

# Statistical Release P0141.1

## Consumer Price Index

**March 1998**

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### INFLATION RATE UNCHANGED AT 5,4% AT MARCH 1998

The official inflation rate, i.e. the annual rate of change in the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas, is 5,4% at March 1998. This rate is the same as the rate for February 1998. From February 1998 to March 1998 the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas increased by 0,7%. The seasonally adjusted index increased by 0,4%.

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 5,3% at March 1998. From February 1998 to March 1998 the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan and other urban areas increased by 0,7%.

### CORE INFLATION RATE

The core inflation rate for metropolitan areas (see note 7 on page 4) is 6,9% at March 1998. This rate is 0,1 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding rate of 7,0% at February 1998.

The core inflation rate for metropolitan and other urban areas is 6,6% at March 1998, which is 0,2 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding rate of 6,4% at February 1998. From February 1998 to March 1998 the core inflation index for metropolitan areas increased by 0,7%, while the index for metropolitan and other urban areas increased by 0,8%.

## METROPOLITAN AREAS

### Contributions to monthly increase in CPI

The monthly increase of 0,7% in the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas is due to increases in the price indices for food (+0,2 of a percentage point), alcoholic beverages (+0,1 of a percentage point), housing (+0,1 of a percentage point), household operation (+0,1 of a percentage point), education (+0,2 of a percentage point) and all other items (+0,1 of a percentage point), which were slightly counteracted by a decrease in the price index for transport (-0,1 of a percentage point).

### Food inflation

The price index for food shows an annual rate of increase of 6,1% at March 1998. This rate is 0,2 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding rate of 5,9% at February 1998. From February 1998 to March 1998 this index increased by 0,8%.

The price index for food shows a monthly increase of 0,8%, which is due to increases in the price indices for grain products (+0,7%), fish and other seafood (+2,1%), milk, cheese and eggs (+1,2%), fats and oils (+2,1%), fruit and nuts (+2,0%), vegetables (+0,2%), sugar (+1,8%), coffee, tea and cocoa (+0,6%) and "other" food items (+2,3%). These increases were slightly counteracted by a decrease in the price index for meat (-0,1%).

### Price index for non-food items

The monthly increase of 0,6% in the price index for "all items, excluding food" is due to monthly increases in the price indices for non-alcoholic beverages (+3,6%), alcoholic beverages (+3,0%), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+1,0%), housing (+0,4%), furniture and equipment (+0,8%), household operation (+1,3%), recreation and entertainment (+0,3%), education (+11,0%, mainly due to the annual increase in school fees), personal care (+1,3%) and "other" items (+0,1%). These increases were slightly counteracted by decreases in the price indices for medical care and health expenses (-0,1%) and transport (-0,5%).

### 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 March 1998 and the average index of the previous three months. This approach, when using seasonally adjusted data, shows an increase of 3,9% (which is 0,7 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding rate of 3,2% for February 1998), while unadjusted data shows an increase of 5,5%.

### Pensioners

The inflation rate for pensioners in the metropolitan areas is 6,5% at March 1998, which is the same as the corresponding rate of 6,5% at February 1998.

## METROPOLITAN AND OTHER URBAN AREAS

### Contributions to monthly increase in CPI

The monthly increase of 0,7% in the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan and other urban areas is also due to increases in the price indices for food (+0,2 of a percentage point), housing (+0,1 of a percentage point), household operation (+0,1 of a percentage point), education (+0,2 of a percentage point) and all other items (+0,2 of a percentage point), which were slightly counteracted by a decrease in the price index for transport (-0,1 of a percentage point).

### Food

The price index for food shows an annual rate of increase of 6,3% at March 1998, which is 0,2 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding rate of 6,1% at February 1998. From February 1998 to March 1998 this index increased by 0,8%.

The price index for food shows a monthly increase of 0,8%, which is due to increases in the price indices for grain products (+1,0%), fish and other seafood (+2,3%), milk, cheese and eggs (+0,9%), fats and oils (+2,1%), fruit and nuts (+1,9%), vegetables (+0,3%), sugar (+1,7%), coffee, tea and cocoa (+0,5%) and "other" food items (+2,1%).

#### Price index for non-food items

The monthly increase of 0,6% in the price index for "all items, excluding food" is due to monthly increases in the price indices for non-alcoholic beverages (+3,1%), alcoholic beverages (+3,1%), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+1,1%), housing (+0,4%), fuel and power (+0,1%), furniture and equipment (+0,4%), household operation (+1,4%), recreation and entertainment (+0,2%), education (+12,5%, mainly due to the annual increase in school fees) and personal care (+1,8%). These increases were slightly counteracted by a decrease in the price index for transport (-0,5%).

#### An alternative expression of the change in the Consumer Price Index

An alternative expression of the change in the Consumer Price Index when using unadjusted data shows an increase of 5,6%. 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 6,3% at March 1998. Kimberley recorded the highest rate of increase, namely 9,7%, while the lowest rate of 4,8% was recorded for other urban areas in Kwazulu-Natal.

#### Areas indices

Kimberley recorded the highest inflation rate of 7,9%, while the lowest rate of 4,1% was recorded for Pietersburg.

Regarding food prices, the highest annual increase of 11,5% was recorded for other urban areas in the Eastern Cape while other urban areas in KwaZulu-Natal reflected the lowest increase of 3,3%.

#### CPI FOR APRIL 1998

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

The 10c/l levy on fuel, as well as the increase in the excise duties on alcoholic beverages and tobacco products announced during the budget speech of the Minister of Finance will come into effect on 1/4/98 and therefore incorporated in the CPI for April 1998. The 1% drop in the interest rate on mortgage bonds after March 1998 will be taken into account in the CPI for April 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 EXPENDITURE GROUP INDICES AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Mar. 1998	Feb. 1998	Mar. 1997	Percentage change compared with		
				Feb. 1998		Mar. 1997
				Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual
Expenditure groups						
Very Low	123,3	122,2	114,9	+0,9	..	+7,3
Low	122,7	121,7	114,6	+0,8	..	+7,1
Middle	122,4	121,4	114,7	+0,8	..	+6,7
High	122,1	121,2	114,6	+0,7	..	+6,5
Very High	120,2	119,6	114,5	+0,5	..	+5,0
All expenditure groups - Metropolitan	120,8	120,0	114,6	+0,7 1)	+0,4 1)	+5,4 1)
All expenditure groups - Metro and other urban areas	120,8	120,0	114,7	+0,7	..	+5,3
Food only - Metropolitan	121,2	120,2	114,2	+0,8	+0,8	+6,1
Food only - Metro and other urban areas	121,5	120,5	114,3	+0,8	..	+6,3
All items excluding food - Metropolitan	120,7	120,0	114,7	+0,6	+0,4	+5,2
All items excluding food - Metro and other urban areas	120,6	119,9	114,8	+0,6	..	+5,1
All expenditure groups (VAT EXCLUDED) - Metropolitan	120,8	120,0	114,6	+0,7 1)	+0,4 1)	+5,4 1)
All expenditure groups (VAT EXCLUDED) - Metro and other urban areas	120,8	120,0	114,7	+0,7	..	+5,3
Core inflation - Metropolitan	122,1	121,2	114,2	+0,7	-	+6,9
Core inflation - Metro and other urban areas	122,3	121,3	114,7	+0,8	-	+6,6

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	+0,2
Alcoholic beverages	+0,1
Housing	+0,1
Household operation	+0,1
Transport	-0,1
Education	+0,2
All other items	+0,1
All items	+0,7

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

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Percentage change compared with					Weights
	Mar. 1998	Feb. 1998	Mar. 1997	Feb. 1998	Mar. 1997	
	All items	120,8	120,0	114,6	+0,7	
Expenditure groups - Very low	123,3	122,2	114,9	+0,9	+7,3	0,51
Low	122,7	121,7	114,6	+0,8	+7,1	1,78
Middle	122,4	121,4	114,7	+0,8	+6,7	5,24
High	122,1	121,2	114,6	+0,7	+6,5	17,70
Very high	120,2	119,6	114,5	+0,5	+5,0	74,77
Commodities	119,0	118,3	112,8	+0,6	+5,5	55,00
Services	123,7	122,8	117,5	+0,7	+5,3	45,00
All items, excluding housing	120,8	119,9	113,9	+0,8	+6,1	75,93
All items, excluding food	120,7	120,0	114,7	+0,6	+5,2	81,98
Food	121,2	120,2	114,2	+0,8	+6,1	18,02
Expenditure groups - Very low	121,2	120,2	114,8	+0,8	+5,6	40,73
Low	121,6	120,6	115,0	+0,8	+5,7	34,39
Middle	121,5	120,7	114,9	+0,7	+5,7	31,12
High	121,4	120,4	114,5	+0,8	+6,0	25,42
Very high	121,0	120,0	113,8	+0,8	+6,3	14,84
Processed	121,7	120,3	113,4	+1,2	+7,3	9,12
Unprocessed	120,8	120,1	114,9	+0,6	+5,1	8,90
Grain products	122,6	121,8	119,5	+0,7	+2,6	3,31
Meat	116,9	117,0	112,5	-0,1	+3,9	5,33
Fish and other seafood	123,7	121,2	113,8	+2,1	+8,7	0,80
Milk, cheese and eggs	128,0	126,5	117,8	+1,2	+8,7	1,90
Fats and oils	124,9	122,3	115,0	+2,1	+8,6	0,85
Fruit and nuts	115,5	113,2	108,8	+2,0	+6,2	1,08
Vegetables	129,6	129,3	117,2	+0,2	+10,6	1,80
Sugar	122,6	120,4	109,6	+1,8	+11,9	0,59
Coffee, tea and cocoa	112,5	111,8	104,8	+0,6	+7,3	0,72
Other	123,3	120,5	113,6	+2,3	+8,5	1,64
Non-alcoholic beverages	130,0	125,5	119,0	+3,6	+9,2	0,82
Alcoholic beverages	125,9	122,2	115,8	+3,0	+8,7	1,18
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	164,4	162,8	132,8	+1,0	+23,8	0,95
Clothing and footwear	107,4	107,4	106,4	0,0	+0,9	4,76
Clothing	106,8	106,9	105,8	-0,1	+0,9	3,55
Footwear	110,1	110,0	109,2	+0,1	+0,8	1,21
Housing	123,2	122,7	119,2	+0,4	+3,4	24,07
Fuel and power	122,5	122,5	112,1	0,0	+9,3	3,11
Furniture and equipment	112,5	111,6	107,4	+0,8	+4,7	3,94
Furniture	117,0	115,5	108,8	+1,3	+7,5	1,62
Appliances	107,9	107,2	105,7	+0,7	+2,1	1,08
Other household equipment and textiles	110,4	110,2	107,0	+0,2	+3,2	1,24
Household operation	136,2	134,4	121,0	+1,3	+12,6	4,69
Household consumables	126,5	123,5	117,0	+2,4	+8,1	1,14
Domestic workers	147,3	145,6	128,2	+1,2	+14,9	3,19
Other household services	117,1	117,1	112,5	0,0	+4,1	0,36
Medical care and health expenses	137,2	137,4	123,1	-0,1	+11,5	5,95
Transport	113,5	114,1	111,6	-0,5	+1,7	14,74
Vehicles	112,7	111,9	108,6	+0,7	+3,8	5,25
Running cost	116,9	119,2	117,1	-1,9	-0,2	5,75
Public and hired transport	112,1	112,1	110,0	0,0	+1,9	3,74
Communication	118,8	118,8	108,1	0,0	+9,9	3,06
Recreation and entertainment	108,8	108,5	108,6	+0,3	+0,2	2,38
Reading matter	124,3	124,3	116,6	0,0	+6,6	0,74
Education	135,6	122,2	121,4	+11,0	+11,7	2,04
Personal care	120,7	119,1	113,3	+1,3	+6,5	3,06
Other	115,3	115,2	112,9	+0,1	+2,1	6,49

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

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Percentage change compared with					Weights
	Mar. 1998	Feb. 1998	Mar. 1997	Feb. 1998	Mar. 1997	
	All items	120,8	120,0	114,7	+0,7	
Expenditure groups - Very low	122,8	121,4	114,8	+1,2	+7,0	0,93
Low	122,2	121,1	114,5	+0,9	+6,7	2,99
Middle	121,6	120,6	114,3	+0,8	+6,4	7,58
High	121,7	120,9	114,6	+0,7	+6,2	20,09
Very high	120,3	119,6	114,7	+0,6	+4,9	68,41
Commodities	118,7	118,0	112,7	+0,6	+5,3	57,34
Services	123,7	122,8	117,3	+0,7	+5,5	42,66
All items, excluding housing	120,6	119,7	113,8	+0,8	+6,0	77,55
All items, excluding food	120,6	119,9	114,8	+0,6	+5,1	80,52
Food	121,5	120,5	114,3	+0,8	+6,3	19,48
Expenditure groups - Very low	122,3	120,5	114,6	+1,5	+6,7	44,17
Low	122,4	121,0	115,0	+1,2	+6,4	38,83
Middle	122,0	120,9	114,9	+0,9	+6,2	32,67
High	121,6	120,6	114,6	+0,8	+6,1	25,61
Very high	121,3	120,3	114,0	+0,8	+6,4	15,02
Processed	121,3	120,1	113,4	+1,0	+7,0	10,52
Unprocessed	121,8	120,9	115,2	+0,7	+5,7	8,96
Grain products	123,3	122,1	120,5	+1,0	+2,3	3,73
Meat	115,7	115,7	111,0	0,0	+4,2	5,84
Fish and other seafood	125,8	123,0	113,6	+2,3	+10,7	0,77
Milk, cheese and eggs	127,4	126,3	117,8	+0,9	+8,1	2,02
Fats and oils	123,7	121,2	113,1	+2,1	+9,4	0,94
Fruit and nuts	115,4	113,3	106,0	+1,9	+8,9	1,07
Vegetables	132,2	131,8	121,1	+0,3	+9,2	1,94
Sugar	123,2	121,1	109,5	+1,7	+12,5	0,73
Coffee, tea and cocoa	111,4	110,8	104,5	+0,5	+6,6	0,79
Other	123,0	120,5	112,7	+2,1	+9,1	1,65
Non-alcoholic beverages	131,5	127,5	119,8	+3,1	+9,8	0,82
Alcoholic beverages	126,9	123,1	117,2	+3,1	+8,3	1,17
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	161,1	159,3	131,0	+1,1	+23,0	1,04
Clothing and footwear	107,4	107,4	106,0	0,0	+1,3	5,07
Clothing	107,2	107,2	105,5	0,0	+1,6	3,80
Footwear	108,2	108,2	107,6	0,0	+0,6	1,27
Housing	121,6	121,1	117,7	+0,4	+3,3	22,45
Fuel and power	120,0	119,9	111,3	+0,1	+7,8	3,54
Furniture and equipment	111,2	110,8	107,7	+0,4	+3,2	4,34
Furniture	115,1	114,1	109,2	+0,9	+5,4	1,77
Appliances	107,5	107,6	105,9	-0,1	+1,5	1,19
Other household equipment and textiles	109,5	109,3	107,4	+0,2	+2,0	1,38
Household operation	139,5	137,6	124,0	+1,4	+12,5	4,87
Household consumables	124,3	121,4	116,1	+2,4	+7,1	1,27
Domestic workers	148,0	146,3	128,5	+1,2	+15,2	3,25
Other household services	115,3	115,3	111,3	0,0	+3,6	0,35
Medical care and health expenses	134,1	134,1	120,3	0,0	+11,5	5,81
Transport	112,3	112,9	110,9	-0,5	+1,3	13,65
Vehicles	109,1	108,7	106,6	+0,4	+2,3	5,31
Running cost	117,1	119,2	117,1	-1,8	0,0	5,16
Public and hired transport	109,6	109,6	108,0	0,0	+1,5	3,18
Communication	122,4	122,4	111,4	0,0	+9,9	3,21
Recreation and entertainment	105,3	105,1	105,0	+0,2	+0,3	2,18
Reading matter	122,5	122,5	115,4	0,0	+6,2	0,69
Education	136,0	120,9	120,2	+12,5	+13,1	1,82
Personal care	121,5	119,4	113,7	+1,8	+6,9	3,08
Other	116,4	116,4	114,5	0,0	+1,7	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. 1998	Feb. 1998	Mar. 1997	Feb. 1998	Mar. 1997
Western Cape	120,3	119,5	114,7	+0,7	+4,9
Cape Peninsula	120,5	119,8	115,1	+0,6	+4,7
Other urban areas	120,0	119,1	114,4	+0,8	+4,9
Eastern Cape	122,9	121,8	115,6	+0,9	+6,3
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	119,9	119,1	114,4	+0,7	+4,8
East London	122,8	121,6	115,5	+1,0	+6,3
Other urban areas	123,2	122,1	115,5	+0,9	+6,7
Northern Cape	119,9	119,1	113,8	+0,7	+5,4
Kimberley	121,6	121,0	112,7	+0,5	+7,9
Other urban areas	119,5	118,7	113,8	+0,7	+5,0
Free State	118,2	117,5	112,2	+0,6	+5,3
Bloemfontein	121,4	120,3	115,0	+0,9	+5,6
Free State Goldfields	117,7	117,1	111,7	+0,5	+5,4
Other urban areas	117,8	117,1	111,8	+0,6	+5,4
KwaZulu-Natal	120,5	119,9	114,9	+0,5	+4,9
Durban/Pinetown	122,4	121,6	115,8	+0,7	+5,7
Pietermaritzburg	120,9	120,5	115,1	+0,3	+5,0
Other urban areas	119,3	118,9	114,4	+0,3	+4,3
North West	118,7	117,5	112,7	+1,0	+5,3
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	118,2	117,7	113,1	+0,4	+4,5
Other urban areas	118,6	117,3	112,5	+1,1	+5,4
Gauteng	121,4	120,7	115,0	+0,6	+5,6
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	121,3	120,5	115,2	+0,7	+5,3
Witwatersrand	120,3	119,6	113,9	+0,6	+5,6
Other urban areas	120,9	120,3	114,7	+0,5	+5,4
Mpumalanga	121,6	120,7	114,2	+0,7	+6,5
Nelspruit/Witbank	121,2	120,5	114,5	+0,6	+5,9
Other urban areas	121,3	120,4	113,7	+0,7	+6,7
Northern Province	120,2	119,4	113,9	+0,7	+5,5
Pietersburg	119,8	119,4	115,1	+0,3	+4,1
Other urban areas	120,4	119,6	113,9	+0,7	+5,7
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	120,8	120,0	114,7	+0,7	+5,3
Weighted average - Metropolitan	120,8	120,0	114,6	+0,7	+5,4



**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. 1998	Feb. 1998	Mar. 1997	Feb. 1998	Mar. 1997
Western Cape	121,2	120,4	114,0	+0,7	+6,3
Cape Peninsula	120,5	120,1	113,4	+0,3	+6,3
Other urban areas	120,9	119,8	113,6	+0,9	+6,4
Eastern Cape	127,3	126,0	115,4	+1,0	+10,3
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	121,3	120,0	114,5	+1,1	+5,9
East London	127,3	125,9	117,1	+1,1	+8,7
Other urban areas	128,6	127,2	115,3	+1,1	+11,5
Northern Cape	120,4	118,6	112,9	+1,5	+6,6
Kimberley	119,5	118,5	110,9	+0,8	+7,8
Other urban areas	120,5	118,5	113,1	+1,7	+6,5
Free State	117,8	116,5	109,6	+1,1	+7,5
Bloemfontein	123,0	121,1	112,6	+1,6	+9,2
Free State Goldfields	116,5	115,8	108,9	+0,6	+7,0
Other urban areas	117,6	116,2	109,4	+1,2	+7,5
KwaZulu-Natal	121,9	121,9	116,4	0,0	+4,7
Durban/Pinetown	127,1	127,2	118,2	-0,1	+7,5
Pietermaritzburg	122,5	122,3	115,1	+0,2	+6,4
Other urban areas	119,9	119,9	116,1	0,0	+3,3
North West	117,5	116,0	113,3	+1,3	+3,7
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	117,6	116,9	112,9	+0,6	+4,2
Other urban areas	117,4	115,8	113,2	+1,4	+3,7
Gauteng	120,7	119,4	114,0	+1,1	+5,9
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	123,5	122,5	114,7	+0,8	+7,7
Witwatersrand	119,6	118,2	113,4	+1,2	+5,5
Other urban areas	120,3	119,3	113,5	+0,8	+6,0
Mpumalanga	125,7	123,4	114,5	+1,9	+9,8
Nelspruit/Witbank	121,7	120,7	115,8	+0,8	+5,1
Other urban areas	126,4	123,9	114,4	+2,0	+10,5
Northern Province	125,0	124,1	118,0	+0,7	+5,9
Pietersburg	125,5	124,6	116,8	+0,7	+7,4
Other urban areas	125,0	124,1	118,2	+0,7	+5,8
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	121,5	120,5	114,3	+0,8	+6,3
Weighted average - Metropolitan	121,2	120,2	114,2	+0,8	+6,1

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

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

TABLE 5

TABLE 5 SEASONALLY ADJUSTED INDICES

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Mar. 1998	Feb. 1998	Jan. 1998	Dec. 1997	Weights
All items	120,7	120,2	119,4	119,2	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	120,8	120,3	119,7	119,4	81,98
Commodities	119,0	118,4	117,8	117,7	55,00
Food	120,4	119,5	118,6	118,7	18,02
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	120,7	119,8	119,0	119,0	18,84
Alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	146,0	143,1	140,5	140,2	2,13
Clothing and footwear	107,1	107,3	108,1	108,2	4,72
Furniture and equipment	112,3	112,4	112,0	111,5	3,85
Vehicles	112,8	112,1	111,3	111,1	5,25
Other transport commodities	119,5	120,8	120,3	121,8	4,63
Other commodities	121,7	120,5	119,8	119,1	15,58
Services	123,2	123,3	122,8	122,0	45,00
Housing and domestic workers	125,1	124,2	123,0	122,5	25,99
Transport	110,2	111,2	110,4	111,9	4,86
Other services	125,4	126,6	127,1	125,4	14,15
All items (VAT excluded)	120,6	120,1	119,5	119,1	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	
	Mar. 1998	Feb. 1998	Mar. 1997	Feb. 1998	Mar. 1997
Western Cape	120,5	119,8	114,1	+0,6	+5,6
Cape Peninsula	122,4	121,9	115,9	+0,4	+5,6
Other urban areas	120,1	119,4	113,7	+0,6	+5,6
Eastern Cape	123,7	122,7	115,3	+0,8	+7,3
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	121,0	120,1	114,1	+0,7	+6,0
East London	123,7	122,8	115,2	+0,7	+7,4
Other urban areas	123,9	122,9	115,2	+0,8	+7,6
Northern Cape	122,4	121,3	114,7	+0,9	+6,7
Kimberley	124,8	124,1	113,8	+0,6	+9,7
Other urban areas	122,0	120,9	114,8	+0,9	+6,3
Free State	118,6	117,8	111,5	+0,7	+6,4
Bloemfontein	120,9	119,9	114,7	+0,8	+5,4
Free State Goldfields	117,5	116,9	110,8	+0,5	+6,0
Other urban areas	118,5	117,6	111,2	+0,8	+6,6
KwaZulu-Natal	120,3	119,8	114,3	+0,4	+5,2
Durban/Pinetown	122,4	121,7	115,4	+0,6	+6,1
Pietermaritzburg	120,0	119,6	113,7	+0,3	+5,5
Other urban areas	119,2	118,8	113,7	+0,3	+4,8
North West	119,5	118,4	113,0	+0,9	+5,8
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	121,0	120,4	113,6	+0,5	+6,5
Other urban areas	119,0	117,9	112,7	+0,9	+5,6
Gauteng	122,0	121,2	114,4	+0,7	+6,6
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	121,3	120,6	114,3	+0,6	+6,1
Witwatersrand	122,6	121,7	114,4	+0,7	+7,2
Other urban areas	120,5	119,8	113,9	+0,6	+5,8
Mpumalanga	123,9	122,9	114,6	+0,8	+8,1
Nelspruit/Witbank	123,7	123,0	115,5	+0,6	+7,1
Other urban areas	123,9	122,9	114,4	+0,8	+8,3
Northern Province	121,4	120,7	114,0	+0,6	+6,5
Pietersburg	123,8	122,8	115,2	+0,8	+7,5
Other urban areas	121,4	120,7	114,0	+0,6	+6,5
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	121,3	120,5	114,1	+0,7	+6,3
Weighted average - Metropolitan	122,3	121,6	114,8	+0,6	+6,5