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Your monthly update on South Africa's economic indicators

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Economic headlines

Five facts about poverty in South Africa



Approximately half of the adult population live below the upper-bound poverty line (click [here](#) to read more).

Rising sin taxes push inflation higher



Consumer inflation edged up to 4,5% in March on the back of rising sin taxes and higher education fees (click [here](#) to listen to the latest results).

No money for education



More than half of our youth have no money to pay for their tuition (click [here](#) to read more).

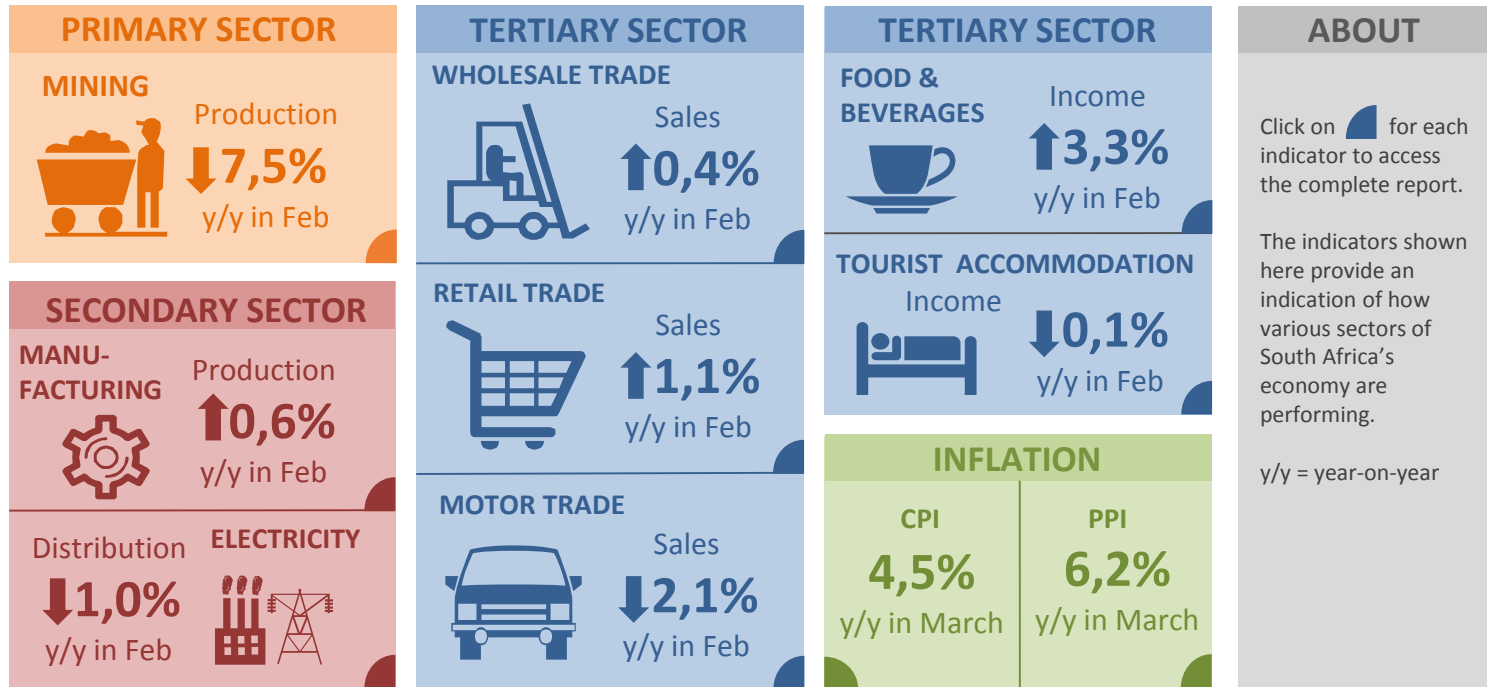
Mining falls to a three-year low



Mining production saw its biggest year-on-year contraction since March 2016, falling by 7,5% in February 2019 (click [here](#) to listen to the latest results).

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

Monthly economic indicators



Feature article

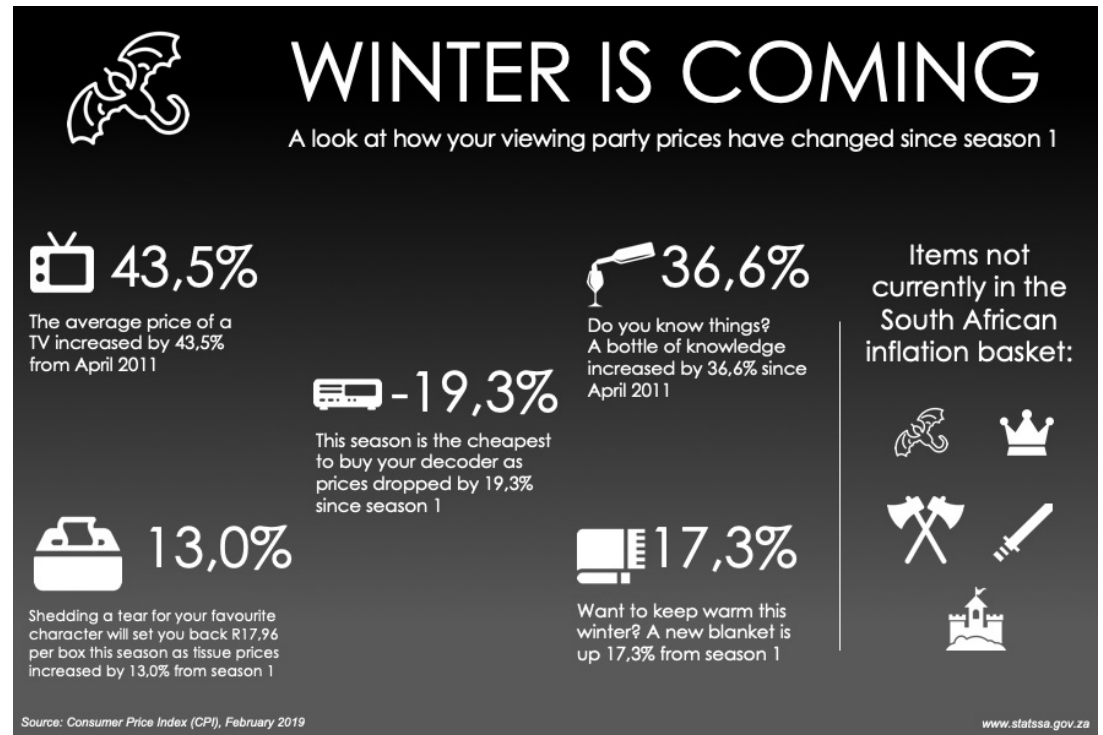
Winter is coming

Where have the years gone? It only seems like yesterday when the first season of Game of Thrones graced our television screens. The very first episode aired on 17 April 2011, and geeks have never looked back.

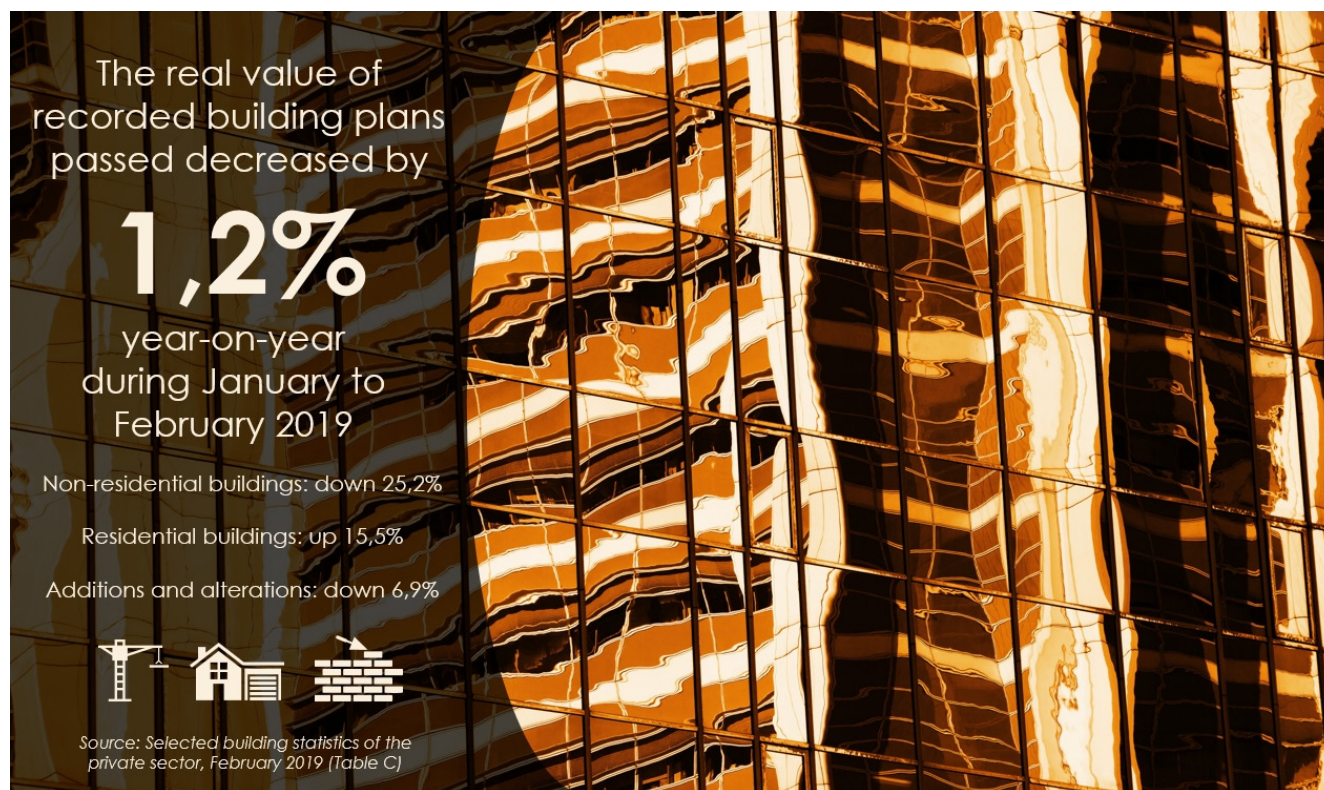
If you're a hardcore GoT fan planning extensive viewing parties for the final (eighth) season, historical data from Stats SA's *Consumer Price Index (CPI)* release provides a glimpse of how viewing party expenses have changed over the last eight years.

The first surprise is that decoder prices have fallen, on average, by 19,3%. A television set, on the other hand, is on average 43,5% more expensive than it was in April 2011.

Sadly, we wish to regretfully note that Stats SA has not included swords, dragons, thrones and royal crowns in the South African inflation basket. Not yet, anyway...



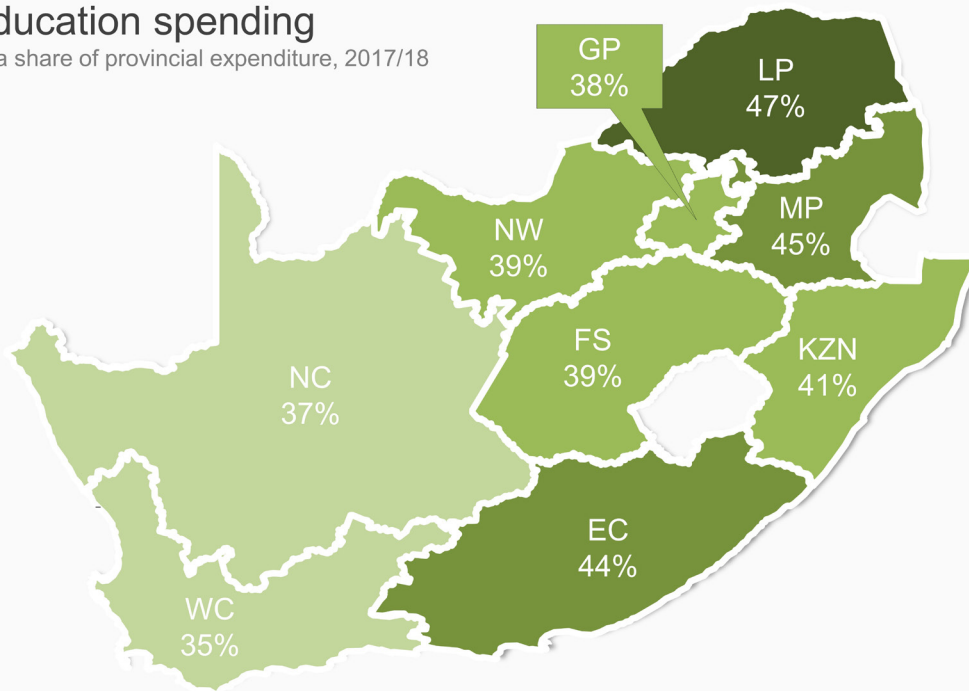
Infographic of the month



Provincial snapshot

Education spending

as a share of provincial expenditure, 2017/18



Source: Education Series Volume V: Higher Education and Skills in South Africa, 2017 Report 92-01-05

Which provinces commit the most to education?

Education is a massive spending priority for provincial governments. Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal all allocated more than 40% of their budget expenditure on education in 2017/18.

This is not surprising as these are the provinces with the highest proportion of learners in their population. This is according to Stats SA's recent report on higher education and skills in South Africa.

Limpopo devoted 47% (R32,1 billion) of its budget to education. Western Cape spent R20,6 billion (or 35% of total expenditure).

For more information, see Figure 1.2 [here](#).

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