



**Johannesburg | Durban | Cape Town | Springbok |
Pietermaritzburg**

NOVEMBER 2021

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Pietermaritzburg Economic Justice & Dignity Group [PMBEJD]

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About the Household Affordability Index

The Household Food Basket in the Household Affordability Index has been designed together with women living on low incomes in Johannesburg (Soweto, Alexandra, Tembisa and Hillbrow), Cape Town (Gugulethu, Philippi, Khayelitsha, Langa, Delft, Dunoon), Durban (KwaMashu, Umlazi, Isipingo, Durban CBD, and Mtubatuba), and Springbok (in the Northern Cape), and Pietermaritzburg. It includes the foods and the volumes of these foods which women living in a family of seven members (an average low-income household size) tell us they typically try and secure each month. The basket was designed through a pilot project which ran from April 2020 to August 2020. ***It cannot however be considered the basket for every family living on a low income in each area and for all areas covered. It is however considered a reasonable proxy for a food basket which women identified as including the most important typical foods which most households try and buy each month, given affordability constraints.*** The Household Food Basket is not nutritionally complete.

Food prices are tracked directly by women data collectors off the shelves of **44 supermarkets and 30 butcheries** that target the low-income market and which women identified as those they shop at in the areas where they live. Food selection at the supermarket shelves mirrors how women themselves make decisions at the supermarket shelves given affordability constraints viz. that the foods are chosen on relative affordability and reasonable quality, and food brands are switched to seek out the cheapest prices and special deals. The selection of food brands is dynamic and subjective. Women are smart and savvy, and shop around for bargains: this specific methodology used provides an accurate cost of a monthly household food basket, as purchased by women living on low incomes.

There are 44 foods in the Household Food Basket. The date for data collection is between the 1st and 4th day of each month. Data is collected and released in the same month. Data is presented for each area, and it is also weighted and averaged for all 5 areas. *For more on methodology, see page 15-16.*

About the Pietermaritzburg Economic Justice & Dignity Group

The Pietermaritzburg Economic Justice & Dignity Group is a Civil Society initiative founded in July 2018. This initiative focusses on issues of economic justice, the low-wage regime and on the increasing household affordability and food price crisis, with its attendant nutritional deficiencies, health and developmental consequences, and the lack of imaginative policy and systemic responses to deal with this crisis.

The Pietermaritzburg Economic Justice & Dignity Group envisions and work towards a society of solidarity, based on a politics of love and universality, and an economy which provides justice, equity, and dignity for all.

1. NOVEMBER 2021 Summary Data Reference Sheet

Summary of Household Affordability Data

National Minimum Wage in Nov 2021 (21 working days)	
General workers at R21,69/hr	R3 643,92
General workers at 10% exemption at R19,52/hr	R3 279,53
Domestic workers at R19,09/hr	R3 207,12

Cost of Household Food Basket in November 2021	
Cost of <i>Joburg</i> Household Food Basket	R4 333,12
Cost of <i>Durban</i> Household Food Basket	R4 305,23
Cost of <i>Cape Town</i> Household Food Basket	R4 197,74
Cost of <i>Springbok</i> Household Food Basket	R4 534,86
Cost of <i>Maritzburg</i> Household Food Basket	R4 086,45
Average cost of Household Food Basket (all areas).	R4 272,44
Year-on-year change	R254,19 6,3%

Cost of foods prioritised & bought first in Household Food Basket: year-on-year		
Core foods	Nov_2020	Nov_2021
	cost	cost
Maize meal (30kg)	R 226,36	R 244,29
Rice (10kg)	R 137,84	R 139,64
Cake Flour (10kg)	R 94,60	R 94,23
White sugar (10kg)	R 154,16	R 161,23
Sugar beans (5kg)	R 143,99	R 171,56
Samp (5kg)	R 45,09	R 49,37
Cooking oil (5L)	R 106,58	R 135,77
Salt (1kg)	R 12,59	R 12,82
Potatoes (10kg)	R 91,00	R 87,71
Onions (10kg)	R 69,94	R 63,39
Frozen chicken pieces (10kg)	R 317,28	R 347,54
Curry powder (200g)	R 30,69	R 31,38
Stock cubes (24 cubes x2)	R 39,88	R 37,04
Soup (400g x2)	R 36,58	R 39,93
Tea (250g)	R 22,57	R 23,25
White bread (25 loaves)	R 333,91	R 341,59
Brown bread (25 loaves)	R 304,35	R 311,81
Subtotal of core foods	R2 167,41	R 2 292,55

Cost of Household Domestic and Personal Hygiene Products Basket in Nov 2021	R738,78
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Cost of a basic nutritious diet for a family per month	
Household size with 4 members	R2 921,36
Household size with 5 members	R3 692,02
Household size with 7 members	R5 102,16
In Nov 2021 , families with 7 members underspent on basic nutritious food by a minimum of 16% (-R829,72).	

Average cost of a basic nutritious diet for a child per month in November 2021	
Small child aged 3-9 years	R653,70
Small child aged 10-13 years	R712,18
Girl child aged 14-18 years	R756,43
Boy child aged 14-18 years	R857,52
Average for all children	R744,96
In November 2021 , the Child Support Grant is 26% below the food poverty line & 38% below the average cost to secure a basic nutritious diet for a child.	

Summary of Statistics South Africa's Economic and Social Data

All South Africans	
Population size	60,1 million
Unemployment rate	34,4%
Expanded unemployment rate	44,4%
Numbers of people unemployed	11,9 million
Numbers of people employed	14,9 million
Number of people one wage supports	4
Maximum NMW April 2021	R3 643,92
NMW dispersed through a family	R910,98

Black South Africans	
Population size	48,6 million
Unemployment rate	38,2%
Expanded unemployment rate	48,7%
Numbers of people unemployed	10,7 million
Numbers of people employed	11,3 million
Number of people one wage supports	4,3
Maximum NMW April 2021	R3 643,92
NMW dispersed through a family	R847,42

White South Africans	
Population size	4,7 million
Unemployment rate	8,6%
Expanded unemployment rate	11,2%
Numbers of people unemployed	224 000
Numbers of people employed	1,8 million
Number of people one wage supports	2,6
Maximum NMW April 2021	R3 643,92
NMW dispersed through a family	R1 401,51

The maximum value of the National Minimum Wage [NMW]: general workers	R21,69/hour
Level of NMW at 10% exemption	R19,52/hour
The value of the Child Support Grant [CSG]	R460,00
The value of the Old-age Grant [OAG]	R1 890,00
The number of children receiving a CSG	12,78 million
The number of pensioners receiving an OAG	3,67 million
The upper-bound poverty line [UBPL]	R1 335,00
The lower-bound poverty line [LBPL]	R890,00
The food poverty line [FPL]	R624,00

% of people living below the UBPL (30,4m)	55,5%
% of people living below the FPL (13,8m)	25,2%
% of Black South Africans living below the UBPL (±29,9m)	64,2%

Stunting levels in <i>boy children under 5 years</i>	30%
Stunting levels in <i>girl children under 5 years</i>	25%

Estimated overall HIV prevalence rate among population (8,2m)	13,7%
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Any errors in data entry or calculations are our own. See reference page 17 for Statistics South Africa data references. All efforts are made to source the latest available data.

2. NOVEMBER 2021 Household Food Index: All areas

Foods tracked	Quantity tracked	Index 2020/21			change in Rands		change in %	
		Nov_2020	Oct_2021	Nov_2021	Oct 2021 vs. Nov 2021	Nov 2020 vs. Nov 2021	Oct 2021 vs. Nov 2021	Nov 2020 vs. Nov 2021
Maize meal	30kg	R226,36	R 248,55	R244,29	-R 4,25	R 17,93	-2%	8%
Rice	10kg	R137,84	R 137,52	R139,64	R 2,12	R 1,80	2%	1%
Cake Flour	10kg	R94,60	R 94,75	R94,23	-R 0,52	-R 0,37	-1%	0%
White sugar	10kg	R154,16	R 164,62	R161,23	-R 3,38	R 7,07	-2%	5%
Sugar beans	5kg	R143,99	R 169,62	R171,56	R 1,94	R 27,57	1%	19%
Samp	5kg	R45,09	R 49,59	R49,37	-R 0,21	R 4,28	0%	9%
Cooking oil	5L	R106,58	R 132,37	R135,77	R 3,40	R 29,19	3%	27%
Salt	1kg	R12,59	R 12,95	R12,82	-R 0,13	R 0,23	-1%	2%
Potatoes	10kg	R91,00	R 116,92	R87,71	-R 29,21	-R 3,29	-25%	-4%
Onions	10kg	R69,94	R 65,08	R63,39	-R 1,69	-R 6,55	-3%	-9%
Frozen chicken portions	10kg	R317,28	R 348,39	R347,54	-R 0,85	R 30,26	0%	10%
Curry powder	200g	R30,69	R 31,47	R31,38	-R 0,09	R 0,69	0%	2%
Stock cubes	24 cubes x2	R39,88	R 38,82	R37,04	-R 1,79	-R 2,84	-5%	-7%
Soup	400g x2	R36,58	R 39,36	R39,93	R 0,57	R 3,35	1%	9%
Tea	250g	R22,57	R 23,27	R23,25	-R 0,02	R 0,68	0%	3%
Full cream milk	6L	R75,87	R 81,01	R78,21	-R 2,80	R 2,34	-3%	3%
Maas	4L	R46,33	R 49,84	R49,82	-R 0,02	R 3,49	0%	8%
Eggs	60 eggs	R98,49	R 115,54	R112,88	-R 2,66	R 14,39	-2%	15%
Chicken feet	2kg	R68,42	R 71,06	R69,26	-R 1,81	R 0,84	-3%	1%
Gizzards	2kg	R61,41	R 79,19	R81,61	R 2,43	R 20,20	3%	33%
Chicken livers	2kg	R48,43	R 62,38	R60,96	-R 1,42	R 12,53	-2%	26%
Beef liver	2kg	R72,86	R 95,07	R93,95	-R 1,11	R 21,09	-1%	29%
Beef	2kg	R148,96	R 166,23	R171,56	R 5,33	R 22,60	3%	15%
Wors	2kg	R110,12	R 125,11	R125,17	R 0,05	R 15,05	0%	14%
Inyama yangaphakathi	2kg	R76,62	R 81,02	R81,11	R 0,09	R 4,49	0%	6%
Fish	2kg	R89,13	R 102,13	R106,44	R 4,32	R 17,31	4%	19%
Tomatoes	6kg	R96,79	R 103,81	R97,97	-R 5,84	R 1,18	-6%	1%
Carrots	5kg	R30,54	R 29,26	R25,86	-R 3,40	-R 4,68	-12%	-15%
Butternut	10kg	R108,20	R 131,24	R107,94	-R 23,30	-R 0,26	-18%	0%
Spinach	8 bunches	R73,72	R 78,83	R77,83	-R 1,00	R 4,11	-1%	6%
Cabbage	2 heads	R30,47	R 30,47	R30,64	R 0,17	R 0,17	1%	1%
Green pepper	2kg	R49,32	R 43,21	R43,63	R 0,42	-R 5,69	1%	-12%
Cremora	800g	R34,99	R 36,87	R38,36	R 1,49	R 3,37	4%	10%
Tinned pilchards	400g x6	R114,93	R 120,58	R120,47	-R 0,11	R 5,54	0%	5%
Canned beans	410g x6	R66,01	R 69,50	R69,32	-R 0,18	R 3,31	0%	5%
Bananas	4kg	R65,13	R 59,63	R61,90	R 2,27	-R 3,23	4%	-5%
Apples	3kg	R34,27	R 38,45	R39,27	R 0,82	R 5,00	2%	15%
Oranges	7kg	R72,92	R 40,04	R49,46	R 9,41	-R 23,46	24%	-32%
Margarine	1kg	R34,41	R 37,65	R37,82	R 0,17	R 3,41	0%	10%
Peanut butter	400g x2	R64,37	R 63,60	R63,19	-R 0,41	-R 1,18	-1%	-2%
Polony	2.5kg	R50,03	R 57,06	R56,46	-R 0,60	R 6,43	-1%	13%
Apricot jam	900g	R28,10	R 29,54	R28,80	-R 0,73	R 0,70	-2%	3%
White bread	25 loaves	R333,91	R 338,93	R341,59	R 2,66	R 7,68	1%	2%
Brown bread	25 loaves	R304,35	R 307,02	R311,81	R 4,79	R 7,46	2%	2%
Total household food basket		R 4 018,25	R 4 317,56	R 4 272,44	-R 45,11	R 254,19	-1,0%	6,3%

Month-on-month: The cost of the **average household food basket decreased** by **R45,11 (-1%)** from R4 317,56 in October 2021 to R4 272,44 in November 2021.

Year-on-year: The cost of the **average household food basket increased** by **R254,19 (6,3%)** from R4 018,25 in November 2020 to R4 272,44 in November 2021.

3. NOVEMBER 2021 Household Food Index: All areas, by foods prioritised & bought first

Foods tracked	Quantity tracked	Index 2020/21			change in Rands		change in %	
		Nov_2020	Oct_2021	Nov_2021	Oct 2021 vs. Nov 2021	Nov 2020 vs. Nov 2021	Oct 2021 vs. Nov 2021	Nov 2020 vs. Nov 2021
Maize meal	30kg	R226,36	R248,55	R244,29	-R 4,25	R 17,93	-2%	8%
Rice	10kg	R137,84	R137,52	R139,64	R 2,12	R 1,80	2%	1%
Cake Flour	10kg	R94,60	R94,75	R94,23	-R 0,52	-R 0,37	-1%	0%
White sugar	10kg	R154,16	R164,62	R161,23	-R 3,38	R 7,07	-2%	5%
Sugar beans	5kg	R143,99	R169,62	R171,56	R 1,94	R 27,58	1%	19%
Samp	5kg	R45,09	R49,59	R49,37	-R 0,21	R 4,28	0%	9%
Cooking oil	5L	R106,58	R132,37	R135,77	R 3,40	R 29,19	3%	27%
Salt	1kg	R12,59	R12,95	R12,82	-R 0,13	R 0,23	-1%	2%
Potatoes	10kg	R91,00	R116,92	R87,71	-R 29,21	-R 3,29	-25%	-4%
Onions	10kg	R69,94	R65,08	R63,39	-R 1,69	-R 6,56	-3%	-9%
Frozen chicken portions	10kg	R317,28	R348,39	R347,54	-R 0,85	R 30,26	0%	10%
Curry powder	200g	R30,69	R31,47	R31,38	-R 0,09	R 0,69	0%	2%
Stock cubes	24 cubes x2	R39,88	R38,82	R37,04	-R 1,79	-R 2,84	-5%	-7%
Soup	400g x2	R36,58	R39,36	R39,93	R 0,57	R 3,35	1%	9%
Tea	250g	R22,57	R23,27	R23,25	-R 0,02	R 0,67	0%	3%
White bread	25 loaves	R333,91	R338,93	R341,59	R 2,66	R 7,68	1%	2%
Brown bread	25 loaves	R304,35	R307,02	R311,81	R 4,79	R 7,46	2%	2%
Total household food basket		R 2 167,41	R 2 319,22	R 2 292,55	-R 26,68	R 125,14	-1,2%	5,8%

Month-on-month: The **average cost of the foods prioritised and bought first** in the household food basket **decreased** by **R26,68 (-1,2%)** from R2 319,22 in October 2021 to R2 292,55 in November 2021.

Year-on-year: The **average cost of the foods prioritised and bought first** in the household food basket **increased** by **R125,14 (5,8%)** from R2 167,41 in November 2020 to R2 292,55 in November 2021.

The cost of the foods prioritised and bought first in the Household Food Basket is important. The core foods are bought first and these foods ensure that families do not go hungry whilst ensuring that meals can be cooked. When the prices of core foods increase, there is less money to secure other important mostly nutritionally-rich foods, which are essential for health and well-being and strong immune systems (viz. meat, eggs and dairy which are critical for protein, iron and calcium; vegetables and fruit which are critical for vitamins, minerals and fibre; and Maas, peanut butter and pilchards, good fats, protein and calcium essential for children. The data shows that the core foods contribute **54%** of the total cost of the Household Food Basket. At an average cost of **R2 292,55 in November 2021**, these foods are relatively very expensive in relation to the total money available in the household purse to secure food. These foods must be bought regardless of price escalations. The high cost of core staple foods result in a lot of proper nutritious food being removed off the family plates. The consequences of high costs on the core foods has a negative impact on overall household health and well-being, and child development.

4. NOVEMBER 2021 Household Food Index: Zero-rated vs. VAT

Foods tracked	Quantity tracked	Index 2020/21			change in Rands		change in %	
		Nov_2020	Oct_2021	Nov_2021	Oct 2021 vs. Nov 2021	Nov 2020 vs. Nov 2021	Oct 2021 vs. Nov 2021	Nov 2020 vs. Nov 2021
Zero-rated foods								
Maize meal	30kg	R226,36	R248,55	R244,29	-R 4,25	R 17,93	-2%	8%
Rice	10kg	R137,84	R137,52	R139,64	R 2,12	R 1,80	2%	1%
Samp	5kg	R45,09	R49,59	R49,37	-R 0,21	R 4,28	0%	9%
Sugar beans	5kg	R143,99	R169,62	R171,56	R 1,94	R 27,58	1%	19%
Cooking oil	5L	R106,58	R132,37	R135,77	R 3,40	R 29,19	3%	27%
Full cream milk	6L	R75,87	R81,01	R78,21	-R 2,80	R 2,34	-3%	3%
Maas	4L	R46,33	R49,84	R49,82	-R 0,02	R 3,49	0%	8%
Eggs	60 eggs	R98,49	R115,54	R112,88	-R 2,66	R 14,39	-2%	15%
Potatoes	10kg	R91,00	R116,92	R87,71	-R 29,21	-R 3,29	-25%	-4%
Onions	10kg	R69,94	R65,08	R63,39	-R 1,69	-R 6,56	-3%	-9%
Tomatoes	6kg	R96,79	R103,81	R97,97	-R 5,84	R 1,18	-6%	1%
Carrots	5kg	R30,54	R29,26	R25,86	-R 3,40	-R 4,68	-12%	-15%
Butternut	10kg	R108,20	R131,24	R107,94	-R 23,30	-R 0,26	-18%	0%
Spinach	8 bunches	R73,72	R78,83	R77,83	-R 1,00	R 4,10	-1%	6%
Cabbage	2 heads	R30,47	R30,47	R30,64	R 0,17	R 0,17	1%	1%
Green Pepper	2kg	R49,32	R43,21	R43,63	R 0,42	-R 5,69	1%	-12%
Tinned pilchards	6 tins	R114,93	R120,58	R120,47	-R 0,11	R 5,54	0%	5%
Bananas	4kg	R65,13	R59,63	R61,90	R 2,27	-R 3,23	4%	-5%
Apples	3kg	R34,27	R38,45	R39,27	R 0,82	R 5,00	2%	15%
Oranges	7kg	R72,92	R40,04	R49,46	R 9,41	-R 23,46	24%	-32%
Brown bread	25 loaves	R304,35	R307,02	R311,81	R 4,79	R 7,46	2%	2%
Cake flour	10kg	R94,60	R94,75	R94,23	-R 0,52	-R 0,37	-1%	0%
Subtotal of zero-rated foods		R 2 116,73	R 2 243,34	R 2 193,65	-R 49,69	R 76,92	-2,2%	3,6%
Foods subject to VAT								
White sugar	10kg	154,16	R164,62	161,23	-R 3,38	R 7,07	-2%	5%
Frozen chicken portions	10kg	317,28	R348,39	347,54	-R 0,85	R 30,26	0%	10%
Chicken feet	2kg	68,42	R71,06	69,26	-R 1,81	R 0,84	-3%	1%
Gizzards	2kg	61,41	R79,19	81,61	R 2,43	R 20,21	3%	33%
Chicken livers	2kg	48,43	R62,38	60,96	-R 1,42	R 12,54	-2%	26%
Beef liver	2kg	72,86	R95,07	93,95	-R 1,11	R 21,10	-1%	29%
Beef	2kg	148,96	R166,23	171,56	R 5,33	R 22,60	3%	15%
Wors	2kg	110,12	R125,11	125,17	R 0,05	R 15,05	0%	14%
Inyama yangapakhathi	2kg	76,62	R81,02	81,11	R 0,09	R 4,49	0%	6%
Fish	2kg	89,13	R102,13	106,44	R 4,32	R 17,32	4%	19%
Salt	1kg	12,59	R12,95	12,82	-R 0,13	R 0,23	-1%	2%
Stock	48 cubes	39,88	R38,82	37,04	-R 1,79	-R 2,84	-5%	-7%
Soup	800g	36,58	R39,36	39,93	R 0,57	R 3,35	1%	9%
Curry powder	400g	30,69	R31,47	31,38	-R 0,09	R 0,69	0%	2%
Tea	200g	22,57	R23,27	23,25	-R 0,02	R 0,67	0%	3%
Cremora	1kg	34,99	R36,87	38,36	R 1,49	R 3,37	4%	10%
Canned beans	6 cans	66,01	R69,50	69,32	-R 0,18	R 3,31	0%	5%
Margarine	1kg	34,41	R37,65	37,82	R 0,17	R 3,41	0%	10%
Peanut butter	400g x2	64,37	R63,60	63,19	-R 0,41	-R 1,18	-1%	-2%
Polony	2,5kg	50,03	R57,06	56,46	-R 0,60	R 6,44	-1%	13%
Apricot jam	900g	28,10	R29,54	28,80	-R 0,73	R 0,70	-2%	3%
White bread	25 loaves	333,91	R338,93	341,59	R 2,66	R 7,68	1%	2%
Subtotal of VATable foods		R1 901,49	R 2 074,22	R 2 078,79	R 4,58	R 177,30	0,2%	9,3%
Vatable foods (excl. VAT)		R1 653,47	R1 803,67	R1 807,65	R 3,98	R154,18	0,2%	9,3%
VAT total		R248,02	R270,55	R271,15	R0,60	R23,13	0,2%	9,3%
Total household food basket		R4 018,22	R4 317,56	R4 272,44	-R45,11	R254,22	-1,0%	6,3%

Month-on-month: The **zero-rated foods** in the household food basket **decreased** by **R49,69 (-2,2%)** from R2 243,34 in October 2021 to R2 193,65 in November 2021.

Year-on-year: The **zero-rated foods** in the household food basket **increased** by **R76,92 (3,6%)** from R2 116,73 in November 2020 to R2 193,65 in November 2021.

Month-on-month: The **foods subject to VAT** in the household food basket **increased** by **R4,58 (0,2%)** from R2 074,22 in October 2021 to R2 078,79 in November 2021.

Year-on-year: The **foods subject to VAT** in the household food basket **increased** by **R177,30 (9,3%)** from R1 901,49 in November 2020 to R2 078,79 in November 2021.

22/44 foods in the total household food basket are subject to VAT. Foods subject to VAT make up **49%** of the total cost of the household food basket. VAT on the total household food basket came to **R271,15 in November 2021**. This means **6,3%** of the household food basket is made up of VAT. **A tax of R271,15 is more than the cost of a large household's requirement of 30kg maize meal per month (in November 2021, 30kg maize meal cost R244,29). VAT on basic food stuffs is still very high and removes food off the plate.**

5. NOVEMBER 2021 Household Domestic & Personal Hygiene Index: All areas

Products tracked	Quantity tracked	Index 2020/21			change in Rands		change in %	
		Nov_2020	Oct_2021	Nov_2021	Oct 2021 vs. Nov 2021	Nov 2020 vs. Nov 2021	Oct 2021 vs. Nov 2021	Nov 2020 vs. Nov 2021
Green bar soap	500g x8	R61,19	R68,22	R67,98	-R 0,24	R 6,79	0%	11%
Washing powder	3kg	R62,89	R68,49	R69,95	R 1,46	R 7,06	2%	11%
Dishwashing liquid	750ml	R26,57	R27,22	R27,32	R 0,10	R 0,75	0%	3%
Handy Andy	750ml	R23,55	R24,38	R24,41	R 0,03	R 0,86	0%	4%
Jik	1,5L	R37,20	R38,10	R38,60	R 0,50	R 1,39	1%	4%
Toilet paper	24 rolls	R86,30	R89,81	R92,21	R 2,41	R 5,91	3%	7%
Bath soap	500g x4	R54,53	R57,84	R59,59	R 1,76	R 5,06	3%	9%
Toothpaste	100ml x3	R44,30	R44,17	R44,72	R 0,55	R 0,42	1%	1%
Vaseline	500g	R35,65	R39,23	R39,28	R 0,05	R 3,64	0%	10%
Cream	big bottle x2	R35,96	R38,55	R40,33	R 1,78	R 4,37	5%	12%
Roll-on deodorant	x4	R61,93	R66,08	R66,39	R 0,30	R 4,46	0%	7%
Spray-on deodorant	big spray x3	R72,33	R76,46	R76,42	-R 0,04	R 4,09	0%	6%
Sanitary pads	2 big packs	R60,48	R67,69	R64,34	-R 3,35	R 3,86	-5%	6%
Shoe Polish	100ml	R24,92	R26,45	R27,23	R 0,77	R 2,31	3%	9%
Total household domestic and hygiene products		R 687,80	R 732,68	R 738,78	R 6,09	R 50,98	0,8%	7,4%

Month-on-month: The cost of the **household domestic and personal hygiene products basket increased** by **R6,09 (0,8%)** from R732,68 in October 2021 to R738,78 in November 2021.

Year-on-year: The cost of the **household domestic and personal hygiene products basket increased** by **R50,98 (7,4%)** from R687,80 in November 2020 to R738,78 in November 2021.

Domestic and personal hygiene products are critical expenses for safe hygiene and overall health and well being. The money needed to secure domestic and personal hygiene products are sourced from within the food budget. These products compete viciously in the food budget.

6. NOVEMBER 2021 Basic Nutritional Food Index: families

By number of family members	Index 2020/21			change in Rands		change in %	
	Nov_2020	Oct_2021	Nov_2021	Oct 2021 vs. Nov 2021	Nov 2020 vs. Nov 2021	Oct 2021 vs. Nov 2021	Nov 2020 vs. Nov 2021
Four (4)	R2 799,60	R2 928,96	R2 921,36	-R 7,60	R 121,76	-0,3%	4,3%
Five (5)	R3 537,57	R3 703,39	R3 692,02	-R 11,37	R 154,45	-0,3%	4,4%
Seven (7)	R4 891,51	R5 117,72	R5 102,16	-R 15,56	R 210,65	-0,3%	4,3%

Month-on-month: The cost of a **basic nutritional food basket for a family of 7 members decreased** by **R15,56 (-0,3%)** from R5 117,72 in October 2021 to R5 102,16 in November 2021.

Year-on-year: The cost of a **basic nutritional food basket for a family of 7 members increased** by **R210,65 (4,3%)** from R4 891,51 in November 2020 to R5 102,16 in November 2021.

In **November 2021** the difference in cost between the foods which families living on low incomes try and buy each month (the household food basket) and the foods which families would like to buy and should buy to meet basic nutrition (a basic nutritional food basket) was **R829,72 (R4 272,44 vs. R5 102,16)**.

It means that in **November 2021**, families with seven members underspent on basic nutritional food by a **minimum of 16% (R829,72)**.

7. NOVEMBER 2021 Basic Nutritional Food Index: children

By age of child	Index 2020/21			change in Rands		change in %	
	Nov_2020	Oct_2021	Nov_2021	Oct 2021 vs. Nov 2021	Nov 2020 vs. Nov 2021	Oct 2021 vs. Nov 2021	Nov 2020 vs. Nov 2021
Small child aged 3-9 years	R 629,10	R655,18	R653,70	-R 1,48	R 24,60	-0,2%	3,9%
Small child aged 10-13 years	R 683,54	R714,81	R712,18	-R 2,63	R 28,64	-0,4%	4,2%
Girl child aged 14-18 years	R 724,84	R759,15	R756,43	-R 2,72	R 31,59	-0,4%	4,4%
Boy child aged 14-18 years	R 816,55	R859,44	R857,52	-R 1,92	R 40,97	-0,2%	5,0%
Average for all children	R713,51	R747,15	R744,96	-R 2,19	R 31,45	-0,3%	4,4%

Month-on-month: The **average cost to feed a child a basic nutritious diet decreased** by **R2,19 (-0,3%)** from R747,15 in October 2021 to R744,96 in November 2021.

Year-on-year: The **average cost to feed a child a basic nutritious diet increased** by **R31,45 (4,4%)** from R713,51 in November 2020 to R744,96 in November 2021.

As children grow older, their nutritional requirements increase. It means that the cost of feeding a child increases in price as a child grows older and is also different for teenage girls and boys. The Child Support Grant is a fixed amount: it does not account for age.

The Child Support Grant is **R460**. (The increase for the 2021/22 term was **R10**).

The food poverty line calculated by Statistics South Africa is **R624** per capita per month (latest April 2021).

In **November 2021** the average cost to feed a child a basic nutritious diet per month cost **R744,96**.

The Child Support Grant of R460 is set below the food poverty line of R624, and further below the average cost of R744,96 to secure a basic nutritious diet for a child in November 2021.

In **November 2021**, the Child Support Grant is **26% below** the food poverty line and **38% below** the average cost to secure a basic nutritious diet for a child.

About the Basic Nutritional Food Index

Households living on low incomes change their purchasing patterns in response to changes in affordability conditions. On low incomes, women buy the core staple foods first so that their families do not go hungry and for basic meals to be prepared. Where the money remaining is short, women have no choice but to drop foods from their trolleys or reduce the volumes of nutritionally rich foods in their trolleys. This has negative consequences for health, well-being, and nutrition. As financial and economic circumstances worsen, so too does household health and nutrition. The gap between what women are able to buy and what they need to buy for proper nutrition widens. The Basic Nutritional Food Basket is an attempt to track the cost of foods required for balanced nutrition, viz. the foods and the cost of these foods for families to ensure their health and nutrition and for children to grow and develop properly. The basket was designed in consultation with a Registered Dietician Philippa Barnard.

The Basic Nutritional Food Basket is an index on which we can start talking realistically about the cost of nutritious food, and the inadequacies of low wages and social grants. Importantly it ensures that current food expenditure (severely limited by affordability constraints) are not conflated with the food expenditure required to secure proper nutrition.

8. NOVEMBER 2021 National Minimum Wage Scenarios

Number of working days in November 2021 = 21 days

Affordability, in its simplest form, is relative to income levels and the cost of goods and services (expenses). Workers work to support their families. Workers, reasonably expect to cover the costs of goods and services needed for dignity and household functionality off their wages. In most Black South African households, only one family member works. This one wage must support, a reductive average of **4,3 persons in November 2021**.

The Minister of Employment and Labour gazetted a **4,5%** annual increase on the National Minimum Wage for General Workers, which took effect on the 1st of March 2021. For a *General Worker*, the 4,5% increment works out to be 93 cents an hour, R7,44 for an 8-hour day, and if the full working-day month is worked (average 22 days), a R163,68 monthly increase. **The NMW increased by 93 cents from R20,76 per hour to R21,69 per hour.**

The *NMW for Farm and Forestry Workers* has been equalised with General Workers and is now R21,69 per hour. The *NMW for Domestic Workers* has still not been equalised with General Workers and is R19,09 per hour.

The tables over the page provide income scenarios for households with workers remunerated at the National Minimum Wage level for different categories of workers, as well as for different number of days and hours worked. Households do not prioritise paying for food first out of the wage. Instead households paid low incomes are forced to secure non-negotiable expenses like transport and electricity before food. Other important expenses like debt servicing, scholar transport, education and burial insurances, including household domestic and personal hygiene products also compete viciously in the purse.

A reasonable indicator of whether the NMW is improving the lives of workers is whether workers earning the NMW are able to secure the basic household expenses needed to live at a basic level of dignity and household functionality.

In the scenarios we pull out just 3 core worker expenses: transport to get to work and back; prepaid electricity and the cost of a basic basket of nutritional food for a family of 4 persons. We take the NMW in its various scenarios and subtract the cost of transport and electricity. We then look at the money remaining to buy food.

The last row in the tables highlights the minimum surplus/shortfall on food costs. If the NMW value is set at a reasonable level than we should see a surplus on the food costs, because households have a myriad of other expenses which also need to be secured. If however we see a shortfall on just the food costs, then we must conclude that the level at which the NMW has been set is inadequate because this scenario means that a worker cannot secure even the basic cost of food let alone the other essential goods and services families require.

A note on the data in the scenarios: The NMW and social grant data is national data. The food data is based on the average cost of the PMBEJD Basic Nutritional Food Basket for a family of 4 persons for Joburg, Durban, Cape Town, Springbok and Pietermaritzburg. We use Pietermaritzburg-based costs as a proxy for the transport and electricity figures. **On the first of July 2021, the electricity tariffs in Msunduzi Municipality increased by 14,59%. Annual taxi fare increases came into effect in October 2021 - data from the areas we track indicate that local taxi fares went up by R1-R2, and from R3-R5 for further distances. In Pietermaritzburg the local fares went up by R1, from R15 to R16 a local fare (7%).**

The data in the tables are relevant as at November 2021.

Both scenario tables below calculate transport to work on 2 taxi fare, return (R16x4). The electricity charge is based on Msunduzi Municipality's prepaid tariffs (R2,09 per kWh). The first table provides scenarios for the NMW for General Workers at R21,69 an hour and the second table provides scenarios for the NMW for Domestic Workers at R19,09 per hour. Each scenario provides for the maximum NMW for the maximum number of working days and hours; for a 15 day working month and full 8-hours; and for a 15 day working month for 5 hours.

General Workers: at NMW R21,69 an hour

Income	Wage scenario 1	Wage scenario 2	Wage scenario 3
Number of days worked	21	15	15
Number of hours worked	8	8	5
Remuneration rate	R21,69	R21,69	R21,69
Wage income	R3 643,92	R2 602,80	R1 626,75

	Wage scenario 1	Wage scenario 2	Wage scenario 3
Wage income	R3 643,92	R2 602,80	R1 626,75
Household expenses	% of wage	% of wage	% of wage
Transport to work (2 taxi, return)	R1 344,00 36,9%	R960,00 36,9%	R960,00 59,0%
Prepaid electricity (350kWh)	R731,50 20,1%	R731,50 28,1%	R731,50 45,0%
Total for transport + electricity	R2 075,50 57,0%	R1 691,50 65,0%	R1 691,50 104,0%
<i>Money remaining to secure all other expenses</i>	R1 568,42	R911,30	-R64,75
Subtract: food (4 persons)	R2 921,36	R2 921,36	R2 921,36
Minimum surplus/shortfall on food costs	-R1 352,94 -46,3%	-R2 010,06 -68,8%	-R2 986,11 -102,2%

Domestic workers: at NMW R19,09 an hour

Income	Wage scenario 1	Wage scenario 2	Wage scenario 3
Number of days worked	21	15	15
Number of hours worked	8	8	5
Remuneration rate	R19,09	R19,09	R19,09
Wage income	R3 207,12	R2 290,80	R1 431,75

	Wage scenario 1	Wage scenario 2	Wage scenario 3
Wage income	R3 207,12	R2 290,80	R1 431,75
Household expenses	% of wage	% of wage	% of wage
Transport to work (2 taxi, return)	R1 344,00 41,9%	R960,00 41,9%	R960,00 67,1%
Prepaid electricity (350kWh)	R731,50 22,8%	R731,50 31,9%	R731,50 51,1%
Total for transport + electricity	R2 075,50 64,7%	R1 691,50 73,8%	R1 691,50 118,1%
<i>Money remaining to secure all other expenses</i>	R1 131,62	R599,30	-R259,75
Subtract: food (4 persons)	R2 921,36	R2 921,36	R2 921,36
Minimum surplus/shortfall on food costs	-R1 789,74 -61,3%	-R2 322,06 -79,5%	-R3 181,11 -108,9%

All the scenarios above show that workers paid at the level of the NMW cannot meet even the 3 core household expenses on the NMW. This provides a stark indication of the deficiencies in low baseline wages. The NMW set at such a low level does not allow workers and their families the possibility to secure even their most basic expenses. Instead it appears from the data above that the NMW has worked to lock workers and their families into even deeper levels of poverty. Workers will have to cut back further on food and go into deeper levels of debt to cover wage shortfalls.

The National Minimum Wage is a poverty wage - it hurts workers & slows down economic growth. The maximum wage of **R3 643,92 in November 2021** when disbursed in a Black South African family of **4,3 persons is R847,42**. This is below the **upper-bound poverty line of R1 335** per capita per month. Set at such a low level, the NMW works to institutionalise the low-baseline wage regime and lock millions of workers into poverty. Small annual increments off such a low base, and which do not reflect inflation levels as experienced by workers (including not projecting inflation forward for workers in the entire 2021 term), means that workers on the NMW are getting poorer and poorer each year. **The minimum shortfall on food for a family is 46,3% in November 2021.** Put another way, after securing transport and electricity workers are left with R1 568,42. If all of this money went to food, then for a family of 4,3, it would provide R364,75 per person per month. The Food Poverty Line is R624 per person per month.

9. NOVEMBER 2021 Household Food Basket: Per area, compared.

Foods tracked	Quantity tracked	Joburg	Durban	Cape Town	Springbok	Maritzburg	Average
Maize meal	30kg	R256,46	R221,42	R257,47	R218,97	R248,97	R244,29
Rice	10kg	R155,32	R131,72	R143,82	R156,32	R99,39	R139,64
Cake Flour	10kg	R99,16	R90,54	R95,99	R95,66	R85,79	R94,23
White sugar	10kg	R168,53	R150,72	R162,40	R169,99	R158,79	R161,23
Sugar beans	5kg	R178,98	R150,88	R193,08	R214,90	R148,99	R171,56
Samp	5kg	R53,26	R48,17	R49,09	R56,63	R37,24	R49,37
Cooking oil	5L	R133,53	R139,81	R130,50	R136,64	R144,39	R135,77
Salt	1kg	R14,90	R13,26	R7,64	R17,66	R16,39	R12,82
Potatoes	10kg	R85,10	R97,34	R85,93	R85,22	R78,02	R87,71
Onions	10kg	R60,76	R67,77	R64,46	R80,13	R47,12	R63,39
Frozen chicken portions	10kg	R347,99	R343,68	R343,26	R367,47	R353,31	R347,54
Curry powder	200g	R31,32	R29,08	R32,79	R39,32	R28,99	R31,38
Stock cubes	24 cubes x2	R41,60	R35,25	R35,98	R35,31	R33,58	R37,04
Soup	400g x2	R44,82	R38,71	R44,42	R35,98	R25,18	R39,93
Tea	250g	R24,91	R21,81	R23,41	R23,32	R21,99	R23,25
Full cream milk	6L	R81,62	R81,62	R70,90	R72,66	R83,39	R78,21
Maas	4L	R49,07	R46,99	R55,49	R47,66	R45,59	R49,82
Eggs	60 eggs	R108,55	R109,43	R116,53	R131,98	R110,98	R112,88
Chicken feet	2kg	R88,15	R87,54	R37,10	R69,98	R73,92	R69,26
Gizzards	2kg	R88,74	R87,19	R68,96	R73,98	R83,44	R81,61
Chicken livers	2kg	R64,73	R63,28	R43,96	R90,98	R68,94	R60,96
Beef liver	2kg	R100,98	R95,44	R85,20	R95,98	R93,25	R93,95
Beef	2kg	R169,24	R189,44	R144,71	R177,98	R190,94	R171,56
Wors	2kg	R118,98	R146,19	R91,97	R148,98	R149,98	R125,17
Inyama yangaphakathi	2kg	R83,48	R82,21	R73,97	R99,98	R80,44	R81,11
Fish	2kg	R74,74	R126,69	R104,55	R155,98	R107,94	R106,44
Tomatoes	6kg	R82,78	R110,01	R114,59	R83,94	R77,48	R97,97
Carrots	5kg	R30,78	R23,79	R23,26	R41,63	R16,39	R25,86
Butternut	10kg	R112,41	R111,45	R108,71	R138,31	R71,70	R107,94
Spinach	8 bunches	R80,34	R79,13	R80,30	R95,92	R47,94	R77,83
Cabbage	2 heads	R29,86	R30,16	R35,26	R27,98	R24,38	R30,64
Green pepper	2kg	R34,98	R44,38	R47,98	R54,65	R40,98	R43,63
Cremora	800g	R39,15	R39,26	R37,66	R33,66	R38,99	R38,36
Tinned pilchards	400g x6	R120,84	R125,95	R118,44	R115,94	R115,14	R120,47
Canned beans	410g x6	R72,45	R64,95	R65,94	R69,94	R79,14	R69,32
Bananas	4kg	R66,34	R65,05	R56,69	R73,28	R47,96	R61,90
Apples	3kg	R44,61	R38,08	R38,65	R31,65	R36,19	R39,27
Orange	7kg	R44,48	R58,38	R39,92	R57,52	R64,46	R49,46
Margarine	1kg	R43,23	R38,99	R33,16	R27,66	R39,59	R37,82
Peanut butter	400g x2	R64,98	R65,25	R60,64	R58,65	R63,18	R63,19
Polony	2.5kg	R58,62	R59,74	R51,09	R47,66	R63,49	R56,46
Apricot jam	900g	R30,16	R28,54	R27,49	R27,32	R30,19	R28,80
White bread	25 loaves	R343,33	R327,75	R360,23	R333,08	R324,88	R341,59
Brown bread	25 loaves	R308,88	R298,20	R334,19	R316,42	R287,44	R311,81
Total household food basket		R 4 333,12	R 4 305,23	R 4 197,74	R 4 534,86	R 4 086,45	R 4 272,44

The difference in cost of the total household food basket in Joburg, Durban and Cape Town is consistent at around ±R150. Springbok and Pietermaritzburg tend to be outliers in the data (Springbok being highest, and Pietermaritzburg being lowest). **The average cost (weighted) of the total household food basket in November 2021 is R4 272,44.**

10. NOVEMBER 2021 Household Food Index: Johannesburg

Foods tracked	Quantity tracked	Index 2020/21			change in Rands		change in %	
		Nov_2020	Oct_2021	Nov_2021	Oct 2021 vs. Nov 2021	Nov 2020 vs. Nov 2021	Oct 2021 vs. Nov 2021	Nov 2020 vs. Nov 2021
Maize meal	30kg	R224,72	R262,95	R256,46	-R 6,49	R 31,74	-2%	14%
Rice	10kg	R144,57	R151,74	R155,32	R 3,58	R 10,76	2%	7%
Cake Flour	10kg	R97,99	R101,74	R99,16	-R 2,58	R 1,17	-3%	1%
White sugar	10kg	R153,07	R171,49	R168,53	-R 2,96	R 15,46	-2%	10%
Sugar beans	5kg	R147,00	R182,80	R178,98	-R 3,82	R 31,98	-2%	22%
Samp	5kg	R44,10	R52,41	R53,26	R 0,86	R 9,17	2%	21%
Cooking oil	5L	R107,73	R123,78	R133,53	R 9,75	R 25,80	8%	24%
Salt	1kg	R13,74	R14,91	R14,90	-R 0,01	R 1,16	0%	8%
Potatoes	10kg	R85,71	R111,07	R85,10	-R 25,97	-R 0,60	-23%	-1%
Onions	10kg	R68,99	R63,58	R60,76	-R 2,82	-R 8,23	-4%	-12%
Frozen chicken portions	10kg	R318,74	R343,24	R347,99	R 4,75	R 29,25	1%	9%
Curry powder	200g	R30,07	R32,24	R31,32	-R 0,92	R 1,25	-3%	4%
Stock cubes	24 cubes x2	R43,92	R43,93	R41,60	-R 2,33	-R 2,32	-5%	-5%
Soup	400g x2	R39,15	R43,32	R44,82	R 1,50	R 5,67	3%	14%
Tea	250g	R22,89	R25,32	R24,91	-R 0,42	R 2,02	-2%	9%
Full cream milk	6L	R73,65	R82,32	R81,62	-R 0,71	R 7,97	-1%	11%
Maas	4L	R48,07	R49,24	R49,07	-R 0,17	R 1,00	0%	2%
Eggs	60 eggs	R99,72	R109,72	R108,55	-R 1,17	R 8,83	-1%	9%
Chicken feet	2kg	R82,99	R88,35	R88,15	-R 0,21	R 5,16	0%	6%
Gizzards	2kg	R54,47	R78,46	R88,74	R 10,28	R 34,27	13%	63%
Chicken livers	2kg	R50,46	R63,46	R64,73	R 1,27	R 14,27	2%	28%
Beef liver	2kg	R77,87	R102,23	R100,98	-R 1,25	R 23,11	-1%	30%
Beef	2kg	R154,24	R166,74	R169,24	R 2,50	R 15,00	1%	10%
Wors	2kg	R106,06	R120,74	R118,98	-R 1,75	R 12,92	-1%	12%
Inyama yangaphakathi	2kg	R80,49	R86,96	R83,48	-R 3,48	R 3,00	-4%	4%
Fish	2kg	R69,64	R75,21	R74,74	-R 0,47	R 5,10	-1%	7%
Tomatoes	6kg	R93,03	R77,63	R82,78	R 5,15	-R 10,25	7%	-11%
Carrots	5kg	R32,90	R31,71	R30,78	-R 0,93	-R 2,12	-3%	-6%
Butternut	10kg	R101,08	R105,16	R112,41	R 7,25	R 11,33	7%	11%
Spinach	8 bunches	R86,30	R79,50	R80,34	R 0,83	-R 5,96	1%	-7%
Cabbage	2 heads	R29,31	R27,98	R29,86	R 1,88	R 0,55	7%	2%
Green pepper	2kg	R47,72	R33,71	R34,98	R 1,27	-R 12,74	4%	-27%
Cremora	800g	R37,16	R38,48	R39,15	R 0,67	R 1,99	2%	5%
Tinned pilchards	400g x6	R114,92	R120,75	R120,84	R 0,10	R 5,92	0%	5%
Canned beans	410g x6	R66,92	R71,54	R72,45	R 0,91	R 5,53	1%	8%
Bananas	4kg	R66,21	R62,70	R66,34	R 3,64	R 0,13	6%	0%
Apples	3kg	R39,85	R44,17	R44,61	R 0,45	R 4,76	1%	12%
Oranges	7kg	R56,61	R38,22	R44,48	R 6,27	-R 12,13	16%	-21%
Margarine	1kg	R35,82	R42,73	R43,23	R 0,50	R 7,42	1%	21%
Peanut butter	400g x2	R65,48	R65,80	R64,98	-R 0,82	-R 0,50	-1%	-1%
Polony	2.5kg	R51,36	R55,20	R58,62	R 3,42	R 7,25	6%	14%
Apricot jam	900g	R29,28	R30,99	R30,16	-R 0,83	R 0,87	-3%	3%
White bread	25 loaves	R347,35	R337,10	R343,33	R 6,23	-R 4,02	2%	-1%
Brown bread	25 loaves	R313,63	R294,40	R308,88	R 14,48	-R 4,75	5%	-2%
Total household food basket		R 4 054,94	R4 305,69	R4 333,12	R 27,43	R 278,17	0,6%	6,9%

Month-on-month: The cost of the **Joburg household food basket increased** by **R27,43 (0,6%)** from R4 305,69 in October 2021 to R4 333,12 in November 2021.

Year-on-year: The cost of the **Joburg household food basket increased** by **R278,17 (6,9%)** from R4 054,94 in November 2020 to R4 333,12 in November 2021.

11. NOVEMBER 2021 Household Food Index: Durban

Foods tracked	Quantity tracked	Index 2020/21			change in Rands		change in %	
		Nov_2020	Oct_2021	Nov_2021	Oct 2021 vs. Nov 2021	Nov 2020 vs. Nov 2021	Oct 2021 vs. Nov 2021	Nov 2020 vs. Nov 2021
Maize meal	30kg	R204,97	R214,88	R221,42	R 6,55	R 16,45	3%	8%
Rice	10kg	R130,41	R132,62	R131,72	-R 0,90	R 1,31	-1%	1%
Cake Flour	10kg	R91,57	R89,63	R90,54	R 0,91	-R 1,04	1%	-1%
White sugar	10kg	R146,32	R154,17	R150,72	-R 3,45	R 4,39	-2%	3%
Sugar beans	5kg	R146,24	R148,81	R150,88	R 2,07	R 4,64	1%	3%
Samp	5kg	R47,82	R45,89	R48,17	R 2,28	R 0,35	5%	1%
Cooking oil	5L	R104,49	R141,71	R139,81	-R 1,91	R 35,32	-1%	34%
Salt	1kg	R13,53	R13,81	R13,26	-R 0,54	-R 0,27	-4%	-2%
Potatoes	10kg	R91,69	R121,82	R97,34	-R 24,48	R 5,65	-20%	6%
Onions	10kg	R69,63	R67,77	R67,77	R 0,01	-R 1,85	0%	-3%
Frozen chicken portions	10kg	R308,50	R352,37	R343,68	-R 8,69	R 35,18	-2%	11%
Curry powder	200g	R31,07	R29,63	R29,08	-R 0,55	-R 1,99	-2%	-6%
Stock cubes	24 cubes x2	R37,81	R36,53	R35,25	-R 1,27	-R 2,56	-3%	-7%
Soup	400g x2	R36,65	R39,43	R38,71	-R 0,73	R 2,06	-2%	6%
Tea	250g	R21,99	R22,08	R21,81	-R 0,27	-R 0,18	-1%	-1%
Full cream milk	6L	R80,57	R84,72	R81,62	-R 3,09	R 1,05	-4%	1%
Maas	4L	R44,49	R45,90	R46,99	R 1,09	R 2,50	2%	6%
Eggs	60 eggs	R98,15	R110,34	R109,43	-R 0,91	R 11,29	-1%	12%
Chicken feet	2kg	R80,21	R81,62	R87,54	R 5,93	R 7,33	7%	9%
Gizzards	2kg	R70,21	R86,44	R87,19	R 0,75	R 16,98	1%	24%
Chicken livers	2kg	R55,46	R67,19	R63,28	-R 3,90	R 7,83	-6%	14%
Beef liver	2kg	R65,94	R94,19	R95,44	R 1,25	R 29,50	1%	45%
Beef	2kg	R147,44	R171,69	R189,44	R 17,75	R 42,00	10%	28%
Wors	2kg	R115,94	R148,66	R146,19	-R 2,48	R 30,25	-2%	26%
Inyama yangaphakathi	2kg	R77,44	R84,50	R82,21	-R 2,29	R 4,78	-3%	6%
Fish	2kg	R95,19	R109,69	R126,69	R 17,00	R 31,50	15%	33%
Tomatoes	6kg	R97,21	R113,61	R110,01	-R 3,61	R 12,79	-3%	13%
Carrots	5kg	R33,35	R31,59	R23,79	-R 7,80	-R 9,56	-25%	-29%
Butternut	10kg	R117,63	R143,19	R111,45	-R 31,74	-R 6,18	-22%	-5%
Spinach	8 bunches	R68,72	R78,48	R79,13	R 0,65	R 10,41	1%	15%
Cabbage	2 heads	R29,81	R29,62	R30,16	R 0,55	R 0,35	2%	1%
Green pepper	2kg	R44,65	R42,48	R44,38	R 1,90	-R 0,27	4%	-1%
Cremora	800g	R35,82	R36,99	R39,26	R 2,27	R 3,44	6%	10%
Tinned pilchards	400g x6	R117,44	R126,49	R125,95	-R 0,54	R 8,51	0%	7%
Canned beans	410g x6	R64,95	R67,59	R64,95	-R 2,63	R 0,01	-4%	0%
Bananas	4kg	R65,29	R65,05	R65,05	R 0,00	-R 0,24	0%	0%
Apples	3kg	R32,32	R35,08	R38,08	R 3,00	R 5,76	9%	18%
Oranges	7kg	R114,79	R42,21	R58,38	R 16,17	-R 56,41	38%	-49%
Margarine	1kg	R32,74	R34,17	R38,99	R 4,82	R 6,25	14%	19%
Peanut butter	400g x2	R63,48	R65,98	R65,25	-R 0,73	R 1,77	-1%	3%
Polony	2.5kg	R52,10	R64,42	R59,74	-R 4,68	R 7,64	-7%	15%
Apricot jam	900g	R28,74	R28,29	R28,54	R 0,25	-R 0,20	1%	-1%
White bread	25 loaves	R322,71	R329,36	R327,75	-R 1,61	R 5,04	0%	2%
Brown bread	25 loaves	R287,31	R296,41	R298,20	R 1,80	R 10,89	1%	4%
Total household food basket		R 4 022,78	R 4 327,06	R 4 305,23	-R 21,83	R 282,45	-0,5%	7,0%

Month-on-month: The cost of the **Durban household food basket decreased** by **R21,83 (-0,5%)** from R4 327,06 in October 2021 to R4 305,23 in November 2021.

Year-on-year: The cost of the **Durban household food basket increased** by **R282,45 (7%)** from R4 022,78 in November 2020 to R4 305,23 in November 2021.

12. NOVEMBER 2021 Household Food Index: Cape Town

Foods tracked	Quantity tracked	Index 2020/21			change in Rands		change in %	
		Nov_2020	Oct_2021	Nov_2021	Oct 2021 vs. Nov 2021	Nov 2020 vs. Nov 2021	Oct 2021 vs. Nov 2021	Nov 2020 vs. Nov 2021
Maize meal	30kg	R250,97	R264,72	R257,47	-R 7,25	R 6,50	-3%	3%
Rice	10kg	R147,33	R137,16	R143,82	R 6,66	-R 3,50	5%	-2%
Cake Flour	10kg	R96,23	R95,45	R95,99	R 0,55	-R 0,23	1%	0%
White sugar	10kg	R160,88	R168,49	R162,40	-R 6,09	R 1,53	-4%	1%
Sugar beans	5kg	R130,76	R173,69	R193,08	R 19,39	R 62,32	11%	48%
Samp	5kg	R45,12	R52,79	R49,09	-R 3,70	R 3,97	-7%	9%
Cooking oil	5L	R109,70	R128,37	R130,50	R 2,13	R 20,80	2%	19%
Salt	1kg	R6,66	R7,75	R7,64	-R 0,11	R 0,98	-1%	15%
Potatoes	10kg	R97,61	R114,59	R85,93	-R 28,67	-R 11,68	-25%	-12%
Onions	10kg	R65,47	R68,05	R64,46	-R 3,60	-R 1,02	-5%	-2%
Frozen chicken portions	10kg	R310,66	R340,63	R343,26	R 2,63	R 32,61	1%	10%
Curry powder	200g	R30,49	R31,63	R32,79	R 1,16	R 2,30	4%	8%
Stock cubes	24 cubes x2	R38,27	R36,71	R35,98	-R 0,73	-R 2,29	-2%	-6%
Soup	400g x2	R38,98	R41,97	R44,42	R 2,45	R 5,44	6%	14%
Tea	250g	R22,77	R24,07	R23,41	-R 0,67	R 0,64	-3%	3%
Full cream milk	6L	R68,87	R75,56	R70,90	-R 4,67	R 2,03	-6%	3%
Maas	4L	R48,65	R55,08	R55,49	R 0,41	R 6,83	1%	14%
Eggs	60 eggs	R96,87	R120,71	R116,53	-R 4,18	R 19,66	-3%	20%
Chicken feet	2kg	R27,98	R39,22	R37,10	-R 2,13	R 9,12	-5%	33%
Gizzards	2kg	R53,81	R66,46	R68,96	R 2,50	R 15,15	4%	28%
Chicken livers	2kg	R40,98	R43,65	R43,96	R 0,31	R 2,98	1%	7%
Beef liver	2kg	R72,98	R88,23	R85,20	-R 3,03	R 12,22	-3%	17%
Beef	2kg	R139,65	R156,23	R144,71	-R 11,52	R 5,06	-7%	4%
Wors	2kg	R97,31	R101,11	R91,97	-R 9,14	-R 5,34	-9%	-5%
Inyama yangaphakathi	2kg	R69,65	R71,65	R73,97	R 2,33	R 4,33	3%	6%
Fish	2kg	R83,98	R100,11	R104,55	R 4,43	R 20,56	4%	24%
Tomatoes	6kg	R115,17	R125,46	R114,59	-R 10,87	-R 0,58	-9%	-1%
Carrots	5kg	R27,24	R24,90	R23,26	-R 1,64	-R 3,98	-7%	-15%
Butternut	10kg	R109,61	R139,94	R108,71	-R 31,23	-R 0,90	-22%	-1%
Spinach	8 bunches	R76,36	R82,34	R80,30	-R 2,04	R 3,93	-2%	5%
Cabbage	2 heads	R30,87	R34,87	R35,26	R 0,38	R 4,39	1%	14%
Green pepper	2kg	R61,31	R57,84	R47,98	-R 9,86	-R 13,33	-17%	-22%
Cremora	800g	R33,43	R36,15	R37,66	R 1,50	R 4,22	4%	13%
Tinned pilchards	400g x6	R117,14	R116,95	R118,44	R 1,50	R 1,30	1%	1%
Canned beans	410g x6	R64,27	R64,32	R65,94	R 1,62	R 1,67	3%	3%
Bananas	4kg	R68,41	R54,51	R56,69	R 2,18	-R 11,72	4%	-17%
Apples	3kg	R35,09	R39,80	R38,65	-R 1,15	R 3,55	-3%	10%
Oranges	7kg	R41,98	R37,17	R39,92	R 2,76	-R 2,06	7%	-5%
Margarine	1kg	R34,65	R35,36	R33,16	-R 2,21	-R 1,50	-6%	-4%
Peanut butter	400g x2	R64,20	R61,64	R60,64	-R 1,00	-R 3,56	-2%	-6%
Polony	2.5kg	R43,54	R55,54	R51,09	-R 4,44	R 7,55	-8%	17%
Apricot jam	900g	R24,77	R27,91	R27,49	-R 0,42	R 2,72	-1%	11%
White bread	25 loaves	R347,03	R350,85	R360,23	R 9,38	R 13,20	3%	4%
Brown bread	25 loaves	R327,58	R331,06	R334,19	R 3,13	R 6,60	1%	2%
Total household food basket		R 3 975,28	R4 280,67	R4 197,74	-R 82,93	R 222,45	-1,9%	5,6%

Month-on-month: The cost of the **Cape Town household food basket** *decreased* by **R82,93 (-1,9%)** from R4 280,67 in October 2021 to R4 197,74 in November 2021.

Year-on-year: The cost of the **Cape Town household food basket** *increased* by **R222,45 (5,6%)** from R3 975,28 in November 2020 to R4 197,74 in November 2021.

13. NOVEMBER 2021 Household Food Index: Springbok

Foods tracked	Quantity tracked	Index 2020/21			change in Rands		change in %	
		Nov_2020	Oct_2021	Nov_2021	Oct 2021 vs. Nov 2021	Nov 2020 vs. Nov 2021	Oct 2021 vs. Nov 2021	Nov 2020 vs. Nov 2021
Maize meal	30kg	R221,97	R231,97	R218,97	-R 13,00	-R 3,00	-6%	-1%
Rice	10kg	R154,99	R156,32	R156,32	R 0,00	R 1,34	0%	1%
Cake Flour	10kg	R102,66	R98,66	R95,66	-R 3,00	-R 7,00	-3%	-7%
White sugar	10kg	R179,99	R174,99	R169,99	-R 5,00	-R 10,00	-3%	-6%
Sugar beans	5kg	R194,93	R219,90	R214,90	-R 5,00	R 19,98	-2%	10%
Samp	5kg	R52,96	R59,96	R56,63	-R 3,33	R 3,67	-6%	7%
Cooking oil	5L	R102,65	R137,48	R136,64	-R 0,83	R 33,99	-1%	33%
Salt	1kg	R16,99	R17,66	R17,66	R 0,00	R 0,67	0%	4%
Potatoes	10kg	R103,79	R118,55	R85,22	-R 33,33	-R 18,57	-28%	-18%
Onions	10kg	R112,20	R83,47	R80,13	-R 3,33	-R 32,07	-4%	-29%
Frozen chicken portions	10kg	R356,17	R387,47	R367,47	-R 20,00	R 11,30	-5%	3%
Curry powder	200g	R32,99	R39,32	R39,32	R 0,00	R 6,33	0%	19%
Stock cubes	24 cubes x2	R45,31	R39,31	R35,31	-R 4,00	-R 10,00	-10%	-22%
Soup	400g x2	R33,31	R35,31	R35,98	R 0,67	R 2,67	2%	8%
Tea	250g	R24,66	R18,99	R23,32	R 4,33	-R 1,33	23%	-5%
Full cream milk	6L	R69,99	R74,99	R72,66	-R 2,33	R 2,67	-3%	4%
Maas	4L	R49,99	R55,99	R47,66	-R 8,33	-R 2,33	-15%	-5%
Eggs	60 eggs	R112,65	R136,65	R131,98	-R 4,67	R 19,33	-3%	17%
Chicken feet	2kg	R79,98	R69,98	R69,98	R 0,00	-R 10,00	0%	-13%
Gizzards	2kg	R69,98	R73,98	R73,98	R 0,00	R 4,00	0%	6%
Chicken livers	2kg	R45,49	R86,98	R90,98	R 4,00	R 45,49	5%	100%
Beef liver	2kg	R71,94	R97,98	R95,98	-R 2,00	R 24,04	-2%	33%
Beef	2kg	R139,98	R179,98	R177,98	-R 2,00	R 38,00	-1%	27%
Wors	2kg	R129,94	R92,98	R148,98	R 56,00	R 19,04	60%	15%
Inyama yangaphakathi	2kg	R99,90	R99,98	R99,98	R 0,00	R 0,08	0%	0%
Fish	2kg	R120,98	R165,98	R155,98	-R 10,00	R 35,00	-6%	29%
Tomatoes	6kg	R112,95	R109,94	R83,94	-R 26,00	-R 29,01	-24%	-26%
Carrots	5kg	R39,64	R48,29	R41,63	-R 6,66	R 1,99	-14%	5%
Butternut	10kg	R146,65	R138,87	R138,31	-R 0,56	-R 8,34	0%	-6%
Spinach	8 bunches	R93,25	R95,92	R95,92	R 0,00	R 2,67	0%	3%
Cabbage	2 heads	R41,98	R33,98	R27,98	-R 6,00	-R 14,00	-18%	-33%
Green pepper	2kg	R63,31	R45,31	R54,65	R 9,33	-R 8,67	21%	-14%
Cremora	800g	R31,32	R32,99	R33,66	R 0,67	R 2,33	2%	7%
Tinned pilchards	400g x6	R119,94	R119,94	R115,94	-R 4,00	-R 4,00	-3%	-3%
Canned beans	410g x6	R73,94	R74,94	R69,94	-R 5,00	-R 4,00	-7%	-5%
Bananas	4kg	R73,96	R65,28	R73,28	R 8,00	-R 0,68	12%	-1%
Apples	3kg	R26,99	R32,98	R31,65	-R 1,33	R 4,66	-4%	17%
Oranges	7kg	R52,09	R58,29	R57,52	-R 0,78	R 5,43	-1%	10%
Margarine	1kg	R30,82	R33,99	R27,66	-R 6,33	-R 3,17	-19%	-10%
Peanut butter	400g x2	R63,98	R54,65	R58,65	R 4,00	-R 5,33	7%	-8%
Polony	2.5kg	R41,32	R47,66	R47,66	R 0,00	R 6,33	0%	15%
Apricot jam	900g	R28,66	R30,66	R27,32	-R 3,33	-R 1,33	-11%	-5%
White bread	25 loaves	R337,25	R333,08	R333,08	R 0,00	-R 4,17	0%	-1%
Brown bread	25 loaves	R320,58	R316,42	R316,42	R 0,00	-R 4,17	0%	-1%
Total household food basket		R 4 425,03	R 4 628,01	R 4 534,86	-R 93,14	R 109,84	-2,0%	2,5%

Month-on-month: The cost of the **Springbok household food basket decreased** by **R93,14 (-2%)** from R4 628,01 in October 2021 to R4 534,86 in November 2021.

Year-on-year: The cost of the **Springbok household food basket increased** by **R109,84 (2,5%)** from R4 425,03 in November 2020 to R4 534,86 in November 2021.

14. NOVEMBER 2021 Household Food Index: Pietermaritzburg

Foods tracked	Quantity tracked	Index 2020/21			change in Rands		change in %	
		Nov_2020	Oct_2021	Nov_2021	Oct 2021 vs. Nov 2021	Nov 2020 vs. Nov 2021	Oct 2021 vs. Nov 2021	Nov 2020 vs. Nov 2021
Maize meal	30kg	R239,97	R259,17	R248,97	-R 10,20	R 9,00	-4%	4%
Rice	10kg	R112,19	R103,79	R99,39	-R 4,40	-R 12,80	-4%	-11%
Cake Flour	10kg	R85,99	R85,39	R85,79	R 0,40	-R 0,20	0%	0%
White sugar	10kg	R147,99	R155,59	R158,79	R 3,20	R 10,80	2%	7%
Sugar beans	5kg	R134,79	R158,99	R148,99	-R 10,00	R 14,20	-6%	11%
Samp	5kg	R36,19	R37,59	R37,24	-R 0,35	R 1,05	-1%	3%
Cooking oil	5L	R105,59	R138,99	R144,39	R 5,40	R 38,80	4%	37%
Salt	1kg	R15,59	R15,99	R16,39	R 0,40	R 0,80	3%	5%
Potatoes	10kg	R82,44	R123,13	R78,02	-R 45,12	-R 4,43	-37%	-5%
Onions	10kg	R55,70	R44,55	R47,12	R 2,57	-R 8,57	6%	-15%
Frozen chicken portions	10kg	R322,39	R342,85	R353,31	R 10,47	R 30,92	3%	10%
Curry powder	200g	R30,19	R28,59	R28,99	R 0,40	-R 1,20	1%	-4%
Stock cubes	24 cubes x2	R34,78	R35,98	R33,58	-R 2,40	-R 1,20	-7%	-3%
Soup	400g x2	R28,38	R27,98	R25,18	-R 2,80	-R 3,20	-10%	-11%
Tea	250g	R21,59	R21,59	R21,99	R 0,40	R 0,40	2%	2%
Full cream milk	6L	R86,03	R86,39	R83,39	-R 3,00	-R 2,64	-3%	-3%
Maas	4L	R40,19	R44,79	R45,59	R 0,80	R 5,40	2%	13%
Eggs	60 eggs	R90,79	R116,94	R110,98	-R 5,96	R 20,19	-5%	22%
Chicken feet	2kg	R76,39	R89,13	R73,92	-R 15,21	-R 2,47	-17%	-3%
Gizzards	2kg	R66,94	R92,89	R83,44	-R 9,46	R 16,50	-10%	25%
Chicken livers	2kg	R42,94	R66,44	R68,94	R 2,50	R 26,00	4%	61%
Beef liver	2kg	R76,94	R94,59	R93,25	-R 1,33	R 16,32	-1%	21%
Beef	2kg	R159,94	R167,44	R190,94	R 23,50	R 31,00	14%	19%
Wors	2kg	R115,89	R144,85	R149,98	R 5,13	R 34,09	4%	29%
Inyama yangaphakathi	2kg	R71,89	R72,39	R80,44	R 8,05	R 8,55	11%	12%
Fish	2kg	R106,49	R112,44	R107,94	-R 4,50	R 1,45	-4%	1%
Tomatoes	6kg	R62,49	R83,31	R77,48	-R 5,83	R 14,99	-7%	24%
Carrots	5kg	R15,49	R17,39	R16,39	-R 1,00	R 0,90	-6%	6%
Butternut	10kg	R80,84	R130,58	R71,70	-R 58,89	-R 9,14	-45%	-11%
Spinach	8 bunches	R43,12	R49,28	R47,94	-R 1,34	R 4,82	-3%	11%
Cabbage	2 heads	R27,18	R26,48	R24,38	-R 2,10	-R 2,80	-8%	-10%
Green pepper	2kg	R31,58	R34,78	R40,98	R 6,20	R 9,40	18%	30%
Cremora	800g	R32,79	R36,79	R38,99	R 2,20	R 6,20	6%	19%
Tinned pilchards	400g x6	R101,94	R116,34	R115,14	-R 1,20	R 13,20	-1%	13%
Canned beans	410g x6	R64,74	R77,94	R79,14	R 1,20	R 14,40	2%	22%
Bananas	4kg	R51,16	R46,96	R47,96	R 1,00	-R 3,20	2%	-6%
Apples	3kg	R26,99	R33,59	R36,19	R 2,60	R 9,20	8%	34%
Oranges	7kg	R51,00	R32,99	R64,46	R 31,47	R 13,47	95%	26%
Margarine	1kg	R36,79	R40,79	R39,59	-R 1,20	R 2,80	-3%	8%
Peanut butter	400g x2	R64,38	R63,18	R63,18	R 0,00	-R 1,20	0%	-2%
Polony	2.5kg	R59,99	R64,99	R63,49	-R 1,50	R 3,50	-2%	6%
Apricot jam	900g	R29,39	R31,79	R30,19	-R 1,60	R 0,80	-5%	3%
White bread	25 loaves	R302,90	R339,31	R324,88	-R 14,44	R 21,98	-4%	7%
Brown bread	25 loaves	R271,40	R294,94	R287,44	-R 7,50	R 16,04	-3%	6%
Total household food basket		R 3 742,34	R4 189,88	R4 086,45	-R 103,44	R 344,11	-2,5%	9,2%

Month-on-month: The cost of the Pietermaritzburg household food basket *decreased* by R103,44 (-2,5%) from R4 189,88 in October 2021 to R4 086,45 in November 2021.

Year-on-year: The cost of the Pietermaritzburg household food basket *increased* by R344,11 (9,2%) from R3 742,34 in November 2020 to R4 086,45 in November 2021.

15. Food Price Methodology

In 2019 we began a process of thinking through how to expand the scope of the Pietermaritzburg-based Household Affordability Index. The reason to expand the scope of the Pietermaritzburg data was to seek greater empirical evidence of the national picture of household affordability constraints and how families, living on low incomes, were responding to a deepening financial and economic crisis, given rising expenditure costs, job losses, stagnant employment, a deepening food crisis, deepening poverty and entrenched inequality.

The Pietermaritzburg Household Affordability Index is a realistic and accurate tool to measure inflation on basic expenditure items for households living on low incomes, whilst able to provide a picture of how families living on low incomes are responding to a deepening household affordability crisis. The data that we release monthly is important and provides a reflection of what is playing out in Pietermaritzburg but it is also able to provide a reasonable reflection of what might be playing out nationally. Expanding the scope of our data beyond Pietermaritzburg is an attempt to better track and analyse the national picture of household affordability.

In April 2020, PMBEJD started a process of expanding the scope of food price data collection and having conversations with women in four new areas: Johannesburg, Durban, Cape Town, and Springbok. Women living in low-income households within these areas were approached to work with us, talk with us, think with us, and track food prices and other expenditures in the areas in which they lived. The areas include Soweto, Alexandra, Tembisa and Hillbrow; Gugulethu, Philippi, Khayelitsha, Langa, Delft, Dunoon; KwaMashu, Umlazi, Isipingo, Durban CBD, and Mtubatuba; and Springbok, and includes Pietermaritzburg.

Between April and August 2020 we ran a pilot, based on the Pietermaritzburg methodology, to (1) test which foods constitute the core foods and the volumes of these foods in the trollies of low income households in the new areas; (2) identify, test and verify supermarkets and butcheries which target the low-income market and where women living on low incomes do their shopping; and (3) collect food prices from the supermarkets and butcheries every two weeks (for 5 months), whilst improving the practice of selection of foods for greater accuracy of data (this included buying and cooking selected cheaper food brands to check quality), as well as to continually track and reflect how women themselves make decisions at the supermarket shelves.

The pilot was successful.

The outcomes of which were that the core foods identified by women as constituting those in the area-based household food baskets were very closely reflective of the foods and volumes of foods in the Pietermaritzburg Household Food Basket. Women agreed that the Pietermaritzburg Household Food Basket was a good proxy for the baskets in new areas, but that a few modifications should be made to improve its accuracy of area-based food purchasing dynamics to better reflect the core foods in the basket. In this regard several new foods were added to the new Food Basket, and some foods originally in the Pietermaritzburg Household Food Basket were increased/decreased in volume or dropped from the trolley.

The new Food Basket retains the core of the Pietermaritzburg Household Food Basket with the following modifications: **new foods** added are 6L Full cream milk, 2kg chicken livers, 2kg beef livers, 2kg fish (seasonal), 2kg green pepper and 7kg oranges. **Increased volumes** are 3kg apples (up from 1,5kg), 4 bars of 500g green bar bath soap (up from 2 bars of 500g), and 1,5L of *jik* (up from 750ml). **Reduced volumes** are 30kg maize meal (down from 35kg), 2kg chicken feet (down from 5kg), 1kg margarine (down from 2 x 1kg), and 1 x 900g apricot jam (down from 2 x 900g). **Removed item** is *jeyes fluid*. **The new Food Basket includes 44 foods & the Domestic & Hygiene Products Basket includes 14 products.**

The new basket reflects the most important foods in the trollies of families living on low incomes in the new areas. Because we have universalised the new basket (the basket is the same for all 5 areas: Joburg, Durban, Cape Town, Springbok and Pietermaritzburg), it is important to note that whilst the new basket reflects the core foods in the trollies across the five areas; there will be nuances within households and areas. For example, there will be differences in the volumes of starches (viz. maize meal and rice); types of meats (viz. chicken feet, fish, offal, and red meats); and purchasing of types of fruits and vegetables (seasonality). This is expected. The new basket therefore is a proxy of the foods, the volumes of foods and the cost of foods which form a household basket in each area and averaged for all areas. ***It cannot however be considered the basket for every family living on a low income in each area and***

for all areas covered. It is however considered a reasonable proxy for a food basket which women identified as including the most important typical foods which most households try and buy each month.

The supermarkets and butcheries selected by women are those which most households, in the areas in which they live, do their shopping in, and which offer the cheapest/or most affordable prices. These are all supermarkets which target the low-income market. In total, prices are tracked in 44 supermarkets and 30 butcheries.

The methodology used to collect food prices is unique and has some significant implications: (1) food price inflation is tempered by switching to cheaper brands if monthly prices increase beyond what women consider affordable or reasonable; and (2) [linked to 1] the cost of the household food basket month-to-month is relatively stable, and therefore provides an accurate measure of inflation, whilst also better able to show spikes (because women absorb price shocks by switching to cheaper brands – if there is a spike, then there really is a spike because the shock was not absorbed by switching as most brands of that food would have increased); and (3) the household food basket is accurately able to capture the real costs of food and other basic expenditures for households living on low incomes.

Implications of expanding the scope of the Household Affordability Index

Expanding the scope of the food price work provides a better lens into the national picture of food price inflation, the cost of a food basket, household affordability, low wages, and low social grants. Conversing with women in Johannesburg, Durban, Cape Town, and Springbok further provides a deeper level of understanding on inflation on different foods, the vagaries of local contexts, the different ways women respond to food price and other expenditure fluctuations and how women cope on low incomes; and what different local situations look like and what women think about what is happening, and what should be done about it. Through dialogue and confirming stories and insights with all women data collectors we are also able to provide a joint narrative of what is happening (what the situation is like), whilst pulling out the nuances. The Household Affordability Index is better able to reflect the national picture of the deepening household affordability crisis.

Whilst we intend to continue broadening the scope of the Household Affordability Index, to include more areas in South Africa as well as including more expense and income data; and therefore improving data capacity to better reflect a wider national picture, whilst continually improving the accuracy of data collected and analysis, we are confident that the data and analysis which we now release to the public from September 2020 is sound, grounded, verifiable and accurate in capturing the real cost of foods as purchased by women living on low incomes, and the decisions taken by women at the supermarket shelves in Johannesburg, Durban, Cape Town, Springbok and Pietermaritzburg.

Summary of the new Household Food Basket

The Household Food Basket has been designed together with women living on low incomes in Johannesburg (Soweto, Alexandra, Tembisa and Hillbrow), Cape Town (Gugulethu, Philippi, Khayelitsha, Langa, Delft, Dunoon), Durban (KwaMashu, Umlazi, Isipingo, Durban CBD, and Mtubatuba), and Springbok (in the Northern Cape), and Pietermaritzburg. It includes the foods and the volumes of these foods which women living in a family of seven members (an average low-income household size) tell us they typically try and secure each month. **The Household Food Basket is not nutritionally complete. It is a basket of food which women try and secure each month for their families given affordability constraints.**

Food prices are tracked directly by women data collectors off the shelves of 44 supermarkets and 30 butcheries that target the low-income market and which women identified as those they shop at. Food selection at the supermarket shelves mirrors how women themselves make decisions at the supermarket shelves given affordability constraints viz. that the foods are chosen on relative affordability and reasonable quality, and food brands are switched to seek out the cheapest prices and special deals. The selection of food brands is dynamic and subjective. Women are smart and savvy, and shop around for bargains: this specific methodology used provides an accurate cost of a monthly household food basket, as purchased by women living on low incomes.

There are 44 foods in the Household Food Basket. The date for data collection is between the 1st and 4th day of each month. Data is collected and released in the same month. Data is presented for each area, and it is also weighted and averaged for all 5 areas. Weighting is as follows: 27% for Joburg, Durban & Cape Town; 12% Pietermaritzburg, and 7% Springbok.

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