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Economic headlines

534 Olympic-size swimming pools!



That's how much diesel South Africa used to generate electricity in 2016 (click [here](#) to read more).

BRICS: Where does South Africa rank?



South Africa has the smallest population in this exclusive club. How small are we exactly? (click [here](#) to read more).

Migrants flock to Gauteng



The economic hub of the country attracts the highest number of work-seekers (click [here](#) to read more).

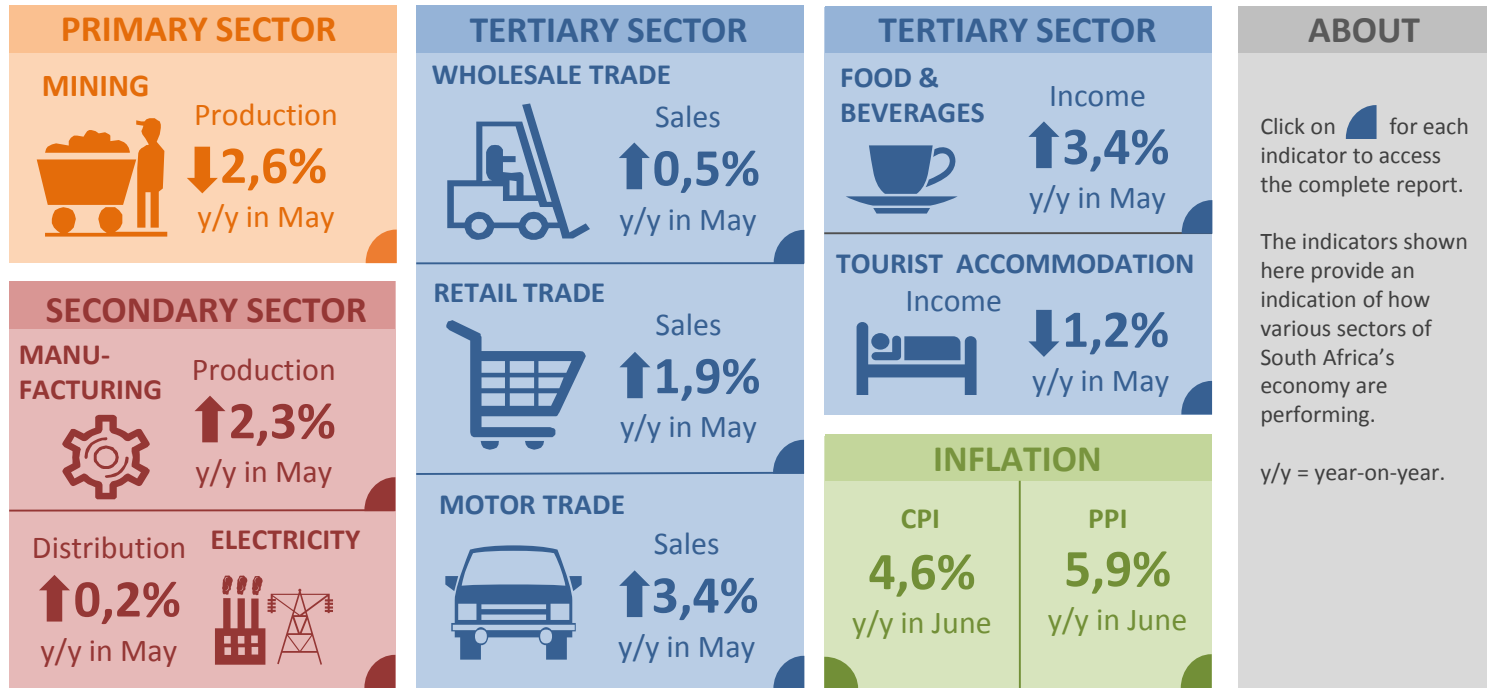
The glass ceiling remains intact



The labour market continues to be more favourable to men than women (click [here](#) to read more).

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

Monthly economic indicators



Feature article

Despite the VAT increase, food inflation continues to fall

Annual food inflation continues to slow despite April's rise in value added tax (VAT). In fact, some food items are actually cheaper than they were a year ago.

The items you are now paying less for are in the oil, bread, fruit and sugar categories, according to the latest *Consumer Price Index (CPI)* release. Bread and cereal prices were 3,1% cheaper in June 2018 than they were in June 2017. Fruit prices fell by 3,2% over the same period.

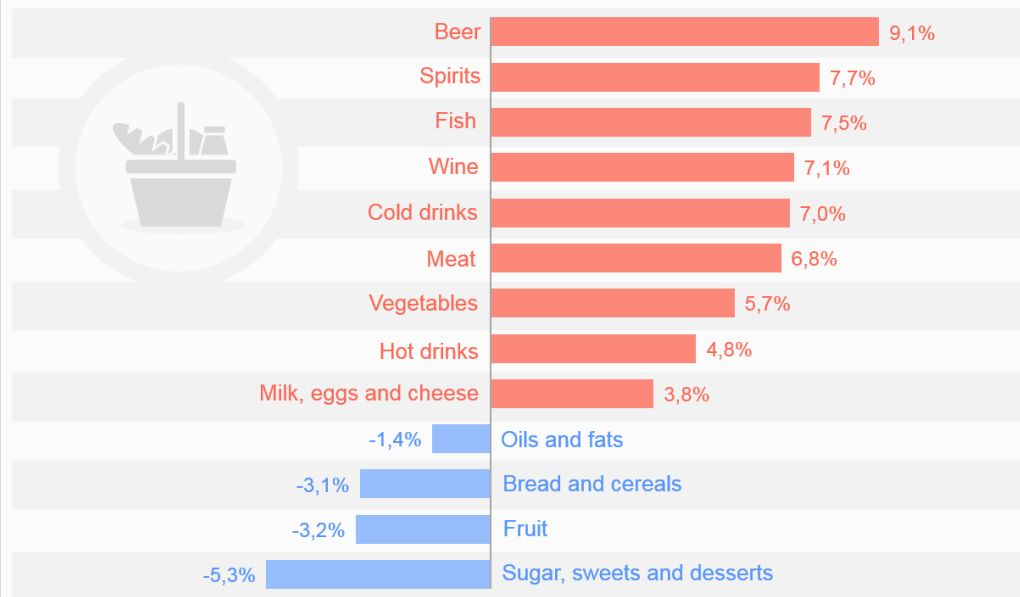
The average price for a loaf of brown bread was R12,24 in June 2017, falling to R11,53 in June 2018.

Fish, meat, vegetables and dairy products have all become more expensive.

Click [here](#) to read more.

Oils, bread, fruit and sugar are cheaper than they were a year ago

Percentage change in food and drink prices, June 2018 compared with June 2017



Source: Consumer Price Index (CPI), June 2018 (Table E)

Infographic of the month

BRICS: How big is SA economically?

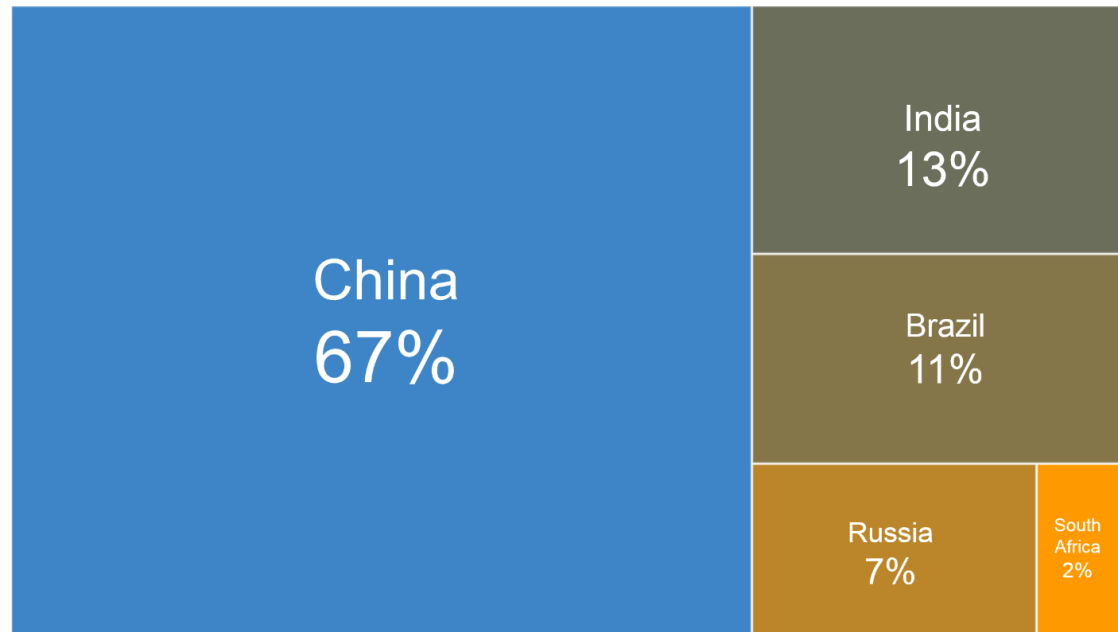
China was responsible for producing 67c of every dollar created by the five BRICS countries in 2016, according to gross domestic product (GDP) data from the United Nations.

South Africa is the smallest economy in the club, producing 2c of every dollar created.

The five countries had a combined GDP of US\$16,8 trillion in 2016, comprising 22% of global economic activity. This is not surprising, as China is ranked as the second-largest economy in the world after the United States. South Africa is ranked at 38.

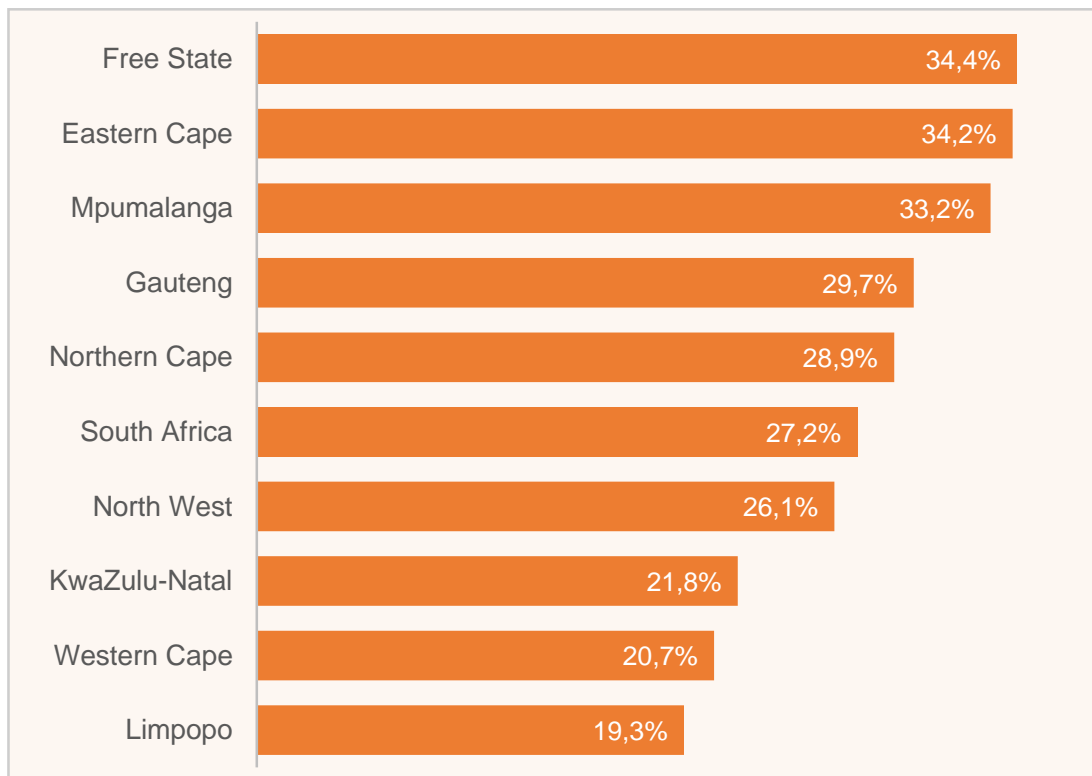
Click [here](#) to read more.

Percentage breakdown of total BRICS GDP by country, 2016 (US\$16,8 trillion)*



*Nominal GDP in current prices Source: United Nations, <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/snaama/dnIList.asp>

Provincial snapshot



Free State has the highest unemployment rate

The national unemployment rate climbed to 27,2% in the second quarter of 2018 from 26,7% in the first quarter.

Free State's unemployment rate was the highest of all provinces at 34,4%, followed by Eastern Cape and Mpumalanga.

Free State also saw the largest rise in the unemployment rate, climbing by 1,6 percentage points from 32,8% in the first quarter of 2018 to 34,4% in the second quarter.

Limpopo had the lowest unemployment rate. However, according to the absorption rate, only about 40% of the working-age population in Limpopo are working.

Click [here](#) to read more on the latest unemployment figures.

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