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Your monthly update on South Africa's economic indicators

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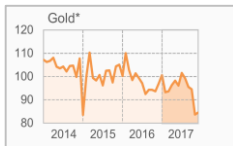
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## Economic headlines

### Mining: Winners and losers in 2017



Manganese and diamonds were the stars of 2017 while gold continued its long-term decline (Click [here](#) to read more.)

### Looking for love in the wrong places?



In celebration of Valentine's Day, Stats SA takes you back to a 2016 article on how to use census data to find love (Click [here](#) to read more.)

### Childhood development and education



The first one thousand days in a child's life could hold the key to unlocking his/her life-long potential (Click [here](#) to read more.)

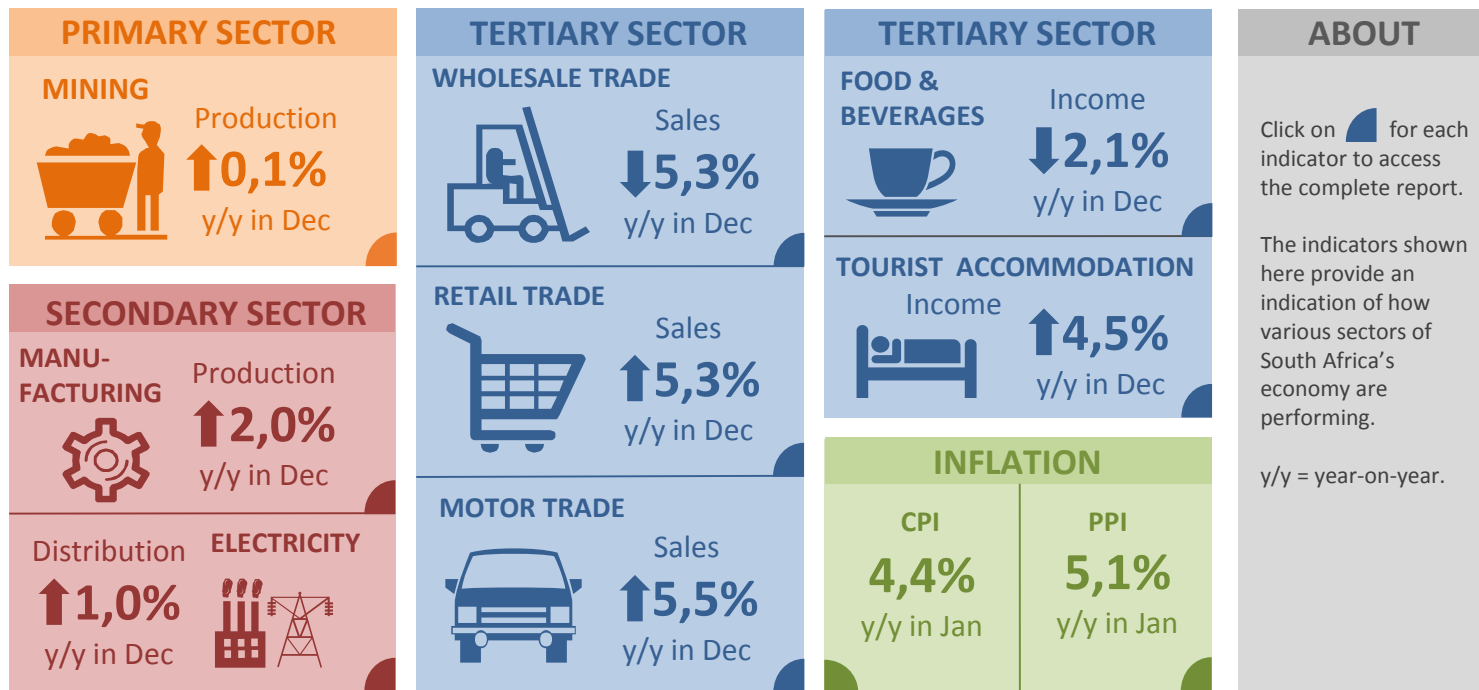
### SuperWEB online tool updated!



A new version of Stats SA's popular online data tool is now available, allowing access to a range of datasets (Click [here](#) to read more.)

Click [here](#) to browse more headlines.

## Monthly economic indicators



## Feature article

### Counting the costs of Valentine's Day

You've got no one to blame except yourself. Admit it. You totally forgot about Valentine's Day. You've got to come up with something fast!

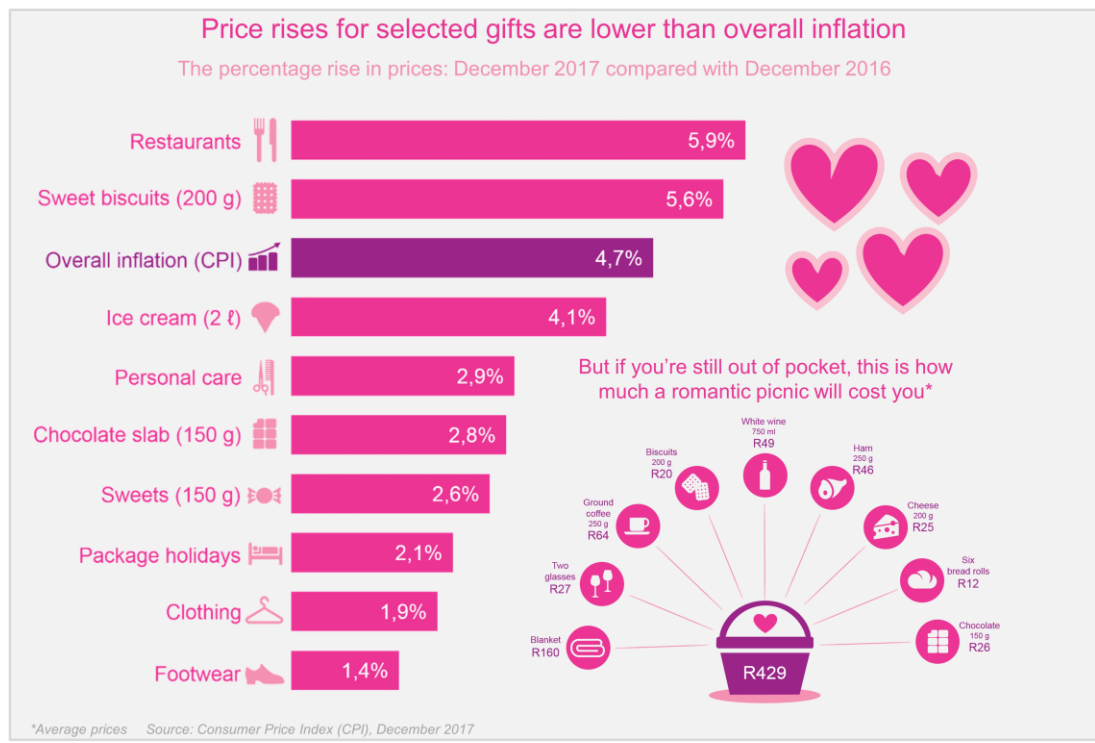
You grimace as you look in your wallet, realising that you used your credit card a tad too much in December. No time; little money.

You pull out the latest inflation data from Stats SA collects thousands of prices every month for a wide range of consumer goods and services.

A romantic dinner at a restaurant? According to the data, the cost of dining out went up by 5,9% in December 2017 year-on-year – higher than overall inflation.

The average price of a 150 g chocolate slab was only 2,8% more expensive.

Click [here](#) to read more.



## Infographic of the month

### Tourist accommodation generates less income in 2017

The total amount of income generated from tourist accommodation in 2017 was up by 4,6% compared with 2016.

This is according to Stats SA's *Tourist accommodation* release for December 2017, covering data collected from hotels, caravan parks, camping sites, and guest houses.

The tourism industry generated just over R25,2 billion from accommodation in 2017, up from R24,1 billion in 2016. The 4,6% rise was lower than the increases recorded for 2016 (11,3%) and 2015 (8,4%).

Click [here](#) to download the report.



## Provincial snapshot

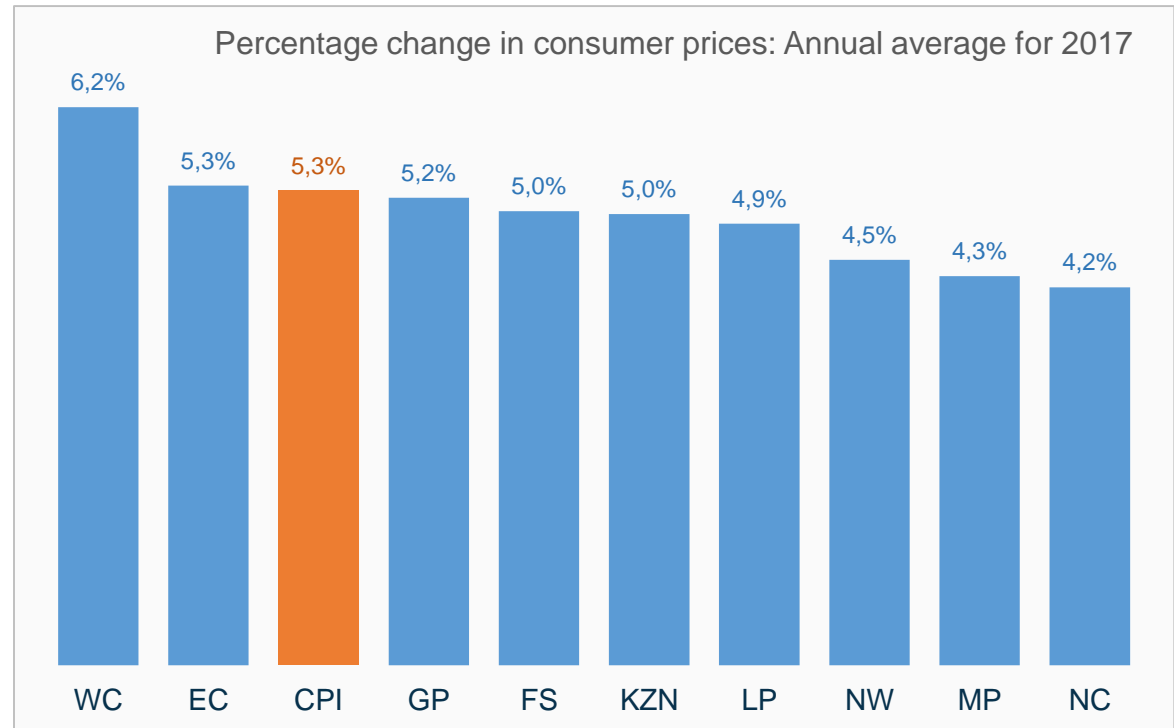
### Western Cape leads with rising prices

The prices of goods and services for South African consumers increased by 5,3% in 2017, according to Stats SA's *Consumer Price Index (CPI)* release for December 2017.

This is lower than the 6,4% rise recorded in 2016 but higher than 4,6% in 2015.

In 2017, consumer prices rose faster in Western Cape (up 6,2%) than in all other provinces. Northern Cape consumers experienced the slowest rise in overall inflation.

For more on consumer prices, download the latest *Consumer Price Index* release [here](#).



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