

CPI SLOWED TO 5.3% IN DECEMBER 2014

KEY FINDINGS

According to statistics South Africa, the annual CPI inflation fell by 5.3% in December 2014 from 5.8% in November 2014. On average, price decreased by (0,2%) between November 2014 and December 2014.

The food prices decreased from 7.2% in December 2014 from 7.7% in November 2014. The following food component decreased vegetables (-2.9%), fish (-0,9%), bread and cereals (-0.4%), oil and fats (-0.3%), milk, eggs and cheese (-0.2%), sugar sweets and deserts (-0.6%) and other food (-1.2%). The following food price increase in December 2014 fruit (1.7%) and meat (0.6%)

The transport price fell by 1.6% between November 2014 and December 2014 mainly due to a 69c litre decrease in the price of petrol. The annual rate decreased to 1.7% in December 2014 from 4.2% in November 2014.

The miscellaneous good and service index increased by 0.1% between November 2014 and December 2014. The annual rate increased to 7.1% in December 2014 from 6.9% in November 2014.

The housing and utilities index increased by 0.5% between November and December mainly due to a 0.9% increase in actual rentals for housing on a 0.7% increase in owners' equivalent rent. The annual rate decreased to 5.7% in December from the 5.8% in November.

THE ANNUAL INFLATION RATE (CPI) AND SELECTED PRICE CATEGORIES

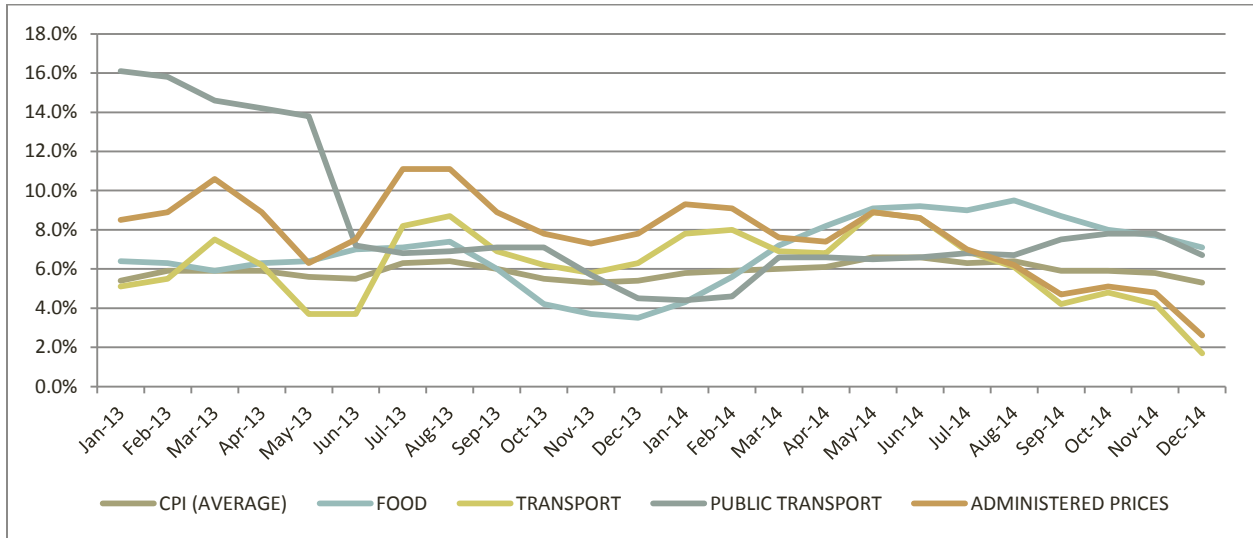
	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14
CPI	5.4%	5.8%	5.9%	6.0%	6.1%	6.6%	6.6%	6.3%	6.4%	5.9%	5.9%	5.8%	5.3%
Food	3.5%	4.3%	5.6%	7.2%	8.2%	9.1%	9.2%	9.0%	9.5%	8.7%	8.0%	7.7%	7.4%
Transport	6.3%	7.8%	8.0%	6.9%	6.8%	8.9%	8.6%	6.9%	6.1%	4.2%	4.8%	4.2%	1.7%
Public Transport	4.5%	4.4%	4.6%	6.6%	6.6%	6.5%	6.6%	6.8%	6.7%	7.5%	7.8%	7.8%	6.7%
Administered Prices	7.8%	9.3%	9.1%	7.6%	7.4%	8.9%	8.6%	7.0%	6.2%	4.7%	5.1%	4.8%	2.6%

Statistics South Africa

The average inflation rate was to 6.1% in December 2014, and is expected to average 3.8% in 2015, compared with the previous forecast of 5.3% and to reach a low of 3.5% in the second quarter of this year compared with 5.1% previously. The South African Reserve Bank decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 5.75% per annual.

INSIDE INFLATION

Let us look inside inflation into price movements within average CPI. We see that in December 2014, **food (7.4%)** and **public transport (6.7%)** increased at a faster rate than average **inflation (5.3%)**

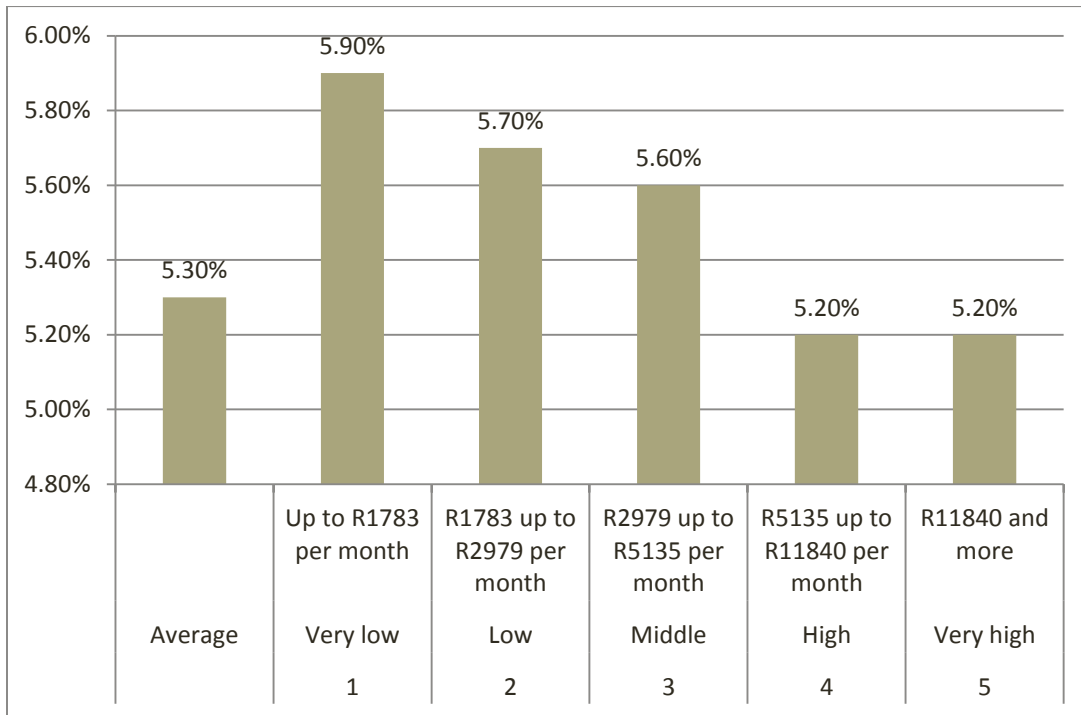


We see that the rise in the cost of housing and utilities is clearly being driven by rising water and electricity prices. The rise in transport costs is being driven by rising petrol and public transport prices. The rise in the cost of health is driven by medical products and medical services.

<i>Product Groups</i>	<i>Weighting in CPI (%)</i>	<i>Increase</i>	<i>Sub-group (weighting), increase</i>
Food	14.20	+7.4%	Price increases are generalised in the food group, although the price of meat and oils & fats increased at the fastest rate.
Housing & Utilities	24.52	+5.7%	Water (2.85) +8.5%, Electricity (4.18) +7.2%
Transport	16.43	+1.7%	Petrol (5.68) -5.5% Public Transport (3.20) +6.7%
Education	2.95	+8.7%	Primary, secondary and tertiary education
Restaurants & Hotels	3.50	+8.6%	Restaurants (2.54) +8.6% Hotels (0.96) +8.3%
Miscellaneous	14.72	+7.1%	Insurance (9.92) +8.0%
Health	1.46	+5.6%	Medical Products (0.74) +5.0% Medical Services (0.72) + 6.1%

Statistics South Africa

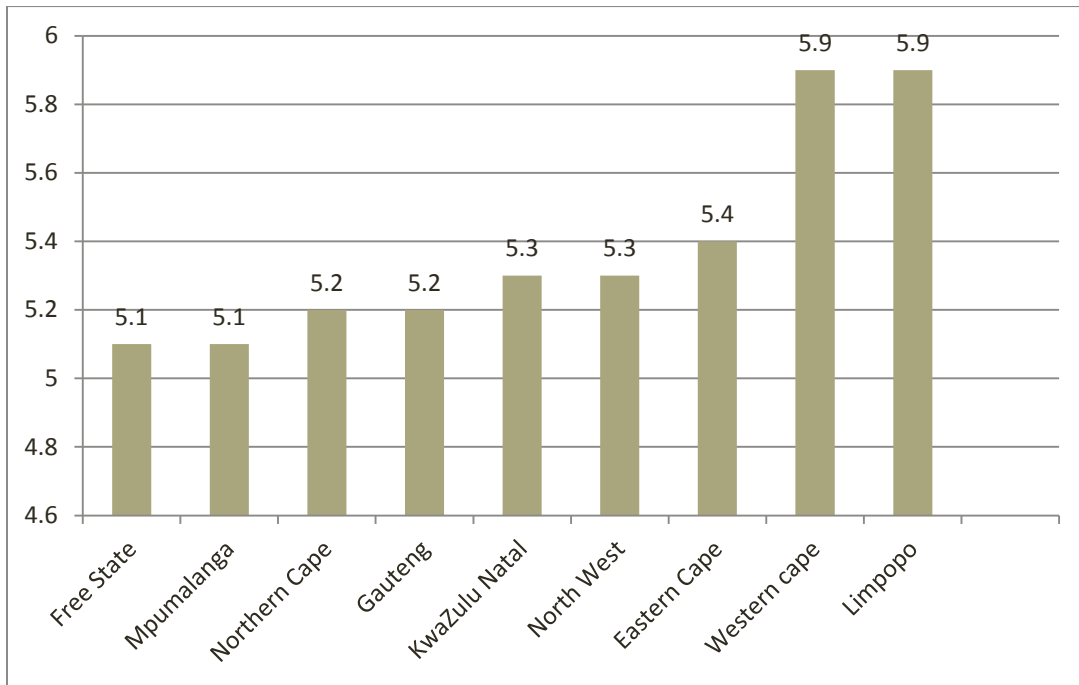
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) PER EXPENDITURE QUANTILE DECEMBER 2014



Statistics South Africa

The boundaries of the quintiles were obtained by calculating the quintiles (five equal groups) of the total number of households in South Africa and selecting the total expenditure of the top household (ranked according to expenditure) as the expenditure cut-off point in each of the quintiles. Take note, that the consumer inflation impact remains greater on the lower income groups than on the higher income groups, and much of this is due to food price inflation still being above overall CPI inflation, and of course the food component being a far higher weighting in the low income expenditure baskets. As shown in the table above, very low expenditure groups experienced an inflation rate (5.9%), higher than the average annual inflation rate (5.3%). The very high expenditure group recorded inflation rate (5.2%) that was 0.1% lower than the average inflation rate of 5.3% in December 2014.

PROVINCIAL INFLATION RATE DECEMBER 2014



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The province with annual inflation rate lower than or equal to headline inflation were KwaZulu-Natal (5.3%), North West (5.3%), Northern Cape (5.2%), Gauteng (5.2%), Free State (5.1%) and Mpumalanga (5.1%)

The province with an annual inflation rate higher than headline inflation were Western Cape (5.9%), Limpopo (5.9%) and Eastern Cape (5.4%)

HISTORICAL INFLATION TABLES

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI)

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ave.
2009	8.1%	8.6%	8.5%	8.4%	8.0%	6.9%	6.7%	6.4%	6.1%	5.9%	5.8%	6.3%	7.1%
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%	4.6%	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%

Statistics South Africa

The consumer Price Index is known as the headline inflation rate and is also referred to as the official inflation rate. The month to month prices of over a thousand goods and services go into the calculation of CPI.

THE FOOD PRICE INDEX

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ave.
2009	16.1%	15.8%	14.9%	13.6%	12.1%	9.8%	7.6%	6.1%	4.9%	4.9%	4.0%	2.7%	9.3%
2010	1.6%	1.0%	0.5%	0.3%	0.1%	0.0%	1.1%	1.5%	1.2%	0.5%	1.1%	1.4%	0.8%
2011	2.9%	3.5%	5.1%	4.8%	6.3%	7.3%	7.5%	7.3%	8.7%	11.0%	11.1%	11.6%	7.2%
2012	10.7%	10.1%	8.9%	9.1%	6.8%	6.0%	5.4%	5.1%	6.1%	6.7%	7.5%	7.0%	7.4%
2013	6.4%	6.3%	5.9%	6.3%	6.4%	7.0%	7.1%	7.4%	6.0%	4.2%	3.7%	3.5%	5.8%
2014	4.3%	5.6%	7.2%	8.2%	9.1%	9.2%	9.0%	9.5%	8.7%	8.0%	7.7%	7.1%	8.1%

Statistics South Africa

The food price index shows the increase in the price level of food products only, on a monthly basis. This rate is incorporated in the overall CPI inflation rate (CPI).

THE TRANSPORT PRICE INDEX

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ave.
2009	0.1%	1.5%	0.9%	0.9%	0.5%	2.1%	3.4%	2.7%	-1.3%	-1.8%	0.6%	3.4%	1.6%
2010	6.2%	5.1%	4.2%	4.0%	3.5%	2.2%	1.1%	1.1%	0.0%	1.8%	2.1%	1.6%	2.7%
2011	2.5%	2.6%	3.3%	3.4%	3.8%	5.2%	5.3%	8.5%	9.6%	6.7%	6.9%	7.0%	5.4%
2012	6.8%	6.8%	6.6%	6.9%	6.7%	6.2%	4.6%	4.9%	6.6%	6.1%	5.5%	5.5%	6.1%
2013	5.1%	5.5%	7.5%	6.2%	3.7%	3.7%	8.2%	8.7%	6.9%	6.2%	5.8%	6.3%	6.1%
2014	7.8%	8.0%	6.9%	6.8%	8.9%	8.6%	6.8%	6.1%	4.2%	4.8%	4.2%	1.7%	6.1%

Statistics South Africa

The transport price index provides an indication of the increase in then price level of transport items in the basket of goods and services that make up the inflation index. This rate is incorporated in the overall CPI inflation rate.

THE ADMINISTERED PRICE INDEX

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ave.
2009	1.4%	2.8%	2.8%	1.7%	0.0%	1.2%	0.4%	0.2%	3.2%	2.7%	4.0%	9.9%	2.5%
2010	14.5%	12.9%	11.2%	11.6%	12.1%	10.8%	8.6%	8.3%	7.1%	8.4%	8.9%	8.5%	10.2
2011	9.6%	9.9%	10.9%	10.7%	11.3%	12.0%	11.7%	11.9%	12.5%	13.3%	13.4%	12.7%	11.6%
2012	11.6%	11.7%	11.2%	11.6%	11.4%	10.1%	7.5%	8.0%	9.8%	9.5%	8.7%	8.8%	10.0%
2013	8.5%	8.9%	10.6%	8.9%	6.3%	7.5%	11.1%	11.1%	8.9%	7.8%	7.3%	7.8%	8.7%
2014	9.3%	9.1%	7.6%	7.4%	8.9%	8.6%	7.0%	6.2%	4.7%	5.1%	4.8%	2.6%	6.5%

Statistics South Africa

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 one or other government agencies/institution without reference to market forces. For example, school fees, telephone fees, electricity, trains, petrol/paraffin, cell calls and public transport. This rate is incorporated into the overall CPI inflation rate.

THE JANUARY 2015 CPI DOCUMENT WILL BE RELEASED ON THE 18th FEBRUARY 2015

All information available at www.statssa.gov.za

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