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The Consumer Price Indices (July 73/June 74 = 100) for May 1979

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>May 1979</th>
<th>June 1978 - May 1979 Monthly Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C.P.I.(A)</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.P.I.(B)</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The C.P.I.(A) is based on weights derived from the expenditure of households spending between $400–$1,499 a month and the C.P.I.(B), between $1,500–$2,999 a month in the Household Expenditure Survey, 1973/74.

2. The Consumer Price Index (A) and Consumer Price Index (B) for May 1979 were 136 and 137 respectively. Compared with the previous month, C.P.I.(A) declined by 1 point while C.P.I.(B) advanced by 1 point. The index for foodstuffs fell by 3 points in C.P.I.(A) and by 1 point in C.P.I.(B). On the other hand, the index for fuel and light increased by 18 points in C.P.I.(A) and by 16 points in C.P.I.(B) while that for clothing and footwear rose by 3 points in C.P.I.(A) and by 4 points in C.P.I.(B). Rises of 2 points each were recorded in the indices for durable goods and services in both C.P.I.(A) and C.P.I.(B). The index for transport and vehicles went up by 2 points in C.P.I.(A) and by 1 point in C.P.I.(B). The indices for housing, alcoholic drinks and tobacco, and miscellaneous goods advanced by 1 point each in both C.P.I.(A) and C.P.I.(B).

3. The effect on the "all-items" index of the changes in the section indices is shown below :-


## Index for May 1979 compared with that for Apr. 79

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Weights</th>
<th>CPI(A) (points)</th>
<th>CPI(B) (points)</th>
<th>Effect of changes on &quot;all-items&quot; index (points)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CPI(A)</td>
<td>CPI(B)</td>
<td>CPI(A)</td>
<td>CPI(B)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foodstuffs</td>
<td>56.60</td>
<td>47.82</td>
<td>-2.70</td>
<td>-1.69²</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>14.08</td>
<td>16.79</td>
<td>+0.52</td>
<td>+0.49⁴</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fuel and light</td>
<td>3.39</td>
<td>2.71</td>
<td>+17.86</td>
<td>+15.86</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alcoholic drinks and tobacco</td>
<td>2.65</td>
<td>2.04</td>
<td>+0.61</td>
<td>+0.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing and footwear</td>
<td>3.82</td>
<td>5.92</td>
<td>+3.60</td>
<td>+3.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Durable goods</td>
<td>1.41</td>
<td>2.97</td>
<td>+1.61</td>
<td>+1.32⁸</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous goods</td>
<td>4.58</td>
<td>5.17</td>
<td>+1.06</td>
<td>+1.07</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transport and vehicles</td>
<td>4.36</td>
<td>5.11</td>
<td>+2.19</td>
<td>+1.85⁹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>9.11</td>
<td>11.47</td>
<td>+1.79</td>
<td>+1.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All items</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>-0.37</td>
<td>+0.34⁸</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Notes:

- a. This figure, 3.60, must be added to the previous month's unrounded index of 105.69 and not to the published index of 106.
- b. This figure, 0.37, must be subtracted from the previous month's unrounded index of 136.51 and not from the published index of 137.
- c. This figure, 1.69, must be subtracted from the previous month's unrounded index of 134.41 and not from the published index of 134.
- d. This figure, 0.49, must be added to the previous month's unrounded index of 139.19 and not to the published index of 139.
- e. This figure, 1.32, must be added to the previous month's unrounded index of 120.45 and not to the published index of 120.
- f. This figure, 1.85, must be added to the previous month's unrounded index of 153.56 and not to the published index of 154.
- g. This figure, 0.34, must be added to the previous month's unrounded index of 136.17 and not to the published index of 136.
4. An analysis of average retail prices in May 1979, compared with the previous month, shows the following points of interest:

**FOODSTUFFS**

5. The index for foodstuffs decreased by 3 points in C.P.I.(A) and by 1 point in C.P.I.(B). Reductions were recorded in the average retail prices of fresh vegetables, fresh-water fish and fresh fruits. On the other hand, the average retail prices of salt-water fish and beef went up. The cost of meals bought away from home also rose as some restaurants and eating-places raised their prices. Movements in the average retail prices of other food items were insignificant.

   (i) **Fresh vegetables** - The average retail price of fresh vegetables fell substantially by 23% in C.P.I.(A) and by 22% in C.P.I.(B).

   (ii) **Fresh-water fish** - The average retail price of fresh-water fish dropped by 8% in C.P.I.(A) and by 7% in C.P.I.(B).

   (iii) **Fresh-fruits** - The average retail price of fresh fruits declined by 7% in both C.P.I.(A) and C.P.I.(B) as a result of lower prices for oranges and water-melons.

   (iv) **Salt-water fish** - The average retail price of salt-water fish increased by 7% each in C.P.I.(A) and C.P.I.(B).

   (v) **Beef** - The average retail price of beef rose by 8% in both C.P.I.(A) and C.P.I.(B).

**HOUSING**

6. As more households were affected by the increase in water charges, the index for housing advanced by 1 point in both C.P.I.(A) and C.P.I.(B).

**FUEL AND LIGHT**

7. The index for fuel and light went up substantially by 18 points in C.P.I.(A) and by 16 points in C.P.I.(B), reflecting the full impact of the rises in prices of kerosene and liquefied petroleum gas since April as well as the higher charges for electricity.

**ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO**

8. Higher prices for alcoholic drinks pushed the index for alcoholic drinks and tobacco up by 1 point each in C.P.I.(A) and C.P.I.(B).

**CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR**

9. The index for clothing and footwear increased by 3 points in C.P.I.(A) and by 4 points in C.P.I.(B) because of higher prices for outerclothing items.

**DURABLE GOODS**

10. The rise of 2 points in the index for durable goods in both C.P.I.(A) and C.P.I.(B) was attributable to higher prices for wooden furniture, television sets, sound equipment and travel goods.
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS

11. On account of higher prices for toilet requisites, soap, detergents, toys and hobbies, the index for miscellaneous goods rose by 1 point each in C.P.I.(A) and C.P.I.(B).

TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES

12. The index for transport and vehicles advanced by 2 points in C.P.I.(A) and by 1 point in C.P.I.(B) as a result of higher fares for public light buses and the full impact of the increases in prices of petrol and oil since April.

SERVICES

13. The rise of 2 points in the index for services in both C.P.I.(A) and C.P.I.(B) was mainly brought about by higher charges for medical treatment and cinema entertainment.

Tables

Table 1 shows the monthly Consumer Price Index (A) by sections from April 1978 onward.

Table 2 shows the monthly Consumer Price Index (B) by sections from April 1978 onward.

Table 3 shows a list of selected commodity/service groups the price changes in which had the largest effect on the C.P.I.(A) for May 1979 compared with the previous month.

Table 4 shows a list of selected commodity/service groups the price changes in which had the largest effect on the C.P.I.(B) for May 1979 compared with the previous month.

Table 5 shows the average retail prices of some essential food items and their respective price ranges for the current month, the previous month and the corresponding month in 1978, together with the number of price quotations for each of the items included.

Graphs

Graphs A and B show the value and the centred 12-month moving average of the indices.
(July 73 - June 74 = 100)

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year and month</th>
<th>All items</th>
<th>Fuel and light</th>
<th>Alcoholic drinks &amp; tobacco</th>
<th>Clothing and footwear</th>
<th>Durable goods</th>
<th>Misc. goods</th>
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<th>Services</th>
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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (B)
(July 73 - June 74 = 100)

Table 2

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<tr>
<th>Year and month</th>
<th>All items</th>
<th>Fuel and light</th>
<th>Alcoholic drinks &amp; tobacco</th>
<th>Clothing and footwear</th>
<th>Durable goods</th>
<th>Misc. goods</th>
<th>Transport and vehicles</th>
<th>Services</th>
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<td>135</td>
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1979

<table>
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<th>Fuel and light</th>
<th>Alcoholic drinks &amp; tobacco</th>
<th>Clothing and footwear</th>
<th>Durable goods</th>
<th>Misc. goods</th>
<th>Transport and vehicles</th>
<th>Services</th>
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<td>136</td>
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### Effect of changes in selected group indices on the Consumer Price Index (A)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group of commodity/service</th>
<th>Weights</th>
<th>Index for May 1979 compared with that for April 1979 (points)</th>
<th>Effect of changes on C.P.I. (A) (points)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Meals bought away from home</td>
<td>13.57</td>
<td>+3</td>
<td>+0.41</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Kerosene</td>
<td>1.05</td>
<td>+32</td>
<td>+0.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Fish, salt-water, fresh</td>
<td>2.22</td>
<td>+10</td>
<td>+0.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Electricity</td>
<td>1.71</td>
<td>+10</td>
<td>+0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Beef, locally slaughtered</td>
<td>1.43</td>
<td>+9</td>
<td>+0.13</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Liquefied petroleum gas</td>
<td>0.59</td>
<td>+15</td>
<td>+0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Cinema entertainment</td>
<td>0.51</td>
<td>+17</td>
<td>+0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Fruits, fresh</td>
<td>2.61</td>
<td>-12</td>
<td>-0.31</td>
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<td>9. Fish, fresh-water, fresh</td>
<td>2.52</td>
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<td>-0.33</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Vegetables, fresh</td>
<td>4.99</td>
<td>-40</td>
<td>-2.00</td>
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Table 4

### Effect of changes in selected group indices on the Consumer Price Index (B)

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<tr>
<th>Group of commodity/service</th>
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<th>Index for May 1979 compared with that for April 1979 (points)</th>
<th>Effect of changes on C.P.I. (B) (points)</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>1. Meals bought away from home</td>
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<td>3. Fish, salt-water, fresh</td>
<td>1.62</td>
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<td>+0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Electricity</td>
<td>1.36</td>
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<td>+0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Liquefied petroleum gas</td>
<td>0.74</td>
<td>+15</td>
<td>+0.11</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Beef, locally slaughtered</td>
<td>1.12</td>
<td>+9</td>
<td>+0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Cinema entertainment</td>
<td>0.63</td>
<td>+15</td>
<td>+0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Fish, fresh-water, fresh</td>
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<td>-0.18</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Fruits, fresh</td>
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<td>10. Vegetables, fresh</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1.50- 1.90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle and low grade</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>1.48</td>
<td>1.20- 1.75</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Best cut</td>
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<td>8.00- 9.60</td>
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<td>Pork chop</td>
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<td>9.00-12.80</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Mackerel</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>7.05</td>
<td>4.00- 9.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garoupa</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>15.28</td>
<td>8.00-30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pond fish</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grass carp</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>12.11</td>
<td>9.60-15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big head</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>9.87</td>
<td>7.20-12.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fresh vegetables</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabbage, white</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>1.85</td>
<td>1.00- 2.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabbage, flowering</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>2.96</td>
<td>1.60- 4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomato</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>3.04</td>
<td>1.60- 4.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese lettuce</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>2.27</td>
<td>1.20- 4.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hairy squash</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>2.28</td>
<td>1.00- 4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hen eggs (s/each)</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>0.25- 0.47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GRAPH A
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A)

(1973/74 = 100)

GRAPH B
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (B)

(1973/74 = 100)