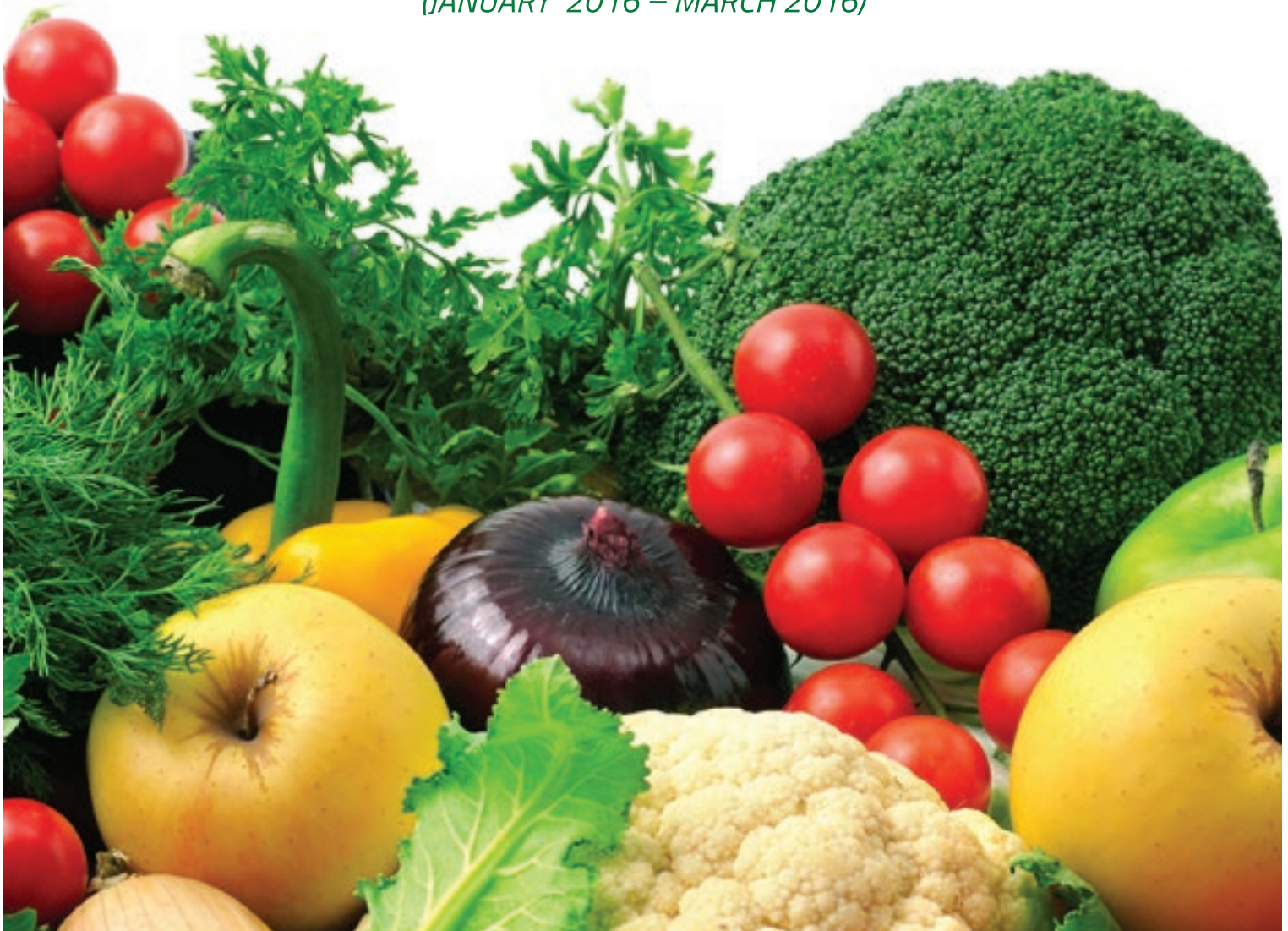


# BASIC NEEDS BASKET POLICY BRIEF:

*(JANUARY 2016 – MARCH 2016)*



## THE PRICE OF A DECENT STANDARD OF LIVING IN A STAGNANT ECONOMY

Nkateko Chauke & Vuyokazi Futshane



## INTRODUCTION

South Africa is characterised by high levels of existing inequality, coupled with an increasing poverty rate. The unemployment rate in South Africa stands at a staggering rate of 26%.<sup>1</sup> Against this daunting socio-economic backdrop, South African Reserve Bank Governor, Lesetja Kganyago announced the Reserve Bank's forecast of 0% economic growth for the remainder of the rest of the year. The cost of living continues to increase as incomes; social services and work opportunities have stagnated, with notable global declines. The impact and effects of global economic shifts has left many South Africans, the majority of which are poor households, destitute and unable to afford their basic household necessities and without the means to lead a decent standard of living. While income inequality continues to expand, the gap between the rich and poor grows larger each year – resulting in many households sleeping on empty stomachs.

It is in this context that the Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute (SPII) in partnership with the Association of Community-based Advice Offices of South Africa (ACAOSA), has re-launched its Basic Needs Basket (BNB) research project in South Africa in mid- 2014. The Basic

Needs Basket is a monthly survey of the cost of essential food and non- food items that comprise the items that a low income family in both rural and urban areas across the nine provinces of South Africa consider to be basic necessities. The BNB project seeks to generate information regarding the impact of price inflation on the spending power on goods and services that are frequently consumed by low income households. It is important to note that the BNB only monitors prices of the most common pack size purchased and not the actual quantities required for an average sized household. The qualitative approach of the BNB project is concerned mainly with understanding people's descriptions of their basic everyday needs, in so doing, to attempt to ascertain perceptions of the requirements of a decent level of living. Further to this, the project aims to develop a costed basket of basic needs that is endorsed by a democratic majority of participants. Through the collected data, SPII aims to advocate for government to take the necessary steps to ensure that workers receive fair wages, and social cash transfer beneficiaries receive above inflation increases on their grants in order to afford to live a decent standard of life as well as meet their basic needs.

## PROVINCIAL BREAKDOWN OF THE COST OF LIVING: JAN-MAR 2016

In 2012, South Africa published a set of three national poverty lines – the food poverty line (FPL), lower-bound poverty line (LBPL) and upper-bound poverty line (UBPL) – to be used for poverty measurement in the country. The FPL (R400 per capita) is the level of consumption below which individuals are unable to purchase sufficient food to provide them with an adequate diet. The LBPL (R544 per capita)

includes non-food items, but requires that individuals sacrifice food in order to obtain these, while individuals at the UBPL (R753 per capita) can purchase both adequate food and non-food items.<sup>2</sup> Table 1-3 below illustrates the average cost of food and non-food items for each province. It is evident that prices for each item vary substantially across the different provinces.

The data below illustrates that in January, the highest average cost of both food and non-food items for a household in Mpumalanga was R890.95, whilst the lowest average cost for a household in KwaZulu-Natal was R675.70. In February, the highest average cost for a household in Limpopo was R861.30, with the lowest average cost for Northern Cape being R761.20. March recorded the highest average household cost of R903.41 in Mpumalanga, and the lowest average household cost of R685.53 in Limpopo.

<sup>1</sup> Statistics South Africa (2014), Poverty Trends in South Africa: An examination of absolute poverty between 2006 and 2011 [available online: <http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/Report-03-10-06/Report-03-10-06March2014.pdf>].

<sup>2</sup> Statistics South Africa (2014), Poverty Trends in South Africa: An examination of absolute poverty between 2006 and 2011 [available online: <http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/Report-03-10-06/Report-03-10-06March2014.pdf>].

# JANUARY

		GP	NC	WC	MP	EC	LP	FS	KZN	NW	National
<b>FOOD ITEMS</b>											
Brown Bread 	<b>700g</b>	9.46	9.28	9.24	10.63	9.68	9.5	9.03	7.74	10.34	9.43
Poultry Products 	<b>2kg</b>	45.45	45.17	39.12	47.19	45.11	49	48.82	37.37	47.92	45.01
White Bread 	<b>700g</b>	11.07	10.50	11.18	10.87	10.58	10.5	9.80	9.24	11.13	10.54
Maize Meal 	<b>1kg</b>	35.99	38.67	27.14	38.35	35.48	39.50	34.93	31.49	34.62	35.13
Beef & Veal 	<b>1kg</b>	45.35	20.45	49.16	44.56	63.95	63.95	30.99	40.99	18.89	42.03
Cabbage Fresh 	<b>1 head</b>	11.74	13.50	11.99	18.50	12.95	12.00	13.00	10.99	14.00	13.18
Fresh Full Cream Milk 	<b>1 litre</b>	14.49	14.20	9.49	13.50	12.47	14.05	16.99	18.99	19.64	14.87
Potatoes 	<b>1kg</b>	12.00	10.20	23.25	14.50	9.45	34.50	11.99	19.99	14.00	16.65
Maas 	<b>2 litre</b>	23.99	25.70	21.99	25.47	25.47	26.00	20.99	19.99	28.99	24.29
Cooking Oil 	<b>2 litre</b>	37.48	31.70	15.74	38.64	40.46	36.25	36.16	28.87	40.32	33.96
Rice 	<b>2kg</b>	20.39	22.90	18.69	23.97	21.97	24.50	20.22	26.49	25.49	22.74
White Sugar 	<b>2.5kg</b>	27.99	26.23	26.22	29.22	28.22	29.25	24.19	32.37	25.27	27.66
Large Eggs 	<b>6 Eggs</b>	10.45	8.9	16.98	14.47	10.47	9.00	11.99	9.62	12.06	11.55
Canned Pilchards 	<b>400g</b>	15.74	16.45	15.24	15.75	17.47	17.50	17.19	11.17	17.03	15.95
Onions 	<b>1 kg</b>	12.99	10.20	8.49	15.49	9.97	9.97	11.49	8.49	11.00	10.90
Tagless Teabags 	<b>100g</b>	22.49	31.40	23.49	31.47	29.97	30.00	19.99	11.87	20.99	24.63
Apples 	<b>1.5kg</b>	18.49	16.45	15.40	22.47	17.97	ND	20.99	20.99	20.99	19.22
Baked Beans 	<b>410g</b>	8.89	8.95	11.11	8.47	8.97	8.75	8.24	5.62	9.22	8.69
Mayonnaise 	<b>750g</b>	19.99	22.17	23.77	20.97	21.97	26.50	20.72	17.49	18.47	21.34
Margarine 	<b>500g</b>	15.49	23.95	20.99	20.47	24.97	20.50	17.99	8.99	24.50	19.76
Bread Flour 	<b>10kg</b>	82.99	76.2	86.32	96.50	61.97	96	88.40	14.49	63.45	74.03
Instant Yeast 	<b>200g</b>	3.79	3.95	3.13	4.00	2.97	3.00	3.64	4.04	8.64	4.13
Sugar Beans 	<b>500g</b>	17.99	ND	10.74	31.50	14.47	29.00	12.49	21.99	19.39	19.70
Mealie-Samp 	<b>2.5kg</b>	10.24	14.20	13.49	16.72	16.72	14.25	9.49	26.49	21.39	15.89
Coffee 	<b>250g</b>	32.49	37.95	21.57	32.47	32.47	22.65	21.47	13.49	27.58	26.90
Juice 	<b>2 Litre</b>	26.89	27.90	22.99	26.97	24.47	21.00	15.16	23.66	24.14	23.69
<b>COST</b>		<b>594.30</b>	<b>567.16</b>	<b>556.88</b>	<b>673.08</b>	<b>580.64</b>	<b>657.06</b>	<b>556.33</b>	<b>482.88</b>	<b>589.41</b>	<b>591.85</b>

Table 1: January Average Cost of Essential Food and Non-Food Items

**NON-FOOD ITEMS**








Washing Powder 	<b>2kg</b>	37.49	47.95	31.96	51.47	37.97	43.945	49.16	34.62	48.11	42.52
Toothpaste 	<b>100g</b>	10.99	9.20	11.24	10.47	9.64	10.50	12.14	7.12	10.37	10.18
Toilet Paper 	<b>9 Rolls</b>	52.49	44.9	23.99	40.97	38.97	38.97	39.66	43.49	56.00	42.16
Body Cream / Gel 	<b>100g</b>	31.47	23.20	15.99	33.47	27.47	37.25	22.49	29.99	29.49	27.87
Body Soap 	<b>200g</b>	9.34	9.45	11.74	10.47	11.60	13.00	10.12	9.16	12.72	10.84
Deodorant 	<b>50ml</b>	11.49	17.93	15.99	17.50	18.47	16.25	14.49	11.99	17.90	15.78
Sanitary Towels & Tampons 	<b>10's</b>	13.49	26.43	18.24	17.97	15.06	22.99	16.94	12.99	17.89	18.00
Matches 	<b>1 Pack</b>	7.74	5.20	5.94	3.73	5.72	5.25	5.99	6.99	7.35	5.99
Paraffin 	<b>1 Litre</b>	14.60	16.50	19.74	15.50	8.43	13.25	14.49	16.99	14.50	14.89
Candles 	<b>1 Pack</b>	15.39	17.95	16.49	16.33	17.47	16.75	16.49	19.49	17.45	17.09
<i>COST</i>		<b>204.49</b>	<b>218.70</b>	<b>171.32</b>	<b>217.87</b>	<b>190.79</b>	<b>218.13</b>	<b>201.96</b>	<b>192.82</b>	<b>231.75</b>	<b>205.31</b>
<b>TOTAL COST</b>		<b>798.78</b>	<b>785.86</b>	<b>728.21</b>	<b>890.95</b>	<b>771.43</b>	<b>875.18</b>	<b>758.29</b>	<b>675.70</b>	<b>821.16</b>	<b>797.16</b>

# FEBRUARY

		GP	NC	WC	MP	EC	LP	FS	KZN	NW	National
<b>FOOD ITEMS</b>											
Brown Bread 	<b>700g</b>	11.14	9.95	16.45	9.83	10.18	9.90	9.28	7.99	11.10	10.65
Poultry Products 	<b>2kg</b>	50.99	46.70	41.33	46.17	48.22	48	49.49	38.74	48.90	46.50
White Bread 	<b>700g</b>	12.14	10.95	11.98	11.58	11.11	11.145	10.12	9.24	13.11	11.26
Maize Meal 	<b>1kg</b>	35.99	40.95	42.15	38.85	40.47	39.50	41.49	32.12	39.86	39.04
Beef & Veal 	<b>1kg</b>	45.35	20.45	47.16	44.56	45.47	63.95	30.99	41.49	18.89	39.81
Cabbage Fresh 	<b>1 head</b>	11.74	13.50	15.00	17.25	11.97	11.50	14.99	11.99	17.00	13.88
Fresh Full Cream Milk 	<b>1 litre</b>	14.49	14.20	9.90	12.40	12.47	14.75	16.99	17.99	20.14	14.81
Potatoes 	<b>1kg</b>	12.00	10.20	10.75	19.00	12.20	34.50	14.99	20.99	21.50	17.35
Maas 	<b>2 litre</b>	23.99	25.70	20.99	24.47	25.47	22.50	19.49	19.99	29.99	23.62
Cooking Oil 	<b>2 litre</b>	35.49	34.45	34.47	39.47	41.96	38.50	36.82	29.74	41.07	36.89
Rice 	<b>2kg</b>	21.99	17.2	20.97	22.47	21.97	24.50	20.69	27.62	25.24	22.52
White Sugar 	<b>2.5kg</b>	27.99	29.7	35.245	28.97	31.22	29.25	25.69	32.62	26.10	29.64
Large Eggs 	<b>6 Eggs</b>	11.99	8.9	16.98	15.00	ND	9	12.62	9.74	12.73	12.12
Canned Pilchards 	<b>400g</b>	15.74	16.35	18.16	15.75	15.97	17.50	16.19	11.37	17.03	16.00
Onions 	<b>1 kg</b>	12.99	10.20	13.49	17.50	10.97	9.97	12.49	8.99	13.00	12.17
Tagless Teabags 	<b>100g</b>	22.49	21.95	30.83	31.47	30.47	29.95	21.24	14.49	18.99	24.65
Apples 	<b>1.5kg</b>	18.49	16.45	16.49	22.47	20.47	ND	20.49	20.99	21.99	19.73
Baked Beans 	<b>410g</b>	8.89	8.95	9.21	8.87	8.97	9.00	9.49	6.62	9.40	8.82
Mayonnaise 	<b>750g</b>	20.49	26.95	24.27	19.47	20.97	26.50	19.72	18.49	19.45	21.81
Margarine 	<b>500g</b>	31.49	26.945	24.61	24.10	20.47	20.50	17.32	9.24	21.59	21.81
Bread Flour 	<b>10kg</b>	63.49	76.20	89.90	89.22	86.78	105.00	89.43	90.38	67.64	84.23
Instant Yeast 	<b>200g</b>	3.79	3.95	4.16	3.80	3.25	3.00	3.64	5.52	9.64	4.53
Sugar Beans 	<b>500g</b>	17.49	ND	13.00	31.50	13.97	17.25	12.49	23.49	19.39	18.57
Mealie-Samp 	<b>2.5kg</b>	10.24	14.20	8.15	19.50	9.22	13.75	9.49	27.49	22.89	14.99
Coffee 	<b>250g</b>	32.49	25.70	35.43	31.47	30.72	25.15	22.72	19.66	27.65	27.89
Juice 	<b>2 Litre</b>	26.89	17.90	25.58	26.39	25.72	18.00	18.99	24.82	25.64	23.33
<b>COST</b>		<b>577.76</b>	<b>548.59</b>	<b>636.58</b>	<b>671.48</b>	<b>610.65</b>	<b>652.50</b>	<b>577.35</b>	<b>581.81</b>	<b>619.93</b>	<b>616.60</b>

Table 2: February Average Cost of Essential Food and Non-Food Items

**NON-FOOD ITEMS**

Washing Powder 	<b>2kg</b>	37.49	44.425	44.35	45.15	53.30	47.45	45.32	36.49	50.78	44.97
Toothpaste 	<b>100g</b>	9.49	9.20	7.75	9.22	9.90	10.50	11.49	7.99	11.12	9.63
Toilet Paper 	<b>9 Rolls</b>	52.49	42.57	25.93	45.97	41.22	38.25	40.16	44.16	51.99	42.52
Body Cream / Gel 	<b>100g</b>	31.47	23.20	41.00	34.47	27.47	28.75	23.99	29.99	31.49	30.20
Body Soap 	<b>200g</b>	8.24	9.45	10.68	11.47	10.35	9.65	10.24	8.99	10.00	9.90
Deodorant 	<b>50ml</b>	11.49	17.70	17.29	14.00	18.47	17.25	13.49	11.99	20.90	15.84
Sanitary Towels & Tampons 	<b>10's</b>	21.49	26.43	16.89	17.97	16.74	22.99	15.12	12.62	17.89	18.68
Matches 	<b>1 Pack</b>	7.74	5.20	7.90	3.73	5.72	5.25	5.99	6.99	7.35	6.21
Paraffin 	<b>1 Litre</b>	14.60	16.50	19.07	15.50	8.23	13.25	14.49	18.49	14.50	14.96
Candles 	<b>1 Pack</b>	15.39	17.95	18.97	16.47	17.72	15.50	16.49	20.99	17.45	17.44
<i>COST</i>		<b>209.89</b>	<b>212.62</b>	<b>209.80</b>	<b>213.94</b>	<b>209.11</b>	<b>208.80</b>	<b>196.79</b>	<b>198.69</b>	<b>233.44</b>	<b>210.34</b>
<b>TOTAL COST</b>		<b>787.65</b>	<b>761.20</b>	<b>846.38</b>	<b>885.42</b>	<b>819.76</b>	<b>861.30</b>	<b>774.14</b>	<b>780.50</b>	<b>853.37</b>	<b>826.94</b>

# MARCH

		GP	NC	WC	MP	EC	LP	FS	KZN	NW	National
<b>FOOD ITEMS</b>											
Brown Bread 	<b>700g</b>	12.64	9.7	13.18	10.67	10.20	9.90	9.40	8.24	10.54	10.50
Poultry Products 	<b>2kg</b>	54.99	48.20	37.44	48.47	49.97	43	49.24	39.24	49.47	46.67
White Bread 	<b>700g</b>	12.54	10.7	11.945	12.31	10.70	11.145	10.24	9.99	12.76	11.37
Maize Meal 	<b>1kg</b>	36.49	44.7	38.24	40.72	46.97	39.5	42.74	33.12	41.69	40.46
Beef & Veal 	<b>1kg</b>	51.74	19.70	44.72	42.08	47.47	63.95	34.99	63.99	18.89	43.06
Cabbage Fresh 	<b>1 head</b>	15.74	13.50	16.01	16.97	14.47	11.50	14.49	11.49	17.00	14.57
Fresh Full Cream Milk 	<b>1 litre</b>	15.49	14.20	11.12	14.87	14.97	14.25	16.49	18.99	20.14	15.61
Potatoes 	<b>1kg</b>	14.99	11.70	10.37	18.47	17.97	7.50	14.49	11.49	16.00	13.66
Maas 	<b>2 litre</b>	23.99	25.45	24.49	24.47	24.97	21.75	19.99	19.99	26.99	23.57
Cooking Oil 	<b>2 litre</b>	41.49	36.45	26.20	46.47	41.47	38.50	39.16	32.37	44.44	38.50
Rice 	<b>2kg</b>	22.89	17.20	21.59	23.97	25.22	23.00	21.32	35.62	25.74	24.06
White Sugar 	<b>2.5kg</b>	27.99	30.2	27.19	26.49	33.14	29.25	26.57	33.37	28.27	29.16
Large Eggs 	<b>6 Eggs</b>	10.45	8	9.99	13.97	9.97	ND	12.99	8.59	14.52	11.06
Canned Pilchards 	<b>400g</b>	15.49	16.35	18.22	16.60	16.47	17.50	16.07	13.74	17.79	16.47
Onions 	<b>1 kg</b>	11.49	10.20	9.57	16.00	13.97	9.97	12.99	7.49	11.00	11.41
Tagless Teabags 	<b>100g</b>	20.49	23.95	30.83	27.15	28.22	29.50	20.24	22.74	21.42	24.95
Apples 	<b>1.5kg</b>	24.99	17.45	15.52	21.99	20.97	ND	24.99	11.49	20.99	19.80
Baked Beans 	<b>410g</b>	8.49	8.95	8.41	7.67	7.85	9.00	8.32	8.49	9.72	8.54
Mayonnaise 	<b>750g</b>	21.49	26.95	23.26	20.47	22.22	24.90	20.69	17.99	19.97	21.99
Margarine 	<b>500g</b>	15.49	26.945	20.79	20.89	25.22	20.50	14.82	7.49	19.96	19.12
Bread Flour 	<b>10kg</b>	82.49	89.20	60.65	99.45	100.72	ND	48.12	17.99	67.64	70.78
Instant Yeast 	<b>200g</b>	4.04	3.95	3.61	3.87	3.47	3.00	2.52	7.99	8.64	4.56
Sugar Beans 	<b>500g</b>	19.49	21.50	13.00	32.00	12.47	12.75	11.99	21.49	19.39	18.23
Mealie-Samp 	<b>2.5kg</b>	21.99	14.20	8.15	25.47	9.97	10.24	24.49	26.49	21.39	18.04
Coffee 	<b>250g</b>	32.74	26.20	27.78	28.72	38.80	25.15	23.22	23.32	82.96	34.32
Juice 	<b>2 Litre</b>	26.89	17.90	19.17	22.72	24.22	ND	14.24	24.66	27.99	22.22
<b>COST</b>		<b>647.00</b>	<b>593.43</b>	<b>551.41</b>	<b>682.89</b>	<b>672.04</b>	<b>475.70</b>	<b>554.80</b>	<b>537.84</b>	<b>675.29</b>	<b>612.69</b>

Table 3: March Average Cost of Essential Food and Non-Food Items

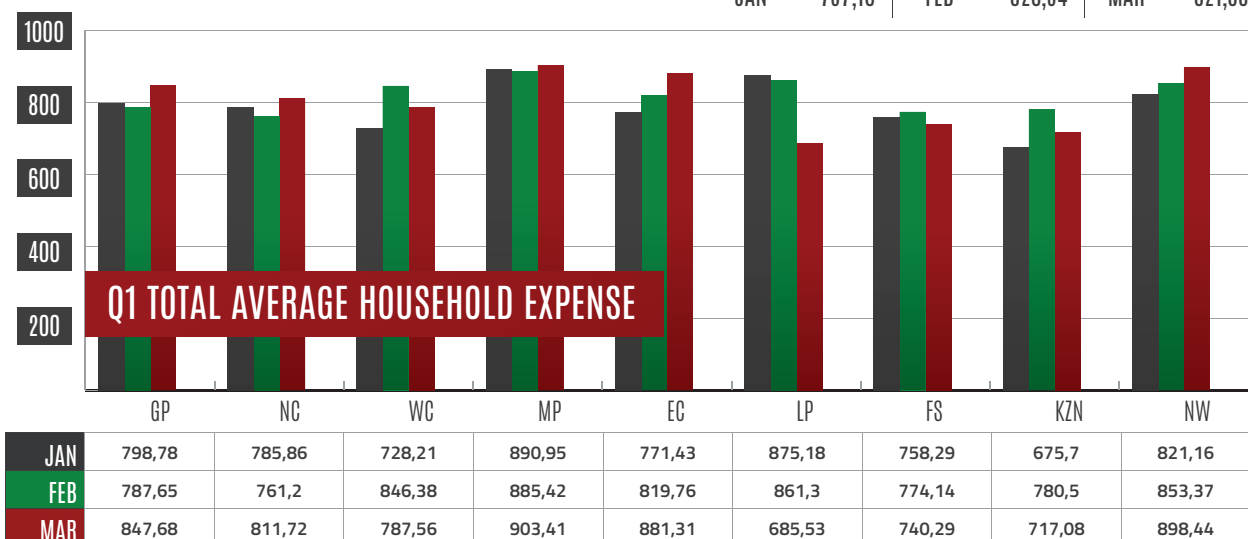
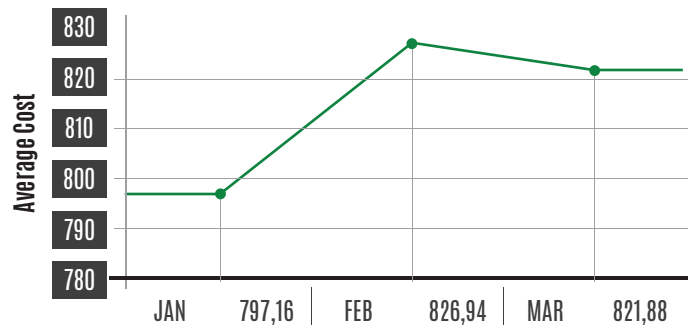
## NON-FOOD ITEMS

Washing Powder	<b>2kg</b>	50.99	44.425	37.64	55.35	45.14	47.00	45.99	35.37	48.11	45.56
Toothpaste	<b>100g</b>	10.99	9.70	7.88	10.01	9.97	10.50	11.99	7.37	10.37	9.86
Toilet Paper	<b>9 Rolls</b>	47.49	45.23	26.075	50.47	46.97	35.00	42.33	35.82	56.00	42.82
Body Cream / Gel	<b>100g</b>	19.49	25.70	41.44	29.99	31.97	37.25	16.99	29.99	29.49	29.14
Body Soap	<b>200g</b>	9.34	9.45	11.19	12.60	10.22	13.00	9.74	9.49	11.60	10.74
Deodorant	<b>50ml</b>	11.99	17.70	17.29	14.97	15.47	16.00	12.49	12.99	17.90	15.20
Sanitary Towels & Tampons	<b>10's</b>	13.49	26.43	18.59	18.72	17.07	22.99	16.49	11.99	17.89	18.18
Matches	<b>1 Pack</b>	5.99	5.20	7.14	3.73	5.72	5.75	5.99	6.99	7.35	5.98
Paraffin	<b>1 Litre</b>	15.70	16.50	57.52	15.50	8.28	13.25	14.24	17.99	14.50	19.27
Candles	<b>1 Pack</b>	15.22	17.95	11.41	9.19	18.47	9.12	9.25	11.25	9.97	12.42
<b>COST</b>		<b>200.69</b>	<b>218.28</b>	<b>236.16</b>	<b>220.52</b>	<b>209.27</b>	<b>209.83</b>	<b>185.49</b>	<b>179.24</b>	<b>223.16</b>	<b>209.18</b>
<b>TOTAL COST</b>		<b>847.68</b>	<b>811.72</b>	<b>787.56</b>	<b>903.41</b>	<b>881.31</b>	<b>685.53</b>	<b>740.29</b>	<b>717.08</b>	<b>898.44</b>	<b>821.88</b>

The cost of both food and non-food items for a household living below the poverty line, as demonstrated by the data, is astounding. This shows that the impact of food and non-food price inflation is felt most by the majority of South Africa's population who are living just below the average breadline. This has a continued effect on the increasing number of those who continue to struggle amidst the stagnant economic environment.

Figure 1 below illustrates the average total household expenditure on basic necessities for each province. Over the first quarter, the cost of food and non-food items in Eastern Cape and North West increased by R109.88 for Eastern Cape and R77.28 for North West. Limpopo on the other hand demonstrated a decrease of R189.65 over the three-month period. Figure 5 below illustrates the national average household expense, depicting an increase of R29.78 from January to February, and slightly decreasing by R5.06 in March.

**FIGURE 2: NATIONAL AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD EXPENSE**



**Figure 1: First Quarter Provincial Average Household Expense**

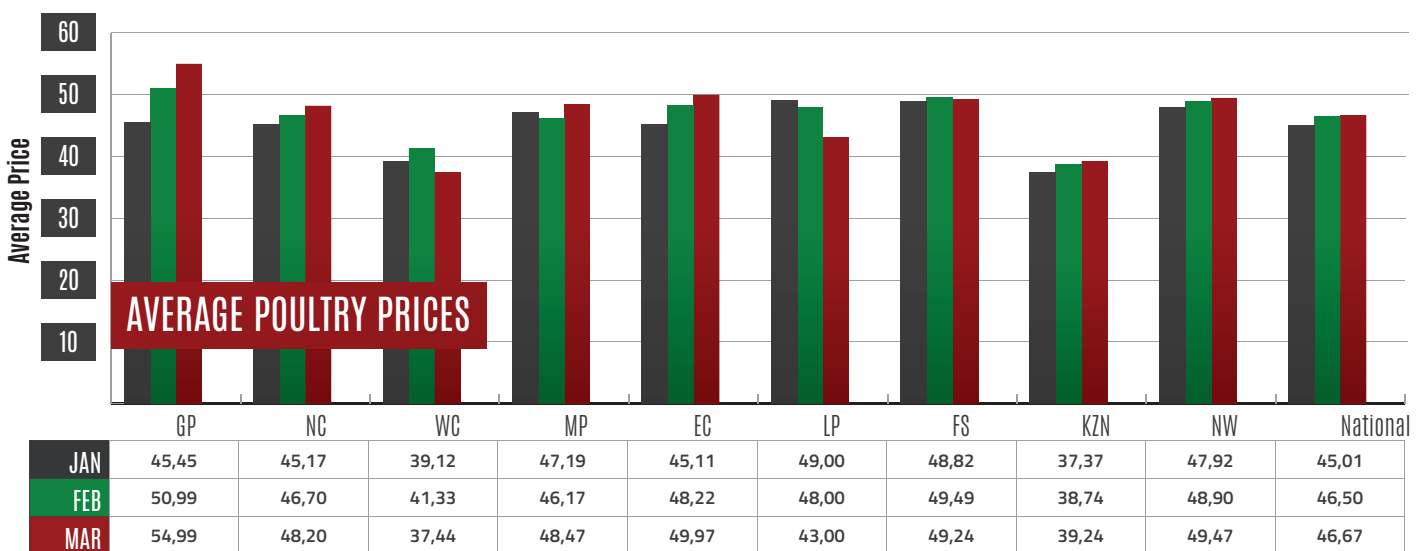
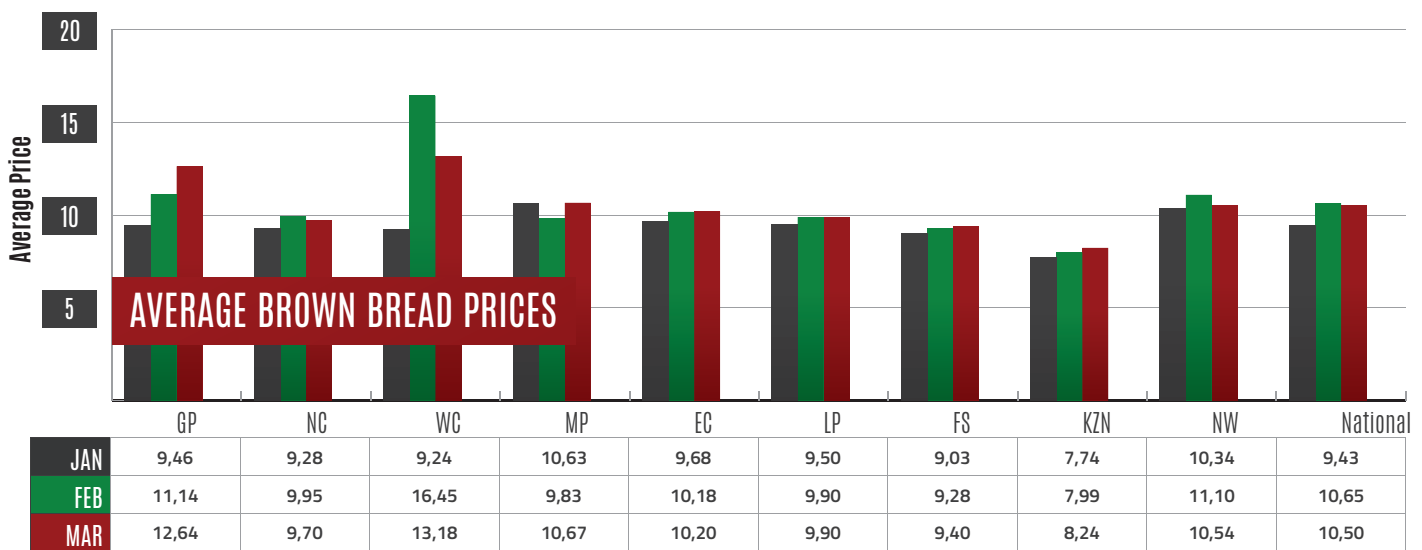


# A TREND ANALYSIS OF ESSENTIAL FOOD AND NON-FOOD BASKET ITEMS

## 1. FOOD ITEMS

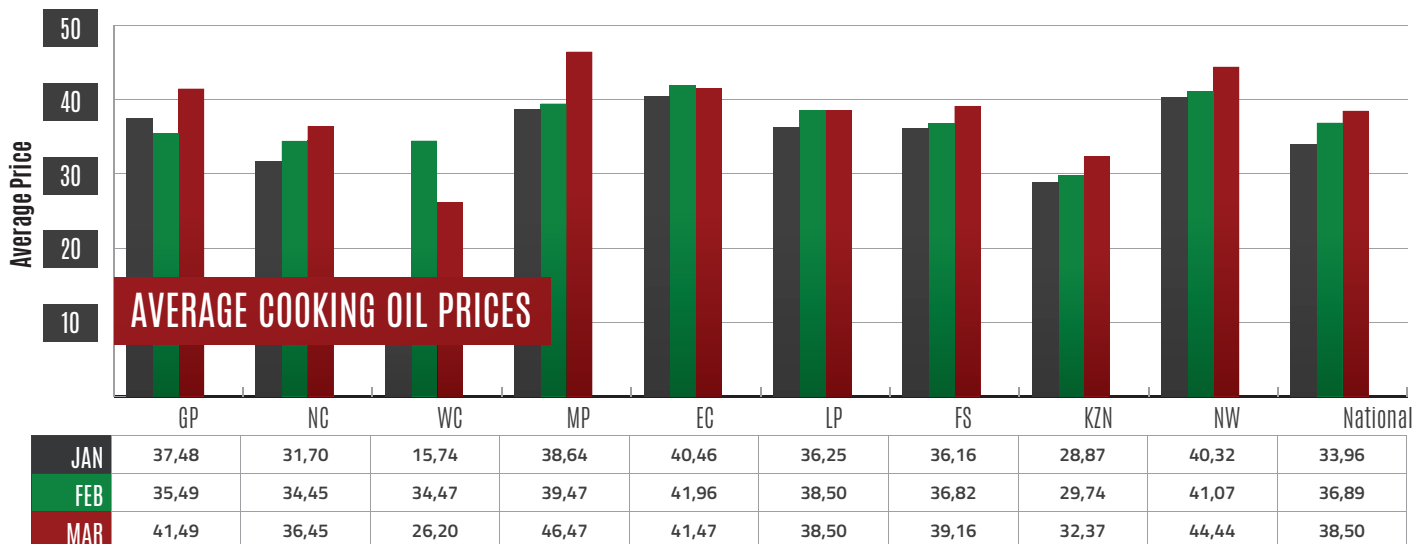
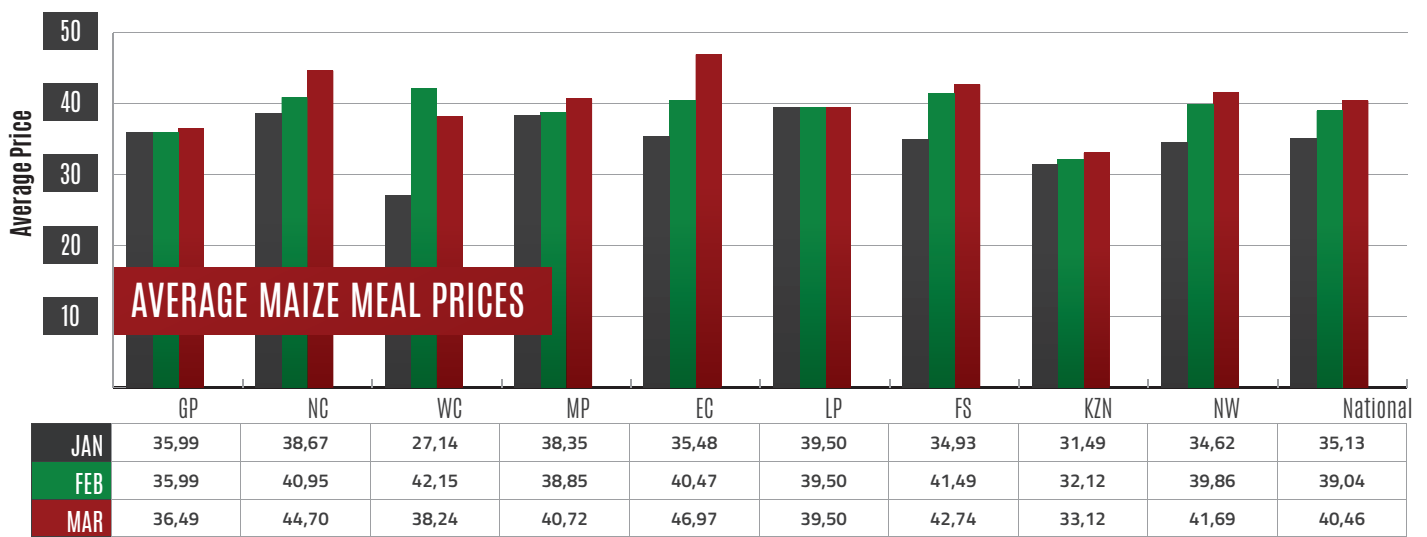
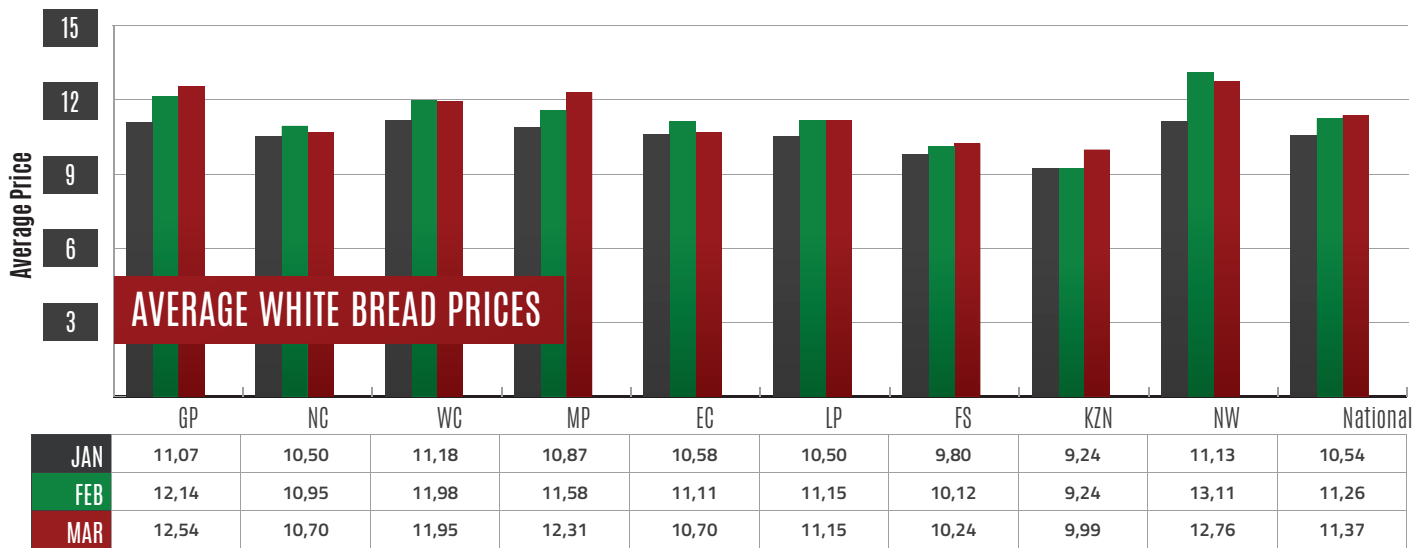
During the period January to March, the price of bread depicts a gradual increase. The wheat import tariff is expected to go up by 30%.<sup>3</sup> South Africa is a net importer of wheat, with wheat imports of about 2 million tons a year (approximately 60% of the country's wheat requirement). This means that millers who import wheat will have to pay more for it, resulting in a price hike for bread – a staple for millions. Poultry prices have gradually decreased over the three

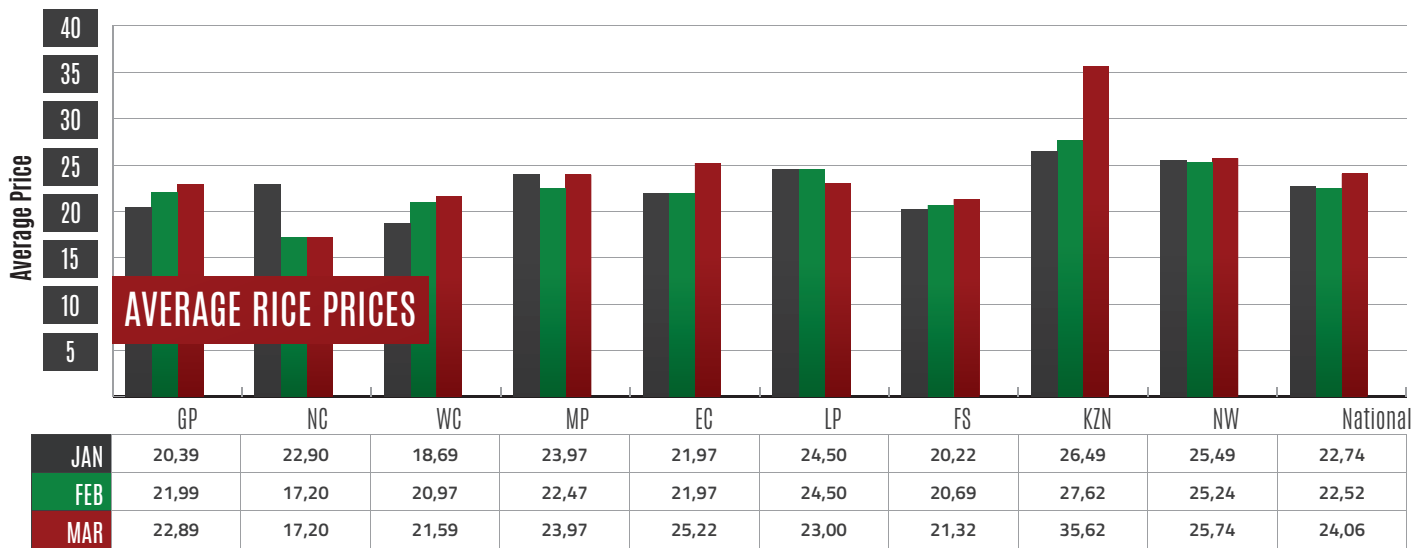
months. Staples such as maize meal and rice depict an increase, and as a result, many consumers are unhappy about the hiking food prices. Destitution and worsening living conditions continue to contribute to the plight of poverty in South Africa. Thus, leaving the country's poorest households without the means to meet their basic needs and lead a decent standard of living.



<sup>3</sup> Glorious Sefako-Musi. Bread Prices Set to Rise, 22 August 2016. SABC.

Accessed online: <http://www.sabc.co.za/news/a/8c2056804df6080180a7f046a0a81a58/Bread-prices-set-to-rise-20162208>

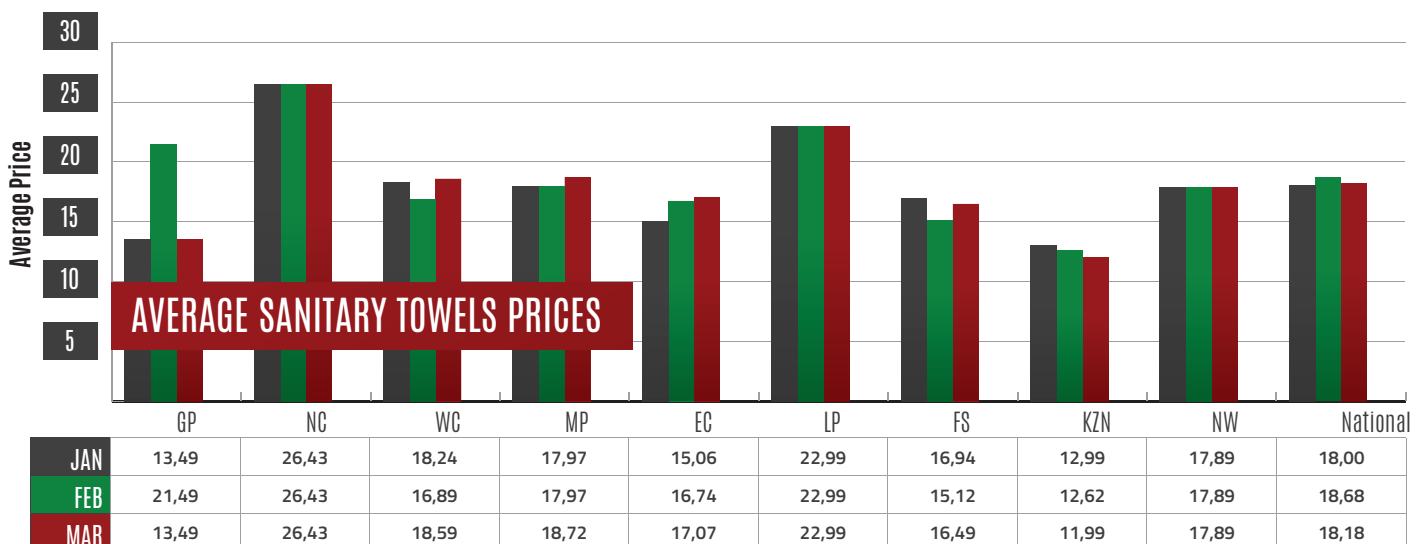
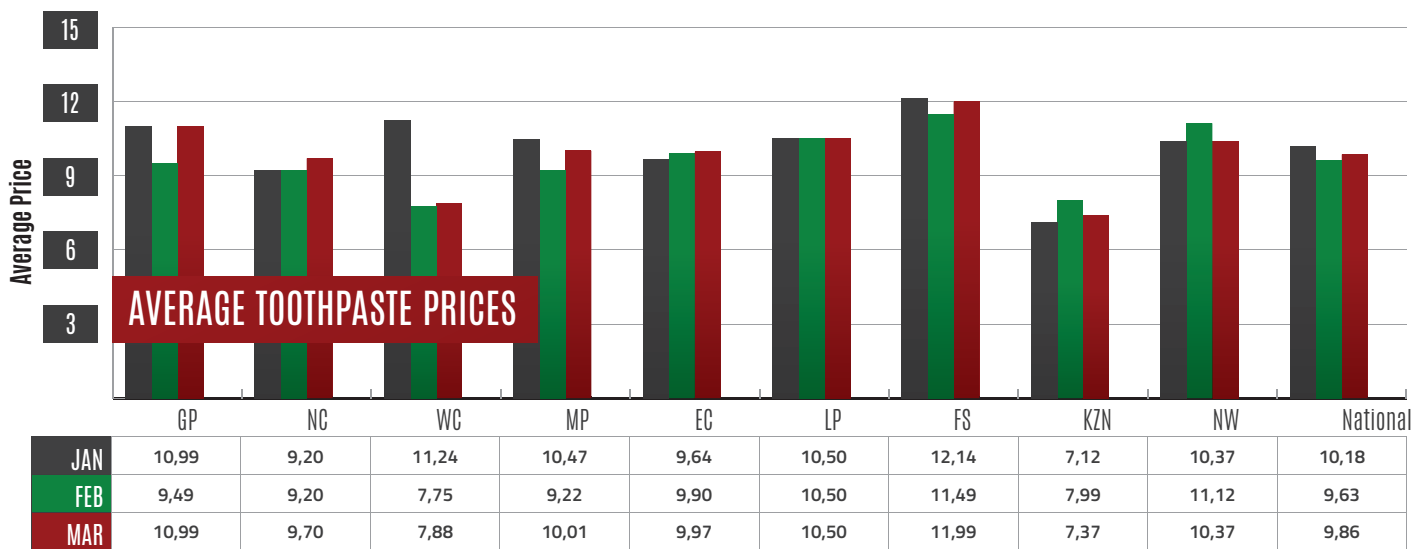


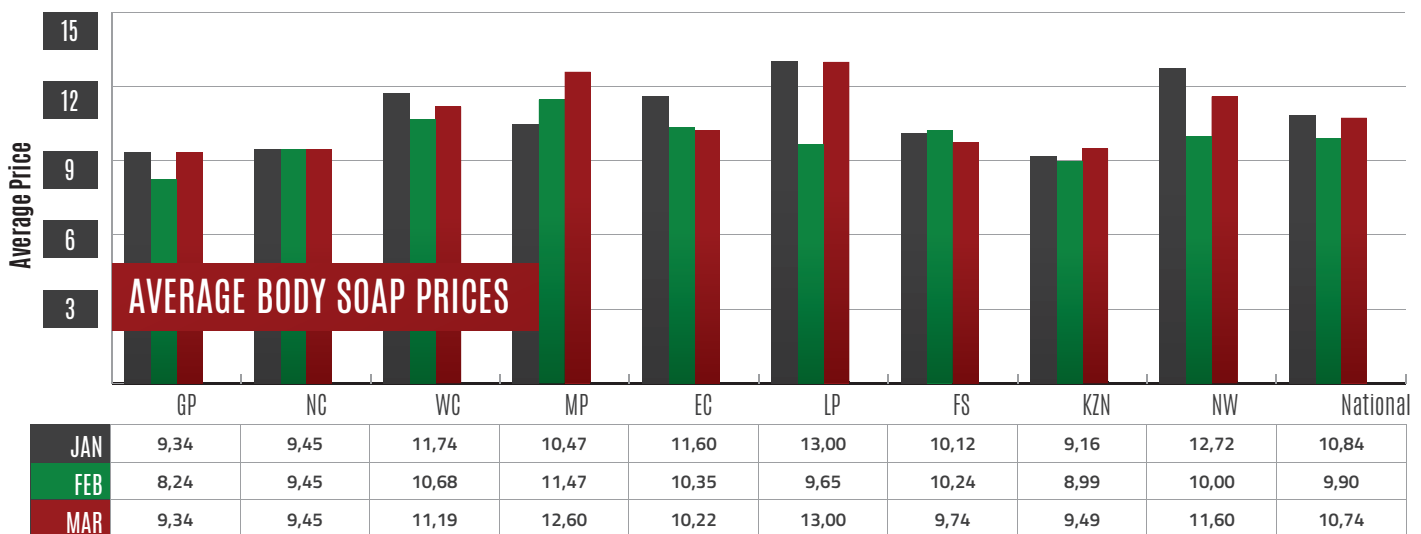


## 2. NON-FOOD ITEMS

Non-food items are an integral component of a decent standard of life. The price of basic necessities such as tooth paste, sanitary towels, toilet paper and body soap depict an increase over the period of three months. Many of South Africa's poorest households are

unable to afford toiletries and hygienic products. While economic conditions continue to force people to sacrifice food in order to obtain these items, many continue to go hungry.





## RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) should extend value added tax (VAT) exemptions for more basic goods and services
- The government, together with the Department of Social Development (DSD) should provide food parcels for those hit by the growing drought
- The government should ensure that the cost of social grants is indexed by the cost of basic goods and services
- There is a need for government to review indigence policies at a local government level
- The government should ensure that an adequate national minimum wage is introduced to enable households to graduate from living below the poverty line, and afford their basic necessities to lift out of poverty the large number of South Africans

## CONCLUSION

While the majority of South African's live below the food poverty line, the data collected demonstrates that the country's poorest households are far from reaching the upper bound poverty line – where households can purchase both adequate food and non-food items. The total household expense from the period January to March for a basic needs basket that a low income family deems as basic necessities exceeds the upper bound poverty line. The increasing number of people living below the food line demonstrates the high levels of poverty and the growing inequality gap in South Africa. Those falling within the lower bound poverty line (R544) find themselves having to make a trade-off between food and essential non-food items. Despite the World Bank's recognition of South Africa's efforts to reduce poverty, many people are still struggling. This data aims to inform government policy on issues such as social welfare to promote economic justice, reduce poverty and inequality and stimulate human and economic integration.



The data collected for this project is collected by volunteer field workers from ACAOSA. Please be informed that where the data cells are empty, there is no recorded data (ND).