User Guide

Inflation Explorer – How to Use it

The Inflation Explorer is an interactive tool that lets the user explore how prices of individual goods and services, and overall inflation, have changed over time. The most well-known indicator of inflation is the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which measures the percentage change in the price of a basket of goods and services purchased by households (See Explainer: Inflation and its Measurement).

How to use the Inflation Explorer

Step 1

Open the Inflation Explorer on the RBA website: rba.gov.au/education/resources/digital-interactives/inflation-explorer

Step 2

Under **'Your Shopping Basket'**, you can select:

- the whole basket **'Consumer Goods and Services (CPI)'**
- a particular group, e.g. **'Clothing and footwear'**
- an individual category, e.g. **'Footwear for women'**.

You can select up to three items to compare.

Step 3

Enter the years you wish to compare (e.g. type **'2000'** in the **'From Year'** box, and **'2018'** in the **'To Year'** box).

Step 4

Enter an amount of money in either box for each item you have chosen, and select **'Calculate'**. For example, you could estimate how much a family might have spent each week in **'To Year'** on the item, and enter that amount in the **'Amount'** box to the right.
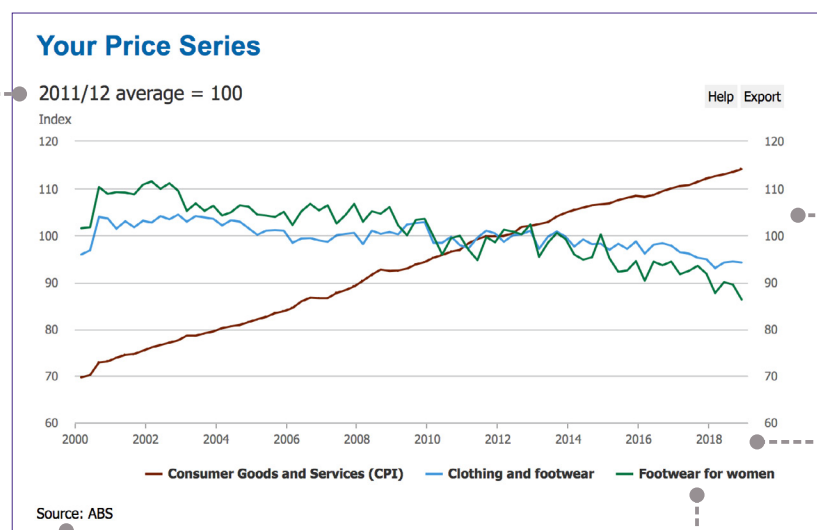
For each item you have chosen, you will be shown:

- the total price change (between the two years you have chosen), shown as a percentage
- the average annual percentage change
- the equivalent amounts that a household would have spent in each of the two years you have chosen
- a graph showing the price change over time, for each of your chosen items.

How to read the graph

Index values are calculated so that each price series has an average value of 100 in the four quarters of the 2011/12 financial year.

An index value of more than 100 for a particular quarter indicates that the price of the item in that quarter was more than its price in 2011/12.

A change in index value from 100 to 110 between two quarters would indicate that prices have increased by 10 per cent over the time period.

Your Price Series

2011/12 average = 100

Help Export

Source: ABS

Consumer Goods and Services (CPI) — Clothing and footwear — Footwear for women

The Y axis shows the index value.

The X axis shows time in years.

The data used in the Inflation Explorer are from the Consumer Price Index (CPI) release published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The data are original (non-seasonally adjusted).

This key shows which coloured line graph relates to which product.