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Consumer Price Index

May 1999

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CONTENTS

Key findings	1
Graphs	
1. Consumer Price Index - Official inflation rate	4
2. Seasonally adjusted - Monthly percentage change	4
Explanatory notes	5
Tables	
1.1 Expenditure group indices and percentage change	6
1.2 Annual inflation rate on a monthly basis	6
2.1 Effect of annual price changes on the Consumer Price Index	7
2.2 Effect of monthly price changes on the Consumer Price Index	7
2.3 Effect of annual price changes on the core inflation index	7
2.4 Effect of monthly price changes on the core inflation index	7
3. Group indices - Weighted average	
3.1 Metropolitan areas	8
3.2 Metro and other urban areas	9
4. Areas indices	
4.1 Index for all items	10
4.2 Index for food	11
4.3 Index for all items excluding housing	12
4.4 Index for all items excluding food	13
5. Seasonally adjusted indices - Metropolitan areas	14
6. Consumer Price Index for pensioners - areas indices	15

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INFLATION RATE DECREASES TO 7,1% AT MAY 1999

The official inflation rate, i.e. the annual rate of change in the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas, is 7,1% at May 1999. This rate is 0,6 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 7,7% at April 1999. From April 1999 to May 1999 the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas decreased by 0,2%. The seasonally adjusted index increased by 0,2% for the same period.

The annual increase of 7,1% in the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas is mainly due to annual increases in the price indices for housing (+2,1 percentage points), transport (+0,9 of a percentage point), food (+0,8 of a percentage point), medical care and health expenses (+0,7 of a percentage point) and household operation (+0,7 of a percentage point) (cf. Table 2.1).

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 seasonal 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 6,7% at May 1999. This rate is 0,6 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 7,3% at April 1999. From April 1999 to May 1999 the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan and other urban areas decreased by 0,1%.

CORE INFLATION RATE

The core inflation rate for metropolitan areas (see note 7 on page 5) is 7,8% at May 1999. This rate is 0,1 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding annual rate of 7,7% at April 1999. From April 1999 to May 1999 the core inflation index for metropolitan areas increased by 0,7%.

The annual increase of 7,8% in the core inflation index for metropolitan areas is mainly due to annual increases in the price indices for housing (+1,7 percentage points), transport (+1,3 percentage points), medical care and health expenses (+1,1 percentage points), household operation (+0,9 of a percentage point), food (+0,6 of a percentage point), education (+0,4 of a percentage point) and cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+0,4 of a percentage point) (cf. Table 2.3).

The core inflation rate for metropolitan and other urban areas (see note 7 on page 5) is 7,5% at May 1999, which is 0,2 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding annual rate of 7,3% for April 1999. From April 1999 to May 1999 the core inflation index for metropolitan and other urban areas increased by 0,6%.

METROPOLITAN AREAS

Contributions to monthly "change" in the CPI

The Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas decreased by 0,2% from April 1999 to May 1999. This monthly decrease is due to monthly decreases in the price indices for housing (-0,5 of a percentage point, mainly due to a decrease in the interest rates on mortgage bonds) and 'other', commodities and services (-0,1 of a percentage point). These decreases were partially counteracted by monthly increases in the price indices for transport (+0,3 of a percentage point, mainly due to the 17c/l increase in the price of petrol) and food (+0,1 of a percentage point).

Contributions to monthly increase in core inflation index

From April 1999 to May 1999 the core inflation index for metropolitan areas increased by 0,7%. This monthly increase is due to monthly increases in the price indices for transport (+0,4 of a percentage point, mainly due to the 17c/l increase in the price of petrol), housing (+0,1 of a percentage point), household operation (+0,1 of a percentage point) and food (+0,1 of a percentage point).

Food inflation

The price index for food reflects an annual rate of increase of 4,5% at May 1999. This rate is 0,4 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 4,9% at April 1999. From April 1999 to May 1999 this index increased by 0,4%, while the seasonally adjusted index increased by 0,5%.

Relatively large monthly increases occurred in the price indices for fish and other seafood (+2,4%), fats and oils (+1,5%), coffee, tea and cocoa (+1,1%), milk, cheese and eggs (+1,0%), 'other' food products (+1,0), meat (+0,9%), grain products (+0,6%) and sugar (+0,2%). These increases were partially counteracted by monthly decreases in the price indices for fruit and nuts (-6,7%) and vegetables (-0,1%).

Price index for non-food items

The price index for non-food items shows an annual rate of increase of 7,6% at May 1999. This rate is 0,6 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 8,2% at April 1999. From April 1999 to May 1999 this index decreased by 0,2%, while the seasonally adjusted index remained unchanged.

Relatively large monthly decreases occurred in the price indices for housing (-1,9%, mainly due to a decrease in the interest rates on mortgage bonds), 'other' commodities (-0,8%) and non-alcoholic beverages (-0,3%). These decreases were partially counteracted by relatively large monthly increases in the price indices for transport (+2,1%, mainly due to the 17c/l increase in the price of petrol) cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+0,5%) and household operation (+1,0%).

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 1999 and the average index of the previous three months. This approach, when using seasonally adjusted data shows an increase of 1,9% (which is 0,1 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding rate of 1,8% for April 1999), while the unadjusted data shows an increase of 1,5% (which is 0,8 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding rate of 2,3% for April 1999).

Pensioners

The annual inflation rate for pensioners in the metropolitan areas is 7,2% at May 1999, which is 0,3 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 7,5% at April 1999.

METROPOLITAN AND OTHER URBAN AREAS

Contributions to monthly "change" in the CPI

The Consumer Price Index for metropolitan and other urban areas decreased by 0,1% from April 1999 to May 1999. This monthly decrease is due to monthly decreases in the price index for housing (-0,5 of a percentage point, mainly due to a decrease in the interest rates on mortgage bonds) and 'other' commodities (-0,1 of a percentage point). These decreases were slightly counteracted by monthly increases in the price indices for transport (+0,3 of a percentage point, mainly due to the 17c/l increase in the price of petrol), food (+0,1 of a percentage point) and household operation (+0,1 of a percentage point).

Food inflation

The price index for food reflects an annual rate of increase of 4,5% at May 1999. This rate is 0,7 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 5,2% at April 1999. From April 1999 to May 1999 this index increased by 0,3%.

The monthly increase of 0,3% in the price index for food is due to monthly increases in the price indices for fish and other seafood (+2,0%), fats and oils (+1,3%), vegetables (+1,1%), coffee, tea and cocoa (+0,9%), milk, cheese and eggs (+0,8%), 'other' food products (+0,6%), meat (+0,4%), sugar (+0,4%) and grain products (+0,1%). These increases were partially counteracted by a monthly decrease in the price index for fruit and nuts (-4,6%).

Price index for non-food items

The price index for non-food items shows an annual rate of increase of 7,3% at May 1999. This rate is 0,6 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 7,9% at April 1999. From April 1999 to May 1999 this index decreased by 0,2%.

Relatively large monthly decreases occurred in the price indices for housing (-1,8%, mainly due to a decrease in the interest rates on mortgage bonds), 'other' commodities (-0,7%) and non-alcoholic beverages (-0,5%). These decreases were partially counteracted by relatively large monthly increases in the price indices for transport (+1,8%, mainly due to the 17c/l increase in the price of petrol), household operation (+1,1%) and cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+0,9%).

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 1999 and the average index of the previous three months. This approach, when using unadjusted data shows an increase of 1,9%, which is 0,3 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding rate of 2,2% for April 1999. 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. Seasonal adjustment can only significantly be done using at least three years' data.

Pensioners

The annual inflation rate for pensioners in the metropolitan and other urban areas is 6,7% at May 1999. The East London area recorded the highest rate of increase of 8,1%, while the lowest rate of 5,2% was recorded for other urban areas in Northern Cape.

Areas indices

The other urban areas in North West recorded the highest annual inflation rate of 7,8%, while the lowest rate of 5,0% was recorded for the other urban areas in Northern Cape.

Regarding food prices, the highest annual increase of 7,3% was recorded for the other urban areas in Eastern Cape, while the other urban areas in the Northern Cape reflected the lowest increase of 2,2%.

CPI FOR JUNE 1999

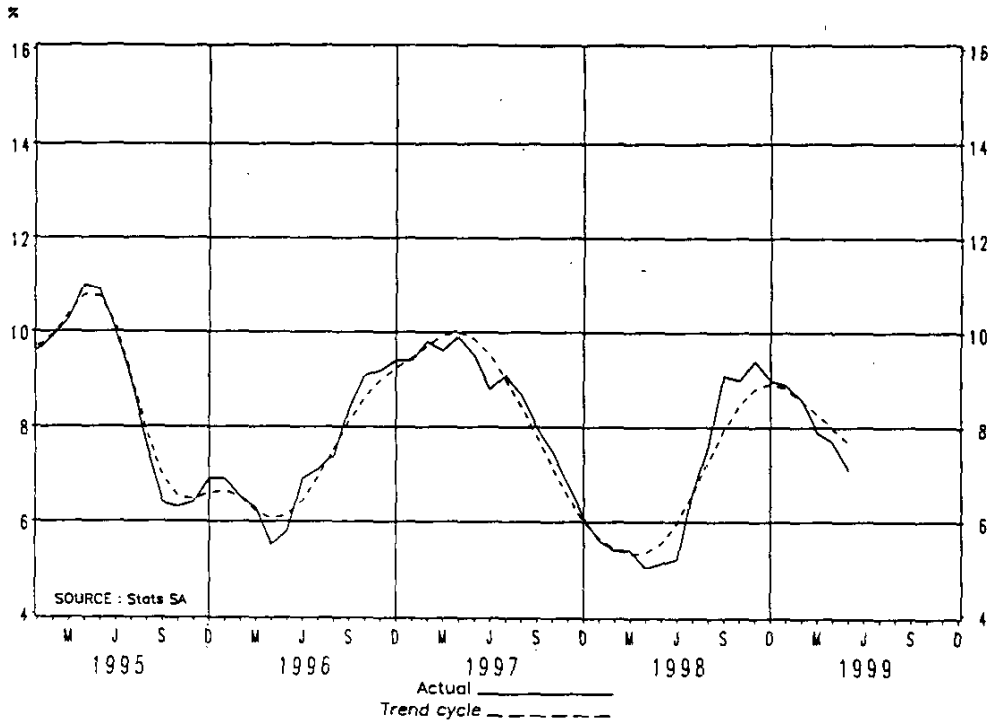
In addition to the usual price surveys for June 1999, it has come to the attention of Stats SA that changed prices will apply during the first seven days of June 1999 regarding tariffs charged by provincial hospitals and refuse removal in certain areas.

pp *M Lydder*
 Dr F M Orkin
 Head: Statistics South Africa

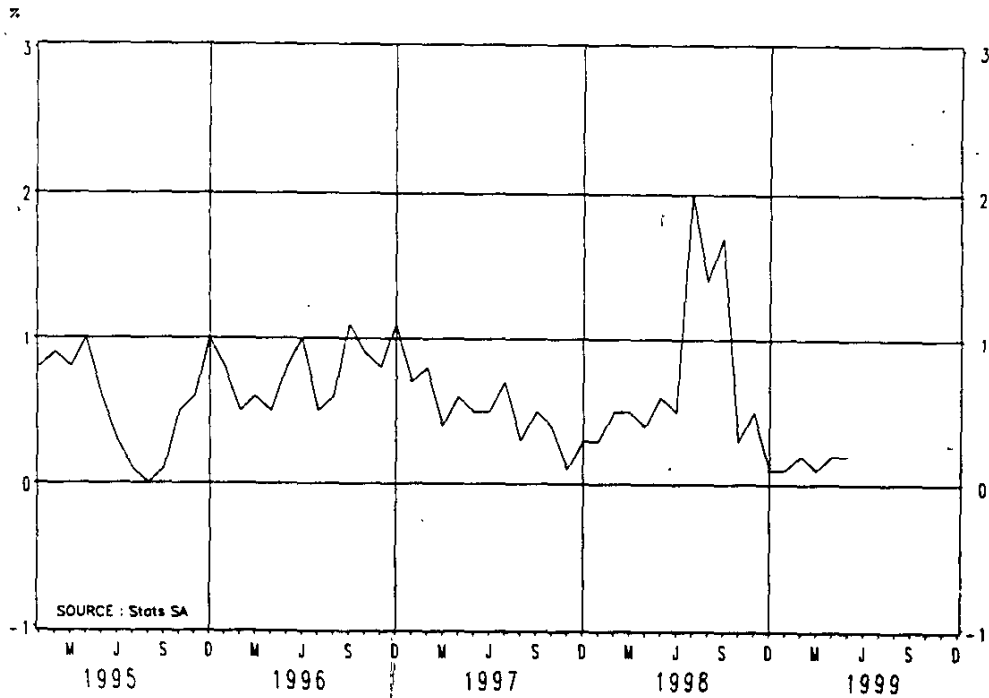
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Graph 1 - Consumer Price Index (metropolitan areas)
Annual percentage change



Graph 2 - Consumer Price Index (metropolitan areas)
Seasonally adjusted
Monthly percentage change



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", Stats SA 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
9. RESPONSE RATE
The response rate for the CPI for May 1999 was 90.8%.

TABLE 2.1 EFFECT OF ANNUAL PRICE CHANGES ON THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
- ALL EXPENDITURE GROUPS (METROPOLITAN AREAS)

Group	Contribution
Food	0,8
Non-alcoholic beverages	0,1
Alcoholic beverages	0,2
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	0,3
Housing	2,1
Fuel and power	0,2
Furniture and equipment	0,1
Household operation	0,7
Medical care and health expenses	0,7
Transport	0,9
Communication	0,2
Recreation and entertainment	0,1
Reading matter	0,1
Education	0,3
Personal care	0,3
Other	0,1
All items	7,1

TABLE 2.2 EFFECT OF MONTHLY PRICE CHANGES ON THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
- ALL EXPENDITURE GROUPS (METROPOLITAN AREAS)

Group	Contribution
Food	0,1
Housing	-0,5
Transport	0,3
Other	-0,1
All items	-0,2

TABLE 2.3 EFFECT OF ANNUAL PRICE CHANGES ON THE CORE INFLATION INDEX
- ALL EXPENDITURE GROUPS (METROPOLITAN AREAS)

Group	Contribution
Food	0,6
Non-alcoholic beverages	0,1
Alcoholic beverages	0,1
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	0,4
Clothing and footwear	0,1
Housing	1,7
Fuel and power	0,2
Furniture and equipment	0,1
Household operation	0,9
Medical care and health expenses	1,1
Transport	1,3
Communication	0,3
Recreation and entertainment	0,1
Education	0,4
Personal care	0,3
Other	0,1
All items	7,8

TABLE 2.4 EFFECT OF MONTHLY PRICE CHANGES ON THE CORE INFLATION INDEX
- ALL EXPENDITURE GROUPS (METROPOLITAN AREAS)

Group	Contribution
Food	0,1
Housing	0,1
Household operation	0,1
Transport	0,4
All items	0,7

TABLE 3 GROUP INDICES - WEIGHTED AVERAGE
3.1 METROPOLITAN AREAS

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	May 1999	Apr. 1999	May 1998	Percentage change compared with		Weights
				Apr. 1999	May 1998	
All items	130,5	130,7	121,9	-0,2	+7,1	100,00
Expenditure groups - Very low	133,6	133,1	125,2	+0,4	+6,7	0,51
Low	133,1	132,6	124,4	+0,4	+7,0	1,78
Middle	132,4	132,2	124,0	+0,2	+6,8	5,24
High	132,3	132,3	123,6	0,0	+7,0	17,70
Very high	129,7	130,0	121,2	-0,2	+7,0	74,77
Commodities	127,8	127,0	120,7	+0,6	+5,9	55,00
Services	134,7	135,9	124,0	-0,9	+8,6	45,00
All items, excluding housing	131,0	130,3	122,9	+0,5	+6,6	75,93
All items, excluding food	131,0	131,3	121,7	-0,2	+7,6	81,98
Food	128,5	128,0	123,0	+0,4	+4,5	18,02
Expenditure groups - Very low	129,6	128,8	124,2	+0,6	+4,3	40,73
Low	129,9	129,0	124,3	+0,7	+4,5	34,39
Middle	129,8	129,3	124,1	+0,4	+4,6	31,12
High	129,1	128,6	123,4	+0,4	+4,6	25,42
Very high	127,8	127,3	122,5	+0,4	+4,3	14,84
Processed	131,8	130,7	124,1	+0,8	+6,2	9,12
Unprocessed	125,0	125,2	121,8	-0,2	+2,6	8,90
Grain products	135,0	134,2	128,8	+0,6	+4,8	3,31
Meat	118,2	117,1	116,9	+0,9	+1,1	5,33
Fish and other seafood	138,6	135,3	126,4	+2,4	+9,7	0,80
Milk, cheese and eggs	134,2	132,9	130,2	+1,0	+3,1	1,90
Fats and oils	144,5	142,4	125,6	+1,5	+15,0	0,85
Fruit and nuts	119,8	128,4	110,2	-6,7	+8,7	1,08
Vegetables	132,1	132,2	132,2	-0,1	-0,1	1,80
Sugar	134,2	133,9	124,2	+0,2	+8,1	0,59
Coffee, tea and cocoa	124,3	122,9	112,2	+1,1	+10,8	0,72
Other	134,8	133,4	125,5	+1,0	+7,4	1,64
Non-alcoholic beverages	144,9	145,3	132,2	-0,3	+9,6	0,82
Alcoholic beverages	137,9	137,8	128,8	+0,1	+7,1	1,18
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	213,9	212,8	179,5	+0,5	+19,2	0,95
Clothing and footwear	109,3	109,3	108,2	0,0	+1,0	4,76
Clothing	109,0	109,2	107,9	-0,2	+1,0	3,55
Footwear	111,3	112,0	110,4	+0,3	+0,8	1,21
Housing	131,5	134,1	120,9	-1,9	+8,8	24,07
Fuel and power	130,1	129,9	122,5	+0,2	+6,2	3,11
Furniture and equipment	116,3	116,3	112,5	0,0	+3,4	3,94
Furniture	123,2	123,2	117,0	0,0	+5,3	1,62
Appliances	110,5	110,5	107,9	0,0	+2,4	1,08
Other household equipment and textiles	112,0	112,0	110,5	0,0	+1,4	1,24
Household operation	157,1	155,6	139,1	+1,0	+12,9	4,69
Household consumables	140,0	139,2	128,5	+0,6	+8,9	1,14
Domestic workers	173,1	171,2	150,7	+1,1	+14,9	3,19
Other household services	124,9	124,9	119,2	0,0	+4,8	0,36
Medical care and health expenses	160,6	160,6	145,7	0,0	+10,2	5,95
Transport	122,9	120,4	115,2	+2,1	+6,7	14,74
Vehicles	119,9	119,8	113,5	+0,1	+5,6	5,25
Running cost	133,1	126,9	120,7	+4,9	+10,3	5,75
Public and hired transport	114,3	114,3	112,1	0,0	+2,0	3,74
Communication	128,8	128,8	119,7	0,0	+7,6	3,06
Recreation and entertainment	124,3	114,2	110,1	+0,1	+3,8	2,38
Reading matter	146,4	146,4	135,2	0,0	+8,3	0,74
Education	156,4	156,4	135,6	0,0	+15,3	2,04
Personal care	131,3	131,3	121,2	0,0	+8,3	3,06
Other	117,5	118,4	115,7	-0,8	+1,6	6,49

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

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	May 1999	Apr. 1999	May 1998	Percentage change compared with		Weights
				Apr. 1999	May 1998	
All items	130,2	130,3	122,0	-0,1	+6,7	100,00
Expenditure groups - Very low	133,1	132,5	124,9	+0,5	+6,6	0,93
Low	132,2	131,8	124,1	+0,3	+6,5	2,99
Middle	131,0	130,8	123,2	+0,2	+6,3	7,58
High	131,6	131,5	123,2	+0,1	+6,8	20,09
Very high	129,6	129,8	121,3	-0,2	+6,8	68,41
Commodities	127,0	126,3	120,4	+0,6	+5,5	57,34
Services	134,6	135,7	124,1	-0,8	+8,5	42,66
All items, excluding housing	130,6	130,1	122,7	+0,4	+6,4	77,55
All items, excluding food	130,5	130,8	121,6	-0,2	+7,3	80,52
Food	129,0	128,6	123,5	+0,3	+4,5	19,48
Expenditure groups - Very low	131,5	130,8	125,6	+0,5	+4,7	44,17
Low	131,2	130,5	125,3	+0,5	+4,7	38,83
Middle	130,3	129,8	124,5	+0,4	+4,7	32,67
High	129,4	129,0	123,7	+0,3	+4,6	25,61
Very high	128,2	127,8	122,8	+0,3	+4,4	15,02
Processed	131,4	130,6	123,8	+0,6	+6,1	10,52
Unprocessed	126,7	126,7	123,1	0,0	+2,9	8,96
Grain products	134,6	134,4	129,2	+0,1	+4,2	3,73
Meat	117,1	116,6	115,8	+0,4	+1,1	5,84
Fish and other seafood	138,9	136,2	128,8	+2,0	+7,8	0,77
Milk, cheese and eggs	134,1	133,1	129,9	+0,8	+3,2	2,02
Fats and oils	142,3	140,5	124,9	+1,3	+13,9	0,94
Fruit and nuts	117,2	122,8	109,3	-4,6	+7,2	1,07
Vegetables	140,8	139,2	135,9	+1,1	+3,6	1,94
Sugar	135,7	135,2	125,9	+0,4	+7,8	0,73
Coffee, tea and cocoa	123,3	122,2	111,8	+0,9	+10,3	0,79
Other	134,4	133,6	125,5	+0,6	+7,1	1,65
Non-alcoholic beverages	147,5	148,3	133,6	-0,5	+10,4	0,82
Alcoholic beverages	139,3	139,0	129,8	+0,2	+7,3	1,17
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	209,3	207,5	174,4	+0,9	+20,0	1,04
Clothing and footwear	110,2	110,0	108,4	+0,2	+1,7	5,07
Clothing	109,7	109,6	108,3	+0,1	+1,3	3,80
Footwear	111,7	111,3	108,7	+0,4	+2,8	1,27
Housing	129,2	131,6	119,5	-1,8	+8,1	22,45
Fuel and power	125,9	125,6	120,1	+0,2	+4,8	3,54
Furniture and equipment	114,0	114,0	111,3	0,0	+2,4	4,34
Furniture	119,2	119,2	115,1	0,0	+3,6	1,77
Appliances	110,2	110,2	107,5	0,0	+2,5	1,19
Other household equipment and textiles	110,5	110,5	109,6	0,0	+0,8	1,38
Household operation	161,6	159,9	142,7	+1,1	+13,2	4,87
Household consumables	137,9	136,9	126,8	+0,7	+8,8	1,27
Domestic workers	175,0	172,9	151,7	+1,2	+15,4	3,25
Other household services	122,6	122,6	117,6	0,0	+4,3	0,35
Medical care and health expenses	157,2	157,2	142,4	0,0	+10,4	5,81
Transport	120,4	118,3	113,7	+1,8	+5,9	13,65
Vehicles	114,5	114,4	109,6	+0,1	+4,5	5,31
Running cost	132,0	126,4	120,4	+4,4	+9,6	5,16
Public and hired transport	111,4	111,4	109,6	0,0	+1,6	3,18
Communication	132,6	132,6	123,1	0,0	+7,7	3,21
Recreation and entertainment	110,4	110,4	106,3	0,0	+3,9	2,18
Reading matter	144,3	144,3	133,4	0,0	+8,2	0,69
Education	159,2	159,2	136,0	0,0	+17,1	1,82
Personal care	132,5	132,5	122,0	0,0	+8,6	3,08
Other	118,5	119,3	116,8	-0,7	+1,5	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 1999	Apr. 1999	May 1998	Apr. 1999	May 1998
Western Cape	128,4	129,0	121,0	-0,5	+6,1
Cape Peninsula	129,2	129,9	121,2	-0,5	+6,6
Other urban areas	127,8	128,3	120,8	-0,4	+5,8
Eastern Cape	133,1	132,5	124,2	+0,5	+7,2
Fort Elizabeth/Uitenhage	129,1	129,3	120,7	-0,2	+7,0
East London	133,7	133,7	124,1	0,0	+7,7
Other urban areas	133,7	132,9	124,7	+0,6	+7,2
Northern Cape	126,9	127,1	120,7	-0,2	+5,1
Kimberley	131,3	131,5	122,9	-0,2	+6,8
Other urban areas	126,2	126,4	120,2	-0,2	+5,0
Free State	126,5	126,5	119,3	0,0	+6,0
Bloemfontein	130,3	130,7	121,7	-0,3	+7,1
Free State Goldfields	127,3	126,7	118,9	+0,5	+7,1
Other urban areas	125,8	125,8	118,9	0,0	+5,8
KwaZulu-Natal	129,4	129,4	121,7	0,0	+6,3
Durban/Pinetown	132,5	132,4	123,7	+0,1	+7,1
Pietermaritzburg	130,0	130,0	122,1	0,0	+6,5
Other urban areas	127,6	127,7	120,6	-0,1	+5,8
North West	129,1	129,2	120,0	-0,1	+7,6
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	126,0	126,4	119,0	-0,3	+5,9
Other urban areas	129,4	129,4	120,0	0,0	+7,8
Gauteng	131,6	131,7	122,6	-0,1	+7,3
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	130,5	130,8	122,6	-0,2	+6,4
Witwatersrand	130,6	130,7	121,5	-0,1	+7,5
Other urban areas	131,0	131,1	122,2	-0,1	+7,2
Mpumalanga	132,2	132,3	123,0	-0,1	+7,5
Nelspruit/Witbank	131,5	131,7	122,5	-0,2	+7,3
Other urban areas	131,9	132,0	122,7	-0,1	+7,5
Northern Province	128,9	129,3	121,3	-0,3	+6,3
Pietersburg	127,5	128,1	120,3	-0,5	+6,0
Other urban areas	129,3	129,6	121,7	-0,2	+6,2
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	130,2	130,3	122,0	-0,1	+6,7
Weighted average - Metropolitan	130,5	130,7	121,9	-0,2	+7,1

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 1999	Apr. 1999	May 1998	Apr. 1999	May 1998
Western Cape	128,2	128,8	122,9	-0,5	+4,3
Cape Peninsula	128,1	129,2	122,5	-0,9	+4,6
Other urban areas	127,5	127,9	122,4	-0,3	+4,2
Eastern Cape	138,2	135,5	129,8	+2,0	+6,5
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	126,9	126,2	122,5	+0,6	+3,6
East London	134,3	134,0	129,1	+0,2	+4,0
Other urban areas	141,0	137,6	131,4	+2,5	+7,3
Northern Cape	123,5	123,6	120,6	-0,1	+2,4
Kimberley	125,6	125,4	121,5	+0,2	+3,4
Other urban areas	123,1	123,2	120,4	-0,1	+2,2
Free State	123,1	122,7	118,8	+0,3	+3,6
Bloemfontein	128,7	128,2	122,9	+0,4	+4,7
Free State Goldfields	123,5	122,3	117,9	+1,0	+4,7
Other urban areas	122,4	122,3	118,6	+0,1	+3,2
KwaZulu-Natal	128,7	128,0	124,5	+0,5	+3,4
Durban/Pinetown	135,0	133,4	129,8	+1,2	+4,0
Pietermaritzburg	129,1	128,1	124,2	+0,8	+3,9
Other urban areas	126,2	126,0	122,6	+0,2	+2,9
North West	125,7	126,3	120,1	-0,5	+4,7
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	123,7	124,0	119,2	-0,2	+3,8
Other urban areas	125,7	126,4	120,0	-0,6	+4,8
Gauteng	128,4	127,8	122,4	+0,5	+4,9
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	129,5	130,1	124,6	-0,5	+3,9
Witwatersrand	127,1	126,2	121,3	+0,7	+4,8
Other urban areas	129,7	129,1	122,4	+0,5	+6,0
Mpumalanga	135,5	135,0	128,3	+0,4	+5,6
Nelspruit/Witbank	130,1	130,2	124,2	-0,1	+4,8
Other urban areas	136,5	135,8	129,1	+0,5	+5,7
Northern Province	130,2	132,2	126,7	-1,5	+2,8
Pietersburg	130,8	131,0	127,3	-0,2	+2,7
Other urban areas	130,1	132,3	126,7	-1,7	+2,7
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	129,0	128,6	123,5	+0,3	+4,5
Weighted average - Metropolitan	128,5	128,0	123,0	+0,4	+4,5

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 1999	Apr. 1999	May 1998	Apr. 1999	May 1998
Western Cape	129,8	129,7	122,3	+0,1	+6,1
Cape Peninsula	130,8	130,6	122,9	+0,2	+6,4
Other urban areas	129,1	128,9	121,9	+0,2	+5,9
Eastern Cape	134,7	133,4	125,3	+1,0	+7,5
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	130,7	130,0	122,6	+0,5	+6,6
East London	137,2	136,4	127,3	+0,6	+7,8
Other urban areas	135,0	133,5	125,3	+1,1	+7,7
Northern Cape	128,3	128,0	121,5	+0,2	+5,6
Kimberley	131,0	130,6	123,2	+0,3	+6,3
Other urban areas	127,8	127,6	121,1	+0,2	+5,5
Free State	128,3	127,8	120,9	+0,4	+6,1
Bloemfontein	132,5	131,9	124,3	+0,5	+6,6
Free State Goldfields	127,5	126,6	119,7	+0,7	+6,5
Other urban areas	127,9	127,4	120,6	+0,4	+6,1
KwaZulu-Natal	128,8	128,2	121,9	+0,5	+5,7
Durban/Pinetown	131,5	130,6	124,0	+0,7	+6,0
Pietermaritzburg	128,9	128,4	121,6	+0,4	+6,0
Other urban areas	127,6	127,2	121,0	+0,3	+5,5
North West	128,1	127,8	120,2	+0,2	+6,6
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	126,6	126,3	120,3	+0,2	+5,2
Other urban areas	128,2	127,9	120,0	+0,2	+6,8
Gauteng	131,6	131,0	123,3	+0,5	+6,7
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	131,2	130,9	123,5	+0,2	+6,2
Witwatersrand	131,2	130,4	122,7	+0,6	+6,9
Other urban areas	130,4	129,8	122,5	+0,5	+6,4
Mpumalanga	131,6	131,1	123,3	+0,4	+6,7
Nelspruit/Witbank	131,3	130,8	123,4	+0,4	+6,4
Other urban areas	131,3	130,8	123,0	+0,4	+6,7
Northern Province	128,1	128,2	121,3	-0,1	+5,6
Pietersburg	130,0	129,5	122,7	+0,4	+5,9
Other urban areas	128,0	128,1	121,2	-0,1	+5,6
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	130,6	130,1	122,7	+0,4	+6,4
Weighted average - Metropolitan	131,0	130,3	122,9	+0,5	+6,6

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 1999	Apr. 1999	May 1998	Apr. 1999	May 1998
Western Cape	128,5	129,0	120,6	-0,4	+6,6
Cape Peninsula	129,7	130,2	121,2	-0,4	+7,0
Other urban areas	127,9	128,4	120,4	-0,4	+6,2
Eastern Cape	131,7	131,7	122,6	0,0	+7,4
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	129,5	130,0	120,1	-0,4	+7,8
East London	133,7	133,8	123,0	-0,1	+8,7
Other urban areas	131,5	131,5	122,7	0,0	+7,2
Northern Cape	128,0	128,1	120,7	-0,1	+6,0
Kimberley	133,7	134,0	123,4	-0,2	+8,3
Other urban areas	127,1	127,3	120,2	-0,2	+5,7
Free State	127,6	127,7	119,4	-0,1	+6,9
Bloemfontein	131,0	131,6	121,6	-0,5	+7,7
Free State Goldfields	128,3	128,0	119,2	+0,2	+7,6
Other urban areas	126,9	126,9	119,0	0,0	+6,6
KwaZulu-Natal	129,6	129,8	121,0	-0,2	+7,1
Durban/Pinetown	131,9	132,2	122,3	-0,2	+7,8
Pietermaritzburg	130,3	130,5	121,4	-0,2	+7,3
Other urban areas	127,8	128,1	120,0	-0,2	+6,5
North West	130,0	130,0	120,0	0,0	+8,3
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	126,3	126,7	118,9	-0,3	+6,2
Other urban areas	130,4	130,2	120,0	+0,2	+8,7
Gauteng	132,2	132,4	122,7	-0,2	+7,7
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	130,2	130,5	121,8	-0,2	+6,9
Witwatersrand	131,4	131,7	121,6	-0,2	+8,1
Other urban areas	131,4	131,7	122,2	-0,2	+7,5
Mpumalanga	131,3	131,5	121,7	-0,2	+7,9
Nelspruit/Witbank	131,5	131,7	121,9	-0,2	+7,9
Other urban areas	130,6	130,9	121,0	-0,2	+7,9
Northern Province	128,6	128,6	120,0	0,0	+7,2
Pietersburg	126,7	127,4	118,7	-0,5	+6,7
Other urban areas	129,1	129,0	120,4	+0,1	+7,2
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	130,5	130,8	121,6	-0,2	+7,3
Weighted average - Metropolitan	131,0	131,3	121,7	-0,2	+7,6

TABLE 5 SEASONALLY ADJUSTED INDICES

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	May 1999	Apr. 1999	Mar. 1999	Feb. 1999	Weights
All items	131,1	130,9	130,6	130,5	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	131,6	131,6	131,3	131,1	81,98
Commodities	127,8	127,0	126,5	126,0	55,00
Food	128,4	127,7	127,6	128,1	18,02
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	129,1	128,4	128,2	128,7	18,84
Alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	171,8	170,8	173,4	166,5	2,13
Clothing and footwear	108,5	108,5	108,4	108,4	4,72
Furniture and equipment	116,7	116,4	116,2	116,2	3,85
Vehicles	119,5	119,1	118,5	118,3	5,25
Other transport commodities	135,9	129,5	128,6	124,9	4,63
Other commodities	131,8	132,3	130,7	130,4	15,58
Services	135,4	136,0	136,2	137,3	45,00
Housing and domestic workers	134,9	137,8	139,5	140,6	25,99
Transport	113,4	113,0	112,6	112,3	4,86
Other services	143,0	140,8	139,3	140,7	14,15
All items (VAT excluded)	131,0	130,7	130,5	130,5	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 1999	Apr. 1999	May 1998	Apr. 1999	May 1998
Western Cape	128,6	128,8	121,6	-0,2	+5,8
Cape Peninsula	131,3	131,7	123,5	-0,3	+6,3
Other urban areas	127,8	128,0	121,2	-0,2	+5,4
Eastern Cape	134,6	133,4	125,5	+0,9	+7,3
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	130,6	130,4	122,1	+0,2	+7,0
East London	135,4	135,0	125,3	+0,3	+8,1
Other urban areas	134,9	133,5	125,8	+1,0	+7,2
Northern Cape	130,0	129,9	123,3	+0,1	+5,4
Kimberley	136,1	135,8	126,5	+0,2	+7,6
Other urban areas	129,2	129,1	122,8	+0,1	+5,2
Free State	126,9	126,7	119,8	+0,2	+5,9
Bloemfontein	130,2	130,3	121,2	-0,1	+7,4
Free State Goldfields	127,1	126,7	118,4	+0,3	+7,3
Other urban areas	126,7	126,4	119,8	+0,2	+5,8
KwaZulu-Natal	128,8	128,6	121,8	+0,2	+5,7
Durban/Pinetown	131,4	131,1	123,7	+0,2	+6,2
Pietermaritzburg	129,4	129,2	121,1	+0,2	+6,9
Other urban areas	127,5	127,2	120,8	+0,2	+5,5
North West	130,5	130,4	121,1	+0,1	+7,8
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	130,7	130,8	122,5	-0,1	+6,7
Other urban areas	130,1	130,0	120,7	+0,1	+7,8
Gauteng	132,6	132,4	123,5	+0,2	+7,4
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	130,5	130,5	122,8	0,0	+6,3
Witwatersrand	134,0	133,6	124,2	+0,3	+7,9
Other urban areas	130,3	130,2	121,8	+0,1	+7,0
Mpumalanga	135,5	135,1	125,7	+0,3	+7,8
Nelspruit/Witbank	134,8	134,5	125,6	+0,2	+7,3
Other urban areas	135,6	135,2	125,7	+0,3	+7,9
Northern Province	130,3	130,6	122,8	-0,2	+6,1
Pietersburg	134,5	134,6	125,8	-0,1	+6,9
Other urban areas	130,2	130,5	122,7	-0,2	+6,1
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	130,9	130,6	122,7	+0,2	+6,7
Weighted average - Metropolitan	132,6	132,5	123,7	+0,1	+7,2