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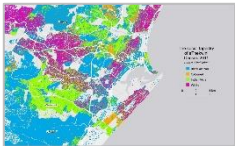
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## Economic headlines: May 2016

### How segregated is your city?



These fascinating maps show the extent of racial segregation in South Africa's largest cities. (Click [here](#) to read more.)

### Thank you, South Africa!



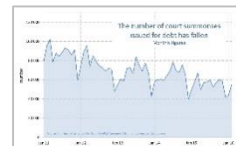
Stats SA extends its appreciation to everyone who opened their doors to fieldworkers during the Community Survey. (Click [here](#) to read more.)

### Facts you might not know about social grants



Recent data provide some insights into government spending on social grants. (Click [here](#) to read more.)

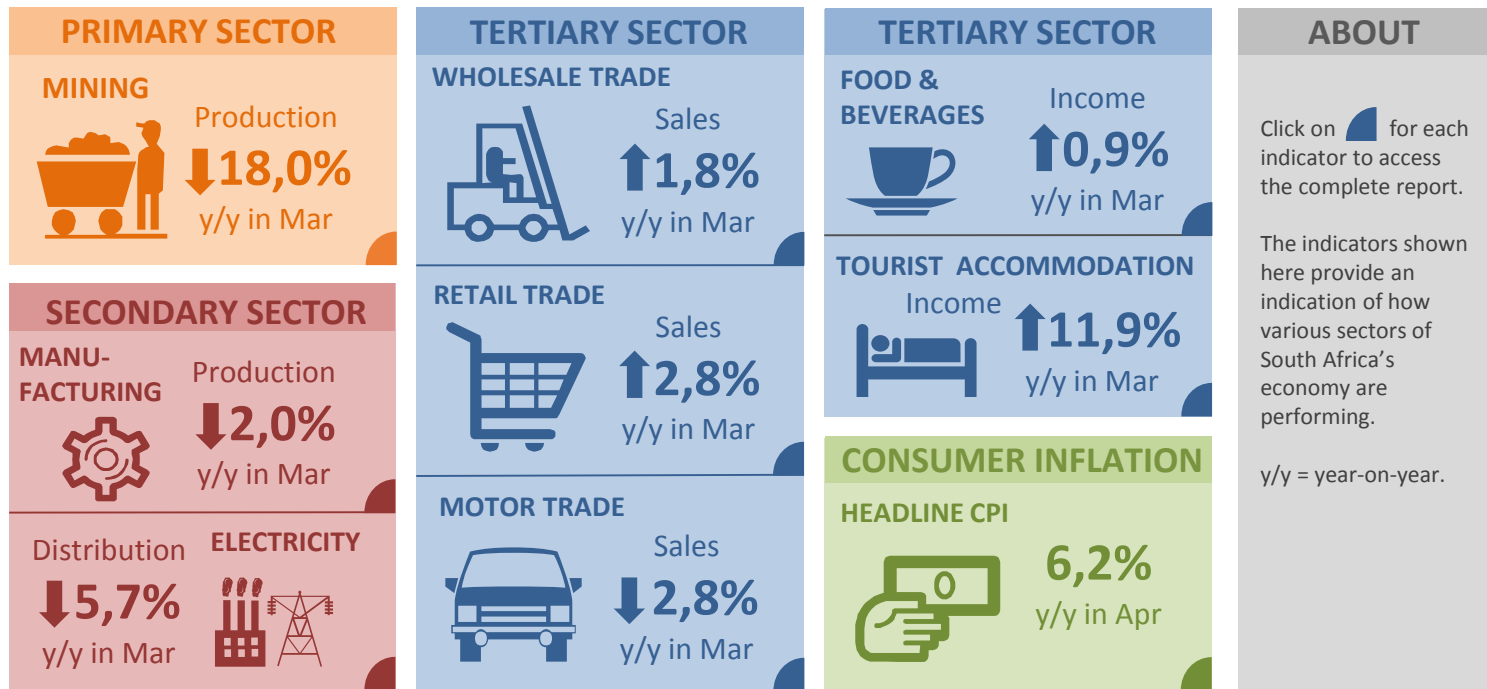
### Not such a deadbeat?



Despite worsening economic conditions, South Africans seem to be coping with their debt. (Click [here](#) to read more.)

Click [here](#) to browse more headlines.

## Economic indicators: May 2016



## South Africa's CPI reveals how volatile inflation hurts the poorest

The combined effect of the severe drought and the depreciation of the rand drove annual food inflation to 9,8% in March, its highest level in four years. Periods of high food inflation often spark an outpouring of concern over the impact on the poor.

Price data show that in times of high food inflation, the poor experience higher overall inflation than the average consumer.

However, the inverse is true during times of low food inflation. In these periods, food baskets of rural residents and the poorest quintile show markedly slower inflation than all other groups.

Click [here](#) to read the complete article.

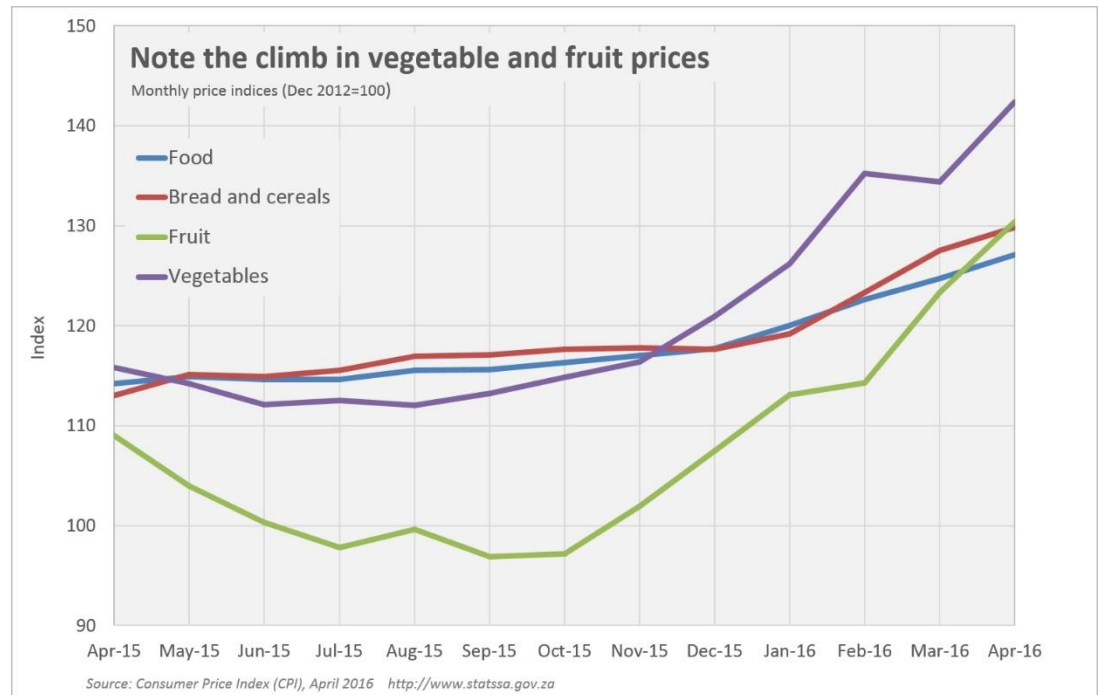


## Vegetable and fruit prices continue to climb

Notice in the chart how quickly the average prices for fruit (the green line) and vegetables (the purple line) have climbed since October 2015?

Data from the latest Consumer Price Index (CPI) release show how rising food prices are placing pressure on the pockets of ordinary consumers. The store prices of vegetables have risen, on average, by 23% over the last year, while the prices for fruit have risen by 19,6%.

Click [here](#) to download the CPI release for April.



## Where are food prices rising the most?

Limpopo has experienced the sharpest rise in average food prices over the last year, according to a provincial breakdown of price data from the latest Consumer Price Index (CPI) release. Food prices in the province rose by 17% in April 2016 compared with April 2015.

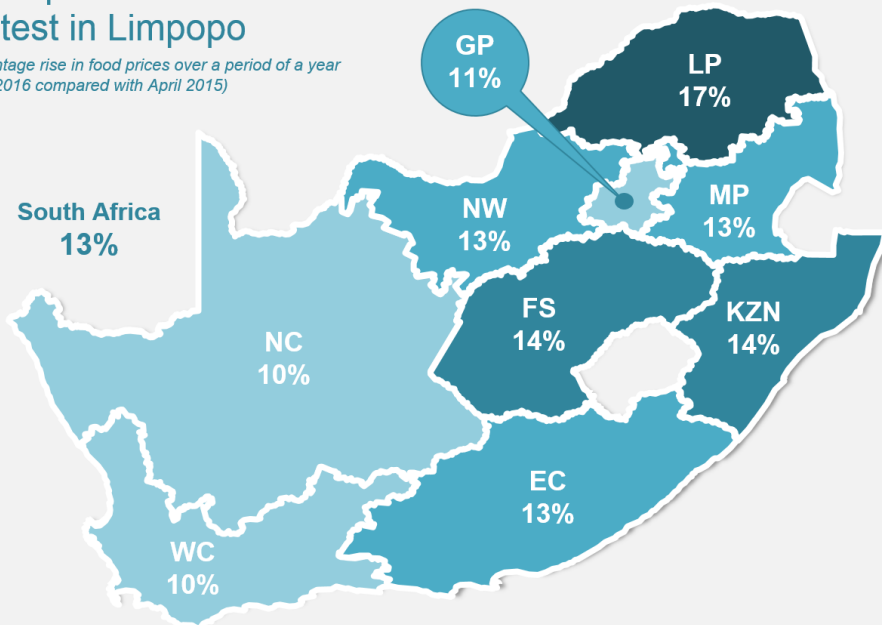
Over the same period, prices in KwaZulu-Natal, Free State, Eastern Cape and Mpumalanga climbed at a faster rate than the national average of 13%.

Following the national trend, consumers in Limpopo have had to deal with rising prices for vegetables (up by 30% over the last year), fruit (up by 21%) and bread and cereals (up by 23%).

Click [here](#) to access the download page for the April CPI release.

### Food prices have risen the fastest in Limpopo

*Percentage rise in food prices over a period of a year  
(April 2016 compared with April 2015)*



Source: Consumer Price Index, April 2016 <http://www.statssa.gov.za>



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