

Statistical Release P0141.1

Prices : Consumer Price Index

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INFLATION RATE DECREASES TO 5,0% AT APRIL 1998

The official inflation rate, i.e. the annual rate of change in the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas, is 5,0% at April 1998. This rate is 0,4 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding rate of 5,4% at March 1998. From March 1998 to April 1998 the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas increased by 0,5%. The seasonally adjusted index increased by 0,3% for the same period.

The inflation rate for the metropolitan and other urban areas is being calculated from January 1998. This rate is based on price collections undertaken in other urban areas, in addition to the previous collections in the metropolitan areas, since January 1997. For the purpose of seasonally adjustment three years of historical data is required, which will be available from January 2000. At that time it will be decided whether the inflation rate for metropolitan and other urban areas rather than merely for metropolitan areas will be taken as the official rate.

The inflation rate for metropolitan and other urban areas is 4,9% at April 1998. From March 1998 to April 1998 the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan and other urban areas increased by 0,5%.

CORE INFLATION RATE

The core inflation rate for metropolitan areas (see note 7 on page 4) is 7,1% at April 1998. This rate is 0,2 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding rate of 6,9% at March 1998.

Due to the drop in the interest rate on mortgage bonds not reflected in the core inflation rate, this rate increased in contrast with the official inflation rate which decreased.

The core inflation rate for metropolitan and other urban areas is 6,9% at April 1998, which is 0,3 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding rate of 6,6% at March 1998. From March 1998 to April

1998 the core inflation index for metropolitan areas increased by 1,4%, while the index for metropolitan and other urban areas increased by 1,3%.

METROPOLITAN AREAS

Contributions to monthly increase in CPI

The monthly increase of 0,5% in the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas is due to increases in the price indices for food (+0,1 of a percentage point), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+0,1 of a percentage point), medical care and health expenses (+0,4 of a percentage point), transport (+0,1 of a percentage point) and all other items (+0,2 of a percentage point), which were partially counteracted by a decrease in the price index for housing (-0,4 of a percentage point, due to the decrease in the interest rates on mortgage bonds).

Food inflation

The price index for food shows an annual rate of increase of 6,4% at April 1998. This rate is 0,3 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding rate of 6,1% at March 1998. From March 1998 to April 1998 this index increased by 0,7%.

The price index for food shows a monthly increase of 0,7%, which is due to increases in the price indices for grain products (+1,9%), fish and other seafood (+1,1%), milk, cheese and eggs (+1,3%), vegetables (+0,4%), sugar (+0,5%), coffee, tea and cocoa (+0,2%) and "other" food items (+0,7%). These increases were partially counteracted by decreases in the price indices for meat (-0,1%), fats and oils (-0,2%) and fruit and nuts (-0,1%).

Price index for non-food items

The monthly increase of 0,5% in the price index for "all items, excluding food" is due to monthly increases in the price indices for non-alcoholic beverages (+0,9%), alcoholic beverages (+1,5%, due to the increase in excise duties), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+8,0%, due to the increase in excise duties), clothing and footwear (+0,7%), household operation (+1,2%), medical care and health expenses (+6,2%), transport (+1,2%, mainly due to the 10c/l levy on fuel), recreation and entertainment (+1,1%), reading matter (+8,8%), personal care (+0,4%) and "other" items (+0,2%). These increases were partially counteracted by a decrease in the price index for housing (-2,3%, due to the 1% drop in the interest rates on mortgage bonds).

An alternative expression of the change in the Consumer Price Index

An alternative expression of the change in the Consumer Price Index is to annualise the percentage change between the average index of the three months up to April 1998 and the average index of the previous three months. This approach, when using seasonally adjusted data, shows an increase of 5,1% (which is 1,2 percentage points higher than the corresponding rate of 3,9% for March 1998), while unadjusted data shows an increase of 6,3%.

Pensioners

The inflation rate for pensioners in the metropolitan areas is 6,2% at April 1998, which is 0,3 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding rate of 6,5% at March 1998.

METROPOLITAN AND OTHER URBAN AREAS

Contributions to monthly increase in CPI

The monthly increase of 0,5% in the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan and other urban areas is also due to increases in the price indices for food (+0,1 of a percentage point), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+0,1 of a percentage point), medical care and health expenses (+0,4 of a percentage point), transport (+0,1 of a percentage point) and all other items (+0,2 of a percentage point), which were partially counteracted by

a decrease in the price index for housing (-0,4 of a percentage point, due to the decrease in the interest rates on mortgage bonds).

Food

The price index for food shows an annual rate of increase of 6,3% at April 1998, which is the same as the rate for March 1998. From March 1998 to April 1998 this index increased by 0,6%.

The price index for food shows a monthly increase of 0,6%, which is due to increases in the price indices for grain products (+1,6%), meat (+0,2%), fish and other seafood (+1,2%), milk, cheese and eggs (+1,1%), vegetables (+0,1%), sugar (+1,3%), coffee, tea and cocoa (+0,4%) and "other" food items (+0,7%). These increases were partially counteracted by a decrease in the price index for fruit and nuts (-1,3%).

Price index for non-food items

The monthly increase of 0,5% in the price index for "all items, excluding food" is due to monthly increases in the price indices for non-alcoholic beverages (+1,0%), alcoholic beverages (+1,7%, due to the increase in excise duties), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+6,5%, due to the increase in excise duties), clothing and footwear (+0,7%), fuel and power (+0,1%), household operation (+1,2%), medical care and health expenses (+6,2%), transport (+1,0%, mainly due to the 10c/l levy on fuel), recreation and entertainment (+0,9%), reading matter (+8,9%), personal care (+0,4%) and "other" items (+0,2%). These increases were partially counteracted by a decrease in the price index for housing (-2,1%, mainly due to the 1% drop in the interest rates on mortgage bonds).

An alternative expression of the change in the Consumer Price Index

An alternative expression of the change in the Consumer Price Index when using unadjusted data shows an increase of 6,3%. A better method should be to use seasonally adjusted data for the calculation of the alternative expression, but at this stage there is no seasonally adjusted data available for metropolitan and other urban areas. This is due to the fact that the index for metropolitan and other urban areas exists only since January 1997. Seasonally adjustment can only significantly be done using at least three years' data.

Pensioners

The inflation rate for pensioners in the metropolitan and other urban areas is 6,0% at April 1998. Kimberley recorded the highest rate of increase, namely 9,3%, while the lowest rate of 4,1% was recorded for Bloemfontein.

Areas indices

Kimberley recorded the highest inflation rate of 7,5%, while the lowest rate of 3,2% was recorded for Pietersburg.

Regarding food prices, the highest annual increase of 10,0% was recorded for other urban areas in the Eastern Cape and Mpumalanga while other urban areas in KwaZulu-Natal reflected the lowest increase of 3,7%.

CPI FOR MAY 1998

In addition to the usual price surveys for May 1998, it has come to the attention of the CSS that changed prices will apply during the first seven days of May 1998 regarding postal rates, property insurance and water tariffs in certain areas.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. All price information refers to the first seven days of the reference month.

2. By the phrase "each area compared with itself", the CSS reminds the user that the consumer price indices relating to various metropolitan and other urban areas as shown in Table 4 and Table 6 do not permit inter-urban comparison of price levels or living costs. The indices do not indicate whether it is more expensive to live in one city than in another. The indices indicate for each urban area, independently of any of the other urban areas, the price changes which have taken place from time to time.

3. The indices for all items excluding food, Table 4.4, have been calculated for each area separately as from July 1994. These indices are calculated by means of the index for all items and the index for food of each area.

4. Value Added Tax (VAT) is included in general in the prices of all items on which VAT is applicable.

5. The five expenditure group categories or quintiles were defined according to total annual expenditure per household as in October 1995 as:

Very low expenditure group - up to R6 340

Low expenditure group - R6 341 up to R11 590

Middle expenditure group - R11 591 up to R21 909

High expenditure group - R21 910 up to R49 498

Very high expenditure group - R49 499 and more

6. A more detailed set of weights for the metropolitan and other urban areas in total according to the new 1995-weighting structure of the CPI, as well as that for the core basket were published in Statistical release P0141.5 of 27 March 1997.

7. Core inflation

The primary objective of calculating core inflation is to capture the underlying inflation pressures in the economy i.e. the trend in the general price level which reflects the balance between aggregate demand and supply in the economy over the medium term. Core inflation is a measure designed in relation to the specific structure of a country's economy. Hence in the South African context, core inflation is derived by excluding items from the CPI basket on the basis that changes in their prices are highly volatile, subjected to temporary influences, or affected by government intervention and policy.

Items excluded from the CPI basket to obtain the "core" basket, and the reasons for exclusion are as follows:

* Fresh and frozen meat and fish: Prices may be highly volatile, particularly during and following periods of drought.

* Fresh and frozen vegetables and fresh fruit and nuts: Prices may be highly volatile from quarter to quarter due to their sensitivity to climatic conditions.

* Interest rates on mortgage bonds and overdrafts/personal loans: These are excluded due to their "perverse" effect on the CPI. A tightening in monetary policy to counter inflation pressures would cause interest rates to rise and be reflected in the interest cost component of measured inflation. This, in turn, could provoke a further tightening of monetary policy resulting in excessive movements in the inflation rate.

* VAT (Value Added Tax): VAT is predominantly determined by government (fiscal policy).

* Assessment rates: These taxes are predominantly determined by local government.

The choice of exclusions was informed by best practice amongst several other international agencies, and after consultation with the South African Reserve Bank and other local technical experts.

8.Symbols used: * = revised

TABLE 1 EXPENDITURE GROUP INDICES AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Apr. 1998	Mar. 1998	Apr. 1997	Percentage change compared with		
				Mar. 1998		Apr. 1997
				Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual
Expenditure groups						
Very Low	124,1	123,3	115,7	+0,6	..	+7,3
Low	123,5	122,7	115,5	+0,7	..	+6,9
Middle	123,2	122,4	115,6	+0,7	..	+6,6
High	123,0	122,1	115,7	+0,7	..	+6,3
Very High	120,8	120,2	115,6	+0,5	..	+4,5
All expenditure groups - Metropolitan	121,4	120,8	115,6	+0,5 ¹⁾	+0,3 ¹⁾	+5,0 ¹⁾
All expenditure groups - Metro and other urban areas	121,4	120,8	115,7	+0,5	..	+4,9
Food only - Metropolitan	122,0	121,2	114,7	+0,7	+0,9	+6,4
Food only - Metro and other urban areas	122,2	121,5	115,0	+0,6	..	+6,3
All items excluding food - Metropolitan	121,3	120,7	115,9	+0,5	+0,2	+4,7
All items excluding food - Metro and other urban areas	121,2	120,6	115,9	+0,5	..	+4,6
All expenditure groups (VAT EXCLUDED) - Metropolitan	121,4	120,8	115,6	+0,5 ¹⁾	+0,3 ¹⁾	+5,0 ¹⁾
All expenditure groups (VAT EXCLUDED) - Metro and other urban areas	121,4	120,8	115,7	+0,5	..	+4,9
Core inflation - Metropolitan	123,8	122,1	115,6	+1,4	-	+7,1
Core inflation - Metro and other urban areas	123,9	122,3	115,9	+1,3	-	+6,9

1) On theoretical grounds and due to rounding off, these rates of change can differ.

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

Group	Contribution
Food	+0,1
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	+0,1
Housing	-0,4
Medical care and health expenses	+0,4
Transport	+0,1
All other items	+0,2
All items	+0,5

TABLE 3 GROUP INDICES - WEIGHTED AVERAGE
3.1 METROPOLITAN AREAS

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Apr. 1998	Mar. 1998	Apr. 1997	Percentage change compared with		Weights
				Mar. 1998	Apr. 1997	
All items	121,4	120,8	115,6	+0,5	+5,0	100,00
Expenditure groups - Very low	124,1	123,3	115,7	+0,6	+7,3	0,51
Low	123,5	122,7	115,5	+0,7	+6,9	1,78
Middle	123,2	122,4	115,6	+0,7	+6,6	5,24
High	123,0	122,1	115,7	+0,7	+6,3	17,70
Very high	120,8	120,2	115,6	+0,5	+4,5	74,77
Commodities	120,2	119,0	113,6	+1,0	+5,8	55,00
Services	123,6	123,7	118,9	-0,1	+4,0	45,00
All items, excluding housing	122,4	120,8	115,1	+1,3	+6,3	75,93
All items, excluding food	121,3	120,7	115,9	+0,5	+4,7	81,98
Food	122,0	121,2	114,7	+0,7	+6,4	18,02
Expenditure groups - Very low	122,2	121,2	115,3	+0,8	+6,0	40,73
Low	122,6	121,6	115,5	+0,8	+6,1	34,39
Middle	122,6	121,5	115,4	+0,9	+6,2	31,12
High	122,3	121,4	115,0	+0,7	+6,3	25,42
Very high	121,7	121,0	114,4	+0,6	+6,4	14,84
Processed	122,4	121,7	114,4	+0,6	+7,0	9,12
Unprocessed	121,6	120,8	115,1	+0,7	+5,6	8,90
Grain products	124,9	122,6	120,1	+1,9	+4,0	3,31
Meat	116,8	116,9	111,4	-0,1	+4,8	5,33
Fish and other seafood	125,1	123,7	113,6	+1,1	+10,1	0,80
Milk, cheese and eggs	129,6	128,0	119,6	+1,3	+8,4	1,90
Fats and oils	124,7	124,9	115,8	-0,2	+7,7	0,85
Fruit and nuts	115,4	115,5	109,4	-0,1	+5,5	1,08
Vegetables	130,1	129,6	121,3	+0,4	+7,3	1,80
Sugar	123,2	122,6	109,9	+0,5	+12,1	0,59
Coffee, tea and cocoa	112,7	112,5	105,6	+0,2	+6,7	0,72
Other	124,2	123,3	114,5	+0,7	+8,5	1,64
Non-alcoholic beverages	131,2	130,0	120,4	+0,9	+9,0	0,82
Alcoholic beverages	127,8	125,9	118,0	+1,5	+8,3	1,18
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	177,5	164,4	142,5	+8,0	+24,6	0,95
Clothing and footwear	108,1	107,4	106,8	+0,7	+1,2	4,76
Clothing	107,7	106,8	106,2	+0,8	+1,4	3,55
Footwear	110,5	110,1	109,9	+0,4	+0,5	1,21
Housing	120,4	123,2	119,6	-2,3	+0,7	24,07
Fuel and power	122,5	122,5	112,2	0,0	+9,2	3,11
Furniture and equipment	112,5	112,5	107,4	0,0	+4,7	3,94
Furniture	117,0	117,0	108,8	0,0	+7,5	1,62
Appliances	107,9	107,9	105,7	0,0	+2,1	1,08
Other household equipment and textiles	110,4	110,4	107,0	0,0	+3,2	1,24
Household operation	137,8	136,2	122,6	+1,2	+12,4	4,69
Household consumables	127,7	126,5	119,4	+0,9	+7,0	1,14
Domestic workers	149,0	147,3	129,7	+1,2	+14,9	3,19
Other household services	119,2	117,1	113,1	+1,8	+5,4	0,36
Medical care and health expenses	145,7	137,2	129,3	+6,2	+12,7	5,95
Transport	114,9	113,5	112,2	+1,2	+2,4	14,74
Vehicles	113,5	112,7	109,4	+0,7	+3,7	5,25
Running cost	119,7	116,9	117,9	+2,4	+1,5	5,75
Public and hired transport	112,1	112,1	110,0	0,0	+1,9	3,74
Communication	118,8	118,8	110,6	0,0	+7,4	3,06
Recreation and entertainment	110,0	108,8	108,6	+1,1	+1,3	2,38
Reading matter	135,2	124,3	122,4	+8,8	+10,5	0,74
Education	135,6	135,6	121,4	0,0	+11,7	2,04
Personal care	121,2	120,7	113,5	+0,4	+6,8	3,06
Other	115,5	115,3	113,3	+0,2	+1,9	6,49

TABLE 3 GROUP INDICES - WEIGHTED AVERAGE
3.2 METRO AND OTHER URBAN AREAS

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Apr. 1998	Mar. 1998	Apr. 1997	Percentage change compared with		Weights
				Mar. 1998	Apr. 1997	
All items	121,4	120,8	115,7	+0,5	+4,9	100,00
Expenditure groups - Very low	123,6	122,8	115,7	+0,7	+6,8	0,93
Low	123,0	122,2	115,5	+0,7	+6,5	2,99
Middle	122,3	121,6	115,2	+0,6	+6,2	7,58
High	122,6	121,7	115,7	+0,7	+6,0	20,09
Very high	120,8	120,3	115,8	+0,4	+4,3	68,41
Commodities	119,7	118,7	113,5	+0,8	+5,5	57,34
Services	123,7	123,7	118,7	0,0	+4,2	42,66
All items, excluding housing	122,1	120,6	115,0	+1,2	+6,2	77,55
All items, excluding food	121,2	120,6	115,9	+0,5	+4,6	80,52
Food	122,2	121,5	115,0	+0,6	+6,3	19,48
Expenditure groups - Very low	123,3	122,3	115,5	+0,8	+6,8	44,17
Low	123,3	122,4	115,8	+0,7	+6,5	38,83
Middle	122,9	122,0	115,6	+0,7	+6,3	32,67
High	122,4	121,6	115,2	+0,7	+6,3	25,61
Very high	121,9	121,3	114,6	+0,5	+6,4	15,02
Processed	122,1	121,3	114,0	+0,7	+7,1	10,52
Unprocessed	122,4	121,8	115,9	+0,5	+5,6	8,96
Grain products	125,3	123,3	120,9	+1,6	+3,6	3,73
Meat	115,9	115,7	110,6	+0,2	+4,8	5,84
Fish and other seafood	127,3	125,8	113,4	+1,2	+12,3	0,77
Milk, cheese and eggs	128,8	127,4	119,3	+1,1	+8,0	2,02
Fats and oils	123,7	123,7	114,0	0,0	+8,5	0,94
Fruit and nuts	113,9	115,4	107,0	-1,3	+6,4	1,07
Vegetables	132,3	132,2	125,1	+0,1	+5,8	1,94
Sugar	124,8	123,2	109,4	+1,3	+14,1	0,73
Coffee, tea and cocoa	111,8	111,4	104,8	+0,4	+6,7	0,79
Other	123,9	123,0	113,7	+0,7	+9,0	1,65
Non-alcoholic beverages	132,8	131,5	121,2	+1,0	+9,6	0,82
Alcoholic beverages	129,1	126,9	119,0	+1,7	+8,5	1,17
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	171,6	161,1	139,7	+6,5	+22,8	1,04
Clothing and footwear	108,1	107,4	106,4	+0,7	+1,6	5,07
Clothing	108,0	107,2	105,9	+0,7	+2,0	3,80
Footwear	108,7	108,2	108,1	+0,5	+0,6	1,27
Housing	119,1	121,6	118,1	-2,1	+0,8	22,45
Fuel and power	120,1	120,0	111,4	+0,1	+7,8	3,54
Furniture and equipment	111,2	111,2	107,7	0,0	+3,2	4,34
Furniture	115,1	115,1	109,2	0,0	+5,4	1,77
Appliances	107,5	107,5	105,9	0,0	+1,5	1,19
Other household equipment and textiles	109,5	109,5	107,4	0,0	+2,0	1,38
Household operation	141,2	139,5	125,6	+1,2	+12,4	4,87
Household consumables	125,5	124,3	118,0	+1,0	+6,4	1,27
Domestic workers	149,9	148,0	130,0	+1,3	+15,3	3,25
Other household services	117,6	115,3	112,5	+2,0	+4,5	0,35
Medical care and health expenses	142,4	134,1	126,5	+6,2	+12,6	5,81
Transport	113,4	112,3	111,4	+1,0	+1,8	13,65
Vehicles	109,6	109,1	107,2	+0,5	+2,2	5,31
Running cost	119,7	117,1	117,9	+2,2	+1,5	5,16
Public and hired transport	109,6	109,6	108,0	0,0	+1,5	3,18
Communication	122,4	122,4	113,7	0,0	+7,7	3,21
Recreation and entertainment	106,3	105,3	105,0	+0,9	+1,2	2,18
Reading matter	133,4	122,5	120,8	+8,9	+10,4	0,69
Education	136,0	136,0	120,2	0,0	+13,1	1,82
Personal care	122,0	121,5	114,3	+0,4	+6,7	3,08
Other	116,6	116,4	114,8	+0,2	+1,6	6,78

TABLE 4 AREAS INDICES
TABLE 4.1 Index for all items
Each area compared with itself

BASE : 1995 = 100

Urban area	All items			Percentage change compared with	
	Apr. 1998	Mar. 1998	Apr. 1997	Mar. 1998	Apr. 1997
Western Cape	120,6	120,3	115,6	+0,2	+4,3
Cape Peninsula	120,8	120,5	116,1	+0,2	+4,0
Other urban areas	120,3	120,0	115,1	+0,3	+4,5
Eastern Cape	123,4	122,9	117,1	+0,4	+5,4
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	120,1	119,9	115,6	+0,2	+3,9
East London	123,6	122,8	116,8	+0,7	+5,8
Other urban areas	123,9	123,2	117,0	+0,6	+5,9
Northern Cape	120,2	119,9	114,7	+0,3	+4,8
Kimberley	122,2	121,6	113,7	+0,5	+7,5
Other urban areas	119,7	119,5	114,7	+0,2	+4,4
Free State	118,8	118,2	113,2	+0,5	+4,9
Bloemfontein	121,4	121,4	116,3	0,0	+4,4
Free State Goldfields	118,3	117,7	112,9	+0,5	+4,8
Other urban areas	118,4	117,8	112,8	+0,5	+5,0
KwaZulu-Natal	121,0	120,5	115,9	+0,4	+4,4
Durban/Pinetown	122,9	122,4	116,7	+0,4	+5,3
Pietermaritzburg	121,6	120,9	116,2	+0,6	+4,6
Other urban areas	119,9	119,3	115,3	+0,5	+4,0
North West	119,2	118,7	113,5	+0,4	+5,0
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	118,6	118,2	113,9	+0,3	+4,1
Other urban areas	119,1	118,6	113,3	+0,4	+5,1
Gauteng	122,2	121,4	116,2	+0,7	+5,2
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	122,2	121,3	116,6	+0,7	+4,8
Witwatersrand	121,0	120,3	114,9	+0,6	+5,3
Other urban areas	121,7	120,9	115,9	+0,7	+5,0
Mpumalanga	122,5	121,6	115,5	+0,7	+6,1
Nelspruit/Witbank	122,1	121,2	115,9	+0,7	+5,3
Other urban areas	122,2	121,3	115,0	+0,7	+6,3
Northern Province	120,9	120,2	114,9	+0,6	+5,2
Pietersburg	119,8	119,8	116,1	0,0	+3,2
Other urban areas	121,2	120,4	114,9	+0,7	+5,5
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	121,4	120,8	115,7	+0,5	+4,9
Weighted average - Metropolitan	121,4	120,8	115,6	+0,5	+5,0

TABLE 4. AREA INDICES
TABLE 4.2 Index for food
Each area compared with itself

BASE : 1995 = 100

Urban area	Food			Percentage change compared with	
	Apr. 1998	Mar. 1998	Apr. 1997	Mar. 1998	Apr. 1997
Western Cape	121,7	121,2	114,5	+0,4	+6,3
Cape Peninsula	121,2	120,5	114,5	+0,6	+5,9
Other urban areas	121,2	120,9	113,8	+0,2	+6,5
Eastern Cape	128,2	127,3	117,8	+0,7	+8,8
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	121,2	121,3	116,3	-0,1	+4,2
East London	128,2	127,3	118,2	+0,7	+8,5
Other urban areas	129,7	128,6	117,9	+0,9	+10,0
Northern Cape	119,6	120,4	113,5	-0,7	+5,4
Kimberley	119,9	119,5	112,1	+0,3	+7,0
Other urban areas	119,4	120,5	113,6	-0,9	+5,1
Free State	117,9	117,8	110,8	+0,1	+6,4
Bloemfontein	122,7	123,0	115,1	-0,2	+6,6
Free State Goldfields	116,2	116,5	110,8	-0,3	+4,9
Other urban areas	117,7	117,6	110,4	+0,1	+6,6
KwaZulu-Natal	122,8	121,9	116,9	+0,7	+5,0
Durban/Pinetown	128,0	127,1	118,5	+0,7	+8,0
Pietermaritzburg	122,8	122,5	116,1	+0,2	+5,8
Other urban areas	120,9	119,9	116,6	+0,8	+3,7
North West	117,4	117,5	112,5	-0,1	+4,4
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	118,2	117,6	112,4	+0,5	+5,2
Other urban areas	117,2	117,4	112,4	-0,2	+4,3
Gauteng	121,6	120,7	114,5	+0,7	+6,2
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	124,0	123,5	116,5	+0,4	+6,4
Witwatersrand	120,6	119,6	113,4	+0,8	+6,3
Other urban areas	121,2	120,3	114,4	+0,7	+5,9
Mpumalanga	127,1	125,7	116,4	+1,1	+9,2
Nelspruit/Witbank	123,4	121,7	118,0	+1,4	+4,6
Other urban areas	127,8	126,4	116,2	+1,1	+10,0
Northern Province	126,1	125,0	118,9	+0,9	+6,1
Pietersburg	126,1	125,5	118,0	+0,5	+6,9
Other urban areas	126,1	125,0	119,1	+0,9	+5,9
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	122,2	121,5	115,0	+0,6	+6,3
Weighted average - Metropolitan	122,0	121,2	114,7	+0,7	+6,4

TABLE 4 AREAS INDICES
TABLE 4.3 Index for all items excluding housing
Each area compared with itself

BASE : 1995 = 100

Urban area	All items excluding housing			Percentage change compared with	
	Apr. 1998	Mar. 1998	Apr. 1997	Mar. 1998	Apr. 1997
	Western Cape	121,8	120,5	114,8	+1,1	+6,1
Cape Peninsula	122,4	121,0	115,5	+1,2	+6,0
Other urban areas	121,3	120,1	114,4	+1,0	+6,0
Eastern Cape	124,4	123,1	116,4	+1,1	+6,9
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	121,9	120,6	115,2	+1,1	+5,8
East London	126,6	124,6	117,2	+1,6	+8,0
Other urban areas	124,5	123,2	116,2	+1,1	+7,1
Northern Cape	120,9	120,0	113,9	+0,8	+6,1
Kimberley	122,3	120,9	112,8	+1,2	+8,4
Other urban areas	120,6	119,8	113,9	+0,7	+5,9
Free State	120,3	119,1	113,7	+1,0	+5,8
Bloemfontein	124,0	122,8	116,4	+1,0	+6,5
Free State Goldfields	119,0	118,0	113,2	+0,8	+5,1
Other urban areas	120,0	118,8	113,4	+1,0	+5,8
KwaZulu-Natal	121,3	119,8	114,8	+1,3	+5,7
Durban/Pinetown	123,4	122,0	115,9	+1,1	+6,5
Pietermaritzburg	121,1	119,8	115,0	+1,1	+5,3
Other urban areas	120,3	118,8	114,3	+1,3	+5,2
North West	119,3	118,3	113,2	+0,8	+5,4
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	119,9	118,4	114,0	+1,3	+5,2
Other urban areas	119,1	118,1	113,0	+0,8	+5,4
Gauteng	122,9	121,1	115,5	+1,5	+6,4
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	123,0	121,3	116,1	+1,4	+5,9
Witwatersrand	122,2	120,4	114,6	+1,5	+6,6
Other urban areas	122,0	120,3	115,2	+1,4	+5,9
Mpumalanga	122,7	120,9	114,2	+1,5	+7,4
Nelspruit/Witbank	122,9	120,9	115,5	+1,7	+6,4
Other urban areas	122,3	120,6	113,6	+1,4	+7,7
Northern Province	120,8	119,6	114,3	+1,0	+5,7
Pietersburg	122,1	120,8	115,6	+1,1	+5,6
Other urban areas	120,7	119,5	114,2	+1,0	+5,7
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	122,1	120,6	115,0	+1,2	+6,2
Weighted average - Metropolitan	122,4	120,8	115,1	+1,3	+6,3

TABLE 4. AREA INDICES (concluded)
TABLE 4.4 Index for all items excluding food
Each area compared with itself

BASE : 1995 = 100

Urban area	All items excluding food			Percentage change compared with	
	Apr. 1998	Mar. 1998	Apr. 1997	Mar. 1998	Apr. 1997
	Western Cape	120,3	120,0	115,8	+0,3	+3,9
Cape Peninsula	121,0	120,8	116,7	+0,2	+3,7
Other urban areas	120,1	119,7	115,5	+0,3	+4,0
Eastern Cape	122,1	121,6	116,9	+0,4	+4,4
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	119,7	119,4	115,4	+0,3	+3,7
East London	122,5	121,7	116,6	+0,7	+5,1
Other urban areas	122,2	121,7	116,8	+0,4	+4,6
Northern Cape	120,4	119,7	115,2	+0,6	+4,5
Kimberley	123,1	122,4	114,3	+0,6	+7,7
Other urban areas	119,8	119,2	115,0	+0,5	+4,2
Free State	119,1	118,3	113,9	+0,7	+4,6
Bloemfontein	121,2	121,1	116,7	+0,1	+3,9
Free State Goldfields	118,9	118,0	113,4	+0,8	+4,9
Other urban areas	118,7	117,9	113,5	+0,7	+4,6
KwaZulu-Natal	120,6	120,1	115,6	+0,4	+4,3
Durban/Pinetown	121,8	121,4	116,2	+0,3	+4,8
Pietermaritzburg	121,1	120,4	116,1	+0,6	+4,3
Other urban areas	119,7	119,2	115,0	+0,4	+4,1
North West	119,7	119,0	113,8	+0,6	+5,2
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	118,7	118,3	114,1	+0,3	+4,0
Other urban areas	119,7	118,9	113,5	+0,7	+5,5
Gauteng	122,3	121,6	116,5	+0,6	+5,0
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	121,5	120,5	116,3	+0,8	+4,5
Witwatersrand	121,2	120,6	115,4	+0,5	+5,0
Other urban areas	121,8	121,1	116,2	+0,6	+4,8
Mpumalanga	121,3	120,6	115,2	+0,6	+5,3
Nelspruit/Witbank	121,5	120,8	115,2	+0,6	+5,5
Other urban areas	120,6	119,9	114,7	+0,6	+5,1
Northern Province	119,6	119,0	114,0	+0,5	+4,9
Pietersburg	118,3	118,4	115,5	-0,1	+2,4
Other urban areas	120,0	119,3	113,9	+0,6	+5,4
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	121,2	120,6	115,9	+0,5	+4,6
Weighted average - Metropolitan	121,3	120,7	115,9	+0,5	+4,7

TABLE 5 SEASONALLY ADJUSTED INDICES

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Apr. 1998	Mar. 1998	Feb. 1998	Jan. 1998	Weights
All items	121,1	120,7	120,2	119,4	100,00
Expenditure groups - Very low	..	..	..	..	0,51
Low	..	..	..	..	1,78
Middle	..	..	..	..	5,24
High	..	..	..	..	17,70
Very high	..	..	..	..	74,77
All items excluding food	121,0	120,8	120,3	119,7	81,98
Commodities	120,0	119,0	118,4	117,8	55,00
Food	121,5	120,4	119,5	118,6	18,02
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	121,8	120,7	119,8	119,0	18,84
Alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	150,1	146,0	143,1	140,5	2,13
Clothing and footwear	107,1	107,1	107,3	108,1	4,72
Furniture and equipment	112,6	112,3	112,4	112,0	3,85
Vehicles	113,1	112,8	112,1	111,3	5,25
Other transport commodities	120,5	119,5	120,8	120,3	4,63
Other commodities	123,1	121,7	120,5	119,8	15,58
Services	122,8	123,2	123,3	122,8	45,00
Housing and domestic workers	121,9	125,1	124,2	123,0	25,99
Transport	110,3	110,2	111,2	110,4	4,86
Other services	128,5	125,4	126,6	127,1	14,15
All items (VAT excluded)	121,0	120,6	120,1	119,5	100,00

TABLE 6 THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR PENSIONERS - AREA INDICES
Each area compared with itself

BASE : 1995 = 100

Urban area	All items			Percentage change compared with	
	Apr. 1998	Mar. 1998	Apr. 1997	Mar. 1998	Apr. 1997
Western Cape	121,1	120,5	115,0	+0,5	+5,3
Cape Peninsula	123,1	122,4	116,9	+0,6	+5,3
Other urban areas	120,7	120,1	114,6	+0,5	+5,3
Eastern Cape	124,5	123,7	116,9	+0,6	+6,5
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	121,3	121,0	115,5	+0,2	+5,0
East London	124,5	123,7	116,4	+0,6	+7,0
Other urban areas	124,8	123,9	116,9	+0,7	+6,8
Northern Cape	122,6	122,4	115,6	+0,2	+6,1
Kimberley	125,6	124,8	114,9	+0,6	+9,3
Other urban areas	122,2	122,0	115,6	+0,2	+5,7
Free State	119,3	118,6	112,5	+0,6	+6,0
Bloemfontein	120,8	120,9	116,0	-0,1	+4,1
Free State Goldfields	117,7	117,5	112,0	+0,2	+5,1
Other urban areas	119,2	118,5	112,2	+0,6	+6,2
KwaZulu-Natal	121,0	120,3	115,2	+0,6	+5,0
Durban/Pinetown	122,9	122,4	116,3	+0,4	+5,7
Pietermaritzburg	120,6	120,0	114,8	+0,5	+5,1
Other urban areas	120,1	119,2	114,7	+0,8	+4,7
North West	120,1	119,5	113,7	+0,5	+5,6
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	122,0	121,0	114,7	+0,8	+6,4
Other urban areas	119,6	119,0	113,4	+0,5	+5,5
Gauteng	123,0	122,0	115,6	+0,8	+6,4
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	122,4	121,3	115,7	+0,9	+5,8
Witwatersrand	123,7	122,6	115,5	+0,9	+7,1
Other urban areas	121,2	120,5	114,9	+0,6	+5,5
Mpumalanga	125,0	123,9	115,9	+0,9	+7,9
Nelspruit/Witbank	125,0	123,7	117,1	+1,1	+6,7
Other urban areas	125,0	123,9	115,7	+0,9	+8,0
Northern Province	122,3	121,4	115,0	+0,7	+6,3
Pietersburg	125,4	123,8	116,7	+1,3	+7,5
Other urban areas	122,3	121,4	115,0	+0,7	+6,3
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	122,1	121,3	115,2	+0,7	+6,0
Weighted average - Metropolitan	123,2	122,3	116,0	+0,7	+6,2