

Statistical Release P0141.1

Prices : Consumer Price Index

January 1998

Embargo: 11:00

Date: 25 February 1998

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INFLATION RATE DECREASES TO 5,6 % AT JANUARY 1998

The official inflation rate, i.e. the annual rate of change in the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas, is 5,6% at January 1998. This rate is 0,5 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding rate of 6,1% at December 1997. From December 1997 to January 1998 the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas increased by 0,8%. The seasonally adjusted index increased by 0,2%.

For the first time an inflation rate for the metropolitan and other urban areas is calculated at January 1998. This rate is based on price collections undertaken in other urban areas, in addition to the previous collections in the metropolitan areas, since January 1997. For the purpose of seasonally adjustment three years of historical data is required, which will be available from January 2000. At that time it will be decided whether the inflation rate for metropolitan and other urban areas rather than merely for metropolitan areas will be taken as the official rate.

The inflation rate for metropolitan and other urban areas is 5,5% at January 1998. From December 1997 to January 1998 the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan and other urban areas increased by 0,8%.

CORE INFLATION RATE

The core inflation rate for metropolitan areas (see note 7 on page 4) is 7,2% at January 1998. The core inflation rate for metropolitan and other urban areas is 6,7% at January 1998. From December 1997 to January 1998 the core inflation index for both areas increased by 1,0%.

MONTHLY CONTRIBUTIONS

Metropolitan areas

The monthly increase of 0,8% in the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas is due to an increase in the price index for food (+0,1 of a percentage point), housing (+0,1 of a percentage point), fuel and power (+0,1 of a percentage point), medical care and health expenses (+0,3 of a percentage point), communication (+0,1 of a percentage point) and all other items (+0,1 of a percentage point).

Metropolitan and other urban areas

The monthly increase of 0,8% in the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan and other urban areas is also due to an increase in the price index for food (+0,1 of a percentage point), housing (+0,1 of a percentage point), fuel and power (+0,1 of a percentage point), medical care and health expenses (+0,3 of a percentage point), communication (+0,1 of a percentage point) and all other items (+0,1 of a percentage point).

FOOD INFLATION

Metropolitan areas

The price index for food shows an annual rate of increase of 6,3% at January 1998. From December 1997 to January 1998 this index increased by 0,8%.

The price index for food shows a monthly increase of 0,8%, which is mainly due to increases in the price indices for meat (+0,8%), fats and oils (+1,0%), fruit and nuts (+2,9%), vegetables (+1,0%) and 'other' food (+0,8%).

Metropolitan and other urban areas

The price index for food shows an annual rate of increase of 5,9% at January 1998. From December 1997 to January 1998 this index increased by 0,7%.

The price index for food shows a monthly increase of 0,7%, which is mainly due to increases in the price indices for fish and seafood (+0,7%), fats and oils (+1,1%), fruit and nuts (+2,9%), vegetables (+1,2%) and 'other' food (+0,8%).

PRICE INDEX FOR NON-FOOD ITEMS

Metropolitan areas

The monthly increase of 0,9% in the price index for "all items, excluding food" is mainly due to monthly increases in the price indices for cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+0,6%), fuel and power (+2,1%), household operation (+1,0%), medical care and health expenses (+5,0%), communication (+7,4%) and personal care (+1,0%). These increases were slightly counteracted by decreases in the price indices of clothing and footwear (-0,4%) and transport (-0,3%).

Metropolitan and other urban areas

The monthly increase of 0,9% in the price index for "all items, excluding food" is mainly due to monthly increases in the price indices for cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+0,6%), fuel and power (+2,6%), household operation (+1,0%), medical care and health expenses (+4,8%), communication (+7,7%) and personal care (+0,7%). These increases were slightly counteracted by decreases in the price indices of clothing and footwear (-0,5%) and transport (-0,3%).

AREA INDICES

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

Regarding food prices, the highest annual increase of 10,4% was recorded for other urban areas in the Eastern Cape while other urban areas in the North West reflected the lowest increase of 3,5%.

INFLATION RATE FOR PENSIONERS

The inflation rate for pensioners is 6,4% at January 1998. Kimberley recorded the highest rate of increase, namely 9,4%, while the lowest rate of 5,2% was recorded for other urban areas in both the Western Cape and Kwazulu/Natal.

AN ALTERNATIVE EXPRESSION OF THE CHANGE IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Metropolitan areas

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 January 1998 and the average index of the previous three months. This approach, when using seasonally adjusted data, shows an increase of 3,1% (which is 1,0 percentage point lower than the corresponding rate of 4,1% for December 1997), while unadjusted data shows an increase of 2,4%.

Metropolitan and other urban areas

An alternative expression of the change in the Consumer Price Index when using unadjusted data shows an increase of 2,7%. A better method should be to use seasonally adjusted data for the calculation of the alternative expression, but at this stage there is no seasonally adjusted data available for metropolitan and other urban areas. This is due to the fact that the index for metropolitan and other urban areas exists only since January 1997. Seasonally adjustment can only significantly be done using at least three years' data.

CPI FOR FEBRUARY 1998

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

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. All price information refers to the first seven days of the reference month.
2. By the phrase "each area compared with itself", the CSS reminds the user that the consumer price indices relating to various metropolitan and other urban areas as shown in Table 4 and Table 6 do not permit inter-urban comparison of price levels or living costs. The indices do not indicate whether it is more expensive to live in one city than in another. The indices indicate for each urban area, independently of any of the other urban areas, the price changes which have taken place from time to time.
3. The indices for all items excluding food, Table 4.4, have been calculated for each area separately as from July 1994. These indices are calculated by means of the index for all items and the index for food of each area.
4. Value Added Tax (VAT) is included in general in the prices of all items on which VAT is applicable.
5. The five expenditure group categories or quintiles were defined according to total annual expenditure per household as in October 1995 as:

Very low expenditure group - up to R6 340

Low expenditure group - R6 341 up to R11 590

Middle expenditure group - R11 591 up to R21 909

High expenditure group - R21 910 up to R49 498

Very high expenditure group - R49 499 and more

6. A more detailed set of weights for the metropolitan and other urban areas in total according to the new 1995-weighting structure of the CPI, as well as that for the core basket were published in Statistical release P0141.5 of 27 March 1997.

7. Core inflation

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

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

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

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

8. Symbols used: * = revised

TABLE 1 EXPENDITURE GROUP INDICES AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Jan. 1998	Dec. 1997	Jan. 1997	Percentage change compared with		
				Dec. 1997		Jan. 1997
				Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual
Expenditure groups						
Very Low	121,9	120,9	113,7	+0,8	..	+7,2
Low	121,4	120,3	113,2	+0,9	..	+7,2
Middle	121,1	120,0	113,3	+0,9	..	+6,9
High	120,9	119,8	113,3	+0,9	..	+6,7
Very High	119,3	118,3	113,3	+0,8	..	+5,3
All expenditure groups - Metropolitan	119,7	118,7	113,3	+0,8 ¹⁾	+0,2 ¹⁾	+5,6 ¹⁾
All expenditure groups - Metro and other urban areas	119,7	118,7	113,5	+0,8	..	+5,5
Food only - Metropolitan	119,9	119,0	112,8	+0,8	-0,1	+6,3
Food only - Metro and other urban areas	120,0	119,2	113,3	+0,7	..	+5,9
All items excluding food - Metropolitan	119,8	118,7	113,5	+0,9	+0,3	+5,6
All items excluding food - Metro and other urban areas	119,6	118,5	113,5	+0,9	..	+5,4
All expenditure groups (VAT EXCLUDED) - Metropolitan	119,7	118,7	113,3	+0,8 ¹⁾	+0,3 ¹⁾	+5,6 ¹⁾
All expenditure groups (VAT EXCLUDED) - Metro and other urban areas	119,7	118,7	113,5	+0,8	..	+5,5
Core inflation - Metropolitan	120,8	119,6	112,7	+1,0	-	+7,2
Core inflation - Metro and other urban areas	120,9	119,7	113,3	+1,0	-	+6,7

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

**TABLE 2 EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES ON THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
- ALL EXPENDITURE GROUPS**

Group	Contribution
Food	+0,1
Housing	+0,1
Fuel and power	+0,1
Medical care and health expenses	+0,3
Communication	+0,1
All other items	+0,1
All items	+0,8

TABLE 3 GROUP INDICES - WEIGHTED AVERAGE
3.1 METROPOLITAN AREAS

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Percentage change compared with					Weights
	Jan. 1998	Dec. 1997	Jan. 1997	Dec. 1997	Jan. 1997	
All items	119,7	118,7	113,3	+0,8	+5,6	100,00
Expenditure groups - Very low	121,9	120,9	113,7	+0,8	,2	0,51
Low	121,4	120,3	113,2	+0,9	,2	1,78
Middle	121,1	120,0	113,3	+0,9	,9	5,24
High	120,9	119,8	113,3	+0,9	,7	17,70
Very high	119,3	118,3	113,3	+0,8	,3	74,77
Commodities	118,0	117,6	111,6	+0,3	+5,7	55,00
Services	122,5	120,8	116,1	+1,4	+5,5	45,00
All items, excluding housing	119,6	118,4	112,4	+1,0	+6,4	75,93
All items, excluding food	119,8	118,7	113,5	+0,9	+5,6	81,98
Food	119,9	119,0	112,8	+0,8	+6,3	18,02
Expenditure groups - Very low	119,7	118,9	113,9	+0,7	+5,1	40,73
Low	120,2	119,3	113,8	+0,8	+5,6	34,39
Middle	120,3	119,4	113,6	+0,8	+5,9	31,12
High	120,1	119,2	113,1	+0,8	+6,2	25,42
Very high	119,6	118,7	112,4	+0,8	+6,4	14,84
Processed	119,9	119,2	112,3	+0,6	+6,8	9,12
Unprocessed	119,8	118,8	113,3	+0,8	+5,7	8,90
Grain products	121,8	121,1	118,4	+0,6	+2,9	3,31
Meat	116,8	115,9	110,6	+0,8	+5,6	5,33
Fish and other seafood	119,5	118,7	113,7	+0,7	+5,1	0,80
Milk, cheese and eggs	126,4	126,3	114,1	+0,1	+10,8	1,90
Fats and oils	121,6	120,4	112,6	+1,0	+8,0	0,85
Fruit and nuts	113,2	110,0	105,7	+2,9	+7,1	1,08
Vegetables	128,8	127,5	119,0	+1,0	+8,2	1,80
Sugar	118,3	118,0	109,8	+0,3	+7,7	0,59
Coffee, tea and cocoa	110,4	110,4	103,6	0,0	+6,6	0,72
Other	120,2	119,3	113,4	+0,8	+6,0	1,64
Non-alcoholic beverages	124,8	124,4	114,0	+0,3	+9,5	0,82
Alcoholic beverages	118,8	118,8	109,8	0,0	+8,2	1,18
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	159,8	158,9	127,5	+0,6	+25,3	0,95
Clothing and footwear	107,9	108,3	105,8	-0,4	+2,0	4,76
Clothing	107,3	107,8	105,3	-0,5	+1,9	3,55
Footwear	111,1	110,9	108,4	+0,2	+2,5	1,21
Housing	122,4	122,1	118,5	+0,2	+3,3	24,07
Fuel and power	122,1	119,6	111,9	+2,1	+9,1	3,11
Furniture and equipment	111,6	111,6	106,8	0,0	+4,5	3,94
Furniture	115,5	115,5	107,5	0,0	+7,4	1,62
Appliances	107,2	107,1	105,7	+0,1	+1,4	1,08
Other household equipment and textiles	110,2	110,1	106,6	+0,1	+3,4	1,24
Household operation	133,5	132,2	118,7	+1,0	+12,5	4,69
Household consumables	124,3	123,9	115,4	+0,3	+7,7	1,14
Domestic workers	143,9	142,3	125,3	+1,1	+14,8	3,19
Other household services	117,1	115,6	112,5	+1,3	+4,1	0,36
Medical care and health expenses	137,4	130,8	122,5	+5,0	+12,2	5,95
Transport	113,7	114,0	111,4	-0,3	+2,1	14,74
Vehicles	111,0	110,7	106,4	+0,3	+4,3	5,25
Running cost	119,1	120,4	118,6	-1,1	+0,4	5,75
Public and hired transport	112,1	111,7	110,0	+0,4	+1,9	3,74
Communication	118,8	110,6	102,7	+7,4	+15,7	3,06
Recreation and entertainment	108,5	108,5	108,0	0,0	+0,5	2,38
Reading matter	124,3	124,3	116,6	0,0	+6,6	0,74
Education	122,2	122,2	110,8	0,0	+10,3	2,04
Personal care	119,1	117,9	112,8	+1,0	+5,6	3,06
Other	115,0	114,8	112,0	+0,2	+2,7	6,49

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

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Percentage change compared with					Weights
	Jan. 1998	Dec. 1997	Jan. 1997	Dec. 1997	Jan. 1997	
All items	119,7	118,7	113,5	+0,8	+5,5	100,00
Expenditure groups - Very low	121,1	120,2	113,6	+0,7	+6,6	0,93
Low	120,7	119,8	113,2	+0,8	+6,6	2,99
Middle	120,2	119,2	113,1	+0,8	+6,3	7,58
High	120,5	119,4	113,4	+0,9	+6,3	20,09
Very high	119,3	118,3	113,5	+0,8	+5,1	68,41
Commodities	117,7	117,2	111,7	+0,4	+5,4	57,34
Services	122,5	120,7	115,8	+1,5	+5,8	42,66
All items, excluding housing	119,4	118,1	112,5	+1,1	+6,1	77,55
All items, excluding food	119,6	118,5	113,5	+0,9	+5,4	80,52
Food	120,0	119,2	113,3	+0,7	+5,9	19,48
Expenditure groups - Very low	120,2	119,5	113,7	+0,6	+5,7	44,17
Low	120,6	119,9	113,9	+0,6	+5,9	38,83
Middle	120,4	119,6	113,9	+0,7	+5,7	32,67
High	120,2	119,3	113,5	+0,8	+5,9	25,61
Very high	119,8	119,0	112,9	+0,7	+6,1	15,02
Processed	119,4	118,7	112,5	+0,6	+6,1	10,52
Unprocessed	120,6	119,8	114,0	+0,7	+5,8	8,96
Grain products	122,0	121,4	119,2	+0,5	+2,3	3,73
Meat	115,4	114,8	110,0	+0,5	+4,9	5,84
Fish and other seafood	121,5	120,6	112,9	+0,7	+7,6	0,77
Milk, cheese and eggs	125,9	125,7	115,2	+0,2	+9,3	2,02
Fats and oils	120,2	118,9	112,0	+1,1	+7,3	0,94
Fruit and nuts	113,1	109,9	103,6	+2,9	+9,2	1,07
Vegetables	131,7	130,2	122,0	+1,2	+8,0	1,94
Sugar	119,4	118,8	110,1	+0,5	+8,4	0,73
Coffee, tea and cocoa	109,5	109,0	103,3	+0,5	+6,0	0,79
Other	120,1	119,2	112,3	+0,8	+6,9	1,65
Non-alcoholic beverages	125,6	125,0	114,0	+0,5	+10,2	0,82
Alcoholic beverages	120,0	120,0	111,1	0,0	+8,0	1,17
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	156,5	155,5	126,2	+0,6	+24,0	1,04
Clothing and footwear	107,7	108,2	105,9	-0,5	+1,7	5,07
Clothing	107,2	107,8	105,3	-0,6	+1,8	3,80
Footwear	109,2	109,2	107,8	0,0	+1,3	1,27
Housing	120,9	120,6	116,9	+0,2	+3,4	22,45
Fuel and power	119,3	116,3	110,6	+2,6	+7,9	3,54
Furniture and equipment	110,8	110,8	107,3	0,0	+3,3	4,34
Furniture	114,1	114,1	108,7	0,0	+5,0	1,77
Appliances	107,6	107,5	105,6	+0,1	+1,9	1,19
Other household equipment and textiles	109,3	109,3	107,1	0,0	+2,1	1,38
Household operation	136,6	135,3	121,5	+1,0	+12,4	4,87
Household consumables	122,1	121,6	114,7	+0,4	+6,5	1,27
Domestic workers	144,6	142,9	125,3	+1,2	+15,4	3,25
Other household services	115,3	114,3	111,3	+0,9	+3,6	0,35
Medical care and health expenses	134,1	127,9	119,9	+4,8	+11,8	5,81
Transport	112,6	112,9	110,6	-0,3	+1,8	13,65
Vehicles	108,3	107,9	104,9	+0,4	+3,2	5,31
Running cost	119,0	120,1	118,2	-0,9	+0,7	5,16
Public and hired transport	109,6	109,3	107,9	+0,3	+1,6	3,18
Communication	122,4	113,7	105,8	+7,7	+15,7	3,21
Recreation and entertainment	105,1	105,1	104,5	0,0	+0,6	2,18
Reading matter	122,5	122,4	115,4	+0,1	+6,2	0,69
Education	120,9	120,9	110,7	0,0	+9,2	1,82
Personal care	119,4	118,6	113,2	+0,7	+5,5	3,08
Other	116,2	116,0	113,7	+0,2	+2,2	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	
	Jan. 1998	Dec. 1997	Jan. 1997	Dec. 1997	Jan. 1997
Western Cape	119,2	118,3	114,0	+0,8	+4,6
Cape Peninsula	119,6	118,8	114,2	+0,7	+4,7
Other urban areas	118,9	118,0	113,8	+0,8	+4,5
Eastern Cape	121,5	120,6	114,7	+0,7	+5,9
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	119,1	118,2	113,6	+0,8	+4,8
East London	121,3	120,4	114,0	+0,7	+6,4
Other urban areas	121,8	120,8	114,6	+0,8	+6,3
Northern Cape	118,6	117,4	112,1	+1,0	+5,8
Kimberley	120,8	119,7	112,5	+0,9	+7,4
Other urban areas	118,1	116,9	111,9	+1,0	+5,5
Free State	117,2	116,1	111,0	+0,9	+5,6
Bloemfontein	119,9	118,8	113,8	+0,9	+5,4
Free State Goldfields	116,8	115,9	111,1	+0,8	+5,1
Other urban areas	116,8	115,7	110,5	+1,0	+5,7
KwaZulu-Natal	119,6	118,3	113,6	+1,1	+5,3
Durban/Pinetown	121,4	119,8	114,3	+1,3	+6,2
Pietermaritzburg	120,2	119,2	114,1	+0,8	+5,3
Other urban areas	118,4	117,3	113,1	+0,9	+4,7
North West	117,3	116,4	111,4	+0,8	+5,3
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	117,5	116,4	111,7	+0,9	+5,2
Other urban areas	117,1	116,2	111,2	+0,8	+5,3
Gauteng	120,3	119,4	113,7	+0,8	+5,8
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	120,0	119,3	114,1	+0,6	+5,2
Witwatersrand	119,3	118,2	112,5	+0,9	+6,0
Other urban areas	120,0	119,0	113,5	+0,8	+5,7
Mpumalanga	120,3	118,9	112,6	+1,2	+6,8
Nelspruit/Witbank	120,1	119,0	112,8	+0,9	+6,5
Other urban areas	119,9	118,6	112,2	+1,1	+6,9
Northern Province	118,8	117,7	112,8	+0,9	+5,3
Pietersburg	119,2	118,5	114,2	+0,6	+4,4
Other urban areas	118,9	117,8	112,8	+0,9	+5,4
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	119,7	118,7	113,5	+0,8	+5,5
Weighted average - Metropolitan	119,7	118,7	113,3	+0,8	+5,6

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	
	Jan. 1998	Dec. 1997	Jan. 1997	Dec. 1997	Jan. 1997
Western Cape	119,9	119,1	113,8	+0,7	+5,4
Cape Peninsula	119,6	118,8	112,6	+0,7	+6,2
Other urban areas	119,4	118,5	113,8	+0,8	+4,9
Eastern Cape	125,5	125,3	114,8	+0,2	+9,3
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	119,6	119,1	113,9	+0,4	+5,0
East London	125,4	124,2	115,9	+1,0	+8,2
Other urban areas	126,7	126,7	114,8	0,0	+10,4
Northern Cape	117,8	116,9	112,2	+0,8	+5,0
Kimberley	118,4	116,8	111,9	+1,4	+5,8
Other urban areas	117,7	116,8	112,2	+0,8	+4,9
Free State	116,1	115,6	109,0	+0,4	+6,5
Bloemfontein	119,8	119,4	112,2	+0,3	+6,8
Free State Goldfields	115,3	114,4	109,3	+0,8	+5,5
Other urban areas	115,8	115,4	108,7	+0,3	+6,5
KwaZulu-Natal	121,6	120,2	115,4	+1,2	+5,4
Durban/Pinetown	127,3	125,0	117,0	+1,8	+8,8
Pietermaritzburg	122,6	121,2	115,2	+1,2	+6,4
Other urban areas	119,3	118,3	115,2	+0,8	+3,6
North West	115,8	115,1	111,7	+0,6	+3,7
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	116,1	115,3	111,0	+0,7	+4,6
Other urban areas	115,6	115,0	111,7	+0,5	+3,5
Gauteng	119,0	118,3	112,5	+0,6	+5,8
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	121,5	120,8	113,6	+0,6	+7,0
Witwatersrand	117,9	117,2	111,6	+0,6	+5,6
Other urban areas	118,6	117,9	112,8	+0,6	+5,1
Mpumalanga	123,1	121,8	112,8	+1,1	+9,1
Nelspruit/Witbank	120,7	120,0	113,4	+0,6	+6,4
Other urban areas	123,5	122,2	112,8	+1,1	+9,5
Northern Province	122,4	121,5	116,5	+0,7	+5,1
Pietersburg	123,5	123,0	115,6	+0,4	+6,8
Other urban areas	122,3	121,4	116,7	+0,7	+4,8
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	120,0	119,2	113,3	+0,7	+5,9
Weighted average - Metropolitan	119,9	119,0	112,8	+0,8	+6,3

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	
	Jan. 1998	Dec. 1997	Jan. 1997	Dec. 1997	Jan. 1997
Western Cape	119,2	118,1	113,1	+0,9	+5,4
Cape Peninsula	119,9	118,8	113,2	+0,9	+5,9
Other urban areas	118,7	117,6	112,9	+0,9	+5,1
Eastern Cape	121,6	120,4	113,6	+1,0	+7,0
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	119,6	118,5	112,7	+0,9	+6,1
East London	122,9	121,7	113,7	+1,0	+8,1
Other urban areas	121,5	120,4	113,4	+0,9	+7,1
Northern Cape	118,4	116,8	111,2	+1,4	+6,5
Kimberley	119,8	118,3	111,2	+1,3	+7,7
Other urban areas	118,1	116,5	111,1	+1,4	+6,3
Free State	118,0	116,7	111,1	+1,1	+6,2
Bloemfontein	121,0	119,6	113,4	+1,2	+6,7
Free State Goldfields	117,0	116,0	111,2	+0,9	+5,2
Other urban areas	117,7	116,3	110,8	+1,2	+6,2
KwaZulu-Natal	118,9	117,4	112,3	+1,3	+5,9
Durban/Pinetown	121,3	119,3	113,5	+1,7	+6,9
Pietermaritzburg	119,1	117,9	112,7	+1,0	+5,7
Other urban areas	117,9	116,5	111,7	+1,2	+5,6
North West	116,8	115,8	111,0	+0,9	+5,2
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	117,8	116,4	111,5	+1,2	+5,7
Other urban areas	116,5	115,5	110,9	+0,9	+5,0
Gauteng	119,9	118,7	112,6	+1,0	+6,5
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	119,8	118,9	113,1	+0,8	+5,9
Witwatersrand	119,2	118,0	111,7	+1,0	+6,7
Other urban areas	119,2	118,0	112,7	+1,0	+5,8
Mpumalanga	119,3	117,7	111,3	+1,4	+7,2
Nelspruit/Witbank	119,7	118,4	111,7	+1,1	+7,2
Other urban areas	119,0	117,3	111,0	+1,4	+7,2
Northern Province	118,1	116,8	112,1	+1,1	+5,4
Pietersburg	120,0	119,1	113,2	+0,8	+6,0
Other urban areas	117,9	116,6	112,0	+1,1	+5,3
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	119,4	118,1	112,5	+1,1	+6,1
Weighted average - Metropolitan	119,6	118,4	112,4	+1,0	+6,4

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

TABLE 5 SEASONALLY ADJUSTED INDICES - METROPOLITAN AREAS

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Jan. 1998	Dec. 1997	Nov. 1997	Oct. 1997	Weights
All items	119,4	119,2	118,9	118,8	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	119,7	119,4	118,9	119,0	81,98
Commodities	117,8	117,7	117,4	116,5	55,00
Food	118,6	118,7	118,6	117,4	18,02
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	119,0	119,0	118,9	117,7	18,84
Alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	140,5	140,2	139,4	137,5	2,13
Clothing and footwear	108,1	108,2	108,1	107,9	4,72
Furniture and equipment	112,0	111,5	110,8	110,4	3,85
Vehicles	111,3	111,1	110,7	110,6	5,25
Other transport commodities	120,3	121,8	121,1	118,7	4,63
Other commodities	119,8	119,1	118,8	118,2	15,58
Services	122,8	122,0	120,9	121,6	45,00
Housing and domestic workers	123,0	122,5	122,4	125,1	25,99
Transport	110,4	111,9	111,7	111,2	4,86
Other services	127,1	125,4	122,7	121,2	14,15
All items (VAT excluded)	119,5	119,1	118,8	118,7	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	
	Jan. 1998	Dec. 1997	Jan. 1997	Dec. 1997	Jan. 1997
Western Cape	119,6	118,6	113,5	+0,8	+5,4
Cape Peninsula	121,7	120,7	115,0	+0,8	+5,8
Other cities	119,1	118,1	113,2	+0,8	+5,2
Eastern Cape	122,4	121,4	114,2	+0,8	+7,2
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	120,0	119,1	113,2	+0,8	+6,0
East London	122,4	121,4	113,9	+0,8	+7,5
Other cities	122,6	121,6	114,1	+0,8	+7,4
Northern Cape	120,8	119,4	112,5	+1,2	+7,4
Kimberley	123,9	122,8	113,3	+0,9	+9,4
Other cities	120,4	118,9	112,4	+1,3	+7,1
Free State	117,5	116,3	110,3	+1,0	+6,5
Bloemfontein	119,5	118,6	113,4	+0,8	+5,4
Free State Goldfields	116,5	115,8	110,3	+0,6	+5,6
Other cities	117,4	116,1	110,0	+1,1	+6,7
KwaZulu-Natal	119,4	118,1	113,0	+1,1	+5,7
Durban/Pinetown	121,6	119,8	114,1	+1,5	+6,6
Pietermaritzburg	119,1	118,2	112,7	+0,8	+5,7
Other cities	118,3	117,2	112,5	+0,9	+5,2
North West	118,3	117,3	111,6	+0,9	+6,0
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	120,0	118,5	111,6	+1,3	+7,5
Other cities	117,8	116,9	111,5	+0,8	+5,7
Gauteng	120,9	119,8	113,1	+0,9	+6,9
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	120,1	119,3	113,2	+0,7	+6,1
Witwatersrand	121,4	120,2	113,0	+1,0	+7,4
Other cities	119,5	118,6	112,6	+0,8	+6,1
Mpumalanga	122,5	120,9	112,6	+1,3	+8,8
Nelspruit/Witbank	122,7	121,4	113,7	+1,1	+7,9
Other cities	122,5	120,8	112,5	+1,4	+8,9
Northern Province	119,9	118,6	112,8	+1,1	+6,3
Pietersburg	122,6	120,0	112,6	+2,2	+8,9
Other cities	119,9	118,6	112,8	+1,1	+6,3
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	120,2	119,1	113,0	+0,9	+6,4
Weighted average - Metropolitan	121,2	120,1	113,6	+0,9	+6,7