Mbalo Brief the missing piece of the puzzle

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IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS





Issue 02/2024

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Editor's comment

South Africa has been experiencing drier and hotter weather in the last few months. According to the South African Weather Service (SAWS) the heatwave that started on Sunday, 19 November 2023 and reached its peak on 27 November, broke records for being the hottest November in the country. On the 27th of November, more than 10 weather stations recorded the highest temperature records with the Automatic Weather Station at Augrabies Falls, in Upington, recording the highest maximum temperature of 46.7°C. These high temperatures have harmed the agriculture sector (one of the most climate-sensitive industries), causing crop yields to decrease and increasing livestock losses. For instance, Wandile Sihlobo, chief economist at the Agricultural Business Chamber of South Africa, says that in various parts of the country, summer grains such as maize, sunflowers and soybeans are in the pollination stages, but they are not the best crops because the country should ideally have higher moisture levels during this stage to boost yields. This may potentially result in higher food inflation and increased food insecurity in the country. To help cope with the extreme heat, drink plenty of water to stay hydrated, use sunscreen, wear lightweight clothes and try to stay out of the sun, especially between 10 am and 4 pm when the heat is at its peak.

This month, the educational article is based on the report titled *Child Series Volume II: Crime against children, 2022* (Report No:92-02-02) published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) on 27 February 2024. Also, have a look at our monthly crossword puzzle and solutions for the February 2024 puzzle. Articles published in this issue are based on the results of industry surveys conducted for December 2023 and January 2024.

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

Enjoy the read!







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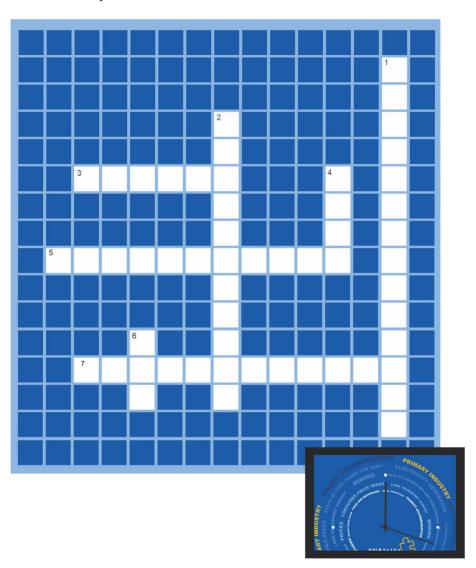
Enjoy the read!







Crossword puzzle







Across

- According to the educational article, what type of offense was mostly experienced by male children aged 17 years and younger in 2019/20?
- Which province is the preferred tourist destination in South Africa? Read the tourist accommodation article for clues.
- Which province reported the highest experience of child trafficking in 2019/20?

Down

- According to the South African Weather Service (SAWS) which automatic weather station recorded the highest maximum temperature on 27 November 2023? Read the editor's comment for clues.
- Who is South Africa's largest gold producer? Read the Mining article for clues.
- 4. True or false? In 2019/20, female children aged 17 years and younger were more likely to be affected by abduction, rape, sexual assault, child trafficking and attempted common robbery. Read the educational article for clues.
- 6. In which month will South Africa's general national and provincial elections take place?

Solutions for February 2024 puzzle

Across

- Nasiphi Moya
- 3. Desmond Tutu
- 5. Ivory Coast
- 6. SONA

Down

- 1. Mahatma Gandhi
- 3. December
- 4. Mutton





Educational article on crime against children

1 Introduction

Children's healthy growth and well-being constitute the foundation for society's overall progress and prosperity. Crime against children is a critical issue that may have a lifetime negative impact on children, resulting in an unpleasant environment and poor development of the country. These crimes include rape, assault, robbery, murder, child trafficking, abduction, home robbery with children present in the home, housebreaking, theft of motor vehicles, and sexual offence. Crime against children is a severe issue that can harm children's mental, physical, and emotional well-being and development. This article summarises the type of offences that were reported to the police by children who were 17 years old and younger between 2015 and 2020. The article is based on the *Child Series Volume II: Crime against Children, 2022* (Report No. 92-02-02) published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) on 27 February 2024.

2. Background

Violent crimes often lead to a tragic loss of life and injury, resulting in a negative impact on the psychological well-being of victims and their families, and loss of properties and livelihood. Some of the consequences of crime could be the denial of the rights and dignity of citizens. As such, crime can transform some public places and neighbourhoods into no-go areas. By withdrawing from the community; they can shrink community cohesion, trust and neighbourhood stability.

The causes of crime are multifaceted: they could emanate from socioeconomic factors such as poverty, unemployment, lack of educational opportunities, addiction to drugs and/or alcohol, peer pressure, and poor social norms. Other factors associated with crimes could be dysfunctional family structures, family violence, and poor parenting skills.

Section 12 of the South African Constitution guarantees the right of everybody including children to be protected from all forms of violence from either public or private sources. This section of the law particularly safeguards children from maltreatment, neglect, abuse, and degradation.



The Bill of Rights in the South African Constitution, 1996 (Act No. 108 of 1996) contains six rights directly related to crime and maltreatment of children. These include the right-:

- to be protected from maltreatment, neglect, abuse, and degradation;
- to be protected from exploitative labour practices;
- to be protected from performing work or services that are not appropriate for their age, would impact their well-being in general, as well as their physical, mental, spiritual, and moral development; or affect their educational participation;
- to be treated as a child when in conflict with the law:
- to be represented by a legal practitioner assigned by the state; and
- to be protected in case of armed conflicts and not be used for the cause.

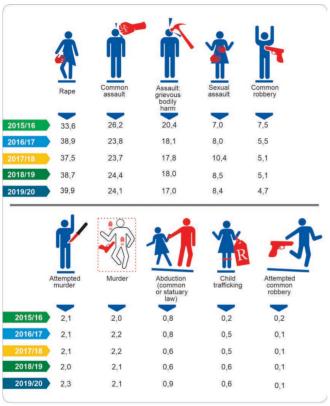
3. Types of offences

Generally, South Africa has high levels of reported violent crimes which include murder, rape, aggravated assault, robbery, property crime and hijacking of vehicles. The type of offences predominantly experienced by children aged 17 years and younger are indicated in Figure 1.

Figure 1, on the next page, shows that the percentage of rape cases of children aged 17 years and younger reported to the police increased from 38,9% in 2016/17 to 39,9% in 2019/20. Between 2015/16 and 2019/20, the percentage of children who experienced some form of common assault and assault with grievous bodily harm (GBH) decreased slightly from 26,2% to 24,1% and from 20,4% to 17,0% respectively. To ascertain whether assault is categorised as common or assault with GBH, factors such as the nature of the weapon used, degree of force, and the actual injuries sustained are taken into consideration.



Figure 1 – Percentage distribution of offences reported to the police for children aged 17 years and younger by year, 2015/16 – 2019/20



Source: SAPS 2015/16-2019/20

The percentage of children who experienced sexual assault was 7,0% in 2015/16 and increased to 8,4% in 2019/20. According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the effects of child sexual abuse usually include teenage pregnancy, low self-esteem, a feeling of worthlessness, a lack of trust in adults, and an abnormal or distorted view of sex. The effects can be so strong that the child may even become suicidal. Children who have suffered from sexual abuse are at an increased risk of future abuse and may become child abusers themselves.



3.1 Robbery, assault and murder

Figure 1 further shows that children's experience of assault was higher compared to robbery and murder. However, robbery may sometimes result in injury or death of the child victim as it often involves force. Children were also more likely to fall victim to common robbery (4,7% in 2019/20) than attempted common robbery (0,1% in 2019/20).

For provinces, Western Cape recorded the highest percentage of children aged 17 years and younger who experienced attempted common robbery (55,2% in 2019/20) relative to other provinces. The province also recorded the highest percentage of children who experienced common robbery between 2015/16 and 2018/19 but was surpassed by Gauteng in 2019/20 which recorded 26,5% compared to 20,7% for Western Cape.



Male children were more likely to experience murder, assault with GBH, attempted murder, common robbery, and common assault.

The results show that male children experienced common robbery more than female children from 2015/16 (60,1% for males compared to 39,9% for females) to 2019/20 (57,3% for males compared to 42,7% for females). However, the percentage of female children who experienced common robbery started to increase from 2018/19to 2019/20 (from 37,9% to 42,7%).

The percentage of male children who experienced attempted common robbery decreased slightly from 56,8% in 2015/16 to 48,3% in 2019/20 while males who experienced common robbery decreased from 60,1% in 2015/16 to 57,3% in 2019/20.

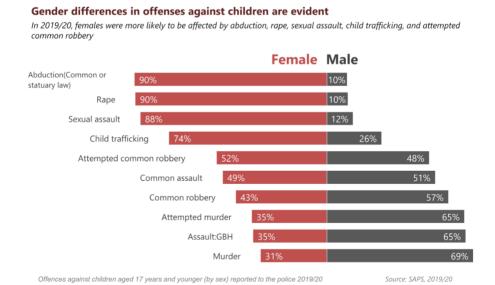
On the other hand, the percentage of female children who experienced attempted common robbery increased from 43,2% in 2015/16 to 51,7% in 2019/20 while females who experienced common robbery increased from 39,9% in 2015/16 to 42,7% in 2019/20.



3.1.1 Assaults reported to the police by province and gender

Western Cape recorded the highest percentage of reported assaults with GBH and common assault to the police for all the years, followed by Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal. However, for these three provinces, the percentage of children who reported common assault and assault with GBH decreased in 2019/20. For instance, reported incidents of common assault in the Western Cape decreased from 35,4% in 2015/16 to 32,9% in 2019/20; Gauteng decreased from 19,6% in 2015/16 to 19,5% in 2019/20 and KwaZulu-Natal decreased from 14,6% in 2015/16 to 14,1% in 2019/20. Furthermore, Northern Cape (4,0%), Mpumalanga (4,1%), and Limpopo (4,2%) had the lowest percentage of children who reported common assault to the police in 2019/2020.

Figure 2 – Gender differences in offences against children, 2019/20*



^{*}Please note that the figures have been rounded off.

Figure 2 shows that in 2019/20, male children were more likely to report both common assault and assault with GBH to the police than females. The percentage of females who reported common assault slightly increased from 48,0% in 2015/16 to 48,9% in 2019/20, while the percentage of reported



assault with GBH slightly declined from 35,2% in 2015/16 to 34,6% in 2019/20. However, among males, there was a slight drop in reported common assaults from 52,0% in 2015/16 to 51,1% in 2019/20, whereas reported assault with GBH increased from 64,8% in 2015/16 to 65,4% in 2019/20.

3.1.2 Attempted murder and murder of children aged 17 years and younger reported to the police by province and gender, 2015/16–2019/20

In 2019/20 attempted murder was mostly experienced by children who were residing in Western Cape (38,4%), followed by those residing in KwaZulu-Natal (16,9%) and Gauteng (13,0%). The percentage of children who reported attempted murder in the Western Cape increased from 32,8% in 2015/16 to 42,0% in 2017/18 and then decreased to 38,4% in 2019/20. Furthermore, the percentage of children who experienced murder was higher in Western Cape (23,8%) compared to other provinces. Robberies and gang violence might be the cause of high murder cases in the Western Cape.

Attempted murder and murder affected males more than females across all the years. However, between 2017/18 and 2019/20 the percentage of female children who experienced attempted murder and murder went up from 26,7% to 35,2% and 29,5% to 31,0%, respectively. The percentage of male children who experienced attempted murder declined over the five years from 73,3% in 2015/16 to 64,8% in 2019/20. The percentage of male children who experienced murder also declined, from 70,4% in 2015/16 to 69,0% in 2019/20.

3.2 Abduction and trafficking reported to the police by province and gender

Both abduction and trafficking involve taking somebody away illegally and against their will; while one is for ransom the other involves illegally trading a person for either exploitation or commercial gain. These two crimes could be linked as the abduction could be the recruitment part of the trafficking crime. For these reasons, it is easier to victimise children. Abduction and trafficking of children are the least reported crimes in South Africa.

Although there was no clear pattern for child trafficking, KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng, and Eastern Cape recorded the highest percentages of children



who experienced child trafficking for all the five years (2015–2020). Data further reveals that in 2019/20 children in Gauteng (26,9%) experienced the highest percentage of child trafficking, followed by KwaZulu-Natal (22,2%) and Eastern Cape (14,2%).

Abduction on the other hand, was mostly experienced by children who lived in Western Cape (from 21,4% in 2015/16 to 28,0% in 2018/19) and North West (from 20,1% in 2015/16 to 13,2% in 2018/19) than in other provinces in the first four of the five years under review. However, a shift was observed in 2019/20 when the percentage of children who experienced abduction in North West sharply dropped from 20,1% in 2015/16 to 6,2% in 2019/20, while for those in KwaZulu-Natal, the percentage drastically increased from 11,7% in 2015/16 to 49,1% in 2019/20.

Females had a higher percentage of abduction and child trafficking than males across all years. Between 2015/16 and 2019/20, the percentage of females who were victims of child trafficking decreased by 2,4 percentage points from 76,6% to 74,2%, while abduction increased by 2,4 percentage points from 88,0% to 90,4%. Additionally, females were more likely to be abducted than trafficked. Furthermore, across all the years under review, males suffered child trafficking more than abduction, which increased from 23,4% in 2015/16 to 25,8% in 2019/20, whilst abduction decreased from 12,0% in 2015/16 to 9,6 in 2019/20.

3.3 Sexual offences reported to the police by province and gender

There is generally a large under-reporting of sexual offences. The *Governance Public Safety and Justice Survey* (GPSJS) conducted by Stats SA 2021/22 indicated that 69,0% of households reported all or some incidences of sexual offences to the police in 2018/19, suggesting that close to 30,0% of sexual offences remain unreported.



DID YOU KNOW?

Female children were more likely to be affected by abduction, rape, sexual assault, child trafficking and attempted common robbery.

The percentage of children who reported rape and sexual assault varied over the five years under However, children review. KwaZulu-Natal (20,2%) had hiah percentage rape compared to other provinces, followed by Gauteng (17,1%) and Eastern Cape (16,3%). Sexual assault was highest among children in the Western Cape (24,6%), followed by Gauteng (21.8%)and KwaZulu-Natal (14,9%) relative to other provinces in 2019/20.

Between 2015/16 and 2019/20, sexual assault cases for females increased from 82,7% to 87,6%while sexual assault cases for males decreased from 17,3% to 12,4%. However, data showed that males were sexually assaulted at a higher percentage in 2017/18 (29,1%) than in comparative years.

Females were more likely than males to be victims of statutory rape (non-forcible sexual activity in which one of the individuals is below the age specified by law, commonly referred to as 'age of consent'), sexual assault and rape. Females had a higher percentage of statutory rape cases between 2015/16 (93,0%) to 2019/20 (95,3%), followed by rape and sexual assault than males. The percentage also increased for females who experienced sexual assault, from 82,7% in 2015/16 to 87,6% in 2019/20. While the percentage of rape cases among females decreased from 90,1% in 2015/16 to 89,9% in 2019/20.

4. Conclusion

In South Africa, there are high rates of reported violent offences, including murder, rape, aggravated assault, robbery, property crime and vehicle hijacking against children. Among these, rape emerged as the most frequently reported crime to law enforcement for children aged 17 and below between 2015/16 and 2019/20, followed by common assault and assault resulting in GBH. Overall, rape and sexual assault have increased from





2015/16 to 2019/20, while assaults (common assault and assault with GBH) have decreased. Results show that Gauteng recorded the highest percentages of common robbery reported cases to the police for children aged 17 years and younger in 2019/20. It is notable that assault with GBH, common assault, attempted murder and murder were most common in Western Cape between 2015/16 and 2019/20. In addition, child trafficking was prevalent in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng for the reference period while abduction was experienced more by children who were residing in Western Cape and North West provinces. KwaZulu-Natal recorded the highest percentage of children who were victims of rape, while sexual assault was most common in Western Cape. Throughout the reference period, male children were mostly affected by assault with GBH, common assault, attempted murder and murder, while female children experienced child trafficking, abduction, sexual assault, rape and attempted common robbery.





Primary industries

Mining: Production and sales

Mining production increased by 0,6% year-on-year in December 2023

For many years, South Africa was the world's primary gold producer. However, over the years the sector's gold production slowly declined owing to several reasons, including mine closures. Therefore, it comes as good news that South Africa's largest gold producer is resisting the trend of mine closures by extending the lifespan of one of its mines. Harmony Gold announced that it will invest R7,9 billion to extend the lifespan of Mponeng mine, the world's deepest mine, situated in Gauteng province. The lifespan of the mine will be extended from seven to twenty years, ensuring that it remains a top-performing asset until at least 2044. According to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Harmony Gold, Andrew Steenkamp, the extension will add about 3,05 million ounces of mineral reserves over the lifespan of the mine. The major project, commencing in 2025, will positively contribute towards the mining industry and the South African economy. This article summarises the results of the *Mining: Production and sales* (statistical release P12041) for December 2023.

Mining production increased by 0,6% year-on-year in December 2023 (see **Table A**). The largest positive contributors were:

- PGMs (9,4%, contributing 2,8 percentage points);
- coal (5,8%, contributing 1,3 percentage points); and
- chromium ore (19,9%, contributing 0,7 of a percentage point).

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

	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-4,1	-2,1	-1,9	3,7	6,9	0,6
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-1,2	1,0	-0,1	2,0	2,7	-4,2
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	-0,3	-1,1	-0,9	1,1	2,3	2,5

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 increased by 9,2% year-on-year in December 2023 (see Table B). The largest positive contributors were:

- gold (127,7%, contributing 11,3 percentage points);
- iron ore (60,6%, contributing 6,4 percentage points); and
- chromium ore (71,4%, contributing 3,2 percentage points).

Table B - Key growth rates in mineral sales for December 2023

	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-25,0	-16,6	-20,1	-0,6	9,6	9,2
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-5,6	7,3	-3,8	-13,3	2,9	4,2
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	1,8	-5,5	-4,9	-0,3	8,7	16,8

^{1/1} 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.





Secondary industries

Manufacturing: Production and sales

Manufacturing production increased by 0,7% in December 2023 compared with December 2022

Some of the leading retailers in South Africa have been hit with a major peanut butter recall in recent weeks. This is a result of certain peanut butter brands being found to contain aflatoxin levels that exceed the legal limit. According to the Cancer Institute, aflatoxins are a family of toxins produced by certain fungi found on crops, including staples. Exposure to aflatoxins is associated with an increased risk of liver cancer. While the manufacturers are responsible for conducting quality and safety protocols to ensure that all of their products meet strict quality standards during the whole food production process, the slightest oversight may lead to the quality and safety of food being compromised. Following the recent findings, the Acting Commissioner for the National Consumer Commission (NCC), Thezi Mabuza, has cautioned manufacturers, distributors and suppliers of peanut butter to comply with the regulations and conduct tests to assess the safety of the products on their shelves, which includes taking corrective steps if their products are found to be unsafe. The following brands of peanut butter are said to contain high levels of aflatoxins and pose a health risk: Dischem's Lifestyle 400 grams Smooth and Crunchy, Dischem's Lifestyle 800 grams Smooth and Crunchy, Wazoogles Superfoods (all sizes starting from 32 grams to 20 kilograms), Eden all Naturals (from Pick n Pay's No Name brand) and Woolworths Peanut Butter Ice Cream. Consequently, these brands were recalled and consumers are urged to return them to their respective stores for a full refund, with or without proof of purchase. This action is in line with the Consumer Protection Act which requires that goods that pose any risk to harm the consumer be recalled, and "it is the responsibility of the manufacturer, importers and retailers to ensure that foods comply with all applicable laws and standards of the Republic," Mabuza recapped. Although other manufacturers and resellers have issued messages of assurance regarding the quality and safety of their products, as a precaution, the NCC will continue to conduct a nationwide assessment to establish whether other brands are affected. This article presents a summary of the results of Manufacturing: Production and sales (statistical release P3041.2) for December 2023.



Manufacturing production increased by 0,7% in December 2023 compared with December 2022 (see Table C). The largest contributions were made by the following divisions:

- petroleum, chemical products, rubber and plastic products (5,3%, contributing 1,1 percentage points); and
- wood and wood products, paper, publishing and printing (2,7%, contributing 0,3 of a percentage point); and
- food and beverages (0,9%, contributing 0,3 of a percentage point).

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

	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	2,1	1,4	-4,4	2,3	2,5	0,7
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-1,4	0,2	-0,2	0,0	1,2	-1,7
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	0,3	-0,6	-1,2	-0,5	-0,1	0,1

¹⁷ 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 13,8% (-R15 290,2 million) during January to November 2023 compared with January to November 2022

The latest property trends show that more South African women than males filed for bonds to purchase homes in 2023. BetterBond (South Africa's bond originator that negotiates with the banks on behalf of potential homeowners to secure the home loan) has reported assisting over 20,000 of women in becoming first-time homeowners. According to Bradd Bendall, BetterBond interim chief executive officer and head of sales, many of these solo-women buyers were young black women under the age of 40. Interestingly, South Africa, at 60% of women property owners, is catching up to the countries such as the United States of America (USA) who stands up at 65% of women property owners. It is also worth noting that United Kingdom (UK) is still lagging behind, recording only 37% of women purchasing property. This



article summarises the results for the Selected building statistics of the private sector (statistical release P5041.1) for December 2023.

The value of building plans passed (at current prices) decreased by 13,8% (-R16 319,7 million) in 2023 compared with 2022 (see Table D). Decreases were reported for residential buildings (-19,1% or -R11 908,9 million), additions and alterations (-10,5% or -R3 469,5 million) and non-residential buildings (-4,2% or -R941,3 million).

The largest contributions to the total decrease of 13,8% (-R16 319,7 million) were made by KwaZulu-Natal (contributing -5,2 percentage points or -R6 139,8 million), Western Cape (contributing -3,9 percentage points or -R4 553,1 million) and Gauteng (contributing -2,8 percentage points or -R3 291,0 million).

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

Type of building	January - December 2022	January – December 2023	Difference in value between January – December 2022 and January - December 2023	% change between January - December 2022 and January - December 2023
Decidential .	R'000	R'000	R'000	
Residential buildings	62 270 443	50 361 562	-11 908 881	-19,1
- Dwelling houses	40 629 288	32 871 658	-7 757 630	-19,1
- Flats and townhouses	20 540 617	16 685 337	-3 855 280	-18,8
- Other residential buildings	1 100 538	804 567	-295 971	-26,9
Non-residential buildings	22 479 150	21 537 846	-941 304	-4,2
Additions and alterations	33 186 516	29 716 972	3 469 544	-10,5
Total	117 936 109	101 616 380	-16 319 729	-13,8

 $^{^{1\}prime}$ 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 production increased by 4,3% year-on-year in December 2023

South Africa has been experiencing power cuts which have a devastating impact to the economy and cause significant disruptions to the daily lives of citizens and businesses. In order to minimise the electricity challenges, Minister in the Presidency responsible for Electricity, Kgosientsho Ramokgopa, has gazetted a new determination process to procure 2 500 megawatts (MW) of nuclear energy in South Africa. The new nuclear energy will either be generated by Eskom or any other organ of state in partnership with any other juristic person. Minister Ramokgopa announced the intention to launch the procurement process in December 2023, with the plan to kick things off before the end of government's financial year. The government is expected to publish a request for proposals (RFP) for 2 500 MW of new nuclear capacity by March 2024. This article summarises the results of the *Electricity generated and available for distribution* (statistical release P4141) for December 2023

Electricity generation (production) increased by 4,3% year-on-year in December 2023 (see Table E).

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

	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-3,4	-6,4	-1,0	1,6	-3,0	4,3
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-1,8	1,0	-0,4	3,8	-2,3	1,1
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	-0,2	1,1	1,0	2,0	1,4	2,7

^{1/} Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

Electricity distribution (consumption) increased by 4,6% year-on-year in December 2023 (see Table F).



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

	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-3,1	-6,4	-1,2	1,0	-2,3	4,6
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-1,9	1,1	-1,5	3,9	-1,9	1,9
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	0,5	1,2	0,7	1,3	0,5	2,6

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 decreased by 5,6% in December 2023 compared with December 2022

Like retail trade sales, wholesale trade sales industry is the third largest contributor to the gross domestic product (GDP) in South Africa. These sectors boost South Africa's economy in addition to providing job opportunities. Wholesale trade involves selling products in bulk to other businesses or retailers at a discounted price, whereas retail trade involves selling products directly to the end consumer or customer, and often at a higher price. In recent years, there has been a shift in both wholesale and retail trade industries, making South Africa to experience a transition from being a primary sector-based to tertiary sector-based industry. Thus, indicating that more attention is being given to these two industries than in the manufacturing sector. With this change, it means that South Africa would rather prefer to import goods and sell them than to produce them domestically. It is, nonetheless, important to remember that South Africa still has a very active and well sustained manufacturing industry. Amongst the factors that influence importation of goods are expenses linked to local production, such as labour, raw materials, electricity costs, etc. Moreover, these costs can impact the final prices of domestically produced goods. This article summarises the results of the Wholesale trade sales (statistical release P6141.2) for December 2023.

Wholesale trade sales decreased by 5,6% in December 2023 compared with December 2022 (see Table G). The main negative contributor was dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (-14,1%, contributing -4,2 percentage points).

Wholesale trade sales decreased by 2,4% in the fourth quarter of 2023 compared with the fourth quarter of 2022. The main negative contributor was dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (-10,3%, contributing -3,0 percentage points).



Table G - Key growth rates in wholesale trade sales for December 2023

	Juy-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov- 23	Dec-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-3,1	4,0	-2,2	-3,0	1,0	-5,6
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,1	3,7	-0,7	-3,2	4,1	-5,2
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	-2,5	-0,5	1,5	2,0	1,3	-1,6

^{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 increased by 2,7% year-on-year in December 2023

Due to financial constraints, South African consumers' shopping habits have changed. According to PricewaterhouseCoopers' (PwC) South African Retail Sentiment Index 2023, consumers plan to continue reducing their spending across all retail categories except groceries. The report revealed that 99% of consumers say that they are adopting behaviours that help them save money including delaying purchases until items are on promotion. This article summarises the results of *Retail trade sales* (statistical release 6242.1) for December 2023.

Retail trade sales increased by 2.7% year-on-year in December 2023 (see Table H). The largest contributors to this increase were:

- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (7,0%, contributing 1,6 percentage points); and
- general dealers (3,5%, contributing 1,5 percentage points).

In 2023, retail trade sales decreased by 1,0% compared with 2022. Six of the seven types of retailers showed negative year-on-year growth rates over this period. The largest negative contributor was general dealers (-2,4% and contributing -1,0 percentage point). The only positive contributor was retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (5,7% and contributing 1,0 percentage point).



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

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

^{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 2,5% year-on-year in December 2023

These days using technology is a part of daily life. Technological innovation has advanced and improved efficiency in several sectors. South African vehicle owners can now experience this kind of innovation with a new online feature added to speed up the car license renewal process through the WhatsApp vehicle license renewal service called Disky. Many motorists will be relieved to receive the service since this new platform will cut down on the amount of time they spend in queues. According to their website, www.diskyapp.com, Disky is a user-friendly online chatbot that works with WhatsApp flawlessly and is available on desktop, mobile and web browser. A chatbot is a computer program designed to simulate conversation with human users, particularly online. This article summarises the results of *Motor trade sales* (statistical release P6343.2) for December 2023.

Motor trade sales decreased by 2,5% year-on-year in December 2023 (see **Table I**). The largest negative annual growth rates were recorded for:

- workshop income (-13,7%); and
- new vehicle sales (-13,5%).

The largest negative contributor was new vehicle sales (contributing -3,6 percentage points).



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

	July-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	2,2	-2,2	-7,8	-2,6	-2,9	-2,5
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,0	-3,3	-0,7	-0,5	1,6	1,4
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	1,8	1,1	-1,1	-3,4	-2,7	-0,5

^{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 5,0% in December 2023

Buying pre-cut fruits and vegetables is convenient as it is already prepared for consumers. However, after the Minister of Finance, Enoch Godongwana presented his 2024 Budget Speech, this convenience may soon come at a cost for consumers. According to section 11(1)(J) of the Value-Added Tax Act, 1991 (Act No. 89 of 1991), the supply of fruits and vegetables that have not been cooked or treated in any manner except for the purpose of preserving such fruits and vegetables in their natural state are zero-rated (exempt from VAT). This includes exempting all diced, cut, shredded and peeled fruits and vegetables from VAT. The minister, however, proposed an amendment to this Act so that 15% VAT can be collectable on all prepared fruits and vegetables. Once amended, the price increase will be evident on the shelves. This article summarises the results of *Food and beverages* (statistical release P6420) for December 2023.

Total income generated by the food and beverages industry increased by 5,0% in December 2023 compared with December 2022 (see Table J). 'Other' income recorded the highest annual growth rate (22,2%).

In December 2023, the main contributor to the 5,0% year-on-year increase was restaurants and coffee shops (11,1%, contributing 6,0 percentage points).



Total income increased by 1,8% in the fourth quarter of 2023 compared with the fourth quarter of 2022. The only positive contributor to this increase was restaurants and coffee shops (5,9%, contributing 3,1 percentage points).

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

Type of income	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23
Food sales	0,8	1,0	3,8	-0,9	-0,7	3,0
Bar sales Other income	10,7 18,9	-10,0 10,1	4,0 6,2	9,6 7,0	-1,7 5,7	14,2 22,2
Total	-0,2	-0,2	3,9	0,5	-0,6	5,0

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 6,8% in December 2023

The Western Cape province is a preferred tourist destination among other South African provinces, and draws in millions of tourists from across the globe. Its appeal lies in its beautiful scenery, popular attractions and its capital city, Cape Town. The city was recently voted as the second-best city to live in and visit globally by *Time Out* magazine. It is no surprise that tourists are flocking to the province, resulting in an increase in hotel occupancy. According to data compiled by the South African Hotel Review, the hotel occupancy rate in Western Cape was 73,4% in December 2023, up from 71,7% in December 2022. The hotel occupancy rate also surpassed the average occupancy rate for South African hotels at 62,4% for December 2023. This places the hotel occupancy in the province at 11% higher than the average for South Africa for December 2023. This article summarises the results of the *Tourist accommodation* (statistical release P6410) for December 2023.

Total income for the tourist accommodation industry increased by 6,8% in December 2023 compared with December 2022 (see Table K).



Income from accommodation increased by 10,2% year-on-year in December 2023, the result of a 3,6% increase in the number of stay unit nights sold and a 6,4% increase in the average income per stay unit night sold.

In December 2023, the largest contributors to the 10,2% year-on-year increase in income from accommodation were:

- hotels (10,9%, contributing 7,2 percentage points); and
- 'other' accommodation (14,3%, contributing 4,0 percentage points).

Income from accommodation increased by 11,9% in the fourth quarter of 2023 compared with the fourth quarter of 2022. The main contributors to this increase were:

- hotels (13,1%, contributing 8,4 percentage points); and
- 'other' accommodation (15,2%, contributing 4,4 percentage points).

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

	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23
Stay units available	-0,1	-0,1	-0,1	-0,1	-0,1	-0,2
Stay unit nights sold	7,6	9,4	2,9	-1,3	3,8	3,6
Average income per stay unit nights sold	19,7	16,2	15,3	12,5	10,5	6,4
Income from accommodation	28,9	27,1	18,7	11,0	14,7	10,2
Total income ^{1/}	17,7	20,6	14,2	6,4	13,5	6,8

^{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 3 033 431 travellers passed through South African ports of entry/exit in January 2024

Many citizens are leaving their country of birth to reside in other countries. Some of the reasons to migrate are to seek career progression and enhancement internationally. However, factors such as unfavourable



weather conditions, lack of benefits as a non-resident, etc. might cause migrants to return home. According to Tax Consulting South Africa (TCSA), a company dealing with all aspects of South African and international taxes, migration patterns in 2024 are set to remain dynamic. The TCSA reported that there is a growing number of South Africans who once left South Africa and are now contemplating to return. The TCSA indicated that this trend is rooted in a variety of factors such as lifestyle and cost of living considerations including the allure of affordable luxury in home ownership, among others. Presented in this article is a summary of *Tourism and migration* (statistical release P0351) for January 2024.

A total of 3 033 431 travellers (arrivals, departures, and transits) passed through South African ports in January 2024 (see Table L). These travellers were made up of 871 032 South African residents and 2 162 399 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 513 276 arrivals, 357 249 departures and 507 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 1 253 216, 879 052 and 30 131, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in December 2023 and January 2024 indicates that the volume of arrivals increased, yet the departures decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. The volume of transits increased for South African residents but decreased for foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 8,5% (from 473 131 in December 2023 to 513 276 in January 2024) whereas departures decreased by 42,4% (from 620 598 in December 2023 to 357 249 in January 2024). Travellers in transits increased by 13,4% (from 447 in December 2023 to 507 in January 2024). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 5,9% (from 1 183 035 in December 2023 to 1 253 216 in January 2024), departures decreased by 24,7% (from 1 167 550 in December 2023 to 879 052 in January 2024) and transits decreased by 11,4% (from 34 022 in December 2023 to 30 131 in January 2024).

Mode of travel by travellers

In January 2024, road was the most common mode of travel used by 2 041 382 (67,3%) of the 3 033 431 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air was 933 800 (30,8%). Compared to air and land, a smaller number of travellers, 58 249 (1,9%) used sea into and out of South Africa. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 202 258



(39,4%) came by air, 289 621 (56,4%) came by road and 21 397 (4,2%) arrived by sea. For departures, 155 960 (43,7%) used air, 181 002 (50,7%) used road and 20 287 (5,7%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 507 (100,0%) used air.

With respect to foreign travellers, 257 320 (20,5%) arrived by air, 990 406 (79,0%) came by road and 5 490 (0,4%) arrived by sea. When departing South Africa, 287 624 (32,7%) foreign travellers left by air, 580 353 (66,0%) left by road and 11 075 (1,3%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 30 131 (100,0%) used air.

Visitors

In January 2024, 36 621 (2,9%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors, while 1 216 595 (97,1%) were classified as visitors. Visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only comprising visitors who entered the country in January 2024 but did not depart in January 2024 [590 447 (48,5%)];
- ii. Single trips visitors who came to South Africa once in January 2024 and left in January 2024 [301 591 (24,8%)]; and
- iii. Multiple trips visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in January 2024 [324 557 (26,7%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In January 2024, there were 244 749 (20,1%) same-day visitors and 971 846 (79,9%) tourists. Between December 2023 and January 2024, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 17,8% (from 297 585 in December 2023 to 244 749 in January 2024) whereas that of tourists increased by 12,7% (from 862 460 in December 2023 to 971 846 in January 2024). Between January 2023 and January 2024, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 12,9% (from 216 730 in January 2023 to 244 749 in January 2024) and that of tourists increased by 14,4% (from 849 675 in January 2023 to 971 846 in January 2024).

Tourists

Sex distribution of tourists

There were more male [554 882 (57,1%)] than female [416 964 (42,9%)] tourists in January 2024. Male tourists constituted the majority of tourists for all three regions, SADC countries [445 330 (58,2%)], overseas countries



[102 362 (52,4%)] and 'other' African countries [6 734 (61,5%)]. Similarly, the largest portion of female tourists was from SADC countries [319 372 (41,8%)], followed by overseas countries [93 061 (47,6%)] and 'other' African countries [4 215 (38,5%)].

Age distribution of tourists

The age distribution indicates that out of all tourists, [52 180 (5,4%)] were aged younger than 15 years; [77 341 (8,0%)] were aged between 15 and 24 years; [231 284 (23,8%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years; [293 642 (30,2%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years; [177 291 (18,2%)] were aged between 45 and 54 years; [83 627 (8,6%)] were aged between 55 and 64 years; [56 480 (5,8%)] were aged 65 years and older and [1 (less than 0,1%)] was unspecified.

Regional and national distribution of tourists

In January 2024, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 135 368 (69,3%); North America, 27 250 (13,9%); Asia, 15 221 (7,8%); Australasia, 7 994 (4,1%); Central and South America, 7 149 (3,7%) and Middle East, 2 441 (1,2%). The 10 leading overseas countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in January 2024 were: The United Kingdom (UK), 40 517 (20,7%); Germany, 31 072 (15,9%); The United States of America (USA), 22 447 (11,5%); The Netherlands, 14 564 (7,5%); France, 10 070 (5,2%); Australia, 6 652 (3,4%); India, 5 524 (2,8%); Brazil, 4 997 (2,6%); Canada, 4 803 (2,5%) and Switzerland, 4 363 (2,2%).

Tourists from these 10 countries constituted 74,2% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison of movements in the 10 leading countries between January 2023 and January 2024 shows that the number of tourists increased for six of the 10 leading countries. Brazil (170,5%), showed the highest year-on-year increase.

Purpose of visit by tourists

In January 2024, the majority of tourists, 944 919 (97,2%), were in South Africa for holiday compared to 20 241 (2,1%); 6 449 (0,7%) and 237 (less than 0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and medical treatment respectively.



Mode of travel and ports of entry for tourists

A total of 181 837 (93,0%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 11 546 (5,9%) came in by road and 2 040 (1,0%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the SADC countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 722 408 (94,5%), whilst 41 760 (5,5%) came by air and 534 (0,1%) arrived by sea. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 9 689 (88,5%); while 1 248 (11,4%) used road transport and 12 (0,1%) preferred sea. Most tourists who arrived by road came through Beit Bridge port (247 404) followed by Lebombo (169 310), while the majority of tourists who came by air entered through OR Tambo International Airport (120 939) and Cape Town International Airport (109 933). Tourists who arrived by sea came through Cape Town Harbour (1 463) and Durban Harbour.

Table L – Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction for January 2024

Travel direction	January 2023	December 2023	January 2024	% change December 2023 to January 2024	% change January 2023 to January 2024
Total	2 746 648	3 478 783	3 033 431	-12,8%	10,4%
South African residents	817 117	1 094 176	871 032	-20,4%	6,6%
Arrivals	484 945	473 131	513 276	8,5%	5,8%
	331 830	620 598	357 249	-42,4%	7,7%
Departures Transit	342	447	507	13,4%	48,2%
Foreign travellers	1 929 531	2 384 607	2 162 399	-9,3%	12,1%
Arrivals	1 112 677	1 183 035	1 253 216	5,9%	12,6%
Departures	792 116	1 167 550	879 052	-24,7%	11,0%
Transit	24 738	34 022	30 131	-11,4%	21,8%

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 in 2023 decreased by 3,6% compared with 2022

Consumers are still confused by debt review and debt consolidation. While both debt review and debt consolidation are categorised as debt management tools to restructure consumers' multiple debt accounts into a single and affordable repayment plan, there are some important differences to be aware of. Debt review is a formal debt rehabilitation programme aimed at consumers struggling to make ends meet due to debts. On the other hand, debt consolidation is when you take out a new single loan to pay off several existing debts. Debt review may protect consumers against assets repossession, legal action and creditor harassment. Consumers must be cautious of debt consolidation as this might not be the best option on all occasions and can lead to more debt accumulation. This article summarises the results of *Statistics of civil cases for debt* (statistical release P0041) for December 2023.

The number of civil summonses issued for debt

The total number of civil summonses issued for debt in 2023 decreased by 3,6% compared with 2022. The largest negative contributors to the 3,6% decrease were civil summonses relating to:

- money lent (contributing -3,3 percentage points); and
- goods sold (contributing -1,0 percentage point).

Civil summonses relating to 'other' debts (contributing 1,4 percentage points) were the largest positive contributor.

The number of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total number of civil judgements recorded for debt in 2023 decreased by 0,5% compared with 2022. Negative contributors to the 0,5% decrease were civil judgements relating to:

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

'Other' debts made the largest positive contribution (contributing 2,9 percentage points).



The value of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total value of civil judgements recorded for debt in 2023 increased by 5,9% compared with 2022. Positive contributors to the 5,9% increase were civil judgements relating to:

- 'other' debts (contributing 3,1 percentage points); and
- services (contributing 2,4 percentage points).

Goods sold made the largest negative contribution (contributing -1,7 percentage points).

In 2023, 134 048 civil judgements for debt amounting to R3 624,1 million were recorded. The largest contributors to the total value of judgements were:

- money lent (R1 068,1 million or 29,5%);
- services (R755,3 million or 20,8%); and
- 'other' debts (R733,3 million or 20,2%).

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

Actual estimates	December 2023	% change between December 2022 and December 2023	% change between October to December 2022 and October to December 2023	% change between October to December 2022 and October to December 2023
Number of civil summonses issued for debt	22 151	-27,6	-11,7	-3,6
Number of civil judgements recorded for debt	8 394	-2,0	0,6	-0,5
Value of civil judgements recorded for debt (R million)	237,9	11,5	4,7	5,9

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 liquidation

Number of liquidations increased by 34,6% in January 2024 compared with January 2023

The year started badly for South African businesses. In January 2024, 109 businesses were closed, recording 35% increase in businesses closure compared to the same period in 2023. The latest figures released by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) show that there were 34,6% more liquidations overall in January 2024 than there were in January 2023. The increase is mainly due to 28 more cases in company liquidations, whereas closed corporation liquidations did not change over this period. The highest increase was recorded for financing, insurance, real estate, business services, followed by trade, catering, and accommodation industry. Of the 109 liquidations, 11 were compulsory and 98 occurred voluntarily. This article summarises the results of the *Statistics of liquidations* (statistical release P0043.1) for January 2024.

The total number of liquidations increased by 34,6% in January 2024 compared with January 2023 (see Table N). Liquidations of companies increased by 28 cases, while liquidations of close corporations remained unchanged during this period.

The total number of liquidations decreased by 3,9% in the three months ended January 2024 compared with the three months ended January 2023.

Table N – Key growth rates in the number of liquidations for January 2024

Number of liquidations January 2024	% change between January 2023 and January 2024	% change between November 2022 to January 2023 and November 2023 to January 2024
109	34,6	-3,9

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 increased by 2,5% in December 2023

Vessels have been experiencing congestion and delays at some ports in South Africa. The congestion and delays have resulted in some cargoes being diverted to ports in Maputo and Luanda, resulting in the loss of export traffic to South Africa. On 08 December 2023, Cabinet approved a National Freight Logistics Roadmap to assist and provide guidance for the country to urgently tackle the crisis that has plaqued the logistics sector. This roadmap came after President Cyril Ramaphosa directed the government towards implementation of swift reforms to turn around the crisis in South Africa's logistics system during the 2023 State of the Nation Address (SONA). The roadmap outlines a range of actions required to improve freight rail operations and improving port operations. among others. implementation of this roadmap will be overseen by the Department of Transport, Department of Public Enterprises, National Treasury and the Presidency, coordinated through the National Logistics Crisis Committee (NLCC) to enable a coherent, integrated response to the challenges within the national logistics system. This article summarises the results of the Land transport (Statistical release P7162) for December 2023.

The volume of goods transported (payload) decreased by 2,5% in December 2023 compared with December 2022 (see Table O). The corresponding income increased by 3,0% over the same period.

Income from freight transportation increased by 4,3% in the fourth quarter of 2023 compared with the fourth quarter of 2022. The main positive contributors to this increase were:

- primary mining and quarrying products (13,8%, contributing 4,4 percentage points); and
- 'other' freight (9,6%, contributing 1,9 percentage points).

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

	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23					
Freight payload	-4,9	-10,0	0,3	-1,1	3,2	-2,5					
Freight income	-4,1	-4,6	4,5	6,2	3,7	3,0					

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 9,9% in December 2023 compared with December 2022 (see Table P). The corresponding income increased by 6,9% over the same period.

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

	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23
Passenger journeys	19,4	14,2	23,8	23,0	16,6	9,9
Passenger income	10,0	10,6	14,8	15,1	12,9	6,9

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





Prices

Producer price index

Annual producer price inflation was 4,7% in January 2024

According to international standards, the weights and basket of the producer price index (PPI) should be updated at least every five years. This is to ensure that changes in industry production are reflected in the weighted aggregates of the measure of inflation. To adhere to international standards, Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) published the new weights and basket on 22 February 2024. These new weights and basket are reflected in the PPI for January 2024 that was published on 29 February 2024. In the new basket, 12 products were added and 15 products were removed while one product was split into two. The number of products in final and intermediate manufacturing combined have decreased from 228 to 223. This article summarises the results of the *Producer price index* (statistical release P0142.1) for January 2024.

Final manufactured goods - headline PPI

Annual producer price inflation (final manufacturing) was 4,7% in January 2024, up from 4,0% in December 2023 (see Table Q). The producer price index (PPI) increased by 0,1% month-on-month in January 2024.

The main contributors to the headline PPI annual inflation rate were:

- food products, beverages and tobacco products (increased by 4,0% year-on-year and contributed 1,2 percentage points);
- metals, machinery, equipment and computing equipment (increased by 5,8% year-on-year and contributed 0,8 of a percentage point);
- coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products (increased by 2,7% year-on-year and contributed 0,7 of a percentage point);
 and
- transport equipment (increased by 7,3% year-on-year and contributed 0,6 of a percentage point).

The main positive contributors to the headline PPI monthly increase were metals, machinery, equipment and computing equipment (increased by 1,9% month-on-month and contributed 0,3 of a percentage point) and transport



equipment (increased by 2,5% month-on-month and contributed 0,2 of a percentage point).

Intermediate manufactured goods

The annual percentage change in the PPI for intermediate manufactured goods was 0,2% in January 2024 (compared with -2,2% in December 2023). The index increased by 0,7% month-on-month. The main positive contributor to the annual rate was sawmilling and wood (0,4 of a percentage point). The main contributor to the monthly rate was basic and fabricated metals (0,4 of a percentage point).

Electricity and water

The annual percentage change in the PPI for electricity and water was 16,8% in January 2024 (compared with 15,5% in December 2023). The index increased by 0,7% month-on-month. Electricity contributed 15,2 percentage points and water contributed 1,5 percentage points to the annual rate. Electricity contributed 0,7 of a percentage point to the monthly rate.

Mining

The annual percentage change in the PPI for mining was -5,9% in January 2024 (compared with -7,6% in December 2023). The index increased by 0,6% month-on-month. The main negative contributors to the annual rate were non-ferrous metal ores (-12,3 percentage points) and coal and gas (-0,9 of a percentage point). The main contributors to the monthly rate were coal and gas (0,4 of a percentage point) and gold and other metal ores (0,4 of a percentage point).

Agriculture, forestry and fishing

The annual percentage change in the PPI for agriculture, forestry and fishing was 6,6% in January 2024 (compared with 6,8% in December 2023). The index decreased by 3,7% month-on-month. The main contributors to the annual rate were agriculture (5,6 percentage points) and fishing (0,9 of a percentage point). The contributor to the monthly rate was agriculture (-3,7 percentage points).



Table Q - Key PPI figures for January 2024

		Weight	Index (Dec 20	023=100)	% change			
Product		Ĭ	January 2023	December 2023	January 2024	January 2024 vs. December 2023	January 2024 vs. January 2023	
	Final manufactured goods	100,00	96,6	100,0	100,1	0,1	4,0	
	Intermediate manufactured goods	100,00	100,5	100,0	100,7	0,7	-2,2	
	Electricity and water	100,00	86,2	100,0	100,7	0,7	15,5	
	Mining	100,00	106,9	100,0	100,6	0,6	-7,6	
	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	100,00	90,3	100,0	96,3	-3,7	6,8	

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 increased to 5,3% in January 2024

As many South Africans began their exodus for the festive season in 2023, the demand for public transport increased, which ultimately caused an increase in fares for long distances taxis, buses and domestic flights. Many were leaving for other provinces to spend time with family, while others were going on holiday. However, with the festive season now over, inflation for several transport categories in the consumer price index (CPI) dropped in January 2024. Public transport tariffs decreased by 2,0% in January 2024 compared with December 2023, lowered by monthly price decreases for long distance buses (down 21,2%), car rental (down 12,1%) and airfares (down 4,1%). This ultimately led to an overall decrease of 1,6% in the CPI transport index for January 2024 compared with December 2023. This article summarises the results of the *Consumer price index* (statistical release P0141) for January 2024.

Headline consumer price index (CPI) for all urban areas annual consumer price inflation was 5,3% in January 2024, up from 5,1% in December 2023 (see Table R). The CPI increased by 0,1% month-on-month in January 2024. The main contributors to the 5,3% annual inflation rate were:



- food and non-alcoholic beverages (increased by 7,2% year-on-year and contributed 1,3 percentage points);
- housing and utilities (increased by 5,7% year-on-year and contributed 1,3 percentage points);
- miscellaneous goods and services (increased by 5,4% year-on-year and contributed 0,8 of a percentage point); and
- transport (increased by 4,6% year-on-year and contributed 0,7 of a percentage point).

In January 2024, the annual inflation rate for goods was 6,6%, up from 6,4% in December 2023; and for services it was 4,0%, up from 3,8% in December 2023.



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	Ave- rage
	2016	Index	94,4	95,7	96,4	97,2	97,4	97,9	98,7	98,6	98,8	99,3	99,6	100,0	97,8
		Rate	6,2	7,0	6,3	6,2	6,2	6,3	6,0	5,9	6,1	6,4	6,6	6,7	6,3
	2017	Index	100,6	101,7	102,3	102,4	102,7	102,9	103,2	103,3	103,8	104,1	104,2	104,7	103,0
		Rate	6,6	6,3	6,1	5,3	5,4	5,1	4,6	4,8	5,1	4,8	4,6	4,7	5,3
	2018	Index	105,0	105,8	106,2	107,0	107,2	107,6	108,5	108,4	108,9	109,4	109,6	109,4	107,8
		Rate	4,4	4,0	3,8	4,5	4,4	4,6	5,1	4,9	4,9	5,1	5,2	4,5	4,7
		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
	2019	Rate	4,0	4,0	4,4	4,4	4,5	4,5	3,9	4,4	4,1	3,6	3,6	4,0	4,0
	0000	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
	2020	Rate	4,6	4,7	4,1	3,0	2,0	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
	2021	Rate	3,2	2,8	3,2	4,4	5,2	4,9	4,7	4,9	5,0	5,0	5,4	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	112,8	112,7	112,7	110,4
		Rate	6,9	7,0	7,1	6,8	6,3	5,4	4,7	4,8	5,4	5,9	5,5	5,1	6,0
	2024	Index	112,8												
ľ	2024	Rate	5,3												

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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