



Central Statistics Office
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

(Base: December 2001 =100)

DETAILED SUB-INDICES RELEASE

January 2004

Annual inflation falls to 1.8% in January

This release provides a summary analysis of the major price developments within the main CPI COICOP groups together with constituent CPI Subgroups and details of their monthly and annual percentage changes. It also details changes for each COICOP subgroup for each month from January 2003 to date. See the Background Notes for a description of the COICOP classification.

A detailed description of the CPI is published in the Introduction of Updated Series, December 2001 =100. This release, together with the monthly CPI Statistical Release is available on the CSO Web Site (www.cso.ie) immediately following publication.

Tables 18 – 20 based on the old national classification are also included for analysis.

The date to which the January release relates is Tuesday, 13th January 2004. The Consumer Price Index for February 2004 will be published on Friday, 12th March 2004.

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Consumer Price Index

January 2004

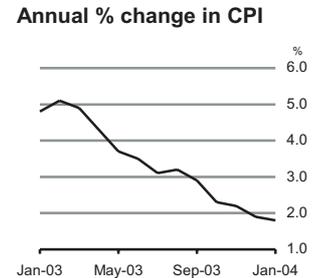
Overall Consumer Price Index

Consumer Prices in January, as measured by the CPI, decreased by 0.5% in the month. This compares to a decrease of 0.4% in January of last year and as a result, the annual rate of inflation fell to 1.8%, down from 1.9% in December 2003.

The most significant monthly price changes were decreases in Clothing & Footwear (-14.8%), Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance (-2.6%) and Miscellaneous Goods & Services (-0.4%). Increases were recorded for Health (+2.9%), Restaurants & Hotels (+0.4%), Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco (+0.3%) and Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels (+0.3%).

The most notable changes in the year were increases in Health (+6.9%), Education (+6.4%), Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco (+4.5%), Restaurants & Hotels (+3.7%), Communications (+2.9%) and Recreation & Culture (+2.3%). Decreases were recorded for Clothing & Footwear (-4.0%) and Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance (-1.4%).

The annual rate of inflation for Services is now running at 3.0% compared to a rate of 0.5% in respect of Goods.

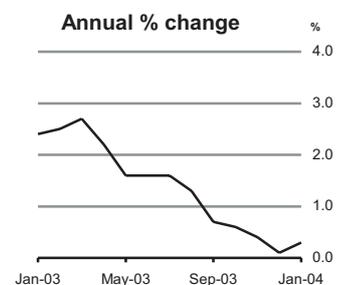


Overall Consumer Price Index

01 Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages

Food & Non Alcoholic Beverages prices remained unchanged in January, resulting in an annual increase of 0.3%. This represents an increase since December when the annual rate was 0.1%.

Food prices increased by 0.1% while Non Alcoholic Beverages prices decreased by 0.4% in the month. Since December prices increased for cakes (+2.0%), bacon (+1.1%), desserts & icecream (+1.0%) and beef (+0.8%). Price decreases were recorded for soup (-1.5%), fruit juices (-1.4%), poultry (-1.2%), potatoes (-1.0%) and biscuits (-0.9%).

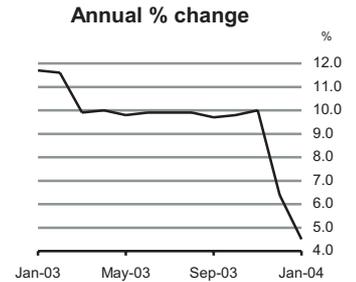


01 Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages

02 Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco

This category covers Alcoholic Beverages (purchased in an off-licence or supermarket) and Tobacco products. Prices increased by 0.3% in the month and by 4.5% in the year to January 2004, down from the increase recorded for the year to December 2003 (+6.4%). This compares with an annual rate of 11.7% for January 2003.

Alcoholic Beverages prices increased by 0.2% in the month while Tobacco prices increased by 0.4%. The price changes that contributed to the increase in Alcoholic Beverages were spirits (+0.3%), wine & cider (+0.2%) and beer (+0.1%) while the rise in Tobacco prices was due to increases in other tobacco products (+0.5%) and cigarettes (+0.4%).

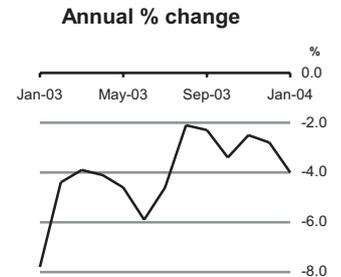


02 Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco

03 Clothing and Footwear

Clothing & Footwear prices decreased by 14.8% in the month as a result of the traditional January Sales. This decrease is of similar magnitude to the reduction in average Clothing & Footwear prices recorded for the same period in previous years. Clothing prices decreased by 15.2% while footwear prices fell by 13.1%. Average prices of clothing and footwear have decreased by 4.0% in the year since January 2003.

This category also covers Clothing & Footwear services such as dry cleaning. The services element for clothing increased by 0.2% and for footwear by 0.9% in the month.



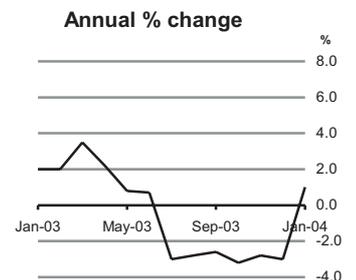
03 Clothing and Footwear

04 Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels

This group covers the former categories of Housing (excluding insurance) and Fuel and Light combined into one overall category. Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels costs increased by 0.3% in the month and by 1.0% in the year to January. This compares with an increase of 2.0% in the year to January 2003.

In January increases were recorded for average mortgage interest repayments (+1.0%) and solid fuels (+0.3%). These were partially offset by decreases in the cost of home heating oil (-0.6%) and house maintenance materials (-0.5%).

While higher charges for domestic electricity became effective from 1st January, they will not affect households in the form of higher bills until the beginning of March. As different billing cycles exist, the increase will be introduced to the CPI over two months, March and April, covering the billing periods Jan/Feb and Feb/Mar.

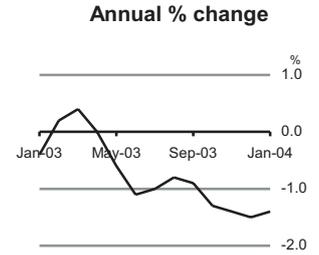


04 Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels

05 Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance

Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance costs decreased by 2.6% in the month, principally as a result of the January sales. A decrease of 1.4% was recorded for the year to January 2004. This compares with a decrease of 0.4% for the year to January 2003.

Price decreases were recorded for household textiles (-8.0%), furniture & furnishings (-6.1%), glassware, tableware & household utensils (-6.1%), small electric household appliances (-4.5%), carpets & other floor coverings (-3.6%), small tools & miscellaneous accessories (-2.6%), major household appliances (-1.7%) and non-durable household goods (-0.8%).

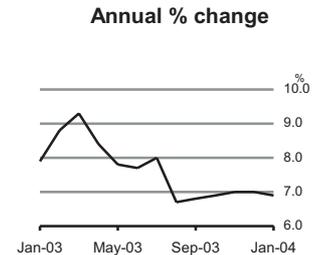


05 Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance

06 Health

Health costs and charges increased by 2.9% in January putting the annual increase at 6.9%, marginally down on the year to December 2003 (+7.0%). This compares with an increase of 7.9% for the year to January 2003.

In January increases were recorded in the cost of hospital services (+9.6%), prescribed drugs (+0.5%) and therapeutic appliances & equipment (which includes opticians' fees) (+0.4%). The rise in prescribed drugs costs is due to an increase in the monthly threshold for the Drug Payment Scheme which came into effect in January.

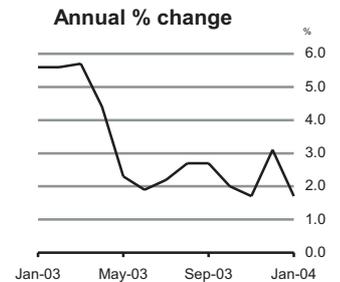


06 Health

07 Transport

Transport costs increased by 0.1% in the month and by 1.7% in the year to January 2004. This compares to an increase of 5.6% in the year to January 2003.

Price increases were recorded for boat fares (+10.0%), motor car tax (+5.0%), rail fares (+3.4%), bus fares (+1.5%) and other vehicle costs (which includes toll charges) (+1.2%). These were offset by decreases in the cost of air fares (-28.2%), motor cycles (-2.0%) and bicycles (-1.4%).

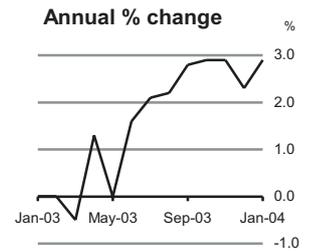


07 Transport

08 Communications

Overall communication costs remained unchanged in the month, resulting in an increase of 2.9% in the year to January 2004. This compares with no change in the annual rate in the year to January 2003.

Telephone & communication charges and postal services charges both remained unchanged in January.

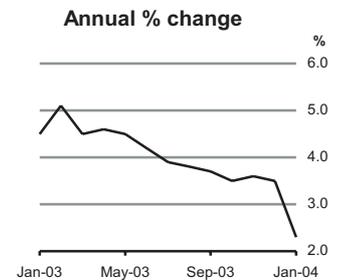


08 Communications

09 Recreation and Culture

Recreation & Culture covers a wide range of goods and services including items such as nightclubs, televisions, newspapers and gardening. Overall prices increased by 0.1% in January, resulting in an annual increase for the year of 2.3%.

Price increases were recorded for television services (+4.3%) and newspapers & periodicals (+0.6%). These were partially offset by decreases in the cost of equipment for the reception, recording & reproduction of sound and pictures (-3.9%), games, toys & hobbies (-2.8%), recording media (-1.8%), photographic & cinematographic equipment & optical instruments (-1.6%) and information processing equipment (-1.5%).

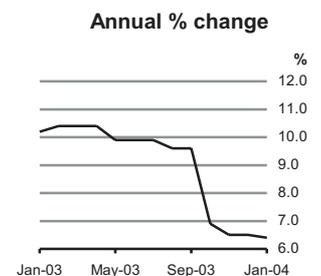


09 Recreation and Culture

10 Education

Education costs decreased by 0.1% in January putting the annual increase at 6.4%, marginally down on the year to December 2003 (+6.5%). This compares with an increase of 10.2% for the year to January 2003.

The fall in Education is due to a reduction in third level education (-0.1%), arising from reduced third level maintenance costs.

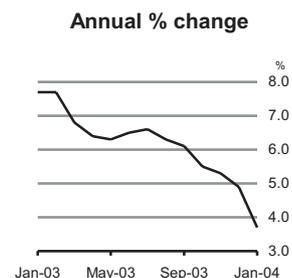


10 Education

11 Restaurants and Hotels

This category covers three main areas (1) meals out (2) alcohol consumed in or on licensed premises and (3) accommodation services. Prices for the overall category increased by 0.4% in the month and by 3.7% in the year to January 2004.

The change in the month was due to increases in the cost of canteens (+2.9%), restaurants, cafes & fast-food (+1.3%), beer (+0.2%) and wine & cider (+0.2%). These were partially offset by a decrease in the cost of accommodation services (-0.8%).

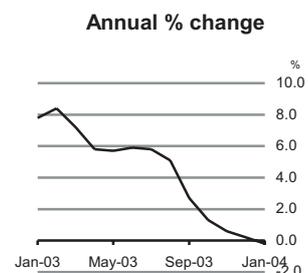


11 Restaurants and Hotels

12 Miscellaneous Goods and Services

Miscellaneous Goods & Services covers a wide range of items from personal hygiene products, hairdressing, insurance, childcare, social protection, financial services to personal goods and other services. Overall prices decreased by 0.4% in the month, resulting in an annual decrease of 0.2% for the year to January 2004. This compares with an annual increase of 7.8% for January 2003.

Price decreases were recorded for other personal goods (which includes ladies handbags and giftware & souvenirs) (-6.1%), hair products (-5.3%), electric appliances for personal care (-4.8%) and house insurance (-2.7%). These were partially offset by increases in the cost of childcare (+2.3%), financial services (+1.9%) and other social protection (which includes nursing home charges) (+1.2%).



12 Miscellaneous Goods and Services

Table 1 01 Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages - January 2004

Description	Dec. 2001 base expenditure weight %	Current Index	% change 1 mth	% change 12 mths
Food	12.7541	102.8	0.1	0.3
Bread and Cereals	2.4351	104.3	0.3	0.4
Bread	0.7932	106.0	0.2	0.4
Flour	0.0349	102.8	-0.1	2.3
Biscuits	0.4149	104.2	-0.9	1.0
Cakes	0.4370	106.4	2.0	-0.7
Breakfast cereals	0.3592	99.9	0.3	-1.2
Other cereals	0.1698	103.9	0.5	1.4
Other bread & cereals	0.2263	102.4	-0.7	2.9
Meat	3.8238	99.4	0.0	-0.4
Beef	0.7427	103.5	0.8	2.0
Lamb	0.3222	95.8	-0.3	2.5
Pork	0.2327	101.2	0.4	0.6
Bacon	0.5459	99.2	1.1	-1.7
Poultry	0.7558	92.3	-1.2	-3.9
Other meat products	1.2245	102.1	0.0	-0.1
Fish	0.3475	107.8	0.1	2.4
Fresh fish	0.1522	111.1	-0.1	2.6
Frozen/tinned/smoked fish	0.1954	105.3	0.4	2.3
Milk, cheese and eggs	1.7813	105.2	0.3	2.8
Milk	0.9658	103.2	0.1	2.0
Other milk products	0.3633	109.0	0.2	4.0
Cheese	0.3103	107.0	0.7	3.5
Eggs	0.1419	104.6	0.3	3.3
Oils and fats	0.3720	102.7	0.1	-0.8
Butter	0.2294	102.4	-0.1	-1.5
Margarine & low fat spreads	0.0706	105.9	0.1	3.0
Other oils & fats	0.0720	100.2	0.1	-2.2
Fruit	0.6780	103.4	-0.2	2.6
Fresh fruit	0.5882	101.8	-0.2	1.7
Other fruits	0.0897	113.9	-0.3	8.3
Vegetables	1.6534	100.3	-0.4	-4.1
Potatoes	0.3644	103.7	-1.0	-10.1
Other fresh vegetables	0.6260	96.9	-0.6	-5.3
Tinned vegetables	0.1308	105.8	0.5	3.0
Frozen vegetables	0.1738	101.3	-0.1	-1.8
Other vegetable products	0.3584	100.2	0.0	0.8
Sugar, jam, honey, chocolate and confectionery	1.2890	107.5	0.4	2.8
Sugar & sweeteners	0.0881	99.2	0.2	-0.4
Preserves	0.0898	109.2	-0.4	3.5
Sweets & chocolate	0.8708	107.6	0.2	3.4
Desserts & icecream	0.2404	109.5	1.0	1.3
Other food products	0.3739	105.5	-0.1	1.7
Condiments & sauces	0.1924	105.1	0.4	1.5
Soup	0.1011	106.1	-1.5	1.6
Miscellaneous food items	0.0804	106.3	0.1	3.6
Non-alcoholic beverages	1.3380	103.9	-0.4	0.4
Coffee, tea and cocoa	0.3108	100.4	-0.3	-1.3
Tea	0.2007	102.1	-0.1	-1.4
Coffee	0.0980	96.9	-0.7	-1.0
Cocoa	0.0120	101.3	0.2	0.7
Mineral waters, soft drinks & juices	1.0273	105.0	-0.4	0.9
Soft drinks, mineral water	0.7641	105.9	-0.1	1.4
Fruit juices	0.2632	102.3	-1.4	-0.8
Total	14.0921	102.9	0.0	0.3

Table 2 02 Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco - January 2004

Description	Dec. 2001 base expenditure weight %	Current Index	% change 1 mth	% change 12 mths
Alcoholic Beverages	3.0987	110.9	0.2	1.5
Spirits	0.8448	126.0	0.3	4.6
Wine & cider	1.3729	107.6	0.2	1.5
Beer	0.8811	101.7	0.1	-1.9
Tobacco	4.3993	122.0	0.4	6.7
Cigarettes	4.2148	122.2	0.4	6.7
Other tobacco products	0.1844	117.2	0.5	5.9
Total	7.4980	117.4	0.3	4.5

Table 3 03 Clothing and Footwear - January 2004

Description	Dec. 2001 base expenditure weight %	Current Index	% change 1 mth	% change 12 mths
Clothing	4.0605	78.1	-15.2	-3.7
Clothing materials	0.1708	101.5	-1.0	1.3
Garments	3.7922	76.6	-16.1	-4.0
Other articles of clothing	0.1019	77.2	-13.8	-9.8
Cleaning, repair & hire of clothing	0.1494	114.1	0.2	5.3
Dry cleaning & laundry	0.1111	113.0	0.2	4.8
Dress hire & repair of clothing	0.0383	117.3	0.2	6.6
Footwear	0.9912	79.1	-13.1	-5.3
Shoes & other footwear	0.9764	78.4	-13.4	-5.7
Repair & hire of footwear	0.0148	124.4	0.9	10.7
Total	5.0517	78.3	-14.8	-4.0

Table 4 04 Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels - January 2004

Description	Dec. 2001 base expenditure weight %	Current Index	% change 1 mth	% change 12 mths
Rents & other housing costs	7.2347	97.5	0.6	-3.1
Rents	2.6046	98.8	0.0	-2.4
Mortgage interest	4.6301	96.8	1.0	-3.5
Maintenance & repair of the dwelling	1.6222	109.7	-0.2	5.2
Materials for maint. & repair of dwelling	0.7562	102.1	-0.5	2.4
Services for maint. & repair of dwelling	0.8660	116.2	0.0	7.3
Water supply, refuse & misc. services	0.1971	149.8	0.0	25.4
Electricity, gas & other fuels	3.2775	111.6	-0.1	5.9
Electricity	1.3930	118.7	0.0	13.7
Natural gas	0.4872	110.1	0.0	10.1
Bottled gas	0.0364	105.1	0.1	1.0
Liquid fuels	0.6914	104.6	-0.6	-7.1
Solid fuels	0.6695	105.5	0.3	1.6
Total	12.3315	103.7	0.3	1.0

Table 5 05 Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance - January 2004

Description	Dec. 2001 base expenditure weight %	Current Index	% change 1 mth	% change 12 mths
Furniture, furnishings, carpets & other flooring	0.6084	93.8	-5.6	-2.0
Furniture & furnishings	0.5132	92.8	-6.1	-2.4
Carpets & other floor coverings	0.0952	99.1	-3.6	0.0
Household textiles	0.3860	83.7	-8.0	-3.6
Household appliances	1.4105	95.7	-2.0	-2.2
Major household appliances	1.0325	95.2	-1.7	-3.0
Small electric household appliances	0.2678	91.9	-4.5	-2.6
Repair of household appliances	0.1102	110.1	0.4	5.1
Glassware, tableware & hsehld utensils	0.2499	88.2	-6.1	-3.0
Tools & equipment for house & garden	0.2203	102.8	-1.2	1.6
Major tools & equipment	0.1121	106.6	-0.1	2.0
Small tools & misc. accessories	0.1082	98.8	-2.6	0.9
Goods & services for routine hsehld maint.	1.4560	101.0	-0.5	-0.2
Non-durable household goods	0.8506	99.3	-0.8	-1.6
Domestic & household services	0.6054	103.3	0.0	1.7
Total	4.3312	96.1	-2.6	-1.4

Table 6 06 Health - January 2004

Description	Dec. 2001 base expenditure weight %	Current Index	% change 1 mth	% change 12 mths
Medical products, appliances & equip.	1.0425	108.8	0.4	3.8
Pharmaceutical products	0.5626	109.4	0.4	3.1
Prescribed drugs	0.3205	110.5	0.5	2.4
Other medicines	0.2420	107.9	0.0	4.1
Other medical products	0.1954	108.9	0.0	5.1
Therapeutic appliances & equip	0.2846	107.3	0.4	3.9
Outpatient services	0.8484	113.4	0.0	7.2
Medical services	0.5242	110.8	0.0	6.0
Doctors' fees	0.4310	111.3	0.0	6.4
Alternative & complementary medicine	0.0932	108.1	0.0	3.9
Dental services	0.2352	120.2	0.0	10.1
Paramedical services	0.0890	110.7	0.0	5.6
Hospital services	0.6273	141.4	9.6	11.1
Total	2.5182	118.5	2.9	6.9

Table 7 07 Transport - January 2004

Description	Dec. 2001 base expenditure weight %	Current Index	% change 1 mth	% change 12 mths
Purchase of vehicles	6.1617	104.2	0.4	1.2
Motor cars	5.9503	104.5	0.5	1.4
Motor cycles	0.0608	98.0	-2.0	-1.1
Bicycles	0.1506	96.6	-1.4	-2.8
Operation of personal transport equip.	5.1975	111.5	0.7	2.9
Spare parts & accessories	0.3014	104.2	-0.1	1.3
Fuels & lubricants	3.1186	110.7	-0.1	1.8
Petrol	2.6391	110.9	-0.1	1.8
Diesel	0.4533	109.6	0.1	1.1
Motor oil	0.0262	109.3	0.2	6.0
Maintenance & repair	0.5904	108.9	0.0	3.2
Other services	1.1871	116.9	3.4	6.0
Motor tax	0.7001	117.3	5.0	5.0
Other vehicle costs	0.4745	116.7	1.2	7.6
Driving licences	0.0125	100.5	0.0	1.6
Transport services	1.8239	106.2	-2.7	-0.3
Rail transport	0.2739	114.5	3.4	7.8
Road transport	1.2082	112.2	0.8	4.4
Bus fares	0.6445	114.2	1.5	4.5
Taxi	0.5637	110.0	0.0	4.4
Air transport	0.2860	69.8	-28.2	-31.1
Sea transport	0.0339	124.7	10.0	8.7
Combined transport	0.0118	113.4	0.0	3.8
Other transport	0.0100	119.5	0.0	8.3
Total	13.1831	107.4	0.1	1.7

Table 8 08 Communications - January 2004

Description	Dec. 2001 base expenditure weight %	Current Index	% change 1 mth	% change 12 mths
Postal services	0.0791	123.5	0.0	13.5
Telephone & communication services	1.8239	102.1	0.0	2.4
Total	1.9030	103.0	0.0	2.9

Table 9 09 Recreation and Culture - January 2004

Description	Dec. 2001 base expenditure weight %	Current Index	% change 1 mth	% change 12 mths
Audio-visual, photographic & information processing equipment	1.0625	92.0	-2.2	-5.6
Equipment for the reception, recording & reproduction of sound and pictures	0.2557	84.3	-3.9	-8.9
Photographic & cinematographic equip. & optical instruments	0.0477	85.9	-1.6	-9.8
Information processing equip.	0.3516	96.5	-1.5	-2.1
Recording media	0.4075	93.8	-1.8	-6.2
Other major durables for recreation & culture	0.0183	98.8	0.0	-2.3
Other recreational items & equip. incl. gardens and pets	1.1538	100.7	-0.8	-1.0
Games, toys & hobbies	0.3480	86.9	-2.8	-8.8
Equipment for sport, camping & open air recreation	0.1490	101.7	0.0	-2.1
Gardens, plants & flowers	0.3375	107.5	0.0	1.7
Pets & related products	0.2513	106.8	0.0	4.3
Veterinary & other services for pets	0.0680	113.0	0.0	4.6
Recreational & cultural services	3.2713	117.2	1.0	7.0
Recreational & sporting services	1.0955	117.9	0.0	9.6
Sports admittance	0.1575	126.8	0.0	12.7
Sports participation	0.4631	122.5	0.0	10.6
Cultural services	2.1757	116.9	1.6	5.9
Cinema	0.2523	108.9	0.2	3.9
Nightclubs	0.3261	111.6	0.4	2.8
Cultural admittance	0.6630	115.3	0.0	10.2
Other entertainment	0.2454	107.2	0.0	1.7
Television services	0.6889	127.3	4.3	5.5
Newspapers, books & stationery	1.9011	108.3	0.2	2.1
Books	0.4801	106.0	-0.4	2.3
Newspapers & periodicals	0.9945	111.9	0.6	2.2
Stationery	0.4265	102.4	-0.4	1.2
Package holidays	3.4024	105.9	-0.1	1.0
Total	10.8095	107.8	0.1	2.3

Table 10 10 Education - January 2004

Description	Dec. 2001 base expenditure weight %	Current Index	% change 1 mth	% change 12 mths
Primary education	0.0111	121.9	0.0	9.2
Second level education	0.1572	123.7	0.0	10.3
Third level education	0.7009	119.2	-0.1	5.6
Other education & training	0.6778	117.1	0.1	6.5
Total	1.5471	118.7	-0.1	6.4

Table 11 11 Restaurants and Hotels - January 2004

Description	Dec. 2001 base expenditure weight %	Current Index	% change 1 mth	% change 12 mths
Catering services	15.5121	114.0	0.6	4.7
Restaurants, cafes & licenced premises	14.8341	114.5	0.5	4.7
Beer	6.3736	112.4	0.2	4.0
Spirits	1.6213	122.8	0.1	4.9
Wine & cider	0.7156	114.0	0.2	3.7
Soft drinks & mineral water	0.3850	117.1	0.1	5.0
Restaurants, cafes & fast-food	5.7386	114.5	1.3	5.5
Canteens	0.6780	103.3	2.9	5.1
Accommodation services	2.2474	104.4	-0.8	-3.0
Total	17.7595	112.8	0.4	3.7

Table 12 12 Miscellaneous Goods and Services - January 2004

Description	Dec. 2001 base expenditure weight %	Current Index	% change 1 mth	% change 12 mths
Personal care	2.4202	105.1	-0.7	0.5
Hairdressing salons & personal grooming	0.6871	117.7	0.1	6.2
Hairdressing	0.6354	117.8	0.2	6.3
Health & beauty treatments	0.0496	117.7	0.0	7.1
Other personal grooming	0.0020	112.6	-0.9	1.4
Electric appliances for personal care	0.0566	90.2	-4.8	-4.4
Other appliances, articles & products for personal care	1.6765	100.5	-0.8	-1.9
Hygiene products	0.2343	100.5	0.0	-3.1
Hair products	0.2124	97.8	-5.3	-3.6
Cosmetics & skincare products	0.6036	101.5	0.1	-0.6
Toilet accessories	0.6262	100.3	-0.5	-1.8
Personal goods	0.4623	89.3	-4.3	-3.1
Jewellery, clocks & watches	0.1791	97.4	-1.7	-0.6
Other personal goods	0.2832	84.2	-6.1	-4.9
Social protection	0.9203	116.6	2.0	6.7
Childcare	0.7423	117.0	2.3	7.5
Other social protection	0.1780	115.0	1.2	3.1
Insurance	4.3822	107.7	-0.6	-2.2
Dwelling insurance	0.6988	106.4	-2.7	-1.3
Health insurance	1.4709	128.0	0.0	9.2
Transport insurance	2.2124	94.5	-0.4	-10.9
Motor cycle insurance	0.0242	130.2	0.0	3.4
Motor car insurance	2.1882	94.1	-0.4	-11.1
Financial services	0.0470	126.6	1.9	2.8
Other services	0.7432	113.1	0.1	1.9
Total	8.9751	107.5	-0.4	-0.2

Table 13 COICOP Groups Consumer Price Monthly Percentage Changes

Period	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	Clothing and Footwear	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance	Health	Transport	Communication	Recreation and Culture	Education	Restaurants and Hotels	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	All Items CPI
Mid-December 2001	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
% Base Expenditure													
Weights	14.092	7.498	5.052	12.331	4.331	2.518	13.183	1.903	10.810	1.547	17.760	8.975	100.000
2003 Mid-January	- 0.2	+ 2.1	- 13.7	- 3.7	- 2.7	+ 2.9	+ 1.4	- 0.6	+ 1.2	-	+ 1.6	-	- 0.4
Mid-February	+ 0.2	+ 0.1	+ 12.5	+ 0.4	+ 2.2	+ 0.8	+ 0.3	- 0.1	+ 1.0	+ 0.2	+ 0.2	+ 0.6	+ 1.0
Mid-March	+ 0.3	+ 0.5	+ 1.7	+ 2.1	- 0.2	+ 0.4	+ 0.8	-	- 0.2	-	+ 0.9	+ 0.7	+ 0.8
Mid-April	-	+ 0.8	- 0.1	- 0.6	+ 0.3	+ 0.4	+ 0.3	+ 2.0	+ 0.3	-	+ 0.8	+ 0.5	+ 0.3
Mid-May	-	+ 0.1	- 0.1	- 1.1	- 0.4	+ 0.5	- 0.7	- 0.1	+ 0.3	-	+ 0.4	- 0.1	- 0.1
Mid-June	+0.3	+0.1	-1.6	+0.7	-0.3	-	-0.4	+1.1	-	-	+0.4	-0.1	-
Mid-July	+0.3	+0.1	-9.7	-3.4	-1.4	+0.4	+0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-	+0.4	-0.1	-0.8
Mid-August	-0.1	+0.1	+8.7	+0.7	+1.3	+0.3	+0.5	-	+0.3	-	+0.3	-	+0.7
Mid-September	-0.5	-0.2	+2.1	+0.8	+0.1	+0.2	-	+0.6	+0.2	-	-0.1	+0.4	+0.2
Mid-October	-	+0.3	-0.9	+0.2	-0.5	+0.2	-0.4	+0.1	+0.1	+4.6	-0.2	-0.8	-0.1
Mid November	-0.1	+0.2	+1.0	+0.3	+0.2	+0.6	-0.3	-	+0.4	+1.6	-0.3	-0.7	-
Mid December	-0.1	+2.1	-0.1	+0.6	-	-	+1.4	-0.6	-0.1	-	+0.4	-0.2	+0.4
2004 Mid-January	-	+0.3	-14.8	+0.3	-2.6	+2.9	+0.1	-	+0.1	-0.1	+0.4	-0.4	-0.5

Table 14 COICOP Groups Consumer Price Annual Percentage Changes

Period	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	Clothing and Footwear	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance	Health	Transport	Communication	Recreation and Culture	Education	Restaurants and Hotels	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	All Items CPI
Mid-December 2001	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
% Base Expenditure													
Weights	14.092	7.498	5.052	12.331	4.331	2.518	13.183	1.903	10.810	1.547	17.760	8.975	100.000
2003													
Mid-January	+2.4	+11.7	-7.8	+2.0	-0.4	+7.9	+5.6	-	+4.5	+10.2	+7.7	+7.8	+4.8
Mid-February	+2.5	+11.6	-4.4	+2.0	+0.2	+8.8	+5.6	-	+5.1	+10.4	+7.7	+8.4	+5.1
Mid-March	+2.7	+9.9	-3.9	+3.5	+0.4	+9.3	+5.7	-0.5	+4.5	+10.4	+6.8	+7.2	+4.9
Mid-April	+2.2	+10.0	-4.1	+2.2	-	+8.4	+4.4	+1.3	+4.6	+10.4	+6.4	+5.8	+4.3
Mid-May	+1.6	+9.8	-4.6	+0.8	-0.6	+7.8	+2.3	-	+4.5	+9.9	+6.3	+5.7	+3.7
Mid-June	+1.6	+9.9	-5.9	+0.7	-1.1	+7.7	+1.9	+1.6	+4.2	+9.9	+6.5	+5.9	+3.5
Mid-July	+1.6	+9.9	-4.6	-3.0	-1.0	+8.0	+2.2	+2.1	+3.9	+9.9	+6.6	+5.8	+3.1
Mid-August	+1.3	+9.9	-2.1	-2.8	-0.8	+6.7	+2.7	+2.2	+3.8	+9.6	+6.3	+5.1	+3.2
Mid-September	+0.7	+9.7	-2.3	-2.6	-0.9	+6.8	+2.7	+2.8	+3.7	+9.6	+6.1	+2.7	+2.9
Mid-October	+0.6	+9.8	-3.4	-3.2	-1.3	+6.9	+2.0	+2.9	+3.5	+6.9	+5.5	+1.3	+2.3
Mid-November	+0.4	+10.0	-2.5	-2.8	-1.4	+7.0	+1.7	+2.9	+3.6	+6.5	+5.3	+0.6	+2.2
Mid-December	+0.1	+6.4	-2.8	-3.0	-1.5	+7.0	+3.1	+2.3	+3.5	+6.5	+4.9	+0.2	+1.9
Year	+1.4	+9.8	-4.0	-0.5	-0.7	+7.7	+3.3	+1.5	+4.1	+9.1	+6.3	+4.7	+3.5
2004													
Mid-January	+0.3	+4.5	-4.0	+1.0	-1.4	+6.9	+1.7	+2.9	+2.3	+6.4	+3.7	-0.2	+1.8

Table 15 Consumer Price Index Goods and Services by COICOP - January 2004

COICOP	Group	Mid-Dec 2001 % Base Expenditure Weights	% Goods Base Expenditure Weights	% Services Base Expenditure Weights	Index		Percentage changes		
					Goods	Services	Goods 12 Months	Services 12 Months	Overall 12 Months
01	Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages	14.092	14.092	-	102.9	-	+ 0.3	-	+ 0.3
02	Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	7.498	7.498	-	117.4	-	+ 4.5	-	+ 4.5
03	Clothing and Footwear	5.052	4.888	0.164	77.1	115.1	- 4.5	+ 5.9	- 4.0
04	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	12.331	2.153	10.178	104.0	103.6	- 1.1	+ 1.5	+ 1.0
05	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	4.331	3.538	0.793	94.1	104.8	- 2.4	+ 2.1	- 1.4
06	Health	2.518	1.013	1.505	108.7	125.0	+ 3.7	+ 8.9	+ 6.9
07	Transport	13.183	9.582	3.601	106.3	110.1	+ 1.3	+ 2.3	+ 1.7
08	Communications	1.903	-	1.903	-	103.0	-	+ 2.9	+ 2.9
09	Recreation and Culture	10.810	4.064	6.746	101.8	111.5	- 0.8	+ 4.0	+ 2.3
10	Education	1.547	-	1.547	-	118.7	-	+ 6.4	+ 6.4
11	Restaurants and Hotels	17.760	-	17.760	-	112.8	-	+ 3.7	+ 3.7
12	Miscellaneous Goods & Services	8.975	2.191	6.784	97.8	110.6	- 2.2	+ 0.4	- 0.2
ALL ITEMS		100.000	49.019	50.981	102.4	110.4	+ 0.5	+ 3.0	+ 1.8

Table 16 Consumer Price Annual Percentage Changes for selected CPI Sub-indices

Period	Energy	CPI excluding Mortgage Interest	CPI excluding Housing	CPI excluding Tobacco	All Items
	%	%	%	%	%
2002 Mid-January	-1.3	+5.5	+5.4	+4.9	+4.9
Mid-February	+1.3	+5.2	+5.0	+4.7	+4.7
Mid-March	+0.4	+5.4	+5.1	+4.6	+4.8
Mid-April	+3.8	+5.5	+5.2	+4.7	+4.8
Mid-May	+4.7	+5.3	+5.3	+4.7	+4.7
Mid-June	+1.1	+4.8	+4.8	+4.3	+4.4
Mid-July	+1.9	+4.6	+4.5	+4.1	+4.2
Mid-August	+4.9	+4.9	+4.8	+4.5	+4.5
Mid-September	+5.7	+5.0	+4.9	+4.4	+4.5
Mid-October	+5.1	+4.7	+4.7	+4.5	+4.6
Mid-November	+8.5	+4.7	+4.7	+4.7	+4.8
Mid-December	+5.7	+4.7	+4.7	+4.6	+5.0
Year	+3.5	+5.0	+4.9	+4.6	+4.6
2003 Mid-January	+6.3	+5.0	+5.1	+4.4	+4.8
Mid-February	+6.5	+5.3	+5.5	+4.7	+5.1
Mid-March	+10.2	+5.1	+5.2	+4.6	+4.9
Mid-April	+8.2	+4.7	+4.8	+3.9	+4.3
Mid-May	+1.6	+4.0	+4.0	+3.2	+3.7
Mid-June	+0.9	+3.9	+4.0	+3.1	+3.5
Mid-July	+1.3	+4.1	+4.2	+2.8	+3.1
Mid-August	+2.1	+4.1	+4.2	+2.7	+3.2
Mid-September	+3.1	+3.7	+3.8	+2.4	+2.9
Mid-October	+1.5	+3.2	+3.2	+1.8	+2.3
Mid-November	+2.3	+3.1	+3.2	+1.7	+2.2
Mid-December	+5.2	+2.8	+2.9	+1.7	+1.9
Year	+4.0	+4.1	+4.2	+3.0	+3.5
2004 Mid-January	+3.9	+2.1	+2.1	+1.5	+1.8

Table 17 Constant Tax Price Index

Period		Index	Annual Percentage Changes		Contribution
			CPI	Due to Indirect Taxes ¹	Immediate Tax Effect ²
			%	%	%
2003	January	102.9	+4.8	+1.5	+1.5
	February	103.7	+5.1	+1.5	+1.5
	March	104.4	+4.9	+1.5	+1.1
	April	104.7	+4.3	+1.4	+1.1
	May	104.6	+3.7	+1.4	+1.1
	June	104.7	+3.5	+1.3	+1.1
	July	103.9	+3.1	+1.3	+1.1
	August	104.5	+3.2	+1.4	+1.1
	September	104.7	+2.9	+1.4	+1.1
	October	104.6	+2.3	+1.2	+1.1
	November	104.6	+2.2	+1.2	+1.1
	December	104.6	+1.9	+1.0	+1.0
2004	January	104.1	+1.8	+0.7	+0.5

¹ Theoretical impact of tax changes in the year to date taking into account both changes in tax rates and the change in the level of prices. The CTPI is used in conjunction with the CPI to measure the contribution of changes in indirect taxes since the base period to the overall price change.

² Immediate tax effect based on the measurement of the direct impact of tax changes at the point of introduction.

* For further information on the Constant Tax Price Index please see background notes.

Table 18 Consumer Price Commodity Group Indices - January 2004*

Commodity Group	Dec-01 base expenditure weights	Consumer Price Index (CPI)		Percentage changes		
		Current base Dec-01	Former base Nov-96	One month	Three months	12 months
				%	%	%
Food	20.805	106.3	131.6	+ 0.5	+ 0.5	+ 2.0
Alcoholic Drink	11.898	113.6	138.5	+ 0.2	+ 0.4	+ 3.5
Tobacco	4.399	122.0	167.0	+ 0.4	+ 4.4	+ 6.7
Clothing and Footwear	4.888	77.1	57.8	-15.4	-14.6	- 4.5
Fuel and Light	3.278	111.6	125.8	- 0.1	+ 0.6	+ 5.9
Housing	9.747	101.2	114.1	+ 0.2	+ 1.0	- 0.9
Durable Household Goods	3.640	93.0	95.4	- 3.6	- 3.6	- 2.5
Other Goods	5.777	100.9	118.1	- 0.8	- 0.9	- 1.4
Transport	15.413	105.5	123.6	-	+ 0.5	- 0.2
Services and Related Expenditure	20.156	112.7	143.4	+ 0.5	+ 0.6	+ 4.1
ALL ITEMS	100.000	106.5	125.9	- 0.5	- 0.1	+ 1.8

* Former classification used up to December 2001

Table 19 Commodity Group and All Items Consumer Price Monthly Percentage Changes*

Period	Food	Alco- holic drink	Tobacco	Clothing and Footwear	Fuel and Light	Housing	Durable House- hold Goods	Other Goods	Trans- port	Services and Related Expendi- ture	All Items
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
2002 Mid-January	+0.5	+0.9	+0.5	-11.9	+1.4	+0.4	-2.7	-0.2	-	+1.2	-0.2
Mid-February	-	+0.3	-	+8.7	+0.1	+0.5	+1.8	+0.5	+0.2	+0.1	+0.7
Mid-March	+0.3	+2.3	+2.9	+1.3	-0.1	+0.9	-0.5	+0.4	+1.1	+0.7	+0.9
Mid-April	+0.7	+1.4	+0.2	+0.1	+1.5	+0.6	+0.9	+0.3	+2.1	+0.4	+0.9
Mid-May	+0.6	+0.3	+0.1	+0.4	+0.6	+0.2	+0.4	+0.1	+1.2	+0.7	+0.5
Mid-June	+0.3	+0.1	+0.1	-0.2	-0.3	+1.1	-0.1	+0.4	-0.4	+0.2	+0.2
Mid-July	+0.3	+0.2	-	-11.4	-0.3	+0.7	-2.0	-0.1	-0.3	+0.3	-0.4
Mid-August	+0.3	+0.2	-	+6.1	-0.2	+0.7	+1.3	+0.1	+0.2	+0.7	+0.6
Mid-September	+0.2	+0.1	-	+2.5	+0.5	+0.7	+0.1	+0.1	-0.1	+1.2	+0.5
Mid-October	+0.4	-	+0.3	+0.1	+1.6	+0.5	-0.3	+0.5	+0.4	+0.9	+0.5
Mid-November	+0.2	-	+0.2	+0.1	-1.2	+0.3	+0.2	+0.1	-0.1	+0.1	+0.1
Mid-December	+0.3	+1.3	+8.1	+0.1	+0.4	+0.8	-0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.2	+0.7
2003 Mid-January	+0.1	+2.3	+1.3	-14.2	+1.3	-5.0	-3.6	-	+1.2	+1.4	-0.4
Mid-February	+0.2	+0.3	+0.1	+13.0	+0.2	+0.5	+2.6	+0.4	+0.4	+0.6	+1.0
Mid-March	+0.4	+0.9	+0.6	+1.8	+4.6	+1.1	-0.3	-0.3	+0.8	+0.5	+0.8
Mid-April	+0.2	+1.0	+0.8	-0.1	+3.1	-1.6	+0.3	+0.2	+0.2	+0.5	+0.3
Mid-May	+0.1	+0.2	+0.3	-0.1	-4.0	+0.1	-0.6	+0.2	-0.7	+0.4	-0.1
Mid-June	+0.3	+0.3	+0.1	-1.7	+0.5	+0.6	-0.5	-0.4	-0.3	+0.3	-
Mid-July	+0.5	+0.3	-	-10.1	+0.2	-4.3	-1.7	-0.4	-	+0.1	-0.8
Mid-August	-	+0.2	+0.1	+9.0	+0.3	+0.8	+1.7	-	+0.3	+0.4	+0.7
Mid-September	-0.3	-0.1	-	+2.2	+0.7	+0.7	+0.1	-	-0.5	+0.4	+0.2
Mid-October	+0.2	-	+0.3	-1.0	-0.3	+0.4	-0.4	-0.2	-0.9	+0.3	-0.1
Mid-November	-	+0.1	+0.3	+1.1	+0.5	+0.1	+0.4	-	-0.7	+0.1	-
Mid-December	-	+0.2	+3.7	-0.2	+0.3	+0.7	-0.4	-0.1	+1.2	-	+0.4
2004 Mid-January	+0.5	+0.2	+0.4	-15.4	-0.1	+0.2	-3.6	-0.8	-	+0.5	-0.5

* Former classification used up to December 2001

Table 20 Commodity Group and All Items Consumer Price Annual Percentage Changes*

Period	Food	Alco- holic drink	Tobacco	Clothing and Footwear	Fuel and Light	Housing	Durable House- hold Goods	Other Goods	Trans- port	Services and Related Expendi- ture	All Items
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
2002 Mid-January	+6.8	+7.0	+4.8	-3.2	+0.3	+0.5	+1.9	+3.5	+3.5	+9.5	+4.9
Mid-February	+5.9	+5.7	+4.3	-3.7	+2.8	-0.5	+0.9	+3.9	+4.5	+8.2	+4.7
Mid-March	+5.1	+7.4	+5.8	-3.4	+2.0	-0.7	-0.4	+3.8	+4.5	+8.9	+4.8
Mid-April	+4.3	+7.3	+5.7	-3.5	+3.8	-0.5	+0.5	+3.7	+5.6	+8.9	+4.8
Mid-May	+4.4	+7.1	+5.8	-3.2	+3.9	-1.8	+0.6	+3.5	+5.3	+9.2	+4.7
Mid-June	+3.9	+7.0	+5.9	-3.2	+2.9	+0.1	+0.4	+3.5	+3.2	+9.0	+4.4
Mid-July	+3.8	+7.0	+5.9	-6.9	+2.2	+0.2	+0.1	+3.6	+3.9	+8.5	+4.2
Mid-August	+3.7	+7.1	+5.9	-5.8	+2.9	-	+0.1	+2.8	+5.8	+8.5	+4.5
Mid-September	+3.8	+6.9	+5.9	-5.9	+3.6	+0.1	-0.1	+2.4	+6.0	+8.4	+4.5
Mid-October	+4.2	+6.8	+6.2	-5.9	+4.1	+3.3	-0.3	+2.5	+4.7	+7.9	+4.6
Mid-November	+4.3	+6.3	+6.4	-6.1	+4.4	+4.7	-0.3	+2.4	+5.5	+7.7	+4.8
Mid-December	+4.1	+7.3	+12.8	-5.9	+4.0	+7.5	-1.0	+2.3	+4.4	+6.8	+5.0
Year	+4.5	+6.8	+6.2	-4.7	+3.0	+1.0	+0.2	+3.2	+4.7	+8.5	+4.6
2003 Mid-January	+3.7	+8.8	+13.7	-8.4	+3.9	+1.7	-2.0	+2.5	+5.7	+7.0	+4.8
Mid-February	+3.9	+8.8	+13.8	-4.8	+4.0	+1.7	-1.2	+2.4	+5.9	+7.5	+5.1
Mid-March	+4.0	+7.3	+11.3	-4.3	+9.0	+1.9	-1.0	+1.7	+5.6	+7.3	+4.9
Mid-April	+3.4	+6.9	+12.0	-4.5	+10.7	-0.4	-1.6	+1.6	+3.7	+7.4	+4.3
Mid-May	+2.9	+6.7	+12.2	-5.0	+5.7	-0.5	-2.6	+1.7	+1.8	+7.1	+3.7
Mid-June	+2.9	+6.9	+12.1	-6.5	+6.5	-1.0	-3.0	+0.9	+1.9	+7.2	+3.5
Mid-July	+3.1	+7.0	+12.1	-5.1	+7.0	-5.8	-2.7	+0.6	+2.2	+6.9	+3.1
Mid-August	+2.8	+7.0	+12.2	-2.5	+7.5	-5.7	-2.3	+0.5	+2.3	+6.6	+3.2
Mid-September	+2.3	+6.8	+12.2	-2.8	+7.8	-5.7	-2.3	+0.4	+1.9	+5.8	+2.9
Mid-October	+2.1	+6.8	+12.3	-3.8	+5.7	-5.7	-2.4	-0.3	+0.6	+5.2	+2.3
Mid-November	+1.9	+6.9	+12.4	-2.9	+7.5	-5.9	-2.2	-0.4	-	+5.2	+2.2
Mid-December	+1.6	+5.7	+7.7	-3.2	+7.4	-6.0	-2.5	-0.6	+1.1	+5.0	+1.9
Year	+2.9	+7.2	+12.0	-4.5	+6.9	-2.6	-2.1	+0.9	+2.7	+6.4	+3.5
2004 Mid-January	+2.0	+3.5	+6.7	-4.5	+5.9	-0.9	-2.5	-1.4	-0.2	+4.1	+1.8

* Former classification used up to December 2001

Background Notes – Consumer Price Index

- Definition** The Consumer Price Index is designed to measure the change in the average level of prices (inclusive of all indirect taxes) paid for consumer goods and services by all private households in the country and by foreign tourists holidaying in Ireland.
- Consumer Price Index (CPI)** Over 55,000 prices are collected for a representative basket consisting of 613 headings which cover over 1,000 different items in a fixed panel of retail and service outlets throughout the country on the second Tuesday of each month. The date to which the January index relates is Tuesday, 13th January 2004.
- Scope of the Index**
- (i) **Population Coverage:** All private households covering approximately 97% of the total population and the expenditure of foreign tourists within Ireland. It does not include the expenditure of persons in institutions and other non private households. Expenditure which occurs abroad by Irish residents is also excluded. In statistical terms coverage is referred to as the domestic concept.
 - (ii) **Geographic Coverage:** Covers the whole of the Republic of Ireland. Pricing takes place in 86 locations (cities and towns) throughout the country. These sampling points are located in Dublin city and county, the four regional cities of Cork, Limerick, Galway and Waterford, 90% of towns with a population of 10,000 and over, 88% of towns between 5,000 and 9,999 and a smaller proportion below this threshold. The results are weighted to represent the distribution of the population and its related consumer expenditure.
 - (iii) **Item Coverage:** All goods and services bought by the reference population for the purposes of consumption are included in the index. Expenditure on capital assets and investments, gambling and certain other activities are however excluded. Over 1,000 different varieties are priced and then aggregated into 613 item headings and 12 group headings based on the COICOP classification. With each rebase the coverage of goods and services is reviewed to ensure that it continues to be representative of consumer tastes and purchasing practices.
- Price Collection** Personal visits are made to retail outlets by some 200 part-time pricers on a monthly basis. Approximately 51,000 price quotations are gathered in this way. In addition 112 special inquiries covering items such as utility charges and services are conducted by post and telephone. 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. The CSO wishes to put on record its appreciation of the co-operation and assistance it receives from retail outlets and other business concerns.
- CPI Weights** The CPI measures in index form the monthly changes in the cost of purchasing a fixed representative ‘basket’ of consumer goods and services (i.e. Laspeyres formula). The representative share of each item in this basket is proportional to the average amount purchased by all households in the country as determined by the Household Budget Survey and by foreign tourists in this country using estimates of expenditure by tourists across a range of consumer goods and services. Individual items typically purchased by foreign tourists while holidaying in Ireland such as hotel accommodation and meals out have been adjusted to take account of the additional tourist expenditure. Identical items are priced in the same outlet on each occasion so that changes in the cost of this constant basket reflect only pure price changes.

Background Notes – Consumer Price Index (continued)

- Rebase** The index has been rebased with effect from December 2001, the ninth series since the foundation of the State.
- The rebase of the current CPI resulted in a number of methodological changes:
- The introduction of the Geometric Mean;
 - Updating the expenditure weights;
 - A revision of the sample of goods and services;
 - An update of the sample of areas priced; and
 - A move to the COICOP classification.
- Classification** The classification used in the CPI is based on a version of COICOP – COICOP HICP, the Classification of Individual Consumption Expenditure by Purpose. This replaces the former national classification which was used up to December 2001. The COICOP classification breaks consumer expenditure into twelve different categories covering a comprehensive range of consumer goods and services.
- Methodological Details** A full methodological description of the new series is available in the CPI 2001 Introduction to Series booklet.
- Goods and Services** The consumer basket can be split into two constituent parts - goods and services according to the following definitions.
- Goods** Goods are defined as non service items usually purchased and transportable from a retail outlet - the basket excluding services.
- Services** Services include electricity, gas, telecommunications and other public utilities, alcoholic beverages consumed on licensed premises, meals out, accommodation services, public transport, medical fees, insurances, education fees, hairdressing & other personal services, childcare & social protection, entertainment & recreation services, mortgage interest & rents, package holidays and other miscellaneous services.
- Utilities and Local Charges** Includes electricity, gas, landline telecommunications and local authority service charges.
- Constant Tax** A change in the Consumer Price Index can result from increases or decreases in the pre-tax cost of goods or services and changes in the levels of indirect taxes levied on them. The Constant Tax Price Index (CTPI) is designed to exclude from the CPI the effect of changes in the level of indirect taxes since the base reference period. It does this by replacing the values of indirect taxation in the current prices with the values of indirect taxation in the corresponding base period prices. It is important to note that the CTPI thus excludes not only the impact due to changes in the taxation regime (e.g. new tax rates or excise duties) but also the impact of the ad valorem effect on tax receipts of changes in the pre-tax level of prices of goods and services. The CTPI can be used readily in conjunction with the CPI to measure the contribution of changes in indirect taxes since the base period to the overall price change.

The CTPI, together with the assessed contribution of indirect taxes to annual CPI change, is shown in Table 17. It is also possible to estimate the immediate direct contribution of changes in the tax regime on the monthly CPI according as the changes are implemented in practice - these exclude any ad valorem impacts. These monthly contributions can be summed over a twelve month period to give an estimate of the immediate impact of recent changes in the indirect taxation system on the annual rate of inflation and these are also given in Table 17.

Background Notes – COICOP Classification

Prior to the introduction of the current series in January 2002 the CPI used a national classification while the HICP used COICOP/HICP. To ensure greater comparability CPI and the HICP now both use the COICOP/HICP classification (Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose - adapted for the purposes of the EU HICP).

The COICOP classification is based on 12 main subgroups.

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| 01 Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages | Food and non alcoholic beverages purchased in supermarkets, small shops, speciality shops and petrol station forecourt outlets. It excludes meals out which are covered under 11 Restaurants and Hotels. |
| 02 Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco | Includes alcoholic beverages purchased in off licences and supermarkets but excludes alcohol consumed on or within a licensed premises which is classified under 11 Restaurants and Hotels. |
| 03 Clothing and Footwear | Mens, ladies and childrens clothing and footwear, sports and leisurewear and services such as laundry and dry cleaning, shoe repair, dress hire and alteration. |
| 04 Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels | This group covers rents, mortgage interest repayments, local authority service charges, goods and services for maintaining, decorating and repairing dwellings and domestic energy products such as electricity, gas and solid fuels. |
| 05 Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance | This category covers household items such as furniture, carpets and other floor coverings, house textiles and soft furnishings, household electrical appliances, and other household items such as utensils, tools, garden equipment and non-durable items for cleaning, washing and other day to day household activity. Also included in this category are domestic services such as cleaning and other services. |
| 06 Health | Health includes medical products, appliances and equipment, hospital charges and out patient services supplied by doctors, dentists, opticians, practitioners of alternative and complimentary medicine and paramedical services. |
| 07 Transport | Includes the purchase of new and second hand vehicles, spare parts, car maintenance, fuels and lubricants, public transport and services such as parking, motor association subscriptions, car wash, toll charges, driving tests, licences and car hire. |
| 08 Communications | Post and telecommunications. |
| 09 Recreation and Culture | All goods and services connected with recreation and culture and includes items such as audio visual and photographic equipment, computers, music and videos, sports and recreation goods, games and toys, items connected with gardening and pets, recreational, sporting and cultural activities and events, newspapers and other reading material, package holidays and other items connected with recreation and culture. |
| 10 Education | Covers all aspects of education including primary, secondary, third level and other education and training such as night courses, play schools and examination fees. |
| 11 Restaurants and Hotels | This category covers the following areas: meals in restaurants and hotels; fast food and take-aways; cafes; canteens; alcohol consumed on or within a licensed premises and accommodation services supplied by hotels, guesthouses and hostels. |
| 12 Miscellaneous Goods and Services | This remaining category covers a wide range of items including hairdressing and other grooming; goods for hygiene, hair and body care; personal goods such as jewellery, handbags and wallets; childcare and other social protection services; insurance, financial services and other services including funerals, weddings, legal and professional services. |