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Your monthly update on South Africa's economic indicators

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## Economic headlines

### Economy disappoints in Q1 2018



The South African economy wobbled in the first quarter of 2018, shrinking by 2,2% (click [here](#) to read more).

### Who benefits from national government funding?



How are state resources, including your tax money, distributed across government? (click [here](#) to read more)

### Formal sector jobs up by 56 000



Formal sector employment increased from 9,78 million individuals in Q4: 2017 to 9,84 million in Q1: 2018 (click [here](#) to read more).

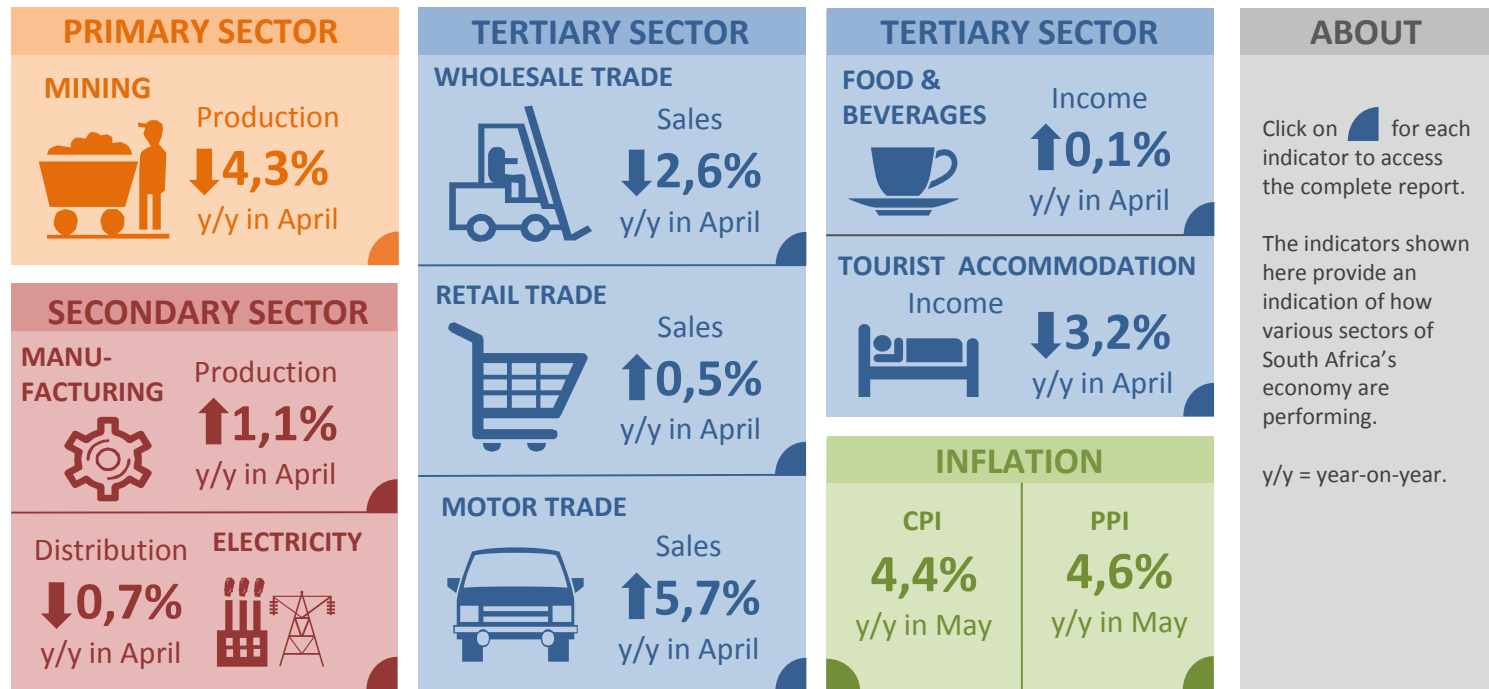
### An updated snapshot of households in SA



Informal dwellings make up 13,6% of South Africa's 16,2 million households (click [here](#) to read more).

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

## Monthly economic indicators



## Feature article

### Municipal debt: who are the main contributors?

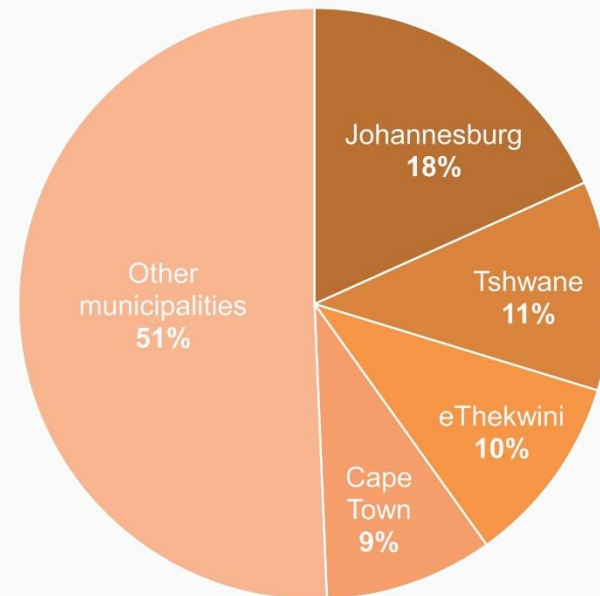
The metropolitan municipalities of Johannesburg, Tshwane, eThekweni and Cape Town contributed 49% to local government debt in 2016/17. Together, these four cities have a population of almost 17 million people, making up 30% of South Africa's total population.

The eight metropolitan municipalities contributed almost two-thirds of municipal debt, followed by the 205 local municipalities at 32%. The 44 district municipalities accounted for the remaining 5%. This is not surprising, as most district municipalities provide an administrative role and are not involved in procuring services such as electricity and water.

Click [here](#) to read more.

#### Four municipalities are responsible for half of total municipal debt

Total municipal debt for South Africa's 257 municipalities, 2016/17 (R226 billion)



Percentages have been rounded and may not sum to 100% Source: Financial census of municipalities for the year ended 30 June 2017

## Infographic of the month

Income generated  
by the food and  
beverages industry  
increased by

**0,1%**

year-on-year in  
April 2018

Fast-food outlets

📉 ↓4,4%

Coffee shops and restaurants

☕ ↑4,0%

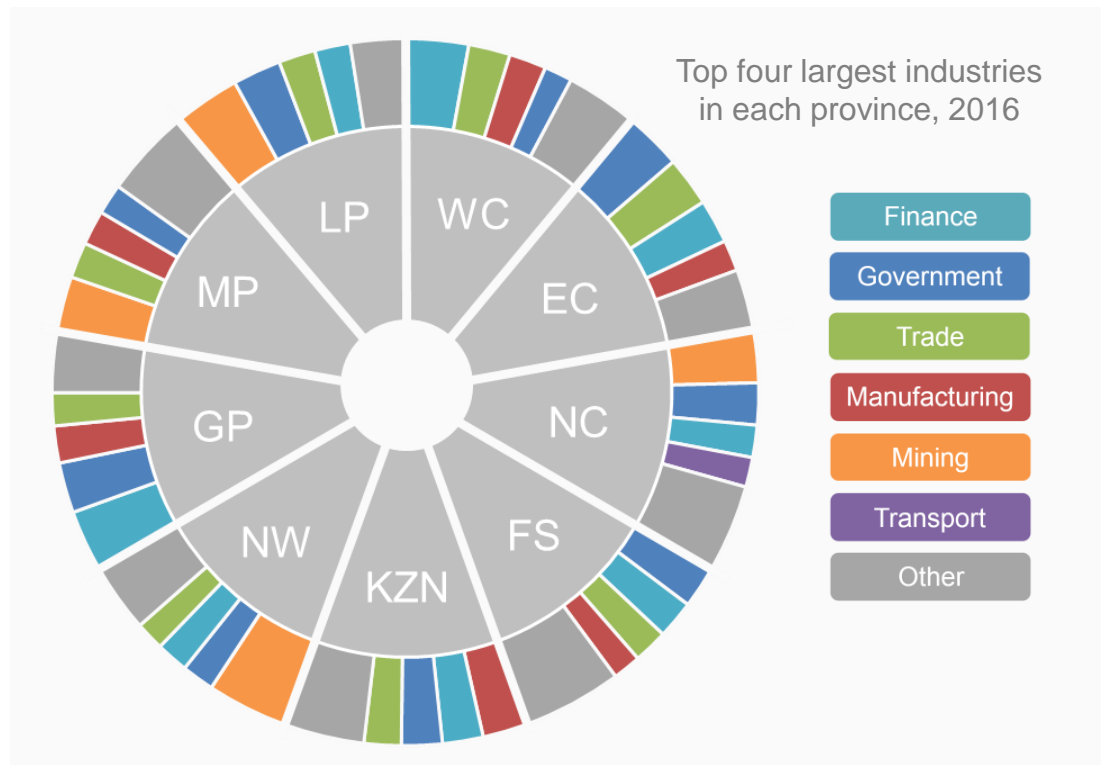
Catering services

🍽️ ↓2,4%

Source: Food and beverages,  
April 2018 (Table B)  
Image: pixabay.com



## Provincial snapshot



### Which industries drive your provincial economy?

Each province has its own economic identity. Mining is the largest industry in Limpopo, Northern Cape and North West. Finance is the main driver of economic activity in Western Cape and Gauteng.

This is according to Stats SA's latest gross domestic product (GDP) figures for provinces.

Manufacturing is the largest industry in KwaZulu-Natal, while government is the largest in Eastern Cape and Free State.

Stats SA publishes provincial GDP data on an annual basis in March. For a summary of the latest figures, see slides 46–50 in the GDP media release presentation [here](#). The full report is available [here](#).

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