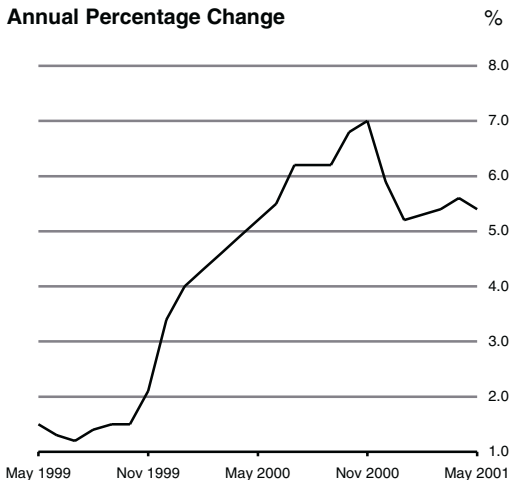




Consumer Price Index - all items
Annual Percentage Change



May 1999 Nov 1999 May 2000 Nov 2000 May 2001

Consumer Price Index May 2001

All Items CPI

	Index (Nov '96 = 100)	% monthly change	% annual change
Jan 2001	112.5	- 0.8	+ 5.2
Feb 2001	113.5	+ 0.9	+ 5.3
Mar 2001	114.4	+ 0.8	+ 5.4
Apr 2001	115.4	+ 0.9	+ 5.6
May 2001	116.1	+ 0.6	+ 5.4

Slight fall in annual inflation to 5.4% in May

Consumer Prices increased by 0.6% in May to bring the overall CPI to 116.1. This compares with a monthly increase of 0.7% in May of last year. As a result annual inflation fell from 5.6% in April to 5.4% in the twelve months to May 2001.

The most significant monthly price changes were increases in Housing (+1.6%), Transport (+1.4%), Food (+0.6%), Services & Related Expenditure (+0.5%) and Fuel & Light (+0.5%).

The most notable changes in the year were increases in Housing (+22.7%), Food (+7.0%), Fuel & Light (+5.1%), Alcoholic Drink (+4.7%), Other Goods (+4.4%) and a decrease in Clothing & Footwear (-4.4%).

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

- ◆ Housing costs rose with increases in private sector rents, mortgage repayments and in the cost of materials for repair and decoration.
- ◆ Transport costs were up due to higher motor fuel prices and increased insurance premiums.
- ◆ Food prices rose with increases in the price of fresh vegetables, poultry, lamb, pork & bacon, other meat products, meals out, sweets and confectionery, bread and cereals while the price of beef, milk, potatoes and soft drinks fell.
- ◆ Services & Related Expenditure costs increased with higher charges for medical fees, package holidays, entertainment, medicines and drugs.
- ◆ Fuel & Light rose with increased prices for home heating oil and bottled gas.

The EU Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP), which excludes approximately 8% of the basket of goods and services in the all items CPI but includes tourist expenditure, rose to 115.9 (EU base year 1996=100), up 0.6% in the month, up 2.2% in the three months since February 2001 and up by 4.1% in the 12 months since May 2000.

The date to which the May Index relates is Tuesday, 8th May.

For more information contact Kevin McCormack on 021-4535603 or Paul J Crowley on 021-4535501.

Published by the Central Statistics Office, Ireland.

Ardee Road Skehard Road
Dublin 6 Cork
Ireland Ireland

LoCall: 1890 313 414

Tel: +353-1 497 7144 Tel: +353-21 453 5000
Fax: +353-1 497 2360 Fax: +353-21 453 5555

Both offices may be contacted through any of these telephone numbers.

CSO on the Web: <http://www.cso.ie>

Director General: Donal Garvey

Enquiries:

CPI Statistics (021) 453 5445, 453 5427
cpi@cso.ie
Queries and Sales Information Section, ext 5032
information@cso.ie

© Central Statistics Office
The contents of this release may be quoted provided the source is given clearly and accurately. Reproduction for own or internal use is permitted.

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
			%	%	%
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
1999 Year	104.8	123.7			+ 1.6
2000 Year	110.7	130.6			+ 5.6
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
October	105.7	124.7	+ 0.1	+ 1.1	+ 1.5
November	105.9	125.0	+ 0.2	+ 0.7	+ 2.1
December	107.1	126.4	+ 1.1	+ 1.4	+ 3.4
2000 January	106.9	126.1	- 0.2	+ 1.1	+ 4.0
February	107.8	127.2	+ 0.8	+ 1.8	+ 4.3
March	108.5	128.0	+ 0.6	+ 1.3	+ 4.6
April	109.3	129.0	+ 0.7	+ 2.2	+ 4.9
May	110.1	129.9	+ 0.7	+ 2.1	+ 5.2
June	110.8	130.7	+ 0.6	+ 2.1	+ 5.5
July	111.1	131.1	+ 0.3	+ 1.6	+ 6.2
August	111.7	131.8	+ 0.5	+ 1.5	+ 6.2
September	112.1	132.3	+ 0.4	+ 1.2	+ 6.2
October	112.9	133.2	+ 0.7	+ 1.6	+ 6.8
November	113.3	133.7	+ 0.4	+ 1.4	+ 7.0
December	113.4	133.8	+ 0.1	+ 1.2	+ 5.9
2001 January	112.5	132.8	- 0.8	- 0.4	+ 5.2
February	113.5	133.9	+ 0.9	+ 0.2	+ 5.3
March	114.4	135.0	+ 0.8	+ 0.9	+ 5.4
April	115.4	136.2	+ 0.9	+ 2.6	+ 5.6
May	116.1	137.0	+ 0.6	+ 2.3	+ 5.4

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

.. Not available

Table 2 Consumer Price Commodity Group Indices, May 2001

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	121.1	136.6	+ 0.6	+ 3.2	+ 7.0
Alcoholic Drink	12.630	119.8	153.6	+ 0.4	+ 2.7	+ 4.7
Tobacco	4.824	134.2	191.6	+ 0.1	+ 1.7	+ 2.6
Clothing and Footwear	6.131	75.5	77.9	+ 0.1	+ 1.2	- 4.4
Fuel and Light	4.904	112.3	122.1	+ 0.5	+ 0.9	+ 5.1
Housing	8.038	117.8	141.4	+ 1.6	+ 3.2	+ 22.7
Durable Household Goods	3.579	101.9	113.9	+ 0.3	+ 1.2	+ 1.7
Other Goods	6.381	114.3	136.0	+ 0.4	+ 1.2	+ 4.4
Transport	13.940	116.3	136.8	+ 1.4	+ 3.5	+ 3.0
Services and Related Expenditure	16.723	120.1	150.0	+ 0.5	+ 0.9	+ 3.9
ALL ITEMS	100.000	116.1	137.0	+ 0.6	+ 2.3	+ 5.4
Of which:						
EU HICP ¹	91.965	114.9	134.8	+ 0.6	+ 2.2	+ 4.1
Energy Products ²	9.126	113.4	123.5	+ 2.1	+ 3.2	+ 1.1
<i>CPI excluding:</i>						
- Mortgage Interest	96.369	116.2	137.5	+ 0.7	+ 2.3	+ 4.5
- Housing	91.962	116.0	136.8	+ 0.6	+ 2.2	+ 4.2
- Tobacco ³	95.176	115.2	135.0	+ 0.7	+ 2.3	+ 5.7

¹ EU Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) to be used for intra-EU comparisons (Nov. 1996 = 100)

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, May 2001

Commodity Group	Contributions to overall CPI % change		
	One month	3 months	12 months
Food	+ 0.14	+ 0.74	+ 1.64
Alcoholic Drink	+ 0.06	+ 0.35	+ 0.62
Tobacco	-	+ 0.10	+ 0.15
Clothing & Footwear	-	+ 0.05	- 0.20
Fuel & Light	+ 0.03	+ 0.04	+ 0.24
Housing	+ 0.12	+ 0.25	+ 1.59
Durable Household Goods	+ 0.01	+ 0.04	+ 0.06
Other Goods	+ 0.02	+ 0.08	+ 0.28
Transport	+ 0.19	+ 0.48	+ 0.43
Services & Related Expenditure	+ 0.08	+ 0.16	+ 0.68
ALL ITEMS % change	+ 0.6	+ 2.3	+ 5.4

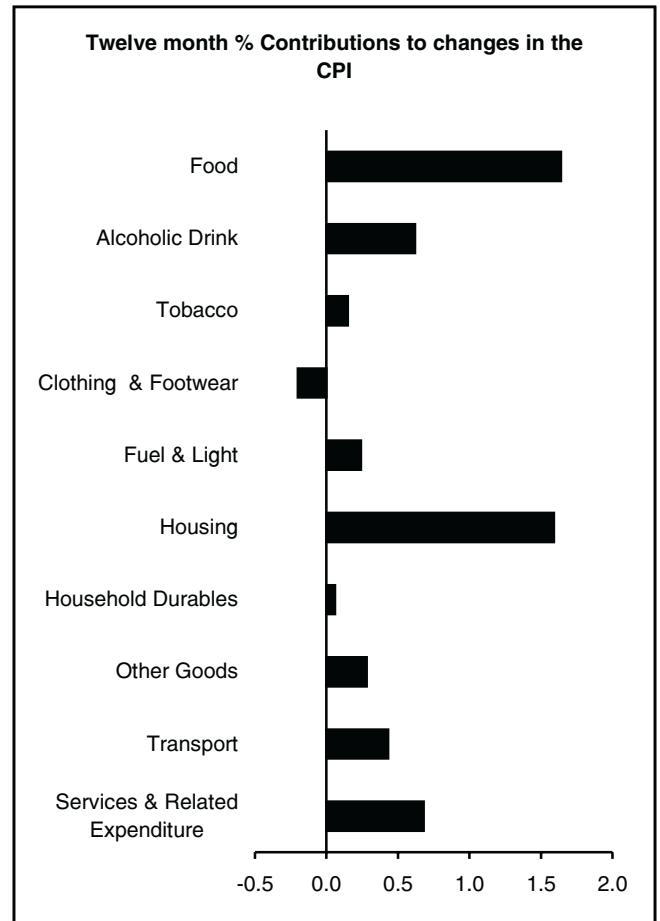
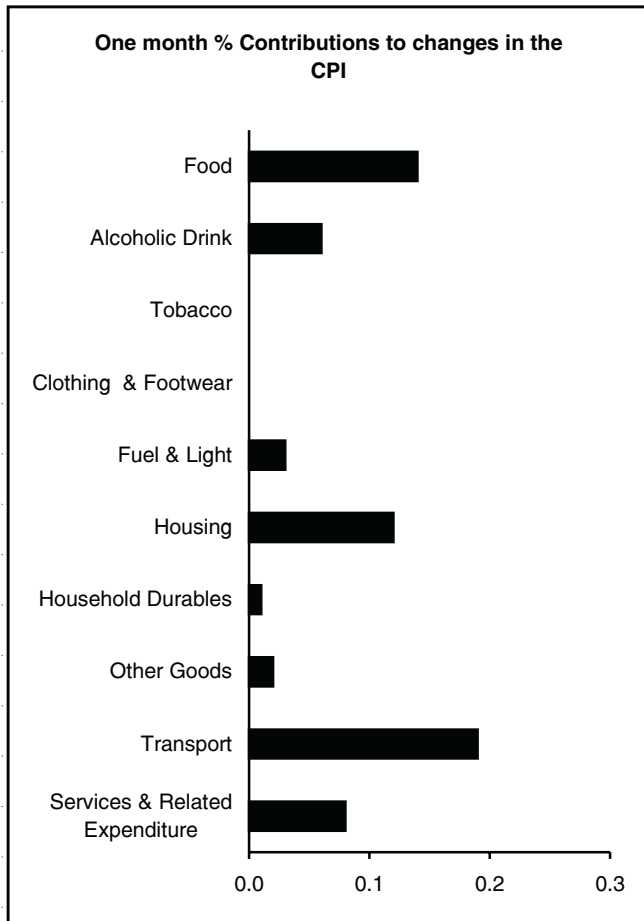


Table 4 Constant Tax Price Index

Period	Constant Tax Price Index		Annual percentage CPI Change	
	Current Base Nov. 1996 = 100	Former base Nov. 1989 = 100	Total	Due to indirect tax
			%	%
1999				
November	104.6	120.6	+2.1	+ 0.5
December	105.0	121.1	+3.4	+ 1.2
2000				
January	104.9	120.9	+4.0	+ 1.3
February	105.7	121.8	+4.3	+ 1.2
March	106.3	122.6	+4.6	+ 1.3
April	107.0	123.3	+4.9	+ 1.3
May	107.7	124.2	+5.2	+ 1.3
June	108.4	125.0	+5.5	+ 1.4
July	108.7	125.3	+6.2	+ 1.4
August	109.2	126.0	+6.2	+ 1.3
September	109.6	126.4	+6.2	+ 1.2
October	110.3	127.2	+6.8	+ 1.3
November	110.7	127.8	+7.0	+ 1.3
December	111.0	128.1	+5.9	+ 0.3
2001				
January	110.6	127.6	+5.2	- 0.1
February	111.5	128.7	+5.3	- 0.1
March	112.4	129.7	+5.4	- 0.1
April	113.1	130.6	+5.6	- 0.1
May	113.8	131.4	+5.4	- 0.1

Table 5 EU Harmonised Consumer Price Commodity Group Indices, May 2001
Ireland

Commodity Group COICOP*	Year 1996 base expenditure weights	HICP Current base Year 1996	Percentage Change		Percentage Contribution	
			One month	12 months	One month	12 months
			%	%	%	%
01 Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages	18.921	119.6	+ 0.5	+ 7.0	+ 0.09	+ 1.30
02 Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	8.170	127.8	+ 0.2	+ 2.3	+ 0.01	+ 0.21
03 Clothing and Footwear	7.003	78.0	+ 0.1	- 3.8	-	- 0.19
04 Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	8.404	117.4	+ 1.3	+ 7.8	+ 0.10	+ 0.61
05 Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	4.621	115.2	+ 0.2	+ 3.5	+ 0.01	+ 0.16
06 Health	1.915	128.8	+ 1.2	+ 6.8	+ 0.04	+ 0.16
07 Transport	12.083	114.6	+ 1.6	-	+ 0.15	-
08 Communications	2.103	76.0	-	- 9.5	-	- 0.15
09 Recreation and Culture	11.679	114.6	+ 0.4	+ 4.0	+ 0.05	+ 0.43
10 Education	1.655	129.3	+ 0.1	+ 6.9	-	+ 0.13
11 Hotels, Cafes and Restaurants	18.252	124.4	+ 0.7	+ 5.9	+ 0.13	+ 1.15
12 Miscellaneous Goods & Services	5.194	122.9	+ 0.2	+ 5.0	+ 0.02	+ 0.29
HICP	100.000	115.9	+ 0.6	+ 4.1	+ 0.6	+ 4.1

*See Background Notes - HICP

Table 6 EU Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) – annual % changes, April 2001

Country	April 2000 April 2001	March 2000 March 2001	February 2000 February 2001	January 2000 January 2001	December 1999 December 2000	November 1999 November 2000
Austria	2.5 ¹	1.9	1.8	2.2	1.8	2.3
Belgium	2.9	2.2	2.5	2.7	3.0	3.7
Finland	2.8	2.5	2.7	2.9	2.9	3.3
France	2.0 ¹	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.7	2.2
Germany	2.9	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.3	2.6
Greece	3.7	3.2	3.5	3.2	3.7	4.0
Ireland	4.3	4.1	3.9	3.9	4.6	6.0
Italy	3.0	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.9
Luxembourg	2.7	3.0	2.9	2.9	4.3	4.5
Netherlands	5.3 ¹	4.9	4.9	4.5	2.9	2.9
Portugal	4.6	5.1	4.9	4.4	3.8	3.6
Spain	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.8	4.0	4.1
EMU (MUICP)²	2.9¹	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.6	2.9
Denmark	2.6	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.7
Sweden	3.0	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.3	1.8
United Kingdom	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0
EU-15 (EICP)	2.6¹	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.6

¹ Provisional

² MUICP (see Background Notes)

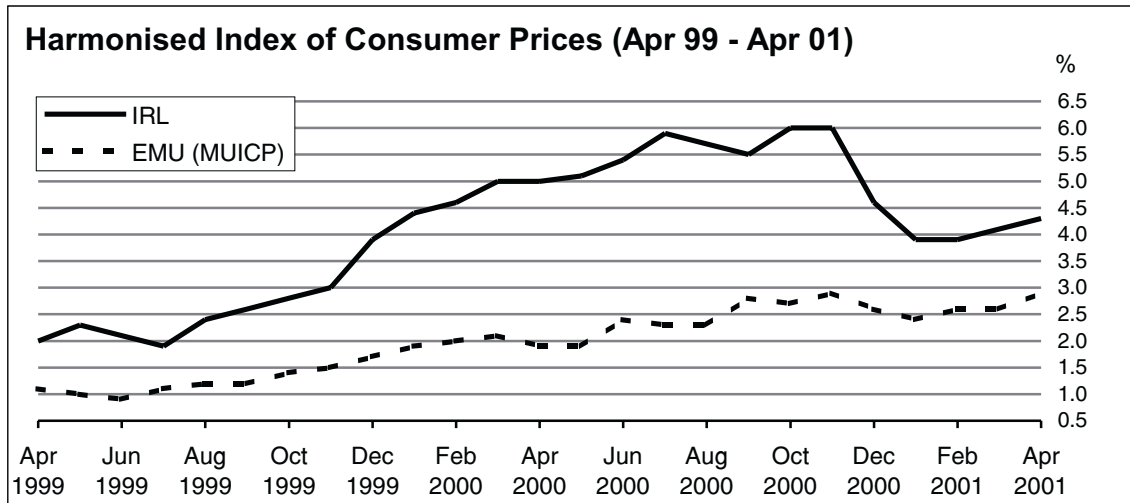
Source: Eurostat

Table 7 Main Categories of Harmonised Indices of Consumer Prices – annual % changes, April 2001

COICOP/HICP Group	EUR (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	4.8 ¹	4.6 ¹	4.1	4.6	4.4	2.6	5.8	5.2 ¹	8.0	3.7	4.6	8.1 ¹	2.6 ¹	7.2	3.0	2.8	4.4
02 Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	2.9 ¹	3.0 ¹	2.0	4.2	2.0	5.6	2.6	3.3 ¹	3.5	3.2	3.6	7.3 ¹	4.4 ¹	2.3	2.4	1.4	2.8
03 Clothing and Footwear	1.2 ¹	-0.2 ¹	0.9	-1.4	0.6	3.5	2.5	0.5 ¹	-3.8	2.7	2.1	0.6 ¹	-0.9 ¹	1.2	1.2	2.2	-8.6
04 Housing, Water, Electricity Gas and Other Fuels	4.4 ¹	4.3 ¹	6.6	3.3	5.4	4.3	4.2	1.6 ¹	6.9	5.2	3.1	6.1 ¹	4.5 ¹	5.0	3.4	4.9	3.0
05 Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	1.8 ¹	1.4 ¹	2.3	2.2	0.5	2.6	3.1	2.0 ¹	3.7	2.2	1.9	5.4 ¹	1.0 ¹	3.0	2.3	2.4	-0.7
06 Health	1.0 ¹	1.4 ¹	1.0	-0.6	1.3	2.4	2.0	0.4 ¹	6.6	-1.0	2.8	1.4 ¹	5.3 ¹	3.4	2.2	5.4	3.8
07 Transport	3.0 ¹	2.4 ¹	3.6	2.2	4.1	5.0	2.9	1.4 ¹	-2.3	2.5	1.9	5.9 ¹	3.4 ¹	4.5	2.7	3.1	-0.2
08 Communications	-2.9 ¹	-4.0 ¹	-8.5	-6.1	-3.0	-1.8	0.5	-4.0 ¹	-10.8	-2.0	-11.5	-2.1 ¹	-1.4 ¹	-2.5	1.7	0.9	-9.1
09 Recreation and Culture	1.6 ¹	1.4 ¹	2.0	2.5	0.7	3.2	4.8	0.6 ¹	4.0	1.6	1.6	4.8 ¹	1.6 ¹	3.5	4.2	0.9	1.1
10 Education	3.0 ¹	3.9 ¹	1.6	4.3	1.5	3.8	4.9	2.2 ¹	7.2	3.4	0.0	2.9 ¹	2.5 ¹	4.9	3.6	2.9	6.6
11 Hotels, Cafes and Restaurants	3.1 ¹	3.4 ¹	1.7	3.1	1.4	5.8	4.7	2.2 ¹	6.5	4.0	3.6	6.2 ¹	3.0 ¹	4.7	2.4	2.6	4.0
12 Miscellaneous Goods & Services	3.0 ¹	3.1 ¹	2.5	3.3	2.6	3.8	3.8	2.2 ¹	5.4	4.1	4.0	4.2 ¹	2.9 ¹	5.4	3.4	3.3	3.3
HICP	2.9 ¹	2.6 ¹	2.9	2.6	2.9	3.7	4.0	2.0 ¹	4.3	3.0	2.7	5.3 ¹	2.5 ¹	4.6	2.8	3.0	1.1

¹ Provisional
NA 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 May index relates is Tuesday, 8th May 2001.

- 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

Introduction The EU-Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices is calculated in each Member State of the European Union. The purpose of this index is to allow the comparison of consumer price trends in the different Member States.

Excluded Items The following items, constituting approximately 8% of the Irish CPI expenditure weighting, are still excluded from the HICP:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| ◆ mortgage interest | ◆ motor car insurance (non-service) |
| ◆ building materials | ◆ dwelling insurance (non-service) |
| ◆ union subscriptions | ◆ motor cycle tax |
| ◆ house insurance content (non-service) | ◆ motor car tax |

Harmonisation of geographic and population coverage The Irish CPI covers the domestic expenditure of all private households in the country on consumer goods and services. To comply with the harmonised geographic and population coverage specified in Commission Regulation 1688/98, it was necessary to include in the HICP from January 2000, the personal expenditure of tourists within Ireland.

The expenditure weights for individual items were grossed up to reflect the extra expenditure by tourists - the CSO estimates the inclusion of tourists increased the overall HICP expenditure weight by 6.9%. The main areas affected by this are hotels, cafes & restaurants, alcoholic drink, tobacco, gifts, motor fuel, public transport, entertainment, recreation and other expenditure. As a result of this, the relative percentage distribution of HICP expenditure has changed.

Comparison of old and new HICP coverage To ensure consistency between national and EUROSTAT publications, the HICP based on the old and new coverage is linked at December 1999 for the extended coverage introduced in January 2000, and linked again at December 2000 for those items included from January 2001.

Latest Developments Some additional services were included on a harmonised basis in the HICP from January 2001. These included hospital services and additional social protection services such as nursing homes.

New Price Surveys As a result of these and future changes the CSO has initiated a number of additional pricing surveys. These cover nursing homes, nursing agencies and ambulance services.

Monetary Union Index of Consumer Prices (MUICP) The MUICP is calculated as a weighted average of HICPs of the 12 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). With effect from January 2000, a revised version of COICOP has been introduced to allow for the extended coverage of items and a reclassification of items under Recreation and Culture (COICOP 09).