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Consumer Price Index (CPI) Rural areas and total country March 2006

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

KEY FIGURES AT MARCH 2006

Main indices	Indices (2000=100)			Percentage change between	
	March 2005	February 2006	March 2006	February 2006 and March 2006	March 2005 and March 2006
				Actual %	Actual %
CPI for rural areas	129,8	134,0	134,5	+ 0,4	+ 3,6
CPI excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX) for rural areas	132,6	137,2	137,7	+ 0,4	+ 3,8
CPI for total country	128,7	132,5	133,1	+ 0,5	+ 3,4
CPI excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX) for total country	134,3	138,9	139,5	+ 0,4	+ 3,9

KEY FINDINGS AT MARCH 2006

The inflation rate for the rural areas is 3,6% at March 2006 (i.e. the CPI at March 2006 compared with that at March 2005)

The inflation rate for the rural areas is 3,6% at March 2006 (i.e. the CPI at March 2006 compared with that at March 2005). This rate is the same as the corresponding annual rate of 3,6% at February 2006 (see table 1.2.1, p.11). Although the annual rate was unchanged increases in the annual rates of change occurred for:

- *The CPI for food for which the rate increased from 3,1% at February 2006 to a higher rate of 3,7% at March 2006.*
- *The CPI for non-alcoholic beverages for which the rate increased from 2,1% at February 2006 to a higher rate of 3,8% at March 2006.*

However, these increases were partially counteracted by decreases in the annual rates of change for:

- *The CPI for fuel and power for which the rate decreased from 7,8% at February 2006 to a lower rate of 6,8% at March 2006.*
- *The CPI for education for which the rate decreased from 7,5% at February 2006 to a lower rate of 6,5% at March 2006.*
- *The CPI for transport for which the rate decreased from 6,3% at February 2006 to a lower rate of 3,9% at March 2006.*

From February 2006 to March 2006 the Consumer Price Index for the rural areas increased by 0,4%.

The annual increase of 3,6% in the Consumer Price Index for the rural areas is mainly due to relatively large annual contributions in the price indices for food (+ 1,6 percentage points), household operation (+ 0,7 of a percentage point), fuel and power (+ 0,3 of a percentage point), transport (+ 0,3 of a percentage point), alcoholic beverages (+ 0,2 of a percentage point) and medical care and health expenses (+ 0,2 of a percentage point). These annual increases were slightly counteracted by an annual decrease in the price index for clothing and footwear (- 0,2 of a percentage point) (see table 1.3, p.12).

The annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX) for the rural areas is 3,8% at March 2006 (i.e. the CPIX at March 2006 compared with that at March 2005)

The annual percentage change in the CPIX, which is the Consumer Price Index excluding the interest rates on mortgage bonds, for the rural areas is 3,8% at March 2006 (i.e. the CPIX at March 2006 compared with that at March 2005). This rate is 0,1 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 3,9% at February 2006 (see table 1.2.2, p.11). From February 2006 to March 2006 the CPIX for the rural areas increased by 0,4%.

The annual increase of 3,8% in the Consumer Price Index excluding the interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX) for the rural areas is mainly due to relatively large annual contributions in the price indices for food (+ 1,7 percentage points), household operation (+ 0,7 of a percentage point), fuel and power (+ 0,4 of a percentage point), transport (+ 0,3 of a percentage point), alcoholic beverages (+ 0,2 of a percentage point) and medical care and health expenses (+ 0,2 of a percentage point). These annual increases were slightly counteracted by an annual decrease in the price index for clothing and footwear (- 0,2 of a percentage point) (see table 1.5, p.12).

The inflation rate for the total country is 3,4% at March 2006 (i.e. the CPI at March 2006 compared with that at March 2005)

The inflation rate for the total country is 3,4% at March 2006 (i.e. the CPI at March 2006 compared with that at March 2005). This rate is 0,5 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 3,9% at February 2006 (see table 2.2.1, p.22). This lower rate at March 2006 can be explained by decreases in the annual rates of change for:

- *The CPI for transport for which the rate decreased from 9,2% at February 2006 to a lower rate of 5,6% at March 2006.*
- *The CPI for education for which the rate decreased from 8,0% at February 2006 to a lower rate of 6,9% at March 2006.*
- *The CPI for medical care and health expenses for which the rate decreased from 6,1% at February 2006 to a lower rate of 5,6% at March 2006.*
- *The CPI for housing for which the rate decreased from 1,0% at February 2006 to a lower rate of 0,9% at March 2006.*

However, these decreases were partially counteracted by an increase in the annual rate of change for:

- *The CPI for food for which the rate increased from 4,2% at February 2006 to a higher rate of 4,7% at March 2006.*

From February 2006 to March 2006 the Consumer Price Index for the total country increased by 0,5%.

The annual increase of 3,4% in the Consumer Price Index for the total country is mainly due to relatively large annual contributions in the price indices for food (+ 1,3 percentage points), transport (+ 0,7 percentage points), medical care and health expenses (+ 0,4 of a percentage point), household operation (+ 0,3 of a percentage point) and alcoholic beverages (+ 0,2 of a percentage point). These annual increases were slightly counteracted by an annual decrease in the price index for clothing and footwear (- 0,1 of a percentage point) (see table 2.3, p.23).

The annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX) for the total country is 3,9% at March 2006 (i.e. the CPIX at March 2006 compared with that at March 2005)

The annual percentage change in the CPIX, which is the Consumer Price Index excluding the interest rates on mortgage bonds, for the total country is 3,9% at March 2006 (i.e. the CPIX at March 2006 compared with that at March 2005). This rate is 0,5 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 4,4% at February 2006. From February 2006 to March 2006 the CPIX for the total country increased by 0,4%.

The annual increase of 3,9% in the Consumer Price Index excluding the interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX) for the total country is mainly due to relatively large annual contributions in the price indices for food (+ 1,3 percentage points), transport (+ 0,7 of a percentage point), medical care and health expenses (+ 0,5 of a percentage point), housing, excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (+ 0,4 of a percentage point), household operation (+ 0,3 of a percentage point), alcoholic beverages (+ 0,2 of a percentage point) and education (+ 0,2 of a percentage point). These annual increases were slightly counteracted by an annual decrease in the price index for clothing and footwear (- 0,1 of a percentage point) (see table 2.5, p.23).

Administered and regulated prices:

An administered price is defined as the price of a product, which is set consciously by an individual producer or group of producers and/or any price, which can be determined or influenced by government, either directly, or through one or other government agencies/institutions without reference to market forces.

Regulated prices are those administered prices that are said to be monitored and controlled by government policy. To this end, price regulation does not necessarily imply the presence of an economic regulator, but the restriction on the extent to which prices may vary, depending on government's policy objective.

The CPI for administered prices at March 2006 (i.e. the CPI for administered prices for the rural areas at March 2006 compared with that at March 2005) is 6,4%. This rate is 2,1 percentage points lower than the corresponding annual rate of 8,5% at February 2006 (see table 1.1, p.10).

The CPIX for administered prices at March 2006 (i.e. the CPIX for administered prices for the rural areas at March 2006 compared with that at March 2005) is 6,3%. This rate is 2,2 percentage points lower than the corresponding annual rate of 8,5% at February 2006 (see table 1.1, p.10).

The CPI for administered prices at March 2006 (i.e. the CPI for administered prices for the total country at March 2006 compared with that at March 2005) is 6,2%. This rate is 3,0 percentage points lower than the corresponding annual rate of 9,2% at February 2006 (see table 2.1, p.21).

The CPIX for administered prices at March 2006 (i.e. the CPIX for administered prices for the total country at March 2006 compared with that at March 2005) is 6,2%. This rate is 3,0 percentage points lower than the corresponding annual rate of 9,2% at February 2006 (see table 2.1, p.21).

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RURAL AREAS

Stats SA introduced a CPI for the rural areas as well as for the total country as from May 2003, based on the prices monitored in the smaller towns, as no pricing surveys are undertaken in the rural areas. However the weights used are the actual weights obtained for the rural areas from information received from the Survey of Income and Expenditure of Households, conducted in October 2000.

RURAL AREAS

KEY FIGURES AT MARCH 2006

Table A – Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the inflation rate for the rural areas according to main indices

Main indices	Indices (2000=100)			Percentage change between	
	March 2005	February 2006	March 2006	February 2006 and March 2006	March 2005 and March 2006
				Actual %	Actual %
CPI	129,8	134,0	134,5	+ 0,4	+ 3,6
CPI excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX)	132,6	137,2	137,7	+ 0,4	+ 3,8
Core index	131,7	135,4	135,4	0,0	+ 2,8
Food price index	139,3	144,4	144,4	0,0	+ 3,7
CPI excluding food price index	123,0	126,7	127,5	+ 0,6	+ 3,7
CPI excluding Value Added Tax (VAT)	129,8	134,0	134,5	+ 0,4	+ 3,6

KEY FINDINGS AT MARCH 2006

The inflation rate for the rural areas is 3,6% at March 2006 (i.e. the CPI at March 2006 compared with that at March 2005)

The inflation rate for the rural areas is 3,6% at March 2006 (i.e. the CPI at March 2006 compared with that at March 2005). This rate is the same as the corresponding annual rate of 3,6% at February 2006 (see table 1.2.1, p.11). Although the annual rate was unchanged increases in the annual rates of change occurred for:

- The CPI for food for which the rate increased from 3,1% at February 2006 to a higher rate of 3,7% at March 2006.
- The CPI for non-alcoholic beverages for which the rate increased from 2,1% at February 2006 to a higher rate of 3,8% at March 2006.

However, these increases were partially counteracted by decreases in the annual rates of change for:

- The CPI for fuel and power for which the rate decreased from 7,8% at February 2006 to a lower rate of 6,8% at March 2006.
- The CPI for education for which the rate decreased from 7,5% at February 2006 to a lower rate of 6,5% at March 2006.
- The CPI for transport for which the rate decreased from 6,3% at February 2006 to a lower rate of 3,9% at March 2006.

From February 2006 to March 2006 the Consumer Price Index for the rural areas increased by 0,4%.

The annual increase of 3,6% in the Consumer Price Index for the rural areas is mainly due to relatively large annual contributions in the price indices for food (+ 1,6 percentage points), household operation (+ 0,7 of a percentage point), fuel and power (+ 0,3 of a percentage point), transport (+ 0,3 of a percentage point), alcoholic beverages (+ 0,2 of a percentage point) and medical care and health expenses (+ 0,2 of a percentage point). These annual increases were slightly counteracted by an annual decrease in the price index for clothing and footwear (- 0,2 of a percentage point) (see table 1.3, p.12).

From February 2006 to March 2006 the Consumer Price Index for the rural areas increased by 0,4%. This monthly increase was due to monthly contributions in the price indices for education (+ 0,2 of a percentage point), alcoholic beverages (+ 0,1 of a percentage point) and cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+ 0,1 of a percentage point) (see table 1.4, p.12).

The annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX) for the rural areas is 3,8% at March 2006 (i.e. the CPIX at March 2006 compared with that at March 2005)

The annual percentage change in the CPIX, which is the Consumer Price Index excluding the interest rates on mortgage bonds, for the rural areas is 3,8% at March 2006 (i.e. the CPIX at March 2006 compared with that at March 2005). This rate is 0,1 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 3,9% at February 2006 (see table 1.2.2, p.11). From February 2006 to March 2006 the CPIX for the rural areas increased by 0,4%.

The annual increase of 3,8% in the Consumer Price Index excluding the interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX) for the rural areas is mainly due to relatively large annual contributions in the price indices for food (+ 1,7 percentage points), household operation (+ 0,7 of a percentage point), fuel and power (+ 0,4 of a percentage point), transport (+ 0,3 of a percentage point), alcoholic beverages (+ 0,2 of a percentage point) and medical care and health expenses (+ 0,2 of a percentage point). These annual increases were slightly counteracted by an annual decrease in the price index for clothing and footwear (- 0,2 of a percentage point) (see table 1.5, p.12).

From February 2006 to March 2006 the Consumer Price Index excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX) for the rural areas increased by 0,4%. This monthly increase was due to monthly contributions in the price indices for education (+ 0,2 of a percentage point), non-alcoholic beverages (+ 0,1 of a percentage point) and alcoholic beverages (+ 0,1 of a percentage point) (see table 1.6, p.12).

Core inflation rate

The core inflation rate for the rural areas (see explanatory notes 33, 34 and 35 on page 37) is 2,8% at March 2006 (i.e. the core index at March 2006 compared with that at March 2005). This rate is 0,6 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 3,4% at February 2006. From February 2006 to March 2006 the core index for the rural areas remained unchanged.

The annual increase of 2,8% in the core index for the rural areas is mainly due to relatively large annual contributions in the price indices for household operation (+ 1,0 percentage point), food (+ 0,6 of a percentage point), medical care and health expenses (+ 0,3 of a percentage point), transport (+ 0,3 of a percentage point), alcoholic beverages (+ 0,2 of a percentage point), fuel and power (+ 0,2 of a percentage point) and education (+ 0,2 of a percentage point). These annual increases were slightly counteracted by an annual decrease in the price index for clothing and footwear (- 0,2 of a percentage point) (see table 1.7, p.13).

From February 2006 to March 2006 the core index for the rural areas remained unchanged (see table 1.8, p.13).

Food inflation

The price index for food reflects an annual rate of change of 3,7% at March 2006 (i.e. the CPI for food at March 2006 compared with that at March 2005), which is 0,6 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding annual rate of 3,1% at February 2006. From February 2006 to March 2006 this index remained unchanged.

Annual increases occurred in the price indices for meat (+ 10,3%), fruit and nuts (+ 8,6%), sugar (+ 5,6%), "other" food products (+ 2,8%), fish and other seafood (+ 2,6%), milk, cheese and eggs (+ 2,1%), coffee, tea and cocoa (+ 2,1%) and grain products (+ 1,1%). These annual increases were slightly counteracted by annual decreases in the price indices for fats and oils (- 4,7%) and vegetables (- 0,4%) (see table 1.9, p.14).

Although there was no monthly percentage change, monthly increases occurred in the price indices for sugar (+ 1,1%), grain products (+ 0,2%), vegetables (+ 0,1%), coffee, tea and cocoa (+ 0,1%) and "other" food products (+ 0,1%). These monthly increases were partially counteracted by monthly decreases in the price indices for fats and oils (- 1,4%), fish and other seafood (- 0,9%), milk, cheese and eggs (- 0,3%) and fruit and nuts (- 0,1%) (see table 1.9, p.14).

Price index for CPI excluding food

The price index for non-food items reflects an annual rate of increase of 3,7% at March 2006 (i.e. the CPI excluding food items at March 2006 compared with that at March 2005), which is 0,7 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 4,4% at February 2006. From February 2006 to March 2006 this index increased by 0,6%.

Annual increases occurred in the price indices for household operation (+ 11,5%), alcoholic beverages (+ 8,6%), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+ 7,2%), fuel and power (+ 6,8%), education (+ 6,5%), medical care and health expenses (+ 6,4%), transport (+ 3,9), non-alcoholic beverages (+ 3,8%), reading matter (+ 2,4%), personal care (+ 2,1%) and housing (+ 1,2%). These annual increases were slightly counteracted by annual decreases in the price indices for clothing and footwear (- 4,9%), communication (- 2,6%), recreation and entertainment (- 2,3%), furniture and equipment (- 1,1%) and "other" products (- 0,3%) (see table 1.9, p.14).

Relatively large monthly increases occurred in the price indices for education (+ 6,5%), alcoholic beverages (+ 3,8%), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+ 3,5%) and non-alcoholic beverages (+ 2,7%). These monthly increases were slightly counteracted by monthly decreases in the price indices for furniture and equipment (- 0,8%), recreation and entertainment (- 0,8%) and transport (- 0,4%, mainly due to a 11c/l decrease in the price of petrol) (see table 1.9, p.14).

Table 1.1 - Expenditure group and area indices of the Consumer Price Index and percentage change for the rural areas

Expenditure group/Area indices	Indices (2000=100)			Percentage change between	
	Mar 2005	Feb 2006	Mar 2006	Feb 2006 and Mar 2006	Mar 2005 and Mar 2006
				Actual %	Actual %
Expenditure group indices					
Very low expenditure	135,4	139,2	139,8	+0,4	+3,2
Low expenditure	134,2	138,3	138,8	+0,4	+3,4
Middle expenditure	132,7	136,8	137,4	+0,4	+3,5
High expenditure	132,4	136,7	137,3	+0,4	+3,7
Very high expenditure	125,0	129,2	129,7	+0,4	+3,8
All expenditure groups	129,8	134,0	134,5	+0,4	+3,6
CPI excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX)	132,6	137,2	137,7	+0,4	+3,8
Core index	131,7	135,4	135,4	0,0	+2,8
Food only index	139,3	144,4	144,4	0,0	+3,7
CPI excluding food	123,0	126,7	127,5	+0,6	+3,7
CPI for administered prices	128,0	134,6	136,2	+1,2	+6,4
CPI for regulated prices	122,4	131,0	130,5	-0,4	+6,6
CPI for administered prices that are not regulated	140,3	142,3	148,5	+4,4	+5,8
CPIX for administered prices	128,1	134,6	136,2	+1,2	+6,3
CPIX for regulated prices	122,4	131,0	130,5	-0,4	+6,6
CPIX for administered prices that are not regulated	140,4	142,4	148,5	+4,3	+5,8
CPI excluding VAT	129,8	134,0	134,5	+0,4	+3,6

Table 1.2.1 - The Consumer Price Index and the annual inflation rate on a monthly basis for the rural areas

Base year: 2000=100

Year	Index	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ave.
2004	Index	126,0	126,8	127,7	127,9	128,1	127,7	127,7	127,2	127,4	127,8	128,6	128,6	127,6
	% 1)	+0,7	+1,8	+1,6	+1,7	+1,6	+1,1	+1,2	+0,8	+1,1	+1,7	+2,8	+2,8	+1,5 2)
2005	Index	129,1	129,3	129,8	130,2	130,3	129,9	131,0	131,4	131,5	131,7	131,8	132,3	130,7
	% 1)	+2,5	+2,0	+1,6	+1,8	+1,7	+1,7	+2,6	+3,3	+3,2	+3,1	+2,5	+2,9	+2,4 2)
2006	Index	133,1	134,0	134,5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	% 1)	+3,1	+3,6	+3,6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.. 2)

Table 1.2.2 - The Consumer Price Index excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX) and the annual inflation rate on a monthly basis for the rural areas

Base year: 2000=100

Year	Index	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ave.
2004	Index	128,4	129,2	130,2	130,5	130,6	130,3	130,3	129,8	130,1	130,5	131,3	131,3	130,2
	% 1)	+2,1	+3,2	+3,0	+3,2	+3,1	+2,6	+2,4	+1,9	+2,0	+2,4	+3,1	+3,2	+2,7 2)
2005	Index	131,8	132,0	132,6	133,1	133,3	132,9	134,1	134,5	134,6	134,9	135,0	135,5	133,7
	% 1)	+2,6	+2,2	+1,8	+2,0	+2,1	+2,0	+2,9	+3,6	+3,5	+3,4	+2,8	+3,2	+2,7 2)
2006	Index	136,3	137,2	137,7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	% 1)	+3,4	+3,9	+3,8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.. 2)

1) % = annual inflation rate
 2) Average annual inflation rate

Table 1.3 - Contributions of different groups to the annual percentage change in the CPI for the rural areas

Group	Contribution at February 2006	Contribution at March 2006
Food	1,3	1,6
Non-alcoholic beverages	0,0	0,1
Alcoholic beverages	0,2	0,2
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	0,1	0,1
Clothing and footwear	-0,2	-0,2
Housing	0,1	0,1
Fuel and power	0,4	0,3
Household operation	0,7	0,7
Medical care and health expenses	0,2	0,2
Transport	0,5	0,3
Education	0,2	0,1
Personal care	0,1	0,1
All groups	3,6	3,6

Table 1.4 - Contributions of different groups to the monthly percentage change in the CPI for the rural areas

Group	Contribution at February 2006	Contribution at March 2006
Food	0,2	0,0
Alcoholic beverages	0,1	0,1
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	0,0	0,1
Household operation	0,4	0,0
Education	0,0	0,2
All groups	0,7	0,4

Table 1.5 - Contributions of different groups to the annual percentage change in the CPIX for the rural areas

Group	Contribution at February 2006	Contribution at March 2006
Food	1,4	1,7
Non-alcoholic beverages	0,1	0,1
Alcoholic beverages	0,2	0,2
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	0,1	0,1
Clothing and footwear	-0,2	-0,2
Housing (excl. interest rates on mortgage bonds)	0,1	0,1
Fuel and power	0,4	0,4
Household operation	0,7	0,7
Medical care and health expenses	0,2	0,2
Transport	0,6	0,3
Education	0,2	0,1
Personal care	0,1	0,1
All groups	3,9	3,8

Table 1.6 - Contributions of different groups to the monthly percentage change in the CPIX for the rural areas

Group	Contribution at February 2006	Contribution at March 2006
Food	0,2	0,0
Non-alcoholic beverages	0,0	0,1
Alcoholic beverages	0,1	0,1
Household operation	0,4	0,0
Education	0,0	0,2
All groups	0,7	0,4

Table 1.7 - Contributions of different groups to the annual percentage change in the Core index for the rural areas

Group	Contribution at February 2006	Contribution at March 2006
Food	0,6	0,6
Non-alcoholic beverages	0,1	0,1
Alcoholic beverages	0,2	0,2
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	0,1	0,0
Clothing and footwear	-0,3	-0,2
Housing	0,1	0,1
Fuel and power	0,3	0,2
Household operation	1,0	1,0
Medical care and health expenses	0,3	0,3
Transport	0,6	0,3
Education	0,3	0,2
Personal care	0,1	0,0
All groups	3,4	2,8

Table 1.8 - Contributions of different groups to the monthly percentage change in the Core index for the rural areas

Group	Contribution at February 2006	Contribution at March 2006
Food	0,2	0,0
Household operation	0,5	0,0
All groups	0,7	0,0

Table 1.9 - Consumer Price Index group and product indices and percentage change for the rural areas

Group/Product	Weights	Indices (2000=100)			Percentage change between	
		Mar 2005	Feb 2006	Mar 2006	Feb 2006 and Mar 2006	Mar 2005 and Mar 2006
		CPI: All items	100,00	129,8	134,0	134,5	+0,4	+3,6
Expenditure groups - Very low	12,19	135,4	139,2	139,8	+0,4	+3,2
Low	15,22	134,2	138,3	138,8	+0,4	+3,4
Middle	26,12	132,7	136,8	137,4	+0,4	+3,5
High	19,87	132,4	136,7	137,3	+0,4	+3,7
Very high	26,60	125,0	129,2	129,7	+0,4	+3,8
Commodities	81,08	131,9	136,1	136,4	+0,2	+3,4
Services	18,92	124,6	128,8	129,8	+0,8	+4,2
CPI: All items, excluding housing	95,48	130,7	135,1	135,6	+0,4	+3,7
CPI: All items, excluding food	56,99	123,0	126,7	127,5	+0,6	+3,7
Food	43,01	139,3	144,4	144,4	0,0	+3,7
Expenditure groups - Very low	62,27	137,4	141,4	141,5	+0,1	+3,0
Low	59,07	137,7	142,1	142,2	+0,1	+3,3
Middle	53,26	138,7	143,9	144,0	+0,1	+3,8
High	40,37	140,8	146,6	146,7	+0,1	+4,2
Very high	17,18	141,6	147,0	146,9	-0,1	+3,7
Processed	21,13	142,2	145,6	145,7	+0,1	+2,5
Unprocessed	21,88	136,5	143,2	143,2	0,0	+4,9
Grain products	16,36	124,3	125,4	125,7	+0,2	+1,1
Meat	8,00	145,9	160,9	160,9	0,0	+10,3
Fish and other seafood	1,17	145,5	150,6	149,3	-0,9	+2,6
Milk, cheese and eggs	2,55	150,4	154,1	153,6	-0,3	+2,1
Fats and oils	1,39	158,3	153,0	150,9	-1,4	-4,7
Fruit and nuts	1,39	169,1	183,7	183,6	-0,1	+8,6
Vegetables	3,42	135,7	134,9	135,1	+0,1	-0,4
Sugar	2,44	135,0	141,1	142,6	+1,1	+5,6
Coffee, tea and cocoa	1,55	126,9	129,5	129,6	+0,1	+2,1
Other	4,74	148,3	152,4	152,5	+0,1	+2,8
Non-alcoholic beverages	1,72	145,0	146,6	150,5	+2,7	+3,8
Alcoholic beverages	2,27	147,7	154,5	160,4	+3,8	+8,6
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	1,03	161,3	167,1	172,9	+3,5	+7,2
Clothing and footwear	5,40	96,7	91,8	92,0	+0,2	-4,9
Clothing	3,34	96,4	92,7	92,7	0,0	-3,8
Footwear	2,06	97,0	90,4	90,9	+0,6	-6,3
Housing	4,52	116,9	118,0	118,3	+0,3	+1,2
Fuel and power	6,06	124,5	132,9	133,0	+0,1	+6,8
Furniture and equipment	4,46	112,9	112,6	111,7	-0,8	-1,1
Furniture	2,13	122,8	123,3	122,2	-0,9	-0,5
Appliances	0,94	109,2	108,3	107,1	-1,1	-1,9
Other household equipment and textiles	1,39	103,5	102,5	102,1	-0,4	-1,4
Household operation	5,78	147,7	164,2	164,7	+0,3	+11,5
Household consumables	3,48	142,7	147,3	148,4	+0,7	+4,0
Domestic workers	1,98	154,5	183,0	183,0	0,0	+18,4
Other household services	0,32	113,6	115,8	115,4	-0,3	+1,6
Medical care and health expenses	3,07	153,0	162,2	162,8	+0,4	+6,4
Transport	9,29	116,2	121,2	120,7	-0,4	+3,9
Vehicles	2,59	112,6	112,6	112,5	-0,1	-0,1
Running cost	4,02	127,1	139,1	137,9	-0,9	+8,5
Public and hired transport	2,68	102,2	102,3	102,3	0,0	+0,1
Communication	1,17	129,8	126,4	126,4	0,0	-2,6
Recreation and entertainment	1,26	93,8	92,3	91,6	-0,8	-2,3
Reading matter	0,29	122,0	124,5	124,9	+0,3	+2,4
Education	2,99	154,3	154,3	164,4	+6,5	+6,5
Personal care	5,06	139,4	142,1	142,3	+0,1	+2,1
Other	2,62	96,4	95,9	96,1	+0,2	-0,3

Table 1.10 - Consumer Price Index, excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX), group and product indices and percentage change for the rural areas

Group/Product	Weights	Indices (2000=100)			Percentage change between	
		Mar 2005	Feb 2006	Mar 2006	Feb 2006 and Mar 2006	Mar 2005 and Mar 2006
		CPIX: All items	100,00	132,6	137,2	137,7	+0,4	+3,8
Expenditure groups - Very low	12,38	135,6	139,5	140,1	+0,4	+3,3
Low	15,45	134,4	138,4	138,9	+0,4	+3,3
Middle	26,43	133,2	137,3	137,9	+0,4	+3,5
High	20,18	132,5	136,9	137,5	+0,4	+3,8
Very high	25,56	130,8	136,2	136,6	+0,3	+4,4
Commodities	82,35	132,2	136,5	136,8	+0,2	+3,5
Services	17,65	133,7	139,5	140,7	+0,9	+5,2
CPIX: All items, excluding housing	96,98	132,1	136,7	137,3	+0,4	+3,9
CPIX: All items, excluding food	56,30	127,5	131,8	132,7	+0,7	+4,1
Food	43,70	139,3	144,4	144,4	0,0	+3,7
Expenditure groups - Very low	62,27	137,4	141,4	141,5	+0,1	+3,0
Low	59,07	137,7	142,1	142,2	+0,1	+3,3
Middle	53,26	138,7	143,9	144,0	+0,1	+3,8
High	40,37	140,8	146,6	146,7	+0,1	+4,2
Very high	18,15	141,6	147,0	146,9	-0,1	+3,7
Processed	21,56	142,2	145,6	145,7	+0,1	+2,5
Unprocessed	22,14	136,5	143,2	143,2	0,0	+4,9
Grain products	16,63	124,3	125,4	125,7	+0,2	+1,1
Meat	8,13	145,9	160,9	160,9	0,0	+10,3
Fish and other seafood	1,19	145,5	150,6	149,3	-0,9	+2,6
Milk, cheese and eggs	2,59	150,4	154,1	153,6	-0,3	+2,1
Fats and oils	1,41	158,3	153,0	150,9	-1,4	-4,7
Fruit and nuts	1,41	169,1	183,7	183,6	-0,1	+8,6
Vegetables	3,48	135,7	134,9	135,1	+0,1	-0,4
Sugar	2,48	135,0	141,1	142,6	+1,1	+5,6
Coffee, tea and cocoa	1,57	126,9	129,5	129,6	+0,1	+2,1
Other	4,81	148,3	152,4	152,5	+0,1	+2,8
Non-alcoholic beverages	1,75	145,0	146,6	150,5	+2,7	+3,8
Alcoholic beverages	2,32	147,7	154,5	160,4	+3,8	+8,6
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	1,04	161,3	167,1	172,9	+3,5	+7,2
Clothing and footwear	5,49	97,2	91,8	92,0	+0,2	-5,3
Clothing	3,40	97,3	92,7	92,7	0,0	-4,7
Footwear	2,09	97,0	90,4	90,9	+0,6	-6,3
Housing	3,02	149,0	153,6	154,0	+0,3	+3,4
Fuel and power	6,17	124,5	132,9	133,0	+0,1	+6,8
Furniture and equipment	4,53	113,0	112,7	111,8	-0,8	-1,1
Furniture	2,16	122,8	123,3	122,2	-0,9	-0,5
Appliances	0,95	109,3	108,4	107,3	-1,0	-1,8
Other household equipment and textiles	1,42	103,5	102,5	102,1	-0,4	-1,4
Household operation	5,87	147,7	164,2	164,7	+0,3	+11,5
Household consumables	3,53	142,7	147,3	148,4	+0,7	+4,0
Domestic workers	2,02	154,5	183,0	183,0	0,0	+18,4
Other household services	0,32	113,6	115,8	115,4	-0,3	+1,6
Medical care and health expenses	3,11	153,0	162,2	162,8	+0,4	+6,4
Transport	9,45	118,0	123,9	123,2	-0,6	+4,4
Vehicles	2,63	112,9	112,8	112,6	-0,2	-0,3
Running cost	4,10	131,3	145,4	143,9	-1,0	+9,6
Public and hired transport	2,72	102,2	102,4	102,4	0,0	+0,2
Communication	1,13	129,2	125,8	125,8	0,0	-2,6
Recreation and entertainment	1,28	94,0	92,5	91,8	-0,8	-2,3
Reading matter	0,29	122,2	124,7	125,1	+0,3	+2,4
Education	3,04	154,3	154,3	164,4	+6,5	+6,5
Personal care	5,14	139,4	142,1	142,3	+0,1	+2,1
Other	2,67	96,0	95,9	96,1	+0,2	+0,1

Table 1.11 - Consumer Price Index group and product indices classified according to COICOP¹⁾ and percentage change for the rural areas

Group/Product	Weights	Indices (2000=100)			Percentage change between	
		Mar 2005	Feb 2006	Mar 2006	Feb 2006 and Mar 2006	Mar 2005 and Mar 2006
CPI: All items	100,00	129,8	134,0	134,5	+0,4	+3,6
Expenditure groups - Very low	12,19	135,4	139,2	139,8	+0,4	+3,2
Low	15,22	134,2	138,3	138,8	+0,4	+3,4
Middle	26,12	132,7	136,8	137,4	+0,4	+3,5
High	19,87	132,4	136,7	137,3	+0,4	+3,7
Very high	26,60	125,0	129,2	129,7	+0,4	+3,8
Commodities	81,08	131,9	136,1	136,4	+0,2	+3,4
Services	18,92	124,6	128,8	129,8	+0,8	+4,2
CPI: All items, excluding housing	95,48	130,7	135,1	135,6	+0,4	+3,7
CPI: All items, excluding food	58,54	123,0	126,7	127,5	+0,6	+3,7
Food, beverages and tobacco	48,03	140,5	145,5	146,1	+0,4	+4,0
Food excluding coffee, tea and cocoa	41,46	139,5	144,6	144,7	+0,1	+3,7
Grain products	16,36	124,3	125,4	125,7	+0,2	+1,1
Meat	8,00	145,9	160,9	160,9	0,0	+10,3
Fish and other seafood	1,17	145,5	150,6	149,3	-0,9	+2,6
Milk, cheese and eggs	2,55	150,4	154,1	153,6	-0,3	+2,1
Fats and oils	1,39	158,3	153,0	150,9	-1,4	-4,7
Fruit and nuts	1,39	169,1	183,7	183,6	-0,1	+8,6
Vegetables	3,42	135,7	134,9	135,1	+0,1	-0,4
Sugar	2,44	135,0	141,1	142,6	+1,1	+5,6
Other	4,74	148,3	152,4	152,5	+0,1	+2,8
Beverages	5,54	141,0	145,0	148,7	+2,6	+5,5
Coffee, tea and cocoa	1,55	126,9	129,5	129,6	+0,1	+2,1
Non-alcoholic beverages	1,72	145,0	146,6	150,5	+2,7	+3,8
Alcoholic beverages	2,27	147,7	154,5	160,4	+3,8	+8,6
Tobacco						
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	1,03	161,3	167,1	172,9	+3,5	+7,2
Clothing and footwear	5,40	96,7	91,8	92,0	+0,2	-4,9
Clothing	3,34	96,4	92,7	92,7	0,0	-3,8
Footwear	2,06	97,0	90,4	90,9	+0,6	-6,3
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	10,58	124,5	129,9	130,0	+0,1	+4,4
Housing	4,52	116,9	118,0	118,3	+0,3	+1,2
Fuel and power	6,06	124,5	132,9	133,0	+0,1	+6,8
Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house	10,24	132,1	141,3	141,1	-0,1	+6,8
Furniture and equipment	4,46	112,9	112,6	111,7	-0,8	-1,1
Furniture	2,13	122,8	123,3	122,2	-0,9	-0,5
Appliances	0,94	109,2	108,3	107,1	-1,1	-1,9
Other household equipment and textiles	1,39	103,5	102,5	102,1	-0,4	-1,4
Household operation	5,78	147,7	164,2	164,7	+0,3	+11,5
Household consumables	3,48	142,7	147,3	148,4	+0,7	+4,0
Domestic workers	1,98	154,5	183,0	183,0	0,0	+18,4
Other household services	0,32	113,6	115,8	115,4	-0,3	+1,6
Health (Medical care and health expenses)	3,07	153,0	162,2	162,8	+0,4	+6,4
Transport	9,29	116,2	121,2	120,7	-0,4	+3,9
Vehicles	2,59	112,6	112,6	112,5	-0,1	-0,1
Running cost	4,02	127,1	139,1	137,9	-0,9	+8,5
Public and hired transport	2,68	102,2	102,3	102,3	0,0	+0,1
Leisure, entertainment and culture	1,55	99,8	99,0	98,5	-0,5	-1,3
Recreation and entertainment	1,26	93,8	92,3	91,6	-0,8	-2,3
Reading matter	0,29	122,0	124,5	124,9	+0,3	+2,4
Education	2,99	154,3	154,3	164,4	+6,5	+6,5
Miscellaneous goods and services	8,85	118,1	119,0	119,1	+0,1	+0,8
Communication	1,17	129,8	126,4	126,4	0,0	-2,6
Personal care	5,06	139,4	142,1	142,3	+0,1	+2,1
Other	2,62	96,4	95,9	96,1	+0,2	-0,3

1) COICOP = Classification of individual consumption by purpose

TOTAL COUNTRY

TOTAL COUNTRY

KEY FIGURES AT MARCH 2006

Table B – Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the inflation rate for the total country according to main indices

Main indices	Indices (2000=100)			Percentage change between	
	March 2005	February 2006	March 2006	February 2006 and March 2006	March 2005 and March 2006
				Actual %	Actual %
CPI	128,7	132,5	133,1	+ 0,5	+ 3,4
CPI excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX)	134,3	138,9	139,5	+ 0,4	+ 3,9
Core index	133,7	137,4	137,5	+ 0,1	+ 2,8
Food price index	138,3	144,4	144,8	+ 0,3	+ 4,7
CPI excluding food price index	125,5	128,5	129,2	+ 0,5	+ 2,9
CPI excluding Value Added Tax (VAT)	128,7	132,5	133,1	+ 0,5	+ 3,4

KEY FINDINGS AT MARCH 2006

The inflation rate for the total country is 3,4% at March 2006 (i.e. the CPI at March 2006 compared with that at March 2005)

The inflation rate for the total country is 3,4% at March 2006 (i.e. the CPI at March 2006 compared with that at March 2005). This rate is 0,5 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 3,9% at February 2006 (see table 2.2.1, p.22). This lower rate at March 2006 can be explained by decreases in the annual rates of change for:

- *The CPI for transport for which the rate decreased from 9,2% at February 2006 to a lower rate of 5,6% at March 2006.*
- *The CPI for education for which the rate decreased from 8,0% at February 2006 to a lower rate of 6,9% at March 2006.*
- *The CPI for medical care and health expenses for which the rate decreased from 6,1% at February 2006 to a lower rate of 5,6% at March 2006.*
- *The CPI for housing for which the rate decreased from 1,0% at February 2006 to a lower rate of 0,9% at March 2006.*

However, these decreases were partially counteracted by an increase in the annual rate of change for:

- *The CPI for food for which the rate increased from 4,2% at February 2006 to a higher rate of 4,7% at March 2006.*

From February 2006 to March 2006 the Consumer Price Index for the total country increased by 0,5%.

The annual increase of 3,4% in the Consumer Price Index for the total country is mainly due to relatively large annual contributions in the price indices for food (+ 1,3 percentage points), transport (+ 0,7 percentage points), medical care and health expenses (+ 0,4 of a percentage point), household operation (+ 0,3 of a percentage point) and alcoholic beverages (+ 0,2 of a percentage point). These annual increases were slightly counteracted by an annual decrease in the price index for clothing and footwear (- 0,1 of a percentage point) (see table 2.3, p.23).

From February 2006 to March 2006 the Consumer Price Index for the total country increased by 0,5%. This monthly increase was due to monthly contributions in the price indices for education (+ 0,3 of a percentage point), food (+ 0,1 of a percentage point) and alcoholic beverages (+ 0,1 of a percentage point) (see table 2.4, p.23).

The annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX) for the total country is 3,9% at March 2006 (i.e. the CPIX at March 2006 compared with that at March 2005)

The annual percentage change in the CPIX, which is the Consumer Price Index excluding the interest rates on mortgage bonds, for the total country is 3,9% at March 2006 (i.e. the CPIX at March 2006 compared with that at March 2005). This rate is 0,5 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 4,4% at February 2006. From February 2006 to March 2006 the CPIX for the total country increased by 0,4%.

The annual increase of 3,9% in the Consumer Price Index excluding the interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX) for the total country is mainly due to relatively large annual contributions in the price indices for food (+ 1,3 percentage points), transport (+ 0,7 of a percentage point), medical care and health expenses (+ 0,5 of a percentage point), housing, excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (+ 0,4 of a percentage point), household operation (+ 0,3 of a percentage point), alcoholic beverages (+ 0,2 of a percentage point) and education (+ 0,2 of a percentage point). These annual increases were slightly counteracted by an annual decrease in the price index for clothing and footwear (- 0,1 of a percentage point) (see table 2.5, p.23).

From February 2006 to March 2006 the Consumer Price Index excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX) for the total country increased by 0,4%. This monthly increase was due to monthly contributions in the price indices for education (+ 0,2 of a percentage point), food (+ 0,1 of a percentage point) and alcoholic beverages (+ 0,1 of a percentage point) (see table 2.6, p.23).

Core inflation rate

The core inflation rate for the total country (see explanatory notes 33, 34 and 35 on page 37) is 2,8% at March 2006 (i.e. the core index at March 2006 compared with that at March 2005). This rate is 1,1 percentage points lower than the corresponding rate of 3,9% at February 2006. From February 2006 to March 2006 the core index for the total country increased by 0,1%.

The annual increase of 2,8% in the core index, for the total country is mainly due to relatively large annual contributions in the price indices for transport (+ 1,0 percentage point), medical care and health expenses (+ 0,6 of a percentage point), household operation (+ 0,4 of a percentage point), food (+ 0,3 of a percentage point) and housing (+ 0,3 of a percentage point). These annual increases were slightly counteracted by annual decreases in the price indices for clothing and footwear (- 0,2 of a percentage point) and recreation and entertainment (- 0,1 of a percentage point) (see table 2.7, p.24).

From February 2006 to March 2006 the core index for the total country increased by 0,1%. This monthly increase was due to a monthly contribution in the price index for alcoholic beverages (+ 0,1 of a percentage point) (see table 2.8, p.24).

Food inflation

The price index for food for the total country reflects an annual rate of increase of 4,7% at March 2006 (i.e. the CPI for food at March 2006 compared with that at March 2005). This rate is 0,5 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding annual rate of 4,2% at February 2006. From February 2006 to March 2006 this index increased by 0,3%.

Annual increases occurred in the price indices for fruit and nuts (+ 11,2%), meat (+ 10,3%), sugar (+ 6,0%), fish and other seafood (+ 5,6%), vegetables (+ 3,1%), milk, cheese and eggs (+ 2,5%), coffee, tea and cocoa (+ 2,3%), "other" food products (+ 1,9%) and grain products (+ 1,7%). These annual increases were slightly counteracted by an annual decrease in the price index for fats and oils (- 3,7%) (see table 2.9, p.25).

Monthly increases occurred in the price indices for vegetables (+ 1,5%), fruit and nuts (+ 1,1%), sugar (+ 0,9%), meat (+ 0,3%), grain products (+ 0,2%) and coffee, tea and cocoa (+ 0,2%). These monthly increases were slightly counteracted by monthly decreases in the price indices for and fats and oils (- 0,7%), fish and other seafood (- 0,2%) and milk, cheese and eggs (- 0,2%) (see table 2.9, p.25).

Price index for CPI excluding food

The price index for non-food items reflects an annual rate of increase of 2,9% at March 2006 (i.e. the CPI excluding food items at March 2006 compared with that at March 2005), which is 0,8 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 3,7% at February 2006. From February 2006 to March 2006 this index increased by 0,5%.

Annual increases occurred in the price indices for alcoholic beverages (+ 8,5%), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+ 7,8%), education (+ 6,9%), medical care and health expenses (+ 5,6%), transport (+ 5,6%), household operation (+ 5,4%), non-alcoholic beverages (+ 4,7%), reading matter (+ 3,0%), fuel and power (+ 2,8%), personal care (+ 2,5%) and housing (+ 0,9%). These annual increases were slightly counteracted by annual decreases in the price indices for clothing and footwear (- 5,5%), communication (- 2,3%), furniture and equipment (- 1,7%), recreation and entertainment (- 0,5%) and "other" products (- 0,1%) (see table 2.9, p.25).

Relatively large monthly increases occurred in the price indices for education (+ 6,9%), cigarettes, cigars and tobacco (+ 4,0%), alcoholic beverages (+ 3,7%) and non-alcoholic beverages (+ 2,9%). These monthly increases were slightly counteracted by monthly decreases in the price indices for clothing and footwear (- 0,7%), furniture and equipment (- 0,6%), transport (- 0,6%, mainly due to a 11c/l decrease in the price of petrol) and recreation and entertainment (- 0,3%) (see table 2.9, p.25).

Area indices

The Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage area recorded the highest annual inflation rate of 5,7%, while the lowest annual inflation rate of 1,8% was recorded for the rural areas of Free State (see table 2.12, p.28).

Regarding food prices, the highest annual inflation rate of 10,2% was recorded for the Bloemfontein area, while the lowest annual inflation rate of 2,0% was recorded for the rural areas of the Eastern Cape (see table 2.13, p.29).

Pensioners

The Bloemfontein area recorded the highest annual rate of increase of 6,9%, while the lowest annual rate of change of 2,1% was recorded for the rural areas of Gauteng (see table 2.16, p.32).

Table 2.1 - Expenditure group and area indices of the Consumer Price Index and percentage change for the total country

Expenditure group/Area indices	Indices (2000=100)			Percentage change between	
	Mar 2005	Feb 2006	Mar 2006	Feb 2006 and Mar 2006	Mar 2005 and Mar 2006
				Actual %	Actual %
Expenditure group indices					
Very low expenditure	135,4	139,7	140,3	+0,4	+3,6
Low expenditure	134,7	138,9	139,5	+0,4	+3,6
Middle expenditure	134,1	138,1	138,9	+0,6	+3,6
High expenditure	133,6	137,6	138,3	+0,5	+3,5
Very high expenditure	126,3	130,0	130,5	+0,4	+3,3
All expenditure groups	128,7	132,5	133,1	+0,5	+3,4
CPI excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX)	134,3	138,9	139,5	+0,4	+3,9
Core index	133,7	137,4	137,5	+0,1	+2,8
Food only index	138,3	144,4	144,8	+0,3	+4,7
CPI excluding food	125,5	128,5	129,2	+0,5	+2,9
CPI for administered prices	133,5	140,7	141,8	+0,8	+6,2
CPI for regulated prices	125,8	134,5	133,6	-0,7	+6,2
CPI for administered prices that are not regulated	152,5	155,8	162,0	+4,0	+6,2
CPIX for administered prices	133,5	140,7	141,8	+0,8	+6,2
CPIX for regulated prices	125,8	134,5	133,6	-0,7	+6,2
CPIX for administered prices that are not regulated	152,5	155,7	161,9	+4,0	+6,2
CPI excluding VAT	128,7	132,5	133,1	+0,5	+3,4

Table 2.2.1 - The Consumer Price Index and the annual inflation rate on a monthly basis for the total country

Base year: 2000=100

Year	Index	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ave.
2004	Index	123,8	124,4	125,2	125,5	125,6	125,8	126,1	125,9	125,9	126,4	127,1	126,9	125,7
	% 1)	+0,6	+1,1	+0,8	+0,8	+1,0	+1,3	+1,5	+1,0	+1,4	+2,3	+3,5	+3,3	+1,5 2)
2005	Index	127,4	127,5	128,7	129,3	129,3	129,0	130,2	130,6	130,9	131,2	131,1	131,3	129,7
	% 1)	+2,9	+2,5	+2,8	+3,0	+2,9	+2,5	+3,3	+3,7	+4,0	+3,8	+3,1	+3,5	+3,2 2)
2006	Index	132,1	132,5	133,1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	% 1)	+3,7	+3,9	+3,4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.. 2)

Table 2.2.2 - The Consumer Price Index excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX) and the annual Inflation rate on a monthly basis for the total country

Base year: 2000=100

Year	Index	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ave.
2004	Index	128,6	129,3	130,2	130,5	130,6	130,8	131,1	130,8	131,2	131,8	132,6	132,4	130,8
	% 1)	+3,8	+4,4	+4,2	+4,1	+4,2	+4,6	+3,9	+3,3	+3,4	+3,9	+4,2	+4,1	+4,0 2)
2005	Index	133,0	133,1	134,3	135,0	135,3	135,0	136,4	136,8	137,1	137,4	137,3	137,5	135,7
	% 1)	+3,4	+2,9	+3,1	+3,4	+3,6	+3,2	+4,0	+4,6	+4,5	+4,2	+3,5	+3,9	+3,7 2)
2006	Index	138,5	138,9	139,5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	% 1)	+4,1	+4,4	+3,9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.. 2)

1) % = annual inflation rate
 2) Average annual inflation rate

Table 2.3 - Contributions of different groups to the annual percentage change in the CPI for the total country

Group	Contribution at February 2006	Contribution at March 2006
Food	1,1	1,3
Non-alcoholic beverages	0,1	0,1
Alcoholic beverages	0,2	0,2
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	0,1	0,1
Clothing and footwear	-0,1	-0,1
Housing	0,2	0,1
Fuel and power	0,1	0,1
Household operation	0,3	0,3
Medical care and health expenses	0,5	0,4
Transport	1,1	0,7
Education	0,2	0,1
Personal care	0,1	0,1
All groups	3,9	3,4

Table 2.4 - Contributions of different groups to the monthly percentage change in the CPI for the total country

Group	Contribution at February 2006	Contribution at March 2006
Food	0,1	0,1
Alcoholic beverages	0,1	0,1
Transport	0,1	0,0
Education	0,0	0,3
All groups	0,3	0,5

Table 2.5 - Contributions of different groups to the annual percentage change in the CPIX for the total country

Group	Contribution at February 2006	Contribution at March 2006
Food	1,2	1,3
Non-alcoholic beverages	0,0	0,1
Alcoholic beverages	0,2	0,2
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	0,1	0,1
Clothing and footwear	-0,1	-0,1
Housing (excl. interest rates on mortgage bonds)	0,4	0,4
Fuel and power	0,2	0,1
Household operation	0,3	0,3
Medical care and health expenses	0,5	0,5
Transport	1,2	0,7
Education	0,3	0,2
Personal care	0,1	0,1
All groups	4,4	3,9

Table 2.6 - Contributions of different groups to the monthly percentage change in the CPIX for the total country

Group	Contribution at February 2006	Contribution at March 2006
Food	0,1	0,1
Alcoholic beverages	0,1	0,1
Transport	0,1	0,0
Education	0,0	0,2
All groups	0,3	0,4

Table 2.7 - Contributions of different groups to the annual percentage change in the Core index for the total country

Group	Contribution at February 2006	Contribution at March 2006
Food	0,1	0,3
Alcoholic beverages	0,2	0,2
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	0,3	0,1
Clothing and footwear	-0,2	-0,2
Housing	0,3	0,3
Fuel and power	0,1	0,1
Household operation	0,4	0,4
Medical care and health expenses	0,6	0,6
Transport	1,6	1,0
Recreation and entertainment	-0,1	-0,1
Education	0,5	0,1
Personal care	0,1	0,0
All groups	3,9	2,8

Table 2.8 - Contributions of different groups to the monthly percentage change in the Core index for the total country

Group	Contribution at February 2006	Contribution at March 2006
Food	0,1	0,0
Alcoholic beverages	0,0	0,1
Transport	0,1	0,0
All groups	0,2	0,1

Table 2.9 - Consumer Price Index group and product indices and percentage change for the total country

Group/Product	Weights	Indices (2000=100)			Percentage change between	
		Mar 2005	Feb 2006	Mar 2006	Feb 2006 and Mar 2006	Mar 2005 and Mar 2006
		CPI: All items	100,00	128,7	132,5	133,1	+0,5	+3,4
Expenditure groups - Very low	2,63	135,4	139,7	140,3	+0,4	+3,6
Low	3,83	134,7	138,9	139,5	+0,4	+3,6
Middle	10,46	134,1	138,1	138,9	+0,6	+3,6
High	17,62	133,6	137,6	138,3	+0,5	+3,5
Very high	65,46	126,3	130,0	130,5	+0,4	+3,3
Commodities	61,89	130,9	135,7	136,0	+0,2	+3,9
Services	38,11	125,3	127,6	128,6	+0,8	+2,6
CPI: All items, excluding housing	81,38	131,6	136,1	136,7	+0,4	+3,9
CPI: All items, excluding food	74,56	125,5	128,5	129,2	+0,5	+2,9
Food	25,44	138,3	144,4	144,8	+0,3	+4,7
Expenditure groups - Very low	57,58	137,2	142,0	142,3	+0,2	+3,7
Low	54,91	137,7	142,9	143,3	+0,3	+4,1
Middle	46,50	138,3	144,3	144,7	+0,3	+4,6
High	34,28	139,0	145,4	145,8	+0,3	+4,9
Very high	16,68	138,3	144,5	145,0	+0,3	+4,8
Processed	13,78	138,3	141,6	141,8	+0,1	+2,5
Unprocessed	11,66	138,4	147,8	148,4	+0,4	+7,2
Grain products	5,44	129,0	130,9	131,2	+0,2	+1,7
Meat	6,44	143,0	157,3	157,7	+0,3	+10,3
Fish and other seafood	0,72	139,0	147,1	146,8	-0,2	+5,6
Milk, cheese and eggs	2,20	150,2	154,3	154,0	-0,2	+2,5
Fats and oils	0,93	143,6	139,3	138,3	-0,7	-3,7
Fruit and nuts	1,16	143,2	157,5	159,3	+1,1	+11,2
Vegetables	2,42	133,8	135,9	137,9	+1,5	+3,1
Sugar	0,85	133,1	139,9	141,1	+0,9	+6,0
Coffee, tea and cocoa	1,27	121,9	124,4	124,7	+0,2	+2,3
Other	4,01	142,6	145,3	145,3	0,0	+1,9
Non-alcoholic beverages	1,16	142,6	145,1	149,3	+2,9	+4,7
Alcoholic beverages	1,62	149,7	156,6	162,4	+3,7	+8,5
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	1,24	165,0	170,9	177,8	+4,0	+7,8
Clothing and footwear	3,87	96,1	91,4	90,8	-0,7	-5,5
Clothing	2,41	97,5	93,6	93,1	-0,5	-4,5
Footwear	1,46	94,0	87,8	87,1	-0,8	-7,3
Housing	18,62	117,0	117,9	118,0	+0,1	+0,9
Fuel and power	4,08	131,3	134,9	135,0	+0,1	+2,8
Furniture and equipment	2,94	116,0	114,7	114,0	-0,6	-1,7
Furniture	1,14	124,0	123,0	122,1	-0,7	-1,5
Appliances	0,85	115,4	113,1	112,4	-0,6	-2,6
Other household equipment and textiles	0,95	106,6	106,1	105,5	-0,6	-1,0
Household operation	4,75	138,3	145,5	145,7	+0,1	+5,4
Household consumables	1,54	136,8	141,5	141,9	+0,3	+3,7
Domestic workers	3,08	139,9	148,7	148,7	0,0	+6,3
Other household services	0,13	112,6	114,9	114,7	-0,2	+1,9
Medical care and health expenses	6,46	154,6	163,1	163,3	+0,1	+5,6
Transport	13,22	121,8	129,4	128,6	-0,6	+5,6
Vehicles	4,81	115,5	115,1	115,1	0,0	-0,3
Running cost	6,22	132,4	148,7	146,9	-1,2	+11,0
Public and hired transport	2,19	105,7	106,2	106,2	0,0	+0,5
Communication	2,71	127,7	124,7	124,7	0,0	-2,3
Recreation and entertainment	2,83	95,6	95,4	95,1	-0,3	-0,5
Reading matter	0,34	126,5	129,8	130,3	+0,4	+3,0
Education	3,22	157,2	157,2	168,1	+6,9	+6,9
Personal care	4,04	134,2	137,5	137,6	+0,1	+2,5
Other	3,46	99,8	99,7	99,7	0,0	-0,1

Table 2.10 - Consumer Price Index, excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX), group and product indices and percentage change for the total country

Group/Product	Weights	Indices (2000=100)			Percentage change between	
		Mar 2005	Feb 2006	Mar 2006	Feb 2006 and Mar 2006	Mar 2005 and Mar 2006
CPIX: All items	100,00	134,3	138,9	139,5	+0,4	+3,9
Expenditure groups - Very low	2,90	135,8	140,1	140,8	+0,5	+3,7
Low	4,19	135,0	139,1	139,8	+0,5	+3,6
Middle	11,36	134,5	138,6	139,4	+0,6	+3,6
High	18,55	135,2	139,5	140,2	+0,5	+3,7
Very high	63,00	134,0	138,7	139,3	+0,4	+4,0
Commodities	68,04	131,1	135,9	136,2	+0,2	+3,9
Services	31,96	141,5	145,6	146,9	+0,9	+3,8
CPIX: All items, excluding housing	89,47	131,6	136,1	136,8	+0,5	+4,0
CPIX: All items, excluding food	72,04	132,9	136,9	137,6	+0,5	+3,5
Food	27,96	138,3	144,4	144,8	+0,3	+4,7
Expenditure groups - Very low	57,67	137,2	142,0	142,3	+0,2	+3,7
Low	55,10	137,7	142,9	143,3	+0,3	+4,1
Middle	47,07	138,3	144,3	144,7	+0,3	+4,6
High	35,80	139,0	145,4	145,8	+0,3	+4,9
Very high	19,05	138,3	144,5	145,0	+0,3	+4,8
Processed	15,15	138,3	141,6	141,8	+0,1	+2,5
Unprocessed	12,81	138,4	147,8	148,4	+0,4	+7,2
Grain products	5,99	129,0	130,9	131,2	+0,2	+1,7
Meat	7,07	143,0	157,3	157,7	+0,3	+10,3
Fish and other seafood	0,79	139,0	147,1	146,8	-0,2	+5,6
Milk, cheese and eggs	2,42	150,2	154,3	154,0	-0,2	+2,5
Fats and oils	1,02	143,6	139,3	138,3	-0,7	-3,7
Fruit and nuts	1,27	143,2	157,5	159,3	+1,1	+11,2
Vegetables	2,66	133,8	135,9	137,9	+1,5	+3,1
Sugar	0,93	133,1	139,9	141,1	+0,9	+6,0
Coffee, tea and cocoa	1,40	121,9	124,4	124,7	+0,2	+2,3
Other	4,41	142,6	145,3	145,3	0,0	+1,9
Non-alcoholic beverages	1,28	142,6	145,1	149,3	+2,9	+4,7
Alcoholic beverages	1,78	149,7	156,6	162,4	+3,7	+8,5
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	1,36	165,0	170,9	177,8	+4,0	+7,8
Clothing and footwear	4,26	96,3	91,4	90,8	-0,7	-5,7
Clothing	2,65	97,6	93,6	93,1	-0,5	-4,6
Footwear	1,61	94,0	87,8	87,1	-0,8	-7,3
Housing	10,53	158,2	163,5	163,7	+0,1	+3,5
Fuel and power	4,48	131,3	134,9	135,0	+0,1	+2,8
Furniture and equipment	3,23	116,0	114,8	114,0	-0,7	-1,7
Furniture	1,26	124,0	123,0	122,1	-0,7	-1,5
Appliances	0,93	115,5	113,1	112,4	-0,6	-2,7
Other household equipment and textiles	1,04	106,6	106,1	105,5	-0,6	-1,0
Household operation	5,22	138,3	145,5	145,7	+0,1	+5,4
Household consumables	1,70	136,8	141,5	141,9	+0,3	+3,7
Domestic workers	3,38	139,9	148,7	148,7	0,0	+6,3
Other household services	0,14	112,6	114,9	114,7	-0,2	+1,9
Medical care and health expenses	7,11	154,6	163,1	163,3	+0,1	+5,6
Transport	14,53	122,5	130,0	129,2	-0,6	+5,5
Vehicles	5,29	115,6	115,1	115,1	0,0	-0,4
Running cost	6,83	133,6	149,9	148,1	-1,2	+10,9
Public and hired transport	2,41	105,8	106,2	106,2	0,0	+0,4
Communication	2,98	127,7	124,7	124,7	0,0	-2,3
Recreation and entertainment	3,11	95,8	95,7	95,3	-0,4	-0,5
Reading matter	0,38	126,9	130,3	130,7	+0,3	+3,0
Education	3,54	157,2	157,2	168,1	+6,9	+6,9
Personal care	4,44	134,2	137,5	137,6	+0,1	+2,5
Other	3,81	99,7	99,7	99,7	0,0	0,0

Table 2.11 - Consumer Price Index group and product indices classified according to COICOP¹⁾ and percentage change for the total country

Group/Product	Weights	Indices (2000=100)			Percentage change between	
		Mar 2005	Feb 2006	Mar 2006	Feb 2006 and Mar 2006	Mar 2005 and Mar 2006
CPI: All items	100,00	128,7	132,5	133,1	+0,5	+3,4
Expenditure groups - Very low	2,63	135,4	139,7	140,3	+0,4	+3,6
Low	3,83	134,7	138,9	139,5	+0,4	+3,6
Middle	10,46	134,1	138,1	138,9	+0,6	+3,6
High	17,62	133,6	137,6	138,3	+0,5	+3,5
Very high	65,46	126,3	130,0	130,5	+0,4	+3,3
Commodities	61,89	130,9	135,7	136,0	+0,2	+3,9
Services	38,11	125,3	127,6	128,6	+0,8	+2,6
CPI: All items, excluding housing	81,38	131,6	136,1	136,7	+0,4	+3,9
CPI: All items, excluding food	75,83	125,5	128,5	129,2	+0,5	+2,9
Food, beverages and tobacco	29,46	140,4	146,4	147,6	+0,8	+5,1
Food excluding coffee, tea and cocoa	24,17	138,7	144,9	145,4	+0,3	+4,8
Grain products	5,44	129,0	130,9	131,2	+0,2	+1,7
Meat	6,44	143,0	157,3	157,7	+0,3	+10,3
Fish and other seafood	0,72	139,0	147,1	146,8	-0,2	+5,6
Milk, cheese and eggs	2,20	150,2	154,3	154,0	-0,2	+2,5
Fats and oils	0,93	143,6	139,3	138,3	-0,7	-3,7
Fruit and nuts	1,16	143,2	157,5	159,3	+1,1	+11,2
Vegetables	2,42	133,8	135,9	137,9	+1,5	+3,1
Sugar	0,85	133,1	139,9	141,1	+0,9	+6,0
Other	4,01	142,6	145,3	145,3	0,0	+1,9
Beverages	4,05	139,3	143,5	147,1	+2,5	+5,6
Coffee, tea and cocoa	1,27	121,9	124,4	124,7	+0,2	+2,3
Non-alcoholic beverages	1,16	142,6	145,1	149,3	+2,9	+4,7
Alcoholic beverages	1,62	149,7	156,6	162,4	+3,7	+8,5
Tobacco						
Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco	1,24	165,0	170,9	177,8	+4,0	+7,8
Clothing and footwear	3,87	96,1	91,4	90,8	-0,7	-5,5
Clothing	2,41	97,5	93,6	93,1	-0,5	-4,5
Footwear	1,46	94,0	87,8	87,1	-0,8	-7,3
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	22,70	119,5	120,9	121,0	+0,1	+1,3
Housing	18,62	117,0	117,9	118,0	+0,1	+0,9
Fuel and power	4,08	131,3	134,9	135,0	+0,1	+2,8
Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house	7,69	129,0	133,0	132,8	-0,2	+2,9
Furniture and equipment	2,94	116,0	114,7	114,0	-0,6	-1,7
Furniture	1,14	124,0	123,0	122,1	-0,7	-1,5
Appliances	0,85	115,4	113,1	112,4	-0,6	-2,6
Other household equipment and textiles	0,95	106,6	106,1	105,5	-0,6	-1,0
Household operation	4,75	138,3	145,5	145,7	+0,1	+5,4
Household consumables	1,54	136,8	141,5	141,9	+0,3	+3,7
Domestic workers	3,08	139,9	148,7	148,7	0,0	+6,3
Other household services	0,13	112,6	114,9	114,7	-0,2	+1,9
Health (Medical care and health expenses)	6,46	154,6	163,1	163,3	+0,1	+5,6
Transport	13,22	121,8	129,4	128,6	-0,6	+5,6
Vehicles	4,81	115,5	115,1	115,1	0,0	-0,3
Running cost	6,22	132,4	148,7	146,9	-1,2	+11,0
Public and hired transport	2,19	105,7	106,2	106,2	0,0	+0,5
Leisure, entertainment and culture	3,17	101,1	101,3	101,1	-0,2	0,0
Recreation and entertainment	2,83	95,6	95,4	95,1	-0,3	-0,5
Reading matter	0,34	126,5	129,8	130,3	+0,4	+3,0
Education	3,22	157,2	157,2	168,1	+6,9	+6,9
Miscellaneous goods and services	10,21	116,3	116,8	116,8	0,0	+0,4
Communication	2,71	127,7	124,7	124,7	0,0	-2,3
Personal care	4,04	134,2	137,5	137,6	+0,1	+2,5
Other	3,46	99,8	99,7	99,7	0,0	-0,1

1) COICOP = Classification of individual consumption by purpose

Table 2.12 - Consumer Price Index and percentage change according to area

Urban area	Weights	Indices (2000=100)			Percentage change between	
		Mar 2005	Feb 2006	Mar 2006	Feb 2006 and Mar 2006	Mar 2005 and Mar 2006
		Western Cape (Province)	15,35	129,7	132,9	133,5	+0,5	+2,9
Western Cape (excluding rural)	14,55	128,3	131,4	132,0	+0,5	+2,9
Cape Peninsula	9,81	126,7	129,2	129,9	+0,5	+2,5
Other urban areas	4,74	130,7	134,9	135,4	+0,4	+3,6
Rural areas	0,80	134,7	139,4	139,8	+0,3	+3,8
Eastern Cape (Province)	10,95	130,4	134,8	135,2	+0,3	+3,7
Eastern Cape (excluding rural)	4,46	129,3	134,7	135,3	+0,4	+4,6
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	1,88	128,7	135,3	136,0	+0,5	+5,7
East London	0,91	128,9	134,2	134,8	+0,4	+4,6
Other urban areas	1,67	130,2	134,4	134,7	+0,2	+3,5
Rural areas	6,49	131,3	135,0	135,3	+0,2	+3,0
Northern Cape (Province)	2,13	131,9	136,0	136,6	+0,4	+3,6
Northern Cape (excluding rural)	0,83	130,5	135,3	136,0	+0,5	+4,2
Kimberley	0,34	130,9	135,6	136,5	+0,7	+4,3
Other urban areas	0,49	131,2	136,0	136,6	+0,4	+4,1
Rural areas	1,30	132,7	136,4	136,9	+0,4	+3,2
Free State (Province)	4,94	121,7	125,6	126,5	+0,7	+3,9
Free State (excluding rural)	3,94	123,4	127,9	128,9	+0,8	+4,5
Bloemfontein	1,31	124,0	129,1	130,5	+1,1	+5,2
Free State Goldfields	1,00	125,0	130,8	131,6	+0,6	+5,3
Other urban areas	1,63	122,1	125,2	126,1	+0,7	+3,3
Rural areas	1,00	113,5	114,9	115,5	+0,5	+1,8
KwaZulu-Natal (Province)	18,89	128,6	132,6	133,0	+0,3	+3,4
KwaZulu-Natal (excluding rural)	16,90	127,6	131,5	131,9	+0,3	+3,4
Durban/Pinetown	5,94	127,9	131,9	132,6	+0,5	+3,7
Pietermaritzburg	1,11	128,9	134,1	135,0	+0,7	+4,7
Other urban areas	9,85	127,1	130,8	130,9	+0,1	+3,0
Rural areas	1,99	133,7	138,7	138,9	+0,1	+3,9
North West (Province)	3,70	126,4	131,8	132,4	+0,5	+4,7
North West (excluding rural)	2,16	126,9	132,4	133,0	+0,5	+4,8
Gauteng (Province)	36,39	129,4	132,8	133,4	+0,5	+3,1
Gauteng (excluding rural)	35,47	127,0	130,3	130,9	+0,5	+3,1
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	9,18	126,5	130,7	131,2	+0,4	+3,7
Witwatersrand	20,25	127,2	130,3	130,9	+0,5	+2,9
Other urban areas	6,04	127,9	131,1	131,8	+0,5	+3,0
Rural areas	0,92	130,6	134,1	134,6	+0,4	+3,1
Mpumalanga (Province)	4,29	130,8	135,1	136,0	+0,7	+4,0
Mpumalanga (excluding rural)	2,99	130,0	134,2	135,0	+0,6	+3,8
Nelspruit/Witbank	0,92	125,8	129,2	130,1	+0,7	+3,4
Other urban areas	2,07	131,9	136,4	137,3	+0,7	+4,1
Rural areas	1,30	135,7	140,3	141,2	+0,6	+4,1
Limpopo Province	3,36	125,4	129,1	130,0	+0,7	+3,7
Limpopo Province (excl. rural)	1,22	124,5	127,9	128,6	+0,5	+3,3
Polokwane (Pietersburg)	0,17	118,3	121,4	121,9	+0,4	+3,0
Other urban areas	1,05	127,3	130,9	131,8	+0,7	+3,5
Rural areas	2,14	126,9	130,9	131,8	+0,7	+3,9
CPI for the historical metropolitan areas	52,83	126,9	130,5	131,2	+0,5	+3,4
CPI for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas	82,52	127,5	131,1	131,7	+0,5	+3,3
CPI for the rural areas	17,48	129,8	134,0	134,5	+0,4	+3,6
CPI for the total country	100,00	128,7	132,5	133,1	+0,5	+3,4

Table 2.13 - Food price index and percentage change according to area

Urban area	Weights	Indices (2000=100)			Percentage change between	
		Mar 2005	Feb 2006	Mar 2006	Feb 2006 and Mar 2006	Mar 2005 and Mar 2006
		Western Cape (Province)	14,79	136,9	143,0	143,7	+0,5	+5,0
Western Cape (excluding rural)	13,46	136,3	142,2	143,0	+0,6	+4,9
Cape Peninsula	8,17	137,1	142,2	143,4	+0,8	+4,6
Other urban areas	5,29	137,1	144,3	144,5	+0,1	+5,4
Rural areas	1,33	135,7	142,6	142,7	+0,1	+5,2
Eastern Cape (Province)	12,43	145,2	149,5	149,4	-0,1	+2,9
Eastern Cape (excluding rural)	4,19	142,0	148,4	148,8	+0,3	+4,8
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	1,72	142,9	152,4	153,3	+0,6	+7,3
East London	0,57	140,8	146,3	147,6	+0,9	+4,8
Other urban areas	1,90	142,9	146,9	146,5	-0,3	+2,5
Rural areas	8,24	145,7	148,9	148,6	-0,2	+2,0
Northern Cape (Province)	2,36	137,3	143,7	144,5	+0,6	+5,2
Northern Cape (excluding rural)	0,91	136,5	143,5	144,3	+0,6	+5,7
Kimberley	0,33	138,0	146,7	147,4	+0,5	+6,8
Other urban areas	0,58	137,6	143,7	144,5	+0,6	+5,0
Rural areas	1,45	137,4	143,4	144,2	+0,6	+4,9
Free State (Province)	4,48	136,2	143,5	145,4	+1,3	+6,8
Free State (excluding rural)	3,71	136,3	144,3	146,2	+1,3	+7,3
Bloemfontein	1,14	148,0	159,5	163,1	+2,3	+10,2
Free State Goldfields	0,79	134,2	145,8	146,9	+0,8	+9,5
Other urban areas	1,78	132,2	136,5	138,0	+1,1	+4,4
Rural areas	0,77	131,1	135,2	136,4	+0,9	+4,0
KwaZulu-Natal (Province)	20,28	140,0	145,9	145,6	-0,2	+4,0
KwaZulu-Natal (excluding rural)	16,08	142,1	148,2	147,9	-0,2	+4,1
Durban/Pinetown	5,11	143,0	147,3	147,9	+0,4	+3,4
Pietermaritzburg	1,26	140,4	145,7	146,9	+0,8	+4,6
Other urban areas	9,71	141,8	148,8	147,9	-0,6	+4,3
Rural areas	4,20	138,1	143,8	143,4	-0,3	+3,8
North West (Province)	4,34	134,2	142,3	142,5	+0,1	+6,2
North West (excluding rural)	2,06	136,8	145,1	145,7	+0,4	+6,5
Gauteng (Province)	31,77	135,7	142,2	142,9	+0,5	+5,3
Gauteng (excluding rural)	31,02	135,6	142,2	142,9	+0,5	+5,4
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	6,19	134,3	140,9	141,9	+0,7	+5,7
Witwatersrand	17,94	135,3	142,7	143,5	+0,6	+6,1
Other urban areas	6,89	137,9	142,5	142,7	+0,1	+3,5
Rural areas	0,75	138,4	143,2	143,5	+0,2	+3,7
Mpumalanga (Province)	4,75	147,0	152,3	153,2	+0,6	+4,2
Mpumalanga (excluding rural)	2,75	147,6	153,0	154,0	+0,7	+4,3
Nelspruit/Witbank	0,68	141,5	146,9	148,6	+1,2	+5,0
Other urban areas	2,07	149,8	155,2	156,0	+0,5	+4,1
Rural areas	2,00	146,7	151,8	152,6	+0,5	+4,0
Limpopo Province	4,80	133,9	139,9	140,5	+0,4	+4,9
Limpopo Province (excl. rural)	1,14	141,2	147,1	147,8	+0,5	+4,7
Polokwane (Pietersburg)	0,10	145,9	150,7	151,6	+0,6	+3,9
Other urban areas	1,04	139,1	145,7	146,3	+0,4	+5,2
Rural areas	3,66	130,6	136,7	137,2	+0,4	+5,1
CPI for the historical metropolitan areas	44,03	137,1	143,7	144,6	+0,6	+5,5
CPI for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas	75,32	137,7	144,0	144,6	+0,4	+5,0
CPI for the rural areas	14,68	139,3	144,4	144,4	0,0	+3,7
CPI for the total country	100,00	138,3	144,4	144,8	+0,3	+4,7

Table 2.14 - Consumer Price Index excluding housing and percentage change according to area

Urban area	Weights	Indices (2000=100)			Percentage change between	
		Mar 2005	Feb 2006	Mar 2006	Feb 2006 and Mar 2006	Mar 2005 and Mar 2006
Western Cape (Province)	13,25	131,2	134,9	135,6	+0,5	+3,4
Western Cape (excluding rural)	12,45	130,7	134,4	135,1	+0,5	+3,4
Cape Peninsula	8,12	130,6	133,9	134,7	+0,6	+3,1
Other urban areas	4,33	131,5	136,1	136,6	+0,4	+3,9
Rural areas	0,80	132,5	137,2	137,7	+0,4	+3,9
Eastern Cape (Province)	10,33	134,5	139,7	140,2	+0,4	+4,2
Eastern Cape (excluding rural)	4,26	133,8	140,5	141,2	+0,5	+5,5
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	1,60	135,5	143,9	144,8	+0,6	+6,9
East London	1,16	133,7	140,2	141,1	+0,6	+5,5
Other urban areas	1,50	133,6	138,8	139,2	+0,3	+4,2
Rural areas	6,07	135,5	139,9	140,3	+0,3	+3,5
Northern Cape (Province)	12,40	134,8	139,0	139,7	+0,5	+3,6
Northern Cape (excluding rural)	0,52	132,8	137,9	138,8	+0,7	+4,5
Kimberley	0,08	134,8	140,4	141,6	+0,9	+5,0
Other urban areas	0,44	133,0	137,8	138,5	+0,5	+4,1
Rural areas	11,88	135,3	138,9	139,5	+0,4	+3,1
Free State (Province)	4,51	122,8	126,9	128,0	+0,9	+4,2
Free State (excluding rural)	3,51	125,0	129,8	131,0	+0,9	+4,8
Bloemfontein	1,05	128,6	134,4	136,3	+1,4	+6,0
Free State Goldfields	0,91	126,2	131,8	132,8	+0,8	+5,2
Other urban areas	1,55	122,8	126,4	127,3	+0,7	+3,7
Rural areas	1,00	111,8	113,1	113,8	+0,6	+1,8
KwaZulu-Natal (Province)	16,85	133,1	138,0	138,4	+0,3	+4,0
KwaZulu-Natal (excluding rural)	14,73	132,7	137,6	138,1	+0,4	+4,1
Durban/Pinetown	5,11	132,8	137,3	138,1	+0,6	+4,0
Pietermaritzburg	0,98	133,1	139,2	140,3	+0,8	+5,4
Other urban areas	8,64	132,1	137,0	137,2	+0,1	+3,9
Rural areas	2,12	133,6	138,8	138,9	+0,1	+4,0
North West (Province)	3,46	131,8	137,7	138,4	+0,5	+5,0
North West (excluding rural)	1,88	132,7	139,1	139,8	+0,5	+5,4
Gauteng (Province)	31,81	130,6	134,6	135,4	+0,6	+3,7
Gauteng (excluding rural)	30,96	130,1	134,1	134,8	+0,5	+3,6
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	8,13	129,4	133,9	134,5	+0,4	+3,9
Witwatersrand	17,35	130,5	134,5	135,2	+0,5	+3,6
Other urban areas	5,48	130,1	133,1	134,0	+0,7	+3,0
Rural areas	0,85	130,6	134,5	135,1	+0,4	+3,4
Mpumalanga (Province)	4,03	135,5	140,2	141,2	+0,7	+4,2
Mpumalanga (excluding rural)	2,66	136,2	141,0	142,1	+0,8	+4,3
Nelspruit/Witbank	0,75	133,7	138,6	139,8	+0,9	+4,6
Other urban areas	1,91	137,3	142,1	143,1	+0,7	+4,2
Rural areas	1,37	135,6	140,0	141,0	+0,7	+4,0
Limpopo Province	3,36	127,4	131,5	132,4	+0,7	+3,9
Limpopo Province (excl. rural)	1,11	127,4	131,9	132,8	+0,7	+4,2
Polokwane (Pietersburg)	0,12	127,4	131,7	132,4	+0,5	+3,9
Other urban areas	0,99	127,4	132,0	133,0	+0,8	+4,4
Rural areas	2,25	127,2	131,2	132,2	+0,8	+3,9
CPI for the historical metropolitan areas	45,38	130,8	135,2	136,0	+0,6	+4,0
CPI for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas	72,08	131,0	135,4	136,1	+0,5	+3,9
CPI for the rural areas	27,92	130,7	135,1	135,6	+0,4	+3,7
CPI for the total country	100,00	131,6	136,1	136,7	+0,4	+3,9

Table 2.15 - Consumer Price Index excluding food and percentage change according to area

Urban area	Weights	Indices (2000=100)			Percentage change between	
		Mar 2005	Feb 2006	Mar 2006	Feb 2006 and Mar 2006	Mar 2005 and Mar 2006
Western Cape (Province)	15,46	127,5	129,8	130,3	+0,4	+2,2
Western Cape (excluding rural)	14,84	126,4	128,6	129,2	+0,5	+2,2
Cape Peninsula	10,31	124,5	126,4	126,9	+0,4	+1,9
Other urban areas	4,53	129,1	132,2	132,8	+0,5	+2,9
Rural areas	0,62	133,9	137,0	137,7	+0,5	+2,8
Eastern Cape (Province)	10,39	123,6	128,0	128,7	+0,5	+4,1
Eastern Cape (excluding rural)	4,52	125,8	130,9	131,5	+0,5	+4,5
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	1,93	124,6	130,3	130,9	+0,5	+5,1
East London	1,01	127,1	132,3	132,9	+0,5	+4,6
Other urban areas	1,58	126,8	131,1	131,8	+0,5	+3,9
Rural areas	5,87	124,5	128,4	129,0	+0,5	+3,6
Northern Cape (Province)	2,50	129,9	133,1	133,6	+0,4	+2,8
Northern Cape (excluding rural)	1,26	128,6	132,5	133,2	+0,5	+3,6
Kimberley	0,80	127,9	131,2	132,2	+0,8	+3,4
Other urban areas	0,46	129,0	133,3	133,8	+0,4	+3,7
Rural areas	1,24	130,8	133,6	134,1	+0,4	+2,5
Free State (Province)	5,08	117,4	120,2	120,9	+0,6	+3,0
Free State (excluding rural)	4,01	119,4	122,7	123,5	+0,7	+3,4
Bloemfontein	1,36	118,2	121,6	122,4	+0,7	+3,6
Free State Goldfields	1,07	122,6	126,8	127,6	+0,6	+4,1
Other urban areas	1,58	118,8	121,5	122,1	+0,5	+2,8
Rural areas	1,07	109,3	110,0	110,5	+0,5	+1,1
KwaZulu-Natal (Province)	18,33	123,8	127,0	127,6	+0,5	+3,1
KwaZulu-Natal (excluding rural)	17,09	124,1	127,3	127,9	+0,5	+3,1
Durban/Pinetown	6,19	123,9	127,7	128,4	+0,5	+3,6
Pietermaritzburg	1,05	125,5	130,8	131,5	+0,5	+4,8
Other urban areas	9,85	123,3	125,6	126,3	+0,6	+2,4
Rural areas	1,24	128,8	132,9	133,7	+0,6	+3,8
North West (Province)	3,46	123,2	127,5	128,2	+0,5	+4,1
North West (excluding rural)	2,18	124,7	129,3	129,9	+0,5	+4,2
Gauteng (Province)	37,78	127,7	130,3	130,8	+0,4	+2,4
Gauteng (excluding rural)	36,81	124,9	127,4	128,0	+0,5	+2,5
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	10,15	124,9	128,6	129,0	+0,3	+3,3
Witwatersrand	20,93	125,4	127,3	127,9	+0,5	+2,0
Other urban areas	5,73	126,1	128,7	129,6	+0,7	+2,8
Rural areas	0,97	128,5	131,6	132,2	+0,5	+2,9
Mpumalanga (Province)	4,12	123,5	127,3	128,2	+0,7	+3,8
Mpumalanga (excluding rural)	3,06	125,1	128,9	129,8	+0,7	+3,8
Nelspruit/Witbank	1,00	122,4	125,3	126,1	+0,6	+3,0
Other urban areas	2,06	126,9	131,2	132,0	+0,6	+4,0
Rural areas	1,06	128,7	133,1	134,0	+0,7	+4,1
Limpopo Province	2,88	120,5	122,9	123,9	+0,8	+2,8
Limpopo Province (excl. rural)	1,25	120,5	123,3	124,0	+0,6	+2,9
Polokwane (Pietersburg)	0,20	113,0	115,7	116,1	+0,3	+2,7
Other urban areas	1,05	124,7	127,4	128,5	+0,9	+3,0
Rural areas	1,63	124,1	126,5	127,8	+1,0	+3,0
CPI for the historical metropolitan areas	56,01	124,6	127,5	128,0	+0,4	+2,7
CPI for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas	85,02	124,8	127,7	128,3	+0,5	+2,8
CPI for the rural areas	14,98	123,0	126,7	127,5	+0,6	+3,7
CPI for the total country	100,00	125,5	128,5	129,2	+0,5	+2,9

Table 2.16 - Consumer Price Index for pensioners and percentage change according to area

Urban area	Weights	Indices (2000=100)			Percentage change between	
		Mar 2005	Feb 2006	Mar 2006	Feb 2006 and Mar 2006	Mar 2005 and Mar 2006
Western Cape (Province)	15,82	134,0	138,0	138,5	+0,4	+3,4
Western Cape (excluding rural)	15,04	132,8	136,8	137,3	+0,4	+3,4
Cape Peninsula	9,44	132,1	135,6	136,1	+0,4	+3,0
Other urban areas	5,60	133,7	138,6	139,0	+0,3	+4,0
Rural areas	0,78	134,4	139,3	139,8	+0,4	+4,0
Eastern Cape (Province)	14,58	134,9	139,2	139,5	+0,2	+3,4
Eastern Cape (excluding rural)	4,58	132,6	138,1	138,7	+0,4	+4,6
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage	2,30	130,1	136,0	136,7	+0,5	+5,1
East London	0,47	141,7	149,8	150,9	+0,7	+6,5
Other urban areas	1,81	134,3	138,7	139,0	+0,2	+3,5
Rural areas	10,00	135,7	139,3	139,6	+0,2	+2,9
Northern Cape (Province)	2,55	138,1	143,6	144,2	+0,4	+4,4
Northern Cape (excluding rural)	1,18	136,4	142,5	143,2	+0,5	+5,0
Kimberley	0,52	136,0	142,3	143,1	+0,6	+5,2
Other urban areas	0,66	136,5	142,4	142,9	+0,4	+4,7
Rural areas	1,37	138,5	143,4	143,9	+0,3	+3,9
Free State (Province)	4,51	126,8	132,1	132,9	+0,6	+4,8
Free State (excluding rural)	4,13	125,9	131,3	132,2	+0,7	+5,0
Bloemfontein	1,38	124,9	132,2	133,5	+1,0	+6,9
Free State Goldfields	0,65	127,1	135,1	135,8	+0,5	+6,8
Other urban areas	2,10	124,1	127,3	127,9	+0,5	+3,1
Rural areas	0,38	126,1	128,7	129,5	+0,6	+2,7
KwaZulu-Natal (Province)	21,14	132,6	137,5	137,7	+0,1	+3,8
KwaZulu-Natal (excluding rural)	17,10	132,5	137,3	137,5	+0,1	+3,8
Durban/Pinetown	5,29	134,2	139,0	139,5	+0,4	+3,9
Pietermaritzburg	1,05	132,7	138,1	139,2	+0,8	+4,9
Other urban areas	10,76	131,6	136,3	136,3	0,0	+3,6
Rural areas	4,04	135,0	140,4	140,6	+0,1	+4,1
North West (Province)	3,70	130,7	136,6	137,2	+0,4	+5,0
North West (excluding rural)	1,81	131,6	138,1	138,7	+0,4	+5,4
Gauteng (Province)	28,57	132,2	136,4	136,9	+0,4	+3,6
Gauteng (excluding rural)	28,34	131,7	135,9	136,4	+0,4	+3,6
Pretoria/Centurion/Akasia	8,54	131,5	136,5	136,9	+0,3	+4,1
Witwatersrand	12,11	132,1	136,5	137,1	+0,4	+3,8
Other urban areas	7,69	130,9	133,8	134,5	+0,5	+2,8
Rural areas	0,23	130,4	132,2	133,1	+0,7	+2,1
Mpumalanga (Province)	3,55	135,8	140,5	141,4	+0,6	+4,1
Mpumalanga (excluding rural)	1,82	136,8	141,9	142,9	+0,7	+4,5
Nelspruit/Witbank	0,20	138,4	143,9	145,6	+1,2	+5,2
Other urban areas	1,62	136,6	141,6	142,5	+0,6	+4,3
Rural areas	1,73	135,3	139,5	140,5	+0,7	+3,8
Limpopo Province	5,58	127,5	131,8	132,7	+0,7	+4,1
Limpopo Province (excl. rural)	1,21	128,8	133,4	134,1	+0,5	+4,1
Polokwane (Pietersburg)	0,20	134,4	139,0	140,2	+0,9	+4,3
Other urban areas	1,01	128,1	132,8	133,5	+0,5	+4,2
Rural areas	4,37	127,0	131,2	132,2	+0,8	+4,1
CPI for the historical metropolitan areas	42,16	132,2	136,9	137,4	+0,4	+3,9
CPI for the historical metropolitan and other urban areas	75,21	132,0	136,5	137,0	+0,4	+3,8
CPI for the rural areas	24,79	133,3	137,7	138,1	+0,3	+3,6
CPI for the total country	100,00	133,0	137,5	138,0	+0,4	+3,8

EXPLANATORY NOTES

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|---|----|---|
| Introduction | 1 | This publication contains results of the monthly Survey of Consumer (Retail) Prices. The purpose of the survey is to collect and provide information regarding changes in the overall level of prices of all goods and services bought by the average household. |
| | 2 | The indices are classified according to the International Trade Classification (as indicated in tables 1.1 – 1.10 and 2.1 – 2.10) and geographical areas (as indicated in tables 2.12 – 2.16). Due to a new international classification system, prescribed by the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA revision IV, 1993), compiled by the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Organisation for Economic Corporation and Development and the Commission of European Communities, the Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP), Stats SA decided to classify the price information collected according to this new classification system, alongside the existing classification system. The information contained in tables 1.11 and 2.11 is classified according to COICOP. The indices are calculated on the base 2000=100. |
| | 3 | The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a series of figures (numbers) showing how the average price level of all those goods and services (basket of goods and services) bought by a typical consumer or household changes over time. The inflation rate is the annual percentage change in the CPI. |
| Survey of Income and Expenditure of Households (IES) | 4 | Stats SA conducts a Survey of Income and Expenditure of Households every five years. This survey is conducted by enumerators visiting a number of households throughout South Africa to obtain details on income and expenditure of households. The information obtained through this survey is weighted according to the Population Census figures in order to represent all households in South Africa. |
| | 5 | Every five years the results from this survey are used to identify the goods and services bought by a typical consumer or household and which should be included in the basket of goods and services used to monitor price changes. |
| | 6 | Furthermore, every five years the results from the Survey of Income and Expenditure of Households are used to determine the weights of the products/groups (indicator products) in the basket. The weights of a specific product/group is calculated by dividing the total amount spent by all households in South Africa on the specific product/group by the total amount spent on all goods and services by all households. |
| 2000 Survey of Income and Expenditure of Households | 7 | Stats SA conducted the five-yearly Survey of Income and Expenditure of Households in October 2000 covering a sample of 30 000 households. The information obtained through this survey was weighted according to the 1996 Population Census figures in order to represent all households in South Africa. |
| | 8 | The 2000 Survey of Income and Expenditure of Households collected information regarding approximately 1 000 different goods and services groups. Stats SA made a further breakdown of these groups using supplementary sources. This process led to a list of approximately 1 500 groups on which the current calculation of the CPI is based. |
| | 9 | Based on the above-mentioned information for 2000 (see paragraphs 7 and 8), the new weight for a specific product/group was calculated by dividing total expenditure by all households in South Africa on the specific product/group by total expenditure on all goods and services by all households in South Africa. Stats SA implemented the new weights, i.e. the 2000 weights based on the 2000 Survey of Income and Expenditure of Households, as from the January 2002 CPI publication. |
| Basket of goods and services | 10 | The current CPI basket covers approximately 1 500 goods and services. |
| | 11 | These goods and services are grouped according to the International Trade Classification into 17 main groups - |

- Food;
 - Non-alcoholic beverages;
 - Alcoholic beverages;
 - Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco;
 - Clothing and Footwear;
 - Housing;
 - Fuel and power;
 - Furniture and equipment;
 - Household operation;
 - Medical care and health expenses;
 - Transport;
 - Communication;
 - Recreation and entertainment;
 - Reading matter;
 - Education;
 - Personal care; and
 - Other.
- 12** These goods and services are grouped according to an alternative classification, i.e. the COICOP classification, into nine main groups –
- Food, beverages and tobacco;
 - Clothing and Footwear;
 - Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels;
 - Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house;
 - Health;
 - Transport;
 - Leisure, entertainment and culture;
 - Education; and
 - Miscellaneous goods and services.
- Weighting basis** **13** The CPI is a fixed weights index, which implies that the weight of each product/group stays the same for the five year period until the results of the next Survey of Income and Expenditure of Households become available.
- Expenditure groups** **14** Five expenditure group categories or quintiles are defined according to total annual expenditure per household as at October of the year of the Survey of Income and Expenditure of Households. The five expenditure group categories used in this publication were defined according to total annual expenditure per household as at October 2000. These categories are as follows –
- very low expenditure group – up to R8 070;
 - low expenditure group R8 071 up to R12 263;
 - middle expenditure group R12 264 up to R24 365;
 - high expenditure group R24 366 up to R55 159; and
 - very high expenditure group – R55 160 and more.
- Scope of the CPI survey** **15** The Survey of Retail Prices is a retail trade and service outlets sample survey covering prices of selected consumer goods and services sold by these retail trade and service outlets to consumers in the 12 metropolitan and 40 other urban areas in the nine provinces. The results of the survey are used to compile the Consumer Price Index, an economic indicator.
- 16** Prices of goods and services included in the CPI are collected during the first three weeks of the month. Although these prices are generally collected monthly (see list of items in paragraph 17), the prices of some items are collected quarterly (see list of items in paragraph 18), six monthly or annually (see list of items in paragraph 19). The collection of prices depends on the frequency at which these prices tend to change. However, if it comes to the attention of Stats SA that prices are about to change, these prices will be collected, even if it is not according to the normal collection schedule.

- 17 Prices of items/products collected monthly:
- Bread.
 - Meat.
 - Milk.
 - Vegetables and fruit.
 - Other groceries.
 - Alcoholic beverages.
 - Sweets, non-alcoholic beverages, ice-cream and tobacco products.
 - Clothing and footwear.
 - Repairs of clothing, footwear and furniture.
 - Interest rates on mortgage bonds.
 - Coal and wood.
 - New vehicles, repairs and services.
 - Motor spare parts and accessories.
 - Petrol.
 - Newspapers and magazines.
 - Entrance fees – drive-inns and bioscopes.
 - Air transport fees.
 - Cellular phone tariffs.
 - Furniture and equipment.
 - Medicine.
 - Garden tools.
 - Washing ironing and dry-cleaning.
 - Sport equipment.
 - Reading matter and stationery.
 - Tariffs of hairdressing services.
 - Ironware and crockery.
 - New and retread tyres.
 - Household textiles.
 - Electrical appliances and equipment.
 - Medical, toilet and photographic requisites and services.
 - Musical instruments.
 - Prices of pets.

- 18 Prices of items/products collected quarterly:

Items/products	Months of survey
• Rent of dwellings.	• January, April, July and October.
• Motor vehicle insurance.	• March, June, September and December.

- 19 Prices of items/products collected annually:

Items/products	Month of survey
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doctor’s and dentist’s fees. • Motor vehicle license and registration fees. • Telephone (land lines). 	• January.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toll-fees at toll-gates. • School funds. • University boarding and class fees. 	• March.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking fees. • Postal tariffs. 	• April.
• Public transport tariffs.	• March, June, September and December.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property taxes. • Refuse removal. • Sanitary fees. 	• July.
• Maintenance of graves.	October.

20 Prices of items/products collected at other times of the year:

Items/products	Months of survey
• Contribution to medical aid.	• January.
• Property insurance • Hospital fees.	• January and July.
• Water. • Electricity.	• January, July and August.
• Domestic workers.	• February, September.
• Television licenses.	• April, October.

Classification 21 The International Trade Classification (ITC) was used to classify the products and services contained in the basket of goods and services.

22 A further classification of the products and services in the basket of goods and services, in line with international practices, was done according to the Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP). The indices according to this classification are published in tables 1.11 and 2.11.

Statistical unit 23 The statistical unit is the department (e.g food department, hardware department, clothing department) of the retail trade and service establishments (branches). The establishment is the smallest economic unit that functions as a separate entity. Information is obtained from the different departments in each establishment. Each department in the establishment is classified according to the classification of the products that the department sells, which is then classified according to ITC as well as COICOP.

Survey methodology and design 24 Different phases of sampling takes place. Firstly, a sample of goods and services, based on the information collected through the Survey of Income and Expenditure of Households, is designed and selected. An indicator product is selected purposively within each product group. To be selected, a product should constitute a large quantity, at least 0,01% of total expenditure. Furthermore, it must be possible to obtain price quotations for the relevant product during the whole year. The sample of indicator products is revised every five years at which stage the weights of the indicator products/groups are also revised.

25 Secondly, a geographical sample for price collection is designed and selected. Currently 12 major metropolitan areas, covering all nine provinces, are included in the geographical sample for price collection. The “other urban areas” are covered by nine provincial samples of four to five urban areas each, depending on the population size of the area. Therefore, a total of 40 “other urban areas” is sampled.

26 Thirdly, for each of the 52 sample areas, a retail trade and service outlet sampling frame is constructed, based on available data sources, mainly the business register of Stats SA, telephone directories and lists obtained from the head offices of chain stores. The sample is purposively distributed geographically within areas. Specific retail trade and service outlets are selected randomly within each area. Prices are collected from department stores, as well as specialist shops. The sample of outlets is revised every five years when the weights are revised.

27 Currently, an average of 110 000 price quotations are collected each month from approximately 2 200 outlets. The indices are based on retail trade and service prices.

Pricing basis 28 Price information refers to the first three weeks of the month. **The prices of all items include VAT.**

Processing of price information 29 The prices that are quoted for the different products/services are edited to ensure that it is price comparable with the prices received for the same products in the previous month. If the price information difference between successive periods are outside the specified range, the current price levels are confirmed.

Calculating product price indices	30	<p>Price relatives are calculated for each product per respondent by dividing the current price by the previously quoted price. The price relative for each product is calculated by means of the geometric mean of the price relatives for each respondent. This price relative for each product is then multiplied with the product index for the previous month in order to obtain a product index for the relevant month.</p> <p>As no pricing surveys are yet undertaken in the rural areas, the prices monitored in the smaller towns will be used to calculate price relatives for each product.</p>
Calculating group price indices	31	<p>Group price indices are calculated by weighting product indices with the relevant product weight, according to each weighting structure, using the Laspeyres formula.</p>
Contributions of specific items to the total CPI	32	<p>The monthly (annual) contribution of a specific item or group of items to the total CPI is calculated by multiplying the weight of this item or group of items with the monthly (annual) change in the index for this item or group of items, divided by the index for 'All items'.</p>
Core index	33	<p>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, the core index 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.</p>
	34	<p>Exclusions from the CPI to obtain the core index, and the reasons for exclusion are as follows –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 month to month 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. • Changes in VAT (Value Added Tax): VAT is predominantly determined by government (fiscal policy). • Assessment rates: These taxes are predominantly determined by local government.
	35	<p>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.</p>
CPI excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX)	36	<p>In other countries in the world such as New Zealand, Sweden and Australia, which adopted inflation targeting, different measures of the inflation rate have been derived and applied such as the Core index, the Core index excluding petrol and the CPIX. Stats SA has accordingly calculated these measures and only the CPIX and the Core index are included in this release.</p>
CPI for administered prices	37	<p>An administered price is defined as the price of a product, which is set consciously by an individual producer or group of producers and/or any price, which can be determined or influenced by government, either directly, or through one or other government agencies/institutions without reference to market forces.</p>

- 38** Basket of administered prices:
- Housing (sanitary fees, refuse removal, assessment rates, water and university boarding fees);
 - Fuel and power (electricity and paraffin);
 - Medical care (public hospital);
 - Communication (telephone calls, telephone rent and installation, postage, cell phones connection fees and cell phones calls);
 - Education (school fees and university/technicons/colleges);
 - Transport (petrol, public transport – municipal buses and trains, motor licenses and registration); and
 - Recreation and entertainment (television license).
- CPI for regulated prices**
- 39** Regulated prices are those administered prices that are said to be monitored and controlled by government policy. To this end, price regulation does not necessarily imply the presence of an economic regulator, but the restriction on the extent to which prices may vary, depending on government’s policy objective.
- 40** Basket of administered prices that are regulated:
- Housing (water);
 - Fuel and power (electricity and paraffin);
 - Medical care (public hospital);
 - Communication (telephone calls, telephone rent and installation, postage, cell phones connection fees and cell phones calls); and
 - Transport (petrol).
- Reliability of estimates**
- 41** Inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by enterprises and errors made in collection and processing of the data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling errors. Every effort is made to reduce non-sampling errors to a minimum by careful designing the questionnaires, editing data and efficient operating procedures.
- Related publications**
- 42** Users may also wish to refer to the following publications, which are available from Stats SA –
- Bulletin of Statistics; and
 - SA Statistics.
- Unpublished statistics**
- 43** In some cases, Stats SA can also make available information which is not published. This information can be made available in one or more of the following ways: computer printout, diskette or CD. Generally a fee is levied for providing unpublished information.
- Symbols and abbreviations**
- | | |
|----------|------------------------------------|
| Stats SA | Statistics South Africa |
| .. | not available |
| - | nil or not applicable |
| * | revised since previous publication |
| avg | average |

GLOSSARY

Annual inflation rate	The annual inflation rate is the change in the CPI for all items of the relevant month of the current year compared with the CPI for all items of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.
Annual percentage change	The annual percentage change is the change in the index of the relevant month of the current year compared with the index of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.
Average annual Inflation rate	The average annual inflation rate is the change in the average CPI for all items of one year compared with the average CPI for all items of the previous year expressed as a percentage.
Average annual percentage change	The average annual percentage change is the change in the average index of one year compared with the average index of the previous year expressed as a percentage.
CPI excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX)	<p>The CPI excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds (CPIX) is derived by excluding the interest rates on mortgage bonds from the basket of goods and services, which is used to compile the Consumer Price Index.</p> <p>In other countries in the world such as New Zealand, Sweden and Australia, which adopted inflation targeting, different measures of the inflation rate have been derived and applied such as the Core index, and the CPI excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds. Stats SA has accordingly calculated these measures and the CPI excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds CPIX, is included in this release.</p>
CPI for administered prices	An administered price can be defined as the price of a product, which is set consciously by an individual producer or group of producers and/or any price, which can be determined or influenced by government, either directly, or through one or other government agencies/institutions without reference to market forces.
CPI for regulated prices	Regulated prices are those administered prices that are said to be monitored and controlled by government policy. To this end, price regulation does not necessarily imply the presence of an economic regulator, but the restriction on the extent to which prices may vary, depending on government's policy objective.
Core index	<p>The core index is derived by exclusions from the CPI on the basis that changes in their prices are policy.</p> <p>Exclusions from the CPI to obtain the core index, and the reasons for exclusion are as follows –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 month to month 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. • Changes in VAT (Value Added Tax): VAT is predominantly determined by government (fiscal policy). • Assessment rates: These taxes are predominantly determined by local government.
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 the change in the Core index of the relevant month of the current year compared with the Core index of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.
Establishment	An establishment (branch) is the smallest economic unit that functions as a separate entity.

Indicator products	Indicator products are those products or services that were selected in the basket, which is used to compile the Consumer Price Index.
Inflation rate	Inflation rate is the annual percentage change in the CPI for all items of the relevant month of the current year compared with the CPI for all items of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.
Historical metropolitan area	<p>Metropolitan areas in the CPI refer to the following 12 metropolitan areas used in the compilation of the CPI –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cape Peninsula.• Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage.• East London.• Kimberley.• Bloemfontein.• Free State Goldfields.• Durban/Pinetown.• Pietermaritzburg.• Pretoria/ Centurion/Akasia.• Witwatersrand.• Nelspruit/Witbank.• Polokwane (Pietersburg). <p>Initially 12 metropolitan areas were selected, based on the population figures as well as the size of the economical activity in these areas. However, when the 9 provinces were introduced the Vaal Triangle metropolitan area was included partially (van der Bijlpark and Vereeniging) in the other urban areas of Gauteng and partially (Sasolburg) in the other urban areas of the Free State. Due to the fact that there were no metropolitan areas in the Limpopo Province and Mpumalanga, the main urban areas and Nelspruit/Witbank in each of these provinces were selected as metropolitan areas. Since 2002 the Klerksdorp/Orkney/Stilfontein area was omitted as no weighting structures for this area could be determined from the Survey of Income and Expenditure of Households, conducted in 2000.</p>
Monthly percentage change	The monthly percentage change is the change in the CPI of the relevant month compared to the CPI of the previous month expressed as a percentage.
Weights	The weights are the relevant importance of the indicator product. The weight of a product is calculated by dividing the total expenditure by households on that product by the total expenditure on all goods and services by households.

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