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Media Release

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Scheduled changes to price statistics: An update

In November last year, Stats SA announced planned changes to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Producer Price Index (PPI). At that time the organisation promised to provide further information to the public in the third quarter of 2012.

CPI

In 2013 the weights of the CPI will be updated with fresh information from the household Income and Expenditure Survey (IES). At the same time the indices will be rebased to 2012. In addition, a number of methodological improvements will be implemented. The first new publication will be for the January 2013 reference month and will be published in February 2013. Stats SA is currently analysing the IES data and the organisation aims to provide information on the structure of the CPI weights in either September or October 2012.

PPI

The current PPI is to be split into a set of five separate PPIs (viz: Agriculture, Mining, Electricity and Water, Intermediate Manufacturing and Final Manufacturing) without an aggregate headline index. The current import and export indices are to be replaced by import and export unit value indices, which will be derived from administrative customs data. These changes will bring the South African PPI in line with international standards. The January 2013 PPI, which will be published in February 2013, will be the first release of the new-look indices. Further information on the planned changes is available on the Stats SA website at www.statssa.gov.za/cpi/index.asp

Stats SA will provide further details closer to the various dates.

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