

Statistical Release P0141.1

Prices : Consumer Price Index

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INFLATION RATE DECREASES TO 5,4% AT FEBRUARY 1998

The official inflation rate, i.e. the annual rate of change in the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas, is 5,4% at February 1998. This rate is 0,2 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding rate of 5,6% at January 1998. From January 1998 to February 1998 the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas increased by 0,3%. The seasonally adjusted index increased by 0,7%.

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 5,3% at February 1998. From January 1998 to February 1998 the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan and other urban areas increased by 0,3%.

CORE INFLATION RATE

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

The core inflation rate for metropolitan and other urban areas is 6,4% at February 1998, which is 0,3 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding rate of 6,7% at January 1998. From January 1998 to February 1998 the core inflation index for both areas increased by 0,3%.

METROPOLITAN AREAS

Contributions to monthly increase in CPI

The monthly increase of 0,3% in the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas 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 price index for food shows an annual rate of increase of 5,9% at February 1998. This rate is 0,4 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding rate of 6,3% at January 1998. From January 1998 to February 1998 this index increased by 0,3%.

The price index for food shows a monthly increase of 0,3%, which is mainly due to increases in the price indices for fish and other seafood (+1,4%), fats and oils (+0,6%), sugar (+1,8%) and coffee, tea and cocoa (+1,3%).

Price index for non-food items

The monthly increase of 0,2% in the price index for "all items, excluding food" is mainly due to monthly increases in the price indices for non-alcoholic beverages (+0,6%), alcoholic beverages (+2,9%), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+1,9%) and household operation (+0,7%). These increases were slightly counteracted by a decrease in the price index for clothing and footwear (-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 February 1998 and the average index of the previous three months. This approach, when using seasonally adjusted data, shows an increase of 3,2% (which is 0,1 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding rate of 3,1% for January 1998), while unadjusted data shows an increase of 3,7%.

Pensioners

The inflation rate for pensioners in the metropolitan areas is 6,5% at February 1998, which is 0,2 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding rate of 6,7% at January 1998.

METROPOLITAN AND OTHER URBAN AREAS

Contributions to monthly increase in CPI

The monthly increase of 0,3% in the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan and other urban areas is also 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

The price index for food shows an annual rate of increase of 6,1% at February 1998, which is 0,2 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding rate of 5,9% at January 1998. . From January 1998 to February 1998 this index increased by 0,4%.

The price index for food shows a monthly increase of 0,4%, which is mainly due to increases in the price indices for fish and other seafood (+1,2%), fats and oils (+0,8%), sugar (+1,4%) and coffee, tea and cocoa (+1,2%).

Price index for non-food items

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 non-alcoholic beverages (+1,5%), alcoholic beverages (+2,6%), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+1,8%), fuel and power (+0,5%) and household operation (+0,7%). These increases were slightly counteracted by a decrease in the price index for clothing and footwear (-0,3%).

An alternative expression of the change in the Consumer Price Index

An alternative expression of the change in the Consumer Price Index when using unadjusted data shows an increase of 3,9%. 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 6,2% at February 1998. Kimberley recorded the highest rate of increase, namely 9,1%, while the lowest rate of 4,9% was recorded for other urban areas in Kwazulu/Natal.

Area indices

Kimberley recorded the highest inflation rate of 7,4%, while the lowest rate of 4,2% was recorded for Pietersburg.

Regarding food prices, the highest annual increase of 11,3% was recorded for other urban areas in the Eastern Cape while other urban areas in KwaZulu-Natal reflected the lowest increase of 3,3%.

CPI FOR MARCH 1998

In addition to the usual price surveys for March 1998, it has come to the attention of the CSS that changed prices will apply during the first seven days of March 1998 regarding water and electricity tariffs in certain areas.

The 10c/l levy on fuel, as well as the increase in the excise duties on alcoholic beverages and tobacco products announced during the budget speech of the Minister of Finance will come into effect on 1/4/98 and therefor incorporated in the CPI for April 1998. The 1% drop in the interest rate on mortgage bonds after March 1998 will be taken into account in the CPI for April 1998.

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	Feb. 1998	Jan. 1998	Feb. 1997	Percentage change compared with		
				Jan. 1998		Feb. 1997
				Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual
Expenditure groups						
Very Low	122,2	121,9	114,0	+0,2	..	+7,2
Low	121,7	121,4	113,8	+0,2	..	+6,9
Middle	121,4	121,1	113,9	+0,2	..	+6,6
High	121,2	120,9	113,9	+0,2	..	+6,4
Very High	119,6	119,3	113,8	+0,3	..	+5,1
All expenditure groups - Metropolitan	120,0	119,7	113,9	+0,3 ¹⁾	+0,7 ¹⁾	+5,4 ¹⁾
All expenditure groups - Metro and other urban areas	120,0	119,7	114,0	+0,3	..	+5,3
Food only - Metropolitan	120,2	119,9	113,5	+0,3	+0,8	+5,9
Food only - Metro and other urban areas	120,5	120,0	113,6	+0,4	..	+6,1
All items excluding food - Metropolitan	120,0	119,8	114,0	+0,2	+0,5	+5,3
All items excluding food - Metro and other urban areas	119,9	119,6	114,1	+0,3	..	+5,1
All expenditure groups (VAT EXCLUDED) - Metropolitan	120,0	119,7	113,9	+0,3 ¹⁾	+0,5 ¹⁾	+5,4 ¹⁾
All expenditure groups (VAT EXCLUDED) - Metro and other urban areas	120,0	119,7	114,0	+0,3	..	+5,3
Core inflation - Metropolitan	121,2	120,8	113,3	+0,3	-	+7,0
Core inflation - Metro and other urban areas	121,3	120,9	114,0	+0,3	-	+6,4

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
	Feb. 1998	Jan. 1998	Feb. 1997	Jan. 1998	Feb. 1997	
	All items	120,0	119,7	113,9	+0,3		+5,4	100,00
Expenditure groups - Very low	122,2	121,9	114,0	+0,2	+7,2	0,51
Low	121,7	121,4	113,8	+0,2	+6,9	1,78
Middle	121,4	121,1	113,9	+0,2	+6,6	5,24
High	121,2	120,9	113,9	+0,2	+6,4	17,70
Very high	119,6	119,3	113,8	+0,3	+5,1	74,77
Commodities	118,3	118,0	112,1	+0,3	+5,5	55,00
Services	122,8	122,5	116,7	+0,2	+5,2	45,00
All items, excluding housing	119,9	119,6	113,0	+0,3	+6,1	75,93
All items, excluding food	120,0	119,8	114,0	+0,2	+5,3	81,98
Food	120,2	119,9	113,5	+0,3	+5,9	18,02
Expenditure groups - Very low	120,2	119,7	113,9	+0,4	+5,5	40,73
Low	120,6	120,2	114,3	+0,3	+5,5	34,39
Middle	120,7	120,3	114,1	+0,3	+5,8	31,12
High	120,4	120,1	113,8	+0,2	+5,8	25,42
Very high	120,0	119,6	113,1	+0,3	+6,1	14,84
Processed	120,3	119,9	112,7	+0,3	+6,7	9,12
Unprocessed	120,1	119,8	114,3	+0,3	+5,1	8,90
Grain products	121,8	121,8	118,7	0,0	+2,6	3,31
Meat	117,0	116,8	112,9	+0,2	+3,6	5,33
Fish and other seafood	121,2	119,5	113,3	+1,4	+7,0	0,80
Milk, cheese and eggs	126,5	126,4	116,6	+0,1	+8,5	1,90
Fats and oils	122,3	121,6	113,6	+0,6	+7,7	0,85
Fruit and nuts	113,2	113,2	107,1	0,0	+5,7	1,08
Vegetables	129,3	128,8	115,1	+0,4	+12,3	1,80
Sugar	120,4	118,3	109,4	+1,8	+10,1	0,59
Coffee, tea and cocoa	111,8	110,4	104,2	+1,3	+7,3	0,72
Other	120,5	120,2	113,1	+0,2	+6,5	1,64
Non-alcoholic beverages	125,5	124,8	117,3	+0,6	+7,0	0,82
Alcoholic beverages	122,2	118,8	113,2	+2,9	+8,0	1,18
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	162,8	159,8	128,4	+1,9	+26,8	0,95
Clothing and footwear	107,4	107,9	106,1	-0,5	+1,2	4,76
Clothing	106,9	107,3	105,5	-0,4	+1,3	3,55
Footwear	110,0	111,1	109,0	-1,0	+0,9	1,21
Housing	122,7	122,4	118,8	+0,2	+3,3	24,07
Fuel and power	122,5	122,1	112,0	+0,3	+9,4	3,11
Furniture and equipment	111,6	111,6	106,8	0,0	+4,5	3,94
Furniture	115,5	115,5	107,4	0,0	+7,5	1,62
Appliances	107,2	107,2	105,7	0,0	+1,4	1,08
Other household equipment and textiles	110,2	110,2	106,7	0,0	+3,3	1,24
Household operation	134,4	133,5	119,8	+0,7	+12,2	4,69
Household consumables	123,5	124,3	116,0	-0,6	+6,5	1,14
Domestic workers	145,6	143,9	126,8	+1,2	+14,8	3,19
Other household services	117,1	117,1	112,5	0,0	+4,1	0,36
Medical care and health expenses	137,4	137,4	122,5	0,0	+12,2	5,95
Transport	114,1	113,7	111,5	+0,4	+2,3	14,74
Vehicles	111,9	111,0	106,9	+0,8	+4,7	5,25
Running cost	119,2	119,1	118,4	+0,1	+0,7	5,75
Public and hired transport	112,1	112,1	110,0	0,0	+1,9	3,74
Communication	118,8	118,8	108,1	0,0	+9,9	3,06
Recreation and entertainment	108,5	108,5	108,0	0,0	+0,5	2,38
Reading matter	124,3	124,3	116,6	0,0	+6,6	0,74
Education	122,2	122,2	110,8	0,0	+10,3	2,04
Personal care	119,1	119,1	112,8	0,0	+5,6	3,06
Other	115,2	115,0	112,6	+0,2	+2,3	6,49

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

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Percentage change compared with					Weights
	Feb. 1998	Jan. 1998	Feb. 1997	Jan. 1998	Feb. 1997	
All items	120,0	119,7	114,0	+0,3	+5,3	100,00
Expenditure groups - Very low	121,4	121,1	113,9	+0,2	+6,6	0,93
Low	121,1	120,7	113,7	+0,3	+6,5	2,99
Middle	120,6	120,2	113,6	+0,3	+6,2	7,58
High	120,9	120,5	114,0	+0,3	+6,1	20,09
Very high	119,6	119,3	114,0	+0,3	+4,9	68,41
Commodities	118,0	117,7	112,1	+0,3	+5,3	57,34
Services	122,8	122,5	116,5	+0,2	+5,4	42,66
All items, excluding housing	119,7	119,4	113,1	+0,3	+5,8	77,55
All items, excluding food	119,9	119,6	114,1	+0,3	+5,1	80,52
Food	120,5	120,0	113,6	+0,4	+6,1	19,48
Expenditure groups - Very low	120,5	120,2	113,6	+0,2	+6,1	44,17
Low	121,0	120,6	114,1	+0,3	+6,0	38,83
Middle	120,9	120,4	114,2	+0,4	+5,9	32,67
High	120,6	120,2	113,9	+0,3	+5,9	25,61
Very high	120,3	119,8	113,3	+0,4	+6,2	15,02
Processed	120,1	119,4	112,8	+0,6	+6,5	10,52
Unprocessed	120,9	120,6	114,4	+0,2	+5,7	8,96
Grain products	122,1	122,0	120,1	+0,1	+1,7	3,73
Meat	115,7	115,4	110,9	+0,3	+4,3	5,84
Fish and other seafood	123,0	121,5	113,3	+1,2	+8,6	0,77
Milk, cheese and eggs	126,3	125,9	116,6	+0,3	+8,3	2,02
Fats and oils	121,2	120,2	112,2	+0,8	+8,0	0,94
Fruit and nuts	113,3	113,1	104,6	+0,2	+8,3	1,07
Vegetables	131,8	131,7	118,5	+0,1	+11,2	1,94
Sugar	121,1	119,4	109,7	+1,4	+10,4	0,73
Coffee, tea and cocoa	110,8	109,5	103,8	+1,2	+6,7	0,79
Other	120,5	120,1	112,2	+0,3	+7,4	1,65
Non-alcoholic beverages	127,5	125,6	118,1	+1,5	+8,0	0,82
Alcoholic beverages	123,1	120,0	114,5	+2,6	+7,5	1,17
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	159,3	156,5	126,9	+1,8	+25,5	1,04
Clothing and footwear	107,4	107,7	105,8	-0,3	+1,5	5,07
Clothing	107,2	107,2	105,3	0,0	+1,8	3,80
Footwear	108,2	109,2	107,4	-0,9	+0,7	1,27
Housing	121,1	120,9	117,3	+0,2	+3,2	22,45
Fuel and power	119,9	119,3	111,2	+0,5	+7,8	3,54
Furniture and equipment	110,8	110,8	107,3	0,0	+3,3	4,34
Furniture	114,1	114,1	108,6	0,0	+5,1	1,77
Appliances	107,6	107,6	105,6	0,0	+1,9	1,19
Other household equipment and textiles	109,3	109,3	107,1	0,0	+2,1	1,38
Household operation	137,6	136,6	122,7	+0,7	+12,1	4,87
Household consumables	121,4	122,1	115,1	-0,6	+5,5	1,27
Domestic workers	146,3	144,6	126,9	+1,2	+15,3	3,25
Other household services	115,3	115,3	111,3	0,0	+3,6	0,35
Medical care and health expenses	134,1	134,1	119,9	0,0	+11,8	5,81
Transport	112,9	112,6	110,8	+0,3	+1,9	13,65
Vehicles	108,7	108,3	105,5	+0,4	+3,0	5,31
Running cost	119,2	119,0	118,1	+0,2	+0,9	5,16
Public and hired transport	109,6	109,6	107,9	0,0	+1,6	3,18
Communication	122,4	122,4	111,4	0,0	+9,9	3,21
Recreation and entertainment	105,1	105,1	104,5	0,0	+0,6	2,18
Reading matter	122,5	122,5	115,4	0,0	+6,2	0,69
Education	120,9	120,9	110,7	0,0	+9,2	1,82
Personal care	119,4	119,4	113,2	0,0	+5,5	3,08
Other	116,4	116,2	114,2	+0,2	+1,9	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	
	Feb. 1998	Jan. 1998	Feb. 1997	Jan. 1998	Feb. 1997
Western Cape	119,5	119,2	114,3	+0,3	+4,5
Cape Peninsula	119,8	119,6	114,5	+0,2	+4,6
Other urban areas	119,1	118,9	114,0	+0,2	+4,5
Eastern Cape	121,8	121,5	115,1	+0,2	+5,8
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	119,1	119,1	114,0	0,0	+4,5
East London	121,6	121,3	114,3	+0,2	+6,4
Other urban areas	122,1	121,8	115,0	+0,2	+6,2
Northern Cape	119,1	118,6	112,9	+0,4	+5,5
Kimberley	121,0	120,8	112,7	+0,2	+7,4
Other urban areas	118,7	118,1	112,8	+0,5	+5,2
Free State	117,5	117,2	111,4	+0,3	+5,5
Bloemfontein	120,3	119,9	114,2	+0,3	+5,3
Free State Goldfields	117,1	116,8	111,2	+0,3	+5,3
Other urban areas	117,1	116,8	111,0	+0,3	+5,5
KwaZulu-Natal	119,9	119,6	114,3	+0,3	+4,9
Durban/Pinetown	121,6	121,4	114,9	+0,2	+5,8
Pietermaritzburg	120,5	120,2	114,6	+0,2	+5,1
Other urban areas	118,9	118,4	113,9	+0,4	+4,4
North West	117,5	117,3	112,0	+0,2	+4,9
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	117,7	117,5	112,3	+0,2	+4,8
Other urban areas	117,3	117,1	111,8	+0,2	+4,9
Gauteng	120,7	120,3	114,2	+0,3	+5,7
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	120,5	120,0	114,5	+0,4	+5,2
Witwatersrand	119,6	119,3	113,1	+0,3	+5,7
Other urban areas	120,3	120,0	113,9	+0,3	+5,6
Mpumalanga	120,7	120,3	113,5	+0,3	+6,3
Nelspruit/Witbank	120,5	120,1	113,4	+0,3	+6,3
Other urban areas	120,4	119,9	113,2	+0,4	+6,4
Northern Province	119,4	118,8	113,4	+0,5	+5,3
Pietersburg	119,4	119,2	114,6	+0,2	+4,2
Other urban areas	119,6	118,9	113,5	+0,6	+5,4
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	120,0	119,7	114,0	+0,3	+5,3
Weighted average - Metropolitan	120,0	119,7	113,9	+0,3	+5,4

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	
	Feb. 1998	Jan. 1998	Feb. 1997	Jan. 1998	Feb. 1997
Western Cape	120,4	119,9	113,8	+0,4	+5,8
Cape Peninsula	120,1	119,6	112,5	+0,4	+6,8
Other urban areas	119,8	119,4	113,8	+0,3	+5,3
Eastern Cape	126,0	125,5	114,5	+0,4	+10,0
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	120,0	119,6	114,0	+0,3	+5,3
East London	125,9	125,4	115,4	+0,4	+9,1
Other urban areas	127,2	126,7	114,3	+0,4	+11,3
Northern Cape	118,6	117,8	111,9	+0,7	+6,0
Kimberley	118,5	118,4	112,0	+0,1	+5,8
Other urban areas	118,5	117,7	111,8	+0,7	+6,0
Free State	116,5	116,1	108,6	+0,3	+7,3
Bloemfontein	121,1	119,8	111,1	+1,1	+9,0
Free State Goldfields	115,8	115,3	108,9	+0,4	+6,3
Other urban areas	116,2	115,8	108,3	+0,3	+7,3
KwaZulu-Natal	121,9	121,6	116,2	+0,2	+4,9
Durban/Pinetown	127,2	127,3	117,7	-0,1	+8,1
Pietermaritzburg	122,3	122,6	115,2	-0,2	+6,2
Other urban areas	119,9	119,3	116,1	+0,5	+3,3
North West	116,0	115,8	111,6	+0,2	+3,9
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	116,9	116,1	111,8	+0,7	+4,6
Other urban areas	115,8	115,6	111,4	+0,2	+3,9
Gauteng	119,4	119,0	113,1	+0,3	+5,6
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	122,5	121,5	114,0	+0,8	+7,5
Witwatersrand	118,2	117,9	112,7	+0,3	+4,9
Other urban areas	119,3	118,6	112,1	+0,6	+6,4
Mpumalanga	123,4	123,1	113,6	+0,2	+8,6
Nelspruit/Witbank	120,7	120,7	114,7	0,0	+5,2
Other urban areas	123,9	123,5	113,5	+0,3	+9,2
Northern Province	124,1	122,4	117,7	+1,4	+5,4
Pietersburg	124,6	123,5	116,5	+0,9	+7,0
Other urban areas	124,1	122,3	117,9	+1,5	+5,3
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	120,5	120,0	113,6	+0,4	+6,1
Weighted average - Metropolitan	120,2	119,9	113,5	+0,3	+5,9

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	
	Feb. 1998	Jan. 1998	Feb. 1997	Jan. 1998	Feb. 1997
Western Cape	119,5	119,2	113,4	+0,3	+5,4
Cape Peninsula	120,1	119,9	113,6	+0,2	+5,7
Other urban areas	119,0	118,7	113,1	+0,3	+5,2
Eastern Cape	121,9	121,6	114,1	+0,2	+6,8
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	119,5	119,6	113,2	-0,1	+5,6
East London	123,3	122,9	114,0	+0,3	+8,2
Other urban areas	121,9	121,5	113,9	+0,3	+7,0
Northern Cape	119,0	118,4	111,6	+0,5	+6,6
Kimberley	120,1	119,8	111,5	+0,3	+7,7
Other urban areas	118,8	118,1	111,5	+0,6	+6,5
Free State	118,3	118,0	111,6	+0,3	+6,0
Bloemfontein	121,5	121,0	113,9	+0,4	+6,7
Free State Goldfields	117,3	117,0	111,3	+0,3	+5,4
Other urban areas	118,0	117,7	111,3	+0,3	+6,0
KwaZulu-Natal	119,3	118,9	113,1	+0,3	+5,5
Durban/Pinetown	121,4	121,3	114,2	+0,1	+6,3
Pietermaritzburg	119,4	119,1	113,3	+0,3	+5,4
Other urban areas	118,4	117,9	112,7	+0,4	+5,1
North West	116,9	116,8	111,6	+0,1	+4,7
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	117,9	117,8	112,2	+0,1	+5,1
Other urban areas	116,6	116,5	111,4	+0,1	+4,7
Gauteng	120,2	119,9	113,2	+0,3	+6,2
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	120,4	119,8	113,6	+0,5	+6,0
Witwatersrand	119,5	119,2	112,4	+0,3	+6,3
Other urban areas	119,5	119,2	113,0	+0,3	+5,8
Mpumalanga	119,8	119,3	111,9	+0,4	+7,1
Nelspruit/Witbank	120,1	119,7	112,5	+0,3	+6,8
Other urban areas	119,5	119,0	111,6	+0,4	+7,1
Northern Province	118,8	118,1	112,8	+0,6	+5,3
Pietersburg	120,3	120,0	113,7	+0,3	+5,8
Other urban areas	118,7	117,9	112,7	+0,7	+5,3
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	119,7	119,4	113,1	+0,3	+5,8
Weighted average - Metropolitan	119,9	119,6	113,0	+0,3	+6,1

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	
	Feb. 1998	Jan. 1998	Feb. 1997	Jan. 1998	Feb. 1997
Western Cape	119,2	119,0	114,4	+0,2	+4,2
Cape Peninsula	120,0	119,8	115,2	+0,2	+4,2
Other urban areas	118,9	118,7	114,1	+0,2	+4,2
Eastern Cape	120,6	120,4	115,3	+0,2	+4,6
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	118,7	118,8	113,9	-0,1	+4,2
East London	120,7	120,3	114,1	+0,3	+5,8
Other urban areas	120,6	120,4	115,2	+0,2	+4,7
Northern Cape	119,2	118,8	113,3	+0,3	+5,2
Kimberley	121,9	121,7	112,9	+0,2	+8,0
Other urban areas	118,7	118,3	113,1	+0,3	+5,0
Free State	117,8	117,5	112,2	+0,3	+5,0
Bloemfontein	120,3	120,0	115,0	+0,3	+4,6
Free State Goldfields	117,5	117,2	111,8	+0,3	+5,1
Other urban areas	117,4	117,2	111,8	+0,2	+5,0
KwaZulu-Natal	119,5	119,0	113,8	+0,4	+5,0
Durban/Pinetown	120,4	120,1	114,3	+0,2	+5,3
Pietermaritzburg	119,9	119,4	114,4	+0,4	+4,8
Other urban areas	118,7	118,2	113,3	+0,4	+4,8
North West	117,8	117,7	112,1	+0,1	+5,1
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	117,8	117,8	112,3	0,0	+4,9
Other urban areas	117,7	117,5	111,9	+0,2	+5,2
Gauteng	120,9	120,6	114,5	+0,2	+5,6
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	119,8	119,4	114,3	+0,3	+4,8
Witwatersrand	120,0	119,6	113,3	+0,3	+5,9
Other urban areas	120,5	120,3	114,3	+0,2	+5,4
Mpumalanga	120,0	119,5	113,5	+0,4	+5,7
Nelspruit/Witbank	120,1	119,7	112,9	+0,3	+6,4
Other urban areas	119,4	118,9	113,1	+0,4	+5,6
Northern Province	118,3	117,9	112,4	+0,3	+5,2
Pietersburg	118,1	118,1	114,0	0,0	+3,6
Other urban areas	118,5	118,0	112,4	+0,4	+5,4
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	119,9	119,6	114,1	+0,3	+5,1
Weighted average - Metropolitan	120,0	119,8	114,0	+0,2	+5,3

TABLE 5 SEASONALLY ADJUSTED INDICES

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Feb. 1998	Jan. 1998	Dec. 1997	Nov. 1997	Weights
All items	120,2	119,4	119,2	118,9	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	120,3	119,7	119,4	118,9	81,98
Commodities	118,4	117,8	117,7	117,4	55,00
Food	119,5	118,6	118,7	118,6	18,02
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	119,8	119,0	119,0	118,9	18,84
Alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	143,1	140,5	140,2	139,4	2,13
Clothing and footwear	107,3	108,1	108,2	108,1	4,72
Furniture and equipment	112,4	112,0	111,5	110,8	3,85
Vehicles	112,1	111,3	111,1	110,7	5,25
Other transport commodities	120,8	120,3	121,8	121,1	4,63
Other commodities	120,5	119,8	119,1	118,8	15,58
Services	123,3	122,8	122,0	120,9	45,00
Housing and domestic workers	124,2	123,0	122,5	122,4	25,99
Transport	111,2	110,4	111,9	111,7	4,86
Other services	126,6	127,1	125,4	122,7	14,15
All items (VAT excluded)	120,1	119,5	119,1	118,8	100,00

TABLE 6 THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR PENSIONERS - AREA INDICES
Each area compared with itself

BASE : 1995 = 100

Urban area	All items			Percentage change compared with	
	Feb. 1998	Jan. 1998	Feb. 1997	Jan. 1998	Feb. 1997
Western Cape	119,8	119,6	113,8	+0,2	+5,3
Cape Peninsula	121,9	121,7	115,3	+0,2	+5,7
Other urban areas	119,4	119,1	113,5	+0,3	+5,2
Eastern Cape	122,7	122,4	114,7	+0,2	+7,0
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	120,1	120,0	113,6	+0,1	+5,7
East London	122,8	122,4	114,1	+0,3	+7,6
Other urban areas	122,9	122,6	114,6	+0,2	+7,2
Northern Cape	121,3	120,8	113,7	+0,4	+6,7
Kimberley	124,1	123,9	113,7	+0,2	+9,1
Other urban areas	120,9	120,4	113,7	+0,4	+6,3
Free State	117,8	117,5	110,7	+0,3	+6,4
Bloemfontein	119,9	119,5	113,8	+0,3	+5,4
Free State Goldfields	116,9	116,5	110,4	+0,3	+5,9
Other urban areas	117,6	117,4	110,4	+0,2	+6,5
KwaZulu-Natal	119,8	119,4	113,7	+0,3	+5,4
Durban/Pinetown	121,7	121,6	114,7	+0,1	+6,1
Pietermaritzburg	119,6	119,1	113,3	+0,4	+5,6
Other urban areas	118,8	118,3	113,3	+0,4	+4,9
North West	118,4	118,3	112,2	+0,1	+5,5
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	120,4	120,0	112,5	+0,3	+7,0
Other urban areas	117,9	117,8	112,0	+0,1	+5,3
Gauteng	121,2	120,9	113,7	+0,2	+6,6
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	120,6	120,1	113,7	+0,4	+6,1
Witwatersrand	121,7	121,4	113,6	+0,2	+7,1
Other urban areas	119,8	119,5	113,2	+0,3	+5,8
Mpumalanga	122,9	122,5	114,0	+0,3	+7,8
Nelspruit/Witbank	123,0	122,7	114,4	+0,2	+7,5
Other urban areas	122,9	122,5	113,9	+0,3	+7,9
Northern Province	120,7	119,9	113,5	+0,7	+6,3
Pietersburg	122,8	122,6	114,9	+0,2	+6,9
Other urban areas	120,7	119,9	113,5	+0,7	+6,3
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	120,5	120,2	113,5	+0,2	+6,2
Weighted average - Metropolitan	121,6	121,2	114,2	+0,3	+6,5