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Your monthly update on South Africa's economic indicators

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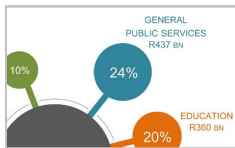
## Economic headlines

### Inflation edges up as food and drink prices bite



Brewing tea just became that much more expensive (click [here](#) to read more).

### A breakdown of total government spending



The public sector wage bill takes up 42 cents of every rand spent (click [here](#) to read more).

### Municipal spending up by 4,6% in Q2



The rise was slower than increases recorded in previous quarters (click [here](#) to read more).

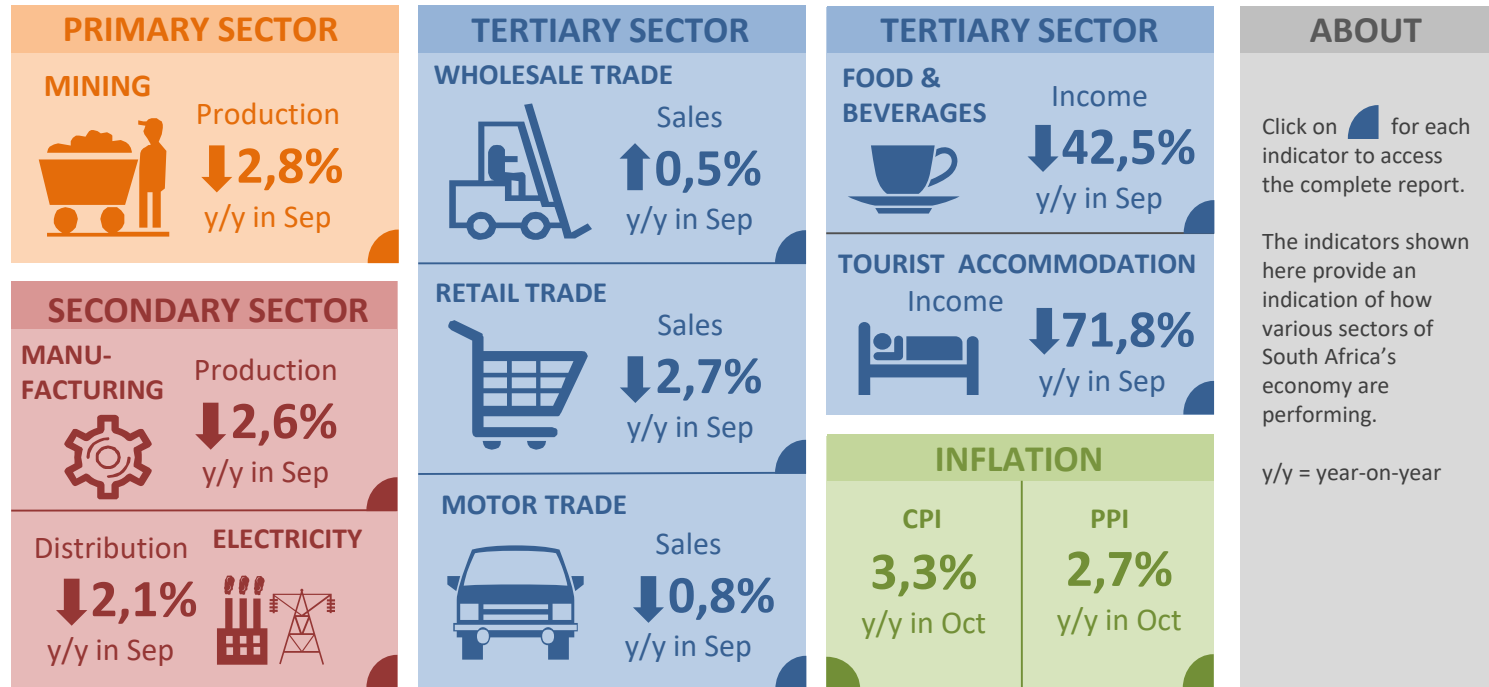
### Unemployment rate climbs to 30,8% in Q3



This is the highest rate recorded since the start of the Quarterly Labour Force Survey in 2008 (click [here](#) to read more).

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

## Monthly economic indicators



Keep up to date with our release schedule [here](#).

## Feature article

### Twenty-four years of land cover change in South Africa

One might assume that urban and cultivated land have expanded over time with South Africa's growing population.

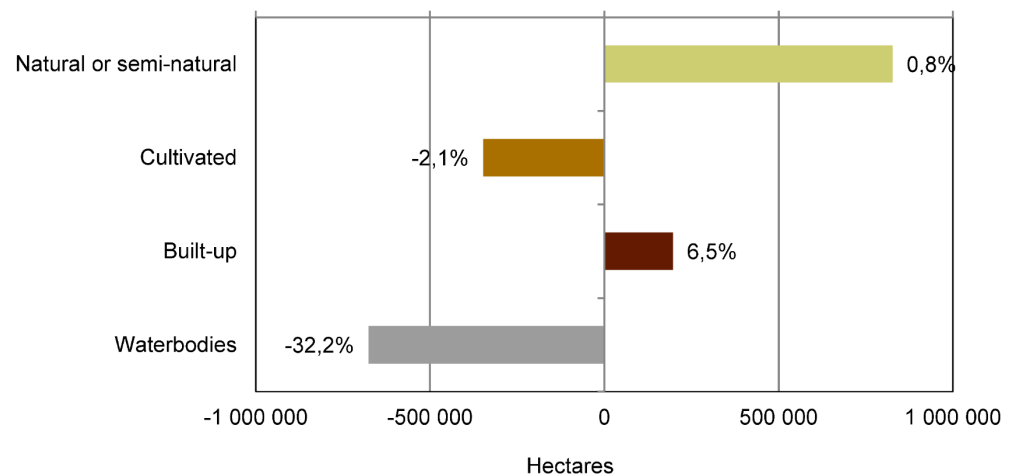
The *Land and terrestrial ecosystem accounts, 1990 to 2014* discussion document shows that built-up land has increased, but surprisingly the total area of cultivated land has decreased.

This was mainly due to a decrease in the area of land covered by cultivated commercial fields (maize, wheat and sunflower seeds) and timber plantations.

The area of land covered by pivot-irrigated agriculture, subsistence crops, sugarcane, orchards and vines increased over the same period.

Click [here](#) to read more.

**Net change in broad land cover classes (tier 1) at the national level, 1990–2014, in hectares (net percentage change shown at the end of each bar)**



The decrease in waterbodies was primarily due to the fact that 2014 was a much drier year than 1990

## Infographic of the month





## Provincial snapshot

### This is where built-up land has increased

From 1990 to 2014, built-up land cover in South Africa increased by 6,5%, according to the *Land and terrestrial ecosystem accounts, 1990 to 2014* discussion document.

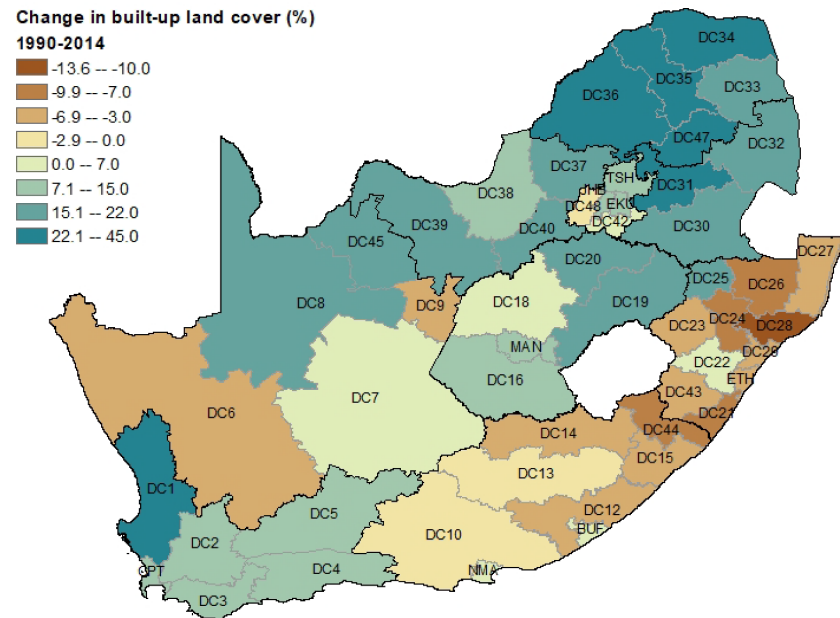
Built-up land cover (urban and mines) increased in two thirds of South Africa's 52 districts. Nkangala District (DC31) in Mpumalanga and Sekhukhune District (DC47) in Limpopo recorded the biggest increases.

Six of the ten districts with the biggest net decreases in built-up land cover are in KwaZulu-Natal. eThekweni was the only metropolitan municipality nationwide where a net decrease was recorded.

All districts in Eastern Cape registered a decrease in built-up land cover, with only the two metropolitan municipalities in the province recording an increase.

Click [here](#) to read more.

Net percentage change in built-up land cover (tier 1) by district municipality, 1990–2014. District municipalities are assigned a DC and metropolitan municipalities are assigned a code associated with the municipality name



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