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## Editor's comment

This year marks 30 years since millions of South Africans cast their ballot in the democratic elections of 1994 for the first time in their lives. As the country reflects on 30 years of freedom and democracy, the celebrations will be focusing on the gains that have been made, achievements and milestones as well as reflecting on what could have been done better. In her own words, the acting Director General of Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), Nomonde Mnukwa, said, “As government, we should count the successes and achievements that we have managed to achieve at this point in time. In areas that we have managed to intervene and the interventions were not successful, we now have the experience and innovation to resolve them.”

Not only is the country celebrating the significant milestone, the month of April also marks Freedom Month. On 9 April 2024, Freedom Month was launched at Freedom Park in Pretoria and 30 Years of Freedom logo was unveiled. The year's celebrations will be held under the theme, “30 Years of Democracy, Partnership and Growth.” Delivering his speech at the launch, the Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture, Mr Zizi Kodwa said, “As we commemorate this significant milestone, it is imperative that we take a moment to acknowledge the remarkable progress we have made since the dawn of democracy in 1994. Our journey has been marked by monumental achievements, from the dismantling of apartheid to the establishment of a constitutional democracy founded on the principles of equality, justice, and human rights.”

This month, the educational article is based on the report titled *Profiling the socio-economic status and living arrangements of men and women in South Africa – Census 2022*, (Report No. 03-01-36) published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) on 28 March 2024. The report presents a selection of key findings sourced from the South African population and housing census of 2022 while trends were drawn from previous censuses of 1996, 2001 and 2011. Also, have a look at our monthly crossword puzzle and solutions for the March 2024 puzzle. Articles published in this issue are based on the results of industry surveys conducted for January 2024 and February 2024.

For more details on any of the statistical releases, visit our website at: [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za).

Enjoy the read!





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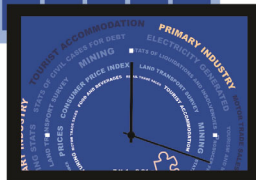
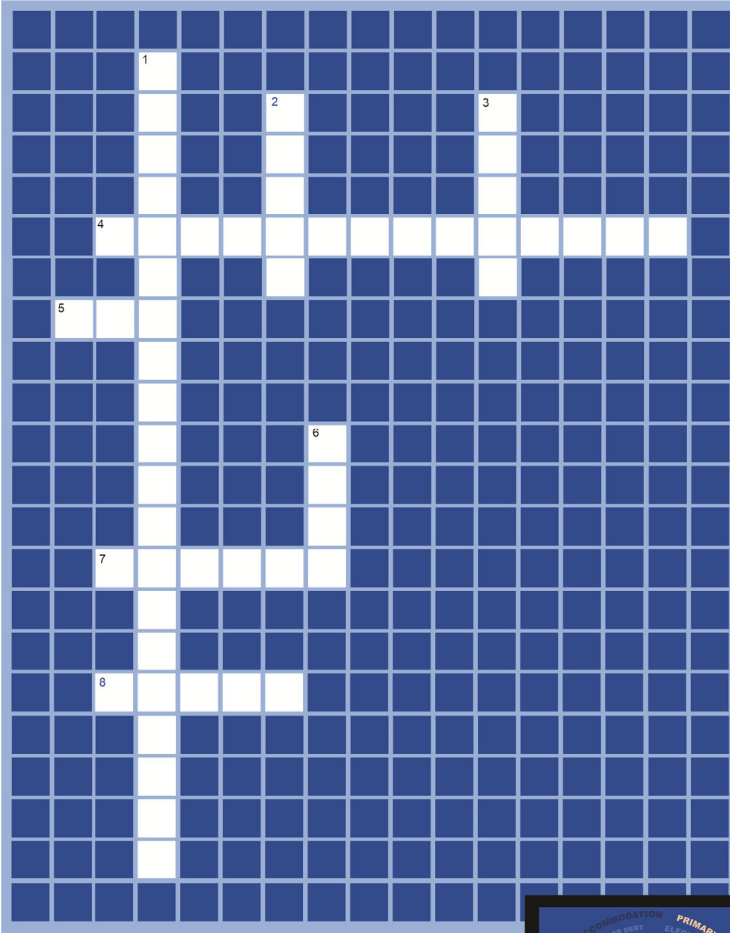
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# Crossword puzzle





**Across**

**Down**

- 4. Who is the Western Cape's MEC for Finance and Economic Opportunities?
  - 5. Muslims around the world celebrated ..... al-Fitr on 10 April 2024. [Fill in the missing word]
  - 7. Which gender had the highest disability prevalence between 2011 and 2022?
  - 8. Jamaica is in Africa. [True or false]
- 1. Who is the newly appointed Mayor of Ekurhuleni?
  - 2. Which month is known as Freedom Month in South Africa? [Read Editor's comment for clue]
  - 3. Which human organ is able to repair itself?
  - 6. How many oceans are there in the world?

**Solutions for March 2024 Puzzle**

**Across**

**Down**

- 3. Murder
  - 5. Western Cape
  - 7. KwaZulu-Natal
- 1. Augrabies Falls
  - 2. Harmony Gold
  - 4. True
  - 6. May





# Educational article on profiling the socio-economic status and living arrangements of men and women in South Africa

## Introduction

According to Frances Writh, a Scottish-born philosopher who advocated for equal rights, equality is the soul of liberty; there is, in fact, no liberty without it. However, achieving equality for everyone regardless of race, sexuality, social background, etc. is still a pipe dream around the world. The United Nations Foundation (UNF), a charitable organisation that supports the United Nations (UN) with its activities, states that gender inequality pervades nearly every sphere of life from the classroom and workplace to the hospital room and at home. The UNF's report titled *50 of the World's most sexist laws, policies and norms*, states that in some countries women do not have the same rights as men. They have reported that there are discriminatory laws and a woman's testimony does not carry the same evidentiary weight as that of a man, among others. Despite global challenges to address gender equality, the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5) is still emphasising the need to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women and girls by 2030.

In a report published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) titled *Profiling the socio-economic status and living arrangements of men and women in South Africa – Census 2022*, (Report No. 03-01-36), which this month's educational article is based on, issues such as population dynamics are brought to light. The report was published on 28 March 2024. The report presents a selection of key findings sourced from the South African Population and Housing Census of 2022 while trends were drawn from previous censuses of 1996, 2001 and 2011. A full report can be accessed on Stats SA's website [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za). For the purpose of this article, the focus will be placed on population demographics, disability prevalence among men and women and household headship among others.

## Background

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) undertook the Population and Housing Census 2022 (Census 2022), which serves as the main source of demographic and socio-economic data, at all geographic levels of the country, as mandated by the Statistics Act, 1999 (Act No. 6 of 1999). Census 2022 is preceded by Census 1996, 2001 and 2011, and it serves as the country's fourth all-inclusive census to help measure progress towards





developmental priorities and inform evidence-based planning. The primary output of the census concisely describes the population size and composition, general health and functioning, education, income, employment, mortality, housing and household goods, services and agricultural activities at aggregate levels. The Census 2022 (statistical release P0301.4) mainly disaggregates data by province, sex, population group and age (Stats SA, 2022). This report is a theme-based report that provides a detailed sex-specific analysis of the census data.

This report aims to provide evidence on how South Africa has progressed towards achieving SDG 5 as well as how the legislative instruments performed between census years.

The objectives of the report are:

- To provide the demographic profile of the population based on sex.
- To assess the socio-economic profile of persons based on sex.
- To assess the socio-economic profile of households based on the sex of the head of household.
- To provide trends in the demographics and socio-economic characteristics of men and women.

## Basic demographics of the population

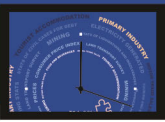
### Population dynamics

#### Total population and change by sex and census years, 1996 to 2022

Between 1996 and 2001, the South African population grew by 9,1%, and 15,0% from 2001 to 2011, then further increased by 20,4% between 2011 and 2022. During Census 2022, there were roughly 31,7 million females representing 51,6% of the population while males accounted for 29,7 million, representing 48,4% of the population. Despite having more females in the population during the census years, males had a higher percentage change of 17,2% than females' percentage change of 13,1% in 2011.







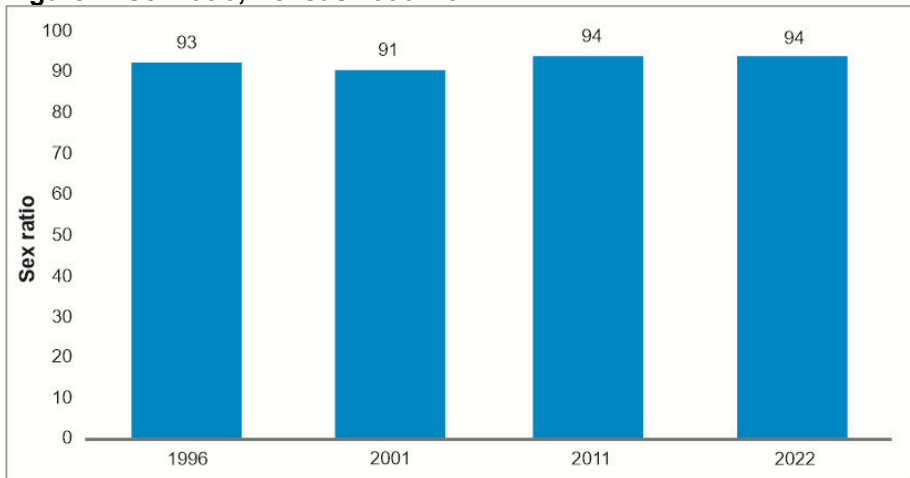
**Table 1: Total population and change by sex and census years, 1996 to 2022**

Census year	Total population	% change	Male	Female	Male (% share)	Female (% share)	Male (% share)	Female (% share)
1996	40 583 573	-	19 520 881	21 062 685	48,1	51,9	-	-
2001	44 295 046	9,1	21 077 732	23 217 313	47,6	52,4	8,0	10,2
2011	50 961 443	15,0	24 711 220	26 250 223	48,5	51,5	17,2	13,1
2022	61 367 659	20,4	29 711 481	31 656 178	48,4	51,6	20,2	20,6

### Sex ratio, Census 1996–2022

The sex ratio is the main measure of sex composition used in demography. The sex ratio is usually defined as the number of males per 100 females. One hundred is the point of balance of the sexes according to this measure. A sex ratio above 100 denotes an excess of males and a sex ratio below 100 denotes an excess of females. In other words, the greater the excess of males, the higher the sex ratio and the greater the excess of females, the lower the sex ratio.

**Figure 1: Sex ratio, Census 1996–2022**





## Sex ratios by province, 2011 and 2022

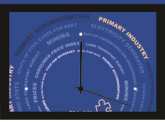
Nationally, the sex ratio remained stable at 94 during the reference period, meaning that there were more females than males in the population. Gauteng province was the only province with a stable sex ratio of 101 (101 males for 100 females). North West had higher sex ratios than South Africa for both years and had more males than females in 2011 with a sex ratio of 102 and more females than males with a sex ratio of 98 in 2022. Provinces with the lowest sex ratios throughout the reference period were KwaZulu-Natal (sex ratio of 90 in 2011 and 91 in 2022 for females), Free State (sex ratio of 92 in 2011 and 90 in 2022 for females), Eastern Cape (sex ratio of 89 in 2011 and 90 for females) and Limpopo (sex ratio of 87 in 2011 and 89 in 2022).

In terms of geographic location for both 2011 and 2022, the sex ratios indicate that there were more females than males in both metro and non-metro areas. Between 2011 and 2022, the sex ratio in metro areas decreased from 98 to 97, indicating that in 2022 the gap between females and males increased. With regards to the non-metros the sex ratio remained 92 indicating that the population is largely female.

## Dependency ratios by sex, 2022

The overall dependency ratio (ratio of males to females in a given population, expressed as the number of males for every 100 females) was 49,0, however, females had a higher dependency ratio of 49,8 compared to the 48,2 of their male counterparts. Meanwhile, there was a higher old-age dependency ratio among females (11,5) compared to those among males (7,6). This implies that females in the working-age population face a greater burden in supporting the old-age population. It was evident that 40,6 of male children needed support compared to 38,3 of female children.

The dependency ratios by province and sex during the Census 2022 indicate that Limpopo had the highest dependency ratio (63,1), followed by Eastern Cape (60,2), while Gauteng and Western Cape had the lowest dependency ratios of 38,7 and 42,3, respectively. Among males, approximately 65 dependents (children 0–14 years and elderly aged 65 and older) were reliant on 100 working-age population in Limpopo. Additionally, 60 dependents were reliant on the 100 working-age population in the Eastern Cape. These were the highest dependency ratios compared to other provinces. Old-age dependency ratios were still higher in the Eastern Cape (13,2) and Limpopo



(11,3) where females were more dependent than their male counterparts. It is evident that, across all the provinces elderly females were more likely to be dependent on the working-age population than males.

## **Disability prevalence amongst men and women in South Africa**

The disability prevalence estimates are presented based on a continuum of degree of difficulty in six domains of functioning (seeing, hearing, communicating, walking/climbing a flight of stairs, remembering/concentrating and self-care) focusing on persons aged five and older for Census 2011 and 2022.

A person is regarded as having a disability if they reported any of the following degrees of difficulty in the six functions:

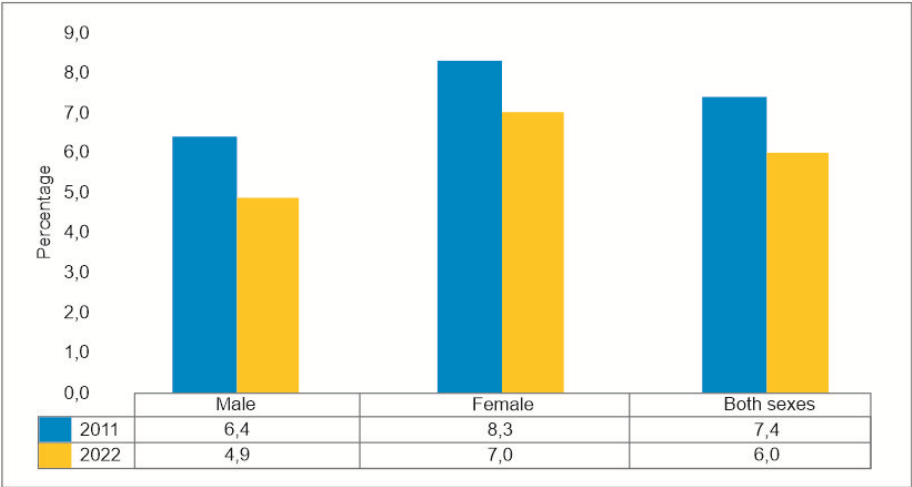
- A person who reported 'some difficulty' in at least two domains of functioning was categorised as having a disability.
- A person who reported 'a lot of difficulty' in any of the six domains of functioning was categorised as having a disability.
- A person who reported 'unable to do' in any of the six domains of functioning was categorised as having a disability.
- A person who reported 'no difficulty' in any of the six domains of functioning was categorised as having no disability.
- A person who reported 'some difficulty' in one of the six domains of functioning was categorised as having no disability.

## **Distribution of persons aged five or older by disability status and sex in South Africa, 2022**

Prevalence of disability for both males and females decreased, recording 1,5 percentage points, from 6,4% in 2011 to 4,9% in 2022 among males, while for females there was a 1,3 percentage point decrease from 8,3% in 2011 to 7,0% in 2022. Moreover, the disability prevalence was higher in females than males during both Census 2011 and 2022 (1,9 percentage points and 2,1 percentage points, respectively). These results illustrate that females had a higher prevalence of disability for both censuses across the sex (female-to-male) while there was a slight decline amongst females between the two periods (2011–2022). The disability prevalence among persons aged five years and older was 6,0% in 2022, a slight decrease of 1,4% from 7,4% in 2011.



### Distribution of persons aged five or older by disability status and sex in South Africa, 2022



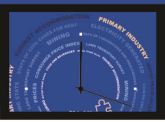
### Household composition and living conditions

#### Distribution of households by headship, census 1996–2022

The proportion of female-headed households increased from 37,8% in 1996 to 42,6% in 2001, however, there was a decline (41,2%) in 2011. There was a notable shift in the share of headship within the households which reflected an increase of 49,6% in the female-headed households while the male-headed households decreased from 58,8% in 2011 to 50,4% in 2022.

#### Distribution of households by province and sex of the household head, 2011 and 2022

The findings indicate that in 2011 there were slightly more male-headed households nationally. However, in 2011, Limpopo was the province with the most female-headed households (50,4% for female-headed households and 49,6% for male-headed households). Furthermore, in 2022 there was a headship shift towards parity between male and female-headed households. KwaZulu-Natal recorded the highest percentage share of female-headed



households (53,1%), followed by Eastern Cape (51,9%) and Limpopo (51,6%). North West recorded the highest share of male-headed households (53,7%), followed by Mpumalanga (53,1%) and Gauteng province (52,1%).

### **Distribution of household heads by sex, age groups and province, 2022**

In terms of age, the majority of households were headed by those aged 35–59 (58,3%), followed by households headed by those aged 18–34 (21,7%), and those aged 60 and above (19,6%). The households headed by persons aged 12–17 were the least prevalent (0,4%). Among the households headed by persons aged 35–59 (59,6%) were headed by males while (57,0%) were headed by females. Households that were headed by older persons were more prevalent in the Eastern Cape (26,4%), followed by Limpopo (23,4%). Among the older persons' households, female-headed households had higher proportions in all the provinces.

### **Distribution of household heads by composition, sex and province, 2022**

Nationally, 38,5% of male-headed households were more likely to be composed of a single-members, and 37,8% were in nuclear composition, while 2,3% were complex households. The analysis further showed provincial variations among male-headed households, with five of the nine provinces (North West, Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga, Limpopo and Gauteng) being more likely to have single-member households than other provinces. Half of the Western Cape (50,1%) households were classified as nuclear families with the highest proportion compared to the rest of the provinces.

### **Distribution of wealth status by sex and population group of the household head, 2022**

The majority of households headed by Indians/Asians and whites were in quintile 5 (households classified as the wealthiest) irrespective of the sex of the household head. Households headed by black African males accounted for 15,4% in quintile 5 and 22,8% in quintile 4. However, nine in ten (92,4%) households headed by white males were in quintile 5, while 68,8% of households headed by Indian/Asian males were found in the same quintile as whites. It was evident that majority of black African and coloured male-headed households were classified to be in the lower quintiles.

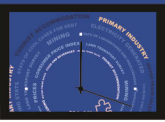




Households headed by black African females accounted for 47,1% in the lower quintiles (24,0% in quintile 1 and 23,1% in quintile 2) while coloured female-headed households reported 11,2% and 20,1% in the same quintiles. However, nine in ten (89,9%) households headed by white females were classified in the higher quintile, while 63,2% of households headed by Indian/Asian females were found in the same classification as whites. It was evident that black African and coloured female-headed households were in the majority in the lower quintiles (quintiles 1 and 2).

### Conclusion

The findings of the report show that across all censuses conducted by Stats SA, both female and male populations were increasing. The results further indicate that females had higher disability prevalence than males between 2011 and 2022. The results show that majority of households headed by black African and coloured males and females were in the majority in the lower quintiles, while those headed by white and Indian/ Asian females and males were classified in higher quintiles.



# Primary industries

## Mining: Production and sales

### *Mining production decreased by 3,3% year-on-year in January 2024*

South Africa has vast reserves of some of the critical minerals including cobalt, copper, lithium, manganese, nickel and platinum group metals (PGMs). However, it is challenging for emerging or new miners (junior miners) to extract some of these minerals from the ground due to the high costs associated with mineral exploration. Hoping to alleviate this challenge and offer support to junior miners is the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) and Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) through the R400 million Junior Miners' Exploration Fund (JMEF). "The main objective of the fund is to enable eligible South African junior mining enterprises to access funding so they can conduct prospecting work; increase access to mine ore bodies, and promote economic inclusion to support equitable economic growth," this is according to a joint statement released by DMRE and IDC. Applicants are required to comply with the South African mining regulatory requirements, including, but not limited to the provisions of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA), the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) and the National Water Act. This article summarises the results of the *Mining: Production and sales* (statistical release P2041) for January 2024.

Mining production decreased by 3,3% year-on-year in January 2024 (**see Table A**). The largest negative contributors were:

- manganese ore (-27,1%, contributing -2,3 percentage points);
- gold (-12,7%, contributing -1,8 percentage points); and
- diamonds (-41,2%, contributing -1,7 percentage points).





**Table A – Key growth rates in the volume of mining production for January 2024**

	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	2,0	-1,6	3,9	7,2	0,2	-3,3
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,1	-0,1	1,9	2,2	-4,6	-0,8
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1/</sup>	-1,1	-0,9	1,1	2,3	2,2	0,1

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

A full release on *Mining: Production and sales* (statistical release P2041) is available on the Stats SA website: [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za).

Mineral sales at current prices increased by 5,7% year-on-year in January 2024 (see Table B). The largest positive contributors were:

- gold (113,3%, contributing 15,4 percentage points); and
- iron ore (11,9%, contributing 1,6 percentage points).

**Table B – Key growth rates in mineral sales for January 2024**

	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-16,6	-20,0	-0,6	9,8	9,2	5,7
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	7,3	-3,8	13,2	2,9	4,1	-2,0
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1/</sup>	-5,3,	-4,7	-0,2	8,7	16,7	12,4

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

A full release on *Mining: Production and sales* (statistical release P2041) is available on the Stats SA website: [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za).





# Secondary industries

## Manufacturing: Production and sales

***Manufacturing production increased by 2,6% in January 2024 compared with January 2023***

The demand for electric vehicles (EVs) as opposed to conventional petrol and diesel-powered engines is on the rise globally. While some countries are gradually transitioning to manufacturing EVs, South Africa is lagging behind. In an effort to encourage vehicle manufacturers to produce EVs, the South African government has introduced an incentive for locally manufactured EVs from March 2026. Electric and hydrogen-powered vehicle manufacturers can claim back 150% of qualifying investment spending on production. This financial incentive aims to attract investments, stimulate innovation and propel the growth of EV production in South Africa. This article presents a summary of the results of *Manufacturing: Production and sales* (statistical release P3041.2) for January 2024.

Manufacturing production increased by 2,6% in January 2024 compared with January 2023 (**see Table C**). The largest positive contributions were made by the following divisions:

- petroleum, chemical products, rubber and plastic products (13,6%, contributing 2,9 percentage points);
- wood and wood products, paper, publishing and printing (5,0%, contributing 0,5 of a percentage point);
- textiles, clothing, leather and footwear (6,6%, contributing 0,2 of a percentage point); and
- glass and non-metallic mineral products (5,2%, contributing 0,2 of a percentage point).



**Table C – Key growth rates in the volume of manufacturing production for January 2024**

	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	1,4	-4,4	2,7	2,7	1,3	2,6
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,4	-0,4	0,2	0,9	-1,3	0,8
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1/</sup>	-0,4	-1,1	-0,4	-0,2	0,2	0,2

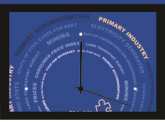
<sup>1/</sup> Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

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

## Selected building statistics of the private sector

***The value of building plans passed decreased by 14,7% (-R790,9 million) in January 2024 compared with January 2023***

When deciding to commence with a building project, a building plan drawn up by a professional architect must be submitted by the architect or architecture company to the municipality. Once the municipality has reviewed the application and found it satisfactory, they will approve (pass) it and issue a permit, then building can legally commence. The type of building plans passed can be used to measure the state of the construction industry and the economy as they indicate and project the level of demand for residential, commercial, and industrial buildings. According to Investopedia, “an upsurge of commercial building permits often indicates businesses are expanding, or new companies are being established. If there is a rise in building permits for more warehouses, it can be a sign that commerce will increase in the coming years.” This can also indirectly indicate a rise in employment since the companies will need people to work in the newly built warehouses or shopping centres, etc. On the other hand, an increase in building permits for stand-alone residential buildings may indicate that more citizens have accumulated enough finances to afford their residences. This is one of the reasons why monthly building statistics are closely monitored by economists and investors; they are an indication of the future performance of the economy. This article summarises the results of the *Selected building statistics of the private sector* (statistical release P5041.1) for January 2024.



The value of building plans passed decreased by 14,7% (-R790,9 million) in January 2024 compared with January 2023 (**see Table D**). Decreases were reported for:

- additions and alterations (-25,8% or -R486,0 million);
- non-residential buildings (-15,6% or -R112,4 million); and
- residential buildings (-7,0% or -R192,6 million).

The largest negative contributions to the total decrease of 14,7% (-R790,9 million) were made by the following provinces:

- Western Cape (contributing -11,4 percentage points or -R609,6 million);
- Mpumalanga (contributing -3,0 percentage points or -R162,1 million); and
- Gauteng (contributing -2,7 percentage points or -R143,2 million).

The real value of building plans passed decreased by 19,5% (-R820,5 million) in January 2024 compared with January 2023. Decreases were reported for:

- additions and alterations (-29,9% or -R442,4 million);
- non-residential buildings (-20,3% or -R114,8 million); and
- residential buildings (-12,1% or -R263,2 million).



**Table D – Building plans passed by larger municipalities by type of building for January 2024**

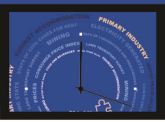
Type of building	January 2023	January 2024	Difference in value between January 2023 and January 2024	% change between January 2023 and January 2024
	<sup>1/</sup>	<sup>1/</sup>		
	R'000	R'000	R'000	
<b>Residential buildings</b>	<b>2 761 377</b>	<b>2 568 825</b>	<b>-192 552</b>	<b>-7,0</b>
- Dwelling houses	2 077 212	1 976 889	-100 323	-4,8
- Flats and townhouses	677 564	565 018	-112 546	-16,6
- Other residential buildings	6 601	26 918	20 317	307,8
<b>Non-residential buildings</b>	<b>721 791</b>	<b>609 440</b>	<b>-112 351</b>	<b>-15,6</b>
<b>Additions and alterations</b>	<b>1 882 313</b>	<b>1 396 291</b>	<b>-486 022</b>	<b>-25,8</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5 365 481</b>	<b>4 574 556</b>	<b>-790 925</b>	<b>-14,7</b>

<sup>1/</sup> 2023 and 2024 figures should be regarded as preliminary because of possible backlogs and incomplete reporting by municipalities. A full release on *Selected building statistics of the private sector as reported by local government institutions* (statistical release P5041.1) is available on the Stats SA website: [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za).

## Electricity generated and available for distribution

### ***Electricity generation (production) increased by 4,2% year-on-year in February 2024***

Despite its electricity generation and distribution challenges, South Africa remains the largest producer of electricity in Africa. The country produced 63,28 million kilowatts in 2021. According to the International Trade Administration, approximately 95% of the electricity used in South Africa and 45% of the electricity used in Africa is produced by Eskom, South Africa's national power utility. Most of the electricity produced in the country is distributed to Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal provinces (3 896 and 2 957 gigawatt hours respectively, in February 2024) as they have the largest populations in the country. In addition, most of the electricity in the country is usually produced between the colder months of the year being May, June



and July while the least production happens in February. Presented in this article is a summary of the results of the *Electricity generated and available for distribution* (statistical release P4141) for February 2024.

Electricity generation (production) increased by 4,2% year-on-year in February 2024 (see **Table E**).

**Table E – Key growth rates in the volume of electricity generated for February 2024**

	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-1,0	1,6	3,0	4,4	0,8	4,2
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-0,3	3,8	2,5	1,0	1,8	1,6
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1/</sup>	1,1	2,1	1,4	2,6	0,1	0,1

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

Electricity distribution (consumption) increased by 5,0% year-on-year in February 2024 (see **Table F**).

**Table F – Key growth rates in the volume of electricity distributed for February 2024**

	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-1,2	1,0	-2,3	4,6	1,5	5,0
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-1,5	4,0	-2,1	1,7	-1,1	0,5
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1/</sup>	0,7	1,3	0,5	2,5	0,8	1,0

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

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



# Tertiary industries

## Wholesale trade sales

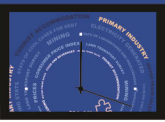
**Wholesale trade sales decreased by 1,8% in January 2024 compared with January 2023**

Wholesale trade is defined as a mode of exchange in which products are purchased and processed in large quantities and sold to resellers. One of the benefits of buying goods in large quantities is the ability to save costs. When purchasing products in large quantities, wholesalers and manufacturers often offer discounted prices. Another one is increased profit margins, buying in bulk in lower prices for resale allows businesses to increase their profit margins. Through purchasing products at lower prices, businesses can sell them at a higher price point, increasing their profit per sale. Buying in bulk also allows businesses to have better control over their inventory. By purchasing larger quantities of products, businesses can ensure that they have enough stock to meet customer demand which often can lead to improved customer satisfaction. This article summarises the results of the *Wholesale trade sales* (statistical release P6141.2) for January 2024.

Wholesale trade sales decreased by 1,8% in January 2024 compared with January 2023 (**see Table G**). The main negative contributor was dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (-10,9%, contributing -3,4 percentage points).

The main positive contributor was dealers in food, beverages and tobacco (13,2%, contributing 1,8 percentage points).

Wholesale trade sales decreased by 2,0% in the three months ended January 2024 compared with the three months ended January 2023. The main negative contributor was dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (-7,7%, contributing -2,2 percentage points).



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

	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	4,0	-2,2	-3,0	1,0	-5,7	-1,8
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	3,7	-0,7	-3,1	4,1	-5,2	1,5
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1/</sup>	-0,6	1,5	2,0	1,3	-1,6	-1,4

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

## Retail trade sales

### **Retail trade sales decreased by 2,1% year-on-year in January 2024**

Retail sales is an economic measurement which tracks consumer demand for finished goods. Retail sales are measured by durable goods (vehicles, books, household goods (home appliances, electronics and furniture) and non-durable goods (food service products, disposable diapers, clothing and footwear). Retail sales are reported each month by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) to indicate whether there is growth or recession in the economy. The report helps analysts and investors measure the state of the economy and any inflationary pressures that may exist. This article presents a summary of results from the *Retail trade sales* (statistical release P6242.1) for January 2024.

Retail trade sales decreased by 2,1% year-on-year in January 2024 (**see Table H**).

The largest negative contributors to this decrease were:

- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (-6,6%, contributing -1,2 percentage points);
- retailers in pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries (-4,4%, contributing -0,4 of a percentage point); and
- all 'other' retailers (-2,9%, contributing -0,4 of a percentage point).

Retail trade sales increased by 0,4% in the three months ended January 2024 compared with the three months ended January 2023. The largest positive contributors to this increase were:

- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (2,2%, contributing 0,4 of a percentage point); and
- general dealers (0,8%, contributing 0,3 of a percentage point).



**Table H – Key growth rates in retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices for January 2024**

	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-0,3	1,0	-2,3	-1,0	3,2	-2,1
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,3	0,1	-1,4	0,9	1,3	-3,2
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1/</sup>	0,2	0,9	0,5	-0,1	-0,2	-0,3

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

A full release on *Retail trade sales* (statistical release P6242.1) is available on the Stats SA website: [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za).

## Motor trade sales

### ***Motor trade sales increased by 2,4% year-on-year in January 2024***

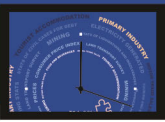
Eight years ago, Chinese cars had a bad image when it came to quality and safety. Despite their affordable prices, customers avoided buying these cars. Rather they opted for the brands they knew and could rely on for their quality, safety, reliability and longevity, especially traditional automotive brands they were familiar with. Since then, Chinese car brands have redeemed themselves by assuring their customers and potential buyers about the quality and safety aspects of their vehicles. As a result, more people are now buying Chinese brands. According to AutoTrader CEO, George Minie, Chinese brands have been astute in their approach to the South African market, focusing on popular body types like SUVs and bakkies, as well as introducing quality products that fit the purpose and pockets of South Africa's increasingly cash-strapped buyers. This article summarises *Motor trade sales results* (statistical release P6343.2) for January 2024.

Motor trade sales increased by 2,4% year-on-year in January 2024 (**see Table I**). The largest positive annual growth rates were recorded for:

- sales of accessories (4,9%);
- used vehicle sales (4,1%); and
- new vehicle sales (3,6%).

The largest positive contributors to this increase were:





- sales of accessories (contributing 1,0 percentage point);
- new vehicle sales (contributing 0,9 of a percentage point); and
- used vehicle sales (contributing 0,8 of a percentage point).

**Table I – Key growth rates in motor trade sales at constant 2019 prices for January 2024**

	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-2,4	-7,8	-2,6	-2,9	-2,5	2,4
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-2,2	-3,1	2,1	0,5	2,4	0,9
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1/</sup>	0,4	-1,9	-3,5	-3,2	0,3	2,7

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

## **Food and beverages**

### ***Total income generated by the food and beverages industry decreased by 2,5% in January 2024***

Drones have simplified how tasks are carried out. The uses of drones are extensive and extend into law enforcement, energy and mining, construction and now in the agricultural sector. A South African vineyard, Vergelegen Wine Estate, in collaboration with SkyBug, a partnership between Fieldbugs (specialists in biological pest control) and Aerobotics (an agritech company which specialises in drone technology) are testing the use of drones for pest control in the vines. Predatory bugs like wasps are loaded into the drone and then dispersed into the vines to target mealybugs, which are carriers of the leaf roll virus. The virus affects red and white wine cultivars by diminishing the quality and volume of the harvest. However, by using drones, the spread of the virus can be contained through effective and even distribution of the predator bugs onto the vines while ensuring higher grape quality and subsequently, wine. This article summarises the results of *Food and beverages* (statistical release P6420) for January 2023.

Total income generated by the food and beverages industry decreased by 2,5% in January 2024 compared with January 2023 (**see Table J**). Food sales recorded the only negative annual growth rate (-3,6%).



In January 2024, the main contributors to the 2,5% year-on-year decrease were takeaway and fast-food outlets (-5,0%, contributing -1,8 percentage points) and catering services (-4,8%, contributing -0,5 of a percentage point).

Total income increased by 1,0% in the three months ended January 2024 compared with the three months ended January 2023. The only positive contributor to this increase was restaurants and coffee shops (4,8%, contributing 2,6 percentage points).

**Table J – Year-on-year percentage change in food and beverages income at constant 2019 prices by type of income for January 2024**

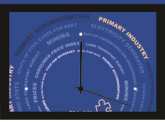
Type of income	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24
Food sales	1,0	3,8	0,9	-0,7	3,8	-3,6
Bar sales	-10,0	4,0	9,6	-1,7	11,0	0,7
Other income	10,1	6,2	7,0	5,7	21,3	18,6
<b>Total</b>	<b>-0,2</b>	<b>3,9</b>	<b>0,5</b>	<b>-0,6</b>	<b>5,2</b>	<b>-2,5</b>

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

## Tourist accommodation

**Total income for the tourist accommodation industry increased by 13,4% in January 2024 compared with January 2023**

South Africa's tourism sector is showing strong signs of growth after taking a large hit from the COVID-19 pandemic and has now largely returned to pre-pandemic levels. According to an Investec economist, Lara Hodes, the income derived from the tourist accommodation industry rose remarkably at the beginning of 2024. She said that this shows the resilience of South Africa's tourism sector, which was mostly affected by the lockdown regulations during the pandemic. In addition, income from the tourism accommodation sector was R2,65 billion for January 2024, which is now in line with the levels that were recorded before the pandemic. A breakdown by accommodation type indicates that the hotel category and the "other" accommodation groupings which include lodges, bed-and-breakfast establishments, self-catering establishments and 'other' establishments were primarily responsible for January's significant increase. This article



presents a summary of results from the *Tourism accommodation* (statistical release P64010) for January 2024.

The total income for the tourist accommodation industry increased by 13,4% in January 2024 compared with January 2023 (see **Table K**). Income from accommodation increased by 14,9% year-on-year in January 2024, the result of a 9,5% increase in the number of stay unit nights sold and a 5,0% increase in the average income per stay unit night sold.

In January 2024, the largest contributors to the 14,9% year-on-year increase in income from accommodation were:

- hotels (14,9%, contributing 9,3 percentage points); and
- ‘other’ accommodation (20,2%, contributing 6,2 percentage points)

**Table K – Year-on-year percentage change in tourist accommodation statistics (income for current prices) for January 2024**

	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24
Stay units available	-0,1	-0,1	-0,1	-0,1	-0,2	-0,1
Stay unit nights sold	9,4	2,9	-1,3	3,8	3,3	9,5
Average income per stay unit nights sold	16,2	15,3	12,5	10,5	6,5	5,0
Income from accommodation	27,1	18,7	11,0	14,7	10,0	14,9
<b>Total income <sup>1/</sup></b>	<b>20,6</b>	<b>14,2</b>	<b>6,4</b>	<b>13,5</b>	<b>6,8</b>	<b>13,4</b>

<sup>1/</sup> 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](http://www.statssa.gov.za).



## Tourism and migration

***A total of 2 397 507 travellers (arrivals, departures, and transits) passed through South Africa's ports of entry/exit in February 2024***

The economic fallout from COVID-19 affected many industries, including South Africa's tourism sector. As a result, the sector saw a fall in tourism trips, tourism-related expenditure, and employment. The sector has now started to show signs of recovering from the pandemic's impacts. The latest *Tourism Satellite Account for South Africa (TSA)* report shows how the sector has recovered in terms of tourism expenditure, direct contribution to gross domestic product (GDP) and tourism direct employment. Western Cape is one of the provinces that has reached unprecedented heights as international air arrivals surge, breaking records set in the last five years. According to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), arrivals at Cape Town International Airport surpassed the 200 000 mark between January and February 2024, exceeding the figure of 194 058 between January and February in 2019. This is positive news for Western Cape because the tourism industry also plays a significant role in job creation. Western Cape MEC for Finance and Economic Opportunities, Mireille Wenger, alluded that "Data from SA Tourism shows that, for every 100 international visitors to the Western Cape, R2,1m in direct tourist spend is generated, contributing R500 000 to the provincial gross domestic product, and enabling two local jobs in accommodation and food services. Which is why the continued improved performance is such great news for economic growth and job creation for South Africa." This article summarises the results of the *Tourism and migration* (statistical release P0351) for February 2024.

### Travellers

#### Number of travellers

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 2 397 507 travellers (arrivals, departures, and transits) passed through South African ports in February 2024 (**see Table L**). These travellers were made up of 611 457 South African residents and 1 786 050 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 303 987 arrivals, 307 099 departures and 371 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals,



departures and travellers in transit was 955 283, 800 664 and 30 103, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in January 2024 and February 2024 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and transits decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 40,8% (from 513 276 in January 2024 to 303 987 in February 2024), departures decreased by 14,0% (from 357 249 in January 2024 to 307 099 in February 2024) and transits decreased by 26,8% (from 507 in January 2024 to 371 in February 2024). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 23,8% (from 1 253 216 in January 2024 to 955 283 in February 2024), departures decreased by 8,9% (from 879 052 in January 2024 to 800 664 in February 2024) and transits decreased by 0,1% (from 30 131 in January 2024 to 30 103 in February 2024).

A comparison between the movements in February 2023 and February 2024 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and travellers in transit increased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 12,9% (from 269 301 in February 2023 to 303 987 in February 2024), departures increased by 8,9% (from 282 063 in February 2023 to 307 099 in February 2024) and transits increased by 11,1% (from 334 in February 2023 to 371 in February 2024). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 15,8% (from 824 868 in February 2023 to 955 283 in February 2024), departures increased by 13,2% (from 707 396 in February 2023 to 800 664 in February 2024) and transits increased by 31,1% (from 22 961 in February 2023 to 30 103 in February 2024).

### **Mode of travel of travellers**

In February 2024, road was the most common mode of travel used by 1 503 786 (62,7%) of the 2 397 507 travellers. Total number of travellers who used air was 830 314 (34,6%). Compared to air and land, a smaller number of travellers, 63 407 (2,6%) used sea into and out of South Africa. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 121 315 (39,9%) came by air, 161 265 (53,0%) came by road and 21 407 (7,0%) arrived by sea. For departures, 126 431 (41,2%) used air, 160 294 (52,2%) used road and 20 374 (6,6%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 371 (100,0%) used air. In the case of foreign travellers, 270 853 (28,4%) arrived by air, 673 518 (70,5%) travelled by road and 10 912 (1,1%) arrived by sea.



When departing South Africa, 281 241 (35,1%) foreign travellers left by air, 508 709 (63,5%) left by road and 10 714 (1,3%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 30 103 (100,0%) used air.

## Visitors

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

In February 2024, 26 418 (2,8%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors, while 928 865 (97,2%) were classified as visitors. Visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in February 2024 but did not depart in February 2024 [362 583 (39,0%)].
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in February 2024 and left in February 2024 [299 888 (32,3%)].
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in February 2024 [266 394 (28,7%)]

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In February 2024, there were 203 191 (21,9%) same-day visitors and 725 674 (78,1%) tourists. Between January 2024 and February 2024, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 17,0% (from 244 749 in January 2024 to 203 191 in February 2024) whereas that of tourists decreased by 25,3% (from 971 846 in January 2024 to 725 674 in February 2024). Between February 2023 and February 2024, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 9,4% (from 185 650 in February 2023 to 203 191 in February 2024) whereas that of tourists increased by 18,3% (from 613 432 in February 2023 to 725 674 in February 2024).

Of the 203 191 same-day visitors, a majority, 187 866 (92,5%) arrived in the country by road, 13 173 (6,5%) arrived by air and 2 152 (1,1%) arrived by sea. Information on tourists shows that 471 567 (65,0%) used road, 249 810 (34,4%) came by air and 4 297 (0,6%) arrived by sea.



## Tourists

### Sex and age distribution of tourists

#### Sex

In February 2024, there were more male [425 220 (58,6%)] than female [300 454 (41,4%)] tourists in February 2024. Male tourists constituted most tourists for all three regions, SADC countries [306 083 (61,0%)], overseas countries [110 118 (52,6%)] and 'other' African countries [8 478 (62,8%)]. Similarly, the largest portion of female tourists was from SADC countries [195 660 (39,0%)], followed by overseas countries [99 427 (47,4%)] and 'other' African countries [5 024 (37,2%)]

#### Age

The age distribution indicates that out of all tourists, [29 377 (4,0%)] were aged younger than 15 years; [54 893 (7,6%)] were aged between 15 and 24 years; [170 113 (23,4%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years; [210 591 (29,0%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years; [132 587 (18,3%)] were aged between 45 and 54 years; [75 175 (10,4%)] were aged between 55 and 64 years and [52 938 (7,3%)] were aged 65 years and older.

### Regional and national distribution of tourists

In February 2024, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 145 532 (69,5%); North America, 30 462 (14,5%); Asia, 17 778 (8,5%); Australasia, 7 064 (3,4%); Central and South America, 5 738 (2,7%) and Middle East, 2 971 (1,4%).

Tourists visiting South Africa in February 2024 were: UK, 43 007 (20,5%); Germany, 32 168 (15,4%); USA, 24 815 (11,8%); The Netherlands, 13 393 (6,4%); France, 12 803 (6,1%); Australia, 5 861 (2,8%); Canada, 5 647 (2,7%); India, 5 482 (2,6%); Switzerland, 5 356 (2,6%) and Belgium, 5 100 (2,4%). Tourists from these 10 countries constituted 73,3% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison of movements in the 10 leading countries between February 2023 and February 2024 shows that the number of tourists increased for seven of the 10 leading countries. Canada showed the highest year-on-year increase of 15,4%.



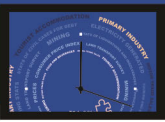
### **Purpose of visit of tourists**

In February 2024, the majority of tourists, 699 135 (96,3%), were in South Africa for holiday compared to 21 311 (2,9%); 4 948 (0,7%) and 280 (less than 0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and medical treatment respectively.

### **Mode of travel and ports of entry of tourists**

In February 2024, 195 169 (93,1%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 10 649 (5,1%) came in by road and 3 727 (1,8%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the SADC countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 459 589 (91,6%), whilst 41 597 (8,3%) came by air and 557 (0,1%) arrived by sea. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 12 377 (91,7%); while 1 112 (8,2%) used road transport and 13 (0,1%) preferred sea. Most tourists who arrived by road came through Beit Bridge port, 125 873 (26,7%) and Lebombo, 123 900 (26,3%). The majority of tourists who came by air entered through OR Tambo International Airport, 131 776 (52,8%) and Cape Town International Airport, 114 897 (46,0%). Tourists who arrived by sea came through Cape Town Harbour, 2 441 (56,8%) and Durban Harbour, 1 856 (43,2%).





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

Travel direction	February 2023	January 2024	February 2024	% change January 2024 to February 2024	% change February 2023 to February 2024
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 106 923</b>	<b>3 033 431</b>	<b>2 397 507</b>	<b>-21,0%</b>	<b>13,8%</b>
<b>South African residents</b>	<b>551 698</b>	<b>817 032</b>	<b>611 457</b>	<b>-29,8%</b>	<b>10,8%</b>
Arrivals	269 301	513 276	303 987	-40,8%	12,9%
Departures	282 063	357 249	307 099	-14,0%	8,9%
Transit	334	507	371	-26,8%	11,1%
<b>Foreign travellers</b>	<b>1 555 225</b>	<b>2 162 399</b>	<b>1 786 050</b>	<b>-17,4%</b>	<b>14,8%</b>
Arrivals	824 868	1 253 216	955 283	-23,8%	15,8%
Departures	707 396	879 052	800 664	-8,9%	13,2%
Transit	22 961	30 131	30 103	-0,1%	31,1%

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

## Statistics of civil cases for debt

**Total number of civil summonses issued for debt decreased by 15,0% in the three months ended January 2024**

As more South African consumers struggle to keep up with their debt repayments, they are turning to debt counsellors for assistance. Debt counselling, also known as debt review, is a formal legal process provided for in the National Credit Act, 2005 (Act No. 34 of 2005) that allows a consumer to be declared over-indebted and for a debt counsellor registered with the National Credit Regulator (NCR) to negotiate with the consumer's credit providers for a restructured payment plan and obtain a court order confirming the new repayment plan. A restructured payment plan may include lower interest rates and reduced monthly instalments, making the debt more manageable. Once this process has started, the consumer's creditors will be notified by the debt counsellor. Therefore, creditors cannot take legal action against the consumer and must honour the new repayment



arrangements. Once the process has been completed, the consumer will be issued a debt clearance certificate. This process helps consumers pay off their debt and avoid a civil case for debt, while ensuring that creditors get their money back. This article summarises the results of the *Statistics of civil cases for debt* (statistical release P0041) for January 2024.

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

The total number of civil summonses issued for debt decreased by 15,0% in the three months ended January 2024 compared with the three months ended January 2023 (see **Table M**). The largest negative contributors to the 15,0% decrease in civil summonses issued were:

- money lent (contributing -7,8 percentage points);
- services (contributing -4,4 percentage points); and
- promissory notes (contributing -1,6 percentage points).

'Other' debts was the only positive contributor (contributing 1,4 percentage points).

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

The total number of civil judgements recorded for debt decreased by 4,3% in the three months ended January 2024 compared with the three months ended January 2023. The largest negative contributors to the 4,3% decrease were civil judgements relating to:

- money lent (contributing -5,0 percentage points);
- promissory notes (contributing -0,9 of a percentage point); and
- 'other' debts (contributing -0,8 of a percentage point).

Services was the largest positive contributor (contributing 1,4 percentage points).

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

The total value of civil judgements recorded for debt increased by 9,2% in the three months ended January 2024 compared with the three months ended January 2023. The largest positive contributors to the 9,2% increase were civil judgements relating to:

- services (contributing 5,1 percentage points);
- 'other' debts (contributing 2,7 percentage points);
- rent (contributing 2,5 percentage points); and



- promissory notes (contributing 2,4 percentage points).

Money lent was the largest negative contributor (contributing -3,2 percentage points).

In January 2024, 9 327 civil judgements for debt amounting to R269,2 million were recorded. The largest contributors to the total value of judgements were:

- money lent (R68,5 million or 25,4%);
- 'other' debts (R56,5 million or 21,0%); and
- services (R54,7 million or 20,3%).

**Table M – Key figures for civil summonses and judgements for January 2024**

Actual estimates	January 2024	% change between January 2023 and January 2024	% change between November 2022 to January 2023 and November 2023 to January 2024
Number of civil summonses issued for debt	33 186	-4,6	-15,0
Number of civil judgements recorded for debt	9 327	-5,6	-4,3
Value of civil judgements recorded for debt (R million)	269,2	18,3	9,2

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



# Statistics of liquidations

**The total number of liquidations decreased by 14,8% in February 2024 compared with February 2023**

In South Africa, there are two types of liquidations: voluntary liquidation, which is initiated by the company's directors or shareholders and compulsory liquidation, which is initiated by the company's creditors or by the court. When a company or close corporation undergoes voluntary or compulsory liquidation, by law, it is required to file for outstanding tax returns with the South African Revenue Services (SARS). Filing outstanding tax returns is a crucial step during the liquidation process as this ensures legal compliance, facilitates proper financial closure and helps settle tax liabilities. Failure to file tax returns can result in administrative penalties imposed by SARS. This is because liquidation does not exempt companies from this legal obligation. Presented in this article is a summary of the results of the *Statistics of liquidations and insolvencies* (statistical release P0043.1) for February 2024.

The total number of liquidations decreased by 14,8% in February 2024 compared with February 2023 (**see Table N**). Liquidations of companies decreased by 16 cases and liquidations of close corporations decreased by 8 cases during this period. The total number of liquidations decreased by 4,5% in the three months ended February 2024 compared with the three months ended February 2023.

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

Number of liquidations Feb 2024	% change between February 2023 and February 2024	% change between December 2022 to February 2023 and December 2023 to February 2024	% change between Jan to February 2023 and January to Feb 2024
138	-14,8	-4,5	1,6

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



## Land transport

### ***The volume of goods transported (payload) decreased by 6,7% in January 2024***

Truck transportation plays an important role in the economy because it helps transport goods and raw materials to businesses and consumers, enabling industries to thrive and allowing consumers to access goods. When transporting goods, safety and caution should be exercised to avoid accidents. While injuries and fatalities caused by truck accidents are undoubtedly tragic, the economic costs associated with these collisions are also substantial. Truck accidents often result in extensive property damage, including damage to vehicles, infrastructure, and cargo. Causes of truck accidents may include driver fatigue, distraction and speeding. To combat or lessen these accidents, Optix Africa, a provider of technology-driven logistics risk management solutions, is championing the use of smart technology to improve driver behaviour and enhance road safety. This includes the use of in-cab driver monitoring systems that utilise machine vision. These systems can detect critical factors such as fatigue, eye tracking, gaze detection, and inattentiveness. Once any of these factors are detected, the systems alert the driver through beeps and seat vibrations, helping the driver to stay alert thereby minimising accidents and ensuring safer journeys. This article summarises the results of the *Land transport* (statistical release P7162) for January 2024.

The volume of goods transported (payload) decreased by 6,7% in January 2024 compared with January 2023 (**see Table O**). The corresponding income decreased by 0,6% over the same period.

Income from freight transportation increased by 2,3% in the three months ended January 2024 compared with the three months ended January 2023. The main positive contributors to this increase were:

- primary mining and quarrying products (8,5%, contributing 2,8 percentage points);
- 'other' freight (4,6%, contributing 0,9 of a percentage point); and
- containers (17,3%, contributing 0,8 of a percentage point).



**Table O – Year-on-year percentage change in freight transportation for January 2024**

	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24
Freight payload	-10,0	0,3	-1,1	3,2	-2,8	-6,7
Freight income	-4,6	4,5	6,2	3,7	3,8	-0,6

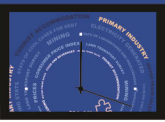
A full release on *Land transport* (Statistical release P7162) is available on the Stats SA website: [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za).

The number of passenger journeys increased by 21,0% in January 2024 compared with January 2023 (**see Table P**). The corresponding income increased by 13,4% over the same period.

**Table P – Year-on-year percentage change in passenger transportation for January 2024**

	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24
Passenger journeys	14,2	23,8	23,0	16,6	9,2	21,0
Passenger income	10,6	14,8	15,1	12,9	6,6	13,4

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



# Prices

## Producer price index (PPI)

### *PPI at 4,5% in February 2024*

Plastic often receives negative attention due to the pollution that it causes to the environment. However, some people may not be aware that it plays an important role in our daily lives. For instance, plastic packaging preserves the freshness of food, extending its shelf life. It is also used across almost every industry: in packaging, construction, textiles, transportation, electrical and electronics. These industries use plastic to produce various products such as food and medical packaging, construction pipes, flooring, automotive interior and exterior products and electrical cables and appliances among others. Its versatility, durability and affordability are just some of the reasons why it is in high demand. Moreover, the category of producer prices for plastic products was one of the main contributors to the increase in the producer price index (PPI) for February 2024. Although plastic is important, consumers and producers are urged to use plastic responsibly, dispose of it correctly, and promote recycling. This article summarises the results of the *Producer price index* (statistical release P0141.2) for February 2024.

Annual producer price inflation (final manufacturing) was 4,5% in February 2024, down from 4,7% in January 2024 (**see Table Q**). The producer price index (PPI) increased by 0,5% month-on-month in February 2024. The main contributors to the headline PPI annual inflation rate were:

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

The contributors to the headline PPI monthly increase were coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products (increased by 1,5% month-on-month and contributed 0,4 of a percentage point) and food products, beverages and tobacco products (increased by 0,5% month-on-month and contributed 0,1 of a percentage point).



## Intermediate manufactured goods

The annual percentage change in the PPI for intermediate manufactured goods was 1,0% in February 2024 (compared with 0,2% in January 2024). The index increased by 0,8% month-on-month. The main contributor to the annual rate was the category of basic and fabricated metals (1,0 percentage point). The main contributor to the monthly rate was the category of chemicals, rubber and plastic products (0,5 of a percentage point).

## Electricity and water

The annual percentage change in the PPI for electricity and water was 16,0% in February 2024 (compared with 16,8% in January 2024). The index increased by 0,7% month-on-month. Electricity contributed 14,4 percentage points and water contributed 1,4 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 -9,0% in February 2024 (compared with -5,9% in January 2024). The index increased by 0,2% month-on-month. The main negative contributor to the annual rate was non-ferrous metal ores (-15,7 percentage points). The main positive contributors to the monthly rate were stone quarrying, clay and diamonds (0,4 of a percentage point) and non-ferrous metal ores (0,3 of a percentage point).

## Agriculture, forestry and fishing

The annual percentage change in the PPI for agriculture, forestry and fishing was 2,8% in February 2024 (compared with 6,6% in January 2024). The index decreased by 2,4% month-on-month. The main contributors to the annual rate were agriculture (2,0 percentage points) and fishing (0,7 of a percentage point). The contributor to the monthly rate was agriculture (-2,4 percentage points).





**Table Q – Key PPI figures for February 2024**

Product	Weight	Index (Dec 2023=100)			% change	
		February 2023	January 2024	February 2024	February 2024 vs. January 2024	February 2024 vs. February 2023
Final manufactured goods	100,00	96,3	100,1	100,6	0,5	4,5
Intermediate manufactured goods	100,00	100,5	100,7	101,5	0,8	1,0
Electricity and water	100,00	87,4	100,7	101,4	0,7	16,0
Mining	100,00	110,8	100,6	100,8	0,2	-9,0
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	100,00	91,4	96,3	94,0	-2,4	2,8

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

## Consumer price index (CPI)

### ***CPI increased to 5,6% in February 2024***

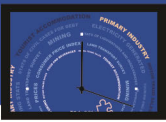
On 27 March 2024, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) unanimously took a decision to hold the repo rate unchanged at 8,25%. The repo rate is the rate at which SARB lends money to the country’s commercial banks. The commercial banks lend money to their clients at a rate called prime interest rate (the basic rate of interest that commercial banks charge their clients when loaning them money). The SARB increases and decreases repo rates so that the inflation can stay within the 3% to 6% target range. When the repo rate increases, the interest rates on home or car loans will increase which in turn will increase the monthly repayments. On the other hand, when the repo rate decreases, interest rates on home or car loan will decrease and monthly repayment will also decrease. This article summarises the results of the *Consumer price index* (statistical release P0141) for February 2024.

Annual consumer price inflation was 5,6% in February 2024, up from 5,3% in January 2024. The CPI increased by 1,0% month-on-month in February 2024 (see **Table R**). The main contributors to the 5,6% annual inflation rate were:



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

In February 2024, the annual inflation rate for goods was 6,2%, down from 6,6% in January 2024; and for services it was 4,9%, up from 4,0% in January 2024.



**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 <sup>1</sup>
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
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	4,0	4,4	4,4	4,5	4,5	3,9	4,4	4,1	3,6	3,6	4,0	4,0
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	4,6	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
	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	113,9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Rate	5,3	5,6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

A full release on the *Consumer price index* (Statistical release P0141) is available on the Stats SA website: [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za).



# Glossary

## Primary industries

**Gigawatt-hour (gWh):** one gigawatt-hour of electricity is equal to one million kilowatt-hours. A kilowatt-hour is the basic unit of electrical energy equal to one kilowatt of power supplied to or taken from an electric circuit steadily for one hour. One kilowatt-hour equals one thousand watt-hours.

**Index of physical volume of manufacturing production:** also known as a production index, is a statistical measure of the change in the volume of production. The production index of a major group is the ratio between the volume of production of a major group in a given period and the volume of production of the same major group in the base period.

**Index of physical volume of mining production:** a statistical measure of the change in the volume of production. The production index of a mineral group is the ratio between the volume of production of a mineral group in a given period and the volume of production of the same mineral group in the base period.

**Index of the physical volume of electricity production:** a statistical measure of the change in the volume of production of electricity in a given period and the volume of production of electricity in the base period.

**Industry:** a group of establishments engaged in the same or similar kinds of economic activity.

**PGMs – Platinum group metals:** include platinum; iridium; osmium, palladium; rhodium; ruthenium and osmium.

**Sales:** total value of sales and transfers-out of goods mined by the mining establishments and the amounts received for installation, erection or assembly or other services.



## Secondary industries

**Additions and alterations:** extensions to existing buildings as well as internal and external alterations of existing buildings.

**Blocks of flats:** a structure, usually multi-storey, consisting of a number of dwellings sharing the same residential address, and usually sharing a common entrance, foyer or staircase.

**Dwelling houses:** a free-standing, complete structure on a separate stand or a self-contained dwelling-unit, e.g. granny flat, on the same premises as existing residence. Out-buildings and garages are included.

**Other residential buildings:** include institutions for the disabled, boarding houses, old age homes, hostels, hotel, motels, guest houses, holiday chalets, bed and breakfast accommodation, entertainment centres and casinos.

**Residential buildings:** dwelling houses, flats, townhouses and other residential buildings.

## Tertiary industries

**Acknowledgements of debt:** a statement by a person/debtor in which he admits that he owes money to an individual or a company or a bank.

**Acting household head:** any member of the household acting on behalf of the head of the household.

**Average income per stay unit night sold:** average rate per stay unit (i.e. rate per room in a hotel or powered site in a caravan park) is calculated by dividing the total income from accommodation by the number of stay unit nights sold in the survey period.

**Catering services:** enterprises involved in the sale and supply of meals and drinks prepared on the premises on a contract basis and brought to other premises chosen by the person ordering them, to be served for immediate consumption to guests or customers. Include bars, taverns, other drinking places, ice-cream parlours, etc.



**Civil judgements:** decisions taken in a civil matter or a dispute between two people or parties.

**Civil summonses:** notices to appear before the court of law where a dispute between two parties or people has to be heard, i.e. not for criminal offence.

**Day trip:** a trip outside of the respondent's usual environment, where they leave and return within the same day (i.e. do not stay overnight).

**Domestic tourism:** a trip within the boundaries of South Africa but outside of the respondent's usual environment.

**Note:** The following categories are excluded from the definition of domestic visitor:

- persons travelling to another place within the country with the intention of setting up their usual residence in that place.
- Persons who travel to another place within the country and are remunerated from within the place visited.
- Persons who travel regularly or frequently between neighbouring localities as defined by the 'usual environment' rule.

**Dwelling unit:** structure or part of a structure or group structures occupied or meant to be occupied by one or more than one household.

**Enterprise:** a legal entity or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its sales activities.

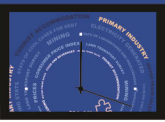
**Expenditure:** the total consumption expenditure made by a visitor or on behalf of a visitor during his/her trip and stay at a destination.

**Foreign traveller:** a person who resides outside South Africa and visits the country temporarily.

**Household:** a group of persons who live together and provide themselves jointly with food and/or other essentials for living, or a single person who lives alone.

**Household head:** the main decision-maker, or the person who owns or rents the dwelling, or the person who is the main breadwinner.

**Income from accommodation industry:** income from amounts charged for rooms or equivalent. Other income is excluded (e.g. income from meals).



**Income from bar sales:** refers to income from liquor sales.

**Income from food sales:** refers to income from the sale of meals and non-alcoholic drinks.

**Income from restaurant and bar sales:** income from meals, banqueting and beverages and tobacco sales.

**Insolvency:** refers to an individual or partnership which is unable to pay its debt and is placed under final sequestration. The number of insolvencies does not refer to the number of persons involved, as a partnership which is unable to pay its debt is regarded as one insolvency, irrespective of the number of partners.

**Liquidation:** refers to the winding-up of the affairs of a company or close corporation when liabilities exceed assets and it can be resolved by voluntary action or by an order of the court.

**Main purpose of trip:** this is the purpose in the absence of which the trip would not have been made.

**Microdata:** data gathered on a small scale, such as data on an individual.

**'Other' African countries:** refers to all non SADC African countries.

**Other income:** includes all income not earned from food sales or bar sales.

**Other SADC:** refers to the thirteen countries, excluding South Africa, that belong to the Southern African Development Community.

**Professional services:** refer to medical doctors, dentists, advocates, attorney, auditors, accountants, architects, engineers, hospital services etc.

**Promissory notes:** written undertaking, signed by a person or party, to pay money to another person or to be the bearer of such a note on a specific date or on demand.

**Restaurants and coffee shops:** enterprises involved in the sale and provision of meals and drinks, ordered from a menu, prepared on the premises for immediate consumption and with provided seating.

**Retailer:** a retailer is an enterprise deriving more than 50% of its turnover from sales of goods to the general public for household use.



**Retail trade:** includes the resale (sale without transformation) of new and used goods and products to the general public for household use.

**Stay unit:** unit accommodation available to be charged out to guests, for example, a powered site in a caravan park or a room in a hotel.

**Stay unit night sold:** total number of stay units occupied on each night during the survey period.

**Takeaway and fast-food outlets:** enterprises involved in the sale and provision of meals and drinks, ordered from a menu, prepared on the premises for takeaway purposes in a packaged format, at a stand or in a location, with or without provided seating.

**Total income:** includes income from food sales, income from bar sales and other income.

**Tourism:** comprises the activities of persons travelling to, and staying in places outside their usual environment, for not more than one consecutive year, for leisure, business and other purposes not related to the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited.

**Tourist:** a visitor who stays at least one night in the place visited.

**Tourist accommodation:** any facility that regularly (or occasionally) provides 'paid' or 'unpaid' overnight accommodation for tourists.

**Traveller:** any person on a trip between two or more countries or between two or more localities within his/her country of residence.

**Voluntary liquidation:** takes place when a company or close corporation, by own choice, resolves to wind-up its affairs.

**Wholesale trade:** Includes the resale (sale without transformation) of new and used goods and products to other wholesalers, retailers, agricultural, industrial, commercial, institutional and professional users either directly or through agents on a fee or contract basis.





## Prices

**Annual percentage change:** change in the index of the relevant month of the current year compared with the index of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.

**Consumer price index (CPI):** an index that measures the price of a fixed basket of consumer goods and services.

**Inflation rate:** annual percentage change in the CPI for all items of the relevant month of the current year compared with the CPI for all items of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.

**Monthly percentage change:** change in the index of the relevant month compared to the index of the previous month expressed as a percentage.

**Year-on-year:** A term used frequently in investment research and other reports to mean 'compared with the same period in the previous fiscal year'.

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