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## **STATISTICAL RELEASE**

### **P0141**

# Consumer Price Index

April 2020

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Please see the following note on page 4: Changes to the collection and compilation of the CPI resulting from the COVID-19 lockdown

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## KEY FINDINGS

### Headline consumer price index (CPI for all urban areas)

Annual consumer price inflation was 3,0% in April 2020, down from 4,1% in March 2020, the lowest since June 2005 when the rate was 2,8%. The consumer price index decreased by 0,5% month-on-month in April 2020.

The main contributors to the 3,0% annual inflation rate were food and non-alcoholic beverages; housing and utilities; transport; and miscellaneous goods and services (Table C on page 7).

Food and non-alcoholic beverages increased by 4,4% year-on-year, and contributed 0,7 of a percentage point to the total CPI annual rate of 3,0%.

Housing and utilities increased by 4,6% year-on-year, and contributed 1,1 percentage points.

Transport decreased by 3,5% year-on-year, and contributed -0,5 of a percentage point.

Miscellaneous goods and services increased by 6,4% year-on-year, and contributed 1,0 percentage point.

The annual inflation rates for goods and for services were 1,7% and 4,1% respectively. Provincial annual inflation rates ranged from 2,4% in Eastern Cape to 3,6% in Western Cape (Table A on page 5).

**Note:** Not all items in the CPI are surveyed every month. Table F (page 10) shows the survey schedule for items that are not surveyed monthly.

**Risenga Maluleke**  
**Statistician-General**

### **Changes to the collection and compilation of the CPI resulting from the COVID-19 lockdown**

The lockdown regulations in effect during April dramatically restricted the goods and services available for purchase by consumers. It was also not possible for the CPI data collectors to visit stores. As a result, the April CPI is based on a significantly limited sample.

Where possible, prices were collected from the online presence of stores already in the CPI sample. Online prices were collected at the end of March and these form the base for comparison with the April prices. This ensures the integrity of the matched model method.

Prices of food, health, household cleaning and personal care items were collected each week, and other items once during the month. An average price for those items collected weekly was computed and captured in the CPI database as the April price. Prices for a total of 171 products – equivalent to 20% of the weight of the CPI basket – were collected online. CPI field staff recommenced in-store data collection at the end of May. Online collection will continue until the sample of prices collected in-store reaches pre-COVID levels.

Prices of services due to be collected in April (approximately 12% of the weight of the CPI) were collected by staff working from home. Certain products are surveyed on a quarterly or annual basis. Of these, 34 (equivalent to just over 41% of the CPI weights) were not scheduled for collection in April and their index levels were carried forward from March to April according to the standard practice. This is equivalent to a 0% monthly change.

Indices where products were not available for sale have been imputed using the headline inflation rate. These indices represent approximately 26,5% of the weight of the CPI basket. The imputation factor is calculated by comparing the weighted average change of products available in March and April. This monthly change is -0,6% for April. Once this change is applied to each respective elementary index, the higher-level indices and inflation rates are recalculated. It should be noted that due to the rounding and aggregation processes, the published monthly changes for indices imputed by this factor vary between -0,5% and -0,7%.

The CPI publication contains extensive analytical indices including a CPI for each province, rural areas and the total country as well as core measures which exclude certain product groups. Whereas in-store price collection ensures that region- or store-specific pricing decisions find their way into the calculation of the CPI, online prices are nationally uniform. In addition, the headline imputation factor is calculated once at a national level and then applied wherever required. National prices have been applied to all regional CPI indices. Any deviation in inflation rates between provinces is therefore due to differences in weights only and not in prices. Core inflation measures have diminished meaning as the imputation methods may now cause some of these indices to include products normally excluded.

More technical information is available in a note published on the Stats SA website on 21 May 2020 [www.statssa.gov.za/?page\\_id=2528](http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=2528).

## DETAILED RESULTS

Table A - Consumer Price Index: Main indices

Unless otherwise stated the table refers to all urban areas.

Group		Weight	Index (Dec 2016=100)			Percentage change		
			Apr 2019	Mar 2020	Apr 2020	Apr 2020 vs. Mar 2020	Apr 2020 vs. Apr 2019	
All items (CPI Headline)		100,00	111,7	115,6	115,0	-0,5	3,0	
CPI excluding food and NAB, fuel and energy		74,43	111,3	115,1	114,9	-0,2	3,2	
Trimmed mean		..	111,0	114,7	114,7	0,0	3,3	
Analytical series	CPI for all goods	48,70	109,9	113,3	111,8	-1,3	1,7	
	CPI for durable goods	7,81	103,7	106,2	105,6	-0,6	1,8	
	CPI for semi-durable goods	5,68	103,3	105,0	104,4	-0,6	1,1	
	CPI for non-durable goods	35,21	112,6	116,8	115,0	-1,5	2,1	
	CPI for services	51,30	113,4	117,9	118,0	0,1	4,1	
	CPI for administered prices	Total	16,17	117,4	122,5	118,5	-3,3	0,9
		Regulated	11,76	116,3	120,8	115,3	-4,6	-0,9
		Not regulated	4,41	120,1	127,2	127,2	0,0	5,9
	CPI excluding administered prices	83,83	110,6	114,3	114,3	0,0	3,3	
	CPI for administered prices excluding fuel and paraffin	11,54	113,8	122,0	122,0	0,0	7,2	
	CPI excluding food and NAB	82,76	112,0	115,9	115,0	-0,8	2,7	
	CPI excluding fuel	95,42	111,0	115,2	115,2	0,0	3,8	
	CPI excluding food and NAB and fuel	78,18	111,2	115,4	115,3	-0,1	3,7	
	CPI excluding housing	75,38	112,1	115,6	114,8	-0,7	2,4	
	CPI excluding fuel and energy	91,67	111,0	114,9	114,9	0,0	3,5	
	CPI excluding energy	96,25	111,7	115,3	114,6	-0,6	2,6	
	CPI excluding owners' equivalent rent	86,68	112,1	116,3	115,5	-0,7	3,0	
CPI for pensioners	..	112,0	116,2	115,7	-0,4	3,3		
Geographic indices	CPI for total country	100,00	111,4	115,3	114,6	-0,6	2,9	
	CPI for rural areas	12,23	109,4	112,7	112,2	-0,4	2,6	
	CPI per province	Western Cape	17,25	113,5	118,3	117,6	-0,6	3,6
		Eastern Cape	8,04	110,9	114,3	113,6	-0,6	2,4
		Northern Cape	1,93	110,3	114,2	113,7	-0,4	3,1
		Free State	5,93	111,2	114,7	114,2	-0,4	2,7
		KwaZulu-Natal	12,70	110,0	113,9	113,3	-0,5	3,0
		North West	5,31	109,5	112,9	112,3	-0,5	2,6
		Gauteng	36,25	111,7	115,5	114,8	-0,6	2,8
		Mpumalanga	6,89	110,2	113,8	113,2	-0,5	2,7
Limpopo	5,70	110,4	114,0	113,5	-0,4	2,8		
Deciles	CPI per expenditure decile	1	0,50	107,7	112,4	112,1	-0,3	4,1
		2	1,13	108,2	112,8	112,5	-0,3	4,0
		3	1,89	108,6	112,8	112,5	-0,3	3,6
		4	2,81	109,0	112,9	112,6	-0,3	3,3
		5	3,93	109,1	112,8	112,5	-0,3	3,1
		6	5,61	109,3	112,8	112,5	-0,3	2,9
		7	7,91	110,1	113,7	113,2	-0,4	2,8
		8	11,30	110,9	114,5	113,9	-0,5	2,7
		9	16,35	112,4	116,4	115,7	-0,6	2,9
		10	48,57	112,6	116,8	116,0	-0,7	3,0

**Table B - CPI headline**

**Table B1 - CPI headline index numbers (Dec 2016=100)**

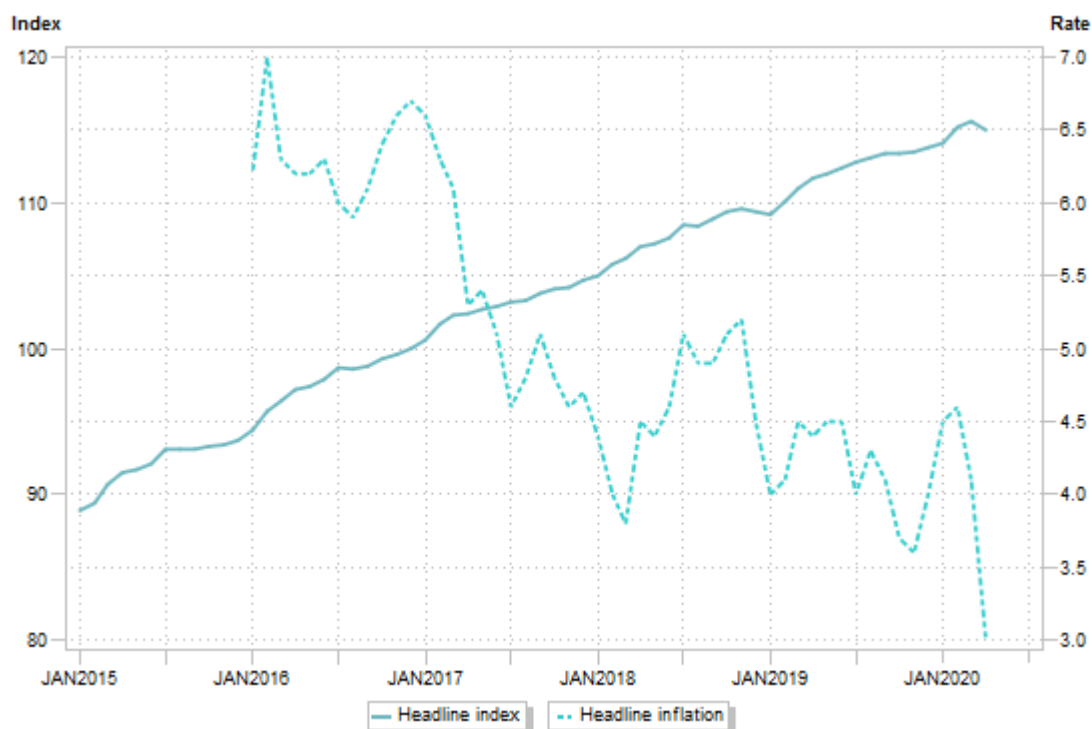
Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average <sup>1</sup>
2016	94,4	95,7	96,4	97,2	97,4	97,9	98,7	98,6	98,8	99,3	99,6	100,0	97,8
2017	100,6	101,7	102,3	102,4	102,7	102,9	103,2	103,3	103,8	104,1	104,2	104,7	103,0
2018	105,0	105,8	106,2	107,0	107,2	107,6	108,5	108,4	108,9	109,4	109,6	109,4	107,8
2019	109,2	110,1	111,0	111,7	112,0	112,4	112,8	113,1	113,4	113,4	113,5	113,8	112,2
2020	114,1	115,2	115,6	115,0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

**Table B2 - CPI headline year-on-year rates**

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average <sup>1</sup>
2016	6,2	7,0	6,3	6,2	6,1	6,3	6,0	5,9	6,1	6,4	6,6	6,8	6,4
2017	6,6	6,3	6,1	5,3	5,4	5,1	4,6	4,8	5,1	4,8	4,6	4,7	5,3
2018	4,4	4,0	3,8	4,5	4,4	4,6	5,1	4,9	4,9	5,1	5,2	4,5	4,7
2019	4,0	4,1	4,5	4,4	4,5	4,5	4,0	4,3	4,1	3,7	3,6	4,0	4,1
2020	4,5	4,6	4,1	3,0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

<sup>1</sup> Annual average.

**Figure 1 - CPI headline index numbers and year-on-year rates**



**Table C - Contributions of the different groups to the annual percentage change in the CPI headline**

Group	Contribution	
	Mar 2020	Apr 2020
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	0,7	0,7
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	0,2	0,1
Clothing and footwear	0,1	0,1
Housing and utilities	1,2	1,1
Household contents and services	0,1	0,1
Health	0,1	0,1
Transport	0,5	-0,5
Education	0,2	0,2
Miscellaneous goods and services	1,0	1,0
Residual	0,0	0,1
All Items	4,1	3,0

**Table D - Contributions of the different groups to the monthly percentage change in the CPI headline**

Group	Contribution	
	Mar 2020	Apr 2020
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	0,0	0,1
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	0,1	0,0
Housing and utilities	0,1	0,0
Transport	-0,1	-0,6
Education	0,2	0,0
All Items	0,3	-0,5

Table E - Consumer price indices for all urban areas

Group	Weight	Index (Dec 2016=100)			Percentage change	
		Apr 2019	Mar 2020	Apr 2020	Apr 2020 vs. Mar 2020	Apr 2020 vs. Apr 2019
<b>All items (CPI Headline)</b>	100,00	111,7	115,6	115,0	-0,5	3,0
<b>Food and non-alcoholic beverages</b>	17,24	109,9	114,3	114,7	0,3	4,4
<b>Food</b>	15,48	109,1	113,8	114,1	0,3	4,6
<b>Processed</b>	8,67	109,1	113,3	113,4	0,1	3,9
<b>Unprocessed</b>	6,81	109,1	114,1	114,6	0,4	5,0
<b>Bread and cereals</b>	3,21	101,2	104,9	104,9	0,0	3,7
<b>Meat</b>	5,46	115,1	120,9	122,1	1,0	6,1
<b>Fish</b>	0,40	114,3	119,3	117,5	-1,5	2,8
<b>Milk, eggs and cheese</b>	2,57	106,8	110,5	111,1	0,5	4,0
<b>Oils and fats</b>	0,45	99,1	104,3	105,5	1,2	6,5
<b>Fruit</b>	0,34	98,3	109,7	107,2	-2,3	9,1
<b>Vegetables</b>	1,30	115,9	116,0	115,8	-0,2	-0,1
<b>Sugar, sweets and desserts</b>	0,56	109,1	116,0	116,2	0,2	6,5
<b>Other food</b>	1,19	105,2	110,9	109,3	-1,4	3,9
<b>Non-alcoholic beverages</b>	1,76	116,3	118,5	120,1	1,4	3,3
<b>Hot beverages</b>	0,65	113,0	113,6	118,2	4,0	4,6
<b>Cold beverages</b>	1,11	118,3	121,3	121,2	-0,1	2,5
<b>Alcoholic beverages and tobacco</b>	5,82	114,4	117,7	117,0	-0,6	2,3
<b>Alcoholic beverages</b>	3,89	115,7	118,4	117,7	-0,6	1,7
<b>Spirits</b>	0,86	115,8	119,3	118,6	-0,6	2,4
<b>Wine</b>	1,05	120,9	125,1	124,4	-0,6	2,9
<b>Beer</b>	1,98	112,9	114,6	113,9	-0,6	0,9
<b>Tobacco</b>	1,93	111,8	116,2	115,6	-0,5	3,4
<b>Clothing and footwear</b>	3,83	104,3	106,5	105,8	-0,7	1,4
<b>Clothing</b>	2,71	104,9	107,3	106,7	-0,6	1,7
<b>Footwear</b>	1,12	103,0	104,3	103,7	-0,6	0,7
<b>Housing and utilities</b>	24,62	110,4	115,6	115,5	-0,1	4,6
<b>Actual rentals for housing</b>	3,52	110,1	113,1	113,1	0,0	2,7
<b>Owners' equivalent rent</b>	13,32	108,6	111,4	111,4	0,0	2,6
<b>Maintenance and repair</b>	0,82	107,4	111,1	110,7	-0,4	3,1
<b>Water and other services</b>	3,16	119,4	128,0	128,0	0,0	7,2
<b>Electricity and other fuels</b>	3,80	110,1	123,1	122,7	-0,3	11,4
<b>Household contents and services</b>	4,35	106,3	109,0	108,9	-0,1	2,4
<b>Furnishings, floor coverings and textiles</b>	0,81	94,6	93,4	92,9	-0,5	-1,8
<b>Appliances, tableware and equipment</b>	0,73	99,3	100,8	100,3	-0,5	1,0
<b>Supplies and services</b>	2,81	111,5	115,7	115,8	0,1	3,9
<b>Domestic workers' wages</b>	2,45	111,9	117,0	117,0	0,0	4,6
<b>Health</b>	1,40	115,6	121,1	121,2	0,1	4,8
<b>Medical products</b>	0,53	110,7	116,0	116,1	0,1	4,9
<b>Medical services</b>	0,87	119,0	124,6	124,6	0,0	4,7



Table E - Consumer price indices for all urban areas (concluded)

Group		Weight	Index (Dec 2016=100)			Percentage change		
			Apr 2019	Mar 2020	Apr 2020	Apr 2020 vs. Mar 2020	Apr 2020 vs. Apr 2019	
Transport		14,28	114,8	115,5	110,8	-4,1	-3,5	
	Purchase of vehicles	6,12	108,0	111,9	111,2	-0,6	3,0	
	Private transport operation		5,86	123,0	121,3	110,4	-9,0	-10,2
		Fuel	4,58	126,3	123,9	110,1	-11,1	-12,8
		Other running costs	1,28	111,0	112,1	111,6	-0,4	0,5
Public transport	2,30	112,7	110,8	110,7	-0,1	-1,8		
Communication		2,63	99,9	99,8	99,6	-0,2	-0,3	
	Postal services and telecommunication services	2,43	102,2	102,5	102,3	-0,2	0,1	
	Telecommunication equipment	0,20	72,1	67,4	67,0	-0,6	-7,1	
Recreation and culture		5,16	102,2	102,7	102,6	-0,1	0,4	
	Recreational equipment	1,25	95,7	95,2	95,5	0,3	-0,2	
	Recreational and cultural services	3,10	102,6	103,0	103,3	0,3	0,7	
	Books, newspapers and stationery	0,64	113,3	119,6	116,7	-2,4	3,0	
	Package holidays	0,17	101,5	91,7	91,2	-0,5	-10,1	
Education		2,53	121,8	129,6	129,6	0,0	6,4	
	Primary and secondary	1,54	123,8	133,1	133,1	0,0	7,5	
	Tertiary	0,99	118,7	124,3	124,3	0,0	4,7	
Restaurants and hotels		3,09	108,3	110,0	109,4	-0,5	1,0	
	Restaurants	1,98	113,1	117,9	117,3	-0,5	3,7	
	Hotels	1,11	99,0	94,8	94,3	-0,5	-4,7	
Miscellaneous goods and services		15,05	119,0	126,3	126,6	0,2	6,4	
	Personal care	2,12	106,1	108,9	108,0	-0,8	1,8	
	Insurance	10,06	123,2	132,3	132,8	0,4	7,8	
	Financial services	1,53	115,9	123,9	123,9	0,0	6,9	
	Other goods and services	1,34	111,1	111,4	112,2	0,7	1,0	

**Table F - Survey schedule for non-monthly surveys**

<b>Quarterly</b>	
January, April, July, October	Gymnasium fees (Recreation and culture) Funeral expenses, funeral policies, gravestone maintenance (Miscellaneous)
February, May, August, November	Private-sector hospitals (Health) Rugby tickets (Recreation and culture) Cricket tickets (Recreation and culture)
March, June, September, December	Actual rentals for housing, owners' equivalent rent (Housing and utilities) Domestic workers' wages (Household contents and services) Taxi fares, train fares (Transport) Motor vehicle insurance (Miscellaneous)
<b>Biannual</b>	
January, July	Building insurance, household content insurance (Miscellaneous)
February, April	Medical aid (Miscellaneous)
April, October	Television licences (Recreation and culture)
May, November	Electricians, plumbers (Housing and utilities)
July, August	Municipal charges for water, property rates and electricity (Housing and utilities)
<b>Annual</b>	
January	Post box rental (Communication) Lotto tickets (Recreation and culture)
February	Private-sector doctors and dentists (Health)
March	School and university tuition fees (Education) Toll fees (Transport) University boarding fees (Restaurants and hotels) Crèche fees (Miscellaneous)
April	Public-sector hospitals and doctors (Health) Stamps (Communication)
<b>Other</b>	
January, March, April, June, July, September, October, December	Local bus fares (Transport)

Additional surveys are conducted for these items when Stats SA is aware of significant price changes outside regular survey months.

**GLOSSARY**

A complete set of definitions is available in the methods and sources document on the Stats SA website [http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page\\_id=2528](http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=2528)

<b>Annual inflation rate</b>	The annual inflation rate 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.
<b>Annual percentage change</b>	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.
<b>Average annual inflation rate</b>	The average annual inflation rate is the change in the average index of one year compared with the average index of the previous year expressed as a percentage.
<b>Average annual percentage change</b>	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.
<b>CPI for administered prices</b>	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 a government agency/institution without reference to market forces. Products and services included are assessment rates, water, electricity, paraffin, petrol, diesel, public transport – trains, motor licences, motor registration, telephone fees, cell calls, television licence, school fees, university/technicons/colleges and university boarding fees.
<b>CPI for regulated prices</b>	Regulated prices are those administered prices that are 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. Products and services included are water, electricity, paraffin, petrol, diesel, telephone fees and cell calls.
<b>CPI per expenditure decile</b>	Decile 1 - up to R17 721; Decile 2 - R 17 722 up to R 29 475; Decile 3 - R 29 476 up to R 42 582; Decile 4 - R 42 583 up to R 56 909; Decile 5 - R 56 910 up to R 73 813; Decile 6 - R 73 814 up to R 94 884; Decile 7 - R 94 885 up to R 124 227; Decile 8 - R 124 228 up to R 173 022; Decile 9 - R 173 023 up to R 269 902; and Decile 10 - R 269 903 and more.
<b>Inflation rate</b>	The 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.
<b>Monthly percentage change</b>	The monthly percentage change is the change in the index of the relevant month compared with the index of the previous month expressed as a percentage.
<b>Rural CPI</b>	The rural CPI is compiled using data from rural and urban areas in accordance with the purchasing patterns of rural residents.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

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Issue	Expected release date
May 2020	15 July 2020
June 2020	To be announced
July 2020	To be announced

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- Eastern Cape Library Services, King William's Town
- Central Regional Library, Polokwane
- Central Reference Library, Nelspruit
- Central Reference Collection, Kimberley
- Central Reference Library, Mmabatho

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You can visit us on the internet at: [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za)

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