

Statistical release

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Consumer Price Index

March 2014

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KEY FINDINGS

The headline CPI (for all urban areas) annual inflation rate in March 2014 was 6,0%. This rate was 0,1 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding annual rate of 5,9% in February 2014. On average, prices increased by 1,3% between February 2014 and March 2014.

The **food and non-alcoholic beverages** index increased by 1,4% between February 2014 and March 2014. The annual rate increased to 7,0% in March 2014 from 5,4% in February 2014. The following components in the food and non-alcoholic beverages index increased: sugar, sweets and desserts (3,7%), vegetables (3,3%), fruit (2,1%), milk, eggs and cheese (1,9%), oils and fats (1,7%), bread and cereals (1,2%), fish (1,0%), meat (0,8%), cold beverages (0,7%) and other food (0,2%). The following component decreased: hot beverages (-0,4%).

The **alcoholic beverages and tobacco** index increased by 2,0% between February 2014 and March 2014. The annual rate decreased to 5,8% in March 2014 from 6,5% in February 2014.

The **housing** index increased by 0,9% between February 2014 and March 2014, mainly due to a 1,3% increase in actual rentals for housing and a 1,4% increase in owners' equivalent rent. The annual rate increased to 5,6% in March 2014 from 5,5% in February 2014.

The **transport** index increased by 1,6% between February 2014 and March 2014, mainly due to a 36c/litre increase in the price of petrol. The annual rate decreased to 6,9% in March 2014 from 8,0% in February 2014.

The **education** index increased by 8,7% between February 2014 and March 2014. The annual rate decreased to 8,7% in March 2014 from 9,0% in February 2014.

The **miscellaneous goods and services** index increased by 0,5% between February 2014 and March 2014. The annual rate increased to 6,5% in March 2014 from 6,2% in February 2014.

The provinces with an annual inflation rate lower than or equal to headline inflation were Western Cape (6,0%), Free State (6,0%), Gauteng (6,0%), Northern Cape (5,9%), North West (5,7%) and Mpumalanga (5,7%). The provinces with an annual inflation rate higher than headline inflation were Limpopo (7,2%), Eastern Cape (6,5%) and KwaZulu-Natal (6,3%).

NOTES

CPI for April 2014

As indicated in the planned schedule of price surveys, motor vehicle insurance is surveyed in March, June, September and December and toll fees are surveyed in March. It has come to Stats SA's attention that price changes in these items will be introduced during April 2014. Additional surveys for these items will be conducted in April 2014 to capture these changes.

Publication dates for future releases

Year	Issue	Publication date
2014	April	21 May 2014
	May	18 June 2014
	June	23 July 2014
	July	20 August 2014

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 2013	Feb 2014	Mar 2014	Mar 2014 vs. Feb 2014	Mar 2014 vs. Mar 2013
All items (CPI Headline)			100,00	102,5	107,3	108,7	1,3	6,0
Analytical series	CPI per expenditure quintile	1	2,27	101,0	106,0	107,4	1,3	6,3
		2	4,58	101,1	105,9	107,3	1,3	6,1
		3	8,08	101,4	106,0	107,5	1,4	6,0
		4	18,60	102,1	106,8	108,2	1,3	6,0
		5	66,47	102,9	107,7	109,1	1,3	6,0
	CPI for all goods		49,86	101,8	106,8	108,1	1,2	6,2
	CPI for durable goods		8,02	100,3	103,3	103,7	0,4	3,4
	CPI for semi-durable goods		6,32	100,9	104,8	105,5	0,7	4,6
	CPI for non-durable goods		35,52	102,3	108,0	109,6	1,5	7,1
	CPI for services		50,14	103,2	107,8	109,3	1,4	5,9
	CPI for pensioners		..	102,5	107,5	108,8	1,2	6,1
	CPI for administered prices	Total	18,48	104,5	109,9	112,4	2,3	7,6
		Regulated	13,70	104,0	110,5	111,8	1,2	7,5
		Not regulated	4,78	105,7	108,1	114,1	5,6	7,9
	CPI for food and non-alcoholic beverages (NAB)		15,41	100,2	105,7	107,2	1,4	7,0
	CPI excluding food and NAB		84,59	102,9	107,6	109,0	1,3	5,9
	CPI excluding petrol		94,32	102,1	106,7	108,0	1,2	5,8
	CPI excluding food and NAB and petrol		78,91	102,5	106,9	108,2	1,2	5,6
	CPI excluding food and NAB, petrol, VAT, assessment rates, and finance charges		76,41	102,5	106,9	108,2	1,2	5,6
	CPI excluding housing		75,48	103,1	107,8	109,3	1,4	6,0
	CPI excluding petrol and energy		90,19	102,2	106,7	108,1	1,3	5,8
	CPI excluding energy		95,87	102,6	107,3	108,7	1,3	5,9
	CPI excluding food and NAB, petrol and energy		74,78	102,6	106,9	108,2	1,2	5,5
	CPI excluding owners' equivalent rent		88,58	102,7	107,6	109,0	1,3	6,1
	CPI excluding administered prices		81,52	102,1	106,7	107,8	1,0	5,6
	CPI administered prices excluding petrol and paraffin		12,75	102,3	106,9	109,2	2,2	6,7
	Trimmed mean		..	101,7	106,7	107,5	0,7	5,7
Geographic indices	CPI for primary urban areas		61,90	102,6	107,4	108,8	1,3	6,0
	CPI for secondary urban areas		20,49	102,2	106,9	108,2	1,2	5,9
	CPI for rural areas ¹		17,61	101,6	106,8	108,4	1,5	6,7
	CPI for total country		100,00	102,4	107,2	108,6	1,3	6,1
	CPI per province	Western Cape	15,55	102,1	106,7	108,2	1,4	6,0
		Eastern Cape	8,12	101,9	107,0	108,5	1,4	6,5
		Northern Cape	1,57	101,8	106,6	107,8	1,1	5,9
		Free State	5,12	102,0	106,9	108,1	1,1	6,0
		KwaZulu-Natal	15,33	102,3	107,0	108,7	1,6	6,3
		North West	5,59	101,9	106,6	107,7	1,0	5,7
		Gauteng	36,97	102,9	107,7	109,1	1,3	6,0
		Mpumalanga	5,69	102,1	106,7	107,9	1,1	5,7
		Limpopo	6,06	101,9	107,6	109,2	1,5	7,2

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
2010	86,4	87,0	87,7	87,8	88,0	88,0	88,6	88,6	88,7	88,9	89,0	89,2	88,2
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	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

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
2010	6,2	5,7	5,1	4,8	4,6	4,2	3,7	3,5	3,2	3,4	3,6	3,5	4,3
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	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

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.

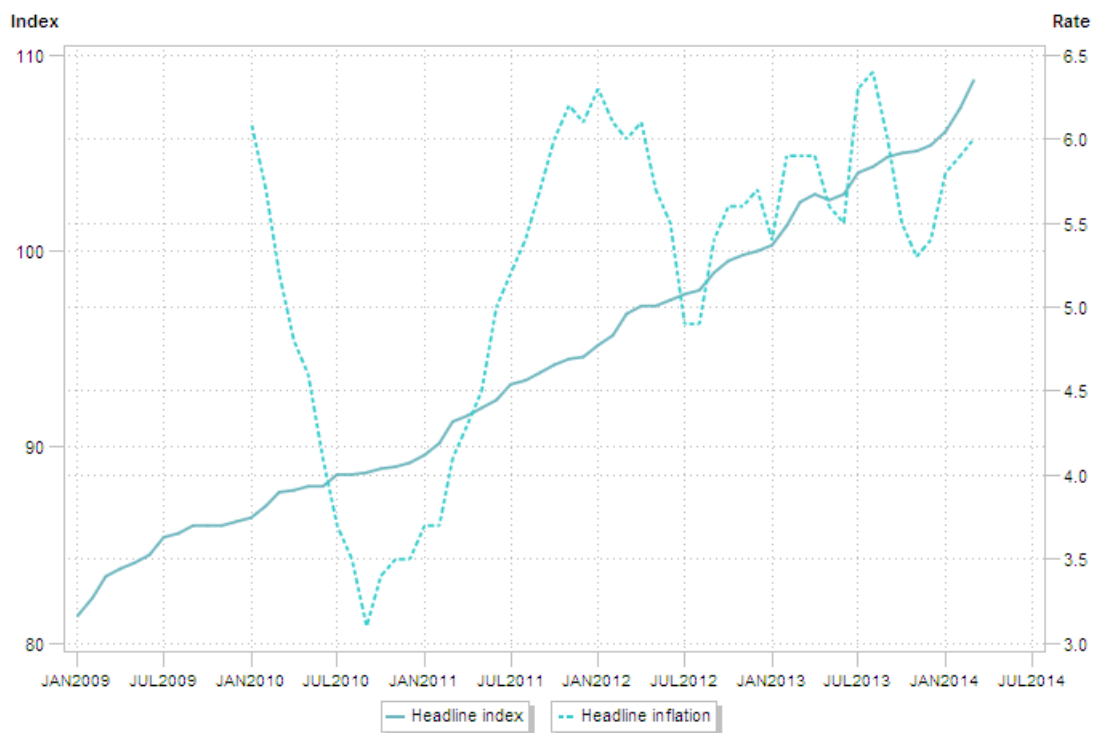
Figure 1 - CPI headline index numbers and year-on-year rates

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

Group	Contribution	
	Feb 2014	Mar 2014
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	0,8	1,1
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	0,4	0,3
Clothing and footwear	0,2	0,2
Housing and utilities	1,3	1,4
Household contents and services	0,2	0,2
Health	0,1	0,1
Transport	1,3	1,2
Recreation and culture	0,1	0,1
Education	0,3	0,3
Restaurants and hotels	0,3	0,3
Miscellaneous goods and services	1,0	1,0
Residual	-0,1	-0,2
All Items	5,9	6,0

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

Group	Contribution	
	Feb 2014	Mar 2014
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	0,1	0,2
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	0,0	0,1
Housing and utilities	0,0	0,2
Transport	0,2	0,3
Education	0,0	0,3
Miscellaneous goods and services	0,7	0,1
Residual	0,1	0,1
All Items	1,1	1,3

Table E- Consumer price indices for all urban areas

Group			Weight	Index (Dec 2012=100)			Percentage change	
				Mar 2013	Feb 2014	Mar 2014	Mar 2014 vs. Feb 2014	Mar 2014 vs. Mar 2013
All items (CPI Headline)			100,00	102,5	107,3	108,7	1,3	6,0
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	Food		15,41	100,2	105,7	107,2	1,4	7,0
			14,20	100,1	105,8	107,3	1,4	7,2
		Processed	6,78	101,7	107,8	108,6	0,7	6,8
		Unprocessed	7,42	98,7	103,9	106,1	2,1	7,5
		Bread and cereals	3,55	99,4	107,2	108,5	1,2	9,2
		Meat	4,56	98,7	102,0	102,8	0,8	4,2
		Fish	0,37	102,4	109,1	110,2	1,0	7,6
		Milk, eggs and cheese	1,74	103,4	108,7	110,8	1,9	7,2
		Oils and fats	0,55	101,1	103,9	105,7	1,7	4,5
		Fruit	0,23	97,8	100,6	102,7	2,1	5,0
		Vegetables	1,61	99,9	109,1	112,7	3,3	12,8
		Sugar, sweets and desserts	0,65	104,6	107,1	111,1	3,7	6,2
		Other food	0,94	100,3	107,4	107,6	0,2	7,3
	Non-alcoholic beverages		1,21	101,4	105,5	105,9	0,4	4,4
		Hot beverages	0,32	101,5	107,6	107,2	-0,4	5,6
		Cold beverages	0,89	101,3	104,7	105,4	0,7	4,0
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	Alcoholic beverages		5,43	104,1	107,9	110,1	2,0	5,8
			3,95	104,6	108,9	110,7	1,7	5,8
		Spirits	0,76	104,2	107,4	111,6	3,9	7,1
		Wine	0,74	103,5	105,8	109,5	3,5	5,8
		Beer	2,45	105,1	110,3	110,7	0,4	5,3
	Tobacco		1,48	102,5	105,4	108,7	3,1	6,0
			4,07	100,5	104,6	105,2	0,6	4,7
Clothing and footwear	Clothing		2,76	100,6	104,8	105,3	0,5	4,7
	Footwear		1,31	100,4	104,3	105,1	0,8	4,7
			24,52	100,9	105,6	106,6	0,9	5,6
Housing and utilities	Actual rentals for housing		4,76	101,2	105,0	106,4	1,3	5,1
	Owners' equivalent rent		11,42	101,1	104,7	106,2	1,4	5,0
	Maintenance and repair		1,31	102,0	105,2	106,3	1,0	4,2
	Water and other services		2,85	100,0	108,0	108,0	0,0	8,0
	Electricity and other fuels		4,18	100,1	107,3	107,3	0,0	7,2
			4,79	100,7	103,9	104,7	0,8	4,0
Household contents and services	Furnishings, floor coverings and textiles		1,12	99,8	99,6	100,0	0,4	0,2
	Appliances, tableware and equipment		0,78	100,7	103,4	103,6	0,2	2,9
	Supplies and services		2,89	101,0	105,7	106,8	1,0	5,7
		Domestic workers' wages	2,35	101,0	105,5	106,7	1,1	5,6
			1,46	103,0	108,1	108,2	0,1	5,0
Health	Medical products		0,74	99,9	103,8	104,0	0,2	4,1
	Medical services		0,72	106,1	112,6	112,6	0,0	6,1

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

Group			Weight	Index (Dec 2012=100)			Percentage change	
				Mar 2013	Feb 2014	Mar 2014	Mar 2014 vs. Feb 2014	Mar 2014 vs. Mar 2013
Transport			16,43	103,8	109,2	111,0	1,6	6,9
	Purchase of vehicles		5,98	100,7	105,3	105,8	0,5	5,1
	Private transport operation		7,25	107,6	114,4	116,9	2,2	8,6
		Petrol	5,68	109,2	116,6	119,6	2,6	9,5
		Other running costs	1,57	101,9	106,7	106,9	0,2	4,9
	Public transport		3,20	100,7	104,8	107,3	2,4	6,6
Communication			2,63	100,8	101,1	101,0	-0,1	0,2
	Postal services and telecommunication services		2,50	101,1	101,9	101,9	0,0	0,8
	Telecommunication equipment		0,13	95,3	85,9	85,6	-0,3	-10,2
Recreation and culture			4,09	101,8	103,7	104,1	0,4	2,3
	Recreational equipment		1,59	101,1	100,6	100,3	-0,3	-0,8
	Recreational and cultural services		1,72	101,7	103,0	103,0	0,0	1,3
	Books, newspapers and stationery		0,57	101,3	110,7	113,2	2,3	11,7
	Package holidays		0,21	108,5	114,6	116,7	1,8	7,6
			2,95	109,0	109,0	118,5	8,7	8,7
Education			1,72	109,1	109,1	118,1	8,2	8,2
	Primary and secondary		1,23	108,8	108,8	119,0	9,4	9,4
	Tertiary		3,50	101,9	109,1	110,4	1,2	8,3
Restaurants and hotels			2,54	101,5	107,4	108,9	1,4	7,3
	Restaurants		0,96	103,3	113,8	114,6	0,7	10,9
	Hotels		14,72	106,2	112,5	113,1	0,5	6,5
Miscellaneous goods and services			2,29	101,9	105,5	108,1	2,5	6,1
	Personal care		9,92	108,1	115,5	115,8	0,3	7,1
	Insurance		1,20	104,6	108,0	108,3	0,3	3,5
	Financial services		1,31	101,1	105,6	105,6	0,0	4,5
	Other goods and services							

GLOSSARY

A complete set of definitions is available in the methods and sources document on the Stats SA website

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Annual inflation rate	The annual 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.
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 CPI for all items of one year compared with the average CPI for all items 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 may 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 CPI of the relevant month compared with the CPI of the previous month expressed as a percentage.

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