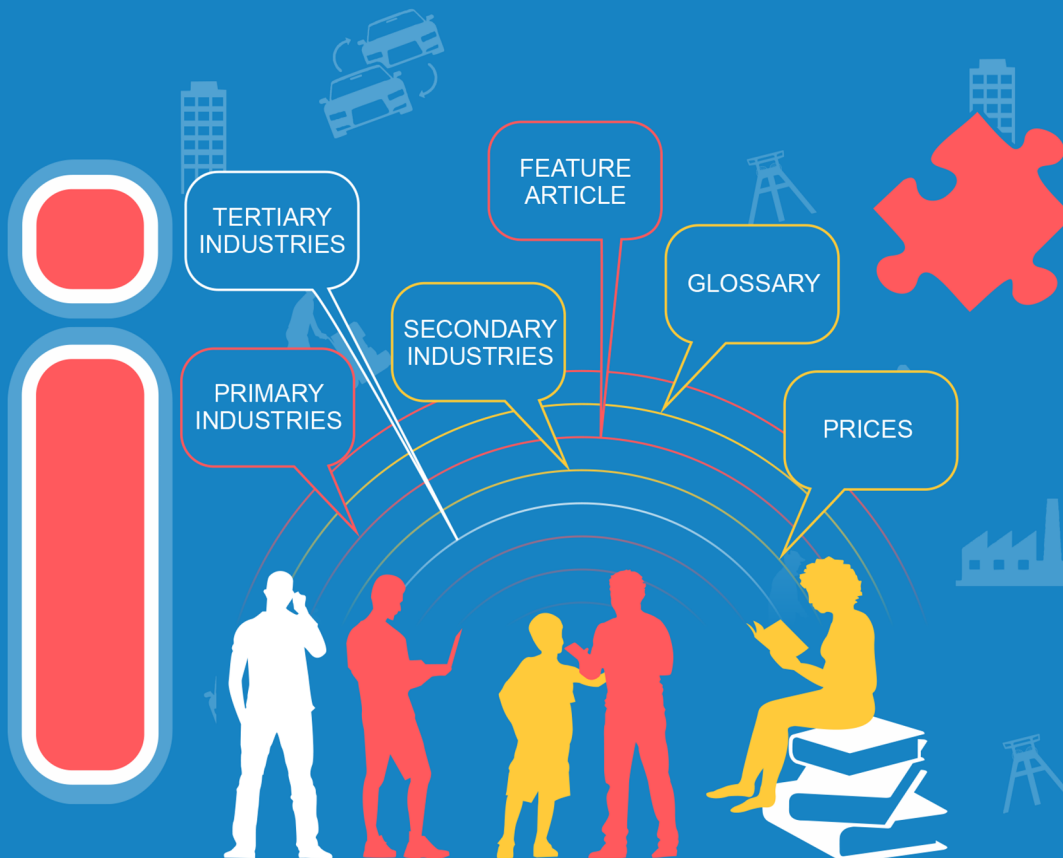


Mbalo Brief

the missing piece of the puzzle

October 2026



Issue 09/2026

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS



stats sa

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Editor's Comment



A census is often associated with numbers: how many people live in a country, how many are male or female, and so on. But behind every number is a story about how people live, interact and experience life in society. As Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) marks 30 years of conducting censuses in democratic South Africa, from 1996 to 2026, the Census

2022 results provide an opportunity to look beyond population counts and consider how the country has evolved. One illustration of this change can be found in our homes. The growth of multiracial households between 2001 and 2022 offers a glimpse into a society that is increasingly crossing the racial boundaries that once determined where and how people could live, work and form relationships. In 2001, 1,3% of households in the country were multiracial. This increased to 1,7% in 2011 and then rose significantly to 11,4% in 2022. The change is most evident in provinces with diverse populations. In 2022, Western Cape recorded the highest proportion of multiracial households at 17,0%, followed by Gauteng at 14,6%. Limpopo recorded the lowest at 6,7%. This change shows that over time, migration, urbanisation, education, employment and relationships have contributed to greater interaction between people from different backgrounds. Census data offers a unique opportunity to reflect on how South Africans have changed, lived, and connected over the past three decades.

This month's feature article is based on the *Quarterly Employment Statistics* (QES) (Statistical release P0277), published by Stats SA on 29 September 2026. Also, do not miss our monthly crossword puzzle and the September 2026 solutions. Articles in this issue draw on the results of industry surveys conducted for August and September 2026.

Enjoy the read!





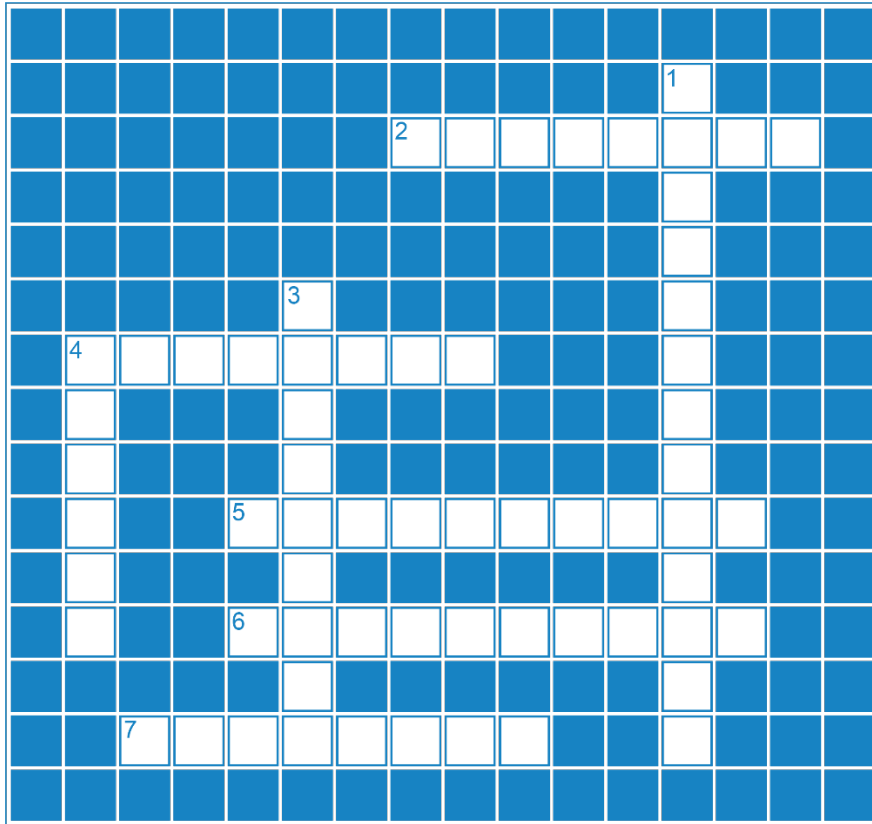
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Crossword



Across

2. Which language has the most native speakers worldwide?
4. Which African country is home to Mount Kilimanjaro?
5. What does the "E" in QES stand for? Read the feature article for clues.
6. What is the surname of the Minister in the Presidency?
7. What is the payment made for hours worked beyond normal working hours?

Down

1. What is the amount paid to employees before deductions, including relevant additional payments.
3. What is the name of the instrument used to measure atmospheric pressure?
4. How many years of democratic census-taking is Statistics South Africa commemorating in 2026?

Solutions for September 2026

Across

4. Airlink
5. Gauteng
6. False

Down

1. Male-headed
2. Bloemfontein
3. Six





Feature article

Feature article on Quarterly Employment Statistics (QES) – Quarter 2 of 2026

Introduction

Employment statistics do more than count the number of people with jobs. They help explain how different industries are performing, indicate where employment is growing or declining, and how much employers are paying their workers. Statistics South Africa's (Stats SA) *Quarterly Employment Statistics* (QES) (Statistical release P0277) provides one way of understanding these changes by tracking employment and earnings in the formal non-agricultural sector. This article will explore the results of QES for Quarter 2 of 2026, published by Stats SA on 29 September 2026. The article will focus on changes in total employment by industry, full-time and part-time employment, gross earnings, basic salary and wage payments, bonuses, overtime payments and average monthly earnings. The article will further compare the second quarter of 2026 with the first quarter of 2026. It also explains the importance of these statistics and how they can help policymakers, businesses, researchers and the public understand developments in South Africa's formal labour market.

What does the QES measure?

The *Quarterly Employment Statistics* (QES) is an enterprise-based survey that collects information from approximately 20 000 businesses and organisations in the formal non-agricultural sector that are registered for Value-added tax (VAT) and have a turnover (the total amount of money a business makes from selling its goods or services over a specific period, before subtracting expenses or costs) greater than R300 000. It uses information from employers' payrolls to measure changes in employment and gross earnings as well as average monthly earnings, which include bonuses and overtime payments. The samples are drawn from private non-

agricultural businesses such as factories, firms, offices and stores, as well as from national, provincial and local government entities.

Unlike the *Quarterly Labour Force Survey* (QLFS) (Statistical release P0211) that asks individuals in the labour market about their employment circumstances, the QES examines employment from the employer's perspective. Its findings help show whether businesses and organisations are employing more or fewer people and how the total earnings paid to employees are changing.

Employment and earnings can move in different directions. An increase in gross earnings does not necessarily mean that more people have been employed, as total earnings can rise even when employment declines. This may occur because of increases in salaries, bonuses or overtime payments and the composition of the workforce, among other factors.

QES therefore provides a picture of employment and earnings trends within the formal non-agricultural sector, rather than a complete account of everyone who is working or looking for work in South Africa.

Why are employment statistics important?



Changes in employment can provide insight into the performance of different industries. When an industry records an increase in employment, it indicates that more employees were on the payrolls covered by the survey. A decline indicates that fewer employees were recorded. However, the figures alone do not explain every reason behind these changes.

For policymakers, employment statistics can help identify industries experiencing growth or job losses and inform discussions about economic and employment policy. Businesses can use the

information to assess labour market developments and compare trends across industries. Economists and researchers can use it to analyse changes in employment and earnings, while journalists and the public can use the findings to understand how the economy is changing. For ordinary South Africans, the *Quarterly Employment Statistics* (QES) provides a useful way to understand changes in the formal, non-agricultural job market and earnings. By tracking employment across industries, the results can help jobseekers, workers and students follow labour market trends and understand which sectors are experiencing employment gains or losses. The figures are also useful when examined over different periods. Quarterly comparisons show how employment has changed since the previous quarter, while year-on-year comparisons reveal how conditions differ from the same period in the previous year.

Employment by industry



According to QES for Quarter 2 of 2026, total employment decreased by 14 000 or -0,1% quarter-on-quarter, from 10 439 000 in March 2026 to 10 425 000 in June 2026. This was due to decreases in the following

industries: manufacturing (-20 000 or -1,6%), business services (-13 000 or -0,5%), trade (-8 000 or -0,3%), transport (-5 000 or -1,1%).

However, there were increases reported by the following industries: community services (29 000 or 1,0%), electricity (1 000 or 1,5%), mining (1 000 or 0,2%) and construction (1 000 or 0,2%). Total employment decreased by 95 000 or -0,9% year-on-year between June 2025 and June 2026.



Full-time employees

Full-time employment decreased by 40 000 or -0,4% quarter-on-quarter, from 9 370 000 in March 2026 to 9 330 000 in June 2026. This was due to decreases in the following industries: business services (-17 000 or -0,8%),

manufacturing (-10 000 or -0,8%), trade (-7 000 or -0,3%), transport (-6 000 or -1,3%) and community services (-3 000 or -0,1%), and electricity (-1 000 or -1,6%). However, there were increases reported by the following industries: construction (3 000 or 0,6%) and mining (1 000 or 0,2%). Full-time employment decreased by 96 000 or -1,0% year-on-year between June 2025 and June 2026.

Part-time employees

Furthermore, part-time employment increased by 26 000 or 2,4% quarter-on-quarter, from 1 069 000 in March 2026 to 1 095 000 in June 2026. This was due to increases in the following industries: community services (32 000 or 7,4%), business services (4 000 or 1,9%), electricity (2 000 or 200,0%), and transport (1 000 or 6,3%). However, there were decreases reported by the following industries: manufacturing (-10 000 or -12,2%), construction (-2 000 or -3,3%), and trade (-1 000 or -0,4%). Part-time employment increased by 1 000 or 0,1% year-on-year between June 2025 and June 2026.

Gross earnings by industry

Gross earnings paid to employees decreased by R4,8 billion or -0,5% from R1,029 trillion in March 2026 to R1,025 trillion in June 2026. This was due to decreases in the following industries: business services, mining, and transport. However, the following industries reported an increase: community services, trade, construction, manufacturing, and electricity. Year-on-year gross earnings increased by R35,1 billion or 3,5% between June 2025 and June 2026.

Basic salary/wages payments by industry

Basic salary/wages paid to employees increased by R15,5 billion or 1,7% from R914,6 billion in March 2026 to R930,1 billion in June 2026. This was due to increases in the following industries: community services, business services, construction, trade, manufacturing. However, mining, electricity and transport, reported a decrease. Year-on-year basic salary/wages increased by R26,7 billion or 3,0% between June 2025 and June 2026.

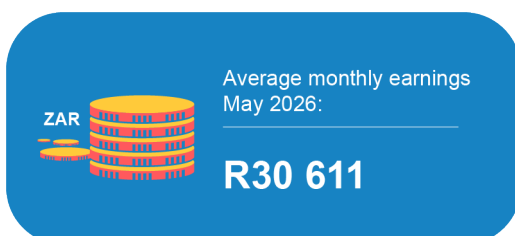
Bonus payments by industry

Bonuses paid to employees decreased by R23 billion or -26,9% from R85,8 billion in March 2026 to R62,8 billion in June 2026. This was due to decreases in the following industries: business services, community services, transport, manufacturing, and electricity. However, trade and construction industries, reported an increase. Year-on-year bonus payments increased by R6,1 billion or 10,8% between June 2025 and June 2026.

Overtime payments by industry

Overtime paid to employees increased by R2,7 billion or 9,3% from R29,4 billion in March 2026 to R32,1 billion in June 2026. This was due to increases in the following industries: community services, business services, manufacturing, transport, trade, electricity and construction. Year-on-year overtime payments increased by R2,3 billion or 7,6% between June 2025 and June 2026.

Average monthly earnings



Average monthly earnings paid to employees increased by 2,6% from R29 825 in February 2026 to R30 611 in May 2026. Year-on-year average monthly earnings paid to employees increased by 4,1% between May 2025 and May 2026.

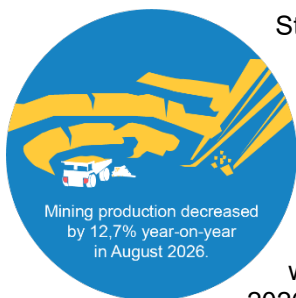
Conclusion

The *Quarterly employment statistics* (QES) for the second quarter of 2026 show that employment and earnings changed differently across the formal non-agricultural sector. Total employment declined between March and June 2026, while full-time employment decreased. In contrast, part-time employment increased, largely reflecting the increase recorded in community services. Over the same period, gross earnings declined, despite an increase in basic salary and wage payments. The decline in bonus payments contributed to the decrease in gross earnings, while average monthly earnings increased between February and May 2026.



Primary industries

Mining: Production and sales



Steenkampskraal Monazite Mine (SMM) in Western Cape aims to become a leading producer of rare earth elements (REEs) and thorium (a naturally occurring, weakly radioactive, silvery-white metal). This became evident after SMM launched its Phase 1 monazite concentrate plant on 7 October 2026. The initial phase involves crushing and milling ore to produce a concentrate for export, with shipments scheduled to begin before the end of 2026. Phase 1 is the first step in a three-phase roadmap

that includes monazite cracking (Phase 2) and the separation of individual rare earth oxides (Phase 3). According to SMM Executive Chairperson Professor Enock Mathebula, the Steenkampskraal deposit is recognised as one of the highest-grade rare earth and thorium resources globally. REEs are used for catalysts and magnets in renewable energy technologies, while thorium acts as fuel in nuclear energy production, among other applications. This article summarises the results of *Mining: Production and sales* (Statistical release P2041) for August 2026.



Mining production decreased by 12,7% year-on-year in August 2026 (see **Table A**).

The largest negative contributors were:

- PGMs (-22,5%, contributing -6,1 percentage points);
- coal (-11,7%, contributing -3,0 percentage points); and
- iron ore (-16,2%, contributing -2,4 percentage points).

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

	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	Aug-26
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	2,5	7,8	-5,1	-3,9	-7,0	-12,7
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-4,9	3,8	-5,9	0,4	-1,9	-5,4
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	0,5	2,6	-1,6	-2,6	-5,5	-5,2

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.

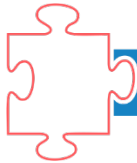
Mineral sales at current prices decreased by 15,1% year-on-year in August 2026 (**see Table B**). The largest negative contributors were:

- gold (-48,6%, contributing -8,6 percentage points);
- iron ore (-23,0%, contributing -2,4 percentage points);
- PGMs (-7,5%, contributing -1,9 percentage points); and
- coal (-7,8%, contributing -1,9 percentage points).

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

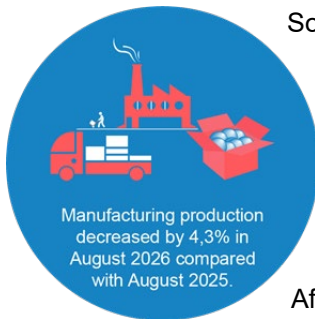
	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	Aug-26
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	31,4	30,5	13,9	27,4	-5,3	-15,1
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-8,8	2,3	-5,8	1,1	-13,7	-7,9
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	6,7	4,2	-6,7	-4,7	-10,9	-13,3

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



South Africa's manufacturing sector is facing growing pressure as cheaper imports from China surge in the country. According to financial news company, Bloomberg, imports from China to South Africa increased by 29% in the first eight months of 2026 compared with the same period in 2025. By the end of August 2026, China had imported products including motor vehicles, clothing, and electronics among others to South Africa, worth an estimated \$18.7 billion. While these imported products benefit buyers because of their competitive pricing, they pose a threat to South African manufacturers. Production may need to be scaled down because of weaker demand for locally manufactured goods. Ultimately, this leads to lower outputs and contributes to the decline in manufacturing. In August 2026, manufacturing production decreased by 4,3% compared with August 2025. Motor vehicles, parts and accessories and other transport equipment were one of the largest subdivisions which contributed negatively to manufacturing growth at -8,8%. Presented in this article is a summary of the *Manufacturing: Production and sales* (Statistical release P3041.2) for August 2026.



Manufacturing production decreased by 4,3% in August 2026 compared with August 2025 (see Table C).

The largest negative contributions were made by the following divisions:

- petroleum, chemical products, rubber and plastic products (-5,0%, contributing -1,1 percentage points);

- motor vehicles, parts and accessories and other transport equipment (-8,8%, contributing -0,7 of a percentage point);
- wood and wood products, paper, publishing and printing (-7,0%, contributing -0,7 of a percentage point);
- food and beverages (-3,0%, contributing -0,7 of a percentage point); and
- basic iron and steel, non-ferrous metal products, metal products and machinery (-3,0%, contributing -0,7 of a percentage point).

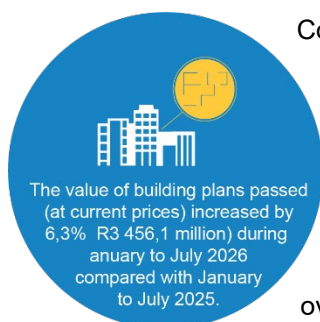
Table C – Key growth rates in the volume of manufacturing production for August 2026

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

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



Construction projects are an important leading economic indicator, providing insights into the investment activity and the economy's future growth prospects. According to Infrastructure South Africa's (ISA) third edition of the construction book, there are 110 funded infrastructure projects worth an estimated R395 billion which are expected to enter procurement in the next 12 to 18 months. The projects span over several sectors in the country, including municipal infrastructure, water and sanitation, transport and logistics, social and digital infrastructure. Speaking at the launch of the sixth Sustainable Infrastructure Development Symposium of South Africa in Cape Town, President Cyril Ramaphosa emphasised that infrastructure investment is central to the country's efforts to accelerate economic growth,

create jobs and improve service delivery. Therefore, it is important that these projects move from being plans into actual complete infrastructural projects that benefit the country. In July 2026, the value of building plans passed (at current prices) in South Africa increased by 6,3% (R3 456,1 million) during January to July 2026 compared with January to July 2025, signalling an improvement in building activity. Presented in this article is a summary of the *Selected building statistics of the private sector* (Statistical release P5041.1) for July 2026.

Building plans passed



The value of building plans passed (at current prices) increased by 6,3% (R3 456,1 million) during January to July 2026 compared with January to July 2025 (see Table D).

Increases were reported for residential buildings (R2 175,6 million) and non-residential buildings (R1 711,9 million). A decrease was reported for additions and alterations (-R431,3 million).

The largest positive contributors to the total increase of 6,3% (R3 456,1 million) were KwaZulu-Natal (contributing 3,1 percentage points or R1 688,7 million) and Western Cape (contributing 2,4 percentage points or R1 323,8 million). The largest negative contributor was Gauteng (contributing -1,0 percentage point or -R543,8 million).

The real value of building plans passed (at constant 2019 prices) increased by 1,2% (R472,1 million) during January to July 2026 compared with January to July 2025. Increases were reported for non-residential buildings (R751,1 million) and residential buildings (R614,1 million). A decrease was reported for additions and alterations (-R893,1 million).

Seven of the nine provinces reported year-on-year decreases in the value of buildings completed during January to July 2026. The largest negative contributors were Gauteng (contributing -4,7 percentage points or -R1 367,8 million), KwaZulu-Natal (contributing -3,4 percentage points or -R993,5 million) and North West (contributing -2,3 percentage points or -R655,4 million).

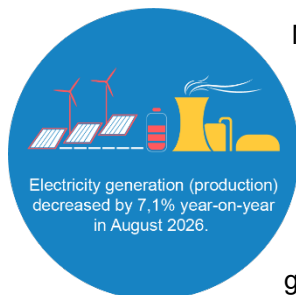
The largest positive contributor was Mpumalanga (contributing 1,4 percentage points or R419,8 million).

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

Type of building	Jan – Jul 2025	Jan – Jul 2026	Difference in value between Jan – Jul 2025 and Jan – Jul 2026	% change between Jan – Jul 2025 and Jan – Jul 2026
	R'000	R'000	R'000	
Residential buildings	25 863 833	28 039 391	2 175 558	8,4
- Dwelling houses	17 517 761	17 182 956	-334 805	-1,9
- Flats and townhouses	7 512 867	9 099 199	1 586 332	21,1
- Other residential buildings	833 205	1 757 236	924 031	110,9
Non-residential buildings	11 779 087	13 490 987	1 711 900	14,5
Additions and alterations	17 416 963	16 985 649	-431 314	-2,5
Total	55 059 883	58 516 027	3 456 144	6,3

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



Municipalities play a vital role in driving the transition to renewable energy and to increasing energy independence. On 30 September 2026, Riversdale officially inaugurated its new solar energy plant, marking a major milestone as one of South Africa's first towns to achieve energy independence from Eskom. The plant comprises a 10 MWp of solar photovoltaic (PV) capable of generating 15 million kilowatt-hours annually.

According to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), electricity generation (production) decreased by 7,1% year-on-year in August 2026. This indicates that less electricity was generated in August 2026 than in August 2025. This article summarises the results of *Electricity generated and available for distribution* (Statistical release P4141) for August 2026.



Electricity generation (production) decreased by 7,1% year-on-year in August 2026 (see Table E).

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

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

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 1,1% year-on-year in August 2026 (see Table F).

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

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

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

South Africa is shifting away from a single-buyer electricity model dominated by Eskom to a competitive electricity trading system where various electricity wholesalers will be involved. In April 2027, the National Transmission Company South Africa (NTCSA) is due to launch the South African Wholesale Electricity Market (SAWEM), which was due to be launched in April 2026 but postponed. A wholesale electricity market is a centralised system where various power generators, utilities and energy traders buy and sell electricity in bulk quantities before it is delivered to retail consumers. Some of the electricity wholesalers are independent power producers who typically sell their generated power through long-term agreements or operate as merchant generators selling directly into wholesale markets. Access to the SAWEM is gated on certification rather than on generation capacity. Only participants who have completed the SAWEM School, a three-day programme run monthly by NTCSA covering bid submission, market clearing, credit management, and compliance will be eligible to trade. Sessions have been fully subscribed, and NTCSA is considering additional venues in Free State and North West to meet demand. According to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), wholesale trade sales grew by 6,7% in July 2026 compared with July 2025. Presented in this article is a summary of the *Wholesale trade sales* (Statistical release P6141.2) for July 2026.



Wholesale trade sales increased by 6,7% in July 2026 compared with July 2025 (see **Table G**).

The main positive contributor was dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (16,7%, contributing 3,9 percentage points).

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

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

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



Retail stores play an important role in meeting households' everyday needs, from the food they buy to the clothes they wear. Among the different types of retailers, general dealers and 'other' retailers made the largest contributions to retail sales growth in July 2026, together accounting for a substantial share of the 3,4% increase compared with July 2025. General dealers recorded growth of 3,2%, contributing 1,3 percentage points to the overall increase. The second-largest contributor was 'other' retailers, which recorded growth of 6,8% and contributed 0,8 percentage points to the overall increase. General dealers are non-specialised stores where food, beverages and tobacco account for most goods sold. 'Other' retailers cover a wide range of businesses, such as retailers of books, stationery, jewellery, watches, sporting goods and entertainment equipment, and second-hand goods stores. Together, these retailers highlight the diversity of businesses within South Africa's retail sector and their contribution to meeting consumers' everyday needs. This article summarises the results of the *Retail trade sales* (Statistical release P6242.1) for July 2026.



Retail trade sales increased by 3,4% year-on-year in July 2026 (see Table H).

The largest positive contributors to this increase were:

- general dealers (3,2%, contributing 1,3 percentage points);
- all 'other' retailers (6,8%, contributing 0,8 of a percentage point);
- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (2,9%, contributing 0,5 of a percentage point); and
- retailers in food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores (4,8%, contributing 0,4 of a percentage point).

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

- general dealers (1,8%, contributing 0,8 of a percentage point); and
- all 'other' retailers (6,8%, contributing 0,7 of a percentage point).

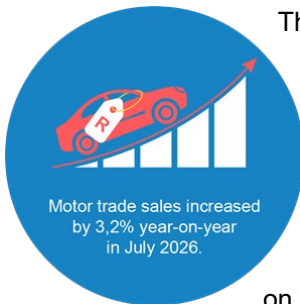
Table H – Key growth rates in retail trade sales for July 2026

	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	1,6	2,5	1,2	2,2	1,1	3,4
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,0	-0,1	0,9	0,1	-0,8	2,5
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	0,3	0,0	-0,3	0,4	0,5	1,0

^{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 discontinuation of certain vehicle models can limit consumer choice, particularly for buyers seeking more affordable vehicle options. In April 2026, German carmaker Audi, officially stopped global production of two of its most compact models, the A1 supermini hatchback and the Q2 crossover, after more than a decade in the South African market. These were Audi's most affordable models retailing between R530,900 and R770,980 depending on the variant. According to Autocar, Audi is moving away from producing smaller and more affordable cars to more profitable, larger and electrified models as part of its strategy. Audi has confirmed that there is no direct replacement for these models in South Africa, and that consumers can still buy available units until they sell out. In July 2026, motor trade sales increased by 3,2% year-on-year driven by the sale of new vehicles 13,0%, contributing 3,6 percentage points). This article summarises the results of the *Motor trade sales* (Statistical release P6343.2) for July 2026.



Motor trade sales increased by 3,2% year-on-year in July 2026 (see Table I).

The largest positive contributor to this increase was new vehicle sales (13,0%, contributing 3,6 percentage points).

Motor trade sales increased by 1,9% in the three months ended July 2026 compared with the three months ended July 2025. The largest positive contributors to this increase were:

- new vehicle sales (14,4%, contributing 3,8 percentage points); and
- used vehicle sales (3,4%, contributing 0,7 of a percentage point).

The largest negative contributors were:

- fuel sales (-6,9%, contributing -1,7 percentage points); and
- sales of accessories (-3,8%, contributing -0,8 of a percentage point).

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

	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	5,6	15,3	6,1	0,2	2,2	3,2
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,3	5,6	-4,0	-2,0	-2,9	4,1
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	1,4	2,9	3,5	2,8	-2,4	-3,6

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



Some South African restaurants embrace culinary diversity (a wide range of different cuisines, cooking techniques, ingredients and food traditions that exist across different cultures and regions) and blend it with local food traditions. Restaurants embrace culinary diversity to expand their customer base and accommodate travellers across the world when visiting South Africa. Some of the local restaurants are earning recognition and praise for their fusion techniques and winning awards globally.

On 8 June 2026, Cape Town was ranked 11th in the world in Time Out's best cities for food, an event held annually. Cape Town received the third highest score globally for food quality and scored highly for cafes and coffee shops. The annual ranking is based on a global survey of residents and is evaluated by Time Out's international network of food experts. It measures food quality, affordability, innovation, diversity, and local dining culture in cities across the world. Cape Town's ranking may attract local and international foodies to make it their culinary destination, and which could assist local restaurants generate more income and boost the food and beverages industry. The food and beverages data for July 2026 published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) shows that income increased by 6,6%

compared with July 2025. This article summarises the results of the *Food and beverages* (Statistical release P6420) for July 2026.



Food and beverages income increased by 6,6% in July 2026 compared with July 2025 (see Table J).

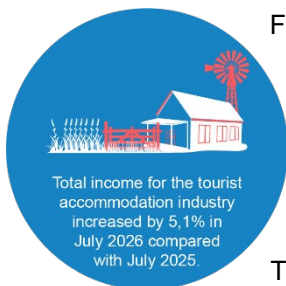
Food and beverages income increased by 2,3% in the three months ended July 2026 compared with the three months ended July 2025. The main contributor to this increase was restaurants and coffee shops (3,2%, contributing 1,5 percentage points).

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

Type of income	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	4,2	1,9	-2,4	-0,6	1,0	6,6
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-1,4	1,0	-3,7	3,3	-1,7	3,7
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	-0,7	0,3	-1,2	-0,6	-2,0	1,2

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

Tourist accommodation



For many travellers, choosing a place to stay is no longer simply a choice between a hotel and a guesthouse. South Africa's tourist accommodation sector offers a wide range of options, from traditional hotels and guesthouses to guest farms, caravan parks, camping sites, lodges, bed-and-breakfast establishments, self-catering establishments and other forms of accommodation.

This variety gives travellers more flexibility in choosing accommodation that suits their needs, whether they are looking for a

convenient city stay, a rural getaway, an outdoor experience or a more personalised setting. The changing accommodation landscape is reflected in the latest tourist accommodation statistics published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA). In July 2026, income from accommodation increased by 7,0% compared with July 2025. 'Other' accommodation was the largest contributor to this increase (15,7%, contributing 5,9 percentage points). The range of accommodation available to visitors highlights how the sector caters to different types of travellers and travel experiences. This article summarises the results of the *Tourist accommodation* (Statistical release P6410) for July 2026.



Total income for the tourist accommodation industry increased by 5,1% in July 2026 compared with July 2025 (see Table K).

Income from accommodation increased by 7,0% year-on-year in July 2026, the result of a 7,4% increase in the number of stay unit nights sold and a 0,3% decrease in the average income per stay unit night sold.

In July 2026, the main positive contributors to the 7,0% year-on-year increase in income from accommodation were:

- 'other' accommodation (15,7%, contributing 5,9 percentage points); and
- Guesthouses and guest farms (28,2%, contributing 1,0 percentage point).

Income from accommodation increased by 4,1% in the three months ended July 2026 compared with the three months ended July 2025. The main positive contributors to this increase were:

- 'other' accommodation (9,6%, contributing 3,6 percentage points); and
- hotels (1,3%, contributing 0,7 of a percentage point).

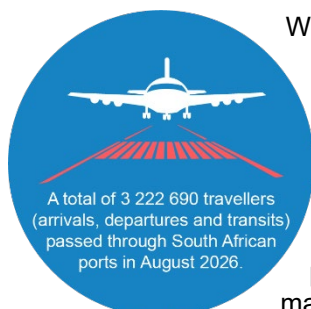
Table K – Year-on-year percentage change in tourist accommodation statistics for July 2026

	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26
Stay units available	0,0	0,0	-0,1	-0,2	-0,2	-0,2
Stay unit nights sold	5,3	11,4	9,6	1,4	3,5	7,4
Average income per stay unit night sold	2,0	2,1	-3,4	0,8	-0,7	-0,3
Income from accommodation	7,5	13,7	5,9	2,2	2,8	7,0
Total income¹	6,2	11,8	5,2	2,9	0,8	5,1

¹Includes 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



When we think about tourism, we often focus on international visitors who travel to South Africa to experience our country's many breathtaking attractions. However, people travelling between provinces for funerals, weddings and school holidays are also an important part of South African tourism. Domestic tourism supports many local businesses and helps to create jobs in provinces which would have been left out of mainstream tourism. In 2025, South Africa welcomed a record 10,5 million international arrivals, generating R102,2 billion in tourism revenue. In contrasts, South Africans undertook 44,7 million overnight domestic trips during the same year, generating R111,6 billion in tourism revenue, slightly more than the revenue generated by international arrivals. This is according to Department of Tourism's 2026/2027 budget vote. About 24,1 million of these domestic trips involved visiting family and friends, suggesting that many travellers did not use paid accommodation. However, domestic travellers still spent money on transport operators, restaurants, retailers and local attractions, driving growth in townships, villages and rural communities and the broader economy. In August 2026, a total of 3 222 690 travellers passed through South African ports of entry. Of

the 3 222 290 travellers, 762 531 were South African residents, according to Statistics South Africa's (Stats SA) latest data. Presented in this article is a summary of *International tourism* (Statistical release P0350) for August 2026.

Travellers

Number of travellers



A total of 3 222 690 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports in August 2026 (see Table L).

These travellers were made up of 762 531 South African residents and 2 460 159 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 373 843 arrivals, 387 967 departures and 721 travellers in transit. The corresponding volumes for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit were 1 304 763, 1 090 191 and 65 205 respectively.

A comparison of movements in July 2026 and August 2026 shows that, for South African residents, the volume of arrivals and departures decreased, while that of transits increased. However, for foreign travellers, the volume of arrivals, departures and transits increased. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 17,8% (from 454 834 in July 2026 to 373 843 in August 2026), departures decreased by 0,3% (from 389 093 in July 2026 to 387 967 in August 2026), and transits increased by 25,2% (from 576 in July 2026 to 721 in August 2026). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 2,4% (from 1 273 663 in July 2026 to 1 304 763 in August 2026), departures increased by 10,7% (from 984 479 in July 2026 to 1 090 191 in August 2026) and transits increased by 25,2% (from 52 080 in July 2026 to 65 205 in August 2026).

A comparison of movements in August 2025 and August 2026 indicates that, for South African residents, the volume of arrivals and departures decreased, while that of transits increased. For foreign travellers, the volume of arrivals and transits increased, while that of departures decreased. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 1,3% (from 378 714 in August 2025 to 373 843 in August 2026), departures decreased by 5,1% (from 408 654 in August 2025 to 387 967 in August 2026) whereas transits increased by 20,0% (from 601 in August 2025 to 721 in August 2026). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 3,2% (from 1 263 873 in August 2025 to 1 304 763 in August 2026), departures decreased by 0,7% (from 1 097 522 in August 2025 to 1 090 191 in August 2026) and transits increased by 3,3% (from 63 114 in August 2025 to 65 205 in August 2026).

Mode of travel of travellers

In August 2026, road was the most common mode of travel used by 2 192 522 (68,0%) of the 3 222 690 travellers. The total number of air travellers was 1 028 914 (31,9%). Compared to air and road, a smaller number of travellers, 1 254 (less than 0,1%) used sea transport into and out of South Africa. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 160 367 (42,9%) came by air, 213 460 (57,1%) came by road and 16 (less than 0,1%) by sea. For departures, 179 061 (46,2%) used air, 208 862 (53,8%) used road and 44 (less than 0,1%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 721 (100,0%) used air.

Visitors

In August 2026, 33 530 (2,6%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors, while 1 271 233 (97,4%) were classified as visitors. Visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in August 2026 but did not depart in August 2026 [523 621 (41,2%)].
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in August 2026 and left in August 2026 [388 714 (30,6%)].
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in August 2026 [358 898 (28,2%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors/tourists. In August 2026, there were 265 947 (20,9%) same-day visitors and 1 005 286 (79,1%) tourists. Between July 2026 and August 2026, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 5,9% (from 251 049 in

July 2026 to 265 947 in August 2026) and that of tourists increased by 1,4% (from 991 696 in July 2026 to 1 005 286 in August 2026). Between August 2025 and August 2026, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 11,5% (from 300 487 in August 2025 to 265 947 in August 2026) whereas that of tourists increased by 7,4% (from 935 738 in August 2025 to 1 005 286 in August 2026).

Of the 265 947 same-day visitors, a majority, 230 901 (86,8%) arrived in the country by road, 35 046 (13,2%) arrived by air and none arrived by sea. Information on tourists shows that 748 629 (74,5%) used road, 256 656 (25,5%) used air and one (less than 0,1%) used sea.

Tourists

Sex and age distribution of tourists

Sex

There were more male [583 010 (58,0%)] than female [422 276 (42,0%)] tourists. Male tourists constituted the majority of tourists for all three regions, South African Development Community (SADC) countries [468 285 (59,5%)], overseas countries [105 996 (52,1%)] and 'other' African countries [8 310 (59,6%)]. Similarly, the largest portion of female tourists was from SADC countries [318 946 (40,5%)], followed by overseas countries [97 380 (47,9%)] and 'other' African countries [5 623 (40,4%)].

Age

The age distribution indicates that out of all tourists, 5,7% (57 434) were aged younger than 15; 9,8% (98 469) were aged between 15 and 24; 23,8% (238 903) were aged between 25 and 34; 29,0% (291 348) were aged between 35 and 44; 18,7% (188 409) were aged between 45 and 54; 8,3% (83 908) were aged between 55 and 64 and 4,7% (46 814) were aged 65 and above.

Purpose of visit of tourists

In August 2026, the majority of tourists, 981 604 (97,6%), were in South Africa for holiday, compared with 20 195 (2,0%), 3 186 (0,3%) and 301 (less

than 0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and medical treatment, respectively.

Mode of travel of tourists

In August 2026, 182 606 (89,8%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 20 769 (10,2%) came by road and one (less than 1,0%) came by sea. Tourists from the SADC countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 725 463 (92,2%), 61 768 (7,8%) came by air and none arrived by sea. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 11 682 (83,8%), while 2 251 (16,2%) used road transport and none preferred sea.

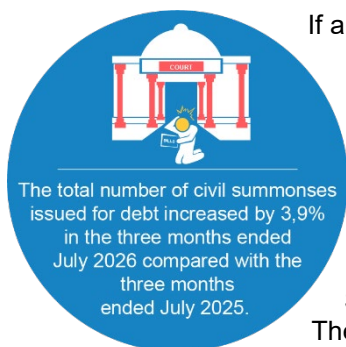
Most tourists who arrived by road came through Lebombo port (230 831) in Mpumalanga and Beit Bridge port (175 757) in Limpopo. The majority of tourists who came by air entered through OR Tambo International Airport (179 610) and Cape Town International Airport (73 400). Tourists who arrived by sea came through Cape Town Harbour (1).

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

Travel direction	August	July	August	% Change	% Change
	2025	2026	2026	Jul 2026 – Aug 2026	Aug 2025 – Aug 2026
Total	3 212 478	3 154 725	3 222 690	2,2	0,3
South African residents	787 969	844 503	762 531	-9,7	-3,2
Arrivals	378 714	454 834	373 843	-17,8	-1,3
Departures	408 654	389 093	387 967	-0,3	-5,1
Transits	601	576	721	25,2	20,0
Foreign travellers	2 424 509	2 310 222	2 460 159	6,5	1,5
Arrivals	1 263 873	1 273 663	1 304 763	2,4	3,2
Departures	1 097 522	984 479	1 090 191	10,7	-0,7
Transits	63 114	52 080	65 205	25,2	3,3

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



If a person owes you money, sells you faulty goods or, fails to deliver on a service you paid for, you can take the matter to the Small Claims Court for a resolution. Small Claims Courts in South Africa deal with a range of civil cases at no cost for the claimant. On 1 August 2026, the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DOJ&CD) announced an increase in the monetary limit for cases that can be heard in the Small Claims Court, from R20 000 to R30 000.

The Department says the increase will make justice more accessible by allowing ordinary South Africans to resolve civil disputes without incurring costly legal fees. Previously, creditors

with claims above the monetary limit were often unable to pursue legal action due to the costs involved. However, with the increase, they can approach the Small Claims Court to recover their money. As more people pursue legal action through the courts, the number of civil summonses issued for debt could rise. Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) data already suggest that the number of cases heard in Small Claims Courts are increasing. In July 2026, Stats SA recorded 35 995 civil summonses issued for debt, a 3,9% increase in the three months ended July 2026 compared with the three months ended July 2025, indicating an increase in legal action taken against individuals who fail to meet their debt obligations. This article is a summary of the *Statistics of civil cases for debt* (Statistical release P0041) for July 2026.



The total number of civil summonses issued for debt increased by 3,9% in the three months ended July 2026 compared with the three months ended July 2025 (see Table M).

The number of civil summonses issued for debt

The largest positive contributors to the 3,9% increase in civil summonses issued were:

- promissory notes (contributing 2,8 percentage points);
- money lent (contributing 0,4 of a percentage point); and
- goods sold (contributing 0,4 of a percentage point).

Services (contributing -0,1 of a percentage point) was the only negative contributor.

The number of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total number of civil judgements recorded for debt increased by 7,6% in the three months ended July 2026 compared with the three months ended July 2025.

The largest positive contributors to the 7,6% increase were civil judgements relating to:

- 'other' debts (contributing 5,2 percentage points);

- services (contributing 1,9 percentage points); and
- promissory notes (contributing 1,8 percentage points).

Rent (contributing -1,0 percentage point) was the largest negative contributor.

The value of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total value of civil judgements recorded for debt increased by 12,6% in the three months ended July 2026 compared with the three months ended July 2025.

The largest positive contributors were:

- 'other' debts (contributing 6,1 percentage points);
- money lent (contributing 4,9 percentage points);
- promissory notes (contributing 3,0 percentage points); and
- goods sold (contributing 1,9 percentage points).

Rent (contributing -3,9 percentage points) was the only negative contributor. In July 2026, 10 732 civil judgements for debt amounting to R352,1 million were recorded. The largest contributors to the total value of judgements were:

- 'other' debts (R98,5 million or 28,0%);
- money lent (R83,1 million or 23,6%);
- promissory notes (R66,0 million or 18,8%); and
- services (R55,6 million or 15,8%).

Table M – Key figures for July 2026

Actual estimates	Jul 2026	% change between Jul 2025 and Jul 2026	% change between May – Jul 2025 and May – Jul 2026
Number of civil summonses issued for debt	35 995	2,9	3,9
Number of civil judgements recorded for debt	10 732	3,1	7,6
Value of civil judgements recorded for debt (R million)	352,1	-2,1	12,6

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



Many companies in South Africa face high operating costs due to escalating expenses such as electricity, rent, security, high interest rates and to pay its debts or borrowed capital. These are some of the reasons companies are struggling to stay afloat in business. In terms of the Companies Act, 2008 (Act No. 71 of 2008), directors of a company should consider liquidation as soon as the business is unable to pay its debt. The liquidation method directors may opt for is voluntary liquidation, which

takes place when a company resolves to wind up its affairs by own choice than compulsory liquidation (liquidation taking place when the affairs of a company or close corporation are wound up by order of the court) The statistics of liquidation published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) for August 2026 indicate that directors and companies opted to liquidate companies themselves. The data show that the number of liquidations recorded in the first eight months of 2026 decreased to 1 828, from 1 952 in the first eight months of 2025. Out of 1 828 liquidations, 1 634 were compulsory liquidations, while 194 were voluntary liquidations. This article summarises the results of the *Statistics of liquidations* (Statistical release P0043.1) for August 2026.



The total number of liquidations decreased by 15,3% (from 268 to 227) in August 2026 compared with August 2025 (see Table N).

Liquidations of companies decreased by 32 cases and liquidations of close corporations decreased by nine cases during this period.

The number of liquidations decreased by 13,7% (from 825 to 712) in the three months ended August 2026 compared with the three months ended August 2025.

A decrease of 6,4% (from 1 952 to 1 828) in the number of liquidations was recorded in the first eight months of 2026 compared with the first eight months of 2025.

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

Number of liquidations August 2026	% change between August 2025 and August 2026	Number of liquidations June to August 2026 and June to August 2025	% change between January to August 2025 and January to August 2026
227	-15,3	-13,7	-6,4

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

Land transport



A driver's licence in several countries around the world is valid for 10 years, depending on the driver's age and licence class. To align South Africa's domestic driver's licence, Department of Transport Minister, Barbara Creecy, on 17 August 2026, gazetted a proposal to change the validity period of driving licence for light motor vehicles and motorcycles from five to 10 years. The decision to extend the validity period of driving licences for motor vehicles and motorcycles was approved by the Cabinet on 29

July 2026. The extension applies to code A, A1, B and EB. Heavy motor vehicle and public transport vehicle licences, such as code C1, C, and EC are exempted from the extension. The extended validity period of driving licences for motor vehicles and motorcycles means that there will be less queues at Driver's Licence Testing Centres (DLTCs) and lower administrative backlogs, which will lessen the impact caused by breakdowns of licence printing machine among others. This article summarises the results of *Land transport* (Statistical release P7162) for July 2026.

Freight transportation



The volume of goods transported (payload) decreased by 0,8% in July 2026 compared with July 2025 (see **Table O**).

The corresponding income increased by 9,0% over the same period.

Income from freight transportation increased by 9,9% in the three months ended July 2026 compared with the three months ended July 2025. The main positive contributors to this increase were:

- 'other' freight (20,7%, contributing 4,6 percentage points);
- manufactured food, beverages and tobacco products (14,2%, contributing 1,4 percentage points);
- containers (37,2%, contributing 1,1 percentage points); and
- agriculture and forestry primary products (11,7%, contributing 1,0 percentage point).

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

	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26
Freight payload	-2,3	1,0	6,9	3,7	1,3	-0,8
Freight income	1,2	4,0	12,7	10,1	10,7	9,0

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 8,4% in July 2026 compared with July 2025. The corresponding income increased by 9,3% over the same period (see **Table P**).

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

	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26
Passenger payload	4,0	6,3	6,5	4,0	8,6	8,4
Passenger income	7,5	7,2	6,6	5,0	5,7	9,3

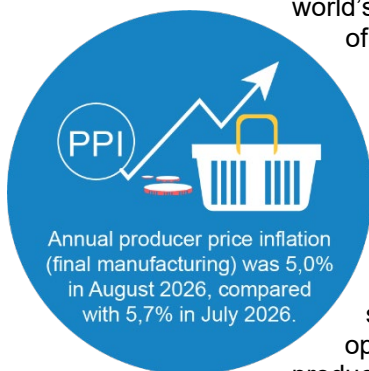
A full release on *Land transport* (Statistical release P7162) is available on the Stats SA website:
www.statssa.gov.za.



Prices

Producer price index (PPI)

South African cherry producers will for the first time gain access to the world's largest cherry importing market, China, as part of broader efforts to strengthen agricultural trade between the two countries. In 2025, China



imported about 586,900 tonnes of cherries worth US\$3,3 billion, approximately R52,8 billion, mainly from Chile. South Africa produced 3 000 tonnes in the same year, accounting for 0,27% of Southern Hemisphere cherry exports in 2025/26.

Although South Africa's export share remains small, access to China could create an opportunity for producers to increase exports, production and support job creation in the agricultural sector. Ultimately, producer prices will be influenced by factors such as production costs, demand for the fruit, availability in local and international markets, among others. Annual producer price inflation (final manufacturing) was 5,0% in August 2026, compared with 5,7% in July 2026. Food products, beverages and tobacco products (-0,3%, contributing -0,1 of a percentage point) were one of the main negative contributors to the PPI. Presented in this article is a summary of the *Producer price index (PPI)* (Statistical release P0142.1) for August 2026.



Annual producer price inflation (final manufacturing) was 5,0% in August 2026, compared with 5,7% in July 2026 (see **Table Q**).

Final manufactured goods – headline PPI

The producer price index (PPI) decreased by 0,4% month-on-month in August 2026. The main positive contributors to the headline PPI annual inflation rate were coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products (13,6%, contributing 2,9 percentage points) and metals, machinery, equipment and computing equipment (3,4%, 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 (-1,4%, contributing -0,3 of a percentage point) and food products, beverages and tobacco products (-0,3%, contributing -0,1 of a percentage point).

Intermediate manufactured goods

The annual percentage change in the PPI for intermediate manufactured goods was 8,8% in August 2026, compared with 9,8% in July 2026. The index decreased by 0,6% month-on-month. The main positive contributors to the annual rate were:

- basic and fabricated metals (8,7%, contributing 4,3 percentage points);
- chemicals, rubber and plastic products (11,6%, contributing 3,4 percentage points);
- sawmilling and wood (7,1%, contributing 0,7 of a percentage point); and
- recycling and manufacturing n.e.c. (7,7%, contributing 0,5 of a percentage point).

The main negative contributor to the monthly rate was chemicals, rubber and plastic products (-5,3%, contributing -1,6 percentage points).

Electricity and water

The annual percentage change in the PPI for electricity and water was 7,8% in August 2026, compared with 7,5% in July 2026. The index decreased by 1,7% month-on-month. The contributors to the annual rate were electricity (8,5%, contributing 7,2 percentage points) and water (8,3%, contributing 1,1 percentage points). The contributor to the monthly rate was electricity (-2,0%, contributing -1,7 percentage points).

Mining

The annual percentage change in the PPI for mining was 7,3% in August 2026, compared with 9,9% in July 2026. The index decreased by 1,1% month-on-month. The positive contributors to the annual rate were non-ferrous metal ores (15,9%, contributing 7,4 percentage points) and gold and other metal ores (4,0%, contributing 1,1 percentage points). The negative contributors to the monthly rate were coal and gas (-7,7%, contributing -1,5 percentage points) and stone quarrying, clay and diamonds (-15,9%, contributing -0,6 of a percentage point).

Agriculture, forestry and fishing

The annual percentage change in the PPI for agriculture, forestry and fishing was -1,8% in August 2026, compared with -4,5% in July 2026. The index increased by 0,4% month-on-month. The negative contributor to the annual rate was agriculture (-3,6%, contributing -3,0 percentage points). The positive contributor to the monthly rate was agriculture (0,4%, contributing 0,4 of a percentage point).

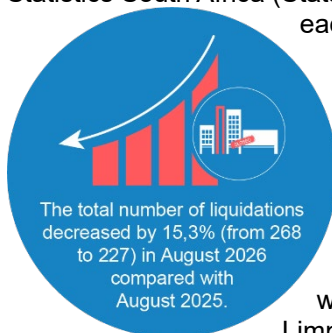
Table Q – Key PPI figures for August 2026

Product	Weight	Index (Dec 2023=100)			% change	
		Aug 2025	Jul 2026	Aug 2026	Aug 2026 vs. Jul 2026	Aug 2026 vs. Aug 2025
Final manufactured goods	103,6	109,2	108,8	-0,4	5,0	103,6
Intermediate manufactured goods	112,0	122,6	121,9	-0,6	8,8	112,0
Electricity and water	158,0	173,2	170,3	-1,7	7,8	158,0
Mining	111,9	121,4	120,1	-1,1	7,3	111,9
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	99,8	97,6	98,0	0,4	-1,8	99,8

A full release on the *Producer price index (PPI)* (Statistical release P0142.1) for July 2026 is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Consumer price index (CPI)

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) publishes the consumer price index (CPI) for each of South Africa's nine provinces because households buy different basket of goods and price changes vary by province. That means every province has its own basket of goods and every product that appears in at least one provincial basket is included in the national basket. According to CPI results for August 2026 published by Stats SA, Western Cape was the only province with annual inflation at 5,5%, which was above the national headline rate of 4,4%, while Limpopo had the lowest at 3,1%. This article summarises the results of the *Consumer price index (CPI)* (Statistical release P0141) for August 2026.



Annual consumer price inflation was 4,4% in August 2026, up from 4,3% in July 2026 (**see Table R**).

The CPI remained unchanged month-on-month in August 2026.

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

- housing and utilities (5,2%, contributing 1,3 percentage points);
- transport (8,8%, contributing 1,2 percentage points); and
- insurance and financial services (5,7%, contributing 0,6 of a percentage point).

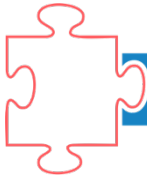
In August 2026, the annual inflation rate for:

- goods was 3,3%, down from 3,4% in July 2026; and
- services was 5,1%, up from 5,0% in July 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	Ave- rage 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	107,7	107,7					
	Rate	3,5	3,0	3,1	4,0	4,5	5,0	4,3	4,4					

^{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; osmium, 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.



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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