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Your monthly update on South Africa's economic indicators

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Image: Stijn te Strake, unsplash.com



**stats sa**

Department:  
Statistics South Africa  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



## Economic headlines

### Consumer price inflation hits a 14-month high



This is the highest reading since before the lockdown (click [here](#) to read more).

### Ocean fishing: the most popular products



Hake generates the highest value of sales, followed by squid (click [here](#) to read more).

### Unemployment rate edges up slightly



Reaching a new all-time high (click [here](#) for the media presentation).

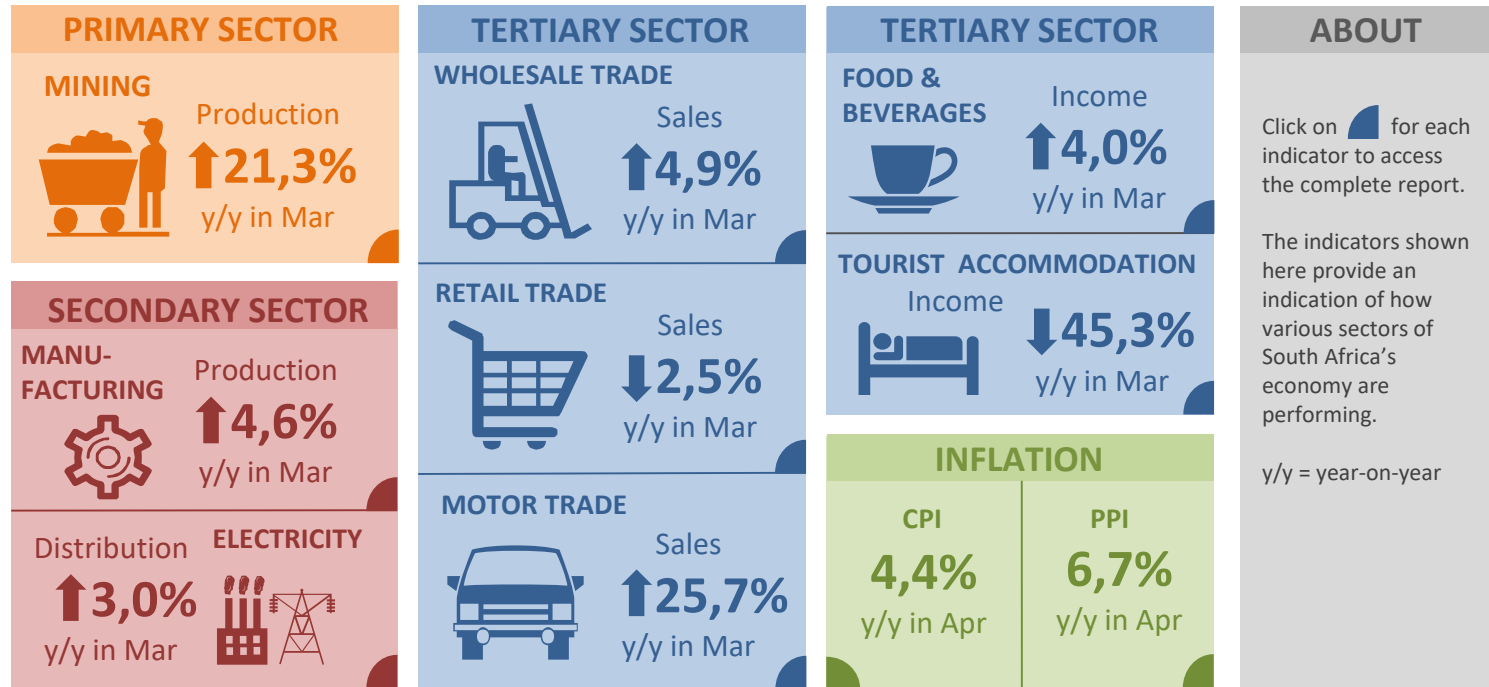
### The structure of South African families



In recognition of the International Day of Families (click [here](#) to read more).

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

## Monthly economic indicators



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

## Feature article

### These goods drive South African agriculture

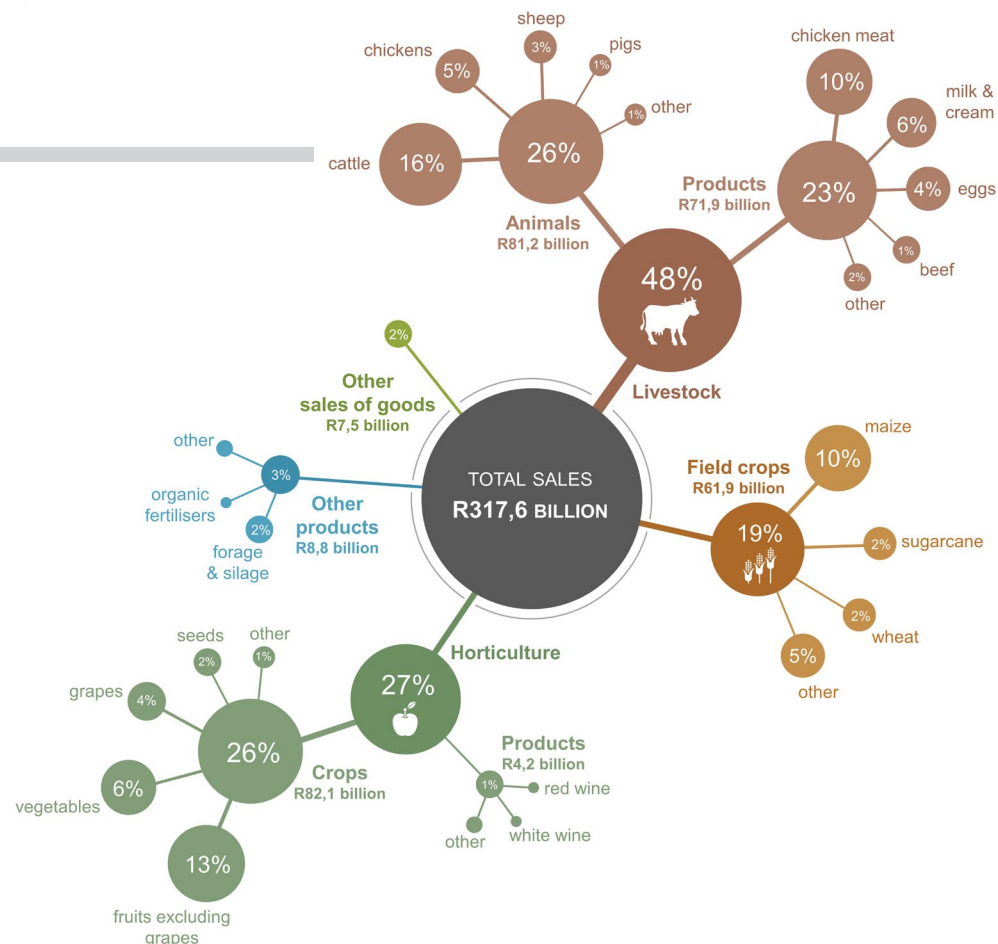
Poultry is an important source of income in the commercial agriculture industry. If you consider the sales of live chickens, chicken meat and eggs, the total value of chicken-related sales almost rivals that of the entire field crop sector.

The graphic provides an overview of the most popular products and goods in the agriculture and related services industry, according to the *Agriculture Survey, 2019* report.

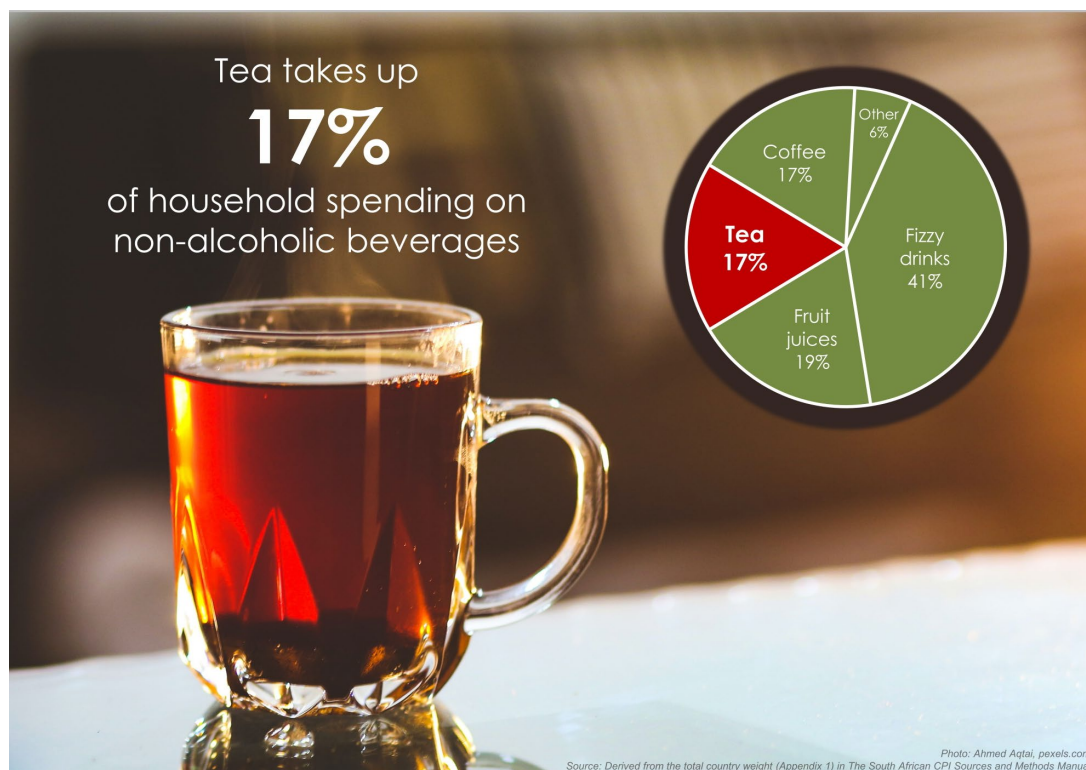
Animals and animal products generated almost half of total sales in 2019, with cattle accounting for 16%.

In terms of poultry, not only does the agriculture industry depend on the sale of live chickens (accounting for 5% of total sales), but also generates income from chicken meat (10%) and eggs (4%).

Click [here](#) to read more.



## Infographic of the month



In celebration of  
International Tea Day  
21 May



## Provincial snapshot

### Which provinces have the highest unemployment rates?

The national unemployment rate edged slightly higher to 32,6% in the first quarter of 2021 from 32,5% in the fourth quarter of 2020.

Eastern Cape had the highest unemployment rate in the first quarter, followed by Free State.

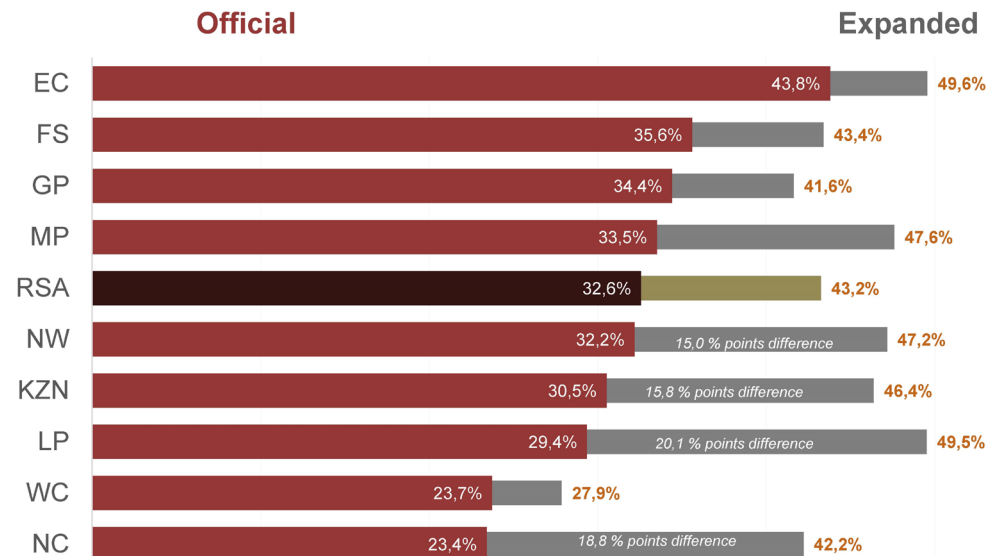
The unemployment rate increased in six of the nine provinces in the first quarter of 2021 compared with the fourth quarter of 2020, with the largest increases recorded in Free State (33,4% to 35,6%), Limpopo (27,3% to 29,4%), and Western Cape (22,5% to 23,7%).

The unemployment rate decreased in Northern Cape, Eastern Cape and North West.

Provincial unemployment figures are available [here](#) (Table F on page 13).

**EC recorded the highest official and expanded unemployment rates.** LP, NC and KZN provinces have more than 15,0 percentage points difference between their expanded and official unemployment rates.

*Provincial unemployment rate: Official vs Expanded Q1:2021*



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