



**Central Statistics Office**  
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh

## **CONSUMER PRICE INDEX**

*(Base: December 2001 =100)*

### **DETAILED SUB-INDICES RELEASE**

**March 2005**

#### **Small decrease in inflation rate to 2.1% in March**

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 2004 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](http://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 March release relates is Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2005.

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# Consumer Price Index

## March 2005

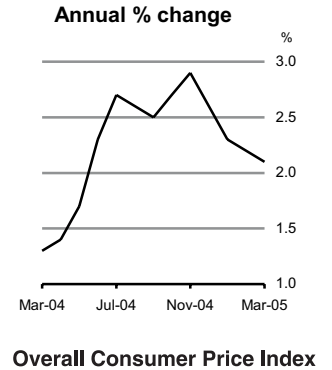
### Overall Consumer Price Index

Consumer Prices in March, as measured by the CPI, increased by 0.3% in the month. This compares with an increase of 0.4% in March of last year and as a result, the annual rate of inflation fell slightly to 2.1%, down from 2.2% in February 2005.

The most significant monthly price changes were increases in Clothing & Footwear (+3.4%), Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels (+0.7%), Restaurants & Hotels (+0.5%) and Transport (+0.3%). Decreases for Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages (-0.8%) and Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance (-0.4%) were also recorded.

The most notable changes in the year were increases in Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels (+9.3%), Education (+6.3%), Health (+6.0%), Restaurants & Hotels (+3.4%) and Transport (+2.4%). Decreases were recorded for Clothing & Footwear (-3.0%) and Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance (-1.8%).

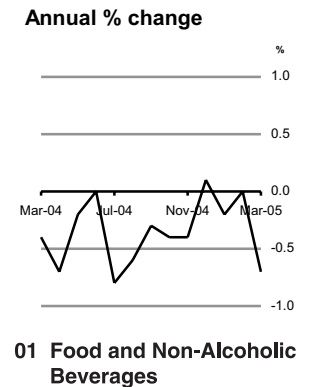
The annual rate of inflation for Services is now running at 3.8% compared to a rate of 0.2% in respect of Goods.



### 01 Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages

Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages prices decreased by 0.8% in the month and by 0.7% in the year to March 2005.

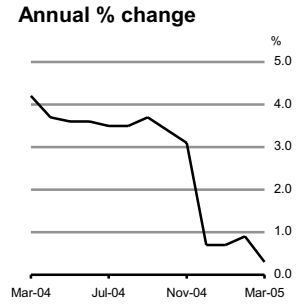
Food prices and Non-Alcoholic Beverages prices both decreased by 0.8% in the month. Since February, price decreases were recorded for potatoes (-14.2%), fresh fish (-5.5%), pork (-4.3%), breakfast cereals (-1.8%), fruit juices (-1.5%), miscellaneous food items (-1.4%), other oils & fats (-1.3%), sweets & chocolate (-1.0%), soft drinks & mineral water (-1.0%) and frozen, tinned & smoked fish (-1.0%). Price increases were recorded for cheese (+1.1%) and tea (+1.0%).



## 02 Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco

This category covers Alcoholic Beverages (purchased in an off-licence or supermarket) and Tobacco products. Overall prices decreased by 0.1% in the month and increased by 0.3% in the year to March 2005, which is down on the increase recorded for the year to February (+0.9%). This compares with an annual rate of 4.2% for March 2004.

Alcoholic Beverages prices decreased by 0.2% while overall Tobacco prices remained unchanged in the month. The price change that contributed to the decrease in Alcoholic Beverages was spirits (-0.6%), partially offset by a marginal increase in beer (+0.1%).

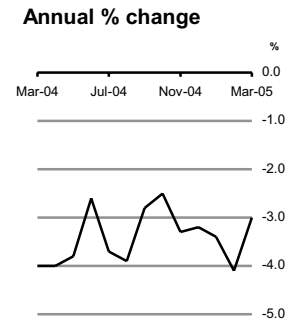


02 Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco

## 03 Clothing and Footwear

Overall Clothing & Footwear prices increased by 3.4% in the month. Clothing prices increased by 3.4% while footwear prices increased by 3.3%. These increases were due to a further recovery in prices following the conclusion of the January Sales. Clothing & Footwear prices decreased by 3.0% in the year since March 2004.

This category also covers Clothing & Footwear services such as dry cleaning. The services element for clothing increased by 0.9% while footwear repair & hire costs increased by 0.4% in the month.

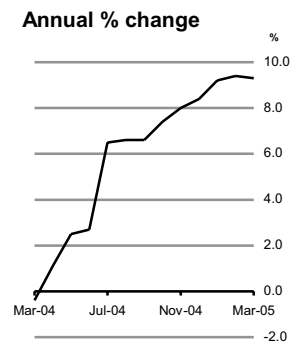


03 Clothing and Footwear

## 04 Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels

This group covers the former categories of Housing (excluding insurance) and Fuel & Light combined into one overall category. Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels costs increased by 0.7% in the month and by 9.3% in the year to March 2005. This compares with a decrease of 0.4% in the year to March 2004.

In March, price increases were recorded for home heating oil (+2.9%), average mortgage interest repayments (+0.9%), rents (which includes local authority rents) (+0.8%) and house repair & maintenance materials (+0.7%).



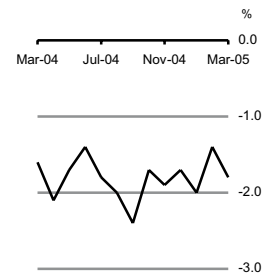
04 Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels

## 05 Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance

Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance costs decreased by 0.4% in the month and by 1.8% in the year to March 2005. This compares with a decrease of 1.6% for the year to March 2004.

Price decreases were recorded for glassware, tableware & household utensils (-2.6%), small tools & miscellaneous accessories (-2.4%), small electric household appliances (-1.4%), household textiles (-0.9%) and non-durable household goods (-0.5%). These were partially offset by increases for domestic & household services (+0.5%) and carpets & other floor coverings (+0.5%).

Annual % change



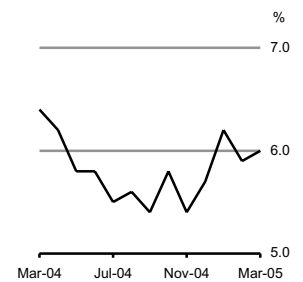
05 Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance

## 06 Health

Health costs and charges increased by 0.1% in March putting the annual increase at 6.0%, which is marginally up on the increase recorded for the year to February (+5.9%). This compares with an increase of 6.4% for the year to March 2004.

In March, increases were recorded for other medicines (which includes pain relievers, antacid, cough mixture, vitamins & other supplements) (+0.4%) and other medical products (which includes condoms, petroleum jelly, disinfectant & adhesive dressing) (+0.1%).

Annual % change



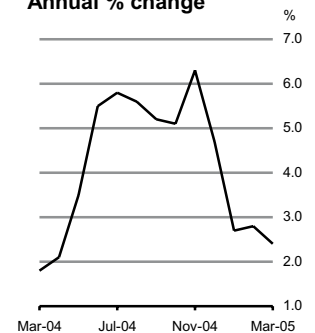
06 Health

## 07 Transport

Transport costs increased by 0.3% in the month and by 2.4% in the year to March 2005. This compares with an increase of 1.8% in the year to March 2004.

Price increases were recorded for petrol (+1.8%), other vehicle costs (which includes car rental charges) (+1.6%) and diesel (+0.8%). These were partially offset by a decrease in air fares (-12.8%).

Annual % change

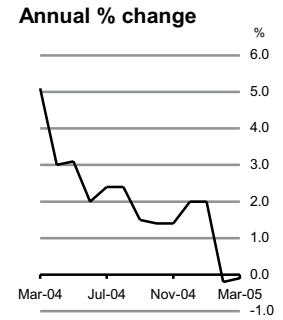


07 Transport

## 08 Communications

Overall communication costs remained unchanged in the month and decreased by 0.1% in the year to March 2005. This compares with an increase of 5.1% in the year to March 2004.

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

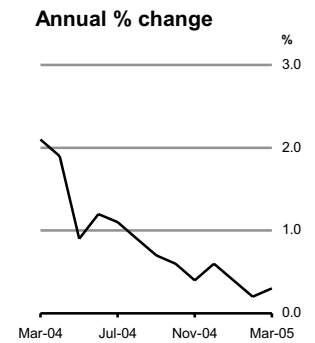


08 Communications

## 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 the month, resulting in an increase of 0.3% in the year to March 2005.

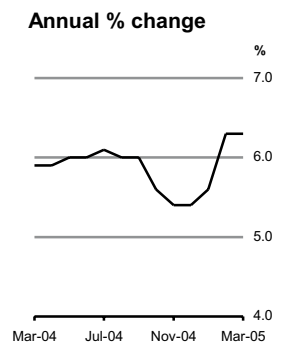
Price increases were recorded for veterinary & other services for pets (+4.0%), other entertainment (which includes the cost of video film hire) (+1.6%), recording media (+1.5%), newspapers & periodicals (+0.6%), nightclubs (+0.4%), equipment for the reception, recording & reproduction of sound & pictures (+0.4%) and pets & related products (+0.4%). These were partially offset by decreases in the cost of information processing equipment (-3.2%), equipment for sport, camping & open air recreation (-1.4%), photographic & cinematographic equipment & optical instruments (-0.5%) and games, toys & hobbies (-0.4%).



09 Recreation and Culture

## 10 Education

Education costs remained unchanged in March putting the annual increase at 6.3%, the same increase as recorded in the year to February (+6.3%). This compares with an increase of 5.9% for the year to March 2004.

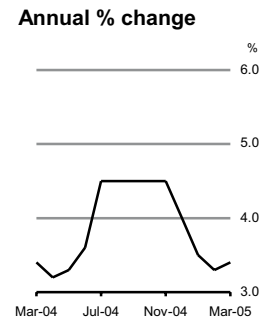


10 Education

## 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 0.5% in the month and by 3.4% in the year to March 2005.

The change in the month was due to increases for accommodation services (+4.1%), restaurants, cafes & fast-food (+0.2%) and soft drinks & mineral water (+0.2%). These were partially offset by price decreases for wine & cider (-0.2%), beer (-0.1%) and spirits (-0.1%).

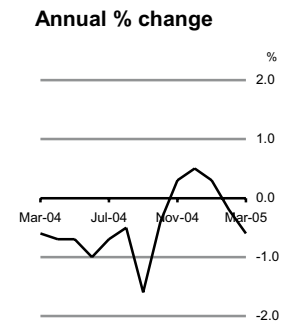


11 Restaurants and Hotels

## 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 0.1% in the month and by 0.6% in the year to March 2005, the same decrease as that recorded for the year to March 2004 (-0.6%).

Price decreases were recorded for motor car insurance (-1.8%), electric appliances for personal care (-1.2%) and hygiene products (-0.5%). These were partially offset by increases in the cost of health insurance (+1.2%), hairdressing (+0.6%) and jewellery, clocks & watches (+0.5%).



12 Miscellaneous Goods and Services

**Table 1 Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages - March 2005**

Description	Dec 2001 base expenditure weight %	Current Index	% change 1 mth	% change 12 mths
<b>Food</b>	12.7541	101.9	-0.8	-0.7
Bread and Cereals	2.4351	104.4	-0.6	0.0
Bread	0.7932	108.6	-0.1	2.3
Flour	0.0349	109.6	-0.4	2.0
Biscuits	0.4149	101.7	-0.9	-2.2
Cakes	0.4370	106.2	-0.7	0.4
Breakfast cereals	0.3592	98.4	-1.8	-1.7
Other cereals	0.1698	102.4	-0.5	-1.4
Other bread & cereals	0.2263	100.9	-0.1	-1.6
Meat	3.8238	99.9	-0.2	0.6
Beef	0.7427	104.4	-0.4	1.2
Lamb	0.3222	99.1	0.4	0.7
Pork	0.2327	97.8	-4.3	-3.7
Bacon	0.5459	97.0	0.0	-0.6
Poultry	0.7558	89.8	-0.1	-1.6
Other meat products	1.2245	105.2	0.3	2.7
Fish	0.3475	100.3	-3.1	-6.0
Fresh fish	0.1522	98.8	-5.5	-9.4
Frozen/tinned/smoked fish	0.1954	101.6	-1.0	-3.1
Milk, cheese and eggs	1.7813	104.2	0.1	-0.5
Milk	0.9658	102.0	0.1	-0.9
Other milk products	0.3633	108.2	0.0	-0.3
Cheese	0.3103	105.8	1.1	-0.3
Eggs	0.1419	106.3	-0.1	1.8
Oils and fats	0.3720	102.9	0.0	1.4
Butter	0.2294	102.2	0.2	1.1
Margarine & low fat spreads	0.0706	109.3	0.6	4.5
Other oils & fats	0.0720	98.7	-1.3	-1.2
Fruit	0.6780	101.1	-0.5	-1.0
Fresh fruit	0.5882	98.6	-0.4	-1.1
Other fruits	0.0897	118.0	-0.4	0.3
Vegetables	1.6534	95.7	-3.0	-4.4
Potatoes	0.3644	78.5	-14.2	-23.3
Other fresh vegetables	0.6260	101.1	0.0	3.9
Tinned vegetables	0.1308	104.2	-0.2	-1.0
Frozen vegetables	0.1738	98.9	-0.3	-2.2
Other vegetable products	0.3584	99.3	-0.3	-0.8
Sugar, jam, honey, chocolate and confectionery	1.2890	106.9	-0.7	-0.7
Sugar & sweeteners	0.0881	98.9	0.2	-0.1
Preserves	0.0898	110.5	0.5	1.1
Sweets & chocolate	0.8708	106.9	-1.0	-0.9
Desserts & icecream	0.2404	108.7	-0.4	-1.0
Other food products	0.3739	108.0	0.1	1.5
Condiments & sauces	0.1924	107.2	0.3	1.6
Soup	0.1011	110.2	0.2	1.6
Miscellaneous food items	0.0804	107.3	-1.4	0.8
<b>Non-alcoholic beverages</b>	1.3380	103.0	-0.8	-0.8
Coffee, tea and cocoa	0.3108	100.5	0.6	0.5
Tea	0.2007	103.7	1.0	2.5
Coffee	0.0980	94.3	-0.2	-3.1
Cocoa	0.0120	98.1	0.0	-2.6
Mineral waters, soft drinks & juices	1.0273	103.8	-1.1	-1.0
Soft drinks, mineral water	0.7641	105.3	-1.0	-0.5
Fruit juices	0.2632	99.5	-1.5	-2.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>14.0921</b>	<b>102.0</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>-0.7</b>

**Table 2 Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco - March 2005**

Description	Dec 2001 base expenditure weight %	Current Index	% change 1 mth	% change 12 mths
<b>Alcoholic Beverages</b>	3.0987	111.0	-0.2	0.4
Spirits	0.8448	125.3	-0.6	0.1
Wine & cider	1.3729	107.4	0.0	-0.4
Beer	0.8811	102.9	0.1	1.8
<b>Tobacco</b>	4.3993	123.3	0.0	0.4
Cigarettes	4.2148	123.5	0.0	0.4
Other tobacco products	0.1844	119.0	0.0	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.4980</b>	<b>118.2</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>0.3</b>

**Table 3 Clothing and Footwear - March 2005**

Description	Dec 2001 base expenditure weight %	Current Index	% change 1 mth	% change 12 mths
<b>Clothing</b>	4.0605	87.5	3.4	-2.7
Clothing materials	0.1708	104.7	0.1	3.2
Garments	3.7922	86.2	3.7	-3.1
Other articles of clothing	0.1019	82.8	1.6	-0.5
Cleaning, repair & hire of clothing	0.1494	123.1	0.9	6.9
Dry cleaning & laundry	0.1111	121.7	0.4	6.9
Dress hire & repair of clothing	0.0383	126.9	2.0	6.5
<b>Footwear</b>	0.9912	85.0	3.3	-4.6
Shoes & other footwear	0.9764	84.3	3.4	-4.7
Repair & hire of footwear	0.0148	134.9	0.4	6.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>5.0517</b>	<b>87.0</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>-3.0</b>

**Table 4 Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels - March 2005**

Description	Dec 2001 base expenditure weight %	Current Index	% change 1 mth	% change 12 mths
Rents & other housing costs	7.2347	106.5	0.9	7.7
Rents	2.6046	98.8	0.8	-0.4
Mortgage interest	4.6301	110.8	0.9	12.3
Maintenance & repair of the dwelling	1.6222	113.2	0.4	2.4
Materials for maint. & repair of dwelling	0.7562	104.1	0.7	1.2
Services for maint. & repair of dwelling	0.8660	121.2	0.2	3.3
Water supply, refuse & misc. services	0.1971	204.4	0.0	36.4
Electricity, gas & other fuels	3.2775	128.2	0.5	13.9
Electricity	1.3930	136.2	0.0	11.9
Natural gas	0.4872	122.1	0.0	10.9
Bottled gas	0.0364	117.1	0.2	11.4
Liquid fuels	0.6914	129.9	2.9	25.5
Solid fuels	0.6695	114.9	0.0	8.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>12.3315</b>	<b>114.7</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>9.3</b>



**Table 5 Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance - March 2005**

Description	Dec 2001 base expenditure weight %	Current Index	% change 1 mth	% change 12 mths
Furniture, furnishings, carpets & other flooring	0.6084	97.6	-0.1	-0.7
Furniture & furnishings	0.5132	96.3	-0.2	-1.2
Carpets & other floor coverings	0.0952	104.8	0.5	2.1
Household textiles	0.3860	84.7	-0.9	-5.4
Household appliances	1.4105	93.1	-0.5	-3.2
Major household appliances	1.0325	92.0	-0.3	-3.1
Small electric household appliances	0.2678	89.2	-1.4	-6.4
Repair of household appliances	0.1102	112.9	0.0	1.5
Glassware, tableware & hsehld utensils	0.2499	86.3	-2.6	-7.3
Tools & equipment for house & garden	0.2203	104.3	-1.1	0.2
Major tools & equipment	0.1121	109.5	-0.1	2.5
Small tools & misc. accessories	0.1082	99.0	-2.4	-2.4
Goods & services for routine hsehld maint.	1.4560	101.5	-0.1	0.2
Non-durable household goods	0.8506	98.0	-0.5	-1.2
Domestic & household services	0.6054	106.4	0.5	2.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.3312</b>	<b>96.0</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>-1.8</b>

**Table 6 Health - March 2005**

Description	Dec 2001 base expenditure weight %	Current Index	% change 1 mth	% change 12 mths
Medical products, appliances & equip.	1.0425	111.2	0.1	1.9
Pharmaceutical products	0.5626	112.0	0.2	2.1
Prescribed drugs	0.3205	115.1	0.0	3.6
Other medicines	0.2420	107.8	0.4	0.1
Other medical products	0.1954	109.2	0.1	-0.8
Therapeutic appliances & equip	0.2846	111.0	0.0	3.3
Outpatient services	0.8484	120.9	0.0	4.6
Medical services	0.5242	118.9	0.0	5.3
Doctors' fees	0.4310	119.3	0.0	5.3
Alternative & complementary medicine	0.0932	117.3	0.0	5.7
Dental services	0.2352	127.5	0.0	3.2
Paramedical services	0.0890	114.7	0.0	3.6
Hospital services	0.6273	159.9	0.0	13.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.5182</b>	<b>126.6</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>6.0</b>

**Table 7 Transport - March 2005**

Description	Dec 2001 base expenditure weight %	Current Index	% change 1 mth	% change 12 mths
Purchase of vehicles	6.1617	105.1	0.0	0.6
Motor cars	5.9503	105.4	0.0	0.7
Motor cycles	0.0608	97.3	0.3	-0.2
Bicycles	0.1506	95.8	0.2	-1.1
Operation of personal transport equip.	5.1975	118.2	1.1	5.4
Spare parts & accessories	0.3014	105.8	0.1	1.2
Fuels & lubricants	3.1186	118.8	1.6	6.9
Petrol	2.6391	117.9	1.8	5.8
Diesel	0.4533	124.3	0.8	13.7
Motor oil	0.0262	114.6	0.0	3.8
Maintenance & repair	0.5904	117.2	0.2	6.4
Other services	1.1871	120.3	0.7	2.4
Motor tax	0.7001	117.3	0.0	0.0
Other vehicle costs	0.4745	125.3	1.6	6.0
Driving licences	0.0125	100.5	0.0	0.0
Transport services	1.8239	112.4	-1.7	-1.0
Rail transport	0.2739	123.2	0.0	7.6
Road transport	1.2082	116.2	0.0	3.6
Bus fares	0.6445	116.2	0.0	1.8
Taxi	0.5637	116.1	0.0	5.5
Air transport	0.2860	83.0	-12.8	-28.7
Sea transport	0.0339	133.6	0.1	6.8
Combined transport	0.0118	116.1	0.0	2.4
Other transport	0.0100	127.8	0.0	7.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>13.1831</b>	<b>111.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>2.4</b>

**Table 8 Communications - March 2005**

Description	Dec 2001 base expenditure weight %	Current Index	% change 1 mth	% change 12 mths
Postal services	0.0791	123.8	0.0	0.0
Telephone & communication services	1.8239	104.2	0.0	-0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.9030</b>	<b>105.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.1</b>

**Table 9 Recreation and Culture - March 2005**

Description	Dec 2001 base expenditure weight %	Current Index	% change 1 mth	% change 12 mths
Audio-visual, photographic & information processing equipment	1.0625	82.8	-0.4	-10.0
Equipment for the reception, recording & reproduction of sound & pictures	0.2557	78.6	0.4	-7.5
Photographic & cinematographic equip. & optical instruments	0.0477	76.0	-0.5	-10.6
Information processing equip.	0.3516	80.6	-3.2	-15.6
Recording media	0.4075	88.1	1.5	-6.4
Other major durables for recreation & culture	0.0183	96.6	0.0	-2.8
Other recreational items & equip. incl. gardens & pets	1.1538	98.8	0.2	-1.8
Games, toys & hobbies	0.3480	80.5	-0.4	-8.0
Equipment for sport, camping & open air recreation	0.1490	96.7	-1.4	-3.8
Gardens, plants & flowers	0.3375	108.9	0.3	0.8
Pets & related products	0.2513	105.3	0.4	0.1
Veterinary & other services for pets	0.0680	122.4	4.0	6.9
Recreational & cultural services	3.2713	122.9	0.2	3.5
Recreational & sporting services	1.0955	128.2	0.0	5.3
Sports admittance	0.1575	138.9	0.0	8.6
Sports participation	0.4631	135.6	0.0	5.0
Cultural services	2.1757	120.2	0.3	2.5
Cinema	0.2523	114.6	0.0	4.3
Nightclubs	0.3261	113.4	0.4	0.9
Cultural admittance	0.6630	116.4	0.0	1.0
Other entertainment	0.2454	112.1	1.6	2.9
Television services	0.6889	132.0	0.0	3.7
Newspapers, books & stationery	1.9011	111.2	0.3	1.8
Books	0.4801	108.1	-0.3	2.0
Newspapers & periodicals	0.9945	115.8	0.6	2.3
Stationery	0.4265	104.2	0.2	0.7
Package holidays	3.4024	105.6	0.0	-0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>10.8095</b>	<b>108.8</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.3</b>

**Table 10 Education - March 2005**

Description	Dec 2001 base expenditure weight %	Current Index	% change 1 mth	% change 12 mths
Primary education	0.0111	137.9	0.0	13.1
Second level education	0.1572	136.6	0.0	10.4
Third level education	0.7009	125.8	0.0	5.5
Other education & training	0.6778	123.1	0.0	5.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.5471</b>	<b>125.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>6.3</b>

**Table 11 Restaurants and Hotels - March 2005**

Description	Dec 2001 base expenditure weight %	Current Index	% change 1 mth	% change 12 mths
Catering services	15.5121	117.6	0.0	3.0
Restaurants, cafes & licenced premises	14.8341	118.1	0.0	2.9
Beer	6.3736	115.4	-0.1	2.7
Spirits	1.6213	124.8	-0.1	1.5
Wine & cider	0.7156	116.1	-0.2	1.8
Soft drinks & mineral water	0.3850	119.4	0.2	1.7
Restaurants, cafes & fast-food	5.7386	119.3	0.2	3.7
Canteens	0.6780	107.9	0.0	4.5
Accommodation services	2.2474	117.6	4.1	7.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>17.7595</b>	<b>117.6</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>3.4</b>

**Table 12 Miscellaneous Goods and Services - March 2005**

Description	Dec 2001 base expenditure weight %	Current Index	% change 1 mth	% change 12 mths
Personal care	2.4202	106.6	0.1	0.6
Hairdressing salons & personal grooming	0.6871	125.6	0.6	5.8
Hairdressing	0.6354	125.8	0.6	6.3
Health & beauty treatments	0.0496	122.5	0.1	0.0
Other personal grooming	0.0020	122.9	-0.2	7.2
Electric appliances for personal care	0.0566	88.6	-1.2	-4.8
Other appliances, articles & products for personal care	1.6765	99.4	-0.2	-1.8
Hygiene products	0.2343	96.4	-0.5	-4.2
Hair products	0.2124	102.0	0.1	0.0
Cosmetics & skincare products	0.6036	101.0	-0.1	-1.0
Toilet accessories	0.6262	99.2	0.0	-1.0
Personal goods	0.4623	89.7	0.2	-2.6
Jewellery, clocks & watches	0.1791	99.8	0.5	1.0
Other personal goods	0.2832	83.4	0.1	-5.1
Social protection	0.9203	124.1	0.0	6.4
Childcare	0.7423	125.0	0.0	6.8
Other social protection	0.1780	120.3	0.0	4.6
Insurance	4.3822	104.8	-0.3	-3.2
Dwelling insurance	0.6988	105.4	0.0	-2.0
Health insurance	1.4709	134.5	1.2	3.6
Transport insurance	2.2124	84.9	-1.8	-10.0
Motor cycle insurance	0.0242	153.7	0.0	0.0
Motor car insurance	2.1882	84.2	-1.8	-10.0
Financial services	0.0470	127.6	-0.3	0.6
Other services	0.7432	119.4	0.2	2.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.9751</b>	<b>107.8</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.6</b>

**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 and Routine Household Maintenance	Health	Transport	Communications	Recreation and Culture	Education	Restaurants and Hotels	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	All Items CPI
<b>Mid-December 2001</b>	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>% Base Expenditure</b>													
<b>Weights</b>	<b>14.092</b>	<b>7.498</b>	<b>5.052</b>	<b>12.331</b>	<b>4.331</b>	<b>2.518</b>	<b>13.183</b>	<b>1.903</b>	<b>10.810</b>	<b>1.547</b>	<b>17.760</b>	<b>8.975</b>	<b>100.000</b>
<b>2004</b>													
Mid-January	-	+0.3	-14.8	+0.3	-2.6	+2.9	+0.1	-	+0.1	-0.1	+0.4	-0.4	-0.5
Mid-February	-0.1	-0.1	+12.0	+0.4	+1.8	+0.8	+0.6	+2.1	+0.6	-0.3	+0.4	+0.6	+0.8
Mid-March	-0.1	+0.4	+2.3	+0.8	-	-	+0.6	-0.1	-	-	+0.4	+0.4	+0.4
Mid-April	-0.3	+0.3	-0.1	+0.9	-0.2	+0.3	+0.6	-	+0.1	-	+0.6	+0.4	+0.4
Mid-May	+0.5	-	+0.1	+0.4	-	+0.2	+0.5	-	-0.6	+0.1	+0.5	-0.1	+0.2
Mid-June	+0.5	+0.1	-0.4	+0.8	-	-	+1.5	-	+0.3	-	+0.7	-0.4	+0.6
Mid-July	-0.5	-	-10.8	+0.3	-1.8	+0.2	+0.4	+0.3	-0.2	+0.1	+1.3	+0.2	-0.3
Mid-August	+0.1	+0.1	+8.5	+0.7	+1.1	+0.3	+0.4	-	+0.1	-0.1	+0.3	+0.3	+0.6
Mid-September	-0.2	-	+3.2	+0.8	-0.3	-	-0.4	-0.3	-0.1	-	-0.1	-0.8	+0.1
Mid-October	-0.1	-	-0.6	+0.9	+0.2	+0.5	-0.4	-	-	+4.1	-0.2	+0.5	+0.1
Mid-November	-0.1	-0.1	+0.2	+0.8	-	+0.2	+0.9	-	+0.2	+1.5	-0.3	-0.1	+0.2
Mid-December	+0.4	-0.3	-	+1.0	+0.2	+0.3	-0.2	-	+0.1	-	-0.1	-	+0.1
<b>2005</b>													
Mid-January	-0.3	+0.3	-15.1	+1.0	-2.9	+3.3	-1.8	-	-0.1	+0.1	-0.1	-0.6	-0.8
Mid-February	+0.1	+0.1	+11.2	+0.6	+2.3	+0.6	+0.6	-0.1	+0.5	+0.4	+0.3	+0.1	+0.8
Mid-March	-0.8	-0.1	+3.4	+0.7	-0.4	+0.1	+0.3	-	+0.1	-	+0.5	-0.1	+0.3

**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 and Routine Household Maintenance	Health	Transport	Communications	Recreation and Culture	Education	Restaurants and Hotels	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	All Items CPI
<b>Mid-December 2001</b>	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>% Base Expenditure</b>													
<b>Weights</b>	<b>14.092</b>	<b>7.498</b>	<b>5.052</b>	<b>12.331</b>	<b>4.331</b>	<b>2.518</b>	<b>13.183</b>	<b>1.903</b>	<b>10.810</b>	<b>1.547</b>	<b>17.760</b>	<b>8.975</b>	<b>100.000</b>
<b>2004</b>													
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
Mid-February	-	+4.4	-4.5	+1.0	-1.8	+6.9	+2.0	+5.2	+1.9	+5.9	+3.9	-0.3	+1.7
Mid-March	-0.4	+4.2	-4.0	-0.4	-1.6	+6.4	+1.8	+5.1	+2.1	+5.9	+3.4	-0.6	+1.3
Mid-April	-0.7	+3.7	-4.0	+1.1	-2.1	+6.2	+2.1	+3.0	+1.9	+5.9	+3.2	-0.7	+1.4
Mid-May	-0.2	+3.6	-3.8	+2.5	-1.7	+5.8	+3.5	+3.1	+0.9	+6.0	+3.3	-0.7	+1.7
Mid-June	-	+3.6	-2.6	+2.7	-1.4	+5.8	+5.5	+2.0	+1.2	+6.0	+3.6	-1.0	+2.3
Mid-July	-0.8	+3.5	-3.7	+6.5	-1.8	+5.5	+5.8	+2.4	+1.1	+6.1	+4.5	-0.7	+2.7
Mid-August	-0.6	+3.5	-3.9	+6.6	-2.0	+5.6	+5.6	+2.4	+0.9	+6.0	+4.5	-0.5	+2.6
Mid-September	-0.3	+3.7	-2.8	+6.6	-2.4	+5.4	+5.2	+1.5	+0.7	+6.0	+4.5	-1.6	+2.5
Mid-October	-0.4	+3.4	-2.5	+7.4	-1.7	+5.8	+5.1	+1.4	+0.6	+5.6	+4.5	-0.4	+2.7
Mid-November	-0.4	+3.1	-3.3	+8.0	-1.9	+5.4	+6.3	+1.4	+0.4	+5.4	+4.5	+0.3	+2.9
Mid-December	+0.1	+0.7	-3.2	+8.4	-1.7	+5.7	+4.7	+2.0	+0.6	+5.4	+4.0	+0.5	+2.6
<b>Year</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>+3.5</b>	<b>-3.5</b>	<b>+4.3</b>	<b>-1.8</b>	<b>+6.0</b>	<b>+4.1</b>	<b>+2.7</b>	<b>+1.2</b>	<b>+5.8</b>	<b>+4.0</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>+2.2</b>
<b>2005</b>													
Mid-January	-0.2	+0.7	-3.4	+9.2	-2.0	+6.2	+2.7	+2.0	+0.4	+5.6	+3.5	+0.3	+2.3
Mid-February	-	+0.9	-4.1	+9.4	-1.4	+5.9	+2.8	-0.2	+0.2	+6.3	+3.3	-0.2	+2.2
Mid-March	-0.7	+0.3	-3.0	+9.3	-1.8	+6.0	+2.4	-0.1	+0.3	+6.3	+3.4	-0.6	+2.1

**Table 15 Consumer Price Index Goods and Services by COICOP - March 2005**

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	-	102.0	-	- 0.7	-	- 0.7
02	Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	7.498	7.498	-	118.2	-	+ 0.3	-	+ 0.3
03	Clothing and Footwear	5.052	4.888	0.164	85.8	124.1	- 3.4	+ 6.7	- 3.0
04	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	12.331	2.153	10.178	116.0	114.5	+11.6	+ 8.9	+ 9.3
05	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	4.331	3.538	0.793	93.3	108.1	- 2.9	+ 2.4	- 1.8
06	Health	2.518	1.013	1.505	111.0	137.0	+ 1.7	+ 8.5	+ 6.0
07	Transport	13.183	9.582	3.601	109.6	115.8	+ 2.8	+ 1.4	+ 2.4
08	Communications	1.903	-	1.903	-	105.0	-	- 0.1	- 0.1
09	Recreation and Culture	10.810	4.064	6.746	100.0	114.1	- 2.2	+ 1.6	+ 0.3
10	Education	1.547	-	1.547	-	125.8	-	+ 6.3	+ 6.3
11	Restaurants and Hotels	17.760	-	17.760	-	117.6	-	+ 3.4	+ 3.4
12	Miscellaneous Goods & Services	8.975	2.191	6.784	97.1	111.3	- 1.9	- 0.2	- 0.6
<b>ALL ITEMS</b>		<b>100.000</b>	<b>49.019</b>	<b>50.981</b>	<b>104.1</b>	<b>115.8</b>	<b>+ 0.2</b>	<b>+ 3.8</b>	<b>+ 2.1</b>

**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
	%	%	%	%	%
<b>2003</b> 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
<b>Year</b>	<b>+4.0</b>	<b>+4.1</b>	<b>+4.2</b>	<b>+3.0</b>	<b>+3.5</b>
<b>2004</b> Mid-January	+3.9	+2.1	+2.1	+1.5	+1.8
Mid-February	+3.9	+2.0	+2.0	+1.4	+1.7
Mid-March	+0.4	+1.6	+1.6	+1.0	+1.3
Mid-April	+1.2	+1.4	+1.5	+1.2	+1.4
Mid-May	+6.9	+1.8	+1.9	+1.5	+1.7
Mid-June	+11.8	+2.2	+2.2	+2.0	+2.3
Mid-July	+10.9	+2.3	+2.3	+2.5	+2.7
Mid-August	+12.0	+2.2	+2.3	+2.5	+2.6
Mid-September	+11.1	+2.1	+2.2	+2.4	+2.5
Mid-October	+12.5	+2.3	+2.4	+2.6	+2.7
Mid-November	+15.3	+2.5	+2.6	+2.8	+2.9
Mid-December	+11.5	+2.1	+2.2	+2.6	+2.6
<b>Year</b>	<b>+8.4</b>	<b>+2.1</b>	<b>+2.1</b>	<b>+2.1</b>	<b>+2.2</b>
<b>2005</b> Mid-January	+9.8	+1.8	+1.8	+2.4	+2.3
Mid-February	+9.6	+1.8	+1.8	+2.3	+2.2
Mid-March	+10.5	+1.6	+1.6	+2.2	+2.1



**Table 17 Constant Tax Price Index**

Period	Index	Annual Percentage Changes		Contribution	
		CPI	Due to Indirect Taxes <sup>1</sup>	Immediate Tax Effect <sup>2</sup>	
		%	%	%	
2004	January	104.1	+1.8	+0.7	+0.5
	February	104.9	+1.7	+0.6	+0.5
	March	105.3	+1.3	+0.5	+0.5
	April	105.6	+1.4	+0.6	+0.5
	May	105.8	+1.7	+0.7	+0.5
	June	106.3	+2.3	+0.8	+0.5
	July	106.1	+2.7	+0.8	+0.5
	August	106.7	+2.6	+0.7	+0.5
	September	106.7	+2.5	+0.7	+0.5
	October	106.8	+2.7	+0.8	+0.5
	November	107.0	+2.9	+0.8	+0.5
	December	107.1	+2.6	+0.4	+0.1
2005	January	106.4	+2.3	+0.2	+0.1
	February	107.1	+2.2	+0.3	+0.1
	March	107.4	+2.1	+0.3	+0.1

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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 - March 2005\***

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	107.2	132.7	- 0.5	- 0.5	+ 0.8
Alcoholic Drink	11.898	115.6	140.9	- 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 1.9
Tobacco	4.399	123.3	168.8	-	- 0.1	+ 0.4
Clothing and Footwear	4.888	85.8	64.4	+ 3.6	- 2.4	- 3.4
Fuel and Light	3.278	128.2	144.5	+ 0.5	+ 1.5	+13.9
Housing	9.747	109.5	123.4	+ 0.7	+ 2.3	+ 6.8
Durable Household Goods	3.640	90.6	93.0	- 1.0	- 2.3	- 4.7
Other Goods	5.777	100.5	117.6	+ 0.1	- 0.7	- 1.1
Transport	15.413	107.4	125.9	-	- 1.2	+ 0.8
Services and Related Expenditure	20.156	118.4	150.6	+ 0.7	+ 1.8	+ 3.7
<b>ALL ITEMS</b>	<b>100.000</b>	<b>110.1</b>	<b>130.1</b>	<b>+ 0.3</b>	<b>+ 0.3</b>	<b>+ 2.1</b>

\* 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
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>2003</b> 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
<b>2004</b> Mid-January	+0.5	+0.2	+0.4	-15.4	-0.1	+0.2	-3.6	-0.8	-	+0.5	-0.5
Mid-February	-	-	-	+12.5	+0.2	+0.4	+2.4	+0.8	+0.6	+0.8	+0.8
Mid-March	-	-0.1	+0.7	+2.4	+0.7	+0.9	-0.1	-0.1	+0.5	+0.5	+0.4
Mid-April	+0.1	+0.2	+0.2	-0.2	+2.0	+0.3	-0.4	+0.4	+0.6	+0.4	+0.4
Mid-May	+0.4	-	+0.1	+0.1	+1.1	+0.1	-0.2	-1.0	+0.5	+0.3	+0.2
Mid-June	+0.4	+0.5	+0.1	-0.5	+1.5	+0.6	-0.2	+0.7	+1.1	+0.3	+0.6
Mid-July	-0.1	+1.0	-	-11.2	-0.4	+0.5	-2.3	-0.5	+0.4	+0.4	-0.3
Mid-August	-	+0.2	+0.1	+8.9	+0.9	+0.8	+1.6	+0.1	+0.5	+0.2	+0.6
Mid-September	-	+0.1	-0.1	+3.4	+1.3	+0.7	-0.6	-0.1	-1.2	-	+0.1
Mid-October	+0.2	-	-	-0.7	+1.9	+0.4	-	+0.1	-0.4	+0.2	+0.1
Mid-November	-	-	+0.1	+0.3	+1.8	+0.5	-0.3	-0.3	+0.7	-	+0.2
Mid-December	+0.4	-0.3	+0.1	-0.1	+1.5	+0.6	-	+0.2	-0.2	-0.1	+0.1
<b>2005</b> Mid-January	-0.2	+0.3	-0.1	-15.8	+0.7	+0.9	-4.2	-1.0	-1.7	+0.4	-0.8
Mid-February	+0.2	-0.1	-	+11.9	+0.2	+0.6	+3.0	+0.2	+0.5	+0.7	+0.8
Mid-March	-0.5	-0.1	-	+3.6	+0.5	+0.7	-1.0	+0.1	-	+0.7	+0.3

\* 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
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>2003</b> 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
<b>Year</b>	<b>+2.9</b>	<b>+7.2</b>	<b>+12.0</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	<b>+6.9</b>	<b>-2.6</b>	<b>-2.1</b>	<b>+0.9</b>	<b>+2.7</b>	<b>+6.4</b>	<b>+3.5</b>
<b>2004</b> Mid-January	+2.0	+3.5	+6.7	-4.5	+5.9	-0.9	-2.5	-1.4	-0.2	+4.1	+1.8
Mid-February	+1.8	+3.2	+6.6	-4.9	+5.9	-1.0	-2.8	-1.0	-	+4.3	+1.7
Mid-March	+1.4	+2.2	+6.7	-4.3	+1.9	-1.2	-2.6	-0.8	-0.4	+4.4	+1.3
Mid-April	+1.3	+1.3	+6.0	-4.4	+0.9	+0.8	-3.3	-0.6	-	+4.3	+1.4
Mid-May	+1.6	+1.2	+5.8	-4.2	+6.2	+0.8	-2.9	-1.8	+1.1	+4.3	+1.7
Mid-June	+1.7	+1.4	+5.8	-3.0	+7.3	+0.8	-2.6	-0.7	+2.5	+4.3	+2.3
Mid-July	+1.1	+2.2	+5.8	-4.2	+6.6	+5.8	-3.3	-0.8	+2.9	+4.7	+2.7
Mid-August	+1.1	+2.2	+5.8	-4.3	+7.2	+5.8	-3.3	-0.7	+3.1	+4.5	+2.6
Mid-September	+1.4	+2.4	+5.8	-3.2	+7.8	+5.7	-4.0	-0.8	+2.4	+4.0	+2.5
Mid-October	+1.4	+2.4	+5.4	-2.9	+10.2	+5.7	-3.6	-0.5	+3.0	+3.9	+2.7
Mid-November	+1.4	+2.3	+5.2	-3.6	+11.7	+6.1	-4.3	-0.8	+4.4	+3.8	+2.9
Mid-December	+1.8	+1.9	+1.6	-3.5	+13.1	+5.9	-3.9	-0.5	+3.0	+3.7	+2.6
<b>Year</b>	<b>+1.5</b>	<b>+2.1</b>	<b>+5.6</b>	<b>-3.9</b>	<b>+7.1</b>	<b>+2.8</b>	<b>-3.2</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>+1.8</b>	<b>+4.2</b>	<b>+2.2</b>
<b>2005</b> Mid-January	+1.1	+1.9	+1.1	-4.0	+14.0	+6.7	-4.5	-0.7	+1.3	+3.6	+2.3
Mid-February	+1.3	+1.8	+1.1	-4.5	+14.0	+7.0	-3.9	-1.3	+1.2	+3.5	+2.2
Mid-March	+0.8	+1.9	+0.4	-3.4	+13.9	+6.8	-4.7	-1.1	+0.8	+3.7	+2.1

\* 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 March index relates is Tuesday, 8th March 2005.
- 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.

<b>01 Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages</b>	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.
<b>02 Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco</b>	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.
<b>03 Clothing and Footwear</b>	Mens, ladies and childrens clothing and footwear, sports and leisurewear and services such as laundry and dry cleaning, shoe repair, dress hire and alteration.
<b>04 Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels</b>	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.
<b>05 Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance</b>	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.
<b>06 Health</b>	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.
<b>07 Transport</b>	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.
<b>08 Communications</b>	Post and telecommunications.
<b>09 Recreation and Culture</b>	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.
<b>10 Education</b>	Covers all aspects of education including primary, secondary, third level and other education and training such as night courses, play schools and examination fees.
<b>11 Restaurants and Hotels</b>	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.
<b>12 Miscellaneous Goods and Services</b>	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.