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1. Introduction

1.1 Aim and collection unit

This publication presents estimates in respect of the construction industry large sample survey (LSS), 2024. The survey aims to provide financial, employment and related information for the construction industry in South Africa.

The last survey was conducted in 2020 (Report No. 50-02-01 (2020)).

The statistical unit for the collection of information is an enterprise. An enterprise is a legal unit (or a combination of legal units) that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its activities. Each enterprise is classified to an industry that reflects its predominant activity.

1.2 Scope and coverage

The 2024 construction industry LSS covers enterprises registered for value-added tax (VAT) that are mainly engaged in the following activities classified according to the January 1993 edition of the *Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities* (SIC), Fifth edition, Report No. 09-90-02:

- site preparation (SIC 5010);
- construction of buildings (SIC 5021);
- construction of civil engineering structures (SIC 5022);
- construction of other structures (SIC 5023);
- construction by specialist trade contractors (SIC 5024);
- plumbing (SIC 5031);
- electrical contractors (SIC 5032);
- shopfitting (SIC 5033);
- other building installation (SIC 5039);
- painting and decorating (SIC 5041);
- other building completion (SIC 5049); and
- renting of construction or demolition equipment with operators (SIC 5050).

The following activities are included:

- The South Africa-based activities of enterprises operating in multiple countries.

The following activities are excluded:

- The activities of South Africa-based companies in other countries.

1.3 Data items

The following categories of data items were collected: industrial classification, details of employment, trading income, expenditure, profit or loss, inventories, capital expenditure on new assets, details of services rendered, details of purchases, details of the client base, key statistics by province, and information and communication technology usage.

1.4 Reference period

The questionnaires were completed for the financial year of the enterprise which ends on any date between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024, according to the usual reporting schedule of the enterprise. The data for the number of employees were provided for employees who received salaries and wages for the last pay period ended on or before 30 June 2024.

1.5 Current prices

The rand values are at current prices.

1.6 Reliability of data

All estimates compiled for this industry are subject to both sampling and non-sampling errors. The estimates presented in this publication are subject to sampling variability since they are based on information obtained from a sample. That is, they might differ from the figures that would have been produced if the data had been obtained from all enterprises in the construction industry in South Africa.

The relative standard error (RSE) (the standard error expressed as a percentage of the estimate) provides an indication of the percentage error likely to have occurred due to sampling, and thus avoids the need to refer to the size of the estimate. The following are some of the likely sources of non-sampling errors: sampling frame not up to date, incorrect definitions and classifications, phrasing of questions, non-response, processing and estimation. Every effort is made to minimise non-sampling errors by the 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.

1.7 Confidentiality

According to Section 17 of the Statistics Act, 1999 as amended by the Statistics Amendment Act, 2024, completed questionnaires remain confidential to Stats SA. Individual business information is never disclosed. Results are presented in aggregated form only.

2. Summary of findings

2.1 Income

Table A – Income by type of activity in the construction industry, 2014–2024

Type of activity	2014		2017		2020		2024	
	R million	% contribution	R million	% contribution	R million	% contribution	R million	% contribution
Site preparation	6 024	1,5	7 188	1,5	7 162	1,7	10 403	1,7
Construction of buildings	84 354	21,4	115 923	24,7	134 730	31,3	168 314	27,8
Construction of civil engineering structures	162 466	41,1	186 740	39,7	129 411	30,0	188 352	31,1
Construction of other structures	7 878	2,0	7 139	1,5	8 211	1,9	5 963	1,0
Construction by specialist trade contractors	20 119	5,1	22 353	4,8	16 860	3,9	23 929	4,0
Plumbing	5 957	1,5	6 724	1,4	7 573	1,8	9 478	1,6
Electrical contractors	24 017	6,1	20 640	4,4	26 305	6,1	48 207	8,0
Shopfitting	2 111	0,5	3 095	0,7	2 984	0,7	3 668	0,6
Other building installation	27 114	6,9	32 394	6,9	29 186	6,8	46 997	7,8
Painting and decorating	4 073	1,0	4 078	0,9	4 911	1,1	6 434	1,1
Other building completion	33 076	8,4	41 157	8,8	43 446	10,1	67 549	11,2
Renting of construction or demolition equipment with operators	17 892	4,5	22 716	4,8	20 050	4,7	26 292	4,3
Total	395 081	100,0	470 147	100,0	430 829	100,0	605 586	100,0

The total income for the construction industry in 2024 was R605,6 billion, representing an increase of 8,9% per annum compared with the income reported in the corresponding survey of 2020 (R430,8 billion). Comparing 2020 and 2024, the largest increase was reported for 'construction of civil engineering structures' (+R58,9 billion), followed by 'construction of buildings' (+R33,6 billion) and 'other building completion' (+R24,1 billion).

Between 2014 and 2024, 'construction of civil engineering structures' lost the biggest percentage share (-10,0 percentage points) of income (from a percentage contribution of 41,1% in 2014 to 31,1% in 2024). 'Construction of buildings' gained the biggest percentage share (6,4 percentage points) over the same period (from 21,4% in 2014 to 27,8% in 2024).

Table B – Concentration ratios for total income in the construction industry, 2014–2024

Concentration ratio (CR)	2014	2017	2020	2024
	%			
CR5	13,2	9,8	6,5	7,5
CR10	19,4	14,6	9,3	9,8
CR20	25,2	19,3	13,5	13,0
CR50	32,8	27,1	20,8	19,9
CR100	40,0	34,4	27,7	26,7

In 2024, the top 100 enterprises in the construction industry contributed 26,7% to the total income. The concentration ratios of the top 5 and 10 enterprises increased slightly between 2020 and 2024, while those of the top 20, 50 and 100 enterprises decreased slightly over the same period.

Table C – Profit margin by type of activity in the construction industry, 2014–2024

Type of activity	Net profit/loss after tax				Turnover				Profit margin			
	2014	2017	2020	2024	2014	2017	2020	2024	2014	2017	2020	2024
	R million								%			
Site preparation	558	429	551	1 277	5 939	7 027	7 016	9 700	9,4	6,1	7,9	13,2
Construction of buildings	2 883	5 509	5 377	7 068	82 113	113 011	131 300	163 342	3,5	4,9	4,1	4,3
Construction of civil engineering structures	1 864	5 238	850	8 382	156 895	175 651	123 375	180 092	1,2	3,0	0,7	4,7
Construction of other structures	420	655	309	233	7 725	7 006	7 573	5 898	5,4	9,3	4,1	4,0
Construction by specialist trade contractors	-918	296	298	1 356	19 695	21 689	16 543	23 472	-4,7	1,4	1,8	5,8
Plumbing	317	343	374	548	5 872	6 545	7 396	9 296	5,4	5,2	5,1	5,9
Electrical contractors	1 305	748	843	2 763	23 550	20 184	25 875	47 512	5,5	3,7	3,3	5,8
Shopfitting	184	151	151	224	1 955	3 078	2 932	3 623	9,4	4,9	5,2	6,2
Other building installation	802	1 540	1 302	2 421	26 331	31 965	28 595	46 137	3,0	4,8	4,6	5,2
Painting and decorating	116	176	190	396	4 009	4 007	4 837	6 308	2,9	4,4	3,9	6,3
Other building completion	1 494	586	2 852	1 217	32 610	40 002	42 028	66 419	4,6	1,5	6,8	1,8
Renting of construction or demolition equipment with operators	1 052	136	1 645	2 190	17 281	22 025	19 299	25 425	6,1	0,6	8,5	8,6
Total	10 077	15 807	14 742	28 075	383 975	452 190	416 769	587 224	2,6	3,5	3,5	4,8

Between 2014 and 2024, the construction industry recorded its highest profit margin of 4,8% in 2024. 'Site preparation' had the highest profit margin in 2024 at 13,2%, followed by 'renting of construction or demolition equipment with operators' (8,6%) and 'painting and decorating' (6,3%).

2.2 Employment

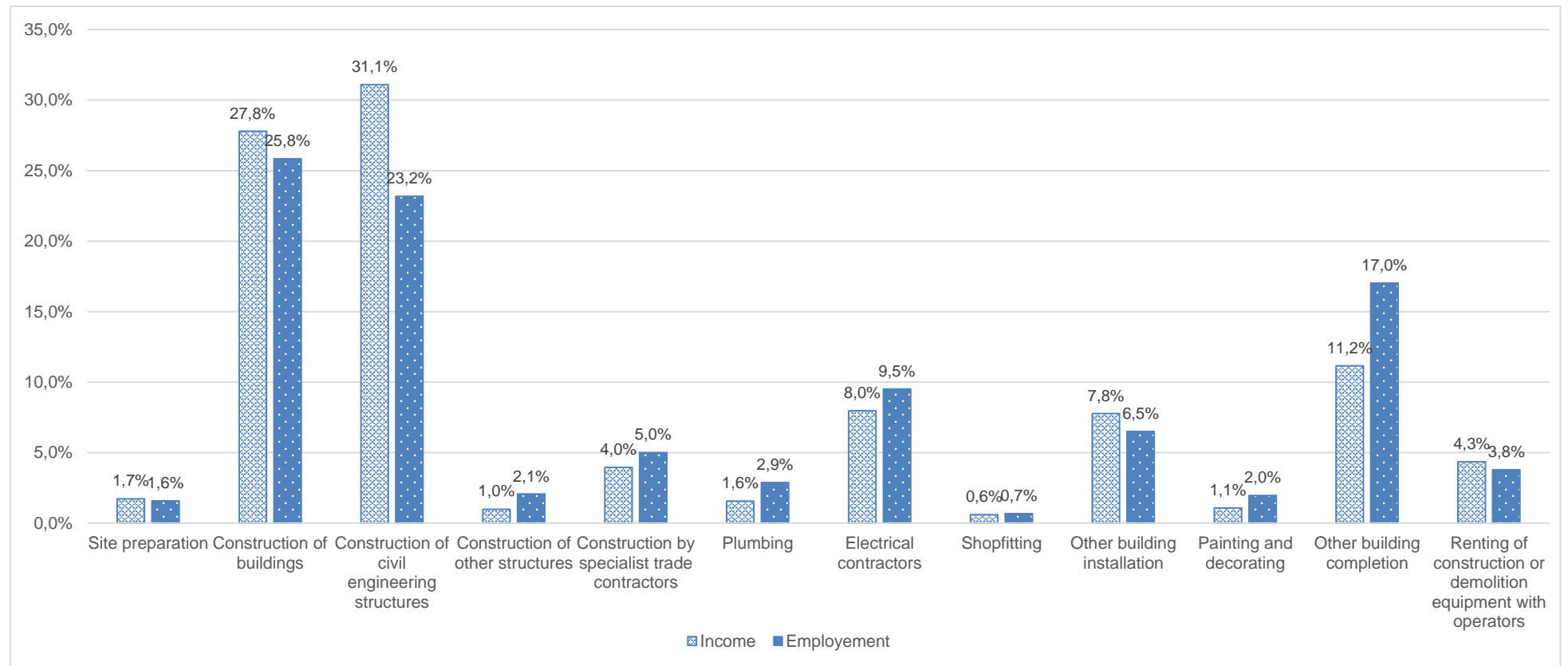
Table D – Employment by type of activity in the construction industry for the last pay period ended on or before 30 June, 2014–2024

Type of activity	2014		2017		2020		2024	
	Number	% contribution	Number	% contribution	Number	% contribution	Number	% contribution
Site preparation	9 349	1,9	8 536	1,4	8 423	1,8	8 528	1,6
Construction of buildings	109 328	21,8	133 201	22,5	116 379	24,3	139 326	25,8
Construction of civil engineering structures	165 582	33,1	210 167	35,5	126 310	26,4	124 988	23,2
Construction of other structures	12 723	2,5	7 480	1,3	14 454	3,0	11 084	2,1
Construction by specialist trade contractors	26 351	5,3	32 264	5,4	19 771	4,1	26 993	5,0
Plumbing	16 987	3,4	17 945	3,0	18 089	3,8	15 499	2,9
Electrical contractors	43 986	8,8	34 246	5,8	42 154	8,8	51 249	9,5
Shopfitting	2 889	0,6	4 269	0,7	3 630	0,8	3 587	0,7
Other building installation	27 568	5,5	37 961	6,4	29 116	6,1	35 085	6,5
Painting and decorating	9 980	2,0	9 988	1,7	9 535	2,0	10 575	2,0
Other building completion	55 171	11,0	71 064	12,0	71 675	15,0	91 785	17,0
Renting of construction or demolition equipment with operators	20 538	4,1	25 004	4,2	19 535	4,1	20 357	3,8
Total	500 452	100,0	592 125	100,0	479 071	100,0	539 056	100,0

The total number of persons employed in the construction industry as at the end of June 2024 was 539 056. This represents an increase of 3,0% per annum compared with the employment recorded in the corresponding survey of 2020 (479 071). In 2024, 'construction of buildings' employed the largest number of persons (139 326 or 25,8%), followed by 'construction of civil engineering structures' (124 988 or 23,2%) and 'other building completion' (91 785 or 17,0%).

Employment in the construction industry increased from 500 452 in 2014 to 539 056 in 2024 (a gain of 38 604 persons). The biggest gains in persons employed between 2014 and 2024 were in 'other building completion' (+36 614 persons) and 'construction of buildings' (+29 998 persons). The biggest losses were in 'construction of civil engineering structures' (-40 594 persons) and 'construction of other structures' (-1 639 persons). Between 2014 and 2024, the highest number of people were employed in 2017 (592 125 persons).

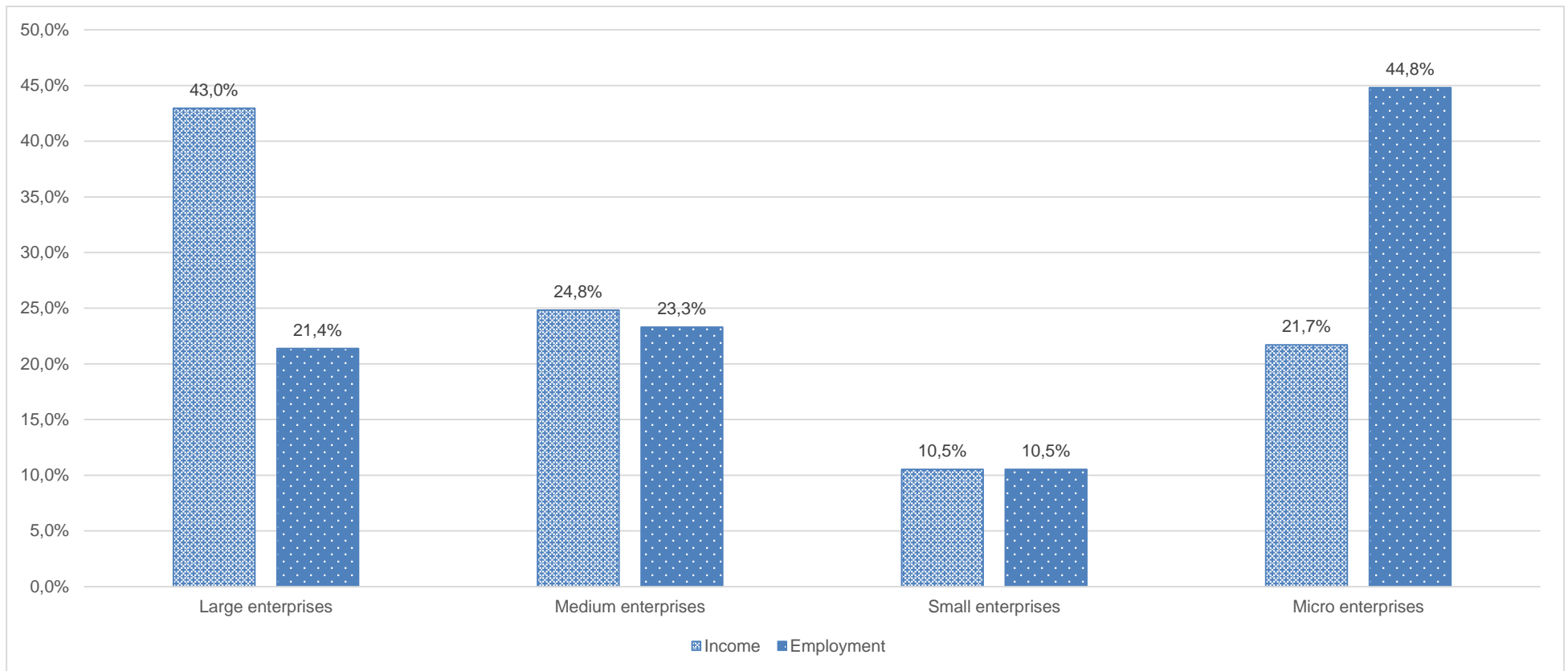
Figure 1 – Percentage contribution of income and employment by type of activity in the construction industry, 2024



The types of activities with the highest proportion of income compared with the proportion of employment were 'construction of civil engineering structures' (contributing 31,1% to income and 23,2% to employment) and 'other building installation' (contributing 7,8% to income and 6,5% to employment).

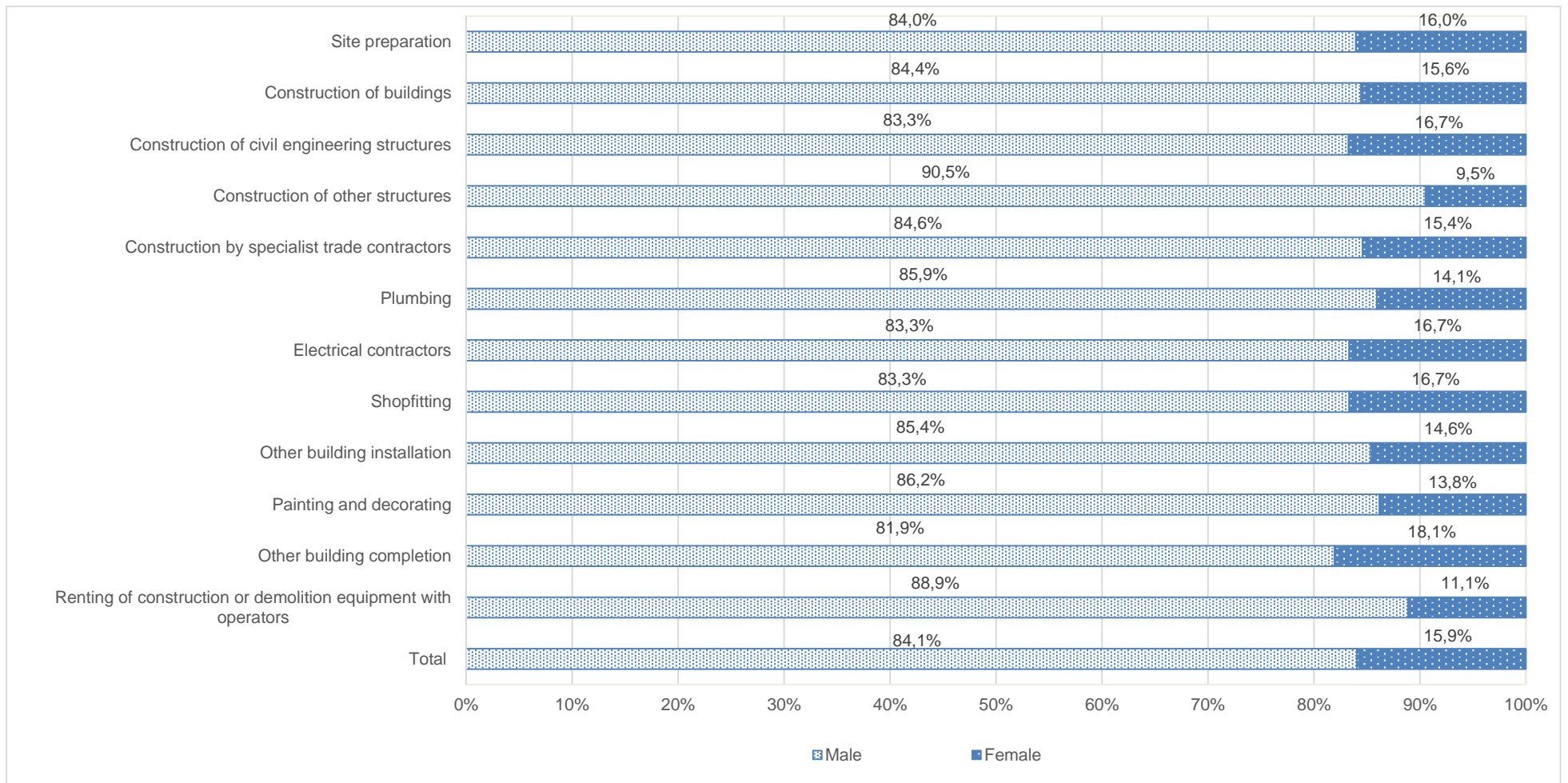
The type of activity with the highest proportion of employment compared with the proportion of income was 'construction of other structures' (contributing 2,1% to employment and 1,0% to income), followed by 'painting and decorating' (contributing 2,0% to employment and 1,1% to income) and 'plumbing' (contributing 2,9% to employment and 1,6% to income).

Figure 2 – Percentage contribution of income and employment by enterprise size in the construction industry, 2024



Whereas large enterprises contributed 43,0% to the total income of the construction industry in 2024, their contribution to employment was only 21,4%. Small, medium and micro enterprises accounted for most (78,6%) of the employment in the industry.

Figure 3 – Employment gender ratio by type of activity in the construction industry, 2024



The construction industry was dominated by males, who made up 84,1% of total employment in 2024. The type of activity with the highest proportion of females employed was 'other building completion' (18,1%), while 'construction of other structures' had the highest proportion of males employed (90,5%).

Table E – Average salaries and wages by type of activity in the construction industry, 2014–2024

Type of activity	2014			2017			2020			2024		
	Salaries and wages	Total employees	Average salaries and wages	Salaries and wages	Total employees	Average salaries and wages	Salaries and wages	Total employees	Average salaries and wages	Salaries and wages	Total employees	Average salaries and wages
	R million	Number	Rand	R million	Number	Rand	R million	Number	Rand	R million	Number	Rand
Site preparation	1 306	9 349	139 694	1 134	8 536	132 849	1 582	8 423	187 819	2 492	8 528	292 214
Construction of buildings	9 093	109 328	83 172	13 270	133 201	99 624	15 998	116 379	137 465	19 432	139 326	139 471
Construction of civil engineering structures	27 558	165 582	166 431	32 395	210 167	154 139	23 176	126 310	183 485	26 548	124 988	212 404
Construction of other structures	1 082	12 723	85 043	999	7 480	133 556	2 330	14 454	161 201	1 046	11 084	94 370
Construction by specialist trade contractors	3 030	26 351	114 986	4 136	32 264	128 192	2 395	19 771	121 137	4 470	26 993	165 598
Plumbing	1 283	16 987	75 528	1 601	17 945	89 217	1 824	18 089	100 835	2 043	15 499	131 815
Electrical contractors	4 143	43 986	94 189	4 112	34 246	120 072	5 990	42 154	142 098	8 246	51 249	160 901
Shopfitting	411	2 889	142 264	561	4 269	131 413	583	3 630	160 606	633	3 587	176 471
Other building installation	4 873	27 568	176 763	7 760	37 961	204 420	5 932	29 116	203 737	9 129	35 085	260 197
Painting and decorating	791	9 980	79 259	1 066	9 988	106 728	1 343	9 535	140 850	1 361	10 575	128 700
Other building completion	4 280	55 171	77 577	9 085	71 064	127 843	6 462	71 675	90 157	12 635	91 785	137 659
Renting of construction or demolition equipment with operators	3 744	20 538	182 296	4 988	25 004	199 488	4 505	19 535	230 612	4 314	20 357	211 917
Total	61 594	500 452	123 077	81 107	592 125	136 976	72 120	479 071	150 541	92 349	539 056	171 316

The average salaries and wages in the construction industry in 2024 was R171 316. The type of activity with the highest average salaries and wages in 2024 was 'site preparation' (R292 214), followed by 'other building installation' (R260 197), 'construction of civil engineering structures' (R212 404) and 'renting of construction or demolition equipment with operators' (R211 917). The type of activity with the lowest average salaries and wages was 'construction of other structures' (R94 370).

The total average salaries and wages increased from R150 541 in 2020 to R171 316 in 2024, an annualised growth rate of 3,3%. The highest annualised growth rate was recorded between 2014 and 2017 (3,6%).

2.3 Capital expenditure on new assets

Table F – Capital expenditure on new assets by type of activity in the construction industry, 2014–2024

Type of activity	2014		2017		2020		2024	
	R million	% contribution	R million	% contribution	R million	% contribution	R million	% contribution
Site preparation	2007	15,5	378	2,8	804	7,6	1 945	9,1
Construction of buildings	1 643	12,7	3 179	23,7	1 462	13,8	4 585	21,4
Construction of civil engineering structures	3 642	28,2	3 397	25,3	2 349	22,1	4 324	20,2
Construction of other structures	135	1,0	173	1,3	45	0,4	284	1,3
Construction by specialist trade contractors	711	5,5	955	7,1	299	2,8	425	2,0
Plumbing	228	1,8	134	1,0	128	1,2	340	1,6
Electrical contractors	1 121	8,7	1 023	7,6	602	5,7	2 108	9,9
Shopfitting	36	0,3	109	0,8	38	0,4	43	0,2
Other building installation	553	4,3	505	3,8	166	1,6	2 493	11,7
Painting and decorating	97	0,8	95	0,7	46	0,4	261	1,2
Other building completion	364	2,8	776	5,8	926	8,7	968	4,5
Renting of construction or demolition equipment with operators	2 374	18,4	2 697	20,1	3 748	35,3	3 603	16,9
Total	12 911	100,0	13 421	100,0	10 613	100,0	21 379	100,0

The total capital expenditure on new assets in 2024 (R21,4 billion) represents an increase of 19,1% per annum compared with the expenditure reported in the corresponding survey of 2020 (R10,6 billion). In 2024, the largest contributor to total capital expenditure was 'construction of buildings' (R4,6 billion or 21,4%), followed by 'construction of civil engineering structures' (R4,3 billion or 20,2%).

Between 2014 and 2024, 'construction of buildings' gained the biggest percentage share (+8,7 percentage points) in capital expenditure on new assets (from 12,7% in 2014 to 21,4% in 2024), followed by 'other building installation' (+7,4 percentage points) (from 4,3% in 2014 to 11,7% in 2024). 'Construction of civil engineering structures' lost the biggest percentage share (-8,0 percentage points) over the same period (from 28,2% in 2014 to 20,2% in 2024).

2.4 Provincial estimates

Table G – Key statistics by province in the construction industry, 2020 and 2024

Province	Services rendered				Salaries and wages				Employment			
	2020		2024		2020		2024		2020		2024	
	R million	% contribution	R million	% contribution	R million	% contribution	R million	% contribution	Number	% contribution	Number	% contribution
Western Cape	72 593	17,9	136 456	23,8	12 105	16,8	19 371	21,0	78 659	16,4	115 973	21,5
Eastern Cape	35 292	8,7	40 830	7,1	5 588	7,7	7 069	7,7	47 173	9,8	55 869	10,4
Northern Cape	15 137	3,7	11 266	2,0	1 789	2,5	1 675	1,8	13 870	2,9	6 906	1,3
Free State	10 139	2,5	10 748	1,9	1 233	1,7	2 229	2,4	11 872	2,5	25 742	4,8
KwaZulu-Natal	51 578	12,7	87 515	15,3	9 884	13,7	14 749	16,0	74 659	15,6	107 291	19,9
North West	9 670	2,4	16 910	2,9	1 465	2	2 670	2,9	11 379	2,4	15 102	2,8
Gauteng	157 584	39,0	202 990	35,3	30 294	42	31 986	34,6	174 919	36,5	141 043	26,1
Mpumalanga	36 823	9,1	49 664	8,7	6 749	9,4	8 785	9,5	52 778	11,0	46 693	8,7
Limpopo	16 363	4,0	16 997	3,0	3 013	4,2	3 815	4,1	13 762	2,9	24 437	4,5
Total	405 179	100,0	573 376	100,0	72 120	100,0	92 349	100,0	479 071	100,0	539 056	100,0

The province with the largest income from services rendered in the construction industry in 2024 was Gauteng with R203,0 billion (or 35,3% of total income from services rendered), followed by Western Cape (R136,5 billion or 23,8%) and KwaZulu-Natal (R87,5 billion or 15,3%).

Gauteng had the highest number of persons employed (141 043 or 26,1%), followed by Western Cape (115 973 or 21,5%) and KwaZulu-Natal (107 291 or 19,9%).



Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

3. Tables**Table 1 – Principal statistics in the construction industry, 2020 and 2024**

Year	Total income	Total expenditure	Net profit or loss before tax	Total value of opening inventory	Total value of closing inventory	Capital expenditure on new assets	Number of employees
	R million						Number
2020 ¹	430 829	417 599	27 156	28 670	14 742	10 613	479 071
2024 ²	605 586	579 088	38 730	40 309	28 075	21 379	539 056
Annualised % change	8,9	8,5	9,3	8,9	17,5	19,1	3,0

¹ Revised figures.² Preliminary figures.

Table 2 – Principal statistics by type of activity in the construction industry, 2020 and 2024

Type of activity	Total income			Total expenditure			Net profit or loss before tax		Total value of opening inventory		
	2020 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change	2020 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change	2020 ¹	2024 ²	2020 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change
	R million			R million			R million		R million		
Site preparation	7 162	10 403	9,8	6 609	9 196	8,6	551	1 277	97	134	8,4
Construction of buildings	134 730	168 314	5,7	128 968	161 286	5,7	5 377	7 068	14 995	24 745	13,3
Construction of civil engineering structures	129 411	188 352	9,8	128 349	179 934	8,8	850	8 382	6 010	4 288	-8,1
Construction of other structures	8 211	5 963	-7,7	8 609	5 655	-10,0	309	233	292	503	14,6
Construction by specialist trade contractors	16 860	23 929	9,1	16 217	22 411	8,4	298	1 356	1 088	1 605	10,2
Plumbing	7 573	9 478	5,8	7 269	9 039	5,6	374	548	277	425	11,3
Electrical contractors	26 305	48 207	16,4	25 886	46 302	15,6	843	2 763	722	1 990	28,8
Shopfitting	2 984	3 668	5,3	2 820	3 458	5,2	151	224	101	93	-2,0
Other building installation	29 186	46 997	12,6	27 675	45 010	12,9	1 302	2 421	1 517	2 013	7,3
Painting and decorating	4 911	6 434	7,0	4 744	6 023	6,1	190	396	181	278	11,3
Other building completion	43 446	67 549	11,7	41 869	66 712	12,4	2 852	1 217	1 593	1 974	5,5
Renting of construction or demolition equipment with operators	20 050	26 292	7,0	18 584	24 062	6,7	1 645	2 190	285	684	24,5
Total	430 829	605 586	8,9	417 599	579 088	8,5	14 742	28 075	27 158	38 732	9,3

¹ Revised figures.² Preliminary figures.

Table 2 – Principal statistics by type of activity in the construction industry, 2020 and 2024 (concluded)

Type of activity	Total value of closing inventory			Capital expenditure on new assets			Employment		
	2020 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change	2020 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change	2020 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change
	R million			R million			Number		
Site preparation	95	204	21,1	804	1 945	24,7	8 423	8 528	0,3
Construction of buildings	14 610	24 785	14,1	1 462	4 585	33,1	116 379	139 326	4,6
Construction of civil engineering structures	5 798	4 252	-7,5	2 349	4 324	16,5	126 310	124 988	-0,3
Construction of other structures	999	428	-19,1	45	284	58,5	14 454	11 084	-6,4
Construction by specialist trade contractors	743	1 443	18,1	299	425	9,2	19 771	26 993	8,1
Plumbing	347	534	11,4	128	340	27,7	18 089	15 499	-3,8
Electrical contractors	1 146	2 848	25,6	602	2 108	36,8	42 154	51 249	5,0
Shopfitting	88	107	5,0	38	43	3,1	3 630	3 587	-0,3
Other building installation	1 308	2 447	17,0	166	2 493	96,9	29 116	35 085	4,8
Painting and decorating	204	263	6,6	46	261	54,3	9 535	10 575	2,6
Other building completion	2 868	2 354	-4,8	926	968	1,1	71 675	91 785	6,4
Renting of construction or demolition equipment with operators	464	644	8,5	3 748	3 603	-1,0	19 535	20 357	1,0
Total	28 670	40 309	8,9	10 613	21 379	19,1	479 071	539 056	3,0

¹ Revised figures.² Preliminary figures.

Table 3 – Type of income in the construction industry, 2020 and 2024

Type of income	2020 ¹	2024 ²	2020 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change
	R million		% contribution		
Sales of goods	9 516	11 991	2,2	2,0	5,9
Services	405 179	573 376	94,0	94,7	9,1
Interest	3 815	5 142	0,9	0,8	7,7
Rental and leasing income	2 074	1 857	0,5	0,3	-2,7
Government subsidies	1 456	1 657	0,3	0,3	3,3
Other income	8 789	11 563	2,0	1,9	7,1
Total	430 829	605 586	100,0	100,0	8,9

¹ Revised figures.² Preliminary figures.

Table 4 – Income by type of activity in the construction industry, 2024²

Type of activity	Sales of goods	Services	Interest	Rental and leasing income	Other income	Total income
	R million					
Site preparation	35	9 646	99	19	604	10 403
Construction of buildings	1 653	161 413	1 950	276	3 022	168 314
Construction of civil engineering structures	5 277	174 713	1 413	102	6 847	188 352
Construction of other structures	42	5 824	25	32	40	5 963
Construction by specialist trade contractors	202	23 219	248	51	209	23 929
Plumbing	133	9 143	55	20	127	9 478
Electrical contractors	1 745	45 659	315	108	380	48 207
Shopfitting	54	3 569	23	0	22	3 668
Other building installation	1 074	45 048	290	15	570	46 997
Painting and decorating	18	6 283	59	7	67	6 434
Other building completion	1 131	65 013	448	275	682	67 549
Renting of construction or demolition equipment with operators	627	23 846	217	952	650	26 292
Total	11 991	573 376	5 142	1 857	13 220	605 586

² Preliminary figures.

Table 5 – Income by type of activity and enterprise size in the construction industry, 2024²

Type of activity	Large enterprises	Medium enterprises	Small enterprises	Micro enterprises	Total
	R million				
Site preparation	6 769	2 092	816	726	10 403
Construction of buildings	66 436	51 251	17 665	32 962	168 314
Construction of civil engineering structures	134 938	32 115	7 160	14 139	188 352
Construction of other structures	1 397	1 263	1 024	2 279	5 963
Construction by specialist trade contractors	6 403	5 912	4 063	7 551	23 929
Plumbing	211	2 085	1 254	5 928	9 478
Electrical contractors	11 633	13 450	8 131	14 993	48 207
Shopfitting	285	1 033	1 037	1 313	3 668
Other building installation	17 441	16 240	5 520	7 796	46 997
Painting and decorating	1 337	1 039	1 417	2 641	6 434
Other building completion	3 248	13 684	12 317	38 300	67 549
Renting of construction or demolition equipment with operators	10 032	10 206	3 284	2 770	26 292
Total	260 130	150 370	63 688	131 398	605 586

² Preliminary figures.

Table 6 – Concentration ratios (relative contribution of the large enterprises) by type of activity in the construction industry, 2020¹

Type of activity	Total income	Income of 5 largest enterprises ³	Relative contribution of 5 largest enterprises ⁴	Income of 10 largest enterprises ³	Relative contribution of 10 largest enterprises ⁴	Income of 20 largest enterprises ³	Relative contribution of 20 largest enterprises ⁴	
	R million		%	R million		%	R million	
Site preparation	7 162	3 459	48,3	4 483	62,6	5 420	75,7	
Construction of buildings	134 730	10 726	8,0	16 869	12,5	26 043	19,3	
Construction of civil engineering structures	129 411	28 194	21,8	38 767	30,0	50 326	38,9	
Construction of other structures	8 211	3 891	47,4	4 418	53,8	5 060	61,6	
Construction by specialist trade contractors	16 860	2 348	13,9	3 273	19,4	4 636	27,5	
Plumbing	7 573	507	6,7	826	10,9	1 336	17,6	
Electrical contractors	26 305	1 932	7,3	3 186	12,1	4 805	18,3	
Shopfitting	2 984	527	17,7	775	26,0	1 076	36,1	
Other building installation	29 186	4 058	13,9	6 220	21,3	9 059	31,0	
Painting and decorating	4 911	1 798	36,6	2 140	43,6	2 555	52,0	
Other building completion	43 446	2 814	6,5	4 118	9,5	6 048	13,9	
Renting of construction or demolition equipment with operators	20 050	4 584	22,9	6 350	31,7	8 139	40,6	
Total	430 829	28 194	6,5	40 199	9,3	58 179	13,5	

¹ Revised figures.

³ Note: The figures in the 'Total' row reflect the income of the 5, 10 and 20 largest enterprises respectively, and not the column totals.

⁴ Relative contribution = income of the largest enterprises divided by total income and multiplied by 100.

Table 7 – Concentration ratios (relative contribution of the large enterprises) by type of activity in the construction industry, 2024²

Type of activity	Total income	Income of 5 largest enterprises ³	Relative contribution of 5 largest enterprises ⁴	Income of 10 largest enterprises ³	Relative contribution of 10 largest enterprises ⁴	Income of 20 largest enterprises ³	Relative contribution of 20 largest enterprises ⁴	
	R million		%	R million		%	R million	
Site preparation	10 403	6 261	60,2	7 080	68,1	7 868	75,6	
Construction of buildings	168 314	10 409	6,2	18 022	10,7	29 159	17,3	
Construction of civil engineering structures	188 352	43 914	23,3	55 495	29,5	72 063	38,3	
Construction of other structures	5 963	1 672	28,0	2 092	35,1	2 623	44,0	
Construction by specialist trade contractors	23 929	3 359	14,0	4 888	20,4	6 808	28,5	
Plumbing	9 478	772	8,1	1 180	12,4	1 818	19,2	
Electrical contractors	48 207	4 216	8,7	6 283	13,0	9 350	19,4	
Shopfitting	3 668	700	19,1	1 007	27,5	1 470	40,1	
Other building installation	46 997	5 801	12,3	8 584	18,3	12 364	26,3	
Painting and decorating	6 434	1 667	25,9	2 039	31,7	2 533	39,4	
Other building completion	67 549	2 097	3,1	3 071	4,5	3 915	5,8	
Renting of construction or demolition equipment with operators	26 292	4 911	18,7	7 220	27,5	10 057	38,3	
Total	605 586	45 124	7,5	59 462	9,8	78 597	13,0	

² Preliminary figures.

³ Note: The figures in the 'Total' row reflect the income of the 5, 10 and 20 largest enterprises respectively, and not the column totals.

⁴ Relative contribution = income of the largest enterprises divided by total income and multiplied by 100.

Table 8 – Type of expenditure in the construction industry, 2020 and 2024

Type of expenditure	2020 ¹	2024 ²	2020 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change
	R million		% contribution		
Purchases	206 647	308 634	49,5	53,3	10,5
Salaries and wages	72 120	92 349	17,3	15,9	6,4
Subcontractors paid	60 234	76 195	14,4	13,2	6,1
Interest paid	6 320	6 833	1,5	1,2	2,0
Leasing and hiring	6 234	6 642	1,5	1,1	1,6
Repair and maintenance	3 766	5 467	0,9	0,9	9,8
Rental	3 151	4 397	0,8	0,8	8,7
Insurance premiums	3 443	4 280	0,8	0,7	5,6
Motor vehicle expenses	5 901	9 126	1,4	1,6	11,5
Administration and management fees	2 837	5 145	0,7	0,9	16,0
Other expenditure	46 946	60 020	11,2	10,4	6,3
Total expenditure	417 599	579 088	100,0	100,0	8,5

¹ Revised figures.² Preliminary figures.

Table 9 – Expenditure by type of activity in the construction industry, 2024²

Type of activity	Purchases	Salaries and wages	Subcontractors paid	Leasing and hiring	Motor vehicle expenses	Other expenses	Total expenditure
	R million						
Site preparation	2 198	2 492	292	187	205	3 822	9 196
Construction of buildings	89 365	19 432	28 629	953	1 953	20 954	161 286
Construction of civil engineering structures	96 130	26 548	29 997	2 071	1 528	23 660	179 934
Construction of other structures	2 978	1 046	526	125	152	828	5 655
Construction by specialist trade contractors	10 716	4 470	2 227	390	406	4 202	22 411
Plumbing	4 815	2 043	281	50	354	1 496	9 039
Electrical contractors	27 976	8 246	1 844	415	1 247	6 574	46 302
Shopfitting	2 144	633	160	16	88	417	3 458
Other building installation	26 268	9 129	1 551	213	884	6 965	45 010
Painting and decorating	2 583	1 361	943	45	195	896	6 023
Other building completion	35 565	12 635	8 733	453	1 400	7 926	66 712
Renting of construction or demolition equipment with operators	7 896	4 314	1 012	1 724	714	8 402	24 062
Total	308 634	92 349	76 195	6 642	9 126	86 142	579 088

² Preliminary figures.

Table 10 – Capital expenditure on new assets by type of asset in the construction industry, 2020 and 2024

Type of asset	2020 ¹	2024 ²	2020 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change
	R million		% contribution		
Land, buildings and construction works	666	2 814	6,3	13,2	43,4
Plant, machinery and equipment	6 553	10 961	61,7	51,3	13,7
Motor vehicles, trucks, graders, trailers, fleet and other transport equipment	2 633	6 464	24,8	30,2	25,2
Computers and other ICT equipment	245	601	2,3	2,8	25,1
Other capital expenditure on new assets	516	539	4,9	2,5	1,1
Total	10 613	21 379	100,0	100,0	19,1

¹ Revised figures.² Preliminary figures.

Table 11 – Capital expenditure on new assets by type of activity in the construction industry, 2024²

Type of activity	Land, buildings and construction works	Plant, machinery and equipment	Motor vehicles, trucks, graders, trailers, fleet and other transport equipment	Computers and other ICT equipment	Other capital expenditure on new assets	Total
	R million					
Site preparation	9	1 714	166	12	44	1 945
Construction of buildings	1 601	1 204	1 574	102	104	4 585
Construction of civil engineering structures	281	2 451	1 313	165	114	4 324
Construction of other structures	31	97	128	5	23	284
Construction by specialist trade contractors	84	127	166	39	9	425
Plumbing	15	109	170	11	35	340
Electrical contractors	192	371	1 322	180	43	2 108
Shopfitting	4	13	23	3	0	43
Other building installation	4	2 197	247	32	13	2 493
Painting and decorating	49	33	172	5	2	261
Other building completion	410	151	376	27	4	968
Renting of construction or demolition equipment with operators	134	2 494	807	20	148	3 603
Total	2 814	10 961	6 464	601	539	21 379

² Preliminary figures.

Table 12 – Employment by type of activity and gender in the construction industry for the last pay period on or before 30 June, 2020 and 2024

Type of activity	Male employees			Female employees			Total employees		
	2020 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change	2020 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change	2020 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change
	Number			Number			Number		
Site preparation	6 775	7 160	1,4	1 648	1 368	-4,5	8 423	8 528	0,3
Construction of buildings	97 376	117 655	4,8	19 003	21 671	3,3	116 379	139 326	4,6
Construction of civil engineering structures	108 692	104 081	-1,1	17 618	20 907	4,4	126 310	124 988	-0,3
Construction of other structures	12 958	10 034	-6,2	1 496	1 050	-8,5	14 454	11 084	-6,4
Construction by specialist trade contractors	17 277	22 833	7,2	2 494	4 160	13,6	19 771	26 993	8,1
Plumbing	15 930	13 319	-4,4	2 159	2 180	0,2	18 089	15 499	-3,8
Electrical contractors	36 177	42 709	4,2	5 977	8 540	9,3	42 154	51 249	5,0
Shopfitting	3 113	2 989	-1,0	517	598	3,7	3 630	3 587	-0,3
Other building installation	23 529	29 959	6,2	5 587	5 126	-2,1	29 116	35 085	4,8
Painting and decorating	8 484	9 114	1,8	1 051	1 461	8,6	9 535	10 575	2,6
Other building completion	58 209	75 194	6,6	13 466	16 591	5,4	71 675	91 785	6,4
Renting of construction or demolition equipment with operators	16 421	18 095	2,5	3 114	2 262	-7,7	19 535	20 357	1,0
Total	404 941	453 142	2,9	74 130	85 914	3,8	479 071	539 056	3,0

¹ Revised figures.² Preliminary figures.

Table 13 – Employment by type of activity and employment status in the construction industry for the last pay period ended on or before 30 June 2020¹

Type of activity	Full-time employees			Part-time employees			Total employees
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
	Number						
Site preparation	6 534	1 644	8 178	241	4	245	8 423
Construction of buildings	89 787	17 063	106 850	7 589	1 940	9 529	116 379
Construction of civil engineering structures	93 672	14 485	108 157	15 020	3 133	18 153	126 310
Construction of other structures	8 872	1 169	10 041	4 086	327	4 413	14 454
Construction by specialist trade contractors	14 855	2 181	17 036	2 422	313	2 735	19 771
Plumbing	14 893	2 050	16 943	1 037	109	1 146	18 089
Electrical contractors	26 802	5 416	32 218	9 375	561	9 936	42 154
Shopfitting	2 776	464	3 240	337	53	390	3 630
Other building installation	22 046	5 460	27 506	1 483	127	1 610	29 116
Painting and decorating	7 418	980	8 398	1 066	71	1 137	9 535
Other building completion	42 212	11 214	53 426	15 997	2 252	18 249	71 675
Renting of construction or demolition equipment with operators	15 532	2 926	18 458	889	188	1 077	19 535
Total	345 399	65 052	410 451	59 542	9 078	68 620	479 071

¹ Revised figures.

Table 14 – Employment by type of activity and employment status in the construction industry for the last pay period ended on or before 30 June 2024²

Type of activity	Full-time employees			Part-time employees			Total employees
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
	Number						
Site preparation	6 975	1 343	8 318	185	25	210	8 528
Construction of buildings	95 403	17 794	113 197	22 252	3 877	26 129	139 326
Construction of civil engineering structures	86 755	16 605	103 360	17 326	4 302	21 628	124 988
Construction of other structures	6 514	984	7 498	3 520	66	3 586	11 084
Construction by specialist trade contractors	19 636	3 422	23 058	3 197	738	3 935	26 993
Plumbing	12 096	1 982	14 078	1 223	198	1 421	15 499
Electrical contractors	36 644	8 187	44 831	6 065	353	6 418	51 249
Shopfitting	2 844	593	3 437	145	5	150	3 587
Other building installation	28 475	4 559	33 034	1 484	567	2 051	35 085
Painting and decorating	8 720	1 334	10 054	394	127	521	10 575
Other building completion	63 120	13 708	76 828	12 074	2 883	14 957	91 785
Renting of construction or demolition equipment with operators	17 297	1 948	19 245	798	314	1 112	20 357
Total	384 479	72 459	456 938	68 663	13 455	82 118	539 056

² Preliminary figures.

Table 15 – Employment by type of activity and enterprise size in the construction industry for the last pay period ended on or before 30 June 2024²

Type of activity	Large enterprises	Medium enterprises	Small enterprises	Micro enterprises	Total
	Number				
Site preparation	5 457	1 240	692	1 139	8 528
Construction of buildings	19 642	34 453	17 597	67 634	139 326
Construction of civil engineering structures	62 428	30 720	6 621	25 219	124 988
Construction of other structures	5 001	1 373	1 144	3 566	11 084
Construction by specialist trade contractors	2 393	4 957	3 100	16 543	26 993
Plumbing	108	2 015	1 870	11 506	15 499
Electrical contractors	5 936	12 078	8 187	25 048	51 249
Shopfitting	60	1 270	684	1 573	3 587
Other building installation	6 953	12 555	6 331	9 246	35 085
Painting and decorating	1 707	977	1 227	6 664	10 575
Other building completion	1 238	15 560	6 340	68 647	91 785
Renting of construction or demolition equipment with operators	4 308	8 384	2 877	4 788	20 357
Total	115 231	125 582	56 670	241 573	539 056

² Preliminary figures.

Table 16 – Income by type of service rendered in the construction industry, 2020 and 2024

Type of service	2020 ¹	2024 ²	2020 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change
	R million		% contribution		
Site preparation	10 715	14 130	2,6	2,5	7,2
Rental of construction equipment with driver/operator	17 375	21 147	4,3	3,7	5,0
Construction of residential buildings	45 887	55 918	11,3	9,7	5,1
Construction of non-residential buildings					
Construction of commercial and industrial buildings	34 011	44 393	8,4	7,7	6,9
Construction of other non-residential buildings	14 322	16 018	3,5	2,8	2,8
Civil engineering works					
Construction, alterations and repair of highways (excluding elevated highways)	40 136	47 180	9,9	8,2	4,1
Construction of mines and industrial plants	31 898	47 389	7,9	8,3	10,4
Construction of harbours, waterways, dams, irrigation and other water works	2 873	7 279	0,7	1,3	26,2
Construction of long-distance pipelines and communication and power lines	4 363	8 856	1,1	1,5	19,4
Construction of local pipelines, cables and related works	6 070	6 178	1,5	1,1	0,4
Other civil engineering works	12 622	17 698	3,1	3,1	8,8
Construction by specialist trade contractors	15 029	32 623	3,7	5,7	21,4
Building installation and completion					
Plumbing	7 751	9 595	1,9	1,7	5,5
Electrical contracting	27 963	51 144	6,9	8,9	16,3
Shopfitting services	2 878	5 070	0,7	0,9	15,2
Other building installation services	22 257	36 348	5,5	6,3	13,0
Painting and decorating	3 917	9 749	1,0	1,7	25,6
Other building completion	29 209	46 955	7,2	8,2	12,6
Engineering services	3 288	4 157	0,8	0,7	6,0
Other activities	12 379	15 355	3,1	2,7	5,5
Total income from services rendered (excluding work subcontracted out)	344 943	497 182	85,1	86,7	9,6
Work subcontracted out	60 236	76 194	14,9	13,3	6,1
Total income from services rendered	405 179	573 376	100,0	100,0	9,1

¹ Revised figures.² Preliminary figures.

Table 17 – Type of purchases in the construction industry, 2020 and 2024

Type of purchase	2020 ¹	2024 ²	2020 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change
	R million		% contribution		
Cement	8 988	11 761	4,3	3,8	7,0
Sand, aggregate, gravel, pebbles, crushed stone	12 853	18 361	6,2	5,9	9,3
Ready-mixed concrete	15 048	20 684	7,3	6,7	8,3
Walling, roofing and flooring material (including bricks and blocks)	46 100	58 852	22,4	19,1	6,3
Reinforcing steel products (gabions, re-bars, wire reinforcing mesh and strips)	33 535	36 280	16,2	11,8	2,0
Electrical fittings, equipment and supplies	31 727	69 134	15,4	22,3	21,5
Paint and lime washes (including pigments, binders and thinners)	6 495	11 330	3,1	3,7	14,9
Asphalt and bitumen products	11 587	14 515	5,6	4,7	5,8
Fuel for off-road vehicles, machinery and trucks used in construction	18 951	29 895	9,2	9,7	12,1
Other construction purchases	15 968	32 253	7,7	10,5	19,2
Other purchases	5 395	5 569	2,6	1,8	0,8
Total purchases and transfers-in of materials	206 647	308 634	100,0	100,0	10,5

¹ Revised figures.

² Preliminary figures.

Table 18 – Income from services rendered by type of customer in the construction industry, 2020 and 2024

Type of customer	R million		% contribution		Annualised % change
	2020 ¹	2024 ²	2020 ¹	2024 ²	
Businesses (including NGOs)	311 461	434 466	76,8	75,7	8,7
Individuals and households	16 104	50 874	4,0	8,9	33,3
Government (national, provincial and local), including parastatals/SOEs	77 614	88 036	19,2	15,4	3,2
Total	405 179	573 376	100,0	100,0	9,1

¹ Revised figures.

² Preliminary figures.

Table 19 – Income from services rendered by type of customer in the construction industry, 2024²

Type of service	Businesses (including NGOs)	Individuals and households	Government (national, provincial and local) including parastatals/SOEs	Total
	R million			
Site preparation	9 570	12	64	9 646
Construction of buildings	119 052	20 773	21 588	161 413
Construction of civil engineering structures	119 338	3 825	51 550	174 713
Construction of other structures	4 383	637	804	5 824
Construction by specialist trade contractors	16 980	2 711	3 528	23 219
Plumbing	6 877	2 000	266	9 143
Electrical contractors	36 942	4 073	4 644	45 659
Shopfitting	3 451	117	1	3 569
Other building installation	40 356	3 765	927	45 048
Painting and decorating	4 514	677	1 092	6 283
Other building completion	52 701	10 774	1 538	65 013
Renting of construction or demolition equipment with operators	20 302	1 510	2 034	23 846
Total	434 466	50 874	88 036	573 376

² Preliminary figures.

Table 20 – Income from services rendered by province in the construction industry, 2020 and 2024

Province	2020 ¹	2024 ²	2020 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change
	R million		% contribution		
Western Cape	72 593	136 456	17,9	23,8	17,1
Eastern Cape	35 292	40 830	8,7	7,1	3,7
Northern Cape	15 137	11 266	3,7	2,0	-7,1
Free State	10 139	10 748	2,5	1,9	1,5
KwaZulu-Natal	51 578	87 515	12,7	15,3	14,1
North West	9 670	16 910	2,4	2,9	15,0
Gauteng	157 584	202 990	39,0	35,4	6,5
Mpumalanga	36 823	49 664	9,1	8,7	7,8
Limpopo	16 363	16 997	4,0	3,0	1,0
Total	405 179	573 376	100,0	100,0	9,1

¹ Revised figures.

² Preliminary figures.

Table 21 – Salaries and wages in the construction industry by province, 2020 and 2024

Province	2020 ¹	2024 ²	2020 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change
	R million		% contribution		
Western Cape	12 105	19 371	16,8	21,0	12,5
Eastern Cape	5 588	7 069	7,7	7,7	6,1
Northern Cape	1 789	1 675	2,5	1,8	-1,6
Free State	1 233	2 229	1,7	2,4	16,0
KwaZulu-Natal	9 884	14 749	13,7	16,0	10,5
North West	1 465	2 670	2,0	2,9	16,2
Gauteng	30 294	31 986	42,0	34,6	1,4
Mpumalanga	6 749	8 785	9,4	9,5	6,8
Limpopo	3 013	3 815	4,2	4,1	6,1
Total	72 120	92 349	100,0	100,0	6,4

¹ Revised figures.

² Preliminary figures.

Table 22 – Number of employees in the construction industry by province, 2020 and 2024

Province	2020 ¹	2024 ²	2020 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change
	Number		% contribution		
Western Cape	78 659	115 973	16,4	21,5	10,2
Eastern Cape	47 173	55 869	9,8	10,4	4,3
Northern Cape	13 870	6 906	2,9	1,3	-16,0
Free State	11 872	25 742	2,5	4,8	21,3
KwaZulu-Natal	74 659	107 291	15,6	19,9	9,5
North West	11 379	15 102	2,4	2,8	7,3
Gauteng	174 919	141 043	36,5	26,1	-5,2
Mpumalanga	52 778	46 693	11,0	8,7	-3,0
Limpopo	13 762	24 437	2,9	4,5	15,4
Total	479 071	539 056	100,0	100,0	3,0

¹ Revised figures.

² Preliminary figures.

Table 23 – Information and communication technology usage by type of service in the construction industry, 2024

Type of service	Use computer	Use email	Use internet banking	Have a web page	Receive orders over internet	Place orders over internet	IT outsourced
	%						
Site preparation	100,0	100,0	77,4	38,6	35,4	35,5	38,8
Construction of buildings	100,0	97,0	86,4	45,6	22,7	29,7	46,9
Construction of civil engineering structures	100,0	98,0	86,9	53,6	28,1	34,6	47,0
Construction of other structures	98,3	98,3	80,0	33,1	19,8	26,5	31,6
Construction by specialist trade contractors	98,7	92,3	89,7	31,0	36,4	33,7	36,1
Plumbing	99,5	97,6	82,1	36,7	18,3	16,8	33,3
Electrical contractors	98,8	97,0	80,3	36,4	25,8	25,9	33,9
Shopfitting	100,0	100,0	83,9	35,8	26,0	18,1	26,1
Other building installation	100,0	91,7	85,6	40,6	28,5	35,7	49,9
Painting and decorating	96,9	94,8	85,8	34,7	24,4	21,4	45,8
Other building completion	100,0	98,4	86,0	26,1	29,2	27,6	30,7
Renting of construction or demolition equipment with operators	96,8	95,2	81,2	42,1	28,1	25,0	42,0
Total	99,2	96,6	84,1	39,3	25,4	26,8	39,4

Explanatory notes**Background**

The results presented in this publication have been derived from the 2024 construction industry large sample survey. This is a periodic survey, which measures economic activity in the construction industry of the South African economy. This survey is based on a sample of private enterprises operating in the construction industry.

The sample was drawn from Stats SA's statistical business register (SBR). The SBR is mainly based on the value-added tax (VAT) database of the South African Revenue Service (SARS). Stats SA continuously updates its SBR based on units registered in the taxation system at SARS.

The previous survey of the construction industry, namely 'Construction industry, 2020' was conducted for the year 2020. All figures exclude VAT.

Reference period

The information was collected from enterprises for their financial year which ended on any date between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024.

Purpose of the survey

Results of the survey are used within Stats SA for benchmarking national accounts (e.g. the gross domestic product (GDP)) and compiling supply and use tables. These statistics are also used by government to develop and monitor policies and plans to grow the economy and create jobs. The private sector uses the data to analyse comparative businesses.

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.

Statistical unit

The survey's data were collected at an enterprise level. An enterprise is a legal unit or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its activities.

Size groups

The enterprises are divided into four size groups according to the value of their annual SBR turnover. Large enterprises are enterprises with an annual turnover of more than R182 million. Table 24 presents the size groups as defined using the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition's (DTIC) cut-off points multiplied by 7.

Table 24 – Size groups for the construction industry, 2024

Size group	Turnover
Large enterprises	Turnover > R182 000 000
Medium enterprises	R42 000 000 < turnover ≤ R182 000 000
Small enterprises	R21 000 000 < turnover ≤ R42 000 000
Micro enterprises	R0 < turnover ≤ R21 000 000

Survey methodology and design

The survey was conducted by email, telephone and personal visits.

A sample of about 3 200 enterprises was drawn using cluster stratified simple random sampling. The enterprises were stratified at 4-digit level according to the SIC and then by the size of the enterprise. All large and medium enterprises were completely enumerated. SBR turnover was used as the measure of size for stratification.

Collection rate

Collection rate = $((\text{collected enterprises} + \text{finalised investigations}) / \text{sample size}) * 100$. The collection rate was 84,5%.

Weighting methodology

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-response in the survey. Stratum estimates were calculated and then aggregated with the completely enumerated stratum to form group estimates. These procedures are in line with international best practice.

Revised figures

Revised figures are mainly due to late submission of data to Stats SA, or respondents reporting revisions or corrections to their figures. Figures for 2024 are preliminary and subject to revision.

Relative standard error

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 construction industry in South Africa. 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 error likely to have occurred due to sampling.

Table 25 – Income in the construction industry within 95% confidence limits, 2024

Type of activity	Lower limit	Total income	Upper limit	Relative standard error (RSE)
	R million			%
Site preparation	9 791	10 403	11 015	3,0
Construction of buildings	151 819	168 314	184 809	5,0
Construction of civil engineering structures	173 585	188 352	203 119	4,0
Construction of other structures	5 344	5 963	6 582	5,3
Construction by specialist trade contractors	20 787	23 929	27 071	6,7
Plumbing	8 642	9 478	10 314	4,5
Electrical contractors	44 144	48 207	52 270	4,3
Shopfitting	3 143	3 668	4 193	7,3
Other building installation	42 760	46 997	51 234	4,6
Painting and decorating	5 740	6 434	7 128	5,5
Other building completion	54 574	67 549	80 524	9,8
Renting of construction or demolition equipment with operators	23 097	26 292	29 487	6,2
Total	578 286	605 586	632 886	2,3

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.

Rounding off of figures

The figures in the tables have, where necessary, been rounded off to the nearest final digit shown. There may therefore be slight discrepancies between the sums of the constituent items and the totals shown.

Symbols and abbreviations

DTIC	Department of Trade, Industry and Competition
GDP	Gross domestic product
ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities
LSS	Large Sample Surveys
RSE	Relative standard error
SARS	South African Revenue Service
SBR	Statistical Business Register
SE	Standard error
SIC	Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities
SNA	System of National Accounts
Stats SA	Statistics South Africa
VAT	Value-added tax
0	Nil or less than half the final digit shown

Glossary

Casual employees	Employees who fall neither within the 'permanent employees' category nor the 'temporary employees' category. Such employees are typically working daily or hourly.
Concentration ratio	The ratio of the income of the <i>n</i> largest enterprises to the total income.
Construction worker	A professional, tradesperson or labourer who is directly involved in actual construction activity.
Employees	Persons employed by a business or organisation and who receives payment (in salaries, wages, commission, piece rates or payments in kind).
Enterprise	A legal entity or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its activities.
Industry	An industry consists of a group of enterprises engaged in the same or similar kinds of economic activity. Industries are defined in the <i>System of National Accounts (SNA)</i> in the same way as in the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities</i> , Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02 of January 1993 (SIC).
Net profit or loss before tax	Net profit or loss before tax is derived as: Total income <i>plus</i> closing inventories <i>minus</i> total expenditure <i>minus</i> opening inventories.
Other building installation	Includes: The installation of heating and air-conditioning systems, antennas, alarm systems, elevators and escalators. Also included are insulation work (water, heat, sound), industrial process piping work, commercial refrigeration work, the installation of illumination and signalling systems for roads, railways, airports, harbours, etc. and the installation of certain plants such as manufacturing plants, electric power and transformer plants, telecommunication and radar plants, etc.
Other building completion	Includes: Glazing, floor and wall tiling, carpet laying, floor sanding, finish carpentry, acoustical work, the cleaning of exteriors, etc.

Other expenditure	<p>Includes: Accommodation; advertising; amortisation, <i>excluding depreciation</i>; bank charges; bursaries for own employees (staff bursaries); computer expenditure (when not part of non-current assets); donations, sponsorships and social investment for <i>non-employees</i>; entertainment; excise and customs duty; losses on foreign exchange as a result of variations in foreign exchange rates; losses on financial and other liabilities: redemption, liquidation or revaluation; paper, printing and stationery; postal and courier services; property taxes paid; provisions; railage and transport-out; research and development; security services; severance, termination and redundancy payments; skills development levy; staff training; subscriptions; travelling; water and electricity; and other expenditure.</p>
Other income	<p>Includes: Capital transfers received (only from the South African government); customs duty received; dividends received; excise duty received; mineral rights leases; net profit on foreign loans as a result of variations in foreign exchange rates; royalties, franchise fees, copyright, trade names and patent rights received; profit on financial and other liabilities: redemption, liquidation and revaluation of liabilities; provisions; and other income.</p>
Profit margin	<p>Profit margin is derived as:</p> <p>Net profit or loss after tax <i>divided by turnover</i> <i>multiplied by 100.</i></p>
Statistical unit	<p>A unit about which statistics are tabulated, compiled or published. The statistical units are derived from and linked to the South African Revenue Service (SARS) administrative data.</p>
Stratum	<p>A stratum is constructed by concatenating the SIC classification and size group variables.</p>
Subcontractors	<p>A subcontractor is a person who is hired by a general contractor (or prime contractor, or main contractor) to perform a specific task as part of the overall project and is normally paid for services provided to the project by the originating general contractor.</p>
Turnover	<p>Turnover includes: the value of sales of good; amounts received for work done; amounts received for services rendered; rent and or lease payments received for land and buildings; and rent, leasing and hiring received for machinery, vehicles and other equipment.</p> <p>Turnover excludes: VAT; net profit or loss on sales or revaluation of fixed assets (including profit or loss on foreign exchange); export freight charges; interest received; and excise duty.</p>
Working proprietors	<p>Owners, members or partners actively engaged in the work of the enterprise, excluding silent or inactive partners whose principal activity is outside of the enterprise.</p>