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FURTHER DECREASE IN PRODUCER INFLATION

The production price index (PPI) for all commodities for South African consumption shows an annual rate of increase of 8,4% at May 1997, i.e. for the period May 1996 to May 1997. This rate is 0,4 of a percentage point lower than the annual rate of increase at April 1997, which was 8,8%. The monthly increase in this index is 0,9% for May 1997, compared with 0,4% for April 1997.

LOWER ANNUAL INCREASE IN THE PPI FOR LOCALLY PRODUCED COMMODITIES

The annual rate of increase in the PPI for locally produced commodities is 8,9% at May 1997. This rate is 0,8 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding annual rate of 9,7% at April 1997. The monthly increase in this index is 0,4%, while the seasonally adjusted index went up by 0,3%.

ANNUAL RATE OF CHANGE IN THE PPI FOR IMPORTED COMMODITIES INCREASED SLIGHTLY

The PPI for imported commodities reflects an annual increase of 6,4% at May 1997. This is 1,0 percentage point higher than the corresponding annual rate of 5,4% at April 1997, but still substantially lower than the annual rate of 10,1% at March 1997. From April 1997 to May 1997 this index increased by 2,7%, compared with a decrease of 3,2% for April 1997. The seasonally adjusted index increased by 1,8% from April 1997 to May 1997.


The main contributor to the relatively large monthly increase was crude petroleum, whose average price increased by 19,3%. This higher average price was confirmed by Customs and Excise, the supplier of the basic data to the CSS.

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

Relatively large monthly increases occurred in the price indices for forestry products (+2,0%), fishing products (+2,3%), mining and quarrying products (+4,9%, due to the large increase in the average price of crude petroleum), wood and wood products (+0,9%), non-metallic mineral products (+1,2%), basic metals (+1,6%), metal products (+1,8%), transport equipment (+2,1%), furniture (+2,1%) and "other manufactures" (+1,6%).

MONTHLY CHANGES IN THE PPI FOR IMPORTED COMMODITIES

Monthly increases occurred in the prices of agricultural non-food products (+0,3%), mining and quarrying products (+16,4%, due to the large increase in the average price of crude petroleum), beverages (+0,4%), tobacco products (+0,3%), textiles and made-up goods (+0,7%), wood and wood products (+8,4%), non-electrical machinery and equipment (+1,0%) and transport equipment (+2,2%), while the prices of chemicals and chemical products remained virtually unchanged. In contrast, there were monthly decreases in the prices of agricultural food products (-3,1%), food at manufacturing (-1,1%), leather and leather products (-0,4%), paper, paper products and printing (-5,9%) and "other manufactures" (-0,8%).

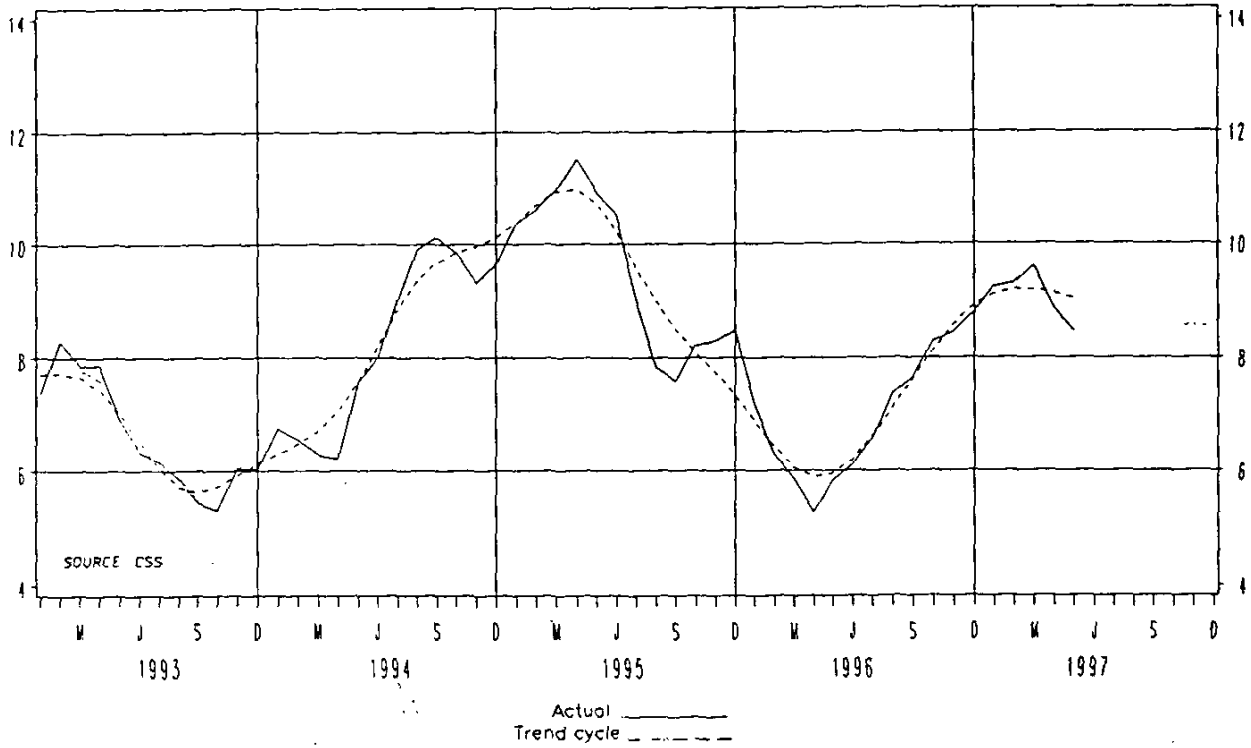
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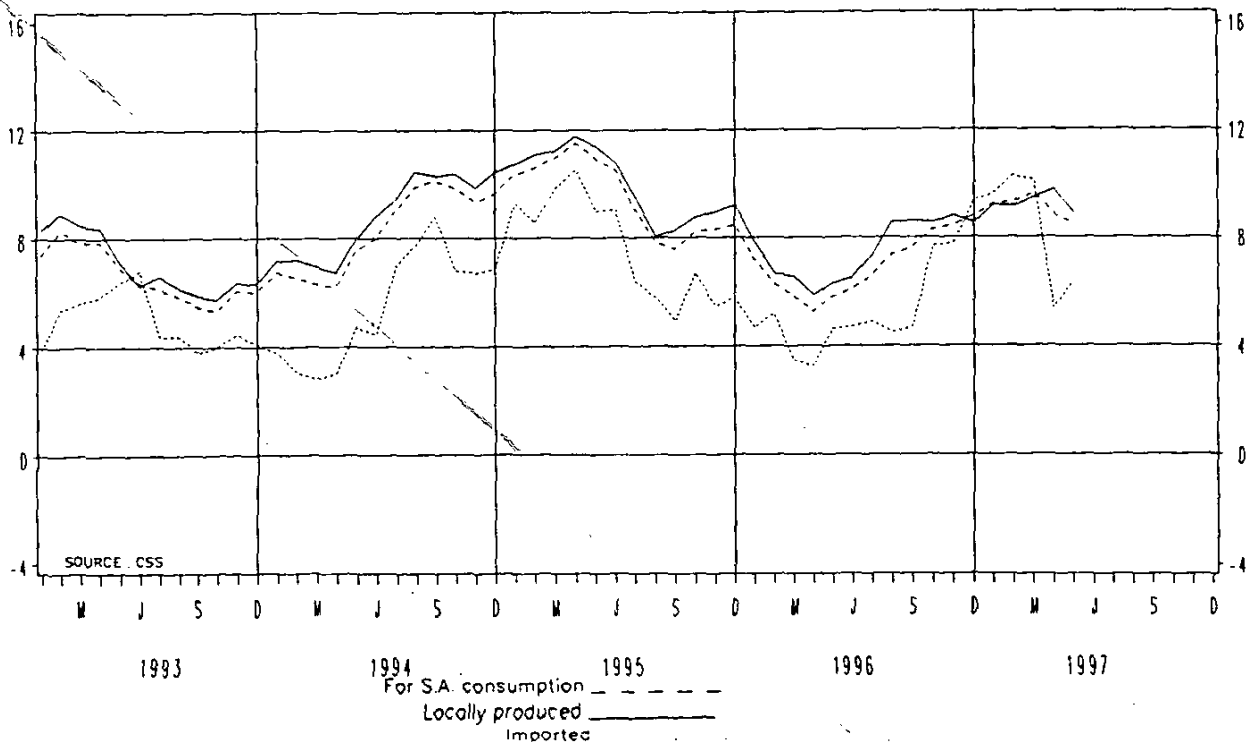
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PRODUCTION PRICE INDEX
COMMODITIES FOR S.A. CONSUMPTION

ANNUAL CHANGE
PERCENTAGE



ANNUAL CHANGE
PERCENTAGE



PRODUCTION PRICE INDEX

BASE : June 1995 = 100

DESCRIPTION	INDICES			PERCENTAGE CHANGE COMPARED WITH -		
	May 1997	Apr. 1997	May 1996	Apr. 1997		May 1996
				Actual %	Seasonally adjusted %	Actual %
All commodities for consumption in South Africa	114,3	113,3	105,4	+0,9	+0,4	+8,4
Locally produced commodities	115,4	114,9	106,0	+0,4	+0,3	+8,9
Imported commodities	110,5	107,6	103,9	+2,7	+1,8	+6,4
Output of South African industry						
Total output	116,6	115,8	106,8	+0,7	+0,4	+9,2
For South African consumption	115,4	114,9	106,0	+0,4	+0,3	+8,9

PRODUCTION PRICE INDEX FOR IMPORTED COMMODITIES

GROUP	WEIGHT	MONTHLY % CHANGE	
		May 1997	Apr. 1997
ALL GROUPS	100,00	+2,7	-3,2
1. AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING AND MINING	14,94	+13,7	-15,3
1.1 Agriculture	1,51	-1,8	+1,9
1.1.1 Food	0,87	-3,1	+3,6
1.1.2 Other agriculture	0,64	+0,3	-0,7
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	+16,4	-17,7
2. MANUFACTURING	85,00	+0,5	-0,2
2.1 Food	2,53	-1,1	+0,0
2.2 Beverages	0,77	+0,4	+0,0
2.3 Tobacco products	0,08	+0,3	0,0
2.4 Textiles and made-up goods	4,13	+0,7	+0,0
2.5 Wearing apparel	0,56	0,0	0,0
2.6 Leather and leather products	0,56	-0,4	+1,0
2.7 Footwear	0,39	0,0	0,0
2.8 Wood and wood products	0,71	+8,4	+0,0
2.9 Paper, paper products and printing	3,41	-5,9	-5,0
2.10 Products of petroleum and coal	1,41	0,0	0,0
2.11 Chemicals and chemical products	14,15	+0,0	-0,0
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	0,0
2.16 Non-electrical machinery and equipment	16,25	+1,0	+0,1
2.17 Office, accounting and computing machinery	3,98	0,0	0,0
2.18 Electrical machinery and apparatus	3,77	0,0	0,0
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	0,0
2.21 Transport equipment	15,58	+2,2	-0,0
2.22 Furniture	0,16	0,0	0,0
2.23 Other manufactures	1,48	-0,8	-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 1.1 - PRICE INDICES FOR COMMODITIES FOR SOUTH AFRICAN CONSUMPTION

BASE : June 1995 = 100

GROUP	WEIGHT	INDICES			% CHANGE COMPARED WITH	
		May 1997	Apr. 1997	May 1996	Apr. 1997	May 1996
ALL GROUPS	100,00	114,3	113,3	105,4	+0,9	+8,4
South African	80,74	115,4	114,9	106,0	+0,4	+8,9
Imported	19,26	110,5	107,6	103,9	+2,7	+6,4
1. AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING AND MINING	17,90	118,3	115,8	106,8	+2,2	+10,8
1.1 Agriculture	8,17	112,7	113,1	101,2	-0,4	+11,4
1.1.1 Food	7,70	112,9	113,3	101,2	-0,4	+11,6
Grain	1,57	111,5	117,7	116,7	-5,3	-4,5
Sugar cane	0,55	105,5	100,8	95,7	+4,7	+10,2
Oil seeds	0,28	100,0	100,0	100,0	0,0	0,0
Vegetables and dried beans	0,75	118,7	108,2	93,3	+9,7	+27,2
Fruit	0,50	87,3	109,1	99,8	-20,0	-12,5
Meat	2,63	116,5	116,1	97,3	+0,3	+19,7
Milk and eggs	1,08	131,7	126,2	104,0	+4,4	+26,6
Other	0,34	79,2	79,2	79,2	0,0	0,0
1.1.2. Other agriculture	0,47	110,4	110,5	101,0	-0,1	+9,3
1.2 Forestry	2,39	102,4	100,4	99,1	+2,0	+3,3
1.3 Fishing	0,21	135,3	132,3	100,0	+2,3	+35,3
1.4 Mining and quarrying	7,13	129,6	123,5	116,1	+4,9	+11,6
Coal	1,93	132,1	137,0	118,2	-3,6	+11,8
Metal ores	0,87	108,5	107,3	104,8	+1,1	+3,5
Other minerals	4,33	132,8	120,6	117,5	+10,1	+13,0
2. MANUFACTURING	76,30	113,8	113,1	105,4	+0,6	+8,0
South African	59,93	116,5	115,7	107,1	+0,7	+8,8
Imported	16,37	107,4	106,9	101,5	+0,5	+5,8
2.1 Food	9,45	121,3	120,6	109,6	+0,6	+10,7
Meat	1,72	120,1	120,7	106,8	-0,5	+12,5
Fresh meat	1,30	119,9	120,7	106,3	-0,7	+12,8
Meat products	0,42	120,7	120,6	108,3	+0,1	+11,4
Fish and fish products	0,40	128,4	129,8	113,4	-1,1	+13,2
Fruit and vegetable products	0,58	118,0	116,3	106,4	+1,5	+10,9
Fats and oils	0,83	115,0	114,6	107,8	+0,3	+6,7
Milk products	0,51	127,8	124,6	109,2	+2,6	+17,0
Grain mill products	1,82	119,2	119,5	111,7	-0,3	+6,7
Sugar	0,48	106,8	103,9	104,4	+2,8	+2,3
Coffee and tea	0,20	115,9	116,3	106,9	-0,3	+8,4
Other	2,91	125,6	124,3	111,5	+1,0	+12,6
2.2 Beverages	3,27	116,3	116,3	105,7	0,0	+10,0
Alcoholic	2,57	114,6	114,6	105,7	0,0	+8,4
Non-alcoholic	0,70	122,3	122,3	105,7	0,0	+15,7
2.3 Tobacco products	0,59	137,6	137,6	107,5	0,0	+28,0
2.4 Textiles and made-up goods	3,11	109,1	108,9	104,2	+0,2	+4,7
Spinning, weaving and finishing of textiles	1,86	109,5	109,2	103,6	+0,3	+5,7
Other textiles	1,25	108,5	108,5	105,0	0,0	+3,3
2.5 Wearing apparel	2,11	112,6	112,6	103,7	0,0	+8,6
Knitted and crocheted fabrics and articles	0,49	112,3	112,3	103,3	0,0	+8,7
Wearing apparel	1,62	112,7	112,7	103,8	0,0	+8,6
Men's and boys' clothing	0,74	109,7	109,7	104,5	0,0	+5,0
Women's and girls' clothing	0,83	115,5	115,5	103,2	0,0	+11,9
Other, including articles of fur	0,05	111,1	111,1	104,8	0,0	+6,0
2.6 Leather and leather products	0,32	124,4	124,6	109,9	-0,2	+13,2
2.7 Footwear	0,84	117,2	117,2	106,8	0,0	+9,7
2.8 Wood and wood products	1,20	118,1	117,0	107,0	+0,9	+10,4
Sawmilling and planing of wood	0,62	122,0	122,0	109,9	0,0	+11,0
Products of wood, cork and plaiting materials	0,58	113,9	111,8	104,0	+1,9	+9,5
2.9 Paper, paper products and printing	4,40	118,4	119,4	109,9	-0,8	+7,7
Paper and paper products	2,90	119,8	121,0	112,2	-1,0	+6,8
Publishing and printing	1,50	115,8	116,4	105,6	-0,5	+9,7
2.10 Products of petroleum and coal	5,20	130,2	130,9	116,8	-0,5	+11,5
2.11 Chemicals and chemical products	8,52	113,2	113,2	104,3	0,0	+8,5
Basic chemicals	4,12	117,4	117,4	105,9	0,0	+10,9
Fertilizers	0,49	123,3	123,3	107,4	0,0	+14,8
Other	3,63	117,0	117,0	105,9	0,0	+10,5
Other chemical products	4,40	109,7	109,7	103,0	0,0	+6,5
Pharmaceutical products	1,40	107,4	107,4	101,9	0,0	+5,4
Other	3,00	111,0	111,0	103,9	0,0	+6,8
2.12 Rubber and plastic products	2,49	116,4	116,4	106,8	0,0	+9,0
Rubber products	0,85	115,2	115,2	107,4	0,0	+7,3
Plastic products	1,64	117,0	117,0	106,5	0,0	+9,9

TABLE 1.1 - PRICE INDICES FOR COMMODITIES FOR SOUTH AFRICAN CONSUMPTION (CONCLUDED)

BASE : June 1995 = 100

GROUP	WEIGHT	INDICES			% CHANGE COMPARED WITH	
		May 1997	Apr. 1997	May 1996	Apr. 1997	May 1996
		2.13 Non-metallic mineral products	2,52	115,3	113,9	106,5
Glass and glass products	0,49	105,7	104,4	103,4	+1,2	+2,2
Other	2,03	117,6	116,2	107,2	+1,2	+9,7
2.14 Basic metals	4,39	111,8	110,0	103,9	+1,6	+7,6
Ferrous	3,29	113,6	112,3	105,4	+1,2	+7,8
Non-ferrous	1,10	106,6	103,1	99,2	+3,4	+7,5
2.15 Metal products	3,93	116,0	113,9	104,7	+1,8	+10,8
Structural metal products	1,61	111,5	109,8	104,5	+1,5	+6,7
Other	2,32	119,2	116,8	104,8	+2,1	+13,7
2.16 Non-electrical machinery and equipment	6,95	108,2	107,8	102,5	+0,4	+5,6
General purpose machinery	2,12	103,1	102,7	101,2	+0,4	+1,9
Special purpose machinery	4,30	110,9	110,7	103,3	+0,2	+7,4
Household appliances	0,53	105,9	104,3	101,8	+1,5	+4,0
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	107,9	107,1	104,1	+0,7	+3,7
Electric motors, generators and transformers	0,63	110,2	108,0	104,4	+2,0	+5,6
Electricity distribution and control apparatus	0,54	106,2	105,7	103,0	+0,5	+3,1
Insulated wire and cable	0,58	106,7	107,2	106,4	-0,5	+0,3
Other	0,70	108,7	107,7	103,0	+0,9	+5,5
2.19 Radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus	1,52	103,8	103,7	101,9	+0,1	+1,9
2.20 Medical, precision and optical instruments	0,82	103,5	103,5	100,9	0,0	+2,6
Medical appliances and instruments for measuring, checking, testing and navigating	0,66	102,3	102,3	100,9	0,0	+1,4
Other, including watches and clocks	0,16	108,7	108,7	100,8	0,0	+7,8
2.21 Transport equipment	9,34	114,3	111,9	103,2	+2,1	+10,8
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	8,20	116,2	113,5	103,7	+2,4	+12,1
Motor vehicles	6,19	108,8	106,5	102,1	+2,2	+6,6
Bodies, trailers and semi-trailers	0,23	111,3	109,5	106,3	+1,6	+4,7
Parts and accessories	1,78	134,9	130,6	107,8	+3,3	+25,1
Other transport equipment	1,14	100,5	100,5	100,2	0,0	+0,3
2.22 Furniture	1,13	112,9	110,6	107,0	+2,1	+5,5
2.23 Other manufactures	0,98	102,2	100,6	100,6	+1,6	+1,6
3. ELECTRICITY, GAS AND WATER	5,80	108,8	108,9	101,4	-0,1	+7,3
3.1 Electricity	5,02	107,2	107,3	101,0	-0,1	+6,1
3.2 Gas and water	0,78	119,3	119,3	104,0	0,0	+14,7

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 1.2 - PRICE INDICES FOR OUTPUT OF SOUTH AFRICAN INDUSTRY GROUPS
1.2.1 - TOTAL OUTPUT

BASE : June 1995 = 100

GROUP	WEIGHT	INDICES			% CHANGE COMPARED WITH	
		May 1997	Apr. 1997	May 1996	Apr. 1997	May 1996
ALL GROUPS	100,00	116,6	115,8	106,8	+0,7	+9,2
South African	100,00	116,6	115,8	106,8	+0,7	+9,2
Imported	-	-	-	-	-	-
1. AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING AND MINING	29,85	120,8	119,2	108,2	+1,3	+11,6
1.1 Agriculture	8,61	111,8	112,2	100,7	-0,4	+11,0
1.1.1 Food	7,94	111,6	112,1	100,8	-0,4	+10,7
Grain	1,66	108,9	114,1	110,7	-4,6	-1,6
Sugar cane	0,52	105,5	100,8	95,7	+4,7	+10,2
Oil seeds	0,28	100,0	100,0	100,0	0,0	0,0
Vegetables and dried beans	0,71	118,4	108,1	93,4	+9,5	+26,8
Fruit	0,88	94,8	107,7	105,4	-12,0	-10,1
Meat	2,58	115,8	115,4	97,5	+0,3	+18,8
Milk and eggs	1,01	131,7	126,2	104,0	+4,4	+26,6
Other	0,30	77,8	77,8	77,8	0,0	0,0
1.1.2 Other agriculture	0,67	114,8	114,5	99,2	+0,3	+15,7
1.2 Forestry	2,07	102,6	100,4	99,0	+2,2	+3,6
1.3 Fishing	0,25	128,5	126,1	100,0	+1,9	+28,5
1.4 Mining and quarrying	18,92	126,8	124,4	112,7	+1,9	+12,5
Coal	3,54	138,5	140,9	113,3	-1,7	+22,2
Metal ores	11,91	127,4	123,0	113,9	+3,6	+11,9
Other minerals	3,47	112,6	112,3	108,3	+0,3	+4,0
2. MANUFACTURING	64,59	115,4	114,8	106,6	+0,5	+8,3
South African	64,59	115,4	114,8	106,6	+0,5	+8,3
Imported	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.1 Food	9,22	120,2	119,5	109,2	+0,6	+10,1
Meat	1,64	119,6	120,2	106,7	-0,5	+12,1
Fresh meat	1,25	119,3	120,1	106,1	-0,7	+12,4
Meat products	0,39	120,7	120,6	108,3	+0,1	+11,4
Fish and fish products	0,32	120,7	121,1	109,7	-0,3	+10,0
Fruit and vegetable products	0,75	116,8	115,3	105,9	+1,3	+10,3
Fats and oils	0,73	115,4	115,0	108,2	+0,3	+6,7
Milk products	0,48	127,7	124,4	109,1	+2,7	+17,0
Grain mill products	1,65	118,9	119,2	111,7	-0,3	+6,4
Sugar	0,75	108,9	106,9	105,7	+1,9	+3,0
Coffee and tea	0,18	115,8	116,1	106,8	-0,3	+8,4
Other	2,72	125,6	124,3	111,5	+1,0	+12,6
2.2 Beverages	3,02	116,9	116,9	105,9	0,0	+10,4
Alcoholic	2,34	115,6	115,6	106,1	0,0	+9,0
Non-alcoholic	0,68	121,6	121,6	105,5	0,0	+15,3
2.3 Tobacco products	0,55	138,2	138,2	107,5	0,0	+28,6
2.4 Textiles and made-up goods	2,30	110,4	110,4	104,7	0,0	+5,4
Spinning, weaving and finishing of textiles	1,46	110,9	110,9	104,0	0,0	+6,6
Other textiles	0,84	109,6	109,6	105,9	0,0	+3,5
2.5 Wearing apparel	1,97	113,0	113,0	103,7	0,0	+9,0
Knitted and crocheted fabrics and articles	0,45	112,5	112,5	103,3	0,0	+8,9
Wearing apparel	1,52	113,3	113,3	103,9	0,0	+9,0
Men's and boys' clothing	0,71	110,1	110,1	104,4	0,0	+5,5
Women's and girls' clothing	0,76	116,3	116,3	103,3	0,0	+12,6
Other, including articles of fur	0,05	112,1	112,1	105,1	0,0	+6,7
2.6 Leather and leather products	0,35	106,7	106,7	102,3	0,0	+4,3
2.7 Footwear	0,72	118,3	118,3	107,5	0,0	+10,0
2.8 Wood and wood products	1,10	117,1	117,1	107,3	0,0	+9,1
Sawmilling and planing of wood	0,53	123,2	123,2	111,3	0,0	+10,7
Products of wood, cork and plaiting materials	0,57	111,3	111,3	103,6	0,0	+7,4
2.9 Paper, paper products and printing	4,19	115,3	115,3	106,8	0,0	+8,0
Paper and paper products	3,01	119,3	119,3	110,6	0,0	+7,9
Publishing and printing	1,18	116,4	116,4	104,1	0,0	+11,8
2.10 Products of petroleum and coal	5,06	130,9	131,6	117,6	-0,5	+11,3
2.11 Chemicals and chemical products	6,40	115,5	115,5	105,2	0,0	+9,8
Basic chemicals	3,33	118,4	118,4	106,4	0,0	+11,3
Fertilizers	0,48	122,0	122,0	106,9	0,0	+14,1
Other	2,85	119,0	119,0	107,2	0,0	+11,0
Other chemical products	3,07	113,2	113,2	104,1	0,0	+8,7
Pharmaceutical products	0,72	112,9	112,9	103,2	0,0	+9,4
Other	2,35	112,2	112,2	104,0	0,0	+7,9
2.12 Rubber and plastic products	2,05	116,4	116,4	106,7	0,0	+9,1
Rubber products	0,67	114,1	114,1	106,2	0,0	+7,4
Plastic products	1,38	117,5	117,5	106,9	0,0	+9,9

TABLE 1.2 - PRICE INDICES FOR OUTPUT OF SOUTH AFRICAN INDUSTRY GROUPS
1.2.1 - TOTAL OUTPUT (CONCLUDED)

BASE : June 1995 = 100

GROUP	WEIGHT	INDICES			% CHANGE COMPARED WITH	
		May 1997	Apr. 1997	May 1996	Apr. 1997	May 1996
2.13 Non-metallic mineral products	2,29	115,9	114,4	106,8	+1,3	+8,5
Glass and glass products	0,43	106,2	104,7	103,8	+1,4	+2,3
Other	1,86	118,2	116,7	107,5	+1,3	+10,0
2.14 Basic metals	6,61	111,4	110,4	104,1	+0,9	+7,0
Ferrous	5,10	112,3	111,7	106,0	+0,5	+5,9
Non-ferrous	1,51	108,5	106,0	97,9	+2,4	+10,8
2.15 Metal products	3,59	111,3	109,1	104,8	+2,0	+6,2
Structural metal products	1,51	113,2	111,4	105,9	+1,6	+6,9
Other	2,08	110,0	107,4	104,0	+2,4	+5,8
2.16 Non-electrical machinery and equipment	3,90	108,0	108,2	103,8	-0,2	+4,0
General purpose machinery	0,78	109,9	108,7	103,7	+1,1	+6,0
Special purpose machinery	2,73	107,6	108,5	104,1	-0,8	+3,4
Household appliances	0,39	107,6	105,5	102,3	+2,0	+5,2
2.17 Office, accounting and computing machinery	0,05	100,1	100,1	100,0	0,0	+0,1
2.18 Electrical machinery and apparatus	1,74	111,0	109,8	105,8	+1,1	+4,9
Electric motors, generators and transformers	0,44	113,9	110,8	105,9	+2,8	+7,6
Electricity distribution and control apparatus	0,29	112,2	111,3	106,5	+0,8	+5,4
Insulated wire and cable	0,53	107,0	107,5	106,7	-0,5	+0,3
Other	0,48	112,8	111,3	104,6	+1,3	+7,8
2.19 Radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus	0,94	106,0	105,8	103,0	+0,2	+2,9
2.20 Medical, precision and optical instruments	0,15	113,6	113,6	105,3	0,0	+7,9
Medical appliances and instruments for measuring, checking, testing and navigating	0,12	113,6	113,6	105,5	0,0	+7,7
Other, including watches and clocks	0,03	113,6	113,6	104,3	0,0	+8,9
2.21 Transport equipment	6,44	109,8	107,6	103,1	+2,0	+6,5
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	5,96	110,4	108,0	103,3	+2,2	+6,9
Motor vehicles	4,40	110,9	108,1	102,7	+2,6	+8,0
Bodies, trailers and semi-trailers	0,30	112,1	110,1	106,8	+1,8	+5,0
Parts and accessories	1,26	107,4	106,1	104,7	+1,2	+2,6
Other transport equipment	0,48	102,1	102,1	101,1	0,0	+1,0
2.22 Furniture	1,08	112,9	110,6	106,9	+2,1	+5,6
2.23 Other manufactures	0,87	110,5	108,2	106,0	+2,1	+4,2
3. ELECTRICITY, GAS AND WATER	5,56	108,6	108,7	101,3	-0,1	+7,2
3.1 Electricity	4,83	107,0	107,1	100,9	-0,1	+6,0
3.2 Gas and water	0,73	119,3	119,3	104,0	0,0	+14,7

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

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

TABLE 1.2 - PRICE INDICES FOR OUTPUT OF SOUTH AFRICAN INDUSTRY GROUPS (CONCLUDED)
1.2.2 - FOR SOUTH AFRICAN CONSUMPTION

BASE : June 1995 = 100

GROUP	WEIGHT	INDICES			% CHANGE COMPARED WITH	
		May	Apr.	May	Apr.	May
		1997	1997	1996	1997	1996
ALL GROUPS	100,00	115,4	114,9	106,0	+0,4	+8,9
South African	100,00	115,4	114,9	106,0	+0,4	+8,9
Imported	-	-	-	-	-	-
1. AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING AND MINING	18,61	113,5	113,8	103,3	-0,3	+9,9
1.1 Agriculture	9,80	112,9	113,3	100,3	-0,4	+12,6
1.1.1 Food	9,34	112,9	113,2	100,2	-0,3	+12,7
Grain	1,83	110,7	117,0	112,9	-5,4	-1,9
Sugar cane	0,68	105,5	100,8	95,7	+4,7	+10,2
Oil seeds	0,33	100,0	100,0	100,0	0,0	0,0
Vegetables and dried beans	0,92	118,9	108,3	93,3	+9,8	+27,4
Fruit	0,60	87,0	109,3	99,8	-20,4	-12,8
Meat	3,26	116,5	116,1	97,3	+0,3	+19,7
Milk and eggs	1,33	131,7	126,2	104,0	+4,4	+26,6
Other	0,39	77,4	77,4	77,4	0,0	0,0
1.1.2 Other agriculture	0,46	114,6	114,9	101,9	-0,3	+12,5
1.2 Forestry	2,68	102,7	100,4	99,0	+2,3	+3,7
1.3 Fishing	0,24	138,5	135,2	100,0	+4,4	+38,5
1.4 Mining and quarrying	5,89	118,4	119,8	110,3	-1,2	+7,3
Coal	2,35	132,6	137,6	118,4	-3,6	+12,0
Metal ores	1,00	109,1	107,8	105,1	+1,2	+3,8
Other minerals	2,54	108,9	108,1	104,9	+0,7	+3,8
2. MANUFACTURING	74,23	116,5	115,7	107,1	+0,7	+8,8
South African	74,23	116,5	115,7	107,1	+0,7	+8,8
Imported	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.1 Food	11,10	121,3	120,5	109,5	+0,7	+10,8
Meat	2,09	120,3	120,9	106,9	-0,5	+12,5
Fresh meat	1,57	120,1	120,9	106,4	-0,7	+12,9
Meat products	0,52	120,7	120,6	108,3	+0,1	+11,4
Fish and fish products	0,35	121,6	121,9	109,7	-0,2	+10,8
Fruit and vegetable products	0,70	118,2	116,5	106,5	+1,5	+11,0
Fats and oils	0,86	116,5	116,2	108,4	+0,3	+7,5
Milk products	0,61	127,9	124,5	109,3	+2,7	+17,0
Grain mill products	2,14	118,8	119,1	111,6	-0,3	+6,5
Sugar	0,58	107,0	104,0	104,6	+2,9	+2,3
Coffee and tea	0,24	116,1	116,4	107,0	-0,3	+8,5
Other	3,53	125,9	124,6	111,7	+1,0	+12,7
2.2 Beverages	3,86	117,0	117,0	106,0	0,0	+10,4
Alcoholic	3,00	115,4	115,4	106,0	0,0	+8,9
Non-alcoholic	0,86	122,3	122,3	105,7	0,0	+15,7
2.3 Tobacco products	0,72	138,3	138,3	107,6	0,0	+28,5
2.4 Textiles and made-up goods	2,86	110,8	110,8	104,9	0,0	+5,6
Spinning, weaving and finishing of textiles	1,81	111,4	111,4	104,3	0,0	+6,8
Other textiles	1,05	109,9	109,9	106,1	0,0	+3,6
2.5 Wearing apparel	2,48	113,3	113,3	103,9	0,0	+9,0
Knitted and crocheted fabrics and articles	0,58	112,7	112,7	103,4	0,0	+9,0
Wearing apparel	1,90	113,5	113,5	104,1	0,0	+9,0
Men's and boys' clothing	0,89	110,0	110,0	104,6	0,0	+5,2
Women's and girls' clothing	0,95	116,8	116,8	103,5	0,0	+12,9
Other, including articles of fur	0,06	112,1	112,1	105,2	0,0	+6,6
2.6 Leather and leather products	0,26	110,0	110,0	102,4	0,0	+7,4
2.7 Footwear	0,95	118,3	118,3	107,4	0,0	+10,1
2.8 Wood and wood products	1,33	118,3	118,3	107,7	0,0	+9,8
Sawmilling and planing of wood	0,67	123,8	123,8	111,1	0,0	+11,4
Products of wood, cork and plaiting materials	0,66	112,6	112,6	104,2	0,0	+8,1
2.9 Paper, paper products and printing	4,63	120,2	120,2	109,7	0,0	+9,6
Paper and paper products	3,10	122,1	122,1	112,4	0,0	+8,6
Publishing and printing	1,53	116,4	116,4	104,2	0,0	+11,7
2.10 Products of petroleum and coal	6,10	131,9	132,6	117,8	-0,5	+12,0
2.11 Chemicals and chemical products	7,15	116,2	116,2	105,8	0,0	+9,8
Basic chemicals	3,46	120,3	120,3	107,8	0,0	+11,6
Fertilizers	0,54	123,9	123,9	107,4	0,0	+15,4
Other	2,92	119,7	119,7	107,9	0,0	+10,9
Other chemical products	3,69	113,0	113,0	104,0	0,0	+8,7
Pharmaceutical products	0,87	113,0	113,0	103,1	0,0	+9,6
Other	2,82	112,2	112,2	104,0	0,0	+7,9
2.12 Rubber and plastic products	2,61	116,6	116,6	106,8	0,0	+9,2
Rubber products	0,84	114,2	114,2	106,2	0,0	+7,5
Plastic products	1,77	117,8	117,8	107,1	0,0	+10,0

TABLE 1.2 - PRICE INDICES FOR OUTPUT OF SOUTH AFRICAN INDUSTRY GROUPS
1.2.2 - FOR SOUTH AFRICAN CONSUMPTION (CONCLUDED)

BASE : June 1995 = 100

GROUP	WEIGHT	INDICES			% CHANGE COMPARED WITH	
		May 1997	Apr. 1997	May 1996	Apr. 1997	May 1996
2.13 Non-metallic mineral products	2,86	116,7	115,1	107,1	+1,4	+9,0
Glass and glass products	0,49	107,0	105,4	104,2	+1,5	+2,7
Other	2,37	118,7	117,1	107,7	+1,4	+10,2
2.14 Basic metals	4,79	113,4	111,3	104,4	+1,9	+8,6
Ferrous	3,67	115,1	113,6	106,0	+1,3	+8,6
Non-ferrous	1,12	108,0	103,7	99,0	+4,1	+9,1
2.15 Metal products	4,23	111,4	108,9	104,6	+2,3	+6,5
Structural metal products	1,90	112,1	110,3	104,7	+1,6	+7,1
Other	2,33	110,8	107,8	104,6	+2,8	+5,9
2.16 Non-electrical machinery and equipment	4,70	107,8	108,1	103,7	-0,3	+4,0
General purpose machinery	0,81	109,9	108,7	103,7	+1,1	+6,0
Special purpose machinery	3,39	107,3	108,3	104,0	-0,9	+3,2
Household appliances	0,50	107,8	105,7	102,3	+2,0	+5,4
2.17 Office, accounting and computing machinery	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.18 Electrical machinery and apparatus	2,13	111,3	110,1	105,9	+1,1	+5,1
Electric motors, generators and transformers	0,56	114,3	111,2	106,1	+2,8	+7,7
Electricity distribution and control apparatus	0,33	112,7	111,7	106,1	+0,9	+6,2
Insulated wire and cable	0,66	107,2	107,7	107,0	-0,5	+0,2
Other	0,58	113,1	111,6	104,5	+1,3	+8,2
2.19 Radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus	1,19	106,1	105,9	103,0	+0,2	+3,0
2.20 Medical, precision and optical instruments	0,13	118,2	118,2	106,7	0,0	+10,8
Medical appliances and instruments for measuring, checking, testing and navigating	0,10	118,6	118,6	107,2	0,0	+10,6
Other, including watches and clocks	0,03	116,7	116,7	105,1	0,0	+11,0
2.21 Transport equipment	7,83	109,6	107,3	103,1	+2,1	+6,3
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	7,35	110,2	107,7	103,2	+2,3	+6,8
Motor vehicles	5,60	110,8	108,0	102,6	+2,6	+8,0
Bodies, trailers and semi-trailers	0,26	112,1	110,1	106,8	+1,8	+5,0
Parts and accessories	1,49	107,4	106,1	104,7	+1,2	+2,6
Other transport equipment	0,48	101,3	101,3	100,7	0,0	+0,6
2.22 Furniture	1,36	112,9	110,6	107,0	+2,1	+5,5
2.23 Other manufactures	0,96	112,6	110,1	107,6	+2,3	+4,6
3. ELECTRICITY, GAS AND WATER	7,16	108,8	108,9	101,4	-0,1	+7,3
3.1 Electricity	6,20	107,2	107,3	101,0	-0,1	+6,1
3.2 Gas and water	0,96	119,3	119,3	104,0	0,0	+14,7

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

Indices reflect prices of locally produced and sold commodities

TABLE 2.1 - PRICE INDICES FOR MATERIALS USED IN CERTAIN INDUSTRIES

BASE : June 1995 = 100

ITEM	INDICES			% CHANGE COMPARED WITH	
	May 1997	Apr. 1997	May 1996	Apr. 1997	May 1996
Building and construction	117,4	116,6*	107,6	+0,7	+9,1
Building industries	115,9	115,0*	107,0	+0,8	+8,3
Civil engineering	118,7	117,8*	108,2	+0,8	+9,7
Mechanical engineering	111,2	110,1	104,8	+1,0	+6,1
Electrical engineering	110,8	108,7	103,6	+1,9	+6,9

TABLE 2.2 - PRICE INDICES FOR SELECTED MATERIALS

BASE : June 1995 = 100

ITEM	INDICES			% CHANGE COMPARED WITH	
	May 1997	Apr. 1997	May 1996	Apr. 1997	May 1996
Wool, auction prices, 18 types	111,8	110,6	94,1	+1,1	+18,8
Coal, bituminous	132,5	137,5	118,3	-3,6	+12,0
Coal, bituminous - for local sales	142,5	139,4	109,8	+2,2	+29,8
- Cobbles, grade A	140,0	138,5	128,5	+1,1	+8,9
- Cobbles, grade B	124,8	123,4	115,2	+1,1	+8,3
- Large nuts, grade A	139,4	139,3	123,5	+0,1	+12,9
- Large nuts, grade B	128,4	127,6	120,9	+0,6	+6,2
- Small nuts, grade A	134,4	133,4	110,8	+0,7	+21,3
- Small nuts, grade B	105,8	105,6	87,4	+0,2	+21,1
- Peas, grade A	131,8	128,0	118,2	+3,0	+11,5
- Peas, grade B	129,5	121,5	114,6	+6,6	+13,0
Anthracite - for local sales					
- Grade SP	102,0	99,2	105,5	+2,8	-3,3
- Grade A	104,4	103,2	106,3	+1,2	-1,8
Wood products, excluding minewood	112,7	108,8	102,5	+3,6	+10,0
SA Pine, kiln dried	100,0	100,0	100,0	0,0	0,0
Paper, newsprint	148,5	148,5	141,3	0,0	+5,1
Kraft paper	123,7	123,7	115,4	0,0	+7,2
Boxes, corrugated cardboard	125,0	125,0	111,5	0,0	+12,1
Leather, bovine hide	104,9	104,9	99,2	0,0	+5,7
Rubber crude	101,3	101,3	99,9	0,0	+1,4
- Natural	100,0	100,0	100,0	0,0	0,0
- Synthetic	102,7	102,7	99,8	0,0	+2,9
- Synthetic - Local	102,7	102,7	99,8	0,0	+2,9
Tyres and tubes	113,0	113,0	103,6	0,0	+9,1
Plastic bottles	105,9	105,9	98,4	0,0	+7,6
Plastic, bulk forms	113,3	113,3	102,5	0,0	+10,5
Sulphuric acid	128,7	128,7	110,1	0,0	+16,9
Glycerine	95,8	95,8	101,0	0,0	-5,1
Paints	114,6	114,6	105,5	0,0	+8,6
Foam insulation materials					
- Polyurethane	114,4	114,4	104,9	0,0	+9,1
- Polystyrene	127,4	127,4	109,4	0,0	+16,5
Petro-chemical building materials	100,0	100,0	100,0	0,0	0,0
Waterproofing	110,4	110,3	103,1	+0,1	+7,1
Resilient floor coverings	102,4	102,4	100,9	0,0	+1,5
Petrol, 93 octane - Coast	106,9	106,1	102,0	+0,8	+4,8
- Witwatersrand	124,2	124,5	109,6	-0,2	+13,3
Diesel oil - Coast	124,2	124,5	109,6	-0,2	+13,3
- Witwatersrand	138,1	137,8	124,2	+0,2	+11,2
Transformer oil	138,1	137,8	124,2	+0,2	+11,2
Bitumen	93,8	94,5	92,7	-0,7	+1,2
Tar	122,4	122,4	101,9	0,0	+20,1
Bricks - Stock	131,2	128,5	114,7	+2,1	+14,4
- Face	115,7	114,1	106,1	+1,4	+9,0
Sand	139,0	137,3	122,5	+1,2	+13,5
Aggregated crushed stone	102,7	102,7	102,7	0,0	0,0
Cement	125,9	125,3	113,4	+0,5	+11,0
Ordinary and extended cement	120,5	117,6	108,4	+2,5	+11,2
Natural stone, cut and sawn	103,2	103,2	103,2	0,0	0,0
Glass, for building industry	109,1	108,8	104,4	+0,3	+4,5
	114,3	114,3	108,6	0,0	+5,2

TABLE 2.2 - PRICE INDICES FOR SELECTED MATERIALS (CONCLUDED)

BASE : June 1995 = 100

ITEM	INDICES			% CHANGE COMPARED WITH	
	May 1997	Apr. 1997	May 1996	Apr. 1997	May 1996
Ironmongery	108,1	107,1	102,2	+0,9	+5,8
Drainage	117,1	116,2	108,2	+0,8	+8,2
Plumbing	103,8	103,3	100,3	+0,5	+3,5
Ceramic and encaustic wall and floor tiles and mosaics	116,4	112,2	103,6	+3,7	+12,4
Ceiling materials	107,6	108,8	103,7	-1,1	+3,8
Partitioning materials	107,6	108,8	103,7	-1,1	+3,8
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	104,2	0,0	-2,6
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	108,9	108,9	103,5	0,0	+5,2
Reinforcing steel	121,4	121,4*	108,3	0,0	+12,1
Plate, mild steel	121,5	121,5	103,1	0,0	+17,8
Sheet, uncoated	110,1	110,1	103,9	0,0	+6,0
Sheet, galvanized	121,5	121,5	103,1	0,0	+17,8
Tinplate	114,0	103,2	100,0	+10,5	+14,0
Steel tubes, pipes and fittings	112,4	111,9	103,4	+0,4	+8,7
Copper, basic forms	102,0	100,5	98,9	+1,5	+3,1
Aluminium - Anodising	100,0	100,0	100,0	0,0	0,0
- Basic forms	97,0	94,3	94,2	+2,9	+3,0
- Extruded products	100,0	100,0	100,0	0,0	0,0
- Sheeting	83,1	85,1	79,4	-2,4	+4,7
Bearings, ball and roller	121,6	120,9	107,0	+0,6	+13,6
Electrical contracting materials	114,0	113,8	107,4	+0,2	+6,1
Construction machinery (excluding trucks)	123,1	121,8	107,8	+1,1	+14,2
Trucks	102,0	101,0	99,4	+1,0	+2,6
Mining machinery	117,9	116,8	103,9	+0,9	+13,5
Rubber industry's indices:					
Natural rubber (imported)	82,8	82,8	89,5	0,0	-7,5
SBR tyres 1500 (local)	155,7	155,7	147,7	0,0	+5,4
Acrylonitrile butadiene rubber KRYNOC 805	100,0	100,0	100,0	0,0	0,0
Polychloroprene rubber WRT type (imported)	102,8	102,8	100,0	0,0	+2,8
Carbon black - N774 (local)	109,2	109,2	100,0	0,0	+9,2
- N660	120,9	120,9	105,4	0,0	+14,7
Accelerator ORAC NS (local)	96,5	96,5	97,1	0,0	-0,6
Anti-oxidant OROX - HR (local)	109,8	109,8	107,8	0,0	+1,9
- Q	113,3	113,3	113,0	0,0	+0,3
Anti-ozonant ORFLEX PP (local)	116,7	116,7	116,7	0,0	0,0
Bulk yarn - Nylon	116,0	116,0	105,5	0,0	+10,0
- Cotton	113,0	113,0	103,9	0,0	+8,8
Stearic acid (local)	100,0	100,0	100,0	0,0	0,0
Plasticiser DODP (local)	112,0	112,0	122,3	0,0	-8,4
Coumarone indene resin (imported)	150,0	150,0	110,0	0,0	+36,4
Chlorobutyl rubber (imported)	117,3	117,3	101,0	0,0	+16,1
EPDM Vistalon 5600 (imported)	99,2	99,2	100,1	0,0	-0,9
Zinc oxide	123,0	123,0	100,0	0,0	+23,0
Synthetic rubber - 1502	112,9	112,9	107,2	0,0	+5,3
- 1712	105,0	105,0	108,0	0,0	-2,8
Polybutadiene	105,8	105,8	107,4	0,0	-1,5
Processing oil	105,4	105,4	105,4	0,0	0,0
Bead wire	101,5	101,5	107,9	0,0	-5,9
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	103,1	0,0	-0,4
Rayon fabric - 1840 X 2	104,9	104,9	104,9	0,0	0,0

TABLE 3 - SEASONALLY ADJUSTED INDICES

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

NOTES1. **WEIGHTING BASIS**

<u>TABLE 1.1:</u> Commodities for South African consumption	- Value of South African production, minus exports plus imports
<u>TABLE 1.2:</u> Output of South African industry groups	
- Total output	- Value of South African production
- For South African consumption	- Value of South African production minus exports
<u>TABLE 2.1:</u> 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 and the annual statistical release on production prices of commodities (P0142.3).

SYMBOLS USED

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