

## Headlines

Selected headlines from 2015  
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## Indicators

Consumer inflation rises  
to 5,2%  
Page 2

## Infographics

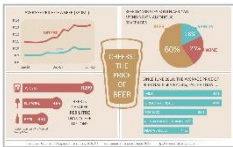
Debt in the private sector  
Page 4

## Private sector turnover rises in the third quarter of 2015 Page 3



## A year of headlines: selected stories from 2015

### Enjoy your pint, but be aware of price...



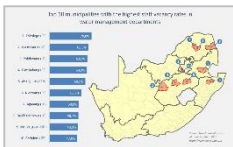
Rising beer prices place strain on consumer pockets. (Click [here](#) to read more.)

### It's cheaper in the Western Cape #WorldCakeDay



In honour of World Cake Day on 26 November, we took a look at the latest price data of this popular dessert. (Click [here](#) to read more.)

### The drought – where do we need the skills?



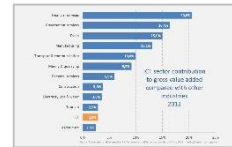
Recent data on staff vacancies show which municipalities are struggling to fill posts in their water departments. (Click [here](#) to read more.)

### Tuition fees: feeling the pinch



Which universities might be most vulnerable to a zero percent increase in tuition fees? (Click [here](#) to read more.)

### How much do South Africans spend on ICT?



South African households spent R91,6 billion on ICT products in 2012 (Click [here](#) to read more.)

### A rumour wobbles an industry




Misinformation and hearsay have the power to influence an economy (Click [here](#) to read more.)

Click [here](#) to browse more headlines.

## Economic indicators (January 2016)


**PRIMARY SECTOR**

**MINING**

Production  

**↓0,8%**  
 y/y in Nov


**SECONDARY SECTOR**

**MANU-FACTURING**

Production  

**↓1,0%**  
 y/y in Nov


Distribution  
**↓2,4%**  
 y/y in Nov

**ELECTRICITY**



**TERTIARY SECTOR**

**WHOLESALE TRADE**

Sales  

**↑3,9%**  
 y/y in Nov

**RETAIL TRADE**

Sales  

**↑3,9%**  
 y/y in Nov

**MOTOR TRADE**

Sales  

**↑2,8%**  
 y/y in Nov


**TERTIARY SECTOR**

**FOOD & BEVERAGES**

Income  


**↑6,0%**  
 y/y in Nov

**TOURIST ACCOMMODATION**


Income  

**↑6,5%**  
 y/y in Nov

**CONSUMER INFLATION**

**HEADLINE CPI**


**5,2%**  
 y/y in Dec

**ABOUT**

Click on  for each indicator to access the complete report.

The indicators shown here provide an indication of how various sectors of South Africa's economy are performing.

y/y = year-on-year.

## Private sector turnover rises in the third quarter of 2015

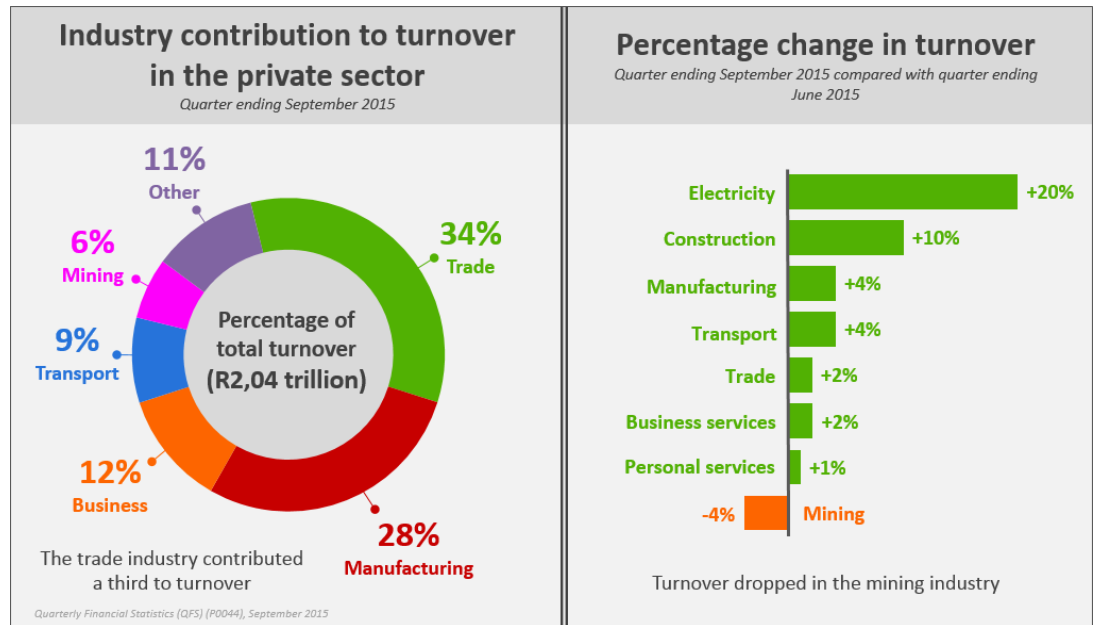
Total turnover in the private sector increased by 3,3% in the September 2015 quarter compared with the June 2015 quarter, rising from an estimated R1,97 trillion to R2,04 trillion.

This is not the first time that total turnover has broken the R2 trillion mark. Turnover rose to above R2 trillion in the September and December 2014 quarters, after which it decreased to R1,94 trillion in the March 2015 quarter.

Just over a third of total turnover in the September 2015 quarter was earned by the trade industry, followed by manufacturing (28%), business services (12%), transport (9%) and mining (6%).

Turnover increased in seven of the eight industries between the June and September 2015 quarters.

Click [here](#) to read the complete article.



## Infographic of the month

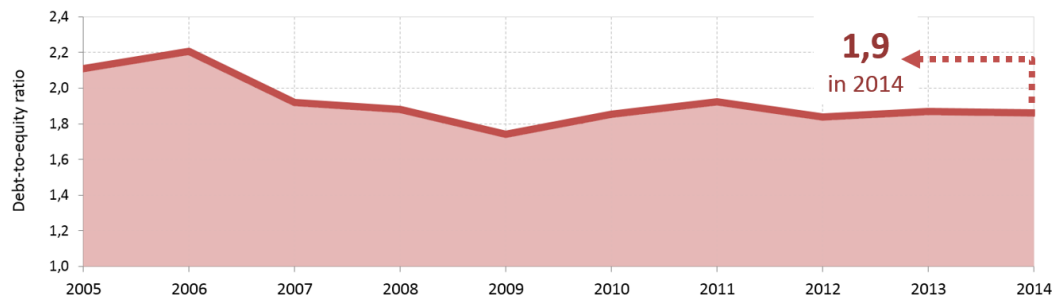
The debt-to-equity ratio is a measure of how much debt a company or industry has incurred to finance its operations relative to equity. A higher debt-to-equity ratio indicates that more debt (e.g. bank loans) is being used. A lower ratio indicates more reliance on capital from shareholders or retained income.

Data from Stats SA's *Annual financial statistics (AFS)* reports show that the debt-to-equity ratio for the private sector as a whole has dropped since 2005. There was R1,86 of debt (rounded to 1,9 in the infographic) held for every R1 of equity in 2014, compared with R2,11 in 2005.

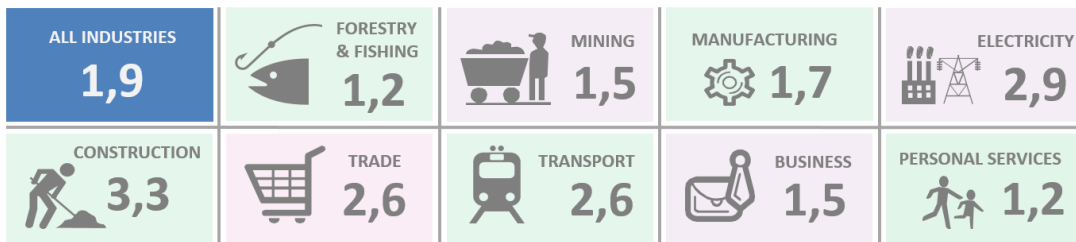
The construction industry recorded the highest debt-to-equity ratio (3,3) in 2014.

Click [here](#) to read more.

THE DEBT-TO-EQUITY RATIO FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR OVER TIME



THE DEBT-TO-EQUITY RATIO BY INDUSTRY (2014)



Source: Annual financial statistics (AFS), P0021

<http://www.statssa.gov.za>

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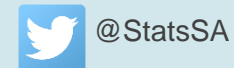
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