

Consumer Price Inflation

March 2019

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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 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](#).

The main movements for CPIH in March 2019 are:

- The all items CPIH is 107.0, up from 106.8 in February.
- The all items CPIH annual rate is 1.8%, unchanged from last month.
- The annual rate for CPIH excluding indirect taxes, CPIHY, is 1.7%, up from 1.6% last month.
- The OOH component of CPIH is 106.4, up from 106.3 in February.
- The OOH component annual rate is 1.1%, unchanged from last month.
- The CPIH all goods index is 105.1, up from 104.8 in February.
- The CPIH all goods index annual rate is 1.3%, unchanged from last month.
- The CPIH all services index is 108.4, up from 108.3 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 2019 are:

- The all items CPI is 107.0, up from 106.8 in February.
- The all items CPI annual rate is 1.9%, unchanged from last month.
- The annual rate for CPI excluding indirect taxes, CPIY, is 1.8%, unchanged from last month.
- The annual rate for CPI at constant tax rates, CPI-CT, is 1.8%, up from 1.7% last month.
- The CPI all goods index is 105.1, up from 104.8 in February.
- The CPI all goods index annual rate is 1.3%, unchanged from last month.
- The CPI all services index is 109.1, up from 109.0 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 main movements for RPI in March 2019 are:

- The all items RPI is 285.1, up from 285.0 in February.
- The all items RPI annual rate is 2.4%, down from 2.5% last month.
- The annual rate for RPIX, the all items RPI excluding mortgage interest payments (MIPs), is 2.4%, unchanged from last month.
- The all goods RPI is 217.3, up from 216.8 in February.
- The all goods RPI annual rate is 2.3%, unchanged from last month.
- The all services RPI is 388.3, up from 388.1 in February.
- The all services RPI annual rate is 2.7%, unchanged from last month.

CPIH SUMMARY

CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHANGE IN THE CPIH ANNUAL RATE

CPIH COICOP DIVISIONS	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2018 Feb-Dec	2019 Feb-Dec	% change Mar 2018	% change Mar 2019	
01: Food and non-alcoholic beverages	83	82	0.5	0.1	-0.03
02: Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	34	32	-0.5	-0.3	0.01
03: Clothing and footwear	57	54	0.7	1.0	0.02
04: Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	301	298	0.1	0.1	-
05: Furniture, household equipment and maintenance	48	53	-0.1	0.1	0.01
06: Health	21	22	0.1	0.3	-
07: Transport	124	123	-0.3	-0.1	0.03
08: Communication	20	20	-	0.2	-
09: Recreation and culture	120	127	0.6	0.2	-0.05
10: Education	18	18	-	-	-
11: Restaurants and hotels	97	97	0.3	0.4	0.01
12: Miscellaneous goods and services	77	74	-0.2	0.2	0.03

Small upward effects came from:

- **Transport**, where prices fell between February and March this year but by less than between the same two months a year ago. The upward effect within this grouping came from motor fuels. Petrol prices rose by 1.2 pence per litre between February and March 2019 compared with a fall of 1.6 pence per litre a year ago. They now stand on average at 120.3 pence per litre. Similarly, diesel prices rose by 1.4 pence per litre this year to stand at 130.7 pence per litre, compared with a fall of 1.5 pence per litre a year ago. This upward effect was partially offset by smaller downward contributions coming from new cars and air fares, the latter principally from European routes;
- **Miscellaneous goods and services**, with prices for personal care products rising this year but falling a year ago. This category includes toiletries, cosmetics and personal electrical appliances such as hairdryers and straighteners; and

- **Clothing and footwear**, where clothing prices continued to rise following the January sales period but by more than a year ago. The upward effect came principally from a variety of women's clothing items.

A large downward effect came from:

- **Recreation and culture**, where prices rose by 0.2% between February and March 2019 compared with a larger rise of 0.6% between the same two months of 2018. Within this group, the largest downward effect came from games, toys and hobbies, particularly computer games. Price movements for these can often be relatively large depending on the composition of bestseller charts and the downward contribution between the latest two months follows an upward contribution between January and February 2019. There was also a small downward effect from recording media, which fell in price this year but rose in 2018.

A small downward effect came from:

- **Food and non-alcoholic beverages**, with prices rising by less between February and March this year than between the same two months a year ago. The downward contribution came from a range of categories, with the single largest effect coming from oils and fats, where prices of margarine and low-fat spread fell this year but rose a year ago.

CPIH NOTABLE MOVEMENTS

All items CPIH	<p>Annual rate +1.8%, unchanged from last month Also +1.8% in January 2019 and December 2016 Last higher in December 2018 (+2.0%) Last lower in November 2016 (+1.5%)</p>
All items CPIH exc energy, food, alcohol and tobacco	<p>Annual rate +1.8%, unchanged from last month Also +1.8% in January 2019, December 2018, November 2018, October 2018, September 2018, July 2018, June 2018, January 2017 and December 2016 Last higher in August 2018 (+1.9%) Last lower in November 2016 (+1.7%)</p>
Communication	<p>Annual rate +3.7%, up from +3.6% last month Highest since August 2016 (+4.2%)</p>
Miscellaneous goods and services	<p>Annual rate +0.6%, up from +0.2% last month Highest since February 2018 (+0.8%)</p>
All goods	<p>Annual rate +1.3%, unchanged from last month Last higher in December 2018 (+1.8%) Last lower in January 2019 (+1.2%)</p>
All services	<p>Annual rate +2.2%, unchanged from last month Also +2.2% in January 2019, November 2018 and August 2018 Last higher in January 2018 (+2.3%) Last lower in December 2018 (+2.1%)</p>

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.

01 FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
01 Food & non-alcoholic beverages	83	82	0.5	0.1	-0.03

- Small downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **food**.

01.1 Food	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
01.1 Food	73	72	0.3	-0.1	-0.03
01.1.1 Bread and cereals	12	12	-0.4	0.7	0.01
01.1.2 Meat	16	15	0.6	-0.1	-0.01
01.1.3 Fish	3	3	-1.3	-1.6	-
01.1.4 Milk, cheese and eggs	9	9	0.2	-0.9	-0.01
01.1.5 Oils and fats	2	2	6.7	-1.4	-0.02
01.1.6 Fruit	8	8	-1.4	-2.1	-0.01
01.1.7 Vegetables including potatoes	10	11	0.5	0.9	0.01
01.1.8 Sugar, jam, syrups, chocolate and confectionery	11	10	0.7	0.5	-
01.1.9 Food products not elsewhere covered	2	2	2.0	1.2	-

- Small downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **oils and fats; meat; milk, cheese and eggs; and fruit**.
- Partially offset by **bread and cereals; and vegetables including potatoes**.

Bread and cereals

- Small upward effect.
- Prices overall rose this year but fell a year ago, particularly for half chocolate coated biscuits and individual fruit pies.

Meat

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

Milk, cheese and eggs

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

Oils and fats

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

Fruit

- Small downward effect.
- Prices overall fell this year by more than a year ago.

Vegetables including potatoes

- Small upward effect.
- Prices overall rose this year by more than a year ago, with the main upward contributions coming from premium potato crisps and canned vegetables.
- Partially offset by a downward contribution coming from fresh/chilled vegetables, where prices overall fell this year but rose a year ago.

01.2 Non-alcoholic beverages	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2018	2019	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2018	Mar 2019	
01.2 Non-alcoholic beverages	10	10	1.7	1.6	-
01.2.1 Coffee, tea and cocoa	3	3	0.6	2.7	0.01
01.2.2 Mineral waters, soft drinks and juices	7	7	2.2	1.2	-0.01

- Negligible overall effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- There is a small upward contribution coming from **coffee, tea and cocoa**, where prices overall rose this year by more than a year ago, with the main upward contribution coming from instant coffee.
- Offset by a small downward contribution coming from **mineral waters, soft drinks and juices**, where prices overall rose this year by less than a year ago, particularly for fresh/chilled orange juice.

02 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
02 Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	34	32	-0.5	-0.3	0.01

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

02.1 Alcoholic Beverages	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
02.1 Alcoholic beverages	16	15	-1.1	-1.5	-
02.1.1 Spirits	5	4	-3.6	-3.7	-
02.1.2 Wine	7	7	0.5	-0.6	-0.01
02.1.3 Beer	4	4	-0.9	-0.8	-

- Negligible overall effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- There is a small downward contribution coming from **wine**, where prices overall fell this year but rose a year ago, particularly for New World wine.

02.2 Tobacco	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
02.2 Tobacco	18	17	0.1	0.7	0.01

- Small upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Average prices for cigarettes rose this year by more than a year ago.

03 CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
03 Clothing and footwear	57	54	0.7	1.0	0.02

- Small upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **clothing**.
- Partially offset by **footwear including repairs**.

03.1 Clothing	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2018	2019	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2018	Mar 2019	
03.1 Clothing	47	45	0.5	1.0	0.03
03.1.2 Garments	42	41	0.5	1.1	0.02
03.1.3 Other clothing and clothing accessories	4	3	-0.3	0.5	-
03.1.4 Cleaning, repair and hire of clothing	1	1	0.3	-0.1	-

- Small upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **garments**, where prices overall rose this year by more than a year ago, with the main upward contributions coming from garments for women, in particular dresses, jeans and formal trousers, and garments for infants and children. Partially offset by downward contributions coming from garments for men, and women's casual trousers.

03.2 Footwear including repairs	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2018	2019	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2018	Mar 2019	
03.2 Footwear including repairs	10	9	1.7	1.0	-0.01

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

04 HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY, GAS AND OTHER FUELS	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2018	2019	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2018	Mar 2019	
04 Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	301	298	0.1	0.1	-

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

04.1 Actual rentals for housing	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2018	2019	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2018	Mar 2019	
04.1 Actual rentals for housing	69	69	-	0.1	-

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

04.2 Owner occupiers' housing costs	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
04.2 Owner occupiers' housing costs	169	165	0.1	0.1	-

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

04.3 Regular maintenance and repair of the dwelling	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
04.3 Regular maintenance and repair of the dwelling	2	3	0.9	0.1	-
04.3.1 Materials for maintenance and repair	1	1	1.7	-0.1	-
04.3.2 Services for maintenance and repair	1	2	0.2	0.1	-

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

04.4 Other services related to the dwelling	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	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.

04.5 Electricity, gas and other fuels	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
04.5 Electricity, gas and other fuels	27	26	0.2	-	-
04.5.1 Electricity	13	14	-	-	-
04.5.2 Gas	12	10	-	-	-
04.5.3 Liquid fuels	1	1	5.2	0.6	-0.01
04.5.4 Solid fuels	1	1	0.3	0.3	-

- Negligible overall effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- There is a small downward contribution coming from **liquid fuels**, where average kerosene prices rose this year by less than a year ago.

04.9 Council Tax and rates	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
04.9 Council Tax and rates	25	26	-	-	-

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

05 FURNITURE, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
05 Furniture, household equipment and maintenance	48	53	-0.1	0.1	0.01

- Small upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **household textiles**; and **goods and services for routine maintenance**.
- Partially offset by **furniture, furnishings and carpets**.

05.1 Furniture, furnishings and carpets	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
05.1 Furniture, furnishings and carpets	18	22	-0.4	-0.5	-0.01
05.1.1 Furniture and furnishings	14	15	-0.5	-1.2	-0.01
05.1.2 Carpets and other floor coverings	4	7	0.3	0.8	-

- Small downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **furniture and furnishings**, where prices overall fell this year by more than a year ago.

05.2 Household textiles	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
05.2 Household textiles	5	5	-0.2	1.3	0.01

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

05.3 Household appliances, fitting and repairs	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
05.3 Household appliances, fitting and repairs	7	8	-0.2	0.1	-
05.3.1/2 Major appliances and small electric goods	6	7	-0.2	0.1	-
05.3.3 Repair of household appliances	1	1	0.1	-	-

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

05.4 Glassware, tableware and household utensils	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
05.4 Glassware, tableware and household utensils	4	4	0.7	1.5	-

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

05.5 Tools and equipment for house and garden	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
05.5 Tools and equipment for house and garden	4	5	0.1	-0.5	-

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

05.6 Goods and services for routine maintenance	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
05.6 Goods and services for routine maintenance	10	9	-	0.8	0.01
05.6.1 Non-durable household goods	4	3	-	1.9	0.01
05.6.2 Domestic services and household services	6	6	-	0.3	-

- Small upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **non-durable household goods**, where prices overall rose this year but were little changed a year ago, with the main upward contribution coming from household cleaner cream/liquid.

06 HEALTH	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
06 Health	21	22	0.1	0.3	-

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

06.1 Medical products, appliances and equipment	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
06.1 Medical products, appliances and equipment	9	9	-	0.4	-
06.1.1 Pharmaceutical products	5	5	0.1	0.6	-
06.1.2/3 Other medical and therapeutic equipment	4	4	-	0.2	-

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

06.2 Out-patient services	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
06.2 Out-patient services	7	8	0.3	0.1	-
06.2.1/3 Medical and paramedical services	4	5	0.4	0.1	-
06.2.2 Dental services	3	3	0.2	0.1	-

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

06.3 Hospital services	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
06.3 Hospital Services	5	5	-	0.2	-

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

07 TRANSPORT	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
07 Transport	124	123	-0.3	-0.1	0.03

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

07.1 Purchase of vehicles	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
07.1 Purchase of vehicles	38	37	0.8	-	-0.03
07.1.1A New cars	22	21	0.8	-	-0.02
07.1.1B Second-hand cars	14	14	0.8	-0.1	-0.01
07.1.2/3 Motorcycles and bicycles	2	2	-0.4	0.4	-

- Small downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **new cars** and **second-hand cars**.

New cars

- Small downward effect.
- Prices overall were little changed this year but rose a year ago.

Second-hand cars

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

07.2 Operation of personal transport equipment	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
07.2 Operation of personal transport equipment	58	60	-0.3	0.7	0.06
07.2.1 Spare parts and accessories	4	4	0.2	0.2	-
07.2.2 Fuels and lubricants	25	24	-1.3	1.0	0.06
07.2.3 Maintenance and repairs	19	20	0.4	0.8	0.01
07.2.4 Other services	10	12	0.3	0.2	-

- Large upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **fuels and lubricants** and, to a lesser extent, **maintenance and repairs**.

Fuels and lubricants

- Large upward effect.
- Prices overall rose this year but fell a year ago.
- The average price of petrol across the month, as recorded for the CPIH, rose by 1.2 pence per litre between February and March 2019, to stand at 120.3 pence per litre.
- Last year, the average price of petrol fell by 1.6 pence per litre between February and March 2018, to stand at 119.2 pence per litre.
- The average price of diesel rose by 1.4 pence per litre between February and March 2019 to stand at 130.7 pence per litre, compared with a fall of 1.5 pence per litre a year earlier, to stand at 122.9 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.

07.3 Transport services	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2018 Feb-Dec	2019 Feb-Dec	% change Mar 2018	% change Mar 2019	
07.3 Transport services	28	26	-1.8	-1.9	-
07.3.1 Passenger transport by railway	11	11	0.2	-0.2	-0.01
07.3.2 Passenger transport by road	10	9	-1.6	-0.4	0.01
07.3.3 Passenger transport by air	4	4	-2.1	-5.7	-0.02
07.3.4 Passenger transport by sea and inland waterway	3	2	-9.1	-10.2	0.01

- Negligible overall effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- There are small downward contributions coming from **passenger transport by air** and **passenger transport by railway**.
- Offset by small upward contributions coming from **passenger transport by road** and **passenger transport by sea and inland waterway**.

Passenger transport by railway

- Small downward effect.
- Average charges for rail journeys fell this year but rose a year ago, particularly for international travel.

Passenger transport by road

- Small upward effect.
- Average coach fares fell this year by less than a year ago.

Passenger transport by air

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

Passenger transport by sea and inland waterway

- Small upward effect.
- The upward contribution is due to weight changes in 2019. Average fares fell this year by more than a year ago. However, as the weight for passenger transport by sea and inland waterway has decreased between 2018 and 2019, this has resulted in a small upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.

08 COMMUNICATION	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
08 Communication	20	20	-	0.2	-

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

08.1 Postal services	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to CPIH annual 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 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
08.2/3 Telephone equipment and services	19	19	-	0.2	-

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

09 RECREATION AND CULTURE	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
09 Recreation and culture	120	127	0.6	0.2	-0.05

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

09.1 Audio-visual equipment and related products	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
09.1 Audio-visual equipment and related products	14	17	1.2	-0.3	-0.02
09.1.1 Equipment for the reception and reproduction of sound and pictures	4	4	-0.5	-1.0	-
09.1.2 Photographic, cinematographic and optical equipment	1	2	0.4	-2.3	-0.01
09.1.3 Data processing equipment	5	7	2.4	2.0	-
09.1.4 Recording media	3	3	2.1	-3.5	-0.02
09.1.5 Repair of audio-visual equipment and related products	1	1	0.4	0.1	-

- Small downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **recording media; and photographic, cinematographic and optical equipment.**

Photographic, cinematographic and optical equipment

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

Recording media

- Small downward effect.
- Prices overall fell this year but rose a year ago, particularly for CDs.

09.2 Other major durables for recreation and culture	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
09.2.1/2 Major durables for in/outdoor recreation	14	14	-	-0.1	-

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

09.3 Other recreational items, gardens and pets	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
09.3 Other recreational items, gardens and pets	29	30	1.8	0.7	-0.03
09.3.1 Games, toys and hobbies	17	18	3.0	1.0	-0.03
09.3.2 Equipment for sport and open-air recreation	2	2	0.3	0.1	-
09.3.3 Gardens, plants and flowers	3	3	-0.2	-0.4	-
09.3.4/5 Pets, related products and services	7	7	0.4	0.8	-

- Small downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **games, toys and hobbies**, where prices overall rose this year by less than a year ago, with the main downward contributions coming from computer games, computer game downloads and computer game consoles. Partially offset by a small upward contribution coming from soft toys/teddy bears, where prices overall rose this year but fell a year ago.

09.4 Recreational and cultural services	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
09.4 Recreational and cultural services	23	22	0.3	0.5	-
09.4.1 Recreational and sporting services	7	6	-	0.1	-
09.4.2 Cultural services	16	16	0.5	0.6	-

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

09.5 Books, newspapers and stationery	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2018	2019	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2018	Mar 2019	
09.5 Books, newspapers and stationery	9	10	-1.7	-0.1	0.02
09.5.1 Books	3	3	-4.8	-1.4	0.01
09.5.2 Newspapers and periodicals	3	3	-0.1	0.5	-
09.5.3/4 Misc. printed matter, stationery, drawing materials	3	4	-0.2	0.4	-

- Small upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **books**, where prices overall fell this year by less than a year ago, with the main upward contribution coming from hardback non-fiction.

09.6 Package holidays	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2018	2019	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2018	Mar 2019	
09.6 Package holidays	31	34	0.5	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.

10 EDUCATION	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2018	2019	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2018	Mar 2019	
10 Education	18	18	-	-	-

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

11 RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2018	2019	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2018	Mar 2019	
11 Restaurants and hotels	97	97	0.3	0.4	0.01

- Small upward 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
	2018	2019	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2018	Mar 2019	
11.1 Catering services	75	76	0.2	0.3	0.01
11.1.1 Restaurants and cafes	69	70	0.2	0.3	0.01
11.1.2 Canteens	6	6	0.3	0.2	-

- Small upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **restaurants and cafes**, where prices overall rose this year by more than a year ago, with the main upward contribution coming from alcoholic beverages.

11.2 Accommodation services	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2018	2019	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2018	Mar 2019	
11.2 Accommodation services	22	21	0.9	1.2	0.01

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

12 MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2018	2019	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2018	Mar 2019	
12 Misc. goods and services	77	74	-0.2	0.2	0.03

- Small upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **personal care, other services not elsewhere covered and insurance**.

12.1 Personal care	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2018	2019	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2018	Mar 2019	
12.1 Personal care	25	24	-0.5	0.2	0.02
12.1.1 Hairdressing and personal grooming establishments	6	6	0.4	0.2	-
12.1.2/3 Appliances and products for personal care	19	18	-0.8	0.3	0.02

- Small upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **appliances and products for personal care**, where prices overall rose this year but fell a year ago, particularly for toilet rolls.

12.3 Personal effects not elsewhere covered	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
12.3 Personal effects not elsewhere covered	12	15	0.1	-0.2	-
12.3.1 Jewellery, clocks and watches	8	10	-	-0.3	-
12.3.2 Other personal effects	4	5	0.2	0.1	-

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

12.4 Social protection	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
12.4 Social protection	14	13	0.1	0.2	-

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

12.5 Insurance	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
12.5 Insurance	7	5	-0.7	-	0.01
12.5.2 House contents insurance	2	1	-0.1	-1.0	-
12.5.3 Health insurance	2	2	-	-	-
12.5.4 Transport insurance	3	2	-1.4	0.6	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 but fell a year ago.

12.6 Financial services not elsewhere covered	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
12.6 Financial services not elsewhere covered	9	8	0.1	0.1	-

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

12.7 Other services not elsewhere covered	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	Weight 2019 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
12.7 Other services not elsewhere covered	10	9	-	0.8	0.01

- Small upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Average charges for the registration of births, deaths and marriages rose this year but were unchanged a year ago.

RPI SUMMARY

CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHANGE IN THE RPI ANNUAL RATE

GROUPS	Weight 2018	Weight 2019	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
FOOD	102	100	0.5	-	-0.05
CATERING	50	49	0.1	0.1	-
ALCOHOLIC DRINKS	56	59	-0.2	-0.3	-0.01
TOBACCO	23	21	0.1	0.7	0.01
HOUSING	257	260	-0.1	-0.2	-0.03
FUEL AND LIGHT	37	38	0.1	0.1	-
HOUSEHOLD GOODS	68	69	-0.5	-	0.03
HOUSEHOLD SERVICES	58	61	0.1	0.3	0.01
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	43	39	1.7	1.7	-
PERSONAL GOODS AND SERVICES	42	42	0.1	0.1	-
MOTORING EXPENDITURE	124	125	-0.3	0.5	0.10
FARES AND OTHER TRAVEL COSTS	25	28	-1.4	-2.6	-0.04
LEISURE GOODS	30	24	0.2	-0.3	-0.01
LEISURE SERVICES	85	85	0.5	0.3	-0.01

RPI NOTABLE MOVEMENTS

All items RPI	Annual rate +2.4%, down from +2.5% last month Lowest since November 2016 (+2.2%)
All items RPI exc MIPS (RPIX)	Annual rate +2.4%, unchanged from last month Last higher in January 2019 (+2.5%) Last lower in October 2016 (+2.2%)
Seasonal food	Annual rate +1.4%, down from +3.0% last month Lowest since January 2017 (-0.6%)
Housing	Annual rate +2.0%, down from +2.1% last month Lowest since September 2017 (+1.9%)
Household services	Annual rate +3.5%, up from +3.3% last month Also +3.5% in October 2016 Last higher in September 2016 (+3.9%)
All goods	Annual rate +2.3%, unchanged from last month Also +2.3% in January 2019 Last higher in December 2018 (+2.5%) Last lower in December 2016 (+2.1%)
All services	Annual rate +2.7%, unchanged from last month Also +2.7% in January 2019 Last higher in December 2018 (+2.8%) Last lower in March 2017 (+2.2%)

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.

FOOD	Weight 2018	Weight 2019	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
FOOD	102	100	0.5	-	-0.05

- Largest downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **seasonal food** and **non-seasonal food**.

Seasonal Food	Weight 2018	Weight 2019	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
SEASONAL FOOD	18	18	-0.2	-1.8	-0.03
Home killed lamb	1	1	2.1	-0.7	-
Fresh fish	2	2	-0.2	-2.2	-
Eggs	1	1	-0.5	-1.1	-
Unprocessed potatoes	1	1	0.7	-0.8	-
Other fresh vegetables	6	6	0.7	-1.2	-0.01
Fresh fruit	7	7	-1.3	-2.4	-0.01

- Small downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to:
 - Other fresh vegetables**, where prices overall fell this year but rose a year ago; and
 - Fresh fruit**, where prices overall fell this year by more than a year ago, particularly for strawberries.

Non-Seasonal Food	Weight 2018	Weight 2019	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
NON-SEASONAL FOOD	84	82	0.7	0.5	-0.02
Bread	4	3	0.2	0.5	-
Cereals	3	3	0.4	-1.4	-0.01
Biscuits and cakes	6	6	-1.7	1.0	0.02
Beef	3	3	-1.2	-0.4	-
Imported lamb	1	1	0.5	-0.7	-
Pork	1	1	3.2	-0.1	-
Bacon	1	1	0.2	0.1	-
Poultry	4	4	0.1	0.1	-
Other meat	6	6	0.7	0.3	-
Processed fish	2	2	-1.1	-1.3	-
Butter	1	1	-0.1	-3.2	-
Oils and fats	1	1	10.0	0.6	-0.01
Cheese	3	3	-0.2	-0.7	-
Milk, fresh	3	3	-	-1.3	-
Milk products	4	4	0.9	-1.0	-0.01
Tea	1	1	0.6	3.4	-
Soft drinks	8	9	2.1	1.3	-
Sugar and preserves	1	1	2.3	1.6	-
Sweets and chocolates	11	11	1.8	0.9	-0.01
Potato products	3	3	1.9	3.2	-
Processed vegetables	2	1	-4.0	1.2	0.01
Processed fruit	2	1	-0.2	-5.6	-0.01
Other foods	11	11	1.3	1.1	-
Coffee and other hot drinks	2	2	0.4	2.7	-

- Small downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to:
 - **Cereals** and **milk products**, where prices overall fell this year but rose a year ago, particularly for yoghurt/fromage frais;
 - **Oils and fats** and **sweets and chocolates**, where prices overall rose this year by less than a year ago, with the main downward contributions coming from margarine/low fat spread, chocolate bars and bags of branded chocolate sweets; and
 - **Processed fruit**, where prices overall fell this year by more than a year ago.
- Partially offset by **biscuits and cakes** and **processed vegetables**, where prices overall rose this year but fell a year ago, particularly for half chocolate coated biscuits, individual fruit pies and canned tomatoes.

CATERING	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
	2018	2019	% change	% change	
			Mar 2018	Mar 2019	
CATERING	50	49	0.1	0.1	-
Restaurant meals	30	29	0.1	0.2	-
Canteen meals	3	3	0.3	0.2	-
Take-away meals and snacks	17	17	0.2	0.1	-

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

ALCOHOLIC DRINKS	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
	2018	2019	% change	% change	
			Mar 2018	Mar 2019	
ALCOHOLIC DRINKS	56	59	-0.2	-0.3	-0.01
Beer on sales	18	19	0.1	0.4	0.01
Beer off sales	5	6	-0.7	-0.6	-
Wines and spirits on sales	19	19	0.3	0.4	-
Wines and spirits off sales	14	15	-1.0	-1.8	-0.01

- Small downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **wines and spirits off sales**, where prices overall fell this year by more than a year ago, with the main downward contributions coming from New World wine and vodka.
- Partially offset by **beer on sales**, where prices overall rose this year by more than a year ago.

TOBACCO	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
	2018	2019	% change	% change	
			Mar 2018	Mar 2019	
TOBACCO	23	21	0.1	0.7	0.01
Cigarettes	19	17	0.1	0.7	0.01
Other tobacco products	4	4	0.1	0.9	-

- 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.

HOUSING	Weight 2018	Weight 2019	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
HOUSING	257	260	-0.1	-0.2	-0.03
Rent	76	77	0.1	0.1	-
Mortgage interest payments	24	25	-0.3	-0.1	0.01
Council Tax and rates	38	39	-	-	-
Water and other charges	12	12	-	-	-
Repairs and maintenance charges	9	10	0.2	0.1	-
DIY materials	8	7	0.9	-	-0.01
Dwelling insurance and ground rent	7	6	-0.2	0.4	-
House depreciation	83	84	-0.4	-0.8	-0.03

- Small downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to:
 - **House depreciation**, with the smoothed house price index used to calculate this component falling this year by more than a year ago; and
 - **DIY materials**, where prices overall were little changed this year but rose a year ago.
- Partially offset by a small upward contribution coming from **mortgage interest payments**, where charges overall fell this year by less than a year ago.

FUEL AND LIGHT	Weight 2018	Weight 2019	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
FUEL AND LIGHT	37	38	0.1	0.1	-
Coal and solid fuels	1	1	0.3	0.3	-
Electricity	20	19	-	-	-
Gas	15	15	-	-	-
Oil and other fuels	1	3	4.2	0.5	-

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

HOUSEHOLD GOODS	Weight 2018	Weight 2019	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
HOUSEHOLD GOODS	68	69	-0.5	-	0.03
Furniture	28	27	-1.2	-1.7	-0.02
Furnishings	9	10	0.2	1.3	0.01
Electrical appliances	7	7	-1.0	-0.3	0.01
Other household equipment	4	5	1.2	2.4	0.01
Household consumables	11	11	-0.4	1.3	0.02
Pet care	9	9	0.5	0.8	-

- Small upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to:
 - **Household consumables**, where prices overall rose this year but fell a year ago, particularly for household cleaner cream/liquid and toilet rolls;
 - **Furnishings** and **other household equipment**, where prices overall rose this year by more than a year ago; and
 - **Electrical appliances**, where prices overall fell this year by less than a year ago.
- Partially offset by **furniture**, where prices overall fell this year by more than a year ago, with the main downward contribution coming from mattresses.

HOUSEHOLD SERVICES	Weight 2018	Weight 2019	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
HOUSEHOLD SERVICES	58	61	0.1	0.3	0.01
Domestic services	13	14	0.1	0.2	-
Fees and subscriptions	19	22	-0.3	0.3	0.01
Postage	1	1	-	-	-
Telephone charges	25	24	0.4	0.3	-

- Small upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **fees and subscriptions**, where average charges for the registration of births, deaths and marriages rose this year but were unchanged a year ago.

CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	Weight 2018	Weight 2019	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	43	39	1.7	1.7	-
Men's outerwear	9	8	2.5	1.4	-0.01
Women's outerwear	16	14	2.0	2.8	0.01
Children's outerwear	5	4	-0.8	0.6	0.01
Other clothing	5	5	0.3	0.1	-
Footwear	8	8	2.2	1.8	-

- Negligible overall effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- There are small upward contributions coming from:
 - **Children's outerwear**, where prices overall rose this year but fell a year ago; and
 - **Women's outerwear**, where prices overall rose this year by more than a year ago, with the main upward contributions coming from jeans, dresses and formal trousers. Partially offset by a small downward contribution coming from casual trousers.
- Offset by a small downward contribution coming from **men's outerwear**, where prices overall rose this year by less than a year ago.

PERSONAL GOODS AND SERVICES	Weight 2018	Weight 2019	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
PERSONAL GOODS AND SERVICES	42	42	0.1	0.1	-
Personal articles	11	10	0.5	-	-0.01
Chemists' goods	15	16	-0.4	-	0.01
Personal services	16	16	0.3	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 were little changed this year but fell a year ago, with the main upward contribution coming from toothbrushes.
- Offset by a small downward contribution coming from **personal articles**, where prices overall were little changed this year but rose a year ago.

MOTORING EXPENDITURE	Weight 2018	Weight 2019	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
MOTORING EXPENDITURE	124	125	-0.3	0.5	0.10
Purchase of motor vehicles	50	51	0.9	-0.1	-0.04
Maintenance of motor vehicles	16	17	0.4	0.7	0.01
Petrol and oil	34	35	-1.9	1.0	0.10
Vehicle tax and insurance	24	22	-0.8	0.8	0.04

- Largest upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to:
 - **Petrol and oil**, where prices overall rose this year but fell a year ago. The price of petrol, as recorded for the RPI, rose by 1.1 pence per litre between February and March 2019, to stand at 120.1 pence per litre, compared with a fall of 2.5 pence per litre last year, to stand at 119.1 pence per litre. Diesel prices rose by 1.4 pence per litre, to stand at 130.6 pence per litre in March 2019, compared with a fall of 2.0 pence per litre last year, to stand at 123.0 pence per litre;
 - **Vehicle tax and insurance**, where average premiums for car insurance rose this year but fell a year ago; and, to a lesser extent
 - **Maintenance of motor vehicles**, where prices overall rose this year by more than a year ago.
- Partially offset by **purchase of motor vehicles**, where prices overall fell this year but rose a year ago, with the main downward contributions coming from the purchase of second-hand and new cars.

FARES AND OTHER TRAVEL COSTS	Weight 2018	Weight 2019	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
FARES AND OTHER TRAVEL COSTS	25	28	-1.4	-2.6	-0.04
Rail fares	6	7	0.2	-0.2	-
Bus and coach fares	3	3	-3.9	-0.6	0.01
Other travel costs	16	18	-1.4	-3.9	-0.05

- Large downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **other travel costs**, where average air fares fell this year by more than a year ago.
- Partially offset by **bus and coach fares**, where average coach fares fell this year by less than a year ago.

LEISURE GOODS	Weight 2018	Weight 2019	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
LEISURE GOODS	30	24	0.2	-0.3	-0.01
Audio-visual equipment	6	4	-	-	-
CDs and tapes	2	1	3.9	-2.0	-0.01
Toys, photographic and sports goods	10	9	1.2	0.3	-0.01
Books and newspapers	6	5	-2.5	-1.2	0.01
Gardening products	6	5	0.1	-0.1	-

- Small downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to:
 - **CDs and tapes**, where prices overall fell this year but rose a year ago; and
 - **Toys, photographic and sports goods**, where prices overall rose this year by less than a year ago.
- Partially offset by **books and newspapers**, where prices overall fell this year by less than a year ago, with the main upward contribution coming from hardback non-fiction books.

LEISURE SERVICES	Weight 2018	Weight 2019	1 month % change Mar 2018	1 month % change Mar 2019	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
LEISURE SERVICES	85	85	0.5	0.3	-0.01
TV licence and rentals	11	10	-	-	-
Entertainment and other recreation	16	16	0.3	0.6	0.01
Foreign holidays	47	46	0.6	0.1	-0.02
UK holidays	11	13	0.6	1.0	0.01

- Small downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **foreign holidays**, where prices overall rose this year by less than a year ago.
- Partially offset by **entertainment and other recreation** and **UK holidays**, where prices overall rose this year by more 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 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 2019 was -0.63 percentage points, narrowing from -0.67 percentage points in February 2019.

The main factor contributing to the narrowing was:

- **Other housing components**, which decreased the RPI 12-month rate relative to the CPIH 12-month rate by 0.02 percentage points between February and March 2019. The effect came mainly from house depreciation.

There were no offsetting factors.

RPI MISCELLANEOUS DATA

Selected Average Prices

Description		January 2019	February 2019	March 2019
Fuel per litre	Diesel	£1.30	£1.29	£1.31
	Petrol	£1.20	£1.19	£1.20
Alcohol pub prices	Draught bitter (pint)	£3.05	£3.05	£3.06
	Draught lager (pint)	£3.67	£3.66	£3.67
	Whisky (per nip)	£2.91	£2.91	£2.93
Cigarettes	Per 20 king size	£10.66	£10.76	£10.83

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 2018	+0.1	Down -0.02% points	-0.02% points
April 2018	+0.5	Down -0.01% points	-0.01% points
May 2018	+0.4	Down -0.02% points	-0.02% points
June 2018	+0.3	Down -0.01% points	-0.01% points
July 2018	+0.1	Negligible	-
August 2018	+0.9	Up +0.06% points	+0.06% points
September 2018	0.0	Down -0.06% points	-0.06% points
October 2018	+0.1	Up +0.07% points	+0.07% points
November 2018	0.0	Down -0.02% points	-0.02% points
December 2018	+0.4	Down -0.01% points	-0.01% points
January 2019	-0.9	Negligible	-
February 2019	+0.7	Negligible	-
March 2019	0.0	Down -0.01% points	-0.01% points

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

- With the exception of 2013, 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
2013	1.6	-0.7	0.6
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	

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

CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR

- With the exception of 2013 and 2016, prices for clothing and footwear tend to rise in April.

Monthly % change for CPIH clothing and footwear index			
Year	February	March	April
2013	2.0	2.3	-
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	

- 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 2019-20 will be £1,750 – a 4.7% increase on last year. (www.gov.uk 27 March 2019)
- 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 2019, the Scottish government has signalled that the thirty-two local authorities could raise bills by up to 4.79%. (www.bbc.co.uk 6 March 2019)

- The Welsh Government announced that the average band D council tax for Wales for 2019-20 is £1,591 – a 6.6% increase on last year. (gov.wales 21 March 2019)
- The recorded increase for council tax and rates in the CPIH last April was 4.9%.

Social Housing Rents

- The Summer 2015 Budget announced that rents for social housing would decrease by 1% each year for four years, starting in April 2016.

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
2013	1.5	0.8	-1.3
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	

- 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 20 pence to £9.00 from 1 April 2019. (www.gov.uk 21 February 2019)

NHS Dental Charges

- Regulations have been laid before Parliament to uplift NHS dental charges in England from 1 April 2019. Charges will rise from £21.60 to £22.70 for Band 1, from £59.10 to £62.10 for Band 2 and from £256.50 to £269.30 for Band 3. (www.parliament.uk 11 March 2019)

TRANSPORT

Fuels and Lubricants

- Recent oil price recoveries have halted with Brent futures falling below \$71 per barrel on signals that Russia may exit production cuts. Losses were limited by a tightening of global supplies, as output has fallen in Iran and Venezuela amid signs the United States will further toughen sanctions on those two OPEC producers. Brent crude futures were at \$71.15 a barrel, having earlier slid below \$71 per barrel. Brent had previously hit its highest level since November 2012 at \$71.87. (uk.reuters.com 15 April 2019)

- When considering the price of petrol between March and April 2019, it may be useful to note that the average price of petrol rose by 1.5 pence per litre between March and April 2018, to stand at 120.7 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
2013	9.2	5.3	-6.4
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	

- 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 25 March 2019, the prices of a First Class stamp and a Second Class stamp will rise by 3p to 70p and 61p respectively. (www.royalmailgroup.com 22 February 2019)

RECREATION AND CULTURE

Television Licence

- The cost of a TV Licence will change on 1 April 2019. A colour licence will cost £154.50, an increase of £4.00 on the current fee. A black and white licence will cost £52.00, an increase of £1.50. (www.tvlicensing.co.uk)

HOUSING (RPI)

Mortgage interest payments (MIPs)

- The Bank of England Bank Rate remained unchanged at 0.75% on Thursday 21 March 2019. The next announcement and minutes from the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee are scheduled to be published on 2 May 2019.
- The change in average mortgage interest rates recorded in the RPI was -0.01 percentage points between March and April 2018. The Bank of England Bank Rate remained unchanged at 0.5% in March 2018.

- 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.

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