

Key data from the July 2024 Household Affordability Index

The July 2024 Household Affordability Index, which tracks the prices of 44 basic foods from 47 supermarkets and 32 butcheries, in Johannesburg (Soweto, Alexandra, Tembisa and Hillbrow), Durban (KwaMashu, Umlazi, Isipingo, Durban CBD, Hammarsdale and Pinetown), Cape Town (Khayelitsha, Gugulethu, Philippi, Langa, Delft and Dunoon), Pietermaritzburg, Mtubatuba (in Northern KwaZulu-Natal), and Springbok (in the Northern Cape), shows that:

- **In July 2024:** The average cost of the Household Food Basket is **R5 252,15**.
- **Month-on-month:** The average cost of the Household Food Basket **decreased** by **R0,62 (-0,0%)**, from R5 252,77 in June 2024 to R5 252,15 in July 2024.
- **Year-on-year:** The average cost of the Household Food Basket **increased** by **R170,21 (3,3%)**, from R5 081,94 in July 2023 to R5 252,15 in July 2024.

Food pricing trends in July 2024.

In July 22 foods increased in price, and 22 foods decreased in price.

Foods in the basket which increased in price in July 2024 by 5% or more, include: samp (6%), eggs (5%), and green pepper (6%).

Foods in the basket which increased in price in July 2024 by 2% or more, include: maize meal (2%), rice (3%), chicken livers (2%), *cremora* (2%), apples (2%), peanut butter (3%), white bread (3%), and brown bread (2%).

Foods in the basket which decreased in price in July 2024, by 5% or more, include: tomatoes (-8%), carrots (-9%), butternut (-6%), spinach (-6%), and oranges (-5%).

Foods in the basket which decreased in price in July 2024, by 2% or more, include: onions (-2%), curry powder (-4%), soup (-2%), tea (-4%), chicken gizzards (-2%), wors (-2%), beef tripe (-2%), cabbage (-4%), polony (-2%), and apricot jam (-2%).

See page 2 of July 2024, Household Affordability Index.

Inflation on the food baskets per area tracked.

In July 2024, food baskets decreased in Joburg, Cape Town, Springbok and Pietermaritzburg. Food baskets increased in Durban and Mtubatuba. (See pages 10-15 for area specific data, in the July 2024, Household Affordability Index).

The Joburg basket **decreased** by R6,38 (-0,1%) month-on-month, and **increased** by R381,99 (7,4%) year-on-year, to **R5 533,49** in July 2024.

The Durban basket **increased** by R84,72 (1,7%) month-on-month, and **increased** by R190,88 (3,8%) year-on-year, to **R5 212,55** in July 2024.

The Cape Town basket **decreased** by R67,69 (-1,3%) month-on-month, and **decreased** by R21,73 (-0,4%) year-on-year, to **R5 033,05** in July 2024.

The Springbok basket **decreased** by R70,32 (-1,3%) month-on-month, and **increased** by R101,32 (1,9%) year-on-year, to **R5 401,64** in July 2024.

The Maritzburg basket **decreased** by R22,66 (-0,4%) month-on-month, and **increased** by R120,52 (2,4%) year-on-year, to **R5 065,24** in July 2024.

The Mtubatuba basket **increased** by R14,68 (0,3%) month-on-month, and **increased** by R78,82 (1,5%) year-on-year, to **R5 248,10** in July 2024.

Statistics South Africa's latest Consumer Price Index.

Statistics South Africa's latest *Consumer Price Index* for June 2024ⁱ shows that **Headline inflation was 5,1%**, and for the **lowest expenditure quintiles 1-3 it is 5,8%, 5,4%, and 5,0%** respectively. **CPI Food inflation was 4,1%** (for CPI Food & NAB it was 4,6%, we use the figure excluding non-alcoholic beverages). STATS SA's *Producer Price Index* for June 2024ⁱⁱ shows **agriculture was 10,5%**.

Women and children

In July 2024, the average cost to feed a child a basic nutritious diet was **R935,71**. Over the past month, the average cost to feed a child a basic nutritious diet **increased** by **R0,62** or **0,1%**. Year-on-year, the average cost to feed a child a basic nutritious diet **increased** by **R36,17** or **4,0%** (See page 6 of July 2024, *Household Affordability Index*).

In July 2024, the **Child Support Grant** of **R530** is **30%** below the **Food Poverty Line** of **R760**, and **43%** below the average **cost to feed a child a basic nutritious diet (R935,71)**.

Workers

The National Minimum Wage is **R27,58** an hour and **R220,64** for an 8-hour day. In July 2024, with 23 working days, the maximum National Minimum Wage for a General Worker is **R5 074,72**. Workers work to support their families. The wage workers earn is not just to sustain themselves alone, it is used to support the entire family. For Black South African workers, **one wage typically must support 4 people**. **Dispersed in a worker's family of 4 persons, the NMW, is R1 268,68 per person – this is below the upper-bound poverty line of R1 558 per person per month.**

The July 2024 average cost of a basic nutritional food basket for a family of four persons is **R3 669,23** (See page 6 of July 2024, *Household Affordability Index*).

On our calculations, using Pietermaritzburg-based figures for electricity and transport, and the average figure for a minimum nutritional basket of food for a family of four, puts electricity, and transport, taking up **56,8%** of a worker's wage (R2 882,97/R5 074,72). Food is bought after monies for transport and electricity have been paid for or set aside (leaving **R2 191,75** – for food and everything else), and so in July 2024, PMBEJD calculates that workers' families will **underspend on food by a minimum of 40,3% (having R2 191,75 left over after transport and electricity, and with food costing R3 669,23)**. **In this scenario there is no possibility of a worker being able to afford enough nutritious food for her family. If the entire R2 191,75 all went to buy food, then for a family of 4 persons, we are looking at R547,93 per person per month. This is below the food poverty line of R760** (See page 8 of July 2024, *Household Affordability Index*).

Household domestic and personal hygiene products

The July 2024 *Household Domestic & Personal Hygiene Index* shows an **increase** of **R7,67 (0,7%)** month-on-month. Year-on-year the household domestic and personal hygiene products index **increased** by **R73,56 (7,6%)** bringing the total average cost of basic household domestic and personal hygiene products to **R1 037,33** in July 2024 (See page 5 of July 2024, *Household Affordability Index*).

The cost of basic hygiene products is high. These products compete in the household purse with food. These products are essential for good health and hygiene.

ⁱ STATSSA (2024). **Consumer Price Index June 2024**. Statistical release P0141. 24 July 2024. Statistics South Africa. Pretoria. P4, 7. See Link: <https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0141/P0141June2024.pdf>

ⁱⁱ STATSSA (2024). **Producer Price Index June 2024**. Statistical release P0142.1. 25 July 2024. Statistics South Africa. Pretoria. P12. See Link: <https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P01421/P01421June2024.pdf>