



stats sa

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Information note on the survey of municipal tariffs for the consumer price index (CPI)

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Water, electricity and municipal rates together comprise a weight of 6,25% in the CPI. These tariffs typically increase each July, at the start of the new municipal financial year. Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) obtains these prices in July each year either from the municipal websites or by contacting the municipalities directly.

In certain cases, municipalities are not able to implement the new tariffs in July. In these instances, Stats SA will survey them again in the month that they indicate they are likely to do so.

Stats SA is aware that a recent legal ruling may prevent the July implementation of the new electricity tariffs for a number of municipalities. In line with our methodology, all municipalities in the sample will be surveyed in July, and again in subsequent months if necessary. These price changes will be incorporated into the inflation calculations in the specific month they are implemented.

The methodology for pricing water and electricity tracks the change in specific charges, both fixed and usage-based. If a municipality changes the structure of a particular tariff or introduces a new tariff, Stats SA will only be able to use this for comparison in the following year. Only changes in pre-existing and comparable tariffs are used in the index compilation.

The sample for the municipal survey comprises the municipalities shown in Table A.

Table A – Sample covered by the municipal survey

Province	Municipality
Western Cape	City of Cape Town
	Breede Valley
	George
	Drakenstein
Eastern Cape	Nelson Mandela Bay
	Buffalo City
	Makana
	OR Tambo
Northern Cape	Chris Hani
	Sol Plaatje
	Emthanjeni
Free State	Ga-Segonyana
	Mangaung
	Matjhabeng
	Metsimaholo
	Moqhaka
KwaZulu-Natal	Dihlabeng
	eThekweni
	Msunduzi
	Newcastle
North West	Umhlatuze
	Rustenburg
	City of Matlosana
	Madibeng
	Mafikeng
Gauteng	Ditsobotla
	City of Tshwane
	City of Johannesburg
	Ekurhuleni
	Mogale City
Mpumalanga	Emfuleni
	Mbombela
	Emalahleni
	Msukaligwa
	Steve Tshwete
Limpopo	Govan Mbeki
	Polokwane
	Ba-Phalaborwa
	Greater Tzaneen

The monthly CPI statistical release includes an index for electricity and other fuels (which also includes paraffin) and an index for water and other services (which also includes property rates and sectional title levies). The specific indices for electricity and water can be found in the Excel time series file. The monthly statistical release and time series file can be found on the Stats SA website – www.statssa.gov.za.

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