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STATISTICAL RELEASE

P6420

Food and beverages (Preliminary)

January 2026

This release provides an analysis of revisions. If you have any questions or comments, please send these to Joyce Essel-Mensah, joycee@statssa.gov.za.

Embargoed until:
24 March 2026
14:30

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FORTHCOMING ISSUE:
February 2026

EXPECTED RELEASE DATE:
30 April 2026

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Income at constant 2019 prices: results for January 2026**Table A – Year-on-year percentage change in food and beverages income at constant 2019 prices by type of income**

Type of income	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26
Food sales	9,5	7,8	8,5	8,3	6,9	7,1
Bar sales	-14,0	-4,6	-5,3	-10,7	-22,8	-15,4
Other income	12,8	8,4	13,3	16,3	-3,8	21,9
Total	6,4	6,3	7,0	6,1	2,5	4,4

Measured in real terms (constant 2019 prices), total income generated by the food and beverages industry increased by 4,4% in January 2026 compared with January 2025. Positive annual growth rates were recorded for 'other' income (21,9%) and food sales (7,1%) – see Table A.

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

Type of enterprise	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26
Restaurants and coffee shops	5,9	4,4	7,7	8,5	2,8	2,4
Takeaway and fast-food outlets	11,1	9,2	8,8	4,2	6,4	9,0
Catering services	-5,0	4,7	-0,6	3,1	-12,4	-1,8
Total	6,4	6,3	7,0	6,1	2,5	4,4

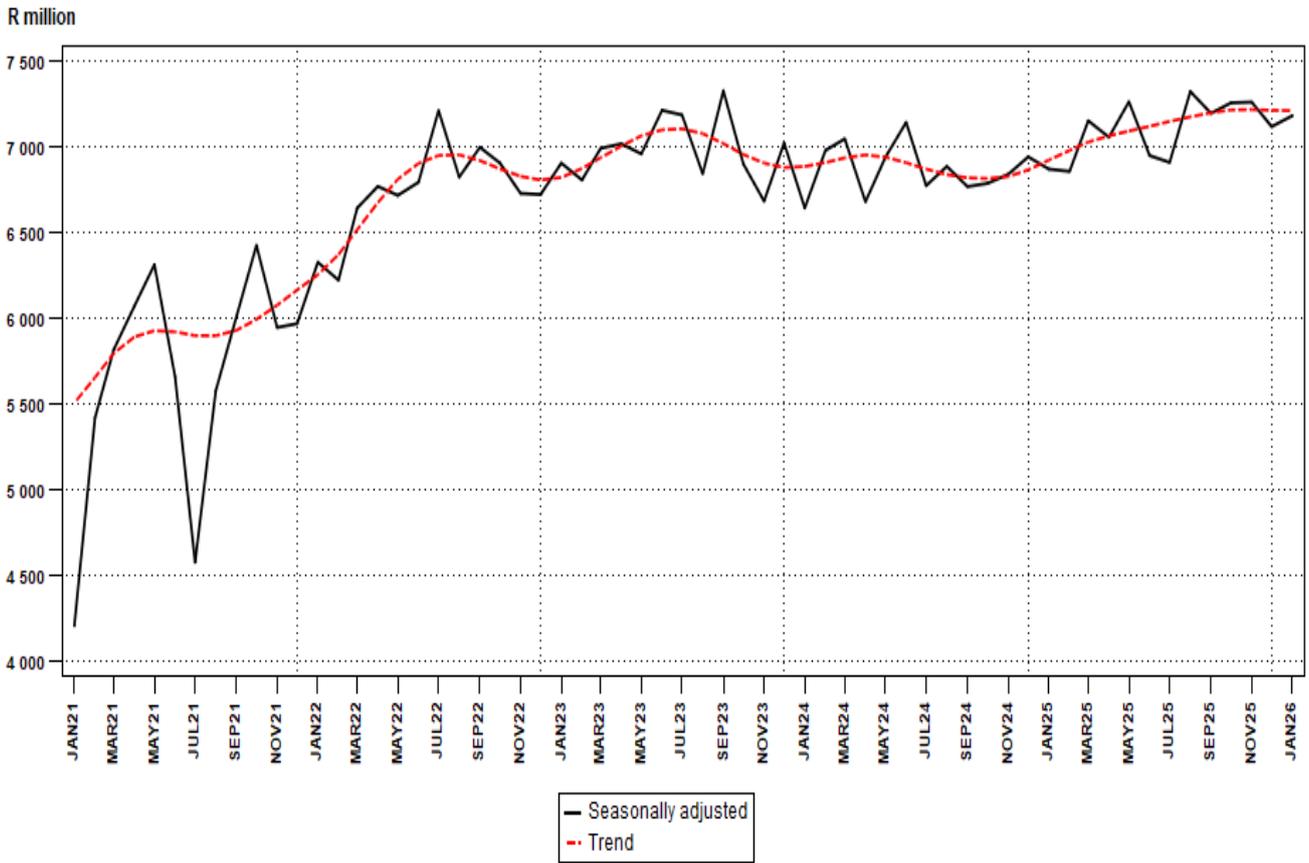
In January 2026, the positive contributors to the 4,4% year-on-year increase were takeaway and fast-food outlets (9,0% and contributing 3,5 percentage points) and restaurants and coffee shops (2,4% and contributing 1,1 percentage points) – see Table B and Table 6.

Table C – Food and beverages income at constant 2019 prices for the latest three months by type of enterprise

Type of enterprise	Nov 2024 – Jan 2025 (R million)	Weight (%)	Nov 2025 – Jan 2026 (R million)	% change between Nov 2024 – Jan 2025 and Nov 2025 – Jan 2026	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
Restaurants and coffee shops	10 816,3	48,4	11 299,0	4,5	2,2
Takeaway and fast-food outlets	8 777,1	39,3	9 343,4	6,5	2,6
Catering services	2 764,6	12,4	2 657,9	-3,9	-0,5
Total	22 358,0	100,0	23 300,3	4,2	4,2

Total income increased by 4,2% in the three months ended January 2026 compared with the three months ended January 2025. The positive contributors to this increase were takeaway and fast-food outlets (6,5% and contributing 2,6 percentage points) and restaurants and coffee shops (4,5% and contributing 2,2 percentage points) – see Table C.

Figure 3 – Food and beverages income at constant 2019 prices



Seasonally adjusted income for the food and beverages industry increased by 0,9% in January 2026 compared with December 2025. This followed month-on-month changes of -2,0% in December 2025 and 0,1% in November 2025 – see Table 3 and Table 7.


Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

Tables

Table 1 – Food and beverages income at constant 2019 prices (R million)

Month	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Jan	4 063,7	6 137,2	6 676,8	6 411,5	6 620,0	6 913,5
Feb	5 070,7	5 814,4	6 353,1	6 519,4	6 399,6	
Mar	5 808,8	6 589,9	6 948,0	7 009,3	7 101,4	
Apr	5 832,7	6 538,7	6 781,9	6 457,0	6 840,2	
May	6 052,1	6 469,6	6 720,1	6 713,6	7 036,7	
Jun	5 240,3	6 277,6	6 656,1	6 597,9	6 421,7	
Jul	4 489,5	7 051,7	7 042,6	6 637,8	6 785,5	
Aug	5 556,5	6 803,9	6 835,7	6 886,9	7 329,2	
Sep	5 845,0	6 797,4	7 104,8	6 563,5	6 976,0	
Oct	6 485,3	7 001,3	7 007,9	6 904,3	7 386,8	
Nov	6 308,7	7 126,8	7 063,9	7 223,4	7 663,5	
Dec	7 343,2	8 244,5	8 641,2	8 514,6	8 723,3	
Total	68 096,5	80 853,0	83 832,1	82 439,2	85 283,9	

Table 2 – Year-on-year percentage change in food and beverages income at constant 2019 prices

Month	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2026 year-to-date
Jan	51,0	8,8	-4,0	3,3	4,4	4,4
Feb	14,7	9,3	2,6	-1,8		
Mar	13,4	5,4	0,9	1,3		
Apr	12,1	3,7	-4,8	5,9		
May	6,9	3,9	-0,1	4,8		
Jun	19,8	6,0	-0,9	-2,7		
Jul	57,1	-0,1	-5,7	2,2		
Aug	22,4	0,5	0,7	6,4		
Sep	16,3	4,5	-7,6	6,3		
Oct	8,0	0,1	-1,5	7,0		
Nov	13,0	-0,9	2,3	6,1		
Dec	12,3	4,8	-1,5	2,5		
Total	18,7	3,7	-1,7	3,5		

Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted food and beverages income at constant 2019 prices

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2023	2024	2025	2026
Jan	6 906,4	6 644,8	6 871,1	7 182,6	2,7	-5,4	-1,0	0,9
Feb	6 807,7	6 980,4	6 858,2		-1,4	5,1	-0,2	
Mar	6 992,5	7 047,7	7 153,3		2,7	1,0	4,3	
Apr	7 018,7	6 681,1	7 057,4		0,4	-5,2	-1,3	
May	6 960,2	6 941,2	7 264,1		-0,8	3,9	2,9	
Jun	7 214,2	7 143,8	6 950,1		3,6	2,9	-4,3	
Jul	7 187,3	6 774,8	6 910,3		-0,4	-5,2	-0,6	
Aug	6 844,3	6 887,2	7 323,9		-4,8	1,7	6,0	
Sep	7 328,1	6 769,3	7 196,7		7,1	-1,7	-1,7	
Oct	6 901,0	6 788,1	7 257,7		-5,8	0,3	0,8	
Nov	6 684,5	6 840,8	7 262,1		-3,1	0,8	0,1	
Dec	7 023,4	6 942,7	7 119,2		5,1	1,5	-2,0	

Table 4 – Food and beverages income at constant 2019 prices by type of enterprise (R million)

		Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26
Restaurants and coffee shops	Food sales	2 683,9	2 619,8	2 761,3	2 896,3	3 469,3	2 551,1
	Bar sales	651,8	643,0	637,4	683,4	820,3	610,5
	Other income	73,0	73,1	82,3	89,0	98,1	81,0
	Total	3 408,7	3 335,9	3 481,0	3 668,7	4 387,7	3 242,6
Takeaway and fast-food outlets	Food sales	3 004,3	2 728,2	2 957,7	3 024,3	3 482,4	2 808,0
	Bar sales	2,9	2,9	3,1	3,1	3,9	3,0
	Other income	6,1	5,7	5,4	5,7	6,1	6,9
	Total	3 013,3	2 736,8	2 966,2	3 033,1	3 492,4	2 817,9
Catering services	Food sales	706,3	715,1	740,3	759,6	659,9	668,1
	Bar sales	129,4	123,0	130,7	130,7	118,9	120,8
	Other income	71,5	65,2	68,6	71,4	64,4	64,1
	Total	907,2	903,3	939,6	961,7	843,2	853,0
Total industry	Food sales	6 394,5	6 063,1	6 459,3	6 680,2	7 611,6	6 027,2
	Bar sales	784,1	768,9	771,2	817,2	943,1	734,3
	Other income	150,6	144,0	156,3	166,1	168,6	152,0
	Total	7 329,2	6 976,0	7 386,8	7 663,5	8 723,3	6 913,5

Table 5 – Year-on-year percentage change in food and beverages income at constant 2019 prices by type of enterprise

		Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26
Restaurants and coffee shops	Food sales	10,6	5,9	10,1	12,6	9,0	6,0
	Bar sales	-11,4	-3,4	-4,4	-8,4	-16,8	-13,6
	Other income	31,3	32,9	41,7	41,9	-0,8	51,4
	Total	5,9	4,4	7,7	8,5	2,8	2,4
Takeaway and fast-food outlets	Food sales	11,1	9,3	8,9	4,3	6,4	9,1
	Bar sales	-14,7	-9,4	-13,9	-11,4	8,3	-6,3
	Other income	1,7	-3,4	-6,9	-1,7	0,0	9,5
	Total	11,1	9,2	8,8	4,2	6,4	9,0
Catering services	Food sales	-0,6	9,4	1,8	9,5	-0,2	3,5
	Bar sales	-25,1	-10,6	-9,2	-20,9	-48,6	-23,6
	Other income	-0,6	-9,3	-7,4	-3,9	-8,4	-1,2
	Total	-5,0	4,7	-0,6	3,1	-12,4	-1,8
Total industry	Food sales	9,5	7,8	8,5	8,3	6,9	7,1
	Bar sales	-14,0	-4,6	-5,3	-10,7	-22,8	-15,4
	Other income	12,8	8,4	13,3	16,3	-3,8	21,9
	Total	6,4	6,3	7,0	6,1	2,5	4,4

Table 6 – Contribution of each type of enterprise to the year-on-year percentage change in food and beverages income at constant 2019 prices (percentage points)

		Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26
Restaurants and coffee shops	Food sales	3,7	2,2	3,7	4,5	3,3	2,2
	Bar sales	-1,2	-0,3	-0,4	-0,9	-1,9	-1,5
	Other income	0,3	0,3	0,4	0,4	0,0	0,4
	Total	2,8	2,2	3,6	4,0	1,4	1,1
Takeaway and fast-food outlets	Food sales	4,4	3,5	3,5	1,7	2,5	3,5
	Bar sales	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
	Other income	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
	Total	4,4	3,5	3,5	1,7	2,5	3,5
Catering services	Food sales	-0,1	0,9	0,2	0,9	0,0	0,3
	Bar sales	-0,6	-0,2	-0,2	-0,5	-1,3	-0,6
	Other income	0,0	-0,1	-0,1	0,0	-0,1	0,0
	Total	-0,7	0,6	-0,1	0,4	-1,4	-0,2
Total industry	Food sales	8,0	6,7	7,3	7,1	5,8	6,0
	Bar sales	-1,9	-0,6	-0,6	-1,4	-3,3	-2,0
	Other income	0,2	0,2	0,3	0,3	-0,1	0,4
	Total	6,4	6,3	7,0	6,1	2,5	4,4

Table 7 – Seasonally adjusted food and beverages income at constant 2019 prices by type of enterprise (R million)

		Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Month-on-month % change
Restaurants and coffee shops	Food sales	2 665,4	2 733,7	2 763,0	2 733,9	2 616,0	-4,3
	Bar sales	684,9	649,8	646,6	622,1	617,0	-0,8
	Other income	78,2	81,6	79,7	71,9	86,6	20,4
	Total	3 428,5	3 465,2	3 489,3	3 427,9	3 319,7	-3,2
Takeaway and fast-food outlets	Food sales	2 858,3	2 895,9	2 877,7	2 844,8	2 952,8	3,8
	Bar sales	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,3	3,0	-9,1
	Other income	5,7	5,4	5,7	6,1	6,9	13,1
	Total	2 867,0	2 904,3	2 886,4	2 854,2	2 962,8	3,8
Catering services	Food sales	706,8	695,8	698,2	677,1	708,7	4,7
	Bar sales	128,5	126,7	122,9	97,3	124,4	27,9
	Other income	65,9	65,8	65,3	62,6	67,1	7,2
	Total	901,2	888,2	886,4	837,0	900,2	7,6
Total industry	Food sales	6 230,4	6 325,4	6 338,9	6 255,8	6 277,5	0,3
	Bar sales	816,4	779,5	772,5	722,7	744,5	3,0
	Other income	149,8	152,8	150,7	140,7	160,6	14,1
	Total	7 196,7	7 257,7	7 262,1	7 119,2	7 182,6	0,9

Table 8 – Food and beverages income at current prices (R million)

Month	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Jan	4 194,4	6 700,7	7 813,9	8 029,8	8 649,0	9 446,8
Feb	5 253,5	6 379,2	7 466,1	8 175,0	8 375,2	
Mar	6 039,3	7 256,0	8 211,4	8 798,3	9 328,8	
Apr	6 114,1	7 223,3	8 027,0	8 138,8	9 020,5	
May	6 366,8	7 216,4	8 059,2	8 532,0	9 323,3	
Jun	5 528,8	7 080,8	8 029,7	8 391,4	8 555,5	
Jul	4 762,9	7 984,1	8 521,6	8 475,1	9 043,1	
Aug	5 926,2	7 757,7	8 341,5	8 814,2	9 826,9	
Sep	6 239,6	7 750,3	8 698,7	8 409,9	9 382,6	
Oct	6 979,9	8 041,3	8 612,0	8 887,4	9 972,1	
Nov	6 819,2	8 236,5	8 741,0	9 386,4	10 399,9	
Dec	7 954,4	9 600,7	10 701,1	11 080,8	11 888,4	
Total	72 179,1	91 227,0	101 223,2	105 119,1	113 765,3	

Table 9 – Year-on-year percentage change in food and beverages income at current prices

Month	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2026 year-to-date
Jan	59,8	16,6	2,8	7,7	9,2	9,2
Feb	21,4	17,0	9,5	2,4		
Mar	20,1	13,2	7,1	6,0		
Apr	18,1	11,1	1,4	10,8		
May	13,3	11,7	5,9	9,3		
Jun	28,1	13,4	4,5	2,0		
Jul	67,6	6,7	-0,5	6,7		
Aug	30,9	7,5	5,7	11,5		
Sep	24,2	12,2	-3,3	11,6		
Oct	15,2	7,1	3,2	12,2		
Nov	20,8	6,1	7,4	10,8		
Dec	20,7	11,5	3,5	7,3		
Total	26,4	11,0	3,8	8,2		

Table 10 – Seasonally adjusted food and beverages income at current prices

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2023	2024	2025	2026
Jan	8 094,4	8 332,0	8 986,0	9 820,8	4,3	-3,3	0,4	2,3
Feb	7 995,7	8 752,8	8 977,7		-1,2	5,1	-0,1	
Mar	8 317,0	8 764,1	9 454,3		4,0	0,1	5,3	
Apr	8 242,1	8 493,7	9 242,0		-0,9	-3,1	-2,2	
May	8 345,0	8 818,4	9 620,1		1,2	3,8	4,1	
Jun	8 683,9	9 066,9	9 239,5		4,1	2,8	-4,0	
Jul	8 747,2	8 703,6	9 271,1		0,7	-4,0	0,3	
Aug	8 406,5	8 873,3	9 888,1		-3,9	1,9	6,7	
Sep	8 889,5	8 591,6	9 587,7		5,7	-3,2	-3,0	
Oct	8 526,9	8 784,9	9 850,5		-4,1	2,2	2,7	
Nov	8 311,0	8 931,6	9 897,5		-2,5	1,7	0,5	
Dec	8 618,0	8 950,5	9 600,3		3,7	0,2	-3,0	

Table 11 – Food and beverages income at current prices by type of enterprise (R million)

		Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26
Restaurants and coffee shops	Food sales	3 609,0	3 535,8	3 739,8	3 956,8	4 764,5	3 515,2
	Bar sales	845,3	833,9	836,4	901,9	1 089,9	808,0
	Other income	95,0	95,1	107,3	116,1	127,9	106,2
	Total	4 549,3	4 464,8	4 683,5	4 974,8	5 982,3	4 429,4
Takeaway and fast-food outlets	Food sales	4 035,7	3 679,6	3 998,3	4 095,7	4 731,8	3 825,9
	Bar sales	4,2	4,2	4,4	4,4	5,6	4,3
	Other income	7,9	7,5	7,1	7,5	8,0	9,1
	Total	4 047,8	3 691,3	4 009,8	4 107,6	4 745,4	3 839,3
Catering services	Food sales	948,6	962,8	999,2	1 033,7	901,9	916,8
	Bar sales	184,9	175,8	186,9	187,2	171,5	174,4
	Other income	96,3	87,9	92,7	96,6	87,3	86,9
	Total	1 229,8	1 226,5	1 278,8	1 317,5	1 160,7	1 178,1
Total industry	Food sales	8 593,3	8 178,2	8 737,3	9 086,2	10 398,2	8 257,9
	Bar sales	1 034,4	1 013,9	1 027,7	1 093,5	1 267,0	986,7
	Other income	199,2	190,5	207,1	220,2	223,2	202,2
	Total	9 826,9	9 382,6	9 972,1	10 399,9	11 888,4	9 446,8

Table 12 – Year-on-year percentage change in food and beverages income at current prices by type of enterprise

		Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26
Restaurants and coffee shops	Food sales	15,7	11,1	15,5	18,0	14,5	11,3
	Bar sales	-7,9	0,3	-0,5	-4,8	-12,9	-10,3
	Other income	33,6	35,3	43,6	42,6	-0,5	52,8
	Total	10,8	9,3	12,8	13,6	8,0	7,3
Takeaway and fast-food outlets	Food sales	16,2	14,6	14,0	8,3	10,6	13,3
	Bar sales	-2,3	5,0	-2,2	0,0	21,7	4,9
	Other income	2,6	0,0	-5,3	0,0	1,3	11,0
	Total	16,1	14,5	13,9	8,3	10,6	13,3
Catering services	Food sales	3,9	14,6	6,4	14,3	4,4	8,4
	Bar sales	-14,2	2,3	3,0	-10,7	-41,6	-13,1
	Other income	4,8	-4,5	-2,6	0,1	-4,4	2,8
	Total	0,8	11,1	5,2	8,8	-7,1	4,1
Total industry	Food sales	14,5	13,1	13,7	13,0	11,8	11,9
	Bar sales	-9,0	0,7	0,1	-5,8	-18,2	-10,7
	Other income	16,7	12,2	16,7	18,8	-2,0	24,7
	Total	11,5	11,6	12,2	10,8	7,3	9,2

Table 13 – Contribution of each type of enterprise to the year-on-year percentage change in food and beverages income at current prices (percentage points)

		Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26
Restaurants and coffee shops	Food sales	5,6	4,2	5,7	6,4	5,4	4,1
	Bar sales	-0,8	0,0	0,0	-0,5	-1,5	-1,1
	Other income	0,3	0,3	0,4	0,4	0,0	0,4
	Total	5,0	4,5	6,0	6,3	4,0	3,5
Takeaway and fast-food outlets	Food sales	6,4	5,6	5,5	3,3	4,1	5,2
	Bar sales	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
	Other income	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
	Total	6,4	5,6	5,5	3,3	4,1	5,2
Catering services	Food sales	0,4	1,5	0,7	1,4	0,3	0,8
	Bar sales	-0,3	0,0	0,1	-0,2	-1,1	-0,3
	Other income	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
	Total	0,1	1,5	0,7	1,1	-0,8	0,5
Total industry	Food sales	12,3	11,2	11,9	11,1	9,9	10,1
	Bar sales	-1,2	0,1	0,0	-0,7	-2,5	-1,4
	Other income	0,3	0,2	0,3	0,4	0,0	0,5
	Total	11,5	11,6	12,2	10,8	7,3	9,2

Table 14 – Seasonally adjusted food and beverages income at current prices by type of enterprise (R million)

		Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Month-on-month % change
Restaurants and coffee shops	Food sales	3 603,6	3 707,3	3 768,3	3 724,3	3 600,7	-3,3
	Bar sales	872,4	855,9	854,3	820,1	818,8	-0,2
	Other income	102,0	107,7	104,8	95,2	113,2	18,9
	Total	4 578,1	4 670,8	4 727,4	4 639,7	4 532,6	-2,3
Takeaway and fast-food outlets	Food sales	3 781,9	3 949,7	3 943,3	3 797,9	4 012,3	5,6
	Bar sales	4,3	4,3	4,2	4,8	4,4	-8,3
	Other income	7,1	6,9	7,5	7,3	8,7	19,2
	Total	3 793,3	3 960,8	3 955,0	3 810,0	4 025,4	5,7
Catering services	Food sales	945,1	947,1	949,5	924,1	987,5	6,9
	Bar sales	183,5	181,9	177,5	142,2	183,2	28,8
	Other income	87,8	89,9	88,2	84,4	92,1	9,1
	Total	1 216,4	1 218,9	1 215,1	1 150,7	1 262,7	9,7
Total industry	Food sales	8 330,6	8 604,1	8 661,0	8 446,3	8 600,4	1,8
	Bar sales	1 060,3	1 042,0	1 036,0	967,1	1 006,3	4,1
	Other income	196,8	204,5	200,4	186,9	214,0	14,5
	Total	9 587,7	9 850,5	9 897,5	9 600,3	9 820,8	2,3

Analysis of revisions

Introduction

Preliminary monthly values for food and beverages are published approximately seven to eight weeks after the reference month, e.g. preliminary food and beverages income for March are published around mid-May. The preliminary values are revised the following month, using additional information received from respondents. This and other reasons for revising food and beverages income from time to time are shown in the explanatory notes (see 'revised figures' on page 14).

Analysis

Revisions may be analysed in terms of several dimensions, namely rand values and/or growth rates (e.g. month-on-month percentage changes, year-on-year percentage changes); current prices and/or constant prices; seasonally adjusted and/or unadjusted data; totals and/or components; preliminary estimate compared with first revision and/or latest available revision; and various combinations of these options.

This analysis is confined to the following:

- Total food and beverages income, year-on-year growth rate, constant prices, unadjusted.
- Preliminary growth rates are compared with the latest available revised growth rates, where the preliminary growth rate refers to the first year-on-year growth rate published for the month in question.
- Time period: January 2012 to December 2025.

Figure 4 shows the preliminary and revised growth rates (line chart, left vertical axis) and the difference between them (bar chart, right vertical axis, where difference = revised - preliminary).

Table 15 provides key results relating to revisions.

Figure 4 – Food and beverages year-on-year growth rates: preliminary and revised

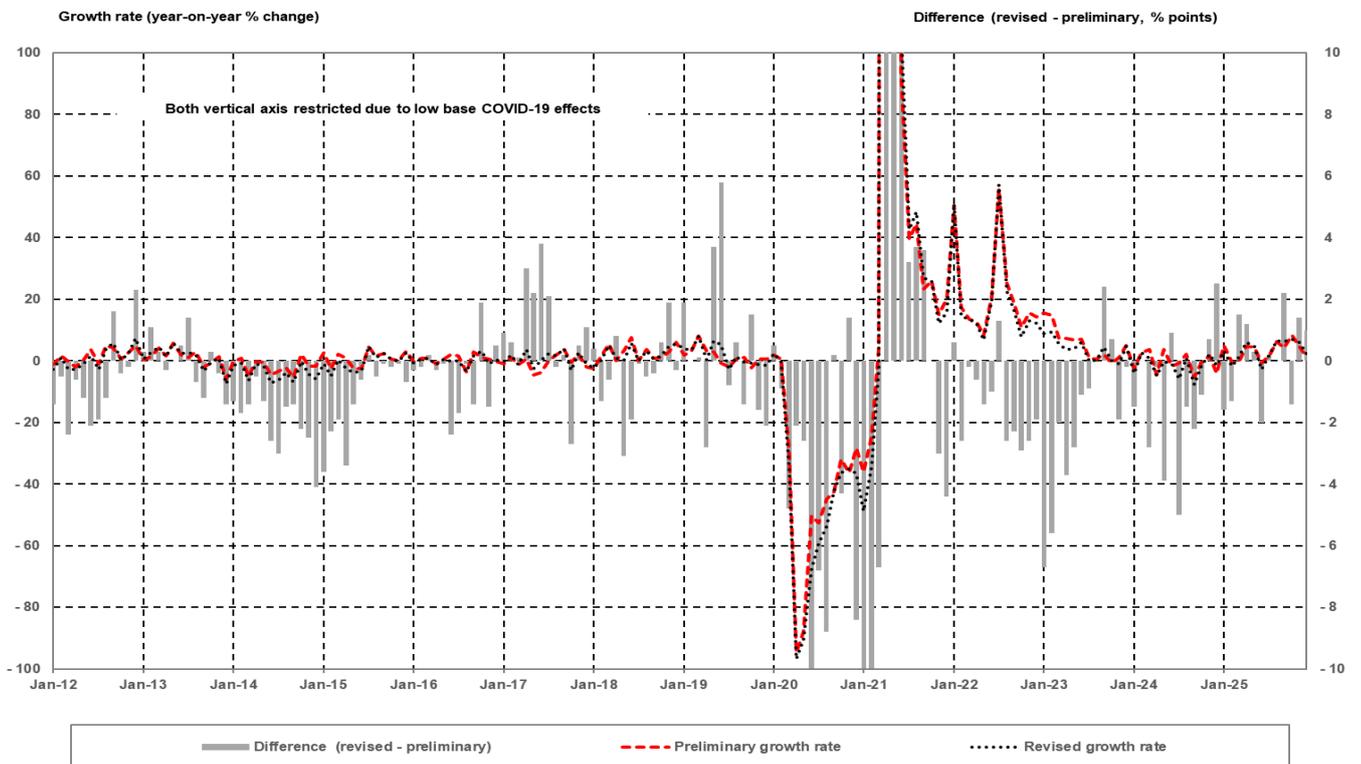


Table 15 – Food and beverages year-on-year growth rates: preliminary and revised

Description	Value / outcome	Comment
Average year-on-year growth rate over the whole period	Preliminary: 15,95% Revised: 16,77%	The average of revised growth rates is higher than the average of preliminary growth rates
Mean revision	0,82 percentage points	This is the average of the revisions
Mean absolute revision	3,71 percentage points	Average of the revisions, but based on the absolute value of each revision (positives and negatives do not cancel each other)
Largest upward revision	160,9 percentage points	Preliminary 1 961,1% was revised up to 2 122,0% (April 2021; affected by COVID-19)
Largest downward revision	-17,3 percentage points	Preliminary -50,3% was revised down to -67,6% (June 2020; affected by COVID-19)
Range for all revisions	-17,3 to 160,9 percentage points	
Range within which 90% of the revisions lie	-6,2 to 3,4 percentage points	This may be regarded as the normal range for revisions, with revisions outside this range being outliers
Number of upward revisions	58 (or 34,5% of the total observations)	
Number of downward revisions	110 (or 65,5% of the total observations)	
Is the mean revision (0,82) significantly different from zero?	No	This indicates that there is no bias in the preliminary estimate – see Note 1 below
Standard deviation of the revisions	16,45 percentage points	Standard deviation is a measure of dispersion about the mean; the result is affected by COVID-19 – see the rows below
Standard deviation of the revisions, based on 2022–2025	2,12 percentage points	
Percentage of revisions that lie within one standard deviation of the mean, based on 2022–2025	75,0%	This is the percentage of revisions that lie between -3,18 and 1,07 percentage points; the higher the percentage, the lower is the dispersion about the mean

Note 1: Is the mean revision significantly different from zero?

The formula for the test statistic is as follows:

$$\text{test statistic} = \frac{\bar{R}}{\sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{n(n-1)}\right) \left(\sum_{t=1}^n \hat{\epsilon}_t^2 + \frac{3}{4} \sum_{t=2}^n \hat{\epsilon}_t \hat{\epsilon}_{t-1} + \frac{2}{3} \sum_{t=3}^n \hat{\epsilon}_t \hat{\epsilon}_{t-2}\right)}}$$

where

n = number of observations

\bar{R} = mean revision

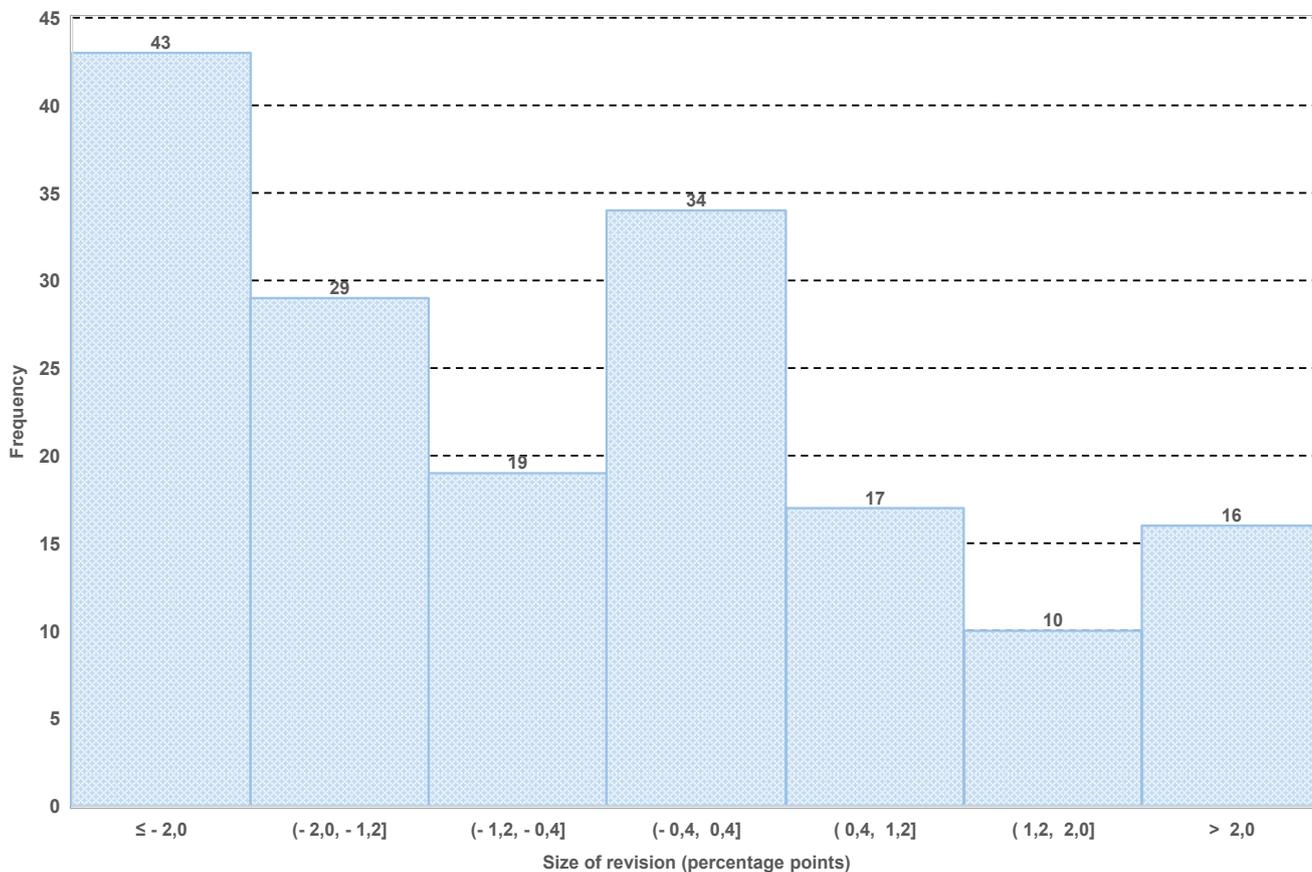
$\hat{\epsilon}_t = R_t - \bar{R}$, with R_t = revision in period t

Note that if the test statistic shows that the mean revision (MR) is significantly different from zero, then there is bias in the preliminary estimates. Bias in a series suggests there is scope to enhance the compilation of that series in an attempt to remove or minimise the bias. $MR > 0$ (statistically significant) implies under-estimation of the preliminary estimates. $MR < 0$ (statistically significant) implies over-estimation of the preliminary estimates.

In this case the test statistic is 0,55, which lies below the critical value of 1,97, indicating that the MR is not significantly different from zero at a 5% significance level. Accordingly, no bias is detected in the preliminary estimates.

Figure 5 shows the revisions in terms of a histogram. There were 19 revisions between -1,2 and -0,4 ($-1,2 < \text{revision} \leq -0,4$) and 34 revisions between -0,4 and 0,4 ($-0,4 < \text{revision} \leq 0,4$). Around 64,9% of revisions lie between -2,0 and 2,0 percentage points.

Figure 5 – Food and beverages year-on-year growth rates: histogram of revisions



Explanatory notes

Introduction The results presented in this publication are derived from the monthly survey of the food and beverages industry. This survey is based on a sample drawn from the 2025 statistical business register (SBR) that contains businesses registered for value-added tax (VAT).

Purpose of the survey The food and beverages survey is a monthly survey covering a sample of public and private enterprises involved in the preparation of meals and drinks for immediate consumption in South Africa. The purpose of this survey is to monitor trends in the food and beverages industry.

The results of the food and beverages survey are used to compile estimates of the tourism satellite accounts (TSA) and the gross domestic product (GDP) and its components, which are used to develop and monitor government policy. These statistics are also used in the analysis of comparative business and industry performance.

Scope of the survey This survey covers the following tax registered private and public enterprises, that are mainly engaged in providing food and beverages for immediate consumption:

- restaurants and coffee shops;
- takeaway and fast-food outlets; and
- catering services.

Classification by industry The 1993 edition of the *Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities* (SIC), Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02, was used to classify the statistical units in the survey. The SIC is based on the 1990 *International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities* (ISIC) with suitable adaptations for local conditions. Each enterprise is classified to an industry which reflects its predominant activity. Statistics in this publication are presented at five-digit SIC level.

Collection rate The preliminary collection rate for the survey on food and beverages for January 2026 was 82,5%. The revised collection rate for December 2025 was 85,3%.

Statistical unit The statistical unit for which information is compiled and published is an enterprise, defined as a legal unit or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its income activities. The statistical units are derived from and linked to the South African Revenue Service (SARS) administrative data.

Revised figures Revised figures are mainly due to late submission of data to Stats SA, or respondents reporting revisions or corrections to their figures. The reasons for routine revisions are outlined in the following schedule. Any unscheduled revisions will be promptly indicated in relevant tables to maintain transparency and accuracy. It is important to note that seasonally adjusted figures are revised monthly.

Statistical release	Reason for revision	Period subject to revision
Jan-26	Additional information from respondents	Dec-25
Feb-26	Additional information from respondents	Jan-26
Mar-26	Additional information from respondents	Feb-26
Apr-26	Additional information from respondents	Mar-26
May-26	Additional information from respondents	Apr-26
Jun-26	Additional information from respondents	May-26
Jul-26	Additional information from respondents	Jun-26
Aug-26	Additional information from respondents	Jul-26
Sep-26	Additional information from respondents	Aug-26
Oct-26	Additional information from respondents	Sep-26
Nov-26	Additional information from respondents	Oct-26
Dec-26	Additional information from respondents	Nov-26

Rounding-off of figures Where figures have been rounded off, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals.

Historical data Historical food and beverages data are available on the Stats SA website. To access the data electronically, use the following link: [Click to download historical data.](#)

Past publications Past food and beverages releases are available on the Stats SA website. To access the releases electronically, use the following link: [Click to download past releases.](#)

Technical notes

Survey methodology and design The survey was conducted by email and telephone.

The 2025 sample of 800 enterprises was drawn from a sampling frame of 5 178 enterprises using stratified simple random sampling. The enterprises were first stratified at five-digit level according to the SIC and then by size of enterprises. All large and medium enterprises are completely enumerated. Turnover was used as the measure of size for stratification.

Size groups

The enterprises are divided into four size groups according to turnover. All large and medium enterprises (size groups one and two) are completely enumerated. Simple random sampling is applied to size groups three and four (small and very small) enterprises. The total income of the large and medium enterprises (size groups one and two) is added to the weighted totals of size groups three and four to reflect the total income.

Measure of size groups (Rand)

Enterprise size	Size group	Lower limit	Upper limit
Very small	4	3 635 040	25 500 000
Small	3	25 500 001	30 000 000
Medium	2	30 000 001	65 000 000
Large	1	65 000 001	

Sample weighting

For those strata not completely enumerated, the weights to produce estimates are the inverse ratio of the sampling fraction, modified to take account of non-collection in the survey. Stratum estimates are calculated and then aggregated with the completely enumerated stratum to form subgroup estimates. These procedures are in line with international best practice.

Seasonal adjustment

Seasonally adjusted estimates are generated each month using the X-12-ARIMA Seasonal Adjustment Program developed by the United States Census Bureau. Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences on the series can be recognised more clearly. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove irregular or non-seasonal influences which may be present in any particular month. Influences that are volatile or unsystematic can still make it difficult to interpret the movement of the series even after adjustment for seasonal variations. Therefore, the month-to-month movements of seasonally adjusted estimates may not be reliable indicators of trend behaviour. The X-12-ARIMA procedure for food and beverages income is described in more detail on the Stats SA website at: [Click to download seasonal adjustment food and beverages April 2022.](#)

Trend cycle

The trend is the long-term pattern or movement of a time series. The X-12-ARIMA Seasonal Adjustment Program is used for smoothing seasonally adjusted estimates to estimates of the underlying trend cycle.

Reliability of estimates

Data presented in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample and are, therefore, subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if the data had been obtained from all enterprises in the food and beverages industry in South Africa.

Relative standard error

One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of enterprises was used. The relative standard error (RSE) provides an immediate indication of the percentage errors likely to have occurred due to sampling, and thus avoids the need to refer to the size of the estimate.

Estimates of total food and beverages income within 95% confidence limits – January 2026

	Lower limit (R million)	Income (R million)	Upper limit (R million)	Relative standard error (RSE) %
Total income	8 627,1	9 446,8	10 266,5	4,4

Non-sampling errors	Inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by enterprises and errors made in the collection and processing of the data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling errors. Every effort is made to minimise non-sampling errors by careful design of questionnaires, testing them in pilot studies, editing reported data and implementing efficient operating procedures. Non-sampling errors occur in both sample surveys and censuses.
Constant prices	<p>From January 2008 to December 2024, food and beverages income at constant prices by type of enterprise and by type of income was estimated by deflating income at current prices using the relevant components of the consumer price index for restaurants.</p> <p>From January 2025, food and beverages income by type of income and establishment, at constant prices, is calculated by deflating the estimated income at current prices using the corresponding deflator. Total food and beverages income at constant prices is then derived by aggregating the deflated income estimates across all establishment types.</p>
Year-on-year percentage change	The year-on-year percentage change in a variable for any given period is the change between that period and the corresponding period of the previous year, expressed as a percentage of the latter.
Contribution (percentage points)	The contribution (percentage points) to the annual percentage change for any given period is calculated by multiplying the percentage change of each type of enterprise by its corresponding weight, divided by 100. The weight is the percentage contribution of each type of enterprise to total income in the corresponding period of the previous year. The same result is given by $T \times [\Delta C / \Delta T]$, where T = change in the total, ΔC = change in the component (in rands), and ΔT = change in the total (in rands).
Glossary	
Catering services	Enterprises involved in the sale and supply of meals and drinks prepared on the premises on a contract basis and brought to other premises chosen by the person ordering them, to be served for immediate consumption to guests or customers. Catering services also include bars, taverns, other drinking places, ice-cream parlours, etc.
Enterprise	A legal unit or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its activities.
Industry	It is a group of enterprises engaged in the same or similar kinds of economic activity. Industries are defined in the <i>System of National Accounts</i> (SNA) in the same way as in the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities</i> (SIC), Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02 of January 1993.
Income from food sales	Refers to income from the sale of meals and non-alcoholic drinks.
Income from bar sales	Refers to income from liquor sales.
Other income	Includes all income not earned from bar or food sales.
Restaurants and coffee shops	Enterprises involved in the sale and provision of meals and drinks, ordered from a menu, prepared on the premises for immediate consumption and with provided seating.
Takeaway and fast-food outlets	Enterprises involved in the sale and provision of meals and drinks, ordered from a menu, prepared on the premises for takeaway purposes in a packaged format, at a stand or in a location, with or without provided seating.

Symbols and abbreviations

GDP	Gross domestic product
SARS	South African Revenue Service
SBR	Statistical Business Register
SIC	Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities
Stats SA	Statistics South Africa
TSA	Tourism satellite accounts
VAT	Value-added tax
*	Revised figures

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