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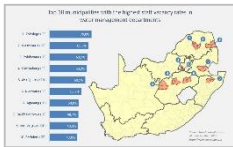
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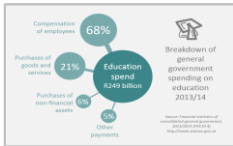
## Economic headlines: November 2015

### The water crisis – where do we need the skills?



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

### Government education expenditure on the rise



Education spending contributed 19% to total government expenditure in 2013/14. (Click [here](#) to read more.)

### The economy narrowly avoids recession



Marginal GDP growth in the third quarter staved off a technical recession. (Click [here](#) to read more.)

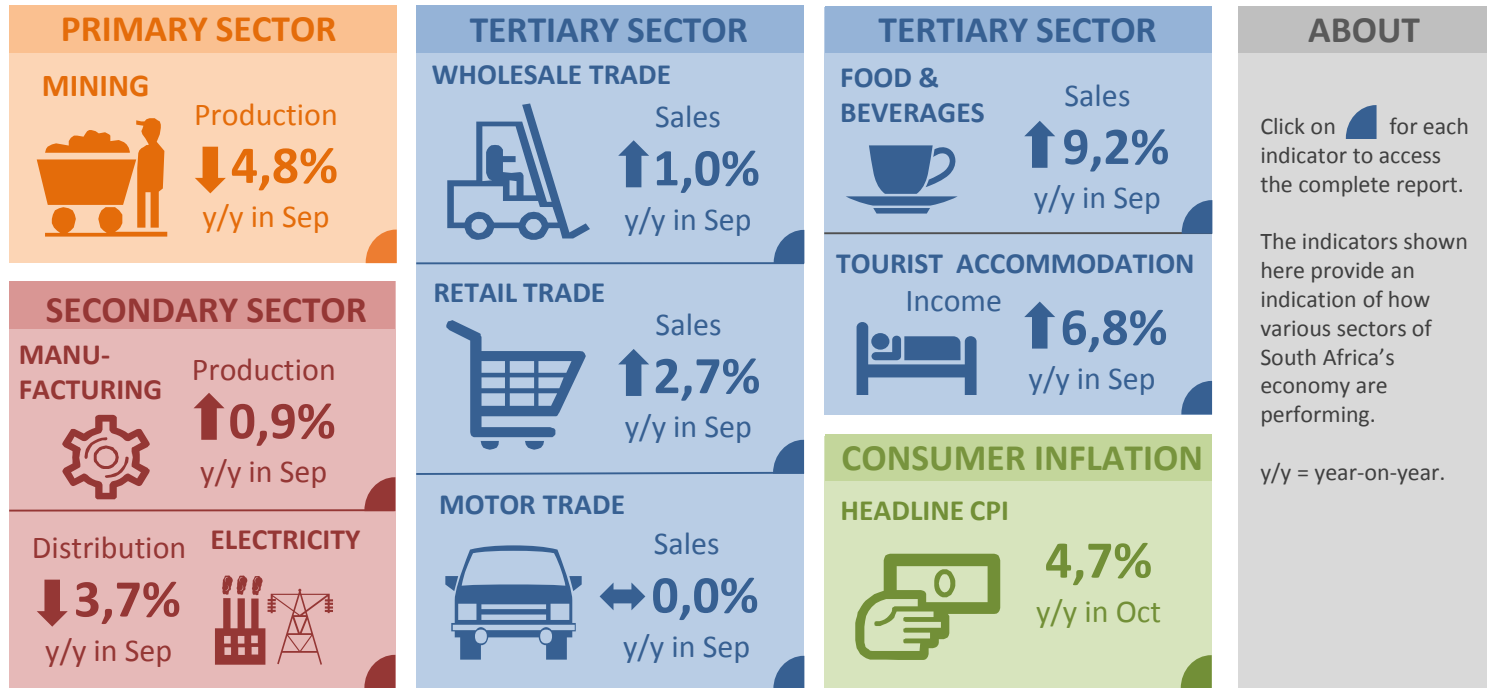
### Operating costs erode private sector profits



Escalating operating costs have dampened profit growth since the 2009 recession. (Click [here](#) to read more.)

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

## Economic indicators



## 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.

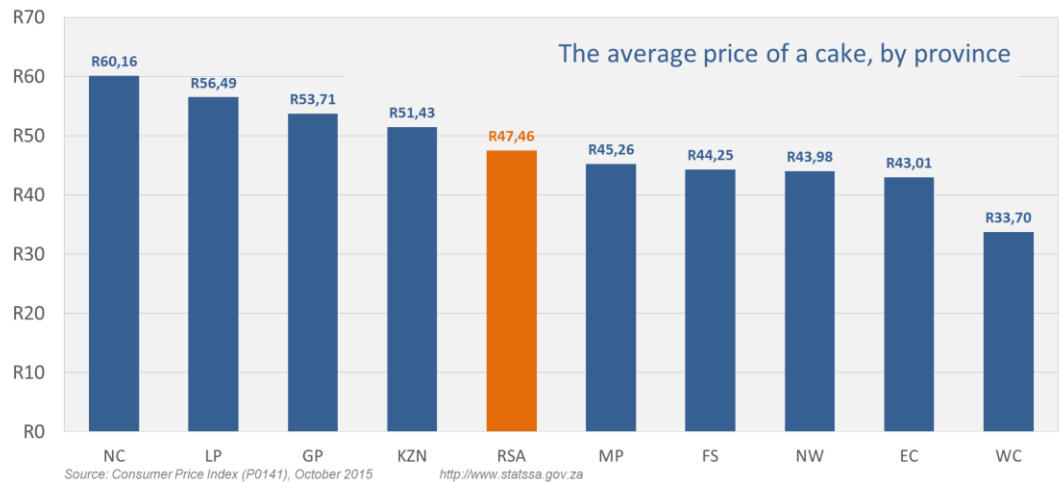
The average price of a cake in October 2015 was R47,46, according to price data. This was 12c (or 0,3%) higher than the price of R47,34 recorded for June 2015.

Those of you planning to go out to celebrate Cake Day in the Western Cape can consider yourselves lucky. On average, cake is cheaper there than in any other province. The average price of a cake in Western Cape was R33,70 in October 2015, much cheaper than the R60,16 recorded for Northern Cape.

What about other sweets? Let's arbitrarily choose two other tasty dessert-like foods: chocolate and ice cream, and look at prices over a longer period, since January 2013.

The average price of an 80-gram slab of chocolate was R8,11 in January 2013. The same slab would have set you back R12,33 in October 2015, a rise of 52%. Ice cream rose by 20% over the same period, from R38,04 to R45,65 for a 2-litre tub. The average price of a cake, on the other hand, climbed by 16%, from R40,77 to R47,46.

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



## Infographic of the month

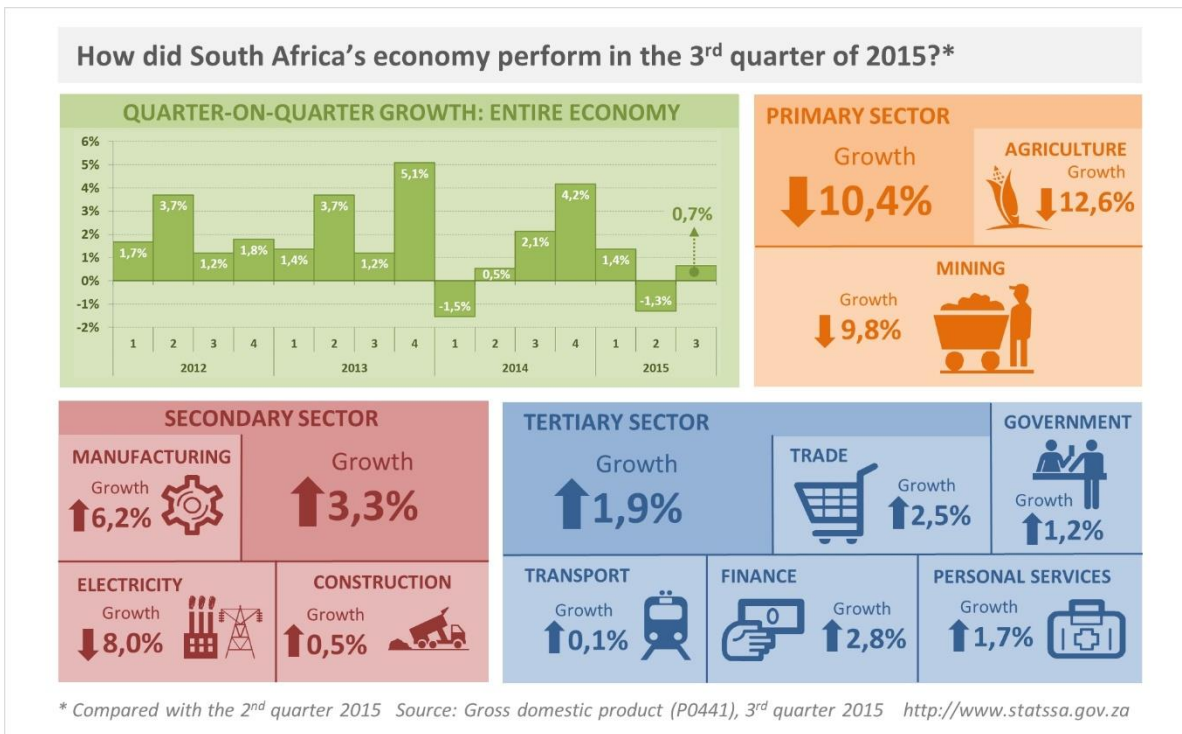
After experiencing a 1,3% contraction in the second quarter, the South African economy grew during the third quarter by 0,7%, avoiding a technical recession.

A recession is usually said to occur if a country experiences two consecutive quarters of GDP decline.

The 0,7% rise in overall economic activity was characterised by three of the ten main industry groups shrinking in size, while the other seven experienced some growth.

The agriculture industry experienced the largest fall, contracting by 12,6%. Decreases in the production of field crops contributed to the decline.

Click [here](#) to read more.



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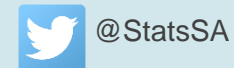
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