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Statistical release

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Consumer Price Index

August 2015

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KEY FINDINGS

Headline consumer price index (CPI for all urban areas)

Annual consumer price inflation was **4,6%** in August 2015, down from 5,0% in July 2015.

The consumer price index was unchanged month-on-month in August 2015.

Table C (page 5) shows contributions to headline annual consumer price inflation. The decrease in the inflation rate from 5,0% in July to 4,6% in August was mainly the result of the housing and utilities and transport indices.

- The annual rate for **housing and utilities** fell from 6,4% in July (contributing 1,6 percentage points) to 6,3% in August (contributing 1,5 percentage points).
- The annual rate for **transport** fell from 0,8% in July (contributing 0,1 of a percentage point) to -0,7% in August (contributing -0,1 of a percentage point).

Table D (page 5) shows contributions to the month-on-month rate of 0,0% in August.

- **Food and non-alcoholic beverages** contributed 0,1 of a percentage point. The index increased by 0,8% month-on-month, mainly because of bread and cereals (1,2%) and meat (0,8%).
- **Transport** contributed -0,2 of a percentage point. The index decreased by 1,1% month-on-month, mainly because of petrol (-3,7%) (-51c/litre).

In August the CPI for **goods only** increased by 3,6% year-on-year (4,1% in July), and the CPI for **services only** increased by 5,6% year-on-year (5,7% in July).

Provincial annual inflation rates ranged from 3,6% in Limpopo to 5,2% in Free State (see Table A).

Note: Not all items in the CPI are surveyed every month. Table F (page 8) shows the survey schedule for items that are not surveyed monthly. No additional surveys are scheduled for September 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	
				Aug 2014	Jul 2015	Aug 2015	Aug 2015 vs. Jul 2015	Aug 2015 vs. Aug 2014
All items (CPI Headline)			100,00	111,0	116,1	116,1	0,0	4,6
Analytical series	CPI per expenditure quintile	1	2,27	109,9	115,4	115,9	0,4	5,5
		2	4,58	109,8	115,0	115,4	0,3	5,1
		3	8,08	110,0	115,1	115,4	0,3	4,9
		4	18,60	110,7	115,6	115,6	0,0	4,4
		5	66,47	111,3	116,4	116,3	-0,1	4,5
	CPI for all goods		49,86	110,9	114,8	114,9	0,1	3,6
	CPI for durable goods		8,02	105,8	107,6	108,3	0,7	2,4
	CPI for semi-durable goods		6,32	107,4	111,1	111,6	0,5	3,9
	CPI for non-durable goods		35,52	112,6	117,1	116,9	-0,2	3,8
	CPI for services		50,14	111,1	117,3	117,3	0,0	5,6
	CPI for pensioners		..	111,0	116,1	116,1	0,0	4,6
	CPI for administered prices	Total	18,48	115,5	120,6	119,3	-1,1	3,3
		Regulated	13,70	115,1	118,5	116,8	-1,4	1,5
		Not regulated	4,78	116,6	126,5	126,5	0,0	8,5
	CPI for food and non-alcoholic beverages (NAB)		15,41	110,6	114,5	115,4	0,8	4,3
	CPI excluding food and NAB		84,59	111,0	116,3	116,2	-0,1	4,7
	CPI excluding petrol		94,32	110,5	116,1	116,4	0,3	5,3
	CPI excluding food and NAB and petrol		78,91	110,4	116,5	116,6	0,1	5,6
	CPI excluding food and NAB, petrol, VAT, assessment rates, and finance charges		76,41	110,4	116,4	116,5	0,1	5,5
	CPI excluding housing		75,48	111,3	115,7	115,8	0,1	4,0
	CPI excluding petrol and energy		90,19	110,3	115,6	115,9	0,3	5,1
	CPI excluding energy		95,87	110,8	115,5	115,6	0,1	4,3
	CPI excluding food and NAB, petrol and energy		74,78	110,2	115,8	116,0	0,2	5,3
	CPI excluding owners' equivalent rent		88,58	111,4	116,5	116,5	0,0	4,6
	CPI excluding administered prices		81,52	109,9	115,0	115,4	0,3	5,0
	CPI administered prices excluding petrol and paraffin		12,75	113,8	123,3	123,3	0,0	8,3
	Trimmed mean		..	110,1	114,7	115,0	0,3	4,5
Geographic indices	CPI for primary urban areas		61,90	111,1	116,2	116,2	0,0	4,6
	CPI for secondary urban areas		20,49	110,7	115,6	115,6	0,0	4,4
	CPI for rural areas ¹		17,61	110,7	114,7	114,9	0,2	3,8
	CPI for total country		100,00	110,9	115,8	115,9	0,1	4,5
	CPI per province	Western Cape	15,55	110,5	115,9	115,9	0,0	4,9
		Eastern Cape	8,12	110,4	115,3	115,7	0,3	4,8
		Northern Cape	1,57	110,5	115,5	115,5	0,0	4,5
		Free State	5,12	110,5	116,0	116,2	0,2	5,2
		KwaZulu-Natal	15,33	111,0	115,5	115,5	0,0	4,1
		North West	5,59	110,6	115,0	115,2	0,2	4,2
		Gauteng	36,97	111,3	116,3	116,4	0,1	4,6
		Mpumalanga	5,69	110,3	114,8	115,0	0,2	4,3
		Limpopo	6,06	111,6	115,5	115,6	0,1	3,6

¹ 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 ¹
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	114,1	114,4	114,9	116,1	116,1	..	..	..	..	..

¹ Annual average.

Table B2 - CPI headline year-on-year rates

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average ¹
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	4,5	4,6	4,7	5,0	4,6	..	..	..	..	..

¹ 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.

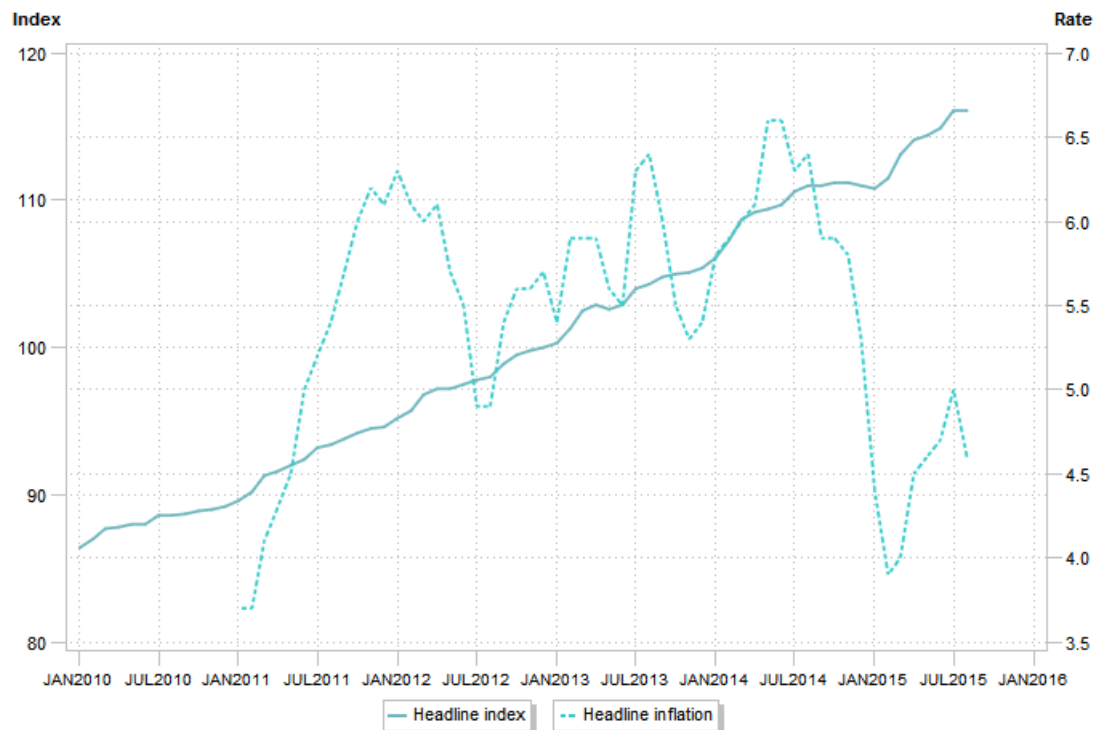
Figure 1 - CPI headline index numbers and year-on-year rates

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

Group	Contribution	
	Jul 2015	Aug 2015
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	0,7	0,7
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	0,5	0,5
Clothing and footwear	0,2	0,2
Housing and utilities	1,6	1,5
Household contents and services	0,1	0,1
Health	0,1	0,1
Transport	0,1	-0,1
Recreation and culture	0,1	0,1
Education	0,3	0,3
Restaurants and hotels	0,2	0,2
Miscellaneous goods and services	1,1	1,1
Residual	0,0	-0,1
All Items	5,0	4,6

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

Group	Contribution	
	Jul 2015	Aug 2015
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	0,0	0,1
Housing and utilities	0,7	0,0
Transport	0,2	-0,2
Residual	0,1	0,1
All Items	1,0	0,0

Table E - Consumer price indices for all urban areas

Group			Weight	Index (Dec 2012=100)			Percentage change	
				Aug 2014	Jul 2015	Aug 2015	Aug 2015 vs. Jul 2015	Aug 2015 vs. Aug 2014
All items (CPI Headline)			100,00	111,0	116,1	116,1	0,0	4,6
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	Food		15,41	110,6	114,5	115,4	0,8	4,3
			14,20	110,6	114,6	115,5	0,8	4,4
		Processed	6,78	112,4	116,9	117,8	0,8	4,8
		Unprocessed	7,42	109,1	112,5	113,4	0,8	3,9
		Bread and cereals	3,55	110,4	115,5	116,9	1,2	5,9
		Meat	4,56	106,8	111,2	112,1	0,8	5,0
		Fish	0,37	112,7	121,6	122,1	0,4	8,3
		Milk, eggs and cheese	1,74	118,9	123,2	123,4	0,2	3,8
		Oils and fats	0,55	103,0	105,7	108,9	3,0	5,7
		Fruit	0,23	95,5	97,8	99,6	1,8	4,3
		Vegetables	1,61	114,7	112,5	112,0	-0,4	-2,4
		Sugar, sweets and desserts	0,65	115,0	122,9	123,7	0,7	7,6
		Other food	0,94	112,5	116,1	117,3	1,0	4,3
	Non-alcoholic beverages		1,21	109,8	113,0	113,9	0,8	3,7
		Hot beverages	0,32	115,3	119,2	120,0	0,7	4,1
		Cold beverages	0,89	107,7	110,8	111,7	0,8	3,7
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	Alcoholic beverages		5,43	112,9	122,6	122,8	0,2	8,8
			3,95	112,6	123,8	124,1	0,2	10,2
		Spirits	0,76	116,4	125,4	125,1	-0,2	7,5
		Wine	0,74	110,0	115,8	116,7	0,8	6,1
		Beer	2,45	112,1	125,7	126,1	0,3	12,5
	Tobacco		1,48	113,9	119,3	119,3	0,0	4,7
Clothing and footwear			4,07	107,5	112,6	113,2	0,5	5,3
	Clothing		2,76	107,8	113,0	113,6	0,5	5,4
	Footwear		1,31	107,0	111,7	112,3	0,5	5,0
Housing and utilities			24,52	110,1	117,0	117,0	0,0	6,3
	Actual rentals for housing		4,76	108,0	113,2	113,2	0,0	4,8
	Owners' equivalent rent		11,42	107,6	112,5	112,5	0,0	4,6
	Maintenance and repair		1,31	108,7	110,9	110,8	-0,1	1,9
	Water and other services		2,85	117,2	128,7	128,7	0,0	9,8
	Electricity and other fuels		4,18	114,9	127,7	127,7	0,0	11,1
Household contents and services			4,79	105,5	108,1	108,4	0,3	2,7
	Furnishings, floor coverings and textiles		1,12	98,9	94,5	94,9	0,4	-4,0
	Appliances, tableware and equipment		0,78	105,3	107,7	108,5	0,7	3,0
	Supplies and services		2,89	108,2	113,5	113,6	0,1	5,0
		Domestic workers' wages	2,35	109,2	114,8	114,8	0,0	5,1
Health			1,46	109,9	116,7	116,7	0,0	6,2
	Medical products		0,74	107,1	113,2	113,4	0,2	5,9
	Medical services		0,72	112,8	120,2	120,2	0,0	6,6

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

Group			Weight	Index (Dec 2012=100)			Percentage change	
				Aug 2014	Jul 2015	Aug 2015	Aug 2015 vs. Jul 2015	Aug 2015 vs. Aug 2014
Transport			16,43	112,6	113,1	111,8	-1,1	-0,7
	Purchase of vehicles		5,98	108,8	112,2	113,0	0,7	3,9
	Private transport operation		7,25	117,2	114,2	110,8	-3,0	-5,5
		Petrol	5,68	119,5	114,7	110,4	-3,7	-7,6
		Other running costs	1,57	108,8	112,3	112,5	0,2	3,4
	Public transport		3,20	109,3	112,4	111,9	-0,4	2,4
Communication			2,63	100,5	99,6	99,7	0,1	-0,8
	Postal services and telecommunication services		2,50	101,6	101,2	101,4	0,2	-0,2
	Telecommunication equipment		0,13	80,7	70,0	68,9	-1,6	-14,6
Recreation and culture			4,09	105,6	107,7	108,1	0,4	2,4
	Recreational equipment		1,59	101,6	101,9	102,0	0,1	0,4
	Recreational and cultural services		1,72	105,2	107,5	107,5	0,0	2,2
	Books, newspapers and stationery		0,57	114,8	123,1	124,5	1,1	8,4
	Package holidays		0,21	114,1	112,5	114,0	1,3	-0,1
			2,95	118,5	129,5	129,5	0,0	9,3
Education			1,72	118,1	128,7	128,7	0,0	9,0
	Primary and secondary		1,23	119,0	130,7	130,7	0,0	9,8
	Tertiary		3,50	113,4	119,0	119,6	0,5	5,5
Restaurants and hotels			2,54	113,5	119,9	120,4	0,4	6,1
	Restaurants		0,96	113,1	116,7	117,4	0,6	3,8
	Hotels		14,72	114,4	122,3	122,4	0,1	7,0
Miscellaneous goods and services			2,29	111,1	115,5	116,3	0,7	4,7
	Personal care		9,92	116,6	126,2	126,2	0,0	8,2
	Insurance		1,20	110,2	116,5	116,2	-0,3	5,4
	Financial services		1,31	107,9	110,5	110,5	0,0	2,4
	Other goods and services							

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)
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) Rugby tickets (Recreation and culture)
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)
October	Cricket tickets (Recreation and culture)
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>

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, 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.
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 in August vary, depending on government's policy objective. Products and services included are water, electricity, paraffin, petrol, telephone fees, postage and cell calls.
CPI per expenditure quintile	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.
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.

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