

## **Consumer Price Index P0141.1**

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## **INFLATION RATE DECREASES TO 3,2% AT AUGUST 1999, THE LOWEST SINCE THE 2,1% AT SEPTEMBER 1969**

*The official inflation rate, i.e. the annual rate of change in the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas, is 3,2% at August 1999. This rate is 1,7 percentage points lower (mainly due to a decrease in the average interest rates on mortgage bonds from 21,79% in August 1998 to 16,74% in August 1999), than the corresponding annual rate of 4,9% at July 1999. From July 1999 to August 1999 the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas as well as the seasonally adjusted index decreased by 0,5%.*

The annual increase of 3,2% in the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas is mainly due to annual increases in the price indices for transport (+0,8 of a percentage point), food (+0,7 of a percentage point), household operation (+0,7 of a percentage point) and medical care and health expenses (+0,7 of a percentage point). These increases were counteracted by a relatively large annual decrease in the price index for housing (-1,4 percentage points) (cf. Table 2.1).

The inflation rate for metropolitan and other urban areas is 3,3% at August 1999. This rate is 1,6 percentage points lower than the corresponding annual rate of 4,9 at July 1999. From July 1999 to August 1999 the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan and other urban areas decreased by 0,5%.

## **CORE INFLATION RATE**

The core inflation rate for metropolitan areas (see note 7 on page 5) is 7,9% at August 1999. This rate is 0,3 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 8,2% at July 1999. From July 1999 to August 1999 the core inflation index for metropolitan areas increased by 0,4%.

The annual increase of 7,9% in the core inflation index for metropolitan areas is mainly due to annual increases in the price indices for housing (+1,8 percentage points, due to increases in all components in certain areas), transport (+1,2 percentage points, mainly due to a 10,2% increase in the petrol price from August 1998 to August 1999), medical care and health expenses (+1,1 percentage points), household operation (+0,9 of a percentage point), food (+0,5 of a percentage point) and education (+0,4 of a percentage point) (cf. Table 2.3).

The core inflation rate for metropolitan and other urban areas (see note 7 on page 5) is 7,5% at August 1999, which is 0,3 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 7,8% for July 1999. From July 1999 to August 1999 the core inflation index for metropolitan and other urban areas increased by 0,3%.

## **METROPOLITAN AREAS**

### **Contributions to monthly change in the CPI**

The Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas decreased by 0,5% from July 1999 to August 1999. This monthly decrease is due to a monthly decrease in the price index for housing (-0,6 of a percentage point, mainly due to a decrease in interest rates on mortgage bonds). This decrease was slightly counteracted by an increase in the price index for transport (+0,1 of a percentage point).

### **Contributions to monthly increase in core inflation index**

From July 1999 to August 1999 the core inflation index for metropolitan areas increased by 0,4%. This monthly increase is due to monthly increases in the price indices for housing (+0,2 of a percentage point, due to increases in the indices of all the components in certain areas) and transport (+0,2 of a percentage point).

### **Food inflation**

*The price index for food reflects an annual rate of increase of 4,1% at August 1999. This rate is 0,3 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding annual rate of 3,8% at July 1999. From July 1999 to August 1999 this index increased by 0,1%. The seasonally adjusted index increased by 0,4% for the same period.*

Relatively large monthly increases occurred in the price indices for fruit and nuts (+1,4%), "other " food products (+1,0%), milk, cheese and eggs (+0,6%) and coffee, tea and cocoa (+0,3%). These increases were partially counteracted by monthly decreases in the price indices for fats and oils (-1,5%), sugar (-1,1%), fish and other seafood (-1,0%) and grain products (-0,3%).

### **Price index for non-food items**

*The price index for non-food items shows an annual rate of increase of 3,1% at August 1999. This rate is 2,1 percentage points lower than the corresponding annual rate of 5,2% at July 1999. From July 1999 to August 1999 this index decreased by 0,6%, while the seasonally adjusted index decreased by 0,5%.*

Monthly decreases occurred in the price indices for housing (-2,4%, mainly due to a decrease in interest rates on mortgage bonds), "other" products (-0,7%) and clothing and footwear (-0,1%). These decreases were partially counteracted by relatively large monthly increases in the price indices for household operation (+0,8%), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+0,4%), transport (+0,4%) and reading matter (+0,4%).

#### **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 1999 and the average index of the previous three months. This approach, when using seasonally adjusted data shows an increase of 1,3% (which is 1,0 percentage point lower than the corresponding rate of 2,3% for July 1999), while the unadjusted data shows an increase of 1,9% (which is 0,2 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding rate of 1,7% for July 1999).

#### **Pensioners**

The annual inflation rate for pensioners in the metropolitan areas is 5,3% at August 1999, which is 1,0 percentage point lower than the corresponding rate of 6,3% at July 1999.

### **METROPOLITAN AND OTHER URBAN AREAS**

#### **Contributions to monthly change in the CPI**

The Consumer Price Index for metropolitan and other urban areas decreased by 0,5% from July 1999 to August 1999. This monthly decrease is due to a monthly decrease in the price index for housing (-0,5 of a percentage point, mainly due to a decrease in interest rates on mortgage bonds).

#### **Food inflation**

*The price index for food reflects an annual rate of increase of 4,1% at August 1999. This rate is the same as for July 1999. From July 1999 to August 1999 this index decreased by 0,1%.*

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

#### **Price index for non-food items**

*The price index for non-food items shows an annual rate of increase of 3,1% at August 1999. This rate is 2,3 percentage points lower than the corresponding annual rate of 5,4% at July 1999. From July 1999 to August 1999 this index decreased by 0,5%.*

Relatively large monthly decreases occurred in the price indices for housing (-2,2%, mainly due to a decrease in the interest rates on mortgage bonds), "other" products (-0,7%) and clothing and footwear (-0,3%). These decreases were partially counteracted by relatively large monthly increases in the price indices for non-alcoholic beverages (+1,2%), household operation (+0,8%), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+0,5%) and reading matter (+0,4%).

#### **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 1999 and the average index of the previous three months. This approach, when using unadjusted data shows an increase of 2,3%, which is 0,1 of a percentage point lower than corresponding rate of 2,4% for July 1999. 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. Seasonal adjustment can only significantly be done using at least three years' data.

#### **Areas indices**

The Free State Goldfields recorded the highest annual inflation rate of 5,8%, while the lowest rate of 1,1% was recorded for the Pietersburg area.

Regarding food prices, the highest annual increase of 6,5% was recorded for the other urban areas in North West, while the other urban areas in Northern Province reflected the lowest increase of 1,2%.

### **Pensioners**

The annual inflation rate for pensioners in the metropolitan and other urban areas is 5,2% at August 1999. The Free State Goldfields recorded the highest rate of increase of 6,7%, while the lowest rate of 3,4% was recorded for Bloemfontein.

### **CPI FOR SEPTEMBER 1999**

In addition to the usual price surveys for September 1999, it has come to the attention of Stats SA that changed prices will apply during the first seven days of September 1999 regarding parking fees, water and electricity tariffs, assessment rates, refuse removal, sanitary fees and provincial hospital fees 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", 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.

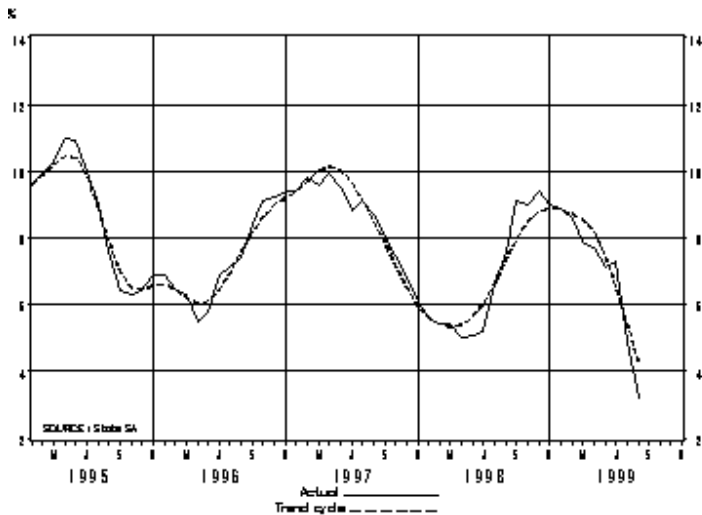
The choice of exclusions was informed by best practice amongst several other international agencies, and after consultation with the South African Reserve Bank and other local technical experts.

## 8 Response rate

The response rate for the CPI for August 1999 was 95,0%.

9 Symbols used: \* = revised

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



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

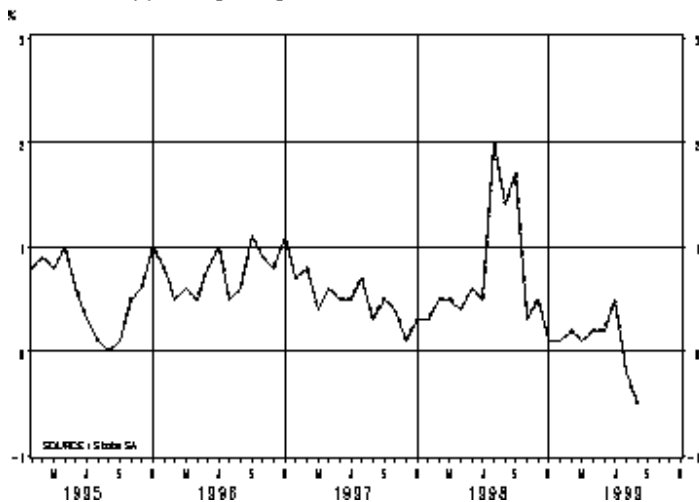


TABLE 1.1 EXPENDITURE GROUP INDICES AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Aug. 1999	Jul. 1999	Aug. 1998	Percentage change compared with		
				Jul. 1999		Aug. 1998
				Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual
Expenditure groups						
Very Low	136,1	135,9	128,1	+0,1	..	+6,2
Low	135,0	134,9	127,3	+0,1	..	+6,0
Middle	134,2	134,2	127,0	0,0	..	+5,7
High	133,5	133,7	127,3	-0,1	..	+4,9
Very High	129,6	130,4	126,4	-0,6	..	+2,5
All expenditure groups - Metropolitan	130,8	131,4	126,7	-0,5 1)	-0,5 1)	+3,2 1)
All expenditure groups - Metro and other urban areas	130,6	131,2	126,4	-0,5	..	+3,3
Food only - Metropolitan	128,4	128,3	123,3	+0,1	+0,4	+4,1
Food only - Metro and other urban areas	129,2	129,3	124,1	-0,1	..	+4,1
All items excluding food - Metropolitan	131,3	132,1	127,4	-0,6	-0,5	+3,1
All items excluding food - Metro and other urban areas	131,0	131,7	127,0	-0,5	..	+3,1
All expenditure groups (VAT EXCLUDED) - Metropolitan	130,8	131,4	126,7	-0,5 1)	-0,5 1)	+3,2 1)
All expenditure groups (VAT EXCLUDED) - Metro and other urban areas	130,6	131,2	126,4	-0,5	..	+3,3
Core inflation - Metropolitan	136,7	136,2	126,7	+0,4	-	+7,9
Core inflation - Metro and other urban areas	136,2	135,8	126,7	+0,3	-	+7,5

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

TABLE 1.2 ANNUAL INFLATION ON A MONTHLY BASIS

Base year: 1995 = 100

Year	Index	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ave.
1997	Index	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
	%	+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	Index	119,7	120,0	120,8	121,4	121,9	122,3	125,3	126,7	128,9	129,4	129,4	129,4	124,6
	%	+5,6	+5,4	+5,4	+5,0	+5,1	+5,2	+6,6	+7,6	+9,1	+9,0	+9,4	+9,0	+6,9
1999	Index	130,4	130,3	130,4	130,7	130,5	131,2	131,4	130,8	..	..	..	..	..
	%	+8,9	+8,6	+7,9	+7,7	+7,1	+7,3	+4,9	+3,2	..	..	..	..	..

**TABLE 2.1 EFFECT OF ANNUAL PRICE CHANGES ON THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX**  
**- ALL EXPENDITURE GROUPS (METROPOLITAN AREAS)**

Group	Contribution
Food	0,7
Non-alcoholic beverages	0,1
Alcoholic beverages	0,1
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	0,3
Housing	-1,4
Fuel and power	0,2
Furniture and equipment	0,1
Household operation	0,7
Medical care and health expenses	0,7
Transport	0,8
Communication	0,2
Recreation and entertainment	0,1
Reading matter	0,1
Education	0,3
Personal care	0,3
Other	-0,1
All items	3,2

**TABLE 2.2 EFFECT OF MONTHLY PRICE CHANGES ON THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX**  
**- ALL EXPENDITURE GROUPS (METROPOLITAN AREAS)**

Group	Contribution
Housing	-0,6
Transport	0,1
All items	-0,5

**TABLE 2.3 EFFECT OF ANNUAL PRICE CHANGES ON THE CORE INFLATION INDEX**  
**- ALL EXPENDITURE GROUPS (METROPOLITAN AREAS)**

Group	Contribution
Food	0,5
Non-alcoholic beverages	0,1
Alcoholic beverages	0,1
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	0,3
Clothing and footwear	0,1
Housing	1,8
Fuel and power	0,3
Furniture and equipment	0,2
Household operation	0,9
Medical care and health expenses	1,1
Transport	1,2
Communication	0,3
Recreation and entertainment	0,1
Reading matter	0,1
Education	0,4
Personal care	0,3
Other	0,1
All items	7,9

**TABLE 2.4 EFFECT OF MONTHLY PRICE CHANGES ON THE CORE INFLATION INDEX**  
**- ALL EXPENDITURE GROUPS (METROPOLITAN AREAS)**

Group	Contribution
Housing	0,2
Transport	0,2
All items	0,4

TABLE 3 GROUP INDICES - WEIGHTED AVERAGE  
3.1 METROPOLITAN AREAS

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Percentage change compared with					Weights
	Aug. 1999	Jul. 1999	Aug. 1998	Jul. 1999	Aug. 1998	
	All items	130,8	131,4	126,7	-0,5	
Expenditure groups - Very low	136,1	135,9	128,1	+0,1	+6,2	0,51
Low	135,0	134,9	127,3	+0,1	+6,0	1,78
Middle	134,2	134,2	127,0	0,0	+5,7	5,24
High	133,5	133,7	127,3	-0,1	+4,9	17,70
Very high	129,6	130,4	126,4	-0,6	+2,5	74,77
Commodities	129,9	129,7	122,9	+0,2	+5,7	55,00
Services	132,7	134,4	132,1	-1,3	+0,5	45,00
All items, excluding housing	132,3	132,1	124,5	+0,2	+6,3	75,93
All items, excluding food	131,3	132,1	127,4	-0,6	+3,1	81,98
Food	128,4	128,3	123,3	+0,1	+4,1	18,02
Expenditure groups - Very low	129,7	130,0	124,8	-0,2	+3,9	40,73
Low	129,6	129,8	124,8	-0,2	+3,8	34,39
Middle	129,8	129,8	124,6	0,0	+4,2	31,12
High	129,1	129,0	123,9	+0,1	+4,2	25,42
Very high	127,8	127,7	122,7	+0,1	+4,2	14,84
Processed	132,4	132,4	125,2	0,0	+5,8	9,12
Unprocessed	124,4	124,2	121,4	+0,2	+2,5	8,90
Grain products	134,9	135,3	129,6	-0,3	+4,1	3,31
Meat	115,8	115,7	115,3	+0,1	+0,4	5,33
Fish and other seafood	138,8	140,2	128,9	-1,0	+7,7	0,80
Milk, cheese and eggs	136,1	135,3	130,0	+0,6	+4,7	1,90
Fats and oils	142,7	144,9	128,1	-1,5	+11,4	0,85
Fruit and nuts	119,2	117,6	109,1	+1,4	+9,3	1,08
Vegetables	135,4	135,4	134,5	0,0	+0,7	1,80
Sugar	132,9	134,4	123,2	-1,1	+7,9	0,59
Coffee, tea and cocoa	124,7	124,3	115,1	+0,3	+8,3	0,72
Other	137,2	135,8	128,1	+1,0	+7,1	1,64
Non-alcoholic beverages	146,7	146,3	135,9	+0,3	+7,9	0,82
Alcoholic beverages	138,3	138,3	129,7	0,0	+6,6	1,18
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	224,4	223,4	189,7	+0,4	+18,3	0,95
Clothing and footwear	109,6	109,7	108,5	-0,1	+1,0	4,76
Clothing	109,1	109,4	108,6	-0,3	+0,5	3,55
Footwear	112,1	111,9	109,4	+0,2	+2,5	1,21
Housing	128,4	131,6	136,1	-2,4	-5,7	24,07
Fuel and power	137,4	136,6	127,6	+0,6	+7,7	3,11
Furniture and equipment	117,3	117,3	112,8	0,0	+4,0	3,94
Furniture	123,4	123,4	116,8	0,0	+5,7	1,62
Appliances	112,6	112,6	108,9	0,0	+3,4	1,08
Other household equipment and textiles	113,2	113,1	110,8	+0,1	+2,2	1,24
Household operation	161,6	160,3	143,0	+0,8	+13,0	4,69
Household consumables	141,3	141,7	130,0	-0,3	+8,7	1,14
Domestic workers	179,3	177,2	156,0	+1,2	+14,9	3,19
Other household services	126,5	126,5	119,8	0,0	+5,6	0,36
Medical care and health expenses	161,3	161,3	145,9	0,0	+10,6	5,95
Transport	125,4	124,9	117,9	+0,4	+6,4	14,74
Vehicles	121,6	120,7	113,8	+0,7	+6,9	5,25
Running cost	137,9	137,5	127,1	+0,3	+8,5	5,75
Public and hired transport	114,5	114,5	112,4	0,0	+1,9	3,74
Communication	128,8	128,8	119,7	0,0	+7,6	3,06
Recreation and entertainment	114,1	114,1	110,1	0,0	+3,6	2,38
Reading matter	147,4	146,8	135,9	+0,4	+8,5	0,74
Education	156,4	156,4	135,6	0,0	+15,3	2,04
Personal care	133,5	133,5	123,0	0,0	+8,5	3,06
Other	116,4	117,2	118,7	-0,7	-1,9	6,49

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

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group				Percentage change compared with		Weights
	Aug. 1999	Jul. 1999	Aug. 1998	Jul. 1999	Aug. 1998	
	All items	130,6	131,2	126,4	-0,5	
Expenditure groups - Very low	135,5	135,6	127,7	-0,1	+6,1	0,93
Low	134,3	134,3	126,9	0,0	+5,8	2,99
Middle	132,8	132,8	126,1	0,0	+5,3	7,58
High	132,8	133,0	126,8	-0,2	+4,7	20,09
Very high	129,5	130,3	126,2	-0,6	+2,6	68,41
Commodities	128,9	128,8	122,5	+0,1	+5,2	57,34
Services	133,1	134,5	131,7	-1,0	+1,1	42,66
All items, excluding housing	132,0	131,9	124,5	+0,1	+6,0	77,55
All items, excluding food	131,0	131,7	127,0	-0,5	+3,1	80,52
Food	129,2	129,3	124,1	-0,1	+4,1	19,48
Expenditure groups - Very low	132,6	133,3	127,0	-0,5	+4,4	44,17
Low	131,8	132,3	126,4	-0,4	+4,3	38,83
Middle	130,7	130,9	125,5	-0,2	+4,1	32,67
High	129,6	129,6	124,5	0,0	+4,1	25,61
Very high	128,3	128,3	123,3	0,0	+4,1	15,02
Processed	132,3	132,1	125,0	+0,2	+5,8	10,52
Unprocessed	126,3	126,6	123,3	-0,2	+2,4	8,96
Grain products	136,4	136,2	130,6	+0,1	+4,4	3,73
Meat	115,5	115,3	114,9	+0,2	+0,5	5,84
Fish and other seafood	139,8	140,1	130,3	-0,2	+7,3	0,77
Milk, cheese and eggs	135,9	135,5	129,5	+0,3	+4,9	2,02
Fats and oils	140,0	141,8	127,1	-1,3	+10,1	0,94
Fruit and nuts	116,1	115,5	108,0	+0,5	+7,5	1,07
Vegetables	141,2	143,6	139,4	-1,7	+1,3	1,94
Sugar	135,0	136,0	126,5	-0,7	+6,7	0,73
Coffee, tea and cocoa	123,9	123,3	114,1	+0,5	+8,6	0,79
Other	137,2	136,1	127,4	+0,8	+7,7	1,65
Non-alcoholic beverages	151,7	149,9	138,7	+1,2	+9,4	0,82
Alcoholic beverages	139,6	139,5	130,3	+0,1	+7,1	1,17
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	219,3	218,2	184,3	+0,5	+19,0	1,04
Clothing and footwear	110,0	110,3	108,8	-0,3	+1,1	5,07
Clothing	109,1	109,5	108,8	-0,4	+0,3	3,80
Footwear	112,6	112,7	108,9	-0,1	+3,4	1,27
Housing	126,5	129,4	133,4	-2,2	-5,2	22,45
Fuel and power	133,5	133,1	124,4	+0,3	+7,3	3,54
Furniture and equipment	115,0	115,0	111,6	0,0	+3,0	4,34
Furniture	119,5	119,5	115,1	0,0	+3,8	1,77
Appliances	112,2	112,2	108,3	0,0	+3,6	1,19
Other household equipment and textiles	111,5	111,5	110,1	0,0	+1,3	1,38
Household operation	166,4	165,0	146,8	+0,8	+13,4	4,87
Household consumables	139,4	139,4	128,1	0,0	+8,8	1,27
Domestic workers	181,4	179,2	157,2	+1,2	+15,4	3,25
Other household services	125,3	125,3	118,5	0,0	+5,7	0,35
Medical care and health expenses	157,9	157,9	142,6	0,0	+10,7	5,81
Transport	122,6	122,3	116,3	+0,2	+5,4	13,65
Vehicles	115,9	115,5	110,3	+0,3	+5,1	5,31
Running cost	136,2	135,8	126,5	+0,3	+7,7	5,16
Public and hired transport	111,5	111,5	109,8	0,0	+1,5	3,18
Communication	132,6	132,6	123,1	0,0	+7,7	3,21
Recreation and entertainment	109,9	109,9	106,5	0,0	+3,2	2,18
Reading matter	145,2	144,6	133,8	+0,4	+8,5	0,69
Education	159,2	159,2	136,0	0,0	+17,1	1,82
Personal care	134,3	134,3	124,1	0,0	+8,2	3,08
Other	117,3	118,1	120,2	-0,7	-2,4	6,78

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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. 1999	Jul. 1999	Aug. 1998	Jul. 1999	Aug. 1998
Western Cape	129,2	129,9	125,8	-0,5	+2,7
Cape Peninsula	130,4	131,3	127,1	-0,7	+2,6
Other urban areas	128,3	128,9	124,8	-0,5	+2,8
Eastern Cape	133,4	134,5	128,1	-0,8	+4,1
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	129,1	130,1	126,2	-0,8	+2,3
East London	134,1	134,7	128,9	-0,4	+4,0
Other urban areas	134,1	135,2	128,2	-0,8	+4,6
Northern Cape	128,5	128,7	124,2	-0,2	+3,5
Kimberley	133,1	133,6	127,9	-0,4	+4,1
Other urban areas	127,7	127,9	123,6	-0,2	+3,3
Free State	127,4	127,5	122,5	-0,1	+4,0
Bloemfontein	130,2	131,1	127,3	-0,7	+2,3
Free State Goldfields	128,7	128,5	121,7	+0,2	+5,8
Other urban areas	126,7	126,7	121,9	0,0	+3,9
KwaZulu-Natal	129,8	130,2	125,9	-0,3	+3,1
Durban/Pinetown	132,6	133,2	127,9	-0,5	+3,7
Pietermaritzburg	130,4	130,7	125,3	-0,2	+4,1
Other urban areas	128,2	128,6	124,8	-0,3	+2,7
North West	130,0	130,5	124,2	-0,4	+4,7
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	125,8	126,5	123,4	-0,6	+1,9
Other urban areas	130,5	130,9	124,1	-0,3	+5,2
Gauteng	131,7	132,4	127,6	-0,5	+3,2
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	130,8	131,0	126,6	-0,2	+3,3
Witwatersrand	130,7	131,4	126,5	-0,5	+3,3
Other urban areas	131,2	132,0	127,3	-0,6	+3,1
Mpumalanga	132,8	132,6	127,8	+0,2	+3,9
Nelspruit/Witbank	131,7	132,3	127,3	-0,5	+3,5
Other urban areas	132,5	132,2	127,5	+0,2	+3,9
Northern Province	129,4	129,4	124,9	0,0	+3,6
Pietersburg	127,1	128,2	125,7	-0,9	+1,1
Other urban areas	129,9	129,8	125,0	+0,1	+3,9
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	130,6	131,2	126,4	-0,5	+3,3
Weighted average - Metropolitan	130,8	131,4	126,7	-0,5	+3,2

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. 1999	Jul. 1999	Aug. 1998	Jul. 1999	Aug. 1998
Western Cape	129,7	129,3	124,6	+0,3	+4,1
Cape Peninsula	130,9	130,4	125,2	+0,4	+4,6
Other urban areas	128,3	127,9	123,6	+0,3	+3,8
Eastern Cape	138,7	141,3	131,1	-1,8	+5,8
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	127,8	128,4	123,1	-0,5	+3,8
East London	135,5	135,0	127,5	+0,4	+6,3
Other urban areas	141,3	144,5	133,0	-2,2	+6,2
Northern Cape	125,3	124,3	121,3	+0,8	+3,3
Kimberley	127,0	126,9	121,9	+0,1	+4,2
Other urban areas	124,9	123,8	121,1	+0,9	+3,1
Free State	124,5	124,1	119,5	+0,3	+4,2
Bloemfontein	130,0	129,6	124,3	+0,3	+4,6
Free State Goldfields	123,9	124,3	119,4	-0,3	+3,8
Other urban areas	124,0	123,6	119,1	+0,3	+4,1
KwaZulu-Natal	128,7	127,8	125,1	+0,7	+2,9
Durban/Pinetown	135,1	134,2	128,9	+0,7	+4,8
Pietermaritzburg	129,2	128,7	124,8	+0,4	+3,5
Other urban areas	126,2	125,2	123,9	+0,8	+1,9
North West	126,8	127,1	119,4	-0,2	+6,2
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	123,7	123,7	119,3	0,0	+3,7
Other urban areas	127,1	127,4	119,3	-0,2	+6,5
Gauteng	127,7	127,8	122,6	-0,1	+4,2
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	129,1	129,1	124,6	0,0	+3,6
Witwatersrand	126,3	126,4	121,4	-0,1	+4,0
Other urban areas	129,1	129,4	123,3	-0,2	+4,7
Mpumalanga	134,3	134,9	128,4	-0,4	+4,6
Nelspruit/Witbank	128,4	128,6	123,8	-0,2	+3,7
Other urban areas	135,3	136,0	129,2	-0,5	+4,7
Northern Province	130,3	130,9	128,4	-0,5	+1,5
Pietersburg	131,0	130,4	126,1	+0,5	+3,9
Other urban areas	130,3	131,0	128,7	-0,5	+1,2
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	129,2	129,3	124,1	-0,1	+4,1
Weighted average - Metropolitan	128,4	128,3	123,3	+0,1	+4,1

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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. 1999	Jul. 1999	Aug. 1998	Jul. 1999	Aug. 1998
Western Cape	131,4	131,3	124,4	+0,1	+5,6
Cape Peninsula	132,7	132,6	125,5	+0,1	+5,7
Other urban areas	130,5	130,3	123,5	+0,2	+5,7
Eastern Cape	136,0	136,5	127,3	-0,4	+6,8
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	132,2	132,3	124,6	-0,1	+6,1
East London	139,1	138,8	129,1	+0,2	+7,7
Other urban areas	136,2	136,9	127,3	-0,5	+7,0
Northern Cape	129,7	129,3	123,7	+0,3	+4,9
Kimberley	132,6	132,6	125,2	0,0	+5,9
Other urban areas	129,2	128,9	123,4	+0,2	+4,7
Free State	129,9	129,7	122,5	+0,2	+6,0
Bloemfontein	133,7	133,5	126,1	+0,1	+6,0
Free State Goldfields	128,4	128,5	121,5	-0,1	+5,7
Other urban areas	129,6	129,4	122,3	+0,2	+6,0
KwaZulu-Natal	130,2	129,8	123,4	+0,3	+5,5
Durban/Pinetown	132,5	132,2	125,0	+0,2	+6,0
Pietermaritzburg	129,7	129,5	122,8	+0,2	+5,6
Other urban areas	129,3	128,9	122,9	+0,3	+5,2
North West	129,5	129,6	121,8	-0,1	+6,3
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	127,8	127,8	121,7	0,0	+5,0
Other urban areas	129,6	129,7	121,7	-0,1	+6,5
Gauteng	132,9	132,7	125,0	+0,2	+6,3
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	132,6	132,3	124,6	+0,2	+6,4
Witwatersrand	132,4	132,2	124,3	+0,2	+6,5
Other urban areas	131,5	131,6	124,6	-0,1	+5,5
Mpumalanga	132,3	132,4	124,9	-0,1	+5,9
Nelspruit/Witbank	132,4	132,3	124,7	+0,1	+6,2
Other urban areas	131,9	132,1	124,6	-0,2	+5,9
Northern Province	129,0	128,9	123,0	+0,1	+4,9
Pietersburg	131,2	131,1	124,3	+0,1	+5,6
Other urban areas	128,8	128,7	122,9	+0,1	+4,8
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	132,0	131,9	124,5	+0,1	+6,0
Weighted average - Metropolitan	132,3	132,1	124,5	+0,2	+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	
	Aug. 1999	Jul. 1999	Aug. 1998	Jul. 1999	Aug. 1998
Western Cape	129,1	130,1	126,1	-0,8	+2,4
Cape Peninsula	130,6	131,8	127,7	-0,9	+2,3
Other urban areas	128,3	129,2	125,2	-0,7	+2,5
Eastern Cape	132,0	132,6	127,3	-0,5	+3,7
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	129,3	130,5	126,8	-0,9	+2,0
East London	134,0	134,9	129,5	-0,7	+3,5
Other urban areas	132,0	132,4	126,7	-0,3	+4,2
Northern Cape	129,4	130,0	125,1	-0,5	+3,4
Kimberley	135,6	136,4	130,4	-0,6	+4,0
Other urban areas	128,5	129,1	124,3	-0,5	+3,4
Free State	128,4	128,6	123,4	-0,2	+4,1
Bloemfontein	130,6	131,7	128,3	-0,8	+1,8
Free State Goldfields	130,0	129,7	122,4	+0,2	+6,2
Other urban areas	127,6	127,8	122,9	-0,2	+3,8
KwaZulu-Natal	130,1	130,9	126,1	-0,6	+3,2
Durban/Pinetown	132,1	133,0	127,7	-0,7	+3,4
Pietermaritzburg	130,7	131,3	125,4	-0,5	+4,2
Other urban areas	128,7	129,3	124,9	-0,5	+3,0
North West	130,9	131,4	125,4	-0,4	+4,4
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	126,0	126,9	124,1	-0,7	+1,5
Other urban areas	131,4	131,8	125,4	-0,3	+4,8
Gauteng	132,5	133,3	128,6	-0,6	+3,0
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	130,7	130,9	126,6	-0,2	+3,2
Witwatersrand	131,7	132,5	127,7	-0,6	+3,1
Other urban areas	131,8	132,7	128,4	-0,7	+2,6
Mpumalanga	132,3	131,9	127,6	+0,3	+3,7
Nelspruit/Witbank	132,0	132,7	127,7	-0,5	+3,4
Other urban areas	131,8	131,2	127,1	+0,5	+3,7
Northern Province	129,2	129,1	124,1	+0,1	+4,1
Pietersburg	126,1	127,6	125,4	-1,2	+0,6
Other urban areas	129,8	129,5	124,1	+0,2	+4,6
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	131,0	131,7	127,0	-0,5	+3,1
Weighted average - Metropolitan	131,3	132,1	127,4	-0,6	+3,1

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TABLE 5 SEASONALLY ADJUSTED INDICES

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Aug. 1999	Jul. 1999	Jun. 1999	May 1999	Weights
All items	130,8	131,4	131,7	131,1	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	131,2	131,9	132,4	131,6	81,98
Commodities	130,0	129,5	128,8	127,8	55,00
Food	129,3	128,8	128,9	128,4	18,02
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	130,0	129,5	129,6	129,1	18,84
Alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	179,5	178,7	175,9	171,8	2,13
Clothing and footwear	109,1	109,0	108,9	108,5	4,72
Furniture and equipment	117,9	117,5	117,0	116,7	3,85
Vehicles	121,7	121,0	119,9	119,5	5,25
Other transport commodities	142,9	143,0	142,1	135,9	4,63
Other commodities	134,4	133,6	131,9	131,8	15,58
Services	132,4	134,1	135,5	135,4	45,00
Housing and domestic workers	127,0	131,1	134,7	134,9	25,99
Transport	113,6	113,3	113,7	113,4	4,86
Other services	145,5	144,6	143,4	143,0	14,15
All items (VAT excluded)	130,7	131,3	131,6	131,0	100,00

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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. 1999	Jul. 1999	Aug. 1998	Jul. 1999	Aug. 1998
Western Cape	130,5	130,7	124,8	-0,2	+4,6
Cape Peninsula	134,2	134,5	128,0	-0,2	+4,8
Other urban areas	129,4	129,5	124,0	-0,1	+4,4
Eastern Cape	135,7	136,7	128,5	-0,7	+5,6
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	131,7	132,3	126,3	-0,5	+4,3
East London	137,3	137,3	129,3	0,0	+6,2
Other urban areas	135,9	137,1	128,5	-0,9	+5,8
Northern Cape	133,0	132,7	126,0	+0,2	+5,6
Kimberley	139,3	139,4	131,5	-0,1	+5,9
Other urban areas	132,1	131,8	125,2	+0,2	+5,5
Free State	128,7	128,3	122,1	+0,3	+5,4
Bloemfontein	130,8	131,3	126,5	-0,4	+3,4
Free State Goldfields	129,3	128,8	121,2	+0,4	+6,7
Other urban areas	128,5	128,0	121,8	+0,4	+5,5
KwaZulu-Natal	130,2	130,2	124,6	0,0	+4,5
Durban/Pinetown	132,1	132,3	126,7	-0,2	+4,3
Pietermaritzburg	130,1	130,2	123,9	-0,1	+5,0
Other urban areas	129,2	129,1	123,7	+0,1	+4,4
North West	132,3	132,4	124,4	-0,1	+6,4
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	131,7	131,8	125,4	-0,1	+5,0
Other urban areas	132,0	132,2	124,0	-0,2	+6,5
Gauteng	133,9	134,0	127,0	-0,1	+5,4
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	131,7	131,4	125,5	+0,2	+4,9
Witwatersrand	135,4	135,5	127,8	-0,1	+5,9
Other urban areas	131,5	131,8	125,7	-0,2	+4,6
Mpumalanga	138,0	136,4	129,5	+1,2	+6,6
Nelspruit/Witbank	136,4	136,3	128,5	+0,1	+6,1
Other urban areas	138,2	136,4	129,7	+1,3	+6,6
Northern Province	131,5	130,9	125,7	+0,5	+4,6
Pietersburg	135,2	135,5	127,8	-0,2	+5,8
Other urban areas	131,3	130,8	125,6	+0,4	+4,5
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	132,4	132,5	125,9	-0,1	+5,2
Weighted average - Metropolitan	134,1	134,2	127,3	-0,1	+5,3