

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

NEW OFFICIAL SERIES

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX — NEW OFFICIAL SERIES

Introduction

This article inaugurates for mid-February, 1969 a new official series of Consumer Price Index numbers weighted according to the pattern of consumer expenditure derived from the Household Budget Inquiry of 1965-66. The former series, which is being replaced, had been retained unchanged since its introduction in 1953 and, therefore, the opportunity has also been taken to improve the coverage of items priced and to revise the pricing mechanism. The base of the new series is mid-November, 1968.

The Consumer Price Index is designed to measure changes in the overall level of retail prices in urban areas. Essentially, it involves calculating each quarter the change to the consumer in the cost of purchasing fixed (i.e. unchanged) quantities of all consumer goods and services. The index, therefore, relates to a fixed standard of living and measures changes in price levels only. It does not reflect changes in the standard of living which might result from variations in such non-price factors as income levels, market conditions, technology or consumer tastes and preferences. However, one of the most important factors determining changes in the cost of living is the extent to which retail prices of consumer goods and services vary, and it is this particular aspect of the cost of living which is measured by the Consumer Price Index.

Previous Series

The first official retail price index for this country was introduced for March, 1922 and it was compiled to base July, 1914 as 100. The weighting basis (i.e. the proportions of total expenditure relating to different goods and services) of this index represented the pattern of expenditure of working class families in 1922 as derived from a Household Budget Inquiry held in June of that year in which 308 families gave usable returns*. The index was computed each quarter up to and including August, 1947.

Since expenditure patterns gradually change over time it is desirable that the weighting of the index be altered periodically so that it approximates to the current expenditure pattern. On account of the Emergency in 1939-45, during which the expenditure pattern was abnormal, and due to the rapidly changing consumption habits of the population in the years following 1945, it was not considered desirable to conduct an inquiry into household expenditure at that time. However, since it was urgently necessary to revise the weighting basis of the retail price index, estimates of the expenditure pattern of households of the non-agricultural employee class were made from national income and expenditure data combined with the results of the National Nutrition Survey held in 1946. The official retail price index, called the *Interim Cost of Living Index (Essential Items)*†, was calculated from this weighting basis to base mid-August, 1947 as 100 for each quarter from that date to mid-August, 1953. In the circumstances of the time it was decided that the most useful Interim Index was one representing only the changes in retail prices of essential items, i.e. food, clothing, fuel and light and rent.

By 1951 consumer expenditure had stabilised to what appeared to be normal post-war patterns. A Household Budget Inquiry‡ was conducted during 1951-52 and the results were used to weight a new Consumer Price Index§. While the interim index related only to the non-agricultural employee class, the new index extended to all non-agricultural households. In addition, the range of consumer goods and services priced was extended to include most of the items excluded from the interim index. The pricing procedure used in the new series was, in principle, the same as that used for the two previous index series, but the number of items priced by local price collectors was extended from 95 to 191. A number of special inquiries were also initiated for certain

articles and services which could not be conveniently priced locally.

Weighting Basis of New Series

The weighting basis of the new official Consumer Price Index now being introduced was determined almost entirely on the results of the Household Budget Inquiry conducted by the Central Statistics Office during 1965-66. This inquiry was more comprehensive than the previous inquiry held in 1951-52. Like that inquiry it was confined to urban areas of the State. Fieldwork was carried out by eighteen full-time trained interviewers and extended from September, 1965 to October, 1966. In all approximately 4,800 completed returns were obtained from co-operating households in sixty-five towns and villages throughout the country. Detailed records of daily expenditure were kept by each co-operating household for a period of fourteen consecutive days on two occasions during a twelve-month period. Additional particulars were also obtained on both occasions concerning regular infrequent expenditures and current income. The results of the inquiry were collated with data from the 1961 Census of Population to eliminate possible bias introduced by varying response rates in different segments of the community. Households classified by social group, size of household and size of town were used for this purpose. Preliminary results of this inquiry have been published in the June, 1968 Bulletin, and the full report will be published shortly.

For index weighting purposes average weekly household expenditure for November, 1968 was required for each of the items distinguished in the new series. The results of the Household Budget Inquiry related to the period 1965-66 and, consequently, it was necessary to adjust the expenditure estimates derived from the inquiry to allow for the price changes which occurred between 1965-66 and November, 1968. For this purpose, the national average prices for individual items compiled for the former Consumer Price Index were used. The weighting pattern used represents therefore, the average 1965-66 pattern of expenditure re-priced at November, 1968 prices.

In the case of one group of items, namely alcoholic beverages, it was found that the expenditure estimates derived from the Household Budget Inquiry were considerably understated. International experience has found this to be a common feature of these inquiries. Accurate figures are, however, available from other sources for the total annual consumption in the country. It is therefore possible, having made an allowance for the expenditure by tourists, to derive an estimate of average weekly expenditure of urban households which is sufficiently reliable for incorporation in the weighting basis of the new Consumer Price Index.

Design of the Index

In principle, the design of the new Consumer Price Index introduced for mid-February, 1969 is the same as that of the former series which it replaces. It is designed to measure the percentage change in the overall level of retail prices of the complete range of consumer goods and services purchased by urban households. The revision of the weighting basis has, of course, provided an opportunity for expanding the coverage of the index and in this respect many improvements have been made.

The calculation of the Consumer Price Index is based on a complex pyramid of samples. A proper understanding of the types of sampling that enter into the calculation of the index is useful to avoid misconceptions arising about the nature and use of the

*Report on the Cost of Living in Ireland, June, 1922.

†Irish Trade Journal and Statistical Bulletin, June, 1948.

‡Household Budget Inquiry 1951-52 (The Stationery Office, 1954).

§Irish Trade Journal and Statistical Bulletin, December, 1952.

index. The forerunner of any major revision is a large scale inquiry into consumer expenditure based on a *random representative sample* of private households. As the index is designed to measure changes in the level of retail prices of the whole range of goods and services available to the consumer, sampling techniques must also be applied in the quarterly collection of prices. It is not feasible, and indeed it is unnecessary, to collect prices for every brand or variety of every item available from all retail outlets on all days each quarter. Consequently, *sample varieties* are priced for a representative selection of articles in a national *sample of shops* on one *sample day* each quarter. The primary object of the pricing operation from the point of view of maintaining the Consumer Price Index series is the measurement of price change each quarter rather than the absolute level of prices. For this purpose, samples of varieties, articles and shops are retained unchanged for as long as possible during the life of the series so that extraneous factors, unconnected with price change, which would have effects on the index calculations are strictly controlled.

By definition, the index is a measure of price change and, therefore, it cannot embrace goods and services which are not capable of being priced. This problem arises because of the practical difficulty in the case of some goods and services of distinguishing a unit for which a price could be measured each quarter. Consequently, expenses such as lotteries and betting, and charitable and religious donations must be excluded from the index coverage. Other expenses are excluded on theoretical grounds. For example, life assurance payments and pension contributions are regarded as forms of saving. Similarly, capital outlays and mortgage repayments for house purchase are considered to be in the nature of investment. The following items of expenditure are excluded from the index coverage :

- Interest payments on loans and overdrafts.
- Instalments on house purchase.
- Ground rent.
- Life assurance and pension contributions.
- Church and charity donations.
- Lotteries and betting payments.

Expenditure on these items constitutes approximately 8 per cent of total household expenditure.

At this point it is well to observe that the exclusion of an item from the coverage of the index does not necessarily involve lowering the level of the index which, it will be recalled, measures trends from one period to another, and not absolute levels. The addition of an item will increase or decrease the index only according as the percentage change in its price is greater or less than the change in the index. Furthermore, this effect will only be in direct proportion to the importance of the item in the weighing basis.

Goods and Services Priced

A fixed sample of specific articles is chosen for regular pricing so that their price changes, appropriately weighted in combination, provide an accurate measure of the overall price movement of all consumer goods and services. In choosing these articles the whole range of goods and services is first arranged into a logical system of major groups (e.g. clothing) and sub-groups (e.g. men's clothing) of similar items. Within these sub-groups the items are further divided into basic homogeneous commodity divisions of related articles (e.g. men's outer clothing). At this stage, one or more specific articles (e.g. cardigan) are selected within each of these basic divisions on the basis of their relative importance, their representative nature and their suitability for pricing so that their price changes are representative of this particular division. Expenditure weights corresponding to these basic articles are derived from the Household Budget Inquiry. The complete list of the priced articles chosen in this fashion and their corresponding weights are given in the appendix.

In this way, a representative selection of goods and services is chosen for regular pricing. Since the articles chosen for regular pricing are specifically selected to be representative of the whole range of consumer goods and services available, it is incorrect to assume that the

index reflects only the price movement of the particular articles priced and that it takes no account of all the other items which are not priced. A small representative selection of the more popular and important items from a range of related articles will give as accurate an assessment of the overall change in the prices charged for these articles as would result if all the various types and varieties of the articles available on the market were individually priced. In any event, this complete coverage would not be feasible in practice.

To determine price change the identical article must be priced in the same shop each quarter. Consequently, the specification of the articles selected for pricing must be such as to ensure that compatible sets of price quotations will be received for identical sets of items each quarter. The articles chosen for pricing are specified in such a fashion as to delineate a reasonable range of varieties from which price collectors were instructed to choose initially in November, 1968 the particular variety most popular with the consumer in their own locality and which would be easiest to price continuously in the future. The insistence on popularity with the consumer ensured that the particular varieties priced in all areas are representative of a large volume of purchases of the article in question. Once chosen initially, pricing procedures were formulated to ensure that the identical varieties were priced each quarter. A new variety is substituted only if the original variety is replaced in popularity or is no longer available.

Pricing System

The pricing system adopted for the new series is identical in principle with the system employed for the former series. However, a number of radical changes have been introduced in the practical mechanics of pricing to improve the accuracy of the basic price data being collected.

With the exception of the Dublin region the quarterly collection of prices is again being completed by officials attached to local Employment Exchanges and Branch Employment Offices of the Department of Labour. A special feature of the new pricing system is the increased emphasis placed on larger urban centres in the collection of prices. Consequently, the number of quotations being collected in Dublin has been increased substantially and, because of this, the collection of prices in this area is now mainly completed by officials of the Central Statistics Office.

In the former series a total of 191 articles were priced in shops throughout the country. All of these 191 articles were included on one price schedule and 163 of these price schedules were completed each quarter in the 118 towns in which Employment Exchanges and Branch Employment Offices are situated. The new pricing system is designed so that the national selection of shops approached is more closely representative of the existing retail distribution structure in the country. The goods and services to be priced were divided into three main categories which were generally related to particular types of shops and pricing booklets were designed to correspond to each of these three categories:

- Booklet No. 1 (156 articles)* relating to food, drink and tobacco and household non-durable goods;
- Booklet No. 2 (148 articles)* relating to clothing and household durable goods—as there is a marked tendency for these articles to be purchased in larger towns, price quotations were not collected in towns with less than 3,000 inhabitants;
- Booklet No. 3 (39 articles)* relating to personal services, fuel and entertainment—as the number of places offering these goods and services is limited only one booklet is completed in each town, with the exception of a few of the larger towns.

The number of separate articles priced was increased from 191 for the former series to 343 for the new series. This constitutes an increase of approximately 80 per cent in the number of separate articles distinguished. The actual increase in the number of quotations was only 11 per cent. This is due to the introduction of the three separate price booklets which allowed changes to be made in the number of quotations received for the

three categories of goods and services in different sized towns. Prices obtained are classified by reference to five groups of towns: (1) Dublin Co. Borough and Dun Laoghaire, (including suburbs), (2) other towns with over 10,000 inhabitants, (3) towns with 5,000 to 10,000 inhabitants, (4) towns with 1,500 to 5,000 inhabitants, (5) towns and villages with less than 1,500 inhabitants. National average prices are compiled for each article listed in price booklets No. 1 and No. 3 by weighting the average prices for each town size classification together directly in proportion to corresponding 1966 populations. These proportions are 44:22:7:12:15. Population weights, appropriately adjusted to allow for the purchases of people in towns with less than 3,000 inhabitants, are also used in weighting the average prices of the articles listed in booklet No. 2.

Pricing Procedures

The essential feature of the pricing operation is that identical varieties of each article listed in the pricing booklets are priced, as far as possible, in the same shop each quarter. At the initial collection of prices in November, 1968 price collectors were asked to choose particular varieties which were popular and in substantial demand. Detailed descriptions of these varieties were recorded in the booklets. Should a change in variety become necessary due to a particular variety no longer being sold or in substantial demand, the price collector is instructed to substitute a different variety which is in popular demand in the same shop and to record a detailed description of this new variety in the price booklet.

The selection of shops in each area, subject to certain restrictions, was left to the individual price reporters who were asked to choose popular shops which were willing to co-operate in the inquiry. It is essential that the complete national selection of shops should be representative of the existing retail structure in the towns. To ensure this it is necessary to have self-service shops adequately represented in the sample. On the basis of preliminary sample results of the 1966 Census of Distribution, individual price booklets No. 1 (which relate to food, drink and tobacco and household non-durables) were assigned to (1) self-service shops, (2) other shops, so that the two types of shops were regionally represented in the correct proportions. Subject, however, to this restriction price collectors were free to make their own choice of shops.

It may be necessary to change a shop for a number of reasons, e.g. it may cease to co-operate or go out of business, or it may no longer stock in sufficient quantity any variety of a particular article priced there. If a change should become necessary price collectors are instructed to select a popular shop similar to the original selection.

Price collectors, carrying authorisation cards, personally visit each shop each quarter. Prices recorded by them are the prices actually paid by the consumer. Estimated, average or ranges of prices are not acceptable. Sale prices are recorded when sales are in progress, but price quotations for shop-soiled or sub-standard articles being sold at clearance prices are not accepted.

Initiation of New Pricing System

The initiation of the new pricing procedures in November, 1968 was complicated by the fact that both the old and new pricing operations had to be completed with the minimum time gap between them so that the corresponding old and new series could be linked together to maintain the necessary continuity in the published quarterly series of retail price index numbers. The last collection of prices for the old series was completed on Monday, 11 November, 1968. A gap of fifteen days was allowed between the two pricing operations so that the price collectors could be instructed in the new procedures; to do so before the conclusion of the final price collection under the old system could have caused confusion with resulting lack of comparability with previous quarters. The first collection of prices under the new arrangements took place on Tuesday, 26 November, 1968. A careful account was taken of any price changes which occurred in this intervening period and appropriate adjustments

were made to ensure that complete continuity was maintained. Under the old system the quarterly pricing was completed on the Mondays nearest to the middle of the months February, May, August and November. For the revised series it was decided to complete the pricing on the Tuesdays nearest to the middle of these months.

Special Inquiries

Certain goods and services entering into the compilation of the index cannot be conveniently priced by local price collectors. The necessary particulars are obtained directly from a variety of sources. All these special inquiries used for the former series have been continued for the new index with improvement and redesign where possible. For the compilation of the new index series a number of additional inquiries have been initiated. These inquiries are enumerated and briefly described below (items 11 to 21 are the additional inquiries.)

1. *Education*: Fees are obtained each August from a representative selection of private primary and secondary boarding schools. Particulars of fees are also obtained for the secondary day schools and vocational education classes not covered by the free post-primary education scheme and for university courses.
2. *Electricity*: The Electricity Supply Board provides an estimate of the percentage change in the cost of domestic electricity on the occasion of each change in rates.
3. *Travelling Costs*: Estimates of the percentage change in the cost of public transport are based on particulars obtained for urban and provincial passenger services from Córas Iompair Éireann on the occasion of each change in their fares. Particulars of air and sea fares are obtained quarterly from the various companies.
4. *Hotel Accommodation*: Estimates are made each February of the change in the overall annual price level of hotel and guest-house accommodation from particulars contained in the annual Hotel Guide prepared by Bórd Fáilte.
5. *Newspapers and Periodicals*: The prices of the principal national and provincial newspapers and of a number of periodicals are obtained each quarter.
6. *Postage, Telephone and Telegrams*: Calculations are based on the details received from the Department of Posts and Telegraphs on the occasion of each change in their rates.
7. *Motor Vehicles*: The list prices are obtained each quarter for a representative selection of the most popular models.
8. *Domestic Service*: An annual return is furnished by Employment Exchanges stating the current average wage rates of domestic servants in their areas.
9. *Rates*: An annual return is furnished by the Department of Local Government stating the rate poundage in all local administrative areas.
10. *Rents*: Calculations are made each November for local authority dwellings and quarterly for private dwellings. Particulars in respect of all local authority rented dwellings are obtained from the local authorities. Particulars for privately owned rented dwellings are obtained from a special quarterly postal inquiry addressed to a sample of property owners throughout the country.
11. *Domestic Gas*: Particulars of any changes in the prices charged are obtained from the principal gas companies throughout the country. Changes in the rates for individual companies are weighted together directly in proportion to current aggregate receipts.
12. *Domestic Fuel Oil*: Particulars of any changes in the prices charged are obtained from the principal oil companies in the country.
13. *House Insurance*: Particulars of any changes in the normal insurance rates for private dwellings and contents are obtained from The Irish Standing Committee of the Fire Offices' Committee.

14. *Motor Insurance* : Particulars of any changes in the normal insurance rates for a representative selection of popular motor vehicles are obtained from The Accident Offices' Association.
15. *Motor Vehicles Maintenance* : Particulars of the cost of the standard maintenance charges are obtained from the major manufacturers for a selection of their popular models.
16. *Licences* : Changes in the cost of television, radio and driving licences are obtained from public announcements of these alterations.
17. *Expenditure Abroad* : Changes in the cost of travelling abroad is estimated quarterly on the basis of the percentage change in the cost of meals out, entertainment and travelling determined from the British Retail Price Index.
18. *Medical Expenses* : Changes in the level of fees charged for medical treatment are determined from annual inquiries to representative samples of general practitioners, dentists and opticians throughout the country. Changes in the level of charges for hospital treatment are assessed annually from the records of the Voluntary Health Insurance Board. Changes in the cost of drugs and medicines are determined quarterly with the assistance of the Irish Drug Association.
19. *Television Rents* : Particulars of current television rentals are obtained quarterly from a sample of concerns throughout the country.
20. *Regular Subscriptions* : Changes in the level of subscription rates are based on a representative selection of sports clubs and trade unions.
21. *Meals Away From Home* : Changes in the cost of meals away from home are determined from :
- the prices returned quarterly in respect of restaurants and cafes by local price collectors;
 - the prices of canteen meals obtained twice yearly from a selection of canteens throughout the country;
 - the prices of hotel meals obtained from the annual Hotel Guide prepared by Bórd Fáilte.

Correction for Seasonality in Prices

A few important food items vary seasonally in price. The inclusion of these prices without adjustment in the calculation of the Consumer Price Index would impair the use of the index for short term comparisons since the seasonal price fluctuations would make it difficult to identify the underlying trend in price movements. A correction for seasonality is, therefore, made to the actual average prices derived from the price booklets.

In the new series the prices of eggs, potatoes and tomatoes are corrected for seasonality. The adjustments are based on the price patterns shown by these items in the five year period preceding each quarterly calculation. In calculating the correction factors used the underlying change is first removed from the national average prices of these three items on the assumption that the secular changes in price between successive quarters are equal in the twelve month period preceding each August calculation. The mid-August prices are not corrected for seasonality. The factors used to correct the prices for mid-November, mid-February and mid-May are the simple arithmetic averages of the single year seasonal ratios of the corresponding national average prices, adjusted to allow for secular change, to the mid-August national average price for the five preceding years.

This is the method of correction which was used since mid-May 1956 in calculating the former index. In that series the prices of eggs, potatoes and milk were corrected for seasonality. Milk prices no longer require adjustment.

Comparison of Old and New Weights

It is of interest to compare the expenditure weights used in the compilation of the former index with those

of the new series which is being introduced. Actual expenditure weights, expressed for convenience as percentages, are shown in the table below.

Comparison of Percentage Expenditure Weights, August 1953 and November 1968.

ITEMS	Percentage Expenditure Weights	
	August, 1953	November, 1968
	%	%
Food :		
Meat	11.2	8.5
Fish	1.0	0.6
Potatoes	1.7	1.1
Other vegetables	1.4	1.4
Bread, flour, cakes and biscuits	6.1	4.6
Milk and cheese	4.5	3.2
Eggs	2.5	1.6
Butter and other fats	5.3	2.8
Fruit	1.5	1.2
Tea, coffee and cocoa	1.5	1.1
Sugar	1.1	0.9
All other food	3.0	5.4
Total food	40.8	32.4
Alcoholic drink	6.9	8.7
Tobacco	6.3	7.0
Clothing :		
Men's clothing	4.2	2.1
Boys' clothing	0.7	0.8
Women's clothing	3.0	2.7
Girls' clothing	0.4	0.6
Footwear	2.9	1.9
Other clothing	1.4	0.7
Total clothing	12.7	8.8
Fuel and light	7.0	5.5
Housing	6.2	6.9
Durable household goods	2.5	4.0
Other goods	3.2	4.9
Transport	4.7	10.2
Services and related expenditure	9.7	11.6
Total all items	100.0	100.0

In interpreting these particulars allowance must be made for the expenditure weights relating to those goods and services being included in the index coverage for the first time in the new series. The main additional items are :

- House insurance
- Personal goods
- Sporting goods and toys
- Doctors', dentists' and opticians' fees
- Hospital charges
- Television rentals
- Expenditure abroad
- Subscriptions to sports clubs
- Trade union subscriptions
- Licences

The expenditure weights relating to these items constitute approximately 7 per cent of the weighting basis of the new series and, accordingly, accounts only to a small degree for the substantial difference which exists between the two sets of weights.

It is quite evident that there has been a considerable change in the distribution of household expenditure. This change is characterised by the normal shifts in consumer expenditure associated with rising income. The percentage expenditure on food, clothing, fuel and light has decreased substantially and these decreases have been accompanied by corresponding increases in the expenditure incurred on drink, tobacco, household durable goods and transport. Somewhat similar shifts in expenditure to the more expensive items are also evident within the food group.

Calculation of the Index

The Consumer Price Index for mid-February, 1969 was calculated to the base mid-November, 1968 as 100. The method of calculation first involves the conversion of the actual mid-November, 1968 expenditure into quantity units by dividing the expenditure for each item by the corresponding national average price for mid-November, 1968. These quantities are retained unchanged during the life of the series. Each quarter total current expenditure for these fixed quantities is determined by multiplying these quantities by the corresponding current national average prices. The change in the overall level of retail prices since the base period is then determined by dividing this current total expenditure by the corresponding expenditure for mid-November, 1968.

The new index series, with mid-November, 1968 as 100, will in future be deemed the *official* Consumer Price Index. It replaces the former official series which was published to the base mid-August, 1947 as 100, which is now being discontinued. This index for mid-November, 1968 was 203. Accordingly, the overall

index in the new official series (base mid-November, 1968 as 100) may be linked with the earlier index by multiplying by 2.03. For continuity purposes the new series will also be published with base mid-August, 1953 as 100.

In the new series separate indexes will be published for the ten main commodity divisions:

- Food
- Alcoholic drink
- Tobacco
- Clothing and footwear
- Fuel and light
- Housing
- Durable household goods
- Other goods
- Transport
- Services and related expenditure

Again for continuity purposes separate indexes for the seven main commodity groups distinguished in the former series will be continued for a number of years with base mid-August, 1953 as 100.

APPENDIX

Percentage Expenditure Weights for Items Distinguished in Consumer Price Index

ITEM	Weights	ITEM	Weights
Food	%	Frozen vegetables :	%
Beef :		Peas	0.0088
Round steak	0.6968	Beans	0.0043
Sirloin steak	0.3355	Bread :	
Sirloin roast	0.5789	White, sliced	1.2964
Rib steak (or chuck)	0.1605	White, unsliced	1.2964
Leg of beef (boneless)	0.1654	Brown	0.1910
Brisket corned beef	0.1911	Flour :	
Mutton (excluding Spring Lamb):		White, plain	0.3463
Leg (whole)	0.6802	White, self-raising	0.0506
Loin chops	0.3617	Brown, wholemeal	0.0757
Cutlets (rib chops)	0.1555	Biscuits :	
Gigot chops	0.1555	Cream crackers	0.1965
Neck	0.0697	Plain	0.1965
Liver	0.1198	Sweet	0.1965
Pork:		Cake :	
Leg (whole)	0.1866	Fruit	0.2533
Loin chops	0.1435	Sponge sandwich	0.2533
Shoulder (whole)	0.0718	Swiss roll	0.2533
Steak	0.1148	Milk :	
Bacon:		Fresh milk, pasteurised	2.8224
Best back rashers	0.4661	Condensed milk	0.0150
Streaky rashers	0.4662	Fresh cream	0.0838
Ham, uncooked (whole)	0.2787	Cheese :	
Shoulder (whole)	0.9293	Processed	0.0592
Poultry and other meat:		Natural, cheddar or cheshire	0.1778
Broiler, uncooked, oven ready (medium size)	0.3635	Eggs :	
Chicken, cooked (medium size)	0.3635	Large size	0.7924
Ham, cooked	0.6789	Standard size	0.7924
Sausages, pork	0.6357	Butter and other fats :	
Black pudding	0.0863	Butter, creamery	2.5682
Fresh fish :		Margarine	0.2424
Whiting, fillets	0.1995	Cooking fat	0.0237
Cod, cutlets	0.1048	Fresh fruit :	
Plaice, fillets	0.0969	Apples, cooking	0.2208
Herrings (whole)	0.0200	Apples, eating	0.2208
Fish fingers	0.0485	Oranges	0.2364
Dried and cured fish :		Bananas	0.2148
Fillets, smoked	0.0230	Tinned fruit :	
Kippers, smoked	0.0100	Pears	0.1292
Tinned fish :		Peaches	0.0905
Salmon	0.0968	Dried fruit :	
Sardines	0.0209	Raisins, seedless	0.0568
Fresh vegetables :		Sultanas	0.0645
Potatoes	1.0974	Prunes	0.0179
Tomatoes	0.3708	Beverages :	
Onions	0.1439	Tea, best quality	0.4891
Carrots	0.1027	Tea, medium quality	0.4949
Turnips (medium size)	0.0578	Coffee beans, ground or roasted	0.0125
Cabbage (medium size)	0.2247	Coffee extracts, powder	0.0809
Cauliflower (medium size)	0.0358	Cocoa	0.0179
Dried peas	0.1073	Sugar :	
Tinned vegetables :		White granulated	0.8689
Peas	0.1681	Castor	0.0088
Beans	0.1572		

APPENDIX—Contd.

ITEM	Weights	ITEM	Weights
Food—Contd.	%	Clothing—Contd.	%
Cereal products :		Women's outer-clothing :	
Cornflakes	0.1338	Coats, woollen lined—low priced	0.2334
Wheatflakes	0.1338	Coats, woollen lined—medium priced	0.2347
Oatmeal, packet	0.0986	Showerproofs, lined	0.0377
Cornflour	0.0251	Two-piece suits—low priced	0.1409
Rice	0.0632	Two-piece suits—medium priced	0.1410
Semolina	0.0162	Skirts, woollen	0.1651
Jelly and custard :		Dresses, cotton	0.1453
Jelly	0.0924	Dresses, other material	0.1436
Custard powder	0.0493	Blouses	0.1320
Soup:		Cardigans—low priced	0.2122
Tinned	0.0177	Cardigans—medium priced	0.2123
Dried	0.2105	Women's under-clothing :	
Jams and syrup :		Vests, cotton	0.0326
Jam	0.1365	Panties	0.0447
Marmalade	0.1361	Slips, nylon	0.1043
Golden syrup	0.0432	Corsets (with fastenings)	0.0530
Sweets and ice cream :		Girdles	0.0530
Sweets	0.7093	Brassieres	0.0579
Chocolate bars	0.5262	Nightdresses	0.0581
Ice cream, block	0.1686	Pyjamas	0.0206
Soft drinks :		Children's outer-clothing :	
Minerals, orange	0.1714	Boys' heavy overcoats, lined	0.1411
Minerals, lemon	0.1714	Boys' two-piece suits, worsted, ready-made	0.1880
Orange squash (concentrated)	0.1715	Boys' trousers, short	0.1917
Miscellaneous items :		Boys' heavy pullovers, woollen	0.0317
Sauce	0.0820	Girls' coats, lined	0.2511
Bovril	0.0826	Girls' skirts	0.0801
Salt	0.0520	Girls' dresses, cotton	0.1626
Pepper	0.0198	Girls' blouses	0.0353
Mustard	0.0130	Children's underwear :	
Potato crisps	0.3141	Boys' shirts, cotton	0.1095
Meals away from home	1.7840	Boys' vests	0.0159
Total food	32.3848	Boys' pyjamas	0.0343
	110	Girls' vests, cotton	0.0241
		Girls' panties, cotton	0.0268
		Girls' nightdresses	0.0312
		Hose :	
		Men's socks	0.1416
		Boys' stockings, three-quarters length	0.0410
		Women's nylons, seamless—low priced	0.1949
		Women's nylons, seamless—medium priced	0.1949
		Girls' ankle socks, cotton	0.0385
		Other clothing :	
		Men's handkerchiefs, white cotton	0.0074
		Men's ties, terylene	0.0477
		Men's leather gloves, woollen lined	0.0113
		Women's gloves	0.0639
		Women's scarves	0.0267
		Clothing material :	
		Dress material, woollen	0.3209
		Dress material, cotton	0.0833
		Wool, double-knit	0.2243
		Thread, spool	0.0704
		Footwear :	
		Men's leather shoes, welted	0.2206
		Men's leather shoes, vulcanised	0.2207
		Men's slippers, fabric uppers	0.0115
		Men's boots, heavy working	0.1009
		Women's casual shoes	0.2444
		Women's fashion shoes—low priced	0.2445
		Women's fashion shoes—medium priced	0.2445
		Women's slippers, fabric uppers	0.0422
		Boys' leather shoes, vulcanised	0.2365
		Boys' boots	0.0486
		Girls' leather shoes	0.1847
		Children's wellington boots	0.0125
		Children's sandals, rubber soled	0.0473
		Total clothing	8.7914
			76
		Fuel and light	
		Coal, delivered :	
		Best quality	1.0569
		Medium quality	1.0569
		Turf :	
		Briquettes	0.1433
		Other	0.2866
		Paraffin oil	0.1286
		Bottled gas	0.0884
		Firewood blocks	0.1482
		Gas	0.9030
		Electricity	1.6398
		Fuel oil	0.0270
		Total fuel and light	5.4787
			10
		Housing	
		Rent and rates (rented dwellings)	3.4897
		Rates and water charges (owner occupied dwellings)	1.8027
		House insurance	0.2020
		Repairs and decorations	1.4399
		Total housing	6.9343
			4
Alcoholic drink			
Sherry :			
Glass	0.1297		
Bottle	0.1297		
Table wine	0.2593		
Stout:			
Draught	2.5241		
Bottle	1.4885		
Ale, bottle	0.7902		
Lager, bottle	0.3336		
Whiskey :			
Glass	0.9613		
Bottle	0.9613		
Gin :			
Glass	0.2824		
Bottle	0.2824		
Brandy :			
Glass	0.2833		
Bottle	0.2832		
Total alcoholic drink	8.7090		
	13		
Tobacco			
Cigarettes :			
Plain	3.2865		
Filter tipped	3.2865		
Cigars	0.0422		
Tobacco :			
Plug	0.1269		
Flake	0.2538		
Total Tobacco	6.9959		
	5		
Clothing			
Men's outer-clothing :			
Heavy overcoats, woollen lined—low priced	0.1338		
Heavy overcoats, woollen lined—medium priced	0.1339		
Cotton/terylene raincoats, proofed	0.0694		
Two-piece suits, worsted, ready-made—low priced	0.1776		
Two-piece suits, worsted, ready-made—medium priced	0.1777		
Two-piece suits, worsted, tailormade—low priced	0.1747		
Two-piece suits, worsted, tailormade—medium priced	0.1747		
Sports coats, tweed	0.1007		
Trousers, terylene or cotton	0.1331		
Cardigans	0.0706		
Heavy pullovers	0.0706		
Men's under-clothing :			
Shirts, collar attached—low priced	0.1978		
Shirts, collar attached—medium priced	0.1978		
Vests, woollen	0.0344		
Underpants, cotton	0.0429		
Pyjamas	0.0302		

APPENDIX—Contd.

ITEM	Weights	ITEM	Weights
Household durables	%	Other Goods—Contd.	%
Furniture :		Stationery :	
Three-piece upholstered lounge suites (settee and two chairs)	0.1944	Envelopes	0.0757
Fireside chairs, upholstered	0.0389	Writing pads	0.0537
Dining-room suites, wood	0.2213	Picture postcards	0.0385
Kitchen sets, (table and four chairs)	0.1106	Ink	0.0193
Bedroom suites	0.2187	Pencils, black lead	0.0385
Single divan beds (including mattress)	0.0729	Fountain pens	0.0385
Drop-side cots	0.0364	Ball-point pens	0.0578
Large domestic appliances :		Records and camera films :	
Radios, portable transistors	0.1099	Records, L.P., 33½ r.p.m.	0.0423
Radios, mains	0.1099	Records, single, 45 r.p.m.	0.0423
Television sets	0.0879	Camera films, black and white	0.0301
Vacuum cleaners	0.0904	Developing charge for film, black and white	0.0075
Cookers, electric	0.1355	Newspapers and periodicals	1.8804
Cookers, gas (bottled or piped)	0.1355		
Refrigerators	0.1581	Total other goods	4.8753
Washing machines	0.1355		
Record players	0.1099		
Small domestic appliances :		Transport	
Fires, electric	0.0715	Vehicles :	
Irons, electric	0.0358	Motor cars	2.3882
Kettles, electric	0.1072	Motor cycles	0.1738
Razors, electric	0.0358	Bicycles (without extras)	0.3095
Electric bulbs	0.1454	Perambulators	0.0884
Oil heaters	0.0906	Go-cars	0.0442
Tools and garden equipment :		Motor tax :	
Hammers	0.0174	Cars	0.5561
Garden spades	0.0522	Cycles	0.0146
Lawnmowers, manual	0.0302	Motor insurance :	
Wheelbarrows, metal	0.0302	Cars	0.5201
Watering cans, plastic	0.0169	Cycles	0.0328
Dust bins, galvanised	0.0522	Maintenance and running costs :	
Floor coverings :		Petrol, high grade	1.2416
Linoleum	0.0799	Petrol, low grade	1.2416
Carpeting	0.2555	Motor oil	0.0617
Hearth rugs	0.0256	Motor car tyre, new	0.3089
Doormats	0.0260	Motor car battery	0.1903
Soft furnishings :		Charges for mending punctures	0.0655
Curtain material—low priced	0.0891	Standard maintenance charges	0.3258
Curtain material—medium priced	0.0891	Bicycle tyre	0.0618
Sheets, cotton, single size	0.1686	Travelling :	
Blankets, all wool, single size	0.1206	Bus	1.7545
Towels, turkish	0.0443	Train	0.2383
Tea towels	0.0086	Other services	0.6283
Tablecloths	0.0366		
China and glassware :		Total transport	10.2460
Cups and saucers, ordinary ware	0.0863		
Half-tea service, china (21 piece)	0.0518	Services and related expenditure :	
Tumblers, pressed glass, no handle	0.0178	Entertainment :	
Casserole dishes, oven glassware	0.0178	Cinema, evening film, highest price	0.8094
Domestic utensils :		Cinema, evening film, lowest price	0.2698
Table knives, stainless steel blade	0.0104	Dance, regular admission, no special attraction	0.8873
Table forks	0.0105	Sports fixture, cheapest adult admission charge (excluding championship or cup matches)	0.2620
Saucepans, aluminium	0.0890	Hairdressing :	
Household scissors	0.0026	Men's haircuts	0.1366
Scrubbing brushes	0.0111	Women's shampoo and set (excluding trim)	0.4751
Household sweeping brushes	0.0272	Shoe repairs :	
Polish brushes	0.0056	Men's shoes, soling and heeling	0.2256
Wash-up basins, plastic	0.0328	Women's shoes, heeling	0.1128
Household buckets, plastic	0.0328	Laundry :	
Total household durables	3.9908	Charges for men's shirts	0.1543
Other Goods		Charges for sheets (single size)	0.0515
Domestic non-durables :		Charges for tablecloths	0.0515
Household soaps	0.0917	Launderette :	
Soap or detergent powders	0.2441	Washing, basic charge	0.1029
Soap or detergent liquids	0.2441	Drying, basic charge	0.0515
Starch	0.0055	Dry cleaning :	
Polish, floor	0.0542	Charge for cleaning man's two-piece suit	0.1488
Polish, shoe	0.0558	Charge for cleaning woman's coat	0.1485
Toilet paper	0.0606	Medical supplies and services :	
Matches	0.0861	Anadins	0.0173
Toilet requisites :		Aspirins	0.0173
Toilet soaps	0.1151	Andrews Liver Salts	0.0863
Tooth paste	0.0618	Milk of Magnesia	0.0863
Hair cream	0.0613	Vaseline ointment	0.0863
Shampoo	0.0613	Adhesive dressings	0.0863
Cold cream	0.1385	Proprietary cough mixtures	0.0173
Lipstick	0.1395	Medicines and drugs	0.4570
Paper tissues	0.0582	Doctor's, dentist's and optician's fees	0.6977
Razor blades	0.0685	Hospital charges	0.1324
Tooth brushes	0.0582	Education	1.1269
Personal goods :		Domestic service	0.7895
Brief cases, leather	0.0386	Television rentals	0.5206
Suitcases, fibre, large	0.0386	Hotel accommodation	0.1602
Ladies' handbags, leather	0.0579	Expenditure abroad	0.2571
School bags	0.0193	Postage	0.2753
Umbrellas, women's	0.0446	Telephone and telegrams	0.4104
Wristwatches, men's	0.2355	Subscriptions to sports clubs	0.2494
Alarm clocks, mechanical	0.0714	Trade union subscriptions	0.3067
Sporting goods and toys :		Licences	0.3649
Golf balls	0.0127	Other expenditure	1.5610
Tennis balls	0.0127		
Football, leather	0.0255	Total services and related expenditure	11.5938
Tennis rackets	0.0255		
Fishing-rods	0.0255	Total all items	100.0000
Toy table-tennis sets	0.0721		
Tricycles	0.1082		
Set of draughts	0.0721		
Packs of playing cards	0.0360		

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX Mid-February, 1969

The Consumer Price Index, with base mid-November, 1968 as 100, was 103.3 at mid-February, 1969. The date to which the index relates is Tuesday, 11 February, 1969.

Of the increase of 3.3 points Food accounted for an increase of 1.3 points; Transport 0.6 of a point; Alcoholic Drink 0.4; Services and Related Expenditure 0.3; Other Goods 0.3; Durable Household Goods 0.2; Housing 0.1 and Fuel and Light 0.1.

The principal increases in points attributable to specific items in the Food group were:—eggs and potatoes (both corrected for seasonality) 0.41 and 0.20 of a point respectively and bread 0.12.

In the Transport group, public transport accounted for an increase of 0.30 of a point and motor cars 0.15. In the Drink group, stout accounted for an increase of 0.25 of a point while in the Other Goods group, newspapers and periodicals accounted for an increase of 0.21 of a point.

The new official series of retail price index numbers is linked to the former series with base mid-August 1953 as 100 and the complete series from August 1953 is shown in Table 1.

For continuity, index numbers have been calculated for the seven commodity groups distinguished in the former series and these have been linked to the corresponding group index numbers of the former series with base mid-August, 1953 as 100. These are shown in Table 2 together with the index numbers, with base mid-November 1968 as 100, for the ten commodity groups distinguished in the new series.

The national average retail prices of the principal articles of food, computed from returns received for the new index series for the months November 1968 and February 1969 are compared in Table 3. Individual price quotations from which averages have been derived generally include turnover tax. In some instances the practice is to assess the tax on total purchases and in these cases turnover tax is not included in the individual prices used.

TABLE 1.—INDEX NUMBERS, ALL ITEMS

Base : Mid-August, 1953=100

Year	Quarterly Index				Annual average
	mid-Feb.	mid-May	mid-Aug.	mid-Nov.	
1953	—	—	100.0	100.1	—
1954	99.4	99.5	101.1	100.5	100.1
1955	101.2	102.0	102.7	105.0	102.7
1956	105.5	107.5	107.8	107.5	107.1
1957	107.7	110.4	114.1	113.8	111.5
1958	115.4	116.6	116.9	116.9	116.5
1959	117.7	117.6	115.6	114.9	116.5
1960	115.4	117.2	117.2	118.1	117.0
1961	118.9	120.3	120.5	121.1	120.2
1962	123.3	126.5	125.9	125.6	125.3
1963	127.7	127.4	127.3	131.2	128.4
1964	131.9	137.1	138.8	140.3	137.0
1965	141.8	144.3	144.8	144.8	143.9
1966	144.9	147.6	150.0	150.4	148.2
1967	150.6	153.2	153.3	154.3	152.9
1968	157.5	160.0	160.3	162.7	160.1
1969	168.1				

TABLE 2.—ALL ITEMS AND COMMODITY GROUP INDEX NUMBERS

Date	Food	Alcoholic drink	Tobacco	Clothing and footwear	Fuel and light	Housing	Durable household goods*	Other goods	Transport*	Services and related expenditure	All items	
<i>Base : Mid-August, 1953=100</i>												
1962	Mid-Feb.	122.5	134.9	108.2	119.4	131.7	113.6	128.2	132.2		123.3	
	Mid-May	126.1	143.4	109.4	119.8	131.8	114.1	130.8	130.8		126.5	
	Mid-Aug.	123.1	144.9	109.9	120.1	133.1	114.3	132.0	132.0		125.9	
	Mid-Nov.	121.1	144.9	110.5	122.0	138.0	114.4	132.2	132.2		125.6	
1963	Mid-Feb.	126.1	144.9	110.7	122.1	138.0	114.7	132.5	132.5		127.7	
	Mid-May	124.6	145.1	111.3	122.9	138.0	114.9	133.1	133.1		127.4	
	Mid-Aug.	123.2	145.2	111.7	124.0	139.0	115.1	134.9	134.9		127.3	
	Mid-Nov.	126.1	152.4	114.7	131.4	144.2	117.9	137.7	137.7		131.2	
1964	Mid-Feb.	126.7	152.6	116.0	132.0	144.3	119.1	138.7	138.7		131.9	
	Mid-May	132.8	161.4	118.5	132.2	144.7	121.2	145.5	145.5		137.1	
	Mid-Aug.	134.7	161.5	119.1	132.4	147.2	121.8	149.5	149.5		138.8	
	Mid-Nov.	137.1	161.6	120.0	132.6	153.0	122.1	149.8	149.8		140.3	
1965	Mid-Feb.	140.4	161.5	120.5	132.2	153.0	123.0	150.3	150.3		141.8	
	Mid-May	143.8	165.2	121.5	132.2	153.0	124.3	153.1	153.1		144.3	
	Mid-Aug.	140.2	174.2	121.8	132.3	156.4	124.4	155.7	155.7		144.8	
	Mid-Nov.	139.0	174.3	122.0	133.0	163.3	124.7	156.1	156.1		144.8	
1966	Mid-Feb.	139.5	172.2	122.4	133.1	163.3	125.0	156.5	156.5		144.9	
	Mid-May	142.2	181.1	123.0	133.1	163.3	125.6	158.5	158.5		147.6	
	Mid-Aug.	143.6	186.2	123.4	133.2	165.3	126.3	163.8	163.8		150.0	
	Mid-Nov.	141.5	187.1	123.8	138.1	173.3	130.5	164.6	164.6		150.4	
1967	Mid-Feb.	141.4	187.2	124.2	138.6	173.3	131.6	165.6	165.6		150.6	
	Mid-May	145.0	192.6	124.8	139.1	173.3	132.2	167.3	167.3		153.2	
	Mid-Aug.	145.9	192.6	125.2	138.8	175.3	132.8	164.6	164.6		153.3	
	Mid-Nov.	145.2	192.6	125.6	139.7	183.6	132.9	168.2	168.2		154.3	
1968	Mid-Feb.	150.8	192.7	126.2	142.7	184.0	133.7	171.7	171.7		157.5	
	Mid-May	154.2	198.1	126.7	142.9	184.0	134.0	173.5	173.5		160.0	
	Mid-Aug.	153.3	198.0	127.4	143.3	187.3	135.5	175.7	175.7		160.3	
	Mid-Nov.	152.6	208.3	128.0	147.2	198.9	136.6	176.6	176.6		162.7	
1969	Mid-Feb.	158.6	213.5	129.3	150.0	201.9	141.9	184.5	184.5		168.1	
<i>Base : Mid-November, 1968=100</i>												
1969	Mid-Feb.	103.9	104.4	100.2	101.0	101.9	101.5	103.9	106.2	105.6	102.9	103.3

*Motor cars, which are included in the Transport group in the new series, were formerly included in the group Durable Household Goods.

TABLE 3.—NATIONAL AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF FOOD

Commodity	Unit	Price per unit to nearest $\frac{1}{4}$ d.		Percentage change mid-Nov. 1968 to mid-Feb. 1969
		Mid-Nov. 1968	Mid-Feb. 1969	
Beef :		s. d.	s. d.	%
Round steak	lb.	5 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 1	+ 2.3
Sirloin	"	6 11 $\frac{3}{4}$	7 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	+ 1.8
" roast	"	5 10 $\frac{3}{4}$	6 0	+ 1.6
Rib steak	"	4 6	4 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 2.9
Brisket corned beef	"	2 5	2 6	+ 3.2
Mutton :				
Leg (whole)	"	4 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	4 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 2.3
Loin chops	"	5 7 $\frac{3}{4}$	5 9	+ 1.7
Cutlets (rib chops)	"	4 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 1.4
Gigot chops	"	4 9 $\frac{1}{4}$	4 10 $\frac{1}{4}$	+ 1.7
Neck	"	1 11 $\frac{3}{4}$	2 0	+ 1.2
Liver	"	4 8	4 8 $\frac{3}{4}$	+ 1.5
Pork :				
Leg (whole)	"	5 2	5 3	+ 1.5
Loin chops	"	6 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	6 1 $\frac{3}{4}$	+ 1.0
Shoulder (whole)	"	4 5 $\frac{1}{4}$	4 6 $\frac{1}{4}$	+ 1.8
Steak	"	7 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 4 $\frac{3}{4}$	+ 1.6
Bacon :				
Best back rashers	"	6 6 $\frac{1}{4}$	6 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	+ 0.6
Streaky rashers	"	4 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	5 0 $\frac{3}{4}$	+ 1.9
Ham, uncooked	"	5 4 $\frac{3}{4}$	5 4 $\frac{3}{4}$	+ 0.6
Shoulder (whole)	"	3 1	3 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	+ 0.9
Ham, cooked	"	9 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	9 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	+ 3.0
Sausages, pork	"	3 3	3 3 $\frac{3}{4}$	+ 2.2
Black pudding	"	1 11 $\frac{3}{4}$	2 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 2.6
Fish :				
Whiting, fillets	"	2 11	2 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	+ 0.6
Cod cutlets	"	4 1	3 10 $\frac{3}{4}$	- 4.8
Plaice, fillets	"	6 0	6 0 $\frac{1}{4}$	+ 0.5
Kippers	"	2 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	2 7	+ 0.8
Fresh vegetables :				
Potatoes	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	10 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	+22.7
Tomatoes	lb.	2 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	+27.1
Onions	"	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{3}{4}$	+ 2.4
Carrots	"	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	9	+ 2.9
Cabbage (med. size)	head	8	9 $\frac{3}{4}$	+22.0
Bread :				
White, sliced	2 lb.	1 11	2 0	+ 4.4
" unsliced	"	1 10	1 11	+ 4.5
Flour :				
White, plain	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	2 10	2 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 4.6
" self-raising	"	2 11 $\frac{3}{4}$	3 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	+ 4.1
Milk	pint	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	+ 0.2
Cheese :				
Processed	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	1 9 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 9	- 0.8
Natural	lb.	3 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	3 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	+ 0.4
Eggs standard	doz.	5 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 4 $\frac{3}{4}$	-14.1
Butter (creamery)	lb.	4 9 $\frac{3}{4}$	4 9 $\frac{3}{4}$	+ 0.0
Margarine	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	11 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 0	+ 0.8
Tea :				
Best quality	$\frac{1}{4}$ lb.	1 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	2 0	+ 4.1
Medium quality	"	1 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	+ 4.0
Sugar	2 lb.	1 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	+ 0.0
Oatmeal, packet	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	3 3	3 4 $\frac{1}{4}$	+ 2.9
Cornflour	lb.	1 8	1 8	+ 0.2