

Statistical Release P0141.1

Prices : Consumer price index

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INFLATION RATE INCREASES FOR THE SEVENTH CONSECUTIVE MONTH

The official inflation rate, i.e. the annual rate of change in the Consumer Price Index, is 9,2% at November 1996. This is 0,1 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding annual rate of 9,1% at October 1996.

From October 1996 to November 1996 the Consumer Price Index increased by 0,4%, while the seasonally adjusted index showed an increase of 0,8% for the same period.

An alternative expression of the change in the CPI is to annualise the change between the average index of the three months up to November 1996 and the average index of the previous three months. This approach should use seasonally adjusted data, yielding a 10,3% increase and 9,9% unadjusted.

MONTHLY INCREASE OF 0,4%

The contributors to the monthly increase of 0,4% are the increases in the price indices for housing (+0,1 of a percentage point), transport (+0,1 of a percentage point), "other" (+0,1 of a percentage point) and all other items (+0,1 of a percentage point).

FOOD PRICES

The price index for food showed an annual rate of increase of 11,6% at November 1996. This rate is 0,8 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 12,4% at October 1996.

The index for food prices showed no monthly change from October 1996 to November 1996. The monthly increases that occurred in the prices of grain products (+0,3%), meat (+0,2%), fish and other seafood (+0,8%), milk, cheese and eggs (+0,8%), fats and oils (+0,7%), fruit and nuts (+2,2%) and "other" food items (+0,7%) were counteracted by monthly decreases in the prices of vegetables (-3,2%), sugar (-0,1%) and coffee, tea and cocoa (-0,1%).

PRICE INDEX FOR NON-FOOD ITEMS SHOWS A MONTHLY INCREASE OF 0,4%

The monthly increase of 0,4% in the index for all items excluding food can be attributed to increases in the price indices for alcoholic beverages (+0,1%), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+0,3%), clothing and footwear (+0,4%), housing (+0,4%), fuel and power (+0,2%), furniture and equipment (+0,1%), household operation (+1,3%), transport (+0,7%), mainly due to an increase of 1,7% in the price index for running cost which was caused by an increase of 3c/ in the price of petrol and also increases in the prices of spare parts), recreation and entertainment (+0,1%) and "other" items (+1,4%).

INCOME GROUP INDICES

An inflation rate of 9,3% was recorded for the lower income group, 9,6% for the middle income group and 9,0% for the higher income group.

URBAN AREA INDICES

The highest inflation rate of 10,4% was recorded for the Cape Peninsula, while the lowest inflation rate of 7,5% was recorded for the Free State Goldfields.

With regard to food, the highest inflation rate of 13,7% was recorded for Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage, while the lowest inflation rate of 7,9% was recorded for the Free State Goldfields.

INFLATION RATE FOR PENSIONERS

The inflation rate for pensioners is 9,7% for November 1996. The highest annual rate of increase of 11,0% was recorded for the Cape Peninsula, while the lowest annual rate of increase of 7,1% was recorded for the Free State Goldfields.

FOOD INFLATION AS MEASURED AT CHAIN-STORES AND OTHER RETAILERS

From November 1995 to November 1996, food prices at chain-stores increased by 12,2% while food prices at other retailers increased by 10,2% during the same period. From October 1996 to November 1996, food prices at chain-stores remained unchanged while those at other retailers showed an increase of 0,3%.

CPI FOR DECEMBER 1996

In addition to the normal price surveys for December 1996, it has come to the attention of the CSS that changed prices apply with effect from December 1996 with regard to short-term insurance of property.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. All price information refers to the first seven days of the reference month.
2. The Consumer Price Indices relating to various 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 urban 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 results of the Survey of the Expenditure of Households, which took place in October 1995 are available, 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 these 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 index for all items and the index for 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 methods, etc., appears in the brochure "Inflation" as well as in the notes to Chapter 3 of the Bulletin of Statistics.
7. The three income group categories were defined according to average direct annual income per household as in October 1990 as:

Lower income group - up to R15 999
Middle income group - R16 000 up to R39 999
Higher income group - R40 000 and more

When these average annual incomes are inflated the income group categories will be defined according to 1995 values as:

Lower income group - up to R27 295
Middle income group - R27 296 up to R68 239
Higher income group - R68 240 and more

TABLE 1 INCOME GROUP INDICES AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE

BASE : 1990 = 100

Group	Nov. 1996	Oct. 1996	Nov. 1995	Percentage change compared with		
				Oct. 1996		Nov. 1995
				Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual
Lower income group	187,5	187,0	171,6	+0,3	+1,1	+9,3
Middle income group	192,6	191,9	175,7	+0,4	+0,9	+9,6
Higher income group	188,6	187,8	173,0	+0,4	+0,7	+9,0
All income groups	189,1	188,4	173,2	+0,4 1)	+0,8 1)	+9,2 1)
Food only	218,9	218,8	196,1	0,0	+1,4	+11,6
All items excluding food	181,8	181,0	167,6	+0,4	+0,8	+8,5
All income groups (VAT EXCLUDED)	183,1	182,4	167,6	+0,4 1)	+0,8 1)	+9,2 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
Housing	+0,1
Transport	+0,1
Other	+0,1
All other items	+0,1
All items	+0,4

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

BASE : 1990 = 100

Group	Nov. 1996	Oct. 1996	Nov. 1995	Percentage change compared with		Weights
				Oct. 1996	Nov. 1995	
All items	189,1	188,4	173,2	+0,4	+9,2	100,00
Lower income group	187,5	187,0	171,6	+0,3	+9,3	19,42
Middle income group	192,6	191,9	175,7	+0,4	+9,6	24,09
Higher income group	188,6	187,8	173,0	+0,4	+9,0	56,50
Commodities	193,6	193,0	178,1	+0,3	+8,7	57,92
Services	185,3	184,2	168,1	+0,6	+10,2	42,08
All items, excluding housing	199,4	198,7	183,1	+0,4	+8,9	79,46
All items, excluding food	181,8	181,0	167,6	+0,4	+8,5	81,36
Food	218,9	218,8	196,1	0,0	+11,6	18,64
Lower income group	218,7	218,8	195,5	0,0	+11,9	25,16
Middle income group	220,3	220,1	196,9	+0,1	+11,9	20,85
Higher income group	218,2	218,0	195,8	+0,1	+11,4	15,45
Processed	207,0	206,0	189,2	+0,5	+9,4	11,69
Unprocessed	230,4	230,9	202,5	-0,2	+13,8	6,95
Grain products	210,5	209,9	184,8	+0,3	+13,9	2,92
Meat	222,9	222,4	204,3	+0,2	+9,1	6,17
Fish and other seafood	196,4	194,8	179,5	+0,8	+9,4	0,70
Milk, cheese and eggs	195,4	193,9	174,8	+0,8	+11,8	2,28
Fats and oils	212,3	210,9	197,7	+0,7	+7,4	0,87
Fruit and nuts	261,8	256,1	241,6	+2,2	+8,4	1,18
Vegetables	263,2	271,9	207,7	-3,2	+26,7	1,88
Sugar	203,9	204,1	192,1	-0,1	+6,1	0,48
Coffee, tea and cocoa	194,1	194,3	189,9	-0,1	+2,2	0,59
Other	202,4	200,9	185,2	+0,7	+9,3	1,57
Non-alcoholic beverages	212,3	212,3	192,5	0,0	+10,3	0,69
Alcoholic beverages	204,9	204,7	189,5	+0,1	+8,1	0,96
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	251,0	250,2	216,3	+0,3	+16,0	1,21
Clothing and footwear	150,1	149,5	144,4	+0,4	+3,9	7,02
Clothing	148,9	148,7	143,9	+0,1	+3,5	5,87
Footwear	154,4	152,3	145,2	+1,4	+6,3	1,15
Housing	146,9	146,3	132,8	+0,4	+10,6	20,54
Fuel and power	189,8	189,5	178,1	+0,2	+6,6	3,26
Furniture and equipment	148,3	148,2	141,4	+0,1	+4,9	5,50
Furniture	150,5	150,5	142,9	0,0	+5,3	2,47
Appliances	149,5	149,5	143,3	0,0	+4,3	1,57
Other household equipment and textiles	150,9	150,5	143,9	+0,3	+4,9	1,46
Household operation	227,5	224,5	201,8	+1,3	+12,7	2,57
Household consumables	201,4	197,9	181,1	+1,8	+11,2	1,37
Domestic workers	283,4	279,9	244,8	+1,3	+15,8	0,83
Other household services	211,7	211,7	193,6	0,0	+9,3	0,37
Medical care and health expenses	222,5	222,5	203,5	0,0	+9,3	5,22
Transport	194,4	193,0	182,8	+0,7	+6,3	14,43
Vehicles	211,6	211,5	205,8	0,0	+2,8	5,51
Running cost	185,6	182,5	165,2	+1,7	+12,3	5,76
Public and hired transport	174,0	174,0	168,4	0,0	+3,3	3,16
Communication	204,5	204,5	189,3	0,0	+8,0	1,61
Recreation and entertainment	162,1	162,0	153,2	+0,1	+5,8	3,71
Reading matter	220,7	220,7	201,6	0,0	+9,5	0,75
Education	310,9	310,9	284,4	0,0	+9,3	1,76
Personal care	182,0	182,0	166,7	0,0	+9,2	2,64
Other	192,7	190,0	175,5	+1,4	+9,8	9,49

TABLE 4 URBAN AREAS INDICES
TABLE 4.1 Index for all items
Each area compared with itself

BASE : 1990 = 100

Urban area	All items			Percentage change compared with	
	Nov. 1996	Oct. 1996	Nov. 1995	Oct. 1996	Nov. 1995
	Cape Peninsula	194,3	193,6	176,0	+0,4
Port Elizabeth / Uitenhage	192,2	191,6	175,0	+0,3	+9,8
East London	191,1	190,8	174,9	+0,2	+9,3
Kimberley	191,5	190,4	175,2	+0,6	+9,3
Pietermaritzburg	194,2	193,3	177,2	+0,5	+9,6
Durban / Pinetown	185,6	185,1	168,9	+0,3	+9,9
Pretoria / Centurion / Akasia	191,3	190,5	174,5	+0,4	+9,6
Witwatersrand	187,3	186,6	172,7	+0,4	+8,5
Klerksdorp / Stilfontein / Orkney	186,5	185,8	172,7	+0,4	+8,0
Vaal Triangle	178,3	177,4	164,8	+0,5	+8,2
Free State Goldfields	184,6	184,5	171,8	+0,1	+7,5
Bloemfontein	185,6	184,6	169,1	+0,5	+9,8
Weighted average of the twelve areas	189,1	188,4	173,2	+0,4	+9,2
Nelspruit / Witbank	175,2	174,3	161,7	+0,5	+8,3
Pietersburg	188,8	188,1	172,3	+0,4	+9,6

TABLE 4.2 Index for food
Each area compared with itself

BASE : 1990 = 100

Urban area	Food			Percentage change compared with	
	Nov. 1996	Oct. 1996	Nov. 1995	Oct. 1996	Nov. 1995
	Cape Peninsula	232,3	232,4	205,2	0,0
Port Elizabeth / Uitenhage	229,6	228,8	202,0	+0,3	+13,7
East London	230,5	231,9	205,5	-0,6	+12,2
Kimberley	212,4	210,5	189,4	+0,9	+12,1
Pietermaritzburg	242,1	241,6	215,5	+0,2	+12,3
Durban / Pinetown	215,2	215,3	190,5	0,0	+13,0
Pretoria / Centurion / Akasia	218,2	218,7	193,5	-0,2	+12,8
Witwatersrand	212,8	212,9	193,0	0,0	+10,3
Klerksdorp / Stilfontein / Orkney	216,4	214,1	194,6	+1,1	+11,2
Vaal Triangle	202,1	200,2	183,3	+0,9	+10,3
Free State Goldfields	208,2	209,1	192,9	-0,4	+7,9
Bloemfontein	228,6	226,1	205,3	+1,1	+11,3
Weighted average of the twelve areas	218,9	218,8	196,1	0,0	+11,6
Nelspruit / Witbank	196,0	195,0	176,5	+0,5	+11,0
Pietersburg	214,3	213,9	189,0	+0,2	+13,4

TABLE 4 URBAN AREAS INDICES (concluded)
TABLE 4.3 Index for all items excluding housing
 Each area compared with itself

BASE : 1990 = 100

Urban area	All items excluding housing			Percentage change compared with	
	Nov. 1996	Oct. 1996	Nov. 1995	Oct. 1996	Nov. 1995
	Cape Peninsula	205,3	204,7	186,5	+0,3
Port Elizabeth / Uitenhage	203,2	202,7	185,2	+0,2	+9,7
East London	202,8	202,5	185,4	+0,1	+9,4
Kimberley	198,9	197,7	182,5	+0,6	+9,0
Pietermaritzburg	204,0	203,2	187,2	+0,4	+9,0
Durban / Pinetown	195,1	194,7	178,1	+0,2	+9,5
Pretoria / Centurion / Akasia	201,9	201,1	184,5	+0,4	+9,4
Witwatersrand	197,5	196,8	182,7	+0,4	+8,1
Klerksdorp / Stilfontein / Orkney	194,2	193,4	179,5	+0,4	+8,2
Vaal Triangle	184,9	183,8	170,8	+0,6	+8,3
Free State Goldfields	194,2	194,1	180,1	+0,1	+7,8
Bloemfontein	199,6	198,5	181,5	+0,6	+10,0
Weighted average of the twelve areas	199,4	198,7	183,1	+0,4	+8,9
Nelspruit / Witbank	180,8	179,9	167,2	+0,5	+8,1
Pietersburg	199,4	198,7	182,1	+0,4	+9,5

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

BASE : 1990 = 100

Urban area	All items excluding food			Percentage change compared with	
	Nov. 1996	Oct. 1996	Nov. 1995	Oct. 1996	Nov. 1995
	Cape Peninsula	181,0	180,1	165,2	+0,5
Port Elizabeth / Uitenhage	179,9	179,4	165,6	+0,3	+8,6
East London	179,2	178,4	165,3	+0,4	+8,4
Kimberley	181,9	181,1	167,8	+0,4	+8,4
Pietermaritzburg	179,3	178,4	164,9	+0,5	+8,7
Durban / Pinetown	172,8	172,1	158,5	+0,4	+9,0
Pretoria / Centurion / Akasia	182,8	181,8	167,8	+0,6	+8,9
Witwatersrand	178,4	177,6	165,2	+0,5	+8,0
Klerksdorp / Stilfontein / Orkney	175,9	175,5	164,1	+0,2	+7,2
Vaal Triangle	171,0	170,3	158,9	+0,4	+7,6
Free State Goldfields	173,6	173,2	161,7	+0,2	+7,4
Bloemfontein	173,3	172,6	158,6	+0,4	+9,3
Weighted average of the twelve areas	181,8	181,0	167,6	+0,4	+8,5
Nelspruit / Witbank	168,7	167,8	156,6	+0,5	+7,7
Pietersburg	180,6	179,8	166,2	+0,4	+8,7

TABLE 5 SEASONALLY ADJUSTED INDICES

BASE : 1990 = 100

Group	Nov.	Oct.	Sep.	Aug.	Weights
	1996	1996	1996	1996	
All items	189,7	188,2	186,1	184,3	100,00
Lower income group	188,1	186,1	184,3	182,4	19,42
Middle income group	193,5	191,7	189,6	187,7	24,09
Higher income group	189,0	187,6	185,4	183,8	56,50
All items excluding food	182,2	180,7	179,5	178,0	81,36
Commodities	194,1	192,2	190,3	188,5	57,92
Food	220,3	217,2	213,1	209,8	18,64
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	220,1	216,8	213,3	209,8	19,33
Alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	232,1	230,1	227,2	220,9	2,17
Clothing and footwear	150,1	149,2	149,0	148,7	7,02
Furniture and equipment	148,0	147,4	147,1	145,5	5,50
Vehicles	212,1	212,1	210,7	209,0	5,51
Other transport commodities	182,1	177,2	176,2	177,4	5,09
Other commodities	186,6	186,1	184,6	183,9	13,30
Services	185,6	184,2	182,5	181,0	42,08
Housing and domestic workers	148,7	148,4	148,0	146,7	21,37
Transport	180,9	179,9	179,3	179,4	3,83
Other services	236,6	233,7	230,1	227,9	16,88
All items (VAT excluded)	183,8	182,3	180,2	178,4	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	
	Nov.	Oct.	Nov.	Oct.	Nov.
	1996	1996	1995	1996	1995
Cape Peninsula	199,0	198,1	179,2	+0,5	+11,0
Port Elizabeth / Uitenhage	193,4	192,7	175,7	+0,4	+10,1
East London	196,7	196,5	179,8	+0,1	+9,4
Kimberley	194,0	192,8	176,4	+0,6	+10,0
Pietermaritzburg	191,1	190,4	175,6	+0,4	+8,8
Durban / Pinetown	191,0	190,3	173,9	+0,4	+9,8
Pretoria / Centurion / Akasia	193,5	192,9	176,8	+0,3	+9,4
Witwatersrand	190,0	189,3	174,4	+0,4	+8,9
Klerksdorp / Stilfontein / Orkney	189,5	189,0	175,4	+0,3	+8,0
Vaal Triangle	183,7	182,6	169,2	+0,6	+8,6
Free State Goldfields	175,4	175,2	163,8	+0,1	+7,1
Bloemfontein	196,5	195,3	178,7	+0,6	+10,0
Weighted average of the twelve areas	192,9	192,2	175,9	+0,4	+9,7
Nelspruit / Witbank	180,5	179,5	165,2	+0,6	+9,3
Pietersburg	188,3	187,6	173,2	+0,4	+8,7

TABLE 7 PERCENTAGE CHANGE BY TYPE OF STORE

TABLE 7.1 Chain-stores 1/

Group	Percentage change compared with	
	Oct. 1996	Nov. 1995
Food	0,0	+12,2
Processed	+0,5	+9,8
Unprocessed	-0,3	+14,4
Grain products	0,0	+14,7
Meat	+0,4	+8,9
Fish and other seafood	+1,2	+10,1
Milk, cheese and eggs	+0,9	+13,1
Fats and oils	+0,5	+7,2
Fruit and nuts	+2,2	+8,3
Vegetables	-3,8	+30,2
Sugar	-0,3	+5,4
Coffee, tea and cocoa	-0,2	+1,9
Other	+0,7	+9,7

1/ With at least 15 branches

TABLE 7.2 Other retailers 2/

Group	Percentage change compared with	
	Oct. 1996	Nov. 1995
Food	+0,3	+10,2
Processed	+0,7	+8,3
Unprocessed	0,0	+11,9
Grain products	+1,4	+11,2
Meat	+0,6	+9,4
Fish and other seafood	+0,1	+7,4
Milk, cheese and eggs	-0,1	+9,0
Fats and oils	+1,2	+8,9
Fruit and nuts	+0,2	+7,9
Vegetables	-2,4	+18,9
Sugar	+0,9	+9,7
Coffee, tea and cocoa	+0,5	+3,0
Other	+1,0	+8,5

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