

Research Report

Food for thought: applying house price inflation to grocery prices

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Introduction

This paper looks at the inflation in house prices from 1971 to 2011 and applies it to the cost of everyday groceries, in order to emphasise how out of control house prices are.

Methodology

Information on house price inflation was sourced from the ONS House Price Index tables ([table 22](#), formerly DCLG live table 502).

Average price in 1971:	£5,632
Average price in 2011:	£245,319

This gives an inflation of 43.56 times; that is to say house prices in 2011 were 43.56 times those in 1971.

This inflation multiplier was then applied to the 1971 prices of a range of groceries. These prices were sourced from the Office for National Statistics. Extra calculations were applied to those goods which are priced per kilo to give an idea of the cost of a standard portion or package. A full list of the new prices is given in the appendix.

In addition, the average expenditure on food for a four-person household was sourced from the 1971 Family Expenditure Survey. The multiplier was also applied to this.

Key Findings

If grocery prices had increased at the same rate as house prices since 1971, then:

- A 4-pint carton of milk would cost £10.45
- A chicken would cost £51.18
- A bunch of 6 bananas would cost £8.47
- A box of 6 eggs would cost £5.01
- A loaf of sliced white bread would cost £4.36
- A leg of lamb would cost £53.18
- The average weekly expenditure on food for a family of four would be £453.23.

Full findings

	Weight/ Size	1971 Price (pence, ONS)	2011 price (pence, if risen at same rate as house prices)	Standard Weights/ Quantities	Standard quantities price (pounds)
Lamb (leg, frozen, imported)	kg	66	2874.83	1.85kg	£53.18
Lamb (loin, frozen, imported)	kg	67	2918.39	290 g pack of chops	£8.46
Lamb (loin, frozen, home bred)	kg	82	3571.76	290 g pack of chops	£10.36
Lamb (shoulder, frozen, home bred)	kg	58	2526.37	734g	£18.54
Pork (on the bone, home bred)	kg	78	3397.53	1kg	£33.98
Beef (home bred, rump)	kg	144	6272.37	450g	£28.23
Pack of Butter (imported)	250g	14	609.81	250g pack	£6.10
Loaf of Bread (White, wrapped and sliced)	800g	10	435.58	Loaf	£4.36
Pint of Milk	Pint	6	261.35	4 pint carton	£10.45
Cheese (cheddar)	kg	51	2221.46	400g	£8.89
Flour (SR)	1.5kg	12	522.70	1.5kg	£5.23
Eggs 1 Dozen (size 4)	Dozen	23	1001.84	Half dozen	£5.01
Coffee (pure, instant)	100g	25	1088.95	100g	£2.18
Pint of Beer	Pint	15	653.37	1 Pint	£6.53
Cigarettes (filter tip)	Pack of 20	27	1176.07	Pack of 20	£11.76
Bananas	kg	18	784.05	6 loose -1.08kg	£8.47
Oranges	kg	16	696.93	1kg	£6.97
Pears	kg	21	914.72	6 loose - 1.13kg	£10.34
Dessert Apples	kg	22	958.28	6 green - 0.96kg	£9.20
Cooking Apples	kg	13	566.26	6 - 1.5kg	£8.49

	Weight/ Size	1971 Price (pence, ONS)	2011 price (pence, if risen at same rate as house prices)	Standard Weights/ Quantities	Standard quantities price (pounds)
Mushrooms	kg	60	2613.49	1 pack of closed cup - 350g	£9.15
Onions	kg	10	435.58	3 loose 0.63Kg	£2.74
Carrots	kg	9	392.02	6 loose - 0.6kg	£2.35
Brussel Sprouts	kg	11	479.14	1kg	£4.79
Cauliflower	kg	18	784.05	1kg	£7.84
Cabbage	kg	9	392.02	1 loose - 0.65kg	£2.55
Tomatoes	kg	35	1524.53	1 pack - 750g	£11.43
Potatoes (new, loose)	kg	9	392.02	1 pack - 2.5kg	£9.80
Bacon (Back)	kg	86	3746.00	300g	£11.24
White fish fillets	kg	58	2526.37	1kg	£25.26
Sugar	kg	9	392.02	1kg	£3.92
Sausages (pork)	kg	44	1916.56	8 pork sausages - 454g	£8.70
Ham (not shoulder)	113g	14	609.81	113g	£6.10
Bacon (Gammon)	kg	79	3441.09	250g pack	£8.60
Chicken	kg	47	2047.23	2.5kg	£51.18
Weekly expenditure on food, family of four (FES)	n/a	1040.531	45323.43	n/a	£453.23