FEATURE

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CPI and RPI: the 2009 basket of goods and services

SUMMARY

The 'shopping basket' of items making up the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) and Retail Prices Index (RPI) are reviewed every year. Some items are taken out of the basket and some are brought in to reflect changes in the market and to make sure the CPI and RPI are up to date and representative of consumer spending patterns. This article describes the review process and explains how and why the various items in the CPI and RPI baskets are chosen. It also discusses the main changes from the 2008 price collection.

The contents of the CPI and RPI baskets for 2009 are summarised in annexes A and B of the full article, which can be downloaded from the Office for National Statistics website at:
www.statistics.gov.uk/CCI/article.asp?ID=2156.

The shopping basket

The most useful way to think about both the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) and Retail Prices Index (RPI) is to imagine a 'shopping basket' containing those goods and services on which people typically spend their money. As the prices of the various items in the basket change over time, so does the total cost of the basket. Movements in the CPI and RPI represent the changing cost of this representative shopping basket.

In principle, the cost of the basket should be calculated with reference to all consumer goods and services purchased by households, and the prices measured in every shop or outlet that supplies them. In practice, both the CPI and RPI are calculated by collecting a sample of prices for a selection of representative goods and services in a range of UK retail locations. Currently, around 120,000 separate price quotations are used every month in compiling the indices, covering some 650 representative consumer goods and services for which prices are collected in around 150 areas throughout the UK.

Within each year, the RPI and CPI are described as fixed-quantity (Laspeyres-type) price indices; they represent the changing cost of a basket of goods and services of fixed composition, quantity and quality. In practice, this is achieved by:

- applying a fixed set of weights to price changes for each of the items such that their influence on the overall index reflects their importance in the typical household budget
- holding constant through each year the sample of representative goods and services for which prices are collected each month, and

In this way, changes in the RPI and CPI from month to month reflect only changes in prices, and not ongoing variations in consumer purchasing patterns.

However, the contents of the RPI and CPI baskets of goods and services and their associated expenditure weights are updated annually. This is important in helping to avoid potential biases in consumer price indices that might otherwise develop over time – for example, due to the development of entirely new goods and services, or the tendency for consumers to switch away from buying goods and services which have risen relatively rapidly in price. For example, if tea showed a dramatic rise in prices during one year, consumers might switch their spending towards other beverages, making it necessary to adjust the expenditure weights accordingly in the following year.

These procedures also help to ensure that the indices reflect longer-term trends in consumer spending patterns. For example, the proportion of household expenditure devoted to household services has risen steadily over the last 20 years. This is reflected both in an increasing weight for this component in the CPI and RPI, and the addition of new items in the basket to improve measurement of price changes in this area: examples include internet subscriptions, playgroup and nanny fees.

For the RPI, changes to the items and weights are introduced in the February index each year, but prices are collected for both old and new items in January. This means that the figures for each year can be 'chain linked' together to form a long-run price index spanning many years. This procedure ensures that the annual changes to the basket and weights have no impact on estimated changes in prices as measured by the indices. The same basic approach is adopted in the CPI although, for technical reasons, it is necessary to chain link the published index twice each year rather than only once as in the RPI.¹

ONS (2004) provides a helpful introduction to the concepts and procedures underpinning the compilation of the CPI and RPI indices. These are described in much greater detail in ONS (2007).

Representative items

It would be both impractical and unnecessary to measure price changes of every item bought by every household in compiling the CPI and RPI. There are some individual goods and services where typical household expenditure is sufficiently large that they merit inclusion in the basket in their own right; examples include petrol, telephone charges, and electricity and gas supply.

However, more commonly, it is necessary to select a sample of specific goods and services that can give a reliable measure of price movements for a broader range of similar items. For example, price changes for garden spades might be considered representative of price changes for other garden tools. These are called 'representative items'. The selection of these representative items is judgmental; the significant difficulties involved in defining an adequate sampling frame (that is, a list of all the individual goods and services bought by households) restricts the use of traditional random sampling methods when choosing the representative items.

For each product grouping, a number of items are selected for pricing whose price movements, taken together, will provide a good estimate of the overall change in prices for the group as a whole. For example, there are around 20 representative items in the CPI 'furniture and furnishings' class, from bedroom wardrobes to kitchen units, for which prices are collected each month to give an overall estimate of price changes for all furniture products. The same approach is adopted in the RPI, although

the product classification systems used in each case differ.²

The prices collected for each product group are then combined to produce the overall CPI and RPI indices, with weights proportional to total expenditure on the entire product group. So the weight given to 'furniture and furnishings' in the CPI shopping basket, or 'furniture' in the RPI basket, will reflect average household spending on all furniture products as opposed to expenditure only on those items that have been chosen to represent the group. Similarly, the weight of garden spades would be derived from all spending on garden tools.

As described above, these weights are also updated annually so that the indices reflect current spending patterns. In line with usual practice, CPI class weights were updated with effect from the January 2009 index, and RPI section weights with effect from the February 2009 index, at which point the weights for the more detailed (unpublished) item indices were also revised. A brief comparison of high level RPI weights since 1987 is shown later in this article, including the new weights for 2009. A more detailed article on changes to the published CPI and RPI weights will be published on the National Statistics website in April 2009.

Note also that there are some specific differences in the commodity coverage of the CPI and RPI. For example, the RPI basket includes a number of items chosen to represent owner-occupier housing costs, including mortgage interest payments and depreciation costs, all of which are excluded from the CPI. These differences are described in greater detail in Roe and Fenwick (2004). Beyond these specific areas, the contents of the CPI and RPI baskets are very similar, although the precise weights attached to the individual items in each index differ.³

Selecting the representative items

A number of factors need to be taken into account when choosing representative items. The items must be easy to find by price collectors, of course, so ensuring that estimates of price change are based on an adequate number of price quotes collected throughout the UK. Since the CPI and RPI are based on the cost of a fixed in-year basket of goods and services, ideally they should also be available for purchase throughout the year. However, availability of some food and clothing items is clearly seasonal, and so these goods require a

slightly different treatment in the indices.

The number of items chosen to represent each product group within the CPI and RPI depends both on the weight (expenditure) of the group and also the variability of price changes between the various items that could be selected to represent the group (reflecting, for example, the diversity of products available). Intuitively, it makes sense to choose more items in product groups where spending is high. This helps to minimise sampling variability in the estimate of price change for high-weighted groups and, therefore, in the overall price index. However, if price movements of all possible items in the group are very similar, it is sufficient to collect prices for only a few.⁴ By contrast, if price movements of all the possible items are very different, prices will be needed for many representative items to get a reliable overall estimate of price change for the group.

Following from this, analysis of the balance in the allocation of items to broad commodity groupings, as presented for the 12 divisions of the CPI in **Table 1**, acts as a useful anchor for the annual review of the basket. The significant allocation of items to the food division relative to its index weight, for example, is partly because of the relatively high variation in observed price changes between the individual goods in this area. Conversely, a smaller proportion of items relative to index weight is allocated to the restaurants and hotels division, reflecting greater similarity in observed price changes. In some cases, such as transport and housing, apparent low allocations of items are because of the presence of some dominant individual items (such as car purchase or housing rents); abstracting from these, the case for adding further items to improve coverage of the remaining index weights of these divisions is much weaker – instead, it is far more important to ensure that the sampling of prices for these heavily weighted items is as comprehensive as possible.

The analysis in Table 1 also helps to highlight those areas of the index which might benefit most from improved coverage, such as recreation and culture. The current allocation of items to the division is broadly comparable to its index weight but variation in price changes appears relatively high, possibly reflecting the diversity of goods and services covered by this division. This has motivated some of the changes to the basket introduced in 2009, as discussed later. Conversely, the analysis also helps to highlight areas

Table 1
Allocation of items to CPI divisions in 2009

	CPI weight (per cent)	Observed variation in price changes ¹	Representative items ² (percentage of total)
1 Food and non-alcoholic beverages	11.8	High	22
2 Alcohol and tobacco	4.4	Low	4
3 Clothing and footwear	5.7	Medium	11
4 Housing and household services	12.6	Medium	5
5 Furniture and household goods	6.6	Medium	11
6 Health	2.2	Low	3
7 Transport	15.1	High	6
8 Communication	2.3	Low	1
9 Recreation and culture	14.5	High	17
10 Education	2.1	Low	1
11 Restaurants and hotels	12.8	Low	8
12 Miscellaneous goods and services	9.9	High	11

Notes:*Source: Office for National Statistics*

- 1 Based on an analysis of variation in price changes between the individual items chosen to represent each division in the period 1999 to 2003.
- 2 These figures should be treated as providing only a broad indication of the allocation of items to the 12 CPI divisions. For example, the sample of prices underpinning an existing item might easily be stratified in some way to form two or more distinct items; conversely, items could be merged to form a single item representing a wider, more heterogeneous, spending category. A specific example of this is the item 'University tuition fees'. This is classified as one item but the index takes into account prices for several hundred courses, including undergraduate, postgraduate, part-time etc.

where there is scope to remove items from the basket without any significant loss of precision in the indices. It is important that growth in the overall size of the basket is limited each year so that production costs and processing times are contained.

Such analysis, of course, cannot tell us which items should be priced; so choosing a particular set of items to represent each area remains a matter of judgement. CPI and RPI commodity groupings are regularly reviewed with the aim that all significant items or distinct markets where consumers' expenditure exceeds around £400 million annually are explicitly represented in the basket, except where those items are judged to be adequately represented by other items in the basket.⁵ Conversely, where spending on items falls below the £100 million mark, there should be good reason for their continuing inclusion in the basket. For example, while spending on acoustic guitars and power drills is relatively low, both are included in the basket to represent wider markets (musical instruments and electrical tools respectively) that would otherwise not be covered explicitly. Trends in expenditure, as well as the latest available figures, help to inform the decisions in all cases.

This focus on relative expenditures in determining the contents of the basket partly reflects the wealth of available data describing household spending patterns. One major source of information comes from the diaries and questionnaires filled in by people taking part in the ONS Living Costs and Food Survey (previously known as the Expenditure and Food Survey): a continuous survey of around 6000 households each year. This is supplemented

by detailed analyses of trends presented by market research companies, trade journals and in press reports. Changes in the retail environment are also reported to ONS by the price collectors. Together, these various sources of information help to ensure that the goods and services that the average household spends its money on are appropriately represented in the CPI and RPI baskets.

It is very important to note that the contents of the basket and, in particular, changes from one year to the next should not be accorded significance beyond their purpose as representative items used in estimating retail price changes. Changes to the basket will reflect evolving consumer tastes, but only over a long run of years. In any particular year, changes to the basket will reflect a range of considerations such as practical experience in collecting prices, the desire to improve coverage in high-spending areas, or analysis that suggests that estimated price changes could be improved at the margin by varying the number or type of representative items collected.

Indeed, within each product grouping there is usually a point at which the exact number, choice of items and the precise weights attached to them becomes a matter of relatively fine judgement. At this detailed level, it is unlikely that such choices would have any significant impact on the CPI and RPI. For example, a selection of specific household appliances has been chosen to represent spending on small electrical goods, including irons and kettles. However, other representations would clearly be possible and equally valid.

Finally, it should also be noted that the vast majority of the 650 or so representative items remain unchanged in 2009.

Changes to the basket in 2009

Changes to the basket of goods and services this year were introduced with the February 2009 consumer price indices published on 24 March; that is, monthly changes in prices from February 2009 to January 2010 inclusive will be estimated with reference to the updated basket. The basket will be updated again at the same time next year.

New additions to the basket in 2009 and those items removed are set out in **Table 2** and **Table 3**, together with a brief summary of the motivation for these changes. As the tables make clear, these motivations are diverse. As in previous years, changes to the basket in 2009 certainly should not be viewed as a simple indicator of those products or services whose popularity has either grown or fallen significantly over the past year. Note that all of the changes to the basket in 2009 affect both the CPI and RPI indices.

The following list gives a brief summary and explanation of the themes behind the changes to the basket for 2009.

- Analysis of the broad balance of the existing sample of representative items across the CPI highlighted a need to improve coverage of price changes for a number of CPI classes. These areas include:
 - recording media (9.1.4), with a new item covering Blu-ray discs introduced to supplement the existing CD and DVD headings, and
 - reception and reproduction of sound and pictures (9.1.1), through the addition of freeview boxes
- A number of new items are introduced to represent specific markets where consumer spending is significant, and existing items in the basket may not adequately represent price changes for such goods. For example, hot rotisserie cooked chickens are being introduced to represent the market for hot takeaway food prepared in supermarkets and add to the list of ready prepared food in the basket. Bottled rosé wine is also included for the first time reflecting the increased popularity and growing shelf space devoted to rosé
- Three high-technology goods are being introduced in the basket this year that can be seen as representing

Table 2
Additions to the basket in 2009

CPI class	RPI section	New item	Notes
01.1.2 Meat	2109 Poultry	Rotisserie cooked hot whole chicken	New item. Introduced to represent the growing market in hot food takeaway items from supermarkets.
01.1.4 Milk, Cheese and Eggs	2115 Cheese	Parmesan cheese	New item. Introduced to improve coverage of imported cheese. Prices collected can be for cheese in the form of a wedge, shavings or grated.
01.1.4 Milk, Cheese and Eggs	2116 Eggs	Eggs, large free range	Replaces large eggs and reflects greater concentration in market expenditure towards free range eggs.
01.1.4 Milk, Cheese and Eggs	2118 Milk Products	Yoghurt, small individual	Replaces yoghurt/fromage frais and reflects spending on individual pots of yoghurt in comparison to fromage frais.
01.1.4 Milk, Cheese and Eggs	2118 Milk Products	Fresh double cream	Replaces single cream. Double cream attracts a far greater market share than single cream, hence the replacement.
01.1.6 Fruit	2127 Fresh Fruit	Plums	New item. Although spending does not demand that plums be included in the basket, fruit prices are volatile so it is beneficial to collect across a broad range of items and inclusion of plums is to improve coverage of stoned fruit in particular.
01.1.6 Fruit	2127 Fresh Fruit	Peaches/nectarines	Replaces peaches and aims to increase coverage in price collection across the year.
01.1.9 Food Products (not elsewhere classified)	2129 Other Foods	Chilled ready-meal, meat based	Replaces chilled ready meal, reflecting diversity available and increase in expenditure on chilled meals.
01.1.9 Food Products (not elsewhere classified)	2129 Other Foods	Chilled ready-meal, fish/vegetable based	Replaces chilled ready meal, reflecting diversity available and increase in expenditure on chilled meals.
02.1.2 Wine	3102 Beer Off Sales	Cider, bottle 500ml-750ml	Replaces 1-2 litre bottles of cider to represent the increasing market for drinks for individual consumption as the popularity of the party size bottle has decreased.
02.1.2 Wine	3104 Wines & Spirits Off Sales	Rosé wine	New item introduced to capture the increase in expenditure on and shelf space devoted to rosé wine.
05.5.0 Tools and Equipment for House and Garden	4106 DIY Materials	Hire of domestic carpet shampoo/cleaner	Replaces the hire of domestic steam wallpaper strippers which increasingly tend to be bought and not hired.
05.1.2 Carpets and Other Floor Coverings	4302 Furnishings	Hardwood flooring	New item. Introduced to reflect increased spending on smooth (ie non carpet) floor coverings.
09.3.4/5 Pets, Related Products and Services	4306 Pet Care	Cat food pouch	Replaces cat food can. This reflects a trend away from cans towards pouches and packs evidenced with pouches being more readily available in smaller outlets.
12.3.1 Jewellery, Clocks and Watches	4401 Domestic Services	Watch battery replacement	Replaces watch repair, clean & service which is increasingly difficult to collect prices for given the trend towards buying new and away from repair.
09.1.1 Reception and Reproduction of Sound and Pictures	6301 Audio-Visual Equipment	Freeview box	New item. This has been included with the increase in sales due to the digital switchover over the next couple of years.
09.1.1 Reception and Reproduction of Sound and Pictures	6301 Audio-Visual Equipment	MP4 player	New item. Replaces MP3 player to reflect the change in technology in reproduction of sound and pictures.
09.1.4 Recording Media	6302 CDs and Tapes	Blu-ray disc	New item. Introduced to capture changing prices in this new expanding technology.
09.4.2 Cultural Services	6401 TV Licences and Rentals	TV rentals	Replaces TV, video & DVD rental reflecting the decrease in expenditure on video & DVD rental.
09.4.2 Cultural Services	6401 TV Licences and Rentals	DVD rental internet subscription	New item. This reflects the increased availability of rentals via the internet.

Source: Office for National Statistics

evolving trends: MP4 players replace MP3 players; as mentioned previously, Blu-ray discs are introduced to cover the growing market for the new style format of recorded media; and freeview boxes are an addition reflecting the approach of the digital switchover and the increased spending on audio-visual equipment leading into that

- As well as introducing items to represent distinct sectors or markets, a number of items have been introduced to diversify the range of products collected for already established groupings, usually where spending is significant. For example, plums are introduced to improve coverage of stoned fruit and fruit more generally, which is a class with particularly high variability in prices. Similarly hardwood flooring supplements laminate flooring as a representative of the market for smooth floor coverings and an existing

chilled ready-meal item is being subdivided according to the meal base – namely meat, fish or vegetable – reflecting the diversity available

- In other cases, the new items are direct replacements for similar products that leave the basket in 2009. For example, bottles of cider for individual consumption replace party size bottles, double cream replaces single cream, and pouches of cat food replace cans. In each case, the new product represents a greater or increasing proportion of the market compared with the product it replaces. Another example here is the fitting of a watch battery to replace watch repair, clean and service. This change is also partly for operational reasons with watch repair becoming more difficult to price due to fewer outlets offering a standard repair service
- It is important that the review of the

basket considers not just the list of items to be priced, but also where the prices are collected. This is reflected in the introduction of subscriptions to DVD hire over the internet. Hire of DVDs and other items was already in the basket but hire via the internet was not

- Finally, the seasonality of some items within the basket was also reviewed. Peaches have historically been collected during the summer months with prices carried forward out of season. In 2008, their coverage was extended to eight months of the year. In an attempt to extend the period further, the item has been replaced in 2009 by a joint peach and nectarine item in the hope that the improved coverage will support a further extension of the period covered

As noted earlier, it is important that growth in the overall size of the basket is

Table 3
Items removed from the basket in 2009

CPI class	RPI section	Dropped item	Notes
01.1.2 Meat	2106 Imported Lamb	Frozen imported lamb loin chops	Removed. Lamb is already well represented in the basket and its removal enables the introduction of rotisserie cooked chicken.
01.1.4 Milk, Cheese and Eggs	2115 Cheese	Cheese cheddar, imported	Replaced by parmesan cheese due to lowering coverage of imported cheddar in smaller outlets.
01.1.4 Milk, Cheese and Eggs	2116 Eggs	Eggs, large	Replaced. The shelf space for large eggs is increasingly devoted towards free range produce and the item specification for large eggs has been narrowed reflecting this.
01.1.4 Milk, Cheese and Eggs	2118 Milk Products	Yoghurt/fromage frais, small individual	Replaced. The availability of individual pots of fromage frais has fallen so the item specification has narrowed to yoghurt only. Fromage frais are still represented in the basket by multi-packs.
01.1.4 Milk, Cheese and Eggs	2118 Milk Products	Fresh single cream	Replaced by double cream reflecting the market share of double compared to single cream.
01.1.6 Fruit	2127 Fresh Fruit	Peaches	Replaced by peaches/nectarines to increase coverage in price collection.
01.1.9 Food Products (not elsewhere classified)	2129 Other Foods	Chilled ready-meal, serve one	Replaced by two ready meal items reflecting the increase in diversity available.
02.1.2 Wine	3102 Beer Off Sales	Cider 1-2 litre bottles	Replaced by smaller bottles of cider to represent the market for drinks for individual consumption rather than 'party' size bottles.
02.1.2 Wine	3104 Wines and Spirits Off Sales	Wine Box-3 litres	Replaced by rosé wine due to the relatively low weight of wine boxes and the increased shelf space devoted to bottles of rosé.
04.3.2 Services for Maintenance and Repair	4106 DIY Materials	Hire domestic steam wallpaper stripper	Removed. Spending on this item has decreased as more people are buying rather than hiring domestic steam wallpaper strippers.
09.1.1 Reception and Reproduction of Sound and Pictures	6301 Audio-Visual Equipment	MP3 player	Replaced. Technology has moved on to MP4 players and this is reflected in the basket of goods.
09.3.4 Pets, Related Products and Services	4306 Pet Care	Cat food, can	Replaced by cat food pouches reflecting a trend away from tins towards pouches and packs.
09.4.2 Cultural Services	6401 TV Licences and Rentals	DVD film rental	Replaced by subscriptions to internet DVD rental sites.
09.4.2 Cultural Services	6401 TV Licences and Rentals	TV, video and DVD rentals	Removed due to low and decreasing expenditure on DVD player and video cassette recorder rental.
12.3.1 Jewellery, Clocks and Watches	4401 Domestic Services	Watch repair, clean and service	Removed due to difficulty in collecting prices due to the trend towards buying new and away from repair.

Source: Office for National Statistics

Table 4
High-level weights¹ in RPI since 1987

RPI group	1987	1992	1997	2002	2006	2007	2008	2009
Food	167	152	136	114	105	105	111	118
Catering	46	47	49	52	50	47	47	50
Alcohol	76	80	80	68	67	66	59	63
Tobacco	38	36	34	31	29	29	27	27
Housing	157	172	186 ²	199	222	238	254	236
Fuel and light	61	47	41	31	33	39	33	49
Household goods	73	77	72	73	71	66	66	70
Household services	44	48	52	60	66	65	64	61
Clothing and footwear	74	59	56	51	49	44	42	39
Personal goods and services	38	40	40	43	41	39	41	41
Motoring expenditure	127	143	128	141	140	133	133	121
Fares and other travel costs	22	20	20	20	19	20	20	20
Leisure goods	47	47	47	48	41	41	38	38
Leisure services	30	32	59 ³	69	67	68	65	67

Notes:

- Weights are specified as parts per 1000 of the all items RPI.
- Depreciation costs were added to the housing group in 1995.
- Foreign holiday costs were added to the leisure services group in 1993, followed by UK holidays a year later.

Source: Office for National Statistics

limited each year so that production costs and processing times may be contained. A number of items therefore have been removed from the basket in 2009 to make room for the new additions. Note that the removal of these items from the basket does not necessarily imply that the markets for these goods and services are very small or are declining significantly.

- Some items have been removed to make way for new additions to the basket

within the same product grouping. For example, single cream has been removed in 2009 to be replaced by double cream, although both products represent cream. In other cases, the items have been removed so that new items may be introduced covering distinct markets not previously represented explicitly within the product grouping. For example, imported lamb loin chops have been removed this year so that the market for

hot takeaway food from supermarkets can be represented. Equally wine boxes have been removed to allow the introduction of rosé wine

- In some cases, a product will still remain represented in the basket even if there is no longer an explicit item. For example, although a daily disposable contact lens item has been removed from the basket, this type of contact lens is covered by a more broadly defined contact lens item. Also one of two tufted carpet items has been removed to enable the introduction of hardwood floor covering
- Elsewhere analysis suggested that there was scope to reduce the number of price quotes collected for some lower-weighted items without any significant loss of precision in the estimates of price changes overall. Examples of this include window cleaning fees and knitting wool prices. Previously two price quotes were collected for each of these from each location and this has been reduced to one

Weights

Table 4 gives a snapshot of how the high-level weights in the RPI ⁶ have changed over the last 23 years, since the last re-basing of the series.

The table illustrates that over the period there are some clear shifts in expenditure.

Broadly speaking, weights for services have increased while those for goods have decreased. The most recent weights in the table also illustrate that changes from one year to the next are less marked – for this reason, users should guard against drawing conclusions about evolving spending patterns just from the update of the basket in any one year.

Notes

- 1 CPI indices are first chain linked each January, when weights for CPI classes and higher-level aggregates are updated, and again in February when changes to the basket are introduced and hence weights for individual item indices are reviewed.
- 2 The CPI is organised according to the internationally agreed COICOP (Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose) system, as used in the UK National Accounts. The RPI uses a classification system specified by an earlier RPI Advisory Committee, and has evolved gradually over the RPI's long history as a published UK official statistic.
- 3 RPI weights are based primarily

on household spending estimates derived from the Living Costs and Food Survey, previously known as the Expenditure and Food Survey, and relate to expenditures by private households only, excluding the top 4 per cent of households by income and those pensioner households mainly dependent on state benefits. CPI weights are based on National Accounts estimates of household final consumption consistent with the wider CPI population coverage (all private households, residents of institutional households and foreign visitors to the UK).

- 4 At the extreme, if price changes for all the possible items that could be selected in a particular group were identical each month, it would be necessary to select only one of the items for inclusion in the basket. Price changes for this one item would be perfectly representative of price changes for the group as a whole.
- 5 Under CPI regulations, items should be included in the CPI where estimated consumers' expenditure is one part per thousand or more of all expenditure

covered by the CPI; based on household final consumption data underpinning calculation of the 2009 CPI weights, this is equivalent to around £710 million.

- 6 Coverage extensions during the development of the CPI/HICP (harmonised index of consumer prices) mean that long-term comparisons of weights within CPI are more difficult.

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