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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## Production Price Index December 1997

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### Statistical release P0142.1

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**Embargo: 11:00**

**Date: 3 February 1998**

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Published by the  
Central Statistical Service  
Private Bag X44  
PRETORIA  
0001  
Tel. (012) 310-8911

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## CONTENTS

<b>Key findings</b>	1
<b>Graphs</b>	
1. All commodities for SA consumption - annual % change	3
2. Commodities for SA consumption by origin - annual % change	3
<b>Explanatory notes</b>	4
<b>Tables</b>	
1. Analytical tables	
1.1 Production Price Index	5
1.2 Effect of price changes on the Production Price Index	5
1.3 Production Price Index for imported commodities	6
2. Price indices for commodities for SA consumption	7
3. Price indices for output of SA industry groups	
3.1 Total output	9
3.2 For SA consumption	11
4. Price indices for materials used in certain industries	13
5. Price indices of selected materials	13
6. Seasonally adjusted indices	15

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## 1. AVERAGE ANNUAL RATE OF INCREASE IN PPI FOR 1997 AT 7,1%

*The production price index (PPI) for all commodities for South African consumption showed an annual rate of increase of 4,0% at December 1997, i.e. for the period December 1996 to December 1997, which brings the average annual rate of increase for 1997 to 7,1%. The rate of 7,1% is 0,2 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding rate of 6,9% for 1996 and 2,5 percentage points lower than the corresponding rate of 9,6% for 1995.*

The average annual rate of increase in the PPI for locally produced commodities is 7,6% for 1997. This is 0,1 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding rate of 7,5% for 1996, and 2,3 percentage points lower than the corresponding rate of 9,9% for 1995.

The average annual rate of increase in the PPI for imported commodities is 5,0% for 1997, compared with 5,3% for 1996 and 7,6% for 1995.

More information regarding the average indices for the years since 1995 appears in the table on page 2.

## 2. PRODUCER INFLATION THE LOWEST SINCE SEPTEMBER 1971

*The production price index (PPI) for all commodities for South African consumption shows an annual rate of change of 4,0% at December 1997, i.e. for the period December 1996 to December 1997. This rate is 0,7 of a percentage point lower than the annual rate of increase of 4,7% at October 1997, and is the lowest since September 1971 when it was 3,7%. The monthly increase in this index is 0,3%, while the seasonally adjusted index increased by 0,2%.*

*The monthly increase of 0,3% is due to changes in the price indices for mining and quarrying products (contributing +0,1 of a percentage point), products of petroleum and coal (+0,1 of a percentage point) and electricity (+0,1 of a percentage point).*

### LOWER ANNUAL INCREASE IN THE PPI FOR LOCALLY PRODUCED COMMODITIES

The annual rate of increase in the PPI for locally produced commodities is 4,9% at December 1997, which is 0,4 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 5,3% at November 1997. From November 1997 to December 1997 this index increased by 0,3%, while the seasonally adjusted index increased by 0,2%.

### ANNUAL RATE OF CHANGE IN THE PPI FOR IMPORTED COMMODITIES LOWER AT 0,7%

The PPI for imported commodities reflects an annual increase of 0,7% at December 1997. This rate is 1,3 percentage points lower than the corresponding annual rate of 2,0% at November 1997. From November 1997 to December 1997 this index increased by 0,5%. The seasonally adjusted index increased by 0,4% during the same period.

This smaller annual increase of 0,7% is due to the monthly increase of 0,5% for December 1997 (although relatively large), being less than the monthly increase of 1,8% (mainly due to an increase of 9,5% in the average price of imported crude petroleum) for December 1996, which dropped out of the calculation of the annual rate this month.

### MONTHLY CHANGES IN THE PPI FOR ALL COMMODITIES FOR SOUTH AFRICAN CONSUMPTION

Relatively large monthly increases occurred in the price indices for forestry products (+0,5%), fishing products (+2,9%), mining and quarrying products (+1,2%), wearing apparel (+0,3%), products of petroleum and coal (+1,2%), non-electrical machinery and equipment (+0,4%), radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus (+0,3%) and electricity (+2,5%).

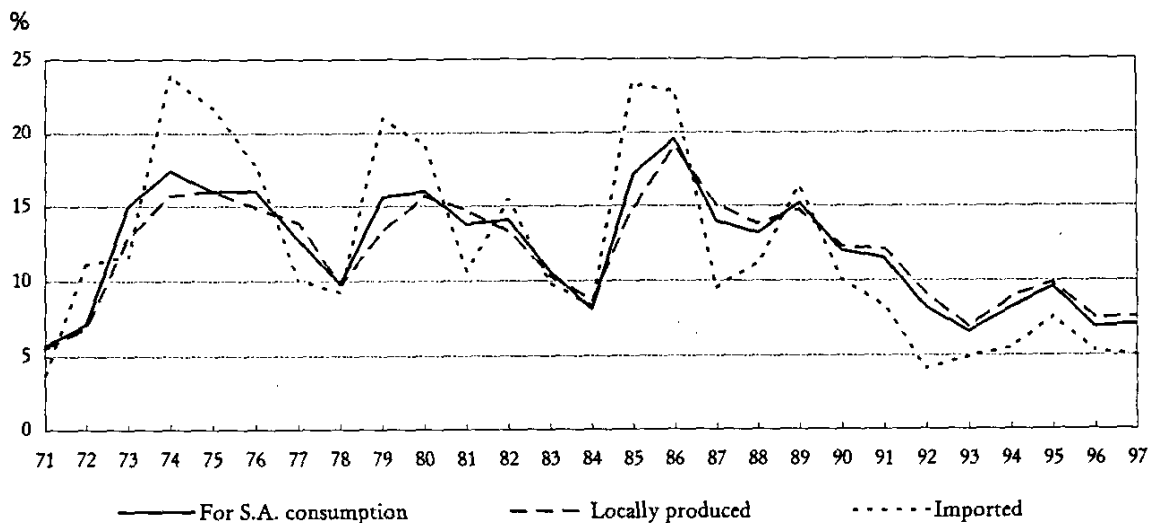
### MONTHLY CHANGES IN THE PPI FOR IMPORTED COMMODITIES

Monthly increases occurred in the prices of mining and quarrying products (+1,4%, due to an increase of 1,6% in the average price of imported crude petroleum), food at manufacturing (+0,2%), chemicals and chemical products (+0,4%), non-electrical machinery and equipment (+0,9%) and transport equipment (+0,4%). In contrast a monthly decrease was reported in the prices of agricultural products (-0,4%).

### ANNUAL AVERAGE INDICES AND RATES OF CHANGE

	Year					
	1997		1996		1995	
	Index	% Change	Index	% Change	Index	% Change
All commodities for consumption in South Africa	114,2	7,1	106,6	6,9	99,7	9,6
Locally produced commodities	115,5	7,6	107,3	7,5	99,8	9,9
Imported commodities	109,7	5,0	104,5	5,3	99,2	7,6
Output of South African industry						
Total output	117,1	8,2	108,2	8,4	99,8	10,5
For South African consumption	115,5	7,6	107,3	7,5	99,8	9,9

Commodities for S.A. consumption by origin  
Average Annual Rate of Change

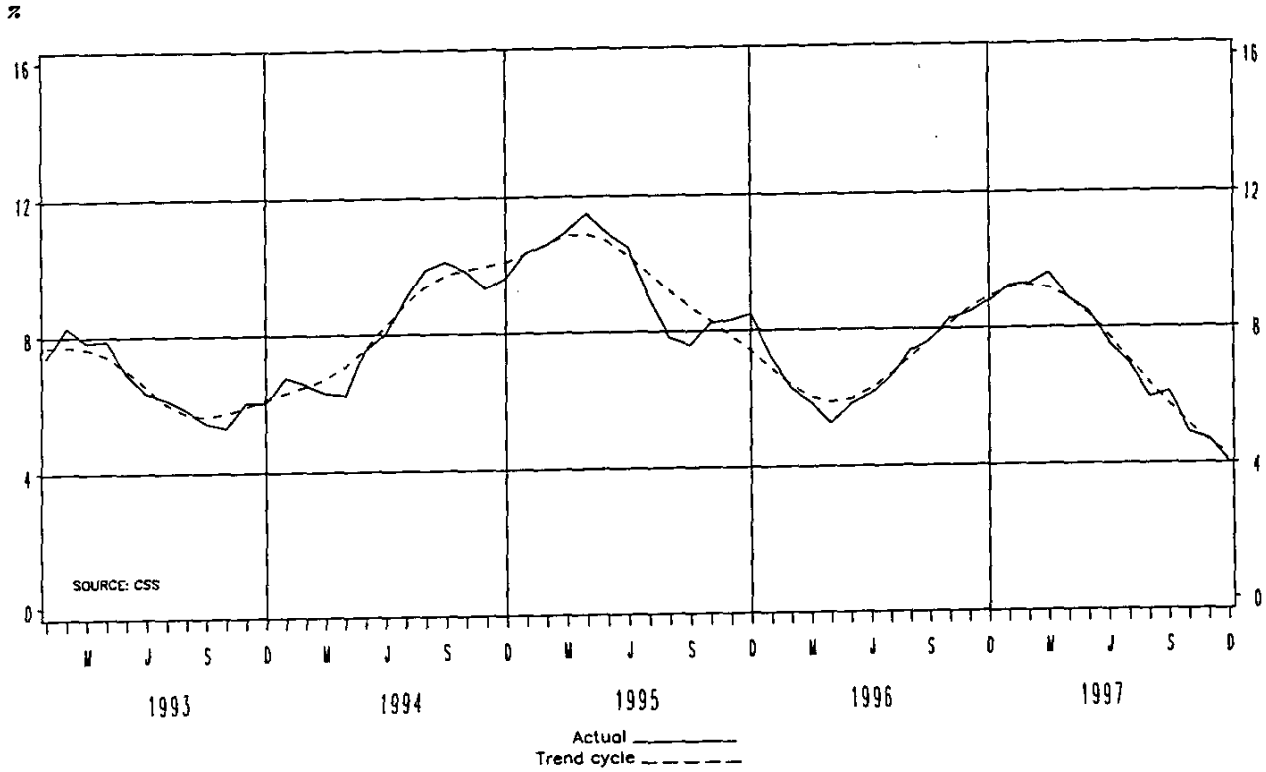


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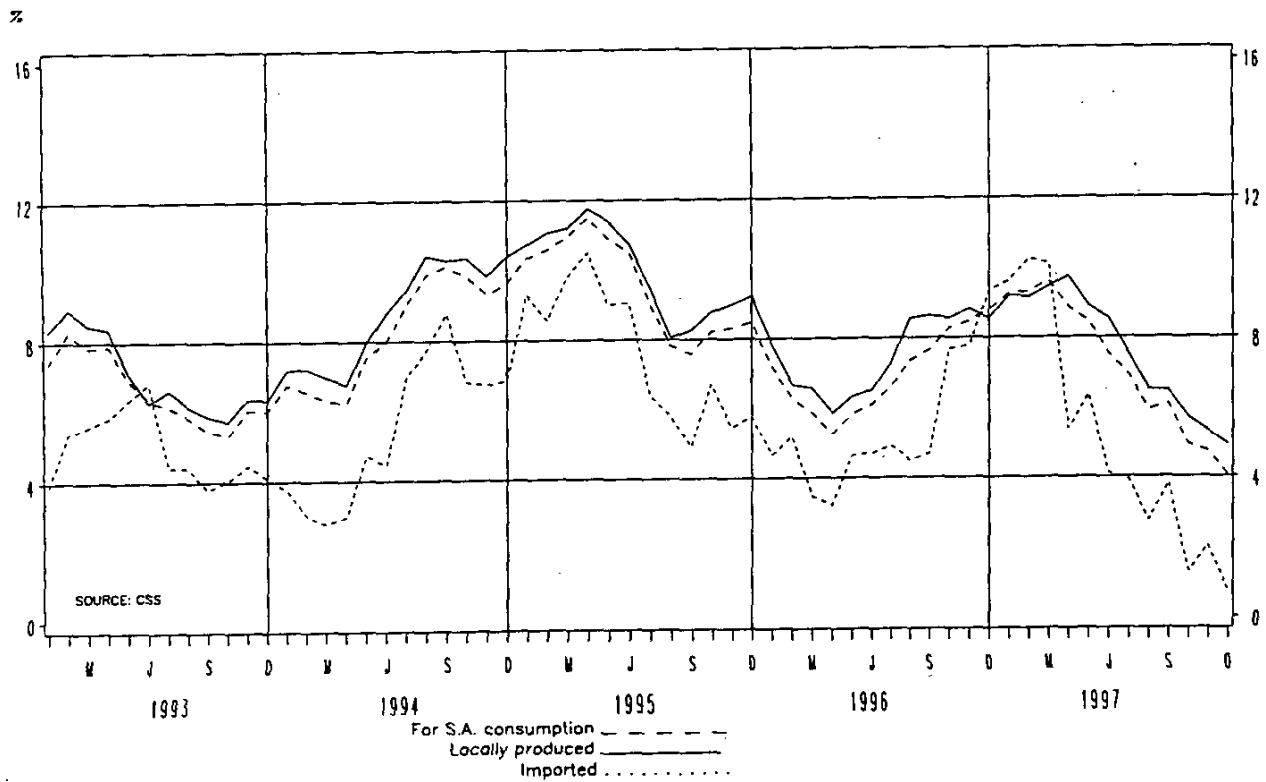
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Graph 1 – Production Price Index  
Commodities for S.A. consumption  
Annual percentage change



Graph 2 – Commodities for S.A. consumption by origin  
Annual percentage change



**EXPLANATORY NOTES**1. **WEIGHTING BASIS**

<b><u>TABLE 2:</u></b>	Commodities for South African consumption	- Value of South African production, minus exports plus imports
<b><u>TABLE 3:</u></b>	Output of South African industry groups	- Value of South African production
	- Total output	- Value of South African production minus exports
	- For South African consumption	
<b><u>TABLE 4:</u></b>	Materials used in certain industries	- Value of materials used

2. **PRICING BASIS**

All indices are based on producer prices at the point of production in the case of commodities produced in South Africa, and wholesale prices "ex-warehouse", in the case of imported commodities. Prices "delivered" or "free on rail" are accepted if this is the normal basis of quotation. Price information refers to the first seven days of the relevant month, except in the case of mining and most of the agriculture products, where it refers to the average price for the month. General sales tax is excluded but can be accounted for by multiplying a particular index by 1,04 prior to March 1982; 1,05 from March 1982; 1,06 from September 1982; 1,07 from February 1984; 1,10 from July 1984; 1,12 from April 1985; and 1,13 from April 1989. Value added tax can be added by multiplying the relevant index by 1,10 from October 1991; and by 1,14 from April 1993.

**Average price of imported crude petroleum**

The average price of imported crude petroleum, used in the compilation of the import component of the PPI, is calculated as the value (in rands) divided by the quantity of imported crude for the relevant month.

**THE PRICES OF ALL ITEMS EXCLUDE VAT.**

Further details are provided in the Bulletin of Statistics.

**SYMBOLS USED**

- .. = not available
- = nil or not applicable
- \* = revised since previous publication

Table 1 Analytical tables  
1.1 Production Price Index

BASE : June 1995 = 100

DESCRIPTION	INDICES			PERCENTAGE CHANGE COMPARED WITH -		
	Dec. 1997	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996	Nov. 1997		Dec. 1996
				Actual %	Seasonally adjusted %	
All commodities for consumption in South Africa	115,9	115,5	111,4	+0,3	+0,2	+4,0
Locally produced commodities	117,4	117,0	111,9	+0,3	+0,2	+4,9
Imported commodities	110,8	110,3	110,0	+0,5	+0,4	+0,7
Output of South African industry						
Total output	119,4	116,8	113,8	+0,5	+0,2	+4,9
For South African consumption	117,4	117,0	111,9	+0,3	+0,2	+4,9

Table 1.2 Effect of price changes on the Production Price Index  
- All commodities for consumption in South Africa

Group	Contribution
Mining and quarrying	+0,1
Products of petroleum and coal	+0,1
Electricity	+0,1
All groups	+0,3

Table 1 Analytical tables  
1.3 Production Price Index for imported commodities

GROUP	WEIGHT	MONTHLY % CHANGE	
		Dec 1997	Nov 1997
ALL GROUPS	100,00	+0,5	+0,8
1. AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING AND MINING	14,94	+1,2	+3,2
1.1 Agriculture	1,51	-0,4	+2,0
1.1.1 Food	0,87	-0,3	+3,4
1.1.2 Other agriculture	0,64	-0,5	-0,0
1.2 Forestry	1,13	0,0	0,0
1.3 Fishing	0,09	0,0	0,0
1.4 Mining and quarrying, including crude petroleum	12,21	+1,4	+3,6
2. MANUFACTURING	85,00	+0,4	+0,3
2.1 Food	2,53	+0,2	+0,8
2.2 Beverages	0,77	0,0	+0,0
2.3 Tobacco products	0,08	0,0	0,0
2.4 Textiles and made-up goods	4,13	0,0	0,0
2.5 Wearing apparel	0,56	0,0	0,0
2.6 Leather and leather products	0,56	0,0	0,0
2.7 Footwear	0,39	0,0	-0,3
2.8 Wood and wood products	0,71	0,0	0,0
2.9 Paper, paper products and printing	3,41	0,0	-0,4
2.10 Products of petroleum and coal	1,41	0,0	0,0
2.11 Chemicals and chemical products	14,15	+0,4	+0,3
2.12 Rubber and plastic products	2,01	0,0	0,0
2.13 Non-metallic mineral products	1,11	0,0	0,0
2.14 Basic metals	2,72	0,0	0,0
2.15 Metal products	2,64	0,0	+4,4
2.16 Non-electrical machinery and equipment	16,25	+0,9	0,0
2.17 Office, accounting and computing machinery	3,98	0,0	0,0
2.18 Electrical machinery and apparatus	3,77	0,0	+0,3
2.19 Radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus	2,92	0,0	0,0
2.20 Medical, precision and optical instruments	3,68	0,0	+0,3
2.21 Transport equipment	15,58	+0,4	+0,1
2.22 Furniture	0,16	0,0	0,0
2.23 Other manufactures	1,48	0,0	0,0
3. ELECTRICITY, GAS AND WATER	0,06	0,0	0,0
3.1 Electricity	0,06	0,0	0,0

+0,0 increase smaller than 0,05  
-0,0 decrease smaller than 0,05

It should be noted that, in calculating the percentage change in a group of commodities, the CSS does not weigh the percentage changes, but rather weigh the underlying indices for the respective months and then calculates the percentage change in the weighted indices.



Table 2 Price indices for commodities for South African consumption

BASE : June 1995 = 100

GROUP	WEIGHT	INDICES			% CHANGE COMPARED WITH	
		Dec. 1997	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996
ALL GROUPS	100,00	115,9	115,5	111,4	+0,3	+4,0
South African	80,74	117,4	117,0	111,9	+0,3	+4,9
Imported	19,26	110,8	110,3	110,0	+0,5	+0,7
1. AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING AND MINING	17,90	119,5	118,8	118,2	+0,6	+1,1
1.1 Agriculture	8,17	117,7	117,7	115,7	0,0	+1,7
1.1.1 Food	7,70	118,0	117,9	116,3	+0,1	+1,5
Grain	1,57	117,4	117,1	120,3	+0,3	-2,4
Sugar cane	0,55	108,0	108,0	100,0	0,0	+8,0
Oil seeds	0,28	100,0	100,0	100,0	0,0	0,0
Vegetables and dried beans	0,75	107,1	106,3	115,5	+0,8	-7,3
Fruit	0,50	123,6	117,5	137,8	+5,2	-10,3
Meat	2,63	123,7	124,7	120,7	-0,8	+2,5
Milk and eggs	1,08	132,6	132,8	114,8	-0,2	+15,5
Other	0,34	79,2	79,2	79,2	0,0	0,0
1.1.2 Other agriculture	0,47	112,8	114,9	106,6	-1,8	+5,8
1.2 Forestry	2,39	103,9	103,4	98,9	+0,5	+5,1
1.3 Fishing	0,21	142,0	138,0	120,3	+2,9	+18,0
1.4 Mining and quarrying	7,13	126,2	124,7	127,5	+1,2	-1,0
Coal	1,93	130,3	127,1	120,5	+2,5	+8,1
Metal ores	0,87	105,9	105,5	107,1	+0,4	-1,1
Other minerals	4,33	128,4	127,5	134,7	+0,7	-4,7
2. MANUFACTURING	76,30	115,7	115,5	110,8	+0,2	+4,4
South African	59,93	118,4	118,2	113,0	+0,2	+4,8
Imported	16,37	109,2	108,8	105,6	+0,4	+3,4
2.1 Food	9,45	123,7	123,4	119,4	+0,2	+3,6
Meat	1,72	121,4	122,3	124,9	-0,7	-2,8
Fresh meat	1,30	121,1	122,0	127,6	-0,7	-5,1
Meat products	0,42	122,2	123,1	116,4	-0,7	+5,0
Fish and fish products	0,40	146,5	143,5	126,1	+2,1	+16,2
Fruit and vegetable products	0,58	121,1	121,1	110,7	0,0	+9,4
Fats and oils	0,83	116,2	115,9	111,6	+0,3	+4,1
Milk products	0,51	130,0	128,6	120,2	+1,1	+8,2
Grain mill products	1,82	118,9	118,6	118,8	+0,3	+0,1
Sugar	0,48	111,2	111,2	104,9	0,0	+6,0
Coffee and tea	0,20	121,8	119,9	113,6	+1,6	+7,2
Other	2,91	127,6	127,4	122,0	+0,2	+4,6
2.2 Beverages	3,27	116,4	116,4	108,2	0,0	+7,6
Alcoholic	2,57	114,8	114,8	107,3	0,0	+7,0
Non-alcoholic	0,70	122,5	122,5	111,3	0,0	+10,1
2.3 Tobacco products	0,59	141,2	141,2	115,9	0,0	+21,8
2.4 Textiles and made-up goods	3,11	112,1	111,9	107,3	+0,2	+4,5
Spinning, weaving and finishing of textiles	1,86	113,0	112,9	107,0	+0,1	+5,6
Other textiles	1,25	110,7	110,5	107,8	+0,2	+2,7
2.5 Wearing apparel	2,11	116,6	116,3	110,4	+0,3	+5,6
Knitted and crocheted fabrics and articles	0,49	115,9	115,8	111,0	+0,1	+4,4
Wearing apparel	1,62	117,0	116,5	110,3	+0,4	+6,1
Men's and boys' clothing	0,74	114,9	114,0	108,2	+0,8	+6,2
Women's and girls' clothing	0,83	119,0	119,0	112,2	0,0	+6,1
Other, including articles of fur	0,05	114,9	113,8	108,9	+1,0	+5,5
2.6 Leather and leather products	0,32	125,4	125,4	122,7	0,0	+2,2
2.7 Footwear	0,84	118,1	118,1	113,9	0,0	+3,7
2.8 Wood and wood products	1,20	119,1	119,1	110,3	0,0	+8,0
Sawmilling and planing of wood	0,62	123,5	123,5	112,2	0,0	+10,1
Products of wood, cork and plaiting materials	0,58	114,5	114,5	108,3	0,0	+5,7
2.9 Paper, paper products and printing	4,40	119,4	119,4	114,8	0,0	+4,0
Paper and paper products	2,90	120,3	120,3	117,6	0,0	+2,3
Publishing and printing	1,50	117,7	117,7	109,4	0,0	+7,6
2.10 Products of petroleum and coal	5,20	132,2	130,6	134,4	+1,2	-1,6
2.11 Chemicals and chemical products	8,52	114,7	114,6	108,5	+0,1	+5,7
Basic chemicals	4,12	118,5	118,4	111,5	+0,1	+6,3
Fertilizers	0,49	121,2	120,7	118,8	+0,4	+2,0
Other	3,63	118,5	118,4	110,7	+0,1	+7,0
Other chemical products	4,40	111,4	111,2	106,0	+0,2	+5,1
Pharmaceutical products	1,40	110,7	110,3	104,0	+0,4	+6,4
Other	3,00	112,4	112,4	107,3	0,0	+4,8
2.12 Rubber and plastic products	2,49	122,0	122,0	112,2	0,0	+8,7
Rubber products	0,85	116,7	116,7	111,5	0,0	+4,7
Plastic products	1,64	124,7	124,7	112,5	0,0	+10,8

Table 2 Price indices for commodities for South African consumption (concluded)

BASE : June 1995 = 100

GROUP	WEIGHT	INDICES			% CHANGE COMPARED WITH	
		Dec. 1997	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996
2.13 Non-metallic mineral products	2,52	117,6	117,6	109,8	0,0	+7,1
Glass and glass products	0,49	105,1	105,1	102,8	0,0	+2,2
Other	2,03	120,7	120,7	111,5	0,0	+8,3
2.14 Basic metals	4,39	115,0	115,0	106,5	0,0	+8,0
Ferrous	3,29	117,1	117,1	108,7	0,0	+7,7
Non-ferrous	1,10	109,0	109,0	99,9	0,0	+9,1
2.15 Metal products	3,93	119,5	119,5	111,6	0,0	+7,1
Structural metal products	1,61	114,6	114,6	109,0	0,0	+5,1
Other	2,32	122,9	122,9	113,4	0,0	+8,4
2.16 Non-electrical machinery and equipment	6,95	108,8	108,4	106,6	+0,4	+2,1
General purpose machinery	2,12	104,5	103,8	102,4	+0,7	+2,1
Special purpose machinery	4,30	111,3	110,9	109,0	+0,4	+2,1
Household appliances	0,53	105,9	105,9	104,0	0,0	+1,8
2.17 Office, accounting and computing machinery	0,77	100,0	100,0	100,0	0,0	0,0
2.18 Electrical machinery and apparatus	2,45	110,1	110,1	105,5	0,0	+4,4
Electric motors, generators and transformers	0,63	113,7	113,7	106,6	0,0	+6,7
Electricity distribution and control apparatus	0,54	106,3	106,3	104,2	0,0	+2,0
Insulated wire and cable	0,58	108,4	108,4	105,0	0,0	+3,2
Other	0,70	111,4	111,4	106,3	0,0	+4,8
2.19 Radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus	1,52	105,4	105,1	103,4	+0,3	+1,9
2.20 Medical, precision and optical instruments	0,82	104,6	104,6	102,3	0,0	+2,2
Medical appliances and instruments for measuring, checking, testing and navigating	0,66	103,1	103,1	101,0	0,0	+2,1
Other, including watches and clocks	0,16	110,9	110,9	107,7	0,0	+3,0
2.21 Transport equipment	9,34	115,6	115,5	110,2	+0,1	+4,9
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	8,20	117,7	117,5	111,6	+0,2	+5,5
Motor vehicles	6,19	109,8	109,8	105,2	0,0	+4,4
Bodies, trailers and semi-trailers	0,23	113,9	113,9	108,2	0,0	+5,3
Parts and accessories	1,78	137,6	137,0	127,3	+0,4	+8,1
Other transport equipment	1,14	100,7	100,7	100,3	0,0	+0,4
2.22 Furniture	1,13	115,1	115,1	109,9	0,0	+4,7
2.23 Other manufactures	0,98	100,9	100,9	100,8	0,0	+0,1
3. ELECTRICITY, GAS AND WATER	5,80	108,9	106,8	99,9	+2,0	+9,0
3.1 Electricity	5,02	104,4	101,9	97,3	+2,5	+7,3
3.2 Gas and water	0,78	138,0	138,0	117,0	0,0	+17,9

Note: Weights are based on the value of South African production minus exports plus imports

Indices reflect prices of locally produced and sold commodities as well as prices of imported commodities

Table 3 Price indices for output of South African industry groups  
3.1 - Total output

BASE : June 1995 = 100

GROUP	WEIGHT	INDICES			% CHANGE COMPARED WITH	
		Dec. 1997	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996
ALL GROUPS	100,00	119,4	118,8	113,8	+0,5	+4,9
South African	100,00	119,4	118,8	113,8	+0,5	+4,9
Imported	-	-	-	-	-	-
1. AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING AND MINING	29,85	125,4	124,1	119,7	+1,0	+4,8
1.1 Agriculture	8,61	116,4	116,3	119,2	+0,1	-2,3
1.1.1 Food	7,94	116,3	115,9	120,0	+0,3	-3,1
Grain	1,66	114,6	114,3	115,6	+0,3	-0,9
Sugar cane	0,52	108,0	108,0	100,0	0,0	+8,0
Oil seeds	0,28	100,0	100,0	100,0	0,0	0,0
Vegetables and dried beans	0,71	107,0	106,2	115,2	+0,8	-7,1
Fruit	0,88	113,1	107,7	171,5	+5,0	-34,1
Meat	2,58	122,6	123,6	119,8	-0,8	+2,3
Milk and eggs	1,01	132,6	132,8	114,8	-0,2	+15,5
Other	0,30	77,8	77,8	77,8	0,0	0,0
1.1.2 Other agriculture	0,67	118,1	121,0	109,5	-2,4	+7,9
1.2 Forestry	2,07	104,2	103,7	98,8	+0,5	+5,5
1.3 Fishing	0,25	133,9	130,6	116,3	+2,5	+15,1
1.4 Mining and quarrying	18,92	131,7	129,8	122,2	+1,5	+7,8
Coal	3,54	137,5	133,4	129,0	+3,1	+6,6
Metal ores	11,91	134,1	132,7	123,9	+1,1	+8,2
Other minerals	3,47	117,3	116,4	109,4	+0,8	+7,2
2. MANUFACTURING	64,59	117,5	117,4	112,3	+0,1	+4,6
South African	64,59	117,5	117,4	112,3	+0,1	+4,6
Imported	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.1 Food	9,22	122,6	122,3	118,3	+0,2	+3,6
Meat	1,64	120,9	121,8	124,3	-0,7	-2,7
Fresh meat	1,25	120,5	121,3	126,8	-0,7	-5,0
Meat products	0,39	122,2	123,1	116,4	-0,7	+5,0
Fish and fish products	0,32	129,7	126,4	117,3	+2,6	+10,6
Fruit and vegetable products	0,75	120,2	120,3	109,0	-0,1	+10,3
Fats and oils	0,73	116,6	116,3	112,3	+0,3	+3,8
Milk products	0,48	129,9	128,5	119,9	+1,1	+8,3
Grain mill products	1,65	118,5	118,3	118,5	+0,2	0,0
Sugar	0,75	116,0	115,8	107,2	+0,2	+8,2
Coffee and tea	0,18	121,7	119,8	113,5	+1,6	+7,2
Other	2,72	127,6	127,4	122,0	+0,2	+4,6
2.2 Beverages	3,02	117,1	117,1	108,5	0,0	+7,9
Alcoholic	2,34	115,7	115,7	107,8	0,0	+7,3
Non-alcoholic	0,68	121,8	121,8	110,9	0,0	+9,8
2.3 Tobacco products	0,55	142,0	142,0	116,1	0,0	+22,3
2.4 Textiles and made-up goods	2,30	113,6	113,4	108,3	+0,2	+4,9
Spinning, weaving and finishing of textiles	1,46	114,7	114,6	108,1	+0,1	+6,1
Other textiles	0,84	111,7	111,4	108,7	+0,3	+2,8
2.5 Wearing apparel	1,97	117,1	116,8	110,8	+0,3	+5,7
Knitted and crocheted fabrics and articles	0,45	116,2	116,1	111,2	+0,1	+4,5
Wearing apparel	1,52	117,6	117,1	110,8	+0,4	+6,1
Men's and boys' clothing	0,71	115,2	114,3	108,6	+0,8	+6,1
Women's and girls' clothing	0,76	119,9	119,9	112,9	0,0	+6,2
Other, including articles of fur	0,05	116,1	114,9	109,7	+1,0	+5,8
2.6 Leather and leather products	0,35	107,3	107,3	106,0	0,0	+1,2
2.7 Footwear	0,72	119,3	119,3	114,7	0,0	+4,0
2.8 Wood and wood products	1,10	118,1	118,1	110,7	0,0	+6,7
Sawmilling and planing of wood	0,53	124,8	124,8	113,8	0,0	+9,7
Products of wood, cork and plaiting materials	0,57	111,9	111,9	107,9	0,0	+3,7
2.9 Paper, paper products and printing	4,19	116,3	116,3	111,8	0,0	+4,0
Paper and paper products	3,01	120,0	120,0	115,9	0,0	+3,5
Publishing and printing	1,18	117,7	117,7	108,6	0,0	+8,4
2.10 Products of petroleum and coal	5,06	133,2	131,5	135,7	+1,3	-1,8
2.11 Chemicals and chemical products	6,40	116,5	116,5	110,1	0,0	+5,8
Basic chemicals	3,33	118,0	118,0	112,4	0,0	+5,0
Fertilizers	0,48	119,7	119,7	117,2	0,0	+2,1
Other	2,85	119,3	119,3	112,6	0,0	+6,0
Other chemical products	3,07	115,6	115,6	107,8	0,0	+7,2
Pharmaceutical products	0,72	118,4	118,4	106,0	0,0	+11,7
Other	2,35	113,5	113,5	107,9	0,0	+5,2
2.12 Rubber and plastic products	2,05	121,2	121,2	111,8	0,0	+8,4
Rubber products	0,67	115,7	115,7	109,3	0,0	+5,9
Plastic products	1,38	123,8	123,8	113,0	0,0	+9,6

Table 3 Price indices for output of South African industry groups  
3.1 - Total output (concluded)

BASE : June 1995 = 100

GROUP	WEIGHT	INDICES			% CHANGE COMPARED WITH	
		Dec. 1997	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996
2.13 Non-metallic mineral products	2,29	118,4	118,4	110,2	0,0	+7,4
Glass and glass products	0,43	105,7	105,7	103,0	0,0	+2,6
Other	1,86	121,4	121,4	111,9	0,0	+8,5
2.14 Basic metals	6,61	115,8	115,8	107,3	0,0	+7,9
Ferrous	5,10	117,3	117,3	109,4	0,0	+7,2
Non-ferrous	1,51	110,4	110,4	100,1	0,0	+10,3
2.15 Metal products	3,59	113,5	113,5	108,3	0,0	+4,8
Structural metal products	1,51	116,6	116,6	110,6	0,0	+5,4
Other	2,08	111,2	111,2	106,6	0,0	+4,3
2.16 Non-electrical machinery and equipment	3,90	108,7	108,7	106,7	0,0	+1,9
General purpose machinery	0,78	112,6	112,6	107,3	0,0	+4,9
Special purpose machinery	2,73	107,8	107,8	106,7	0,0	+1,0
Household appliances	0,39	107,6	107,6	105,1	0,0	+2,4
2.17 Office, accounting and computing machinery	0,05	100,1	100,1	100,1	0,0	0,0
2.18 Electrical machinery and apparatus	1,74	113,8	113,8	107,7	0,0	+5,7
Electric motors, generators and transformers	0,44	118,4	118,4	108,9	0,0	+8,7
Electricity distribution and control apparatus	0,29	112,4	112,4	108,6	0,0	+3,5
Insulated wire and cable	0,53	108,8	108,8	105,1	0,0	+3,5
Other	0,48	116,8	116,8	109,2	0,0	+7,0
2.19 Radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus	0,94	108,1	108,1	105,4	0,0	+2,6
2.20 Medical, precision and optical instruments	0,15	118,5	118,5	107,0	0,0	+10,7
Medical appliances and instruments for measuring, checking, testing and navigating	0,12	116,9	116,9	106,6	0,0	+9,7
Other, including watches and clocks	0,03	125,1	125,1	108,4	0,0	+15,4
2.21 Transport equipment	6,44	111,3	111,3	106,1	0,0	+4,9
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	5,96	111,9	111,9	106,4	0,0	+5,2
Motor vehicles	4,40	112,2	112,2	106,5	0,0	+5,4
Bodies, trailers and semi-trailers	0,30	114,8	114,8	108,8	0,0	+5,5
Parts and accessories	1,26	109,2	109,2	105,2	0,0	+3,8
Other transport equipment	0,48	104,2	104,2	101,7	0,0	+2,5
2.22 Furniture	1,08	115,0	115,0	109,8	0,0	+4,7
2.23 Other manufactures	0,87	109,1	109,1	108,4	0,0	+0,6
3. ELECTRICITY, GAS AND WATER	5,56	108,7	106,6	99,9	+2,0	+8,8
3.1 Electricity	4,83	104,3	101,9	97,3	+2,4	+7,2
3.2 Gas and water	0,73	138,0	138,0	117,0	0,0	+17,9

Note: Weights are based on the value of South African production

Indices reflect prices of locally produced commodities (both locally sold and exported)

Table 3 Price indices for output of South African industry groups (concluded)  
3.2 - For South African consumption

BASE : June 1995 = 100

GROUP	WEIGHT	INDICES			% CHANGE COMPARED WITH	
		Dec. 1997	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996
ALL GROUPS	100,00	117,4	117,0	111,9	+0,3	+4,9
South African	100,00	117,4	117,0	111,9	+0,3	+4,9
Imported	-	-	-	-	-	-
1. AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING AND MINING	18,61	116,6	116,1	112,1	+0,4	+4,0
1.1 Agriculture	9,80	118,2	118,2	115,8	0,0	+2,1
1.1.1 Food	9,34	118,3	118,1	116,1	+0,2	+1,9
Grain	1,83	117,6	117,3	118,8	+0,3	-1,0
Sugar cane	0,68	108,0	108,0	100,0	0,0	+8,0
Oil seeds	0,33	100,0	100,0	100,0	0,0	0,0
Vegetables and dried beans	0,92	107,2	106,4	115,6	+0,8	-7,3
Fruit	0,60	124,3	118,0	138,9	+5,3	-10,5
Meat	3,26	123,7	124,7	120,7	-0,8	+2,5
Milk and eggs	1,33	132,6	132,8	114,8	-0,2	+15,5
Other	0,39	77,4	77,4	77,4	0,0	0,0
1.1.2 Other agriculture	0,46	117,4	119,9	109,1	-2,1	+7,6
1.2 Forestry	2,68	104,3	103,8	98,8	+0,5	+5,6
1.3 Fishing	0,24	145,8	141,3	122,0	+3,2	+19,5
1.4 Mining and quarrying	5,89	118,4	117,2	111,7	+1,0	+6,0
Coal	2,35	130,7	127,5	120,8	+2,5	+8,2
Metal ores	1,00	106,4	105,9	107,6	+0,5	-1,1
Other minerals	2,54	111,6	112,1	104,8	-0,4	+6,5
2. MANUFACTURING	74,23	118,4	118,2	113,0	+0,2	+4,8
South African	74,23	118,4	118,2	113,0	+0,2	+4,8
Imported	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.1 Food	11,10	123,2	123,0	119,3	+0,2	+3,3
Meat	2,09	121,6	122,5	125,1	-0,7	-2,8
Fresh meat	1,57	121,4	122,2	127,9	-0,7	-5,1
Meat products	0,52	122,2	123,1	116,4	-0,7	+5,0
Fish and fish products	0,35	131,6	127,5	117,5	+3,2	+12,0
Fruit and vegetable products	0,70	121,3	121,4	111,0	-0,1	+9,3
Fats and oils	0,86	118,0	117,6	112,7	+0,3	+4,7
Milk products	0,61	130,1	128,7	120,1	+1,1	+8,3
Grain mill products	2,14	118,4	118,2	118,4	+0,2	0,0
Sugar	0,58	111,5	111,5	105,0	0,0	+6,2
Coffee and tea	0,24	122,0	120,1	113,7	+1,6	+7,3
Other	3,53	127,9	127,7	122,3	+0,2	+4,6
2.2 Beverages	3,86	117,1	117,1	108,5	0,0	+7,9
Alcoholic	3,00	115,5	115,5	107,7	0,0	+7,2
Non-alcoholic	0,86	122,5	122,5	111,3	0,0	+10,1
2.3 Tobacco products	0,72	142,0	142,0	116,1	0,0	+22,3
2.4 Textiles and made-up goods	2,86	114,2	114,0	108,7	+0,2	+5,1
Spinning, weaving and finishing of textiles	1,81	115,5	115,3	108,6	+0,2	+6,4
Other textiles	1,05	112,2	111,9	108,9	+0,3	+3,0
2.5 Wearing apparel	2,48	117,6	117,2	111,0	+0,3	+5,9
Knitted and crocheted fabrics and articles	0,58	116,4	116,3	111,4	+0,1	+4,5
Wearing apparel	1,90	117,9	117,4	110,8	+0,4	+6,4
Men's and boys' clothing	0,89	115,3	114,4	108,4	+0,8	+6,4
Women's and girls' clothing	0,95	120,5	120,5	113,2	0,0	+6,4
Other, including articles of fur	0,06	116,0	114,8	109,6	+1,0	+5,8
2.6 Leather and leather products	0,26	110,9	110,9	108,8	0,0	+1,9
2.7 Footwear	0,95	119,3	119,3	114,7	0,0	+4,0
2.8 Wood and wood products	1,33	119,4	119,4	111,4	0,0	+7,2
Sawmilling and planing of wood	0,67	125,5	125,5	113,7	0,0	+10,4
Products of wood, cork and plaiting materials	0,66	113,3	113,3	109,0	0,0	+3,9
2.9 Paper, paper products and printing	4,63	121,0	121,0	114,8	0,0	+5,4
Paper and paper products	3,10	122,7	122,7	117,8	0,0	+4,2
Publishing and printing	1,53	117,7	117,7	108,6	0,0	+8,4
2.10 Products of petroleum and coal	6,10	134,0	132,3	136,4	+1,3	-1,8
2.11 Chemicals and chemical products	7,15	117,5	117,5	110,6	0,0	+6,2
Basic chemicals	3,46	120,6	120,6	114,0	0,0	+5,8
Fertilizers	0,54	121,5	121,5	118,8	0,0	+2,3
Other	2,92	120,4	120,4	113,1	0,0	+6,5
Other chemical products	3,69	115,2	115,2	107,7	0,0	+7,0
Pharmaceutical products	0,87	118,7	118,7	106,0	0,0	+12,0
Other	2,82	113,3	113,3	107,8	0,0	+5,1
2.12 Rubber and plastic products	2,61	121,6	121,6	112,0	0,0	+8,6
Rubber products	0,84	115,9	115,9	109,5	0,0	+5,8
Plastic products	1,77	124,3	124,3	113,2	0,0	+9,8

Table 3 Price indices for output of South African industry groups (concluded)  
3.2 - For South African consumption (concluded)

BASE : June 1995 = 100

GROUP	WEIGHT	INDICES			% CHANGE COMPARED WITH	
		Dec. 1997	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996
2.13 Non-metallic mineral products	2,86	119,3	119,3	110,7	0,0	+7,8
Glass and glass products	0,49	106,4	106,4	103,5	0,0	+2,8
Other	2,37	122,0	122,0	112,2	0,0	+8,7
2.14 Basic metals	4,79	117,1	117,1	107,4	0,0	+9,0
Ferrous	3,67	118,9	118,9	109,7	0,0	+8,4
Non-ferrous	1,12	110,9	110,9	99,9	0,0	+11,0
2.15 Metal products	4,23	113,5	113,5	108,2	0,0	+4,9
Structural metal products	1,90	115,3	115,3	109,4	0,0	+5,4
Other	2,33	112,0	112,0	107,1	0,0	+4,6
2.16 Non-electrical machinery and equipment	4,70	108,2	108,2	106,7	0,0	+1,4
General purpose machinery	0,81	112,3	112,3	107,8	0,0	+4,2
Special purpose machinery	3,39	107,3	107,3	106,6	0,0	+0,7
Household appliances	0,50	107,8	107,8	105,3	0,0	+2,4
2.17 Office, accounting and computing machinery	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.18 Electrical machinery and apparatus	2,13	114,2	114,2	107,8	0,0	+5,9
Electric motors, generators and transformers	0,56	118,7	118,7	109,2	0,0	+8,7
Electricity distribution and control apparatus	0,33	112,9	112,9	108,5	0,0	+4,1
Insulated wire and cable	0,66	109,1	109,1	105,4	0,0	+3,5
Other	0,58	117,2	117,2	109,4	0,0	+7,1
2.19 Radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus	1,19	108,2	108,2	105,4	0,0	+2,7
2.20 Medical, precision and optical instruments	0,13	124,4	124,4	108,9	0,0	+14,2
Medical appliances and instruments for measuring, checking, testing and navigating	0,10	122,3	122,3	108,5	0,0	+12,7
Other, including watches and clocks	0,03	130,9	130,9	110,3	0,0	+18,7
2.21 Transport equipment	7,83	111,0	111,0	106,0	0,0	+4,7
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	7,35	111,6	111,6	106,3	0,0	+5,0
Motor vehicles	5,60	112,1	112,1	106,4	0,0	+5,4
Bodies, trailers and semi-trailers	0,26	114,8	114,8	108,8	0,0	+5,5
Parts and accessories	1,49	109,2	109,2	105,3	0,0	+3,7
Other transport equipment	0,48	102,2	102,2	100,9	0,0	+1,3
2.22 Furniture	1,36	115,1	115,1	109,9	0,0	+4,7
2.23 Other manufactures	0,96	111,0	111,0	110,4	0,0	+0,5
3. ELECTRICITY, GAS AND WATER	7,16	108,9	106,8	99,9	+2,0	+9,0
3.1 Electricity	6,20	104,4	101,9	97,3	+2,5	+7,3
3.2 Gas and water	0,96	138,0	138,0	117,0	0,0	+17,9

Note: Weights are based on the value of South African production minus exports

Indices reflect prices of locally produced and sold commodities

Table 4 Price indices for materials used in certain industries

BASE : June 1995 = 100

ITEM	INDICES			% CHANGE COMPARED WITH	
	Dec. 1997	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996
Building and construction	119,6	119,5	112,7	+0,1	+6,1
Building industries	117,9	117,9	111,0	0,0	+6,2
Civil engineering	122,2	122,2	112,2	0,0	+8,9
Mechanical engineering	113,4	113,2	107,5	+0,2	+5,5
Electrical engineering	112,7	112,8	106,2	-0,1	+6,1

Table 5 Price indices for selected materials

BASE : June 1995 = 100

ITEM	INDICES			% CHANGE COMPARED WITH	
	Dec. 1997	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996
Wool, auction prices, 18 types	115,1	118,8	106,8	-3,1	+7,8
Coal, bituminous	130,6	127,4	120,7	+2,5	+8,2
Coal, bituminous - for local sales	143,6	144,3	125,7	-0,5	+14,2
- Cobbles, grade A	145,7	144,9	129,5	+0,6	+12,5
- Cobbles, grade B	129,5	129,5	116,1	0,0	+11,5
- Large nuts, grade A	150,0	150,2	129,0	-0,1	+16,3
- Large nuts, grade B	131,9	133,7	124,6	-1,3	+5,9
- Small nuts, grade A	144,1	143,9	121,1	+0,1	+19,0
- Small nuts, grade B	107,6	108,8	95,5	-1,1	+12,7
- Peas, grade A	130,7	130,9	120,5	-0,2	+8,5
- Peas, grade B	135,1	136,0	114,1	-0,7	+18,4
Anthracite - for local sales					
- Grade SP	122,0	114,5	96,2	+6,6	+26,8
- Grade A	124,9	117,3	99,9	+6,5	+25,0
Wood products, excluding minewood	114,4	114,4	104,2	0,0	+9,8
SA Pine, kiln dried	130,4	130,4	100,0	0,0	+30,4
Paper, newsprint	134,9	134,9	135,7	0,0	-0,6
Kraft paper	123,2	123,2	119,5	0,0	+3,1
Boxes, corrugated cardboard	125,0	125,0	119,8	0,0	+4,3
Leather, bovine hide	104,2	104,2	104,9	0,0	-0,7
Rubber crude	103,3	103,3	101,1	0,0	+2,2
- Natural	100,0	100,0	100,0	0,0	0,0
- Synthetic	106,6	106,6	102,3	0,0	+4,2
- Synthetic - Local	106,6	106,6	102,3	0,0	+4,2
Tyres and tubes	114,8	114,8	108,9	0,0	+5,4
Plastic bottles	109,6	109,6	105,8	0,0	+3,6
Plastic, bulk forms	114,9	114,9	106,6	0,0	+7,8
Sulphuric acid	122,3	122,3	114,8	0,0	+6,5
Glycerine	91,2	91,2	93,2	0,0	-2,1
Paints	114,3	114,3	110,8	0,0	+3,2
Foam insulation materials	116,6	116,6	109,5	0,0	+6,5
- Polyurethane	131,7	131,7	118,1	0,0	+11,5
- Polystyrene	100,0	100,0	100,0	0,0	0,0
Petro-chemical building materials	114,7	114,7	106,6	0,0	+7,6
Waterproofing	113,4	113,4	110,9	0,0	+2,3
Resilient floor coverings	125,3	125,3	109,7	0,0	+14,2
Petrol, 93 octane - Coast	122,6	122,7	122,1	-0,1	+0,4
- Witwatersrand	122,6	122,7	122,1	-0,1	+0,4
Diesel oil - Coast	130,7	131,9	152,5	-0,9	-14,3
- Witwatersrand	130,7	131,9	152,5	-0,9	-14,3
Transformer oil	105,4	110,4	108,3	-4,5	-2,7
Bitumen	111,1	110,6	119,0	+0,5	-6,6
Tar	126,5	124,4	127,9	+1,7	-1,1
Bricks - Stock	115,7	115,7	111,3	0,0	+4,0
- Face	143,5	143,5	129,3	0,0	+11,0
Sand	102,7	102,7	102,7	0,0	0,0
Aggregated crushed stone	128,9	128,9	116,8	0,0	+10,4
Cement	123,0	123,0	110,4	0,0	+11,4
Ordinary and extended cement	103,2	103,2	103,2	0,0	0,0
Natural stone, cut and sawn	109,1	109,0	107,0	+0,1	+2,0
Glass, for building industry	114,3	114,3	114,3	0,0	0,0

Table 5 Price indices for selected materials (concluded)

BASE : June 1995 = 100

ITEM	INDICES			% CHANGE COMPARED WITH	
	Dec. 1997	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996
Ironmongery	109,4	109,4	106,8	0,0	+2,4
Drainage	122,3	122,3	113,6	0,0	+7,7
Plumbing	104,9	104,9	100,8	0,0	+4,1
Ceramic and encaustic wall and floor tiles and mosaics	115,4	115,4	110,9	0,0	+4,1
Ceiling materials	119,7	119,7	108,8	0,0	+10,0
Partitioning materials	119,7	119,7	108,8	0,0	+10,0
Fibrous insulation - Preformed pipe sections	107,0	107,0	107,0	0,0	0,0
- Batten board	108,0	108,0	108,0	0,0	0,0
- Mattresses	108,0	108,0	108,0	0,0	0,0
- Ceiling insulation	108,1	108,1	108,1	0,0	0,0
Insulator, porcelain	100,0	100,0	100,0	0,0	0,0
Containers, glass	101,5	101,5	99,0	0,0	+2,5
Billets, mild steel	100,0	100,0	100,0	0,0	0,0
Angles, mild steel	100,0	100,0	100,0	0,0	0,0
Structural steel, unworked	113,1	113,1	104,9	0,0	+7,8
Reinforcing steel	126,8	126,8	115,8	0,0	+9,5
Plate, mild steel	126,0	126,0	109,4	0,0	+15,2
Sheet, uncoated	114,9	114,9	105,6	0,0	+8,8
Sheet, galvanized	126,0	126,0	109,4	0,0	+15,2
Tinplate	114,0	114,0	103,2	0,0	+10,5
Steel tubes, pipes and fittings	113,6	113,6	106,3	0,0	+6,9
Copper, basic forms	100,8	100,8	98,8	0,0	+2,0
Aluminium - Anodising	100,0	100,0	100,0	0,0	0,0
- Basic forms	96,6	96,6	93,3	0,0	+3,5
- Extruded products	100,0	100,0	100,0	0,0	0,0
- Sheeting	86,5	86,5	77,7	0,0	+11,3
Bearings, ball and roller	128,1	128,1	126,4	0,0	+1,3
Electrical contracting materials	115,9	115,8	110,0	+0,1	+5,4
Construction machinery (excluding trucks)	122,9	122,9	116,6	0,0	+5,4
Trucks	103,9	104,1	99,3	-0,2	+4,6
Mining machinery	118,0	118,0	107,3	0,0	+10,0
Rubber industry's indices:					
Natural rubber (imported)	72,8	72,8	83,5	0,0	-12,8
SBR tyres 1500 (local)	157,8	157,8	155,7	0,0	+1,3
Acrylonitrile butadiene rubber KRYNOC 805	100,0	100,0	100,0	0,0	0,0
Polychloroprene rubber WRT type (imported)	102,8	102,8	102,8	0,0	0,0
Carbon black - N774 (local)	109,2	109,2	104,0	0,0	+5,0
- N660	120,9	120,9	115,2	0,0	+4,9
Accelerator ORAC NS (local)	96,6	96,6	111,8	0,0	-13,6
Anti-oxidant OROX - HR (local)	126,4	126,4	109,0	0,0	+16,0
- Q	105,8	105,8	135,6	0,0	-22,0
Anti-ozonant ORFLEX PP (local)	113,8	113,8	142,5	0,0	-20,1
Bulk yarn - Nylon	116,0	116,0	116,0	0,0	0,0
- Cotton	105,1	105,1	109,0	0,0	-3,6
Stearic acid (local)	100,0	100,0	100,0	0,0	0,0
Plasticiser DODP (local)	107,3	107,3	122,3	0,0	-12,3
Coumarone indene resin (imported)	150,0	150,0	120,0	0,0	+25,0
Chlorobutyl rubber (imported)	117,8	117,8	108,0	0,0	+9,1
EPDM Vistalon 5600 (imported)	99,2	99,2	102,3	0,0	-3,0
Zinc oxide	136,2	136,2	105,8	0,0	+28,7
Synthetic rubber - 1502	114,3	114,3	114,6	0,0	-0,3
- 1712	104,4	104,4	109,7	0,0	-4,8
Polybutadiene	104,9	104,9	110,6	0,0	-5,2
Processing oil	105,4	105,4	105,4	0,0	0,0
Bead wire	101,5	101,5	101,5	0,0	0,0
Steel cord wire	118,5	118,5	118,5	0,0	0,0
Nylon fabric - 940 X 2	103,3	103,3	103,3	0,0	0,0
- 1400 X 2	102,7	102,7	102,7	0,0	0,0
Rayon fabric - 1840 X 2	104,9	104,9	104,9	0,0	0,0



Table 6 Seasonally adjusted indices

DESCRIPTION	Dec. 1997	Nov. * 1997	Oct. * 1997	Sep. * 1997	Aug. * 1997	Jul. * 1997
All commodities for consumption in South Africa	116,0	115,8	115,2	115,0	114,2	114,1
Locally produced commodities	117,5	117,3	116,8	116,6	116,0	115,6
Imported commodities	110,9	110,5	109,3	109,0	107,7	108,5
Output of South African industry						
Total output	119,3	119,1	118,7	118,4	118,1	117,7
For South African consumption	117,5	117,3	116,8	116,6	116,0	115,6
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	114,9	115,0	114,2	115,2	113,1	113,6
Tobacco and Beverages	123,4	122,5	121,5	121,1	120,2	119,3
Textiles, Clothing and Footwear	118,2	117,9	117,3	116,5	115,3	114,9
Machinery and Transport equipment	111,1	110,6	110,4	110,0	109,4	109,6
Mining, Electricity, Gas and Water	115,5	114,3	115,3	114,3	114,3	114,9
Basic metals and Metal products	116,3	115,7	115,4	114,8	114,1	113,0
Food	121,9	122,4	122,7	122,5	122,0	122,0
Total Manufacturing	118,7	118,3	117,7	117,6	116,8	116,2

DESCRIPTION	Jun. * 1997	May * 1997	Apr. * 1997	Mar. * 1997	Feb. * 1997	Jan. * 1997
All commodities for consumption in South Africa	113,9	113,9	113,4	113,5	112,7	112,4
Locally produced commodities	115,5	115,1	114,9	114,2	113,2	113,0
Imported commodities	108,7	110,0	107,9	111,8	111,8	110,7
Output of South African industry						
Total output	117,2	116,3	115,8	115,3	114,3	114,5
For South African consumption	115,5	115,1	114,9	114,2	113,2	113,0
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	114,5	113,7	112,9	113,3	110,5	111,7
Tobacco and Beverages	119,3	118,4	117,4	113,1	112,4	112,7
Textiles, Clothing and Footwear	115,0	115,0	114,3	113,9	113,5	112,9
Machinery and Transport equipment	109,0	108,6	108,4	107,9	107,6	107,4
Mining, Electricity, Gas and Water	112,9	112,1	112,8	112,6	110,4	108,5
Basic metals and Metal products	112,3	111,7	110,2	109,9	109,3	108,5
Food	122,5	122,1	121,5	120,5	119,0	118,6
Total Manufacturing	116,4	116,1	115,7	114,8	114,4	114,2

\* Seasonally adjusted indices are revised annually.