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# Statistical release

## Survey of Employers and the Self-employed 2023

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#### SESE 2023 highlights

- The total number of persons who ran informal businesses declined from 2,3 million in 2001 to 1,1 million in 2009, before increasing to 1,8 million in 2017 and to 1,9 million in 2023.
- Findings from 2023 show that roughly 98,4% of informal business owners had only one business, and the majority of them have been operating the business for more than a year but not more than 3 years (22,5%). The second-largest percentage was recorded among those who have been running their businesses for more than 10 years (22,4%).
- Provincial disparities show that Gauteng (28,9%), followed by KwaZulu-Natal (16,8%) and Limpopo (15,8%), had the highest share of informal businesses in 2023.
- Between 2001 and 2005 women were more likely to run informal businesses compared with men, while between 2009 and 2023 men became more likely to run informal businesses than women.
- Black Africans had the highest proportion of the working-age population running informal businesses over the period 2001–2023; however, their proportion declined by 4,7 percentage points from 9,7% in 2001 to 5,0% in 2023.
- The proportion of the working-age population running informal businesses increased with age and peaked at 45–54 years throughout the period 2001–2023.
- Roughly 72,0% of non-VAT registered businesses did not keep financial records in 2023, a decrease from 80,5% recorded in 2001. In 2023, 56,8% of persons running these businesses had less than a matric qualification.
- About 89,3% of persons who ran informal businesses in 2023 did so without a licence or permit, and the majority of those who had licences or permits (44,1%) obtained them from a municipality or provincial authority.
- The majority of informal businesses were in the trade industry (48,2% in 2023), with most of them operated by women (51,0% in 2023).
- In 2023, more than 80,0% of persons running non-VAT registered businesses used their own money to start the business.
- Unemployment or lack of alternative income sources was the main reason why most people started their informal businesses, accounting for 57,1% of the business owners in 2023.
- More than nine in every ten informal businesses had no business debt, credit facility, mortgage loan or asset finance between 2013 and 2023.
- Among the non-VAT registered businesses, the Manufacturing industry (69,1% in 2023) had a higher
  proportion of businesses that used raw materials compared with any other industry, while the Trade
  industry (53,1% in 2023) had the highest proportion of businesses that used supplies compared with
  other industries.
- In 2023, 74,4% of informal businesses did not have bank accounts. Among those who had bank accounts, the majority used them mainly to make business payments.

- In 2023, 88,7% of employees in informal businesses were paid employees compared with 65,3% recorded in 2001.
- The majority of employees in informal businesses were working in the Trade industry at 33,9%.
- The majority of the employers running non-VAT registered businesses accumulated total labour costs below R1 500 over the period 2001–2017, while in 2023 the majority incurred labour costs above R1 500. The proportion of those who accumulated total labour costs of R6 001+ increased from 2,8% in 2001 to 18,8% in 2023.
- The proportion of persons running informal businesses with a turnover (in the last month) between R3 001 and R6 000 was higher among men compared with women. There was a huge gender gap of about 10,3 percentage points for persons who had a turnover of above R6 001, where men and women recorded 24,8% and 14,5% respectively in 2023.
- The highest proportions for those who had turnover above R6 000 in the last month in 2023 were in the Secondary sector (26,8%).
- Larger proportions of women compared with men made net profits below R1 500 between 2001 and 2023.
- The highest proportions for those who earned net profits above R6 000 in the last month were in the Secondary sector (15,5%) in 2023.

#### Key concepts and definitions

**Raw materials:** products that are changed/processed in some way before reselling, e.g. flour to make bread. In this case, flour is a raw material because it is changed into bread before selling.

**Supplies:** products that are not changed before reselling, e.g. cold drinks bought and resold at a higher price. In this case, cold drinks have not been changed before selling, and are therefore regarded as supplies in this survey.

**Turnover:** total value of sales in a business during the reference period. This excludes any money coming from sources not related to the business.

**Profit:** the money generated from the business after deduction of expenses.

**Business location:** the site of operation. This may be different from the administrative activities of the business. For example, a taxi owner operates from a taxi rank, but does his administrative work at home. In this case, the site of operation is the taxi rank.

Industry classification is as follows:

Primary industry: Agriculture and Mining

Secondary industry: Manufacturing, Utilities and Construction

Tertiary industry: Trade, Transport, Finance, Social and personal services, and Private households

#### 1. Introduction

In South Africa, the informal sector accounts for the second largest share of total employment after the formal sector. It is the second largest share of employment in the country. The informal sector is defined differently by countries and South Africa in particular, considers the status of VAT business registration for employers and own-account workers and/ or the number of employees in the business for employees.

Small businesses in the informal sector often do not have links with businesses in the formal sector, as they operate in different markets with different customers. An example is somebody selling food on the side of the street, or out of his or her household premises. Even in situations where these firms may be connected to formal firms, their low bargaining power and fierce cost-cutting competition render them unable to operate like formal sector entities.

Against this background, this report presents the results of the Survey of Employers and the Self-employed (SESE) conducted by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) in the third quarter of 2017. Comparisons are conducted between the six SESE surveys for the following years: 2001, 2005, 2009, 2013, 2017 and 2023.

#### 2. Purpose of the survey

The SESE survey aims to provide information about the characteristics of businesses in the informal sector in South Africa, and provides an understanding of their operation and access to information and services. The information presented in this report supplements the Quarterly Employment Statistics Survey (QES) that collects information from formal sector businesses that are registered for VAT.

The main objectives of SESE are:

- To determine the contribution made by businesses not registered for VAT towards economic growth.
- To collect reliable data about people running businesses not registered for VAT.
- To identify the non-income tax paying and income tax paying businesses within the non-VAT paying businesses.
- To produce comprehensive statistical information about informal sector businesses, at national and provincial levels.

#### 3. How SESE was conducted

Currently, there is no sampling frame on which to base weights and raising factors for unregistered businesses in South Africa. As a result, SESE is a household-based survey, consisting of two phases. The first phase involves identifying individuals who are running businesses based on the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) conducted in the third quarter of each year (July–September). The second phase involves a follow-up interview with the owners of these businesses to determine the nature of their businesses.

The criterion for inclusion in SESE depends on whether the business is registered for value added tax (VAT). Only persons who had businesses that are not registered for VAT were included in the survey. These businesses are generally excluded from the Business Frame used by Stats SA during surveys to assess the formal economy.

In 2001, SESE was conducted in March and the SESE interview was undertaken immediately after the Labour Force Survey (LFS) interview while the enumerator was still at the dwelling unit. In 2005, SESE data collection occurred in September over a two-week period. In 2009, 2013, 2017 and 2023 data collection for the QLFS occurred in September during the middle two weeks of the month throughout the quarter, while SESE data collection was undertaken in the last week of the month, also throughout the quarter.

Because of these changes in the methodology, comparisons between the previous surveys and this survey should be interpreted with caution.

#### 4. Data issues

SESE 2009 estimates that were previously published have been revised based on new population benchmarks from the 2011 Population Census. The 2005 SESE estimates have not been adjusted to reflect the new population benchmarks. The adjustment process in this regard is more complex since it involves the computation of new link factors to align the historical LFS series (2000 to 2007) to the QLFS series.

Caution is therefore required when interpreting trends based on the absolute numbers, which include the 2005 results. SESE trends based on proportions are more reliable. For this reason, the analysis in this report relies exclusively on trends of various proportions.

The statistical appendix includes both the absolute numbers and proportions, but it is advisable not to focus on differences in absolute numbers between 2001 and 2005 as well as those between 2005 and 2009 – the proportions would be more reliable.

The 2001 and 2005 datasets only covered those aged 15–64 years, while in 2009, 2013, 2017 and 2023 all persons aged 15 years and older were included. For comparability, the analysis is based only on those aged 15–64 years.

#### 5. Non-VAT registered businesses in the context of the informal sector

The survey collects information on informal businesses from owners of such businesses. Details are collected from a maximum of three businesses. The analysis in this report is based on the main business operated by persons engaged in non-VAT registered businesses. The main business is the one that generated the most income or turnover. The vast majority of people in the survey were engaged in only one business (over 98,0% in 2023). But where they were engaged in more than one business, the main business did not necessarily have the same features as other businesses owned by the person/partners. In light of this, the results should be interpreted with caution.

Diagram 1 – Defining the informal sector

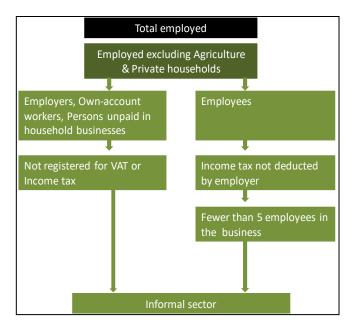


Diagram 2 – Formal sector businesses as a proportion of non-VAT registered businesses, 2023

Business registration details	2023
business registration details	Thousand
1. Non-VAT business	1 873
2. Non-VAT and non-income tax	1 739
3. Non-VAT but pay income tax	134
Percentage of non-VAT	
businesses paying income tax	7,1
Non-VAT formal (paying income	tax)
Non-VAT informal sector	

The informal sector is defined in terms of registration and the size of the business in terms of the number of employees. In line with international guidelines, Agriculture and Private Households are identified separately and are not included in the formal or informal sectors. Employers, own-account workers and persons working unpaid in their household businesses, whose businesses are not registered for VAT or income tax, are part of the informal sector. The other element of informal sector employment comprises employees from whom income tax is not deducted by their employers and who work in businesses with fewer than five employees (Diagram 1).

Diagram 2 shows that non-VAT registered businesses are predominantly in the informal sector. In 2023, about 1,7 million of the 1,9 million persons who ran non-VAT registered businesses were operating in the informal sector.

The results of the SESE analysed in this report will refer to non-VAT registered businesses as informal businesses for ease of analysis.

#### 6. Results

#### 6.1 Profile of individuals running non-VAT registered businesses

This section examines the characteristics of persons who ran non-VAT registered businesses (informal businesses) by sex, age group and population group. Table 1 presents the distribution of persons running such businesses according to the number of businesses each person has and the length of time the business operated, while the demographic profile of those operating informal businesses is presented in Table 2.

Table 1 - Individuals running at least one non-VAT registered business, 2001-2023

	2001	2005*	2009	2013	2017	2023	2001	2005	2009	2013	2017	2023
			Tho	usand			Percent					
By sex												
Women	1 370	925	557	677	725	792	60,7	55,5	48,7	44,6	40,4	42,3
Men	888	743	587	840	1 068	1 080	39,3	44,5	51,3	55,4	59,6	57,7
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	1 873	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
By number of businesses												
1 business	2 217	1 610	1 125	1 490	1 762	1 843	98,2	96,5	98,3	98,3	98,2	98,4
2 businesses	38	56	7	26	29	29	1,7	3,4	0,6	1,7	1,6	1,5
3 businesses	3	1	12		3	1	0,1	0,1	1,0	0,0	0,1	0,1
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	1 873	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Start of business												
Less than a year ago	559	299	244	308	321	308	24,8	17,9	21,3	20,3	17,9	16,4
1 year but less than 3 years	749	560	290	358	413	421	33,2	33,6	25,4	23,6	23,0	22,5
3 years but less than 5 years	403	352	187	268	294	324	17,8	21,1	16,4	17,7	16,4	17,3
5 years but less than 10 years ago	288	249	214	278	379	387	12,7	14,9	18,7	18,4	21,2	20,7
10 or more years ago	249	207	208	298	383	420	11,0	12,4	18,1	19,6	21,4	22,4
Don't know	9	2	1	6	3	13	0,4	0,1	0,1	0,4	0,2	0,7
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	1 873	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

The number of persons running informal businesses decreased from 2,3 million in 2001 to 1,1 million in 2009, but then rose again in 2013, 2017, and 2023, reaching 1,5 million, 1,8 million, and 1,9 million, respectively. In 2023, over 98,4% of individuals running non-VAT registered businesses operated just one business. Between 2001 and 2005, the sector had a higher proportion of women, but from 2009 to 2023, men were more likely to run informal businesses, with their share rising from 51,3% to 57,7% during this period. The number of individuals operating informal businesses for five or more years increased between 2001 and 2023, while those running businesses for less than five years declined.

<sup>\*</sup> The 2005 SESE estimates have not been adjusted to reflect the new population benchmarks.

Figure 1 – Share of people running non-VAT registered businesses by sex, 2001–2023

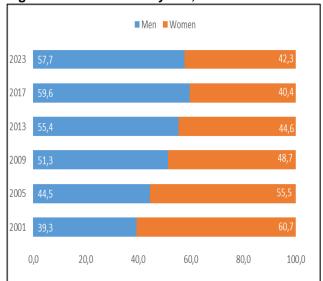
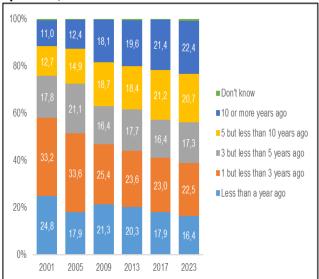


Figure 2 – Length of time the business has been operated, 2001–2023



Although there was an overall decline in the number of persons running informal businesses in 2023 compared with 2001 (as shown in Table 1), the results reveal some interesting trends. In 2001 and 2005, a significant proportion of non-VAT registered businesses were operated by women (over 55,0%), but this trend shifted after 2009, with men taking the lead from 2009 to 2023 (Figure 1).

Figure 2 illustrates that the percentage of people running informal businesses for 10 years or longer increased from 11,0% in 2001 to 22,4% in 2023. There was also a notable rise in the proportion of individuals operating informal businesses for 5 to 10 years during this period. Conversely, the proportion of those running informal businesses for less than 5 years declined.

Table 2 – Percentage of individuals running non-VAT registered businesses by population group, age group and province, 2001–2023

	2001	2005	2009	2013	2017	2023				
	Per cent									
By population group										
Black/African	89,4	92,5	89,9	88,8	90,8	88,9				
Coloured	3,7	3,1	3,8	3,1	3,5	3,5				
Indian/Asian	2,2	0,9	1,2	2,6	1,8	1,4				
White	4,7	3,5	5,1	5,5	3,9	6,2				
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0				
By age										
15-24 yrs.	9,4	7,8	6,0	4,9	4,4	4,5				
25-34 yrs.	29,3	27,7	25,6	25,3	24,6	23,7				
35-44 yrs.	27,9	28,7	33,6	31,7	32,4	33,1				
45-54 yrs.	21,3	24,8	24,1	26,0	25,1	26,5				
55-64 yrs.	12,1	11,0	10,8	12,1	13,6	12,1				
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0				
By province										
Western Cape	5,3	5,6	6,8	6,0	8,5	10,2				
Eastern Cape	10,1	12,3	12,2	9,5	9,8	7,4				
Northern Cape	1,2	0,7	0,7	8,0	0,5	0,5				
Free State	5,9	6,3	5,2	4,0	5,1	4,9				
KwaZulu-Natal	25,4	20,0	20,6	20,0	14,7	16,8				
North West	7,5	7,4	6,0	4,9	6,2	4,1				
Gauteng	24,8	25,5	24,1	29,9	28,6	28,9				
Mpumalanga	9,8	8,1	11,0	10,6	10,2	11,5				
Limpopo	10,0	13,9	13,3	14,2	16,5	15,8				
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0				

Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

The proportion of black Africans running informal businesses increased from 89,4% in 2001 to 90,8% in 2017, before experiencing a slight decline to 88,9% in 2023, while the Indian/Asian population saw a decrease between 2017 and 2023. The coloured population group remained unchanged while the white population recorded an increase of 2,3 percentage points between 2017 and 2023.

In 2023, there was an increase in the proportion of individuals aged 35–64 years running informal businesses compared with 2001. The most significant rise was among those aged 35–44 years, which grew from 27,9% in 2001 to 33,1% in 2023. According to Table 2, from 2001 to 2009 the highest proportion of informal businesses was concentrated in Gauteng, followed by KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, and Western Cape, each with proportions above 10%. Recent trends show a decline in the proportion of informal businesses in five out of the nine provinces between 2001 and 2023. In 2023, the highest concentration of informal businesses was in Gauteng (28,9%), followed by KwaZulu-Natal (16,8%) and Limpopo (15,8%).

#### 6.2 Persons running non-VAT registered businesses as a percentage of the working-age population

This section focuses on the share of the working-age population running informal businesses by demographic characteristics (sex, age and population group), geographic location (province) as well as educational level. The intention is to provide information regarding the size of the informal sector businesses relative to the working-age population.

Figure 3 – Proportion of the working-age population running non-VAT registered businesses by sex, 2001–2023



Figure 4 – Proportion of the working-age population running non-VAT registered businesses by population group, 2001–2023

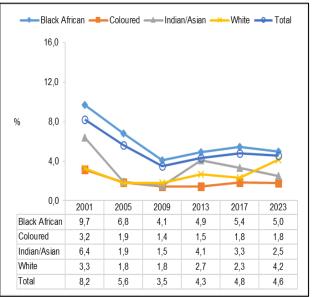
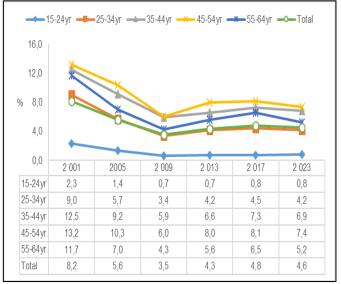


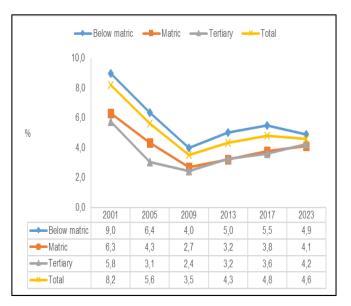
Figure 3 shows that, overall, the proportion of the population running non-VAT registered businesses has declined for both sexes between 2001 and 2023. The share of the working-age population involved in informal businesses dropped from 8,3% in 2001 to 3,5% in 2009, then rose slightly to 4,3% in 2013 and 4,8% in 2017 (Figure 3). Between 2001 and 2005, a larger proportion of working-age women were involved in informal businesses compared with men. However, by 2009, this trend reversed, with more men running informal businesses, and this continued through to 2023, where the proportion of working-age men was 1,5 percentage points higher than that of women.

Figure 4 illustrates that the proportion of people running non-VAT registered businesses decreased across all population groups between 2001 and 2023, except for the white population in 2023, which increased to 4,2%. Among black Africans, the proportion running informal businesses declined from 9,8% in 2001 to 4,1% in 2009, and slightly increased to 5,0% in 2023. For the white population group, the proportion remained stable at 1,8% between 2005 and 2009 but rose to 4,2% in 2023, up from 2,3% in 2017. In 2013, this overall downward trend was reversed, and the percentage of the working-age population engaged in informal businesses increased across all population groups. However, in 2023 only the white population saw an increase, while the black African and Indian/Asian population groups recorded declines. The coloured population remained unchanged.

Figure 5 – Proportion of the working-age population running non-VAT registered businesses by age group, 2001–2023

Figure 6 – Proportion of the working-age population running non-VAT registered businesses by education level, 2001–2023





Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

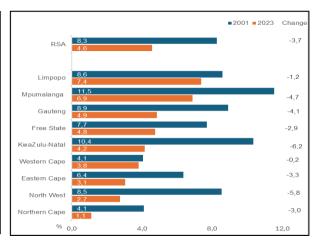
Between 2001 and 2009, there was a decline in the proportion of the working-age population running informal businesses across all age groups, followed by an increase in 2013. However, for the 15–24 age group, the proportion remained unchanged between 2009 and 2013, and again between 2017 and 2023 (Figure 5). Over the period from 2001 to 2023, the proportion of the working-age population involved in informal businesses decreased in all age groups, with the largest decrease seen in the 45–54 age group (7,4%).

Figure 6 illustrates a decline in the proportion of the working-age population running informal businesses across all education levels, from 8,2% in 2001 to 4,6% in 2023. Those with an education level below matric saw the largest decrease, from 9,0% in 2001 to 4,9% in 2023 (a drop of 4,1 percentage points). This was followed by individuals with matric and tertiary education, with decreases of 2,2 and 1,6 percentage points, respectively.

Table 3 – Proportion of the working-age population running non-VAT registered businesses by province, 2001–2023

Figure 7 – Proportion of the working-age population running non-VAT registered businesses by province, 2001 and 2023

	2001	2005	2009	2013	2017	2023				
		Per cent								
Western Cape	4,1	2,8	2,1	2,2	3,4	3,8				
Eastern Cape	6,4	5,4	3,6	3,6	4,2	3,1				
Northern Cape	4,1	1,7	1,2	1,6	1,1	1,1				
Free State	7,7	5,9	3,3	3,3	4,8	4,8				
KwaZulu- Natal	10,4	5,6	3,8	4,7	3,8	4,2				
North West	8,5	5,9	3,1	3,1	4,4	2,7				
Gauteng	8,9	6,3	3,3	5,0	5,1	4,9				
Mpumalanga	11,5	6,5	5,1	6,1	6,4	6,9				
Limpopo	8,6	8,1	4,8	6,3	8,0	7,4				
RSA	8,3	5,7	3,5	4,3	4,8	4,6				



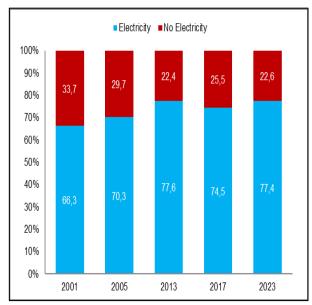
Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

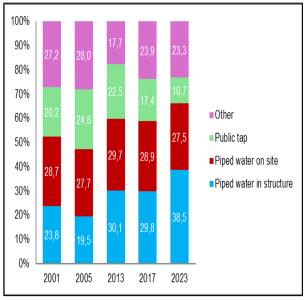
Table 3 shows that the proportion of the working-age population running non-VAT registered businesses declined between 2001 and 2009 in all provinces, whereas in 2013 the proportion increased in six of the nine provinces but remained unchanged in Eastern Cape (3,6%), Free State (3,3%) and North West (3,1%). In 2023, the proportion of the working-age population running informal businesses increased in four of the nine provinces compared with 2017. In 2023, the working-age population running informal businesses was highly concentrated in Limpopo (7,4%), followed by Mpumalanga (6,9%) and Gauteng (4,9%). On the other hand, North West and Northern Cape recorded the lowest proportions of the working-age population running informal businesses at 2,7% and 1,1%, respectively.

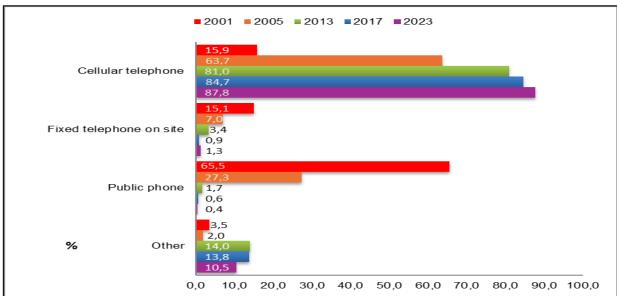
Figure 7 indicates that in 2023 compared with 2001, the proportion of the working-age population running informal businesses declined in every province. The largest decline was observed in KwaZulu-Natal (down by 6,2 percentage points), followed by North West (down by 5,8 percentage points), while the lowest decline was recorded in Western Cape (down by 0,2 of a percentage point).

#### 6.3 Distribution of persons running non-VAT registered businesses

Figure 8 – Access to amenities and services by persons running non-VAT registered businesses, 2001–2023



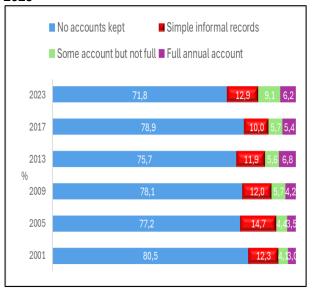




Note: Information on access to amenities was not collected in 2009.

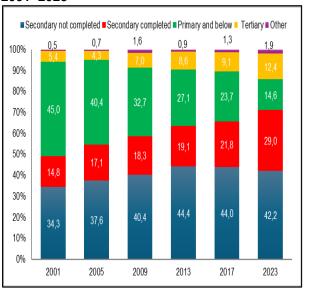
Figure 8 shows that more than one out of five persons (22,6%) running informal businesses had no electricity at their businesses. In addition, as many as 10,7% used water from a public tap while an additional 27,5% had piped water on site. Almost 9 in 10 people had access to cellular telephones (87,8%) during this period. In 2001 about 65,5% of informal business owners had access to public phones, but by 2023 this had declined to 0,4%.

Figure 9 – Financial record-keeping by persons running non-VAT registered businesses, 2001–2023



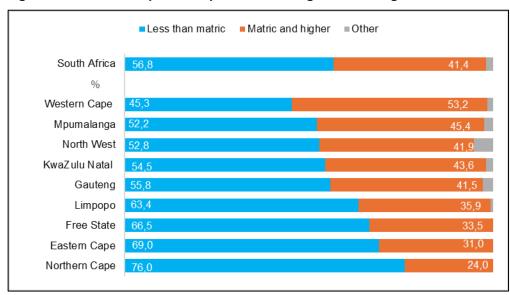
Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

Figure 10 – Education profile of persons running non-VAT registered businesses, 2001–2023



Almost eight out of ten persons (71,8%) running informal businesses did not keep any records, while businesses that kept simple informal records and businesses that kept full annual accounts of their business transactions were 12,9% and 6,2% respectively in 2023 (Figure 9). During the period 2001 to 2023, there has been a decrease in the proportion of persons running non-VAT registered businesses who had less primary education, and there was an increase in those whose secondary education was not completed at 42,2% in 2023 from 34,3% in 2001. Similarly, there have been increases in those with secondary education completed and those who had tertiary education (Figure 10).

Figure 11 - Education profile of persons running non-VAT registered businesses by province, 2023



Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories. Percentages for the 'other' category are very low to be displayed.

Figure 11 shows that in 2023 the majority of persons running informal businesses had less than matric as their highest level of education. The share of informal business owners without matric was higher than the national

average in Limpopo, Free State, Eastern Cape and Northern Cape. The share of those with educational levels of matric or higher was more than 50,0% only in the Western Cape.

#### 6.4 Licence to operate and location of non-VAT registered businesses

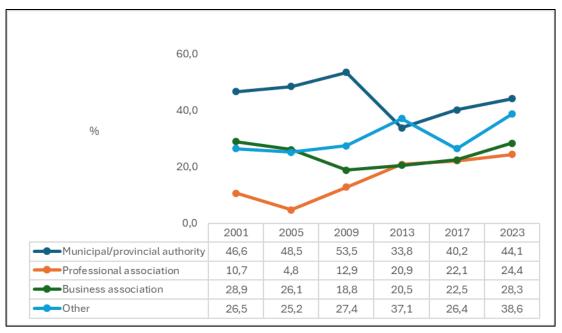
Table 4 – Licence to operate a business and issuer of such licences for persons running non-VAT registered businesses, 2001–2023

	2001	2005	2009	2013	2017	2023	
If a business has a licence(s) or permit(s)	Per cent						
Yes	7,3	10,6	12,1	12,5	8,2	10,7	
No	92,7	89,4	87,9	87,5	91,8	89,3	
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	
Issuing authority for those who said yes							
Municipal/provincial authority	46,6	48,5	53,5	33,8	40,2	44,1	
Professional association	10,7	4,8	12,9	20,9	22,1	24,4	
Business association	28,9	26,1	18,8	20,5	22,5	28,3	
Regional Services Council	8,7	4,1	1,0	-	-	-	
Traditional leader	8,2	8,1	9,1	5,3	14,2	7,0	
Protection agency/ies	1,6	5,9	-	1,4	2,7	0,7	
Friend/relative	3,1	2,4	6,2	1,4	1,7	1,7	
CIPS/CIPRO	-	-	-	20,1	-	19,5	
Landlord	-	-	-	-	0,8	2,4	
Other	4,8	4,7	11,1	8,9	7,0	7,3	

Note: Persons may fall into more than one category as respondents were asked to indicate the all-issuing authority.

Table 4 shows that from 2001 to 2023, the proportion of persons with licences or permits to run an informal business increased from 7,3% in 2001 to 12,5% in 2013, then experienced a decline in 2017 to 8,2% before recovering to 10,7% in 2023; those who run informal businesses without licences/permits observed the opposite trend. Over the same period, most businesses (above 80%) were operating without licences/permits. In 2023, most people with business operating licences or permits (44,1%) obtained them from a municipal/provincial authority, followed by business associations (28,3%) and professional associations (24,4%).

Figure 12 – Proportion of persons running non-VAT registered businesses by type of licence/permit, 2001–2023



Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories. Persons may fall into more than one category as respondents were asked to indicate all issuing authority.

Between 2001 and 2023, most persons owning non-VAT-registered businesses obtained their licences and permits from a municipal or provincial authority; the proportion decreased by 2,5 percentage points from 46,6% to 44,1%. Those who received their licences or permits from business associations decreased from 2001 (at 28,9%) to 2009 (at 18,8%), then experienced an increase from 2013 (20,5%) to 2023 (28,3%). The proportion of persons who obtained licences or permits to run their businesses from professional associations decreased to 4,8% in 2005; this was the lowest percentage ever to be recorded during this time frame.

1,5 1,7 2,4 1,7 100% 5,6 8.1 4,1 5,1 4.9 3,8 80% 10,0 **10**,7 12,0 ■ Another person's dwelling 6,0 11,5 ■ Attached structure 16,1 10,1 ■ Non-residential building 60% 18,2 14,8 18,5 16,8 ■ Taxi rank/bus station/train station 22,1 ■ Footpath/street/open space Other 34,5 40% 18,5 21,3 ■ No fixed location/mobile 16,3 Owners dwelling (family space) Owners dwelling (own space) 20% 27,9 24,2 25,3 21,5 19,8 21,0 0% 2001 2005 2009 2013 2017 2023

Figure 13 – Proportion of persons running non-VAT registered businesses by location, 2001–2023

Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories (Other includes Market, Customer's home/offices.)

The majority of persons running non-VAT businesses (27,9%) in 2023 ran their businesses from the owner's home, which is a separate space set aside at their own home. The minority of persons were most likely to run their businesses from another person's dwelling (3,3%). Furthermore, the proportion of businesses operating from another person's dwelling experienced a slight increase, from 1,5% in 2001 to 3,8% in 2017, then a slight decrease to 3,3% in 2023. Over the years 2001–2003, the percentage of businesses located in transportation hubs has remained mostly constant, with only slight variations. It recorded 3,3% in 2001, increased to 5,4% in 2009, and decreased to 4,6% in 2023.

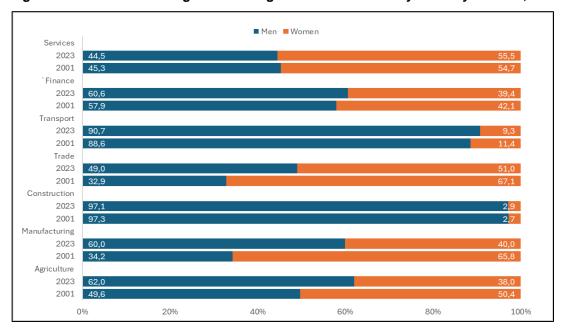
Table 5 - Industry of non-VAT registered businesses, 2001-2023

	2001	2005	2009	2013	2017	2023					
		Per cent									
Agriculture	0,5	1,0	0,8	0,7	1,6	1,4					
Manufacturing	10,7	12,1	9,6	7,4	7,3	8,1					
Construction	3,2	5,8	10,3	10,7	12,0	9,6					
Trade	69,6	66,1	57,0	54,4	51,5	48,2					
Transport	3,3	4,4	3,7	6,2	5,8	5,3					
Finance	5,8	3,5	3,1	7,6	7,9	12,6					
Community and social services	6,8	6,9	10,5	13,1	12,2	14,8					
Other	0,1	0,1	4,9	0,0	1,6	0,0					
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0					

Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

Between 2001 and 2023, the Trade industry reported the largest proportion of informal businesses. The largest proportion in trade was observed in 2001 (69,6%) and decreased from 69,6% in 2001 to 48,2% in 2023. Construction increased from 3,2% in 2001 to 12,0 % in 2017, followed by a decline to 9,6% in 2023. The proportions of informal businesses in the following industries increased between 2001 and 2023: Agriculture; Construction; Community and social services; Transport; and Finance.

Figure 14 - Persons running non-VAT registered businesses by industry and sex, 2001 and 2023



In 2001 and 2023, the Construction, Transportation, Finance, and Agriculture sectors employed the majority of males involved in informal business industries. In addition, women were more likely to be involved in informal businesses within the Trade and Services sectors during the same period. In the Agricultural sector, male participation increased from 49,6% in 2001 to 62,0% in 2023. Similarly, male involvement in the Trade sector rose from 32,9% in 2001 to 49,0% in 2023.

#### 6.5 Reasons and sources of money for starting non-VAT registered businesses

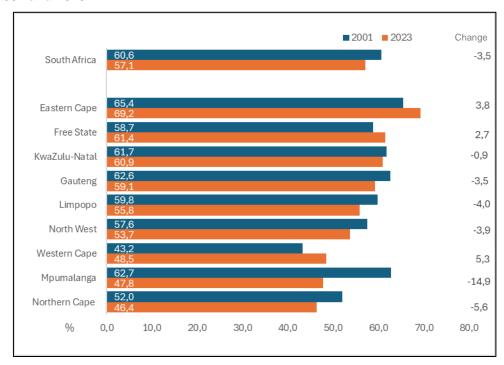
Table 6 – Main reason for running non-VAT registered businesses, 2001–2023

	2001	2005	2009	2013	2017	2023				
		Per cent								
Reason Inherited/family tradition	4,2	3,5	4,6	4,0	4,0	4,4				
Unemployed/have no alternative income source	60,6	68,2	68,3	69,2	63,5	57,1				
Retrenched	4,7	4,2	3,9	3,8	3,5	4,7				
Inadequate income from other source	12,3	3,9	3,9	3,0	1,5	1,7				
I like the activity	4,8	8,2	5,0	3,8	4,1	4,5				
I have the skills	5,1	4,1	8,3	7,1	7,0	7,3				
I have the equipment	1,1	0,3	0,1	0,2	0,2	0,1				
Activity brings high income	2,8	2,6	1,6	1,0	0,2	0,5				
Small investment needed	1,8	1,0	0,8	0,2	0,0	0,6				
Unhappy with previous work	1,1	1,1	1,8	1,7	1,4	1,2				
Other	1,3	2,9	1,7	5,9	14,6	17,9				
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0				

Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

Over the period 2001 to 2023, unemployment was observed as the main reason people decided to start an informal business, the percentage of persons who referred to unemployment as their main reason for starting an informal business decreased from 60,6% in 2001 to 57,1% in 2023. Inadequate income from other sources recorded the highest decrease of 10,6 percentage points from 12,3% in 2001 to 1,7% in 2023.

Figure 15 – Provincial distribution of unemployed persons running non-VAT registered businesses, 2001 and 2023



Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

Six of the nine provinces reported decreases in the proportion of people who reported unemployment as the main reason they started their informal business, between 2001 and 2023. In 2023, Eastern Cape (69,2%) recorded the highest proportion of persons who reported unemployment as their main reason for starting their informal businesses, followed by Free State (61,4%).

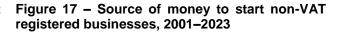
Table 7- Source of money to start non-VAT registered businesses, 2001-2023

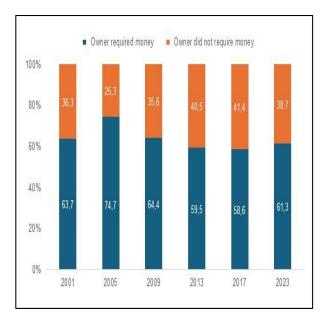
	2001	2005	2009	2013	2017	2023	
Whether or not money was needed	Per cent						
Yes	63,7	74,7	64,4	59,5	58,6	61,3	
No	36,3	25,3	35,6	40,5	41,4	38,7	
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	
Source of money							
Own money	74,4	70,5	74,8	76,0	75,4	81,2	
Other source	25,6	29,5	25,2	24,0	24,6	18,8	
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	
Those who use their own money							
Source of own money Previous and/or present wage employment	44,1	57,9	47,4	53,8	56,8	42,6	
Other business	3,2	4,4	3,1	2,8	4,4	6,1	
Sale of livestock/crops	2,9	1,6	3,3	2,0	1,5	2,0	
Sales of other assets	5,2	3,4	3,3 4,5	2,0	2,3	2,0	
Inheritance	,	5,4 6,0		3,0			
Pension from work	5,3	•	6,2	,	3,6	3,0	
	3,5	2,2	3,3	4,0	3,6	2,2	
Retirement/severance pay	5,2	2,6	5,2	4,4	3,2	2,9	
A policy that matured	0,6	0,2	0,5	0,1	0,1	0,2	
Money paid out from a stokvel	6,0	2,3	8,8	5,8	5,9	4,5	
Other*	24,1	19,4	17,7	21,3	18,7	33,9	
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	

\*Note: Other includes other types of source of own money, old-age grant and other social grants. Old-age grant and other social grants were only available in 2017 and 2023.

Table 7 shows that most persons operating non-VAT registered businesses between 2001 and 2023 needed funding to start their businesses, even though most indicated that they used their own money to start the business rather than other sources of income. Furthermore, those who used their own money to start their business increased from 74,4% in 2001 to 81,2% in 2023. The highest source of money used to start the business was money earned from previous and/or present wage employment and less than 1% used money earned from a policy that matured.

Figure 16 – Whether money was needed to start non-VAT registered businesses, 2001–2023







The highest proportion of people who needed money to start an informal business was reported in 2005 at 74,7%, followed by 2009 at 64,4%. In 2023 the proportion of those who needed money stood at 61,3% (Figure 16). Although 2005 reported the highest proportion of people who required money to start their businesses, the lowest proportion of people who used their own money (70,5%) was reported in the same period (Figure 17).

#### 6.6 Access to loans to start non-VAT registered businesses

Figure 18 – Proportion of those who borrowed money to start a non-VAT registered business by source of money, 2001–2023

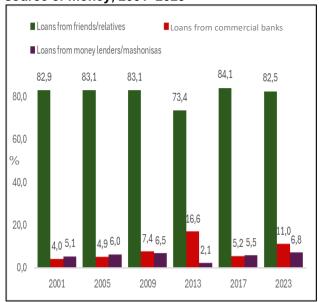


Figure 19 – Proportion of those running non-VAT registered businesses who had business debts, 2001–2023

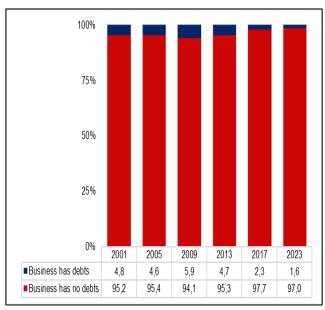


Figure 18 shows that throughout the period from 2001 to 2023, more than 80% of persons running non-VAT registered businesses borrowed money from friends/relatives, except in 2013 when the rate was 73,4%. Loans

from commercial banks were the second-highest source of money to start informal businesses in 2009, 2013 and 2023.

Figure 19 shows that all non-VAT registered businesses had no debts in all periods of the survey. In 2009 only 5,9% of these businesses had debts, which was the highest among all the years, while in 2023 only 1,6% had business debts.

#### 6.7 Use of raw materials and supplies by non-VAT registered businesses

Table 8 – Proportion of those who used raw materials by industry, 2001–2023

Use of raw materials	2001	2005	2009	2013	2017	2023		
	Per cent							
Agriculture	12,0	34,7	49,8	46,7	46,8	46,7		
Manufacturing	76,9	81,0	80,1	75,2	68,6	69,1		
Construction	30,8	27,0	20,3	18,8	25,4	16,6		
Trade	18,2	13,9	8,5	16,3	20,3	21,2		
Transport	1,0	0,9	4,2	3,6	3,8	1,4		
Finance	6,1	24,5	15,4	6,4	9,8	11,3		
Services	31,3	42,3	28,8	15,8	14,2	21,6		
Total	24,5	24,8	19,5	19,5	22,1	22,8		

In 2001 and 2005, close to a quarter of persons who were running informal businesses used raw materials. However, the proportion declined to its lowest at 19,5% in 2009 and 2013 before increasing to 22,8% in 2023. Persons working in the informal manufacturing industry had a higher proportion of using raw materials when compared with other industries. Over the period 2001 to 2023, the use of raw materials by the informal manufacturing industry was higher than all other industries.

Table 9 - Proportion of those who used supplies by industry, 2001–2023

Used supplies	2001	2005	2009	2013	2017	2023	
	Per cent						
Agriculture	69,4	51,0	33,2	23,3	49,7	27,0	
Manufacturing	16,2	19,5	13,5	14,3	35,1	30,4	
Construction	18,9	22,7	12,9	14,9	25,5	15,5	
Trade	72,1	86,8	77,3	65,0	66,4	53,1	
Transport	8,8	21,0	27,5	16,6	16,5	10,6	
Finance	9,4	51,7	22,8	9,5	14,1	16,4	
Community and social services	31,5	37,9	27,5	18,0	35,7	26,4	
Total	55,8	67,0	54,5	42,3	47,3	36,4	

Table 9 shows that the use of supplies by persons running informal businesses decreased from 55,8% in 2001 to 36,4% in 2023. The highest use of supplies by informal businesses was observed in 2005, at 67,0%. People running informal businesses in the trade industry had a higher proportion when compared with other industries that used supplies during the period, and their use ranged from 72,1% in 2001 to 53,1% in 2023.

Figure 20 - Proportion of those who used raw materials by industry, 2001 and 2023

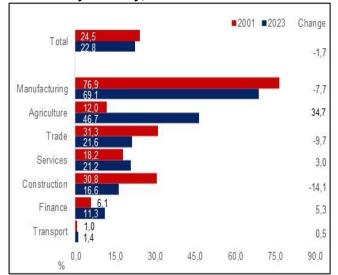
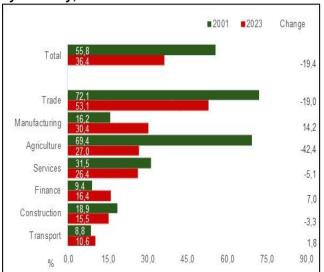


Figure 21 – Proportion of those who used supplies by industry, 2001 and 2023

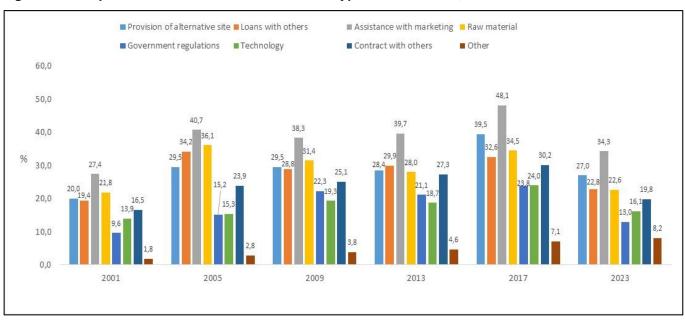


Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

Between 2001 and 2023, the share of those who used raw materials in their businesses decreased by 1,7 percentage points, while the share of those using supplies declined by 19,4 percentage points. A large share of informal businesses in the Manufacturing industry used raw materials as depicted in Figure 20. However, this share decreased from 76,9% in 2001 to 69,1% in 2023. More than 50% of those in the Trade industry used supplies compared with businesses in other industries in 2023. The percentage of businesses in Construction, Trade and Manufacturing using raw materials declined between 2001 and 2023. Figure 21 shows that supplies were mainly used by businesses that were in the Trade and Manufacturing industries.

#### 6.8 Types of assistance needed by persons running non-VAT registered businesses

Figure 22 - Proportion of those who needed various types of assistance, 2001-2023



Note: Percentages are independent of each other since people may fall into more than one category.

Businesses in general require some form of assistance to undertake their day-to-day operations, especially the non-VAT registered businesses since they generally operate at a small-scale. Most non-VAT registered businesses required assistance with marketing of their products or services sold. The percentage of non-VAT registered businesses that required assistance with marketing ranged from 27,4% in 2001 to the highest 48,7% in 2017. From 2001 to 2009, the second-highest percentage of non-VAT registered businesses that sought assistance were seeking assistance with access to raw materials. After 2013, the provision of alternative sites had the second-highest percentage.

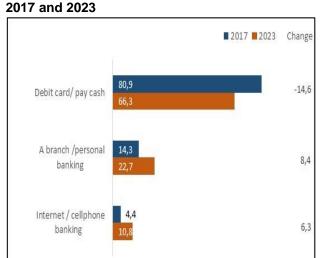
#### 6.9 Financial inclusion of persons running non-VAT registered businesses

This section provides insights into the degree of financial awareness and integration of persons who were running non-VAT registered businesses into the modern financial arrangements available to business owners.

100.0 80,0 60,0 40,0 20,0 0.0 2013 2017 2023 Formal financial institution 0,4 0,6 0,4 ■ Informal financial institution 0,6 0,2 0,6 19,7 15,3 24,6 ■ Bank 79,1 84,1 74,4 ■ None

Figure 23 – Institution where account held, 2013–2023

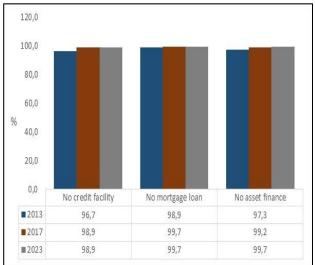
In 2013, roughly 79,1% of non-VAT registered businesses had no form of accounts held for their businesses; this percentage increased to 84,1% in 2017 and decreased to 74,4% in 2023. It is also worth noting the increase of non-VAT registered businesses that had bank accounts from 15,3% in 2017 to 24,6% in 2023.



20.0

40.0

Figure 24 – Mechanism for business payments, Figure 25 – Access to finance, 2013–2023



Note: Percentages are independent of each other since people may fall into more than one category.

80.0

100,0

60.0

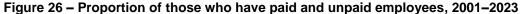
Findings from Figure 24 above show that in both 2017 and 2023, the majority of the non-VAT registered businesses have used debit card/cash payment to settle business payments. At a branch or personal banking appeared to be the second most used mechanism for payments, and the least used mode of payment is either

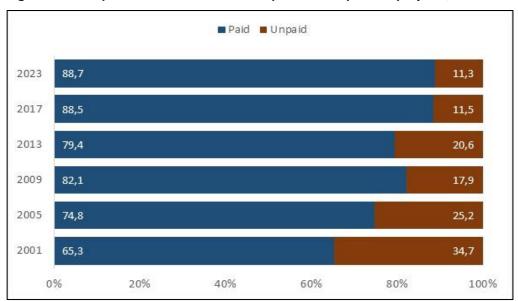
% 0,0

internet or cellphone banking. Businesses that used debit card/cash payment were estimated at 80,9% in 2017, which declined by 14,6 percentage points to 66,3% in 2023.

Figure 25 presents the level of accessibility to finance by the non-VAT registered businesses between 2013 and 2023. Over nine out of ten non-VAT registered businesses had no access to either credit facility, mortgage loan or asset finance for the whole period under study. The percentage of persons who run these businesses with no access to finance increased between 2013 and 2023 (Figure 25).

#### 6.10 Employment and labour costs of non-VAT registered businesses





Some of the owners of non-VAT registered businesses hire people (paid or unpaid) to assist them in the daily operations of their businesses. In this regard, between 2001 and 2023 the majority of non-VAT registered businesses had paid employees estimated at 65,3% in 2001 and the highest 88,7% recorded in 2023. What is worth noting is that the percentage of unpaid employees has decreased from 34,7% in 2001 to 11,3% in 2023. Meaning, although these businesses are informal, their owners have made efforts in reducing the number of unpaid workers over time.

Table 10 – Employees in non-VAT registered businesses by industry, 2001–2023

Industry	2001	2005	2009	2013	2017	2023		
Industry	Per cent							
Agriculture	0,5	2,5	0,5	2,3	2,7	4,0		
Manufacturing	9,2	11,5	8,4	5,5	8,7	13,4		
Construction	15,8	15,7	31,7	22,8	33,3	21,3		
Trade	47,9	41,5	27,6	34,5	24,4	33,9		
Transport	12,0	4,2	5,8	5,2	8,1	6,5		
Finance	6,4	14,5	3,1	3,7	6,1	5,4		
Services	8,1	10,1	20,0	26,1	16,6	15,5		
Other	0,1	=	2,8	=	-	-		
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0		

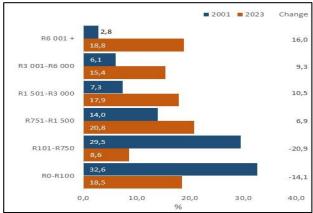
Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

Findings from Table 10 above show that the majority of employees in non-VAT registered businesses were working in Trade and Construction industries. The years 2001, 2005, 2013 and 2023 recorded the highest percentage of employees in the Trade industry, while 2009 and 2017 recorded the majority of employees in the Construction industry. Agriculture recorded the lowest percentage of employees in non-VAT registered business throughout the period 2001–2023.

Table 11 – Total labour costs in the last month of employers running non-VAT registered businesses, 2001–2023

Figure 27 – Total labour costs in the last month of employers running non-VAT registered businesses, 2001 and 2023

Labour cost	2001	2005	2009	2013	2017	2023		
Labour Cost	Per cent							
R0-R100	32,6	13,0	21,9	23,3	15,8	18,5		
R101-R750	29,5	32,3	28,0	20,8	15,7	8,6		
R751-R1 500	14,0	12,7	17,3	19,3	21,0	20,8		
R1 501-R3 000	7,3	10,7	12,4	15,8	19,9	17,9		
R3 001-R6 000	6,1	2,8	13,7	10,4	13,6	15,4		
R6 001 +	2,8	4,9	6,6	10,4	14,1	18,8		
Unspecified	7,7	23,5	-	-	-	-		
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0		



Note: No adjustment for inflation over the period has been undertaken. Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

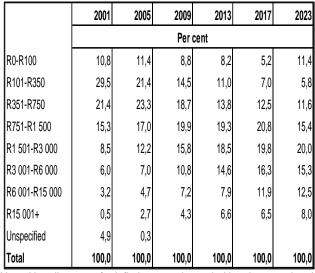
Table 11 shows that the majority of employers had labour costs that were below R100, followed by those who incurred labour costs between R101 and R750. The lowest percentage was recorded among non-VAT registered businesses that incurred more than R6 000 with regard to labour costs.

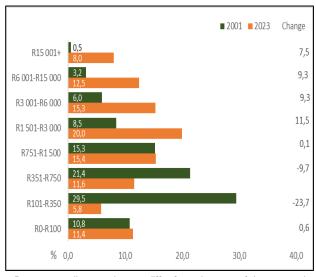
The percentage of non-VAT registered businesses that incurred labour costs that were more than R6 000 has increased by 16,0 percentage points from 2,8% in 2001 to 18,8% in 2023; this is the largest increase compared with other labour cost categories. Those who incurred labour costs between R101–R750 and below R100 have both decreased by 20,9 percentage points and 14,1 percentage points, respectively.

#### 6.11 Turnover and net profit of non-VAT registered businesses

Table 12 – Turnover in the last month of persons running non-VAT registered businesses, 2001–2023

Figure 28 – Turnover in the last month of persons running non-VAT registered businesses, 2001 and 2023





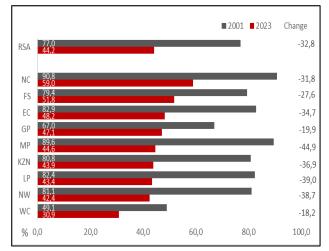
Note: No adjustment for inflation over the period has been undertaken. Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

Table 12 shows that the proportion of people with businesses with a turnover of R351–R750 and R751–R1 500 remained above 11,0% in all years over the period 2001–2023. Consistent improvement in the turnover was observed among those in categories R1 501–R3 000, R3 001–R6 000, R6 001–R15 000 and R15 001+ over the period 2001–2023. During this period, the largest increase was among those who had businesses with a turnover of R1 501–R3 000 (up by 11,5 percentage points), followed by those with the turnovers of R6 001–R15 000 and R3 001–R6 000 (up by 9,3 percentage points each). The largest decrease of 23,7 percentage points was recorded among those who had business turnover of R101–R350, followed by those with R351–R750 which recorded a decline of 9,7 percentage points.

Table 13 – Turnover of R0–R1 500 in the last month of persons running non-VAT registered businesses by province, 2001–2023

2001 2005 2017 2009 2013 2023 Per cent WC 35,7 30,9 49,1 62,4 48,1 35,0 lec 82,9 76,8 71,2 56,3 40,4 48,2 NC 90,8 77,9 46,4 44,5 33,9 59,0 FS 79,4 74,9 67,0 42,5 51,2 51,8 KZN 80,8 76,8 65,8 53,1 48,1 43,9 NW 81,1 75,7 59,0 37,3 52,5 42,4 GP 67,0 61,6 54,5 48,8 40,4 47,1 Ιмр 89,6 80,2 65,1 63,1 49,3 44,6 ΙP 82,4 83,0 71,4 57,7 54,3 43,4 **RSA** 77.0 73.1 61.9 52,3 45.5 44.2

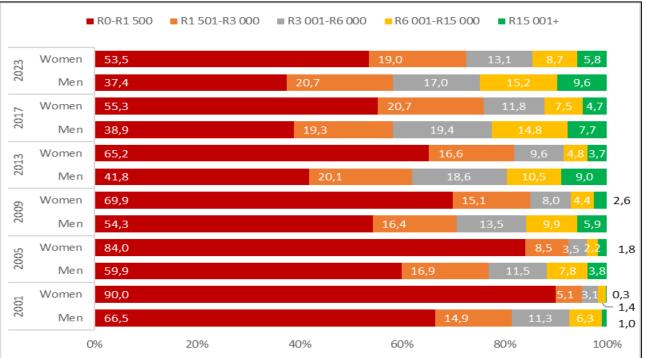
Figure 29 – Turnover of R0–R1 500 in the last month of persons running non-VAT registered businesses by province, 2001 and 2023



Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

In 2001, most of the provinces with the exception of Western Cape (49,1%) reflected their highest proportions of persons running informal businesses with a turnover of R0–R1 500 compared with other years. Limpopo and Western Cape were the only provinces which reflect increases in the proportions of persons with turnover of R0–R1 500 between 2001 and 2005. Between 2001 and 2023, all provinces recorded noticeable declines as highlighted in Figure 29. The largest decline of 44,9 percentage points was observed in Mpumalanga, followed by Limpopo (39,0 percentage points) and North West (38,7 percentage points). Western Cape (18,2 percentage points) and Gauteng (19,9 percentage points) were the only provinces that recorded the lowest declines below 20,0 percentage points.

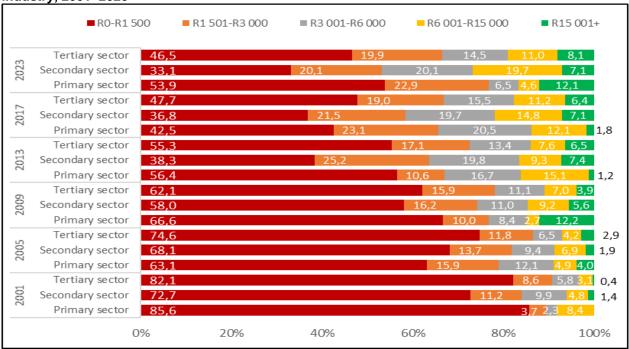
Figure 30 – Turnover in the last month of persons running non-VAT registered businesses by sex, 2001–2023



Note: No adjustment for inflation over the period has been undertaken. Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

Over the period 2001–2023, the proportions of persons running informal businesses with a turnover below R3 000 were higher among women compared with men, while the opposite was observed for those with a turnover of R3 001–R6 000, R6 001–R15 000 and R15 001 or more. The largest proportions among women were observed for those with a turnover of R0–R1 500 over the period. However, their proportions have been decreasing. In 2023, the highest proportion of women with the turnover of R0–R1 500 was 53,5% which declined from 90,0% recorded in 2001. Even though a turnover of above R6 000 increased for both men and women over the period 2001–2023, a large gender gap is observed. In 2023, men recorded a proportion of 24,8% compared with 14,5% for women in this turnover bracket; a difference of about 10,3 percentage points.

Figure 31 – Turnover in the last month of persons running non-VAT registered businesses by industry, 2001–2023



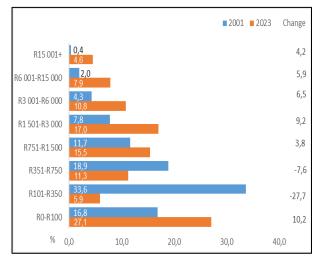
Note: No adjustment for inflation over the period has been undertaken. Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

For all industries, a turnover of R0–R1 500 had the largest proportions, ranging from 33,1% to 85,6% over the period 2001–2023. In 2023, those in the primary industries with the turnover of R6 001–R15 000 recorded the proportion of 4,6% while those in secondary and tertiary industries highlighted 19,7% and 11,0% respectively. On the other hand, the proportion of persons with the turnover of R15 001 and more in the same year was 12,1% among those in primary sector, 7,1% for those in secondary sector and 8,1% for those in tertiary sector.

Table 14 - Net profits in the last month of persons running non-VAT registered businesses, 2001–2023

2001 2005 2009 2013 2017 2023 R0-R100 16,8 24,0 16,3 12,8 8,1 27,1 R101-R350 33.6 29.2 21.8 15.9 11.3 5,9 R351-R750 18,9 18,7 20,4 18,3 15,8 11,3 R751-R1 500 13,4 15,6 17.9 19,7 11,7 15,5 R1 501-R3 000 12,3 19,4 7,8 8,5 15,6 17,0 IR3 001-R6 000 3,3 4,3 6,2 10,3 11,5 10,8 R6 001-R15 000 2,0 1,9 4,1 6,3 10,6 7,9 R15 001+ 0,4 0,3 1,3 2.9 3.5 4,6 Unspecified 4,5 0.8 1,9

Figure 32 – Net profits in the last month of persons running non-VAT registered businesses, 2001 and 2023

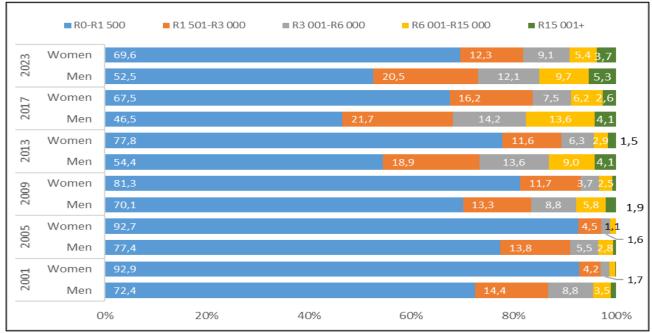


Note: No adjustment for inflation over the period has been undertaken. Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

The results in Table 14 and Figure 32 show a general improvement in the net profits earned by persons running informal businesses over the period 2001–2023. All the net profits categories recorded increases, with the exception of those who earned R101–R350 (down by 27,7 percentage points) and R351–R750 (down by 7,6

percentage points) between 2001 and 2023. The largest increases in the proportion of persons running informal businesses were recorded among those who earned the net profits of R0–R100 (up by 10,2 percentage points) followed by those who earned R1 501–R3 000 (up by 9,2 percentage points) and R3 001–R6 000 (up by 6,5 percentage points). Moreover, the results show that those who earned a net profit of more than R15 000 increased by 4,2 percentage points from 0,4% in 2001 to 4,6% in 2023. In 2023, those who earned a net profit of R0–R100 recorded the largest proportion of 27,1%, followed by those who earned R1 501–R3 000 at 17,0% and R751–R1 500 accounting for 15,5%.

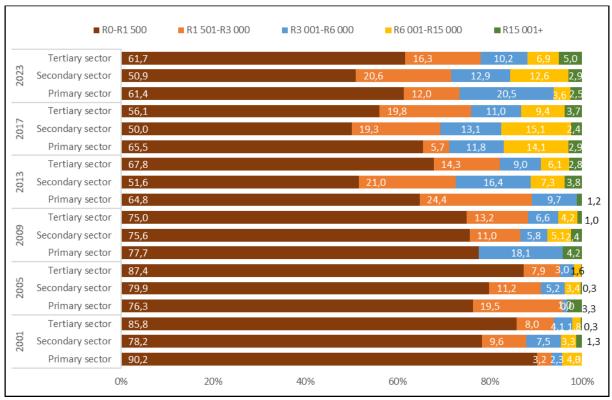
Figure 33 – Net profits in the last month of persons running non-VAT registered businesses by sex, 2001–2023



Note: No adjustment for inflation over the period has been undertaken. Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

A larger proportion of men than women earned net profits in the highest ranges from their businesses, while the opposite was observed for women. For net profits above R1 500, men recorded the largest proportions while for net profits below R1 501, women recorded the highest. In 2023, the proportion of men (9,7%) who earned net profits of R6 001–R15 000 was almost double the proportion of women (5,4%) who made similar net profits from their informal businesses. The proportion of men who earned a net profit of R15 001 or more increased by 1,2 percentage points from 4,1% in 2017 to 5,3% in 2023 and went up by 1,1 percentage points for women from 2,6% in 2017 to 3,7% in 2023.

Figure 34 – Net profits in the last month of persons running non-VAT registered businesses by industry, 2001–2023



Note: No adjustment for inflation over the period has been undertaken. Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

The results show that all industries recorded proportions of 50,0% or more for persons earning net profit of R0–R1 500. The proportions of persons who had informal businesses with net profits of R0–R1 500 in all industries were higher in 2001 compared with 2023. Over the period 2001–2023, all industries recorded proportions below 5,0% or less for persons earning a net profit above R15 000. In 2023, those who earned net profits above R15 000 recorded proportions of 5,0% among those in the tertiary industries and 2,9% among those in the secondary industries.

Risenga Maluleke Statistician-General

#### 7. Technical notes

#### 7.1 Response details

Table 15 – Response rate by province/metropolitan area

Province/metropolitan area	Response rates
National	76,89
Western Cape	52,02
Non-metro	57,58
City of Cape Town	50,71
Eastern Cape	85,08
Non-metro	88,10
Buffalo City	89,19
Nelson Mandela Bay	55,56
Northern Cape	58,33
Free State	76,87
Non-metro	86,14
Mangaung	48,48
KwaZulu-Natal	76,85
Non-metro	79,15
eThekwini	72,57
North West	82,43
Gauteng	67,76
Non-metro	69,23
Ekurhuleni	65,03
City of Johannesburg	65,88
City of Tshwane	75,26
Mpumalanga	89,18
Limpopo	88,24

## 7.2 Survey requirements and design

During the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) of quarter three 2023, persons running businesses were identified and later interviewed for the Survey of Employers and the Self-employed (SESE). The SESE and QLFS interviews were not conducted at the same time. As a result, the number of SESE persons was lower than those identified during QLFS screening. This was due to several reasons: refusals by some people to participate in SESE; some people not being at home during the SESE interview; demolished structures; vacant dwellings, etc. If all qualifying SESE persons identified in the QLFS Q3: 2023 had responded positively during SESE interviews, there would be no adjustment of SESE weights. The final SESE weights would be the same as the QLFS calibrated weights. The SESE weight adjustment accounts for those persons who qualified for SESE, but refused to take part or were not available for interviews. Persons identified as ineligible for SESE were not accounted for when the weight adjustment was undertaken.

### 7.3 Weighting

The sampling weights for the data collected from the sampled dwelling units are constructed in such a manner that the responses could be properly expanded to represent the entire civilian population of South Africa. The weights are the result of calculations involving several factors, including original selection probabilities, adjustment for non-response, and benchmarking to known population estimates from the Demography Chief Directorate of Stats SA.

### 7.4 Non-response adjustment

The non-respondent adjustment is done through the creation of adjustment classes. The adjustment classes are created using Response Homogeneity Groups (RHGs), where respondents are assumed to have the same characteristics with non-respondents in the group. The response rate (which is the ratio of responses to all eligible units in the sample) is calculated within each class. The inverse of the response rate (adjustment factor) is calculated within each class, and the result is multiplied by the person weight of the Q3: 2023 QLFS for the responding units to get the adjusted SESE person weight for non-responding units. In essence, the weights of responding persons are inflated to account for those that did not respond during SESE.

### 7.5 Final survey weights

The final SESE weight assigned to each responding unit is computed as the product of the QLFS person weight and the non-response adjustment factor. The sum of the QLFS person weight qualifying for SESE (for both respondents and non-respondents, excluding the out-of-scope persons) must be equal to the sum of the final SESE person weight.

The final SESE business weights were calculated as the ratio of the final adjusted SESE person weight to the number of businesses a person is running.

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# 8. Statistical appendix

	SESE	SESE	SESE	SESE	SESE	SESE	SESE	SESE	SESE	SESE	SESE	SESE
	2001	2005	2009 Thou	2013 sand	2017	2023	2001	2005	2009 Per	2013 cent	2017	2023
By sex	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	1 873	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Women	1 370	925	557	677	725	792	60,7	55,5	48,7	44,6	40,4	42,3
Men	888	743	587	840	1 068	1 080	39,3	44,5	51,3	55,4	59,6	57,7
By population group	2 258	1 660	1 1 1 1 1	1 517	1 702	1 072	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Black African		1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	1 873	89,4	92,5	89,9	88,8	90,8	88,9
Coloured	2 019	1 542	1 028	1 346	1 628	1 665	3,7	3,1	3,8	3,1	3,5	3,5
Indian/Asian	83	52 16	13	47 39	62 33	65 26	2,2	0,9	1,2	2,6	1,8	1,4
White	49 107	58	58	39 84	70		4,7	3,5	5,1	5,5	3,9	6,2
vviiito	107	36	56	04	70	117	4,7	3,3	3,1	3,3	3,3	0,2
By age	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	1 873	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
15-24 years	212	130	69	74	78	85	9,4	7,8	6,0	4,9	4,4	4,5
25-34 years	660	462	293	384	441	444	29,3	27,7	25,6	25,3	24,6	23,7
35-44 years	631	478	384	480	580	620	27,9	28,7	33,6	31,7	32,4	33,1
45-54 years	480	414	275	394	449	497	21,3	24,8	24,1	26,0	25,1	26,5
55-64 years	274	184	123	184	245	227	12,1	11,0	10,8	12,1	13,6	12,1
By number of												
businesses	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	1 873	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
1 business	2 217	1 610	1 125	1 490	1 762	1 843	98,2	96,5	98,3	98,3	98,2	98,4
2 businesses	38	56	7	26	29	29	1,7	3,4	0,6	1,7	1,6	1,5
3 businesses	3	1	12		3	1	0,1	0,1	1,0		0,1	0,1
By province	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	1 873	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Western Cape	120	93	78	91	153	191	5,3	5,6	6,8	6,0	8,5	10,2
Eastern Cape	227	206	139	144	176	138	10,1	12,3	12,2	9,5	9,8	7,4
Northern Cape	27	12	8	12	8	9	1,2	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,5	0,5
Free State	133	106	59	61	91	92	5,9	6,3	5,2	4,0	5,1	4,9
KwaZulu-Natal	574	334	236	304	263	314	25,4	20,0	20,6	20,0	14,7	16,8
North West	170	124	69	74	111	76	7,5	7,4	6,0	4,9	6,2	4,1
Gauteng	559	426	276	454	513	542	24,8	25,5	24,1	29,9	28,6	28,9
Mpumalanga	222	135	126	161	182	216	9,8	8,1	11,0	10,6	10,2	11,5
Limpopo	226	233	152	216	296	295	10,0	13,9	13,3	14,2	16,5	15,8

Note: For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.

Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

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Table 2 – Number of persons running at leas										CECE	CECE	CECE
	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023
	2001	2003	Thousa		2017	2023	2001	2003	Per		2017	
Main reason the business was started									-			
Both sexes	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	1 873	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Inherited/family tradition	94	59	53	61	72	83	4,2	3,5	4,6	4,0	4,0	4,4
Unemployed/have no alternative income source	1 369	1 137	782	1 049	1 138	1 069	60,6	68,2	68,3	69,2	63,5	57,1
Retrenched	107	71	45	58	62	88	4,7	4,2	3,9	3,8	3,5	4,7
Inadequate income from the other source	279	64	44	46	27	31	12,3	3,9	3,9	3,0	1,5	1,7
I like the activity	108	136	57	57	73	84	4,8	8,2	5,0	3,8	4,1	4,5
I have the skills for this business	115	69	95	108	125	137	5,1	4,1	8,3	7,1	7,0	7,3
I have the equipment for this business	26	5	1	4	3	2	1,1	0,3	0,1	0,2	0,2	0,1
Activity brings high income	64	44	18	14	4	9	2,8	2,6	1,6	1,0	0,2	0,5
Small investment needed	41	16	9	4	1	11	1,8	1,0	0,8	0,2	0,0	0,6
Unhappy with previous work	25	18	21	25	26	22	1,1	1,1	1,8	1,7	1,4	1,2
New opportunity/idea	-	-	-	44	15	36	_	-	-	2,9	0,9	1,9
To make ends meet/provide for my family	-	-	-	-	163	200	-	-	-	-	9,1	10,7
Be my own boss/create employment for others	-	-	-	-	29	24	-	-	-	-	1,6	1,3
I want to earn money while I search for a job	-	-	-	-	22	20	-	-	-	-	1,2	1,1
Other	30	49	19	45	33	56	1,3	2,9	1.7	3,0	1.8	3,0

Note: Categories do not necessarily add up to the totals since an individual may have stated more than one reason.

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	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023
	2001	2003		usand	2017	2023	2001	2003		cent	2017	2023
Women	1 370	925	557	677	725	792	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Inherited/family tradition	51	28	26	28	26	28	3,7	3,1	4,7	4,2	3,6	3,5
Unemployed/have no alternative income source	878	671	399	492	440	467	64,1	72,5	71,7	72,6	60,8	58,9
Retrenched	31	15	9	15	10	23	2,3	1,7	1,6	2,2	1,4	2,9
Inadequate income from the other source	209	47	28	25	19	17	15,2	5,1	5,0	3,7	2,6	2,2
I like the activity	67	70	32	35	32	35	4,9	7,6	5,7	5,1	4,4	4,4
I have the skills for this business	48	25	31	31	39	41	3,5	2,7	5,6	4,5	5,4	5,2
I have the equipment for this business	7	3	1	_		2	0,5	0,4	0,1			0,2
Activity brings high income	25	24	6	7	1	3	1,8	2,6	1,0	1,0	0,1	0,4
Small investment needed	27	9	7	3	1	5	2,0	1,0	1,2	0,5	0,1	0,6
Unhappy with previous work	11	10	7	5	6	6	0,8	1,1	1,2	0,8	0,8	0,7
New opportunity/idea	-	-	-	13	10	18	-	-	-	2,0	1,4	2,3
To make ends meet/provide for my family	-	_	-	-	101	101	-	-	-	-	14,0	12,7
Be my own boss/create employment for others	-	_	-	-	12	13	-	-	-	-	1.7	1,6
I want to earn money while I search for a job	-	_	-	-	12	12	-	-	-	-	1,6	1,5
Other	17	22	12	24	16	22	1	2	2	3	2	3
Men	888	743	587	840	1068	1080	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Inherited/family tradition	44	30	27	33	46	55	4,9	4,1	4,5	4,0	4,3	5,1
Unemployed/have no alternative income source	490	466	382	557	698	602	55,3	62,8	65,2	66,4	65,3	55,7
Retrenched	76	55	36	43	52	66	8,6	7,5	6,1	5,2	4,9	6,1
Inadequate income from the other source	70	17	17	21	8	14	7,9	2,3	2,9	2,5	0,7	1,3
I like the activity	41	66	25	23	41	49	4,6	8,9	4,3	2,7	3,8	4,6
I have the skills for this business	67	44	64	77	86	96	7,6	5,9	10,8	9,2	8,1	8,9
I have the equipment for this business	19	1	1	4	3		2,1	0,2	0,1	0,4	0,3	0,0
Activity brings high income	39	20	13	8	3	6	4,4	2,8	2,2	0,9	0,3	0,6
Small investment needed	14	7	2	1		6	1,5	0,9	0,3	0,1		0,6
Unhappy with previous work	14	9	14	20	20	16	1,5	1,2	2,4	2,4	1,9	1,5
New opportunity/idea	-	-	-	31	5	17	-	-	-	3,7	0,5	1,6
To make ends meet/provide for my family	_	_	-	-	62	100	-	-	-	-	5,8	9,2
Be my own boss/create employment for others	-	-	-	-	17	11	-	-	-	-	1,6	1,0
I want to earn money while I search for a job	-	-	_	-	10	8	-	-	-	-	1,0	0,7
Other	14	27	7	22	17	34	1,6	3,6	1,2	2,6	1,6	3,1

Note: Categories do not necessarily add up to the totals since an individual may have stated more than one reasons.

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	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023
	2001	2000	Thou		2011	2020	2001	2000	Per c		2017	
									1 11			
Whether the owner needed money to start the business												
Both sexes	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	1 873	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Owner required money	1 438	1 246	736	902	1 050	1 148	63,7	74,7	64,4	59,5	58,6	61,3
Owner did not require money	819	422	407	614	743	725	36,3	25,3	35,6	40,5	41,4	38,7
Women	1 370	925	557	677	725	792	100,0	100.0	100,0	100,0	100.0	100,0
Owner required money	897	725	395	424	484	526	65,5	78,4	70,9	62,6	66.8	66,4
Owner did not require money	473	200	162	253	241	266	34,5	21,6	29,1	37,4	33,2	33,6
Men		-10		242	4 000	4.000	100.0	400.0	400.0	400.0	100.0	400.0
Owner required money	888	743	587	840	1 068	1 080	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Owner did not require money	541	521	341	479	566	622	60,9	70,1	58,2	57,0	53,0	57,6
Owner did not require money	347	222	246	361	503	458	39,1	29,9	41,8	43,0	47,0	42,4
Those who needed money to start the business												
Total	1 438	1 246	736	902	1 050	1 148	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Agriculture	8	13	6	7	17	17	0,6	1,0	0,8	0,8	1,6	1,5
Manufacturing	168	147	71	76	90	96	11,7	11,8	9,7	8,4	8,5	8,3
Construction	36	49	43	63	76	86	2,5	3,9	5,8	7,0	7,2	7,5
Trade	1 083	893	478	563	608	649	75,3	71,6	64,9	62,4	57,9	56,5
Transport	48	51	31	57	57	61	3,3	4,1	4,2	6,3	5,4	5,4
Finance	45	35	21	49	68	108	3,1	2,8	2,8	5,4	6,5	9,4
Community and social services	50	57	54	88	125	130	3,5	4,6	7,4	9,7	11,9	11,4
Other	1	1	33		10		0,0	0,1	4,5	0,0	1,0	0,0

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Table 4 – Number of persons	running at	least one no	n-VAT regis	stared busin	ass by wh	other the o	wner need	ad money t	o start the	husinass	and sou	irce
Table 4 - Nulliber of persons	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023
	1		Thous	sand	<u>'</u>			F	Per cent	·		
Whether money was needed												
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	1 873	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	1 438	1 246	736	902	1 050	1 148	63,7	74,7	64,4	59,5	58,6	61,3
No	819	422	407	614	743	725	36,3	25,3	35,6	40,5	41,4	38,7
Source of money												
Both sexes	1 438	1 246	736	902	1 050	1 148	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Own money	1 070	878	550	686	791	932	74,4	70,5	74,8	76,0	75,4	81,2
Other source	368	367	186	217	259	216	25,6	29,5	25,2	24,0	24,6	18,8
Unspecified	1	0	-	-	-	-	0,1	0,0	-	-	-	-
Women	897	725	395	424	484	526	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Own money	634	470	285	307	347	426	70,6	64,7	72,2	72,4	71,6	80,9
Other source	263	255	110	117	137	100	29,3	35,2	27,8	27,6	28,4	19,1
Unspecified	1	0	-	-	-	-	0,1	0,1	-	-	-	
Men	541	521	341	479	566	622	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Own money	436	409	266	379	445	507	80,7	78,5	77,8	79,2	78,6	81,4
Other source	105	112	76	100	121	115	19,3	21,5	22,2	20,8	21,4	18,6

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Table 4 – Number of persons running at least one non-VAT registered business by whether the owner needed money to start the business and source (continued)

	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023
			Thous	sand					Per cent			
Those who used their own money												
Source of own money (Both sexes)	1 070	878	550	686	791	932	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Previous and/or present wage employment	471	508	261	369	450	398	44,1	57,9	47,4	53,8	56,8	42,6
Other business	34	39	17	19	35	57	3,2	4,4	3,1	2,8	4,4	6,1
Sale of livestock/crops	31	14	18	14	12	19	2,9	1,6	3,3	2,0	1,5	2,0
Sale of other assets	55	30	25	18	18	23	5,2	3,4	4,5	2,7	2,3	2,5
Inheritance	56	52	34	21	28	28	5,3	6,0	6,2	3,0	3,6	3,0
Pension from work	37	19	18	28	28	20	3,5	2,2	3,3	4,0	3,6	2,2
Retirement/severance pay	56	23	29	30	25	27	5,2	2,6	5,2	4,4	3,2	2,9
A policy that matured	6	2	3	1	1	2	0,6	0,2	0,5	0,1	0,1	0,2
Money paid out from a stokvel	65	20	48	40	46	42	6,0	2,3	8,8	5,8	5,9	4,5
Old-age grant	-	-	-	-	9	2	-	-	-	-	1,1	0,2
Other social grant (excluding old-age grant)	-	-	-	-	71	111	-	-	-	-	9,0	11,9
Other	258	171	97	146	68	203	24,1	19,4	17,7	21,3	8,5	21,8
Source of own money (Women)	634	470	285	307	347	426	100.0	100,0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100,0
Previous and/or present wage employment	225	218	110	116	149	156	35.6	46,5	38.8	38.0	43.0	36,6
Other business	18	22	5	7	12	25	2,9	4,7	1,6	2,3	3,5	5,9
Sale of livestock/crops	23	11	9	4	2	3	3,6	2,2	3,3	1,2	0,5	0,6
Sale of other assets	39	17	10	6	5	8	6,2	3,6	3,4	2,0	1,5	2,0
Inheritance	36	35	21	13	13	10	5,7	7,4	7,4	4,1	3,8	2,4
Pension from work	13	7	8	6	8	4	2,0	1,6	2,8	2,1	2,2	0,9
Retirement/severance pay	19	5	9	8	6	10	3,0	1,1	3,2	2,5	1,6	2,4
A policy that matured	3	1	2	-	1		0,4	0,1	0,8	-	0,1	0,0
Money paid out from a stokvel	55	16	41	35	39	38	8,7	3,3	14,2	11,3	11,2	8,9
Old-age grant	-	=	-	-	7	2	-	-	-	-	2,1	0,5
Other social grant (excluding old-age grant)	-	-	-	-	67	75	-	-	-	-	19,2	17,6
Other	202	138	70	112	39	95	31,8	29,4	24,5	36,5	11,1	22,3

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Table 4 – Number of persons running at least one non-VAT registered business by whether the owner needed money to start the business and source (concluded)

SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023
		Thous	sand					Per cent			
436	409	266	379	445	507	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
246	290	150	253	300	242	56,4	71,0	56,6	66,6	67,6	47,7
16	17	12	12	23	32	3,6	4,1	4,7	3,2	5,1	6,3
8	3	9	10	10	16	1,8	0,8	3,3	2,6	2,3	3,2
16	13	15	12	13	15	3,7	3,1	5,7	3,2	2,9	3,0
20	18	13	8	15	18	4,6	4,3	5,0	2,1	3,4	3,6
24	12	10	21	20	16	5,5	2,9	3,8	5,6	4,6	3,2
37	18	20	23	20	17	8,4	4,4	7,4	6,0	4,4	3,3
4	1	1	1	-	2	0,8	0,3	0,2	0,3	-	0,4
9	5	8	5	8	5	2,1	1,1	3,0	1,4	1,7	0,9
-	-	-	-	2		-	-	-	-	0,4	0,0
-	1	-	-	5	36	-	ı	-	-	1,0	7,1
57	33	28	34	29	108	13,0	8,0	10,4	9,0	6,5	21,3
	2001 436 246 16 8 16 20 24 37 4 9	2001         2005           436         409           246         290           16         17           8         3           16         13           20         18           24         12           37         18           4         1           9         5           -         -           -         -	2001         2005         2009           Thous         Thous           436         409         266           246         290         150           16         17         12           8         3         9           16         13         15           20         18         13           24         12         10           37         18         20           4         1         1           9         5         8           -         -         -           -         -         -	2001         2005         2009         2013           Thousand           436         409         266         379           246         290         150         253           16         17         12         12           8         3         9         10           16         13         15         12           20         18         13         8           24         12         10         21           37         18         20         23           4         1         1         1           9         5         8         5           -         -         -         -           -         -         -         -	2001         2005         2009         2013         2017           Thousand           436         409         266         379         445           246         290         150         253         300           16         17         12         12         23           8         3         9         10         10           16         13         15         12         13           20         18         13         8         15           24         12         10         21         20           37         18         20         23         20           4         1         1         1         -           9         5         8         5         8           -         -         -         2         -           -         -         -         5         5	2001         2005         2009         2013         2017         2023           Thousand           436         409         266         379         445         507           246         290         150         253         300         242           16         17         12         12         23         32           8         3         9         10         10         16           16         13         15         12         13         15           20         18         13         8         15         18           24         12         10         21         20         16           37         18         20         23         20         17           4         1         1         1         -         2           9         5         8         5         8         5           -         -         -         2         -         -           -         -         -         5         36	2001         2005         2009         2013         2017         2023         2001           Thousand           436         409         266         379         445         507         100,0           246         290         150         253         300         242         56,4           16         17         12         12         23         32         3,6           8         3         9         10         10         16         1,8           16         13         15         12         13         15         3,7           20         18         13         8         15         18         4,6           24         12         10         21         20         16         5,5           37         18         20         23         20         17         8,4           4         1         1         1         -         2         0,8           9         5         8         5         8         5         2,1           -         -         -         -         5         36         -	2001         2005         2009         2013         2017         2023         2001         2005           Thousand           436         409         266         379         445         507         100,0         100,0           246         290         150         253         300         242         56,4         71,0           16         17         12         12         23         32         3,6         4,1           8         3         9         10         10         16         1,8         0,8           16         13         15         12         13         15         3,7         3,1           20         18         13         8         15         18         4,6         4,3           24         12         10         21         20         16         5,5         2,9           37         18         20         23         20         17         8,4         4,4           4         1         1         1         -         2         0,8         0,3           9         5         8         5         8         5         2,1 <td< td=""><td>2001         2005         2009         2013         2017         2023         2001         2005         2009           Thousand         Per cent           436         409         266         379         445         507         100,0         100,0         100,0           246         290         150         253         300         242         56,4         71,0         56,6           16         17         12         12         23         32         3,6         4,1         4,7           8         3         9         10         10         16         1,8         0,8         3,3           16         13         15         12         13         15         3,7         3,1         5,7           20         18         13         8         15         18         4,6         4,3         5,0           24         12         10         21         20         16         5,5         2,9         3,8           37         18         20         23         20         17         8,4         4,4         7,4           4         1         1         1         -&lt;</td><td>2001         2005         2009         2013         2017         2023         2001         2005         2009         2013           Thousand         Per cent           436         409         266         379         445         507         100,0         100,0         100,0         100,0           246         290         150         253         300         242         56,4         71,0         56,6         66,6           16         17         12         12         23         32         3,6         4,1         4,7         3,2           8         3         9         10         10         16         1,8         0,8         3,3         2,6           16         13         15         12         13         15         3,7         3,1         5,7         3,2           20         18         13         8         15         18         4,6         4,3         5,0         2,1           24         12         10         21         20         16         5,5         2,9         3,8         5,6           37         18         20         23         20         17</td><td>2001         2005         2009         2013         2017         2023         2001         2005         2009         2013         2017           Thousmut         Per cent           436         409         266         379         445         507         100,0         <t< td=""></t<></td></td<>	2001         2005         2009         2013         2017         2023         2001         2005         2009           Thousand         Per cent           436         409         266         379         445         507         100,0         100,0         100,0           246         290         150         253         300         242         56,4         71,0         56,6           16         17         12         12         23         32         3,6         4,1         4,7           8         3         9         10         10         16         1,8         0,8         3,3           16         13         15         12         13         15         3,7         3,1         5,7           20         18         13         8         15         18         4,6         4,3         5,0           24         12         10         21         20         16         5,5         2,9         3,8           37         18         20         23         20         17         8,4         4,4         7,4           4         1         1         1         -<	2001         2005         2009         2013         2017         2023         2001         2005         2009         2013           Thousand         Per cent           436         409         266         379         445         507         100,0         100,0         100,0         100,0           246         290         150         253         300         242         56,4         71,0         56,6         66,6           16         17         12         12         23         32         3,6         4,1         4,7         3,2           8         3         9         10         10         16         1,8         0,8         3,3         2,6           16         13         15         12         13         15         3,7         3,1         5,7         3,2           20         18         13         8         15         18         4,6         4,3         5,0         2,1           24         12         10         21         20         16         5,5         2,9         3,8         5,6           37         18         20         23         20         17	2001         2005         2009         2013         2017         2023         2001         2005         2009         2013         2017           Thousmut         Per cent           436         409         266         379         445         507         100,0 <t< td=""></t<>

	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023
	2001	2005	Thou		2017	2023	2001	2005	Per cent	2013	2017	2023
When did the business start operating			11100	Suriu					rei ceiit			
Both sexes	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	1 873	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Less than a year ago	559	299	244	308	321	308	24,8	17,9	21,3	20,3	17,9	16,4
1 but less than 3 years ago	749	560	290	358	413	421	33,2	33,6	25,4	23,6	23,0	22,5
3 but less than 5 years ago	403	352	187	268	294	324	17,8	21,1	16,4	17,7	16,4	17,3
5 but less than 10 years ago	288	249	214	278	379	387	12,7	14,9	18,7	18,4	21,2	20,7
10 or more years ago	249	207	208	298	383	420	11,0	12,4	18,1	19,6	21,4	22,4
Don't know	9	2	1	6	3	13	0,4	0,1	0,1	0,4	0,2	0,7
Women	1 370	925	557	677	725	792	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Less than a year ago	373	176	129	149	157	154	27,2	19,0	23,2	21,9	21,7	19,4
1 but less than 3 years ago	468	329	142	179	170	200	34,1	35,6	25,5	26,4	23,5	25,2
3 but less than 5 years ago	222	189	81	104	104	130	16,2	20,4	14,5	15,3	14,4	16,4
5 but less than 10 years ago	171	126	108	106	137	136	12,5	13,6	19,5	15,6	18,9	17,1
10 or more years ago	129	104	96	139	153	168	9,4	11,3	17,2	20,5	21,1	21,2
Don't know	7	1	1	2	3	5	0,5	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,4	0,6
Men	888	743	587	840	1 068	1 080	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Less than a year ago	186	123	115	160	164	154	21,0	16,6	19,6	19,0	15,3	14,2
1 but less than 3 years ago	282	231	148	180	243	221	31.7	31,0	25,3	21,4	22,7	20,4
3 but less than 5 years ago	181	163	107	164	189	194	20,4	22,0	18,2	19,6	17,7	17,9
5 but less than 10 years ago	116	123	105	173	242	252	13,1	16,5	18,0	20,6	22,7	23,3
10 or more years ago	120	103	112	159	231	252	13,5	13,8	19,0	18,9	21,6	23,3
Don't know	3	1		4		9	0,3	0,1	, .	0,5	= - , •	0,8

Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

Table 6 – Number of persons running	at least one	non-VAT r	egistered	business	by wheth	er they ha	ve licence	e/s or perr	mit/s and	the issuin	g authorit	t <b>y</b>
	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023
			Thou	sand					Per	cent		
Does the business have a licence/s or permit/s												
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	1 873	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	165	176	138	189	146	201	7,3	10,6	12,1	12,5	8,2	10,7
No	2 093	1 491	1 005	1 327	1 647	1 672	92,7	89,4	87,9	87,5	91,8	89,3
Issuing authority												
Total	165	176	138	189	146	201	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Municipal/provincial authority	77	86	74	64	59	89	46,6	48,5	53,5	33,8	40,2	44,1
Professional association	18	8	18	40	32	49	10,7	4,8	12,9	20,9	22,1	24,4
Business association	48	46	26	39	33	57	28,9	26,1	18,8	20,5	22,5	28,3
Regional Services Council	14	7	1	-	·	-	8,7	4,1	1,0	-		-
Traditional leader	14	14	13	10	21	14	8,2	8,1	9,1	5,3	14,2	7,0
Protection agency/ies	3	10	-	3	4	2	1,6	5,9	-	1,4	2,7	0,7
Friend/relative	5	4	9	3	3	3	3,1	2,4	6,2	1,4	1,7	1,7
CIPS/CIPRO	-	=	-	38	-	39	-	-	-	20,1	-	19,5
Landlord	-	-		-	1	5	-	-	-	-	0,8	2,4
Other	8	8	15	17	10	15	4,8	4,7	11,1	8,9	7,0	7,3

Note: Each percentage is calculated separately and does not sum to 100,0% since an individual may have had more than one type of licence/permit. For all values of 10 000 or lower the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

	SESE	SESE	SESE	SESE	SESE	SESE	SESE	SESE	SESE	SESE	SESE	SESE
	2001	2005	2009	2013	2017	2023	2001	2005	2009	2013	2017	2023
		1	Thou	sand			1	1	Per	cent		
	0.050	4.000	4 4 4 4	4 547	4 700	4.070						
Both sexes	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	1 873	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Agriculture	11	17	10	11	29	26	0,5	1,0	0,8	0,7	1,6	1,4
Manufacturing	242	201	110	112	131	152	10,7	12,1	9,6	7,4	7,3	8,1
Construction	71	97	118	162	216	181	3,2	5,8	10,3	10,7	12,0	9,6
Trade	1 571	1 103	652	825	924	902	69,6	66,1	57,0	54,4	51,5	48,2
Transport	76	73	43	93	105	99	3,3	4,4	3,7	6,2	5,8	5,3
Finance	131	59	35	115	141	237	5,8	3,5	3,1	7,6	7,9	12,6
Community and social services	153	116	120	198	218	277	6,8	6,9	10,5	13,1	12,2	14,8
Other	2	2	56		29		0,1	0,1	4,9	-	1,6	-
Women	1 370	925	557	677	725	792	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Agriculture	5	5	5	7	13	10	0,4	0,5	0,9	1,0	1,8	1,3
Manufacturing	159	132	70	58	66	61	11,6	14,2	12,6	8,6	9,0	7,7
Construction	2	4	3	2	7	5	0,1	0,4	0,5	0,3	1,0	0,7
Trade	1 055	691	357	430	455	460	77,0	74,7	64,1	63,5	62,7	58,1
Transport	9	14	9	12	8	9	0,6	1,5	1,6	1,7	1,1	1,2
Finance	55	15	16	54	49	93	4,0	1,6	2,9	7,9	6,8	11,8
Community and social services	84	63	70	115	113	154	6,1	6,8	12,6	16,9	15,7	19,4
Other	1	1	27		14		0,1	0,1	4,9		1,9	-

For all values of 10 000 or lower the sample size is too small for reliable estimates. Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

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Table 7 - Number of persons i	running at	least one	non-VAT r	egistered	business b	y sex and	industry	(conclud	ed)			
•	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023
			Thou	sand					Per	cent		
Men	888	743	587	840	1 068	1 080	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Agriculture	5	12	5	4	16	16	0,6	1,6	0,8	0,5	1,5	1,5
Manufacturing	83	70	40	54	65	91	9,3	9,4	6,7	6,4	6,1	8,4
Construction	69	93	115	160	209	175	7,8	12,5	19,6	19,0	19,5	16,2
Trade	516	412	295	395	469	442	58,2	55,4	50,3	47,1	43,9	40,9
Transport	67	59	34	82	97	90	7,5	7,9	5,7	9,8	9,1	8,3
Finance	76	44	20	61	92	143	8,6	6,0	3,3	7,3	8,6	13,3
Community and social services	69	52	50	84	105	123	7,8	7,1	8,5	10,0	9,8	11,4
Other	2	1	29		16		0,2	0,2	5,0	-	1,5	-

For all values of 10 000 or lower the sample size is too small for reliable estimates. Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

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Table 8 – Number of non-VAT	Γ business	by indust	ry and wh	ether the l	ousiness u	se raw ma	terials					
	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023
			Thou	ısand					Per	cent		
South Africa												
Total	2 257	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	1 873	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Agriculture	11	17	10	11	29	26	0,5	1,0	0,8	0,7	1,6	1,4
Manufacturing	242	201	110	112	131	152	10,7	12,1	9,6	7,4	7,3	8,1
Construction	71	97	118	162	216	181	3,2	5,8	10,3	10,7	12,0	9,6
Trade	1 571	1 103	652	825	924	902	69,6	66,1	57,0	54,4	51,5	48,2
Transport	76	73	43	93	105	99	3,3	4,4	3,7	6,2	5,8	5,3
Finance	131	59	35	115	141	237	5,8	3,5	3,1	7,6	7,9	12,6
Community and social services	153	116	120	198	218	277	6,8	6,9	10,5	13,1	12,2	14,8
Other	2	2	56		29		0,1	0,1	4,9	-	1,6	-
Uses raw materials												
Total	552	413	223	296	396	426	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Agriculture	1	6	5	5	14	12	0,2	1,4	2,2	1,7	3,5	2,9
Manufacturing	186	163	88	84	90	105	33,6	39,5	39,4	28,5	22,7	24,6
Construction	22	26	24	30	55	30	4,0	6,3	10,7	10,3	13,9	7,1
Trade	287	154	55	134	187	191	51,9	37,2	24,7	45,3	47,3	44,8
Transport	1	1	2	3	4	1	0,1	0,2	0,8	1,1	1,0	0,3
Finance	8	14	5	7	14	27	1,4	3,5	2,5	2,5	3,5	6,3
Community and social services	48	49	34	31	31	60	8,7	11,8	15,5	10,6	7,8	14,0
Other	0		10		1		0,0		4,3	-	0,3	

STATISTICS SOUTH AFRICA 55 P0276

Table 8 - Number of non-VAT	business	by indust	try and wh	ether the l	ousiness u	se raw ma	terials (co	oncluded	)			
	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023
			Thou	ısand					Per	cent		
Does not use raw materials												
Total	1 704	1 251	921	1 221	1 398	1 446	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Agriculture	10	11	5	6	16	14	0,6	0,9	0,5	0,5	1,1	1,0
Manufacturing	56	38	22	28	41	47	3,3	3,0	2,4	2,3	2,9	3,2
Construction	49	69	94	131	161	151	2,9	5,6	10,2	10,8	11,5	10,4
Trade	1 284	947	597	691	737	711	75,4	75,7	64,8	56,6	52,7	49,1
Transport	75	72	41	90	101	97	4,4	5,8	4,4	7,4	7,2	6,7
Finance	123	45	30	107	127	210	7,2	3,6	3,3	8,8	9,1	14,5
Community and social services	105	67	85	167	187	217	6,2	5,3	9,3	13,7	13,4	15,0
Other	2	1	47		28		0,1	0,1	5,1	-	2,0	-

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	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023
			Thous						Per c			
												ļ
Total number of businesses												<b></b>
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	1 873	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Agriculture	11	17	10	11	29	26	0,5	1,0	0,8	0,7	1,6	1,4
Manufacturing	242	201	110	112	131	152	10,7	12,1	9,6	7,4	7,3	8,1
Construction	71	97	118	162	216	181	3,2	5,8	10,3	10,7	12,0	9,6
Trade	1 571	1 103	652	825	924	902	69,6	66,1	57,0	54,4	51,5	48,2
Transport	76	73	43	93	105	99	3,3	4,4	3,7	6,2	5,8	5,3
Finance	131	59	35	115	141	237	5,8	3,5	3,1	7,6	7,9	12,6
Community and social services	153	116	120	198	218	277	6,8	6,9	10,5	13,1	12,2	14,8
Other	2	2	56		29		0,1	0,1	4,9	-	1,6	0,0
Uses supplies												
Total	1 260	1 118	623	641	848	682	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Agriculture	8	9	3	3	15	7	0,6	0,8	0,5	0,4	1,7	1,0
Manufacturing	39	39	15	16	46	46	3,1	3,5	2,4	2,5	5,4	6,8
Construction	13	22	15	24	55	28	1,1	2,0	2,4	3,8	6,5	4,1
Trade	1 133	957	504	537	613	479	89,9	85,6	80.9	83,7	72,3	70,2
Transport	7	15	12	15	17	10	0,5	1,4	1,9	2,4	2,0	1,5
Finance	12	31	8	11	20	39	1,0	2,7	1,3	1,7	2,4	5,7
Community and social services	48	44	33	36	78	73	3,8	3,9	5,3	5,6	9,2	10,7
Other	0	1	33		5		0,0	0,1	5,3	_	0,6	

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	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023
			Thous	sand					Per	ent		
Does not use supplies												
Total	996	547	521	875	945	1 190	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Agriculture	3	8	6	8	15	19	0,3	1,5	1,2	0,9	1,6	1,6
Manufacturing	202	161	95	96	85	105	20,3	29,5	18,2	11,0	9,0	8,9
Construction	58	75	103	138	161	153	5,8	13,7	19,7	15,7	17,0	12,8
Trade	438	144	148	289	311	423	44,0	26,4	28,4	33,0	32,9	35,5
Transport	69	57	31	78	87	88	6,9	10,5	6,0	8,9	9,3	7,4
Finance	119	29	27	104	121	198	11,9	5,2	5,3	11,9	12,8	16,6
Community and social services	105	72	87	163	140	204	10,5	13,1	16,7	18,6	14,9	17,1
Other	2	0	23		25		0,2	0.1	4,5	-	2,6	0,0

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	SESE											
	2001	2005	2009	2013	2017	2023	2001	2005	2009	2013	2017	2023
			Thou	sand					Per	cent		
Location of operation												
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	1 873	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Within the owner's dwelling - with its own space	547	330	246	384	377	523	24,2	19,8	21,5	25,3	21,0	27,9
Within the owner's dwelling - without its own space	778	487	315	323	292	346	34,5	29,2	27,6	21,3	16,3	18,5
In a structure attached to owner's dwelling	111	135	61	85	96	71	4,9	8,1	5,3	5,6	5,3	3,8
Within another person's dwelling	34	28	20	36	69	62	1,5	1,7	1,7	2,4	3,8	3,3
In a non-residential building	79	63	47	78	88	82	3,5	3,8	4,1	5,1	4,9	4,4
From a taxi rank	74	53	62	80	80	85	3,3	3,2	5,4	5,3	4,5	4,6
On a footpath, street or open space	181	167	122	116	216	173	8,0	10,0	10,7	7,7	12,0	9,3
At a market	17	15	22	27	24	17	0,8	0,9	2,0	1,8	1,4	0,9
No fixed location/mobile	363	303	170	280	396	314	16,1	18,2	14,8	18,5	22,1	16,8
At a customer's home or offices	46	49	62	79	110	152	2,1	2,9	5,4	5,2	6,2	8,1
At an open market without permanent kiosk	-	-	-	-	9	13	-	-	-	-	0,5	0,7
Other	26	38	17	28	36	32	1,2	2,3	1,5	1,9	2,0	1,7
Paying for location												
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	1 873	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100.0	100,0
Yes	186	130	109	164	204	198	8,2	7,8	9,6	10,8	11,4	10,6
No	1 706	1 234	803	993	834	1 029	75,5	74,0	70,2	65,5	46,5	54,9
Not applicable	366	305	232	359	756	646	16,2	18,3	20,3	23,7	42,1	34,5
Paying for the location			-				- ,	- , -	- , -	-,	,	, , ,
Total	186	130	109	164	204	198	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Within the owner's dwelling - with its own space	37	9	15	25	33	33	19,9	6,8	13,8	15,4	16,3	16,7
Within the owner's dwelling - without its own space	20	4	14	7	9	15	10,5	3,4	12,9	4,2	4,4	7,4
In a structure attached to owner's dwelling	7	6	3	10	15	9	3,5	4,9	2,6	6.0	7.4	4,4
Within another person's dwelling	17	9	10	18	51	36	9,3	7,2	8,7	11,2	24,8	18,0
In a non-residential building	42	40	34	57	56	54	22,5	30,7	31,4	34,8	27,6	27,5
From a taxi rank	26	18	12	28	15	18	14,1	13,5	10,7	17.0	7.6	9,1
On a footpath, street or open space	19	29	11	7	9	19	10,3	22,5	9,7	4,4	4,3	9,8
At a market	7	5	9	7	10	5	4,0	4,0	8,0	4,4	4,9	2,4
At a customer's home or offices	4	4		-	-		2,2	3,3		-,-	-,5	
At an open market without permanent kiosk			_	_	_	2	_,_		_	_	_	1,2
Other	7	5	2	4	6	7	3,8	3,7	2,3	2,6	2,8	3,5

Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

Table 11 - Number of persons running at least one non-VAT registered business where the owner needed money to start the business by whether they borrowed money and source SESE 2001 2005 2009 2013 2017 2023 2001 2005 2009 2013 2017 2023 **Thousand** Per cent Whether the owner needed money to start the business Total 2 258 1 668 1 144 1 517 1 793 1 873 100,0 100,0 100,0 100,0 100,0 100,0 Owner required money 1 438 1 246 736 902 1 050 1 148 63,7 74,7 64,4 59,5 58,6 61,3 Owner did not require money 743 819 422 407 614 725 36,3 25,3 35,6 40,5 41,4 38,7 Whether the owner borrowed money to start the business Total 1 438 1 246 736 902 1 050 1 148 100,0 100,0 100,0 100,0 100,0 100,0 Yes 251 314 173 185 222 194 17.5 25.2 23.5 20,5 21,2 16,9 No 1 187 927 563 717 828 954 82,5 74,4 76,5 79,5 78,8 83,1 Loans from commercial banks Total 251 314 173 185 222 194 100,0 100,0 100,0 100,0 100,0 100,0 Yes 10 15 13 31 11 21 4.0 4.9 7.4 16,6 5.2 11.0 No 241 299 160 154 173 94,8 211 96.0 95,1 92,6 83,4 89,0 Loans from friends/relatives Total 173 185 222 251 314 194 100,0 100,0 100,0 100,0 100,0 100.0 Yes 208 261 144 136 187 160 82.9 83.1 83.1 73,4 84.1 82,5 Nο 43 53 29 49 35 34 17,1 16,9 16,9 26,6 15,9 17,5 Loans from credit societies Total 251 314 173 185 222 194 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 100,0 100,0 Yes 12 9 12 0.9 0.0 6.8 4.9 5,2 0.9 Nο 249 314 161 176 211 192 100,0 93,2 95,1 94,8 99,1 99,1 Loans from money lenders/mashonisas Total 251 314 173 185 222 194 100,0 100,0 100,0 100,0 100,0 100,0 Yes 13 19 11 4 12 13 5,1 6,0 6,5 2,1 5,5 6,8 No 238 295 162 210 181 94.9 94.0 93,5 97.9 94,5 93,2

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Table 11 - Number of persons running at least one non-VAT registered business where the owner needed money to start the business by whether they borrowed money and source (concluded) SESE 2001 2005 2009 2013 2017 2023 2001 2005 2009 2013 2017 2023 **Thousand** Per cent Loans from (business) partners Total 251 314 173 185 222 194 100,0 100,0 100,0 100,0 100,0 100,0 Yes 9 0,2 0,3 1 1 4,8 No 251 314 173 184 222 185 100,0 99.8 100,0 99,7 100,0 95,2 Loans from business association Total 251 314 173 185 222 194 100,0 100,0 100,0 100,0 100,0 100,0 Yes 3 5 0,9 0,4 2,3 4 1 1,8 No 247 311 173 222 190 98,2 100,0 99,6 100,0 97,7 184 99,1 Loans from NGO/CBO Total 251 314 173 185 222 194 100,0 100,0 100,0 100,0 100,0 100,0 Yes 2,6 1 8 2 0,3 1,4 0,3 No 250 306 171 185 222 193 99,7 97,4 98,6 100,0 100,0 99,7 Loans from government agencies (e.g. IDC) Total 222 194 100,0 100,0 Yes 3 2,1 1,4 No 97,9 218 191 98,6 Loans from others Total 251 314 173 185 222 194 100.0 100,0 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 Yes 7 5 7 2,2 2,7 4,4 3,2 3,7 14 8 5,4

177

215

187

94,6

97,8

97,3

95.6

96,8

96,3

Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories. In 2001 and 2005 the totals include unspecified.

237

307

168

No

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Table 12 – Number of persons running at least of	one non-VAT	business	whose ow	ner borrow	ved money	by wheth	er they are	still payin	g the debt	and amou	nt	
	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023
			Thou	sand					Per	cent		,
Whether the owner needed money to start the business												
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	1 873	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Owner required money	1 438	1 246	736	902	1 050	1 148	63,7	74,7	64,4	59,5	58,6	61,3
Owner did not require money	819	422	407	614	743	725	36,3	25,3	35,6	40,5	41,4	38,7
Whether the owner borrowed money to start the business												
Total	1 438	1 246	736	902	1 050	1 148	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	251	314	173	185	222	194	17,5	25,2	23,5	20,5	21,2	16,9
No	1 187	927	563	717	828	954	82,5	74,4	76,5	79,5	78,8	83,1
Unspecified	0	5	=	-	-	-	0,0	0,4	=	-	-	-
Are you paying off the debt?												
Total	251	314	173	185	222	194	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	27	27	29	34	22	30	10,6	8,7	16,9	18,5	9,7	15,4
No	224	287	144	151	201	164	89,4	91,3	83,1	81,5	90,3	84,6
Does the business have any debts at present?												
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	1 873	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	109	76	67	71	42	31	4,8	4,6	5,9	4,7	2,3	1,6
No	2 144	1 578	1 076	1 445	1 751	1 842	95,0	94,6	94,1	95,3	97,7	98,4
Unspecified	4	14	-	-	-	-	0,2	0,8	-	=	-	-

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Table 12 – Number of persons running at least one non-VAT business whose owner borrowed money by whether they are still paying the debt and amount (concluded)

(continuou)							SESE	SESE	SESE	SESE	SESE	SESE
	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023	2001	2005	2009	2013	2017	2023
			Thou	sand					Per	cent		
Current debt by industry												
Total	109	76	67	71	42	31	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Agriculture		1		1	1	1	-	1,6	-	1,8	3,0	2,1
Manufacturing	19	8	4	0		3	17,2	9,9	5,7	0,3	-	8,4
Construction	1	3	4	6		1	0,6	3,8	6,7	8,7	-	3,0
Trade	67	47	35	26	26	9	61,9	61,6	52,0	36,2	61,9	30,2
Transport	8	2	6	19	7	13	7,7	2,6	9,3	26,7	16,8	41,8
Finance	9	2	3	7	3	1	7,9	3,0	4,8	9,4	7,5	2,9
Community and social services	5	13	9	12	5	4	4,8	17,6	13,8	16,8	10,8	11,5
Other			5				-	-	7,8	-	-	-

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Table 13 – Number of persons running at I	east one no	n-VAT regi	stered busi	iness by wh	nether they	receive a g	ırant/s and	source of	grant			
	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023
			Thou	sand					Per	cent		
Did you obtain a grant to start the business?												
Total	1 438	959	736	902	1 050	1 148	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	16	30	12	8	18	34	1,1	3,1	1,6	0,9	1,7	3,0
No	1 422	925	724	895	1 032	1 114	98,9	96,9	98,4	99,1	98,3	97,0
Source of grant												
From government												
Total	16	30	12	8	18	34	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	3	7	6	3	3	6	19,7	22,3	52,5	43,7	15,4	17,1
No	13	23	6	4	16	28	80,3	77,7	47,5	56,3	84,6	82,9
From a non-governmental organisation/CBO												
Total	16	30	12	8	18	34	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	4	3	1	0	2	=	23,9	10,0	9,6	1,6	11,6	-
No	12	27	11	8	16	34	76,1	90,0	90,4	98,4	88,4	100,0
Other sources												
Total	16	30	12	8	18	34	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	9	22	4	4	11	24	56,9	75,2	37,9	54,7	59,4	71,4
No	7	7	7	4	7	10	43,1	24,8	62,1	45,3	40,6	28,6

Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

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	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023
			Thou						Per			
TYPE OF ASSISTANCE REQUIRED												
Provision of alternative site												
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	1 873	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	451	492	340	438	715	512	20,0	29,5	29,8	28,9	39,9	27,3
No	1 805	1 162	803	1 078	1 078	1 361	80,0	69,6	70,2	71,1	60,1	72,7
Unspecified	1	14	-	-	-	-	0,1	0,9	-	-	-	
Better access to loans												
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	1 873	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	438	571	331	465	591	428	19,4	34,2	28,9	30,7	33,0	22,8
No	1 818	1 082	813	1 052	1 202	1 445	80,5	64,9	71,1	69,3	67,0	77,2
Unspecified	1	14	-	-	-	-	0,1	0,9	-	-	-	-
Assistance with marketing												
Total	2 257	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	1 873	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	619	680	443	615	873	647	27,4	40,7	38,7	40,5	48,7	34,5
No	1 637	975	701	902	920	1 226	72,5	58,4	61,3	59,5	51,3	65,5
Unspecified	1	14	-	-	-	-	0,1	0,8	-	-	-	-
Better access to raw material/supplies												
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	1 873	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	492	602	364	433	622	425	21,8	36,1	31,8	28,6	34,7	22,7
No	1 764	1 049	780	1 083	1 172	1 448	78,1	62,9	68,2	71,4	65,3	77,3
Unspecified	1	17	-	-	-	_	0,1	1,0	_		_	,-

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Table 14 – Number of persons running at least one	non-VAT	registered	business	by type of	assistanc	e required	(conclude	d)				
	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023
			Thou	sand					Per	cent		
Easing in government regulations												]
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	1 873	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	218	254	259	326	432	241	9,6	15,2	22,6	21,5	24,1	12,9
No	2 038	1 400	885	1 191	1 361	1 632	90,3	84,0	77,4	78,5	75,9	87,1
Unspecified	1	14	-	-	-	-	0,1	0,8	-	-	-	-
Access to modern technology												<u> </u>
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	1 873	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100.0	100,0
Yes	314	256	223	292	437	303	13,9	15,3	19,5	19,2	24,4	16,2
No	1 942	1 396	921	1 225	1 356	1 570	86,0	83,7	80,5	80,8	75,6	83,8
Unspecified	1	16	-	-	-	-	0,1	1,0	-	-	-	-
Forming contacts with others in similar business for co-operation												
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	1 873	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	373	399	290	417	548	374	16,5	23,9	25,4	27,5	30,5	19,9
No	1 883	1 255	854	1 100	1 245	1 499	83,4	75,3	74,6	72,5	69,5	80,1
Unspecified	1	14	-	-	-	-	0,1	0,8	-	-	-	-
Other												
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	1 873	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	41	47	45	72	132	154	1,8	2,8	3,9	4,7	7,3	8,2
No	2 215	1 604	1 099	1 445	1 662	1 719	98,1	96,2	96,1	95,3	92,7	91,8
Unspecified	1	17	-	-	-	-	0,1	1,0	-	-	-	-

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	SESE	SESE	SESE	SESE	SESE	SESE	SESE 2001	SESE	SESE	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE
	2001	2001 2005 2009 2013 2017 2023 20 Thousand					2001	2005	2009	2013   cent	2017	2023
Financial inclusion			11100	Juliu					rei	Cent		
Does the business have a current/transaction/savings account?	-		-	1 517	1 793	1 873	_	_	_	100.0	100.0	100.0
Yes, from a bank	_	_	_	298	274	460	-	_	-	19,7	15,3	24,6
Yes, from another formal financial institution	_	-	_	9	7	8	-	_	-	0.6	0.4	0.4
Yes, from an informal organisation (e.g. stokvel)	-	-	-	9	4	12	-	-	-	0,6	0,2	0,6
No	-	-	-	1 200	1 508	1 393	-	-	-	79,1	84,1	74,4
Does the business have an investment/deposit account?			_	1 517	1 793	1 873	_	_	_	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes, from a bank				99	99	192				6.6	5,5	10.2
Yes, from another formal institution	_	_	_	11	9	7	-	_	-	0.8	0,5	0,4
No	-	-	-	1 406	1 685	1 674	-	-	-	92,7	94,0	89,4
Does the business have a loan account?			_	1 517	1 793	1 873	-	_		100,0	100.0	100.0
Yes, from a bank	_	-	_	32	14	21	-	_	-	2.1	0,8	1,1
Yes, from another formal financial institution (e.g. micro)				6	-	1				0,4	-	0,0
Yes, from an informal organisation		-	-	9	4	2		-	-	0,6	0,2	0,1
Yes, from family / friends		-	-	1 468	26	8		-	-	96,8	1,5	0,4
No	-	-	-	1	1 749	1 841	-	-	-	0,1	97,5	98,3
Does the business have asset finance?			_	1 517	1 793	1 873	_	_		100.0	100.0	100.0
Yes, from a bank	-	-	-	33	9	5	-	-	-	2,1	0,5	0,3
Yes, from another formal financial institution	-	-	-	9	4	1	-	-	-	0,6	0,2	0,0
No	-	_	_	1 475	1 780	1 867	-	_	-	97.3	99,2	99,7

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Table 15 – Number of persons running at least one	SESE	SESE	SESE	SESE	SESE	SESE	SESE	SESE	SESE	SESE	SESE	SESE
	2001	2005	2009	2013	2017	2023	2001	2005	2009	2013	2017	2023
			Thousa	ınd				Per cent				
Does the business have a mortgage loan?	-	-	-	1 517	1 793	1 873	-	-	-	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes, from a bank	-	-	-	9	-	6	-	-	-	0,6	-	0,3
Yes, from another formal financial institution	-	-	-	7	5		-	-	-	0,5	0,3	0,0
No	-	-	-	1 500	1 788	1 867	-	-	-	98,9	99,7	99,7
Does the business have a credit facility?	-	-	-	1 517	1 793	1 873	-	-	-	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes, from a bank	-		-	34	19	15	-	-	_	2,2	1,0	0,8
Yes, from another formal financial institution	-	-	-	16	1	5	-	-	-	1,0	0,1	0,3
No	-	-	-	1 467	1 773	1 853	-	-	-	96,7	98,9	98,9
Does the business have a short-term insurance?	-		_	1 517	1 793	1 873	_	-	-	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes, from a bank	-	-	-	15	13	21	-	-	-	1,0	0,7	1,1
Yes, from another formal financial institution	=	-	1	43	22	24	-	-	-	2,8	1,2	1,3
No	-	-	-	1 459	1 758	1 828	-	-	-	96,2	98,0	97,6
Does the business make business payments through the account?	-			1 517	1 793	1 873	-	_	-	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	-	-	-	133	149	341	-	-	-	8,8	8,3	18,2
No				124	100	112				8,1	5,6	6,0
Not applicable (No account)	-	-	-	1 260	1 544	1 419	-	-	-	83,1	86,1	75,8
To make the business payments, does the business mainly use:	_	_		127	1 720	1 873	-	_	_	100.0	100.0	100.0
Internet / cellphone banking	-	-	-	39	76	202	_	-	-	31,0	4,4	10,8
A branch /personal banking	-	-	-	88	247	426	_	-	-	69,0	14,3	22,7
Debit card / pay cash	_	_	_	-	1 391	1 241	_	_	_	-	80.9	66,3
Credit card					5	4	_				0,3	0,2

Table 16 – Number of pa	aid and unpa	id employ	ees by in	dustry in t	he last we	eek						
rabio to italiao o po	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023
		Thousand							Per o	ent		
Paid and unpaid employees												
Total	661	592	538	1 007	761	523	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Agriculture	4	15	3	24	20	21	0,5	2,5	0,5	2,3	2,7	4,0
Mining	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manufacturing	61	68	45	55	67	70	9,2	11,5	8,4	5,5	8,7	13,4
Utilities												
Construction	105	93	171	229	254	111	15,8	15,7	31,7	22,8	33,3	21,3
Trade	317	246	148	347	186	177	47,9	41,5	27,6	34,5	24,4	33,9
Transport	79	25	31	52	62	34	12,0	4,2	5,8	5,2	8,1	6,5
Finance	42	86	17	37	47	28	6,4	14,5	3,1	3,7	6,1	5,4
Community and social services	53	60	108	262	126	81	8,1	10,1	20,0	26,1	16,6	15,5
Other	1	-	15	-	-	-	0,1	-	2,8	-	ı	-
Paid employees												
Total	431	443	442	800	674	447	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Agriculture	2	13	3	7	15	18	0,5	2,9	0,6	0,9	2,2	4,0
Mining	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-
Manufacturing	49	40	43	30	62	70	11,4	9,1	9,8	3,8	9,2	15,7
Utilities	-	-	1	-	-		i	i	ı	ı	1	-
Construction	99	93	166	221	237	111	22,9	20,9	37,6	27,6	35,2	24,9
Trade	123	143	104	209	134	132	28,6	32,3	23,6	26,1	19,9	29,5
Transport	77	24	29	47	58	32	17,9	5,3	6,6	5,8	8,7	7,1
Finance	38	83	15	34	43	21	8,9	18,6	3,4	4,2	6,4	4,8
Community and social services	43	48	67	253	124	63	9,9	10,9	15,2	31,6	18,4	14,2
Other	_	•	14	-	-		ı	1	3,2	ı	ı	-

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Table 16 - Number of pa	id and unpa	id employ	ees by in	dustry in t	he last we	eek (conc	luded)						
	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023	
		Thousand						Per cent					
Unpaid employees													
Total	230	149	96	207	87	76	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	
Agriculture	1	2		17	5	3	0,6	1,4	0,0	8,0	6,2	4,5	
Mining	_	ı	ı	ı	-		1	ı	ı	•	ı	ı	
Manufacturing	12	28	2	25	5		5,2	18,7	2,1	12,1	5,3	0,0	
Utilities	_	ı	ı	•	-		•	•	į	-	ı	•	
Construction	6		5	8	17		2,5	0,0	4,8	3,9	19,1	0,0	
Trade	194	103	44	138	52	46	84,3	69,0	45,9	66,9	59,0	60,2	
Transport	2	1	2	6	3	2	0,9	0,9	1,8	2,8	3,8	2,7	
Finance	4	3	2	3	4	7	1,6	2,2	2,1	1,7	4,2	9,1	
Community and social services	11	12	41	9	2	18	4,6	7,7	42,2	4,6	2,4	23,6	
Other	1	ı	1	ı	-		0,3	ı	1,0		ı	-	

	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2023				
	Thousand									
Total turnover										
R0-R100	244	190	101	124	93	213				
R101-R350	666	357	165	167	125	108				
R351-R750	483	389	214	209	224	218				
R751-R1 500	345	283	227	293	373	289				
R1 501-R3 000	191	204	181	281	356	374				
R3 001-R6 000	135	117	124	222	293	287				
R6 001-R15 000	71	78	83	120	213	233				
R15 001+	12	45	49	101	116	150				
Unspecified	110	5								
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1793	1873				
Total net profit										
R0-R100	380	400	187	194	145	507				
R101-R350	760	487	249	241	203	111				
R351-R750	427	311	234	278	284	212				
R751-R1 500	264	223	179	271	354	290				
R1 501-R3 000	176	142	141	237	349	319				
R3 001-R6 000	97	55	71	157	207	202				
R6 001-R15 000	44	31	47	95	190	147				
R15 001+	9	4	15	44	62	86				
Unspecified	101	13	22							
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1793	1873				

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	<b>SESE 2023</b>					
		Thousand									
Total labour cost											
R0-R100	101	42	46	86	55	48					
R101-R750	91	103	59	77	55	22					
R751-R1 500	43	41	37	71	73	54					
R1 501-R3 000	23	34	26	59	70	46					
R3 001-R6 000	19	9	29	38	48	40					
R6 001-R15 000	7	16	11	18	35	31					
R15 001+	2		3	21	15	18					
Unspecified	24	75									
Total	309	319	211	370	351	259					

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.