

# Guernsey Quarterly Inflation Bulletin

30th June 2013 - Issue date 19th July 2013



**POLICY COUNCIL**  
THE STATES OF GUERNSEY

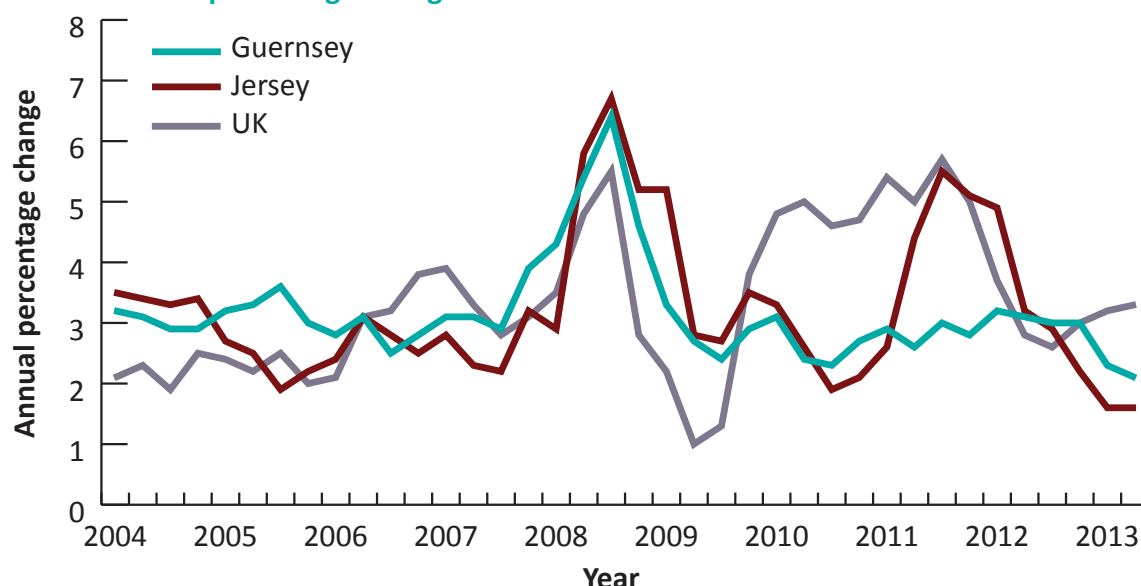
## 1.1 Introduction

The Guernsey RPIX and RPI are measures of inflation. They measure the change in the prices of goods and services bought for the purpose of consumption or use by households in Guernsey. The indices are published quarterly by the States of Guernsey Policy and Research Unit. The calculations of the RPIX and RPI are based on the price change of items within a 'shopping basket'. Whilst some prices rise over time, others will fall or fluctuate and the indices represent the average change in these prices. More detailed information on the calculation of these indices can be found at the end of this handout.

## 1.2 Headlines

- Guernsey's annual inflation as measured by the RPIX ('core' inflation excluding mortgage interest payments) was 2.1% in June 2013, 0.2 percentage points lower than in March 2013 and 1.0 percentage points lower than in June 2012.
- In the UK the equivalent RPIX figure for June 2013 was 3.3% (see [Figure 1.2.1](#)) and in Jersey it was 1.6%.
- Food and Fuel, light and power made the largest contributions to the increase in the RPIX in June 2013, each contributing 0.4 percentage points.
- The 'all items' RPI annual inflation was 2.7% in June 2013, which is 0.1 percentage points higher than the previous quarter and 0.5 percentage points lower than the previous year.
- Housing contributed 1.0 percentage points to the increase in RPI.
- The annual change in the UK RPI in June 2013 was 3.3%. RPI in Jersey for the same period was 1.5%.

**Figure 1.2.1: Annual percentage change in RPIX**



## 2.1 RPIX overview

**Table 2.1.1: RPIX overview**

|      |      | Annual % change | Quarterly % change | Index (1998 base) |
|------|------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 2010 | June | 2.4             | 0.8                | 146.6             |
|      | Sept | 2.3             | 0.3                | 147.1             |
|      | Dec  | 2.7             | 0.3                | 147.6             |
| 2011 | Mar  | 2.9             | 1.4                | 149.6             |
|      | June | 2.6             | 0.5                | 150.4             |
|      | Sept | 3.0             | 0.8                | 151.6             |
| 2012 | Dec  | 2.8             | 0.2                | 151.8             |
|      | Mar  | 3.2             | 1.8                | 154.4             |
|      | June | 3.1             | 0.3                | 155.0             |
| 2013 | Sept | 3.0             | 0.7                | 156.0             |
|      | Dec  | 3.0             | 0.2                | 156.3             |
|      | Mar  | 2.3             | 1.0                | 158.0             |
|      | June | 2.1             | 0.1                | 158.2             |

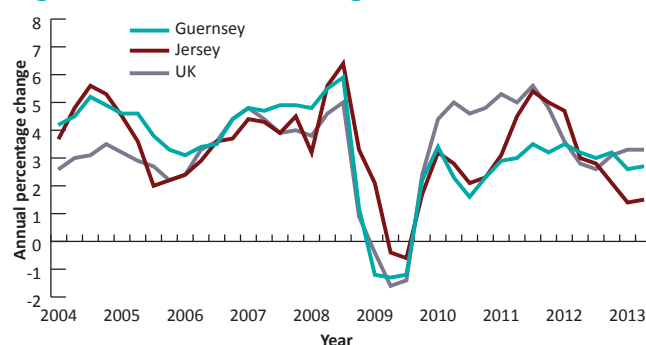
The annual change in the RPIX was 2.1% at the end of June 2013, 0.2 percentage points lower than the previous quarter and 1.0 percentage points lower than June 2012 (see [Table 2.1.1](#) and [Figure 1.2.1](#)).

During the three month period ending June 2013, the RPIX increased by 0.1%, 0.2 percentage points lower than the change seen for the same period in 2012. Quarterly changes in the RPIX are subject to seasonal variations in price level and are typically higher in the first and second quarters of each year than in the third and fourth.

The annual change in the UK RPIX was 3.3% at the end of June 2013. The increase in the RPIX for Jersey was 1.6%.

## 2.2 RPI Overview

**Figure 2.2.1: Annual changes in RPI**



The annual change in the RPI was 2.7% in June 2013, 0.1 percentage points higher than in March 2013 and 0.5 percentage points lower than in June 2012 ([Figure 2.2.1](#) and [Table 2.2.1](#)).

The annual change in the UK RPI in June 2013 was 3.3%. The RPI increase for Jersey was 1.5%.

The quarterly change in the RPI for the quarter ending June 2013 was 0.4%, 0.1 percentage points higher than during the quarter ending June 2012. Similar to RPIX, quarterly changes in RPI are subject to seasonal variation. However, the RPI can be dominated by trends in mortgage interest payments.

**Table 2.2.1: RPI overview**

|      |      | Annual % change | Quarterly % change | Index (1999 base) |
|------|------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 2010 | June | 2.3             | 0.5                | 142.8             |
|      | Sept | 1.6             | 0.4                | 143.4             |
|      | Dec  | 2.3             | 0.6                | 144.2             |
| 2011 | Mar  | 2.9             | 1.4                | 146.2             |
|      | June | 3.0             | 0.6                | 147.1             |
|      | Sept | 3.5             | 0.9                | 148.4             |
| 2012 | Dec  | 3.2             | 0.3                | 148.8             |
|      | Mar  | 3.5             | 1.7                | 151.3             |
|      | June | 3.2             | 0.3                | 151.8             |
| 2013 | Sept | 3.0             | 0.7                | 152.9             |
|      | Dec  | 3.2             | 0.4                | 153.6             |
|      | Mar  | 2.6             | 1.1                | 155.3             |
|      | June | 2.7             | 0.4                | 155.9             |

## 3.1 Group analysis - annual

**Figure 3.1.1** shows the annual percentage change in each of the fourteen RPI and RPIX groups. **Figure 3.1.2** shows the number of percentage points contributed to the annual change in the indices by each group.

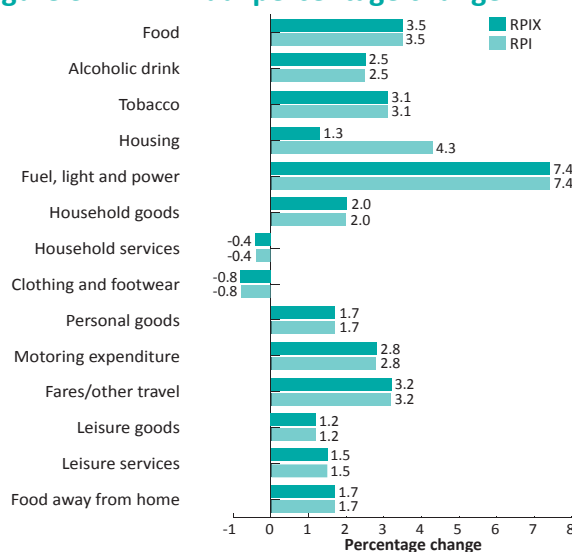
Of the fourteen groups, only the Housing group shows a different percentage change between the RPIX and RPI, as a result of the exclusion of the mortgage interest item in the calculation of RPIX. However, due to differences in the weighting of the groups (see **Table 3.1.1**) the contribution made by each group to the RPI and RPIX can differ.

In the year ending June 2013, twelve of the fourteen groups increased. The Fuel, light and power group saw the largest annual increase at 7.4%, contributing 0.4 percentage points to the change in the RPIX. The contribution made by the Food category was equal to that of Fuel, light and power, despite a smaller annual increase, due to its higher weighting.

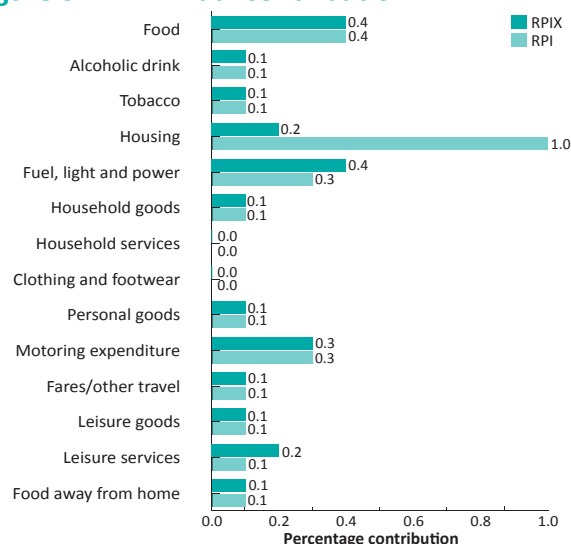
Housing made the largest contribution to the annual change in the RPI, adding 1.0 percentage points.

Both Household services and Clothing and footwear experienced a negative annual change in the year ending June 2013 (-0.4% and -0.8% respectively), but made no significant contribution to the changes in the RPIX or RPI.

**Figure 3.1.1: Annual percentage change**



**Figure 3.1.2: Annual contribution**



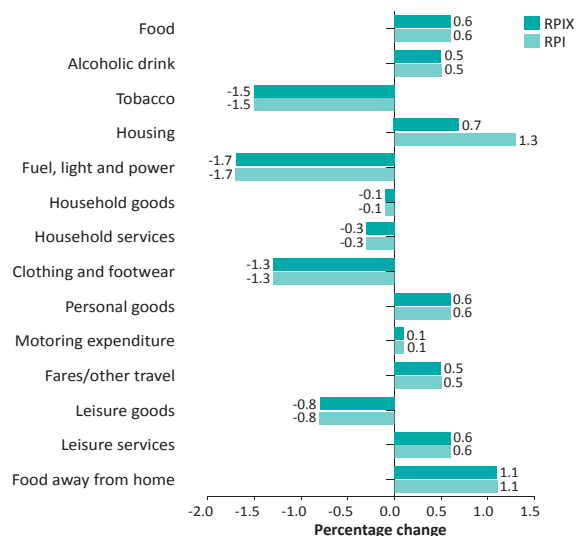
NB: Due to the effects of rounding, any values of less than 0.05 will appear as 0.0.

**Table 3.1.1: Group weighting**

|                              | Items included  | RPIX | RPI |
|------------------------------|---|------|-----|
| <b>Food</b>                  | Food and non-alcoholic drink bought for home consumption.   | 124  | 107 |
| <b>Alcoholic drink</b>       | Wine, beer, spirits and other alcoholic drinks.   | 48   | 42  |
| <b>Tobacco</b>               | Cigarettes, cigars and other tobacco products.  | 19   | 16  |
| <b>Housing</b>               | Rents, parish rates and routine household maintenance and servicing costs. In the RPI this group includes interest paid on mortgages. | 147  | 264 |
| <b>Fuel, light and power</b> | Goods and services for the provision of light, heat and power in the home e.g. gas, oil and electricity.                              | 45   | 39  |
| <b>Household goods</b>       | Non-food items for the household including furniture, domestic appliances, stationery and cleaning materials.                         | 64   | 55  |
| <b>Household services</b>    | Services enlisted for the household such as contents insurance, postal, telecoms and cleaning services.                               | 89   | 77  |
| <b>Clothing and footwear</b> | Adult's and children's clothing and footwear.   | 47   | 41  |
| <b>Personal goods</b>        | Goods and services for personal use such as jewellery, cosmetics and toiletries plus medical expenses.                                | 64   | 55  |
| <b>Motoring</b>              | Vehicle purchase, running and maintenance costs.  | 99   | 86  |
| <b>Fares/other travel</b>    | Air and sea passenger fares and other travel related costs.   | 26   | 22  |
| <b>Leisure goods</b>         | Goods for sports, hobbies and entertainment including electronic goods, sporting and gardening equipment.                             | 76   | 66  |
| <b>Leisure services</b>      | Services purchased for leisure activities including foreign holidays, cinema tickets and sporting activities.                         | 101  | 88  |
| <b>Food away from home</b>   | Food purchased in restaurants, at work, from takeaways etc.   | 51   | 44  |

## 3.2 Group analysis - quarterly

**Figure 3.2.1: Quarterly percentage change**



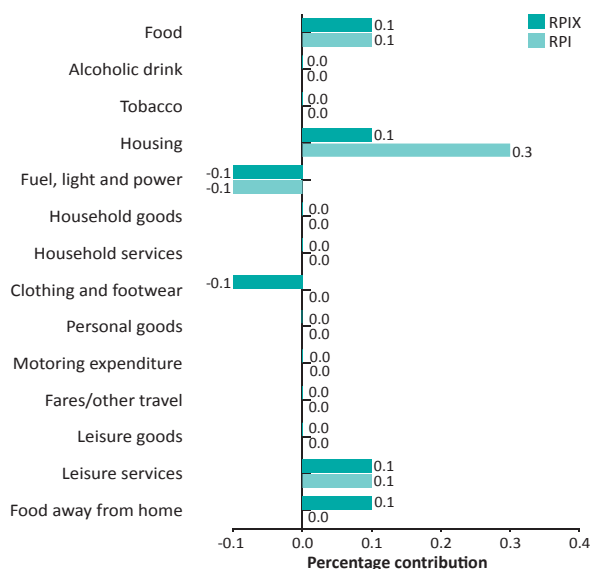
Six of the fourteen RPIX groups saw an average price decrease in the three months ending June 2013 (*Figure 3.2.1*).

The largest percentage change (-1.7%) came from the Fuel, light and power group, contributing a decrease of 0.1 percentage points to the quarterly changes in the RPI and RPIX (*Figure 3.2.2*).

Clothing and footwear also contributed a decrease of 0.1 percentage points to the quarterly change in the RPIX, with a quarterly decrease of 1.3%.

The largest quarterly increase in RPIX was from Food away from home, which increased by 1.1%, contributing 0.1 percentage points to the quarterly change.

**Figure 3.2.2: Quarterly contribution**



The Housing group, which has the highest weighting in both indices, contributed 0.1 percentage points to RPIX and 0.3 percentage points to the quarterly change in RPI.

NB: Due to the effects of rounding, any values of less than 0.05 will appear as 0.0.

## 3.2 Group analysis - quarterly

Within each group, specific items can be identified as having an upward or downward effect on the Index. Details are given below. The figures presented in brackets are the quarterly changes for each group.

### **Food (0.6%)**

Increases in the price of potatoes and potato products, as well as those of some citrus fruits and sweets were partially offset by decreases in the prices of other items such as rice and fruit juices.

### **Alcoholic drinks (0.5%)**

Special offers on some wines and spirits have been offset by increases elsewhere, for example, prices of beer bought for consumption away from home.

### **Tobacco (-1.5%)**

The decrease in this category is due to a number of retailers reducing the prices of cigarettes, cigars and tobacco this quarter.

### **Housing (0.7% RPIX, 1.3% RPI)**

Increases in some private rents, buildings and contents insurance costs and parish rates were only partially offset by decreases in some mortgage policy protection payments. An increase in the mortgage interest payment item (excluded in RPIX) has contributed to much of the upward pressure on RPI this quarter.

### **Fuel, light and power (-1.7%)**

A reduction in the cost of oil made a significant negative impact, whilst electricity and gas prices remained stable.

### **Household goods (-0.1%)**

Special offers and price reductions on furniture have been offset by increases in pet food and a number of cleaning materials and household sundries.

### **Household services (-0.3%)**

Increases in some telephone line rental costs and postal prices have been countered by a reduction in some call charges and lower bank charges.

### **Clothing and footwear (-1.3%)**

The reduction in this category is influenced by sales, which many retailers have brought forward this year.

### **Personal goods (0.6%)**

Higher prices for some beauty treatments and subscriptions to medical insurance contributed to this rise.

### **Motoring (0.1%)**

Lower fuel prices were offset by increases in new vehicle prices.

### **Fares and other travel (0.5%)**

Seasonal increases in the costs of car hire and air and boat fares have driven the rise in this category.

### **Leisure goods (-0.8%)**

Reductions in the prices of some home computers, sports goods, gardening products and games console software have contributed to a decrease in the cost of leisure goods.

### **Leisure services (0.6%)**

Higher overnight UK accommodation and satellite TV subscription costs have led to this increase this quarter.

### **Food away from home (1.1%)**

Increases in prices of meals out and takeaways from some restaurants have influenced this increase.

## 4.1 Cumulative changes, refraction factors and indices

**Table 4.1.1: RPIX cumulative changes and refraction factors for the period ending 30th June 2013**

|           | Cumulative % change | Refraction factor |
|-----------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 3 months  | 0.1                 | 1.00              |
| 6 months  | 1.2                 | 1.01              |
| 9 months  | 1.4                 | 1.01              |
| 12 months | 2.1                 | 1.02              |
| 15 months | 2.4                 | 1.02              |
| 18 months | 4.2                 | 1.04              |
| 2 years   | 5.2                 | 1.05              |
| 3 years   | 7.9                 | 1.08              |
| 4 years   | 10.5                | 1.11              |
| 5 years   | 13.5                | 1.13              |
| 10 years  | 35.5                | 1.35              |

**Table 4.1.2: RPI cumulative changes and refraction factors for the period ending 30th June 2013**

|           | Cumulative % change | Refraction factor |
|-----------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 3 months  | 0.4                 | 1.00              |
| 6 months  | 1.5                 | 1.01              |
| 9 months  | 1.9                 | 1.02              |
| 12 months | 2.7                 | 1.03              |
| 15 months | 3.0                 | 1.03              |
| 18 months | 4.8                 | 1.05              |
| 2 years   | 6.0                 | 1.06              |
| 3 years   | 9.1                 | 1.09              |
| 4 years   | 11.6                | 1.12              |
| 5 years   | 10.1                | 1.10              |
| 10 years  | 37.5                | 1.38              |

**Table 4.1.3: RPIX Index figures at 30th June 2013**

| Year of base | Index |
|--------------|-------|
| 1998         | 158.2 |
| 2008         | 113.5 |

**Table 4.1.4: RPI Index figures at 30th June 2013**

| Year of base | Index   |
|--------------|---------|
| 1949         | 3,402.5 |
| 1965         | 1,987.4 |
| 1974         | 1,096.2 |
| 1978         | 530.5   |
| 1983         | 334.1   |
| 1988         | 250.0   |
| 1994         | 185.0   |
| 1999         | 155.9   |
| 2008         | 110.1   |

Indices are used to calculate the change in prices over time. The headline annual inflation in RPIX or RPI is the percentage change in the index over a year. However, it is possible to calculate percentage changes over longer periods of time.

There is an [inflation calculator](http://www.gov.gg/rpi) on our website ([www.gov.gg/rpi](http://www.gov.gg/rpi)), which you can use to calculate the percentage change in RPI between any two quarters from 1965 onwards. The inflation calculator can also calculate the reflated value of a monetary sum (e.g. a rental payment) over the specified period.

The effect of inflation is to erode the purchasing power of currency. The refraction factors in [Tables 4.1.1](#) and [4.1.2](#) can be used to inflate old values to approximate current prices.

To convert a price, multiply it by the appropriate refraction factor. For example, using RPIX refraction factors, £100 in June 2003 is equivalent to £100 x 1.35 = £135 in June 2013.

Refraction factors can also be used in the opposite way. To calculate what £100 in 2013 would have been worth in 2003, divide by the relevant refraction factor.

When making long-term comparisons, it should be taken into account that the 'shopping basket' may have changed over time, since households may not be spending money on the same products as they did in the past.

Following each Household Expenditure Survey the index is rebased (i.e. set to 100). [Tables 4.1.3](#) and [4.1.4](#) show the index value for the current quarter for each year of base. Full time series of index figures for each base is available on our website ([www.gov.gg/rpi](http://www.gov.gg/rpi)).

## 5.1 UK and Jersey inflation rates

**Table 5.1.1** and **Table 5.1.2** show the comparable RPIX and RPI inflation rates reported by the UK Office of National Statistics<sup>1</sup> and the States of Jersey Statistics Unit<sup>2</sup>. There may be differences in the methodology used to calculate inflation and care should be taken when comparing figures from different jurisdictions.

Typically inflation in the three jurisdictions follows broadly the same trends. However, it should be noted that changes in taxation and other circumstances specific to a particular jurisdiction may have a significant impact on inflation. For example, the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax in Jersey in 2008 exerted an upwards pressure on both RPIX and RPI which was not experienced in either Guernsey or the UK. Similarly the temporary reduction of the UK VAT rate to 15% in 2009, its return to 17.5% in 2010 and the subsequent increase to 20% in 2011 will have influenced the inflation in the UK but had little impact in Guernsey and Jersey.

The higher cost of housing experienced in Guernsey and Jersey compared to the UK, and the resultant higher weighting of housing in the inflation rates of the Islands, means that changes in the cost of housing typically exert more inflationary pressure in Guernsey and Jersey than in the UK. Differences in spending patterns in other areas, such as motoring, will also affect the relative effect of price changes on the indices.

**Table 5.1.1: Annual change in RPIX in Guernsey, the UK and Jersey**

|      |      | Guernsey | UK  | Jersey |
|------|------|----------|-----|--------|
|      | Sept | 6.4      | 5.5 | 6.7    |
|      | Dec  | 4.6      | 2.8 | 5.2    |
| 2009 | Mar  | 3.3      | 2.2 | 5.2    |
|      | June | 2.7      | 1.0 | 2.8    |
|      | Sept | 2.4      | 1.3 | 2.7    |
|      | Dec  | 2.9      | 3.8 | 3.5    |
| 2010 | Mar  | 3.1      | 4.8 | 3.3    |
|      | June | 2.4      | 5.0 | 2.6    |
|      | Sept | 2.3      | 4.6 | 1.9    |
|      | Dec  | 2.7      | 4.7 | 2.1    |
| 2011 | Mar  | 2.9      | 5.4 | 2.6    |
|      | June | 2.6      | 5.0 | 4.4    |
|      | Sept | 3.0      | 5.7 | 5.5    |
|      | Dec  | 2.8      | 5.0 | 5.1    |
| 2012 | Mar  | 3.2      | 3.7 | 4.9    |
|      | June | 3.1      | 2.8 | 3.2    |
|      | Sept | 3.0      | 2.6 | 2.9    |
|      | Dec  | 3.0      | 3.0 | 2.2    |
| 2013 | Mar  | 2.3      | 3.2 | 1.6    |
|      | June | 2.1      | 3.3 | 1.6    |

**Table 5.1.2: Annual change in RPI in Guernsey, the UK and Jersey**

|      |      | Guernsey | UK   | Jersey |
|------|------|----------|------|--------|
|      | Sept | 5.9      | 5.0  | 6.4    |
|      | Dec  | 1.2      | 0.9  | 3.3    |
| 2009 | Mar  | -1.2     | -0.4 | 2.1    |
|      | June | -1.3     | -1.6 | -0.4   |
|      | Sept | -1.2     | -1.4 | -0.6   |
|      | Dec  | 2.2      | 2.4  | 1.7    |
| 2010 | Mar  | 3.4      | 4.4  | 3.2    |
|      | June | 2.3      | 5.0  | 2.8    |
|      | Sept | 1.6      | 4.6  | 2.1    |
|      | Dec  | 2.3      | 4.8  | 2.3    |
| 2011 | Mar  | 2.9      | 5.3  | 3.1    |
|      | June | 3.0      | 5.0  | 4.5    |
|      | Sept | 3.5      | 5.6  | 5.4    |
|      | Dec  | 3.2      | 4.8  | 5.0    |
| 2012 | Mar  | 3.5      | 3.6  | 4.7    |
|      | June | 3.2      | 2.8  | 3.0    |
|      | Sept | 3.0      | 2.6  | 2.8    |
|      | Dec  | 3.2      | 3.1  | 2.1    |
| 2013 | Mar  | 2.6      | 3.3  | 1.4    |
|      | June | 2.7      | 3.3  | 1.5    |

<sup>1</sup> [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

<sup>2</sup> [www.gov.je/statistics](http://www.gov.je/statistics)

## 6.1 Methodology

The calculations of the RPIX and RPI are based on the price change of items within a 'shopping basket'. Whilst a single household's shopping basket may contain anywhere in the region of one to several hundred items, the 'basket' of goods and services used in the calculation contains over 2,000 items. This list of goods and services remains consistent every quarter in order to measure price changes over time.

Every household in the Island spends its income in different ways so it is impractical to monitor changes in the price of every single item on sale. Therefore, the Indices contain a representation of what 'typical' consumers in a Guernsey household spend their money on. They should not be confused with a 'cost of living' index, which will vary according to individual expenditure.

The methodology is continuously monitored and is periodically audited and updated to ensure it remains accurate and representative. The 2012/13 Household Expenditure Survey was launched in May 2012 and was completed in July 2013. Once all the data has been checked and anonymised, the Policy and Research Unit will begin the analysis in order to update the weights and basket. For more information see [www.gov.gg/hes](http://www.gov.gg/hes).

Further information regarding the methodology, calculation and uses of the inflation indices can be found in the Guide to the Guernsey Inflation Indices which is available online at [www.gov.gg/rpi](http://www.gov.gg/rpi).

## 7.1 Contact details and further information

For more information on how the RPIX and RPI are calculated please see the Guide to the Guernsey Retail Prices Indices, which, along with the Inflation Calculator, is available via [www.gov.gg/rpi](http://www.gov.gg/rpi).

Please contact the Policy and Research Unit for further information.

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The next inflation bulletin (for September 2013) will be published at 9:30am on Friday 18th October 2013.