

# News Release



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The monthly calendar of NSO News Releases may be consulted on the Office's website at [www.nso.gov.mt](http://www.nso.gov.mt)

## Prices

### Retail Prices Index - May 2005

In May 2005, the Retail Prices Index went up by 0.40 per cent to 106.69 from 106.27 in the previous month.

The Food Items Index increased by 0.95 per cent to 105.02 from 104.03 in April as a result of average price increases in respect of beef and pork meat, frozen meat, poultry and rabbit meat, fresh fish, fresh fruits, unprocessed potatoes, vegetables, served meals and served food and take-aways.

The Clothing and Footwear Index went up by 0.52 per cent to 94.99 from 94.50 in the previous month. Higher average price increases were recorded for men's and women's footwear.

The Housing Index went up to 111.44, a rise of 0.16 per cent from the previous month. Higher average prices for plumbing and sanitary materials were registered.

At 103.16, the Household Equipment and House Maintenance Cost Index rose by 0.15 over April. Price increases were recorded in respect of household appliances.

Higher average prices for motor cars and air transport services pulled the Transport and Communications Index up by 0.34 per cent to 107.58 from 107.22.

The Personal Care and Health Index increased by 0.28 per cent to 111.76 from 111.45 in April as a result of average price increases in respect of medicines.

Increased average costs for sports equipment resulted in a net increase of 0.17 per cent to 101.53 in the Recreation and Culture Index.

### Inflation Rate

In May the inflation rate stood at 2.92 per cent ■

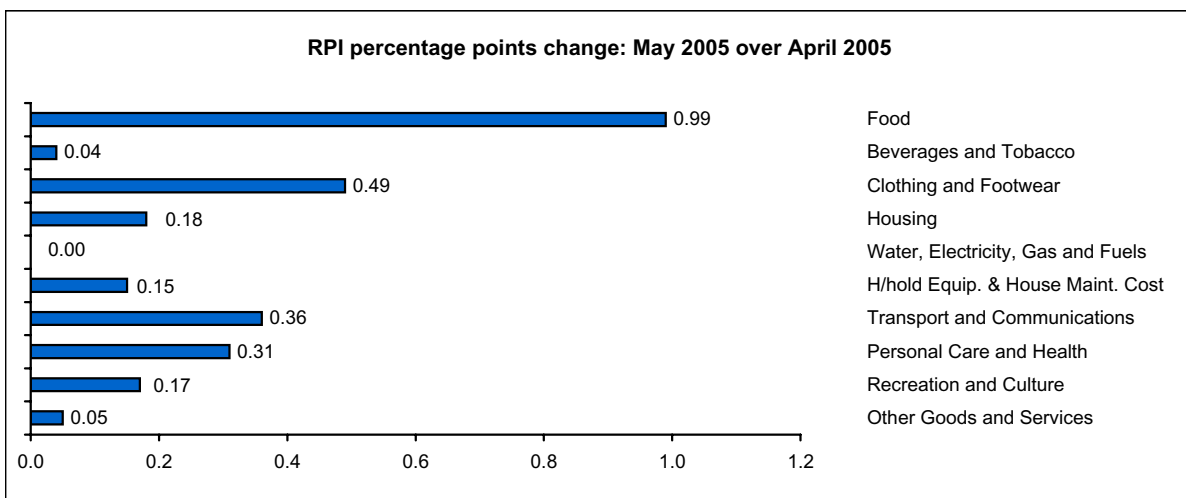
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**Table 1. All Items Retail Prices Index**  
December 2002=100

Month	2003		2004		2005		
	Index	% change	Index	% change	Index	% change	
		Monthly		Monthly		Monthly	Annual
January	99.12	-0.88	102.20	-0.18	104.70	-0.54	2.45
February	99.60	0.48	102.23	0.03	105.33	0.60	3.03
March	100.36	0.76	102.66	0.42	105.82	0.47	3.08
April	100.40	0.04	103.32	0.64	106.27	0.43	2.86
May	100.73	0.33	103.13	-0.18	106.69	0.40	3.45
June	100.88	0.15	103.62	0.48			
July	100.54	-0.34	104.14	0.50			
August	100.47	-0.07	103.25	-0.85			
September	100.82	0.35	103.56	0.30			
October	101.91	1.08	104.36	0.77			
November	101.75	-0.16	104.96	0.57			
December	102.38	0.62	105.27	0.30			

**Table 2. RPI Group Indices**  
December 2002=100

Group	Weight	Indices		% change May 2005/April 2005
		Apr 2005	May 2005	
Food	23.82	104.03	105.02	0.95
Beverages and Tobacco	6.11	113.94	113.98	0.04
Clothing and Footwear	8.24	94.50	94.99	0.52
Housing	7.57	111.26	111.44	0.16
Water, Electricity, Gas and Fuels	2.25	118.92	118.92	0.00
H/hold Equip. & House Maint. Cost	7.65	103.01	103.16	0.15
Transport and Communications	23.13	107.22	107.58	0.34
Personal Care and Health	6.22	111.45	111.76	0.28
Recreation and Culture	8.84	101.36	101.53	0.17
Other Goods and Services	6.17	114.53	114.58	0.04
All Items Retail Prices Index	100.00	106.27	106.69	0.40



**Table 3. Retail Prices Index**  
*December 2002=100*

Group	Weight	2004								2005				
		May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Food	<b>23.82</b>	101.50	100.41	101.07	101.52	101.10	101.27	103.16	103.47	104.60	106.50	105.10	104.03	105.02
Beverages and Tobacco	<b>6.11</b>	112.07	111.84	111.86	112.00	111.94	111.98	111.93	111.94	113.59	113.74	113.86	113.94	113.98
Clothing and Footwear	<b>8.24</b>	95.20	95.79	91.06	78.72	81.79	92.49	96.25	98.81	81.07	82.60	89.69	94.50	94.99
Housing	<b>7.57</b>	104.82	106.51	106.50	106.48	107.34	107.35	107.65	107.85	108.83	108.85	111.21	111.26	111.44
Water, Electricity, Gas and Fuels	<b>2.25</b>	100.44	100.44	100.80	100.80	100.80	101.17	104.82	104.82	118.86	118.86	118.86	118.92	118.92
H/hold Equip. & House Maint. Cost	<b>7.65</b>	101.19	100.88	101.00	100.95	101.61	102.08	102.20	102.49	102.38	102.51	102.82	103.01	103.16
Transport and Communication	<b>23.13</b>	103.27	105.70	108.71	108.72	108.74	107.96	106.68	106.59	106.39	106.26	106.17	107.22	107.58
Personal Care and Health	<b>6.22</b>	107.60	107.71	108.25	108.32	108.44	108.63	108.59	108.75	109.63	111.06	111.35	111.45	111.76
Recreation and Culture	<b>8.84</b>	100.65	100.47	100.45	100.44	100.70	100.75	100.76	100.73	101.36	101.07	101.15	101.36	101.53
Other Goods and Services	<b>6.17</b>	111.02	111.99	112.05	112.25	112.27	112.36	112.77	112.76	113.98	113.96	114.27	114.53	114.58
<b>All Items</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>103.13</b>	<b>103.62</b>	<b>104.14</b>	<b>103.25</b>	<b>103.56</b>	<b>104.36</b>	<b>104.96</b>	<b>105.27</b>	<b>104.70</b>	<b>105.33</b>	<b>105.82</b>	<b>106.27</b>	<b>106.69</b>

**Table 4. Monthly percentage changes in the Retail Prices Index**

Group	Weight	2004								2005				
		May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Food	<b>23.82</b>	-1.28	-1.07	0.66	0.45	-0.41	0.17	1.87	0.30	1.09	1.82	-1.31	-1.02	0.95
Beverages and Tobacco	<b>6.11</b>	-0.01	-0.21	0.02	0.13	-0.05	0.04	-0.04	0.01	1.47	0.13	0.11	0.07	0.04
Clothing and Footwear	<b>8.24</b>	0.95	0.62	-4.94	-13.55	3.90	13.08	4.07	2.66	-17.95	1.89	8.58	5.36	0.52
Housing	<b>7.57</b>	0.10	1.61	-0.01	-0.02	0.81	0.01	0.28	0.19	0.91	0.02	2.17	0.04	0.16
Water, Electricity, Gas and Fuels	<b>2.25</b>	0.00	0.00	0.36	0.00	0.00	0.37	3.61	0.00	13.39	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00
H/hold Equip. & House Maint. Cost	<b>7.65</b>	0.09	-0.31	0.12	-0.05	0.65	0.46	0.12	0.28	-0.11	0.13	0.30	0.18	0.15
Transport and Communication	<b>23.13</b>	-0.09	2.35	2.85	0.01	0.02	-0.72	-1.19	-0.08	-0.19	-0.12	-0.08	0.99	0.34
Personal Care and Health	<b>6.22</b>	0.00	0.10	0.50	0.06	0.11	0.18	-0.04	0.15	0.81	1.30	0.26	0.09	0.28
Recreation and Culture	<b>8.84</b>	0.71	-0.18	-0.02	-0.01	0.26	0.05	0.01	-0.03	0.63	-0.29	0.08	0.21	0.17
Other Goods and Services	<b>6.17</b>	-0.02	0.87	0.05	0.18	0.02	0.08	0.36	-0.01	1.08	-0.02	0.27	0.23	0.04
<b>All Items</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>-0.18</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>0.50</b>	<b>-0.85</b>	<b>0.30</b>	<b>0.77</b>	<b>0.57</b>	<b>0.30</b>	<b>-0.54</b>	<b>0.60</b>	<b>0.47</b>	<b>0.43</b>	<b>0.40</b>

**Table 5. Inflation Rate**  
**12 month average rate**

Month	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
January	2.15	3.27	1.79	1.57	2.74
February	2.01	3.48	1.58	1.70	2.77
March	1.92	3.62	1.46	1.75	2.83
April	1.91	3.65	1.36	1.86	2.83
May	1.89	3.64	1.26	1.95	2.92
June	1.95	3.54	1.25	2.03	
July	2.04	3.39	1.20	2.23	
August	2.22	3.14	1.14	2.41	
September	2.42	2.89	1.10	2.57	
October	2.48	2.82	1.05	2.63	
November	2.64	2.55	1.13	2.75	
December	2.93	2.19	1.30	2.79	

#### Methodological Notes

1. A new Retail Prices Index series, with base December 2002, was officially introduced as from January 2003. Price quotations in respect of the goods and services in this new index series started being collected in January 2002. As a result the NSO was in a position to compile the new index series as from January 2002. This new index series may be linked to the old index series by using a linking coefficient of 1.1914.
2. The index is compiled using a large and representative selection of more than 355 separate goods and services for which price movements are regularly measured in 30 localities throughout the country. Around 9,000 separate price quotations are used each month in compiling the index.
3. The Retail Prices Index is the main measure of inflation in Malta. It measures the average change from month to month in the prices of goods and services purchased by most households in Malta. The spending pattern on which the index is based was derived from the Household Budgetary Survey 2000/1.
4. Each monthly News Release on the Retail Prices Index shall include three different measures of inflation as follows:
  - (a) The **monthly rate** compares price levels between the two latest months. Although up-to-date, this can be affected by seasonal and other effects.
  - (b) The **annual rate** measures price changes between the current month and the same month of the previous year. This measure is responsive to recent changes in price levels but can be influenced by one-off effects in either month.
  - (c) The **12-month average rate**, used officially in Malta, overcomes the volatility of the previous two rates by comparing average Retail Prices Indices in the latest 12 months to the average of the previous 12 months. This measure is less sensitive to transient changes in prices.
5. The data in this release are not normally subject to revision.
6. More information on the Retail Prices Index is available from the NSO website at [www.nso.gov.mt](http://www.nso.gov.mt).