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Consumer Price Index Report

June 1981

Consumer Price Index Section, Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong

The New Consumer Price Indexes (Oct.79/Sept.80 = 100)
for June 1981

	<u>June 1981</u>
New C.P.I.(A)	117
New C.P.I.(B)	117

The New C.P.I.(A) and New C.P.I.(B) are based on the expenditure patterns of 50% and 30%, respectively, of urban households in Hong Kong, which were derived from the 1979/80 Household Expenditure Survey. At that time, the New C.P.I.(A) referred to households spending between \$1 000 and \$3 499 a month and the New C.P.I.(B) to households spending between \$3 500 and \$6 499 a month.

2. The New Consumer Price Index (A) and the New Consumer Price Index (B) for June 1981 were both 117. Compared with the previous month, the New C.P.I.(A) advanced by 1 point or 0.9% and the New C.P.I.(B) by 2 points or 1.7%. The index for the foodstuffs component in both New C.P.I.(A) and New C.P.I.(B) increased by 3 points. Rises of 1-point each were recorded in the indexes for the fuel and light component, the miscellaneous goods component and the services component in both New C.P.I.(A) and New C.P.I.(B). The indexes for the housing component, the alcoholic drinks and tobacco (for home consumption) component and the durable goods component in New C.P.I.(B) also went up by 1 point. Price movements in other commodity sections were insignificant.

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

Section	Weights		Index for June 1981 compared with that for May 1981 (points)		Effect of changes on 'all-items' index (points)	
	New CPI(A)	New CPI(B)	New CPI(A)	New CPI(B)	New CPI(A)	New CPI(B)
Foodstuffs	46.39	38.59	+3.16	+3.02	+1.47	+1.17
Housing	15.05	17.77	+0.08	+0.10 ^d	+0.01	+0.02
Fuel and light	3.63	2.71	+0.81	+0.95	+0.03	+0.03
Alcoholic drinks and tobacco (for home consumption)	2.67	1.90	+0.39	+0.49 ^e	+0.01	+0.01
Clothing and footwear	5.02	7.03	+0.02	-0.18	+	-0.01
Durable goods	6.71	7.53	+0.25	+0.49 ^f	+0.02	+0.04
Miscellaneous goods	5.68	6.07	+0.34 ^a	+0.22 ^g	+0.02	+0.01
Transport and vehicles	5.27	6.09	+0.19	+0.17	+0.01	+0.01
Services	9.58	12.31	+0.42 ^b	+0.51	+0.04	+0.06
All items	100.00	100.00	+1.61 ^c	+1.33 ^h	+1.61	+1.33

* less than 0.005

- a. This figure, 0.34, must be added to the previous month's unrounded index of 108.46 and not to the published index of 108.
- b. This figure, 0.42, must be added to the previous month's unrounded index of 115.29 and not to the published index of 115.
- c. This figure, 1.61, must be added to the previous month's unrounded index of 115.53 and not to the published index of 116.
- d. This figure, 0.10, must be added to the previous month's unrounded index of 112.41 and not to the published index of 112.
- e. This figure, 0.49, must be added to the previous month's unrounded index of 110.46 and not to the published index of 110.
- f. This figure, 0.49, must be added to the previous month's unrounded index of 108.12 and not to the published index of 108.
- g. This figure, 0.22, must be added to the previous month's unrounded index of 108.49 and not to the published index of 108.
- h. This figure, 1.33, must be added to the previous month's unrounded index of 115.33 and not to the published index of 115.

4. An analysis of the average retail prices in June 1981, compared with the previous month, shows the following points of interest :-

FOODSTUFFS

5. The index for the foodstuffs component in both New C.P.I.(A) and New C.P.I.(B) rose by 3 points. Rises were recorded in the average retail prices of fresh vegetables, salt-water fish, fresh fruits, pork and meals bought in restaurants. The effects of movements in the retail prices of other food items on the index for the foodstuffs component were insignificant.

- (i) Fresh vegetables - The average retail price of fresh vegetables in both New C.P.I.(A) and New C.P.I.(B) advanced by 15%.
- (ii) Salt-water fish - The average retail price of salt-water fish in both New C.P.I.(A) and New C.P.I.(B) increased by 17%.
- (iii) Fresh fruits - The average retail price of fresh fruits in New C.P.I.(A) went up by 5% and that in New C.P.I.(B) by 6% as a result of higher prices for oranges, pears, grapes and apples.
- (iv) Pork - The average retail price of pork in both New C.P.I.(A) and New C.P.I.(B) rose by 4%.
- (v) Meals bought away from home - The average price of meals bought in restaurants in both New C.P.I.(A) and New C.P.I.(B) advanced by 1%.

HOUSING

6. The index for the housing component in New C.P.I.(B) increased by 1 point because of higher charges for multi-storey building management fees, while that in New C.P.I.(A) remained unchanged due to rounding.

FUEL AND LIGHT

7. Higher charges for electricity pushed the index for the fuel and light component in both New C.P.I.(A) and New C.P.I.(B) up by 1 point.

ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO (FOR HOME CONSUMPTION)

8. The 1-point rise in the index for the alcoholic drinks and tobacco (for home consumption) component in New C.P.I.(B) was attributable to higher prices for Chinese wines, foreign style wines and beer. The same index in New C.P.I.(A) remained stable because of rounding.

DURABLE GOODS

9. The index for the durable goods component in New C.P.I.(B) increased by 1 point as a result of higher prices for watches, musical instrument, travel and optical goods.

MISCELLANEOUS GOODS

10. The index for the miscellaneous goods component in both New C.P.I.(A) and New C.P.I.(B) went up by 1 point due to higher prices for proprietary medicines and supplies, toilet requisites and cosmetics.

SERVICES

11. Following the rise in tennis court rentals and in admission fees to dance halls, night clubs and discotheques, as well as higher charges for hairdressing and repairs to electrical appliances, the index for the services component in both New C.P.I.(A) and New C.P.I.(B) rose by 1 point.

The Consumer Price Indexes (July 73/June 74 = 100) for June 1981

	<u>June 1981</u>	<u>Centred 12-month moving average for December 1980</u>
C.P.I.(A)	184	170.7
C.P.I.(B)	183	170.0

The Consumer Price Index (A) and the Consumer Price Index (B) for June 1981 were 184 and 183 respectively, each being 3 points or 1.7% higher than for the previous month. Compared with the corresponding month in 1980, C.P.I.(A) increased by 26 points or 16.5% and C.P.I.(B) by 26 points or 16.6%.

Tables

Table 1 shows the monthly New Consumer Price Index (A) by section from October 1980 onward.

Table 2 shows the monthly New Consumer Price Index (B) by section from October 1980 onward.

Table 3 shows a list of selected commodity/service groups the price changes in which had the largest effect on the New C.P.I.(A) for June 1981 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 New C.P.I.(B) for June 1981 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 1980.

Table 6 shows the monthly Consumer Price Index (A) by section from April 1980 onward.

Table 7 shows the monthly Consumer Price Index (B) by section from April 1980 onward.

Graphs

Graphs A and B show the value of the New Consumer Price Indexes.

Table 1

NEW CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A)
(October 79 - September 80 = 100)

Year and month	All items	Food-stuffs	Housing	Fuel and light	Alcoholic drinks & tobacco (for home consumption)	Clothing and footwear	Durable goods	Misc. goods	Transport and vehicles	Services
Weight	100.00	46.39	15.05	3.63	2.67	5.02	6.71	5.68	5.27	9.58
<u>1980</u>										
Oct	106	106	104	109	104	104	101	105	110	108
Nov	107	107	104	110	104	109	102	106	113	109
Dec	108	108	106	113	104	110	102	106	114	110
<u>1981</u>										
Jan	110	110	109	122	107	109	103	106	114	113
Feb	112	114	109	130	111	109	104	107	117	115
Mar	113	115	109	135	111	111	105	107	115	114
Apr	114	115	112	135	111	109	107	108	123	115
May	116	116	112	135	111	115	108	108	129	115
Jun	117	119	112	136	111	115	108	109	129	116

Table 2

NEW CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (B)
(October 79 - September 80 = 100)

Year and month	All items	Food-stuffs	Housing	Fuel and light	Alcoholic drinks & tobacco (for home consumption)	Clothing and footwear	Durable goods	Misc. goods	Transport and vehicles	Services
Weight	100.00	38.59	17.77	2.71	1.90	7.03	7.53	6.07	6.09	12.31
<u>1980</u>										
Oct	106	106	105	109	104	104	101	106	109	107
Nov	107	108	105	110	104	109	102	107	112	108
Dec	108	108	105	113	104	109	103	107	113	110
<u>1981</u>										
Jan	110	110	109	123	107	109	104	106	114	113
Feb	112	114	109	130	110	109	104	108	117	114
Mar	113	115	109	136	110	111	105	107	116	114
Apr	114	115	112	136	110	108	107	108	122	115
May	115	116	112	136	110	115	108	108	126	115
Jun	117	119	113	137	111	115	109	109	126	116

Table 3

Effect of changes in selected group indexes
on the New Consumer Price Index (A)

<u>Group of commodity/service</u>	<u>Weights</u>	<u>Index for June 1981 compared with that for May 1981</u> (points)	<u>Effect of changes on New C.P.I.(A)</u> (points)
1. Fresh vegetables	3.00	+16	+0.48
2. Salt-water fish	1.50	+18	+0.27
3. Meals bought away from home	18.93	+ 1	+0.19
4. Fresh fruits	2.39	+ 6	+0.14
5. Pork, locally slaughtered	3.22	+ 4	+0.13
6. Other fresh sea products	0.67	+15	+0.10
7. Live poultry	1.29	+ 4	+0.05
8. Dairy products	0.74	+ 5	+0.04
9. Fresh-water fish	1.54	+ 2	+0.03
10. Rice	2.06	+ 1	+0.02

Table 4

Effect of changes in selected group indexes
on the New Consumer Price Index (B)

<u>Group of commodity/service</u>	<u>Weights</u>	<u>Index for June 1981 compared with that for May 1981</u> (points)	<u>Effect of changes on New C.P.I.(B)</u> (points)
1. Fresh vegetables	2.19	+16	+0.35
2. Salt-water fish	1.16	+18	+0.21
3. Meals bought away from home	17.03	+ 1	+0.17
4. Fresh fruits	2.07	+ 7	+0.14
5. Pork, locally slaughtered	2.22	+ 5	+0.11
6. Other fresh sea products	0.67	+15	+0.10
7. Live poultry	1.04	+ 5	+0.05
8. Dairy products	0.51	+ 5	+0.03
9. Other entertainment and holiday expenses	0.59	+ 4	+0.02
10. Jewellery	1.21	- 2	-0.02

Table 5

Average prices of some essential food items

HK\$/kg

Item	June 1981		May 1981		June 1980	
	Average price	Price range	Average price	Price range	Average price	Price range
<u>Rice</u>						
Top grade	4.02	3.60- 4.30	3.98	3.60- 4.30	3.31	2.80- 3.60
Middle and low grade	3.77	3.10- 4.30	3.74	3.10- 4.30	2.88	2.30- 3.30
<u>Pork</u>						
Best cut	17.44	14.90-21.20	16.82	14.90-19.80	15.23	13.20-17.90
Pork chop	23.13	19.80-26.50	22.17	19.80-26.50	20.06	17.90-23.80
<u>Beef</u>						
Best quality	25.10	21.20-26.50	24.97	21.20-26.50	22.26	18.50-26.50
Belly flesh	13.15	10.60-15.90	13.08	10.60-15.90	11.99	9.90-14.90
<u>Poultry</u>						
Live chicken						
Grade A	22.02	14.90-29.80	20.42	14.90-29.80	21.18	14.90-29.80
Live duck						
Grade A	13.19	9.10-18.20	13.49	9.30-18.20	13.06	9.90-16.20
<u>Marine fish</u>						
Golden thread	16.34	5.30-26.50	14.45	5.30-21.20	13.43	4.30-24.80
Mackerel	17.05	7.40-31.70	15.94	7.90-26.50	16.85	9.90-29.80
Garoupa	38.00	15.90-59.50	29.63	14.90-39.70	28.69	13.20-52.90
<u>Pond fish</u>						
Grass carp	26.11	18.50-31.70	25.38	19.80-31.70	22.75	18.20-27.30
Big head	19.83	13.20-26.50	20.06	15.90-26.50	18.04	13.20-23.80
<u>Fresh vegetables</u>						
Cabbage, white	4.96	2.60- 8.90	4.28	2.60- 6.60	3.55	2.00- 5.30
Cabbage, flowering	7.03	4.00-10.60	5.85	3.30- 9.90	4.63	2.60- 6.60
Tomato	8.05	4.30-13.20	6.91	4.00-10.60	4.94	2.50- 7.90
Chinese lettuce	6.63	3.30-10.60	6.33	2.60-10.60	4.89	2.30- 7.90
Hairy squash	5.72	2.00- 9.30	3.98	2.00- 9.60	2.83	1.30- 5.30
<u>Hen eggs (\$/each)</u>						
	0.43	0.30- 0.60	0.42	0.30- 0.60	0.35	0.20- 0.47

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A)
(July 73 - June 74 = 100)

Table 6

Year and month	All items	Food-stuffs	Housing	Fuel and light	Alcoholic drinks & tobacco	Clothing and footwear	Durable goods	Misc. goods	Transport and vehicles	Services
Weight	100.00	56.60	14.08	3.39	2.65	3.82	1.41	4.58	4.36	9.11
<u>1980</u>										
Apr	156	148	151	263	181	118	133	167	194	165
May	157	150	151	262	182	120	134	167	195	166
Jun	158	150	151	262	184	120	134	168	196	167
Jul	163	157	154	268	184	121	135	170	197	168
Aug	164	158	154	269	184	121	135	171	198	169
Sep	165	161	154	268	184	122	136	171	201	170
Oct	165	158	154	270	184	123	136	172	205	180
Nov	167	160	157	272	184	127	137	173	211	180
Dec	168	160	161	278	185	128	138	173	213	183
<u>1981</u>										
Jan	171	162	162	298	190	127	139	173	214	188
Feb	176	168	166	318	196	128	140	175	220	191
Mar	178	171	166	329	196	130	143	176	216	189
Apr	179	170	170	330	196	128	145	177	231	191
May	181	171	170	330	196	135	145	178	240	191
Jun	184	177	170	332	197	135	146	179	240	192

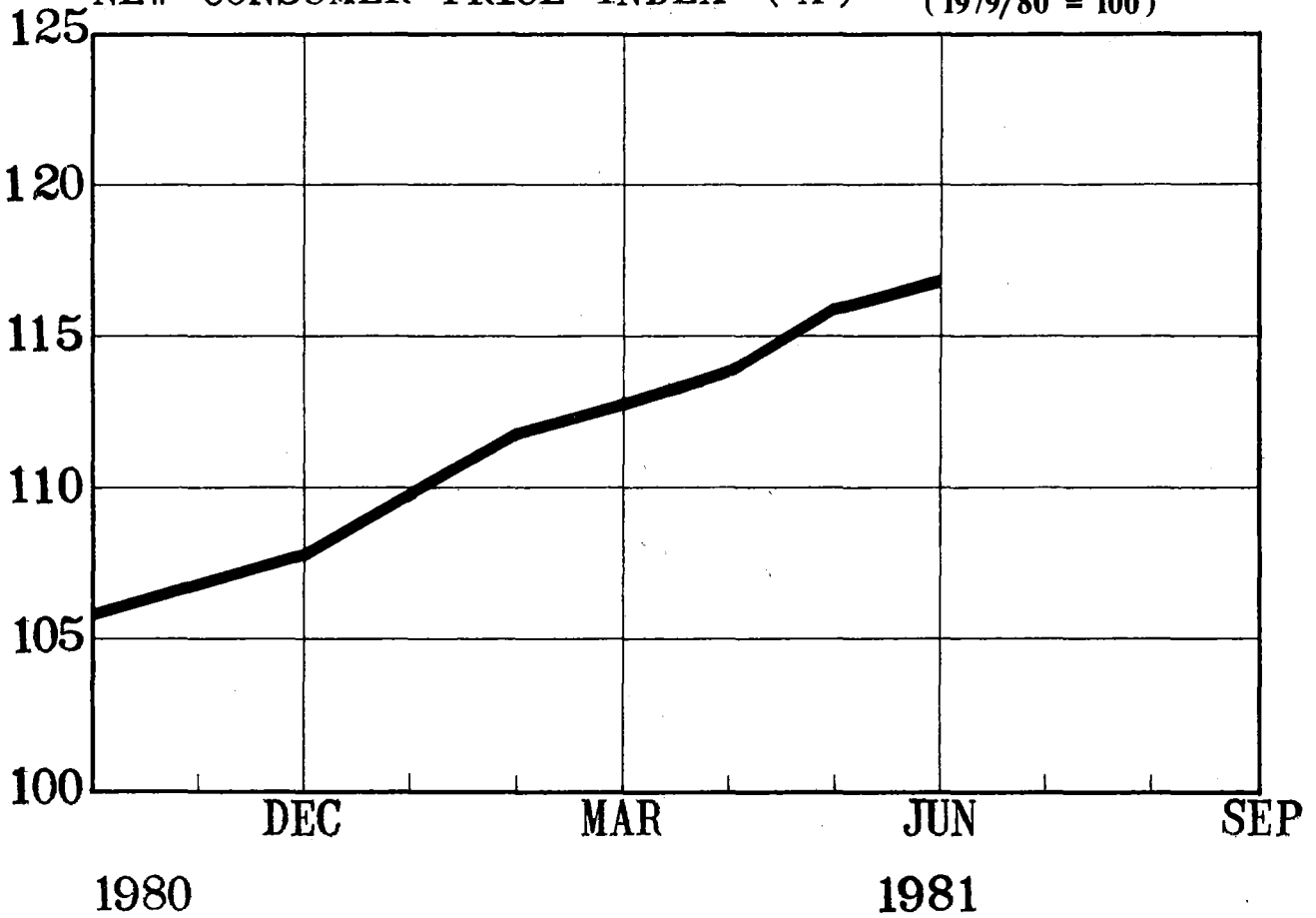
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (B)
(July 73 - June 74 = 100)

Table 7

Year and month	All items	Food-stuffs	Housing	Fuel and light	Alcoholic drinks & tobacco	Clothing and footwear	Durable goods	Misc. goods	Transport and vehicles	Services
Weight	100.00	47.82	16.79	2.71	2.04	5.92	2.97	5.17	5.11	11.47
<u>1980</u>										
Apr	156	151	150	248	174	116	129	165	195	169
May	157	152	151	247	175	118	130	164	195	170
Jun	157	152	151	247	177	118	130	165	196	171
Jul	162	159	154	253	177	119	131	168	197	172
Aug	163	160	154	254	177	119	131	169	199	173
Sep	164	163	154	253	178	121	131	170	202	175
Oct	165	161	154	255	178	122	132	170	206	184
Nov	167	162	157	258	178	126	132	171	214	186
Dec	168	163	158	263	178	127	133	171	216	189
<u>1981</u>										
Jan	170	165	159	283	184	126	134	171	216	194
Feb	176	171	164	301	189	126	135	174	222	196
Mar	177	173	165	312	189	129	138	175	219	196
Apr	178	172	169	312	189	126	140	176	231	197
May	180	174	169	313	190	134	140	177	237	197
Jun	183	180	169	315	190	134	141	177	238	198

GRAPH A

NEW CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) (1979/80 = 100)



GRAPH B

NEW CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (B) (1979/80 = 100)

