Mbalo Brief

the missing piece of the puzzle

July 2026

Issue 06/2026

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS

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Editor's Comment

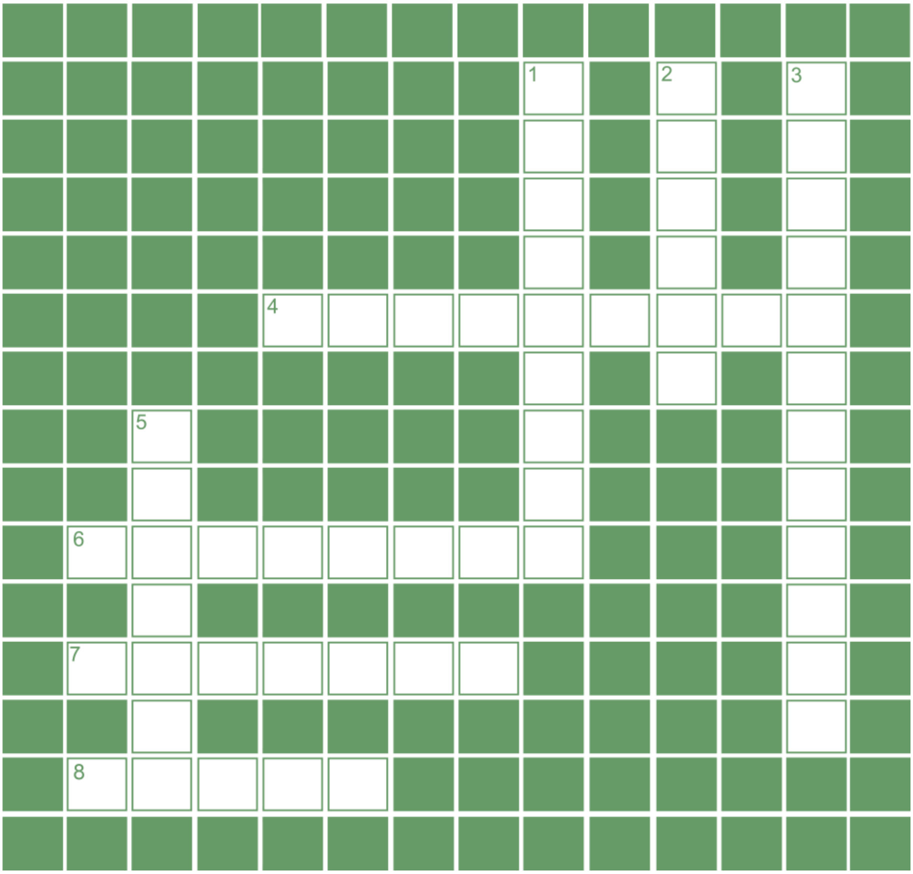
On 30 June 2026, widespread anti-immigrant protests and marches took place in major cities across South Africa, drawing attention to the movement of people across the country's borders. While public debate often focuses on migration from a policy or social perspective, Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) provides an objective, data-driven view of migration patterns through its official statistical releases. These statistics help to explain why people enter or settle in South Africa, with common reasons including employment opportunities, business, study, medical treatment and family reunification. South Africa also receives people seeking safety from conflict and instability in parts of Africa, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Eritrea and South Sudan. By producing reliable migration statistics, Stats SA contributes to a better understanding of population movements, supporting evidence-based planning, policy development and informed public discussion.

This month's feature article is based on *Subjective Poverty in South Africa: Findings from the Income and Expenditure Survey, 2022/2023* (Report No. 03-10-31), published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) on 26 February 2026. Also, do not miss our monthly crossword puzzle and June 2026 solutions. Articles in this issue draw on results of industry surveys conducted from April to May 2026.

Enjoy the read!

Content

Crossword



Across

Down

4. What is the rate at which the general prices for goods and services rise over time, causing money to lose its purchasing power called?

6. Which city is the legislative capital and seat of parliament in South Africa?

7. Fill in the missing word: City of ... is South Africa's largest Metropolitan Municipality by land area.

8. True or false? The population census is conducted every year in South Africa.

1. What is the movement of people from one country to another called?

2. Fill in the missing word: ... trade sales statistical release measures the value and volume of goods sold by retailers.

3. Fill in the missing word: City of ... is South Africa's largest Metropolitan Municipality by population size.

5. Which national department provides official statistics?

Solutions for June 2026

Across

3. True
6. Munitoria
7. Eastern Cape
8. Lenacapavir

Down

1. Julius Caesar
2. Three
4 July
5. Six

Feature article

Feature article on subjective poverty in South Africa

1. Introduction

Poverty remains one of South Africa's most pressing socioeconomic challenges, affecting millions of people and influencing their quality of life. While poverty has traditionally been measured using income or expenditure, these objective measures do not fully capture how people experience their own living conditions. Individuals may perceive their circumstances differently depending on their needs, expectations and the communities in which they live. As a result, subjective measures of poverty have become an important complement to conventional objective money-metric indicators, providing a broader understanding of deprivation and well-being. Using findings from the *Subjective Poverty in South Africa: Findings from the Income and Expenditure Survey, 2022/2023* (Report No. 03-10-31), this article explores how South Africans perceive their own poverty status. It compares subjective and objective measures of poverty and examines how subjective poverty varies across population groups, provinces, metropolitan municipalities, sex, age, settlement type, household size, education level and happiness status.

2. Measures of poverty

2.1 Objective poverty

In the past, Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) used different methods of measuring poverty: objective, relative and subjective poverty. Objective poverty measures are based on an expert-derived definition of poverty, where a poverty line (either based on income or expenditure) is derived and individuals are classified as poor if their reported income/expenditure falls below the poverty line or non-poor if it is above the poverty line. This method is best used for monitoring progress and reporting for policy purposes. The line is standard, so progress (or non-progress for that matter) can easily be determined.

Stats SA published the country's first official national poverty lines in 2012, where the cost-of-basic needs approach was used to produce three poverty lines namely, the Food Poverty Line (FPL), the Lower-Bound Poverty Line (LBPL) and the Upper-Bound Poverty Line (UBPL). These lines capture different degrees of poverty and allow the country to measure and monitor poverty at different levels. The FPL is the monetary value below which individuals are unable to purchase or consume enough food to supply them with the minimum-per-capita-per-day energy requirement for adequate health. The LBPL and UBPL are derived using the food poverty lines as a base, but also include a non-food component. Individuals at the LBPL do not have command over enough resources to enable them to purchase or consume both adequate food and non-food items and are therefore forced to sacrifice food to obtain essential non-food items. Meanwhile, individuals at the UBPL can afford both adequate levels of food and non-food items to meet minimum daily energy requirement.

2.2 Relative poverty

Relative poverty refers to poverty measured in relation to the living standards of the rest of the population. Under this method, individuals or households are ranked according to a welfare indicator, such as income or expenditure, from the highest to the lowest. Those falling within the lowest proportion of the distribution, for example the bottom 30%, are classified as poor. Stats SA has conducted analysis on relative poverty through classifying households into deciles and quintiles and profiling them mostly using money-metric data collected from the Income and Expenditure Survey (IES) and Livings Conditions Survey (LCS) published in their relevant statistical releases.

2.3 Subjective poverty

As mentioned earlier, subjective poverty refers to individuals' or households' own perceptions of what constitutes a socially acceptable standard of living and, based on these perceptions, whether they consider themselves to be poor. Unlike objective measures, which rely primarily on income or expenditure, subjective poverty captures how people experience and assess their own living conditions. In South Africa, most poverty research has focused on objective, money-metric measures. However, as in many other countries, there is growing recognition that measuring poverty solely in monetary terms provides only a partial picture. People's experiences of poverty are shaped by a range of factors beyond income, making subjective measures an important complement to traditional poverty indicators.

3. Comparison of poverty estimates based on objective and subjective measures/methods

This section presents subjective poverty in South Africa using the Self-Perceived Wealth Question (SPWQ) (subjective) and the LBPL)objective) indicators between 2015 and 2023.

3.1 Poverty estimates by population group

The proportion of the poor population by population group and poverty indicator, 2015 and 2023 show that there was a decrease in subjective poverty between 2015 and 2023. However, black Africans relative to other population groups, reported higher levels of poverty according to objective indicator as well as the subjective poverty measure.

Table 1 – Proportion of poverty estimates by population group and poverty indicator (LBPL and SPWQ), 2015 and 2023

Population Group	LBPL		SPWQ	
	2015	2023	2015	2023
Black African	54,5	43,8	40,2	29,5
Coloured	34,4	24,6	18,7	14,2
Indian/Asian	2,8	5,8	9,0	6,2
White	0,7	1,4	4,6	4,5
South Africa	**46,7**	**37,9**	**34,4**	**25,7**

Table 1 shows that the poverty headcount (the share of the population whose income or consumption is below the poverty line, that is the share of the population that cannot meet its basic needs. For household poverty analysis, the headcount is referred to as “incidence”) rates for black Africans and coloureds were considerably lower according to the subjective poverty indicator compared to the objective poverty indicator between 2015 and 2023. The subjective poverty indicator showed that the headcount rates decreased from 40,2% in 2015 to 29,5% in 2023 for black Africans when respondents were asked to identify their own poverty status, representing the biggest decrease of all population groups. For coloureds, there was a decrease from 18,7% in 2015 to 14,2% in 2023. The subjective poverty headcount rates for Indian/Asians decreased from 9,0% in 2015 to 6,2% in 2023. However, that of the white population remained the same at 4,6% during the same period.

3.3 Poverty estimates by province

According to the objective poverty indicator in 2023, KwaZulu-Natal (49,6%) was the poorest province, followed closely by North West (49,1%) and then Eastern Cape (48,2%). Western Cape (21,4%) and Gauteng (26,5%) had the lowest poverty rates respectively compared to other provinces. Poverty headcount rates by province based on the self-perceived poverty indicator show a similar pattern from that of the objective poverty line. North West (27,7%) was the poorest province, KwaZulu-Natal (28,5%) the second poorest, followed by Limpopo (37,4%). Western Cape and Gauteng remained provinces with the lowest headcount rates with the percentage of individuals below the poverty line at 16,0% and 19,4%, respectively.

3.4 Poverty estimates by metropolitan municipality

In terms of the objective indicator, overall municipal poverty declined from 30,1% in 2015 to 27,7% in 2023. Whereas, according to the subjective indicator, overall municipal poverty declined from 26,9% to 19,1% between 2015 and 2023, respectively. In terms of the objective poverty indicator, eThekwini municipality had the highest poverty headcount rates in both 2015 and 2023, which declined from 41,3% to 40,7%, respectively. However, according to the objective poverty indicator, between 2015 and 2023, only the City of Johannesburg and the City of Tshwane experienced an increase in poverty compared to the other municipal areas. Poverty in the City of Johannesburg increased from 23,4% to 24,8% between 2015 and 2023, whereas for the City of Tshwane it increased from 26,0% to 30,0%.

Poverty headcount rates based on the subjective poverty indicator show a different pattern from that of the objective poverty line. Buffalo City in both 2015 (39,6%) and 2023 (35,4%) was the poorest municipality. Nelson Mandela Bay, which is also located in the same province of Eastern Cape as Buffalo City, was the second poorest municipality in 2015 (36,2%) and the joint third poorest municipality in 2023 (21,4%). In 2023, when using both the objective and subjective poverty indicators, City of Cape Town had the lowest poverty headcount rates of 19,1% and 13,7% respectively.

3.5 Poverty estimates by sex

According to the Lower-Bound Poverty Line between 2015 and 2023, poverty for females declined from 48,6% in 2015 to 39,7% in 2023, whereas for males it declined from 44,8% in 2015 to 36,0% in 2023. According to the subjective poverty indicator, the likelihood of being poor was lower for females than for males between 2015 and 2023, depicting a declining pattern. Males had the highest poverty headcount rates which declined from 34,5% to 26,2% between 2015 and 2023, respectively. Females had the lower poverty headcount rates which declined from 34,2% in 2015 to 25,2% in 2026. The difference in poverty rates between males and females is, therefore, smaller when a subjective measure of poverty is applied.

3.6 Poverty estimates by age group

According to the objective poverty line, poverty mainly affected the young under the age of 25, with individuals in the age group 0-17 years recording the highest poverty rates between 2015 and 2023. Their poverty headcount rates during the period declined from 58,6% in 2015 to 49,1% in 2023. They were followed by individuals in the age group 18-24, where their poverty headcount rates declined from 50,9% in 2015 to 41,9% in 2023. In 2023, individuals aged 65 and older experienced the lowest poverty headcount rates, from 37,2% in 2015 to 25,4% in 2023.

Poverty headcount rates according to the subjective poverty indicator showed a similar pattern to that of the objective poverty line. According to this indicator, individuals in the age group 0 – 17 experienced the highest poverty head count rates, from 37,2% in 2015 to 27,7% in 2023. They were followed by those aged 18-24, where their poverty headcount rates declined from 36,5% in 2015 to 26,8% in 2023. According to the subjective poverty indicator, in 2023, similar with the objective poverty line, individuals aged 65 and older experienced the lowest poverty headcount rates, from 30,7% in 2015 to 22,3% in 2023.

3.7 Poverty estimates by settlement type

The poverty headcount rates for individuals living in non-urban areas according to the objective poverty measure between 2015 and 2023 declined from nearly 75% in 2015 to below 55% in 2023. While individuals residing in urban areas also experienced a decrease in poverty headcount rates, from 32,3% in 2015 to 29,1% in 2023. With regard to the subjective poverty measure, only 2,9% of individuals living in urban areas were poor in 2015, and by 2023 their poverty headcount rates declined to 20,7%. For individuals in non-urban areas, their poverty headcount rates declined from 46,7% in 2015 to 35,1% in 2023.

3.8 Poverty estimates by household size

Table 2 – Proportion of the poor population by household size and poverty indicator, 2015 and 2023

Household size	LBPL		SPWQ	
	2015	2023	2015	2023
1 Member	7,2	3,8	38,4	28,9
2 - 3 Members	22,5	15,8	29,1	22,9
4 - 5 Members	38,9	30,4	28,9	21,8
6 - 9 Members	66,9	56,5	39,3	28,0
10+ Members	85,3	83,9	46,9	36,4
South Africa	**46,7**	**37,9**	**34,4**	**25,7**

Table 2 shows that, according to the objective poverty indicator, poverty mainly affected bigger household sizes, where between 2015 and 2023 poverty headcount rates increased as household sizes increased. Individuals living in households with 10 or more members had the highest poverty headcount rates of over 80% during the period, compared to poverty headcount rates of less than 8% during the same period for one member households. Poverty headcount rates according to the subjective poverty measure also follow the same pattern as those of the objective poverty line. However, the difference in headcount rates between households of different household sizes is not as big as those experienced with objective poverty measures: households with 10 or more members recorded a decrease in poverty headcount rates, from 34,4% in 2015 to 25,7% in 2023. While for those with one member, a decrease from 38,4% in 2015 to 28,9% in 2023 was recorded.

3.9 Poverty estimates by education

Individuals with no schooling recorded the highest poverty headcount rates which declined from 65,9% in 2015 to 52,7% in 2023. The poverty headcount rates for individuals with tertiary education increased from 4,5% in 2015 to 5,8% in 2023. The poverty headcount rates according to the subjective poverty measure show that during the period 2015 and 2023, poverty headcount rates decreased as the level of education increased for all education levels except for those with tertiary education which increased from 6,1% in 2015 to 7,4% in 2023. Individuals with no schooling recorded the highest poverty headcount rates which decreased from 50,8% in 2015 to 38,7% in 2023.

3.10 Poverty estimates by happiness status

Table 3 – Proportion of the poor population by happiness status of individuals aged 15 and older and poverty indicator, 2015 and 2023

Population Group	LBPL		SPWQ	
	2015	2023	2015	2023
Happier	28,0	22,2	19,3	14,4
The same	43,6	36,3	31,7	19,8
Less Happy	50,5	38,5	46,0	38,0
South Africa	**41,6**	**33,5**	**33,1**	**24,9**

Table 3 shows that being happy was associated with the lowest poverty headcount rates between 2015 and 2023 irrespective of the poverty indicator, whereas being less happy was associated with the highest levels of poverty headcount rates. According to the objective poverty measure, the poverty headcount rates for individuals aged fifteen years and older, who were happier, declined from 28,0% in 2015 to 22,2% in 2023. They were followed by the poverty headcount rates for those with the same happiness status, which declined from 43,6% in 2015 to 36,3% in 2023. For those who were less happy, their poverty headcount rates decreased from 50,5% in 2015 to 38,5% in 2023. The poverty headcount rates for individuals with happier status declined from 19,3% in 2015 to 14,4% in 2023. They were followed by those with the same happiness status which declined from 31,7% in 2015 to 19,8% in 2023. The headcount rates for individuals with less happy status declined from 46,0% in 2015 to 38,0% in 2023.

4. Conclusion

The findings show that subjective poverty, while generally lower than objective poverty, follows relatively the same patterns across South Africa's population. Between 2015 and 2023, both objective and subjective poverty declined for most population groups and socioeconomic characteristics, indicating an overall improvement in living conditions. However, poverty remains concentrated among black Africans, residents in provinces such as KZN and North West and municipalities such as eThekwini and Buffalo City. The findings also shows that children and young people, individuals living in non-urban areas, people with lower levels of education, larger households and those who reported lower levels of happiness have higher levels of poverty. By incorporating individuals' own perceptions of their living conditions, subjective poverty provides a valuable perspective that complements traditional objective income-based measures. A mixed approach of objective and subjective poverty indicators offer a more complete picture of deprivation and well-being, enabling policymakers to better understand the diverse experiences of poverty and develop interventions that address both material needs and people's lived realities.

Primary industries

Mining: Production and sales

Mining production increased by 8,2% year-on-year in April 2026.

South Africa is well-known for producing most of the world's gold, mainly from the Witwatersrand Basin since the discovery of the Main Reef in Johannesburg, around 1886. In December 2025, a new underground gold mine known as Qala Swallows Gold Project was launched in Johannesburg. The mine, led by West Wits Mining venture plans to tap into the historic Witwatersrand Basin to produce an estimated 70 000 ounces of gold annually over a 17-year lifespan. Qala Swallows Gold Project is the first underground gold operation in 15 years in South Africa and will reach a depth of 850 metres which is considerably shallower than some domestic mines, extending over three kilometres underground. Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) *Mining: Production and sales* results indicate that mineral sales increased by 30,3% year-on-year in April 2026. Gold was one of the largest positive contributors to 30,3%, with 12,2%, contributing 3,1 percentage points. The positive contribution of gold shows that it is still one of South Africa's valuable commodities and can be traded with other goods. This article summarises the results of *Mining: Production and sales* (Statistical release P2041) for April 2026.

Mining production increased by 8,2% year-on-year in April 2026 **(see Table A)**.

The largest positive contributors were:

- PGMs (36,5%, contributing 8,8 percentage points);
- manganese ore (19,0%, contributing 1,3 percentage points); and
- chromium ore (17,5%, contributing 1,1 percentage points).

Coal (-5,8%, contributing -1,5 percentage points) was the largest negative contributor.

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

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

[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 at current prices increased by 30,3% year-on-year in April 2026 **(see Table B)**. The largest positive contributors were:

- PGMs (120,3%, contributing 22,4 percentage points);
- gold (12,2%, contributing 3,1 percentage points);
- chromium ore (34,8%, contributing 2,7 percentage points); and
- coal (8,1%, contributing 1,8 percentage points).

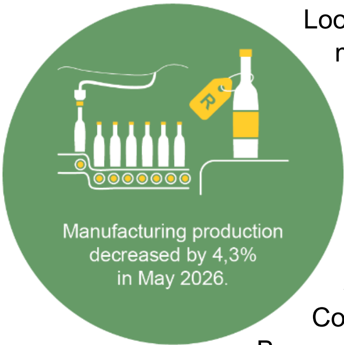
Table B – Key growth rates in mineral sales at current prices for April 2026

	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	0,2	47,7	31,5	58,1	31,2	30,3
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-1,7	22,2	-8,4	9,2	-8,1	3,1
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted[1]	9,1	10,5	12,2	17,3	7,0	4,9

[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



Looking at 2026 alone, South Africa's manufacturing sector has been on a downward spiral declining by 0,2% in January of the same year. However, the steepest decline was recorded in May 2026 at 4,3%. Therefore, it comes as good news that global beverage producer, Coca-Cola is making an investment into the country's manufacturing sector. The Coca-Cola system which includes Coca-Cola and its authorised bottlers, Coca-Cola Beverages South Africa (CCBSA) and Coca-Cola Peninsula Beverages (CCPB) made an announcement at the 2026 South Africa Investment Conference of their R17,5 billion investment over the next three years into South Africa. According to Coca-Cola, the investment will expand its South African production capacity and strengthen distribution channels. As a result, this will positively contribute to the food and beverages subsector which was one of the largest negative contributors towards manufacturing in May 2026. The investment is also expected to support local businesses, create employment and strengthen the broader manufacturing industry. Presented in this article is a summary of the *Manufacturing: Production and sales (*Statistical release P3041.2) for May 2026.

Manufacturing production decreased by 4,3% in May 2026 (**see Table C**).

The largest negative contributions were made by the following divisions:

- food and beverages (-6,4%, contributing -1,6 percentage points);
- basic iron and steel, non-ferrous metal products, metal products and machinery (-5,6%, contributing -1,3 percentage points); and
- wood and wood products, paper, publishing and printing (-11,0%, contributing -1,0 percentage point).

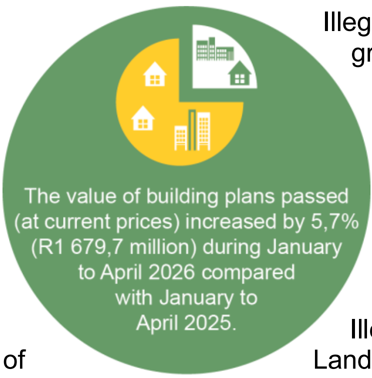
Table C – Key growth rates in the volume of manufacturing production for May 2026

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

[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



Illegal land occupation, often referred to as land grabs or land invasions, occur frequently across South Africa. These incidents involve individuals or organised groups who unlawfully sell land or property that does not belong to them, and those who incite unsuspecting people to unlawfully occupy land. To address this growing challenge, the Department of Human Settlements has proposed amendments to the Prevention of Illegal Eviction from and Unlawful Occupation of Land, 1998 (Act No. 19 of 1998) (PIE Act). The proposed changes specifically target syndicates that illegally sell land to unsuspecting buyers. If convicted, members of these syndicates could face fines of up to R2 million, imprisonment and the forfeiture of assets acquired through the proceeds of illegal land sales. Illegal land occupations have implications beyond property ownership. Although municipalities may continue approving building plans, land invasions can delay or halt construction projects, preventing approved developments from becoming completed homes, offices and industrial buildings. This can discourage investment, disrupt employment in the construction sector and slow economic growth. Despite ongoing challenges in the construction sector, between January and April 2026, the value of building plans passed (at current prices) increased by 5,7% (R1 679,7 million). This article summarises the results of the *Selected building statistics of the private sector* (Statistical release P4041.1) for April 2026.

Building plans passed

The value of building plans passed (at current prices) increased by 5,7% (R1 679,7 million) during January to April 2026 compared with January to April 2025 (**see Table D**).

Increases were reported for residential buildings (R1 923,9 million) and non-residential buildings (R3,1 million). A decrease was reported for additions and alterations (-R247,3 million).

Building plans passed by larger municipalities by province

The largest positive contributors to the total increase of 5,7% (R1 679,7 million) were KwaZulu-Natal (contributing 2,7 percentage points or R802,8 million), Western Cape (contributing 2,5 percentage points or R736,2 million) and Limpopo (contributing 1,4 percentage points or R418,9 million). The largest negative contributor was Mpumalanga (contributing -1,9 percentage points or -R554,7 million).

Buildings reported as completed

The value of buildings reported as completed (at current prices) increased by 6,8% (R983,5 million) during January to April 2026 compared with January to April 2025. Increases were reported for additions and alterations (R627,9 million) and residential buildings (R406,3 million). A decrease was reported for non-residential buildings (-R50,7 million).

Buildings reported as completed to larger municipalities by province

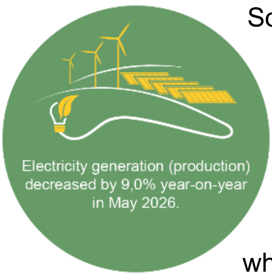
Six out of the nine provinces reported year-on-year increases in the value of buildings completed during January to April 2026. The largest positive contributors were Western Cape (contributing 5,3 percentage points or R768,1 million), Gauteng (contributing 2,8 percentage points or R412,3 million) and Mpumalanga (contributing 2,3 percentage points or R330,9 million). The largest negative contributors were KwaZulu-Natal (contributing -3,1 percentage points or -R445,9 million) and North West (contributing -2,3 percentage points or -R327,9 million).

Table D – Building plans passed by larger municipalities at current prices by type of building, April 2026

Type of building	Jan – Apr 2025	Jan – Apr 2026	Difference in value between Jan – Apr 2025 and Jan – Apr 2026	% change between Jan – Apr 2025 and Jan – Apr 2026
	R'000	R'000	R'000	
Residential buildings	**13 637 911**	**15 561 851**	**1 923 940**	**14,1**
- Dwelling houses	9 124 504	9 299 206	174 702	1,9
- Flats and townhouses	4 008 881	5 044 788	1 035 907	25,8
- Other residential buildings	504 526	1 217 857	713 331	141,4
Non-residential buildings	**6 518 292**	**6 521 377**	**3 085**	**0,0**
Additions and alterations	**9 150 019**	**8 902 717**	**-247 302**	**-2,7**
Total	**29 306 222**	**30 985 945**	**1 679 723**	**5,7**

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 is in the process of reducing its carbon footprint and increasing its renewable energy to reach global 2030 green energy goals. To reach the green energy goals, Eskom has launched Eskom Green, a renewable energy business in June 2026. The aim of renewable energy business is to help large industrial and corporate customers meet their decarbonisation goals and lower their carbon footprint while supporting SA's energy transition goals. The *Electricity generated and available for distribution* statistical release for May 2026 shows that generation and distribution declined by -9,0% and -4,3%, respectively. Eskom Green will also assist in stabilising the energy landscape in the long run and secure long-term electricity capacity. This article summarises the *Electricity generated and available for distribution* (Statistical release P4141) for May 2026.

Electricity generation (production) decreased by 9,0% year-on-year in May 2026 **(see Table E).**

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

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

[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 4,3% year-on-year in May 2026 **(see Table F)**.

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

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

[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

Owing to the excessive fuel price experienced in April and May 2026, some fuel wholesalers seized an opportunity and increased fuel prices before official fuel price adjustment took effect. According to Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources (DMPR) and the Fuels Industry Association of South Africa, received reports that some fuel retailers had raised prices ahead of the official monthly adjustment date. According to Competition Commission of South Africa, fuel wholesalers who increased fuel prices in advance or buy more than their actual cost (a higher price than a product manufacturing or wholesale value in order to sell expensive) will be prosecuted and found guilty of price-gouging (the practise of increasing the prices of essential goods or services to an unfair or unreasonably high level). Price-gouging may cause panic buying and hoarding (excessive accumulation of items or goods) and draining local supplies, which could eventually drive-up inflation in future. In April 2026, solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (33,7%, contributing 8,0 percentage points) was one of the main positive contributors to the 10,9% increase in wholesale trade sales. Presented in this article is a summary of the *Wholesale trade sales* (Statistical release P6141.2) for April 2026.

Wholesale trade sales increased by 10,9% in April 2026 compared with April 2025 **(see Table G).**

The main positive contributors were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (33,7%, contributing 8,0 percentage points); and
- 'other' intermediate products, waste and scrap (20,7%, contributing 1,0 percentage point)

Wholesale trade sales increased by 6,5% in the three months ended April 2026 compared with the three months ended April 2025. The main positive contributors were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (14,0%, contributing 3,2 percentage points); and
- food, beverages and tobacco (8,8%, contributing 1,4 percentage points).

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

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

[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's informal retail sector, comprising spaza shops, township traders, street vendors and independent wholesalers, plays an important role in supplying essential goods and services to communities, particularly in townships and informal settlements. These businesses typically stock everyday necessities such as bread, maize meal, cooking oil, sugar, salt, beverages, snacks and other basic household items, making them a convenient and affordable source of goods for many households. Beyond meeting consumers' daily needs, the informal retail sector makes a significant contribution to the country's economy by supporting entrepreneurship, creating employment and generating income for thousands of households who are employed in the sector. Their convenient locations, extended trading hours and ability to sell products in small, affordable quantities make them an important link in South Africa's retail sector. Many of these informal retailers purchase their stock from formal wholesalers and cash-and-carry retailers, creating strong connections between the informal and formal economies. Presented in this article is a summary of the *Retail trade sales* (Statistical release P6242.1) for April 2026.

Retail trade sales increased by 1,3% year-on-year in April 2026. **(see Table H).**

The largest positive contributors to this increase were:
- all 'other' retailers (5,0%, contributing 0,6 of a percentage point);
- retailers in household furniture, appliances and equipment (8,8%, contributing 0,4 of a percentage point); and
- general dealers (0,9%, contributing 0,4 of a percentage point).

Retail trade sales increased by 1,8% in the three months ended April 2026 compared with the three months ended April 2025.

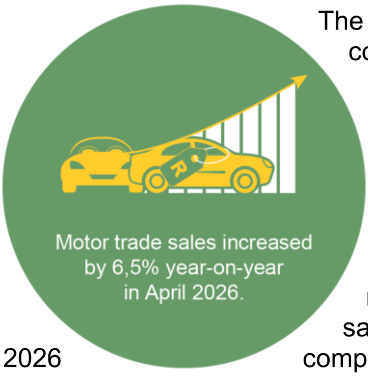
The largest positive contributors to this increase were:
- all 'other' retailers (7,3%, contributing 0,8 of a percentage point);
- retailers in household furniture, appliances and equipment (9,5%, contributing 0,4 of a percentage point); and
- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (2,3%, contributing 0,4 of a percentage point).

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

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



The South African motor trade industry is continuing its positive momentum as consumer demand for vehicles rises across all segments. Backing this trend, April 2026 marked the industry's best performance in terms of the number of vehicles sold since 2013, according to The Automotive Business Council, Naamsa. The latest Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) data on motor trade sales also indicate that vehicle sales increased by 6,5% year-on-year in April 2026 compared with April 2025. Sales were driven by both new vehicle sales (14,0%, contributing 3,8 percentage points) and used vehicle sales (13,4%, contributing 2,7 percentage points). The simultaneous growth in both vehicle segments suggests that the market is benefiting from demand across different consumer groups. Buyers who are mainly motivated by affordability and value for money, and those who want the latest technology, lower maintenance costs and improved safety features and warranty that comes with purchasing a new vehicle. Whether you opt for one over the other, they are both significant and stimulate growth in the motor trade sales industry and broader economy. This article summarises the results of the *Motor trade sales* (Statistical release P6343.2) for April 2026.

Motor trade sales increased by 6,5% year-on-year in April 2026 (**see Table I**).

The main positive contributors to this increase were:
- new vehicle sales (14,0%, contributing 3,8 percentage points); and
- used vehicle sales (13,4%, contributing 2,7 percentage points).

Fuel sales (-4,2%, contributing -1,1 percentage points) was the largest negative contributor.

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

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

[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:

Food and beverages

South Africa's food sector has experienced a growing list of food products recalls for years. Recently, the food sector has experienced another food product recall. The National Consumer Commission (NCC) announced that SPAR initiated a recall and notified NCC that manufacturing issue had affected several its yoghurt products sold nationwide from 15 June 2026. The recall comprises of SPAR Fat Free yoghurt, Low Fat yoghurt, Double Cream yoghurt, Indulge Double Cream yoghurt and Active Drinking yoghurt products. According to NCC, the affected products have sell-by dates of 9 August 2026 and used-by dates of 12 August 2026. Recalls are undertaken in to prevent food poisoning, disease outbreak or hospitalisation among others that can impact the South African food industry and regulatory landscape. The latest data on food and beverages published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) shows that total income generated by the food and beverages industry decreased by 2,1% in April 2026 compared with April 2025. This article summarises the results of *Food and beverages* (Statistical release P6420) for April 2026.

Food and beverages income decreased by 2,1% in April 2026 compared with April 2025 **(see Table J)**.

Food and beverages income increased by 1,3% in the three months ended April 2026 compared with the three months ended April 2025.

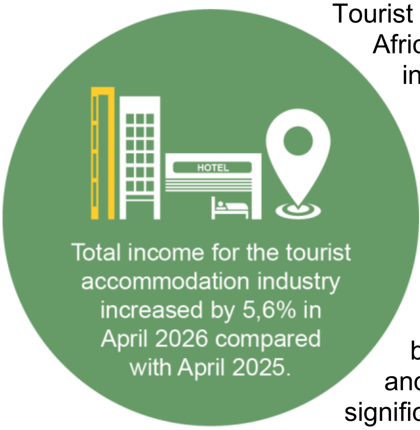
The main contributor to this increase was takeaway and fast-food outlets (2,2%, contributing 0,9 of a percentage point).

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

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

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

Tourist accommodation



Tourist accommodation is a cornerstone of South Africa's tourism industry, providing the infrastructure that enables leisure, business and domestic travel while supporting employment, generating income and stimulating economic activity across a wide range of sectors, including transport, retail, food services and recreation. Accommodation establishments also play an important role in promoting regional development by attracting visitors to cities, small towns and rural destinations. Given the sector's significant contribution to the economy, reliable tourist accommodation statistics are essential for measuring its performance and identifying emerging trends. By tracking indicators such as accommodation income, occupancy rates, available stay units and stay unit nights sold, these statistics provide valuable insights into tourism demand, business performance and industry capacity, enabling government, businesses, investors and researchers to make informed decisions, monitor the health of the tourism sector and develop policies and strategies that support its sustainable growth. This article summarises the results of *Tourist accommodation* (Statistical release P6410) for April 2026.

Total income for the tourist accommodation industry increased by 5,6% in April 2026 compared with April 2025 **(see Table K)**.

Income from accommodation increased by 6,5% year-on-year in April 2026, the result of a 9,0% increase in the number of stay unit nights sold and a 2,3% decrease in the average income per stay unit night sold.

In April 2026, the main contributors to the 6,5% year-on-year increase in income from accommodation were:

- ‘other’ accommodation (8,0%, contributing 3,0 percentage points); and
- hotels (5,2%, contributing 2,9 percentage points).

Income from accommodation increased by 9,3% in the three months ended April 2026 compared with the three months ended April 2025. The main contributors to this increase were:

- ‘other’ accommodation (16,3%, contributing 5,6 percentage points); and
- hotels (5,3%, contributing 3,1 percentage points).

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

	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-26
Stay units available	0,0	0,1	0,1	0,0	0,0	-0,1
Stay unit nights sold	7,8	2,1	0,9	5,3	11,4	9,0
Average income per stay unit night sold	3,6	2,0	1,8	2,0	2,1	-2,3
Income from accommodation	11,7	4,1	2,7	7,5	13,7	6,5
Total income[1]	**10,6**	**3,7**	**-1,8**	**6,2**	**11,8**	**5,6**

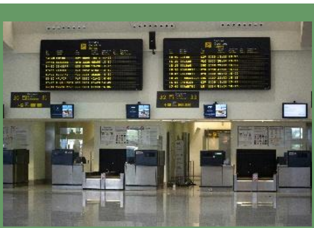
[1/]Includes restaurant and bar sales and 'other' income.
A full release on *Tourist accommodation* (Statistical release P6410) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

International tourism

As tourist arrivals continue to recover in South African tourism, efficient port control and processes are essential to help manage higher passenger volumes. In the past, travellers entering the country were processed using paper-based methods and face to face verification at all ports of entry and exit. To improve efficiency, the South African Revenue Service (SARS) has implemented a digital system that replaces the old paper-based methods. Starting from 1 July 2026, all travellers entering or leaving South Africa by air, land, sea or rail ports must complete an online Traveller Declaration before travelling. The declaration is submitted through the South African Traveller Management System (SATMS) and forms part of SARS's customs process. Travellers are also required to declare goods, currency and other relevant items they are bringing into or taking out of the country, using the online method. The online declaration has to be completed at least 24 hours before travelling to allow custom officers to review and verify the travellers' information before their arrival at the ports. The new system is expected to strengthen border management and improve the monitoring of cross-border movement while also reducing processing times at all ports of entry and exits. In May 2025, 2 920 906 travellers passed through South African sea, land and ports. Presented in this article is a summary of the *International tourism* (Statistical release P0350) for May 2026.

Travellers

Number of travellers



A total of 2 920 906 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports in May 2026 **(see Table L)**.

These travellers were made up of 694 753 South African residents and 2 226 153 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 344 519 arrivals, 349 564 departures and 670 travellers in transit. The corresponding volumes for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit were 1 155 059, 1 022 809 and 48 285, respectively.

A comparison of movements in April 2026 and May 2026 shows that for both groups of travellers, the volumes of arrivals and departures decreased, while those of transits increased. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 13,1% (from 396 609 in April 2026 to 344 519 in May 2026), departures decreased by 14,5% (from 408 887 in April 2026 to 349 564 in May 2026), and transits increased by 7,2% (from 625 in April 2026 to 670 in May 2026). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 10,1% (from 1 284 245 in April 2026 to 1 155 059 in May 2026), departures decreased by 8,9% (from 1 123 070 in April 2026 to 1 022 809 in May 2026) and transits increased by 9,8% (from 43 959 in April 2026 to 48 285 in May 2026).

A comparison of movements in May 2025 and May 2026 indicates that the volumes of arrivals and departures decreased for South African travellers but increased for foreign travellers, while that of transits increased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 6,5% (from 368 610 in May 2025 to 344 519 in May 2026), departures decreased by 4,9% (from 367 507 in May 2025 to 349 564 in May 2026) whereas transits increased by 32,7% (from 505 in May 2025 to 670 in May 2026). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 2,6% (from 1 125 559 in May 2025 to 1 155 059 in May 2026), departures increased by 5,3% (from 971 790 in May 2025 to 1 022 809 in May 2026) and transits increased by 11,9% (from 43 141 in May 2025 to 48 285 in May 2026).

Mode of travel of travellers

In April 2026, road was the most common mode of travel used by 2 234 452 (68,6%) of the 3 257 395 travellers. The total number of air travellers was 993 478 (30,5%). Compared to air and road, a smaller number of travellers, 29 465 (0,9%) used sea transport into and out of South Africa. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 169 607 (42,8%) came by air, 220 056 (55,5%) came by road and 6 946 (1,8%) came by sea. For departures, 179 370 (43,9%) used air, 224 787 (55,0%) used road and 4 730 (1,2%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 625 (100,0%) used air.

Visitors

In May 2026, 31 773 (2,8%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors, while 1 123 286 (97,2%) were classified as visitors. Visitors were categorised into three groups:

i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in May 2026 but did not depart in May 2026 [420 608 (37,4%)].

ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in May 2026 and left in May 2026 [358 418 (31,9%)].

iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in May 2026 [344 260 (30,6%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors/tourists. In May 2026, there were 261 536 (23,3%) same-day visitors and 861 750 (76,7%) tourists. Between April 2026 and May 2026, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 1,5% (from 257 667 in April 2026 to 261 536 in May 2026) and that of tourists decreased by 12,9% (from 989

329 in April 2026 to 861 750 in May 2026). Between May 2025 and May 2026, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 11,7% (from 296 138 in May 2025 to 261 536 in May 2026) whereas that of tourists increased by 7,2% (from 804 163 in May 2025 to 861 750 in May 2026).

Of the 261 536 same-day visitors, a majority, 231 847 (88,6%) arrived in the country by road, 29 284 (11,2%) arrived by air and 405 (0,2%) arrived by sea. Information on tourists shows that 637 277 (74,0%) used road, 222 641 (25,8%) used air and 1 832 (0,2%) used sea.

Tourists

Sex and age distribution of tourists

Sex

There were more male [506 606 (58,8%)] than female [355 144 (41,2%)] tourists. Male tourists constituted the majority of tourists for all three regions being SADC countries [405 522 (60,2%)], overseas countries [90 776 (53,1%)] and 'other' African countries [9 760 (61,1%)]. Similarly, the largest portion of female tourists was from SADC countries [268 412 (39,8%)], followed by overseas countries [80 061 (46,9%)] and 'other' African countries [6 223 (38,9%)].

Age

The age distribution indicates that out of all tourists, [3,3% (28 360)] were aged younger than 15; [8,2% (70 700)] were aged between 15 and 24; [24,3% (209 298)] were aged between 25 and 34; [29,7% (255 963)] were aged between 35 and 44; [19,4% (167 320)] were aged between 45 and 54; [9,3% (80 334)] were aged between 55 and 64 and [5,8% (49 775)] were aged 65 and older.

Purpose of visit of tourists

In May 2026, the majority of tourists, 838 024 (97,2%), were in South Africa for holiday compared to 20 747 (2,4%); 2 641 (0,3%) and 338 (less than 0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and medical treatment, respectively.

Mode of travel of tourists

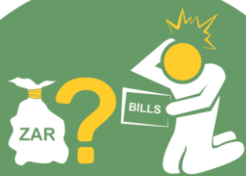
In May 2026, 156 401 (91,5%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 12 674 (7,4%) came by road and 1 762 (1,0%) came by sea. Tourists from the SADC countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 622 117 (92,3%), 51 747 (7,7%) came by air and 70 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 13 691 (85,7%); while 2 292 (14,3%) used road transport and none preferred sea. Most tourists who arrived by road came through Lebombo port (203 838) in Mpumalanga and Beit Bridge port (148 006) in Limpopo. The majority of tourists who came by air entered through OR Tambo International Airport (151 225) and Cape Town International Airport (69 448). Tourists who arrived by sea came through Cape Town Harbour (1 827) and Durban Harbour (5).

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

Travel direction	May 2025	April 2026	May 2026	% Change Apr 2026 – May 2026	% Change May 2025 – May 2026
Total	**2 877 112**	**3 257 395**	**2 920 906**	**-10,3**	**1,5**
South African residents	**736 622**	**806 121**	**694 753**	**-13,8**	**-5,7**
Arrivals	368 610	396 609	344 519	-13,1	-6,5
Departures	367 507	408 887	349 564	-14,5	-4,9
Transits	505	625	670	7,2	32,7
Foreign travellers	**2 140 490**	**2 451 274**	**2 226 153**	**-9,2**	**4,0**
Arrivals	1 125 559	1 284 245	1 155 059	-10,1	2,6
Departures	971 790	1 123 070	1 022 809	-8,9	5,3
Transits	43 141	43 959	48 285	9,8	11,9

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 decreased by 2,5% in the three months ended April 2026 compared with the three months ended April 2025.

South Africa has the highest cases of suspected digital fraud in Africa, with 3,0% of transactions involving consumers flagged as potentially fraudulent. This is according to TransUnion's *H1 2026 Update: Top Fraud Trends* report which analysed data from 12 730 consumers across 18 countries and regions in 2025. The report shows that fraudsters are not solely relying on traditional phishing methods. Instead, they are using multiple channels and generative artificial intelligence (AI) to target unsuspecting consumers and businesses. Most fraud cases (33%) happen through third–party seller scams on legitimate e-commerce websites, which consumers are already familiar with and trust. Another frequent form of fraud is social engineering (26%), where fraudsters attempt to gain access to an account through compromised credentials or sim swap fraud. Once fraudsters gain access to the victims' accounts, they steal large sums of money or use their personal details to take credit, loans or store accounts. As a result, affected consumers may have a bad credit record and also fail to meet their financial obligations, while businesses may experience cash flow challenges. The total number of civil summonses issued for debt decreased by 2,5% in the three months ended April 2026. This article summarises the results of *Civil cases for debt* (Statistical release P0041) for April 2026.

The total number of civil summonses issued for debt decreased by 2,5% in the three months ended April 2026 compared with the three months ended April 2025 (**see Table M**).

The number of civil summonses issued for debt

The total number of civil summonses issued for debt decreased by 2,5% in the three months ended April 2026 compared with the three months ended April 2025.

The largest negative contributors to the 2,5% decrease in civil summonses issued were money lent (contributing -1,5 percentage points); and services (contributing -1,2 percentage points).

The number of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total number of civil judgements recorded for debt increased by 3,6% in the three months ended April 2026 compared with the three months ended April 2025.

The largest positive contributors to the 3,6% increase were civil judgements relating to:

- 'other' debts (contributing 2,0 percentage points);
- money lent (contributing 1,1 percentage points); and
- promissory notes (contributing 1,0 percentage point).

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

The value of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total value of civil judgements recorded for debt increased by 5,5% in the three months ended April 2026 compared with the three months ended April 2025.

The largest positive contributors were:

- money lent (contributing 5,3 percentage points);
- 'other' debts (contributing 2,2 percentage points); and
- services (contributing 2,0 percentage points).

Rent (contributing -3,9 percentage points) was the largest negative contributor.

In April 2026, 8 763 civil judgements for debt amounting to R258,4 million were recorded. The largest contributors to the total value of judgements were:

- money lent (R64,6 million or 25,0%);

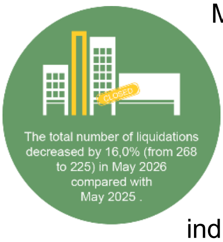
- services (R60,1 million or 23,2%);
- ‘other’ debts (R56,3 million or 21,8%); and
- promissory notes (R38,6 million or 14,9%).

Table M – Key figures for April 2026

Actual estimates	Apr 2026	% change between Apr 2025 and Apr 2026	% change between Feb – Apr 2025 and Feb – Apr 2026
Number of civil summonses issued for debt	27 512	-10,4	-2,5
Number of civil judgements recorded for debt	8 763	9,2	3,6
Value of civil judgements recorded for debt (R million)	258,4	17,1	5,5

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



Mounting debt and cashflow problems are some of the major reasons most companies are liquidated within various sectors. However, there are other factors in various other sectors such as competition (a rivalry between two or more entities striving for a common goal or limited resources) can lead to liquidation. For example, if a cellular phones/smartphone in competitive industries fails to innovate or adapt to changes in the marketplace or its products, this may lead to liquidation. In May 2026, the number of liquidations increased by 5,2% (from 698 to 734) in the three months ended May 2026 compared with the three months ended May 2025. The increase of the number of liquidations indicate that many businesses are distressed especially voluntary liquidation which recorded 187 total number of liquidation while compulsory liquidation recorded 38 in May 2026. Presented in this article is a summary of the *Statistics of liquidations* (Statistical release P0043.1) for May 2026.

The total number of liquidations decreased by 16,0% (from 268 to 225) in May 2026 compared with May 2025 **(see Table N)**.

Liquidations of companies decreased by 25 cases and liquidations of close corporations decreased by 18 cases during this period.

The number of liquidations increased by 5,2% (from 698 to 734) in the three months ended May 2026 compared with the three months ended May 2025.

A decrease of 1,0% (from 1 127 to 1 116) in the number of liquidations was recorded in the first five months of 2026 compared with the first five months of 2025.

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

Number of liquidations May 2026	% change between May 2025 and May 2026	% change between Mar – May 2025 and Mar – May 2026	% change between Jan – May 2025 and Jan – May 2026
225	-16,0	5,2	-1,0

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 national system for managing traffic infringement, designed to decriminalise some traffic violations and replace the traditional criminal court process with a centralised administrative process has been put into effect. President Cyril Ramaphosa announced that the Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences Act (AARTO) comes into effect from 1 July 2026. The system, which affects motorists and fleet operators and other road users, will be implemented in 62 various municipalities, including metropolitan municipalities across the country. Under AARTO, traffic fines will follow strict, automated timelines and ignoring a notice will result in financial and administrative consequences, not criminal charges. For instance, AARTO will issue an infringement notice and paying a fine within 32 days of receiving a notice, a 50% discount will apply. However, failure to pay a fine within 32 days will result in issuing a courtesy letter where a 50% discount will be cancelled and R60 administrative fee added to the fine. If the courtesy letter is ignored for another 32 days, another R60 is added to the fine and you are blocked completely on eNaTIS (Electronic National Administration Traffic Information System), a centralised digital database for managing vehicle registration, drivers' licenses and road infringements. Once blocked on eNaTIS, the driver will be unable to renew their motor vehicle license disc, driving license or to register a new motor vehicle until the fine is fully paid. In April 2026, both volumes of goods transported and the number of passenger journeys increased by 7,6% and 6,7%, respectively. The implementation of AARTO will in future affect the volume of goods transported and the number of passenger journeys, as failure to pay fines in time might result in fewer drivers and motor vehicles to transport goods and passengers. This article summarises the results of the *Land transport* (Statistical release P7162) for April 2026.

Freight transportation

The volume of goods transported (payload) increased by 7,6% in April 2026 compared with April 2025 **(see Table O)**.

The corresponding income increased by 10,8% over the same period. Income from freight transportation increased by 5,3% in the three months ended April 2026 compared with the three months ended April 2025.

The main positive contributors to this increase were:

- agriculture and forestry primary products (35,4%, contributing 2,5 percentage points); and
- 'other' freight (10,0%, contributing 2,2 percentage points).

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

	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26
Freight payload	-1,7	0,4	-2,9	-2,3	1,0	7,6
Freight income	3,4	5,0	3,1	1,2	4,0	10,8

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 6,7% in April 2026 compared with April 2025. The corresponding income increased by 6,2% over the same period **(see Table P)**.

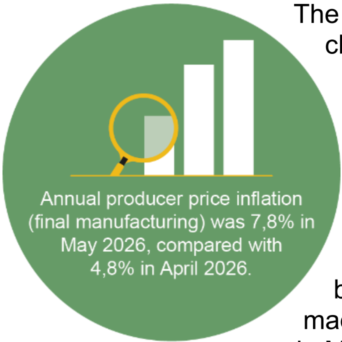
Table P – Year-on-year percentage change in passenger transportation for April 2026

	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26
Passenger payload	4,0	4,3	-2,4	4,0	6,3	6,7
Passenger income	17,5	12,0	4,4	7,5	7,2	6,2

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)



The producer price index (PPI), which measures the changes in prices of final manufactured goods, rose to a three-year high. According to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), the PPI increased to 7,8% in May 2026, up from 4,8% in April 2026, making it the highest recorded since April 2023 when it was 8,6%. The sharp increase in producer prices was driven by the coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic division both monthly and annually. Annually, this division made producer prices 22% higher than they were a year ago in May 2025, while monthly producer prices were 9% higher than they were in April 2026. The fact that this division drove inflation higher annually and monthly means that the price pressure was building for a year and then further intensified a month ago. Presented in this article is a summary of the *Producer price index (PPI)* (Statistical release P0142.1) for May 2026.

Annual producer price inflation (final manufacturing) was 7,8% in May 2026, compared with 4,8% in April 2026 **(see Table Q)**.

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 (8,7%, contributing 0,7 of a percentage point);

- food products, beverages and tobacco products (2,1%, contributing 0,6 of a percentage point); and
- metals, machinery, equipment and computing equipment (2,9%, contributing 0,5 of a percentage point).

The main positive contributor to the headline PPI monthly inflation rate was coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products (9,0%, contributing 2,0 percentage points).

Intermediate manufactured goods

The annual percentage change in the PPI for intermediate manufactured goods was 13,7% in May 2026, compared with 10,0% in April 2026. The index increased by 2,4% month-on-month. The main positive contributors to the annual rate were:

- basic and fabricated metals (14,3%, contributing 6,9 percentage points);
- chemicals, rubber and plastic products (17,2%, contributing 5,2 percentage points); and
- sawmilling and wood (8,2%, contributing 0,8 of a percentage point).

The main positive contributor to the monthly rate was chemicals, rubber and plastic products (10,6%, contributing 3,0 percentage points).

Electricity and water

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 28,1% in May 2026, compared with 24,9% in April 2026. The index increased by 0,5% month-on-month. The positive contributors to the annual rate were: • non-ferrous metal ores (50,4%, contributing 22,0 percentage points); • gold and other metal ores (11,6%, contributing 3,3 percentage points); and • coal and gas (8,1%, contributing 1,8 percentage points). The main positive contributor to the monthly rate was coal and gas (11,3%, contributing 1,9 percentage points).

Agriculture, forestry and fishing

The annual percentage change in the PPI for agriculture, forestry and fishing was -5,4% in May 2026, compared with -6,5% in April 2026. The index increased by 1,3% month-on-month. The negative contributor to the annual rate was agriculture (-7,4%, contributing -6,4 percentage points). The main contributor to the monthly rate was agriculture (1,3%, contributing 1,1 percentage points).

Table Q – Key PPI figures for May 2026

Product	Weight	Index (Dec 2023=100)			% change	
		May 2025	Apr 2026	May 2026	May 2026 vs. Apr 2026	May 2026 vs. May 2025
Final manufactured goods	100,00	102,4	107,6	110,4	2,6	7,8
Intermediate manufactured goods	100,00	111,8	124,1	127,1	2,4	13,7
Electricity and water	100,00	118,3	131,4	132,8	1,1	12,3
Mining	100,00	105,9	135,0	135,7	0,5	28,1
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	100,00	103,2	96,3	97,6	1,3	-5,4

A full release on the *Producer price index* (Statistical release P0142.1) is available on the website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Consumer price index (CPI)

In May 2026, the annual consumer price index (CPI) increased to 4,5% from 4,0% in April 2026, the highest recorded since the beginning of 2026. The last time CPI was high was in July 2024, when it was at 4,4%. The annual inflation rate of 4,5% was primarily driven by housing and utilities, transport and insurance and financial services. A higher CPI indicates higher inflation, which means that the cost of living (the total amount of money required to maintain a certain standard of living) has increased. This implies that consumers will have to spend more money to purchase the same basket of goods and services. This article presents a summary of the *Consumer price index* (Statistical release P0141) for May 2026.

Headline consumer price index (CPI) for all urban areas

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

The CPI increased by 0,7% month-on-month in May 2026.

The main contributors to the 4,5% annual inflation rate were:

- housing and utilities (5,3% and contributing 1,3 percentage points);
- transport (9,4% and contributing 1,3 percentage points); and
- insurance and financial services (5,7% and contributing 0,6 of a percentage point).

In May 2026, the annual inflation rate for:

- goods was 4,4%, up from 3,4% in April 2026; and
- services was 4,7%, up from 4,6% in April 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								
	Rate	3,5	3,0	3,1	4,0	4,5								

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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