

Consumer Price Inflation

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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 2018 are:

- The all items CPIH is 105.1, up from 104.9 in February.
- The all items CPIH annual rate is 2.3%, down from 2.5% in February.
- The annual rate for CPIH excluding indirect taxes, CPIHY, is 2.2%, down from 2.3% last month.
- The OOH component of CPIH is 105.2, up from 105.1 in February.
- The OOH component annual rate is 1.2%, unchanged from last month.
- The CPIH all goods index is 103.7, up from 103.4 in February.
- The CPIH all goods index annual rate is 2.4%, down from 3.0% last month.
- The CPIH all services index is 106.1, up from 106.0 in February.
- The CPIH all services index annual rate is 2.1%, 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 2018 are:

- The all items CPI is 105.0, up from 104.9 in February.
- The all items CPI annual rate is 2.5%, down from 2.7% in February.
- The annual rate for CPI excluding indirect taxes, CPIY, is 2.5%, down from 2.6% last month.
- The annual rate for CPI at constant tax rates, CPI-CT, is 2.3%, down from 2.4% last month.
- The CPI all goods index is 103.7, up from 103.4 in February.
- The CPI all goods index annual rate is 2.4%, down from 3.0% last month.
- The CPI all services index is 106.5, up from 106.4 in February.
- The CPI all services index annual rate is 2.5%, up from 2.4% 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 2018 are:

- The all items RPI is 278.3, up from 278.1 in February.
- The all items RPI annual rate is 3.3%, down from 3.6% last month.
- The annual rate for RPIX, the all items RPI excluding mortgage interest payments (MIPs), is 3.4%, down from 3.6% last month.
- The all goods RPI is 212.4, up from 212.0 in February.
- The all goods RPI annual rate is 3.2%, down from 3.7% last month.
- The all services RPI is 378.0, up from 377.9 in February.
- The all services RPI annual rate is 3.5%, down from 3.6% 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
	2017 Feb-Dec	2018 Feb-Dec	% change Mar 2017	% change Mar 2018	
01: Food and non-alcoholic beverages	81	83	0.4	0.5	0.01
02: Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	34	34	1.7	-0.5	-0.07
03: Clothing and footwear	58	57	2.0	0.7	-0.08
04: Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	294	301	0.1	0.1	-
05: Furniture, household equipment and maintenance	49	48	0.7	-0.1	-0.04
06: Health	21	21	-	0.1	-
07: Transport	126	124	-0.5	-0.3	0.02
08: Communication	21	20	0.1	-	-
09: Recreation and culture	121	120	0.3	0.6	0.04
10: Education	17	18	-	-	-
11: Restaurants and hotels	101	97	0.2	0.3	0.01
12: Miscellaneous goods and services	77	77	0.6	-0.2	-0.06

Large downward effects came from:

- Clothing and footwear**, mainly women's clothing, where prices rose by 0.7% between February and March 2018 compared with a larger rise of 2.0% between the same two months in 2017. Compared with previous years, the rise between February 2017 and March 2017 was relatively large;
- Alcoholic drinks and tobacco**, in part due to tobacco duty rises that took effect in March 2017, with no corresponding rise in March 2018. This reflects changes to the Budget cycle that were introduced in 2017, with tax changes being announced in November 2017 instead of March 2018. The downward contribution from alcoholic drinks came mainly from spirits, which tend to be influenced by sales patterns;

- **Miscellaneous goods and services**, with the downward contribution coming mainly from personal care products, such as deodorants. It is important to note that prices for many of these products are highly variable from month to month; and
- **Furniture, household equipment and maintenance**, with prices falling by 0.1% between February and March 2018 compared with a rise of 0.7% a year ago. Prices tend to rise in March; the March fall in 2018 was the first since the series began in 2005, although it followed a relatively large increase in prices in February 2018. The downward effect came from a range of furniture and furnishings, particularly from leather settees, although these saw an unusually large price rise in February 2018.

A large upward effect came from:

- **Recreation and culture**, where prices overall rose between February 2018 and March 2018 by more than they did in the same period a year ago. The effect came from a range of goods and services, in particular admissions to live music events. It is important to note that the price movements for music events are heavily dependent on the acts that are playing at the time, meaning that prices can vary considerably from month to month.

A small upward effect came from:

- **Transport**, where prices overall fell by 0.3% between February and March this year compared with a fall of 0.5% a year ago.

CPIH NOTABLE MOVEMENTS

All items CPIH	Annual rate +2.3%, down from +2.5% last month Also +2.3% in March 2017 and February 2017 Last lower in January 2017 (+1.9%)
All items CPIH exc energy, food, alcohol and tobacco	Annual rate +2.1%, down from +2.2% last month Lowest since March 2017 (+1.9%)
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	Annual rate +3.4%, down from +5.7% last month Lowest since February 2017 (+2.9%)
Recreation and culture	Annual rate +3.4%, up from +3.1% last month Also +3.4% in January 2018 Last higher in January 2010 (+3.6%)
Miscellaneous goods and services	Annual rate 0.0%, down from +0.8% last month Lowest since May 2015 (-0.2%)
All goods	Annual rate +2.4%, down from +3.0% last month Also +2.4% in April 2017 Last lower in February 2017 (+1.9%)
All services	Annual rate +2.1%, unchanged from last month Also +2.1% in October 2015, June 2015 and May 2015 Last higher in January 2018 (+2.3%) Last lower in April 2015 (+2.0%)
Fuels and lubricants	Annual rate +0.3%, down from +0.8% last month Lowest since August 2016 (-2.6%)

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 2017 Feb-Dec	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
01 Food & non-alcoholic beverages	81	83	0.4	0.5	0.01

- Small upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **non-alcoholic beverages**.
- Partially offset by **food**.

01.1 Food	Weight 2017 Feb-Dec	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
01.1 Food	71	73	0.6	0.3	-0.02
01.1.1 Bread and cereals	12	12	0.4	-0.4	-0.01
01.1.2 Meat	16	16	0.1	0.6	0.01
01.1.3 Fish	3	3	-	-1.3	-0.01
01.1.4 Milk, cheese and eggs	9	9	1.7	0.2	-0.01
01.1.5 Oils and fats	2	2	2.8	6.7	0.01
01.1.6 Fruit	7	8	1.3	-1.4	-0.02
01.1.7 Vegetables including potatoes	10	10	0.3	0.5	-
01.1.8 Sugar, jam, syrups, chocolate and confectionery	10	11	0.3	0.7	-
01.1.9 Food products not elsewhere covered	2	2	-	2.0	-

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

Bread and cereals

- Small downward effect.
- Prices overall fell this year but rose a year ago, with the main downward contributions coming from biscuits and breakfast cereals.

Meat

- Small upward effect.
- Prices overall rose this year by more than a year ago.

Fish

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

Milk, cheese and eggs

- Small downward effect.
- Prices overall rose this year by less than a year ago, particularly for yoghurt/fromage frais.

Oils and fats

- Small upward effect.
- Prices overall rose this year by more than a year ago, particularly for margarine/low fat spread.

Fruit

- Small downward effect.
- Prices overall fell this year but rose a year ago, with the main downward contribution coming from strawberries.

01.2 Non-alcoholic beverages	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2017 Feb-Dec	2018 Feb-Dec	% change Mar 2017	% change Mar 2018	
01.2 Non-alcoholic beverages	10	10	-1.3	1.7	0.03
01.2.1 Coffee, tea and cocoa	3	3	-0.9	0.6	-
01.2.2 Mineral waters, soft drinks and juices	7	7	-1.5	2.2	0.03

- Small upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **mineral waters, soft drinks and juices**, where prices overall rose this year but fell a year ago, particularly for fresh/chilled orange juices and bottles of cola flavoured drinks.

02 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO	Weight 2017 Feb-Dec	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
02 Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	34	34	1.7	-0.5	-0.07

- Large downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **alcoholic beverages** and **tobacco**.

02.1 Alcoholic Beverages	Weight 2017 Feb-Dec	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
02.1 Alcoholic beverages	16	16	1.4	-1.1	-0.04
02.1.1 Spirits	5	5	3.7	-3.6	-0.04
02.1.2 Wine	7	7	-0.5	0.5	0.01
02.1.3 Beer	4	4	1.8	-0.9	-0.01

- Large downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **spirits** and, to a lesser extent, **beer**, where prices overall fell this year but rose a year ago, particularly for whisky, rum, vodka and larger packs of lager.
- Partially offset by **wine**, where prices overall rose this year but fell a year ago, particularly for New World wine.

02.2 Tobacco	Weight 2017 Feb-Dec	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
02.2 Tobacco	18	18	2.0	0.1	-0.04

- Large downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Prices overall rose this year by less than a year ago.
- Price rises in March 2017 were due to increases in the duty on tobacco, which were introduced following Spring Budget 2017.

03 CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	Weight 2017 Feb-Dec	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
03 Clothing and footwear	58	57	2.0	0.7	-0.08

- Largest downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **clothing** and, to a lesser extent, **footwear including repairs**.

03.1 Clothing	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2017	2018	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2017	Mar 2018	
03.1 Clothing	49	47	1.9	0.5	-0.07
03.1.2 Garments	44	42	2.0	0.5	-0.06
03.1.3 Other clothing and clothing accessories	4	4	1.9	-0.3	-0.01
03.1.4 Cleaning, repair and hire of clothing	1	1	0.2	0.3	-

- Large downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **garments** and, to a lesser extent, **other clothing and clothing accessories**.

Garments

- Large downward effect.
- Prices overall rose this year by less than a year ago, with the main downward contributions coming from women's dresses, jumpers, cardigans and coats, and boys' T-shirts.
- Partially offset by a small upward contribution coming from men's coats, where prices overall rose this year but fell a year ago.

Other clothing and clothing accessories

- Small downward effect.
- Prices overall fell this year but rose a year ago, with the main downward contribution coming from men's ties.

03.2 Footwear including repairs	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2017	2018	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2017	Mar 2018	
03.2 Footwear including repairs	9	10	2.7	1.7	-0.01

- Small downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Prices overall rose this year by less than a year ago, particularly for women's sandals.

04 HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY, GAS AND OTHER FUELS	Weight 2017 Feb-Dec	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
04 Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	294	301	0.1	0.1	-

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

04.1 Actual rentals for housing	Weight 2017 Feb-Dec	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
04.1 Actual rentals for housing	56	69	-	-	-

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

4.2 Owner occupiers' housing costs	Weight 2017 Feb-Dec	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
4.2 Owner occupiers' housing costs	174	169	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 2017 Feb-Dec	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
04.3 Regular maintenance and repair of the dwelling	2	2	0.7	0.9	-
04.3.1 Materials for maintenance and repair	1	1	1.3	1.7	-
04.3.2 Services for maintenance and repair	1	1	-	0.2	-

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

04.4 Other services related to the dwelling	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2017	2018	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2017	Mar 2018	
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	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2017	2018	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2017	Mar 2018	
04.5 Electricity, gas and other fuels	27	27	0.3	0.2	-
04.5.1 Electricity	13	13	1.0	-	-0.01
04.5.2 Gas	12	12	-	-	-
04.5.3 Liquid fuels	1	1	-5.0	5.2	0.01
04.5.4 Solid fuels	1	1	0.1	0.3	-

- Negligible overall effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- There is a small downward contribution coming from **electricity**, where average charges were unchanged this year but rose a year ago.
- Offset by a small upward contribution coming from **liquid fuels**, where average kerosene prices rose this year but fell a year ago.

4.9 Council tax and rates	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2017	2018	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2017	Mar 2018	
4.9 Council tax and rates	26	25	-	-	-

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

05 FURNITURE, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2017	2018	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2017	Mar 2018	
05 Furniture, household equipment and maintenance	49	48	0.7	-0.1	-0.04

- Large downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **furniture, furnishings and carpets**; and, to a lesser extent, **household textiles**.

- Partially offset by **goods and services for routine maintenance**; and **tools and equipment for house and garden**.

05.1 Furniture, furnishings and carpets	Weight 2017 Feb-Dec	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
05.1 Furniture, furnishings and carpets	18	18	1.9	-0.4	-0.04
05.1.1 Furniture and furnishings	15	14	2.1	-0.5	-0.04
05.1.2 Carpets and other floor coverings	3	4	1.1	0.3	-

- Large downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **furniture and furnishings**, where prices overall fell this year but rose a year ago, particularly for leather settees.

05.2 Household textiles	Weight 2017 Feb-Dec	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
05.2 Household textiles	6	5	1.6	-0.2	-0.01

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

05.3 Household appliances, fitting and repairs	Weight 2017 Feb-Dec	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
05.3 Household appliances, fitting and repairs	7	7	-0.4	-0.2	-
05.3.1/2 Major appliances and small electric goods	6	6	-0.5	-0.2	-
05.3.3 Repair of household appliances	1	1	0.2	0.1	-

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

05.4 Glassware, tableware and household utensils	Weight 2017 Feb-Dec	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
05.4 Glassware, tableware and household utensils	4	4	1.0	0.7	-

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

05.5 Tools and equipment for house and garden	Weight 2017 Feb-Dec	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
05.5 Tools and equipment for house and garden	4	4	-1.1	0.1	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 door handles.

05.6 Goods and services for routine maintenance	Weight 2017 Feb-Dec	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
05.6 Goods and services for routine maintenance	10	10	-0.7	-	0.01
05.6.1 Non-durable household goods	4	4	-1.8	-	0.01
05.6.2 Domestic services and household services	6	6	0.1	-	-

- Small upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **non-durable household goods**, where prices overall were little changed this year but fell a year ago.

06 HEALTH	Weight 2017 Feb-Dec	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
06 Health	21	21	-	0.1	-

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

06.1 Medical products, appliances and equipment	Weight 2017 Feb-Dec	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
06.1 Medical products, appliances and equipment	10	9	-	-	-
06.1.1 Pharmaceutical products	6	5	-0.1	0.1	-
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 2017 Feb-Dec	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
06.2 Out-patient services	5	7	0.1	0.3	-
06.2.1/3 Medical and paramedical services	3	4	-	0.4	-
06.2.2 Dental services	2	3	0.1	0.2	-

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

06.3 Hospital services	Weight 2017 Feb-Dec	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
06.3 Hospital Services	6	5	0.1	-	-

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

07 TRANSPORT	Weight 2017 Feb-Dec	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
07 Transport	126	124	-0.5	-0.3	0.02

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

07.1 Purchase of vehicles	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2017	2018	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2017	Mar 2018	
07.1 Purchase of vehicles	37	38	-	0.8	0.03
07.1.1A New cars	21	22	0.2	0.8	0.02
07.1.1B Second-hand cars	14	14	-0.3	0.8	0.02
07.1.2/3 Motorcycles and bicycles	2	2	1.0	-0.4	-

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

New cars

- Small upward effect.
- Prices overall rose this year by more than a year ago.

Second-hand cars

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

07.2 Operation of personal transport equipment	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2017	2018	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2017	Mar 2018	
07.2 Operation of personal transport equipment	61	58	-0.2	-0.3	-0.01
07.2.1 Spare parts and accessories	4	4	-0.2	0.2	-
07.2.2 Fuels and lubricants	26	25	-0.8	-1.3	-0.01
07.2.3 Maintenance and repairs	20	19	0.4	0.4	-
07.2.4 Other services	11	10	-0.1	0.3	0.01

- Small downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **fuels and lubricants**.
- Partially offset by **other services**.

Fuels and lubricants

- Small downward effect.
- Prices overall fell this year by more than a year ago.
- The average price of petrol across the month, as recorded for the CPIH, fell by 1.6 pence per litre between February and March 2018 to stand at 119.2 pence per litre.
- Last year, the average price of petrol fell by 1.0 pence per litre between February and March 2017 to stand at 119.2 pence per litre.
- The average price of diesel fell by 1.5 pence per litre between February and March 2018 to

stand at 122.9 pence per litre, compared with a smaller fall of 1.1 pence per litre a year earlier to stand at 122.1 pence per litre.

Other services

- Small upward effect.
- Average charges rose this year but fell a year ago.

07.3 Transport services	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2017	2018	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2017	Mar 2018	
07.3 Transport services	28	28	-1.7	-1.8	-
07.3.1 Passenger transport by railway	11	11	0.2	0.2	-
07.3.2 Passenger transport by road	10	10	-0.2	-1.6	-0.02
07.3.3 Passenger transport by air	4	4	-3.9	-2.1	0.01
07.3.4 Passenger transport by sea and inland waterway	3	3	-9.8	-9.1	-

- Negligible overall effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- There is a small downward contribution coming from **passenger transport by road**, where average coach fares fell this year by more than a year ago.
- Offset by a small upward contribution coming from **passenger transport by air**, where average air fares fell this year by less than a year ago, with the main upward contribution coming from European flights.

08 COMMUNICATION	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2017	2018	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2017	Mar 2018	
08 Communication	21	20	0.1	-	-

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

08.1 Postal services	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2017	2018	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2017	Mar 2018	
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 2017 Feb-Dec	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
08.2/3 Telephone equipment and services	20	19	0.1	-	-

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

09 RECREATION AND CULTURE	Weight 2017 Feb-Dec	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
09 Recreation and culture	121	120	0.3	0.6	0.04

- Largest upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **recreational and cultural services; 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 2017 Feb-Dec	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
09.1 Audio-visual equipment and related products	15	14	0.3	1.2	0.01
09.1.1 Equipment for the reception and reproduction of sound and pictures	3	4	-0.1	-0.5	-
09.1.2 Photographic, cinematographic and optical equipment	2	1	0.2	0.4	-
09.1.3 Data processing equipment	5	5	0.5	2.4	0.01
09.1.4 Recording media	4	3	0.5	2.1	-
09.1.5 Repair of audio-visual equipment and related products	1	1	0.2	0.4	-

- Small upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **data processing equipment**, where prices overall rose this year by more than a year ago, particularly for computer software.

09.2 Other major durables for recreation and culture	Weight 2017 Feb-Dec	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
09.2.1/2 Major durables for in/outdoor recreation	13	14	-	-	-

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

09.3 Other recreational items, gardens and pets	Weight 2017 Feb-Dec	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
09.3 Other recreational items, gardens and pets	30	29	1.7	1.8	-
09.3.1 Games, toys and hobbies	16	17	2.9	3.0	0.01
09.3.2 Equipment for sport and open-air recreation	3	2	2.2	0.3	-0.01
09.3.3 Gardens, plants and flowers	4	3	-0.9	-0.2	-
09.3.4/5 Pets, related products and services	7	7	0.3	0.4	-

- Negligible overall effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- There is a small upward contribution coming from **games, toys and hobbies**.
- Offset by a small downward contribution coming from **equipment for sport and open-air recreation**.

Games, toys and hobbies

- Small upward effect.
- Prices overall rose this year by more than a year ago, with the main upward contributions coming from computer game downloads, computer game consoles and computer games purchased over the internet.
- Partially offset by downward contributions coming from shop-bought computer games and children's soft toys/teddy bears.

Equipment for sport and open-air recreation

- Small downward effect.
- Prices overall rose this year by less than a year ago.

09.4 Recreational and cultural services	Weight 2017 Feb-Dec	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
09.4 Recreational and cultural services	26	23	-0.5	0.3	0.02
09.4.1 Recreational and sporting services	8	7	0.1	-	-
09.4.2 Cultural services	18	16	-0.8	0.5	0.02

- Small upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **cultural services**, where average charges for live music events rose this year but fell a year ago. Partially offset by a small downward contribution coming from theatre admissions, where average charges fell this year but rose a year ago.

09.5 Books, newspapers and stationery	Weight 2017 Feb-Dec	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
09.5 Books, newspapers and stationery	9	9	-0.3	-1.7	-0.01
09.5.1 Books	3	3	-1.4	-4.8	-0.01
09.5.2 Newspapers and periodicals	3	3	0.2	-0.1	-
09.5.3/4 Misc. printed matter, stationery, drawing materials	3	3	0.5	-0.2	-

- Small downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **books**, where prices overall fell this year by more than a year ago, with the main downward contributions coming from non-fiction hardbacks and eBooks.

09.6 Package holidays	Weight 2017 Feb-Dec	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
09.6 Package holidays	28	31	0.1	0.5	0.01

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

10 EDUCATION	Weight 2017 Feb-Dec	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
10 Education	17	18	-	-	-

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

11 RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	Weight 2017 Feb-Dec	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
11 Restaurants and hotels	101	97	0.2	0.3	0.01

- Small upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **accommodation services**.
- Partially offset by **catering services**.

11.1 Catering services	Weight 2017 Feb-Dec	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
11.1 Catering services	77	75	0.4	0.2	-0.02
11.1.1 Restaurants and cafes	70	69	0.4	0.2	-0.02
11.1.2 Canteens	7	6	-	0.3	-

- 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 2017 Feb-Dec	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
11.2 Accommodation services	24	22	-0.2	0.9	0.02

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

12 MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES	Weight 2017 Feb-Dec	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
12 Misc. goods and services	77	77	0.6	-0.2	-0.06

- Large downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **personal care, personal effects not elsewhere covered** and **insurance**.

12.1 Personal care	Weight 2017 Feb-Dec	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
12.1 Personal care	25	25	0.7	-0.5	-0.03
12.1.1 Hairdressing and personal grooming establishments	6	6	0.1	0.4	-
12.1.2/3 Appliances and products for personal care	19	19	0.9	-0.8	-0.03

- Small downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **appliances and products for personal care**, where prices overall fell this year but rose a year ago, particularly for toilet rolls, deodorant/anti-perspirant and electrical hair styling appliances.

12.3 Personal effects not elsewhere covered	Weight 2017 Feb-Dec	Weight 2018 Feb-Dec	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
12.3 Personal effects not elsewhere covered	11	12	1.7	0.1	-0.02
12.3.1 Jewellery, clocks and watches	7	8	1.4	-	-0.01
12.3.2 Other personal effects	4	4	2.2	0.2	-0.01

- Small downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **jewellery, clocks and watches**; and **other personal effects**.

Jewellery, clocks and watches

- Small downward effect.
- Prices overall were little changed this year but rose a year ago, with the main downward contribution coming from sterling silver earrings.

Other personal effects

- Small downward effect.
- Prices overall rose this year by less than a year ago, with the main downward contribution coming from luggage trolley cases.

12.4 Social protection	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2017	2018	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2017	Mar 2018	
12.4 Social protection	13	14	0.3	0.1	-

- 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
	2017	2018	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2017	Mar 2018	
12.5 Insurance	7	7	0.7	-0.7	-0.01
12.5.2 House contents insurance	2	2	-0.6	-0.1	-
12.5.3 Health insurance	2	2	-	-	-
12.5.4 Transport insurance	3	3	2.1	-1.4	-0.01

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

12.6 Financial services not elsewhere covered	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2017	2018	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2017	Mar 2018	
12.6 Financial services not elsewhere covered	11	9	0.2	0.1	-

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

12.7 Other services not elsewhere covered	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution to CPIH annual rate change
	2017	2018	% change	% change	
	Feb-Dec	Feb-Dec	Mar 2017	Mar 2018	
12.7 Other services not elsewhere covered	10	10	-	-	-

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

RPI SUMMARY

CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHANGE IN THE RPI ANNUAL RATE

GROUPS	Weight 2017	Weight 2018	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
FOOD	102	102	0.2	0.5	0.03
CATERING	48	50	0.3	0.1	-0.01
ALCOHOLIC DRINKS	57	56	0.9	-0.2	-0.06
TOBACCO	24	23	2.0	0.1	-0.05
HOUSING	266	257	-0.1	-0.1	-0.01
FUEL AND LIGHT	38	37	0.3	0.1	-0.01
HOUSEHOLD GOODS	65	68	1.0	-0.5	-0.10
HOUSEHOLD SERVICES	64	58	-	0.1	0.01
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	41	43	2.9	1.7	-0.05
PERSONAL GOODS AND SERVICES	38	42	0.5	0.1	-0.02
MOTORING EXPENDITURE	123	124	0.3	-0.3	-0.08
FARES AND OTHER TRAVEL COSTS	26	25	-1.7	-1.4	0.01
LEISURE GOODS	29	30	0.2	0.2	-
LEISURE SERVICES	79	85	-	0.5	0.04

RPI NOTABLE MOVEMENTS

All items RPI	Annual rate +3.3%, down from +3.6% last month Lowest since March 2017 (+3.1%)
All items RPI exc MIPS (RPIX)	Annual rate +3.4%, down from +3.6% last month Also +3.4% in March 2017 Last lower in January 2017 (+2.9%)
Seasonal food	Annual rate +1.9%, down from +2.1% last month Lowest since January 2017 (-0.6%)
Catering	Annual rate +2.7%, down from +2.9% last month Lowest since March 2017 (+2.6%)
Alcoholic drinks	Annual rate +2.1%, down from +3.2% last month Lowest since February 2017 (+1.8%)
Household goods	Annual rate +3.4%, down from +4.9% last month Also +3.4% in April 2017 Last lower in March 2017 (+2.9%)
Clothing and footwear	Annual rate +8.8%, down from +10.1% last month Lowest since March 2017 (+7.5%)
Personal goods and services	Annual rate +1.0%, down from +1.5% last month Also +1.0% in July 2016, June 2016 and April 2016 Last lower in March 2016 (+0.8%)
Motoring expenditure	Annual rate +3.2%, down from +3.9% last month Lowest since August 2016 (+1.2%)
Leisure services	Annual rate +4.8%, up from +4.3% last month Also +4.8% in March 2013, February 2013, January 2013 and December 2012 Last higher in November 2012 (+5.1%)
All goods	Annual rate +3.2%, down from +3.7% last month Lowest since January 2017 (+2.8%)
All services	Annual rate +3.5%, down from +3.6% last month Also +3.5% in May 2017 Last lower in March 2017 (+2.2%)
Furniture	Annual rate +3.9%, down from +7.8% last month Lowest since March 2017 (+3.6%)
Petrol and oil	Annual rate -0.3%, down from +1.3% last month Lowest since August 2016 (-4.5%)

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 2017	Weight 2018	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
FOOD	102	102	0.2	0.5	0.03

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

Seasonal Food	Weight 2017	Weight 2018	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
SEASONAL FOOD	18	18	-0.1	-0.2	-
Home killed lamb	1	1	-1.5	2.1	-
Fresh fish	2	2	1.4	-0.2	-
Eggs	1	1	-0.2	-0.5	-
Unprocessed potatoes	1	1	-	0.7	-
Other fresh vegetables	6	6	-1.7	0.7	0.01
Fresh fruit	7	7	1.3	-1.3	-0.02

- Negligible overall effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- There is a downward contribution coming from **fresh fruit**, where prices overall fell this year but rose a year ago.
- Offset by an upward contribution coming from **other fresh vegetables**, where prices overall rose this year but fell a year ago, particularly for lettuce.

Non-Seasonal Food	Weight 2017	Weight 2018	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
NON-SEASONAL FOOD	84	84	0.3	0.7	0.03
Bread	4	4	0.3	0.2	-
Cereals	3	3	0.2	0.4	-
Biscuits and cakes	6	6	2.3	-1.7	-0.02
Beef	4	3	-0.1	-1.2	-
Imported lamb	1	1	2.0	0.5	-
Pork	1	1	-0.3	3.2	-
Bacon	1	1	-2.2	0.2	-
Poultry	3	4	-1.0	0.1	-
Other meat	6	6	0.4	0.7	-
Processed fish	2	2	-1.0	-1.1	-
Butter	1	1	-1.7	-0.1	-
Oils and fats	1	1	4.5	10.0	0.01
Cheese	3	3	1.2	-0.2	-
Milk, fresh	3	3	0.3	-	-
Milk products	4	4	4.2	0.9	-0.01
Tea	1	1	-2.0	0.6	-
Soft drinks	8	8	-1.2	2.1	0.03
Sugar and preserves	1	1	0.8	2.3	-
Sweets and chocolates	11	11	-0.1	1.8	0.02
Potato products	3	3	1.6	1.9	-
Processed vegetables	2	2	3.4	-4.0	-0.02
Processed fruit	2	2	0.5	-0.2	-
Other foods	11	11	-1.1	1.3	0.03
Coffee and other hot drinks	2	2	-0.3	0.4	-

- Small upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to:
 - **Soft drinks, other foods** and **sweets and chocolates**, where prices overall rose this year but fell a year ago, with the main upward contributions coming from bags of sweets, fresh/chilled orange juices, chilled pizzas, dried potted snacks, bottles of cola flavoured drinks and tomato ketchup. Partially offset by a small downward contribution coming from chocolate covered ice cream bars, where prices overall fell this year but rose a year ago; and
 - **oils and fats**, where prices overall rose this year by more than a year ago, particularly for margarine/low fat spread.
- Partially offset by:
 - **Biscuits and cakes** and **processed vegetables**, where prices overall fell this year but rose a year ago, with the main downward contributions coming from biscuits, canned tomatoes and packs of individual cakes; and
 - **Milk products**, where prices overall rose this year by less than a year ago, particularly for yoghurt/fromage frais.

CATERING	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution
	2017	2018	% change	% change	to RPI annual
			Mar 2017	Mar 2018	rate change
CATERING	48	50	0.3	0.1	-0.01
Restaurant meals	29	30	0.3	0.1	-0.01
Canteen meals	3	3	-0.1	0.3	-
Take-away meals and snacks	16	17	0.3	0.2	-

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

ALCOHOLIC DRINKS	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution
	2017	2018	% change	% change	to RPI annual
			Mar 2017	Mar 2018	rate change
ALCOHOLIC DRINKS	57	56	0.9	-0.2	-0.06
Beer on sales	19	18	0.6	0.1	-0.01
Beer off sales	5	5	1.4	-0.7	-0.01
Wines and spirits on sales	19	19	0.8	0.3	-0.01
Wines and spirits off sales	14	14	1.1	-1.0	-0.03

- Large downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to:
 - **Wines and spirits off sales** and **beer off sales**, where prices overall fell this year but rose a year ago, particularly for whisky, rum, vodka and larger packs of lager. Partially offset by an upward contribution coming from New World wine, where prices overall rose this year but fell a year ago; and
 - **Beer on sales** and **wines and spirits on sales**, where prices overall rose this year by less than a year ago, particularly for draught lager.

TOBACCO	Weight	Weight	1 month	1 month	Contribution
	2017	2018	% change	% change	to RPI annual
			Mar 2017	Mar 2018	rate change
TOBACCO	24	23	2.0	0.1	-0.05
Cigarettes	20	19	2.2	0.1	-0.04
Other tobacco products	4	4	1.1	0.1	-

- Large downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **cigarettes**, where prices overall rose this year by less than a year ago.
- Price rises in March 2017 were due to increases in the duty on tobacco, which were

introduced following Spring Budget 2017.

HOUSING	Weight 2017	Weight 2018	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
HOUSING	266	257	-0.1	-0.1	-0.01
Rent	84	76	0.1	0.1	-
Mortgage interest payments	25	24	-0.2	-0.3	-
Council tax and rates	39	38	-	-	-
Water and other charges	13	12	-	-	-
Repairs and maintenance charges	9	9	-	0.2	-
DIY materials	6	8	0.6	0.9	-
Dwelling insurance and ground rent	6	7	0.1	-0.2	-
House depreciation	84	83	-0.3	-0.4	-0.01

- 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.

FUEL AND LIGHT	Weight 2017	Weight 2018	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
FUEL AND LIGHT	38	37	0.3	0.1	-0.01
Coal and solid fuels	1	1	0.1	0.3	-
Electricity	19	20	1.0	-	-0.02
Gas	16	15	-	-	-
Oil and other fuels	2	1	-3.9	4.2	0.01

- Small downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **electricity**, where average charges were unchanged this year but rose a year ago.
- Partially offset by **oil and other fuels**, where average kerosene prices rose this year but fell a year ago.

HOUSEHOLD GOODS	Weight 2017	Weight 2018	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
HOUSEHOLD GOODS	65	68	1.0	-0.5	-0.10
Furniture	26	28	2.5	-1.2	-0.10
Furnishings	10	9	1.4	0.2	-0.01
Electrical appliances	6	7	-1.1	-1.0	-
Other household equipment	4	4	0.8	1.2	-
Household consumables	11	11	-0.8	-0.4	-
Pet care	8	9	-0.2	0.5	0.01

- Largest downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to:
 - **Furniture**, where prices overall fell this year but rose a year ago, with the main downward contributions coming from leather settees, bedroom furniture and kitchen furniture; and to a lesser extent
 - **Furnishings**, where prices overall rose this year by less than a year ago.
- Partially offset by **pet care**, where prices overall rose this year but fell a year ago.

HOUSEHOLD SERVICES	Weight 2017	Weight 2018	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
HOUSEHOLD SERVICES	64	58	-	0.1	0.01
Domestic services	15	13	0.3	0.1	-
Fees and subscriptions	22	19	-0.3	-0.3	-
Postage	1	1	-	-	-
Telephone charges	26	25	-	0.4	0.01

- Small upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to **telephone charges**, where prices overall rose this year but were little changed a year ago, with the main upward contribution coming from mobile phone applications.

CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	Weight 2017	Weight 2018	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	41	43	2.9	1.7	-0.05
Men's outerwear	8	9	1.4	2.5	0.01
Women's outerwear	15	16	4.5	2.0	-0.04
Children's outerwear	5	5	1.8	-0.8	-0.01
Other clothing	5	5	1.0	0.3	-
Footwear	8	8	3.4	2.2	-0.01

- Large 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 dresses, plain T-shirts and jumpers; and to a lesser extent
 - **Footwear**, where prices overall rose this year by less than a year ago, particularly for women's sandals; and
 - **Children's outerwear**, where prices overall fell this year but rose a year ago.
- Partially offset by **men's outerwear**, where prices overall rose this year by more than a year ago.

PERSONAL GOODS AND SERVICES	Weight 2017	Weight 2018	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
PERSONAL GOODS AND SERVICES	38	42	0.5	0.1	-0.02
Personal articles	9	11	1.2	0.5	-0.01
Chemists' goods	15	15	0.5	-0.4	-0.01
Personal services	14	16	0.1	0.3	-

- Small downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to:
 - **Chemists' goods**, where prices overall fell this year but rose a year ago; and
 - **Personal articles**, where prices overall rose this year by less than a year ago.

MOTORING EXPENDITURE	Weight 2017	Weight 2018	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
MOTORING EXPENDITURE	123	124	0.3	-0.3	-0.08
Purchase of motor vehicles	46	50	-0.1	0.9	0.05
Maintenance of motor vehicles	16	16	0.3	0.4	-
Petrol and oil	37	34	-0.3	-1.9	-0.05
Vehicle tax and insurance	24	24	2.0	-0.8	-0.07

- Large downward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to:
 - **Vehicle tax and insurance**, where average premiums for car insurance fell this year but rose a year ago; and
 - **Petrol and oil**, where prices overall fell this year by more than a year ago. The price of petrol, as recorded for the RPI, fell by 2.5 pence per litre between February and March 2018, to stand at 119.1 pence per litre, compared with a fall of 0.4 pence per litre last year to stand at 119.8 pence per litre. Diesel prices fell by 2.0 pence per litre, to stand at 123.0 pence per litre in March 2018, compared with a fall of 0.4 pence per litre last year to stand at 122.8 pence per litre.
- Partially offset by **purchase of motor vehicles**, where prices overall rose this year but fell a year ago, with the main upward contributions coming from second-hand and new cars.

FARES AND OTHER TRAVEL COSTS	Weight 2017	Weight 2018	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
FARES AND OTHER TRAVEL COSTS	26	25	-1.7	-1.4	0.01
Rail fares	6	6	0.2	0.2	-
Bus and coach fares	3	3	-0.6	-3.9	-0.01
Other travel costs	17	16	-2.5	-1.4	0.02

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

LEISURE GOODS	Weight 2017	Weight 2018	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
LEISURE GOODS	29	30	0.2	0.2	-
Audio-visual equipment	6	6	-1.4	-	-
CDs and tapes	2	2	0.3	3.9	0.01
Toys, photographic and sports goods	9	10	2.1	1.2	-0.01
Books and newspapers	6	6	-0.6	-2.5	-0.01
Gardening products	6	6	-1.3	0.1	0.01

- Negligible overall effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- There are upward contributions coming from:
 - **Gardening products**, where prices overall rose this year but fell a year ago; and
 - **CDs and tapes**, where prices overall rose this year by more than a year ago.
- Offset by downward contributions coming from:
 - **Books and newspapers**, where prices overall fell this year by more than a year ago, particularly for eBooks; and
 - **Toys, photographic and sports goods**, where prices overall rose this year by less than a year ago.

LEISURE SERVICES	Weight 2017	Weight 2018	1 month % change Mar 2017	1 month % change Mar 2018	Contribution to RPI annual rate change
LEISURE SERVICES	79	85	-	0.5	0.04
TV licence and rentals	12	11	-	-	-
Entertainment and other recreation	16	16	-0.3	0.3	0.01
Foreign holidays	40	47	0.1	0.6	0.03
UK holidays	11	11	0.2	0.6	-

- Largest upward effect on the all items 12-month rate change.
- Due to:
 - **Foreign holidays**, where prices overall rose this year by more than a year ago; and
 - **Entertainment and other recreation**, where average charges for live music events rose this year but fell a year ago. Partially offset by a small downward contribution coming from theatre admissions, where average charges fell this year but rose a year ago.

RECONCILIATION OF CPI AND RPI

(Table 5 of the Consumer Price Inflation Dataset)

This table identifies the main factors contributing to the differences between the unrounded inflation rates for the CPI and the RPI. These differences are broken down into: mortgage interest payments, other housing components excluded from the CPI, other differences in the coverage of goods and services, and the formula effect. The final column titled 'other differences including weights' is derived as a residual.

This table currently compares CPI with RPI. In due course it will be updated to compare CPIH with RPI.

The difference between the CPI and RPI unrounded annual rates in March 2018 was -0.87 percentage points, narrowing from -0.91 percentage points in February 2018.

The main factors contributing to the narrowing were:

- **The formula effect**, which decreased the RPI 12-month rate relative to the CPI 12-month rate by 0.03 percentage points between February and March 2018. The effect came from a range of sectors.
- **Other housing components excluded from the CPI**, which decreased the RPI 12-month rate relative to the CPI 12-month rate by 0.01 percentage points between February and March 2018. The effect came mainly from house depreciation.

There were no off-setting factors.

RPI MISCELLANEOUS DATA

Selected Average Prices

Description		January 2018	February 2018	March 2018
Petrol per litre	Diesel	£1.24	£1.25	£1.23
	Petrol	£1.21	£1.22	£1.19
Alcohol pub prices	Draught bitter (pint)	£3.09	£3.03	£3.03
	Draught lager (pint)	£3.63	£3.61	£3.61
	Whisky (per nip)	£2.84	£2.83	£2.84
Cigarettes	Per 20 king size	£9.94	£9.96	£9.97

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 2017	+0.3	Down -0.01% points	-0.01% points
April 2017	+0.5	Down -0.02% points	-0.02% points
May 2017	+0.4	Negligible	-
June 2017	+0.2	Down -0.02% points	-0.02% points
July 2017	+0.2	Down -0.01% points	-0.01% points
August 2017	+0.7	Down -0.01% points	-0.01% points
September 2017	+0.1	Down -0.01% points	-0.01% points
October 2017	+0.1	Down -0.02% points	-0.02% points
November 2017	+0.2	Up +0.01% points	+0.01% points
December 2017	+0.8	Up +0.09% points	+0.08% points
January 2018	-0.8	Down -0.04% points	-0.04% points
February 2018	+0.8	Down -0.01% points	-0.01% points
March 2018	+0.1	Down -0.02% points	-0.02% 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
2012	1.3	-0.2	-1.2
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	

- 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
2012	2.8	2.1	0.2
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	

- 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 2018-19 will be £1,671 – a 5.1% increase on last year. (www.gov.uk 28 March 2018)
- 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 2018, all thirty-two local authorities have announced plans to increase council tax by the maximum amount allowed. For Band D households, the average council tax bill will rise by £34.87 to around £1,200 this year. (bbc.co.uk 8 March 2018)

- The Welsh Government announced that the average band D council tax for Wales for 2018-19 is £1,492 – a 5.1% increase on last year. (gov.wales 22 March 2018)
- The recorded increase for council tax and rates in the CPIH last April was 3.8%.

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.

Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels

- British Gas has announced an increase in their default standard variable tariff (SVT) from 29 May 2018. The price for a typical dual fuel customer on this tariff will go up on average by £60 to £1,161 - £30 for gas and £30 for electricity. (britishgas.co.uk 10 April 2018)
- EDF Energy has announced a change to its standard variable electricity tariff, effective from 7 June 2018. EDF Energy's standard variable dual fuel Direct Debit tariff will increase by 1.4% to £1,158 a year following an increase in the standing charge for electricity to 23.28p a day, an increase of 2.7% on a typical electricity bill. There will be no change to gas prices for Direct Debit customers. There will also be an increase in the charges for customers choosing to pay by cash or cheque by £6 per fuel per year, applying to standard variable tariffs and future fixed tariffs. A dual fuel standard variable customer choosing to pay by cash or cheque will see a combined increase of £28 a year (+2.3%) to £1,248 a year. (edfenergy.com 12 April 2018)

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
2012	1.6	1.4	-1.2
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	

- 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 £8.80 from 1 April 2018. (www.gov.uk 26 February 2018)

NHS Dental Charges

- Regulations have been laid before Parliament to uplift NHS dental charges in England from 1 April 2018. Charges will rise from £20.60 to £21.60 for Band 1, from £56.30 to £59.10 for Band 2 and from £244.30 to £256.50 for Band 3. (www.parliament.uk 12 March 2018)

TRANSPORT

Fuels and Lubricants

- Oil prices have risen slightly, but were still down overall as investor concern waned about escalating tensions in the Middle East. Brent crude oil futures were down 51 cents at \$72.07 a barrel, having recovered from a session low of \$71.11, while U.S. crude futures were down 54 cents at \$66.85 a barrel. (uk.reuters.com 16 April 2018)
- When considering the price of petrol between March and April 2018, it may be useful to note that the average price of petrol fell by 1.8 pence per litre between March and April 2017, standing at 117.4 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.

Vehicle Excise Duty (VED)

- The November 2017 Budget announced that from 1 April 2018, VED rates will increase in line with the RPI for cars, vans, and motorcycles. In addition, new Diesel vehicles that do not meet the RDE2 standard will be charged a supplement on their first year rate to the effect of moving up by one VED band. The new Standard Rate for cars first registered after 1st April 2017 will also come into effect.

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
2012	-1.6	4.4	7.4
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	

- 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 26 March 2018, the prices of a First Class stamp and a Second Class stamp will rise by 2p to 67p and 58p respectively. (royalmailgroup.com 16 February 2018)

RECREATION AND CULTURE

Television Licence

- The cost of a TV Licence will change on 1 April 2018. A colour licence will cost £150.50, an increase of £3.50 on the current fee. A black and white licence will cost £50.50, an increase of £1.00. (www.tvlicensing.co.uk)

MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES

Passport Fees

- The Home Office has outlined plans to introduce different passport fees for online and postal applications, with effect from 27 March 2018. Under the plans, online applications will increase from £72.50 to £75.50 for adults and £49.00 for children. Postal applications will increase by £12.50 to £85.00 for adults and £58.50 for children. (www.gov.uk 29 January 2018)

HOUSING (RPI)**Mortgage interest payments (MIPs)**

- The Bank of England Bank Rate remained unchanged at 0.5% on Thursday 22 March 2018. The next announcement and minutes from the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee are scheduled to be published on 10 May 2018.
- The change in average mortgage interest rates recorded in the RPI was -0.02 percentage points between March and April 2017. The Bank of England Bank Rate remained unchanged at 0.25% in March 2017.
- 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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