

Statistical Release P0141.1

Prices : Consumer Price Index

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INFLATION RATE AT 6,8% THE LOWEST SINCE MAY 1996

The official inflation rate, i.e. the annual rate of change in the Consumer Price Index, is 6,8% at November 1997. This rate is 0,7 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding rate of 7,5% at October 1997. From October to November 1997 the Consumer Price Index decreased by 0,3%, while the seasonally adjusted index increased by 0,1%.

CORE INFLATION RATE

The core inflation rate (see note 7 on page 3) is 8,0% at November 1997. This rate is 0,2 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding rate of 8,2% at October 1997. From October 1997 to November 1997 the core inflation index increased by 0,3%.

MONTHLY CONTRIBUTIONS

The monthly decrease of 0,3% in the official inflation rate is due to a decrease in the price index for housing (contributing - 0,5 of a percentage point, due to a 1% decrease in the interest rate on mortgage bonds), which is slightly counteracted by increases in the price indices for transport (+0,1 of a percentage point, mainly due to an increase of 5c/l in the price of petrol) and all other items (+0,1 of a percentage point).

FOOD INFLATION UP TO 6,9% AT NOVEMBER 1997

The price index for food shows an annual rate of increase of 6,9% at November 1997. This rate is 0,1 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding rate of 6,8% at October 1997.

The price index for food shows a monthly increase of 0,1%, which is due to increases in the price indices for meat (+0,7%), fats and oils (+0,3), fruit and nuts (+1,1%), coffee, tea and cocoa (+1,4%) and "other" food (+0,2%). These increases were slightly counteracted by decreases in the price indices for milk, cheese and eggs (-0,4%), vegetables (-1,5%) and sugar (-0,3%).

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

The monthly decrease of 0,4% in the price index for "all items, excluding food" is due to monthly decreases in the price indices for alcoholic beverages (-0,1%), housing (-2,2%) and recreation and entertainment (-0,1%). These decreases were slightly counteracted by increases in the price indices for cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+1,4%), furniture and equipment (+0,1%), household operations (+0,9%), transport (+0,6%) and "other" goods and services (+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

East London as well as Kimberley recorded the highest inflation rate of 7,9%, while the lowest rate of 5,7% was recorded for Port Elizabeth/ Uitenhage as well as for the Cape Peninsula.

Regarding food prices, the highest annual increase of 10,4% was recorded for East London while Klerksdorp/ Stilfontein/ Orkney reflected the lowest increase of 3,5%.

INFLATION RATE FOR PENSIONERS

The inflation rate for pensioners is 7,5% at November 1997. Kimberley recorded the highest rate of increase, namely 9,5%, while the lowest rate of 5,9% was recorded for Bloemfontein.

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 November 1997 and the average index of the previous three months. This approach, when using seasonally adjusted data, shows an increase of 5,6% (which is 0,4 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding rate of 6,0% for October 1997), while unadjusted data shows an increase of 4,3%.

CPI FOR DECEMBER 1997

In addition to the usual price surveys for December 1997, it has come to the attention of the CSS that changed prices will apply during the first seven days of December 1997 regarding bus tariffs in certain areas.

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.

TABLE 1 EXPENDITURE GROUP INDICES AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Nov. 1997	Oct. 1997	Nov. 1996	Percentage change compared with		
				Oct. 1997		Nov. 1996
				Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual
Expenditure groups						
Very Low	120,6	120,5	..	+0,1	..	..
Low	119,9	119,8	..	+0,1	..	..
Middle	119,5	119,5	..	0,0	..	..
High	119,3	119,5	..	-0,2	..	..
Very High	117,9	118,4	..	-0,4	..	..
All expenditure groups - Metropolitan	118,3	118,7	110,8	-0,3 ¹⁾	+0,1 ¹⁾	+6,8 ¹⁾
All expenditure groups - Metro and other urban areas	118,3	118,6	..	-0,3	..	..
Food only - Metropolitan	118,2	118,1	110,6	+0,1	+1,0	+6,9
Food only - Metro and other urban areas	118,5	118,1	..	+0,3	..	..
All items excluding food - Metropolitan	118,4	118,9	110,9	-0,4	-0,2	+6,8
All items excluding food - Metro and other urban areas	118,3	118,7	..	-0,3	..	..
All expenditure groups (VAT EXCLUDED) - Metropolitan	118,3	118,7	111,0	-0,3 ¹⁾	+0,1 ¹⁾	+6,6 ¹⁾
All expenditure groups (VAT EXCLUDED) - Metro and other urban areas	118,3	118,6	..	-0,3	..	..
Core inflation - Metropolitan	119,3	118,9	110,5	+0,3	-	+8,0
Core inflation - Metro and other urban areas	119,4	119,0	..	+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
Housing	-0,5
Transport	+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	Percentage change compared with					Weights
	Nov. 1997	Oct. 1997	Nov. 1996	Oct. 1997	Nov. 1996	
All items	118,3	118,7	110,8	-0,3	+6,8	100,00
Expenditure groups - Very low	120,6	120,5	..	+0,1	..	0,51
Low	119,9	119,8	..	+0,1	..	1,78
Middle	119,5	119,5	..	0,0	..	5,24
High	119,3	119,5	..	-0,2	..	17,70
Very high	117,9	118,4	..	-0,4	..	74,77
Commodities	117,1	116,8	109,7	+0,3	+6,7	55,00
Services	120,5	121,8	112,9	-1,1	+6,7	45,00
All items, excluding housing	118,0	117,7	110,0	+0,3	+7,3	75,93
All items, excluding food	118,4	118,9	110,9	-0,4	+6,8	81,98
Food	118,2	118,1	110,6	+0,1	+6,9	18,02
Expenditure groups - Very low	118,7	118,6	..	+0,1	..	40,73
Low	118,8	118,7	..	+0,1	..	34,39
Middle	118,6	118,6	..	0,0	..	31,12
High	118,4	118,3	..	+0,1	..	25,42
Very high	117,9	117,8	..	+0,1	..	14,84
Processed	118,8	118,7	111,1	+0,1	+6,9	9,12
Unprocessed	117,6	117,5	110,4	+0,1	+6,5	8,90
Grain products	121,0	121,0	117,7	0,0	+2,8	3,31
Meat	114,9	114,1	105,0	+0,7	+9,4	5,33
Fish and other seafood	117,7	117,7	111,8	0,0	+5,3	0,80
Milk, cheese and eggs	126,1	126,6	112,9	-0,4	+11,7	1,90
Fats and oils	119,8	119,4	110,2	+0,3	+8,7	0,85
Fruit and nuts	107,9	106,7	101,3	+1,1	+6,5	1,08
Vegetables	125,2	127,1	124,4	-1,5	+0,6	1,80
Sugar	117,6	118,0	110,3	-0,3	+6,6	0,59
Coffee, tea and cocoa	111,2	109,7	102,8	+1,4	+8,2	0,72
Other	119,4	119,2	112,3	+0,2	+6,3	1,64
Non-alcoholic beverages	124,4	124,0	113,0	+0,3	+10,1	0,82
Alcoholic beverages	118,8	118,9	109,3	-0,1	+8,7	1,18
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	157,7	155,5	121,7	+1,4	+29,6	0,95
Clothing and footwear	108,2	108,2	105,5	0,0	+2,6	4,76
Clothing	107,8	107,7	104,9	+0,1	+2,8	3,55
Footwear	110,7	110,8	108,0	-0,1	+2,5	1,21
Housing	121,9	124,6	115,4	-2,2	+5,6	24,07
Fuel and power	119,5	119,5	109,6	0,0	+9,0	3,11
Furniture and equipment	111,0	110,9	105,9	+0,1	+4,8	3,94
Furniture	114,3	114,3	106,7	0,0	+7,1	1,62
Appliances	107,5	107,5	104,6	0,0	+2,8	1,08
Other household equipment and textiles	109,4	109,4	106,2	0,0	+3,0	1,24
Household operation	130,9	129,7	117,0	+0,9	+11,9	4,69
Household consumables	123,2	122,7	114,0	+0,4	+8,1	1,14
Domestic workers	140,6	139,0	122,4	+1,2	+14,9	3,19
Other household services	115,6	115,6	111,7	0,0	+3,5	0,36
Medical care and health expenses	130,2	130,2	109,8	0,0	+18,6	5,95
Transport	113,8	113,1	108,4	+0,6	+5,0	14,74
Vehicles	110,6	110,6	104,2	0,0	+6,1	5,25
Running cost	120,0	118,2	114,8	+1,5	+4,5	5,75
Public and hired transport	111,7	111,7	106,2	0,0	+5,2	3,74
Communication	110,6	110,6	108,4	0,0	+2,0	3,06
Recreation and entertainment	108,6	108,7	107,6	-0,1	+0,9	2,38
Reading matter	124,3	124,3	116,3	0,0	+6,9	0,74
Education	122,2	122,2	110,8	0,0	+10,3	2,04
Personal care	116,9	116,9	111,6	0,0	+4,7	3,06
Other	114,8	114,6	110,5	+0,2	+3,9	6,49

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

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Percentage change compared with					Weights
	Nov. 1997	Oct. 1997	Nov. 1996	Oct. 1997	Nov. 1996	
All items	118,3	118,6	..	-0,3	..	100,00
Expenditure groups - Very low	119,8	119,4	..	+0,3	..	0,93
Low	119,3	119,0	..	+0,3	..	2,99
Middle	118,8	118,6	..	+0,2	..	7,58
High	118,9	119,0	..	-0,1	..	20,09
Very high	118,0	118,4	..	-0,3	..	68,41
Commodities	116,8	116,4	..	+0,3	..	57,34
Services	120,4	121,6	..	-1,0	..	42,66
All items, excluding housing	117,7	117,4	..	+0,3	..	77,55
All items, excluding food	118,3	118,7	..	-0,3	..	80,52
Food	118,5	118,1	..	+0,3	..	19,48
Expenditure groups - Very low	118,9	117,9	..	+0,8	..	44,17
Low	119,2	118,3	..	+0,8	..	38,83
Middle	119,0	118,4	..	+0,5	..	32,67
High	118,7	118,3	..	+0,3	..	25,61
Very high	118,2	117,9	..	+0,3	..	15,02
Processed	118,3	117,9	..	+0,3	..	10,52
Unprocessed	118,7	118,3	..	+0,3	..	8,96
Grain products	121,4	121,2	..	+0,2	..	3,73
Meat	114,0	113,3	..	+0,6	..	5,84
Fish and other seafood	120,1	119,2	..	+0,8	..	0,77
Milk, cheese and eggs	125,4	125,5	..	-0,1	..	2,02
Fats and oils	118,3	117,8	..	+0,4	..	0,94
Fruit and nuts	106,7	104,4	..	+2,2	..	1,07
Vegetables	128,5	129,8	..	-1,0	..	1,94
Sugar	118,8	118,5	..	+0,3	..	0,73
Coffee, tea and cocoa	109,0	107,9	..	+1,0	..	0,79
Other	119,1	118,3	..	+0,7	..	1,65
Non-alcoholic beverages	124,9	124,5	..	+0,3	..	0,82
Alcoholic beverages	120,0	120,0	..	0,0	..	1,17
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	154,3	152,2	..	+1,4	..	1,04
Clothing and footwear	108,2	107,9	..	+0,3	..	5,07
Clothing	107,9	107,5	..	+0,4	..	3,80
Footwear	108,9	109,0	..	-0,1	..	1,27
Housing	120,4	122,8	..	-2,0	..	22,45
Fuel and power	116,4	116,4	..	0,0	..	3,54
Furniture and equipment	110,0	110,0	..	0,0	..	4,34
Furniture	112,8	112,8	..	0,0	..	1,77
Appliances	107,4	107,4	..	0,0	..	1,19
Other household equipment and textiles	108,8	108,7	..	+0,1	..	1,38
Household operation	134,0	132,9	..	+0,8	..	4,87
Household consumables	120,9	120,9	..	0,0	..	1,27
Domestic workers	141,2	139,5	..	+1,2	..	3,25
Other household services	114,3	114,3	..	0,0	..	0,35
Medical care and health expenses	127,4	127,4	..	0,0	..	5,81
Transport	112,7	112,1	..	+0,5	..	13,65
Vehicles	107,9	107,8	..	+0,1	..	5,31
Running cost	119,8	118,2	..	+1,4	..	5,16
Public and hired transport	109,3	109,3	..	0,0	..	3,18
Communication	113,7	113,7	..	0,0	..	3,21
Recreation and entertainment	105,2	105,2	..	0,0	..	2,18
Reading matter	122,4	122,4	..	0,0	..	0,69
Education	120,9	120,9	..	0,0	..	1,82
Personal care	117,6	117,6	..	0,0	..	3,08
Other	116,0	115,8	..	+0,2	..	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	
	Nov. 1997	Oct. 1997	Nov. 1996	Oct. 1997	Nov. 1996
Western Cape	118,1	118,5	..	-0,3	..
Cape Peninsula	118,4	119,0	112,0	-0,5	+5,7
Other urban areas	117,8	118,1	..	-0,3	..
Eastern Cape	119,9	119,7	..	+0,2	..
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	117,8	118,2	111,5	-0,3	+5,7
East London	120,2	120,6	111,4	-0,3	+7,9
Other urban areas	120,1	119,6	..	+0,4	..
Northern Cape	117,2	117,4	..	-0,2	..
Kimberley	119,4	119,5	110,7	-0,1	+7,9
Other urban areas	116,8	117,0	..	-0,2	..
Free State	115,8	115,8	..	0,0	..
Bloemfontein	118,3	118,8	111,4	-0,4	+6,2
Free State Goldfields	115,7	115,4	108,7	+0,3	+6,4
Other urban areas	115,3	115,3	..	0,0	..
KwaZulu-Natal	118,0	118,5	..	-0,4	..
Durban/Pinetown	119,4	119,8	111,4	-0,3	+7,2
Pietermaritzburg	118,7	118,9	111,7	-0,2	+6,3
Other urban areas	117,2	117,6	..	-0,3	..
North West	115,9	115,8	..	+0,1	..
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	116,3	116,7	109,7	-0,3	+6,0
Other urban areas	115,6	115,5	..	+0,1	..
Gauteng	119,0	119,3	..	-0,3	..
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	119,0	119,2	111,4	-0,2	+6,8
Witwatersrand	117,9	118,3	110,1	-0,3	+7,1
Other urban areas	118,6	118,7	..	-0,1	..
Mpumalanga	118,6	118,8	..	-0,2	..
Nelspruit/Witbank	118,3	118,5	109,9	-0,2	+7,6
Other urban areas	118,2	118,5	..	-0,3	..
Northern Province	117,2	117,3	..	-0,1	..
Pietersburg	117,9	118,5	111,4	-0,5	+5,8
Other urban areas	117,3	117,3	..	0,0	..
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	118,3	118,6	..	-0,3	..
Weighted average - Metropolitan	118,3	118,7	110,8	-0,3	+6,8

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	
	Nov. 1997	Oct. 1997	Nov. 1996	Oct. 1997	Nov. 1996
Western Cape	118,7	118,2	..	+0,4	..
Cape Peninsula	117,9	117,8	111,4	+0,1	+5,8
Other urban areas	118,4	117,7	..	+0,6	..
Eastern Cape	123,6	121,2	..	+2,0	..
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	118,2	117,8	112,7	+0,3	+4,9
East London	125,0	125,2	113,2	-0,2	+10,4
Other urban areas	124,6	121,6	..	+2,5	..
Northern Cape	117,1	117,0	..	+0,1	..
Kimberley	116,2	116,1	110,9	+0,1	+4,8
Other urban areas	117,2	117,1	..	+0,1	..
Free State	114,6	113,9	..	+0,6	..
Bloemfontein	118,0	117,3	111,5	+0,6	+5,8
Free State Goldfields	113,3	112,1	107,1	+1,1	+5,8
Other urban areas	114,5	113,9	..	+0,5	..
KwaZulu-Natal	119,8	120,2	..	-0,3	..
Durban/Pinetown	124,1	124,1	112,6	0,0	+10,2
Pietermaritzburg	120,2	120,0	112,9	+0,2	+6,5
Other urban areas	118,3	118,9	..	-0,5	..
North West	113,9	113,1	..	+0,7	..
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	115,1	114,6	111,2	+0,4	+3,5
Other urban areas	113,6	112,8	..	+0,7	..
Gauteng	117,6	117,4	..	+0,2	..
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	119,7	119,3	111,0	+0,3	+7,8
Witwatersrand	116,6	116,6	109,2	0,0	+6,8
Other urban areas	117,2	116,6	..	+0,5	..
Mpumalanga	121,4	121,2	..	+0,2	..
Nelspruit/Witbank	119,0	119,1	110,1	-0,1	+8,1
Other urban areas	121,9	121,6	..	+0,2	..
Northern Province	120,6	120,4	..	+0,2	..
Pietersburg	122,0	121,5	112,3	+0,4	+8,6
Other urban areas	120,5	120,3	..	+0,2	..
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	118,5	118,1	..	+0,3	..
Weighted average - Metropolitan	118,2	118,1	110,6	+0,1	+6,9

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	
	Nov. 1997	Oct. 1997	Nov. 1996	Oct. 1997	Nov. 1996
Western Cape	117,8	117,5	..	+0,3	..
Cape Peninsula	118,3	118,1	111,0	+0,2	+6,6
Other urban areas	117,5	117,0	..	+0,4	..
Eastern Cape	119,7	118,8	..	+0,8	..
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	118,0	117,6	110,7	+0,3	+6,6
East London	121,5	121,2	111,0	+0,2	+9,5
Other urban areas	119,5	118,5	..	+0,8	..
Northern Cape	116,6	116,4	..	+0,2	..
Kimberley	117,9	117,6	109,5	+0,3	+7,7
Other urban areas	116,3	116,1	..	+0,2	..
Free State	116,2	115,8	..	+0,3	..
Bloemfontein	119,1	118,6	111,0	+0,4	+7,3
Free State Goldfields	115,7	115,1	108,8	+0,5	+6,3
Other urban areas	115,9	115,4	..	+0,4	..
KwaZulu-Natal	117,2	117,0	..	+0,2	..
Durban/Pinetown	118,9	118,7	110,4	+0,2	+7,7
Pietermaritzburg	117,4	117,2	110,5	+0,2	+6,2
Other urban areas	116,4	116,3	..	+0,1	..
North West	115,2	114,7	..	+0,4	..
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	116,3	116,0	109,5	+0,3	+6,2
Other urban areas	114,9	114,4	..	+0,4	..
Gauteng	118,3	117,9	..	+0,3	..
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	118,5	118,1	110,4	+0,3	+7,3
Witwatersrand	117,6	117,3	109,4	+0,3	+7,5
Other urban areas	117,6	117,2	..	+0,3	..
Mpumalanga	117,3	117,0	..	+0,3	..
Nelspruit/Witbank	117,6	117,2	109,2	+0,3	+7,7
Other urban areas	117,0	116,7	..	+0,3	..
Northern Province	116,3	116,1	..	+0,2	..
Pietersburg	118,4	117,8	110,5	+0,5	+7,1
Other urban areas	116,2	115,9	..	+0,3	..
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	117,7	117,4	..	+0,3	..
Weighted average - Metropolitan	118,0	117,7	110,0	+0,3	+7,3

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	
	Nov. 1997	Oct. 1997	Nov. 1996	Oct. 1997	Nov. 1996
Western Cape	118,0	118,6	..	-0,5	..
Cape Peninsula	118,7	119,5	112,2	-0,7	+5,8
Other urban areas	117,7	118,2	..	-0,4	..
Eastern Cape	118,9	119,3	..	-0,3	..
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	117,6	118,2	111,1	-0,5	+5,9
East London	119,0	119,5	110,9	-0,4	+7,3
Other urban areas	118,7	119,0	..	-0,3	..
Northern Cape	117,2	117,5	..	-0,3	..
Kimberley	120,6	120,9	110,6	-0,2	+9,0
Other urban areas	116,7	117,0	..	-0,3	..
Free State	116,1	116,3	..	-0,2	..
Bloemfontein	118,6	119,3	111,4	-0,6	+6,5
Free State Goldfields	116,4	116,3	109,2	+0,1	+6,6
Other urban areas	115,6	115,8	..	-0,2	..
KwaZulu-Natal	117,6	118,0	..	-0,3	..
Durban/Pinetown	118,4	118,8	111,1	-0,3	+6,6
Pietermaritzburg	118,2	118,5	111,3	-0,3	+6,2
Other urban areas	116,9	117,3	..	-0,3	..
North West	116,4	116,5	..	-0,1	..
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	116,5	117,1	109,3	-0,5	+6,6
Other urban areas	116,2	116,2	..	0,0	..
Gauteng	119,3	119,7	..	-0,3	..
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	118,5	118,9	111,4	-0,3	+6,4
Witwatersrand	118,2	118,8	110,4	-0,5	+7,1
Other urban areas	118,9	119,2	..	-0,3	..
Mpumalanga	117,8	118,2	..	-0,3	..
Nelspruit/Witbank	117,9	118,1	109,9	-0,2	+7,3
Other urban areas	117,3	117,7	..	-0,3	..
Northern Province	116,4	116,6	..	-0,2	..
Pietersburg	116,9	117,6	111,2	-0,6	+5,1
Other urban areas	116,5	116,6	..	-0,1	..
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	118,3	118,7	..	-0,3	..
Weighted average - Metropolitan	118,4	118,9	110,9	-0,4	+6,8

TABLE 5 SEASONALLY ADJUSTED INDICES

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Nov. 1997	Oct. 1997	Sep. 1997	Aug. 1997	Weights
All items	118,9	118,8	118,3	117,5	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	118,9	119,1	118,5	117,6	81,98
Commodities	117,4	116,5	116,2	115,7	55,00
Food	118,5	117,3	117,7	117,8	18,02
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	118,8	117,6	118,0	118,0	18,84
Alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	139,2	137,4	135,7	133,8	2,13
Clothing and footwear	108,1	107,9	107,7	107,5	4,72
Furniture and equipment	110,9	110,3	110,1	109,0	3,85
Vehicles	110,7	110,6	110,0	109,8	5,25
Other transport commodities	121,4	118,3	117,2	114,0	4,63
Other commodities	118,8	118,5	117,8	117,8	15,58
Services	120,9	121,7	121,2	120,6	45,00
Housing and domestic workers	122,2	125,3	124,3	123,3	25,99
Transport	111,8	111,2	110,7	110,1	4,86
Other services	123,0	121,2	121,3	121,2	14,15
All items (VAT excluded)	118,8	118,7	118,2	117,5	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	
	Nov. 1997	Oct. 1997	Nov. 1996	Oct. 1997	Nov. 1996
Western Cape	118,3	118,3	..	0,0	..
Cape Peninsula	120,2	120,4	112,8	-0,2	+6,6
Other cities	117,9	117,8	..	+0,1	..
Eastern Cape	120,6	119,9	..	+0,6	..
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	118,6	118,7	111,5	-0,1	+6,4
East London	121,2	121,3	111,4	-0,1	+8,8
Other cities	120,7	119,8	..	+0,8	..
Northern Cape	119,3	119,2	..	+0,1	..
Kimberley	122,4	122,1	111,8	+0,2	+9,5
Other cities	118,8	118,8	..	0,0	..
Free State	115,8	115,6	..	+0,2	..
Bloemfontein	118,1	118,5	111,5	-0,3	+5,9
Free State Goldfields	115,5	115,2	108,3	+0,3	+6,6
Other cities	115,6	115,4	..	+0,2	..
KwaZulu-Natal	117,8	118,0	..	-0,2	..
Durban/Pinetown	119,4	119,6	111,3	-0,2	+7,3
Pietermaritzburg	117,8	117,7	110,7	+0,1	+6,4
Other cities	117,1	117,3	..	-0,2	..
North West	116,7	116,3	..	+0,3	..
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	118,3	118,3	110,0	0,0	+7,5
Other cities	116,2	115,8	..	+0,3	..
Gauteng	119,4	119,3	..	+0,1	..
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	118,9	118,8	111,0	+0,1	+7,1
Witwatersrand	119,7	119,7	110,7	0,0	+8,1
Other cities	118,2	118,1	..	+0,1	..
Mpumalanga	120,4	120,3	..	+0,1	..
Nelspruit/Witbank	120,5	120,3	110,9	+0,2	+8,7
Other cities	120,4	120,3	..	+0,1	..
Northern Province	118,1	118,0	..	+0,1	..
Pietersburg	119,9	119,8	110,5	+0,1	+8,5
Other cities	118,1	118,0	..	+0,1	..
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	118,6	118,5	..	+0,1	..
Weighted average - Metropolitan	119,7	119,7	111,3	0,0	+7,5

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

Group	Percentage change compared with	
	Oct. 1997	Nov. 1996
Food	+0,2	+15,2
Processed	+0,5	+8,4
Unprocessed	-0,1	+22,0
Grain products	+0,6	+4,5
Meat	+0,8	+26,6
Fish and other seafood	+2,6	+7,6
Milk, cheese and eggs	+0,2	+18,7
Fats and oils	+0,4	+3,1
Fruit and nuts	-1,6	+20,5
Vegetables	-1,8	+20,8
Sugar	0,0	+10,9
Coffee, tea and cocoa	+1,2	+4,9
Other	-0,4	+3,1

1/ With at least 15 branches

TABLE 7.2 Other retailers 2/

Group	Percentage change compared with	
	Oct. 1997	Nov. 1996
Food	-0,2	+9,9
Processed	+0,1	+8,6
Unprocessed	-0,6	+11,2
Grain products	0,0	+4,4
Meat	-0,2	+7,3
Fish and other seafood	+0,6	+12,5
Milk, cheese and eggs	+0,2	+5,2
Fats and oils	+0,3	+15,4
Fruit and nuts	-0,1	+21,5
Vegetables	-2,8	+16,9
Sugar	+0,2	+15,0
Coffee, tea and cocoa	-0,6	+7,6
Other	+0,2	+18,1

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