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# Statistical release

## P0141

# Consumer Price Index

## January 2009

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## KEY FINDINGS

**The headline CPI (for all urban areas) annual inflation rate in January 2009 was 8,1%.**

This is the first annual inflation rate published using the new 2008 CPI basket and weights. On average, prices increased by 0,4% between December 2008 and January 2009.

Food and non-alcoholic beverages prices increased by 1,9% between December 2008 and January 2009, taking the annual rate to 15,7%. The monthly increase in the food index was largely driven by monthly increases in vegetables (6,9%), fruit (4,2%) and meat (2,1%).

The transport index declined by 3,1% between December 2008 and January 2009, mainly due to an 18,8% drop in the price of petrol.

Prices for miscellaneous goods and services increased by 2,8% between December 2008 and January 2009, taking the annual rate to 10,7%. This was largely a result of a monthly increase of 3,7% in financial services and a 7,4% monthly increase in other services (funeral costs).

Other categories showing above average annual increases were restaurants and hotels (13,2%), alcoholic beverages and tobacco (10,2%), housing and utilities (9,2%) and recreation and culture (8,6%).

The provinces with the lowest annual inflation rate were Western Cape (7,7%), Northern Cape (7,7%) and Gauteng (7,8%). KwaZulu-Natal (9,7%), Eastern Cape (9,2%) and Limpopo (8,8%) recorded the highest provincial annual rates of inflation.

## NOTES

### CPI for February 2009

As indicated in the planned schedule of price surveys, household content insurance and building insurance are surveyed in January and July. It has come to Stats SA's attention that price changes in these items will be introduced during February 2009. Additional surveys for these items will be conducted in certain areas in February 2009 to capture these changes.

**P J Lehohla**  
Statistician-General

## TABLES

Table A - Consumer Price Index: Indices and percentage changes

Index description			Weight	Index (2008=100)			Percentage change		
				Jan 2008	Dec 2008	Jan 2009	Month-on-month	Year-on-year	
<b>CPI Headline</b>			100,00	95,4	102,7	103,1	+0,4	+8,1	
<b>Analytical series</b>	CPI per expenditure quintile	1	1,78	94,5	105,2	106,4	+1,1	+12,6	
		2	3,88	94,8	105,0	106,3	+1,2	+12,1	
		3	7,17	94,9	104,7	105,9	+1,1	+11,6	
		4	15,61	95,0	103,6	104,3	+0,7	+9,8	
		5	71,56	95,6	102,1	102,2	+0,1	+6,9	
	CPI for all goods		54,20	94,9	102,5	102,4	-0,1	+7,9	
	CPI for durable goods		14,79	99,8	100,8	101,5	+0,7	+1,7	
	CPI for semi-durable goods		6,73	98,2	101,9	103,0	+1,1	+4,9	
	CPI for non-durable goods		32,68	92,0	103,3	102,7	-0,6	+11,6	
	CPI for services		45,80	96,0	103,1	103,9	+0,8	+8,2	
	CPI for pensioners		71,21	95,2	103,3	103,8	+0,5	+9,0	
	CPI for administered prices	Total	14,66	92,2	97,6	93,5	-4,2	+1,4	
		Regulated	9,62	90,0	95,7	89,4	-6,6	-0,7	
		Not regulated	5,04	96,6	101,3	101,4	+0,1	+5,0	
	CPI for food and non-alcoholic beverages (NAB)		15,68	93,6	106,3	108,3	+1,9	+15,7	
	CPI excluding food and NAB		84,32	95,8	102,1	102,1	0,0	+6,6	
	CPI excluding petrol		96,07	95,9	103,6	104,6	+1,0	+9,1	
	CPI excluding food and NAB and petrol		80,39	96,4	103,1	103,9	+0,8	+7,8	
	CPI excluding food and NAB, petrol, VAT, assessment rates, and finance charges		77,05	96,4	103,0	103,8	+0,8	+7,7	
	CPI excluding housing		77,44	95,3	102,3	102,7	+0,4	+7,8	
	CPI excluding petrol and energy		94,39	96,1	103,4	104,4	+1,0	+8,6	
	CPI excluding energy		98,32	95,6	102,5	102,9	+0,4	+7,6	
	CPI excluding food and NAB, petrol and energy		78,71	96,6	102,8	103,6	+0,8	+7,2	
	CPI excluding owners' equivalent rent		87,79	95,3	102,7	103,1	+0,4	+8,2	
	CPI excluding administered prices		85,34	96,0	103,6	104,7	+1,1	+9,1	
	CPI administered prices excluding petrol and paraffin		10,57	95,8	103,6	103,7	+0,1	+8,2	
<b>Geographic indices</b>	CPI for primary areas		62,76	95,3	102,7	103,0	+0,3	+8,1	
	CPI for secondary areas		20,33	95,6	102,9	103,4	+0,5	+8,2	
	CPI for rural areas [1]		16,91	95,3	103,7	104,8	+1,1	+10,0	
	CPI for total country		100,00	95,4	102,9	103,4	+0,5	+8,4	
	CPI per province	Western Cape		18,33	95,6	102,9	103,0	+0,1	+7,7
		Eastern Cape		9,91	95,2	103,2	104,0	+0,8	+9,2
		Northern Cape		1,66	95,6	102,8	103,0	+0,2	+7,7
		Free State		6,45	95,6	102,8	103,3	+0,5	+8,1
		KwaZulu-Natal		14,08	95,3	103,5	104,5	+1,0	+9,7
		North West		5,79	95,0	103,2	103,3	+0,1	+8,7
		Gauteng		32,77	95,3	102,4	102,7	+0,3	+7,8
Mpumalanga			5,47	96,0	103,2	104,2	+1,0	+8,5	
Limpopo		5,54	95,5	103,3	103,9	+0,6	+8,8		

[1] The CPI for rural areas uses weights for rural areas but prices from secondary areas.

Note: Unless otherwise stated all tables refer to all urban areas.

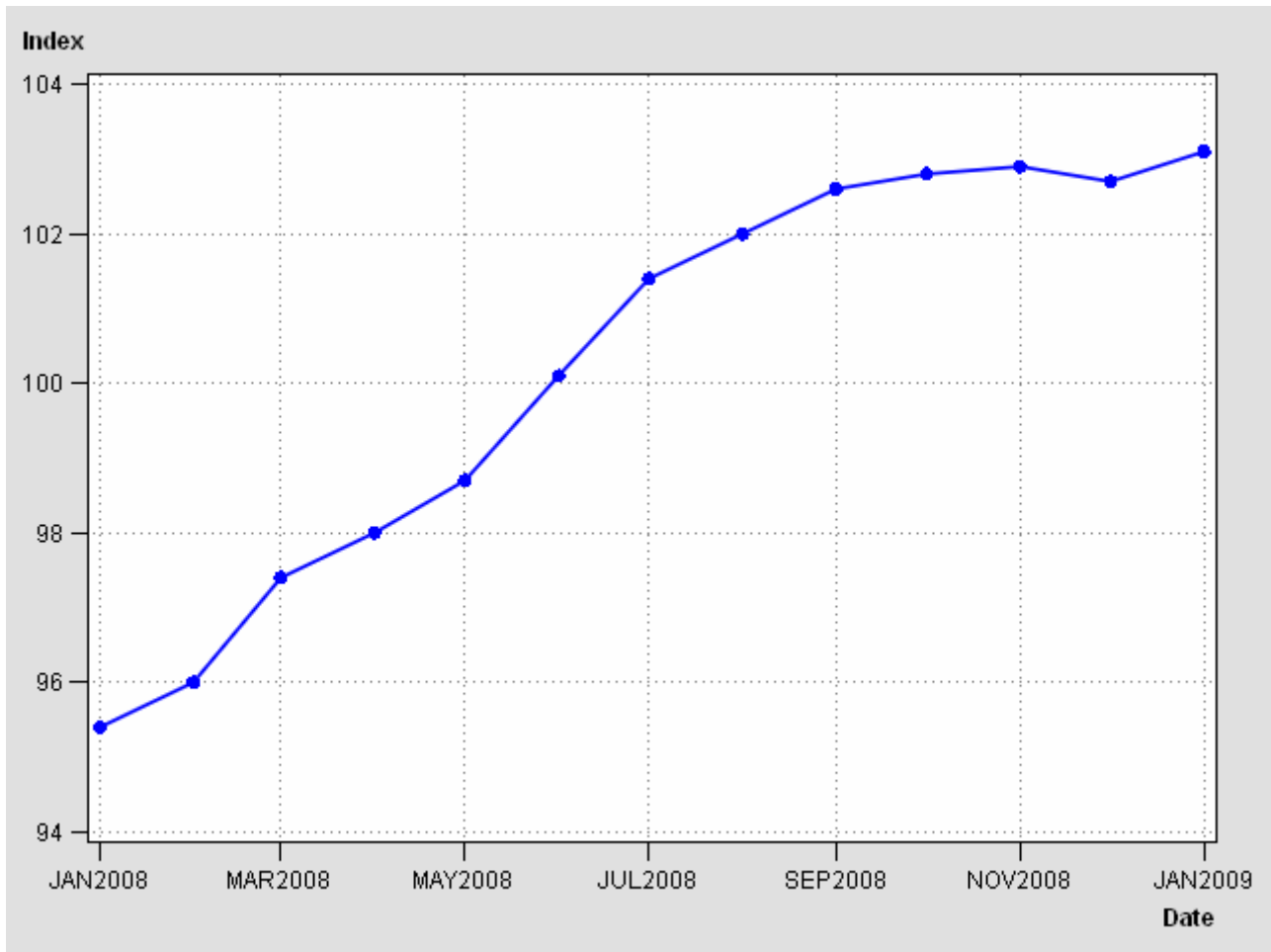
**Table B - Consumer Price Index: Index numbers and year-on-year rates**

**Base year: 2008=100**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average [1]
<b>Year</b>													
<b>2008</b>													
<b>Index</b>	95,4	96,0	97,4	98,0	98,7	100,1	101,4	102,0	102,6	102,8	102,9	102,7	100,0
<b>Rate</b>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<b>2009</b>													
<b>Index</b>	103,1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Rate</b>	8,1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

[1] Annual average.

**Figure 1 - CPI headline: Index numbers**



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

Product group	Contribution	
	Dec 2008	Jan 2009
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	..	+2,4
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	..	+0,6
Clothing and footwear	..	+0,2
Housing and utilities	..	+2,1
Household contents and services	..	+0,3
Health	..	+0,1
Transport	..	0,0
Communication	..	0,0
Recreation and culture	..	+0,4
Education	..	+0,2
Restaurants and hotels	..	+0,4
Miscellaneous goods and services	..	+1,4
Residual	..	0,0
All Items	..	+8,1

**Table D - Contribution of different groups to the monthly percentage change in the CPI**

Product group	Contribution	
	Dec 2008	Jan 2009
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	+0,1	+0,3
Housing and utilities	+0,2	0,0
Household contents and services	0,0	+0,1
Transport	-0,6	-0,5
Miscellaneous goods and services	0,0	+0,4
Residual	+0,1	+0,1
All Items	-0,2	+0,4

**Table E - Consumer Price Index: Group and product indices and percentage changes**

Index description		Weight	Index (2008=100)			Percentage change	
			Jan 2008	Dec 2008	Jan 2009	Month-on-month	Year-on-year
<b>All Items</b>		100,00	95,4	102,7	103,1	+0,4	+8,1
<b>Food and non-alcoholic beverages</b>		15,68	93,6	106,3	108,3	+1,9	+15,7
	<b>Food</b>	14,27	93,5	106,5	108,6	+2,0	+16,1
	<b>Processed</b>	6,79	90,2	106,9	107,9	+0,9	+19,6
	<b>Unprocessed</b>	7,48	96,6	106,1	109,2	+2,9	+13,0
	<b>Bread and cereals</b>	3,08	85,1	109,2	108,9	-0,3	+28,0
	<b>Meat</b>	4,59	98,6	104,2	106,4	+2,1	+7,9
	<b>Fish</b>	0,66	93,0	109,5	110,7	+1,1	+19,0
	<b>Milk, eggs and cheese</b>	1,79	92,6	104,8	106,6	+1,7	+15,1
	<b>Oils and fats</b>	0,53	81,8	106,8	106,9	+0,1	+30,7
	<b>Fruit</b>	0,47	104,2	106,5	111,0	+4,2	+6,5
	<b>Vegetables</b>	1,63	97,5	108,5	116,0	+6,9	+19,0
	<b>Sugar, sweets and desserts</b>	0,77	94,4	104,8	106,9	+2,0	+13,2
	<b>Other food</b>	0,75	92,2	107,6	108,9	+1,2	+18,1
	<b>Non-alcoholic beverages</b>	1,41	94,1	105,0	105,7	+0,7	+12,3
	<b>Hot beverages</b>	0,34	91,6	111,9	112,9	+0,9	+23,3
<b>Cold beverages</b>	1,07	94,8	102,9	103,5	+0,6	+9,2	
<b>Alcoholic beverages and tobacco</b>		5,58	93,8	103,2	103,4	+0,2	+10,2
	<b>Alcoholic beverages</b>	3,29	94,1	101,9	102,3	+0,4	+8,7
	<b>Spirits</b>	0,94	92,0	102,7	103,7	+1,0	+12,7
	<b>Wine</b>	0,72	95,4	101,9	102,3	+0,4	+7,2
	<b>Beer</b>	1,63	94,8	101,5	101,4	-0,1	+7,0
<b>Tobacco</b>	2,29	93,3	105,0	105,1	+0,1	+12,6	
<b>Clothing and footwear</b>		4,11	98,6	101,5	102,4	+0,9	+3,9
	<b>Clothing</b>	2,90	98,4	101,7	102,6	+0,9	+4,3
	<b>Footwear</b>	1,21	99,2	101,1	102,2	+1,1	+3,0
<b>Housing and utilities</b>		22,56	95,6	104,3	104,4	+0,1	+9,2
	<b>Actual rentals for housing</b>	3,49	95,9	103,6	103,6	0,0	+8,0
	<b>Owners' equivalent rent</b>	12,21	96,6	103,1	103,1	0,0	+6,7
	<b>Maintenance and repair</b>	1,68	93,5	107,8	108,7	+0,8	+16,3
	<b>Water and other services</b>	3,31	97,8	102,3	102,3	0,0	+4,6
	<b>Electricity and other fuels</b>	1,87	87,3	114,3	113,9	-0,3	+30,5
<b>Household contents and services</b>		5,86	98,0	102,4	103,6	+1,2	+5,7
	<b>Furnishings, floor coverings and textiles</b>	2,17	100,4	100,1	100,7	+0,6	+0,3
	<b>Appliances, tableware and equipment</b>	1,05	97,7	103,5	108,3	+4,6	+10,8
	<b>Supplies and services</b>	2,64	96,0	103,9	104,0	+0,1	+8,3
	<b>Domestic workers' wages</b>	1,99	97,0	103,3	103,3	0,0	+6,5
<b>Health</b>		1,47	94,7	101,8	102,0	+0,2	+7,7
	<b>Medical products</b>	0,57	96,9	103,6	104,3	+0,7	+7,6
	<b>Medical services</b>	0,90	93,4	100,6	100,6	0,0	+7,7
<b>Transport</b>		18,80	94,8	97,9	94,9	-3,1	+0,1
	<b>Purchase of vehicles</b>	11,25	99,8	100,7	100,9	+0,2	+1,1
	<b>Private transport operation</b>	4,82	84,9	85,5	73,5	-14,0	-13,4
	<b>Petrol</b>	3,93	82,7	81,2	65,9	-18,8	-20,3
	<b>Other running costs</b>	0,89	94,4	104,6	106,6	+1,9	+12,9
	<b>Public transport</b>	2,73	92,2	108,3	107,8	-0,5	+16,9
<b>Communication</b>		3,22	100,0	100,5	100,7	+0,2	+0,7
	<b>Postal services and telecommunication services</b>	2,90	99,6	100,9	101,0	+0,1	+1,4
	<b>Telecommunication equipment</b>	0,32	103,7	97,1	98,4	+1,3	-5,1
<b>Recreation and culture</b>		4,19	96,7	103,8	105,0	+1,2	+8,6
	<b>Recreational equipment</b>	2,23	96,1	104,4	106,0	+1,5	+10,3
	<b>Recreational and cultural services</b>	1,25	98,1	102,3	103,3	+1,0	+5,3
	<b>Books, newspapers and stationery</b>	0,71	96,0	104,4	104,6	+0,2	+9,0
	<b>Education</b>	2,19	94,5	101,1	101,1	0,0	+7,0
<b>Primary and secondary education</b>	1,29	94,4	101,1	101,1	0,0	+7,1	

Index description		Weight	Index (2008=100)			Percentage change	
			Jan 2008	Dec 2008	Jan 2009	Month-on-month	Year-on-year
	<b>Tertiary</b>	0,90	94,5	101,1	101,1	0,0	+7,0
<b>Restaurants and hotels</b>		2,78	94,1	106,0	106,5	+0,5	+13,2
	<b>Restaurants</b>	1,85	94,5	106,2	106,6	+0,4	+12,8
	<b>Hotels</b>	0,93	93,3	105,8	106,3	+0,5	+13,9
<b>Miscellaneous goods and services</b>		13,56	95,5	102,8	105,7	+2,8	+10,7
	<b>Personal care</b>	2,20	95,7	105,4	107,4	+1,9	+12,2
	<b>Insurance</b>	7,71	95,4	100,1	101,5	+1,4	+6,4
	<b>Financial services</b>	1,27	95,3	107,6	111,6	+3,7	+17,1
	<b>Other services</b>	2,38	95,9	106,6	114,5	+7,4	+19,4

## GLOSSARY

A complete set of definitions is available in the methods and sources document on the Stats SA website <http://www.statssa.gov.za>

<b>Annual inflation rate</b>	The annual 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>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 CPI for all items of one year compared with the average CPI for all items 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>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 CPI of the relevant month compared with the CPI of the previous month expressed as a percentage.
<b>CPI per expenditure quintile</b>	quintile 1 - up to R 14 564; quintile 2 - R 14 565 up to R 23 278; quintile 3 - R 23 279 up to R 36 755; quintile 4 - R 36 756 up to R 79 152; and quintile 5 - R 79 153 and more.



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