

CHAPTER 2

ANNUAL RETAIL FOOD PRICE MOVEMENTS

2.1 Introduction

The Institute for Planning Research, a research institute attached to the University of Port Elizabeth started a longitudinal research project in April 1973 to determine the cost of basic needs of low-income households. The survey was conducted in eleven centres in the Republic and two in Namibia. The cost of 18 food items formed part of the survey. Over time, the ration scale used earlier was adjusted in order to fulfil the need for higher standards, conforming them to the recommended allowances as laid down by the United Nations and the United States' Food and Nutrition Board (NRC). Since 1994 the ration scale, therefore, has consisted of 23 food items. Furthermore, over the years, more centres were added, and so 15 centres have now been surveyed for more than 18 years.

The surveys were originally carried out and updated during March/April and August/September of each year. Six years ago, this was changed to an annual survey for the August/September period. The information is directly comparable.

In the first section of this Chapter, the findings of the last four survey updates (2000 – 2003) have been selected for reporting purposes. This selection was made to illustrate price trends over these years, for it was during this period (specifically during 2002) that there was an extraordinarily high increase in food prices (especially of basic food items). The figures in this section refer to the average cost of 23 food items for 15 major urban centres³ in South Africa over the years September 2000 to September 2003.

In the second section, the information for eleven centres is used to illustrate price trends during the period 1995 to 2003 (Pietermaritzburg, Polokwane, Potchefstroom and Umtata were excluded).

2.2 Year on year actual and percentage changes for 23 food items: (average for 15 centres)

In Table 2.1a below, the average price of 23 food items for fifteen cities and towns are given. The percentage movement from year to year is contained in the highlighted columns.

Table 2.1b presents the average price of the 23 food items together with the cumulative percentage increase over the three-year period. The table is followed by five graphs, in which price trends for 15 selected food items are depicted in order to make the interpretation more visual.

From the last column in Table 2.1b, it appears that skimmed milk powder had the highest percentage price increase over the period 2000 to 2003, namely 75.14%,

³ Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, East London, Kimberley, Durban, Pretoria, Johannesburg, Bloemfontein, King William's Town, Uitenhage, George, Pietermaritzburg, Polokwane, Potchefstroom and Umtata.

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followed by cooking oil (63.3%), eggs (58.4%) and 51.6% for peanut butter. At the other end of the scale, salt had the lowest increase of the 23 items, namely 15.6% (approximately 5% per year), followed by brown bread, sugar and condiments, just over 17% (around 6% per year). The conclusion is that there is a very wide variation of price movements for the different food items.

At the same time there is a wide variation of movements from year to year. From 2001 to 2002 the price of maize meal and samp increased by a staggering 103.2 and 53.8% respectively, while brown bread, jam, cheese amongst others, increased by a low 3 to 4%.

It appears that the second half of 2002 is characterised by an extremely high increase in the price of food items. The highest increase among 15 of the 23 items monitored over the three-year period is to be found during this period. Examples of such items are: skimmed milk powder (41.5%), fresh milk (23.6%), meat (34.6%), potatoes & sweet potatoes (42.1%), cooking oil (26.7%), maize meal (103.2%), samp (53.8%) and dry legumes such as dry beans (26.1%).

The high increase of some products already started during the 2000 – 2001 period, and continued in the 2001 – 2002 period: Fresh milk increased by 21.3% during 2000 to 2001, and by 23.6% during 2001 to 2002. The percentages for eggs are 21.8% and 18.8%, cooking oil 36.7% and 26.7%, and 10.8% and 11.3% for dry spices & condiments.

Table 2.1A
Year on Year Actual and Percentage Food Price Changes for 23 Items: 2000 - 2003
Average for 15 Centres

| Items | Unit | Cost per Unit Sep-00 | | Percentage Change 2000 - 2001 | | Cost per Unit Sep-01 | | Percentage Change 2001 - 2002 | | Cost per Unit Sep-02 | | Percentage Change 2002 - 2003 | |
|---------------------------|----------|----------------------|-------|-------------------------------|-------|----------------------|--------|-------------------------------|---|----------------------|---|-------------------------------|--|
| | | Rand | % | Rand | % | Rand | % | Rand | % | Rand | % | | |
| Skimmed Milk Powder | /500g | 12.59 | 8.02 | 13.6 | 19.24 | 22.05 | 41.47 | 14.60 | | | | | |
| Fresh Milk: 2% | /1 litre | 2.58 | 21.32 | 3.13 | 3.87 | 4.17 | 23.64 | 7.75 | | | | | |
| Meat (red and chicken) | /1 kg | 12.55 | 11.95 | 14.05 | 17.5 | 16.09 | 24.56 | -8.06 | | | | | |
| Fish (pilchards) | /425g | 4.25 | 8.47 | 4.61 | 5.62 | 6.16 | 21.91 | 9.61 | | | | | |
| Eggs (large) | /doz | 4.9 | 21.84 | 5.97 | 7.09 | 7.76 | 18.76 | 9.45 | | | | | |
| Potatoes & Sweet Potatoes | /1kg | 3.2 | 1.56 | 3.25 | 4.62 | 4.76 | 42.15 | 3.03 | | | | | |
| Fresh Vegetables | /1kg | 3.44 | 0.00 | 3.44 | 4.28 | 4.25 | 24.42 | -0.70 | | | | | |
| Fresh Fruit | /1kg | 2.64 | -3.79 | 2.54 | 2.63 | 3.06 | 3.54 | 16.35 | | | | | |
| Margarine | /250g | 1.46 | 2.74 | 1.5 | 1.79 | 1.84 | 19.33 | 2.79 | | | | | |
| Cooking Oil | /750ml | 3.73 | 36.73 | 5.1 | 6.46 | 6.09 | 26.67 | -5.73 | | | | | |
| Brown Bread | /800g | 2.92 | 10.27 | 3.22 | 3.35 | 3.42 | 4.04 | 2.09 | | | | | |
| Maize Meal | /12.5kg | 19.72 | 1.37 | 19.99 | 40.62 | 27.64 | 103.20 | -31.95 | | | | | |
| Dry Grain Products (Samp) | /2.5kg | 6.34 | 3.00 | 6.53 | 10.04 | 9.17 | 53.75 | -8.67 | | | | | |
| Sugar | /2.5kg | 10.02 | 3.99 | 10.42 | 11.33 | 11.77 | 8.73 | 3.88 | | | | | |
| Jam | /900g | 6.87 | 2.18 | 7.02 | 7.36 | 9.61 | 4.84 | 30.57 | | | | | |
| Soya Mince | /200g | 3.99 | 3.76 | 4.14 | 5.01 | 4.97 | 21.01 | -0.80 | | | | | |
| Peanut Butter | /410g | 5.14 | 15.18 | 5.92 | 6.4 | 7.79 | 8.11 | 21.72 | | | | | |
| Cheese | /1kg | 26.74 | 13.84 | 30.44 | 31.92 | 35.29 | 4.86 | 10.56 | | | | | |
| Dry Legumes e.g. Beans | /500g | 3.1 | 4.84 | 3.25 | 4.1 | 4.09 | 26.15 | -0.24 | | | | | |
| Coffee & Tea | /1kg | 24.76 | 1.82 | 25.21 | 28.22 | 29.59 | 11.94 | 4.85 | | | | | |
| Salt | /1kg | 1.92 | 2.60 | 1.97 | 2.02 | 2.22 | 2.54 | 9.90 | | | | | |
| Spices & Condiments: Dry | /100g | 7.4 | 10.81 | 8.2 | 9.13 | 10.22 | 11.34 | 11.94 | | | | | |
| Fluids e.g. Vinegar | /100ml | 5.37 | -5.03 | 5.1 | 5.89 | 6.3 | 15.49 | 6.96 | | | | | |

Table 2.1B
Year on Year Actual and cumulative percentage food price changes for 23 items, 2000 – 2003
Average for 15 centres

| Items | Unit | Cost per Unit Sep-00 | | Cost per Unit Sep-01 | | Percentage Change 2000 - 2001 | | Cost per Unit Sep-02 | | Percentage Change 2000 - 2002 | | Cost per Unit Sep-03 | | Percentage Change 2000 - 2003 | |
|---------------------------|----------|----------------------|--|----------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|----------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|----------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|
| | | Rand | | Rand | | % | | Rand | | % | | Rand | | % | |
| Skimmed Milk Powder | /500g | 12.59 | | 13.6 | | 8.02 | | 19.24 | | 52.82 | | 22.05 | | 75.14 | |
| Fresh Milk: 2% | /1 litre | 2.58 | | 3.13 | | 21.32 | | 3.87 | | 50.00 | | 4.17 | | 61.63 | |
| Meat (red and chicken) | /1 kg | 12.55 | | 14.05 | | 11.95 | | 17.5 | | 39.44 | | 16.09 | | 28.21 | |
| Fish (pilchards) | /425g | 4.25 | | 4.61 | | 8.47 | | 5.62 | | 32.24 | | 6.16 | | 44.94 | |
| Eggs (large) | /doz | 4.9 | | 5.97 | | 21.84 | | 7.09 | | 44.69 | | 7.76 | | 58.37 | |
| Potatoes & Sweet Potatoes | /1kg | 3.2 | | 3.25 | | 1.56 | | 4.62 | | 44.38 | | 4.76 | | 48.75 | |
| Fresh Vegetables | /1kg | 3.44 | | 3.44 | | 0.00 | | 4.28 | | 24.42 | | 4.25 | | 23.55 | |
| Fresh Fruit | /1kg | 2.64 | | 2.54 | | -3.79 | | 2.63 | | 0.40 | | 3.06 | | 15.91 | |
| Margarine | /250g | 1.46 | | 1.5 | | 2.74 | | 1.79 | | 19.33 | | 1.84 | | 26.03 | |
| Cooking Oil | /750ml | 3.73 | | 5.1 | | 36.73 | | 6.46 | | 26.67 | | 6.09 | | 63.27 | |
| Brown Bread | /800g | 2.92 | | 3.22 | | 10.27 | | 3.35 | | 14.73 | | 3.42 | | 17.12 | |
| Maize Meal | /12.5kg | 19.72 | | 19.99 | | 1.37 | | 40.62 | | 105.98 | | 27.64 | | 40.16 | |
| Dry Grain Products (Samp) | /2.5kg | 6.34 | | 6.53 | | 3.00 | | 10.04 | | 58.36 | | 9.17 | | 44.64 | |
| Sugar | /2.5kg | 10.02 | | 10.42 | | 3.99 | | 11.33 | | 13.07 | | 11.77 | | 17.47 | |
| Jam | /900g | 6.87 | | 7.02 | | 2.18 | | 7.36 | | 4.84 | | 9.61 | | 39.88 | |
| Soya Mince | /200g | 3.99 | | 4.14 | | 3.76 | | 5.01 | | 21.01 | | 4.97 | | 24.56 | |
| Peanut Butter | /410g | 5.14 | | 5.92 | | 15.18 | | 6.4 | | 24.51 | | 7.79 | | 51.56 | |
| Cheese | /1kg | 26.74 | | 30.44 | | 13.84 | | 31.92 | | 4.86 | | 35.29 | | 31.97 | |
| Dry Legumes e.g. Beans | /500g | 3.1 | | 3.25 | | 4.84 | | 4.1 | | 32.26 | | 4.09 | | 31.94 | |
| Coffee & Tea | /1kg | 24.76 | | 25.21 | | 1.82 | | 28.22 | | 11.94 | | 29.59 | | 19.51 | |
| Salt | /1kg | 1.92 | | 1.97 | | 2.60 | | 2.02 | | 2.54 | | 2.22 | | 15.63 | |
| Spices & Condiments: Dry | /100g | 7.4 | | 8.2 | | 10.81 | | 9.13 | | 11.34 | | 10.22 | | 38.11 | |
| Fluids e.g. Vinegar | /100ml | 5.37 | | 5.1 | | -5.03 | | 5.89 | | 15.49 | | 6.3 | | 17.32 | |

Dairy

The trend for dairy products shows a high increase during the period up to 2002, after which there was a levelling off during the 2002-2003 period, both for skimmed milk and fresh milk. It is important to note that, although there was a levelling off during the period 2002 and 2003, the general trend is still upward – and hovers in the order of the inflation rate.

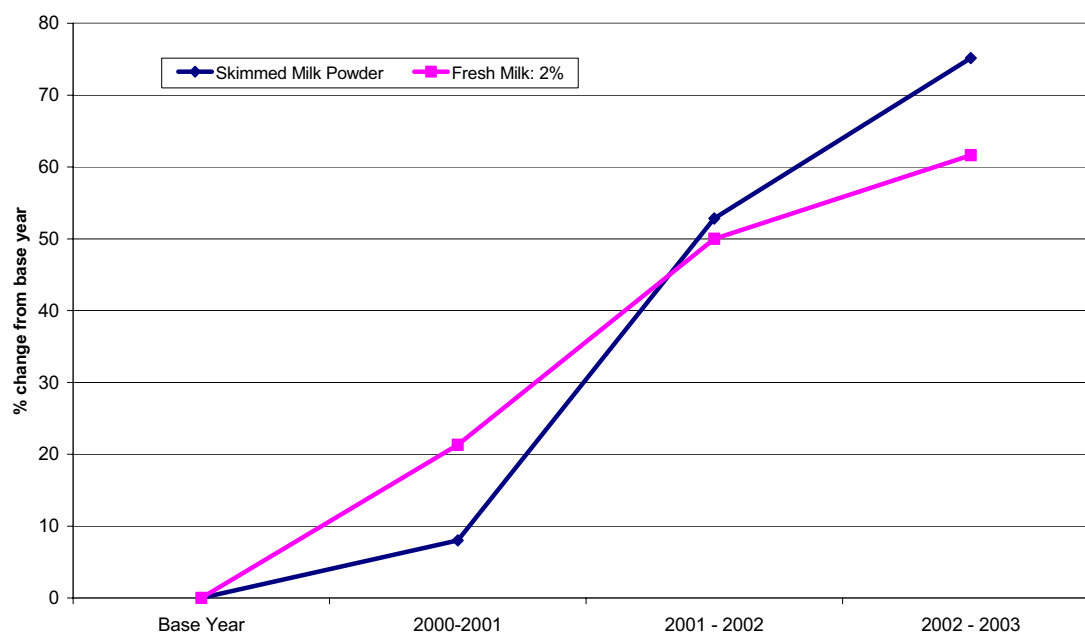


Figure 2.1: Changes in price for dairy products (cumulative %)

Meat, eggs and fish

The products show different trends: The price of eggs increased in the order of 20% per year for the first two years, reaching its peak in 2002 where after it slowed down up to September 2003. Fish (Pilchards) increased slower than the rate of inflation during 2000 to 2001 after which it shows the typical price spurt to 2002 and followed by a price slowdown in to 2003.

Beef shows an interesting price trend: starting off at an inflation rate increase of 12% (2000 – 2001), it increased significantly by 24.5% during the following year (the typical trend) and then the average price dropped by 8.6% during the next period (2003). Generally speaking, these products follow the same price trend, namely a moderate increase from 2000 to 2001 (more or less the rate of inflation), then a steep increase to 2002, followed by a levelling off in 2003.

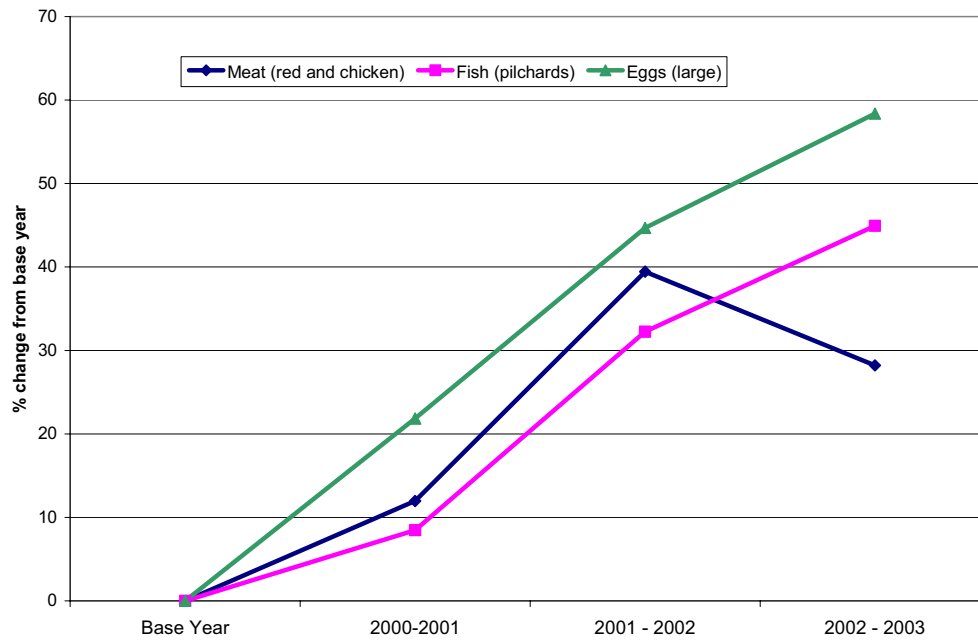


Figure 2.2: Changes in price for meats, eggs and fish products (cumulative %)

Fruit and vegetables

The price trend of potatoes and sweet potatoes again shows the same typical but remarkable pattern: hardly any increase during 2000 to 2001, then a sharp increase (42.15%) up to 2002 and then a levelling off in 2003. The 2002 trend is largely explained by the shift by irrigation farmers out of potatoes into maize production. Fresh fruit shows the same pattern, but at a lower level. Fresh vegetables show a rather different pattern: there was hardly any price change from 2000 to 2002 and then a significant 24.4% increase during the period ending September 2003.

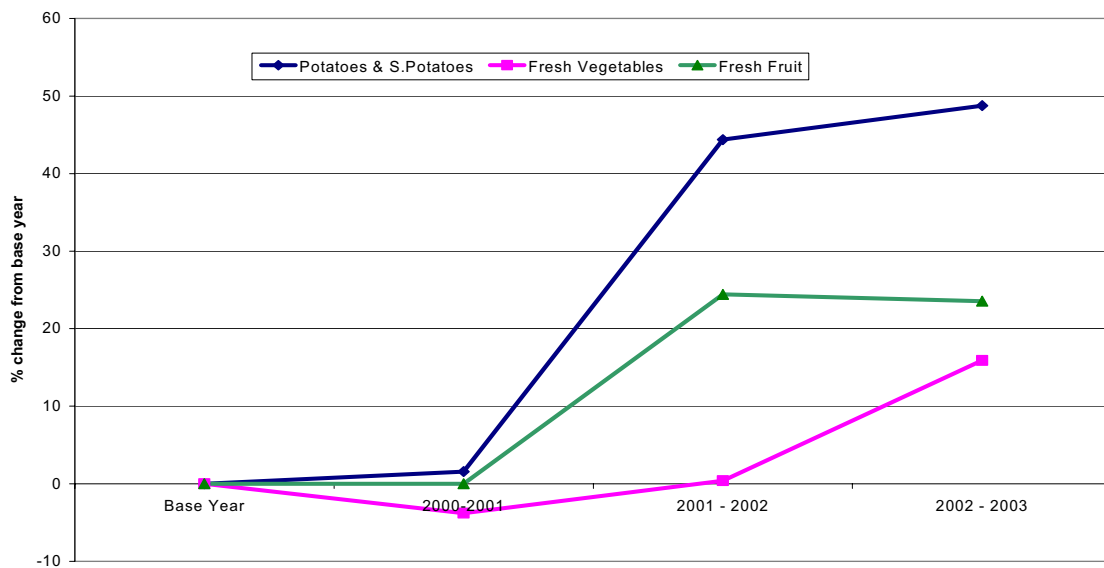


Figure 2.3: Changes in price for fruits and vegetables (cumulative %)

Grain milling products and sugar

Concerning the movement of the cost of maize meal, it is interesting to note that from September 2000 to September 2001, there was very little movement. Then in the following year up to September 2002, the price of maize meal doubled. An increase of 103% in one year on average was noted for the 15 centres. In the following year i.e. September 2002 to 2003, the price dropped by 32%, but was still 38% higher than in September 2001. Dry grain products (samp) followed the same pattern, but on a lower level, while brown bread and sugar showed a moderate increase over the whole three-year period. This increase was considerably lower than the Consumer Price Index for the same period indicated.

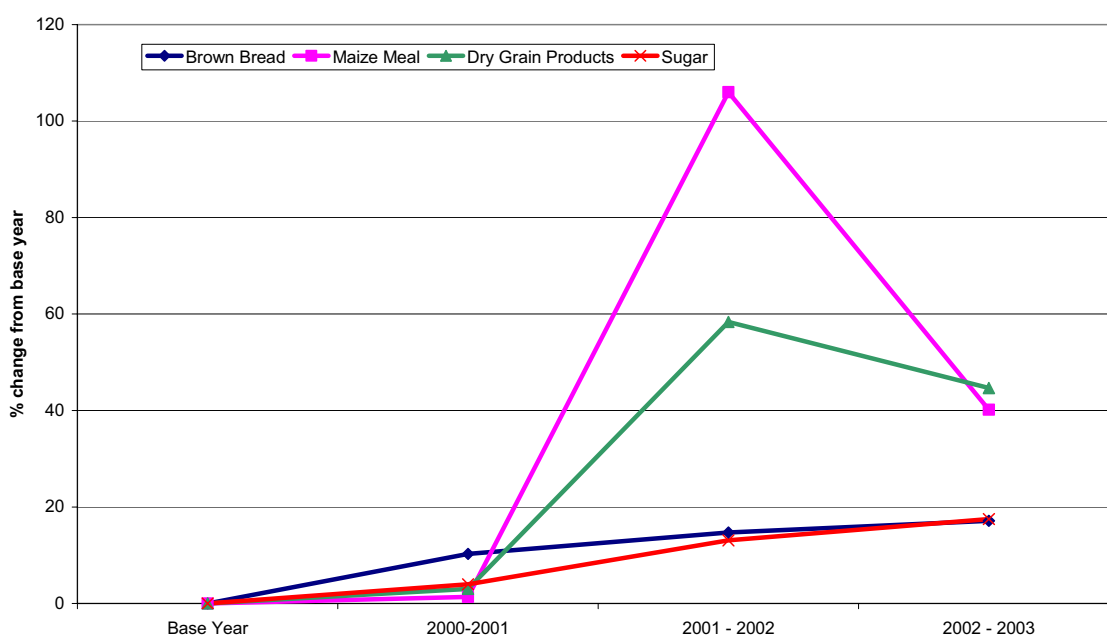


Figure 2.4: Changes in price for grain milling products and sugar (cumulative %)

Legumes, cheese and peanut butter

Dry legumes (Beans & Peas) followed the same pattern as most of the other monitored products – a high increase from 2001 to 2002 (26%) followed by hardly any change in 2003. In this case, the average price is the same as in 2002. The cost trend for peanut butter deviates from the general trend. A reasonably high increase was noted over the two years 2000 to 2002, and then a very high increase of 21,7% during the following year.

Conclusion

The prices of 23 food items for 15 cities and major towns in South Africa were monitored over a three-year period, in which 2000 was used as the base year. The data are presented in Tables 2.1a and b.

From the information presented, it appears that there is a very wide variation of price movements regarding different food items. Items like maize meal, samp, potatoes and

eggs show very wide movements from year to year, while items such as brown bread and sugar had very low increases. It is, therefore, not possible to make an unequivocal general statement on food price movements.

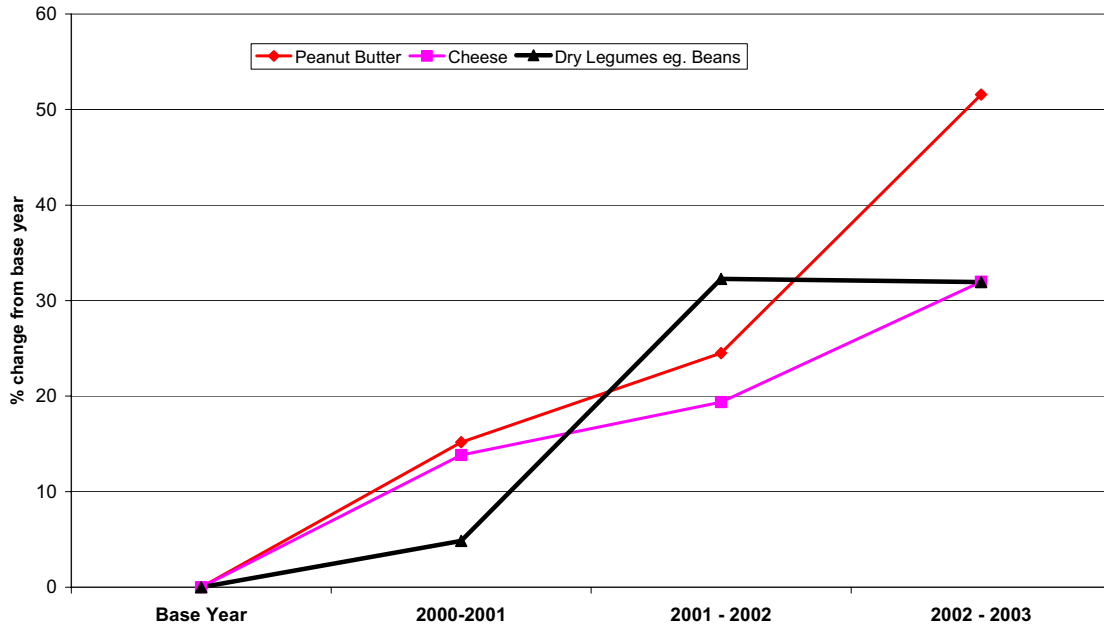


Figure 2.5: Changes in price for legumes, cheese and butter (cumulative %)

Furthermore, it is clear that for most food products, a high to exceptionally high cost increase during the second half of 2002 and the first quarter of 2003 were experienced. During the September 2003 survey, a definite slowdown of costs was noted when compared with previous years. However, it must be emphasised that the trend was still upward

Finally, although there was a slowdown trend of costs noted for most of the 23 food items during the 2003 survey, it must be emphasised that these products did not become cheaper (with few exceptions). Generally speaking, it would appear that prices are still escalating, at a level, which is mainly higher than the current rate of inflation.

2.3 The cost of a food basket and average food prices for 11 major urban centres: 1995 - 2003

In this section we analyse the total cost to purchase a basket of the 23 items as well as the average price of the individual items at different locations.

From Table 2.2 and Figure 2.6 it can be seen that between 1995 and 2001, the costs of the food basket increased gradually, after which there occurred a sharp increase to 2002, and then a subsequent slight decline in 2003 can be noted. This is confirmed in Table 2.3, depicting the average annual change in food price per item. From the annual year on year average percentage price increase per item (Table 2.4) it can be noted that the average food price increase remained below 8% up to 2002, after which

an increase of approximately 25% occurred, followed by a decline of 1.4% in 2003. In general, though, the trend is upward, and it is too early to know whether the downward trend detected in 2003 might correct the big increases that occurred in 2002.

When comparing the annual average food prices for the eleven centres (Table 2.2 and Figure 2.7), it becomes apparent that although some variation can be found, prices moved within a narrow band from year to year. For this reason, it was decided that the average annual food prices for the 11 major urban centres would be sufficient to provide the general trends in food price fluctuations over the nine years that were studied.

While the total average cumulative percentage price increase per item between 1995 and 2003 was 56.4%, some items were far below and others far above this average. Food items that increased the least included coffee and tea (6.75%), margarine (21.29%), fresh fruit (22.63%), salt (24.10%) and red meat (25.73%), while skimmed milk powder (147.08%), fresh vegetables (127.95%), dry legumes (116.39%), potatoes and sweet potatoes (111.27%), milk (112.7%) all increased by over 110% over the nine year period. The trends in average prices (recorded every September) of individual food items over this period are depicted in Figures 2.8 through 2.14.

Table 2.2: Annual average cost of a food basket containing 23 items (Rand)

| CITY | YEAR* | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
| Cape Town | 136.06 | 139.13 | 143.48 | 143.48 | 159.15 | 164.4 | 175.29 | 226.5 | 215.88 |
| Port Elizabeth | 118.19 | 133.62 | 143.53 | 143.53 | 158.39 | 161.53 | 168.82 | 213.03 | 210.76 |
| East London | 123.02 | 135.1 | 147.68 | 147.68 | 161.59 | 162.74 | 169.63 | 221.94 | 209.68 |
| Kimberley | 123.11 | 134.42 | 142.91 | 142.91 | 158.98 | 162.96 | 175.62 | 220.01 | 216.16 |
| Durban | 124.98 | 135.82 | 144.57 | 144.57 | 152.22 | 158.92 | 175.03 | 216.5 | 219.03 |
| Pretoria | 132.42 | 137.16 | 145.88 | 145.88 | 162.27 | 168.09 | 180.21 | 218.99 | 227.24 |
| Johannesburg | 128.04 | 135.26 | 149.45 | 149.45 | 161.25 | 166.32 | 180.16 | 226.84 | 224.01 |
| Bloemfontein | 129.58 | 134.83 | 141.29 | 141.29 | 157.65 | 162.81 | 170.74 | 215.4 | 209.43 |
| King Williams Town | 125.07 | 134.87 | 145.35 | 145.35 | 158.97 | 164.32 | 176.67 | 212.37 | 219.39 |
| Uitenhage | 118.05 | 132.1 | 140.93 | 140.93 | 155.67 | 160.61 | 175.37 | 220.36 | 213.97 |
| George | 138.21 | 138.53 | 145.26 | 145.26 | 159.41 | 161.73 | 177.49 | 220.04 | 212.44 |

* Prices recorded every September

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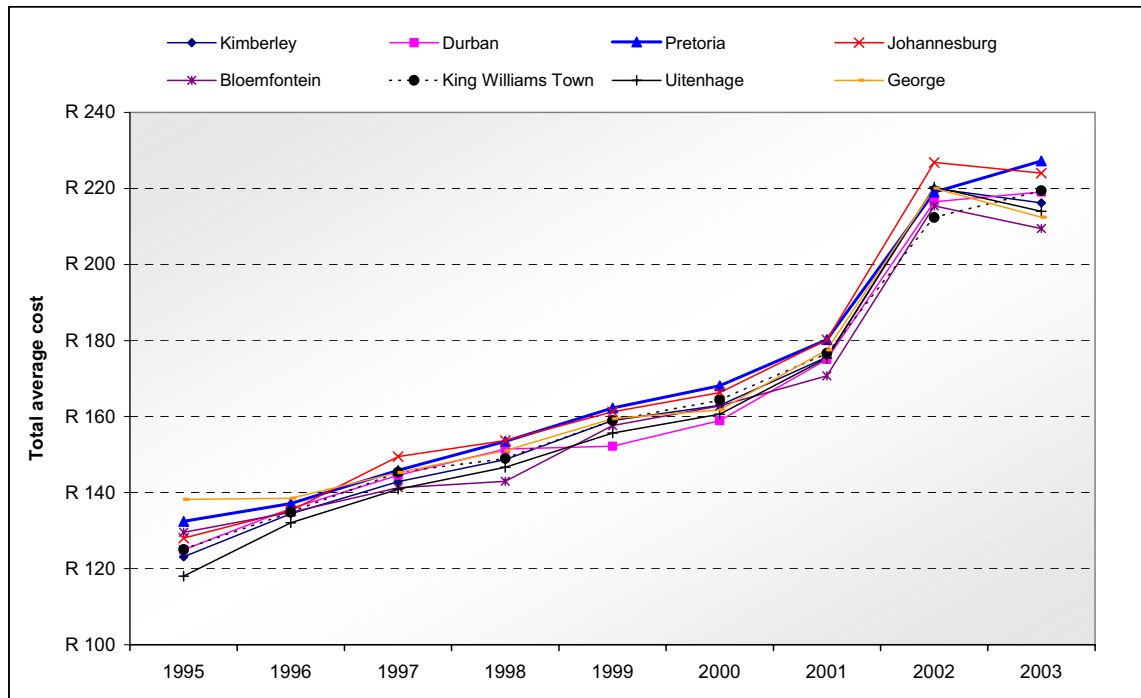


Figure 2.6: Annual average cost of a food basket of 23 items per centre

Table 2.3: Annual average food prices per item (Rand).

| Item | YEAR | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--|
| | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | |
| Skimmed Milk Powder | 8.88 | 9.15 | 11.63 | 11.14 | 11.86 | 12.58 | 13.67 | 19.43 | 21.94 | |
| Milk :2% | 1.94 | 2.15 | 2.19 | 2.28 | 2.47 | 2.58 | 3.13 | 3.90 | 4.13 | |
| Meat (red & chicken) | 12.55 | 13.05 | 14.42 | 12.70 | 12.34 | 12.55 | 14.05 | 17.59 | 15.78 | |
| Fish (pilchards) | 3.55 | 3.48 | 3.95 | 4.12 | 3.91 | 4.25 | 4.61 | 5.58 | 6.26 | |
| Eggs | 3.95 | 4.36 | 4.78 | 5.37 | 5.17 | 4.90 | 5.97 | 6.98 | 7.55 | |
| Potatoes & S.Potatoes | 2.25 | 2.24 | 2.34 | 2.58 | 3.07 | 3.20 | 3.25 | 4.74 | 4.75 | |
| Fresh Vegetables | 1.89 | 2.98 | 2.67 | 2.73 | 2.85 | 3.44 | 3.44 | 4.28 | 4.31 | |
| Fresh Fruit | 2.29 | 1.99 | 2.19 | 2.32 | 2.67 | 2.64 | 2.54 | 2.65 | 2.81 | |
| Margarine | 1.55 | 1.15 | 1.29 | 1.38 | 1.42 | 1.46 | 1.50 | 1.78 | 1.88 | |
| Cooking Oil | 3.28 | 3.28 | 3.49 | 4.32 | 4.34 | 3.73 | 5.10 | 6.36 | 6.06 | |
| Brown Bread | 1.70 | 1.95 | 2.18 | 2.35 | 2.37 | 2.92 | 3.22 | 3.39 | 3.43 | |
| Maize Meal | 18.95 | 19.90 | 17.85 | 19.55 | 20.89 | 19.72 | 19.99 | 40.95 | 28.33 | |
| Dry Grain Products | 5.55 | 5.75 | 5.48 | 6.06 | 6.63 | 6.34 | 6.53 | 10.05 | 9.12 | |
| Sugar | 7.28 | 7.75 | 8.22 | 8.73 | 9.05 | 10.02 | 10.42 | 11.40 | 11.81 | |
| Jam | 5.28 | 4.95 | 5.49 | 5.80 | 6.15 | 6.87 | 7.02 | 7.50 | 9.69 | |
| Textured Plant Protein | 2.95 | 3.25 | 3.68 | 3.93 | 3.98 | 3.99 | 4.14 | 4.95 | 4.99 | |
| Peanut Butter | 3.75 | 3.85 | 4.18 | 4.28 | 4.62 | 5.14 | 5.92 | 6.40 | 7.87 | |
| Cheese | 18.97 | 23.90 | 24.90 | 22.47 | 26.03 | 26.74 | 30.44 | 31.73 | 34.82 | |
| Dry Legumes e.g. Beans | 1.88 | 2.47 | 2.59 | 2.65 | 2.96 | 3.10 | 3.25 | 4.07 | 4.07 | |
| Coffee & Tea | 27.88 | 19.54 | 22.31 | 23.97 | 25.10 | 24.76 | 25.21 | 28.02 | 29.76 | |
| Salt | 1.75 | 1.49 | 1.55 | 1.56 | 1.69 | 1.92 | 1.97 | 2.01 | 2.17 | |
| Spices & Condim: Dry | 5.23 | 5.14 | 5.42 | 6.17 | 6.73 | 7.49 | 8.20 | 9.08 | 10.15 | |
| Fluids e.g. Vinegar | 3.79 | 3.91 | 4.09 | 4.36 | 4.25 | 5.37 | 5.10 | 5.86 | 6.43 | |
| TOTAL (for basket) | 138.21 | 138.53 | 145.26 | 149.67 | 158.69 | 163.13 | 175.00 | 219.27 | 216.18 | |

Table 2.4: Total average year on year percentage price increase per item (%)

| Item | YEAR | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|--------|
| | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
| Skimmed Milk Powder | NA | 3.04 | 27.10 | -4.25 | 6.53 | 6.06 | 8.63 | 42.17 | 12.91 |
| Milk :2% | NA | 10.82 | 1.86 | 4.07 | 8.30 | 4.60 | 21.16 | 24.70 | 5.78 |
| Meat (red & chicken) | NA | 3.98 | 10.50 | -12.27 | -2.49 | 1.76 | 11.93 | 25.23 | -10.32 |
| Fish (pilchards) | NA | -1.97 | 13.51 | 4.42 | -5.18 | 8.74 | 8.34 | 21.17 | 12.05 |
| Eggs | NA | 10.38 | 9.63 | 12.25 | -3.63 | -5.19 | 21.81 | 16.87 | 8.25 |
| Potatoes & S.Potatoes | NA | -0.44 | 4.46 | 10.22 | 18.96 | 4.15 | 1.68 | 45.75 | 0.38 |
| Fresh Vegetables | NA | 57.67 | -10.40 | 2.11 | 4.43 | 20.82 | -0.13 | 24.50 | 0.72 |
| Fresh Fruit | NA | -13.10 | 10.05 | 6.14 | 14.82 | -1.26 | -3.45 | 4.29 | 5.82 |
| Margarine | NA | -25.81 | 12.17 | 7.26 | 2.37 | 2.76 | 3.37 | 18.31 | 5.62 |
| Cooking Oil | NA | 0.00 | 6.40 | 23.68 | 0.51 | -14.08 | 36.80 | 24.75 | -4.66 |
| Brown Bread | NA | 14.71 | 11.79 | 7.96 | 0.89 | 22.82 | 10.54 | 5.25 | 1.05 |
| Maize Meal | NA | 5.01 | -10.30 | 9.54 | 6.84 | -5.58 | 1.36 | 104.83 | -30.82 |
| Dry Grain Products | NA | 3.60 | -4.70 | 10.50 | 9.49 | -4.31 | 2.89 | 54.00 | -9.26 |
| Sugar | NA | 6.46 | 6.06 | 6.17 | 3.68 | 10.76 | 4.00 | 9.39 | 3.61 |
| Jam | NA | -6.25 | 10.91 | 5.70 | 5.98 | 11.78 | 2.05 | 6.89 | 29.17 |
| Textured Plant Protein | NA | 10.17 | 13.23 | 6.74 | 1.25 | 0.23 | 3.97 | 19.52 | 0.66 |
| Peanut Butter | NA | 2.67 | 8.57 | 2.44 | 7.92 | 11.21 | 15.16 | 8.11 | 23.07 |
| Cheese | NA | 25.99 | 4.18 | -9.74 | 15.82 | 2.74 | 13.85 | 4.24 | 9.72 |
| Dry Legumes e.g. Beans | NA | 31.38 | 4.86 | 2.46 | 11.72 | 4.45 | 5.02 | 25.30 | -0.16 |
| Coffee & Tea | NA | -29.91 | 14.18 | 7.42 | 4.74 | -1.37 | 1.82 | 11.15 | 6.22 |
| Salt | NA | -14.86 | 4.03 | 1.41 | 7.75 | 13.58 | 2.17 | 2.04 | 8.30 |
| Spices & Condim: Dry | NA | -1.72 | 5.45 | 13.77 | 9.16 | 11.35 | 9.38 | 10.72 | 11.85 |
| Fluids e.g. Vinegar | NA | 3.17 | 4.60 | 6.51 | -2.40 | 26.19 | -4.98 | 14.96 | 9.69 |
| TOTAL (for basket) | NA | 0.23 | 4.86 | 3.14 | 5.91 | 2.80 | 7.28 | 25.30 | -1.41 |

Table 2.5: Total average annual growth in retail prices per item since 1995

| Item | YEAR | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
| Skimmed Milk Powder | NA | 3.04 | 14.44 | 7.84 | 7.51 | 7.22 | 7.45 | 11.84 | 11.97 |
| Milk: 2% | NA | 10.82 | 6.25 | 5.52 | 6.20 | 5.88 | 8.29 | 10.49 | 9.89 |
| Meat (red & chicken) | NA | 3.98 | 7.19 | 0.26 | -0.43 | 0.00 | 1.90 | 4.95 | 2.90 |
| Fish (pilchards) | NA | -1.97 | 5.48 | 5.13 | 2.45 | 3.68 | 4.44 | 6.68 | 7.34 |
| Eggs | NA | 10.38 | 10.01 | 10.75 | 6.97 | 4.42 | 7.13 | 8.47 | 8.44 |
| Potatoes & S.Potatoes | NA | -0.44 | 1.98 | 4.66 | 8.06 | 7.27 | 6.32 | 11.22 | 9.80 |
| Fresh Vegetables | NA | 57.67 | 18.86 | 12.99 | 10.79 | 12.72 | 10.47 | 12.38 | 10.85 |
| Fresh Fruit | NA | -13.10 | -2.21 | 0.50 | 3.90 | 2.85 | 1.77 | 2.13 | 2.58 |
| Margarine | NA | -25.81 | -8.77 | -3.71 | -2.23 | -1.25 | -0.49 | 2.00 | 2.44 |
| Cooking Oil | NA | 0.00 | 3.15 | 9.58 | 7.24 | 2.59 | 7.63 | 9.92 | 7.99 |
| Brown Bread | NA | 14.71 | 13.24 | 11.45 | 8.71 | 11.40 | 11.25 | 10.38 | 9.16 |
| Maize Meal | NA | 5.01 | -2.95 | 1.05 | 2.47 | 0.80 | 0.90 | 11.64 | 5.16 |
| Dry Grain Products | NA | 3.60 | -0.63 | 2.95 | 4.55 | 2.71 | 2.74 | 8.86 | 6.41 |
| Sugar | NA | 6.46 | 6.26 | 6.23 | 5.59 | 6.60 | 6.16 | 6.62 | 6.24 |
| Jam | NA | -6.25 | 1.97 | 3.20 | 3.89 | 5.42 | 4.85 | 5.14 | 7.88 |
| Textured Plant Protein | NA | 10.17 | 11.69 | 10.02 | 7.76 | 6.21 | 5.83 | 7.69 | 6.78 |
| Peanut Butter | NA | 2.67 | 5.58 | 4.52 | 5.36 | 6.51 | 7.90 | 7.93 | 9.72 |
| Cheese | NA | 25.99 | 14.57 | 5.81 | 8.23 | 7.11 | 8.20 | 7.63 | 7.89 |
| Dry Legumes e.g. Beans | NA | 31.38 | 17.37 | 12.17 | 12.06 | 10.49 | 9.56 | 11.68 | 10.13 |
| Coffee & Tea | NA | -29.91 | -10.55 | -4.92 | -2.59 | -2.35 | -1.66 | 0.07 | 0.82 |
| Salt | NA | -14.86 | -5.89 | -3.52 | -0.82 | 1.91 | 1.95 | 1.97 | 2.74 |
| Spices & Condim: Dry | NA | -1.72 | 1.80 | 5.64 | 6.51 | 7.46 | 7.78 | 8.19 | 8.64 |
| Fluids e.g. Vinegar | NA | 3.17 | 3.88 | 4.75 | 2.92 | 7.20 | 5.07 | 6.43 | 6.83 |
| TOTAL (for basket) | NA | 0.23 | 2.52 | 2.73 | 3.51 | 3.37 | 4.01 | 6.82 | 5.75 |

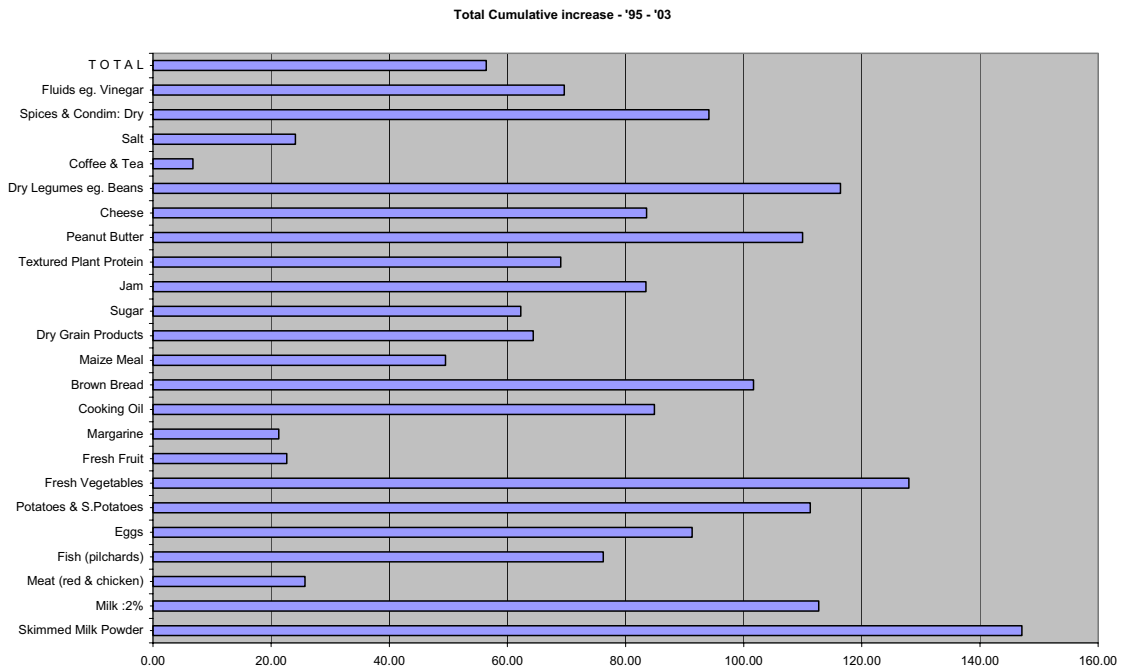


Figure 2.7: Total cumulative increase for different food items between 1995 and 2003

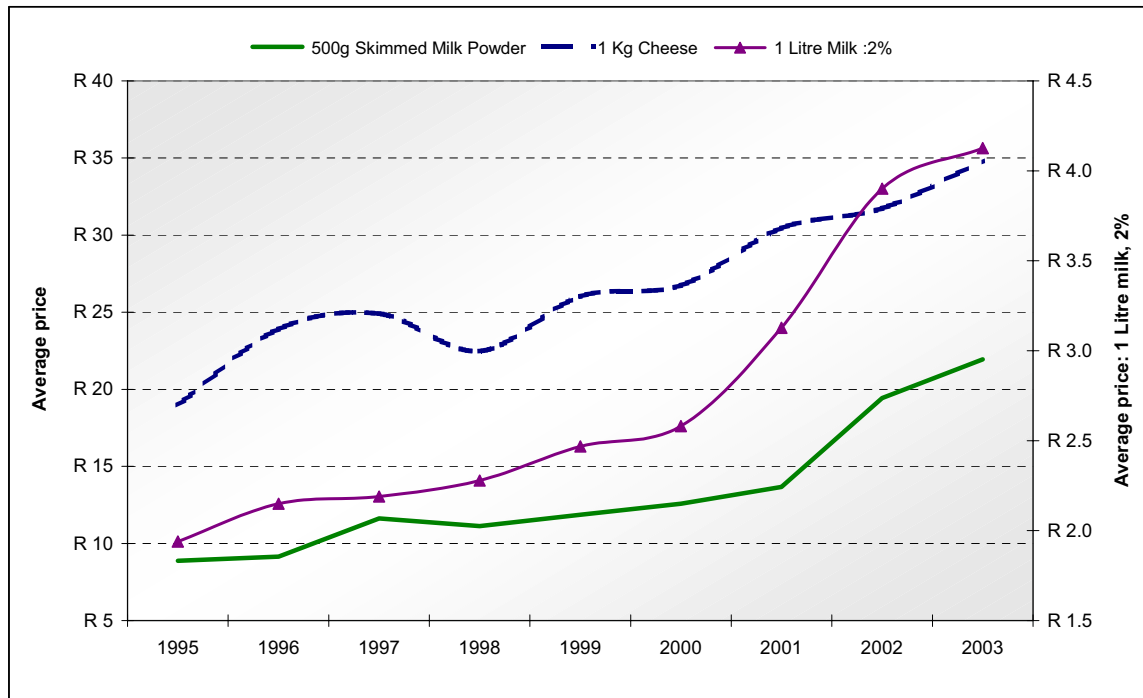


Figure 2.8: Average prices of skimmed milk powder, milk and cheese: 1995 – 2003

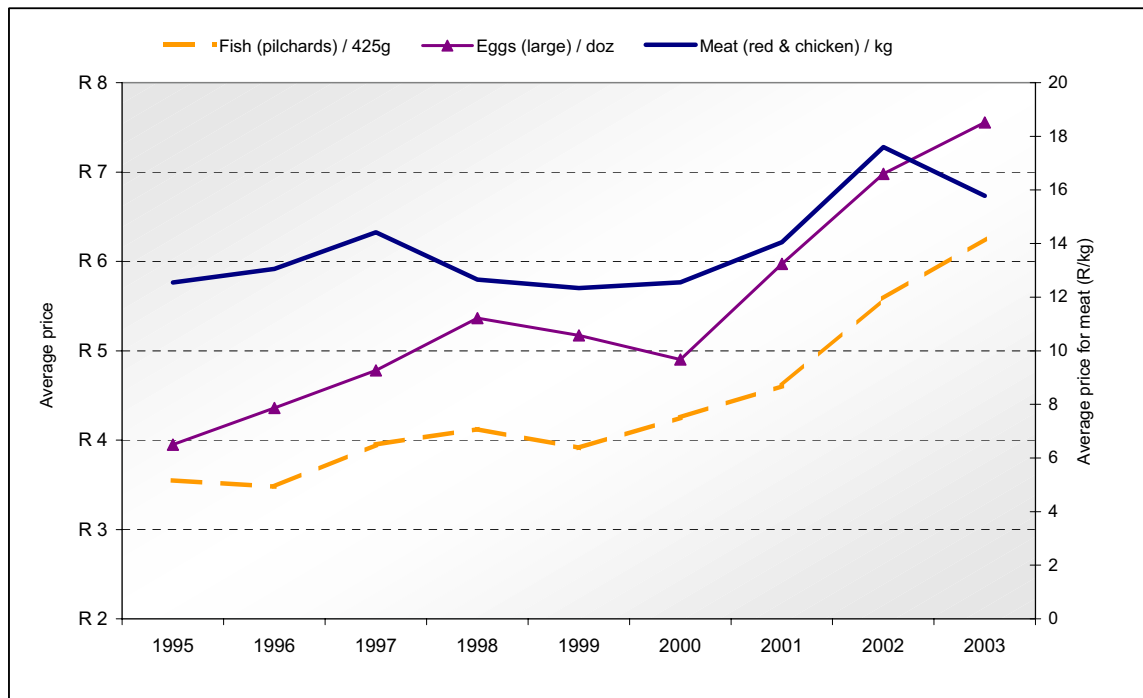


Figure 2.9: Average prices of meat, fish and eggs, 1995 – 2003

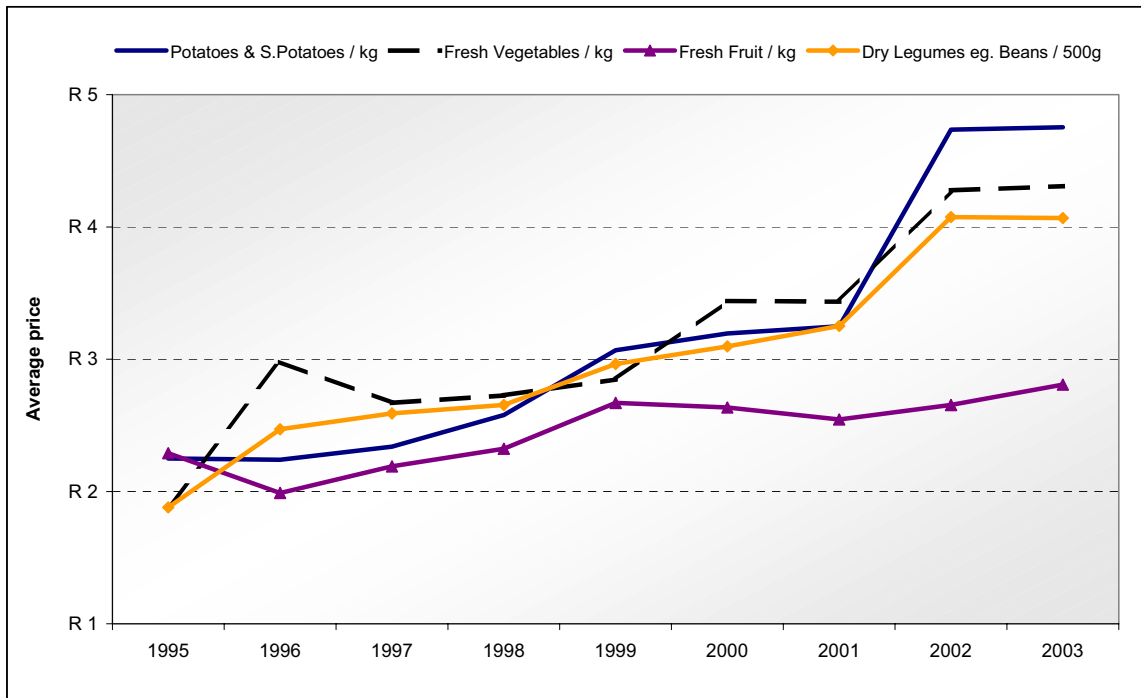


Figure 2.10: Average prices of potatoes & sweet potatoes, fresh vegetables, fresh fruit and dry legumes: 1995 - 2003

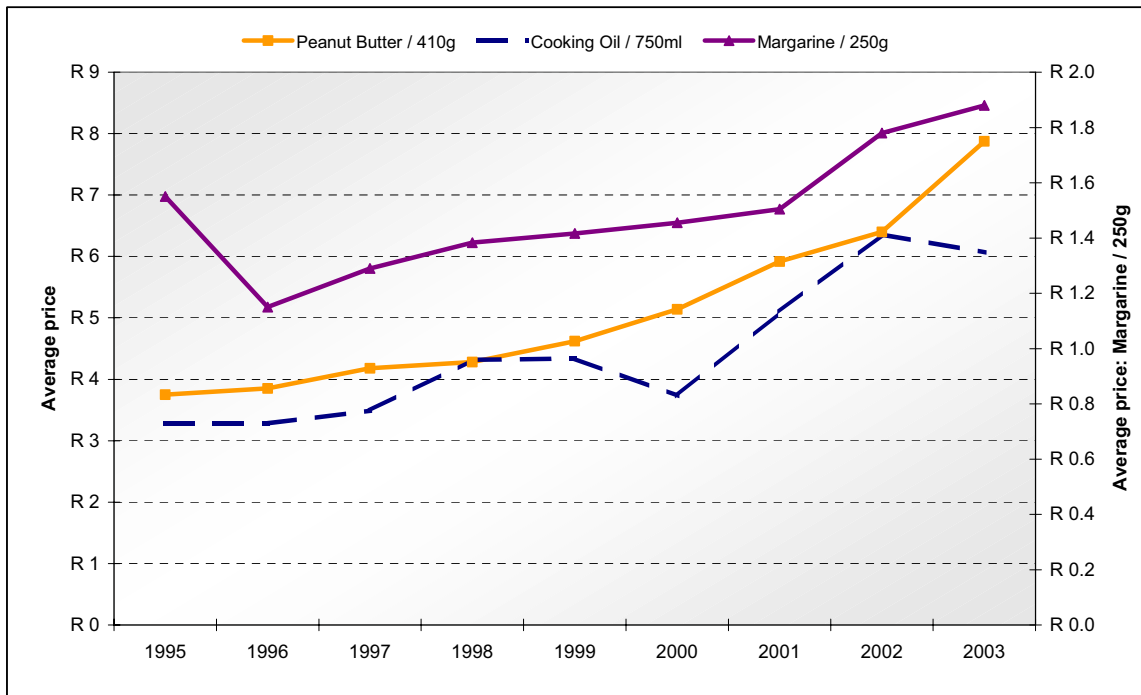


Figure 2.11: Average prices of margarine, cooking oil and peanut butter, 1995 – 2003

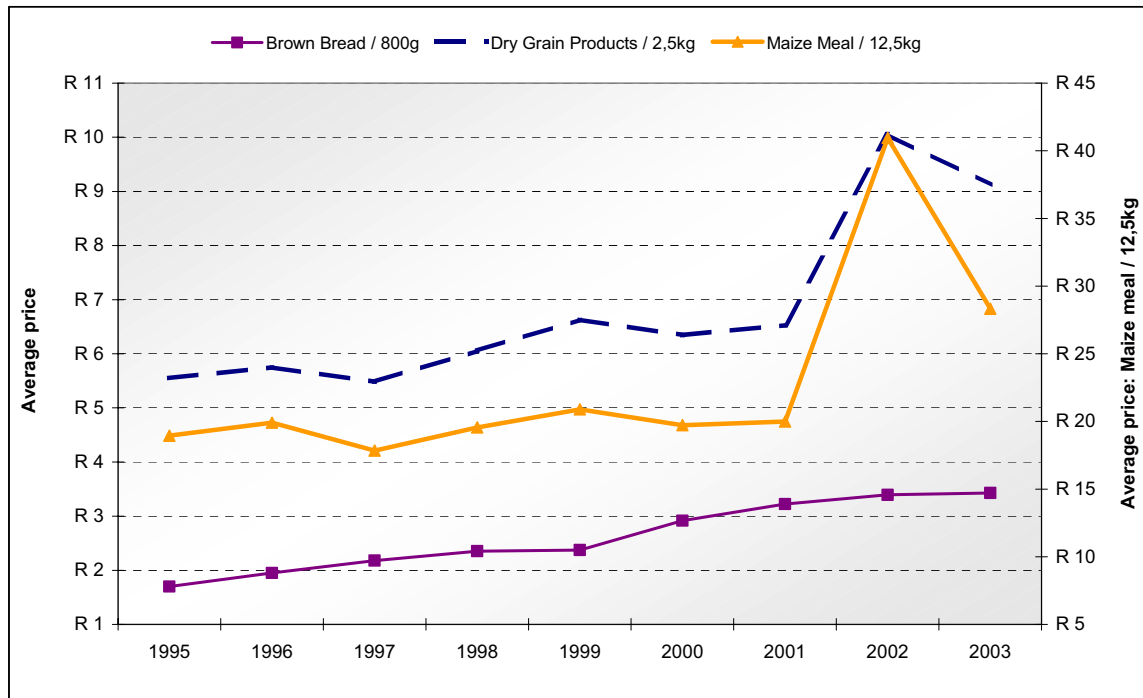


Figure 2.12: Average prices of brown bread, maize meal and dry grain products, 1995 - 2003

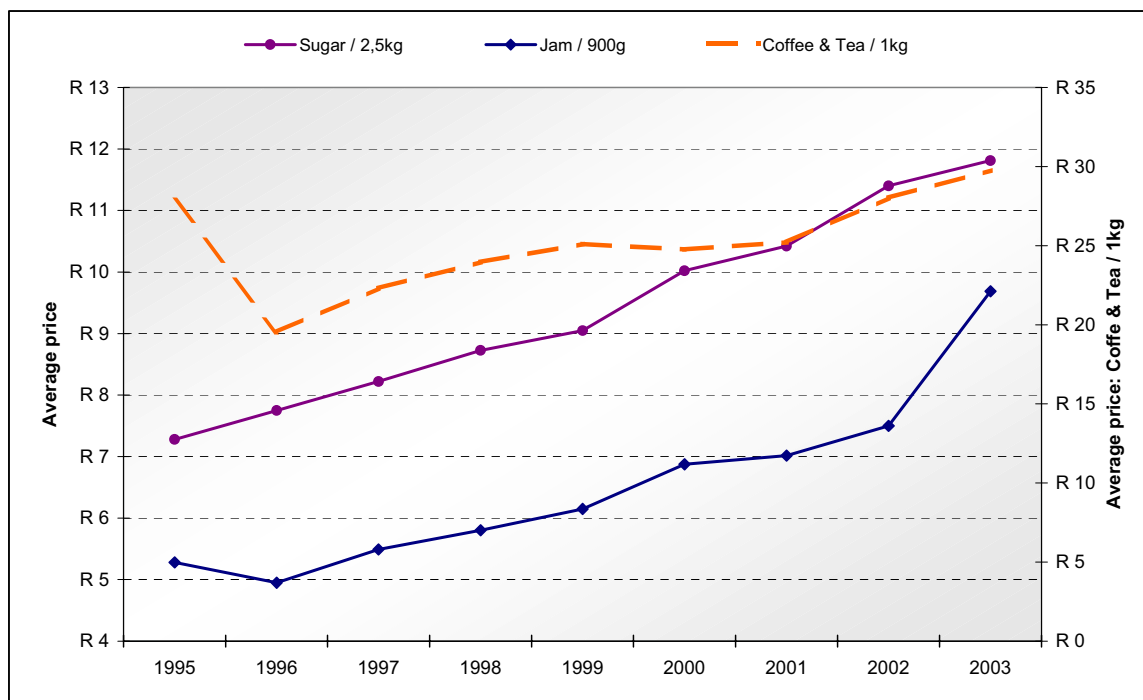


Figure 2.13: Average prices of sugar, jam and coffee & tea, 1995 - 2003

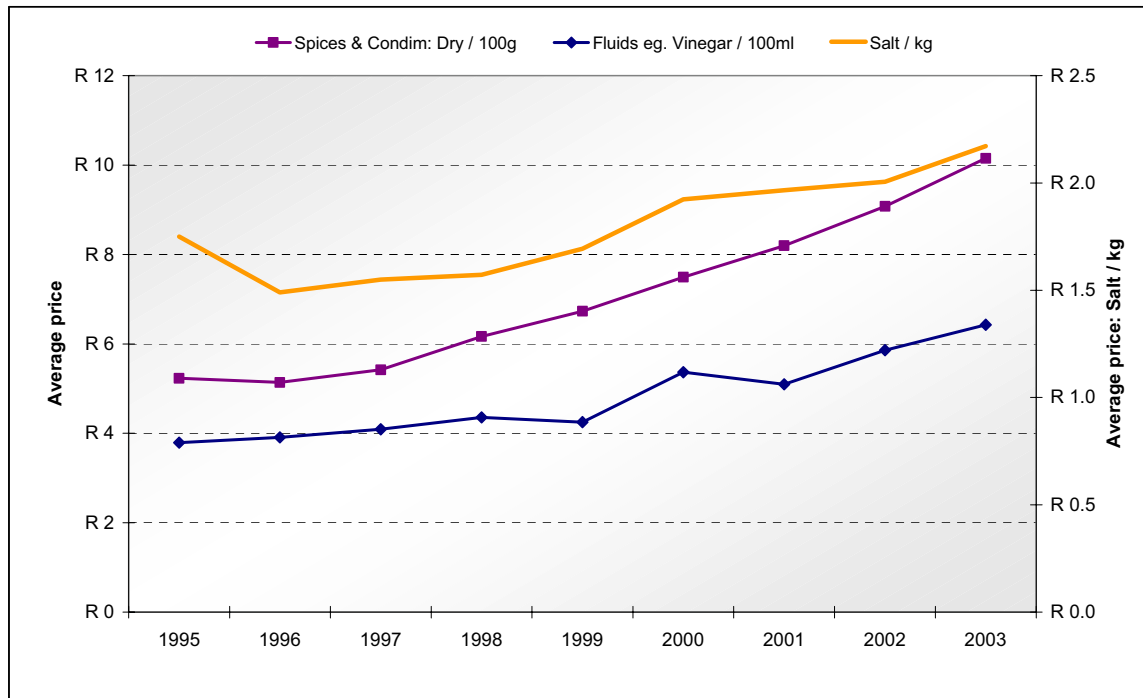


Figure 2.14: Average prices of salt, spices and fluids, 1995 - 2003