

## CONTENTS

HEADLINES  
ECONOMIC INDICATORS  
FEATURE ARTICLE

INFOGRAPHIC OF THE MONTH  
PROVINCIAL SNAPSHOT  
CONTACT US

Your monthly update on South Africa's economic indicators

### Headlines

South Africa enters  
economic recession  
Page 1

### Infographics

Where are the bucket toilets?  
Page 4

### Provincial snapshot

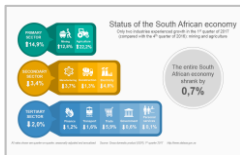
Municipalities: Which are most  
in debt?  
Page 5

### Which government departments pay the highest salaries? Page 3



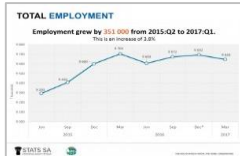
## Economic headlines

### The South African economy shrinks by 0,7%



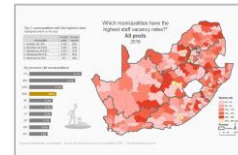
The economy moved into recession during the first quarter of 2017 (Click [here](#) to read more.)

### SA reports 48 000 job losses in first quarter



With South Africa in recession and hoping for some good news, the latest employment figures holds no reprieve (Click [here](#) to read more.)

### Municipalities: where are the staff vacancies?



Are municipalities staffed to handle the complexities of service delivery? For those of you who missed last month's Stats Biz (Click [here](#) to read more.)

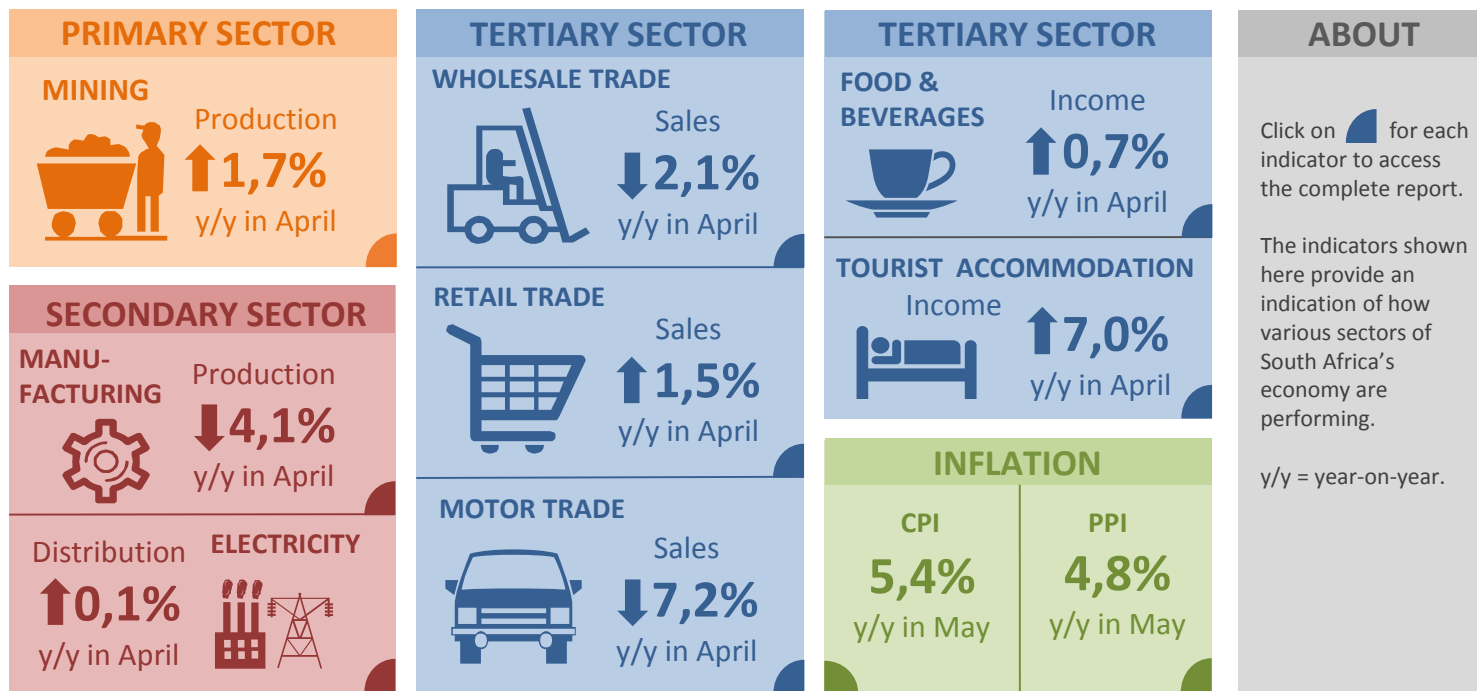
### When is GDP disappointing?



How do we know if a GDP figure is a weak or strong number? (Click [here](#) to read more.)

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

## Monthly economic indicators



Watch a short YouTube clip covering the latest results for GDP ([here](#)) and manufacturing ([here](#)).

## Feature article

### Which national government departments pay the highest average salaries?

South Africa's 47 national government departments spent R137 billion on compensation of employees during the 2015/16 fiscal year.

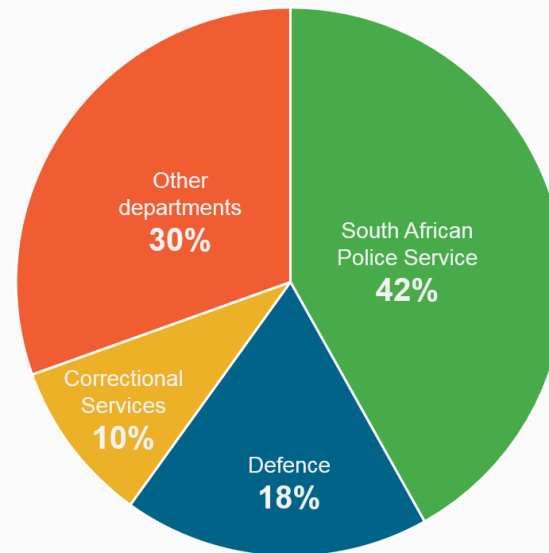
According to the data, sourced from the latest *Financial statistics of national government* report, 70% of the R137 billion was taken up by three departments: South African Police Service (42%), Defence (18%) and Correctional Services (10%). All three share one common element: their main function revolves around security.

The Office of the Chief Justice is ranked as the highest paying department. It paid an annual average compensation of R808 249 per employee in 2015/16.

Click [here](#) to see how all departments rank against each other.

### National government's compensation of employees bill

Percentage breakdown of R137 billion across 47 departments, 2015/16



Source: *Financial statistics of national government*, 2015/16

## Infographic of the month

### Where are the bucket toilets?

At the end of last year, the mayor of the Nelson Mandela Bay municipality Athol Trollip made a commitment that the city would eradicate bucket toilet systems in informal settlements by the end of 2017.

It's not surprising that the pledge was made: the municipality has the highest number of bucket toilets in the country, according to data from Stats SA's latest *Non-financial census of municipalities* report.

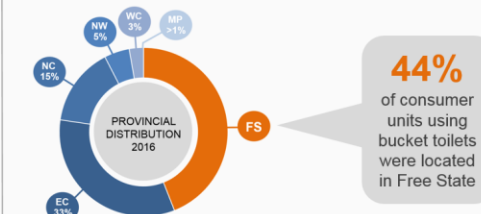
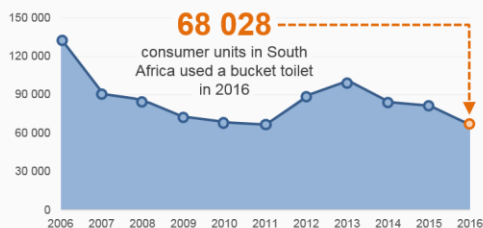
Of the 68 028 consumer units in South Africa using a bucket toilet in 2016, 24% were located in the city.

Countrywide, 45 of the 278 municipalities still provide communities with this form of sanitation, with most of these in Free State, Northern Cape and Eastern Cape.

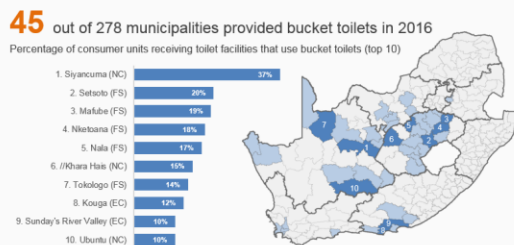
Explore more statistics on bucket toilets [here](#).

### Bucket toilets: where do we need to focus our efforts?

Source: Non-financial census of municipalities, 2016 <http://www.statssa.gov.za>



Municipalities in six of the nine provinces reported the use of bucket toilets

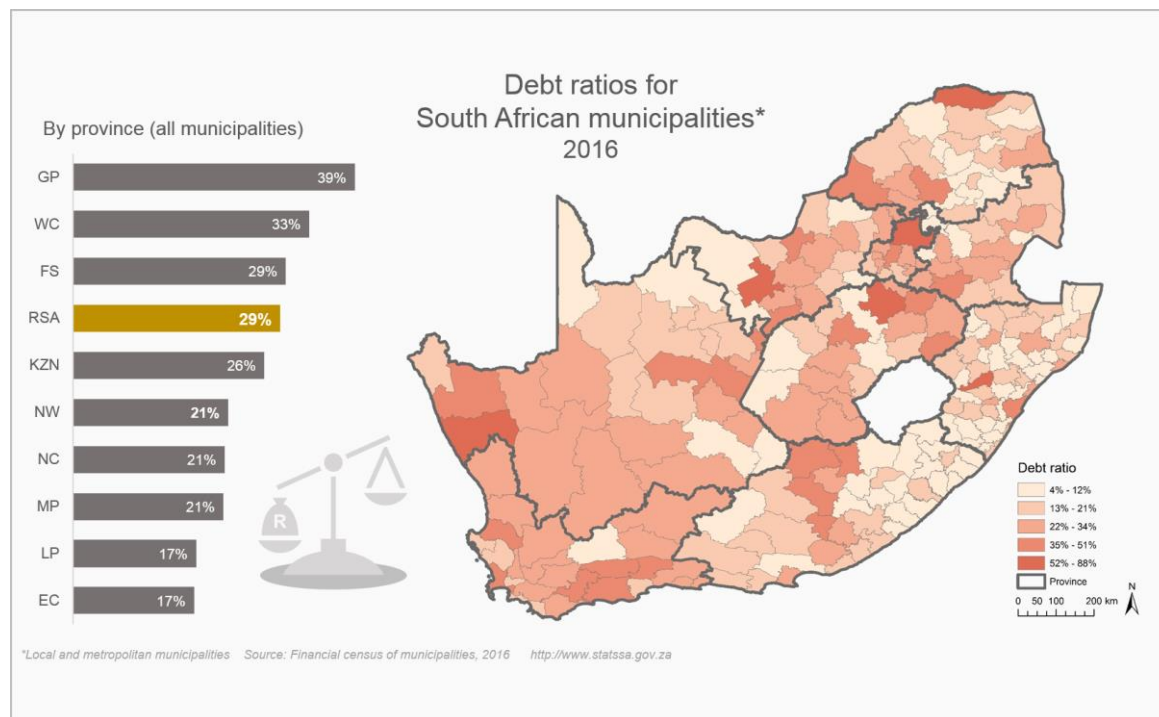


The map excludes Chris Hani District Municipality

24% of consumer units using bucket toilets in South Africa were located in a single municipality:  
**Nelson Mandela Bay**



## Provincial snapshot



### Municipalities: Which are most in debt?

Municipal debt – which includes both non-current and current liabilities – totalled R211 billion in 2016. With total assets worth R737 billion, that translates to a debt ratio of 29%. In other words, 29 cents of every rand used to finance municipal operations was in the form of debt.

Municipalities with low debt levels are located in predominantly rural provinces such as KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and Limpopo. Municipalities with high debt levels included those in Gauteng, Western Cape, and Free State.

The local municipalities with the highest debt ratio were Ngwathe in Free State (88%), Naledi in North West (65%).

Read more on municipal debt [here](#).

## Contact us

Head Office  
ISibalo House, Koch Street  
Salvokop, Pretoria  
0002

Private Bag X44  
Pretoria 0001  
South Africa

Main switchboard  
Tel: +27 12 310 8911  
User Information Services  
+27 12 310 8600

Click [here](#) for contact details for  
provincial offices and subject  
experts.



Email: [info@statssa.gov.za](mailto:info@statssa.gov.za)  
Website: [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za)



Stats SA



@StatsSA

Statistics South Africa app:



Download on the  
App Store

Read more editions of Stats Biz [here](#)