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An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh

Consumer Price Index

Introduction of Updated Series (Base: December 2011=100)

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Chapter 1 Introduction

1.1 Overview This manual describes the 5 yearly updating, of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the procedures applied by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) to produce the CPI, the Harmonised Indices of Consumer Prices (HICP) and associated price indices.

This manual is designed for users who wish to know the concepts and statistical methods underlying the different indices and how the data are collected. While it does not attempt to go into every detail, which would require a publication many times the size of this one, it will address many of the questions that the CSO is usually asked about consumer price indices' methodology and practice.

This manual is mostly written in terms of the CPI but most of the methods and procedures in Chapter 2 to 7 are also applicable to the HICP. The two indices are calculated from the same underlying price data, although they differ in a number of respects. These differences are described in Chapter 8.

1.2 Description and definition of the CPI All the goods and services that consumers purchase have a price and that price may vary over time. Consumer price indices are designed to measure such changes. A useful way to understand the nature of these indices is to imagine a very large shopping basket comprising of a fixed set of goods and services bought by a typical private household (i.e. Laspeyres index formula). The quantity of each item in this basket is proportional to the average amount purchased by all private households in the country as determined by the Household Budget Survey (HBS). As the prices of individual items in this basket change, the total cost of the basket will change - the consumer price index measures the change from month to month in this total cost.

No two households spend their money in exactly the same way. Each household's or person's experience will be different. The CPI and HICP are measures of average inflation, based on average household expenditure on the items in the shopping basket.

The CPI is technically defined as an *average measure of change* in the prices of *goods and services* bought for the purpose of *consumption* by all *private households* in the country and by *foreign tourists* on holiday in Ireland.

There are several important points to note in this definition:

- *average measure*: a single figure that combines, or averages, all of the price changes covered.
- *change*: its purpose is to measure how prices change over time, not absolute levels of prices.
- *goods and services*: it does not just measure price change for essentials like food, heating and clothing but a wide variety of items purchased by most households.
- *consumption*: not for the purpose of investment. Also, because they are not consumed, savings and direct taxes are excluded (section 1.8.3).
- *private households and foreign tourists*: it measures price changes affecting private households, but excludes price changes that only affect businesses or Government. People living in institutions are also excluded but foreign tourists spending money in Ireland are included (section 1.8.2). This coverage is referred to as the domestic concept.

1.3 CPI is not a cost of living index The CPI measures price change. It is specifically designed *not* to take into account changes made by households to their pattern of expenditure (e.g. switches from expensive meat cuts to cheaper cuts, or vice versa) in response to changes in prices, income levels, family composition, tastes, consumer preferences or market conditions. Furthermore, payments such as income tax and social insurance contributions, which determine disposable income, are not covered.

The CPI is a price index, not a cost of living index. However, the most important factor determining changes in the cost of living is the extent to which prices of consumer goods and services vary. It is only this particular aspect of the cost of living, which is measured by the CPI.

1.4 Historical background Despite continual changes in consumer tastes and preferences, and in the range of goods and services available on the market, household purchasing patterns generally change slowly over time. It is this relative stability in the pattern of household purchases which permits the use of fixed weighting patterns in the compilation of the CPI.

However, the basket of goods and services and the index weights must be periodically updated if they are to continue to be representative of current expenditure patterns. Eleven different weighting bases have been used to date in the compilation of the index since the foundation of the State in 1922. The main features of the earlier index series are briefly described in Appendix 1. Since 1996 major updates or rebases have been undertaken on a five-year cycle.

1.5 Updating and rebasing From January 2012 onwards, the CPI will be published to base mid-December 2011 as 100 using weights derived from the results of the 2009/2010 HBS. Indices for the previous base periods continue to be calculated and made available.

The sample of goods and services surveyed by the CPI and the retail outlets and businesses where they are priced throughout the country have also been updated to ensure that they continue to be representative of current consumer tastes, purchasing practices and retailing structures.

1.6 Changes made in current updating The following are the main changes made in the current updating:

Updating of the sample of goods and services priced

The representative sample of goods and services covered by the index is updated at each rebasing to ensure that it continues to be representative of consumer tastes and purchasing practices. In the 2006 base index, there were 616 item headings covering a comprehensive range of consumer goods and services. The CSO commenced a review of the coverage of goods and services during 2011. This review process involved a significant amount of research. This research combined with results from the 2009/2010 HBS allowed a comprehensive update to be undertaken. In reviewing the coverage of goods and services, 27 new item headings were added while 26 item headings were removed. In addition, 27 existing item headings had their definition extended to include a broader range of items. Consequently, the updated CPI basket contains 632 item headings as of December 2011.

A full list of all items added, deleted or modified is contained in Appendix 2 and the full list of 632 item headings is contained in Appendix 3.

Updating of weights

The item heading weights were updated based on the results of the 2009/2010 HBS. This was done to ensure that the relative importance of the different divisions in the CPI is in line with current consumer spending behaviour. See Chapter 5 for more detail.

Updating of the sample of locations

Prices are collected for the CPI in 84 cities and towns across the State. There is at least one pricing location in each county. During the rebase, the sample of locations was reviewed with three main considerations. The first consideration was population. The overall sample of locations is divided into 5 areas, namely:

- Dublin
- South West region
- Border, Midland and West regions
- Mid-West and Mid-East regions
- South East region

While prices are collected in Dublin and all of the regional cities (Cork, Limerick, Waterford and Galway), a sample is taken within the towns with population between 10,000 and 20,000, between 5,000 and 10,000 and less than 5,000. Based on the preliminary results of the 2011 Census of Population a number of new towns were added while a number of others were removed from the sample in each of the three categories. The second consideration was geographical location. The sample was reviewed at county, region and State level to ensure good geographical coverage was maintained. Finally, the sample was reviewed with regard to representation of shopping locations.

This effort ensures that the sample continues to be representative of population and shopping behaviour trends.

Updating of the sample of outlets

Minor adjustments were made to the existing panel of retail outlets in which prices were surveyed to ensure that it remained representative of retail distribution structures (e.g. inclusion of new shopping centres and the increase in the proportion of supermarkets).

1.7 Uses of the CPI The CPI is used in many ways by the Government, businesses, society at large and internationally. The uses fall under three broad headings.

1.7.1 Macro-economic indicator *A measure of inflation*

There is no single definition of the word ‘inflation’. However, most consumers might think of inflation as a fall in the value of money reflecting a more or less continuous increase in the price of the goods and services that they purchase. Simplistically therefore, inflation can be thought of as the amount of extra money needed in period y to purchase the same basket of goods and services purchased with a given sum of money in an earlier period x .

Prices may also fall. For example, overall prices, as measured by the CPI, were lower than their value 12 months earlier (i.e. negative annual inflation) from January 2009 to July 2010.

The amount of money needed to purchase a fixed basket of goods and services is also known as the **internal purchasing power of the currency**, which can be expressed in two ways. Firstly, it is the amount of money needed in period y to purchase the same basket of goods and services that one Euro could purchase in an earlier period x . Conversely, it is the amount of money needed in an earlier period x , which could buy the same basket of goods and services that one Euro purchases in period y .

It is also generally accepted that it is desirable for any society to measure some concept of its inflation. A fall in the value of money over time affects most households and persons, through the purchasing power of their wages, the ‘real’ value of their savings and so on. Economists regard measures of inflation as vital tools for monitoring the economy.

For international comparisons

A variant of the CPI is used to compare Irish inflation with that of other countries. Consumer price inflation is a convergence criterion given in the Maastricht treaty as a pre-requisite for joining the proposed European Monetary Union (EMU). However, problems arise because definitions and methodology vary between countries. In particular, the treatment of housing costs varies markedly between countries, so they are often excluded for international comparison purposes. For the requirements of the convergence criteria, countries in the European Union (EU) have developed a HICP to improve inflation comparisons. However, the HICP is not intended to replace the CPI for domestic use. The HICP is described in more detail in Chapter 8 of this publication.

Deflation of expenditure

For many purposes, comparisons over time are more useful when the effect of price changes is eliminated. For instance, estimates are made of gross domestic product (GDP) and its main components in each period and re-valued at the average prices in a selected year (called the ‘base year’). The CPI and its components are used to adjust current levels of consumers’ expenditure and other economic series to produce a constant price series. This is typically done by deflating estimates of expenditure at current prices by appropriate price indices, derived from the CPI.

1.7.2 Income adjustment *Indexation of tax allowances:* Some tax allowances and thresholds are revised annually in line with changes in the CPI. For progressive taxes, inflation means that Revenue takes a growing share of a person’s income as increased wages raise them from a lower to a higher tax bracket. This tendency is known as *fiscal drag*; to offset this, the Minister of Finance frequently raises the tax threshold to take account of changes to the CPI. Conversely, for specific taxes (i.e. taxes levied per unit of a commodity irrespective of price) such as excise duty, inflation will reduce the real tax burden. This tendency is known as *fiscal boost* and as a result, excise duties are often increased in line with inflation.

Indexation of incomes: The change in the CPI is an important factor in wage bargaining; some pay agreements explicitly link pay rises to the CPI.

Indexation of pensions and benefits: Many State benefits and some occupational pensions are revised in line with changes in the CPI.

1.7.3 Price adjustment *Private contracts:* Many contracts link payments due, such as rent, to the change in the CPI.

Other price regulation: Many pieces of legislation refer to the CPI as a way of adjusting prices, e.g. changes in the environmental levy on plastic bags are linked to the CPI.

1.8 Scope and coverage of the CPI The scope and coverage of the CPI has been defined as follows:

Scope: All those transactions, which one would ideally want to measure in the CPI.

Coverage: Those transactions within the scope, which it is possible to identify and measure in practice. This is determined by the expenditure divisions for which weights are compiled.

The different elements of the scope and coverage are outlined below:

1.8.1 Geographical The whole of the State.

1.8.2 Reference population Since November 1975, the CPI weighting has been representative of the expenditure patterns of all private households in the State. These households include over 97 per cent of the total population. With effect from January 2002 the coverage of the CPI was extended to include the expenditure of foreign tourists within Ireland. The CPI weights do not reflect the expenditure of persons resident in institutions and other non-private households such as business and commercial enterprises.

1.8.3 Expenditure items These are the goods and services bought by the reference population (private households and foreign tourists in Ireland) for the purposes of consumption. Thus expenditure for savings and investment purposes, direct taxes, national insurance contributions, cash gifts and gambling are excluded from the scope of the CPI. Other expenditure included in the scope but excluded from the coverage is expenditure on illegal transactions (e.g. narcotics).

House purchases could represent the acquisition of a major capital asset (investment) rather than consumption, so purchase without a mortgage and capital repayments of a mortgage are excluded. Mortgage interest payments are included, since for most homeowners they are the best measure of the shelter cost of utilising their dwelling. Major home improvements, such as building an extension, are capital investments and so are excluded but re-decoration and maintenance are included.

Most capital goods other than houses are included, such as cars, furniture and large electrical goods.

The CPI measures the price of goods and services paid for by consumers. Anything completely free at the point of consumption is outside the scope of the CPI, even if consumers have paid for it indirectly by taxes or social insurance payments. For example, State education and visits to doctors under the medical card scheme are free, and so are excluded. For some goods and services provided or partly paid for by the State, a charge is made at the point of consumption, such as the supply of prescription medicines and dental treatment under the medical card scheme. These charges are included in the CPI, but not the full economic cost of the goods or services. When deriving the weights, again only the costs paid by the consumer at point of delivery are included.

1.8.4 Transaction prices The prices used in the calculation of the CPI should reflect the cash prices typically paid by the reference population for the goods and services within the scope of the CPI.

Consumption expenditure can be measured in three ways:

Acquisition means that the total value of all goods and services delivered during a given period, whether or not they were wholly paid for during the period, is taken into account.

Use means that the total value of all goods and services consumed during a given period is taken into account.

Payment means that the total payments made for goods and services during a given period, whether or not they were delivered, is taken into account.

For practical purposes, these three concepts cannot be distinguished in the case of non-durable items bought for cash and they do not need to be distinguished for many durable items bought for cash. The distinction is important for purchases financed by some form of credit, notably major durable goods, which are acquired at a certain point of time, used over a considerable number of years, and paid for, at least partly, some time after they were acquired, possibly in a series of instalments. Housing costs paid by owner-occupiers are an obvious example.

The difference between the three concepts of consumption is not just a matter of timing. If payment follows acquisition, interest may be charged on top of the equivalent of the cash price. When use extends over many years, the value of this use will reflect the price level of those years, not the price at the date of acquisition.

Which concept should we use?

Which concept is preferred depends on the uses of the CPI. If the main use is as a general indicator of inflation, an index is required that measures the change in price level of current output. Thus one would not want a retrospective element relating to prices in previous months, so the *acquisition* concept is the best. For indexation of money, incomes and benefits, it may be that the *payment* approach is the most suitable. Alternatively, some may argue that the *use* approach is better, as it is closer to the cost of living, which should take account of the flow of the good or service being consumed.

Since the CPI is used for all of these and other purposes, there is no simple answer as to which definition of consumption should be used. The CPI mostly measures the *acquisition* of goods and services, but there is one notable exception where it has been decided that this is not the most appropriate, namely mortgage interest where a *payment* approach is adopted.

Chapter 2 Sampling Procedures

2.1 Introduction In order to construct a perfectly accurate CPI, one would need to know and record the price of every variety of every good or service available in every retail outlet in the State. This is not feasible in practice, so it is necessary to sample prices. There are four levels of sampling for local price collection: locations, retail outlets within location, items within retail outlets and product varieties.

2.2 Sampling of locations To ensure the State is fully represented, the country is divided into 8 Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics 3 (NUTS 3) regions. The regions are combined into 5 areas: Dublin; South West; Border, Midland and West; Mid-West and Mid-East and South East regions.

Purposive (or judgmental) sampling is then applied, whereby Dublin and the regional cities (Cork, Limerick, Waterford and Galway) are automatically included in the sample while a sample of towns (locations) are selected from the remaining strata with the constraining factor that each county in the State must be represented. As of December 2011, there are 84 cities and towns in the CPI sample of locations.

2.3 Sampling of retail outlets A purposive sampling approach is also applied to select the sample of retail outlets within a location (i.e. retail outlets are chosen which are the most popular). As the CPI is intended to reflect only price change, the sample of retail outlets remains the same for as long as possible during the life span of the series. This ensures that extraneous factors unconnected with price change, which would otherwise affect the index calculations, are strictly controlled. However, when appropriate, new retail outlets or locations may be added, e.g. Dundrum Shopping Centre was included in the sample at the time of its opening to ensure ongoing representation. The number of retail outlets in the CPI sample, as of December 2011, is in excess of 3,000.

2.4 Sampling of representative items It would be both impractical and unnecessary to measure the price change of every variety of every item bought by every household in compiling the CPI. It is necessary to select a sample of specific goods and services that give a reliable measure of price movements for a broad range of similar items. For example, price changes for an electric drill might be considered representative of price changes for other electronic tools. The selection of these representative items in the CPI is purposive.

There are two main inputs into the selection of the sample of goods and services used for the CPI. The first source is the HBS, which gives a detailed breakdown of household spending. This information is supplemented by a large-scale research process. This ranges from contact with retailers, to use of market research and trade magazines. The CSO also collects information through price collectors on actual developments in retail outlets. The CSO uses this full range of information to ensure the basket of goods and services is representative of consumer spending behaviour.

As of December 2011, the CPI basket contains 632 individual goods and services (also known as item headings), which are organised according to the COICOP¹ classification (see Appendix 3). The number of items chosen to represent price changes within each of the twelve COICOP divisions depends both on the weight of the division and the variability of price changes between the various items that could be chosen to represent that division (reflecting, for example, the diversity of products available). Intuitively, it makes sense to select more items in a division where spending is high as this helps to minimise volatility in estimates of price changes for high-weighted divisions and therefore in the CPI overall. If price movements for all possible items in a given division are very similar, it is sufficient to collect prices for only a few items. By contrast, if price movements within a division are very different, a much larger selection of representative items will be needed to get a reliable estimate of price change for the division as a whole. This explains why a very varied group such as food has a large number of items, whereas a relatively homogeneous group such as tobacco contains only 3 items.

¹COICOP/HICP 2000 – Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose Adapted to the Needs of Harmonised Indices of Consumer Prices (2000)

Representative items are chosen centrally for the whole of the State. Actual price observations are collected each month in the various pricing locations. Consistent with the principle of a fixed basket, the weight of the 632 goods and services are held fixed over the index reference period while the sample of individual price observations collected may vary.

The detailed contents of the CPI basket, and the ongoing changes to the sample, should not be accorded significance beyond their purpose as representative items. Indeed, within each product grouping, there is usually a point at which the number, choice of items and the precise weights attached to them become a matter of judgement. At this detailed level, it is unlikely that such choices have any significant impact on the CPI overall. For example, a selection of specific household appliances has been chosen to represent spending on small electrical goods, including irons, kettles and food processors. However, other selections would clearly be possible and equally valid.

Examples of typical item descriptions are given below:

- white sliced pan large (800g);
- fresh fillet of whiting (kg);
- potatoes (2.5 kg bag);
- tinned peas;
- mens 2-piece suit;
- diesel (litre) and
- stout draught – bar (1 pt).

2.5 Selection of products and varieties

For most goods, the selection of products and varieties within retail outlets is purposive. In each retail outlet, the price collectors choose one representative variety from all products matching the specification of each item heading to be priced in that retail outlet. To facilitate this, price collectors can seek assistance from staff in the retail outlet. As it is vital that the same product is priced each month, price collectors must record enough detail about the product, such as size, make and model, to ensure that it is uniquely identified. In practice, a wide variety of brands and products are sampled for each item heading across the different pricing locations. This gives a better representation of the price movements of the item heading in question, than would be realised if a single narrowly defined identical variety was priced in all locations.

In order that the CPI remains representative of consumer spending patterns over time, the selection of specific varieties for which prices are collected in specific locations is reviewed on an ongoing basis although the overall selection of 632 item headings will remain constant.

For example, in the present CPI series, one of the item headings is *tinned peas*. No further specifications are given and individual price collectors are free initially to select any of the different varieties of tinned peas available locally for regular pricing. Over time the price collector may change to a different brand of tinned peas if a particular brand becomes more popular or an existing brand is no longer available. However, at all times the price collector will be asked to collect a price for tinned peas.

The 506 item headings priced locally are divided into three separate groups of related items corresponding generally to particular types of retail outlets. Three separate pricing books are used; one for each group, namely:

- Pricing Book 1 (260 item headings) relates to food, drink, tobacco and household non-durable goods;
- Pricing Book 2 (172 item headings) relates to clothing, footwear and household durable goods;
- Pricing Book 3 (74 item headings) relates to personal services, fuel, entertainment and other articles.

For price collection purposes, the overall sample of pricing books is organised by NUTS 3 regions. The eight NUTS 3 regions have been combined into 5 pricing areas for CPI administrative purposes. The total number of the three types of pricing books and their distribution across the 5 pricing areas is summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Geographical distribution of pricing books

| Area/Regions | Number of pricing books | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| | Type 1 | Type 2 | Type 3 | Total |
| Dublin | 27 | 23 | 28 | 78 |
| South West | 18 | 12 | 13 | 43 |
| Border, Midland and West | 40 | 19 | 23 | 82 |
| Mid-West & Mid-East | 22 | 13 | 15 | 50 |
| South East | 13 | 8 | 11 | 32 |
| Total | 120 | 75 | 90 | 285 |

Chapter 3 Collection of Prices

3.1 Methods of price collection The reference day for pricing was the second Tuesday of each month up to 2010. Since February 2010, prices are collected over a period of more than one working week, i.e. Monday prior to the second Tuesday of the month up to and including the third Tuesday of the month. This is necessary to meet the requirements of Council Regulation (EC) No. 701/2006 regarding the temporal coverage of price collection in the Harmonised Indices of Consumer Prices (HICP).

There are two basic price collection methods: local and centralised.

Local collection is used for 506 of the 632 item headings; prices are collected by approximately 80 price collectors in retail outlets in 84 locations around the country. Approximately 50,000 quotations are obtained by this method. These item headings account for 48.6% of the total weight of the CPI basket.

Centralised collection is used for 126 of the 632 item headings; prices are collected centrally by the CSO with minimal field work. In practice, this involves the use of postal, e-mail and telephone enquiries along with internet price collection. Approximately 3,000 quotations are obtained by this method. These item headings account for 51.4% of the total weight of the CPI basket.

3.2 Local price collection: general procedure The collection is undertaken by a specially recruited team of price collectors, with prices collected using Electronic Data Capture (EDC) handheld devices.

If a particular product becomes unavailable, then the price collector substitutes an alternative representative product in its place. If a particular retail outlet can no longer be used (e.g. goes out of business), the price collector replaces it with a similar popular retail outlet in the same area. The EDC system is designed to allow the detailed specification of the new product or retail outlet to be recorded. The relevant prices are excluded from the index calculations until two consecutive monthly quotations are again obtained for the substitute product or retail outlet.

3.2.1 Prices observed The price used is that for a cash transaction. This means that charges for paying by instalments or for use of credit cards, and discounts for paying by direct debit etc., are ignored. Value Added Tax (VAT) and compulsory service charges are included.

3.2.2 Treatment of price changes - indicator codes Price collectors are required to record if there are any special features associated with the prices recorded. Certain indicator codes are used:

- 1 sale or special offer (explains a reduction in price);
- 2 multiple offer, where there is no change in the actual price, but the quantity has increased. For example, 2 for the price of 1, 20% extra free etc.;
- 3 recovery from sale/special/multiple offer (explains a price jump); is not necessarily the same price as before the sale/special/multiple offer;
- 4 verified, when a change in price has been rechecked and verified;
- 5 changed product or variety but not significantly different from the product or variety which was previously priced, i.e. comparable product;
- 6 non-comparable product or variety to that which was previously priced;
- 7 new item introduced is on sale;
- 8 item is temporarily unavailable;
- 9 item is not available in this area;
- 10 retail outlet is under new ownership.

A price should only be recorded if the exact product being priced is on display or in stock at the retail outlet.

3.3 Centralised price collection: general procedure Central price collection is typically used where national pricing applies (e.g. health insurance), or where local price collection would not be suitable. There are 126 item headings for which prices are collected centrally through postal, e-mail, telephone enquiries along with internet price collection (see Appendix 4 for full list). All 126 item headings are used in the compilation of the CPI, and 118 item headings are used in the compilation of the HICP (e.g. mortgage interest is excluded from the HICP).

Price data are collected from one central source (e.g. trade associations, Government departments etc.) whenever possible. Where appropriate, prices are collected from a sample of retailers/service providers for the good or service in question. Frequency of enquiry varies across the range of item headings with monthly, quarterly or annual price collection being used as appropriate. In some limited number of cases, price changes will be included as necessary. Typically, this would apply to services where prices are set by a service provider and change at a particular pre-announced point in time, e.g. electricity.

Example: Motor car insurance This survey is carried out on a monthly basis. Motor insurance companies are surveyed for prices for specifically identified insurance policies e.g., fully comprehensive for a person of a particular age and gender in a specific location with a particular model and year of car.

The previous month's premium (price) is supplied on the survey form sent to the companies, who, in turn, record the current month's premium. Once the price data has been validated, the data is used in conjunction with weights data to compile a motor car insurance index.

Chapter 4 Validation Procedures

The following validation checks are applied to all prices collected locally.

4.1 Data checks The most important data check is price change. The price recorded is compared (i.e. validated) with the price for the same product in the same retail outlet in the previous month. Prices outside the relevant price range are re-checked by CPI staff to determine inclusion or exclusion for the purpose of the CPI compilation for that month.

Once the price data is correct and complete, preliminary item indices are calculated using the prices, which passed the data checks, plus those that have been manually accepted. These preliminary item indices are in turn checked to ensure price changes have been correctly reflected in the calculations.

Both micro- and macro-edits are applied, checking price ratios for individual items, elementary aggregates and higher levels of aggregation.

4.2 Field audits To check that price collections are carried out correctly, CPI personnel carry out monthly quality audits on individual local price collections. There are two types of quality audits. The first involves an auditor accompanying a price collector on a price collection. The second consists of audits, which take place no later than three days after the price collection (back check), where an auditor repeats the price collection to determine if the price collector has collected the correct prices. Multiple locations are visited each month and price collectors do not know in advance which locations will be chosen for the quality control checks.

4.2.1 Supervised visits An auditor who accompanies a price collector on a price collection examines the price collection to ensure that

- suitable products are chosen;
- the correct indicator codes are used;
- the correct prices are recorded;
- the prices are collected in the correct retail outlet type;
- the price is only recorded when the correct variety is available; and
- any need for training of a price collector is identified, to help improve the quality of the price collection.

4.2.2 Back check of price collection The back check quality audit involves an auditor visiting the retail outlet where the price was recorded by the price collector, and checking to see that the price was correctly recorded.

The back check quality audit covers accuracy of price collection and other aspects (e.g. the quality of item descriptions and the use of indicator codes) which are important to sustain the comparability of price collection across months and to better inform CPI staff involved in the validation process.

Chapter 5 Weights

5.1 Introduction The CPI measures the change in the cost of a representative basket of goods and services. This involves weighting together aggregated price indices for different categories of goods and services so that each takes its appropriate share within household budgets. For instance, as most people spend far more on electricity than on processed fruit, a price rise for electricity must have more effect on overall price rises than a similar-sized increase for processed fruit. At the lowest level therefore, each elementary aggregate (section 6.2.1) should receive a weight equal to the proportion of total expenditure by households on goods and services represented by that aggregate.

The data used to produce the weights comes from a variety of sources, the most important of which is the large-scale national Household Budget Survey (HBS).

Household Budget Survey (HBS)

The HBS is a survey of the expenditure patterns of private households based on a representative sample of around 5,900 households. It is currently conducted by the CSO every five years primarily for the purpose of updating the weights used to compile the CPI. The latest HBS undertaken by the CSO refers to the period August 2009 to September 2010.

Using up to date expenditure data ensures that the indices remain representative of current expenditure patterns. Updating is also necessary so that the weights reflect the introduction of new items and the deletion of those items no longer representative.

The sample of households, which participated in the survey provided particulars of household composition, accommodation, facilities and regular household expenses (e.g. rent, electricity and gas expenses, etc.). Individual household members aged fifteen years and over also provided details of their income and regular personal expenditure (e.g. motor car insurance premiums, motor tax, etc.), and maintained detailed records of their day-to-day expenditure over a period of fourteen consecutive days.

The responses from individual households were compiled to give overall average household expenditure for the State for a detailed list of expenditure headings. These results were the main basis for the updated CPI item heading weights.

5.2 Item weights The derivation of the CPI item heading weights required a number of adjustments to the expenditure data provided by the 2009/2010 HBS.

Expenditure excluded

Household expenditure relating to those items excluded from the CPI coverage was excluded (for example savings, charitable donations, gambling etc.).

Adjustment for understatement of alcohol and tobacco expenditure

In the first instance, the HBS data referred to August 2009 to September 2010. The data was price updated to 2010 price levels to allow annual data for 2010 to be used for adjustments in a consistent manner. Estimates of the average household expenditure on alcoholic drink and tobacco derived from the HBS were understated (a common phenomenon in surveys of this type), and were adjusted with reference to estimates based on fiscal duty payments for 2010.

Adjustment for understatement of tourism expenditure

Estimates of the average household expenditure on tourism expenditure (i.e. package holidays, airfares and boat fares) derived from the HBS were also understated and were adjusted with reference to estimates based on the results of the latest Household Travel Survey (HTS).

Inclusion of expenditure by foreign tourists within Ireland

The expenditure weights were adjusted to take account of the additional expenditure by foreign tourists within Ireland. This was done by increasing the expenditure weights of items typically purchased by tourists, such as accommodation, meals out, car hire, public transport, entertainment, gifts, and other items. Again, the latest tourism expenditure data was used for these adjustments.

Price updating to December 2011

Subsequently, the expenditure estimates were updated for price changes up to mid-December 2011 using the percentage changes between 2010 and mid-December 2011 in the prices of the individual item headings covered by the former index series. Accurate information was not available on any quantitative change in the detailed pattern of household consumption during this period and, therefore, no adjustments were made for this.

Final item weights

Once the above adjustments were applied to the HBS expenditure data, each CPI item heading was given an integer weight in parts per hundred so that the sum of the division weights is 100 (see Appendix 3).

Value of CPI basket

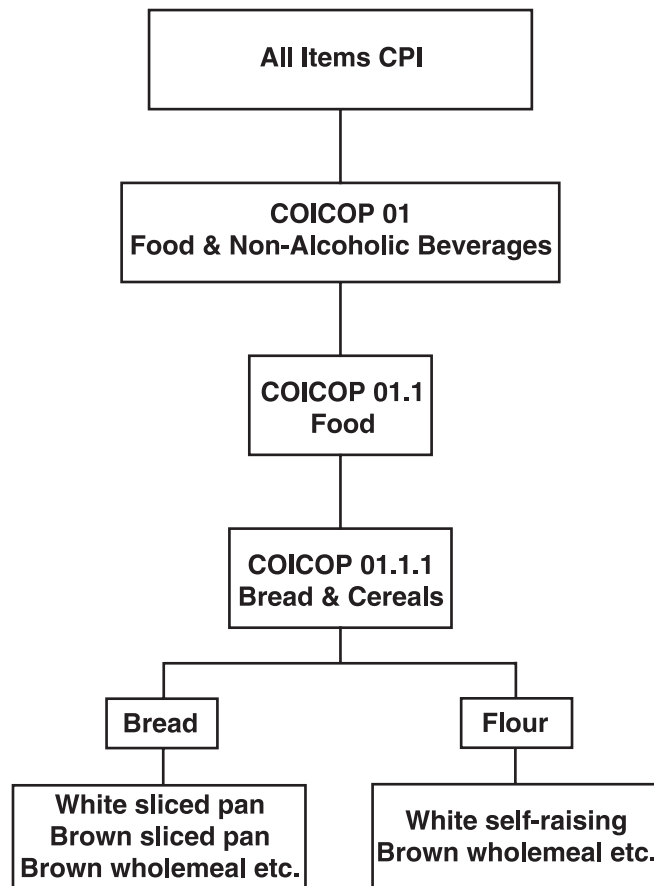
The average weekly value of the resulting CPI basket was €804.21 at mid-December 2011 price levels.

- 5.3 Area weights** Area weights are used in the compilation of the CPI. The HBS provides average household expenditure by COICOP division (2-digit), group (3-digit), class (4-digit) and NUTS 3 region. The area weights were calculated using HBS data on average household expenditure by NUTS 3 region and Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) estimates of population by NUTS 3 region.

Chapter 6 CPI Construction

6.1 Structure of the CPI The CPI is produced in stages, with indices obtained at each stage weighted together to give higher level indices. Figure 6.1 shows how the data are combined together specifically within COICOP 01, Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages. A similar structure is applied for all other COICOP divisions. At the lowest level there are 632 item headings. These can be combined into categories (e.g. Bread) which are in turn combined into COICOP 4, 3 and 2 digit groups. Finally the All Items CPI is the combination of all 632 item headings.

Figure 6.1: Structure of the CPI



6.2 Calculation methodologies While the same hierarchical structure applies for all item headings, there are some differences in the calculation methodologies used at the lowest level. Specifically, different methodologies are used for the 506 directly priced item headings; as compared to the 126 special inquiries item headings (see Appendix 4 for list of the special inquiry item headings).

6.2.1 Area average price calculation The first step of the calculation process for the 506 directly priced item headings is the calculation of area average prices. For CPI purposes, the sample of locations is divided into the eight NUTS 3 regions. These regions are combined into 5 CPI pricing areas as follows:

- Dublin
- South West
- Border, Midland and West
- Mid-West and Mid-East
- South East

The prices for each item heading are divided into the five areas. An area average price is calculated as the geometric mean of the prices within the given area, e.g. the average price for 1 litre of low fat milk in Dublin is the geometric mean of the prices for 1 litre of low fat milk collected in the various retail outlets in Dublin. The area average price is technically known as an **elementary aggregate** as it is the lowest level of calculation within the CPI. Each month, an area average price is calculated both for the current month and the previous month based only on matched price observations between the two periods.

The technical form of this calculation is explained below:

Geometric Mean

If prices $P_{i,c-1}$ to $P_{n,c-1}$ are obtained in the previous month $c-1$ and matching prices $P_{i,c}$ to $P_{n,c}$ are obtained for the same commodities in the current month c , then we have:

$$GM : \quad I_{c,c-1} = \frac{\sqrt[n]{\prod_{i=1}^n P_{i,c}}}{\sqrt[n]{\prod_{i=1}^n P_{i,c-1}}}$$

The Geometric Mean (GM) is therefore computed for an elementary aggregate by:

- 1 Multiplying all the prices quotations collected for a particular index variety (e.g. 1 litre of low fat milk) together, and then
- 2 find the n -th root of the product where n is the number of price quotations.

It is essential that matching prices are used. If, in any month, there is no price corresponding to one in the previous month, then that previous month's price must be excluded from the calculations.

6.2.2 National average price (NAP) calculation

The next step is the calculation of a national average price (NAP) for each of the 506 item headings. This is the weighted average of the area average prices with a different weight applied to each area. Each month, a selection of these NAPS (74 in total) is published (see Appendix 5 for list of item headings for which NAPS are published). Again, each month, a NAP for both the current and previous month is calculated based on matched price observations only.

6.2.3 Item relatives calculation

Item relatives are calculated for the directly priced and special inquiry item headings.

Directly priced item headings

For the 506 directly priced item headings, the item relative is the ratio of the national average price for the current month to the national average price for the previous month (a price relative is the ratio of a price at a given time to the price for the same commodity at another time). This item relative is known as a ratio of averages (RA). The technical compilation of a ratio of averages is described below:

If a national average price $NAP_{i,c-1}$ is obtained in the previous month ($c-1$) and matching national average price $NAP_{i,c}$ is obtained for the same item heading in the current month (c), then we have:

$$RA : \quad I_{c,c-1} = \frac{NAP_{i,c}}{NAP_{i,c-1}} \quad (\text{ratio of averages})$$

Special Inquiry item headings

Item relatives are also calculated for the 126 special inquiry item headings. In this case, prices are centrally collected. Item relatives are calculated using either geometric or arithmetic mean formulae as appropriate.

At this point in the calculation process, a full set of 632 item heading price relatives are available. These form the basis for the index calculations as described below.

6.3 Index calculation The CPI expresses the current cost of a *fixed* market basket of consumer goods and services as a percentage of the cost of the *same* identical basket at the base period mid-December 2011. Since November 1996, the basket has undergone a complete revision every five years.

Over the five years, the CPI is a fixed quantity price index: it measures the change in the price of a basket of fixed composition, quantity and as far as is possible quality. This is often summarised by saying that the CPI uses a *fixed basket*. The index $I_{t,0}$ at time t based on time 0 is a Laspeyres-type or fixed base weight index, being the price of the basket at a given time as a percentage of its price in the base reference period:

$$I_{t,0} = \left(\frac{\sum Q_0 P_c}{\sum Q_0 P_0} \right) \times 100$$

where:

Q_0 and P_0 are the quantity (fixed) and average price respectively, of an index item heading in the base (0) month;

P_c is the average price of the same index item heading in the current (c) month;

\sum represents summation over all index item headings.

A modified version of this formula is used for calculation purposes, namely:

$$I_{t,0} = \left(\frac{\sum (V_{c-1}) \frac{P_c}{P_{c-1}}}{\sum V_0} \right) \times 100$$

where:

V_0 and V_{c-1} are the expenditure value (weight) of an index item heading in the base (0) or previous (c-1) month;

P_c and P_{c-1} are the average price of the same index item heading in the current (c) and previous (c-1) month;

\sum represents summation over all index item headings;

i.e. the current cost of the fixed quantity of each index item heading (elementary aggregate) is calculated by updating the previous month's cost by the estimated monthly change in its average price. This index is also known as a weighted average of *price relatives*, the weight being the expenditure of an index item heading in the base period. Using the above formula, it is possible to calculate an index for any item heading or combination of item headings, all the way up to and including the All Items CPI.

Chapter 7 Special Issues, Principles and Procedures

7.1 Subsidies and discounts The prices used in calculating the CPI are those actually paid by households. This may appear simple, but in practice it is difficult to implement in a completely consistent way, and there are several special treatments.

The following guidelines (or principals) are applied to the CPI:

- the CPI reflects the *cash price* commonly charged for goods and services;
- where *subsidies or discounts are available to all potential consumers* (non-discriminatory) the price taken into the CPI should reflect these; and
- where *subsidies or discounts are available only to a restricted group of households* (discriminatory), the price should be measured ‘gross’, i.e. the subsidy or discount is not taken into account. In particular, money off coupons and loyalty cards are ignored.
- If there is a discount for *multiple purchases*, only the price of a single purchase is recorded, i.e. a 50% extra free offer is taken into account whereas a 3 for the price of 2 offer is not. Offers such as ‘50% extra free’ or ‘buy one get one free’ are actually recorded as a price reduction as it is assumed that the price of the original quantity has actually fallen. Where a price reduction on one product is associated with the purchase of another product, this reduction is ignored.
- *Free gifts/extras* such as plastic toys in cereal boxes, ‘send in 20 tokens for a free pen’ and trading stamps are ignored; they are regarded as extras, which may not be wanted by consumers.
- *Sale prices* are recorded if they are temporary reductions on goods likely to be available again at normal prices or end of season reductions. Prices in closing down sales and for special purchases of end of range, damaged, shop soiled or defective goods are not recorded as they are deemed not to be of the same quality as or comparable with, goods previously priced or those likely to be available in future.

7.2 Product substitution, quality adjustments and imputation One of the more difficult issues in producing the CPI is the accurate measurement and treatment of quality change due to changing product specifications. As a measure of price change alone, the CPI should reflect the cost of buying a fixed basket of goods and services of constant quality. However, products often disappear or are replaced with new versions of a different quality or specification, and brand new products also become available. When such a situation arises, one of the following methods is adopted:

- a direct comparison;
- b direct quality adjustment

a Direct comparison

If there is another product which is directly comparable (that is, it is so similar to the old one that it can be assumed to have the same price in the previous month). For example, an identical garment except that it is a different colour, then the new one directly replaces the old one and its base price remains the same. This is described as “obtaining a replacement which may be treated as essentially identical”, and is equivalent to saying that any difference in price level between the new and the old product is entirely due to price change and not quality differences.

b Direct quality adjustment

This is the preferred method of dealing with the situation where a replacement product is of a different quality or specification. An attempt is made to place a value on the quality, or specification, difference and the previous month’s price is adjusted accordingly. This section discusses the bridged overlap method. Another method of direct quality adjustment, option costing, can be used when a product changes in specification and it is possible to value separately the components that have changed.

Quality adjustment – Bridged overlap

When a specific variety of good or service priced in a retail outlet is no longer available, a replacement must be found in order to continue the measure of price change. Anytime a replacement occurs, the new product’s price may reflect both pure price change and quality change.

When the quality of a substitute item is not comparable with the old item and an overlap price or direct quality adjustment data are not available, a bridged overlap (also known as matched basket) quality adjustment technique is used. Using this technique, no price comparison is made between two varieties when the replacement is brought into the index. The price change between the two observations is imputed as the average change for the other matched price observations for the specific item heading. For a price observation to be brought into the index, it must be available for two consecutive periods.

The following table illustrates the application of the bridged overlap with monthly re-sampling quality adjustment technique in the compilation of the CPI Computer Index for the period Feb'04 to Mar'04.

Table 1: Example of the application of the bridged overlap method in the calculation of the CPI computer index

| | Package Description | Jan'04 Price | Feb'04 Price | Feb'04 Relative | Mar'04 Price | Mar'04 Relative |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | HP Pavillion T 340 U.K. | 1,799 | 1,799 | | 1,799 | |
| 2 | HP Pavillion T 330 U.K. | 1,249 | 1,249 | | 1,249 | |
| 3 | HP Pavillion 310 | <i>1,099</i> | 1,099 | | 1,099 | |
| 4 | Lextreme 6052 | 899 | n/a | | n/a | |
| 5 | Imedia 5072 | 1,049 | 1,049 | | 839 | |
| 6 | Lextreme 6093 | 1,849 | 1,849 | | n/a | |
| 7 | Hydro Phoenix Micro Multi Media | | | | <i>1,899</i> | |
| | | | | | | |
| | Average of all price quotations | 1,324 | 1,409 | 1.0642 | 1,377 | 0.9773 |
| | Recalculated Average for Feb'04 | 1,409 | 1,409 | 1 | | |
| | Recalculated Average for Mar'04 | | 1,299 | | 1,247 | 0.95997 |

Note: The figures in *italic* indicate the introduction of a new product.

For **March 2004**, there are five price quotations for PC packages (i.e. No's 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7) and no quotation for two PC packages (No. 4 and 6). The average price for the five PC packages is €1,377. One can see that PC package No. 7 replaces No. 6 but it is not taken to be comparable. Thus only 4 matched PC packages are available (No's 1, 2, 3 and 5).

To estimate the average change from Feb'04 to Mar'04 for the computer index, again the bridged overlap technique requires that only the four matched PC packages for both Feb'04 and Mar'04 are used. The two stages above are followed again:

- 1 the recalculation of the Feb'04 average price of the PC packages which becomes €1,299.
- 2 the average change from Feb'04 to Mar'04 is then estimated as the average price for PC packages in Mar'04 divided by the recalculated average for Feb'04 (i.e. € 1,247/ €1,299 = 0.95997).

In this case, one has indirectly adjusted for quality change. The value of the quality change is the difference between the price updated value of the deleted PC package No. 6 (€1,849 * 0.95997 = €1,775) and the price of PC package No. 7 (€1,899).

The value of the quality adjustment is €124. This means that the price difference of €50 between PC packages No's 6 & 7 has been more than offset by the estimate of quality improvement between the two PC packages. In this way, one has bridged from one package to another using the prices or price trends of other packages in the sample.

7.3 Mortgage Interest Mortgage interest was first included in the CPI at the November 1975 updating. For a particular mortgage, the interest payment at any given time depends on the rate of interest, which may be fixed, variable or tracker, and on the amount of the mortgage debt still outstanding. The debt outstanding, in turn, depends on the original size of the mortgage, which is linked to the price of the house when the mortgage was taken out and in most cases (i.e. non-endowment) on the age of the mortgage. The fixed expenditure pattern covered by the index reflects the average mortgage interest costs of the full set of mortgages of varying ages which existed in the base period.

As time progresses new mortgages are initiated at current house price levels and old mortgages are terminated early (e.g. house is sold) or paid off. The original loans in these latter instances were quite small because they were entered into when house prices were far lower 20-25 years ago. Because of this, the estimation of changes in mortgage interest costs needs a special type of price indicator adhering as close as possible to the *Laspeyres* concept of a fixed basket as used elsewhere in the index. This is done by estimating, from month to month, the mortgage interest paid by a standard set of households with mortgages of varying ages (i.e. fixed age pattern).

The interest cost for this standard set of mortgages in any month is estimated on the basis of the aggregate debt outstanding for the mortgages of varying ages. This will depend on the house price ruling when the mortgage was taken out, on the percentage advance (assumed constant) and on the amount of interest to be paid for a mortgage of that age (i.e. the amount of interest payable declines over time). In this approach, the monthly change in interest costs reflects both the change in interest rates and the change in estimated house price levels over time. Non interest cost effects are excluded by controlling (i.e. keeping constant) the factors giving rise to them.

Building Society/Bank and Local Authority mortgages are covered in the current index.

The mortgage cost indicator is the product of:

- the index of current interest rates; and
- the index of mortgage debt outstanding for the fixed age pattern of mortgages.

The indicator of mortgage debt outstanding is estimated as the change in the weighted average of house price levels in successive monthly periods, where the relative weights decline with age of mortgage reflecting the reduction in interest payable over time.

In compiling these indicators, the house price levels are estimated using the monthly Residential Property Price Index (RPPI) published by the CSO.

The above described approach is known as a payments approach and is described in section 10.20 of the International Labour Organisation's *Consumer Price Index Manual* (2004).

7.4 Package holidays The methodology used to measure package holidays in the CPI was revised with the introduction of the mid-November 1996 as 100 series. The previous methodology treated all months' holidays as the same item. This resulted in severe seasonal patterns that did not reflect the experience of consumers - each May the index fell while every August the index rose. This practice also limited the coverage of holiday destinations.

Seasonal baskets approach

The revised methodology, **the seasonal baskets approach**, treats different months' holidays as different items (e.g. January holidays are not considered comparable with May holidays). This means different destinations are priced each month.

As each months' basket is not comparable with another months', they can only be compared to themselves (i.e. February must be compared to February, September with September etc.). This results in a 12 monthly change being calculated for each basket. The monthly change is derived

by linking these different items or monthly baskets. This approach is referred to as pricing ‘seasonal baskets’.

The prices used for skiing holidays and summer packages are brochure prices only. Obviously, these prices do not reflect the full range of prices presented to consumers. In particular, they do not take into account either possible discounts from travel agents/tour operators or the availability of last minute ‘special offers’. However, by using brochure prices only, this allows comparison over time, as discounts or special offers normally have restrictions imposed. Packages to the UK and US are priced via the internet to reflect consumer purchasing behaviour.

Monthly weights

By comparing holidays in January with holidays in January from the previous year, any seasonal distortions are removed. Such comparisons give an accurate 12 monthly change for each monthly basket (i.e. January, February, ..., December). Once the 12 monthly change or relative has been calculated, the baskets must be linked to each other. This link is done by applying *monthly weights*. The monthly weights are derived from expenditure on travel abroad by Irish residents. Business expenditure is excluded as it falls outside the scope of the CPI. Expenditure on visiting friends or relatives etc. is also excluded as these are private travel arrangements. This expenditure is captured by the air fare and boat fare surveys.

As expenditure data is only available on a quarterly basis, the expenditure data was distributed across the months within each quarter using numbers of Irish non-business travellers abroad as the basis for interpolation. These expenditures were then re-scaled to 100 to give a percentage monthly distribution.

The monthly weights are fixed and are not price updated each month. These weights may therefore be thought of as monthly factors or coefficients.

The monthly weights (M) sum to unity:

$$\sum M_{Jan} + \sum M_{Feb} + \dots + \sum M_{Dec} = 1$$

Destination Weights

As each month’s holidays are treated as different items, an individual basket is constructed for each month. These monthly baskets reflect, not only the different destinations typically visited during each month, but also the changing relative importance of these destinations over the year. This practice allows the coverage of holiday destinations to increase significantly.

For example, while the Canary Islands are a popular destination throughout the year, their relative importance declines during the summer months as other sunshine destinations like Greece and Turkey etc. compete for market share. Other destinations, such as Austria, Italy and Switzerland are very popular and account for a significant proportion of holiday expenditure during the late winter and early spring months. This is mainly due to the popularity of skiing holidays. By late spring, these skiing resorts are no longer included in the baskets.

The destination weights are constructed from monthly air traffic volumes (i.e. numbers of persons travelling). Only chartered flight volumes are used. Scheduled flights are excluded to avoid double counting, as these flights (i.e. privately arranged travel) are captured by the air fares survey. These volumes not only highlight which destinations should be included in each basket but also the relative importance of these destinations. In order to satisfy the *expenditure weight* criterion, destination volumes are converted to estimated expenditures by applying average prices. These average prices are the average of the most popular resort prices at the base period and are for the most part, based on two people on holiday for a fortnight.

As package holidays to the UK from Ireland are not as popular as tours, some further calculations are required. The basis of the UK weight was *Main Purpose of Journey* surveys taken from scheduled flights.

Calculation of the index

The 12 monthly relative (r) is calculated by comparing the sum of the current (c) price updated destination weights (D) with the previous ($c-1$) price updated destination weights:

$$r = \frac{\left(\sum (P_{c-1} D_0) \frac{P_c}{P_{c-1}} \right)}{\sum P_{c-1} D_0}$$

Where:

P_c and P_{c-1} are the current (c) and previous period ($c-1$) average prices respectively of each destination.

D_0 are the expenditure weights for each destination at the base (0) period.

\sum represents summation over all destination weights for a particular month.

Unlike the monthly weights, the destination weights are price updated each period i.e. the destination weights for each individual monthly basket are price updated once a year.

Linking months

Each month, the appropriate basket is surveyed and the 12 monthly change or relative (r) is calculated as above. To link each month, the appropriate monthly weight or factor (M) is applied to the relative (r) to give the overall monthly change or relative (R).

$$R = 1 + [(r - 1) * M]$$

The monthly relative (R) is then applied to the overall *Package Holiday* expenditure weight in the standard way.

It is clear that price changes during the summer months will have a greater impact on the index than changes during the winter months.

Chapter 8 Harmonised Indices of Consumer Prices (HICP)

8.1 Development of the HICP Harmonised Indices of Consumer Prices (HICP) were developed in the European Union (EU) for the purpose of assessing whether prospective members of the European Monetary Union (EMU) would pass the inflation convergence criterion. It has subsequently acted as the measure of inflation used by the European Central Bank (ECB) to assess price stability in the euro area. One of the main requirements, therefore, was for a measure that could be used to make reliable ‘like-for-like’ comparisons of inflation rates across EU Member States. Such comparisons are not generally possible using national Consumer Price Indices (CPIs) due to differences in index coverage and construction.

The rules underlying the construction of HICP indices for EU Member States are specified in a series of EU Regulations (legal documents). These have been developed by Eurostat (the Statistical Office of the European Communities) in conjunction with the National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) of Member States of the EU. An initial Council Regulation, (*No 2494/95 of 23 October 1995 concerning harmonised indices of consumer prices*) establishing the framework for the HICP, was passed in October 1995. This has been followed up with a series of detailed implementing measures.

Several other pieces of legislation, covering the coverage of goods and services, have been introduced since the initial period, and have been implemented in the Irish HICP. HICPs are not intended to replace national CPIs. These indices are designed expressly for international comparisons within the EU. The NSIs of the Member States and Eurostat have been collaborating closely over the last number of years to ensure comparable standards are applied in the compilation of HICPs.

8.2 Index choice Eurostat describes the HICP as a Laspeyres-type ‘consumer inflation’ or ‘pure price’ index, “measuring average price change on the basis of the changed expenditure of maintaining consumption patterns of households and the composition of the consumer population in the base or reference period” (Report from the Commission to the Council on Harmonisation of Consumer Price Indices in the European Union, COM (2000)742). ‘Pure’ means that, strictly speaking, only changes to prices are reflected in the index.

Like the CPI, therefore, the HICP measures inflation with reference to the changing cost of a fixed basket of goods and services. The HICP in Ireland is calculated from the same basic price data as the CPI, and uses the same methodology both in compiling and aggregating the component price indices. However, it does differ from the CPI in terms of the coverage and classification of goods and services (see Appendix 6 for details of the differences). The most significant single difference is the exclusion of mortgage interest, as owner occupied housing is currently not included in the coverage of the HICP.

8.3 Reference period When the HICP was launched it was referenced on 1996=100. Starting with the publication of the January 2006 index, it has been referenced on 2005=100. The change of reference period was accompanied by a full re-referencing of all HICP indices back to 1996.

The HICP in Ireland is a chain-linked series with links at November 1996, December 1999, December 2000, December 2001 and December 2006.

8.4 MUICP Price stability within the euro area is defined by reference to the Monetary Union Index of Consumer Prices (MUICP). The ECB defines price stability as a ‘year on year increase in the HICP for the euro area of below but close to 2%’. The HICPs of each member of the euro area are aggregated to calculate the MUICP. The MUICP is a weighted average of each of the countries in the euro area. Each country's share is based on its percentage of the total Household Final Consumption Monetary Expenditure (HFCME) in the euro area. HFCME is defined as:

- that part of final consumption expenditure which is incurred by households, irrespective of nationality or residence status;
- in monetary transactions;
- on the economic territory of the Member State;
- on goods and services that are used for the direct satisfaction of individual needs or wants; and
- in one or both time periods being compared.

Chapter 9 Publication

9.1 Availability The CPI, HICP and associated subindices are first issued in a publication called *Consumer Price Index Main Release* at 11am four weeks and two days following the second Tuesday of the reference month with the exception of the December data. At the same time, an accompanying release (*Consumer Price Index Detailed SubIndices*) is published giving more detail about the factors contributing to changes in the percentage change over one month and twelve months for the headline indices. The data are published simultaneously in electronic format on the CSO's website.

Revisions

Once the CPI indices are published, they are **never** revised. The HICP, on the other hand, is a revisable index although there have been no revisions to date.

9.2 Percentage change between any two months 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.

The Consumer Price Index (All Items) for December 2010 is 101.9 and that for November 2010 is 101.7. Therefore the *index point change* between these two months is

$$101.9 - 101.7 = 0.2 \quad \text{index point change}$$

To calculate the *percentage change* between these two months, one divides the *index point change* calculated above by the November 2010 index and multiply by 100, i.e.

$$(0.2 / 101.7) \times 100 = +0.2\% \quad \text{percentage change}$$

Percentage changes are calculated from the published, rounded indices, and are themselves then rounded to one decimal place.

9.3 Annual averages The annual average index is defined as the arithmetic mean of the twelve monthly indices for the year in question (again using published, rounded indices):

$$I_{12av} = \frac{1}{12} \sum_{t=1}^{12} I_t$$

The annual average percentage change is calculated from the annual average indices, again using rounded data. It is **not** calculated as the average of the annual percentage changes for the twelve months.

9.4 National average prices National average prices (NAPs) are calculated for 74 items (mostly food items) and published each month, one month in arrears. The items are those which are likely to be reasonably homogeneous across all retail outlets and over time, so that an average price is reasonably meaningful.

9.5 Rounding policy and the effects of rounding CPI and HICP monthly indices are calculated using maximum precision, and then rounded to one decimal place for publication. All derived statistics – i.e. annual average indices, one, three and twelve month percentage changes - are published rounded to one decimal place. Very occasionally, because of the degree of precision to which decimal fractions are stored electronically, a derived statistic ending with the digit 5 may be rounded downwards.

The CPI approach is transparent in that all derived statistics can be traced back to the published monthly index levels. This is particularly important given the wide range of uses to which the CPI is put. However, when publishing rounded indices to one decimal place, and then calculating percentage changes from these rounded indices, which are then themselves rounded to one decimal place, some rounding effects can occur.

9.6 Contributions to changes in CPI (All Items) It is often of interest to estimate the effect of a division or group on the change in the CPI (All Items). The contribution of a component to a change in the CPI (All Items) over a given period of time is defined as the change that would have occurred in the CPI (All Items) if that component had undergone its observed change but all other component indices had remained frozen at their

values at the start of the period (and all weights are kept the same). The effect of each component depends on both the size of its change and its weight.

The formula for calculating the contribution of a component to the monthly change in the CPI (All Items) is given below:

Contribution of component i to monthly change in CPI (All Items) =

$$\frac{(I_t^i - I_{t-1}^i)w^i}{I_{t-1}^{all}} \times 100$$

where:

I_t^i = index for component i in month t (current month)

I_{t-1}^i = index for component i in month $t-1$ (previous month)

I_{t-1}^{all} = CPI (All Items) in month $t-1$ (previous month)

w^i = weight (parts per 100) of component i in CPI (All Items)

Contributions can be calculated over any period of time. However, the process is complicated when multiple base periods are involved, as the weights will have changed.

9.7 Index classification The coverage and classification of the CPI is based on the international classification system for household consumption expenditures known as the COICOP (Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose Adapted to the Needs of Harmonised Indices of Consumer Prices (2000)). This is a hierarchical classification system comprising: **Divisions (2-digit)** e.g. 01 Food & non-alcoholic beverages, **Groups (3-digit)** e.g. 01.1 Food, and **Classes (4-digit)** e.g. 01.1.1 Bread and cereals. The COICOP classification system along with the corresponding weights is shown in Appendix 3.

Founded on National Accounts principles, the COICOP classification system also defines which transactions constitute household final consumption as opposed to other flows such as taxes, other transfers, or capital and financial transactions. This is the starting point for defining which expenditures, in principle, should be included in the CPI. The broad COICOP divisions are listed below:

COICOP Divisions

01 Food and non-alcoholic beverages

02 Alcoholic beverages and tobacco

03 Clothing and footwear

04 Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels

05 Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance

06 Health

07 Transport

08 Communications

09 Recreation and culture

10 Education

11 Restaurants and hotels

12 Miscellaneous goods and services

Special aggregates are also published including *Energy products*, *Alcohol (alcohol consumed on licensed premises and off-licence sales)*, *Tobacco*, *CPI excluding Tobacco*, *CPI excluding Housing*, *CPI excluding Mortgage Interest* and *CPI excluding Energy products etc.*

9.8 Linking CPI series with different bases With each updating, the CPI starts with a new base reference period. For example, the previous series has a reference period of December 2006=100, and covered the period December 2006 to December 2011. The current series has a reference period of December 2011=100 and will cover the period from December 2011 to December 2016 (the date of the next planned updating). It is possible to link these two separate series together at their common month (i.e. December 2011) in order to create a continuous series that will cover the period December 2006 to December 2016.

The following hypothetical example illustrates the method of linking two series in order to produce a continuous series from December 2001 to April 2007 with a base period of December 2001=100.

| Period | Dec 2001=100 | Dec 2006=100 | Dec 2001 Linked to Dec 2006 Base Dec 2001=100 |
|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|--|
| Jan-06 | 112.2 | | 112.2 |
| Feb-06 | 113.4 | | 113.4 |
| Mar-06 | 113.9 | | 113.9 |
| Apr-06 | 114.8 | | 114.8 |
| May-06 | 115.3 | | 115.3 |
| Jun-06 | 115.6 | | 115.6 |
| Jul-06 | 116.0 | | 116.0 |
| Aug-06 | 116.8 | | 116.8 |
| Sep-06 | 117.2 | | 117.2 |
| Oct-06 | 117.2 | | 117.2 |
| Nov-06 | 117.6 | | 117.6 |
| Dec-06 | 118.0 | 100.0 | 118.0 |
| Jan-07 | | 99.9 | 117.9 |
| Feb-07 | | 100.7 | 118.8 |
| Mar-07 | | 101.4 | 119.7 |
| Apr-07 | | 102.2 | 120.6 |

The two series are linked by multiplying each of the December 2006=100 based index numbers by the December 2006 index number with a base of December 2001=100 and dividing the result by 100. The resulting continuous series has a base of December 2001=100 and covers the period December 2001 to April 2007.

As of the December 2006 rebase, linking is undertaken using data to full decimal places. Therefore, rounding differences may be found, for example, the February 2007 index was 118.9 when linked using full decimal places and this figure (118.9) was the published figure.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Previous CPI updatings

Despite continual changes in consumer tastes and preferences, standard of living, and in the range of goods and services available on the market, household purchasing patterns generally change slowly over time. It is this relative stability in the pattern of household purchases which permits the use of fixed weighting patterns in the compilation of the CPI. However, these index weights must be periodically updated if they are to continue to be representative of current expenditure patterns. Eleven different weighting bases have been used to date in the compilation of the index since the foundation of the State in 1922. The main features of the earlier index series are briefly described below:

(i) Index with base July 1914 as 100

This was the first official index of consumer prices compiled for the State. It was introduced in respect of March 1922. The expenditure basis represented the purchasing pattern of working class families in 1922 as derived from a Household Budget Inquiry conducted in June of that year. This index was compiled quarterly up to August 1947. The weighting basis was scheduled for revision during the late thirties, but plans for a Household Budget Inquiry necessary for this purpose had to be postponed because of the abnormal pattern of consumer expenditure during the 1939-45 war years and subsequent period. As an interim measure an updated weighting basis was introduced in August 1947 using alternative data sources.

(ii) Index with base mid-August 1947 as 100

This second series was titled the *Interim Cost of Living Index (Essential Items)*. It was compiled for each quarter from mid-August 1947 to mid-August 1953. The weighting basis related to the purchasing pattern of non-agricultural employee households. This was estimated from national income and expenditure data combined with the results of the National Nutrition Survey undertaken in 1946. By 1951, consumer expenditure had stabilised to what appeared to be normal post-war patterns and a large-scale urban Household Budget Inquiry was conducted during 1951-52 to provide up-to-date index weights.

(iii) Index with base mid-August 1953 as 100

This index series was introduced for mid-November 1953 and was compiled each quarter up to and including mid-November 1968. While the interim index related only to non-agricultural employee households, the weighting basis of the new index extended to *all urban households*. In addition, the coverage of the index was extended to include the full range of consumer goods and services. The former title *Cost of Living Index* was also changed to the present official title *Consumer Price Index* to avoid any possible misunderstanding that the index measured changes in the cost of living rather than price changes.

(iv) Index with base mid-November 1968 as 100

This index series was introduced for mid-February 1969 and was compiled each quarter up to mid-November 1975. The weighting basis related to the expenditure pattern of *all urban households* as determined from the results of the 1965-66 Household Budget Inquiry. In addition to the introduction of revised weights, a number of other major updatings of the index were also undertaken. A revised national panel of retail and service outlets representative of the existing retail structure was selected. Prices were collected on both the old and new basis in two separate inquiries with fifteen days intervening during November 1968.

(v) Index with base mid-November 1975 as 100

This index series was introduced for mid-February 1976 and compiled each quarter up to mid-November 1982. The weighting basis of the index was extended to *all households in the country (i.e. urban and rural)* on the basis of the results of the 1973 national Household Budget Survey. No major change was made to the existing panel of local retail outlets in which these items were priced.

(vi) Index with base mid-November 1982 as 100

This index series was introduced for mid-February 1983 and was compiled each quarter up to mid-November 1989. The weighting pattern continued to relate to all households in the country based on the results of the 1980 national Household Budget Survey. Other major updatings of the index were also completed. The selection of varieties priced was substantially revised and increased in number from 685 to 722. The selection of local retail outlets in which the prices were surveyed was also extensively overhauled. As with November 1968 updating this necessitated, for continuity purposes, two separate national price collections on the old and new basis, respectively, within fifteen days of each other.

(vii) Index with base mid-November 1989 as 100

This index series was introduced for mid-February 1990 and was each quarter up to mid-November 1996. The weighting pattern was based on the results of the 1987 Household Budget Survey. The selection of varieties was reviewed and the number of varieties in the index increased from 722 to 807.

(viii) Index with base mid-November 1996 as 100

This index series coincided with the introduction of a monthly CPI. The weighting pattern used in the index was based on the results of the 1994-1995 Household Budget Survey. The selection of varieties was reviewed and their number in the index increased to 985 varieties.

(ix) Index with base mid-December 2001 as 100

This index series coincided with the changeover to the Euro and the introduction of the EU Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose Adapted to the Needs of the Harmonised Indices of Consumer Prices (2000) for the main sectoral analysis of the CPI. The weighting pattern used in the index was based on the results of the 1999-2000 Household Budget Survey. The review of item headings resulted in 613 item headings in the CPI basket of goods and services.

(x) Index with base mid-December 2006 as 100

This index series was introduced for mid-January 2007. The weighting pattern used in the index was based on the results of the 2004-2005 Household Budget Survey. The review of item headings resulted in 616 item headings in the CPI basket of goods and services.

Appendix 2 – Changes to the basket of goods and services from January 2012

Replacements - product replaces an already existing product (in brackets)

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Milk 1 litre (low fat) | (Milk 1 litre (full fat)) |
| • Probiotic drinks | (Yoghurt drinks) |
| • Lemons | (Cooking apples) |
| • Berries - fresh | (Melons) |
| • Flavoured alcoholic drinks - take home | (Flavoured alcoholic drinks-take home (275ml bottle)) |
| • Stout - take home (50cl can) | (Stout - take home (6 × 250ml bottles)) |
| • Baking utensil | (Wok) |
| • TV small up to 26" | (TV small up to 24") |
| • TV mid-range 32" - 42" | (TV large widescreen) |
| • MP4 player | (MP3 player) |
| • Liquid soap | (Toilet soap) |
| • Sunscreen/sunblock | (Suntan oil/cream) |

Replacements refer to:

- (a) where a product has been directly substituted by a corresponding product or
(b) where it has been replaced by a different item.

Additions - the new product is brought into the index in addition to the existing products

- Gluten free foods
- Fruit smoothies
- Cycling helmet
- Taps/mixer taps
- Maintenance charges in apartment blocks
- Building energy rating (BER) assessment fees
- Bathroom furniture
- Carbon monoxide detector
- Cold/flu drinks powder
- Pregnancy test kit
- Physiotherapists fees
- Bundled telephone & internet services
- Smart TVs
- MP4 docking station
- Media tablets
- Computer software
- Music downloads
- Hard drives
- Memory sticks
- Computer repairs
- Flowers/bushes/shrubs for the garden
- Other non-fiction books
- Printer paper
- Inkjet cartridge
- Mineral water (500ml) (bought in restaurants, cafes & the like)
- Home help & day care services for the elderly
- Travel insurance

Deletions – the product has been removed from the basket

- Round steak
- Roast loin of pork
- Lamb pieces
- Collar of bacon
- Cauliflower
- Frozen sweetcorn
- Tinned spaghetti in tomato sauce

Appendix 2 – *continued*

- Ice cream cakes
- Fresh/chilled ready to eat meals - asian
- Quick soup
- Baby juices & drinks
- Fine quality wines & champagne - take home 75cl bottle
- Lager tray 12 × 330ml
- Mens overcoat
- Ladies classic court shoe
- Ladies slippers & house shoes
- Concrete blocks - solid
- Concrete blocks - hollow
- Plastic basin
- Dishwashing utensil
- DVD player/recorder
- DVD blank
- CD single
- DVD hire
- Second level boarding
- Lager draught bar - 0.5pt

Modifications and extensions – addition to an already existing product (in brackets)

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Brown wholemeal/wholegrain | (Brown wholemeal) |
| • Oat based breakfast cereals | (Oatmeal) |
| • Cereal bars | (Cereal breakfast bars) |
| • Lamb - whole leg/half leg | (Lamb - whole leg) |
| • Fresh salmon | (Fresh salmon steak) |
| • Olive oil | (Olive oil & other flavoured oils) |
| • Cooking oil & other edible oils | (Cooking oil) |
| • Sultanas & other dried fruits | (Sultanas) |
| • Nuts & edible seeds | (Nuts) |
| • Meat extract, gravy & casserole mixes | (Meat extract & gravy mixes) |
| • Wine - take home (75cl bottle) | (Table wine - take home (75cl bottle)) |
| • Childrens tracksuits/separates | (Boys tracksuits/separates) |
| • Childrens jumpers/sweatshirts/hoodies | (Boys jumpers & sweatshirts) |
| • Childrens pyjamas | (Boys pyjamas) |
| • Ladies low heel shoes | (Ladies low heel walking shoes) |
| • Coal | (Coal & anthracite) |
| • Briquettes | (Turf & briquettes) |
| • Continental quilt/duvet | (Continental quilt) |
| • Continental quilt/duvet cover | (Continental quilt cover) |
| • Electrical repairs | (Electrical & TV repairs) |
| • Spectacles & contact lenses | (Spectacles) |
| • CD (R & RW) (now a separate item) | (was under Computers & accessories) |
| • Greeting cards (now a separate item) | (was under Miscellaneous goods & services) |
| • Hair dryer/styler | (Hair dryer) |
| • Razor blades/cartridges | (Razor blades) |
| • Nursing homes | (Nursing homes & nursing agencies) |
| • Birth/marriage/death certificate fees | (Birth certificate fee) |

Combinations – combining of two already existing products (in brackets)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| • Childrens casual jacket | (Boys casual jacket) and (Girls casual jacket) |
| • Childrens casual trousers | (Boys casual trousers) and (Girls casual trousers) |
| • Childrens tops & t-shirts | (Boys tops & t-shirts) and (Girls tops) |
| • Childrens vests | (Boys vests & white cotton t-shirts) and (Girls vests) |
| • Childrens socks | (Boys socks) and (Girls socks) |
| • Shampoo/conditioner | (Shampoo) and (Hair conditioner) |

Appendix 2 – *continued*

Renaming of an already existing product (in brackets)

- Mineral water - large bottle (Mineral bottled water)
- Dress hire - morning & evening suits (Dress hire)
- Natural gas (Piped gas)
- Home heating oil (Fuel oil)
- Telephone services - landline (Telephone - private)
- Telephone services - mobile (Telephones - mobile)
- Veterinary services & animal care (Veterinary services)
- Private primary fees (Private primary)
- Private second level day fees (Second level day)
- Third level accommodation (Third level maintenance)

Splits – splits of an already existing product (in brackets)

- Plumbers services (House maintenance services)
- Electricians services (House maintenance services)
- Services for maintenance of heating systems (House maintenance services)
- Painters services (House maintenance services)
- Carpenters services (House maintenance services)
- Other house maintenance services (House maintenance services)
- Gardeners services (Domestic services)
- Carpet cleaning services (Domestic services)
- Other domestic & household services (Domestic services)
- Hearing aids (Therapeutic equipment)
- Other therapeutic appliances & equipment (Therapeutic equipment)
- General practitioners fees (Doctors fees)
- Specialist fees (Doctors fees)
- Car maintenance (Car maintenance)
- National car test (NCT) (Car maintenance)
- Computers (Computers & accessories)
- Computer accessories (Computers & accessories)
- Water sports equipment (Sports & recreation goods)
- Sport & recreation goods (Sports & recreation goods)
- Equipment for camping & open-air recreation (Sports & recreation goods)
- Theatres & concerts (Cultural & other admittance)
- Museums, libraries & zoological gardens (Cultural & other admittance)
- Rail catering (Canteens)
- Canteens (Canteens)

Appendix 3: COICOP percentage expenditure weights and constituent item headings priced

| <u>COICOP Headings December 2011</u> | <u>December 2011 % Expenditure weights</u> | <u>Item Heading</u> |
|--|--|---|
| 01 Food and non-alcoholic beverages | 11.3659 | |
| 01.1 Food | 10.2532 | |
| 01.1.1 Bread and cereals | 1.9822 | |
| Rice | 0.0539 | (1) Rice |
| Flours and other cereals | 0.0673 | (1) Flour - white self-raising (2) Flour - brown wholemeal |
| Bread | 0.6588 | (1) White sliced pan large (800g) (2) Brown sliced pan large (800g) (3) Brown wholemeal/wholegrain (4) French baguette (5) Specialised breads |
| Other bakery products | 0.6163 | (1) Cream crackers & other cheese biscuits (2) Plain biscuits (3) Chocolate biscuits (4) Other sweet biscuits (5) Fruit cake (6) Swiss rolls & chocolate logs (7) Other small cakes & buns (8) Large fresh cakes or fruit pies/tarts |
| Pizza and quiche | 0.1505 | (1) Pizza |
| Pasta products and couscous | 0.1060 | (1) Noodles (2) Spaghetti (3) Pasta |
| Breakfast cereals | 0.2819 | (1) Cornflakes (2) Wheat based breakfast cereals (3) Muesli (4) Children's sugar/chocolate cereals (5) Oat based breakfast cereals |
| Other cereal products | 0.0475 | (1) Bread & cake mixes (2) Cereal bars |
| 01.1.2 Meat | 2.4233 | |
| Beef and veal | 0.4170 | (1) Sirloin steak (2) Striploin steak (3) Roast beef - topside/rib (4) Sliced/diced beef pieces |
| Pork | 0.1458 | (1) Pork - loin chops (2) Pork steak |
| Lamb and goat | 0.1414 | (1) Lamb - whole leg/half leg (2) Lamb - loin chops (3) Lamb - gigot chops |
| Poultry | 0.4599 | (1) Chicken - uncooked, medium size (2) Chicken breast fillet (3) Other poultry |
| Edible offal | 0.0065 | (1) Lamb's liver |
| Dried, salted or smoked meat | 0.8656 | (1) Ham fillet (2) Cooked ham (3) Other cooked meats (4) Best back rashers (5) Pork sausages (6) Black/white pudding |
| Other meat preparations | 0.3871 | (1) Minced beef (2) Chicken - cooked whole (3) Chicken - prepared fillets (4) Frozen beef burgers (5) Frozen chicken products |

Appendix 3 - continued

| <u>COICOP Headings December 2011</u> | <u>December 2011 % Expenditure weights</u> | <u>Item Heading</u> |
|---|--|--|
| 01 Food and non-alcoholic beverages - contd. | | |
| 01.1.3 Fish | 0.3220 | |
| Fresh or chilled fish | 0.1249 | (1) Fresh fillet of whiting (2) Fresh fillet of cod (3) Fresh salmon (4) Fresh fillet of plaice |
| Frozen fish | 0.0491 | (1) Frozen fish fillets |
| Fresh or chilled seafood | 0.0374 | (1) Fresh/chilled shellfish |
| Dried, smoked or salted fish and seafood | 0.0365 | (1) Smoked fish fillets (2) Smoked salmon |
| Other preserved or processed fish and seafood-based preparations | 0.0740 | (1) Frozen fish fingers (2) Tinned salmon (3) Tinned tuna |
| 01.1.4 Milk, cheese and eggs | 1.4569 | |
| Fresh whole milk | 0.4250 | (1) Milk 2 litre (full fat) |
| Fresh low fat milk | 0.1589 | (1) Milk 1 litre (low fat) |
| Yoghurt | 0.2535 | (1) Yoghurt (2) Yoghurt products - childrens |
| Cheese and curd | 0.3347 | (1) Cheese - processed (2) Irish cheddar cheese (3) Cheese - foreign (4) Cheese products |
| Other milk products | 0.1326 | (1) Fresh cream (2) Probiotic drinks |
| Eggs | 0.1522 | (1) Eggs - medium (half dozen) (2) Eggs - large (half dozen) |
| 01.1.5 Oils and fats | 0.2885 | |
| Butter | 0.1293 | (1) Butter (2) Butter - spreadable |
| Margarine and other vegetable fats | 0.0921 | (1) Margarine (2) Low fat spreads |
| Olive oil | 0.0260 | (1) Olive oil |
| Other edible oils | 0.0410 | (1) Cooking oil & other edible oils |
| 01.1.6 Fruit | 0.7447 | |
| Fresh or chilled fruit | 0.6216 | (1) Lemons (2) Apples - eating (3) Oranges, satsumas, mandarins, clementines (4) Grapes (5) Bananas (6) Kiwi (7) Berries - fresh |
| Dried fruit and nuts | 0.1045 | (1) Sultanas & other dried fruits (2) Nuts & edible seeds |
| Preserved fruit and fruit-based products | 0.0186 | (1) Tinned fruit |
| 01.1.7 Vegetables | 1.3874 | |
| Fresh or chilled vegetables other than potatoes and other tubers | 0.5944 | (1) Tomatoes (2) Cabbage (3) Broccoli (4) Carrots (5) Peppers (6) Lettuce (7) Onions (8) Mushrooms (9) Garlic |

Appendix 3 - continued

| <u>COICOP Headings December 2011</u> | <u>December 2011 % Expenditure weights</u> | <u>Item Heading</u> |
|--|--|---|
| 01 Food and non-alcoholic beverages - contd. | | |
| Frozen vegetables other than potatoes and other tubers | 0.0358 | (1) Frozen peas (2) Frozen mixed vegetables |
| Dried vegetables, other preserved or processed vegetables | 0.2517 | (1) Tinned peas (2) Tinned baked beans (3) Tinned tomatoes (4) Prepared packaged vegetables (5) Prepared green salads (6) Coleslaw & other mixed salads (7) Vegetarian meals/products |
| Potatoes | 0.3055 | (1) Potatoes 2.5kg (2) Potatoes 10kg (3) Frozen chips/french fries (4) Other frozen potato products |
| Crisps | 0.2000 | (1) Potato crisps (2) Premium quality snacks |
| 01.1.8 Sugar, jam, honey, chocolate and confectionery | 0.7966 | |
| Sugar | 0.0732 | (1) Sugar - white granulated |
| Jams, marmalades and honey | 0.0887 | (1) Jam (2) Marmalade (3) Honey |
| Chocolate | 0.3401 | (1) Box of chocolates (2) Multi pack/fun size chocolate (3) Chocolate bar |
| Confectionery products | 0.1428 | (1) Packet of sweets (2) Chewing gum |
| Edible ices and ice cream | 0.1458 | (1) Ice cream (2) Other ice cream products |
| Artificial sugar substitutes | 0.0060 | (1) Artificial sweeteners |
| 01.1.9 Food products n.e.c. | 0.8516 | |
| Sauces and condiments | 0.2290 | (1) Pasta meal sauces (2) Ready mix sauces (3) Oriental stir fry sauces & mixtures (4) Ketchup (5) Relishes, dressings & other sauces (6) Mayonnaise (7) Mustard (8) Vinegar |
| Salt, spices and culinary herbs | 0.0405 | (1) Salt (2) Black/white pepper (3) Mixed herbs & spices |
| Baby food | 0.1008 | (1) Baby milk compound (2) Baby biscuits/rice cakes (3) Tin/jar/packet of baby food |
| Ready-made meals | 0.2525 | (1) Fresh/chilled ready to eat meals - European (2) Frozen meals - Indian/Chinese (3) Frozen meals - European (4) Prepared desserts - ready to eat (5) Convenience chilled foods (6) Hot deli foods (7) Other world cuisine |
| Other food products n.e.c. | 0.2289 | (1) Meat extract, gravy & casserole mixes (2) Garlic bread (3) Tinned, pouches, cartons fresh soup (4) Dried soup (5) Custard (6) Gluten free foods |

Appendix 3 - continued

| <u>COICOP Headings December 2011</u> | <u>December 2011</u> <u>% Expenditure weights</u> | <u>Item Heading</u> |
|---|--|---|
| 01 Food and non-alcoholic beverages - contd. | | |
| 01.2 Non-alcoholic beverages | 1.1127 | |
| 01.2.1 Coffee, tea and cocoa | 0.2301 | |
| Coffee | 0.0963 | (1) Coffee - instant (2) Coffee - filter |
| Tea | 0.1217 | (1) Specialised teas (2) Tea - bags |
| Cocoa and powdered chocolate | 0.0120 | (1) Cocoa/drinking chocolate |
| 01.2.2 Mineral waters, soft drinks, fruit and vegetable juices | 0.8826 | |
| Mineral or spring waters | 0.1256 | (1) Mineral water - large bottle |
| Soft drinks | 0.5246 | (1) Soft drink - can/small bottle (2) Soft drink - large bottle (3) Energy drinks |
| Fruit and vegetable juices | 0.2324 | (1) Concentrated squash (2) Orange juice (3) Other fruit juices (4) Children's fruit juices (5) Fruit smoothies |
| <hr/> | | |
| 02 Alcoholic beverages and tobacco | 4.9084 | |
| 02.1 Alcoholic beverages | 2.2629 | |
| 02.1.1 Spirits | 0.3509 | (1) Whiskey - take home (70cl bottle) (2) Brandy - take home (70cl bottle) (3) Vodka - take home (70cl bottle) (4) Cream liqueur - take home (70cl bottle) (5) Flavoured alcoholic drinks - take home |
| 02.1.2 Wine | 1.0529 | (1) Wine - take home (75cl bottle) (2) Cider - take home (50cl can) (3) Sherry - take home (75cl bottle) |
| 02.1.3 Beer | 0.8591 | (1) Lager - take home (50cl can) (2) Multi pack beer - take home (bottles) (3) Stout - take home (50cl can) |
| 02.2 Tobacco | 2.6455 | |
| Cigarettes | 2.5150 | (1) Cigarettes - filtered |
| Other tobacco products | 0.1304 | (1) Cigars (2) Tobacco - flake |

Appendix 3 - continued

| <u>COICOP Headings December 2011</u> | <u>December 2011 % Expenditure weights</u> | <u>Item Heading</u> |
|---|--|---|
| 03 Clothing and footwear | 5.2025 | |
| 03.1 Clothing | 4.1220 | |
| 03.1.2 Garments | 3.8776 | (1) Mens casual overjacket/rain jacket (2) Mens 2-piece suit (3) Mens sports jacket & blazer (4) Mens casual trousers (5) Mens formal trousers (6) Mens jumpers & pullovers (7) Mens tops & t-shirts (8) Mens formal shirts (9) Mens casual shirts (10) Mens underwear (11) Mens vests & white cotton t-shirts (12) Mens pyjamas (13) Mens socks (14) Mens fleeces & similar type jackets (15) Mens tracksuits/separates (16) Mens sweatshirts/rugby shirts (17) Mens replica sports jersey (18) Ladies casual overjacket/rain coat (19) Ladies overcoat (20) Ladies 2-piece suit (21) Ladies blazer & jacket (22) Ladies dress - formal or informal (23) Ladies jeans & casual trousers (24) Ladies formal trousers (25) Ladies skirt (26) Ladies blouse (27) Ladies knitwear (28) Ladies tops (29) Ladies knickers & panties (30) Ladies body shapers (31) Ladies bras (32) Ladies nightdresses & pyjamas (33) Ladies tights & stockings (34) Ladies swimwear (35) Ladies leisure suits (36) Childrens casual jacket (37) Childrens tracksuits/separates (38) Childrens casual trousers (39) Childrens jumpers/sweatshirts/hoodies (40) Boys shirts - non-school (41) Childrens tops & t-shirts (42) Girls skirt (43) Childrens vests (44) Childrens pyjamas (45) Childrens socks (46) School uniforms (47) Babies sleep suits/babygros (48) Toddlers outfit |
| 03.1.3 Other articles of clothing and clothing accessories | 0.1634 | (1) Neck tie (2) Mens clothing accessories (3) Ladies clothing accessories (4) Cycling helmet (5) Sewing accessories |

Appendix 3 - continued

| <u>COICOP Headings December 2011</u> | <u>December 2011 % Expenditure weights</u> | <u>Item Heading</u> |
|--|--|---|
| 03 Clothing and footwear - contd. | | |
| 03.1.4 Cleaning, repair and hire of clothing | 0.0810 | |
| Dry cleaning and laundry | 0.0628 | (1) Dry cleaning - man's suit (2) Dry cleaning - ladies jacket (3) Dry cleaning - ladies trousers (4) Laundry |
| Dress hire and repair of clothing | 0.0182 | (1) Alteration to trousers (2) Dress hire - morning & evening suits |
| 03.2 Footwear | 1.0806 | |
| 03.2.1 Shoes and other footwear | 1.0713 | (1) Mens formal leather shoes (2) Mens dressy casual shoes (3) Mens boots - casual/hiking (4) Mens trainers & runners (5) Ladies low heel shoes (6) Ladies fashion shoes (7) Ladies boots (8) Ladies sandals (9) Boys shoes (10) Girls shoes (11) Children's trainers & runners |
| 03.2.2 Repair and hire of footwear | 0.0092 | (1) Mens shoe repairs (2) Ladies shoe repairs |
| <hr/> | | |
| 04 Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels | 17.4761 | |
| 04.1/04.2 Actual rentals for housing and imputed rentals for housing | 10.6732 | |
| 04.1.1 Actual rentals paid by tenants (rents) | 5.0040 | |
| Private rents | 4.3536 | (1) Private rents |
| Local authority rents | 0.6504 | (1) Local authority rents |
| 04.2.1 Imputed rentals of owner-occupiers (mortgage interest) | 5.6692 | (1) Mortgage interest |
| 04.3 Maintenance and repair of the dwelling | 0.8747 | |
| 04.3.1 Materials for the maintenance and repair of the dwelling | 0.3444 | (1) Floor tiles (2) Paint (3) Paint brush (4) Paint roller (5) White spirit (6) Varnish (7) DIY household maintenance products (8) Taps/mixer taps (9) Building materials |
| 04.3.2 Services for the maintenance and repair of the dwelling | 0.5303 | (1) Plumbers services (2) Electricians services (3) Services for maintenance of heating systems (4) Painters services (5) Carpenters services (6) Other house maintenance services (i) Services for maintenance of burglar alarms (ii) Locksmiths services |
| 04.4 Water supply and miscellaneous services relating to the dwelling | 0.6260 | |
| 04.4.2 Refuse collection | 0.4375 | (1) Refuse collection |

Appendix 3 - continued

| <u>COICOP Headings December 2011</u> | <u>December 2011 % Expenditure weights</u> | <u>Item Heading</u> |
|--|--|---|
| 04 Housing, water, electricity, gas & other fuels - contd. | | |
| 04.4.4 Other services relating to the dwelling n.e.c. | 0.1885 | (1) Maintenance charges in apartment blocks (2) Chimney sweep (3) Building energy rating (BER) assessment fees |
| 04.5 Electricity, gas and other fuels | 5.3022 | |
| 04.5.1 Electricity | 2.3386 | (1) Electricity |
| 04.5.2 Gas | 1.1810 | |
| Natural gas | 1.1215 | (1) Natural gas |
| Bottled gas | 0.0595 | (1) Bottled gas |
| 04.5.3 Liquid fuels | 1.3076 | (1) Home heating oil |
| 04.5.4 Solid fuels | 0.4751 | (1) Coal (2) Briquettes (3) Firelighters (4) Fire handy packs |
| <hr/> | | |
| 05 Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance | 3.2196 | |
| 05.1 Furniture and furnishings, carpets and other floor coverings | 0.6557 | |
| 05.1.1 Furniture and furnishings | 0.6086 | (1) Lounge suite (2) Single armchair (3) Bed (4) Mattress (5) Bedroom furniture (6) Dining table (7) Dining chair (8) Kitchen units (9) Bathroom furniture (10) Garden furniture (11) Lamps (12) Children's furniture (13) Computer & office furniture (14) Decorative home accessory (15) Cushions |
| 05.1.2 Carpets and other floor coverings | 0.0471 | (1) Carpet (2) Vinyl floor covering (3) Wooden flooring |
| 05.2 Household textiles | 0.2946 | (1) Curtains readymade (2) Continental quilt/duvet (3) Continental quilt/duvet cover (4) Pillow (5) Pillow case (6) Sheet (7) Throws & other spreads (8) Bath towel (9) Tea towel |

Appendix 3 - continued

| <u>COICOP Headings December 2011</u> | <u>December 2011 % Expenditure weights</u> | <u>Item Heading</u> |
|---|--|---|
| 05 Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance - contd. | | |
| 05.3 Household appliances | 0.4648 | |
| 05.3.1 Major household appliances whether electric or not | 0.3618 | (1) Fridge freezer (2) Deep freeze (3) Dishwasher (4) Washing machine (5) Tumble dryer (6) Electric cooker (7) Gas cooker (8) Microwave oven (9) Electric heater (10) Vacuum cleaner |
| 05.3.2 Small electrical household appliances | 0.0690 | (1) Food processor/blender/smoothie maker (2) Kettle (3) Coffee maker (4) Iron (5) Toaster (6) Health grill - electric (7) Deep fat fryer (8) Baby monitor |
| 05.3.3 Repair of household appliances | 0.0340 | (1) Electrical repairs |
| 05.4 Glassware, tableware and household utensils | 0.2302 | (1) Coffee mug (2) Crockery combi service set (3) Glass tumbler (4) Wine glass (5) Casserole dish (6) Salt & pepper set (7) Cutlery set (8) Carving knife (9) Bottle opener (10) Saucepan (11) Frying pan (12) Baking utensil (13) Tea pot (14) Kitchen utensil (15) Baking & roasting tins (16) Chopping board (17) Dustbin (18) Ironing board (19) Bathroom accessories |
| 05.5 Tools and equipment for house and garden | 0.3778 | |
| 05.5.1 Major tools and equipment | 0.0945 | (1) Lawnmower (2) Power drill (3) Other DIY power tools (4) Other outdoor power tools (5) Tool hire |
| 05.5.2 Small tools and miscellaneous accessories | 0.2832 | (1) Garden implement (2) Hammer (3) Screw driver (4) Ladders & steps (5) Battery (6) Light bulb (7) Electrical accessory (8) Flashlight (9) Clothes line (10) Smoke alarm (11) Carbon monoxide detector |

Appendix 3 - continued

| <u>COICOP Headings December 2011</u> | <u>December 2011 % Expenditure weights</u> | <u>Item Heading</u> |
|---|--|---|
| 05 Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance - contd. | | |
| 05.6 Goods and services for routine household maintenance | 1.1965 | |
| 05.6.1 Non-durable household goods | 0.7091 | (1) Automatic washing powder/liquid (2) Fabric conditioner (3) Washing-up liquid (4) Dishwasher detergent (5) Household cleaning products (6) Bathroom cleaning products (7) Disinfectant (8) Air freshener (9) Other cleaning materials (10) Shoe polish or liquid (11) Rubber gloves (12) Sweeping brush (13) Household mop (14) Kitchen paper (15) Tin foil (16) Cling film (17) Matches (18) Plastic rubbish bags (19) Food & sandwich bags (20) Shopping bags |
| 05.6.2 Domestic services and household services | 0.4874 | (1) Gardeners services (2) Carpet cleaning services (3) Other domestic & household services <i>(i) Cleaners services</i> <i>(ii) Window cleaners services</i> |
| 06 Health | | |
| 06.1 Medical products, appliances and equipment | 4.6288 | |
| 06.1.1 Pharmaceutical products | 0.8196 | |
| Prescribed drugs | 0.2203 | (1) Prescribed drugs (oral) (2) Prescribed drugs (non-oral) |
| Other medicines | 0.5993 | (1) Vitamins & other supplements (2) Pain reliever (3) Antacid (4) Cough mixture (5) Cold/flu drinks powder |
| 06.1.2 Other medical products | 0.0717 | (1) Condoms (2) Pregnancy test kit (3) Petroleum jelly (4) Disinfectant - first aid (5) Adhesive dressing |
| 06.1.3 Therapeutic appliances and equipment | 0.1743 | (1) Spectacles & contact lenses (2) Hearing aids (3) Dentures (4) Other therapeutic appliances & equipment |

Appendix 3 - continued

| <u>COICOP Headings December 2011</u> | <u>December 2011 % Expenditure weights</u> | <u>Item Heading</u> |
|--|--|--|
| 06 Health - contd. | | |
| 06.2 Out-patient services | 1.4654 | |
| 06.2.1/3 Medical and paramedical services | 0.9919 | |
| Doctors fees | 0.8224 | (1) General practitioners fees (2) Specialist fees (3) Opticians fees |
| Other medical and paramedical services | 0.1695 | (1) Alternative & complementary medicine (i) Homeopath fees (ii) Chiropractor fees (iii) Acupuncturist fees (2) Physiotherapists fees |
| 06.2.2 Dental services | 0.4735 | (1) Dentists fees |
| 06.3 Hospital services | 2.0978 | (1) Hospital charges |
| <hr/> | | |
| 07 Transport | 15.0878 | |
| 07.1 Purchase of vehicles | 3.4252 | |
| 07.1.1 Motor cars | 3.3599 | (1) Motor cars (new) (2) Motor cars (second-hand) |
| 07.1.2 Motor cycles | 0.0207 | (1) Motor cycles |
| 07.1.3 Bicycles | 0.0446 | (1) Adult's bicycle (2) Children's bicycle |
| 07.2 Operation of personal transport equipment | 8.7038 | |
| 07.2.1 Spare parts and accessories for personal transport equipment | 0.4224 | (1) Motor car tyres (2) Other motor car parts |
| 07.2.2 Fuels and lubricants for personal transport equipment | 6.0586 | |
| Petrol | 4.1392 | (1) Petrol |
| Diesel | 1.8941 | (1) Diesel |
| Motor oil | 0.0253 | (1) Motor oil |
| 07.2.3 Maintenance and repair of personal transport equipment | 0.6427 | (1) Car wash (2) Car maintenance (3) Puncture repair |
| 07.2.4 Other services in respect of personal transport equipment | 1.5801 | |
| Motor tax | 1.1689 | (1) Motor tax - motor cycle (2) Motor tax - car |
| Other vehicle costs | 0.4112 | (1) Car rental (2) Parking fees (3) Toll charges (4) Other vehicle costs (5) Driving lessons (6) Driving test fees (7) Driving licences (8) National car test (NCT) |
| 07.3 Transport services | 2.9588 | |
| 07.3.1 Passenger transport by railway | 0.2374 | (1) Rail fares |
| 07.3.2 Passenger transport by road | 1.0393 | |
| Bus fares | 0.6481 | (1) Bus fares (2) School transport |
| Taxi fares | 0.3913 | (1) Taxi fares |

Appendix 3 - continued

| <u>COICOP Headings December 2011</u> | <u>December 2011 % Expenditure weights</u> | <u>Item Heading</u> |
|---|--|--|
| <i>07 Transport - contd.</i> | | |
| 07.3.3 Passenger transport by air | 1.5479 | (1) Air fares |
| 07.3.4 Passenger transport by sea and inland waterway | 0.0911 | (1) Boat fares |
| 07.3.5 Combined passenger transport | 0.0262 | (1) Commuter tickets |
| 07.3.6 Other purchased transport services | 0.0169 | (1) Furniture removal |
| <hr/> | | |
| 08 Communications | 3.4870 | |
| 08.1 Postal services | 0.1020 | (1) Postage |
| 08.2/3.0 Telephone and telefax equipment and telephone and telefax services | 3.3851 | (1) Telephone equipment (2) Telephone services - landline (3) Telephone services - mobile (4) Internet services (5) Bundled telephone & internet services |
| <hr/> | | |
| 09 Recreation and culture | 8.0753 | |
| 09.1 Audio-visual, photographic and information processing equipment | 0.9117 | |
| 09.1.1 Equipment for the reception, recording and reproduction of sound and pictures | 0.3557 | (1) Clock radio (2) Midi system (3) Home cinema surround sound system (4) TV small up to 26" (5) TV mid-range 32" - 42" (6) Smart TVs (7) MP4 player (8) MP4 docking station (9) Media tablets |
| 09.1.2 Photographic and cinematographic equipment and optical instruments | 0.0730 | (1) Digital camera (2) Camera - disposable (3) Camcorder |
| 09.1.3 Information processing equipment | 0.2332 | (1) Computers (2) Computer accessories (3) Computer software |
| 09.1.4 Recording media | 0.2226 | (1) DVD pre-recorded (2) CD album (3) Music downloads (4) CD (R & RW) (5) Film or memory card (6) Hard drives (7) Memory sticks |
| 09.1.5 Repair of audio-visual, photographic and information processing equipment | 0.0272 | (1) Computer repairs |
| 09.2 Other major durables for recreation and culture | 0.0877 | |
| 09.2.1/2 Major durables for indoor and outdoor recreation including musical instruments | 0.0877 | (1) Water sports equipment (2) Musical instruments |

Appendix 3 - continued

| <u>COICOP Headings December 2011</u> | <u>December 2011 % Expenditure weights</u> | <u>Item Heading</u> |
|--|--|---|
| 09 Recreation and culture - contd. | | |
| 09.3 Other recreational items and equipment, gardens and pets | 1.5920 | |
| 09.3.1 Games, toys and hobbies | 0.5381 | (1) Computer games console (2) Computer game (3) Group game (4) Child's doll (5) Model car/tractor/lorry (6) Lego & building blocks (7) Educational toy (8) Soft cuddly toy (9) Motorised toy |
| 09.3.2 Equipment for sport, camping and open-air recreation | 0.2171 | (1) Sport & recreation goods (2) Equipment for camping & open-air recreation |
| 09.3.3 Gardens, plants and flowers | 0.3855 | (1) Flower pot (2) Soil, peat & fertiliser (3) Weed killer (4) Cut flowers (5) Flowers/bushes/shrubs for the garden |
| 09.3.4/5 Pets and related products including veterinary and other services for pets | 0.4513 | (1) Pet food (2) Veterinary services & animal care |
| 09.4 Recreational and cultural services | 3.3520 | |
| 09.4.1 Recreational and sporting services | 1.0343 | |
| Sports admittance | 0.1294 | (1) Sports admittance |
| Sports participation | 0.2454 | (1) Sports participation |
| Club and society subscriptions | 0.6594 | (1) Club & society subscriptions |
| 09.4.2 Cultural services | 2.3178 | |
| Cinema | 0.2079 | (1) Cinema |
| Nightclubs | 0.1392 | (1) Nightclubs |
| Cultural admittance | 0.4331 | (1) Theatres & concerts (2) Museums, libraries & zoological gardens |
| Television services | 1.4452 | (1) Cable & satellite TV services (2) TV licence |
| Other entertainment | 0.0925 | (1) Library charges (2) Passport photo (3) Digital photo printing (4) Photo development |
| 09.5 Newspapers, books and stationery | 1.4578 | |
| 09.5.1 Books | 0.3956 | (1) Infant books (2) Paperback books (3) Text books (4) Other non-fiction books |
| 09.5.2 Newspapers and periodicals | 0.7132 | (1) Newspapers (2) Comics (3) Magazines |

Appendix 3 - continued

| <u>COICOP Headings December 2011</u> | <u>December 2011 % Expenditure weights</u> | <u>Item Heading</u> |
|---|--|---|
| 09 Recreation and culture - contd. | | |
| 09.5.3/4 Miscellaneous printed matter and stationery and drawing materials | 0.3490 | (1) Greeting cards (2) School copybook (3) Envelopes (4) Refill pad (5) Printer paper (6) Sellotape (7) Lead pencil (8) Ballpoint pen (9) Markers & crayons (10) Other stationery (11) Inkjet cartridge |
| 09.6 Package holidays | 0.6740 | (1) Package holidays |
| 10 Education | | |
| 10.1 Pre-primary and primary education | 0.1483 | (1) Playschools (2) Private primary fees |
| 10.2 Secondary education | 0.3784 | (1) Private second level day fees |
| 10.4 Tertiary education | 1.5687 | (1) Third level tuition (2) Third level accommodation |
| 10.5 Education not definable by level | 0.3657 | (1) Other education & training (2) Examination fees |
| 11 Restaurants and hotels | | |
| 11.1 Catering services | 12.2965 | |
| 11.1.1 Restaurants, cafes and the like | 11.4857 | |
| Licensed premises | 6.4942 | |
| Spirits | 1.5787 | (1) Whiskey - bar (2) Brandy - bar (3) Vodka - bar (4) Flavoured alcoholic drinks - bar |
| Wine | 1.0311 | (1) Wine - bar (small bottle) (2) Cider bottle - bar (3) Cider draught - bar (1pt) |
| Beer | 3.5869 | (1) Lager bottle - bar (2) Lager draught - bar (1pt) (3) Ale draught - bar (1pt) (4) Stout draught - bar (1pt) |
| Soft drinks and mineral water | 0.2975 | (1) Mineral - bar (2) Mixer - bar |
| Restaurants, cafes, fast food and take-away food | 4.9915 | (1) Lunch (2) Dinner (3) Meal in ethnic restaurant (4) Chips - small single (5) Fast food meal (6) Take-away meal (7) Tea/coffee - eat-in (8) Tea/coffee - take-away (9) Sandwich/wrap/roll/bagel - eat-in (10) Sandwich/wrap/roll/bagel - take-away (11) Mineral water (500ml) (12) Rail catering |

Appendix 3 - continued

| <u>COICOP Headings December 2011</u> | <u>December 2011 % Expenditure weights</u> | <u>Item Heading</u> |
|---|--|---|
| 11 Restaurants and hotels - contd. | | |
| 11.1.2 Canteens | 0.8107 | (1) Canteens |
| 11.2 Accommodation services | 1.8756 | (1) Guest houses & B&Bs (2) Hotels (3) Hostels |
| 12 Miscellaneous goods and services | | |
| 12.1 Personal care | 2.3298 | |
| 12.1.1 Hairdressing salons and personal grooming establishments | 0.8177 | |
| Hairdressing | 0.6195 | (1) Gents - dry haircut (2) Gents - wash, cut & blowdry (3) Ladies - shampoo & set (4) Ladies - wash, cut & blowdry (5) Ladies - perm/bodywave (6) Ladies - hair colour & highlights |
| Health and beauty treatments | 0.1850 | (1) Health & beauty treatments |
| Other personal grooming | 0.0133 | (1) Ear piercing |
| 12.1.2 Electric appliances for personal care | 0.0222 | (1) Electric razor (2) Hair dryer/styler |
| 12.1.3 Other appliances, articles and products for personal care | 1.4898 | |
| Hygiene products | 0.3136 | (1) Toilet paper (2) Liquid soap (3) Shower gel (4) Toothpaste (5) Dental floss (6) Mouth wash |
| Hair products | 0.1779 | (1) Shampoo/conditioner (2) Hair gel (3) Hair colour (4) Hairspray |
| Cosmetic and skincare products | 0.6411 | (1) Shaving foam (2) Baby powder (3) Deodorant (4) Sunscreen/sunblock (5) Self-tanning products (6) Cleansing cream/wipes (7) Moisturiser (8) Hand cream (9) Perfume (10) Aftershave (11) Lipstick (12) Foundation - make-up (13) Mascara |
| Toilet accessories | 0.3573 | (1) Toothbrush (2) Razor blades/cartridges (3) Disposable nappies (4) Baby wipes (5) Tampons (6) Sanitary towels/pads (7) Tissues (8) Cotton wool |
| 12.3 Personal effects n.e.c. | 0.5864 | |
| 12.3.1 Jewellery, clocks and watches | 0.3539 | (1) Jewellery (2) Wrist watch (3) Clock |

Appendix 3 - continued

| <u>COICOP Headings December 2011</u> | <u>December 2011 % Expenditure weights</u> | <u>Item Heading</u> |
|---|--|---|
| 12 Miscellaneous goods and services - contd. | | |
| 12.3.2 Other personal effects | 0.2325 | (1) Suitcase (2) Ladies handbag (3) Wallet (4) Baby's carriage (5) Baby/child's seat (6) Cigarette lighter (7) Umbrella (8) Sunglasses (9) Giftware/souvenir |
| 12.4 Social protection | 0.9666 | |
| Childcare | 0.7855 | (1) Childcare |
| Other social protection | 0.1810 | (1) Nursing homes (2) Home help & day care services for the elderly |
| 12.5 Insurance | 5.4346 | |
| 12.5.2 Insurance connected with the dwelling | 0.8686 | (1) House insurance - contents (service) (2) House insurance - contents (non-service) (3) House insurance - dwelling |
| 12.5.3 Insurance connected with health | 2.8695 | (1) Health insurance |
| 12.5.4 Insurance connected with transport | 1.6965 | |
| Motor insurance | 1.6780 | |
| Motor cycle insurance | 0.0143 | (1) Motor cycle insurance |
| Motor car insurance | 1.6638 | (1) Motor car insurance (service) (2) Motor car insurance (non-service) |
| Travel insurance | 0.0184 | (1) Travel insurance |
| 12.6 Financial services | 0.1226 | (1) Financial services |
| 12.7 Other services n.e.c. | 0.4753 | (1) Passport fees (2) Birth/death/marriage certificate fees (3) Other licences (4) Professional & legal services (i) <i>Engineers/surveyors fees</i> (ii) <i>Estate agents fees</i> (iii) <i>Solicitors fees</i> (5) Funeral services (6) Union subscriptions (7) Newspaper advertisements (8) Weddings (9) Miscellaneous goods & services |

Appendix 4 - Special Inquiries

In addition to the 50,000 prices collected directly in retail outlets and businesses on a monthly basis, there are 126 special inquiries conducted as part of the current CPI. On average, over 3,000 price quotations are collected each month from these inquiries. Inquiries are made by post, telephone, e-mail along with internet price collection. They account for the price trends of approximately 51.4% of the basket of goods and services in the All Items CPI.

A list of these files is given below:

- School uniforms
- Laundry
- Dress hire – morning & evening suits
- Private rents
- Local authority rents
- Mortgage interest
- Building materials
- Plumbers services
- Electricians services
- Services for maintenance of heating systems
- Painters services
- Carpenters services
- Other house maintenance services
- Refuse collection
- Maintenance charges in apartment blocks
- Chimney sweep
- Building energy rating (BER) assessment fees
- Electricity
- Natural gas
- Home heating oil
- Coal
- Kitchen units
- Garden furniture
- Electrical repairs
- Tool hire
- Gardeners services
- Carpet cleaning services
- Other domestic & household services
- Prescribed drugs (oral)
- Prescribed drugs (non-oral)
- Spectacles & contact lenses
- Hearing aids
- Dentures
- Other therapeutic appliances & equipment
- General practitioners fees
- Specialist fees
- Opticians fees
- Alternative & complementary medicine
- Physiotherapists fees
- Dentists fees
- Hospital charges
- Motor cars (new)
- Motor cars (second-hand)
- Motor cycles
- Motor car tyres
- Other motor car parts
- Car maintenance
- Puncture repair
- Motor tax - motor cycle
- Motor tax - car
- Car rental
- Parking fees
- Toll charges
- Other vehicle costs
- Driving lessons
- Driving test fees
- Driving licences
- National car test (NCT)
- Rail fares
- Bus fares
- School transport
- Taxi fares
- Air fares
- Boat fares
- Commuter tickets
- Furniture removal
- Postage
- Telephone equipment
- Telephone services - landline
- Telephone services - mobile
- Internet services
- Bundled telephone & internet services
- Computers
- Computer accessories
- Music downloads
- Computer repairs
- Water sports equipment
- Musical instruments
- Sport & recreation goods
- Equipment for camping & open-air recreation
- Veterinary services & animal care
- Sports admittance
- Sports participation
- Club & society subscriptions
- Theatres & concerts
- Museums, libraries & zoological gardens
- Cable & satellite TV services
- TV licence
- Library charges
- Text books
- Newspapers
- Package holidays
- Playschools
- Private primary fees
- Private second level day fees
- Third level tuition
- Third level accommodation
- Other education & training
- Examination fees
- Rail catering
- Canteens
- Guest houses & B&Bs
- Hotels
- Hostels
- Health & beauty treatments
- Childcare
- Nursing homes
- Home help & day care services for the elderly
- House insurance - contents (service)
- House insurance - contents (non-service)
- House insurance - dwelling
- Health insurance
- Motor cycle insurance
- Motor car insurance (service)
- Motor car insurance (non-service)
- Travel insurance
- Financial services
- Passport fees
- Birth/death/marriage certificate fees
- Other licences

Appendix 4 - *continued*

- Professional & legal services
- Funeral services
- Union subscriptions
- Newspaper advertisements
- Weddings
- Miscellaneous goods & services

Appendix 5 - National average prices

Products for which comparable national average prices (NAPS) are published for successive months

| Commodity | Unit | Commodity | Unit |
|--|---------|--|---------|
| Flours & other cereals: | | Eggs: | |
| Flour - white self-raising | 2 kg | Eggs - medium | ½ doz. |
| Flour - brown wholemeal | 2 kg | Eggs - large | ½ doz. |
| Bread: | | Butter: | |
| White sliced pan large | 800g | Butter | 1 lb |
| Brown sliced pan large | 800g | Fresh or chilled fruit: | |
| Pasta products & couscous: | | Grapes | 1 kg |
| Spaghetti | 500g | Bananas | 1 kg |
| Beef & veal: | | Fresh or chilled vegetables other than potatoes & other tubers: | |
| Sirloin steak | 1 kg | Tomatoes | 1 kg |
| Striploin steak | 1 kg | Broccoli | 1 kg |
| Roast beef - topside/rib | 1 kg | Carrots | 1 kg |
| Sliced/diced beef pieces | 1 kg | Onions | 1 kg |
| Pork: | | Mushrooms | 1 kg |
| Pork-loin chops | 1 kg | Dried vegetables, other preserved or processed vegetables: | |
| Pork steak | 1 kg | Tinned tomatoes | 400g |
| Lamb & goat: | | Potatoes: | |
| Lamb - whole leg/half leg | 1 kg | Potatoes | 2.5 kg |
| Lamb - loin chops | 1 kg | Potatoes | 10 kg |
| Lamb - gigot chops | 1 kg | Sugar: | |
| Poultry: | | Sugar - white granulated | 1 kg |
| Chicken - uncooked, medium size | 1.6 kg | Jam, marmalades & honey: | |
| Edible offal: | | Jam | 1 lb |
| Lamb's liver | 1 kg | Marmalade | 1 lb |
| Dried, salted or smoked meat: | | Tea: | |
| Ham fillet | 1 kg | Tea - bags | 80 |
| Cooked ham | 1 kg | Fruit & vegetable juices: | |
| Best back rashers | 1 kg | Orange juice | 1 litre |
| Pork sausages | 1 kg | Alcoholic beverages – off licences: | |
| Fresh or chilled fish: | | Spirits: | |
| Fresh fillet of whiting | 1 kg | Whiskey - take home bottle | 70 cl |
| Fresh fillet of cod | 1 kg | Brandy - take home bottle | 70 cl |
| Fresh salmon | 1 kg | Vodka - take home bottle | 70 cl |
| Fresh fillet of plaice | 1 kg | Cream liqueur - take home bottle | 70 cl |
| Dried, smoked or salted fish & seafood: | | Wine: | |
| Smoked salmon | 1 kg | Wine - take home bottle | 75 cl |
| Fresh whole milk: | | Cider - take home can | 50 cl |
| Milk - full fat | 2 litre | Sherry - take home bottle | 75 cl |
| Fresh low fat milk: | | Beer: | |
| Milk - low fat | 1 litre | Lager - take home can | 50 cl |
| Cheese & curd: | | Stout - take home can | 50 cl |
| Irish cheddar cheese | 1 kg | | |

Appendix 5 - continued

| Commodity | Unit | Commodity | Unit |
|---|---------|---|--------|
| Cigarettes: | | Alcoholic beverages - licensed premises: | |
| Cigarettes - filtered | 20 pk | Wine: | |
| Fuels & lubricants for personal transport equipment: | | Wine - bar, small bottle | 187 ml |
| Petrol | 1 litre | Cider bottle - bar | 330 ml |
| Diesel | 1 litre | Cider draught - bar | 1 pt |
| Cinema: | | Beer: | |
| Cinema | fee | Lager bottle - bar | 330 ml |
| Nightclubs: | | Lager draught - bar | 1 pt |
| Nightclubs | fee | Ale draught - bar | 1 pt |
| Alcoholic beverages - licensed premises: | | Stout draught - bar | 1 pt |
| Spirits: | | Hairdressing: | |
| Whiskey - bar | ½ glass | Gents - dry haircut | fee |
| Brandy - bar | ½ glass | Gents - wash, cut & blowdry | fee |
| Vodka - bar | ½ glass | Ladies - wash, cut & blowdry | fee |
| Flavoured alcoholic drinks - bar | 275 ml | | |

Appendix 6 – Comparison of the CPI and the HICP

The HICP is a subset of the CPI. The main difference between the two indices is in respect of the coverage of goods and services. Certain items included in the CPI are outside the scope of the HICP or differ in respect to definition. It was necessary to make adjustments to the CPI expenditure weights to take these differences into account. To do this, the weights for the CPI had to be modified to exclude the eight items which are deemed to be outside the scope of coverage of the HICP. These items were:

| | |
|--|---------------|
| • mortgage interest | 5.669% |
| • building materials | 0.080% |
| • motor tax - motor cycle | 0.002% |
| • motor tax - car | 1.166% |
| • house insurance - contents (non-service) | 0.227% |
| • home insurance - dwelling | 0.610% |
| • motor car insurance (non-service) | 1.147% |
| • union subscriptions | 0.246% |
| Total weight of excluded Items | 9.147% |

The treatment of owner occupied housing in the HICP is still under consideration at EU level. As a consequence, mortgage interest building materials and home insurance - dwelling are excluded.

In respect of insurance, a distinction is made in the premium paid by a household. Insurance is split into two components (a) service charge and (b) non-service charge. The non-service charge elements are excluded from the HICP. In addition to those items excluded above, adjustments have been made to health insurance to exclude insurance refunds from the HICP weights. This results in a further 1.196% being excluded from the HICP.

The total weight of the items excluded is 10.343% which means that 89.657% of the CPI basket is covered in the HICP. This compares to 89.440% in the previous series. To make things easier for calculation purposes, these HICP weights were rescaled to 10,000. The following table shows the new HICP weights compared to the CPI weights and explains the main differences between the two series.

Difference between CPI and HICP weights

| COICOP Division | CPI | HICP | Reason |
|--------------------|---------|---------|---|
| 01 | 11.366 | 12.702 | |
| 02 | 4.908 | 5.485 | |
| 03 | 5.203 | 5.814 | |
| 04 | 17.476 | 13.106 | mortgage interest and building materials excluded |
| 05 | 3.22 | 3.598 | |
| 06 | 4.629 | 5.173 | |
| 07 | 15.088 | 15.555 | motor tax excluded |
| 08 | 3.487 | 3.897 | |
| 09 | 8.075 | 9.025 | |
| 10 | 2.461 | 2.751 | |
| 11 | 14.172 | 15.839 | |
| 12 | 9.915 | 7.055 | insurances and union subscriptions |
| 00 | 100.000 | 100.000 | |

The exclusion of the items listed above means that the HICP weights are approximately 11.8% greater than the CPI weights except for the three categories where items are specifically excluded.

