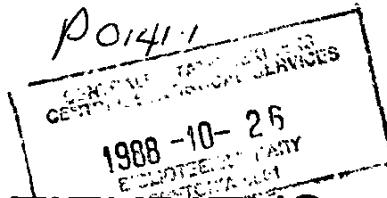


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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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STATISTIESE NUUSBERIG

STATISTICAL NEWS RELEASE

P0141.1

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VERBRUIKERSPRYSINDEKS: SEPTEMBER 1988
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: SEPTEMBER 1988

SPERTYD/EMBARGO 8h00

26 OKTOBER/OCTOBER 1988

SUMMARY

This statistical news release has, in respect of the last two months, been released much later than usual. The delay is a result of a shortage of suitably trained personnel that the Central Statistical Service is experiencing.

South Africa's inflation rate for September 1988 is 12,4%. It is the third consecutive month that the annual rate of inflation has remained virtually constant (since a rate of 12,4% was noted for June 1988, an inflation rate of 12,4% and 12,3% respectively was calculated for July 1988 and August 1988).

The monthly rate of increase in the seasonally adjusted Consumer Price Index for September 1988 is 1,3% (as was also the case for July 1988 and August 1988), which, calculated at an annual rate, amounts to 16,8%. According to Table 2 the relatively largest contributions to the monthly percentage change of 1,4% in the non-seasonally adjusted CPI were made by the increases in the bread and the fuel prices. Together these price increases were responsible for approximately two-thirds of the monthly percentage increase (half of the monthly percentage increase is attributable to the increase in the price of fuel). In the light of the significant aforementioned price increases, the question of why the annual inflation rate is not considerably higher, arises. The answer is contained in the fact that the monthly rate of increase is of the same magnitude as that of a year ago; in other words, certain price increases occurred from August to September 1987 which were not repeated this year (from August to September 1988) and of which the effect were virtually replaced by mainly the higher bread and fuel prices. More specifically, for example, the vegetable price increases were responsible for almost 40% of the rate of increase from August to September 1987, while a general decrease in these prices were observed for September 1988: similarly significant increases occurred in the prices of furniture for only September 1987. In general it is notable that food provides a constantly decreasing driving force to the increase in the CPI.

The inflation rate for the lower, middle and higher income groups is currently of approximately the same magnitude (respectively it is 12,3%, 12,4% and 12,5%). The monthly rates of increase in the relevant seasonally adjusted indices, however, show greater differences - they respectively amount to 0,9%, 1,3% and 1,6%.

The Consumer Price Index for pensioners indicates an inflation rate of 11,6% for September 1988 (as for August 1988), with a monthly rate of increase of 1,1%.

Relatively large monthly increases occurred in the prices of grain products (6,7%), meat (1,3%), "other" food (1,6%), clothing (1,4%), "other" household equipment and textiles (2,4%), household consumable goods (2,1%), running costs of transport (9,6%), public and hired transport (2,4%) and personal care (2,4%), while a relatively large decrease in the price of vegetables (-3,2%) were observed.

The area with the largest annual price increases was the Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney area (14,9%), while the largest monthly price increase occurred in the Pietermaritzburg area (1,7%).

OPSOMMING

Hierdie statistiese nuusberig is ten opsigte van die afgelope twee maande heelwat later as wat normaalweg die geval is, vrygestel. Die vertraging is te wye aan 'n tekort aan paslik opgeleide personeel wat die Sentrale Statistiekdiens ondervind.

Suid-Afrika se inflasiekoers vir September 1988 is 12,4%. Dit is reeds die derde agtereenvolgende maand dat die jaarlike inflasiesyfer wesentlik onveranderd bly (sedert die koers van 12,4% vir Junie 1988 genoem is, is inflasiekoerse van 12,4% en 12,3% vir onderskeidelik Julie 1988 en Augustus 1988 verkry).

Die maandelikse toenamekoers in die seisoensaangepaste Verbruikersprysindeks vir September 1988 is 1,3% (soos dit ook die geval vir Julie 1988 en Augustus 1988 was), wat bereken teen 'n jaarkoers, 16,8% beloop. Volgens Tabel 2 is die relatief grootste bydrae tot die maandelikse persentasieverandering van 1,4% in die nie-seisoensaangepaste VPI deur die verhoogde brood- en brandstofprys gelewer. Hierdie prysverhogings was gesamentlik vir bykans twee-dertes van die maandelikse persentasietoename verantwoordelik (die helfte van die maandelikse persentasieverandering is aan die brandstofprysverhoging toeskrybaar). In die lig van die betekenisvolle invloed van die voornoemde prysverhogings, ontstaan die vraag hoekom die jaarlike inflasiekoers nie noemenswaardig hoër is nie. Die antwoord lê opgesluit in die feit dat die maandelikse toenamekoers ongeveer van soortgelyke omvang is as dié van 'n jaar gelede; met ander woorde, sekere prysverhogings het van Augustus tot September 1987 voorgekom wat nie weer hierdie jaar (van Augustus tot September 1988) waargeneem is nie en waarvan die invloed as't ware vervang is deurveral die verhoogde brood- en brandstofpryse. Meer spesifiek was byvoorbeeld groenteprysverhogings vir bykans 40% van die toenamekoers van Augustus tot September 1987 verantwoordelik, terwyl 'n algemene prysverlaging vir hierdie produkte in September 1988 waargeneem is: so ook het betekenisvolle meubelprysverhogings slegs in September 1987 voorgekom. In die algemeen is dit opmerklik dat voedsel steeds al hoe minder stukrag aan die toename in die VPI verskaf.

Die inflasiekoers vir die laer-, middel- en hoërin-komstegroepe is tans van ongeveer dieselfde omvang (dit is onderskeidelik 12,3%, 12,4% en 12,5%). Die maandelikse toenamekoerse in die betrokke seisoensaangepaste indeks toon egter groter verskille - dit beloop onderskeidelik 0,9%, 1,3% en 1,6%.

Die Verbruikersprysindeks vir pensionarisse dui op 'n inflasiekoers van 11,6% vir September 1988 (net soos vir Augustus 1988), met 'n maandelikse toenamekoers van 1,1%.

Relatief groot maandelikse toenames het voorgekom in die prys van graanprodukte (6,7%), vleis (1,3%), "ander" voedsel (1,6%), klerasie (1,4%), "ander" huishoudelike toerusting en tekstiele (2,4%), huis-houdelike verbruiksartikels (2,1%), lopende koste van vervoer (9,6%), openbare en gehuurde vervoer (2,4%) en persoonlike versorging (2,4%), terwyl 'n relatief groot daling in die prys van groente (-3,2%) waargeneem is.

Die gebied met die grootste jaarlike prysstygings was die Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkneygebied (14,9%), terwyl die grootste maandelikse prysstygging in die Pietermaritzburggebied (1,7%) voorgekom het.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. GENERAL

- 1.1 Price information refers to the first seven days of the relevant month.
- 1.2 The Consumer Price Indices relating to different urban areas (Table 4) do not permit inter-urban comparison of price levels or living costs. They do not indicate whether it is more expensive to live in one city than in another. They indicate for each urban area, independently of any of the other urban areas the price changes which have taken place from time to time.
- 1.3 General sales tax (GST) is included in general in the prices of all items on which GST is applicable.
- 1.4 A more comprehensive description of the weighting system, seasonal adjustment, price collection methodology, etc. appears in the Statistical News Release "The Consumer Price Index" which was published simultaneously with the consumer price index for November 1987 on 22 December 1987.

VERDUIDELIKENDE OPMERKINGS

1. ALGEMEEN

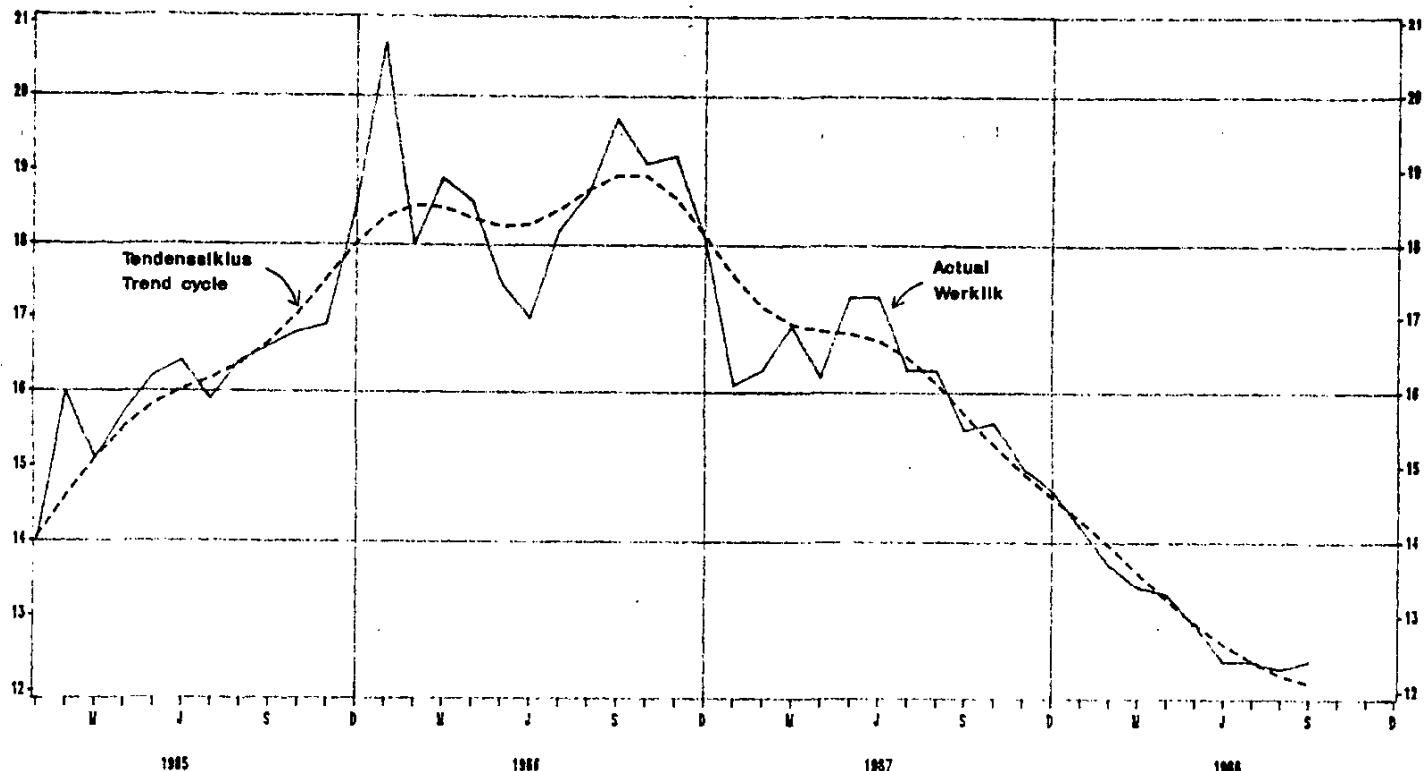
- 1.1 Alle prysinligting het betrekking op die eerste sewe dae van die betrokke maand.
- 1.2 Die Verbruikersprysindekse ten opsigte van verskillende stedelike gebiede soos weergegee in Tabel 4 laat nie tussenstedelike vergelyking van pryspeile of lewenskoste toe nie. Die indekse toon nie of dit duurder is om in een stad as in 'n ander te woon nie. Die indekse toon vir elke stedelike gebied, onafhanklik van die ander stedelike gebiede, die prysveranderings wat van tyd tot tyd plaasgevind het.
- 1.3 Algemene verkoopbelasting (AVB) is deurgaans ingesluit by die prysse van alle items waarop AVB van toepassing is.
- 1.4 'n Meer omvattende beskrywing van die bewaringsstelsel, seisoensaanpassing, prysinsamplingsmetodiek, ens. verskyn in die Statistiese Nuusberig "Die Verbruikersprysindeks" wat saam met die verbruikersprysindeks van November 1987 op 22 Desember 1987 gepubliseer is.



HEAD: CENTRAL STATISTICAL SERVICE
HOOP: SENTRALE STATISTIEKDIENS

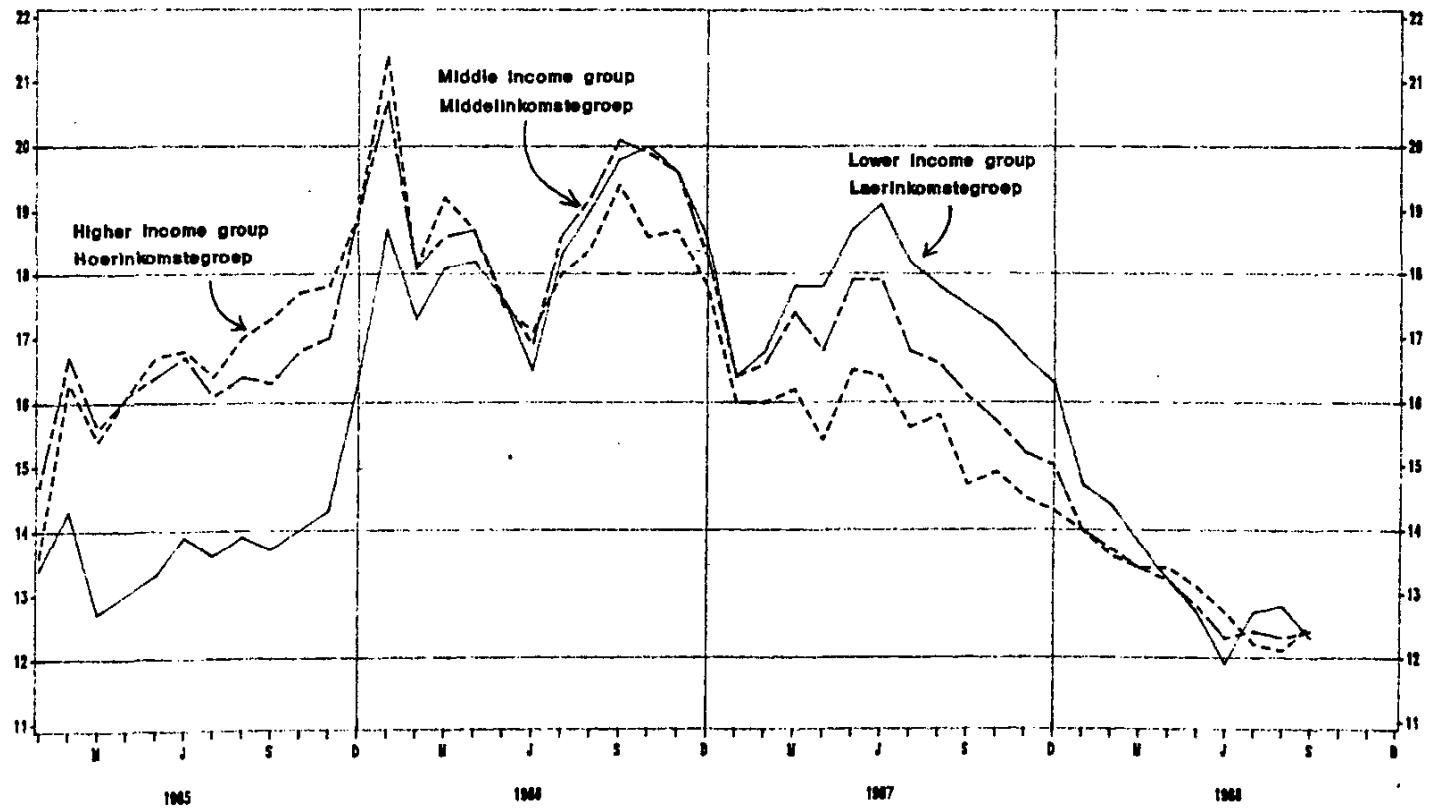
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
ANNUAL CHANGE
PER CENT

VERBRUIKERSPRYSINDEKS
JAARLIKSE VERANDERING
PERSENT



ANNUAL CHANGE
PER CENT

JAARLIKSE VERANDERING
PERSENT



MONTHLY CHANGE
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
PER CENT

MAANDELIKSE VERANDERING
SEISOENSAANGEPAS
PERSENT

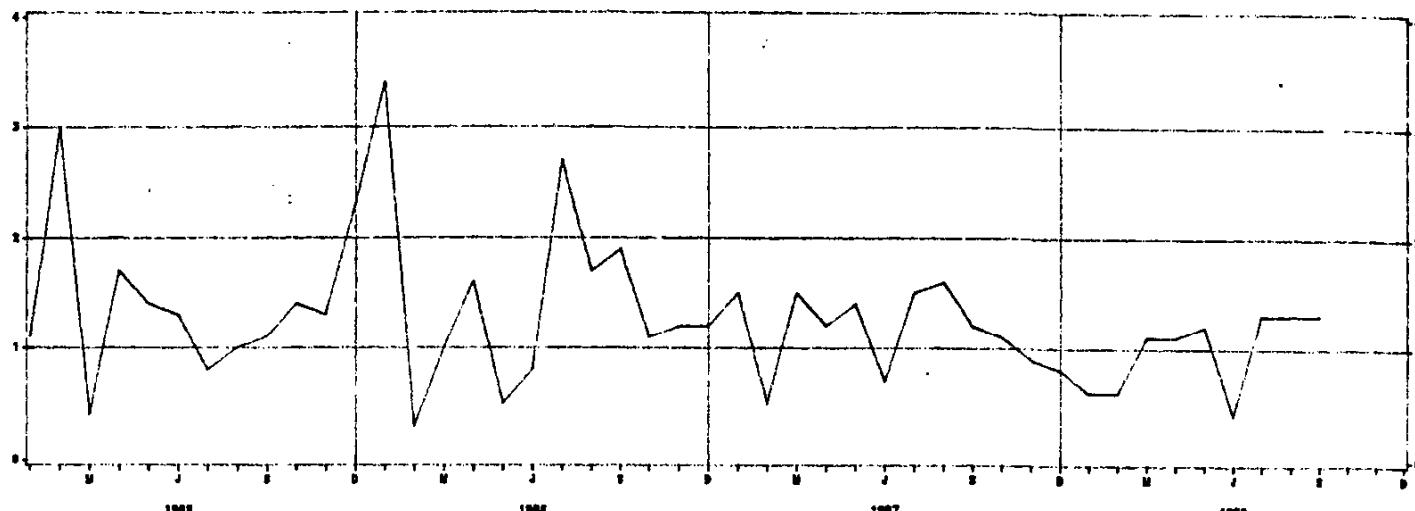


TABLE 1 INCOME GROUP INDICES AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE

BASE - BASIS: 1985 = 100

	Sept. 1988	Aug. 1988	Sept. 1987	Change compared with - Verandering vergeleke met -		
				Actual Werklik	Seaso- nally adjusted Seisoens- aangepas	Actual Werklik
Lower income group Laerinkomstegroep	161,2	159,4	143,6	+1,1%	+0,9%	+12,3%
Middle income group Middelinkomstegroep	160,6	158,3	142,9	+1,5%	+1,3%	+12,4%
Higher income group Hoërinkomstegroep	158,8	156,5	141,1	+1,5%	+1,6%	+12,5%
All income groups Alle inkomstegroepe	159,6	157,4	142,0	+1,4%	+1,3%	+12,4%
Food only Slegs voedsel	175,2	173,0	152,3	+1,3%	+0,9%	+15,0%

TABLE 2 EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES ON THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - ALL INCOME GROUPS

	CONTRIBUTION BYDRAE	TABEL 2 UITWERKING VAN PRYSVERANDERINGS OP DIE VERBRUIKERSPRYSINDEKS - ALLE INKOMSTEGROEPE	
		Voedsel	Graanprodukte
Food	+0,2	Vleis	
Grain products	+0,1	Groente	
Meat	-0,1	Klerasie en skoeisel	
Vegetables	+0,1	Klerasie	
Clothing and footwear	+0,1	Behuising	
Clothing	+0,1	Vervoer	
Housing	+0,7	Lopende koste	
Transport	+0,1	Openbare en gehuurde vervoer	
Running costs	+0,1	Persoonlike versorging	
Public and hired transport	+0,1	Ander	
Personal care	+0,1		
Other	+0,1		
Total percentage change	+1,4	Totale persentasieverandering	

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

BASE - BASIS: 1985 = 100

TABEL 3 GROEPINDEXE - BEWAARDE GEMIDDELDE VAN
DIE VERNAMSTE STEDELKE GEBIEDE

	Sept. 1988	Aug. 1988	Sept. 1987	Percentage Change conpared with - Percentieverander- ing vergelike met		Weights Gewigte
				Aug. 1988	Sept. 1987	
All items	159,6	157,4	142,0	1,4	12,4	100,00
Lower income group	161,2	159,4	143,6	1,1	12,3	18,73
Middle income group	160,6	158,3	142,9	1,5	12,4	27,35
Higher income group	158,5	156,5	141,1	1,5	12,5	53,93
Commodities	167,8	164,9	146,2	1,8	14,8	60,50
Services	144,5	143,7	133,4	0,6	8,3	39,50
All items excluding housing	164,3	161,7	144,5	1,6	13,7	78,79
All items excluding food	154,4	152,3	138,5	1,4	11,5	77,28
Food	175,2	173,0	152,3	1,3	15,0	22,72
Grain products	150,0	140,6	127,9	6,7	17,3	3,33
Meat	212,5	209,8	169,3	1,3	25,5	7,71
Fish and other seafood	200,9	198,6	167,2	1,2	20,2	0,67
Milk, cheese and eggs	160,4	158,5	147,1	1,2	9,0	2,16
Fats and oils	121,8	121,7	121,5	0,1	0,2	1,06
Fruit and nuts	127,8	128,3	125,2	-0,4	2,1	1,49
Vegetables	171,1	176,8	171,1	-3,2	-	2,45
Sugar	177,6	177,1	143,0	0,3	24,2	0,64
Coffee, tea and cocoa	140,9	140,4	144,2	0,4	-2,3	0,71
Other	162,1	159,5	146,5	1,6	10,6	2,49
Non-alcoholic beverages	175,9	175,9	152,0	-	15,7	0,53
Alcoholic beverages	159,3	159,3	130,7	-	21,9	1,29
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	153,6	153,6	128,3	-	19,7	1,02

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

TABEL 3 GROEPINDEXE - BESWAARDE GEMIDDELDE VAN DIE VERNAAMSTE STEDELIKE GEBIEDE (AFGESLUIT)

BASE - BASIS: 1985 = 100

	Sept. 1988	Aug. 1988	Sept. 1987	Percentage change compared with - Percentas-verander- ing vergelyk met		Weights Gewigte
				Aug. 1988	Sept. 1987	
Clothing and Footwear	165,6	163,4	146,0	1,3	13,4	5,98
Clothing	163,4	161,1	145,8	1,4	12,1	4,91
Footwear	173,7	172,2	146,4	0,9	18,6	1,17
Housing	139,2	138,9	130,0	0,2	7,1	21,21
Fuel and power	153,4	153,3	137,5	0,1	11,6	2,44
Furniture and equipment	157,8	155,8	144,6	1,3	9,1	4,72
Furniture	161,3	160,0	144,6	0,8	11,5	2,16
Appliances	151,5	150,4	145,4	0,7	4,2	1,15
Other household equipment and textiles	157,9	154,2	144,1	2,4	9,6	1,41
Household operation	171,0	168,5	145,2	1,5	17,8	3,77
Household consumable goods	204,9	200,7	167,2	2,1	1,52	1,52
Domestic servants	157,0	155,4	137,1	1,0	14,5	1,84
Other household services	129,5	129,5	118,4	-	9,4	0,41
Medical care and health expenses	161,3	160,0	146,7	0,8	10,0	2,56
Transport	150,1	144,9	131,6	3,6	14,1	17,23
Vehicles	207,3	207,3	172,4	-	20,2	5,48
Running costs	123,3	112,5	107,6	9,6	14,6	6,95
Public and hired transport	119,6	116,8	116,0	2,4	3,1	4,80
Communication	155,6	155,6	155,6	-	-	1,70
Recreation and entertainment	169,3	167,4	153,5	1,1	10,3	2,81
Reading matter	147,7	147,7	136,9	-	7,9	0,94
Education	174,5	174,5	150,7	-	15,8	1,21
Personal care	164,5	160,6	145,9	2,4	12,7	3,08
Other	171,3	169,7	153,9	0,9	11,3	6,77

TABLE 4 URBAN AREAS INDICES

TABEL 4 STEDELIKE GEBIEDSINDEXE

BASE: EACH AREA COMPARED WITH ITSELF IN 1985 = 100
 BASIS: ELKE GEBIED VERGELEKE MET SIGSELF IN 1985 = 100

Urban area Stedelike gebied	All items Alle items			Percentage change compared with - Persentasieverandering vergeleke met -	
	Sept. 1988	Aug. 1988	Sept. 1987	Aug. 1988	Sept. 1987
1. Cape Peninsula - Kaapse Skiereiland	159,3	156,8	142,5	1,6	11,8
2. Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	162,0	159,9	144,3	1,3	12,3
3. East London - Oos-Londen	155,8	154,1	139,7	1,1	11,5
4. Kimberley	155,6	153,6	140,7	1,3	10,6
5. Pietermaritzburg	156,5	153,9	140,0	1,7	11,8
6. Durban/Pinetown	151,6	149,2	136,4	1,6	11,1
7. Pretoria/Verwoerdburg/Akasia	166,1	164,2	147,3	1,2	12,8
8. Witwatersrand	160,8	158,6	142,3	1,4	13,0
9. Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	168,7	167,2	146,8	0,9	14,9
10. Vaal Triangle - Vaaldriehoek	157,2	155,0	141,1	1,4	11,4
11. OFS Goldfields - OVS-goudveld	161,8	159,9	143,5	1,2	12,8
12. Bloemfontein	148,7	147,0	135,2	1,2	10,0
Weighted average of the twelve areas Beswaarde gemiddelde van die twaalf gebiede	159,6	157,4	142,0	1,4	12,4

Urban area Stedelike gebied	All items, excluding housing Alle items, uitgesonderd behuising			Food Slegs voedsel		
	Sept. 1988	Aug. 1988	Sept. 1987	Sept. 1988	Aug. 1988	Sept. 1987
1. Cape Peninsula - Kaapse Skiereiland	161,5	158,3	142,5	180,9	177,3	157,6
2. Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	168,7	166,1	147,9	182,3	179,2	158,4
3. East London - Oos-Londen	158,8	156,7	140,7	155,9	154,3	137,8
4. Kimberley	161,2	158,8	144,4	167,2	166,3	149,8
5. Pietermaritzburg	161,2	158,0	143,3	175,6	171,7	154,5
6. Durban/Pinetown	157,8	154,7	140,3	166,4	162,3	149,8
7. Pretoria/Verwoerdburg/Akasia	172,4	170,0	151,1	179,4	179,1	158,8
8. Witwatersrand	165,6	163,0	145,2	174,1	172,3	149,2
9. Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	173,4	171,7	149,6	192,5	192,4	160,5
10. Vaal Triangle - Vaaldriehoek	161,8	159,2	143,0	166,5	164,5	146,8
11. OFS Goldfields - OVS-goudveld	166,2	164,0	145,8	186,1	183,7	156,4
12. Bloemfontein	152,5	150,1	137,1	166,7	165,3	147,9
Weighted average of the twelve areas Beswaarde gemiddelde van die twaalf gebiede	164,3	161,7	144,5	175,2	173,0	152,3

TABLE 5 SEASONALLY ADJUSTED INDICES

1985 = 100

TABEL 5 SEISOENSAANGEPASTE INDEXEN

		1988					Weights Gewigte	Alle items Alle artikel
		Sept.	Aug.	July	June	May		
All items	159,8	157,9	155,7	153,7	153,1	151,3	100,00	All items Alle artikel
Lower income group	161,9	160,5	158,4	155,0	154,6	152,6	18,73	Laarinkomstgroep Hoerinkomstgroep
Middle income group	160,9	158,9	156,9	154,4	153,9	151,9	27,35	Middelinkomstgroep
Higher income group	159,1	156,6	154,3	153,5	152,3	150,7	53,93	Hoerinkomstgroep
Commodities	168,5	166,2	163,4	161,0	160,4	157,8	60,50	Handelsware
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	176,6	175,1	173,4	170,4	171,0	167,9	23,25	voedsel en niet- alkoholiese drank
Alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	158,8	157,9	153,3	147,9	146,4	143,0	2,31	Alkoholiese drank, sigarette, sigare en tabak
Clothing and footwear	164,6	162,1	159,7	159,0	156,8	155,3	5,98	Klerasie en schoeisel
Furniture and equipment	156,6	157,8	156,4	154,7	153,7	151,8	4,72	Meublement en toe- rusting
Vehicles	209,1	208,5	199,8	197,2	193,7	191,2	5,48	voertuie
Other transport goods	125,2	112,2	111,6	112,1	109,9	107,7	6,22	Ander vervoerhan- delzaal
Other commodities	164,5	163,8	160,0	156,9	157,2	154,7	12,54	Ander handelsware
Services	143,6	142,7	141,9	141,2	139,5	139,1	39,50	Dienste
Housing and domestic servants	140,9	140,3	139,0	136,9	135,4	135,9	23,05	Behuising en huis- bediendes
Transport	119,5	117,1	114,9	115,2	114,9	113,9	5,52	Vervoer
Other services	159,0	158,2	159,1	160,9	158,1	156,1	10,93	Ander dienste

TABLE 6: THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
FOR PENSIONERS - URBAN
AREAS INDICES

TABEL 6: DIE VERBRUIKERSPRIJSINDEX
VIR PENSONARISSE -
STEDELIKE GEBIEDSINDEXE

BASE: EACH AREA COMPARED WITH ITSELF IN 1985 = 100
BASIS: ELKE GEBIED VERGELIJK MET SIESELF IN 1985 = 100

Urban area Stedelike gebied	All items Alle items			Percentage change compared with - Persentasie verandering vergelyk met -	
	Sept. 1988	Aug. 1988	Sept. 1987	Aug. 1988	Sept. 1987
1. Cape Peninsula - Kaapse Skiereiland	164,3	162,4	146,8	1,2	11,9
2. Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	162,7	160,7	144,9	1,2	12,3
3. East London - Oos-Londen	156,7	155,4	141,2	0,8	11,0
4. Kimberley	154,4	152,6	140,0	1,2	10,3
5. Pietermaritzburg	150,3	148,3	135,2	1,3	11,2
6. Durban/Pinatown	152,3	150,2	137,6	1,4	10,7
7. Pretoria/Verwoerdburg/Akasia	158,4	157,0	141,6	0,9	11,9
8. Witwatersrand	158,4	156,7	141,6	1,1	11,9
9. Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney	166,1	165,0	146,6	0,7	13,3
10. Vaal Triangle - Vaaldriehoek	158,3	156,2	144,2	1,3	9,8
11. Ofs Goldfields - OVS-goudvalde	162,8	161,7	144,4	0,7	12,7
12. Bloemfontein	148,6	147,2	136,1	1,0	9,2
Weighted average of the twelve areas Bewerkende gemiddelde van die twaalf gebiede	158,7	157,0	142,2	1,1	11,6