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STATISTICAL RELEASE

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Consumer Price Index

May 2026

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Key findings

Headline consumer price index (CPI) for all urban areas

Annual consumer price inflation was 4,5% in May 2026, up from 4,0% in April 2026. The CPI increased by 0,7% month-on-month in May 2026.

The main contributors to the 4,5% annual inflation rate were:

- housing and utilities (5,3% and contributing 1,3 percentage points);
- transport (9,4% and contributing 1,3 percentage points); and
- insurance and financial services (5,7% and contributing 0,6 of a percentage point) – see Table C and Table E.

In May 2026, the annual inflation rate for:

- goods was 4,4%, up from 3,4% in April 2026; and
- services was 4,7%, up from 4,6% in April 2026 – see Table A.

Note: Not all items in the CPI are surveyed every month. Table F shows the survey schedule for items that are not surveyed monthly. Additional surveys are conducted for these items when Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) is aware of significant price changes outside regular survey months.



Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

Detailed results

Table A – Consumer price index: Main indices¹

Group		Weight	Index (Dec 2024=100)			% change	
			May 2025	Apr 2026	May 2026	May 2026 vs. Apr 2026	May 2026 vs. May 2025
All items (CPI Headline)		100,00	102,1	106,0	106,7	0,7	4,5
CPI excluding food and non-alcoholic beverages (NAB), fuel and energy		74,53	101,9	105,6	105,8	0,2	3,8
Trimmed mean		..	101,4	104,2	104,6	0,4	3,2
Analytical series	CPI for all goods	48,37	101,8	104,8	106,3	1,4	4,4
	CPI for durable goods	7,66	100,2	99,0	98,8	-0,2	-1,4
	CPI for semi-durable goods	5,84	100,5	101,0	101,3	0,3	0,8
	CPI for non-durable goods	34,87	102,4	106,8	108,8	1,9	6,3
	CPI for services	51,63	102,3	107,0	107,1	0,1	4,7
	CPI for administered prices	12,90	100,6	109,3	114,4	4,7	13,7
	CPI excluding administered prices	87,10	102,3	105,5	105,6	0,1	3,2
	CPI for administered prices excluding fuel and paraffin	9,05	100,7	107,9	108,4	0,5	7,6
	CPI excluding food and NAB	81,77	101,8	106,1	107,1	0,9	5,2
	CPI excluding fuel	96,20	102,1	105,7	105,9	0,2	3,7
	CPI excluding food and NAB and fuel	77,97	101,9	105,8	106,0	0,2	4,0
	CPI excluding housing	75,90	102,5	106,0	106,9	0,8	4,3
	CPI excluding fuel and energy	92,76	102,2	105,5	105,7	0,2	3,4
	CPI excluding energy	96,56	102,1	105,8	106,6	0,8	4,4
	CPI excluding owners' equivalent rent	88,84	102,2	106,1	107,0	0,8	4,7
	CPI for pensioners	..	102,3	106,5	107,3	0,8	4,9
Geographic indices	CPI for total country	100,00	102,1	105,8	106,6	0,8	4,4
	CPI for rural areas	11,44	102,1	104,6	105,2	0,6	3,0
	CPI per province						
	Western Cape	18,06	102,4	107,1	108,0	0,8	5,5
	Eastern Cape	7,65	102,0	105,2	105,9	0,7	3,8
	Northern Cape	1,82	102,2	105,4	106,1	0,7	3,8
	Free State	4,14	101,9	105,4	106,3	0,9	4,3
	KwaZulu-Natal	14,58	101,8	105,5	106,1	0,6	4,2
	North West	5,38	102,5	105,7	106,3	0,6	3,7
	Gauteng	35,87	101,9	105,7	106,4	0,7	4,4
	Mpumalanga	6,41	101,8	105,3	105,9	0,6	4,0
	Limpopo	6,09	102,4	105,3	105,8	0,5	3,3
Deciles	CPI per expenditure decile						
	1	0,71	102,0	104,0	104,3	0,3	2,3
	2	1,31	101,9	104,0	104,4	0,4	2,5
	3	1,85	101,8	104,2	104,5	0,3	2,7
	4	2,54	101,8	104,3	104,7	0,4	2,8
	5	3,30	101,8	104,4	104,8	0,4	2,9
	6	4,42	101,7	104,7	105,1	0,4	3,3
	7	6,23	101,8	104,9	105,3	0,4	3,4
	8	8,89	101,9	105,4	106,0	0,6	4,0
	9	15,03	101,9	105,8	106,7	0,9	4,7
	10	55,72	102,2	106,6	107,6	0,9	5,3

¹ Unless otherwise stated the table refers to all urban areas.

Table B – CPI headline

Table B1 – CPI headline index numbers (Dec 2024=100)

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average ¹
2022	86,3	86,8	87,7	88,2	88,8	89,8	91,1	91,3	91,4	91,7	92,0	92,3	89,8
2023	92,2	92,9	93,9	94,2	94,4	94,6	95,4	95,7	96,3	97,2	97,1	97,1	95,1
2024	97,2	98,1	98,9	99,1	99,3	99,4	99,8	99,9	100,0	99,9	99,9	100,0	99,3
2025	100,3	101,2	101,6	101,9	102,1	102,4	103,3	103,2	103,4	103,5	103,4	103,6	102,5
2026	103,8	104,2	104,8	106,0	106,7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Table B2 – CPI headline year-on-year rates

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average ¹
2022	5,7	5,7	5,9	5,9	6,5	7,4	7,8	7,6	7,5	7,6	7,4	7,2	6,9
2023	6,9	7,0	7,1	6,8	6,3	5,4	4,7	4,8	5,4	5,9	5,5	5,1	6,0
2024	5,3	5,6	5,3	5,2	5,2	5,1	4,6	4,4	3,8	2,8	2,9	3,0	4,4
2025	3,2	3,2	2,7	2,8	2,8	3,0	3,5	3,3	3,4	3,6	3,5	3,6	3,2
2026	3,5	3,0	3,1	4,0	4,5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

¹ Annual average.

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

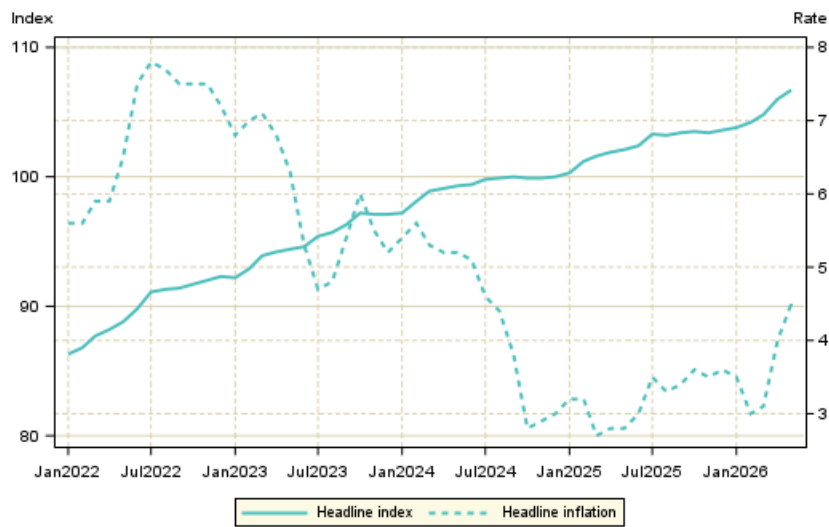


Table C – Contributions of the different groups to the annual percentage change in the CPI headline

Group	Contribution (% point)	
	Apr 2026	May 2026
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	0,5	0,4
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	0,2	0,2
Housing and utilities	1,2	1,3
Health	0,1	0,1
Transport	0,7	1,3
Information and communication	0,0	0,1
Recreation, sport and culture	0,1	0,1
Education services	0,1	0,1
Restaurants and accommodation services	0,3	0,3
Insurance and financial services	0,6	0,6
Personal care and miscellaneous services	0,1	0,1
Residual	0,1	-0,1
All items	4,0	4,5

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

Group	Contribution (% point)	
	Apr 2026	May 2026
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	0,1	0,0
Transport	0,7	0,6
Information and communication	0,1	0,0
Restaurants and accommodation services	-0,1	0,0
Insurance and financial services	0,1	0,0
Residual	0,2	0,1
All items	1,1	0,7

Table E – Consumer price indices for all urban areas

Group	Weight	Index (Dec 2024=100)			% change	
		May 2025	Apr 2026	May 2026	May 2026 vs. Apr 2026	May 2026 vs. May 2025
All items (CPI Headline)	100,00	102,1	106,0	106,7	0,7	4,5
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	18,23	103,3	105,2	105,3	0,1	1,9
Food	16,84	103,4	105,1	105,1	0,0	1,6
Processed	7,73	105,1	105,1	104,8	-0,3	-0,3
Unprocessed	9,11	101,3	105,2	105,5	0,3	4,1
Cereal products	4,14	102,6	101,0	101,2	0,2	-1,4
Meat	5,10	104,0	112,5	111,6	-0,8	7,3
Fish and other seafood	0,43	102,1	104,3	105,8	1,4	3,6
Milk, other dairy products and eggs	1,83	99,3	99,3	100,2	0,9	0,9
Oils and fats	0,82	103,4	104,2	105,2	1,0	1,7
Fruits and nuts	0,62	96,5	91,3	88,3	-3,3	-8,5
Vegetables	1,74	113,5	105,8	106,7	0,9	-6,0
Sugar, confectionery and desserts	0,92	101,6	104,0	104,0	0,0	2,4
Other food	1,24	100,6	104,8	105,5	0,7	4,9
Non-alcoholic beverages	1,39	102,0	106,6	107,0	0,4	4,9
Hot beverages	0,39	104,4	111,4	111,7	0,3	7,0
Cold beverages	1,00	101,1	104,7	105,3	0,6	4,2
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	4,64	103,5	107,4	107,5	0,1	3,9
Alcoholic beverages	3,51	103,6	107,3	107,3	0,0	3,6
Spirits and liqueurs	0,77	102,3	105,4	104,7	-0,7	2,3
Wine	0,97	104,4	106,9	107,1	0,2	2,6
Beer	1,77	103,6	108,3	108,6	0,3	4,8
Tobacco	1,13	103,5	107,8	108,1	0,3	4,4
Clothing and footwear	3,90	100,6	101,7	101,8	0,1	1,2
Clothing	2,85	100,6	101,7	101,9	0,2	1,3
Footwear	1,05	100,6	101,7	101,7	0,0	1,1
Housing and utilities	24,10	100,7	105,8	106,0	0,2	5,3
Actual rentals for housing	4,37	100,8	104,8	104,8	0,0	4,0
Owners' equivalent rent	11,16	100,8	104,7	104,7	0,0	3,9
Maintenance and repair	0,64	102,5	104,4	106,9	2,4	4,3
Water supply and miscellaneous services	3,83	100,3	107,2	107,2	0,0	6,9
Electricity, gas and other fuels	4,10	100,4	108,5	109,8	1,2	9,4
Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance	3,33	100,7	100,9	100,8	-0,1	0,1
Furniture, furnishings and loose carpets	0,53	100,5	96,1	95,2	-0,9	-5,3
Household textiles, appliances, tableware and equipment	0,97	99,3	96,6	96,6	0,0	-2,7
Goods and services for routine household maintenance	1,83	101,4	104,5	104,7	0,2	3,3
Domestic services	1,52	101,3	105,0	105,0	0,0	3,7
Health	1,78	104,2	107,8	107,8	0,0	3,5
Medicines and health products	0,90	103,2	105,9	105,9	0,0	2,6
Health services	0,88	105,2	109,8	109,9	0,1	4,5

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

Group		Weight	Index (Dec 2024=100)			% change		
			May 2025	Apr 2026	May 2026	May 2026 vs. Apr 2026	May 2026 vs. May 2025	
Transport		13,89	100,1	105,2	109,5	4,1	9,4	
	Purchase of vehicles	5,61	100,8	101,4	101,2	-0,2	0,4	
	Operation of personal transport equipment		5,28	100,7	111,0	122,7	10,5	21,8
		Fuel	3,80	100,0	112,6	128,7	14,3	28,7
	Other goods and services	1,48	102,3	107,0	107,1	0,1	4,7	
	Passenger transport services	2,91	97,7	102,0	101,6	-0,4	4,0	
Transport services of goods	0,09	101,2	104,1	106,4	2,2	5,1		
Information and communication		5,47	101,5	102,4	103,2	0,8	1,7	
	Information and communication equipment	0,94	96,8	88,1	88,1	0,0	-9,0	
	Information and communication services	4,53	102,4	105,3	106,3	0,9	3,8	
Recreation, sport and culture		2,94	101,6	104,3	105,0	0,7	3,3	
	Recreational goods	0,78	99,9	99,1	99,6	0,5	-0,3	
	Recreational and cultural services	1,85	102,3	106,4	107,1	0,7	4,7	
	Newspapers, books and stationery	0,25	102,4	103,6	106,8	3,1	4,3	
	Package holidays	0,06	98,2	105,7	102,9	-2,6	4,8	
Education services		2,41	104,5	110,1	110,1	0,0	5,4	
	Primary and secondary	1,41	105,0	111,5	111,5	0,0	6,2	
	Tertiary	1,00	103,7	108,1	108,1	0,0	4,2	
Restaurants and accommodation services		6,12	99,7	105,3	105,5	0,2	5,8	
	Catering services	4,75	100,0	104,6	104,9	0,3	4,9	
	Accommodation services	1,37	98,9	107,8	107,8	0,0	9,0	
Insurance and financial services		10,41	107,1	113,2	113,2	0,0	5,7	
	Insurance	8,41	107,8	114,0	114,0	0,0	5,8	
	Financial services	2,00	104,4	109,5	109,5	0,0	4,9	
Personal care and miscellaneous services		2,78	101,4	104,6	104,7	0,1	3,3	
	Personal care	1,40	100,8	101,2	101,6	0,4	0,8	
	Other services	1,38	101,9	107,9	107,9	0,0	5,9	

Table F – Survey schedule for non-monthly surveys

Quarterly	
January, April, July and October	Satellite TV Gym fees Funeral expenses, funeral policies, gravestone, membership fees for professional associations and trade unions Games of chance (quality adjusted monthly)
February, May, August and November	Hospitals
March, June, September and December	Actual rentals for housing, owners' equivalent rent Domestic services Taxi, bus and train fares Motor vehicle insurance Inpatient care facilities Clinic services
Biannual	
January and July	Building insurance, household content insurance
May and November	Electricians, plumbers
Annual	
February	General practitioners, gynaecologists, paediatricians, physicians, orthopaedic surgeons, optometrists, physiotherapists and pathology services Health insurance
March	School and university tuition fees Toll facilities University boarding fees Crèche fees After school centres
July	Municipal charges for water supply, assessment rates, electricity, sewage removal and refuse collection
Other	
January, February, March, April, May, August, September, October, November, December	Sports tickets

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

Glossary¹

Annual inflation rate / 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. The inflation rate is the annual change in the CPI for all items.
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	<p>An administered price refers to the price of a product or service set directly or significantly influenced by the government, either directly or through its agencies, without relying on market forces. This includes prices charged by the private sector but controlled by the government.</p> <p>Products and services included are water supply, refuse collection, sewage removal, assessment rates, electricity, gas in cylinders, paraffin, prescription medicine, dispensing fees, diesel, petrol, toll fees, motor vehicle licence and registration fees, train fares, local bus fares, primary education (public), secondary education (public), tertiary education (public) and university boarding fees.</p>
CPI per expenditure decile	<p>Decile 1 – up to R35 864</p> <p>Decile 2 – R35 865 up to R51 168</p> <p>Decile 3 – R51 169 up to R64 855</p> <p>Decile 4 – R64 856 up to R80 320</p> <p>Decile 5 – R80 321 up to R97 976</p> <p>Decile 6 – R97 977 up to R120 028</p> <p>Decile 7 – R120 029 up to R150 774</p> <p>Decile 8 – R150 775 up to R202 419</p> <p>Decile 9 – R202 420 up to R307 885</p> <p>Decile 10 – R307 886 and more</p>
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.
Respondent response rate	The respondent response rate for May 2026 was 98,9%. The rate was calculated by means of the total number of outlets where prices were collected as a percentage of the total sample.
Rural CPI	The rural CPI is compiled using data from rural and urban areas in accordance with the purchasing patterns of rural residents.

Historical data	Historical CPI data are available on the Stats SA webpage. Click on the following link (Time series data) to access the data electronically.
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¹ A complete set of definitions is available in the sources and methods document on the Stats SA website: https://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=16474.

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