

P0141.1

Consumer Price Index

May 1997

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OFFICIAL INFLATION RATE DOWN TO 9,5% AT MAY 1997

The official inflation rate, i.e. the annual rate of change in the Consumer Price Index, is 9,5% at May 1997. This rate is 0,4 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding rate of 9,9% at April 1997 - despite the relatively large increase in food inflation. From April 1997 to May 1997, the increase in the Consumer Price Index is 0,3%, while the increase in the seasonally adjusted index is 0,4% for the same period.

CORE INFLATION RATE

The core inflation rate (see note 7 on page 3) is 9,4% at May 1997. This rate is 0,4 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding rate of 9,8% at April 1997. The monthly increase (i.e. from April 1997 to May 1997) in the core inflation index is 0,3%.

MONTHLY CONTRIBUTIONS

The monthly increase of 0,3% can be attributed to increases in the price indices for food (contributing +0,1 of a percentage point), housing (contributing +0,1 of a percentage point) and "other" items (contributing +0,1 of a percentage point).

FOOD INFLATION UP TO 11,7%, THE HIGHEST SINCE OCTOBER 1996 WHEN IT WAS 12,5%

The price index for food shows an annual rate of increase of 11,7% at May 1997. This rate is 1,2 percentage points higher than the corresponding rate of 10,5% at April 1997.

The monthly increase of 0,5% was caused by increases in the price indices for meat (+0,4%), fish and other seafood (+1,3%), milk, cheese and eggs (+1,8%), fats and oils (+0,6%), vegetables (+1,3%), sugar (+1,6%) and "other" items (+0,6%). These increases were slightly counteracted by a decrease in the price index for fruit and nuts (-3,6%).

PRICE INDEX FOR NON-FOOD ITEMS SHOWS A MONTHLY INCREASE OF 0,3%

The monthly increase of 0,3% in the price index for all items excluding food was the result of monthly increases in the price indices for non-alcoholic beverages (+0,9%), alcoholic beverages (+0,2%), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+1,5%), clothing and footwear (+0,4%), housing (+0,3%), furniture and equipment (+0,1%), household operation (+1,1%), transport (+0,1%), reading matter (+0,7%), education (+0,7%) and "other" items (+0,4%). These increases were partially counteracted by decreases in the price indices for recreation and entertainment (-0,2%) and personal care (-0,2%).

METROPOLITAN AND OTHER URBAN AREAS

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

METROPOLITAN AREAS INDICES

The highest inflation rate of 11,0% was recorded for Bloemfontein, while the lowest inflation rate of 7,6% was recorded for the Free State Goldfields.

Regarding food prices, the highest annual increase of 14,8% was also recorded for Bloemfontein, while the lowest rate of increase of 8,2% was also recorded for the Free State Goldfields.

INFLATION RATE FOR PENSIONERS

The inflation rate for pensioners is 10,0% at May 1997. The highest rate of increase of 11,6% was recorded for Pietersburg, while the lowest rate of increase of 7,3% was recorded for the Free State Goldfields.

FOOD INFLATION AS MEASURED AT CHAIN-STORES AND OTHER RETAILERS

Food prices at chain-stores show an annual rate of increase of 12,3% at May 1997, while food prices at other retailers show an annual rate of increase of only 9,7%. From April 1997 to May 1997 food prices at chain-stores increased by 0,3%, while food prices at other retailers increased by as much as 1,1%.

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 May 1997 and the average of the previous three months. This approach, when using seasonally adjusted data, shows an increase of 7,6% (which is 0,9 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding rate of 8,5% for April 1997), while unadjusted data shows an increase of 8,6%.

CPI FOR JUNE 1997

In addition to the normal price surveys for June 1997, it has come to the attention of the CSS that changed prices apply with effect from the first seven days of June 1997 regarding parking fees.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. All price information refers to the first seven days of the reference month.
2. By the phrase "each area compared with itself", the CSS reminds the user that the consumer price indices relating to various metropolitan and other urban areas as shown in Table 4 and Table 6 do not permit inter-urban comparison of price levels or living costs. The indices do not indicate whether it is more expensive to live in one city than in another. The indices indicate for each urban area, independently of any of the other urban areas, the price changes which have taken place from time to time.
3. The indices for all items excluding food, Table 4.4, have been calculated for each area separately as from July 1994. These indices are calculated by means of the index for all items and the index for food of each area.
4. Value Added Tax (VAT) is included in general in the prices of all items on which VAT is applicable.
5. The five expenditure group categories or quintiles were defined according to total annual expenditure per household as in October 1995 as:

Very low expenditure group - up to R6 340
Low expenditure group - R6 341 up to R11 590
Middle expenditure group - R11 591 up to R21 909
High expenditure group - R21 910 up to R49 498
Very high expenditure group - R49 499 and more
6. A more detailed set of weights for the metropolitan and other urban areas in total according to the new 1995-weighting structure of the CPI, as well as that for the core basket were published in Statistical release P0141.5 of 27 March 1997.

7. Core inflation

The primary objective of calculating core inflation is to capture the underlying inflation pressures in the economy i.e. the trend in the general price level which reflects the balance between aggregate demand and supply in the economy over the medium term. Core inflation is a measure designed in relation to the specific structure of a country's economy. Hence in the South African context, core inflation is derived by excluding items from the CPI basket on the basis that changes in their prices are highly volatile, subjected to temporary influences, or affected by government intervention and policy.

Items excluded from the CPI basket to obtain the "core" basket, and the reasons for exclusion are as follows:

- * Fresh and frozen meat and fish: Prices may be highly volatile, particularly during and following periods of

drought.

- * Fresh and frozen vegetables and fresh fruit and nuts: Prices may be highly volatile from quarter to quarter due to their sensitivity to climatic conditions.
- * Interest rates on mortgage bonds and overdrafts/personal loans: These are excluded due to their "perverse" effect on the CPI. A tightening in monetary policy to counter inflation pressures would cause interest rates to rise and be reflected in the interest cost component of measured inflation. This, in turn, could provoke a further tightening of monetary policy resulting in excessive movements in the inflation rate.
- * VAT (Value Added Tax): VAT is predominantly determined by government (fiscal policy).
- * Property taxes: These taxes are predominantly determined by local government.

The choice of exclusions was informed by best practice amongst several other international agencies, and after consultation with the South African Reserve Bank and other local technical experts.

TABLE 1 EXPENDITURE GROUP INDICES AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	May 1997	Apr. 1997	May 1996	Percentage change compared with		
				Apr. 1997		May 1996
				Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual
Expenditure groups						
Very Low	116,2	115,7	..	+0,4	..	..
Low	115,8	115,5	..	+0,3	..	..
Middle	116,0	115,6	..	+0,3	..	..
High	116,1	115,7	..	+0,3	..	..
Very High	115,9	115,6	..	+0,3	..	..
All expenditure groups - Metropolitan	116,0	115,6	105,9	+0,3 ¹⁾	+0,4 ¹⁾	+9,5 ¹⁾
All expenditure groups - Metro and other urban areas	116,0	115,7	..	+0,3	..	..
Food only - Metropolitan	115,3	114,7	103,2	+0,5	+1,1	+11,7
Food only - Metro and other urban areas	115,5	115,0	..	+0,4	..	..
All items excluding food - Metropolitan	116,2	115,9	106,7	+0,3	+0,3	+8,9
All items excluding food - Metro and other urban areas	116,2	115,9	..	+0,3	..	..
All expenditure groups (VAT EXCLUDED) - Metropolitan	116,0	115,6	105,9	+0,3 ¹⁾	+0,4 ¹⁾	+9,5 ¹⁾
All expenditure groups (VAT EXCLUDED) - Metro and other urban areas	116,0	115,7	..	+0,3	..	..
Core inflation - Metropolitan	116,0	115,6	106,0	+0,3	-	+9,4
Core inflation - Metro and other urban areas	116,3	115,9	..	+0,3	-	..

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

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

Group	Contribution
Food	+0,1
Housing	+0,1
All other items	+0,1
All items	+0,3

TABLE 3 GROUP INDICES - WEIGHTED AVERAGE
3.1 METROPOLITAN AREAS

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	May 1997	Apr. 1997	May 1996	Percentage change compared with		Weights
				Apr. 1997	May 1996	
All items	116,0	115,6	105,9	+0,3	+9,5	100,00
Expenditure groups - Very low	116,2	115,7	..	+0,4	..	0,51
Low	115,8	115,5	..	+0,3	..	1,78
Middle	116,0	115,6	..	+0,3	..	5,24
High	116,1	115,7	..	+0,3	..	17,70
Very high	115,9	115,6	..	+0,3	..	74,77
Commodities	114,0	113,6	104,4	+0,4	+9,2	55,00
Services	119,0	118,9	108,3	+0,1	+9,9	45,00
All items, excluding housing	115,5	115,1	105,2	+0,3	+9,8	75,93
All items, excluding food	116,2	115,9	106,7	+0,3	+8,9	81,98
Food	115,3	114,7	103,2	+0,5	+11,7	18,02
Expenditure groups - Very low	115,9	115,3	..	+0,5	..	40,73
Low	115,9	115,5	..	+0,3	..	34,39
Middle	115,9	115,4	..	+0,4	..	31,12
High	115,6	115,0	..	+0,5	..	25,42
Very high	114,9	114,4	..	+0,4	..	14,84
Processed	115,2	114,4	105,4	+0,7	+9,3	9,12
Unprocessed	115,3	115,1	101,3	+0,2	+13,8	8,90
Grain products	120,1	120,1	109,8	0,0	+9,4	3,31
Meat	111,9	111,4	99,7	+0,4	+12,2	5,33
Fish and other seafood	115,1	113,6	106,3	+1,3	+8,3	0,80
Milk, cheese and eggs	121,7	119,6	105,8	+1,8	+15,0	1,90
Fats and oils	116,5	115,8	106,2	+0,6	+9,7	0,85
Fruit and nuts	105,5	109,4	103,5	-3,6	+1,9	1,08
Vegetables	122,9	121,3	98,8	+1,3	+24,4	1,80
Sugar	111,7	109,9	108,2	+1,6	+3,2	0,59
Coffee, tea and cocoa	105,6	105,6	102,0	0,0	+3,5	0,72
Other	115,2	114,5	106,2	+0,6	+8,5	1,64
Non-alcoholic beverages	121,5	120,4	110,2	+0,9	+10,3	0,82
Alcoholic beverages	118,2	118,0	107,1	+0,2	+10,4	1,18
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	144,7	142,5	111,2	+1,5	+30,1	0,95
Clothing and footwear	107,2	106,8	103,7	+0,4	+3,4	4,76
Clothing	106,6	106,2	103,7	+0,4	+2,8	3,55
Footwear	110,2	109,9	103,4	+0,3	+6,6	1,21
Housing	119,9	119,6	109,8	+0,3	+9,2	24,07
Fuel and power	112,2	112,2	105,5	0,0	+6,4	3,11
Furniture and equipment	107,5	107,4	102,2	+0,1	+5,2	3,94
Furniture	108,8	108,8	102,6	0,0	+6,0	1,62
Appliances	105,7	105,7	101,1	0,0	+4,5	1,08
Other household equipment and textiles	107,2	107,0	103,1	+0,2	+4,0	1,24
Household operation	124,0	122,6	109,7	+1,1	+13,0	4,69
Household consumables	121,1	119,4	107,8	+1,4	+12,3	1,14
Domestic workers	131,2	129,7	113,7	+1,2	+15,4	3,19
Other household services	113,0	113,1	105,4	-0,1	+7,2	0,36
Medical care and health expenses	129,3	129,3	106,8	0,0	+21,1	5,95
Transport	112,3	112,2	105,4	+0,1	+6,5	14,74
Vehicles	109,4	109,4	101,7	0,0	+7,6	5,25
Running cost	118,6	117,9	109,6	+0,6	+8,2	5,75
Public and hired transport	109,4	110,0	106,4	-0,5	+2,8	3,74
Communication	110,6	110,6	107,2	0,0	+3,2	3,06
Recreation and entertainment	108,4	108,6	105,1	-0,2	+3,1	2,38
Reading matter	123,3	122,4	111,5	+0,7	+10,6	0,74
Education	122,2	121,4	110,8	+0,7	+10,3	2,04
Personal care	113,3	113,5	106,2	-0,2	+6,7	3,06
Other	113,8	113,3	104,5	+0,4	+8,9	6,49

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

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	May 1997	Apr. 1997	May 1996	Percentage change compared with		Weights
				Apr. 1997	May 1996	
All items	116,0	115,7	..	+0,3	..	100,00
Expenditure groups - Very low	116,1	115,7	..	+0,3	..	0,93
Low	115,8	115,5	..	+0,3	..	2,99
Middle	115,6	115,2	..	+0,3	..	7,58
High	116,0	115,7	..	+0,3	..	20,09
Very high	116,0	115,8	..	+0,2	..	68,41
Commodities	113,9	113,5	..	+0,4	..	57,34
Services	118,9	118,7	..	+0,2	..	42,66
All items, excluding housing	115,4	115,0	..	+0,3	..	77,55
All items, excluding food	116,2	115,9	..	+0,3	..	80,52
Food	115,5	115,0	..	+0,4	..	19,48
Expenditure groups - Very low	116,0	115,5	..	+0,4	..	44,17
Low	116,3	115,8	..	+0,4	..	38,83
Middle	116,1	115,6	..	+0,4	..	32,67
High	115,7	115,2	..	+0,4	..	25,61
Very high	115,1	114,6	..	+0,4	..	15,02
Processed	114,7	114,0	..	+0,6	..	10,52
Unprocessed	116,2	115,9	..	+0,3	..	8,96
Grain products	120,8	120,9	..	-0,1	..	3,73
Meat	111,1	110,6	..	+0,5	..	5,84
Fish and other seafood	115,7	113,4	..	+2,0	..	0,77
Milk, cheese and eggs	120,7	119,3	..	+1,2	..	2,02
Fats and oils	114,3	114,0	..	+0,3	..	0,94
Fruit and nuts	104,0	107,0	..	-2,8	..	1,07
Vegetables	126,1	125,1	..	+0,8	..	1,94
Sugar	111,5	109,4	..	+1,9	..	0,73
Coffee, tea and cocoa	105,2	104,8	..	+0,4	..	0,79
Other	114,4	113,7	..	+0,6	..	1,65
Non-alcoholic beverages	122,2	121,2	..	+0,8	..	0,82
Alcoholic beverages	119,5	119,0	..	+0,4	..	1,17
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	142,2	139,7	..	+1,8	..	1,04
Clothing and footwear	106,7	106,4	..	+0,3	..	5,07
Clothing	106,2	105,9	..	+0,3	..	3,80
Footwear	108,3	108,1	..	+0,2	..	1,27
Housing	118,3	118,1	..	+0,2	..	22,45
Fuel and power	111,4	111,4	..	0,0	..	3,54
Furniture and equipment	107,7	107,7	..	0,0	..	4,34
Furniture	109,2	109,2	..	0,0	..	1,77
Appliances	105,9	105,9	..	0,0	..	1,19
Other household equipment and textiles	107,4	107,4	..	0,0	..	1,38
Household operation	126,9	125,6	..	+1,0	..	4,87
Household consumables	119,0	118,0	..	+0,8	..	1,27
Domestic workers	131,6	130,0	..	+1,2	..	3,25
Other household services	112,2	112,5	..	-0,3	..	0,35
Medical care and health expenses	126,5	126,5	..	0,0	..	5,81
Transport	111,5	111,4	..	+0,1	..	13,65
Vehicles	107,2	107,2	..	0,0	..	5,31
Running cost	118,4	117,9	..	+0,4	..	5,16
Public and hired transport	107,5	108,0	..	-0,5	..	3,18
Communication	113,7	113,7	..	0,0	..	3,21
Recreation and entertainment	104,8	105,0	..	-0,2	..	2,18
Reading matter	121,7	120,8	..	+0,7	..	0,69
Education	120,9	120,2	..	+0,6	..	1,82
Personal care	114,1	114,3	..	-0,2	..	3,08
Other	115,2	114,8	..	+0,3	..	6,78

TABLE 4 AREAS INDICES

TABLE 4.1 Index for all items

Each area compared with itself

BASE : 1995 = 100

Urban area	All items			Percentage change compared with	
	May 1997	Apr. 1997	May 1996	Apr. 1997	May 1996
Western Cape	115,9	115,6	..	+0,3	..
Cape Peninsula	116,3	116,1	105,6	+0,2	+10,1
Other urban areas	115,6	115,1	..	+0,4	..
Eastern Cape	117,5	117,1	..	+0,3	..
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	116,0	115,6	105,7	+0,3	+9,7
East London	117,4	116,8	106,0	+0,5	+10,8
Other urban areas	117,5	117,0	..	+0,4	..
Northern Cape	115,1	114,7	..	+0,3	..
Kimberley	114,2	113,7	105,3	+0,4	+8,5
Other urban areas	115,0	114,7	..	+0,3	..
Free State	113,4	113,2	..	+0,2	..
Bloemfontein	116,7	116,3	105,1	+0,3	+11,0
Free State Goldfields	113,1	112,9	105,1	+0,2	+7,6
Other urban areas	113,0	112,8	..	+0,2	..
KwaZulu-Natal	116,1	115,9	..	+0,2	..
Durban/Pinetown	117,0	116,7	106,3	+0,3	+10,1
Pietermaritzburg	116,6	116,2	106,7	+0,3	+9,3
Other urban areas	115,5	115,3	..	+0,2	..
North West	113,8	113,5	..	+0,3	..
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	114,2	113,9	105,7	+0,3	+8,0
Other urban areas	113,6	113,3	..	+0,3	..
Gauteng	116,5	116,2	..	+0,3	..
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	117,0	116,6	106,4	+0,3	+10,0
Witwatersrand	115,3	114,9	105,8	+0,3	+9,0
Other urban areas	116,1	115,9	..	+0,2	..
Mpumalanga	115,6	115,5	..	+0,1	..
Nelspruit/Witbank	116,2	115,9	106,0	+0,3	+9,6
Other urban areas	115,1	115,0	..	+0,1	..
Northern Province	115,3	114,9	..	+0,3	..
Pietersburg	116,8	116,1	106,6	+0,6	+9,6
Other urban areas	115,3	114,9	..	+0,3	..
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	116,0	115,7	..	+0,3	..
Weighted average - Metropolitan	116,0	115,6	105,9	+0,3	+9,5

TABLE 4. AREA INDICES

TABLE 4.2 Index for food
Each area compared with itself

BASE : 1995 = 100

Urban area	Food			Percentage change compared with	
	May 1997	Apr. 1997	May 1996	Apr. 1997	May 1996
Western Cape	115,0	114,5	..	+0,4	..
Cape Peninsula	114,6	114,5	102,2	+0,1	+12,1
Other urban areas	114,6	113,8	..	+0,7	..
Eastern Cape	118,8	117,8	..	+0,8	..
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	116,5	116,3	102,4	+0,2	+13,8
East London	119,4	118,2	104,3	+1,0	+14,5
Other urban areas	119,2	117,9	..	+1,1	..
Northern Cape	114,3	113,5	..	+0,7	..
Kimberley	113,1	112,1	102,6	+0,9	+10,2
Other urban areas	114,4	113,6	..	+0,7	..
Free State	111,4	110,8	..	+0,5	..
Bloemfontein	115,6	115,1	100,7	+0,4	+14,8
Free State Goldfields	111,3	110,8	102,9	+0,5	+8,2
Other urban areas	111,0	110,4	..	+0,5	..
KwaZulu-Natal	116,9	116,9	..	0,0	..
Durban/Pinetown	118,8	118,5	104,2	+0,3	+14,0
Pietermaritzburg	116,7	116,1	105,1	+0,5	+11,0
Other urban areas	116,5	116,6	..	-0,1	..
North West	113,0	112,5	..	+0,4	..
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	113,7	112,4	104,1	+1,2	+9,2
Other urban areas	112,8	112,4	..	+0,4	..
Gauteng	115,0	114,5	..	+0,4	..
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	117,5	116,5	104,2	+0,9	+12,8
Witwatersrand	114,0	113,4	103,3	+0,5	+10,4
Other urban areas	114,6	114,4	..	+0,2	..
Mpumalanga	116,1	116,4	..	-0,3	..
Nelspruit/Witbank	118,1	118,0	105,0	+0,1	+12,5
Other urban areas	115,9	116,2	..	-0,3	..
Notern Province	119,8	118,9	..	+0,8	..
Pietersburg	120,5	118,0	105,1	+2,1	+14,7
Other urban areas	119,7	119,1	..	+0,5	..
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	115,5	115,0	..	+0,4	..
Weighted average - Metropolitan	115,3	114,7	103,2	+0,5	+11,7

TABLE 4 AREAS INDICES

TABLE 4.3 Index for all items excluding housing
Each area compared with itself

BASE : 1995 = 100

Urban area	All items excluding housing			Percentage change compared with	
	May 1997	Apr. 1997	May 1996	Apr. 1997	May 1996
Western Cape	115,3	114,8	..	+0,4	..
Cape Peninsula	115,7	115,5	104,6	+0,2	+10,6
Other urban areas	114,9	114,4	..	+0,4	..
Eastern Cape	116,9	116,4	..	+0,4	..
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	115,6	115,2	104,9	+0,3	+10,2
East London	117,9	117,2	105,6	+0,6	+11,6
Other urban areas	116,7	116,2	..	+0,4	..
Northern Cape	114,4	113,9	..	+0,4	..
Kimberley	113,5	112,8	104,4	+0,6	+8,7
Other urban areas	114,3	113,9	..	+0,4	..
Free State	114,0	113,7	..	+0,3	..
Bloemfontein	116,9	116,4	104,2	+0,4	+12,2
Free State Goldfields	113,5	113,2	104,9	+0,3	+8,2
Other urban areas	113,6	113,4	..	+0,2	..
KwaZulu-Natal	115,0	114,8	..	+0,2	..
Durban/Pinetown	116,2	115,9	105,4	+0,3	+10,2
Pietermaritzburg	115,4	115,0	105,8	+0,3	+9,1
Other urban areas	114,5	114,3	..	+0,2	..
North West	113,5	113,2	..	+0,3	..
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	114,4	114,0	105,5	+0,4	+8,4
Other urban areas	113,2	113,0	..	+0,2	..
Gauteng	115,9	115,5	..	+0,3	..
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	116,6	116,1	105,6	+0,4	+10,4
Witwatersrand	115,0	114,6	105,3	+0,3	+9,2
Other urban areas	115,5	115,2	..	+0,3	..
Mpumalanga	114,3	114,2	..	+0,1	..
Nelspruit/Witbank	115,7	115,5	105,4	+0,2	+9,8
Other urban areas	113,7	113,6	..	+0,1	..
Nothorn Province	114,8	114,3	..	+0,4	..
Pietersburg	116,5	115,6	105,8	+0,8	+10,1
Other urban areas	114,6	114,2	..	+0,4	..
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	115,4	115,0	..	+0,3	..
Weighted average - Metropolitan	115,5	115,1	105,2	+0,3	+9,8

TABLE 4. AREA INDICES (concluded)

TABLE 4.4 Index for all items excluding food
Each area compared with itself

BASE : 1995 = 100

Urban area	All items excluding food			Percentage change compared with	
	May 1997	Apr. 1997	May 1996	Apr. 1997	May 1996
Western Cape	116,2	115,8	..	+0,3	..
Cape Peninsula	116,9	116,7	106,8	+0,2	+9,5
Other urban areas	115,9	115,5	..	+0,3	..
Eastern Cape	117,1	116,9	..	+0,2	..
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	115,7	115,4	106,8	+0,3	+8,3
East London	117,0	116,6	106,6	+0,3	+9,8
Other urban areas	117,0	116,8	..	+0,2	..
Northern Cape	115,4	115,2	..	+0,2	..
Kimberley	114,6	114,3	106,1	+0,3	+8,0
Other urban areas	115,2	115,0	..	+0,2	..
Free State	114,1	113,9	..	+0,2	..
Bloemfontein	117,0	116,7	106,6	+0,3	+9,8
Free State Goldfields	113,6	113,4	105,8	+0,2	+7,4
Other urban areas	113,6	113,5	..	+0,1	..
KwaZulu-Natal	115,9	115,6	..	+0,3	..
Durban/Pinetown	116,6	116,2	107,0	+0,3	+9,0
Pietermaritzburg	116,4	116,1	107,1	+0,3	+8,7
Other urban areas	115,3	115,0	..	+0,3	..
North West	114,0	113,8	..	+0,2	..
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	114,3	114,1	106,2	+0,2	+7,6
Other urban areas	113,8	113,5	..	+0,3	..
Gauteng	116,8	116,5	..	+0,3	..
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	116,6	116,3	106,9	+0,3	+9,1
Witwatersrand	115,7	115,4	106,6	+0,3	+8,5
Other urban areas	116,5	116,2	..	+0,3	..
Mpumalanga	115,5	115,2	..	+0,3	..
Nelspruit/Witbank	115,5	115,2	106,3	+0,3	+8,7
Other urban areas	114,9	114,7	..	+0,2	..
Notomern Province	114,3	114,0	..	+0,3	..
Pietersburg	115,8	115,5	107,0	+0,3	+8,2
Other urban areas	114,2	113,9	..	+0,3	..
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	116,2	115,9	..	+0,3	..
Weighted average - Metropolitan	116,2	115,9	106,7	+0,3	+8,9

TABLE 5 SEASONALLY ADJUSTED INDICES

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	May 1997	Apr. 1997	Mar. 1997	Feb. 1997	Weights
All items	115,8	115,3	114,6	113,8	100,00
Expenditure groups - Very low	..	..	..	..	0,51
Low	..	..	..	..	1,78
Middle	..	..	..	..	5,24
High	..	..	..	..	17,70
Very high	..	..	..	..	74,77
All items excluding food	115,9	115,6	114,8	114,1	81,98
Commodities	114,1	113,4	113,0	112,0	55,00
Food	115,4	114,2	113,7	112,5	18,02
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	115,7	114,4	113,9	112,8	18,84
Alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	131,5	130,1	125,7	122,7	2,13
Clothing and footwear	107,0	106,6	106,5	106,5	4,72
Furniture and equipment	107,8	107,4	107,0	106,8	3,85
Vehicles	109,4	109,2	108,9	107,2	5,25
Other transport commodities	118,2	119,0	120,9	121,6	4,63
Other commodities	113,9	113,2	112,5	110,9	15,58
Services	118,5	118,2	117,0	116,7	45,00
Housing and domestic workers	121,3	121,4	121,6	120,5	25,99
Transport	108,2	108,8	108,7	108,0	4,86
Other services	118,9	117,9	114,6	115,0	14,15
All items (VAT excluded)	115,8	115,3	114,5	113,8	100,00

TABLE 6 THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR PENSIONERS - AREA INDICES
Each area compared with itself

BASE : 1995 = 100

Urban area	All items			Percentage change compared with	
	May 1997	Apr. 1997	May 1996	Apr. 1997	May 1996
Western Cape	115,3	115,0	..	+0,3	..
Cape Peninsula	117,0	116,9	106,0	+0,1	+10,4
Other cities	115,0	114,6	..	+0,3	..
Eastern Cape	117,4	116,9	..	+0,4	..
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	115,8	115,5	105,1	+0,3	+10,2
East London	117,0	116,4	105,4	+0,5	+11,0
Other cities	117,4	116,9	..	+0,4	..
Northern Cape	116,0	115,6	..	+0,3	..
Kimberley	115,3	114,9	105,5	+0,3	+9,3
Other cities	116,0	115,6	..	+0,3	..
Free State	112,8	112,5	..	+0,3	..
Bloemfontein	116,0	116,0	104,8	0,0	+10,7
Free State Goldfields	112,2	112,0	104,6	+0,2	+7,3
Other cities	112,5	112,2	..	+0,3	..
KwaZulu-Natal	115,4	115,2	..	+0,2	..
Durban/Pinetown	116,6	116,3	106,2	+0,3	+9,8
Pietermaritzburg	115,1	114,8	106,0	+0,3	+8,6
Other cities	114,8	114,7	..	+0,1	..
North West	114,0	113,7	..	+0,3	..
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	115,1	114,7	105,2	+0,3	+9,4
Other cities	113,6	113,4	..	+0,2	..
Gauteng	115,9	115,6	..	+0,3	..
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	116,0	115,7	105,5	+0,3	+10,0
Witwatersrand	115,9	115,5	105,6	+0,3	+9,8
Other cities	115,3	114,9	..	+0,3	..
Mpumalanga	116,1	115,9	..	+0,2	..
Nelspruit/Witbank	117,3	117,1	106,1	+0,2	+10,6
Other cities	115,8	115,7	..	+0,1	..
Notthern Province	115,5	115,0	..	+0,4	..
Pietersburg	117,9	116,7	105,6	+1,0	+11,6
Other cities	115,5	115,0	..	+0,4	..
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	115,5	115,2	..	+0,3	..
Weighted average - Metropolitan	116,3	116,0	105,7	+0,3	+10,0

TABLE 7 PERCENTAGE CHANGE BY TYPE OF STORE
TABLE 7.1 Chain-stores 1/

Group	Percentage change compared with	
	Apr. 1997	May 1996
Food	+0,3	+12,3
Processed	-0,4	+9,1
Unprocessed	+0,9	+15,5
Grain products	-1,7	+6,7
Meat	+1,2	+12,2
Fish and other seafood	+0,2	+12,5
Milk, cheese and eggs	+1,4	+18,0
Fats and oils	-3,1	+4,0
Fruit and nuts	-1,9	+0,5
Vegetables	+2,4	+32,3
Sugar	+1,6	+5,5
Coffee, tea and cocoa	-0,6	+5,1
Other	-0,5	+8,5

1/ With at least 15 branches

TABLE 7.2 Other retailers 2/

Group	Percentage change compared with	
	Apr. 1997	May 1996
Food	+1,1	+9,7
Processed	+0,2	+6,9
Unprocessed	+1,9	+12,1
Grain products	0,0	+9,3
Meat	+1,0	+7,9
Fish and other seafood	0,0	+7,4
Milk, cheese and eggs	0,0	+8,3
Fats and oils	0,0	+4,9
Fruit and nuts	+9,0	+9,1
Vegetables	+4,2	+28,9
Sugar	0,0	+4,9
Coffee, tea and cocoa	0,0	+2,7
Other	0,0	+6,5

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