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Marietjie Bennett
(012) 310 8077

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www.statssa.gov.za
info@statssa.gov.za
T +27 12 310 8911
F +27 12 310 8500

Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa
ISibalo House, Koch Street, Salvokop, Pretoria, 0002

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KEY FINDINGS

Headline consumer price index (CPI for all urban areas)

Annual consumer price inflation was 4,5% in December 2018, down from 5,2% in November 2018. The consumer price index decreased by 0,2% month-on-month in December 2018.

Table C (page 6) shows contributions to headline annual consumer price inflation.

- **Food and non-alcoholic beverages** decreased from 0,6 of a percentage point in November 2018 to 0,5 of a percentage point in December. The index increased by 3,0% year-on-year.
- **Transport** decreased from 1,5 percentage points in November 2018 to 0,9 of a percentage point in December. The index increased by 6,0% year-on-year.
- **Recreation and culture** increased from zero in November 2018 to 0,1 of a percentage point in December. The index increased by 1,1% year-on-year.

Table D (page 6) shows contributions to monthly consumer price inflation.

- **Housing and utilities** contributed 0,1 of a percentage point. The index increased by 0,5% month-on-month.
- **Transport** contributed -0,4 of a percentage point. The index decreased by 2,8% month-on-month, mainly because of fuel (-8,0%).

In December the CPI for **goods** increased by 3,7% year-on-year (down from 5,3% in November), and the CPI for **services** was unchanged at 5,1% year-on-year.

Provincial annual inflation rates ranged from 3,5% in North West to 5,2% in Western Cape (see Table A).

Annual average headline consumer price index for 2018

Average annual consumer price inflation was 4,7% in 2018 (i.e. the average CPI for all urban areas for 2018 compared with that for 2017). This was 0,6 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding average of 5,3% in 2017 (see Table B2).

Note: Not all items in the CPI are surveyed every month. Table F (page 9) shows the survey schedule for items that are not surveyed monthly.

Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

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 | | |
|---|---|---------------|----------------------|----------|----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----|
| | | | Dec 2017 | Nov 2018 | Dec 2018 | Dec 2018 vs. Nov 2018 | Dec 2018 vs. Dec 2017 | |
| All items (CPI Headline) | | 100,00 | 104,7 | 109,6 | 109,4 | -0,2 | 4,5 | |
| CPI excluding food and NAB, fuel and energy | | 74,43 | 104,2 | 108,5 | 108,8 | 0,3 | 4,4 | |
| Trimmed mean | | .. | 104,5 | 108,9 | 109,1 | 0,2 | 4,4 | |
| Analytical series | CPI for all goods | 48,70 | 104,1 | 109,0 | 108,0 | -0,9 | 3,7 | |
| | CPI for durable goods | 7,81 | 100,3 | 102,6 | 102,5 | -0,1 | 2,2 | |
| | CPI for semi-durable goods | 5,68 | 100,9 | 102,4 | 102,4 | 0,0 | 1,5 | |
| | CPI for non-durable goods | 35,21 | 105,6 | 111,8 | 110,5 | -1,2 | 4,6 | |
| | CPI for services | 51,30 | 105,3 | 110,3 | 110,7 | 0,4 | 5,1 | |
| | CPI for administered prices | Total | 16,17 | 106,9 | 118,4 | 115,4 | -2,5 | 8,0 |
| | | Regulated | 11,76 | 107,2 | 119,6 | 115,4 | -3,5 | 7,6 |
| | | Not regulated | 4,41 | 106,1 | 115,3 | 115,3 | 0,0 | 8,7 |
| | CPI excluding administered prices | 83,83 | 104,2 | 107,9 | 108,2 | 0,3 | 3,8 | |
| | CPI for administered prices excluding fuel and paraffin | 11,54 | 104,0 | 111,9 | 111,9 | 0,0 | 7,6 | |
| | CPI excluding food and NAB | 82,76 | 104,6 | 110,0 | 109,7 | -0,3 | 4,9 | |
| | CPI excluding fuel | 95,42 | 104,2 | 108,4 | 108,7 | 0,3 | 4,3 | |
| | CPI excluding food and NAB and fuel | 78,18 | 104,1 | 108,5 | 108,8 | 0,3 | 4,5 | |
| | CPI excluding housing | 75,38 | 104,7 | 109,7 | 109,1 | -0,5 | 4,2 | |
| | CPI excluding fuel and energy | 91,67 | 104,3 | 108,4 | 108,6 | 0,2 | 4,1 | |
| | CPI excluding energy | 96,25 | 104,8 | 109,6 | 109,3 | -0,3 | 4,3 | |
| | CPI excluding owners' equivalent rent | 86,68 | 104,7 | 109,9 | 109,5 | -0,4 | 4,6 | |
| CPI for pensioners | .. | 104,8 | 110,0 | 109,8 | -0,2 | 4,8 | | |
| Geographic indices | CPI for total country | 100,00 | 104,5 | 109,3 | 109,1 | -0,2 | 4,4 | |
| | CPI for rural areas | 12,23 | 103,6 | 107,4 | 107,3 | -0,1 | 3,6 | |
| | CPI per province | Western Cape | 17,25 | 105,3 | 110,9 | 110,8 | -0,1 | 5,2 |
| | | Eastern Cape | 8,04 | 104,6 | 108,9 | 108,7 | -0,2 | 3,9 |
| | | Northern Cape | 1,93 | 103,8 | 108,1 | 108,0 | -0,1 | 4,0 |
| | | Free State | 5,93 | 104,1 | 108,7 | 108,7 | 0,0 | 4,4 |
| | | KwaZulu-Natal | 12,70 | 104,1 | 108,4 | 108,1 | -0,3 | 3,8 |
| | | North West | 5,31 | 103,3 | 107,5 | 106,9 | -0,6 | 3,5 |
| | | Gauteng | 36,25 | 104,8 | 109,9 | 109,6 | -0,3 | 4,6 |
| Mpumalanga | | 6,89 | 103,8 | 108,3 | 108,0 | -0,3 | 4,0 | |
| Limpopo | 5,70 | 104,1 | 107,8 | 107,8 | 0,0 | 3,6 | | |
| Deciles | CPI per expenditure decile | 1 | 0,50 | 101,6 | 105,5 | 105,4 | -0,1 | 3,7 |
| | | 2 | 1,13 | 102,4 | 106,2 | 106,2 | 0,0 | 3,7 |
| | | 3 | 1,89 | 103,0 | 106,8 | 106,8 | 0,0 | 3,7 |
| | | 4 | 2,81 | 103,4 | 107,1 | 107,2 | 0,1 | 3,7 |
| | | 5 | 3,93 | 103,6 | 107,3 | 107,5 | 0,2 | 3,8 |
| | | 6 | 5,61 | 103,8 | 107,7 | 107,8 | 0,1 | 3,9 |
| | | 7 | 7,91 | 104,3 | 108,6 | 108,5 | -0,1 | 4,0 |
| | | 8 | 11,30 | 104,6 | 109,4 | 109,1 | -0,3 | 4,3 |
| | | 9 | 16,35 | 105,1 | 110,5 | 110,1 | -0,4 | 4,8 |
| | | 10 | 48,57 | 104,9 | 110,3 | 109,9 | -0,4 | 4,8 |

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 ¹ |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------------------|
| 2014 | 85,1 | 86,0 | 87,2 | 87,6 | 87,7 | 88,0 | 88,7 | 89,0 | 89,0 | 89,2 | 89,2 | 89,0 | 88,0 |
| 2015 | 88,9 | 89,4 | 90,7 | 91,5 | 91,7 | 92,1 | 93,1 | 93,1 | 93,1 | 93,3 | 93,4 | 93,7 | 92,0 |
| 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 |

Table B2 - CPI headline year-on-year rates

| Year | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Average ¹ |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------------------|
| 2014 | 5,8 | 5,9 | 6,0 | 6,1 | 6,6 | 6,6 | 6,3 | 6,4 | 5,9 | 5,9 | 5,8 | 5,3 | 6,1 |
| 2015 | 4,4 | 3,9 | 4,0 | 4,5 | 4,6 | 4,7 | 5,0 | 4,6 | 4,6 | 4,7 | 4,8 | 5,2 | 4,6 |
| 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 |

¹ 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 | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|----------|
| | Nov 2018 | Dec 2018 |
| Food and non-alcoholic beverages | 0,6 | 0,5 |
| Alcoholic beverages and tobacco | 0,3 | 0,3 |
| Clothing and footwear | 0,1 | 0,1 |
| Housing and utilities | 1,3 | 1,3 |
| Household contents and services | 0,1 | 0,1 |
| Health | 0,1 | 0,1 |
| Transport | 1,5 | 0,9 |
| Recreation and culture | 0,0 | 0,1 |
| Education | 0,2 | 0,2 |
| Restaurants and hotels | 0,1 | 0,1 |
| Miscellaneous goods and services | 0,9 | 0,9 |
| Residual | 0,0 | -0,1 |
| All Items | 5,2 | 4,5 |

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

| Group | Contribution | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|----------|
| | Nov 2018 | Dec 2018 |
| Food and non-alcoholic beverages | 0,1 | 0,0 |
| Housing and utilities | 0,0 | 0,1 |
| Transport | 0,1 | -0,4 |
| Residual | 0,0 | 0,1 |
| All Items | 0,2 | -0,2 |

Table E - Consumer price indices for all urban areas

| Group | | Weight | Index (Dec 2016=100) | | | Percentage change | | |
|---|--|----------------|----------------------|----------|----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----|
| | | | Dec 2017 | Nov 2018 | Dec 2018 | Dec 2018 vs. Nov 2018 | Dec 2018 vs. Dec 2017 | |
| All items (CPI Headline) | | 100,00 | 104,7 | 109,6 | 109,4 | -0,2 | 4,5 | |
| Food and non-alcoholic beverages | Food | 17,24 | 104,8 | 107,9 | 107,9 | 0,0 | 3,0 | |
| | | 15,48 | 104,9 | 107,3 | 107,4 | 0,1 | 2,4 | |
| | Processed | 8,67 | 103,0 | 106,5 | 106,7 | 0,2 | 3,6 | |
| | Unprocessed | 6,81 | 106,3 | 107,8 | 107,9 | 0,1 | 1,5 | |
| | Bread and cereals | 3,21 | 95,0 | 96,1 | 96,0 | -0,1 | 1,1 | |
| | Meat | 5,46 | 114,0 | 115,7 | 116,1 | 0,3 | 1,8 | |
| | Fish | 0,40 | 103,2 | 108,8 | 109,1 | 0,3 | 5,7 | |
| | Milk, eggs and cheese | 2,57 | 104,8 | 106,4 | 106,3 | -0,1 | 1,4 | |
| | Oils and fats | 0,45 | 97,4 | 99,0 | 99,5 | 0,5 | 2,2 | |
| | Fruit | 0,34 | 95,8 | 91,4 | 94,4 | 3,3 | -1,5 | |
| | Vegetables | 1,30 | 101,1 | 110,2 | 109,7 | -0,5 | 8,5 | |
| | Sugar, sweets and desserts | 0,56 | 103,9 | 107,6 | 108,1 | 0,5 | 4,0 | |
| | Other food | 1,19 | 99,7 | 103,8 | 103,5 | -0,3 | 3,8 | |
| | Non-alcoholic beverages | 1,76 | 104,2 | 113,1 | 112,3 | -0,7 | 7,8 | |
| | Hot beverages | 0,65 | 106,2 | 111,4 | 110,8 | -0,5 | 4,3 | |
| | Cold beverages | 1,11 | 103,0 | 114,0 | 113,1 | -0,8 | 9,8 | |
| Alcoholic beverages and tobacco | | 5,82 | 104,9 | 109,9 | 110,0 | 0,1 | 4,9 | |
| | Alcoholic beverages | 3,89 | 105,1 | 111,3 | 111,6 | 0,3 | 6,2 | |
| | | Spirits | 0,86 | 102,4 | 110,1 | 110,2 | 0,1 | 7,6 |
| | | Wine | 1,05 | 107,1 | 113,2 | 113,4 | 0,2 | 5,9 |
| | | Beer | 1,98 | 105,2 | 110,8 | 111,3 | 0,5 | 5,8 |
| | Tobacco | 1,93 | 104,4 | 106,9 | 106,9 | 0,0 | 2,4 | |
| Clothing and footwear | | 3,83 | 101,8 | 103,4 | 103,5 | 0,1 | 1,7 | |
| | Clothing | 2,71 | 101,9 | 103,8 | 103,9 | 0,1 | 2,0 | |
| | Footwear | 1,12 | 101,4 | 102,4 | 102,6 | 0,2 | 1,2 | |
| Housing and utilities | | 24,62 | 104,4 | 109,4 | 110,0 | 0,5 | 5,4 | |
| | Actual rentals for housing | 3,52 | 105,0 | 108,4 | 109,4 | 0,9 | 4,2 | |
| | Owners' equivalent rent | 13,32 | 104,3 | 107,5 | 108,3 | 0,7 | 3,8 | |
| | Maintenance and repair | 0,82 | 102,3 | 105,8 | 106,0 | 0,2 | 3,6 | |
| | Water and other services | 3,16 | 107,3 | 119,1 | 119,2 | 0,1 | 11,1 | |
| | Electricity and other fuels | 3,80 | 102,2 | 110,1 | 110,1 | 0,0 | 7,7 | |
| Household contents and services | | 4,35 | 101,7 | 104,6 | 105,0 | 0,4 | 3,2 | |
| | Furnishings, floor coverings and textiles | 0,81 | 95,5 | 94,5 | 93,9 | -0,6 | -1,7 | |
| | Appliances, tableware and equipment | 0,73 | 97,1 | 98,7 | 98,7 | 0,0 | 1,6 | |
| | Supplies and services | 2,81 | 104,7 | 109,0 | 109,9 | 0,8 | 5,0 | |
| | Domestic workers' wages | 2,45 | 105,1 | 109,6 | 110,6 | 0,9 | 5,2 | |
| Health | | 1,40 | 105,7 | 111,5 | 111,2 | -0,3 | 5,2 | |
| | Medical products | 0,53 | 104,6 | 108,6 | 107,8 | -0,7 | 3,1 | |
| | Medical services | 0,87 | 106,4 | 113,4 | 113,4 | 0,0 | 6,6 | |

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

| Group | | Weight | Index (Dec 2016=100) | | | Percentage change | | |
|----------------------------------|--|---------------------|----------------------|----------|----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----|
| | | | Dec 2017 | Nov 2018 | Dec 2018 | Dec 2018 vs. Nov 2018 | Dec 2018 vs. Dec 2017 | |
| Transport | | 14,28 | 106,4 | 116,0 | 112,8 | -2,8 | 6,0 | |
| | Purchase of vehicles | 6,12 | 102,5 | 106,3 | 106,2 | -0,1 | 3,6 | |
| | Private transport operation | | 5,86 | 111,9 | 129,0 | 120,4 | -6,7 | 7,6 |
| | | Fuel | 4,58 | 114,2 | 134,9 | 124,1 | -8,0 | 8,7 |
| | | Other running costs | 1,28 | 103,7 | 107,4 | 107,1 | -0,3 | 3,3 |
| Public transport | 2,30 | 103,4 | 109,5 | 111,2 | 1,6 | 7,5 | | |
| Communication | | 2,63 | 98,3 | 99,8 | 99,7 | -0,1 | 1,4 | |
| | Postal services and telecommunication services | 2,43 | 99,5 | 102,0 | 102,0 | 0,0 | 2,5 | |
| | Telecommunication equipment | 0,20 | 84,3 | 74,2 | 72,9 | -1,8 | -13,5 | |
| Recreation and culture | | 5,16 | 100,4 | 101,3 | 101,5 | 0,2 | 1,1 | |
| | Recreational equipment | 1,25 | 96,7 | 95,7 | 95,6 | -0,1 | -1,1 | |
| | Recreational and cultural services | 3,10 | 100,9 | 101,6 | 101,6 | 0,0 | 0,7 | |
| | Books, newspapers and stationery | 0,64 | 104,8 | 111,2 | 112,4 | 1,1 | 7,3 | |
| | Package holidays | 0,17 | 102,1 | 103,0 | 102,4 | -0,6 | 0,3 | |
| Education | | 2,53 | 107,0 | 114,2 | 114,2 | 0,0 | 6,7 | |
| | Primary and secondary | 1,54 | 107,6 | 115,9 | 115,9 | 0,0 | 7,7 | |
| | Tertiary | 0,99 | 106,2 | 111,8 | 111,8 | 0,0 | 5,3 | |
| Restaurants and hotels | | 3,09 | 103,0 | 106,7 | 106,8 | 0,1 | 3,7 | |
| | Restaurants | 1,98 | 105,9 | 111,3 | 111,3 | 0,0 | 5,1 | |
| | Hotels | 1,11 | 97,6 | 97,9 | 98,2 | 0,3 | 0,6 | |
| Miscellaneous goods and services | | 15,05 | 107,1 | 113,0 | 113,1 | 0,1 | 5,6 | |
| | Personal care | 2,12 | 102,9 | 104,5 | 104,8 | 0,3 | 1,8 | |
| | Insurance | 10,06 | 108,1 | 115,5 | 115,5 | 0,0 | 6,8 | |
| | Financial services | 1,53 | 105,5 | 112,4 | 112,4 | 0,0 | 6,5 | |
| | Other goods and services | 1,34 | 108,0 | 108,6 | 108,6 | 0,0 | 0,6 | |

Table F - Survey schedule for non-monthly surveys

| Quarterly | |
|---|--|
| 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) |
| Biannual | |
| 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) |
| Annual | |
| 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) |
| Other | |
| 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

| | |
|---|--|
| Annual inflation rate | 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. |
| 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 index of one year compared with the average index 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 for administered 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 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. |
| CPI for regulated prices | 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. |
| CPI per expenditure decile | 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. |
| Inflation rate | 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. |
| Monthly percentage change | 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. |
| Rural CPI | The rural CPI is compiled using data from rural and urban areas in accordance with the purchasing patterns of rural residents. |

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Enquiries

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Technical enquiries | Marietjie Bennett, Patrick Kelly (012) 310 8077 / 310 8290 |
| Telephone number | (012) 310 8077 / 310 8290 (survey area) (012) 310 8600 / 8390 / 8351 / 4892 / 8496 / 8095 (user) (012) 310 8490 (library) |
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