

Consumer Price Index

Statistical release

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INFLATION RATE INCREASES TO 7,6% AT AUGUST 1998

The official inflation rate, i.e. the annual rate of change in the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas, is 7,6% at August 1998. This rate is 1,0 percentage point higher than the corresponding annual rate of 6,6% at July 1998. This is mainly due to the increase in interest rates on existing mortgage bonds. From July 1998 to August 1998 the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas increased by 1,1%. The seasonally adjusted index increased by 1,2% 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 7,5% at August 1998. This rate is 0,9 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding annual rate of 6,6% at July 1998. From July 1998 to August 1998 the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan and other urban areas increased by 1,0%.

CORE INFLATION RATE

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

The core inflation rate for metropolitan and other urban areas is 7,4% at August 1998, which is 0,3 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding rate of 7,1% at July 1998. From July 1998 to August 1998 the core inflation index for metropolitan areas, as well as the index for metropolitan and other urban areas increased by 0,6%.

METROPOLITAN AREAS

Contributions to monthly increase in CPI

The monthly increase of 1,1% in the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas is due to increases in the price indices for cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+0,1 of a percentage point), housing (+0,8 of a percentage point, mainly due to the increase in interest rates on existing mortgage bonds) and transport (+0,2 of a percentage point, mainly due to an increase of 11 c/l in the price of petrol).

Food inflation

The price index for food shows an annual rate of increase of 5,5% at August 1998. This rate is 0,1 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 5,6% at July 1998. From July 1998 to August 1998 this index, as well as the seasonally adjusted index decreased by 0,2%.

The price index for food shows a monthly decrease of 0,2%, which is due to decreases in the price indices for grain products (-0,6%), meat (-1,5%) and sugar (-1,5%). These decreases were counteracted by increases in the price indices for fish and other seafood (+0,5%), milk, cheese and eggs (+0,1%), fats and oils (+1,3%), fruit and nuts (+1,0%), vegetables (+0,8%), coffee, tea and cocoa (+1,5%) and "other "food items (+0,5%).

Price index for non-food items

The price index for non-food items shows an annual rate of increase of 8,0% at August 1998. This rate is 1,2 percentage points higher than the corresponding annual rate of 6,8% at July 1998. From July 1998 to August 1998 this index increased by 1,4%, while the seasonally adjusted index increased by 1,6%.

The monthly increase of 1,4% in the price index for "all items, excluding food" is mainly due to monthly increases in the price indices for non-alcoholic beverages (+1,9%), alcoholic beverages (+0,8%), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+4,2%), housing (+3,3%), fuel and power (+0,9%), household operation (+0,7%) and transport (+1,4%).

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 1998 and the average index of the previous three months. This approach, when using seasonally adjusted data shows an increase of 12,1% (which is 3,8 percentage points higher than the corresponding rate of 8,3% for July 1998), while the unadjusted data shows an increase of 11,7% (which is 3,4 percentage points higher than the corresponding rate of 8,3% for July 1998).

Pensioners

The inflation rate for pensioners in the metropolitan areas is 7,3% at August 1998, which is 0,5 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding rate of 6,8% at July 1998.

METROPOLITAN AND OTHER URBAN AREAS

Contributions to monthly increase in CPI

Similar to the increase in the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas, the monthly increase of 1,0% in the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan and other urban areas is also due to increases in the price indices for cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+0,1 of a percentage point), housing (+0,7 percentage points) and transport (+0,2 of a percentage point, mainly due to an increase of 11c/l in the price of petrol) .

Food inflation

The price index for food shows an annual rate of increase of 6,1% at August 1998, which is 0,1 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 6,2% for July 1998. From July 1998 to August 1998 this index decreased by 0,1%

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

Price index for non-food items

The price index for non-food items shows an annual rate of increase of 7,8% at August 1998, which is 1,4 percentage points higher than the corresponding annual rate of 6,4% for July 1998. From July 1998 to August 1998 this index increased by 1,6%.

The monthly increase of 1,6% in the price index for "all items, excluding food" is mainly due to monthly increases in the price indices for non-alcoholic beverages (+2,1%), alcoholic beverages (+0,4%), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+3,7%), housing (+3,0%), fuel and power (+0,5%), household operation (+0,8%) and transport (+1,3%).

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 1998 and the average index of the previous three months. This approach, when using unadjusted data shows an increase of 11,1%, which is 2,8 percentage points higher than the corresponding rate of 8,3% for July 1998. 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 7,1% at August 1998. Other urban areas in Mpumalanga recorded the highest rate of increase, namely 8,7%, while the lowest rate of 5,7% was recorded for the Free State Goldfields area.

Areas indices

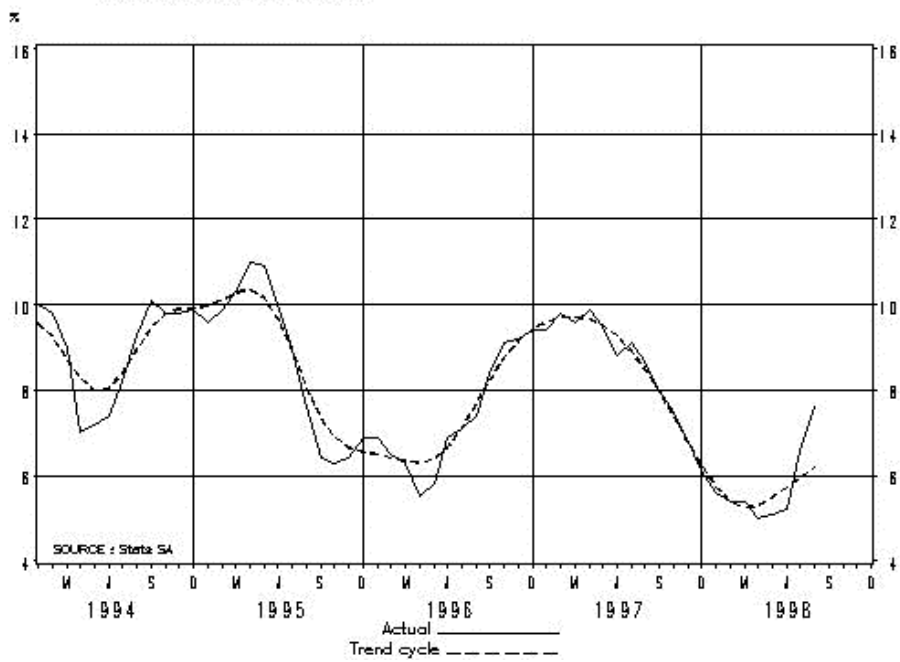
The other urban areas in Mpumalanga recorded the highest inflation rate of 8,4%, while the lowest rate of 6,0% was recorded for Free State Goldfields area.

Regarding food prices, the highest annual increase of 11,2% was recorded for other urban areas in the Eastern Cape, while East London reflected the lowest increase of 3,1%.

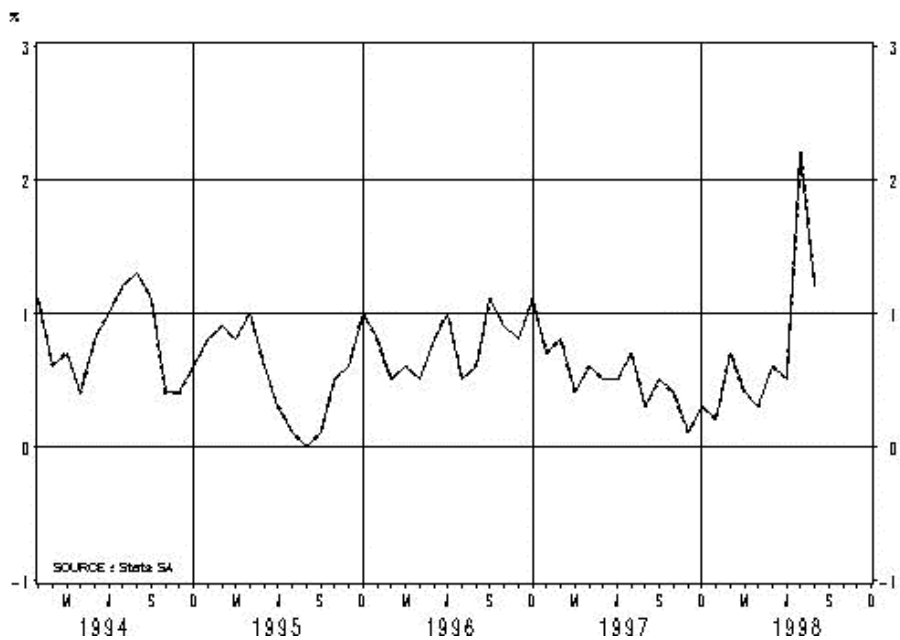
CPI FOR SEPTEMBER 1998

In addition to the usual price surveys for September 1998, it has come to the attention of the Stats SA that changed prices will apply during the first seven days of September 1998 regarding parking fees, water, electricity, refuse removal, sanitary services, property insurance, maintenance of graves and hospital fees in certain areas.

Graph 1 – Consumer Price Index (metropolitan areas)
Annual percentage change



Graph 2 – Consumer Price Index (metropolitan areas)
Seasonally adjusted
Monthly percentage change



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 Stats SA 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	Aug. 1998	Jul. 1998	Aug. 1997	Percentage change compared with		
				Jul. 1998		Aug. 1997
				Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual
Expenditure groups						
Very Low	128,1	127,5	119,2	+0,5	..	+7,5
Low	127,3	126,6	118,5	+0,6	..	+7,4
Middle	127,0	126,1	118,4	+0,7	..	+7,3
High	127,3	126,2	118,3	+0,9	..	+7,6
Very High	126,4	124,8	117,5	+1,3	..	+7,6
All expenditure groups - Metropolitan	126,7	125,3	117,7	+1,1	+1,2	+7,6
All expenditure groups - Metro and other urban areas	126,4	125,1	117,6	+1,0	..	+7,5
Food only - Metropolitan	123,3	123,6	116,9	-0,2	-0,2	+5,5
Food only - Metro and other urban areas	124,1	124,2	117,0	-0,1	..	+6,1
All items excluding food - Metropolitan	127,4	125,6	118,0	+1,4	+1,6	+8,0
All items excluding food - Metro and other urban areas	127,0	125,0	117,8	+1,6	..	+7,8
All expenditure groups (VAT EXCLUDED) - Metropolitan	126,7	125,3	117,7	+1,1	+1,2	+7,6
All expenditure groups (VAT EXCLUDED) - Metro and other urban areas	126,4	125,1	117,6	+1,0	..	+7,5
Core inflation - Metropolitan	126,7	125,9	117,8	+0,6	-	+7,6
Core inflation - Metro and other urban areas	126,7	126,0	118,0	+0,6	-	+7,4

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

TABLE 1.2 ANNUAL INFLATION ON A MONTHLY BASIS

Metropolitan areas - All Items														Base year: 1995 = 100	
Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Des.	Ave.	Index	
1996	103,6	103,7	104,6	105,2	105,9	106,9	107,7	108,3	109,4	110,4	110,8	111,9	107,4	Ind.	
	+6,9	+6,5	+6,3	+5,5	+5,8	+6,9	+7,1	+7,4	+8,4	+9,1	+9,2	+9,4	+7,4	%	
1997	113,3	113,9	114,6	115,6	116,0	116,3	117,5	117,7	118,2	118,7	118,3	118,7	116,6	Ind.	
	+9,4	+9,8	+9,6	+9,9	+9,5	+8,8	+9,1	+8,7	+8,0	+7,5	+6,8	+6,1	+8,6	%	
1998	119,7	120,0	120,8	121,4	121,9	122,3	125,3	126,7	..	..	..	..	..	Ind.
	+5,6	+5,4	+5,4	+5,0	+5,1	+5,2	+6,6	+7,6	..	..	..	..	..	%

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

Group	Contribution
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	0.1
Housing	0.8
Transport	0.2
All items	1.1

TABLE 3 GROUP INDICES - WEIGHTED AVERAGE
3.1 METROPOLITAN AREAS

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Aug. 1998	Jul. 1998	Aug. 1997	Percentage change compared with		Weights
				Jul. 1998	Aug. 1997	
All items	126,7	125,3	117,7	+1,1	+7,6	100,00
Expenditure groups - Very low	128,1	127,5	119,2	+0,5	+7,5	0,51
Low	127,3	126,6	118,5	+0,6	+7,4	1,78
Middle	127,0	126,1	118,4	+0,7	+7,3	5,24
High	127,3	126,2	118,3	+0,9	+7,6	17,70
Very high	126,4	124,8	117,5	+1,3	+7,6	74,77
Commodities	122,9	122,3	115,6	+0,5	+6,3	55,00
Services	132,1	129,7	121,0	+1,9	+9,2	45,00
All items, excluding housing	124,5	124,0	116,6	+0,4	+6,8	75,93
All items, excluding food	127,4	125,6	118,0	+1,4	+8,0	81,98
Food	123,3	123,6	116,9	-0,2	+5,5	18,02
Expenditure groups - Very low	124,8	124,9	117,3	-0,1	+6,4	40,73
Low	124,8	125,0	117,5	-0,2	+6,2	34,39
Middle	124,6	124,7	117,5	-0,1	+6,0	31,12
High	123,9	124,0	117,2	-0,1	+5,7	25,42
Very high	122,7	123,1	116,6	-0,3	+5,2	14,84
Processed	125,2	125,1	118,2	+0,1	+5,9	9,12
Unprocessed	121,4	122,1	115,7	-0,6	+4,9	8,90
Grain products	129,6	130,4	121,0	-0,6	+7,1	3,31
Meat	115,3	117,0	112,4	-1,5	+2,6	5,33
Fish and other seafood	128,9	128,3	117,7	+0,5	+9,5	0,80
Milk, cheese and eggs	130,0	129,9	124,5	+0,1	+4,4	1,90
Fats and oils	128,1	126,5	119,5	+1,3	+7,2	0,85
Fruit and nuts	109,1	108,0	104,0	+1,0	+4,9	1,08
Vegetables	134,5	133,4	125,6	+0,8	+7,1	1,80
Sugar	123,2	125,1	117,9	-1,5	+4,5	0,59
Coffee, tea and cocoa	115,1	113,4	108,6	+1,5	+6,0	0,72
Other	128,1	127,4	118,4	+0,5	+8,2	1,64
Non-alcoholic beverages	135,9	133,4	123,3	+1,9	+10,2	0,82
Alcoholic beverages	129,7	128,7	118,9	+0,8	+9,1	1,18
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	189,7	182,0	147,5	+4,2	+28,6	0,95
Clothing and footwear	108,5	108,3	107,8	+0,2	+0,6	4,76
Clothing	108,6	107,9	107,3	+0,6	+1,2	3,55
Footwear	109,4	110,5	110,6	-1,0	-1,1	1,21
Housing	136,1	131,8	123,5	+3,3	+10,2	24,07
Fuel and power	127,6	126,4	118,3	+0,9	+7,9	3,11
Furniture and equipment	112,8	112,8	108,9	0,0	+3,6	3,94
Furniture	116,8	116,8	110,5	0,0	+5,7	1,62
Appliances	108,9	108,9	107,1	0,0	+1,7	1,08
Other household equipment and textiles	110,8	110,8	108,2	0,0	+2,4	1,24
Household operation	143,0	142,0	127,4	+0,7	+12,2	4,69
Household consumables	130,0	130,6	122,0	-0,5	+6,6	1,14
Domestic workers	156,0	154,2	135,8	+1,2	+14,9	3,19
Other household services	119,8	119,8	114,2	0,0	+4,9	0,36
Medical care and health expenses	145,9	145,9	130,0	0,0	+12,2	5,95
Transport	117,9	116,3	111,8	+1,4	+5,5	14,74
Vehicles	113,8	113,4	109,9	+0,4	+3,5	5,25
Running cost	127,1	123,4	116,0	+3,0	+9,6	5,75
Public and hired transport	112,4	112,1	111,0	+0,3	+1,3	3,74
Communication	119,7	119,7	110,6	0,0	+8,2	3,06
Recreation and entertainment	110,1	110,1	108,5	0,0	+1,5	2,38
Reading matter	135,9	135,9	123,9	0,0	+9,7	0,74
Education	135,6	135,6	122,2	0,0	+11,0	2,04
Personal care	123,0	123,0	116,0	0,0	+6,0	3,06
Other	118,7	118,5	114,5	+0,2	+3,7	6,49

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

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group				Percentage change compared with		Weights
	Aug. 1998	Jul. 1998	Aug. 1997	Jul. 1998	Aug. 1997	
All items	126,4	125,1	117,6	+1,0	+7,5	100,00
Expenditure groups - Very low	127,7	127,3	118,1	+0,3	+8,1	0,93
Low	126,9	126,3	117,8	+0,5	+7,7	2,99
Middle	126,1	125,3	117,5	+0,6	+7,3	7,58
High	126,8	125,8	118,0	+0,8	+7,5	20,09
Very high	126,2	124,8	117,5	+1,1	+7,4	68,41
Commodities	122,5	121,9	115,3	+0,5	+6,2	57,34
Services	131,7	129,4	120,8	+1,8	+9,0	42,66
All items, excluding housing	124,5	124,0	116,4	+0,4	+7,0	77,55
All items, excluding food	127,0	125,0	117,8	+1,6	+7,8	80,52
Food	124,1	124,2	117,0	-0,1	+6,1	19,48
Expenditure groups - Very low	127,0	127,0	116,6	0,0	+8,9	44,17
Low	126,4	126,4	117,1	0,0	+7,9	38,83
Middle	125,5	125,3	117,3	+0,2	+7,0	32,67
High	124,5	124,4	117,1	+0,1	+6,3	25,61
Very high	123,3	123,4	116,8	-0,1	+5,6	15,02
Processed	125,0	124,6	117,3	+0,3	+6,6	10,52
Unprocessed	123,3	123,7	116,6	-0,3	+5,7	8,96
Grain products	130,6	130,8	121,0	-0,2	+7,9	3,73
Meat	114,9	115,7	112,2	-0,7	+2,4	5,84
Fish and other seafood	130,3	130,1	118,6	+0,2	+9,9	0,77
Milk, cheese and eggs	129,5	129,7	123,3	-0,2	+5,0	2,02
Fats and oils	127,1	125,0	117,5	+1,7	+8,2	0,94
Fruit and nuts	108,0	107,2	102,4	+0,7	+5,5	1,07
Vegetables	139,4	138,9	127,3	+0,4	+9,5	1,94
Sugar	126,5	126,7	117,7	-0,2	+7,5	0,73
Coffee, tea and cocoa	114,1	112,8	107,0	+1,2	+6,6	0,79
Other	127,4	127,1	117,5	+0,2	+8,4	1,65
Non-alcoholic beverages	138,7	135,9	124,0	+2,1	+11,9	0,82
Alcoholic beverages	130,3	129,8	119,9	+0,4	+8,7	1,17
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	184,3	177,7	144,9	+3,7	+27,2	1,04
Clothing and footwear	108,8	108,5	107,3	+0,3	+1,4	5,07
Clothing	108,8	108,2	106,9	+0,6	+1,8	3,80
Footwear	108,9	109,1	108,6	-0,2	+0,3	1,27
Housing	133,4	129,5	121,8	+3,0	+9,5	22,45
Fuel and power	124,4	123,8	115,8	+0,5	+7,4	3,54
Furniture and equipment	111,6	111,6	108,8	0,0	+2,6	4,34
Furniture	115,1	115,1	110,7	0,0	+4,0	1,77
Appliances	108,3	108,3	107,0	0,0	+1,2	1,19
Other household equipment and textiles	110,1	110,1	108,0	0,0	+1,9	1,38
Household operation	146,8	145,6	130,5	+0,8	+12,5	4,87
Household consumables	128,1	128,2	120,2	-0,1	+6,6	1,27
Domestic workers	157,2	155,3	136,4	+1,2	+15,2	3,25
Other household services	118,5	118,5	113,3	0,0	+4,6	0,35
Medical care and health expenses	142,6	142,6	127,1	0,0	+12,2	5,81
Transport	116,3	114,8	111,0	+1,3	+4,8	13,65
Vehicles	110,3	109,9	107,3	+0,4	+2,8	5,31
Running cost	126,5	123,0	116,2	+2,8	+8,9	5,16
Public and hired transport	109,8	109,6	108,8	+0,2	+0,9	3,18
Communication	123,1	123,1	113,7	0,0	+8,3	3,21
Recreation and entertainment	106,5	106,5	105,1	0,0	+1,3	2,18
Reading matter	133,8	133,8	122,1	0,0	+9,6	0,69
Education	136,0	136,0	120,9	0,0	+12,5	1,82
Personal care	124,1	124,1	116,7	0,0	+6,3	3,08
Other	120,2	120,0	115,7	+0,2	+3,9	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. 1998	Jul. 1998	Aug. 1997	Jul. 1998	Aug. 1997
Western Cape	125,8	124,2	117,7	+1,3	+6,9
Cape Peninsula	127,1	125,0	118,2	+1,7	+7,5
Other urban areas	124,8	123,5	117,3	+1,1	+6,4
Eastern Cape	128,1	127,0	118,8	+0,9	+7,8
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	126,2	124,4	117,5	+1,4	+7,4
East London	128,9	127,5	119,5	+1,1	+7,9
Other urban areas	128,2	127,3	118,7	+0,7	+8,0
Northern Cape	124,2	123,1	116,5	+0,9	+6,6
Kimberley	127,9	126,9	118,8	+0,8	+7,7
Other urban areas	123,6	122,5	116,1	+0,9	+6,5
Free State	122,5	121,5	114,7	+0,8	+6,8
Bloemfontein	127,3	125,6	118,3	+1,4	+7,6
Free State Goldfields	121,7	120,9	114,8	+0,7	+6,0
Other urban areas	121,9	121,0	114,1	+0,7	+6,8
KwaZulu-Natal	125,9	124,5	117,3	+1,1	+7,3
Durban/Pinetown	127,9	126,6	118,4	+1,0	+8,0
Pietermaritzburg	125,3	124,3	118,1	+0,8	+6,1
Other urban areas	124,8	123,4	116,6	+1,1	+7,0
North West	124,2	123,2	115,0	+0,8	+8,0
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	123,4	121,9	115,6	+1,2	+6,7
Other urban areas	124,1	123,2	114,8	+0,7	+8,1
Gauteng	127,6	126,3	118,3	+1,0	+7,9
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	126,6	125,3	118,2	+1,0	+7,1
Witwatersrand	126,5	125,2	117,2	+1,0	+7,9
Other urban areas	127,3	126,0	117,8	+1,0	+8,1
Mpumalanga	127,8	126,6	118,0	+0,9	+8,3
Nelspruit/Witbank	127,3	126,0	117,6	+1,0	+8,2
Other urban areas	127,5	126,3	117,6	+1,0	+8,4
Northern Province	124,9	123,8	116,7	+0,9	+7,0
Pietersburg	125,7	124,2	117,9	+1,2	+6,6
Other urban areas	125,0	123,9	116,7	+0,9	+7,1
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	126,4	125,1	117,6	+1,0	+7,5
Weighted average - Metropolitan	126,7	125,3	117,7	+1,1	+7,6

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. 1998	Jul. 1998	Aug. 1997	Jul. 1998	Aug. 1997
Western Cape	124,6	123,6	117,2	+0,8	+6,3
Cape Peninsula	125,2	123,3	117,4	+1,5	+6,6
Other urban areas	123,6	123,1	116,5	+0,4	+6,1
Eastern Cape	131,1	131,2	119,4	-0,1	+9,8
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	123,1	122,2	117,1	+0,7	+5,1
East London	127,5	129,4	123,7	-1,5	+3,1
Other urban areas	133,0	133,3	119,6	-0,2	+11,2
Northern Cape	121,3	120,9	115,4	+0,3	+5,1
Kimberley	121,9	121,8	115,8	+0,1	+5,3
Other urban areas	121,1	120,7	115,3	+0,3	+5,0
Free State	119,5	119,1	113,2	+0,3	+5,6
Bloemfontein	124,3	123,8	117,9	+0,4	+5,4
Free State Goldfields	119,4	119,2	112,7	+0,2	+5,9
Other urban areas	119,1	118,6	112,8	+0,4	+5,6
KwaZulu-Natal	125,1	125,1	118,4	0,0	+5,7
Durban/Pinetown	128,9	129,7	121,6	-0,6	+6,0
Pietermaritzburg	124,8	124,8	119,7	0,0	+4,3
Other urban areas	123,9	123,4	117,1	+0,4	+5,8
North West	119,4	119,4	113,6	0,0	+5,1
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	119,3	119,1	114,3	+0,2	+4,4
Other urban areas	119,3	119,3	113,4	0,0	+5,2
Gauteng	122,6	123,3	116,2	-0,6	+5,5
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	124,6	124,6	118,2	0,0	+5,4
Witwatersrand	121,4	122,3	115,3	-0,7	+5,3
Other urban areas	123,3	123,5	115,7	-0,2	+6,6
Mpumalanga	128,4	128,7	119,8	-0,2	+7,2
Nelspruit/Witbank	123,8	124,4	118,0	-0,5	+4,9
Other urban areas	129,2	129,5	120,2	-0,2	+7,5
Northern Province	128,4	127,7	120,7	+0,5	+6,4
Pietersburg	126,1	127,1	120,6	-0,8	+4,6
Other urban areas	128,7	127,8	120,8	+0,7	+6,5
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	124,1	124,2	117,0	-0,1	+6,1
Weighted average - Metropolitan	123,3	123,6	116,9	-0,2	+5,5

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

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. 1998	Jul. 1998	Aug. 1997	Jul. 1998	Aug. 1997
Western Cape	126,1	124,4	117,9	+1,4	+7,0
Cape Peninsula	127,7	125,6	118,7	+1,7	+7,6
Other urban areas	125,2	123,7	117,6	+1,2	+6,5
Eastern Cape	127,3	125,9	118,6	+1,1	+7,3
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	126,8	124,8	117,4	+1,6	+8,0
East London	129,5	127,3	118,5	+1,7	+9,3
Other urban areas	126,7	125,5	118,4	+1,0	+7,0
Northern Cape	125,1	123,8	116,9	+1,1	+7,0
Kimberley	130,4	129,1	119,9	+1,0	+8,8
Other urban areas	124,3	123,0	116,4	+1,1	+6,8
Free State	123,4	122,3	115,1	+0,9	+7,2
Bloemfontein	128,3	126,4	118,6	+1,5	+8,2
Free State Goldfields	122,4	121,4	115,4	+0,8	+6,1
Other urban areas	122,9	121,7	114,5	+1,0	+7,3
KwaZulu-Natal	126,1	124,4	117,1	+1,4	+7,7
Durban/Pinetown	127,7	125,9	117,7	+1,4	+8,5
Pietermaritzburg	125,4	124,1	117,5	+1,0	+6,7
Other urban areas	124,9	123,3	116,5	+1,3	+7,2
North West	125,4	124,2	115,4	+1,0	+8,7
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	124,1	122,2	115,9	+1,6	+7,1
Other urban areas	125,4	124,3	115,2	+0,9	+8,9
Gauteng	128,6	126,8	118,7	+1,4	+8,3
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	126,6	125,0	117,9	+1,3	+7,4
Witwatersrand	127,7	125,8	117,7	+1,5	+8,5
Other urban areas	128,4	126,7	118,3	+1,3	+8,5
Mpumalanga	127,6	126,0	117,5	+1,3	+8,6
Nelspruit/Witbank	127,7	126,0	117,3	+1,3	+8,9
Other urban areas	127,1	125,4	116,9	+1,4	+8,7
Northern Province	124,1	122,9	115,7	+1,0	+7,3
Pietersburg	125,4	123,4	117,1	+1,6	+7,1
Other urban areas	124,1	122,9	115,7	+1,0	+7,3
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	127,0	125,0	117,8	+1,6	+7,8
Weighted average - Metropolitan	127,4	125,6	118,0	+1,4	+8,0

TABLE 5 SEASONALLY ADJUSTED INDICES

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Aug. 1998	Jul. 1998	Jun. 1998	May 1998	Weights
All items	126,6	125,1	122,4	121,8	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	127,2	125,2	122,1	121,5	81,98
Commodities	123,1	122,2	121,5	120,9	55,00
Food	124,3	124,5	124,5	123,2	18,02
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	124,8	124,9	124,8	123,5	18,84
Alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	158,9	154,9	153,3	152,1	2,13
Clothing and footwear	107,7	107,5	107,4	107,3	4,72
Furniture and equipment	113,0	112,7	112,4	113,0	3,85
Vehicles	113,8	113,5	113,7	113,4	5,25
Other transport commodities	129,5	123,3	123,6	120,3	4,63
Other commodities	126,6	125,9	123,3	123,9	15,58
Services	131,7	128,8	123,7	123,2	45,00
Housing and domestic workers	135,3	131,0	122,3	122,0	25,99
Transport	111,2	110,6	110,9	110,6	4,86
Other services	133,6	131,9	130,1	129,3	14,15
All items (VAT excluded)	126,5	125,0	122,2	121,7	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. 1998	Jul. 1998	Aug. 1997	Jul. 1998	Aug. 1997
Western Cape	124,8	123,7	117,5	+0,9	+6,2
Cape Peninsula	128,0	126,3	119,7	+1,3	+6,9
Other urban areas	124,0	123,1	117,0	+0,7	+6,0
Eastern Cape	128,5	127,9	118,9	+0,5	+8,1
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	126,3	125,0	117,8	+1,0	+7,2
East London	129,3	128,5	120,0	+0,6	+7,8
Other urban areas	128,5	128,0	118,7	+0,4	+8,3
Northern Cape	126,0	125,2	118,1	+0,6	+6,7
Kimberley	131,5	130,9	121,2	+0,5	+8,5
Other urban areas	125,2	124,4	117,7	+0,6	+6,4
Free State	122,1	121,4	114,3	+0,6	+6,8
Bloemfontein	126,5	125,0	117,9	+1,2	+7,3
Free State Goldfields	121,2	120,6	114,7	+0,5	+5,7
Other urban areas	121,8	121,2	113,9	+0,5	+6,9
KwaZulu-Natal	124,6	123,7	116,8	+0,7	+6,7
Durban/Pinetown	126,7	125,8	118,2	+0,7	+7,2
Pietermaritzburg	123,9	123,1	116,7	+0,6	+6,2
Other urban areas	123,7	122,7	116,1	+0,8	+6,5
North West	124,4	123,7	115,7	+0,6	+7,5
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	125,4	124,4	117,2	+0,8	+7,0
Other urban areas	124,0	123,3	115,2	+0,6	+7,6
Gauteng	127,0	126,1	118,2	+0,7	+7,4
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	125,5	124,4	117,8	+0,9	+6,5
Witwatersrand	127,8	126,9	118,5	+0,7	+7,8
Other urban areas	125,7	124,7	117,2	+0,8	+7,3
Mpumalanga	129,5	128,8	119,3	+0,5	+8,5
Nelspruit/Witbank	128,5	127,9	119,4	+0,5	+7,6
Other urban areas	129,7	128,9	119,3	+0,6	+8,7
Northern Province	125,7	124,8	117,4	+0,7	+7,1
Pietersburg	127,8	127,6	119,3	+0,2	+7,1
Other urban areas	125,6	124,6	117,4	+0,8	+7,0
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	125,9	125,0	117,5	+0,7	+7,1
Weighted average - Metropolitan	127,3	126,3	118,6	+0,8	+7,3