

# Statistical Release P0141.1

## Prices : Consumer Price Index

July 1998

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#### INFLATION RATE INCREASES TO 6,6% AT JULY 1998

*The official inflation rate, i.e. the annual rate of change in the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas, is 6,6% at July 1998. This rate is 1,4 percentage points higher than the corresponding annual rate of 5,2% at June 1998. This is mainly due to the increase in interest rates on existing mortgage bonds. From June 1998 to July 1998 the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas increased by 2,5%. The seasonally adjusted index increased by 2,2% for the same period.*

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

The inflation rate for metropolitan and other urban areas is 6,6% at July 1998. This rate is 1,4 percentage points higher than the corresponding annual rate of 5,2% at June 1998. From June 1998 to July 1998 the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan and other urban areas increased by 2,2%.

#### CORE INFLATION RATE

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

The core inflation rate for metropolitan and other urban areas is 7,1% at July 1998, which is 0,1 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding rate of 7,2% at June 1998. From June 1998 to July 1998 the core inflation index for metropolitan areas as well as the index for metropolitan and other urban areas increased by 0,7%.

## **METROPOLITAN AREAS**

### **Contributions to monthly increase in CPI**

The monthly increase of 2,5% in the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas is due to increases in the price indices for housing (+2,1 percentage points, mainly due to the increase in interest rates on existing mortgage bonds), fuel and power (+0,1 of a percentage point, mainly due to increases in electricity tariffs), household operation (+0,1 of a percentage point) and all other items (+0,2 of a percentage point).

### **Food inflation**

*The price index for food shows an annual rate of increase of 5,6% at July 1998. This rate is 0,7 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding rate of 6,3% at June 1998. From June 1998 to July 1998 this index increased by 0,2%.*

The price index for food shows a monthly increase of 0,2%, which is due to increases in the price indices for grain products (+0,6%), fish and other seafood (+0,3%), fats and oils (+0,1%), sugar (+0,3%), coffee, tea and cocoa (+0,5%) and "other" food items (+1,0%). These increases were partially counteracted by decreases in the price indices for fruit and nuts (-0,6%), milk, cheese and eggs (-0,2%) and vegetables(-0,4%).

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

*The price index for non-food items shows an annual rate of increase of 6,8% at July 1998. This rate is 1,9 percentage points higher than the corresponding rate of 4,9% at June 1998. From June 1998 to July 1998 this index increased by 2,9%.*

The monthly increase of 2,9% in the price index for "all items, excluding food" is mainly due to monthly increases in the price indices for non-alcoholic beverages (+0,5%), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+1,1%), housing (+8,7%), fuel and power (+3,2%), household operation (+1,1%), reading matter (+0,5%), personal care (+0,4%) and "other" items (+2,2%, mainly due to increases in the prime rate). These increases were slightly counteracted by a decrease in the price index for alcoholic beverages (-0,2%).

### **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 July 1998 and the average index of the previous three months. This approach, when using seasonally adjusted and unadjusted data, shows an increase of 8,3% (which is 2,6 percentage points higher than the corresponding rate of 5,7% for June 1998).

### **Pensioners**

The inflation rate for pensioners in the metropolitan areas is 6,8% at July 1998, which is 0,4 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding rate of 6,4% at June 1998.

## **METROPOLITAN AND OTHER URBAN AREAS**

### **Contributions to monthly increase in CPI**

Similar to the increase in the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas, the monthly increase of 2,2% in the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan and other urban areas is also due to increases in the price indices for food (+0,1 of a percentage point), housing (+1,8 percentage points), fuel and power (+0,1 of a percentage point), household operation (+0,1 of a percentage point) and all other items (+0,5 of a percentage point).

### **Food**

*The price index for food shows an annual rate of increase of 6,2% at July 1998, which is 0,5 of a percentage points lower than the corresponding rate of 6,7% for June 1998. From June 1998 to July 1998 this index increased by 0,2%*

The price index for food shows a monthly increase of 0,2%, which is due to increases in the price indices for grain products (+0,7%), fish and other seafood (+0,8%), meat (+0,1%), fats and oils (+0,1%), vegetables (+0,2%), coffee, tea and cocoa (+0,5%) and "other" food items (+1,0%). These increases were partially counteracted by decreases in the price indices for milk, cheese and eggs (-0,2%), fruit and nuts (-1,0%) and sugar (-0,1%).

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

*The price index for non-food items shows an annual rate of increase of 6,4% at July 1998, which is 1,6 percentage points higher than the corresponding rate of 4,8% for June 1998. From June 1998 to July 1998 this index increased by 2,5%.*

The monthly increase of 2,5% in the price index for "all items, excluding food" is mainly due to monthly increases in the price indices for non-alcoholic beverages (+0,9%), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+0,8%), housing (+8,1%), fuel and power (+3,1%), household operation (+1,0%), transport (+0,3%), reading matter (+0,3%), personal care (+0,4%) and "other" items (+2,6%).

### **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 July 1998 and the average index of the previous three months. This approach, when using unadjusted data shows an increase of 8,3%, which is 2,6 percentage points higher than the corresponding rate of 5,7% for June 1998. A better method should be to use seasonally adjusted data for the calculation of the alternative expression, but at this stage there is no seasonally adjusted data available for metropolitan and other urban areas. This is due to the fact that the index for metropolitan and other urban areas exists only since January 1997. Seasonally adjustment can only significantly be done using at least three years' data.

### **Pensioners**

The inflation rate for pensioners in the metropolitan and other urban areas is 6,6% at July 1998. Other urban areas in Mpumalanga recorded the highest rate of increase, namely 9,7%, while the lowest rate of 5,4% was recorded for the other urban areas in the Western Cape.

### **Areas indices**

The other urban areas in Mpumalanga recorded the highest inflation rate of 8,5%, while the lowest rate of 5,4% was recorded for other urban areas in Northern Cape.

Regarding food prices, the highest annual increase of 11,4% was recorded for other urban areas in the Eastern Cape, while the other urban areas in the Northern Cape reflected the lowest increase of 4,1%.

## CPI FOR AUGUST 1998

In addition to the usual price surveys for August 1998, it has come to the attention of the CSS that changed prices will apply during the first seven days of August 1998 regarding parking fees and bus tariffs, refuse removal, sanitary services, property insurance and maintenance of graves in certain areas, as well as the increase in interest rates on existing mortgage bonds of those financial institutions that implemented this increase after 7 July 1998.

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

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

Very low expenditure group - up to R6 340  
Low expenditure group - R6 341 up to R11 590  
Middle expenditure group - R11 591 up to R21 909  
High expenditure group - R21 910 up to R49 498  
Very high expenditure group - R49 499 and more

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

#### 7. Core inflation

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

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

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

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

8. Symbols used: \* = revised

TABLE 1.1 EXPENDITURE GROUP INDICES AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Jul. 1998	Jun. 1998	Jul. 1997	Percentage change compared with		
				Jun. 1998		Jul. 1997
				Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual
Expenditure groups						
Very Low	127,5	125,6	118,7	+1,5	..	+7,4
Low	126,6	124,9	118,1	+1,4	..	+7,2
Middle	126,1	124,4	118,1	+1,4	..	+6,8
High	126,2	124,0	118,1	+1,8	..	+6,9
Very High	124,8	121,6	117,2	+2,6	..	+6,5
All expenditure groups - Metropolitan	125,3	122,3	117,5	+2,5	+2,2	+6,6
All expenditure groups - Metro and other urban areas	125,1	122,4	117,4	+2,2	..	+6,6
Food only - Metropolitan	123,6	123,4	117,0	+0,2	0,0	+5,6
Food only - Metro and other urban areas	124,2	123,9	116,9	+0,2	..	+6,2
All items excluding food - Metropolitan	125,6	122,1	117,6	+2,9	+2,5	+6,8
All items excluding food - Metro and other urban areas	125,0	122,0	117,5	+2,5	..	+6,4
All expenditure groups (VAT EXCLUDED) - Metropolitan	125,3	122,3	117,5	+2,5	+2,3	+6,6
All expenditure groups (VAT EXCLUDED) - Metro and other urban areas	125,1	122,4	117,4	+2,2	..	+6,6
Core inflation - Metropolitan	125,9	125,0	117,4	+0,7	-	+7,2
Core inflation - Metro and other urban areas	126,0	125,1	117,7	+0,7	-	+7,1

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

TABLE 1.2 ANNUAL INFLATION RATE ON A MONTHLY BASIS

Metropolitan areas - All Items

Base year: 1995 = 100

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Des.	Ave.	Index
1996	103,6	103,7	104,6	105,2	105,9	106,9	107,7	108,3	109,4	110,4	110,8	111,9	107,4	Index
	+6,9	+6,5	+6,3	+5,5	+5,8	+6,9	+7,1	+7,4	+8,4	+9,1	+9,2	+9,4	+7,4	%
1997	113,3	113,9	114,6	115,6	116,0	116,3	117,5	117,7	118,2	118,7	118,3	118,7	116,6	Index
	+9,4	+9,8	+9,6	+9,9	+9,5	+8,8	+9,1	+8,7	+8,0	+7,5	+6,8	+6,1	+8,6	%
1998	119,7	120,0	120,8	121,4	121,9	122,3	125,3	..	..	..	..	..	..	Index
	+5,6	+5,4	+5,4	+5,0	+5,1	+5,2	+6,6	..	..	..	..	..	..	%

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

Group	Contribution
Housing	+2.1
Fuel and power	+0.1
Household operation	+0.1
All other items	+0.2
All items	+2.5

**TABLE 3 GROUP INDICES - WEIGHTED AVERAGE  
3.1 METROPOLITAN AREAS**

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Jul. 1998	Jun. 1998	Jul. 1997	Percentage change compared with		Weights
				Jun. 1998	Jul. 1997	
All items	125,3	122,3	117,5	+2,5	+6,6	100,00
Expenditure groups - Very low	127,5	125,6	118,7	+1,5	+7,4	0,51
Low	126,6	124,9	118,1	+1,4	+7,2	1,78
Middle	126,1	124,4	118,1	+1,4	+6,8	5,24
High	126,2	124,0	118,1	+1,8	+6,9	17,70
Very high	124,8	121,6	117,2	+2,6	+6,5	74,77
Commodities	122,3	121,3	115,4	+0,8	+6,0	55,00
Services	129,7	124,3	120,7	+4,3	+7,5	45,00
All items, excluding housing	124,0	123,4	116,4	+0,5	+6,5	75,93
All items, excluding food	125,6	122,1	117,6	+2,9	+6,8	81,98
Food	123,6	123,4	117,0	+0,2	+5,6	18,02
Expenditure groups - Very low	124,9	124,7	117,2	+0,2	+6,6	40,73
Low	125,0	124,7	117,4	+0,2	+6,5	34,39
Middle	124,7	124,5	117,6	+0,2	+6,0	31,12
High	124,0	123,8	117,3	+0,2	+5,7	25,42
Very high	123,1	122,9	116,7	+0,2	+5,5	14,84
Processed	125,1	124,6	117,6	+0,4	+6,4	9,12
Unprocessed	122,1	122,2	116,4	-0,1	+4,9	8,90
Grain products	130,4	129,6	120,8	+0,6	+7,9	3,31
Meat	117,0	117,0	113,0	0,0	+3,5	5,33
Fish and other seafood	128,3	127,9	117,7	+0,3	+9,0	0,80
Milk, cheese and eggs	129,9	130,1	124,0	-0,2	+4,8	1,90
Fats and oils	126,5	126,4	119,7	+0,1	+5,7	0,85
Fruit and nuts	108,0	108,7	103,3	-0,6	+4,5	1,08
Vegetables	133,4	133,9	127,1	-0,4	+5,0	1,80
Sugar	125,1	124,7	117,0	+0,3	+6,9	0,59
Coffee, tea and cocoa	113,4	112,8	108,3	+0,5	+4,7	0,72
Other	127,4	126,2	116,9	+1,0	+9,0	1,64
Non-alcoholic beverages	133,4	132,8	123,2	+0,5	+8,3	0,82
Alcoholic beverages	128,7	128,9	118,5	-0,2	+8,6	1,18
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	182,0	180,1	146,2	+1,1	+24,5	0,95
Clothing and footwear	108,3	108,2	107,6	+0,1	+0,7	4,76
Clothing	107,9	107,9	107,1	0,0	+0,7	3,55
Footwear	110,5	110,4	110,2	+0,1	+0,3	1,21
Housing	131,8	121,3	123,1	+8,7	+7,1	24,07
Fuel and power	126,4	122,5	117,0	+3,2	+8,0	3,11
Furniture and equipment	112,8	112,8	108,9	0,0	+3,6	3,94
Furniture	116,8	116,8	110,5	0,0	+5,7	1,62
Appliances	108,9	108,9	107,1	0,0	+1,7	1,08
Other household equipment and textiles	110,8	110,7	108,2	+0,1	+2,4	1,24
Household operation	142,0	140,4	126,3	+1,1	+12,4	4,69
Household consumables	130,6	129,1	122,1	+1,2	+7,0	1,14
Domestic workers	154,2	152,5	134,3	+1,1	+14,8	3,19
Other household services	119,8	119,2	114,2	+0,5	+4,9	0,36
Medical care and health expenses	145,9	145,9	130,0	0,0	+12,2	5,95
Transport	116,3	116,2	111,7	+0,1	+4,1	14,74
Vehicles	113,4	113,8	109,4	-0,4	+3,7	5,25
Running cost	123,4	122,8	116,1	+0,5	+6,3	5,75
Public and hired transport	112,1	112,1	110,9	0,0	+1,1	3,74
Communication	119,7	119,7	110,6	0,0	+8,2	3,06
Recreation and entertainment	110,1	110,0	108,5	+0,1	+1,5	2,38
Reading matter	135,9	135,2	123,9	+0,5	+9,7	0,74
Education	135,6	135,6	122,2	0,0	+11,0	2,04
Personal care	123,0	122,5	116,0	+0,4	+6,0	3,06
Other	118,5	115,9	114,2	+2,2	+3,8	6,49

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

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Jul. 1998	Jun. 1998	Jul. 1997	Percentage change compared with		Weights
				Jun. 1998	Jul. 1997	
All items	125,1	122,4	117,4	+2,2	+6,6	100,00
Expenditure groups - Very low	127,3	125,5	117,9	+1,4	+8,0	0,93
Low	126,3	124,6	117,6	+1,4	+7,4	2,99
Middle	125,3	123,6	117,3	+1,4	+6,8	7,58
High	125,8	123,7	117,7	+1,7	+6,9	20,09
Very high	124,8	121,7	117,3	+2,5	+6,4	68,41
Commodities	121,9	120,9	115,1	+0,8	+5,9	57,34
Services	129,4	124,4	120,5	+4,0	+7,4	42,66
All items, excluding housing	124,0	123,2	116,2	+0,6	+6,7	77,55
All items, excluding food	125,0	122,0	117,5	+2,5	+6,4	80,52
Food	124,2	123,9	116,9	+0,2	+6,2	19,48
Expenditure groups - Very low	127,0	126,4	116,8	+0,5	+8,7	44,17
Low	126,4	125,8	117,2	+0,5	+7,8	38,83
Middle	125,3	124,9	117,3	+0,3	+6,8	32,67
High	124,4	124,1	117,1	+0,2	+6,2	25,61
Very high	123,4	123,2	116,7	+0,2	+5,7	15,02
Processed	124,6	124,2	116,8	+0,3	+6,7	10,52
Unprocessed	123,7	123,5	117,0	+0,2	+5,7	8,96
Grain products	130,8	129,9	120,9	+0,7	+8,2	3,73
Meat	115,7	115,6	112,3	+0,1	+3,0	5,84
Fish and other seafood	130,1	129,1	118,5	+0,8	+9,8	0,77
Milk, cheese and eggs	129,7	129,9	122,6	-0,2	+5,8	2,02
Fats and oils	125,0	124,9	117,8	+0,1	+6,1	0,94
Fruit and nuts	107,2	108,3	102,3	-1,0	+4,8	1,07
Vegetables	138,9	138,6	128,5	+0,2	+8,1	1,94
Sugar	126,7	126,8	116,7	-0,1	+8,6	0,73
Coffee, tea and cocoa	112,8	112,2	106,9	+0,5	+5,5	0,79
Other	127,1	125,9	116,4	+1,0	+9,2	1,65
Non-alcoholic beverages	135,9	134,7	123,9	+0,9	+9,7	0,82
Alcoholic beverages	129,8	129,9	119,8	-0,1	+8,3	1,17
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	177,7	176,3	143,6	+0,8	+23,7	1,04
Clothing and footwear	108,5	108,3	107,3	+0,2	+1,1	5,07
Clothing	108,2	108,1	106,9	+0,1	+1,2	3,80
Footwear	109,1	109,0	108,6	+0,1	+0,5	1,27
Housing	129,5	119,8	121,4	+8,1	+6,7	22,45
Fuel and power	123,8	120,1	115,0	+3,1	+7,7	3,54
Furniture and equipment	111,6	111,6	108,8	0,0	+2,6	4,34
Furniture	115,1	115,1	110,7	0,0	+4,0	1,77
Appliances	108,3	108,2	107,0	+0,1	+1,2	1,19
Other household equipment and textiles	110,1	110,1	107,9	0,0	+2,0	1,38
Household operation	145,6	144,1	129,3	+1,0	+12,6	4,87
Household consumables	128,2	127,3	119,8	+0,7	+7,0	1,27
Domestic workers	155,3	153,5	134,7	+1,2	+15,3	3,25
Other household services	118,5	117,6	113,3	+0,8	+4,6	0,35
Medical care and health expenses	142,6	142,6	127,1	0,0	+12,2	5,81
Transport	114,8	114,5	110,9	+0,3	+3,5	13,65
Vehicles	109,9	109,8	107,2	+0,1	+2,5	5,31
Running cost	123,0	122,3	116,2	+0,6	+5,9	5,16
Public and hired transport	109,6	109,6	108,7	0,0	+0,8	3,18
Communication	123,1	123,1	113,7	0,0	+8,3	3,21
Recreation and entertainment	106,5	106,4	105,0	+0,1	+1,4	2,18
Reading matter	133,8	133,4	122,1	+0,3	+9,6	0,69
Education	136,0	136,0	120,9	0,0	+12,5	1,82
Personal care	124,1	123,6	116,7	+0,4	+6,3	3,08
Other	120,0	117,0	115,5	+2,6	+3,9	6,78

TABLE 4 AREAS INDICES

TABLE 4.1 Index for all items  
Each area compared with itself

BASE : 1995 = 100

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

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	
	Jul. 1998	Jun. 1998	Jul. 1997	Jun. 1998	Jul. 1997
Western Cape	123,6	123,3	117,0	+0,2	+5,6
Cape Peninsula	123,3	123,7	117,2	-0,3	+5,2
Other urban areas	123,1	122,3	116,2	+0,7	+5,9
Eastern Cape	131,2	130,2	119,4	+0,8	+9,9
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	122,2	121,8	116,7	+0,3	+4,7
East London	129,4	129,6	123,0	-0,2	+5,2
Other urban areas	133,3	132,0	119,7	+1,0	+11,4
Northern Cape	120,9	121,4	115,9	-0,4	+4,3
Kimberley	121,8	121,7	115,4	+0,1	+5,5
Other urban areas	120,7	121,2	115,9	-0,4	+4,1
Free State	119,1	119,4	112,8	-0,3	+5,6
Bloemfontein	123,8	124,3	117,0	-0,4	+5,8
Free State Goldfields	119,2	119,1	112,0	+0,1	+6,4
Other urban areas	118,6	118,9	112,5	-0,3	+5,4
KwaZulu-Natal	125,1	125,1	118,6	0,0	+5,5
Durban/Pinetown	129,7	129,6	122,2	+0,1	+6,1
Pietermaritzburg	124,8	124,7	118,9	+0,1	+5,0
Other urban areas	123,4	123,5	117,3	-0,1	+5,2
North West	119,4	119,4	113,7	0,0	+5,0
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	119,1	118,9	114,0	+0,2	+4,5
Other urban areas	119,3	119,3	113,5	0,0	+5,1
Gauteng	123,3	122,9	116,3	+0,3	+6,0
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	124,6	124,4	118,8	+0,2	+4,9
Witwatersrand	122,3	122,0	115,4	+0,2	+6,0
Other urban areas	123,5	123,0	115,7	+0,4	+6,7
Mpumalanga	128,7	128,7	118,6	0,0	+8,5
Nelspruit/Witbank	124,4	124,3	117,8	+0,1	+5,6
Other urban areas	129,5	129,5	118,9	0,0	+8,9
Northern Province	127,7	126,6	119,8	+0,9	+6,6
Pietersburg	127,1	126,8	120,0	+0,2	+5,9
Other urban areas	127,8	126,6	119,9	+0,9	+6,6
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	124,2	123,9	116,9	+0,2	+6,2
Weighted average - Metropolitan	123,6	123,4	117,0	+0,2	+5,6



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	
	Jul. 1998	Jun. 1998	Jul. 1997	Jun. 1998	Jul. 1997
Western Cape	123,5	122,7	116,3	+0,7	+6,2
Cape Peninsula	124,1	123,6	116,7	+0,4	+6,3
Other urban areas	123,0	122,0	115,9	+0,8	+6,1
Eastern Cape	126,8	125,8	117,7	+0,8	+7,7
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	123,7	122,8	116,5	+0,7	+6,2
East London	128,7	128,0	119,5	+0,5	+7,7
Other urban areas	127,0	125,9	117,4	+0,9	+8,2
Northern Cape	122,9	122,4	115,3	+0,4	+6,6
Kimberley	124,8	123,8	116,1	+0,8	+7,5
Other urban areas	122,6	122,1	115,1	+0,4	+6,5
Free State	122,0	121,5	114,6	+0,4	+6,5
Bloemfontein	125,4	125,2	117,7	+0,2	+6,5
Free State Goldfields	121,0	120,5	114,0	+0,4	+6,1
Other urban areas	121,7	121,2	114,2	+0,4	+6,6
KwaZulu-Natal	122,9	122,5	116,0	+0,3	+5,9
Durban/Pinetown	124,7	124,3	117,4	+0,3	+6,2
Pietermaritzburg	122,4	122,1	116,4	+0,2	+5,2
Other urban areas	122,3	121,8	115,3	+0,4	+6,1
North West	121,4	120,5	114,1	+0,7	+6,4
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	121,0	120,6	114,9	+0,3	+5,3
Other urban areas	121,3	120,4	113,9	+0,7	+6,5
Gauteng	124,6	123,8	116,8	+0,6	+6,7
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	124,2	123,7	117,1	+0,4	+6,1
Witwatersrand	123,9	123,2	116,0	+0,6	+6,8
Other urban areas	124,0	122,9	116,3	+0,9	+6,6
Mpumalanga	124,5	123,9	115,4	+0,5	+7,9
Nelspruit/Witbank	124,4	124,0	115,9	+0,3	+7,3
Other urban areas	124,2	123,6	115,1	+0,5	+7,9
Northern Province	122,3	121,6	114,9	+0,6	+6,4
Pietersburg	124,1	123,2	116,6	+0,7	+6,4
Other urban areas	122,1	121,5	114,8	+0,5	+6,4
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	124,0	123,2	116,2	+0,6	+6,7
Weighted average - Metropolitan	124,0	123,4	116,4	+0,5	+6,5

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	
	Jul. 1998	Jun. 1998	Jul. 1997	Jun. 1998	Jul. 1997
Western Cape	124,4	120,9	117,6	+2,9	+5,8
Cape Peninsula	125,6	121,6	118,2	+3,3	+6,3
Other urban areas	123,7	120,6	117,4	+2,6	+5,4
Eastern Cape	125,9	123,1	118,5	+2,3	+6,2
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	124,8	120,6	117,3	+3,6	+6,5
East London	127,3	123,6	118,3	+3,1	+7,7
Other urban areas	125,5	123,2	118,3	+1,9	+6,1
Northern Cape	123,8	121,4	116,8	+2,0	+6,0
Kimberley	129,1	124,0	119,6	+4,1	+7,9
Other urban areas	123,0	120,9	116,3	+1,7	+5,8
Free State	122,3	120,0	114,9	+1,9	+6,4
Bloemfontein	126,4	122,2	118,3	+3,4	+6,9
Free State Goldfields	121,4	119,8	114,4	+1,3	+6,1
Other urban areas	121,7	119,6	114,4	+1,8	+6,4
KwaZulu-Natal	124,4	121,6	116,8	+2,3	+6,5
Durban/Pinetown	125,9	122,9	117,3	+2,4	+7,3
Pietermaritzburg	124,1	121,8	117,3	+1,9	+5,8
Other urban areas	123,3	120,6	116,3	+2,2	+6,0
North West	124,2	120,7	115,3	+2,9	+7,7
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	122,2	119,3	115,7	+2,5	+5,7
Other urban areas	124,3	120,7	115,1	+3,0	+8,0
Gauteng	126,8	123,1	118,5	+3,0	+7,0
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	125,0	122,1	117,7	+2,4	+6,2
Witwatersrand	125,8	122,1	117,5	+3,1	+7,1
Other urban areas	126,7	122,6	118,1	+3,3	+7,3
Mpumalanga	126,0	122,2	116,3	+3,1	+8,3
Nelspruit/Witbank	126,0	122,6	116,4	+2,8	+8,3
Other urban areas	125,4	121,6	115,7	+3,1	+8,4
Northern Province	122,9	120,5	115,1	+2,0	+6,8
Pietersburg	123,4	119,3	116,3	+3,5	+6,2
Other urban areas	122,9	120,9	115,1	+1,7	+6,8
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	125,0	122,0	117,5	+2,5	+6,4
Weighted average - Metropolitan	125,6	122,1	117,6	+2,9	+6,8

TABLE 5 SEASONALLY ADJUSTED INDICES

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	BASE : 1995 = 100				Weights
	Jul. 1998	Jun. 1998	May 1998	Apr. 1998	
All items	125,1	122,4	121,8	121,1	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	125,2	122,1	121,5	121,0	81,98
Commodities	122,2	121,5	120,9	120,0	55,00
Food	124,5	124,5	123,2	121,5	18,02
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	124,9	124,8	123,5	121,8	18,84
Alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	154,9	153,3	152,1	150,1	2,13
Clothing and footwear	107,5	107,4	107,3	107,1	4,72
Furniture and equipment	112,7	112,4	113,0	112,6	3,85
Vehicles	113,5	113,7	113,4	113,1	5,25
Other transport commodities	123,3	123,6	120,3	120,5	4,63
Other commodities	125,9	123,3	123,9	123,1	15,58
Services	128,8	123,7	123,2	122,8	45,00
Housing and domestic workers	131,0	122,3	122,0	121,9	25,99
Transport	110,6	110,9	110,6	110,3	4,86
Other services	131,9	130,1	129,3	128,5	14,15
All items (VAT excluded)	125,0	122,2	121,7	121,0	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	
	Jul. 1998	Jun. 1998	Jul. 1997	Jun. 1998	Jul. 1997
	Western Cape	123,7	121,9	117,2	+1,5
Cape Peninsula	126,3	124,1	119,2	+1,8	+6,0
Other urban areas	123,1	121,4	116,8	+1,4	+5,4
Eastern Cape	127,9	126,0	118,7	+1,5	+7,8
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	125,0	122,2	117,5	+2,3	+6,4
East London	128,5	126,1	119,5	+1,9	+7,5
Other urban areas	128,0	126,4	118,6	+1,3	+7,9
Northern Cape	125,2	124,2	118,1	+0,8	+6,0
Kimberley	130,9	127,2	120,7	+2,9	+8,5
Other urban areas	124,4	123,8	117,8	+0,5	+5,6
Free State	121,4	120,4	114,0	+0,8	+6,5
Bloemfontein	125,0	122,1	117,5	+2,4	+6,4
Free State Goldfields	120,6	119,1	113,3	+1,3	+6,4
Other urban areas	121,2	120,3	113,7	+0,7	+6,6
KwaZulu-Natal	123,7	122,3	116,7	+1,1	+6,0
Durban/Pinetown	125,8	124,1	118,1	+1,4	+6,5
Pietermaritzburg	123,1	121,7	116,3	+1,2	+5,8
Other urban areas	122,7	121,5	116,0	+1,0	+5,8
North West	123,7	121,4	115,6	+1,9	+7,0
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	124,4	122,8	117,0	+1,3	+6,3
Other urban areas	123,3	120,9	115,2	+2,0	+7,0
Gauteng	126,1	123,9	118,0	+1,8	+6,9
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	124,4	122,8	117,7	+1,3	+5,7
Witwatersrand	126,9	124,7	118,2	+1,8	+7,4
Other urban areas	124,7	122,2	117,1	+2,0	+6,5
Mpumalanga	128,8	126,3	117,6	+2,0	+9,5
Nelspruit/Witbank	127,9	126,0	118,3	+1,5	+8,1
Other urban areas	128,9	126,3	117,5	+2,1	+9,7
Northern Province	124,8	123,1	116,5	+1,4	+7,1
Pietersburg	127,6	126,3	118,1	+1,0	+8,0
Other urban areas	124,6	123,0	116,5	+1,3	+7,0
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	125,0	123,1	117,3	+1,5	+6,6
Weighted average - Metropolitan	126,3	124,2	118,3	+1,7	+6,8