

**STATISTICAL RELEASE**  
**P0141**

# Consumer Price Index

December 2016

Embargoed until:  
18 January 2017  
10:00

Stats SA will introduce a new basket and weights for the consumer price index in the January 2017 publication to be published on 15 February 2017. At the same time the indices will be rebased to December 2016=100.

The new weights, together with information on changes to the CPI basket, will be made available on 25 January 2017 at 12:30.

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January 2017

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## KEY FINDINGS

### Headline consumer price index (CPI for all urban areas)

Annual consumer price inflation was 6,8% in December 2016, up from 6,6% in November 2016. The consumer price index increased by 0,4% month-on-month in December 2016.

**Table C** (page 6) shows contributions to headline annual consumer price inflation.

- **Housing and utilities** increased from 1,3 percentage points in November to 1,4 percentage points in December. The index increased by 5,6% year-on-year.
- **Recreation and culture** increased from 0,2 of a percentage point in November to 0,3 of a percentage point in December. The index increased by 7,6% year-on-year.
- **Restaurants and hotels** increased from 0,2 of a percentage point in November to 0,3 of a percentage point in December. The index increased by 7,1% year-on-year.
- **Transport** decreased from 1,0 percentage point in November to 0,9 of a percentage point in December. The index increased by 5,7% year-on-year.

**Table D** (page 6) shows contributions to monthly consumer price inflation.

- **Food and non-alcoholic beverages** contributed 0,1 of a percentage point in December. The index increased by 0,8% month-on-month.
- **Housing and utilities** contributed 0,2 of a percentage point in December. The index increased by 1,0% month-on-month.
- **Transport** contributed -0,1 of a percentage point in December, mainly due to a 20c/l decrease in the price of petrol. The index decreased by 0,4% month-on-month.

In December the CPI for **goods** increased by 7,8% year-on-year (up from 7,7% in November), and the CPI for **services** increased by 5,9% year-on-year (up from 5,6% in November).

**Provincial** annual inflation rates ranged from 5,6% in Northern Cape to 8,4% in Limpopo (see Table A).

### Annual average for 2016

Headline consumer price index (CPI for all urban areas)

Average annual consumer price inflation was 6,4% in 2016 (i.e. the average CPI for all urban areas for 2016 compared with that for 2015). This was 1,8 percentage points higher than the corresponding average of 4,6% in 2015 (see Table B2).

**Note:** Not all items in the CPI are surveyed every month. Table F (page 9) shows the survey schedule for items that are not surveyed monthly. No additional surveys are scheduled for January 2017.

**PJ Lehohla**  
**Statistician-General**

## TABLES

Table A - Consumer Price Index: Main indices

Group		Weight	Index (Dec 2012=100)			Percentage change			
			Dec 2015	Nov 2016	Dec 2016	Dec 2016 vs. Nov 2016	Dec 2016 vs. Dec 2015		
All items (CPI Headline)		100,00	116,8	124,2	124,7	0,4	6,8		
Analytical series	CPI per expenditure quintile	1	2,27	117,2	126,3	127,0	0,6	8,4	
		2	4,58	116,7	125,3	125,9	0,5	7,9	
		3	8,08	116,4	124,4	125,0	0,5	7,4	
		4	18,60	116,3	123,6	124,1	0,4	6,7	
		5	66,47	117,0	124,2	124,7	0,4	6,6	
		CPI for all goods	49,86	114,9	123,6	123,9	0,2	7,8	
		CPI for durable goods	8,02	109,0	116,6	116,7	0,1	7,1	
		CPI for semi-durable goods	6,32	112,7	118,6	119,4	0,7	5,9	
		CPI for non-durable goods	35,52	116,7	126,0	126,3	0,2	8,2	
		CPI for services	50,14	118,6	124,8	125,6	0,6	5,9	
		CPI for pensioners	..	117,0	124,4	125,0	0,5	6,8	
		CPI for administered prices	Total	18,48	117,0	123,6	123,0	-0,5	5,1
			Regulated	13,70	113,6	120,4	119,7	-0,6	5,4
			Not regulated	4,78	126,6	132,7	132,7	0,0	4,8
		CPI for food and non-alcoholic beverages (NAB)	15,41	117,5	130,3	131,3	0,8	11,7	
		CPI excluding food and NAB	84,59	116,7	123,1	123,5	0,3	5,8	
		CPI excluding petrol	94,32	117,6	125,2	125,8	0,5	7,0	
		CPI excluding food and NAB and petrol	78,91	117,7	124,2	124,7	0,4	5,9	
		CPI excluding food and NAB, petrol, VAT, assessment rates, and finance charges	76,41	117,6	124,1	124,6	0,4	6,0	
		CPI excluding housing	75,48	116,1	124,1	124,4	0,2	7,1	
		CPI excluding petrol and energy	90,19	117,2	124,6	125,3	0,6	6,9	
		CPI excluding energy	95,87	116,3	123,6	124,2	0,5	6,8	
		CPI excluding food and NAB, petrol and energy	74,78	117,1	123,4	124,0	0,5	5,9	
	CPI excluding owners' equivalent rent	88,58	117,0	124,8	125,2	0,3	7,0		
	CPI excluding administered prices	81,52	116,8	124,4	125,1	0,6	7,1		
	CPI administered prices excluding petrol and paraffin	12,75	123,3	130,3	130,3	0,0	5,7		
	Trimmed mean	..	116,2	123,1	123,5	0,3	6,3		
Geographic indices	CPI for primary urban areas		61,90	117,0	124,3	124,9	0,5	6,8	
	CPI for secondary urban areas		20,49	116,2	123,9	124,2	0,2	6,9	
	CPI for rural areas <sup>1</sup>		17,61	116,2	125,5	125,9	0,3	8,3	
	CPI for total country		100,00	116,7	124,4	124,9	0,4	7,0	
	CPI per province	Western Cape		15,55	117,2	124,4	125,6	1,0	7,2
		Eastern Cape		8,12	116,6	125,1	125,7	0,5	7,8
		Northern Cape		1,57	115,5	122,0	122,0	0,0	5,6
		Free State		5,12	117,0	125,0	125,5	0,4	7,3
		KwaZulu-Natal		15,33	116,2	124,7	125,0	0,2	7,6
		North West		5,59	115,7	123,2	123,6	0,3	6,8
Gauteng		36,97	117,1	124,4	124,7	0,2	6,5		
Mpumalanga		5,69	115,3	123,0	123,3	0,2	6,9		
Limpopo		6,06	116,7	126,3	126,5	0,2	8,4		

<sup>1</sup> The rural CPI is compiled using data from rural and urban areas in accordance with the purchasing patterns of rural residents.

**Table B - CPI headline**

**Table B1 - CPI headline index numbers (Dec 2012=100)**

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average <sup>1</sup>
2012	95,2	95,7	96,8	97,2	97,2	97,5	97,8	98,0	98,9	99,5	99,8	100,0	97,8
2013	100,3	101,3	102,5	102,9	102,6	102,9	104,0	104,3	104,8	105,0	105,1	105,4	103,4
2014	106,1	107,3	108,7	109,2	109,4	109,7	110,6	111,0	111,0	111,2	111,2	111,0	109,7
2015	110,8	111,5	113,1	114,1	114,4	114,9	116,1	116,1	116,1	116,4	116,5	116,8	114,7
2016	117,7	119,3	120,2	121,2	121,4	122,1	123,1	123,0	123,2	123,8	124,2	124,7	122,0

<sup>1</sup> Annual average.

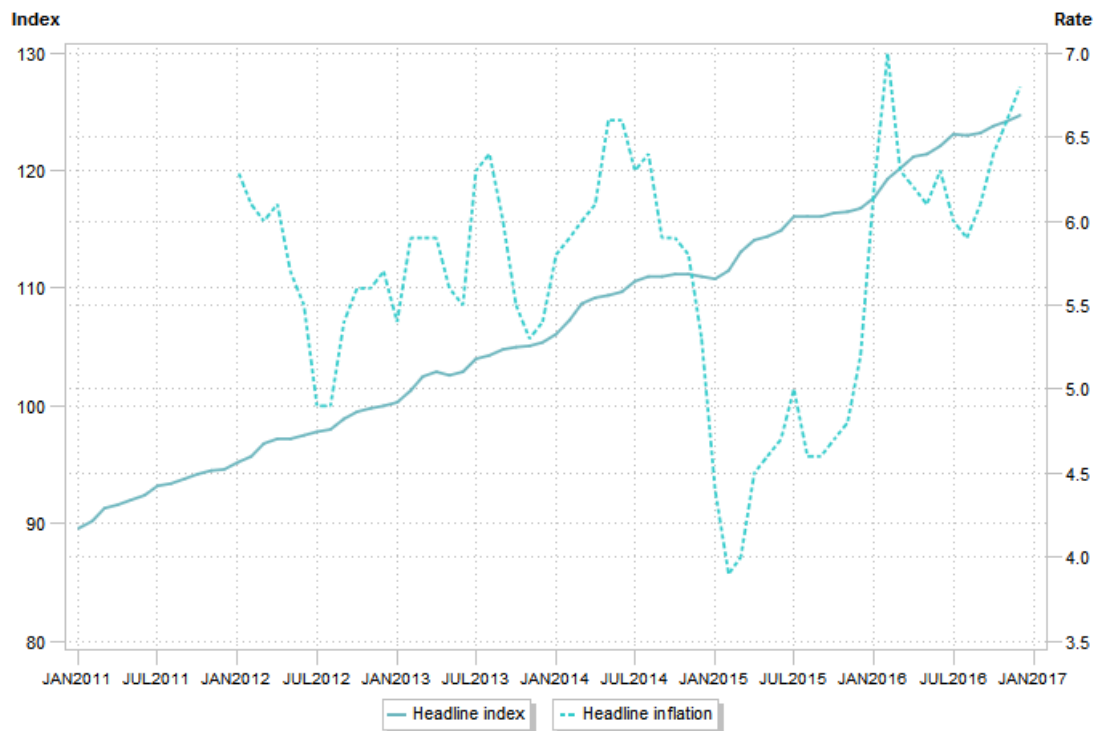
**Table B2 - CPI headline year-on-year rates**

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average <sup>1</sup>
2012	6,3	6,1	6,0	6,1	5,7	5,5	4,9	5,0	5,5	5,6	5,6	5,7	5,6
2013	5,4	5,9	5,9	5,9	5,6	5,5	6,3	6,4	6,0	5,5	5,3	5,4	5,7
2014	5,8	5,9	6,0	6,1	6,6	6,6	6,3	6,4	5,9	5,9	5,8	5,3	6,1
2015	4,4	3,9	4,0	4,5	4,6	4,7	5,0	4,6	4,6	4,7	4,8	5,2	4,6
2016	6,2	7,0	6,3	6,2	6,1	6,3	6,0	5,9	6,1	6,4	6,6	6,8	6,4

<sup>1</sup> Annual average.

Rates shown in Table B2 show the official inflation rates as published in the monthly CPI release. Differences due to rounding off may occur when using the rebased indices in Table B1 to calculate the rates of change.

**Figure 1 - CPI headline index numbers and year-on-year rates**



**Table C - Contributions of the different groups to the annual percentage change in the CPI headline**

Group	Contribution	
	Nov 2016	Dec 2016
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	1,8	1,8
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	0,3	0,3
Clothing and footwear	0,2	0,2
Housing and utilities	1,3	1,4
Household contents and services	0,2	0,2
Health	0,1	0,1
Transport	1,0	0,9
Recreation and culture	0,2	0,3
Education	0,2	0,2
Restaurants and hotels	0,2	0,3
Miscellaneous goods and services	1,2	1,2
Residual	-0,1	-0,1
All Items	6,6	6,8

**Table D - Contributions of the different groups to the annual percentage change in the CPI headline**

Group	Contribution	
	Nov 2016	Dec 2016
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	0,1	0,1
Housing and utilities	0,0	0,2
Transport	0,2	-0,1
Residual	0,0	0,2
All Items	0,3	0,4

Table E - Consumer price indices for all urban areas

Group	Weight	Index (Dec 2012=100)			Percentage change	
		Dec 2015	Nov 2016	Dec 2016	Dec 2016 vs. Nov 2016	Dec 2016 vs. Dec 2015
All items (CPI Headline)	100,00	116,8	124,2	124,7	0,4	6,8
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	15,41	117,5	130,3	131,3	0,8	11,7
Food	14,20	117,7	130,8	131,8	0,8	12,0
Processed	6,78	119,1	132,8	133,2	0,3	11,8
Unprocessed	7,42	116,5	128,9	130,5	1,2	12,0
Bread and cereals	3,55	117,6	137,8	138,1	0,2	17,4
Meat	4,56	114,0	120,3	122,7	2,0	7,6
Fish	0,37	122,3	135,7	135,4	-0,2	10,7
Milk, eggs and cheese	1,74	122,8	135,6	135,7	0,1	10,5
Oils and fats	0,55	115,4	126,5	126,6	0,1	9,7
Fruit	0,23	107,5	127,4	128,1	0,5	19,2
Vegetables	1,61	120,9	130,6	131,6	0,8	8,9
Sugar, sweets and desserts	0,65	125,1	151,9	151,8	-0,1	21,3
Other food	0,94	118,5	133,4	133,6	0,1	12,7
Non-alcoholic beverages	1,21	114,3	125,0	125,8	0,6	10,1
Hot beverages	0,32	123,4	143,2	142,4	-0,6	15,4
Cold beverages	0,89	110,9	118,4	119,7	1,1	7,9
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	5,43	122,8	129,5	129,6	0,1	5,5
Alcoholic beverages	3,95	124,0	131,2	131,3	0,1	5,9
Spirits	0,76	124,6	133,6	133,5	-0,1	7,1
Wine	0,74	116,3	123,4	123,6	0,2	6,3
Beer	2,45	126,2	132,9	132,9	0,0	5,3
Tobacco	1,48	119,6	125,0	125,3	0,2	4,8
Clothing and footwear	4,07	114,7	120,5	120,8	0,2	5,3
Clothing	2,76	115,4	121,6	121,9	0,2	5,6
Footwear	1,31	113,2	118,3	118,5	0,2	4,7
Housing and utilities	24,52	118,9	124,4	125,6	1,0	5,6
Actual rentals for housing	4,76	116,0	120,3	122,0	1,4	5,2
Owners' equivalent rent	11,42	115,5	119,4	121,3	1,6	5,0
Maintenance and repair	1,31	110,4	110,7	110,7	0,0	0,3
Water and other services	2,85	128,7	139,1	139,1	0,0	8,1
Electricity and other fuels	4,18	127,7	137,2	137,2	0,0	7,4
Household contents and services	4,79	109,4	113,0	113,8	0,7	4,0
Furnishings, floor coverings and textiles	1,12	94,2	93,6	94,6	1,1	0,4
Appliances, tableware and equipment	0,78	109,3	115,8	115,5	-0,3	5,7
Supplies and services	2,89	115,3	119,8	120,8	0,8	4,8
Domestic workers' wages	2,35	117,0	122,0	123,1	0,9	5,2
Health	1,46	117,3	123,6	124,0	0,3	5,7
Medical products	0,74	114,4	119,9	120,7	0,7	5,5
Medical services	0,72	120,2	127,4	127,4	0,0	6,0

Table E - Consumer price indices for all urban areas (concluded)

Group		Weight	Index (Dec 2012=100)			Percentage change		
			Dec 2015	Nov 2016	Dec 2016	Dec 2016 vs. Nov 2016	Dec 2016 vs. Dec 2015	
Transport		16,43	110,1	116,9	116,4	-0,4	5,7	
	Purchase of vehicles	5,98	114,1	124,4	124,6	0,2	9,2	
	Private transport operation	7,25	105,1	110,7	109,4	-1,2	4,1	
		Petrol	5,68	102,8	108,4	106,7	-1,6	3,8
		Other running costs	1,57	113,3	119,2	119,2	0,0	5,2
	Public transport	3,20	113,8	116,7	116,7	0,0	2,5	
Communication		2,63	99,6	99,4	99,4	0,0	-0,2	
	Postal services and telecommunication services	2,50	101,4	101,5	101,5	0,0	0,1	
	Telecommunication equipment	0,13	67,6	61,5	60,6	-1,5	-10,4	
Recreation and culture		4,09	108,8	115,8	117,1	1,1	7,6	
	Recreational equipment	1,59	102,2	107,0	107,9	0,8	5,6	
	Recreational and cultural services	1,72	108,4	118,2	118,2	0,0	9,0	
	Books, newspapers and stationery	0,57	126,1	135,4	138,7	2,4	10,0	
	Package holidays	0,21	116,3	110,7	118,8	7,3	2,1	
Education		2,95	129,5	135,5	135,5	0,0	4,6	
	Primary and secondary	1,72	128,7	139,0	139,0	0,0	8,0	
	Tertiary	1,23	130,7	130,7	130,7	0,0	0,0	
Restaurants and hotels		3,50	122,2	129,9	130,9	0,8	7,1	
	Restaurants	2,54	121,6	130,0	130,8	0,6	7,6	
	Hotels	0,96	124,1	129,8	131,0	0,9	5,6	
Miscellaneous goods and services		14,72	122,3	131,5	131,6	0,1	7,6	
	Personal care	2,29	116,4	123,9	124,3	0,3	6,8	
	Insurance	9,92	125,9	135,6	135,6	0,0	7,7	
	Financial services	1,20	116,2	125,2	125,2	0,0	7,7	
	Other goods and services	1,31	110,9	119,8	119,8	0,0	8,0	



**Table F - Survey schedule for non-monthly surveys**

<b>Quarterly</b>	
January, April, July, October	Gymnasium fees (Recreation and culture) Funeral expenses, funeral policies, gravestone maintenance (Miscellaneous)
February, May, August, November	Private-sector hospitals (Health)
March, June, September, December	Actual rentals for housing, owners' equivalent rent (Housing and utilities) Domestic workers' wages (Household contents and services) Taxi fares, train fares (Transport) Motor vehicle insurance (Miscellaneous)
<b>Biannual</b>	
January, July	Building insurance, household content insurance (Miscellaneous)
February, April	Medical aid (Miscellaneous)
April, October	Television licences (Recreation and culture)
May, November	Electricians, plumbers (Housing and utilities)
July, August	Municipal charges for water, property rates and electricity (Housing and utilities)
<b>Annual</b>	
January	Post box rental (Communication) Lotto tickets (Recreation and culture)
February	Private-sector doctors and dentists (Health) Rugby tickets (Recreation and culture)
March	School and university tuition fees (Education) Toll fees (Transport) University boarding fees (Restaurants and hotels) Crèche fees (Miscellaneous)
April	Public-sector hospitals and doctors (Health) Stamps (Communication)
October	Cricket tickets (Recreation and culture)
<b>Other</b>	
January, March, April, June, July, September, October, December	Local bus fares (Transport)

Additional surveys are conducted for these items when Stats SA is aware of significant price changes outside regular survey months.

## GLOSSARY

A complete set of definitions is available in the methods and sources document on the Stats SA website

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<b>Annual inflation rate</b>	The annual inflation rate is the change in the index of the relevant month of the current year compared with the index of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.
<b>Annual percentage change</b>	The annual percentage change is the change in the index of the relevant month of the current year compared with the index of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.
<b>Average annual inflation rate</b>	The average annual inflation rate is the change in the average index of one year compared with the average index of the previous year expressed as a percentage.
<b>Average annual percentage change</b>	The average annual percentage change is the change in the average index of one year compared with the average index of the previous year expressed as a percentage.
<b>CPI for administered prices</b>	An administered price is defined as the price of a product which is set consciously by an individual producer or group of producers and/or any price which can be determined or influenced by government, either directly or through a government agency/institution without reference to market forces. Products and services included are assessment rates, sanitary fees, refuse removal, water, electricity, paraffin, petrol, public transport – trains, motor licences, motor registration, telephone fees, postage, cell calls, television licence, school fees, university/technicons/colleges and university boarding fees.
<b>CPI for regulated prices</b>	Regulated prices are those administered prices that are monitored and controlled by government policy. To this end, price regulation does not necessarily imply the presence of an economic regulator, but the restriction on the extent to which prices may vary, depending on government's policy objective. Products and services included are water, electricity, paraffin, petrol, telephone fees, postage and cell calls.
<b>CPI per expenditure quintile</b>	quintile 1 - up to R 21 399; quintile 2 - R 21 400 up to R 35 750; quintile 3 - R 35 751 up to R 61 624; quintile 4 - R 61 625 up to R 142 083; and quintile 5 - R 142 084 and more.
<b>Inflation rate</b>	The inflation rate is the change in the CPI for all items of the relevant month of the current year compared with the CPI for all items of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.
<b>Monthly percentage change</b>	The monthly percentage change is the change in the index of the relevant month compared with the index of the previous month expressed as a percentage.

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Issue	Publication date
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