

# Statistical Release P0141.1

## Prices : Consumer Price Index

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### INFLATION RATE AT 7,5% THE LOWEST SINCE AUGUST 1996

*The official inflation rate, i.e. the annual rate of change in the Consumer Price Index, is 7,5% at October 1997. This rate is 0,5 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding rate of 8,0% at September 1997, and 0,1 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding rate of 7,4% at August 1996. The monthly increase from September to October 1997 in the Consumer Price Index, as well as the increase in the seasonally adjusted index, is 0,4%.*

### CORE INFLATION RATE

The core inflation rate (see note 7 on page 3) is 8,2% at October 1997. This rate is 0,2 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding rate of 8,4% at September 1997. From September 1997 to October 1997 the core inflation index increased by 0,4%.

### MONTHLY CONTRIBUTIONS

The monthly increase of 0,4% in the official inflation rate is due to increases in the price indices for food (contributing +0,1 of a percentage point), housing (+0,1 of a percentage point), transport (+0,1 of a percentage point) and all other items (+0,1 of a percentage point).

### FOOD INFLATION DOWN TO 6,8% AT OCTOBER 1997

*The price index for food shows an annual rate of increase of 6,8% at October 1997. This rate is 1,5 percentage points lower than the corresponding rate of 8,3% at September 1997.*

The price index for food shows a monthly increase of 0,8%, which is substantially lower than the corresponding rate of 2,2% at October 1996. The current monthly increase of 0,8% is due to increases in the price indices for grain products (+0,2%), meat (+1,2%), fish and other seafood (+0,9%), milk, cheese and eggs (+1,0%), fruit and nuts (+2,3%), vegetables (+0,7%), coffee, tea and cocoa (+0,7%) and "other" food (+0,3%). These increases were slightly counteracted by decreases in the price indices for fats and oils (-0,2%) and sugar (-0,2%).

### **PRICE INDEX FOR NON-FOOD ITEMS SHOWS A MONTHLY INCREASE OF ONLY 0,3%**

The monthly increase of 0,3% in the price index for "all items, excluding food" is due to monthly increases in the price indices for non-alcoholic beverages (+0,2%), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+1,8%), clothing and footwear (+0,3%), housing (+0,5%), household operation (+0,9%), transport (+0,4%), reading matter (+0,3%), personal care (+0,6%) and "other goods and services" (+0,1%). These increases were slightly counteracted by a decrease of 0,3% in the price index for alcoholic beverages.

### **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 8,5%, while the lowest rate of 6,3% was recorded for Port Elizabeth/ Uitenhage as well as Free State Goldfields.

Regarding food prices, the highest annual increase of 10,2% was recorded for Durban/Pinetown, while the Free State Goldfields and Klerksdorp/ Stilfontein/ Orkney reflected the lowest increase of 4,2%.

### **INFLATION RATE FOR PENSIONERS**

The inflation rate for pensioners is 7,9% at October 1997. Kimberley recorded the highest rate of increase, namely 9,9%, while the lowest rate of 6,5% was recorded for the Free State Goldfields.

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

### **CPI FOR NOVEMBER 1997**

In addition to the usual price surveys for November 1997, it has come to the attention of the CSS that changed prices will apply during the first seven days of November 1997 regarding electricity tariffs and water tariffs in certain areas, parking fees in certain areas, home owner's insurance and motor vehicle insurance.

### **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	Oct. 1997	Sep. 1997	Oct. 1996	Percentage change compared with		
				Sep. 1997		Oct. 1996
				Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual
Expenditure groups						
Very Low	120,5	119,9	..	+0,5	..	..
Low	119,8	119,2	..	+0,5	..	..
Middle	119,5	119,0	..	+0,4	..	..
High	119,5	118,9	..	+0,5	..	..
Very High	118,4	118,0	..	+0,3	..	..
All expenditure groups - Metropolitan	118,7	118,2	110,4	+0,4 <sup>1)</sup>	+0,4 <sup>1)</sup>	+7,5 <sup>1)</sup>
All expenditure groups - Metro and other urban areas	118,6	118,1	..	+0,4	..	..
Food only - Metropolitan	118,1	117,2	110,6	+0,8	-0,3	+6,8
Food only - Metro and other urban areas	118,1	117,3	..	+0,7	..	..
All items excluding food - Metropolitan	118,9	118,5	110,4	+0,3	+0,5	+7,7
All items excluding food - Metro and other urban areas	118,7	118,3	..	+0,3	..	..
All expenditure groups (VAT EXCLUDED) - Metropolitan	118,7	118,2	110,5	+0,4 <sup>1)</sup>	+0,4 <sup>1)</sup>	+7,4 <sup>1)</sup>
All expenditure groups (VAT EXCLUDED) - Metro and other urban areas	118,6	118,1	..	+0,4	..	..
Core inflation - Metropolitan	118,9	118,4	109,9	+0,4	-	+8,2
Core inflation - Metro and other urban areas	119,0	118,6	..	+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
Food	+0,1
Housing	+0,1
Transport	+0,1
All other items	+0,1
All items	+0,4

TABLE 3 GROUP INDICES - WEIGHTED AVERAGE  
3.1 METROPOLITAN AREAS

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Percentage change compared with					Weights
	Oct. 1997	Sep. 1997	Oct. 1996	Sep. 1997	Oct. 1996	
	All items	118,7	118,2	110,4	+0,4	
Expenditure groups -						
Very low	120,5	119,9	..	+0,5	..	0,51
Low	119,8	119,2	..	+0,5	..	1,78
Middle	119,5	119,0	..	+0,4	..	5,24
High	119,5	118,9	..	+0,5	..	17,70
Very high	118,4	118,0	..	+0,3	..	74,77
Commodities	116,8	116,2	109,3	+0,5	+6,9	55,00
Services	121,8	121,4	112,2	+0,3	+8,6	45,00
All items, excluding housing	117,7	117,2	109,6	+0,4	+7,4	75,93
All items, excluding food	118,9	118,5	110,4	+0,3	+7,7	81,98
Food	118,1	117,2	110,6	+0,8	+6,8	18,02
Expenditure groups -						
Very low	118,6	117,9	..	+0,6	..	40,73
Low	118,7	118,0	..	+0,6	..	34,39
Middle	118,6	117,8	..	+0,7	..	31,12
High	118,3	117,5	..	+0,7	..	25,42
Very high	117,8	116,9	..	+0,8	..	14,84
Processed	118,7	118,4	110,5	+0,3	+7,4	9,12
Unprocessed	117,5	115,9	110,6	+1,4	+6,2	8,90
Grain products	121,0	120,8	117,3	+0,2	+3,2	3,31
Meat	114,1	112,8	104,8	+1,2	+8,9	5,33
Fish and other seafood	117,7	116,7	110,9	+0,9	+6,1	0,80
Milk, cheese and eggs	126,6	125,3	112,1	+1,0	+12,9	1,90
Fats and oils	119,4	119,6	109,5	-0,2	+9,0	0,85
Fruit and nuts	106,7	104,3	99,1	+2,3	+7,7	1,08
Vegetables	127,1	126,2	128,6	+0,7	-1,2	1,80
Sugar	118,0	118,2	110,4	-0,2	+6,9	0,59
Coffee, tea and cocoa	109,7	108,9	102,9	+0,7	+6,6	0,72
Other	119,2	118,8	111,5	+0,3	+6,9	1,64
Non-alcoholic beverages	124,0	123,7	113,0	+0,2	+9,7	0,82
Alcoholic beverages	118,9	119,2	109,2	-0,3	+8,9	1,18
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	155,5	152,7	121,3	+1,8	+28,2	0,95
Clothing and footwear	108,2	107,9	105,1	+0,3	+2,9	4,76
Clothing	107,7	107,4	104,7	+0,3	+2,9	3,55
Footwear	110,8	110,7	106,6	+0,1	+3,9	1,21
Housing	124,6	124,0	114,9	+0,5	+8,4	24,07
Fuel and power	119,5	119,5	109,5	0,0	+9,1	3,11
Furniture and equipment	110,9	110,9	105,9	0,0	+4,7	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	105,9	0,0	+3,3	1,24
Household operation	129,7	128,5	115,4	+0,9	+12,4	4,69
Household consumables	122,7	122,3	112,1	+0,3	+9,5	1,14
Domestic workers	139,0	137,4	120,9	+1,2	+15,0	3,19
Other household services	115,6	114,2	111,7	+1,2	+3,5	0,36
Medical care and health expenses	130,2	130,2	109,8	0,0	+18,6	5,95
Transport	113,1	112,7	107,6	+0,4	+5,1	14,74
Vehicles	110,6	109,9	104,2	+0,6	+6,1	5,25
Running cost	118,2	117,8	112,9	+0,3	+4,7	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	108,7	108,7	107,5	0,0	+1,1	2,38
Reading matter	124,3	123,9	116,3	+0,3	+6,9	0,74
Education	122,2	122,2	110,8	0,0	+10,3	2,04
Personal care	116,9	116,2	111,6	+0,6	+4,7	3,06
Other	114,6	114,5	108,9	+0,1	+5,2	6,49

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

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Percentage change compared with					Weights
	Oct. 1997	Sep. 1997	Oct. 1996	Sep. 1997	Oct. 1996	
All items	118,6	118,1	..	+0,4	..	100,00
Expenditure groups - Very low	119,4	118,9	..	+0,4	..	0,93
Low	119,0	118,5	..	+0,4	..	2,99
Middle	118,6	118,1	..	+0,4	..	7,58
High	119,0	118,5	..	+0,4	..	20,09
Very high	118,4	118,0	..	+0,3	..	68,41
Commodities	116,4	115,9	..	+0,4	..	57,34
Services	121,6	121,2	..	+0,3	..	42,66
All items, excluding housing	117,4	117,0	..	+0,3	..	77,55
All items, excluding food	118,7	118,3	..	+0,3	..	80,52
Food	118,1	117,3	..	+0,7	..	19,48
Expenditure groups - Very low	117,9	117,3	..	+0,5	..	44,17
Low	118,3	117,7	..	+0,5	..	38,83
Middle	118,4	117,7	..	+0,6	..	32,67
High	118,3	117,5	..	+0,7	..	25,61
Very high	117,9	117,1	..	+0,7	..	15,02
Processed	117,9	117,6	..	+0,3	..	10,52
Unprocessed	118,3	117,1	..	+1,0	..	8,96
Grain products	121,2	121,2	..	0,0	..	3,73
Meat	113,3	112,5	..	+0,7	..	5,84
Fish and other seafood	119,2	118,8	..	+0,3	..	0,77
Milk, cheese and eggs	125,5	124,2	..	+1,0	..	2,02
Fats and oils	117,8	117,5	..	+0,3	..	0,94
Fruit and nuts	104,4	102,2	..	+2,2	..	1,07
Vegetables	129,8	128,3	..	+1,2	..	1,94
Sugar	118,5	118,0	..	+0,4	..	0,73
Coffee, tea and cocoa	107,9	107,3	..	+0,6	..	0,79
Other	118,3	117,7	..	+0,5	..	1,65
Non-alcoholic beverages	124,5	124,2	..	+0,2	..	0,82
Alcoholic beverages	120,0	120,1	..	-0,1	..	1,17
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	152,2	149,2	..	+2,0	..	1,04
Clothing and footwear	107,9	107,7	..	+0,2	..	5,07
Clothing	107,5	107,3	..	+0,2	..	3,80
Footwear	109,0	108,9	..	+0,1	..	1,27
Housing	122,8	122,3	..	+0,4	..	22,45
Fuel and power	116,4	116,3	..	+0,1	..	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	108,7	108,7	..	0,0	..	1,38
Household operation	132,9	131,7	..	+0,9	..	4,87
Household consumables	120,9	120,5	..	+0,3	..	1,27
Domestic workers	139,5	138,0	..	+1,1	..	3,25
Other household services	114,3	113,3	..	+0,9	..	0,35
Medical care and health expenses	127,4	127,4	..	0,0	..	5,81
Transport	112,1	111,8	..	+0,3	..	13,65
Vehicles	107,8	107,4	..	+0,4	..	5,31
Running cost	118,2	117,8	..	+0,3	..	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	122,1	..	+0,2	..	0,69
Education	120,9	120,9	..	0,0	..	1,82
Personal care	117,6	117,3	..	+0,3	..	3,08
Other	115,8	115,7	..	+0,1	..	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	
	Oct. 1997	Sep. 1997	Oct. 1996	Sep. 1997	Oct. 1996
Western Cape	118,5	118,1	..	+0,3	..
Cape Peninsula	119,0	118,6	111,6	+0,3	+6,6
Other urban areas	118,1	117,7	..	+0,3	..
Eastern Cape	119,7	119,4	..	+0,3	..
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	118,2	117,9	111,2	+0,3	+6,3
East London	120,6	120,1	111,2	+0,4	+8,5
Other urban areas	119,6	119,4	..	+0,2	..
Northern Cape	117,4	117,0	..	+0,3	..
Kimberley	119,5	119,4	110,1	+0,1	+8,5
Other urban areas	117,0	116,5	..	+0,4	..
Free State	115,8	115,6	..	+0,2	..
Bloemfontein	118,8	118,6	110,8	+0,2	+7,2
Free State Goldfields	115,4	115,3	108,6	+0,1	+6,3
Other urban areas	115,3	115,1	..	+0,2	..
KwaZulu-Natal	118,5	117,9	..	+0,5	..
Durban/Pinetown	119,8	119,3	111,1	+0,4	+7,8
Pietermaritzburg	118,9	118,5	111,2	+0,3	+6,9
Other urban areas	117,6	117,1	..	+0,4	..
North West	115,8	115,5	..	+0,3	..
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	116,7	116,3	109,3	+0,3	+6,8
Other urban areas	115,5	115,2	..	+0,3	..
Gauteng	119,3	118,8	..	+0,4	..
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	119,2	118,7	110,9	+0,4	+7,5
Witwatersrand	118,3	117,7	109,7	+0,5	+7,8
Other urban areas	118,7	118,3	..	+0,3	..
Mpumalanga	118,8	118,4	..	+0,3	..
Nelspruit/Witbank	118,5	118,1	109,3	+0,3	+8,4
Other urban areas	118,5	118,0	..	+0,4	..
Northern Province	117,3	117,1	..	+0,2	..
Pietersburg	118,5	118,2	111,0	+0,3	+6,8
Other urban areas	117,3	117,2	..	+0,1	..
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	118,6	118,1	..	+0,4	..
Weighted average - Metropolitan	118,7	118,2	110,4	+0,4	+7,5

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

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	
	Oct. 1997	Sep. 1997	Oct. 1996	Sep. 1997	Oct. 1996
Western Cape	117,5	117,1	..	+0,3	..
Cape Peninsula	118,1	117,7	110,6	+0,3	+6,8
Other urban areas	117,0	116,6	..	+0,3	..
Eastern Cape	118,8	118,5	..	+0,3	..
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	117,6	117,2	110,5	+0,3	+6,4
East London	121,2	120,6	110,8	+0,5	+9,4
Other urban areas	118,5	118,3	..	+0,2	..
Northern Cape	116,4	115,8	..	+0,5	..
Kimberley	117,6	117,4	108,9	+0,2	+8,0
Other urban areas	116,1	115,5	..	+0,5	..
Free State	115,8	115,6	..	+0,2	..
Bloemfontein	118,6	118,4	110,4	+0,2	+7,4
Free State Goldfields	115,1	115,0	108,7	+0,1	+5,9
Other urban areas	115,4	115,2	..	+0,2	..
KwaZulu-Natal	117,0	116,5	..	+0,4	..
Durban/Pinetown	118,7	118,2	110,2	+0,4	+7,7
Pietermaritzburg	117,2	117,1	110,1	+0,1	+6,4
Other urban areas	116,3	115,7	..	+0,5	..
North West	114,7	114,4	..	+0,3	..
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	116,0	115,5	109,1	+0,4	+6,3
Other urban areas	114,4	114,2	..	+0,2	..
Gauteng	117,9	117,5	..	+0,3	..
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	118,1	117,8	110,0	+0,3	+7,4
Witwatersrand	117,3	116,7	109,0	+0,5	+7,6
Other urban areas	117,2	117,0	..	+0,2	..
Mpumalanga	117,0	116,5	..	+0,4	..
Nelspruit/Witbank	117,2	116,8	108,6	+0,3	+7,9
Other urban areas	116,7	116,2	..	+0,4	..
Northern Province	116,1	115,9	..	+0,2	..
Pietersburg	117,8	117,5	110,1	+0,3	+7,0
Other urban areas	115,9	115,8	..	+0,1	..
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	117,4	117,0	..	+0,3	..
Weighted average - Metropolitan	117,7	117,2	109,6	+0,4	+7,4

**TABLE 4. AREA INDICES (concluded)**  
 TABLE 4.4 Index for all items excluding food  
 Each area compared with itself

BASE : 1995 = 100

Urban area	All items excluding food			Percentage change compared with	
	Oct. 1997	Sep. 1997	Oct. 1996	Sep. 1997	Oct. 1996
Western Cape	118,6	118,3	..	+0,3	..
Cape Peninsula	119,5	119,2	111,7	+0,3	+7,0
Other urban areas	118,2	117,9	..	+0,3	..
Eastern Cape	119,3	119,1	..	+0,2	..
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	118,2	117,9	110,8	+0,3	+6,7
East London	119,5	119,2	110,4	+0,3	+8,2
Other urban areas	119,0	118,9	..	+0,1	..
Northern Cape	117,5	117,4	..	+0,1	..
Kimberley	120,9	120,7	110,1	+0,2	+9,8
Other urban areas	117,0	116,8	..	+0,2	..
Free State	116,3	116,1	..	+0,2	..
Bloemfontein	119,3	119,0	110,9	+0,3	+7,6
Free State Goldfields	116,3	116,1	108,9	+0,2	+6,8
Other urban areas	115,8	115,6	..	+0,2	..
KwaZulu-Natal	118,0	117,6	..	+0,3	..
Durban/Pinetown	118,8	118,5	110,7	+0,3	+7,3
Pietermaritzburg	118,5	118,0	110,7	+0,4	+7,0
Other urban areas	117,3	116,9	..	+0,3	..
North West	116,5	116,2	..	+0,3	..
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	117,1	116,6	109,1	+0,4	+7,3
Other urban areas	116,2	116,0	..	+0,2	..
Gauteng	119,7	119,3	..	+0,3	..
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	118,9	118,5	110,8	+0,3	+7,3
Witwatersrand	118,8	118,3	109,9	+0,4	+8,1
Other urban areas	119,2	118,8	..	+0,3	..
Mpumalanga	118,2	117,9	..	+0,3	..
Nelspruit/Witbank	118,1	117,8	109,3	+0,3	+8,1
Other urban areas	117,7	117,3	..	+0,3	..
Northern Province	116,6	116,3	..	+0,3	..
Pietersburg	117,6	117,4	110,7	+0,2	+6,2
Other urban areas	116,6	116,3	..	+0,3	..
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	118,7	118,3	..	+0,3	..
Weighted average - Metropolitan	118,9	118,5	110,4	+0,3	+7,7

TABLE 5 SEASONALLY ADJUSTED INDICES

BASE : 1995 = 100

Group	Oct. 1997	Sep. 1997	Aug. 1997	Jul. 1997	Weights
All items	118,8	118,3	117,5	117,3	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	119,1	118,5	117,6	117,1	81,98
Commodities	116,5	116,2	115,7	115,3	55,00
Food	117,3	117,7	117,8	118,1	18,02
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	117,6	118,0	118,0	118,2	18,84
Alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	137,4	135,7	133,8	133,1	2,13
Clothing and footwear	107,9	107,7	107,5	107,3	4,72
Furniture and equipment	110,3	110,1	109,0	108,8	3,85
Vehicles	110,6	110,0	109,8	109,3	5,25
Other transport commodities	118,3	117,2	114,0	113,7	4,63
Other commodities	118,5	117,8	117,8	116,4	15,58
Services	121,7	121,2	120,6	120,0	45,00
Housing and domestic workers	125,3	124,3	123,3	122,8	25,99
Transport	111,2	110,7	110,1	109,7	4,86
Other services	121,2	121,3	121,2	120,4	14,15
All items (VAT excluded)	118,7	118,2	117,5	117,2	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	
	Oct. 1997	Sep. 1997	Oct. 1996	Sep. 1997	Oct. 1996
Western Cape	118,3	117,9	..	+0,3	..
Cape Peninsula	120,4	120,1	112,3	+0,2	+7,2
Other cities	117,8	117,4	..	+0,3	..
Eastern Cape	119,9	119,6	..	+0,3	..
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	118,7	118,3	111,1	+0,3	+6,8
East London	121,3	120,7	111,3	+0,5	+9,0
Other cities	119,8	119,5	..	+0,3	..
Northern Cape	119,2	118,6	..	+0,5	..
Kimberley	122,1	121,9	111,1	+0,2	+9,9
Other cities	118,8	118,1	..	+0,6	..
Free State	115,6	115,4	..	+0,2	..
Bloemfontein	118,5	118,1	110,8	+0,3	+6,9
Free State Goldfields	115,2	115,0	108,2	+0,2	+6,5
Other cities	115,4	115,2	..	+0,2	..
KwaZulu-Natal	118,0	117,4	..	+0,5	..
Durban/Pinetown	119,6	119,2	110,9	+0,3	+7,8
Pietermaritzburg	117,7	117,1	110,3	+0,5	+6,7
Other cities	117,3	116,6	..	+0,6	..
North West	116,3	116,0	..	+0,3	..
Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	118,3	118,0	109,7	+0,3	+7,8
Other cities	115,8	115,4	..	+0,3	..
Gauteng	119,3	118,7	..	+0,5	..
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	118,8	118,3	110,7	+0,4	+7,3
Witwatersrand	119,7	119,1	110,3	+0,5	+8,5
Other cities	118,1	117,7	..	+0,3	..
Mpumalanga	120,3	119,7	..	+0,5	..
Nelspruit/Witbank	120,3	119,8	110,3	+0,4	+9,1
Other cities	120,3	119,7	..	+0,5	..
Northern Province	118,0	117,8	..	+0,2	..
Pietersburg	119,8	119,6	110,1	+0,2	+8,8
Other cities	118,0	117,8	..	+0,2	..
Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas	118,5	118,1	..	+0,3	..
Weighted average - Metropolitan	119,7	119,1	110,9	+0,5	+7,9

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

Group	Percentage change compared with	
	Sep. 1997	Oct. 1996
Food	+0,2	+15,0
Processed	+0,4	+8,3
Unprocessed	+0,1	+21,8
Grain products	+0,1	+3,9
Meat	+0,7	+26,0
Fish and other seafood	0,0	+6,1
Milk, cheese and eggs	-0,3	+19,6
Fats and oils	-0,4	+3,2
Fruit and nuts	+4,0	+25,1
Vegetables	-2,3	+18,4
Sugar	+0,1	+10,6
Coffee, tea and cocoa	+0,2	+3,5
Other	+1,0	+4,2

1/ With at least 15 branches

**TABLE 7.2 Other retailers 2/**

Group	Percentage change compared with	
	Sep. 1997	Oct. 1996
Food	+0,3	+10,5
Processed	+0,2	+9,2
Unprocessed	+0,3	+11,9
Grain products	0,0	+5,8
Meat	0,0	+8,1
Fish and other seafood	+1,5	+11,9
Milk, cheese and eggs	+0,1	+4,9
Fats and oils	+0,6	+16,4
Fruit and nuts	+0,7	+21,8
Vegetables	+0,8	+17,4
Sugar	+0,1	+15,7
Coffee, tea and cocoa	0,0	+8,7
Other	+0,1	+19,0

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