

Statistical Release P0141.1

Prices : Consumer Price Index

May 1998

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Please note that the statistical release regarding the Consumer Price Index will in future be released at 11:30 due to the domestic government bonds auctions which are conducted on Tuesdays at 11:00 and the South African Reserve Bank's repo tenders which are conducted daily at 12:00.

INFLATION RATE INCREASES TO 5,1% AT MAY 1998

The official inflation rate, i.e. the annual rate of change in the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas, is 5,1% at May 1998. This rate is 0,1 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding rate of 5,0% at April 1998. From April 1998 to May 1998 the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas increased by 0,4%. The seasonally adjusted index increased by 0,6% for the same period.

The inflation rate for the metropolitan and other urban areas is being calculated from January 1998. This rate is based on price collections undertaken in other urban areas, in addition to the previous collections in the metropolitan areas, since January 1997. For the purpose of seasonally adjustment three years of historical data is required, which will be available from January 2000. At that time it will be decided whether the inflation rate for metropolitan and other urban areas rather than merely for metropolitan areas will be taken as the official rate.

The inflation rate for metropolitan and other urban areas is 5,2% at May 1998, which is 0,3 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding rate of 4,9% at April 1998. From April 1998 to May 1998 the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan and other urban areas increased by 0,5%.

CORE INFLATION RATE

The core inflation rate for metropolitan areas (see note 7 on page 4) is 7,3% at May 1998. This rate is 0,2 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding rate of 7,1% at April 1998.

The core inflation rate for metropolitan and other urban areas is 7,1% at May 1998, which is 0,2 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding rate of 6,9% at April 1998. From April 1998 to May 1998 the core inflation index for metropolitan areas increased by 0,6%, while the index for metropolitan and other urban areas increased by 0,5%.

METROPOLITAN AREAS

Contributions to monthly increase in CPI

The monthly increase of 0,4% in the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas is due to increases in the price indices for food (+0,2 of a percentage point), housing (+0,1 of a percentage point) and all other items (+0,1 of a percentage point).

Food inflation

The price index for food shows an annual rate of increase of 6,7% at May 1998. This rate is 0,3 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding rate of 6,4% at April 1998. From April 1998 to May 1998 this index increased by 0,8%.

The price index for food shows a monthly increase of 0,8%, which is due to increases in the price indices for grain products (+3,1%), fish and other seafood (+1,0%), meat (+0,1%), milk, cheese and eggs (+0,5%), vegetables (+1,6%), fats and oils (+0,7%), sugar (+0,8) and "other" food items (+1,0%). These increases were partially counteracted by decreases in the price indices for fruit and nuts (-4,5%) and coffee, tea and cocoa (-0,4%).

Price index for non-food items

The monthly increase of 0,3% in the price index for "all items, excluding food" is mainly due to monthly increases in the price indices for non-alcoholic beverages (+0,8%), alcoholic beverages (+0,8%), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+1,1%), housing (+0,4%), household operation (+0,9%), transport (+0,3%), communication (+0,8%) and "other" items (+0,2%).

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 1998 and the average index of the previous three months. This approach, when using seasonally adjusted data, shows an increase of 5,5% (which is 0,4 percentage points higher than the corresponding rate of 5,1% for April 1998), while unadjusted data shows an increase of 6,5%.

Pensioners

The inflation rate for pensioners in the metropolitan areas is 6,4% at May 1998, which is 0,2 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding rate of 6,2% at April 1998.

METROPOLITAN AND OTHER URBAN AREAS

Contributions to monthly increase in CPI

Similar to the increase in the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas, the monthly increase of 0,5% in the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan and other urban areas is also due to increases in the price indices for food (+0,2 of a percentage point), housing (+0,1 of a percentage point) and all other items (+0,2 of a percentage point).

Food

The price index for food shows an annual rate of increase of 6,9% at May 1998, which is 0,6 of a percentage points higher than the corresponding rate of 6,3% for April 1998. From April 1998 to May 1998 this index increased by 1,1%.

The price index for food shows a monthly increase of 1,1%, which is due to increases in the price indices for grain products (+3,1%), fish and other seafood (+1,2%), milk, cheese and eggs (+0,9%), fats and oils (+1,0%), vegetables (+2,7%), sugar (+0,9%) and "other" food items (+1,3%). These increases were partially counteracted by decreases in the price indices for meat (-0,1%) and fats and oils (-4,0%).

Price index for non-food items

The monthly increase of 0,3% in the price index for "all items, excluding food" is mainly due to monthly increases in the price indices for non-alcoholic beverages (+0,6%), alcoholic beverages (+0,5%), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+1,6%), clothing and footwear (+0,3%), housing (+0,3%), household operation (+1,1%), transport (+0,3%), communication (+0,6%) and "other" items (+0,2%).

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 1998 and the average index of the previous three months. This approach, when using unadjusted data shows an increase of 6,6%. A better method should be to use seasonally adjusted data for the calculation of the alternative expression, but at this stage there is no seasonally adjusted data available for metropolitan and other urban areas. This is due to the fact that the index for metropolitan and other urban areas exists only since January 1997. Seasonally adjustment can only significantly be done using at least three years' data.

Pensioners

The inflation rate for pensioners in the metropolitan and other urban areas is 6,2% at May 1998. Kimberley recorded the highest rate of increase, namely 9,7%, while the lowest rate of 4,5% was recorded for Bloemfontein.

Areas indices

Kimberley recorded the highest inflation rate of 7,6%, while the lowest rate of 3,0% was recorded for Pietersburg.

Regarding food prices, the highest annual increase of 11,4% was recorded for other urban areas in Mpumalanga, while Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney reflected the lowest increase of 4,8%.

CPI FOR JUNE 1998

In addition to the usual price surveys for June 1998, it has come to the attention of the CSS that changed prices will apply during the first seven days of June 1998 regarding property insurance in certain areas and motor vehicle licences.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. All price information refers to the first seven days of the reference month.

2. By the phrase "each area compared with itself", the CSS reminds the user that the consumer price indices relating to various metropolitan and other urban areas as shown in Table 4 and Table 6 do not permit inter-urban comparison of price levels or living costs. The indices do not indicate whether it is more expensive to live in one city than in another. The indices indicate for each urban area, independently of any of the other urban areas, the price changes which have taken place from time to time.

3. The indices for all items excluding food, Table 4.4, have been calculated for each area separately as from July 1994. These indices are calculated by means of the index for all items and the index for food of each area.

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

5. The five expenditure group categories or quintiles were defined according to total annual expenditure per household as in October 1995 as:

Very low expenditure group - up to R6 340

Low expenditure group - R6 341 up to R11 590

Middle expenditure group - R11 591 up to R21 909

High expenditure group - R21 910 up to R49 498

Very high expenditure group - R49 499 and more

6. A more detailed set of weights for the metropolitan and other urban areas in total according to the new 1995-weighting structure of the CPI, as well as that for the core basket were published in Statistical release P0141.5 of 27 March 1997.

7. Core inflation

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

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

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

* Fresh and frozen vegetables and fresh fruit and nuts: Prices may be highly volatile from quarter to quarter due to their sensitivity to climatic conditions.

* Interest rates on mortgage bonds and overdrafts/personal loans: These are excluded due to their "perverse" effect on the CPI. A tightening in monetary policy to counter inflation pressures would cause interest rates to rise and be reflected in the interest cost component of measured inflation. This, in turn, could provoke a further tightening of monetary policy resulting in excessive movements in the inflation rate.

* VAT (Value Added Tax): VAT is predominantly determined by government (fiscal policy).

* Assessment rates: These taxes are predominantly determined by local government.

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

8. Symbols used: * = revised

TABLE 1 EXPENDITURE GROUP INDICES AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	May 1998	Apr. 1998	May 1997	Percentage change compared with		
				Apr. 1998		May 1997
				Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual
Expenditure groups						
Very Low	125,2	124,1	116,2	+0,9	..	+7,7
Low	124,4	123,5	115,8	+0,7	..	+7,4
Middle	124,0	123,2	116,0	+0,6	..	+6,9
High	123,6	123,0	116,1	+0,5	..	+6,5
Very High	121,2	120,8	115,9	+0,3	..	+4,6
All expenditure groups - Metropolitan	121,9	121,4	116,0	+0,4 ¹⁾	+0,6 ¹⁾	+5,1 ¹⁾
All expenditure groups - Metro and other urban areas	122,0	121,4	116,0	+0,5	..	+5,2
Food only - Metropolitan	123,0	122,0	115,3	+0,8	+1,4	+6,7
Food only - Metro and other urban areas	123,5	122,2	115,5	+1,1	..	+6,9
All items excluding food - Metropolitan	121,7	121,3	116,2	+0,3	+0,4	+4,7
All items excluding food - Metro and other urban areas	121,6	121,2	116,2	+0,3	..	+4,6
All expenditure groups (VAT EXCLUDED) - Metropolitan	121,9	121,4	116,0	+0,4 ¹⁾	+0,6 ¹⁾	+5,1 ¹⁾
All expenditure groups (VAT EXCLUDED) - Metro and other urban areas	122,0	121,4	116,0	+0,5	..	+5,2
Core inflation - Metropolitan	124,5	123,8	116,0	+0,6	-	+7,3
Core inflation - Metro and other urban areas	124,5	123,9	116,3	+0,5	-	+7,1

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 EXPENDITURE GROUPS

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

TABLE 3 GROUP INDICES - WEIGHTED AVERAGE
3.1 METROPOLITAN AREAS

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Percentage change compared with					Weights
	May 1998	Apr. 1998	May 1997	Apr. 1998	May 1997	
All items	121,9	121,4	116,0	+0,4	+5,1	100,00
Expenditure groups - Very low	125,2	124,1	116,2	+0,9	+7,7	0,51
Low	124,4	123,5	115,8	+0,7	+7,4	1,78
Middle	124,0	123,2	116,0	+0,6	+6,9	5,24
High	123,6	123,0	116,1	+0,5	+6,5	17,70
Very high	121,2	120,8	115,9	+0,3	+4,6	74,77
Commodities	120,7	120,2	114,0	+0,4	+5,9	55,00
Services	124,0	123,6	119,0	+0,3	+4,2	45,00
All items, excluding housing	122,9	122,4	115,5	+0,4	+6,4	75,93
All items, excluding food	121,7	121,3	116,2	+0,3	+4,7	81,98
Food	123,0	122,0	115,3	+0,8	+6,7	18,02
Expenditure groups - Very low	124,2	122,2	115,9	+1,6	+7,2	40,73
Low	124,3	122,6	115,9	+1,4	+7,2	34,39
Middle	124,1	122,6	115,9	+1,2	+7,1	31,12
High	123,4	122,3	115,6	+0,9	+6,7	25,42
Very high	122,5	121,7	114,9	+0,7	+6,6	14,84
Processed	124,1	122,4	115,2	+1,4	+7,7	9,12
Unprocessed	121,8	121,6	115,3	+0,2	+5,6	8,90
Grain products	128,8	124,9	120,1	+3,1	+7,2	3,31
Meat	116,9	116,8	111,9	+0,1	+4,5	5,33
Fish and other seafood	126,4	125,1	115,1	+1,0	+9,8	0,80
Milk, cheese and eggs	130,2	129,6	121,7	+0,5	+7,0	1,90
Fats and oils	125,6	124,7	116,5	+0,7	+7,8	0,85
Fruit and nuts	110,2	115,4	105,5	-4,5	+4,5	1,08
Vegetables	132,2	130,1	122,9	+1,6	+7,6	1,80
Sugar	124,2	123,2	111,7	+0,8	+11,2	0,59
Coffee, tea and cocoa	112,2	112,7	105,6	-0,4	+6,3	0,72
Other	125,5	124,2	115,2	+1,0	+8,9	1,64
Non-alcoholic beverages	132,2	131,2	121,5	+0,8	+8,8	0,82
Alcoholic beverages	128,8	127,8	118,2	+0,8	+9,0	1,18
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	179,5	177,5	144,7	+1,1	+24,0	0,95
Clothing and footwear	108,2	108,1	107,2	+0,1	+0,9	4,76
Clothing	107,9	107,7	106,6	+0,2	+1,2	3,55
Footwear	110,4	110,5	110,2	-0,1	+0,2	1,21
Housing	120,9	120,4	119,9	+0,4	+0,8	24,07
Fuel and power	122,5	122,5	112,2	0,0	+9,2	3,11
Furniture and equipment	112,5	112,5	107,5	0,0	+4,7	3,94
Furniture	117,0	117,0	108,8	0,0	+7,5	1,62
Appliances	107,9	107,9	105,7	0,0	+2,1	1,08
Other household equipment and textiles	110,5	110,4	107,2	+0,1	+3,1	1,24
Household operation	139,1	137,8	124,0	+0,9	+12,2	4,69
Household consumables	128,5	127,7	121,1	+0,6	+6,1	1,14
Domestic workers	150,7	149,0	131,2	+1,1	+14,9	3,19
Other household services	119,2	119,2	113,0	0,0	+5,5	0,36
Medical care and health expenses	145,7	145,7	129,3	0,0	+12,7	5,95
Transport	115,2	114,9	112,3	+0,3	+2,6	14,74
Vehicles	113,5	113,5	109,4	0,0	+3,7	5,25
Running cost	120,7	119,7	118,6	+0,8	+1,8	5,75
Public and hired transport	112,1	112,1	109,4	0,0	+2,5	3,74
Communication	119,7	118,8	110,6	+0,8	+8,2	3,06
Recreation and entertainment	110,1	110,0	108,4	+0,1	+1,6	2,38
Reading matter	135,2	135,2	123,3	0,0	+9,7	0,74
Education	135,6	135,6	122,2	0,0	+11,0	2,04
Personal care	121,2	121,2	113,3	0,0	+7,0	3,06
Other	115,7	115,5	113,8	+0,2	+1,7	6,49

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

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group				Percentage change compared with		Weights
	May 1998	Apr. 1998	May 1997	Apr. 1998	May 1997	
	All items	122,0	121,4	116,0	+0,5		+5,2	100,00
Expenditure groups - Very low	124,9	123,6	116,1	+1,1	+7,6	0,93
Low	124,1	123,0	115,8	+0,9	+7,2	2,99
Middle	123,2	122,3	115,6	+0,7	+6,6	7,58
High	123,2	122,6	116,0	+0,5	+6,2	20,09
Very high	121,3	120,8	116,0	+0,4	+4,6	68,41
Commodities	120,4	119,7	113,9	+0,6	+5,7	57,34
Services	124,1	123,7	118,9	+0,3	+4,4	42,66
All items, excluding housing	122,7	122,1	115,4	+0,5	+6,3	77,55
All items, excluding food	121,6	121,2	116,2	+0,3	+4,6	80,52
Food	123,5	122,2	115,5	+1,1	+6,9	19,48
Expenditure groups - Very low	125,6	123,3	116,0	+1,9	+8,3	44,17
Low	125,3	123,3	116,3	+1,6	+7,7	38,83
Middle	124,5	122,9	116,1	+1,3	+7,2	32,67
High	123,7	122,4	115,7	+1,1	+6,9	25,61
Very high	122,8	121,9	115,1	+0,7	+6,7	15,02
Processed	123,8	122,1	114,7	+1,4	+7,9	10,52
Unprocessed	123,1	122,4	116,2	+0,6	+5,9	8,96
Grain products	129,2	125,3	120,8	+3,1	+7,0	3,73
Meat	115,8	115,9	111,1	-0,1	+4,2	5,84
Fish and other seafood	128,8	127,3	115,7	+1,2	+11,3	0,77
Milk, cheese and eggs	129,9	128,8	120,7	+0,9	+7,6	2,02
Fats and oils	124,9	123,7	114,3	+1,0	+9,3	0,94
Fruit and nuts	109,3	113,9	104,0	-4,0	+5,1	1,07
Vegetables	135,9	132,3	126,1	+2,7	+7,8	1,94
Sugar	125,9	124,8	111,5	+0,9	+12,9	0,73
Coffee, tea and cocoa	111,8	111,8	105,2	0,0	+6,3	0,79
Other	125,5	123,9	114,4	+1,3	+9,7	1,65
Non-alcoholic beverages	133,6	132,8	122,2	+0,6	+9,3	0,82
Alcoholic beverages	129,8	129,1	119,5	+0,5	+8,6	1,17
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	174,4	171,6	142,2	+1,6	+22,6	1,04
Clothing and footwear	108,4	108,1	106,7	+0,3	+1,6	5,07
Clothing	108,3	108,0	106,2	+0,3	+2,0	3,80
Footwear	108,7	108,7	108,3	0,0	+0,4	1,27
Housing	119,5	119,1	118,3	+0,3	+1,0	22,45
Fuel and power	120,1	120,1	111,4	0,0	+7,8	3,54
Furniture and equipment	111,3	111,2	107,7	+0,1	+3,3	4,34
Furniture	115,1	115,1	109,2	0,0	+5,4	1,77
Appliances	107,5	107,5	105,9	0,0	+1,5	1,19
Other household equipment and textiles	109,6	109,5	107,4	+0,1	+2,0	1,38
Household operation	142,7	141,2	126,9	+1,1	+12,5	4,87
Household consumables	126,8	125,5	119,0	+1,0	+6,6	1,27
Domestic workers	151,7	149,9	131,6	+1,2	+15,3	3,25
Other household services	117,6	117,6	112,2	0,0	+4,8	0,35
Medical care and health expenses	142,4	142,4	126,5	0,0	+12,6	5,81
Transport	113,7	113,4	111,5	+0,3	+2,0	13,65
Vehicles	109,6	109,6	107,2	0,0	+2,2	5,31
Running cost	120,4	119,7	118,4	+0,6	+1,7	5,16
Public and hired transport	109,6	109,6	107,5	0,0	+2,0	3,18
Communication	123,1	122,4	113,7	+0,6	+8,3	3,21
Recreation and entertainment	106,3	106,3	104,8	0,0	+1,4	2,18
Reading matter	133,4	133,4	121,7	0,0	+9,6	0,69
Education	136,0	136,0	120,9	0,0	+12,5	1,82
Personal care	122,0	122,0	114,1	0,0	+6,9	3,08
Other	116,8	116,6	115,2	+0,2	+1,4	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 1998	Apr. 1998	May 1997	Apr. 1998	May 1997
Western Cape	121,0	120,6	115,9	+0,3	+4,4
Cape Peninsula	121,2	120,8	116,3	+0,3	+4,2
Other urban areas	120,8	120,3	115,6	+0,4	+4,5
Eastern Cape	124,2	123,4	117,5	+0,6	+5,7
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	120,7	120,1	116,0	+0,5	+4,1
East London	124,1	123,6	117,4	+0,4	+5,7
Other urban areas	124,7	123,9	117,5	+0,6	+6,1
Northern Cape	120,7	120,2	115,1	+0,4	+4,9
Kimberley	122,9	122,2	114,2	+0,6	+7,6
Other urban areas	120,2	119,7	115,0	+0,4	+4,5
Free State	119,3	118,8	113,4	+0,4	+5,2
Bloemfontein	121,7	121,4	116,7	+0,2	+4,3
Free State Goldfields	118,9	118,3	113,1	+0,5	+5,1
Other urban areas	118,9	118,4	113,0	+0,4	+5,2
KwaZulu-Natal	121,7	121,0	116,1	+0,6	+4,8
Durban/Pinetown	123,7	122,9	117,0	+0,7	+5,7
Pietermaritzburg	122,1	121,6	116,6	+0,4	+4,7
Other urban areas	120,6	119,9	115,5	+0,6	+4,4
North West	120,0	119,2	113,8	+0,7	+5,4
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	119,0	118,6	114,2	+0,3	+4,2
Other urban areas	120,0	119,1	113,6	+0,8	+5,6
Gauteng	122,6	122,2	116,5	+0,3	+5,2
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	122,6	122,2	117,0	+0,3	+4,8
Witwatersrand	121,5	121,0	115,3	+0,4	+5,4
Other urban areas	122,2	121,7	116,1	+0,4	+5,3
Mpumalanga	123,0	122,5	115,6	+0,4	+6,4
Nelspruit/Witbank	122,5	122,1	116,2	+0,3	+5,4
Other urban areas	122,7	122,2	115,1	+0,4	+6,6
Northern Province	121,3	120,9	115,3	+0,3	+5,2
Pietersburg	120,3	119,8	116,8	+0,4	+3,0
Other urban areas	121,7	121,2	115,3	+0,4	+5,6
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	122,0	121,4	116,0	+0,5	+5,2
Weighted average - Metropolitan	121,9	121,4	116,0	+0,4	+5,1

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 1998	Apr. 1998	May 1997	Apr. 1998	May 1997
Western Cape	122,9	121,7	115,0	+1,0	+6,9
Cape Peninsula	122,5	121,2	114,6	+1,1	+6,9
Other urban areas	122,4	121,2	114,6	+1,0	+6,8
Eastern Cape	129,8	128,2	118,8	+1,2	+9,3
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	122,5	121,2	116,5	+1,1	+5,2
East London	129,1	128,2	119,4	+0,7	+8,1
Other urban areas	131,4	129,7	119,2	+1,3	+10,2
Northern Cape	120,6	119,6	114,3	+0,8	+5,5
Kimberley	121,5	119,9	113,1	+1,3	+7,4
Other urban areas	120,4	119,4	114,4	+0,8	+5,2
Free State	118,8	117,9	111,4	+0,8	+6,6
Bloemfontein	122,9	122,7	115,6	+0,2	+6,3
Free State Goldfields	117,9	116,2	111,3	+1,5	+5,9
Other urban areas	118,6	117,7	111,0	+0,8	+6,8
KwaZulu-Natal	124,5	122,8	116,9	+1,4	+6,5
Durban/Pinetown	129,8	128,0	118,8	+1,4	+9,3
Pietermaritzburg	124,2	122,8	116,7	+1,1	+6,4
Other urban areas	122,6	120,9	116,5	+1,4	+5,2
North West	120,1	117,4	113,0	+2,3	+6,3
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	119,2	118,2	113,7	+0,8	+4,8
Other urban areas	120,0	117,2	112,8	+2,4	+6,4
Gauteng	122,4	121,6	115,0	+0,7	+6,4
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	124,6	124,0	117,5	+0,5	+6,0
Witwatersrand	121,3	120,6	114,0	+0,6	+6,4
Other urban areas	122,4	121,2	114,6	+1,0	+6,8
Mpumalanga	128,3	127,1	116,1	+0,9	+10,5
Nelspruit/Witbank	124,2	123,4	118,1	+0,6	+5,2
Other urban areas	129,1	127,8	115,9	+1,0	+11,4
Northern Province	126,7	126,1	119,8	+0,5	+5,8
Pietersburg	127,3	126,1	120,5	+1,0	+5,6
Other urban areas	126,7	126,1	119,7	+0,5	+5,8
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	123,5	122,2	115,5	+1,1	+6,9
Weighted average - Metropolitan	123,0	122,0	115,3	+0,8	+6,7

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

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

TABLE 5

TABLE 5 SEASONALLY ADJUSTED INDICES

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	May 1998	Apr. 1998	Mar. 1998	Feb. 1998	Weights
All items	121,8	121,1	120,7	120,2	100,00
Expenditure groups - Very low	..	..	..	..	0,51
Low	..	..	..	..	1,78
Middle	..	..	..	..	5,24
High	..	..	..	..	17,70
Very high	..	..	..	..	74,77
All items excluding food	121,5	121,0	120,8	120,3	81,98
Commodities	120,9	120,0	119,0	118,4	55,00
Food	123,2	121,5	120,4	119,5	18,02
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	123,5	121,8	120,7	119,8	18,84
Alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	152,1	150,1	146,0	143,1	2,13
Clothing and footwear	107,3	107,1	107,1	107,3	4,72
Furniture and equipment	113,0	112,6	112,3	112,4	3,85
Vehicles	113,4	113,1	112,8	112,1	5,25
Other transport commodities	120,3	120,5	119,5	120,8	4,63
Other commodities	123,9	123,1	121,7	120,5	15,58
Services	123,2	122,8	123,2	123,3	45,00
Housing and domestic workers	122,0	121,9	125,1	124,2	25,99
Transport	110,6	110,3	110,2	111,2	4,86
Other services	129,3	128,5	125,4	126,6	14,15
All items (VAT excluded)	121,7	121,0	120,6	120,1	100,00

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

BASE : 1995 = 100

Urban area	All items			Percentage change compared with	
	May 1998	Apr. 1998	May 1997	Apr. 1998	May 1997
Western Cape	121,6	121,1	115,3	+0,4	+5,5
Cape Peninsula	123,5	123,1	117,0	+0,3	+5,6
Other urban areas	121,2	120,7	115,0	+0,4	+5,4
Eastern Cape	125,5	124,5	117,4	+0,8	+6,9
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	122,1	121,3	115,8	+0,7	+5,4
East London	125,3	124,5	117,0	+0,6	+7,1
Other urban areas	125,8	124,8	117,4	+0,8	+7,2
Northern Cape	123,3	122,6	116,0	+0,6	+6,3
Kimberley	126,5	125,6	115,3	+0,7	+9,7
Other urban areas	122,8	122,2	116,0	+0,5	+5,9
Free State	119,8	119,3	112,8	+0,4	+6,2
Bloemfontein	121,2	120,8	116,0	+0,3	+4,5
Free State Goldfields	118,4	117,7	112,2	+0,6	+5,5
Other urban areas	119,8	119,2	112,5	+0,5	+6,5
KwaZulu-Natal	121,8	121,0	115,4	+0,7	+5,5
Durban/Pinetown	123,7	122,9	116,6	+0,7	+6,1
Pietermaritzburg	121,1	120,6	115,1	+0,4	+5,2
Other urban areas	120,8	120,1	114,8	+0,6	+5,2
North West	121,1	120,1	114,0	+0,8	+6,2
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	122,5	122,0	115,1	+0,4	+6,4
Other urban areas	120,7	119,6	113,6	+0,9	+6,3
Gauteng	123,5	123,0	115,9	+0,4	+6,6
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	122,8	122,4	116,0	+0,3	+5,9
Witwatersrand	124,2	123,7	115,9	+0,4	+7,2
Other urban areas	121,8	121,2	115,3	+0,5	+5,6
Mpumalanga	125,7	125,0	116,1	+0,6	+8,3
Nelspruit/Witbank	125,6	125,0	117,3	+0,5	+7,1
Other urban areas	125,7	125,0	115,8	+0,6	+8,5
Northern Province	122,8	122,3	115,5	+0,4	+6,3
Pietersburg	125,8	125,4	117,9	+0,3	+6,7
Other urban areas	122,7	122,3	115,5	+0,3	+6,2
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	122,7	122,1	115,5	+0,5	+6,2
Weighted average - Metropolitan	123,7	123,2	116,3	+0,4	+6,4