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22 JULY 1987

STATISTICAL NEWS RELEASE

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: JUNE 1987

SUMMARY

South Africa's inflation rate for June 1987, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, is 17,2%; which is slightly lower than the 17,3% for May 1987. The monthly rate of increase (June 1987 compared with May 1987) is 0,7% which is the lowest increase since May 1986 when the increase was 0,2%. The monthly increase in the seasonally adjusted index of all income groups is also 0,7%, which, expressed at an annual rate, represents an inflation rate of only 8,7%.

The inflation rate of the lower income group increased from 18,7% in May to 19,2% in June, that of the middle income group remained the same, namely 17,9%, while that of the higher income group decreased from 16,6% to 16,3% for May and June.

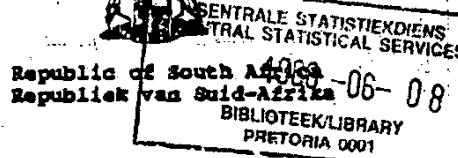
Although the annual increase in the price of food is still relatively high, namely 25,7%, it is gratifying to note that the monthly increase for June 1987 is only 0,2%. The latter increase is then also the lowest since May 1986 when there was no increase. With regard to food, relatively large monthly price increases occurred only at fish (4,8%) and fats and oils (1,6%). A considerable number of monthly price increases lower than one per cent occurred, for instance at grain products (0,2%), fruit (0,1%), vegetables (0,7%), sugar (0,2%) and "other" food stuffs (0,1%). Decreases occurred at coffee and tea (2,3%) as well as milk, milk products and eggs (0,1%), whereas meat prices virtually remained constant.

Relatively large monthly price increases also occurred at clothing and footwear (3,8%), furniture and equipment (3,5%) and personal care (1,1%).

Of the various urban areas, the largest monthly price increase occurred in the Vaal Triangle, namely 1,3% while prices in East London increased the least, namely 0,2%.

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STATISTIESE NUUSBERIG

VERBRUIKERSPRYSINDEX: JUNIE 1987

OPSUMMING

Suid-Afrika se inflasiekoers, soos gesê aan die Verbruikersprysindeks vir Junie 1987, is 17,2% wat effens laer as die 17,3% vir Mei 1987 is. Die maandelikse koers van toename (Junie 1987 vergeleke met Mei 1987) is 0,7% wat die laagste maandelikse koers sedert Mei 1986 is, toe dié koers 0,2% was. Die maandelikse toename in die seisoensaangepaste indeks van alle inkomstegroepe is ook 0,7%, wat teen 'n jaarkoers uitgedruk, 'n inflasiekoers van slegs 8,7% verteenwoordig.

Die inflasiekoers van die laerinkomstegroep het toegenem vanaf 18,7% in Mei tot 19,2% in Junie, dié van die middelinkomstegroep het dieselfde gebly, naamlik 17,9%, terwyl dié van die hoëinkomstegroep afgeneem het vanaf 16,6% tot 16,3% van Mei na Junie.

Alhoewel die jaarlikse stygging in die prys van voedsel steeds relatief hoog is, naamlik 25,7%, is dit verblydend dat die maandelikse stygging vir Junie 1987 slegs 0,2% beloop het. Laasgenoemde toename is dan ook die laagste sedert Mei 1986 toe daar geen toename was nie. Wat voedsel betref het relatief groot maandelikse prysstygings slegs voorgekom by vis (4,8%) en vette en olies (1,6%). Heelwat maandelikse prysstygings laer as een persent het voorgekom, soos by graanprodukte (0,2%), vrugte (0,1%), groente (0,7%), suiker (0,2%) en "ander" voedselsoorte (0,1%). Dalings het voorgekom by koffie en tee (2,3%) sowel as by melk, melkprodukte en eiers (0,1%), terwyl vleispryse feitlik konstant gebly het.

Relatief groot maandelikse prysstygings het verder voorgekom by klerasie en skoeisel (3,8%), meublement en toerusting (3,5%) en persoonlike versorging (1,1%).

Van die verskillende stedelike gebiede het die grootste maandelikse prysstygging voorgekom in die Vaalrivierhoek, naalklik 1,3% terwyl prysse in Oos-Londen die minste toegeneem het, naamlik 0,2%.

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## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### 1. GENERAL

- 1.1 Price information refers to the first seven days of the relevant month.
- 1.2 The Consumer Price Indices relating to different urban areas (Table 4) do not permit inter-urban comparisons of price levels or living costs. They do not indicate whether it is more expensive to live in one city than in another. They indicate for each urban area, independently of any of the other urban areas, the price-changes which have taken place from time to time.

### 2. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED INDICES

- 2.1 The purpose of seasonal adjustment
- 2.1.1 The Consumer Price Index (and its components) is a time series which measures changes in consumer prices over time. A time series (especially an economic time series), normally reflects the combined effects of the underlying seasonal, trend, cyclical and irregular factors which may influence it. These factors which form the values of a time series are usually referred to as the components of the time series.
- 2.1.2 Seasonal fluctuations in a time series are those fluctuations which usually tend to occur at about the same time and with about the same magnitude each year. It may be the result of climatic influences or other social and commercial habits (e.g. the price of bread which is revised in October each year).
- 2.1.3 Businessmen, economists and researchers are often interested to determine whether the values of the latest (say) month or the latest few months of a time series, possibly indicate a change in the trend or if perhaps a "turningpoint" in the business cycle has been reached. A short term change in the course of an index may merely be the result of seasonal influences, while some might want to attribute this to other factors. It may thus happen that, differences between successive (say) monthly values of a time series could merely be attributed to seasonal influences, some may want to attach another meaning to it. The primary objective of a seasonal adjustment is to eliminate the influence of a seasonal component which recurs at the same time(s) each year so that the underlying tendency (that is the trend and cyclical movement) can be observed more clearly. A seasonally adjusted time series will thus show relatively fewer fluctuations or variations.
- 2.1.4 In the analysis of a time series (this is a process whereby it is endeavoured to isolate the components of a time series separately) the Central Statistical Service makes use of the X-11 technique which was developed by the American Bureau of Census of the United States of America. Sales tax has, for the purpose of calculation of the seasonal factors, not been taken into account as a change in the rate of sales tax can be regarded as an irregularity of which the influence on an applicable time series is known; in other words the seasonal factors are based on indices which are compiled from prices before sales tax has been added. The seasonal factors are applied, or the seasonal adjustments

## VERDUIDELIKENDE OPMERKINGS

### 1. ALGEMEEN

- 1.1 Alle prysinligting het betrekking op die eerste sewe dae van die betrokke maand.
- 1.2 Die Verbruikersprysindeks ten opsigte van verskillende stedelike gebiede soos weergegee in Tabel 4 laat nie tussenstedelike vergelyking van pryspeile of lewenskoste toe nie. Die indekse toon nie of dit duurder is om in een stad as in 'n ander te woon nie. Die indekse toon vir elke stedelike gebied onafhanklik van die ander stedelike gebiede die prysveranderings wat van tyd tot tyd plaasgevind het.

### 2. SEISOENSAANGEPASTE INDUKESE

#### 2.1 Doel van seisoenaanpassing

- 2.1.1 Die Verbruikersprysindeks (en sy komponente) is 'n tydreeks wat veranderings in verbruikersprys oor tyd meet. 'n Tydreeks (veral 'n ekonomiese tydreeks) weerspieël gewoonlik die saamgestelde uitwerking van die onderliggende seisoenale, langtermyn-, konjunktuur-en toevallike faktore wat dit kan beïnvloed. Hierdie faktore word gewoonlik die tydreekskomponente, wat die waardes van 'n tydreeks uitmaak, genoem.
- 2.1.2 Die seisoenskommelinge in 'n tydreeks is daar die skommelinge wat gewoonlik neig om elke jaar omtrent dieselfde tyd en met dieselfde omvang voor te kom. Dit kan die resultaat wees van invloede van die klimaat of ander sosiale en kommersiële gebruiks (byvoorbeeld die broodprys wat elke jaar in Oktober hersien word).
- 2.1.3 Sakelei, ekonome en navorsers stel dikwels daarin belang om te bepaal of die waardes vir die jongste (sé) maand of jongste paar maande van tydreeks moontlik dui op 'n verandering in die langtermynbeweging en of 'n "draaipunt" in die konjunktuurgolf straks bereik is. 'n Kort termyn verandering in die verloop van 'n indeks kan moontlik bloot die resultaat van seisoensinvloede wees, terwyl sommige dit aan van die ander faktore sal wil toeskryf. Dit kan dus gebeur dat verskille tussen opeenvolgende (sé) maandaardes van 'n tydreeks bloot aan seisoensinvloede toegeskryf sou kon word, waar sommige dit andersins straks 'n ander betekenis sou wou toeken. Die primêre doelwit met seisoenaanpassing is om die invloed van 'n seisoenskomponent, wat jaarliks op 'n sekere tydstip(pe) herhaal word, uit te skakel sodat die onderliggende neiging (dit is die langertermynbeweging en konjunktuurgolwe) duideliker waargeneem kan word. 'n Seisoensaangepaste tydreeks sal dus relatief minder fluktuaties of skommelings openbaar.

- 2.1.4 Die Sentrale Statistiekdiens maak met die ontleding van tydreekse (dit is die proses waar mee gepoog word om die bogenoemde moontlike komponente van 'n tydreeks afsonderlik te isoler) gebruik van die X-11-tegniek wat deur die Amerikaanse "Bureau of the Census" ontwikkel is. Omdat 'n verandering in die koers van verkoopbelasting beskou kan word as 'n toevallikeheid waarvan die invloed op 'n toepaslike tydreeks bekend is, is verkoopbelasting vir die doelindes van die berekening van die seisoensfaktore, nie in eg geneem nie; met ander woorde, die seisoensfaktore is bereken op grond van indekse wat saamgestel is uit pryses waarby verkoopbelasting nie bygetel is nie. Die seisoensfaktore is egter toegepas of die seisoenaanpassing is gedoen op die indekse