

## Headlines

Solar power and the poor: a  
municipal breakdown  
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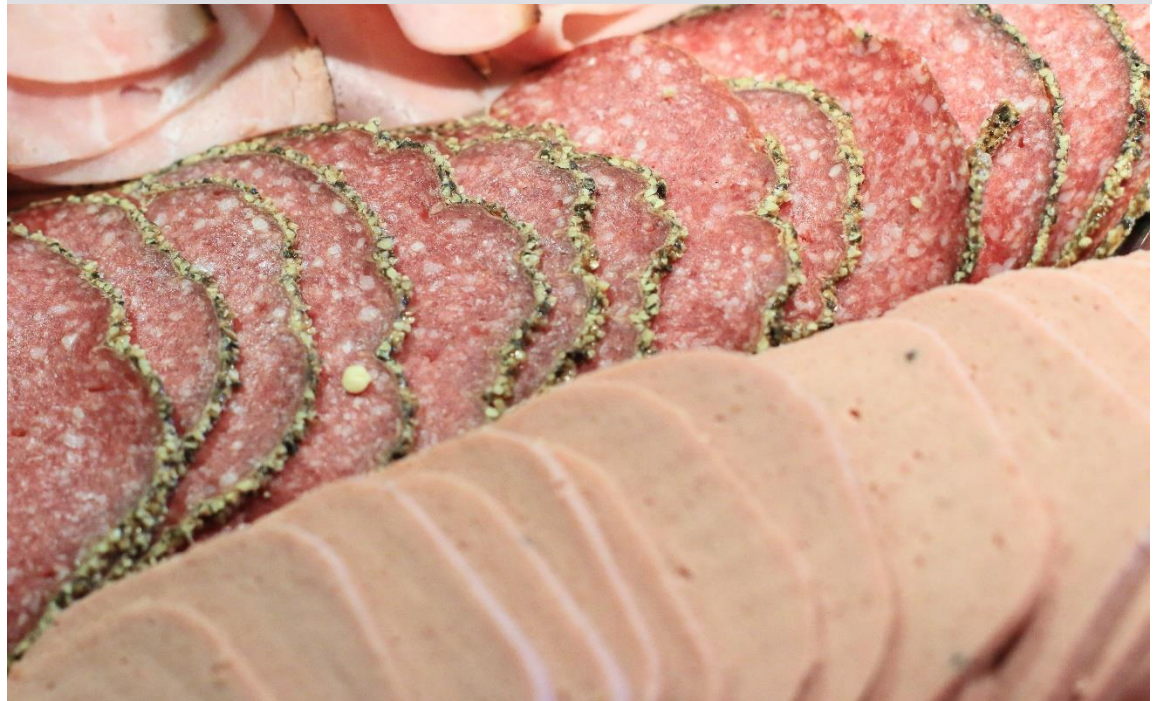
## Infographics

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## Economic headlines

### Solar energy and the poor



Municipalities provide free solar energy, and other off-grid options, to the poor. Here are the statistics (click [here](#) to read more).

### Youth unemployment at 38,2%



This is higher than the general unemployment rate of 26,7% (click [here](#) to read more).

### Current labour market rates



This presentation provides an overview of the latest employment and unemployment figures (click [here](#) to view).

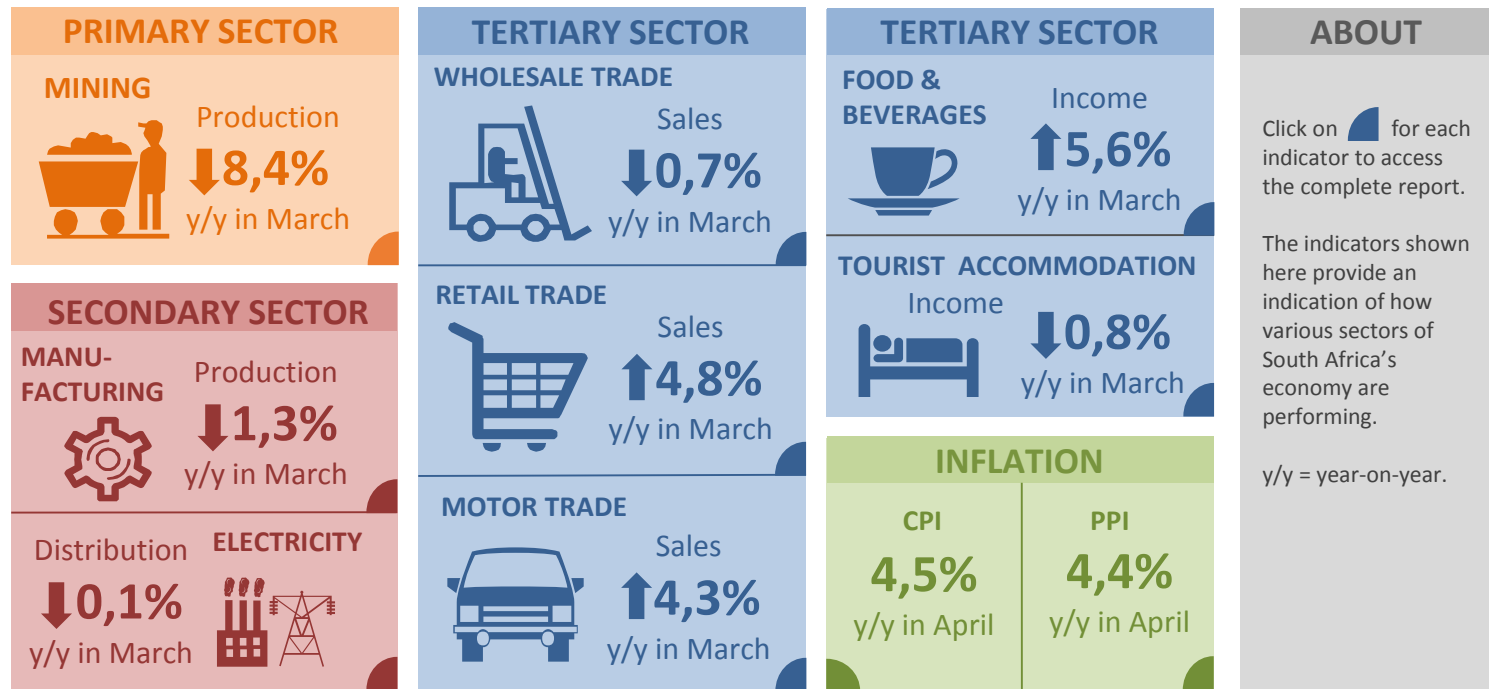
### Five facts about the retail industry



For those of you who missed last month's *Stats Biz*, South Africans spend R31 900 *per second* in retail stores (click [here](#) to read more).

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

## Monthly economic indicators



## Feature article

### Which products are going up in price?

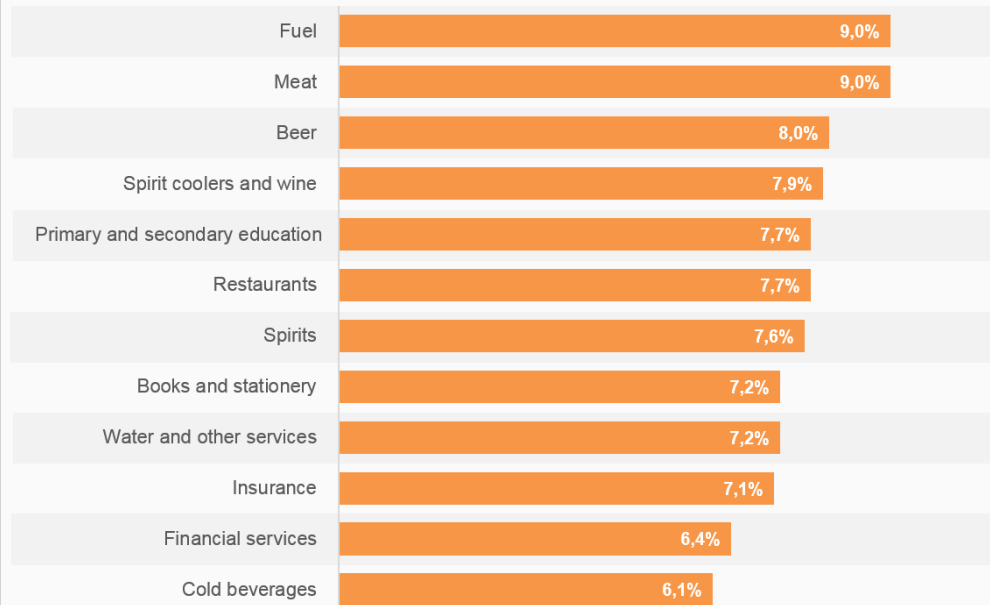
South Africa's consumer inflation rate jumped to 4,5% in April after reaching a seven-year low of 3,8% in March. Much of the increase was a result of price rises in product groups that attract specific taxes, namely alcohol, fuel and sugary drinks.

Motorists in particular have felt the pain. The price for inland 93 octane petrol increased by 69c/l in April, of which 52c was a result of tax increases. Fuel prices in general have risen by 9,0% over the past 12 months, placing fuel as the number one product (on par with meat) with the highest year-on-year price increase.

Click [here](#) to read more.

#### Products that have become more expensive over the last year

Percentage change in price indices, April 2018 compared with April 2017



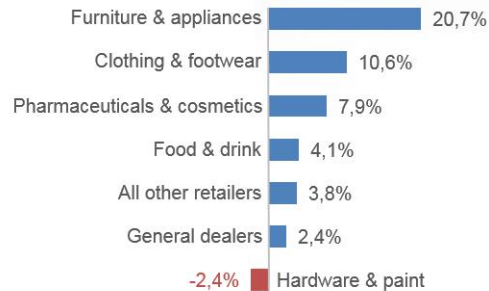
Headline CPI was 4,5% in April 2018 Source: Consumer Price Index (CPI), April 2018

## Infographic of the month

South African retail trade sales  
increased by

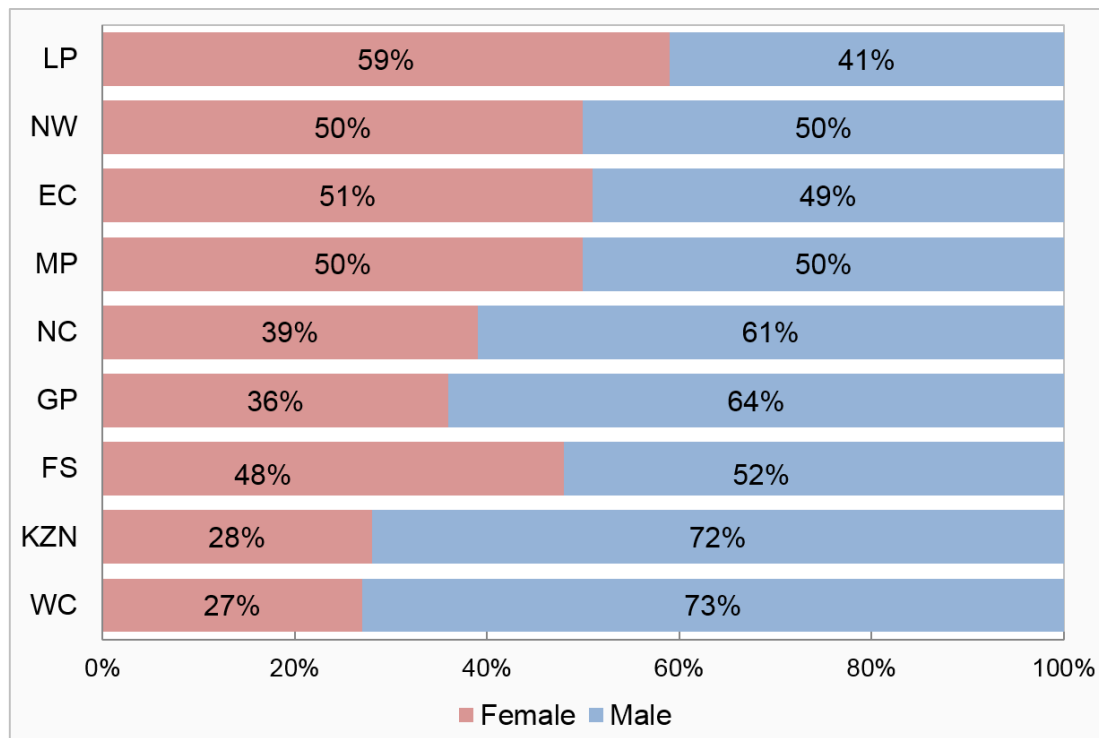
**4,8%**  
in March 2018\*

### Growth by type of retailer



\*Compared with March 2017 Source: Retail trade sales, March 2018 (Table 5) Picture: pixabay.com

## Provincial snapshot



### Proportion of female mayors: Limpopo leads

The gender breakdown of mayors in all 257 municipalities across the country shows an interesting picture when presented by province.

Limpopo has the highest proportion of female mayors, with 16 of its 27 municipalities headed by a female. This is according to the 2017 *Non-financial census of municipalities* report released recently.

Western Cape has the lowest proportion, with only 8 of its 30 municipalities headed by a female mayor.

For more information, see Table 1.4 in the complete report [here](#).

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