

Statistical Release P0141.1

Prices : Consumer Price Index

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AVERAGE ANNUAL INFLATION RATE INCREASES IN 1997

The official inflation rate, as measured by the change in the Consumer Price Index, is 6,1% at December 1997. Therefore, the average inflation rate for the year 1997 is 8,6%. The rate of 8,6% is 1,2 percentage points higher than the corresponding rate of 7,4% for 1996 and 0,1 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding rate of 8,7% for 1995.

The average food inflation rate of 9,4% for 1997 is substantially higher than the corresponding rates of 6,1% for 1996 and 8,7% for 1995.

The price index for housing shows an average rate of increase of 8,8% for 1997. This is 2,7 percentage points lower than the corresponding rate of 11,5% for 1996 and 3,9 percentage points lower than corresponding rate of 12,7% for 1995.

INFLATION RATE DECREASE TO 6,1 % AT DECEMBER 1997

The official inflation rate, i.e. the annual rate of change in the Consumer Price Index, is 6,1% at December 1997. This rate is 0,7 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding rate of 6,8% at November 1997. From November to December 1997 the Consumer Price Index as well as the seasonally adjusted index increased by 0,3%.

CORE INFLATION RATE

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

MONTHLY CONTRIBUTIONS

The monthly increase of 0,3% in the official inflation rate is due to an increase in the price index for food (+0,1 of a percentage point) and all other items (+0,2 of a percentage point).

FOOD INFLATION THE LOWEST SINCE JULY 1996

The price index for food shows an annual rate of increase of 6,4% at December 1997. This rate is the lowest since July 1996 when the rate was 4,8%. This rate of 6,4% at December 1997 is 0,5 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding rate of 6,9% at November 1997.

The price index for food shows a monthly increase of 0,7%, which is mainly due to increases in the price indices for meat (+0,9%), fats and oils (+0,5%), fruit and nuts (+1,9%) and vegetables (+1,8%). These increases were slightly counteracted by decreases in the price indices for coffee, tea and cocoa (-0,7%) and 'other' food (-0,1%).

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 mainly due to monthly increases in the price indices for furniture and equipment (+0,5%), household operation (+1,0%), medical care and health expenses (+0,5%) and personal care (+0,9%). These increases were slightly counteracted by a decrease in the price indices of recreation and entertainment (-0,1%).

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 inflation rate of 7,5%, while the lowest rate of 5,0% was recorded for Cape Peninsula as well as for Pietersburg.

Regarding food prices, the highest annual increase of 9,5% was recorded for Durban/Pinetown while Klerksdorp/ Stilfontein/ Orkney reflected the lowest increase of 4,1%.

INFLATION RATE FOR PENSIONERS

The inflation rate for pensioners is 7,1% at December 1997. Kimberley recorded the highest rate of increase, namely 9,3%, while the lowest rate of 6,0% was recorded for Pietermaritzburg.

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 December 1997 and the average index of the previous three months. This approach, when using seasonally adjusted data, shows an increase of 4,1% (which is 1,5 percentage points lower than the corresponding rate of 5,6% for November 1997), while unadjusted data shows an increase of 2,6%.

CPI FOR JANUARY 1998

In addition to the usual price surveys for January 1998, it has come to the attention of the CSS that changed prices will apply during the first seven days of January 1998 regarding bus tariffs and parking fees in certain areas, as well as telephone costs and tariffs.

ANNUAL AVERAGE INDICES AND RATES OF CHANGE

This table refers to metropolitan areas only.

	1995		Year 1996		1997	
	Index	% change	Index	% change	Index	% change
All income groups	100,0	8,7	107,4	7,4	116,6	8,6
Food	100,0	8,7	106,1	6,1	116,1	9,4
Housing	100,0	12,7	111,5	11,5	121,3	8,8

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	Dec. 1997	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996	Percentage change compared with		
				Nov. 1997		Dec. 1996
				Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual
Expenditure groups						
Very Low	120,9	120,6	..	+0,2	..	..
Low	120,3	119,9	..	+0,3	..	..
Middle	120,0	119,5	..	+0,4	..	..
High	119,8	119,3	..	+0,4	..	..
Very High	118,3	117,9	..	+0,3	..	..
All expenditure groups - Metropolitan	118,7	118,3	111,9	+0,3 1)	+0,3 1)	+6,1 1)
All expenditure groups - Metro and other urban areas	118,7	118,3	..	+0,3	..	..
Food only - Metropolitan	119,0	118,2	111,8	+0,7	+0,2	+6,4
Food only - Metro and other urban areas	119,2	118,5	..	+0,6	..	..
All items excluding food - Metropolitan	118,7	118,4	112,0	+0,3	+0,4	+6,0
All items excluding food - Metro and other urban areas	118,5	118,3	..	+0,2	..	..
All expenditure groups (VAT EXCLUDED) - Metropolitan	118,7	118,3	112,0	+0,3 1)	+0,3 1)	+6,0 1)
All expenditure groups (VAT EXCLUDED) - Metro and other urban areas	118,7	118,3	..	+0,3	..	..
Core inflation - Metropolitan	119,6	119,3	111,1	+0,3	-	+7,7
Core inflation - Metro and other urban areas	119,7	119,4	..	+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
Food	+0,1
All other items	+0,2
All items	+0,3

TABLE 3 GROUP INDICES - WEIGHTED AVERAGE
3.1 METROPOLITAN AREAS

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Percentage change compared with					Weights
	Dec. 1997	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996	
All items	118,7	118,3	111,9	+0,3	+6,1	100,00
Expenditure groups - Very low	120,9	120,6	..	+0,2	..	0,51
Low	120,3	119,9	..	+0,3	..	1,78
Middle	120,0	119,5	..	+0,4	..	5,24
High	119,8	119,3	..	+0,4	..	17,70
Very high	118,3	117,9	..	+0,3	..	74,77
Commodities	117,6	117,1	110,7	+0,4	+6,2	55,00
Services	120,8	120,5	114,0	+0,2	+6,0	45,00
All items, excluding housing	118,4	118,0	110,8	+0,3	+6,9	75,93
All items, excluding food	118,7	118,4	112,0	+0,3	+6,0	81,98
Food	119,0	118,2	111,8	+0,7	+6,4	18,02
Expenditure groups - Very low	118,9	118,7	..	+0,2	..	40,73
Low	119,3	118,8	..	+0,4	..	34,39
Middle	119,4	118,6	..	+0,7	..	31,12
High	119,2	118,4	..	+0,7	..	25,42
Very high	118,7	117,9	..	+0,7	..	14,84
Processed	119,2	118,8	111,9	+0,3	+6,5	9,12
Unprocessed	118,8	117,6	111,9	+1,0	+6,2	8,90
Grain products	121,1	121,0	118,3	+0,1	+2,4	3,31
Meat	115,9	114,9	109,5	+0,9	+5,8	5,33
Fish and other seafood	118,7	117,7	113,4	+0,8	+4,7	0,80
Milk, cheese and eggs	126,3	126,1	113,3	+0,2	+11,5	1,90
Fats and oils	120,4	119,8	111,0	+0,5	+8,5	0,85
Fruit and nuts	110,0	107,9	101,4	+1,9	+8,5	1,80
Vegetables	127,5	125,2	118,5	+1,8	+7,6	1,80
Sugar	118,0	117,6	110,6	+0,3	+6,7	0,59
Coffee, tea and cocoa	110,4	111,2	103,3	-0,7	+6,9	0,72
Other	119,3	119,4	112,5	-0,1	+6,0	1,64
Non-alcoholic beverages	124,4	124,4	113,8	0,0	+9,3	0,82
Alcoholic beverages	118,8	118,8	109,3	0,0	+8,7	1,18
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	158,9	157,7	125,9	+0,8	+26,2	0,95
Clothing and footwear	108,3	108,2	105,7	+0,1	+2,5	4,76
Clothing	107,8	107,8	105,1	0,0	+2,6	3,55
Footwear	110,9	110,7	108,2	+0,2	+2,5	1,21
Housing	122,1	121,9	118,0	+0,2	+3,5	24,07
Fuel and power	119,6	119,5	109,8	+0,1	+8,9	3,11
Furniture and equipment	111,6	111,0	106,5	+0,5	+4,8	3,94
Furniture	115,5	114,3	107,5	+1,0	+7,4	1,62
Appliances	107,1	107,5	105,2	-0,4	+1,8	1,08
Other household equipment and textiles	110,1	109,4	106,3	+0,6	+3,6	1,24
Household operation	132,2	130,9	117,9	+1,0	+12,1	4,69
Household consumables	123,9	123,2	114,8	+0,6	+7,9	1,14
Domestic workers	142,3	140,6	123,9	+1,2	+14,9	3,19
Other household services	115,6	115,6	111,7	0,0	+3,5	0,36
Medical care and health expenses	130,8	130,2	110,1	+0,5	+18,8	5,95
Transport	114,0	113,8	109,5	+0,2	+4,1	14,74
Vehicles	110,7	110,6	104,8	+0,1	+5,6	5,25
Running cost	120,4	120,0	117,3	+0,3	+2,6	5,75
Public and hired transport	111,7	111,7	106,2	0,0	+5,2	3,74
Communication	110,6	110,6	108,4	0,0	+2,0	3,06
Recreation and entertainment	108,5	108,6	108,0	-0,1	+0,5	2,38
Reading matter	124,3	124,3	116,3	0,0	+6,9	0,74
Education	122,2	122,2	110,8	0,0	+10,3	2,04
Personal care	117,9	116,9	112,5	+0,9	+4,8	3,06
Other	114,8	114,8	110,7	0,0	+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
	Dec. 1997	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996	
All items	118,7	118,3	..	+0,3	..	100,00
Expenditure groups - Very low	120,2	119,8	..	+0,3	..	0,93
Low	119,8	119,3	..	+0,4	..	2,99
Middle	119,2	118,8	..	+0,3	..	7,58
High	119,4	118,9	..	+0,4	..	20,09
Very high	118,3	118,0	..	+0,3	..	68,41
Commodities	117,2	116,8	..	+0,3	..	57,34
Services	120,7	120,4	..	+0,2	..	42,66
All items, excluding housing	118,1	117,7	..	+0,3	..	77,55
All items, excluding food	118,5	118,3	..	+0,2	..	80,52
Food	119,2	118,5	..	+0,6	..	19,48
Expenditure groups - Very low	119,5	118,9	..	+0,5	..	44,17
Low	119,9	119,2	..	+0,6	..	38,83
Middle	119,6	119,0	..	+0,5	..	32,67
High	119,3	118,7	..	+0,5	..	25,61
Very high	119,0	118,2	..	+0,7	..	15,02
Processed	118,7	118,3	..	+0,3	..	10,52
Unprocessed	119,8	118,7	..	+0,9	..	8,96
Grain products	121,4	121,4	..	0,0	..	3,73
Meat	114,8	114,0	..	+0,7	..	5,84
Fish and other seafood	120,6	120,1	..	+0,4	..	0,77
Milk, cheese and eggs	125,7	125,4	..	+0,2	..	2,02
Fats and oils	118,9	118,3	..	+0,5	..	0,94
Fruit and nuts	109,9	106,7	..	+3,0	..	1,07
Vegetables	130,2	128,5	..	+1,3	..	1,94
Sugar	118,8	118,8	..	0,0	..	0,73
Coffee, tea and cocoa	109,0	109,0	..	0,0	..	0,79
Other	119,2	119,1	..	+0,1	..	1,65
Non-alcoholic beverages	125,0	124,9	..	+0,1	..	0,82
Alcoholic beverages	120,0	120,0	..	0,0	..	1,17
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	155,5	154,3	..	+0,8	..	1,04
Clothing and footwear	108,2	108,2	..	0,0	..	5,07
Clothing	107,8	107,9	..	-0,1	..	3,80
Footwear	109,2	108,9	..	+0,3	..	1,27
Housing	120,6	120,4	..	+0,2	..	22,45
Fuel and power	116,3	116,4	..	-0,1	..	3,54
Furniture and equipment	110,8	110,0	..	+0,7	..	4,34
Furniture	114,1	112,8	..	+1,2	..	1,77
Appliances	107,5	107,4	..	+0,1	..	1,19
Other household equipment and textiles	109,3	108,8	..	+0,5	..	1,38
Household operation	135,3	134,0	..	+1,0	..	4,87
Household consumables	121,6	120,9	..	+0,6	..	1,27
Domestic workers	142,9	141,2	..	+1,2	..	3,25
Other household services	114,3	114,3	..	0,0	..	0,35
Medical care and health expenses	127,9	127,4	..	+0,4	..	5,81
Transport	112,9	112,7	..	+0,2	..	13,65
Vehicles	107,9	107,9	..	0,0	..	5,31
Running cost	120,1	119,8	..	+0,3	..	5,16
Public and hired transport	109,3	109,3	..	0,0	..	3,18
Communication	113,7	113,7	..	0,0	..	3,21
Recreation and entertainment	105,1	105,2	..	-0,1	..	2,18
Reading matter	122,4	122,4	..	0,0	..	0,69
Education	120,9	120,9	..	0,0	..	1,82
Personal care	118,6	117,6	..	+0,9	..	3,08
Other	116,0	116,0	..	0,0	..	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	
	Dec. 1997	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996
Western Cape	118,3	118,1	..	+0,2	..
Cape Peninsula	118,8	118,4	113,1	+0,3	+5,0
Other urban areas	118,0	117,8	..	+0,2	..
Eastern Cape	120,6	119,9	..	+0,6	..
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	118,2	117,8	112,4	+0,3	+5,2
East London	120,4	120,2	112,2	+0,2	+7,3
Other urban areas	120,8	120,1	..	+0,6	..
Northern Cape	117,4	117,2	..	+0,2	..
Kimberley	119,7	119,4	111,4	+0,3	+7,5
Other urban areas	116,9	116,8	..	+0,1	..
Free State	116,1	115,8	..	+0,3	..
Bloemfontein	118,8	118,3	112,1	+0,4	+6,0
Free State Goldfields	115,9	115,7	109,8	+0,2	+5,6
Other urban areas	115,7	115,3	..	+0,3	..
KwaZulu-Natal	118,3	118,0	..	+0,3	..
Durban/Pinetown	119,8	119,4	112,5	+0,3	+6,5
Pietermaritzburg	119,2	118,7	112,8	+0,4	+5,7
Other urban areas	117,3	117,2	..	+0,1	..
North West	116,4	115,9	..	+0,4	..
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	116,4	116,3	110,4	+0,1	+5,4
Other urban areas	116,2	115,6	..	+0,5	..
Gauteng	119,4	119,0	..	+0,3	..
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	119,3	119,0	112,5	+0,3	+6,0
Witwatersrand	118,2	117,9	111,2	+0,3	+6,3
Other urban areas	119,0	118,6	..	+0,3	..
Mpumalanga	118,9	118,6	..	+0,3	..
Nelspruit/Witbank	119,0	118,3	111,2	+0,6	+7,0
Other urban areas	118,6	118,2	..	+0,3	..
Northern Province	117,7	117,2	..	+0,4	..
Pietersburg	118,5	117,9	112,9	+0,5	+5,0
Other urban areas	117,8	117,3	..	+0,4	..
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	118,7	118,3	..	+0,3	..
Weighted average - Metropolitan	118,7	118,3	111,9	+0,3	+6,1

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	
	Dec. 1997	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996
Western Cape	119,1	118,7	..	+0,3	..
Cape Peninsula	118,8	117,9	112,2	+0,8	+5,9
Other urban areas	118,5	118,4	..	+0,1	..
Eastern Cape	125,3	123,6	..	+1,4	..
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	119,1	118,2	112,9	+0,8	+5,5
East London	124,2	125,0	114,2	-0,6	+8,8
Other urban areas	126,7	124,6	..	+1,7	..
Northern Cape	116,9	117,1	..	-0,2	..
Kimberley	116,8	116,2	110,7	+0,5	+5,5
Other urban areas	116,8	117,2	..	-0,3	..
Free State	115,6	114,6	..	+0,9	..
Bloemfontein	119,4	118,0	110,3	+1,2	+8,3
Free State Goldfields	114,4	113,3	107,5	+1,0	+6,4
Other urban areas	115,4	114,5	..	+0,8	..
KwaZulu-Natal	120,2	119,8	..	+0,3	..
Durban/Pinetown	125,0	124,1	114,2	+0,7	+9,5
Pietermaritzburg	121,2	120,2	114,1	+0,8	+6,2
Other urban areas	118,3	118,3	..	0,0	..
North West	115,1	113,9	..	+1,1	..
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	115,3	115,1	110,8	+0,2	+4,1
Other urban areas	115,0	113,6	..	+1,2	..
Gauteng	118,3	117,6	..	+0,6	..
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	120,8	119,7	112,2	+0,9	+7,7
Witwatersrand	117,2	116,6	111,0	+0,5	+5,6
Other urban areas	117,9	117,2	..	+0,6	..
Mpumalanga	121,8	121,4	..	+0,3	..
Nelspruit/Witbank	120,0	119,0	111,9	+0,8	+7,2
Other urban areas	122,2	121,9	..	+0,2	..
Northern Province	121,5	120,6	..	+0,7	..
Pietersburg	123,0	122,0	115,5	+0,8	+6,5
Other urban areas	121,4	120,5	..	+0,7	..
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	119,2	118,5	..	+0,6	..
Weighted average - Metropolitan	119,0	118,2	111,8	+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	
	Dec. 1997	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996
Western Cape	118,1	117,8	..	+0,3	..
Cape Peninsula	118,8	118,3	111,8	+0,4	+6,3
Other urban areas	117,6	117,5	..	+0,1	..
Eastern Cape	120,4	119,7	..	+0,6	..
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	118,5	118,0	111,3	+0,4	+6,5
East London	121,7	121,5	111,6	+0,2	+9,1
Other urban areas	120,4	119,5	..	+0,8	..
Northern Cape	116,8	116,6	..	+0,2	..
Kimberley	118,3	117,9	109,9	+0,3	+7,6
Other urban areas	116,5	116,3	..	+0,2	..
Free State	116,7	116,2	..	+0,4	..
Bloemfontein	119,6	119,1	111,4	+0,4	+7,4
Free State Goldfields	116,0	115,7	109,8	+0,3	+5,6
Other urban areas	116,3	115,9	..	+0,3	..
KwaZulu-Natal	117,4	117,2	..	+0,2	..
Durban/Pinetown	119,3	118,9	111,3	+0,3	+7,2
Pietermaritzburg	117,9	117,4	111,4	+0,4	+5,8
Other urban areas	116,5	116,4	..	+0,1	..
North West	115,8	115,2	..	+0,5	..
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	116,4	116,3	110,1	+0,1	+5,7
Other urban areas	115,5	114,9	..	+0,5	..
Gauteng	118,7	118,3	..	+0,3	..
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	118,9	118,5	111,2	+0,3	+6,9
Witwatersrand	118,0	117,6	110,2	+0,3	+7,1
Other urban areas	118,0	117,6	..	+0,3	..
Mpumalanga	117,7	117,3	..	+0,3	..
Nelspruit/Witbank	118,4	117,6	110,2	+0,7	+7,4
Other urban areas	117,3	117,0	..	+0,3	..
Northern Province	116,8	116,3	..	+0,4	..
Pietersburg	119,1	118,4	111,8	+0,6	+6,5
Other urban areas	116,6	116,2	..	+0,3	..
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	118,1	117,7	..	+0,3	..
Weighted average - Metropolitan	118,4	118,0	110,8	+0,3	+6,9

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	
	Dec. 1997	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996
Western Cape	118,1	118,0	..	+0,1	..
Cape Peninsula	119,0	118,7	113,4	+0,3	+4,9
Other urban areas	117,8	117,7	..	+0,1	..
Eastern Cape	119,2	118,9	..	+0,3	..
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	117,8	117,6	112,2	+0,2	+5,0
East London	119,5	119,0	111,8	+0,4	+6,9
Other urban areas	119,1	118,7	..	+0,3	..
Northern Cape	117,5	117,2	..	+0,3	..
Kimberley	120,8	120,6	111,6	+0,2	+8,2
Other urban areas	117,0	116,7	..	+0,3	..
Free State	116,3	116,1	..	+0,2	..
Bloemfontein	118,8	118,6	112,7	+0,2	+5,4
Free State Goldfields	116,4	116,4	110,4	0,0	+5,4
Other urban areas	115,8	115,6	..	+0,2	..
KwaZulu-Natal	117,8	117,6	..	+0,2	..
Durban/Pinetown	118,7	118,4	112,1	+0,3	+5,9
Pietermaritzburg	118,5	118,2	112,4	+0,3	+5,4
Other urban areas	117,1	116,9	..	+0,2	..
North West	116,7	116,4	..	+0,3	..
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	116,6	116,5	110,3	+0,1	+5,7
Other urban areas	116,6	116,2	..	+0,3	..
Gauteng	119,6	119,3	..	+0,3	..
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	118,7	118,5	112,4	+0,2	+5,6
Witwatersrand	118,6	118,2	111,3	+0,3	+6,6
Other urban areas	119,2	118,9	..	+0,3	..
Mpumalanga	118,2	117,8	..	+0,3	..
Nelspruit/Witbank	118,5	117,9	110,9	+0,5	+6,9
Other urban areas	117,6	117,3	..	+0,3	..
Northern Province	116,8	116,4	..	+0,3	..
Pietersburg	117,4	116,9	112,3	+0,4	+4,5
Other urban areas	116,9	116,5	..	+0,3	..
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	118,5	118,3	..	+0,2	..
Weighted average - Metropolitan	118,7	118,4	112,0	+0,3	+6,0

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	
	Dec. 1997	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996
Western Cape	118,6	118,3	..	+0,3	..
Cape Peninsula	120,7	120,2	113,7	+0,4	+6,2
Other cities	118,1	117,9	..	+0,2	..
Eastern Cape	121,4	120,6	..	+0,7	..
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	119,1	118,6	112,0	+0,4	+6,3
East London	121,4	121,2	112,2	+0,2	+8,2
Other cities	121,6	120,7	..	+0,7	..
Northern Cape	119,4	119,3	..	+0,1	..
Kimberley	122,8	122,4	112,3	+0,3	+9,3
Other cities	118,9	118,8	..	+0,1	..
Free State	116,3	115,8	..	+0,4	..
Bloemfontein	118,6	118,1	111,7	+0,4	+6,2
Free State Goldfields	115,8	115,5	109,0	+0,3	+6,2
Other cities	116,1	115,6	..	+0,4	..
KwaZulu-Natal	118,1	117,8	..	+0,3	..
Durban/Pinetown	119,8	119,4	112,1	+0,3	+6,9
Pietermaritzburg	118,2	117,8	111,5	+0,3	+6,0
Other cities	117,2	117,1	..	+0,1	..
North West	117,3	116,7	..	+0,5	..
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	118,5	118,3	110,4	+0,2	+7,3
Other cities	116,9	116,2	..	+0,6	..
Gauteng	119,8	119,4	..	+0,3	..
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	119,3	118,9	111,8	+0,3	+6,7
Witwatersrand	120,2	119,7	111,5	+0,4	+7,8
Other cities	118,6	118,2	..	+0,3	..
Mpumalanga	120,9	120,4	..	+0,4	..
Nelspruit/Witbank	121,4	120,5	111,9	+0,7	+8,5
Other cities	120,8	120,4	..	+0,3	..
Northern Province	118,6	118,1	..	+0,4	..
Pietersburg	120,0	119,9	111,6	+0,1	+7,5
Other cities	118,6	118,1	..	+0,4	..
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	119,1	118,6	..	+0,4	..
Weighted average - Metropolitan	120,1	119,7	112,1	+0,3	+7,1

TABLE 7 PERCENTAGE CHANGE BY TYPE OF STORE

TABLE 7.1 Chain-stores ^{1/}

Group	Percentage change compared with	
	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996
Food	+1,1	+15,4
Processed	+0,7	+8,4
Unprocessed	+1,5	+22,5
Grain products	-0,6	+3,3
Meat	+3,0	+25,2
Fish and other seafood	+0,9	+7,3
Milk, cheese and eggs	-0,4	+18,0
Fats and oils	+1,8	+4,0
Fruit and nuts	+1,4	+22,6
Vegetables	+0,5	+28,4
Sugar	+0,1	+10,6
Coffee, tea and cocoa	+2,3	+6,6
Other	+0,7	+3,5

^{1/} With at least 15 branches

TABLE 7.2 Other retailers ^{2/}

Group	Percentage change compared with	
	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996
Food	+0,1	+9,3
Processed	+0,5	+8,3
Unprocessed	-0,4	+10,3
Grain products	+0,5	+4,1
Meat	+1,2	+5,4
Fish and other seafood	-0,3	+11,1
Milk, cheese and eggs	-0,6	+4,3
Fats and oils	0,0	+15,1
Fruit and nuts	+2,7	+23,0
Vegetables	-4,8	+18,0
Sugar	0,0	+14,9
Coffee, tea and cocoa	0,0	+7,5
Other	+0,4	+18,1

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

