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# Statistical release

## P0141

# Consumer Price Index

**October 2009**

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## KEY FINDINGS

The headline CPI (for all urban areas) annual inflation rate in October 2009 was 5,9%. This rate was 0,2 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 6,1% in September 2009. This is the first time in 31 months that the annual inflation rate has fallen within the SARB monetary policy target range. On average, prices remained unchanged between September 2009 and October 2009.

The **food and non-alcoholic beverages** index increased by 0,6% between September 2009 and October 2009. The annual rate decreased to 5,3% in October 2009 from 5,6% in September 2009. The monthly increase in the food and non-alcoholic beverages index was largely driven by monthly increases in vegetables (5,6%), fish (2,9%), cold beverages (0,6%), fruit (0,5%), milk, eggs and cheese (0,2%) and hot beverages (0,1%). These increases were counteracted by monthly decreases in oils and fats (-1,1%), bread and cereals (-0,3%) and meat (-0,1%).

The **alcoholic beverages and tobacco** index increased by 0,1% between September 2009 and October 2009. The annual rate decreased to 11,6% in October 2009 from 11,8% in September 2009.

The **transport** index decreased by 1,0% between September 2009 and October 2009, mainly due to a 39c/l decrease in the price of petrol. The annual rate decreased to -1,8% in October 2009 from -1,3% in September 2009.

The **recreation and culture** index decreased by 0,2% between September 2009 and October 2009. The annual rate decreased to 10,4% in October 2009 from 11,3% in September 2009.

The **restaurants and hotels** index increased by 0,4% between September 2009 and October 2009. The annual rate decreased to 7,8% in October 2009 from 10,0% in September 2009.

The **miscellaneous goods and services** index increased by 0,2% between September 2009 and October 2009, mainly due to a 1,3% increase in funeral expenses. The annual rate decreased to 11,0% in October 2009 from 11,6% in September 2009.

The provinces with an annual inflation rate lower or equal to headline inflation were Limpopo (4,6%), Northern Cape (5,3%), North West (5,3%), KwaZulu-Natal (5,4%), Free State (5,5%) and Eastern Cape (5,6%). The provinces with an annual inflation rate higher than headline inflation were Western Cape (6,0%), Gauteng (6,0%) and Mpumalanga (6,8%).

## NOTES

### CPI for November 2009

No additional surveys will be conducted in November 2009.

**P J Lehohla**  
Statistician-General

**TABLES**

**Table A - Consumer Price Index: Indices and percentage changes**

| Index description         |  |   | Weight               | Index (2008=100) |          |          | Percentage change |              |      |
|---------------------------|--|---|----------------------|------------------|----------|----------|-------------------|--------------|------|
|                           |  |   |                      | Oct 2008         | Sep 2009 | Oct 2009 | Month-on-month    | Year-on-year |      |
| <b>CPI Headline</b>       |  |   | 100,00               | 102,8            | 108,9    | 108,9    | 0,0               | +5,9         |      |
| <b>Analytical series</b>  | <b>CPI per expenditure quintile</b>                          | 1   | 1,78                 | 104,1            | 110,0    | 110,3    | +0,3              | +6,0         |      |
|                           |  | 2   | 3,88                 | 104,0            | 110,2    | 110,4    | +0,2              | +6,2         |      |
|                           |  | 3   | 7,17                 | 103,9            | 110,2    | 110,3    | +0,1              | +6,2         |      |
|                           |  | 4   | 15,61                | 103,4            | 109,6    | 109,6    | 0,0               | +6,0         |      |
|                           |  | 5   | 71,56                | 102,5            | 108,6    | 108,5    | -0,1              | +5,9         |      |
|                           |  | <b>CPI for all goods</b>  |                      | 54,20            | 103,3    | 108,2    | 108,0             | -0,2         | +4,5 |
|                           |  | <b>CPI for durable goods</b>  |                      | 14,79            | 100,9    | 103,2    | 102,9             | -0,3         | +2,0 |
|                           |  | <b>CPI for semi-durable goods</b>   |                      | 6,73             | 100,9    | 105,5    | 105,5             | 0,0          | +4,6 |
|                           |  | <b>CPI for non-durable goods</b>  |                      | 32,68            | 104,9    | 111,0    | 110,9             | -0,1         | +5,7 |
|                           |  | <b>CPI for services</b>   |                      | 45,80            | 102,3    | 109,8    | 109,9             | +0,1         | +7,4 |
|                           |  | <b>CPI for pensioners</b>   |                      | ..               | 103,1    | 109,6    | 109,7             | +0,1         | +6,4 |
|                           |  | <b>CPI for administered prices</b>  | <b>Total</b>         | 14,66            | 103,7    | 107,7    | 106,5             | -1,1         | +2,7 |
|                           |  |   | <b>Regulated</b>     | 9,62             | 105,0    | 105,8    | 104,0             | -1,7         | -1,0 |
|                           |  |   | <b>Not regulated</b> | 5,04             | 101,3    | 111,2    | 111,2             | 0,0          | +9,8 |
|                           |  | <b>CPI for food and non-alcoholic beverages (NAB)</b>                                 |                      | 15,68            | 104,7    | 109,6    | 110,3             | +0,6         | +5,3 |
|                           |  | <b>CPI excluding food and NAB</b>   |                      | 84,32            | 102,5    | 108,8    | 108,6             | -0,2         | +6,0 |
|                           |  | <b>CPI excluding petrol</b>   |                      | 96,07            | 102,8    | 109,7    | 109,9             | +0,2         | +6,9 |
|                           |  | <b>CPI excluding food and NAB and petrol</b>  |                      | 80,39            | 102,4    | 109,8    | 109,8             | 0,0          | +7,2 |
|                           |  | <b>CPI excluding food and NAB, petrol, VAT, assessment rates, and finance charges</b> |                      | 77,05            | 102,4    | 109,6    | 109,7             | +0,1         | +7,1 |
|                           |  | <b>CPI excluding housing</b>  |                      | 77,44            | 102,7    | 108,4    | 108,3             | -0,1         | +5,5 |
|                           |  | <b>CPI excluding petrol and energy</b>  |                      | 94,39            | 102,6    | 109,1    | 109,2             | +0,1         | +6,4 |
|                           |  | <b>CPI excluding energy</b>   |                      | 98,32            | 102,6    | 108,3    | 108,3             | 0,0          | +5,6 |
|                           |  | <b>CPI excluding food and NAB, petrol and energy</b>                                  |                      | 78,71            | 102,2    | 109,0    | 109,0             | 0,0          | +6,7 |
|                           | <b>CPI excluding owners' equivalent rent</b>                 |   | 87,79                | 103,0            | 109,3    | 109,2    | -0,1              | +6,0         |      |
|                           | <b>CPI excluding administered prices</b>                     |   | 85,34                | 102,7            | 109,1    | 109,3    | +0,2              | +6,4         |      |
|                           | <b>CPI administered prices excluding petrol and paraffin</b> |   | 10,57                | 103,5            | 114,9    | 114,9    | 0,0               | +11,0        |      |
| <b>Geographic indices</b> | <b>CPI for primary urban areas</b>                           |   | 62,76                | 102,8            | 108,9    | 108,8    | -0,1              | +5,8         |      |
|                           | <b>CPI for secondary urban areas</b>                         |   | 20,33                | 102,9            | 109,1    | 109,2    | +0,1              | +6,1         |      |
|                           | <b>CPI for rural areas [1]</b>                               |   | 16,91                | 103,5            | 108,8    | 108,9    | +0,1              | +5,2         |      |
|                           | <b>CPI for total country</b>                                 |   | 100,00               | 103,0            | 108,9    | 108,9    | 0,0               | +5,7         |      |
|                           | <b>CPI per province</b>                                      | <b>Western Cape</b>   |                      | 18,33            | 102,9    | 109,0    | 109,1             | +0,1         | +6,0 |
|                           |  | <b>Eastern Cape</b>   |                      | 9,91             | 103,5    | 109,2    | 109,3             | +0,1         | +5,6 |
|                           |  | <b>Northern Cape</b>  |                      | 1,66             | 103,3    | 108,8    | 108,8             | 0,0          | +5,3 |
|                           |  | <b>Free State</b>   |                      | 6,45             | 102,9    | 108,7    | 108,6             | -0,1         | +5,5 |
|                           |  | <b>KwaZulu-Natal</b>  |                      | 14,08            | 103,3    | 108,8    | 108,9             | +0,1         | +5,4 |
|                           |  | <b>North West</b>   |                      | 5,79             | 103,2    | 108,8    | 108,7             | -0,1         | +5,3 |
|                           |  | <b>Gauteng</b>  |                      | 32,77            | 102,6    | 108,8    | 108,8             | 0,0          | +6,0 |
| <b>Mpumalanga</b>         |  |   | 5,47                 | 103,0            | 109,8    | 110,0    | +0,2              | +6,8         |      |
| <b>Limpopo</b>            |  |   | 5,54                 | 103,1            | 107,9    | 107,8    | -0,1              | +4,6         |      |

[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.

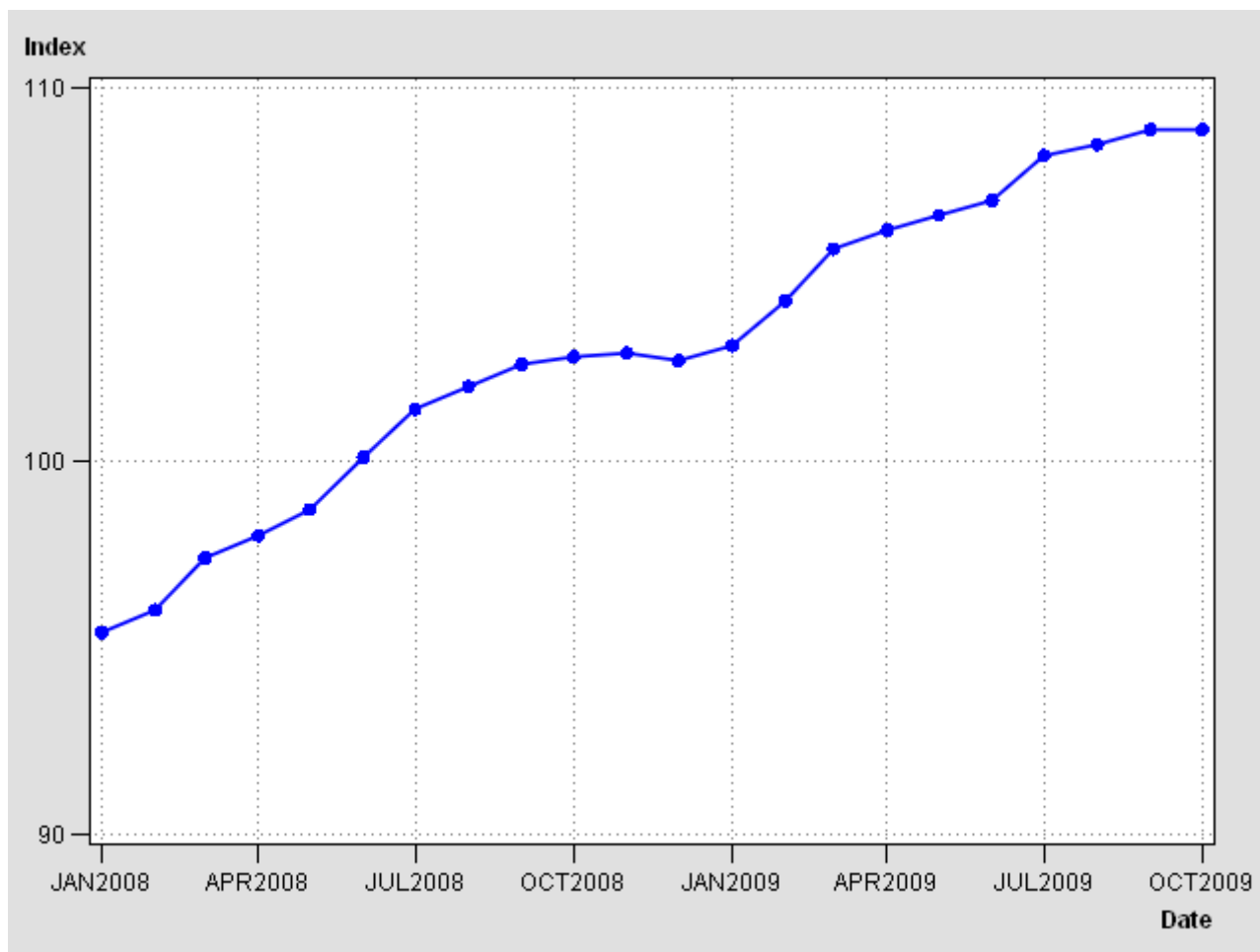
**Table B - Consumer Price Index: Index numbers and year-on-year rates**

**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 | 104,3 | 105,7 | 106,2 | 106,6 | 107,0 | 108,2 | 108,5 | 108,9 | 108,9 | ..    | ..    | ..          |
|             | <b>Rate</b>  | 8,1   | 8,6   | 8,5   | 8,4   | 8,0   | 6,9   | 6,7   | 6,4   | 6,1   | 5,9   | ..    | ..    | ..          |

[1] Annual average.

**CPI headline: Index numbers**



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

| Product group                    | Contribution |          |
|----------------------------------|--------------|----------|
|                                  | Sep 2009     | Oct 2009 |
| Food and non-alcoholic beverages | +0,9         | +0,9     |
| Alcoholic beverages and tobacco  | +0,7         | +0,6     |
| Clothing and footwear            | +0,2         | +0,2     |
| Housing and utilities            | +1,7         | +1,7     |
| Household contents and services  | +0,3         | +0,3     |
| Health                           | +0,2         | +0,2     |
| Transport                        | -0,2         | -0,3     |
| Recreation and culture           | +0,5         | +0,4     |
| Education                        | +0,2         | +0,2     |
| Restaurants and hotels           | +0,3         | +0,2     |
| Miscellaneous goods and services | +1,6         | +1,5     |
| Residual                         | -0,3         | 0,0      |
| All Items                        | +6,1         | +5,9     |

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

| Product group                    | Contribution |          |
|----------------------------------|--------------|----------|
|                                  | Sep 2009     | Oct 2009 |
| Food and non-alcoholic beverages | 0,0          | +0,1     |
| Housing and utilities            | +0,1         | 0,0      |
| Transport                        | +0,1         | -0,2     |
| Miscellaneous goods and services | +0,1         | 0,0      |
| Residual                         | +0,1         | +0,1     |
| All Items                        | +0,4         | 0,0      |

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

| Index description                                     | Weight | Index (2008=100) |          |          | Percentage change |              |
|---|--------|------------------|----------|----------|-------------------|--------------|
|   |        | Oct 2008         | Sep 2009 | Oct 2009 | Month-on-month    | Year-on-year |
| <b>All Items</b>                                      | 100,00 | 102,8            | 108,9    | 108,9    | 0,0               | +5,9         |
| <b>Food and non-alcoholic beverages</b>               | 15,68  | 104,7            | 109,6    | 110,3    | +0,6              | +5,3         |
| <b>Food</b>   | 14,27  | 104,7            | 109,0    | 109,8    | +0,7              | +4,9         |
| <b>Processed</b>                                      | 6,79   | 106,2            | 109,8    | 110,0    | +0,2              | +3,6         |
| <b>Unprocessed</b>                                    | 7,48   | 103,5            | 108,2    | 109,6    | +1,3              | +5,9         |
| <b>Bread and cereals</b>                              | 3,08   | 108,9            | 106,5    | 106,2    | -0,3              | -2,5         |
| <b>Meat</b>   | 4,59   | 101,5            | 105,8    | 105,7    | -0,1              | +4,1         |
| <b>Fish</b>   | 0,66   | 106,6            | 111,6    | 114,8    | +2,9              | +7,7         |
| <b>Milk, eggs and cheese</b>                          | 1,79   | 104,9            | 113,0    | 113,2    | +0,2              | +7,9         |
| <b>Oils and fats</b>                                  | 0,53   | 108,3            | 94,1     | 93,1     | -1,1              | -14,0        |
| <b>Fruit</b>  | 0,47   | 96,0             | 108,8    | 109,3    | +0,5              | +13,9        |
| <b>Vegetables</b>                                     | 1,63   | 105,0            | 115,9    | 122,4    | +5,6              | +16,6        |
| <b>Sugar, sweets and desserts</b>                     | 0,77   | 105,9            | 114,0    | 114,0    | 0,0               | +7,6         |
| <b>Other food</b>                                     | 0,75   | 106,8            | 117,1    | 117,1    | 0,0               | +9,6         |
| <b>Non-alcoholic beverages</b>                        | 1,41   | 103,9            | 115,6    | 116,2    | +0,5              | +11,8        |
| <b>Hot beverages</b>                                  | 0,34   | 109,0            | 124,8    | 124,9    | +0,1              | +14,6        |
| <b>Cold beverages</b>                                 | 1,07   | 102,3            | 112,8    | 113,5    | +0,6              | +10,9        |
| <b>Alcoholic beverages and tobacco</b>                | 5,58   | 103,0            | 114,8    | 114,9    | +0,1              | +11,6        |
| <b>Alcoholic beverages</b>                            | 3,29   | 101,8            | 109,9    | 109,8    | -0,1              | +7,9         |
| <b>Spirits</b>  | 0,94   | 102,3            | 112,4    | 112,2    | -0,2              | +9,7         |
| <b>Wine</b>   | 0,72   | 102,3            | 109,5    | 109,8    | +0,3              | +7,3         |
| <b>Beer</b>   | 1,63   | 101,3            | 108,5    | 108,5    | 0,0               | +7,1         |
| <b>Tobacco</b>  | 2,29   | 104,7            | 121,9    | 122,1    | +0,2              | +16,6        |
| <b>Clothing and footwear</b>                          | 4,11   | 101,0            | 105,9    | 106,1    | +0,2              | +5,0         |
| <b>Clothing</b>                                       | 2,90   | 101,1            | 106,3    | 106,5    | +0,2              | +5,3         |
| <b>Footwear</b>                                       | 1,21   | 100,8            | 105,0    | 105,3    | +0,3              | +4,5         |
| <b>Housing and utilities</b>                          | 22,56  | 103,3            | 110,9    | 110,9    | 0,0               | +7,4         |
| <b>Actual rentals for housing</b>                     | 3,49   | 102,1            | 107,6    | 107,6    | 0,0               | +5,4         |
| <b>Owners' equivalent rent</b>                        | 12,21  | 101,8            | 106,6    | 106,6    | 0,0               | +4,7         |
| <b>Maintenance and repair</b>                         | 1,68   | 106,6            | 113,1    | 113,5    | +0,4              | +6,5         |
| <b>Water and other services</b>                       | 3,31   | 102,3            | 111,9    | 111,9    | 0,0               | +9,4         |
| <b>Electricity and other fuels</b>                    | 1,87   | 113,6            | 141,1    | 141,0    | -0,1              | +24,1        |
| <b>Household contents and services</b>                | 5,86   | 101,8            | 106,9    | 106,7    | -0,2              | +4,8         |
| <b>Furnishings, floor coverings and textiles</b>      | 2,17   | 100,1            | 99,2     | 99,2     | 0,0               | -0,9         |
| <b>Appliances, tableware and equipment</b>            | 1,05   | 103,0            | 112,6    | 111,8    | -0,7              | +8,5         |
| <b>Supplies and services</b>                          | 2,64   | 102,7            | 110,9    | 110,8    | -0,1              | +7,9         |
| <b>Domestic workers' wages</b>                        | 1,99   | 102,0            | 108,5    | 108,5    | 0,0               | +6,4         |
| <b>Health</b>   | 1,47   | 100,9            | 112,3    | 112,2    | -0,1              | +11,2        |
| <b>Medical products</b>                               | 0,57   | 101,3            | 114,5    | 114,1    | -0,3              | +12,6        |
| <b>Medical services</b>                               | 0,90   | 100,6            | 111,0    | 111,0    | 0,0               | +10,3        |
| <b>Transport</b>                                      | 18,80  | 102,4            | 101,6    | 100,6    | -1,0              | -1,8         |
| <b>Purchase of vehicles</b>                           | 11,25  | 100,8            | 103,4    | 103,4    | 0,0               | +2,6         |
| <b>Private transport operation</b>                    | 4,82   | 104,1            | 93,8     | 90,2     | -3,8              | -13,4        |
| <b>Petrol</b>   | 3,93   | 104,4            | 89,1     | 84,6     | -5,1              | -19,0        |
| <b>Other running costs</b>                            | 0,89   | 103,0            | 114,5    | 114,5    | 0,0               | +11,2        |
| <b>Public transport</b>                               | 2,73   | 106,2            | 107,6    | 107,8    | +0,2              | +1,5         |
| <b>Communication</b>                                  | 3,22   | 100,5            | 101,4    | 101,0    | -0,4              | +0,5         |
| <b>Postal services and telecommunication services</b> | 2,90   | 100,9            | 103,2    | 103,2    | 0,0               | +2,3         |
| <b>Telecommunication equipment</b>                    | 0,32   | 96,6             | 85,2     | 81,7     | -4,1              | -15,4        |
| <b>Recreation and culture</b>                         | 4,19   | 102,4            | 113,3    | 113,1    | -0,2              | +10,4        |
| <b>Recreational equipment</b>                         | 2,23   | 103,5            | 109,1    | 108,3    | -0,7              | +4,6         |
| <b>Recreational and cultural services</b>             | 1,25   | 101,7            | 122,1    | 122,2    | +0,1              | +20,2        |
| <b>Books, newspapers and stationery</b>               | 0,71   | 100,2            | 110,9    | 111,8    | +0,8              | +11,6        |
| <b>Education</b>                                      | 2,19   | 101,1            | 111,7    | 111,7    | 0,0               | +10,5        |
| <b>Primary and secondary education</b>                | 1,29   | 101,1            | 113,1    | 113,1    | 0,0               | +11,9        |

| Index description                       |                           | Weight | Index (2008=100) |          |          | Percentage change |              |
|---|---------------------------|--------|------------------|----------|----------|-------------------|--------------|
|   |                           |        | Oct 2008         | Sep 2009 | Oct 2009 | Month-on-month    | Year-on-year |
|   | <b>Tertiary</b>           | 0,90   | 101,1            | 109,6    | 109,6    | 0,0               | +8,4         |
| <b>Restaurants and hotels</b>           |                           | 2,78   | 104,5            | 112,2    | 112,7    | +0,4              | +7,8         |
|   | <b>Restaurants</b>        | 1,85   | 105,1            | 112,4    | 113,0    | +0,5              | +7,5         |
|   | <b>Hotels</b>             | 0,93   | 103,2            | 111,9    | 111,9    | 0,0               | +8,4         |
| <b>Miscellaneous goods and services</b> |                           | 13,56  | 102,4            | 113,5    | 113,7    | +0,2              | +11,0        |
|   | <b>Personal care</b>      | 2,20   | 102,9            | 115,7    | 115,1    | -0,5              | +11,9        |
|   | <b>Insurance</b>          | 7,71   | 100,2            | 112,2    | 112,2    | 0,0               | +12,0        |
|   | <b>Financial services</b> | 1,27   | 107,4            | 115,8    | 115,8    | 0,0               | +7,8         |
|   | <b>Other services</b>     | 2,38   | 106,6            | 114,5    | 116,0    | +1,3              | +8,8         |

## 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;<br>quintile 2 - R 14 565 up to R 23 278;<br>quintile 3 - R 23 279 up to R 36 755;<br>quintile 4 - R 36 756 up to R 79 152; and<br>quintile 5 - R 79 153 and more.   |



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#### Forthcoming issues

| Issue         | Expected date for publication |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| November 2009 | 15 December 2009              |
| December 2009 | 27 January 2010               |
| January 2010  | 24 February 2010              |
| February 2010 | 24 March 2010                 |
| March 2010    | 28 April 2010                 |
| April 2010    | 26 May 2010                   |

### Stats SA products

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- National Library of South Africa, Pretoria Division
- National Library of South Africa, Cape Town Division
- Natal Society Library, Pietermaritzburg
- Library of Parliament, Cape Town
- Bloemfontein Public Library
- Johannesburg Public Library
- Eastern Cape Library Services, King William's Town
- Central Regional Library, Polokwane
- Central Reference Library, Nelspruit
- Central Reference Collection, Kimberley
- Central Reference Library, Mmabatho.

Stats SA also provides a subscription service.

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You can visit us on the Internet at: <http://www.statssa.gov.za>

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