

Consumer Price Index

February 1999

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INFLATION RATE DECREASES TO 8,6% AT FEBRUARY 1999

The official inflation rate, i.e. the annual rate of change in the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas, is 8,6% at February 1999. This rate is 0,3 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 8,9% at January 1999. From January 1999 to February 1999 the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas decreased by 0,1%. The seasonally adjusted index increased by 0,2% for the same period.

The annual increase of 8,6% in the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas is mainly due to annual increases in the price indices for housing (+3,3 percentage points), food (+1,3 percentage points), medical care and health expenses (+0,8 of a percentage point), household operation (+0,7 of a percentage point) and transport (+0,5 of a percentage point) (cf. Table 2.1).

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 seasonal 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 8,1% at February 1999. This rate is 0,4 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 8,5% at January 1999. From January 1999 to February 1999 the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan and other urban areas decreased by 0,2%.

CORE INFLATION RATE

The core inflation rate for metropolitan areas (see note 7 on page 5) is 7,8% at February 1999. This rate remained unchanged compared with the annual rate for January 1999. From January 1999 to February 1999 the core inflation index for metropolitan areas increased by 0,3%.

The annual increase of 7,8% in the core inflation index for metropolitan areas is mainly due to annual increases in the price indices for housing (+1,7 percentage points), medical care and health expenses (+1,2 percentage points), food (+0,9 of a percentage point), household operation (+0,9 of a percentage point) and transport (+0,7 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 February 1999, which remained unchanged compared with the annual rate for January 1999. From January 1999 to February 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 0,1% from January 1999 to February 1999. This monthly decrease is due to a monthly decrease in the price index for housing (-0,3 of a percentage point, mainly due to a decrease in interest rates on mortgage bonds). This decrease was partially counteracted by monthly increases in the price indices for food (+0,1 of a percentage point) and medical care and health expenses (+0,1 of a percentage point).

Contributions to monthly increase in core inflation index

From January 1999 to February 1999 the core inflation index for metropolitan areas increased by 0,3%. This monthly increase is due to monthly increases in the price indices for medical care and health expenses (+0,1 of a percentage point), housing (+0,1 of a percentage point) and household operation (+0,1 of a percentage point).

Food inflation

The price index for food reflects an annual rate of increase of 7,1% at February 1999. This rate is 0,1 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding annual rate of 7,0% at January 1999. From January 1999 to February 1999 this index increased by 0,3%, while the seasonally adjusted index increased by 0,6%.

The monthly increase in the price index for food of 0,3% is mainly due to monthly increases in the price indices for sugar (+3,8%), fruit and nuts (+2,5%), fats and oils (+1,5%) and coffee, tea and cocoa (+0,8%). These increases were partially counteracted by monthly decreases in the price indices for vegetables (-0,4%) and grain products (-0,4%).

Price index for non-food items

The price index for non-food items shows an annual rate of increase of 8,9% at February 1999. This rate is 0,4 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 9,3% at January 1999. From January 1999 to February 1999 this index decreased by 0,2%, while the seasonally adjusted index increased by 0,1%.

Relatively large monthly decreases occurred in the price indices for housing (-1,1%), clothing and footwear (-0,2%) and "other" items (-0,1%). These decreases were partially counteracted by relatively large monthly increases in the price indices for non-alcoholic beverages (+1,5), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+1,2%), alcoholic beverages (+1,1%), medical care and health expenses (+0,7%) and household operation (+0,7%).

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 1999 and the average index of the previous three months. This approach, when using seasonally adjusted data shows an increase of 2,7% (which is 2,9 percentage points lower than the corresponding rate of 5,6% for January 1999), while the unadjusted data shows an increase of 2,5% (which is 1,9 percentage points lower than the corresponding rate of 4,4% for January 1999).

Pensioners

The annual inflation rate for pensioners in the metropolitan areas is 8,2% at February 1999, which is 0,2 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 8,4% at January 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 0,2% from January 1999 to February 1999. This monthly decrease is due to a monthly decrease in the price index for housing (-0,3 of a percentage point). This decrease was slightly counteracted by a monthly increase in the price index for household operation (+0,1 of a percentage point).

Food inflation

The price index for food reflects an annual rate of increase of 6,7% at February 1999. This rate is 0,6 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 7,3% at January 1999. From January 1999 to February 1999 this index decreased by 0,2%.

The monthly decrease in the price index for food of 0,2% is mainly due to monthly decreases in the price indices for vegetables (-2,0%), grain products (-0,6%) and fruit and nuts (-0,3%). These decreases were partially counteracted by monthly increases in the price indices for sugar (+2,4%) and fats and oils (+1,4%).

Price index for non-food items

The price index for non-food items shows an annual rate of increase of 8,4% at February 1999. This rate is 0,5 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 8,9% at January 1999. From January 1999 to February 1999 this index decreased by 0,2%.

Relatively large monthly decreases occurred in the price indices for housing (-1,1%) and "other" items (-0,2%). These decreases were partially counteracted by relatively large monthly increases in the price indices for non-alcoholic beverages (+1,8%), alcoholic beverages (+1,4%), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+1,0%), household operation (+0,8%) and medical care and health expenses (+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 1999 and the average index of the previous three months. This approach, when using unadjusted data shows an increase of 2,6%, which is 1,9 percentage points lower than the corresponding rate of 4,5% for January 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.

Pensioners

The annual inflation rate for pensioners in the metropolitan and other urban areas is 7,6% at February 1999. The East London area recorded the highest rate of increase of 9,2%, while the lowest rate of 5,9% was recorded for other urban areas in Northern Cape.

Areas indices

The East London area recorded the highest annual inflation rate of 9,0%, while the lowest rate of 6,0% was recorded for the other urban areas in Northern Cape.

Regarding food prices, the highest annual increase of 9,3% was recorded for the other urban areas in Eastern Cape, while the other urban areas in the Northern Cape reflected the lowest increase of 3,8%.

CPI FOR MARCH 1999

In addition to the usual price surveys for March 1999, it has come to the attention of Stats SA that changed prices will apply during the first seven days of March 1999 regarding electricity and water tariffs, motor licences and provincial hospital fees in certain areas.

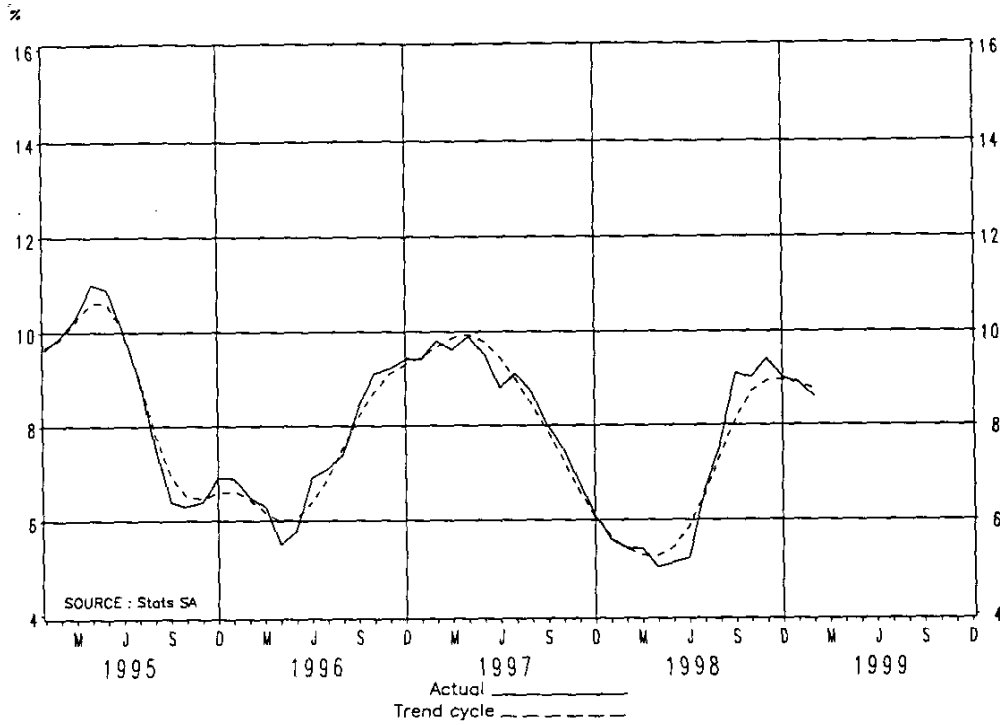
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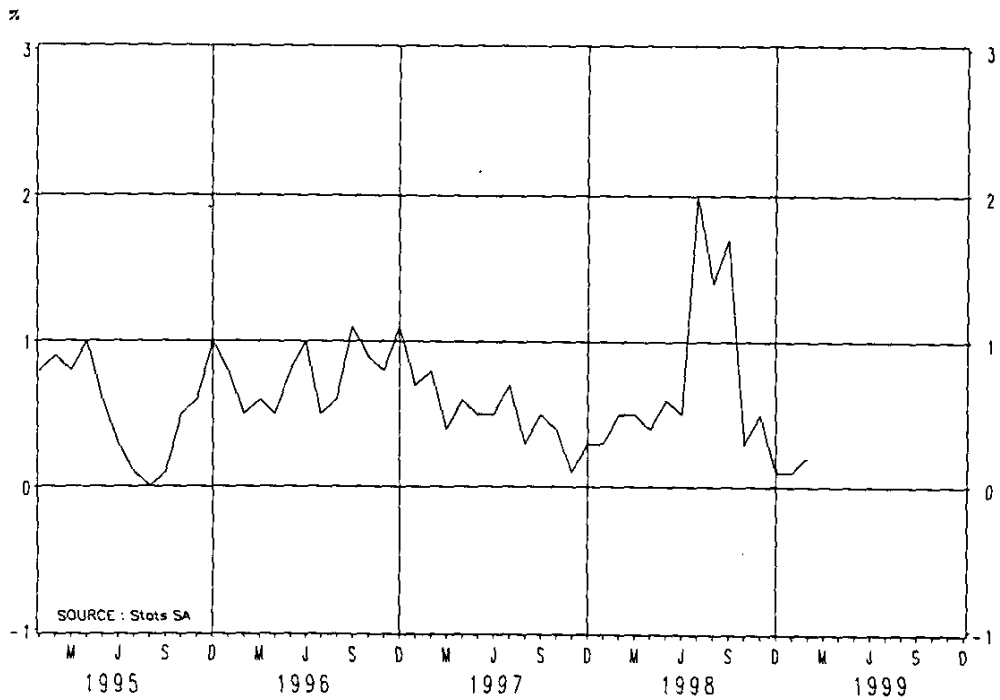
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Graph 1 - Consumer Price Index (metropolitan areas)
Annual percentage change



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



EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. All price information refers to the first seven days of the reference month.
2. By the phrase "each area compared with itself", Stats SA reminds the user that the consumer price indices relating to various metropolitan and other urban areas as shown in Table 4 and Table 6 do not permit inter-urban comparison of price levels or living costs. The indices do not indicate whether it is more expensive to live in one city than in another. The indices indicate for each urban area, independently of any of the other urban areas, the price changes which have taken place from time to time.
3. The indices for all items excluding food, Table 4.4, have been calculated for each area separately as from July 1994. These indices are calculated by means of the index for all items and the index for food of each area.
4. Value Added Tax (VAT) is included in general in the prices of all items on which VAT is applicable.
5. The five expenditure group categories or quintiles were defined according to total annual expenditure per household as in October 1995 as:
 - Very low expenditure group - up to R6 340.
 - Low expenditure group - R6 341 up to R11 590.
 - Middle expenditure group - R11 591 up to R21 909.
 - High expenditure group - R21 910 up to R49 498.
 - Very high expenditure group - R49 499 and more.
6. A more detailed set of weights for the metropolitan and other urban areas in total according to the new 1995-weighting structure of the CPI, as well as that for the core basket were published in Statistical release P0141.5 of 27 March 1997.
7. Core inflation:

The primary objective of calculating core inflation is to capture the underlying inflation pressures in the economy, i.e. the trend in the general price level which reflects the balance between aggregate demand and supply in the economy over the medium term. Core inflation is a measure designed in relation to the specific structure of a country's economy. Hence in the South African context, core inflation is derived by excluding items from the CPI basket on the basis that changes in their prices are highly volatile, subjected to temporary influences, or affected by government intervention and policy.

Items excluded from the CPI basket to obtain the "core" basket, and the reasons for exclusion are as follows:

 - Fresh and frozen meat and fish: Prices may be highly volatile, particularly during and following periods of drought.
 - Fresh and frozen vegetables and fresh fruit and nuts: Prices may be highly volatile from quarter to quarter due to their sensitivity to climatic conditions.
 - Interest rates on mortgage bonds and overdrafts/personal loans: These are excluded due to their "perverse" effect on the CPI. A tightening in monetary policy to counter inflation pressures would cause interest rates to rise and be reflected in the interest cost component of measured inflation. This, in turn, could provoke a further tightening of monetary policy resulting in excessive movements in the inflation rate.
 - VAT (Value Added Tax): VAT is predominantly determined by government (fiscal policy).
 - Assessment rates: These taxes are predominantly determined by local government.

The choice of exclusions was informed by best practice amongst several other international agencies, and after consultation with the South African Reserve Bank and other local technical experts.
8. Symbols used: * = revised
9. RESPONSE RATE
The response rate for the CPI for February 1999 was 88,5%.

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

Group	Contribution
Food	1,3
Non-alcoholic beverages	0,1
Alcoholic beverages	0,1
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	0,3
Clothing and footwear	0,1
Housing	3,3
Fuel and power	0,2
Furniture and equipment	0,1
Household operation	0,7
Medical care and health expenses	0,8
Transport	0,5
Communication	0,2
Recreation and entertainment	0,1
Reading matter	0,1
Education	0,2
Personal care	0,3
Other	0,2
All items	8,6

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

Group	Contribution
Food	0,1
Housing	-0,3
Medical care and health expenses	0,1
All items	-0,1

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

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

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

Group	Contribution
Housing	0,1
Household operation	0,1
Medical care and health expenses	0,1
All items	0,3

TABLE 3 GROUP INDICES - WEIGHTED AVERAGE
3.1 METROPOLITAN AREAS

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Feb. 1999	Jan. 1999	Feb. 1998	Percentage change compared with		Weights
				Jan. 1999	Feb. 1998	
All items	130.3	130.4	120.0	-0.1	+8.6	100.00
Expenditure groups - Very low	132.4	132.2	122.2	+0.2	+8.3	0.51
Low	131.8	131.6	121.7	+0.2	+8.3	1.78
Middle	131.4	131.2	121.4	+0.2	+8.2	5.24
High	131.5	131.3	121.2	+0.2	+8.5	17.70
Very high	129.7	129.9	119.6	-0.2	+8.4	74.77
Commodities	125.9	125.6	118.3	+0.2	+6.4	55.00
Services	136.4	137.0	122.8	-0.4	+11.1	45.00
All items, excluding housing	128.2	127.9	119.9	+0.2	+6.9	75.93
All items, excluding food	130.7	130.9	120.0	-0.2	+8.9	81.98
Food	128.7	128.3	120.2	+0.3	+7.1	18.02
Expenditure groups - Very low	129.6	129.5	120.2	+0.1	+7.8	40.73
Low	129.8	129.7	120.6	+0.1	+7.6	34.39
Middle	130.1	129.8	120.7	+0.2	+7.8	31.12
High	129.3	128.9	120.4	+0.3	+7.4	25.42
Very high	128.0	127.6	120.0	+0.3	+6.7	14.84
Processed	129.9	129.2	120.3	+0.5	+8.0	9.12
Unprocessed	127.3	127.3	120.1	0.0	+6.0	8.90
Grain products	133.8	134.4	121.8	-0.4	+9.9	3.31
Meat	119.2	119.3	117.0	-0.1	+1.9	5.33
Fish and other seafood	132.9	132.4	121.2	+0.4	+9.7	0.80
Milk, cheese and eggs	132.8	132.3	126.5	+0.4	+5.0	1.90
Fats and oils	143.0	140.9	122.3	+1.5	+16.9	0.85
Fruit and nuts	127.9	124.8	113.2	+2.5	+13.0	1.08
Vegetables	136.5	137.1	129.3	-0.4	+5.6	1.80
Sugar	129.1	124.4	120.4	+3.8	+7.2	0.59
Coffee, tea and cocoa	123.1	122.1	111.8	+0.8	+10.1	0.72
Other	133.0	132.5	120.5	+0.4	+10.4	1.64
Non-alcoholic beverages	139.5	137.5	125.5	+1.5	+11.2	0.82
Alcoholic beverages	131.1	129.7	122.2	+1.1	+7.3	1.18
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	200.9	198.5	162.8	+1.2	+23.4	0.95
Clothing and footwear	109.0	109.2	107.4	-0.2	+1.5	4.76
Clothing	108.8	109.2	106.9	-0.4	+1.8	3.55
Footwear	110.5	110.2	110.0	+0.3	+0.5	1.21
Housing	139.4	141.0	122.7	-1.1	+13.6	24.07
Fuel and power	129.7	129.6	122.5	+0.1	+5.9	3.11
Furniture and equipment	115.3	115.3	111.6	0.0	+3.3	3.94
Furniture	121.3	121.3	115.5	0.0	+5.0	1.62
Appliances	109.5	109.5	107.2	0.0	+2.1	1.08
Other household equipment and textiles	112.5	112.4	110.2	+0.1	+2.1	1.24
Household operation	152.1	151.0	134.4	+0.7	+13.2	4.69
Household consumables	136.2	136.9	123.5	-0.5	+10.3	1.14
Domestic workers	167.2	165.3	145.6	+1.1	+14.8	3.19
Other household services	122.8	122.8	117.1	0.0	+4.9	0.36
Medical care and health expenses	153.7	152.7	137.4	+0.7	+11.9	5.95
Transport	118.4	118.2	114.1	+0.2	+3.8	14.74
Vehicles	118.0	117.7	111.9	+0.3	+5.5	5.25
Running cost	123.3	123.0	119.2	+0.2	+3.4	5.75
Public and hired transport	114.3	114.3	112.1	0.0	+2.0	3.74
Communication	128.0	128.0	118.8	0.0	+7.7	3.06
Recreation and entertainment	113.1	113.1	108.5	0.0	+4.2	2.38
Reading matter	136.3	136.3	124.3	0.0	+9.7	0.74
Education	135.6	135.6	122.2	0.0	+11.0	2.04
Personal care	129.7	129.7	119.1	0.0	+8.9	3.06
Other	119.0	119.1	115.2	-0.1	+3.3	6.49

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

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Feb. 1999	Jan. 1999	Feb. 1998	Percentage change compared with		Weights
				Jan. 1999	Feb. 1998	
All items	129,7	129,9	120,0	-0,2	+8,1	100,00
Expenditure groups - Very low	131,3	131,6	121,4	-0,2	+8,2	0,93
Low	130,7	130,8	121,1	-0,1	+7,9	2,99
Middle	129,8	129,8	120,6	0,0	+7,6	7,58
High	130,5	130,6	120,9	-0,1	+7,9	20,09
Very high	129,4	129,7	119,6	-0,2	+8,2	68,41
Commodities	125,1	125,1	118,0	0,0	+6,0	57,34
Services	135,9	136,5	122,8	-0,4	+10,7	42,66
All items, excluding housing	127,9	127,7	119,7	+0,2	+6,9	77,55
All items, excluding food	130,0	130,2	119,9	-0,2	+8,4	80,52
Food	128,6	128,8	120,5	-0,2	+6,7	19,48
Expenditure groups - Very low	130,6	131,3	120,5	-0,5	+8,4	44,17
Low	130,3	130,9	121,0	-0,5	+7,7	38,83
Middle	129,8	130,1	120,9	-0,2	+7,4	32,67
High	128,9	129,1	120,6	-0,2	+6,9	25,61
Very high	127,8	127,9	120,3	-0,1	+6,2	15,02
Processed	129,1	128,8	120,1	+0,2	+7,5	10,52
Unprocessed	128,0	128,7	120,9	-0,5	+5,9	8,96
Grain products	133,7	134,5	122,1	-0,6	+9,5	3,73
Meat	117,8	117,7	115,7	+0,1	+1,8	5,84
Fish and other seafood	133,5	133,3	123,0	+0,2	+8,5	0,77
Milk, cheese and eggs	131,9	131,8	126,3	+0,1	+4,4	2,02
Fats and oils	140,9	138,9	121,2	+1,4	+16,3	0,94
Fruit and nuts	123,5	123,9	113,3	-0,3	+9,0	1,07
Vegetables	141,6	144,5	131,8	-2,0	+7,4	1,94
Sugar	130,5	127,5	121,1	+2,4	+7,8	0,73
Coffee, tea and cocoa	121,7	121,1	110,8	+0,5	+9,8	0,79
Other	132,5	132,2	120,5	+0,2	+10,0	1,65
Non-alcoholic beverages	143,1	140,6	127,5	+1,8	+12,2	0,82
Alcoholic beverages	132,2	130,4	123,1	+1,4	+7,4	1,17
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	194,4	192,5	159,3	+1,0	+22,0	1,04
Clothing and footwear	109,7	109,8	107,4	-0,1	+2,1	5,07
Clothing	109,3	109,5	107,2	-0,2	+2,0	3,80
Footwear	111,0	110,6	108,2	+0,4	+2,6	1,27
Housing	136,3	137,8	121,1	-1,1	+12,6	22,45
Fuel and power	125,3	125,3	119,9	0,0	+4,5	3,54
Furniture and equipment	113,6	113,6	110,8	0,0	+2,5	4,34
Furniture	118,6	118,6	114,1	0,0	+3,9	1,77
Appliances	109,0	109,0	107,6	0,0	+1,3	1,19
Other household equipment and textiles	111,0	111,0	109,3	0,0	+1,6	1,38
Household operation	156,4	155,2	137,6	+0,8	+13,7	4,87
Household consumables	134,3	135,0	121,4	-0,5	+10,6	1,27
Domestic workers	168,8	166,8	146,3	+1,2	+15,4	3,25
Other household services	121,1	121,1	115,3	0,0	+5,0	0,35
Medical care and health expenses	150,1	149,3	134,1	+0,5	+11,9	5,81
Transport	116,6	116,4	112,9	+0,2	+3,3	13,65
Vehicles	113,3	113,0	108,7	+0,3	+4,2	5,31
Running cost	123,2	123,1	119,2	+0,1	+3,4	5,16
Public and hired transport	111,4	111,4	109,6	0,0	+1,6	3,18
Communication	131,8	131,8	122,4	0,0	+7,7	3,21
Recreation and entertainment	109,4	109,4	105,1	0,0	+4,1	2,18
Reading matter	134,1	134,1	122,5	0,0	+9,5	0,69
Education	136,0	136,0	120,9	0,0	+12,5	1,82
Personal care	130,2	130,2	119,4	0,0	+9,0	3,08
Other	120,2	120,5	116,4	-0,2	+3,3	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. 1999	Jan. 1999	Feb. 1998	Jan. 1999	Feb. 1998
Western Cape	128,5	128,9	119,5	-0,3	+7,5
Cape Peninsula	129,8	130,2	119,8	-0,3	+8,3
Other urban areas	127,6	128,0	119,1	-0,3	+7,1
Eastern Cape	131,8	132,4	121,8	-0,5	+8,2
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	129,4	129,7	119,1	-0,2	+8,6
East London	132,6	132,6	121,6	0,0	+9,0
Other urban areas	132,0	132,7	122,1	-0,5	+8,1
Northern Cape	126,5	126,5	119,1	0,0	+6,2
Kimberley	131,0	131,0	121,0	0,0	+8,3
Other urban areas	125,8	125,7	118,7	+0,1	+6,0
Free State	125,6	125,6	117,5	0,0	+6,9
Bloemfontein	130,9	131,1	120,3	-0,2	+8,8
Free State Goldfields	125,2	125,6	117,1	-0,3	+6,9
Other urban areas	124,8	124,7	117,1	+0,1	+6,6
KwaZulu-Natal	129,2	129,3	119,9	-0,1	+7,8
Durban/Pinetown	132,1	132,2	121,6	-0,1	+8,6
Pietermaritzburg	129,0	128,9	120,5	+0,1	+7,1
Other urban areas	127,6	127,7	118,9	-0,1	+7,3
North West	127,7	127,7	117,5	0,0	+8,7
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	126,2	126,5	117,7	-0,2	+7,2
Other urban areas	127,7	127,7	117,3	0,0	+8,9
Gauteng	131,1	131,3	120,7	-0,2	+8,6
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	130,1	130,0	120,5	+0,1	+8,0
Witwatersrand	130,3	130,4	119,6	-0,1	+8,9
Other urban areas	130,2	130,6	120,3	-0,3	+8,2
Mpumalanga	131,0	131,6	120,7	-0,5	+8,5
Nelspruit/Witbank	131,1	131,1	120,5	0,0	+8,8
Other urban areas	130,5	131,3	120,4	-0,6	+8,4
Northern Province	128,0	127,9	119,4	+0,1	+7,2
Pietersburg	128,4	128,8	119,4	-0,3	+7,5
Other urban areas	128,1	127,9	119,6	+0,2	+7,1
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	129,7	129,9	120,0	-0,2	+8,1
Weighted average - Metropolitan	130,3	130,4	120,0	-0,1	+8,6

TABLE 4. AREA INDICES
 TABLE 4.2 Index for food
 Each area compared with itself

BASE : 1995 = 100

Urban area	Food			Percentage change compared with	
	Feb. 1999	Jan. 1999	Feb. 1998	Jan. 1999	Feb. 1998
Western Cape	128,3	128,4	120,4	-0,1	+6,6
Cape Peninsula	129,3	129,0	120,1	+0,2	+7,7
Other urban areas	127,0	127,3	119,8	-0,2	+6,0
Eastern Cape	136,9	138,8	126,0	-1,4	+8,7
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	127,8	127,8	120,0	0,0	+6,5
East London	134,1	133,6	125,9	+0,4	+6,5
Other urban areas	139,0	141,6	127,2	-1,8	+9,3
Northern Cape	123,5	122,8	118,6	+0,6	+4,1
Kimberley	125,6	125,2	118,5	+0,3	+6,0
Other urban areas	123,0	122,3	118,5	+0,6	+3,8
Free State	122,2	122,1	116,5	+0,1	+4,9
Bloemfontein	128,4	128,5	121,1	-0,1	+6,0
Free State Goldfields	121,3	123,1	115,8	-1,5	+4,7
Other urban areas	121,7	121,2	116,2	+0,4	+4,7
KwaZulu-Natal	129,2	129,3	121,9	-0,1	+6,0
Durban/Pinetown	136,1	135,6	127,2	+0,4	+7,0
Pietermaritzburg	128,8	129,0	122,3	-0,2	+5,3
Other urban areas	126,6	126,9	119,9	-0,2	+5,6
North West	124,2	123,8	116,0	+0,3	+7,1
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	123,0	123,0	116,9	0,0	+5,2
Other urban areas	124,2	123,7	115,8	+0,4	+7,3
Gauteng	127,7	127,6	119,4	+0,1	+7,0
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	131,0	129,9	122,5	+0,8	+6,9
Witwatersrand	126,7	126,3	118,2	+0,3	+7,2
Other urban areas	126,8	128,0	119,3	-0,9	+6,3
Mpumalanga	132,4	134,6	123,4	-1,6	+7,3
Nelspruit/Witbank	130,7	130,0	120,7	+0,5	+8,3
Other urban areas	132,8	135,5	123,9	-2,0	+7,2
Northern Province	132,4	132,1	124,1	+0,2	+6,7
Pietersburg	131,0	131,1	124,6	-0,1	+5,1
Other urban areas	132,6	132,2	124,1	+0,3	+6,8
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	128,6	128,8	120,5	-0,2	+6,7
Weighted average - Metropolitan	128,7	128,3	120,2	+0,3	+7,1

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	
	Feb. 1999	Jan. 1999	Feb. 1998	Jan. 1999	Feb. 1998
Western Cape	127,4	127,3	119,5	+0,1	+6,6
Cape Peninsula	128,5	128,3	120,1	+0,2	+7,0
Other urban areas	126,6	126,5	119,0	+0,1	+6,4
Eastern Cape	131,5	131,8	121,9	-0,2	+7,9
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	128,2	127,9	119,5	+0,2	+7,3
East London	133,2	132,6	123,3	+0,5	+8,0
Other urban areas	131,7	132,1	121,9	-0,3	+8,0
Northern Cape	126,4	126,0	119,0	+0,3	+6,2
Kimberley	128,9	128,5	120,1	+0,3	+7,3
Other urban areas	126,0	125,6	118,8	+0,3	+6,1
Free State	125,7	125,5	118,3	+0,2	+6,3
Bloemfontein	130,1	129,8	121,5	+0,2	+7,1
Free State Goldfields	124,3	124,6	117,3	-0,2	+6,0
Other urban areas	125,4	125,1	118,0	+0,2	+6,3
KwaZulu-Natal	126,6	126,3	119,3	+0,2	+6,1
Durban/Pinetown	128,9	128,6	121,4	+0,2	+6,2
Pietermaritzburg	126,4	126,0	119,4	+0,3	+5,9
Other urban areas	125,6	125,5	118,4	+0,1	+6,1
North West	125,3	125,1	116,9	+0,2	+7,2
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	124,4	124,2	117,9	+0,2	+5,5
Other urban areas	125,2	125,0	116,6	+0,2	+7,4
Gauteng	128,7	128,4	120,2	+0,2	+7,1
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	128,6	127,9	120,4	+0,5	+6,8
Witwatersrand	128,2	127,8	119,5	+0,3	+7,3
Other urban areas	127,3	127,4	119,5	-0,1	+6,5
Mpumalanga	128,1	128,5	119,8	-0,3	+6,9
Nelspruit/Witbank	128,6	128,1	120,1	+0,4	+7,1
Other urban areas	127,6	128,2	119,5	-0,5	+6,8
Northern Province	126,0	125,6	118,8	+0,3	+6,1
Pietersburg	127,3	127,1	120,3	+0,2	+5,8
Other urban areas	125,9	125,5	118,7	+0,3	+6,1
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	127,9	127,7	119,7	+0,2	+6,9
Weighted average - Metropolitan	128,2	127,9	119,9	+0,2	+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	
	Feb. 1999	Jan. 1999	Feb. 1998	Jan. 1999	Feb. 1998
Western Cape	128,7	129,1	119,2	-0,3	+8,0
Cape Peninsula	130,2	130,7	120,0	-0,4	+8,5
Other urban areas	127,8	128,2	118,9	-0,3	+7,5
Eastern Cape	130,5	130,6	120,6	-0,1	+8,2
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	129,7	130,1	118,7	-0,3	+9,3
East London	132,4	132,5	120,7	-0,1	+9,7
Other urban areas	129,9	130,0	120,6	-0,1	+7,7
Northern Cape	127,4	127,6	119,2	-0,2	+6,9
Kimberley	133,3	133,4	121,9	-0,1	+9,4
Other urban areas	126,6	126,7	118,7	-0,1	+6,7
Free State	126,6	126,7	117,8	-0,1	+7,5
Bloemfontein	131,8	132,1	120,3	-0,2	+9,6
Free State Goldfields	126,3	126,4	117,5	-0,1	+7,5
Other urban areas	125,8	125,9	117,4	-0,1	+7,2
KwaZulu-Natal	129,2	129,3	119,5	-0,1	+8,1
Durban/Pinetown	131,2	131,4	120,4	-0,2	+9,0
Pietermaritzburg	129,1	128,9	119,9	+0,2	+7,7
Other urban areas	127,7	127,9	118,7	-0,2	+7,6
North West	128,6	128,7	117,8	-0,1	+9,2
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	126,7	127,0	117,8	-0,2	+7,6
Other urban areas	128,7	128,7	117,7	0,0	+9,3
Gauteng	131,8	132,0	120,9	-0,2	+9,0
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	129,5	129,6	119,8	-0,1	+8,1
Witwatersrand	131,1	131,4	120,0	-0,2	+9,3
Other urban areas	131,1	131,3	120,5	-0,2	+8,8
Mpumalanga	130,5	130,7	120,0	-0,2	+8,8
Nelspruit/Witbank	130,9	131,0	120,1	-0,1	+9,0
Other urban areas	129,9	130,1	119,4	-0,2	+8,8
Northern Province	126,9	126,9	118,3	0,0	+7,3
Pietersburg	127,6	128,1	118,1	-0,4	+8,0
Other urban areas	127,0	126,9	118,5	+0,1	+7,2
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	130,0	130,2	119,9	-0,2	+8,4
Weighted average - Metropolitan	130,7	130,9	120,0	-0,2	+8,9

TABLE 5 SEASONALLY ADJUSTED INDICES

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Feb. 1999	Jan. 1999	Dec. 1998	Nov. 1998	Weights
All items	130,5	130,2	130,1	130,0	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	131,1	131,0	131,0	130,8	81,98
Commodities	126,0	125,4	125,0	124,6	55,00
Food	128,1	127,3	126,6	126,2	18,02
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	128,7	127,9	127,1	126,7	18,84
Alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	166,5	164,8	163,5	161,8	2,13
Clothing and footwear	108,4	108,4	108,3	108,3	4,72
Furniture and equipment	116,2	115,9	115,3	114,4	3,85
Vehicles	118,3	118,1	116,9	116,4	5,25
Other transport commodities	124,9	124,1	125,5	127,0	4,63
Other commodities	130,4	129,8	129,7	128,8	15,58
Services	137,3	137,7	137,7	137,0	45,00
Housing and domestic workers	140,6	141,6	141,9	143,6	25,99
Transport	112,3	112,1	112,4	112,3	4,86
Other services	140,7	140,5	140,0	136,1	14,15
All items (VAT excluded)	130,5	130,4	129,9	129,9	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. 1999	Jan. 1999	Feb. 1998	Jan. 1999	Feb. 1998
Western Cape	127,9	128,0	119,8	-0,1	+6,8
Cape Peninsula	131,2	131,3	121,9	-0,1	+7,6
Other urban areas	127,0	127,1	119,4	-0,1	+6,4
Eastern Cape	132,9	133,5	122,7	-0,4	+8,3
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	130,2	130,3	120,1	-0,1	+8,4
East London	134,1	133,8	122,8	+0,2	+9,2
Other urban areas	132,9	133,6	122,9	-0,5	+8,1
Northern Cape	128,9	128,6	121,3	+0,2	+6,3
Kimberley	134,9	134,6	124,1	+0,2	+8,7
Other urban areas	128,0	127,7	120,9	+0,2	+5,9
Free State	125,5	125,4	117,8	+0,1	+6,5
Bloemfontein	130,5	130,6	119,9	-0,1	+8,8
Free State Goldfields	125,5	126,0	116,9	-0,4	+7,4
Other urban areas	125,1	124,9	117,6	+0,2	+6,4
KwaZulu-Natal	128,1	128,1	119,8	0,0	+6,9
Durban/Pinetown	131,1	131,0	121,7	+0,1	+7,7
Pietermaritzburg	128,3	128,0	119,6	+0,2	+7,3
Other urban areas	126,6	126,6	118,8	0,0	+6,6
North West	128,5	128,3	118,4	+0,2	+8,5
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	129,4	129,4	120,4	0,0	+7,5
Other urban areas	128,1	127,8	117,9	+0,2	+8,7
Gauteng	131,2	131,0	121,2	+0,2	+8,3
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	129,6	129,2	120,6	+0,3	+7,5
Witwatersrand	132,4	132,1	121,7	+0,2	+8,8
Other urban areas	129,0	129,1	119,8	-0,1	+7,7
Mpumalanga	133,0	133,5	122,9	-0,4	+8,2
Nelspruit/Witbank	133,1	132,6	123,0	+0,4	+8,2
Other urban areas	133,0	133,7	122,9	-0,5	+8,2
Northern Province	129,1	128,9	120,7	+0,2	+7,0
Pietersburg	132,7	132,6	122,8	+0,1	+8,1
Other urban areas	129,0	128,7	120,7	+0,2	+6,9
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	129,6	129,6	120,5	0,0	+7,6
Weighted average - Metropolitan	131,6	131,4	121,6	+0,2	+8,2