

Statistical Release P0141.1

Prices : Consumer Price Index

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INFLATION RATE LOWEST SINCE AUGUST 1996

The official inflation rate, i.e. the annual rate of change in the Consumer Price Index, is 8,0% at September 1997. This rate is 0,7 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding rate of 8,7% at August 1997. The monthly increase from August to September 1997 in the Consumer Price Index is 0,4%, while the increase in the seasonally adjusted index is 0,7% for the same period.

CORE INFLATION RATE

The core inflation rate (see note 7 on page 3) is 8,4% at September 1997. This rate is 0,4 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding rate of 8,8% at August 1997. From August 1997 to September 1997 the core inflation index increased by 0,5%.

Although the core inflation rate is higher than the official inflation rate, one should remember that the large drop in the inflation rate for the fresh food components (excluded from the core inflation) caused the official inflation rate to be lower.

MONTHLY CONTRIBUTIONS

The monthly increase of 0,4% in the official inflation rate is due to increases in the price indices for cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (contributing +0,1 of a percentage point), housing (+0,1 of a percentage point), furniture and equipment (+0,1 of a percentage point) and transport (+0,1 of a percentage point).

FOOD INFLATION DOWN TO 8,3% AT SEPTEMBER 1997

The price index for food shows an annual rate of increase of 8,3% at September 1997. This rate is 1,7 percentage points lower than the corresponding rate of 10,0% at August 1997.

The price index for food shows a monthly increase of 0,3%. This is due to increases in the price indices for meat (+0,4%), milk, cheese and eggs (+0,6%), fats and oils (+0,1%), fruit and nuts (+0,3%), vegetables (+0,5%), sugar (+0,3%), coffee, tea and cocoa (+0,3%) and "other" food (+0,3%). These increases were slightly counteracted by decreases in the price indices for grain products (-0,2%) and fish and other seafood (-0,8%).

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

The monthly increase of 0,4% in the price index for "all items, excluding food" is due to monthly increases in the price indices for non-alcoholic beverages (+0,3%), alcoholic beverages (+0,3%), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+3,5%), clothing and footwear (+0,1%), housing (+0,4%), fuel and power (+1,0%), furniture and equipment (+1,8%), household operation (+0,9%), medical care and health expenses (+0,2%), transport (+0,8%), recreation and entertainment (+0,2%) and personal care (+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

Kimberley recorded the highest inflation rate of 9,8%, while the lowest rate of 6,5% was recorded for the Free State Goldfields.

Regarding food prices, the highest annual increase of 12,0% was recorded for East London, while the Free State Goldfields reflected the lowest increase of 4,1%.

INFLATION RATE FOR PENSIONERS

The inflation rate for pensioners is 8,7% at September 1997. Kimberley recorded the highest rate of increase, namely 11,2%, while the lowest rate of 6,8% 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 September 1997 and the average of the previous three months. This approach, when using seasonally adjusted data, shows an increase of 6,6% (which is 0,1 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding rate of 6,5% for August 1997), while unadjusted data shows an increase of 6,5%.

CPI FOR OCTOBER 1997

In addition to the usual price surveys for October 1997, it has come to the attention of the CSS that changed prices will apply during the first seven days of October 1997 regarding electricity tariffs, water tariffs, refuse removal and sanitation fees, where changed prices did not apply as from July, August or September 1997 and parking 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", 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 | Sep. 1997 | Aug. 1997 | Sep. 1996 | Percentage change compared with | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| | | | | Aug. 1997 | | Sep. 1996 |
| | | | | Actual | Seasonally adjusted | Actual |
| Expenditure groups | | | | | | |
| Very Low | 119,9 | 119,2 | .. | +0,6 | .. | .. |
| Low | 119,2 | 118,5 | .. | +0,6 | .. | .. |
| Middle | 119,0 | 118,4 | .. | +0,5 | .. | .. |
| High | 118,9 | 118,3 | .. | +0,5 | .. | .. |
| Very High | 118,0 | 117,5 | .. | +0,4 | .. | .. |
| All expenditure groups - Metropolitan | 118,2 | 117,7 | 109,4 | +0,4 ¹⁾ | +0,7 ¹⁾ | +8,0 ¹⁾ |
| All expenditure groups - Metro and other urban areas | 118,1 | 117,6 | .. | +0,4 | .. | .. |
| Food only - Metropolitan | 117,2 | 116,9 | 108,2 | +0,3 | -0,1 | +8,3 |
| Food only - Metro and other urban areas | 117,3 | 117,0 | .. | +0,3 | .. | .. |
| All items excluding food - Metropolitan | 118,5 | 118,0 | 109,8 | +0,4 | +0,8 | +7,9 |
| All items excluding food - Metro and other urban areas | 118,3 | 117,8 | .. | +0,4 | .. | .. |
| All expenditure groups (VAT EXCLUDED) - Metropolitan | 118,2 | 117,7 | 109,5 | +0,4 ¹⁾ | +0,6 ¹⁾ | +7,9 ¹⁾ |
| All expenditure groups (VAT EXCLUDED) - Metro and other urban areas | 118,1 | 117,6 | .. | +0,4 | .. | .. |
| Core inflation - Metropolitan | 118,4 | 117,8 | 109,2 | +0,5 | - | +8,4 |
| Core inflation - Metro and other urban areas | 118,6 | 118,0 | .. | +0,5 | - | .. |

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 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco | +0,1 |
| Housing | +0,1 |
| Furniture and equipment | +0,1 |
| Transport | +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 |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| | Sep. 1997 | Aug. 1997 | Sep. 1996 | Aug. 1997 | Sep. 1996 | |
| | | | | | | |
| All items | 118,2 | 117,7 | 109,4 | +0,4 | +8,0 | 100,00 |
| Expenditure groups - Very low | 119,9 | 119,2 | .. | +0,6 | .. | 0,51 |
| Low | 119,2 | 118,5 | .. | +0,6 | .. | 1,78 |
| Middle | 119,0 | 118,4 | .. | +0,5 | .. | 5,24 |
| High | 118,9 | 118,3 | .. | +0,5 | .. | 17,70 |
| Very high | 118,0 | 117,5 | .. | +0,4 | .. | 74,77 |
| Commodities | 116,2 | 115,6 | 108,2 | +0,5 | +7,4 | 55,00 |
| Services | 121,4 | 121,0 | 111,3 | +0,3 | +9,1 | 45,00 |
| All items, excluding housing | 117,2 | 116,6 | 108,4 | +0,5 | +8,1 | 75,93 |
| All items, excluding food | 118,5 | 118,0 | 109,8 | +0,4 | +7,9 | 81,98 |
| Food | 117,2 | 116,9 | 108,2 | +0,3 | +8,3 | 18,02 |
| Expenditure groups - Very low | 117,9 | 117,3 | .. | +0,5 | .. | 40,73 |
| Low | 118,0 | 117,5 | .. | +0,4 | .. | 34,39 |
| Middle | 117,8 | 117,5 | .. | +0,3 | .. | 31,12 |
| High | 117,5 | 117,2 | .. | +0,3 | .. | 25,42 |
| Very high | 116,9 | 116,6 | .. | +0,3 | .. | 14,84 |
| Processed | 118,4 | 118,2 | 108,9 | +0,2 | +8,7 | 9,12 |
| Unprocessed | 115,9 | 115,7 | 107,6 | +0,2 | +7,7 | 8,90 |
| Grain products | 120,8 | 121,0 | 115,1 | -0,2 | +5,0 | 3,31 |
| Meat | 112,8 | 112,4 | 103,4 | +0,4 | +9,1 | 5,33 |
| Fish and other seafood | 116,7 | 117,7 | 110,5 | -0,8 | +5,6 | 0,80 |
| Milk, cheese and eggs | 125,3 | 124,5 | 111,8 | +0,6 | +12,1 | 1,90 |
| Fats and oils | 119,6 | 119,5 | 108,7 | +0,1 | +10,0 | 0,85 |
| Fruit and nuts | 104,3 | 104,0 | 100,8 | +0,3 | +3,5 | 1,08 |
| Vegetables | 126,2 | 125,6 | 115,8 | +0,5 | +9,0 | 1,80 |
| Sugar | 118,2 | 117,9 | 110,2 | +0,3 | +7,3 | 0,59 |
| Coffee, tea and cocoa | 108,9 | 108,6 | 102,3 | +0,3 | +6,5 | 0,72 |
| Other | 118,8 | 118,4 | 110,0 | +0,3 | +8,0 | 1,64 |
| Non-alcoholic beverages | 123,7 | 123,3 | 112,5 | +0,3 | +10,0 | 0,82 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 119,2 | 118,9 | 108,9 | +0,3 | +9,5 | 1,18 |
| Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco | 152,7 | 147,5 | 119,9 | +3,5 | +27,4 | 0,95 |
| Clothing and footwear | 107,9 | 107,8 | 104,8 | +0,1 | +3,0 | 4,76 |
| Clothing | 107,4 | 107,3 | 104,5 | +0,1 | +2,8 | 3,55 |
| Footwear | 110,7 | 110,6 | 106,1 | +0,1 | +4,3 | 1,21 |
| Housing | 124,0 | 123,5 | 114,7 | +0,4 | +8,1 | 24,07 |
| Fuel and power | 119,5 | 118,3 | 109,3 | +1,0 | +9,3 | 3,11 |
| Furniture and equipment | 110,9 | 108,9 | 105,7 | +1,8 | +4,9 | 3,94 |
| Furniture | 114,3 | 110,5 | 106,7 | +3,4 | +7,1 | 1,62 |
| Appliances | 107,5 | 107,1 | 104,3 | +0,4 | +3,1 | 1,08 |
| Other household equipment and textiles | 109,4 | 108,2 | 105,9 | +1,1 | +3,3 | 1,24 |
| Household operation | 128,5 | 127,4 | 114,1 | +0,9 | +12,6 | 4,69 |
| Household consumables | 122,3 | 122,0 | 110,7 | +0,2 | +10,5 | 1,14 |
| Domestic workers | 137,4 | 135,8 | 119,4 | +1,2 | +15,1 | 3,19 |
| Other household services | 114,2 | 114,2 | 110,9 | 0,0 | +3,0 | 0,36 |
| Medical care and health expenses | 130,2 | 130,0 | 109,8 | +0,2 | +18,6 | 5,95 |
| Transport | 112,7 | 111,8 | 107,1 | +0,8 | +5,2 | 14,74 |
| Vehicles | 109,9 | 109,9 | 103,6 | 0,0 | +6,1 | 5,25 |
| Running cost | 117,8 | 116,0 | 112,2 | +1,6 | +5,0 | 5,75 |
| Public and hired transport | 111,7 | 111,0 | 106,2 | +0,6 | +5,2 | 3,74 |
| Communication | 110,6 | 110,6 | 108,4 | 0,0 | +2,0 | 3,06 |
| Recreation and entertainment | 108,7 | 108,5 | 107,1 | +0,2 | +1,5 | 2,38 |
| Reading matter | 123,9 | 123,9 | 115,3 | 0,0 | +7,5 | 0,74 |
| Education | 122,2 | 122,2 | 110,8 | 0,0 | +10,3 | 2,04 |
| Personal care | 116,2 | 116,0 | 110,8 | +0,2 | +4,9 | 3,06 |
| Other | 114,5 | 114,5 | 107,3 | 0,0 | +6,7 | 6,49 |

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

BASE : 1995 = 100

| Group | Percentage change compared with | | | | | Weights |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| | Sep. 1997 | Aug. 1997 | Sep. 1996 | Aug. 1997 | Sep. 1996 | |
| | | | | | | |
| All items | 118,1 | 117,6 | .. | +0,4 | .. | 100,00 |
| Expenditure groups - Very low | 118,9 | 118,1 | .. | +0,7 | .. | 0,93 |
| Low | 118,5 | 117,8 | .. | +0,6 | .. | 2,99 |
| Middle | 118,1 | 117,5 | .. | +0,5 | .. | 7,58 |
| High | 118,5 | 118,0 | .. | +0,4 | .. | 20,09 |
| Very high | 118,0 | 117,5 | .. | +0,4 | .. | 68,41 |
| Commodities | 115,9 | 115,3 | .. | +0,5 | .. | 57,34 |
| Services | 121,2 | 120,8 | .. | +0,3 | .. | 42,66 |
| All items, excluding housing | 117,0 | 116,4 | .. | +0,5 | .. | 77,55 |
| All items, excluding food | 118,3 | 117,8 | .. | +0,4 | .. | 80,52 |
| Food | 117,3 | 117,0 | .. | +0,3 | .. | 19,48 |
| Expenditure groups - Very low | 117,3 | 116,6 | .. | +0,6 | .. | 44,17 |
| Low | 117,7 | 117,1 | .. | +0,5 | .. | 38,83 |
| Middle | 117,7 | 117,3 | .. | +0,3 | .. | 32,67 |
| High | 117,5 | 117,1 | .. | +0,3 | .. | 25,61 |
| Very high | 117,1 | 116,8 | .. | +0,3 | .. | 15,02 |
| Processed | 117,6 | 117,3 | .. | +0,3 | .. | 10,52 |
| Unprocessed | 117,1 | 116,6 | .. | +0,4 | .. | 8,96 |
| Grain products | 121,2 | 121,0 | .. | +0,2 | .. | 3,73 |
| Meat | 112,5 | 112,2 | .. | +0,3 | .. | 5,84 |
| Fish and other seafood | 118,8 | 118,6 | .. | +0,2 | .. | 0,77 |
| Milk, cheese and eggs | 124,2 | 123,3 | .. | +0,7 | .. | 2,02 |
| Fats and oils | 117,5 | 117,5 | .. | 0,0 | .. | 0,94 |
| Fruit and nuts | 102,2 | 102,4 | .. | -0,2 | .. | 1,07 |
| Vegetables | 128,3 | 127,3 | .. | +0,8 | .. | 1,94 |
| Sugar | 118,0 | 117,7 | .. | +0,3 | .. | 0,73 |
| Coffee, tea and cocoa | 107,3 | 107,0 | .. | +0,3 | .. | 0,79 |
| Other | 117,7 | 117,5 | .. | +0,2 | .. | 1,65 |
| Non-alcoholic beverages | 124,2 | 124,0 | .. | +0,2 | .. | 0,82 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 120,1 | 119,9 | .. | +0,2 | .. | 1,17 |
| Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco | 149,2 | 144,9 | .. | +3,0 | .. | 1,04 |
| Clothing and footwear | 107,7 | 107,3 | .. | +0,4 | .. | 5,07 |
| Clothing | 107,3 | 106,9 | .. | +0,4 | .. | 3,80 |
| Footwear | 108,9 | 108,6 | .. | +0,3 | .. | 1,27 |
| Housing | 122,3 | 121,8 | .. | +0,4 | .. | 22,45 |
| Fuel and power | 116,3 | 115,8 | .. | +0,4 | .. | 3,54 |
| Furniture and equipment | 110,0 | 108,8 | .. | +1,1 | .. | 4,34 |
| Furniture | 112,8 | 110,7 | .. | +1,9 | .. | 1,77 |
| Appliances | 107,4 | 107,0 | .. | +0,4 | .. | 1,19 |
| Other household equipment and textiles | 108,7 | 108,0 | .. | +0,6 | .. | 1,38 |
| Household operation | 131,7 | 130,5 | .. | +0,9 | .. | 4,87 |
| Household consumables | 120,5 | 120,2 | .. | +0,2 | .. | 1,27 |
| Domestic workers | 138,0 | 136,4 | .. | +1,2 | .. | 3,25 |
| Other household services | 113,3 | 113,3 | .. | 0,0 | .. | 0,35 |
| Medical care and health expenses | 127,4 | 127,1 | .. | +0,2 | .. | 5,81 |
| Transport | 111,8 | 111,0 | .. | +0,7 | .. | 13,65 |
| Vehicles | 107,4 | 107,3 | .. | +0,1 | .. | 5,31 |
| Running cost | 117,8 | 116,2 | .. | +1,4 | .. | 5,16 |
| Public and hired transport | 109,3 | 108,8 | .. | +0,5 | .. | 3,18 |
| Communication | 113,7 | 113,7 | .. | 0,0 | .. | 3,21 |
| Recreation and entertainment | 105,2 | 105,1 | .. | +0,1 | .. | 2,18 |
| Reading matter | 122,1 | 122,1 | .. | 0,0 | .. | 0,69 |
| Education | 120,9 | 120,9 | .. | 0,0 | .. | 1,82 |
| Personal care | 117,3 | 116,7 | .. | +0,5 | .. | 3,08 |
| Other | 115,7 | 115,7 | .. | 0,0 | .. | 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 | |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| | Sep. 1997 | Aug. 1997 | Sep. 1996 | Aug. 1997 | Sep. 1996 |
| Western Cape | 118,1 | 117,7 | .. | +0,3 | .. |
| Cape Peninsula | 118,6 | 118,2 | 110,2 | +0,3 | +7,6 |
| Other urban areas | 117,7 | 117,3 | .. | +0,3 | .. |
| Eastern Cape | 119,4 | 118,8 | .. | +0,5 | .. |
| Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage | 117,9 | 117,5 | 110,0 | +0,3 | +7,2 |
| East London | 120,1 | 119,5 | 110,0 | +0,5 | +9,2 |
| Other urban areas | 119,4 | 118,7 | .. | +0,6 | .. |
| Northern Cape | 117,0 | 116,5 | .. | +0,4 | .. |
| Kimberley | 119,4 | 118,8 | 108,7 | +0,5 | +9,8 |
| Other urban areas | 116,5 | 116,1 | .. | +0,3 | .. |
| Free State | 115,6 | 114,7 | .. | +0,8 | .. |
| Bloemfontein | 118,6 | 118,3 | 109,5 | +0,3 | +8,3 |
| Free State Goldfields | 115,3 | 114,8 | 108,3 | +0,4 | +6,5 |
| Other urban areas | 115,1 | 114,1 | .. | +0,9 | .. |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 117,9 | 117,3 | .. | +0,5 | .. |
| Durban/Pinetown | 119,3 | 118,4 | 110,1 | +0,8 | +8,4 |
| Pietermaritzburg | 118,5 | 118,1 | 109,9 | +0,3 | +7,8 |
| Other urban areas | 117,1 | 116,6 | .. | +0,4 | .. |
| North West | 115,5 | 115,0 | .. | +0,4 | .. |
| Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney | 116,3 | 115,6 | 108,4 | +0,6 | +7,3 |
| Other urban areas | 115,2 | 114,8 | .. | +0,3 | .. |
| Gauteng | 118,8 | 118,3 | .. | +0,4 | .. |
| Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia | 118,7 | 118,2 | 109,8 | +0,4 | +8,1 |
| Witwatersrand | 117,7 | 117,2 | 108,8 | +0,4 | +8,2 |
| Other urban areas | 118,3 | 117,8 | .. | +0,4 | .. |
| Mpumalanga | 118,4 | 118,0 | .. | +0,3 | .. |
| Nelspruit/Witbank | 118,1 | 117,6 | 108,8 | +0,4 | +8,5 |
| Other urban areas | 118,0 | 117,6 | .. | +0,3 | .. |
| Northern Province | 117,1 | 116,7 | .. | +0,3 | .. |
| Pietersburg | 118,2 | 117,9 | 109,9 | +0,3 | +7,6 |
| Other urban areas | 117,2 | 116,7 | .. | +0,4 | .. |
| Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas | 118,1 | 117,6 | .. | +0,4 | .. |
| Weighted average - Metropolitan | 118,2 | 117,7 | 109,4 | +0,4 | +8,0 |

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 | |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| | Sep. 1997 | Aug. 1997 | Sep. 1996 | Aug. 1997 | Sep. 1996 |
| Western Cape | 117,5 | 117,2 | .. | +0,3 | .. |
| Cape Peninsula | 117,5 | 117,4 | 108,3 | +0,1 | +8,5 |
| Other urban areas | 116,8 | 116,5 | .. | +0,3 | .. |
| Eastern Cape | 120,7 | 119,4 | .. | +1,1 | .. |
| Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage | 117,3 | 117,1 | 109,9 | +0,2 | +6,7 |
| East London | 124,0 | 123,7 | 110,7 | +0,2 | +12,0 |
| Other urban areas | 121,1 | 119,6 | .. | +1,3 | .. |
| Northern Cape | 115,8 | 115,4 | .. | +0,3 | .. |
| Kimberley | 116,2 | 115,8 | 106,3 | +0,3 | +9,3 |
| Other urban areas | 115,7 | 115,3 | .. | +0,3 | .. |
| Free State | 113,7 | 113,2 | .. | +0,4 | .. |
| Bloemfontein | 117,4 | 117,9 | 107,4 | -0,4 | +9,3 |
| Free State Goldfields | 112,1 | 112,7 | 107,7 | -0,5 | +4,1 |
| Other urban areas | 113,6 | 112,8 | .. | +0,7 | .. |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 119,2 | 118,4 | .. | +0,7 | .. |
| Durban/Pinetown | 122,9 | 121,6 | 110,3 | +1,1 | +11,4 |
| Pietermaritzburg | 120,0 | 119,7 | 110,3 | +0,3 | +8,8 |
| Other urban areas | 117,9 | 117,1 | .. | +0,7 | .. |
| North West | 112,6 | 113,6 | .. | -0,9 | .. |
| Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney | 114,6 | 114,3 | 108,1 | +0,3 | +6,0 |
| Other urban areas | 112,2 | 113,4 | .. | -1,1 | .. |
| Gauteng | 116,5 | 116,2 | .. | +0,3 | .. |
| Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia | 118,5 | 118,2 | 109,3 | +0,3 | +8,4 |
| Witwatersrand | 115,5 | 115,3 | 107,2 | +0,2 | +7,7 |
| Other urban areas | 116,2 | 115,7 | .. | +0,4 | .. |
| Mpumalanga | 120,1 | 119,8 | .. | +0,3 | .. |
| Nelspruit/Witbank | 118,2 | 118,0 | 108,6 | +0,2 | +8,8 |
| Other urban areas | 120,6 | 120,2 | .. | +0,3 | .. |
| Northern Province | 120,7 | 120,7 | .. | 0,0 | .. |
| Pietersburg | 120,9 | 120,6 | 109,9 | +0,2 | +10,0 |
| Other urban areas | 120,7 | 120,8 | .. | -0,1 | .. |
| Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas | 117,3 | 117,0 | .. | +0,3 | .. |
| Weighted average - Metropolitan | 117,2 | 116,9 | 108,2 | +0,3 | +8,3 |

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 | |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| | Sep. 1997 | Aug. 1997 | Sep. 1996 | Aug. 1997 | Sep. 1996 |
| Western Cape | 117,1 | 116,6 | .. | +0,4 | .. |
| Cape Peninsula | 117,7 | 117,2 | 109,1 | +0,4 | +7,9 |
| Other urban areas | 116,6 | 116,2 | .. | +0,3 | .. |
| Eastern Cape | 118,5 | 117,8 | .. | +0,6 | .. |
| Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage | 117,2 | 116,7 | 109,1 | +0,4 | +7,4 |
| East London | 120,6 | 119,9 | 109,5 | +0,6 | +10,1 |
| Other urban areas | 118,3 | 117,5 | .. | +0,7 | .. |
| Northern Cape | 115,8 | 115,2 | .. | +0,5 | .. |
| Kimberley | 117,4 | 116,6 | 107,3 | +0,7 | +9,4 |
| Other urban areas | 115,5 | 115,0 | .. | +0,4 | .. |
| Free State | 115,6 | 114,8 | .. | +0,7 | .. |
| Bloemfontein | 118,4 | 118,2 | 108,8 | +0,2 | +8,8 |
| Free State Goldfields | 115,0 | 114,5 | 108,3 | +0,4 | +6,2 |
| Other urban areas | 115,2 | 114,4 | .. | +0,7 | .. |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 116,5 | 116,1 | .. | +0,3 | .. |
| Durban/Pinetown | 118,2 | 117,5 | 109,1 | +0,6 | +8,3 |
| Pietermaritzburg | 117,1 | 116,7 | 108,9 | +0,3 | +7,5 |
| Other urban areas | 115,7 | 115,4 | .. | +0,3 | .. |
| North West | 114,4 | 114,0 | .. | +0,4 | .. |
| Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney | 115,5 | 115,0 | 108,0 | +0,4 | +6,9 |
| Other urban areas | 114,2 | 113,8 | .. | +0,4 | .. |
| Gauteng | 117,5 | 116,9 | .. | +0,5 | .. |
| Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia | 117,8 | 117,2 | 108,7 | +0,5 | +8,4 |
| Witwatersrand | 116,7 | 116,2 | 107,9 | +0,4 | +8,2 |
| Other urban areas | 117,0 | 116,4 | .. | +0,5 | .. |
| Mpumalanga | 116,5 | 116,1 | .. | +0,3 | .. |
| Nelspruit/Witbank | 116,8 | 116,3 | 108,1 | +0,4 | +8,0 |
| Other urban areas | 116,2 | 115,8 | .. | +0,3 | .. |
| Northern Province | 115,9 | 115,5 | .. | +0,3 | .. |
| Pietersburg | 117,5 | 117,1 | 108,9 | +0,3 | +7,9 |
| Other urban areas | 115,8 | 115,4 | .. | +0,3 | .. |
| Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas | 117,0 | 116,4 | .. | +0,5 | .. |
| Weighted average - Metropolitan | 117,2 | 116,6 | 108,4 | +0,5 | +8,1 |

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 | |
|---|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| | Sep. 1997 | Aug. 1997 | Sep. 1996 | Aug. 1997 | Sep. 1996 |
| Western Cape | 118,3 | 117,9 | .. | +0,3 | .. |
| Cape Peninsula | 119,2 | 118,7 | 110,8 | +0,4 | +7,6 |
| Other urban areas | 117,9 | 117,6 | .. | +0,3 | .. |
| Eastern Cape | 119,1 | 118,6 | .. | +0,4 | .. |
| Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage | 117,9 | 117,4 | 110,0 | +0,4 | +7,2 |
| East London | 119,2 | 118,5 | 109,8 | +0,6 | +8,6 |
| Other urban areas | 118,9 | 118,4 | .. | +0,4 | .. |
| Northern Cape | 117,4 | 116,9 | .. | +0,4 | .. |
| Kimberley | 120,7 | 119,9 | 109,4 | +0,7 | +10,3 |
| Other urban areas | 116,8 | 116,4 | .. | +0,3 | .. |
| Free State | 116,1 | 115,1 | .. | +0,9 | .. |
| Bloemfontein | 119,0 | 118,6 | 110,2 | +0,3 | +8,0 |
| Free State Goldfields | 116,1 | 115,4 | 108,5 | +0,6 | +7,0 |
| Other urban areas | 115,6 | 114,5 | .. | +1,0 | .. |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 117,6 | 117,1 | .. | +0,4 | .. |
| Durban/Pinetown | 118,5 | 117,7 | 110,2 | +0,7 | +7,5 |
| Pietermaritzburg | 118,0 | 117,5 | 109,8 | +0,4 | +7,5 |
| Other urban areas | 116,9 | 116,5 | .. | +0,3 | .. |
| North West | 116,2 | 115,4 | .. | +0,7 | .. |
| Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney | 116,6 | 115,9 | 108,5 | +0,6 | +7,5 |
| Other urban areas | 116,0 | 115,2 | .. | +0,7 | .. |
| Gauteng | 119,3 | 118,7 | .. | +0,5 | .. |
| Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia | 118,5 | 117,9 | 109,9 | +0,5 | +7,8 |
| Witwatersrand | 118,3 | 117,7 | 109,3 | +0,5 | +8,2 |
| Other urban areas | 118,8 | 118,3 | .. | +0,4 | .. |
| Mpumalanga | 117,9 | 117,5 | .. | +0,3 | .. |
| Nelspruit/Witbank | 117,8 | 117,3 | 108,9 | +0,4 | +8,2 |
| Other urban areas | 117,3 | 116,9 | .. | +0,3 | .. |
| Northern Province | 116,3 | 115,7 | .. | +0,5 | .. |
| Pietersburg | 117,4 | 117,1 | 110,0 | +0,3 | +6,7 |
| Other urban areas | 116,3 | 115,7 | .. | +0,5 | .. |
| Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas | 118,3 | 117,8 | .. | +0,4 | .. |
| Weighted average - Metropolitan | 118,5 | 118,0 | 109,8 | +0,4 | +7,9 |

TABLE 5 SEASONALLY ADJUSTED INDICES

BASE : 1995 = 100

| Group | Sep. 1997 | Aug. 1997 | Jul. 1997 | Jun. 1997 | Weights |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------|
| All items | 118,3 | 117,5 | 117,3 | 116,4 | 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 | 118,5 | 117,6 | 117,1 | 116,4 | 81,98 |
| Commodities | 116,2 | 115,7 | 115,3 | 114,6 | 55,00 |
| Food | 117,7 | 117,8 | 118,1 | 117,3 | 18,02 |
| Food and non-alcoholic beverages | 118,0 | 118,0 | 118,2 | 117,5 | 18,84 |
| Alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, cigars and tobacco | 135,7 | 133,8 | 133,1 | 132,8 | 2,13 |
| Clothing and footwear | 107,7 | 107,5 | 107,3 | 107,0 | 4,72 |
| Furniture and equipment | 110,1 | 109,0 | 108,8 | 108,5 | 3,85 |
| Vehicles | 110,0 | 109,8 | 109,3 | 109,3 | 5,25 |
| Other transport commodities | 117,2 | 114,0 | 113,7 | 116,4 | 4,63 |
| Other commodities | 117,8 | 117,8 | 116,4 | 113,7 | 15,58 |
| Services | 121,2 | 120,6 | 120,0 | 119,1 | 45,00 |
| Housing and domestic workers | 124,3 | 123,3 | 122,8 | 121,8 | 25,99 |
| Transport | 110,7 | 110,1 | 109,7 | 108,7 | 4,86 |
| Other services | 121,3 | 121,2 | 120,4 | 119,7 | 14,15 |
| All items (VAT excluded) | 118,2 | 117,5 | 117,2 | 116,3 | 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 | |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| | Sep. 1997 | Aug. 1997 | Sep. 1996 | Aug. 1997 | Sep. 1996 |
| Western Cape | 117,9 | 117,5 | .. | +0,3 | .. |
| Cape Peninsula | 120,1 | 119,7 | 110,7 | +0,3 | +8,5 |
| Other cities | 117,4 | 117,0 | .. | +0,3 | .. |
| Eastern Cape | 119,6 | 118,9 | .. | +0,6 | .. |
| Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage | 118,3 | 117,8 | 109,7 | +0,4 | +7,8 |
| East London | 120,7 | 120,0 | 109,9 | +0,6 | +9,8 |
| Other cities | 119,5 | 118,7 | .. | +0,7 | .. |
| Northern Cape | 118,6 | 118,1 | .. | +0,4 | .. |
| Kimberley | 121,9 | 121,2 | 109,6 | +0,6 | +11,2 |
| Other cities | 118,1 | 117,7 | .. | +0,3 | .. |
| Free State | 115,4 | 114,3 | .. | +1,0 | .. |
| Bloemfontein | 118,1 | 117,9 | 109,4 | +0,2 | +8,0 |
| Free State Goldfields | 115,0 | 114,7 | 107,7 | +0,3 | +6,8 |
| Other cities | 115,2 | 113,9 | .. | +1,1 | .. |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 117,4 | 116,8 | .. | +0,5 | .. |
| Durban/Pinetown | 119,2 | 118,2 | 109,7 | +0,8 | +8,7 |
| Pietermaritzburg | 117,1 | 116,7 | 109,0 | +0,3 | +7,4 |
| Other cities | 116,6 | 116,1 | .. | +0,4 | .. |
| North West | 116,0 | 115,7 | .. | +0,3 | .. |
| Klerksdorp/Stilfontein/Orkney | 118,0 | 117,2 | 108,6 | +0,7 | +8,7 |
| Other cities | 115,4 | 115,2 | .. | +0,2 | .. |
| Gauteng | 118,7 | 118,2 | .. | +0,4 | .. |
| Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia | 118,3 | 117,8 | 109,4 | +0,4 | +8,1 |
| Witwatersrand | 119,1 | 118,5 | 109,2 | +0,5 | +9,1 |
| Other cities | 117,7 | 117,2 | .. | +0,4 | .. |
| Mpumalanga | 119,7 | 119,3 | .. | +0,3 | .. |
| Nelspruit/Witbank | 119,8 | 119,4 | 109,6 | +0,3 | +9,3 |
| Other cities | 119,7 | 119,3 | .. | +0,3 | .. |
| Northern Province | 117,8 | 117,4 | .. | +0,3 | .. |
| Pietersburg | 119,6 | 119,3 | 109,0 | +0,3 | +9,7 |
| Other cities | 117,8 | 117,4 | .. | +0,3 | .. |
| Weighted average - Metro and other urban areas | 118,1 | 117,5 | .. | +0,5 | .. |
| Weighted average - Metropolitan | 119,1 | 118,6 | 109,6 | +0,4 | +8,7 |