

# **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**

**March 2004**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## KEY FIGURES AT MARCH 2004

Main indices	Indices (2000=100)			Percentage change between		
	March 2003	February 2004	March 2004	February 2004 and March 2004		March 2003 and March 2004
				Actual %	Seasonally adjusted %	Actual %
CPI (historical metropolitan areas)	122,7	122,4	123,2	+ 0,7	+ 0,1	+ 0,4
CPI excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX) (historical metropolitan and other urban areas)	123,5	128,1	128,9	+ 0,6	+ 0,7	+ 4,4

## KEY FINDINGS AT MARCH 2004

The headline inflation rate at March 2004 (i.e. the Consumer Price Index for the historical metropolitan areas at March 2004 compared with that at March 2003) is 0,4%

*The official inflation rate (i.e. the percentage change in the CPI for the historical metropolitan areas at March 2004 compared with that at March 2003) is 0,4% at March 2004. This rate is 0,3 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 0,7% at February 2004 (i.e. the percentage change in the CPI for the historical metropolitan areas at February 2004 compared with that at February 2003) (see table 2.1, p.14). This lower annual rate at March 2004 compared with that at February 2004 can be explained by decreases in the annual rates of change for:*

- *The CPI for housing for which the rate decreased from - 11,3% at February 2004 to a lower rate of - 11,7% at March 2004.*
- *The CPI for household operation for which the rate decreased from 17,2% at February 2004 to a lower rate of 16,3% at March 2004.*
- *The CPI for transport for which the rate decreased from 2,1% at February 2004 to a lower rate of 0,0% at March 2004.*

*However, the decreases in the annual rates of change were partially counteracted by increases in the annual rates of change for:*

- *The CPI for cigarettes, cigars and tobacco for which the rate increased from 10,2% at February 2004 to a higher rate of 12,8% at March 2004.*
- *The CPI for recreation and entertainment for which the rate increased from - 5,6% at February 2004 to a higher rate of - 2,2% at March 2004.*

*From February 2004 to March 2004 the Consumer Price Index for the historical metropolitan areas increased by 0,7% and the seasonally adjusted index increased by 0,1%.*

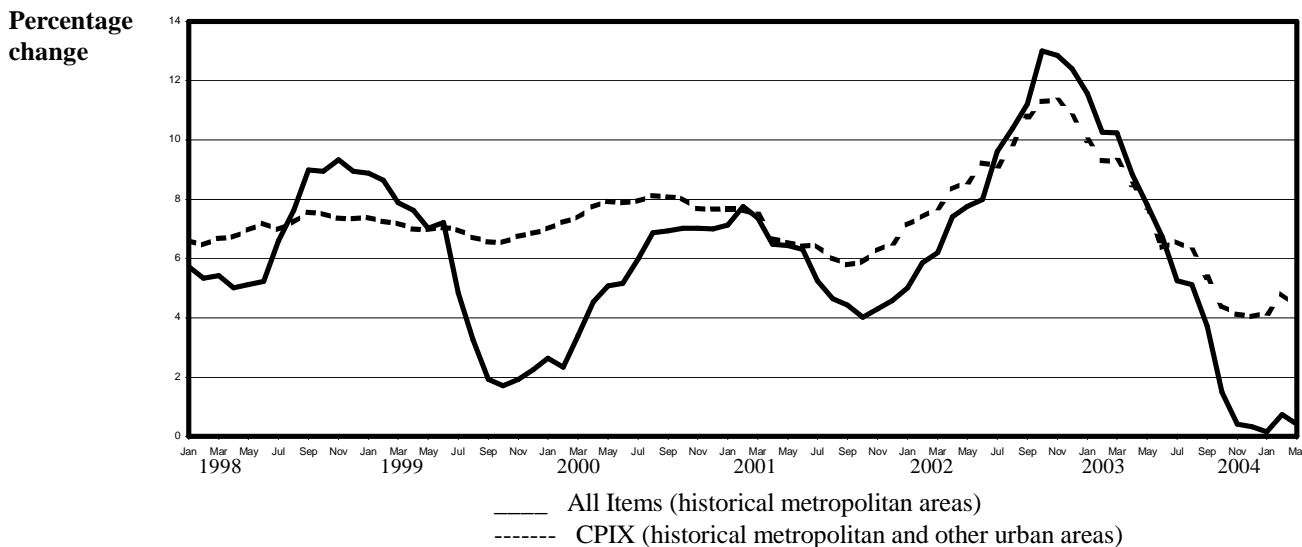
The annual increase of 0,4% in the Consumer Price Index for the historical metropolitan areas is mainly due to annual increases in the price indices for medical care and health expenses (+ 0,8 of a percentage point), household operation (+ 0,7 of a percentage point), food (+ 0,7 of a percentage point) and education (+ 0,4 of a percentage point). These annual increases were partially counteracted by annual decreases in the price indices for housing (- 2,7 percentage points), "other" products (- 0,2 of a percentage point), recreation and entertainment (- 0,1 of a percentage point) and clothing and footwear (- 0,1 of a percentage point) (see table 3, p.15).

The annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX) for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas is 4,4% at March 2004 (i.e. the CPIX at March 2004 compared with that at March 2003)

*The annual percentage change in the CPIX, which is the Consumer Price Index excluding the interest rate on mortgage bonds, for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas is 4,4% at March 2004 (i.e. the CPIX at March 2004 compared with that at March 2003). This rate is 0,4 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 4,8% at February 2004 (see table 2.2, p.14). From February 2004 to March 2004 the CPIX for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas increased by 0,6% and the seasonally adjusted index increased by 0,7%.*

The annual increase of 4,4% in the CPIX for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas is mainly due to annual increases in the price indices for housing, excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (+ 1,0 percentage point), medical care and health expenses (+ 0,9 of a percentage point), household operation (+ 0,7 of a percentage point), food (+ 0,6 of a percentage point) and education (+ 0,4 of a percentage point). These annual increases were slightly counteracted by annual decreases in the price indices for recreation and entertainment (- 0,1 of a percentage point), clothing and footwear (- 0,1 of a percentage point) and "other" products (- 0,1 of a percentage point) (see table 9, p.16).

**Figure 1 – Annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index**



Source: Stats SA

#### **CPI FOR APRIL 2004**

In addition to the usual price surveys for April 2004, a survey of property insurance, subscription fees of DSTV, motor licenses and water fees in certain areas will be undertaken, as it has come to Stats SA's attention that price changes in these items will be introduced during the first seven days of April 2004.

**P J Lehohla**  
**Statistician-General: Statistics South Africa**

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## HISTORICAL METROPOLITAN AREAS

### KEY FIGURES AT MARCH 2004

**Table A – Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the inflation rate for the historical metropolitan areas according to main indices**

Main indices	Indices (2000=100)			Percentage change between		
	March 2003	February 2004	March 2004	February 2004 and March 2004		March 2003 and March 2004
				Actual %	Seasonally adjusted %	Actual %
CPI	122,7	122,4	123,2	+ 0,7	+ 0,1	+ 0,4
CPI excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX)	123,6	128,3	129,1	+ 0,6	+ 0,6	+ 4,4
Core index	122,8	127,6	128,6	+ 0,8	+ 0,1	+ 4,7
Food price index	131,0	135,3	135,1	- 0,1	- 0,1	+ 3,1
CPI excluding food price index	120,7	119,4	120,4	+ 0,8	+ 0,1	- 0,2
CPI excluding Value Added Tax (VAT)	122,7	122,4	123,2	+ 0,7	+ 0,1	+ 0,4

### KEY FINDINGS AT MARCH 2004

The headline inflation rate at March 2004 (i.e. the Consumer Price Index for the historical metropolitan areas at March 2004 compared with that at March 2003) is 0,4%

*The official inflation rate (i.e. the percentage change in the CPI for the historical metropolitan areas at March 2004 compared with that at March 2003) is 0,4% at March 2004. This rate is 0,3 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 0,7% at February 2004 (i.e. the percentage change in the CPI for the historical metropolitan areas at February 2004 compared with that at February 2003) (see table 2.1, p.14). This lower annual rate at March 2004 compared with that at February 2004 can be explained by decreases in the annual rates of change for:*

- *The CPI for housing for which the rate decreased from – 11,3% at February 2004 to a lower rate of – 11,7% at March 2004.*
- *The CPI for household operation for which the rate decreased from 17,2% at February 2004 to a lower rate of 16,3% at March 2004.*
- *The CPI for transport for which the rate decreased from 2,1% at February 2004 to a lower rate of 0,0% at March 2004.*

*However, the decreases in the annual rates of change were partially counteracted by increases in the annual rates of change for:*

- *The CPI for cigarettes, cigars and tobacco for which the rate increased from 10,2% at February 2004 to a higher rate of 12,8% at March 2004.*
- *The CPI for recreation and entertainment for which the rate increased from – 5,6% at February 2004 to a higher rate of – 2,2% at March 2004.*

***From February 2004 to March 2004 the Consumer Price Index for the historical metropolitan areas increased by 0,7% and the seasonally adjusted index increased by 0,1%.***

The annual increase of 0,4% in the Consumer Price Index for the historical metropolitan areas is mainly due to annual increases in the price indices for medical care and health expenses (+ 0,8 of a percentage point), household operation (+ 0,7 of a percentage point), food (+ 0,7 of a percentage point) and education (+ 0,4 of a percentage point). These annual increases were partially counteracted by annual decreases in the price indices for housing (- 2,7 percentage points), "other" products (- 0,2 of a percentage point), recreation and entertainment (- 0,1 of a percentage point) and clothing and footwear (- 0,1 of a percentage point) (see table 3, p.15).

From February 2004 to March 2004 the Consumer Price Index for the historical metropolitan areas increased by 0,7%. This monthly increase is due to monthly increases in the price indices for education (+ 0,3 of a percentage point), transport (+ 0,2 of a percentage point, mainly due to a 9c\l increase in the price of petrol), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+ 0,1 of a percentage point) and alcoholic beverages (+ 0,1 of a percentage point) (see table 4, p.15).

**Annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX) is 4,4% at March 2004 (i.e. the percentage change in the CPIX at March 2004 compared with that at March 2003)**

***The annual percentage change in the CPIX for the historical metropolitan areas is 4,4% at March 2004 (i.e. the percentage change in the CPIX at March 2004 compared with that at March 2003). This rate is 0,6 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 5,0% at February 2004. From February 2004 to March 2004 the CPIX for the historical metropolitan areas as well as the seasonally adjusted index increased by 0,6%.***

The annual increase of 4,4% in the CPIX for the historical metropolitan areas is mainly due to annual increases in the price indices for housing, excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (+ 0,9 of a percentage point), medical care and health expenses (+ 0,9 of a percentage point), household operation (+ 0,8 of a percentage point), food (+ 0,8 of a percentage point) and education (+ 0,4 of a percentage point). These annual increases were slightly counteracted by annual decreases in the price indices for "other" products (- 0,2 of a percentage point), recreation and entertainment (- 0,1 of a percentage point) and clothing and footwear (- 0,1 of a percentage point) (see table 7, p.16).

From February 2004 to March 2004 the CPIX for the historical metropolitan areas increased by 0,6%. This monthly increase is due to monthly increases in the price indices for education (+ 0,4 of a percentage point), transport (+ 0,2 of a percentage point, mainly due to a 9c\l increase in the price of petrol), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+ 0,1 of a percentage point) and alcoholic beverages (+ 0,1 of a percentage point). These monthly increases were partially counteracted by monthly decreases in the price indices for food (- 0,1 of a percentage point) and household operation (- 0,1 of a percentage point) (see table 8, p.16).

#### **Core inflation rate**

***The core inflation rate for the historical metropolitan areas (see explanatory notes 33, 34 and 35 on page 34) is 4,7% at March 2004 (i.e. the core index at March 2004 compared with that at March 2003). This rate is 0,6 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 5,3% at February 2004. From February 2004 to March 2004 the core index for the historical metropolitan areas increased by 0,8% and the seasonally adjusted index increased by 0,1%.***

The annual increase of 4,7% in the core index for the historical metropolitan areas is mainly due to annual increases in the price indices for medical care and health expenses (+ 1,0 percentage point), housing (+ 0,9 of a percentage point), household operation (+ 0,9 of a percentage point), education (+ 0,6 of a percentage point) and food (+ 0,4 of a percentage point). These annual increases were slightly counteracted by an annual decrease in the price index for recreation and entertainment (- 0,1 of a percentage point) (see table 11, p.17).

From February 2004 to March 2004 the core index for the historical metropolitan areas increased by 0,8%. This monthly increase is due to monthly increases in the price indices for education (+ 0,4 of a percentage point), transport (+ 0,1 of a percentage point, mainly due to a 9c\l increase in the price of petrol), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+ 0,1 of a percentage point), alcoholic beverages (+ 0,1 of a percentage point) and non-alcoholic beverages (+ 0,1 of a percentage point) (see table 12, p.17).

#### **Food inflation**

***The price index for food reflects an annual rate of increase of 3,1% at March 2004 (i.e. the CPI for food at March 2004 compared with that at March 2003). This rate is 0,2 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 3,3% at February 2004. From February 2004 to March 2004 this index as well as the seasonally adjusted index decreased by 0,1%.***

Annual increases occurred in the price indices for fruit and nuts (+ 9,9%), “other” food products (+ 8,9%), vegetables (+ 7,4%), sugar (+ 4,5%), milk, cheese and eggs (+ 3,3%), fish and other seafood (+ 1,8%), coffee, tea and cocoa (+ 1,4%), fats and oils (+ 0,8%) and meat (+ 0,6%). These annual increases were partially counteracted by an annual decrease in the price index for grain products (- 0,8%) (see table 15, p.18).

Monthly decreases occurred in the price indices for meat (- 0,7%), coffee, tea and cocoa (- 0,4%), sugar (- 0,3%), grain products (- 0,3%) and fruit and nuts (- 0,3%). These monthly decreases were partially counteracted by monthly increases in the price indices for vegetables (+ 0,7%), fats and oils (+ 0,4%), fish and other seafood (+ 0,4%) and milk, cheese and eggs (+ 0,2%) (see table 15, p.18).

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

*The price index for non-food items shows an annual rate of change of - 0,2% at March 2004 (i.e. the price index for non-food items at March 2004 compared with that at March 2003). This rate is 0,3 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 0,1% at February 2004. From February 2004 to March 2004 this index increased by 0,8% and the seasonally adjusted index increased by 0,1%.*

Annual decreases occurred in the price indices for housing (- 11,7%), “other” products (- 5,6%), recreation and entertainment (- 2,2%) and clothing and footwear (- 2,0%). These annual decreases were slightly counteracted by relatively large annual increases in the price indices for household operation (+ 16,3%), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+ 12,8%), alcoholic beverages (+ 12,6%), medical care and health expenses (+ 10,2%), education (+ 9,6%), fuel and power (+ 6,7%), reading matter (+ 4,5%) and non-alcoholic beverages (+ 3,5%) (see table 15, p.18).

Relatively large monthly increases occurred in the price indices for education (+ 9,6%), alcoholic beverages (+ 5,3%), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+ 4,5%) and non-alcoholic beverages (+ 3,9%). These monthly increases were partially counteracted by monthly decreases in the price indices for household operation (- 0,7%), recreation and entertainment (- 0,3%), medical care and health expenses (- 0,2%) and clothing and footwear (- 0,2%) (see table 15, p.18).

### **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 2004 and the average index of the previous three months. This approach, when using seasonally adjusted data shows an increase of 2,0% (which is 1,6 percentage points higher than the corresponding rate of 0,4% for February 2004), while the unadjusted data shows an increase of 4,5% (which is 4,4 percentage points higher than the corresponding rate of 0,1% for February 2004).

### **Pensioners**

The annual inflation rate for pensioners in the historical metropolitan areas is 3,6% at March 2004 (i.e. the CPI for pensioners at March 2004 compared with that at March 2003), which is 0,4 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 4,0% at February 2004 (see table 27, p.29).



## HISTORICAL METROPOLITAN AND OTHER URBAN AREAS

### KEY FIGURES AT MARCH 2004

**Table B – Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the inflation rate for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas according to main indices**

Main indices	Indices (2000=100)			Percentage change between		
	March 2003	February 2004	March 2004	February 2004 and March 2004		March 2003 and March 2004
				Actual %	Seasonally adjusted %	Actual %
CPI	122,8	123,0	123,8	+ 0,7	+ 0,2	+ 0,8
CPI excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX)	123,5	128,1	128,9	+ 0,6	+ 0,7	+ 4,4
Core index	122,4	127,2	128,2	+ 0,8	+ 0,2	+ 4,7
Food price index	132,4	135,9	135,8	- 0,1	0,0	+ 2,6
CPI excluding food price index	120,4	119,5	120,6	+ 0,9	+ 0,2	+ 0,2
CPI excluding Value Added Tax (VAT)	122,8	123,0	123,8	+ 0,7	+ 0,2	+ 0,8

### KEY FINDINGS AT MARCH 2004

**Inflation rate for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas is 0,8% at March 2004 (i.e. the CPI at March 2004 compared with that at March 2003)**

*The inflation rate for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas is 0,8% at March 2004 (i.e. the CPI at March 2004 compared with that at March 2003). This rate is 0,3 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 1,1% at February 2004. This lower annual rate at March 2004 compared with that at February 2004, can be explained by decreases in the annual rates of change for:*

- *The CPI for transport for which the rate decreased from 2,3% at February 2004 to a lower rate of 0,3% at March 2004.*
- *The CPI for personal care for which the rate decreased from 5,0% at February 2004 to a lower rate of 3,5% at March 2004.*

*However, the decreases in the annual rates of change were partially counteracted by an increase in the annual rate of change for:*

- *The CPI for cigarettes, cigars and tobacco for which the rate increased from 10,1% at February 2004 to a higher rate of 12,8% at March 2004.*

*From February 2004 to March 2004 the Consumer Price Index for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas increased by 0,7% and the seasonally adjusted index increased by 0,2%.*

The annual increase of 0,8% in the Consumer Price Index for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas is mainly due to relatively large annual increases in the price indices for medical care and health expenses (+ 0,8 of a percentage point), food (+ 0,7 of a percentage point), household operation (+ 0,6 of a percentage point), fuel and power (+ 0,3 of a percentage point) and education (+ 0,3 of a percentage point). These annual increases were partially counteracted by annual decreases in the price indices for housing (- 2,3 percentage points), recreation and entertainment (- 0,1 of a percentage point), clothing and footwear (- 0,1 of a percentage point) and "other" products (- 0,1 of a percentage point) (see table 5, p.15).

From February 2004 to March 2004 the Consumer Price Index for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas increased by 0,7%. This monthly increase is due to monthly increases in the price indices for education (+ 0,4 of a percentage point), transport (+ 0,1 of a percentage point, mainly due a 9c\l increase in the price of petrol), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+ 0,1 of a percentage point) and alcoholic beverages (+ 0,1 of a percentage point) (see table 6, p.15).

**The annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX) for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas is 4,4% at March 2004 (i.e. the CPIX at March 2004 compared with that at March 2003)**

*The annual percentage change in the CPIX, which is the Consumer Price Index excluding the interest rate on mortgage bonds, for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas is 4,4% at March 2004 (i.e. the CPIX at March 2004 compared with that at March 2003). This rate is 0,4 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 4,8% at February 2004 (see table 2.2, p.14). From February 2004 to March 2004 the CPIX for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas increased by 0,6% and the seasonally adjusted index increased by 0,7%.*

The annual increase of 4,4% in the CPIX for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas is mainly due to annual increases in the price indices for housing, excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (+ 1,0 percentage point), medical care and health expenses (+ 0,9 of a percentage point), household operation (+ 0,7 of a percentage point), food (+ 0,6 of a percentage point) and education (+ 0,4 of a percentage point). These annual increases were slightly counteracted by annual decreases in the price indices for recreation and entertainment (- 0,1 of a percentage point), clothing and footwear (- 0,1 of a percentage point) and "other" products (- 0,1 of a percentage point) (see table 9, p.16).

From February 2004 to March 2004 the CPIX for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas increased by 0,6%. This monthly increase is due to monthly increases in the price indices for education (+ 0,3 of a percentage point), transport (+ 0,1 of a percentage point, mainly due to a 9c\l increase in the price of petrol), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+ 0,1 of a percentage point) and alcoholic beverages (+ 0,1 of a percentage point) (see table 10, p.16).

#### **Core inflation rate**

*The core inflation rate for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas (see explanatory notes 33, 34 and 35 on page 34) is 4,7% at March 2004 (i.e. the core index at March 2004 compared with that at March 2003). This rate is 0,6 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 5,3% at February 2004. From February 2004 to March 2004 the core index for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas increased by 0,8% and the seasonally adjusted index increased by 0,2%.*

The annual increase of 4,7% in the core index for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas is mainly due to annual increases in the price indices for medical care and health expenses (+ 1,0 percentage point), housing (+ 0,9 of a percentage point), household operation (+ 0,8 of a percentage point), education (+ 0,6 of a percentage point) and food (+ 0,4 of a percentage point). These annual increases were slightly counteracted by an annual decrease in the price index for recreation and entertainment (- 0,1 of a percentage point) (see table 13, p.17).

From February 2004 to March 2004 the core index for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas increased by 0,8%. This monthly increase is due to monthly increases in the price indices for education (+ 0,4 of a percentage point), housing (+ 0,1 of a percentage point), non-alcoholic beverages (+ 0,1 of a percentage point), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+ 0,1 of a percentage point) and alcoholic beverages (+ 0,1 of a percentage point) (see table 14, p.17).

#### **Food inflation**

*The price index for food reflects an annual rate of increase of 2,6% at March 2004 (i.e. the CPI for food at March 2004 compared with that at March 2003). This rate is the same as the corresponding annual rate of 2,6% at February 2004. From February 2004 to March 2004 this index decreased by 0,1%, while the seasonally adjusted index remained unchanged.*

Annual increases occurred in the price indices for fruit and nuts (+ 10,9%), “other” food products (+ 8,2%), vegetables (+ 6,9%), sugar (+ 4,6%), milk, cheese and eggs (+ 4,1%), fats and oils (+ 1,6%), fish and other seafood (+ 1,0%) and coffee, tea and cocoa (+ 0,9%). These annual increases were partially counteracted by annual decreases in the price indices for grain products (- 1,8%) and meat (- 0,5%) (see table 16, p.19).

Relatively large monthly decreases occurred in the price indices for sugar (- 1,2%), meat (- 0,7%), coffee, tea and cocoa (- 0,3%) and fruit and nuts (- 0,1%). These monthly decreases were partially counteracted by monthly increases in the price indices for vegetables (+ 1,0%), fish and other seafood (+ 0,5%), fats and oils (+ 0,4%) and milk, cheese and eggs (+ 0,1%) (see table 16, p.19).

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

*The price index for non-food items shows an annual rate of change of 0,2% at March 2004 (i.e. the non-food index at March 2004 compared with that at March 2003). This rate is 0,1 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 0,3% at February 2004. From February 2004 to March 2004 this index increased by 0,9% and the seasonally adjusted index increased by 0,2%.*

Relatively large annual increases occurred in the price indices for household operation (+ 13,7%), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+ 12,8%), alcoholic beverages (+ 12,1%), medical care and health expenses (+ 10,2%), education (+ 9,1%), fuel and power (+ 6,9%), reading matter (+ 4,5%), non-alcoholic beverages (+ 4,2%) and personal care (+ 3,5%). These annual increases were partially counteracted by annual decreases in the price indices for and housing (- 10,7%), “other” products (- 5,6%), recreation and entertainment (- 2,8%) and clothing and footwear (- 1,8%). (see table 16, p.19).

Relatively large monthly increases occurred in the price indices for education (+ 9,1%), alcoholic beverages (+ 5,0%) and cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+ 4,7%). These monthly increases were partially counteracted by monthly decreases in the price indices for household operation (- 0,3%), recreation and entertainment (- 0,2%) and medical care and health expenses (- 0,1%) (see table 16, p.19).

### **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 2004 and the average index of the previous three months. This approach, when using seasonally adjusted data shows an increase of 2,6% (which is 1,6 percentage points higher than the corresponding rate of 1,0% for February 2004), while the unadjusted data shows an increase of 4,7% (which is 4,0 percentage points higher than the corresponding rate of 0,7% for February 2004).

### **Areas indices**

The other urban areas of Western Cape recorded the highest annual inflation rate of 2,5%, while the lowest annual inflation rate of - 3,4% was recorded for the Polokwane area (see table 21, p.24).

Regarding food prices, the highest annual inflation rate of 4,5% was recorded for the other urban areas of Mpumalanga, while the East London area recorded the lowest annual rate of change of 0,3% (see table 22, p.25).

### **Pensioners**

The East London area recorded the highest annual rate of increase of 8,2%, while the lowest annual rate of change of - 0,1% was recorded for the Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage area (see table 27, p.29).

## NOTES

<b>Forthcoming issues</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Expected date for publication</b>
	April 2004	26 May 2004
	May 2004	23 June 2004
	June 2004	28 July 2004
	July 2004	25 August 2004
	August 2004	29 September 2004
	September 2004	27 October 2004
<b>Purpose of the survey</b>	<p>The Survey of Consumer Prices is a monthly survey covering a sample of retailers operating in the South African economy. The results of the survey are used to compile the Consumer Price Index (CPI), an economic indicator, which indicates the changes in the prices of consumer goods and services. The annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index indicates the inflation rate. These statistics are used by the private sector in the analysis of comparative business performance, as well as for contract price adjustments. It is also used in the determination of economic and social policy.</p>	
<b>Rebasing the CPI from 1995=100 to 2000=100</b>	<p>Following international practice, the base year of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has been changed from 1995=100 to 2000=100 with effect from February 2001.</p>	
<b>Updating the CPI basket</b>	<p>The weighting system for the CPI is calculated, as from January 2002, from the Survey of Income and Expenditure of Households, which was conducted in October 2000. For more information on the detailed weights, see statistical releases P0141.5.</p>	
<b>CPIX</b>	<p>In other countries in the world such as New Zealand, Sweden and Australia, which adopted inflation targeting, different measures of the inflation rate have been derived and applied such as the Core index, and the CPI excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX). Stats SA has accordingly calculated these measures and the CPIX, the most recent addition to the CPI suite, is included in this release (see table 2.2, p.14).</p> <p>Stats SA releases detailed figures on the CPIX (see tables 17 and 18 on pages 20 and 21). The detailed figures were introduced and published as from February 2000.</p>	
<b>Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)</b>	<p>South Africa's data dissemination practices are assessed against the IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS). A detailed description of the SDDS can be found on the IMF's Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board on the internet at <a href="http://dsbb.imf.org">http://dsbb.imf.org</a>. This is a "best practice" standard. It covers four sectors of the economy i.e. the real, fiscal, financial and external sectors, as well as population and identifies four dimensions i.e. data, access, integrity and quality, of data dissemination. For each of these dimensions, the SDDS prescribes two to four monitorable elements or good practices that can be observed, or monitored, by users of statistics. However, the IMF's monitoring of the SDDS as authorised by the IMF's Board of Executive Directors is limited to the dimensions of data i.e. coverage, periodicity and timeliness, and access i.e. advanced release calendar. It should also be noted that the SDDS is a disclosure standard, i.e. it focuses on encouraging the authorities to provide information to users, including information that will enable users to assess the data.</p> <p>The four institutions responsible for the compilation and dissemination of the SDDS prescribed data categories are National Treasury, the South African Revenue Services (SARS), the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) and Statistics South Africa (Stats SA).</p> <p>National Treasury is responsible for compiling and disseminating data on the national budget (budgetary central government operations). SARS is responsible for compiling and disseminating of data on international merchandise trade.</p> <p>The SARB is responsible for compiling and disseminating analytical accounts of the banking sector, the analytical accounts of the central bank, central government debt, interest rate, exchange rates, share price indices, balance of payments, the international investment position, international reserves and foreign currency liquidity.</p>	

Stats SA is responsible for compiling and disseminating data on the production index, national accounts, government accounts, industry based statistics, social statistics, the production price index, consumer price index, labour market and population statistics.

South Africa has subscribed to the SDDS since 2 August 1996 and started posting its metadata on 27 September 1996. South Africa met the SDDS specifications for the coverage, periodicity and timeliness of the data, and for the dissemination of advanced release calendars on 18 September 2000. The National Summary Data Page has been hyperlinked since 24 April 1997 and the Data Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity was disseminated on 1 September 2000.

South Africa is the only subscriber to the SDDS from the African continent.

**Reports on  
Observance of  
Standards and  
Codes (ROSC) of  
the International  
Monetary Fund  
(IMF)**

The IMF has been working actively on producing Reports on Observance of Standards and Codes (ROSC) as a step to strengthen the architecture of the international financial system. The objectives of the ROSC include the promotion of increased transparency and encouragement of implementation of internationally accepted standards and codes. One of the ROSC components is the data dissemination module, which falls under the responsibility of the IMF's Statistics Department (STA). In this module, a country is assessed according to the SDDS.

The data dissemination module of the ROSC provides a summary of South Africa's practices on the coverage, periodicity and timeliness of the data categories specified in the IMF's SDDS, and on the practices on the provision of advance release calendars for these categories. It is complemented by an assessment of the quality of the Consumer Price Index, using the Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF) developed by the IMF's Statistics Department.

The DQAF undertakes to assess data quality under the following dimensions –

- Prerequisites of quality;
- Integrity;
- Methodological soundness;
- Accuracy and reliability;
- Serviceability; and
- Accessibility

An IMF delegation visited South Africa from 7 to 18 May 2001 and produced a data ROSC for South Africa. This ROSC indicates to which extent South Africa has observed the IMF's requirements and is available at <http://www.imf.org/external/np/rosc/rosc.asp>

Table 1 - Expenditure group and area indices of the Consumer Price Index and percentage change

Expenditure group/Area indices	Indices (2000=100)			Percentage change between		
	Mar 2003	Feb 2004	Mar 2004	Feb 2004 and Mar 2004		Mar 2003 and Mar 2004
				Actual %	Seasonally adjusted %	Actual %
Expenditure group indices						
Very low expenditure	127,1	130,6	131,1	+0,4	+0,2	+3,1
Low expenditure	127,0	130,7	131,2	+0,4	+0,3	+3,3
Middle expenditure	123,5	126,9	127,6	+0,6	+0,4	+3,3
High expenditure	124,4	127,4	128,0	+0,5	+0,2	+2,9
Very high expenditure	121,7	120,5	121,3	+0,7	+0,1	-0,3
All expenditure groups -				1)	1)	1)
Historical metropolitan areas	122,7	122,4	123,2	+0,7	+0,1	+0,4
Historical metropolitan and other urban areas	122,8	123,0	123,8	+0,7	+0,2	+0,8
CPI excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX) -						
Historical metropolitan areas	123,6	128,3	129,1	+0,6	+0,6	+4,4
Historical metropolitan and other urban areas	123,5	128,1	128,9	+0,6	+0,7	+4,4
Core index -						
Historical metropolitan areas	122,8	127,6	128,6	+0,8	+0,1	+4,7
Historical metropolitan and other urban areas	122,4	127,2	128,2	+0,8	+0,2	+4,7
Food only index -						
Historical metropolitan areas	131,0	135,3	135,1	-0,1	-0,1	+3,1
Historical metropolitan and other urban areas	132,4	135,9	135,8	-0,1	0,0	+2,6
CPI excluding food -						
Historical metropolitan areas	120,7	119,4	120,4	+0,8	+0,1	-0,2
Historical metropolitan and other urban areas	120,4	119,5	120,6	+0,9	+0,2	+0,2
CPI excluding VAT				1)	1)	1)
Historical metropolitan areas	122,7	122,4	123,2	+0,7	+0,1	+0,4
Historical metropolitan and other urban areas	122,8	123,0	123,8	+0,7	+0,2	+0,8

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

Table 2.1 - The Consumer Price Index and the annual inflation rate on a monthly basis for the historical metropolitan areas

Base year: 2000 = 100

Year	Index	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ave.
2002	Index	109,0	110,2	111,3	113,1	113,9	114,7	116,3	116,9	118,1	119,9	120,3	120,5	115,4
	% 1)	+5,0	+5,9	+6,2	+7,4	+7,8	+8,0	+9,6	+10,4	+11,2	+13,0	+12,9	+12,4	+9,2 2)
2003	Index	121,6	121,5	122,7	123,1	122,8	122,4	122,4	122,9	122,5	121,7	120,8	120,9	122,1
	% 1)	+11,6	+10,3	+10,2	+8,8	+7,8	+6,7	+5,2	+5,1	+3,7	+1,5	+0,4	+0,3	+5,8 2)
2004	Index	121,8	122,4	123,2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	% 1)	+0,2	+0,7	+0,4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.. 2)

Table 2.2 - The Consumer Price Index excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds on a monthly basis for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas

Year	Index	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ave.
2002	Index	111,2	111,8	113,0	114,2	115,0	116,1	117,1	117,9	119,2	120,3	120,9	121,1	116,5
	% 1)	+7,1	+7,4	+7,7	+8,3	+8,6	+9,2	+9,1	+9,9	+10,8	+11,3	+11,3	+10,8	+9,3 2)
2003	Index	122,3	122,2	123,5	123,9	123,9	123,5	124,8	125,3	125,6	125,6	125,9	126,0	124,4
	% 1)	+10,0	+9,3	+9,3	+8,5	+7,7	+6,4	+6,6	+6,3	+5,4	+4,4	+4,1	+4,0	+6,8 2)
2004	Index	127,4	128,1	128,9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	% 1)	+4,2	+4,8	+4,4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.. 2)

Table 2.3 - Food Index on a monthly basis for the historical metropolitan areas

Base year: 2000 = 100

Year	Index	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ave.
2002	Index	114,1	114,7	116,5	118,2	118,8	120,6	122,2	124,1	126,4	128,9	129,7	130,3	122,0
	% 1)	+12,3	+11,7	+13,0	+14,2	+14,0	+15,9	+16,8	+18,1	+19,1	+19,8	+18,4	+16,1	+15,7 2)
2003	Index	131,8	131,0	131,0	131,3	131,9	131,0	131,1	131,8	131,7	132,5	133,9	133,7	131,9
	% 1)	+15,5	+14,2	+12,4	+11,1	+11,0	+8,6	+7,3	+6,2	+4,2	+2,8	+3,2	+2,6	+8,1 2)
2004	Index	135,4	135,3	135,1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	% 1)	+2,7	+3,3	+3,1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.. 2)

1) % = annual inflation rate

2) Average annual inflation rate

Table 3 - Contributions of different groups to the annual percentage change in the CPI for the historical metropolitan areas

Group	Contribution at February 2004	Contribution at March 2004
Food	0,7	0,7
Non-alcoholic beverages	0,1	0,1
Alcoholic beverages	0,2	0,2
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	0,1	0,2
Clothing and footwear	-0,1	-0,1
Housing	-2,6	-2,7
Fuel and power	0,2	0,2
Household operation	0,8	0,7
Medical care and health expenses	0,8	0,8
Transport	0,3	0,0
Communication	0,1	0,1
Recreation and entertainment	-0,2	-0,1
Education	0,4	0,4
Personal care	0,1	0,1
Other	-0,2	-0,2
<b>All groups</b>	<b>0,7</b>	<b>0,4</b>

Table 4 - Contributions of different groups to the monthly percentage change in the CPI for the historical metropolitan areas

Group	Contribution at February 2004	Contribution at March 2004
Alcoholic beverages	0,0	0,1
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	0,0	0,1
Household operation	0,1	0,0
Medical care and health expenses	0,1	0,0
Transport	0,3	0,2
Education	0,0	0,3
<b>All groups</b>	<b>0,5</b>	<b>0,7</b>

Table 5 - Contributions of different groups to the annual percentage change in the CPI for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas

Group	Contribution at February 2004	Contribution at March 2004
Food	0,7	0,7
Non-alcoholic beverages	0,1	0,1
Alcoholic beverages	0,2	0,2
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	0,1	0,2
Clothing and footwear	-0,1	-0,1
Housing	-2,3	-2,3
Fuel and power	0,3	0,3
Household operation	0,6	0,6
Medical care and health expenses	0,8	0,8
Transport	0,3	0,0
Communication	0,1	0,1
Recreation and entertainment	-0,1	-0,1
Education	0,3	0,3
Personal care	0,2	0,1
Other	-0,1	-0,1
<b>All groups</b>	<b>1,1</b>	<b>0,8</b>

Table 6 - Contributions of different groups to the monthly percentage change in the CPI for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas

Group	Contribution at February 2004	Contribution at March 2004
Alcoholic beverages	0,0	0,1
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	0,0	0,1
Household operation	0,2	0,0
Transport	0,3	0,1
Education	0,0	0,4
<b>All groups</b>	<b>0,5</b>	<b>0,7</b>



Table 7 - Contributions of different groups to the annual percentage change in the CPIX for the historical metropolitan areas

Group	Contribution at February 2004	Contribution at March 2004
Food	0,9	0,8
Non-alcoholic beverages	0,1	0,1
Alcoholic beverages	0,2	0,2
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	0,2	0,2
Clothing and footwear	-0,1	-0,1
Housing	1,0	0,9
Fuel and power	0,3	0,3
Household operation	0,9	0,8
Medical care and health expenses	0,9	0,9
Transport	0,3	0,0
Communication	0,1	0,1
Recreation and entertainment	-0,2	-0,1
Education	0,4	0,4
Personal care	0,2	0,1
Other	-0,2	-0,2
<b>All groups</b>	<b>5,0</b>	<b>4,4</b>

Table 8 - Contributions of different groups to the monthly percentage change in the CPIX for the historical metropolitan areas

Group	Contribution at February 2004	Contribution at March 2004
Food	0,0	-0,1
Alcoholic beverages	0,0	0,1
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	0,0	0,1
Household operation	0,1	-0,1
Transport	0,4	0,2
Education	0,0	0,4
<b>All groups</b>	<b>0,5</b>	<b>0,6</b>

Table 9 - Contributions of different groups to the annual percentage change in the CPIX for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas

Group	Contribution at February 2004	Contribution at March 2004
Food	0,7	0,6
Non-alcoholic beverages	0,1	0,1
Alcoholic beverages	0,2	0,2
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	0,1	0,1
Clothing and footwear	-0,1	-0,1
Housing	1,1	1,0
Fuel and power	0,3	0,3
Household operation	0,7	0,7
Medical care and health expenses	0,9	0,9
Transport	0,3	0,1
Communication	0,1	0,1
Recreation and entertainment	-0,1	-0,1
Education	0,4	0,4
Personal care	0,3	0,2
Other	-0,2	-0,1
<b>All groups</b>	<b>4,8</b>	<b>4,4</b>

Table 10 - Contributions of different groups to the monthly percentage change in the CPIX for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas

Group	Contribution at February 2004	Contribution at March 2004
Alcoholic beverages	0,0	0,1
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	0,0	0,1
Household operation	0,2	0,0
Transport	0,3	0,1
Education	0,0	0,3
<b>All groups</b>	<b>0,5</b>	<b>0,6</b>

Table 11 - Contributions of different groups to the annual percentage change in the Core index for the historical metropolitan areas

Group	Contribution at February 2004	Contribution at March 2004
Food	0,5	0,4
Non-alcoholic beverages	0,1	0,1
Alcoholic beverages	0,2	0,2
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	0,1	0,2
Clothing and footwear	-0,1	0,0
Housing	1,1	0,9
Fuel and power	0,3	0,3
Household operation	1,0	0,9
Medical care and health expenses	1,0	1,0
Transport	0,4	0,0
Communication	0,1	0,1
Recreation and entertainment	-0,2	-0,1
Education	0,6	0,6
Personal care	0,2	0,1
<b>All groups</b>	<b>5,3</b>	<b>4,7</b>

Table 12 - Contributions of different groups to the monthly percentage change in the Core index for the historical metropolitan areas

Group	Contribution at February 2004	Contribution at March 2004
Non-alcoholic beverages	0,0	0,1
Alcoholic beverages	0,1	0,1
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	0,0	0,1
Household operation	0,2	0,0
Transport	0,4	0,1
Education	0,0	0,4
<b>All groups</b>	<b>0,7</b>	<b>0,8</b>

Table 13 - Contributions of different groups to the annual percentage change in the Core index for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas

Group	Contribution at February 2004	Contribution at March 2004
Food	0,5	0,4
Non-alcoholic beverages	0,1	0,1
Alcoholic beverages	0,3	0,2
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	0,2	0,2
Clothing and footwear	-0,1	0,0
Housing	1,1	0,9
Fuel and power	0,3	0,3
Household operation	0,8	0,8
Medical care and health expenses	1,0	1,0
Transport	0,4	0,0
Communication	0,1	0,1
Recreation and entertainment	-0,2	-0,1
Education	0,6	0,6
Personal care	0,2	0,2
<b>All groups</b>	<b>5,3</b>	<b>4,7</b>

Table 14 - Contributions of different groups to the monthly percentage change in the Core index for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas

Group	Contribution at February 2004	Contribution at March 2004
Food	0,1	0,0
Non-alcoholic beverages	0,0	0,1
Alcoholic beverages	0,1	0,1
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	0,0	0,1
Housing	0,0	0,1
Household operation	0,1	0,0
Transport	0,4	0,0
Education	0,0	0,4
<b>All groups</b>	<b>0,7</b>	<b>0,8</b>

Table 15 - Consumer Price Index group and product indices and percentage change for the historical metropolitan areas

Group/Product	Weights	Indices (2000=100)			Percentage change between	
		Mar 2003	Feb 2004	Mar 2004	Feb 2004 and Mar 2004	Mar 2003 and Mar 2004
		CPI: All items	100,00	122,7	122,4	123,2
Expenditure groups - Very low	0,91	127,1	130,6	131,1	+0,4	+3,1
Low	1,76	127,0	130,7	131,2	+0,4	+3,3
Middle	6,36	123,5	126,9	127,6	+0,6	+3,3
High	14,57	124,4	127,4	128,0	+0,5	+2,9
Very high	76,40	121,7	120,5	121,3	+0,7	-0,3
Commodities	57,14	122,7	125,5	126,0	+0,4	+2,7
Services	42,86	122,5	118,4	119,4	+0,8	-2,5
CPI: All items, excluding housing	77,86	122,1	126,1	127,0	+0,7	+4,0
CPI: All items, excluding food	79,01	120,7	119,4	120,4	+0,8	-0,2
Food	20,99	131,0	135,3	135,1	-0,1	+3,1
Expenditure groups - Very low	51,39	132,2	135,2	135,1	-0,1	+2,2
Low	49,01	132,9	136,5	136,4	-0,1	+2,6
Middle	43,39	132,3	136,4	136,3	-0,1	+3,0
High	33,07	131,5	136,0	135,8	-0,1	+3,3
Very high	15,82	130,5	134,9	134,6	-0,2	+3,1
Processed	11,91	130,0	135,6	135,5	-0,1	+4,2
Unprocessed	9,08	132,0	134,8	134,3	-0,4	+1,7
Grain products	3,81	131,8	131,2	130,8	-0,3	-0,8
Meat	5,66	135,2	136,9	136,0	-0,7	+0,6
Fish and other seafood	0,69	129,6	131,4	131,9	+0,4	+1,8
Milk, cheese and eggs	1,96	141,3	145,7	146,0	+0,2	+3,3
Fats and oils	0,76	135,0	135,6	136,1	+0,4	+0,8
Fruit and nuts	1,09	119,5	131,7	131,3	-0,3	+9,9
Vegetables	2,00	124,8	133,1	134,0	+0,7	+7,4
Sugar	0,50	121,6	127,5	127,1	-0,3	+4,5
Coffee, tea and cocoa	1,07	122,1	124,3	123,8	-0,4	+1,4
Other	3,45	126,1	137,3	137,3	0,0	+8,9
Non-alcoholic beverages	1,10	132,1	131,6	136,7	+3,9	+3,5
Alcoholic beverages	1,40	127,4	136,3	143,5	+5,3	+12,6
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	1,14	130,7	141,0	147,4	+4,5	+12,8
Clothing and footwear	3,25	99,5	97,7	97,5	-0,2	-2,0
Clothing	2,04	99,9	100,6	100,2	-0,4	+0,3
Footwear	1,21	98,1	92,0	92,2	+0,2	-6,0
Housing	22,14	124,1	109,5	109,6	+0,1	-11,7
Fuel and power	3,49	118,7	126,7	126,7	0,0	+6,7
Furniture and equipment	2,53	116,2	117,1	117,2	+0,1	+0,9
Furniture	0,95	118,2	122,1	122,2	+0,1	+3,4
Appliances	0,80	121,2	120,2	119,7	-0,4	-1,2
Other household equipment and textiles	0,78	108,4	107,8	108,4	+0,6	0,0
Household operation	4,82	113,9	133,4	132,5	-0,7	+16,3
Household consumables	1,25	122,5	127,7	126,6	-0,9	+3,3
Domestic workers	3,48	110,8	136,0	135,1	-0,7	+21,9
Other household services	0,09	108,3	111,3	111,3	0,0	+2,8
Medical care and health expenses	7,15	136,2	150,4	150,1	-0,2	+10,2
Transport	14,84	120,3	119,4	120,3	+0,8	0,0
Vehicles	5,95	120,5	118,5	118,5	0,0	-1,7
Running cost	7,05	124,8	124,1	126,1	+1,6	+1,0
Petrol	1/	125,2	121,1	123,8	+2,2	-1,1
Public and hired transport	1,84	106,7	108,3	108,3	0,0	+1,5
Communication	2,98	119,9	124,0	124,0	0,0	+3,4
Recreation and entertainment	3,31	102,4	100,4	100,1	-0,3	-2,2
Reading matter	0,39	121,0	126,1	126,5	+0,3	+4,5
Education	3,48	132,8	132,8	145,5	+9,6	+9,6
Personal care	3,67	124,7	127,1	127,5	+0,3	+2,2
Other	3,32	109,0	102,7	102,9	+0,2	-5,6

1/ The weight of petrol is included in that of running cost

Table 16 - Consumer Price Index group and product indices and percentage change for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas

Group/Product	Weights	Indices (2000=100)			Percentage change between	
		Mar 2003	Feb 2004	Mar 2004	Feb 2004 and Mar 2004	Mar 2003 and Mar 2004
		CPI: All items	100,00	122,8	123,0	123,8
Expenditure groups - Very low	1,39	128,0	131,0	131,7	+0,5	+2,9
Low	2,26	126,5	130,1	130,7	+0,5	+3,3
Middle	8,11	125,3	128,7	129,5	+0,6	+3,4
High	16,96	123,9	127,1	127,9	+0,6	+3,2
Very high	71,28	121,8	120,8	121,6	+0,7	-0,2
Commodities	59,42	123,5	126,3	126,8	+0,4	+2,7
Services	40,58	122,3	118,5	119,7	+1,0	-2,1
CPI: All items, excluding housing	79,30	122,5	126,3	127,2	+0,7	+3,8
CPI: All items, excluding food	76,98	120,4	119,5	120,6	+0,9	+0,2
Food	23,02	132,4	135,9	135,8	-0,1	+2,6
Expenditure groups - Very low	51,24	133,2	134,4	134,6	+0,1	+1,1
Low	49,72	133,3	135,6	135,7	+0,1	+1,8
Middle	43,93	133,5	136,4	136,4	0,0	+2,2
High	33,68	133,0	136,5	136,4	-0,1	+2,6
Very high	16,69	131,9	135,9	135,6	-0,2	+2,8
Processed	12,81	130,6	136,0	136,0	0,0	+4,1
Unprocessed	10,21	134,6	135,8	135,4	-0,3	+0,6
Grain products	4,34	133,4	131,0	131,0	0,0	-1,8
Meat	6,23	138,0	138,3	137,3	-0,7	-0,5
Fish and other seafood	0,70	134,9	135,5	136,2	+0,5	+1,0
Milk, cheese and eggs	2,10	140,1	145,7	145,9	+0,1	+4,1
Fats and oils	0,84	134,6	136,2	136,8	+0,4	+1,6
Fruit and nuts	1,13	122,4	136,0	135,8	-0,1	+10,9
Vegetables	2,18	124,4	131,7	133,0	+1,0	+6,9
Sugar	0,62	123,0	130,2	128,7	-1,2	+4,6
Coffee, tea and cocoa	1,14	122,3	123,8	123,4	-0,3	+0,9
Other	3,74	128,6	139,1	139,1	0,0	+8,2
Non-alcoholic beverages	1,13	129,7	130,3	135,2	+3,8	+4,2
Alcoholic beverages	1,52	126,6	135,2	141,9	+5,0	+12,1
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	1,21	133,5	143,8	150,6	+4,7	+12,8
Clothing and footwear	3,64	98,6	96,8	96,8	0,0	-1,8
Clothing	2,27	99,0	99,7	99,5	-0,2	+0,5
Footwear	1,37	97,7	91,6	91,9	+0,3	-5,9
Housing	20,70	124,2	110,6	110,9	+0,3	-10,7
Fuel and power	3,84	117,8	125,8	125,9	+0,1	+6,9
Furniture and equipment	2,82	115,5	115,8	116,2	+0,3	+0,6
Furniture	1,08	117,3	120,2	121,0	+0,7	+3,2
Appliances	0,84	120,2	119,6	119,1	-0,4	-0,9
Other household equipment and textiles	0,90	108,4	106,4	107,1	+0,7	-1,2
Household operation	4,68	115,8	132,1	131,7	-0,3	+13,7
Household consumables	1,34	125,3	130,7	130,2	-0,4	+3,9
Domestic workers	3,22	112,1	133,4	133,0	-0,3	+18,6
Other household services	0,12	108,7	111,8	112,4	+0,5	+3,4
Medical care and health expenses	6,90	136,3	150,4	150,2	-0,1	+10,2
Transport	13,72	118,9	118,4	119,2	+0,7	+0,3
Vehicles	5,11	118,4	117,2	117,3	+0,1	-0,9
Running cost	6,56	123,8	123,3	125,1	+1,5	+1,1
Petrol	1/	122,2	118,5	120,9	+2,0	-1,1
Public and hired transport	2,05	105,5	106,8	106,8	0,0	+1,2
Communication	2,86	120,4	124,4	124,4	0,0	+3,3
Recreation and entertainment	3,04	102,7	100,0	99,8	-0,2	-2,8
Reading matter	0,36	120,2	125,3	125,6	+0,2	+4,5
Education	3,38	132,4	132,4	144,4	+9,1	+9,1
Personal care	3,92	125,4	129,5	129,8	+0,2	+3,5
Other	3,26	108,7	102,5	102,6	+0,1	-5,6

1/ The weight of petrol is included in that of running cost

Table 17 - Consumer Price Index, excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX), group and product indices and percentage change for the historical metropolitan areas

Group/Product	Weights	Indices (2000=100)			Percentage change between	
		Mar 2003	Feb 2004	Mar 2004	Feb 2004 and Mar 2004	Mar 2003 and Mar 2004
		CPI: All items	100,00	123,6	128,3	129,1
Expenditure groups - Very low	0,91	127,4	131,2	131,7	+0,4	+3,4
Low	1,76	127,2	131,5	132,0	+0,4	+3,8
Middle	6,36	126,7	131,0	131,7	+0,5	+3,9
High	14,57	125,7	130,8	131,5	+0,5	+4,6
Very high	76,40	122,8	127,7	128,6	+0,7	+4,7
Commodities	64,50	122,8	125,5	126,0	+0,4	+2,6
Services	35,50	124,7	133,1	134,6	+1,1	+7,9
CPI: All items, excluding housing	87,90	122,5	126,7	127,6	+0,7	+4,2
CPI: All items, excluding food	76,29	121,7	126,6	127,8	+0,9	+5,0
Food	23,71	131,0	135,4	135,1	-0,2	+3,1
Expenditure groups - Very low	51,39	132,2	135,3	135,2	-0,1	+2,3
Low	49,01	132,8	136,5	136,4	-0,1	+2,7
Middle	43,39	132,3	136,5	136,4	-0,1	+3,1
High	33,07	131,3	135,8	135,6	-0,1	+3,3
Very high	15,82	130,6	135,0	134,7	-0,2	+3,1
Processed	13,45	130,0	135,6	135,5	-0,1	+4,2
Unprocessed	10,26	132,0	134,8	134,3	-0,4	+1,7
Grain products	4,31	131,8	131,2	130,8	-0,3	-0,8
Meat	6,40	135,2	136,9	136,0	-0,7	+0,6
Fish and other seafood	0,76	129,7	131,4	131,9	+0,4	+1,7
Milk, cheese and eggs	2,21	141,5	145,9	146,1	+0,1	+3,3
Fats and oils	0,86	135,0	135,7	136,2	+0,4	+0,9
Fruit and nuts	1,23	119,5	131,7	131,3	-0,3	+9,9
Vegetables	2,26	124,8	133,1	133,9	+0,6	+7,3
Sugar	0,57	121,6	127,5	127,1	-0,3	+4,5
Coffee, tea and cocoa	1,21	122,1	124,3	123,8	-0,4	+1,4
Other	3,90	126,1	137,3	137,3	0,0	+8,9
Non-alcoholic beverages	1,24	132,1	131,6	136,7	+3,9	+3,5
Alcoholic beverages	1,58	127,4	136,3	143,5	+5,3	+12,6
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	1,29	130,7	141,0	147,4	+4,5	+12,8
Clothing and footwear	3,67	99,4	97,6	97,4	-0,2	-2,0
Clothing	2,31	100,0	100,7	100,3	-0,4	+0,3
Footwear	1,36	98,1	92,0	92,2	+0,2	-6,0
Housing	12,10	131,2	140,1	140,3	+0,1	+6,9
Fuel and power	3,94	118,7	126,7	126,8	+0,1	+6,8
Furniture and equipment	2,86	116,2	117,1	117,2	+0,1	+0,9
Furniture	1,08	118,2	122,1	122,2	+0,1	+3,4
Appliances	0,90	121,2	120,2	119,7	-0,4	-1,2
Other household equipment and textiles	0,88	108,4	107,8	108,4	+0,6	0,0
Household operation	5,45	114,0	133,6	132,6	-0,7	+16,3
Household consumables	1,42	122,4	127,6	126,5	-0,9	+3,3
Domestic workers	3,93	110,8	136,0	135,1	-0,7	+21,9
Other household services	0,10	108,2	111,2	111,2	0,0	+2,8
Medical care and health expenses	8,07	136,2	150,4	150,1	-0,2	+10,2
Transport	16,75	120,3	119,4	120,4	+0,8	+0,1
Vehicles	6,72	120,6	118,7	118,7	0,0	-1,6
Running cost	7,96	124,8	124,1	126,2	+1,7	+1,1
Public and hired transport	2,07	106,7	108,3	108,3	0,0	+1,5
Communication	3,36	119,9	124,1	124,1	0,0	+3,5
Recreation and entertainment	3,73	102,4	100,4	100,1	-0,3	-2,2
Reading matter	0,43	121,1	126,2	126,6	+0,3	+4,5
Education	3,93	132,8	132,8	145,6	+9,6	+9,6
Personal care	4,14	124,7	127,1	127,6	+0,4	+2,3
Other	3,75	108,9	102,6	102,8	+0,2	-5,6

Table 18 - Consumer Price Index, excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX), group and product indices and percentage change for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas

Group/Product	Weights	Indices (2000=100)			Percentage change between	
		Mar 2003	Feb 2004	Mar 2004	Feb 2004 and Mar 2004	Mar 2003 and Mar 2004
CPI: All items	100,00	123,5	128,1	128,9	+0,6	+4,4
Expenditure groups - Very low	1,39	128,5	131,6	132,3	+0,5	+3,0
Low	2,26	127,0	130,9	131,5	+0,5	+3,5
Middle	8,11	126,0	130,0	130,7	+0,5	+3,7
High	16,96	125,0	129,7	130,5	+0,6	+4,4
Very high	71,28	122,6	127,2	128,1	+0,7	+4,5
Commodities	66,24	123,4	126,1	126,6	+0,4	+2,6
Services	33,76	123,6	131,8	133,3	+1,1	+7,8
CPI: All items, excluding housing	88,43	122,6	126,5	127,4	+0,7	+3,9
CPI: All items, excluding food	74,34	121,1	125,5	126,7	+1,0	+4,6
Food	25,66	132,5	136,0	135,8	-0,1	+2,5
Expenditure groups - Very low	51,24	133,2	134,5	134,6	+0,1	+1,1
Low	49,72	133,3	135,6	135,7	+0,1	+1,8
Middle	43,93	133,4	136,3	136,3	0,0	+2,2
High	33,68	133,0	136,6	136,4	-0,1	+2,6
Very high	16,69	131,9	135,8	135,6	-0,1	+2,8
Processed	14,26	130,6	136,0	136,0	0,0	+4,1
Unprocessed	11,40	134,6	135,8	135,4	-0,3	+0,6
Grain products	4,84	133,4	131,0	131,0	0,0	-1,8
Meat	6,95	138,0	138,3	137,3	-0,7	-0,5
Fish and other seafood	0,78	134,9	135,5	136,2	+0,5	+1,0
Milk, cheese and eggs	2,34	140,2	145,7	145,9	+0,1	+4,1
Fats and oils	0,93	134,6	136,2	136,8	+0,4	+1,6
Fruit and nuts	1,26	122,4	136,0	135,7	-0,2	+10,9
Vegetables	2,43	125,6	133,0	134,3	+1,0	+6,9
Sugar	0,69	123,0	130,3	128,7	-1,2	+4,6
Coffee, tea and cocoa	1,27	122,3	123,8	123,4	-0,3	+0,9
Other	4,17	128,6	139,1	139,1	0,0	+8,2
Non-alcoholic beverages	1,26	129,7	130,3	135,2	+3,8	+4,2
Alcoholic beverages	1,70	126,6	135,2	141,9	+5,0	+12,1
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	1,35	133,5	143,8	150,6	+4,7	+12,8
Clothing and footwear	4,06	98,6	96,8	96,8	0,0	-1,8
Clothing	2,53	99,0	99,7	99,5	-0,2	+0,5
Footwear	1,53	97,7	91,6	91,9	+0,3	-5,9
Housing	11,57	129,6	139,6	140,1	+0,4	+8,1
Fuel and power	4,28	117,8	125,8	125,9	+0,1	+6,9
Furniture and equipment	3,15	115,5	115,8	116,2	+0,3	+0,6
Furniture	1,21	117,3	120,2	121,0	+0,7	+3,2
Appliances	0,94	120,2	119,6	119,1	-0,4	-0,9
Other household equipment and textiles	1,00	108,4	106,4	107,1	+0,7	-1,2
Household operation	5,22	115,8	132,1	131,7	-0,3	+13,7
Household consumables	1,50	125,3	130,7	130,2	-0,4	+3,9
Domestic workers	3,59	112,1	133,4	133,0	-0,3	+18,6
Other household services	0,13	108,7	111,8	112,4	+0,5	+3,4
Medical care and health expenses	7,70	136,3	150,4	150,2	-0,1	+10,2
Transport	15,30	118,9	118,4	119,3	+0,8	+0,3
Vehicles	5,69	118,4	117,3	117,3	0,0	-0,9
Running cost	7,32	123,8	123,3	125,1	+1,5	+1,1
Public and hired transport	2,29	105,5	106,8	106,8	0,0	+1,2
Communication	3,19	120,3	124,3	124,3	0,0	+3,3
Recreation and entertainment	3,39	102,7	100,0	99,8	-0,2	-2,8
Reading matter	0,40	120,1	125,2	125,5	+0,2	+4,5
Education	3,77	132,4	132,4	144,4	+9,1	+9,1
Personal care	4,37	125,4	129,5	129,9	+0,3	+3,6
Other	3,63	108,7	102,5	102,6	+0,1	-5,6

Table 19 - Consumer Price Index group and product indices according to COICOP<sup>10</sup> and percentage change for the historical metropolitan areas

Group/Product	Weights	Indices (2000=100)			Percentage change between	
		Mar 2003	Feb 2004	Mar 2004	Feb 2004 and Mar 2004	Mar 2003 and Mar 2004
CPI: All items	100,00	122,7	122,4	123,2	+0,7	+0,4
Expenditure groups - Very low	0,91	127,1	130,6	131,1	+0,4	+3,1
Low	1,76	127,0	130,7	131,2	+0,4	+3,3
Middle	6,36	123,5	126,9	127,6	+0,6	+3,3
High	14,57	124,4	127,4	128,0	+0,5	+2,9
Very high	76,40	121,7	120,5	121,3	+0,7	-0,3
Commodities	57,14	122,7	125,5	126,0	+0,4	+2,7
Services	42,86	122,5	118,4	119,4	+0,8	-2,5
CPI: All items, excluding housing	77,86	122,1	126,1	127,0	+0,7	+4,0
CPI: All items, excluding food	80,08	120,7	119,4	120,4	+0,8	-0,2
Food, beverages and tobacco	24,63	131,2	135,9	136,7	+0,6	+4,2
Food excluding coffee, tea and cocoa	19,92	131,2	135,6	135,4	-0,1	+3,2
Grain products	3,81	131,8	131,2	130,8	-0,3	-0,8
Meat	5,66	135,2	136,9	136,0	-0,7	+0,6
Fish and other seafood	0,69	129,6	131,4	131,9	+0,4	+1,8
Milk, cheese and eggs	1,96	141,3	145,7	146,0	+0,2	+3,3
Fats and oils	0,76	135,0	135,6	136,1	+0,4	+0,8
Fruit and nuts	1,09	119,5	131,7	131,3	-0,3	+9,9
Vegetables	2,00	124,8	133,1	134,0	+0,7	+7,4
Sugar	0,50	121,6	127,5	127,1	-0,3	+4,5
Other	3,45	126,1	137,3	137,3	0,0	+8,9
Beverages	3,57	127,3	131,5	135,8	+3,3	+6,7
Coffee, tea and cocoa	1,07	122,1	124,3	123,8	-0,4	+1,4
Non-alcoholic beverages	1,10	132,1	131,6	136,7	+3,9	+3,5
Alcoholic beverages	1,40	127,4	136,3	143,5	+5,3	+12,6
Tobacco						
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	1,14	130,7	141,0	147,4	+4,5	+12,8
Clothing and footwear	3,25	99,5	97,7	97,5	-0,2	-2,0
Clothing	2,04	99,9	100,6	100,2	-0,4	+0,3
Footwear	1,21	98,1	92,0	92,2	+0,2	-6,0
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	25,63	123,7	111,9	112,0	+0,1	-9,5
Housing	22,14	124,1	109,5	109,6	+0,1	-11,7
Fuel and power	3,49	118,7	126,7	126,7	0,0	+6,7
Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house	7,35	115,5	128,3	127,7	-0,5	+10,6
Furniture and equipment	2,53	116,2	117,1	117,2	+0,1	+0,9
Furniture	0,95	118,2	122,1	122,2	+0,1	+3,4
Appliances	0,80	121,2	120,2	119,7	-0,4	-1,2
Other household equipment and textiles	0,78	108,4	107,8	108,4	+0,6	0,0
Household operation	4,82	113,9	133,4	132,5	-0,7	+16,3
Household consumables	1,25	122,5	127,7	126,6	-0,9	+3,3
Domestic workers	3,48	110,8	136,0	135,1	-0,7	+21,9
Other household services	0,09	108,3	111,3	111,3	0,0	+2,8
Health (Medical care and health expenses)	7,15	136,2	150,4	150,1	-0,2	+10,2
Transport	14,84	120,3	119,4	120,3	+0,8	0,0
Vehicles	5,95	120,5	118,5	118,5	0,0	-1,7
Running cost	7,05	124,8	124,1	126,1	+1,6	+1,0
Petrol		125,2	121,1	123,8	+2,2	-1,1
Public and hired transport	1,84	106,7	108,3	108,3	0,0	+1,5
Leisure, entertainment and culture	3,70	106,9	106,2	106,0	-0,2	-0,8
Recreation and entertainment	3,31	102,4	100,4	100,1	-0,3	-2,2
Reading matter	0,39	121,0	126,1	126,5	+0,3	+4,5
Education	3,48	132,8	132,8	145,5	+9,6	+9,6
Miscellaneous goods and services	9,97	115,5	114,9	115,1	+0,2	-0,3
Communication	2,98	119,9	124,0	124,0	0,0	+3,4
Personal care	3,67	124,7	127,1	127,5	+0,3	+2,2
Other	3,32	109,0	102,7	102,9	+0,2	-5,6

1) COICOP = Classification of individual consumption by purpose

Table 20 - Consumer Price Index group and product indices according to COICOP<sup>1)</sup> and percentage change for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas

Group/Product	Weights	Indices (2000=100)			Percentage change between	
		Mar 2003	Feb 2004	Mar 2004	Feb 2004 and Mar 2004	Mar 2003 and Mar 2004
CPI: All items	100,00	122,8	123,0	123,8	+0,7	+0,8
Expenditure groups - Very low	1,39	128,0	131,0	131,7	+0,5	+2,9
Low	2,26	126,5	130,1	130,7	+0,5	+3,3
Middle	8,11	125,3	128,7	129,5	+0,6	+3,4
High	16,96	123,9	127,1	127,9	+0,6	+3,2
Very high	71,28	121,8	120,8	121,6	+0,7	-0,2
Commodities	59,42	123,5	126,3	126,8	+0,4	+2,7
Services	40,58	122,3	118,5	119,7	+1,0	-2,1
CPI: All items, excluding housing	79,30	122,5	126,3	127,2	+0,7	+3,8
CPI: All items, excluding food	78,12	120,4	119,5	120,6	+0,9	+0,2
Food, beverages and tobacco	26,88	132,2	136,2	137,0	+0,6	+3,6
Food excluding coffee, tea and cocoa	21,88	132,6	136,2	136,1	-0,1	+2,6
Grain products	4,34	133,4	131,0	131,0	0,0	-1,8
Meat	6,23	138,0	138,3	137,3	-0,7	-0,5
Fish and other seafood	0,70	134,9	135,5	136,2	+0,5	+1,0
Milk, cheese and eggs	2,10	140,1	145,7	145,9	+0,1	+4,1
Fats and oils	0,84	134,6	136,2	136,8	+0,4	+1,6
Fruit and nuts	1,13	122,4	136,0	135,8	-0,1	+10,9
Vegetables	2,18	124,4	131,7	133,0	+1,0	+6,9
Sugar	0,62	123,0	130,2	128,7	-1,2	+4,6
Other	3,74	128,6	139,1	139,1	0,0	+8,2
Beverages	3,79	126,2	130,3	134,4	+3,1	+6,5
Coffee, tea and cocoa	1,14	122,3	123,8	123,4	-0,3	+0,9
Non-alcoholic beverages	1,13	129,7	130,3	135,2	+3,8	+4,2
Alcoholic beverages	1,52	126,6	135,2	141,9	+5,0	+12,1
Tobacco						
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	1,21	133,5	143,8	150,6	+4,7	+12,8
Clothing and footwear	3,64	98,6	96,8	96,8	0,0	-1,8
Clothing	2,27	99,0	99,7	99,5	-0,2	+0,5
Footwear	1,37	97,7	91,6	91,9	+0,3	-5,9
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	24,54	123,2	112,9	113,1	+0,2	-8,2
Housing	20,70	124,2	110,6	110,9	+0,3	-10,7
Fuel and power	3,84	117,8	125,8	125,9	+0,1	+6,9
Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house	7,50	116,4	126,2	126,1	-0,1	+8,3
Furniture and equipment	2,82	115,5	115,8	116,2	+0,3	+0,6
Furniture	1,08	117,3	120,2	121,0	+0,7	+3,2
Appliances	0,84	120,2	119,6	119,1	-0,4	-0,9
Other household equipment and textiles	0,90	108,4	106,4	107,1	+0,7	-1,2
Household operation	4,68	115,8	132,1	131,7	-0,3	+13,7
Household consumables	1,34	125,3	130,7	130,2	-0,4	+3,9
Domestic workers	3,22	112,1	133,4	133,0	-0,3	+18,6
Other household services	0,12	108,7	111,8	112,4	+0,5	+3,4
Health (Medical care and health expenses)	6,90	136,3	150,4	150,2	-0,1	+10,2
Transport	13,72	118,9	118,4	119,2	+0,7	+0,3
Vehicles	5,11	118,4	117,2	117,3	+0,1	-0,9
Running cost	6,56	123,8	123,3	125,1	+1,5	+1,1
Petrol		122,2	118,5	120,9	+2,0	-1,1
Public and hired transport	2,05	105,5	106,8	106,8	0,0	+1,2
Leisure, entertainment and culture	3,40	107,0	105,7	105,5	-0,2	-1,4
Recreation and entertainment	3,04	102,7	100,0	99,8	-0,2	-2,8
Reading matter	0,36	120,2	125,3	125,6	+0,2	+4,5
Education	3,38	132,4	132,4	144,4	+9,1	+9,1
Miscellaneous goods and services	10,04	115,8	115,7	115,8	+0,1	0,0
Communication	2,86	120,4	124,4	124,4	0,0	+3,3
Personal care	3,92	125,4	129,5	129,8	+0,2	+3,5
Other	3,26	108,7	102,5	102,6	+0,1	-5,6

1) COICOP = Classification of individual consumption by purpose



Table 21 - Consumer Price Index and percentage change according to urban area

Urban area	Weights	Indices (2000=100)			Percentage change between	
		Mar 2003	Feb 2004	Mar 2004	Feb 2004 and Mar 2004	Mar 2003 and Mar 2004
Western Cape	17,62	123,9	124,3	125,1	+0,6	+1,0
Cape Peninsula	11,88	123,4	123,0	123,7	+0,6	+0,2
Other urban areas	5,74	124,1	126,2	127,2	+0,8	+2,5
Eastern Cape	5,40	124,7	125,1	126,2	+0,9	+1,2
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	2,28	124,2	124,3	125,3	+0,8	+0,9
East London	1,10	124,9	124,5	125,4	+0,7	+0,4
Other urban areas	2,02	125,2	126,3	127,5	+1,0	+1,8
Northern Cape	1,01	124,5	124,8	125,6	+0,6	+0,9
Kimberley	0,41	126,3	125,7	126,5	+0,6	+0,2
Other urban areas	0,60	124,2	125,1	125,9	+0,6	+1,4
Free State	4,79	118,8	119,1	119,9	+0,7	+0,9
Bloemfontein	1,59	120,0	119,2	120,1	+0,8	+0,1
Free State Goldfields	1,22	119,8	120,7	121,6	+0,7	+1,5
Other urban areas	1,98	117,2	118,1	118,8	+0,6	+1,4
KwaZulu-Natal	20,47	123,7	123,5	124,1	+0,5	+0,3
Durban/Pinetown	7,19	123,5	123,4	124,2	+0,6	+0,6
Pietermaritzburg	1,34	125,2	124,1	125,0	+0,7	-0,2
Other urban areas	11,94	123,4	123,3	123,7	+0,3	+0,2
North West	2,61	123,4	122,0	123,0	+0,8	-0,3
Gauteng	42,98	122,1	122,2	123,0	+0,7	+0,7
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	11,13	121,5	121,8	122,6	+0,7	+0,9
Witwatersrand	24,53	122,5	122,4	123,0	+0,5	+0,4
Other urban areas	7,32	122,3	123,2	124,4	+1,0	+1,7
Mpumalanga	3,63	125,1	124,7	125,9	+1,0	+0,6
Nelspruit/Witbank	1,12	125,9	121,4	122,4	+0,8	-2,8
Other urban areas	2,51	124,9	126,3	127,5	+1,0	+2,1
Limpopo Province	1,49	121,8	119,8	121,0	+1,0	-0,7
Polokwane (Pietersburg)	0,21	119,1	114,2	115,1	+0,8	-3,4
Other urban areas	1,28	121,4	122,3	123,6	+1,1	+1,8
CPI for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas	100,00	122,8	123,0	123,8	+0,7	+0,8
CPI for the historical metropolitan areas	64,02	122,7	122,4	123,2	+0,7	+0,4

Table 22 - Food price index and percentage change according to urban area

Urban area	Weights	Indices (2000=100)			Percentage change between	
		Mar 2003	Feb 2004	Mar 2004	Feb 2004 and Mar 2004	Mar 2003 and Mar 2004
Western Cape	17,88	130,1	134,6	134,4	-0,1	+3,3
Cape Peninsula	10,85	130,3	135,6	135,3	-0,2	+3,8
Other urban areas	7,03	131,7	135,0	134,9	-0,1	+2,4
Eastern Cape	5,56	138,1	140,9	141,2	+0,2	+2,2
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	2,28	137,3	141,6	141,5	-0,1	+3,1
East London	0,76	138,8	139,4	139,2	-0,1	+0,3
Other urban areas	2,52	139,9	142,0	142,8	+0,6	+2,1
Northern Cape	1,21	131,0	133,5	133,7	+0,1	+2,1
Kimberley	0,43	133,9	136,7	136,5	-0,1	+1,9
Other urban areas	0,78	131,1	133,5	134,0	+0,4	+2,2
Free State	4,92	130,7	131,7	131,8	+0,1	+0,8
Bloemfontein	1,51	139,0	141,0	140,9	-0,1	+1,4
Free State Goldfields	1,05	129,4	130,4	130,3	-0,1	+0,7
Other urban areas	2,36	128,5	128,8	129,0	+0,2	+0,4
KwaZulu-Natal	21,35	139,3	142,5	141,7	-0,6	+1,7
Durban/Pinetown	6,78	138,3	142,5	141,9	-0,4	+2,6
Pietermaritzburg	1,68	137,2	139,7	139,4	-0,2	+1,6
Other urban areas	12,89	140,0	142,7	141,8	-0,6	+1,3
North West	2,72	133,9	135,7	136,3	+0,4	+1,8
Gauteng	41,19	129,5	133,2	133,1	-0,1	+2,8
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	8,22	129,1	132,9	133,2	+0,2	+3,2
Witwatersrand	23,82	128,5	133,3	132,9	-0,3	+3,4
Other urban areas	9,15	132,8	133,7	134,0	+0,2	+0,9
Mpumalanga	3,65	137,8	143,1	143,8	+0,5	+4,4
Nelspruit/Witbank	0,90	134,8	139,4	139,9	+0,4	+3,8
Other urban areas	2,75	139,0	144,5	145,3	+0,6	+4,5
Limpopo Province	1,52	137,5	140,3	140,6	+0,2	+2,3
Polokwane (Pietersburg)	0,13	141,9	144,2	143,8	-0,3	+1,3
Other urban areas	1,39	135,5	138,7	139,4	+0,5	+2,9
CPI for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas	100,00	132,4	135,9	135,8	-0,1	+2,6
CPI for the historical metropolitan areas	58,44	131,0	135,3	135,1	-0,1	+3,1

Table 23 - Consumer Price Index excluding housing and percentage change according to urban area

Urban area	Weights	Indices (2000=100)			Percentage change between	
		Mar 2003	Feb 2004	Mar 2004	Feb 2004 and Mar 2004	Mar 2003 and Mar 2004
Western Cape	17,28	122,5	126,8	127,6	+0,6	+4,2
Cape Peninsula	11,27	122,4	126,9	127,5	+0,5	+4,2
Other urban areas	6,01	123,4	127,4	128,4	+0,8	+4,1
Eastern Cape	5,90	124,6	129,5	130,6	+0,8	+4,8
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	2,22	124,9	130,8	131,9	+0,8	+5,6
East London	1,60	124,2	129,1	130,0	+0,7	+4,7
Other urban areas	2,08	125,5	129,9	131,1	+0,9	+4,5
Northern Cape	0,73	123,0	126,1	126,9	+0,6	+3,2
Kimberley	0,11	124,4	128,3	129,2	+0,7	+3,9
Other urban areas	0,62	123,2	126,0	126,8	+0,6	+2,9
Free State	4,87	117,3	120,3	121,0	+0,6	+3,2
Bloemfontein	1,46	119,4	122,9	123,8	+0,7	+3,7
Free State Goldfields	1,26	118,9	121,7	122,5	+0,7	+3,0
Other urban areas	2,15	115,6	118,5	119,1	+0,5	+3,0
KwaZulu-Natal	20,43	124,7	127,9	128,5	+0,5	+3,0
Durban/Pinetown	7,09	123,9	127,4	128,3	+0,7	+3,6
Pietermaritzburg	1,36	125,2	127,3	128,4	+0,9	+2,6
Other urban areas	11,98	125,0	127,9	128,3	+0,3	+2,6
North West	2,59	124,4	127,1	128,1	+0,8	+3,0
Gauteng	42,97	121,4	125,3	126,4	+0,9	+4,1
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	11,28	120,7	124,4	125,3	+0,7	+3,8
Witwatersrand	24,08	121,4	126,0	127,0	+0,8	+4,6
Other urban areas	7,61	122,2	124,9	126,3	+1,1	+3,4
Mpumalanga	3,69	125,7	130,0	131,2	+0,9	+4,4
Nelspruit/Witbank	1,04	124,4	128,1	129,3	+0,9	+3,9
Other urban areas	2,65	126,3	130,9	132,1	+0,9	+4,6
Limpopo Province	1,54	119,6	122,1	123,4	+1,1	+3,2
Polokwane (Pietersburg)	0,17	118,8	121,4	122,7	+1,1	+3,3
Other urban areas	1,37	119,6	122,5	123,9	+1,1	+3,6
CPI for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas	100,00	122,5	126,3	127,2	+0,7	+3,8
CPI for the historical metropolitan areas	62,96	122,1	126,1	127,0	+0,7	+4,0

Table 24 - Consumer Price Index excluding food and percentage change according to urban area

Urban area	Weights	Indices (2000=100)			Percentage change between	
		Mar 2003	Feb 2004	Mar 2004	Feb 2004 and Mar 2004	Mar 2003 and Mar 2004
Western Cape	17,46	122,4	121,7	122,8	+0,9	+0,3
Cape Peninsula	12,13	122,0	120,2	121,1	+0,7	-0,7
Other urban areas	5,33	122,0	123,5	125,0	+1,2	+2,5
Eastern Cape	5,31	121,0	120,6	121,9	+1,1	+0,7
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	2,26	121,1	119,3	120,6	+1,1	-0,4
East London	1,19	122,5	122,1	123,3	+1,0	+0,7
Other urban areas	1,86	120,8	121,6	123,0	+1,2	+1,8
Northern Cape	1,48	122,4	121,8	122,8	+0,8	+0,3
Kimberley	0,94	122,9	121,3	122,5	+1,0	-0,3
Other urban areas	0,54	121,8	122,1	122,9	+0,7	+0,9
Free State	4,72	115,0	115,1	116,1	+0,9	+1,0
Bloemfontein	1,60	115,6	114,1	115,2	+1,0	-0,3
Free State Goldfields	1,26	117,2	118,0	119,2	+1,0	+1,7
Other urban areas	1,86	113,6	114,6	115,4	+0,7	+1,6
KwaZulu-Natal	20,10	119,8	118,5	119,5	+0,8	-0,3
Durban/Pinetown	7,27	120,4	118,3	119,5	+1,0	-0,7
Pietermaritzburg	1,23	121,6	119,0	120,4	+1,2	-1,0
Other urban areas	11,60	119,2	117,4	118,4	+0,9	-0,7
North West	2,56	120,7	118,5	119,6	+0,9	-0,9
Gauteng	43,29	120,3	119,5	120,5	+0,8	+0,2
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	11,93	119,9	119,5	120,4	+0,8	+0,4
Witwatersrand	24,62	121,2	119,9	120,8	+0,8	-0,3
Other urban areas	6,74	120,4	121,0	122,6	+1,3	+1,8
Mpumalanga	3,61	121,6	119,6	120,9	+1,1	-0,6
Nelspruit/Witbank	1,18	124,0	117,5	118,5	+0,9	-4,4
Other urban areas	2,43	121,1	121,1	122,5	+1,2	+1,2
Limpopo Province	1,47	118,0	114,8	116,2	+1,2	-1,5
Polokwane (Pietersburg)	0,23	114,9	108,3	109,6	+1,2	-4,6
Other urban areas	1,24	118,1	118,1	119,7	+1,4	+1,4
CPI for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas	100,00	120,4	119,5	120,6	+0,9	+0,2
CPI for the historical metropolitan areas	65,85	120,7	119,4	120,4	+0,8	-0,2

Table 25 - Seasonally adjusted group and product indices of the Consumer Price Index (Historical metropolitan areas)  
Base : CPI 2000 = 100

Group/Product	Weights	Oct 2003	Nov 2003	Dec 2003	Jan 2004	Feb 2004	Mar 2004
CPI: All items	100,00	120,9	120,5	120,8	120,9	121,5	121,6
Expenditure groups - Very low	0,91	128,5	129,1	128,5	129,6	130,2	130,5
Low	1,76	128,3	128,9	128,5	129,4	129,9	130,3
Middle	6,36	127,0	127,5	127,2	127,6	128,0	128,5
High	14,57	125,3	125,6	125,7	125,8	126,3	126,5
Very high	76,40	119,3	118,5	119,1	119,2	119,7	119,8
CPI: All items excluding food	79,01	117,7	116,6	117,3	117,2	117,8	117,9
Commodities	57,14	123,4	123,9	124,3	124,8	125,8	125,6
Food	20,99	133,2	134,4	134,1	134,7	135,4	135,3
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	22,09	133,2	134,3	134,0	134,5	135,3	135,3
Alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	2,54	136,3	137,4	138,3	139,3	141,4	143,5
Clothing and footwear	3,25	99,3	98,1	97,6	97,0	97,0	97,1
Furniture and equipment	2,53	116,8	117,1	116,4	116,7	116,3	115,9
Vehicles	5,95	119,0	118,8	118,7	118,0	117,7	117,3
Other transport commodities	3,51	115,7	114,7	118,0	119,6	127,7	128,8
Other commodities	17,27	118,0	119,0	119,5	120,2	118,7	117,2
Services	42,86	118,0	115,9	116,6	116,1	116,3	116,5
Housing and domestic workers	25,62	114,7	111,0	112,0	110,5	110,3	109,6
Transport	3,38	113,5	113,8	114,0	113,8	114,0	114,1
Other services	13,86	128,4	130,5	130,4	132,7	134,1	136,9
CPI: All items excluding VAT	100,00	120,9	120,5	120,8	120,9	121,5	121,6
CPIX	100,00	124,6	124,7	124,9	126,1	127,2	128,0

Table 26 - Seasonally adjusted group and product indices of the Consumer Price Index (Historical metropolitan and other urban areas)  
Base : CPI 2000 = 100

Group/Product	Weights	Oct 2003	Nov 2003	Dec 2003	Jan 2004	Feb 2004	Mar 2004
CPI: All items	100,00	121,5	121,2	121,5	121,7	122,3	122,5
Expenditure groups - Very low	1,39	129,2	130,2	129,8	130,4	131,2	131,6
Low	2,26	128,0	129,0	128,6	129,2	129,7	130,1
Middle	8,11	126,8	127,6	127,4	127,8	128,3	128,7
High	16,96	125,0	125,4	125,6	125,8	126,3	126,6
Very high	71,28	119,7	118,9	119,5	119,6	120,1	120,3
CPI: All items excluding food	76,98	117,9	116,9	117,5	117,5	118,1	118,3
Commodities	59,42	124,0	124,7	125,0	125,5	126,2	126,3
Food	23,02	133,9	135,2	134,9	135,5	136,2	136,2
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	24,15	133,7	135,1	134,7	135,3	136,0	136,0
Alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	2,73	137,0	138,0	138,8	139,7	141,7	144,1
Clothing and footwear	3,64	98,6	97,6	97,1	96,6	96,5	96,3
Furniture and equipment	2,82	115,7	116,0	115,3	115,3	115,1	114,9
Vehicles	5,11	117,2	117,3	117,3	116,8	116,4	116,2
Other transport commodities	5,14	114,8	113,9	117,0	118,2	125,0	126,3
Other commodities	15,83	119,9	120,8	121,4	122,1	120,5	120,1
Services	40,58	117,9	116,0	116,7	116,4	116,7	117,1
Housing and domestic workers	23,92	114,5	110,6	111,5	110,2	110,3	110,1
Transport	3,47	112,6	113,1	113,3	113,6	114,1	113,8
Other services	13,19	124,2	125,2	125,7	126,9	127,5	129,0
CPI: All items excluding VAT	100,00	121,5	121,2	121,5	121,7	122,3	122,5
CPIX	100,00	124,6	124,8	124,8	126,1	127,0	127,9

Table 27 - Consumer Price Index for pensioners and percentage change according to urban area

Urban area	Weights	Indices (2000=100)			Percentage change between	
		Mar 2003	Feb 2004	Mar 2004	Feb 2004 and Mar 2004	Mar 2003 and Mar 2004
Western Cape	20,00	124,3	128,7	129,2	+0,4	+3,9
Cape Peninsula	12,55	123,8	128,3	128,6	+0,2	+3,9
Other urban areas	7,45	125,1	129,1	130,0	+0,7	+3,9
Eastern Cape	6,08	126,6	128,6	129,6	+0,8	+2,4
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	3,06	127,8	126,9	127,7	+0,6	-0,1
East London	0,62	125,1	133,2	135,3	+1,6	+8,2
Other urban areas	2,40	126,5	130,4	131,4	+0,8	+3,9
Northern Cape	1,57	125,7	130,3	130,8	+0,4	+4,1
Kimberley	0,69	124,8	129,9	130,5	+0,5	+4,6
Other urban areas	0,88	126,1	130,4	130,8	+0,3	+3,7
Free State	5,49	119,3	121,4	121,8	+0,3	+2,1
Bloemfontein	1,83	116,4	119,3	119,7	+0,3	+2,8
Free State Goldfields	0,86	121,4	122,8	123,2	+0,3	+1,5
Other urban areas	2,80	118,8	120,5	120,9	+0,3	+1,8
KwaZulu-Natal	22,75	124,6	128,3	128,6	+0,2	+3,2
Durban/Pinetown	7,03	123,9	129,0	129,4	+0,3	+4,4
Pietermaritzburg	1,40	124,5	128,4	129,2	+0,6	+3,8
Other urban areas	14,32	125,0	127,9	128,0	+0,1	+2,4
North West	2,40	123,9	126,6	127,5	+0,7	+2,9
Gauteng	37,69	123,1	126,5	127,2	+0,6	+3,3
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	11,35	121,1	125,9	126,3	+0,3	+4,3
Witwatersrand	16,11	123,9	127,0	127,6	+0,5	+3,0
Other urban areas	10,23	123,5	125,9	127,0	+0,9	+2,8
Mpumalanga	2,41	127,5	130,8	132,1	+1,0	+3,6
Nelspruit/Witbank	0,26	127,9	133,3	134,2	+0,7	+4,9
Other urban areas	2,15	127,4	130,5	131,9	+1,1	+3,5
Limpopo Province	1,61	122,3	124,6	125,5	+0,7	+2,6
Polokwane (Pietersburg)	0,26	127,6	131,1	131,6	+0,4	+3,1
Other urban areas	1,35	121,7	123,8	124,8	+0,8	+2,5
CPI for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas	100,00	123,8	127,4	127,9	+0,4	+3,3
CPI for the historical metropolitan areas	56,03	123,4	127,3	127,8	+0,4	+3,6

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

- Introduction**
- 1** This publication contains results of the monthly Survey of Consumer (Retail) Prices. The results of the survey are used to compile the Consumer Price Index (CPI), an economic indicator, which indicates the changes in the prices of consumer goods and services. The annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index indicates the inflation rate. These statistics are used by the private sector in the analysis of comparative business performance, as well as for contract price adjustments. It is also used in the determination of economic and social policy.
- 2** The indices are classified according to the International Trade Classification (as indicated in tables 1, 3 to 18, 25 and 26) and geographical areas (as indicated in tables 21 to 24 and 27). Due to a new international classification system, prescribed by the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA revision IV, 1993), compiled by the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Organisation for Economic Corporation and Development and the Commission of European Communities, the Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP), Stats SA decided to classify the price information collected according to this new classification system, alongside the existing classification system. The information contained in tables 19 and 20 is classified according to COICOP. The indices are calculated on the base 2000=100.
- 3** The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a series of figures (numbers) showing how the average price level of all those goods and services (basket of goods and services) bought by a typical consumer or household changes over time. The inflation rate is the annual percentage change in the CPI.
- Survey of Income and Expenditure of Households (IES)**
- 4** Stats SA conducts a Survey of Income and Expenditure of Households every five years. This survey is conducted by enumerators visiting a number of households throughout South Africa to obtain details on income and expenditure of households. The information obtained through this survey is weighted according to the Population Census figures in order to represent all households in South Africa.
- 5** Every five years the results from this survey are used to identify the goods and services bought by a typical consumer or household and which should be included in the basket of goods and services used to monitor price changes.
- 6** Furthermore, every five years the results from the Survey of Income and Expenditure of Households are used to determine the weights of the products/groups (indicator products) in the basket. The weights of a specific product/group is calculated by dividing the total amount spent by all households in South Africa on the specific product/group by the total amount spent on all goods and services by all households.
- 2000 Survey of Income and Expenditure of Households**
- 7** Stats SA conducted the five-yearly Survey of Income and Expenditure of Households in October 2000 covering a sample of 30 000 households. The information obtained through this survey was weighted according to the 1996 Population Census figures in order to represent all households in South Africa.
- 8** The 2000 Survey of Income and Expenditure of Households collected information regarding approximately 1 000 different goods and services groups. Stats SA made a further breakdown of these groups using supplementary sources. This process led to a list of approximately 1 500 groups on which the current calculation of the CPI is based.
- 9** Based on the above-mentioned information for 2000 (see paragraphs 7 and 8), the new weight for a specific product/group was calculated by dividing total expenditure by all households in South Africa on the specific product/group by total expenditure on all goods and services by all households in South Africa. Stats SA implemented the new weights, i.e. the 2000 weights based on the 2000 Survey of Income and Expenditure of Households, as from the January 2002 CPI publication.
- Basket of goods and services**
- 10** The current CPI basket covers approximately 1 500 goods and services.

- 11 These goods and services are grouped according to the International Trade Classification into 17 main groups -
- Food;
  - Non-alcoholic beverages;
  - Alcoholic beverages;
  - Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco;
  - Clothing and Footwear;
  - Housing;
  - Fuel and power;
  - Furniture and equipment;
  - Household operation;
  - Medical care and health expenses;
  - Transport;
  - Communication;
  - Recreation and entertainment;
  - Reading matter;
  - Education;
  - Personal care; and
  - Other.
- 12 These goods and services are grouped according to an alternative classification, i.e. the COICOP classification, into nine main groups –
- Food, beverages and tobacco;
  - Clothing and Footwear;
  - Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels;
  - Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house;
  - Health;
  - Transport;
  - Leisure, entertainment and culture;
  - Education; and
  - Miscellaneous goods and services.
- Weighting basis** 13 The CPI is a fixed weights index, which implies that the weight of each product/group stays the same for the five year period until the results of the next Survey of Income and Expenditure of Households become available.
- Expenditure groups** 14 Five expenditure group categories or quintiles are defined according to total annual expenditure per household as at October of the year of the Survey of Income and Expenditure of Households. The five expenditure group categories used in this publication were defined according to total annual expenditure per household as at October 2000. These categories are as follows –
- very low expenditure group – up to R8 070;
  - low expenditure group R8 071 up to R12 263;
  - middle expenditure group R12 264 up to R24 365;
  - high expenditure group R24 366 up to R55 159; and
  - very high expenditure group – R55 160 and more.
- Scope of the CPI survey** 15 The Survey of Retail Prices is a retail trade and service outlets sample survey covering prices of selected consumer goods and services sold by these retail trade and service outlets to consumers in the 12 metropolitan and 40 other urban areas in the nine provinces. The results of the survey are used to compile the Consumer Price Index, an economic indicator.
- 16 Prices of goods and services included in the CPI are collected as at any day between the first and the seventh of the month concerned. Although these prices are generally collected monthly (see list of items in paragraph 17), the prices of some items are collected quarterly (see list of items in paragraph 18), six monthly or annually (see list of items in paragraph 19). The collection of prices depends on the frequency at which these prices tend to change. However, if it comes to the attention of Stats SA that prices are about to change, these prices will be collected, even if it is not according to the normal collection schedule.



## 17 Prices of items/products collected monthly:

- Bread.
- Meat.
- Milk.
- Vegetables and fruit.
- Other groceries.
- Alcoholic beverages.
- Sweets, non-alcoholic beverages, ice-cream and tobacco products.
- Clothing and footwear.
- Repairs of clothing, footwear and furniture.
- Interest rates on mortgage bonds.
- Coal and wood.
- New vehicles, repairs and services.
- Motor spare parts and accessories.
- Petrol
- Newspapers and magazines
- Entrance fees – drive inns and bioscopes
- Air transport fees
- Cellular phone tariffs
- Furniture and equipment
- Medicine
- Garden Tools
- Washing ironing and dry-cleaning
- Sport equipment
- Reading matter and stationary
- Tariffs of hairdressing services
- Ironware and crockery
- New and retread tyres
- Household textiles
- Electrical appliances and equipment
- Medical, toilet and photographic requisites and services
- Musical instruments
- Prices of pets

## 18 Prices of items/products collected quarterly:

<b>Items/products</b>	<b>Months of survey</b>
• Rent of dwellings.	• January, April, July and October.
• Motor vehicle insurance.	• March, June, September and December.

## 19 Prices of items/products collected annually:

<b>Items/products</b>	<b>Month of survey</b>
• Doctor's and dentist's fees. • Motor vehicle license and registration fees. • Telephone (land lines).	• January.
• Toll-fees at toll-gates. • School funds. • University boarding and class fees.	• March.
• Parking fees. • Postal tariffs.	• April.
• Public transport tariffs.	• June.
• Property taxes. • Refuse removal. • Sanitary fees.	• July.
• Maintenance of graves.	• October.

Items/products	Months of survey
• Contribution to medical aid.	• January, April and July.
• Property insurance. • Hospital fees.	• January and July.
• Water. • Electricity.	• January, July and August.
• Domestic workers.	• February, September.
• Television licenses.	• April, October.

- Classification**    21    The International Trade Classification (ITC) was used to classify the products and services contained in the basket of goods and services.
- 22    A further classification of the products and services in the basket of goods and services, in line with international practices, was done according to the Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP). The indices according to this classification are published in tables 19 and 20.
- Statistical unit**    23    The statistical unit is the department (e.g food department, hardware department, clothing department) of the retail trade and service establishments (branches). The establishment is the smallest economic unit that functions as a separate entity. Information is obtained from the different departments in each establishment. Each department in the establishment is classified according to the classification of the products that the department sells, which is then classified according to ITC as well as COICOP.
- Survey methodology and design**    24    Different phases of sampling takes place. Firstly, a sample of goods and services, based on the information collected through the Survey of Income and Expenditure of Households, is designed and selected. An indicator product is selected purposively within each product group. To be selected, a product should constitute a large quantity, at least 0,01% of total expenditure. Furthermore, it must be possible to obtain price quotations for the relevant product during the whole year. The sample of indicator products is revised every five years at which stage the weights of the indicator products/groups are also revised.
- 25    Secondly, a geographical sample for price collection is designed and selected. Currently 12 major metropolitan areas, covering all nine provinces, are included in the geographical sample for price collection. The “other urban areas” are covered by nine provincial samples of four to five urban areas each, depending on the population size of the area. Therefore, a total of 40 “other urban areas” is sampled.
- 26    Thirdly, for each of the 52 sample areas, a retail trade and service outlet sampling frame is constructed, based on available data sources, mainly the business register of Stats SA, telephone directories and lists obtained from the head offices of chain stores. The sample is purposively distributed geographically within areas. Specific retail trade and service outlets are selected randomly within each area. Prices are collected from department stores, as well as specialist shops. The sample of outlets is revised every five years when the weights are revised.
- 27    Currently, an average of 110 000 price quotations are collected each month from approximately 2 200 outlets by means of 6 700 questionnaires. The indices are based on retail trade and service prices.
- Pricing basis**    28    Price information refers to the first seven days of the relevant month. **The prices of all items include VAT.**
- Processing of price information**    29    The prices that are quoted for the different products/services are edited to ensure that it is price comparable with the prices received for the same products in the previous month. If the price information difference between successive periods are outside the specified range, the current price levels are confirmed with the relative respondents through a telephonic inquiry.
- Calculating product price indices**    30    Price relatives are calculated for each product per respondent by dividing the current price by the previously quoted price. The price relative for each product is calculated by means of the geometric mean of the price relatives for each respondent. This price relative for each product is then multiplied with the product index for the previous month in order to obtain a product index for the relevant month.

<b>Calculating group price indices</b>	31	Group price indices are calculated by weighting product indices with the relevant product weight, according to each weighting structure, using the Laspeyres formula.
<b>Contributions of specific items to the total CPI</b>	32	The monthly (annual) contribution of a specific item or group of items to the total CPI is calculated by multiplying the weight of this item or group of items with the monthly (annual) change in the index for this item or group of items, divided by the index for 'All items'.
<b>Core index</b>	33	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, the core index 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.
	34	Exclusions from the CPI to obtain the core index, and the reasons for exclusion are as follows — <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fresh and frozen meat and fish: Prices may be highly volatile, particularly during and following periods of drought.</li> <li>• Fresh and frozen vegetables and fresh fruit and nuts: Prices may be highly volatile from month to month due to their sensitivity to climatic conditions.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Changes in VAT (Value Added Tax): VAT is predominantly determined by government (fiscal policy).</li> <li>• Assessment rates: These taxes are predominantly determined by local government.</li> </ul>
	35	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.
<b>CPI excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX)</b>	36	In other countries in the world such as New Zealand, Sweden and Australia, which adopted inflation targeting, different measures of the inflation rate have been derived and applied such as the Core index, the Core index excluding petrol and the CPIX. Stats SA has accordingly calculated these measures and only the CPIX and the Core index are included in this release (see table 1 on page 13).
<b>Seasonal adjustment</b>	37	Seasonal fluctuations in a time series are those fluctuations, which usually tend to occur at about the same time and with the same magnitude each year. This may be the result of climatic influences or other social and commercial habits (e.g. the price of bread, which was previously revised in October of each year). In the analysis of time series, Stats SA makes use of the X-11 technique, which was developed by the American Bureau of Census. The seasonally adjusted indices for the latest month are calculated with seasonal factors, which are based on a time series analysis of information, including the previous month. Thus these indices change every time that another month is added. In the past Stats SA did not revise the seasonal adjusted indices on a monthly basis, but revised the historical seasonally adjusted indices for a year, annually in January of each year. This methodology caused diversion between the annual changes in the seasonally adjusted and actual indices. After thorough investigations it was decided that the latest seasonally adjusted indices will be published every month. This mean that the seasonally adjusted figures will not have a fixed base such as the figures of the time series for which seasonally adjustments were done. It also implies that the values of the seasonally adjusted indices will be changing on a monthly basis.
<b>Reliability of estimates</b>	38	Inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by enterprises and errors made in collection and processing of the data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling errors. Every effort is made to reduce non-sampling errors to a minimum by careful designing the questionnaires, editing data and efficient operating procedures

**Related publications** 39 Users may also wish to refer to the following publications, which are available from Stats SA –

- Bulletin of Statistics; and
- SA Statistics.

**Unpublished statistics** 40 In some cases, Stats SA can also make available formation, which is not published. This information can be made available in one or more of the following ways: computer printout, diskette or CD. Generally a fee is levied for providing unpublished information.

<b>Symbols and abbreviations</b>	Stats SA	Statistics South Africa
	..	not available
	-	nil or not applicable
	*	revised since previous publication
	avg	average

## TECHNICAL NOTES

**Response rate** 1 The response rate for the CPI for the historical metropolitan areas for March 2004 was 91%.  
2 The response rate for the CPI for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas for March 2004 was 90%.

## GLOSSARY

**Annual inflation rate** The annual inflation rate is the change in the CPI for all items of the relevant month of the current year compared with the CPI for all items of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.

**Annual percentage change** The annual percentage change is the change in the index of the relevant month of the current year compared with the index of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.

**Average annual inflation rate** The average annual inflation rate is the change in the average CPI for all items of one year compared with the average CPI for all items of the previous year expressed as a percentage.

**Average annual percentage change** The average annual percentage change is the change in the average index of one year compared with the average index of the previous year expressed as a percentage.

**CPI excluding Interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX)** The CPI excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX) is derived by excluding the interest rates on mortgage bonds from the basket of goods and services, which is used to compile the Consumer Price Index.

In other countries in the world such as New Zealand, Sweden and Australia, which adopted inflation targeting, different measures of the inflation rate have been derived and applied such as the Core index, and the CPI excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds. Stats SA has accordingly calculated these measures and the CPI excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds CPIX, is included in this release (see table 1 on page 13).

**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 the change in the Core index of the relevant month of the current year compared with the Core index of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.

<b>Core index</b>	<p>The core index is derived by exclusions from the CPI on the basis that changes in their prices are policy. Exclusions from the CPI to obtain the core index, and the reasons for exclusion are as follows –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fresh and frozen meat and fish: Prices may be highly volatile, particularly during and following periods of drought.</li> <li>• Fresh and frozen vegetables and fresh fruit and nuts: Prices may be highly volatile from month to month due to their sensitivity to climatic conditions.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Changes in VAT (Value Added Tax): VAT is predominantly determined by government (fiscal policy).</li> <li>• Assessment rates: These taxes are predominantly determined by local government.</li> </ul>
<b>Establishment</b>	An establishment (branch) is the smallest economic unit that functions as a separate entity.
<b>Indicator products</b>	Indicator products are those products or services that were selected in the basket, which is used to compile the Consumer Price Index.
<b>Inflation rate</b>	Inflation rate is the annual percentage change in the CPI for all items of the relevant month of the current year compared with the CPI for all items of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.
<b>Metropolitan area</b>	<p>Metropolitan areas in the CPI refer to the following 12 metropolitan areas used in the compilation of the CPI –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cape Peninsula</li> <li>• Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage</li> <li>• East London</li> <li>• Kimberley</li> <li>• Bloemfontein</li> <li>• Free State Goldfields</li> <li>• Durban/Pinetown</li> <li>• Pietermaritzburg</li> <li>• Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia</li> <li>• Witwatersrand</li> <li>• Nelspruit/Witbank</li> <li>• Polokwane (Pietersburg)</li> </ul> <p>Initially 12 metropolitan areas were selected, based on the population figures as well as the size of the economical activity in these areas. However, when the 9 provinces were introduced, the Vaal Triangle metropolitan area was included partially (van der Biljpark and Vereeniging) in the other urban areas of Gauteng and partially (Sasolburg) in the other urban areas of the Free State. Due to the fact that there were no metropolitan areas in the Limpopo Province and Mpumalanga, the main urban areas and Nelspruit/Witbank in each of these provinces were selected as metropolitan areas. As from 2002 the Klerksdorp/Orkney/Stilfontein area is included under other urban areas as the coverage in the IES was not comprehensive enough to determine a weighting structure for this area.</p>
<b>Monthly percentage change</b>	The monthly percentage change is the change in the CPI of the relevant month compared to the CPI of the previous month expressed as a percentage.
<b>Weights</b>	The weights are the relevant importance of the indicator product. The weight of a product is calculated by dividing the total expenditure by households on that product by the total expenditure on all goods and services by households.

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