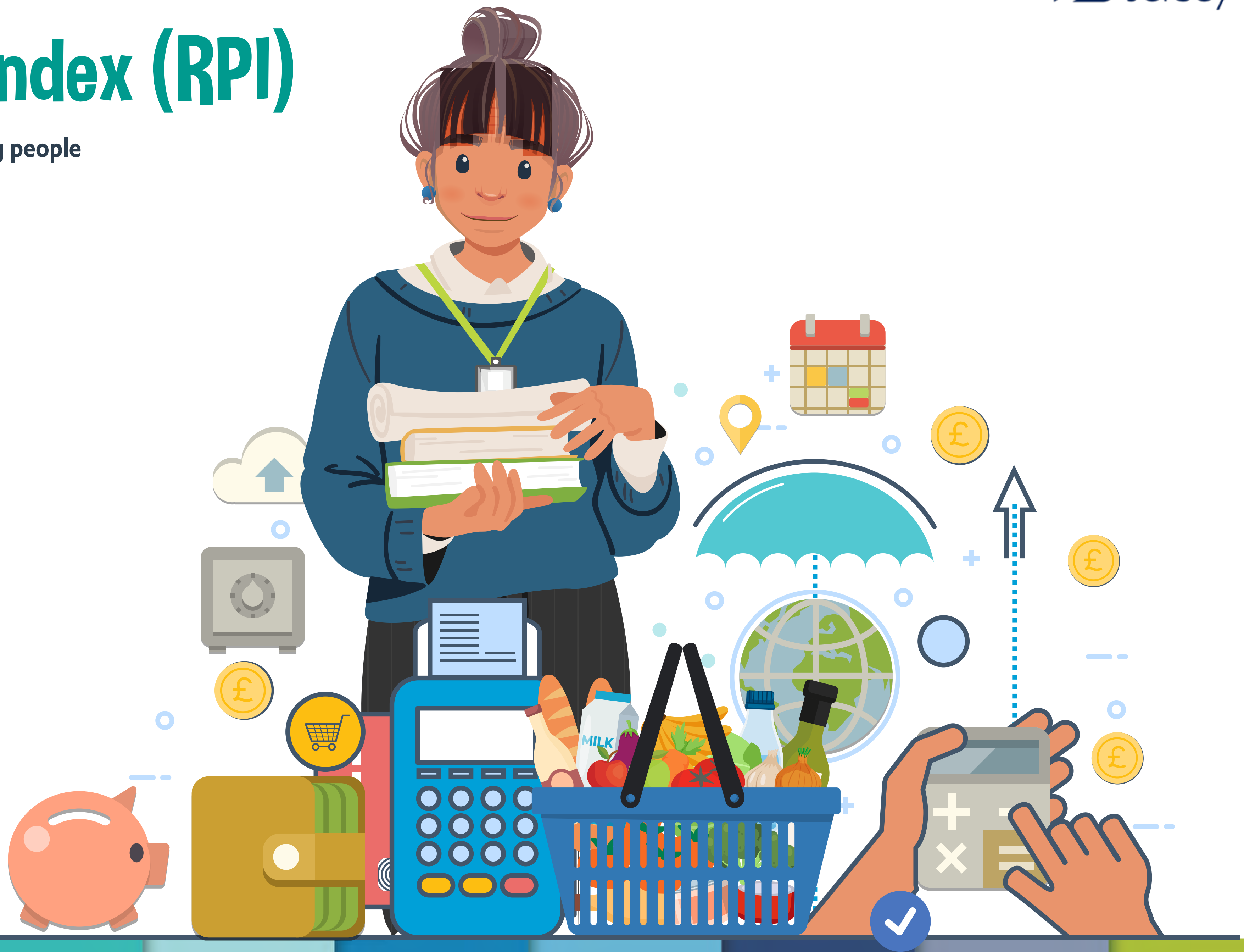
Jersey's Retail Prices Index (RPI)

A Summary for young people

Statistics Jersey



Hello

Ever wondered how we track how much prices are going up in Jersey?

Think of a big shopping basket – filled with things people here actually spend money on:

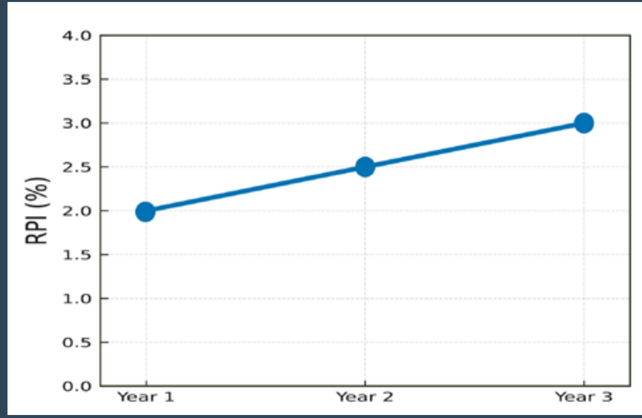
This imaginary basket helps us measure something called the

RPI – the Retail Prices Index.

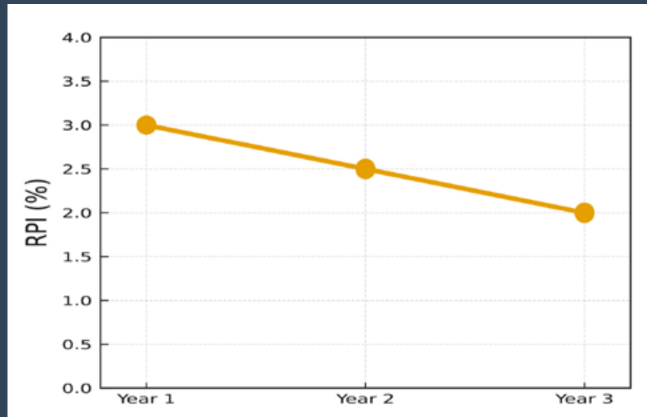
It shows how the cost of living changes over time.

Understanding changes in RPI

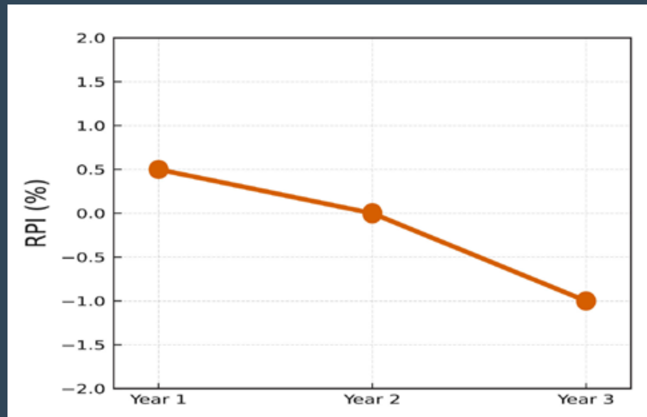
If the RPI goes up, prices are rising faster than before.



If the RPI goes down, prices are still rising – just more slowly.



If the RPI goes below zero, prices are falling. That's called deflation – and it doesn't happen often.



Why it matters

Rising prices affect what people can afford – especially if wages or benefits don't go up at the same speed.

It can change the way people shop, from switching to own-brand products to cutting back on treats.

The Government uses RPI figures to help decide things like pensions and benefits, and businesses use them to plan for future costs.

What can affect prices?

Prices can change for lots of reasons:

Weather events or poor harvests can push up food prices.

World oil prices affect the cost of petrol and heating.

Exchange rates can change the cost of imported goods.

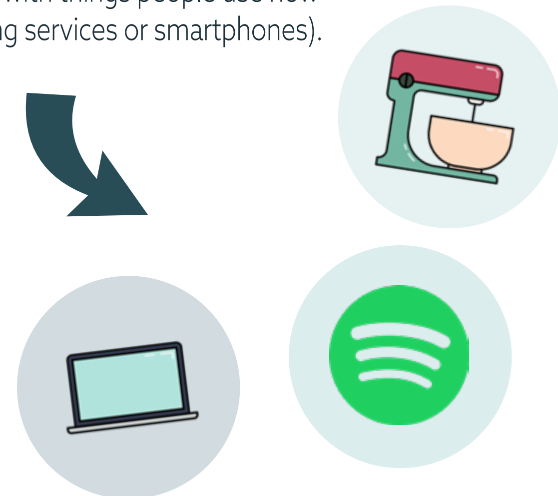
New technology can make some items cheaper over time.

Keeping the basket up to date

Every few years, Statistics Jersey updates what's in the basket so it reflects what people are actually buying.

It's called the **Big Basket Swap**.

Old items (like DVDs or fax machines) get replaced with things people use now (like streaming services or smartphones).



Different versions of the RPI

Not everyone spends money in the same way.

That's why there are special versions of the RPI – for example, one that looks at pensioner households and another for low-income households.

Want to see what's currently in Jersey's basket?

Check out the full report at stats.je or follow @JsyStats for regular updates on how your island is doing!