

Mbalo Brief

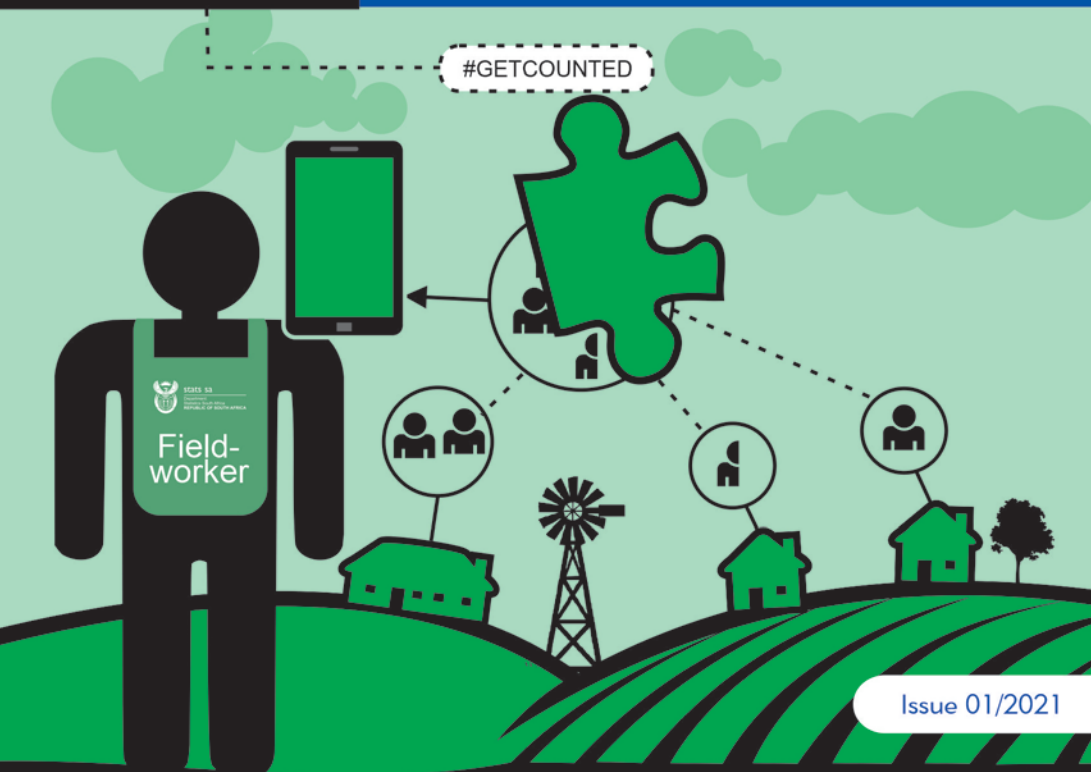


the missing piece of the puzzle

February 2021

CENSUS 2021

#GETCOUNTED



Issue 01/2021

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS



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Editor's comment

On 21 January 2021, the country received the sad news of the passing of Minister in the Presidency, Mr Jackson Mthembu due to COVID-19 complications. Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) was one of the government departments that the Minister was responsible for. According to the Statistician-General (Head of Statistics South Africa) Mr Risenga Maluleke, the Minister reminded us that "official statistics represent a reality about our people, the places they inhabit and endless potential and possibilities that exist for them." The minister was a great asset to the organisation and during his tenure, he contributed towards the growth and achievements of Stats SA. Thus, his absence will be greatly felt. In memory of Minister Mthembu, let us continue to fight against COVID-19 and emulate him by putting our nation first. If every individual adheres to the COVID-19 safety regulations, we will soon overcome the pandemic. Let us continue to hope for better things to come.

In this month's issue of *Mbalo Brief*, our educational article is based on the report titled Employment. The article is derived from the *Quarterly labour force survey (QLFS)* Quarter 3: 2020. Also have a look at our monthly crossword puzzle and solutions for the November 2020 puzzle.

Articles published in this issue are based on results of industry surveys conducted for the months ranging from November to December 2020, such as, Mining, Retail trade sales and Land transport survey, to name a few.

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

Enjoy the read.



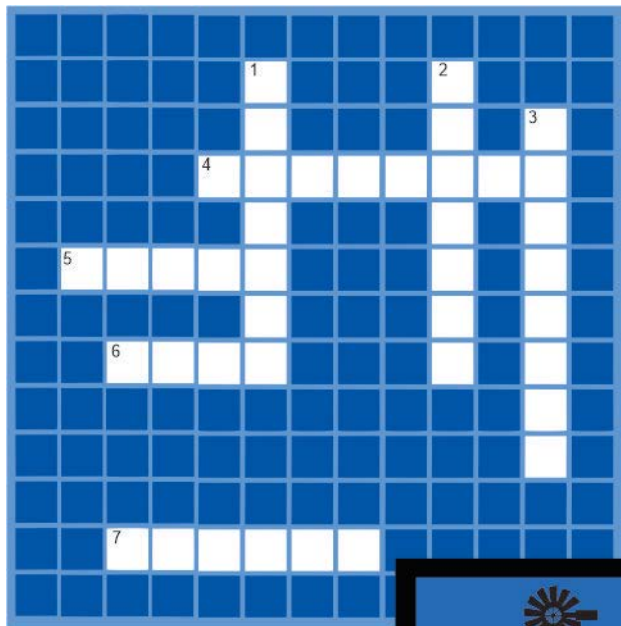


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Crossword puzzle





Across

4. According to the educational article, did employment in Quarter 3 of 2020 increase or decrease?
5. Who is the recently elected president of the United States of America? Fill in surname only.
6. True or false? The consumer price index (CPI) for December 2020 recorded a 16-year low.
7. The ... care workers are first in line to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Fill in missing word.

Down

1. The ... and business services industry recorded the highest increase in employment in quarter 3 of 2020. Fill in missing word.
2. Which government department will be conducting a population count (census) in South Africa in 2021?
3. In which month did the rand turn 60 years old?

Solutions for November 2020 puzzle

Across

2. Mourning
5. Nomcebo Zikode
6. False

Down

1. Tsakani Maluleke
3. Maradona
4. One



Educational article on employment

1. Introduction

It's almost a year since the beginning of lockdown in South Africa due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, so much has changed. The way people work, do business, study, shop and travel has taken on a new meaning. In the same breath, many have lost their jobs due to one reason or the other while others have started new jobs. This article takes a look at the results of the *Quarterly labour force survey* (QLFS) (statistical release P0211) which is a household-based sample survey conducted by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) in Quarter 3 of 2020 (July to September 2020). The survey covers labour market activities of persons aged 15–64 years who live in South Africa. The report presents the key findings of the QLFS conducted from July to September 2020 (Quarter 3 of 2020). Although the survey focuses on employment and unemployment statistics during the period under review, this article will only highlight the results for employment. Our April 2021 issue of *Mbalo Brief* will cover the unemployment section. The article will further focus on employment in the formal and informal industries and on employment by occupation and province. Finally, the article will have an additional analysis on employment in relation to COVID-19.

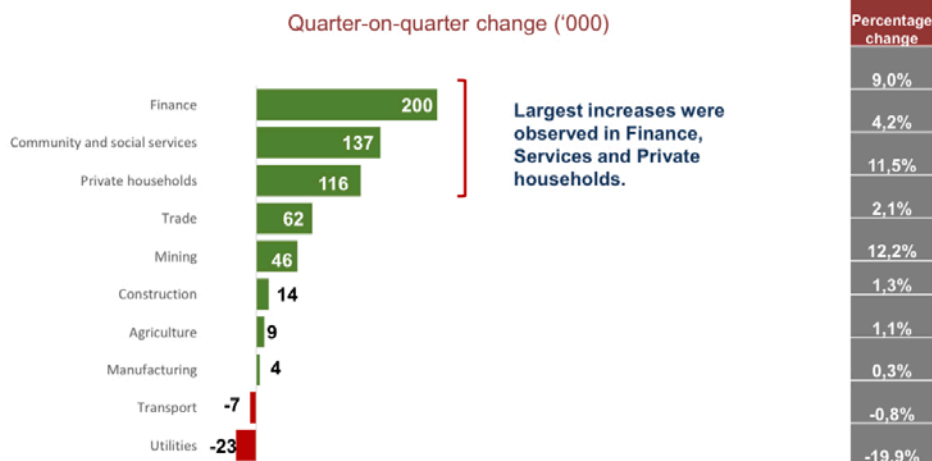


2. Employment

Figure 1 – Employment changes by industry

Employment gains were observed across all industries with the exception of Transport and Utilities.

Employment changes by industry



In the third quarter of 2020 (July to September 2020) employment increased by 543 000, following a decline of 2,2 million in the previous quarter (April – June 2020). The results further show that employment has always increased in the third quarter of each year since 2014. Moreover, this is the largest increase in employment since the inception of the quarterly labour force survey (QLFS) in 2008.

Between Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 of 2020, the number of employed persons increased in eight of the ten industries, with the largest increase recorded in Finance (200 000), followed by Community and social services (137 000) and Private households (116 000). The only decreases in employment were recorded in Utilities [electricity, gas and water supply] (23 000) and Transport (7 000).

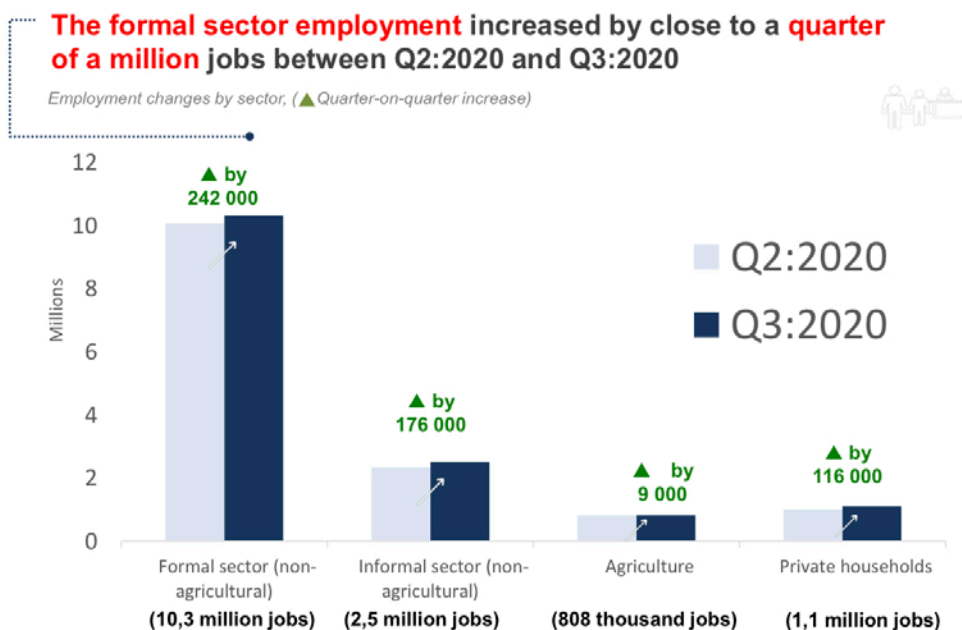


2.1 Employment by industry

Although employment recorded the largest increase since the inception of QLFS, there were some industries that saw a decrease. In Quarter 3 of 2020, a net decrease of 1,7 million in total employment was recorded compared to the same period in 2019. This was largely due to losses in the number of people employed in the Trade (400 000), Manufacturing (300 000), Community and social services (298 000), Construction (259 000) and Private households (165 000) industries.

2.2.1 Industries in the formal sector

Figure 2 – Employment changes by sector (Quarter-on-quarter changes)



Employment in the formal sector increased by 242 000 in Quarter 3 of 2020 compared to Quarter 2 of 2020. This was mainly driven by the Finance and other business services (139 000), Community and social services (76 000) and Mining (49 000) industries.



In Quarter 3 of 2020, a net loss of 908 000 jobs in the formal sector employment was recorded. This was mainly driven by Manufacturing (235 000), Trade (176 000), Construction (169 000) and Community and social services (161 000).

2.2.2 Industries in the informal sector

In Quarter 3 of 2020, employment increased by 176 000 in the informal sector compared to a decrease of 640 000 in Quarter 2 of 2020.

The gains in informal sector employment were driven by the Finance (62 000), Community and social services (61 000) and Trade (52 000) industries.

When comparing Quarter 3 of 2020 to Quarter 2 of 2019, employment in the informal sector decreased in the Trade (223 000), Community and social services (137 000), Construction (90 000), Manufacturing (66 000), Transport (20 000) and Mining (8 000) industries. During the same period, employment gains were recorded in Finance (3 000) and Utilities (2 000).

2.3 Employment by occupation

The largest increases in employment were observed in the Elementary occupations (up by 194 000), followed by Domestic worker (up by 119 000), Technician (up by 104 000), Sales and services (up by 99 000), Clerical (up by 56 000), Craft and related trade (up by 54 000), and Managerial (up by 25 000) occupations in Quarter 3 of 2020 compared to Quarter 2 of 2020.

Year-on-year losses in employment were mainly driven by Sales and services occupations (376 000), followed by Elementary (374 000), Craft and related trade (337 000), Clerk (169 000), Domestic worker (163 000), Plant and machine operator (127 000) and Manager (124 000) occupations. Professional (57 000) was the only occupation that recorded gains in employment in Quarter 3 of 2020 compared to Quarter 3 of 2019.

2.4 Employment by province

Between Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 of 2020, the number of employed persons increased in all nine provinces. The largest employment increases were recorded in Limpopo (up by 116 000), KwaZulu-Natal (up by 92 000), Free State (up by 86 000), North West (up by 57 000) and Mpumalanga (up by 49 000). Although Northern Cape recorded the least increase in the number of



employed persons at 31 000, it is the province with the second highest percentage gain in employment at 12,3% between the two quarters.

In Quarter 3 of 2020, the largest decreases in employment were recorded in Gauteng (down by 555 000), KwaZulu-Natal (down by 285 000), Western Cape (down by 277 000), Eastern Cape (down by 190 000) and Limpopo (down by 169 000) compared to Quarter 3 of 2019. North West recorded the least decrease in the number of employed persons at 29 000. Eastern Cape had the biggest change in employment with a decline of 13,5%, followed by Limpopo with a decline of 11,8%.

2. 5 Conditions of employment

Between Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 of 2020, the number of employees with contracts of a permanent nature increased by 269 000, followed by those with contracts of a limited duration and contracts of unspecified duration, which increased by 179 000 and 155 000, respectively.

The year-on-year comparisons indicate that the number of employees with permanent employment contracts decreased by 235 000, and the number of employees with contracts of unspecified duration and contracts of limited duration decreased by 942 000 and 239 000, respectively.

Furthermore, employees with permanent employment contracts had the highest gains in employment for quarter-on-quarter and the least job losses for year-on-year compared to employees in other forms of employment contracts.

3. Additional analysis on employment in relation to COVID-19

In a quest to protect South African citizens from the novel coronavirus, the government announced a national lockdown, which brought about a shutdown of the economy, which in turn resulted in a shock in the labour market and a big change in the way people went about doing their work. Some additional questions were included in the Quarter 3: 2020 questionnaire to capture these changes. These included whether people were working from their usual places of work or working from home; whether they continued to receive salaries during lockdown; whether they received full or reduced salaries; whether they would be returning to the same



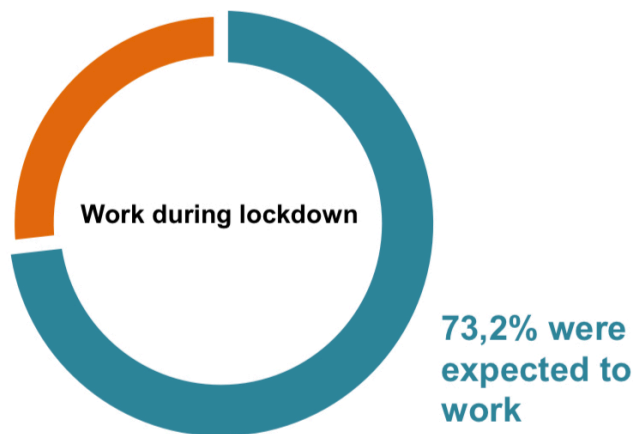
jobs/businesses after the lockdown; and whether they thought they might lose their jobs or that their businesses would close in the foreseeable future due to COVID-19. This section of the report focuses on indicators derived from these additional questions that were asked of only those who were employed.

Of the 14,7 million persons who were employed in Quarter 3 of 2020, almost three-quarters (73,2%) were expected to work during the national lockdown by the companies/organisations they work for, although mainly off-site.

Figure 3 – Percentage distribution of those who worked during lockdown

Of the 14,7 million persons who were employed in Q3: 2020, 7 in ten (73,2%) were expected to work during the national lockdown by the companies/organisations they work for.

Place of work for persons who did any work by occupation, Q3: 2020



There were 10,6 million (73,2%) persons who were expected to work by their companies and actually did some work during the national lockdown in Quarter 3 of 2020. These were predominantly men in most industries, except in the Community and social services (where 42,2% were male and 57,8% were female) and Private households industries (where 22,2% were male



and 77,8% were female). About nine in ten people (91,0%) employed within the Construction industry who worked during the lockdown were men.

Some of the people with jobs indicated that they were expected to work during the national lockdown in Quarter 3 of 2020 but could not do any work during that period. About 72% of these people cited the national lockdown as the main reason for not actually working. The 72% contributed 4,6 percentage points decrease in Quarter 3 compared to Quarter 2. Health reasons were cited by 13,3% of the employed people while the rest indicated that they did not work due to family responsibility (3,2%) or shift work arrangements (11,9%) in Quarter 3 of 2020.

The majority of those who worked during the national lockdown worked from their usual place of work in both Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 of 2020. A total of 17,0% of the employees indicated that they worked from home in Quarter 2 of 2020, and by Quarter 3 of 2020, the share had decreased to 10,9%. The proportion of those who worked from home was higher in Gauteng and Western Cape than in the other provinces, 14,8% and 13,7% respectively. There was a decrease in the proportion of workers who worked from home across all provinces in Quarter 3 compared to Quarter 2 of 2020.

The share of those who worked from home was higher among those in Professional (33,6%) and Managerial (24,4%) occupations, although there was a decline between the two quarters, indicating access to tools of trade to facilitate work from home for these workers. Declines are observed among all occupations, except among Plant and machine operators, where a 0,4 of a percentage point increase was observed. Domestic workers and Plant and machine operators were the least likely to work from home at 0,2% and 1,9%, respectively.

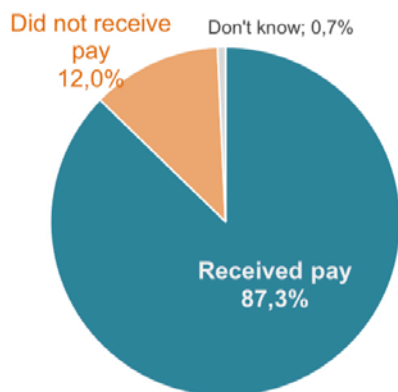


Figure 4 – Percentage of those who received pay during lockdown

87,3% of the employed continued to receive pay during lockdown

Q3:2020

18,9% of those who received pay during lockdown were paid reduced salaries.



In Quarter 3 of 2020, 87,3% of all employed persons indicated that they continued to receive pay/salary from their jobs/businesses during the lockdown. This is 6 percentage points difference compared to Quarter 2 of 2020. The proportion of employed persons who continued to receive pay/salary during the lockdown was higher among adults than among youth. However, the gap between youth and adults narrowed between the two quarters with the proportion among youth being 1,2 percentage points lower than that among adults.

Of those who continued to receive pay during the lockdown, some had a reduction in their pay/salary during the lockdown. There seems to be some relationship between the level of education and reduction in pay/salary. Those with higher levels of education had higher chances of receiving full salary than those with lower levels of education in both Quarters 2 and Quarter 3 of 2020. Almost nine in every ten employed graduates (89,8%) continued to receive full salaries in Quarter 3 of 2020, compared to 79,3% of those with less than matric as their highest level of education.



Those who were employed during the national lockdown were also asked if they would be returning to the same job after lockdown, and 96,0% indicated that they will; 1,6% indicated that they will not return to the same job; and 2,4% were not sure. In Quarter 3, of those who stated that they were not returning to the same job or were not sure were also asked if they thought they might lose their jobs or if their businesses would be closed due to COVID-19 in the four weeks succeeding the survey interview, 24,3% indicated that they thought they would. This was 1,6 percentage points lower than in Quarter 2 of 2020.

4. Conclusion

The number of employed persons increased in Quarter 3 of 2020 compared to Quarter 2. Furthermore, this was the largest increase in employment since the inception of the quarterly labour force survey (QLFS in 2008). The largest employment increases were observed in the formal sector, followed by the informal sector, the Private households and the Agricultural sectors, while the largest increases in employment by occupation were observed in the Elementary occupations, followed by Domestic workers. The province that recorded the largest increase in employment was Limpopo. Finally, when analysing employment in relation to COVID-19, almost three-quarters of those who were employed in Quarter 3 of 2020 were expected to work during the national lockdown by the companies/organisations they work for, although mainly off-site.



Primary industries

Mining: Production and sales

Mining production decreases

South Africa is home to some of the deepest underground mines in the world. Mponeng Gold Mine is one of the mines regarded as the top deepest underground mine in the world. The mine is located in Johannesburg with an operating depth of 4 kilometres below the surface. The mine was commissioned in 1986 and was then known as Western Deep Levels South Shaft or the No. 1 Shaft, and renamed as the Mponeng Gold Mine in 1999. The Mponeng mine produced 244 000 ounces (oz) of gold in 2019 and is expected to be in operation at least until 2027. Presented in this article is a summary of the results from the Mining: Production and sales release for November 2020.

Mining production decreased by 11,6% year-on-year in November 2020 (**see Table A**). The largest negative contributors were:

- iron ore (-35,3% and contributing -3,9 percentage points);
- PGMs (-16,1%, contributing -3,4 percentage points);
- manganese ore (-15,9%, contributing -1,5 percentage points); and
- coal (-5,9%, contributing -1,5 percentage points).

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

	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-22,7	-6,2	-3,4	-2,4	-5,9	-11,6
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-0,5	17,1	7,0	-0,8	-0,7	-5,7
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	-26,2	6,3	25,3	37,3	17,4	6,3

^{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 15,1% year-on-year in November 2020 (see **Table B**). The largest positive contributors were:

- PGMs (37,6% and contributing 11,0 percentage points);
- iron ore (28,8%, contributing 3,5 percentage points);
- 'other' non-metallic minerals (80,3%, contributing 2,5 percentage points); and
- manganese ore (29,5%, contributing 1,6 percentage points).

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

	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-13,4	10,4	19,7	26,8	31,2	15,1
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-3,3	26,4	12,7	4,8	2,6	-4,4
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	-29,4	-3,0	16,9	47,2	34,8	21,7

^{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



Secondary industries

Manufacturing: Production and sales

Manufacturing production decreases by 3,5% in November 2020

South Africa's manufacturing industry has received an investment that will boost the industry. On 2 February 2021, the Ford Motor Company announced an investment injection of US \$1,05 billion (R15,8 billion) into its South African manufacturing operations. This investment will contribute to the increase of vehicle produced from 168 000 to 200 000 at Ford's Silverton Assembly Plant, and supporting production of the all-new Ford Ranger pickup truck for the domestic and international markets. The plant will also manufacture Volkswagen (VW) pickup trucks as part of the Ford-VW partnership. This is the biggest investment in Ford's 97-year history in South Africa. It also represents one of the largest-ever investments in the South African automotive industry, boosting Ford's production capability and creating new jobs. Presented in this article is a summary of the results from the release on Manufacturing: production and sales for November 2020.

Manufacturing production decreased by 3,5% in November 2020 compared with November 2019 (**see Table C**). The largest contributions were made by the following divisions:

- petroleum, chemical products, rubber and plastic products (-9,6%, contributing -2,1 percentage points);
- food and beverages (-2,9%, contributing -0,9 of a percentage point); and
- basic iron and steel, non-ferrous metal products, metal products and machinery (-3,9%, contributing -0,7 of a percentage point).



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

	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-13,2	-9,6	-10,4	-2,0	-3,4	-3,5
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	21,7	5,7	3,6	2,8	3,2	-1,3
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	-28,7	-1,1	21,7	33,2	17,4	8,9

^{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 Green Building Council South Africa (GBCSA)'s plan to accelerate the promotion and transition of a sustainable built environment which use renewable energy and materials not harmful to the environment and humans is on track thus far. The GBCSA announced on 30 October 2020 during virtual Green Building Convention that it has reached a 600-mark in Green Star certification of green buildings in South Africa. The GBCSA was formed in 2007 and in 2009 the South Africa's first green certification was awarded. Some of the benefits for green buildings is that they minimise global warming (an increase in the earth's temperature due to greenhouse effects caused by increased levels of carbon dioxide and other pollutants) and save energy. Presented in this article is a summary of the results of the Selected building statistics of the private sector survey for the month of November 2020.

The value of recorded building plans passed (at current prices) decreased by 34,5% (-R35 356,8 million) during January to November 2020 compared with January to November 2019 (**see Table D**). Decreases were recorded for non-residential buildings (-35,4% or -R7 652,3 million), residential buildings (-34,3% or -R18 109,6 million) and additions and alterations (-33,9% or -R9 594,8 million)



The largest contributions to the total decrease of 34,5% (-R35 356,8 million) were made by Gauteng (contributing -19,3 percentage points or -R19 851,5 million), Western Cape (contributing -4,9 percentage points or -R5 023,8 million), KwaZulu-Natal (contributing -4,5 percentage points or -R4 568,8 million) and Eastern Cape (contributing -3,2 percentage points or -R3 332,0 million).

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

Estimates at current prices	January to November 2019	January to November 2020	Difference in value between January to November 2019 and January to November 2020	% change between January to November 2019 and January to November 2020
	R'000	R'000	R'000	
Residential buildings	52 727 674	34 618 081	-18 109 593	-34,3
-Dwelling houses	28 628 866	21 781 072	-6 847 794	-23,9
-Flats and townhouses	23 328 021	12 537 807	-10 790 214	-46,3
-Other residential buildings	770 787	299 202	-471 585	-61,2
Non-residential buildings	21 596 508	13 944 162	-7 652 346	-35,4
Additions and alterations	28 287 521	18 692 686	-9 594 835	-33,9
Total	102 611 703	67 254 929	-35 356 774	-34,5

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 generation and distribution decreases

According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), an agency emphasizing the promotion of renewable energy, of all energy sources in the electricity sector, Renewables had the highest rate of generation growth in 2019. Renewables-based electricity generation increased by 6,5%, about 440 TeraWatt Hour (TWh). In view of this, the 13th Africa Energy Indaba Conference will discuss, debate and seek solutions to enable adequate energy generation across the African continent. The conference will be held virtually from 1 to 5 March 2021. The conference will be attended by industry experts, energy users, government officials and energy manufacturers among others. Presented in this article is a summary of the results from the release on Electricity: generated and available for November 2020.

Electricity generation (production) decreased by 2,4% year-on-year in November 2020 (**see Table E**).

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

	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-5,8	-4,5	-2,4	-3,1	-2,8	-2,4
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	7,8	1,2	1,3	-0,5	0,1	0,5
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	-10,0	1,7	9,0	10,2	4,3	1,0

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

Electricity distribution (consumption) decreased by 2,1% year-on-year in November 2020 (**see Table F**).



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

	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-4,8	-3,4	-0,4	-2,1	-2,5	-2,1
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	8,2	1,9	1,7	-1,0	0,1	0,3
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	-9,9	2,6	10,5	11,5	4,9	0,9

^{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

Wholesale trade sales decrease

For several years, the South African textile and clothing industry has been unable to compete with the flood of garments from international countries into South African retail shops. The local textile and clothing producers will now be competitive with international producers after local retailers and retail owners pledged to increase procurement of clothing from local producers. This pledge was initiated in order to reduce a dependency on Chinese imports and to secure a supply chain disrupted by COVID-19 restrictions. The companies have signed an industry plan that includes a target to source 65% of their goods from local manufacturers in the next decade. This local investment in the sector will assist the industry to generate revenue and competitiveness. Presented in this article is a summary of the results from the Wholesale trade sale statistics for November 2020.

Wholesale trade sales decreased by 1,1% in November 2020 compared with November 2019 (see **Table G**). The main negative contributor was dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (-25,0% and contributing -5,8 percentage points). The main positive contributor to the annual change in November was dealers in 'other' household goods except precious stones (22,5% and contributing 2,8 percentage points).

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

	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-6,2	-5,5	-3,4	0,7	-3,8	-1,1
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	13,5	9,3	-0,3	1,0	-0,2	-0,2
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	-24,1	3,8	21,8	29,0	10,5	3,5

^{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 decrease by 4,0% in November 2020

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, garlic and ginger have been in great demand. The prices for both ginger and garlic started to escalate excessively due to an increase in demand and shortage of supply among others. The excessive price increase in garlic and ginger prompted the National Consumer Commission (NCC) to launch investigations into seven retailers for allegations of price gouging (an unfair or unreasonable price increase that does not correspond to or is not equivalent to the increase in the cost of providing that good or service) following an outcry by consumers. Many consumers use garlic and ginger as immune boosters and perceive them as treatment for COVID-19. The World Health Organization (WHO) indicated that there is no evidence that eating garlic and ginger has protected people from COVID-19. Presented in this article is a summary of the results from the Retail trade sales statistics for the month of November 2020.

Retail trade sales decreased by 4,0% year-on-year in November 2020 (**see Table H**). The largest negative annual growth rates were recorded for:

- all 'other' retailers (-26,1%); and
- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (-5,6%).

The main negative contributors to the 4,0% decrease were:

- all 'other' retailers (contributing -3,2 percentage points);
- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (contributing -1,1 percentage points); and
- general dealers (contributing -1,1 percentage points).



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

	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-7,2	-8,6	-4,1	-2,4	-2,3	-4,0
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	6,0	0,0	4,4	1,1	-0,5	1,8
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	-23,2	8,4	17,4	24,0	7,0	4,3

^{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 decrease

Thanks to the lockdown, the number of vehicles reported as stolen or hijacked in South Africa have decreased. According to the latest Tracker data records obtained from their more than 1,1 million installed vehicle base, vehicle crime statistics for the period July to December 2020 decreased by 13% nationally compared to the same period in 2019. Moreover, the data indicates that theft decreased by 21%, while hijacking decreased by 5%. One of the reasons for this decrease could be that fewer vehicles are on the road due to the curfews that have been imposed since the beginning of lockdown and more people are working from home, so they spend less time on the road. However, motorists are still urged to be vigilant at all times. Presented in this article is a summary of the results from the Motor trade sales for the month of November 2020.

Motor trade sales decreased by 4,3% year-on-year in November 2020 (**see Table I**). The largest negative annual growth rates were recorded for:

- fuel sales (-17,0%);
- convenience store sales (-11,0%); and
- workshop income (-6,5%).

Motor trade sales decreased by 4,2% in the three months ended November 2020 compared with the three months ended November 2019. The main



negative contributor to this decrease was fuel sales (-15,8%, contributing -4,6 percentage points).

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

	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug -20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	12,6	-13,9	-11,1	-0,5	-7,4	-4,3
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	58,1	3,4	6,7	2,7	-2,1	1,7
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	-44,3	11,3	71,1	75,4	25,5	7,5

^{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 total income decreases by 36,3% in November 2020

The escalating food prices is affecting the welfare of the poorest households in South Africa. According to National Poverty Lines 2020 report published on 13 August 2020 by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) in which three cost of living measurements are revised as at April 2020, the South African household need at least R585 a month to be able to afford enough food to meet their minimum required daily intake for survival. The lower-bound poverty line was revised to R840 and upper-bound poverty line is R1 268 per person per month. Presented in this article is a summary of the results from the Food and beverages statistics for the month of November 2020.

Total income generated by the food and beverages industry decreased by 36,3% in November 2020 compared with November 2019 (**see Table J**). The largest decrease was recorded for bar sales (-54,3%).

In November 2020, the main contributors to the 36,3% year-on-year decrease were:

- restaurants and coffee shops (-51,3%, contributing -25,8 percentage points); and



- catering services (-50,3%, contributing -8,2 percentage points).

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

Type of income	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20
Food sales	-56,5	-47,4	-40,4	-37,7	-29,5	-35,4
Bar sales	-95,6	-93,9	-85,2	-60,4	-53,0	-54,3
Other income	-73,0	-65,7	-74,3	-25,6	-16,1	-17,3
Total	-59,6	-50,9	-44,1	-39,2	-30,9	-36,3

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

Tourist accommodation

The total income for the tourist accommodation industry continues to decrease

The tourism industry can finally breathe a sigh of relief after the President announced the easing of some lockdown level 3 restrictions on 1 February 2021. Between international travel bans, curfews, venue capacity limitations and closure of beaches, it was increasingly challenging for South Africa's tourism industry to continue trading. This is reflected in the Tourist accommodation release which shows that the industry has been recording monthly decreases of more than 60%, even from as far back as June 2020. Thus, the easing of restrictions gives the industry an opportunity to recoup losses and hopefully operate in a more conducive trading environment. Presented in this article is a summary of the results from the Tourist accommodation release for November 2020.

The total income for the tourist accommodation industry decreased by 65,5% in November 2020 compared with November 2019 (**see Table K**). Income from accommodation decreased by 66,8% year-on-year in November 2020, the result of a 52,7% decrease in the number of stay unit



nights sold and a 29,7% decrease in the average income per stay unit night sold.

In November 2020, all accommodation types recorded large negative year-on-year growth in income from accommodation. The largest year-on-year decreases in income from accommodation were reported by:

- hotels (-69,6%, contributing -47,6 percentage points); and
- 'other' accommodation (-62,3%, contributing -16,9 percentage points).

Income from accommodation decreased by 68,8% in the three months ended November 2020 compared with the three months ended November 2019. The main contributors to this decrease were:

- hotels (-72,8%, contributing -47,6 percentage points); and
- 'other' accommodation (-62,4%, contributing -18,8 percentage points).

Table K – Year-on-year percentage change in tourist accommodation statistics for November 2020

	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20
Stay units available	0,2	-0,2	0,1	0,0	0,1	-0,2
Stay unit nights sold	-92,1	-88,2	-79,5	-65,9	-54,3	-52,7
Average income per stay unit nights sold	-26,6	-23,3	-14,3	-21,4	-26,6	-29,7
Income from accommodation	-94,2	-91,0	-82,5	-73,2	-66,4	-66,8
Total income ^{1/}	-95,0	-88,6	-80,6	-72,0	-66,3	-65,5

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

470 701 travellers passed through South African ports of entry/exit in November 2020

South Africa's tourist arrival numbers are still lower today than a year ago (comparison made between November 2019 and November 2020). The tourism and migration data show that the country has shed off roughly 80% of tourists and travellers who passed through South Africa's ports of entry. For instance, most of those that came into the country in November 2020 came for holiday purpose 84 231 compared to 826 580 that visited the country for the same purpose in November 2019. Presented in this article is a summary of the results from the Tourism and migration release for November 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 470 701 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry/exit in November 2020 (**see Table L**). These travellers were made up of 178 632 South African residents and 292 069 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 91 418 arrivals, 87 179 departures and 35 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 152 694, 136 277 and 3 098, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in November 2019 and November 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 79,5% (from 445 039 in November 2019 to 91 418 in November 2020). Departures decreased by 81,2% (from 464 103 in November 2019 to 87 179 in November 2020) and transits decreased by 95,2% (from 736 in November 2019 to 35 in November 2020). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 88,6% (from 1 336 068 in November 2019 to 152 694 in November 2020), departures decreased by 88,6% (from 1 193 490 in November 2019 to 136 277 in November 2020) and transits decreased by 95,2% (from 64 976 in November 2019 to 3 098 in November 2020).



A comparison between the movements in October 2020 and November 2020 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and travellers in transit increased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 18,4% (from 77 240 in October 2020 to 91 418 in November 2020), departures increased by 8,9% (from 80 018 in October 2020 to 87 179 in November 2020) and transits increased by 169,2% (from 13 in October 2020 to 35 in November 2020). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 23,0% (from 124 165 in October 2020 to 152 694 in November 2020), departures increased by 14,6% (from 118 952 in October 2020 to 136 277 in November 2020), and transits increased by 276,0% (from 824 in October 2020 to 3 098 in November 2020).

In November 2020, 33 833 (22,2%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 118 861 (77,8%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i). Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in November 2020 but did not depart in November 2020 [41 871 (35,2%)];
- ii). Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in November 2020 and left in November 2020 [29 775 (25,1%)]; and
- iii). Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in November 2020 [47 215 (39,7%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In November 2020, there were 17 765 (14,9%) same-day visitors and 101 096 (85,1%) tourists. Between November 2019 and November 2020, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 95,6% (from 402 494 in November 2019 to 17 765 in November 2020) and that of tourists decreased by 88,1% (from 850 537 in November 2019 to 101 096 in November 2020).

Mode of travel

In November 2020, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 327 503 (69,6%) of the 470 701 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 139 237 (29,6%). Compared to the use of air and land transport, a smaller number of travellers, 3 961 (0,8%) used sea transport. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 36 583 (40,0%) came by air, 54 766 (59,9%) came by road and 69 (0,1%) arrived by sea transport. For departures, 31 105 (35,7%) used air, 55 900



(64,1%) used road and 174 (0,2%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 35 (100,0%) used air transport. In the case of foreign travellers, 37 409 (24,5%) arrived by air, 113 517 (74,3%) came by road and 1 768 (1,2%) arrived by sea transport. When departing South Africa, 31 007 (22,8%) foreign travellers left by air, 103 320 (75,8%) left by road and 1 950 (1,4%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 3 098 (100,0%) used air transport.

The results further show that of the 17 765 same-day visitors, majority, 15 885 (89,4%) arrived in the country by road, 1 879 (10,6%) flew into the country; and 1 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea transport. Information on tourists shows that 71 812 (71,0%) used road transport, 29 277 (29,0%) came by air transport and 7 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea transport.

Purpose of visit

In November 2020, the majority of tourists, 84 231 (83,3%), were in South Africa for holiday compared to 14 810 (14,6%); 1 667 (1,6%) and 388 (0,4%) who were in South Africa for business, study and for medical treatment respectively.

Sex and age distribution

In November 2020, there were 75 085 (74,3%) male and 26 011 (25,7%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 10 021 (64,6%) male tourists and 5 499 (35,4%) female tourists. There were 63 020 (76,5%) male and 19 370 (23,5%) female tourists from SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 1 859 (63,3%) male and 1 078 (36,7%) female tourists.

The results further show that the majority of tourists were aged between 35 and 44 years [36 160 (35,8%)]. Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results show that the highest proportion of tourists from 'other' African countries [926 (31,5%)] and those from overseas countries [3 569 (23,0%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years, whereas those from SADC countries [31 730 (38,5%)] were aged 35 and 44 years.



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

Travel direction	November 2019	October 2020	November 2020	% change between October to November 2020	% change between Nov 2019 and Nov 2020
Total	3 504 412	401 212	470 701	17,3%	-86,6%
South African residents	909 878	157 271	178 632	13,6%	-80,4%
Arrivals	445 039	77 240	91 418	18,4%	-79,5%
Departures	464 103	80 018	87 179	8,9%	-81,2%
Transit	736	13	35	169,2%	-95,2%
Foreign travellers	2 594 534	243 941	292 069	19,7%	-88,7%
Arrivals	1 336 068	124 165	152 694	23,0%	-88,6%
Departures	1 193 490	118 952	136 277	14,6%	-88,6%
Transit	64 976	824	3 098	276,0%	-95,2%
Foreign arrivals	1 336 068	124 165	152 694	23,0%	-88,6%
Non-visitors	83 037	37 387	33 833	-9,5%	-59,3%
Visitors	1 253 031	86 778	118 861	37,0%	-90,5%
Visitors	1 253 031	86 778	118 861	37,0%	-90,5%
Arrivals only	304 257	27 464	41 871	52,5%	-86,2%
Single trips	475 021	19 335	29 775	54,0%	-93,7%
Multiple trips	473 753	39 979	47 215	18,1%	-90,0%
Visitors	1 253 031	86 778	118 861	37,0%	-90,5%
Same-day	402 494	12 790	17 765	38,9%	-95,6%
Overnight (Tourists)	850 537	73 988	101 096	36,6%	-88,1%

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

Total number of civil summonses issued for debt decreases

Many students who wish to study further apply for student loans which they have to repay when working or make a repayment agreement. Some students are unable to repay and acquire debt through student loans. Converse (sneaker and apparel company), is pledging R1 million to wipe out student debt through a #kickthedebt campaign. The campaign runs from 3 February to 3 March 2021 and registered students between the ages of 13 and 28 years in different career fields qualify. This is because some credit bureaus treat student loans as any other loans and failing to make timely repayments might affect students credit score or lead to civil summonses for debt. Presented in this article is a summary of the results of the civil cases for debt release for November 2020.

The total number of civil summonses issued for debt decreased by 13,5% in the three months ended November 2020 compared with the three months ended November 2019 (see Table M). The largest contributors to the 13,5% decrease in civil summonses issued were:

- 'other' debts (contributing -3,5 percentage points);
- services (contributing -3,3 percentage points);
- money lent (contributing -2,7 percentage points); and
- promissory notes (contributing -2,6 percentage points).

The number of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total number of civil judgements recorded for debt decreased by 19,6% in the three months ended November 2020 compared with the three months ended November 2019. The largest contributors to the 19,6% decrease were civil judgements relating to:

- 'other' debts (contributing -5,5 percentage points);
- services (contributing -4,1 percentage points); and
- money lent (contributing -3,3 percentage points).

The value of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total value of civil judgements recorded for debt decreased by 3,6% in the three months ended November 2020 compared with the three months ended November 2019. The largest negative contributor to the 3,6%



decrease was promissory notes (contributing -4,3 percentage points), while the largest positive contributor was rent (contributing 3,2 percentage points).

In November 2020, 12 090 civil judgements for debt amounting to R313,4 million were recorded. The largest contributors to the total value of judgements were:

- money lent (R99,5 million or 31,7%);
- services (R61,5 million or 19,6%); and
- 'other' debts (R48,1 million or 15,3%).

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

Actual estimates	November 2020	% change between November 2019 and November 2020	% change between September to November 2019 and September to November 2020
Number of civil summonses issued for debt	42 523	-16,3	-13,5
Number of civil judgements recorded for debt	12 090	-22,4	-19,6
Value of civil judgements recorded for debt (R million)	313,4	-9,0	-3,6

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

Total number of liquidations decreases

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, many businesses have been liquidated after they were unable to operate due to lockdowns implemented by the South African government. Some business owners and directors may be tempted to dispose or conceal assets in order to keep them away from creditors. The Insolvency Act, 1936 (Act No. 24 of 1936) prevents concealing of assets by vesting them to the Master of the High Court, thereafter to a trustee as soon as one is appointed. The Act also permits a creditor to apply for a court order for the sequestration (the act of removing, separating, or seizing anything from the possession of its owner under process of law for the benefit of creditors or the state) on the person's estate/assets. In this way, the insolvent (a person or organisation that does not have money to pay its debts) is deprived of ownership and control of assets until all creditors are paid what is due to them. Presented in this



article is a summary of the results from the Liquidations for December and insolvencies release for November 2020.

The number of liquidations decreased by 0,3% in 2020 compared with 2019 (**see Table N**). Liquidations of companies increased by 7,9% (from 1 079 to 1 164), while liquidations of close corporations decreased by 9,6% (from 963 to 871).

The total number of liquidations increased by 20,5% in the fourth quarter of 2020 compared with the fourth quarter of 2019. There was a year-on-year increase of 14,2% in December 2020.

Table N – Total number of liquidations for December 2020

Number of liquidations December 2020	% change between December 2019 to December 2020	% change between October to December 2019 and October to December 2020	% change between January to December 2019 and January to December 2020
135	14,2	20,5	-0,3

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

The estimated number of insolvencies decreased by 31,1% in the three months ended November 2020 compared with the three months ended November 2019 (**see Table O**). There was a year-on-year decrease of 7,6% in November 2020.

Table O – Total number of insolvencies for November 2020

Number of insolvencies November 2020	% change between November 2019 to November 2020	% change between September to November 2019 and September to November 2020	% change between January to November 2019 and January to November 2020
293	-7,6	-31,1	-42,6

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 transported goods and passenger journeys decreases

The impact of lockdown travel restrictions has taken its toll on passenger transportation industry. Long distance bus services, Greyhound and Citiliner, have announced their plans to discontinue their services effective from 14 February 2021, after 37 years of service. Although the bus companies have been experiencing challenges for several years, this was exacerbated by the impact of Covid-19 regulations which restricted inter-provincial travel, bus occupancy and the closure of the Zimbabwean and Mozambican borders. These kind of challenges can result in a decrease in the number of passenger journeys. Presented in this article is a summary of the results from the Land transport survey for November 2020.

The volume of goods transported (payload) decreased by 4,6% in November 2020 compared with November 2019 (**see Table P**). The corresponding income decreased by 4,0% over the same period.

Income from freight transportation decreased by 5,9% in the three months ended November 2020 compared with the three months ended November 2019. The main negative contributors to this decrease were:

- manufactured food, beverages and tobacco products (-22,8%, contributing -2,6 percentage points); and
- 'other' freight (-6,5%, contributing -1,2 percentage points).

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

	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20
Freight payload	-18,6	-10,5	-11,9	-6,0	-8,7	-4,6
Freight income	-15,9	-8,0	-8,9	-5,8	-7,9	-4,0

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 48,8% in November 2020 compared with November 2019 (**see Table Q**). The corresponding income decreased by 40,9% over the same period.



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

	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20
Passenger journeys	-62,5	-62,5	-62,1	-54,0	-55,5	-48,8
Passenger income	-57,8	-54,8	-53,3	-45,5	-45,5	-40,9

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 at 3,0% in December 2020

The Producer Price Index (PPI) measures changes in the prices of locally produced commodities. A sample of producers is surveyed each month and the results of this survey are used to compile the producer price indices for final manufactured goods, intermediate manufactured goods, electricity and water, mining, and agriculture, forestry and fishing. The PPI can be used as an economic indicator of inflation, as an escalator in contracts and as a deflator in the calculation of the national accounts.

Annual producer price inflation (final manufacturing) was 3,0% in December 2020, unchanged from 3,0% in November 2020 (**see Table R**). The producer price index increased by 0,2% month-on-month in December 2020. The main contributors to the headline PPI annual inflation rate were food products, beverages and tobacco products; and transport equipment.

Food products, beverages and tobacco products increased by 5,7% year-on-year and contributed 1,9 percentage points.

Transport equipment increased by 7,0% year-on-year and contributed 0,7 of a percentage point.

The main contributor to the headline PPI monthly increase was food products, beverages and tobacco products, which increased by 0,5% month-on-month and contributed 0,2 of a percentage point.

Intermediate manufactured goods

The annual percentage change in the PPI for intermediate manufactured goods was 6,8% in December 2020 (compared with 4,1% in November 2020). The index increased by 0,9% month-on-month. The main contributors to the annual rate were basic and fabricated metals (5,5 percentage points) and recycling and manufacturing n.e.c. (1,0 percentage point).

The main contributor to the monthly rate was chemicals, rubber and plastic products (0,7 of a percentage point).



Electricity and water

The annual percentage change in the PPI for electricity and water was 8,2% in December 2020 (compared with 7,7% in November 2020). The index decreased by 0,4% month-on-month. Electricity contributed 7,2 percentage points to the annual rate, and water contributed 1,1 percentage points. Electricity contributed -0,4 of a percentage point to the monthly rate.

Mining

The annual percentage change in the PPI for mining was 25,3% in December 2020 (compared with 24,5% in November 2020). The index increased by 1,8% month-on-month. The main contributors to the annual rate were non-ferrous metal ores (14,8 percentage points) and gold and other metal ores (8,9 percentage points).

The main contributor to the monthly rate was coal and gas (1,7 percentage points).

Agriculture, forestry and fishing

The annual percentage change in the PPI for agriculture, forestry and fishing was 9,1% in December 2020 (compared with 12% in November 2020). The index decreased by 0,1% month-on-month. The main contributor to the annual rate was agriculture (9,5 percentage points). The main contributor to the monthly rate was fishing (-0,3 of a percentage point).


Table R – Key PPI figures for November 2020

Product	Weight	Index (2016=100)			% change	
		Dec 2019	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	Dec 2020 vs Nov 2020	Dec 2020 vs Nov 2019
Final manufactured goods	100,00	114,5	117,7	117,9	0,2	3,0
Intermediate manufactured goods	100,00	106,8	113,1	114,1	0,9	6,8
Electricity and water	100,00	126,7	137,7	137,1	-0,4	8,2
Mining	100,00	139,7	172,0	175,1	1,8	25,3
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	100,00	101,7	111,1	111,0	-0,1	9,1

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)

South Africa's consumer price inflation at a 16-year low

The December 2020 Consumer price index (CPI) release concludes the data points for the entire 2020 calendar year. According to the results, the annual average inflation rate for 2020 was 3,3%. This is the lowest annual average rate since 2004 (1,4%) and the second lowest since 1969 (3,0%). Despite the low inflation, the CPI results show that some everyday items are still much more expensive compared to prices recorded in December 2019. In particular, the following three food groups recorded above average annual and monthly price increases in December 2020: meat prices, oils and fats, sugar, sweets and desserts. Presented in this article is a summary of the key results from the Consumer price index (CPI) release for December 2020.

Headline consumer price index (CPI for all urban areas)

Annual consumer price inflation was 3,1% in December 2020, down from 3,2% in November 2020 (**see Table S**). The consumer price index increased by 0,2% month-on-month in December 2020. The main contributors to the 3,1% annual inflation rate were:



- food and non-alcoholic beverages (increased by 6,0% year-on-year, and contributed 1,0 percentage point);
- housing and utilities (increased by 2,7% year-on-year, and contributed 0,7 of a percentage point);
- miscellaneous goods and services (increased by 7,0% year-on-year, and contributed 1,1 percentage points).

The annual inflation rates for goods and for services were 2,6% and 3,7%, respectively.

Provincial annual inflation rates ranged from 2,8% in Gauteng to 3,7% in Western Cape.

Annual average headline consumer price index for 2020

Average annual consumer price inflation was 3,3% in 2020 (i.e. the average CPI for all urban areas for 2020 compared with that for 2019). This was 0,8 of a percentage point lower than the corresponding average of 4,1% in 2019.

Note: Not all items in the CPI are surveyed every month. For more information on the survey schedule for items that are not surveyed monthly, please download the full CPI release [here](#).


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	Ave- rage ¹
Year	Index/rate													
2010	Index	69,3	69,8	70,3	70,4	70,6	70,6	71,1	71,1	71,1	71,3	71,4	71,5	70,7
	Rate	6,1	5,8	5,1	4,8	4,7	4,1	3,8	3,6	3,0	3,3	3,5	3,5	4,3
2011	Index	71,9	72,3	73,2	73,5	73,8	74,1	74,7	74,9	75,2	75,5	75,8	75,9	74,2
	Rate	3,8	3,6	4,1	4,4	4,5	5,0	5,1	5,3	5,8	5,9	6,2	6,2	5,0
2012	Index	76,3	76,7	77,6	77,9	77,9	78,2	78,4	78,6	79,3	79,8	80,0	80,2	78,4
	Rate	6,1	6,1	6,0	6,0	5,6	5,5	5,0	4,9	5,5	5,7	5,5	5,7	5,7
2013	Index	80,4	81,2	82,2	82,5	82,3	82,5	83,4	83,6	84,0	84,2	84,3	84,5	82,9
	Rate	5,4	5,9	5,9	5,9	5,6	5,5	6,4	6,4	5,9	5,5	5,4	5,4	5,7
2014	Index	85,1	86,0	87,2	87,6	87,7	88,0	88,7	89,0	89,0	89,2	89,2	89,0	88,0
	Rate	5,8	5,9	6,1	6,2	6,6	6,7	6,4	6,5	6,0	5,9	5,8	5,3	6,2
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	115,0	114,3	114,9	116,4	116,6	116,8	117,1	117,1	117,3	115,9
	Rate	4,5	4,6	4,1	3,0	2,1	2,2	3,2	3,1	3,0	3,3	3,2	3,1	3,3

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'.

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