



**Key data from the May 2025 Household Affordability Index**

The May 2025 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, Hammarisdale 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 May 2025:** The average cost of the Household Food Basket is **R5 466,59**.
- **Month-on-month:** The average cost of the Household Food Basket **increased** by **R46,29 (0,9%)**, from R5 420,30 in April 2025 to R5 466,59 in May 2025.
- **Year-on-year:** The average cost of the Household Food Basket **increased** by **R136,29 (2,6%)**, from R5 330,30 in May 2024 to R5 466,59 in May 2025.

**Food pricing trends in May 2025.**

In May, of the 44 foods tracked in the basket: 33 foods increased in price, and 11 foods decreased in price. *See page 2 of May 2025, Household Affordability Index.*

*Below are the price movements of individual foods in the average household food basket:*

**Foods in the basket which increased in price in May 2025 by 5% or more**, include: potatoes (7%), onions (23%), tea (5%), chicken feet (6%), carrots (8%), butternut (9%), spinach (5%), and peanut butter (5%).

**Foods in the basket which increased in price in May 2025 by 2% or more**, include: samp (2%), salt (2%), frozen chicken portions (2%), soup (2%), Maas (4%), beef liver (3%), beef (4%), wors (3%), fish (2%), cabbage (2%), cremora (3%), bananas (2%), apples (2%), margarine (3%), polony (3%), and apricot jam (2%).

**Foods in the basket which decreased in price in May 2025, by 5% or more**, include: rice (-5%), tomatoes (-9%) and oranges (-23%).

**Foods in the basket which decreased in price in May 2025, by 2% or more**, include: white sugar (-2%), full cream milk (-2%), green pepper (-2%), and tinned pilchards (-2%).

**Inflation on the food baskets per area tracked.**

*In May 2025, food baskets in Joburg, Durban, Cape Town, Pietermaritzburg, and Mtubatuba increased in price. The Springbok food basket decreased in price.*

The Joburg basket **increased** by R51,00 (0,9%) month-on-month, and **increased** by R17,17 (0,3%) year-on-year, to **R5 610,46** in May 2025.

The Durban basket **increased** by R2,64 (0,0%) month-on-month, and **increased** by R87,08 (1,6%) year-on-year, to **R5 427,87** in May 2025.

The Cape Town basket **increased** by R112,62 (2,1%) month-on-month, and **increased** by R299,18 (5,8%) year-on-year, to **R5 429,18** in May 2025.

The Springbok basket **decreased** by R28,90 (-0,5%) month-on-month, and **increased** by R302,46 (5,4%) year-on-year, to **R5 879,94** in May 2025.

The Pietermaritzburg basket **increased** by R6,33 (0,1%) month-on-month, and **increased** by R57,01 (1,1%) year-on-year, to **R5 050,80** in May 2025.

The Mtubatuba basket **increased** by R87,51 (1,6%) month-on-month, and **increased** by R75,97 (1,4%) year-on-year, to **R5 400,06** in May 2025.

*(See pages 10-15 for area specific data, in the May 2025, Household Affordability Index).*

### **Statistics South Africa's latest Consumer Price Index.**

Statistics South Africa's latest *Consumer Price Index* for April 2025<sup>1</sup> shows that **Headline inflation was 2,8%**, and for the **lowest expenditure quintiles 1-3 it is 4,3%, 3,9%, and 3,5%** respectively. **CPI Food inflation was 3,3%** (for CPI Food & NAB it was 4,0%, we use the figure excluding non-alcoholic beverages). STATS SA's *Producer Price Index* for March 2025<sup>2</sup> shows **Agriculture was 2,4%**, of which, *Products of crops and horticulture* was **9,2%**, and *Live animals and animal products* was **-7.1%**

### **Workers**

The National Minimum Wage is R28,79 per hour, R230,32 for an 8-hour day, and R4 836,72 for an average 21-day working month.

In May 2025, with **21 working-days**, the maximum National Minimum Wage for a General Worker is **R4 836,72**. 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 209,18 per person – this is below the upper-bound poverty line of R1 634 per person per month.**

The May 2025 average cost of a basic nutritional food basket for a family of four persons is **R3 843,40** *(See page 6 of May 2025, 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 **56,3%** of a worker's wage (R2 722,97/R4 836,72). Food is bought after monies for transport and electricity have been paid for or set aside (leaving **R2 113,75** – for food and everything else), and so in May 2025, PMBEJD calculates that workers' families will **underspend on food by a minimum of 45,0%** (having R2 113,75 left over after transport and electricity have been paid, and with food for the month costing R3 843,40). **In this scenario there is no possibility of a worker being able to afford enough nutritious food for her family.** If the entire R2 113,75 all went to buy food, then for a family of 4 persons, **it would provide R528,44 per person per month. This is below the food poverty line of R796** *(See page 8 of May 2025, Household Affordability Index).*

### **Women and children**

In May 2025, the average cost to feed a child a basic nutritious diet was **R979,66**. Over the past month, the average cost to feed a child a basic nutritious diet **increased by R6,41 (0,7%)**. Year-on-year, the average cost to feed a child a basic nutritious diet **increased by R25,07 (2,6%)**. *See page 6 of May 2025, Household Affordability Index.*

In May 2025, the **Child Support Grant of R560** is **30%** below the **Food Poverty Line of R796**, and **43%** below the average **cost to feed a child a basic nutritious diet (R979,66)**.

### **Household domestic and personal hygiene products**

The May 2025 *Household Domestic & Personal Hygiene Index* **decreased by R3,58 (-0,3%)** month-on-month. Year-on-year the household domestic and personal hygiene products index **increased by R5,89 (0,6%)** bringing the total average cost of basic household domestic and personal hygiene products to **R1 029,52** in May 2025 *(See page 5 of May 2025, Household Affordability Index).*

*The cost of basic hygiene products is high. These products are part of the monthly groceries, and compete in the household purse with food. These products are essential for good health and hygiene; and dignity.*

<sup>1</sup> STATSSA (2025). **Consumer Price Index April 2025**. Statistical release P0141. 21 May 2025. Statistics South Africa. Pretoria. P3, 6. See Link: <https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0141/P0141April2025.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> STATSSA (2025). **Producer Price Index March 2025**. Statistical release P0142.1. 24 April 2025. Statistics South Africa. Pretoria. P12. See Link: <https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P01421/P01421March2025.pdf>