

Key data from the July 2025 Household Affordability Index

The July 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, 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 2025:** The average cost of the Household Food Basket is **R5 442,72**.
- **Month-on-month:** The average cost of the Household Food Basket **decreased** by **R0,41 (-0,0%)**, from R5 443,12 in June 2025 to R5 442,72 in July 2025.
- **Year-on-year:** The average cost of the Household Food Basket **increased** by **R190,57 (3,6%)**, from R5 252,15 in July 2024 to R5 442,72 in July 2025.

Food pricing trends in July 2025.

In July, of the 44 foods tracked in the basket: 17 foods increased in price, and 26 foods decreased in price, and 1 food's price remained unchanged. See page 2 of July 2025, Household Affordability Index.

Below are the month-on-month price movements of individual foods in the average household food basket:

Foods in the basket which increased in price in July 2025 by 5% or more, include: beef (8%), beef tripe (7%), and butternut (20%).

Foods in the basket which increased in price in July 2025 by 2% or more, include: full cream milk (3%), chicken feet (4%), chicken gizzards (4%), beef liver (3%), wors (3%), fish (3%), cabbage (2%), polony (4%), and brown bread (4%).

Foods in the basket which decreased in price in July 2025, by 5% or more, include: maize meal (-5%), salt (-6%), carrots (-5%), spinach (-6%), bananas (-13%), oranges (-15%), and peanut butter (-5%).

Foods in the basket which decreased in price in July 2025, by 2% or more, include: cake flour (-2%), white sugar (-2%), sugar beans (-2%), cooking oil (-2%), potatoes (-4%), onions (-3%), eggs (-3%), apples (-3%), margarine (-2%), and apricot jam (-2%).

Inflation on the food baskets per area tracked.

In July 2025, food baskets in Joburg, Durban, and Mtubatuba increased in price. Food baskets in Cape Town, Springbok, and Pietermaritzburg decreased in price.

The Joburg basket **increased** by R7,58 (0,1%) month-on-month, and **increased** by R122,94 (2,2%) year-on-year, to **R5 656,43** in July 2025.

The Durban basket **increased** by R45,87 (0,9%) month-on-month, and **increased** by R145,54 (2,8%) year-on-year, to **R5 358,09** in July 2025.

The Cape Town basket **decreased** by R25,88 (-0,5%) month-on-month, and **increased** by R338,30 (6,7%) year-on-year, to **R5 371,35** in July 2025.

The Springbok basket **decreased** by R36,93 (-0,6%) month-on-month, and **increased** by R333,86 (6,2%) year-on-year, to **R5 735,50** in July 2025.

The Pietermaritzburg basket **decreased** by R54,43 (-1,1%) month-on-month, and **increased** by R27,58 (0,5%) year-on-year, to **R5 092,82** in July 2025.

The Mtubatuba basket **increased** by R60,32 (1,1%) month-on-month, and **increased** by R239,87 (4,6%) year-on-year, to **R5 487,97** in July 2025.

(See pages 10-16 for area specific data, in the July 2025, Household Affordability Index).

Statistics South Africa's latest Consumer Price Index.

Statistics South Africa's latest *Consumer Price Index* for June 2025¹ shows that **Headline inflation was 3,0%**, and for the **lowest expenditure quintiles 1-3 it is 4,7%, 4,1%, and 3,7%** respectively. **CPI Food inflation was 4,7%** (for CPI Food & NAB it was 5,1%, we use the figure excluding non-alcoholic beverages). STATS SA's *Producer Price Index* for May 2025² shows **Agriculture was 5,9%**, of which, *Products of crops and horticulture* was **7,7%**, and *Live animals and animal products* was **3,3%**.

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 July 2025, with **23 working-days**, the maximum National Minimum Wage for a General Worker is **R5 297,36**. 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 324,34 per person – this is below the upper-bound poverty line of R1 634 per person per month.**

The July 2025 average cost of a basic nutritional food basket for a family of four persons is **R3 755,87** *(See page 6 of July 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 **57,0%** of a worker's wage (R3 021,85/R5 297,36). Food is bought after monies for transport and electricity have been paid for or set aside (leaving **R2 275,51** – for food and everything else), and so in July 2025, PMBEJD calculates that workers' families will **underspend on food by a minimum of 39,4%** (having R2 275,51 left over after transport and electricity have been paid, and with food for the month costing R3 755,87). **In this scenario there is no possibility of a worker being able to afford enough nutritious food for her family.** If the entire R2 275,51 all went to buy food, then for a family of 4 persons, **it would provide R568,88 per person per month. This is below the food poverty line of R796 per person per month** *(See page 8 of July 2025, Household Affordability Index).*

Women and children

In July 2025, the average monthly cost to feed a child a basic nutritious diet was **R957,41**. Over the past month, the average cost to feed a child a basic nutritious diet **decreased** by **R13,48 (-1,4%)**. Year-on-year, the average cost to feed a child a basic nutritious diet **increased** by **R21,70 (2,3%)**. *See page 6 of July 2025, Household Affordability Index.*

In July 2025, the **Child Support Grant** of **R560** is **30%** below the **Food Poverty Line** of **R796**, and **42%** below the average monthly **cost to feed a child a basic nutritious diet (R957,41)**.

Household domestic and personal hygiene products

The July 2025 *Household Domestic & Personal Hygiene Index* **decreased** by **R19,91 (-1,9%)** month-on-month. Year-on-year the household domestic and personal hygiene products index **decreased** by **R15,77 (-1,5%)** bringing the total average cost of basic household domestic and personal hygiene products to **R1 021,56** in July 2025 *(See page 5 of July 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.

¹ STATSSA (2025). **Consumer Price Index June 2025**. Statistical release P0141. 23 July 2025. Statistics South Africa. Pretoria. P3, 6. See Link: <https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0141/P0141June2025.pdf>

² STATSSA (2025). **Producer Price Index May 2025**. Statistical release P0142.1. 26 June 2025. Statistics South Africa. Pretoria. P12. See Link: <https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P01421/P01421May2025.pdf>