CPI data should be directed to

Dympna Corry at 021 453 5128 (email dympna.corry@cso.ie)

or

Ann Ross at 021 453 5427 (email anne.ross@cso.ie).