

# Consumer Price Inflation

**March 2020**

Coverage: **UK**  
Date: **22 April 2020**  
Geographical Area: **UK**  
Theme: **Economy**

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*This note is produced as background briefing for the Consumer Price Inflation Statistical Bulletin. Users who require authoritative figures should use the Consumer Price Inflation Statistical Bulletin or Consumer Price Inflation Dataset.*

## SUMMARY

### CPIH

The Consumer Prices Index including owner occupiers' housing costs (CPIH) is the most comprehensive measure of inflation. It extends the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) to include a measure of the costs associated with owning, maintaining and living in one's own home, known as owner occupiers' housing costs (OOH), along with Council Tax. Both of these are significant expenses for many households and are not included in the CPI.

Aside from including owner occupiers' housing costs (OOH) and Council Tax, CPIH is otherwise identical to CPI. This means that, aside from these two components, the factors contributing to the CPI rate are the same as those contributing to the CPIH. For example, if food is reported as increasing the CPIH rate, it is also acting to increase the CPI rate. The size of the contributions for components other than OOH and Council Tax are exaggerated in the CPI compared with the CPIH because they account for a larger proportion of the overall index.

The [National Statistics](#) status of the CPIH was reinstated on 31 July 2017. [A letter](#) from the Director General for Regulation to the National Statistician detailed the actions that were taken to meet the requirements as set out in the [CPIH assessment report](#).

The main movements for CPIH in March 2020 are:

- The all items CPIH is 108.6, unchanged from last month.
- The all items CPIH annual rate is 1.5%, down from 1.7% in February.
- The annual rate for CPIH excluding indirect taxes, CPIHY, is 1.5%, down from 1.7% last month.
- The OOH component of CPIH is 107.7, up from 107.6 in February.
- The OOH component annual rate is 1.3%, up from 1.2% last month.
- The CPIH all goods index is 105.7, down from 105.8 in February.
- The CPIH all goods index annual rate is 0.6%, down from 1.0% last month.
- The CPIH all services index is 110.8, up from 110.7 in February.
- The CPIH all services index annual rate is 2.2%, unchanged from last month.

### Consumer Prices Index (CPI)

The CPI continues to be a National Statistic and is a measure of consumer price inflation produced to international standards and in line with European regulations. First published in 1997 as the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP), the CPI is the inflation measure used in the government's target for inflation.

The CPI is also used for purposes such as uprating pensions, wages and benefits and can aid in the understanding of inflation on family budgets. For more information see [Users and uses of consumer price inflation statistics](#).

The main movements for CPI in March 2020 are:

- The all items CPI is 108.6, unchanged from last month.
- The all items CPI annual rate is 1.5%, down from 1.7% in February.
- The annual rate for CPI excluding indirect taxes, CPIY, is 1.5%, down from 1.8% last month.
- The annual rate for CPI at constant tax rates, CPI-CT, is 1.4%, down from 1.7% last month.
- The CPI all goods index is 105.7, down from 105.8 in February.
- The CPI all goods index annual rate is 0.6%, down from 1.0% last month.
- The CPI all services index is 111.9, up from 111.7 in February.
- The CPI all services index annual rate is 2.5%, unchanged from last month.

### **Retail Prices Index (RPI)**

**In accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007, the Retail Prices Index and its derivatives have been assessed against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics and found not to meet the required standard for designation as National Statistics. The [full assessment report](#) can be found on the UK Statistics Authority website.**

The RPI is a legacy measure of UK inflation that continues to be published because of its use in long-term contracts and index-linked gilts. For further information see [Users and uses of consumer price inflation statistics](#).

The UK Statistics Authority recommended in 2019 that the publication of the RPI should be stopped at a point in the future and that in the interim, the shortcomings of the RPI should be addressed by introducing CPIH data sources and methods into its production. The Authority and HM Treasury have launched a [consultation](#) on the Authority's proposal to address the shortcomings of the RPI. HM Treasury is consulting on the appropriate timing for the proposed changes to the RPI to take place. The Authority is consulting on how to make its proposed methodological changes to the RPI in a way that follows best statistical practice. The consultation was originally scheduled to run until 22 April 2020 but, because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the period has been extended to 21 August 2020. The UK Statistics Authority and HM Treasury have agreed that they cannot conclude a meaningful consultation with businesses and individuals focused on mitigating the challenges that this public health and economic emergency has created.

The main movements for RPI in March 2020 are:

- The all items RPI is 292.6, up from 292.0 in February.
- The all items RPI annual rate is 2.6%, up from 2.5% last month.
- The annual rate for RPIX, the all items RPI excluding mortgage interest payments (MIPs), is 2.7%, up from 2.5% last month.
- The all goods RPI is 220.2, up from 219.9 in February.
- The all goods RPI annual rate is 1.3%, down from 1.4% last month.
- The all services RPI is 404.2, up from 402.5 in February.
- The all services RPI annual rate is 4.1%, up from 3.7% last month.

**CPIH SUMMARY****CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHANGE IN THE CPIH ANNUAL RATE**

<b>CPIH COICOP DIVISIONS</b>	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	Weight 2020 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
01: Food and non-alcoholic beverages	82	79	0.1	0.2	-
02: Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	32	32	-0.3	0.4	0.02
03: Clothing and footwear	54	51	1.0	-0.3	-0.07
04: Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	298	296	0.1	-	-0.01
05: Furniture, household equipment and maintenance	53	50	0.1	-	-
06: Health	22	22	0.3	0.4	-
07: Transport	123	120	-0.1	-0.6	-0.07
08: Communication	20	17	0.2	0.6	0.01
09: Recreation and culture	127	136	0.2	0.1	-0.02
10: Education	18	24	-	-	-
11: Restaurants and hotels	97	96	0.4	0.1	-0.04
12: Miscellaneous goods and services	74	77	0.2	0.2	-

**Large downward effects came from:**

- **Clothing and footwear**, where prices fell by 0.3% between February and March 2020, compared with a rise of 1.0% between the same two months a year ago. Prices usually rise between February and March, and this year's fall is the first since 2015 and only the second since the start of the constructed CPIH series in 1988. The fall in prices reflects an increase in the proportion of items on sale between February and March 2020, compared with a fall between the same two months a year ago. The effect came from a wide range of women's, men's and children's clothing items. Sales patterns this year are likely to have been influenced by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Although prices were collected around 17 March, before the formal government lock-down was introduced on 23 March,

consumer behaviours and retailers' expectations of that behaviour might have changed as a result of social distancing and other precautions. A number of factors might have contributed to the change, including less browsing in physical stores, people spending more time at home where they might have been less interested in clothing and a shift in spending patterns towards other necessities such as food and cleaning products;

- **Transport**, reflecting a 0.6% fall in prices between February and March 2020, compared with a smaller fall of 0.1% a year ago. The downward effect came almost entirely from motor fuels. Petrol prices fell by 5.1 pence per litre between February and March 2020, compared with a rise of 1.2 pence per litre between the same two months a year ago. This is the largest monthly fall in petrol prices since December 2018. Similarly, diesel prices fell by 5.5 pence per litre between February and March 2020, the largest monthly fall since August 2015. This latest fall compares with a rise of 1.4 pence per litre between February and March 2019. Prices for motor fuels tend to move broadly in line with global prices for crude oil, but the effect is generally muted as consumer prices for motor fuels also include other costs such as transport, duty and retail costs. Global prices for crude oil have fallen sharply in response to reduced global demand during the COVID-19 pandemic and the failure of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC+) to agree to cut supply in early March 2020. Consumer demand for motor fuels has likely also reduced in light of measures taken to curb the spread of COVID-19, including increased working from home and broader travel restrictions. Within transport, the downward effect from motor fuels was partially offset by an upward contribution from air fares, which rose by 5.3% on the month in 2020, compared with a fall of 5.7% a year ago. The fares used in compiling the index reflect departures on 17 March with returns one, two or three weeks later depending on the route. At the point of departure, there were reports of some disruption on European routes, but it was only later in the month when large numbers of flights were suspended. Given that it was not clear that return flights would be cancelled or that travellers would have to make alternative arrangements to travel home, all collected prices have been included in the calculation of the index; and
- **Restaurants and hotels**, which provided a downward contribution to change of 0.04 percentage points. Overall, accommodation prices fell by 0.3% between February and March 2020, compared with a 1.2% rise between the same two months a year ago. This downward contribution reverses the rise seen between January and February 2020.

**A small downward effect came from:**

- **Recreation and culture**, with prices rising by 0.1% between February and March 2020, compared with a rise of 0.2% between the same two months a year ago.

**A small upward effect came from:**

- **Alcohol and tobacco**, where the price of tobacco rose by more than a year ago. Duty rates for tobacco products increased from 11 March 2020 as announced in Budget 2020.

## CPIH NOTABLE MOVEMENTS

All items CPIH	Annual rate +1.5%, down from +1.7% last month Lowest since December 2019 (+1.4%)
All items CPIH excl. energy, food, alcohol and tobacco	Annual rate +1.6%, down from +1.7% last month Also +1.6% in January 2020 Last lower in December 2019 (+1.4%)
Furniture, household equipment and maintenance	Annual rate +0.1%, down from +0.2% last month Also +0.1% in April 2019 and October 2016 Last lower in September 2016 (-1.4%)
Health	Annual rate +3.2%, up from +3.0% last month Also +3.2% in December 2017 and November 2017 Last higher in October 2017 (+3.3%)
Communication	Annual rate +5.0%, up from +4.5% last month Highest since June 2012 (+5.2%)
All goods	Annual rate +0.6%, down from +1.0% last month Also +0.6% in December 2019 Last lower in November 2019 (+0.5%)
All services	Annual rate +2.2%, unchanged from last month Also +2.2% in November 2019, October 2019, September 2019, July 2019 and June 2019 Last higher in May 2019 (+2.3%) Last lower in January 2020 (+2.1%)



## CPIH DETAILED BRIEFING

The [National Statistics](#) status of the Consumer Prices Index including owner occupiers' housing costs (CPIH) was reinstated on 31 July 2017. [A letter](#) from the Director General for Regulation to the National Statistician detailed the actions that were taken to meet the requirements as set out in the [CPIH assessment report](#).

- Weights are specified as parts per 1000 in the CPIH.

<b>01 FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	Weight 2020 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
01 Food & non-alcoholic beverages	82	79	0.1	0.2	-

- Negligible overall effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- There is a small upward contribution coming from **food**.
- Offset by a small downward contribution coming from **non-alcoholic beverages**.

<b>01.1 Food</b>	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	Weight 2020 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
01.1 Food	72	71	-0.1	0.1	0.02
01.1.1 Bread and cereals	12	13	0.7	3.5	0.04
01.1.2 Meat	15	14	-0.1	-0.4	-0.01
01.1.3 Fish	3	3	-1.6	-0.6	-
01.1.4 Milk, cheese and eggs	9	8	-0.9	0.2	0.01
01.1.5 Oils and fats	2	2	-1.4	4.2	0.01
01.1.6 Fruit	8	9	-2.1	-3.4	-0.02
01.1.7 Vegetables including potatoes	11	11	0.9	-1.9	-0.03
01.1.8 Sugar, jam, syrups, chocolate and confectionery	10	9	0.5	1.0	0.01
01.1.9 Food products not elsewhere covered	2	2	1.2	1.8	-

- Small upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **bread and cereals**; and, to a lesser extent, **oils and fats**; **milk, cheese and eggs**; and **sugar, jam, syrups, chocolate and confectionery**.
- Partially offset by **vegetables including potatoes**; **fruit**; and **meat**.

**Bread and cereals**

- Large upward effect.
- Prices overall rose this year by more than a year ago, with the main upward contributions coming from chocolate biscuits, breakfast cereals and packs of individual cakes.

**Meat**

- Small downward effect.
- Prices overall fell this year by more than a year ago, with the main downward contribution coming from cooked ham.

**Milk, cheese and eggs**

- Small upward effect.
- Prices overall rose this year but fell a year ago.

**Oils and fats**

- Small upward effect.
- Prices overall rose this year but fell a year ago, particularly for margarine/low fat spread and spreadable butter.

**Fruit**

- Small downward effect.
- Prices overall fell this year by more than a year ago, particularly for strawberries.

**Vegetables including potatoes**

- Small downward effect.
- Prices overall fell this year but rose a year ago, with the main downward contributions coming from premium potato crisps and potatoes.

**Sugar, jam, syrups, chocolate and confectionery**

- Small upward effect.
- Prices overall rose this year by more than a year ago, with the main upward contribution coming from chocolate covered ice cream bars.
- Partially offset by a small downward contribution coming from cartons/boxes of chocolates, where prices overall fell this year but rose a year ago.

<b>01.2 Non-alcoholic beverages</b>	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	Weight 2020 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
01.2 Non-alcoholic beverages	10	8	1.6	0.4	-0.01
01.2.1 Coffee, tea and cocoa	3	2	2.7	3.8	-
01.2.2 Mineral waters, soft drinks and juices	7	6	1.2	-0.7	-0.01

- Small downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **mineral waters, soft drinks and juices**, where prices overall fell this year but rose a year ago.

<b>02 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO</b>	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	Weight 2020 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
02 Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	32	32	-0.3	0.4	0.02

- Largest upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **tobacco**.

<b>02.1 Alcoholic Beverages</b>	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	Weight 2020 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
02.1 Alcoholic beverages	15	16	-1.5	-1.1	-
02.1.1 Spirits	4	5	-3.7	-2.2	-
02.1.2 Wine	7	7	-0.6	-0.6	-
02.1.3 Beer	4	4	-0.8	-0.8	-

- Negligible overall effect on the all items 12-month rate change.

<b>02.2 Tobacco</b>	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	Weight 2020 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
02.2 Tobacco	17	16	0.7	2.0	0.02

- Small upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Prices overall rose this year by more than a year ago, particularly for cigarettes. Duty rates for tobacco products increased from 11 March 2020 as announced in Budget 2020.

<b>03 CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR</b>	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	Weight 2020 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
03 Clothing and footwear	54	51	1.0	-0.3	-0.07

- Largest downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **clothing**.

<b>03.1 Clothing</b>	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	Weight 2020 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
03.1 Clothing	45	43	1.0	-0.6	-0.07
03.1.2 Garments	41	38	1.1	-0.9	-0.08
03.1.3 Other clothing and clothing accessories	3	4	0.5	1.4	-
03.1.4 Cleaning, repair and hire of clothing	1	1	-0.1	0.3	-

- Large downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **garments**, where prices overall fell this year but rose a year ago, particularly for women's formal trousers, coats/jackets and jeans; men's coats/jackets and trousers; and girls' fashion tops. Partially offset a small upward contribution coming from women's short sleeve/sleeveless formal tops, where prices overall rose this year by more than a year ago.

<b>03.2 Footwear including repairs</b>	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	Weight 2020 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
03.2 Footwear including repairs	9	8	1.0	1.4	-

- Negligible overall effect on the all items 12-month rate change.

<b>04 HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY, GAS AND OTHER FUELS</b>	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	Weight 2020 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
04 Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	298	296	0.1	-	-0.01

- Small downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **electricity, gas and other fuels**.

<b>04.1 Actual rentals for housing</b>	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	Weight 2020 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
04.1 Actual rentals for housing	69	68	0.1	0.1	-

- Negligible overall effect on the all items 12-month rate change.

<b>04.2 Owner occupiers' housing costs</b>	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	Weight 2020 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
04.2 Owner occupiers' housing costs	165	163	0.1	0.1	-

- Negligible overall effect on the all items 12-month rate change.

<b>04.3 Regular maintenance and repair of the dwelling</b>	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	Weight 2020 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
04.3 Regular maintenance and repair of the dwelling	3	2	0.1	0.4	-
04.3.1 Materials for maintenance and repair	1	1	-0.1	0.7	-
04.3.2 Services for maintenance and repair	2	1	0.1	0.1	-

- Negligible overall effect on the all items 12-month rate change.

<b>04.4 Other services related to the dwelling</b>	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	Weight 2020 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
04.4 Other services related to the dwelling	9	9	-	-	-
04.4.1 Water supply	4	4	-	-	-
04.4.3 Sewerage collection	5	5	-	-	-

- Negligible overall effect on the all items 12-month rate change.

<b>04.5 Electricity, gas and other fuels</b>	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	Weight 2020 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
04.5 Electricity, gas and other fuels	26	27	-	-0.6	-0.02
04.5.1 Electricity	14	15	-	-	-
04.5.2 Gas	10	10	-	-	-
04.5.3 Liquid fuels	1	1	0.6	-17.8	-0.02
04.5.4 Solid fuels	1	1	0.3	-	-

- Small downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **liquid fuels**, where average kerosene prices fell this year but rose a year ago.

<b>04.9 Council Tax and rates</b>	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	Weight 2020 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
04.9 Council Tax and rates	26	27	-	-	-

- Negligible overall effect on the all items 12-month rate change.

<b>05 FURNITURE, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE</b>	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	Weight 2020 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
05 Furniture, household equipment and maintenance	53	50	0.1	-	-

- Negligible overall effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- There are small downward contributions coming from **goods and services for routine maintenance; household textiles; and glassware, tableware and household utensils.**
- Offset by small upward contributions coming from **furniture, furnishings and carpets; and tools and equipment for house and garden.**

<b>05.1 Furniture, furnishings and carpets</b>	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	Weight 2020 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
05.1 Furniture, furnishings and carpets	22	17	-0.5	0.2	0.02
05.1.1 Furniture and furnishings	15	14	-1.2	0.2	0.02
05.1.2 Carpets and other floor coverings	7	3	0.8	0.5	-

- Small upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **furniture and furnishings**, where prices overall rose this year but fell a year ago, with the main upward contributions coming from lounge furniture, in particular leather settees, and bedroom furniture.

<b>05.2 Household textiles</b>	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	Weight 2020 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
05.2 Household textiles	5	6	1.3	-0.6	-0.01

- Small downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Prices overall fell this year but rose a year ago, particularly for bed linen.

<b>05.3 Household appliances, fitting and repairs</b>	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	Weight 2020 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
05.3 Household appliances, fitting and repairs	8	8	0.1	0.2	-
05.3.1/2 Major appliances and small electric goods	7	7	0.1	0.2	-
05.3.3 Repair of household appliances	1	1	-	-	-

- Negligible overall effect on the all items 12-month rate change.

<b>05.4 Glassware, tableware and household utensils</b>	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	Weight 2020 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
05.4 Glassware, tableware and household utensils	4	6	1.5	0.1	-0.01

- Small downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Prices overall rose this year by less than a year ago.

<b>05.5 Tools and equipment for house and garden</b>	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	Weight 2020 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
05.5 Tools and equipment for house and garden	5	5	-0.5	0.5	0.01

- Small upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Prices overall rose this year but fell a year ago, particularly for packs of batteries.

<b>05.6 Goods and services for routine maintenance</b>	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	Weight 2020 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
05.6 Goods and services for routine maintenance	9	8	0.8	-0.3	-0.01
05.6.1 Non-durable household goods	3	3	1.9	-1.0	-0.01
05.6.2 Domestic services and household services	6	5	0.3	0.1	-

- Small downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **non-durable household goods**, where prices overall fell this year but rose a year ago, with the main downward contribution coming from household cleaning products.

<b>06 HEALTH</b>	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	Weight 2020 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
06 Health	22	22	0.3	0.4	-

- Negligible overall effect on the all items 12-month rate change.



<b>06.1 Medical products, appliances and equipment</b>	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	Weight 2020 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
06.1 Medical products, appliances and equipment	9	12	0.4	0.6	-
06.1.1 Pharmaceutical products	5	8	0.6	0.8	-
06.1.2/3 Other medical and therapeutic equipment	4	4	0.2	0.2	-

- Negligible overall effect on the all items 12-month rate change.

<b>06.2 Out-patient services</b>	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	Weight 2020 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
06.2 Out-patient services	8	6	0.1	0.2	-
06.2.1/3 Medical and paramedical services	5	4	0.1	0.2	-
06.2.2 Dental services	3	2	0.1	0.3	-

- Negligible overall effect on the all items 12-month rate change.

<b>06.3 Hospital services</b>	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	Weight 2020 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
06.3 Hospital Services	5	4	0.2	0.1	-

- Negligible overall effect on the all items 12-month rate change.

<b>07 TRANSPORT</b>	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	Weight 2020 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
07 Transport	123	120	-0.1	-0.6	-0.07

- Large downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **operation of personal transport equipment**.
- Partially offset by **transport services** and **purchase of vehicles**.

<b>07.1 Purchase of vehicles</b>	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	Weight 2020 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
07.1 Purchase of vehicles	37	35	-	0.7	0.02
07.1.1A New cars	21	19	-	0.1	-
07.1.1B Second-hand cars	14	14	-0.1	1.5	0.02
07.1.2/3 Motorcycles and bicycles	2	2	0.4	0.3	-

- Small upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **second-hand cars**, where prices overall rose this year but fell a year ago.

<b>07.2 Operation of personal transport equipment</b>	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	Weight 2020 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
07.2 Operation of personal transport equipment	60	62	0.7	-1.3	-0.12
07.2.1 Spare parts and accessories	4	4	0.2	-0.1	-
07.2.2 Fuels and lubricants	24	25	1.0	-4.0	-0.13
07.2.3 Maintenance and repairs	20	21	0.8	1.0	0.01
07.2.4 Other services	12	12	0.2	-	-

- Large downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **fuels and lubricants**.
- Partially offset by **maintenance and repairs**.

#### Fuels and lubricants

- Large downward effect.
- Prices overall fell this year but rose a year ago.
- The average price of petrol across the month, as recorded for the CPIH, fell by 5.1 pence per litre between February and March 2020, to stand at 119.4 pence per litre.
- Last year, the average price of petrol rose by 1.2 pence per litre between February and March 2019, to stand at 120.3 pence per litre.
- The average price of diesel fell by 5.5 pence per litre between February and March 2020, to stand at 123.8 pence per litre, compared with a rise of 1.4 pence per litre a year earlier, to stand at 130.7 pence per litre.

#### Maintenance and repairs

- Small upward effect.
- Prices overall rose this year by more than a year ago, particularly for roadside recovery services.

<b>07.3 Transport services</b>	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2019	2020	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2019	Mar 2020	
07.3 Transport services	26	23	-1.9	-0.8	0.03
07.3.1 Passenger transport by railway	11	9	-0.2	-0.9	-0.01
07.3.2 Passenger transport by road	9	8	-0.4	-0.9	-0.01
07.3.3 Passenger transport by air	4	4	-5.7	5.3	0.05
07.3.4 Passenger transport by sea and inland waterway	2	2	-10.2	-11.0	-

- Small upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **passenger transport by air**.
- Partially offset by **passenger transport by railway** and **passenger transport by road**.

#### Passenger transport by railway

- Small downward effect.
- Due to international rail, where prices fell this year by more than a year ago.

#### Passenger transport by road

- Small downward effect.
- Average charges fell this year by more than a year ago, particularly for coach fares.

#### Passenger transport by air

- Large upward effect.
- Average air fares rose this year but fell a year ago.

<b>08 COMMUNICATION</b>	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2019	2020	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2019	Mar 2020	
08 Communication	20	17	0.2	0.6	0.01

- Small upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **telephone equipment and services**.

08.1 Postal services	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution
	2019	2020	% change	% change	to CPIH annual
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2019	Mar 2020	rate change
08.1 Postal services	1	1	-	-	-

- Negligible overall effect on the all items 12-month rate change.

08.2/3 Telephone equipment and services	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution
	2019	2020	% change	% change	to CPIH annual
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2019	Mar 2020	rate change
08.2/3 Telephone equipment and services	19	16	0.2	0.7	0.01

- Small upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Prices overall rose this year by more than a year ago.

09 RECREATION AND CULTURE	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution
	2019	2020	% change	% change	to CPIH annual
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2019	Mar 2020	rate change
09 Recreation and culture	127	136	0.2	0.1	-0.02

- Small downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **audio-visual equipment and related products; package holidays; and recreational and cultural services.**
- Partially offset by **other recreational items, gardens and pets.**

<b>09.1 Audio-visual equipment and related products</b>	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	Weight 2020 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
09.1 Audio-visual equipment and related products	17	18	-0.3	-2.0	-0.03
09.1.1 Equipment for the reception and reproduction of sound and pictures	4	3	-1.0	0.3	0.01
09.1.2 Photographic, cinematographic and optical equipment	2	2	-2.3	1.1	0.01
09.1.3 Data processing equipment	7	7	2.0	0.3	-0.01
09.1.4 Recording media	3	5	-3.5	-7.4	-0.03
09.1.5 Repair of audio-visual equipment and related products	1	1	0.1	0.2	-

- Small downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **recording media**; and **data processing equipment**.
- Partially offset by **photographic, cinematographic and optical equipment**; and **equipment for the reception and reproduction of sound and pictures**.

#### **Equipment for the reception and reproduction of sound and pictures**

- Small upward effect.
- Prices overall rose this year but fell a year ago.

#### **Photographic, cinematographic and optical equipment**

- Small upward effect.
- Prices overall rose this year but fell a year ago.

#### **Data processing equipment**

- Small downward effect.
- Prices overall rose this year by less than a year ago, with the main downward contribution coming from computer software.
- Partially offset by a small upward contribution coming from PC peripherals, where prices overall rose this year by more than a year ago.

#### **Recording media**

- Small downward effect.
- Prices overall fell this year by more than a year ago, with the main downward contributions coming from CDs and music downloads.

<b>09.2 Other major durables for recreation and culture</b>	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	Weight 2020 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
09.2.1/2 Major durables for in/outdoor recreation	14	14	-0.1	0.2	-

- Negligible overall effect on the all items 12-month rate change.

<b>09.3 Other recreational items, gardens and pets</b>	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	Weight 2020 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
09.3 Other recreational items, gardens and pets	30	33	0.7	1.3	0.02
09.3.1 Games, toys and hobbies	18	16	1.0	2.1	0.02
09.3.2 Equipment for sport and open-air recreation	2	3	0.1	2.1	0.01
09.3.3 Gardens, plants and flowers	3	5	-0.4	-0.2	-
09.3.4/5 Pets, related products and services	7	9	0.8	0.4	-

- Small upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **games, toys and hobbies**; and **equipment for sport and open-air recreation**, where prices overall rose this year by more than a year ago, with the main upward contributions coming from computer game downloads, footballs and preschool activity toys. Partially offset by a small downward contribution coming from computer games.

<b>09.4 Recreational and cultural services</b>	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	Weight 2020 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
09.4 Recreational and cultural services	22	28	0.5	0.2	-0.01
09.4.1 Recreational and sporting services	6	8	0.1	0.1	-
09.4.2 Cultural services	16	20	0.6	0.3	-

- Small downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Prices overall rose this year by less than a year ago.

<b>09.5 Books, newspapers and stationery</b>	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2019	2020	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2019	Mar 2020	
09.5 Books, newspapers and stationery	10	9	-0.1	0.3	-
09.5.1 Books	3	3	-1.4	0.3	0.01
09.5.2 Newspapers and periodicals	3	3	0.5	0.3	-
09.5.3/4 Misc. printed matter, stationery, drawing materials	4	3	0.4	0.2	-

- Negligible overall effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- There is a small upward contribution coming from **books**, where prices overall rose this year but fell a year ago, particularly for eBooks. Partially offset by a small downward contribution coming from non-fiction hardbacks, where prices overall rose this year by less than a year ago.

<b>09.6 Package holidays</b>	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2019	2020	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2019	Mar 2020	
09.6 Package holidays	34	34	0.1	-0.1	-0.01

- Small downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Prices overall fell this year but rose a year ago.

<b>10 EDUCATION</b>	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2019	2020	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2019	Mar 2020	
10 Education	18	24	-	-	-

- Negligible overall effect on the all items 12-month rate change.

<b>11 RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS</b>	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2019	2020	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2019	Mar 2020	
11 Restaurants and hotels	97	96	0.4	0.1	-0.04

- Large downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **accommodation services** and **catering services**.

11.1 Catering services	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2019	2020	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2019	Mar 2020	
11.1 Catering services	76	80	0.3	0.1	-0.01
11.1.1 Restaurants and cafes	70	74	0.3	0.2	-0.01
11.1.2 Canteens	6	6	0.2	-	-

- Small downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **restaurants and cafes**, where prices overall rose this year by less than a year ago.

11.2 Accommodation services	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2019	2020	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2019	Mar 2020	
11.2 Accommodation services	21	16	1.2	-0.3	-0.03

- Small downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Prices overall fell this year but rose a year ago, particularly for overnight hotel accommodation.

12 MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2019	2020	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2019	Mar 2020	
12 Misc. goods and services	74	77	0.2	0.2	-

- Negligible overall effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- There is a small upward contribution coming from **insurance**.
- Offset by a small downward contribution coming from **other services not elsewhere covered**.



12.1 Personal care	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2019	2020	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2019	Mar 2020	
12.1 Personal care	24	23	0.2	0.4	-
12.1.1 Hairdressing and personal grooming establishments	6	6	0.2	0.2	-
12.1.2/3 Appliances and products for personal care	18	17	0.3	0.5	-

- Negligible overall effect on the all items 12-month rate change.

12.3 Personal effects not elsewhere covered	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2019	2020	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2019	Mar 2020	
12.3 Personal effects not elsewhere covered	15	11	-0.2	-0.4	-
12.3.1 Jewellery, clocks and watches	10	7	-0.3	-	-
12.3.2 Other personal effects	5	4	0.1	-1.2	-0.01

- Negligible overall effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- There is a small downward contribution coming from **other personal effects**, where prices overall fell this year but rose a year ago.

12.4 Social protection	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2019	2020	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2019	Mar 2020	
12.4 Social protection	13	17	0.2	0.2	-

- Negligible overall effect on the all items 12-month rate change.

12.5 Insurance	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2019	2020	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2019	Mar 2020	
12.5 Insurance	5	5	-	1.2	0.01
12.5.2 House contents insurance	1	1	-1.0	-0.2	-
12.5.3 Health insurance	2	2	-	-	-
12.5.4 Transport insurance	2	2	0.6	3.1	0.01

- Small upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **transport insurance**, where average premiums for car insurance rose this year by more than a year ago.

<b>12.6 Financial services not elsewhere covered</b>	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	Weight 2020 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
12.6 Financial services not elsewhere covered	8	8	0.1	0.1	-

- Negligible overall effect on the all items 12-month rate change.

<b>12.7 Other services not elsewhere covered</b>	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	Weight 2020 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
12.7 Other services not elsewhere covered	9	13	0.8	0.2	-0.01

- Small downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Prices overall rose this year by less than a year ago.

## RPI SUMMARY

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHANGE IN THE RPI ANNUAL RATE

GROUPS	Weight pre-Jul 2019	Weight 2020	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
FOOD	100	102	-	0.5	0.05
CATERING	49	51	0.1	0.1	-
ALCOHOLIC DRINKS	59	62	-0.3	-0.2	-
TOBACCO	21	22	0.7	1.9	0.03
HOUSING	260	266	-0.2	0.1	0.07
FUEL AND LIGHT	38	40	0.1	-0.9	-0.04
HOUSEHOLD GOODS	69	67	-	0.2	0.02
HOUSEHOLD SERVICES	61	55	0.3	0.5	0.01
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	39	37	1.7	0.5	-0.05
PERSONAL GOODS AND SERVICES	42	42	0.1	0.1	-
MOTORING EXPENDITURE	125	113	0.5	0.2	-0.04
FARES AND OTHER TRAVEL COSTS	28	26	-2.6	1.5	0.12
LEISURE GOODS	24	26	-0.3	1.1	0.03
LEISURE SERVICES	85	91	0.3	-	-0.03

As a result of the [error identified in the Retail Prices Index \(RPI\) in 2019](#) (resulting from an issue with the 2017 and 2018 Living Costs and Food Survey (LCF) dataset, which is used to produce the weights unpinning the RPI), the 2019 RPI was based on two weight structures – prior to July 2019, on the incorrect basis and, from July 2019 onwards, on the corrected basis. From February 2020, the new 2020 RPI weights structure has been implemented and it should be noted that contributions calculations will be based on the comparison between the latest 2020 weights structure and the structure used at the time of publication. This means that contribution

calculations between now and July 2020 will be based on the uncorrected 2019 weights structure to ensure that no revisions are made to the RPI.

## RPI NOTABLE MOVEMENTS

All items RPI	Annual rate +2.6%, up from +2.5% last month Highest since January 2020 (+2.7%)
All items RPI excl. MIPS (RPIX)	Annual rate +2.7%, up from +2.5% last month Highest since January 2020 (+2.8%)
Personal goods and services	Annual rate +3.5%, up from +3.4% last month Highest since December 2012 (+3.8%)
Leisure goods	Annual rate +2.0%, up from +0.6% last month Also +2.0% in September 2019 Last higher in March 2019 (+2.1%)
All goods	Annual rate +1.3%, down from +1.4% last month Lowest since October 2016 (+0.9%)
All services	Annual rate +4.1%, up from +3.7% last month Highest since May 2019 (+4.2%)

## RPI DETAILED BRIEFING

In accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007, the Retail Prices Index and its derivatives have been assessed against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics and found not to meet the required standard for designation as National Statistics. A consultation was carried out in March 2013 on whether to maintain this detailed RPI briefing and, based on views received, it was decided to continue with its publication.

- Weights are specified as parts per 1000 in the RPI.

<b>FOOD</b>	Weight pre-Jul 2019	Weight 2020	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
FOOD	100	102	-	0.5	0.05

- Large upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **non-seasonal food**.

<b>Seasonal Food</b>	Weight pre-Jul 2019	Weight 2020	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
SEASONAL FOOD	18	18	-1.8	-1.4	-
Home killed lamb	1	1	-0.7	3.0	-
Fresh fish	2	2	-2.2	1.2	0.01
Eggs	1	1	-1.1	1.2	-
Unprocessed potatoes	1	1	-0.8	-3.4	-
Other fresh vegetables	6	6	-1.2	-1.2	-
Fresh fruit	7	7	-2.4	-3.2	-0.01

- Negligible overall effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- There is a small upward contribution coming from **fresh fish**, where prices overall rose this year but fell a year ago.
- Offset by a small downward contribution coming from **fresh fruit**, where prices overall fell this year by more than a year ago.

<b>Non-Seasonal Food</b>	Weight pre-Jul 2019	Weight 2020	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
NON-SEASONAL FOOD	82	84	0.5	1.0	0.05
Bread	3	3	0.5	1.0	-
Cereals	3	3	-1.4	3.9	0.02
Biscuits and cakes	6	6	1.0	3.5	0.02
Beef	3	3	-0.4	0.9	-
Imported lamb	1	0	-0.7	-	-
Pork	1	1	-0.1	-	-
Bacon	1	1	0.1	0.1	-
Poultry	4	3	0.1	0.5	-
Other meat	6	6	0.3	-1.6	-0.01
Processed fish	2	2	-1.3	-1.1	-
Butter	1	1	-3.2	3.3	0.01
Oils and fats	1	1	0.6	5.1	-
Cheese	3	3	-0.7	-0.1	-
Milk, fresh	3	3	-1.3	0.9	0.01
Milk products	4	4	-1.0	-0.2	-
Tea	1	1	3.4	3.9	-
Soft drinks	9	9	1.3	-0.7	-0.02
Sugar and preserves	1	1	1.6	1.5	-
Sweets and chocolates	11	12	0.9	0.1	-0.01
Potato products	3	3	3.2	-3.1	-0.02
Processed vegetables	1	2	1.2	-1.0	-
Processed fruit	1	2	-5.6	-2.5	-
Other foods	11	12	1.1	4.4	0.04
Coffee and other hot drinks	2	2	2.7	3.7	-

- Large upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to:
  - **Other foods** and, to a lesser extent, **biscuits and cakes**, where prices overall rose this year by more than a year ago, with the main upward contributions coming from chocolate biscuits, chocolate covered ice cream bars, mayonnaise, dried potted snacks, packs of individual cakes and chilled pizzas. Partially offset by small downward contributions coming from cook-in sauces and whole sponge cakes; and
  - **Cereals, butter** and **fresh milk**, where prices overall rose this year but fell a year ago, particularly for spreadable butter and breakfast cereals.
- Partially offset by:
  - **Potato products, soft drinks** and **other meat**, where prices overall fell this year but rose a year ago, particularly for premium potato crisps, cooked ham, bottles of cola drink and frozen chips; and
  - **Sweets and chocolates**, where prices overall rose this year by less than a year ago, with the main downward contribution coming from cartons/boxes of chocolates.

<b>CATERING</b>	Weight pre-Jul 2019	Weight 2020	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
CATERING	49	51	0.1	0.1	-
Restaurant meals	29	30	0.2	-	-
Canteen meals	3	3	0.2	0.1	-
Take-away meals and snacks	17	18	0.1	0.3	-

- Negligible overall effect on the all items 12-month rate change.

<b>ALCOHOLIC DRINKS</b>	Weight pre-Jul 2019	Weight 2020	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
ALCOHOLIC DRINKS	59	62	-0.3	-0.2	-
Beer on sales	19	19	0.4	0.1	-0.01
Beer off sales	6	6	-0.6	-0.4	-
Wines and spirits on sales	19	21	0.4	0.3	-
Wines and spirits off sales	15	16	-1.8	-1.3	0.01

- Negligible overall effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- There is a small upward contribution coming from **wines and spirits off sales**, where prices overall fell this year by less than a year ago, with the main upward contributions coming from vodka and red wine. Partially offset by a small downward contribution coming from European white wine, where prices overall fell this year but rose a year ago.
- Offset by a small downward contribution coming from **beer on sales**, where prices overall rose this year by less than a year ago.

<b>TOBACCO</b>	Weight pre-Jul 2019	Weight 2020	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
TOBACCO	21	22	0.7	1.9	0.03
Cigarettes	17	18	0.7	2.0	0.02
Other tobacco products	4	4	0.9	1.8	-

- Small upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **cigarettes**, where prices overall rose this year by more than a year ago. Duty rates for tobacco products increased from 11 March 2020 as announced in Budget 2020.



<b>HOUSING</b>	Weight pre-Jul 2019	Weight 2020	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
HOUSING	260	266	-0.2	0.1	0.07
Rent	77	82	0.1	0.1	-
Mortgage interest payments	25	24	-0.1	0.4	0.01
Council Tax and rates	39	41	-	-	-
Water and other charges	12	13	-	-	-
Repairs and maintenance charges	10	9	0.1	0.1	-
DIY materials	7	7	-	0.4	-
Dwelling insurance and ground rent	6	6	0.4	0.1	-
House depreciation	84	84	-0.8	-0.1	0.06

- Large upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to:
  - **House depreciation**, where the smoothed house price index used to calculate this component fell this year by less than a year ago; and, to a lesser extent,
  - **Mortgage interest payments**, where average charges rose this year but fell a year ago.

<b>FUEL AND LIGHT</b>	Weight pre-Jul 2019	Weight 2020	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
FUEL AND LIGHT	38	40	0.1	-0.9	-0.04
Coal and solid fuels	1	1	0.3	-	-
Electricity	19	21	-	-	-
Gas	15	15	-	-	-
Oil and other fuels	3	3	0.5	-13.1	-0.04

- Large downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **oil and other fuels**, where average prices for kerosene fell this year but rose a year ago.

<b>HOUSEHOLD GOODS</b>	Weight pre-Jul 2019	Weight 2020	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
HOUSEHOLD GOODS	69	67	-	0.2	0.02
Furniture	27	27	-1.7	0.4	0.06
Furnishings	10	9	1.3	0.3	-0.01
Electrical appliances	7	6	-0.3	0.3	-
Other household equipment	5	4	2.4	0.1	-0.01
Household consumables	11	12	1.3	-0.3	-0.02
Pet care	9	9	0.8	0.2	-0.01

- Small upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **furniture**, where prices overall rose this year but fell a year ago, with the main upward contributions coming from leather settees, mattresses, double wardrobes and chests of drawers.
- Partially offset by:
  - **Furnishings, other household equipment and pet care**, where prices overall rose this year by less than a year ago, with the main downward contribution coming from plastic food storage containers; and
  - **Household consumables**, where prices overall fell this year but rose a year ago.

<b>HOUSEHOLD SERVICES</b>	Weight pre-Jul 2019	Weight 2020	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
HOUSEHOLD SERVICES	61	55	0.3	0.5	0.01
Domestic services	14	12	0.2	0.2	-
Fees and subscriptions	22	18	0.3	-	-0.01
Postage	1	1	-	-	-
Telephone charges	24	24	0.3	1.1	0.02

- Small upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **telephone charges**, where average prices for mobile phone applications and mobile phone charges rose this year by more than a year ago.
- Partially offset by **fees and subscriptions**, where average charges for birth, death and marriage certificates were unchanged this year but rose a year ago.

<b>CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR</b>	Weight pre-Jul 2019	Weight 2020	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	39	37	1.7	0.5	-0.05
Men's outerwear	8	7	1.4	-0.1	-0.01
Women's outerwear	14	13	2.8	1.0	-0.03
Children's outerwear	4	4	0.6	-1.6	-0.01
Other clothing	5	5	0.1	0.2	-
Footwear	8	8	1.8	1.7	-

- Largest downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to:
  - **Women's outerwear**, where prices overall rose this year by less than a year ago, with the main downward contributions coming from formal trousers, coats/jackets and jeans; and
  - **Men's outerwear** and **children's outerwear**, where prices overall fell this year but rose a year ago.

<b>PERSONAL GOODS AND SERVICES</b>	Weight pre-Jul 2019	Weight 2020	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
PERSONAL GOODS AND SERVICES	42	42	0.1	0.1	-
Personal articles	10	10	-	-0.2	-
Chemists' goods	16	16	-	0.4	0.01
Personal services	16	16	0.2	0.2	-

- Negligible overall effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- There is a small upward contribution coming from **chemists' goods**, where prices overall rose this year but were little changed a year ago, with the main upward contributions coming from toothpaste and body moisturising lotion. Partially offset by a small downward contribution coming from toothbrushes, where prices overall fell this year but rose a year ago.

<b>MOTORING EXPENDITURE</b>	Weight pre-Jul 2019	Weight 2020	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
MOTORING EXPENDITURE	125	113	0.5	0.2	-0.04
Purchase of motor vehicles	51	37	-0.1	0.8	0.04
Maintenance of motor vehicles	17	15	0.7	0.8	-
Petrol and oil	35	37	1.0	-2.8	-0.14
Vehicle tax and insurance	22	24	0.8	3.3	0.06

- Large downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **petrol and oil**, where prices overall fell this year but rose a year ago. The price of petrol, as recorded for the RPI, fell by 3.5 pence per litre between February and March 2020, to stand at 120.3 pence per litre, compared with a rise of 1.1 pence per litre last year, to stand at 120.1 pence per litre. Diesel prices fell by 3.8 pence per litre, to stand at 124.4 pence per litre in March 2020, compared with a rise of 1.4 pence per litre last year, to stand at 130.6 pence per litre.
- Partially offset by:
  - **Vehicle tax and insurance**, where average premiums for car insurance rose this year by more than a year ago; and
  - **Purchase of motor vehicles**, where average prices for second-hand cars rose this year but fell a year ago.

<b>FARES AND OTHER TRAVEL COSTS</b>	Weight pre-Jul 2019	Weight 2020	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
FARES AND OTHER TRAVEL COSTS	28	26	-2.6	1.5	0.12
Rail fares	7	7	-0.2	-0.9	-0.01
Bus and coach fares	3	3	-0.6	-2.8	-0.01
Other travel costs	18	16	-3.9	3.4	0.13

- Largest upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **other travel costs**, where average air fares rose this year but fell a year ago.
- Partially offset by **rail fares** and **bus and coach fares**, where average coach fares and international rail fares fell this year by more than a year ago.

<b>LEISURE GOODS</b>	Weight pre-Jul 2019	Weight 2020	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
LEISURE GOODS	24	26	-0.3	1.1	0.03
Audio-visual equipment	4	5	-	1.5	0.01
CDs and tapes	1	1	-2.0	-7.1	-0.01
Toys, photographic and sports goods	9	9	0.3	1.7	0.01
Books and newspapers	5	5	-1.2	1.9	0.02
Gardening products	5	6	-0.1	0.8	-

- Small upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to:
  - **Books and newspapers**, where prices overall rose this year but fell a year ago, particularly for eBooks;
  - **Audio-visual equipment**, where prices overall rose this year but were little changed a year ago; and
  - **Toys, photographic and sports goods**, where prices overall rose this year by more than a year ago, particularly for footballs.
- Partially offset by **CDs and tapes**, where prices overall fell this year by more than a year ago.

<b>LEISURE SERVICES</b>	Weight pre-Jul 2019	Weight 2020	1 month % change Mar 2019	1 month % change Mar 2020	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
LEISURE SERVICES	85	91	0.3	-	-0.03
TV licence and rentals	10	14	-	-	-
Entertainment and other recreation	16	16	0.6	0.2	-0.01
Foreign holidays	46	50	0.1	-0.1	-0.01
UK holidays	13	11	1.0	-0.2	-0.01

- Small downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to:
  - **Foreign holidays** and **UK holidays**, where average charges for foreign holidays and overnight hotel accommodation fell this year but rose a year ago; and
  - **Entertainment and other recreation**, where average charges rose this year by less than a year ago.

## RECONCILIATION OF CPIH AND RPI

### (Table 5a of the Consumer Price Inflation Dataset)

This table identifies the main factors contributing to the differences between the unrounded inflation rates for the CPIH and the RPI. These differences are broken down into: mortgage interest payments, other housing components excluded from the CPIH, imputed rents (included in CPIH as a measure of owner occupiers' housing costs and excluded from RPI), other differences in the coverage of goods and services, and the formula effect. The final component titled 'other differences including weights' is derived as a residual.

The corresponding figures for the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) can be found in Table 5b of the [Consumer price inflation dataset](#).

The difference between the CPIH and RPI unrounded annual rates in March 2020 was -1.09 percentage points, widening from -0.75 percentage points in February 2020.

The main factors contributing to the widening were:

- **Other differences including weights**, which increased the RPI 12-month rate relative to the CPIH 12-month rate by 0.26 percentage points between February and March 2020. The effect came mainly from air fares; insurance; furniture and furnishings; food and non-alcoholic beverages; recording media; clothing and footwear; and overnight hotel accommodation. These were partially offset by a narrowing effect from liquid fuels.
- **Other housing components**, which increased the RPI 12-month rate relative to the CPIH 12-month rate by 0.06 percentage points between February and March 2020. The effect came mainly from house depreciation.
- **The formula effect**, which increased the RPI 12-month rate relative to the CPIH 12-month rate by 0.02 percentage points between February and March 2020. The effect came mainly from food and non-alcoholic beverages.

There were no significant offsetting factors.

## RPI MISCELLANEOUS DATA

### Selected Average Prices

Description		January 2020	February 2020	March 2020
Fuel per litre	Diesel	£1.33	£1.28	£1.24
	Petrol	£1.27	£1.24	£1.20
Alcohol pub prices	Draught bitter (pint)	£3.13	£3.12	£3.13
	Draught lager (pint)	£3.73	£3.76	£3.75
	Whisky (per nip)	£3.00	£3.03	£3.05
Cigarettes	Per 20 king size	£10.80	£10.80	£11.02

Average prices are as recorded for the RPI.

### Changes in Mortgage Interest Rates

This table gives an estimate of the contribution that changes in the average mortgage interest rate (MI) make to the 1-month percentage change in the RPI.

Month	1-month % change in the RPI	Approx. change in average MI rate	Approx. contribution to the 1-month % change in the RPI
March 2019	0.0	Down -0.01% points	-0.01% points
April 2019	+1.1	Down -0.01% points	-0.01% points
May 2019	+0.3	Negligible	-
June 2019	+0.1	Down -0.02% points	-0.02% points
July 2019	0.0	Negligible	-
August 2019	+0.8	Negligible	-
September 2019	-0.2	Negligible	-
October 2019	-0.2	Down -0.02% points	-0.02% points
November 2019	+0.2	Down -0.01% points	-0.01% points
December 2019	+0.3	Negligible	-
January 2020	-0.4	Down -0.03% points	-0.03% points
February 2020	+0.5	Down -0.02% points	-0.02% points
March 2020	+0.2	Negligible	-

**NB:** A one percentage point change in the average mortgage interest rate contributes approx. 1.0 percentage points to the 1-month percentage change in the RPI.

## OUTLOOK

The outlook is a summary of seasonal trends, selected news cuttings and other sources of information. It gives some indication of expected changes to the annual rate of the CPIH and RPI in the next few months.

### FOOD

#### Seasonal Food

- Seasonal food prices have tended to fall in April of recent years and are typically dependent on weather conditions both in the UK and around the world.

Monthly % change for CPIH seasonal food index			
Year	February	March	April
2014	-0.4	-0.5	-1.7
2015	-0.3	-0.4	-0.7
2016	1.4	-0.9	-0.8
2017	2.2	0.6	-0.2
2018	0.1	-0.5	-0.8
2019	0.4	-0.5	-0.8
2020	0.7	-2.3	

- Seasonal food prices in the RPI tend to show a similar movement.

### CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR

- Prices for clothing and footwear tend to rise in April.

Monthly % change for CPIH clothing and footwear index			
Year	February	March	April
2014	1.1	1.8	1.0
2015	1.3	-0.1	0.7
2016	1.3	1.0	-0.3
2017	1.2	2.0	1.1
2018	1.7	0.7	0.4
2019	1.0	1.0	0.2
2020	0.9	-0.3	

- The clothing and footwear group in the RPI exhibits a similar seasonal pattern.

### HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY, GAS AND OTHER FUELS

#### Council Tax

- The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) announced that the average Band D council tax set by local authorities in England for 2020-21 will be £1,817 – a 3.9% increase on last year. ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) 25 March 2020)
- Council tax bills had been frozen in Scotland since 2007. From April 2017, the freeze was replaced with discretion for local authorities to increase council tax by a maximum of 3% per



year. For 2020, the Scottish government has signalled that the thirty-two local authorities could raise bills by up to 4.84%. ([www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk) 9 March 2020)

- The Welsh Government announced that the average band D council tax for Wales for 2020-21 is £1,667 – a 4.8% increase on last year. ([gov.wales](http://gov.wales) 24 March 2020)
- The recorded increase for council tax and rates in the CPIH last April was 4.7%.

## FURNITURE, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

- Prices tend to fall in April.

Monthly % change for CPIH furniture, household equipment and maintenance index			
Year	February	March	April
2014	2.5	0.3	-0.9
2015	1.4	0.4	-1.2
2016	1.7	0.7	-1.5
2017	2.4	0.7	-1.0
2018	2.5	-0.1	-0.8
2019	2.0	0.1	-1.2
2020	1.7	-	

- The household goods group in the RPI exhibits a similar seasonal pattern.

## HEALTH

### Prescription Charges

- The Department of Health and Social Care has announced that NHS prescription charges for England will rise by 15 pence to £9.15 from 1 April 2020. ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) 3 March 2020)

## TRANSPORT

### Fuels and Lubricants

- U.S. crude oil futures turned negative for the first time in history, falling to minus \$37.63 a barrel as traders sold heavily because of rapidly filling storage space at a key delivery point. Brent crude, the international benchmark, also slumped, but that contract is not as weak because more storage is available worldwide. The May U.S. WTI contract fell to settle at a discount of \$37.63 a barrel after touching an all-time low of -\$40.32 a barrel. Brent was down to \$25.57 a barrel. ([uk.reuters.com](http://uk.reuters.com) 19 April 2020)
- When considering the price of petrol between March and April 2020, it may be useful to note that the average price of petrol rose by 3.8 pence per litre between March and April 2019, to stand at 124.1 pence per litre as measured in the CPIH.
- A 1 pence change on average in the cost of a litre of motor fuel contributes approximately 0.02 percentage points to the 1-month change in the CPIH.

**Passenger Transport by Air**

- Air fares have shown variable movements in April which can depend on the position of Easter.

Monthly % change for CPIH air fares index			
Year	February	March	April
2014	3.3	1.9	17.9
2015	5.3	2.7	4.5
2016	5.6	22.9	-14.2
2017	6.0	-3.9	18.6
2018	5.3	-2.1	-0.2
2019	7.7	-5.7	26.4
2020	5.3	5.3	

- The air fares index used in the RPI is the same as that used in the CPIH and is included in the **other travel costs** section.

**COMMUNICATION****Postal Services**

- Royal Mail has announced that from 23 March 2020, the price of a First Class stamp will rise by 6p to 76p and the price of a Second Class stamp will rise by 4p to 65p.  
([www.royalmailgroup.com](http://www.royalmailgroup.com) 21 February 2020)

**RECREATION AND CULTURE****Television Licence**

- The cost of a TV Licence will change on 1 April 2020. A colour licence will cost £157.50, an increase of £3.00 on the current fee. A black and white licence will cost £53.00, an increase of £1.00. ([www.tvlicensing.co.uk](http://www.tvlicensing.co.uk))

**HOUSING (RPI)****Mortgage Interest Payments (MIPs)**

- The Bank of England Bank Rate was decreased from 0.75% to 0.25% on Wednesday 11 March 2020, and then to 0.10% on Thursday 19 March 2020. It was not changed further at the subsequent meeting whose minutes were published on Thursday 26 March 2020. The next announcement and minutes from the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee are scheduled to be published on 7 May 2020.
- The change in average mortgage interest rates recorded in the RPI was -0.01 percentage points between March and April 2019. The Bank of England Bank Rate remained unchanged at 0.75% in March 2019.
- A one percentage point change in the average mortgage interest rate contributes approximately 1.0 percentage points to the 1-month percentage change in the RPI.

**Next publication:**

20 May 2020

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