



MEDIA RELEASE

FOOD PRICE MONITOR: February 2011

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The January 2011 Consumer Price Index (CPI) released by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) showed that food and non-alcoholic beverages inflation was 3.1 % between January 2010 and January 2011. Headline CPI was 3.7 % between January 2010 and January 2011. Both headline CPI and the food and non-alcoholic beverages index increase from December 2010 to January 2011, the headline CPI increased by 0.4 % and the food and alcoholic beverages index increased by 2.2 %. The annual increase of 3.1 % in the food and non-alcoholic beverages index was largely driven by the annual increases in oils and fats (11.6 %), meat (6 %), fruit (5.8 %) and sugar (5.6 %).

The domestic price of wheat increased by 37 % between January 2010 and January 2011 and the price of sunflower seed increased by 58 %. International wheat prices increased by 58 % during the same period. The domestic price of white maize showed a decrease of 5 % for the period January 2010 to January 2011. The domestic price of yellow maize decreased by 0.07 % year-on-year; while the international price of yellow maize followed the same trend as the other international grain prices by showing an increase of 57.5 % for the period January 2010 to January 2011 due to low world stock levels. The impact of the strong exchange rate and the fact that South Africa has surplus maize is clearly evident in local maize price trends as compared to the trends internationally.

South Africa's food inflation compared favourably with that of the so-called BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India and China). These countries all experienced food inflation of higher than 10 %. The overall global food price index increased by 33 % from January 2010 to January 2011, reaching its highest level since January 2008.

In January 2011, rural consumers paid R17.55 more than urban consumers for the same food basket, a 9 % increase from the R16.12 price difference reported for October 2010 in the November 2010 Food Price Monitor. In January 2011, rural consumers paid R2.66 more than urban consumers for maize meal (5kg), which is significantly lower than the R6.16 price difference reported in January 2010. A loaf of white bread is the only food item for which rural consumers paid less than urban consumers in January 2011.

The cost of the food basket, expressed as a share of the average monthly income of the poorest 30 % of the population, increased from 33.4 % in January 2010 to 33.9 % in January 2011. When comparing the costs associated with the typical portion sizes of very poor consumers for the five most widely consumed food items in South Africa, based on January 2011 versus January 2010 prices, there was significant inflation of about 10.4 % (from R3.11 to R3.44).



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1. Foreword

The January 2011 Consumer Price Index (CPI) released by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) showed that food and non-alcoholic beverages inflation was 3.1 % between January 2010 and January 2011. Headline CPI was 3.7 % between January 2010 and January 2011. Both headline CPI and the food and non-alcoholic beverages index increase from December 2010 to January 2011, the headline CPI increased by 0.4 % and the food and alcoholic beverages index increased by 2.2 %. January 2011's food and non-alcoholic inflation rate was significantly higher than the average food and non-alcoholic inflation rate experienced during 2010. The average food and non-alcoholic inflation rate in 2010 was 1.4 %. Figure 1 shows the headline inflation rate and the food and non-alcoholic beverages inflation rate on a monthly basis since January 2010.

On an annual basis between January 2010 and January 2011, education had the highest inflation at 9.2 %. Health, alcoholic beverages and tobacco, and housing and utilities inflation was 7.4 %, 7.2 % and 6.3 % respectively. On a month-to-month basis from December 2010 to January 2011, transport showed the largest increase of 0.5 %, followed by clothing and footwear with an increase of 0.3 %, and alcoholic beverages and tobacco with a 0.2 % increase. The largest change from December 2010 to January 2011 was in recreation and culture which decreased by 0.7 %. Food and non-alcoholic beverages contributed 0.5 % to the annual percentage change in the CPI, the second largest contribution of all the different groups. Housing and utilities contributed the most to the annual percentage change in CPI with 1.4 %.

The annual increase of 3.1 % in the food and non-alcoholic beverages index was largely driven by the annual increases in oils and fats (11.6 %), meat (6 %), fruit (5.8 %) and sugar (5.6 %). The prices of cold beverages, processed food, bread and cereals, and other food increased by 5.3 %, 3.7 %, 2.9 % and 2.7 %, respectively, between January 2010 and January 2011. Fish prices decreased by 0.3 % on an annual basis from January 2010 and milk, eggs and cheese prices decreased by 2.4 % during the same period. Figure 2 shows the year-on-year percentage change of the price indices for different food groups.

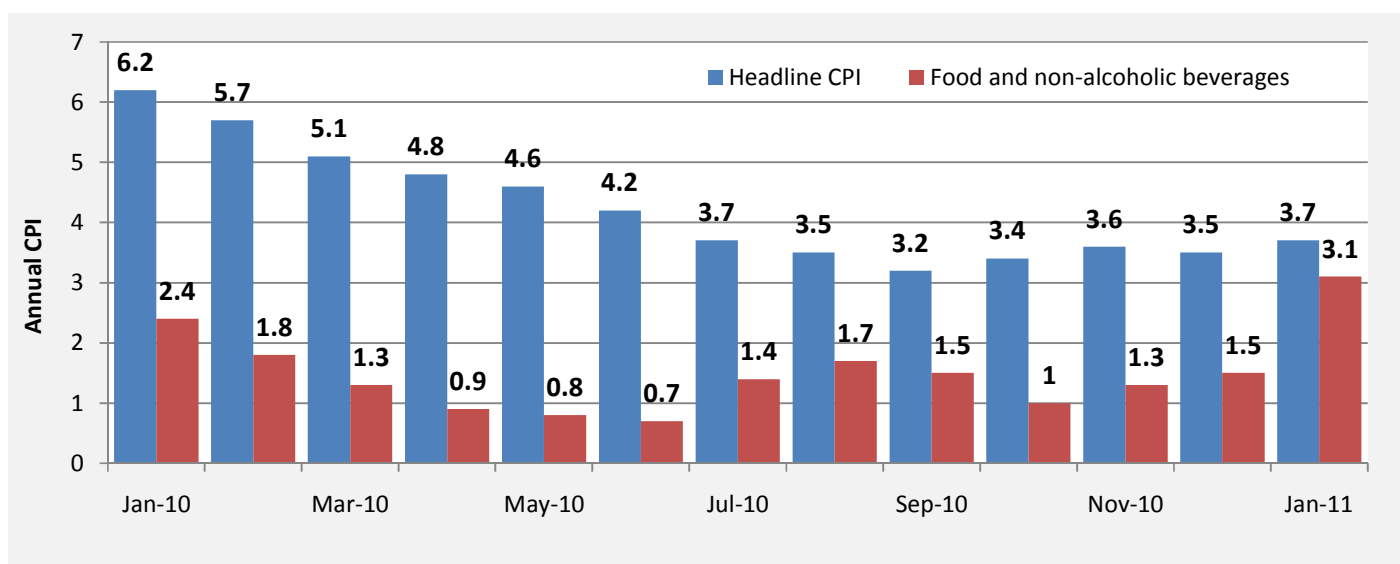


Figure 1: Headline CPI and food and non-alcoholic beverages CPI for 2010 – 2011 (year-on-year)

Source: Stats SA, 2011

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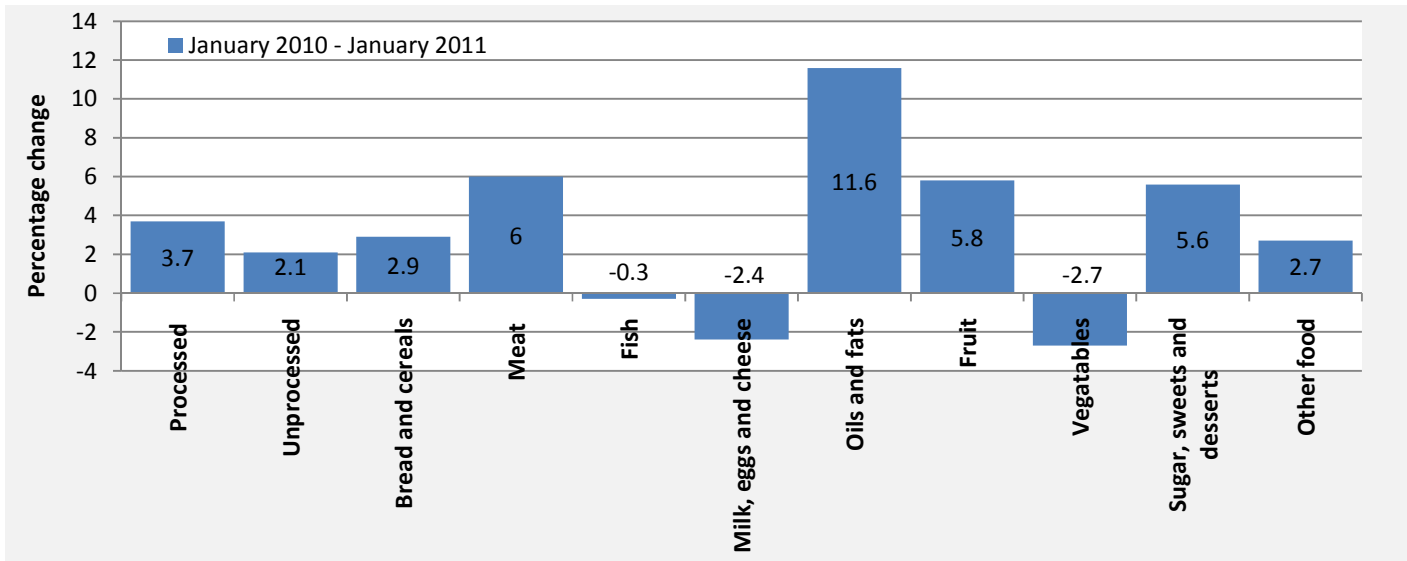


Figure 2: Year-on-year percentage change for different food categories (January 2010 – January 2011)

Source: Stats SA, 2011

2. Overall inflation and food inflation: South Africa and selected countries

Table 1 shows the overall inflation and food inflation rates for South Africa and selected countries for the second half of 2010. India, Russia and Zambia experienced the highest overall inflation. Brazil, Russia, India and China (the so called BRIC countries) experienced the highest inflation in food and non-alcoholic beverages of all the countries listed in Table 1.

South African food price inflation during December 2010 was 1.5% higher than food inflation recorded during December 2009. Food price inflation was two percentage points lower than the overall inflation experienced in the South African economy. Among the countries selected in Table 1, consumers in South Africa and the United States experienced the lowest price increases on food and non-alcoholic beverages.

Table 1: Overall inflation and food inflation

Country	Month	Overall inflation (%)	Inflation of food and non alcoholic beverages (%)
South Africa	December 2010	3.5	1.5
Namibia	October 2010	3.2	1.7
Zambia	September 2010	7.7	2.7
Turkey	December 2010	6.4	7.02
Australia	December 2010	2.7	2.5
Brazil	December 2010	6.4	12.2
United States	December 2010	1.5	1.5
United Kingdom	December 2010	3.7	6.1
China	November 2010	5.1	11.7
India	December 2010	8.4	13.54
Russia	December 2010	8.8	12.9

Source: Central banks and statistics reporting institutions of these countries, as well as the press

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3. Urban and rural food price trends: October 2009 – October 2010

This section reports the price trends for 65 different food items sold in urban areas across South Africa, and 39 food items sold in rural areas. Detailed price data on selected food items in urban and rural areas are presented in Appendix A and Appendix B respectively. Price changes are reported between October 2010 and January 2010, as well as on a year-on-year basis.

Appendix C ranks the food items included in this report in the urban and rural areas according to the inflation experienced. The food products highlighted in Table C.1 and Table C.2 are those with annual inflation that exceeded the South African Reserve Bank's 6 % inflation target. Food items in urban areas with annual inflation higher than 6 % were the following: loaf of white bread 700g (6.13 %); sunflower oil 750ml (23.73 %); beef rump steak – fresh per kg (6.34 %); beef T-bone – fresh per kg (6.65 %); beef chuck – fresh per kg (8.55 %); beef brisket – fresh per kg (9.30 %); lamb – fresh per kg (17.27 %); sliced beans 1kg (6.30 %); canned peas 410g (11.70 %); carrots – fresh per kg (12.24 %); apples - fresh per kg (14.80 %); cauliflowers - fresh per kg (15.15 %); lettuces - fresh per kg (21.49 %); and oranges - fresh per kg (24.15 %).

Looking in more detail at trends

The prices of agricultural commodities showed significant increases. The domestic price of wheat increased by 37 % between January 2010 and January 2011 and the price of sunflower seed increased by 58 %. International wheat prices increased by 58 % during the same period. The domestic price of white maize showed a decrease of 5 % for the period January 2010 to January 2011. The domestic price of yellow maize decreased by 0.07 % year-on-year; while the international price of yellow maize followed the same trend as the other international grain prices by showing an increase of 57.5 % for the period January 2010 to January 2011 due to low world stock levels.

Wheat products, specifically bread in urban areas, experienced price increases. The price of a loaf of brown bread increased by 4.73 % and the price of a loaf of white bread increased by 6.13 % for the 12-month period ending in January 2011. Maize products in the urban areas showed an average annual decrease of 6.73 % for the period ending January 2011. In rural areas, wheat products experienced an average price increase of 7.26 % while maize product prices decreased on average by 12.24 % for the period January 2010 to January 2011. The price of sunflower products increased on average by 8.05 % in urban areas and decreased 3.16 % in rural areas for the period January 2010 to January 2011.

The price of fresh vegetables in urban areas increased by 2.13 % between January 2010 and January 2011, which is lower than the 4.77 % increase reported in the previous FPM report. The average price of fresh fruit showed a significant year-on-year increase of 13.54 % in January 2011 in urban areas.

In urban areas, the price of processed meats showed an annual increase of 3.02 % and the price of unprocessed meats also showed a price increase of 4.52 % for the period ending January 2011. Between January 2010 and January 2011, the average price of tinned fish products decreased by 5.22 % and 1.11 % in urban and rural areas respectively. Average dairy product prices continued to decrease by 5.6 % in the urban areas while the average price of dairy products in the rural areas increased by 5.65 % for the period January 2010 and January 2011. The milk producer price decreased by 4 % to R2.88 in January 2011.

In urban areas, the price of rice decreased by 8.12 % and the price of sugar increased by 5.79 % between January 2010 and January 2011. Sugar prices in rural areas increased on average by 10.35 % and the price of rice in rural areas decreased by 1.24 % annually from January 2010. The price of sorghum increased by 10.69 % in rural areas for the year ending January 2011.

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4. Comparison between the urban and rural prices

This section compares prices of selected food items in the rural and urban areas for January 2010, October 2010 and January 2011. Table 2 shows that in January 2011, rural consumers paid R17.55 more than urban consumers for the same food basket, a 9 % increase from the R16.12 price difference reported for October 2010 in the November 2010 FPM. The price differences between rural and urban areas were less in January 2011 compared to the R20.76 price difference in January 2010.

Food items showing the largest price difference in January 2011 was sugar (2.5kg) and rice (2kg). The price of sugar (2.5kg) and rice (2kg) were R4.61 and R4.40 respectively more expensive in the rural areas compared to the urban areas. The difference between the maize meal price in the rural and urban areas was far less in January 2011 compared to January 2010. During January 2010, consumers in rural areas paid R6.16 more for maize meal (5kg) than urban consumers; whereas in January 2011, rural consumers only paid R2.66 more than urban consumers for maize meal (5 kg).

A loaf of white bread is the only food item on the list for which rural consumers paid less than urban consumers in January 2011. Urban consumers paid R0.13 more for a loaf of white bread than rural consumers during January 2011. The reasons for the higher food prices in the rural areas are discussed in detail in the South African Food Cost Review: 2008, which is available at <http://www.namc.co.za>.

Table 2: Comparison between urban and rural food prices (selected food items)

Product	Rural food prices (R)			Urban food prices (R)			Price difference (Jan-10)	Price difference (Oct-10)	Price difference (Jan-11)
	Jan-10	Okt-10	Jan-11	Jan-10	Okt-10	Jan-11	R/unit	R/unit	R/unit
Full cream long life milk 1l	10.28	10.90	11.03	9.72	9.09	9.45	0.56	1.81	1.58
Loaf of brown bread 700g	7.00	7.05	7.31	6.97	7.17	7.30	0.03	-0.12	0.01
Loaf of white bread 700g	7.56	7.87	8.18	7.83	8.00	8.31	-0.27	-0.13	-0.13
Maize meal 5kg	29.09	24.91	25.23	22.93	22.32	22.57	6.16	2.59	2.66
Margarine 500g	14.61	15.07	14.38	12.88	12.70	12.98	1.73	2.37	1.40
Peanut butter 400g	16.59	16.73	16.68	15.48	15.66	15.26	1.11	1.07	1.42
Rice 2kg	28.58	26.70	25.66	23.14	20.83	21.26	5.44	5.87	4.40
Sunflower oil 750ml	17.20	12.50	13.45	12.81	13.44	12.81	4.39	-0.94	0.64
Ceylon/black tea 62.5g	7.06	8.12	7.98	7.02	7.63	7.02	0.04	0.49	0.96
White sugar 2.5kg	19.73	21.89	22.76	18.15	18.78	18.15	1.58	3.11	4.61
Total							20.76	16.12	17.55

5. Price trends (week 4 of each month)

Prices normally cited in the FPM are obtained from Stats SA and AC Nielsen (see Appendix F for more detail on how the prices are collected). An important issue to note is that Stats SA and AC Nielsen do their price collection during the first three weeks of the month. During the fourth week of each month, retailers usually have specials on various items they sell, which is why prices are not collected during Week 4. In an effort to include food price trends during Week 4 for four retail chains, data was obtained from Adcheck. Table 3 shows the annual percentage change in the prices of selected food items during Week 4 at the different retailers. The average price change of all retailers shows a large increase in the price of cooking oil. On average, the price of cooking oil increased by 35.71 %. Another large price increase was seen in the price of lamb chops which increased by 9.77 %

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from January 2010 to January 2011. Price decreases were seen for full cream long life milk, maize meal and rice which decreased by 10.30 %, 8.64 % and 8.01 % respectively for the period under review.

Table 3: January 2010 to January 2011 inflation of selected food items for various retailers (in %).

	Retailer A	Retailer B	Retailer C	Retailer D	Retailers average
Cheapest bread brown unsliced 700g	-5.27	-9.31	0.78	-0.92	-3.68
Cheapest bread white sliced standard 700g	0.70	4.42	7.27	5.08	4.37
Cheapest maize meal 5kg	-9.08	-6.60	-4.47	-14.38	-8.64
Rice 2kg	-13.39	-3.44	0.46	-15.67	-8.01
Cheapest cooking oil 750ml	33.13	43.14	31.76	34.81	35.71
Cheapest milk sachet 1l	-3.50	-3.67	-4.93	-2.95	-3.76
Cheapest milk long life full cream UHT 1l	-12.31	-16.60	-8.64	-3.65	-10.30
Cheapest chicken frozen whole per kg	-0.04	-2.64	4.71	9.26	2.82
Cheapest boerewors per kg	3.83	-0.62	-1.45	-6.63	-1.22
Pork loin chops per kg	8.22	15.54	-2.04	0.63	5.58
Lamb shoulder/braai chops per kg	0.00	9.57	9.83	19.68	9.77

Source: Adcheck, 2011

6. International Food Prices

The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations publishes the food price index on a monthly basis. The food price index consists of five commodity group price indices, namely the meat price index, dairy price index, cereals price index, oils price index and the sugar price index. These indices are weighted with the average export shares of each of the groups for 2002–2004. In total, 55 commodity quotations considered by FAO commodity specialists as representing the international prices of the food commodities noted are included in the overall index. Figure 3 shows the overall food price index and the price indices for five food categories.

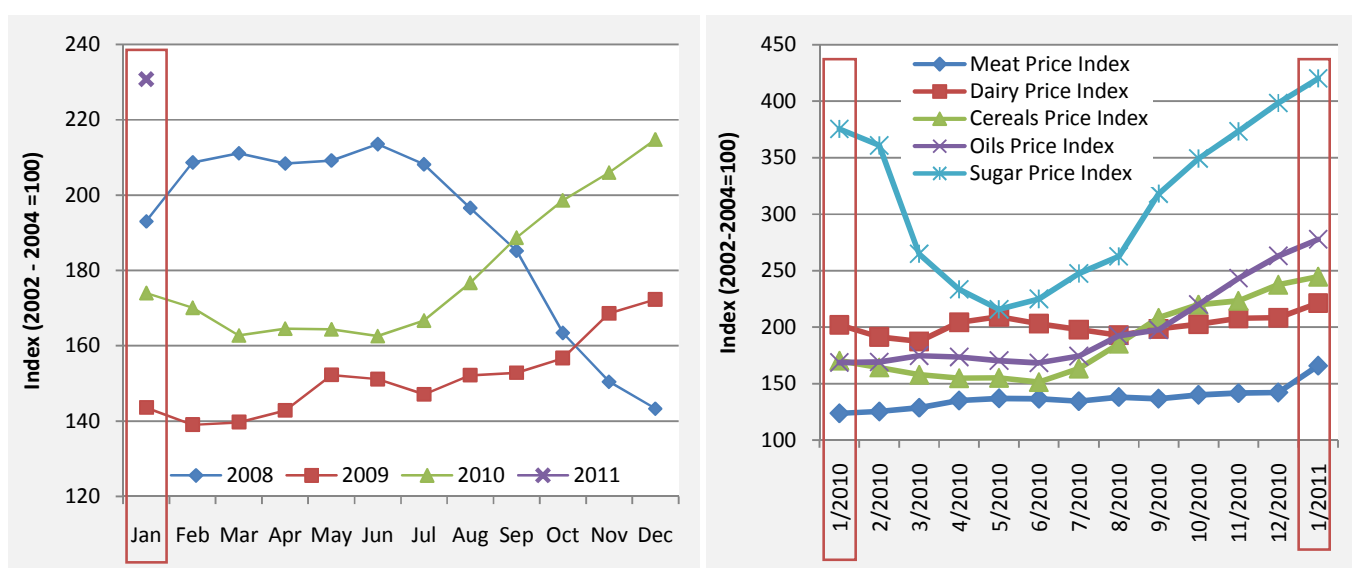


Figure 3: International food price index and price indices for five food categories

Source: FAO, 2011

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The overall global food price index increased by 33 % from January 2010 to January 2011, reaching its highest level since January 2008. It is evident from Figure 3 that food prices started to rise significantly from June 2010. From December 2010 to January 2011, the food price index increased by 7.5 %. The most significant increase was seen in the price index of edible oils which increased by 65 % from January 2010 to January 2011. Cereal and meat prices also showed significant increases of 44 % and 34 % respectively for the period under review. Sugar and dairy prices showed the smallest increases of 12 % and 10 % respectively from January 2010 to January 2011.

7. Estimated impact of food inflation on consumers

The purpose of this section is to illustrate the impact of food inflation on consumers. The analysis presented in the first part of this section is based on the cost of a basic food basket¹ (as compiled by the Food Price Monitoring Committee in 2003), based on monthly food price data for the period January 2010 to January 2011. From January 2010 to January 2011, the cost of a basic food basket increased by approximately R5.12 (1.4 %) in nominal terms. The cost of the food basket, expressed as a share of the average monthly income² of the poorest 30 % of the population, increased from 33.4 % in January 2010 to 33.9 % in January 2011, representing the highest share during this analysis period. The cost of the food basket, expressed as a share of the average monthly income of the wealthiest 30 % of the population, increased slightly from 2.6 % to 2.7 %.

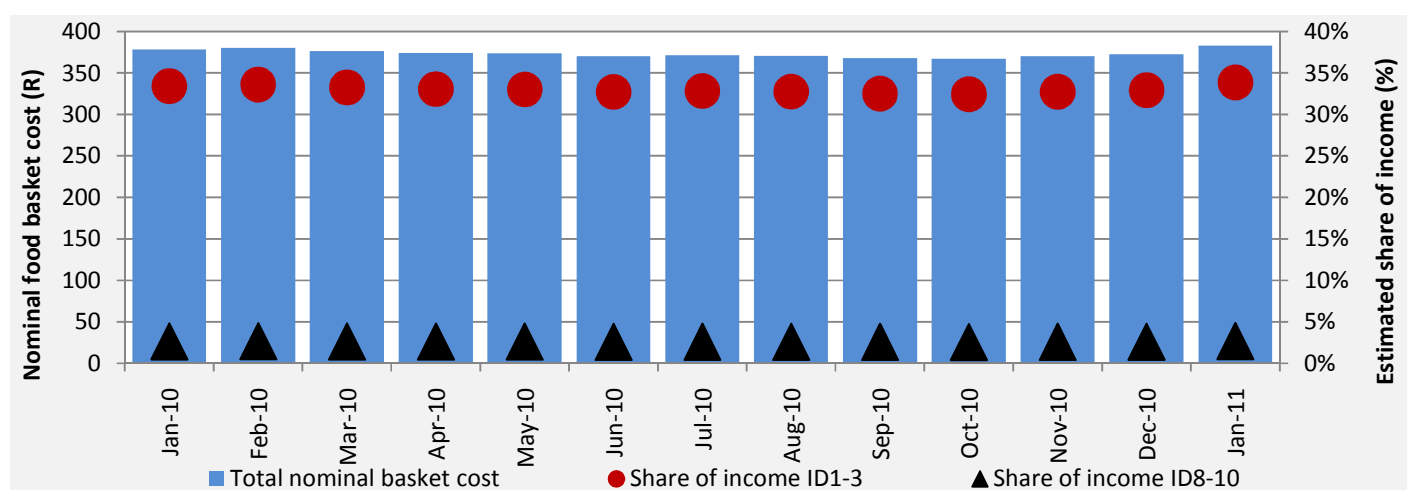


Figure 4: The monthly cost of a typical consumer food basket for the period January 2010 to January 2011, expressed in nominal terms and as share of the average income of the poorest 30 % of households (Income Deciles [ID] 1 to 3) and the wealthiest 30 % of households (ID 8 to 10).

To further explore the impact of inflation on consumers, Figure 5 presents an illustration of the average annual nominal cost of specific food groups within the basic food basket, for the period January 2010 to January 2011. Figure 5 illustrates the dominance of animal protein foods, as well as breads and cereals within the cost of the basic food basket. Comparing January 2010 to

¹ Composition of food basket: loaf of white bread (700g), loaf of brown bread (700g), super maize meal (5kg), special maize meal (5kg), rice (2kg), tinned butter beans (410g), onions (1kg), cabbage (1kg), potatoes (1kg), tomatoes (1kg), apples (1kg), bananas (1kg), oranges (1kg), whole fresh chicken, stewing beef, long life full cream milk (1l), extra large eggs (1.5 dozen), sunflower oil (750ml), brick margarine (500g), peanut butter (400g), instant coffee regular (750g), black/Ceylon tea – tagless tea bags (62.5g), and canned tuna (replacing canned pilchards due to data limitations).

² The cost of the typical food basket was expressed as a share of estimated average monthly income of Income Deciles (ID) 1 to 3, the poorest 30 % of the population, as calculated from the STATSSA survey: 'Income & Expenditure of households 2005/2006' (calculations exclude imputed rent on owned dwelling.)

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January 2011, three of the eight food groups within this particular food basket experienced inflation: animal protein, fruit and fats/oils. The various food groups within this food basket are discussed in more detail below.

Animal protein:

Animal protein foods in this food basket experienced inflation of 5.2 % which was mainly driven by inflation in chicken and stewing beef – representing two important protein sources for households in South Africa.

Bread and cereals:

The price of staple food products within this food basket deflated by 1.9 % from January 2010 to January 2011. However, it is noteworthy that even though maize meal and rice prices deflated significantly, high inflation rates were observed for brown and white bread.

Vegetables and fruit:

The price of vegetables within this food basket deflated by 5 % during the period, with significant price deflation for potatoes and onions in particular. However, from January 2010 to January 2011, the fruit products in this basket experienced inflation of 12.5 %, mainly driven by high inflation for oranges and apples.

Dairy and eggs:

Both full cream milk and eggs within this food basket experienced price deflation during the analysis period, with a combined deflation rate of 4.3 %.

Other product categories:

Bean products and hot beverages (coffee/tea) also experienced slight price deflation when comparing January 2010 to January 2011.

Thus, when comparing January 2010 to January 2011, the significant price inflation experienced for important products such as bread, fruit and chicken could have a negative impact on household food security in South Africa, affecting the affordability of an important staple food as well as food items making a major contribution to dietary diversity.

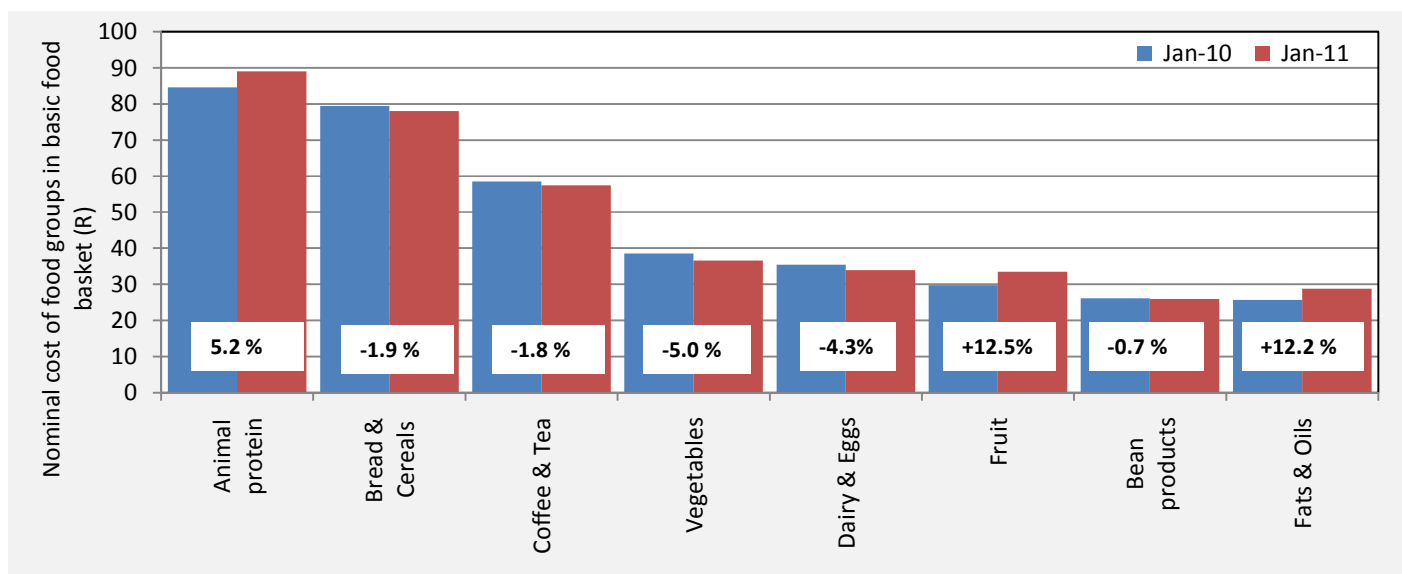


Figure 5: Nominal monthly cost of specific food groups within the basic food basket, comparing January 2010 and January 2011

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The impact of inflation on very poor consumers is further explored below, based on the typical portion sizes of very poor consumers of the five most widely consumed food items in South Africa represented by maize porridge, brown bread, sugar, tea and full cream milk (National Food Consumption Survey - Steyn & Labadarios, 2000³; Oldewage-Theron et al, 2005⁴). Figure 3 illustrates the estimated portion costs for these foods, calculated from monthly food price data for January 2010 and January 2011. Similar to other FPM analysis periods, the significant cost contribution of maize meal and bread to the typical basic daily food selection for poor consumers is emphasised by the results in Figure 3. Furthermore, despite the relatively low actual food weight contribution of bread to this 'food plate', the bread component costs significantly more than the maize porridge component. When comparing the costs associated with the typical portion sizes of very poor consumers for the five most widely consumed food items in South Africa, based on January 2011 versus January 2010 prices, the results in Figure 3 indicated a significant inflation of about 10.4 % (from R3.11 to R3.44). This was in particular due to brown bread inflation (as mentioned above), which was partly offset by price deflation for milk and maize meal.

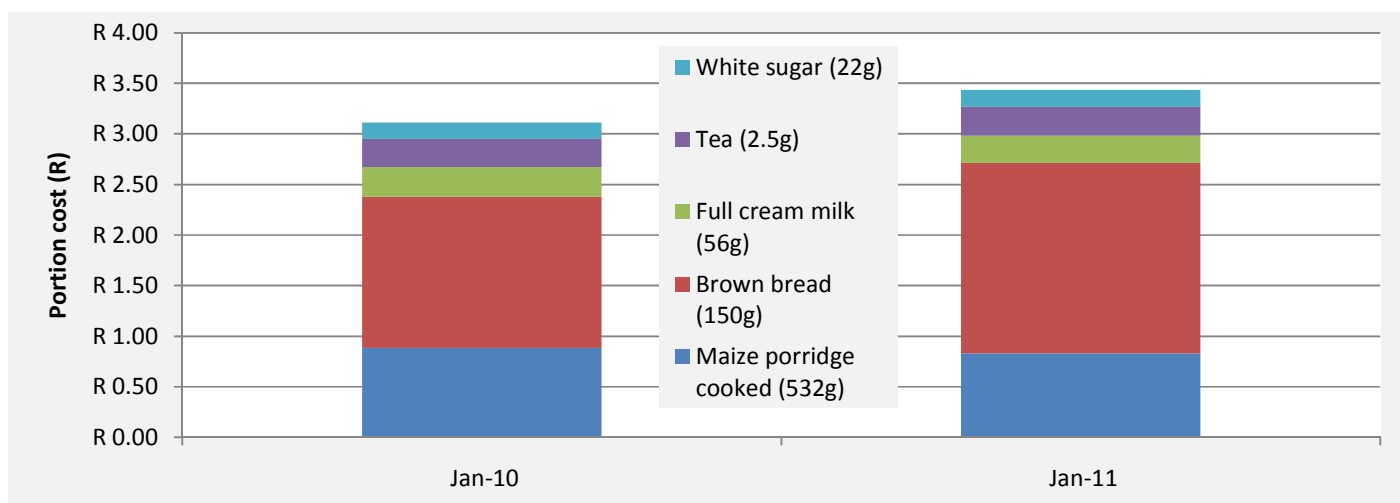


Figure 6: Average nominal cost for the typical portions of the five food items most widely consumed by very poor consumers in South Africa, for January 2010 and January 2011

8. March 2011 – May 2011 Outlook

For the past year food price inflation has remained very low, even dropping below 1 % in the second quarter of 2010. It is no secret that the main driver for this low inflation rate of food items was the relative appreciation and continued strength of the Rand. The strong exchange rate led to cheaper imports of processed food items and significantly damped the effect of surging international soft commodity markets that were (and still are) supported by tightening stock levels for all major grains and oilseeds. The increase in annual food inflation from 1.5 % in December 2010 to 3.1 % in January 2011 has introduced an upward cycle in food inflation and under the current world market conditions this increasing trend has significant momentum. This momentum is provided by strong bullish underlying fundamentals in global soft commodity markets and soaring oil prices. Even if the exchange rate gains some lost ground over the next three months, higher oil and, therefore, fuel and energy prices will have to enter the

³ Steyn NP, Labadarios D. *National Food Consumption Survey: Children aged 1–9 years, South Africa, 1999*. Cape Town: The Department of Health Directorate Nutrition, 2000.

⁴ Oldewage-theron W, Dicks E, Napier C, et al. Situation analysis of an informal settlement in the Vaal Triangle. *Development Southern Africa* 2005; 22 (1): 13-26.

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food supply chains and consumers will likely have to dig deeper into their pockets. It is likely that the rise in food inflation will gain pace to reach a level of 4-5% within the next couple of months.

Apart from driving up oil prices, political turmoil in North Africa and North-East Asia has been one of the main triggers of a wave of profit taking and heavy selling by speculative funds, which has led to world grain and oilseed markets closing limits down for a number of days in succession over the past week. Yet, prices still remain very high and significant shifts in supply will have to materialise in order to curb the underlying upward trend in maize, wheat, and oilseed prices on the back of tight stock levels following a series of droughts in various parts of the world. It seems like the United States maize producers will lead the way with a possible expansion in maize plantings of up to 5 %, which will have to satisfy the growing demand of maize for bioethanol production. Margins of ethanol plants are increasing as oil prices rise. World feed demand is also increasing on the back of a significant recovery in meat prices in most parts of the world. Prime cattle prices in Nebraska are more than 20 % higher in January 2011, compared to January 2010. Higher world meat prices are driven by lower livestock numbers in the case of cattle and sheep and a strong recovery in world demand following the economic crises. The consistent growth in pork and chicken meat consumption in China and India also provides a constant support for meat prices.

On the local front the volatility of the exchange rate still plays a key role for many of the raw commodity prices, since most markets are either trading at export parity levels (maize, soybeans etc.) or import parity levels (wheat, soybean cake, vegetable oils etc.), and therefore the local supply and demand dynamics have a small influence on prices. With an expected maize crop of over 11 million tons, South Africa will remain at export parity levels for the current season. This is, however, not the case for fresh vegetables where the local supply and demand fundamentals do play a decisive role. For instance, potato prices are projected to remain low over the period of this outlook due to a very large crop. Similarly, onion and tomato prices are expected to trade softer, being marginalized by the low potato prices. Beef producers have enjoyed an exceptionally high upswing in beef prices over the festive season and prices are expected to remain relatively high on the back of firm demand and retailers competing to secure a constant supply of meat.

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APPENDIX A: DATA ON URBAN FOOD PRICE TRENDS

Table A.1: Wheat products

Wheat Products	Price level			Percentage change	
	Jan-10	Oct-10	Jan-11	Oct-10 to Jan-11	Jan-10 to Jan-11
Loaf of brown bread 700g	6.97	7.17	7.30	1.81%	4.73%
Loaf of white bread 700g	7.83	8.00	8.31	3.88%	6.13%
Cake flour 2.5kg	16.57	16.94	17.11	1.00%	3.26%
Spaghetti 500g	10.37	9.10	9.19	0.99%	-11.38%
Macaroni plain 500g*	8.44	7.55	8.11	7.49%	-3.89%
Average				3.03%	-0.23%
Wheat (R/ton)	2073.65	1860.72	2838.00	53%	37%

Table A.2: Maize products

Maize Products	Price level			Percentage change	
	Jan-10	Oct-10	Jan-11	Oct-10 to Jan-11	Jan-10 to Jan-11
Maize special 5kg*	17.91	15.54	16.11	3.71%	-10.01%
Maize super 5kg*	23.64	20.63	22.83	10.67%	-3.46%
Average				7.19%	-6.73%
White Maize (R/ton)	1404.90	1254.90	1340.00	7%	-5%

*Data from AC Nielsen

Table A.3: Sunflower products

Sunflower products	Price level			Percentage change	
	Jan-10	Oct-10	Jan-11	Oct-10 to Jan-11	Jan-10 to Jan-11
Sunflower oil 750ml	12.81	13.44	15.85	17.93%	23.73%
Medium fat spread 1kg tub*	21.01	19.40	20.94	7.93%	-0.35%
Brick margarine 500g	12.88	12.70	12.98	2.20%	0.78%
Average				9.35%	8.05%
Sunflower (R/ton)	3176.60	4408.00	5019.23	14%	58%

*Data from AC Nielsen

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Table A.4: Processed vegetables

Processed Vegetables	Price level			Percentage change	
	Jan-10	Oct-10	Jan-11	Oct-10 to Jan-11	Jan-10 to Jan-11
Baked beans - tinned 420g	7.56	8.02	7.88	-1.75%	4.23%
Butter beans - tinned 410g	10.64	10.53	10.69	1.52%	0.47%
Chopped peeled tomato 410g*	10.66	10.74	11.07	3.03%	3.79%
Tomato & onion mix 410g*	8.99	8.30	8.49	2.36%	-5.50%
Canned peas 410g*	6.93	6.90	7.74	12.23%	11.70%
Baby carrots 1kg*	31.63	31.00	31.03	0.10%	-1.89%
Green peas 1kg*	27.73	23.01	27.74	20.56%	0.04%
Sliced beans 1kg*	28.64	30.10	30.44	1.13%	6.30%
Super juicy corn 1kg*	28.85	28.96	30.30	4.64%	5.04%
Average				4.87%	2.69%

*Data from AC Nielsen

Table A.5: Fresh vegetables

Fresh Vegetables	Price level			Percentage change	
	Jan-10	Oct-10	Jan-11	Oct-10 to Jan-11	Jan-10 to Jan-11
Carrots - fresh per kg	9.64	11.59	10.82	-6.64%	12.24%
Onions - fresh per kg	7.87	8.32	7.45	-10.46%	-5.34%
Potatoes - fresh per kg	9.78	9.39	8.55	-8.95%	-12.58%
Tomatoes - fresh per kg	13.35	15.15	12.98	-14.32%	-2.77%
Sweet potatoes - fresh per kg	10.93	9.84	10.76	9.35%	-1.56%
Cabbages - fresh per kg	7.53	8.55	7.61	-10.99%	1.06%
Lettuces - fresh per kg	18.80	19.04	22.84	19.96%	21.49%
Pumpkins - fresh per kg	10.57	13.86	9.67	-30.23%	-8.51%
Cauliflowers - fresh per kg	22.71	24.42	26.15	7.08%	15.15%
Average				-5.02%	2.13%

Table A.6: Processed meat

Processed meat	Price level			Percentage change	
	Jan-10	Oct-10	Jan-11	Oct-10 to Jan-11	Jan-10 to Jan-11
Meatballs in gravy 400g*	13.19	13.33	13.55	1.68%	2.70%
Picnic ham 300g*	25.91	25.69	26.66	3.78%	2.90%
Pork sausage per kg	52.86	51.68	53.79	4.08%	1.76%
Polony per kg	26.40	27.03	27.65	2.29%	4.73%
Average				2.96%	3.02%

*Data from AC Nielsen

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Table A.7: Unprocessed meat

Unprocessed meat	Price level			Percentage change	
	Jan-10	Oct-10	Jan-11	Oct-10 to Jan-11	Jan-10 to Jan-11
Pork chops - Fresh per kg	50.08	48.04	50.40	4.91%	0.64%
Lamb - fresh per kg	72.86	75.45	85.44	13.24%	17.27%
Beef brisket - fresh per kg	45.39	45.28	49.61	9.56%	9.30%
Beef chuck - fresh per kg	47.13	46.57	51.16	9.86%	8.55%
Beef mince - fresh per kg	47.96	47.67	49.60	4.05%	3.42%
Beef rump steak - fresh per kg	75.60	75.55	80.39	6.41%	6.34%
Beef T-bone - fresh per kg	60.76	60.57	64.80	6.98%	6.65%
Whole chicken - fresh per kg	29.43	28.50	30.00	5.26%	1.94%
Whole chicken - frozen per kg	24.09	24.82	25.45	2.54%	5.65%
Chicken portions - fresh per kg	41.48	37.68	37.73	0.13%	-9.04%
Chicken portions - frozen per kg	22.98	21.46	22.75	6.01%	-1.00%
Average				6.27%	4.52%

Table A.8: Dairy products

Dairy	Price level			Percentage change	
	Jan-10	Oct-10	Jan-11	Oct-10 to Jan-11	Jan-10 to Jan-11
Fresh milk full cream 1l sachet*	7.01	6.66	6.28	-5.62%	-10.40%
Fresh milk full cream 2l*	15.42	14.97	14.21	-5.11%	-7.84%
Fresh milk low fat 1l sachet*	6.92	6.36	5.91	-7.00%	-14.58%
Fresh milk low fat 2l*	15.98	15.64	14.61	-6.60%	-8.55%
Long life milk full cream 1l*	10.11	9.53	9.42	-1.12%	-6.78%
Skimmed powder milk 1kg*	56.14	56.21	55.15	-1.89%	-1.76%
Total butter 500g*	25.52	25.53	26.18	2.54%	2.58%
Cheddar cheese per kg	85.84	86.64	87.99	1.56%	2.50%
Average				-2.91%	-5.60%

*Data from AC Nielsen

Table A.9: Fruits

Fruits	Price level			Percentage change	
	Jan-10	Oct-10	Jan-11	Oct-10 to Jan-11	Jan-10 to Jan-11
Apples - fresh per kg	12.50	12.15	14.35	18.11%	14.80%
Bananas - fresh per kg	10.19	8.81	10.36	17.59%	1.67%
Oranges - fresh per kg	7.08	4.72	8.79	86.23%	24.15%
Average				40.64%	13.54%

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Table A.10: Fish products

Fishes - tinned	Price level			Percentage change	
	Jan-10	Oct-10	Jan-11	Oct-10 to Jan-11	Jan-10 to Jan-11
Fish (excl tuna) - tinned 155g	6.30	6.18	6.17	-0.16%	-2.06%
Fish (excl tuna) - tinned 425g	12.48	11.79	11.44	-2.97%	-8.33%
Tuna - tinned 170g	10.66	10.06	10.10	0.40%	-5.25%
Average				-0.91%	-5.22%

Table A.11: Other products

Other products	Price level			Percentage change	
	Jan-10	Oct-10	Jan-11	Oct-10 to Jan-11	Jan-10 to Jan-11
King Korn 1kg*	10.05	10.07	10.12	0.50%	0.71%
White sugar 2.5kg	18.15	18.78	19.20	2.24%	5.79%
Rice 2kg	23.14	20.83	21.26	2.06%	-8.12%
Instant coffee regular 750g*	49.64	49.91	49.62	-0.59%	-0.06%
Ceylon/black tea 62.5g	7.02	7.63	7.12	-6.68%	1.42%
Peanut butter 400g	15.48	15.66	15.26	-2.55%	-1.42%
Soya mince tomato & onion 200g*	8.51	8.72	8.57	-1.75%	0.72%
Eggs 1.5 dozen	25.37	24.60	24.71	0.45%	-2.60%
Average				-0.79%	-0.45%

*Data from AC Nielsen

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APPENDIX B: DATA ON RURAL FOOD PRICE TRENDS

Table B.1: Wheat products

Wheat Products	Jan-10	Oct-10	Jan-11	Oct-10 to Jan-11	Jan-10 to Jan-11
Loaf of brown bread 600g	6.41	6.66	6.91	3.72%	7.74%
Loaf of brown bread 700g	7.00	7.05	7.31	3.65%	4.43%
Loaf of white bread 600g	7.04	7.29	7.65	4.97%	8.64%
Loaf of white bread 700g	7.56	7.87	8.18	3.96%	8.22%
Average				4.08%	7.26%

Table B.2: Maize products

Maize Products	Jan-10	Oct-10	Jan-11	Oct-10 to Jan-11	Jan-10 to Jan-11
Maize meal 12.5kg	59.50	44.00	52.71	19.87%	-11.37%
Maize meal 1kg	10.83	6.31	6.16	-2.41%	-43.10%
Maize meal 2.5kg	13.82	13.68	14.64	7.04%	5.94%
Maize meal 5kg	29.09	24.91	25.23	1.31%	-13.26%
Samp 1kg	6.51	6.47	6.43	-0.49%	-1.16%
Samp 2.5kg	14.48	13.52	12.96	-4.17%	-10.48%
Average				3.52%	-12.24%

Table B.3: Sunflower products

Sunflower Products	Jan-10	Oct-10	Jan-11	Oct-10 to Jan-11	Jan-10 to Jan-11
Sunflower oil 2l	22.97	25.26	27.12	7.35%	18.06%
Sunflower oil 500ml	10.25	9.29	9.87	6.26%	-3.68%
Sunflower oil 750ml	17.20	12.50	13.45	7.63%	-21.77%
Margarine 125g	5.81	5.40	5.63	4.12%	-3.10%
Margarine 250g	10.34	9.71	9.62	-0.87%	-6.92%
Margarine 500g	14.61	15.07	14.38	-4.55%	-1.52%
Average				3.32%	-3.16%

Table B.4: Dairy products

Dairy Products	Jan-10	Oct-10	Jan-11	Oct-10 to Jan-11	Jan-10 to Jan-11
Full cream long life milk 1l	10.28	10.90	11.03	1.17%	7.32%
Full cream long life milk 500ml	6.56	6.66	6.82	2.47%	3.98%
Average				1.82%	5.65%

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Table B.5: Tea and coffee

Tea and coffee	Jan-10	Oct-10	Jan-11	Oct-10 to Jan-11	Jan-10 to Jan-11
Instant coffee 100g	13.09	13.08	13.21	0.95%	0.90%
Instant coffee 250g	25.50	26.81	26.84	0.11%	5.27%
Ceylon/black tea 250g	18.78	19.44	17.23	-11.38%	-8.28%
Ceylon/black tea 62.5g	7.06	8.12	7.98	-1.75%	13.03%
Average				-3.02%	2.73%

Table B.6: Beans

Beans	Jan-10	Oct-10	Jan-11	Oct-10 to Jan-11	Jan-10 to Jan-11
Beans 1kg	15.25	13.94	13.72	-1.56%	-10.05%
Beans 500g	8.23	8.37	8.56	2.29%	4.06%
Butter beans 410g	9.99	9.49	9.57	0.82%	-4.22%
Butter beans 420g	6.55	7.71	7.88	2.16%	20.23%
Average				0.93%	2.51%

Table B.7: White sugar

Sugar	Jan-10	Oct-10	Jan-11	Oct-10 to Jan-11	Jan-10 to Jan-11
White sugar 1kg	9.11	9.99	9.96	-0.33%	9.23%
White sugar 2.5kg	19.73	21.89	22.76	3.94%	15.31%
White sugar 500g	5.34	5.61	5.69	1.41%	6.51%
Average				1.68%	10.35%

Table B.8: Tinned fish

Fish	Jan-10	Oct-10	Jan-11	Oct-10 to Jan-11	Jan-10 to Jan-11
Fish (Excl. Tuna) - Tinned 155g	7.50	7.23	7.26	0.46%	-3.21%
Fish (Excl. Tuna) - Tinned 425g	13.51	13.19	13.64	3.44%	0.99%
Average				1.95%	-1.11%

Table B.9: Rice

Rice	Jan-10	Oct-10	Jan-11	Oct-10 to Jan-11	Jan-10 to Jan-11
Rice 1kg	14.07	13.26	13.46	1.52%	-4.28%
Rice 2kg	28.58	26.70	25.66	-3.89%	-10.22%
Rice 500g	6.57	7.15	7.28	1.83%	10.79%
Average				-0.18%	-1.24%

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Table B.10: Peanut butter

Peanut Butter	Jan-10	Oct-10	Jan-11	Oct-10 to Jan-11	Jan-10 to Jan-11
Peanut butter 270g	13.16	13.61	12.63	-7.18%	-4.07%
Peanut butter 400g	17.17	16.68	16.76	0.48%	-2.37%
Peanut butter 410g	17.76	13.79	11.93	-13.49%	-32.85%
Average				-6.73%	-13.10%

Table B.11: Sorghum meal

Sorghum Meal	Jan-10	Oct-10	Jan-11	Oct-10 to Jan-11	Jan-10 to Jan-11
Sorghum meal 1kg	10.64	10.71	10.97	2.39%	3.05%
Sorghum meal 500g	5.55	6.29	6.57	4.46%	18.32%
Average				3.43%	10.69%

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APPENDIX C: SUMMARY OF INFLATION FOR SELECTED FOOD ITEMS BETWEEN OCTOBER 2009 AND OCTOBER 2010

Table C.1: Food items in the urban areas ranked according to price changes (January 10 to January 11)

Grain and grain products	%	Meat and meat products and dairy and dairy products	%	Fresh and processed fruits and vegetables	%
Spaghetti 500g	-11.38	Fresh milk low fat 1l sachet*	-14.58	Potatoes bag 10 kg	-12.58
Maize special 5kg*	-10.01	Fresh milk full cream 1l sachet*	-10.40	Pumpkin - fresh per kg	-8.51
Rice 2kg	-8.12	Chicken portions - fresh per kg	-9.04	Tomato & onion mix 410g*	-5.50
Macaroni plain 500g*	-3.89	Fresh Milk low fat 2l*	-8.55	Onions -fresh per kg	-5.34
Maize super 5kg*	-3.46	Fish (excl tuna) - tinned 425g	-8.33	Tomatoes - fresh per kg	-2.77
Peanut butter 410g	-1.42	Fresh milk full cream 2l*	-7.84	Baby carrots 1kg*	-1.89
Medium fat spread 1kg tub*	-0.35	Long life milk full cream 1l*	-6.78	Sweet potatoes - fresh per kg	-1.56
Ricoffy regular 750g*	-0.06	Tuna - tinned 170g	-5.25	Green peas 1kg*	0.04
King Korn 1kg*	0.71	Eggs 1.5 dozen	-2.60	Butter beans - tinned 410g	0.47
Soya mince tomato & onion 200g*	0.72	Fish (excl tuna) - tinned 155g	-2.06	Cabbage - fresh per kg	1.06
Brick margarine 500g	0.78	Skimmed powder milk 1kg*	-1.76	Bananas - fresh per kg	1.67
Ceylon/black tea 62.5g	1.42	Chicken portions - frozen per kg	-1.00	Chopped peeled tomato 410g*	3.79
Cake Flour 2.5kg	3.26	Pork chops - fresh per kg	0.64	Baked beans - tinned 420g	4.23
Loaf of brown bread 700g	4.73	Pork sausage per kg	1.76	Super juicy corn 1kg*	5.04
White sugar 2.5kg	5.79	Whole chicken - fresh per kg	1.94	Sliced beans 1kg*	6.30
Loaf of white bread 700g	6.13	Cheddar cheese per kg	2.50	Canned peas 410g*	11.70
Sunflower oil 750ml	23.73	Total butter 500g*	2.58	Carrots - fresh per kg	12.24
		Bull brand meatballs in gravy 400g*	2.70	Apples - fresh per kg	14.80
		Enterprise picnic ham 300g*	2.90	Cauliflower - fresh per kg	15.15
		Beef mince - fresh per kg	3.42	Lettuce - fresh per kg	21.49
		Polony per kg	4.73	Oranges - fresh per kg	24.15
		Whole chicken - frozen per kg	5.65		
		Beef rump steak - fresh per kg	6.34		
		Beef T-bone - fresh per kg	6.65		
		Beef chuck - fresh per kg	8.55		
		Beef brisket - fresh per kg	9.30		
		Lamb - fresh per kg	17.27		

* AC Nielsen

** Food items highlighted in the table above experienced price increases above the South African Reserve Bank's inflation target of 6%

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Table C.2: Food items in the rural areas ranked according to price changes (January 10 to January 11)

Grain and grain products	%	Other products	%
Maize meal 1kg	-43.10	Peanut butter 410g	-32.85
Sunflower oil 750ml	-21.77	Beans 1kg	-10.05
Maize meal 5kg	-13.26	Tagless tea bags 250g	-8.28
Maize meal 12.5kg	-11.37	Butter beans 410g	-4.22
Samp 2.5kg	-10.48	Peanut butter 270g	-4.07
Rice 2kg	-10.22	Pilchards in tomato sauce 155g	-3.21
Margarine 250g	-6.92	Peanut butter 400g	-2.37
Rice 1kg	-4.28	Instant coffee 100g	0.90
Sunflower oil 500ml	-3.68	Pilchards in tomato sauce 425g	0.99
Margarine 125g	-3.10	Full cream long life milk 500ml	3.98
Margarine 500g	-1.52	Beans 500g	4.06
Samp 1kg	-1.16	Instant coffee 250g	5.27
Sorghum-meal 1kg	3.05	White sugar 500g	6.51
Loaf of brown bread 700g	4.43	Full cream long life milk 1l	7.32
Maize meal 2.5kg	5.94	White sugar 1kg	9.23
Loaf of brown bread 600g	7.74	Tagless tea bags 62.5g	13.03
Loaf of white bread 700g	8.22	White sugar 2.5kg	15.31
Loaf of white bread 600g	8.64	Butter beans 420g	20.23
Rice 500g	10.79		
Sunflower oil 2l	18.06		
Sorghum meal 500g	18.32		

* Food items highlighted in the table above experienced price increases above the South African Reserve Bank's inflation target of 6%

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APPENDIX D: COMMODITY AND PRODUCT PRICE TRENDS

D.1 Wheat price trends

Between January 2010 and January 2011:

International wheat price
↑ 58.17 %

Domestic price of wheat
↑ 36.86 %

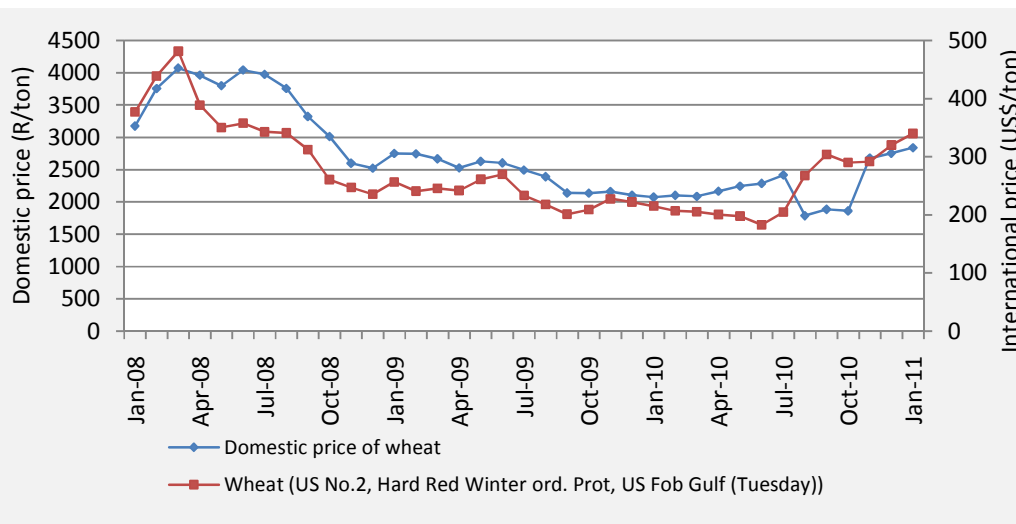


Figure D.1: Domestic market price of wheat against global market price
Source: FAO and SAFEX

Domestic wheat price followed the import parity price of wheat closely, because SA is a net importer of wheat.

Between January 2010 and January 2011:

Wheat import parity price ↑ 13.58 %

Wheat export parity price ↑ 26.01 %

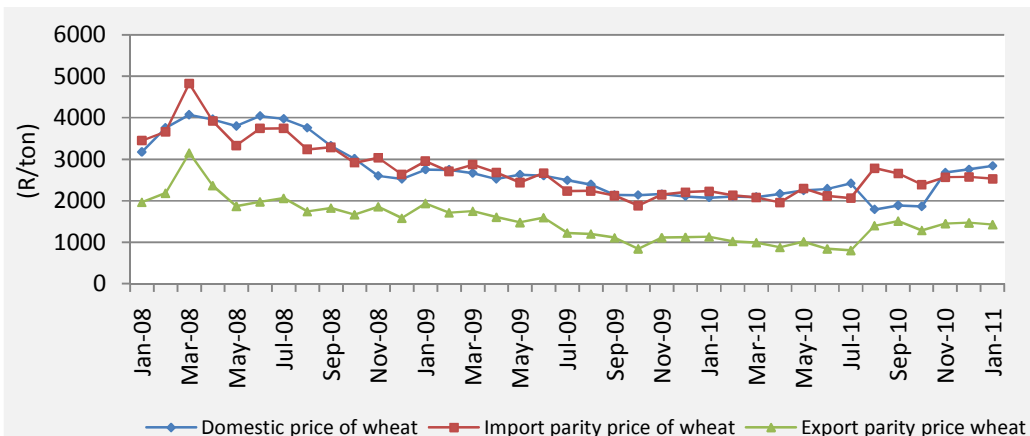


Figure D.2: Import parity, export parity and domestic prices of wheat
Source: SAGIS and SAFEX

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Between January 2010 and January 2011:

Domestic wheat price
↑ 36.86 %

Brown bread price
↑ 4.73 %

White bread price
↑ 6.13 %

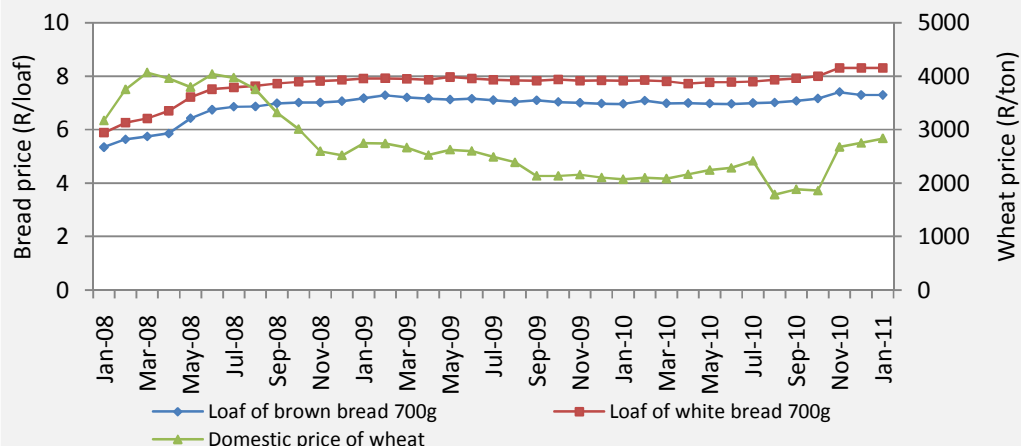


Figure D.3: Domestic market wheat price and bread price trends
Source: Stats SA and SAFEX

D.2 Maize price trends

Between January 2010 and January 2011:

International price of maize
↑ 57.48 %

Domestic price of yellow maize
↓ 0.07 %

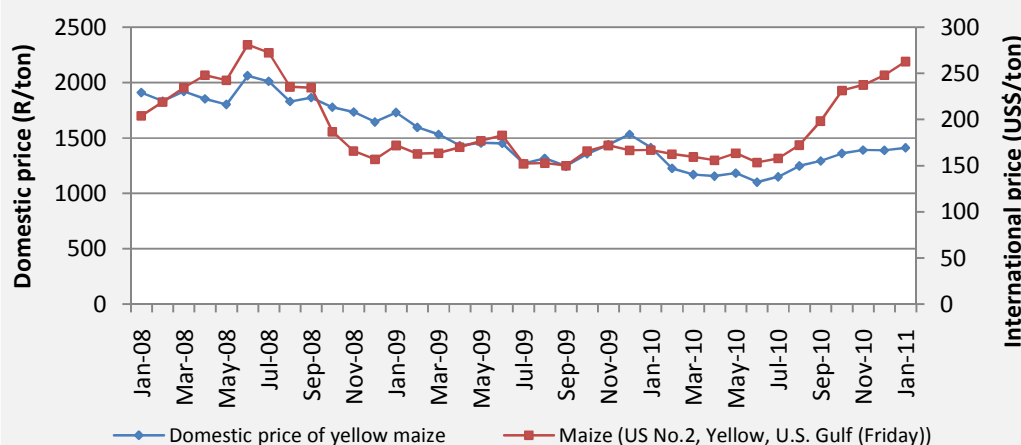


Figure D.4: Domestic market price of maize against global market price
Source: FAO and SAFEX

Between January 2010 and January 2011:

Export parity price
↑ 32.73

Import parity price
↑ 17.24

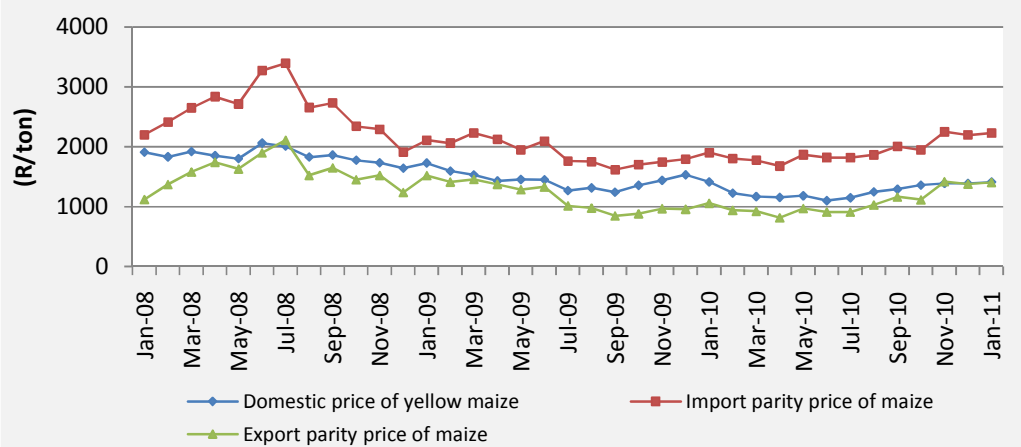


Figure D.5: Import parity, export parity and domestic prices of maize
Source: SAFEX and SAGIS

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Between January 2010 and January 2011:

Super maize meal price
↓ 3.46%

Special maize meal
↓ 10.01%

Domestic price of white maize
↓ 4.62%

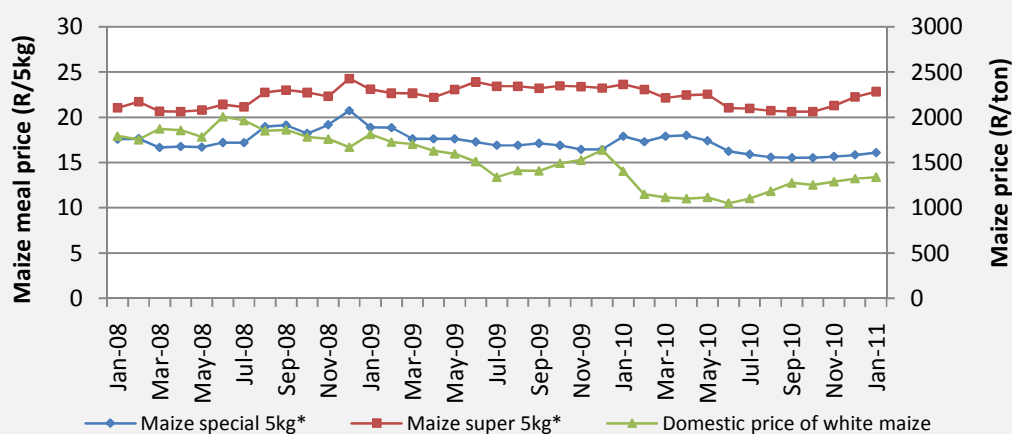


Figure D.6: Maize price and maize meal price trends
Source: SAFEX and AC Nielsen

D.3 Sunflower seeds price trends

Between January 2010 and January 2011:

Domestic price of sunflower seeds
↑ 58.01%

International price of sunflower seeds

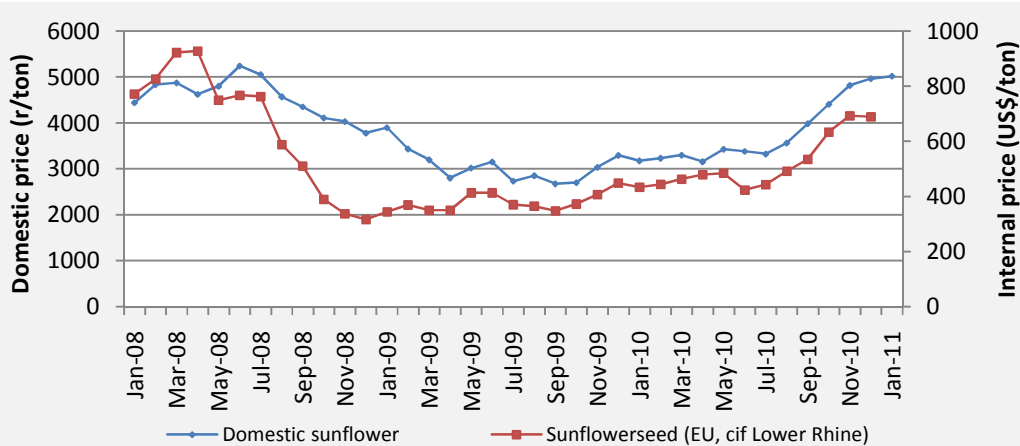


Figure D.7: Domestic market price of sunflower seeds against global market price
Source: FAO and SAFEX

Between January 2010 and January 2011:

Sunflower price
↑ 58.01%

Sunflower oil price
↑ 23.73%

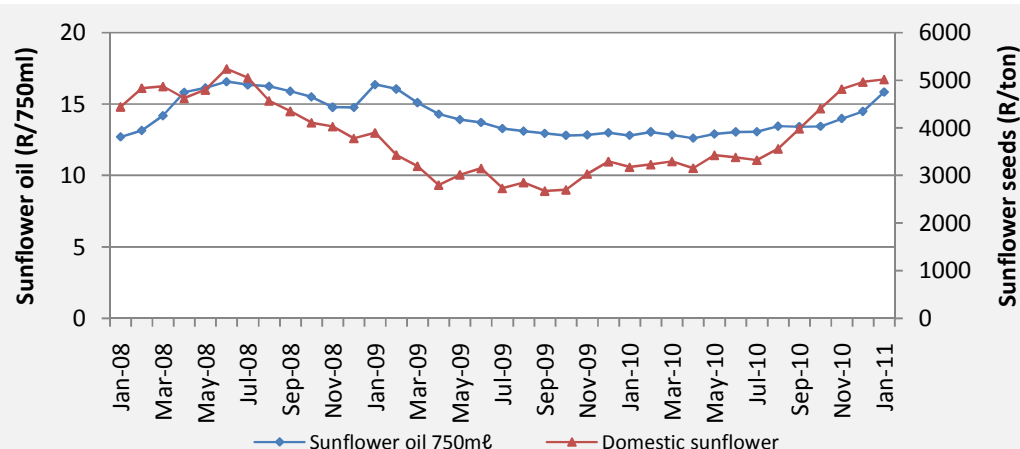


Figure D.8: Sunflower seeds price and sunflower oil price trends
Source: SAFEX and Stats SA

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D.4 Dairy price trends

Between January 2010 and January 2011:

Skim milk powder
↑ 14.27 %

Whole milk powder
↑ 15.18 %

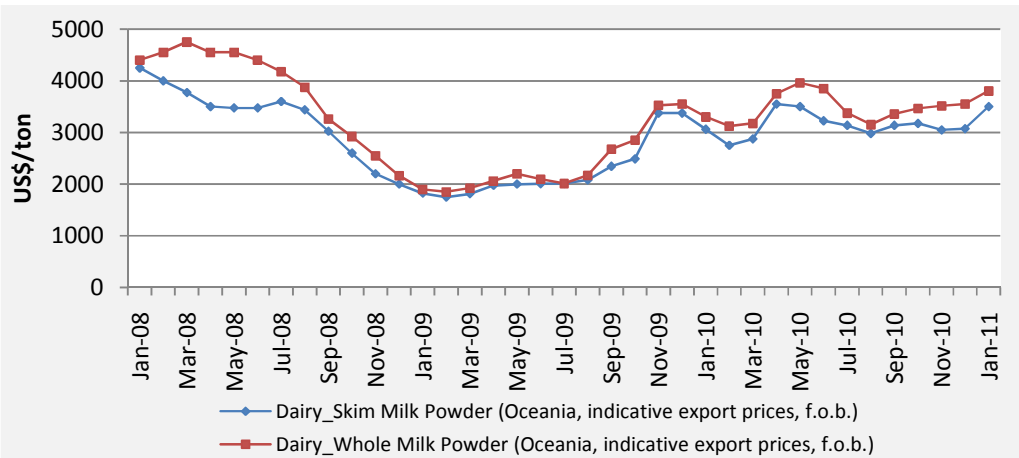


Figure D.9: Skim milk powder and whole milk powder price trends
Source: FAO

Between January 2010 and January 2011:

Milk producer price
↓ 4.00 %

Full cream milk price
↓ 4.06 %

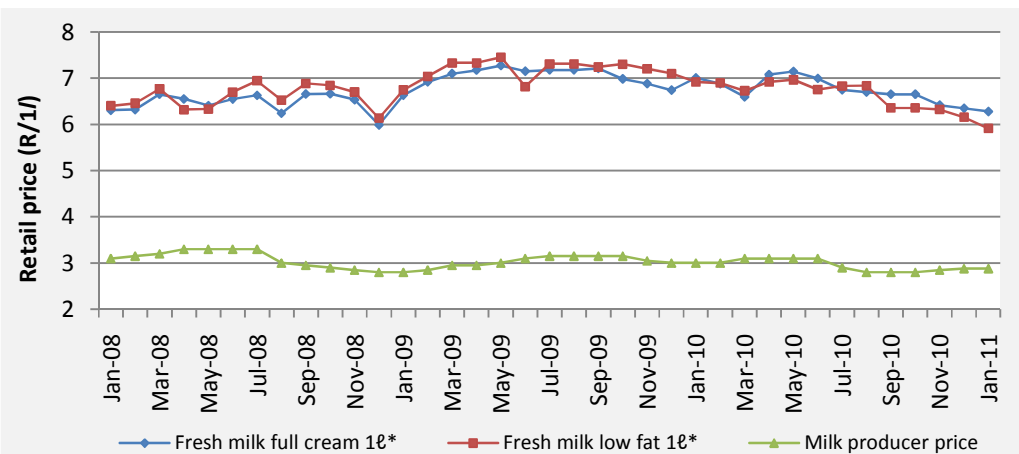


Figure D.10: Domestic producer price and retail prices of milk
Source: MPO and AC Nielsen

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D.5 Meat price trends

The price of beef at retail level showed an average increase of 6.85 % for the different cuts.

Frozen chicken portions price ↓ by 1.00 % per kilogram

Lamb loin chops ↑ by 17.27 % between January 2010 and January 2011

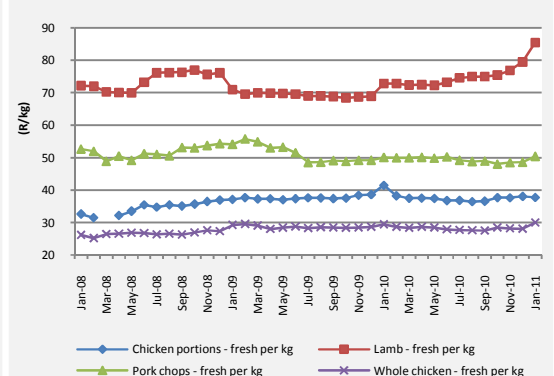
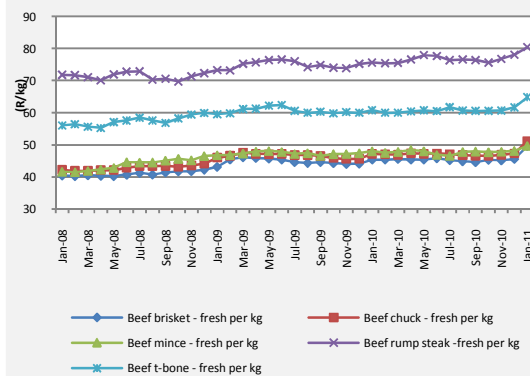


Figure D.11: Retail prices of beef, pork chops, chicken portions, whole chicken and lamb
Source: Stats SA

Between January 2010 and January 2011:

Producer price for fresh chicken ↓ 2.72 %

Frozen chicken price ↑ 7.72 %

Porker price ↓ 1.59 %

Baconer price ↑ 1.12 %

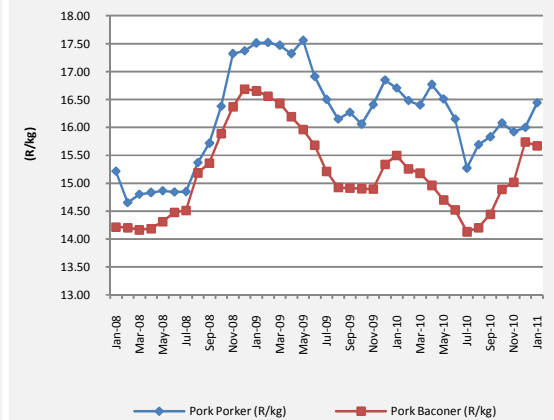
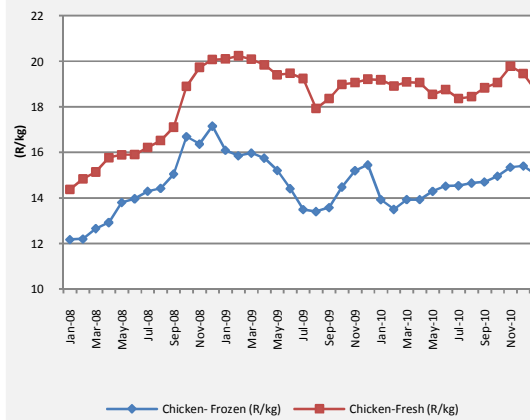


Figure D.12: Producer prices of chicken and pork
Source: AMT

Between January 2010 and January 2011:

Producer price of Beef-class A2/A3 ↑ 12.33 %

Prices of beef class B2/B3 ↑ 9.76 % and class C2/C3 ↑ 10.71 %

Prices of lamb-class A2/A3 and class B ↑ 26.55 % and ↑ 28.77 % respectively; prices of class C2/C3 ↑ 28.97 %

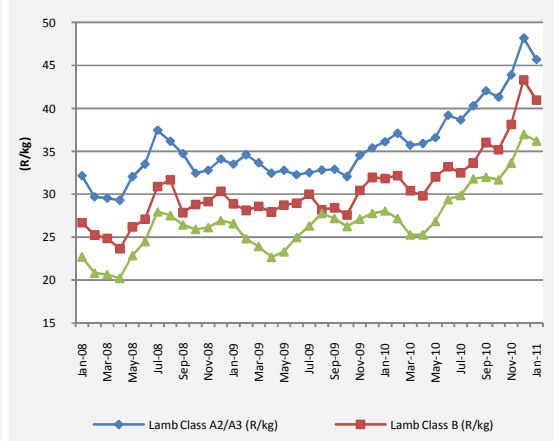
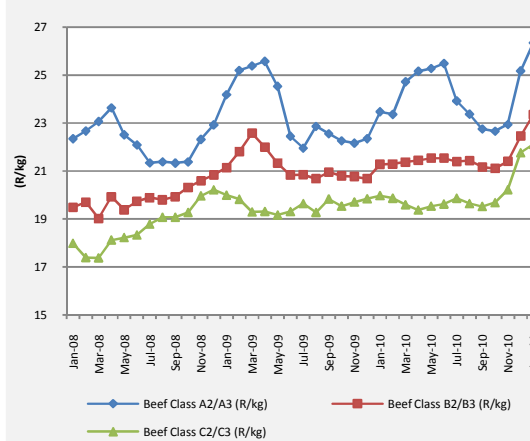


Figure D.13: Producer prices of beef and lamb
Source: AMT

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APPENDIX E: REAL FARM TO RETAIL PRICES SPREAD AND FARM VALUE SHARE OF STAPLE FOOD ITEMS

E.1 Brown bread real farm to retail price spread and farm value share

Between January 2010 and January 2011:

The real farm-to-retail price spread of brown bread increased by 5.97 %

The real farm value share of brown bread decreased by 10.54 %

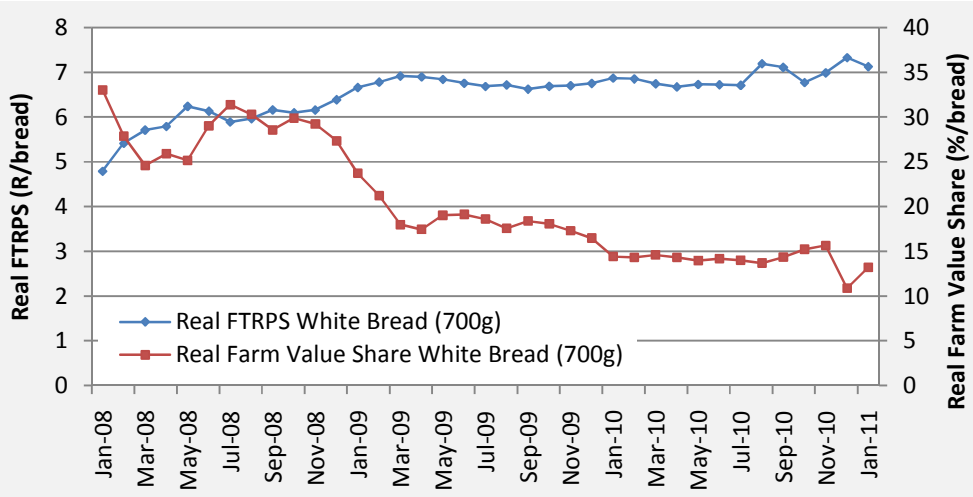


Figure E.1: Real farm to retail price spread and real farm value share of brown bread. Source: SAFEX, Stats SA and own calculations

E.2 White bread real farm to retail price spread and farm value share

Between January 2010 and January 2011:

The real farm-to-retail price spread of white bread increased by 3.69 %

The real farm value share of white bread decreased by 8.49 %

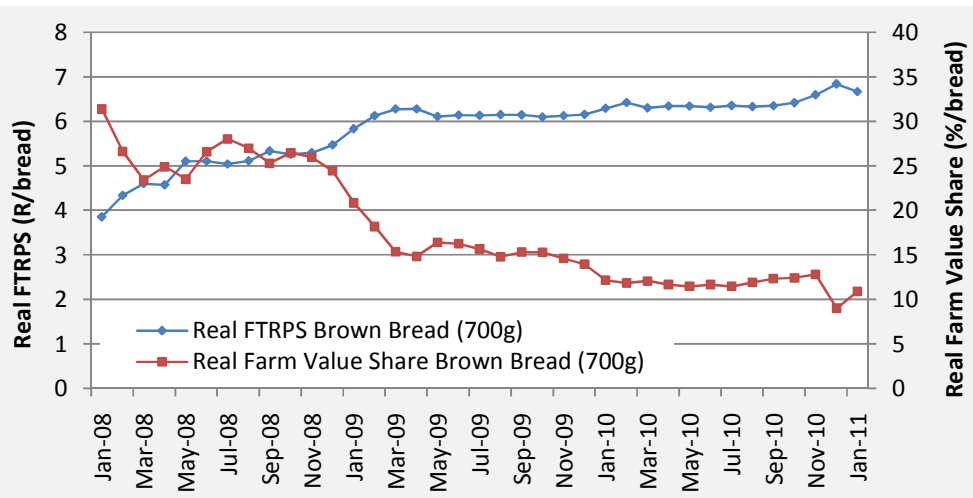


Figure E.2: Real farm to retail price spread and real farm value share of white bread. Source: SAFEX, AC Nielsen and own calculations

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E.3 Super maize meal real farm to retail price spread and farm value share

Between January 2010 and January 2011:

The real farm-to-retail price spread of super maize meal increased by 0.75 %

The real farm value share of super maize meal decreased by 10.76 %

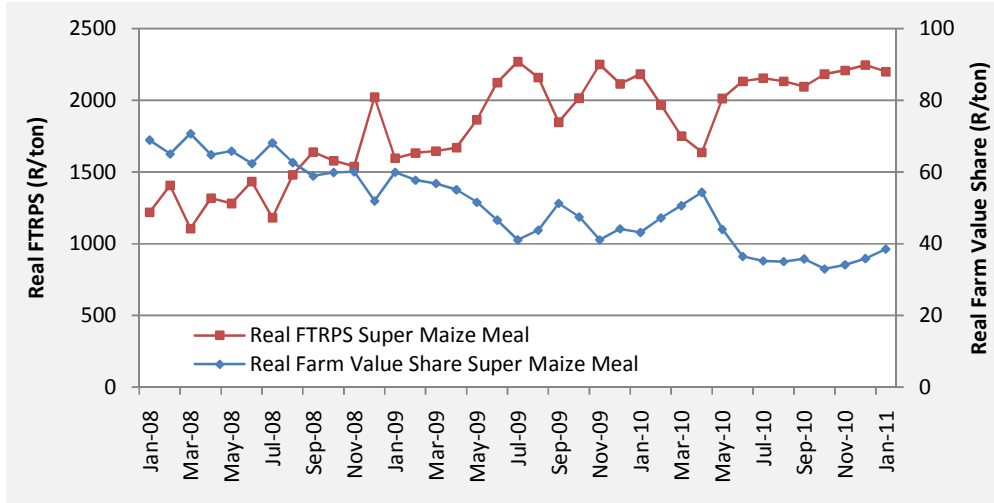


Figure E.3: Real farm to retail price spread and real farm value share of super maize meal. Source: SAFEX, AC Nielsen and own calculations.

E.4 Special maize meal real farm to retail price spread and farm value share

Between January 2010 and January 2011:

The real farm-to-retail price spread of special maize meal decreased by 10 %

The real farm value share of special maize meal decreased by 4.27 %

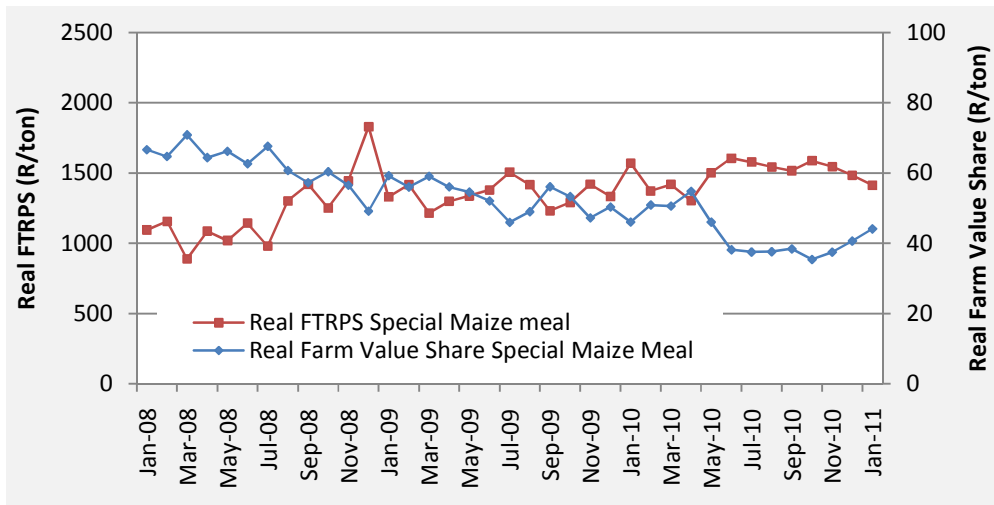


Figure E.3: Real farm to retail price spread and real farm value share of special maize meal. Source: SAFEX, AC Nielsen and own calculations.

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APPENDIX F: DATA COLLECTION

Urban food prices reported by in this media release are obtained from Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) and AC Nielsen. These prices obtained from these two sources are regarded as being representative of changes in food prices in South Africa due to:

- Stats SA price data on all products are sampled from approximately 800 different data collections points across the country on a monthly basis. Food price data is not collected from all the data collection points since some stores that are sampled do not necessarily sell food. In addition, certain food prices are not sampled in all provinces. For example, the price of cheddar cheese is collected from Gauteng, Western Cape, Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Free State, Northern Cape, North West and Mpumalanga. Food price data collection by Stats SA also involves field work where price collectors visit stores to collect data, after which such data undergoes a rigorous process to ensure the integrity of the data. The basket of food products that are included was derived from the Income and Expenditure Survey of 2005/06 that was compiled by Stats SA to ensure that the basket is representative of consumer spending on food. For more detailed information on the methodological process involved in the collection of prices visit http://www.statssa.gov.za/cpi/documents/CPI_Sources_Methods.pdf.
- AC Nielsen collects food price data on a monthly basis from approximately 1000 large food chain stores across the country. Food prices are collected through scanners at the tellers in the big food chain stores after which it undergoes a rigorous process to ensure the integrity of the data. As is the case for Stats SA not all prices are collected in all provinces. For example, potato prices are collected from the core urban areas of Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape, Western Cape and Free State provinces.

This media release also reports food prices in rural areas. Rural food prices are collected from 190 outlets/shops by field workers of the different provincial departments of agriculture on a monthly basis. The number of outlets/shops per province are as follows: 28 outlets in the Free State, 27 in KwaZulu-Natal, 21 in Mpumalanga, 18 in the Northern Cape, 17 in the Eastern Cape, 16 in Gauteng, 21 in Limpopo, 23 in North West and 19 in the Western Cape.

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Stats SA, AC Nielsen and the rural food price monitoring respondents are acknowledged for assistance provided to the NAMC in terms of food price data.

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