

CONTENTS

HEADLINES
ECONOMIC INDICATORS
FEATURE ARTICLE

INFOGRAPHIC OF THE MONTH
PROVINCIAL SNAPSHOT
CONTACT US

Your monthly update on South Africa's economic indicators

Headlines

Switching to a new GDP
headline growth rate
Page 1

Infographics

A time series of prices at
the factory gate
Page 4

Provincial snapshot

Mayoral positions lag behind
in gender representation
Page 5

Municipalities expand service delivery, but provide less for free Page 3



Economic headlines

Consumer inflation slows to an eight-month low



Slipping below the bottom end of SARB's inflation target range (click [here](#) to read more).

Formal business employment rises in Q4: 2020



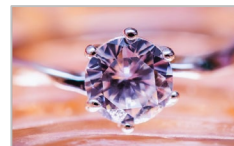
New jobs were created in the trade, community services and business services industries (click [here](#) to read more).

Switching to a new GDP headline growth rate



Stats SA will no longer use the annualised rate as the headline rate of change (click [here](#) to read more).

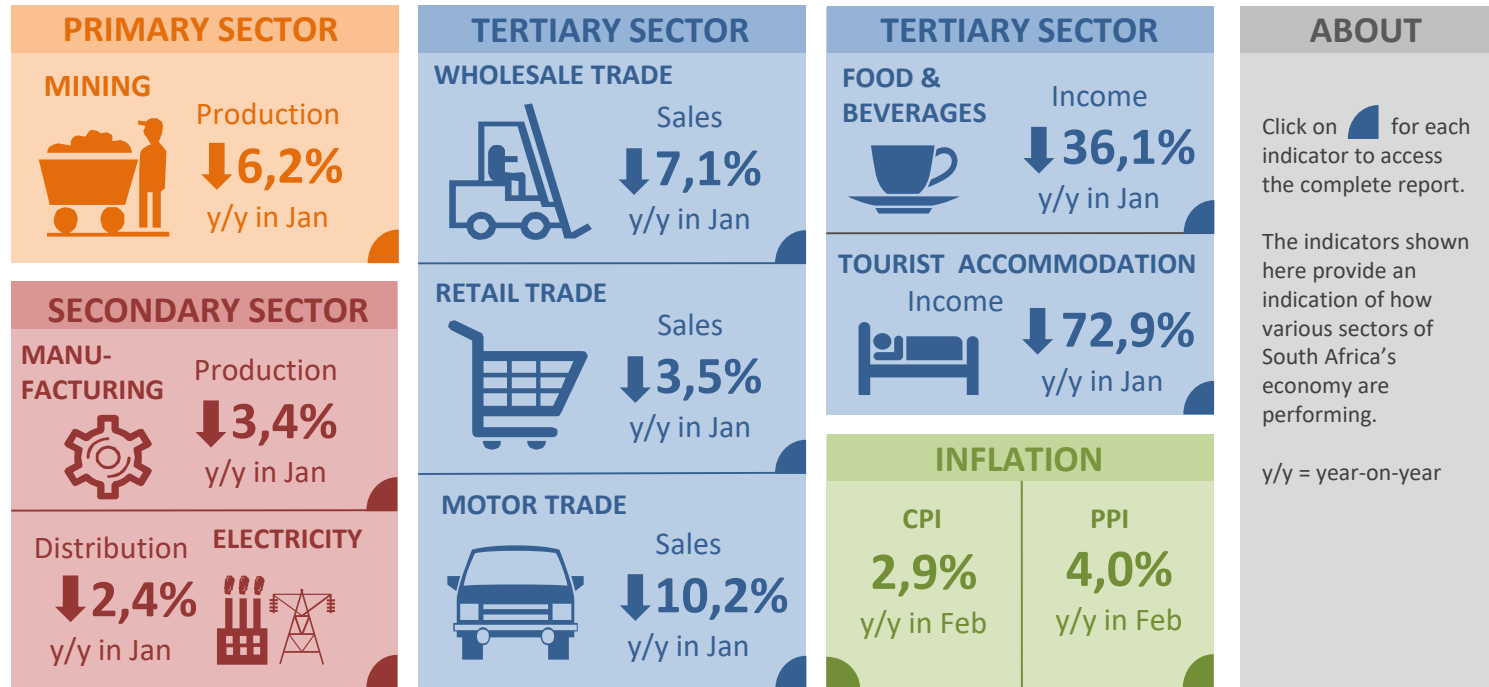
All the single ladies, put your hands up!



If you're wondering why your man hasn't proposed yet, perhaps he's waiting to turn 37 (click [here](#) to read more).

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

Monthly economic indicators



Keep up to date with our release schedule [here](#).

Feature article

Municipalities expand service delivery, but provide less for free

Local government has made great strides in providing services. For example, municipalities supplied water to just over 9 million consumer units in 2006, expanding to 13,8 million in 2019.

What hasn't gone up is the number of consumer units receiving services for free.

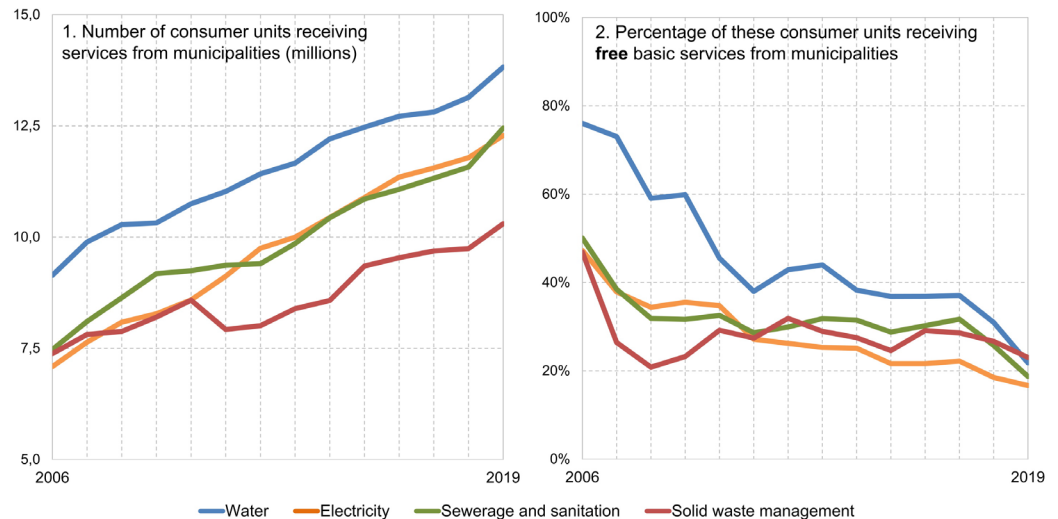
In terms of water, for example, 6,9 million consumer units benefited from free water provision in 2006, falling to just over 3 million in 2019. In 2006, 76% of consumer units received free water. This fell to 22% in 2019.

The fall is primarily due to municipalities changing the mechanisms they use to determine which households are indigent, and who qualifies for any free service. This is according to *Non-financial census of municipalities* report published near the end of March 2021.

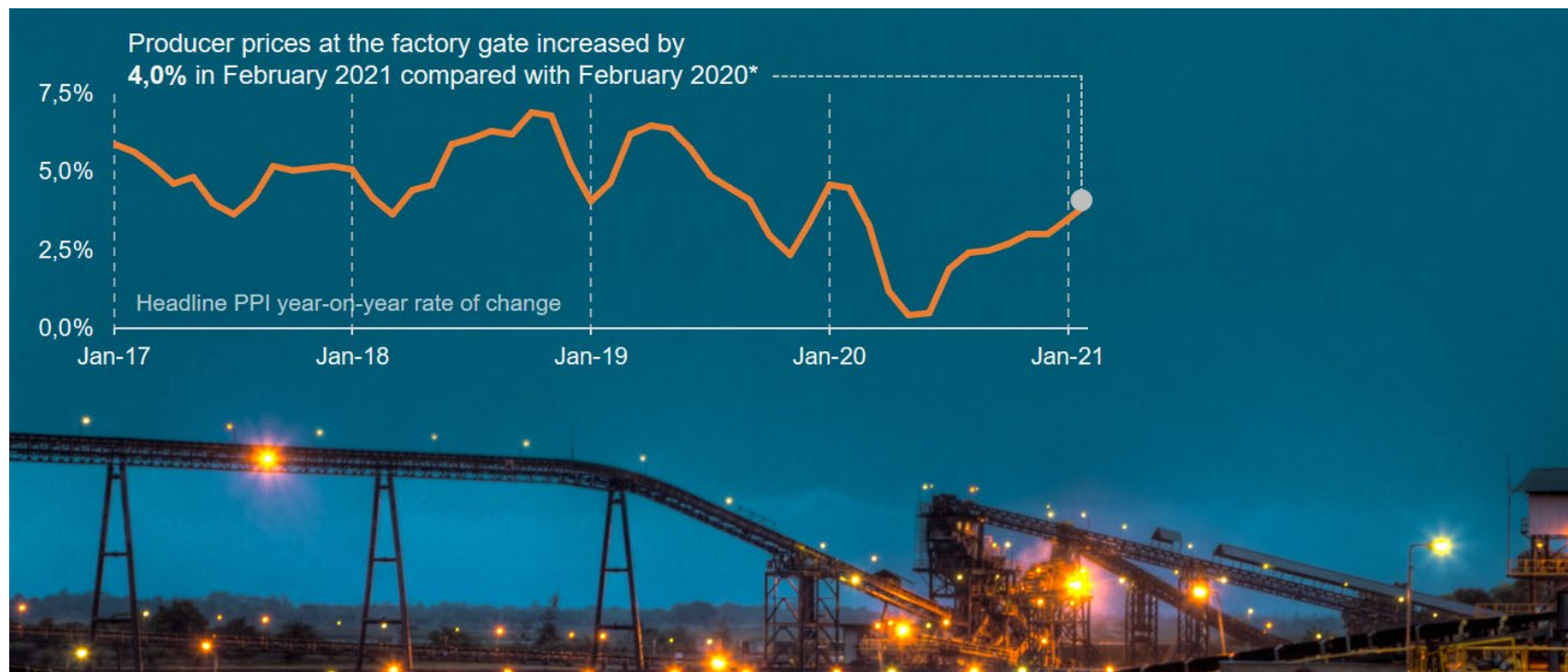
Click [here](#) to read more.

More consumer units are receiving services, but a smaller proportion are getting these for free

Services supplied by municipalities across South Africa, 2006–2019



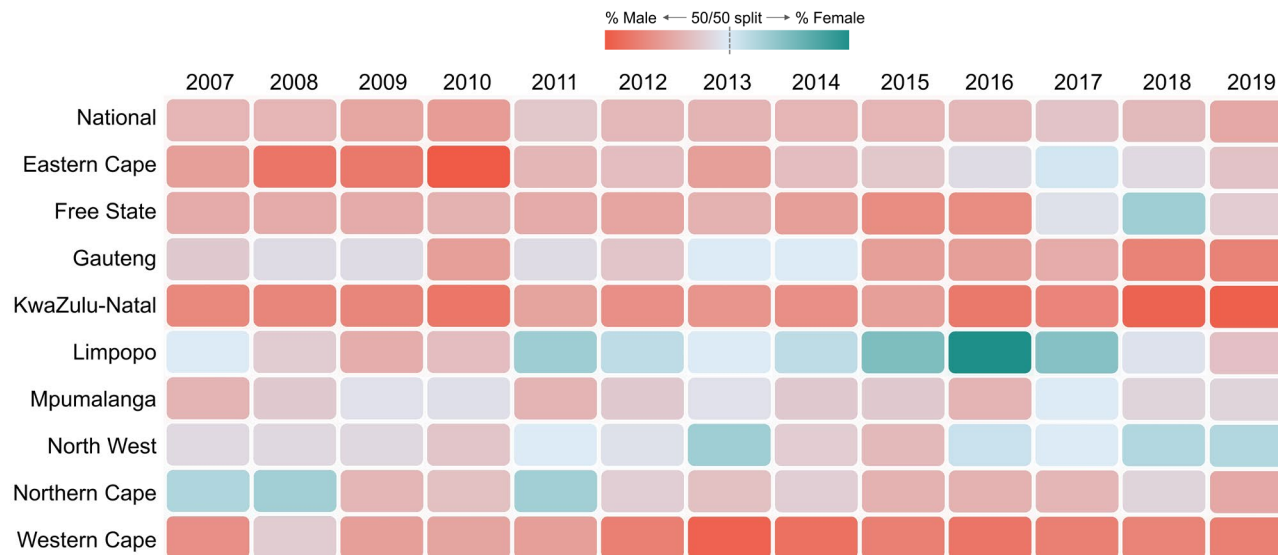
Infographic of the month



Provincial snapshot

Mayoral positions lag behind in gender representation

How do municipalities square up in terms of gender equality? Municipalities in North West and Limpopo have managed to achieve 50/50 gender parity for most years, while KwaZulu-Natal and Western Cape still have some way to go. Over the 2007–2019 period, Limpopo recorded the highest female representation rate in 2016 (70%). Eastern Cape registered the lowest rate in 2010 when women occupied only 18% of mayoral seats in that province. Click [here](#) to read more.



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