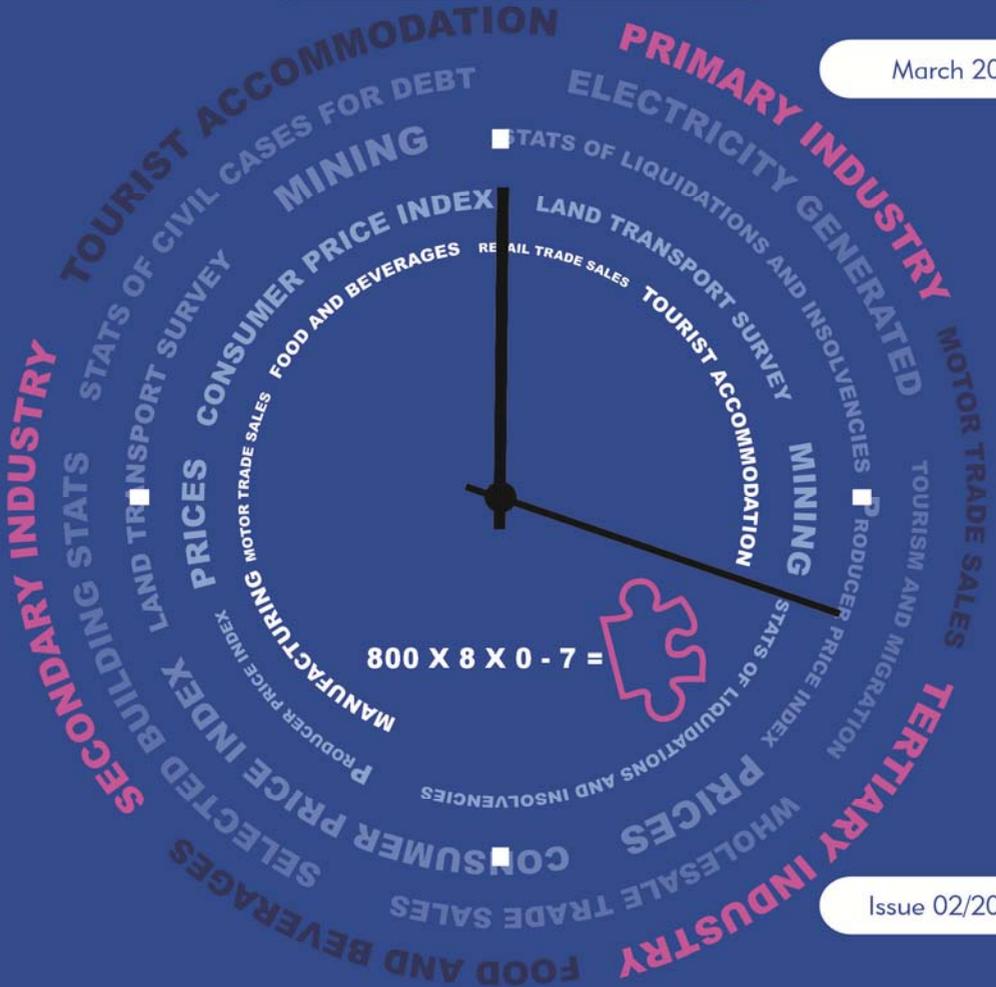


# Mbalo Brief



the missing piece of the puzzle

March 2023



Issue 02/2023

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS



stats sa

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## Editor's comment

Language is the primary tool for expression and communication. It is through language that we define our identity, express our history and culture, learn, defend our human rights and participate in all aspects of society to name a few. Every nation should ensure that languages are preserved and protected. In South Africa, South African Sign Language (SASL) will soon become South Africa's 12<sup>th</sup> official language. In 2022, President Cyril Ramaphosa approved the 18<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Bill, which will finally be making SASL the country's 12<sup>th</sup> official language. In terms of South Africa's Constitution, there are 11 official languages and these are; Sepedi, Xitsonga, Sesotho, Setswana, siSwati, Tshivenda, Afrikaans, English, isiNdebele, isiXhosa and isiZulu. The introduction of SASL as an official language will raise the status of the language, help students to communicate with a wide range of hearing, hard hearing and other deaf individuals and make it more accessible not only to the deaf community but the general public.

In this month's issue of *Mbalolo Brief*, our educational article focuses on *Marriages and Divorces, 2021* (Statistical Release No. P0307) published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) on 27 February 2023. Also have a look at our monthly crossword puzzle and solutions for February 2023. Articles published in this issue are based on the results of industry surveys conducted for December 2022 and January 2023.

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!



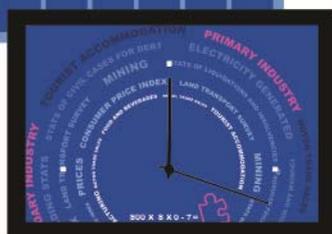
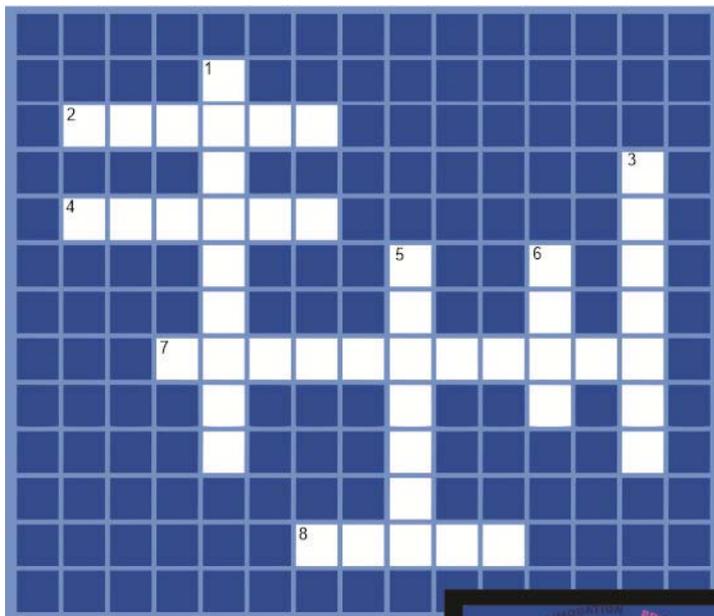


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## Crossword puzzle





**Across**

- 2. Which gender initiated divorce proceedings in 2021? [Read Educational article for clue].
- 4. What is the name of the tissue that transport food produced during photosynthesis to other parts of the plant?
- 7. Which commission is responsible to promote and maintain competition in South Africa? [Read Wholesale trade sales article for clue]
- 8. In which country are the Great Pyramids of Giza located in?

**Down**

- 1. What is the surname of South Africa's Minister in the Presidency responsible for Electricity?
- 3. What is a baby Jellyfish called?
- 5. An.....is the place where a tide meets a river current.
- 6. What is the largest continent in the world?

**Solutions for February 2023 puzzle**

**Across**

- 4. True
- 5. February
- 6. Gauteng
- 7. Address
- 9. Thapelo Ahmad

**Down**

- 1. Hatchet
- 2. Frene Ginwala
- 3. Gugulethu
- 7. Aussie
- 8. False



## Educational articles on marriages and divorces, 2021

Any South African that is planning to get married, must be of legal age to do so. Couples who are getting married for the first time need to present their Identity Documents (ID) to the marriage officiating officer. However, if any of the persons getting married are divorced, then the final decree of divorce should be furnished and if any of the persons to be married is a widow/ widower, the deceased spouse's death certificate must be submitted. Civil marriages are officiated at the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) and churches by authorised marriage officers only. All married couples will be issued with a marriage certificate by the DHA. Any person who wishes to dissolve a marriage should do so through a court or seek legal counsel.

This educational article is based on *Marriage and Divorces 2021* (Statistical Release P0307) published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) on 27 February 2023. The statistical release presents different types of marriages such as civil, customary and civil union and divorces. This article will focus on civil and customary marriages and divorces.

### 1. Background

There are three main sources of marriage and divorce statistics in South Africa; namely, those compiled from population censuses; household sample surveys and administrative data (i.e. those compiled from civil registration systems and administrative records). Data from these sources provides information on different aspects of marriages and divorces in the country. Census and survey data are by nature subjective, where the information provides cross-sectional data on individuals' marital status (never married, married, divorced, widowed, etc.). Marriages and divorces in this report cover different types of marriages and associated divorces that took place at different periods in people's lives but registered/granted in 2021. The 2021 mid-year population estimates [*Mid-year population estimates, 2021* (statistical release P0302)] are used to calculate crude rates in the report.

Unlike in census and survey data, registered marriages and divorces data are based on the continuous recording of these events as they take place. Not all marriages are registered in South Africa, as some are not recognised by law. The three types of marriages that are recognised by law are civil marriages, customary marriages and civil unions. DHA is responsible for managing registered marriages and unions under the following legislations:





- Civil marriages are administered through the Marriages Act, 1961 (Act No. 25 of 1961) as amended, and its associated regulations.
- Customary marriages are governed by the Recognition of Customary Marriages Act, 1998 (Act No. 120 of 1998) that came into effect on 15 November 2000.
- The Civil Union Act, 2006 (Act No. 17 of 2006) that came into operation on 30 November 2006, governs civil unions (relationships between same-sex couples that are legally recognised by state authority). The act accommodates persons who cannot or wish not to enter into a marriage under the Marriage Act, 1961.

## 2. Civil marriages

### 2.1 Trends in the registration of civil marriages (2012 – 2021)

In 2021, 106 499 civil marriages of South African citizens and permanent residents were registered at the Department of Home Affairs. The number of registered marriages consistently declined in the ten-year period (2012 to 2021), except for a slight increase of 0,6% between 2015 and 2016 and an increase of 19,2% between 2020 and 2021. During the period 2012 to 2021, the highest number of marriages were recorded in 2012 (161 112) and the lowest number in 2020 (89 338). The 2021 figure of 106 499 civil marriages shows an increase of 19,2% from the 89 338 marriages recorded in 2020. Generally, the warmer months (beginning from September and peaking in December) are the most popular months for solemnising (to perform a marriage ceremony) marriages in South Africa. In 2021, the highest number of marriages [13 810 (13,0%)] took place in December and the lowest number of marriages, [3 643 (3,4%)] and [3 579 (3,4%)] occurred in February and January respectively.



**Table 1: Number of civil cases in South Africa**

Year of registration	Number of civil marriages
2012	161 112
2013	158 642
2014	150 852
2015	138 627
2016	139 512
2017	135 458
2018	131 240
2019	129 597
2020	89 338
2021	106 499

## 2.2 Marital status at the time of civil marriage

In 2021, the majority of marriages for both bridegrooms and brides were first-time marriages in all provinces. For bridegrooms, there were 86 269 (81,0%) never married men, 4 047 (3,8%) divorcees and 573 (0,5%) widowers. For the brides, there were 91 776 (86,2%) never married women whilst 2 625 (2,5%) were divorcees and 339 (0,3%) were widows. The marital status of 15 610 (14,7%) bridegrooms and 11 759 (11,0%) brides were unspecified. The highest proportion of marriages between bridegrooms and brides marrying for the first time was observed in Limpopo contributing 5 702 (84,3%) and 6 198 (91,7%) respectively. The profile of those that were remarrying showed that remarriages were more prevalent in divorcees compared to the widowed, 4 047 (3,8%) bridegroom divorcees compared to 573 (0,5%) widowers and 2 625 (2,5%) bride divorcees compared to 339 (0,3%) widows.



**Table 2: Number of civil marriages by age differences between spouses at the time of marriage and marital status of husband, 2021**

Age differences	Grand Total	Never Married					Divorcee				
		Total	Never Married	Divorcee	Widow	Unspecified	Total	Never Married	Divorcee	Widow	Unspecified
Total	106 499	86 269	81 285	853	238	3 893	4 047	2 253	740	17	1 037
Bridegroom Older	80 138	63 444	61 041	418	177	1 808	3 531	2 090	583	15	843
Bridegroom Younger	17 195	14 598	12 416	372	44	1 766	374	107	118	1	148
Same Age	9 166	8 227	7 828	63	17	319	142	56	39	1	46

Age differences	Widower					Unspecified				
	Total	Never Married	Divorcee	Widow	Unspecified	Total	Never Married	Divorcee	Widow	Unspecified
Total	573	466	18	67	22	15 610	7 772	1 014	17	6 807
Bridegroom Older	512	422	16	56	18	12 651	6 906	672	12	5 061
Bridegroom Younger	38	26	2	7	3	2 185	601	275	4	1 305
Same Age	23	18	-	4	1	774	265	67	1	441

It is observed that irrespective of their marital status, men generally married women who had never been married. Thus 81 285 (94,2%) of never married men wedded never married women, 853 (1,0%) married divorcees and 238 (0,3%) married widows. In addition, irrespective of the fact that more male divorcees and widowers wedded never married women, the proportion of male divorcees who married female divorcees was 740 (18,3%) higher than the proportion that married widows at 17 (0,4%). Similarly, the proportion of widowers who married widows was 67 (11,7%) higher than the proportion that married female divorcees, 18 (3,1%).

Table 2 indicates that men tend to marry younger women, as 80 138 (75,2%) of the 106 499 bridegrooms were older than their brides. However, 17 195 (16,1%) bridegrooms were younger than their brides and 9 166 (8,6%) were of the same age as their brides. This observed age pattern is the same irrespective of the marital status of the bridegroom at the time of marriage. However, the magnitude differs by the marital status of the spouses at the time of marriage. For example, 43,6% of never married men who married divorcees were younger than their brides and 5,9% of male divorcees who married widowed women were also younger than their brides. A relatively smaller percentage (4,7%) was observed for male divorcees marrying never married women who were older than them.



## 2.3 Age at the time of civil marriage

In 2021, there were five marriages for bridegrooms younger than 18 years and 32 brides aged younger than 18 years were registered. Thirty of these brides were marrying for the first time. The highest number of never married men [21 241 (24,6%)] were aged 30–34 years whereas the highest number of never married women [24 666 (26,9%)] were aged 25–29 years. There were more never married women compared to never married men at younger ages (less than 35 years) and vice versa at older ages (35 years and older).

## 3. Customary marriages

### 3.1 Trends in the registration of customary marriages (2012–2021)

In 2021, 2 676 customary marriages were registered at DHA, indicating an increase of 68,8% from 1 585 customary marriages registered in 2020. The number of registered customary marriages fluctuated between 2012 and 2021. The highest number of registered customary marriages was recorded in 2012 (4 555) whilst the lowest number was recorded in 2020 (1 585). The observed crude customary marriage rate was 4 per 100 000 estimated resident population in 2021.

## 4. Divorces

### 4.1 Trends in divorces (2012–2021)

The 2021 divorce data reported in this statistical release is based on 18 208 completed divorce forms that Stats SA received and processed. The number (18 208) indicates an increase of 2 111 (13,1%) divorces from the 16 097 cases processed in 2020. The total number of divorces increased from 21 988 in 2012 to 25 390 in 2017 and decreased from 2018 to 2020. In 2021, about 143 divorces were granted for same-sex couples. The observed crude divorce rate was 30 divorces per 100 000 estimated resident population in 2021.

In 2021, black African couples had the highest number of divorces compared to other population groups; this pattern has been the same for the ten-year period (2012 to 2021). About 9 175 (50,4%) of the 18 208 divorces granted in 2021 were from the black African population group followed by white 3



652 (20,1%), coloured 3 202 (17,6%), India/Asian 881 (4,8%) and divorces from different population groups (mixed) 499 (2,7%). The population group of 799 couples was not specified.

#### 4.2 Characteristics of plaintiffs

The 2021 data shows that more wives initiated divorce proceedings 9 981 (54,8%) compared to 6 142 (33,7%) of husbands and 921 (5,1%) divorces were initiated by both husband and wife. The sex of the plaintiff (a person who brings a case against another in a court of law) was not specified in 1 164 (6,4%) cases. The proportion of women plaintiffs for the coloured population group, Indian/Asian population group and white population group were 61,2%, 60,5% and 58,1% respectively. The plaintiffs for the interracial couples show that 57,3% of the divorces were filed by wives. Among black African divorcees, divorce initiated by both partners constituted about 6,5%.

The provincial distribution indicates that Gauteng (4 859), Western Cape (3 833), KwaZulu-Natal (2 851) and Eastern Cape (2 138) were the provinces with the highest number of divorces granted. Together, the four provinces contributed three quarters (75,1%) of the divorces granted in 2021. However, this could also be due to the fact that these provinces have the largest populations.

#### 4.3 Number of times married

In 2021, divorce cases for both men and women were mainly from individuals who had married once. More than 80,0% of divorces for men and women were from first time marriages compared to 10,5% of men and 8,3% of women from second time marriages. Less than 2% of men and women were getting divorced at least three times.

#### 4.4 Duration of marriage of divorcing couples and population group

The largest number [4 836 (26,6%)] of divorces were for marriages that lasted between five and nine years. This group is followed by marriages that lasted between 10 and 14 years [3 877 (21,3%)] and marriages that lasted for less than five years [2 909 (16,0%)]. Results showed that four in ten divorces 7 745 (42,5%) of the 18 208 in 2021 were marriages that lasted for less than 10 years.



Population group variations showed that 28,1% of divorces from the black African; 26,1% from coloured, 24,6% from white and 20,9% from Indian/Asian population groups were from marriages that lasted between five and nine years. The white population had the highest proportion (19,4%) of divorces that occurred in the first four years. The proportion of divorces in all population groups declined as the duration of marriage increased, with a significant decline being observed after fourteen years of marriage. The proportion of divorces from the Indian/Asian population group is generally higher than the other population groups for marriages that did not last for 15 years and more.

## 5. Conclusion

During the ten-year period (2012 to 2021), the number of registered civil marriages declined while registered customary marriages fluctuated between 2012 and 2021. Results indicate that more wives than husbands initiated divorce proceedings in 2021. With regard to divorces, data showed that there was an increase in the proportion of divorces for black Africans and a decline for the white population group. Moreover, divorces were mainly from people who had married for the first time. The provincial distribution shows that Gauteng had the highest number of divorces granted.



# Primary industries

## Mining: Production and sales

### *Mining production decreased by 3,5% in December 2022*

A nation's competitiveness depends on the capacity of its industry to innovate and upgrade its systems and processes. This is according to Porter's National Competitive Advantage Theory. One of the possible areas that can increase South Africa's economic competitiveness is the beneficiation of its mined minerals. Beneficiation involves transforming a primary material (produced by mining and extraction processes) into a more finished product, which has a higher export sales value. This finished product can either be consumed locally or exported. Beneficiation, therefore, improves or benefits the mined product by transforming it into a product that has more value than the original. The beneficiation of coal for instance, involves the process of washing off the soil, rocks, ash and any other waste material, resulting in a lump of cleaner coal with a higher market value. Beneficiation also enables a country to benefit from its mineral resources by increasing its profit margin from the mineral. It also creates employment benefits and shields the country against the fluctuations of the global resource markets. This article summarises the results of the *Mining: Production and sales* (statistical release P2041) for December 2022.

Mining production decreased by 3,5% year-on-year in December 2022 (see **Table A**). The largest negative contributors were:

- iron ore (-15,2%, contributing -2,1 percentage points);
- diamonds (-36,9% and contributing -1,9 percentage points); and
- PGMs (-5,3% and contributing -1,5 percentage points).

**Table A – Key growth rates in the volume of mining production for December 2022**

	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-8,3	-6,1	-5,1	-11,0	-9,2	-3,5
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	2,5	-0,8	-0,2	-2,9	-0,8	1,2
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1/</sup>	-0,3	-0,2	1,6	-0,5	-2,1	-3,4

<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)



Total mining production contracted by 7,2% in 2022 compared with 2021 (see Table B). The 7,2% contraction in annual mining production followed an increase of 11,6% in 2021 and a decrease of 10,4% in 2020.

Mineral sales at current prices increased by 0,1% year-on-year in December 2022. The largest positive contributors were:

- coal (17,6%, contributing 4,0 percentage points); and
- chromium ore (35,3%, contributing 1,1 percentage points).

PGMs (-12,6%, contributing -4,6 percentage points) and iron ore (-8,6%, contributing -1,0 percentage point) were significant negative contributors. Total mineral sales were 2,8% higher in 2022 compared with 2021. The 2,8% increase in annual mineral sales followed increases of 39,7% in 2021 and 10,9% in 2020.

**Table B – Key growth rates in mineral sales for December 2022**

	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	3,3	4,1	20,7	1,5	-16,6	0,1
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	6,0	-1,6	-3,0	-6,1	-8,1	9,9
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1/</sup>	3,5	-7,0	-4,5	-7,6	-8,7	-10,7

<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 decreased by 4,7% in December 2022***

Plastic packaging has been in use for many years, dating as far back as the 1950s. However, this type of packaging can be harmful to the environment as it can take a significantly longer time to degrade. In South Africa, the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) is a body that has been entrusted with providing standards and guidelines for environmentally friendly production of plastic and plastic products. In an effort to clamp down on manufacturers that make vague packaging claims of being environmentally safe, the SABS has published South African National Standard (SANS) 1728: *The requirements for the marking and identification of degradable plastics*. With the introduction of this standard, consumers are warned against vague packaging labelling such as environmentally safe, environmentally friendly, earth friendly, non-polluting, green, ozone-friendly, etc. The SANS 1728 requires that the plastic material used in the packaging be presented on the packaging, using a material identification code between one and seven in a triangle. For instance, if the plastic packaging is of a degradable nature, it will be indicated below the triangle on the package label. Therefore, plastic manufacturers that wish to claim that their plastic packaging is degradable (being decomposed) need to subject their packaging processes to the relevant testing and certification requirements. This article summarises the results from *Manufacturing: Production and sales* (statistical release P3041.2) for December 2022.

Manufacturing production decreased by 4,7% in December 2022 compared with December 2021 (**see Table C**). The largest contributions were made by the following divisions:

- petroleum, chemical products, rubber and plastic products (-12,0%, contributing -2,7 percentage points);
- basic iron and steel, non-ferrous metal products, metal products and machinery (-7,0%, contributing -1,3 percentage points); and
- food and beverages (-4,4%, contributing -1,2 percentage points).



**Table C – Key growth rates in the volume of manufacturing production for December 2022**

	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	4,0	2,0	2,7	1,0	-1,8	-4,7
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,0	2,0	4,6	-6,0	1,4	0,1
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1/</sup>	-4,1	-2,9	1,6	2,3	2,2	-1,6

<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 recorded building plans passed increased by 7,1% during January to December 2022***

Building property on free standing land is different from building in an estate because for the latter you can face costly penalties if you don't commence or complete constructing your property within a given timeframe. This is because estates, both sectional title schemes and homeowner's associations, have rules and regulations that govern the functioning of an estate and are intended to give a fair environment to all living in the estate. To ensure compliance, penalties are added to the tenant's monthly levy account. Although these penalties are not meant for financial gain they are enforceable in a court of law. The only time they are not enforceable is when this rule is not included in the management rules of an estate of a body corporate or constitution of a homeowner's associations. Presented in this article is a summary of the results of *Selected building statistics of the private sector as reported by local government institutions* (statistical release P5041.1) for December 2022.

### **Total value of recorded building plans passed at current prices**

The value of recorded building plans passed increased by 7,1% (R7 666,4 million) in 2022 compared with 2021 (**see Table D**). Increases were recorded for non-residential buildings (14,5% or R2 638,9 million), additions and alterations (10,8% or R3 232,2 million) and residential buildings (3,0%



or R1 795,3 million). The largest contributions to the total increase of 7,1% (R7 666,4 million) were made by Western Cape (contributing 6,0 percentage points or R6 532,4 million) and Mpumalanga (contributing 1,5 percentage points or R1 603,1 million).

### Total value of buildings reported as completed at current prices

The real value of recorded building plans passed (at constant 2019 prices) decreased by 2,1% (-R2 012,1 million) in 2022 compared with 2021. A decrease was recorded for residential buildings (-5,7% or -R3 027,7 million). Increases were recorded for non-residential buildings (4,2% or R664,5 million) and additions and alterations (1,3% or R351,1 million).

**Table D – Buildings reported as complete to larger municipalities at current prices: January to December 2021 versus January to December 2022**

Estimates at current prices	January – December 2021	January – December 2022	Difference in value between January to December 2021 and January to December 2022	% change between January to December 2021 and January to December 2022
	1/	1/		
	R'000	R'000	R'000	
<b>Residential buildings</b>	<b>60 298 102</b>	<b>62 093 396</b>	<b>1 795 294</b>	<b>3,0</b>
- Dwelling houses	38 025 092	40 559 003	2 533 911	6,7
- Flats and townhouses	21 004 312	20 4576 597	-546 715	-2,6
- Other residential buildings	1 268 698	1 076 796	-191 902	-15,1
<b>Non-residential buildings</b>	<b>18 187 488</b>	<b>20 826 411</b>	<b>2 638 923</b>	<b>14,5</b>
<b>Additions and alterations</b>	<b>29 909 608</b>	<b>33 141 764</b>	<b>3 232 156</b>	<b>11,6</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>108 395 198</b>	<b>116 061 571</b>	<b>7 666 373</b>	<b>7,1</b>

1/ 2021 and 2022 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

### *Electricity generation (production) decreased by 8,0% in January 2023*

The amount of electricity generated in the country has been decreasing month after month, signaling Eskom's dwindling energy generation capacity. This decrease in the amount of electricity generated is one of the factors that have contributed to the energy crisis in South Africa. However, the appointment of the first-ever Minister in the Presidency responsible for Electricity, Dr. Kgosientsho Ramokgopa, reflects the government's efforts to address the crisis. The minister has a big task on his hands, including significantly reducing the frequency of load shedding, facilitating the coordination of the numerous departments and entities involved in the crisis response, while working with Eskom's leadership to turn around the performance of existing power stations and accelerating the procurement of new generation capacity. Presented in this article is a summary of the results from *Electricity generated and available for distribution* (P4141 statistical release) for January 2023.

Electricity generation (production) decreased by 8,0% year-on-year in January 2023 (see **Table E**).

**Table E – Key growth rates in the volume of electricity generated for January 2023**

	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-2,2	-8,2	-3,8	-1,8	-8,3	-8,0
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	5,2	-7,0	2,4	1,5	-5,6	1,3
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1/</sup>	-1,8	-2,5	-1,1	-2,8	-1,7	-2,8

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

Electricity distribution (consumption) decreased by 7,3% year-on-year in January 2023 (see **Table F**).



**Table F – Key growth rates in the volume of electricity distributed for January 2023**

	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-1,2	-7,5	-2,3	-2,4	-7,6	-7,3
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	5,6	-7,8	2,9	0,6	-4,2	1,4
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1/</sup>	-1,1	-2,5	-1,2	-3,4	-1,8	-2,7

<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 increased by 15,5% in December 2022*

In terms of the amended Competition Act, 1998 (Act No.89 of 1998), Competition Commission is responsible for promoting and maintaining competition. If there are any features of a market on any goods or services that prevent, distort or restrict competition, it may conduct a market inquiry. On 14 February 2023, the Competition Commission published the final Terms of Reference for the Fresh Produce Market Inquiry (FPMI) to examine whether there are any features in the fresh produce value chain that impede, restrict or distort competition in the market. The market inquiry will focus on different levels of fresh produce value chain such as producers, wholesalers, distributors, processors, retailers, etc. and export market. This article presents a summary of the results from *Wholesale trade sales* (statistical release P6141.2) for December 2022.

Wholesale trade sales increased by 15,5% in December 2022 compared with December 2021 (**see Table G**). The main contributors were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (49,1%, contributing 10,3 percentage points);
- machinery, equipment and supplies (16,1%, contributing 2,2 percentage points);
- 'other' goods (22,9%, contributing 1,8 percentage points); and
- food, beverages and tobacco (9,5%, contributing 1,8 percentage points).

Wholesale trade sales increased by 17,4% in the fourth quarter of 2022 compared with the fourth quarter of 2021. The main contributors were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (42,4%, contributing 9,2 percentage points);
- 'other' goods (24,8%, contributing 1,9 percentage points); and
- machinery, equipment and supplies (14,1%, contributing 1,9 percentage points).



**Table G – Key growth rates in wholesale trade sales at current prices for December 2022**

	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	25,0	21,6	28,2	19,6	17,0	15,5
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	4,0	-0,8	4,4	-1,7	0,9	-2,5
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1/</sup>	6,5	6,0	7,7	4,4	4,3	0,7

<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 decreased by 0,6% year-on-year in December 2022***

Cryptocurrency (any form of currency that exists digitally or virtually and uses cryptography to secure transactions) has become popular around the world as a form of payment method where some retailers have started to embrace this option. Pick n Pay has announced that it will allow transactions via cryptocurrency after the completion of the first phase of a pilot that allows customers to pay for goods with cryptocurrency from their smartphones. In its latest pilot, the retailer tested a payment service technology that enables customers to buy groceries with cryptocurrency at till points with any Bitcoin Lightning-enabled app such as BlueWallet or Muun. In order to transact, a customer scans a QR code from the App and accepts the Rand conversion rate on their smartphone at the time of the transaction. The retailer ran the pilot in 10 Western Cape stores for five months and has now extended the pilot to a further 29 stores for testing with customers, with the intention to roll it out to all stores in the coming months. This article presents a summary of the results from *Retail trade sales* (statistical release P6242.1) for December 2022.

Retail trade sales decreased by 0,6% year-on-year in December 2022 (**see Table H**). The largest negative contributors to this decrease were retailers in:

- pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries (-5,2%, contributing -0,3 of a percentage point); and
- hardware, paint and glass (-3,9%, contributing -0,3 of a percentage point).



**Table H – Key growth rates in retail trade sales for December 2022**

	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sept-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	8,9	2,1	-0,4	-0,7	0,8	-0,6
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-0,1	-0,6	-0,2	0,2	1,0	-0,6
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1/</sup>	-1,4	-1,3	-1,0	-0,8	-0,2	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 *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 increased by 16,6% year-on-year in December 2022***

Despite the global economic conditions and supply chain disruptions among others, South Africa's new vehicle sales increased in 2022. According to the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of South Africa (Naamsa), there were 528 963 new vehicle sales in 2022, which is an increase of 64 470 vehicles compared to 464 493 vehicles in 2021. The new vehicle export sales were 351 450 units in 2022, an increase of 53 430 vehicles compared to 298 020 vehicles exported in 2021. Naamsa indicated that in 2023, the domestic new vehicle market's performance is expected to remain resilient despite weakening domestic economic indicators and a deteriorating global growth outlook. This article summarises the results from the *Motor trade sales* (Statistical release P6343.2) for December 2022.

Motor trade sales increased by 16,6% year-on-year in December 2022 (see **Table I**). The largest annual growth rates were recorded for:

- new vehicle sales (30,7%);
- fuel sales (22,5%); and
- workshop income (17,7%).

In 2022, motor trade sales increased by 18,8% compared with 2021. The largest contributors were:

- fuel sales (30,3% and contributing 8,6 percentage points);



- new vehicle sales (19,6%, contributing 4,6 percentage points); and
- used vehicle sales (12,1%, contributing 2,4 percentage points).

**Table I – Key growth rate figures in motor trade sales for December 2022**

	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	31,8	24,3	22,1	17,8	14,9	16,6
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	2,8	3,4	1,1	-0,9	1,1	0,9
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1/</sup>	3,0	4,0	5,8	5,8	4,1	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

***Total income generated by the food and beverages industry increased by 14,2% in December 2022 compared with December 2021***

South Africa’s agricultural export revenues reached a new record of \$12,8 billion (R234,5 billion) in 2022, up by 4% from 2021. This was stated by Wandile Sihlobo, Chief Economist of the Agricultural Business Chamber (Agbiz). According to Sihlobo, maize, wine, grapes, citrus fruits, berries, nuts, apples, pears and avocados were among the most exported food products in 2022. The food products are exported to Africa and international countries, with Africa being the leading market, accounting for 37% of South Africa’s agricultural exports in 2022, followed by Asia with 27% and the European Union (EU) with 19%. Presented in this article is a summary of the results for *Food and beverages* (statistical release P6420) for December 2022.

Total income generated by the food and beverages industry increased by 14,2% in December 2022 compared with December 2021 (**see Table J**). The largest annual growth rates were recorded for:

- bar sales (25,5%); and
- food sales (13,6%).



In December 2022, the main contributor to the 14,2% year-on-year increase was restaurants and coffee shops (14,8% and contributing 7,3 percentage points).

Total income increased by 13,4% in the fourth quarter of 2022 compared with the fourth quarter of 2021. The main contributors to this increase were:

- restaurants and coffee shops (12,2%, contributing 5,9 percentage points); and
- catering services (29,4%, contributing 4,0 percentage points).

**Table J – Year-on-year percentage change in food and beverages income at constant prices by type of income, December 2022**

Type of income	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22
Food sales	54,1	25,9	20,2	12,1	15,0	13,6
Bar sales	84,0	7,1	1,5	-2,7	11,6	25,5
Other income	54,7	21,4	27,3	14,9	21,6	5,2
Total	55,8	24,3	18,9	11,0	14,9	14,2

<sup>1/</sup> Changes from zero in the preceding period cannot be calculated as a percentage. 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 for tourist accommodation industry increase by 41,9% in December 2022***

The 2022 festive season, was the first one in South Africa since 2019 when there were no lockdowns nor travel restrictions. The impact of COVID-19 meant that people were required to produce vaccination certificates or COVID-19 negative test results before boarding a flight. This has encouraged more foreign tourists to return to the country. As a result, more tourist accommodation facilities saw an increase in occupancy with the number of stay unit nights sold increasing by 19,9% in December 2022. This recovery was mainly driven by hotels, reporting an occupancy rate of 41,4%



in December 2022, a recovery from the 33,3% reported in December 2021. Presented in this article is a summary of the results from the *Tourist accommodation* (statistical release P6410) for December 2022.

Total income for the tourist accommodation industry increased by 41,9% in December 2022 compared with December 2021 (see **Table K**). Income from accommodation increased by 43,5% year-on-year in December 2022, the result of a 19,9% increase in the number of stay unit nights sold and a 19,7% increase in the average income per stay unit night sold.

In December 2022, the largest contributors to the 43,5% year-on-year increase in income from accommodation were:

- hotels (62,8%, contributing 28,5 percentage points); and
- ‘other’ accommodation (27,8%, contributing 12,3 percentage points).

Income from accommodation increased by 46,7% in the fourth quarter of 2022 compared with the fourth quarter of 2021. The main contributors to this increase were:

- hotels (63,3%, contributing 29,2 percentage points); and
- ‘other’ accommodation (33,4%, contributing 14,8 percentage points).

**Table K – Year-on-year percentage change in tourist accommodation statistics for December 2022**

	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22
Stay units available	0,3	0,4	0,3	0,3	0,4	0,3
Stay unit nights sold	112,0	53,8	35,9	27,7	20,4	19,9
Average income per stay unit nights sold	12,1	17,0	15,3	20,3	19,5	19,7
Income from accommodation	137,5	80,0	56,7	53,6	43,8	43,5
<b>Total income <sup>1/</sup></b>	<b>189,3</b>	<b>55,2</b>	<b>79,3</b>	<b>33,8</b>	<b>28,3</b>	<b>41,9</b>

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

### ***About 2 746 648 travellers passed through South African ports of entry/exit in January 2023***

One of the important factors to consider when choosing a tourist destination is the weather condition. Destinations with ample sunshine and a humid climate are preferred as they allow for a more enjoyable stay. On the contrary, tourist destinations with unpredictable weather patterns such as extremely hot weather conditions (heatwaves), flooding due to heavy rainfall or lack thereof possibly leading to a drought are not likely to be considered as ideal destinations. According to the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), the South Africa tourism sector is estimated to become a key driver of economic growth by 2032, contributing 800 000 jobs and R287 billion. However, threatening this growth are the effects of climate change which were evident in some parts of the country. Last year, KwaZulu-Natal, a popular tourist hotspot, was hit by a series of floods. This natural disaster disrupted tourist attractions such as wildlife and biodiversity, damaged infrastructure, polluted beaches and some businesses faced temporary closure. Therefore, if natural disasters such as floods are a frequent occurrence, it could hinder the growth of the tourism industry and the South African economy. Presented in this article is a summary of results from the *Tourism and migration* (statistical release P0351) for January 2023.

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 2 746 648 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry/exit in January 2023 (see Table L). As presented in Table 1 below, these travellers were made up of 817 117 South African residents and 1 929 531 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 484 945 arrivals, 331 830 departures and 342 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 1 112 677, 792 116 and 24 738 respectively.

A comparison between movements in December 2022 and January 2023 indicate that the volume of arrivals increased for South African residents and foreign travellers. The volume of departures and travellers in transit decreased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 18,9% (from 407 837 in December 2022 to 484 945 in January 2023). Departures decreased by 40,5% (from 557 365 in



December 2022 to 331 830 in January 2023) and transits decreased by 13,9% (from 397 in December 2022 to 342 in January 2023). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 14,5% (from 971 425 in December 2022 to 1 112 677 in January 2023), departures decreased by 13,7% (from 918 272 in December 2022 to 792 116 in January 2023), and transits decreased by 7,0% (from 26 591 in December 2022 to 24 738 in January 2023).

A comparison between movements in January 2022 and January 2023 indicate that the volume of arrivals, departures and travellers in transit increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 118,6% (from 221 890 in January 2022 to 484 945 in January 2023), departures increased by 86,5% (from 177 890 in January 2022 to 331 830 in January 2023) and transits increased by 119,2% (from 156 in January 2022 to 342 in January 2023). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 131,8% (from 480 117 in January 2022 to 1 112 677 in January 2023), departures increased by 155,4% (from 310 131 in January 2022 to 792 116 in January 2023) and transits increased by 115,8% (from 11 463 in January 2022 to 24 738 in January 2023).

Detailed information on the departure of travellers is not available in the movement control system. Data on the purpose of travel and the number of days South African residents intend to spend or spent abroad are not collected by the DHA. It is therefore not possible to categorise South African residents as tourists or non-tourists. However, some data are available on foreign arrivals for this categorisation.

in January 2023, 46 272 (4,2%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors, while 1 066 405 (95,8%) were classified as visitors. Visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in January 2023 but did not depart in January 2023 [501 753 (47,1%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in January 2023 and left in January 2023 [272 074 (25,5%)]; and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in January 2023 [292 578 (27,4%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In January 2023, there were 216 730 (20,3%) same day visitors and 849 675 (79,7%) tourists. Between December 2022 and January 2023, the volume of same day visitors decreased by 0,6% (from 218 094 in December 2022 to 216 730 in January 2023) and that of tourists increased



by 25,4% (from 677 838 in December 2022 to 849 675 in January 2023). Between January 2022 and January 2023, the volume of same day visitors increased by 312,4% (from 52 551 in January 2022 to 216 730 in January 2023) and that of tourists increased by 125,0% (from 377 651 in January 2022 to 849 675 in January 2023).

### Mode of travel of travellers

In January 2023, road was the most common mode of travel used by 1 823 360 (66,4%) of the 2 746 648 travellers. Total number of travellers who used air was 868 177 (31,6%). Compared to air and land, a smaller number of travellers, 55 111 (2,0%) used sea into and out of South Africa. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 196 397 (40,5%) came by air, 270 957 (55,9%) came by road and 17 591 (3,6%) arrived by sea. For departures, 150 060 (45,2%) used air, 166 476 (50,2%) used road and 15 294 (4,6%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 342 (100,0%) used air.

### Mode of travel of tourists

In January 2023, 170 714 (91,2%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 11 066 (5,9%) came in by road and 5 409 (2,9%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 618 065 (94,7%), whilst 33 627 (5,2%) came by air and 700 (0,1%) arrived by sea. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 8 312 (90,2%); while 882 (9,6%) used road transport and 20 (0,2%) used sea.

### Regional and national distribution

In January 2023, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 128 898 (68,9%); North America, 31 421 (16,8%); Asia, 12 467 (6,7%); Australasia, 7 452 (4,0%); Central and South America, 3 689 (2,0%) and The Middle East, 3 262 (1,7%).

Ten leading overseas countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in January 2023 were: United Kingdom (UK), 40 044 (21,4%); Germany, 29 363 (15,7%); United States of America (USA), 26 178 (14,0%); The Netherlands, 12 930 (6,9%); France, 9 016 (4,8%); Australia, 6 145 (3,3%); India, 5 565 (3,0%); Canada, 5 243 (2,8%); Switzerland, 4 386 (2,3%) and Italy, 3 677 (2,0%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 76,2% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison of movements in



the ten leading countries between January 2022 and January 2023 show that the number of tourists increased for all ten leading countries. Canada had the highest increase of 386,4% (from 1 078 tourists in January 2022 to 5 243 tourists in January 2023).

### **Purpose of visit**

In January 2023, the majority of tourists, 822 470 (96,8%), were in South Africa for holiday compared to 19 642 (2,3%); 7 220 (0,8%) and 343 (less than 0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and medical treatment respectively.

### **Sex and age distribution**

There were more male [490 865 (57,8%)] than female [358 810 (42,2%)] tourists. Male tourists constituted the majority of tourists for all three regions, 'other' African countries [5 623 (61,0%)], SADC [386 025 (59,2%)] and overseas countries [98 688 (52,7%)]. Similarly, the largest portion of female tourists were from overseas [88 501 (47,3%)], followed by SADC [266 367 (40,8%)] and the lowest from 'other' African countries [3 591 (39,0%)].

The age distribution indicates that out of all tourists, [43 430 (5,1%)] were aged less than 15 years; [65 471 (7,7%)] were aged between 15 and 24 years; [202 490 (23,8%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years; [255 138 (30,0%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years; [153 006 (18,0%)] were aged between 45 and 54 years; [76 960 (9,1%)] were aged between 55 and 64 years; [53 178 (6,3%)] were aged 65 years and above and [2 (less than 0,1%)] did not specify age.



**Table L – Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction, January 2023**

Travel direction	January 2022	December 2022	January 2023	% change January 2022 to December 2022	% change December 2021 to December 2022
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 201 647</b>	<b>2 881 887</b>	<b>2 746 648</b>	<b>-4,7%</b>	<b>128,6%</b>
<b>South African residents</b>	<b>399 9360</b>	<b>965 599</b>	<b>817 117</b>	<b>-15,4%</b>	<b>104,3%</b>
Arrivals	221 890	407 837	484 945	18,9%	118,6%
Departures	177 890	557 365	331 830	40,5%	86,5%
Transit	156	397	342	-13,9%	119,2%
<b>Foreign travellers</b>	<b>801 711</b>	<b>1 916 288</b>	<b>1 929 531</b>	<b>0,7%</b>	<b>140,7%</b>
Arrivals	480 117	971 425	111 2 677	14,5%	131,8%
Departures	310 131	918 272	792 116	-13,7%	155,4%
Transit	11 463	26 591	24 738	7,0%	115,8%

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

### ***Civil summonses issued for debt increased by 4,5% in December 2022***

Credit makes it possible for consumers to purchase goods or assets they cannot afford to buy in cash such as financing a car or getting a home loan. It allows for the repayment of goods to be paid over time in instalments. However, defaults in repaying debt can result in future application for credit being rejected. An analytics consultancy company, Eighty20, reveals that despite the continued inflation and surging interest rates consumers are taking out new debt to finance assets. This is detailed in their Credit Stress Report 2022 for the fourth quarter. The director, Andrew Fulton, further states that there were 800 000 new entrants into the credit market compared to 600 000 entrants from the previous year. Although Fulton says this is the highest it's been since the COVID-19 pandemic, cases of rate of new defaults (RND) have however also surged. The RND for 2022 is at 2,2% up by nearly 16% compared with the previous year. The RND is an early



warning sign of the level of financial stress amongst South African consumers. This article presents findings from the *Statistics of civil cases for debt* (statistical release P0041) for December 2022.

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

Total number of civil summonses issued for debt in 2022 increased by 4,5% compared with 2021(see **Table M**). The largest positive contributors to the 4,5% increase were civil summonses relating to:

- 'other' debts (contributing 4,9 percentage points); and
- services (contributing 2,2 percentage points).

Civil summonses relating to promissory notes (contributing -3,0 percentage points) was the largest negative contributor.

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

The total number of civil judgements recorded for debt in 2022 decreased by 6,0% compared with 2021. The negative contributors to the 6,0% decrease were civil judgements relating to:

- services (contributing -2,9 percentage points);
- goods sold (contributing -2,1 percentage points);
- 'other' debts (contributing -1,3 percentage points); and
- rent (contributing -1,1 percentage points).

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

The total value of civil judgements recorded for debt in 2022 decreased by 4,0% compared with 2021. Negative contributors to the 4,0% decrease were civil judgements relating to:

- goods sold (contributing -3,0 percentage points);
- rent (contributing -1,2 percentage points);
- 'other' debts (contributing -1,2 percentage points); and
- services (contributing -1,0 percentage point).

In 2022, 134 682 civil judgements for debt amounting to R3 422,6 million were recorded. The largest contributors to the total value of judgements were:

- money lent (R1 034,7 million or 30,2%);
- services (R671,3 million or 19,6%); and
- 'other' debts (R627,5 million or 18,3%).



**Table M – Key figures for civil summonses and judgements for December 2022**

Actual estimates	December 2022	% change between December 2021 and December 2022	% change between October to December 2021 and October to December 2022	Annual % change between 2021 and 2022
Number of civil summonses issued for debt	30 602	5,2	6,6	4,5
Number of civil judgements recorded for debt	8 568	-13,9	-10,7	-6,0
Value of civil judgements recorded for debt (R million)	213,4	-20,9	-7,7	-4,0

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

## Statistics of liquidations and insolvencies

### ***Total number of liquidations decreased by 32,5% in January 2023***

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) account for the majority of businesses worldwide and are important contributors to job creation and global economic development. A report by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) indicates that SMEs make up more than 90% of all formal businesses in South Africa, employing 50-60% of the workforce and contribute 34% towards the gross domestic product (GDP). Over the past few years, SMEs have had to contend with pandemic lockdowns, rising fuel costs and recently, constant power cuts. These have put pressure on their operating costs and profit margins to an extent that some were forced to close down. According to Dr. Eric Levenstein, the director of the Insolvency and Business Rescue Practice group at Werksmans Attorneys, “the impact of relentless load shedding alone – and the cost of mitigating strategies – inevitably meant that some companies were unable to generate sustainable revenue.” Based on these factors, therefore, the rising costs of running a business in South Africa may lead to the liquidation of businesses, especially SMEs who may be unable to contain the pressure. This article summarises the results of the *Statistics of Liquidation and insolvencies* (P0041) for January 2023.



## Liquidations

The total number of liquidations decreased by 32,5% in January 2023 compared with January 2022 (see Table N). Liquidations of companies decreased by 42 cases, while liquidations of close corporations increased by three cases during this period. The total number of liquidations increased by 1,2% in the three months ended January 2023 compared with the three months ended January 2022.

**Table N – Total number of liquidations for January 2023**

Number of liquidations January 2023	% change between January 2022 and January 2023	% change between November 2021 to January 2022 November 2022 to January 2023
81	-32,5	1,2

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)

## Insolvencies

Owing to a cyber attack on the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, source information for insolvencies is not available from September 2021. The time series has been discontinued until further notice.

## Land transport

### ***Volume of goods transported (payload) increased by 15,4% in 2022***

An efficient land transport system is essential for the safe and timely transportation of goods and services. A report on the South African coal sector, published by the Department of Mineral Resources & Energy stated that Eskom, for instance, transports coal in Mpumalanga over a road network of about 3 200 km using a fleet of more than 2 000 trucks. Additionally, Eskom uses 1 500km of the national rail network for exporting coal and iron ore. This undeniable importance of land transport for the transportation of minerals is one of the factors that led to the partnership between the Minerals Council of South Africa and Transnet (in December 2022) to stabilise and restore the operational performance of the country's rail lines and ports. Success of this partnership will stabilise and improve movement of commodities through the country's land transport system. This article summarises the results of the *Land transport survey* (statistical release P7162) for December 2022.



## Freight transportation

Volume of goods transported (payload) increased by 15,4% in 2022 compared with 2021 and the corresponding income increased by 17,8% over the same period (see Table O). In December 2022, the volume of goods transported (payload) increased by 12,4% year-on-year. The corresponding income increased by 15,5% over the same period. Income from freight transportation increased by 18,5% in the fourth quarter of 2022 compared with the fourth quarter of 2021. The main contributors to this increase were:

- 'other' freight (22,0%, contributing 4,3 percentage points);
- primary mining and quarrying products (12,3%, contributing 4,0 percentage points);
- manufactured food, beverages and tobacco products (22,0%, contributing 2,7 percentage points); and
- agriculture and forestry primary products (35,2%, contributing 2,6 percentage points).

**Table O – Year-on-year percentage change in freight transportation: December 2022**

	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22
Freight payload	27,1	20,6	19,0	23,9	17,7	12,4
Freight income	33,7	24,2	22,1	19,7	20,2	15,5

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)

## Passenger transportation

The number of passenger journeys increased by 8,2% in 2022 compared with 2021 and the corresponding income increased by 19,6% over the same period (see Table P).

In December 2022, the number of passenger journeys increased by 13,5% year-on-year. The corresponding income increased by 45,3% over the same period.



**Table P – Year-on-year percentage change in passenger transportation:  
December 2022**

	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec -22
Passenger journeys	6,0	6,0	5,0	10,5	14,5	13,5
Passenger income	29,0	17,8	22,4	20,1	20,3	45,3

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 at 12,7% in January 2023*

Higher stages of load shedding (stages 4 to 6) force South Africans to have only 14 hours of electricity a day and 10 hours without. For farmers, this may lead to disruptions in their irrigation processes. Irrigation is the watering of the ground to provide enough moisture required by crops for growth. Electricity makes irrigation more efficient by ensuring that the crops get just the right amount of nutrients thereby influencing the crops' entire growth from germination, root growth and higher crop yield. In addition, farmers may further lose profits due to increased production costs as they have to invest in generators and the diesel required to fuel them during higher stages of load shedding. Agri Northern Cape, an agricultural organisation, has warned that if load shedding persists, whole crops could fail and this may threaten food security and possibly lead to further increases in food prices. This article summarises the results of the *Producer price index* (PPI) (statistical release P0142.1) for January 2023.

### **Final manufactured goods – headline PPI**

Annual producer price inflation (final manufacturing) was 12,7% in January 2023, down from 13,5% in December 2022 (**see Table Q**). The producer price index decreased by 0,6% month-on-month in January 2023. The following indices were the main contributors to the headline PPI annual inflation rate:

- Coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products increased by 19,6% year-on-year and contributed 5,0 percentage points .
- Food products, beverages and tobacco products increased by 10,1% year-on-year and contributed 2,6 percentage points.
- Metals, machinery, equipment and computing equipment increased by 10,7% year-on-year and contributed 1,6 percentage points.
- Paper and printed products increased by 15,8% year-on-year and contributed 1,3 percentage points. The main contributor to the headline PPI monthly decrease was coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products, which decreased by 5,0% month-on-month and contributed -1,4 percentage points.



## Intermediate manufactured goods

The annual percentage change in PPI for intermediate manufactured goods was 5,6% in January 2023 (compared with 8,0% in December 2022). The index decreased by 1,7% month-on-month. The main contributors to the annual rate were basic and fabricated metals (3,6 percentage points) and sawmilling and wood (1,0 percentage point). The main contributor to the monthly rate was chemicals, rubber and plastic products (-1,7 percentage points).

## Electricity and water

The annual percentage change in PPI for electricity and water was 9,8% in January 2023 (unchanged from 9,8% in December 2022). The index decreased by 0,5% month-on-month. Electricity contributed 8,9 percentage points to the annual rate and water contributed 1,0 percentage point to the annual rate. Electricity contributed -0,5 of a percentage point to the monthly rate.

## Mining

The annual percentage change in PPI for mining was 19,9% in January 2023 (compared with 27,3% in December 2022). The index decreased by 1,3% month-on-month. The main contributors to the annual rate were coal and gas (8,7 percentage points); non-ferrous metal ores (5,6 percentage points); and gold and other metal ores (3,1 percentage points). Negative contributors to the monthly rate were non-ferrous metal ores (-2,3 percentage points) and coal and gas (-1,5 percentage points).

## Agriculture, forestry and fishing

The annual percentage change in PPI for agriculture, forestry and fishing was 11,7% in January 2023 (compared with 16,0% in December 2022). The index decreased by 3,6% month-on-month. The main contributors to the annual rate were agriculture (9,0 percentage points) and fishing (1,9 percentage points). The main contributor to the monthly rate was agriculture (-3,8 percentage points).



**Table Q – Key PPI figures for January 2023**

Product	Weight	Index (Dec 2020=100)			% change	
		January 2022	December 2022	January 2023	January 2023 vs. December 2022	January 2023 vs. January 2022
Final manufactured goods	100,00	111,0	125,8	125,1	-0,6	12,7
Intermediate manufactured goods	100,00	123,9	133,0	130,8	-1,7	5,6
Electricity and water	100,00	114,8	126,7	126,1	-0,5	9,8
Mining	100,00	111,0	134,8	133,1	-1,3	19,9
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	100,00	108,5	125,7	121,2	-3,6	11,7

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

## Consumer price index (CPI)

### *CPI at 6,9% in January 2023*

Food prices are continuing to increase in South Africa causing consumers to struggle to make ends meet each month. According to the consumer price index (CPI) data released by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) in January 2023, the annual rate for food and non-alcoholic beverages increased to 13,4% in January 2023. The annual rate for food and non-alcoholic beverages for January 2023 is the highest increase since April 2009 when the rate was 13,5%. Of all the product groups in the consumer price index (CPI), bread and cereals recorded the highest rate in January 2023 with 21,8% from 20,6% in December 2022. Bread and cereal increase in January 2023 was also the highest increase for this category since February 2009 when it recorded 23,8%. Meat inflation increased to 11,2% in January 2023, from December's 9,7%. Other meat products that recorded monthly price increases include fresh chicken portions (5,3%), beef offal (5,2%) and stewing beef (3,6%). Presented in this article is a summary of results from the *Consumer price index* (CPI) (statistical release P0141) for January 2023.



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

Annual consumer price inflation was 6,9% in January 2023, down from 7,2% in December 2022 (**see Table S**). The consumer price index decreased by 0,1% month-on-month in January 2023. The main contributors to the 6,9% annual inflation rate were:

- Food and non-alcoholic beverages increased by 13,4% year-on-year, and contributed 2,3 percentage points to the total CPI annual rate of 6,9%.
- Housing and utilities increased by 4,1% year-on-year, and contributed 1,0 percentage point.
- Transport increased by 11,1% year-on-year, and contributed 1,6 percentage points.
- Miscellaneous goods and services increased by 4,8% year-on-year, and contributed 0,7 of a percentage point.

In January the annual inflation rate for goods was 9,5%, down from 10,1% in December; and for services it remained unchanged at 4,3%.



**Table S – Consumer price index: Index numbers and year-on-year rates**  
**Base year: Dec 2021=100**

Year	Index/ rate	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average <sup>1</sup>
2018	Index	84,5	85,2	85,5	86,2	86,3	86,6	87,4	87,3	87,7	88,1	88,2	88,1	86,8
	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	87,9	88,6	89,4	89,9	90,2	90,5	90,8	91,1	91,3	91,3	91,4	91,6	90,3
	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	91,9	92,8	93,1	92,6	92,0	92,5	93,7	93,9	94,0	94,3	94,3	94,4	93,3
	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	94,8	95,4	96,1	96,7	96,8	97,0	98,1	98,5	98,7	99,0	99,4	100,0	97,5
	Rate	3,2	2,9	3,2	4,4	5,2	4,9	4,6	4,9	5,0	5,0	5,5	5,9	4,5
2022	Index	100,2	100,8	101,8	102,4	103,1	104,2	105,8	106,0	106,1	106,5	106,8	107,2	104,2
	Rate	5,7	5,7	5,9	5,9	6,5	7,4	7,8	7,6	7,5	7,6	7,4	7,2	6,9
2023	Index	107,1												
	Rate	6,9												

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)



# 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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