

# Mbalo Brief

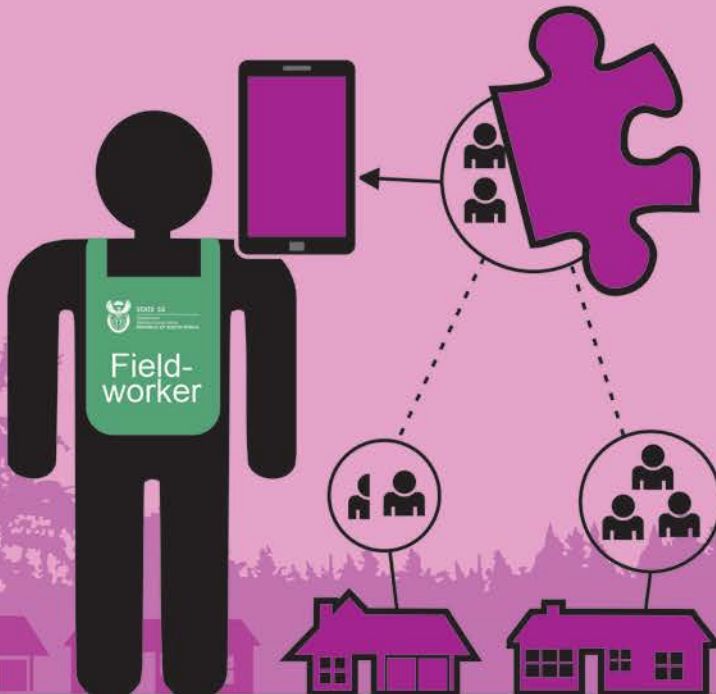


the missing piece of the puzzle

June 2021

**CENSUS 2021**

#GETCOUNTED



Issue 05/2021

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS



stats sa

Department:  
Statistics South Africa  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





Statistics South Africa  
Private Bag X44  
Pretoria 0001  
South Africa

ISlballo House, Koch Street, Salvokop  
Pretoria 0002

User information services: (012) 310 8600  
Main switchboard: (012) 310 8911

Website: [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za)  
Email: [info@statssa.gov.za](mailto:info@statssa.gov.za)





## Editor's comment

The statistics published in this month's issue of *Mbalo Brief* are mostly from March 2021, which marks a year since the start of the lockdown restrictions in South Africa as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the tourism industry is still struggling, partly due to the decrease in the number of international visitors, it is pleasing to see that most industries have bounced back from the negative impact of the lockdown.

More pleasant news came in the month of June when the Gross domestic product (GDP) results for the first quarter of 2021 (January to March) were published, indicating a continued positive growth in the country's economy. The GDP for the first quarter of 2021 was 4,6%, making this quarter the third consecutive quarter to record a positive growth. The finance, mining and trade industries were the largest positive contributors to the recorded growth in GDP. The finance, real estate and business services industry increased at an annual rate of 7,4% (after recording a negative growth in the fourth quarter of 2020), mostly driven by property services (recording a rise in mortgage advances and bond registrations) and the banking sector (registering a rise in the number of credit extensions). The electricity and agriculture industries were the two industries that recorded a negative growth.

In this month's issue of *Mbalo Brief*, our educational article is based on *The Agricultural survey, 2019* (statistical release P1101), that was published by Stats SA on 26 May 2021. Also have a look at our monthly crossword puzzle and solutions for May 2021 puzzle.

Articles published in this issue are based on results of industry surveys conducted from March to April 2021, such as, Manufacturing, Wholesale trade sales and Liquidations and insolvencies, to name a few.

For more details on any of the statistical releases, visit our website at: [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za)

Enjoy the read.



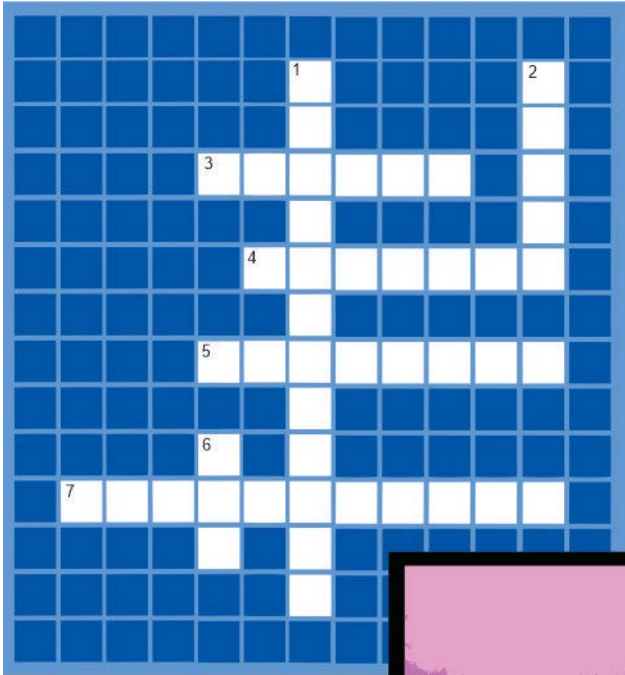


## Contents

<b>Editor’s comment</b> .....	<b>i</b>
<b>Crossword puzzle</b> .....	<b>iii</b>
<b>Educational article on Agriculture, 2019</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Primary industries</b> .....	<b>7</b>
Mining: Production and sales .....	7
<b>Secondary industries</b> .....	<b>9</b>
Manufacturing: Production and sales.....	9
Selected building statistics of the private sector .....	10
Electricity generated and available for distribution .....	12
<b>Tertiary industries</b> .....	<b>14</b>
Wholesale trade sales .....	14
Retail trade sales .....	15
Motor trade sales .....	16
Food and beverages .....	18
Tourist accommodation .....	19
Tourism and migration .....	20
Statistics of civil cases for debt .....	26
Statistics of liquidations and insolvencies .....	28
Land transport survey .....	29
<b>Prices</b> .....	<b>31</b>
Producer price index (PPI) .....	31
Consumer price index (CPI).....	33
<b>Glossary</b> .....	<b>36</b>



## Crossword puzzle





### Across

3. Which continent is the second largest in the world?
4. Which industry was the largest positive contributor to growth in GDP in the first quarter of 2021? Read the editor's comment for clue.
5. Which public holiday is celebrated every year in South Africa on June 16?
7. Aside from electricity, which other industry reported a negative contribution in the gross domestic product (GDP) for the first quarter of 2021? Read the editor's comment for a clue.

### Down

1. According to the educational article ...crops was the largest contributor to the total income generated from sales of goods in 2019. Fill in the missing word.
2. True or false? According to the educational article, as at the end of June 2019, more females than males were employed in the agriculture and related services industry.
6. How many colours are in South Africa's national flag?

## Solutions for May 2021 puzzle

### Across

6. Vredefort Dome
7. July

### Down

1. Prince Misuzulu
2. True
3. Fe
4. Cricket
5. Botel





## Educational article on Agriculture, 2019

### Introduction

Agriculture plays an essential role on the economies of many countries. This is because it is a source of food, fabrics (such as cotton and wool) and other raw materials (like wood), and contributes towards employment. It is also one of the industries that can sometimes be beyond the control of man. For example, if a country experiences floods or droughts, the agricultural industry can be severely affected, resulting in a shortage of food as well as a rise in food prices since demand will be higher than supply. The purpose of this article is to make a comparison on the performance of the agriculture industry in South Africa between 2017 and 2019 in terms of: income generated by the different products in the industry; concentration ratios for total income; income by enterprise size in the agriculture and related services industry; expenditure; capital expenditure on new assets in the agriculture and related services industry; and employment. These findings were derived from the *Agricultural Survey, Preliminary 2019* (statistical release P1101) published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) on 26 May 2021.

### Background

South Africa has a well-developed commercial agricultural sector (the production of crops and farm animals for sale purposes) as well as households who farm for subsistence purposes. The commercial sector is highly diversified and includes the production of all the major grains (except rice), oilseeds, deciduous and subtropical fruits, sugar, citrus, wine and most vegetables. Livestock production includes cattle, dairy, pigs, sheep, poultry and eggs.

The agriculture survey conducted by Stats SA measures economic activity in the agriculture and related services industry of the South African economy. The survey is based on a sample of private and public enterprises operating in the agriculture and related services industry. The information used to compile the survey was collected from enterprises for their financial year, which ended on any date between 1 July 2018 and 30 June 2019. The majority of enterprises had a financial year ending February 2019.





The survey covers the activities of commercial farms in South Africa that are registered for value added tax (VAT). It is used by the following persons and institutions:

- policy advisers in government who use it to monitor the performance of the industry and its contribution to the South African economy, and evaluate the effectiveness of industry policies; and
- industry associations monitor trends in their own and competing or complementary industries in order to inform their members of market changes.

### **Income by type of product**

Total income earned in the agriculture and related services industry was R351,4 billion in 2019 compared with R314,0 billion in 2017. The total income figures reflect an annualised increase of 5,8% between 2017 and 2019.

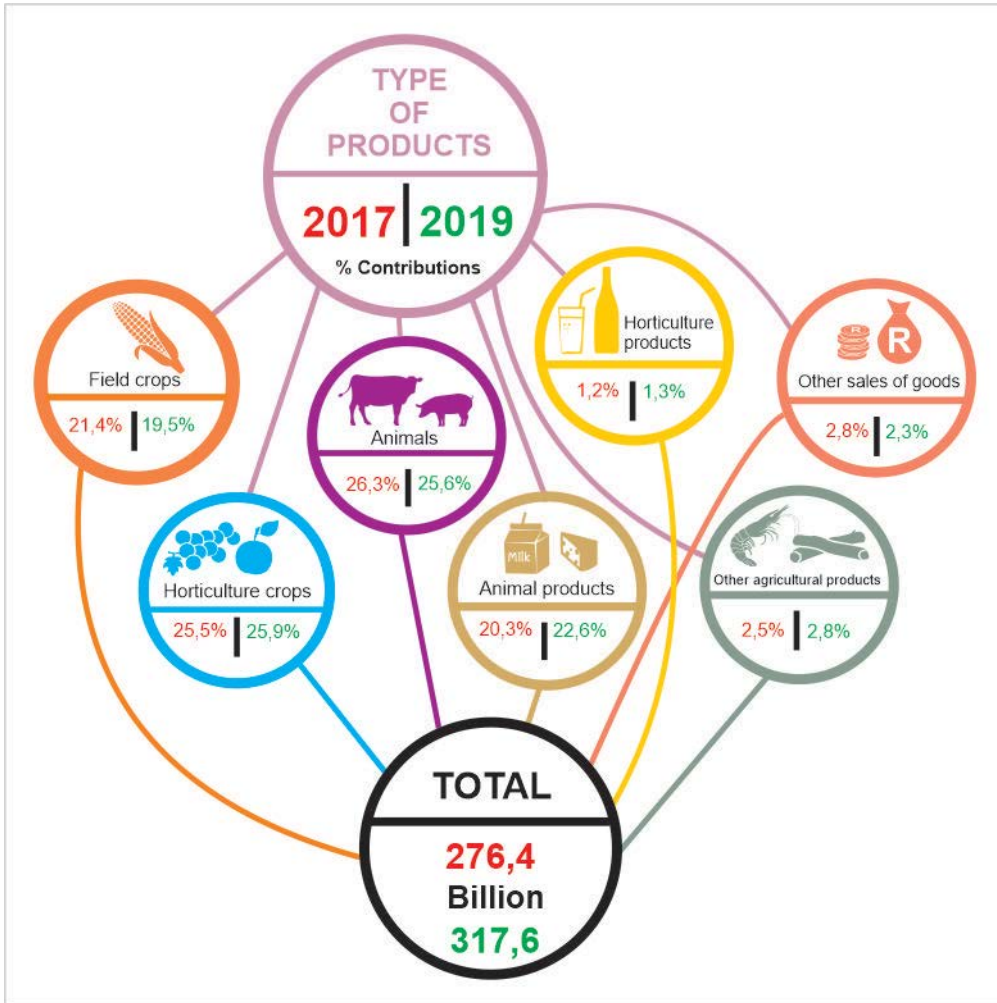
The total income is further divided into the following types of income:

- income from sales of goods, R317,6 billion in 2019 compared with R276,5 billion in 2017;
- income received from services rendered, R9,4 billion in 2019 compared with R11,6 billion in 2017;
- rental income, R2,9 billion in 2019 compared with R2,7 billion in 2017;
- interest received, R3,9 billion in 2019 compared with R2,7 billion in 2017;
- profit on financial and other assets, other liabilities and foreign exchange, R5,9 billion in 2019 compared with R8,8 billion in 2017; and
- other income, R11,74 billion in 2019 compared with R11,65 billion in 2017.





Figure 1 – Income from sales of goods by type of product in the agriculture and related services industry, 2017 and 2019



In 2019, income from sales of goods was the largest contributor to the total income generated in the agriculture industry. This was made up of products such as 'horticulture crops' (apples, grapes, vegetables, etc.), which generated the highest sales (R82,1 billion in 2019, contributing 25,9 percentage points). This was followed by 'animals' (R81,2 billion in 2019,



contributing 25,6 percentage points). The types of animals that are part of this category include cattle, chicken, sheep and pigs. 'Horticulture products' (red wine, white wine, etc.), however, generated the least sales in 2019 (R4,2 billion, contributing 1,3 percentage points) (see Figure 1).

The highest annualised percentage increase was recorded for income earned from the sales of 'animals' (9,1%), followed by 'horticultural crops and products' (8,0%) and 'field crops' (2,2%).

### **Concentration ratios for total income**

Concentration ratio measures the percentage contribution of sum of income of the top (5/ 10/ 20/ 50 or 100) enterprises to the total income.

In 2019, the 100 largest enterprises (in terms of total income) in the agriculture and related services industry contributed 26,5% of total income. The concentration ratios in the agricultural industry increased in all the categories between 2017 and 2019.

### **Income by enterprise size in the agriculture and related services industry, 2019**

Large enterprises contributed 60,2% or R211,3 billion of the total income in 2019, followed by small enterprises with a contribution of 22,4% or R78,8 billion. Micro enterprises and medium enterprises contributed 9,1% or R32,0 billion and 8,3% or R29,3 billion, respectively.

### **Expenditure**

Total expenditure incurred by the farming sector for 2019 was R330,4 billion compared with R289,1 billion in 2017 (an annualised increase of 6,9%). The highest contributor to total expenditure was 'purchases' with 51,7%, followed by 'salaries and wages' (13,1%), 'repairs and maintenance' (5,3%), 'depreciation' (4,6%) and 'interest' (3,2%).

### **Capital expenditure on new assets in the agriculture and related services industry, 2017 and 2019**



Capital expenditure is the money spent by enterprises to buy, maintain, or improve its assets, such as buildings, vehicles, equipment, or land.



The total capital expenditure on new assets in the agriculture and related services industry in 2019 amounted to R23,3 billion compared with R28,6 billion in 2017, an annualised decrease of 9,8%. 'Motor vehicles, plant, machinery, tractors and other transport' reported the largest decrease (-R4,8 billion, a decrease from R18,5 billion in 2017 to R13,7 billion in 2019). This was followed by 'Land and buildings' (-R1,7 billion, a decrease from R7,4 billion in 2017 to R5,7 billion in 2019).

### Employment

**Figure 2 – Employment in the agriculture and related services industry for the last pay period ended on or before 30 June 2017 and 2019**

Activity	2017	2019
 Growing of crops; market gardening; horticulture -	468 593	461 732
 Farming of animals	142 768	156 972
 Growing of crops combined with farming of animals	113 434	115 505
 Agricultural and animal husbandry services, except veterinary activities	32 189	27 456
 Hunting, trapping and game propagation including related services	7 444	6 506
<b>Total</b>	<b>764 428</b>	<b>768 171</b>

The total number of persons employed in the agriculture and related services industry as at the end of June 2019 increased by 3 743 persons (from 764 428 in June 2017 to 768 171 in June 2019), an annualised increase of 0,2%. The largest increase was recorded in the 'Farming of animals' division (from 142 768 in June 2017 to 156 972 in June 2019, an annualised increase of 4,9%). This was followed by the 'Growing of crops combined with farming of animals (mixed farming)' (from 113 434 in June



2017 to 115 505 in June 2019, an annualised increase of 0,9%) (see **Figure 2**).

The remaining three divisions all recorded a decrease in the number of persons employed as at the end of June 2019. The largest decrease was recorded in the 'Agricultural and animal husbandry services, except veterinary activities' (from 32 189 in June 2017 to 27 456 in June 2019, an annualised decrease of -7,6%) (see **Figure 2**).

As at the end of June 2019, more males (456 700) than females (311 471) were employed in the agriculture and related services industry. However, the number of males employed as at the end of June 2019 decreased from 468 994 in 2017 to 456 700 in 2019, an annualised decrease of -1,3%). In contrast, the number of females employed as at the end of June 2019 increased from 295 434 in June 2017 to 311 471 in June 2019, an annualised increase of 2,7%.

A further breakdown of employment by gender shows that the majority of males (260 371) and females (201 361) were employed in the 'Growing of crops; market gardening; horticulture' division.

## **Conclusion**

The total income earned in the agriculture and related services industry in 2019 was higher than the income generated in 2017. Large enterprises were the largest contributors to the total income generated in 2019, followed by small enterprises. The total expenditure incurred by the farming sector for 2019 was higher than that of 2017, largely influenced by 'purchases'. Finally, the total number of persons employed in the agriculture and related services industry as at the end of June 2019 increased from June 2017. The largest increase was recorded in the 'Farming of animals' division. As at the end of June 2019, the industry had a higher number of males employed than females.



# Primary industries

## Mining: Production and sales

### *Mining production increase by 21,3% in March 2021*

One of the rarest class of diamond has been recovered in South Africa. A rare 39,34 carat Type IIb blue diamond has been recovered at Petra Diamonds' Cullinan Diamond Mine in Pretoria in April 2021. According to Petra Diamonds, the rare diamond will be auctioned in July 2021. Blue diamonds are the second rarest and high ranking priced diamonds after red diamonds in the world. According to Gemological Institute of America (GIA) which grades diamonds, Type IIb diamonds are known to conduct electricity and the presence of boron impurities is often responsible for the colour of natural blue diamonds. However, their colour can also be caused by radiation exposure or associated with hydrogen. Blue diamonds are mostly recovered in Australia, South Africa and India. Presented in this article is a summary of the results from *Mining: Production and sales* (statistical release P2041) for March 2021.

Mining production increased by 21,3% year-on-year in March 2021 (see **Table A**). The largest positive contributors were:

- PGMs (68,6%, contributing 11,6 percentage points);
- iron ore (47,9%, contributing 4,1 percentage points);
- manganese ore (29,9%, contributing 2,4 percentage points); and
- gold (10,5%, contributing 1,5 percentage points).

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

	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-5,5	-9,7	-2,5	-8,2	-2,3	21,3
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-0,1	-4,1	-1,4	4,2	0,9	4,5
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1/</sup>	17,7	7,2	-1,7	-4,1	-1,3	3,8

<sup>1/</sup> 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](http://www.statssa.gov.za)



Mineral sales increased by 46,9% year-on-year in March 2021 (see **Table B**). The largest contributors were:

- PGMs (76,0%, contributing 26,1 percentage points);
- gold (61,3%, contributing 7,2 percentage points);
- iron ore (48,3%, contributing 6,9 percentage points); and
- ‘other’ non-metallic minerals (72,0%, contributing 2,2 percentage points).

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

	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	31,2	15,6	22,8	24,9	25,4	46,9
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	2,8	-3,7	-6,7	31,9	-9,5	15,7
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1/</sup>	35,3	22,5	5,2	5,2	7,6	22,3

<sup>1/</sup> 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](http://www.statssa.gov.za)



# Secondary industries

## Manufacturing: Production and sales

### *Manufacturing production increased by 4,6% in March 2021*

During the State of the Nation Address (SONA) on 11 February 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced that Cabinet approved the small, micro and medium enterprise (SMME) Focused Localisation Policy Framework. The framework was designed to support production or manufacturing by SMMEs and specify which products are to be procured from them. Some of these locally manufactured products are body care, textiles, beverages and rubber. Prioritising certain locally manufactured products means that products that are produced in other countries in certain categories cannot be allowed into South Africa in order to protect local companies. Supporting local SMMEs will assist to rebuild the production economy and create jobs. Presented in this article is a summary of the results of the *Manufacturing: Production and sales* (statistical release P3041.2) for March 2021.

Manufacturing production increased by 4,6% in March 2021 compared with March 2020 (**see Table C**). The largest positive contributions were made by the following divisions:

- food and beverages (10,4%, contributing 3,0 percentage points); and
- motor vehicles, parts and accessories and other transport equipment (25,9%, contributing 2,1 percentage points).

The petroleum, chemical products, rubber and plastic products division (-7,1%, contributing -1,5 percentage points) was a significant negative contributor.



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

	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-3,9	-4,2	2,4	-4,3	-2,5	4,6
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	2,6	-0,9	0,7	-0,3	-1,1	3,4
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1/</sup>	17,2	8,9	5,4	2,2	0,3	0,3

<sup>1/</sup> 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](http://www.statssa.gov.za)

## Selected building statistics of the private sector

### **Value of reported building plans passed increase by 7,8% during First quarter of 2021**

In an effort to achieve net zero carbon buildings, energy performance of non-residential and residential buildings are vital. According to Green Building Council of South Africa some non-residential buildings will be required by law to display an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC). This will demonstrate the efficiency or inefficiency of a building, by December 2022. To obtain an EPC, a building owner will need to gather some of the building information, the electricity consumption data for a year, the net floor area, building vacancy rates and contracts among others. The building owner will have to contract a South African National Accreditation System (SANAS) accredited inspection body (IB) to audit the information. The IB submits the energy performance value to the South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI), which will generate a unique number for the EPC and send to the SANAS accredited IB, who then issues the EPC to the client for display. Presented in this article is a summary of the results from the *Selected building statistics of the private sector*

The value of recorded building plans passed (at current prices) increased by 7,8% (R1 845,4 million) in the first quarter of 2021 compared with first quarter of 2020 (see Table D). Residential buildings rose by 13,0% (R1 514,9 million). The largest contributions to the total increase of 7,8% (R1 845,4 million) were made by the following provinces:

- KwaZulu-Natal (contributing 4,2 percentage points or R997,9 million);





- Western Cape (contributing 2,0 percentage points or R463,3 million);
- Eastern Cape (contributing 1,7 percentage points or R400,6 million); and
- North West (contributing 1,5 percentage points or R352,4 million).

The value of buildings reported as completed (at current prices) decreased by 28,7% (-R4 866,4 million) in the first quarter of 2021 compared with first quarter of 2020. Decreases were recorded for:

- non-residential buildings (-63,6% or -R4 037,2 million);
- additions and alterations (-21,7% or -R746,7 million); and
- residential buildings (-1,1% or -R82,5 million).

Eight provinces reported year-on-year decreases in the value of buildings completed in the first quarter of 2021. The following four provinces were the largest negative contributors:

- Gauteng (contributing -11,8 percentage points or -R1 999,3 million);
- KwaZulu-Natal (contributing -11,4 percentage points or -R1 938,4 million);
- Eastern Cape (contributing -2,4 percentage points or -R409,4 million); and
- Free State (contributing -1,8 percentage points or -R302,4 million).



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

Estimates at current prices	January to March 2020	January to March 2021	Difference in value between January to March 2020 and January to March 2021	% change between February 2020 and February 2021
	1/	1/	1/	
	R'000	R'000	R'000	
<b>Residential buildings</b>	<b>11 690 866</b>	<b>13 205 801</b>	<b>1 514 935</b>	<b>13,0</b>
- Dwelling houses	6 654 617	7 992 764	1 338 147	20,1
- Flats and townhouses	4 920 712	5 142 511	221 799	4,5
- Other residential buildings	115 537	70 526	-45 011	-39,0
<b>Non-residential buildings</b>	<b>5 324 807</b>	<b>5 608 362</b>	<b>283 555</b>	<b>5,3</b>
<b>Additions and alterations</b>	<b>6 675 998</b>	<b>6 722 942</b>	<b>46 944</b>	<b>0,7</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>23 691 671</b>	<b>25 537 105</b>	<b>1 845 434</b>	<b>7,8</b>

<sup>1/</sup> 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](http://www.statssa.gov.za)

## Electricity generated and available for distribution

### ***Volume of electricity generated and consumed in March 2021 increases***

South Africans should brace themselves for more years of load shedding. During Eskom's Status of the System briefing on 15 March 2021, Chief Executive André de Ruyter said there will be a continuous electricity supply shortfall of approximately 4 000 MW over the next five years while this power utility continues with the overhaul of old power plants with the aim of improving performance to reduce the risk of future load shedding. De Ruyter stressed that capacity challenges will remain one of the key challenges South Africa will continue to grapple with, and most power stations are in need of maintenance to improve reliability while some have also long passed their midlife. According to De Ruyter, Eskom is looking forward to continue



collaborating with the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy and the Independent Power Producers (IPP) Office to enable an accelerated execution of additional generation capacity onto the grid in the shortest space of time. Eskom continues to ask South Africans to reduce demand to help to reduce or avoid load shedding. Presented in this article is a summary of the results of the *Electricity generated and available for distribution* (statistical release P4141) for April 2021.

Electricity generation (production) increased by 25,6% year-on-year in April 2021 (see Table E).

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

	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-2,4	1,1	-3,2	-4,3	1,8	25,6
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,6	0,4	-2,5	2,2	0,5	0,9
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1/</sup>	1,0	0,7	-0,1	-0,1	-0,5	1,2

<sup>1/</sup> Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.0000

Electricity distribution (consumption) increased by 25,7% year-on-year in April 2021 (see Table F).

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

	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-2,1	1,7	-2,4	-3,8	3,0	25,7
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,4	0,8	-2,3	1,3	0,7	0,4
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1/</sup>	0,9	0,4	-0,3	-0,1	-0,6	0,6

<sup>1/</sup> 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](http://www.statssa.gov.za)



# Tertiary industries

## Wholesale trade sales

### *Wholesale trade sales increase*

Wholesalers that deal with construction and building materials are experiencing demand of building materials due to an increased construction activities. This comes after wholesale trade sales data released by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) on 20 May 2021, reported an increase of 38,6% from construction and building material in March 2021. The increase of construction and building materials sales was also welcomed by the Steel and Engineering Industries Federation of Southern Africa (SEIFSA) which stated that the steel industry experienced an increase in production sales from R70 billion in February 2021 to R79 billion in March 2021. According to SEIFSA, the increase in the sale of construction and building material was driven mainly by the increase in demand of building supplies such in basic steel products, cement and bricks, as construction activity ramps up amid relaxed COVID-19 regulations. Presented in this article is a summary of the results of the *Wholesale trade sales* (statistical release P6141.2) for the month of March 2021.

Wholesale trade sales increased by 10,6% in March 2021 compared with March 2020 (**see Table G**). The main contributors were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (18,6%, contributing 3,9 percentage points);
- construction and building materials (38,6%, contributing 1,9 percentage points);
- 'other' household goods except precious stones (12,0%, contributing 1,6 percentage points); and
- agricultural raw materials and livestock (20,8%, contributing 1,4 percentage points).

Wholesale trade sales increased by 2,1% in the first quarter of 2021 compared with the first quarter of 2020. The main contributor was dealers in 'other' household goods except precious stones (25,2%, contributing 3,0 percentage points).



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

	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-3,8	-2,9	2,5	-4,9	0,0	10,6
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-0,3	-1,2	3,6	0,6	2,2	1,6
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1/</sup>	10,6	3,2	0,7	1,5	3,8	4,7

<sup>1/</sup> 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](http://www.statssa.gov.za)

## Retail trade sales

### *Retail trade sales increased by 2,5% in March 2021*

South African consumers have been experiencing high interest charged when paying via instalments for some items over time. Consumers will be relieved after the introduction of Payflex, an online service that allows consumers to pay later with interest-free fees for a few weeks. In order to avoid consumers accruing overdue debt due to missing payments, Payflex sends reminder emails in advance. Payflex payments are split over four interest-free instalments. For instance, if a consumer buys a necklace for R1 000, the first upfront payment will be R250 (only 25% of the price) and the necklace will be shipped immediately, and thereafter the additional three R250 payments every two weeks for six weeks must be paid in full. Payflex was launched in 2019 in South Africa and consumers can shop at over 500 well-known online stores on the Payflex digital mall. Presented in this article is a summary of the results from the *Retail trade sales* (statistical release P6343.2) for March 2021.

Retail trade sales decreased by 2,5% year-on-year in March 2021 (**see Table H**). The largest negative annual growth rates were recorded for:

- all 'other' retailers (-18,5%);
- retailers in pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries (-10,7%); and
- general dealers (-9,3%).



The main negative contributor to this decrease was general dealers (contributing -4,5 percentage points).

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

	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-2,3	4,3	-1,2	-3,7	2,2	-2,5
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-0,4	1,7	-0,1	-2,3	6,9	-3,7
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1/</sup>	7,2	4,4	2,9	1,0	1,7	1,5

<sup>1/</sup> 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](http://www.statssa.gov.za)

## Motor trade sales

### ***Motor trade sales increase by 25,7% in March 2021***

Motor trade sales results for March 2021 show that the increase in sales of used vehicles has been one of the major contributors to the overall increase in motor trade sales. Although purchasing a used vehicle could be much cheaper than purchasing a new vehicle (because the market value of the used vehicle would have depreciated and insurance premiums might be cheaper), consumers are urged to be vigilant when doing so. One of the important things to consider when buying a used vehicle is to get an accredited repairer or dealer to provide you with an independent assessment. A full list of accredited SAMBRA (South African Motor Body Repairers' Association) members can be found on the Retail Motor Industry Organisation (RMI) website. Prospective buyers should also take the car for a test drive and request the full service history of the car to make sure it was well maintained and wasn't involved in a major accident. This will help consumers to avoid problems with the vehicle in the future. Presented in this article is a summary of the results of the *Motor trade sales* (statistical release P6343.2) for March 2021.

Motor trade sales increased by 25,7% year-on-year in March 2021 (**see Table I**) All six types of activity showed year-on-year increases in March 2021. The main contributors were:



- new vehicle sales (47,4%, contributing 10,7 percentage points);
- used vehicle sales (45,5%, contributing 7,8 percentage points); and
- sales of accessories (25,4%, contributing 4,5 percentage points).

Motor trade sales increased by 2,6% in the first quarter of 2021 compared with the first quarter of 2020. The main positive contributors to this increase were:

- used vehicle sales (14,5%, contributing 2,7 percentage points); and
- new vehicle sales (10,8%, contributing 2,6 percentage points).

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

	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-7,4	-4,6	-1,0	-10,1	-4,4	25,7
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-2,1	1,6	0,4	-1,9	3,2	2,9
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1/</sup>	25,9	7,6	3,1	0,7	0,6	2,0

<sup>1/</sup> 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](http://www.statssa.gov.za)



## Food and beverages statistics

### ***Income generated by the food and beverages industry increased by 4,0% in March 2021***

According to Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), an agency of United Nations, by 2050 the world's population will reach 9,1 billion and the majority of this population increase is expected to occur in developing countries. In order to feed this larger population, FAO asserted that food production must increase by 70%, of which annual cereal production will need to rise to about 3 billion tonnes from the current 2,1 billion along with annual meat production which will need to rise by over 200 million tonnes to reach 470 million tonnes in 2050. FAO revealed that 80% of the production increases in developing countries would come from increases in yields and cropping intensity (the number of crops a farmer grows in a given agricultural year on the same field) and only 20% from expansion of arable land (land capable of being ploughed and used to grow crops). Presented in this article is a summary of the results of the *Food and beverages* (statistical release P6420) for March 2021.

Total income generated by the food and beverages industry increased by 4,0% in March 2021 compared with March 2020 (**see Table J**). A positive annual growth rate was recorded for food sales. In March 2021, the main contributor to the 4,0% year-on-year increase was takeaway and fast-food outlets (22,8%, contributing 7,7 percentage points). This increase was partly counteracted by catering services (-24,7%, contributing -3,5 percentage points).

Total income decreased by 21,9% in the first quarter of 2021 compared with the first quarter of 2020. The contributors to this decrease were:

- restaurants and coffee shops (-30,2%, contributing -16,2 percentage points); and
- catering services (-41,1%, contributing -5,6 percentage points).





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

Type of income	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21
Food sales	-29,5	-25,1	-26,6	-34,2	-24,7	5,1
Bar sales	-53,0	-49,5	-47,6	-80,5	-49,0	-11,4
Other income	-16,1	-27,1	-34,5	-40,5	-27,2	-6,7
<b>Total</b>	<b>-30,9</b>	<b>-26,8</b>	<b>-28,1</b>	<b>-37,6</b>	<b>-26,5</b>	<b>4,0</b>

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

## Tourist accommodation

### ***Income in the tourist accommodation industry decreases by 45,3%***

Accommodation is one of the important products in the tourism sector. Although tourists do not usually visit a location for its accommodation facility, having a clean and comfortable place to rest in and revive after a full day of activities can act as a catalyst to attract tourists to a certain establishment. In fact, by definition, a tourist is only classified as such if he or she spends at least one night in the place visited. Understandably accommodation is a concern for most tourists, whether it is a hotel, bed & breakfast, camping site or lodge. Presented in this article is a summary of the *Tourist accommodation survey* (statistical release P6410) for the month of March 2021.

Total income for the tourist accommodation industry decreased by 45,3% in March 2021 compared with March 2020 (**see Table K**).

Income from accommodation decreased by 35,9% year-on-year in March 2021, the result of a 16,5% decrease in the number of stay unit nights sold and a 23,2% decrease in the average income per stay unit night sold.



In March 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 (-39,7%, contributing -26,0 percentage points); and
- 'other' accommodation (-30,6%, contributing -8,9 percentage points).

Income from accommodation decreased by 64,3% in the first quarter of 2021 compared with the first quarter of 2020. The main contributors to this decrease were:

- hotels (-69,0%, contributing -46,0 percentage points); and
- 'other' accommodation (-57,2%, contributing -16,4 percentage points).

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

	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-20	Feb-21	Mar-21
Stay units available	0,1	-0,2	-0,1	-0,2	-0,2	-0,2
Stay unit nights sold	-54,3	-53,4	-41,4	-58,6	-60,2	-16,5
Average income per stay unit nights sold	-26,6	-27,4	-17,8	-30,4	-35,0	-23,2
Income from accommodation	-66,4	-66,2	-51,8	-71,2	-74,1	-35,9
<b>Total income <sup>1/</sup></b>	<b>-66,3</b>	<b>-64,7</b>	<b>-57,9</b>	<b>-72,8</b>	<b>-72,6</b>	<b>-45,3</b>

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](http://www.statssa.gov.za)

## Tourism and migration

### ***A total of 635 758 travellers passed through South Africa's ports of entry/exit***

The global shift from the traditional 9 to 5 in an office to flexible and remote working has bred a new generation of 'digital nomads'. These are people who travel from country to country to live and work there. This is one of the reasons why the Western Cape provincial government has formally requested the introduction of a 'remote working' visa for South Africa.



According to their proposal, this remote working visa will allow international visitors to stay longer and work remotely while travelling in South Africa. They further stated that this could drive tourism in the province as it would encourage tourists to stay in the country longer and possibly even invite their friends and family for a holiday. Presented in this article is a summary of the results from the *Tourism and migration* (statistical release P0351) for March 2021.

## Travellers

### 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 635 758 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry/exit in March 2021 (**see Table L**). These travellers were made up of 214 865 South African residents and 420 893 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 103 933 arrivals, 110 871 departures and 61 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 223 135, 193 117 and 4 641, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in March 2020 and March 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 66,9% (from 314 022 in March 2020 to 103 933 in March 2021). Departures decreased by 60,9% (from 283 691 in March 2020 to 110 871 in March 2021) and transits decreased by 87,6% (from 492 in March 2020 to 61 in March 2021). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 74,2% (from 863 232 in March 2020 to 223 135 in March 2021), departures decreased by 78,7% (from 905 186 in March 2020 to 193 117 in March 2021) and transits decreased by 84,8% (from 30 528 in March 2020 to 4 641 in March 2021).

A comparison between the movements in February 2021 and March 2021 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 60,0% (from 64 943 in February 2021 to 103 933 in March 2021), departures increased by 66,2% (from 66 694 in



February 2021 to 110 871 in March 2021) and transits increased by 8,9% (from 56 in February 2021 to 61 in March 2021). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 63,5% (from 136 510 in February 2021 to 223 135 in March 2021), departures increased by 68,8% (from 114 436 in February 2021 to 193 117 in March 2021) and transits increased by 45,3% (from 3 193 in February 2021 to 4 641 in March 2021).

In March 2021, 38 265 (17,1%) foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 184 870 (82,9%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in March 2021 but did not depart in March 2021 [66 905 (36,2%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in March 2021 and left in March 2021 [46 907 (25,4%)]; and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in March 2021 [71 058 (38,4%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In March 2021, there were 27 232 (14,7%) same-day visitors and 157 638 (85,3%) tourists. Between March 2020 and March 2021, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 89,9% (from 270 348 in March 2020 to 27 232 in March 2021) and that of tourists decreased by 70,5% (from 535 094 in March 2020 to 157 638 in March 2021).

### **Mode of travel of travellers**

In March 2021, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 481 462 (75,7%) of the 635 758 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 149 776 (23,6%). Compared to the use of air and land transport, a smaller number of travellers, 4 520 (0,7%) used sea transport.

Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 29 835 (28,7%) came by air, 73 906 (71,1%) came by road and 192 (0,2%) arrived by sea transport. For departures, 33 741 (30,4%) used air, 77 027 (69,5%) used road and 103 (0,1%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 61 (100,0%) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 41 086 (18,4%) arrived by air, 180 008 (80,7%) came by road and 2 041 (0,9%) arrived by sea transport. When



departing South Africa, 40 412 (20,9%) foreign travellers left by air, 150 521 (77,9%) left by road and 2 184 (1,1%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 4 641 (100,0%) used air transport for departure.

## **Tourists**

### **Mode of travel of tourists**

The country of residence of tourists is used to categorise them according to their respective countries and regions. In March 2021, 15 756 (89,8%) of the 17 548 overseas tourists arrived in the country by air transport, whilst 1 782 (10,2%) came in by road transport and 10 (0,1%) arrived by sea transport. Tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 122 201 (89,5%) and 14 305 (10,5%) came by air. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 3 036 (92,3%), with 252 (7,7%) using road transport.

### **Regional and national distribution**

In March 2021, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 9 555 (54,5%); Asia, 3 734 (21,3%); North America, 2 922 (16,7%); The Middle East, 593 (3,4%); Central and South America, 493 (2,8%); and Australasia, 251 (1,4%).

Virtually, most tourists from Africa, 136 506 (97,6%), came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 1 589 (1,1%); East and Central Africa, 1 409 (1,0%); and North Africa 290 (0,2%).

The ten leading overseas countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in March 2021 were: United States of America (USA), 2 657 (15,1%); Germany, 2 082 (11,9%); United Kingdom (UK), 1 712 (9,8%); India, 1 428 (8,1%); France, 893 (5,1%); Russian Federation, 779 (4,4%); China, 736 (4,2%); The Netherlands, 685 (3,9%); Pakistan, 631 (3,6%); and Switzerland, 431 (2,5%).

The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in March 2021 were: Mozambique 42 593 (31,2%); Zimbabwe,



29 750 (21,8%); Lesotho, 23 349 (17,1%); Eswatini, 14 525 (10,6%); Namibia, 7 596 (5,6%); Botswana, 6 784 (5,0%); Zambia, 5 465 (4,0%); Malawi, 4 142 (3,0%); Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), 936 (0,7%) and Tanzania, 882 (0,6%).

## Purpose of visit

In March 2021, the majority of tourists, 139 333 (88,4%), were in South Africa for holiday<sup>1</sup> compared to 14 628 (9,3%); 3 331 (2,1%) and 346 (0,2%) who were in South Africa for business, study and for medical treatment respectively.

## Sex distribution

In March 2021, there were 110 196 (69,9%) male and 47 442 (30,1%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 10 869 (61,9%) male tourists and 6 679 (38,1%) female tourists. There were 96 974 (71,0%) male and 39 532 (29,0%) female tourists from SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 2 156 (65,6%) male and 1 132 (34,4%) female tourists.

## Age distribution

The ages of the tourists were categorised into seven broad groups. The majority of tourists were aged between 35 and 44 years [55 488 (35,2%)]. Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results show that the highest proportion of tourists from 'other' African countries [1 101 (33,5%)] and those from overseas countries [3 958 (22,6%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years, whereas those from SADC countries [50 598 (37,1%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years. The second highest proportion of tourists from 'other' African countries [978 (29,7%)] and overseas countries [3 823 (21,8%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years, whereas those from SADC countries [31 038 (22,7%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years. The median ages of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African countries were 38, 39 and 35 years respectively. The proportion of tourists younger than 15 years was higher among tourists from overseas countries, 7,1% (1 247) compared to those from 'other' African countries, 3,4% (111) and SADC countries, 2,5% (3 413).



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

Travel direction	March 2020	February 2021	March 2021	% change between February to March 2021	% change between March 2020 to March 2021
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 397 151</b>	<b>385 832</b>	<b>635 758</b>	<b>64,8%</b>	<b>-73,5%</b>
<b>South African residents</b>	<b>598 205</b>	<b>131 693</b>	<b>214 865</b>	<b>63,2%</b>	<b>-64,1%</b>
Arrivals	314 022	64 943	103 933	60,0%	-66,9%
Departures	283 691	66 694	110 871	66,2%	-60,9%
Transit	492	56	61	8,9%	-87,6%
<b>Foreign travellers</b>	<b>1 798 946</b>	<b>254 139</b>	<b>420 893</b>	<b>65,6%</b>	<b>-76,6%</b>
Arrivals	863 232	136 510	223 135	63,5%	-74,2%
Departures	905 186	114 436	193 117	68,8%	-78,7%
Transit	30 528	3 193	4 641	45,3%	-84,8%
<b>Foreign arrivals</b>	<b>863 232</b>	<b>136 510</b>	<b>223 135</b>	<b>63,5%</b>	<b>-74,2%</b>
Non-visitors	57 790	34 212	38 265	11,8%	-33,8%
Visitors	805 442	102 298	184 870	80,7%	-77,0%
<b>Visitors</b>	<b>805 442</b>	<b>102 298</b>	<b>184 870</b>	<b>80,7%</b>	<b>-77,0%</b>
Arrivals only	177 158	43 503	66 905	53,8%	-62,2%
Single trips	333 977	24 057	46 907	95,0%	-86,0%
Multiple trips	294 307	34 738	71 058	104,6%	-75,9%
<b>Visitors</b>	<b>805 442</b>	<b>102 298</b>	<b>184 870</b>	<b>80,7%</b>	<b>-77,0%</b>
Same-day	270 348	12 133	27 232	124,4%	-89,9%
Overnight (Tourists)	535 094	90 165	157 638	74,8%	-70,5%

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



## Statistics of civil cases for debt

### ***Total number of civil summonses issued for debt decreases***

South African consumers are spending more of their salaries in order to pay back their debts. According to DebtBusters' first quarter of 2021 data, people applying for debt counselling with take-home pay of over R20,000 per month are spending over 60% of their monthly net income to service debt and have a high debt-to-income ratio (the percentage of a consumer's monthly gross income that goes toward paying debts) of over 130%. The data also state that the unsecured debt levels for those with a net income of R20,000 or more have increased by 76%. A consumer spending more of own salary to service debt might lead to turning to other borrowing options such as credit card or personal loan for unexpected emergencies that can make a consumer to be unable to pay debts and eventually lead to civil cases being brought against them. Presented in this article is a summary of the findings from the *Statistics of civil cases for debt* (statistical release P0041) for March 2021.

### **The number of civil summonses issued for debt**

The total number of civil summonses issued for debt decreased by 3,4% in the first quarter of 2021 compared with the first quarter of 2020 (**see Table M**). The negative contributors to the 3,4% decrease in civil summonses issued were:

- money lent (contributing -3,4 percentage points);
- services (contributing -3,3 percentage points); and
- goods sold (contributing -1,2 percentage points).

### **The number of civil judgements recorded for debt**

The total number of civil judgements recorded for debt decreased by 15,3% in the first quarter of 2021 compared with the first quarter of 2020. The largest contributors to the 15,3% decrease were civil judgements relating to:

- 'other' debts (contributing -5,4 percentage points);
- services (contributing -4,3 percentage points); and
- promissory notes (contributing -1,9 percentage points).





## The value of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total value of civil judgements recorded for debt decreased by 0,2% in the first quarter of 2021 compared with the first quarter of 2020. The largest negative contributors to the decrease were:

- services (contributing -3,8 percentage points); and
- promissory notes (contributing -3,5 percentage points).

Rent (contributing 4,1 percentage points) was the largest positive contributor.

In March 2021, 14 198 civil judgements for debt amounting to R344,5 million were recorded. The largest contributors to the total value of judgements were:

- money lent (R93,0 million or 27,0%);
- 'other' debts (R65,9 million or 19,1%); and
- services (R64,5 million or 18,7%).

The total value of civil judgements recorded for debt decreased by 0,2% in the first quarter of 2021 compared with the first quarter of 2020. The largest negative contributors to the decrease were:

- services (contributing -3,8 percentage points); and
- promissory notes (contributing -3,5 percentage points).

Rent (contributing 4,1 percentage points) was the largest positive contributor.

**Table M – Key figures for civil summonses and judgements for March 2021**

Actual estimates	March 2021	% change between March 2020 and March 2021	% change between January to March 2020 and January 2020 to March 2021
Number of civil summonses issued for debt	47 272	7,7	-3,4
Number of civil judgements recorded for debt	14 198	6,4	-15,3
Value of civil judgements recorded for debt (R million)	344,5	20,1	-0,2

A full release on *Statistics of civil cases for debt* (Statistical release P0041) is available on the Stats SA website: [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za)



## Statistics of liquidations and insolvencies

### Total number of liquidations was 158 in April 2021

Companies that are in financial distress have several options to avoid being liquidated. One of the options is for a company to restructure or amend its company's financial obligations with its creditors to allow the company to be in a better financial position to meet its debts. According to the Companies Act, 2008 (Act No. 71 of 2008), the board of the company or a liquidator of a company which is being wound up may propose an arrangement or a compromise of its financial obligations to its creditors. The board of the company or a liquidator can deliver a copy of the proposal and notice of the meeting to all relevant creditors for consideration. This proposal must contain all information required to enable creditors to decide whether to accept or reject the proposal. Once the creditors consent to the proposal, a company may be saved from being liquidated. However, a compromise may not be entered into by companies that are already engaged in business rescue proceedings. Presented in this article is a summary of the results from the *Statistics of liquidations and insolvencies* (statistical release P0043) for March 2021.

The total number of liquidations was 158 in April 2021, following zero liquidations in April 2020 (**see Table N**). There were no liquidations reported by the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission in April 2020 due to the COVID-19 lockdown.

An increase of 78,6% was recorded for the three months ended April 2021 compared with the three months ended April 2020. The total number of liquidations increased by 55,3% in the first four months of 2021 compared with the first four months of 2020.

**Table N – Total number of liquidations for April 2021**

Number of liquidations April 2021	% change between April 2020 and April 2021	% change between February to April 2020 and February to April 2021	% change between January to April 2020 and January to April 2021
158	1	78,6	55,3

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



The estimated number of insolvencies decreased by 40,6% in March 2021 compared with March 2020 (see Table O). A 48,0% decrease was estimated in the first quarter of 2021 compared with the first quarter of 2020.

**Table O – Total number of insolvencies for March 2021**

Number of insolvencies March 2021	% change between March 2020 and March 2021	% change between January to March 2020 and January to March 2021
104	-40,6	-48,0

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

## Land transport survey

### ***Volume of goods transported increase while number of passenger journeys decrease***

In South Africa, the public transport industry comprises three main modes of transport: taxis, buses and trains. In the 2020 National Household Travel Survey (NHTS), findings obtained revealed that in 2020, South Africa’s taxi industry transported 66,0% of households (representing 11,4 million households); this was followed by households who used buses 12,3% (2,1 million households) and trains 3,0% (520 thousand households). However, the results further reveal that the proportion of households who used public transport decreased in 2020 compared to 2013, with most people indicating that they do not use public transport for reasons associated with the service of the public transport system. Thus, in order to encourage the use of public transport and reap its benefits, it is important to have a public transport system that is easily accessible, affordable, safe and efficient. Presented in this article is a summary of the results from the *Land transport survey* (statistical release P7162) for the month of March 2021.

The volume of goods transported (payload) increased by 1,0% in March 2021 compared with March 2020 (see Table P). The corresponding income increased by 2,6% over the same period.



Income from freight transportation decreased by 4,7% in the first quarter of 2021 compared with the first quarter of 2020. The main negative contributors to this decrease were:

- manufactured food, beverages and tobacco products (-21,1%, contributing -2,4 percentage points); and
- primary mining and quarrying products (-4,5%, contributing -1,6 percentage points).

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

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

A full release on the *Land Transport Survey* (Statistical release P7162) is available on the Stats SA website: [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za)

The number of passenger journeys decreased by 27,0% in March 2021 compared with March 2020 (**see Table Q**). The corresponding income decreased by 10,4% over the same period.

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

	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21
Passenger journeys	-55,5	-48,4	-36,2	-46,3	-51,9	-27,0
Passenger income	-45,5	-37,5	-30,7	-37,2	-35,7	-10,4

A full release on the *Land Transport Survey* (Statistical release P7162) is available on the Stats SA website: [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za)



# Prices

## Producer price index (PPI)

***PPI for April 2021 at 6,7%***

The coating industry around the world has been experiencing a shortage of raw materials coupled with price increases. According to the European Council of the Paint, Printing Ink and Artist's Colours Industry (CEPE), some of the reasons for shortage and an increase of raw material are bad weather conditions, closing of several plants due to COVID-19 and increased transportation costs due to sharp increase in oil prices. The shortage and increase of raw materials has placed the local coatings industry under pressure and South African Paint Manufacturing Association (Sapma) noted shortage of raw materials such as epoxy resins and solvents which are normally imported from Europe to make paint in South Africa. The shortage and increase of raw materials may result in consumers seeing paint prices increase. Presented in this article is a summary of the results from the *Producer price index* (PPI) (statistical release P0142.1) for March 2021.

### Final manufactured goods – headline PPI

Annual producer price inflation (final manufacturing) was 6,7% in April 2021, up from 5,2% in March 2021 (**see Table R**). The producer price index increased by 0,7% month-on-month in April 2021. The main contributors to the headline PPI annual inflation rate were food products, beverages and tobacco products; coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products; and metals, machinery, equipment and computing equipment.

- Food products, beverages and tobacco products increased by 6,7% year-on-year and contributed 2,4 percentage points.
- Coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products increased by 11,9% year-on-year and contributed 2,4 percentage points.
- Metals, machinery, equipment and computing equipment increased by 8,0% year-on-year and contributed 1,1 percentage points.

The main contributor to the headline PPI monthly increase was coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products, which increased by 3,2% month-on-month and contributed 0,6 of a percentage point.



## Intermediate manufactured goods

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

## Electricity and water

The annual percentage change in the PPI for electricity and water was 5,9% in April 2021 (compared with 7,8% in March 2021) (**see Table R**). The index increased by 4,5% month-on-month. Electricity contributed 5,2 percentage points to the annual rate, and water contributed 0,8 of a percentage point. Electricity contributed 4,4 percentage points to the monthly rate, and water contributed 0,2 of a percentage point.

## Mining

The annual percentage change in the PPI for mining was 10,8% in April 2021 (compared with 14,2% in March 2021) (**see Table R**). The index decreased by 0,3% month-on-month. The main contributors to the annual rate were non-ferrous metal ores (10,1 percentage points), coal and gas (1,3 percentage points) and gold and other metal ores (1,1 percentage points). The main contributor to the monthly rate was coal and gas (-1,8 percentage points).

## Agriculture, forestry and fishing

The annual percentage change in the PPI for agriculture, forestry and fishing was 7,1% in April 2021 (compared with 7,2% in March 2021) (**see Table R**). The index decreased by 0,3% month-on-month. The main contributor to the annual rate was agriculture (7,7 percentage points). The main contributor to the monthly rate was agriculture (-0,5 of a percentage point).



**Table R – Key PPI figures for April 2021**

Product	Weight	Index (Dec 2020=100)			% change	
		April 2020	March 2021	April 2021	April 2021 vs March 2021	April 2021 vs April 2020
Final manufactured goods	100,00	97,0	102,8	103,5	0,7	6,7
Intermediate manufactured goods	100,00	97,0	105,4	108,1	2,6	11,4
Electricity and water	100,00	99,3	100,7	105,0	4,5	5,9
Mining	100,00	100,6	111,8	111,5	-3,0	10,8
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	100,00	90,4	97,1	96,8	-3,0	7,1

A full release on the *Producer price index* (Statistical release P0142.1) is available on the Stats SA website: [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za)

## Consumer price index (CPI)

### ***CPI at 4,4% in April 2021***

The consumer price index (CPI) for April 2021 increased to 4,4% from 3,2% in March 2021. This is the highest increase recorded since the 4,6% recorded in February 2020. A few items in the CPI basket have become more expensive since March 2021, these include: food and non-alcoholic beverages, transport (including fuel which reached a record high in April 2021 and purchases of new vehicles), miscellaneous goods and services (personal care, insurance and financial services) housing and utilities. Since the CPI basket of goods is used to track inflation in a certain market or country, when the price of items in the basket fluctuates, the overall value of the CPI basket changes. It is important to remember that CPI measures inflation as experienced by consumers because the basket of goods is made up of products and services that most consumers purchase at a certain period in time. This is also one of the reasons why the basket is updated from time to time as consumer spending habits change. Presented in this



article is a summary of the results from the *Consumer price index* (CPI) (statistical release P0141) for April 2021.

### **Headline consumer price index (CPI for all urban areas)**

Annual consumer price inflation was 4,4% in April 2021, up from 3,2% in March 2021 (**see Table S**). The consumer price index increased by 0,7% month-on-month in April 2021. The main contributors to the 4,4% annual inflation rate were:

- Food and non-alcoholic beverages increased by 6,3% year-on-year, and contributed 1,1 percentage points to the total CPI annual rate of 4,4%.
- Housing and utilities increased by 2,3% year-on-year, and contributed 0,6 of a percentage point.
- Transport increased by 10,6% year-on-year, and contributed 1,5 percentage points.
- 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 6,4% and 2,7% respectively.

Provincial annual inflation rates ranged from 4,2% in Northern Cape and Mpumalanga to 4,9% in North West.





**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 <sup>1</sup>
Year	Index/rate													
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	120,1									
	Rate	3,2	2,9	3,2	4,4									

A full release on the *Consumer price index* (Statistical release P0141) is available on the Stats SA website: [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za)

<sup>1</sup> 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'.



**Editorial & Layout**

Maune Lerobane  
Wendy Ngoeni  
Mandla Mahlangu

**Language Editors**

Salomien Rudolph  
Shalom Noxolo Piorkowski  
Rinao Emmah Tshatsinde

**Design & Layout**

Thabo Kgaile