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# Statistical release

## P0141

# Consumer Price Index

## March 2015

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**KEY FINDINGS**

**The headline CPI (for all urban areas) annual inflation rate in March 2015 was 4,0%. This rate was 0,1 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding annual rate of 3,9% in February 2015. On average, prices increased by 1,4% between February 2015 and March 2015.**

The **food and non-alcoholic beverages** index increased by 0,8% between February 2015 and March 2015. The annual rate decreased to 5,8% in March 2015 from 6,4% in February 2015. The following components in the food and non-alcoholic beverages index increased: fruit (2,9%), sugar, sweets and desserts (2,9%), oils and fats (1,8%), vegetables (1,8%), bread and cereals (0,9%), meat (0,5%), fish (0,3%), cold beverages (0,3%) and other food (0,2%). The following component decreased: hot beverages (-0,3%).

The **alcoholic beverages and tobacco** index increased by 2,7% between February 2015 and March 2015. The annual rate increased to 9,0% in March 2015 from 8,2% in February 2015.

The **housing and utilities** index increased by 1,1% between February 2015 and March 2015, mainly due to a 1,5% increase in actual rentals for housing and a 1,6% increase in owners' equivalent rent. The annual rate increased to 5,7% in March 2015 from 5,6% in February 2015.

The **transport** index increased by 3,1% between February 2015 and March 2015, mainly due to a 96c/litre increase in the price of petrol. The annual rate increased to -5,0% in March 2015 from -6,3% in February 2015.

The **education** index increased by 9,3% between February 2015 and March 2015. The annual rate increased to 9,3% in March 2015 from 8,7% in February 2015.

The provinces with an annual inflation rate lower than or equal to headline inflation were Gauteng (3,9%), Mpumalanga (3,9%), Eastern Cape (3,6%), KwaZulu-Natal (3,5%) and Limpopo (3,5%). The provinces with an annual inflation rate higher than headline inflation were Western Cape (4,5%), Free State (4,5%), Northern Cape (4,4%) and North West (4,3%).

**NOTES**

**CPI for April 2015**

No surveys in addition to the published surveys will be conducted in April 2015.

**Publication dates for future releases**

Year	Issue	Publication date
2015	April	20 May 2015
2015	May	17 June 2015
2015	June	22 July 2015
2015	July	19 August 2015

**PJ Lehohla**  
**Statistician-General**

**TABLES**

**Table A - Consumer Price Index: Main indices**

Unless otherwise stated the table refers to all urban areas.

Group	Weight	Index (Dec 2012=100)			Percentage change			
		Mar 2014	Feb 2015	Mar 2015	Mar 2015 vs. Feb 2015	Mar 2015 vs. Mar 2014		
<b>All items (CPI Headline)</b>	100,00	108,7	111,5	113,1	1,4	4,0		
<b>Analytical series</b>	<b>CPI per expenditure quintile</b>	1	2,27	107,4	111,9	113,2	1,2	5,4
		2	4,58	107,3	111,6	112,7	1,0	5,0
		3	8,08	107,5	111,2	112,5	1,2	4,7
		4	18,60	108,2	110,7	112,3	1,4	3,8
		5	66,47	109,1	111,8	113,4	1,4	3,9
	<b>CPI for all goods</b>	49,86	108,1	108,8	110,4	1,5	2,1	
	<b>CPI for durable goods</b>	8,02	103,7	107,1	107,1	0,0	3,3	
	<b>CPI for semi-durable goods</b>	6,32	105,5	109,7	109,9	0,2	4,2	
	<b>CPI for non-durable goods</b>	35,52	109,6	109,0	111,3	2,1	1,6	
	<b>CPI for services</b>	50,14	109,3	114,2	115,7	1,3	5,9	
	<b>CPI for pensioners</b>	..	108,8	111,6	113,0	1,3	3,9	
	<b>CPI for administered prices</b>	<b>Total</b>	18,48	112,4	105,0	109,3	4,1	-2,8
		<b>Regulated</b>	13,70	111,8	100,9	104,3	3,4	-6,7
		<b>Not regulated</b>	4,78	114,1	116,6	123,6	6,0	8,3
	<b>CPI for food and non-alcoholic beverages (NAB)</b>	15,41	107,2	112,5	113,4	0,8	5,8	
	<b>CPI excluding food and NAB</b>	84,59	109,0	111,3	113,0	1,5	3,7	
	<b>CPI excluding petrol</b>	94,32	108,0	113,1	114,3	1,1	5,8	
	<b>CPI excluding food and NAB and petrol</b>	78,91	108,2	113,2	114,4	1,1	5,7	
	<b>CPI excluding food and NAB, petrol, VAT, assessment rates, and finance charges</b>	76,41	108,2	113,2	114,4	1,1	5,7	
	<b>CPI excluding housing</b>	75,48	109,3	111,5	113,2	1,5	3,6	
	<b>CPI excluding petrol and energy</b>	90,19	108,1	113,0	114,2	1,1	5,6	
	<b>CPI excluding energy</b>	95,87	108,7	111,4	113,0	1,4	4,0	
	<b>CPI excluding food and NAB, petrol and energy</b>	74,78	108,2	113,1	114,4	1,1	5,7	
	<b>CPI excluding owners' equivalent rent</b>	88,58	109,0	111,8	113,3	1,3	3,9	
	<b>CPI excluding administered prices</b>	81,52	107,8	113,0	114,0	0,9	5,8	
	<b>CPI administered prices excluding petrol and paraffin</b>	12,75	109,2	113,6	116,2	2,3	6,4	
	<b>Trimmed mean</b>	..	107,5	111,2	112,2	0,9	4,4	
<b>Geographic indices</b>	<b>CPI for primary urban areas</b>	61,90	108,8	111,6	113,2	1,4	4,0	
	<b>CPI for secondary urban areas</b>	20,49	108,2	111,3	112,7	1,3	4,2	
	<b>CPI for rural areas<sup>1</sup></b>	17,61	108,4	111,1	112,2	1,0	3,5	
	<b>CPI for total country</b>	100,00	108,6	111,5	112,9	1,3	4,0	
	<b>CPI per province</b>	<b>Western Cape</b>	15,55	108,2	111,5	113,1	1,4	4,5
		<b>Eastern Cape</b>	8,12	108,5	111,3	112,4	1,0	3,6
		<b>Northern Cape</b>	1,57	107,8	110,8	112,5	1,5	4,4
		<b>Free State</b>	5,12	108,1	111,4	113,0	1,4	4,5
		<b>KwaZulu-Natal</b>	15,33	108,7	111,0	112,5	1,4	3,5
		<b>North West</b>	5,59	107,7	111,0	112,3	1,2	4,3
<b>Gauteng</b>		36,97	109,1	111,8	113,4	1,4	3,9	
<b>Mpumalanga</b>	5,69	107,9	111,0	112,1	1,0	3,9		
<b>Limpopo</b>	6,06	109,2	111,7	113,0	1,2	3,5		

<sup>1</sup> The rural CPI is compiled using data from rural and urban areas in accordance with the purchasing patterns of rural residents.

**Table B - CPI headline**

**Table B1 - CPI headline index numbers (Dec 2012=100)**

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average <sup>1</sup>
2011	89,6	90,2	91,3	91,6	92,0	92,4	93,2	93,4	93,8	94,2	94,5	94,6	92,6
2012	95,2	95,7	96,8	97,2	97,2	97,5	97,8	98,0	98,9	99,5	99,8	100,0	97,8
2013	100,3	101,3	102,5	102,9	102,6	102,9	104,0	104,3	104,8	105,0	105,1	105,4	103,4
2014	106,1	107,3	108,7	109,2	109,4	109,7	110,6	111,0	111,0	111,2	111,2	111,0	109,7
2015	110,8	111,5	113,1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

<sup>1</sup> Annual average.

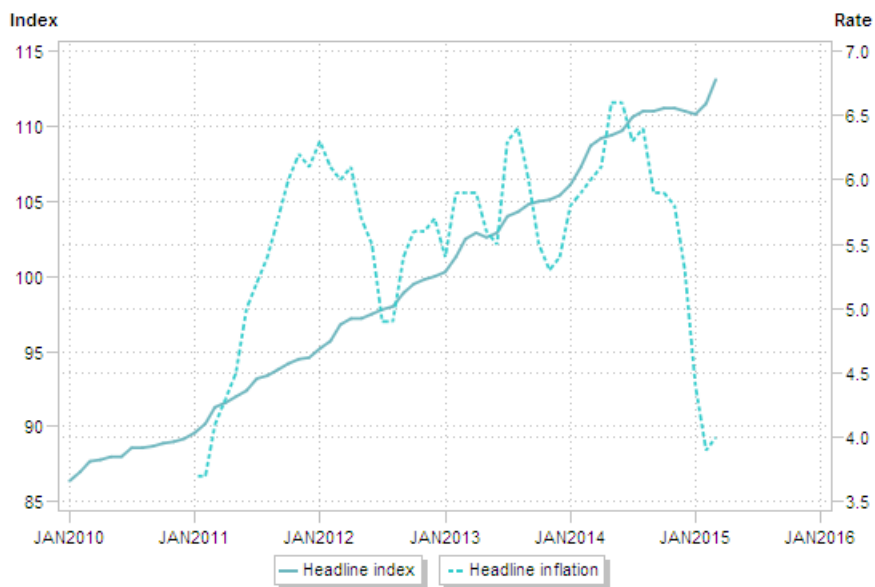
**Table B2 - CPI headline year-on-year rates**

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average <sup>1</sup>
2011	3,7	3,7	4,1	4,2	4,5	5,0	5,3	5,3	5,7	6,0	6,1	6,1	5,0
2012	6,3	6,1	6,0	6,1	5,7	5,5	4,9	5,0	5,5	5,6	5,6	5,7	5,6
2013	5,4	5,9	5,9	5,9	5,6	5,5	6,3	6,4	6,0	5,5	5,3	5,4	5,7
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	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

<sup>1</sup> Annual average.

Rates shown in Table B2 show the official inflation rates as published in the monthly CPI release. Differences due to rounding off may occur when using the rebased indices in Table B1 to calculate the rates of change.

**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	
	Feb 2015	Mar 2015
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	1,0	0,9
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	0,5	0,5
Clothing and footwear	0,2	0,2
Housing and utilities	1,3	1,4
Household contents and services	0,1	0,1
Health	0,1	0,1
Transport	-1,1	-0,8
Recreation and culture	0,1	0,1
Education	0,3	0,3
Restaurants and hotels	0,2	0,2
Miscellaneous goods and services	1,2	1,2
Residual	0,0	-0,2
All Items	3,9	4,0

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

Group	Contribution	
	Feb 2015	Mar 2015
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	0,1	0,1
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	0,1	0,2
Housing and utilities	0,0	0,3
Transport	-0,4	0,5
Education	0,0	0,3
Miscellaneous goods and services	0,8	0,0
All Items	0,6	1,4

**Table E - Consumer price indices for all urban areas**

Group	Weight	Index (Dec 2012=100)			Percentage change	
		Mar 2014	Feb 2015	Mar 2015	Mar 2015 vs. Feb 2015	Mar 2015 vs. Mar 2014
<b>All items (CPI Headline)</b>	100,00	108,7	111,5	113,1	1,4	4,0
<b>Food and non-alcoholic beverages</b>	15,41	107,2	112,5	113,4	0,8	5,8
<b>Food</b>	14,20	107,3	112,7	113,6	0,8	5,9
<b>Processed</b>	6,78	108,6	114,7	115,8	1,0	6,6
<b>Unprocessed</b>	7,42	106,1	110,9	111,6	0,6	5,2
<b>Bread and cereals</b>	3,55	108,5	111,5	112,5	0,9	3,7
<b>Meat</b>	4,56	102,8	110,9	111,4	0,5	8,4
<b>Fish</b>	0,37	110,2	117,6	118,0	0,3	7,1
<b>Milk, eggs and cheese</b>	1,74	110,8	121,5	121,5	0,0	9,7
<b>Oils and fats</b>	0,55	105,7	103,2	105,1	1,8	-0,6
<b>Fruit</b>	0,23	102,7	101,0	103,9	2,9	1,2
<b>Vegetables</b>	1,61	112,7	111,2	113,2	1,8	0,4
<b>Sugar, sweets and desserts</b>	0,65	111,1	116,4	119,8	2,9	7,8
<b>Other food</b>	0,94	107,6	116,0	116,2	0,2	8,0
<b>Non-alcoholic beverages</b>	1,21	105,9	110,9	111,0	0,1	4,8
<b>Hot beverages</b>	0,32	107,2	117,1	116,7	-0,3	8,9
<b>Cold beverages</b>	0,89	105,4	108,7	109,0	0,3	3,4
<b>Alcoholic beverages and tobacco</b>	5,43	110,1	116,8	120,0	2,7	9,0
<b>Alcoholic beverages</b>	3,95	110,7	117,7	120,7	2,5	9,0
<b>Spirits</b>	0,76	111,6	118,6	121,6	2,5	9,0
<b>Wine</b>	0,74	109,5	110,4	113,3	2,6	3,5
<b>Beer</b>	2,45	110,7	119,7	122,6	2,4	10,7
<b>Tobacco</b>	1,48	108,7	114,4	118,0	3,1	8,6
<b>Clothing and footwear</b>	4,07	105,2	110,7	111,2	0,5	5,7
<b>Clothing</b>	2,76	105,3	111,2	111,6	0,4	6,0
<b>Footwear</b>	1,31	105,1	109,9	110,3	0,4	4,9
<b>Housing and utilities</b>	24,52	106,6	111,5	112,7	1,1	5,7
<b>Actual rentals for housing</b>	4,76	106,4	110,3	112,0	1,5	5,3
<b>Owners' equivalent rent</b>	11,42	106,2	109,6	111,4	1,6	4,9
<b>Maintenance and repair</b>	1,31	106,3	110,5	110,8	0,3	4,2
<b>Water and other services</b>	2,85	108,0	117,2	117,2	0,0	8,5
<b>Electricity and other fuels</b>	4,18	107,3	114,8	114,8	0,0	7,0
<b>Household contents and services</b>	4,79	104,7	106,3	106,9	0,6	2,1
<b>Furnishings, floor coverings and textiles</b>	1,12	100,0	95,8	95,5	-0,3	-4,5
<b>Appliances, tableware and equipment</b>	0,78	103,6	106,3	106,4	0,1	2,7
<b>Supplies and services</b>	2,89	106,8	110,4	111,5	1,0	4,4
<b>Domestic workers' wages</b>	2,35	106,7	111,1	112,3	1,1	5,2
<b>Health</b>	1,46	108,2	114,5	114,7	0,2	6,0
<b>Medical products</b>	0,74	104,0	109,2	109,7	0,5	5,5
<b>Medical services</b>	0,72	112,6	119,9	119,9	0,0	6,5

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

Group		Weight	Index (Dec 2012=100)			Percentage change		
			Mar 2014	Feb 2015	Mar 2015	Mar 2015 vs. Feb 2015	Mar 2015 vs. Mar 2014	
Transport		16,43	111,0	102,3	105,5	3,1	-5,0	
	Purchase of vehicles	5,98	105,8	111,5	111,5	0,0	5,4	
	Private transport operation		7,25	116,9	90,9	97,7	7,5	-16,4
		Petrol	5,68	119,6	85,5	93,7	9,6	-21,7
	Other running costs	1,57	106,9	110,2	112,5	2,1	5,2	
Public transport	3,20	107,3	111,1	111,6	0,5	4,0		
Communication		2,63	101,0	99,4	99,4	0,0	-1,6	
	Postal services and telecommunication services	2,50	101,9	100,7	100,7	0,0	-1,2	
	Telecommunication equipment	0,13	85,6	74,6	74,7	0,1	-12,7	
Recreation and culture		4,09	104,1	106,7	106,6	-0,1	2,4	
	Recreational equipment	1,59	100,3	100,6	100,5	-0,1	0,2	
	Recreational and cultural services	1,72	103,0	106,3	106,3	0,0	3,2	
	Books, newspapers and stationery	0,57	113,2	120,4	121,0	0,5	6,9	
	Package holidays	0,21	116,7	118,3	116,7	-1,4	0,0	
Education		2,95	118,5	118,5	129,5	9,3	9,3	
	Primary and secondary	1,72	118,1	118,1	128,7	9,0	9,0	
	Tertiary	1,23	119,0	119,0	130,7	9,8	9,8	
Restaurants and hotels		3,50	110,4	116,7	117,8	0,9	6,7	
	Restaurants	2,54	108,9	116,3	116,6	0,3	7,1	
	Hotels	0,96	114,6	117,8	120,9	2,6	5,5	
Miscellaneous goods and services		14,72	113,1	121,3	121,6	0,2	7,5	
	Personal care	2,29	108,1	113,2	115,3	1,9	6,7	
	Insurance	9,92	115,8	125,5	125,5	0,0	8,4	
	Financial services	1,20	108,3	114,2	114,5	0,3	5,7	
	Other goods and services	1,31	105,6	109,5	109,5	0,0	3,7	



**GLOSSARY**

A complete set of definitions is available in the methods and sources document on the Stats SA website <http://www.statssa.gov.za>

<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, sanitary fees, refuse removal, water, electricity, paraffin, petrol, public transport – trains, motor licences, motor registration, telephone fees, postage, 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 in June vary, depending on government's policy objective. Products and services included are water, electricity, paraffin, petrol, telephone fees, postage and cell calls.
<b>CPI per expenditure quintile</b>	quintile 1 - up to R 21 399; quintile 2 - R 21 400 up to R 35 750; quintile 3 - R 35 751 up to R 61 624; quintile 4 - R 61 625 up to R 142 083; and quintile 5 - R 142 084 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.

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