

P0141.1

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REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# SENTRALE STATISTIEKDIENS CENTRAL STATISTICAL SERVICE

Steynsarkade  
Steyn's Arcade  
Schoemanstraat 274  
274 Schoeman Street  
Privaatsak X44  
Private Bag X44  
PRETORIA  
0001  
Tel.: 325-2400 (012)  
(m.i.v./w.e.f. 1988: 322-8622)  
Teleks: 320450, 320523  
Telex: 322418, 320175  
Fax: 267150  
(m.i.v./w.e.f. 1988: 3226325)

## STATISTIESE NUUSBERIG

## STATISTICAL NEWS RELEASE

P0141.1

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VERBRUI KERSPRYSINDEKS : APRIL 1988  
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX : APRIL 1988

### STREEKKANTORE REGIONAL OFFICES

DURBAN  
Tel.: 305-3904

KAAPSTAD  
CAPE TOWN  
Tel.: 46-2098  
46-6940 (021)

PORT ELIZABETH  
Tel.: 52-3801/2 (041)

NELSPRUIT  
Tel.: 5-2455/6 (01311)

KIMBERLEY  
Tel.: 3-3965/6 (0531)

KEMPTON PARK  
Tel.: 394-3420/1 (011)

PIETERSBURG  
Tel.: 7-1609 (01521)

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23 MEI 1988

**SUMMARY**

The inflation rate of South Africa for April 1988 is 13,3% after it had been 13,4% for the previous month and 16,2% and 18,6% for April 1987 and April 1986 respectively. The monthly rate of increase in the seasonally adjusted consumer price index is approximately 1,1% (that is the seasonally adjusted index for April 1988 compared with March 1988).

The impetus for the still high inflation rate is mainly caused by increases in food prices. Against the prices of "all items excluding food", which showed an annual rate of increase of only 12,0% and a monthly rate of increase of only 0,6% for April 1988, food prices reflected an annual rate of increase of 17,1% and a monthly rate of increase of 2,9%. The "culprits" at food were meat, with a monthly increase of 3,2%, fish and seafood with 2,5%, vegetables with 10,2% and sugar with 10,2%.

Furthermore, there were also relatively large monthly increases in the prices of alcoholic beverages (4,7%), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (2,3%), "other" household services (3,6%) and reading matter (3,6%).

As is generally known, the consumer price index has since the end of the previous year been calculated on the basis of a revised weight structure (that is the 1985 weights which indicate the relative importance of the respective consumer goods and services, as the weights were derived from the average spending patterns of urban families). At the end of last year it was also announced that the inflation rate for October 1987 would have been 13,8% if the calculation of the inflation rate had been based only on the 1985 weights. Relative to the officially published inflation rate of 15,5% for October 1987 (which was the last rate completely based on the 1975 weights), there is therefore a difference of 1,7 percentage points between the two inflation rates for October 1987. This difference is being phased out since then; to such an extent that the inflation rate which will be calculated for November 1988 will be the first one based completely on the 1985 weights. The calculations, which were done to find an inflation rate based purely on the 1985 weights for October 1987, were repeated for April 1988. A difference, relative to the official published inflation rate, of 0,4 percentage points was obtained. (See table below.) From this it is obvious that approximately three quarters of the difference of 1,7 percentage points (1,3 of 1,7) has already been eliminated. The current inflation rate is thus a relatively more accurate reflection of the present state of inflation.

**OPSUMMING**

Suid-Afrika se inflasiekoers vir April 1988 is 13,3% nadat dit 13,4% vir die vorige maand en onderskeidelik 16,2% en 18,6% vir April 1987 en April 1986 loop het. Die maandelikse toenamekoers in die seisoensaangepaste verbruikersprysindeks is benaderd 1,1% (dit is die seisoensaangepaste indeks vir April 1988 vergeleke met Maart 1988).

Die stukrag vir die steeds hoë inflasiekoers word hoofsaaklik deur stygings in voedselprysse veroorsaak. Teenoor die prysse van "alle items uitgesonderd voedsel", wat 'n jaarlikse toenamekoers van slegs 12,0% en 'n maandelikse toenamekoers van slegs 0,6% vir April 1988 toon, het voedselprysse daarenteen 'n jaarlikse toenamekoers van 17,1% en 'n maandelikse toenamekoers van 2,9% getoon. Die "sondebokke" by voedsel was vleis, met 'n maandelikse toenamekoers van 3,2%, vis en seekos met 2,5%, groente met 10,2% en suiker met 10,2%.

Verder was daar ook relatief groot maandelikse toenames in die prysse van alkoholiese drank (4,7%), sigarette, sigare en tabak (2,3%), "ander" huishoudelike dienste (3,6%) en leesstof (3,6%).

Soos algemeen bekend, word die verbruikersprysindeks sedert die einde van verlede jaar bereken op grond van 'n hersiene gewigstruktuur (dit is die 1985-gewigte wat die relatiewe belangrikheid van die onderskeie verbruikersgoedere en -dienste aandui, soos dit afgelei is van die gemiddelde bestedingspatrone van stedelike huishoudings). Aan die einde van verlede jaar is ook bekend gemaak dat die inflasiekoers 13,8% vir Oktober 1987 sou gewees het, indien die verbruikersprysindeks se berekening slegs op die 1985-gewigte gebaseer was. Relatief tot die amptelike gepubliseerde inflasiekoers van 15,5% vir Oktober 1987 (wat die laaste koers is wat nog volledig op die 1975-gewigte geskoei is), is daar dus 'n verskil van 1,7 persentasiepunte tussen die twee inflasiekoerse vir Oktober 1987. Hierdie verskil word sedertdien uitgefaseer; dermate dat die inflasiekoers wat vir November 1988 bereken sal word, die eerste amptelike koers sal wees wat volledig op die 1985-gewigte gebaseer gaan wees. Die berekeninge wat vir Oktober 1987 gedoen is om 'n inflasiekoers wat slegs op die 1985-gewigte gebaseer is, te verkry, is vir April 1988 herhaal. 'n Persentasiepunteverskil, relatief tot die amptelike gepubliseerde inflasiekoers, van 0,4 is verkry. (Kyk die onderstaande tabel.) Hieruit is dit duidelik dat ongeveer 'n drie-kwart van die 1,7 persentasiepunteverskil (1,3 van die 1,7) reeds tot op hede uitgewis is. Die huidige inflasiekoers is gevoldiglik 'n relatief meer getroue weergawe van die huidige stand van inflasie.

Year and month/ Jaar en maand	Inflation rate (%)/ Inflasiekoers (%)		Difference in percentage points/ Persentasiepunteverskil (A-B)
	1985 and 1975 weights (as published)/ 1985- en 1975-gewigte (soos gepubliseer) (A)	1985 weights only/ Slegs 1985-gewigte (B)	
1987- Oct./Okt. 1988- Apr.	15,5 13,3	13,8 12,9	1,7 0,4

It happens more often that a housewife's idea or perception of the inflation rate is formed by her experience of general price increases during her monthly purchases of "groceries". In this instance the idea may gradually take root in her mind that the official inflation rate, which has already shown a decrease for eleven months, is not an accurate reflection of real general price increases. This monthly purchases of "groceries", however, only constitutes 27% of the total monthly expenditure of the average household, with food constituting more than three quarters of this 27%. Food prices, for instance, increased by an average of 22,9% during 1987

Dit gebeur meermale dat 'n huisvrouw se idee of persepsie van die inflasiekoers gevorm word deur haar ervaring van algemene prystoenames tydens haar maandelikse aankope van "kruideniersware". Dit het die gedagte by haar laat posvat dat die amptelike inflasiekoers, wat reeds vir elf maande 'n afname getoon het, nie 'n akkurate weerspieëling is van werklike algemene prysveranderings nie. Hierdie maandelikse aankope van "kruideniersware" maak egter net ongeveer 27% van die gemiddelde huishouing se totale maandelikse uitgawes uit, met voedsel wat meer as 'n drie-kwart van hierdie 27% uitmaak. So, byvoorbeeld, het voedselprysse gemiddeld met 22,9% toegeneem gedurende

compared with an average increase of 16,1% in the inflation rate. The possible observation by the housewife of price increases as experienced during her monthly purchases of "groceries", namely that she experiences average price increases higher than indicated by the inflation rate per se, is therefore correct after all. There must, however, be guarded against this that the abovementioned experience does not lead to (a certain amount of) distrust in the official inflation rate; the latter, after all, reflects the change in the general price level of many more consumer items than just "groceries".

Apart from this it must be pointed out that the decrease in the inflation rate from 13,4% in March 1988 13,3% in April 1988 does not mean that the general price level is decreasing, but only that the average price of all those consumer goods and services purchased by an average urban household, increased at a slower rate.

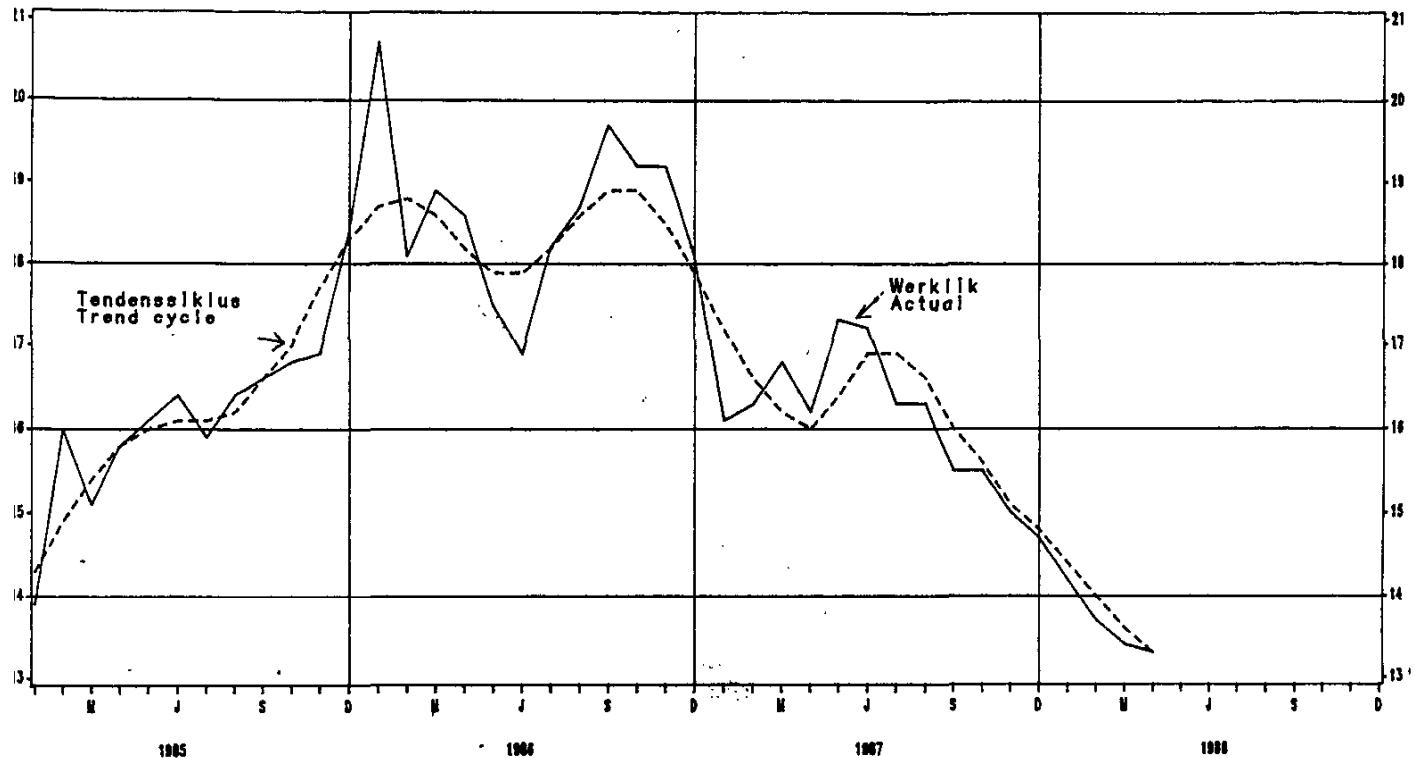
1987, teenoor 'n toename van gemiddeld 16,1% in die inflasiekoers. Die huisvrou se moonlike waarneming van die prysstygings soos ervaar tydens haar maandelikse aankope van "kruideniersware", naamlik dat sy gemiddelde prystoenames ervaar wat hoër is as wat die inflasiekoers per se op dui, is tog wel korrek. Daar moet egter daarteen gewaak word dat die voornoemde ondervinding nie lei tot ('n mate van) wantroue in die amptelike inflasiekoers nie; laasgenoemde weerspieël immers die verandering in die algemene prysvlak van baie meer verbruikersitems as net "kruideniersware".

Hierbenewens moet weer eens daarop gewys word dat die daling in die inflasiekoers vanaf 13,4% vir Maart 1988 na 13,3% vir April 1988 nie beteken dat die gemiddelde prysvlak besig is om af te neem nie, maar slegs dat die gemiddelde prys van al daardie verbruikersgoedere en -dienste wat deur 'n gemiddelde stedelike huishouding aangekoop word, teen 'n stadiger tempo toegeneem het.

  
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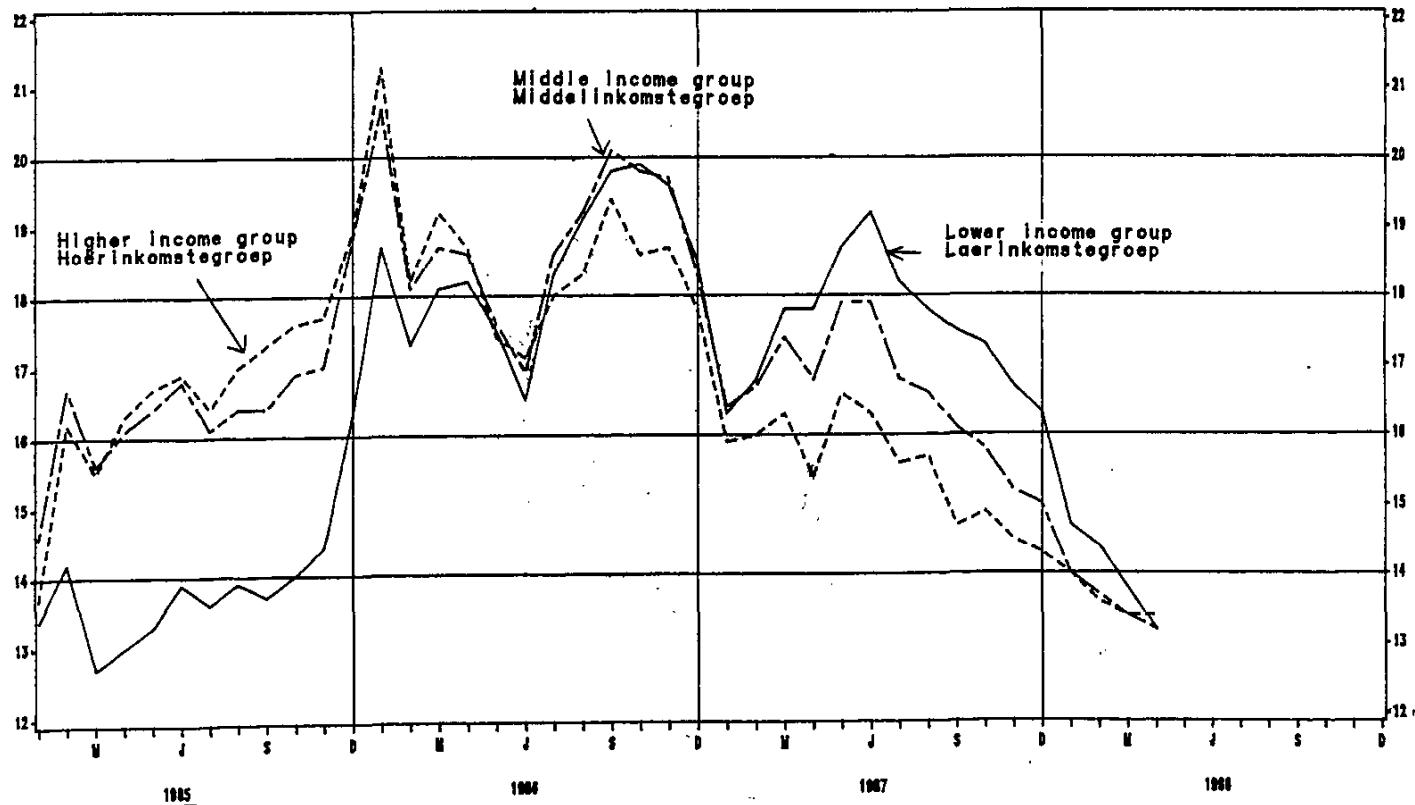
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX  
ANNUAL CHANGE  
PER CENT

VERBRUIKERSPRYSINDEKS  
JAARLIKSE VERANDERING  
PERSENT



ANNUAL CHANGE  
PER CENT

JAARLIKSE VERANDERING  
PERSENT



MONTHLY CHANGE  
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED  
PER CENT

MAANDELIKSE VERANDERING  
SEISOENSAANGEPAS  
PERSENT

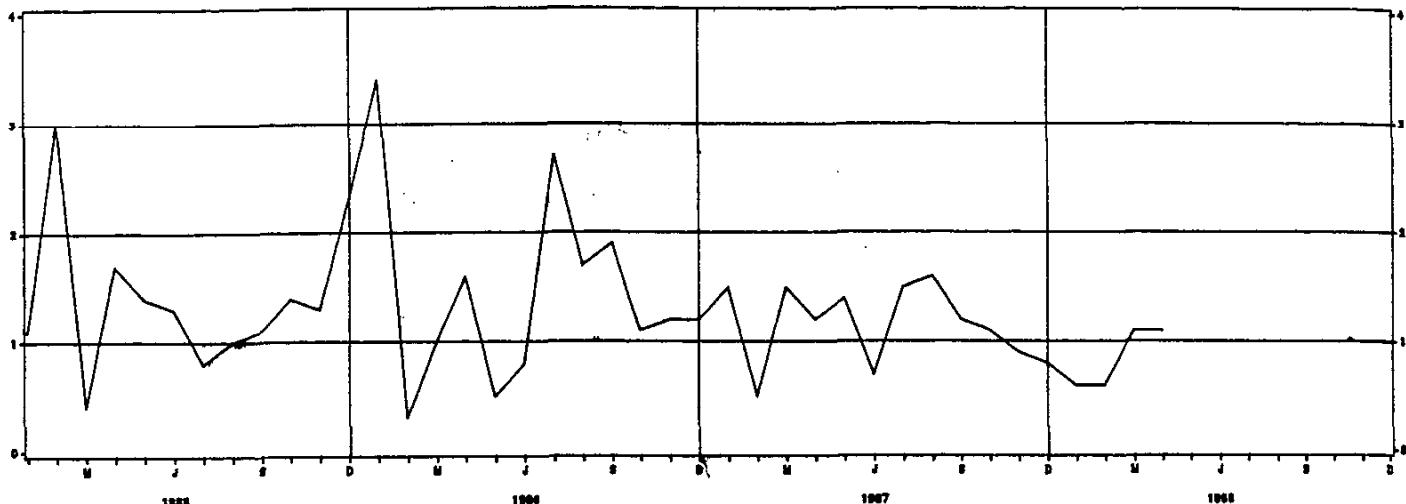


TABLE 1 INCOME GROUP INDICES AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE

BASE - BASIS: 1985=100

TABEL 1 INKOMSTEGROEPINDEXE EN PERSENTASIEVERANDERING

	April 1988	March Maart 1988	April 1987	Change compared with - Verandering vergeleke met -		
				March Maart 1988	Actual Werklik Seaso- nally adjusted Seisoens- aangepas	Actual Werklik
Lower income group Laerinkomstegroep	153,9	151,5	135,9	+ 1,6%	+ 1,1%	+ 13,2%
Middle income group Middelinkomstegroep	152,8	150,8	135,0	+ 1,3%	+ 1,1%	+ 13,2%
Higher income group Hoërinkomstegroep	150,9	149,6	133,1	+ 0,9%	+ 1,1%	+ 13,4%
All income groups Alle inkomstegroepes	151,9	150,2	134,1	+ 1,1%	+ 1,1%	+ 13,3%
Food only Slegs voedsel	169,6	164,8	144,8	+ 2,9%	+ 2,4%	+ 17,1%

TABLE 2 EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES ON THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - ALL INCOME GROUPS

TABEL 2 UITWERKING VAN PRYSVERANDERINGS OP DIE VERBRUIKERSPRYSINDEKS - ALLE INKOMSTEGROEPE

	CONTRIBUTION BYDRAE	
Food	0,2	Voedsel
Meat	0,1	Vleis
Milk, cheese and eggs	0,1	Melk, kaas en eiers
Vegetables	0,2	Groente
Sugar	0,1	Suiker
Other	0,1	Ander
Alcoholic beverages	0,1	Alkoholieuse drank
Clothing and footwear		Klerasie en skoeisel
Clothing	0,1	Klerasie
Reading matter	0,1	Leesstof
Other	0,1	Ander
Total percentage change	1,1	Totale persentasieverandering

TABLE 3 GROUP INDICES - WEIGHTED AVERAGE  
OF THE PRINCIPAL URBAN AREAS

BASE - BASIS: 1985 = 100

TABEL 3 GROEPENDEURE - BESWAARDE GEMIDDELDE VAN  
DIE VERBANSTE STEDELIKE GEBIEDE

	April 1988	March Maart 1988	April 1987	Percentage change compared with - Persentasieverande- ring vergeleke met		Weights Gewigte
				March/Maart 1988	April 1987	
All items	151,9	150,2	134,1	1,1	13,3	100,00
Lower income group	153,9	151,5	135,9	1,6	13,2	18,73
Middle income group	152,8	150,8	135,0	1,3	13,2	27,35
Higher income group	150,9	149,6	133,1	0,9	13,4	53,93
Commodities	158,8	156,4	138,4	1,5	14,7	60,50
Services	139,0	138,3	125,3	0,5	10,9	39,50
All items excluding housing	156,2	154,1	136,3	1,4	14,6	78,79
All items excluding food	146,1	145,3	130,5	0,6	12,0	77,28
Food	169,6	164,8	144,8	2,9	17,1	22,72
Grain products	141,0	141,9	125,8	-0,6	12,1	3,33
Meat	201,1	194,8	160,2	3,2	25,5	7,71
Fish and other seafood	189,1	184,4	156,8	2,5	20,6	0,67
Milk, cheese and eggs	157,2	155,0	134,6	1,4	16,8	2,16
Fats and oils	120,8	120,6	116,3	0,2	3,9	1,06
Fruit and nuts	126,0	124,1	129,9	1,5	-3,0	1,49
Vegetables	175,2	159,0	150,6	10,2	16,3	2,45
Sugar	166,0	150,6	140,2	10,2	18,4	0,64
Coffee, tea and cocoa	147,1	147,0	154,5	0,1	-4,8	0,71
Other	162,0	160,3	139,9	1,1	15,8	2,49
Non-alcoholic beverages	157,1	154,8	133,0	1,5	18,1	0,53
Alcoholic beverages	153,5	146,6	129,2	4,7	18,8	1,29
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	136,9	133,8	128,3	2,3	6,7	1,02

TABLE 3 GROUP INDICES - WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF  
THE PRINCIPAL URBAN AREAS (CONCLUDED)

TABEL 3 GROEPINDESE - BESWARDE GEMIDDELDE VAN DIE  
VERNAMSTE STEDELIKE GEBIEDE (AFGESLUIT)

BASE - BASIS: 1985 = 100

	April 1988	March Maart 1988	April 1987	Percentage change compared with - Percentasieverande- ring vergeleke met		Weights Gewigte
				March/Maart 1988	April 1987	
Clothing and footwear	156,4	154,6	133,6	1,2	17,1	5,98
Clothing	155,7	153,4	131,9	1,5	18,0	4,81
Footwear	159,0	158,7	140,3	0,2	13,3	1,17
Housing	133,1	132,9	123,9	0,2	7,4	21,21
Fuel and power	146,1	145,9	126,1	0,1	15,9	2,44
Furniture and equipment	152,3	152,3	133,0	-	14,5	4,72
Furniture	156,6	156,5	132,7	0,1	18,0	2,16
Appliances	146,8	146,8	137,7	-	6,6	1,15
Other household equipment and textiles	150,0	150,0	129,2	-	16,1	1,41
Household operation	159,0	157,8	140,6	0,8	13,1	3,77
Household consumable goods	185,8	185,9	164,9	-0,1	12,7	1,52
Domestic servants	148,4	146,7	130,1	1,2	14,1	1,84
Other household services	126,8	122,4	116,9	3,6	8,5	0,41
Medical care and health expenses	154,4	154,4	134,1	-	15,1	2,56
Transport	138,0	138,0	126,9	-	8,7	17,23
Vehicles	190,4	190,4	164,8	-	15,5	5,48
Running costs	109,2	109,2	104,9	-	4,1	6,95
Public and hired transport	116,7	116,7	112,2	-	4,0	4,80
Communication	155,6	155,6	131,5	-	18,3	1,70
Recreation and entertainment	158,2	158,1	150,3	0,1	5,3	2,81
Reading matter	143,6	138,6	125,9	3,6	14,1	0,94
Education	174,5	174,5	150,7	-	15,8	1,21
Personal care	156,7	156,1	136,6	0,4	14,7	3,08
Other	164,0	161,9	132,9	1,3	23,4	6,77

TABLE 4 URBAN AREAS INDICES

TABEL 4 STEDELIKE GEBIEDSINDEKSE

BASE: EACH AREA COMPARED WITH ITSELF IN 1985=100  
 BASIS: ELKE GEBIED VERGELEKE MET SIGSELF IN 1985 = 100

Urban area Stedelike gebied	All items Alle items			Percentage change compared with - Percentasieverandering vergeleke met -	
	April 1988	March Maart 1988	April 1987	March/Maart 1988	April 1987
1. Cape Peninsula - Kaapse Skiereiland	151,7	150,6	134,9	0,7	12,5
2. Port Elizabeth and/en Uitenhage ....	153,5	152,2	135,6	0,9	13,2
3. East London - Oos-Londen .....	148,3	146,9	130,8	1,0	13,4
4. Kimberley .....	148,8	147,4	131,0	0,9	13,6
5. Pietermaritzburg .....	148,9	146,7	131,9	1,5	12,9
6. Durban and/en Pinetown .....	145,1	143,4	129,0	1,2	12,5
7. Pretoria, Verwoerdburg and/en Akasia	157,7	156,4	138,9	0,8	13,5
8. Witwatersrand .....	152,9	150,7	134,3	1,5	13,8
9. Klerksdorp, Stilfontein and/en Orkney	160,0	157,8	139,8	1,4	14,4
10. Vaal Triangle - Vaaldriehoek .....	150,2	149,0	133,7	0,8	12,3
11. OFS Goldfields - OVS-goudveld	154,6	153,0	136,1	1,0	13,6
12. Bloemfontein .....	142,3	141,0	128,5	0,9	10,7
Weighted average of the twelve areas Beswaarde gemiddelde van die twaalf gebiede	151,9	150,2	134,1	1,1	13,3

Urban area Stedelike gebied	All items, excluding housing Alle items, uitgesondert behuising			Food Slegs voedsel		
	April 1988	March Maart 1988	April 1987	April 1988	March Maart 1988	April 1987
1. Cape Peninsula - Kaapse Skiereiland	153,0	151,6	135,1	171,8	169,7	150,6
2. Port Elizabeth and/en Uitenhage ...	158,8	157,3	138,5	173,2	169,9	148,2
3. East London - Oos-Londen .....	151,0	149,2	131,7	151,1	148,2	130,8
4. Kimberley .....	153,8	152,1	134,	162,2	159,3	138,4
5. Pietermaritzburg .....	153,7	151,1	134	169,0	163,1	144,7
6. Durban and/en Pinetown .....	150,4	148,3	131,9	162,0	157,8	141,9
7. Pretoria, Verwoerdburg and/en Akasia	163,6	161,9	142,3	177,2	172,9	152,2
8. Witwatersrand .....	157,7	155,0	136,8	169,3	162,6	142,1
9. Klerksdorp, Stilfontein and/en Orkney	164,4	162,0	142,3	186,4	181,3	154,3
10. Vaal Triangle - Vaaldriehoek .....	153,8	152,4	135,1	161,7	159,7	140,0
11. OFS Goldfields - OVS-goudveld	158,3	156,6	137,4	178,2	174,5	146,0
12. Bloemfontein .....	145,6	143,9	130,1	160,4	156,4	137,4
Weighted average of the twelve areas Beswaarde gemiddelde van die twaalf gebiede	156,2	154,1	136,3	169,6	164,8	144,8

TABLE 5 SEASONALLY ADJUSTED INDICES

TABEL 5 SEISONAAL AANGEPASTE INDEXEN

1985 = 100

	1988			1987		Weights Gewigte	
	April Maart	March Maart	Feb. Jan.	Dec. Des.	Nov.		
All items	151,3	149,6	148,0	147,1	146,3	144,9	100,00 Alle items
Lower income group	152,6	151,0	149,2	148,0	148,3	147,1	18,73 Laerinkomstgroep
Middle income group	151,9	150,3	148,3	147,7	147,1	145,7	27,75 Middelininkomste groep
Higher income group	150,7	149,0	147,4	146,7	145,3	144,0	53,93 Hëerinkomstgroep
Commodities	157,8	155,3	153,5	152,2	151,6	149,9	60,50 Handelssware
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	167,9	164,2	160,0	158,0	158,8	157,4	23,25 Voedsel en nie-
Alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	143,0	139,3	135,4	136,6	136,4	135,6	2,31 alkoholiese drank
Clothing and foot-wear	155,3	155,6	153,7	152,0	149,6	147,8	5,98 sigarette, sigare
Furniture and equipment	151,8	150,5	152,1	150,5	149,3	145,5	4,72 en tabak
Vehicles	191,2	187,9	186,0	189,1	178,7	176,9	5,48 Meublement en toe-
Other transport goods	107,7	108,4	106,4	108,5	107,5	109,7	6,22 rusting
Other commodities	154,7	151,6	153,5	149,8	152,0	148,6	12,54 Voertuile
Services	139,1	138,9	137,4	137,0	136,0	135,0	39,50 Ander vervoerhan-
Housing and domestic servants	135,9	135,2	134,0	133,3	132,7	131,9	23,05 delaaars
Transport	113,9	115,2	115,7	116,6	116,6	116,7	Ander handelssware
Other services	156,1	156,2	153,1	152,7	150,4	148,4	5,52 Vervoer
							10,93 Ander dienste