JUNE 2026

# INFLATION MONITOR

## A simplified version of inflation data for trade union negotiators

LRS Labour Research Service

40 YEARS WORKING FOR WORKERS 1986 – 2026

# Inflation Rate

June 2026

## 5,0%

up from 4,5% in May

Annualconsumerpriceinflation. Prices rose 0,7% over the month.

KEY INDICES

### Food

1,4%

Eased from 1,6% in May

### Transport

12,7%

Up from 9,4% in May

### Public transport

12,5%

Up from 4,0% in May

### Administered prices

15,5%

Up from 7,6% in May

WHAT IS BEHIND THE NUMBERS

- Public transport jumped to 12,5% from 4,0%, the sharpest move in the basket.
- Transport added 1,7 percentage points and housing and utilities 1,3, the two biggest contributors to the 5% rate.
- Western Cape had the highest provincial inflation at 5,9%. Limpopo had the lowest at 3,6%.
- Higher spending households felt more inflation (5,5%) than lower spending households (2,9%).

Source: Statistics South Africa

LRS Inflation Monitor

# Price inflation: Cost of living

Inflation is a sustained rise in the general level of prices of goods and services. It is measured as an annual percentage increase (June 2025 to June 2026). A falling rate of inflation means that prices are rising more slowly.

## CPI AND SELECTED PRICE CATEGORIES

**CPI** — the annual headline inflation rate increased to 5,0% in June 2026 from 4,5% in May2026. The CPI rose 0,7% month-on-month

**Food** — prices decreased to 1,4% in June 2026 from 1,6% in May 2026.

**Transport** — prices increased to 12,7% in June 2026 from 9,4% in May 2026

**Public transport** — prices increased to 12,5% in June 2026 from 4,0% in May 2026.

**Administrators' prices** — prices increased to 15,5% in June 2026 from 7,6% in May 2026

**Table 1: Annual inflation rate (CPI) and selected price categories (%)**

| | Jun-25 | Jul-25 | Aug-25 | Sep-25 | Oct-25 | Nov-25 | Dec-25 | Jan-26 | Feb-26 | Mar-26 | Apr-26 | May-26 | Jun-26 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CPI | 3,0 | 3,5 | 3,3 | 3,4 | 3,6 | 3,5 | 3,6 | 3,5 | 3,0 | 3,1 | 4,0 | 4,5 | 5,0 |
| Food | 4,7 | 5,5 | 5,2 | 4,4 | 3,9 | 4,4 | 4,4 | 4,4 | 3,7 | 3,4 | 2,8 | 1,6 | 1,4 |
| Transport | −3,3 | −1,7 | 1,4 | −0,1 | 1,5 | 0,7 | 1,0 | −0,2 | −2,1 | −2,1 | 4,9 | 9,4 | 12,7 |
| Public transport | −2,2 | −3,1 | 1,5 | −1,9 | −2,8 | −1,7 | −0,9 | −0,8 | −0,1 | 0,7 | 3,9 | 4,0 | 12,5 |
| Admin prices | 0,9 | 3,7 | 3,5 | 4,5 | 6,0 | 4,9 | 5,1 | 3,7 | 1,7 | 2,1 | 8,3 | 7,6 | 15,5 |

Source: Statistics South Africa

**Figure 1: Consumer Price Index (CPI) and selected price categories | January 2025 to June 2026**

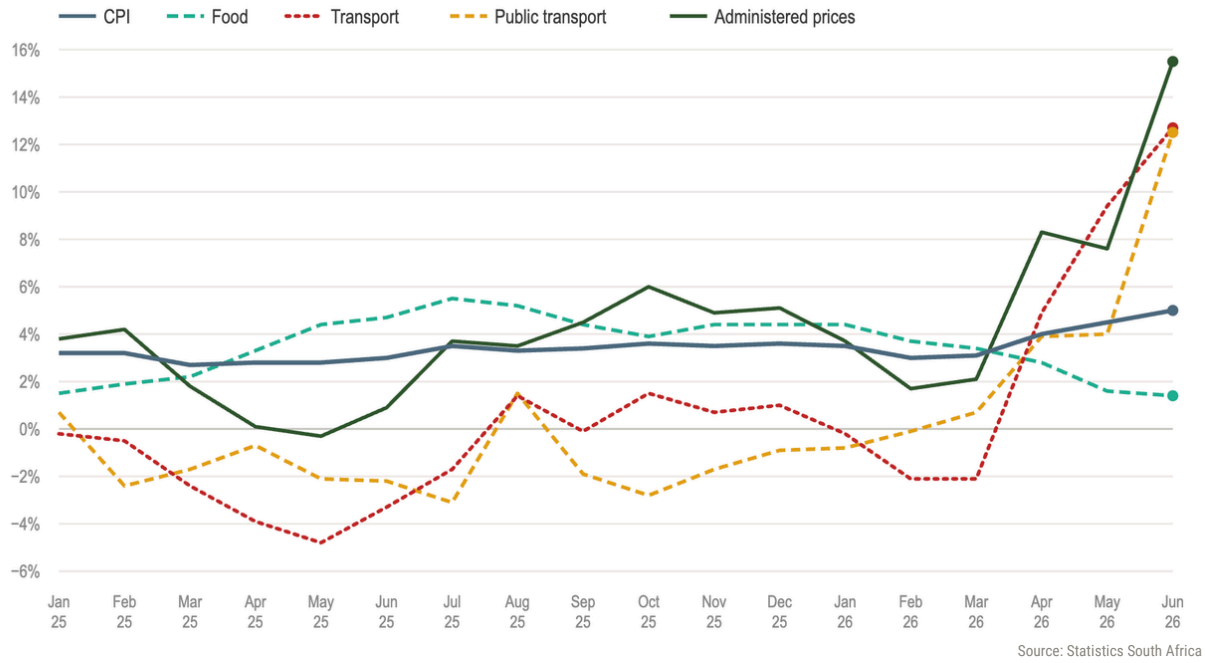
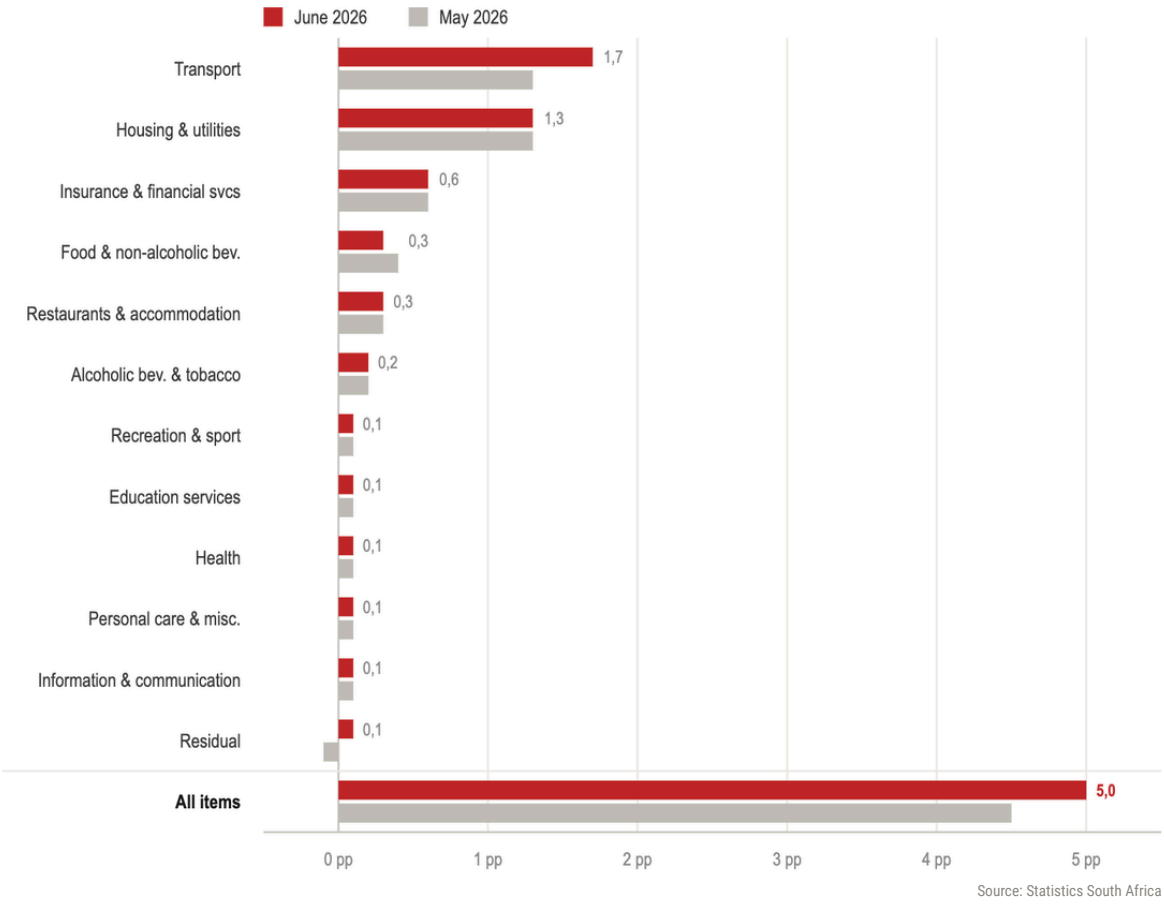



**Figure 2: Contributions of the different groups to the annual percentage change in the CPI headline | June 2026**



# Inflation by expenditure group

Statistics South Africa divides monthly household expenditure into 10 deciles. Expenditure in decile 10 was higher than expenditure in decile 1, indicating extreme inequality.

**Table 2: Annualised inflation by expenditure group | May 2026**

| | Monthly expenditure | Inflation rate % Jun-26 |
|---|---|---|
| Annual CPI (headline rate) | | 5,0 |
| Decile 1 | Up to R1 678 per month | 2,9 |
| Decile 2 | R1 678 up to R2 802 per month | 3,1 |
| Decile 3 | R2 802 up to R4 056 per month | 3,3 |
| Decile 4 | R4 056 up to R5 434 per month | 3,3 |
| Decile 5 | R5 435 up to R7 058 per month | 3,6 |
| Decile 6 | R7 058 up to R9 097 per month | 3,9 |
| Decile 7 | R9 097 up to R11 931 per month | 4,1 |
| Decile 8 | R11 931 up to R16 660 per month | 4,6 |
| Decile 9 | R16 660 up to R26 021 per month | 5,3 |
| Decile 10 | R26 021 and more per month | 5,5 |

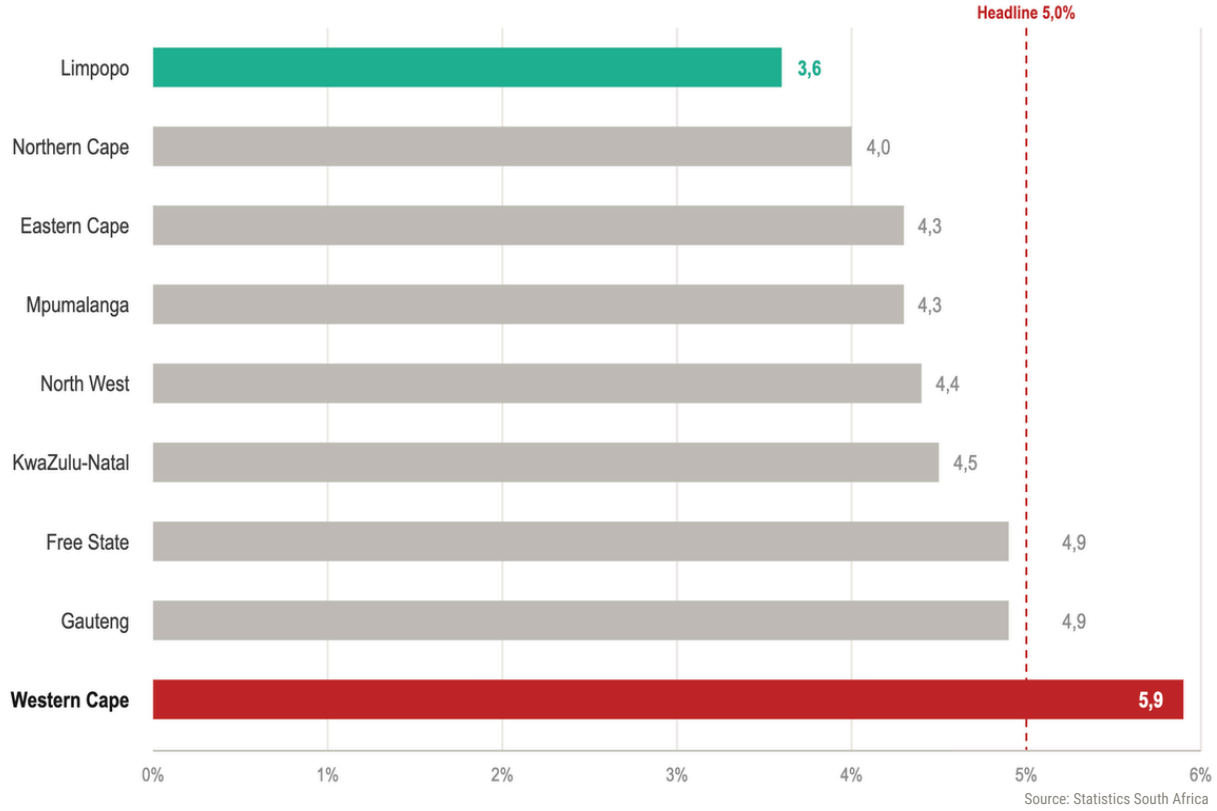
Source: Statistics South Africa

There is more than one inflation rate. Different groups, from the very poor to the rich, can experience different rates of inflation because they buy different things. The very low spending group (decile 1) experienced an inflation rate of 2,9%, which was lower than the headline annualised inflation rate of 5,0%, while the very high spending group (decile 10) had an inflation rate of 5,5%, which was 0,5 percentage points higher than the annualised inflation rate of 5,0% in June 2026.

# Inflation by province

Statistics South Africa publishes annual inflation rates for each of South Africa's nine provinces. Provincial inflation rates differ from the headline rate depending on local spending patterns and price pressures

**Figure 3: Annualised inflation rate (%) by province | May 2026**




Limpopo (3,6%), Northern Cape (4,0%), Eastern Cape (4,3%), Mpumalanga (4,3%), North West (4,4%), KwaZulu-Natal (4,5%), Free State (4,9%) and Gauteng (4,9%) had annual inflation rates lower than the headline rate. Western Cape (5,9%) was the only province with annual inflation above the headline rate.

**Table 4: Consumer Price Index (%)**

| Year | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Average |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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 | 4,9 | 4,6 | 4,9 | 5,0 | 5,0 | 5,5 | 5,9 | 4,6 |
| 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 | 5,9 |
| 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 | 5,0 | | | | | | | |

Source: Statistics South Africa

The consumer price index is known as the headline inflation rate and is also called the official inflation rate. The monthly prices of over a thousand goods and services are used to calculate the CPI.

**Table 5: Food Price index (%)**

| Year | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Average |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2019 | 2,3 | 2,3 | 2,3 | 2,3 | 2,8 | 3,2 | 3,0 | 3,8 | 3,7 | 3,5 | 3,5 | 3,8 | 3,0 |
| 2020 | 3,7 | 4,2 | 4,4 | 4,6 | 4,8 | 4,5 | 4,6 | 4,3 | 4,2 | 5,6 | 5,9 | 6,2 | 4,8 |
| 2021 | 5,6 | 5,4 | 5,9 | 6,7 | 6,8 | 7,0 | 7,0 | 7,4 | 7,0 | 6,7 | 6,0 | 5,9 | 6,5 |
| 2022 | 6,2 | 6,7 | 6,6 | 6,3 | 7,8 | 9,0 | 10,1 | 11,5 | 12,3 | 12,3 | 12,8 | 12,7 | 9,5 |
| 2023 | 13,8 | 14,0 | 14,4 | 14,3 | 12,0 | 11,1 | 10,0 | 8,2 | 8,0 | 8,8 | 9,0 | 8,4 | 11,0 |
| 2024 | 7,0 | 6,0 | 4,9 | 4,4 | 4,3 | 4,1 | 3,9 | 4,1 | 4,1 | 2,8 | 1,6 | 1,7 | 4,1 |
| 2025 | 1,5 | 1,9 | 2,2 | 3,3 | 4,4 | 4,7 | 5,5 | 5,2 | 4,4 | 3,9 | 4,4 | 4,4 | 3,8 |
| 2026 | 4,4 | 3,7 | 3,4 | 2,8 | 1,6 | 1,4 | | | | | | | |

Source: Statistics South Africa

The Food Price Index shows monthly increase in the price level of food only. It is included in the overall CPI inflation.

**Table 6: Transport price index (%)**

| Year | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Average |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2019 | 2,9 | 3,6 | 6,4 | 7,4 | 7,1 | 5,5 | 3,0 | 3,1 | 2,4 | 0,3 | -0,3 | 3,3 | 3,7 |
| 2020 | 6,4 | 6,2 | 3,4 | -3,5 | -8,4 | -5,9 | 0,0 | 0,2 | 0,3 | -0,5 | -1,3 | -1,6 | -0,4 |
| 2021 | -0,4 | 1,2 | 3,8 | 10,6 | 15,3 | 12,3 | 8,0 | 9,9 | 10,1 | 10,9 | 15,0 | 16,8 | 9,5 |
| 2022 | 14,5 | 14,3 | 15,7 | 14,7 | 15,7 | 20,0 | 25,0 | 21,2 | 17,9 | 17,1 | 15,3 | 13,9 | 17,1 |
| 2023 | 11,1 | 9,9 | 8,9 | 7,6 | 7,0 | 1,8 | -2,6 | 0,8 | 4,2 | 7,4 | 4,3 | 2,6 | 5,2 |
| 2024 | 4,6 | 5,4 | 5,3 | 5,7 | 6,3 | 5,5 | 4,2 | 2,8 | -1,1 | -5,3 | -3,3 | -2,0 | 2,3 |
| 2025 | -0,2 | -0,5 | -2,4 | -3,9 | -4,8 | -3,3 | -1,7 | 1,4 | -0,1 | 1,5 | 0,7 | 1,0 | -1,0 |
| 2026 | -0,2 | -2,1 | -2,1 | 4,9 | 9,4 | 12,7 | | | | | | | |

Source: Statistics South Africa

The transport price index measures the increase in the price level of transport items in the basket of goods and services that make up the inflation index. It is included in overall CPI inflation.

**Table 7: Public transport index (%)**

| Year | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Average |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2019 | 9,6 | 8,9 | 10,1 | 10,5 | 9,5 | 8,3 | 7,6 | 9,0 | 3,0 | 2,5 | 2,8 | 3,7 | 7,1 |
| 2020 | 0,7 | 0,8 | -1,7 | -1,8 | -0,7 | -1,1 | 1,5 | 0,6 | 1,6 | 2,9 | 1,9 | 1,2 | 0,5 |
| 2021 | 1,5 | 1,2 | 4,5 | 5,1 | 4,3 | 6,9 | 3,7 | 5,3 | 6,7 | 6,0 | 8,3 | 9,9 | 5,3 |
| 2022 | 10,0 | 12,3 | 14,0 | 12,6 | 12,5 | 14,3 | 22,0 | 23,6 | 22,1 | 23,2 | 20,5 | 16,7 | 17,0 |
| 2023 | 18,0 | 15,8 | 14,6 | 14,2 | 14,2 | 9,7 | 2,6 | -0,2 | -0,1 | -0,3 | 0,8 | 0,4 | 7,5 |
| 2024 | 0,5 | 2,2 | -0,2 | -0,6 | 2,0 | 1,8 | 3,0 | 1,3 | 0,7 | 0,9 | 0,0 | 0,5 | 1,0 |
| 2025 | 0,7 | -2,4 | -1,7 | -0,7 | -2,1 | -2,2 | -3,1 | 1,5 | -1,9 | -2,8 | -1,7 | -0,9 | -1,4 |
| 2026 | -0,8 | -0,1 | 0,7 | 3,9 | 4,0 | 12,5 | | | | | | | |

Source: Statistics South Africa

The Public Transport Price Index shows the price rises for taxi, rail, bus and other public modes of passenger and goods transport. It is included in the overall CPI inflation.

**Table 8: Administered price Index (%)**

| Year | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Average |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2019 | 5,0 | 5,7 | 7,9 | 8,3 | 8,2 | 6,9 | 4,7 | 4,9 | 5,2 | 3,5 | 3,0 | 5,9 | 5,8 |
| 2020 | 9,2 | 8,8 | 6,8 | 0,9 | -3,1 | -1,7 | 2,1 | 2,1 | 1,8 | 0,9 | 0,6 | 0,2 | 2,4 |
| 2021 | 1,1 | 2,7 | 4,0 | 9,2 | 12,5 | 10,4 | 9,1 | 10,3 | 10,4 | 11,2 | 14,1 | 15,6 | 9,2 |
| 2022 | 13,8 | 13,1 | 14,3 | 13,3 | 14,4 | 17,8 | 19,0 | 15,8 | 13,4 | 12,3 | 10,9 | 10,3 | 14,0 |
| 2023 | 7,4 | 6,8 | 6,2 | 5,3 | 4,7 | 0,7 | -0,8 | 1,7 | 6,1 | 9,3 | 6,4 | 4,9 | 4,9 |
| 2024 | 6,9 | 7,6 | 7,9 | 8,8 | 8,9 | 8,3 | 6,8 | 5,4 | 2,1 | -1,4 | 0,6 | 1,8 | 5,3 |
| 2025 | 3,8 | 4,2 | 1,8 | 0,1 | -0,3 | 0,9 | 3,7 | 3,5 | 4,5 | 6,0 | 4,9 | 5,1 | 3,2 |
| 2026 | 3,7 | 1,7 | 2,1 | 8,3 | 7,6 | 15,5 | | | | | | | |

Source: Statistics South Africa

An administered price is the price of a product deliberately fixed by a single producer or group of producers and/or any price that may be determined or influenced by the government, either directly or through one or more government agencies/institutions, without reference to market forces. Examples include school fees, telephone charges, electricity, trains, petrol/paraffin, mobile phone calls and public transport. This rate is part of the overall CPI inflation rate.

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