

Statistical Release P0141.1

Prices : Consumer Price Index

August 1997

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INFLATION RATE DECREASES DURING AUGUST 1997

The official inflation rate, i.e. the annual rate of change in the Consumer Price Index, is 8,7% at August 1997. This rate is 0,4 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding rate of 9,1% at July 1997. The monthly increase from July to August 1997 in the Consumer Price Index, as well as the increase in the seasonally adjusted index, is 0,2%.

CORE INFLATION RATE

The core inflation rate (see note 7 on page 3) is 8,8% at August 1997. This rate is 0,1 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding rate of 8,7% at July 1997. From July 1997 to August 1997 the core inflation index increased by 0,3%.

The differences in the movement of the official inflation rate and the core inflation rate are mainly due to the decrease in the inflation rate for fresh and frozen meat and vegetables.

MONTHLY CONTRIBUTIONS

The monthly increase of 0,2% in the official inflation rate can be attributed to increases in the price indices for housing (contributing +0,1 of a percentage point) and other items (contributing +0,1 of a percentage point).

FOOD INFLATION DOWN TO 10,0% AT AUGUST 1997

The price index for food shows an annual rate of increase of 10,0% at August 1997. This rate is 2,0 percentage points lower than the corresponding rate of 12,0% at July 1997.

Furthermore, the price index for food shows a monthly decrease of 0,1%. This is mainly due to decreases in the price indices for meat (-0,5%), fats and oils (-0,2%) and vegetables (-1,2%). These decreases were slightly counteracted by increases in the price indices for grain products (+0,2%), milk, cheese and eggs (+0,4%), fruit and nuts (+0,7%), sugar (+0,8%), coffee, tea and cocoa (+0,3%) and "other" food (+1,3%).

PRICE INDEX FOR NON-FOOD ITEMS SHOWS A MONTHLY INCREASE OF 0,3%

The monthly increase of 0,3% in the price index for "all items, excluding food" is due to monthly increases in the price indices for non-alcoholic beverages (+0,1%), alcoholic beverages (+0,3%), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+0,9%), clothing and footwear (+0,2%), housing (+0,3%), fuel and power (+1,1%), household operation (+0,9%), transport (+0,1%) and "other" goods and services (+0,3%).

METROPOLITAN AND OTHER URBAN AREAS

The inflation rate for "metropolitan and other urban areas" will not be computable before January 1998, when the data for the previous twelve months will be available for comparison.

METROPOLITAN AREAS INDICES

Kimberley recorded the highest area inflation rate of 10,5%, while the lowest rate of 6,9% was recorded for the Free State Goldfields.

Regarding food prices, the highest annual increase of 14,4% was recorded for East London, while the Free State Goldfields reflected the lowest increase of 5,3%.

INFLATION RATE FOR PENSIONERS

The inflation rate for pensioners is 9,3% at August 1997. Kimberley recorded the highest rate of increase, namely 11,7%, while the lowest rate of 7,2% was recorded for the Free State Goldfields.

FOOD INFLATION AS MEASURED AT CHAIN-STORES AND OTHER RETAILERS

Food prices at chain-stores show an annual rate of increase of 10,6% at August 1997, while food prices at other retailers show an annual rate of increase of 7,7%. From July 1997 to August 1997, food prices at chain-stores increased by 0,4%, while food prices at other retailers increased by 1,2%.

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 August 1997 and the average of the previous three months. This approach, when using seasonally adjusted data, shows an increase of 6,5% (which is 0,4 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding rate of 6,9% for July 1997), while unadjusted data shows an increase of 6,3%.

CPI FOR SEPTEMBER 1997

In addition to the usual price surveys for September 1997, it has come to the attention of the CSS that changed prices will apply during the first seven days of September 1997 regarding assessment rates, electricity tariffs, water tariffs, refuse removal and sanitation fees, where changed prices did not apply as from July or August 1997; parking fees, bus tariffs and maintenance of graves in certain areas and train tariffs.

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.

TABLE 1 EXPENDITURE GROUP INDICES AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Aug. 1997	Jul. 1997	Aug. 1996	Percentage change compared with		
				Jul. 1997		Aug. 1996
				Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual
Expenditure groups						
Very Low	119,2	118,7	..	+0,4	..	..
Low	118,5	118,1	..	+0,3	..	..
Middle	118,4	118,1	..	+0,3	..	..
High	118,3	118,1	..	+0,2	..	..
Very High	117,5	117,2	..	+0,3	..	..
All expenditure groups - Metropolitan	117,7	117,5	108,3	+0,2 1)	+0,2 1)	+8,7 1)
All expenditure groups - Metro and other urban areas	117,6	117,4	..	+0,2	..	..
Food only - Metropolitan	116,9	117,0	106,3	-0,1	-0,3	+10,0
Food only - Metro and other urban areas	117,0	116,9	..	+0,1	..	..
All items, excluding food - Metropolitan	118,0	117,6	108,9	+0,3	+0,4	+8,4
All items, excluding food - Metro and other urban areas	117,8	117,5	..	+0,3	..	..
All expenditure groups (VAT EXCLUDED) - Metropolitan	117,7	117,5	108,4	+0,2 1)	+0,3 1)	+8,6 1)
All expenditure groups (VAT EXCLUDED) - Metro and other urban areas	117,6	117,4	..	+0,2	..	..
Core inflation - Metropolitan	117,8	117,4	108,3	+0,3	-	+8,8
Core inflation - Metro and other urban areas	118,0	117,7	..	+0,3	-	..

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
Housing	+0,1
All other items	+0,1
All items	+0,2

TABLE 3 GROUP INDICES - WEIGHTED AVERAGE
3.1 METROPOLITAN AREAS

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Aug. 1997	Jul. 1997	Aug. 1996	Percentage change compared with		Weights
				Jul. 1997	Aug. 1996	
All items	117,7	117,5	108,3	+0,2	+8,7	100,00
Expenditure groups - Very low	119,2	118,7	..	+0,4	..	0,51
Low	118,5	118,1	..	+0,3	..	1,78
Middle	118,4	118,1	..	+0,3	..	5,24
High	118,3	118,1	..	+0,2	..	17,70
Very high	117,5	117,2	..	+0,3	..	74,77
Commodities	115,6	115,4	107,0	+0,2	+8,0	55,00
Services	121,0	120,7	110,5	+0,2	+9,5	45,00
All items, excluding housing	116,6	116,4	107,3	+0,2	+8,7	75,93
All items, excluding food	118,0	117,6	108,9	+0,3	+8,4	81,98
Food	116,9	117,0	106,3	-0,1	+10,0	18,02
Expenditure groups - Very low	117,3	117,2	..	+0,1	..	40,73
Low	117,5	117,4	..	+0,1	..	34,39
Middle	117,5	117,6	..	-0,1	..	31,12
High	117,2	117,3	..	-0,1	..	25,42
Very high	116,6	116,7	..	-0,1	..	14,84
Processed	118,2	117,6	108,2	+0,5	+9,2	9,12
Unprocessed	115,7	116,4	104,5	-0,6	+10,7	8,90
Grain products	121,0	120,8	112,6	+0,2	+7,5	3,31
Meat	112,4	113,0	102,4	-0,5	+9,8	5,33
Fish and other seafood	117,7	117,7	107,6	0,0	+9,4	0,80
Milk, cheese and eggs	124,5	124,0	110,1	+0,4	+13,1	1,90
Fats and oils	119,5	119,7	108,3	-0,2	+10,3	0,85
Fruit and nuts	104,0	103,3	102,6	+0,7	+1,4	1,08
Vegetables	125,6	127,1	106,6	-1,2	+17,8	1,80
Sugar	117,9	117,0	110,7	+0,8	+6,5	0,59
Coffee, tea and cocoa	108,6	108,3	102,3	+0,3	+6,2	0,72
Other	118,4	116,9	108,9	+1,3	+8,7	1,64
Non-alcoholic beverages	123,3	123,2	112,4	+0,1	+9,7	0,82
Alcoholic beverages	118,9	118,5	108,6	+0,3	+9,5	1,18
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	147,5	146,2	115,4	+0,9	+27,8	0,95
Clothing and footwear	107,8	107,6	104,6	+0,2	+3,1	4,76
Clothing	107,3	107,1	104,5	+0,2	+2,7	3,55
Footwear	110,6	110,2	104,8	+0,4	+5,5	1,21
Housing	123,5	123,1	114,0	+0,3	+8,3	24,07
Fuel and power	118,3	117,0	109,2	+1,1	+8,3	3,11
Furniture and equipment	108,9	108,9	103,9	0,0	+4,8	3,94
Furniture	110,5	110,5	104,3	0,0	+5,9	1,62
Appliances	107,1	107,1	102,8	0,0	+4,2	1,08
Other household equipment and textiles	108,2	108,2	104,6	0,0	+3,4	1,24
Household operation	127,4	126,3	113,3	+0,9	+12,4	4,69
Household consumables	122,0	122,1	110,2	-0,1	+10,7	1,14
Domestic workers	135,8	134,3	118,0	+1,1	+15,1	3,19
Other household services	114,2	114,2	110,9	0,0	+3,0	0,36
Medical care and health expenses	130,0	130,0	108,3	0,0	+20,0	5,95
Transport	111,8	111,7	107,2	+0,1	+4,3	14,74
Vehicles	109,9	109,4	103,0	+0,5	+6,7	5,25
Running cost	116,0	116,1	113,0	-0,1	+2,7	5,75
Public and hired transport	111,0	110,9	106,2	+0,1	+4,5	3,74
Communication	110,6	110,6	108,4	0,0	+2,0	3,06
Recreation and entertainment	108,5	108,5	106,1	0,0	+2,3	2,38
Reading matter	123,9	123,9	112,2	0,0	+10,4	0,74
Education	122,2	122,2	110,8	0,0	+10,3	2,04
Personal care	116,0	116,0	108,4	0,0	+7,0	3,06
Other	114,5	114,2	106,0	+0,3	+8,0	6,49

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

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Aug. 1997	Jul. 1997	Aug. 1996	Percentage change compared with		Weights
				Jul. 1997	Aug. 1996	
All items	117,6	117,4	..	+0,2	..	100,00
Expenditure groups - Very low	118,1	117,9	..	+0,2	..	0,93
Low	117,8	117,6	..	+0,2	..	2,99
Middle	117,5	117,3	..	+0,2	..	7,58
High	118,0	117,7	..	+0,3	..	20,09
Very high	117,5	117,3	..	+0,2	..	68,41
Commodities	115,3	115,1	..	+0,2	..	57,34
Services	120,8	120,5	..	+0,2	..	42,66
All items, excluding housing	116,4	116,2	..	+0,2	..	77,55
All items, excluding food	117,8	117,5	..	+0,3	..	80,52
Food	117,0	116,9	..	+0,1	..	19,48
Expenditure groups - Very low	116,6	116,8	..	-0,2	..	44,17
Low	117,1	117,2	..	-0,1	..	38,83
Middle	117,3	117,3	..	0,0	..	32,67
High	117,1	117,1	..	0,0	..	25,61
Very high	116,8	116,7	..	+0,1	..	15,02
Processed	117,3	116,8	..	+0,4	..	10,52
Unprocessed	116,6	117,0	..	-0,3	..	8,96
Grain products	121,0	120,9	..	+0,1	..	3,73
Meat	112,2	112,3	..	-0,1	..	5,84
Fish and other seafood	118,6	118,5	..	+0,1	..	0,77
Milk, cheese and eggs	123,3	122,6	..	+0,6	..	2,02
Fats and oils	117,5	117,8	..	-0,3	..	0,94
Fruit and nuts	102,4	102,3	..	+0,1	..	1,07
Vegetables	127,3	128,5	..	-0,9	..	1,94
Sugar	117,7	116,7	..	+0,9	..	0,73
Coffee, tea and cocoa	107,0	106,9	..	+0,1	..	0,79
Other	117,5	116,4	..	+0,9	..	1,65
Non-alcoholic beverages	124,0	123,9	..	+0,1	..	0,82
Alcoholic beverages	119,9	119,8	..	+0,1	..	1,17
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	144,9	143,6	..	+0,9	..	1,04
Clothing and footwear	107,3	107,3	..	0,0	..	5,07
Clothing	106,9	106,9	..	0,0	..	3,80
Footwear	108,6	108,6	..	0,0	..	1,27
Housing	121,8	121,4	..	+0,3	..	22,45
Fuel and power	115,8	115,0	..	+0,7	..	3,54
Furniture and equipment	108,8	108,8	..	0,0	..	4,34
Furniture	110,7	110,7	..	0,0	..	1,77
Appliances	107,0	107,0	..	0,0	..	1,19
Other household equipment and textiles	108,0	107,9	..	+0,1	..	1,38
Household operation	130,5	129,3	..	+0,9	..	4,87
Household consumables	120,2	119,8	..	+0,3	..	1,27
Domestic workers	136,4	134,7	..	+1,3	..	3,25
Other household services	113,3	113,3	..	0,0	..	0,35
Medical care and health expenses	127,1	127,1	..	0,0	..	5,81
Transport	111,0	110,9	..	+0,1	..	13,65
Vehicles	107,3	107,2	..	+0,1	..	5,31
Running cost	116,2	116,2	..	0,0	..	5,16
Public and hired transport	108,8	108,7	..	+0,1	..	3,18
Communication	113,7	113,7	..	0,0	..	3,21
Recreation and entertainment	105,1	105,0	..	+0,1	..	2,18
Reading matter	122,1	122,1	..	0,0	..	0,69
Education	120,9	120,9	..	0,0	..	1,82
Personal care	116,7	116,7	..	0,0	..	3,08
Other	115,7	115,5	..	+0,2	..	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	
	Aug. 1997	Jul. 1997	Aug. 1996	Jul. 1997	Aug. 1996
Western Cape	117,7	117,5	..	+0,2	..
Cape Peninsula	118,2	117,8	108,3	+0,3	+9,1
Other urban areas	117,3	117,1	..	+0,2	..
Eastern Cape	118,8	118,7	..	+0,1	..
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	117,5	117,3	108,5	+0,2	+8,3
East London	119,5	119,2	108,6	+0,3	+10,0
Other urban areas	118,7	118,6	..	+0,1	..
Northern Cape	116,5	116,6	..	-0,1	..
Kimberley	118,8	118,4	107,5	+0,3	+10,5
Other urban areas	116,1	116,2	..	-0,1	..
Free State	114,7	114,4	..	+0,3	..
Bloemfontein	118,3	118,0	108,2	+0,3	+9,3
Free State Goldfields	114,8	113,9	107,4	+0,8	+6,9
Other urban areas	114,1	113,9	..	+0,2	..
KwaZulu-Natal	117,3	117,2	..	+0,1	..
Durban/Pinetown	118,4	118,2	108,7	+0,2	+8,9
Pietermaritzburg	118,1	117,8	108,6	+0,3	+8,7
Other urban areas	116,6	116,5	..	+0,1	..
North West	115,0	115,0	..	0,0	..
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	115,6	115,5	107,6	+0,1	+7,4
Other urban areas	114,8	114,8	..	0,0	..
Gauteng	118,3	118,1	..	+0,2	..
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	118,2	118,1	108,8	+0,1	+8,6
Witwatersrand	117,2	117,0	108,2	+0,2	+8,3
Other urban areas	117,8	117,7	..	+0,1	..
Mpumalanga	118,0	116,8	..	+1,0	..
Nelspruit/Witbank	117,6	116,9	108,0	+0,6	+8,9
Other urban areas	117,6	116,4	..	+1,0	..
Northern Province	116,7	116,0	..	+0,6	..
Pietersburg	117,9	117,1	109,1	+0,7	+8,1
Other urban areas	116,7	116,0	..	+0,6	..
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	117,6	117,4	..	+0,2	..
Weighted average - Metropolitan	117,7	117,5	108,3	+0,2	+8,7

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	
	Aug. 1997	Jul. 1997	Aug. 1996	Jul. 1997	Aug. 1996
Western Cape	117,2	117,0	..	+0,2	..
Cape Peninsula	117,4	117,2	106,1	+0,2	+10,7
Other urban areas	116,5	116,2	..	+0,3	..
Eastern Cape	119,4	119,4	..	0,0	..
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	117,1	116,7	106,5	+0,3	+10,0
East London	123,7	123,0	108,1	+0,6	+14,4
Other urban areas	119,6	119,7	..	-0,1	..
Northern Cape	115,4	115,9	..	-0,4	..
Kimberley	115,8	115,4	103,9	+0,3	+11,5
Other urban areas	115,3	115,9	..	-0,5	..
Free State	113,2	112,8	..	+0,4	..
Bloemfontein	117,9	117,0	104,7	+0,8	+12,6
Free State Goldfields	112,7	112,0	107,0	+0,6	+5,3
Other urban areas	112,8	112,5	..	+0,3	..
KwaZulu-Natal	118,4	118,6	..	-0,2	..
Durban/Pinetown	121,6	122,2	107,9	-0,5	+12,7
Pietermaritzburg	119,7	118,9	108,3	+0,7	+10,5
Other urban areas	117,1	117,3	..	-0,2	..
North West	113,6	113,7	..	-0,1	..
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	114,3	114,0	106,8	+0,3	+7,0
Other urban areas	113,4	113,5	..	-0,1	..
Gauteng	116,2	116,3	..	-0,1	..
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	118,2	118,8	107,1	-0,5	+10,4
Witwatersrand	115,3	115,4	105,6	-0,1	+9,2
Other urban areas	115,7	115,7	..	0,0	..
Mpumalanga	119,8	118,6	..	+1,0	..
Nelspruit/Witbank	118,0	117,8	106,9	+0,2	+10,4
Other urban areas	120,2	118,9	..	+1,1	..
Northern Province	120,7	119,8	..	+0,8	..
Pietersburg	120,6	120,0	108,1	+0,5	+11,6
Other urban areas	120,8	119,9	..	+0,8	..
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	117,0	116,9	..	+0,1	..
Weighted average - Metropolitan	116,9	117,0	106,3	-0,1	+10,0

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	
	Aug. 1997	Jul. 1997	Aug. 1996	Jul. 1997	Aug. 1996
Western Cape	116,6	116,3	..	+0,3	..
Cape Peninsula	117,2	116,7	106,9	+0,4	+9,6
Other urban areas	116,2	115,9	..	+0,3	..
Eastern Cape	117,8	117,7	..	+0,1	..
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	116,7	116,5	107,4	+0,2	+8,7
East London	119,9	119,5	107,9	+0,3	+11,1
Other urban areas	117,5	117,4	..	+0,1	..
Northern Cape	115,2	115,3	..	-0,1	..
Kimberley	116,6	116,1	106,1	+0,4	+9,9
Other urban areas	115,0	115,1	..	-0,1	..
Free State	114,8	114,6	..	+0,2	..
Bloemfontein	118,2	117,7	107,5	+0,4	+10,0
Free State Goldfields	114,5	114,0	107,5	+0,4	+6,5
Other urban areas	114,4	114,2	..	+0,2	..
KwaZulu-Natal	116,1	116,0	..	+0,1	..
Durban/Pinetown	117,5	117,4	107,9	+0,1	+8,9
Pietermaritzburg	116,7	116,4	107,6	+0,3	+8,5
Other urban areas	115,4	115,3	..	+0,1	..
North West	114,0	114,1	..	-0,1	..
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	115,0	114,9	107,1	+0,1	+7,4
Other urban areas	113,8	113,9	..	-0,1	..
Gauteng	116,9	116,8	..	+0,1	..
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	117,2	117,1	107,7	+0,1	+8,8
Witwatersrand	116,2	116,0	107,2	+0,2	+8,4
Other urban areas	116,4	116,3	..	+0,1	..
Mpumalanga	116,1	115,4	..	+0,6	..
Nelspruit/Witbank	116,3	115,9	107,1	+0,3	+8,6
Other urban areas	115,8	115,1	..	+0,6	..
Northern Province	115,5	114,9	..	+0,5	..
Pietersburg	117,1	116,6	108,0	+0,4	+8,4
Other urban areas	115,4	114,8	..	+0,5	..
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	116,4	116,2	..	+0,2	..
Weighted average - Metropolitan	116,6	116,4	107,3	+0,2	+8,7

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	
	Aug. 1997	Jul. 1997	Aug. 1996	Jul. 1997	Aug. 1996
Western Cape	117,9	117,6	..	+0,3	..
Cape Peninsula	118,7	118,2	109,0	+0,4	+8,9
Other urban areas	117,6	117,4	..	+0,2	..
Eastern Cape	118,6	118,5	..	+0,1	..
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	117,4	117,3	109,1	+0,1	+7,6
East London	118,5	118,3	108,7	+0,2	+9,0
Other urban areas	118,4	118,3	..	+0,1	..
Northern Cape	116,9	116,8	..	+0,1	..
Kimberley	119,9	119,6	108,7	+0,3	+10,3
Other urban areas	116,4	116,3	..	+0,1	..
Free State	115,1	114,9	..	+0,2	..
Bloemfontein	118,6	118,3	109,3	+0,3	+8,5
Free State Goldfields	115,4	114,4	107,6	+0,9	+7,2
Other urban areas	114,5	114,4	..	+0,1	..
KwaZulu-Natal	117,1	116,8	..	+0,3	..
Durban/Pinetown	117,7	117,3	109,0	+0,3	+8,0
Pietermaritzburg	117,5	117,3	108,7	+0,2	+8,1
Other urban areas	116,5	116,3	..	+0,2	..
North West	115,4	115,3	..	+0,1	..
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	115,9	115,7	107,8	+0,2	+7,5
Other urban areas	115,2	115,1	..	+0,1	..
Gauteng	118,7	118,5	..	+0,2	..
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	117,9	117,7	109,3	+0,2	+7,9
Witwatersrand	117,7	117,5	108,8	+0,2	+8,2
Other urban areas	118,3	118,1	..	+0,2	..
Mpumalanga	117,5	116,3	..	+1,0	..
Nelspruit/Witbank	117,3	116,4	108,3	+0,8	+8,3
Other urban areas	116,9	115,7	..	+1,0	..
Northern Province	115,7	115,1	..	+0,5	..
Pietersburg	117,1	116,3	109,4	+0,7	+7,0
Other urban areas	115,7	115,1	..	+0,5	..
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	117,8	117,5	..	+0,3	..
Weighted average - Metropolitan	118,0	117,6	108,9	+0,3	+8,4

TABLE 5 SEASONALLY ADJUSTED INDICES

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Aug. 1997	Jul. 1997	Jun. 1997	May 1997	Weights
All items	117,5	117,3	116,4	115,8	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	117,6	117,1	116,4	115,9	81,98
Commodities	115,7	115,3	114,6	114,1	55,00
Food	117,8	118,1	117,3	115,4	18,02
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	118,0	118,2	117,5	115,7	18,84
Alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	133,8	133,1	132,8	131,5	2,13
Clothing and footwear	107,5	107,3	107,0	107,0	4,72
Furniture and equipment	109,0	108,8	108,5	107,8	3,85
Vehicles	109,8	109,3	109,3	109,4	5,25
Other transport commodities	114,0	113,7	116,4	118,2	4,63
Other commodities	117,8	116,4	113,7	113,9	15,58
Services	120,6	120,0	119,1	118,5	45,00
Housing and domestic workers	123,3	122,8	121,8	121,3	25,99
Transport	110,1	109,7	108,7	108,2	4,86
Other services	121,2	120,4	119,7	118,9	14,15
All items (VAT excluded)	117,5	117,2	116,3	115,8	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	
	Aug. 1997	Jul. 1997	Aug. 1996	Jul. 1997	Aug. 1996
Western Cape	117,5	117,2	..	+0,3	..
Cape Peninsula	119,7	119,2	109,0	+0,4	+9,8
Other cities	117,0	116,8	..	+0,2	..
Eastern Cape	118,9	118,7	..	+0,2	..
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	117,8	117,5	108,2	+0,3	+8,9
East London	120,0	119,5	108,4	+0,4	+10,7
Other cities	118,7	118,6	..	+0,1	..
Northern Cape	118,1	118,1	..	0,0	..
Kimberley	121,2	120,7	108,5	+0,4	+11,7
Other cities	117,7	117,8	..	-0,1	..
Free State	114,3	114,0	..	+0,3	..
Bloemfontein	117,9	117,5	108,0	+0,3	+9,2
Free State Goldfields	114,7	113,3	107,0	+1,2	+7,2
Other cities	113,9	113,7	..	+0,2	..
KwaZulu-Natal	116,8	116,7	..	+0,1	..
Durban/Pinetown	118,2	118,1	108,5	+0,1	+8,9
Pietermaritzburg	116,7	116,3	107,8	+0,3	+8,3
Other cities	116,1	116,0	..	+0,1	..
North West	115,7	115,6	..	+0,1	..
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	117,2	117,0	108,0	+0,2	+8,5
Other cities	115,2	115,2	..	0,0	..
Gauteng	118,2	118,0	..	+0,2	..
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	117,8	117,7	108,5	+0,1	+8,6
Witwatersrand	118,5	118,2	108,6	+0,3	+9,1
Other cities	117,2	117,1	..	+0,1	..
Mpumalanga	119,3	117,6	..	+1,4	..
Nelspruit/Witbank	119,4	118,3	108,7	+0,9	+9,8
Other cities	119,3	117,5	..	+1,5	..
Northern Province	117,4	116,5	..	+0,8	..
Pietersburg	119,3	118,1	108,2	+1,0	+10,3
Other cities	117,4	116,5	..	+0,8	..
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	117,5	117,3	..	+0,2	..
Weighted average - Metropolitan	118,6	118,3	108,5	+0,3	+9,3

TABLE 7 PERCENTAGE CHANGE BY TYPE OF STORE
TABLE 7.1 Chain-stores 1/

Group	Percentage change compared with	
	Jul. 1997	Aug. 1996
Food	+0,4	+10,6
Processed	+0,7	+8,8
Unprocessed	0,0	+12,6
Grain products	-0,1	+4,3
Meat	+0,4	+13,2
Fish and other seafood	-1,1	+11,1
Milk, cheese and eggs	-0,2	+11,0
Fats and oils	0,0	+6,3
Fruit and nuts	+1,6	-4,1
Vegetables	+1,4	+20,5
Sugar	+1,0	+9,4
Coffee, tea and cocoa	+0,2	+9,4
Other	+0,8	+8,7

1/ With at least 15 branches

TABLE 7.2 Other retailers ^{2/}

Group	Percentage change compared with	
	Jul. 1997	Aug. 1996
Food	+1,2	+7,7
Processed	+0,9	+4,2
Unprocessed	+1,6	+11,2
Grain products	0,0	+4,4
Meat	+2,1	+9,7
Fish and other seafood	0,0	+5,6
Milk, cheese and eggs	+6,6	+10,7
Fats and oils	0,0	+3,4
Fruit and nuts	0,0	-2,4
Vegetables	-3,5	+14,4
Sugar	0,0	+1,3
Coffee, tea and cocoa	0,0	+1,6
Other	+0,3	+4,1

^{2/} Retailers not considered as chain-stores (see Table 7.1)