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# **STATISTICAL RELEASE** P0141

# Consumer Price Index

May 2021

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Please see note regarding the impact of COVID-19 on the CPI on page 3

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#### **KEY FINDINGS**

# Headline consumer price index (CPI for all urban areas)

Annual consumer price inflation was 5,2% in May 2021, up from 4,4% in April 2021. The consumer price index increased by 0,1% month-on-month in May 2021.

The main contributors to the 5,2% annual inflation rate were food and non-alcoholic beverages; housing and utilities; transport; and miscellaneous goods and services (Table C on page 6).

Food and non-alcoholic beverages increased by 6,7% year-on-year, and contributed 1,2 percentage points to the total CPI annual rate of 5,2%.

Housing and utilities increased by 2,3% year-on-year, and contributed 0,6 of a percentage point.

Transport increased by 15,3% year-on-year, and contributed 2,0 percentage points.

Miscellaneous goods and services increased by 4,1% year-on-year, and contributed 0,7 of a percentage point.

**Note**: Not all items in the CPI are surveyed every month. Table F (page 9) shows the survey schedule for items that are not surveyed monthly.

# Note regarding COVID-19

Resulting from COVID-19 health protocols, retail-based prices recorded across all regions (including online prices) have been pooled to create national average price changes which are then applied to each elementary index at a regional level. This means that the geographic index (including total country) changes will, in the main, vary according to different weights and not different price changes.

Risenga Maluleke

Statistician-General

# **DETAILED RESULTS**

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

Unless otherwise stated the table refers to all urban areas.

			Weight	Inde	x (Dec 2016	Percentage change		
Group				May 2020	Apr 2021	May 2021	May 2021 vs. Apr 2021	May 2021 vs. May 2020
All items (CPI	100,00	114,3	120,1	120,2	0,1	5,2		
CPI excluding	food and NAB, fuel and energy		74,43	114,7	118,3	118,3	0,0	3,1
Trimmed mear	1			114,5	119,2	119,4	0,2	4,3
Analytical	CPI for all goods		48,70	110,5	118,9	119,3	0,3	8,0
series	CPI for durable goods		7,81	105,2	110,0	110,5	0,5	5,0
	CPI for semi-durable goods		5,68	103,7	106,1	106,4	0,3	2,6
	CPI for non-durable goods		35,21	113,3	123,7	124,1	0,3	9,5
	CPI for services		51,30	118,0	121,2	121,2	0,0	2,7
	CPI for administered prices	Total	16,17	114,8	129,4	129,1	-0,2	12,5
	·	Regulated	11,76	110,2	128,3	128,0	-0,2	16,2
		Not regulated	4,41	127,2	132,2	132,2	0,0	3,9
	CPI excluding administered prices		83,83	114,2	118,3	118,5	0,2	3,8
	CPI for administered prices excluding fuel and paraffin		11,54	122,0	127,7	127,7	0,0	4,7
	CPI excluding food and NAB		82,76	114,1	119,7	119,7	0,0	4,9
	CPI excluding fuel		95,42	115,1	119,4	119,6	0,2	3,9
	CPI excluding food and NAB and fuel		78,18	115,1	118,9	118,9	0,0	3,3
	CPI excluding housing		75,38	113,9	120,7	120,9	0,2	6,1
	CPI excluding fuel and energy		91,67	114,8	119,0	119,2	0,2	3,8
	CPI excluding energy		96,25	113,9	119,6	119,8	0,2	5,2
	CPI excluding owners' equivalent rent		86,68	114,7	121,3	121,5	0,2	5,9
	CPI for pensioners			115,1	120,4	120,5	0,1	4,7
Geographic	CPI for total country		100,00	114,0	119,8	119,9	0,1	5,2
indices	CPI for rural areas		12,23	111,7	117,6	117,9	0,3	5,6
	CPI per province	Western Cape	17,25	116,8	122,9	123,1	0,2	5,4
		Eastern Cape	8,04	113,1	119,0	119,2	0,2	5,4
		Northern Cape	1,93	113,1	118,5	118,8	0,3	5,0
		Free State	5,93	113,7	119,1	119,4	0,3	5,0
		KwaZulu-Natal	12,70	112,8	118,4	118,6	0,2	5,1
		North West	5,31	111,6	117,8	118,0	0,2	5,7
		Gauteng	36,25	114,0	119,9	120,0	0,1	5,3
		Mpumalanga	6,89	112,6	118,0	118,2	0,2	5,0
		Limpopo	5,70	112,9	118,9	119,2	0,3	5,6
Deciles	CPI per expenditure decile	1	0,50	112,1	117,6	117,9	0,3	5,2
		2	1,13	112,6	117,9	118,2	0,3	5,0
		3	1,89	112,4	117,3	117,6	0,3	4.6
		4	2,81	112,3	117,0	117,3	0,3	4,5
		5	3,93	112,3	116,8	117,3	0,3	4,3
		6	5,61	112,3	116,6	116,8	0,3	4,1
		7	7,91	112,7	117,6	117,8	0,2	4,5
		8	11,30	113,3	118,7	117,8	0,2	4,9
		9	16,35	114,9	120,9	121,1	0,2	5,4
		10	48,57	115,1	120,9	121,1	0,2	5,4
		10	46,57	115,1	121,5	121,6	0,1	5,6

Table B - CPI headline

Table B1 - CPI headline index numbers (Dec 2016=100)

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average <sup>1</sup>
2017	100,6	101,7	102,3	102,4	102,7	102,9	103,2	103,3	103,8	104,1	104,2	104,7	103,0
2018	105,0	105,8	106,2	107,0	107,2	107,6	108,5	108,4	108,9	109,4	109,6	109,4	107,8
2019	109,2	110,1	111,0	111,7	112,0	112,4	112,8	113,1	113,4	113,4	113,5	113,8	112,2
2020	114,1	115,2	115,6	115,0	114,3	114,9	116,4	116,6	116,8	117,1	117,1	117,3	115,9
2021	117,7	118,5	119,3	120,1	120,2								

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>
2017	6,6	6,3	6,1	5,3	5,4	5,1	4,6	4,8	5,1	4,8	4,6	4,7	5,3
2018	4,4	4,0	3,8	4,5	4,4	4,6	5,1	4,9	4,9	5,1	5,2	4,5	4,7
2019	4,0	4,1	4,5	4,4	4,5	4,5	4,0	4,3	4,1	3,7	3,6	4,0	4,1
2020	4,5	4,6	4,1	3,0	2,1	2,2	3,2	3,1	3,0	3,3	3,2	3,1	3,3
2021	3,2	2,9	3,2	4,4	5,2								

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Annual average.

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

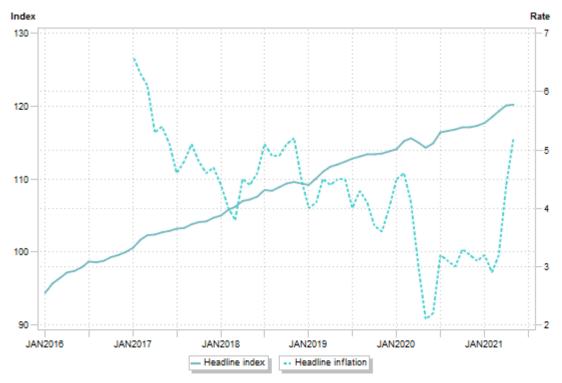


Table C - Contributions of the different groups to the annual percentage change in the CPI headline

Group	Contri	bution
Group	Apr 2021	May 2021
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	1,1	1,2
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	0,3	0,3
Clothing and footwear	0,0	0,1
Housing and utilities	0,6	0,6
Health	0,0	0,1
Transport	1,5	2,0
Recreation and culture	0,1	0,1
Education	0,1	0,1
Restaurants and hotels	0,1	0,1
Miscellaneous goods and services	0,7	0,7
Residual	-0,1	-0,1
All Items	4,4	5,2

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

Group	Contribution				
Group	Apr 2021	May 2021			
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	0,2	0,1			
Transport	0,3	0,0			
Miscellaneous goods and services	0,1	0,0			
Residual	0,1	0,0			
All Items	0,7	0,1			

Table E - Consumer price indices for all urban areas

Group			Weight	Inde	x (Dec 2016	Percentage change		
				May 2020	Apr 2021	May 2021	May 2021	May 2021
							vs. Apr 2021	vs. May 2020
All items (CPI							740. 202.	
Headline)			100,00	114,3	120,1	120,2	0,1	5,2
Food and			17,24	115,0	121,9	122,7	0,7	6,7
non-	Food		15,48	114,8	121,7	122,6	0,7	6,8
alcoholic beverages		Processed	8,67	113,9	120,7	121,9	1,0	7,0
beverages		Unprocessed	6,81	115,4	122,6	123,2	0,5	6,8
		Bread and cereals	3,21	104,9	110,0	110,0	0,0	4,9
		Meat	5,46	122,0	130,8	132,4	1,2	8,5
		Fish	0,40	118,5	127,0	126,8	-0,2	7,0
		Milk, eggs and cheese	2,57	115,2	119,8	121,8	1,7	5,7
		Oils and fats	0,45	107,9	123,1	129,5	5,2	20,0
		Fruit	0,34	110,2	107,2	103,0	-3,9	-6,5
		Vegetables	1.30	113.9	123,1	121,4	-1.4	6.6
		Sugar, sweets and desserts	0,56	116.1	125,5	126,2	0,6	8,7
		Other food	1,19	109,4	113,9	114,3	0,4	4,5
	Non-alcoholic beverages		1,76	117,2	123,6	123,4	-0,2	5,3
		Hot beverages	0,65	115,9	121,7	121,7	0,0	5,0
		Cold beverages	1,11	117,9	124,7	124,5	-0,2	5,6
Alcoholic			5,82	116,3	122,6	123,0	0,3	5,8
beverages	Alcoholic beverages		3,89	117,0	122,9	123,3	0,3	5,4
and tobacco		Spirits	0,86	117,8	124,6	124,9	0,2	6,0
		Wine	1,05	123,6	131,5	132,5	0,8	7,2
		Beer	1,98	113,2	117,7	117,9	0,2	4,2
	Tobacco		1,93	114,8	122,0	122,4	0,3	6,6
Clothing and			3,83	105,2	106,9	107,1	0,2	1,8
footwear	Clothing		2,71	106,0	107,7	107,8	0,1	1,7
	Footwear		1,12	103,1	105,2	105,3	0,1	2,1
Housing and			24,62	115,5	118,2	118,2	0,0	2,3
utilities	Actual rentals for housing		3,52	113,1	113,8	113,8	0,0	0,6
	Owners' equivalent rent		13,32	111,4	111,9	111,9	0,0	0,4
	Maintenance and repair		0,82	110,8	114,9	115,7	0,7	4,4
	Water and other services		3,16	128,1	135,6	135,6	0,0	5,9
	Electricity and other fuels		3,80	122,9	130,5	130,5	0,0	6,2
Household			4,35	108,4	109,7	109,4	-0,3	0,9
contents and services	Furnishings, floor coverings and textiles		0,81	92,3	91,5	90,4	-1,2	-2,1
	Appliances, tableware and equipment		0,73	99,6	100,0	99,8	-0,2	0,2
	Supplies and services		2,81	115,4	117,5	117,5	0,0	1,8
		Domestic workers' wages	2,45	117,0	119,4	119,4	0,0	2,1
Health		JINOIO Wayes	1,40	121,1	125,3	125,4	0,0	3,6
cuitii	Medical products		0,53	115,6	120,3	120,5	0,1	4,2
	Medical services		0,33	124,9	120,2	120,3	0,2	3,1

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

				Index	(Dec 2016	Percentage change		
		May 2020	Apr 2021	May 2021	May 2021	May 2021		
	Group						vs. Apr 2021	vs. May 2020
Transport			14,28	106.2	122.5	122,4	-0,1	15,3
Transport	Purchase of vehicles		6.12	110.5	116.9	117.7	0.7	6,5
	Private transport operation		5,86	99,9	130,8	130,4	-0,3	30.5
	I Tivate transport operation	Fuel	4,58	96,7	130,8	130,4	-0,5	37,4
		Other running	4,50	90,7	133,1	132,9	-0,0	37,4
		costs	1,28	111,4	120,3	121,3	0,8	8,9
	Public transport		2,30	110,5	116,4	115,2	-1,0	4,3
Communication			2,63	99,4	99,2	99,2	0,0	-0,2
	Postal services and telecommunication services		2,43	102,2	102,2	102,2	0,0	0,0
	Telecommunication equipment		0,20	67,0	63,8	63,1	-1,1	-5,8
Recreation and			5,16	103,2	105,0	104,9	-0,1	1,6
culture	Recreational equipment		1,25	96,4	98,5	98,4	-0,1	2,1
	Recreational and cultural services		3,10	103,2	104,1	104,1	0,0	0,9
	Books, newspapers and stationery		0,64	120,4	126,2	126,5	0,2	5,1
	Package holidays		0,17	90,6	90,4	88,9	-1,7	-1,9
Education			2,53	129,6	134,9	134,9	0,0	4,1
	Primary and secondary		1,54	133,1	137,6	137,6	0,0	3,4
	Tertiary		0,99	124,3	130,7	130,7	0,0	5,1
Restaurants			3,09	108,7	111,6	111,5	-0,1	2,6
and hotels	Restaurants		1,98	116,5	120,1	120,5	0,3	3,4
	Hotels		1,11	93,8	95,3	94,3	-1,0	0,5
Miscellaneous			15,05	126,5	131,7	131,7	0,0	4,1
goods and	Personal care		2,12	107,7	108,6	108,7	0,1	0,9
services	Insurance		10,06	132,8	138,1	138,1	0,0	4,0
	Financial services		1,53	123,9	130,4	130,4	0,0	5,2
	Other goods and services		1,34	112,2	121,3	121,3	0,0	8,1

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)				
	Private-sector hospitals (Health)				
February, May, August, November	Rugby tickets (Recreation and culture)				
	Cricket tickets (Recreation and culture)				
	Actual rentals for housing, owners' equivalent rent (Housing and utilities)				
March, June, September, December	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					
lanuari	Post box rental (Communication)				
January	Lotto tickets (Recreation and culture)				
February	Private-sector doctors and dentists (Health)				
	School and university tuition fees (Education)				
	Toll fees (Transport)				
March	University boarding fees (Restaurants and hotels)				
	Crèche fees (Miscellaneous)				
	Public-sector hospitals and doctors (Health)				
April	Stamps (Communication)				
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/?page\_id=2528

**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, water, electricity, paraffin, petrol, diesel, public transport – trains, motor licences, motor registration, telephone fees, 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, diesel, telephone fees and cell calls.

CPI per expenditure decile

Decile 1 - up to R17 721; Decile 2 - R 17 722 up to R 29 475; Decile 3 - R 29 476 up to R 42 582; Decile 4 - R 42 583 up to R 56 909; Decile 5 - R 56 910 up to R 73 813; Decile 6 - R 73 814 up to R 94 884; Decile 7 - R 94 885 up to R 124 227; Decile 8 - R 124 228 up to R 173 022; Decile 9 - R 173 023 up to R 269 902; and

Decile 10 - R 269 903 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.

**Rural CPI** 

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

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Issue	Expected release date					
June 2021	21 July 2021					
July 2021	18 August 2021					
August 2021	22 September 2021					

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