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Photo: pixabay.com

Economic headlines

Inflation accelerates to another 13-year high



Households continue to bear the burden of sharp price increases (click [here](#) to read more).

Social spending jumped in 2020/21



As government rushed to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic (click [here](#) to read more).

Experiences of crime increased in 2021/22



With the exception motor vehicle theft and street robbery (click [here](#) to read more).

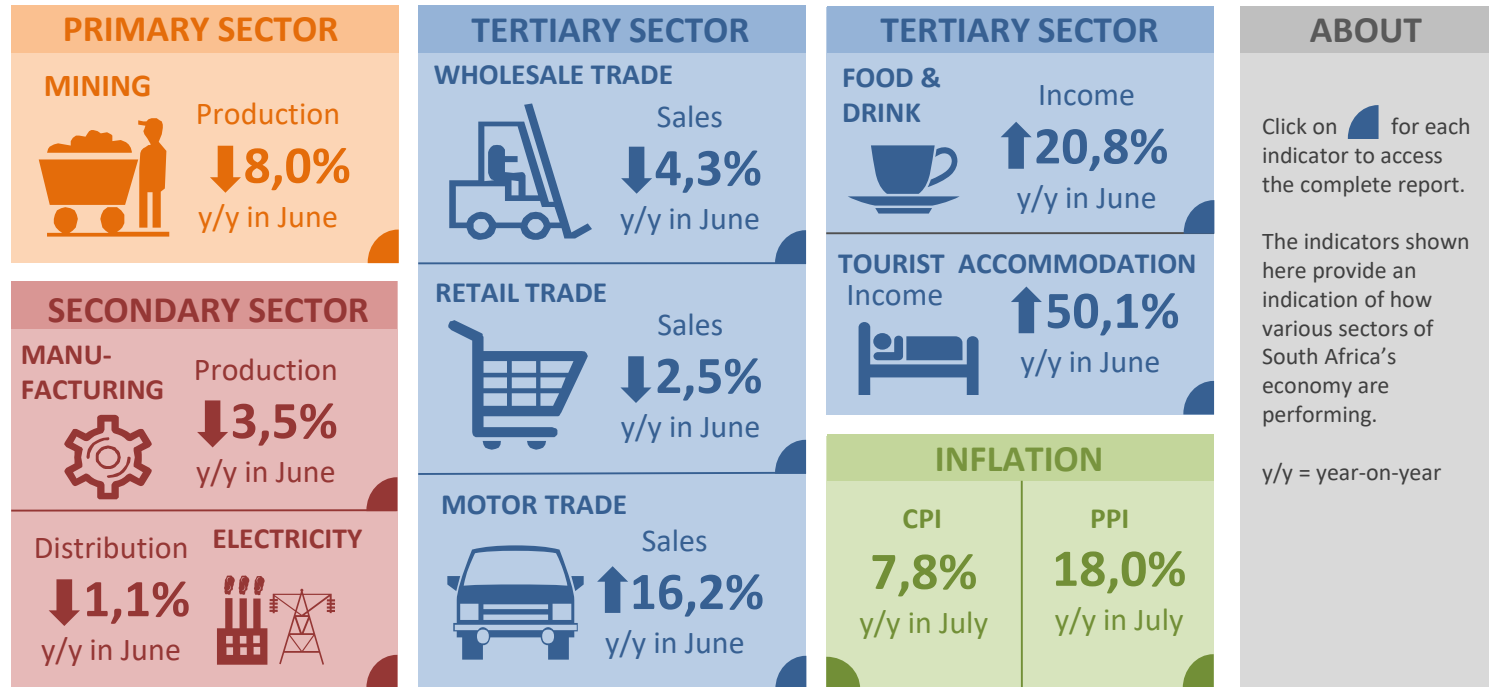
Nearly half of women are out of the labour force



Compared to just over a third of their male counterparts (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

Economic recovery from COVID-19: Not all countries are equal

Compared with other nations, South Africa's recovery from the pandemic has been sluggish, according to data from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Economic recovery times can be assessed with reference to two periods, namely Q4: 2019 (when economic activity was still 'normal' across all countries), and the low point of Q2: 2020 when countries scrambled to impose hard lockdowns.

The heat map shows how many quarters after Q2: 2020 it took for GDP to return to its Q4: 2019 level. Ireland, Turkey, New Zealand and Luxembourg form a clan of nations that immediately – in terms of this indicator, at least – got back on their feet after Q2: 2020. It took seven quarters for South Africa to return to pre-pandemic levels of economic activity.

Click [here](#) to see more.

Lowest level of GDP related to COVID-19 Less than GDP in Q4: 2019 Equal to or greater than GDP in Q4: 2019

Country	Quarter									
	Q4: 2019	Q1: 2020	Q2: 2020	Q3: 2020	Q4: 2020	Q1: 2021	Q2: 2021	Q3: 2021	Q4: 2021	Q1: 2022
Ireland										
Turkey										
New Zealand										No data
Luxembourg										
Australia										
Sweden										
Israel										
United States										
India										
Argentina										No data
Saudi Arabia										
Belgium										
France										
Indonesia										
Brazil										
Canada										
Greece										No data
Portugal										
United Kingdom										
South Africa										
Italy										
Japan										
Germany										
Mexico										
Spain										

Infographic of the month

Beer prices vary according to where you live

There is much merriment on the first Friday of every August when International Beer Day is celebrated. Stats SA raises a glass in observance by taking a look at data on this popular beverage.

Those who live in South Africa really like their beer. The beverage is the most popular of all alcoholic drinks, taking up half of household spending on alcohol. Beer accounts for 2,3% of total household spending, according to the [2019 weights](#) used in the consumer inflation basket.

The price of beer varies by province. The average price of a 330 ml can in Gauteng (R18,25) is much higher than in Eastern Cape (R13,49).

If you're a fan, it might come as some relief that beer is the cheapest alcoholic drink in terms of unit price. At R45 per litre, it's cheaper than red wine (R114 per litre) or whiskey (R354 per litre).

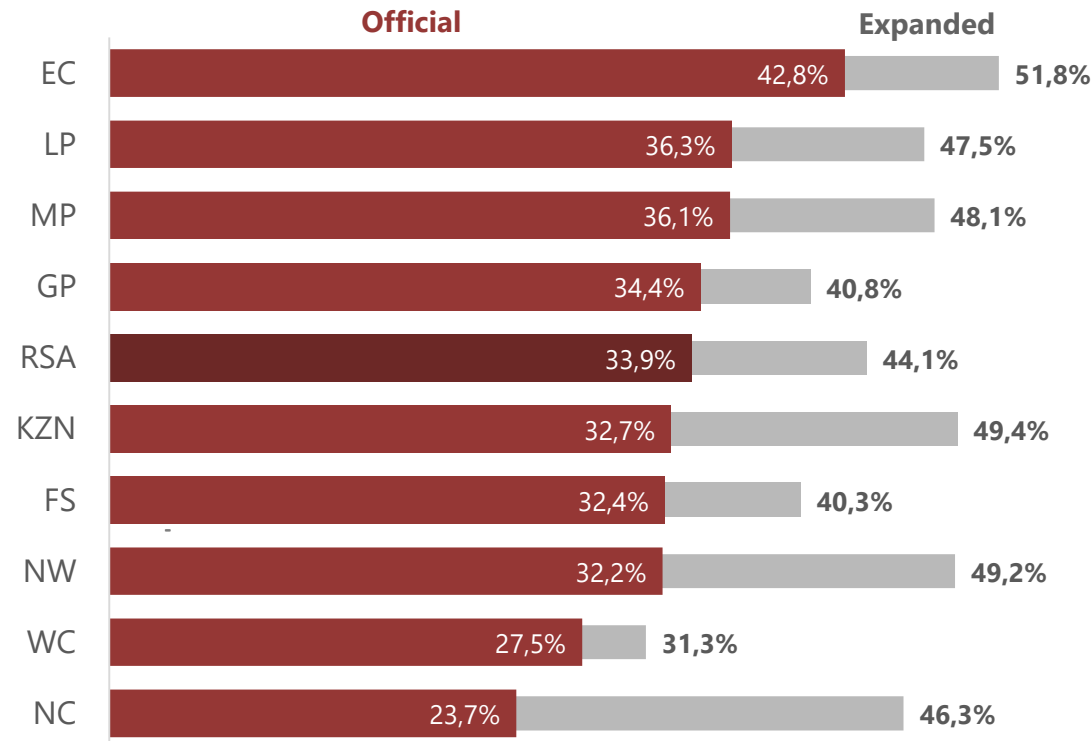
Click [here](#) for the latest consumer price data.

Beer is most expensive in Gauteng and cheapest in Eastern Cape
Average price for a single 330 ml bottle or can (June 2022)



No data are available for Free State, Limpopo and Northern Cape
Source: Consumer Price Index (CPI), 'CPI_Average prices_Provinces(202206)' Excel file Image: kevcio333, pixabay.com

Provincial snapshot



The unemployment rate declines in five provinces

The national unemployment rate edged lower between the first and second quarters of 2022, from 34,5% to 33,9%. Five of the nine provinces recorded softer unemployment rates in the second quarter.

The largest decreases were recorded in Mpumalanga (38,6% to 36,1%) and Gauteng (36,7% to 34,4%). The official unemployment rate also declined in Eastern Cape, Northern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

The chart shows provincial unemployment rates in the second quarter. Eastern Cape had the highest official unemployment rate, followed by Limpopo and Mpumalanga.

These figures are available in the latest *Quarterly Labour Force Survey* statistical release (Table E), available [here](#).

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