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Economic headlines

Inflation the lowest in almost 15 years



Consumer inflation fell to 3,0% in April, the lowest reading since June 2005 (click [here](#) to read more).

Lockdown: Business pressure might be easing



Although there is cause for cautious optimism, trading conditions remain tough (click [here](#) to read more).

A 110-year-old trade venture



It's fascinating to think that one of the earliest experiments in free trade happened right here (click [here](#) to read more).

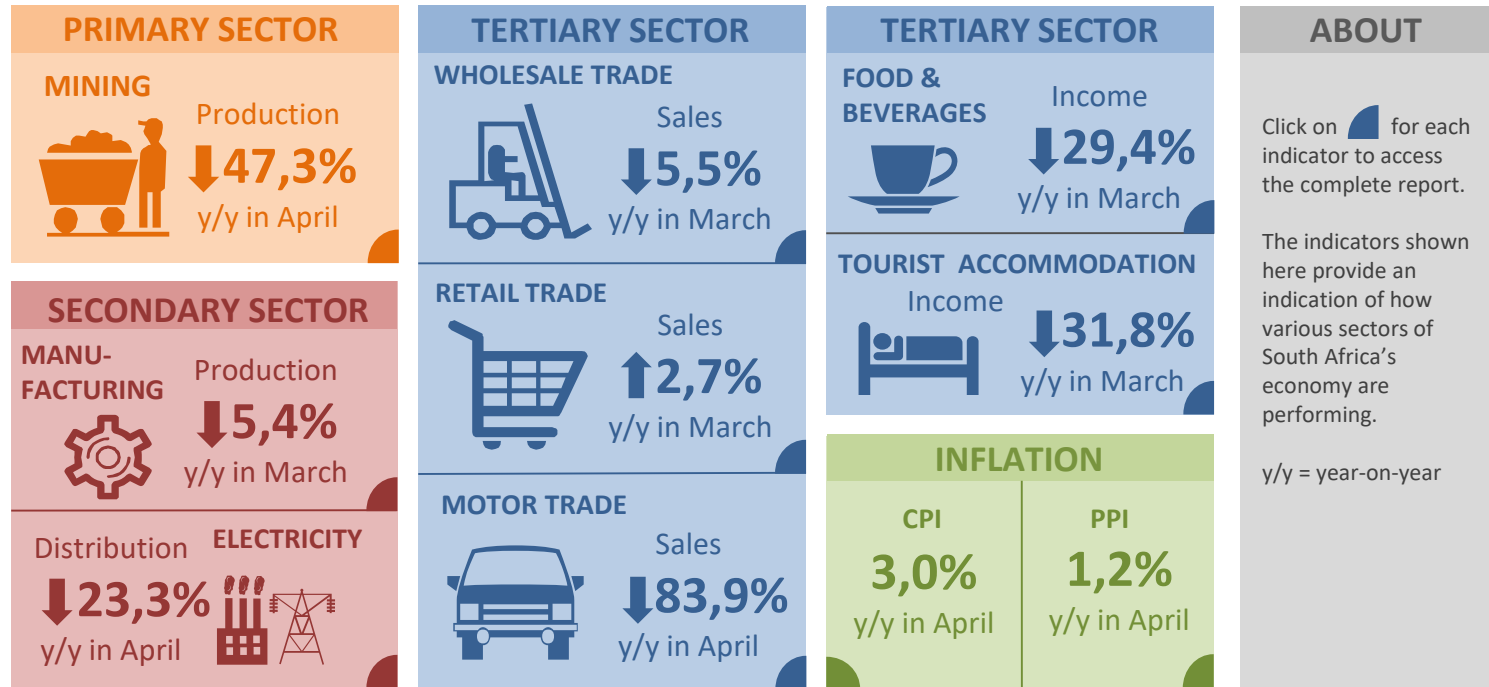
The latest on youth unemployment



Stats SA breaks down all the figures (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

The recession deepens as GDP falls by 2,0%

The South African economy recorded its third straight quarter of economic decline, falling by 2,0% in the first quarter of 2020. This followed a contraction of -1,4% and -0,8% in the fourth and third quarters of 2019, respectively.

The results cover the period 1 January 2020 to 31 March 2020, which includes the beginning of the COVID-19 lockdown in South Africa and some of its trading partners.

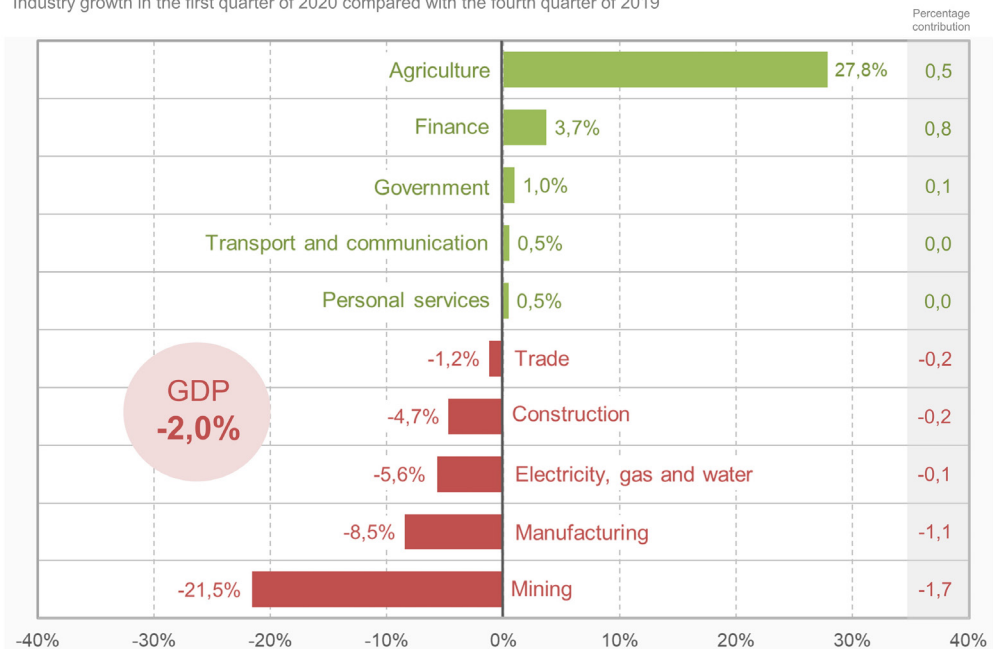
Mining and manufacturing were the most significant contributors to the economy's poor performance.

The agriculture industry recorded a particularly good quarter. A rise in the production of field crops, horticultural products and animal products boosted activity.

Read more [here](#).

How did South African industries perform in the first quarter of 2020?

Industry growth in the first quarter of 2020 compared with the fourth quarter of 2019



Seasonally adjusted and annualised Source: Gross domestic product (GDP), 1st quarter 2020

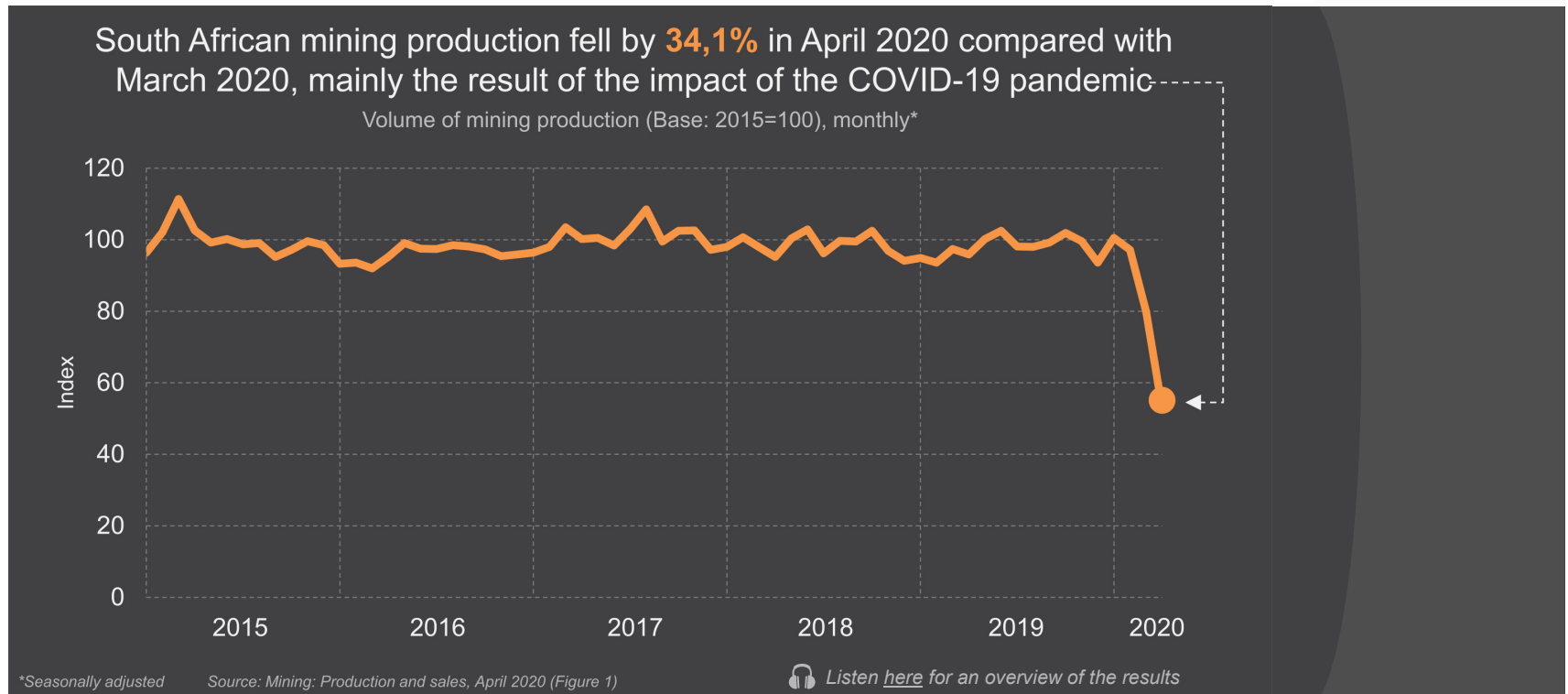


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Infographic of the month



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Provincial snapshot

Apple production is concentrated here

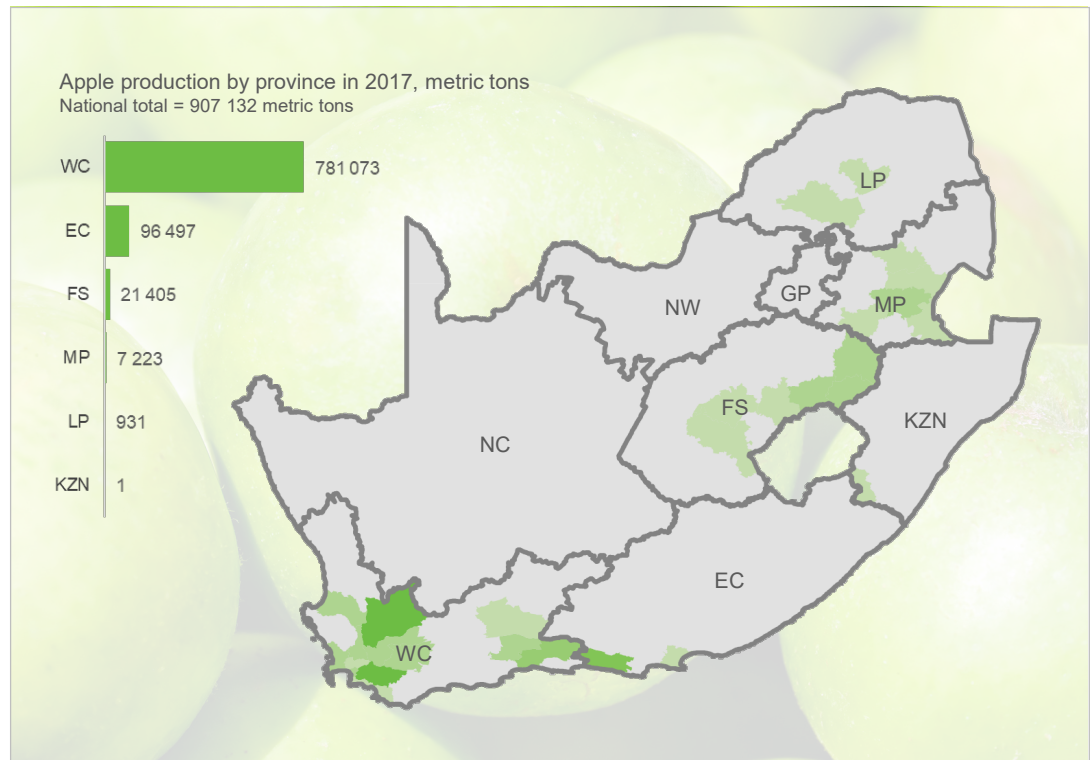
Two Western Cape municipalities produce the bulk of our apples. Theewaterskloof was responsible for 40% of national production in 2017. Witzenberg contributed 36%.

This is according to data from the Census of Commercial Agriculture, released in March.

The third biggest producing municipality was Kou-Kamma in Eastern Cape, responsible for 11% of national production.

Commercial farms in Western Cape were responsible for just over 781 000 tons of apples. Eastern Cape was the second biggest producer, followed by Free State.

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



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