

# South Africa - Consumer Price Index 1970-2023

**Statistics South Africa**

Report generated on: June 25, 2026

Visit our data catalog at: <https://www.datafirst.uct.ac.za/dataportal/index.php>

## Identification

### SURVEY ID NUMBER

zaf-statssa-cpi-1970-2023-v1

### TITLE

Consumer Price Index 1970-2023

### COUNTRY

Name	Country code
South Africa	zaf

### STUDY TYPE

Price Survey

### ABSTRACT

The CPI is a current social and economic indicator constructed to measure changes over time in the general level of prices of consumer goods and services that households acquire, use, or pay for. The index measures changes in consumer prices over time by measuring the cost of purchasing a fixed basket of consumer goods and services of constant quality and similar characteristics. The products in the basket are selected to be representative of households' expenditure during a specific year. Such an index is called a fixed-basket price index. Changes in the index reflect the effects of price changes on the cost of achieving a constant standard of living.

The South African CPI has three equally important objectives:

1. To measure inflation in the economy so that macroeconomic policy is based on comprehensive and up-to-date price information.
2. To measure changes in the cost of living of South African households to promote equity in measures taken to adjust wages, grants, service agreements and contracts.
3. To provide a deflator for consumer expenditure in the national accounts and other economic data, to compute volume (as opposed to nominal) estimates.

In compiling the South African CPI, Stats SA largely follows the methodology guidelines in the 2020 Consumer Price Index Manual: Concepts and Methods published jointly by the International Monetary Fund, International Labour Organization, Statistical Office of the European Union, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and World Bank.

### KIND OF DATA

Time-Series

## Version

### VERSION DESCRIPTION

v1: Edited data for public distribution

### VERSION DATE

2023

## Scope

### NOTES

The South African CPI uses the 1999 version of the Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP) of the United Nations Statistical Division to classify goods and services. COICOP is the international standard for classifying household expenditure. Goods and services are classified according to their intended use.

The high-level COICOP categories are:

- 01 - Food and non-alcoholic beverages
- 02 - Alcoholic beverages and tobacco
- 03 - Clothing and footwear
- 04 - Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels
- 05 - Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance
- 06 - Health
- 07 - Transport
- 08 - Communication
- 09 - Recreation and culture
- 10 - Education
- 11 - Restaurants and hotels
- 12 - Miscellaneous goods and services

## Producers and sponsors

### PRIMARY INVESTIGATORS

Name	Affiliation
Statistics South Africa	South African Government

## Data Collection

### DATES OF DATA COLLECTION

Start	End
1970	2023

## Access policy

### CONTACTS

Name	Affiliation	Email	URL
DataFirst Support	University of Cape Town	support@data1st.org	www.support.data1st.org

### ACCESS CONDITIONS

Public access data for use under a Creative Commons CC-BY (Attribution-only) License

### CITATION REQUIREMENTS

Statistics South Africa. Consumer Price Index 1970-2023 [dataset]. Version 1. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa [producer], 2023. Cape Town: DataFirst [distributor], 2023. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25828/5zye-y989>

### ACCESS AUTHORITY

Name	Affiliation	Email	URL
DataFirst	University of Cape Town	support@data1st.org	support.data1st.org

## Metadata production

### PRODUCERS

Name	Affiliation	Role
DataFirst	University of Cape Town	Metadata producer

### DATE OF METADATA PRODUCTION

2023-12-12

DDI DOCUMENT VERSION  
Version 1

**Data Description**

Data file	Cases	Variables
-----------	-------	-----------

## Download related resources

### Technical documents

#### Consumer Price Index: Sources and methods

---

Title	Consumer Price Index: Sources and methods
Date	2022-11-02
Country	South Africa
Language	English
Publisher(s)	Statistics South Africa
Description	This manual provides an explanation of the new CPI weights introduced in 2022, as well as information on Statistics SA's CPI sources and methods.
Filename	2022-cpi-sources-methods.pdf

---

#### Consumer Price Index manual: Concepts and methods

---

Title	Consumer Price Index manual: Concepts and methods
Date	2020-01-01
Country	South Africa
Language	English
Publisher(s)	Statistics South Africa
Description	This manual contains comprehensive information on compiling a consumer price index (CPI).
Filename	2020-cpi-manual.pdf

---