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Your monthly update on South Africa's economic indicators

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Economic headlines

Change in the April CPI release date



To accommodate new imputation methods during the COVID-19 pandemic (click [here](#) to read more).

Impact of the pandemic on economic statistics



A revised publication schedule was published [here](#). Keep up to date with any other changes [here](#).

COVID-19: Loss of household income



This may lead to higher levels of food insecurity (click [here](#) to read more).

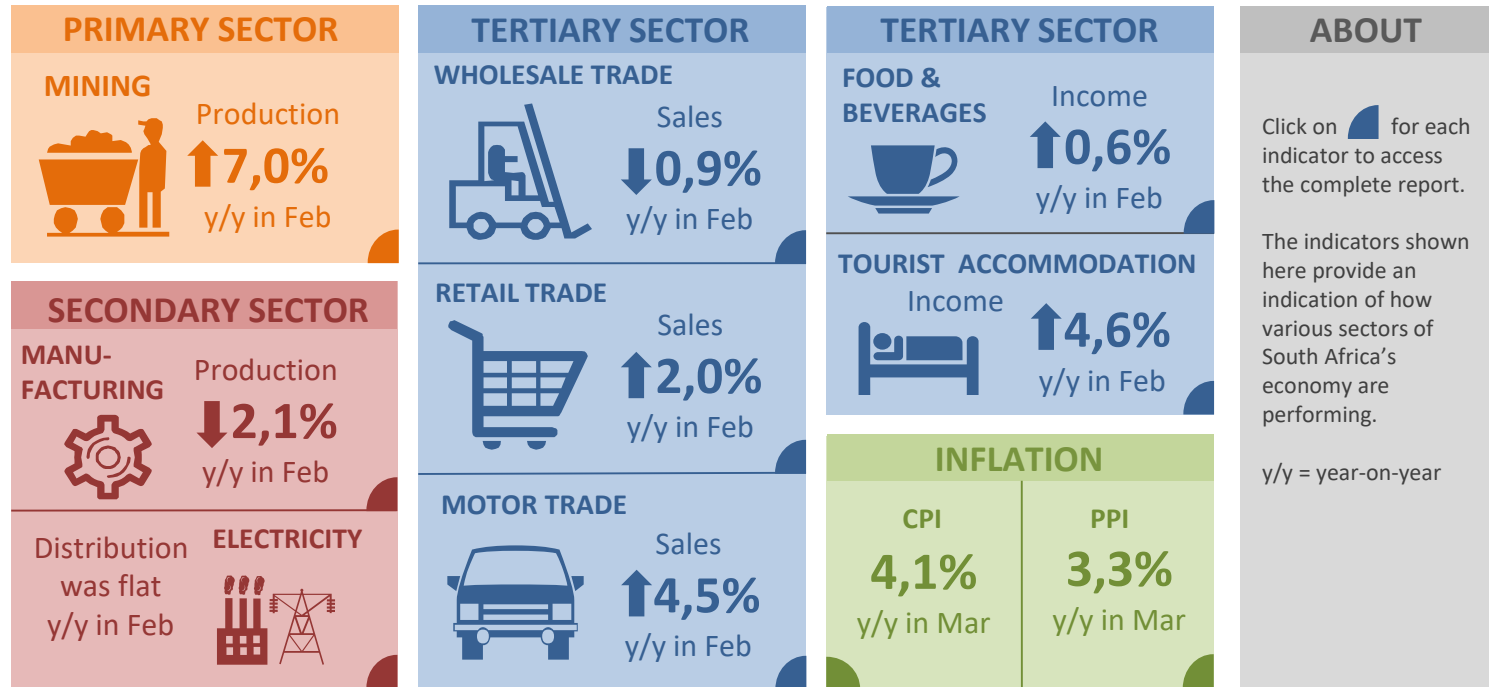
Labour statistics to be collected telephonically



Door-to-door household interviews are off the table for now (click [here](#) to read more).

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

Monthly economic indicators



Note: The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted Stats SA's release schedule. Keep up to date with what we are publishing [here](#).

Feature article

COVID-19: The impact on South African business, round two

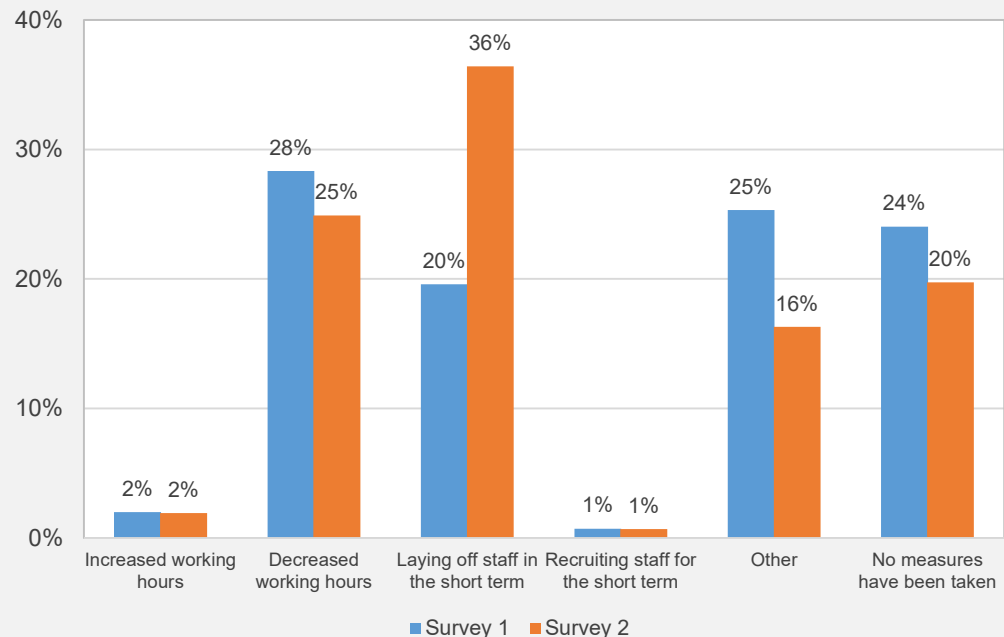
The second wave of Stats SA's COVID-19 business impact survey provides an update on how businesses are currently faring under lockdown. This second round covers the period 14 April to 30 April 2020.

Just over one-third (36%) of firms indicated that they were laying off staff in the short term as a measure to cope with the pandemic. This is higher than the 20% reported in the first survey. One in four firms (25%) indicated that they were decreasing working hours, down from 28% in the first survey.

Just less than one-third (30%) of respondents indicated they can survive less than a month without any turnover, while over half (55%) indicated that they can survive between one and three months.

Read more [here](#).

Percentage of businesses: Workforce measures implemented



Infographic of the month

These products got cheaper during Level 5 lockdown

Stats SA published price data for the fifth week of national lockdown (the week ending 30 April 2020). During Level 5 lockdown, prices for vegetables and fruit decreased by 4,6% and 3,2%, respectively. Price increases were recorded for milk, eggs and cheese (up 2,8%) and oils and fats (up 1,2%).

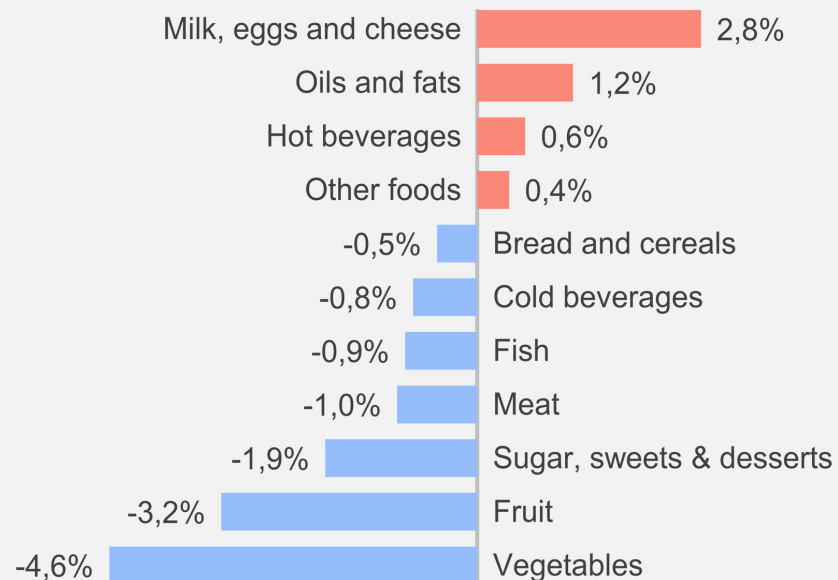
Bread and cereal prices declined by 0,5%. The biggest movers in this group were rice (down 4,0%) and cake flour (up 6,8%). South Africa's main staple, mealie-meal, ended the month with prices 0,1% lower than the end of March.

This is the final report of the weekly essential products price index, as a far wider range of goods was available to consumers in May.

Figures for the week ending 30 April 2020 are available [here](#).

Percentage change in prices of essential food and non-alcoholic beverages during Level 5 lockdown

Week ending 30 April 2020 compared with the week ending 2 April 2020



Provincial snapshot

Thank these provinces for your mealie-meal

Free State is the maize king in South Africa, responsible for producing 44% of the nation's total maize crop. This is according to data from the 2017 Census of Commercial Agriculture, released in March.

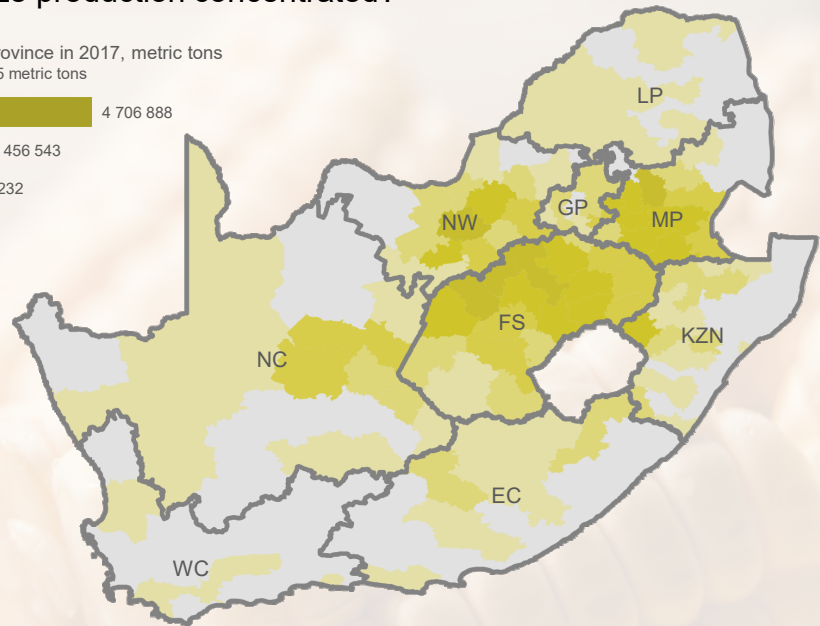
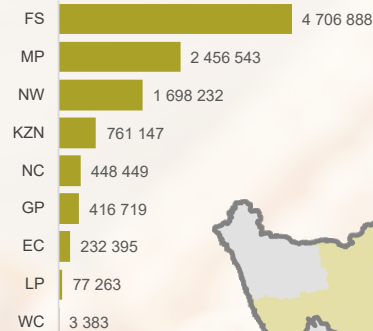
Commercial farms in Free State produced 4,7 million metric tons of maize. The entire country produced 10,8 million tons. Mpumalanga was the second biggest producer, responsible for 2,5 million tons, or 23% of the national total.

The beauty of the Census of Commercial Agriculture is that it provides a wealth of data down to a municipality level. The top maize producing districts were Lejweleputswa (Free State) and Gert Sibande (Mpumalanga).

Interested to learn more? Bury yourself in [these fact sheets](#). The national report and media presentation are available [here](#).

Where is maize production concentrated?

Maize production by province in 2017, metric tons
National total = 10 801 025 metric tons



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