Mbalo Brief

the missing piece of the puzzle

August 2026

Issue 07/2026

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS

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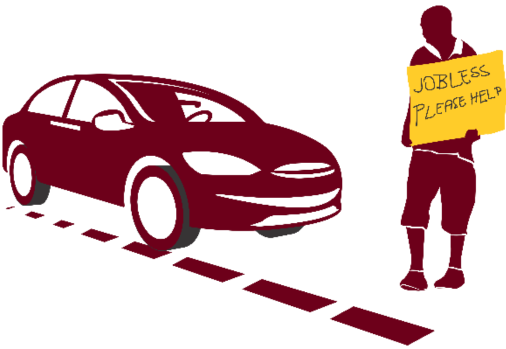
Editor's Comment



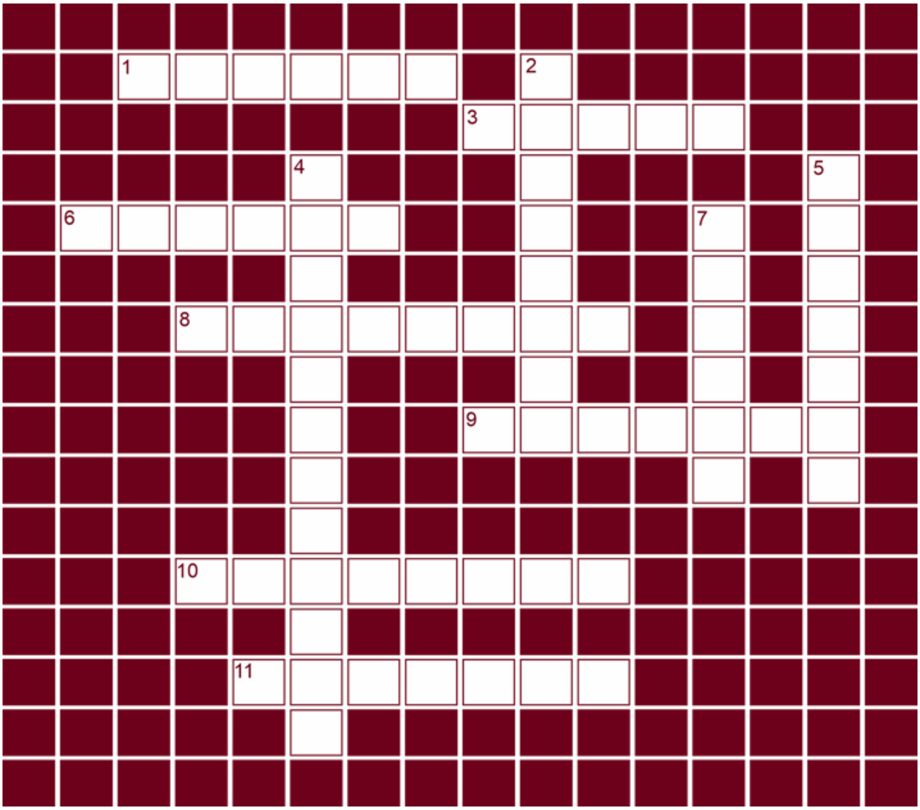
Unemployment is rife in South Africa, affecting people across the nine provinces. This translates to more young people who are stuck at home without jobs, not knowing where their next meal will come from. Some of these young people hold qualifications while others do not, but the reality of unemployment remains the same for them. Thus, it is a cause for concern when the unemployment rate goes up, as it makes it difficult for people to meet basic needs. According to Statistics South Africa's (Stats SA) latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) for quarter two (Q2) of 2026, the official unemployment rate was 33,6%, an increase of 0,9 of a percentage point from quarter one (Q1) when it was 32,7%. Zooming in on the provinces, Eastern Cape was the province with the highest unemployment rate at 47,5% in Q2 of 2026, followed by North West (38,1%), Free State (37,3%), Mpumalanga (36,3%), Gauteng (34,6%), KwaZulu-Natal (32,5%), Limpopo (32,0%) and Northern Cape (28,7%). Western Cape (19,5%) had the lowest unemployment rate out of the nine provinces, which was below the national average. Therefore, the province you live in may have an influence on you securing a job based on the economic activity of that province, population size or whether it's an urban or rural area.

This month's feature article is based on the *Gender Series XIII: Gender Disparities in Care Work in South Africa, 2015–2026*, Report No: 03-10-32 published by Stats SA on 6 August 2026. Also, don't miss our monthly crossword puzzle and the July 2026 solutions. Articles in this issue draw on the results of industry surveys conducted for May and June 2026.

Enjoy the read!

Content

Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. Where did the 2026 Summit of Southern African Development Community (SADC) take place in South Africa?
3. What's the capital city of Morocco?
6. Which South African athletes won her first Olympic gold in the 800m at the Rio 2016 summer Olympics? [Name only].
8. What's the name of the sport where Tatjana Smith won Olympic medals?
9. Who is the captain of the national women's rugby team? [Name only].
10. Name of retired runner who ran barefoot and had a minibus taxi named after her.
11. Which province had the highest share of people who were attending an educational institution in 2025? [Refer to the feature article for a clue.]

Down

2. Which team did Banyana Banyana play against at the opening match of the WAFCON 2026?
4. Who is the coach of Banyana Banyana?
5. What's the nickname of the South African national women's rugby team?
7. Between 2016 and 2026, which gender dominated paid care work occupations in South Africa?

Solutions for July 2026

Across

4. Inflation
6. Pretoria
7. Tshwane
8. False

Down

1. Migration
2. Retail
3. Johannesburg
5. Stats SA

Feature article

Gender Series XIII: Gender Disparities in Care Work in South Africa, 2015–2026

Introduction

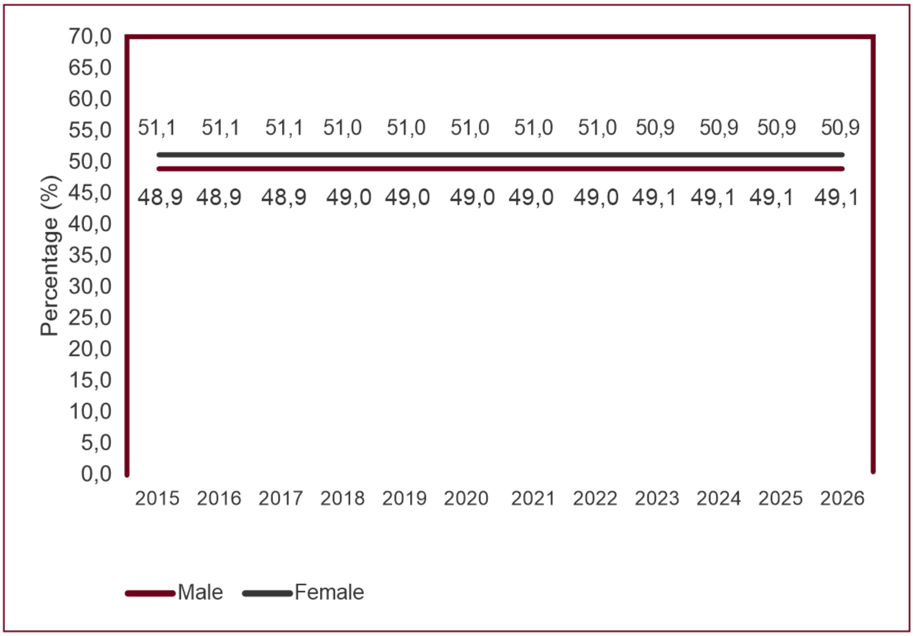
The care economy is an essential component of South Africa's economy and society, encompassing a wide range of activities that provide care, support and services to people throughout their lives. It includes the care of children, older persons, people living with disabilities, individuals with illnesses, and others who require assistance and support. Care work takes place across various sectors, including childcare and eldercare, education, healthcare, social and personal services, and domestic work. Care work can be paid or unpaid. Paid care workers include social workers, teachers, healthcare workers and domestic workers who provide care and support as part of their employment. Unpaid care work, on the other hand, is often carried out by family members who care for children, older relatives or loved ones who are ill or require assistance. Although both forms of care work are essential to the functioning of households, communities and the broader economy, care work is often overlooked and undervalued and often performed by women, highlighting the persistent gender disparities that exist within households and the labour market.

This feature article is based on *Gender Series XIII: Gender Disparities in Care Work in South Africa, 2015–2026*, Report No: 03-10-32 published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) on 06 August 2026. The main objective of the report is to examine selected dimensions of care work in South Africa using available statistical data sources, including the General Household Survey (GHS), Income and Expenditure Survey (IES), Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS), and the Mid-Year Population Estimates (MYPE). This feature article will focus on basic demographics, educational attendance, economic participation, outside the labour force, and income and expenditure related to care work. The full report can be view and downloaded from the Stats SA website on www.statssa.gov.za.

Basic demographics

This section provides the key demographics of the South African population based on sex, province, age group, employment status and dependency ratio.

Figure 1: The percentage share of the total population by sex, 2015–2026



Source: Mid-year Population Estimates, 2026

Figure 1 shows the percentage share of females in the overall population by sex over the past 12 years. Females reported the highest percentage share of the general population compared with their male counterparts for all the years. In addition, both the male and female share remained stable over the reporting period. In 2026, the percentage share of males and females was 49,1% and 50,9%, respectively.

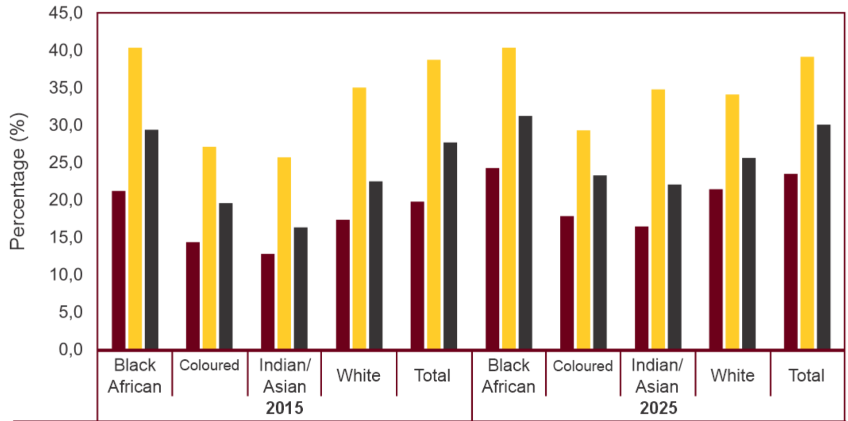
Percentage of females as a share of the total population by province, 2015–2026

North West had the lowest share of the female population at 48,9% in 2026. The analysis also reveals that Eastern Cape (53,4%), Free State (52,9%), Limpopo (51,9%) and KwaZulu-Natal (51,9%) had the highest proportions of females in 2026 and all the years of reporting.

Distribution of the population by age group and sex, 2015 and 2026

In both 2015 and 2026, the working-age population (15–64 years) constituted the largest share of the population, increasing from 65,4% in 2015 to 67,2% in 2026. The proportion of older persons (65 years and older), although the smallest age group, also increased from 5,9% to 7,3% over the same period, reflecting a gradual ageing of the population. The sex distribution was broadly balanced across the working-age population, with males slightly more than females among those aged 0–14. However, females consistently represented a higher proportion of the older population than males in both years. Overall, the age–sex structure indicates that South Africa remains a relatively youthful population with a large potential labour force, while the growing proportion of older persons points to increasing demand for healthcare and social support services.

Figure 2: Proportion of households without an employed household member by population group and sex, 2015 and 2025



	2015 Black African	2015 Coloured	2015 Indian/ Asian	2015 White	2015 Total	2025 Black African	2025 Coloured	2025 Indian/ Asian	2025 White	2025 Total
Male	21,1	14,5	12,9	17,5	19,9	24,4	18,0	16,5	21,5	23,5
Female	40,3	27,2	26,2	35,1	38,7	40,4	29,4	34,8	34,1	39,1
Total	29,4	19,6	16,4	22,6	27,7	31,3	23,3	22,1	25,6	30,1

Source: GHS, 2015 & 2025

Figure 2 depicts the proportion of households without an employed household member by population group and sex in 2015 and 2025. For the reference period, female-headed households were more likely to have no employed household member than their male counterparts across all population groups. In 2015, the black African and white population groups reported the highest proportion of female-headed households without an employed household member at 40,3% and 35,1%, respectively. Female-headed households without an employed household member increased across most population groups, except for the white population group. The Indian/Asian population group recorded the highest increase of the proportion of female-headed households without an employed household member, increasing by 8,6 percentage points (from 26,2% in 2015 to 34,8% in 2025).

Old age dependency ratio by population group and sex, 2015 and 2025

The analysis revealed that the white and Indian/Asian population groups have the highest old age dependency ratios compared with other population groups irrespective of the sex, for both years. In 2015, there were 24,1 older white dependants for every 100 working-age people, increasing to 32,9 older white dependants for every 100 working-age persons in 2025. Gender disparities show that females had a higher old age dependency ratio than their male counterparts across all population groups.

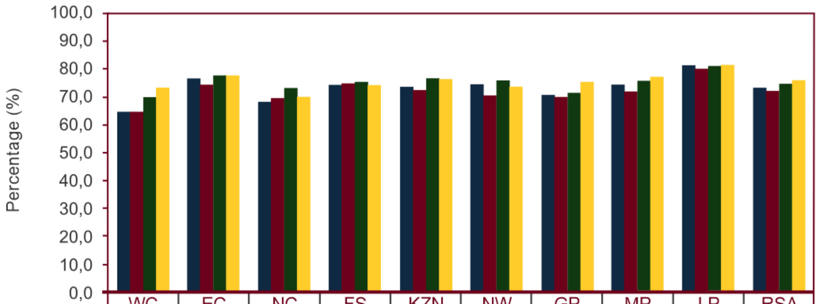
Living arrangements of children aged 0–17, 2015 and 2025

The analysis revealed that children that were not living with either of their biological parents decreased by 2,6 percentage points (from 21,1% in 2015 to 18,5% in 2025), while those staying with both parents decreased by 3,1 percentage points (from 34,5% in 2015 to 31,4% in 2025). For the reference period, a substantially higher proportion of children lived only with their mothers, increasing by 4,5 percentage points (from 41,4% in 2015 to 45,9% in 2025) compared with those living only with their fathers (3,0% in 2015 and 4,2% in 2025).

Educational attendance

This section provides educational attendance by sex and province, and non-attendance by sex and province.

Figure 3: Percentage distribution of persons aged 7–24 attending an educational institution by sex and province, 2015 and 2025



	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
2015 Male	64,6	76,6	68,1	74,2	73,4	74,4	70,6	74,3	81,4	73,3
2015 Female	65,0	74,5	70,0	74,7	72,4	70,5	70,1	72,1	80,1	72,2
2025 Male	69,8	77,5	73,1	75,2	76,6	75,9	71,3	75,6	81,2	74,8
2025 Female	73,1	77,5	70,0	74,1	76,3	73,6	75,3	77,3	81,6	76,1

Source: GHS, 2015 & 2025

Figure 3 shows the percentage distribution of persons aged 7–24 attending an educational institution by sex and province in 2015 and 2025. Approximately 73,3% of males were attending an educational institution in 2015, increasing to 74,8% in 2025, while the percentage of females attending an educational institution increased from 72,2% in 2015 to 76,1% in 2025. Limpopo had more than 80,0% of persons attending an educational institution regardless of sex; this was above the national average for both years. Western Cape had the lowest proportions of persons attending an educational institution for the reporting period (males: 64,6% in 2015 to 69,8% in 2025; and females: (65,0% in 2015 to 73,1% in 2025).

Percentage distribution of persons aged 7–24 not attending an educational institution by sex and province, 2015 and 2025

Nationally, 27,5% of females were not attending an educational institution in 2015, decreasing to 23,9% in 2025. The percentage of males not attending an educational institution decreased from 26,4% in 2015 to 25,2% in 2025. Limpopo reported the lowest percentage of persons not attending an educational institution in the reporting period, while Western Cape had the highest percentage of males and females not attending an educational institution in 2015 (35,1% and 34,9%, respectively).

Percentage (%) distribution of main reasons given by individuals aged 7–18 for not attending an educational institution by sex, 2015 and 2025

Between 2015 and 2025, having no money for fees was cited as the main reason for not attending an educational institution; however, the percentage dropped from 23,0% in 2015 to 21,5% in 2025. The second main reason was poor performance, increasing from 20,2% in 2015 to 27,1% in 2025. The largest gender disparity was observed for family commitments. In 2015, 19,0% of females cited family commitments as the main reason for not attending an educational institution, compared with only 0,4% of males. By 2025, no males reported family commitments as a reason for non-attendance, while the proportion among females was 8,4%.

Economic participation

Economic participation focuses on male and female market indicators, labour force participation by sex and marital status, the presence of minors in the household, and paid care work by occupation.

Male and female labour market indicators, Q1: 2016–2026

Throughout 2016 to 2026, males consistently recorded a higher labour force participation rate (LFPR) and absorption rate (AR), while females had substantially higher inactivity rates. The male LFPR declined slightly from 65,2% in 2016 to 64,2% in 2026, whereas the female LFPR increased from 52,4% to 53,8% during the same period. Males reached their highest participation rate in 2017 (66,6%), while females reached their highest participation rate in 2024 (55,6%).

The absorption rate declined for both sexes, falling from 49,2% to 45,2% for males and from 37,1% to 34,2% for females. Although employment improved between 2023 and 2025, particularly among females, absorption rates remained below pre-pandemic levels, indicating that employment growth did not keep pace with labour force participation.

Inactivity increased slightly among males (34,8% to 35,8%) but declined among females (47,6% to 46,2%). Despite this improvement, women remained considerably more likely than men to be outside the labour force. Inactivity peaked during the COVID-19 pandemic period for both sexes before improving in subsequent years. Overall, the results highlight persistent gender disparities in the labour market. Men remained more likely to participate in and secure employment, while women continued to experience higher levels of economic inactivity, reflecting ongoing barriers to labour market participation.

Labour force participation rate by sex and marital status, Q1: 2016 and 2026

Findings indicate that males consistently reported higher labour force participation rates across all categories compared with females. The gender disparity in those married/cohabiting is notable in the reporting period, although it decreased by 2,1 percentage points from 2016 (males 85,6% vs females 60,7%) to 2026 (males 84,8% vs females 62,0%). The never married was the only category to record increases in labour force participation for both sexes, from 53,1% in 2016 to 54,8% in 2026 among males and from 46,7% in 2016 to 49,9% in 2026 among females. However, the much larger gender gap among married or cohabiting adults indicates that unpaid care responsibilities continue to constrain women's participation in paid employment.

Labour force participation rate by sex and presence of minor children in the household, Q1: 2016 and 2026

Results show that the presence of children decreased the likelihood of participating in the workforce. Labour force participation was higher in households with no minor children for both genders between 2016 and 2026. Males recorded an LFPR of 75,8% in 2016 and 72,7% in 2026, while females recorded an LFPR of 63,3% in 2016 and 62,1% in 2026. However, the LFPR decreases as the number of children increases.

This trend is evident for both sexes; however, the rate of decline in participation is more pronounced for females than males. There was an increase in the LFPR of those with 3–4 children between 2016 and 2026, with females increasing by 4,3 percentage points (from 43,1% in 2016 to 47,4% in 2026) and a 1,1 percentage point increase for males (from 52,0% in 2016 to 53,1% in 2026). For those with five children and more, the LFPR for females increased (from 34,1% in 2016 to 38,1% in 2026) while males reported a decrease (from 38,6% in 2016 to 38,1% in 2026).

Paid care work to total employment by sex, Q1: 2016 and 2026

Paid care work to the total employment accounted for 14,2% of total employment in 2016, and decreased to 12,5% in 2026. Employment in the care sector declined from 2,2 million in 2016 to 2,1 million in 2026. Although employment in paid care is predominantly female, the number of males employed in paid care increased from 330 000 in 2016 to 349 000 in 2026. The number of females employed in paid care declined from 1,9 million in 2016 to 1,7 million in 2026.

Paid care occupation by sex, Q1: 2016 and 2026

In terms of the sex distribution of selected paid care occupation in 2016 and 2026, the findings indicate that women continued to dominate most paid care occupations over the 10-year period, highlighting the gendered nature of paid care work.

Domestic work remained one of the largest occupations employing women, with females accounting for 94,6% of workers in 2016 and 93,6% in 2026, while the share of men increased slightly from 5,4% to 6,4%. Despite this modest increase in male representation, domestic work continued to exhibit the largest gender disparity among the selected paid care occupations, remaining overwhelmingly female dominated. The majority of pre-primary education teachers were female; however, the proportion of males increased from no reported male teachers in 2016 to 6,0% in 2026, reducing the female share from 100,0% to 94,0%. Among the nursing and midwifery professions, females accounted for 87,6% in 2016 and 87,2% in 2026. Personal care workers also continued to be predominantly female, although the female share declined slightly from 86,6% in 2016 to 83,5% in 2026, with a corresponding increase in the proportion of men. Female representation among medical doctors increased from 49,6% in 2016 to 56,5% in 2026.

Social work associates continued to be female, although the female share decreased slightly from 94,6% in 2016 to 91,9% in 2026. Similarly, women remained the majority among special education teachers, increasing from 84,7% in 2016 to 91,5% in 2026, while the proportion of men declined. In 2026, the occupations with the highest gender parity ratio (GPR) were pre-primary education teachers (15,7), followed by domestic workers (14,6) and social work associate professionals (11,3).

These figures highlight the continued concentration of women in paid care occupations, despite modest increases in male participation in some professions. The GPR measures the ratio of women to men in an occupation, with a value of 1 indicating equal representation of women and men. Values greater than 1 indicate that women outnumber men, while values below 1 indicate that men outnumber women. The high GPR values recorded for these occupations reflect substantial gender imbalances in favour of women.

Outside the labour force

This section deals with reasons for being outside the labour force by sex and marital status.

Percentage distribution of reasons for being outside the labour force by sex, Q1: 2016 and 2026

Among the reasons for being outside the workforce in 2016 and 2026, studying was cited as being the main reason in both years. However, the number of male students declined by 8,9 percentage points (from 48,3% in 2016 to 39,4% in 2026) and females by 3,5 percentage points (from 34,7% in 2016 to 31,2% in 2026). There was an increase in jobseekers who were feeling discouraged to look for work; both sexes increased by 9,5 percentage points (from 21,8% in 2016 to 31,3% in 2026). Being a homemaker as a reason for being outside the workforce was dominated by females in 2016 (27,0%) compared with their male counterparts (4,8%). Female homemakers declined in 2026 (20,7%); however, they still made up the majority compared with male counterparts at 4,6%.

Percentage distribution of reasons for being outside the labour force by sex and marital status, 2016 and 2026

The majority of females who reported homemaking as a reason for being outside the workforce were married, although their percentage share decreased from 56,5% in 2016 to 48,5% in 2026. The share of female homemakers declined across all marital status, never married (13,2% in 2016 to 10,8% in 2026) and divorced (27,0% in 2016 to 13,7% in 2026), except males that never married increased by 0,2 of a percentage point from 4,4% in 2016 to 4,6% in 2026. For males and females who were never married, being a student was the main reason for being outside the labour force in the reporting period.

Expenditure and income patterns

This section provides the income and expenditure patterns related to share expenditure, household, average expenditure on domestic services, healthcare services and childcare services by sex.

Percentage distribution of main source of income of households by sex of the household head, 2015 and 2025

Generally, salaries remained the main source of income for households; however, it declined from 58,9% in 2015 to 54,3% in 2025. A grant was the second main source of income for households, and it increased by 2,3 percentage points for the reference period from 21,1% in 2015 to 23,4% in 2025. Grants and remittances were more common in female-headed households compared with male-headed households.

Share of care expenditure to total household expenditure, 2015 and 2023

For the period 2015, the average household expenditure on care services was 4,6% of the total household expenditure, which declined to 3,1% in 2023. Male-headed households spent more on care expenditure compared with female-headed households for both years. In 2023, male-headed households spent 3,3% on care expenditure compared with 2,7% of female-headed households.

Household average expenditure on domestic services by sex, 2015 and 2023

Nationally, on average, households spent R38 827 in 2015 on domestic services, which declined to R27 430 in 2023. There was a decline in domestic services expenditure by household in both male and female-headed households for the reporting period. Male-headed households spent R30 934 annually on domestic services compared with R21 657 of female-headed households in 2023.

Household average expenditure on health-care services by sex, 2015 and 2023

Nationally, the average expenditure on health-care services by household increased from R1 412 in 2015 to R1 481 in 2023. Female-headed household's expenditure on health-care services increased by R269 on average from R976 in 2015 to R1 245 in 2023, while male-headed household expenditure on health-care services decreased by R66 from R1 729 to R1 663 between 2015 and 2025.

Household average expenditure on childcare services by sex of the household head, 2015 and 2023

Childcare includes the active supervision, basic physical care, and early childhood education of children and it ranges from infancy up to early adolescence. An average of R6 522 per household was spent on childcare in 2015, which declined to R5 903 in 2023. Male-headed households spent approximately R8 301 on childcare services compared with female-headed households in 2015 (R4 486). For 2023, female-headed households spent R4 774 on childcare expenditure compared with their male counterparts (R8 301).

Conclusion

Females reported the highest percentage share of the overall population compared with their male counterparts for all the years, with Eastern Cape having the highest proportion of females compared with the other provinces.

Female-headed households were more likely to have no employed household member than their male counterparts across all population groups. Limpopo had more people attending an educational institution regardless of sex, while Western Cape had the lowest proportions. Attendance of an educational institution decreased for both sexes between 2015 and 2025. No money for fees was the main reason for non-attendance of an educational institution. Males consistently recorded a higher labour force participation rate and absorption rate, while females had substantially higher inactivity rates. Having children decreased the likelihood of participating in the workforce.

Domestic work remained one of the largest occupations employing women, while males worked in teaching. Studying was the main reason given for being outside the workforce during the reporting period. However, among married females, homemaking was the main reason for being outside the workforce. Generally, salaries remained the main source of income for households.

Primary industries

Mining: Production and sales

Mining production decreased by 4,0% year-on-year in June 2026.

The mining industry plays an important role in the South African economy, supporting a wide range of activities beyond the extraction of minerals, including transport, logistics, manufacturing, engineering and other business services. The sector also contributes to export earnings and government revenue, making mining production an important indicator of economic activity. In June 2026, mining production decreased by 4,0% year-on-year, mainly due to lower production of platinum group metals (PGMs), coal and iron ore. The decline indicates that the physical volume of minerals produced was lower than in the corresponding month of the previous year. A decline in mining production can also affect industries that supply goods and services to mines. If sustained, weaker mining activity could therefore have wider implications for economic activity and employment across related industries. This article summarises the results of *Mining: Production and sales* (Statistical release P2041) for June 2026.

Mining production decreased by 4,0% year-on-year in June 2026 **(see Table A)**.

The largest negative contributors were:

- PGMs (-8,4%, contributing -2,4 percentage points);
- coal (-6,6%, contributing -1,7 percentage points); and
- iron ore (-10,2%, contributing -1,5 percentage points).

Table A – Key growth rates in the volume of mining production for June 2026

	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	4,7	10,0	2,5	7,9	-5,1	-4,0
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	3,4	2,9	-4,8	3,0	-5,2	0,3
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted[1]	-3,5	-1,6	0,5	2,3	-1,7	-2,7

[1] Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.
A full release on *Mining: Production and sales* (Statistical release P2041) is available on the Stats SA website www.statssa.gov.za.

Mineral sales increased by 27,2% year-on-year in June 2026 **(see Table B).** The largest positive contributors were:

- gold (125,7%, contributing 17,1 percentage points);
- PGMs (27,0%, contributing 7,3 percentage points); and
- chromium ore (49,0%, contributing 3,7 percentage points).

Iron ore (-16,1%, contributing -1,7 percentage points) and 'other' non-metallic minerals (-35,5%, contributing -1,3 percentage points) were the only negative contributors.

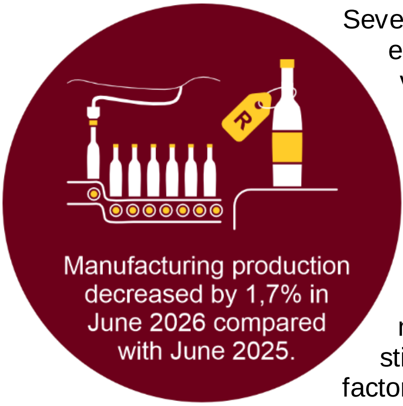
Table B – Key growth rates in mineral sales at current prices for June 2026

	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	31,5	58,2	31,4	30,6	13,9	27,2
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-8,5	8,4	-7,5	3,1	-4,4	2,7
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted[1]	11,8	16,5	6,4	4,4	-4,8	-1,6

[1] Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated. A full release on *Mining: Production and sales* (Statistical release P2041) is available on the Stats SA website www.statssa.gov.za.

Secondary industries

Manufacturing: Production and sales



Several companies choose South Africa to establish their manufacturing plants for various reasons. Some of these include South Africa's strategic position as a gateway to the rest of the continent, and its government incentives offered via special economic zones (SEZ), among others. One of the companies due to open a manufacturing plant in South Africa is Stellantis, a global motor vehicle manufacturing company. The automaker is still reviewing plans to build a greenfield factory (a manufacturing plant built from scratch on unused or undeveloped land) at Gqeberha in Eastern Cape, following the plan that started in 2023. This will be the first manufacturing plant for Stellantis in South Africa, and its aim is to produce only the Peugeot Landtrek pickup truck. The addition of a new manufacturing plant in South Africa could boost manufacturing by expanding local production capacity and reducing import reliance for local and African consumers. Presented in this article is a summary of the *Manufacturing: Production and sales (*Statistical release P3041.2) for June 2026.

Manufacturing production decreased by 1,7% in June 2026 compared with June 2025 (**see Table C**).

Negative contributions were made by the following divisions:

- food and beverages (-3,9%, contributing -1,0 percentage point);
- wood and wood products, paper, publishing and printing (-8,9%, contributing -0,9 of a percentage point); and

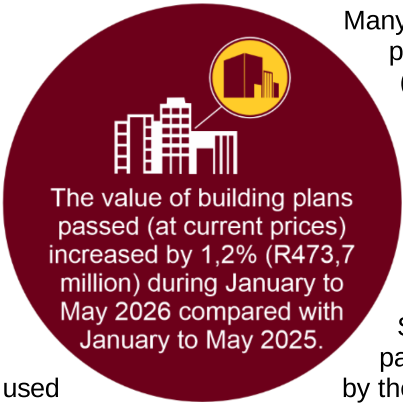
- motor vehicles, parts and accessories and other transport equipment (-5,3%, contributing -0,4 of a percentage point).

Table C – Key growth rates in the volume of manufacturing production for June 2026

	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-0,2	-2,2	1,4	-3,0	-4,4	-1,7
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	2,0	-2,0	1,1	-2,6	1,0	0,9
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted[1]	-1,8	-2,0	-0,9	-1,3	-1,0	-1,5

[1] Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.
A full release on *Manufacturing: Production and sales* (Statistical release P3041.2) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Selected building statistics of the private sector



Many foreigners are increasingly buying property in South Africa, especially in luxury (general quality of high price) and ultra-luxury segments (the specific market category or highest tier of the market). According to Lightstone property data, foreign buyers accounted for about 4 in 10 South African home sales above R20 million. Some foreign buyers use international bank transfers to purchase South African properties using balance of payments (BOP) codes. These codes are used by the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) to track and classify all cross-border financial transactions. Banks use these codes to report foreign exchange to ensure compliance with financial regulations. As the SARB plays a crucial role in monitoring and managing the country's financial system, on 11 August 2026 the SARB updated BOP codes that foreign property buyers should use to make international bank transfers. Foreign buyers are urged to select the correct BOP code matching the transaction purpose, as using an inaccurate code might delay property payment or trigger a compliance review by the buyer's bank forex department. Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) reported that the value of building plans passed (at current prices) increased by 1,2% (R473,7 million) during January to May 2026 compared with January to May 2025. The increase was reported for residential buildings (R1 348,7 million). This article summarises the results of the *Selected building statistics of the private sector* (Statistical release P5041.1) for May 2026.

Building plans passed

The value of building plans passed increased by 1,2% (R473,7 million) during January to May 2026 compared with January to May 2025 (**see Table D**).

An increase was reported for residential buildings (R1 348,7 million). Decreases were reported for additions and alterations (-R670,9 million) and non-residential buildings (-R204,1 million).

Building plans passed by larger municipalities by province

The largest positive contributors to the total increase of 1,2% (R473,7 million) were KwaZulu-Natal (contributing 2,8 percentage points or R1 067,2 million) and Limpopo (contributing 1,2 percentage points or R451,6 million).

The largest negative contributors were Gauteng (contributing -1,3 percentage points or -R499,8 million) and Mpumalanga (contributing -1,0 percentage point or -R402,9 million).

Buildings reported as completed

The value of buildings reported as completed (at current prices) decreased by 4,2% (-R819,4 million) during January to May 2026 compared with January to May 2025. Decreases were reported for non-residential buildings (-R759,8 million) and residential buildings (-R255,6 million). An increase was reported for additions and alterations (R196,0 million).

Buildings reported as completed to larger municipalities by province

Five out of the nine provinces reported year-on-year decreases in the value of buildings completed during January to May 2026. The largest negative contributors were Gauteng (contributing -4,1 percentage points or -R805,4 million), KwaZulu-Natal (contributing -3,4 percentage points or -R654,7 million) and North West (contributing -2,9 percentage points or -R571,8 million).

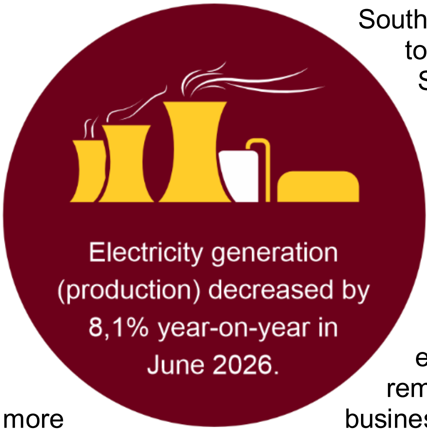
The largest positive contributors were Western Cape (contributing 3,8 percentage points or R740,0 million) and Mpumalanga (contributing 1,9 percentage points or R369,7 million).

Table D – Building plans passed by larger municipalities by type of building, May 2026

Type of building	Jan – May 2025	Jan – May 2026	Difference in value between Jan – May 2025 and Jan – May 2026	% change between Jan – May 2025 and Jan – May 2026
	R'000	R'000	R'000	
Residential buildings	**17 922 291**	**19 270 961**	**1 348 670**	**7,5**
- Dwelling houses	12 025 456	11 694 510	-330 946	-2,8
- Flats and townhouses	5 349 382	6 188 163	838 781	15,7
- Other residential buildings	547 453	1 388 288	840 835	153,6
Non-residential buildings	**8 482 716**	**8 278 592**	**-204 124**	**-2,4**
Additions and alterations	**12 129 193**	**11 458 316**	**-670 877**	**-5,5**
Total	**38 534 200**	**39 007 869**	**473 669**	**1,2**

A full release on *Selected building statistics of the private sector as reported by local government institutions* (Statistical release P5041.1) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Electricity generated and available for distribution



South Africa’s electricity generation continued to decline in June 2026. According to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), electricity generation decreased by 8,1% compared with June 2025, while electricity consumption decreased by 2,8%**.** In the first six months of 2026, electricity generation was 7,0% lower than during the same period in 2025. The decline in electricity generation is linked to lower demand for electricity, as economic activity and electricity use have remained relatively weak. At the same time, more businesses, mines and households are using alternative sources such as solar power, reducing their dependence on electricity from the national grid. Improved performance of the electricity system has also reduced the need for very high levels of generation to prevent load-shedding. Therefore, the decline in electricity generation does not necessarily mean that South Africa has less access to electricity. Instead, it reflects a combination of lower electricity demand and changes in the way electricity is produced and consumed, with more users increasingly generating some of their own electricity. This article summarises the results of *Electricity generated and available for distribution* (Statistical release P4141) for June 2026.

Electricity generation (production) decreased by 8,1% year-on-year in June 2026 **(see Table E)**.

Table E – Key growth rates in the volume of electricity generated for June 2026

	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-6,1	-3,5	-6,6	-8,7	-8,7	-8,1
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,4	-0,6	-1,3	-1,8	0,8	-0,7
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted[1]	-2,7	-1,8	-0,8	-1,6	-2,1	-2,5

[1] Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.
A full release on *Electricity generated and available for distribution* (Statistical release P4141) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Electricity distribution (consumption) decreased by 2,8% year-on-year in June 2026 **(see Table F)**.

Table F – Key growth rates in the volume of electricity distributed for June 2026

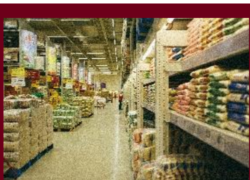
	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	6,1	-3,1	-3,0	-4,8	-4,0	-2,8
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,3	-0,4	2,3	-1,5	1,8	-0,9
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted[1]	-1,3	0,1	1,0	1,0	1,8	0,8

[1] Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.
A full release on *Electricity generated and available for distribution* (Statistical release P4141) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Tertiary industries

Wholesale trade sales

Wholesale trade plays an important role in the economy by connecting producers and importers with retailers, businesses and other users of goods. Wholesalers purchase goods in large quantities and distribute them in smaller quantities to retailers, manufacturers, businesses and other customers. In this way, wholesalers facilitate the movement of goods from producers to the businesses and consumers who ultimately use them. Since wholesalers operate between different stages of the supply chain, changes in wholesale trade sales can provide insight into the demand for goods across the economy. An increase in wholesale sales may indicate stronger demand from retailers and businesses, greater movement of goods through the supply chain and, in some cases, increased inventory building in anticipation of higher demand. While a decrease in wholesale sales may suggest that retailers and other businesses are purchasing fewer goods, reducing their inventories or becoming more cautious about their purchasing decisions. This can occur when demand for products weakens, businesses face higher operating costs or firms seek to limit the amount of stock they hold. Presented in this article is a summary of the *Wholesale trade sales* (Statistical release P6141.2) for May 2026.



Wholesale trade sales increased by 4,0% in May 2026 compared with May 2025 **(see Table G).**

The main positive contributor was dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (24,2%, contributing 5,6 percentage points). The main negative contributor was dealers in agricultural raw materials and livestock (-14,3%, contributing -1,0 percentage point).

Wholesale trade sales increased by 8,2% in the three months ended May 2026 compared with the three months ended May 2025. The main positive contributors were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (24,0%, contributing 5,6 percentage points); and
- ‘other’ intermediate products, waste and scrap (22,5%, contributing 1,1 percentage points).

Table G – Key growth rates in wholesale trade sales for May 2026

	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	2,6	-3,5	-1,5	10,0	10,9	4,0
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,5	-1,3	-0,3	5,4	3,7	-4,3
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted[1]	0,7	0,6	0,1	0,8	3,8	5,8

[1] Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.
A full release on *Wholesale trade sales* (Statistical release 6141.2) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Retail trade sales

South Africa has been experiencing an increasing production, sale and consumption of illicit and counterfeit food products. Some illicit and counterfeit food products have caused illness and, in some instances, resulted in fatalities. In order to protect consumers against the dangers of illicit and counterfeit food products, the Consumer Goods Council of South Africa (CGCSA) (a non-profit organisation representing retail, wholesale and manufacturing companies in South Africa) has encouraged consumers to report trade of illicit and counterfeit food products through the CGCSA's toll-free hotline: 0800 014 856. According to the CGCSA, the most affected product categories are liquor, food, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals, clothing and toys. The CGCSA is also using the *Checka Daai Ding* awareness campaign (a national initiative encouraging consumers to become vigilant buyers capable of recognising and rejecting counterfeit goods) to reduce demand for illicit products, encourage consumers to report counterfeit items, and promote consumer vigilance. In May 2026, retail trade sales increased by 2,3% year-on-year. Presented in this article is a summary of the *Retail trade sales* (Statistical release P6242.1) for May 2026.

Retail trade sales increased by 2,3% year-on-year in May 2026 **(see Table H).**

The largest positive contributors to this increase were:

- all 'other' retailers (6,7%, contributing 0,7 of a percentage point);
- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (3,7%, contributing 0,7 of a percentage point); and
- general dealers (1,0%, contributing 0,4 of a percentage point).

Retail trade sales increased by 2,0% in the three months ended May 2026 compared with the three months ended May 2025. The largest positive contributors to this increase were:

- all 'other' retailers (6,2%, contributing 0,7 of a percentage point); and
- general dealers (1,2%, contributing 0,5 of a percentage point).

Table H – Key growth rates in retail trade sales for May 2026

	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	2,5	4,4	1,6	2,5	1,2	2,3
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-0,7	0,8	-0,9	0,1	0,8	0,1
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted [1/]	0,7	1,2	0,3	0,0	-0,3	0,3

[1/] Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

A full release on *Retail trade sales* (Statistical release P6242.1) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Motor trade sales

Motor vehicles around the world must meet safety standards to protect human life, prevent accidents and reduce injury severity. However, the Automobile Association (AA) expressed concerns about motor vehicles that do not meet global basic safety standards following the latest crash results from the Global New Car Assessment Programme, which assesses the safety performance of popular, entry-level motor vehicles sold in African markets against internationally recognised standards. The assessment programme forms part of #SaferCarsForAfrica, an independent consumer crash test and road safety campaign. According to AA, every new vehicle should come equipped with electronic stability control (ESC) and at least six airbags as a global standard. The AA stated that these features should not be reserved for higher-specification models or offered only as optional extras. However, motor vehicle safety standards differ globally and locally because no worldwide law governs vehicle manufacturing. Every country and region sets their own minimum legal requirements for motor vehicle safety standards. If safety standards of the country are not followed, it might affect the sale of the motor vehicle concerned or result in its recall, among other consequences. The motor trade sales data for May 2026 published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) indicate that consumers still buy new motor vehicles despite affordability pressure. The data indicate that motor trade sales remained flat, but the largest positive contributor was new vehicle sales (15,2%, contributing 3,9 percentage points), marking a strong start to the second half of 2026. This article summarises the results of the *Motor trade sales* (Statistical release P6343.2) for May 2026.

Motor trade sales remained flat in May 2026 compared with May 2025 (**see Table I**).

The largest positive contributor was new vehicle sales (15,2%, contributing 3,9 percentage points).

The largest negative contributors were:

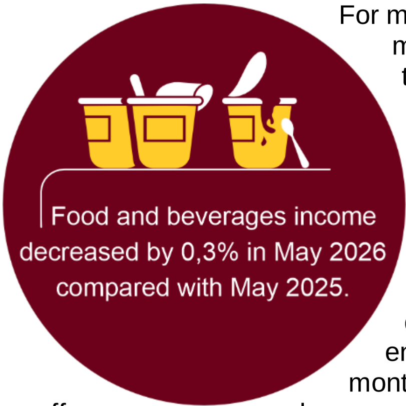
- fuel sales (-8,6%, contributing -2,1 percentage points); and
- sales of accessories (-7,0%, contributing -1,5 percentage points).

Table I – Key growth rates in motor trade sales at constant prices for May 2026

	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	6,5	2,7	5,6	15,3	6,1	0,0
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,2	-0,4	1,3	6,5	-4,3	-2,2
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted[1]	1,1	1,0	1,0	3,0	3,8	3,4

[1] Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.
A full release on *Motor trade sales* (Statistical release P6343.2) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Food and beverages



For many South Africans, going to a restaurant is more than just having a meal. It can be a way to catch up with friends, celebrate special occasions, meet for business or simply enjoy a cup of coffee away from home. However, the latest food and beverages statistics from Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) suggest that spending in this part of the industry has come under some pressure. Food and beverages income decreased by 0,2% in the three months ended May 2026 compared with the three months ended May 2025. Restaurants and coffee shops were the main contributor to the decline, with income decreasing by 1,7%, contributing -0,8 of a percentage point to the overall change. The decline suggests that, although eating out and meeting over coffee remain part of consumers' lifestyles, households may be becoming more selective about how often and how much they spend on these activities. Despite the decline, restaurants and coffee shops remain an important part of South Africa's food and beverages industry. Presented in this article is a summary of the *Food and beverages* (Statistical release P6420) for May 2026.

Food and beverages income decreased by 0,3% in May 2026 compared with May 2025 **(see Table J)**.

Food and beverages income decreased by 0,2% in the three months ended May 2026 compared with the three months ended May 2025. The main contributor to this decrease was restaurants and coffee shops (-1,7%, contributing -0,8 of a percentage point).

Table J – Year-on-year percentage change in food and beverages income at constant 2019 prices by type of enterprise for May 2026

Type of income	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	2,5	5,7	4,2	1,9	-2,4	-0,3
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-2,0	2,5	-1,6	0,9	-3,6	3,6
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted[1]	0,8	-0,6	-0,7	0,2	-1,3	-0,6

A full release on *Food and beverages* (Statistical release P6420) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Tourist accommodation

Booking platforms such as Airbnb and Bookings.com have made it easier for property owners to rent out their homes to tourists in exchange for income. While this increases the number of available tourist accommodation, it has created an influx of short-term rentals in the market, particularly in coastal areas and other tourism hotspots. To try and manage this influx, in March 2026 the Minister of Tourism, Patricia de Lille, published a Code of Good Practice for Short-Term Rentals which is applicable to hosts, guests and booking platforms. Although the code is not legally binding, it sets out specific guidelines to be followed by all parties involved. For example, as part of the guidelines, it is the responsibility of the property owners to inform guests of specific body corporate rules or bylaws governing that property, such as the disposal of refuse, parking and excessive noise and disruptions. On the other hand, guests have to abide by these rules to promote responsible tourism. According to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), in May 2026 other accommodation – which also includes short-term rentals – was one of the positive contributors to the 2,2% year-on-year increase in income from accommodation, growing by 3,7% and contributing 1,4 percentage points to income from accommodation. This highlights the significance of short-term rentals in the sector. This article summarises the results of *Tourist accommodation* (Statistical release P6410) for May 2026.

Total income for the tourist accommodation industry increased by 2,5% in May 2026 compared with May 2025 **(see Table K).**

Income from accommodation increased by 2,2% year-on-year in May 2026, the result of a 0,5% increase in the number of stay unit nights sold and a 1,7% increase in the average income per stay unit night sold.

In May 2026, the positive contributors to the 2,2% year-on-year increase in income from accommodation were:

- hotels (2,8%, contributing 1,6 percentage points); and
- 'other' accommodation (3,7%, contributing 1,4 percentage points).

Income from accommodation increased by 7,5% in the three months ended May 2026 compared with the three months ended May 2025. The main contributors to this increase were:

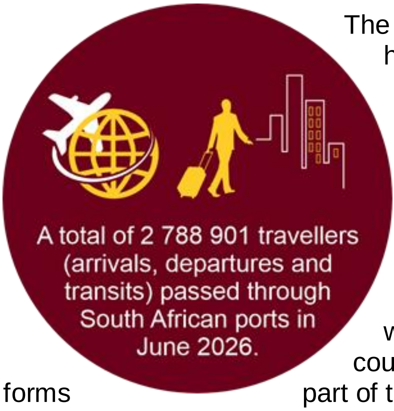
- 'other' accommodation (11,6%, contributing 4,2 percentage points); and
- hotels (5,3%, contributing 3,0 percentage points).

Table K – Year-on-year percentage change in tourist accommodation statistics for May 2026

	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26
Stay units available	0,1	0,1	0,0	0,0	-0,1	-0,2
Stay unit nights sold	2,1	0,9	5,3	11,4	9,6	0,5
Average income per stay unit night sold	2,0	1,8	2,0	2,1	-3,4	1,7
Income from accommodation	4,1	2,7	7,5	13,7	5,9	2,2
Total income[1]	**3,7**	**-1,8**	**6,2**	**11,8**	**5,2**	**2,5**

[1/]Includes restaurant and bar sales and 'other' income.
A full release on *Tourist accommodation* (Statistical release P6410) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

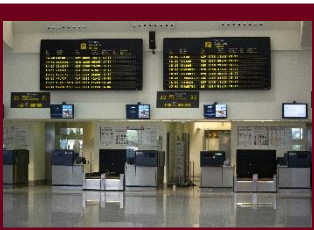
International tourism



The South African Reserve Services (SARS) has launched a system to fast track the processing of travellers and improve security clearing for goods and currencies. On 1 July 2026, SARS launched Online Traveller Declaration system at all South African air, land and sea ports. The online system requires that travellers, including South African citizens and residents, submit online declaration within 24 hours before departure to any country. According to SARS, the declaration forms part of the Customs process and helps travellers meet their legal obligation to declare goods, currency and other relevant items in their possession. However, there are limited exemptions where a traveller can fill papers on arrival if no application on line was made those who transit through South Africa as long as they do not leave designated transit areas. For assistance with completing the declaration, travellers can send an enquiry to travellerescalations@sars.gov.za or visit service counters at the airport. In June 2026, 2 788 901 travellers passed through South African sea, land and ports. Presented in this article is a summary of the *International tourism* (Statistical release P0350) results for June 2026.

Travellers

Number of travellers



A total of 2 788 901 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports in June 2026 **(see Table L)**.

These travellers were made up of 715 507 South African residents and 2 073 394 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 334 781 arrivals, 380 090 departures and 636 travellers in transit. The corresponding volumes for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit were 1 085 557, 942 772 and 45 065 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in May 2026 and June 2026 indicates that, for both groups of travellers, the volumes of arrivals and transits decreased while that of departures increased for South African residents and decreased for foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 2,8% (from 344 519 in May 2026 to 334 781 in June 2026), departures increased by 8,7% (from 349 564 in May 2026 to 380 090 in June 2026) and transits decreased by 5,1% (from 670 in May 2026 to 636 in June 2026). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 6,0% (from 1 155 059 in May 2026 to 1 085 557 in June 2026), departures decreased by 7,8% (from 1 022 809 in May 2026 to 942 772 in June 2026), and transits decreased by 6,7% (from 48 285 in May 2026 to 45 065 in June 2026).

A comparison between the movements in June 2025 and June 2026 indicates that the volumes of arrivals and departures decreased for South African residents and increased for foreign travellers, while that of transits increased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 8,7% (from 366 732 in June 2025 to 334 781 in June 2026), departures decreased by 4,9% (from 399 719 in June 2025 to 380 090 in June 2026) and transits increased by 12,6% (from 565 in June 2025 to 636 in June 2026). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 4,3% (from 1 040 785 in June 2025 to 1 085 557 in June 2026), departures increased by 6,9% (from
882 242 in June 2025 to 942 772 in June 2026) and transits increased by 1,5% (from 44 401 in June 2025 to 45 065 in June 2026).

Mode of travel of travellers

In June 2026, road was the most common mode of travel used by 1 917 388 (68,8%) of the 2 788 901 travellers. The total number of air travellers was 861 523 (30,9%). Compared to air and road, a smaller number of travellers, 9 990 (0,4%) used sea into and out of South Africa. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 157 599 (47,1%) came by air, 177 115 (52,9%) came by road and 67 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. For departures, 194 096 (51,1%) used air, 185 869 (48,9%) used road and 125 (less than 0,1%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 636 (100,0%) used air.

Visitors

In June 2026, 29 481 (2,7%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors, while 1 056 076 (97,3%) were classified as visitors. Visitors were categorised into three groups:

i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in June 2026 but did not depart in June 2026 [439 317 (41,6%)].
ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in June 2026 and left in June 2026 [320 108 (30,3%)].
iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in June 2026 [296 651 (28,1%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors/tourists. In June 2026, there were 232 711 (22,0%) same-day visitors and 823 365 (78,0%) tourists. Between May 2026 and June 2026, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 11,0% (from 261 536 in May 2026 to 232 711 in June 2026) and that of tourists decreased by 4,5% (from 861

750 in May 2026 to 823 365 in June 2026). Between June 2025 and June 2026, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 12,5% (from 266 065 in June 2025 to 232 711 in June 2026) whereas that of tourists increased by 9,8% (from 750 177 in June 2025 to 823 365 in June 2026).

Of the 232 711 same-day visitors, a majority, 205 302 (88,2%) arrived in the country by road, 27 392 (11,8%) arrived by air and 17 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. Information on tourists shows that 637 752 (77,5%) came by road, 184 147 (22,4%) used air and 1 466 (0,2%) used sea.

Tourists

Sex and age distribution of tourists

Sex

There were more male [487 444 (59,2%)] than female [335 921 (40,8%)] tourists. Male tourists constituted the majority of tourists for all three regions, SADC countries [402 588 (60,2%)], overseas countries [76 972 (54,3%)] and ‘other’ African countries [7 425 (61,8%)]. Similarly, the largest portion of female tourists was from SADC countries [266 182 (39,8%)], followed by overseas countries [64 824 (45,7%)] and ‘other’ African countries [4 582 (38,2%)].

Age

The age distribution indicates that out of all tourists, [3,4% (28 056)] were aged younger than 15; [9,1% (74 781)] were aged between 15 and 24; [24,9% (204 752)] were aged between 25 and 34; [30,4% (250 556)] were aged between 35 and 44; [19,4% (159 440)] were aged between 45 and 54; [8,1% (66 767)] were aged between 55 and 64; and [4,7% (39 012)] were aged 65 and older

Purpose of visit of tourists

in June 2026, the majority of tourists, 801 014 (97,3%), were in South Africa for holiday compared to 19 996 (2,4%); 2 043 (0,2%) and 312 (less than 0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and medical treatment, respectively.

Mode of travel of tourists

In June 2026, 131 183 (92,5%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 9 152 (6,5%) came in by road and 1 461 (1,0%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the SADC countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 626 117 (93,6%), 42 651 (6,4%) came by air and two (less than 0,1%) came by sea. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 9 684 (80,7%); while 2 320 (19,3%) used road transport and three (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. Most tourists who arrived by road came through Lebombo port (222 262) and Beit Bridge port (139 694). The majority of tourists who came by air entered through OR Tambo International Airport (135 079) and Cape Town International Airport (46 645). Tourists who arrived by sea came through Cape Town Harbour (1 460) and Durban Harbour (6).

Table L – Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction, June 2026

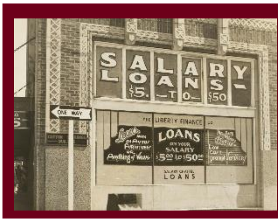
Travel direction	June 2025	May 2026	June 2026	% Change May 2026 – Jun 2026	% Change Jun 2025 – Jun 2026
Total	**2 734 444**	**2 920 906**	**2 788 901**	**-4,5**	**2,0**
South African residents	**767 016**	**694 753**	**715 507**	**3,0**	**-6,7**
Arrivals	366 732	344 519	334 781	-2,8	-8,7
Departures	399 719	349 564	380 090	8,7	-4,9
Transits	565	670	636	-5,1	12,6
Foreign travellers	**1 967 428**	**2 226 153**	**2 073 394**	**-6,9**	**5,4**
Arrivals	1 040 785	1 155 059	1 085 557	-6,0	4,3
Departures	882 242	1 022 809	942 772	-7,8	6,9
Transits	44 401	48 285	45 065	-6,7	1,5

A full release on *International tourism* (Statistical release P0350) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Statistics of civil cases for debt

The total number of civil summonses issued for debt increased by 1,4% in the three months ended May 2026 compared with the three months ended May 2025.

In the first quarter of 2026, consumers benefited from the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) keeping the repo rate unchanged at 6,75%, holding the prime lending rate at 10,50%. The prime lending rate is the benchmark interest rate that commercial banks charge their lowest-risk, most creditworthy consumers. However, the latest data from DebtBusters Quarter 1 of 2026 Debt Index released on 27 May 2026 show that consumers continued to face debt burdens. The results indicate that consumers have increasingly turned to unsecured credit, and 96% of debt counselling applications had a personal loan and 61% had a one-month or payday loan. Consumers who supplement their income with personal loans and other unsecured credit on top of the debt they already have might receive civil summonses if they default on paying debts on time. The statistics of civil cases for debt data published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) in May 2026 indicate that the total number of civil summonses issued for debt increased by 1,4% in the three months ended May 2026. This article summarises the results of *Statistics of civil cases for debt* (Statistical release P0041) for May 2026.



The total number of civil summonses issued for debt increased by 1,4% in the three months ended May 2026 compared with the three months ended May 2025 (**see Table M**).

The number of civil summonses issued for debt

The largest positive contributors to the 1,4% increase in civil summonses issued were:

- ‘other’ debts (contributing 1,3 percentage points);
- promissory notes (contributing 0,9 of a percentage point); and

- services (contributing 0,5 of a percentage point).

Money lent (contributing -1,6 percentage points) was the only negative contributor.

The number of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total number of civil judgements recorded for debt increased by 7,4% in the three months ended May 2026 compared with the three months ended May 2025.

The largest positive contributors to the 7,4% increase were civil judgements relating to:
- ‘other’ debts (contributing 4,1 percentage points);
- promissory notes (contributing 1,6 percentage points); and
- services (contributing 1,6 percentage points).

Rent (contributing -0,8 of a percentage point) was the only negative contributor.

The value of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total value of civil judgements recorded for debt increased by 13,8% in the three months ended May 2026 compared with the three months ended May 2025.

The largest positive contributors were:
- money lent (contributing 5,9 percentage points);
- ‘other’ debts (contributing 4,1 percentage points); and
- services (contributing 2,9 percentage points).

Rent (contributing -1,8 percentage points) was the only negative contributor.

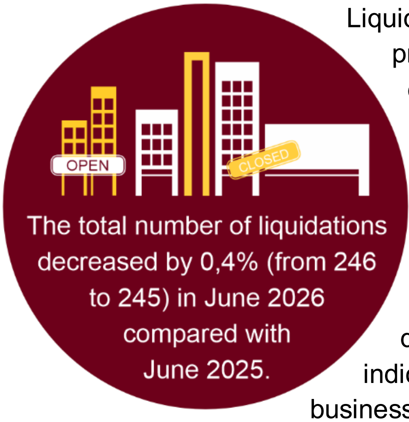
In May 2026, 10 488 civil judgements for debt amounting to R349,8 million were recorded. The largest contributors to the total value of judgements were:
- money lent (R94,9 million or 27,1%);
- services (R79,7 million or 22,8%);
- ‘other’ debts (R73,6 million or 21,1%); and
- promissory notes (R49,0 million or 14,0%).

Table M – Key figures for May 2026

Actual estimates	May 2026	% change between May 2025 and May 2026	% change between Mar – May 2025 and Mar – May 2026
Number of civil summonses issued for debt	33 066	6,0	1,4
Number of civil judgements recorded for debt	10 488	13,6	7,4
Value of civil judgements recorded for debt (R million)	349,8	29,0	13,8

A full release on *Statistics of civil cases for debt* (Statistical release P0041) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Statistics of liquidations



Liquidation, also called winding-up, is the legal process of closing a company or close corporation, selling its assets and using the cash to pay creditors. This process can be voluntary (when shareholders or members choose to wind up the business) or compulsory (when a court orders the company to close). Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) publishes monthly data on liquidations. These data provide an indication of the financial pressures facing businesses and offer insight into the conditions businesses are operating under. For instance, if the number of liquidations increases, it may suggest that more businesses are struggling with things such as rising operating costs, weaker consumer demand, cash-flow problems, difficulty paying debts or challenging economic conditions. If liquidations decrease, it may indicate that fewer businesses are being wound up, which may suggest an improvement in business conditions or financial stability. This article summarises the results of the *Statistics of liquidations* (Statistical release P0043) for June 2026.

The total number of liquidations decreased by 0,4% (from 246 to 245) in June 2026 compared with June 2025 **(see Table N)**.

Liquidations of companies decreased by 14 cases, while liquidations of close corporations increased by 13 cases during this period.

The number of liquidations decreased by 1,4% (from 713 to 703) in the second quarter of 2026 compared with the second quarter of 2025. A decrease of 0,9% (from 1 373 to 1 361) in the number of liquidations was recorded in the first six months of 2026 compared with the first six months of 2025.

Table N – Key growth rates in the number of liquidations for June 2026

Number of liquidations Jun 2026	% change between Jun 2025 and Jun 2026	% change between Apr – Jun 2025 and Apr – Apr 2026	% change between Jan – Jun 2025 and Jan – Jun 2026
245	-0,4	-1,4	-0,9

A full release on *Statistics of liquidations* (Statistical release P0043.1) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Land transport

South Africa's freight transport industry continues to rely strongly on road transport, with the latest May 2026 Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) data showing that road freight payload increased by 4,0% year-on-year**,** while rail freight payload decreased by 1,0%**.** Road freight income also increased significantly, rising by 11,2%**,** compared with a 0,5% increase in rail freight income. Overall, freight payload increased by 3,4%**,** while freight income rose by 9,3%**.** Although efforts are under way to shift suitable freight from road to rail, including opening the rail network to private operators and improving Transnet's freight-rail capacity, rail has yet to regain its former share of the market. Rail is generally more suitable and cost-effective for moving large volumes of bulk commodities, such as minerals, over long distances. While road transport will remain an important part of the freight system, increasing the capacity and reliability of rail could help move more suitable heavy and bulk freight off the roads. This could ease pressure on road infrastructure, reduce congestion and transport costs, and create a more efficient logistics network. A stronger road-ail balance will therefore be important for building a more sustainable and competitive freight transport industry in South Africa. This article summarises the results of *Land transport* (Statistical release P7162) for May 2026.

Freight transportation

The volume of goods transported (payload) increased by 3,4% in May 2026 compared with May 2025 **(see Table O)**.

The corresponding income increased by 9,3% over the same period.

Income from freight transportation increased by 8,6% in the three months ended May 2026 compared with the three months ended May 2025. The main positive contributors to this increase were:

- ‘other’ freight (12,0%, contributing 2,7 percentage points);
- agriculture and forestry primary products (26,4%, contributing 2,0 percentage points); and
- containers (45,8%, contributing 1,3 percentage points).

Table O – Year-on-year percentage change in freight transportation for May 2026

	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26
Freight payload	0,4	-2,9	-2,3	1,0	6,9	3,4
Freight income	5,0	3,1	1,2	4,0	12,7	9,3

A full release on *Land transport* (Statistical release P7162) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Passenger transportation

The number of passenger journeys increased by 4,0% in May 2026 compared with May 2025. The corresponding income increased by 4,3% over the same period **(see Table P)**.

Table P – Year-on-year percentage change in passenger transportation for May 2026

	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26
Passenger payload	4,3	-2,4	4,0	6,3	6,5	4,0
Passenger income	12,0	4,4	7,5	7,2	6,6	4,3

A full release on *Land transport* (Statistical release P7162) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Prices

Producer price index (PPI)

South Africa is one of Africa's leading furniture manufacturers, supplying Africa and the world. According to Observatory of Economic Complexity (OEC), an online data visualisation and distribution platform on the geography and dynamics of economic activities, in 2025 South Africa exported R1,94 billion of 'other' furniture (miscellaneous home or office items such as accessories, accent pieces and special furnishing [custom furniture] that do not fit into main groups like seating, tables, beds, etc.). 'Other' furniture is the 123rd out of 1 215 most exported products in South Africa. The OEC reported that the main destinations of South Africa's other furniture exports were Namibia (R296 million), Botswana (R255 million), Zambia (R211 million), Eswatini (R197 million) and Zimbabwe (R158 million). The South African Furniture Initiative (SAFI) – a non-profit organisation representing South Africa's manufacturing, design and retail sectors – reported that in 2025 local furniture producers were introduced to international buyers seeking new supply partners. In June 2026, the annual producer price inflation was 7,5%. Furniture and other manufacturing (-2,5%, contributing -0,1 of a percentage point) was one of the negative contributors to the headline PPI monthly rate. Presented in this article is a summary of the *Producer price index (PPI)* (Statistical release P0142.1) for June 2026.

Annual producer price inflation (final manufacturing) was 7,5% in June 2026, compared with 7,8% in May 2026 **(see Table Q)**.

The producer price index (PPI) decreased by 0,1% month-on-month in June 2026.

The main contributors to the headline PPI annual inflation rate were:

- coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products (22,0%, contributing 4,7 percentage points);
- paper and printed products (8,5%, contributing 0,7 of a percentage point); and
- metals, machinery, equipment and computing equipment (3,2%, contributing 0,5 of a percentage point).

The main negative contributors to the headline PPI monthly inflation rate were:

- coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products (-0,3%, contributing -0,1 of a percentage point);
- food products, beverages and tobacco products (-0,2%, contributing -0,1 of a percentage point); and
- furniture and other manufacturing (-2,5%, contributing -0,1 of a percentage point).

Intermediate manufactured goods

The annual percentage change in the PPI for intermediate manufactured goods was 12,4% in June 2026, compared with 13,7% in May 2026. The index decreased by 1,8% month-on-month.

The main positive contributors to the annual rate were:

- chemicals, rubber and plastic products (22,7%, contributing 6,7 percentage points);
- basic and fabricated metals (9,0%, contributing 4,4 percentage points);
- sawmilling and wood (7,8%, contributing 0,8 of a percentage point); and

- recycling and manufacturing n.e.c. (9,1%, contributing 0,5 of a percentage point).

The main negative contributor to the monthly rate was basic and fabricated metals (-4,4%, contributing -2,1 percentage points).

Electricity and water

The annual percentage change in the PPI for electricity and water was 5,5% in June 2026, compared with 12,3% in May 2026. The index increased by 23,3% month-on-month.
The contributors to the annual rate were electricity (5,7%, contributing 4,9 percentage points) and water (11,0% and contributing 1,4 percentage points).

The contributor to the monthly rate was electricity (27,8%, contributing 23,2 percentage points).

The annual percentage change in the PPI for electricity and water was 12,3% in May 2026, compared with 12,5% in April 2026. The index increased by 1,1% month-on-month. The contributors to the annual rate were electricity (12,4%, contributing 10,4 percentage points) and water (11,0%, contributing 1,8 percentage points). The contributor to the monthly rate was electricity (1,3%, contributing 1,1 percentage points).

Mining

The annual percentage change in the PPI for mining was 18,4% in June 2026, compared with 28,1% in May 2026. The index decreased by 6,0% month-on-month.

The positive contributors to the annual rate were:
- non-ferrous metal ores (32,6%, contributing 14,7 percentage points);
- gold and other metal ores (6,6%, contributing 1,8 percentage points); and
- coal and gas (5,0%, contributing 1,1 percentage points).

The main negative contributors to the monthly rate were:

- non-ferrous metal ores (-7,1%, contributing -3,6 percentage points);
- gold and other metal ores (-5,6%, contributing -1,4 percentage points); and
- coal and gas (-4,2%, contributing -0,8 of a percentage point).

Agriculture, forestry and fishing

The annual percentage change in the PPI for agriculture, forestry and fishing was -7,9% in June 2026, compared with -5,4% in May 2026. The index decreased by 2,4% month-on-month.

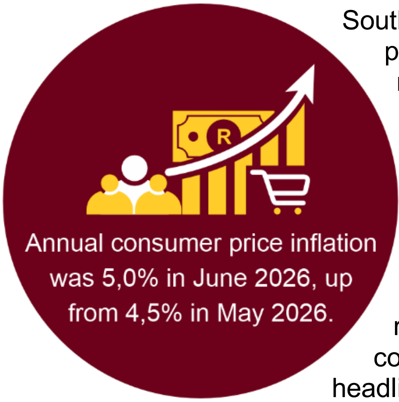
The negative contributor to the annual rate was agriculture (-10,3%, contributing -8,8 percentage points).

The contributor to the monthly rate was agriculture (-2,8%, contributing -2,4 percentage points).

Table Q – Key PPI figures for June 2026

Product	Weight	Index (Dec 2023=100)			% change	
		Jun 2025	May 2026	Jun 2026	Jun 2026 vs. May 2026	Jun 2026 vs. Jun 2025
Final manufactured goods	100,00	102,6	110,4	110,3	-0,1	7,5
Intermediate manufactured goods	100,00	111,0	127,1	124,8	-1,8	12,4
Electricity and water	100,00	155,2	132,8	163,7	23,3	5,5
Mining	100,00	107,7	135,7	127,5	-6,0	18,4
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	100,00	103,5	97,6	95,3	-2,4	-7,9

Consumer price index (CPI)



South African consumers are facing increased pressure on their household budgets as rising transport, housing and service costs push inflation higher. The latest consumer price index (CPI) results published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) show that the annual CPI rose to 5,0% in June 2026**,** from 4,5% in May 2026, with prices increasing by 0,7% month-on-month. Transport was the largest contributor, recording annual inflation of 12,7%**,** contributing 1,7 percentage points to headline inflation. The increase in transport prices was largely driven by higher fuel costs, which also pushed up the cost of passenger transport, including minibus taxi fares, e-hailing services and long-distance bus fares. For consumers, these increases mean that getting to work, school, shops and other destinations is becoming more expensive. This is particularly significant for households that depend heavily on road-based transport, including minibus taxis and buses. Higher commuting costs can reduce the amount of money households have available for food, clothing, education and other essential goods and services. If transport costs continue to rise, the impact is likely to be felt not only at the petrol station or on the daily commute, but across household budgets and the broader cost of living. This article summarises the results of the *Consumer price index* (Statistical release P0141) for June 2026.

Headline consumer price index (CPI) for all urban areas

Annual consumer price inflation was 5,0% in June 2026, up from 4,5% in May 2026 **(see Table R)**.

The CPI increased by 0,7% month-on-month in June 2026. The main contributors to the 5,0% annual inflation rate were:

- transport (12,7%, contributing 1,7 percentage points);
- housing and utilities (5,5%, contributing 1,3 percentage points); and
- insurance and financial services (5,9%, contributing 0,6 of a percentage point).

In June 2026, the annual inflation rate for:

- goods was 4,8%, up from 4,4% in May 2026; and
- services was 5,2%, up from 4,7% in May 2026.

Table R – Consumer price index: Index numbers and year-on-year rates

Year	Index /rate	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average[1]
2022	Index	86,3	86,8	87,7	88,2	88,8	89,8	91,1	91,3	91,4	91,7	92,0	92,3	89,8
	Rate	5,7	5,7	5,9	5,9	6,5	7,4	7,8	7,6	7,5	7,6	7,4	7,2	6,9
2023	Index	92,2	92,9	93,9	94,2	94,4	94,6	95,4	95,7	96,3	97,2	97,1	97,1	95,1
	Rate	6,9	7,0	7,1	6,8	6,3	5,4	4,7	4,8	5,4	5,9	5,5	5,1	6,0
2024	Index	97,2	98,1	98,9	99,1	99,3	99,4	99,8	99,9	100,0	99,9	99,9	100,0	99,3
	Rate	5,3	5,6	5,3	5,2	5,2	5,1	4,6	4,4	3,8	2,8	2,9	3,0	4,4
2025	Index	100,3	101,2	101,6	101,9	102,1	102,4	103,3	103,2	103,4	103,5	103,4	103,6	102,5
	Rate	3,2	3,2	2,7	2,8	2,8	3,0	3,5	3,3	3,4	3,6	3,5	3,6	3,2
2026	Index	103,8	104,2	104,8	106,0	106,7	107,5							
	Rate	3,5	3,0	3,1	4,0	4,5	5,0							

1/ Annual average. A full release on the *Consumer price index* (Statistical release P0141) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Glossary

Primary industries

Gigawatt-hour (gWh): one gigawatt-hour of electricity is equal to one million kilowatt-hours. A kilowatt-hour is the basic unit of electrical energy equal to one kilowatt of power supplied to or taken from an electric circuit steadily for one hour. One kilowatt-hour equals one thousand watt-hours.

Index of physical volume of manufacturing production: also known as a production index, is a statistical measure of the change in the volume of production. The production index of a major group is the ratio between the volume of production of a major group in a given period and the volume of production of the same major group in the base period.

Index of physical volume of mining production: a statistical measure of the change in the volume of production. The production index of a mineral group is the ratio between the volume of production of a mineral group in a given period and the volume of production of the same mineral group in the base period.

Index of the physical volume of electricity production: a statistical measure of the change in the volume of production of electricity in a given period and the volume of production of electricity in the base period.

Industry: a group of establishments engaged in the same or similar kinds of economic activity.

PGMs – Platinum group metals: include platinum; iridium; osmiridium, palladium; rhodium; ruthenium and osmium.

Sales: total value of sales and transfers-out of goods mined by the mining establishments and the amounts received for installation, erection or assembly or other services.

Secondary industries

Additions and alterations: extensions to existing buildings as well as internal and external alterations of existing buildings.

Blocks of flats: a structure, usually multi-storey, consisting of a number of dwellings sharing the same residential address, and usually sharing a common entrance, foyer or staircase.

Dwelling houses: a free-standing, complete structure on a separate stand or a self-contained dwelling-unit, e.g. granny flat, on the same premises as the existing residence. Out-buildings and garages are included.

Other residential buildings: include institutions for the disabled, boarding houses, old age homes, hostels, hotels, motels, guest houses, holiday chalets, bed and breakfast accommodation, entertainment centres and casinos.

Residential buildings: dwelling houses, flats, townhouses and other residential buildings.

Tertiary industries

Acknowledgements of debt: a statement by a person/debtor in which he admits that he owes money to an individual or a company or a bank.

Acting household head: any member of the household acting on behalf of the head of the household.

Average income per stay unit night sold: average rate per stay unit (i.e. rate per room in a hotel or powered site in a caravan park) is calculated by dividing the total income from accommodation by the number of stay unit nights sold in the survey period.

Catering services: enterprises involved in the sale and supply of meals and drinks prepared on the premises on a contract basis and brought to other premises chosen by the person ordering them, to be served for immediate consumption to guests or customers. Include bars, taverns, other drinking places, ice-cream parlours, etc.

Civil judgements: decisions taken in a civil matter or a dispute between two people or parties.

Civil summonses: notices to appear before the court of law where a dispute between two parties or people has to be heard, i.e. not for criminal offence.

Day trip: a trip outside of the respondent's usual environment, where they leave and return within the same day (i.e. do not stay overnight).

Domestic tourism: a trip within the boundaries of South Africa but outside of the respondent's usual environment.

Note: The following categories are excluded from the definition of domestic visitor:

- persons travelling to another place within the country with the intention of setting up their usual residence in that place.
- Persons who travel to another place within the country and are remunerated from within the place visited.
- Persons who travel regularly or frequently between neighbouring localities as defined by the 'usual environment' rule.

Dwelling unit: structure or part of a structure or group structures occupied or meant to be occupied by one or more than one household.

Enterprise: a legal entity or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its sales activities.

Expenditure: the total consumption expenditure made by a visitor or on behalf of a visitor during his/her trip and stay at a destination.

Foreign traveller: a person who resides outside South Africa and visits the country temporarily.

Household: a group of persons who live together and provide themselves jointly with food and/or other essentials for living, or a single person who lives alone.

Household head: the main decision-maker, or the person who owns or rents the dwelling, or the person who is the main breadwinner.

Income from accommodation industry: income from amounts charged for rooms or equivalent. Other income is excluded (e.g. income from meals).

Income from bar sales: refers to income from liquor sales.

Income from food sales: refers to income from the sale of meals and non-alcoholic drinks.

Income from restaurant and bar sales: income from meals, banqueting and beverages and tobacco sales.

Insolvency: refers to an individual or partnership which is unable to pay its debt and is placed under final sequestration. The number of insolvencies does not refer to the number of persons involved, as a partnership which is unable to pay its debt is regarded as one insolvency, irrespective of the number of partners.

Liquidation: refers to the winding-up of the affairs of a company or close corporation when liabilities exceed assets and it can be resolved by voluntary action or by an order of the court.

Main purpose of trip: this is the purpose in the absence of which the trip would not have been made.

Microdata: data gathered on a small scale, such as data on an individual.

'Other' African countries: refers to all non SADC African countries.

Other income: includes all income not earned from food sales or bar sales.

Other SADC: refers to the thirteen countries, excluding South Africa, that belong to the Southern African Development Community.

Professional services: refer to medical doctors, dentists, advocates, attorney, auditors, accountants, architects, engineers, hospital services etc.

Promissory notes: written undertaking, signed by a person or party, to pay money to another person or to be the bearer of such a note on a specific date or on demand.

Restaurants and coffee shops: enterprises involved in the sale and provision of meals and drinks, ordered from a menu, prepared on the premises for immediate consumption and with provided seating.

Retailer: a retailer is an enterprise deriving more than 50% of its turnover from sales of goods to the general public for household use.

Retail trade: includes the resale (sale without transformation) of new and used goods and products to the general public for household use.

Stay unit: unit accommodation available to be charged out to guests, for example, a powered site in a caravan park or a room in a hotel.

Stay unit night sold: total number of stay units occupied on each night during the survey period.

Takeaway and fast-food outlets: enterprises involved in the sale and provision of meals and drinks, ordered from a menu, prepared on the premises for takeaway purposes in a packaged format, at a stand or in a location, with or without provided seating.

Total income: includes income from food sales, income from bar sales and other income.

Tourism: comprises the activities of persons travelling to, and staying in places outside their usual environment, for not more than one consecutive year, for leisure, business and other purposes not related to the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited.

Tourist: a visitor who stays at least one night in the place visited.

Tourist accommodation: any facility that regularly (or occasionally) provides ‘paid’ or ‘unpaid’ overnight accommodation for tourists.

Traveller: any person on a trip between two or more countries or between two or more localities within his/her country of residence.

Voluntary liquidation: takes place when a company or close corporation, by own choice, resolves to wind-up its affairs.

Wholesale trade: includes the resale (sale without transformation) of new and used goods and products to other wholesalers, retailers, agricultural, industrial, commercial, institutional and professional users either directly or through agents on a fee or contract basis.

Prices

Annual percentage change: change in the index of the relevant month of the current year compared with the index of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.

Consumer price index (CPI): an index that measures the price of a fixed basket of consumer goods and services.

Inflation rate: annual percentage change in the CPI for all items of the relevant month of the current year compared with the CPI for all items of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.

Monthly percentage change: change in the index of the relevant month compared to the index of the previous month expressed as a percentage.

Year-on-year: a term used frequently in investment research and other reports to mean ‘compared with the same period in the previous fiscal year’.

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