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Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Economic headlines

CPI inflation edges up in August



Annual food inflation reached its highest level in 18 months (click [here](#) to read more).

Quarterly municipal spending tops R100 billion



Employee costs and electricity purchases were the biggest expenditure items in Q2: 2019 (click [here](#) to read more).

1 million births registered in 2018



Dlamini was the most popular surname for newborns (click [here](#) to read more).

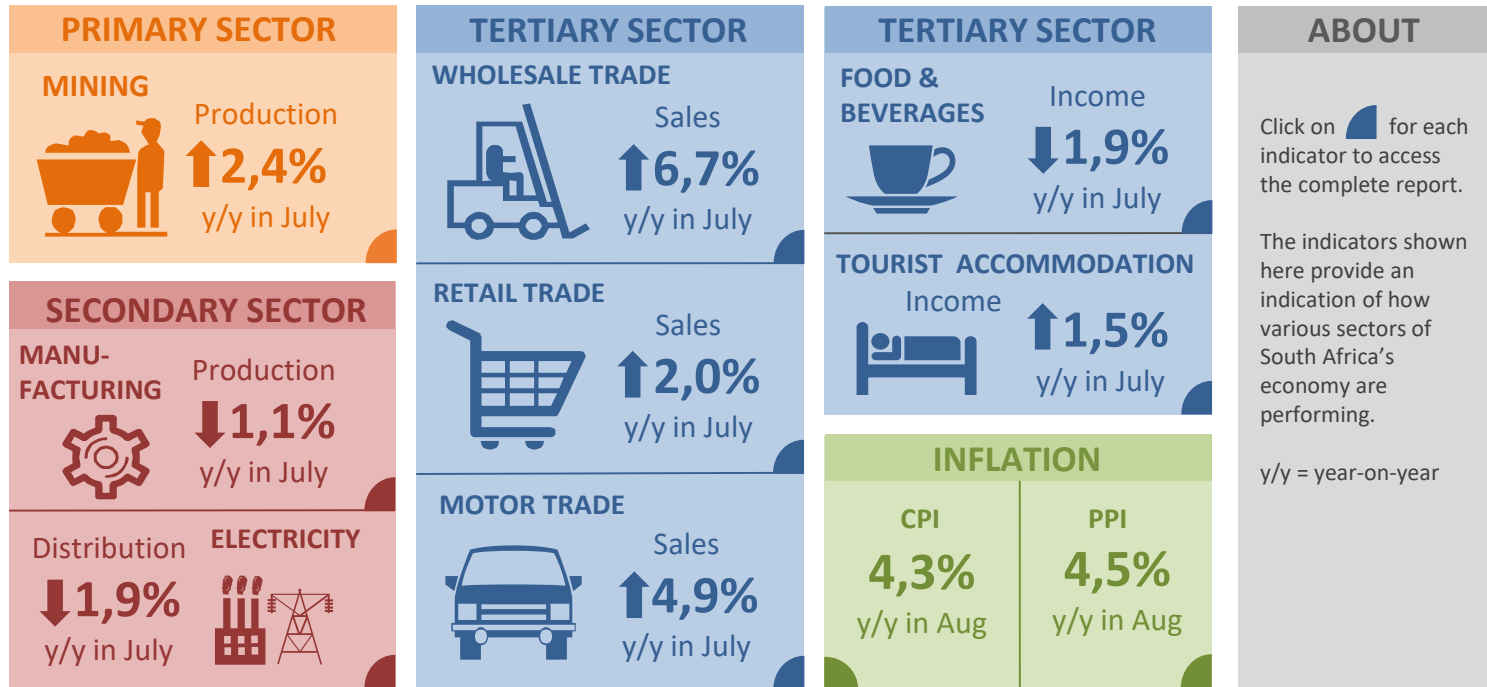
Formal sector employment edges lower



Representing a net loss of 2 000 jobs in Q2: 2019 (click [here](#) to read more).

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

Monthly economic indicators



Feature article

Provincial government spends R17 600 per second

That represents a total of R557 billion over the 2017/18 fiscal year.

Education took up the lion's share. For every R100 of total spending, R41 (R230 billion) was spent on education.

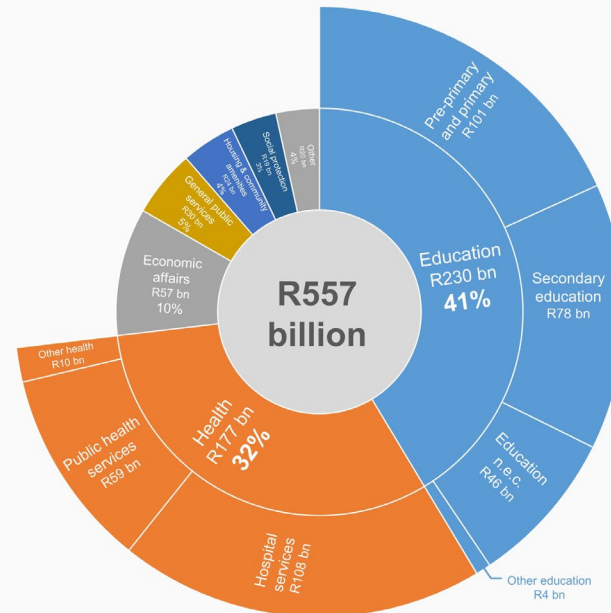
That is not surprising, as provincial governments are responsible for keeping the wheels of public education turning, most notably the administration of just over 23 700 public schools with 12,3 million learners.

Pre-primary and primary schooling contributed R101 billion (44%) of the R230 billion, followed by secondary education.

Health was the second biggest expenditure item for provincial government in 2017/18, taking up 32% (R177 billion) of total spending.

Click [here](#) to read more.

Education and health take up the lion's share of provincial spending Total provincial government expenditure in 2017/18



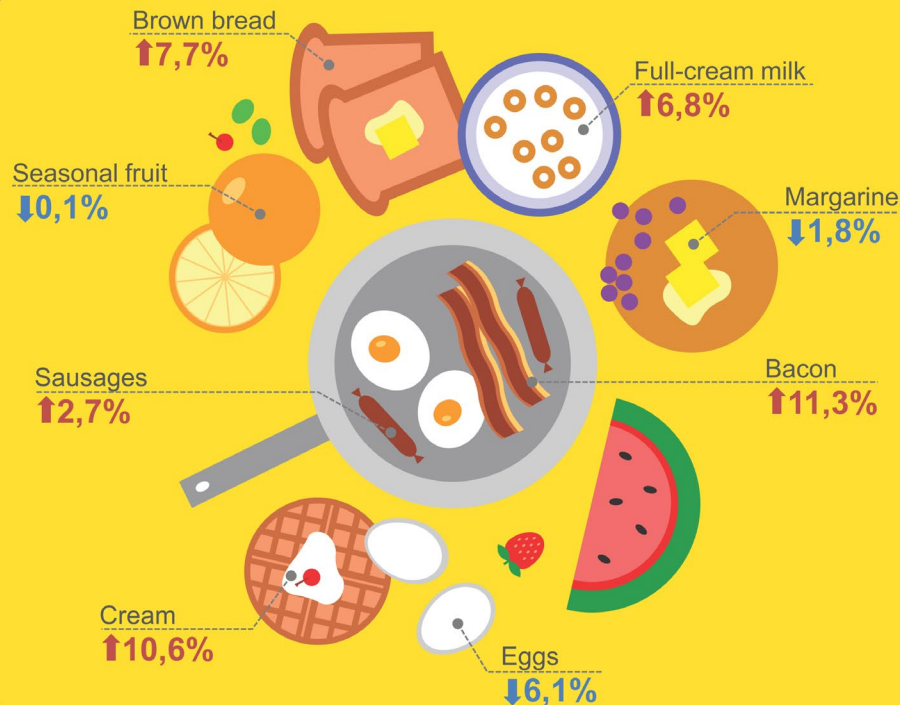
Source: Financial statistics of provincial government, 2017/18

Infographic of the month

How much more expensive is your breakfast?

Bacon and cream prices have risen sharply over the last year, while egg, margarine and fruit prices have fallen

Percentage change in price indices from August 2018 to August 2019



Source: Consumer Price Index (CPI), August 2019 Image: pixabay.com

Provincial snapshot

Provincial spending on education

The Limpopo provincial government spent almost half (48%) of its total budget on education in 2017/18.

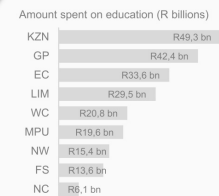
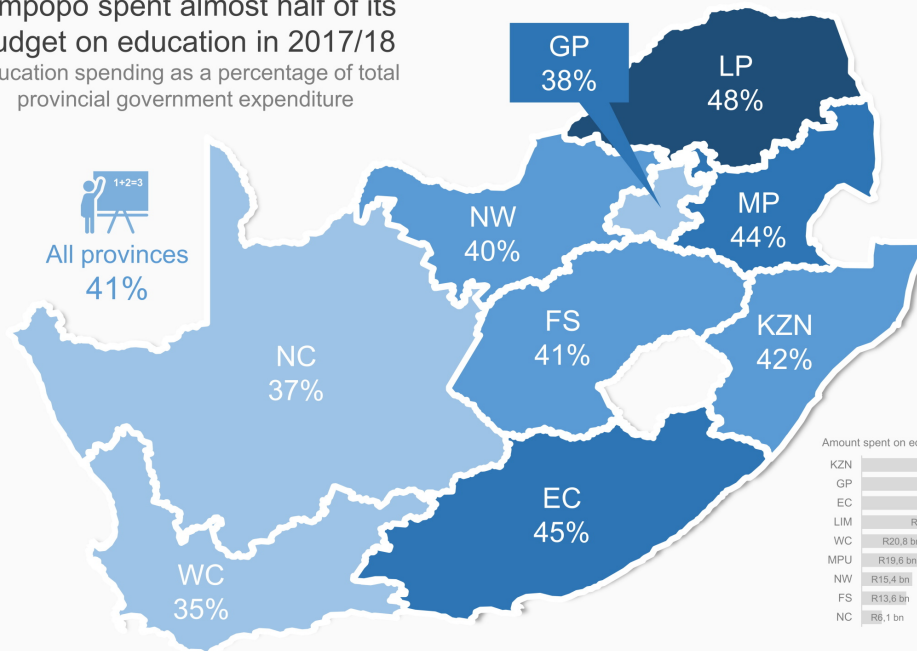
Together with Limpopo, the more rural provinces of Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal and Free State allocated over 40% of total spending to public education.

In terms of actual rand values, KwaZulu-Natal – the second most populous province in the country after Gauteng – was the biggest spender on education, totalling R49,3 billion. Gauteng was the second biggest spender, followed by Eastern Cape.

Read more [here](#).

Limpopo spent almost half of its budget on education in 2017/18

Education spending as a percentage of total provincial government expenditure



Source: Financial statistics of provincial government, 2017/18

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