



Central Statistics Office
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

(Base: December 2001 =100)

DETAILED SUB-INDICES RELEASE

May 2006

Annual Inflation rises to 3.9% in May

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 2005 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 May release relates is Tuesday, 9th May 2006.

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Consumer Price Index

May 2006

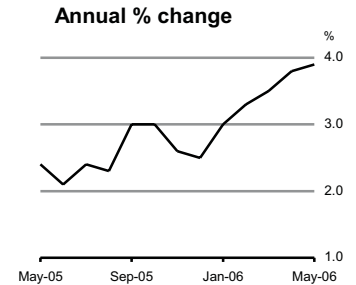
Overall Consumer Price Index

Consumer Prices in May, as measured by the CPI, increased by 0.4% in the month. This is the same increase as recorded in May of last year. The annual rate of inflation rose to 3.9%, up from 3.8% in April 2006.

The most significant monthly price changes were increases in Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels (+0.9%), Restaurants & Hotels (+0.8%), Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages (+0.8%), Health (+0.5%) and Education (+0.5%).

The most notable changes in the year were increases in Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels (+14.0%), Transport (+4.8%), Education (+4.7%), Health (+4.5%) and Restaurants & Hotels (+4.0%). Decreases were recorded for Clothing & Footwear (-1.9%), Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance (-0.9%) and Communications (-0.6%).

In the year to May, an increase of 2.6% was recorded for Goods while the corresponding rate for Services was 5.1%.

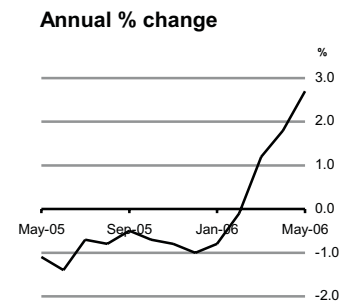


Overall Consumer Price Index

01 Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages

Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages prices increased by 0.8% in the month and by 2.7% in the year to May 2006.

In the month, food prices increased by 0.9% while non-alcoholic beverages prices remained unchanged. Since April, price increases were recorded for lamb (+7.7%), pork (+5.8%), bacon (+1.9%), cakes (+1.9%), other fresh vegetables (+1.6%), tea (+1.5%), eggs (+1.3%), desserts & ice-cream (+1.1%), other meat products (+1.0%), beef (+1.0%), potatoes (+1.0%) and other fruits (which includes tinned & dried fruits) (+1.0%). Price decreases were recorded for coffee (-1.4%), fresh fish (-0.7%), frozen, tinned & smoked fish (-0.5%) and flour (-0.5%).

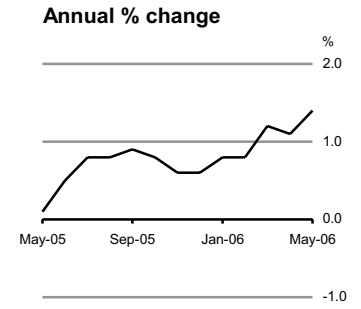


01 Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages

02 Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco

This category covers alcoholic beverages (purchased in an off-licence or supermarket) and tobacco products. Overall prices increased by 0.2% in the month and by 1.4% in the year to May 2006, which is up on the increase recorded for the year to April (+1.1%). This compares with an annual increase of 0.1% for May 2005.

Alcoholic beverages prices and overall tobacco prices both increased by 0.1% in the month. The price changes that contributed to the increase in alcoholic beverages were beer (+0.2%) and spirits (+0.2%). The rise in tobacco was due to an increase in the cost of cigarettes (+0.2%), partially offset by a decrease in other tobacco products (-0.1%).

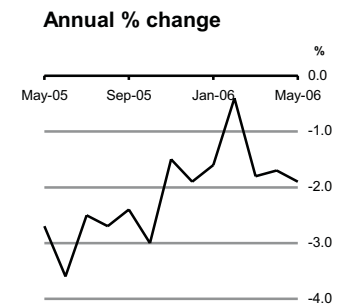


02 Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco

03 Clothing and Footwear

Clothing & Footwear prices remained unchanged in the month and decreased by 1.9% in the year since May 2005. Clothing prices decreased by 0.1% while footwear prices increased by 0.2%.

This category also covers Clothing & Footwear services such as dry cleaning. The services element for clothing increased by 0.5% while footwear repair & hire costs rose by 0.6% in the month.

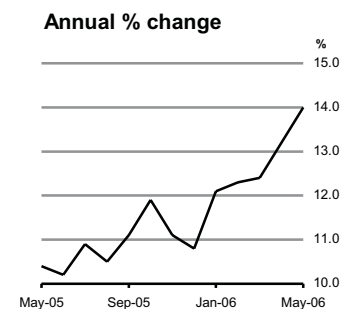


03 Clothing and Footwear

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. In Ireland, the sub-category “water supply, refuse & miscellaneous services” only includes waste collection charges (both public and private) at this time. Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels costs increased by 0.9% in the month and by 14.0% in the year to May 2006. This compares with an increase of 10.4% in the year to May 2005.

In May, increases were recorded for home heating oil (+4.7%), average mortgage interest repayments (+1.0%), rental accommodation costs (+1.0%) and bottled gas (+0.2%).

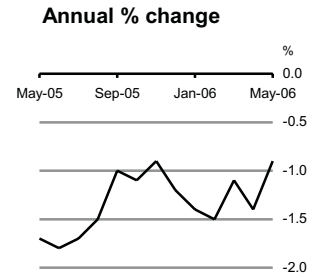


04 Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels

05 Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance

Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance costs increased by 0.1% in the month and decreased by 0.9% in the year to May 2006. This compares with a decrease of 1.7% in the year to May 2005.

Price increases were recorded for furniture & furnishings (+1.4%), major tools & equipment (+0.1%) and small tools & miscellaneous accessories (+0.1%). These were partially offset by decreases for small electrical household appliances (-0.2%) and non-durable household goods (-0.1%).

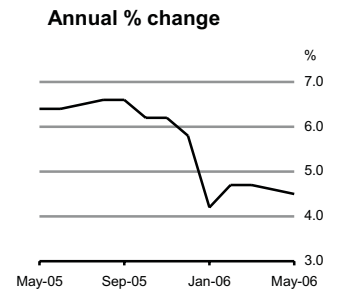


05 Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance

06 Health

Health costs and charges increased by 0.5% in the month and by 4.5% in the year to May 2006, which is marginally down on the increase recorded for the year to April (+4.6%). This compares with an increase of 6.4% for the year to May 2005.

In May, increases were recorded for dental services (+3.2%), alternative & complementary medicine (+2.5%), doctors' fees (+0.8%), prescribed drugs (+0.1%), other medicines (which includes pain relievers, antacid, cough mixture, vitamins & other supplements) (+0.1%) and other medical products (which includes condoms, petroleum jelly, disinfectant & adhesive dressing) (+0.1%).

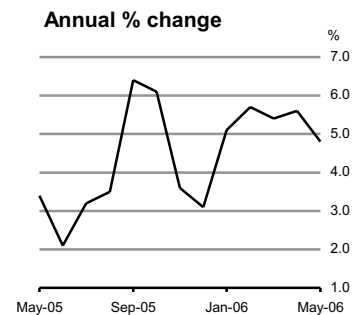


06 Health

07 Transport

Transport costs increased by 0.3% in the month and by 4.8% in the year to May 2006, which is down on that recorded for the year to April (+5.6%). This compares with an increase of 3.4% in the year to May 2005.

In the month, increases were recorded for petrol (+4.7%) and diesel (+3.0%). These were partially offset by decreases in air fares (-37.4%), other vehicle costs (which includes car rental charges) (-3.7%) and boat fares (-2.4%).

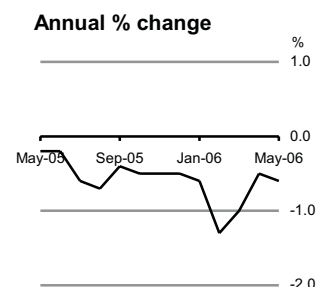


07 Transport

08 Communications

Overall communication costs decreased by 0.1% in the month and by 0.6% in the year to May 2006. This compares with a decrease of 0.2% in the year to May 2005.

Postal services costs remained unchanged in the month while telephone & communication services charges decreased by 0.1%.

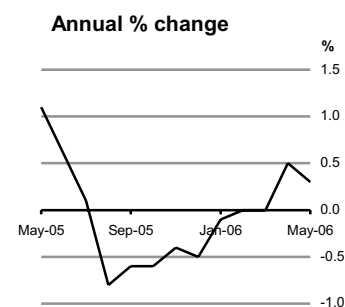


08 Communications

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 and by 0.3% in the year to May 2006.

Price increases were recorded for newspapers & periodicals (+1.1%), cultural admittance (+1.0%), sports admittance (+1.0%), sports participation (+0.5%) and gardens, plants & flowers (+0.5%). These were partially offset by decreases for photographic & cinematographic equipment & optical instruments (-1.9%), information processing equipment (-1.8%), recording media (-0.9%), games toys & hobbies (-0.8%) and equipment for the reception, recording & reproduction of sound & pictures (-0.8%).

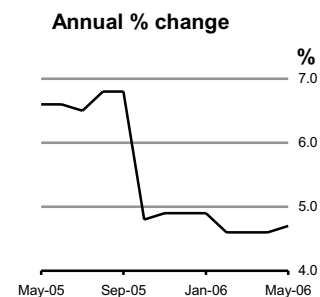


09 Recreation and Culture

10 Education

Education costs rose by 0.5% in May putting the annual increase at 4.7%, which is marginally up on the increase recorded for the year to April (+4.6%). This compares with an increase of 6.6% for the year to May 2005.

The change in the month was due to an increase in other education & training costs (+1.0%), caused by higher fees for foreign language courses.

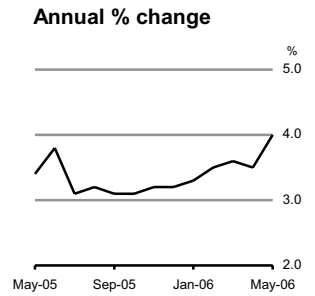


10 Education

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 0.8% in the month and by 4.0% in the year to May 2006.

Price increases were recorded for accommodation services (+3.6%), beer (+0.6%), soft drinks & mineral water (+0.6%), spirits (+0.5%), wine & cider (+0.5%) and restaurants, cafes & fast-food (+0.2%).

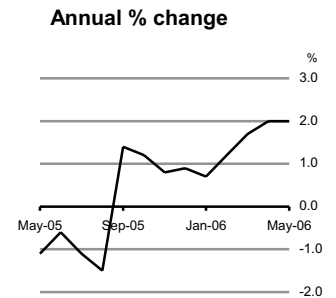


11 Restaurants and Hotels

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 remained unchanged in the month and increased by 2.0% in the year to May 2006. This compares with a decrease of 1.1% recorded for the year to May 2005.

Price increases were recorded for hairdressing (+1.0%) and electric appliances for personal care (+0.6%). These were offset by decreases for other personal grooming (-2.5%), hair products (-1.5%), hygiene products (-0.4%) and motor car insurance (-0.3%).



12 Miscellaneous Goods and Services

Table 1 Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages - May 2006

Description	Dec 2001 base expenditure weight %	Current Index	% change 1 mth	% change 12 mths
Food	12.7541	104.5	0.9	2.9
Bread and Cereals	2.4351	106.4	0.5	1.6
Bread	0.7932	111.2	0.2	2.3
Flour	0.0349	110.4	-0.5	0.1
Biscuits	0.4149	100.1	-0.1	-1.6
Cakes	0.4370	110.1	1.9	3.7
Breakfast cereals	0.3592	104.4	0.7	4.5
Other cereals	0.1698	101.6	-0.4	-1.1
Other bread & cereals	0.2263	100.0	0.0	-0.9
Meat	3.8238	100.8	1.8	2.0
Beef	0.7427	104.6	1.0	5.5
Lamb	0.3222	105.2	7.7	4.6
Pork	0.2327	99.3	5.8	2.8
Bacon	0.5459	97.5	1.9	1.2
Poultry	0.7558	88.2	0.6	-2.3
Other meat products	1.2245	106.9	1.0	1.7
Fish	0.3475	105.2	-0.6	5.1
Fresh fish	0.1522	107.7	-0.7	10.0
Frozen/tinned/smoked fish	0.1954	103.2	-0.5	1.4
Milk, cheese and eggs	1.7813	107.6	0.4	3.1
Milk	0.9658	103.2	0.3	1.3
Other milk products	0.3633	116.7	0.4	8.1
Cheese	0.3103	109.6	0.3	2.8
Eggs	0.1419	109.7	1.3	3.0
Oils and fats	0.3720	104.3	-0.1	1.5
Butter	0.2294	103.2	-0.1	1.0
Margarine & low fat spreads	0.0706	109.5	-0.3	0.3
Other oils & fats	0.0720	102.6	-0.1	4.3
Fruit	0.6780	102.6	0.8	2.7
Fresh fruit	0.5882	99.8	0.6	2.8
Other fruits	0.0897	120.4	1.0	2.0
Vegetables	1.6534	102.0	0.9	7.0
Potatoes	0.3644	101.1	1.0	30.5
Other fresh vegetables	0.6260	101.8	1.6	1.9
Tinned vegetables	0.1308	110.2	0.5	3.3
Frozen vegetables	0.1738	96.9	0.2	-1.7
Other vegetable products	0.3584	102.7	0.2	3.1
Sugar, jam, honey, chocolate and confectionery	1.2890	110.5	0.8	2.6
Sugar & sweeteners	0.0881	97.7	-0.2	0.5
Preserves	0.0898	112.6	0.2	1.7
Sweets & chocolate	0.8708	111.3	0.8	3.4
Desserts & ice-cream	0.2404	111.2	1.1	0.3
Other food products	0.3739	108.1	-0.1	0.7
Condiments & sauces	0.1924	107.1	-0.1	1.2
Soup	0.1011	110.3	0.0	-0.5
Miscellaneous food items	0.0804	108.6	-0.4	0.4
Non-alcoholic beverages	1.3380	105.0	0.0	1.2
Coffee, tea and cocoa	0.3108	102.3	0.5	2.0
Tea	0.2007	105.3	1.5	1.5
Coffee	0.0980	97.0	-1.4	3.5
Cocoa	0.0120	97.2	0.0	-1.0
Mineral waters, soft drinks & juices	1.0273	105.8	-0.1	1.0
Soft drinks & mineral water	0.7641	107.4	-0.1	0.5
Fruit juices	0.2632	101.4	-0.1	2.6
Total	14.0921	104.5	0.8	2.7

Table 2 Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco - May 2006

Description	Dec 2001 base expenditure weight %	Current Index	% change 1 mth	% change 12 mths
Alcoholic Beverages	3.0987	110.6	0.1	-0.4
Spirits	0.8448	124.7	0.2	-1.0
Wine & cider	1.3729	107.5	0.0	0.7
Beer	0.8811	102.0	0.2	-1.0
Tobacco	4.3993	126.2	0.1	2.3
Cigarettes	4.2148	126.5	0.2	2.4
Other tobacco products	0.1844	119.8	-0.1	0.7
Total	7.4980	119.8	0.2	1.4

Table 3 Clothing and Footwear - May 2006

Description	Dec 2001 base expenditure weight %	Current Index	% change 1 mth	% change 12 mths
Clothing	4.0605	86.4	-0.1	-1.5
Clothing materials	0.1708	103.0	0.0	-2.3
Garments	3.7922	84.6	-0.2	-2.0
Other articles of clothing	0.1019	81.7	1.5	-1.9
Cleaning, repair & hire of clothing	0.1494	132.9	0.5	7.4
Dry cleaning & laundry	0.1111	132.4	0.5	8.1
Dress hire & repair of clothing	0.0383	134.3	0.6	5.2
Footwear	0.9912	82.0	0.2	-4.1
Shoes & other footwear	0.9764	81.1	0.2	-4.4
Repair & hire of footwear	0.0148	142.2	0.6	4.8
Total	5.0517	85.6	0.0	-1.9

Table 4 Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels - May 2006

Description	Dec 2001 base expenditure weight %	Current Index	% change 1 mth	% change 12 mths
Rents & other housing costs	7.2347	128.1	0.9	18.6
Rents	2.6046	104.9	1.0	5.5
Mortgage interest	4.6301	141.2	1.0	25.1
Maintenance & repair of the dwelling	1.6222	116.6	0.0	2.8
Materials for maint. & repair of dwelling	0.7562	108.4	0.0	3.7
Services for maint. & repair of dwelling	0.8660	123.8	0.0	2.1
Water supply, refuse & misc. services	0.1971	218.6	0.0	6.9
Electricity, gas & other fuels	3.2775	148.9	1.2	11.2
Electricity	1.3930	146.1	0.0	3.1
Natural gas	0.4872	153.0	0.0	25.3
Bottled gas	0.0364	128.1	0.2	8.4
Liquid fuels	0.6914	179.2	4.7	23.1
Solid fuels	0.6695	121.6	0.0	5.6
Total	12.3315	133.6	0.9	14.0

Table 5 Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance - May 2006

Description	Dec 2001 base expenditure weight %	Current Index	% change 1 mth	% change 12 mths
Furniture, furnishings, carpets & other flooring	0.6084	94.6	1.2	-2.7
Furniture & furnishings	0.5132	93.4	1.4	-2.5
Carpets & other floor coverings	0.0952	101.5	0.0	-3.2
Household textiles	0.3860	80.9	0.0	-4.8
Household appliances	1.4105	93.4	0.0	0.1
Major household appliances	1.0325	92.5	0.0	0.4
Small electric household appliances	0.2678	88.4	-0.2	-2.1
Repair of household appliances	0.1102	114.0	0.0	1.0
Glassware, tableware & hsehld utensils	0.2499	82.9	0.1	-4.6
Tools & equipment for house & garden	0.2203	106.3	0.0	0.9
Major tools & equipment	0.1121	112.4	0.1	2.6
Small tools & misc. accessories	0.1082	100.1	0.1	-0.8
Goods & services for routine hsehld maint.	1.4560	100.8	-0.1	-0.1
Non-durable household goods	0.8506	95.7	-0.1	-1.3
Domestic & household services	0.6054	108.0	0.0	1.5
Total	4.3312	95.0	0.1	-0.9

Table 6 Health - May 2006

Description	Dec 2001 base expenditure weight %	Current Index	% change 1 mth	% change 12 mths
Medical products, appliances & equip.	1.0425	112.8	0.0	1.0
Pharmaceutical products	0.5626	113.6	0.1	0.9
Prescribed drugs	0.3205	117.1	0.1	1.0
Other medicines	0.2420	109.0	0.1	0.7
Other medical products	0.1954	109.0	0.1	0.1
Therapeutic appliances & equip	0.2846	113.9	0.0	1.7
Outpatient services	0.8484	131.7	1.5	7.3
Medical services	0.5242	130.6	1.0	7.3
Doctors' fees	0.4310	131.8	0.8	7.7
Alternative & complementary medicine	0.0932	125.1	2.5	5.7
Dental services	0.2352	137.2	3.2	7.1
Paramedical services	0.0890	123.8	0.0	7.9
Hospital services	0.6273	169.3	0.0	5.5
Total	2.5182	133.3	0.5	4.5

Table 7 Transport - May 2006

Description	Dec 2001 base expenditure weight %	Current Index	% change 1 mth	% change 12 mths
Purchase of vehicles	6.1617	106.7	0.0	1.2
Motor cars	5.9503	107.1	0.0	1.2
Motor cycles	0.0608	95.3	-0.3	-1.3
Bicycles	0.1506	94.6	-0.4	-1.1
Operation of personal transport equip.	5.1975	135.7	2.5	10.2
Spare parts & accessories	0.3014	107.0	0.1	0.6
Fuels & lubricants	3.1186	145.7	4.4	15.1
Petrol	2.6391	145.3	4.7	15.7
Diesel	0.4533	149.4	3.0	12.1
Motor oil	0.0262	122.1	0.5	4.8
Maintenance & repair	0.5904	125.8	-0.2	6.1
Other services	1.1871	121.4	-1.6	0.7
Motor tax	0.7001	117.3	0.0	0.0
Other vehicle costs	0.4745	127.9	-3.7	1.8
Driving licences	0.0125	101.9	0.0	1.4
Transport services	1.8239	114.7	-5.8	-0.1
Rail transport	0.2739	127.5	0.0	3.5
Road transport	1.2082	120.1	0.0	3.4
Bus fares	0.6445	123.6	0.0	6.4
Taxi	0.5637	116.1	0.0	0.0
Air transport	0.2860	75.1	-37.4	-23.1
Sea transport	0.0339	146.3	-2.4	8.3
Combined transport	0.0118	125.4	0.0	8.0
Other transport	0.0100	128.0	0.0	-0.7
Total	13.1831	119.2	0.3	4.8

Table 8 Communications - May 2006

Description	Dec 2001 base expenditure weight %	Current Index	% change 1 mth	% change 12 mths
Postal services	0.0791	132.1	0.0	6.7
Telephone & communication services	1.8239	103.1	-0.1	-1.0
Total	1.9030	104.3	-0.1	-0.6

Table 9 Recreation and Culture - May 2006

Description	Dec 2001 base expenditure weight %	Current Index	% change 1 mth	% change 12 mths
Audio-visual, photographic & information processing equipment	1.0625	76.4	-1.3	-6.6
Equipment for the reception, recording & reproduction of sound & pictures	0.2557	73.3	-0.8	-5.9
Photographic & cinematographic equip. & optical instruments	0.0477	68.8	-1.9	-7.8
Information processing equip.	0.3516	69.9	-1.8	-11.3
Recording media	0.4075	84.9	-0.9	-3.3
Other major durables for recreation & culture	0.0183	95.0	-0.2	-1.7
Other recreational items & equip. incl. gardens & pets	1.1538	98.7	0.1	0.0
Games, toys & hobbies	0.3480	75.0	-0.8	-6.6
Equipment for sport, camping & open air recreation	0.1490	95.6	0.0	-1.1
Gardens, plants & flowers	0.3375	111.0	0.5	3.4
Pets & related products	0.2513	108.7	0.2	1.2
Veterinary & other services for pets	0.0680	128.3	0.0	4.8
Recreational & cultural services	3.2713	127.2	0.3	2.1
Recreational & sporting services	1.0955	133.0	0.4	3.5
Sports admittance	0.1575	145.7	1.0	3.3
Sports participation	0.4631	142.7	0.5	5.2
Cultural services	2.1757	124.3	0.3	1.4
Cinema	0.2523	119.5	0.0	4.2
Nightclubs	0.3261	115.3	0.3	1.4
Cultural admittance	0.6630	123.8	1.0	0.5
Other entertainment	0.2454	112.9	-0.2	0.9
Television services	0.6889	134.9	0.0	1.4
Newspapers, books & stationery	1.9011	115.5	0.8	3.7
Books	0.4801	108.5	0.2	0.4
Newspapers & periodicals	0.9945	124.0	1.1	6.8
Stationery	0.4265	103.4	0.4	-0.9
Package holidays	3.4024	102.9	-0.2	-2.0
Total	10.8095	109.4	0.1	0.3

Table 10 Education - May 2006

Description	Dec 2001 base expenditure weight %	Current Index	% change 1 mth	% change 12 mths
Primary education	0.0111	149.7	0.0	8.6
Second level education	0.1572	148.0	0.0	8.3
Third level education	0.7009	128.5	0.0	2.1
Other education & training	0.6778	132.0	1.0	6.2
Total	1.5471	132.2	0.5	4.7

Table 11 Restaurants and Hotels - May 2006

Description	Dec 2001 base expenditure weight %	Current Index	% change 1 mth	% change 12 mths
Catering services	15.5121	121.7	0.4	3.0
Restaurants, cafes & licenced premises	14.8341	122.1	0.4	3.1
Beer	6.3736	118.9	0.6	2.9
Spirits	1.6213	127.3	0.5	2.1
Wine & cider	0.7156	118.5	0.5	1.9
Soft drinks & mineral water	0.3850	122.7	0.6	2.5
Restaurants, cafes & fast-food	5.7386	124.5	0.2	3.7
Canteens	0.6780	114.4	0.0	4.0
Accommodation services	2.2474	136.5	3.6	9.3
Total	17.7595	123.6	0.8	4.0

Table 12 Miscellaneous Goods and Services - May 2006

Description	Dec 2001 base expenditure weight %	Current Index	% change 1 mth	% change 12 mths
Personal care	2.4202	108.3	0.1	1.0
Hairdressing salons & personal grooming	0.6871	135.2	0.9	6.2
Hairdressing	0.6354	135.6	1.0	6.2
Health & beauty treatments	0.0496	130.2	0.0	6.3
Other personal grooming	0.0020	123.3	-2.5	-0.5
Electric appliances for personal care	0.0566	87.2	0.6	-3.3
Other appliances, articles & products for personal care	1.6765	98.0	-0.4	-1.5
Hygiene products	0.2343	95.5	-0.4	-1.4
Hair products	0.2124	98.7	-1.5	-3.4
Cosmetics & skincare products	0.6036	99.7	-0.1	-1.7
Toilet accessories	0.6262	98.1	0.1	-0.4
Personal goods	0.4623	87.8	0.0	-2.3
Jewellery, clocks & watches	0.1791	101.2	0.1	0.9
Other personal goods	0.2832	79.3	-0.1	-4.7
Social protection	0.9203	130.3	0.0	3.0
Childcare	0.7423	131.7	0.0	3.0
Other social protection	0.1780	124.7	0.0	3.5
Insurance	4.3822	106.1	-0.1	2.5
Dwelling insurance	0.6988	97.4	0.0	-5.0
Health insurance	1.4709	150.7	0.0	12.0
Transport insurance	2.2124	79.1	-0.4	-4.9
Motor cycle insurance	0.0242	153.7	0.0	0.0
Motor car insurance	2.1882	78.3	-0.3	-5.0
Financial services	0.0470	125.4	-0.1	-2.0
Other services	0.7432	122.5	0.1	2.2
Total	8.9751	109.7	0.0	2.0

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
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
2005													
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
Mid-April	-0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+2.0	+0.2	+0.2	+1.2	-0.1	-	-	+0.8	-0.3	+0.5
Mid-May	-0.1	-0.1	+0.2	+0.2	-0.3	+0.6	+1.0	-	+0.3	+0.4	+0.3	+0.1	+0.4
Mid-June	+0.2	+0.5	-1.4	+0.7	-0.1	-	+0.3	-	-0.2	-	+1.1	+0.1	+0.3
Mid-July	+0.2	+0.3	-9.8	+0.9	-1.7	+0.2	+1.5	-0.1	-0.7	-	+0.6	-0.3	-
Mid-August	-	+0.2	+8.4	+0.4	+1.3	+0.5	+0.6	-0.1	-0.8	+0.2	+0.4	-0.1	+0.4
Mid-September	+0.1	+0.1	+3.6	+1.3	+0.2	-	+2.4	-	+0.1	-	-0.2	+2.1	+0.8
Mid-October	-0.3	-0.1	-1.3	+1.7	+0.1	+0.1	-0.8	-0.1	+0.1	+2.1	-0.2	+0.3	+0.1
Mid-November	-0.2	-0.3	+1.9	+0.1	+0.2	+0.2	-1.5	-	+0.4	+1.5	-0.2	-0.5	-0.2
Mid-December	+0.2	-0.3	-0.5	+0.7	-0.1	-	-0.6	-	-	-	-0.1	+0.1	-0.1
2006													
Mid-January	-0.1	+0.6	-14.8	+2.2	-3.0	+1.7	+0.1	-0.1	+0.3	+0.2	-	-0.7	-0.3
Mid-February	+0.8	-	+12.6	+0.8	+2.3	+1.0	+1.2	-0.9	+0.6	+0.1	+0.5	+0.6	+1.1
Mid-March	+0.5	+0.3	+1.9	+0.8	-0.1	+0.1	-	+0.3	+0.1	-	+0.6	+0.4	+0.4
Mid-April	+0.5	-	+0.2	+2.7	-	+0.1	+1.4	+0.5	+0.5	-	+0.7	+0.1	+0.8
Mid-May	+0.8	+0.2	-	+0.9	+0.1	+0.5	+0.3	-0.1	+0.1	+0.5	+0.8	-	+0.4

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
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
2005													
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
Mid-April	-0.5	+0.2	-2.8	+10.6	-1.4	+5.9	+2.9	-0.2	+0.2	+6.3	+3.6	-1.3	+2.2
Mid-May	-1.1	+0.1	-2.7	+10.4	-1.7	+6.4	+3.4	-0.2	+1.1	+6.6	+3.4	-1.1	+2.4
Mid-June	-1.4	+0.5	-3.6	+10.2	-1.8	+6.4	+2.1	-0.2	+0.6	+6.6	+3.8	-0.6	+2.1
Mid-July	-0.7	+0.8	-2.5	+10.9	-1.7	+6.5	+3.2	-0.6	+0.1	+6.5	+3.1	-1.1	+2.4
Mid-August	-0.8	+0.8	-2.7	+10.5	-1.5	+6.6	+3.5	-0.7	-0.8	+6.8	+3.2	-1.5	+2.3
Mid-September	-0.5	+0.9	-2.4	+11.1	-1.0	+6.6	+6.4	-0.4	-0.6	+6.8	+3.1	+1.4	+3.0
Mid-October	-0.7	+0.8	-3.0	+11.9	-1.1	+6.2	+6.1	-0.5	-0.6	+4.8	+3.1	+1.2	+3.0
Mid-November	-0.8	+0.6	-1.5	+11.1	-0.9	+6.2	+3.6	-0.5	-0.4	+4.9	+3.2	+0.8	+2.6
Mid-December	-1.0	+0.6	-1.9	+10.8	-1.2	+5.8	+3.1	-0.5	-0.5	+4.9	+3.2	+0.9	+2.5
Year	-0.7	+0.6	-2.8	+10.4	-1.4	+6.2	+3.5	-0.2	-	+6.0	+3.3	-0.1	+2.5
2006													
Mid-January	-0.8	+0.8	-1.6	+12.1	-1.4	+4.2	+5.1	-0.6	-0.1	+4.9	+3.3	+0.7	+3.0
Mid-February	-0.1	+0.8	-0.4	+12.3	-1.5	+4.7	+5.7	-1.3	-	+4.6	+3.5	+1.2	+3.3
Mid-March	+1.2	+1.2	-1.8	+12.4	-1.1	+4.7	+5.4	-1.0	-	+4.6	+3.6	+1.7	+3.5
Mid-April	+1.8	+1.1	-1.7	+13.2	-1.4	+4.6	+5.6	-0.5	+0.5	+4.6	+3.5	+2.0	+3.8
Mid-May	+2.7	+1.4	-1.9	+14.0	-0.9	+4.5	+4.8	-0.6	+0.3	+4.7	+4.0	+2.0	+3.9

Table 15 Consumer Price Index Goods and Services by COICOP - May 2006

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	-	104.5	-	+ 2.7	-	+ 2.7
02	Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	7.498	7.498	-	119.8	-	+ 1.4	-	+ 1.4
03	Clothing and Footwear	5.052	4.888	0.164	83.9	133.7	- 2.4	+ 7.0	- 1.9
04	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	12.331	2.153	10.178	135.6	133.2	+11.9	+14.5	+14.0
05	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	4.331	3.538	0.793	91.7	109.8	- 1.6	+ 1.6	- 0.9
06	Health	2.518	1.013	1.505	112.5	147.2	+ 0.9	+ 6.4	+ 4.5
07	Transport	13.183	9.582	3.601	119.4	118.7	+ 6.2	+ 1.2	+ 4.8
08	Communications	1.903	-	1.903	-	104.3	-	- 0.6	- 0.6
09	Recreation and Culture	10.810	4.064	6.746	100.2	115.0	+ 0.3	+ 0.3	+ 0.3
10	Education	1.547	-	1.547	-	132.2	-	+ 4.7	+ 4.7
11	Restaurants and Hotels	17.760	-	17.760	-	123.6	-	+ 4.0	+ 4.0
12	Miscellaneous Goods & Services	8.975	2.191	6.784	95.5	114.3	- 1.7	+ 3.0	+ 2.0
ALL ITEMS		100.000	49.019	50.981	107.6	122.8	+ 2.6	+ 5.1	+ 3.9

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
	%	%	%	%	%
2004 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
Year	+8.4	+2.1	+2.1	+2.1	+2.2
2005 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
Mid-April	+13.7	+1.8	+1.7	+2.4	+2.2
Mid-May	+11.7	+1.9	+1.8	+2.5	+2.4
Mid-June	+8.0	+1.7	+1.6	+2.2	+2.1
Mid-July	+12.7	+1.9	+1.8	+2.4	+2.4
Mid-August	+12.5	+1.8	+1.7	+2.3	+2.3
Mid-September	+19.6	+2.6	+2.6	+3.1	+3.0
Mid-October	+19.9	+2.6	+2.5	+3.0	+3.0
Mid-November	+12.7	+2.1	+2.1	+2.7	+2.6
Mid-December	+10.4	+1.9	+1.8	+2.5	+2.5
Year	+12.6	+1.9	+1.9	+2.5	+2.5
2006 Mid-January	+13.3	+2.3	+2.2	+3.0	+3.0
Mid-February	+15.3	+2.6	+2.6	+3.4	+3.3
Mid-March	+13.9	+2.7	+2.7	+3.5	+3.5
Mid-April	+10.3	+2.7	+2.7	+3.8	+3.8
Mid-May	+13.0	+2.9	+2.9	+4.0	+3.9

Table 17 Constant Tax Price Index*

Period	Index	Annual Percentage Changes		Contribution
		CPI	Due to Indirect Taxes ¹	Immediate Tax Effect ²
		%	%	%
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
April	107.9	+2.2	+0.2	+0.1
May	108.1	+2.4	+0.4	+0.1
June	108.5	+2.1	+0.2	+0.1
July	108.4	+2.4	+0.4	+0.1
August	108.9	+2.3	+0.4	+0.1
September	109.6	+3.0	+0.5	+0.1
October	109.7	+3.0	+0.5	+0.1
November	109.6	+2.6	+0.5	+0.1
December	109.6	+2.5	+0.4	+0.1
2006 January	109.3	+3.0	+0.6	+0.0
February	110.4	+3.3	+0.5	+0.0
March	110.9	+3.5	+0.5	+0.0
April	111.7	+3.8	+0.6	+0.0
May	112.2	+3.9	+0.5	+0.0

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 - May 2006*

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	110.6	136.9	+ 0.5	+ 1.5	+ 3.0
Alcoholic Drink	11.898	117.9	143.7	+ 0.5	+ 0.5	+ 1.9
Tobacco	4.399	126.2	172.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.9	+ 2.3
Clothing and Footwear	4.888	83.9	62.9	- 0.1	+ 2.1	- 2.4
Fuel and Light	3.278	148.9	167.8	+ 1.2	+ 1.6	+11.2
Housing	9.747	125.8	141.8	+ 0.7	+ 5.3	+13.8
Durable Household Goods	3.640	88.2	90.5	-	- 0.3	- 2.8
Other Goods	5.777	100.3	117.4	+ 0.1	- 0.2	-
Transport	15.413	113.4	132.9	+ 0.2	+ 1.5	+ 3.8
Services and Related Expenditure	20.156	124.1	157.9	+ 0.6	+ 1.9	+ 3.7
ALL ITEMS	100.000	115.3	136.3	+ 0.4	+ 1.7	+ 3.9

* 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
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
2004 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
2005 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
Mid-April	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	-	+5.4	+0.3	+0.4	-	+0.9	+0.5	+0.5
Mid-May	+0.1	-	-	+0.2	-0.9	+0.6	-0.3	-0.2	+0.8	+0.6	+0.4
Mid-June	+0.2	+0.7	+0.6	-1.5	+0.4	+0.7	-0.4	-0.1	+0.3	+0.5	+0.3
Mid-July	+0.4	+0.5	+0.4	-10.2	+2.2	+0.4	-2.3	-0.7	+1.2	-0.2	-
Mid-August	+0.1	+0.1	+0.2	+8.7	-0.3	+0.4	+1.5	+0.2	+0.5	-0.1	+0.4
Mid-September	+0.1	-	+0.2	+3.7	+2.9	+0.6	+0.3	+0.1	+2.2	+0.6	+0.8
Mid-October	-	-	-0.1	-1.3	+4.3	+0.4	-0.1	+0.1	-0.6	-	+0.1
Mid-November	-0.1	-0.2	-	+1.9	-1.5	+0.7	+0.3	-	-1.6	-	-0.2
Mid-December	+0.2	-0.2	+0.1	-0.6	-1.7	+1.7	-0.3	+0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.1
2006 Mid-January	+0.1	+0.3	-	-15.5	+1.7	+2.1	-4.2	-0.1	-0.2	+0.2	-0.3
Mid-February	+0.6	+0.1	-	+13.4	+1.2	+0.6	+3.0	+0.6	+1.1	+0.7	+1.1
Mid-March	+0.5	-	+0.6	+1.9	-	+1.0	-0.2	-0.1	+0.1	+0.6	+0.4
Mid-April	+0.5	-	+0.2	+0.2	+0.5	+3.5	-0.1	-0.2	+1.3	+0.7	+0.8
Mid-May	+0.5	+0.5	+0.1	-0.1	+1.2	+0.7	-	+0.1	+0.2	+0.6	+0.4

* 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
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
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
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
Year	+1.5	+2.1	+5.6	-3.9	+7.1	+2.8	-3.2	-0.9	+1.8	+4.2	+2.2
2005 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
Mid-April	+0.8	+1.8	+0.3	-3.2	+17.6	+6.8	-3.9	-1.5	+1.1	+3.7	+2.2
Mid-May	+0.6	+1.8	+0.2	-3.0	+15.2	+7.4	-4.0	-0.7	+1.5	+4.0	+2.4
Mid-June	+0.4	+1.9	+0.7	-4.1	+14.1	+7.5	-4.2	-1.5	+0.6	+4.2	+2.1
Mid-July	+0.8	+1.4	+1.1	-2.9	+17.0	+7.5	-4.2	-1.7	+1.5	+3.5	+2.4
Mid-August	+0.9	+1.3	+1.3	-3.2	+15.7	+7.2	-4.4	-1.6	+1.5	+3.3	+2.3
Mid-September	+1.0	+1.2	+1.5	-2.8	+17.6	+7.1	-3.4	-1.4	+4.9	+3.9	+3.0
Mid-October	+0.8	+1.2	+1.5	-3.4	+20.4	+7.2	-3.5	-1.4	+4.6	+3.7	+3.0
Mid-November	+0.7	+1.0	+1.4	-1.9	+16.5	+7.4	-2.9	-1.1	+2.2	+3.7	+2.6
Mid-December	+0.6	+1.1	+1.4	-2.4	+12.7	+8.7	-3.2	-1.2	+1.8	+3.7	+2.5
Year	+0.8	+1.6	+1.0	-3.2	+15.7	+7.3	-3.9	-1.2	+1.9	+3.6	+2.5
2006 Mid-January	+0.8	+1.2	+1.5	-2.0	+13.8	+10.0	-3.3	-0.3	+3.4	+3.5	+3.0
Mid-February	+1.2	+1.4	+1.5	-0.7	+14.9	+9.9	-3.3	+0.1	+4.0	+3.6	+3.3
Mid-March	+2.1	+1.5	+2.0	-2.3	+14.3	+10.2	-2.5	-0.1	+4.1	+3.5	+3.5
Mid-April	+2.5	+1.4	+2.2	-2.1	+9.0	+13.8	-3.1	-0.3	+4.4	+3.7	+3.8
Mid-May	+3.0	+1.9	+2.3	-2.4	+11.2	+13.8	-2.8	-	+3.8	+3.7	+3.9

* 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 May index relates is Tuesday, 9th May 2006.
- 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.

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.