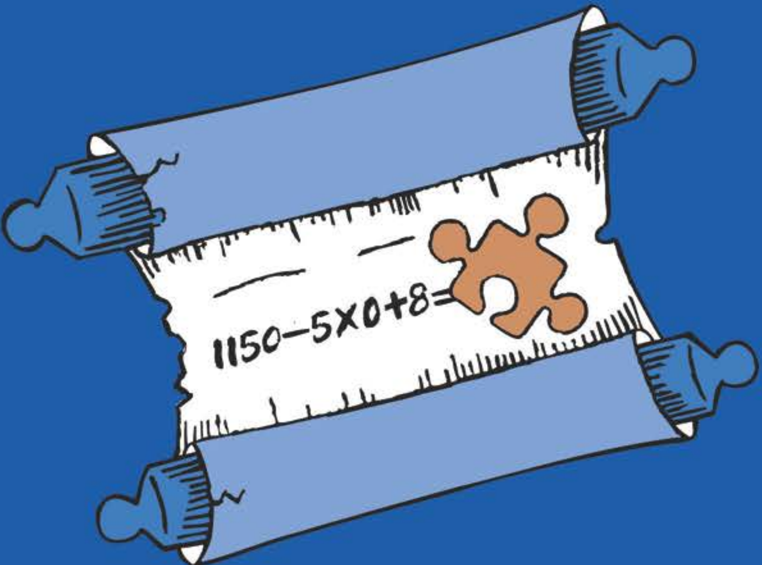
Mbalo Brief

the missing piece of the puzzle

June 2018



Issue 05/2018

THE SOUTH AFRICA I KNOW, THE HOME I UNDERSTAND

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Editor's comment

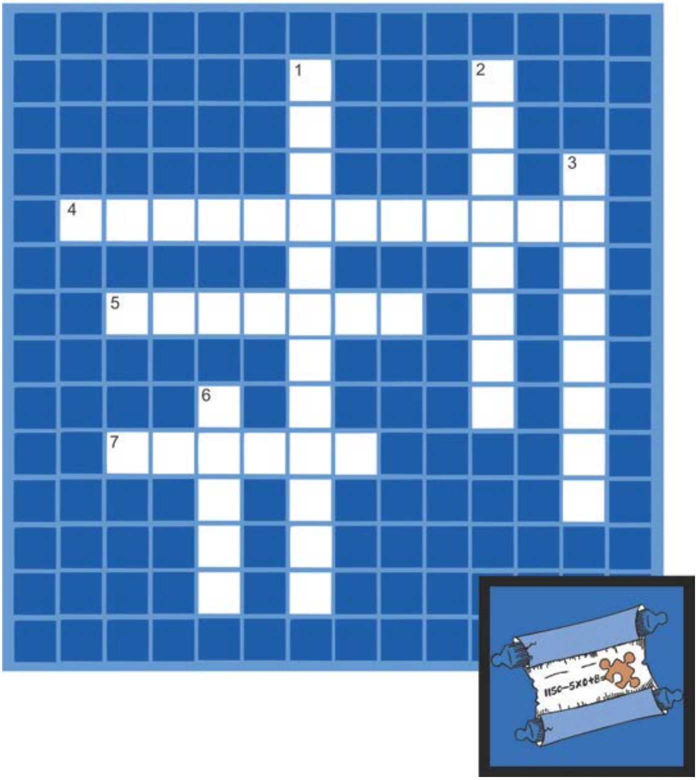
The South African Reserve Bank (SARB) will be launching its first commemorative Nelson Mandela banknote series in celebration of the first democratically elected president's birth centenary. These notes will be issued into circulation by 18 July 2018 and will cover all denominations of R10, R20, R50, R100 and R200. As part of the celebrations, the South African Mint, a subsidiary of the SARB, will also be issuing a new commemorative circulation R5 coin. These commemorative banknotes and R5 coin will co-circulate for a limited time and both sets will remain legal tender.

The educational article for this month's issue of *Mbalo Brief* is based on the Marriages and divorces, 2016 release (*statistical release* P0307). The article presents information on civil marriages, customary marriages and civil unions that were registered in 2016 in the South African national marriage registration system that is maintained by the Department of Home Affairs (DHA).

As usual, included in this issue are our monthly articles such as the *Consumer price index* (CPI), *Selected building statistics of the private sector*, *Retail trade sales* and *Tourist accommodation*. We have also included a crossword puzzle and solutions for the May 2018 puzzle. For more details on any of the surveys, visit our website at www.statssa.gov.za.

Contents

Crossword puzzle



Across

4. Which province registered the highest number of customary marriages in 2016? Read educational article for clue.
5. Although it is not a public holiday, on Sunday 17 June 2018 South Africans will be celebrating..... Day. Fill in the missing word.
7. Name the city in Russia which will be hosting the 2018 FIFA World Cup opening ceremony?

Down

1. Which university in the Western Cape province has named one of its residence building after the late Nkosi Johnson? Read Selected building of statistics article for clue.
2. What is the name of the holiday that is on 16 June every year in South Africa?
3. On 13 June every year is International....... Awareness Day since 2015. Fill in the missing word.
6. What is the name of South Africa's national electricity utility?

Solutions for May 2018 puzzle

Across

2. Volvo
5. Barcelona
6. Africa
7. May

Down

1. Black African
3. Sam Nzima
4. Russia

Educational article on marriages and divorces

1. Introduction

Back in the 1950s, Frank Sinatra sang about how love and marriage go together like a horse and carriage. There's less social pressure on people these days to tie the knot. And, given the cost, people have to think carefully about whether they can afford the white dress and big wedding. In some cases, these factors can determine whether a couple decides to get married or not, as well as the type of marriages they will have. Not all marriages are registered marriages in South Africa, as some are not recognised by law. The three types of marriages that are recognised by law are civil marriages, customary marriages and civil unions. The Department of Home Affairs (DHA) is responsible to manage registered marriages and unions.

This article is based on the Marriages and divorces, 2016 release (statistical release P0307), which was published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) in May 2018. The article presents information on civil marriages, customary marriages and civil unions that were registered in 2016 in the South African national marriage registration systems maintained by the Department of Home Affairs (DHA). It also highlights trends in the number of marriages and unions as well as demographic and other dynamics amongst married partners. The article also presents information on divorces that were granted in 2016 by the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DOJ&CD). It focuses on trends in divorces, demographic and occupational characteristics of the plaintiffs, age at the time of divorce, duration of marriage at the time of divorce, and divorces involving couples with minor children.

Stats SA publishes data on marriages for South African citizens and permanent residents, who are not of South African origin, that are collected through the civil registration systems of DHA. Before 2008, the data in the annual release of Marriages and divorces (P0307) covered only civil marriages. However in 2009, Stats SA started publishing available data on customary marriages and civil unions. The registration of customary marriages and civil unions began in 2003 and 2007 respectively. Data on divorces are obtained from various regional courts that deal with divorce matters. The data are based on successful divorce cases that have been issued with a decree of divorce. Divorce cases came from marriages that were registered in different years prior to 2016 as well as divorce cases that were filed in prior to 2016 but whose divorce decrees were granted in 2016.

It should be noted that although both the data on the marriages and divorces are collected in the same year, the data sets are not linked to each other.

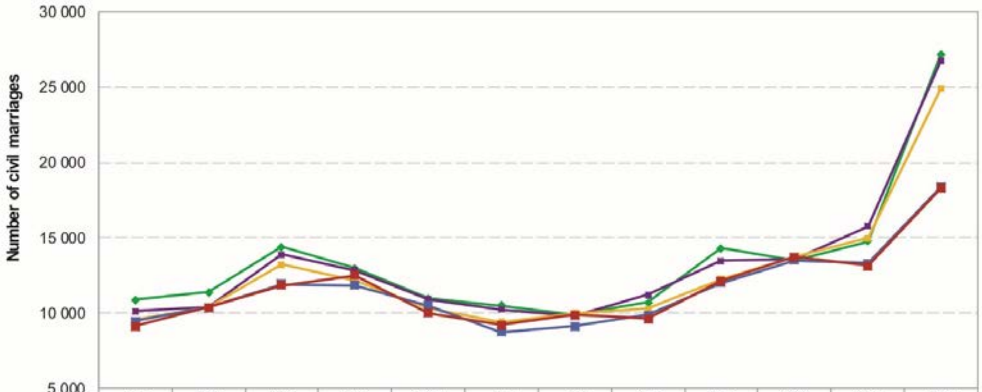
2. Marriages

2.1 Civil marriages

2.1.1 Trends in the registration of civil marriages (2003–2016)

In 2016, a total of 139 512 civil marriages of South African citizens and permanent residents were registered at the Department of Home Affairs. This number includes 372 (0,3%) marriages of South African citizens and permanent residents that were solemnised outside the borders of South Africa, but subsequently registered in South Africa. Furthermore, the number of registered marriages fluctuated between 2003 and 2008, after which there was a consistent decline. During the period 2003 to 2016, the highest number of marriages was recorded in 2008 (186 522) while the lowest number was recorded in 2015 (138 627). The 2016 figure of 139 512 civil marriages shows an increase of 0,6% from the 138 627 marriages recorded in 2015. In 2016, the observed crude civil marriage rate was 2,5 per 1 000 estimated resident population. The crude civil marriage rate refers to the number of civil marriages per 1 000 persons in the population.

Figure 1 – Number of civil marriages by month of solemnisation, 2012–2016



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2012	10 866	11 351	14 359	12 941	10 928	10 466	9 850	10 689	14 272	13 491	14 761	27 138
2013	10 106	10 360	13 873	12 805	10 905	10 218	9 776	11 183	13 455	13 507	15 735	26 719
2014	9 526	10 331	13 203	12 107	10 271	9 384	9 975	10 272	12 245	13 686	14 960	24 892
2015	9 401	10 340	11 903	11 795	10 482	8 696	9 086	9 836	11 977	13 500	13 268	18 343
2016	9 077	10 360	11 801	12 498	9 980	9 177	9 855	9 609	12 118	13 677	13 098	18 262

Month of solemnisation

Figure 1 shows number of civil marriages by month of solemnisation from 2012 to 2016. The registration of civil marriages has seasonal monthly variation. Generally, the warmer months (beginning from September and peaking in December) are the most popular months for solemnising marriages. The results also show that solemnisation of marriages shows a second peak in either March or April, depending on the month of the Easter holiday for that particular year. An interesting observation is the fairly stable pattern in October over the years (13 491 to 13 677 between 2012 and 2016). In 2016, the highest number of marriages [18 262 (13,1%)] took place in December and the lowest number of marriages, (9 077 or 6,5%) occurred in January. The number of marriages in December were double that for January 2016. Peaks seem to be linked to the school calendar for long holidays, which allows many people to travel to participate in marriage celebrations.

2.1.2 Solemnisation of civil marriages

The Marriage Act, 1961 (Act No. 25 of 1961) requires that only licensed marriage officers solemnise (to celebrate or perform the ceremony of (marriage) to make solemn or serious) civil marriages and issue a marriage certificate. Civil marriages are generally solemnised by civil marriage officers at the offices of the DHA and by religious marriage officers at chapels or religious buildings. After a solemnisation ceremony, the marriage officer issues the couple with an abridged hand-written marriage certificate, at no cost, and submits the marriage register at the DHA office where he/she is registered, for the recording of the marriage particulars in the National Population Register (NPR).

With regard to the distribution of civil marriages registered in 2016, according to the way in which the marriage was solemnised, under 'way of solemnisation' the terms:
(i) 'DHA' is used for marriages solemnised by civil marriage officers; and
(ii) 'Religious' for marriages solemnised by priests/religious persons who are marriage officers.

In 2016 more than half [80 748 (57,9%)] of the 139 512 marriages were solemnised by DHA marriage officers and 43 359 (31,1%) by 'religious' rites. The type of solemnisation rite was not specified in 15 405 (11,0%) marriages.

It should be noted that the province where the marriage is registered is not necessarily the province of usual residence of the couple, since couples can marry at any place of their choice. In 2016, the highest number of marriages was registered in Gauteng [36 413 (26,1%)] and the lowest in Northern Cape [4 278 (3,1%)].

Looking at ways of marriage solemnisation within each province, North West had the highest proportion of marriages [80,2% (7 775)] solemnised by civil marriage officers. Western Cape recorded the highest proportion [48,8% (10 034)] of marriages solemnised by religious marriage officers. Wide differences of 'unspecified' way of solemnisation by province were noted in 2016. For example, 30,9% (2 365) of marriages in Mpumalanga had 'unspecified' method of solemnisation compared with 1,6% (152) in North West.

2.1.3 Marital status at the time of civil marriage

In 2016, the majority of the marriages for both bridegrooms and brides were first-time marriages in all provinces. For bridegrooms, there were 113 738 (81,5%) bachelors, 5 151 (3,7%) divorcees and 1 343 (1,0%) widowers. For the brides, 120 501 (86,4%) were spinsters whilst 3 337 (2,4%) were divorcees and 1 044 (0,7%) were widows. The marital status of 19 280 (13,8%) bridegrooms and 14 630 (10,5%) brides were unspecified. A high proportion of marriages between bridegrooms and brides marrying for the first time was observed in Limpopo where 86,0% and 92,3% were bachelors and spinsters, respectively. The profile of those that were remarrying showed that remarriages were more prevalent among divorcees compared to the widowed.

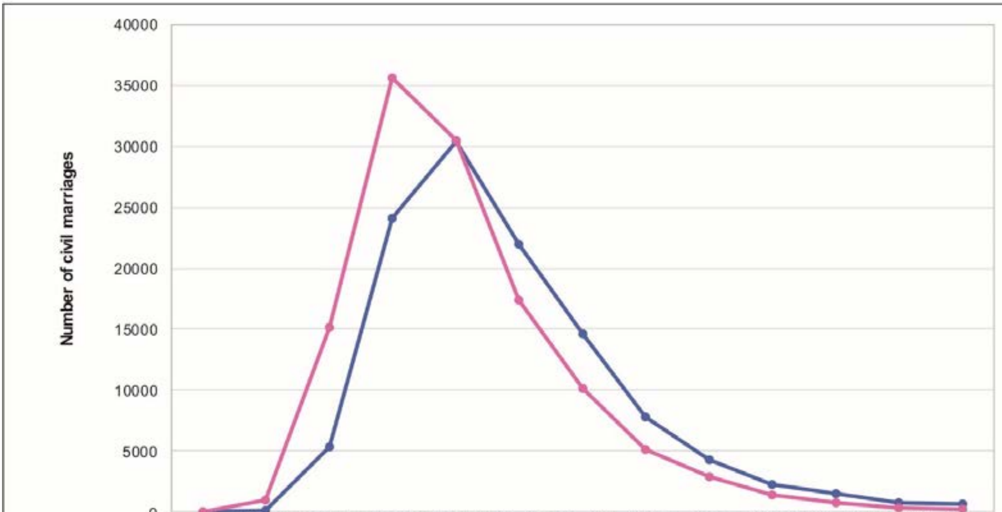
From the results obtained for the number of marriages by marital status of the husband and age differences between spouses, it is observed that – irrespective of their marital status – men generally married women who had never been married before (spinsters). The results show that 106 854 (93,9%) bachelors married spinsters, 1 140 (1,0%) married divorcees and 769 (0,7%) married widows. In addition, irrespective of the fact that more divorcees and widowers married spinsters, the proportion of male divorcees who married female divorcees 902 (17,5%) was higher than the proportion of those who married widows 38 (0,7%). Similarly, the proportion of widowers who married widows [195 (14,5%)] was higher than the proportion that married female divorcees 32 (3,0%).

Furthermore, the results suggests that men tend to marry younger women as 106 635 (76,4%) of the 139 512 bridegrooms were older than their brides. However, 21 919 (15,7%) bridegrooms were younger than their brides and 10 956 (7,9%) were of the same age as their brides. This observed age pattern is the same, irrespective of the marital status of the bridegroom at the time of marriage. However, the magnitude differs by the marital status of the spouses at the time of marriage. For example, 43,2% of bachelors who married divorcees were younger than their brides and 5,3% of male divorcees who married widowed women were also younger than their brides. A smaller percentage (4,8%) was observed for male divorcees marrying spinsters who were older than them.

2.1.4 Age at the time of civil marriage

Population scientists are interested in the age at first marriage or union because of its theoretical link to exposure to the possibility of pregnancy, childbearing and, ultimately, to fertility (Bongaarts, 1978). This link tends to be weakened in populations where pre-marital fertility is widespread. Nevertheless, age at first marriage or union continues to be a good proxy for measuring not only fertility, but other health and socio-economic indicators relating particularly to the role and status of women in society. The importance of this indicator is, to some extent, underscored in South Africa through the marriage legislations that put restrictions on marriages involving minors (persons under 18 years old). These minors require the consent of a parent, a guardian or a commissioner of child welfare before entering into a marriage. In addition to the above consent, boys under 18 years and girls under 16 years of age require the consent of the Minister of Home Affairs before they can marry.

Figure 2 – Number of civil marriages for bachelors and spinsters by age group, 2016



	<15	15–19	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–49	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70+
Bachelor	0	101	5 357	24 137	30 418	21 937	14 623	7 760	4 226	2 245	1 493	773	666
Spinster	3	1 000	15 177	35 632	30 474	17 452	10 112	5 091	2 888	1 395	758	288	231

Figure 2 shows the number of civil marriages for bachelors and spinsters by age group for 2016. In 2016, marriages of 4 bridegrooms and 99 brides aged younger than 18 years were registered, with 3 bachelors and 94 spinsters. The highest number of bachelors [30 418 (26,7%)] were aged 30–34 years, whereas the highest number of spinsters [35 632 (29,6%)] were aged 25–29 years. There were more spinsters compared to bachelors at younger ages (younger than 30 years) and vice versa at older ages (35 years and older).

The median ages (the age that divides a population into two numerically equal groups - that is, half the people are younger than this age and half are older. It is a single index that summarizes the age distribution of a population) of bridegrooms at the time of marriage increased from 34 years in 2012 to 36 years in 2016, and those for brides increased from 30 years to

32 years during the same period. Furthermore, women generally entered marriage at younger ages than men.

For first-time marriages, the median ages for bachelors and spinsters were 34 years and 31 years, respectively in 2016, giving an age difference of three years. For remarriages, the median ages for widowers and widows in 2016 were 54 years and 30 years, respectively, resulting in a 24-year age gap. The median ages for widowers consistently increased every year from 49 years in 2012 to 54 years in 2016, with the exception of 2014 where it decreased by a year (from 50 years) for the 2013 median age, to 49 years. The median ages of widows decreased by two years from 32 years in 2015 to 30 years in 2016. The median ages for male divorcees increased gradually over time.

The median ages of male divorcees increased from 52 years in 2012 to 55 years in 2016. In comparison, the median age of female divorcees showed an increase of two years from 47 years in 2012 to 49 years in 2016. There was a six-year age difference in the median ages between male and female divorcees in 2016.

2.2 Customary marriages

2.2.1 Trends in the registration of customary marriages (2003–2016)

In 2016, 3 978 customary marriages were registered at the Department of Home Affairs, indicating an increase of 14,7% from 3 467 customary marriages registered in 2015. The number of registered customary marriages fluctuated between 2003 and 2007, after which there was a consistent decline from 2008 to 2014, then an increase in 2015 and 2016. The highest number of registered customary marriages was recorded in 2004 (20 301) whilst the lowest number was recorded in 2014 (3 062). The observed crude customary marriage rate was 0,1 per 1 000 estimated resident population in 2016.

2.2.2 Marital status at the time of customary marriage

The Customary Marriages Act, 1998 (Act No. 120 of 1998) recognises polygyny. Thus, a husband who has registered his marriage under the Act is permitted to register additional marriages under the Act, provided he adheres to the regulations under the Act regarding his property. That is, at his own cost, the husband has to get an order from a competent court that will regulate his future matrimonial property system.

2.2.3 Age at the time of customary marriage

In 2016, the highest number of customary marriages were registered in KwaZulu-Natal [1 680 (42,2%)], followed by Limpopo [1 110 (27,9%)] and Eastern Cape [405 (10,2%)]. The lowest number of customary marriages was recorded in Western Cape [13 (0,3%)]. In 2016, there were 14 (0,4%) bridegrooms and 252 (6,3%) brides who were younger than 18 years. Similar to civil marriages, bridegrooms at the time of customary marriage were generally older than brides, with an age difference of about five to six years for customary marriages registered between 2012 and 2016. The median ages for bridegrooms and brides remained stable over the period 2012 to 2016. A further comparison of the ages of bridegrooms and brides shows that in 2016, 85,7% of bridegrooms were older than their brides whilst 9,0% were younger than their brides, and 5,0% were of the same age as their brides.

2.3 Civil unions

2.3.1 Trends in the registration of civil unions (2012–2016)

In 2016, 1 331 civil unions were registered (including the registration of four civil unions of South African citizens and permanent residents living outside South Africa). Civil unions registered in South Africa increased by 12,3% from 1 185 in 2015 to 1 331 in 2016. The provincial distribution of civil unions registered in 2016 indicates that Gauteng (494) and Western Cape (358) were the provinces with the highest number of registrations of civil unions. In total, 64,0% of civil unions in 2016 were registered in these two provinces. The lowest number of registered civil unions was recorded in Limpopo (17) and Northern Cape (15).

2.3.2 Age at the time of civil union

Spouses in civil unions are distinguished as spouse-1 and spouse-2, based on the information completed by the spouses at the time of civil union registration. It is observed that there were three spouses-2 that were teenagers aged 19 years in 2016.

The median ages of spouses-1 remained at 36 years throughout the five-year period (2012 to 2016) whilst the median ages of spouses-2 were fluctuating between 33 years and 34 years. Furthermore, the median ages of spouses-1 were higher than those of spouses-2. Over the five-year period, the yearly differences in the median ages of spouses-1 and spouses-2 ranged between two and three years. In 2016, 61,7% of spouses-1 were older than their spouses, whilst 32,1% were younger than their spouses and 6,2% were the same age as their spouses.

3. Divorces

3.1 Trends in divorces (2003–2016)

Figure 3 – Number and percentage distribution of published divorces in South Africa by population group, 2003 and 2016

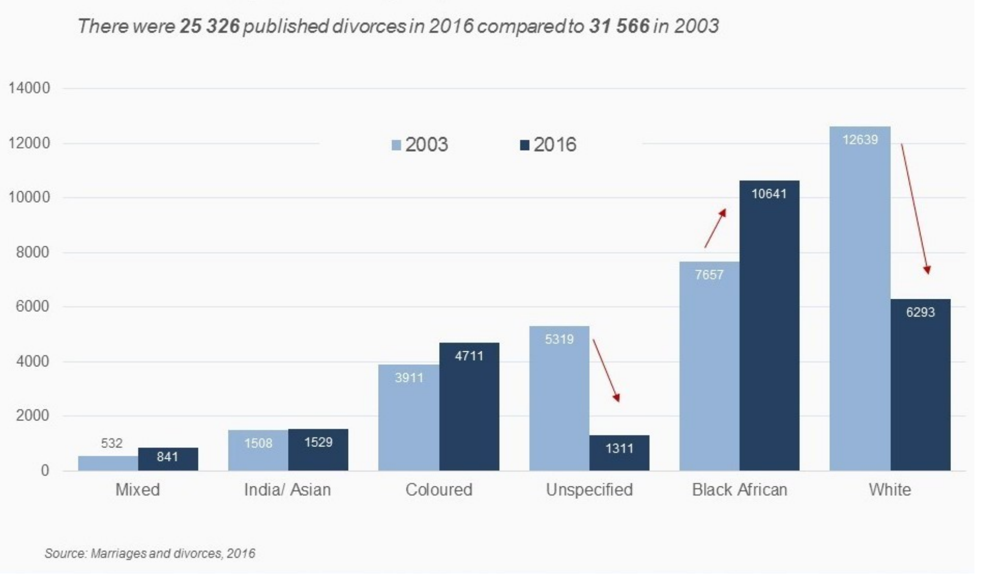


Figure 3 shows number and percentage distribution of published divorces in South Africa by population group for 2003 and 2016. The 2016 divorce data reported in the Marriages and divorces statistical release are based on 25 326 completed divorce forms that Stats SA received and processed by the end of December 2017. The observed crude divorce rate was 0,5 divorces per 1 000 estimated resident population in 2016. The number (25 326) indicates an increase of 66 (0,3%) divorces from the 25 260 cases processed in 2015. The total number of divorces fluctuated over the period 2003 to 2010, then increased from 2011 to 2016, with the highest number observed in 2005 (32 484) and the lowest in 2011 (20 980). In 2016, about

48 divorces were granted for same-sex couples, of which 38 were female couples and 10 were male couples.

In 2016, couples from the white population group dominated the number of divorces from 2003 to 2007; thereafter, black African couples had the highest number of divorces up until 2016. In 2003, 40,0% of the divorcees were from the white population group whereas 24,3% came from the black African population group. By 2016, 42,0% of the divorcees were from the black African population group and 24,8% from the white population group. The proportions of the divorcees from the coloured and Indian/Asian population groups were quite invariable during the 13-year period. The population group of 1 311 couples was not specified.

It is noted that a high proportion of husbands (29,3%) and wives (32,1%) did not specify the type of occupation they were engaged in at the time of divorce. In addition, 17,3% and 24,1% of husbands and wives, respectively were not economically active at the time of divorce. Most male divorcees were managers and administrators [3 478 (13,7%)], and 2 410 (9,5%) were employed in professional, semi-professional and technical occupations while female divorcees were largely in clerical and sales occupations [3 248 (12,8%)] and professional, semi-professional and technical occupations [3 113 (12,3%)].

3.2 Characteristics of plaintiffs

In 2016, more wives than husbands [12 954 (51,1%) women compared to 8 651 (34,2%) men] initiated divorce and 1 868 (7,4%) divorces were initiated by both husband and wife. The sex of the plaintiff was not specified in 1 853 (7,3%) cases. With the exception of women from the black African population who had a lower proportion of plaintiffs (44,4%), the proportion of women plaintiffs from the other population groups was above 50,0%. The proportion of women plaintiffs for the white, coloured and Indian/Asian population groups were 58,1%, 56,7% and 55,7%, respectively. Among black African divorcees, divorce initiated by both partners constituted about 10%.

The provincial distribution indicates that Western Cape (6 224), Gauteng (5 816), KwaZulu-Natal (4 314) and Eastern Cape (3 352) were the provinces with the highest number of divorces granted. However, this could also be due to the fact that these provinces have the highest populations. In total, 77,8% of divorces granted in 2016 were from these four provinces.

Eastern Cape (14,1%) and Gauteng (9,8%) show higher proportions of both male and female divorcees as plaintiffs.

3.3 Number of divorces by way of solemnisation of marriage

In 2016, 11 794 (46,6%) of the divorce cases were from marriages that were solemnised by religious rites and 10 971 (43,3%) by civil rites. Over two-thirds (68,9%) of divorces from the white population group and 65,4% of divorces from the coloured population group were from marriages that were solemnised by religious rites. Most divorces from the black African and Indian/Asian population groups were from marriages that were solemnised by civil rites, 65,7% and 51,0%, respectively.

3.4 Number of times married

The 2016 divorce cases for both men and women were mainly from individuals who had married once. More than 80,0% of divorces for men and women were from first-time marriages compared to 11,9% of men and 10,3% of women from second-time marriages. Less than 2,0% of men and women were getting divorced for at least the third time.

3.5 Age at the time of divorce

The median ages at the time of divorce in 2016 were 44 years for males and 40 years for females, indicating that generally, divorced males were older than divorced females, with a difference of about four years. The pattern of median ages in 2016 by population group showed similar median ages for black African and white males (45 years). The Indian/Asian population group recorded the lowest median ages in female divorcees at 39 years. The difference in the median ages at the time of divorce between males and females was greater in the black African population group (five years) compared to the coloured, Indian/Asian and white population groups. Although there were differences in the ages at which most men and women from the various population groups divorced, the age patterns were quite similar. The information reveal that there were fewer divorces among the younger (less than 25 years old) and the older (65 years and older) divorcees. For males, the peak age group at divorce was 40 to 44 for all population groups, except for the white population group where the highest peak was from the age group 45–49 years. In the case of females, the peak age group for black African and coloured population groups was 35–39 years and the peak for Indian/Asian and white population groups was 30–34 years.

3.6 Duration of marriage of divorcing couples

In 2016, the largest number [6 817 (26,9%)] of divorces among males were for marriages that lasted between five and nine years. This group is followed by marriages that lasted between ten and fourteen years [4 955 (19,6%)] and marriages that lasted for less than five years [4 436 (17,5%)]. Results shows that four in ten divorces (44,4%) of the 25 326 in 2016 were marriages that lasted for less than ten years.

Furthermore, the highest proportion of divorces occurred to couples who had been married for five to nine years. Population group variations showed that 31,7% of divorces from the black African, 25,4% from coloured, 25,0% from white and 22,4% from Indian/Asian population groups were marriages that lasted between five and nine years. The white population had the highest proportion (22,6%) of divorces that occurred in the first five years.

3.7 Divorces involving couples with minor children

In 2016, 13 922 (55,0%) of the 25 326 divorced couples had children younger than 18 years. Looking at the coloured divorcees, the proportion of divorces involving couples with minor children constituted about 62,0%. The profile of white divorcees showed that more than half of the recorded divorces were without children (54,4%). Meanwhile, 45,5% of children affected by divorce were from the black African population group, 21,7% from the coloured population group, 20,0% from the white population group and 5,5% from the Indian/Asian population group.

4. Conclusion

Information on marriages and divorces is important for understanding the formation and dissolution of marriage relationships and implications on the household structure and composition. In total, 139 512 civil marriages were registered in South Africa in 2016, most of which were solemnised by DHA marriage officers. The majority of civil marriages in 2016 for both bridegrooms and brides were first-time marriages, with women generally entering into marriage at younger ages than men. With regard to divorces, the results showed that 25 326 divorces were granted in South Africa in 2016. Generally, there was an increase in the proportion of divorces for black Africans and a decline for the white population group from 2003 to 2016. Divorces were mainly from people who had married for the first time. There were more wives than husband plaintiffs, with husbands generally getting divorced at a later age than wives.

5. References

1. *Marriages and divorces* (statistical release P0307). 2018. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa

Primary industry

Mining: production and sales

Mining production decreases

In order to compete as one of the world's top fluorspar producers, South Africa will be opening a new fluorspar mine in 2018. Construction of the R1,7 billion Nokeng fluorspar mine, which is situated at Rust de Winter (80 kilometres north-east of Pretoria), has started and it is expected that commissioning will begin in November 2018, with first production projected for January/February 2019. The mine has an estimated 19-year mine life and will comprise an open-pit mine and a concentrator plant and will have an average run-of-mine feed rate of 630 000 tonnes per year. The construction of this mine is crucial as it will boast the economy of South Africa through job creation, among other things. Mining production and sales statistics for March 2018 are presented in this article.

Mining production decreased by 8,4% year-on-year in March 2018 (**see Table A**). The largest negative contributors were:

- gold (-18,0%, contributing -2,5 percentage points);
- PGMs (-6,1%, contributing -1,5 percentage points);
- diamonds (-24,7%, contributing -1,2 percentage points); and
- iron ore (-8,9%, contributing -1,2 percentage points).

Table A – Key growth rates in the volume of mining production for March 2018

	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	5,3	6,4	-0,9	2,6	2,0	-8,4
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	3,2	-1,1	-4,3	1,6	0,5	-3,4
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted [1/]	2,4	-1,3	-2,1	-3,8	-2,8	-2,5

[1/] Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.
A full release on *Mining: Production and sales* (Statistical release P2041) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za

Mineral sales increased by 0,1% year-on-year in March 2018 (**see Table B**). Manganese ore (70,8%, contributing 3,9 percentage points), coal (14,6%, contributing 3,9 percentage points) and 'other' metallic minerals (97,3%, contributing 1,7 percentage points) were the main positive contributors.

Table B – Key growth rates in mineral sales at current prices for March 2018

	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	23,0	14,2	3,3	-8,4	3,6	0,1
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	4,1	-4,6	0,7	-3,8	-4,2	-1,2
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted [1/]	9,4	8,4	4,6	-1,7	-5,0	-7,9

[1/] Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.
A full release on *Mining: Production and sales* (Statistical release P2041) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za

Secondary industries

Manufacturing: Production and sales

Manufacturing production increases

The production of non-recyclable plastics has been a health hazard to the environment, humans and animals throughout the world. Even though different states have implemented measures to eliminate such plastics, more companies are still producing new plastic products to meet their demands. However, the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) is planning to stop the use of microbeads (manufactured solid plastic particles used in the production of cosmetic products) in the production of cosmetics. This came after the United Nations urged governments, industries, communities and individuals during the World Environment Day summit held on 5 June 2018 in India, to eliminate plastic pollution and reduce the production and excessive use of single-use plastic products such as straws, cotton buds, drink stirrers, etc. Presented in this article is a summary of the Manufacturing: production and sales statistics for April 2018.

Manufacturing production increased by 1,1% in April 2018 compared with April 2017 (**see Table C**). The largest positive contributions were made by the following divisions:

- petroleum, chemical products, rubber and plastic products (4,0%, contributing 1,0 percentage point); and
- food and beverages (2,6%, contributing 0,7 of a percentage point).

The largest negative contributions to the year-on-year growth rate of 1,1% in April 2018 were made by the following divisions:

- wood and wood products, paper, publishing and printing (-5,1%, contributing -0,6 of a percentage point); and
- radio, television and communication apparatus and professional equipment (-19,9%, contributing -0,4 of a percentage point).

Table C – Key growth rates in the volume of manufacturing production for April 2018

	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18	Apr-18
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	1,7	2,0	2,3	0,7	-1,6	1,1
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,1	1,1	-1,8	-2,4	0,6	-0,6
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted [1/]	0,6	1,6	1,6	0,1	-2,2	-3,0

[1/] Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.
A full release on *Manufacturing: Production and sales (*Statistical release P3041.2) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za

Selected building statistics of the private sector

Value of recorded building plans passed increases

There are many buildings in South Africa which have been named after certain individuals for their contribution to the political, social and economic freedom in the country. For example, the O.R. Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg is named after the late anti-apartheid politician and revolutionary, Oliver Reginald Kaizana Tambo, who served as president of the African National Congress from 1967 to 1991. The Stellenbosch University in the Western Cape has named one of its residence building after the late Nkosi Johnson who was born with HIV/Aids and became an activist, and made an impact on public perceptions of HIV until his death in 2001 at the age of 12. At the time of his death, he was the world's longest-surviving child born with HIV/AIDS. The naming of buildings after such activists can play an important role in the recognition, remembrance and celebration of their struggle towards social, political and economic emancipation in South Africa. Presented in this article is a summary of the selected building statistics for March 2018.

The value of recorded building plans passed (at current prices) increased by 6,2% (R1 494,5 million) in the first quarter of 2018 compared with the first quarter of 2017 (**see Table D**). Increases were recorded for additions and alterations (18,0% or R1 107,8 million) and residential buildings (4,5% or R538,4 million). A decrease was recorded for non-residential buildings (-2,6% or -R151,8 million).

The largest positive contributions to the total increase of 6,2% (R1 494,5 million) were made by:

- Western Cape (contributing 3,9 percentage points or R926,4 million);
- Eastern Cape (contributing 1,9 percentage points or R457,5 million);
- KwaZulu-Natal (1,6 percentage points or R372,4 million); and
- Mpumalanga (1,1 percentage points or R266,1 million).

Gauteng (contributing -2,6 percentage points or -R615,7 million) was the largest negative contributor.

The value of buildings reported as completed (at current prices) decreased by 13,7% (-R2 223,6 million) in the first quarter of 2018 compared with the first quarter of 2017.

Four provinces reported year-on-year decreases in the value of buildings completed during January to March 2018. The largest contributions were recorded for Gauteng (contributing -8,1 percentage points or -R1 306,6 million) and KwaZulu-Natal (contributing -7,3 percentage points or -R1 180,2 million).

Table D – Recorded building plans passed by larger municipalities: January to March 2017 versus January to March 2018

Estimates at current prices	January to March 2017 1/	January to March 2018 1/	Difference in value between January to March 2017 and January to March 2018	% change between January to March 2017 and January to March 2018
	R'000	R'000	R'000	
Residential buildings	11 938 362	12 476 807	538 445	4,6
- Dwelling houses	7 147 937	7 786 195	638 258	8,9
- Flats and townhouses	4 738 849	4 370 192	-368 657	-7,8
- Other residential buildings	51 576	320 420	268 844	521,3
Non-residential buildings	5 847 592	5 695 819	-151 773	-2,6
Additions and alterations	6 141 900	7 249 702	1 107 802	18,0
Total	23 927 854	25 422 328	1 494 474	6,2

1/ 2015 and 2016 figures should be regarded as preliminary because of possible backlogs and incomplete reporting by municipalities.
A full release on *Selected building statistics of the private sector as reported by local government institutions* (Statistical release P5041.1) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za

Electricity generated and available for distribution

Electricity produced and consumed

Every new factory, shop, office or home that is built needs electricity for various daily operations such as running machinery, lights and cooking. These examples of additional consumption and supply of electricity may put electricity distributors under pressure, and they often find themselves in a position whereby the demand for electricity exceeds the available supply from time to time. In order to manage the situation, planned supply interruptions may have to be carried out using System Management, also known as load shedding. System Management is when there is not enough electricity available to meet the demand from all consumers, therefore the electricity distributing companies then implement a controlled way of rotating the available electricity between all consumers. This process is carried out when all other options at the distributors' disposal have been exhausted, such as running power stations at maximum capacity and interrupting supply to industrial customers. Unlike other electricity faults such as generator failures at power stations which may take days to fix, System Management ensures that affected areas are not interrupted for more than two hours at a time. Presented in this article is a summary of the electricity generated and distributed in April 2018.

Electricity generation (production) decreased by 0,5% year-on-year in April 2018 (**see Table E**).

Table E – Key growth rates in the volume of electricity generated for April 2018

	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18	April-18
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	1,7	1,5	2,4	2,0	1,2	- 0,5
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,8	-0,7	0,4	-0,7	0,6	-1,7
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted [1/]	1,1	1,5	1,0	0,2	-0,1	-0,8

[1/] Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

Electricity distribution (consumption) decreased by 0,7% year-on-year in April 2018 (**see Table F**).

Table F – Key growth rates in the volume of electricity distributed for April 2018

	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18	Apr-18
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	0,9	1,0	1,2	0,4	-0,1	-0,7
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,4	0,2	-0,3	-0,4	1,1	-1,3
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted [1/]	0,3	1,0	0,7	0,4	0,0	-0,3

[1/] Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.
A full release on *Electricity generated and available for distribution* (Statistical release P4141) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za

Tertiary industries

Wholesale trade sales

Wholesale trade sales increase

Many people may not know what the barcodes that they often see on many food, electronic and cleaning products are used for. A barcode is a machine-readable code in the form of numbers and a pattern of parallel lines of varying widths, printed on a product and used especially for stock control. For many wholesalers and retailers there are many benefits of using barcodes. For example, at the wholesale warehouse and during distribution processes, wholesalers use barcodes because they are able to provide locational information to track and trace products and also deliveries that may be considered lost. And also, because barcodes are scanned and not manually entered, the risk of error is significantly reduced, saving wholesalers the time and money they would use to locate the products. Presented in this article is a summary of the wholesale trade sales statistics for March 2018.

Wholesale trade sales increased by 2,8% in March 2018 compared with March 2017 (**see Table G**). The main contributor to this increase was dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (19,1%, contributing 3,6 percentage points).

Wholesale trade sales increased by 4,2% in the first quarter of 2018 compared with the first quarter of 2017. The main contributor to this increase was dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (13,6%, contributing 2,6 percentage points).

Table G – Key growth rates in wholesale trade sales at current prices for March 2018

	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	5,4	6,7	0,8	3,6	6,5	2,8
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	4,4	3,3	-1,8	-0,9	1,2	2,4
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted[1/]	0,5	1,9	4,4	3,9	1,4	0,5

[1/] Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.
A full release on *Wholesale trade sales* (P6141.2) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za

Retail trade sales

Retail trade sales increase

Digitisation is one of the on-going transformations in the retail industry, giving buyers better shopping experiences. For example, finding a perfect fitting pair of shoes can be time consuming as you try different shoe sizes. Even though people may think they know their shoe size, sometimes – depending on the footwear design or material – one might go a size up or down or the shoes may simply not fit at all. With the retail industry introducing a 3D shoe digitiser system, the buyer's time taken to do the guesswork can be saved. The 3D shoe digitiser system consists of two physical components, namely a shoe digitiser that retailers use to scan the inner dimensions of all the shoes that they have in stock, and the foot digitiser that is used by buyers in-store, which scans their feet within about 10 seconds. This is an artificial intelligence-based application which matches the buyer's foot scans with the store's shoe scans and suggests pairs of shoes that the store has in stock and which could fit that particular person. This shoe digitiser can save time for buyers and it could also increase sales, as some shoppers may try shoes that they otherwise would not have considered. Presented in this article is a summary of the retail trade sales for March 2018.

Retail trade sales increased by 4,8% year-on-year in March 2018 (**see Table H**). The highest annual growth rates were recorded for retailers in:

- household furniture, appliances and equipment (20,7%);
- textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (10,6%); and

- pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries (7,9%).

The main contributors to the 4,8% increase were:
- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (contributing 1,6 percentage points);
- general dealers (contributing 1,1 percentage points); and
- retailers in household furniture, appliances and equipment (contributing 0,9 of a percentage point).

Table H – Key growth rates in retail trade sales for March 2018 at constant 2015 prices

	Oct -17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	3,5	7,9	5,1	3,3	4,2	4,8
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-0,2	4,0	-3,3	-1,4	1,5	0,0
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted [1/]	1,9	2,3	2,0	1,0	-1,2	-1,3

[1/] Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.
A full release on *Retail trade sales (*Statistical release P6242.1) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za

Motor trade sales

Motor trade sales increase

There are various reasons motor vehicle owners install tracking system devices in their vehicles. Apart from tracking purposes such as vehicle movement monitoring, the tracking system is used as an anti-theft device. However, the Motor Vehicle Security Association of South Africa (VESA), an organisation that regulates the manufacturing and installation standards of vehicle security systems, has warned motor vehicle owners that installation of other motor vehicle electronics or gadgets which are not certified by the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) and the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (Icasa) can affect its tracking signal. According to VESA, some MP3 players fitted in motor vehicles do not meet electrical and environmental specification standards and transmit various frequency bands, which impede the global positioning system (GPS) and data transmission from tracking system devices. Presented in this article is a summary of the motor trade sales statistics for March 2018.

Motor trade sales increased by 4,3% year-on-year in March 2018 (**see Table I**). The largest annual growth rates were recorded for:

- new vehicle sales (9,4%);
- convenience store sales (8,5%); and
- fuel sales (6,3%).

Motor trade sales increased by 4,8% in the first quarter of 2018 compared with the first quarter of 2017. The main contributors were fuel sales (9,0%, contributing 2,3 percentage points) and new vehicle sales (6,2%, contributing 1,7 percentage points).

Table I – Key growth rate figures in motor trade sales for March 2018

	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted,	8,3	7,6	5,1	6,2	3,9	4,3
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	2,0	1,7	0,0	-1,6	0,2	5,6
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted [1/]	2,6	4,6	5,1	3,1	0,8	1,0

[1/] Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.
A full release on *Motor trade sales (*Statistical release P6343.2) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za

Food and beverages

Total income generated by the food and beverages industry increased

After South Africa allowed its staple foods to be genetically modified in 1997, most South Africans are consuming genetically modified organism (GMO) food products. A GMO is any type of organism, plant, or animal whose genetic material has been manipulated through genetic engineering. Some of the genetically modified foodstuffs are soybean and maize. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), some of benefits of GMOs are to produce more nutritious food and reduce vitamin deficiency. Presented in this article is a summary of the food and beverages statistics for March

Total income generated by the food and beverages industry increased by 5,6% in March 2018 compared with March 2017 (**see Table J**). Positive annual growth rates were recorded for food sales (6,3%) and bar sales (3,0%).

In March 2018, positive contributors to the annual growth rate were restaurants and coffee shops (7,0%, contributing 3,6 percentage points) and takeaway and fast-food outlets (7,1%, contributing 2,4 percentage points).

Total income increased by 1,5% in the first quarter of 2018 compared with the first quarter of 2017. The main contributor to this increase was takeaway and fast food-outlets (4,6%, contributing 1,5 percentage points).

Table J – Year-on-year percentage change in food and beverages income at constant prices by type of income – March 2018

Type of income	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18
Food sales	-2,0	1,3	-2,3	-1,5	1,6	6,3
Bar sales	-4,1	6,2	1,5	-16,0	1,5	3,0
Other income	-10,1	9,4	-8,3	-12,1	-7,5	-15,8
Total	**-2,3**	**1,8**	**-2,0**	**-2,8**	**1,5**	**5,6**

A full release on *Food and beverages* (Statistical release P6420) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za

Tourist accommodation

Total income for tourist accommodation industry decreases by 0,8%

Finding a place to live for a short or long period has been a daunting task for most students, workers and tourists alike. However, a new mobile application and web portal has been introduced to make it easier to find accommodation. HouseME markets the property on behalf of the landlord and uses an online auction procedure where landlords obtain bids on their advertised rental properties from prospective tenants who are looking for accommodation. HouseME handles the deposit, lease and rental collection on behalf of the landlord. Presented in this article is a summary of the tourist accommodation statistics for March 2018.

Total income for the tourist accommodation industry decreased by 0,8% in March 2018 compared with March 2017 (**see Table K**).

Income from accommodation decreased by 1,6% year-on-year in March 2018, the result of a 2,7% decrease in the number of stay unit nights sold and a 1,2% increase in the average income per stay unit night sold.

In March 2018, hotels decreased by 3,9% (contributing -2,6 percentage points) year-on-year.

Income from accommodation decreased by 0,3% in the first quarter of 2018 compared with the first quarter of 2017. The main contributor to this decrease was hotels (-1,4%, contributing -0,9 of a percentage point)

Table K – Year-on-year percentage change in tourist accommodation statistics for March 2018

	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18
Stay units available	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Stay unit nights sold	-4,4	-1,9	1,1	1,5	-4,7	-2,7
Average income per stay unit nights sold	8,3	0,8	6,6	1,4	2,6	1,2
Income from accommodation	3,5	-1,1	7,7	2,9	-2,2	-1,6
Total income [1/]	**1,5**	**-0,2**	**5,9**	**1,7**	**-2,8**	**-0,8**

A full release on *Tourist accommodation* (Statistical release P6410) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za

Tourism and migration

A total of 3 560 384 travellers passed through South African ports of entry in March 2018

South Africa's Department of Home Affairs has launched a new Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS) that will serve as a single source for biometric authentication for citizens and non-citizens. ABIS is an identification system which will also act as a security solution and will replace the outdated and manually operated Home Affairs National Identity System (HANIS). Features of the system include infant foot scans, facial recognition, iris scans, and fingerprints, among others. Benefits of the Automated Biometric Identification System include:

- Turnaround times for ID and passport applications faster.
- Reduce cases of duplicate identities.
- Banks will be able to verify clients' identities more quickly.

- Tourism will benefit due to quicker response and processing times at ports of entry.
- The police will be able to search for suspects by matching latent prints against records on ABIS.
- Improved border control will create a competitive economic environment to attract skills, enable growth, increase foreign direct investment, create jobs and fight poverty.

Presented in this article is a summary of the tourism and migration statistics for March 2018.

Number of travellers

The routine data collected by the Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) immigration officers at the ports of entry into South Africa shows that a total of 3 560 384 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry in March 2018 **(see Table L)**.

These travellers were made up of 949 362 South African residents and 2 611 022 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 425 546 arrivals, 523 059 departures and 757 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and transit travellers was 1 317 875, 1 236 166 and 56 981, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in March 2017 and March 2018 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and transits increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 7,3% (from 396 471 in March 2017 to 425 546 in March 2018), departures increased by 24,0% (from 421 743 in March 2017 to 523 059 in March 2018), and transits increased by 3,1% (from 734 in March 2017 to 757 in March 2018).

A comparison between the movements in February 2018 and March 2018 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and transits increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 18,8% (from 358 135 in February 2018 to 425 546 in March 2018), departures increased by 43,1% (from 365 633 in February 2018 to 523 059 in March 2018), and transits increased by 31,2% (from 577 in February 2018 to 757 in March 2018).

For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 11,6% (from 1 181 071 in February 2018 to 1 317 875 in March 2018), departures increased by 17,8% (from 1 049 469 in February 2018 to 1 236 166 in March 2018), and transits increased by 19,6% (from 47 632 in February 2018 to 56 981 in March 2018).

In March 2018, 74 481 (5,7%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 243 394 (94,3%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in March 2018 but did not depart in March 2018 [336 159 (27,0%)];
ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in March 2018 and left in March 2018 [448 388 (36,1%)]; and
iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in March 2018 [458 847 (36,9%)]. Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists).

In March 2018, there were 360 645 (29,0%) same-day visitors and 882 749 (71,0%) tourists.

Between March 2017 and March 2018, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 3,8% (from 374 846 in March 2017 to 360 645 in March 2018) and that of tourists increased by 9,5% (from 805 857 in March 2017 to 882 749 in March 2018). Between February 2018 and March 2018, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 14,5% (from 314 896 in February 2018 to 360 645 in March 2018), and tourists increased by 10,0% (from 802 252 in February 2018 to 882 749 in March 2018).

Mode of travel

In March 2018, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 425 850 (68,1%) of the 3 560 384 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 1 084 320 (30,5%). Compared to use of air and land transport, a small number of travellers, 50 214 (1,4%) used sea transport.

Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 167 671 (39,4%) came by air, 5 240 428 (56,5%) came by road and 17 447 (4,1%) arrived by sea transport. For departures, 191 835 (36,7%) used air, 312 350 (59,7%) used road and 18 874 (3,6%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 757 (100,0%) used air transport. In the case of foreign travellers, 325 915 (24,7%) arrived by air, 984 895 (74,7%) came by road and 7 065 (0,5%) arrived by sea transport. When departing South Africa, 341 161 (27,6%) foreign travellers left by air, 888 177 (71,8%) left by road and 6 828 (0,6%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit 56 981 (100,0%) used air transport.

Purpose of visit

In March 2018, the majority of tourists, 857 543 (97,1%), were in South Africa for holiday compared to 20 555 (2,3%); 4 049 (0,5%) and 602 (0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and for other purposes, respectively. The 'other' visit category includes those tourists who came for medical treatment

The majority of African tourists, 603 836 (97,2%) came to South Africa for holiday. However, the following differences in terms of reasons for travel were observed between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries, namely:

- Whereas 591 529 (97,5%) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holiday; 12 307 (86,9%) of tourists from 'other' African countries came for the same purpose. Information on the regions of 'other' African countries shows that tourists on holiday constituted 89,4% (6 554); 84,7% (4 738); and 81,9% (1 015) for West Africa, East and Central Africa and North Africa, respectively.
- Business persons constituted 7,6% (1 073) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 2,0% (12 310) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 12,2% (151) of its tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes.
- Students made up the highest proportion, 5,0% (706) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,4% (2 657) from the SADC countries. East and Central Africa had the highest proportion of its tourists, 5,7% (319) who came to South Africa for study purposes, followed closely by North Africa, 5,6% (70).

Sex and age distribution

In March 2018, there were 486 350 (55,1%) male and 396 399 (44,9%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 137 420 (52,7%) male tourists and 123 094 (47,3%) female tourists. There were 339 091 (55,9%) male and 267 807 (44,1%) female tourists from the SADC countries.

Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 9 153 (64,6%) male and 5 012 (35,4%) female tourists.

The ages of the tourists were categorised into three broad groups: Those younger than 15 years, those that were 15 to 64 years old, and those that were 65 years and older. The overall results show that 45 764 (5,2%) tourists were aged less than 15 years; 778 539 (88,2%) were aged between 15 and 64 years; and 58 446 (6,6%) were aged 65 years and older.

Table L – Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction: December 2017

Travel direction	March 2017	February 2018	March 2018	% change between Feb 2018 and March 2018	% change between March 2017 and March 2018
Total	**3 309 712**	**3 002 517**	**3 560 384**	**18,6**	**7,6**
South African residents	**818 948**	**724 345**	**949 362**	**31,1**	**15,9**
Arrivals	396 471	358 135	425 546	18,8	7,3
Departures	421 743	365 633	523 059	43,1	24,0
Transit	734	577	757	31,2	3,1
Foreign travellers	**2 490 764**	**2 278 172**	**2 611 022**	**14,6**	**4,8**
Arrivals	1 258 642	1 181 071	1 317 875	11,6	4,7
Departures	1 175 596	1 049 469	1 236 166	17,8	5,2
Transit	56 526	47 632	56 981	19,6	0,8
Foreign arrivals	**1 258 642**	**1 181 071**	**1 317 875**	**11,6**	**4,7**
Non-visitors	77 939	63 923	74 481	16,5	-4,4
Visitors	1 180 703	1 117 148	1 243 394	11,3	5,3
Visitors	**1 180 703**	**1 117 148**	**1 243 394**	**11,3**	**5,3**
Arrivals only	286 182	323 741	336 159	3,8	17,5
Single trips	422 983	412 209	448 388	8,8	6,0
Multiple trips	471 538	381 198	458 847	20,4	-2,7
Visitors	**1 180 703**	**1 117 148**	**1 243 394**	**11,3**	**5,3**
Same-day	374 846	314 896	360 645	14,5	-3,8
Tourists	805 857	802 252	882 749	10,0	9,5

A full release on *Tourism and migration* (Statistical release P0351) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za

Statistics on civil cases for debt

Number of civil judgements for debt decreases

The 2018 tax season is set to commence and will run from 1 July to 31 October, a move that will see the tax filing period being shortened by three weeks compared to the 2017 tax season. Tax season is the annual engagement between ordinary citizens and the South African Revenue Service (SARS), whereby taxpayers reconcile their personal income and tax-related deductions by completing and submitting their tax returns. This is in line with the Income Tax Act, 1962 (Act No. 58 of 1962) which provides for the recovery of taxes on individuals, amongst others. Failure to file the tax returns before the deadline could result in administrative penalties being imposed for every outstanding return to that particular individual. Furthermore, criminal prosecution resulting in imprisonment or a fine for each day that such default continues may result in SARS instituting criminal charges against non-compliant tax payers. Therefore, it is important that taxpayers comply with the tax administration requirements and file their tax returns within the tax period to avoid incurring unnecessary debt. Presented in this article is a summary of the statistics of civil cases for debt for March 2018.

The number of civil summonses issued for debt

The total number of civil summonses issued for debt decreased by 10,7% in the first quarter of 2018 compared with the first quarter of 2017 (**see Table M**). The largest negative contributions to the 10,7% decrease for civil summonses issued were:

- money lent (contributing -5,9 percentage points);
- promissory notes (contributing -2,8 percentage points); and
- ‘other’ debts (contributing -1,4 percentage points).

The number of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total number of civil judgements recorded for debt decreased by 5,5% in the first quarter of 2018 compared with the first quarter of 2017. The negative contributions to the 5,5% decrease were civil judgements relating to:

- money lent (contributing -4,5 percentage points);
- services (contributing -2,2 percentage points);
- ‘other’ debts (contributing -0,4 of a percentage point); and

- goods sold (contributing -0,3 of a percentage point).

The value of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total value of civil judgements recorded for debt increased by 5,9% in the first quarter of 2018 compared with the first quarter of 2017. The largest positive contributions to the 5,9% increase were the value of judgements relating to:

- 'other' debts (contributing 3,9 percentage points);
- rent (contributing 1,0 percentage point); and
- promissory notes (contributing 1,0 percentage point).

Table M – Key figures for civil summonses and judgements for March 2018

Actual estimates	March 2018	% change between March 2017 and March 2018	% change between January to March 2017 and January to March 2018
Number of civil summonses issued for debt	47 615	-17,0	-10,7
Number of civil judgements recorded for debt	18 060	-13,0	-5,5
Value of civil judgements recorded for debt (R million)	328,8	-7,6	5,9

A full release on *Statistics of civil cases for debt* (Statistical release P0041) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za

Statistics of liquidations and insolvencies

Number of liquidations and insolvencies decreases

Liquidations and insolvencies primarily occur because there is debt. Liquidation is the winding-up of the affairs of a company or close corporation when liabilities exceed assets, while insolvency refers to the state of being unable to pay debt by an individual or partnership. A person or a partnership which is unable to pay its debt is placed under final sequestration (a legal process of surrendering your personal estate when you are no longer in a positive financial position to pay your debts). In the case of a private person being unable to repay debt, such a person would be sequestrated, while a business would be liquidated in order to pay creditors. There has to be a court order for both liquidations and insolvencies in order to prove that the company is in debt or that the debtor is insolvent. The court order is granted either at the application of the debtor (voluntary liquidation/sequestration) or by one or more creditors (compulsory liquidation/sequestration). Presented in this article is a summary of the statistics of liquidations and insolvencies for April 2018.

The total number of liquidations recorded showed a decrease of 24,7% in April 2018 compared with April 2017 (**see Table N**). Compulsory liquidations increased by 12 cases while voluntary liquidations decreased by 49 cases.

There was a decrease of 1,4% in the three months ended April 2018 compared with the three months ended April 2017. The total number of liquidations recorded for the first four months of 2018 increased by 0,5% compared with the first four months of 2017.

Table N – Total number of liquidations for April 2018

Number of liquidations April 2018	% change between April 2017 and April 2018	% change between February to April 2017 and February to April 2018	% change between January to April 2017 and January to April 2018
113	-24,7	-1,4	0,5

A full release on *Statistics of liquidations and insolvencies* (Statistical release P0043) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za

The estimated number of insolvencies decreased by 21,8% in March 2018 compared with March 2017 (**see Table O**). An 18,9% decrease was estimated in the first quarter of 2018 compared with the first quarter of 2017.

Table O – Total number of insolvencies for March 2018

Number of insolvencies March 2018	% change between March 2017 and March 2018	% change between January to March 2017 and January to March 2018
176	-21,8	-18,9

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Land transport survey

Volume of goods transported increases

In South Africa, there are over 300 000 registered minibus taxis that transport about 15 million commuters, and more than 63 000 buses, including the Bus Rapid Transit System, that move almost 9 million commuters on a daily basis. This is according to the Department of Transport. Thus, with so many commuters on the road, it is essential that steps be taken to guarantee their safety and ensure that they arrive alive. This is why the government has initiated the Taxi Recapitalisation Programme (TRP). The TRP is an intervention by government to bring about safe, effective, reliable, affordable and accessible taxi operations by introducing New Taxi Vehicles (NTVs) designed to undertake public transport functions in the taxi industry and scrapping old taxi vehicles. Presented in this article is a summary of the Land transport survey for March 2018.

The volume of goods transported (payload) increased by 6,9% in March 2018 compared with March 2017 **(see Table P)**. The corresponding income increased by 7,7% over the same period.

Income from freight transportation increased by 9,6% in the first quarter of 2018 compared with the first quarter of 2017. The main contributors to this increase were primary mining and quarrying products (13,0%, contributing 4,6 percentage points) and 'other' freight (12,9%, contributing 1,4 percentage points).

Table P – Year-on-year percentage change in freight transportation: March 2018

	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18
Freight payload	11,4	8,0	3,4	6,1	12,0	6,9
Freight income	14,2	11,9	4,4	9,2	12,1	7,7

A full release on the *Land transport survey* (Statistical release P7162) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za

The number of passenger journeys decreased by 15,9% in March 2018 compared with March 2017 **(see Table Q)**. The corresponding income decreased by 6,4% over the same period.

Table Q – Year-on-year percentage change in passenger transportation: March 2018

	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18
Passenger journeys	-10,7	-11,7	-9,7	-7,1	-14,1	-15,9
Passenger income	1,1	-0,6	-3,1	-0,9	-5,8	-6,4

A full release on the *Land transport survey* (Statistical release P7162) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za

Prices

Producer price index (PPI)

PPI at 4,4%

According to the Producer Price Index (PPI) for April 2018 statistical release published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) on 31 May 2018, the annual percentage change in the PPI for final manufactured goods increased by 1,0% from 3,7% in March 2018 to 4,4% in April 2018. Petroleum was amongst the final manufactured goods that contributed to the 1,0% increase, recording the highest year-on-year price increase. The price for inland 93 octane petrol increased by 69 cents per litre in April, of which 52 cents was a result of tax increases that became effective in the same month. However, fuel (petroleum and diesel) prices in general have increased by 9,0% over the past 12 months, placing fuel as the number one product equal to meat products in terms of percentage change in price indices between April 2017 and April 2018. Presented in this article is a summary of the PPI statistics for April 2018.

Final manufactured goods – headline PPI

The annual percentage change in the PPI for final manufactured goods was 4,4% in April 2018 (compared with 3,7% in March 2018) (**see Table R**). From March 2018 to April 2018 the PPI for final manufactured goods increased by 1,0%. The main contributors to the annual rate of 4,4% were coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products (2,0 percentage points), transport equipment (0,6 of a percentage point) and paper and printed products (0,5 of a percentage point). The main contributor to the monthly increase of 1,0% was coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products (0,6 of a percentage point).

Intermediate manufactured goods

The annual percentage change in the PPI for intermediate manufactured goods was 0,1% in April 2018 (compared with -1,3% in March 2018) (**see Table R**). From March 2018 to April 2018 the PPI for intermediate manufactured goods increased by 0,6%. The main contributors to the annual rate of 0,1% were sawmilling and wood (0,9 of a percentage point) and recycling and manufacturing n.e.c. (0,5 of a percentage point).

Electricity and water

The annual percentage change in the PPI for electricity and water was 4,9% in April 2018 (compared with 3,5% in March 2018) (**see Table R**). From March 2018 to April 2018 the PPI for electricity and water increased by 2,1%. The contributors to the annual rate of 4,9% were electricity (3,6 percentage points) and water (1,3 percentage points).

Mining

The annual percentage change in the PPI for mining was -2,6% in April 2018 (compared with -3,1% in March 2018) (**see Table R**). From March 2018 to April 2018 the PPI for mining increased by 1,1%. The main contributors to the annual rate of -2,6% were stone quarrying, clay and diamonds (-3,2 percentage points) and gold and other metal ores (-2,8 percentage points).

Agriculture, forestry and fishing

The annual percentage change in the PPI for agriculture, forestry and fishing was 0,4% in April 2018 (compared with 3,9% in March 2018) (**see Table R**). From March 2018 to April 2018 the PPI for agriculture, forestry and fishing decreased by 2,4%. The main contributors to the annual rate of 0,4% were forestry (0,5 of a percentage point) and fishing (0,5 of a percentage point).

Table R – Key PPI figures for April 2017

Product	Weight	Index (2016=100)			% change	
		April 2017	Mar 2018	April 2018	April 2018 vs March 2018	April 2018 vs April 2017
Final manufactured goods	100,00	101,6	105,2	106,1	0,3	4,4
Intermediate manufactured goods	100,00	102,3	101,8	102,4	0,6	0,1
Electricity and water	100,00	102,4	105,2	107,4	2,1	4,9
Mining	100,00	103,8	100,0	101,1	1,1	-2,6
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	100,00	96,2	106,4	96,6	-2,4	0,4

A full release on the *Producer price index* (Statistical release P0142.1) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za

Consumer price index (CPI)

CPI at 4,5%

The consumer price index (CPI) tracks the rate of change in the prices of goods and services purchased by consumers. In April 2018, the CPI increased to 4,5% after reaching a seven-year low of 3,8% in March 2018. Much of the increase recorded in April was as a result of a rise in prices for product groups that attract specific taxes such alcohol, fuel and sugary drinks. Firstly, prices for alcoholic beverages increased by 1,2% in March 2018 compared with February 2018, while the price for inland 93 octane petrol increased by 69 cents per litre in April, of which 52 cents was a result of tax increases. Furthermore, the new Health Promotion Levy or 'sugar tax' on cool drinks came into effect in April 2018 at a rate of 21 cents per gram of sugar content exceeding 4 grams per 100ml. Since these products are part of the CPI basket, when their prices increase, it also results in an increase in the CPI rate. Presented in this article is a summary of the CPI statistics for April 2018.

Headline consumer price index (CPI for all urban areas)
Annual consumer price inflation was 4,5% in April 2018, up from 3,8% in March 2018. The consumer price index increased by 0,8% month-on-month in April 2018 **(see Table S)**.

The following items contributed to the headline annual consumer price inflation:

- Food and non-alcoholic beverages increased from 0,6 of a percentage point in March to 0,7 of a percentage point in April. The index increased by 3,9% year-on-year.
- Alcoholic beverages and tobacco increased from 0,3 of a percentage point in March to 0,4 of a percentage point in April. The index increased by 6,0% year-on-year.
- Transport increased from 0,4 of a percentage point in March to 0,7 of a percentage point in April. The index increased by 5,0% year-on-year.
- Recreation and culture increased from zero in March to 0,1 of a percentage point in April. The index increased by 1,4% year-on-year.

The following items contributed to the monthly consumer price inflation:

- Food and non-alcoholic beverages contributed 0,1 of a percentage point in April. The index increased by 0,4% month-on-month.

- Alcoholic beverages and tobacco contributed 0,1 of a percentage point in April. The index increased by 1,4% month-on-month.
- Transport contributed 0,3 of a percentage point in April. The index increased by 1,8% month-on-month.
- Communication contributed 0,1 of a percentage point in April. The index increased by 2,1% month-on-month.
- Recreation and culture contributed 0,1 of a percentage point in April. The index increased by 1,3% month-on-month.

In April the CPI for goods increased by 3,5% year-on-year (up from 2,6% in March), and the CPI for services increased by 5,3% year-on-year (up from 5,1% in March).

Provincial annual inflation rates ranged from 3,4% in North West to 5,3% in Western Cape.

Table S – Consumer price index: Index numbers and year-on-year rates
Base year: Dec 2016 = 100

Year		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg[1/]
2010	Index	86,4	87,0	87,7	87,8	88,0	88,0	88,6	88,6	88,7	88,9	89,0	89,2	88,2
	Rate	6,2	5,7	5,1	4,8	4,6	4,2	3,7	3,5	3,2	3,4	3,6	3,5	4,3
2011	Index	89,6	90,2	91,3	91,6	92,0	92,4	93,2	93,4	93,8	94,2	94,5	94,6	92,6
	Rate	3,7	3,7	4,1	4,2	4,5	5,0	5,3	5,3	5,7	6,0	6,1	6,1	5,0
2012	Index	95,2	95,7	96,8	97,2	97,2	97,5	97,8	98,0	98,9	99,5	99,8	100,0	97,8
	Rate	6,3	6,1	6,0	6,1	5,7	5,5	4,9	5,0	5,5	5,6	5,6	5,7	5,6
2013	Index	100,3	101,3	102,5	102,9	102,6	102,9	104,0	104,3	104,8	105,0	105,1	105,4	103,4
	Rate	5,4	5,9	5,9	5,9	5,6	5,5	6,3	6,4	6,0	5,5	5,3	5,4	5,7
2014	Index	106,1	107,3	108,7	109,2	109,4	109,7	110,6	111,0	111,0	111,2	111,2	111,0	109,7
	Rate	5,8	5,9	6,0	6,1	6,6	6,6	6,3	6,4	5,9	5,9	5,8	5,3	6,1
2015	Index	110,8	111,5	113,1	114,1	114,4	114,9	116,1	116,1	116,1	116,4	116,5	116,8	114,7
	Rate	4,4	3,9	4,0	4,5	4,6	4,7	5,0	4,6	4,6	4,7	4,8	5,2	4,6
2016	Index	117,7	119,3	120,2	121,2	121,4	122,1	123,1	123,0	123,2	123,8	124,2	124,7	122,0
	Rate	6,2	7,0	6,3	6,2	6,1	6,3	6,0	5,9	6,1	6,4	6,6	6,8	6,4
2017	Index	100,6	101,7	102,3	102,4	102,7	102,9	103,2	103,3	103,8	104,1	104,2	104,7	103,0
	Rate	6,6	6,3	6,1	5,3	5,4	5,1	4,6	4,8	5,1	4,8	4,6	4,7	5,3
2018	Index	105,0	105,8	106,2	107,0									
	Rate	4,4	4,0	3,8	4,5									

[1/] Annual average.

Glossary

Primary industries

Gigawatt-hour (gWh): one gigawatt-hour of electricity is equal to one million kilowatt-hours. A kilowatt-hour is the basic unit of electrical energy equal to one kilowatt of power supplied to or taken from an electric circuit steadily for one hour. One kilowatt-hour equals one thousand watt-hours.

Index of physical volume of manufacturing production: also known as a production index, is a statistical measure of the change in the volume of production. The production index of a major group is the ratio between the volume of production of a major group in a given period and the volume of production of the same major group in the base period.

Index of physical volume of mining production: a statistical measure of the change in the volume of production. The production index of a mineral group is the ratio between the volume of production of a mineral group in a given period and the volume of production of the same mineral group in the base period.

Index of the physical volume of electricity production: a statistical measure of the change in the volume of production of electricity in a given period and the volume of production of electricity in the base period.

Industry: a group of establishments engaged in the same or similar kinds of economic activity.

PGMs – Platinum group metals: include platinum; iridium; osmiridium, palladium; rhodium; ruthenium and osmium.

Sales: total value of sales and transfers-out of goods mined by the mining establishments and the amounts received for installation, erection or assembly or other services.

Secondary industries

Additions and alterations: extensions to existing buildings as well as internal and external alterations of existing buildings.

Blocks of flats: a structure, usually multi-storey, consisting of a number of dwellings sharing the same residential address, and usually sharing a common entrance, foyer or staircase.

Dwelling houses: a free-standing, complete structure on a separate stand or a self-contained dwelling-unit, e.g. granny flat, on the same premises as existing residence. Out-buildings and garages are included.

Other residential buildings: include institutions for the disabled, boarding houses, old age homes, hostels, hotel, motels, guest houses, holiday chalets, bed and breakfast accommodation, entertainment centres and casinos.

Residential buildings: dwelling houses, flats, townhouses and other residential buildings.

Tertiary industries

Acknowledgements of debt: a statement by a person/debtor in which he admits that he owes money to an individual or a company or a bank.

Acting household head: any member of the household acting on behalf of the head of the household.

Average income per stay unit night sold: average rate per stay unit (i.e. rate per room in a hotel or powered site in a caravan park) is calculated by dividing the total income from accommodation by the number of stay unit nights sold in the survey period.

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. Include bars, taverns, other drinking places, ice-cream parlours, etc.
Civil judgements: decisions taken in a civil matter or a dispute between two people or parties.

Civil summonses: notices to appear before the court of law where a dispute between two parties or people has to be heard, i.e. not for criminal offence.

Day trip: a trip outside of the respondent's usual environment, where they leave and return within the same day (i.e. do not stay overnight).

Domestic tourism: a trip within the boundaries of South Africa but outside of the respondent's usual environment.
Note: The following categories are excluded from the definition of domestic visitor:

- persons travelling to another place within the country with the intention of setting up their usual residence in that place.
- Persons who travel to another place within the country and are remunerated from within the place visited.
- Persons who travel regularly or frequently between neighbouring localities as defined by the 'usual environment' rule.

Dwelling unit: structure or part of a structure or group structures occupied or meant to be occupied by one or more than one household.

Enterprise: a legal entity or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its sales activities.

Expenditure: the total consumption expenditure made by a visitor or on behalf of a visitor during his/her trip and stay at a destination.

Foreign traveller: a person who resides outside South Africa and visits the country temporarily.

Household: a group of persons who live together and provide themselves jointly with food and/or other essentials for living, or a single person who lives alone.

Household head: the main decision-maker, or the person who owns or rents the dwelling, or the person who is the main breadwinner.

Income from accommodation industry: income from amounts charged for rooms or equivalent. Other income is excluded (e.g. income from meals).

Income from bar sales: refers to income from liquor sales.

Income from food sales: refers to income from the sale of meals and non-alcoholic drinks.

Income from restaurant and bar sales: income from meals, banqueting and beverages and tobacco sales.

Insolvency: refers to an individual or partnership which is unable to pay its debt and is placed under final sequestration. The number of insolvencies does not refer to the number of persons involved, as a partnership which is unable to pay its debt is regarded as one insolvency, irrespective of the number of partners.

Liquidation: refers to the winding-up of the affairs of a company or close corporation when liabilities exceed assets and it can be resolved by voluntary action or by an order of the court.

Main purpose of trip: this is the purpose in the absence of which the trip would not have been made.

Microdata: data gathered on a small scale, such as data on an individual.

'Other' African countries: refers to all non SADC African countries.

Other income: includes all income not earned from food sales or bar sales.

Other SADC: refers to the thirteen countries, excluding South Africa, that belong to the Southern African Development Community.

Professional services: refer to medical doctors, dentists, advocates, attorney, auditors, accountants, architects, engineers, hospital services etc.

Promissory notes: written undertaking, signed by a person or party, to pay money to another person or to be the bearer of such a note on a specific date or on demand.

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.

Retailer: a retailer is an enterprise deriving more than 50% of its turnover from sales of goods to the general public for household use.

Retail trade: includes the resale (sale without transformation) of new and used goods and products to the general public for household use.

Stay unit: unit accommodation available to be charged out to guests, for example, a powered site in a caravan park or a room in a hotel.

Stay unit night sold: total number of stay units occupied on each night during the survey period.

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.

Total income: includes income from food sales, income from bar sales and other income.

Tourism: comprises the activities of persons travelling to, and staying in places outside their usual environment, for not more than one consecutive year, for leisure, business and other purposes not related to the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited.
Tourist: a visitor who stays at least one night in the place visited.

Tourist accommodation: any facility that regularly (or occasionally) provides 'paid' or 'unpaid' overnight accommodation for tourists.

Traveller: any person on a trip between two or more countries or between two or more localities within his/her country of residence.

Voluntary liquidation: takes place when a company or close corporation, by own choice, resolves to wind-up its affairs.

Wholesale trade: Includes the resale (sale without transformation) of new and used goods and products to other wholesalers, retailers, agricultural, industrial, commercial, institutional and professional users either directly or through agents on a fee or contract basis.

Prices

Annual percentage change: change in the index of the relevant month of the current year compared with the index of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.

Consumer price index (CPI): an index that measures the price of a fixed basket of consumer goods and services.

Inflation rate: annual percentage change in the CPI for all items of the relevant month of the current year compared with the CPI for all items of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.

Monthly percentage change: change in the index of the relevant month compared to the index of the previous month expressed as a percentage.

Year-on-year: A term used frequently in investment research and other reports to mean ‘compared with the same period in the previous fiscal year’.

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