

Statistical Release P0141.1

Prices: Consumer Price Index (CPI)

May 1996

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THE INFLATION RATE FOR MAY 1996 INCREASES

The official inflation rate, as measured by the change in the Consumer Price Index, is 5,9% for May 1996. This rate is 0,4 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding rate of 5,5% for April 1996. From April 1996 to May 1996, the Consumer Price Index increased by 0,7%. The seasonally adjusted index shows an increase of 0,8% for the corresponding period.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MONTHLY INCREASE OF 0,7%

The major contributors to the monthly increase of 0,7% are the price indices for housing (+0,4 of a percentage point, mainly due to an increase of 1% in interest rates on mortgage bonds), transport (+0,2 of a percentage point, mainly due to an increase of 14c in the price of fuel) and all other items (+0,2 of a percentage point). These increases were slightly counteracted by a decrease in the price index for food (-0,1 of a percentage point).

FOOD PRICES

Food prices decreased during May 1996.

From April 1996 to May 1996 food prices decreased by 0,6%, but these prices still show an annual rate of increase of 1,5% for May 1996. This is 0,4 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding rate of 1,9% for April 1996.

The monthly decrease of 0,6% was caused by decreases in the price indices for meat (-0,1%), fruit and nuts (-5,9%) and vegetables (-5,0%). These decreases were slightly counteracted by increases in the price indices for grain products (+0,5%), fish and other seafood (+1,9%), milk, cheese and eggs (+1,5%), fats and oils (+0,6%), sugar (+2,7%) and "other" food items (+1,2%).

THE MONTHLY INCREASE IN THE PRICE INDEX FOR ALL ITEMS EXCLUDING FOOD IS 1,0%

The monthly increase of 1,0% in the index for all items excluding food, was caused by increases in the price indices for non-alcoholic beverages (+1,3%), alcoholic beverages (+1,6%), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+1,4%), clothing and footwear (+0,3%), housing (+2,5%), fuel and power (+0,1%), furniture and equipment (+0,1%), household operation (+0,9%), transport (+1,7%), recreation and entertainment (+0,9%) and "other" items (+0,1%).

INCOME GROUP INDICES

An inflation rate of 5,5% was recorded for the lower income group, 6,0% for the middle income group and 5,9% for the higher income group.

URBAN AREAS INDICES

The highest inflation rate of 7,2% was recorded for Pietersburg, while the lowest rate of 4,8% was recorded for the Free State Goldfields.

Regarding food, the highest annual rate of increase of 4,2% was recorded for Pietersburg, while the highest annual rate of decrease of 0,6% occurred in Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage.

INFLATION RATE FOR PENSIONERS

The inflation rate for pensioners is 5,6% for May 1996. The highest rate of increase of 6,6% was recorded for Pietersburg and the lowest rate of increase of 4,4% was recorded for Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage.

FOOD INFLATION AS MEASURED AT CHAIN-STORES AND OTHER RETAILERS

Food prices at chain-stores show an annual rate of increase of 2,1%, while food prices at other retailers show an annual rate of increase of 1,2%. From April 1996 to May 1996, food prices at chain-stores decreased by 0,9%, while those at other retailers decreased by 0,2%.

CPI FOR JUNE 1996

In addition to the normal price surveys for June 1996, it has come to the attention of the CSS that changed prices apply with effect from June 1996 with regard to certain urban areas' parking fees.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. All price information refers to the first seven days of the relevant month.
2. The Consumer Price Indices relating to different urban areas as shown in Table 4 do not permit inter-urban comparison of price levels or living costs. The indices do not indicate whether it is more expensive to live in one city than in another. The indices indicate for each urban area, independently of any of the other urban areas, the price changes which have taken place from time to time.
3. Consumer Price Indices have been compiled for the areas Pietersburg and Nelspruit/Witbank as from July 1994. Although prices are collected in each of the respective areas, the indices for June 1994 and the weighting structure of Pretoria were used as basis for the CPI for Pietersburg and those of the Vaal Triangle as basis for Nelspruit/Witbank. The weighting structure of the said areas will be used until the Survey of the Expenditures of Households has taken place in 1995, and the weighting structure for each of the new areas will then be determined accordingly. Furthermore, it should be noted that the indices for the weighted average have been calculated excluding the new areas. The new areas will be taken into account in the calculation of the weighted average as soon as a weighting structure for each has been brought into effect.
4. The indices for all items excluding food, Table 4.4, have been calculated for each area separately as from July 1994. These indices are calculated by means of the indices for all items and food of each area.

5. Value Added Tax (VAT) is included in general in the prices of all items on which VAT is applicable.

6. A more comprehensive description of the weighting system, seasonal adjustment, price collection methodology, etc., appears in the brochure "Inflation" as well as in the notes of Chapter 3 of the Bulletin of Statistics.

TABLE 1 - INCOME GROUP INDICES AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE

BASE : 1990 = 100

Group	May 1996	Apr. 1996	May 1995	Percentage change compared with		
				Apr. 1996		May 1995
				Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual
Lower income group	179,0	178,3	169,7	+0,4	+0,6	+5,5
Middle income group	183,5	182,4	173,1	+0,6	+0,8	+6,0
Higher income group	180,4	179,1	170,3	+0,7	+0,9	+5,9
All income groups	180,7	179,5	170,7	+0,7 ¹⁾	+0,8 ¹⁾	+5,9 ¹⁾
Food only	204,3	205,5	201,3	-0,6	-0,4	+1,5
All items excluding food	174,9	173,1	163,3	+1,0	+1,2	+7,1
All income groups (VAT EXCLUDED)	174,8	173,7	165,1	+0,6 ¹⁾	+0,8 ¹⁾	+5,9 ¹⁾

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

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

Group	Contribution
Food	-0,1
Housing	+0,4
Transport	+0,2
All other items	+0,2
All items	+0,7

TABLE 3 GROUP INDICES - WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF THE PRINCIPAL URBAN AREAS

BASE : 1990 = 100

Group				Percentage change compared with		Weights
	May 1996	Apr. 1996	May 1995	Apr. 1996	May 1995	
	All items	180,7	179,5	170,7	+0,7	
Lower income group	179,0	178,3	169,7	+0,4	+5,5	19,42
Middle income group	183,5	182,4	173,1	+0,6	+6,0	24,09
Higher income group	180,4	179,1	170,3	+0,7	+5,9	56,50
Commodities	184,2	183,6	177,3	+0,3	+3,9	57,92
Services	177,8	175,9	163,3	+1,1	+8,9	42,08
All items, excluding housing	190,7	190,1	181,9	+0,3	+4,8	79,46
All items, excluding food	174,9	173,1	163,3	+1,0	+7,1	81,36
Food	204,3	205,5	201,3	-0,6	+1,5	18,64
Lower income group	204,2	205,2	200,1	-0,5	+2,0	25,16
Middle income group	205,1	206,1	202,0	-0,5	+1,5	20,85
Higher income group	203,9	205,1	201,3	-0,6	+1,3	15,45
Processed	196,5	195,0	185,4	+0,8	+6,0	11,69
Unprocessed	211,5	214,5	216,3	-1,4	-2,2	6,95
Grain products	196,4	195,4	175,4	+0,5	+12,0	2,92
Meat	211,6	211,8	217,8	-0,1	-2,8	6,17
Fish and other seafood	186,6	183,2	175,0	+1,9	+6,6	0,70
Milk, cheese and eggs	183,1	180,4	172,9	+1,5	+5,9	2,28
Fats and oils	204,6	203,3	192,4	+0,6	+6,3	0,87
Fruit and nuts	267,4	284,1	268,8	-5,9	-0,5	1,18
Vegetables	208,9	220,0	228,8	-5,0	-8,7	1,88
Sugar	199,9	194,6	180,2	+2,7	+10,9	0,48
Coffee, tea and cocoa	192,6	192,6	189,0	0,0	+1,9	0,59
Other	191,4	189,1	178,3	+1,2	+7,3	1,57
Non-alcoholic beverages	206,9	204,3	188,0	+1,3	+10,1	0,69
Alcoholic beverages	200,8	197,6	189,6	+1,6	+5,9	0,96
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	229,3	226,2	206,5	+1,4	+11,0	1,21
Clothing and footwear	147,5	147,1	141,8	+0,3	+4,0	7,02
Clothing	147,2	146,8	141,5	+0,3	+4,0	5,87
Footwear	147,7	147,2	141,9	+0,3	+4,1	1,15
Housing	139,8	136,4	125,3	+2,5	+11,6	20,54
Fuel and power	182,6	182,4	170,6	+0,1	+7,0	3,26
Furniture and equipment	143,1	143,0	139,2	+0,1	+2,8	5,50
Furniture	144,7	144,7	139,8	0,0	+3,5	2,47
Appliances	144,5	144,5	142,9	0,0	+1,1	1,57
Other household equipment and textiles	146,5	146,1	141,8	+0,3	+3,3	1,46
Household operation	213,4	211,6	192,7	+0,9	+10,7	2,57
Household consumables	190,3	188,7	175,8	+0,8	+8,2	1,37
Domestic workers	263,4	260,2	227,6	+1,2	+15,7	0,83
Other household services	199,7	199,7	188,3	0,0	+6,1	0,37
Medical care and health expenses	216,4	216,4	202,7	0,0	+6,8	5,22
Transport	189,0	185,9	179,5	+1,7	+5,3	14,43
Vehicles	206,4	206,2	203,8	+0,1	+1,3	5,51
Running cost	177,2	169,6	162,4	+4,5	+9,1	5,76
Public and hired transport	174,4	174,4	162,1	0,0	+7,6	3,16
Communication	202,2	202,2	189,3	0,0	+6,8	1,61
Recreation and entertainment	158,4	157,0	149,5	+0,9	+6,0	3,71
Reading matter	211,7	211,7	190,7	0,0	+11,0	0,75
Education	310,9	310,9	284,4	0,0	+9,3	1,76
Personal care	173,2	173,2	161,0	0,0	+7,6	2,64
Other	182,2	182,0	175,3	+0,1	+3,9	9,49

TABLE 4.1 - URBAN AREAS INDICES - INDEX FOR ALL ITEMS - EACH AREA COMPARED WITH ITSELF

BASE : 1990 = 100

Urban area	All items			Percentage change compared with	
	May 1996	Apr. 1996	May 1995	Apr. 1996	May 1995
	Cape Peninsula	183,3	182,1	173,9	+0,7
Port Elizabeth / Uitenhage	182,2	180,6	173,0	+0,9	+5,3
East London	181,9	180,8	171,3	+0,6	+6,2
Kimberley	182,1	180,8	172,5	+0,7	+5,6
Pietermaritzburg	185,5	184,6	173,8	+0,5	+6,7
Durban / Pinetown	177,1	175,9	167,1	+0,7	+6,0
Pretoria / Centurion / Akasia	182,8	181,4	172,0	+0,8	+6,3
Witwatersrand	180,0	178,9	169,9	+0,6	+5,9
Klerksdorp / Stilfontein / Orkney	179,7	179,0	169,8	+0,4	+5,8
Vaal Triangle	172,2	171,0	161,8	+0,7	+6,4
Free State Goldfields	178,5	177,5	170,4	+0,6	+4,8
Bloemfontein	175,1	173,8	166,7	+0,7	+5,0
Weighted average of the twelve areas	180,7	179,5	170,7	+0,7	+5,9
Nelspruit / Witbank	169,0	167,6	159,3	+0,8	+6,1
Pietersburg	180,7	179,0	168,5	+0,9	+7,2

TABLE 4.2 - URBAN AREAS INDICES - INDEX FOR FOOD - EACH AREA COMPARED WITH ITSELF

BASE : 1990 = 100

Urban area	Food			Percentage change compared with	
	May 1996	Apr. 1996	May 1995	Apr. 1996	May 1995
	Cape Peninsula	213,1	213,8	213,7	-0,3
Port Elizabeth / Uitenhage	208,6	208,2	209,8	+0,2	-0,6
East London	212,5	212,7	205,2	-0,1	+3,6
Kimberley	196,5	196,0	193,0	+0,3	+1,8
Pietermaritzburg	225,5	228,4	217,4	-1,3	+3,7
Durban / Pinetown	199,3	200,7	194,4	-0,7	+2,5
Pretoria / Centurion / Akasia	204,9	206,2	201,0	-0,6	+1,9
Witwatersrand	201,3	203,0	197,1	-0,8	+2,1
Klerksdorp / Stilfontein / Orkney	202,6	204,8	196,7	-1,1	+3,0
Vaal Triangle	191,8	192,0	184,9	-0,1	+3,7
Free State Goldfields	200,0	200,8	198,5	-0,4	+0,8
Bloemfontein	206,4	207,0	207,3	-0,3	-0,4
Weighted average of the twelve areas	204,3	205,5	201,3	-0,6	+1,5
Nelspruit / Witbank	187,0	186,3	180,9	+0,4	+3,4
Pietersburg	200,6	199,7	192,6	+0,5	+4,2

TABLE 4.3 - URBAN AREAS INDICES - INDEX FOR ALL ITEMS EXCLUDING HOUSING - EACH AREA COMPARED WITH ITSELF

BASE : 1990 = 100

Urban area	All items excluding housing			Percentage change compared with	
	May 1996	Apr. 1996	May 1995	Apr. 1996	May 1995
Cape Peninsula	193,5	193,1	186,3	+0,2	+3,9
Port Elizabeth / Uitenhage	192,4	191,3	184,9	+0,6	+4,1
East London	192,9	192,3	183,1	+0,3	+5,4
Kimberley	189,6	188,8	182,1	+0,4	+4,1
Pietermaritzburg	195,3	195,0	185,0	+0,2	+5,6
Durban / Pinetown	186,2	185,6	177,9	+0,3	+4,7
Pretoria / Centurion / Akasia	193,2	192,4	183,6	+0,4	+5,2
Witwatersrand	190,2	189,7	180,8	+0,3	+5,2
Klerksdorp / Stilfontein / Orkney	187,0	186,7	177,4	+0,2	+5,4
Vaal Triangle	178,4	177,7	168,7	+0,4	+5,7
Free State Goldfields	187,2	186,5	179,3	+0,4	+4,4
Bloemfontein	187,4	186,6	180,4	+0,4	+3,9
Weighted average of the twelve areas	190,7	190,1	181,9	+0,3	+4,8
Nelspruit / Witbank	174,6	173,6	165,9	+0,6	+5,2
Pietersburg	190,8	189,6	180,2	+0,6	+5,9

TABLE 4.4 - URBAN AREAS INDICES - INDEX FOR ALL ITEMS EXCLUDING FOOD - EACH AREA COMPARED WITH ITSELF

BASE : 1990 = 100

Urban area	All items excluding food			Percentage change compared with	
	May 1996	Apr. 1996	May 1995	Apr. 1996	May 1995
Cape Peninsula	172,3	170,7	160,6	+0,9	+7,3
Port Elizabeth / Uitenhage	172,9	171,0	161,1	+1,1	+7,3
East London	172,2	170,8	161,0	+0,8	+7,0
Kimberley	174,5	173,1	163,5	+0,8	+6,7
Pietermaritzburg	172,6	170,8	160,3	+1,1	+7,7
Durban / Pinetown	166,4	164,6	155,4	+1,1	+7,1
Pretoria / Centurion / Akasia	175,4	173,5	163,3	+1,1	+7,4
Witwatersrand	172,2	170,5	160,9	+1,0	+7,0
Klerksdorp / Stilfontein / Orkney	170,8	169,5	160,2	+0,8	+6,6
Vaal Triangle	165,9	164,4	154,8	+0,9	+7,2
Free State Goldfields	168,2	166,8	158,7	+0,8	+6,0
Bloemfontein	165,8	164,0	155,1	+1,1	+6,9
Weighted average of the twelve areas	174,9	173,1	163,3	+1,0	+7,1
Nelspruit / Witbank	163,2	161,6	152,7	+1,0	+6,9
Pietersburg	173,7	171,9	161,0	+1,0	+7,9

TABLE 5 - SEASONALLY ADJUSTED INDICES

BASE : 1990 = 100

Group	BASE : 1990 = 100				Weights
	May 1996	Apr. 1996	Mar. 1996	Feb. 1996	
All items	180,5	179,0	178,7	177,6	100,00
Lower income group	178,9	177,9	177,4	176,4	19,42
Middle income group	183,5	182,1	181,6	180,5	24,09
Higher income group	180,0	178,4	178,1	177,0	56,50
All items excluding food	174,6	172,5	171,8	170,8	81,36
Commodities	184,4	183,5	183,2	182,2	57,92
Food	205,0	205,8	206,6	204,7	18,64
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	205,0	205,7	206,4	204,2	19,33
Alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	216,2	212,0	208,7	208,1	2,17
Clothing and footwear	147,4	146,8	145,5	145,4	7,02
Furniture and equipment	143,2	142,7	142,2	141,8	5,50
Vehicles	206,4	206,0	207,0	206,9	5,51
Other transport commodities	172,4	164,9	162,1	162,1	5,09
Other commodities	178,5	177,8	177,6	176,8	13,30
Services	176,7	174,5	174,0	172,7	42,08
Housing and domestic workers	143,1	140,0	139,6	138,1	21,37
Transport	178,6	179,1	179,2	177,5	3,83
Other services	221,8	220,1	219,4	218,4	16,88
All items (VAT excluded)	174,7	173,3	172,9	171,8	100,00

TABLE 6 - THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR PENSIONERS - URBAN AREAS INDICES

Each area compared with itself

BASE : 1990 = 100

Urban area	All items			Percentage change compared with	
	May 1996	Apr. 1996	May 1995	Apr. 1996	May 1995
	Cape Peninsula	186,9	186,1	176,4	+0,4
Port Elizabeth / Uitenhage	182,2	181,2	174,6	+0,6	+4,4
East London	186,1	185,5	176,1	+0,3	+5,7
Kimberley	183,1	182,1	172,3	+0,5	+6,3
Pietermaritzburg	182,9	182,5	172,4	+0,2	+6,1
Durban / Pinetown	182,2	181,4	172,0	+0,4	+5,9
Pretoria / Centurion / Akasia	183,8	183,1	174,5	+0,4	+5,3
Witwatersrand	181,3	180,9	171,5	+0,2	+5,7
Klerksdorp / Stilfontein / Orkney	181,3	181,0	172,1	+0,2	+5,3
Vaal Triangle	176,4	175,5	165,9	+0,5	+6,3
Free State Goldfields	169,4	168,9	162,0	+0,3	+4,6
Bloemfontein	184,7	184,0	176,6	+0,4	+4,6
Weighted average of the twelve areas	183,1	182,5	173,4	+0,3	+5,6
Nelspruit / Witbank	172,7	171,7	162,6	+0,6	+6,2
Pietersburg	180,0	179,0	168,9	+0,6	+6,6

TABLE 7.1 - PERCENTAGE CHANGE BY TYPE OF STORE - CHAIN STORES

Group	Percentage change compared with	
	Apr. 1996	May 1995
Food	-0,9	+2,1
Processed	+0,8	+6,3
Unprocessed	-2,0	-1,5
Grain products	+0,5	+13,0
Meat	-0,6	-2,7
Fish and other seafood	+2,2	+7,3
Milk, cheese and eggs	+1,7	+5,3
Fats and oils	+0,6	+6,6
Fruit and nuts	-7,3	+0,2
Vegetables	-5,6	-6,1
Sugar	+3,1	+12,0
Coffee, tea and cocoa	-0,1	+1,7
Other	+1,2	+7,7

1/ With at least 15 branches

TABLE 7.2 - PERCENTAGE CHANGE BY TYPE OF STORE - OTHER RETAILERS

Group	Percentage change compared with	
	Apr. 1996	May 1995
Food	-0,2	+1,2
Processed	+0,6	+4,9
Unprocessed	-0,8	-1,9
Grain products	+0,5	+8,3
Meat	+0,7	-1,9
Fish and other seafood	+1,9	+6,7
Milk, cheese and eggs	+0,7	+5,4
Fats and oils	+0,6	+5,9
Fruit and nuts	-2,8	-1,8
Vegetables	-5,9	-7,8
Sugar	+2,6	+8,5
Coffee, tea and cocoa	+0,4	+1,8
Other	+1,0	+6,1

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