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Consumer Price Index

March 2009

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KEY FINDINGS

The headline CPI (for all urban areas) annual inflation rate in March 2009 was 8,5%. This rate was 0,1 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 8,6% in February 2009. On average, prices increased by 1,3% between February 2009 and March 2009.

The **food and non-alcoholic beverages** index increased by 0,5% between February 2009 and March 2009, taking the annual rate to 14,7% in March 2009, from 15,8% in February 2009. The monthly increase in the food and non-alcoholic beverages index was largely driven by monthly increases in hot beverages (3,4%), fruit (2,7%), sugar, sweets and desserts (1,9%), milk, eggs and cheese (1,6%), other food (0,9%), meat (0,8%) and cold beverages (0,4%). These increases were slightly counteracted by monthly decreases in oils and fats (- 2,8%), vegetables (- 1,5%) and fish (- 0,5%).

The **alcoholic beverages and tobacco** index increased by 4,7% between February 2009 and March 2009. The monthly increase in the alcoholic beverages and tobacco index was driven by monthly increases in beer (5,2%), spirits (5,1%), tobacco products (4,5%) and wine (3,8%).

The **housing and utilities** index increased by 0,7% between February 2009 and March 2009. The monthly increase in the housing and utilities index was largely driven by monthly increases in actual rentals for housing (1,1%) and owners' equivalent rent (1,0%) (both surveyed quarterly).

The **household contents and services** index increased by 1,0% between February 2009 and March 2009. The monthly increase in the household contents and services index was largely driven by monthly increases in appliances, tableware and equipment (1,4%) and supplies and services (1,8%). Domestic workers' wages increased by 0,9% (surveyed quarterly).

The **health** index increased by 2,3% between February 2009 and March 2009. The monthly increase in the health index was largely driven by monthly increases in medical products (6,2%).

The **transport** index increased by 1,2% between February 2009 and March 2009, mainly due to a 7,0% increase in the price of petrol.

The **recreation and culture** index increased by 4,8% between February 2009 and March 2009. The monthly increase in the recreation and culture index was largely driven by a monthly increase in recreational and cultural services (12,9%), mainly lotto tickets (increase of 44,9%).

The **education** index increased by 10,5% between February 2009 and March 2009. This was a result of monthly increases in primary and secondary education (11,9%) and tertiary education (8,4%) (which are surveyed annually).

Prices in **restaurants and hotels** increased by 1,9% between February 2009 and March 2009. This was largely a result of a monthly increase of 3,9% in hotels, (10,5% in university boarding fees).

Prices for **miscellaneous goods and services** increased by 0,7% between February 2009 and March 2009. This was largely a result of monthly increases in personal care (3,1%) and financial services (2,2%).

The provinces with an annual inflation rate lower or equal to headline inflation were Gauteng (8,1%), Western Cape (8,3%) and Northern Cape (8,5%). The provinces with an annual inflation rate higher than headline inflation were Free State (8,6%), Limpopo (9,4%), North West (9,7%), Eastern Cape (9,9%), Mpumalanga (10,1%) and KwaZulu-Natal (10,4%).

NOTES

CPI for April 2009

No additional surveys will be conducted during April 2009.

Hospital prices will now be surveyed quarterly (Feb, May, Aug, Nov) instead of annually as previously indicated.

TABLES

Table A - Consumer Price Index: Indices and percentage changes

Index description	Weight	Index (2008=100)			Percentage change			
		Mar 2008	Feb 2009	Mar 2009	Month-on-month	Year-on-year		
CPI Headline		100,00	97,4	104,3	105,7	+1,3	+8,5	
Analytical series	CPI per expenditure quintile							
	1	1,78	95,8	106,8	107,9	+1,0	+12,6	
	2	3,88	96,0	106,7	107,8	+1,0	+12,3	
	3	7,17	96,2	106,4	107,7	+1,2	+12,0	
	4	15,61	96,7	105,3	106,7	+1,3	+10,3	
	5	71,56	97,7	103,6	105,2	+1,5	+7,7	
	CPI for all goods		54,20	96,5	103,5	104,9	+1,4	+8,7
	CPI for durable goods		14,79	99,5	102,1	102,4	+0,3	+2,9
	CPI for semi-durable goods		6,73	98,0	103,7	104,5	+0,8	+6,6
	CPI for non-durable goods		32,68	94,9	104,0	106,1	+2,0	+11,8
	CPI for services		45,80	98,4	105,2	106,7	+1,4	+8,4
	CPI for pensioners		..	97,2	105,0	106,3	+1,2	+9,4
	CPI for administered prices	Total	14,66	95,7	95,3	98,4	+3,3	+2,8
		Regulated	9,62	93,6	92,1	94,2	+2,3	+0,6
		Not regulated	5,04	99,8	101,4	106,6	+5,1	+6,8
	CPI for food and non-alcoholic beverages (NAB)		15,68	95,0	108,5	109,0	+0,5	+14,7
	CPI excluding food and NAB		84,32	97,8	103,5	105,1	+1,5	+7,5
	CPI excluding petrol		96,07	97,6	105,6	106,9	+1,2	+9,5
	CPI excluding food and NAB and petrol		80,39	98,1	105,0	106,5	+1,4	+8,6
	CPI excluding food and NAB, petrol, VAT, assessment rates, and finance charges		77,05	98,2	105,0	106,5	+1,4	+8,5
	CPI excluding housing		77,44	97,4	104,2	105,9	+1,6	+8,7
	CPI excluding petrol and energy		94,39	97,8	105,4	106,7	+1,2	+9,1
	CPI excluding energy		98,32	97,6	104,1	105,6	+1,4	+8,2
CPI excluding food and NAB, petrol and energy		78,71	98,4	104,8	106,3	+1,4	+8,0	
CPI excluding owners' equivalent rent		87,79	97,2	104,4	106,0	+1,5	+9,1	
CPI excluding administered prices		85,34	97,7	105,8	107,0	+1,1	+9,5	
CPI administered prices excluding petrol and paraffin		10,57	97,3	103,7	106,1	+2,3	+9,0	
Geographic indices	CPI for primary urban areas		62,76	97,4	104,1	105,6	+1,4	+8,4
	CPI for secondary urban areas		20,33	97,2	104,6	106,1	+1,4	+9,2
	CPI for rural areas [1]		16,91	96,6	105,6	106,9	+1,2	+10,7
	CPI for total country		100,00	97,2	104,5	105,9	+1,3	+9,0
	CPI per province	Western Cape	18,33	97,5	104,0	105,6	+1,5	+8,3
		Eastern Cape	9,91	96,8	105,1	106,4	+1,2	+9,9
		Northern Cape	1,66	97,1	104,2	105,4	+1,2	+8,5
		Free State	6,45	97,4	104,5	105,8	+1,2	+8,6
		KwaZulu-Natal	14,08	96,5	105,3	106,5	+1,1	+10,4
		North West	5,79	97,1	104,6	106,5	+1,8	+9,7
		Gauteng	32,77	97,6	104,0	105,5	+1,4	+8,1
Mpumalanga		5,47	97,1	105,7	106,9	+1,1	+10,1	
Limpopo	5,54	97,0	104,7	106,1	+1,3	+9,4		

[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]
Year													
2008													
Index	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
Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2009													
Index	103,1	104,3	105,7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rate	8,1	8,6	8,5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

[1] Annual average.

CPI headline: Index numbers

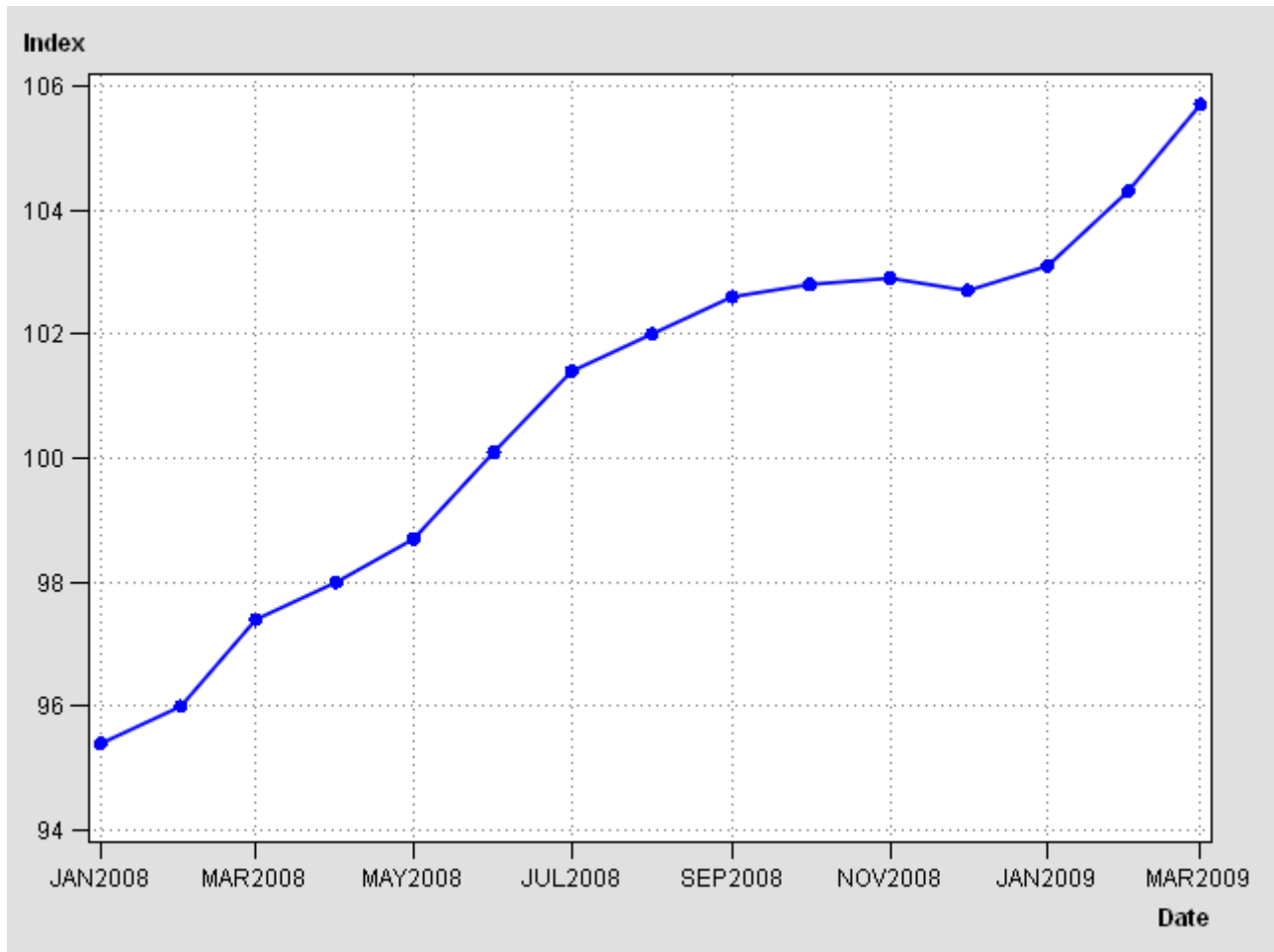


Table C - Contribution of different groups to the annual percentage change in the CPI

Product group	Contribution	
	Feb 2009	Mar 2009
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	+2,4	+2,3
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	+0,6	+0,6
Clothing and footwear	+0,2	+0,2
Housing and utilities	+2,0	+1,8
Household contents and services	+0,4	+0,4
Health	+0,1	+0,2
Transport	+0,3	+0,2
Recreation and culture	+0,4	+0,6
Education	+0,2	+0,2
Restaurants and hotels	+0,4	+0,4
Miscellaneous goods and services	+1,6	+1,6
All Items	+8,6	+8,5

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

Product group	Contribution	
	Feb 2009	Mar 2009
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	0,0	+0,1
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	+0,1	+0,3
Housing and utilities	0,0	+0,2
Household contents and services	0,0	+0,1
Health	+0,1	0,0
Transport	+0,3	+0,2
Recreation and culture	0,0	+0,2
Education	0,0	+0,2
Restaurants and hotels	0,0	+0,1
Miscellaneous goods and services	+0,5	+0,1
Residual	+0,2	-0,2
All Items	+1,2	+1,3

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

Index description	Weight	Index (2008=100)			Percentage change	
		Mar 2008	Feb 2009	Mar 2009	Month-on-month	Year-on-year
All Items	100,00	97,4	104,3	105,7	+1,3	+8,5
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	15,68	95,0	108,5	109,0	+0,5	+14,7
Food	14,27	94,8	108,5	108,9	+0,4	+14,9
Processed	6,79	93,4	108,0	108,1	+0,1	+15,7
Unprocessed	7,48	96,1	108,9	109,6	+0,6	+14,0
Bread and cereals	3,08	90,4	108,6	108,4	-0,2	+19,9
Meat	4,59	97,2	106,8	107,7	+0,8	+10,8
Fish	0,66	91,6	110,9	110,4	-0,5	+20,5
Milk, eggs and cheese	1,79	96,4	106,5	108,2	+1,6	+12,2
Oils and fats	0,53	91,2	104,9	102,0	-2,8	+11,8
Fruit	0,47	100,0	110,3	113,3	+2,7	+13,3
Vegetables	1,63	95,7	115,2	113,5	-1,5	+18,6
Sugar, sweets and desserts	0,77	94,7	107,2	109,2	+1,9	+15,3
Other food	0,75	94,5	109,4	110,4	+0,9	+16,8
Non-alcoholic beverages	1,41	97,3	108,9	110,2	+1,2	+13,3
Hot beverages	0,34	92,3	112,8	116,6	+3,4	+26,3
Cold beverages	1,07	98,8	107,8	108,2	+0,4	+9,5
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	5,58	98,8	104,5	109,4	+4,7	+10,7
Alcoholic beverages	3,29	99,4	103,2	108,2	+4,8	+8,9
Spirits	0,94	99,0	104,1	109,4	+5,1	+10,5
Wine	0,72	98,5	102,7	106,6	+3,8	+8,2
Beer	1,63	100,1	102,9	108,2	+5,2	+8,1
Tobacco	2,29	98,0	106,4	111,2	+4,5	+13,5
Clothing and footwear	4,11	99,0	103,3	103,9	+0,6	+4,9
Clothing	2,90	98,9	103,6	104,2	+0,6	+5,4
Footwear	1,21	99,4	102,6	103,1	+0,5	+3,7
Housing and utilities	22,56	97,2	104,4	105,1	+0,7	+8,1
Actual rentals for housing	3,49	98,4	103,6	104,7	+1,1	+6,4
Owners' equivalent rent	12,21	98,7	103,1	104,1	+1,0	+5,5
Maintenance and repair	1,68	93,5	109,4	109,6	+0,2	+17,2
Water and other services	3,31	97,8	102,3	102,3	0,0	+4,6
Electricity and other fuels	1,87	87,4	113,7	113,7	0,0	+30,1
Household contents and services	5,86	98,2	104,4	105,4	+1,0	+7,3
Furnishings, floor coverings and textiles	2,17	99,1	101,2	100,9	-0,3	+1,8
Appliances, tableware and equipment	1,05	98,1	111,0	112,5	+1,4	+14,7
Supplies and services	2,64	97,5	104,4	106,3	+1,8	+9,0
Domestic workers' wages	1,99	98,1	103,3	104,2	+0,9	+6,2
Health	1,47	99,4	108,3	110,8	+2,3	+11,5
Medical products	0,57	97,5	104,5	111,0	+6,2	+13,8
Medical services	0,90	100,6	110,7	110,7	0,0	+10,0
Transport	18,80	96,9	96,6	97,8	+1,2	+0,9
Purchase of vehicles	11,25	99,6	101,5	101,7	+0,2	+2,1
Private transport operation	4,82	92,4	79,3	84,0	+5,9	-9,1
Petrol	3,93	91,5	72,8	77,9	+7,0	-14,9
Other running costs	0,89	96,5	107,8	110,7	+2,7	+14,7
Public transport	2,73	93,4	107,1	106,3	-0,7	+13,8
Communication	3,22	99,8	100,6	100,5	-0,1	+0,7
Postal services and telecommunication services	2,90	99,6	101,0	101,0	0,0	+1,4
Telecommunication equipment	0,32	101,6	96,9	96,4	-0,5	-5,1
Recreation and culture	4,19	96,6	106,0	111,1	+4,8	+15,0
Recreational equipment	2,23	96,0	106,7	108,1	+1,3	+12,6
Recreational and cultural services	1,25	98,4	104,5	118,0	+12,9	+19,9
Books, newspapers and stationery	0,71	95,6	106,0	108,2	+2,1	+13,2
Education	2,19	101,1	101,1	111,7	+10,5	+10,5
Primary and secondary education	1,29	101,1	101,1	113,1	+11,9	+11,9

Index description		Weight	Index (2008=100)			Percentage change	
			Mar 2008	Feb 2009	Mar 2009	Month-on-month	Year-on-year
	Tertiary	0,90	101,1	101,1	109,6	+8,4	+8,4
Restaurants and hotels		2,78	96,5	107,5	109,5	+1,9	+13,5
	Restaurants	1,85	96,0	107,5	108,3	+0,7	+12,8
	Hotels	0,93	97,5	107,6	111,8	+3,9	+14,7
Miscellaneous goods and services		13,56	98,7	109,6	110,4	+0,7	+11,9
	Personal care	2,20	97,3	109,0	112,4	+3,1	+15,5
	Insurance	7,71	100,5	108,0	108,0	0,0	+7,5
	Financial services	1,27	95,3	111,6	114,0	+2,2	+19,6
	Other services	2,38	95,9	114,5	114,5	0,0	+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>

Annual inflation rate	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.
Annual percentage change	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.
Average annual inflation rate	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.
Average annual percentage change	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.
CPI for administered prices	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.
CPI for regulated prices	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.
Inflation rate	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.
Monthly percentage change	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.
CPI per expenditure quintile	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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