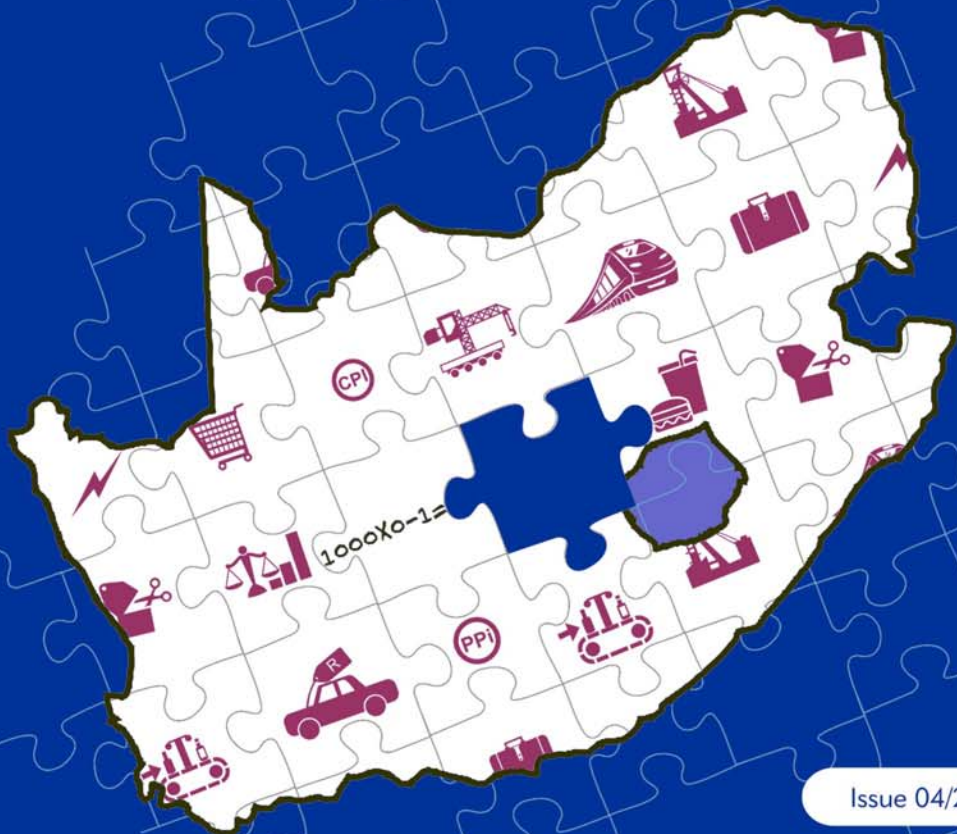


May 2020



Issue 04/2020

THE SOUTH AFRICA I KNOW, THE HOME I UNDERSTAND



Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





Statistics South Africa
Private Bag X44
Pretoria 0001
South Africa

ISibalo House, Koch street, Salvokop
Pretoria 0002

User information services: (012) 310 8600
Main switchboard: (012) 310 8911

Website: www.statssa.gov.za
Email: info@statssa.gov.za



Editor's comment

On 12 May 2020, the world observed International Nurses Day and the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale under the theme 'Nursing the World to Health'. Nightingale was the first person to turn the nursing profession into an organised sector with standardised roles and responsibilities. Nightingale is credited with founding the modern profession of nursing, being instrumental in improving sanitation, hygiene and nutrition for the ill. The World Health Organization (WHO) designated 2020 as the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife and the day highlights the importance of nurses in the healthcare sector. According to WHO, the Covid-19 pandemic is a stark reminder of the vital role that nurses play. Without nurses and other health workers, we will not win the battle against pandemic outbreaks, and neither will we achieve the Sustainable Development Goals or universal health coverage. Nurses are always at the forefront of fighting epidemics and pandemics and playing the role of providing treatment and health care services. They are often the first and sometimes the only health care professionals that people see and the quality of their initial assessment, care and treatment is vital.

Statistics South Africa's (Stats SA's) ability to publish official statistics has been impacted by the lockdown announced by President Ramaphosa that came into effect on 27 March 2020. Thus, Stats SA had to revise publishing dates scheduled for April 2020. The revised publishing dates also affected the publishing date of our May 2020 *Mbalo Brief* publication to be published on 2 June 2020. This has also triggered changes in publishing dates for preceding months of 2020.

Articles published in this issue are based on results of industry surveys conducted for the months ranging from January to March 2020. Also have a look at our monthly crossword puzzle and solutions for the April 2020 puzzle.

For more details on any of the surveys, visit our website at:
www.statssa.gov.za

Enjoy the read.



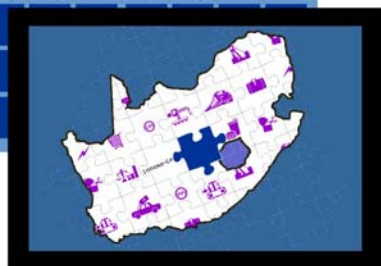
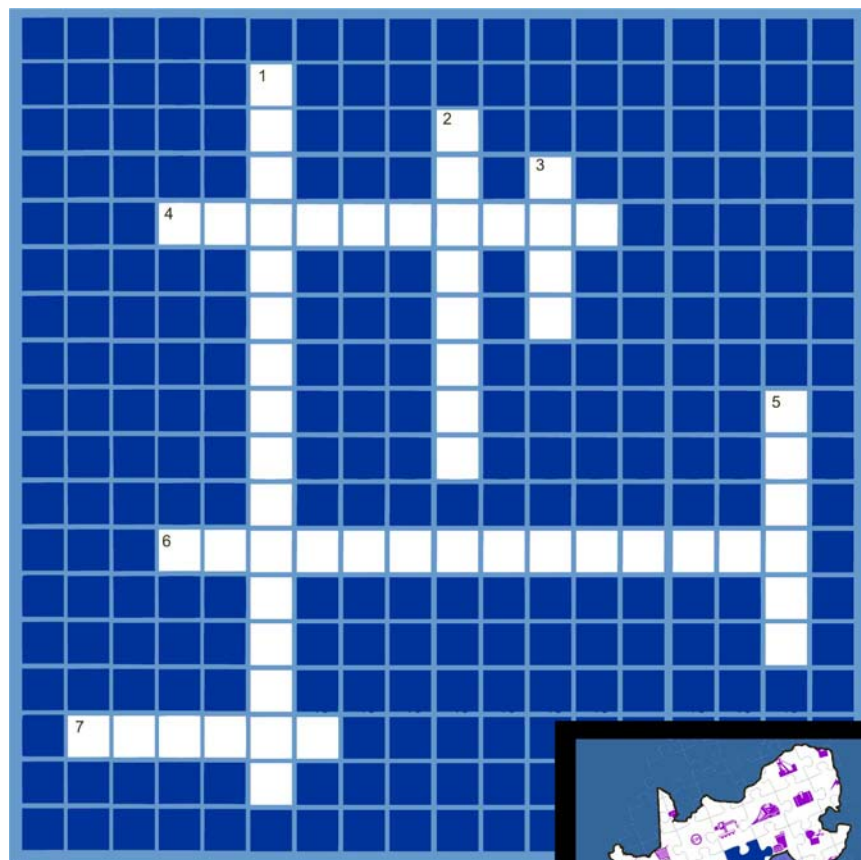


Contents

Editor's comment	i
Crossword puzzle.....	iii
Educational article on the business impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in South Africa, May 2020.....	1
Primary industries.....	12
Mining: Production and sales.....	12
Secondary industries.....	14
Manufacturing: Production and sales.....	14
Selected building statistics of the private sector	15
Electricity generated and available for distribution	17
Tertiary industries	19
Wholesale trade sales.....	19
Retail trade sales	20
Motor trade sales	21
Food and beverages	22
Tourist accommodation.....	23
Tourism and migration	25
Statistics of civil cases for debt.....	28
Statistics of liquidations and insolvencies	30
Land transport survey	32
Prices.....	34
Producer price index (PPI).....	34
Consumer price index (CPI).....	36
Glossary.....	39



Crossword puzzle





Across

4. Which holiday does South Africa celebrate on 1 May every year?
6. Who is the South African Federation of Trade Unions' general secretary who recovered from COVID-19?
7. South Africa will be conducting its most recent population ... in 2021 [Clue: population count]

Down

1. Who is the Director- General of the World Health Organisation (WHO)?
2.tends to contain various substances that are generally unhealthy. [Fill in the missing word. Clue: Read Food and beverages article]
3. Transport by road is referred to as ... transport [Fill in the missing word]
5. Which survey featured in this newsletter is based on the production and sales of minerals?

Solutions for April 2020 puzzle

Across

2. True
4. Corona
6. China
7. Freedom
8. Lockdown

Down

1. Quarantine
3. Essential
5. SANDF



Educational article on the business impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in South Africa, May 2020

1. Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused widespread disruption to people's health, economies and societies across the globe. As the reopening of the economy continues across some parts of the country, it is worth taking note of the current economic impact and trends as they can influence the activities that will follow in the months ahead. In an effort to keep track of the impact COVID-19 has had on the economy, Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducted two surveys on the impact of the pandemic on South African businesses. The surveys provide an update on how South African businesses are currently faring under lockdown. This article provides insight into the results contained in the second survey, titled *Business impact survey of the COVID-19 pandemic in South Africa*, Report No. 00-80-01 (14–30 April 2020), and was published by Stats SA on 14 May 2020. The article will mainly focus on turnover, workforce, trading activity and business survival without turnover.

2. Background

The first business impact survey covered the period from 30 March to 13 April 2020, and the results were published on 21 April 2020. The survey requested firms in the formal sector to indicate how the COVID-19 crisis has affected their operations in terms of turnover, trading, workforce, imports and exports, purchases, prices, and business survival.

The second survey, on which this article is based, covers the period from 14 April to 30 April 2020. The number of responses for the second survey was much larger, covering 2 182 businesses compared with the first impact survey's tally of 707 businesses. The scope for the second survey was also expanded to include the agriculture and hunting sectors.

The purpose of this survey is to provide close to real-time economic insight into the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on VAT-registered businesses by using a rapid response survey (an online survey). The indicators and analysis presented in this document depend on the responses received from businesses, which capture their perceptions and views of the COVID-19 pandemic and the related impact. The business impact survey is designed as an experimental study and is subject to specific strengths and limitations.



Some limitations of the survey are that micro businesses are excluded; results are based on perceptions due to the qualitative nature of the survey; and interpretation is based on limited responses. The strengths of the survey are that close to real-time insight is provided; the respondents' experiences and insights are communicated quickly; and the experimental study can be used to supplement reliable statistics produced according to statistical value chain processes.

Table 1 – Responding businesses by industry

Industry	Number of businesses	% of total
Agriculture, hunting, forestry & fishing	701	32,1
Mining & quarrying	36	1,6
Manufacturing	279	12,8
Electricity, gas & water supply	39	1,8
Construction	168	7,7
Trade	304	13,9
Transport, storage & communication	90	4,1
Real estate & other business services	249	11,4
Community, social & personal services	200	9,2
Other	116	5,3
Total	2 182	100

Table 1 shows the number of businesses that responded per industry. The industry with the highest number of responses was agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing with 701 responses. This was followed by the trade industry with 304 responses.

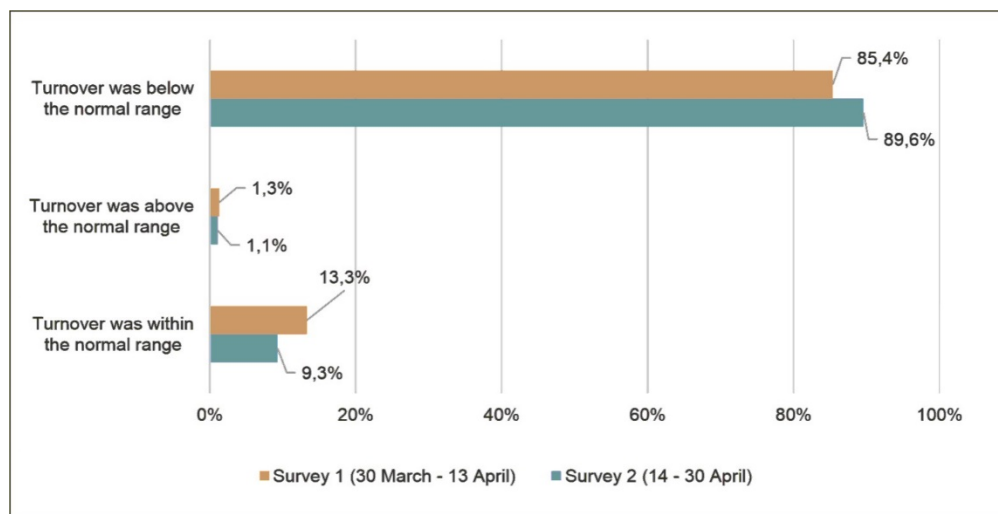


3. Financial performance

3.1 Turnover

Turnover relates to the income generated by a business when conducting its core operations within a specified timeframe, and forms a key measure of business performance. Turnover includes sales of goods, services rendered, leasing and hiring of capital assets, and rental/leasing of land, buildings and other structures.

Figure 1 – Impact on business turnover



The survey further looked at how COVID-19 affected different industries. The results are presented in Figure 1. Figure 1 shows that 89,6% of businesses had a turnover that was below the normal range, while 9,3% of businesses had a turnover that was within the normal range. Only 1,1% of businesses reported a turnover that was above the normal range.



Figure 2 – Business turnover range by industry (cumulative % shown on horizontal axis)

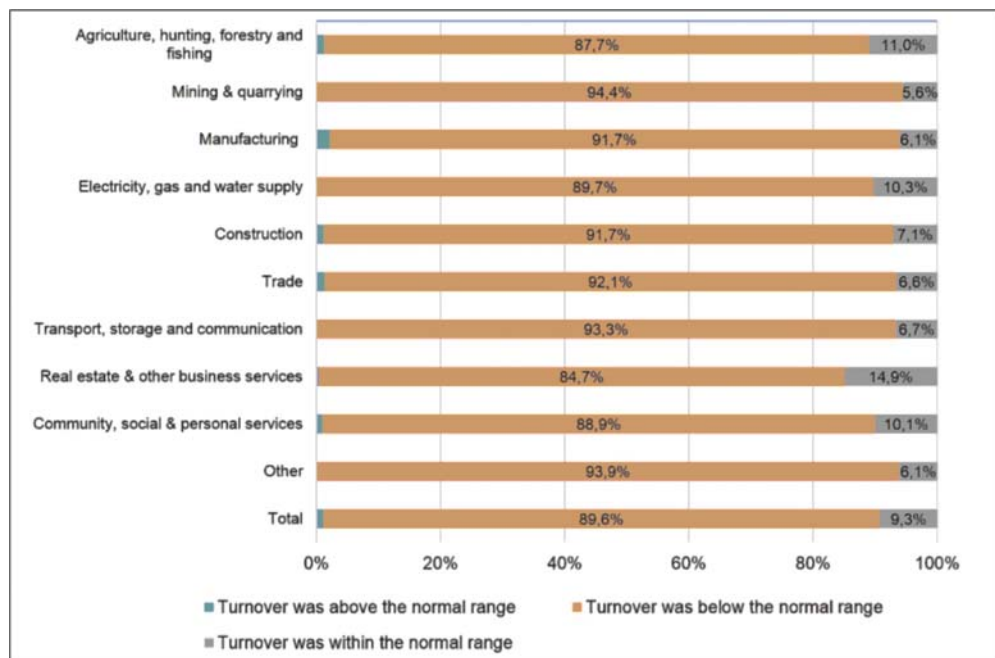


Figure 2 shows a widespread adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on business turnover across all industries. From the results, 14,9% of businesses in the real estate and other business services indicated that their turnover during the period under review was within the normal range. This was followed by businesses in agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing (11,0%) and electricity, gas and water supply (10,3%).

Meanwhile, 94,4% of businesses in the mining and quarrying industry reported a turnover that was below the normal range. This was followed by businesses in the transport, storage and communication industry (93,3%) and trade industry (92,1%).

Five respondents indicated that their turnover was above the normal range: these were in the agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing; manufacturing; construction; trade; and community, social and personal services industries.



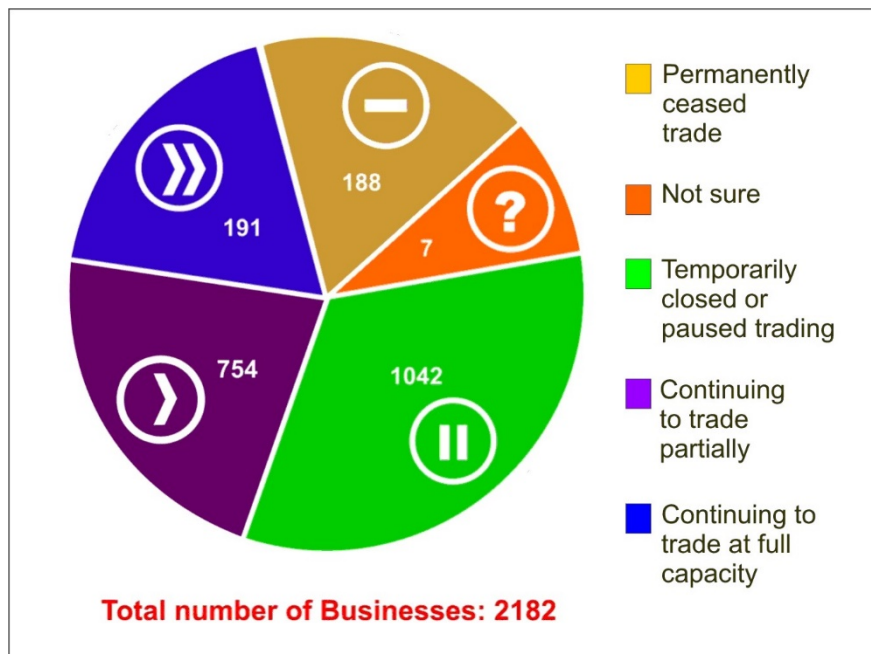
Table 2 – Business status by turnover range (number within each turnover range)

Annual turnover range	Continuing to trade at full capacity	Continuing to trade partially	Permanently ceased trade	Temporarily closed or paused trading	Not sure	Total
R0 - R2 million	39	209	112	508	4	872
R2 million - R30 million	57	282	62	377	0	778
R30 million - R300 million	21	90	7	49	0	167
R300 million - R500 million	30	73	2	53	0	158
R500 million - R1 billion	8	26	0	13	0	47
R1 billion	14	31	2	16	0	63
Not sure	19	41	2	18	0	80
Total	3	2	1	8	3	17
	191	754	188	1042	7	2182

Table 2 shows that out of the 2 182 businesses surveyed, there were 1 042 businesses that reported to have ‘temporarily closed or paused trading’, and 191 that continued trading at full capacity. The largest number of businesses that continued to trade at full capacity (57 out of 191) fell within the annual turnover range of R2 million – R30 million. In the R0–R2 million range, there were 508 businesses ‘temporarily closed or paused trading’ and 112 that reported ‘permanently ceased trading’.



Figure 3 – Business status by number, 14–30 April 2020



4. Trading activity

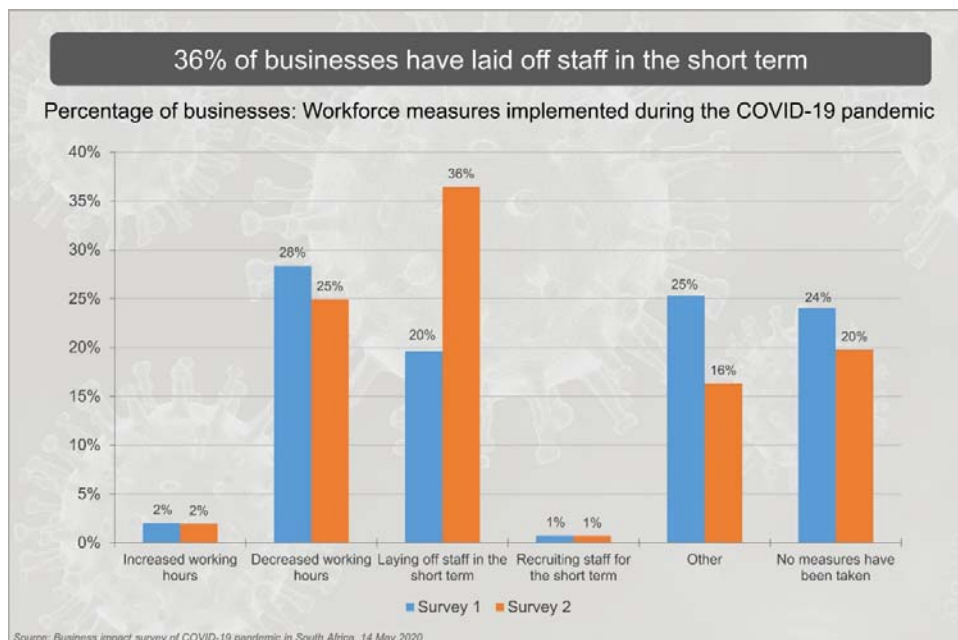
Almost half (48%) of businesses reported a pause in trading in the period 14 April 2020 – 30 April 2020. Almost one in ten (9%) businesses indicated that they had ceased operations permanently. The industries with the highest percentage of firms permanently closing their doors include construction (14%); community, social and personal services (12%); and agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing (12%). When asked if they would operate during the level 4 lockdown, 56% of responding businesses indicated that they would continue to do business.



5. Workforce

Businesses were requested to indicate what measures were taken to cope with the impact of COVID-19 on their workforce.

Figure 4 – Percentage of businesses: Workforce measures implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic



The results from Figure 4 show that 25% of businesses indicated decreased working hours and 36% indicated laying off of staff in the short term. Meanwhile, 16% of respondents indicated that 'other' measures were taken, 19,8% reported no measures were taken, 2% reported increased working hours and only 0,7% reported that they will be recruiting staff in the short term.

Expected workforce size changes in the two weeks after the reference period

Businesses were also requested to indicate their expectations with regard to changes in their workforce in the two weeks following the reference period. A



large number of respondents (45,6%) expected their workforce size to decrease, while 38,7% expected their workforce size to stay the same. Meanwhile, 476 businesses with fewer than 10 employees reported the highest number expecting a decrease in workforce.

Working remotely vs. normal place of work

When comparing the percentage of the workforce working remotely (from home) to those working in their usual place of work, the results show that 64,7% of respondents reported that 0–20% of their workforce was working at their normal place of work; 7,7% of respondents reported that 21–40% of their workforce was working at their normal place of work; and 14,4% of respondents reported that 81–100% of their workforce was working at their normal place of work.

In contrast, 64,0% of respondents reported that 0 to 20% of their workforce was working remotely instead of their normal place of work while; 9,0% of respondents reported that 21 to 40% of their workforce was working remotely; and 15,7% of respondents reported that 81–100% of their workforce was working remotely.



6. Business survival without turnover

Figure 5 – Business survival without any turnover

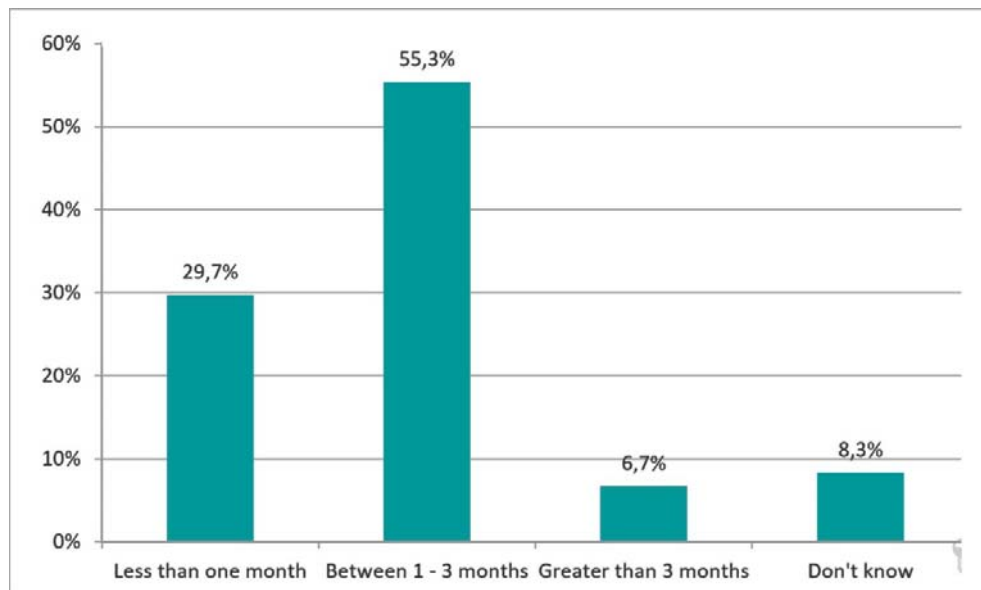


Figure 5 shows how long businesses would be able to survive without any turnover. The results show that 29,7% of respondents indicated their businesses can survive less than a month without any turnover, while over half (55,3%) indicated that they can survive between 1 and 3 months. Only 6,7% can survive for a period longer than 3 months.



Table 3 – Financial assistance initiatives

Financial assistance initiatives	Survey 1 (30 March – 13 April)	Survey 2 (14 – 30 April)
Debt relief holiday	20,5%	22,2%
Deferring payments to the South African Revenue Service	22,8%	14,6%
Small businesses grant or loan schemes	13,3%	18,6%
Accredited finance agreements	6,5%	6,3%
Business Growth and Resilience Facility for essential service	2,7%	2,1%
Government relief schemes, e.g. COVID-19 temporary relief scheme	38,2%	30,0%
Other not listed above	11,1%	7,2%
Not sure	9,5%	7,0%
No plan for assistance	21,1%	22,1%
None of these	11,1%	15,4%

Table 3 shows financial assistance initiative comparisons between the first and second business impact surveys. In survey 2, 30,0% of responding businesses reported that they would use government relief schemes as a form of financial assistance, 22,2% reported debt relief holidays, and 18,6% reported small businesses grant or loan schemes.

7. Conclusion

This article is based on a rapid response survey conducted by Stats SA during the lockdown to measure the impact of COVID-19 on South African businesses. The results show that the majority of responding businesses reported that their business turnover was below the normal range while almost half indicated that they have temporarily closed or paused trading activity. Most businesses expected their workforce size to decrease in the two weeks following the reference period of the survey while other businesses indicated that they have laid off their staff in the short term. Lastly, the majority of respondents indicated that their businesses would be operating during the level 4 lockdown period.



8. References

1. Statistics South Africa. 2020. *Business impact survey of the COVID-19 pandemic in South Africa*, Report No. 00-80-01 (14–30 April 2020). Available at: <http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/Report-00-80-01/Report-00-80-01May2020.pdf>
Accessed 19 May 2020.



Primary industries

Mining: production and sales

Mining production and mineral sales increase

In light of growing concerns over climate change, mounting pressure for clean energy by the United Nations (UN) and environmental organisations have seen mining companies and different countries adopting greener policies, which include measures to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. The mining giant Anglo American South Africa (SA) announced on 7 May 2020 that it will exit coal mining in South Africa. According to Anglo American SA, it is working towards a possible demerger of its thermal coal operations in South Africa, which is expected in the next two to three years, with a primary listing on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) for the demerged business. Presented in this article are the key results of the Mining: production and sales release for February 2020.

Mining production increased by 7,0% year-on-year in February 2020 (**see Table A**). The largest positive contributors were:

- coal (13,7%, contributing 3,8 percentage points);
- PGMs (8,7%, contributing 1,8 percentage points); and
- gold (11,5%, contributing 1,5 percentage points).

Table A – Key growth rates in the volume of mining production for February 2020

	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	0,7	0,0	1,0	0,5	7,5	7,0
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,0	2,9	-1,8	-6,1	6,3	-1,0
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	-1,0	-0,4	0,9	0,4	-1,6	-2,7

^{1/} Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

A full release on *Mining: production and sales* (Statistical release P2041) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za

Mineral sales increased by 18,0% year-on-year in February 2020 (**see Table B**). The largest positive contributors were:

- PGMs (66,4%, contributing 12,4 percentage points);



- gold (83,9%, contributing 7,5 percentage points); and
- iron ore (24,3%, contributing 3,4 percentage points).

Table B – Key growth rates in mineral sales at current prices for February 2020

	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	16,2	9,3	8,1	-5,1	24,4	18,0
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,9	0,2	5,9	-9,9	24,9	-10,4
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	1,8	1,9	4,3	1,5	7,6	5,1

^{1/} Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

A full release on *Mining: production and sales* (Statistical release P2041) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za



Secondary industries

Manufacturing: Production and sales

Manufacturing production decreases

On 25 April 2020 the ministers of the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC), Ebrahim Patel, and Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta), Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, announced that from 30 April 2020, it is compulsory for all South Africans to wear a face mask in public as the country moves from level five to level four of the COVID-19 national lockdown. In order to help South African businesses source locally made fabric face masks, a dedicated Business to Business (B2B) marketplace portal has gone live on 24 April 2020 on the Proudly South African website. The concept of the portal arose from discussions with the South African Clothing and Textile Workers' Union (SACTWU), the DTIC and the Manufacturing Circle to align initiatives undertaken by the clothing and textile manufacturing industry with the needs of the public and businesses. All companies listed on the site have confirmed with the Clothing Bargaining Council that they are genuine manufacturers producing locally made fabric masks, supporting local jobs and operating under conditions that promote the health and safety of workers, among other things. The portal will ensure that reliable sources of locally made masks are easily available. Presented in this article is a summary of the key results from the manufacturing industry survey for the month of February 2020.

Manufacturing production decreased by 2,1% in February 2020 compared with February 2019 (**see Table C**). The largest negative contributions were made by the following divisions:

- basic iron and steel, non-ferrous metal products, metal products and machinery (-4,8%, contributing -0,9 of a percentage point);
- wood and wood products, paper, publishing and printing (-6,3%, contributing -0,7 of a percentage point);
- textiles, clothing, leather and footwear (-9,1%, contributing -0,3 of a percentage point);
- glass and non-metallic mineral products (-9,1%, contributing -0,3 of a percentage point); and
- motor vehicles, parts and accessories and other transport equipment (-3,0%, contributing -0,3 of a percentage point).



Table C – Key growth rates in the volume of manufacturing production for February 2020

	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-2,3	-0,4	-3,5	-6,3	-1,8	-2,1
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-2,1	3,0	-1,8	-3,2	3,0	-2,3
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	-1,2	0,6	0,3	-0,4	-1,7	-2,2

^{1/} Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.
A full release on *Manufacturing: Production and sales* (Statistical release P3041.2) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za

Selected building statistics of the private sector

Value of recorded building plans passed decreases

The COVID-19 pandemic that hit the global community saw South Africa celebrating Freedom Day on 27 April 2020 differently from other years. Freedom Day is celebrated every year to mark the liberation of South Africa and its citizens from many years of apartheid. Due to the lockdown, no festivities were organised, and the President delivered his keynote address to the nation via media broadcasting channels. On this day, other countries extended their best wishes by using buildings and statues to resonate this year's theme of 'Solidarity and triumph of the human spirit in these challenging times'. In Dubai, the tallest building in the world, the Burj Khalifa building was lit up with the South African flag. In New York City's Time Square, which also contains one of the top 15 tallest buildings in the world, showed the image of Nelson Mandela's statue with one of his greatest quotes: "The purpose of freedom is to create it for others." Many South Africans were pleased to see how buildings were used to express solidarity from different countries in the world. Presented in this article is a summary of the selected building statistics for February 2020.

The value of recorded building plans passed (at current prices) decreased by 27,7% (-R5 453,2 million) during January to February 2020 compared with January to February 2019 (see Table D).



The largest negative contributions to the total decrease of 27,7% (-R5 453,2 million) were made by Gauteng (contributing -27,0 percentage points or -R5 317,6 million), Western Cape (contributing -3,0 percentage points or -R599,7 million) and KwaZulu-Natal (contributing -1,2 percentage points or -R231,7 million).

Five provinces reported year-on-year decreases in the value of buildings completed during January to February 2020, of which Gauteng (contributing -9,1 percentage points or -R1 175,4 million), KwaZulu-Natal (contributing -4,5 percentage points or -R575,3 million) and Mpumalanga (contributing -1,8 percentage points or -R233,4 million) were the largest negative contributors. The largest positive contributors were Western Cape (contributing 4,4 percentage points or R560,1 million) and Eastern Cape (contributing 3,2 percentage points or R407,1 million).

Table D – Recorded building plans passed by larger municipalities: January to February 2019 versus January to February 2020

Estimates at current prices	January to February 2019 ^{1/}	January to February 2020 ^{1/}	Difference in value between January to February 2019 and January to February 2020	% change between January to February 2019 and January to February 2020
	R'000	R'000	R'000	
Residential buildings	11 763 712	6 976 947	-4 786 765	-40,7
- Dwelling houses	4 170 683	4 388 360	217 677	5,2
- Flats and townhouses	7 422 620	2 516 573	-4 906 047	-66,1
- Other residential buildings	170 409	72 014	-98 395	-57,7
Non-residential buildings	3 680 837	3 026 559	-654 278	-17,8
Additions and alterations	4 236 446	4 224 244	-12 202	-0,3
Total	19 680 995	14 227 750	-5 453 245	-27,7

^{1/} 2019 and 2020 figures should be regarded as preliminary because of possible backlogs and incomplete reporting by municipalities.

A full release on *Selected building statistics of the private sector as reported by local government institutions* (Statistical release P5041.1) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za



Electricity generated and available for distribution

Electricity consumption decreased by 5,1% in March 2020

Despite the COVID-19 devastating impact on the global economy, South Africans may still have some positive news to celebrate as they may not experience excessive electricity blackouts in this winter season. According to Eskom Chief Executive Officer, Andre De Ruyter, the extended lockdown period has enabled the power utility to carry out much-needed maintenance, which will significantly reduce the likelihood of load shedding. He further reported that the extended lockdown resulted in drastic reduction in demand for electricity, thus enabling the power utility to continue with maintenance. He explained that the country will only experience sporadic stage 1 load shedding. This will come as a relief to electricity users in South Africa as stage 1 load shedding requires a lesser frequency of power outages. Consumers are still encouraged to use electricity sparingly by switching off geysers, pool pumps and all non-essential appliances throughout the day. Presented in this article is a summary of the key results from the Electricity, generated and available for distribution for March 2020.

Electricity generation (production) decreased by 4,1% year-on-year in March 2020 (see Table E).

Table E – Key growth rates in the volume of electricity generated for March 2020

	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-1,9	-2,8	-4,0	-2,5	1,0	4,1
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-1,2	-1,1	-1,5	0,9	-0,2	-1,8
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	-1,6	-0,7	-1,6	-1,8	-2,1	-1,2

¹ Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

Electricity distribution (consumption) decreased by 5,1% year-on-year in March 2020 (see Table F).



Table F – Key growth rates in the volume of electricity distributed for March 2020

	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-20
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-2,1	-3,1	-4,9	-3,6	0,0	-5,1
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-0,7	-1,6	-1,3	0,9	-1,1	-2,0
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	-1,5	0,2	-1,0	-1,6	-2,4	-1,9

^{1/} Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

A full release on *Electricity generated and available for distribution* (Statistical release P4141) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za



Tertiary industries

Wholesale trade sales

Sales for February 2020 increase

South African businesses have been impacted negatively since the dawn of the lockdown that was imposed in South Africa to curb the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). The effect of the lockdown has undoubtedly led to pressure on most business sectors, including the wholesale trade sector. This has significantly affected how businesses operate. Some businesses had to close down or operate remotely. During this period Statistics South Africa conducted a survey of sampled businesses in an attempt to measure the impact of the lockdown, which led to ceasing of most sales, services, production and international trade. The results of this survey are presented in detail in the educational article on page 1. It is important to note that owing to the COVID-19 lockdown, the collection rate for the February 2020 Wholesale trade sales survey is lower than usual, at 71,5%. Consequently, revisions may be larger than usual mainly due to the collection rate being affected by the unique circumstances posed by the COVID-19. Presented in this article is a summary of the key results from the Wholesale trade sales survey for February 2020.

Wholesale trade sales increased by 3,8% in February 2020 compared with February 2019 (**see Table G**). The main contributor to this increase was dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (8,7% and contributing 2,1 percentage points).

Wholesale trade sales increased by 5,6% in the three months ended February 2020 compared with the three months ended February 2019. The main contributors to this increase were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (10,7% and contributing 2,7 percentage points); and
- food, beverages and tobacco (9,8% and contributing 1,6 percentage points).



Table G – Key growth rates in wholesale trade sales at current prices for February 2020

	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-0,9	0,5	-4,1	5,5	7,7	3,8
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-0,4	2,8	-3,5	-1,9	6,0	-2,8
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	0,9	-0,6	-0,9	-2,0	-1,1	-0,2

^{1/} Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.
A full release on *Wholesale trade sales* (P6141.2) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za

Retail trade sales

Retail trade sales increase

The recent move from the COVID-19 level five lockdown to level four has seen some of the retail companies in the clothing and footwear starting to re-open for customers to buy winter and children's clothing and footwear from 1 to 31 May 2020; as well as re-opening some services. This was the first time that the clothing and footwear retailers had opened since the initial lockdown started on 26 March 2020 (although some restrictions related to sanitation still remained). To allow re-stocking and availability, level four of the lockdown also enables manufacturers to reduce their normal employment from at least 30% capacity for all clothing, textile, footwear and leather goods, up to 50% for winter goods, up to 100% for children's and baby clothes, and personal protective equipment such as face masks. Presented in this article is a summary of the retail trade sales for February 2020.

Retail trade sales increased by 2,0% year-on-year in February 2020 (**see Table H**). The largest positive annual growth rates were recorded for:

- all 'other' retailers (8,9%);
- retailers in household furniture, appliances and equipment (4,7%); and
- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods. (1,5%).

The largest contributors to the 2,0% increase were:

- all 'other' retailers (contributing 1,1 percentage points); and



- general dealers (contributing 0,6 of a percentage point).

Table H – Key growth rates in retail trade sales for February 2020 at constant 2015 prices

	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	0,4	0,4	2,6	-0,5	1,3	2,0
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,7	0,1	1,9	-2,5	0,5	-0,4
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	0,0	-0,3	0,7	0,6	0,6	-1.1

^{1/} Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.
A full release on *Retail trade sales* (Statistical release P6242.1) is available on the Stats SA website:
www.statssa.gov.za

Motor trade sales

Motor trade sales increase

Online motor vehicle sale scams have been on the rise in South Africa. In the latest scam, criminals are creating fake social media platforms such as Facebook pages using the names of established companies to lure unsuspecting car buyers. According to the South African Institute of Auctioneers (SAIA), criminals post pictures of vehicles that are copied from other well-known car sales websites and even use their physical address to view the vehicle. However, the reserve payment (a fee paid by a consumer to set aside a vehicle) is required upfront, and it is only when the buyers arrive to view the vehicle that they realise that they have been scammed. SAIA cautioned members to be vigilant about the new scam and cautioned online bidders to verify auctioneers' details before interacting or making online payments. Presented in this article is a summary of the results from the Motor trade sales release for the month of February 2020.

Motor trade sales increased by 4,5% year-on-year in February 2020 (**see Table I**). The largest annual growth rates were recorded for:

- fuel sales (11,5%);
- used vehicle sales (7,1%); and
- convenience stores sales (6,3%).



Motor trade sales increased by 2,7% in the three months ended February 2020 compared with the three months ended February 2019. The main contributors to this increase were:

- used vehicle sales (6,8%, 1,2 percentage points); and
- fuel sales (4,1%, 1,2 percentage points).

Table I – Key growth rate figures in motor trade sales for February 2020

	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	0,1	-0,7	-4,1	2,4	1,3	4,5
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-3,0	0,9	-1,7	-0,3	1,5	0,8
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	0,0	0,3	-1,8	-1,9	-1,8	0,1

^{1/} Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.
A full release on *Motor trade sales* (Statistical release P6343.2) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za

Food and beverages

Food and beverages industry records an increase in income for January 2020

Did you know that some fast food have ingredients that are low in beneficial nutrients? The term fast food generally refers to food that people intend to consume quickly either on or off-site. According to the Health Promotion Perspective (HPP) journal study (an international journal for publication of researches aimed at understanding the implications and approaches to health promotion and public health), fast food tends to contain various substances that are generally unhealthy. The HPP study found that fast foods are usually high in sugar, salt and saturated fats or trans-fats and many processed preservatives and ingredients. These types of food can have a negative impact on the general health of consumers. Presented in this article is a summary of the results from the Food and beverages release for the month of February 2020.

Total income generated by the food and beverages industry increased by 0,6% in February 2020 compared with February 2019. Food sales grew by 1,4% (see Table J).



In February 2020, positive contributors to the 0,6% year-on-year increase were:

- takeaway and fast-food outlets (3,1%, contributing 1,0 percentage point); and
- restaurants and coffee shops (1,0%, contributing 0,5 of a percentage point).

Total income increased by 1,3% in the three months ended February 2020 compared with the three months ended February 2019. Positive contributors to this increase were:

- restaurants and coffee shops (2,6%, contributing 1,4 percentage points); and
- takeaway and fast-food outlets (3,7%, contributing 1,2 percentage points).

Table J – Year-on-year percentage change in food and beverages income at constant prices by type of income – February 2020

Type of income	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20
Food sales	0,7	-1,8	0,6	1,9	3,1	1,4
Bar sales	1,7	3,5	-2,6	-10,9	0,9	-0,5
Other income	-24,6	-5,7	-4,6	-5,2	-9,8	-22,8
Total	0,1	-1,5	0,2	0,8	2,6	0,6

A full release on *Food and beverages* (Statistical release P6420) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za

Tourist accommodation

Total income for the tourist accommodation industry increases

As countries begin to review restrictions to reopen international travel, the Airbnb (an international online marketplace that lets people referred to as hosts rent out their properties or rooms to guests), announced new protocols for cleaning and sanitizing its listed properties in an effort to reassure travellers of safety measures being taken to curb the spread of COVID-19 and revive bookings for the home-sharing platform. The sanitizing initiative was launched in May 2020 to enhance procedures and guidelines on how to



clean every room in a home and to issue certification programmes to endorse properties meeting the new standards. According to Airbnb, new protocols were established based on guidance from the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other experts in the field, amid signs of easing of lockdown restrictions in some countries. Presented in this article is a summary of the results from the Tourist accommodation release for the month of February 2020.

Total income for the tourist accommodation industry increased by 4,6% in February 2020 compared with February 2019 (**see Table K**). Income from accommodation increased by 5,7% year-on-year in February 2020, the result of a 1,3% increase in the number of stay unit nights sold and a 4,4% increase in the average income per stay unit night sold.

The main contributors to the 5,7% year-on-year increase in income from accommodation in February 2020 were:

- hotels (contributing 3,6 percentage points); and
- 'other' accommodation (contributing 3,1 percentage points).

In February 2020, the types of accommodation that recorded positive year-on-year growth in income from accommodation were:

- caravan parks and camping sites (26,1%);
- 'other' accommodation (13,0%); and
- hotels (5,2%).

Table K – Year-on-year percentage change in tourist accommodation statistics (income at current prices), February 2020

	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20
Stay units available	-0,2	-0,2	-0,2	-0,2	0,0	-0,1
Stay unit nights sold	3,1	-3,8	0,3	0,1	0,7	1,3
Average income per stay unit nights sold	4,2	5,8	-0,9	1,0	4,0	4,4
Income from accommodation	7,4	1,8	-0,6	1,0	4,7	5,7
Total income ^{1/}	4,6	1,2	0,9	2,4	4,9	4,6

^{1/} Includes restaurant and bar sales and 'other' income.

A full release on *Tourist accommodation* (Statistical release P6410) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za



Tourism and migration

More than 3 million travellers passed through South Africa's ports of entry/exit in February 2020

The tourism industry's success relies mostly on the movement of people from one place to another. Thus, lockdown and COVID-19 has dealt a hard blow to the industry as the best way to minimise the spread of the virus is to restrict the movement of people. However, South African Tourism (SAT) is compiling a Tourism Recovery Plan in a bid to limit the damage suffered by the tourism industry due to COVID-19 and the lockdown. This plan will look at how to return tourism activity first at domestic level (which will likely be the first to be allowed), followed by regional level and lastly international level. Some of these plans include talks to decrease the cost of domestic flights, as it is expected that the supply will be higher than the demand. Presented in this article is a summary of the key results for the Tourism and migration release for the month of February 2020.

Number of travellers

The routine data collected by the Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) immigration officers at the ports of entry into and out of South Africa shows that a total of 3 091 233 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry/exit in February 2020 (**see Table L**). These travellers were made up of 752 507 South African residents and 2 338 726 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 370 823 arrivals, 381 100 departures and 584 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 1 218 468, 1 074 252 and 46 006, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in February 2019 and February 2020 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. Travellers in transit decreased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 3,0% (from 360 186 in February 2019 to 370 823 in February 2020). Departures increased by 2,9% (from 370 186 in February 2019 to 381 100 in February 2020), and transits decreased by 16,8% (from 702 in February 2019 to 584 in February 2020). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 1,0% (from 1 205 901 in February 2019 to 1 218 468 in February 2020), departures increased by 1,8% (from 1 055 331 in February



2019 to 1 074 252 in February 2020), and transits decreased by 3,0% (from 47 438 in February 2019 to 46 006 in February 2020).

A comparison between the movements in January 2020 and February 2020 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and travellers in transit decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 43,5% (from 656 050 in January 2020 to 370 823 in February 2020), departures decreased by 11,5% (from 430 762 in January 2020 to 381 100 in February 2020), and transits decreased by 23,1% (from 759 in January 2020 to 584 in February 2020). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 23,6% (from 1 595 388 in January 2020 to 1 218 468 in February 2020), departures decreased by 10,0% (from 1 193 534 in January 2020 to 1 074 252 in February 2020), and transits decreased by 14,7% (from 53 947 in January 2020 to 46 006 in February 2020).

In February 2020, 75 171 (6,2%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 143 297 (93,8%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in February 2020 but did not depart in February 2020 [327 957 (28,7%)];
- Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in February 2020 and left in February 2020 [426 238 (37,3%)]; and
- Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in February 2020 [389 102 (34,0%)].

Mode of travel

Information presented in Table 2 on page 11, shows that in February 2020, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 102 562 (68,0%) of the 3 091 233 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 929 444 (28,5%). Compared to the use of air and land transport, a smaller number of travellers, 59 227 (1,9%) used sea transport. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 132 674 (35,8%) came by air, 219 903 (59,3%) came by road and 18 246 (4,9%) arrived by sea transport. For departures, 133 301 (35,0%) used air, 228 400 (59,9%) used road and 19 399 (5,1%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 584 (100,0%) used air transport.



Purpose of visit

In February 2020, the majority of tourists, 778 066 (97,2%), were in South Africa for holiday compared to 16 773 (2,1%); 5 426 (0,7%) and 550 (0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and for medical treatment respectively.

Sex and age distribution

In February 2020, there were 450 209 (56,2%) male and 350 606 (43,8%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 132 474 (53,4%) male tourists and 115 563 (46,6%) female tourists. There were 308 445 (57,3%) male and 229 904 (42,7%) female tourists from SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 8 430 (64,7%) male and 4 597 (35,3%) female tourists.

The results further show that the majority of tourists were aged between 35 and 44 years [219 862 (27,5%)], followed closely by the age group 25 to 34 years [205 675 (25,7%)].



Table L – Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction: February 2020

Travel direction	February 2019	January 2020	February 2020	% change between January 2020 and February 2020	% change between February 2019 and February 2020
Total	3 039 744	3 930 440	3 091 233	-21,4%	1,7%
South African residents	731 074	1 087 571	752 507	-30,8%	2,9%
Arrivals	360 186	656 050	370 823	-43,5%	3,0%
Departures	370 186	430 762	381 100	-11,5%	2,9%
Transit	702	759	584	-23,1%	-16,8%
Foreign travellers	2 308 670	2 842 869	2 338 726	-17,7%	1,3%
Arrivals	1 205 901	1 595 388	1 218 468	-23,6%	1,0%
Departures	1 055 331	1 193 534	1 074 252	-10,0%	1,8%
Transit	47 438	53 947	46 006	-14,7%	-3,0%
Foreign arrivals	1 205 901	1 595 388	1 218 468	-23,6%	1,0%
Non-visitors	73 338	103 620	75 171	-27,5%	2,5%
Visitors	1 132 563	1 491 768	1 143 297	-23,4%	0,9%
Visitors	1 132 563	1 491 768	1 143 297	-23,4%	0,9%
Arrivals only	327 483	585 538	327 957	-44,0%	0,1%
Single trips	418 632	431 900	426 238	-1,3%	1,8%
Multiple trips	386 448	474 330	389 102	-18,0%	0,7%
Visitors	1 132 563	1 491 768	1 143 297	-23,4%	0,9%
Same-day	335 382	398 500	342 482	-14,1%	2,1%
Tourists	797 181	1 093 268	800 815	-26,8%	0,5%

A full release on *Tourism and migration* (Statistical release P0351) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za

Statistics of civil cases for debt

Number of civil summonses for debt increases

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy has seen many consumers being unable to earn an income due to unemployment resulting from companies closing temporarily and others permanently. Meanwhile other consumers are receiving less income due to reduced working hours.



Due to these challenges, some credit providers have pronounced what they call interim debt relief measures for consumers who have been hard hit by this pandemic. The National Credit Regulator (NCR) advises consumers that where applicable, they must first consider the option of using their credit life insurance benefit as a relief in this difficult period. Credit life insurance is the insurance that a consumer would sign for when applying for credit or a loan, and it covers the outstanding debt in the event of unforeseen circumstances such as death, retrenchment, unemployment, inability to earn an income, disability and others. Credit life insurance can be claimed to settle or pay the consumer's debt for a period of twelve months or for the remaining repayment period or until the consumer finds employment or is able to earn an income. Presented in this article is a summary of the statistics of civil cases for debt for February 2020.

The number of civil summonses issued for debt

The total number of civil summonses issued for debt increased by 0,4% in the three months ended February 2020 compared with the three months ended February 2019 (**see Table M**).

The positive contributors to the 0,4% increase for civil summonses issued were:

- money lent (contributing 3,5 percentage points);
- promissory notes (contributing 1,6 percentage points); and
- 'other' debts (contributing 0,3 of a percentage point).

The number of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total number of civil judgements recorded for debt decreased by 11,4% in the three months ended February 2020 compared with the three months ended February 2019.

The largest contributors to the 11,4% decrease were civil judgements relating to:

- promissory notes (contributing -3,4 percentage points);
- services (contributing -3,1 percentage points);
- money lent (contributing -2,3 percentage points); and
- 'other' debts (contributing -1,6 percentage points).



The value of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total value of civil judgements recorded for debt increased by 0,5% in the three months ended February 2020 compared with the three months ended February 2019.

The largest positive contributors to the 0,5% increase were the value of judgements relating to:

- services (contributing 3,4 percentage points);
- promissory notes (contributing 1,7 percentage points); and
- rent (contributing 0,9 of a percentage point).

Table M – Key figures for civil summonses and judgements for February 2020

Actual estimates	February 2020	% change between February 2019 and February 2020	% change between December 2018 to February 2019 and December 2019 to February 2020
Number of civil summonses issued for debt	45 955	4,7	0,4
Number of civil judgements recorded for debt	14 550	-13,5	-11,4
Value of civil judgements recorded for debt (R million)	279,6	-0,6	0,5

A full release on *Statistics of civil cases for debt* (Statistical release P0041) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za

Statistics of liquidations and insolvencies

Voluntary liquidations increase by 22 cases in March 2020

The Companies Act, 2008 (Act No. 71 of 2008) and the Close Corporations Act, 1984 (Act No. 69 of 1984) place the responsibility on the directors of a company or the members of a close corporation to liquidate the entity as soon as the liabilities exceed the assets. Not only does a voluntary liquidation assist in getting rid of the debt of a company or a close corporation, but the liquidation process also works in such a way that it prevents the directors or members of close corporations to be personally liable for company debt that they did not sign surety (money given to support an undertaking that someone will perform a duty or pay their debts.) for. The liquidation process has advantages and disadvantages. For example, when



a company is liquidated, companies and close corporations do not trade for too long to the detriment of staff and creditors, at the same time the liquidation process protects its members and directors from paying companies' debts. Presented in this article is a summary of the results from the Statistics of liquidation and insolvencies release for the month of April 2020.

The total number of liquidations decreased by 37,8% in the three months ended April 2020 compared with the three months ended April 2019 (**see Table N**). Voluntary liquidations decreased by 147 cases, while compulsory liquidations decreased by 41 cases during this period. There was a decrease of 31,8% in the first four months of 2020 compared with the first four months of 2019.

Table N – Total number of liquidations for April 2020

Number of liquidations April 2020	% change between February 2020 to April 2020	% change between January to April 2019 and January to April 2020
0	-37,8	-31,8

The estimated number of insolvencies decreased by 23,6% in March 2020 compared with March 2019 (**see Table O**). A 6,6% decrease was estimated in the first quarter of 2020 compared with the first quarter of 2019.

Table O – Total number of insolvencies for March 2020

Number of insolvencies March 2020	% change between March 2019 and March 2020	% change between January to March 2019 and January to March 2020
175	-23,6	2,0

A full release on *Statistics of liquidations and insolvencies* (Statistical release P0043) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za



Land transport survey

Volume of goods transported and number of passenger journeys decrease

The minibus taxi industry is set to be one of the beneficiaries during the lockdown in South Africa as the train services (Metrorail and Prasa) are still on hold. It is also one of the few public transport systems allowed to carry a maximum of 70% of its passenger capacity as other transport systems such as e-hailing and Gautrain can only carry 50% of their passenger capacity. However, there are some disadvantages experienced by the minibus taxi industry, such as reduced number of trips that taxi drivers can make due to a drop in the number of commuters as schools are still closed and most workers are still working from home. As a result the amount of money that taxi drivers used to make in a day is reduced, leading to loss of income. Presented in this article is a summary of the key results for the Land transport survey for the month of February 2020.

The volume of goods transported (payload) decreased by 5,6% in February 2020 compared with February 2019 (**see Table P**). The corresponding income decreased by 3,5% over the same period.

Income from freight transportation decreased by 3,8% in the three months ended February 2020 compared with the three months ended February 2019. The main negative contributors to this decrease were:

- basic metals and fabricated metal products (-36,7%, contributing -1,3 percentage points); and
- primary mining and quarrying products (-3,0%, contributing -1,1 percentage points).

Table P – Year-on-year percentage change in freight transportation: February 2020

	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20
Freight payload	-3,9	-7,4	-13,6	-10,4	-7,2	-5,6
Freight income	-1,9	-4,3	-9,3	-4,5	-3,4	-3,5

A full release on the *Land Transport Survey* (Statistical release P7162) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za



The number of passenger journeys decreased by 18,8% in February 2020 compared with February 2019 (**see Table Q**). The corresponding income increased by 1,4% over the same period.

Table Q – Year-on-year percentage change in passenger transportation: February 2020

	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-20	Jan-20	Feb-20
Passenger journeys	-15,4	-11,9	-21,2	-17,6	-19,0	-18,8
Passenger income	8,6	1,6	-2,2	-1,2	-1,8	1,4

A full release on the *Land Transport Survey* (Statistical release P7162) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za



Prices

Producer price index (PPI)

PPI for March 2020 at 3,3%

In an effort to slow down the spread of COVID-19, South Africa embarked on a lockdown from 27 March 2020. This had seen South Africa shutting down some large parts of its economy which ultimately affected the producer price index (PPI) (a measure of the change in the prices of goods either as they leave their place of production or as they enter the production process), thus causing the economy to take a knock. Owing to the challenge, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced a R500 billion social relief and economic support package, which is equivalent to 10% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), in order to mitigate against the risks faced by the country. This also means that for those sectors that are covered by the PPI such as manufacturing sector for example, this emergency relief fund will assist in ensuring that such sectors gain temporary financial relief from this economic crisis, though it may still take a toll on their businesses in a long term. As a result of the impact of the COVID-19, South African Reserve Bank (SARB) forecast that the South African economy will contract by 6,1% in 2020. Presented in this article is a summary of the key results from the Producer price index for March 2020.

Final manufactured goods – headline PPI

Annual producer price inflation (final manufacturing) was 3,3% in March 2020, down from 4,5% in February 2020 (**see Table R**). The producer price index increased by 0,1% month-on-month in March 2020.

The main contributors to the headline PPI annual inflation rate were food products, beverages and tobacco products; transport equipment; metals, machinery, equipment and computing equipment; and coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products.

- Food products, beverages and tobacco products increased by 2,6% year-on-year and contributed 0,9 of a percentage point.
- Transport equipment increased by 7,7% year-on-year and contributed 0,7 of a percentage point.
- Metals, machinery, equipment and computing equipment increased by 4,5% year-on-year and contributed 0,6 of a percentage point.



- Coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products increased by 2,2% year-on-year and contributed 0,5 of a percentage point.

The main contributor to the headline PPI monthly increase was transport equipment, which increased by 2,9% month-on-month and contributed 0,3 of a percentage point.

Intermediate manufactured goods

The annual percentage change in the PPI for intermediate manufactured goods was zero in March 2020 (compared with 1,8% in February 2020). The index decreased by 0,2% month-on-month. The main contributor to the monthly rate was sawmilling and wood (-0,7 of a percentage point).

Electricity and water

The annual percentage change in the PPI for electricity and water was 15,0% in March 2020 (compared with 12,1% in February 2020). The index increased by 0,2% month-on-month. Electricity contributed 13,9 percentage points to the annual rate, and water contributed 1,1 percentage points. Electricity contributed 0,2 of a percentage point to the monthly rate.

Mining

The annual percentage change in the PPI for mining was 42,6% in March 2020 (compared with 49,0% in February 2020). The index increased by 0,6% month-on-month.

The main contributors to the annual rate were non-ferrous metal ores (33,5 percentage points) and gold and other metal ores (6,3 percentage points). The main contributor to the monthly rate was gold and other metal ores (2,0 percentage points).

Agriculture, forestry and fishing

The annual percentage change in the PPI for agriculture, forestry and fishing was 2,0% in March 2020 (compared with -1,1% in February 2020). The index increased by 0,3% month-on-month. The contributors to the annual rate were forestry (0,8 of a percentage point), agriculture (0,7 of a percentage point) and fishing (0,6 of a percentage point). The contributors to the monthly rate were fishing (0,2 of a percentage point) and agriculture (0,1 of a percentage point).



Table R – Key PPI figures for March 2020

Product	Weight	Index (2016=100)			% change	
		Mar 2019	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Mar 2020 vs. Feb 2020	Mar 2020 vs. Mar 2019
Final manufactured goods	100,00	111,5	115,1	115,2	0,1	3,3
Intermediate manufactured goods	100,00	108,2	108,4	108,2	-0,2	0,0
Electricity and water	100,00	111,4	127,8	128,1	0,2	15,0
Mining	100,00	120,2	170,3	171,4	0,6	42,6
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	100,00	98,6	100,3	100,6	0,3	2,0

A full release on the *Producer price index* (Statistical release P0142.1) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za

Consumer price index (CPI)

CPI decreases to 4,1% in March 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic and the drastic actions taken to prevent its spread have impacted the South African economy. Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), as the official statistical agency, measures the economy of the country through various tools. One such tool is the consumer price index (CPI). However, since the government enforced a restrictive lockdown from 27 March to 30 April 2020, the April CPI data was not collected in the usual way. This is because most businesses were closed during this period, which meant that certain products or services (such as air travel, restaurants and hotels) were not available for sale during this time. Furthermore, data collectors were prevented from going to outlets because of travel restrictions. Thus, Stats SA had to make changes to enable the compilation and release of the April CPI. These include the online collection of prices available for retail items and the imputing of approximately 26,5% of the weight of the CPI basket, mainly using the change in the headline CPI. Presented in the article is a summary of the key results for the Consumer price index (CPI) release for the month of March 2020.



Headline consumer price index (CPI for all urban areas)

Annual consumer price (CPI) inflation was 4,1% in March 2020, down from 4,6% in February 2020 (**see Table S**). The consumer price index increased by 0,3% month-on-month in March 2020. The main contributors to the 4,1% annual inflation rate were:

- Food and non-alcoholic beverages, which increased by 4,2% year-on-year, and contributed 0,7 of a percentage point to the total CPI annual rate of 4,1%.
- Housing and utilities, which increased by 4,8% year-on-year, and contributed 1,2 percentage points.
- Transport, which increased by 3,4% year-on-year, and contributed 0,5 of a percentage point.
- Miscellaneous goods and services, which increased by 6,4% year-on-year, and contributed 1,0 percentage point.

The annual inflation rates for goods and for services were 4,1% and 4,2%, respectively. Provincial annual inflation rates ranged from 3,6% in Limpopo to 4,8% in Western Cape.



Table S – Consumer price index: Index numbers and year-on-year rates
Base year: Dec 2016 = 100

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average [1]
Year	Index/rate													
2015	Index	88,9	89,4	90,7	91,5	91,7	92,1	93,1	93,1	93,1	93,3	93,4	93,7	92,0
	Rate	4,5	4,0	4,0	4,5	4,6	4,7	5,0	4,6	4,6	4,6	4,7	5,3	4,5
2016	Index	94,4	95,7	96,4	97,2	97,4	97,9	98,7	98,6	98,8	99,3	99,6	100,0	97,8
	Rate	6,2	7,0	6,3	6,2	6,2	6,3	6,0	5,9	6,1	6,4	6,6	6,7	6,3
2017	Index	100,6	101,7	102,3	102,4	102,7	102,9	103,2	103,3	103,8	104,1	104,2	104,7	103,0
	Rate	6,6	6,3	6,1	5,3	5,4	5,1	4,6	4,8	5,1	4,8	4,6	4,7	5,3
2018	Index	105,0	105,8	106,2	107,0	107,2	107,6	108,5	108,4	108,9	109,4	109,6	109,4	107,8
	Rate	4,4	4,0	3,8	4,5	4,4	4,6	5,1	4,9	4,9	5,1	5,2	4,5	4,7
2019	Index	109,2	110,1	111,0	111,7	112,0	112,4	112,8	113,1	113,4	113,4	113,5	113,8	112,2
	Rate	4,0	4,1	4,5	4,4	4,5	4,5	4,0	4,3	4,1	3,7	3,6	4,0	4,1
2020	Index	114,1	115,2	115,6										
	Rate	4,5	4,6	4,1										

A full release on the *Consumer price index* (Statistical release P0141) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za

¹ Annual average.



Glossary

Primary industries

Gigawatt-hour (gWh): one gigawatt-hour of electricity is equal to one million kilowatt-hours. A kilowatt-hour is the basic unit of electrical energy equal to one kilowatt of power supplied to or taken from an electric circuit steadily for one hour. One kilowatt-hour equals one thousand watt-hours.

Index of physical volume of manufacturing production: also known as a production index, is a statistical measure of the change in the volume of production. The production index of a major group is the ratio between the volume of production of a major group in a given period and the volume of production of the same major group in the base period.

Index of physical volume of mining production: a statistical measure of the change in the volume of production. The production index of a mineral group is the ratio between the volume of production of a mineral group in a given period and the volume of production of the same mineral group in the base period.

Index of the physical volume of electricity production: a statistical measure of the change in the volume of production of electricity in a given period and the volume of production of electricity in the base period.

Industry: a group of establishments engaged in the same or similar kinds of economic activity.

PGMs – Platinum group metals: include platinum; iridium; osmiridium, palladium; rhodium; ruthenium and osmium.

Sales: total value of sales and transfers-out of goods mined by the mining establishments and the amounts received for installation, erection or assembly or other services.



Secondary industries

Additions and alterations: extensions to existing buildings as well as internal and external alterations of existing buildings.

Blocks of flats: a structure, usually multi-storey, consisting of a number of dwellings sharing the same residential address, and usually sharing a common entrance, foyer or staircase.

Dwelling houses: a free-standing, complete structure on a separate stand or a self-contained dwelling-unit, e.g. granny flat, on the same premises as existing residence. Out-buildings and garages are included.

Other residential buildings: include institutions for the disabled, boarding houses, old age homes, hostels, hotel, motels, guest houses, holiday chalets, bed and breakfast accommodation, entertainment centres and casinos.

Residential buildings: dwelling houses, flats, townhouses and other residential buildings.

Tertiary industries

Acknowledgements of debt: a statement by a person/debtor in which he admits that he owes money to an individual or a company or a bank.

Acting household head: any member of the household acting on behalf of the head of the household.

Average income per stay unit night sold: average rate per stay unit (i.e. rate per room in a hotel or powered site in a caravan park) is calculated by dividing the total income from accommodation by the number of stay unit nights sold in the survey period.

Catering services: enterprises involved in the sale and supply of meals and drinks prepared on the premises on a contract basis and brought to other premises chosen by the person ordering them, to be served for immediate consumption to guests or customers. Include bars, taverns, other drinking places, ice-cream parlours, etc.



Civil judgements: decisions taken in a civil matter or a dispute between two people or parties.

Civil summonses: notices to appear before the court of law where a dispute between two parties or people has to be heard, i.e. not for criminal offence.

Day trip: a trip outside of the respondent's usual environment, where they leave and return within the same day (i.e. do not stay overnight).

Domestic tourism: a trip within the boundaries of South Africa but outside of the respondent's usual environment.

Note: The following categories are excluded from the definition of domestic visitor:

- persons travelling to another place within the country with the intention of setting up their usual residence in that place.
- Persons who travel to another place within the country and are remunerated from within the place visited.
- Persons who travel regularly or frequently between neighbouring localities as defined by the 'usual environment' rule.

Dwelling unit: structure or part of a structure or group structures occupied or meant to be occupied by one or more than one household.

Enterprise: a legal entity or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its sales activities.

Expenditure: the total consumption expenditure made by a visitor or on behalf of a visitor during his/her trip and stay at a destination.

Foreign traveller: a person who resides outside South Africa and visits the country temporarily.

Household: a group of persons who live together and provide themselves jointly with food and/or other essentials for living, or a single person who lives alone.

Household head: the main decision-maker, or the person who owns or rents the dwelling, or the person who is the main breadwinner.

Income from accommodation industry: income from amounts charged for rooms or equivalent. Other income is excluded (e.g. income from meals).



Income from bar sales: refers to income from liquor sales.

Income from food sales: refers to income from the sale of meals and non-alcoholic drinks.

Income from restaurant and bar sales: income from meals, banqueting and beverages and tobacco sales.

Insolvency: refers to an individual or partnership which is unable to pay its debt and is placed under final sequestration. The number of insolvencies does not refer to the number of persons involved, as a partnership which is unable to pay its debt is regarded as one insolvency, irrespective of the number of partners.

Liquidation: refers to the winding-up of the affairs of a company or close corporation when liabilities exceed assets and it can be resolved by voluntary action or by an order of the court.

Main purpose of trip: this is the purpose in the absence of which the trip would not have been made.

Microdata: data gathered on a small scale, such as data on an individual.

'Other' African countries: refers to all non SADC African countries.

Other income: includes all income not earned from food sales or bar sales.

Other SADC: refers to the thirteen countries, excluding South Africa, that belong to the Southern African Development Community.

Professional services: refer to medical doctors, dentists, advocates, attorney, auditors, accountants, architects, engineers, hospital services etc.

Promissory notes: written undertaking, signed by a person or party, to pay money to another person or to be the bearer of such a note on a specific date or on demand.

Restaurants and coffee shops: enterprises involved in the sale and provision of meals and drinks, ordered from a menu, prepared on the premises for immediate consumption and with provided seating.

Retailer: a retailer is an enterprise deriving more than 50% of its turnover from sales of goods to the general public for household use.



Retail trade: includes the resale (sale without transformation) of new and used goods and products to the general public for household use.

Stay unit: unit accommodation available to be charged out to guests, for example, a powered site in a caravan park or a room in a hotel.

Stay unit night sold: total number of stay units occupied on each night during the survey period.

Takeaway and fast-food outlets: enterprises involved in the sale and provision of meals and drinks, ordered from a menu, prepared on the premises for takeaway purposes in a packaged format, at a stand or in a location, with or without provided seating.

Total income: includes income from food sales, income from bar sales and other income.

Tourism: comprises the activities of persons travelling to, and staying in places outside their usual environment, for not more than one consecutive year, for leisure, business and other purposes not related to the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited.

Tourist: a visitor who stays at least one night in the place visited.

Tourist accommodation: any facility that regularly (or occasionally) provides 'paid' or 'unpaid' overnight accommodation for tourists.

Traveller: any person on a trip between two or more countries or between two or more localities within his/her country of residence.

Voluntary liquidation: takes place when a company or close corporation, by own choice, resolves to wind-up its affairs.

Wholesale trade: Includes the resale (sale without transformation) of new and used goods and products to other wholesalers, retailers, agricultural, industrial, commercial, institutional and professional users either directly or through agents on a fee or contract basis.



Prices

Annual percentage change: change in the index of the relevant month of the current year compared with the index of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.

Consumer price index (CPI): an index that measures the price of a fixed basket of consumer goods and services.

Inflation rate: annual percentage change in the CPI for all items of the relevant month of the current year compared with the CPI for all items of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.

Monthly percentage change: change in the index of the relevant month compared to the index of the previous month expressed as a percentage.

Year-on-year: A term used frequently in investment research and other reports to mean 'compared with the same period in the previous fiscal year'.

**Editorial & Layout**

Maune Lerobane
Wendy Ngoveni
Mandla Mahlangu
Tlou Matjekana

Language Editors

Annelize Allner
Salomien Rudolph

Design

Thabo Kgaile