Mbalo Brief

the missing piece of the puzzle

CENSUS 2022 RESULTS

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IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS

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Editor's comment

Since 2014, the number of people affected by hunger has been increasing. The United Nations (UN) estimates that 828 million people globally were affected by hunger in 2021. Yet food loss and waste is a cause for concern. Every year, 1,6 billion tonnes of food is wasted across the world of which 1,3 billion tonnes is edible, according to the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). Approximately 13% of food production is lost between harvest and retail, while an estimated 17% of total global food production is wasted in households, food service and retail combined. In South Africa, 10 million tonnes of food go to waste every year. This accounts for a third of the 31 million tonnes that are produced annually in South Africa.

To raise awareness around food loss and waste, the United Nation's General Assembly has designated 29 September as the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste (IDAFLW). This year's IDAFLW was celebrated under the theme "Reducing food loss and waste: Taking action to transform food systems". This was used as an opportunity to call to action both the public and the private sectors to prioritise actions and move ahead with innovation to reduce food loss and waste towards restoring and building back better and resilient-ready, food systems. Tackling food loss and waste relies on the joint effort of various stakeholders and will lead to food security, sustainability of food systems and reducing greenhouse gases emissions among others.

This month's issue of Mbalo Brief is our last for 2023. The next issue will be published in February 2024. This month, the educational article is based on the *Census 2022* (statistical release P0301.4), conducted by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) and published on 10 October 2023.

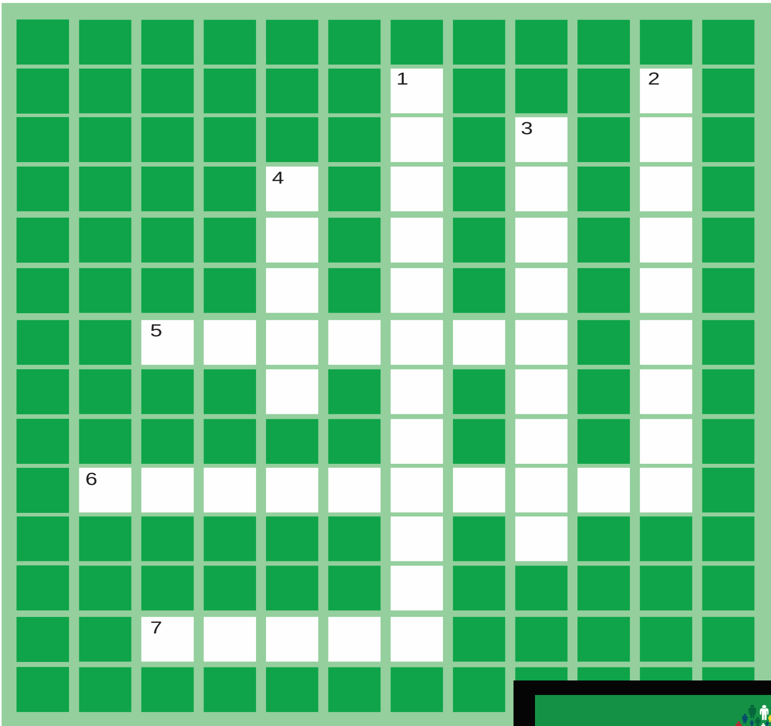
Also, have a look at our monthly crossword puzzle and solutions for the October 2023 puzzle. Articles published in this issue are based on industry surveys conducted for August and September 2023.

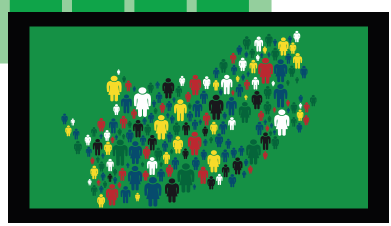
For more details on any statistical releases, visit our website at: www.statssa.gov.za.

Enjoy the read!

Contents

Crossword puzzle





Across

5. What is the maiden surname of the first lady of South Africa?
6. What is a rare rock that contains diamonds in its matrix called? [refer to the *Mining: Production and sales* article for a clue]
7. The Femur, Ossicles and Humerus are all types of human what?

Down

1. The ability to use both the right and left hand equally.
2. What is the age called when half of the population is older and half is younger?
3. What is the name of the cup the Springboks won at the Rugby World Cup 2023 finals in France?
4. According to the educational article, which population group reported the highest percentage of post-school education attainment in 2022?

Solutions for October 2023 puzzle

Across

2. Females
4. Zimbabwe
5. October
6. Gauteng
7. True

Down

1. IsiZulu
3. Western Cape

Educational article on Census 2022

Introduction

According to the United Nations (UN), a population census is the total process of collecting, compiling, evaluating, analysing and publishing data. It seeks to disseminate demographic, economic and social data at a specified time, to all persons in a country or a well-defined part of the country. This involves collecting key demographic data including population size and composition, households and their living circumstances and geographical distribution across the country etc. These data are critical for good governance, development planning, policy formulation and crisis preventions amongst others. The first census in South Africa was held in 1996. Since then, the census has been conducted every 10 years taking place in 2001, 2011 and 2022.

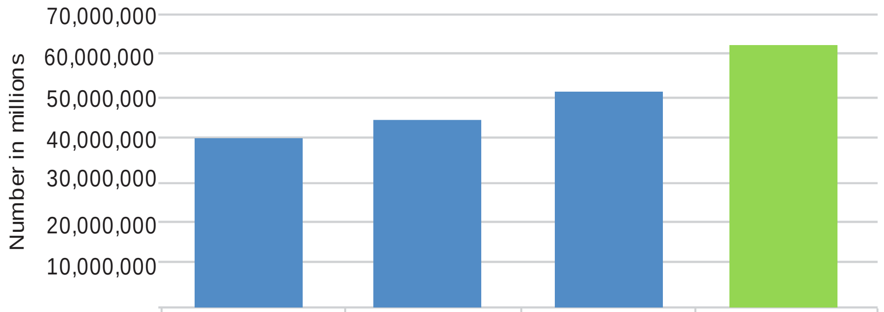
Census 2022, which is the fourth census to be conducted after the advent of democracy, was the first digital census in South Africa. Census information was collected through a digital questionnaire, using three modes of collection namely: Computer-Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI), where fieldworkers visited households and conducted interviews using a hand-held device; Computer-Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI), where households were interviewed telephonically; and Computer-Assisted Web Interview (CAWI), where the public was able to complete the questionnaire via the internet.

This educational article is based on the *Census 2022*, statistical release P0301.4, which was published on the official Statistics South Africa Census Portal on 10 October 2023. The article will focus on the demographic characteristics of the population, migration, education and housing and access to basic services.

Demographic characteristics

The following sub-topics will be discussed under this section: the population size, population composition and languages most spoken in the households.

Figure 1: Total population by census year, Census 1996–2022



	Census 1996	Census 2001	Census 2011	Census 2022
Total population	40,583,573	44,819,778	51,770,560	62,027,503

Figure 1 shows the total population by census years, 1996–2022. Overall, results indicate the population size of the country continues to increase. The population increased from 40 583 573 in 1996 to 62 027 503 in 2022, representing a growth rate of 4,1%. The biggest population growth rate was observed between 2011 and 2022 at 1,8%, while the lowest growth rate was between 2001 and 2011 at 1,4%.

Distribution of population by province and sex, Census 1996–2022

In 2022, the female population was 31 948 745 while the male population was 30 078 757. Gauteng recorded the highest population size (15 099 422), followed by KwaZulu-Natal (12 423 907), while Northern Cape (1 355 946) and Free State (2 964 412) recorded the lowest population sizes among the provinces. Gauteng is the only province where the proportion of females has been consistently below 50% since 1996. Limpopo (52,8%) and Eastern Cape (52,6%) had the highest proportion of females, more than the other seven provinces and more than the national percentage (51,5%).

Distribution of the population by population group and province, Census 1996–2022

The black African population remained the largest population group across all nine provinces since 1996. The black African population was highest in Gauteng (12 765 312) and KwaZulu-Natal (10 535 830), and lowest in Northern Cape (679 383). The highest number of the coloured population group was in Western Cape. Over time, proportionally, the coloured population remained the highest in Western Cape at 42% in 2022, although declining from 56% in 1996. The largest concentration of the white population group was recorded in Gauteng (1 509 800), followed by the Western Cape (1 217 807) in 2022. However, the proportion of the white population declined gradually within each province over time; for instance, the white population constituted 22% of the population in Gauteng in 1996 but declined to only 10% in that province in 2022. However, it stood at 21,4% in Western Cape in 1996 and declined to just above 16% of the total population in that province in 2022. The total number of the Indian/Asian population recorded in 2022 was 1 697 505; provincially, of which the highest number remained in KwaZulu-Natal (1 157 542), followed by Gauteng (329 736). This population group remained steady within these two provinces at just below 10% in KwaZulu-Natal and only 2% in Gauteng.

Percentage distribution of the population by 5-year age group and province, Census 2022

The results indicate that those in the age group 0–4 (9,4%), 25–29 (9,2%) and 30–34 (9%) had the highest proportions nationally, while those in the age groups 80–84 and 85+ were the lowest at 0,6% and 0,5%, respectively. Furthermore, Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Western Cape recorded the highest proportion among those in the youthful ages 25–34 at almost similar proportions, ranging between 8,7% and 10,5%. Eastern Cape (10,2%) reported the highest proportion among those in the age group 10–14 years, while Limpopo (10,1%) reported the same proportion among those in the age groups 5–9 and 10–14 years, and 11,5% among the youngest age group of 0–4. Overall, results show that the South African population remained relatively young and youthful, with the majority concentrated in the age group 0–39 years.

Language

South Africa recognises 12 languages as official including Sign Language as it was promulgated an official language in July 2023.

Table 1: Population distribution by language spoken most often in the household, Census 2022

Language	Census year			
	1996	2001	2011	2022
Afrikaans	14,5	13,4	13,5	10,6
English	8,7	8,3	9,7	8,7
IsiNdebele	1,5	1,6	2,1	1,7
IsiXhosa	17,9	17,6	16,0	16,3
IsiZulu	22,8	23,8	22,7	24,4
Sepedi	9,2	9,4	9,0	10,0
Sesotho	7,7	7,9	7,6	7,8
Setswana	8,2	8,2	8,0	8,3
Sign language	-	-	0,5	0,02
SiSwati	2,5	2,7	2,5	2,8
Tshivenda	2,2	2,3	2,4	2,5
Xitsonga	4,4	4,4	4,5	4,7
Other	0,6	0,5	1,6	2,1
Total	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**

Note: Excludes population aged younger than 1. Sign language data not available for 1996 and 2001.

Table 1 shows that isiZulu remained the most spoken language in the country since 1996, constituting almost a quarter of speakers in 2022 (24,4%), followed by isiXhosa (16,3%) and Afrikaans (10, 6%). Findings showed a downward trend in Afrikaans speakers (from 14,5% in 1996 to 10,6% in 2022), similarly, the number of isiXhosa speakers decreased from 17,9% in 1996 to 16,3% in 2022. The proportion of persons who speak English, Xitsonga and Tshivenda remained relatively stable. The results further showed that less than 1% of the population communicated using Sign Language in both Censuses 2011 and 2022.

Migration

Census 2022 defines migration as “a change in a person’s permanent or usual place of residence”. The section on migration includes questions on citizenship, place of birth, country of birth, migration year to South Africa, usual residence, place of usual residence, movement since 2011 and reasons for moving.

The following sub-sections will be discussed under migration: interprovincial migration, lifetime migration and sending countries to South Africa.

Distribution of population by province of usual residence and province of previous residence, Census 2011 and 2022

Gauteng (5 188 286) recorded the largest lifetime in-migration (relating to place of birth and place of usual residence), followed by the Western Cape (2 043 626) while the Eastern Cape and Limpopo recorded the largest out-migration. Among persons migrating into Gauteng, a high number of them indicated that they were born in Limpopo (1 378 304) and outside South Africa (1 185 925). Gauteng (495 494) and Western Cape (1 134 674) were preferred destinations for people migrating from Eastern Cape. Half of all international migrants (50,2%) were residing in Gauteng, followed by about 16% in Western Cape.

Distribution of population born outside South Africa by age and sex, Census 2011 and 2022

There were more male immigrants compared to female immigrants in 2011 and 2022. Furthermore, the prevalent ages of immigrants were between 20 and 44, suggesting that young adults are more likely to migrate than children and the elderly. In 2011, males aged 25–29 reported the highest number of immigrants with 260 885, whilst in 2022 male immigrants aged 30–34 (235 297) were the highest.

Figure 2: Top 20 sending countries to South Africa, Census 2011 and 2022

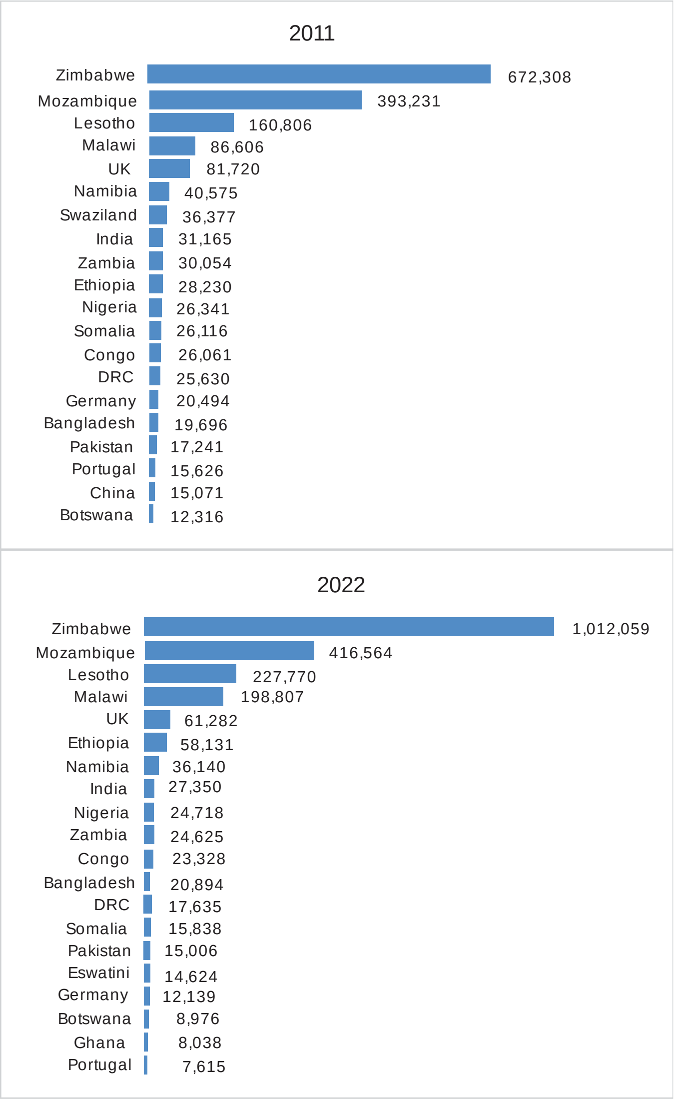


Figure 2 shows the distribution of the top 20 sending countries (the country of origin of persons moving temporarily for the purpose of employment) to South Africa, in 2011 and 2022. The top five sending countries remained the same between the two Censuses (Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Lesotho, Malawi and the United Kingdom (UK)). India also maintained the 2011 rank in 2022. Namibia, Eswatini, Somalia, Portugal and Germany went down the rank in 2022. Countries that moved up the rank were: Ethiopia, Nigeria, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Bangladesh, Botswana and Pakistan. China is the only country that moved out of the top 20 sending countries in 2022. Whereas Ghana is the new entry into the top 20 sending countries in 2022.

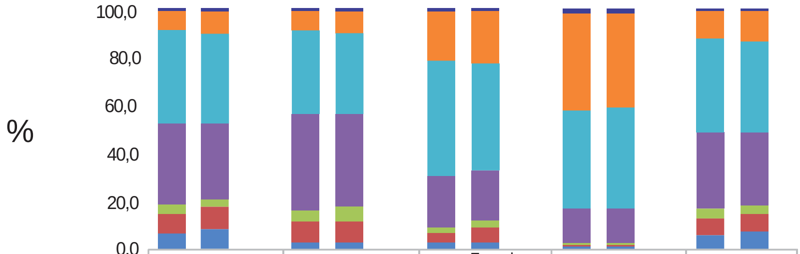
Education

Educational attainment of persons aged 20 years and older

Percentage distribution for persons aged 20 years and older by educational attainment and province, Census 2022

Mpumalanga and Limpopo had the highest percentage of persons with no schooling, which was above the national average of 6,9% (11,7% and 14,1%, respectively). The lowest percentage of individuals with no schooling was found in Western Cape (2,3%), followed by Gauteng (3,9%). The majority of individuals aged 20 years and older in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga had completed secondary education, which is also above the national average (42,9%, 41,2% and 40,2%y, respectively). The lowest percentage of individuals who completed secondary education was found in Eastern Cape (27,2%). In Western Cape, close to 18% of individuals aged 20 years and older had achieved post-school education, followed by Gauteng (16,2%).

Figure 3: Percentage distribution of population aged 20 years and older by educational attainment, population group and sex, Census 2022



	Black/African Male	Black/African Female	Coloured Male	Coloured Female	Indian/Asian Male	Indian/Asian Female	White Male	White Female	Total Male	Total Female
Other	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,6	1,2	1,0	2,1	1,8	0,8	0,8
Post school	8,2	9,9	8,3	9,5	20,5	21,5	40,1	38,5	11,6	12,8
Completed secondary	38,1	36,5	34,2	33,5	48,0	44,7	40,4	41,8	38,3	36,9
Some secondary	34,3	32,2	39,7	38,5	21,3	20,9	14,8	15,4	32,5	30,8
Completed primary	3,8	3,6	5,5	5,8	1,9	2,6	0,4	0,4	3,6	3,5
Some primary	8,1	8,2	8,5	8,9	3,4	5,7	0,6	0,6	7,2	7,5
No schooling	6,9	9,0	3,0	3,1	3,6	3,8	1,5	1,4	6,0	7,6

Figure 3 shows the percentage of the population aged 20 years and older by educational attainment, population group and sex. In terms of post-school education, the results show disparities among different population groups. For instance, regardless of sex, the white population group reported the highest percentage of post-school education attainment, followed by Indian/Asian population with half as much as that of the white population group. However, the notable sex differences appear primarily within the black African and coloured population groups. Both groups show lower levels of post-school education, and these levels are nearly comparable between the two population groups.

Black African and coloured population groups had a higher proportion of individuals in some secondary education level, which may suggest higher dropout rates and limited progression to tertiary education. On the other hand, the white and Indian/Asian population groups were more likely to be concentrated in the completed secondary school and post-secondary education levels.

Percentage distribution of population aged 20 years and older by educational attainment, Census 1996–2022

The percentage of individuals with no schooling has decreased almost threefold (19,1% in 1996 and 6,9% in 2022), while the percentage of individuals with some primary education has reduced by half. Completion of secondary education more than doubled from 16,3% in 1996 to 37,6% in 2022. Achievement of post-school education increased by only 5,1 percentage points. In 1996, one-third (33,6%) of the population aged 20 years and older had only some secondary education and only 16,3% had completed secondary education. However, in 2022 more than one-third (37,6%) had completed secondary education.

Distribution of population aged 20 years and older by field of education and sex, Census 2011 and 2022

More than three million individuals aged 20 years and older obtained a qualification in 2011; this increased to 5,2 million in 2022. The two principal fields of study for both 2011 and 2022 were business economics and management sciences and education. Both fields of study were dominated by females, with wider gender gaps observed in the education field. The percentage of females with qualifications in education was 69,6% in 2011 and increased to 72,3% in 2022. Males dominated in engineering with 84,9% in 2011 and 78,1% in 2022, as well as electrical infrastructure (83,6% in 2011 and 79,4% in 2022). For both periods, females were more likely to obtain a qualification in health professions and related clinical sciences (75,6% in 2011 and 75,7% in 2022).

The percentage of males who studied computer and information sciences increased from 57,2% in 2011 to 61,5% in 2022 while the percentage of females declined from 42,8% in 2011 to 38,5% in 2022. Furthermore, the number of individuals with qualifications in communication, journalism and related studies more than doubled within the decade, from 46 048 in 2011 to 93 140 in 2022. This field of study had more females than males in both years (60,6% in 2011 and 63,2% in 2022).

Housing and basic services

The following sub-topics will be covered under this section: number of households, housing and access to basic services including water and sanitation, energy for lighting and cooking and refuse removal.

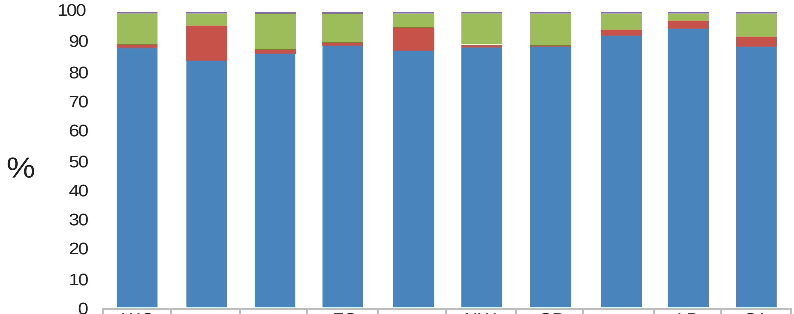
Distribution of households by province, Census 1996–2022

In 2022 a total of 17 828 778 households were recorded nationally, with Gauteng (5,3 million) and KwaZulu-Natal (2,9 million) accounting for just below half of all households in the country. Northern Cape, the least populous province, recorded 333 553 households. Nationally, there was a steady increase in the number of households between 1996 and 2022, from approximately 9,1 million in 1996 to 17,8 million in 2022.

Percentage distribution of households by type of main dwelling, Census 1996–2022

There has been an upward trend in households residing in formal dwellings, an increase of almost 24 percentage points (from 65,1% in 1996 to 88,5% in 2022). Formal dwellings include formal houses with a brick/concrete structure, flats and apartments, cluster houses, townhouses, semi-detached houses or any formal dwelling situated in a backyard, such as a room or garden cottage where a household or single person resides. The proportion of households residing in informal dwellings halved (from 16,2% in 1996 to 8,1% in 2022).

Percentage distribution of households by type of main dwelling and province, Census 2022



	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	SA
Other	0,3	0,3	0,6	0,6	0,3	0,5	0,3	0,2	0,4	0,3
Informal	11,1	4,4	12,1	9,7	5,0	10,8	11,0	5,8	2,7	8,1
Traditional	0,7	11,7	1,4	1,2	8,0	0,7	0,3	1,8	2,2	3,1
Formal	88,0	83,6	85,9	88,5	86,8	88,0	88,5	92,2	94,7	88,5

Almost all households in Limpopo (94,7%) and Mpumalanga (92,2%) were residing in formal dwellings. The provinces with larger rural areas – KwaZulu-Natal (8%) and Eastern Cape (11,7%) – recorded the highest proportion of traditional dwellings. Northern Cape (12,1%) had the highest proportion of households residing in informal dwellings, with Gauteng and the Western Cape (both at approximately 11%) following closely.

Percentage distribution of households by access to piped water, Census 1996–2022

In 2022, over four-fifths (82,4%) of households in the country had access to piped water either inside their dwelling or inside their yard. An increase in the proportion of households that had access to piped water inside their dwelling was recorded from 44,2% in 1996 to 59,7% in 2022. The proportion of households that accessed piped water off-site (from a water source outside the yard such as a neighbour or from a community stand) decreased from 19,6% in 1996 to 8,9% in 2022.

Percentage distribution of households by access to piped water and province, Census 2022

Households in the Western Cape were more likely to have piped water inside their dwelling (85,5%) compared to Limpopo, where less than one-third (31,4%) accessed piped water inside their dwelling. Although the national picture regarding access to piped water shows improvement over the years, there is a sizeable proportion of households in Limpopo (20,5%) and Eastern Cape (19,5%) with no access to piped water.

Percentage distribution of households by main type of toilet facility, Census 2001–2022

There has been an increase in the percentage of households that used a flush toilet as their main type of toilet facility, from 51,9% in 2001 to 70,8% in 2022. However, the percentage of households that used a pit toilet without ventilation and households with no form of toilet facility declined from 22,8% to 12,5% and from 13,6% to 1,6%, respectively.

Percentage distribution of households by main type of toilet facility and province, Census 2022

Households residing in more urban provinces such as Western Cape (93,9%) and Gauteng (89,7%) had access to flush toilets. Northern Cape still had 4,5% of households that used bucket toilets. Majority of the households in Limpopo, i.e. more than half (57,9%), used a pit latrine with/without ventilation pipe as their main type of toilet facility. Although 58,9% of the households in KwaZulu-Natal used flush toilets, 28,5% used pit latrines with/without ventilation pipe and 7% used chemical toilets. Some households in the Northern Cape and Eastern Cape reported no type of toilet facility, at 4,5% and 3% respectively.

Percentage distribution of households by main source of energy used for lighting, Census 1996–2022

The proportion of households using electricity as the main source of energy for lighting increased significantly from 58,1% in 1996 to 94,7% in 2022; on the other hand, the use of paraffin and candles as the main source of energy for lighting decreased. In 1996, 28,8% of households utilised candles for lighting compared to the 3,2% in 2022. The use of paraffin declined in 2022, with only 0,9% of households using it for lighting compared to the 12,7% in 1996.

Percentage distribution of households by main source of energy used for cooking, Census 1996–2022

The percentage of households using electricity for cooking increased from 47,4% in 1996 to 64,9% in 2022. The use of wood, coal, paraffin and animal dung for cooking decreased, with a significant decrease in the use of paraffin from 21,6% in 1996 to 2,7% in 2022. A smaller proportion of households used wood for cooking in 2022 (6,1%) compared to 23% in 1996. The use of gas for cooking increased sharply between the last two censuses, with just over one-quarter (25,7%) of the country using gas for cooking compared to the 3,5% in 2011. The upward trend in households using gas is noticeable. The magnitude of the percentage increase may be attributed to electricity challenges the country has been facing during the intercensal census (estimated at a time between official censuses) period 2011–2022.

Distribution of households whose refuse is removed by local authority/private company/community members at least once a week by province, Census 2022

It is noted that wide gaps exist between the nine provinces when it comes to refuse removal. Whilst provinces that are predominantly urban recorded regular refuse removal service, those that are largely rural were using alternative methods such as own refuse dump to dispose of household refuse. Households in the Western Cape (88,7%) and Gauteng (85,0%) were more likely to have their refuse removed regularly (at least once a week) compared to households in Limpopo (32,0%).

Conclusion

The South African population has been increasing since 1996 with the black African population being the most dominant group. Gauteng was the most populous province. In 2022, the population comprised of more females than males. The South African population remained relatively young and youthful. IsiZulu remained the most spoken language in South African households. Gauteng recorded the largest lifetime in-migration. There were more male immigrants compared to females. Zimbabwe was the top sending country to South Africa. Mpumalanga and Limpopo had the highest percentage of persons with no schooling. The white population group reported the highest percentage of post-school education attainment in 2022. Females were more likely to obtain a qualification in health professions and related clinical sciences, while males dominated the engineering field. There were more households recorded in Census 2022 than Census 1996. The number of households residing in formal dwellings increased. In 2022, access to basic services such as refuse removal increased for most households across the country.

Primary industries

Mining: Production and sales

Mining production decreased by 2,5% year-on-year in August 2023

When an open pit mine has ceased to operate, the same mine can resume operation of underground mineral extraction. Open pit mining is a surface mining technique that is used to extract minerals from an open pit in the ground or close to the surface of the earth. In 2022, after 30 years of productive open-pit operations, Venetia mine, located in Limpopo, transitioned from open-pit mining to underground mining. On 25 July 2023, the mine announced its first diamond production from underground operations. The overall construction of the underground mine is 70% complete, with production ramp-up continuing over the next few years. The underground operation will deliver up to seven million tonnes of kimberlite ore (a rock that contains diamonds in its rock matrix) per year to produce 4 million carats of diamonds annually. This article summarises the results of *Mining: Production and sales* (statistical release P2041) for August 2023.

Mining production decreased by 2,5% year-on-year in August 2023 **(see Table A)**. The largest negative contributors were:

- diamonds (-54,6%, contributing -2,7 percentage points);
- manganese ore (-7,9%, contributing -0,6 of a percentage point); and
- 'other' metallic minerals (-17,6%, contributing -0,5 of a percentage point).

Table A – Key growth rates in the volume of mining production for August 2023

	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-1,2	2,4	-0,8	0,7	-4,4	-2,5
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	7,1	0,9	-3,3	0,8	-1,7	0,8
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted [1/]	1,5	0,4	3,0	1,1	-0,7	-2,0

[1/] Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.
A full release on *Mining: Production and sales* (statistical release P2041) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Mineral sales at current prices decreased by 16,1% year-on-year in August 2023 **(see Table B)**. The largest negative contributors were:

- PGMs (-39,5%, contributing -11,0 percentage points); and

- coal (-33,4%, contributing -10,6 percentage points).

Table B – Key growth rates in mineral sales for August 2023

	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-14,5	-25,3,	-11,6	-14,3	-24,6	-16,1
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-2,6	-11,8	25,5	-13,6	-5,8	6,7
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted [1/]	-0,1	-5,0	-4,2	-4,0	-1,9	-5,7

[1/] Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.
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Secondary industries

Manufacturing: Production and sales

Manufacturing production decreased by 4,3% in September 2023 compared with September 2022

In 2021, National Treasury issued a circular stating that all organs of state must stipulate on their tender invitations that only South African produced cement, produced with locally-sourced raw materials will be allowed for use on all public sector construction projects. To ensure that more local cement is available, on 01 August 2023, Pretoria Portland Cement (PPC) inaugurated its blending plant. The facility is based at the Highveld Steel Industrial Park in Emalahleni, Mpumalanga. The plant is operating at around 68% of its full capacity, with outputs projected to increase monthly. Bheki Mthembu, Head of PPC's Inland Business Unit reiterated that "the opening of the plant will allow us to optimise our logistics through localization which is imperative in reducing transport costs and minimizing transport-induced carbon emissions." This article presents a summary of results of *Manufacturing: Production and sales* (statistical release P3041.2) for September 2023.

Manufacturing production decreased by 4,3% in September 2023 compared with September 2022 **(see Table C)**. The largest negative contributions were made by the following divisions:

- food and beverages (-10,5%, contributing -2,6 percentage points); and
- motor vehicles, parts and accessories and other transport equipment (-19,7%, contributing -2,3 percentage points).

Table C – Key growth rates in the volume of manufacturing production for September 2023

	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	3,7	2,5	5,8	2,2	1,5	-4,3
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,7	-1,1	1,0	-1,6	0,4	-0,5
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted [1/]	1,5	2,8	2,2	0,6	-0,4	-1,2

[1/] Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

A full release on *Manufacturing: Production and sales* (statistical release P3041.2) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Selected building statistics of the private sector

The value of building plans passed (at current prices) decreased by 10,6% (-R8 232,9 million) during January to August 2023 compared with January to August 2022

With the current state of the economy, South Africa is experiencing a financial crisis that is putting households under pressure to make difficult choices due to high costs of essentials such as food, petrol, and electricity as well as sharp interest rate hikes. This has seen some homeowners resorting to downscaling or selling their houses. According to Lightstone's (an entity that provides information, valuations and market intelligence on properties in South Africa) latest report, the proportion of homeowners who sell their houses within two years of buying them is increasing. In the first three months of 2023, 17% of sellers were giving up their homes due to financial reasons, and this figure increased to 24% in the second quarter of 2023. With another interest rate hike in the pipeline for November 2023, this could be another blow to homeowners who will continue to be impacted negatively and this may lead to mortgage payment defaults. Ultimately the impact of high interest rates does not only affect homeowners but also the buying of property and alterations. According to FNB's Senior Economist, Siphamandla Mkhwanazi, the activity of property buying continues to decline in South Africa. Meanwhile, additions and alterations also continue to be on a decrease, recording 10,6%, as reported by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) for August 2023.This article summarises results of the *Selected building statistics of the private sector as reported by local government institutions* (statistical release P5042.1) for August 2023.

The value of building plans passed (at current prices) decreased by 10,6% (-R8 232,9 million) during January to August 2023 compared with January to August 2022 **(see Table D)**. Decreases were reported for residential buildings (-16,8% or -R7 025,9 million) and additions and alterations (-10,6% or –R2 302,8 million). An increase was reported for non-residential buildings (7,6% or R1 095,8 million).

The largest contributions to the total decrease of 10,6% (-R8 232,9 million) were made by KwaZulu-Natal (contributing -6,4 percentage points or –R5 018,4 million) and Western Cape (contributing -1,8 percentage points or –R1 427,7 million).

Table D – Building plans passed by larger municipalities by type of building for August 2023

Type of building	January - August 2022 [1/]	January – August 2023 [1/]	Difference in value between January - August 2022 and January - August 2023	% change between January - August 2022 and January - August 2023
	R'000	R'000	R'000	
Residential buildings	**41 732 500**	**34 706 624**	**-7 025 876**	**-16,8**
- Dwelling houses	27 364 487	22 928 325	-4 436 162	-16,2
- Flats and townhouses	13 652 219	11 303 046	-2 349 173	-17,2
- Other residential buildings	715 794	475 253	-240 541	-33,6
Non-residential buildings	**14 356 480**	**15 452 288**	**1 095 808**	**7,6**
Additions and alterations	**21 794 296**	**19 491 491**	**-2 302 805**	**-10,6**
Total	**77 883 276**	**69 650 403**	**-8 232 873**	**-10,6**

[1/] 2022 and 2023 figures should be regarded as preliminary because of possible backlogs and incomplete reporting by municipalities. A full release on *Selected building statistics of the private sector as reported by local government institutions* (statistical release P5041.1) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Electricity generated and available for distribution

Electricity generation (production) decreased by 1,0% year-on-year in September 2023

South Africa has experienced load shedding for many years, partly due to insufficient generation capacity at power plants. According to the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP2019) published by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, the country needs to add an extra 39,696 megawatts (MW) to its national grid between 2019 and 2030 to tackle the energy shortage crisis. To address this, the government brought in Independent Power Producers (IPPs) from the private sector to provide additional power. According to the South African Independent Power Producers Association (SAIPPA) an independent power producer is an entity that is not a public electricity utility but owns and/or operates facilities to generate electric power for sale to a utility, national government and end user. IPPs will increase energy security in the country by making it easier for economic activity to continue. This article summarises the results of *Electricity generated and available for distribution* (statistical release P4141) for September 2023.

Electricity generation (production) decreased by 1,0% year-on-year in September 2023 **(see Table E)**.

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

	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-8,5	-8,7	-3,7	-3,4	-6,4	-1,0
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-4,2	-0,7	4,1	-2,0	0,9	-0,9
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted [1/]	-1,2	0,5	-1,2	-0,3	1,0	0,7

[1/] Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

Electricity distribution (consumption) decreased by 1,2% year-on-year in September 2023 **(see Table F)**.

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

	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-8,1	-7,7	-3,2	-3,1	-6,4	-1,2
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-4,6	0,3	3,8	-2,2	0,9	-1,9
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted [1/]	-1,3	0,5	-0,9	0,5	1,1	0,3

[1/] Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

A full release on *Electricity generated and available for distribution* (statistical release P4141) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Tertiary industries

Wholesale trade sales

Wholesale trade sales increased by 4,0% in August 2023 compared with August 2022

According to the United Nations, millions of people around the world fall ill and some even die as a result of eating unsafe food. In South Africa, many children recently fell ill and some died apparently as a result of consuming unsafe food from retailers. In order to improve quality control and food safety, the South African government has made food safety a priority and passed the Agriculture Product Standards Amendment Bill in February 2023. The bill, which amends the Agriculture Product Standards Act, 1990 (Act No. 119 of 1990), seeks to ensure agricultural products sold and exported by wholesalers, producers, etc. meet certain quality and safety standards and to promote food safety. Once the bill becomes a law, it is expected to have more control over the sale, import and export of food. This article summarises the results of the *Wholesale trade sales* (statistical release P6141.2) for August 2023.

Wholesale trade sales increased by 4,0% in August 2023 compared with August 2022 **(see Table G)**. The main positive contributors were dealers in:
- machinery, equipment and supplies (28,0%, contributing 3,3 percentage points); and
- ‘other’ goods (24,5%, contributing 1,5 percentage points).

The main negative contributors were dealers in:
- agricultural raw materials and livestock (-17,6%, contributing -1,3 percentage points); and
- ‘other’ intermediate products, waste and scrap (-17,7%, contributing -1,1 percentage points).

Table G – Key growth rates in wholesale trade sales for August 2023

	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	6,2	8,8	3,7	-0,1	-3,1	4,0
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-4,4	1,0	-0,5	-2,4	1,4	3,9
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted[1/]	0,4	1,0	-1,1	-1,8	-2,4	-0,2

[1/] Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.
A full release on *Wholesale trade sales* (statistical release P6141.2) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Retail trade sales

Retail trade sales decreased by 0,5% year-on-year in August 2023

Retail trade sales decreased for the ninth consecutive time in August 2023, showing signs of decreased activity within the industry. Some of the reasons for this decrease include load shedding, decreased consumer spending and higher inflation. With Black Friday just around the corner, most retailers are hoping for a seasonal surge in consumer spending which usually continues into the festive season. Statistics South Africa's Retail trade sales survey showed increases in sales in November for the past two years. For instance, sales in November 2021 increased by 0,4% after two consecutive months of decreases and also increased by 3,3% in 2022. Thus, past trends show that retailers record higher earnings during this season and this may compensate for decreased consumer spending throughout the year. This article summarises the results of the *Retail trade sales* (statistical release 6242.1) for August 2023.

Retail trade sales decreased by 0,5% year-on-year in August 2023 **(see Table H)**. The largest negative contributors to this decrease were:

- general dealers (-3,8%, contributing -1,7 percentage points); and
- retailers in hardware, paint and glass (-5,0%, contributing -0,4 of a percentage point).

Retail trade sales decreased by 1,1% in the three months ended August 2023 compared with the three months ended August 2022. The largest negative contributors to this decrease were:

- general dealers (-3,9%, contributing -1,7 percentage points); and
- retailers in hardware, paint and glass (-6,7%, contributing -0,6 of a percentage point).

Retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods was the largest positive contributor (9,2% and contributing 1,5 percentage points).

Table H – Key growth rates in retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices

	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	June-23	Jul-23	Aug-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-1,4	-2,6	-2,9	-1,8	-1,0	-0,5
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,0	-0,2	-0,8	0,4	0,4	0,2
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted[1/]	0,4	-0,2	-0,4	-0,8	-0,6	0,2

[1/] Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.
A full release on *Retail trade sales* (statistical release P6242.1) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Motor trade sales

Motor trade sales decreased by 2,1% year-on-year in August 2023

South African motorists felt some much needed relief following a substantial petrol cut on Wednesday, 01 November 2023. The price of petrol went down by R1,78 per litre while diesel price decreased by 85 cents per litre and illuminating paraffin decreased by 97 cents per litre. The adjusted prices were mainly due to a significant drop in international oil prices, following decreasing trend of crude oil. These decreases come at a time when the cost of living continues to rise and most South African households are struggling financially. Despite the decrease in petrol price, motorists should still take precautionary petrol saving measures into consideration to avoid sinking deeper into financial distress. The Automobile Association of South Africa (AA) advises motorists to ensure optimal petrol usage by using air conditioners sparingly, minimising trips where possible, and keeping vehicle tyres inflated to manufacturer specifications. This article summarises the results of *Motor trade sales* (statistical release P6343.2) for August 2023.

Motor trade sales decreased by 2,1% year-on-year in August 2023 **(see Table I)**. The largest negative annual growth rates were recorded for:

- new vehicle sales (-11,0%);

- used vehicle sales (-5,7%); and
- workshop income (-4,8%).

The largest negative contributor was new vehicle sales (contributing -2,9 percentage points).

Table I – Key growth rates in motor trade sales at constant 2019 prices for August 2023

	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-2,2	-4,7	0,2	5,8	2,2	-2,1
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-0,2	0,1	0,8	1,1	-0,4	-1,4
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted [1/]	-1,2	-0,3	0,2	1,1	1,4	0,9

[1/] Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.
A full release on *Motor trade sales* (statistical release P6343.2) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Food and beverages

Total income generated by the food and beverages industry increased by 0,5% in August 2023

Foodstuffs that are intended for public consumption must be safe at all times. Any person who wishes to handle food or permit handling of food should apply for certificate of acceptability from the local authority in writing. According to Regulation R638 of the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, 1972 (Act No. 54 of 1972), no person is allowed to store, transport, display, prepare or sell any food without a certificate of acceptability. A person in charge of food premises must apply in writing to local authority for certificate of acceptability. The certificate of acceptability must be displayed at the food premises and no unauthorised changes or additions to it must be made. Any person who applies for the certificate has to undergo hygiene training. This article summarises the results of *Food and beverages* (statistical release P6420) for August 2023.

Total income generated by the food and beverages industry increased by 0,5% in August 2023 compared with August 2022 **(see Table J)**. The largest positive annual growth rate was recorded for 'other' income (11,1%).

In August 2023, the main positive contributor to the 0,5% year-on-year increase was takeaway and fast-food outlets (4,9%, contributing 1,7 percentage points).

Total income increased by 2,1% in the three months ended August 2023 compared with the three months ended August 2022. Positive contributors to this increase were:

- takeaway and fast-food outlets (3,9%, contributing 1,4 percentage points); and
- catering services (12,8%, contributing 1,4 percentage points).

Table J – Year-on-year percentage change in food and beverages income at constant 2019 prices by type of income for August 2023

Type of income	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23
Food sales	5,9	4,7	5,3	6,9	0,8	2,1
Bar sales	1,1	-4,0	-9,3	2,8	-10,7	-12,2
Other income	15,6	21,5	11,9	11,5	18,9	11,1
Total	**5,5**	**3,9**	**3,5**	**6,5**	**-0,2**	**0,5**

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

Tourist accommodation

Total income for the tourist accommodation industry increased by 20,8% in August 2023

South Africa is one of the top African tourist destinations, attracting international hotel chains which desire to establish their hotels for leisure or holiday. Club Med, an international leader and pioneer of premium all-inclusive holiday packages which operates 70 resorts in 40 countries, is set to open its first all-inclusive resort in KwaZulu-Natal with a R2 billion local investment. The resort, which will boast over 400 rooms and suites, is expected to open in July 2026. Club Med reported that the resort will be a green building, with eco-certification from the Building Research

Establishment Environment Assessment Method (BREEAM), an international and independent eco-construction certification. Additionally, it aims to achieve a 4-star rating from the Green Building Council of South Africa (GBCSA) for this development. In Africa, Club Med currently operates resorts in Mauritius, Morocco, Senegal, Seychelles and Tunisia. This article presents a summary of the *Tourist accommodation* (statistical release P6410) for August 2023.

Total income for the tourist accommodation industry increased by 20,8% in August 2023 compared with August 2022 **(see Table K)**. Income from accommodation increased by 27,3% year-on-year in August 2023, the result of a 10,2% increase in the number of stay unit nights sold and a 15,5% increase in the average income per stay unit night sold.

In August 2023, the largest contributors to the 27,3% year-on-year increase in income from accommodation were:

- hotels (31,5% and contributing 18,8 percentage points); and
- 'other' accommodation (25,0% and contributing 8,3 percentage points).

Table K – Year-on-year percentage change in tourist accommodation statistics for August 2023

	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23
Stay units available	0,4	0,1	0,1	-0,1	-0,1	-0,1
Stay unit nights sold	11,8	14,4	11,2	9,8	7,6	10,2
Average income per stay unit nights sold	25,5	18,6	15,0	26,5	19,7	15,5
Income from accommodation	40,3	35,6	28,0	38,9	28,9	27,3
Total income [1/]	**33,2**	**35,6**	**22,2**	**27,6**	**17,7**	**20,8**

[1/] Includes restaurant and bar sales and 'other' income. 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.

Tourism and migration

A total of 2 563 410 travellers passed through South African ports of entry/exit in September 2023

The tourism industry has the potential to contribute to the South African economy significantly. It is regarded as a potential industry where large-scale employment opportunities can be created. Results from the Domestic Tourism Survey (DTS) 2022, show that 33,1 million day trips and 23,2 million overnight trips were taken within South Africa in 2022, with Gauteng being the most visited province by domestic tourists and travellers. The main reason for visiting Gauteng – for both day visitors and overnight tourists, was to visit family and friends. Interestingly, while most South Africans travelled to Gauteng, Gauteng residents chose to rather head to Limpopo and Kwa-Zulu Natal. Presented in this article is a summary of the Tourism and migration (statistical release P0351) for September 2023.

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 2 563 410 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry/exit in September 2023. These travellers were made up of 766 769 South African residents and 1 796 641 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 363 659 arrivals, 402 641 departures and 469 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 943 387, 813 196 and 40 058 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in August 2023 and September 2023 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures increased for South African residents but decreased for foreign travellers, whereas the volume of transits decreased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 9,6% (from 331 749 in August 2023 to 363 659 in September 2023). Departures increased by 12,5% (from 357 882 in August 2023 to 402 641 in September 2023) and transits decreased by 5,3% (from 495 in August 2023 to 469 in September 2023). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 4,3% (from 985 800 in August 2023 to 943 387 in September 2023), departures decreased by 5,0% (from 856 149 in August 2023 to 813 196 in September 2023), and transits decreased by 12,2% (from 45 649 in August 2023 to 40 058 in September 2023).

Mode of travel of travellers

In September 2023, road was the most common mode of travel used by 1 720 388 (67,1%) of the 2 563 410 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air was 838 651 (32,7%). Compared to air and land, a smaller number of travellers, 4 371 (0,2%) used sea travel into and out of South Africa. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 167 469 (46,1%) came by air, 196 153 (53,9%) came by road and 37 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. For departures, 188 216 (46,7%) used air, 214 271 (53,2%) used road and 154 (less than 0,1%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 469 (100,0%) used air.

In the case of foreign travellers, 222 867 (23,6%) arrived by air, 718 465 (76,2%) came by road and 2 055 (0,2%) arrived by sea. When departing South Africa, 219 572 (27,0%) foreign travellers left by air, 591 499 (72,7%) left by road and 2 125 (0,3%) left by sea. All the travellers in transit, 40 058 (100,0%) used air.

Visitors

In September 2023, 25 240 (2,7%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors, while 918 147 (97,3%) were classified as visitors. Visitors were categorised into three groups:
i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in September 2023 but did not depart in September 2023 [312 520 (34,0%)];
ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in September 2023 and left in September 2023 [294 846 (32,1%)]; and
iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in September 2023 [310 781 (33,8%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In September 2023, there were 233 986 (25,5%) same-day visitors and 684 161 (74,5%) tourists. Between August 2023 and September 2023, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 5,8% (from 248 316 in August 2023 to 233 986 in September 2023) and that of tourists decreased by 3,4% (from 708 159 in August 2023 to 684 161 in September 2023). Between September 2022 and September 2023, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 23,1% (from 190 077 in September 2022 to 233 986 in September 2023) and that of tourists increased by 26,9% (from 539 202 in September 2022 to 684 161 in September 2023).

Tourists

Sex distribution of tourists

There were more male [396 367 (57,9%)] than female [287 794 (42,1%)] tourists. Male tourists constituted the majority of tourists for all three regions, the *Southern African Development Community* (SADC) countries [306 468 (59,6%)], overseas countries [82 853 (52,3%)] and 'other' African countries [6 413 (61,6%)]. Similarly, the largest portion of female tourists was from SADC countries [207 800 (40,4%)], followed by overseas countries [75 554 (47,7%)] and 'other' African countries [4 002 (38,4%)].

Age distribution of tourists

The age distribution indicates that out of all tourists, 25 614 (3,7%) were aged younger than 15 years; 50 749 (7,4%) were aged between 15 and 24 years; 171 220 (25,0%) were aged between 25 and 34 years; 204 800 (29,9%) were aged between 35 and 44 years; 121 635 (17,8%) were aged between 45 and 54 years; 67 054 (9,8%) were aged between 55 and 64 years; 43 088 (6,3%) were aged 65 years and above.

Regional and national distribution of tourists

In September 2023, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 86 228 (54,4%); North America, 34 513 (21,8%); Asia, 17 064 (10,8%); Australasia, 10 437 (6,6%); The Middle East, 5 218 (3,3%) and Central and South America, 4 947 (3,1%).
Virtually, most tourists from Africa, 514 268 (98,0%), came from SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa was as follows: East and Central Africa, 6 388 (1,2%); West Africa, 3 074 (0,6%) and North Africa 953 (0,2%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in September 2023 were: Zimbabwe, 171 080 (33,3%); Mozambique, 107 496 (20,9%); Lesotho, 86 821 (16,9%); Eswatini, 65 659 (12,8%); Botswana, 34 890 (6,8%); Namibia, 13 745 (2,7%); Malawi, 13 186 (2,6%); Zambia, 12 024 (2,3%); Angola, 2 947 (0,6%) and Tanzania, 2 625 (0,5%).

Tourists from these 10 countries constituted 99,3% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison of movements in the 10 leading countries between September 2022 and September 2023 shows that the number of tourists increased for nine of the ten leading countries. Zimbabwe showed the highest increase of 36,0% (from 125 757 tourists in September 2022 to 171 080 tourists in September 2023) followed by Eswatini with an increase of 35,4% (from 48 497 tourists in September 2022 to 65 659 tourists in September 2023).

Purpose of visit of tourists

In September 2023, the majority of tourists, 661 197 (96,6%), were in South Africa for holiday compared to 19 712 (2,9%); 3 007 (0,4%) and 245 (less than 0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and medical treatment respectively.

Mode of travel of tourists

A total of 144 340 (91,1%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 14 064 (8,9%) came in by road and three (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the SADC countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 475 004 (92,4%), whilst 39 264 (7,6%) came by air and none arrived by sea. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 9 337 (89,6%); while 1 078 (10,4%) used road transport and none preferred sea.

Table L – Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction for September 2023

Travel direction	September 2022	August 2023	September 2023	% change August to September 2023	% change September 2022 to September 2023
Total	**2 155 408**	**2 577 724**	**2 563 410**	**-0,6%**	**18,9%**
South African residents	**663 430**	**690 126**	**766 769**	**11,1%**	**15,6%**
Arrivals	317 220	331 749	363 659	9,6%	14,6%
Departures	345 786	357 882	402 641	12,5%	16,4%
Transit	424	495	469	-5,3%	10,6%
Foreign travellers	**1 491 978**	**1 887 598**	**1 796 641**	**-4,8%**	**20,4%**
Arrivals	792 934	985 800	943 387	-4,3%	19,0%
Departures	668 318	856 149	813 196	-5,0%	21,7%
Transit	30 726	45 649	40 058	-12,2%	30,4%

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

Statistics of civil cases for debt

The total number of civil summonses issued for debt decreased by 0,5% in the three months ended August 2023

South Africa's challenging economic climate (attributed to high-interest rates and an increase in consumer prices such as the price of food, fuel, electricity, etc.) makes it challenging for some South African consumers to service/manage debts and honour credit commitments effectively. According to DebtBusters, a debt management company, "personal loans have become a lifeline for many South Africans over the past seven years and debt-to-income ratios for top-income earners are at all-time highs." Some consumers are borrowing money to make it through the month and spending a larger portion of their income on servicing debts. With such financial pressures, consumers will likely default on their credit commitments. This will not only downgrade their credit score, reducing their eligibility to be granted credit in the future, but can also result in a civil case for debt. This article summarises the results of the *Statistics of civil cases for debt* (statistical release P0041) for August 2023.

The number of civil summonses issued for debt

The total number of civil summonses issued for debt decreased by 0,5% in the three months ended August 2023 compared with the three months ended August 2022 **(see Table M)**. The largest negative contributors to the 0,5% decrease in civil summonses issued were:

- money lent (contributing -2,2 percentage points); and
- goods sold (contributing -0,8 of a percentage point).

Promissory notes made the largest positive contribution (contributing 1,5 percentage points).

The number of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total number of civil judgements recorded for debt increased by 1,5% in the three months ended August 2023 compared with the three months ended August 2022. The largest positive contributors to the 1,5% increase were civil judgements relating to:

- ‘other’ debts (contributing 4,3 percentage points);
- services (contributing 1,6 percentage points); and
- promissory notes (contributing 1,5 percentage points).

Money lent made the largest negative contribution (contributing -4,0 percentage points).

The value of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total value of civil judgements recorded for debt increased by 9,4% in the three months ended August 2023 compared with the three months ended August 2022. The largest positive contributors to the 9,4% increase were civil judgements relating to:

- ‘other’ debts (contributing 5,1 percentage points);
- services (contributing 3,2 percentage points); and
- promissory notes (contributing 2,2 percentage points).

In August 2023, 12 030 civil judgements for debt amounting to R329,9 million were recorded. The largest contributors to the total value of judgements were:

- money lent (R96,6 million or 29,3%);
- services (R69,0 million or 20,9%); and
- 'other' debts (R68,6 million or 20,8%).

Table M – Key figures for civil summonses and judgements for August 2023

Actual estimates	August 2023	% change between August 2022 and August 2023	% change between June to Aug 2022 and June to Aug 2023
Number of civil summonses issued for debt	41 709	2,2	-0,5
Number of civil judgements recorded for debt	12 030	2,7	1,5
Value of civil judgements recorded for debt (R million)	329,9	6,2	9,4

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

Statistics of liquidations

The total number of liquidations decreased by 8,2% in September 2023 compared with September 2022

There are various reasons businesses are liquidated. One of the reasons is non-payment of businesses that offer services or goods. On 27 September 2023, the Public Service Commission (PSC) indicated that the impact of unpaid or late invoices on small businesses was a huge concern. The Commissioner of PSC Anele Gxoyiya reported that 318 cases were opened against public bodies, 48 against national departments and seven in provinces. Gxoyiya stated that when some businesses get contracts, they take loans to deliver the services and the longer they are not paid, the longer interest is accrued on their loans. According to Gxoyiya, some of the businesses have collapsed as a result of non-payment. Gxoyiya encouraged small businesses whose invoices have not been paid by various state institutions within 30 days to approach the office of PSC for assistance. This article summarises the results of *Statistics of liquidations* (statistical release P0043.1) for September 2023.

The total number of liquidations decreased by 8,2% in September 2023 compared with September 2022 **(See Table N)**. The number of liquidations decreased by 11,0% in the third quarter of 2023 compared with the third quarter of 2022. A decrease of 13,0% was recorded in the first nine months of 2023 compared with the first nine months of 2022.

Table N – Key growth rates in the number of liquidations for September 2023

Number of liquidations September 2023	% change between September 2022 and September 2023	% change between July to September 2022 and July to September 2023	% change between January to September 2022 and January to September 2023
156	-8,2	-11,0	-13,0

A full release on *Statistics of liquidations* (statistical release P0043.1) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Land transport

Volume of goods transported decreased by 9,8% in August 2023

Rail transport plays an essential role in South Africa's transport infrastructure and economic development. It connects major cities and transports freight and passengers at a lower cost compared to other modes of transport such as cars, ships or planes. However, the number of rail passenger journeys has dropped by 46 million over the past 10 years, from 50,1 million journeys in August 2013 to 4,1 million in August 2023. Some of the reasons for this decrease are vandalism, theft and a lack of maintenance of the rail network. Overcrowding and the safety of trains remain a concern. In June 2023, however, the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA) announced that it had set a target of having almost 80% of its original 40 operational corridors functioning by March 2024. Moreover, the railway utility is currently operating limited train services on 18 lines transporting about 15 million passengers. This is an improvement from the five train services it was running at the end of March 2022. This article summarises the results of *Land transport* (statistical release P7162) for August 2023.

The volume of goods transported (payload) decreased by 9,8% in August 2023 compared with August 2022 **(see Table O)**. The corresponding income decreased by 4,1% over the same period.

Income from freight transportation decreased by 2,7% in the three months ended August 2023 compared with the three months ended August 2022. The main negative contributors to this decrease were:

- manufactured food, beverages and tobacco products (-16,3%, contributing -2,2 percentage points);
- primary mining and quarrying products (-4,0%, contributing -1,4 percentage points); and
- agriculture and forestry primary products (-14,0%, contributing -1,1 percentage points).

Table O – Year-on-year percentage change in freight transportation for August 2023

	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	June-23	Jul-23	Aug-23
Freight payload	4,8	11,0	1,5	-2,5	-4,9	-9,8
Freight income	8,0	11,3	2,8	0,3	-4,1	-4,1

A full release on *Land transport* (statistical release P7162) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

The number of passenger journeys increased by 14,2% in August 2023 compared with August 2022 **(see Table P)**. The corresponding income increased by 10,6% over the same period.

Table P – Year-on-year percentage change in passenger transportation for August 2023

	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	June-23	Jul-23	Aug-23
Passenger journeys	13,7	3,2	18,3	15,8	19,4	14,2
Passenger income	16,0	5,5	12,1	16,9	10,0	10,6

A full release on *Land transport* (statistical release P7162) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Prices

Producer price index (PPI)

PPI was 5,1% in September 2023

The avian flu outbreak which has been going on since early April 2023 has affected several poultry farms in South Africa. Avian flu is a highly contagious viral infection that affects wild birds and poultry. According to the South African Poultry Association (SAPA) South Africa has culled (slaughtered) about 7,5 million chickens to contain dozens of outbreaks of two separate strains of the flu while at least 205,000 chickens have died from it. This has led to a supply shortage of poultry and eggs affecting poultry producers, restaurants, bakeries, retailers and consumers. Deputy President: Paul Mashatile, said "the government will soon announce a support package for farmers impacted by the avian flu outbreak aimed at helping them continue producing and trading." This article summarises the results for *Producer price index* (statistical release P0142.1) for September 2023.

Annual producer price inflation (final manufacturing) was 5,1% in September 2023, up from 4,3% in August 2023 **(see Table Q)**. The producer price index (PPI) increased by 1,5% month-on-month in September 2023. The main contributors to the headline PPI annual inflation rate were:

- food products, beverages and tobacco products (increased by 4,4% year-on-year and contributed 1,1 percentage points);
- metals, machinery, equipment and computing equipment (increased by 6,5% year-on-year and contributed 1,0 percentage point);
- paper and printed products (increased by 11,8% year-on-year and contributed 0,9 of a percentage point); and
- transport equipment (increased by 7,8% year-on-year and contributed 0,7 of a percentage point).

The main contributor to the headline PPI monthly increase was coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products (increased by 5,1% month-on-month and contributed 1,4 percentage points).

Intermediate manufactured goods

The annual percentage change in the PPI for intermediate manufactured goods was -2,9% in September 2023 (compared with -0,5% in August 2023) **(see Table Q)**. The index decreased by 0,6% month-on-month. The main negative contributors to the annual rate were chemicals, rubber and plastic products (-2,4 percentage points) including basic and fabricated metals (-1,4 percentage points). The main negative contributor to the monthly rate was chemicals, rubber and plastic products (-1,3 percentage points).

Electricity and water

The annual percentage change in the PPI for electricity and water was 16,4% in September 2023 (compared with 17,9% in August 2023) **(see Table Q)**. The index decreased by 27,3% month-on-month. Electricity contributed 15,2 percentage points and water contributed 1,2 percentage points to the annual rate. Electricity contributed -27,3 percentage points to the monthly rate.

Mining

The annual percentage change in the PPI for mining was -4,8% in September 2023 (compared with 2,8% in August 2023) **(see Table Q)**. The index decreased by 0,5% month-on-month. The main negative contributors to the annual rate were coal and gas (-5,5 percentage points) and non-ferrous metal ores (-4,7 percentage points). The main negative contributors to the monthly rate were coal and gas (-1,0 percentage point) and stone quarrying, clay and diamonds (-0,4 of a percentage point).

Agriculture, forestry and fishing

The annual percentage change in the PPI for agriculture, forestry and fishing was 8,3% in September 2023 (compared with 6,3% in August 2023) **(see Table Q)**. The index increased by 4,5% month-on-month.
The main contributors to the annual rate were agriculture (6,6 percentage points) and fishing (1,3 percentage points). The main contributor to the monthly rate was agriculture (4,5 percentage points).

Table Q – Key PPI figures for September 2023

Product	Weight	Index (Dec 2020=100)			% change	
		September 2022	August 2023	September 2023	September 2023 vs. August 2023	September 2023 vs. September 2022
Final manufactured goods	100,00	124,7	129,1	131,1	1,5	5,1
Intermediate manufactured goods	100,00	134,5	131,4	130,6	-0,6	-2,9
Electricity and water	100,00	128,8	206,3	149,9	-27,3	16,4
Mining	100,00	136,5	130,6	129,9	-0,5	-4,8
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	100,00	118,2	122,5	128,0	4,5	8,3

A full release on the *Producer price index* (statistical release P0142.1) is available on the website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Consumer price index (CPI)

CPI at 5,4% in September 2023

Petrol price plays a big role in South Africa's inflation rate. The term inflation refers to the general increase in the prices of goods and services in the economy. Price increases, in general, affect consumers negatively because they reduce the purchasing power of money (when inflation occurs, the purchasing power of the rand decreases). In other words, when prices of goods and services increase, consumers buy less goods and services with the same amount of money they used to buy more with. According to Frank Blackmore, the lead economist at KPMG – a professional services firm specialising in audit, assurance, tax and advisory, "prices change over time, and are usually calculated using consumer price index (CPI) by tracking the prices of a basket of consumer goods like food, groceries, clothing, and fuel to show general changes in consumer prices over time". Thus, there is a clear correlation between changes in petrol prices and inflation by virtue of petrol being part of the CPI basket. The recent petrol price cut that came into effect on 01 November 2023 gives hope for a lower inflation rate. Professor Irrshad Kaseeram of the University of Zululand's Economics Department said "for now we can take comfort that fuel price decrease could cause inflation to drop and hopefully lead the Monetary Policy Committee to leave interest rates unchanged in November." He further reiterated that the effect of the petrol price decrease would be minimal on food prices. This article summarises results of the *Consumer price index* (CPI) (statistical release P0141) for September 2023.

Headline consumer price index (CPI for all urban areas)

Annual consumer price inflation was 5,4% in September 2023, up from 4,8% in August 2023 **(see Table R)**. The consumer price index increased by 0,6% month-on-month in September 2023. The main contributors to the 5,4% annual inflation rate were:

- Food and non-alcoholic beverages increased by 8,1% year-on-year, and contributed 1,4 percentage points.
- Housing and utilities increased by 5,5% year-on-year, and contributed 1,3 percentage point.
- Miscellaneous goods and services increased by 6,0% year-on-year, and contributed 0,9 of a percentage point.

- Transport increased by 4,2% year-on-year, and contributed 0,6 of a percentage point.

In September 2023 the annual inflation rate for goods was 6,8%, up from 5,6 % in August 2023; and for services it was 4,0%, unchanged from August.

Table R – 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 [1]
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	107,9	109,0	109,4	109,6	109,8	110,8	111,1	111,8				
	Rate	6,9	7,0	7,1	6,8	6,3	5,4	4,7	4,8	5,4				

A full release on the *Consumer price index* (Statistical release P0141) is available on the Stats SA website: 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 the existing residence. Out-buildings and garages are included.

Other residential buildings: include institutions for the disabled, boarding houses, old age homes, hostels, hotels, 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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