

Consumer Price Index

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INFLATION RATE INCREASES TO 1,9% AT NOVEMBER 1999

The official inflation rate, i.e. the annual rate of change in the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas, is 1,9% at November 1999. This rate is 0,2 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding annual rate of 1,7% at October 1999. From October 1999 to November 1999 the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas increased by 0,2% and the seasonally adjusted index increased by 0,8%.

The annual increase of 1,9% in the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas is mainly due to annual increases in the price indices for transport (+1,3 percentage points, mainly due to a 23,4% increase in the price of petrol from November 1998 to November 1999), food (+0,9 of a percentage point), medical care and health expenses (+0,7 of a percentage point) and household operation (+0,7 of a percentage point). These increases were partially counteracted by a relatively large annual decrease in the price index for housing (-3,1 percentage points, mainly due to a decrease of 7,9 percentage points in the interest rates on mortgage bonds) (cf. table 2.1).

The inflation rate for metropolitan and other urban areas is 2,1% at November 1999. This rate is 0,2 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding annual rate of 1,9% at October 1999. From October 1999 to November 1999 the Consumer Price Index for metropolitan and other urban areas increased by 0,2%.

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The core inflation rate for metropolitan areas (cf. note 7 on page 5) is 8,1% at November 1999. This rate is 0,1 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding annual rate of 8,0% at October 1999. From October 1999 to November 1999 the core inflation index for metropolitan areas increased by 0,4%.

The annual increase of 8,1% in the core inflation index for metropolitan areas is mainly due to annual increases in the price indices for transport (+1,9 percentage points, mainly due to a 23,4% increase in the price of petrol from November 1998 to November 1999), housing (+1,8 percentage points, mainly due to increases in all components), medical care and health expenses (+0,9 of a percentage point), household operation (+0,9 of a percentage point), food (+0,5 of a percentage point), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+0,4 of a percentage point) and education (+0,4 of a percentage point) (cf. table 2.3).

The core inflation rate for metropolitan and other urban areas (cf. note 7 on page 5) is 7,6% at November 1999, which is 0,2 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding annual rate of 7,4% at October 1999. From October 1999 to November 1999 the core inflation index for metropolitan and other urban areas increased by 0,4%.

METROPOLITAN AREAS [Back to contents](#)

Contributions to monthly change in the CPI

The Consumer Price Index for metropolitan areas increased by 0,2% from October 1999 to November 1999. This monthly increase is due to monthly increases in the price indices for food (+0,3 of a percentage point) and household operation (+0,1 of a percentage point). These increases were partially counteracted by a relatively large monthly decrease in the price index for housing (-0,2 of a percentage point, mainly due to a decrease of 0,4 of a percentage point in the interest rates on mortgage bonds) (cf. table 2.2).

Contributions to monthly increase in core inflation index

From October 1999 to November 1999 the core inflation index for metropolitan areas increased by 0,4%. This monthly increase is due to monthly increases in the price indices for food (+0,1 of a percentage point), housing (+0,1 of a percentage point), transport (+0,1 of a percentage point, mainly due to a 1c/l increase in the price of petrol) and household operation (+0,1 of a percentage point) (cf. table 2.4).

Food inflation

The price index for food reflects an annual rate of increase of 4,8% at November 1999. This rate is 1,3 percentage point higher than the corresponding annual rate of 3,5% at October 1999. From October 1999 to November 1999 this index increased by 1,5%. The seasonally adjusted index increased by 1,7% for the same period.

Relatively large monthly increases occurred in the price indices for fruit and nuts (+3,0%), meat (+2,6%), grain products (+1,6%), sugar (+1,6%), fish and other seafood (+1,4%), vegetables (+0,8%), milk, cheese and eggs (+0,7%), coffee tea and cocoa (+0,6%) and "other" food products (+0,4%). These increases were partially counteracted by a monthly decrease in the price index for fats and oils (-0,3%).

Price index for non-food items

The price index for non-food items shows an annual rate of increase of 1,3% at November 1999. This rate is the same as the corresponding annual rate at October 1999. From October 1999 to November 1999 this index decreased by 0,1%, while the seasonally adjusted index increased by 0,6%.

A relatively large monthly decrease occurred in the price index for housing (-1,0%, mainly due to a decrease of 0,4 of a percentage point in the interest rates on mortgage bonds). This decrease was partially counteracted by relatively large monthly increases in the price indices for cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+1,4%), household operation (+1,0%) and clothing and footwear (+0,5%).

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 1999 and the average index of the previous three months. This approach, when using seasonally adjusted data shows an increase of 0,2% (which is 1,6 percentage points higher than the corresponding rate of -1,4% for October 1999), while the unadjusted data shows an increase of 1,5% (which is 0,8 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding rate of 0,7% for October 1999).

Pensioners

The annual inflation rate for pensioners in the metropolitan areas is 4,5% at November 1999, which is 0,2 of percentage point higher than the corresponding rate of 4,3% at October 1999.

METROPOLITAN AND OTHER URBAN AREAS Contributions to monthly change in the CPI

The Consumer Price Index for metropolitan and other urban areas increased by 0,2% from October 1999 to November 1999. This monthly increase is due to monthly increases in the price indices for food (+0,3 of a percentage point) and household operation (+0,1 of a percentage point). These increases were partially counteracted by a relatively large monthly decrease in the price index for housing (-0,2 of a percentage point, mainly due to a decrease of 0,4 of a percentage point in the interest rates on mortgage bonds).

Food inflation

The price index for food reflects an annual rate of increase of 4,3% at November 1999. This rate is 1,1 percentage points higher than the corresponding rate of 3,2% at October 1999. From October 1999 to November 1999 this index increased by 1,3%.

The monthly increase of 1,3% in the price index for food is due to monthly increases in the price indices for fruit and nut (+4,4%), meat (+1,8%), sugar (+1,8%), vegetables (+1,5%), fish and other seafood (+1,5%), grain products (+1,2%), milk, cheese and eggs (+0,5%), coffee, tea and cocoa (+0,2%) and "other" food products (+0,2%). These increases were partially counteracted by a monthly decrease in the price index for fats and oils (-0,5%).

Price index for non-food items

The price index for non-food items shows an annual rate of increase of 1,6% at November 1999. This rate is the same as the corresponding annual rate at October 1999. From October 1999 to November 1999 this index decreased by 0,1%.

A relatively large monthly decrease occurred in the price indices for housing (-0,9%, mainly due to a decrease of 0,4 of a percentage point in the interest rates on mortgage bonds). This decrease was partially counteracted by relatively large monthly increases in the price indices for cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+1,4%), household operation (+1,0%) and clothing and footwear (+0,5%).

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 1999 and the average index of the previous three months. This approach, when using unadjusted data shows an increase of 1,5%, which is 0,6 of a percentage point higher than corresponding rate of 0,9% for October 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.

Areas indices

The Free State Goldfields and the other urban areas in the Northern Province recorded the highest annual inflation rate of 4,2% respectively, while the lowest rate of -0,4% was recorded for the Pietersburg area.

Regarding food prices, the highest annual increase of 7,7% was recorded for the Pietersburg area, while the Nelspruit/Witbank area reflected the lowest increase of 3,0%.

Pensioners

The annual inflation rate for pensioners in the metropolitan and other urban areas is 4,4% at November 1999. The other urban areas in Mpumalanga recorded the highest rate of increase of 6,6%, while the lowest rate of 1,5% was recorded for Bloemfontein.

CPI FOR DECEMBER 1999

In addition to the usual price surveys for December 1999, it has come to the attention of Stats SA that changed prices will apply during the first seven days of December 1999 regarding property insurance, public transport and toll fees 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", 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.

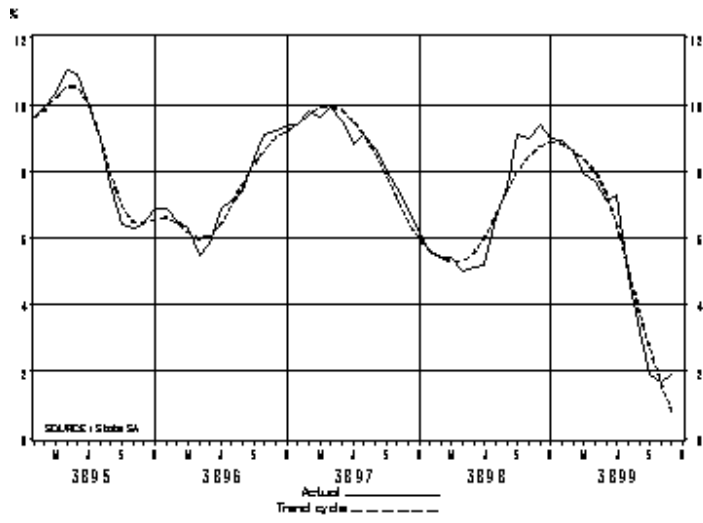
The choice of exclusions was informed by best practice amongst several other international agencies, and after consultation with the South African Reserve Bank and other local technical experts.

8 Response rate

The response rate for the CPI for November was 93,1%.

9 Symbols used: * = revised

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



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

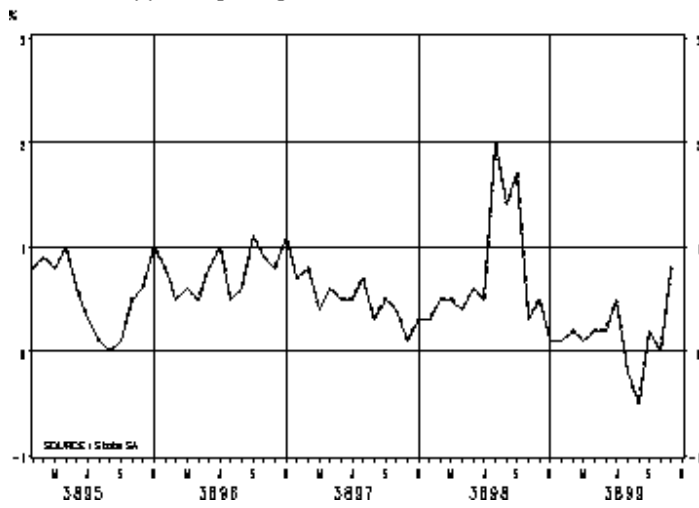


TABLE 1.1 EXPENDITURE GROUP INDICES AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Nov. 1999	Oct. 1999	Nov. 1998	Percentage change compared with		
				Oct. 1999		Nov. 1998
				Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual
Expenditure groups						
Very Low	138,5	137,5	130,9	+0,7	..	+5,8
Low	137,2	136,3	130,0	+0,7	..	+5,5
Middle	136,2	135,3	129,5	+0,7	..	+5,2
High	135,1	134,5	129,8	+0,4	..	+4,1
Very High	130,5	130,4	129,1	+0,1	..	+1,1
All expenditure groups - Metropolitan	131,9	131,6	129,4	+0,2	+0,8	+1,9
All expenditure groups - Metro and other urban areas	131,6	131,3	128,9	+0,2	..	+2,1
Food only - Metropolitan	132,0	130,0	125,9	+1,5	+1,7	+4,8
Food only - Metro and other urban areas	132,2	130,5	126,8	+1,3	..	+4,3
All items excluding food - Metropolitan	131,9	132,0	130,2	-0,1	+0,6	+1,3
All items excluding food - Metro and other urban areas	131,5	131,6	129,4	-0,1	..	+1,6
All expenditure groups (VAT EXCLUDED) - Metropolitan	131,9	131,6	129,4	+0,2	+0,8	+1,9
All expenditure groups (VAT EXCLUDED) - Metro and other urban areas	131,6	131,3	128,9	+0,2	..	+2,1
Core inflation - Metropolitan	138,9	138,3	128,5	+0,4	-	+8,1
Core inflation - Metro and other urban areas	138,1	137,5	128,4	+0,4	-	+7,6

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

TABLE 1.2 ANNUAL INFLATION ON A MONTHLY BASIS

Metropolitan areas - All Items

Base year: 1995 = 100

Year	Index	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ave.
1997	Index	113,3	113,9	114,6	115,6	116,0	116,3	117,5	117,7	118,2	118,7	118,3	118,7	116,6
	%	+9,4	+9,8	+9,6	+9,9	+9,5	+8,8	+9,1	+8,7	+8,0	+7,5	+6,8	+6,1	+8,6
1998	Index	119,7	120,0	120,8	121,4	121,9	122,3	125,3	126,7	128,9	129,4	129,4	129,4	124,6
	%	+5,6	+5,4	+5,4	+5,0	+5,1	+5,2	+6,6	+7,6	+9,1	+9,0	+9,4	+9,0	+6,9
1999	Index	130,4	130,3	130,4	130,7	130,5	131,2	131,4	130,8	131,4	131,6	131,9	..	..
	%	+8,9	+8,6	+7,9	+7,7	+7,1	+7,3	+4,9	+3,2	+1,9	+1,7	+1,9	..	..

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

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

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

Group	Contribution
Food	0,3
Housing	-0,2
Household operation	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	0,5
Non-alcoholic beverages	0,1
Alcoholic beverages	0,1
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	0,4
Housing	1,8
Fuel and power	0,3
Furniture and equipment	0,1
Household operation	0,9
Medical care and health expenses	0,9
Transport	1,9
Communication	0,2
Reading matter	0,1
Education	0,4
Personal care	0,3
Other	0,1
All items	8,1

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	0,1
All items	0,4

TABLE 3 GROUP INDICES - WEIGHTED AVERAGE
3.1 METROPOLITAN AREAS

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Nov. 1999	Oct. 1999	Nov. 1998	Percentage change compared with		Weights
				Oct. 1999	Nov. 1998	
All items	131,9	131,6	129,4	+0,2	+1,9	100,00
Expenditure groups - Very low	138,5	137,5	130,9	+0,7	+5,8	0,51
Low	137,2	136,3	130,0	+0,7	+5,5	1,78
Middle	136,2	135,3	129,5	+0,7	+5,2	5,24
High	135,1	134,5	129,8	+0,4	+4,1	17,70
Very high	130,5	130,4	129,1	+0,1	+1,1	74,77
Commodities	132,6	131,7	124,4	+0,7	+6,6	55,00
Services	132,0	132,5	136,2	-0,4	-3,1	45,00
All items, excluding housing	134,5	133,8	126,0	+0,5	+6,7	75,93
All items, excluding food	131,9	132,0	130,2	-0,1	+1,3	81,98
Food	132,0	130,0	125,9	+1,5	+4,8	18,02
Expenditure groups - Very low	133,3	131,5	127,9	+1,4	+4,2	40,73
Low	133,3	131,2	127,7	+1,6	+4,4	34,39
Middle	133,3	131,3	127,5	+1,5	+4,5	31,12
High	132,7	130,7	126,5	+1,5	+4,9	25,42
Very high	131,3	129,3	125,3	+1,5	+4,8	14,84
Processed	135,0	133,6	127,7	+1,0	+5,7	9,12
Unprocessed	128,8	126,4	124,1	+1,9	+3,8	8,90
Grain products	139,9	137,7	133,8	+1,6	+4,6	3,31
Meat	120,4	117,3	114,5	+2,6	+5,2	5,33
Fish and other seafood	144,3	142,3	131,2	+1,4	+10,0	0,80
Milk, cheese and eggs	138,8	137,9	132,2	+0,7	+5,0	1,90
Fats and oils	142,3	142,7	137,3	-0,3	+3,6	0,85
Fruit and nuts	125,3	121,7	118,5	+3,0	+5,7	1,08
Vegetables	136,3	135,2	136,3	+0,8	0,0	1,80
Sugar	135,9	133,7	126,8	+1,6	+7,2	0,59
Coffee, tea and cocoa	126,7	126,0	120,6	+0,6	+5,1	0,72
Other	139,0	138,4	130,6	+0,4	+6,4	1,64
Non-alcoholic beverages	147,3	147,1	136,9	+0,1	+7,6	0,82
Alcoholic beverages	138,8	138,8	129,9	0,0	+6,9	1,18
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	229,2	226,1	192,7	+1,4	+18,9	0,95
Clothing and footwear	110,1	109,5	109,4	+0,5	+0,6	4,76
Clothing	109,3	108,5	109,6	+0,7	-0,3	3,55
Footwear	113,5	113,7	109,8	-0,2	+3,4	1,21
Housing	125,9	127,2	142,6	-1,0	-11,7	24,07
Fuel and power	137,8	137,7	127,8	+0,1	+7,8	3,11
Furniture and equipment	117,8	117,8	114,5	0,0	+2,9	3,94
Furniture	124,3	124,2	120,0	+0,1	+3,6	1,62
Appliances	112,5	112,5	109,8	0,0	+2,5	1,08
Other household equipment and textiles	113,9	113,8	111,3	+0,1	+2,3	1,24
Household operation	166,2	164,5	148,2	+1,0	+12,1	4,69
Household consumables	143,3	142,2	135,5	+0,8	+5,8	1,14
Domestic workers	185,6	183,5	161,5	+1,1	+14,9	3,19
Other household services	125,4	125,4	122,2	0,0	+2,6	0,36
Medical care and health expenses	161,6	161,6	146,4	0,0	+10,4	5,95
Transport	129,8	129,4	118,1	+0,3	+9,9	14,74
Vehicles	124,0	123,2	116,2	+0,6	+6,7	5,25
Running cost	146,1	145,6	124,9	+0,3	+17,0	5,75
Petrol 1)	158,3	157,8	128,3	+0,3	+23,4	
Diesel 1)	114,5	112,3	105,5	+2,0	+8,5	
Public and hired transport	116,0	116,0	113,0	0,0	+2,7	3,74
Communication	128,8	128,8	119,7	0,0	+7,6	3,06
Recreation and entertainment	113,7	113,6	112,6	+0,1	+1,0	2,38
Reading matter	147,5	147,5	136,2	0,0	+8,3	0,74
Education	156,4	156,4	135,6	0,0	+15,3	2,04
Personal care	136,0	136,0	126,5	0,0	+7,5	3,06
Other	116,3	116,2	119,7	+0,1	-2,8	6,49

1) For historical indices see Annexure A on page 16

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

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Nov. 1999	Oct. 1999	Nov. 1998	Percentage change compared with		Weights
				Oct. 1999	Nov. 1998	
All items	131,6	131,3	128,9	+0,2	+2,1	100,00
Expenditure groups - Very low	137,4	136,5	130,6	+0,7	+5,2	0,93
Low	136,0	135,2	129,5	+0,6	+5,0	2,99
Middle	134,3	133,6	128,4	+0,5	+4,6	7,58
High	134,2	133,6	129,2	+0,4	+3,9	20,09
Very high	130,3	130,2	128,8	+0,1	+1,2	68,41
Commodities	131,2	130,3	124,0	+0,7	+5,8	57,34
Services	132,4	132,8	135,5	-0,3	-2,3	42,66
All items, excluding housing	133,9	133,2	126,0	+0,5	+6,3	77,55
All items, excluding food	131,5	131,6	129,4	-0,1	+1,6	80,52
Food	132,2	130,5	126,8	+1,3	+4,3	19,48
Expenditure groups - Very low	135,2	133,8	130,5	+1,0	+3,6	44,17
Low	134,4	132,9	129,7	+1,1	+3,6	38,83
Middle	133,4	131,9	128,5	+1,1	+3,8	32,67
High	132,5	130,8	127,1	+1,3	+4,2	25,61
Very high	131,4	129,6	125,7	+1,4	+4,5	15,02
Processed	134,3	133,0	127,4	+1,0	+5,4	10,52
Unprocessed	130,1	128,0	126,2	+1,6	+3,1	8,96
Grain products	140,3	138,7	134,5	+1,2	+4,3	3,73
Meat	118,9	116,8	114,4	+1,8	+3,9	5,84
Fish and other seafood	144,4	142,3	132,5	+1,5	+9,0	0,77
Milk, cheese and eggs	137,7	137,0	131,5	+0,5	+4,7	2,02
Fats and oils	139,0	139,7	136,0	-0,5	+2,2	0,94
Fruit and nuts	123,9	118,7	117,9	+4,4	+5,1	1,07
Vegetables	142,9	140,8	142,3	+1,5	+0,4	1,94
Sugar	138,0	135,6	128,1	+1,8	+7,7	0,73
Coffee, tea and cocoa	125,2	124,9	119,8	+0,2	+4,5	0,79
Other	138,4	138,1	130,1	+0,2	+6,4	1,65
Non-alcoholic beverages	152,0	151,6	139,7	+0,3	+8,8	0,82
Alcoholic beverages	139,7	139,7	130,3	0,0	+7,2	1,17
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	223,4	220,3	187,5	+1,4	+19,1	1,04
Clothing and footwear	110,7	110,2	109,9	+0,5	+0,7	5,07
Clothing	109,7	108,9	109,9	+0,7	-0,2	3,80
Footwear	113,8	113,9	109,6	-0,1	+3,8	1,27
Housing	124,2	125,3	139,3	-0,9	-10,8	22,45
Fuel and power	134,0	133,7	124,5	+0,2	+7,6	3,54
Furniture and equipment	115,8	115,8	112,7	0,0	+2,8	4,34
Furniture	121,4	121,4	117,2	0,0	+3,6	1,77
Appliances	111,6	111,6	109,0	0,0	+2,4	1,19
Other household equipment and textiles	112,1	112,1	110,2	0,0	+1,7	1,38
Household operation	171,4	169,7	152,2	+1,0	+12,6	4,87
Household consumables	141,7	140,7	133,8	+0,7	+5,9	1,27
Domestic workers	188,0	185,7	162,9	+1,2	+15,4	3,25
Other household services	125,4	125,4	120,1	0,0	+4,4	0,35
Medical care and health expenses	158,2	158,2	143,1	0,0	+10,6	5,81
Transport	126,3	125,9	116,3	+0,3	+8,6	13,65
Vehicles	117,4	117,0	111,7	+0,3	+5,1	5,31
Running cost	143,7	143,2	124,8	+0,3	+15,1	5,16
Petrol 1)	151,3	150,8	126,6	+0,3	+19,5	
Diesel 1)	119,2	116,8	106,6	+2,1	+11,8	
Public and hired transport	112,9	112,9	110,4	0,0	+2,3	3,18
Communication	132,6	132,6	123,1	0,0	+7,7	3,21
Recreation and entertainment	109,6	109,5	108,9	+0,1	+0,6	2,18
Reading matter	145,3	145,3	134,0	0,0	+8,4	0,69
Education	159,2	159,2	136,0	0,0	+17,1	1,82
Personal care	136,4	136,4	126,9	0,0	+7,5	3,08
Other	116,9	116,8	121,1	+0,1	-3,5	6,78

1) For historical indices see Annexure A on page 16

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

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. 1999	Oct. 1999	Nov. 1998	Oct. 1999	Nov. 1998
Western Cape	131,7	130,4	126,5	+1,0	+4,1
Cape Peninsula	134,1	132,5	127,0	+1,2	+5,6
Other urban areas	129,7	128,6	125,4	+0,9	+3,4
Eastern Cape	141,8	139,9	136,6	+1,4	+3,8
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	131,3	129,4	125,9	+1,5	+4,3
East London	138,1	135,8	131,1	+1,7	+5,3
Other urban areas	144,3	142,4	139,2	+1,3	+3,7
Northern Cape	127,2	126,5	122,3	+0,6	+4,0
Kimberley	128,6	127,6	124,4	+0,8	+3,4
Other urban areas	126,9	126,3	121,9	+0,5	+4,1
Free State	125,7	124,6	121,7	+0,9	+3,3
Bloemfontein	132,1	130,9	127,4	+0,9	+3,7
Free State Goldfields	126,4	125,2	121,5	+1,0	+4,0
Other urban areas	124,9	123,9	121,1	+0,8	+3,1
KwaZulu-Natal	131,7	129,8	126,7	+1,5	+3,9
Durban/Pinetown	138,6	136,5	131,4	+1,5	+5,5
Pietermaritzburg	132,9	130,1	126,8	+2,2	+4,8
Other urban areas	129,0	127,1	125,0	+1,5	+3,2
North West	127,5	126,6	123,4	+0,7	+3,3
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	127,1	125,5	122,2	+1,3	+4,0
Other urban areas	127,4	126,6	123,4	+0,6	+3,2
Gauteng	131,3	129,4	125,2	+1,5	+4,9
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	132,0	130,8	127,4	+0,9	+3,6
Witwatersrand	130,1	127,9	124,1	+1,7	+4,8
Other urban areas	132,5	130,8	125,1	+1,3	+5,9
Mpumalanga	140,0	137,6	133,8	+1,7	+4,6
Nelspruit/Witbank	132,0	129,6	128,1	+1,9	+3,0
Other urban areas	141,4	139,0	134,8	+1,7	+4,9
Northern Province	135,6	133,7	129,8	+1,4	+4,5
Pietersburg	138,3	134,9	128,4	+2,5	+7,7
Other urban areas	135,4	133,6	130,0	+1,3	+4,2
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	132,2	130,5	126,8	+1,3	+4,3
Weighted average - Metropolitan	132,0	130,0	125,9	+1,5	+4,8

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. 1999	Oct. 1999	Nov. 1998	Oct. 1999	Nov. 1998
Western Cape	133,0	132,4	125,6	+0,5	+5,9
Cape Peninsula	134,7	134,0	126,6	+0,5	+6,4
Other urban areas	131,8	131,2	124,9	+0,5	+5,5
Eastern Cape	138,1	137,2	129,8	+0,7	+6,4
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	134,6	133,7	126,2	+0,7	+6,7
East London	141,4	140,4	130,9	+0,7	+8,0
Other urban areas	138,2	137,3	130,1	+0,7	+6,2
Northern Cape	131,8	131,3	124,7	+0,4	+5,7
Kimberley	134,3	133,4	127,3	+0,7	+5,5
Other urban areas	131,4	130,9	124,3	+0,4	+5,7
Free State	131,1	130,6	124,2	+0,4	+5,6
Bloemfontein	135,3	134,7	127,6	+0,4	+6,0
Free State Goldfields	130,1	129,5	123,2	+0,5	+5,6
Other urban areas	130,7	130,2	123,9	+0,4	+5,5
KwaZulu-Natal	131,9	131,3	124,4	+0,5	+6,0
Durban/Pinetown	134,3	133,7	126,0	+0,4	+6,6
Pietermaritzburg	131,7	130,7	124,2	+0,8	+6,0
Other urban areas	131,0	130,3	123,8	+0,5	+5,8
North West	130,8	130,3	123,6	+0,4	+5,8
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	130,0	129,5	123,1	+0,4	+5,6
Other urban areas	130,7	130,3	123,5	+0,3	+5,8
Gauteng	135,1	134,4	126,5	+0,5	+6,8
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	134,5	133,9	126,0	+0,4	+6,7
Witwatersrand	134,9	134,0	126,1	+0,7	+7,0
Other urban areas	133,3	132,8	125,5	+0,4	+6,2
Mpumalanga	135,2	134,0	127,1	+0,9	+6,4
Nelspruit/Witbank	134,4	133,4	126,4	+0,7	+6,3
Other urban areas	135,0	133,7	126,9	+1,0	+6,4
Northern Province	131,4	130,6	123,9	+0,6	+6,1
Pietersburg	133,9	132,9	125,6	+0,8	+6,6
Other urban areas	131,1	130,4	123,7	+0,5	+6,0
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	133,9	133,2	126,0	+0,5	+6,3
Weighted average - Metropolitan	134,5	133,8	126,0	+0,5	+6,7

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

TABLE 5 SEASONALLY ADJUSTED INDICES [Back to contents](#)

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Nov. 1999	Oct. 1999	Sep. 1999	Aug. 1999	Weights
All items	132,1	131,0	131,0	130,8	100,00
Expenditure groups - Very low	..	..	..	..	0,51
Low	..	..	..	..	1,78
Middle	..	..	..	..	5,24
High	..	..	..	..	17,70
Very high	..	..	..	..	74,77
All items excluding food	132,2	131,4	131,3	131,2	81,98
Commodities	132,6	131,3	130,7	130,0	55,00
Food	132,0	129,8	130,0	129,3	18,02
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	132,7	130,6	130,7	130,0	18,84
Alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	183,2	180,4	178,9	179,5	2,13
Clothing and footwear	110,0	109,5	109,1	109,1	4,72
Furniture and equipment	117,8	117,3	117,1	117,9	3,85
Vehicles	124,2	123,3	121,9	121,7	5,25
Other transport commodities	152,2	150,9	146,1	142,9	4,63
Other commodities	136,2	135,4	135,5	134,4	15,58
Services	132,1	131,3	131,6	132,4	45,00
Housing and domestic workers	124,6	124,3	125,3	127,0	25,99
Transport	115,1	114,8	114,5	113,6	4,86
Other services	147,4	145,9	145,4	145,5	14,15
All items (VAT excluded)	132,1	131,0	130,9	130,7	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. 1999	Oct. 1999	Nov. 1998	Oct. 1999	Nov. 1998
Western Cape	131,3	130,9	126,7	+0,3	+3,6
Cape Peninsula	135,3	134,8	129,8	+0,4	+4,2
Other urban areas	130,1	129,7	125,8	+0,3	+3,4
Eastern Cape	137,3	136,6	131,8	+0,5	+4,2
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	133,3	132,7	128,9	+0,5	+3,4
East London	139,0	138,1	132,4	+0,7	+5,0
Other urban areas	137,5	136,8	131,9	+0,5	+4,2
Northern Cape	134,5	134,1	127,4	+0,3	+5,6
Kimberley	140,9	140,1	133,8	+0,6	+5,3
Other urban areas	133,6	133,2	126,5	+0,3	+5,6
Free State	129,5	129,0	124,4	+0,4	+4,1
Bloemfontein	131,3	131,2	129,3	+0,1	+1,5
Free State Goldfields	130,3	129,8	125,1	+0,4	+4,2
Other urban areas	129,2	128,8	123,9	+0,3	+4,3
KwaZulu-Natal	131,5	131,0	126,5	+0,4	+4,0
Durban/Pinetown	133,4	133,0	128,9	+0,3	+3,5
Pietermaritzburg	132,2	131,4	126,7	+0,6	+4,3
Other urban areas	130,4	129,9	125,3	+0,4	+4,1
North West	133,4	132,9	126,9	+0,4	+5,1
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	133,6	133,2	128,0	+0,3	+4,4
Other urban areas	133,0	132,6	126,4	+0,3	+5,2
Gauteng	135,5	134,9	129,4	+0,4	+4,7
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	132,7	132,4	127,6	+0,2	+4,0
Witwatersrand	137,2	136,6	130,5	+0,4	+5,1
Other urban areas	132,7	132,3	127,5	+0,3	+4,1
Mpumalanga	140,8	139,5	132,3	+0,9	+6,4
Nelspruit/Witbank	138,1	137,2	130,9	+0,7	+5,5
Other urban areas	141,3	139,9	132,5	+1,0	+6,6
Northern Province	133,6	133,0	127,1	+0,5	+5,1
Pietersburg	137,2	136,2	129,2	+0,7	+6,2
Other urban areas	133,5	132,9	127,0	+0,5	+5,1
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	133,7	133,2	128,1	+0,4	+4,4
Weighted average - Metropolitan	135,6	135,1	129,8	+0,4	+4,5

Annexure A - Historical indices for petrol and diesel

Year	Month	Metropolitan areas						Metropolitan and other urban areas					
		Petrol			Diesel			Petrol			Diesel		
		Indices (1995=100)	Monthly percentage change	Annual percentage change	Indices (1995=100)	Monthly percentage change	Annual percentage change	Indices (1995=100)	Monthly percentage change	Annual percentage change	Indices (1995=100)	Monthly percentage change	Annual percentage change
1997	Jan	120.4			121.8			120.4			121.2		
	Feb	122.0	1.3		122.8	0.8		121.5	0.9		121.9	0.6	
	Mar	121.4	-0.5		121.1	-1.4		121.0	-0.4		120.3	-1.3	
	Apr	119.3	-1.7		110.7	-8.6		119.2	-1.5		109.9	-8.6	
	May	120.9	1.3		111.8	1.0		120.5	1.1		111.0	1.0	
	Jun	117.9	-2.5		112.2	0.4		118.1	-2.0		111.5	0.5	
	Jul	116.3	-1.4		109.4	-2.5		116.8	-1.1		108.8	-2.4	
	Aug	116.3	0.0		104.5	-4.5		116.8	0.0		103.9	-4.5	
	Sep	119.0	2.3		103.9	-0.6		119.0	1.9		103.3	-0.6	
	Oct	119.7	0.6		105.7	1.7		119.5	0.4		105.5	2.1	
	Nov	122.3	2.2		108.9	3.0		121.7	1.8		108.2	2.6	
	Dec	122.9	0.5		112.2	3.0		122.2	0.4		111.5	3.0	
1998	Jan	120.6	-1.9	0.2	109.4	-2.5	-10.2	120.4	-1.5	0.0	108.1	-3.0	-10.8
	Feb	120.6	0.0	-1.1	105.6	-3.5	-14.0	120.4	0.0	-0.9	105.0	-2.9	-13.9
	Mar	117.9	-2.2	-2.9	102.2	-3.2	-15.6	118.1	-1.9	-2.4	101.6	-3.2	-15.5
	Apr	116.6	-1.1	-2.3	102.2	0.0	-7.7	121.7	3.0	2.1	101.8	0.2	-7.4
	May	122.9	5.4	1.7	102.3	0.1	-8.5	122.2	0.4	1.4	102.0	0.2	-8.1
	Jun	126.1	2.6	7.0	103.5	1.2	-7.8	124.9	2.2	5.8	103.2	1.2	-7.4

	Jul	126.6	0.4	8.9	102.0	-1.4	-6.8	125.3	0.3	7.3	102.3	-0.9	-6.0
	Aug	132.7	4.8	14.1	103.0	1.0	-1.4	130.3	4.0	11.6	103.6	1.3	-0.3
	Sep	133.2	0.4	11.9	102.6	-0.4	-1.3	130.7	0.3	9.8	104.4	0.8	1.1
	Oct	131.6	-1.2	9.9	102.7	0.1	-2.8	129.3	-1.1	8.2	104.7	0.3	-0.8
	Nov	128.3	-2.5	4.9	105.5	2.7	-3.1	126.6	-2.1	4.0	106.6	1.8	-1.5
	Dec	127.2	-0.9	3.5	105.4	-0.1	-6.1	125.7	-0.7	2.9	106.3	-0.3	-4.7
1999	Jan	125.0	-1.7	3.6	105.6	0.2	-3.5	124.0	-1.4	3.0	106.4	0.1	-1.6
	Feb	124.5	-0.4	3.2	108.3	2.6	2.6	123.5	-0.4	2.6	107.6	1.1	2.5
	Mar	125.5	0.8	6.4	108.8	0.5	6.5	124.4	0.7	5.3	108.5	0.8	6.8
	Apr	129.4	3.1	11.0	108.9	0.1	6.6	127.6	2.6	4.8	108.9	0.4	7.0
	May	139.2	7.6	13.3	109.1	0.2	6.6	135.6	6.3	11.0	110.2	1.2	8.0
	Jun	145.7	4.7	15.5	109.4	0.3	5.7	141.0	4.0	12.9	111.4	1.1	7.9
	Jul	145.7	0.0	15.1	111.1	1.6	8.9	141.0	0.0	12.5	112.4	0.9	9.9
	Aug	146.3	0.4	10.2	111.1	0.0	7.9	141.4	0.3	8.5	112.6	0.2	8.7
	Sep	153.4	4.9	15.2	111.9	0.7	9.1	147.2	4.1	12.6	115.0	2.1	10.2
	Oct	157.8	2.9	19.9	112.3	0.4	9.3	150.8	2.4	16.6	116.8	1.6	11.6
	Nov	158.3	0.3	23.4	114.5	2.0	8.5	151.3	0.3	19.5	119.2	2.1	11.8