

INFLATION MONITOR, JULY 2015

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose to 5.0% year-over-year in July 2015.

The term inflation means a sustained increase in the general level of prices for goods and services. It is measured as an annual percentage increase (for example July 2014 to July 2015).

The year-on-year inflation rate as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) stood at 5.0% in July 2015, up by 0.3% point from the 4.7% recorded in June 2015.

The Food price increased to 4.5% in July 2015 from 4.3% in June 2015. The components in the food index contributing to the increase were: bread and cereal (0.5%), vegetables (0.4%), fish (0.3%), oils and fats (0.2%). Food components that decreased in July 2015 were fruits (-2.5%), meat (-0.4%) and sugar, sweets and desserts (-0.3%). While the rate of food inflation has slow down from 6.6% in January 2015 to 4.4% in July 2015, prices are still high and affect the poor consumers.

Transport inflation increased to 0.8% in July 2015 from 0.7% in June 2015 mainly due to a 44c litre increase in the price of petrol.

Public transport inflation decreased by -0.4% between June 2015 and July 2015. The annual rate decreased to 2.8% in July 2015.

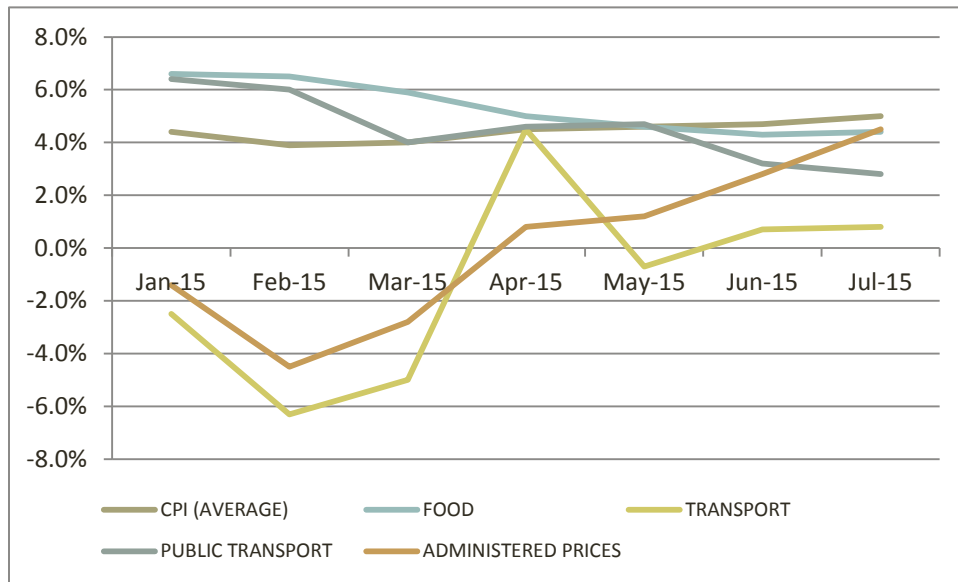
Administrator's price (school fees, telephone fees, electricity, trains, petrol and paraffin) increased to 4.5% in July 2015 from 2.8% in June 2015.

Housing utilities price increased to 6.4% in July 2015 from 5.4% in June 2015 mainly due to a 9.8% increase in water and other services and an 11.2% increase in electricity and other fuels.

The Annual Inflation Rate (CPI) and Selected Price Categories

	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Apr-15	May-15	Jun-15	Jul-15
CPI	4.4%	3.9%	4.0%	4.5%	4.6%	4.7%	5.0%
Food	6.6%	6.5%	5.9%	5.0%	4.6%	4.3%	4.4%
Transport	-2.5%	-6.3%	-5.0%	-1.1%	-0.7%	0.7%	0.8%
Public Transport	6.4%	6.0%	4.0%	4.6%	4.7%	3.2%	2.8%
Administered Prices	-1.4%	-4.5%	-2.8%	0.8%	1.2%	2.8%	4.5%

Source: Statistics South Africa



Source: Statistics South Africa

Consumer Price Index (CPI) Per Expenditure Quintile

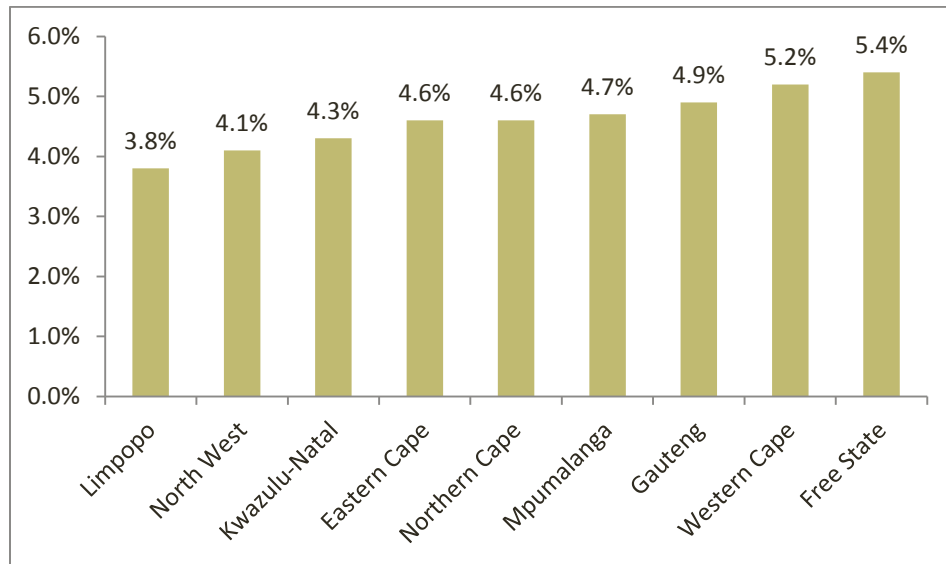
Statistic South Africa divides household monthly expenditure into five quintiles.

Quintiles	Groups	Monthly expenditure	Inflation Rate July 2015
Average annual CPI			5.0%
1	Very low	Up to R1783 per month	5.3%
2	Low	R1783 up to R2979 per month	5.0%
3	Middle	R2979 up to R5135 per month	4.9%
4	High	R5135 up to R11840 per month	4.8%
5	Very high	R11840 and more	5.0%

Source: Statistics South Africa

The table above shows that there's a different inflation rate for different groups of quintiles. Inflation is higher in the 'very low' quintile at 5.3% followed by the 'low' at 5.0%. This is higher than the average inflation rate of 5.0%. Thus the inflationary effect for lower income households is greater than household that earn 'high' and 'very high' income.

Regional Inflation Rate July 2015



Source: Statistics South Africa

The provinces with an annual inflation rate **lower than or equal to headline inflation** were Gauteng (4.9%), Mpumalanga (4.7%), Eastern Cape (4.6%), Northern Cape (4.6%), Kwazulu-Natal (4.3%), North West (4.1%), and Limpopo (3.8%)

The provinces with an annual inflation rate **higher than headline inflation** were Free State (5.4%) and Western Cape (5.2%)

HISTORICAL INFLATION TABLES

The Consumer Price Index (CPI)

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ave.
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%
2015	4.4%	3.9%	4.0%	4.5%	4.6%	4.7%	5.0%						

Source: 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.
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%
2015	6.6%	6.5%	5.9%	5.0%	4.6%	4.3%	4.4%						

Source: 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.
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%
2015	-2.5%	-6.3%	-5.0%	4.5%	-0.7%	0.7%	0.8%						

Source: 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.
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%
2015	-1.4%	-4.5%	-2.8%	0.8%	1.2%	2.8%	4.5%						

Source: 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 AUGUST 2015 CPI DOCUMENT WILL BE RELEASED ON THE 23rd SEPTEMBER 2015