

Key data from the August 2025 Household Affordability Index

The August 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 August 2025:** The average cost of the Household Food Basket is **R5 380,62**.
- **Month-on-month:** The average cost of the Household Food Basket **decreased** by **R62,10 (-1,1%)**, from R5 442,72 in July 2025 to R5 380,62 in August 2025.
- **Year-on-year:** The average cost of the Household Food Basket **increased** by **R153,48 (2,9%)**, from R5 227,14 in August 2024 to R5 380,62 in August 2025.

Food pricing trends in August 2025.

In August, of the 44 foods tracked in the basket: 23 foods increased in price, and 21 foods decreased in price. See page 2 of August 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 August 2025 by 5% or more, include: soup (5%), beef tripe (6%), and peanut butter (6%).

Foods in the basket which increased in price in August 2025 by 2% or more, include: samp (2%), stock cubes (2%), full cream milk (3%), chicken feet (3%), beef liver (3%), butternut (3%), green pepper (4%), and polony (4%).

Foods in the basket which decreased in price in August 2025, by 5% or more, include: potatoes (-9%), onions (-15%), wors (-5%), tomatoes (-12%), carrots (-16%), spinach (-6%), cabbage (-6%), and bananas (-6%).

Foods in the basket which decreased in price in August 2025, by 2% or more, include: rice (-4%), sugar beans (-2%), *cremora* (-3%), oranges (-4%), and brown bread (-2%).

Inflation on the food baskets per area tracked.

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

The Joburg basket **decreased** by R108,44 (-1,9%) month-on-month, and **increased** by R118,62 (2,2%) year-on-year, to **R5 547,99** in August 2025.

The Durban basket **decreased** by R105,01 (-2,0%) month-on-month, and **increased** by R36,37 (0,7%) year-on-year, to **R5 253,08** in August 2025.

The Cape Town basket **decreased** by R59,76 (-1,1%) month-on-month, and **increased** by R242,64 (4,8%) year-on-year, to **R5 311,59** in August 2025.

The Springbok basket **increased** by R27,62 (0,5%) month-on-month, and **increased** by R334,01 (6,2%) year-on-year, to **R5 763,12** in August 2025.

The Pietermaritzburg basket **increased** by R69,93 (1,4%) month-on-month, and **increased** by R172,50 (3,5%) year-on-year, to **R5 162,75** in August 2025.

The Mtubatuba basket **decreased** by R96,68 (-1,8%) month-on-month, and **increased** by R123,53 (2,3%) year-on-year, to **R5 391,29** in August 2025.

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

Statistics South Africa's latest Consumer Price Index.

Statistics South Africa's latest *Consumer Price Index* for July 2025¹ shows that **Headline inflation was 3,5%**, and for the **lowest expenditure quintiles 1-3 it is 3,4%, 3,3%, and 3,4%** respectively. **CPI Food inflation was 5,5%** (for CPI Food & NAB it was 5,7%, we use the figure excluding non-alcoholic beverages). STATS SA's *Producer Price Index* for June 2025² shows **Agriculture was 4,8%**, of which, *Products of crops and horticulture* was **0,9%**, and *Live animals and animal products* was **9,3%**.

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 August 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 August 2025 average cost of a basic nutritional food basket for a family of four persons is **R3 699,35** (See page 6 of August 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 **59,2%** of a worker's wage (R2 861,85/R4 836,72). Food is bought after monies for transport and electricity have been paid for or set aside (leaving **R1 974,87** – for food and everything else), and so in August 2025, PMBEJD calculates that workers' families will **underspend on food by a minimum of 46,6%** (having R1 974,87 left over after transport and electricity have been paid, and with food for the month costing R3 699,35). **In this scenario there is no possibility of a worker being able to afford enough nutritious food for her family.** If the entire R1 974,87 all went to buy food, then for a family of 4 persons, **it would provide R493,72 per person per month. This is below the food poverty line of R796 per person per month** (See page 8 of August 2025, Household Affordability Index).

Women and children

In August 2025, the average monthly cost to feed a child a basic nutritious diet was **R943,13**. Over the past month, the average cost to feed a child a basic nutritious diet **decreased by R14,28 (-1,5%)**. Year-on-year, the average cost to feed a child a basic nutritious diet **increased by R3,50 (0,4%)**. See page 6 of August 2025, Household Affordability Index.

In August 2025, the **Child Support Grant of R560 is 30% below the Food Poverty Line of R796**, and **41% below the average monthly cost to feed a child a basic nutritious diet (R943,13)**.

Household domestic and personal hygiene products

The August 2025 *Household Domestic & Personal Hygiene Index* **increased by R4,80 (0,5%)** month-on-month. Year-on-year the household domestic and personal hygiene products index **decreased by R15,78 (-1,5%)** bringing the total average cost of basic household domestic and personal hygiene products to **R1 026,36** in August 2025 (See page 5 of August 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 July 2025**. Statistical release P0141. 20 August 2025. Statistics South Africa. Pretoria. P3, 6. See Link: <https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0141/P0141July2025.pdf>

² STATSSA (2025). **Producer Price Index June 2025**. Statistical release P0142.1. 31 July 2025. Statistics South Africa. Pretoria. P12. See Link: <https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P01421/P01421June2025.pdf>