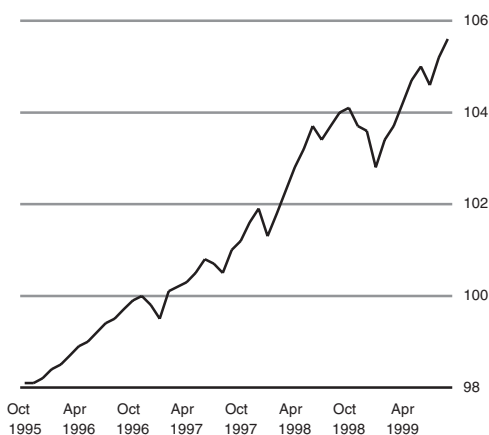




Consumer Price Index - all items
November 1996 = 100



Graph based on quarterly data up to January 1997

Consumer Price Index

September 1999

All Items CPI

| | Index (Nov '96 = 100) | % monthly change | % annual change |
|------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| May 1999 | 104.7 | + 0.5 | + 1.5 |
| June 1999 | 105.0 | + 0.3 | + 1.3 |
| July 1999 | 104.6 | - 0.4 | + 1.2 |
| Aug 1999 | 105.2 | + 0.6 | + 1.4 |
| Sept 1999 | 105.6 | + 0.4 | + 1.5 |

Annual Inflation at 1.5% in September

Consumer Prices increased by 0.4% in September to bring the overall CPI to 105.6. This compared to an increase of 0.3% in September 1998. As a result annual inflation in the twelve months to September 1999 was 1.5%, compared with 1.4% in the twelve months to August.

The most significant monthly price changes were Clothing and Footwear (+2.9%), Services and Related Expenditure (+1.7%), Transport (+0.9%), Fuel and Light (+0.8%), Other Goods (+0.3%), Durable Household Goods (+0.3%), Alcohol (+0.2%), Housing (-3.2%) and Food (-0.4%).

The most notable changes in the year were increases in Services and Related Expenditure (+5.2%), Transport (+4.7%), Fuel and Light (+4.1%), Alcoholic Drink (+3.7%), Tobacco (+3.2%), Food (+2.7%), Other Goods (+1.5%) and decreases in Housing (-14.1%) and Clothing and Footwear (-7.3%).

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

- ◆ Further recovery from sales in Clothing and Footwear particularly in the case of menswear and ladieswear.
- ◆ Services and Related Expenditure rose with increases in medical insurance, domestic services (including childcare), education and training and package holidays.
- ◆ Transport rose following a further rise in the price of petrol and other motor fuels, and an increase in the cost of motor insurance.
- ◆ Fuel and Light costs increased following a rise in the price of home heating oil.
- ◆ Housing declined with a reduction in mortgage interest rates while the cost of house insurance increased.
- ◆ Food prices fell with decreases in mutton/lamb, potatoes, fresh vegetables and fresh fruit while canteen prices rose.

The EU Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP), which excludes approximately 13% of the basket of goods and services in the all items CPI was 106.9 (EU base year 1996=100), up by +0.5% in the month, +0.7% in the three months since June and +2.6% in the 12 months since September 1998.

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Table 1 Consumer Price Index (All Items)

| Period | | Consumer Price Index | | Percentage changes | | |
|--------|-----------|-------------------------------|---|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| | | Current base Nov. 1996=100 | Former base Nov. 1989=100 ¹ | One month | Three months | 12 months |
| | | | | % | % | % |
| 1994 | Year | .. | 112.4 | | .. | + 2.4 |
| 1995 | Year | .. | 115.2 | | .. | + 2.5 |
| 1996 | Year | .. | 117.1 | | .. | + 1.6 |
| 1997 | Year | 100.7 | 118.8 | | .. | + 1.5 |
| 1998 | Year | 103.1 | 121.7 | | .. | + 2.4 |
| 1997 | January | 99.5 | 117.4 | .. | .. | .. |
| | February | 100.1 | 118.1 | + 0.6 | + 0.1 | + 1.5 |
| | March | 100.2 | 118.2 | + 0.1 | .. | .. |
| | April | 100.3 | 118.4 | + 0.1 | + 0.8 | .. |
| | May | 100.5 | 118.6 | + 0.2 | + 0.4 | + 1.5 |
| | June | 100.8 | 118.9 | + 0.3 | + 0.6 | .. |
| | July | 100.7 | 118.8 | - 0.1 | + 0.4 | .. |
| | August | 100.5 | 118.6 | - 0.2 | - | + 1.0 |
| | September | 101.0 | 119.2 | + 0.5 | + 0.2 | .. |
| | October | 101.2 | 119.4 | + 0.2 | + 0.5 | .. |
| | November | 101.6 | 119.9 | + 0.4 | + 1.1 | + 1.6 |
| | December | 101.9 | 120.2 | + 0.3 | + 0.9 | .. |
| 1998 | January | 101.3 | 119.5 | - 0.6 | + 0.1 | + 1.8 |
| | February | 101.8 | 120.1 | + 0.5 | + 0.2 | + 1.7 |
| | March | 102.3 | 120.7 | + 0.5 | + 0.4 | + 2.1 |
| | April | 102.8 | 121.3 | + 0.5 | + 1.5 | + 2.5 |
| | May | 103.2 | 121.8 | + 0.4 | + 1.4 | + 2.7 |
| | June | 103.7 | 122.4 | + 0.5 | + 1.4 | + 2.9 |
| | July | 103.4 | 122.0 | - 0.3 | + 0.6 | + 2.7 |
| | August | 103.7 | 122.4 | + 0.3 | + 0.5 | + 3.2 |
| | September | 104.0 | 122.7 | + 0.3 | + 0.3 | + 3.0 |
| | October | 104.1 | 122.8 | + 0.1 | + 0.7 | + 2.9 |
| | November | 103.7 | 122.4 | - 0.4 | - | + 2.1 |
| | December | 103.6 | 122.2 | - 0.1 | - 0.4 | + 1.7 |
| 1999 | January | 102.8 | 121.3 | - 0.8 | - 1.2 | + 1.5 |
| | February | 103.4 | 122.0 | + 0.6 | - 0.3 | + 1.6 |
| | March | 103.7 | 122.4 | + 0.3 | + 0.1 | + 1.4 |
| | April | 104.2 | 123.0 | + 0.5 | + 1.4 | + 1.4 |
| | May | 104.7 | 123.5 | + 0.5 | + 1.3 | + 1.5 |
| | June | 105.0 | 123.9 | + 0.3 | + 1.3 | + 1.3 |
| | July | 104.6 | 123.4 | - 0.4 | + 0.4 | + 1.2 |
| | August | 105.2 | 124.1 | + 0.6 | + 0.5 | + 1.4 |
| | September | 105.6 | 124.6 | + 0.4 | + 0.6 | + 1.5 |

¹ Linked to current Consumer Price Index at mid-November 1996

.. Not available

Table 2 Consumer Price Commodity Group Indices, September 1999

| Commodity Group | Nov. 1996 base expenditure weights | Consumer Price Index (CPI) | | Percentage changes | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| | | Current base Nov. 1996 | Former base Nov. 1989 | One month | Three months | 12 months |
| Food | 22.850 | 110.0 | 124.1 | - 0.4 | - 0.4 | + 2.7 |
| Alcoholic Drink | 12.630 | 109.9 | 140.9 | + 0.2 | + 0.5 | + 3.7 |
| Tobacco | 4.824 | 111.8 | 159.7 | - | + 0.1 | + 3.2 |
| Clothing and Footwear | 6.131 | 81.0 | 83.6 | + 2.9 | - 3.5 | - 7.3 |
| Fuel and Light | 4.904 | 102.0 | 110.9 | + 0.8 | + 2.4 | + 4.1 |
| Housing | 8.038 | 90.1 | 108.1 | - 3.2 | - 2.3 | - 14.1 |
| Durable Household Goods | 3.579 | 100.0 | 111.8 | + 0.3 | - 0.4 | - 0.9 |
| Other Goods | 6.381 | 106.3 | 126.5 | + 0.3 | + 0.9 | + 1.5 |
| Transport | 13.940 | 107.7 | 126.7 | + 0.9 | + 3.0 | + 4.7 |
| Services and Related Expenditure | 16.723 | 111.3 | 139.0 | + 1.7 | + 2.4 | + 5.2 |
| ALL ITEMS | 100.000 | 105.6 | 124.6 | + 0.4 | + 0.6 | + 1.5 |
| Of which: | | | | | | |
| EU HICP ¹ | 87.311 | 106.0 | 124.3 | + 0.5 | + 0.7 | + 2.6 |
| Energy Products ² | 9.126 | 104.2 | 113.5 | + 1.7 | + 4.3 | + 5.8 |
| <i>CPI excluding:</i> | | | | | | |
| - Mortgage Interest | 96.369 | 106.8 | 126.3 | + 0.6 | + 0.8 | + 3.0 |
| - Housing | 91.962 | 107.0 | 126.2 | + 0.7 | + 0.8 | + 3.0 |
| - Tobacco ³ | 95.176 | 105.3 | 123.4 | + 0.4 | + 0.7 | + 1.4 |

¹ EU Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) to be used for intra-EU comparisons

² Fuel, light, petrol, diesel, motor gas (LPG) and motor oil

³ CPI less tobacco. The purpose of the index is to enable users to assess more directly the impact on the CPI of budgetary and other policies aimed at discouraging the use of tobacco products for public health reasons.

Table 3 Contributions to changes in the All Items CPI, September 1999

| Commodity Group | Contributions to overall CPI % change | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| | One month | 3 months | 12 months |
| Food | - 0.09 | - 0.10 | + 0.64 |
| Alcoholic Drink | + 0.02 | + 0.06 | + 0.47 |
| Tobacco | - | - | + 0.16 |
| Clothing & Footwear | + 0.13 | - 0.17 | - 0.38 |
| Fuel & Light | + 0.04 | + 0.11 | + 0.19 |
| Housing | - 0.24 | - 0.16 | - 1.15 |
| Durable Household Goods | + 0.01 | - 0.01 | - 0.03 |
| Other Goods | + 0.02 | + 0.05 | + 0.09 |
| Transport | + 0.14 | + 0.42 | + 0.65 |
| Services & Related Expenditure | + 0.31 | + 0.42 | + 0.89 |
| ALL ITEMS % change | + 0.4 | + 0.6 | + 1.5 |

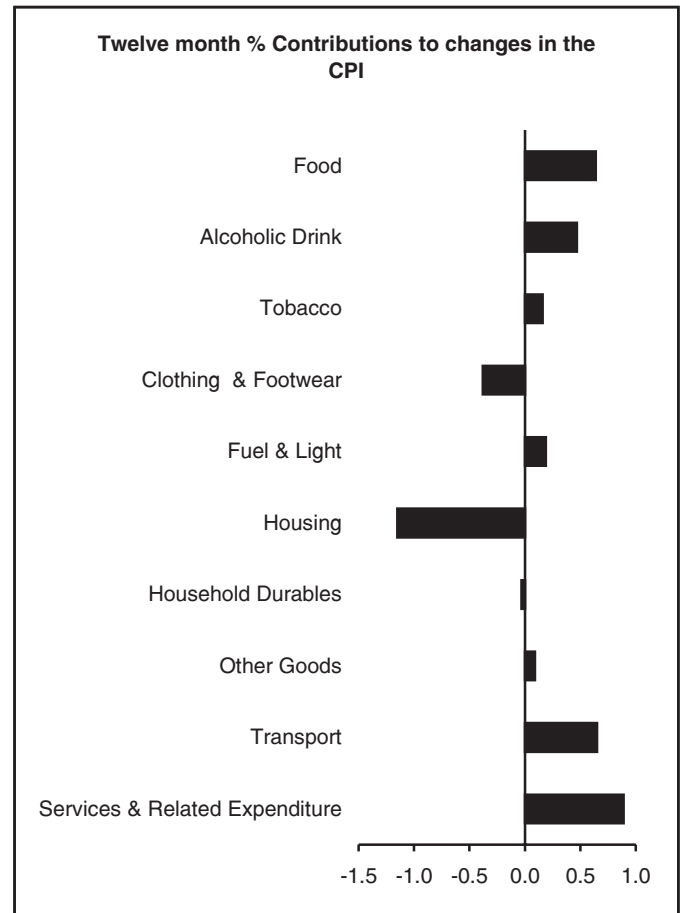
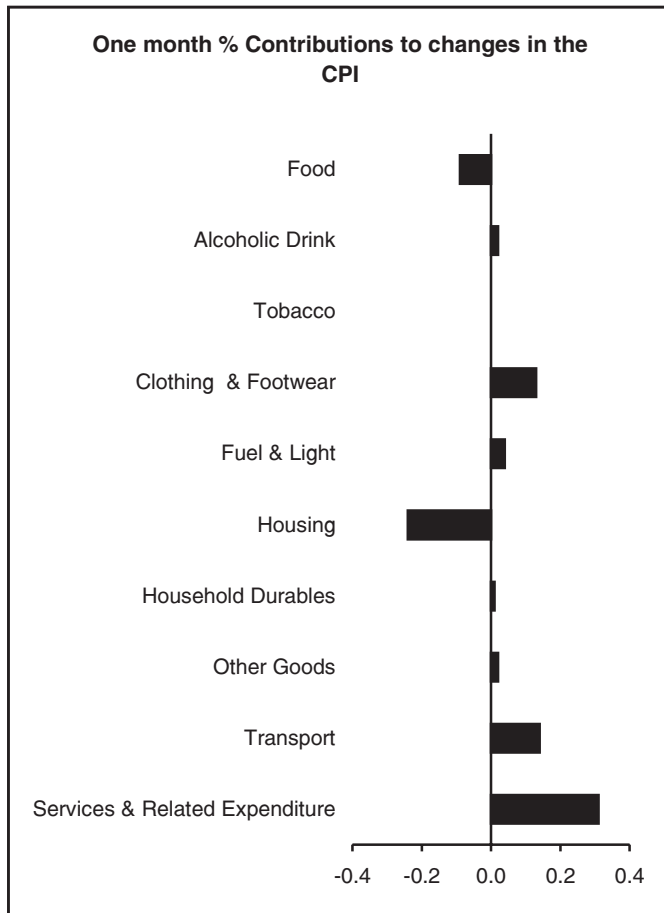


Table 4 Constant Tax Price Index

| Period | Constant Tax Price Index | | Annual percentage CPI Change | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| | Current Base Nov. 1996 = 100 | Former base Nov. 1989 = 100 | Total | Due to indirect tax |
| | | | % | % |
| 1998 | | | | |
| January | 100.8 | 116.1 | +1.8 | + 0.6 |
| February | 101.2 | 116.5 | +1.7 | + 0.3 |
| March | 101.7 | 117.1 | +2.1 | + 0.3 |
| April | 102.1 | 117.6 | +2.5 | + 0.3 |
| May | 102.6 | 118.1 | +2.7 | + 0.5 |
| June | 103.0 | 118.6 | +2.9 | + 0.5 |
| July | 102.8 | 118.4 | +2.7 | + 0.4 |
| August | 103.0 | 118.6 | +3.2 | + 0.4 |
| September | 103.3 | 118.9 | +3.0 | + 0.5 |
| 1999 | | | | |
| January | 102.1 | 117.5 | +1.5 | + 0.2 |
| February | 102.6 | 118.2 | +1.6 | + 0.2 |
| March | 102.8 | 118.4 | +1.4 | + 0.3 |
| April | 103.3 | 119.0 | +1.4 | + 0.2 |
| May | 103.7 | 119.4 | +1.5 | + 0.4 |
| June | 103.9 | 119.7 | +1.3 | + 0.4 |
| July | 103.6 | 119.4 | +1.2 | + 0.4 |
| August | 104.2 | 120.0 | +1.4 | + 0.4 |
| September | 104.4 | 120.3 | +1.5 | + 0.4 |

Table 5 EU Harmonised Consumer Price Commodity Group Indices, September 1999

| Commodity Group COICOP* | Year 1996 base expenditure weights | HICP Current base Year 1996 | Percentage Changes | | | Percentage Contribution | |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| | | | One month | Three months | 12 months | One month | 12 months |
| | | | % | % | % | % | % |
| 01 Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages | 21.107 | 109.0 | - 0.5 | - 0.8 | + 2.3 | - 0.12 | + 0.48 |
| 02 Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco | 8.667 | 111.2 | + 0.1 | + 0.4 | + 3.4 | + 0.01 | + 0.28 |
| 03 Clothing and Footwear | 7.385 | 82.7 | + 2.6 | - 2.9 | - 6.8 | + 0.15 | - 0.40 |
| 04 Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels | 7.942 | 103.2 | + 0.8 | + 2.3 | + 4.7 | + 0.60 | + 0.34 |
| 05 Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance | 5.456 | 109.5 | + 2.9 | + 2.6 | + 3.1 | + 0.16 | + 0.17 |
| 06 Health | 0.647 | 115.8 | + 0.2 | + 2.5 | + 4.9 | - | + 0.03 |
| 07 Transport | 12.625 | 108.8 | + 0.9 | + 2.6 | + 4.2 | + 0.12 | + 0.52 |
| 08 Communications | 2.287 | 84.0 | - | - 3.0 | - 8.3 | - | - 0.16 |
| 09 Recreation and Culture | 12.218 | 107.4 | + 0.3 | + 1.1 | + 3.1 | + 0.04 | + 0.37 |
| 10 Education | 0.646 | 114.0 | - | - 0.2 | + 5.7 | - | + 0.04 |
| 11 Hotels, Cafes and Restaurants | 16.926 | 112.4 | + 0.2 | + 0.5 | + 3.9 | + 0.03 | + 0.68 |
| 12 Miscellaneous Goods & Services | 4.094 | 112.8 | + 0.4 | + 2.2 | + 4.2 | + 0.02 | + 0.18 |
| HICP | 100.000 | 106.9 | + 0.5 | + 0.7 | + 2.6 | + 0.5 | + 2.6 |

*See Background Notes - HICP

Table 6 EU Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) – annual % changes, August 1999

| Country | August 1999 August 1998 | July 1999 July 1998 | June 1999 June 1998 | May 1999 May 1998 | April 1999 April 1998 | March 1999 March 1998 |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Austria | 0.5 ¹ | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| Belgium | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 1.1 | 1.3 |
| Finland | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 0.9 |
| France | 0.5 ¹ | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.5 |
| Germany | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.8 | 0.5 |
| Ireland | 2.4 | 1.9 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 2.0 | 2.0 |
| Italy | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 1.4 |
| Luxembourg | 1.4 | -0.3 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.6 |
| Netherlands | 2.5 ¹ | 1.8 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 1.9 | 2.0 |
| Portugal | 1.8 | 1.9 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.7 | 2.8 |
| Spain | 2.3 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 2.1 |
| EMU (MUICP)³ | 1.2¹ | 1.1 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 1.0 |
| Denmark | 2.4 | 2.0 | 1.9 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.7 |
| Greece | 1.6 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 2.2 | 2.6 | 3.2 |
| Sweden | 0.8 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.5 |
| United Kingdom | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.7 |
| EU-15 (EICP) | 1.2¹ | 1.1 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.2 |

¹ Provisional² Revised³ MUICP (see Background Notes)

Source: Eurostat

Table 7 Main Categories of Harmonised Indices of Consumer Prices – annual % changes, August 1999

| COICOP/HICP Group | EUR-11 (MUICP) | EU-15 (EICP) | B | DK | D | EL | E | F | IRL | I | L | NL | A | P | FIN | S | UK |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|------|------|-------|------|------|-------------------|------|------|-------|-------------------|-------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Annual Percentage Rate of Change | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 01 Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages | -0.8 ¹ | -0.8 ¹ | -1.2 | 0.8 | -2.0 | 0.7 | 0.3 | -1.4 ¹ | 2.2 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.9 ¹ | -2.0 ¹ | 1.3 | -1.7 | 0.2 | -1.6 |
| 02 Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco | 2.1 ¹ | 3.2 ¹ | 2.5 | 1.6 | 0.0 | 4.2 | 5.5 | 3.6 ¹ | 3.3 | 2.1 | 2.5 | 4.1 ¹ | 1.1 ¹ | 6.5 | 1.9 | 1.2 | 7.4 |
| 03 Clothing and Footwear | 1.2 ¹ | 0.4 ¹ | 0.8 | -5.7 | 0.2 | 4.2 | 2.4 | 0.3 ¹ | -6.8 | 2.1 | 1.3 | 6.5 ¹ | 0.6 ¹ | -0.1 | 1.4 | 0.6 | -4.7 |
| 04 Housing, Water, Electricity Gas and Other Fuels | 1.8 ¹ | 1.9 ¹ | 2.1 | 4.7 | 2.1 | -0.1 | 3.7 | 0.5 ¹ | 3.7 | 1.8 | 2.4 | 2.9 ¹ | 1.4 ¹ | 0.8 | 2.6 | -0.8 | 2.3 |
| 05 Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance | 0.9 ¹ | 0.7 ¹ | 1.4 | 1.5 | 0.2 | 1.9 | 2.4 | 0.5 ¹ | 1.5 | 1.2 | 2.4 | 2.8 ¹ | 0.9 ¹ | 2.1 | 1.0 | 0.3 | -0.5 |
| 06 Health | 1.9 ¹ | 1.9 ¹ | 0.5 | 2.4 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 2.1 | 2.0 ¹ | 5.0 | 2.5 | 0.9 | 1.9 ¹ | 2.9 ¹ | 2.8 | 1.6 | 2.7 | 1.8 |
| 07 Transport | 2.7 ¹ | 2.7 ¹ | 3.8 | 4.8 | 3.4 | -1.3 | 3.7 | 1.6 ¹ | 3.1 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 4.0 ¹ | 2.3 ¹ | 2.8 | 3.3 | 2.6 | 2.4 |
| 08 Communications | -5.2 ¹ | -4.6 ¹ | -6.8 | -2.3 | -10.4 | -4.7 | -1.4 | 0.1 ¹ | -8.3 | -2.4 | -10.9 | -6.8 ¹ | -2.4 ¹ | -3.3 | 2.9 | -1.0 | -2.3 |
| 09 Recreation and Culture | 0.1 ¹ | 0.2 ¹ | -0.7 | 2.5 | -0.1 | 2.2 | 1.1 | -0.3 ¹ | 3.3 | 0.7 | -0.3 | 1.2 ¹ | -0.8 ¹ | -0.1 | 0.0 | 1.1 | 0.2 |
| 10 Education | 2.5 ¹ | 3.8 ¹ | | 0.9 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 3.3 | 1.8 ¹ | 5.7 | 1.4 | 5.3 | 2.7 ¹ | 2.0 ¹ | 3.3 | 2.6 | 8.6 | 5.6 |
| 11 Hotels, Cafes and Restaurants | 2.4 ¹ | 2.7 ¹ | 2.3 | 3.0 | 1.6 | 6.1 | 3.7 | 1.8 ¹ | 3.9 | 2.6 | 0.9 | 4.0 ¹ | 1.1 ¹ | 2.4 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 3.3 |
| 12 Miscellaneous Goods & Services | 1.5 ¹ | 1.8 ¹ | 1.7 | 3.1 | 1.6 | 2.4 | 2.7 | 0.1 ¹ | 4.3 | 2.4 | 1.1 | 2.7 ¹ | 0.2 ¹ | 3.5 | 2.5 | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| HICP | 1.2 ¹ | 1.2 ¹ | 0.9 | 2.4 | 0.7 | 1.6 | 2.3 | 0.5 ¹ | 2.4 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 2.5 ¹ | 0.5 ¹ | 1.8 | 1.3 | 0.8 | 1.3 |

¹ Provisional
² Revised
 .. Not available

Source: Eurostat

Background Notes – Consumer Price Index

- Definition** The Consumer Price Index is designed to measure the change in the average level of prices paid for consumer goods and services by all private households in the country.
- Consumer Price Index (CPI)** A monthly CPI series was introduced in January 1997 to base November 1996 as 100 using updated weights derived from the 1994-95 National Household Budget Survey. As 1997 was the first year with monthly indices, 12-month comparisons are only available for February, May, August and November of that year. Over 45,000 prices are collected for a representative basket of 985 varieties in a fixed panel of retail and service outlets throughout the country on the second Tuesday of each month. The date to which the September index relates is Tuesday, 14th September 1999.
- Scope of the Data**
- (i) **Population Coverage:** All private households covering approximately 97% of the total population. At present, it does not include the expenditure of persons resident in institutions and other non private households or visitors from abroad. In statistical terms, the coverage is referred to as the resident concept.
 - (ii) **Geographic Coverage:** Covers the whole of the Republic of Ireland. Pricing takes place in 82 locations (cities and towns) throughout the country.
 - (iii) **Item Coverage:** All goods and services bought by the reference population for the purposes of consumption are included in the index. Expenditure on capital assets and investments, gambling and illegal activities are excluded. There are 10 groups and 985 varieties priced based on the Irish National Classification System for Consumer Prices.
- Price Collection** Personal visits are made to retail outlets by some 200 part-time pricers on a monthly basis. Approximately 43,000 price quotations are gathered in this way. Special inquiries covering items such as utility charges, services and some other items are collected through postal and telephone inquiries. Most prices are collected monthly, some quarterly and others annually. The CSO supplies general specifications to price collectors and collectors are free initially to select a brand and in certain cases, size. This allows for a wide variety of different brands of the same item to be priced throughout the country. Once selected, the same item/brand is priced on a monthly basis in order to ensure matched price quotations. If an item disappears, substitution can occur but that price is excluded until matched prices are available for the same comparable item for two consecutive months.
- Constant Tax Price Index** This index excludes price movements due to changes since the base period in indirect taxation. Even where an existing tax rate (e.g. VAT) remains fixed, a change in the pre-tax price of an item involves a proportionate change in the tax excluded in the final retail price. The effect of such changes are excluded from the Constant-Tax Price Index which keeps the total indirect tax content of prices constant at their base period level.
- This index can be used in conjunction with the CPI to determine how much of the overall price change in any period is due to indirect taxation (including ad-valorem effect) and how much is due to all other factors. For this purpose, absolute changes (i.e. index points) in both series, expressed to the same base must be compared.
- Methodological Details** A full methodological description of the new series is included in the June 1997 issue of the Statistical Bulletin.

Background Notes – Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices

EU Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP)

The HICP was introduced on a harmonised basis by all EU member states for January 1997. It covers a range of consumer goods and services for which the measurement of price change is harmonised. Discussions at EU level are continuing to increase the coverage. At present it excludes approximately 13% of the basket in the All-Items CPI. The items excluded are:

- mortgage interest repayments
- house insurance on dwellings
- house insurance on content (claim element)
- motor insurance (claim element)
- owner occupier repairs/decorations (element not normally paid by tenants)
- toll charges
- driving test fee
- motor tax
- education (with the exception of vocational education and training)
- medical fees
- hospital charges
- medicines on prescriptions
- therapeutic equipment
- health insurance
- union subscriptions
- licences (excluding TV and driving)

The HICP for the EU Member States is published to base year 1996 as 100 by the Statistical Office of the EU (Eurostat).

Scope of Data

- (i) Population Coverage: All private households covering approximately 97% of the total population. At present, it does not include the expenditure of persons resident in institutions and other non private households or visitors from abroad. In statistical terms, the coverage is referred to as the resident concept.
- (ii) Geographic Coverage: Covers the whole of the Republic of Ireland. Pricing takes place in 82 locations (cities and towns) throughout the country.
- (iii) Item coverage: All goods and services: consumers, excluding the items mentioned above, are included in the index.

Monetary Union Index of Consumer Prices (MUICP)

The MUICP is calculated as a weighted average of HICPs of the 11 countries participating in Stage III of Economic and Monetary Union (EMU). Country weights are computed every year reflecting the country's share of private final domestic consumption expenditure in the EMU total.

Classification System

The coverage of the indices is based on the international classification system, COICOP (classification of individual consumption by purpose). The National Consumer Price Index is based on the National Classification System of Consumer Prices.

Further Developments

Work is ongoing in developing the HICP at National and European level. Future plans include the change from a resident to a domestic concept with the inclusion of tourism expenditure, improving the coverage of items and moving to a geometric mean rather than an arithmetic mean in calculating the index.