

P0141.1
Prices : Consumer Price Index
March 1997

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INFLATION RATE DECREASES FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ELEVEN MONTHS

The official inflation rate, i.e. the annual rate of change in the Consumer Price Index, is 9,6% for March 1997. This rate is 0,2 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding rate of 9,8% for February 1997. The monthly increase (i.e. February 1997 to March 1997) in the Consumer Price Index is 0,6%, while the seasonally adjusted index shows an increase of 0,7% for the same period.

An alternative expression of the change in the CPI is to annualise the percentage change between the average index of the three months up to March 1997 and the average of the previous three months. This approach, when using seasonally adjusted data, shows an increase of 9,5%, while unadjusted data shows a 10,9% increase.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MONTHLY INCREASE OF 0,6%

The monthly increase of 0,6% can be attributed to increases in the price indices for food (contributing +0,1 of a percentage point), housing (contributing +0,1 of a percentage point), education (contributing +0,2 of a percentage point, due to the annual price surveys for university and school fees), and "other" items (contributing +0,2 of a percentage point).

FOOD PRICES

The price index for food shows an annual rate of increase of 9,8% at March 1997. This rate is 0,2 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding rate of 10,0% at February 1997.

From February 1997 to March 1997 food prices increased by 0,6%. This increase was caused by monthly increases in the price indices for grain products (+0,7%), fish and other seafood (+0,4%), milk, cheese and eggs (+1,0%), fats and oils (+1,2%), fruit and nuts (+1,6%), vegetables (+1,8%), sugar (+0,2%), coffee, tea and cocoa (+0,6%) and "other" food items (+0,4%). These increases were slightly counteracted by a decrease in the price index for meat (-0,4%).

PRICE INDEX FOR NON-FOOD ITEMS SHOWS A MONTHLY INCREASE OF 0,6%

The monthly increase of 0,6% in the price index for all items excluding food resulted from monthly increases in the price indices for non-alcoholic beverages (+1,4%), alcoholic beverages (+2,3%), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+3,4%), clothing and footwear (+0,3%), housing (+0,3%), fuel and power (+0,1%), furniture and equipment (+0,6%), household operation (+1,0%), medical care and health expenses (+0,5%), transport (+0,1%, due to an increase of 1,6% in the index for vehicles, which was counteracted by a decrease of 1,1% in the index for running cost, mainly due to decreases in the prices of petrol and diesel), recreation and entertainment (+0,6%), education (+9,6%), personal care (+0,4%) and "other" items (+0,3%).

METROPOLITAN AND OTHER URBAN AREA INDICES

The inflation rate for "metropolitan and other urban areas" will not yet be computable before January 1998, when the data for the previous twelve months will be available for comparison.

METROPOLITAN AREA INDICES

The highest inflation rate of 10,7% was recorded for Bloemfontein, while the lowest inflation rate of 7,6% was recorded for the Free State Goldfields.

Regarding food, the highest annual increase of 13,3% was recorded for Durban/Pinetown, while the lowest annual rate of 5,9% was recorded for the Free State Goldfields.

INFLATION RATE FOR PENSIONERS

The inflation rate for pensioners is 9,6% at March 1997. The highest rate of increase of 10,4% was recorded for the Cape Peninsula and Bloemfontein, while the lowest rate of increase of 6,9% was recorded for the Free State Goldfields.

FOOD INFLATION AS MEASURED AT CHAIN-STORES AND OTHER RETAILERS

Food prices at chain-stores show an annual rate of increase of 8,8% at March 1997, while food prices at other retailers show an annual rate of increase of 8,1%. From February 1997 to March 1997, food prices at chain-stores decreased by 0,4%, while food prices at other retailers increased by 0,7%.

CPI FOR APRIL 1997

In addition to the normal price surveys for April 1997, it has come to the attention of the CSS that changed prices apply with effect from the first week of April 1997 with regard to certain urban areas' water tariffs, toll fees, medicines, newspapers and magazines and home owner's insurance.

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 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.

TABLE 1 INCOME GROUP INDICES AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Mar. 1997	Feb. 1997	Mar. 1996	Percentage change compared with		
				Feb. 1997		Mar. 1996
				Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual
Expenditure groups						
Very Low	114,9	114,0	..	+0,8	..	..
Low	114,6	113,8	..	+0,7	..	..
Middle	114,7	113,9	..	+0,7	..	..
High	114,6	113,9	..	+0,6	..	..
Very High	114,5	113,8 *	..	+0,6	..	..
All expenditure groups - Metropolitan	114,6	113,9	104,6	+0,6 ¹⁾	+0,7 ¹⁾	+9,6 ¹⁾
All expenditure groups - Metro and other urban areas	114,7	114,0	..	+0,6	..	..
Food only - Metropolitan	114,2	113,5	104,0	+0,6	+1,1	+9,8
Food only - Metro and other urban areas	114,3	113,6	..	+0,6	..	..
All items excluding food - Metropolitan	114,7	114,0	104,8	+0,6	+0,6	+9,4
All items excluding food - Metro and other urban areas	114,8	114,1	..	+0,6	..	..
All expenditure groups - (VAT EXCLUDED) - Metropolitan	114,6	113,9	104,6	+0,6 ¹⁾	+0,7 ¹⁾	+9,6 ¹⁾
All expenditure groups - (VAT EXCLUDED) - Metro and other urban areas	114,7	114,0	..	+0,6	..	..
Core inflation - Metropolitan	114,2	113,3	104,4	+0,8	-	+9,4
Core inflation - Metro and other urban areas	114,7	114,0	..	+0,6	-	..

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

* Revised

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

Group	Contribution
Food	+0,1
Housing	+0,1
Education	+0,2
All other items	+0,2
All items	+0,6

TABLE 3 GROUP INDICES - WEIGHTED AVERAGE
3.1 METROPOLITAN AREAS

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Mar. 1997	Feb. 1997	Mar. 1996	Percentage change compared with		Weights
				Feb. 1997	Mar. 1996	
All items	114,6	113,9	104,6	+0,6	+9,6	100,00
Expenditure groups - Very low	114,9	114,0	..	+0,8	..	0,51
Low	114,6	113,8	..	+0,7	..	1,78
Middle	114,7	113,9	..	+0,7	..	5,24
High	114,6	113,9	..	+0,6	..	17,70
Very high	114,5	113,8	..	+0,6	..	74,77
Commodities	112,8	112,1	103,4	+0,6	+9,1	55,00
Services	117,5	116,7	106,5	+0,7	+10,3	45,00
All items, excluding housing	113,9	113,0	104,2	+0,8	+9,3	75,93
All items, excluding food	114,7	114,0	104,8	+0,6	+9,4	81,98
Food	114,2	113,5	104,0	+0,6	+9,8	18,02
Expenditure groups - Very low	114,8	113,9	..	+0,8	..	40,73
Low	115,0	114,3	..	+0,6	..	34,39
Middle	114,9	114,1	..	+0,7	..	31,12
High	114,5	113,8	..	+0,6	..	25,42
Very high	113,8	113,1	..	+0,6	..	14,84
Processed	113,4	112,7	104,0	+0,6	+9,0	9,12
Unprocessed	114,9	114,3	103,4	+0,5	+11,1	8,90
Grain products	119,5	118,7	108,2	+0,7	+10,4	3,31
Meat	112,5	112,9	99,6	-0,4	+13,0	5,33
Fish and other seafood	113,8	113,3	105,9	+0,4	+7,5	0,80
Milk, cheese and eggs	117,8	116,6	103,5	+1,0	+13,8	1,90
Fats and oils	115,0	113,6	104,7	+1,2	+9,8	0,85
Fruit and nuts	108,8	107,1	111,9	+1,6	-2,8	1,08
Vegetables	117,2	115,1	106,9	+1,8	+9,6	1,80
Sugar	109,6	109,4	104,5	+0,2	+4,9	0,59
Coffee, tea and cocoa	104,8	104,2	101,2	+0,6	+3,6	0,72
Other	113,6	113,1	104,9	+0,4	+8,3	1,64
Non-alcoholic beverages	119,0	117,3	107,3	+1,4	+10,9	0,82
Alcoholic beverages	115,8	113,2	104,1	+2,3	+11,2	1,18
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	132,8	128,4	106,2	+3,4	+25,0	0,95
Clothing and footwear	106,4	106,1	102,2	+0,3	+4,1	4,76
Clothing	105,8	105,5	102,0	+0,3	+3,7	3,55
Footwear	109,2	109,0	102,7	+0,2	+6,3	1,21
Housing	119,2	118,8	106,6	+0,3	+11,8	24,07
Fuel and power	112,1	112,0	104,6	+0,1	+7,2	3,11
Furniture and equipment	107,4	106,8	102,1	+0,6	+5,2	3,94
Furniture	108,8	107,4	102,6	+1,3	+6,0	1,62
Appliances	105,7	105,7	101,0	0,0	+4,7	1,08
Other household equipment and textiles	107,0	106,7	102,7	+0,3	+4,2	1,24
Household operation	121,0	119,8	107,6	+1,0	+12,5	4,69
Household consumables	117,0	116,0	105,9	+0,9	+10,5	1,14
Domestic workers	128,2	126,8	111,0	+1,1	+15,5	3,19
Other household services	112,5	112,5	103,9	0,0	+8,3	0,36
Medical care and health expenses	123,1	122,5	105,9	+0,5	+16,2	5,95
Transport	111,6	111,5	102,7	+0,1	+8,7	14,74
Vehicles	108,6	106,9	101,4	+1,6	+7,1	5,25
Running cost	117,1	118,4	102,2	-1,1	+14,6	5,75
Public and hired transport	110,0	110,0	106,4	0,0	+3,4	3,74
Communication	108,1	108,1	107,2	0,0	+0,8	3,06
Recreation and entertainment	108,6	108,0	104,0	+0,6	+4,4	2,38
Reading matter	116,6	116,6	106,3	0,0	+9,7	0,74
Education	121,4	110,8	110,8	+9,6	+9,6	2,04
Personal care	113,3	112,8	105,7	+0,4	+7,2	3,06
Other	112,9	112,6	103,6	+0,3	+9,0	6,49

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

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Mar. 1997	Feb. 1997	Mar. 1996	Percentage change compared with		Weights
				Feb. 1997	Mar. 1996	
All items	114,7	114,0	..	+0,6	..	100,00
Expenditure groups - Very low	114,8	113,9	..	+0,8	..	0,93
Low	114,5	113,7	..	+0,7	..	2,99
Middle	114,3	113,6	..	+0,6	..	7,58
High	114,6	114,0	..	+0,5	..	20,09
Very high	114,7	114,0	..	+0,6	..	68,41
Commodities	112,7	112,1	..	+0,5	..	57,34
Services	117,3	116,5	..	+0,7	..	42,66
All items, excluding housing	113,8	113,1	..	+0,6	..	77,55
All items, excluding food	114,8	114,1	..	+0,6	..	80,52
Food	114,3	113,6	..	+0,6	..	19,48
Expenditure groups - Very low	114,6	113,6	..	+0,9	..	44,17
Low	115,0	114,1	..	+0,8	..	38,83
Middle	114,9	114,2	..	+0,6	..	32,67
High	114,6	113,9	..	+0,6	..	25,61
Very high	114,0	113,3	..	+0,6	..	15,02
Processed	113,4	112,8	..	+0,5	..	10,52
Unprocessed	115,2	114,4	..	+0,7	..	8,96
Grain products	120,5	120,1	..	+0,3	..	3,73
Meat	111,0	110,9	..	+0,1	..	5,84
Fish and other seafood	113,6	113,3	..	+0,3	..	0,77
Milk, cheese and eggs	117,8	116,6	..	+1,0	..	2,02
Fats and oils	113,1	112,2	..	+0,8	..	0,94
Fruit and nuts	106,0	104,6	..	+1,3	..	1,07
Vegetables	121,1	118,5	..	+2,2	..	1,94
Sugar	109,5	109,7	..	-0,2	..	0,73
Coffee, tea and cocoa	104,5	103,8	..	+0,7	..	0,79
Other	112,7	112,2	..	+0,4	..	1,65
Non-alcoholic beverages	119,8	118,1	..	+1,4	..	0,82
Alcoholic beverages	117,2	114,5	..	+2,4	..	1,17
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	131,0	126,9	..	+3,2	..	1,04
Clothing and footwear	106,0	105,8	..	+0,2	..	5,07
Clothing	105,5	105,3	..	+0,2	..	3,80
Footwear	107,6	107,4	..	+0,2	..	1,27
Housing	117,7	117,3	..	+0,3	..	22,45
Fuel and power	111,3	111,2	..	+0,1	..	3,54
Furniture and equipment	107,7	107,3	..	+0,4	..	4,34
Furniture	109,2	108,6	..	+0,6	..	1,77
Appliances	105,9	105,6	..	+0,3	..	1,19
Other household equipment and textiles	107,4	107,1	..	+0,3	..	1,38
Household operation	124,0	122,7	..	+1,1	..	4,87
Household consumables	116,1	115,1	..	+0,9	..	1,27
Domestic workers	128,5	126,9	..	+1,3	..	3,25
Other household services	111,3	111,3	..	0,0	..	0,35
Medical care and health expenses	120,3	119,9	..	+0,3	..	5,81
Transport	110,9	110,8	..	+0,1	..	13,65
Vehicles	106,6	105,5	..	+1,0	..	5,31
Running cost	117,1	118,1	..	-0,8	..	5,16
Public and hired transport	108,0	107,9	..	+0,1	..	3,18
Communication	111,4	111,4	..	0,0	..	3,21
Recreation and entertainment	105,0	104,5	..	+0,5	..	2,18
Reading matter	115,4	115,4	..	0,0	..	0,69
Education	120,2	110,7	..	+8,6	..	1,82
Personal care	113,7	113,2	..	+0,4	..	3,08
Other	114,5	114,2	..	+0,3	..	6,78

TABLE 4 AREAS INDICES

TABLE 4.1 Index for all items
Each area compared with itself

BASE : 1995 = 100

Urban area	All items			Percentage change compared with	
	Mar. 1997	Feb. 1997	Mar. 1996	Feb. 1997	Mar. 1996
Western Cape	114,7	114,3	..	+0,3	..
Cape Peninsula	115,1	114,5	104,7	+0,5	+9,9
Other urban areas	114,4	114,0	..	+0,4	..
Eastern Cape	115,6	115,1	..	+0,4	..
Port Elizabeth	114,4	114,0	104,3	+0,4	+9,7
East London	115,5	114,3	105,1	+1,0	+9,9
Other urban areas	115,5	115,0	..	+0,4	..
Northern Cape	113,8	112,9	..	+0,8	..
Kimberley	112,7	112,7	104,1	0,0	+8,3
Other urban areas	113,8	112,8	..	+0,9	..
Free State	112,2	111,4	..	+0,7	..
Bloemfontein	115,0	114,2	103,9	+0,7	+10,7
Free State Goldfields	111,7	111,2	103,8	+0,4	+7,6
Other urban areas	111,8	111,0	..	+0,7	..
Kwazulu/Natal	114,9	114,3	..	+0,5	..
Durban/Pinetown	115,8	114,9	104,7	+0,8	+10,6
Pietermaritzburg	115,1	114,6	105,6	+0,4	+9,0
Other urban areas	114,4	113,9	..	+0,4	..
North West	112,7	112,0	..	+0,6	..
Klerksdorp	113,1	112,3	104,6	+0,7	+8,1
Other urban areas	112,5	111,8	..	+0,6	..
Gauteng	115,0	114,2	..	+0,7	..
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	115,2	114,5	104,8	+0,6	+9,9
Witwatersrand	113,9	113,1	104,5	+0,7	+9,0
Other urban areas	114,7	113,9	..	+0,7	..
Mpumalanga	114,2	113,5	..	+0,6	..
Nelspruit/Witbank	114,5	113,4	104,5	+1,0	+9,6
Other urban areas	113,7	113,2	..	+0,4	..
Northern Province	113,9	113,4	..	+0,4	..
Pietersburg	115,1	114,6	105,1	+0,4	+9,5
Other urban areas	113,9	113,5	..	+0,4	..
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	114,7	114,0	..	+0,6	..
Weighted average - Metropolitan	114,6	113,9	104,6	+0,6	+9,6

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	
	Mar. 1997	Feb. 1997	Mar. 1996	Feb. 1997	Mar. 1996
Western Cape	114,0	113,8	..	+0,2	..
Cape Peninsula	113,4	112,5	103,6	+0,8	+9,5
Other urban areas	113,6	113,8	..	-0,2	..
Eastern Cape	115,4	114,5	..	+0,8	..
Port Elizabeth	114,5	114,0	102,5	+0,4	+11,7
East London	117,1	115,4	105,0	+1,4	+11,5
Other urban areas	115,3	114,3	..	+0,9	..
Northern Cape	112,9	111,9	..	+0,9	..
Kimberley	110,9	112,0	102,3	-1,0	+8,4
Other urban areas	113,1	111,8	..	+1,2	..
Free State	109,6	108,6	..	+0,9	..
Bloemfontein	112,6	111,1	101,3	+1,4	+11,2
Free State Goldfields	108,9	108,9	102,8	0,0	+5,9
Other urban areas	109,4	108,3	..	+1,0	..
Kwazulu/Natal	116,4	116,2	..	+0,2	..
Durban/Pinetown	118,2	117,7	104,3	+0,4	+13,3
Pietermaritzburg	115,1	115,2	106,3	-0,1	+8,3
Other urban areas	116,1	116,1	..	0,0	..
North West	113,3	111,6	..	+1,5	..
Klerksdorp	112,9	111,8	104,5	+1,0	+8,0
Other urban areas	113,2	111,4	..	+1,6	..
Gauteng	114,0	113,1	..	+0,8	..
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	114,7	114,0	104,4	+0,6	+9,9
Witwatersrand	113,4	112,7	104,3	+0,6	+8,7
Other urban areas	113,5	112,1	..	+1,2	..
Mpumalanga	114,5	113,6	..	+0,8	..
Nelspruit/Witbank	115,8	114,7	104,7	+1,0	+10,6
Other urban areas	114,4	113,5	..	+0,8	..
Notern Province	118,0	117,7	..	+0,3	..
Pietersburg	116,8	116,5	105,0	+0,3	+11,2
Other urban areas	118,2	117,9	..	+0,3	..
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	114,3	113,6	..	+0,6	..
Weighted average - Metropolitan	114,2	113,5	104,0	+0,6	+9,8

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	
	Mar. 1997	Feb. 1997	Mar. 1996	Feb. 1997	Mar. 1996
Western Cape	113,8	113,4	..	+0,4	..
Cape Peninsula	114,3	113,6	104,1	+0,6	+9,8
Other urban areas	113,5	113,1	..	+0,4	..
Eastern Cape	114,7	114,1	..	+0,5	..
Port Elizabeth	113,6	113,2	103,7	+0,4	+9,5
East London	115,5	114,0	104,9	+1,3	+10,1
Other urban areas	114,5	113,9	..	+0,5	..
Northern Cape	112,7	111,6	..	+1,0	..
Kimberley	111,4	111,5	103,3	-0,1	+7,8
Other urban areas	112,8	111,5	..	+1,2	..
Free State	112,5	111,6	..	+0,8	..
Bloemfontein	114,8	113,9	103,4	+0,8	+11,0
Free State Goldfields	111,8	111,3	103,8	+0,4	+7,7
Other urban areas	112,2	111,3	..	+0,8	..
Kwazulu/Natal	113,8	113,1	..	+0,6	..
Durban/Pinetown	115,0	114,2	104,2	+0,7	+10,4
Pietermaritzburg	113,7	113,3	105,1	+0,4	+8,2
Other urban areas	113,2	112,7	..	+0,4	..
North West	112,3	111,6	..	+0,6	..
Klerksdorp	113,2	112,2	104,6	+0,9	+8,2
Other urban areas	112,1	111,4	..	+0,6	..
Gauteng	114,2	113,2	..	+0,9	..
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	114,4	113,6	104,4	+0,7	+9,6
Witwatersrand	113,4	112,4	104,4	+0,9	+8,6
Other urban areas	113,9	113,0	..	+0,8	..
Mpumalanga	112,6	111,9	..	+0,6	..
Nelspruit/Witbank	113,8	112,5	104,2	+1,2	+9,2
Other urban areas	112,1	111,6	..	+0,4	..
Nothern Province	113,2	112,8	..	+0,4	..
Pietersburg	114,3	113,7	104,6	+0,5	+9,3
Other urban areas	113,1	112,7	..	+0,4	..
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	113,8	113,1	..	+0,6	..
Weighted average - Metropolitan	113,9	113,0	104,2	+0,8	+9,3

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	
	Mar. 1997	Feb. 1997	Mar. 1996	Feb. 1997	Mar. 1996
Western Cape	114,9	114,4	..	+0,4	..
Cape Peninsula	115,7	115,2	105,0	+0,4	+10,2
Other urban areas	114,6	114,1	..	+0,4	..
Eastern Cape	115,7	115,3	..	+0,3	..
Port Elizabeth	114,2	113,9	104,8	+0,3	+9,0
East London	115,2	114,1	105,3	+1,0	+9,4
Other urban areas	115,6	115,2	..	+0,3	..
Northern Cape	114,1	113,3	..	+0,7	..
Kimberley	113,3	112,9	104,7	+0,4	+8,2
Other urban areas	114,0	113,1	..	+0,8	..
Free State	112,9	112,2	..	+0,6	..
Bloemfontein	115,7	115,0	104,8	+0,6	+10,4
Free State Goldfields	112,4	111,8	104,1	+0,5	+8,0
Other urban areas	112,5	111,8	..	+0,6	..
Kwazulu/Natal	114,6	113,8	..	+0,7	..
Durban/Pinetown	115,3	114,3	105,0	+0,9	+9,8
Pietermaritzburg	115,0	114,4	105,3	+0,5	+9,2
Other urban areas	113,9	113,3	..	+0,5	..
North West	112,5	112,1	..	+0,4	..
Klerksdorp	113,1	112,3	104,7	+0,7	+8,0
Other urban areas	112,3	111,9	..	+0,4	..
Gauteng	115,3	114,5	..	+0,7	..
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	115,0	114,3	104,8	+0,6	+9,7
Witwatersrand	114,1	113,3	104,7	+0,7	+9,0
Other urban areas	114,9	114,3	..	+0,5	..
Mpumalanga	114,1	113,5	..	+0,5	..
Nelspruit/Witbank	114,0	112,9	104,4	+0,9	+9,2
Other urban areas	113,5	113,1	..	+0,4	..
Northern Province	112,9	112,4	..	+0,4	..
Pietersburg	114,6	114,0	105,1	+0,5	+9,0
Other urban areas	112,8	112,4	..	+0,4	..
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	114,8	114,1	..	+0,6	..
Weighted average - Metropolitan	114,7	114,0	104,8	+0,6	+9,4

TABLE 5 SEASONALLY ADJUSTED INDICES

BASE : 1990 = 100

Group	Mar.	Feb.	Jan.	Dec.	Weights
	1997	1997	1997	1996	
All items	114,6	113,8	113,2	112,4	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	114,8	114,1	113,6	112,6	81,98
Commodities	113,0	112,0	111,5	110,8	55,00
Food	113,7	112,5	111,8	112,0	18,02
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	113,9	112,8	112,0	112,1	18,84
Alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	125,7	122,7	120,3	120,0	2,13
Clothing and footwear	106,5	106,5	106,2	105,8	4,72
Furniture and equipment	107,0	106,8	106,8	106,3	3,85
Vehicles	108,9	107,2	106,7	105,0	5,25
Other transport commodities	120,9	121,6	121,9	119,0	4,63
Other commodities	112,5	110,9	110,4	110,7	15,58
Services	117,0	116,7	116,1	114,9	45,00
Housing and domestic workers	121,6	120,5	120,1	118,4	25,99
Transport	108,7	108,0	108,0	107,8	4,86
Other services	114,6	115,0	114,4	113,6	14,15
All items (VAT excluded)	114,6	113,8	113,2	112,5	100,00

TABLE 6 THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR PENSIONERS - AREA INDICES

Each area compared with itself

BASE : 1990 = 100

Urban area	All items			Percentage change compared with	
	Mar.	Feb.	Mar.	Feb.	Mar.
	1997	1997	1996	1997	1996
Western Cape	114,1	113,8	..	+0,3	..
Cape Peninsula	115,9	115,3	105,0	+0,5	+10,4
Other cities	113,7	113,5	..	+0,2	..
Eastern Cape	115,3	114,7	..	+0,5	..
Port Elizabeth	114,1	113,6	104,1	+0,4	+9,6
East London	115,2	114,1	104,8	+1,0	+9,9
Other cities	115,2	114,6	..	+0,5	..
Northern Cape	114,7	113,7	..	+0,9	..
Kimberley	113,8	113,7	104,7	+0,1	+8,7
Other cities	114,8	113,7	..	+1,0	..
Free State	111,5	110,7	..	+0,7	..
Bloemfontein	114,7	113,8	103,9	+0,8	+10,4
Free State Goldfields	110,8	110,4	103,6	+0,4	+6,9
Other cities	111,2	110,4	..	+0,7	..
Kwazulu/Natal	114,3	113,7	..	+0,5	..
Durban/Pinetown	115,4	114,7	104,8	+0,6	+10,1
Pietermaritzburg	113,7	113,3	105,2	+0,4	+8,1
Other cities	113,7	113,3	..	+0,4	..
North West	113,0	112,2	..	+0,7	..
Klerksdorp	113,6	112,5	104,4	+1,0	+8,8
Other cities	112,7	112,0	..	+0,6	..
Gauteng	114,4	113,7	..	+0,6	..
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	114,3	113,7	104,3	+0,5	+9,6
Witwatersrand	114,4	113,6	104,8	+0,7	+9,2
Other cities	113,9	113,2	..	+0,6	..
Mpumalanga	114,6	114,0	..	+0,5	..
Nelspruit/Witbank	115,5	114,4	104,7	+1,0	+10,3
Other cities	114,4	113,9	..	+0,4	..
Notern Province	114,0	113,5	..	+0,4	..
Pietersburg	115,2	114,9	104,6	+0,3	+10,1
Other cities	114,0	113,5	..	+0,4	..
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	114,1	113,5	..	+0,5	..
Weighted average - Metropolitan	114,8	114,2	104,7	+0,5	+9,6

TABLE 7 PERCENTAGE CHANGE BY TYPE OF STORE

TABLE 7.1 Chain-stores 1/

Group	Percentage change compared with	
	Feb. 1997	Mar. 1996
Food	-0,4	+8,8
Processed	+0,1	+9,3
Unprocessed	-0,9	+9,0
Grain products	-0,5	+8,8
Meat	-1,6	+11,1
Fish and other seafood	+3,1	+9,7
Milk, cheese and eggs	+0,6	+17,1
Fats and oils	+0,7	+7,4
Fruit and nuts	+1,8	-6,6
Vegetables	-0,8	+5,1
Sugar	+0,4	+5,7
Coffee, tea and cocoa	+0,4	+4,2
Other	+0,1	+8,6

1/ With at least 15 branches

TABLE 7.2 Other retailers 2/

Group	Percentage change compared with	
	Feb. 1997	Mar. 1996
Food	+0,7	+8,1
Processed	+0,1	+7,5
Unprocessed	+1,2	+8,8
Grain products	0,0	+10,1
Meat	-0,7	+5,6
Fish and other seafood	+0,9	+9,4
Milk, cheese and eggs	0,0	+10,0
Fats and oils	0,0	+7,3
Fruit and nuts	-5,5	-1,8
Vegetables	+13,0	+19,8
Sugar	0,0	+8,4
Coffee, tea and cocoa	0,0	+3,1
Other	0,0	+7,1

2/ Retailers not considered as chain-stores (see Table 7.1)