

HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report To: Licensing Committee
27 September 2018

From: Principal Licensing Officer

Subject: **HACKNEY CARRIAGE TABLE OF FARES**

All Wards
Scrutiny Committee

1.0 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider a proposal to make amendments to Hambleton District Council's Hackney Carriage Table of Fares.

2.0 INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS

2.1 In accordance with section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, a district council may fix the rates of fares to be paid in respect of the hire of hackney carriages within the district by means of a table (hereafter referred to as a "table of fares"). The table of fares may comprise charges for time, distance and all other charges in connection with the hire of a vehicle.

2.2 The existing table of fares has been in effect since October 2013 and an informal request has been made by a licensed hackney carriage proprietor to increase the charges. The existing table of fares is attached at **Annex A**.

2.3 In December 2017, a newsletter was sent to all licensed drivers, proprietors and operators along with some charts to reflect the charges set by neighbouring authorities relating to the fares in the local area. The newsletter invited members of the hackney carriage trade to make comments in relation to any potential changes to the table of fares.

2.4 The fares comparison data indicated that Hambleton District Council's fares are already the highest in the area for many journeys and the newsletter alerted licence holders to the need for the council to find a balance between ensuring that drivers are fairly rewarded for their work and ensuring that members of the public are not deterred from using hackney carriages in the area. A copy of the newsletter is attached at **Annex B** and a copy of the comparison chart is attached **Annex C**.

2.5 The council received three responses to the consultation and these are attached at **Annex D**, **Annex E** and **Annex F**. All of the responses indicated that they did not support a fare increase at this time. No responses were received in favour of an increase.

2.6 For reference purposes, a chart displaying the average fuel prices in the UK between 2007 and 2018 is attached at **Annex G**. The figures indicate that, despite recent increases, the average price of fuel currently remains below the prices being charged at the time of the last revision of the council's hackney carriage table of fares.

2.7 Any proposed variation to the table of fares must be advertised at the council offices and by way of a notice in a local newspaper stating a period (not less than 14 days from the date of publication) within which interested parties may lodge objections. Where there are no outstanding objections, the proposed table of fares shall come into effect upon the

expiration of the period specified in the notice. If objections are received the Council shall set a further date (not later than two months from the first specified date), at which time the table of fares shall come into force with or without modifications as determined by the Council after consideration of the objections.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND EFFICIENCIES

- 3.1 It would cost approximately £500 to place the notice in a local newspaper. Costs of the notice, the consultation process and any subsequent meetings or hearings, should be recovered by way of licence fees charged by the council and paid by the trade.
- 3.2 Any increase in fares would have a financial effect on taxi-users throughout the district of Hambleton.
- 3.3 Any increase in fares would incur a small, one-off cost to all hackney carriage proprietors for a meter recalibration.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Members are asked to consider whether to pursue an increase to the table of fares or to retain the existing charges.

GARY NELSON
DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE (MONITORING OFFICER)

Background papers: None
Author ref: SF
Contact: Simon Fisher
Principal Licensing Officer
Direct Line No: (01609) 767209

HACKNEY CARRIAGE TABLE OF FARES

INITIAL CHARGE First Mile or part thereof	£3.50
UNIT DISTANCE CHARGE Each additional $\frac{1}{10}$ mile or part thereof	20p
WAITING TIME For each period of 45 seconds or part thereof	20p
EXTRA CHARGES (a) Between 12am (Midnight) and 7am (b) Between 6pm and 12am (Midnight) on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve (c) All Public Holidays except Christmas Day and New Year's Day (d) Christmas Day (e) New Year's Day	Additional 50% Additional 50% Additional 50% Additional 200% Additional 100%
CALL OUT OR SUMMONSING CHARGE Maximum to be added to any journey at any time (not subject to percentage extras shown above)	£5
SOILING CHARGE A Soiling charge is payable to cover cleaning the vehicle and loss of earnings when a passenger(s) soils a vehicle by whatever means.	Maximum £60
EXTRAS For carriage of persons in excess of four, where licensed to do so, an additional £1 per person	

The meter must be engaged for every journey, whether the vehicle has been pre-booked or not.

The driver cannot charge in excess of this table of fares for any journey within the district of Hambleton. If the hiring takes the journey outside the district of Hambleton, the driver cannot charge any more than this table of fares allows unless a fare has been agreed with the hirer before the commencement of the journey.

These are maximum charges and drivers are permitted to negotiate a fare provided they do not charge any more than the table of fares allows.



«FULLNAME»

«LIPARTY_ADDRESS»

«PLATEREF»

TAXI NEWS UPDATE

Issue 52 - December 2017

HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

In accordance with section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the council sets the rates of fares to be paid in respect of the hire of hackney carriages within the district.

The council has recently received a request for a review of the table of fares and therefore members of the trade are invited to engage in the consultation process.

The Licensing Team has compared the fares with the other authorities in North Yorkshire and any other bordering authorities. The enclosed graphs show the costs of all journeys up to 20 miles. Please note that Hambleton District Council's fares are already the highest in the area for many journeys and therefore the council will need to find a balance between ensuring that drivers are fairly rewarded for their work and ensuring that members of the public are not deterred from using hackney carriages in the area.

If the fares are too low, the work may become difficult to sustain for some hackney carriage drivers and proprietors. However, if the fares are too high, members of the public may seek alternative arrangements, which could lead to a dip in the number of fares obtained and an increase in the number of 'unlicensed taxis' operating in the area.

All responses should be made in writing to the Licensing Team by no later than 5th January 2018.

TAXIMETERS AND OVERCHARGING

Hackney Carriage drivers are reminded that they must engage their meter for each and every journey, whether it is pre-booked or flagged down on a rank or street. The meter must be engaged at the commencement of the journey and not before.

The Licensing Team is aware of several journeys undertaken by hackney carriages without the correct use of a meter and, given that previous warnings have not resolved the problem, formal action appears to be necessary. Drivers are therefore informed that, should they be found at any time not to be using a meter in accordance with the law, they may be prosecuted.

It is an offence to charge more than the metered fare but it is not an offence to charge less. In any case, the meter must be engaged for all journeys that start and end in Hambleton. The same will apply to any journey that ends outside the district unless the driver has specifically agreed a fare with the passengers beforehand.

LICENCE PLATES

All proprietors should be aware that members of the Licensing Team do not make plates before applications are received. Applicants should therefore not expect to collect their plates at the time of making the application.

Under normal circumstances, applicants should expect to receive their licences and plates within five working days of submitting a complete application (along with any other relevant documents).

MEDICALS

All drivers are required to notify the licensing authority in writing as soon as practicable and in any event within seven days of his/her becoming aware of any medical condition suffered by him/her which may affect his/her ability to drive a licensed vehicle. Any instances of non-compliance will be subject to appropriate enforcement action, which may involve a referral to the council's Licensing and Appeals Hearings Panel.

OUT OF DISTRICT WORK

Drivers are hereby reminded to ensure that they do not ply for hire outside the district of Hambleton whilst using a Hambleton-licensed vehicle. Several allegations have been made recently in relation to drivers operating in York and Ryedale. The Licensing Team has not received any tangible evidence to support these allegations and the drivers insist that they have only collected pre-booked fares. However, it is clear that some roof signs are remaining illuminated for these jobs, which may give the impression that the vehicles are available for immediate hire in neighbouring districts. Drivers are advised to ensure that their roof signs are not illuminated whilst collecting pre-booked fares outside the district of Hambleton.

COPIES OF DOCUMENTS

Licensees are responsible for retaining their own documents. It is not the responsibility of the Licensing Team to provide copies of insurance certificates, MOT certificates and registration certificates when the holders have misplaced their originals. The cost of the licensing service is recovered via licence fees and the time spent in dealing with these requests will need to be taken into consideration for any future revisions of licence fees. Licensees are therefore advised to ensure that requests are kept to a minimum in order to reduce unnecessary costs. If extra resources are required, more funds will need to be recovered from the hackney carriage and private hire trade.

CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSURE

The licensing office will be closed from 3pm on Friday 22nd December 2017 and will re-open at 9am on Tuesday 2nd January 2018.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Everyone in the Licensing Team would like to wish all drivers, proprietors and operators a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

STAYING SAFE AT CHRISTMAS

Licensed drivers often deal with strangers in isolated places whilst carrying cash and

those working at night are likely to come across people who may have had too much to drink. As a result, they are especially vulnerable to any risk of violence and should take precautions to reduce such risks.

Examples of those precautions are listed below:

- Carry as little cash as possible by dropping off at your home or office;
- Carry with you an emergency card with your name, date of birth, blood group, allergies and an emergency contact telephone number;
- Contact the telephone operator regularly to tell them where you are;
- Use a pre-arranged emergency code word to avoid arousing suspicion;
- Do NOT drive whilst tired - you must remain alert at all times;
- Be ready to explain the fare structure - meters must always be used in hackney carriages and passengers may be referred to the council for confirmation of their charges. Private hire drivers should explain the operator's proposed charge before setting off in order to reduce the risk of violence over a fare dispute;
- Be aware of your own actions and how they may be interpreted;
- Report any violent incidents to the police.

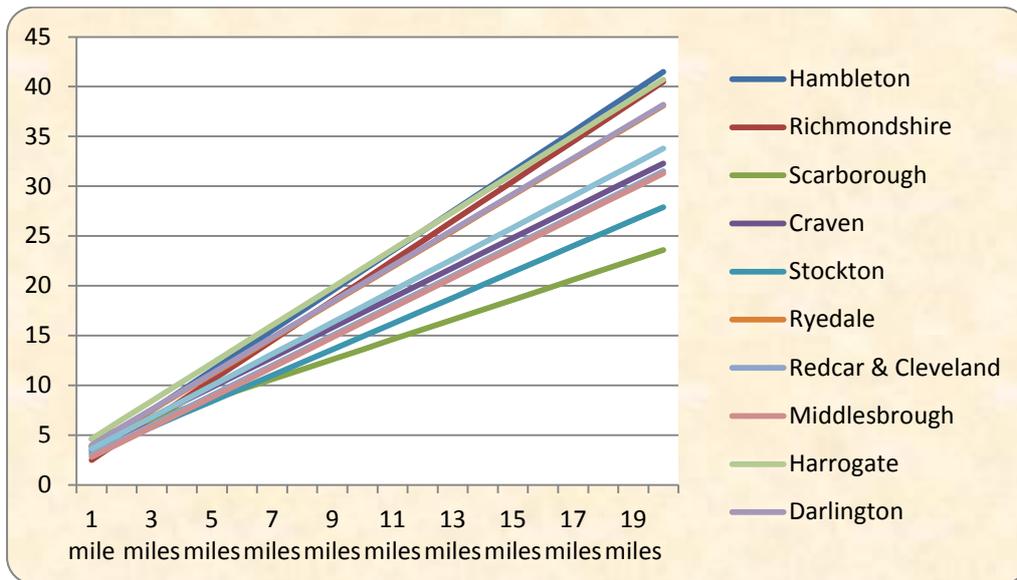
CONTACT DETAILS

For further information in relation to any of the content of this newsletter, contact:

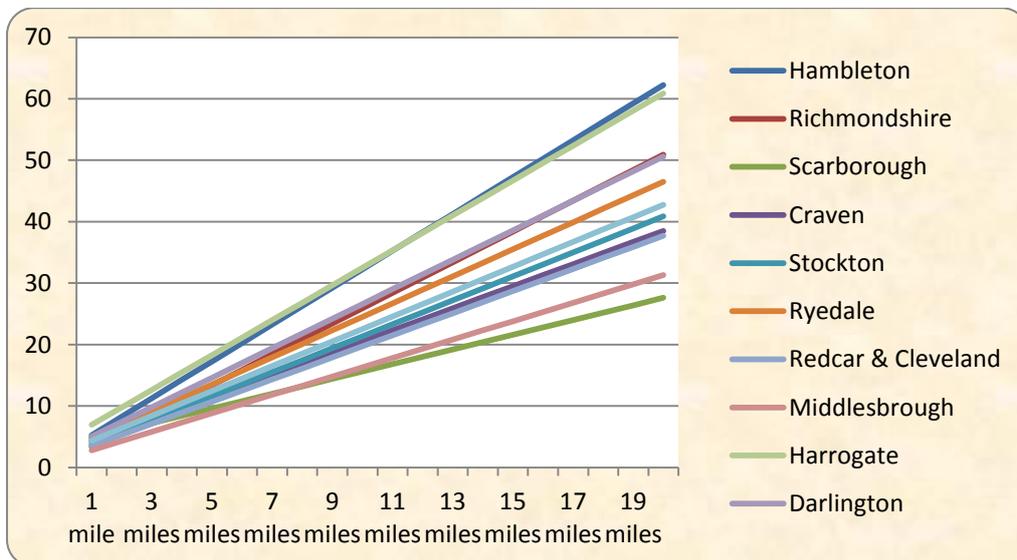
Hambleton District Council
Licensing Team
Legal Services
Civic Centre
Stone Cross
Northallerton
DL6 2UU

Tel: 01609 767079 or 767017

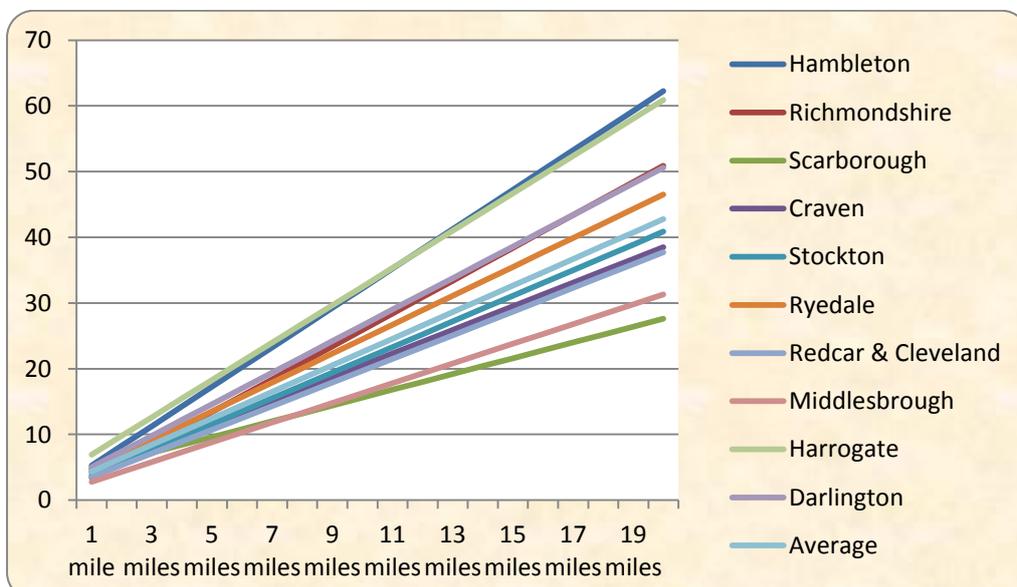
Email: licensingteam@hambleton.gov.uk



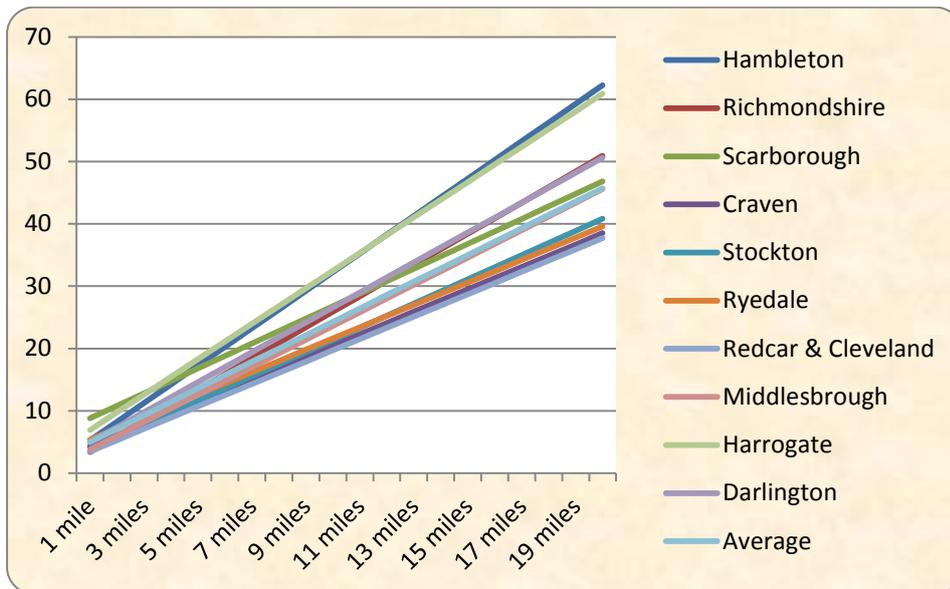
Normal (night time)



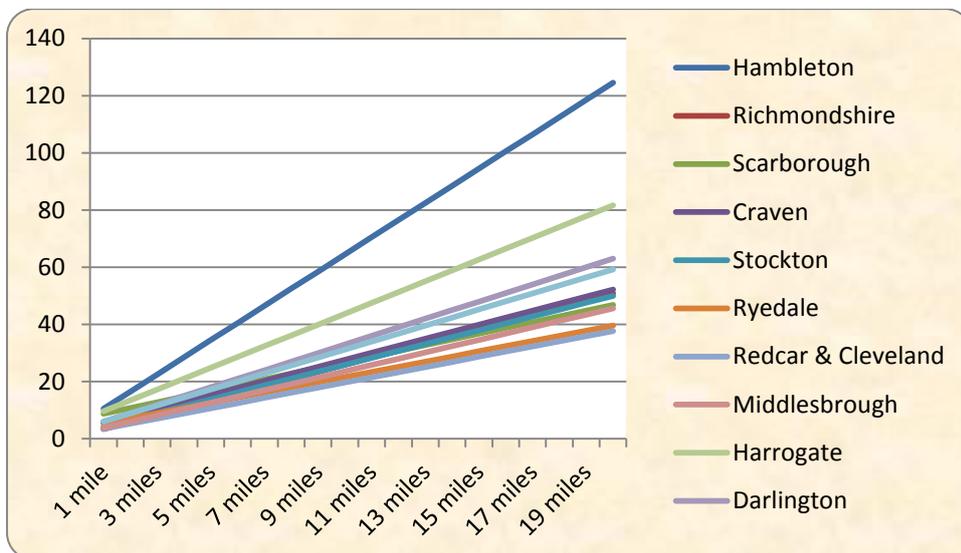
Public holidays (daytime)



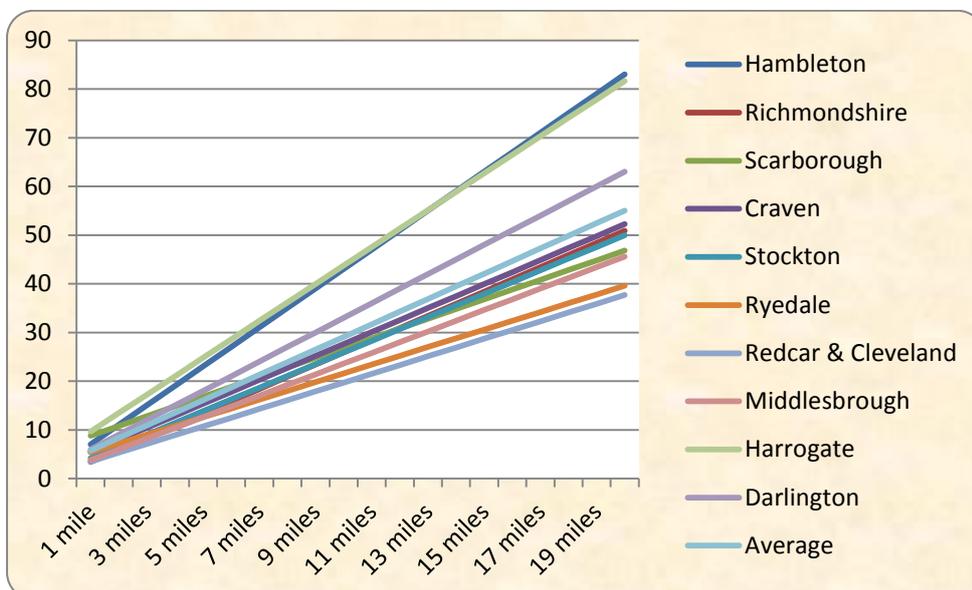
Public holidays (night time)



Christmas Day



New Year's Day





Simon Fisher
Hambelton District Council
Licensing Team
Civic Centre
Stone Cross
Northallerton
DL62UU

Dear Mr Fisher,

Hackney Carriage Fares

Following receipt of News Update No 52 regarding a review of the current fares, I am writing to inform you that I am not in agreement with this.

If, however, there should be a drastic increase in the cost of diesel/petrol then a review should be undertaken at that time.

Yours sincerely,



Paul M Cooke
Badge No 75

HAMBLETON D.C.		
20 DEC 2017		
REC'D		
PES	RES	CX
		ACK

From: martin coleman [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 December 2017 08:53
To: Licensing Team
Subject: Suspension notice

To whom it may concern.



News letter

Price increase.

I feel that your comments are correct, and we already see the day to day operators reducing fares to entice clients.

We are one of the most expensive in the north, and we do see operators from other areas collecting passengers due to the prices charged, this can only get worse if a increase was implemented.

I also know that overcharging is a problem by a minority of operators, mainly late evening early morning.

This is also adding to the problem of outside operators coming to the area.

I note this is a problem mostly with drivers that do not rely on taxi income as their main source of income.

I hope my comments are taken into consideration when making your decision.

Yours sincerely,
Martin Coleman.

From: Syd Townend [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 January 2018 08:42
To: Licensing Team
Subject: TAXI FARES

To The Licensing Team

Regarding the fare increase for taxis in the Hambleton area I totally agree with what you say about the fares been one of the highest around bordering councils so I personally would not be in favour of the increase in fares.

Happy new year to everyone in licensing

Thanks

Syd townend

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Average price of diesel (2007 – present)

Here is a snapshot of average prices for a litre of diesel petrol in the United Kingdom from January 2007 to date, which will give you an idea of how quickly and dramatically fuel prices can change:

Month	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
January	92.3	109.0	99.2	113.4	132.4	141.7	140.5	137.7	115.4	102.8	121.7	124.4
February	91.1	109.8	100.6	113.8	134.2	143.1	144.3	137.0	114.8	101.1	122.3	123.9
March	93.0	113.8	100.0	116.9	138.8	146.0	145.5	136.7	117.9	103.2	121.2	122.6
April	95.2	117.8	102.6	121.7	141.3	147.6	141.6	136.2	119.0	106.8	120.1	124.3
May	96.8	124.7	103.4	122.6	141.5	143.4	138.5	136.2	120.5	109.3	118.0	129.2
June	97.4	131.1	104.8	120.7	139.4	138.4	139.1	136.0	120.8	111.8	116.8	131.8
July	97.2	132.3	104.1	119.9	139.2	137.4	140.2	135.8	118.5	112.4	115.4	131.5
August	97.0	125.7	104.7	118.9	139.6	140.9	141.7	133.8	112.5	111.6	117.4	132.4
September	97.6	123.5	107.0	118.3	139.6	144.1	142.1	133.2	110.1	113.1	120.0	
October	100.1	116.5	107.2	121.1	139.9	143.5	139.0	130.6	110.4	116.5	120.3	
November	105.3	108.7	109.8	123.0	140.9	142.0	137.8	127.5	110.0	117.6	122.6	
December	108.0	102.4	110.0	126.6	141.0	140.6	138.3	122.7	107.7	118.0	123.3	

Average price of petrol (2007 – present)

Here is a snapshot of average prices for a litre of unleaded petrol in the United Kingdom from January 2007 to date, which will give you an idea of how quickly and dramatically fuel prices can change:

Month	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
January	87.4	104.0	87.2	111.4	127.8	133.4	132.9	130.1	108.2	102.3	115.2	121.7
February	86.9	104.4	90.4	112.2	128.9	135.5	137.5	129.6	108.0	102.0	120.1	121.2
March	89.7	106.5	91.0	116.0	132.4	139.2	138.9	129.6	111.7	103.0	119.2	119.8
April	92.8	108.3	95.1	120.6	135.1	142.0	136.7	129.7	113.8	107.2	118.3	121.5
May	95.9	112.8	98.0	120.8	136.7	137.6	133.8	130.0	116.2	109.3	116.7	126.4
June	97.0	117.7	102.5	118.1	135.7	133.0	134.4	130.6	116.9	111.6	115.9	128.7
July	96.7	118.7	103.0	117.2	135.1	132.3	135.8	131.3	116.9	111.9	114.7	128.3
August	96.1	113.4	104.1	116.1	135.5	136.1	137.4	129.5	114.7	110.5	116.6	129.6
September	95.4	111.9	106.3	115.4	135.5	139.6	137.3	129.0	110.7	111.9	119.3	
October	97.8	104.5	105.9	117.5	134.7	138.5	132.1	126.4	108.9	114.9	118.1	
November	101.3	94.6	108.5	119.0	133.7	135.2	130.4	123.0	107.7	115.6	120.2	
December	102.8	89.2	108.4	122.3	132.5	132.6	130.8	117.1	104.6	115.5	120.8	