

Mbalo Brief

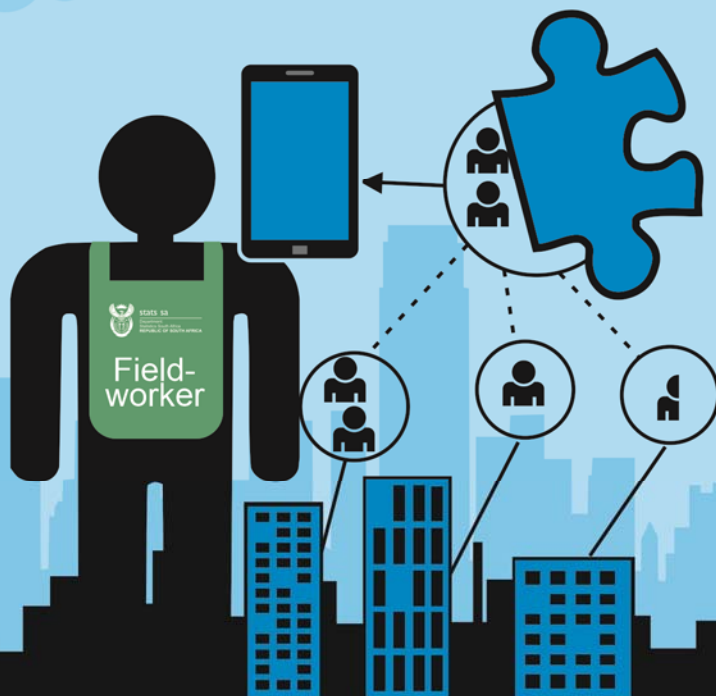


the missing piece of the puzzle

May 2021

CENSUS 2021

#GETCOUNTED



Issue 04/2021

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS



stats sa

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Editor's comment

Just over a year after Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) suspended face-to-face data collection due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the organisation issued a note on 26 April 2021 that the surveys are due to be undertaken. The Survey Officers (SOs) have returned to the field to collect data from households that have been selected to participate in household surveys such as General Household and Domestic Tourism among others. Households that have been selected to participate in the Quarterly labour force survey (QLFS) will be contacted four times in the year while households who have been selected to participate in one of the other surveys such as General household survey, Domestic Tourism Survey or Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey etc. will be contacted once for completion of the questionnaire. Selected households are encouraged to participate in surveys undertaken and cooperate with SOs in order to give the country accurate information that is needed to plan and to improve lives.

SOs are identifiable by Stats SA-branded bibs, Stats SA ID cards and have letters explaining the nature of the data collection they are doing. Households can verify whether the person collecting information from them is legitimate via the call centre at 0800 110 248, or at the nearest district office or visit <http://www.statssa.gov.za/Fieldworkerverification/home.php>

In this month's issue of *Mbalo Brief*, our educational article is based on *Marginalised Groups Series IV: The Social Profile of Older Persons, 2015–2020* (Report No. 03-19-08), that was published by Stats SA on 31 March 2021. Also have a look at our monthly crossword puzzle and solutions for the April 2021 puzzle.

Articles published in this issue are based on results of industry surveys conducted from February to March 2021, 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.



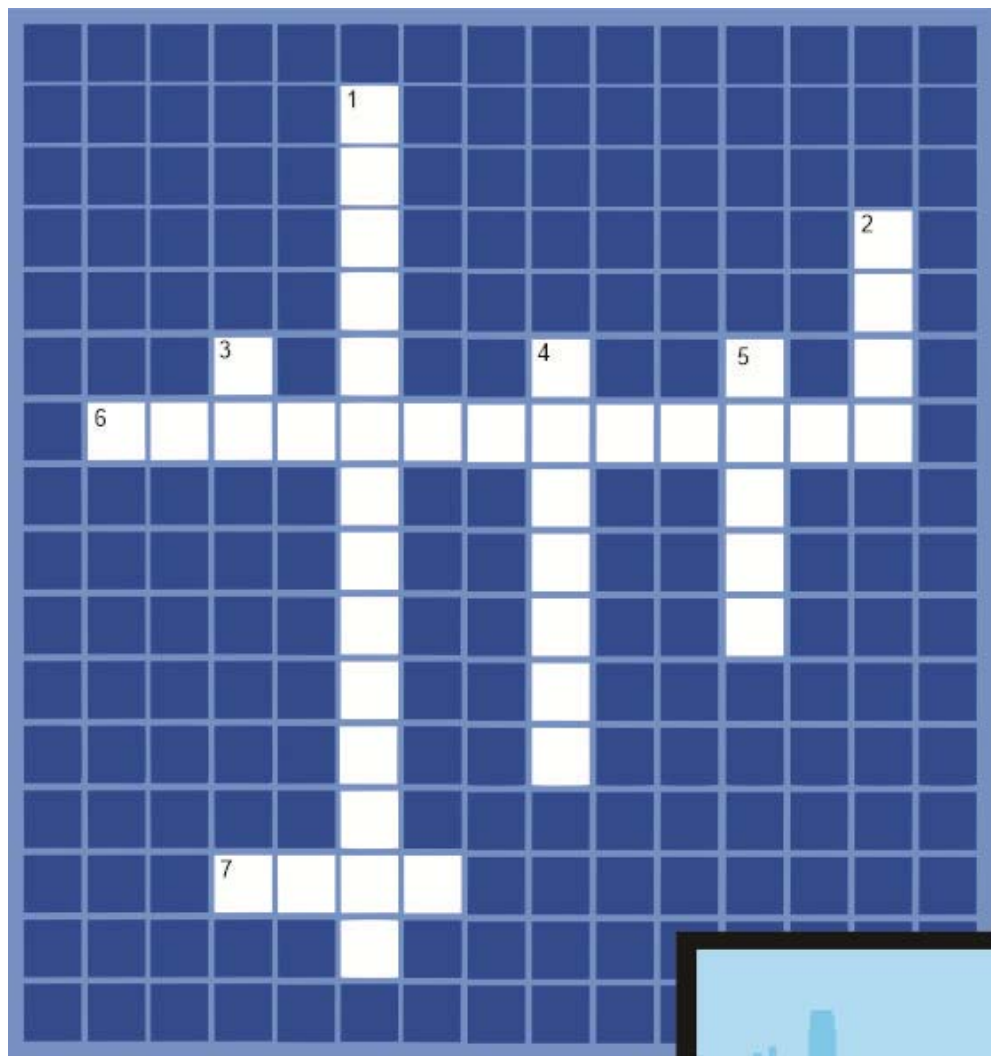


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Crossword puzzle





Across

6. According to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)..... is the oldest, largest and most deeply eroded complex meteorite impact structure in the world.
7. In which month is the voter registration weekend for the upcoming local government elections?

Down

1. Who has been named as the next king of the Zulu nation?
2. K2 is the second highest mountain in the world. (True or False)
3.is defined as the symbol for the element iron.
4. What is India's national sport?
5. What do we call a boat or ship with sleeping accommodation that is used as a hotel by tourists on vacation? (Read Tourist accommodation article for clue)

Solutions for April 2021 puzzle

Across

3. Multiple
4. True
5. Less
6. Economically

Down

1. False
2. Freedom Day
3. Metals





The social profile of older persons, 2015 to 2019

Introduction

The need to strengthen the protection of the rights of older persons has gained momentum in recent years across the world. Many countries adopted appropriate measures to promote and protect the rights of older persons and provide them with economic, social and health securities. In South Africa, Older Persons Act, 2006 (Act No. 13 of 2006) was enacted in 2006 to advance the rights of older persons, create mechanisms of protection, and put in place structures of support within the communities to ensure that the welfare, rights and interests of older persons are progressively realised. The purpose of the Act is to deal effectively with the plight of older persons by addressing all factors that could potentially hamper the elderly from enjoying their rights as entrenched in the constitution, and to improve their livelihood. However, the needs of older persons in South Africa are yet to be realised as poverty, food insecurity, age discrimination, abuse and lack of access to basic services such as water and health care are still rife.

This article is derived from the *Marginalised Groups Series IV: The Social Profile of Older Persons, 2015–2019* (Report No. 03-19-08), which was published on 31 March 2021 by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA). The older persons in this report refers to persons who are 60 years and older. This article will focus on the characteristics of households headed by elderly, life expectancy, access to medical aid, causes of death, functional literacy and access to social grants by elderly persons among others, from 2015 to 2020.

Basic demographics of the elderly

The population of older persons has been growing consistently since 2015. In 2020, the elderly population was over 5,4 million, accounted for 9,1% of the South African population. Between 2015 and 2020, the elderly population largely grew in Gauteng (263 000) and Western Cape (133 000) provinces. Although the elderly population grew across all provinces during this period, Northern Cape's growth was only estimated to be around 16 000, which made it the least growth relative to other provinces.

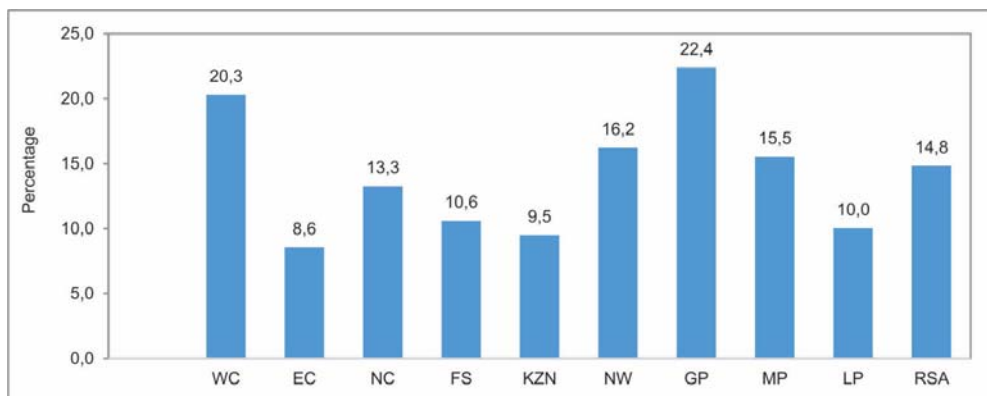


Between 2015 and 2020, Eastern Cape had the highest proportion (10,6% in 2015; 10,8% in 2016; 10,9% in 2017; 11,1% in 2018; 11,3% in 2019 and 11,4% in 2020) of the elderly compared to other provinces.

Percentage growth in elderly population numbers, 2015 and 2020

Nationally, the elderly population increased by 14,8%. The provinces which recorded the highest increases include Gauteng (22,4%) and Western Cape (20,3%), followed by North West (16,2%) and Mpumalanga (15,5%), respectively.

Figure 1: Percentage growth in elderly population numbers, 2015 and 2020



Source: Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2020 series

Ageing index

The ageing index is a common measure of the age structure and is intended to highlight the changes in the proportionate share of the population accounted for by age groups 0–14 and 60 years and older. It is defined as the number of older persons (aged 60+ in this report) per 100 children aged 0–14 years. If the number of persons aged 60 and older equals exactly the number of children aged 0–14 years in the population, then the ageing index equals 100. The values less than 100 denote that the number of older persons is less than the number of young persons, while the opposite is true for values greater than 100.



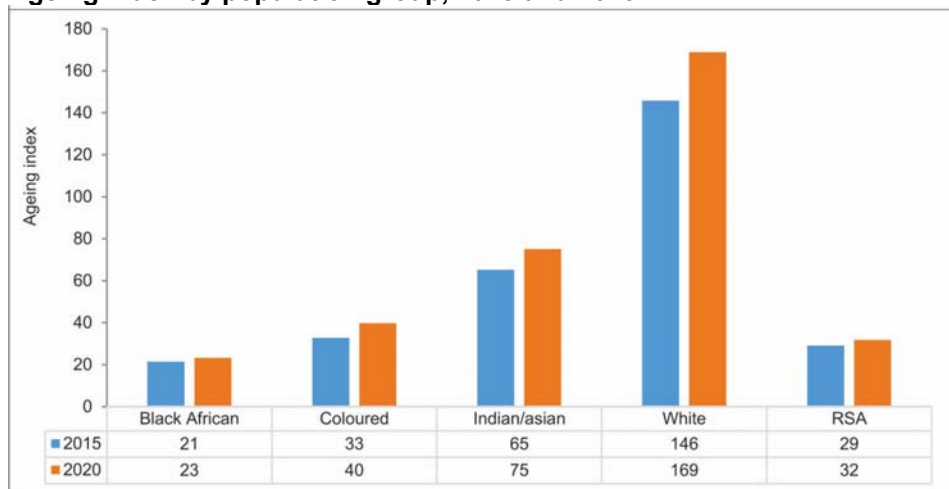
Ageing index by province, 2015 and 2020

Between 2015 and 2020, there was an increase of approximately 32 elderly persons per 100 children aged 0–14 years. Between 2015 and 2020, provinces with the highest ageing index include Western Cape (37 in 2015 and 42 in 2020), Gauteng (32 in 2015 and 36 in 2020), Eastern Cape (32 in 2015 and 35 in 2020), Northern Cape (32 in 2015 and 35 in 2020) and Free State (31 in 2015 and 35 in 2020). The high indexes in these provinces are indicative of the higher proportions of older persons to children aged 0–14 years relative to other provinces. KwaZulu-Natal (25 in both 2015 and 2020), Mpumalanga (24 in 2015 and 27 in 2020) and Limpopo (25 in 2015 and 27 in 2020) recorded the lowest ageing indexes for both years.

Ageing index by population group, 2015 and 2020

Between 2015 and 2020, the ageing index amongst the white population group increased (from 146 in 2015 to 169 in 2020), followed by Indian/ Asian (65 in 2015 and 75 in 2020) and coloured (33 in 2015 and 40 in 2020). Black African population (21 in 2015 and 23 in 2020) had the lowest ageing index relative to all other population groups (lower proportions of older persons to children).

Ageing index by population group, 2015 and 2020



Source: Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2020 series



Distribution of elderly-headed households in South Africa, 2015 and 2019

Between 2015 and 2019, the percentage of households headed by the elderly persons for both males and females decreased by 0,1 of a percentage point (from 20,2% in 2015 to 20,1% in 2019). Households headed by elderly females declined from 56,2% in 2015 to 53,5% in 2019. The decline in the household headed by elderly females was recorded across all provinces, except for North West, where there was an increase of 1,4 percentage points in elderly female-headed households. The households headed by elderly males increased from 43,8 in 2015 to 46,5 in 2019.

Number of the elderly who are functionally illiterate by sex and province, 2019

A total of 988 362 elderly persons in South Africa are illiterate, and 6 out of 10 (668 174) of them are women. In absolute numbers, elderly persons who are functionally illiterate are primarily found in KwaZulu-Natal (195 188), Limpopo (189 892), Eastern Cape (164 083) and Mpumalanga (123 817).

Number of older persons who are accessing social grant by province, 2015 and 2019

In South Africa, over 3,4 million persons aged 60 years and older received an old-age grant in 2019 compared to over 3,1 million in 2015. Most grant recipients were found in KwaZulu-Natal (664 000 in 2015 and 670 000 in 2019), Gauteng (585 000 in 2015 and 673 000 in 2019), Eastern Cape (482 000 in 2015 and 546 000 in 2019) and Limpopo (369 000 in 2015 and 384 000 in 2019). The elderly living in Northern Cape (83 000 in 2015 and 97 000 in 2019) were the least to receive grants.

Life expectancy at birth of males and females, 2002 to 2020

Between 2002 and 2020, the life expectancy of males increased from 59,9 to 64,6 years, and for females from 67,2 to 71,3 years. In 2020, life expectancy was highest in the two wealthiest provinces, namely Western Cape (65,7 years for males and 71 years for females) and Gauteng (63,9 years for males and 68,7 years for females). The shortest life expectancies at birth were found in Free State (56,0 years for males and 62,0 years for females) and KwaZulu-Natal (58,2 years for males and 64,6 years for females).



Percentage of persons 60 years and older who are covered by a medical aid or medical benefit scheme or other private healthcare insurance, by sex and population group, 2015 and 2019

Less than a quarter (22,9% in 2015 and 24,3% in 2019) of the elderly persons in South Africa were members of medical aid schemes or private health insurance. This was higher than the membership rates for the general population (17,3% in 2015 and 17,2% in 2019). The percentage of persons aged 60 years and older who were covered by a medical aid or medical benefit scheme or other private healthcare insurance was highest amongst the white (73,5% in 2015 and 74,0% in 2019) and Indian/Asian (33,9% in 2015 and 41,2% in 2019) during this period. In 2015, less than a tenth (6,0%) of black African elderly persons and 16,6% of coloured elderly persons were members of medical aid schemes although this later increased by 0,5 of a percentage point and 3,3 percentage points in 2019 respectively. For the elderly, males were more likely to have medical aid cover, with slightly more than a quarter (26,4% in 2015 to 27,1% in 2019) covered, whilst only one in five (20,7% in 2015 to 22,4% in 2019) females enjoyed the coverage.

Natural and unnatural causes of death of persons aged 60 years and older, 2014 and 2017

Nationally, over 95% of elderly persons died of natural causes and the rest died of unnatural causes. There were no significant provincial variations in the causes of death of the elderly.

The breakdown of the most common underlying causes of deaths recorded in 2017 for persons aged 60 years and older can be summarised as follows:

- **Circulatory system:** 57 994 were the result of diseases of the circulatory system (I000I99), The most common sub-classes in this category were Hypertensive diseases (I10-I15), Ischaemic heart diseases (I20- I25), Other forms of heart disease (I30-I52) and Cerebrovascular diseases (I60-I69),
- **Unclassified symptoms:** 31 852 were grouped as Symptoms and signs not elsewhere classified (R000R99),
- **Neoplasms:** 25 456 were caused by Neoplasms (C000D48), The most common neoplasms were Malignant neoplasms of digestive organs (C15-C26), Malignant neoplasms of respiratory and intrathoracic organs (C30-C39), Malignant neoplasm of breast (C50), Malignant neoplasms



of female genital organs (C51-C58), Malignant neoplasms of male genital organs (C60-C63), and Malignant neoplasms of ill-defined, secondary and unspecified sites (C76-C80)

- **Respiratory system:** 22 159 deaths were the result of diseases of the respiratory system (J000-J99), These were primarily due to Influenza and pneumonia (J09-J18), and chronic lower respiratory diseases (J40-J47),
- **Endocrine and metabolic system:** 21 132 deaths were caused by Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases (E000-E90), and more specifically, Diabetes mellitus (E10-E14),
- **Certain infectious and parasitic diseases (A000-B99):** 15 278 were recorded, with the most common amongst these causes being Intestinal infectious diseases (A00-A09), Tuberculosis (A15-A19), Other bacterial diseases (A30-A49), Human immunodeficiency virus [HIV] disease (B20-B24), and Other viral diseases (B25-B34).

Conclusion

The findings indicate that the population of older persons has been consistently growing over the covered period. The elderly population largely grew in Gauteng and Western Cape compared to other provinces. Furthermore, white population group exhibited larger proportion of elderly persons relative to other population groups. This phenomenon was further affirmed by the highest ageing index recorded among the white population group whilst the black African population remained youthful during this period as it recorded the lowest ageing index. The results indicate that the majority of elderly persons died of natural causes than any other disease.



Primary industries

Mining: Production and sales

Mining production increase by 0,8% in February 2021

South Africa has been faced with illegal mining practices for many years, with such activities taking place in both abandoned and operating mines. In order to combat this problem, the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy has drafted a plan to formalise illegal mining. On 5 May 2021, Minister, Gwede Mantashe, published the Draft Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM) Policy 2021 for public comment. Under the plan, illegal miners will be given an amnesty (pardon) period to formalise themselves so that they might be allowed to go through the same process as legal miners to get the necessary permission to mine any minerals. Once they have followed all the required processes and are certified as legitimate, they will be eligible to receive a range of government support including a designated area for ASM and help with funding. These miners may even be granted a platform to legally sell and trade their mineral products in a transparent and protected environment rather than selling to syndicates or on the black market (illegal exchange of goods or services). However, permits are reserved for South Africans only. Through this proposed plan, government intends to place a special focus on the ASM industry due to its potential to contribute to socioeconomic development and improve the livelihoods of South Africans. Presented in this article is a summary of the results from the Mining: Production and sales release for February 2021.

Mining production increased by 0,8% year-on-year in February 2021 (**see Table A**). The largest positive contributors were:

- iron ore (65,7% and contributing 5,9 percentage points);
- manganese ore (21,6% and contributing 1,7 percentage points); and
- 'other' non-metallic minerals (12,6% and contributing 0,7 of a percentage point).

Coal (-19,3%, contributing -5,7 percentage points) and gold (-8,7%, contributing -1,2 percentage points) were significant negative contributors.





Table A – Key growth rates in the volume of mining production for February 2021

	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-2,4	-5,7	-9,6	-2,6	-8,4	0,8
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-0,8	-0,6	-3,5	-1,2	3,9	3,8
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	37,4	17,7	7,3	-1,6	-3,7	0,0

^{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 26,0% year-on-year in February 2021 (see Table B). The largest positive contributors were:

- PGMs (71,5%, contributing 18,9 percentage points);
- iron ore (47,0%, contributing 6,9 percentage points); and
- manganese ore (39,7%, contributing 2,1 percentage points).

Table B – Key growth rates in mineral sales at current prices for February 2021

	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	26,5	31,3	15,7	22,9	25,4	26,0
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	5,2	2,5	-3,8	-6,7	32,1	-10,7
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	47,3	35,0	22,1	4,8	4,9	7,0

^{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 decreased by 2,1% in February 2021

In last month's issue of *Mbalo Brief*, we reported that President Cyril Ramaphosa emphasised the need to buy locally produced products in the Proudly South African Buy Local Summit and Expo 2021 that was held virtually from 8 to 9 March 2021. In a response to increase the purchase of locally manufactured goods, Proudly South African in partnership with the Department of Trade, Industry, and Competition (DTIC) launched the Furniture Portal on 28 April 2021. The portal is populated with qualifying local furniture companies and it is a platform where retailers, architects, property developers and consumers can find furniture and engage with each other. Through this portal, the DTIC hopes to address the skills shortage in the furniture manufacturing industry and attract designers to the furniture industry while promoting the use of local products. Presented in this article is a summary of the results of the Manufacturing: production and sales release for February 2021.

Manufacturing production decreased by 2,1% in February 2021 compared with February 2020 (**see Table C**). The largest negative contributions were made by the following divisions:

- petroleum, chemical products, rubber and plastic products (-8,4%, contributing -1,8 percentage points);
- basic iron and steel, non-ferrous metal products, metal products and machinery (-4,8%, contributing -0,9 of a percentage point); and
- furniture and 'other' manufacturing (-17,0%, contributing -0,6 of a percentage point).

The motor vehicles, parts and accessories and other transport equipment division (13,2%, contributing 1,2 percentage points) was a significant positive contributor.



Table C – Key growth rates in the volume of manufacturing production for February 2021

	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-2,0	-3,9	-4,2	2,2	-4,2	-2,1
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	3,0	2,5	-0,9	0,5	0,0	-1,2
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	33,2	17,3	8,8	5,3	2,0	0,3

^{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 reported building plans passed increase by 10,5% during January to February 2021

In February 2021, the value of non-residential buildings reported as completed decreased. Moreover, the recent trend of remote working, which started as a result of lockdown regulations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, has left some office buildings lying empty or with fewer employees than usual. This forced companies to adapt to a new working culture such as flexible hours, shifts and virtual meetings, all of which require fewer resources. This can result in a decrease in the demand for construction of commercial buildings since some companies have realised that they use less office space than before and remote working saves the company money on running costs for things such as electricity, water and air conditioning. Also, remote working gives companies the opportunity to increase their pool of talent because they can hire staff from different locations. Thus the need for less office space could affect the construction industry by reducing the need for construction of new commercial buildings. Presented in this article is a summary of the results from the Selected building statistics of the private sector release for February 2021.

The value of recorded building plans passed increased by 10,5% (R1 514,9 million) during January to February 2021 compared with January to February 2020 (**see Table D**). Residential buildings rose by 23,6% (R1 651,1 million).



The largest contributors to the total increase of 10,5% (R1 514,9 million) were made by the following provinces:

- KwaZulu-Natal (contributing 4,9 percentage points or R711,2 million);
- Gauteng (contributing 4,9 percentage points or R704,1 million);
- Western Cape (contributing 3,8 percentage points or R551,5 million); and
- North West (contributing 1,5 percentage points or R223,4 million).

The value of buildings reported as completed decreased by 39,3% (-R4 652,2 million) during January to February 2021 compared with January to February 2020. Decreases were recorded for:

- non-residential buildings (-58,0% or -R2 579,4 million);
- additions and alterations (-41,7% or -R1 022,5 million); and
- residential buildings (-21,3% or -R1 050,2 million).

Eight provinces reported year-on-year decreases in the value of buildings completed during January to February 2021. The following provinces were the largest negative contributors:

- Gauteng (contributing -20,1 percentage points or -R2 379,6 million);
- KwaZulu-Natal (contributing -7,6 percentage points or -R900,8 million);
- Eastern Cape (contributing -5,5 percentage points or -R654,3 million); and
- Western Cape (contributing -4,3 percentage points or -R503,8 million).



Table D – Buildings reported as completed to larger municipalities at current prices: January to February 2020 versus January to February 2021

Estimates at current prices	January to February 2020	January to February 2021	Difference in value between February 2020 and February 2021	% change between February 2020 and February 2021 1/
	1/	1/	1/	
	R'000	R'000	R'000	
Residential buildings	6 994 834	8 645 929	1 651 095	23,6
- Dwelling houses	4 351 354	5 143 170	791 816	18,2
- Flats and townhouses	2 571 466	3 454 739	883 273	34,3
- Other residential buildings	72 014	48 020	-23 994	-33,3
Non-residential buildings	3 268 490	3 143 072	-125 418	-3,8
Additions and alterations	4 188 240	4 177 423	-10 817	-0,3
Total	14 451 564	15 966 424	1 514 860	10,5

^{1/} 2020 and 2021 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

Volume of electricity generated and consumed in March 2021 increases

Electricity is one of the most essential necessities for many households in South Africa. However, with the electricity tariffs constantly increasing, it can cause some financial constraints for consumers. To ease the financial pressure, Eskom is introducing a residential-time-of-use (TOU) tariff called Homeflex. This tariff has a peak and an off-peak rate, meaning that the price of electricity is lower during the off-peak times than during the peak times (from 7 am to 10 am and 6 pm to 8 pm). These rates will also differ between seasons (the price of electricity will be higher in winter than in summer).



Eskom hopes that this tariff plan will encourage consumers to use electricity more efficiently during peak times as this will help keep consumers' electricity bill low, and also enable Eskom to have more electricity available for distribution nation-wide. Presented in this article is a summary of the results of the Electricity: generated and available for distribution release for March 2021.

Electricity generation (production) increased by 1,8% year-on-year in March 2021 (see Table E).

Table E – Key growth rates in the volume of electricity generated for March 2021

	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-2,8	-2,4	1,1	-3,2	-4,3	1,8
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,1	0,6	0,3	-2,5	2,2	0,3
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	4,3	1,0	0,7	-0,2	-0,2	-0,6

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

Electricity distribution (consumption) increased by 3,0% year-on-year in March 2021 (see Table F).

Table F – Key growth rates in the volume of electricity distributed for March 2021

	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-2,5	-2,1	1,7	-2,4	-3,8	3,0
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,0	0,4	0,7	-2,3	1,2	0,5
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	5,0	0,9	0,3	-0,3	-0,2	-0,7

^{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 increase

The top ten enterprises in the wholesale trade industry are dominated by enterprises that deal in petroleum. These enterprises tend to contain volatile commodities which can cause fluctuations in overall sales in the wholesale industry. For instance, fluctuations in prices and volumes of petroleum purchased and exchange rates can cause the wholesale trade sales to either decrease or increase. Therefore, although there are other wholesalers such as household goods, agricultural raw material and livestock, etc., wholesalers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products are almost always the main contributors to the sales records in wholesale trade. Presented in this article is a summary of the results of the Wholesale trade sales release for the month of February 2021.

Wholesale trade sales decreased by 0,9% in February 2021 compared with February 2020 (**see Table G**). The main negative contributor was dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (-19,7%, contributing - 5,0 percentage points). The main positive contributor to the annual change in February 2021 was dealers in 'other' household goods except precious stones (23,5%, contributing 2,6 percentage points).

Wholesale trade sales decreased by 1,0% in the three months ended February 2021 compared with the three months ended February 2020. The main negative contributor was dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (-21,4%, contributing -5,6 percentage points). The main positive contributor was dealers in 'other' household goods except precious stones (32,6%, contributing 3,7 percentage points).



Table G – Key growth rates in wholesale trade sales at current prices for February 2021

	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	0,7	-3,8	-2,9	2,5	-4,9	-0,9
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,5	0,0	-1,2	3,2	0,7	0,7
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	28,8	10,6	3,0	0,6	1,4	3,1

^{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 increased by 2,3% in February 2021

In February 2021, retail trade sales increased by 2,3%. This was the first positive recording since March 2020. The sector seems to be rebounding from the impact of the lockdown as five out of the seven retail categories recorded positive sales. The biggest driver of the year-on-year increase was in sales of household furniture, appliances and equipment, followed by sales in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods. Food and beverages volumes also rebounded strongly, possibly influenced by an increase in demand induced by the lifting of liquor sales restrictions. Presented in this article is a summary of the results from the Retail trade sales statistics for February 2021.

Retail trade sales increased by 2,3% year-on-year in February 2021 (**see Table H**). The largest positive annual growth rates were recorded for retailers in:

- household furniture, appliances and equipment (17,3%); and
- textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (12,3%).

The main positive contributors to this increase were:

- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (contributing 2,0 percentage points); and
- general dealers (contributing 1,7 percentage points).



Table H – Key growth rates in retail trade sales for February 2021 at constant 2015 prices

	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-2,4	-2,3	-4,3	-1,2	-3,7	2,3
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,1	-0,4	1,8	-0,1	-2,4	6,9
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	24,3	7,3	4,5	3,0	1,1	1,7

^{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 decreased by 3,7% in February 2021

Motor vehicle traders have been experiencing a shortage of new vehicle models in South Africa and across the globe. This is due to international shortage of semi-conductor or computer chips that are installed and used when producing motor vehicles. The computer chip shortage was due to manufacturing companies halting production due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Even after the production was resumed when the COVID-19 restrictions were eased, orders increased but returning production to its normal level has not been achieved. Major motor vehicle manufacturers had to stop production of new vehicles while awaiting the shipment of computer chips which will affect motor vehicle sales. Presented in this article is a summary of the results from the Motor trade sales release for February 2021.

Motor trade sales decreased by 3,7% year-on-year in February 2021 (**see Table I**). Negative annual growth rates were recorded for:

- fuel sales (-16,1%);
- workshop income (-11,5%); and
- convenience store sales (-7,5%).



Table I – Key growth rate figures in motor trade sales for February 2021

	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-0,5	-7,4	-4,6	-1,0	-10,1	-3,7
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	2,5	-2,1	1,7	0,3	-1,9	3,4
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	76,0	25,8	7,5	3,0	0,6	0,5

^{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 statistics

Income generated by food and beverages industry decreased by 24,6% in February 2021

South African farmers and consumers have raised their concerns over the sudden rise in the price of tomatoes. According to Clive Garret, the marketing manager at ZZ2, the increase in the price of this kitchen staple was reportedly caused by a shortage of good quality tomatoes in the country, following heavy rainfall in January and February 2021 that damaged most tomato crops. Moreover, the quality of tomatoes that were available for sale were substandard. As a result of the shortage, the demand exceeded the supply causing an increase in prices. The price of tomatoes increased from about R10 per kilogram in December 2020, to around R39,99 per kilogram in April 2021. Presented in this article is a summary of the results of the Food and beverages statistics for February 2021.

The total income generated by the food and beverages industry decreased by 24,6% in February 2021 compared with February 2020. The largest decrease was recorded for bar sales (-49,3%).

In February 2021, the main contributors to the 24,6% year-on-year decrease were:



- restaurants and coffee shops (-32,4%, contributing -17,6 percentage points); and
- catering services (-50,3%, contributing -7,0 percentage points).

Total income decreased by 30,0% in the three months ended February 2021 compared with the three months ended February 2020. The main contributors to this decrease were:

- restaurants and coffee shops (-38,8%, contributing -21,4 percentage points); and
- catering services (-46,5%, contributing -5,9 percentage points).

Table J – Year-on-year percentage change in food and beverages income at constant prices by type of income – February 2021

Type of income	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21
Food sales	-37,7	-29,5	-25,1	-26,6	-34,2	-22,5
Bar sales	-60,4	-53,0	-49,5	-47,6	-80,5	-49,3
Other income	-25,6	-16,1	-27,1	-34,5	-40,5	-28,5
Total	-39,0	-30,9	-26,8	-28,1	-37,6	-24,6

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 in tourist accommodation industry decreased by 72,7% in February 2021

The Tourist accommodation industry consists of various accommodation sectors to cater for different tourists. One of the accommodations is known as botel (a boat or ship with sleeping accommodation that is used as a hotel by tourists on vacation). The botel which is affectionately known as a 'floating hotel' has amenities such as room services, jacuzzi and massage services among others which are free or a fee is charged. Botels may range from small or larger purpose-built or converted boats or other watercraft, to



converted ships. Presented in this article is a summary of the results of the Tourist and accommodation release for February 2021.

Total income for the tourist accommodation industry decreased by 72,7% in February 2021 compared with February 2020 (see **Table K**).

Income from accommodation decreased by 74,5% year-on-year in February 2021, the result of a 60,6% decrease in the number of stay unit nights sold and a 35,2% decrease in the average income per stay unit night sold.

In February 2021, 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 (-78,1%, contributing -53,7 percentage points); and
- 'other' accommodation (-68,8%, contributing -18,7 percentage points).

Table K – Year-on-year percentage change in tourist accommodation statistics for February 2021

	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-20	Feb-21
Stay units available	0,0	0,1	-0,2	-0,1	-0,2	-0,2
Stay unit nights sold	-65,9	-54,3	-53,4	-41,4	-58,6	-60,6
Average income per stay unit nights sold	-21,4	-26,6	-27,4	-17,8	-30,4	-35,2
Income from accommodation	-73,2	-66,4	-66,2	-51,8	-71,2	-74,5
Total income ^{1/}	-72,0	-66,3	-64,7	-57,9	-72,8	-72,7

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

A total of 385 832 travellers pass through South Africa's ports of entry/exit in February 2021

Many people around the world migrate (moving from one place to another) for various reasons. Some of the reasons are to find work, a better quality of life, to be closer to family or friends, to escape political persecution or war



and natural disasters such as flooding among others. According to Mid-year population estimates report for 2020 released by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), Gauteng and Western Cape have been receiving the highest number of in-migrants for years. According to the report, for the period 2016 to 2021, Gauteng and Western Cape are estimated to experience the largest inflow of migrants of 1 553 162 and 468 568 respectively. Migrants make important contributions to the labour market (the availability of employment and labour, in terms of supply and demand) in both high and low-skilled occupations but also increase the size of the population. Presented in this article is a summary of the results from the Tourism and migration statistics for February 2021.

A total of 385 832 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry/exit in February 2021 (**see Table L**). These travellers were made up of 131 693 South African residents and 254 139 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 64 943 arrivals, 66 694 departures and 56 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 136 510, 114 436 and 3 193, respectively

A comparison between the movements in February 2020 and February 2021 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 82,5% (from 370 823 in February 2020 to 64 943 in February 2021). Departures decreased by 82,5% (from 381 100 in February 2020 to 66 694 in February 2021) and transits decreased by 90,4% (from 584 in February 2020 to 56 in February 2021). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 88,8% (from 1 218 468 in February 2020 to 136 510 in February 2021), departures decreased by 89,3% (from 1 074 252 in February 2020 to 114 436 in February 2021) and transits decreased by 93,1% (from 46 006 in February 2020 to 3 193 in February 2021).

A comparison between the movements in January 2021 and February 2021 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures decreased for both groups of travellers whereas the volume of travellers in transit increased for South African residents but decreased for foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 38,9% (from 106 216 in January 2021 to 64 943 in February 2021), departures decreased by 20,1% (from 83 456 in January 2021 to 66 694 in February 2021) and



transits increased by 14,3% (from 49 in January 2021 to 56 in February 2021). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 30,3% (from 195 861 in January 2021 to 136 510 in February 2021), departures decreased by 12,1% (from 130 208 in January 2021 to 114 436 in February 2021) and transits decreased by 32,4% (from 4 720 in January 2021 to 3 193 in February 2021).

In February 2021, 34 212 (25,1%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 102 298 (74,9%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in February 2021 but did not depart in February 2021 [43 503 (42,5%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in February 2021 and left in February 2021 [24 057 (23,5%)]; and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in February 2021 [34 738 (34,0%)].

Mode of travel of travellers

In February 2021, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 277 365 (71,9%) of the 385 832 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 104 595 (27,1%). Compared to the use of air and land transport, a smaller number of travellers, 3 872 (1,0%) used sea transport. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 21 969 (33,8%) came by air, 42 796 (65,9%) came by road and 178 (0,3%) arrived by sea transport. For departures, 23 894 (35,8%) used air, 42 732 (64,1%) used road and 68 (0,1%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 56 (100,0%) used air transport.

Purpose of visit

In February 2021, the majority of tourists, 75 275 (83,5%), were in South Africa for holiday¹ compared to 11 107 (12,3%); 3 313 (3,7%) and 470 (0,5%) who were in South Africa for business, study and for medical treatment respectively.

Sex and age distribution

In February 2021, there were 67 815 (75,2%) male and 22 350 (24,8%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 6 706 (62,4%) male tourists and 4 039 (37,6%) female tourists. There were 59 050 (77,4%) male



and 17 248 (22,6%) female tourists from SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 1 963 (66,1%) male and 1 005 (33,9%) female tourists.

Table L – Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction: February 2021

Travel direction	February 2020	January 2021	February 2021	% change between January to February 2021	% change between February 2020 to February 2021
Total	3 091 233	520 510	385 832	-25,9%	-87,5%
South African residents	752 507	189 721	131 693	-30,6%	-82,5%
Arrivals	370 823	106 216	64 943	-38,9%	-82,5%
Departures	381 100	83 456	66 694	-20,1%	-82,5%
Transit	584	49	56	14,3%	-90,4%
Foreign travellers	2 338 726	330 789	254 139	-23,2%	-89,1%
Arrivals	1 218 468	195 861	136 510	-30,3%	-88,8%
Departures	1 074 252	130 208	114 436	-12,1%	-89,3%
Transit	46 006	4 720	3 193	-32,4%	-93,1%
Foreign arrivals	1 218 468	195 861	136 510	-30,3%	-88,8%
Non-visitors	75 171	45 870	34 212	-25,4%	-54,5%
Visitors	1 143 297	149 991	102 298	-31,8%	-91,1%
Visitors	1 143 297	149 991	102 298	-31,8%	-91,1%
Arrivals only	327 957	90 340	43 503	-51,8%	-86,7%
Single trips	426 238	26 254	24 057	-8,4%	-94,4%
Multiple trips	389 102	33 397	34 738	4,0%	-91,1%
Visitors	1 143 297	149 991	102 298	-31,8%	-91,1%
Same-day	342 482	10 857	12 133	11,8%	-96,5%
Overnight (Tourists)	800 815	139 134	90 165	-35,2%	-88,7%

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



Civil cases for debt

Total number of civil summonses issued for debt decreases

Sometimes debt can be caused by things like trying to keep up with others' material possessions or going on that vacation with friends that you can't really afford. This is one of the reasons why prioritisation of needs over wants is important. This can be achieved with a spending plan. A spending plan establishes financial goals and principles. Some people spend everything they earn and even supplement it by incurring more expenses through loans, overdrafts and credit card debt, sinking deeper into debt. As a result, most people are unable to repay their debts and end up having civil cases brought to them. Presented in this article is a summary of the statistics from the Civil cases for debt release for February 2021.

The number of civil summonses issued for debt

The total number of civil summonses issued for debt decreased by 6,0% in the three months ended February 2021 compared with the three months ended February 2020 (**see Table M**). The largest negative contributors to the 6,0% decrease in civil summonses issued were:

- money lent (contributing -3,6 percentage points);
- services (contributing -2,0 percentage points); and
- goods sold (contributing -0,9 of a percentage point).

The number of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total number of civil judgements recorded for debt decreased by 24,7% in the three months ended February 2021 compared with the three months ended February 2020. The largest contributors to the 24,7% decrease were civil judgements relating to:

- 'other' debts (contributing -6,8 percentage points);
- services (contributing -6,7 percentage points);
- rent (contributing -3,3 percentage points); and
- promissory notes (contributing -2,9 percentage points).

The value of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total value of civil judgements recorded for debt decreased by 8,0% in the three months ended February 2021 compared with the three months ended February 2020. The largest negative contributors to the 8,0% decrease were civil judgements relating to:



- services (contributing -6,0 percentage points); and
- promissory notes (contributing -4,0 percentage points).

In February 2021, 11 492 civil judgements for debt amounting to R275,9 million were recorded. The largest contributors to the total value of judgements were:

- money lent (R80,2 million or 29,1%);
- services (R59,3 million or 21,5%); and
- 'other' debts (R40,8 million or 14,8%).

Table M – Key figures for civil summonses and judgements for February 2021

Actual estimates	February 2021	% change between February 2020 and February 2021	% change between December 2019 – February 2020 and December 2020 to February 2021
Number of civil summonses issued for debt	44 400	-5,4	-6,0
Number of civil judgements recorded for debt	11 492	-16,5	-24,7
Value of civil judgements recorded for debt (R million)	275,9	5,0	-8,0

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 liquidation and insolvencies

Liquidations increased by 49,0% in March 2021

The latest liquidations' results show that 216 companies were liquidated in March 2021 compared with March 2020. Of all the sectors, the financing, insurance, real estate, business services sector (77 liquidations), was the hardest hit. Banks make up the largest part of this industry. This is followed by insurance providers (for health, life, vehicle insurance, etc.), financial services, consumer finance, real estate services and mortgage finance. So when the economy is doing well, the banking sector makes profit as more companies and individual consumers are able to pay back the capital or loans they received from the bank. The opposite happens when the economy struggles. Central banks, such as the South African Reserve Bank, might also take a decision to lower interest rates, which may lower the profit margins of banks. Added to this, a pandemic like COVID-19 can cause an



increase in claims for life and health insurance, which means insurance companies will be paying out more money for claims than usual. These are just some of the factors that can affect this industry and contribute to the liquidation of companies which cannot contain the financial pressure. Presented in this article is a summary of the results from the Statistics of liquidations and insolvencies for March 2021.

The total number of liquidations recorded increased by 49,0% (71 more cases) in March 2021 compared with March 2020 (**see Table N**). Voluntary liquidations increased by 61 cases and compulsory liquidations increased by 10 cases. The total number of liquidations increased by 18,9% in the first quarter of 2021 compared with the first quarter of 2020.

Table N – Total number of liquidations for March 2021

Number of liquidations March 2021	% change between March 2020 and March 2021	% change between January to March 2020 and January to March 2021
216	49,0	18,9

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 60,2% in February 2021 compared with February 2020 (**see Table O**). A 26,9% decrease was estimated in the three months ended February 2021 compared with the three months ended February 2020.

Table O – Total number of insolvencies for February 2021

Number of insolvencies February 2021	% change between February 2020 and February 2021	% change between December 2019 to February 2020 and December 2020 to February 2021	% change between January to February 2020 and January to February 2021
90	-60,2	-26,9	-51,1

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 in February 2021 decreases

Some motor vehicle owners modify or alter their motor vehicles in order to enhance their performance or to make them visually appealing. The most popular alterations and modifications performed by motor vehicle owners are to boost engine capacity, dropping suspensions, fitting bigger wheels, applying darker tinted windows and changing exhausts to emit loud sound among others. However, not all modifications or alterations are legal or allowed, only those that were made by motor vehicle manufacturers when a vehicle was manufactured are allowed. Illegal alterations and modifications affect the driving and handling of a motor vehicle which can cause accidents on the roads. As a result, most modifications and alterations are considered illegal and the motor vehicle can be deemed unroadworthy and confiscated by the law enforcement agency until it is restored to its original form and presented for re-testing at an approved testing station before it is deemed roadworthy. Presented in this article is a summary of the results from the Land transport survey for February 2021.

The volume of goods transported (payload) decreased by 6,4% in February 2021 compared with February 2020 (**see Table P**). The corresponding income decreased by 4,7% over the same period.

Income from freight transportation decreased by 5,4% in the three months ended February 2021 compared with the three months ended February 2020. The main negative contributors to this decrease were:

- manufactured food, beverages and tobacco products (-21,9%, contributing -2,6 percentage points); and
- primary mining and quarrying products (-3,3%, contributing -1,2 percentage points).



**Table P – Year-on-year percentage change in freight transportation:
February 2021**

	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21
Freight payload	-6,0	-8,7	-4,9	4,2	-10,7	-6,4
Freight income	-5,8	-7,9	-3,9	-0,2	-11,1	-4,7

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 52,1% in February 2021 compared with February 2020 (**see Table Q**). The corresponding income decreased by 36,4% over the same period.

**Table Q – Year-on-year percentage change in passenger
transportation: February 2021**

	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21
Passenger journeys	-54,0	-55,5	-48,4	-36,2	-46,3	-52,1
Passenger income	-45,5	-45,5	-37,5	-30,7	-37,2	-36,4

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 2021 at 5,2%

The producer price index (PPI) for March 2021 was the highest in 21 months, largely driven by an increase in producer prices for food products, beverages and tobacco products. This group category usually includes essential food items that are purchased by most families in South Africa such as bread, cereal, meat, etc. Several factors can contribute towards an increase in the production costs for food, such as weather conditions (floods or droughts can affect or destroy crops, and livestock can also die from lack of water or grazing), supply and demand, electricity and petrol prices. When producers experience an increase in the production costs for food, they can contain the increase by cutting down on internal costs such as transport, packaging, water, etc. However, when this is no longer viable, they can pass on the costs to consumers. When this happens, consumers may start seeing increases in the prices of food. Presented in this article is a summary of the results from the producer price index (PPI) for March 2021.

Final manufactured goods – headline PPI

Annual producer price inflation (final manufacturing) was 5,2% in March 2021, up from 4,0% in February 2021 (**see Table R**). The producer price index increased by 1,3% month-on-month in March 2021. The main contributors to the headline PPI annual inflation rate were:

- Food products, beverages and tobacco products (increased by 6,8% year-on-year and contributed 2,4 percentage points);
- Coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products (increased by 4,2% year-on-year and contributed 0,9 of a percentage point); and
- Metals, machinery, equipment and computing equipment (increased by 5,2% year-on-year and contributed 0,7 of a percentage point).

The main contributors to the headline PPI monthly increase were:

- food products, beverages and tobacco products (increased by 1,3% month-on-month and contributed 0,5 of a percentage point); and
- coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products (increased by 2,6% month-on-month and contributed 0,5 of a percentage point).



Intermediate manufactured goods

The annual percentage change in the PPI for intermediate manufactured goods was 11,2% in March 2021 (compared with 9,9% in February 2021) **(see Table R)**. The index increased by 1,0% month-on-month. The main contributors to the annual rate were basic and fabricated metals (6,4 percentage points) and chemicals, rubber and plastic products (3,4 percentage points). The main contributors to the monthly rate were sawmilling and wood (0,5 of a percentage point) and chemicals, rubber and plastic products (0,4 of a percentage point).

Electricity and water

The annual percentage change in the PPI for electricity and water was 7,8% in March 2021 (compared with 9,2% in February 2021) **(see Table R)**. The index decreased by 1,1% month-on-month. Electricity contributed 6,8 percentage points to the annual rate, and water contributed 1,0 percentage point. Electricity contributed -1,1 percentage points to the monthly rate.

Mining

The annual percentage change in the PPI for mining was 14,2% in March 2021 (compared with 11,5% in February 2021) **(see Table R)**. The index increased by 3,0% month-on-month. The main contributors to the annual rate were non-ferrous metal ores (8,2 percentage points), gold and other metal ores (4,6 percentage points) and coal and gas (3,3 percentage points). The main contributor to the monthly rate was non-ferrous metal ores (2,8 percentage points).

Agriculture, forestry and fishing

The annual percentage change in the PPI for agriculture, forestry and fishing was 7,2% in March 2021 (compared with 10,0% in February 2021) **(see Table R)**. The index decreased by 2,3% month-on-month. The main contributor to the annual rate was agriculture (7,9 percentage points). The main contributor to the monthly rate was agriculture (-2,2 percentage points).


Table R – Key PPI figures for March 2021

Product	Weight	Index (Dec 2020=100)			% change	
		Mar 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2021	Mar 2021 vs Feb 2021	Jan 2021 vs Jan 2020
Final manufactured goods	100,00	97,7	101,5	102,8	1,3	5,2
Intermediate manufactured goods	100,00	94,8	104,4	105,4	1,0	11,2
Electricity and water	100,00	93,4	101,8	100,7	-1,1	7,8
Mining	100,00	97,9	108,5	111,8	3,0	14,2
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	100,00	90,6	99,4	97,1	-2,3	7,2

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)

Headline CPI at 3,2% in March 2021

Consumers receiving electricity from Eskom are already feeling the brunt of electricity increase after the electricity tariff increase which was implemented on 1 April 2021. This came after National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA) approved Eskom Tariff and Structural Adjustment Application (ERTSA) and the Schedule of Tariffs for the period 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, after a court order application. The electricity tariff increase in municipalities is expected to rise by the same percentage from 1 July 2021. Some consumers who are under financial strain may consider using alternative sources of energy such as paraffin and coal, which pose a safety hazard in many ways. Presented in this article is a summary of the results of the Consumer price index release for the month of March 2021.

Annual consumer price inflation was 3,2% in March 2021, up from 2,9% in February 2021 (**see Table S**). The consumer price index increased by 0,7% month-on-month in March 2021. The main contributors to the 3,2% annual inflation rate were:

- Food and non-alcoholic beverages increased by 5,7% year-on-year and contributed 1,0 percentage point to the total CPI annual rate of 3,2%.
- Housing and utilities increased by 2,2% year-on-year, and contributed 0,5 of a percentage point.



- Transport increased by 3,8% year-on-year, and contributed 0,5 of a percentage point.
- Miscellaneous goods and services increased by 4,0% year-on-year, and contributed 0,7 of a percentage point.

The annual inflation rates for goods and for services were 3,9% and 2,6% respectively.

Provincial annual inflation rates ranged from 3,1% in Gauteng and Mpumalanga to 3,7% in North West and Limpopo.



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
2021	Index	117,7	118,5	119,3										
	Rate	3,2	2,9	3,2										

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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