

# Consumer Price Index

## Statistical release

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#### AVERAGE ANNUAL INFLATION RATE LOWEST SINCE 1969

*The official inflation rate, i.e. the annual rate of change in the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas, is 2,2% at December 1999. Therefore, the average annual inflation rate for the year 1999 is 5,2%, which is the lowest since 1969, when it was 3,0%. The average annual rate of 5,2% is 1,7 percentage points lower than the corresponding average annual rate of 6,9% for 1998 and 3,4 percentage points lower than the corresponding average annual rate of 8,6% for 1997.*

The official average annual core inflation rate for 1999 is 7,9%, which is 0,4 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding average annual rate of 7,5% for 1998 (cf. table A).

The average annual food inflation rate for 1999 is 4,9%, which is substantially lower than the corresponding average annual rate of 6,2% for 1998 (cf. Table A).

The price index for housing shows an average annual rate of increase of 0,9% for 1999. This is 6,8 percentage points lower than the corresponding average annual rate of 7,7% for 1998 and 7,9 percentage points lower than the corresponding average annual rate of 8,8% for 1997 (cf. table A).

**TABLE A - ANNUAL AVERAGE INDICES AND RATES OF CHANGE (METROPOLITAN AREAS)**

Group	Year					
	1997		1998		1999	
	Index	% change	Index	% change	Index	% change
All income groups	116,6	8,6	124,6	6,9	131,1	5,2
Core inflation	116,6	8,8	125,3	7,5	135,2	7,9
Food	116,1	9,4	123,3	6,2	129,3	4,9
Housing	121,3	8,8	130,7	7,7	131,9	0,9

#### INFLATION RATE INCREASES TO 2,2% AT DECEMBER 1999

*The official inflation rate, i.e. the annual rate of change in the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas, is 2,2% at December 1999. This rate is 0,3 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding annual rate of 1,9% at November 1999. From November 1999 to December 1999 the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas increased by 0,3% and the seasonally adjusted index increased by 0,4%.*

The annual increase of 2,2% in the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas is mainly due to annual increases in the price indices for transport (+1,4 percentage points, mainly due to a 25,6% increase in the price of petrol from December 1998 to December 1999), food (+0,9 of a percentage point), medical care and health expenses (+0,7 of a percentage point) and household operation (+0,6 of a percentage point). These increases were partially counteracted by annual decreases in the price indices for housing (-2,7 percentage

points, mainly due to a decrease of 7,4 percentage points in the interest rates on mortgage bonds) and 'other' goods and services (-0,1 of a percentage point) (cf. table 2.1).

The inflation rate for metropolitan and other urban areas is 2,3% at December 1999. This rate is 0,2 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding annual rate of 2,1% at November 1999. From November 1999 to December 1999 the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan and other urban areas increased by 0,3%.

## **CORE INFLATION RATE**

The core inflation rate for metropolitan areas (cf. note 7 on page 5) is 7,9% at December 1999. This rate is 0,2 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 8,1% at November 1999. From November 1999 to December 1999 the core inflation index for metropolitan areas increased by 0,1%.

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 transport (+1,9 percentage points, mainly due to a 25,6% increase in the price of petrol from December 1998 to December 1999), housing (+1,8 percentage points, mainly due to increases in all components), medical care and health expenses (+0,9 of a percentage point), 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 annual rate of 7,9% at December 1999 is lower than the annual rate of 8,1% at November 1999, mainly due to smaller increases in the food prices and a decrease in the prices of clothing and footwear during December 1999 compared with prices in December 1998.

The core inflation rate for metropolitan and other urban areas (cf. note 7 on page 5) is 7,4% at December 1999, which is 0,2 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 7,6% at November 1999. From November 1999 to December 1999 the core inflation index for metropolitan and other urban areas increased by 0,1%.

## **METROPOLITAN AREAS**

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

The Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas increased by 0,3% from November 1999 to December 1999. This monthly increase is due to monthly increases in the price indices for food (+0,1 of a percentage point), housing (+0,1 of a percentage point) and household operation (+0,1 of a percentage point) (cf. table 2.2).

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

From November 1999 to December 1999 the core inflation index for metropolitan areas increased by 0,1%. This monthly increase is due to monthly increases in the price indices for housing (+0,1 of a percentage point) and household operation (+0,1 of a percentage point), which were partially counteracted by a decrease in the price index for clothing and footwear (-0,1 of a percentage point) (cf. table 2.4).

### **Food inflation**

*The price index for food reflects an annual rate of increase of 5,1% at December 1999. This rate is 0,3 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding annual rate of 4,8% at November 1999. From November 1999 to December 1999 this index increased by 0,8%. The seasonally adjusted index increased by 0,7% for the same period.*

Relatively large monthly increases occurred in the price indices for fruit and nuts (+3,3%), meat (+1,9%), vegetables (+1,2%), grain products (+0,7%), 'other food' products (+0,4%) and sugar (+0,1%). These increases were partially counteracted by monthly decreases in the price indices for fats and oils (-1,5%), milk, cheese and eggs (-0,6%) and fish and other seafood (-0,5%).

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

*The price index for non-food items shows an annual rate of increase of 1,6% at December 1999. This rate is 0,3 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding annual rate of 1,3% at November 1999. From November 1999 to December 1999 this index increased by 0,2%, while the seasonally adjusted index increased by 0,5%.*

Relatively large monthly increases occurred in the price indices for personal care (+1,0%), household operation (+0,8%) and cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+0,7%). These increases were partially counteracted by relatively large monthly decreases in the price indices for furniture and equipment (-1,1%), clothing and footwear (-1,0%), and recreation and entertainment (-0,5%).

### **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 1999 and the average index of the previous three months. This approach, when using seasonally adjusted data shows an increase of 3,0% (which is 2,3 percentage points higher than the corresponding rate of 0,7% for November 1999), while the unadjusted data shows an increase of 2,3% (which is 0,8 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding rate of 1,5% for November 1999).

### **Pensioners**

The annual inflation rate for pensioners in the metropolitan areas is 4,6% at December 1999, which is 0,1 of percentage point higher than the corresponding rate of 4,5% at November 1999.

## **METROPOLITAN AND OTHER URBAN AREAS**

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

The Consumer Price Index for metropolitan and other urban areas increased by 0,3% from November 1999 to December 1999. This monthly increase is due to monthly increases in the price indices for food (+0,2 of a percentage point), housing (+0,1 of a percentage point) and household operation (+0,1 of a percentage point). These increases were partially counteracted by a relatively large monthly decrease in the price index for clothing and footwear (-0,1 of a percentage point).

### **Food inflation**

*The price index for food reflects an annual rate of increase of 4,5% at December 1999. This rate is 0,2 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding rate of 4,3% at November 1999. From November 1999 to December 1999 this index increased by 0,9%.*

The monthly increase of 0,9% in the price index for food is due to monthly increases in the price indices for fruit and nuts (+2,2%), meat (+2,2%), vegetables (+0,8%), grain products (+0,6%), coffee, tea and cocoa (+0,2%) and "other" food products (+0,2%). These increases were partially counteracted by monthly decreases in the price indices for fats and oils (-0,6%), fish and other seafood (-0,1%) and milk, cheese and eggs (-0,1%).

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

*The price index for non-food items shows an annual rate of increase of 1,9% at December 1999. This rate is 0,3 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding annual rate of 1,6% at November 1999. From November 1999 to December 1999 this index increased by 0,2%.*

Relatively large monthly increases occurred in the price indices for personal care (+1,1%), household operation (+1,0%) and cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+0,7%). These increases were partially counteracted by relatively large monthly decreases in the price indices for clothing and footwear (-1,0%), furniture and equipment (-0,7%) and recreation and entertainment (-0,5%).

### **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 1999 and the average index of the previous three months. This approach, when using unadjusted data shows an increase of 1,9%, which is 0,4 of a percentage point higher than corresponding rate of 1,5% for November 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 4,3%, while the lowest rate of 0% was recorded for the Pietersburg area.

Regarding food prices, the highest annual increase of 7,5% was recorded for the Pietersburg area, while the Nelspruit/Witbank area reflected the lowest increase of 2,0%.

### **Pensioners**

The annual inflation rate for pensioners in the metropolitan and other urban areas is 4,4% at December 1999. The other urban areas in Mpumalanga recorded the highest rate of increase of 6,9%, while the lowest rate of 1,9% was recorded for Bloemfontein.

### **CPI FOR JANUARY 2000**

In addition to the usual price surveys for January 2000, it has come to the attention of Stats SA that changed prices will apply during the first seven days of January 2000 regarding magazines, property insurance, water, electricity, sanitation and refuse removal 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.

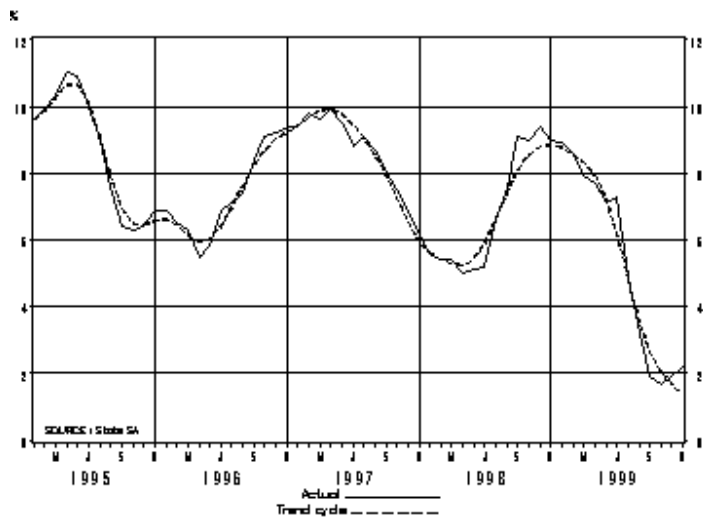
The choice of exclusions was informed by best practice amongst several other international agencies, and after consultation with the South African Reserve Bank and other local technical experts.

## 8 Response rate

The response rate for the CPI for December was 85,4%.

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

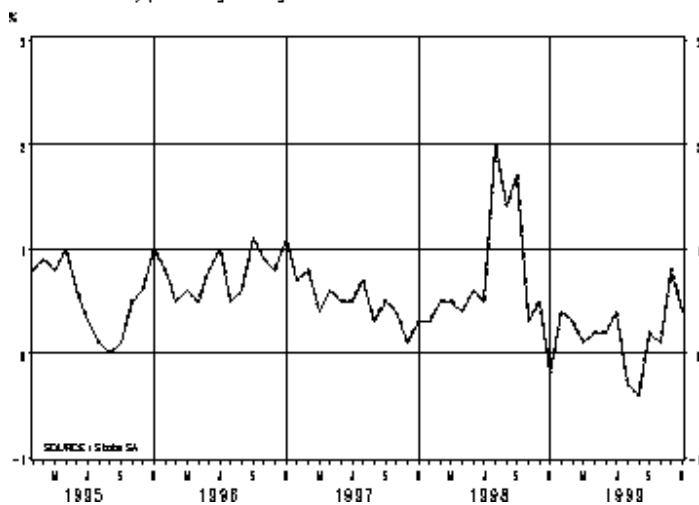


TABLE 1.1 EXPENDITURE GROUP INDICES AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE  
BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Dec. 1999	Nov. 1999	Dec. 1998	Percentage change compared with		
				Nov. 1999		Dec. 1998
				Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual
Expenditure groups						
Very Low	139,2	138,5	131,5	+0,5	..	+5,9
Low	138,0	137,2	130,7	+0,6	..	+5,6
Middle	136,8	136,2	130,1	+0,4	..	+5,1
High	135,6	135,1	130,2	+0,4	..	+4,1
Very High	130,8	130,5	129,0	+0,2	..	+1,4
All expenditure groups - Metropolitan	132,3	131,9	129,4	+0,3	+0,4	+2,2
All expenditure groups - Metro and other urban areas	132,0	131,6	129,0	+0,3	..	+2,3
Food only - Metropolitan	133,1	132,0	126,7	+0,8	+0,7	+5,1
Food only - Metro and other urban areas	133,4	132,2	127,6	+0,9	..	+4,5
All items excluding food - Metropolitan	132,1	131,9	130,0	+0,2	+0,5	+1,6
All items excluding food - Metro and other urban areas	131,7	131,5	129,3	+0,2	..	+1,9
All expenditure groups (VAT EXCLUDED) - Metropolitan	132,3	131,9	129,4	+0,3	+0,5	+2,2
All expenditure groups (VAT EXCLUDED) - Metro and other urban areas	132,0	131,6	129,0	+0,3	..	+2,3
Core inflation - Metropolitan	139,1	138,9	128,9	+0,1	-	+7,9
Core inflation - Metro and other urban areas	138,3	138,1	128,8	+0,1	-	+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	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	131,4	131,6	131,9	132,3	131,1
	%	+8,9	+8,6	+7,9	+7,7	+7,1	+7,3	+4,9	+3,2	+1,9	+1,7	+1,9	+2,2	+5,2

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

Group	Contribution
Food	0,9
Non-alcoholic beverages	0,1
Alcoholic beverages	0,1
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	0,2
Housing	-2,7
Fuel and power	0,2
Household operation	0,6
Medical care and health expenses	0,7
Transport	1,4
Communication	0,2
Reading matter	0,1
Education	0,3
Personal care	0,2
Other	-0,1
All items	2,2

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

Group	Contribution
Food	0,1
Housing	0,1
Household operation	0,1
All items	0,3

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
Housing	1,8
Fuel and power	0,3
Household operation	0,9
Medical care and health expenses	0,9
Transport	1,9
Communication	0,2
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
Clothing and footwear	-0,1
Housing	0,1
Household operation	0,1
All items	0,1



TABLE 3 GROUP INDICES - WEIGHTED AVERAGE  
3.1 METROPOLITAN AREAS

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Dec. 1999	Nov. 1999	Dec. 1998	Percentage change compared with		Weights
				Nov. 1999	Dec. 1998	
All items	132,3	131,9	129,4	+0,3	+2,2	100,00
Expenditure groups - Very low	139,2	138,5	131,5	+0,5	+5,9	0,51
Low	138,0	137,2	130,7	+0,6	+5,6	1,78
Middle	136,8	136,2	130,1	+0,4	+5,1	5,24
High	135,6	135,1	130,2	+0,4	+4,1	17,70
Very high	130,8	130,5	129,0	+0,2	+1,4	74,77
Commodities	132,9	132,6	124,9	+0,2	+6,4	55,00
Services	132,4	132,0	135,7	+0,3	-2,4	45,00
All items, excluding housing	134,9	134,5	126,4	+0,3	+6,7	75,93
All items, excluding food	132,1	131,9	130,0	+0,2	+1,6	81,98
Food	133,1	132,0	126,7	+0,8	+5,1	18,02
Expenditure groups - Very low	134,4	133,3	128,7	+0,8	+4,4	40,73
Low	134,5	133,3	128,7	+0,9	+4,5	34,39
Middle	134,6	133,3	128,6	+1,0	+4,7	31,12
High	133,9	132,7	127,3	+0,9	+5,2	25,42
Very high	132,3	131,3	125,9	+0,8	+5,1	14,84
Processed	135,0	135,0	128,3	0,0	+5,2	9,12
Unprocessed	131,0	128,8	125,0	+1,7	+4,8	8,90
Grain products	140,9	139,9	134,3	+0,7	+4,9	3,31
Meat	122,7	120,4	115,9	+1,9	+5,9	5,33
Fish and other seafood	143,6	144,3	131,6	-0,5	+9,1	0,80
Milk, cheese and eggs	138,0	138,8	132,2	-0,6	+4,4	1,90
Fats and oils	140,1	142,3	139,1	-1,5	+0,7	0,85
Fruit and nuts	129,4	125,3	120,3	+3,3	+7,6	1,08
Vegetables	138,0	136,3	135,5	+1,2	+1,8	1,80
Sugar	136,0	135,9	127,2	+0,1	+6,9	0,59
Coffee, tea and cocoa	126,7	126,7	121,5	0,0	+4,3	0,72
Other	139,5	139,0	131,3	+0,4	+6,2	1,64
Non-alcoholic beverages	147,2	147,3	137,4	-0,1	+7,1	0,82
Alcoholic beverages	138,8	138,8	129,7	0,0	+7,0	1,18
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	230,7	229,2	197,3	+0,7	+16,9	0,95
Clothing and footwear	109,0	110,1	109,3	-1,0	-0,3	4,76
Clothing	108,0	109,3	109,6	-1,2	-1,5	3,55
Footwear	112,9	113,5	109,6	-0,5	+3,0	1,21
Housing	126,4	125,9	141,4	+0,4	-10,6	24,07
Fuel and power	137,8	137,8	127,8	0,0	+7,8	3,11
Furniture and equipment	116,5	117,8	115,3	-1,1	+1,0	3,94
Furniture	120,2	124,3	121,3	-3,3	-0,9	1,62
Appliances	112,5	112,5	109,5	0,0	+2,7	1,08
Other household equipment and textiles	114,9	113,9	112,4	+0,9	+2,2	1,24
Household operation	167,6	166,2	149,5	+0,8	+12,1	4,69
Household consumables	143,5	143,3	136,1	+0,1	+5,4	1,14
Domestic workers	187,8	185,6	163,4	+1,2	+14,9	3,19
Other household services	125,4	125,4	122,2	0,0	+2,6	0,36
Medical care and health expenses	162,1	161,6	146,9	+0,3	+10,3	5,95
Transport	129,8	129,8	117,9	0,0	+10,1	14,74
Vehicles	124,4	124,0	116,3	+0,3	+7,0	5,25
Running cost	145,6	146,1	124,3	-0,3	+17,1	5,75
Petrol	157,8	158,3	127,2	-0,3	+24,0	
Diesel	115,6	114,5	105,4	+0,9	+9,7	
Public and hired transport	116,1	116,0	113,0	+0,1	+2,7	3,74
Communication	128,8	128,8	119,7	0,0	+7,6	3,06
Recreation and entertainment	113,1	113,7	113,1	-0,5	0,0	2,38
Reading matter	147,5	147,5	136,2	0,0	+8,3	0,74
Education	156,4	156,4	135,6	0,0	+15,3	2,04
Personal care	137,4	136,0	129,1	+1,0	+6,4	3,06
Other	116,7	116,3	119,0	+0,3	-1,9	6,49

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

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Dec. 1999	Nov. 1999	Dec. 1998	Percentage change compared with		Weights
				Nov. 1999	Dec. 1998	
All items	132,0	131,6	129,0	+0,3	+2,3	100,00
Expenditure groups - Very low	138,1	137,4	131,0	+0,5	+5,4	0,93
Low	136,6	136,0	130,1	+0,4	+5,0	2,99
Middle	134,9	134,3	129,0	+0,4	+4,6	7,58
High	134,6	134,2	129,5	+0,3	+3,9	20,09
Very high	130,7	130,3	128,7	+0,3	+1,6	68,41
Commodities	131,6	131,2	124,5	+0,3	+5,7	57,34
Services	132,8	132,4	135,1	+0,3	-1,7	42,66
All items, excluding housing	134,3	133,9	126,4	+0,3	+6,3	77,55
All items, excluding food	131,7	131,5	129,3	+0,2	+1,9	80,52
Food	133,4	132,2	127,6	+0,9	+4,5	19,48
Expenditure groups - Very low	136,3	135,2	130,8	+0,8	+4,2	44,17
Low	135,7	134,4	130,4	+1,0	+4,1	38,83
Middle	134,7	133,4	129,4	+1,0	+4,1	32,67
High	133,7	132,5	128,0	+0,9	+4,5	25,61
Very high	132,5	131,4	126,6	+0,8	+4,7	15,02
Processed	134,6	134,3	128,0	+0,2	+5,2	10,52
Unprocessed	132,2	130,1	127,2	+1,6	+3,9	8,96
Grain products	141,1	140,3	135,0	+0,6	+4,5	3,73
Meat	121,5	118,9	115,8	+2,2	+4,9	5,84
Fish and other seafood	144,3	144,4	133,0	-0,1	+8,5	0,77
Milk, cheese and eggs	137,5	137,7	131,6	-0,1	+4,5	2,02
Fats and oils	138,2	139,0	137,5	-0,6	+0,5	0,94
Fruit and nuts	126,6	123,9	120,2	+2,2	+5,3	1,07
Vegetables	144,1	142,9	142,3	+0,8	+1,3	1,94
Sugar	138,0	138,0	128,6	0,0	+7,3	0,73
Coffee, tea and cocoa	125,4	125,2	120,4	+0,2	+4,2	0,79
Other	138,7	138,4	130,7	+0,2	+6,1	1,65
Non-alcoholic beverages	152,2	152,0	139,9	+0,1	+8,8	0,82
Alcoholic beverages	139,7	139,7	130,2	0,0	+7,3	1,17
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	225,0	223,4	191,0	+0,7	+17,8	1,04
Clothing and footwear	109,6	110,7	109,8	-1,0	-0,2	5,07
Clothing	108,4	109,7	109,8	-1,2	-1,3	3,80
Footwear	113,1	113,8	109,6	-0,6	+3,2	1,27
Housing	124,6	124,2	138,2	+0,3	-9,8	22,45
Fuel and power	134,1	134,0	124,5	+0,1	+7,7	3,54
Furniture and equipment	115,0	115,8	113,5	-0,7	+1,3	4,34
Furniture	119,2	121,4	118,6	-1,8	+0,5	1,77
Appliances	111,9	111,6	109,0	+0,3	+2,7	1,19
Other household equipment and textiles	112,4	112,1	111,0	+0,3	+1,3	1,38
Household operation	173,1	171,4	153,7	+1,0	+12,6	4,87
Household consumables	142,2	141,7	134,2	+0,4	+6,0	1,27
Domestic workers	190,2	188,0	164,8	+1,2	+15,4	3,25
Other household services	125,4	125,4	120,1	0,0	+4,4	0,35
Medical care and health expenses	158,8	158,2	143,6	+0,4	+10,6	5,81
Transport	126,2	126,3	116,2	-0,1	+8,6	13,65
Vehicles	117,6	117,4	111,8	+0,2	+5,2	5,31
Running cost	143,3	143,7	124,2	-0,3	+15,4	5,16
Petrol	150,8	151,3	125,7	-0,3	+20,0	
Diesel	121,0	119,2	106,3	+1,5	+13,8	
Public and hired transport	113,0	112,9	110,4	+0,1	+2,4	3,18
Communication	132,6	132,6	123,1	0,0	+7,7	3,21
Recreation and entertainment	109,0	109,6	109,3	-0,5	-0,3	2,18
Reading matter	145,3	145,3	134,0	0,0	+8,4	0,69
Education	159,2	159,2	136,0	0,0	+17,1	1,82
Personal care	137,9	136,4	129,6	+1,1	+6,4	3,08
Other	117,2	116,9	120,4	+0,3	-2,7	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. 1999	Nov. 1999	Dec. 1998	Nov. 1999	Dec. 1998
Western Cape	130,1	129,6	128,1	+0,4	+1,6
Cape Peninsula	131,4	131,0	129,2	+0,3	+1,7
Other urban areas	129,1	128,6	127,2	+0,4	+1,5
Eastern Cape	135,3	134,6	131,3	+0,5	+3,0
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	130,6	130,1	128,9	+0,4	+1,3
East London	135,5	135,2	131,8	+0,2	+2,8
Other urban areas	136,1	135,3	131,5	+0,6	+3,5
Northern Cape	130,0	129,7	125,8	+0,2	+3,3
Kimberley	134,5	133,9	130,2	+0,4	+3,3
Other urban areas	129,3	129,0	125,1	+0,2	+3,4
Free State	128,2	128,0	124,8	+0,2	+2,7
Bloemfontein	130,9	130,5	129,9	+0,3	+0,8
Free State Goldfields	130,2	129,8	124,8	+0,3	+4,3
Other urban areas	127,3	127,2	124,0	+0,1	+2,7
KwaZulu-Natal	131,3	130,8	128,4	+0,4	+2,3
Durban/Pinetown	134,5	133,8	131,0	+0,5	+2,7
Pietermaritzburg	132,7	132,1	128,1	+0,5	+3,6
Other urban areas	129,4	129,0	127,0	+0,3	+1,9
North West	131,6	130,9	126,9	+0,5	+3,7
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	127,3	127,0	125,7	+0,2	+1,3
Other urban areas	132,1	131,3	126,9	+0,6	+4,1
Gauteng	133,1	132,8	130,2	+0,2	+2,2
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	131,7	131,5	129,0	+0,2	+2,1
Witwatersrand	132,3	132,0	129,4	+0,2	+2,2
Other urban areas	132,3	132,1	129,5	+0,2	+2,2
Mpumalanga	135,0	134,6	130,8	+0,3	+3,2
Nelspruit/Witbank	132,7	132,7	130,2	0,0	+1,9
Other urban areas	134,9	134,6	130,4	+0,2	+3,5
Northern Province	131,5	131,1	126,9	+0,3	+3,6
Pietersburg	128,0	127,9	128,0	+0,1	0,0
Other urban areas	132,2	131,8	126,9	+0,3	+4,2
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	132,0	131,6	129,0	+0,3	+2,3
Weighted average - Metropolitan	132,3	131,9	129,4	+0,3	+2,2

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	
	Dec. 1999	Nov. 1999	Dec. 1998	Nov. 1999	Dec. 1998
Western Cape	133,2	131,7	127,2	+1,1	+4,7
Cape Peninsula	135,5	134,1	126,9	+1,0	+6,8
Other urban areas	131,2	129,7	126,7	+1,2	+3,6
Eastern Cape	143,7	141,8	137,0	+1,3	+4,9
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	132,6	131,3	127,0	+1,0	+4,4
East London	138,0	138,1	132,6	-0,1	+4,1
Other urban areas	146,4	144,3	139,4	+1,5	+5,0
Northern Cape	127,4	127,2	122,5	+0,2	+4,0
Kimberley	129,8	128,6	124,1	+0,9	+4,6
Other urban areas	126,9	126,9	122,1	0,0	+3,9
Free State	126,1	125,7	121,6	+0,3	+3,7
Bloemfontein	132,7	132,1	126,9	+0,5	+4,6
Free State Goldfields	127,1	126,4	122,1	+0,6	+4,1
Other urban areas	125,3	124,9	121,0	+0,3	+3,6
KwaZulu-Natal	132,9	131,7	129,1	+0,9	+2,9
Durban/Pinetown	140,0	138,6	135,1	+1,0	+3,6
Pietermaritzburg	135,6	132,9	128,7	+2,0	+5,4
Other urban areas	129,9	129,0	126,9	+0,7	+2,4
North West	129,4	127,5	124,2	+1,5	+4,2
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	127,9	127,1	122,2	+0,6	+4,7
Other urban areas	129,4	127,4	124,3	+1,6	+4,1
Gauteng	132,3	131,3	125,8	+0,8	+5,2
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	133,2	132,0	128,2	+0,9	+3,9
Witwatersrand	131,0	130,1	124,4	+0,7	+5,3
Other urban areas	133,5	132,5	126,2	+0,8	+5,8
Mpumalanga	140,5	140,0	133,6	+0,4	+5,2
Nelspruit/Witbank	131,2	132,0	128,6	-0,6	+2,0
Other urban areas	142,1	141,4	134,5	+0,5	+5,7
Northern Province	137,2	135,6	131,0	+1,2	+4,7
Pietersburg	138,0	138,3	128,4	-0,2	+7,5
Other urban areas	137,2	135,4	131,4	+1,3	+4,4
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	133,4	132,2	127,6	+0,9	+4,5
Weighted average - Metropolitan	133,1	132,0	126,7	+0,8	+5,1

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. 1999	Nov. 1999	Dec. 1998	Nov. 1999	Dec. 1998
Western Cape	133,6	133,0	126,0	+0,5	+6,0
Cape Peninsula	135,2	134,7	126,8	+0,4	+6,6
Other urban areas	132,4	131,8	125,4	+0,5	+5,6
Eastern Cape	138,9	138,1	130,3	+0,6	+6,6
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	135,2	134,6	126,7	+0,4	+6,7
East London	141,8	141,4	131,5	+0,3	+7,8
Other urban areas	139,1	138,2	130,6	+0,7	+6,5
Northern Cape	132,2	131,8	125,1	+0,3	+5,7
Kimberley	135,0	134,3	127,4	+0,5	+6,0
Other urban areas	131,7	131,4	124,7	+0,2	+5,6
Free State	131,3	131,1	124,4	+0,2	+5,5
Bloemfontein	135,7	135,3	127,8	+0,3	+6,2
Free State Goldfields	130,5	130,1	123,6	+0,3	+5,6
Other urban areas	130,8	130,7	124,1	+0,1	+5,4
KwaZulu-Natal	132,4	131,9	125,2	+0,4	+5,8
Durban/Pinetown	134,9	134,3	127,0	+0,4	+6,2
Pietermaritzburg	132,4	131,7	125,0	+0,5	+5,9
Other urban areas	131,4	131,0	124,5	+0,3	+5,5
North West	131,5	130,8	124,1	+0,5	+6,0
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	130,4	130,0	123,1	+0,3	+5,9
Other urban areas	131,5	130,7	124,1	+0,6	+6,0
Gauteng	135,3	135,1	126,9	+0,1	+6,6
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	134,7	134,5	126,5	+0,1	+6,5
Witwatersrand	135,2	134,9	126,4	+0,2	+7,0
Other urban areas	133,4	133,3	125,9	+0,1	+6,0
Mpumalanga	135,5	135,2	127,3	+0,2	+6,4
Nelspruit/Witbank	134,2	134,4	126,8	-0,1	+5,8
Other urban areas	135,4	135,0	127,1	+0,3	+6,5
Northern Province	131,8	131,4	124,4	+0,3	+5,9
Pietersburg	134,0	133,9	125,7	+0,1	+6,6
Other urban areas	131,6	131,1	124,3	+0,4	+5,9
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	134,3	133,9	126,4	+0,3	+6,3
Weighted average - Metropolitan	134,9	134,5	126,4	+0,3	+6,7

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

TABLE 5 Seasonally adjusted indices – metropolitan areas

Base: 1995=100

Group	1999							Weights						
	Dec	Nov*	Oct*	Sep*	Aug*	Jul*	Jun*	May*	Apr*	Mar*	Feb*	Jan*		
All Items	132.7	132.2	131.2	131.1	130.8	131.3	131.7	131.2	131.0	130.8	130.7	130.3	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	132,8	132,2	131,6	131,4	131,2	131,8	132,4	131,6	131,8	131,5	131,3	131,1	81,98	
Commodities	133,0	132,7	131,4	130,7	130,0	129,5	128,8	127,9	127,1	126,6	126,2	125,6	55,00	
Food	133,0	132,1	129,8	130,1	129,3	128,8	128,8	128,5	127,9	127,7	128,1	127,4	18,02	
Food and non alcoholic beverages	133,7	132,8	130,6	130,8	130,0	129,5	129,5	129,2	128,5	128,3	128,7	128,0	18,84	
Alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	184,3	183,2	180,7	179,0	179,1	178,8	175,7	171,9	170,7	173,6	167,0	165,6	2,13	
Clothing and footwear	109,0	110,0	109,5	109,2	109,1	109,0	108,9	108,6	108,6	108,4	108,5	108,7	4,72	
Furniture and equipment	116,5	117,7	117,3	117,1	117,8	117,5	117,1	116,7	116,4	116,1	116,0	115,7	3,85	
Vehicles	125,1	124,2	123,3	121,8	121,6	121,0	120,0	119,6	119,1	118,5	118,2	118,2	5,52	
Other transport commodities	152,3	152,0	150,8	146,7	143,1	142,0	141,3	136,1	130,2	129,3	126,3	125,2	4,63	
Other commodities	136,9	136,6	135,8	135,2	134,5	133,9	132,3	131,9	132,3	130,7	130,8	129,8	15,58	
Services	133,4	132,3	131,6	131,8	132,4	134,0	135,5	135,7	136,3	136,3	137,1	137,4	45,00	
Housing and domestic workers	125,3	124,8	124,7	125,9	127,2	131,0	134,6	135,2	137,9	139,5	140,7	141,4	25,99	
Transport	115,0	115,1	114,9	114,6	113,7	113,3	113,6	113,4	113,1	112,7	112,5	112,2	4,15	
Other services	149,9	147,7	146,1	145,1	145,2	144,4	143,5	143,3	141,5	139,5	140,0	139,9	14,15	
All items (VAT excluded)	132,7	132,1	131,2	131,0	130,7	131,2	131,7	131,1	130,9	130,7	130,6	130,3	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	
	Dec. 1999	Nov. 1999	Dec. 1998	Nov. 1999	Dec. 1998
Western Cape	131,8	131,3	126,9	+0,4	+3,9
Cape Peninsula	135,8	135,3	129,8	+0,4	+4,6
Other urban areas	130,6	130,1	126,2	+0,4	+3,5
Eastern Cape	138,2	137,3	132,2	+0,7	+4,5
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	134,0	133,3	129,3	+0,5	+3,6
East London	139,5	139,0	133,0	+0,4	+4,9
Other urban areas	138,5	137,5	132,2	+0,7	+4,8
Northern Cape	134,8	134,5	127,7	+0,2	+5,6
Kimberley	141,6	140,9	133,7	+0,5	+5,9
Other urban areas	133,9	133,6	126,9	+0,2	+5,5
Free State	129,7	129,5	124,6	+0,2	+4,1
Bloemfontein	131,8	131,3	129,3	+0,4	+1,9
Free State Goldfields	130,7	130,3	125,3	+0,3	+4,3
Other urban areas	129,4	129,2	124,1	+0,2	+4,3
KwaZulu-Natal	132,0	131,5	127,2	+0,4	+3,8
Durban/Pinetown	134,1	133,4	129,7	+0,5	+3,4
Pietermaritzburg	132,7	132,2	127,3	+0,4	+4,2
Other urban areas	130,9	130,4	125,9	+0,4	+4,0
North West	134,2	133,4	127,5	+0,6	+5,3
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	134,1	133,6	128,1	+0,4	+4,7
Other urban areas	133,9	133,0	127,1	+0,7	+5,4
Gauteng	135,9	135,5	129,8	+0,3	+4,7
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	133,1	132,7	128,0	+0,3	+4,0
Witwatersrand	137,7	137,2	130,8	+0,4	+5,3
Other urban areas	132,9	132,7	127,9	+0,2	+3,9
Mpumalanga	141,2	140,8	132,5	+0,3	+6,6
Nelspruit/Witbank	138,1	138,1	131,4	0,0	+5,1
Other urban areas	141,8	141,3	132,6	+0,4	+6,9
Northern Province	134,2	133,6	127,7	+0,4	+5,1
Pietersburg	137,3	137,2	129,2	+0,1	+6,3
Other urban areas	134,0	133,5	127,6	+0,4	+5,0
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	134,2	133,7	128,5	+0,4	+4,4
Weighted average - Metropolitan	136,1	135,6	130,1	+0,4	+4,6