

Consumer Price Index (CPI)

February 2000

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INFLATION RATE DECREASES TO 2,4% AT FEBRUARY 2000

The official inflation rate, i.e. the annual rate of change in the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas, is 2,4% at February 2000. This rate is 0,2 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 2,6% at January 2000. From January 2000 to February 2000 the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas decreased by 0,3%, while the seasonally adjusted index increased by 0,1%.

The annual increase of 2,4% 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 25,0% increase in the petrol price from February 1999 to February 2000), food (+1,0 percentage points), household operation (+0,7 of a percentage point) and medical care and health expenses (+0,6 of a percentage point). These increases were partially counteracted by a relatively large annual decrease in the price index for housing (-2,7 percentage points, mainly due to a drop in the interest rates on mortgage bonds from 22,0% at February 1999 to 14,5% at February 2000) (cf. table 3).

The inflation rate for metropolitan and other urban areas is 2,7% at February 2000. This rate is the same as the corresponding annual rate at January 2000. From January 2000 to February 2000 the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan and other urban decreased by 0,1%, while the seasonally adjusted index increased by 0,2%.

TABLE A – Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the inflation rate for the metropolitan areas according to main indices

Main Indices	Indices (1995=100)			Percentage change between		
	Feb 1999	Jan 2000	Feb 2000	Jan 2000 and Feb 2000		Feb 1999 and Feb 2000
				Actual %	Seasonally adjusted %	Actual %
CPI	130,3	133,8	133,4	-0,3	+0,1	+2,4
Food price index	128,7	135,0	135,9	+0,7	+0,8	+5,6
CPI excluding food price index	130,7	133,5	132,8	-0,5	-0,1	+1,6
CPI excluding Value Added Tax (VAT)	130,3	133,8	133,4	-0,3	+0,1	+2,4
Core index	130,6	140,7	141,0	+0,2	+0,5	+8,0
CPI excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX)	131,9	141,6	141,9	+0,2	+0,6	+7,6

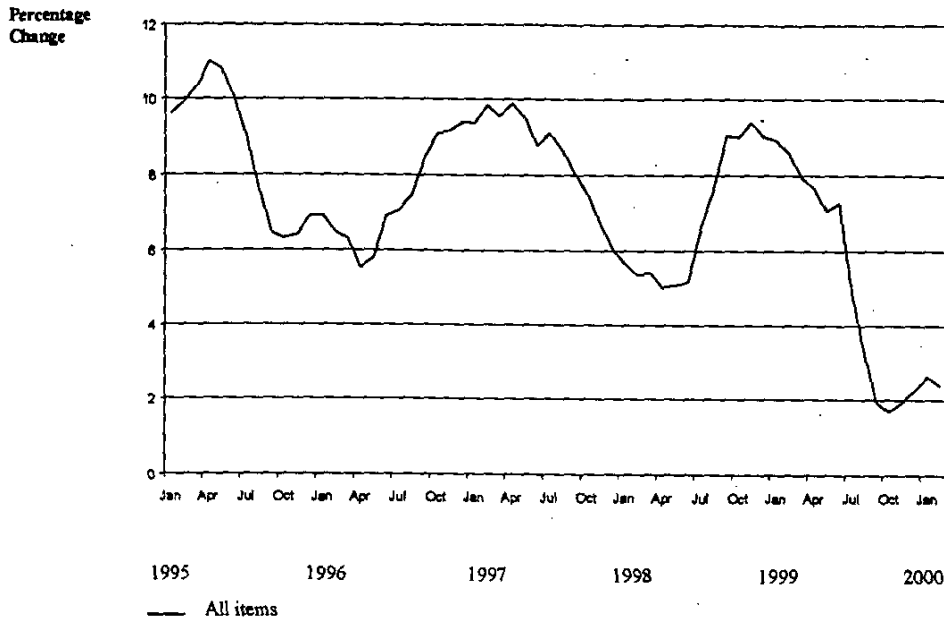
CORE INFLATION RATE

The core inflation rate for metropolitan areas (cf. explanatory notes 33, 34 and 35 on page 26) is 8,0% at February 2000. This rate is 0,1 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 8,1% at January 2000. From January 2000 to February 2000 the core index for metropolitan areas increased by 0,2% and the seasonally adjusted index by 0,5%.

The annual increase of 8,0% in the core index for metropolitan areas is mainly due to annual increases in the price indices for transport (+1,9 percentage points, mainly due to a 25,0% increase in the petrol price from February 1999 to February 2000), housing (+1,8 percentage points, due to increases in all components in certain areas), household operation (+0,9 of a percentage point), medical care and health expenses (+0,8 of a percentage point) and food (+0,6 of a percentage point) (cf. table 5).

The core inflation rate for metropolitan and other urban areas (cf. explanatory notes 33, 34 and 35 on page 26) is 7,5% at February 2000, which is the same as the corresponding annual rate for January 2000. From January 2000 to February 2000 the core index for metropolitan and other urban areas increased by 0,3% and the seasonally adjusted index by 0,5%.

Figure 1 – Annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index: metropolitan areas



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX EXCLUDING INTEREST RATES ON MORTGAGE BONDS (CPIX)

The annual percentage change in the CPIX for the metropolitan areas is 7,6% at February 2000. This rate is 0,1 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding rate of 7,7% at January 2000. From January 2000 to February 2000 the CPIX for metropolitan areas increased by 0,2% and the seasonally adjusted index increased by 0,6%.

The annual percentage change in the CPIX for the metropolitan and other urban areas is 7,1% at February 2000. This rate is 0,1 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding rate of 7,0% at January 2000. From January 2000 to February 2000 the CPIX for metropolitan and other urban areas increased by 0,3% and the seasonally adjusted index increased by 0,6%.

METROPOLITAN AREAS

Contributions to monthly decrease in the CPI

The Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas decreased by 0,3% from January 2000 to February 2000. This monthly decrease is due to monthly decreases in the price indices for housing (-0,4 of a percentage point, mainly due to a percentage point decrease in the interest rates on mortgage bonds) and transport (-0,1 of a percentage point, mainly due to a 6c/l decrease in the price of petrol). These monthly decreases were partially counteracted by monthly increases in the price indices for food (+0,1 of a percentage point) and household operation (+0,1 of a percentage point) (cf. table 4).

Contributions to monthly increase in core index

From January 2000 to February 2000 the core index for metropolitan areas increased by 0,2%. These monthly increase is due to monthly increases in the price indices for housing (+0,1 of a percentage point), household operation (+0,1 of a percentage point) and "other" products (+0,1 of a percentage point). These monthly increases were partially counteracted by a monthly decrease in the price index for transport (-0,1 of a percentage point, mainly due to a 6c/l decrease in the price of petrol) (cf. table 6).

Food inflation

The price index for food reflects an annual rate of increase of 5,6% at February 2000. This rate is 0,4 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding annual rate of 5,2% at January 2000. From January 2000 to February 2000 this index increased by 0,7%. The seasonally adjusted index increased by 0,8% for the same period.

Relatively large monthly increases occurred in the price indices for fruit and nuts (+4,1%), vegetables (+3,9%), sugar (+1,9%), "other" food products (+0,9%) and fat and oils (+0,8%). These monthly increases were partially counteracted by monthly decreases in the price indices for grain products (-0,3%), milk, cheese and eggs (-0,3%) and meat (-0,2%).

Price index for non-food items

The price index for non-food items shows an annual rate of increase of 1,6% at February 2000. This rate is 0,4 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 2,0% at January 2000. From January 2000 to February 2000 this index decreased by 0,5%, while the seasonally adjusted index decreased by 0,1%.

Relatively large monthly decreases occurred in the price indices for housing (-2,0%) and transport (-0,4%). These monthly decreases were partially counteracted by relatively large monthly increases in the price indices for alcoholic beverages (+1,1%), household operation (+0,9%) and non-alcoholic beverages (+0,8%).

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 2000 and the average index of the previous three months. This approach, when using seasonally adjusted data shows an increase of 5,8% (which is 0,2 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding rate of 5,6% for January 2000), while the unadjusted data shows an increase of 4,7% (which is 0,4 of percentage point higher than the corresponding rate of 4,3% for January 2000).

Pensioners

The annual inflation rate for pensioners in the metropolitan areas is 4,7% at February 2000, which is 0,1 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding rate of 4,8% at January 2000.

METROPOLITAN AND OTHER URBAN AREAS

Contributions to monthly change in the CPI

The Consumer Price Index for metropolitan and other urban areas decreased by 0,1% from January 2000 to February 2000. This monthly decrease is due to monthly decreases in the price indices for housing (-0,4 of a percentage point, mainly due to a percentage point decrease in the interest rates on mortgage bonds) and transport (-0,1 of a percentage point, mainly due to a 6c/l decrease in the price of petrol). These monthly decreases were partially counteracted by monthly increases in the price indices for food (+0,2 of a percentage point) and household operation (+0,2 of a percentage point).

Food inflation

The price index for food reflects an annual rate of increase of 5,8% at February 2000. This rate is 1,0 percentage point higher than the corresponding annual rate of 4,8% at January 2000. From January 2000 to February 2000 this index increased by 0,7% and the seasonally adjusted index increased by 1,0%.

The monthly increase of 0,7% in the price index for food is due to monthly increases in the price indices for fruit and nuts (+4,5%), sugar (+3,2%), vegetables (+2,6%), "other" food products (+0,9%), fats and oils (+0,6%), coffee, tea and cocoa (+0,1%) and fish and other seafood (+0,1%). These increases were partially counteracted by a monthly decrease in the price index for meat (-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 February 2000. This rate is 0,3 percentage points lower than the corresponding annual rate of 2,2% at January 2000. From January 2000 to February 2000 this index decreased by 0,5%, while the seasonally adjusted index remained unchanged.

Relatively large monthly decreases occurred in the price indices for housing (-1,8%, mainly due to a percentage point decrease in the interest rates on mortgage bonds), transport (-0,4%, mainly due to a 6c/l decrease in the price of petrol) and "other" products (-0,3%). These monthly decreases were partially counteracted by monthly increases in the price indices for cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+1,3%), alcoholic beverages (+1,0%), household operation (+0,9%) and non-alcoholic beverages (+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 2000 and the average index of the previous three months. This approach, when using seasonally adjusted data shows an increase of 5,2% (which is 1,2 of percentage points higher than the corresponding rate of 4,0% for January 2000), while the unadjusted data also shows an increase of 4,6%, which is 0,6 of a percentage point higher than corresponding rate of 4,0% for January 2000.

Areas indices

The Free State Goldfields recorded the highest annual inflation rate of 4,9%, while the lowest rate of -0,1% was recorded for the Pietersburg area.

Regarding food prices, the highest annual increase of 7,5% was recorded for the Pietermaritzburg area, while the Nelspruit/Witbank area reflected the lowest annual increase of 1,8%.

Pensioners

The annual inflation rate for pensioners in the metropolitan and other urban areas is 4,9% at February 2000. The other urban areas in Mpumalanga recorded the highest rate of increase of 7,3%, while the lowest rate of 2,1% was recorded for Bloemfontein.

CPI FOR MARCH 2000

In addition to the usual price surveys for March 2000, it has come to the attention of Stats SA that changed prices will apply during the first seven days of March 2000 regarding motor vehicles licences and property insurance in certain areas.

PP


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NOTES

Forthcoming issues

Issue	Expected date for publication
March 2000	18 April 2000
April 2000	16 May 2000

Purpose of the survey

The Survey of Consumer Prices is a monthly survey covering a sample of retailers operating in the South African economy. The results of the survey are used to compile the Consumer Price Index (CPI), an economic indicator, which indicates the changes in the prices of consumer goods and services. The annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index indicates the inflation rate. These statistics are used by the private sector in analysis of comparative business performance, as well as for contract price adjustments. It is also used in the determination of economic and social policy.

Resent changes

In other countries in the world such as New Zealand, Sweden and Australia, which adopted inflation targeting, different measures of the inflation rate have been derived and applied such as the Core index, and the CPI excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds. Stats SA has accordingly calculated these measures and the CPI excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds, CPIX, is included in this release (cf. table 1 on page 8).

The indices published in this statistical release are classified according to the International Trade Classification (as indicated in tables 1, 3 to 8, 15 and 16) and geographical areas (as indicated in tables 11 to 14 and 17). Due to a new international classification system, the Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP), prescribed by the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA revision IV, 1993) compiled by the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Organisation for Economic Corporation and Development and the Commission of European Communities, Stats SA decided to introduce this alongside the classification methods used up to this stage. The information contained in tables 9 and 10 is classified according to COICOP, while all others are still classified according to ITC.

Changes in this issue

Although figures on the total CPIX were included in the previous release, detailed figures on the CPIX are released for the first time in this issue (cf. tables 9 and 10 on pages 12 and 13).

Changes in the numbering of tables

It should be noted that the numbering of tables has changed as indicated in table B.

Table B - Title of table according to new and old numbers

New number	Title of table	Old number
Table 1	Expenditure group and area indices of the Consumer Price Index and percentage change	Table 1.1
Table 2	The Consumer Price Index and the annual inflation rate on a monthly basis for the metropolitan areas	Table 1.2
Table 3	Contributions of different groups to the annual percentage change in the CPI for the metropolitan areas	Table 2.1
Table 4	Contributions of different groups to the monthly percentage change in the CPI for the metropolitan areas	Table 2.2
Table 5	Contributions of different groups to the annual percentage change in the Core index for the metropolitan areas	Table 2.3
Table 6	Contributions of different groups to the monthly percentage change in the Core index for the metropolitan areas	Table 2.4
Table 7	Consumer Price Index group and product indices and percentage change for the metropolitan areas	Table 3.1
Table 8	Consumer Price Index group and product indices and percentage change for the metropolitan and other urban areas	Table 3.2
Table 9	Consumer Price Index, excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds, group and product indices and percentage change for the metropolitan areas	New

Table B – Title of table according to new and old numbers (concluded)

New number	Title of table	Old number
Table 10	Consumer Price Index, excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds, group and product indices and percentage change for the metropolitan and other urban areas	New
Table 11	Consumer Price Index group and product indices classified according to COICOP and percentage change for the metropolitan areas	New
Table 12	Consumer Price Index group and product indices classified according to COICOP and percentage change for the metropolitan and other urban areas	New
Table 13	Consumer Price Index and percentage change according to urban area	Table 4.1
Table 14	Food Price Index and percentage change according to urban area	Table 4.2
Table 15	Consumer Price Index excluding housing and percentage change according to urban area	Table 4.3
Table 16	Consumer Price Index excluding food and percentage change according to urban area	Table 4.4
Table 17	Seasonally adjusted group and product indices of the Consumer Price Index for the metropolitan areas	Table 5
Table 18	Seasonally adjusted group and product indices of the Consumer Price Index for the metropolitan and other urban areas	New
Table 19	Consumer Price Index for pensioners and percentage change according to urban areas	Table 6

Table 1 - Expenditure group and area indices of the Consumer Price Index and percentage change

Expenditure group/Area indices	Indices (1995=100)			Percentage change between		
	Feb 1999	Jan 2000	Feb 2000	Jan 2000 and Feb 2000		Feb 1999 and Feb 2000
				Actual %	Seasonally adjusted %	Actual %
Expenditure group indices						
Very low expenditure	132,4	140,7	141,2	+0,4	+0,9	+6,6
Low expenditure	131,8	139,5	140,0	+0,4	+0,9	+6,2
Middle expenditure	131,4	138,4	138,8	+0,3	+0,7	+5,6
High expenditure	131,5	137,2	137,2	0,0	+0,5	+4,3
Very high expenditure	129,7	132,3	131,7	-0,5	+0,2	+1,5
All expenditure groups - Metropolitan areas	130,3	133,8	133,4	-0,3	+0,1	+2,4
Metropolitan and other urban areas	129,7	133,4	133,7	-0,1	+0,2	+2,7
Food only index - Metropolitan areas	128,7	135,0	135,9	+0,7	+0,8	+5,6
Metropolitan and other urban areas	128,6	135,0	136,0	+0,7	+1,0	+5,8
CPI excluding food - Metropolitan areas	130,7	133,5	132,8	-0,5	-0,1	+1,6
Metropolitan and other urban areas	130,0	133,1	132,5	-0,5	0,0	+1,9
CPI excluding VAT - Metropolitan areas	130,3	133,8	133,4	-0,3	+0,1	+2,4
Metropolitan and other urban areas	129,7	133,5	133,2	-0,2	+0,1	+2,7
Core index - Metropolitan areas	130,6	140,7	141,0	+0,2	+0,5	+8,0
Metropolitan and other urban areas	130,4	139,8	140,2	+0,3	+0,5	+7,5
CPI excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX) - Metropolitan areas	131,9	141,6	141,9	+0,2	+0,6	+7,6
Metropolitan and other urban areas	130,3	139,2	139,6	+0,3	+0,6	+7,1

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

Table 2 - The Consumer Price Index and the annual inflation rate on a monthly basis for the metropolitan areas

Base year: 1995 = 100

Year	Index	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ave.
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	
	% 1)	+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 2)
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	
	% 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 2)
2000	Index: 133,8	133,4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	% 1)	+2,6	+2,4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.. 2)

1) % = annual inflation rate

2) Average annual inflation rate

Table 3 - Contributions of different groups to the annual percentage change in the CPI for the metropolitan areas

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

Table 4 - Contributions of different groups to the monthly percentage change in the CPI for the metropolitan areas

Group	Contribution
Food	0,1
Housing	-0,4
Household operation	0,1
Transport	-0,1
All groups	-0,3

Table 5 - Contributions of different groups to the annual percentage change in the Core index for the metropolitan areas

Group	Contribution
Food	0,6
Non-alcoholic beverages	0,1
Alcoholic beverages	0,1
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	0,3
Clothing and footwear	0,1
Housing	1,8
Fuel and power	0,3
Household operation	0,9
Medical care and health expenses	0,8
Transport	1,9
Communication	0,2
Reading matter	0,1
Education	0,4
Personal care	0,3
Other	0,1
All groups	8,0

Table 6 - Contributions of different groups to the monthly percentage change in the Core index for the metropolitan areas

Group	Contribution
Housing	0,1
Household operation	0,1
Transport	-0,1
Other	0,1
All groups	0,2

Table 7 - Consumer Price Index group and product indices and percentage change for the metropolitan areas

Group/Product	Weights	Indices (1995=100)			Percentage change between	
		Feb 1999	Jan 2000	Feb 2000	Jan 2000 and Feb 2000	Feb 1999 and Feb 2000
CPI: All items	100,00	130,3	133,8	133,4	-0,3	+2,4
Expenditure groups - Very low	0,51	132,4	140,7	141,2	+0,4	+6,6
Low	1,78	131,8	139,5	140,0	+0,4	+6,2
Middle	5,24	131,4	138,4	138,8	+0,3	+5,6
High	17,70	131,5	137,2	137,2	0,0	+4,3
Very high	74,77	129,7	132,3	131,7	-0,5	+1,5
Commodities	55,00	125,9	134,3	134,5	+0,1	+6,8
Services	45,00	136,4	134,1	132,9	-0,9	-2,6
CPI: All items, excluding housing	75,93	128,2	136,8	137,0	+0,1	+6,9
CPI: All items, excluding food	81,98	130,7	133,5	132,8	-0,5	+1,6
Food	18,02	128,7	135,0	135,9	+0,7	+5,6
Expenditure groups - Very low	40,73	129,6	136,4	137,3	+0,7	+5,9
Low	34,39	129,8	136,6	137,5	+0,7	+5,9
Middle	31,12	130,1	136,7	137,6	+0,7	+5,8
High	25,42	129,3	135,9	136,8	+0,7	+5,8
Very high	14,84	128,0	134,2	135,1	+0,7	+5,5
Processed	9,12	129,9	136,8	137,5	+0,5	+5,9
Unprocessed	8,90	127,3	133,1	134,3	+0,9	+5,5
Grain products	3,31	133,8	143,3	142,9	-0,3	+6,8
Meat	5,33	119,2	126,5	126,3	-0,2	+6,0
Fish and other seafood	0,80	132,9	144,1	144,1	0,0	+8,4
Milk, cheese and eggs	1,90	132,8	137,5	137,1	-0,3	+3,2
Fats and oils	0,85	143,0	141,8	142,9	+0,8	-0,1
Fruit and nuts	1,08	127,9	132,1	137,5	+4,1	+7,5
Vegetables	1,80	136,5	139,2	144,6	+3,9	+5,9
Sugar	0,59	129,1	135,0	137,6	+1,9	+6,6
Coffee, tea and cocoa	0,72	123,1	127,7	127,7	0,0	+3,7
Other	1,64	133,0	140,2	141,4	+0,9	+6,3
Non-alcoholic beverages	0,82	139,5	148,2	149,4	+0,8	+7,1
Alcoholic beverages	1,18	131,1	139,6	141,2	+1,1	+7,7
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	0,95	200,9	231,9	232,7	+0,3	+15,8
Clothing and footwear	4,76	109,0	111,1	111,2	+0,1	+2,0
Clothing	3,55	108,8	108,9	108,7	-0,2	-0,1
Footwear	1,21	110,5	119,0	119,7	+0,6	+8,3
Housing	24,07	139,4	126,9	124,3	-2,0	-10,8
Fuel and power	3,11	129,7	139,6	139,9	+0,2	+7,9
Furniture and equipment	3,94	115,3	116,5	116,6	+0,1	+1,1
Furniture	1,62	121,3	120,3	120,3	0,0	-0,8
Appliances	1,08	109,5	112,5	112,5	0,0	+2,7
Other household equipment and textiles	1,24	112,5	114,9	114,9	0,0	+2,1
Household operation	4,69	152,1	169,6	171,1	+0,9	+12,5
Household consumables	1,14	136,2	145,2	145,4	+0,1	+6,8
Domestic workers	3,19	167,2	190,0	192,2	+1,2	+15,0
Other household services	0,36	122,8	127,3	127,3	0,0	+3,7
Medical care and health expenses	5,95	153,7	167,3	167,3	0,0	+8,8
Transport	14,74	118,4	131,0	130,5	-0,4	+10,2
Vehicles	5,25	118,0	125,8	126,2	+0,3	+6,9
Running cost	5,75	123,3	146,4	144,6	-1,2	+17,3
Petrol		124,5	158,9	155,6	-2,1	+25,0
Diesel		108,3	116,3	115,7	-0,5	+6,8
Public and hired transport	3,74	114,3	117,7	117,7	0,0	+3,0
Communication	3,06	128,0	135,9	135,9	0,0	+6,2
Recreation and entertainment	2,38	113,1	113,1	113,1	0,0	0,0
Reading matter	0,74	136,3	153,2	153,2	0,0	+12,4
Education	2,04	135,6	156,4	156,4	0,0	+15,3
Personal care	3,06	129,7	137,8	137,8	0,0	+6,2
Other	6,49	119,0	116,9	116,9	0,0	-1,8

Table 8 - Consumer Price Index group and product indices and percentage change for the metropolitan and other urban areas

Group/Product	Weights	Indices (1995=100)			Percentage change between	
					Jan 2000 and Feb 2000	Feb 1999 and Feb 2000
		Feb 1999	Jan 2000	Feb 2000		
CPI: All items	100,00	129,7	133,4	133,2	-0,1	+2,7
Expenditure groups - Very low	0,93	131,3	139,4	139,9	+0,4	+6,5
Low	2,99	130,7	137,9	138,4	+0,4	+5,9
Middle	7,58	129,8	136,2	136,6	+0,3	+5,2
High	20,09	130,5	136,1	136,2	+0,1	+4,4
Very high	68,41	129,4	132,1	131,6	-0,4	+1,7
Commodities	57,34	125,1	132,7	133,1	+0,3	+6,4
Services	42,66	135,9	134,5	133,5	-0,7	-1,8
CPI: All items, excluding housing	77,55	127,9	136,0	136,4	+0,3	+6,6
CPI: All items, excluding food	80,52	130,0	133,1	132,5	-0,5	+1,9
Food	19,48	128,6	135,0	136,0	+0,7	+5,8
Expenditure groups - Very low	44,17	130,6	137,8	138,7	+0,7	+6,2
Low	38,83	130,3	137,2	138,1	+0,7	+6,0
Middle	32,67	129,8	136,3	137,2	+0,7	+5,7
High	25,61	128,9	135,4	136,4	+0,7	+5,8
Very high	15,02	127,8	134,2	135,1	+0,7	+5,7
Processed	10,52	129,1	136,0	136,8	+0,6	+6,0
Unprocessed	8,96	128,0	134,1	135,2	+0,8	+5,6
Grain products	3,73	133,7	143,0	143,0	0,0	+7,0
Meat	5,84	117,8	124,1	124,0	-0,1	+5,3
Fish and other seafood	0,77	133,5	144,8	145,0	+0,1	+8,6
Milk, cheese and eggs	2,02	131,9	137,1	137,1	0,0	+3,9
Fats and oils	0,94	140,9	139,7	140,5	+0,6	-0,3
Fruit and nuts	1,07	123,5	130,0	135,8	+4,5	+10,0
Vegetables	1,94	141,6	146,3	150,1	+2,6	+6,0
Sugar	0,73	130,5	136,6	141,0	+3,2	+8,0
Coffee, tea and cocoa	0,79	121,7	126,4	126,5	+0,1	+3,9
Other	1,65	132,5	139,6	140,9	+0,9	+6,3
Non-alcoholic beverages	0,82	143,1	152,9	154,0	+0,7	+7,6
Alcoholic beverages	1,17	132,2	140,1	141,5	+1,0	+7,0
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	1,04	194,4	226,3	229,3	+1,3	+18,0
Clothing and footwear	5,07	109,7	111,2	111,4	+0,2	+1,5
Clothing	3,80	109,3	108,8	108,7	-0,1	-0,5
Footwear	1,27	111,0	118,4	119,2	+0,7	+7,4
Housing	22,45	136,3	125,0	122,7	-1,8	-10,0
Fuel and power	3,54	125,3	135,5	135,7	+0,1	+8,3
Furniture and equipment	4,34	113,6	115,0	115,1	+0,1	+1,3
Furniture	1,77	118,6	119,2	119,3	+0,1	+0,6
Appliances	1,19	109,0	111,9	111,9	0,0	+2,7
Other household equipment and textiles	1,38	111,0	112,4	112,4	0,0	+1,3
Household operation	4,87	156,4	175,1	176,6	+0,9	+12,9
Household consumables	1,27	134,3	143,6	143,7	+0,1	+7,0
Domestic workers	3,25	168,8	192,5	194,8	+1,2	+15,4
Other household services	0,35	121,1	127,0	127,0	0,0	+4,9
Medical care and health expenses	5,81	150,1	163,8	163,8	0,0	+9,1
Transport	13,65	116,6	127,3	126,8	-0,4	+8,7
Vehicles	5,31	113,3	118,8	119,0	+0,2	+5,0
Running cost	5,16	123,2	144,1	142,5	-1,1	+15,7
Petrol		123,5	151,7	149,0	-1,8	+20,6
Diesel		107,6	125,4	125,6	+0,2	+16,7
Public and hired transport	3,18	111,4	114,2	114,2	0,0	+2,5
Communication	3,21	131,8	139,9	139,9	0,0	+6,1
Recreation and entertainment	2,18	109,4	109,1	109,1	0,0	-0,3
Reading matter	0,69	134,1	150,9	150,9	0,0	+12,5
Education	1,82	136,0	159,2	159,2	0,0	+17,1
Personal care	3,08	130,2	138,4	138,4	0,0	+6,3
Other	6,78	120,2	117,5	117,2	-0,3	-2,5

Table 9 - Consumer Price Index, excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds, group and product indices and percentage change for the metropolitan areas

Group/Product	Weights	Indices (1995=100)			Percentage change between	
		Feb 1999	Jan 2000	Feb 2000	Jan 2000 and Feb 2000	Feb 1999 and Feb 2000
CPI: All items	100,00	131,9	141,6	141,9	+0,2	+7,6
Expenditure groups - Very low	0,57	132,7	141,9	142,6	+0,5	+7,5
Low	1,99	132,1	141,0	141,7	+0,5	+7,3
Middle	5,76	131,9	140,9	141,6	+0,5	+7,4
High	18,75	132,6	142,0	142,6	+0,4	+7,5
Very high	72,93	131,4	141,0	141,3	+0,2	+7,5
Commodities	63,15	126,3	134,7	135,0	+0,2	+6,9
Services	36,85	141,3	152,9	153,5	+0,4	+8,6
CPI: All items, excluding housing	87,19	128,8	137,3	137,6	+0,2	+6,8
CPI: All items, excluding food	79,30	132,5	142,9	143,1	+0,1	+8,0
Food	20,70	129,1	135,4	136,4	+0,7	+5,7
Expenditure groups - Very low	40,73	130,2	137,0	137,9	+0,7	+5,9
Low	34,39	130,3	137,2	138,1	+0,7	+6,0
Middle	31,12	130,6	137,2	138,1	+0,7	+5,7
High	25,42	129,7	136,4	137,3	+0,7	+5,9
Very high	14,84	128,5	134,7	135,6	+0,7	+5,5
Processed	10,47	130,3	137,2	137,9	+0,5	+5,8
Unprocessed	10,12	127,8	133,6	134,8	+0,9	+5,5
Grain products	3,80	134,7	144,3	143,9	-0,3	+6,8
Meat	6,12	118,3	125,5	125,3	-0,2	+5,9
Fish and other seafood	0,92	133,6	144,8	144,8	0,0	+8,4
Milk, cheese and eggs	2,18	133,6	138,4	138,0	-0,3	+3,3
Fats and oils	0,98	142,4	141,1	142,3	+0,9	-0,1
Fruit and nuts	1,24	123,6	127,6	132,9	+4,2	+7,5
Vegetables	2,07	139,1	142,0	147,4	+3,8	+6,0
Sugar	0,68	130,5	136,4	139,1	+2,0	+6,6
Coffee, tea and cocoa	0,83	123,0	127,6	127,6	0,0	+3,7
Other	1,88	132,9	140,1	141,2	+0,8	+6,2
Non-alcoholic beverages	0,94	140,2	149,0	150,2	+0,8	+7,1
Alcoholic beverages	1,35	133,3	141,8	143,6	+1,3	+7,7
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	1,09	198,5	229,2	230,0	+0,3	+15,9
Clothing and footwear	5,47	109,2	111,4	111,4	0,0	+2,0
Clothing	4,08	108,8	108,8	108,6	-0,2	-0,2
Footwear	1,39	110,6	119,2	119,8	+0,5	+8,3
Housing	12,81	152,0	168,4	169,6	+0,7	+11,6
Fuel and power	3,57	128,8	138,7	138,9	+0,1	+7,8
Furniture and equipment	4,52	115,2	116,4	116,5	+0,1	+1,1
Furniture	1,86	121,1	120,1	120,1	0,0	-0,8
Appliances	1,24	109,1	112,1	112,1	0,0	+2,7
Other household equipment and textiles	1,42	113,0	115,4	115,5	+0,1	+2,2
Household operation	5,39	155,2	173,0	174,6	+0,9	+12,5
Household consumables	1,31	135,9	144,9	145,0	+0,1	+6,7
Domestic workers	3,66	165,9	188,4	190,6	+1,2	+14,9
Other household services	0,42	121,9	126,4	126,4	0,0	+3,7
Medical care and health expenses	6,83	155,9	169,7	169,7	0,0	+8,9
Transport	16,93	118,7	131,3	130,7	-0,5	+10,1
Vehicles	6,04	116,8	124,5	124,9	+0,3	+6,9
Running cost	6,60	124,0	147,3	145,4	-1,3	+17,3
Public and hired transport	4,29	113,1	116,4	116,4	0,0	+2,9
Communication	3,51	130,1	138,2	138,2	0,0	+6,2
Recreation and entertainment	2,73	109,9	109,9	109,9	0,0	0,0
Reading matter	0,85	134,7	151,4	151,4	0,0	+12,4
Education	2,34	135,8	156,7	156,7	0,0	+15,4
Personal care	3,51	129,7	137,8	137,8	0,0	+6,2
Other	7,46	120,6	118,5	118,4	-0,1	-1,8

Table 10 - Consumer Price Index, excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds, group and product indices and percentage change for the metropolitan and other urban areas

Group/Product	Weights	Indices (1995=100)			Percentage change between	
		Feb 1999	Jan 2000	Feb 2000	Jan 2000 and Feb 2000	Feb 1999 and Feb 2000
CPI: All items	100,00	130,3	139,2	139,6	+0,3	+7,1
Expenditure groups - Very low	3,28	131,4	140,4	141,2	+0,6	+7,5
Low	6,37	130,8	139,2	139,9	+0,5	+7,0
Middle	10,99	129,9	138,1	138,7	+0,4	+6,8
High	21,08	130,9	139,7	140,3	+0,4	+7,2
Very high	58,28	130,0	138,9	139,2	+0,2	+7,1
Commodities	65,71	125,1	132,7	133,1	+0,3	+6,4
Services	34,29	139,6	150,8	151,3	+0,3	+8,4
CPI: All items, excluding housing	87,26	127,9	136,0	136,4	+0,3	+6,6
CPI: All items, excluding food	78,08	130,7	140,2	140,5	+0,2	+7,5
Food	21,92	128,6	135,0	136,0	+0,7	+5,8
Expenditure groups - Very low	44,17	130,6	137,8	138,7	+0,7	+6,2
Low	38,83	130,3	137,2	138,1	+0,7	+6,0
Middle	32,67	129,8	136,3	137,2	+0,7	+5,7
High	25,61	128,9	135,4	136,4	+0,7	+5,8
Very high	15,02	127,8	134,2	135,1	+0,7	+5,7
Processed	11,84	129,1	136,0	136,8	+0,6	+6,0
Unprocessed	10,08	128,0	134,1	135,2	+0,6	+5,6
Grain products	4,20	133,7	143,0	143,0	0,0	+7,0
Meat	6,57	117,8	124,1	124,0	-0,1	+5,3
Fish and other seafood	0,87	133,5	144,8	145,0	+0,1	+8,6
Milk, cheese and eggs	2,27	131,9	137,1	137,1	0,0	+3,9
Fats and oils	1,06	140,9	139,7	140,5	+0,6	-0,3
Fruit and nuts	1,20	123,5	130,0	135,8	+4,5	+10,0
Vegetables	2,18	141,6	146,3	150,1	+2,6	+6,0
Sugar	0,82	130,5	136,6	141,0	+3,2	+8,0
Coffee, tea and cocoa	0,89	121,7	126,4	126,5	+0,1	+3,9
Other	1,86	132,5	139,6	140,9	+0,9	+6,3
Non-alcoholic beverages	0,92	143,1	152,9	154,0	+0,7	+7,6
Alcoholic beverages	1,32	132,2	140,1	141,5	+1,0	+7,0
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	1,17	194,4	226,3	229,3	+1,3	+18,0
Clothing and footwear	5,70	109,7	111,2	111,4	+0,2	+1,5
Clothing	4,28	109,3	108,8	108,7	-0,1	-0,5
Footwear	1,42	111,0	118,4	119,2	+0,7	+7,4
Housing	12,74	146,6	160,7	161,6	+0,6	+10,2
Fuel and power	3,98	125,3	135,5	135,7	+0,1	+8,3
Furniture and equipment	4,88	113,6	115,0	115,1	+0,1	+1,3
Furniture	1,99	118,6	119,2	119,3	+0,1	+0,6
Appliances	1,34	109,0	111,9	111,9	0,0	+2,7
Other household equipment and textiles	1,55	111,0	112,4	112,4	0,0	+1,3
Household operation	5,48	156,4	175,1	176,6	+0,9	+12,9
Household consumables	1,43	134,3	143,6	143,7	+0,1	+7,0
Domestic workers	3,66	168,8	192,5	194,8	+1,2	+15,4
Other household services	0,39	121,1	127,0	127,0	0,0	+4,9
Medical care and health expenses	6,54	150,1	163,8	163,8	0,0	+9,1
Transport	15,36	116,6	127,3	126,8	-0,4	+8,7
Vehicles	5,98	113,3	118,8	119,0	+0,2	+5,0
Running cost	5,81	123,2	144,1	142,5	-1,1	+15,7
Public and hired transport	3,57	111,4	114,2	114,2	0,0	+2,5
Communication	3,61	131,8	139,9	139,9	0,0	+6,1
Recreation and entertainment	2,45	109,4	109,1	109,1	0,0	-0,3
Reading matter	0,78	134,1	150,9	150,9	0,0	+12,5
Education	2,05	136,0	159,2	159,2	0,0	+17,1
Personal care	3,47	130,2	138,4	138,4	0,0	+6,3
Other	7,63	120,2	117,5	117,2	-0,3	-2,5

1)
Table 11 - Consumer Price Index group and product indices, classified according to COICOP and percentage change for the Metropolitan areas

Group/Product	Weights	Indices (1995=100)			Percentage change between	
		Feb 1999	Jan 2000	Feb 2000	Jan 2000 and Feb 2000	Feb 1999 and Feb 2000
CPI: All items	100,00	130,3	133,8	133,4	-0,3	+2,4
Expenditure groups - Very low	0,51	132,4	140,7	141,2	+0,4	+6,6
Low	1,78	131,8	139,5	140,0	+0,4	+6,2
Middle	5,24	131,4	138,4	138,8	+0,3	+5,6
High	17,70	131,5	137,2	137,2	0,0	+4,3
Very high	74,77	129,7	132,3	131,7	-0,5	+1,5
Commodities	55,00	125,9	134,3	134,5	+0,1	+6,8
Services	45,00	136,4	134,1	132,9	-0,9	-2,6
CPI: All items, excluding housing	75,93	128,2	136,8	137,0	+0,1	+6,9
CPI: All items, excluding food	82,70	130,7	133,5	132,8	-0,5	+1,6
Food, beverages and tobacco	20,97	133,1	140,8	141,8	+0,7	+6,5
Food excluding coffee, tea and cocoa	17,30	129,1	135,5	136,4	+0,7	+5,7
Grain products	3,31	133,8	143,3	142,9	-0,3	+6,8
Meat	5,33	119,2	126,5	126,3	-0,2	+6,0
Fish and other seafood	0,80	132,9	144,1	144,1	0,0	+8,4
Milk, cheese and eggs	1,90	132,8	137,5	137,1	-0,3	+3,2
Fats and oils	0,85	143,0	141,8	142,9	+0,8	-0,1
Fruit and nuts	1,08	127,9	132,1	137,5	+4,1	+7,5
Vegetables	1,80	136,5	139,2	144,6	+3,9	+5,9
Sugar	0,59	129,1	135,0	137,6	+1,9	+6,6
Other	1,64	133,0	140,2	141,4	+0,9	+6,3
Beverages	2,72	132,7	140,2	141,3	+0,8	+6,5
Coffee, tea and cocoa	0,72	123,1	127,7	127,7	0,0	+3,7
Non-alcoholic beverages	0,82	139,5	148,2	149,4	+0,8	+7,1
Alcoholic beverages	1,18	131,1	139,6	141,2	+1,1	+7,7
Tobacco						
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	0,95	200,9	231,9	232,7	+0,3	+15,8
Clothing and footwear	4,76	109,0	111,1	111,2	+0,1	+2,0
Clothing	3,55	108,8	108,9	108,7	-0,2	-0,1
Footwear	1,21	110,5	119,0	119,7	+0,6	+8,3
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	27,18	136,9	127,1	124,9	-1,7	-8,8
Housing	24,07	139,4	126,9	124,3	-2,0	-10,8
Fuel and power	3,11	129,7	139,6	139,9	+0,2	+7,9
Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house	8,63	136,9	147,2	148,0	+0,5	+8,1
Furniture and equipment	3,94	115,3	116,5	116,6	+0,1	+1,1
Furniture	1,62	121,3	120,3	120,3	0,0	-0,8
Appliances	1,08	109,5	112,5	112,5	0,0	+2,7
Other household equipment and textiles	1,24	112,5	114,9	114,9	0,0	+2,1
Household operation	4,69	152,1	169,6	171,1	+0,9	+12,5
Household consumables	1,14	136,2	145,2	145,4	+0,1	+6,8
Domestic workers	3,19	167,2	190,0	192,2	+1,2	+15,0
Other household services	0,36	122,8	127,3	127,3	0,0	+3,7
Health (Medical care and health expenses)	5,95	153,7	167,3	167,3	0,0	+8,8
Transport	14,74	118,4	131,0	130,5	-0,4	+10,2
Vehicles	5,25	118,0	125,8	126,2	+0,3	+6,9
Running cost	5,75	123,3	146,4	144,6	-1,2	+17,3
Petrol		124,5	158,9	155,6	-2,1	+25,0
Diesel		108,3	116,3	115,7	-0,5	+6,8
Public and hired transport	3,74	114,3	117,7	117,7	0,0	+3,0
Leisure, entertainment and culture	3,12	115,8	119,7	119,7	0,0	+3,4
Recreation and entertainment	2,38	113,1	113,1	113,1	0,0	0,0
Reading matter	0,74	136,3	153,2	153,2	0,0	+12,4
Education	2,04	135,6	156,4	156,4	0,0	+15,3
Miscellaneous goods and services	12,61	125,1	128,0	127,9	+0,8	+6,5
Communication	3,06	128,0	135,9	135,9	0,0	+6,2
Personal care	3,06	129,7	137,8	137,8	0,0	+6,2
Other	6,49	119,0	116,9	116,9	0,0	-1,8

1) COICOP = Classification of individual consumption by purpose

1)
Table 12 - Consumer Price Index group and product indices, classified according to COICOP and percentage change for the Metropolitan and other urban areas

Group/Product	Weights	Indices (1995=100)			Percentage change between	
		Feb 1999	Jan 2000	Feb 2000	Jan 2000 and Feb 2000	Feb 1999 and Feb 2000
		CPI: All items	100,00	129,7	133,4	133,2	-0,1	+2,7
Expenditure groups - Very low	0,93	131,3	139,4	139,9	+0,4	+6,5
Low	2,99	130,7	137,9	138,4	+0,4	+5,9
Middle	7,58	129,8	136,2	136,6	+0,3	+5,2
High	20,09	130,5	136,1	136,2	+0,1	+4,4
Very high	68,41	129,4	132,1	131,6	-0,4	+1,7
Commodities	57,34	125,1	132,7	133,1	+0,3	+6,4
Services	42,66	135,9	134,5	133,5	-0,7	-1,8
CPI: All items, excluding housing	77,55	127,9	136,0	136,4	+0,3	+6,6
CPI: All items, excluding food	81,31	130,0	133,1	132,5	-0,5	+1,9
Food, beverages and tobacco	22,51	132,5	140,4	141,5	+0,8	+6,8
Food excluding coffee, tea and cocoa	18,69	128,6	135,1	136,1	+0,7	+5,8
Grain products	3,73	133,7	143,0	143,0	0,0	+7,0
Meat	5,84	117,8	124,1	124,0	-0,1	+5,3
Fish and other seafood	0,77	133,5	144,8	145,0	+0,1	+8,6
Milk, cheese and eggs	2,02	131,9	137,1	137,1	0,0	+3,9
Fats and oils	0,94	140,9	139,7	140,5	+0,6	-0,3
Fruit and nuts	1,07	123,5	130,0	135,8	+4,5	+10,0
Vegetables	1,94	141,6	146,3	150,1	+2,6	+6,0
Sugar	0,73	130,5	136,6	141,0	+3,2	+8,0
Other	1,65	132,5	139,6	140,9	+0,9	+6,3
Beverages	2,78	132,4	140,0	140,9	+0,6	+6,4
Coffee, tea and cocoa	0,79	121,7	126,4	126,5	+0,1	+3,9
Non-alcoholic beverages	0,82	143,1	152,9	154,0	+0,7	+7,6
Alcoholic beverages	1,17	132,2	140,1	141,5	+1,0	+7,0
Tobacco	1,04	194,4	226,3	229,3	+1,3	+18,0
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	1,04	194,4	226,3	229,3	+1,3	+18,0
Clothing and footwear	5,07	109,7	111,2	111,4	+0,2	+1,5
Clothing	3,80	109,3	108,8	108,7	-0,1	-0,5
Footwear	1,27	111,0	118,4	119,2	+0,7	+7,4
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	25,99	134,8	126,4	124,4	-1,6	-7,7
Housing	22,45	136,3	125,0	122,7	-1,8	-10,0
Fuel and power	3,54	125,3	135,5	135,7	+0,1	+8,3
Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house	9,21	136,2	146,8	147,6	+0,5	+8,4
Furniture and equipment	4,34	113,6	115,0	115,1	+0,1	+1,3
Furniture	1,77	118,6	119,2	119,3	+0,1	+0,6
Appliances	1,19	109,0	111,9	111,9	0,0	+2,7
Other household equipment and textiles	1,38	111,0	112,4	112,4	0,0	+1,3
Household operation	4,87	156,4	175,1	176,6	+0,9	+12,9
Household consumables	1,27	134,3	143,6	143,7	+0,1	+7,0
Domestic workers	3,25	168,8	192,5	194,8	+1,2	+15,4
Other household services	0,35	121,1	127,0	127,0	0,0	+4,9
Health (Medical care and health expenses)	5,81	150,1	163,8	163,8	0,0	+9,1
Transport	13,65	116,6	127,3	126,8	-0,4	+8,7
Vehicles	5,31	113,3	118,8	119,0	+0,2	+5,0
Running cost	5,16	123,2	144,1	142,5	-1,1	+15,7
Petrol		123,5	151,7	149,0	-1,8	+20,6
Diesel		107,6	125,4	125,6	+0,2	+16,7
Public and hired transport	3,18	111,4	114,2	114,2	0,0	+2,5
Leisure, entertainment and culture	2,87	115,3	119,1	119,1	0,0	+3,3
Recreation and entertainment	2,18	109,4	109,1	109,1	0,0	-0,3
Reading matter	0,69	134,1	150,9	150,9	0,0	+12,5
Education	1,82	136,0	159,2	159,2	0,0	+17,1
Miscellaneous goods and services	13,07	125,4	127,9	127,8	+0,6	+6,4
Communication	3,21	131,8	139,9	139,9	0,0	+6,1
Personal care	3,08	130,2	138,4	138,4	0,0	+6,3
Other	6,78	120,2	117,5	117,2	-0,3	-2,5

1) COICOP - Classification of individual consumption by purpose

Table 13 - Consumer Price Index and percentage change according to urban area

Urban area	Weights	Indices (1995=100)			Percentage change between	
		Feb 1999	Jan 2000	Feb 2000	Jan 2000 and Feb 2000	Feb 1999 and Feb 2000
Western Cape	16,39	128,5	131,2	130,8	-0,3	+1,8
Cape Peninsula	6,31	129,8	132,6	132,0	-0,5	+1,7
Other urban areas	10,08	127,6	130,2	129,9	-0,2	+1,8
Eastern Cape	8,22	131,8	136,7	136,5	-0,1	+3,6
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	1,66	129,4	131,9	131,5	-0,3	+1,6
East London	0,38	132,6	137,1	136,6	-0,4	+3,0
Other urban areas	6,18	132,0	137,5	137,4	-0,1	+4,1
Northern Cape	1,64	126,5	131,0	130,8	-0,2	+3,4
Kimberley	0,17	131,0	135,3	135,3	0,0	+3,3
Other urban areas	1,47	125,8	130,3	130,1	-0,2	+3,4
Free State	5,33	125,6	129,6	129,4	-0,2	+3,0
Bloemfontein	0,54	130,9	132,6	132,1	-0,4	+0,9
Free State Goldfields	0,79	125,2	131,5	131,3	-0,2	+4,9
Other urban areas	4,00	124,8	128,7	128,5	-0,2	+3,0
KwaZulu-Natal	16,71	129,2	133,0	133,0	0,0	+2,9
Durban/Pinetown	5,30	132,1	136,5	136,0	-0,4	+3,0
Pietermaritzburg	1,10	129,0	134,1	134,3	+0,1	+4,1
Other urban areas	10,31	127,6	131,0	131,2	+0,2	+2,8
North West	5,61	127,7	132,8	132,7	-0,1	+3,9
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	0,68	126,2	128,9	128,3	-0,5	+1,7
Other urban areas	4,93	127,7	133,1	133,2	+0,1	+4,3
Gauteng	39,81	131,1	134,6	134,2	-0,3	+2,4
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	6,34	130,1	133,1	132,7	-0,3	+2,0
Witwatersrand	25,17	130,3	133,9	133,5	-0,3	+2,5
Other urban areas	8,30	130,2	133,6	133,1	-0,4	+2,2
Mpumalanga	3,47	131,0	135,8	135,5	-0,2	+3,4
Nelspruit/Witbank	0,57	131,1	134,1	134,0	-0,1	+2,2
Other urban areas	2,90	130,5	135,7	135,4	-0,2	+3,8
Northern Province	2,82	128,0	133,0	133,0	0,0	+3,9
Pietersburg	0,35	128,4	129,2	128,3	-0,7	-0,1
Other urban areas	2,47	128,1	133,7	133,9	+0,1	+4,5
CPI for the metropolitan and other urban areas	100,00	129,7	133,4	133,2	-0,1	+2,7
CPI for the metropolitan areas	49,37	130,3	133,8	133,4	-0,3	+2,4

Table 14 - Food price index and percentage change according to urban area

Urban area	Weights	Indices (1995=100)			Percentage change between	
		Feb 1999	Jan 2000	Feb 2000	Jan 2000 and Feb 2000	Feb 1999 and Feb 2000
Western Cape	17,06	128,3	134,4	135,3	+0,7	+5,5
Cape Peninsula	5,88	129,3	136,5	137,7	+0,9	+6,5
Other urban areas	11,18	127,0	132,5	133,3	+0,6	+5,0
Eastern Cape	9,20	136,9	144,7	145,5	+0,6	+6,3
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	1,71	127,8	133,5	134,9	+1,0	+5,6
East London	0,41	134,1	140,6	140,4	-0,1	+4,7
Other urban areas	7,08	139,0	147,4	148,1	+0,5	+6,5
Northern Cape	2,09	123,5	127,9	128,4	+0,4	+4,0
Kimberley	0,27	125,6	130,3	130,9	+0,5	+4,2
Other urban areas	1,82	123,0	127,5	127,9	+0,3	+4,0
Free State	6,32	122,2	127,7	128,4	+0,5	+5,1
Bloemfontein	0,50	128,4	135,0	136,0	+0,7	+5,9
Free State Goldfields	0,84	121,3	128,9	129,1	+0,2	+6,4
Other urban areas	4,98	121,7	126,7	127,6	+0,7	+4,8
KwaZulu-Natal	16,91	129,2	135,8	137,1	+1,0	+6,1
Durban/Pinetown	4,90	136,1	143,1	143,1	0,0	+5,1
Pietermaritzburg	1,29	128,8	137,7	138,4	+0,5	+7,5
Other urban areas	10,72	126,6	132,7	134,8	+1,6	+6,5
North West	5,82	124,2	129,9	130,8	+0,7	+5,3
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	0,58	123,0	130,1	130,6	+0,4	+6,2
Other urban areas	5,24	124,2	129,7	130,7	+0,8	+5,2
Gauteng	36,10	127,7	134,1	135,1	+0,7	+5,8
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	5,43	131,0	134,8	135,7	+0,7	+3,6
Witwatersrand	23,12	126,7	133,1	134,2	+0,8	+5,9
Other urban areas	7,55	126,8	134,4	135,0	+0,4	+6,5
Mpumalanga	3,69	132,4	140,5	141,0	+0,4	+6,5
Nelspruit/Witbank	0,50	130,7	132,8	133,0	+0,2	+1,8
Other urban areas	3,19	132,8	141,8	142,4	+0,4	+7,2
Northern Province	2,81	132,4	139,6	140,8	+0,9	+6,3
Pietersburg	0,29	131,0	140,6	140,7	+0,1	+7,4
Other urban areas	2,52	132,6	139,5	140,8	+0,9	+6,2
CPI for the metropolitan and other urban areas	100,00	128,6	135,0	136,0	+0,7	+5,8
CPI for the metropolitan areas	45,71	128,7	135,0	135,9	+0,7	+5,6

Table 15 - Consumer Price Index excluding housing and percentage change according to urban area

Urban area	Weights	Indices (1995=100)			Percentage change between	
		Feb 1999	Jan 2000	Feb 2000	Jan 2000 and Feb 2000	Feb 1999 and Feb 2000
Western Cape	15,89	127,4	135,0	135,3	+0,2	+6,2
Cape Peninsula	5,94	128,5	136,7	136,9	+0,1	+6,5
Other urban areas	9,95	126,6	133,8	134,1	+0,2	+5,9
Eastern Cape	8,44	131,5	140,6	140,9	+0,2	+7,1
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	1,60	128,2	136,9	137,3	+0,3	+7,1
East London	0,37	133,2	143,9	144,0	+0,1	+8,1
Other urban areas	6,47	131,7	140,7	141,1	+0,3	+7,1
Northern Cape	1,70	126,4	133,5	133,7	+0,1	+5,8
Kimberley	0,16	128,9	136,1	136,6	+0,4	+6,0
Other urban areas	1,54	126,0	133,0	133,2	+0,2	+5,7
Free State	5,56	125,7	133,0	133,2	+0,2	+6,0
Bloemfontein	0,50	130,1	137,8	138,2	+0,3	+6,2
Free State Goldfields	0,86	124,3	132,0	132,0	0,0	+6,2
Other urban areas	4,20	125,4	132,5	132,7	+0,2	+5,8
KwaZulu-Natal	16,55	126,6	134,5	135,1	+0,4	+6,7
Durban/Pinetown	5,15	128,9	137,3	137,2	-0,1	+6,4
Pietermaritzburg	1,14	126,4	134,0	134,6	+0,4	+6,5
Other urban areas	10,26	125,6	133,4	134,2	+0,6	+6,8
North West	5,93	125,3	132,7	133,0	+0,2	+6,1
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	0,68	124,4	132,2	132,2	0,0	+6,3
Other urban areas	5,25	125,2	132,7	133,0	+0,2	+6,2
Gauteng	39,40	128,7	137,1	137,4	+0,2	+6,8
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	6,40	128,6	136,5	136,7	+0,1	+6,3
Witwatersrand	24,68	128,2	137,1	137,4	+0,2	+7,2
Other urban areas	8,32	127,3	134,9	135,0	+0,1	+6,0
Mpumalanga	3,48	128,1	136,4	136,7	+0,2	+6,7
Nelspruit/Witbank	0,54	128,6	135,9	136,3	+0,3	+6,0
Other urban areas	2,94	127,6	136,2	136,4	+0,1	+6,9
Northern Province	3,05	126,0	133,4	133,8	+0,3	+6,2
Pietersburg	0,34	127,3	135,6	135,6	0,0	+6,5
Other urban areas	2,71	125,9	133,2	133,7	+0,4	+6,2
CPI for the metropolitan and other urban areas	100,00	127,9	136,0	136,4	+0,3	+6,6
CPI for the metropolitan areas	48,35	128,2	136,8	137,0	+0,1	+6,9

Table 16 - Consumer Price Index excluding food and percentage change according to urban area

Urban area	Weights	Indices (1995=100)			Percentage change between	
		Feb 1999	Jan 2000	Feb 2000	Jan 2000 and Feb 2000	Feb 1999 and Feb 2000
Western Cape	16,22	128,7	130,5	129,7	-0,6	+0,8
Cape Peninsula	6,41	130,2	132,0	131,0	-0,8	+0,6
Other urban areas	9,81	127,8	129,7	129,0	-0,5	+0,9
Eastern Cape	7,99	130,5	134,4	134,0	-0,3	+2,7
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	1,65	129,7	131,4	130,6	-0,6	+0,7
East London	0,38	132,4	136,4	135,8	-0,4	+2,6
Other urban areas	5,96	129,9	134,5	134,2	-0,2	+3,3
Northern Cape	1,52	127,4	132,0	131,6	-0,3	+3,3
Kimberley	0,14	133,3	137,4	137,1	-0,2	+2,9
Other urban areas	1,38	126,6	131,1	130,7	-0,3	+3,2
Free State	5,10	126,6	130,2	129,7	-0,4	+2,4
Bloemfontein	0,55	131,8	132,4	131,6	-0,6	-0,2
Free State Goldfields	0,78	126,3	132,3	132,0	-0,2	+4,5
Other urban areas	3,77	125,8	129,4	128,9	-0,4	+2,5
KwaZulu-Natal	16,66	129,2	132,4	132,0	-0,3	+2,2
Durban/Pinetown	5,40	131,2	135,1	134,5	-0,4	+2,5
Pietermaritzburg	1,05	129,1	133,1	133,0	-0,1	+3,0
Other urban areas	10,21	127,7	130,5	130,2	-0,2	+2,0
North West	5,56	128,6	133,5	133,2	-0,2	+3,6
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	0,70	126,7	128,5	127,7	-0,6	+0,8
Other urban areas	4,86	128,7	134,1	133,8	-0,2	+4,0
Gauteng	40,71	131,8	134,7	134,0	-0,5	+1,7
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	6,56	129,5	132,4	131,7	-0,5	+1,7
Witwatersrand	25,67	131,1	134,1	133,4	-0,5	+1,8
Other urban areas	8,48	131,1	133,5	132,9	-0,4	+1,4
Mpumalanga	3,41	130,5	134,5	134,0	-0,4	+2,7
Nelspruit/Witbank	0,59	130,9	134,1	133,9	-0,1	+2,3
Other urban areas	2,82	129,9	134,0	133,5	-0,4	+2,8
Northern Province	2,83	126,9	131,4	131,2	-0,2	+3,4
Pietersburg	0,37	127,6	126,8	125,7	-0,9	-1,5
Other urban areas	2,46	127,0	132,3	132,2	-0,1	+4,1
CPI for the metropolitan and other urban areas	100,00	130,0	133,1	132,5	-0,5	+1,9
CPI for the metropolitan areas	50,25	130,7	133,5	132,8	-0,5	+1,6

Table 17 - Seasonally adjusted group and product indices of the Consumer Price Index (Metropolitan areas)
Base : 1995 = 100

Group/Product	Weights	Nov 1999	Dec 1999	Jan 2000	Feb 2000
CPI: All items	100,00	132,2	132,7	133,6	133,8
Expenditure groups - Very low	0,51	138,4	139,4	140,7	142,0
Low	1,78	137,3	138,3	139,4	140,6
Middle	5,24	136,5	137,4	138,5	139,5
High	17,70	135,9	136,8	137,8	138,5
Very high	74,77	131,2	132,0	133,0	133,2
CPI: All items excluding food	81,98	132,2	132,8	133,6	133,5
Commodities	55,00	132,7	133,0	134,2	134,9
Food	18,02	132,1	133,0	134,1	135,2
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	18,84	132,8	133,7	134,9	135,9
Alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	2,13	183,2	184,3	186,9	188,0
Clothing and footwear	4,72	110,0	109,0	111,5	111,6
Furniture and equipment	3,85	117,7	116,5	116,8	117,1
Vehicles	5,25	124,2	125,1	126,1	126,4
Other transport commodities	4,63	152,0	152,3	154,8	153,5
Other commodities	15,58	136,6	136,9	137,1	138,7
Services	45,00	132,3	133,4	134,3	133,7
Housing and domestic workers	25,99	124,8	125,3	126,2	124,6
Transport	4,86	115,1	115,0	115,2	115,5
Other services	14,15	147,7	149,9	150,9	151,4
CPI: All items excluding VAT	100,00	132,1	132,7	133,6	133,7

Table 18 - Seasonally adjusted group and product indices of the Consumer Price Index (Metro and other urban areas)
Base : 1995 = 100

Group/Product	Weights	Nov 1999	Dec 1999	Jan 2000	Feb 2000
CPI: All items	100,00	131,6	132,0	133,4	133,7
Expenditure groups - Very low	0,93	137,1	138,1	139,6	140,8
Low	2,99	135,8	136,6	138,0	139,0
Middle	7,58	134,2	135,0	136,2	137,0
High	20,09	134,2	134,9	136,1	136,6
Very high	68,41	130,1	131,0	132,1	132,1
CPI: All items excluding food	80,52	131,5	131,7	133,2	133,2
Commodities	57,34	131,2	131,6	133,0	133,7
Food	19,48	132,2	133,4	134,5	135,9
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	20,30	133,0	134,2	135,6	136,6
Alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	2,21	179,1	179,8	185,0	186,6
Clothing and footwear	5,07	110,7	109,6	111,4	111,8
Furniture and equipment	4,34	115,8	115,0	115,1	115,4
Vehicles	5,31	117,4	117,6	118,9	118,9
Other transport commodities	5,16	143,7	143,3	152,8	151,2
Other commodities	14,95	130,8	131,7	132,5	133,9
Services	42,66	132,4	132,8	134,2	134,0
Housing and domestic workers	25,70	132,3	132,9	130,2	129,3
Transport	3,18	126,3	126,2	117,2	116,8
Other services	13,78	145,6	146,0	145,6	146,7
CPI: All items excluding VAT	100,00	131,6	132,0	133,5	133,7

Table 19 - Consumer Price Index for pensioners and percentage change according to urban area

Urban area	Weights	Indices (1995=100)			Percentage change between	
		Feb 1999	Jan 2000	Feb 2000	Jan 2000 and Feb 2000	Feb 1999 and Feb 2000
Western Cape	21,83	127,9	133,1	133,1	0,0	+4,1
Cape Peninsula	6,06	131,2	137,3	137,3	0,0	+4,6
Other urban areas	15,77	127,0	131,8	131,9	+0,1	+3,9
Eastern Cape	9,65	132,9	139,6	139,9	+0,2	+5,3
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	1,52	130,2	135,4	135,7	+0,2	+4,2
East London	0,41	134,1	141,1	141,0	-0,1	+5,1
Other urban areas	7,72	132,9	139,9	140,2	+0,2	+5,5
Northern Cape	2,33	128,9	135,9	136,2	+0,2	+5,7
Kimberley	0,27	134,9	142,4	142,7	+0,2	+5,8
Other urban areas	2,06	128,0	135,0	135,3	+0,2	+5,7
Free State	6,97	125,5	131,2	131,4	+0,2	+4,7
Bloemfontein	0,48	130,5	133,4	133,2	-0,1	+2,1
Free State Goldfields	0,60	125,5	131,8	131,7	-0,1	+4,9
Other urban areas	5,89	125,1	130,9	131,2	+0,2	+4,9
KwaZulu-Natal	14,79	128,1	133,8	134,1	+0,2	+4,7
Durban/Pinetown	4,86	131,1	136,1	135,9	-0,1	+3,7
Pietermaritzburg	1,10	128,3	133,9	134,5	+0,4	+4,8
Other urban areas	8,83	126,6	132,5	133,2	+0,5	+5,2
North West	5,59	128,5	135,4	135,7	+0,2	+5,6
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	0,82	129,4	135,9	136,0	+0,1	+5,1
Other urban areas	4,77	128,1	134,9	135,3	+0,3	+5,6
Gauteng	33,46	131,2	137,3	137,6	+0,2	+4,9
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	7,27	129,6	134,5	134,6	+0,1	+3,9
Witwatersrand	19,23	132,4	139,3	139,6	+0,2	+5,4
Other urban areas	6,96	129,0	134,1	134,2	+0,1	+4,0
Mpumalanga	3,57	133,0	142,0	142,3	+0,2	+7,0
Nelspruit/Witbank	0,55	133,1	139,6	140,1	+0,4	+5,3
Other urban areas	3,02	133,0	142,4	142,7	+0,2	+7,3
Northern Province	1,81	129,1	135,8	136,2	+0,3	+5,5
Pietersburg	0,03	132,7	141,5	141,3	-0,1	+6,5
Other urban areas	1,78	129,0	135,6	136,0	+0,3	+5,4
CPI for the metropolitan and other urban areas	100,00	129,6	135,7	135,9	+0,1	+4,9
CPI for the metropolitan areas	43,19	131,6	137,7	137,8	+0,1	+4,7

EXPLANATORY NOTES

- Introduction**
- 1 This publication contains results of the monthly Survey of Consumer (Retail) Prices. The purpose of the survey is to collect and provide information regarding changes in the overall level of prices of all goods and services bought by the average household.
- 2 The indices are classified according to the International Trade Classification (as indicated in tables 1, 3 to 10, 17 and 18) and geographical areas (as indicated in tables 13 to 16 and 19). Due to a new international classification system, prescribed by the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA revision IV, 1993), compiled by the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Organisation for Economic Corporation and Development and the Commission of European Communities, the Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP), Stats SA decided to classify the price information collected according to this new classification system, alongside the existing classification system. The information contained in tables 9 and 10 is classified according to COICOP. The indices are calculated on the base 1995=100.
- 3 The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a series of figures (numbers) showing how the average price level of all those goods and services (basket of goods and services) bought by a typical consumer or household changes over time. The inflation rate is the annual percentage change in the CPI.
- Survey of Income and Expenditure of Households**
- 4 Stats SA conducts a Survey of Income and Expenditure of Households every five years. This survey is conducted by enumerators visiting a number of households throughout South Africa to obtain details on income and expenditure of households. The information obtained through this survey is weighted according to the Population Census figures in order to represent all households in South Africa.
- 5 The results from this survey is used to identify the goods and services bought by a typical consumer or household, which should be included in the CPI basket in order to monitor price changes.
- 6 Furthermore the results of this survey is used to determine the weights of the products/groups (indicator products) in the basket. The weights of a specific product/group is calculated by dividing the total amount spent by all households in South Africa on the specific product/group by the total amount spent on all goods and services by all households.
- 1995 Survey of Income and Expenditure of Households**
- 7 The last Survey of Income and Expenditure of Households was conducted by Stats SA in October 1995 covering a sample of 30 000 households. The information obtained through this survey was weighted according to the 1991 Population Census figures in order to represent all households in South Africa.
- 8 Information regarding approximately 1 000 different goods and services groups was collected through this survey. Stats SA made a further breakdown of these groups, using supplementary sources. This process lead to a list of approximately 1 500 groups on which the calculation of the CPI is based.
- 9 The weights of a specific product/group was calculated by dividing total expenditure by all households on the specific product/group by total expenditure on all goods and services by all households. The weights are revised every five years according to the latest Survey of Income and Expenditure of Households. Currently the 1995 weights are used to calculate the CPI.
- Basket of goods and services**
- 10 The current CPI basket covers approximately 1 500 goods and services.

- 11 These goods and services are grouped according to the International Trade Classification into 17 main groups -
- Food;
 - Non-alcoholic beverages;
 - Alcoholic beverages;
 - Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco;
 - Clothing and Footwear;
 - Housing;
 - Fuel and power;
 - Furniture and equipment;
 - Household operation;
 - Medical care and health expenses;
 - Transport;
 - Communication;
 - Recreation and entertainment;
 - Reading matter;
 - Education;
 - Personal care; and
 - Other.
- 12 These goods and services are grouped according to the COICOP classification into 9 main groups -
- Food, beverages and tobacco;
 - Clothing and Footwear;
 - Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels;
 - Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house;
 - Health;
 - Transport;
 - Leisure, entertainment and culture;
 - Education; and
 - Miscellaneous goods and services.
- Weighting basis** 13 The CPI is a fixed weights index, which implies that the weight of each product/group stays the same for the five year period until the results of the next *Survey of Income and Expenditure of Households* become available.
- Expenditure groups** 14 Five expenditure group categories or quintiles are defined according to total annual expenditure per household as in October of the year in which the *Survey of Income and Expenditure of Households* is conducted. The five expenditure group categories used in this publication 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; and
 - Very high expenditure group - R49 499 and more.
- Scope of the CPI survey** 15 The Survey of Retail Prices is a retail trade and service outlets sample survey covering prices of selected consumer goods and services sold by these retail trade and service outlets to consumers in the 14 metropolitan and 39 other urban areas in the nine provinces. The results of the survey are used to compile the Consumer Price Index, an economic indicator.
- 16 Prices of goods and services included in the CPI are collected as at any day between the first and the seventh of the month concerned. Although these prices are generally collected monthly (see list of items in paragraph 17), the prices of some items are collected quarterly (see list of items in paragraph 18), six monthly or annually (see list of items in paragraph 19). The collection of prices depends on the frequency at which these prices tend to change. However, if it comes to the attention of Stats SA that prices are about to change, these prices will be collected, even if it is not according to the normal scheduled time.

17 Prices of items/products collected monthly:

- Bread.
- Meat.
- Milk.
- Vegetables and fruit.
- Other groceries.
- Alcoholic beverages.
- Sweets, non-alcoholic beverages, ice-cream and tobacco products.
- Clothing and footwear.
- Repairs of clothing, footwear and furniture.
- Interest rates on mortgage bonds.
- Coal and wood.
- New vehicles, repairs and services.
- Motor spare parts and accessories.
- Petrol.
- Diesel.

18 Prices of items/products collected quarterly:

Items/products	Months of survey
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garden tools. • Washing, ironing and dry-cleaning. • Sport equipment. • Reading matter and stationery. • Tariffs of hairdressing services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January, April, July and October
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ironware and crockery. • New and retread tyres. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February, May, August and November
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Furniture and equipment. • Household textiles. • Electrical appliances and equipment. • Medical, toilet and photographic requisites and services. • Motor vehicle insurance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March, June, September and December

19 Prices of items/products collected annually:

Items/products	Month of survey
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doctor's and dentist's fees. • Motor vehicle licence and registration fees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toll-fees at toll-gates. • School funds. • University boarding and class fees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking fees. • Telephone and postal tariffs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public transport tariffs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property taxes. • Refuse removal. • Sanitary fees. • Newspapers and magazines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entrance fees – drive-inns and bioscopes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Television licences; • Maintenance of graves; and • Rent of dwellings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October

20 Prices of items/products collected at other times of the year –

Items/products	Month of survey
• Winter clothing.	• March, April, May, June, July and August
• Medicine.	• January and June
• Contributions to medical aids.	• January, April and July
• Property insurance. • Hospital fees.	• January and July
• Water. • Electricity.	• January, July and August
• Air transport fees.	• January and August
• Dog licences.	• January, July and October

- Classification** 21 The International Trade Classification (ITC) was used to classify the products and services contained in the basket of goods and services.
- 22 A further classification of the products and services in the basket of goods and services, in line with international practices, was done according to the Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP). The indices according to this classification are published in tables 9 and 10.
- Statistical unit** 23 The statistical unit is the department (e.g food department, hardware department, clothing department) of the retail trade and service establishments (branches). The establishment is the smallest economic unit that functions as a separate entity. Information is obtained from the different departments in each establishment. Each department in the establishment is classified according to the classification of the products that the department sells, which is then classified according to ITC as well as COICOP.
- Survey methodology and design** 24 Different phases of sampling takes place. Firstly, a sample of goods and services, based on the information collected through the Survey of Income and Expenditure of Households, is designed and drawn. An indicator product is selected purposively within each product group. To be selected, a product should constitute a large share of total expenditure. Furthermore, it must be possible to obtain price quotations for the relevant product during the whole year. The sample of indicator products is revised every five years at which stage the weights of the indicator products/groups are also revised.
- 25 Secondly, a geographical sample for price collection is designed and drawn. Currently all 14 major metropolitan areas, covering all nine provinces, are included in the geographical sample for price collection. The "other urban areas" are covered by nine provincial samples of four to five urban areas each, depending on the population size of the area. Therefore, a total of 39 "other urban areas" is sampled.
- 26 Thirdly, for each of the 53 sample areas, a retail trade and service outlet sampling frame is constructed, based on available data sources, mainly the business register of Stats SA, telephone directories and lists obtained from the head offices of chain stores. The sample is purposively distributed geographically within areas. Specific retail trade and service outlets are selected randomly within each area. Prices are collected from supermarkets, as well as specialist shops. The sample of outlets is revised every five years when the weights are revised.
- 27 Currently, an average of 110 000 price quotations are collected each month from approximately 2 200 outlets by means of 6 700 questionnaires. The indices are based on retail trade and service prices.
- Pricing basis** 28 Price information refers to the first seven days of the relevant month. **The prices of all items include VAT.**

Processing of price information	29	The prices that are quoted for the different products/services are edited to ensure that it is comparable to the prices received for the same products in the previous month. If the price difference between successive periods are outside the specified range, the current price levels are confirmed with the relative respondents through a telephone inquiry.
Calculating product price indices	30	Price relatives are calculated for each product per respondent by dividing the current price by the previous quoted price. The price relative for each product is calculated by means of the geometric mean of the price relatives for each respondent. This price relative for each product is then applied to the product index for the previous month in order to obtain a product index for the relevant month.
Calculating group price indices	31	Group price indices are calculated by weighting product indices with the relevant product weight, according to each weighting structure, using the Laspeyres index formula.
Contributions of specific items to the total CPI	32	The monthly (annual) contribution of a specific item or group of items to the total CPI is calculated by multiplying the weight of this item or group of items with the monthly (annual) change in the index for this item or group of items, divided by the index for 'All items'.
Core index	33	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, the core index 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.
	34	Exclusions from from the CPI to obtain the core index, and the reasons for exclusion are as follows – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 month to month 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. • Changes in VAT (Value Added Tax): VAT is predominantly determined by government (fiscal policy). • Assessment rates: These taxes are predominantly determined by local government.
	35	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.
CPI excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX)	36	In other countries in the world such as New Zealand, Sweden and Australia, which adopted inflation targeting, different measures of the inflation rate have been derived and applied such as the Core index, the Core index excluding petrol and the CPI excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds. Stats SA has accordingly calculated these measures and only the CPIX and the Core index are included in this release (cf. table 1 on page 8).
Seasonally adjustment	37	Seasonal fluctuations in a time series are those fluctuations which usually tend to occur at about the same time and with the same magnitude each year. This may be the result of climatic influences or other social and commercial habits (e.g. the price of bread, which was previously revised in October of each year). In the analysis of time series, Stats SA makes use of the X-11 technique, which was developed by the American Bureau of Census. The seasonally adjusted indices for the latest month are calculated with seasonal factors, which are based on a time series analysis of information up to and including the previous month. Therefore, historical seasonally adjusted indices are revised annually in January of each year.

- Reliability of estimates** 38 Inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by enterprises and errors made in collection and processing of the data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling errors. Every effort is made to reduce non-sampling errors to a minimum by careful designing of the questionnaires, editing of data and efficient operating procedures.
- Related Publications** 39 Users may also wish to refer to the following publications, which are available from Stats SA -
- Bulletin of Statistics; and
 - SA Statistics.
- Unpublished Statistics** 40 In some cases, Stats SA can also make available formation which is not published. This information can be made available in one or more of the following ways: computer printout, diskette or CD. Generally a fee is levied for providing unpublished information.
- Symbols and abbreviations**
- | | |
|----------|------------------------------------|
| Stats SA | Statistics South Africa |
| .. | not available |
| - | nil or not applicable |
| * | revised since previous publication |
| avg | average |

GLOSSARY

Annual inflation rate	The annual inflation rate is the change in the CPI for all items of the relevant month of the current year compared with the CPI for all items of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.
Annual percentage change	The annual percentage change is the change in the index of the relevant month of the current year compared with the index of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.
Average annual inflation rate	The average annual inflation rate is the change in the average CPI for all items of one year compared with the average CPI for all items of the previous year expressed as a percentage.
Average annual percentage change	The average annual percentage change is the change in the average index of one year compared with the average index of the previous year expressed as a percentage.
CPI excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPI(X))	<p>The CPI excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPI(X)) is derived by excluding the interest rates on mortgage bonds from the basket of goods and services, which is used to compile the Consumer Price Index.</p> <p>In other countries in the world such as New Zealand, Sweden and Australia, which adopted as inflation targeting, different measures of the inflation rate have been derived and applied such as the Core index, and the CPI excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds. Stats SA has accordingly calculated these measures and the CPI excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds CPI(X), is included in this release (cf. table 1 on page 8).</p>
Core index	<p>The core index is derived by exclusions from the CPI on the basis that changes in their prices are highly volatile, subjected to temporary influences, or affected by government intervention and policy.</p> <p>Exclusions from from the CPI to obtain the core index, and the reasons for exclusion are as follows –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 month to month 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. • Changes in VAT (Value Added Tax): VAT is predominantly determined by government (fiscal policy). • Assessment rates: These taxes are predominantly determined by local government.
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 the change in the Core index of the relevant month of the current year compared with the Core index of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.
Establishment	An establishment (branch) is the smallest economic unit that functions as a separate entity.
Indicator products	Indicator products are those products or services that were selected in the basket, which is used to compile the Consumer Price Index.
Inflation rate	Inflation rate is the annual percentage change in the CPI for all items of the relevant month of the current year compared with the CPI for all items of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.

Monthly percentage change

The monthly percentage change is the change in the CPI of the relevant month compared to the CPI of the previous month expressed as a percentage.

Weights

The weights are the relevant importance of the indicator product. The weight of a product is calculated by dividing the total expenditure by households on that product by the total expenditure on all goods and services by households.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Stats SA publishes approximately 400 different releases each year. It is not economically viable to produce them in more than one of South Africa's eleven official languages. Since the releases are used extensively, not only locally but also by international economic and social-scientific communities, Stats SA releases are published in English only.

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