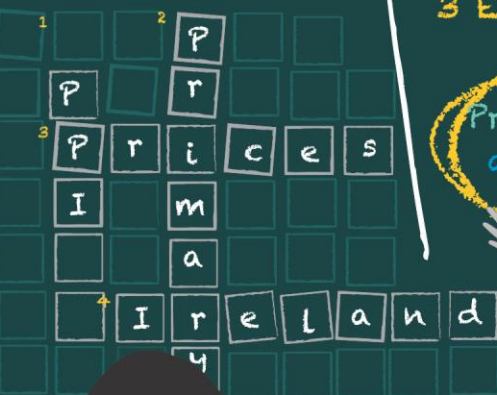


Mbalo Brief

the missing piece of the puzzle

November 2024

Crossword



3 Essential industries

Primary, Secondary
and Tertiary
industries

MATRIC 2024

Issue 10/2024

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS



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Editor's Comment

The recent food poisoning reports linked to products bought from spaza shops in South Africa, predominantly in Gauteng, highlights the importance of exercising caution when purchasing and consuming food items. The food poisoning led to the death of several children, left some customers ill and others fighting for their lives in hospitals. Although spaza shops play an essential role in township economy by providing access to affordable food and household items, the lack of consistent oversight can sometimes lead to compromised quality and even dangerous products on the shelves. Some steps that can be taken to assess the food include examining expiry dates, inspecting packaging to make sure it's not damaged, unsealed or bulging, and assess the freshness of the food by looking out for unusual colour or odour on the food. The Gauteng Department of Health issued a statement to urge customers to buy food from reputable sellers with valid permits to operate. In addition to the statement by the Department of Health, Gauteng Premier Panyaza Lesufi urged the communities to remain vigilant when purchasing goods from spaza shops and other informal food outlets. He also said that municipalities would be expected to establish a system for regular health inspections by health authorities to ensure compliance with food safety regulations.



This month's feature article is based on the *Census 2022 provincial profile: Limpopo* (Report No. 03-01-78), published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) on 27 June 2024. Look out for our monthly crossword puzzle and the solutions for October 2024. Articles published in this issue are based on results of industry surveys conducted for August and September 2024.

Enjoy the read!





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Crossword Puzzle

			1		2					3
4								5		
6										
	7									

Across

4. True or false? According to Census 2022 results, approximately 10% of persons in Limpopo completed higher education.
6. Businesses in the financing, ..., real estate, business services and unclassified recorded the highest number of liquidations in September 2024. Fill in the missing word.
7. Which district in Limpopo had the largest population in 2022? Read the feature article for clues.

Down

1. Which district in Limpopo had the highest increase in marriages in 2022? Read the feature article for clues.
2. Which type of income was the largest contributor to the increase in the food and beverages industry in August 2024? Read the food and beverages article for clues.
3. Aside from Mozambique and Zimbabwe, which other country shares a border with Limpopo province?
5. Which language was the most spoken in Limpopo in 2022?

Solutions for October 2024 puzzle

Across

4. Amajuba
6. Moses Mabhida
7. Germany
8. False
9. Decrease

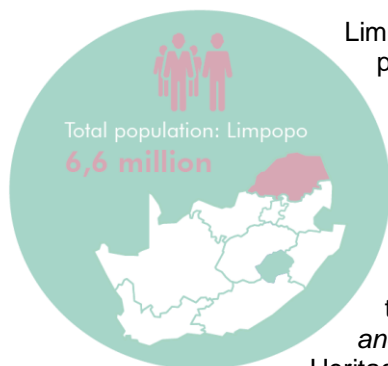
Down

1. Julius Caesar
2. Freight
3. Shibudu Caves
5. Eastern Cape



Feature article

1. Introduction



Limpopo, formerly known as the Northern province, is located in the northern part of South Africa and shares borders with Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. It is named after the second longest river in South Africa, the Limpopo River, which forms the province's western and northern borders. The province is also known for its rich cultural heritage; it is home to one of the *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's* (UNESCO) World Heritage Sites, the Mapungubwe Cultural

Landscape. Limpopo is home to 6,6 million people, making it the fifth largest province in the country. Economically, Limpopo's gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate was 1,0% in 2022 which was lower than the national average of 1,9%. The top industries that contributed towards the GDP in Limpopo in 2022 include mining (25%) followed by personal services (24%), finance (14%) and transport (5%). This article explores the Census 2022 results for Limpopo with regards to population characteristics, migration, education, household characteristics and access to services. Where necessary, a comparison between results from Censuses 1996 and 2011 is made. The article is based on *Provincial profile: Limpopo, Census 2022* (Report No. 03-01-78) published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) on 27 June 2024.

2. Population characteristics

Figure 1 – Population and growth rate by province, Census 1996 – 2022

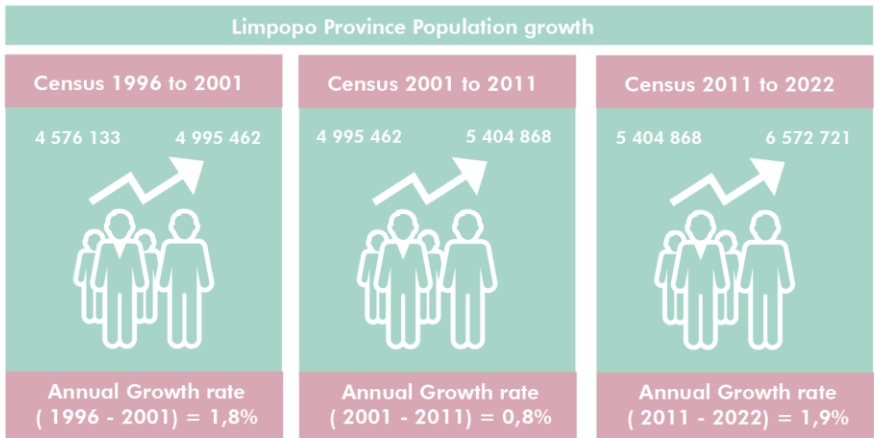


Figure 1 shows that the population in Limpopo has been increasing steadily from 4,6 million in 1996 to 6,6 million in 2022. In general, the provincial population growth rate has fluctuated from 1,8 between 1996 and 2001 to 0,8 between 2001 to 2011, and finally to 1,9 between 2011 and 2022.

2.1 Distribution of population by district and local municipality, Census 2011 – 2022

Vhembe district had the largest population of 1 653 077 in 2022, followed by Capricorn with 1 447 103, while Waterberg had the smallest population size of 762 862 in the province. As mentioned earlier, the population growth rate was 1,9 in the period 2011 to 2022. All districts had a positive population growth rate. Vhembe district recorded the highest population growth rate above the provincial average at 2,4, followed by Mopani (2,2) and Sekhukhune (2,1). Waterberg and Capricorn districts, however, had lower growth rates at 1,1 and 1,3, respectively, compared to other districts in the province.

Of the 27 municipalities in Limpopo, a total of 25 experienced positive growths between the period 2011 and 2022. Municipalities that experienced negative growth were Thabazimbi (-2,6) and Bela-Bela (-0,3). Both municipalities are located in the Waterberg District. Maruleng, Collins Chabane and Fetakgomo Tubatse local municipalities each had a 2,9 growth rate, the highest in all local municipalities in the province.

2.2 Population density



In 2022, the most densely populated local municipalities in Limpopo were Thulamela with 218 persons per square kilometres (kms), Polokwane with 167 and Greater Tzaneen with 165. On the other hand, Thabazimbi and Lephalale were the least populated municipalities with 6 and 9 persons per square kms, respectively.

2.3 Age and sex structure

Figure 2 – Limpopo population pyramid, Census 2011 (transparent) and 2022 (blue and pink shaded)

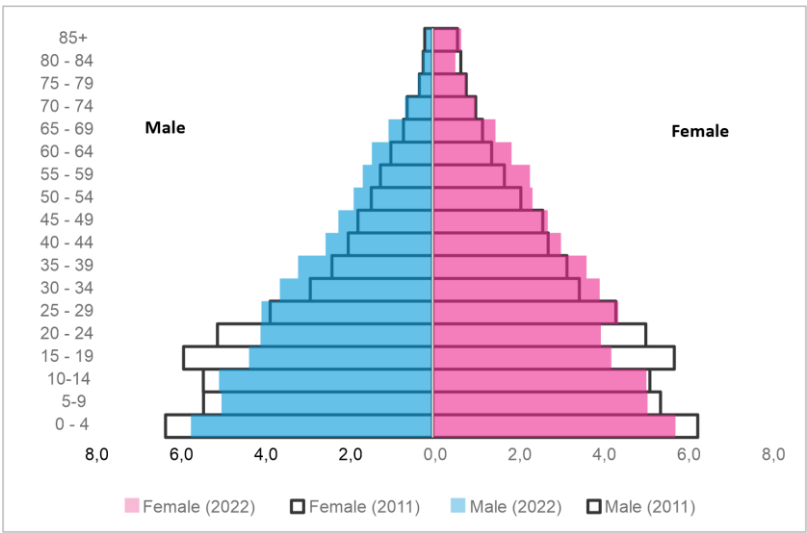


Figure 2 is a pyramid showing a consolidated population composition and age-sex distribution of the population in Limpopo for Censuses 2011 and 2022. The results show that Limpopo recorded lower proportions in Census 2022 for ages 0 to 24 years compared to Census 2011. Whereas from ages 30 to 70, Census 2022 recorded higher proportions compared with Census 2011. The age pattern shows noticeably low proportions for persons aged 15 to 24 in 2022. However, for both censuses, the age pattern shows that the population of Limpopo constituted a high proportion of children and teenagers while the rest of the population decreased as the ages progressed.

The population of Limpopo demonstrated to be fairly young since large proportions of persons are between the ages of 0 to 29 as per the pyramid. Interestingly, there was a substantial decrease in the proportion of young female persons aged 0 to 24 except for females between the 10 to 14 age group. It is worth noting that there was a sharp decrease in the proportion of females aged 15 to 19 years.

Furthermore, in 2022, the population in Limpopo constituted a higher labour force population (15 to 64 years) at 61,4%, which is about 4 million, followed by children aged 0 to 14 years at 31,6% (2,1 million) while persons aged 65 and older constituted 6,9% (454 635). This pattern was observed in all districts and local municipalities in the province.

2.4 Population distribution by age group per district municipality, Census 2022

Waterberg district municipality recorded the highest proportion of persons for ages 15 to 64 years at 64,5%, followed by Capricorn with 62,3%. These were higher than the provincial proportion of 61,4%. Other districts had proportions lower than the provincial average for the population aged 15 to 64. Mopani district had a higher proportion (33,2%) of children (0 to 14 years), followed by Sekhukhune (32,9%) and Vhembe (32, 3%) district municipalities. These were higher than the provincial proportion of 31,6%. Meanwhile, Waterberg had a lower proportion (27,9%) of children. A higher proportion of the elderly population (65 years and older) was noted in Waterberg and Capricorn district municipalities each with 7,5% which is higher than the 6,9% provincial average.

2.5 Population distribution by age group per local municipality, Census 2022



Thabazimbi local municipality had the highest proportion of persons aged 15 to 64 years (73,7%). Musina local municipality also had a higher proportion at 69,1%. Meanwhile, Collins Chabane and Greater Giyani local municipalities had higher proportions of children (35,5% and 35,4%, respectively). Molemole local municipality had a higher proportion of the elderly population at 8,6%, followed by Blouberg and Lepele-Nkumpi with 8,5% each. While Musina local municipality had the lowest proportions of the elderly population at 3,4%.

2.6 Population group

Results show that in 2022, black Africans remained the majority at 96,5%. While the white population slightly decreased from 2,6% in 2011 to 2,5% in 2022. There has been an upward trend in the Indian/Asian population group from 0,3% in 2011 to 0,5% in 2022. In contrast, the coloured population remained at 0,3% in 2022, the same as in 2011.

2.7 Marital status

Marriage rates increased in Limpopo from 196 marriages per 1000 population in 2011 to 231 in 2022. This pattern was noted in all district municipalities in the province. However, Sekhukhune district municipality had the largest increase in marriage rates from 188 marriages per 1000 population in 2011 to 266 in 2022. The Sekhukhune marriage rate was higher than that of the provincial rate in 2022. In contrast, Vhembe district had the least increase in marriage rates in the province from 193 marriages per 1000 population in 2011 to 203 in 2022.

Interestingly, the rate of divorce in Limpopo also increased. The province's divorce rate increased from five divorces per 1000 population in 2011 to eight divorces in 2022. Sekhukhune district municipality had the lowest divorce rate although with an increase from two divorces per 1000 population in 2011 to four divorces in 2022. A higher divorce rate in Limpopo was recorded in Waterberg district municipality from seven divorces per

1000 population in 2011 to 11 divorces in 2022, which was higher than that of the province for both 2011 and 2022.

2.8 Language

In both 2011 and 2022, Sepedi was the most commonly spoken language in households in Limpopo. The majority of the population (55,5%) in Limpopo spoke Sepedi, followed by Tshivenda (17,4%), Xitsonga (17,3%) and Afrikaans (2,3%). While Khoi, Nama and San Languages were the least spoken languages in the province. About 1000 people used sign language, the newly introduced official language in the country. The inclusion of additional languages in Census 2022 revealed that Shona language was spoken by 1,6% of the population in the province. Interestingly, the proportion of Shona speakers was higher than that of English and other indigenous languages (IsiNdebele, IsiXhosa, IsiZulu, Sesotho, Setswana and Siswati).

2.9 Religion

In 2022, majority of the population (86,8%) were of Christian religion, followed by those who belonged to the traditional African religion with 6,3%. It was also noted that 5,1% of the population in Limpopo reported that they had no religious affiliation/belief.

3. Migration

Majority of persons residing in Limpopo were born in Limpopo. The results further show that about 170 147 born outside the country were residing in Limpopo. For those born in other provinces of South Africa, a large number (146 988) of people who were born in Gauteng were residing in Limpopo in 2022, followed by those born in Mpumalanga. Those born in Northern Cape and residing in Limpopo were the least (5 050).

Furthermore, the largest number of people (1 378 304) born in Limpopo were residing in Gauteng, followed by 149 109 residing in Mpumalanga. Only 3 517 people born in Limpopo were residing in the Northern Cape in 2022.

4. Education

4.1 Educational attendance

Education is a basic right for persons in South Africa. These rights are stipulated in section 29 of the South African Constitution where it is emphasized that everyone has the right to basic education. Therefore, in order to assess progress towards this right, Census 2011 and 2022 measured the number of persons aged 5 to 24 years who were attending an educational institution. Results indicate that the proportion of persons aged 5 to 24 years who attended an educational institution in Limpopo decreased slightly from 81,1% in 2011 to 80,6% in 2022.

The district profile shows that about 82,7% and 82,9% of persons in Vhembe district attended an educational institution in 2011 and 2022, respectively and this was higher compared to the proportions depicted by the province. Similarly, attendance at an educational institution was slightly higher in Sekhukhune district in both census years (81,3% in 2011 and 80,8% in 2022). In contrast, Waterberg district recorded the lowest proportions of persons attending an educational institution, with about 74,1% in 2011 and 75,4% in 2022, which were lower than the provincial average.

The top three local municipalities in terms of attendance at an educational institution in 2011 were Blouberg (86%), Thulamela (84,7%) and Makhuduthamaga (84,6%), with the proportions higher than that of the province. In addition, Thabazimbi (55,6%), Modimolle-Mookgophong (66,7%) and Musina (68,2%) were the three local municipalities with the lowest proportions of person who attended an educational institution, with proportions lower than the provincial average. However, in 2022, 83,9% of persons in Greater Giyani local municipality attended an educational institution, followed by Makhuduthamaga (83,8%) and Blouberg (83%) local municipalities with proportions higher than that of the province. Bela-Bela (68,9%), Thabazimbi (69,1%) and Modimolle-Mookgophong (69,7%) local municipalities were the bottom three municipalities with lowest proportions of attendance at an educational institution. It is noticeable that all these three local municipalities emanate from Waterberg district.

4.2 Level of education

This section presents results on population aged 20 years and older by highest level of education in Limpopo. Broad categories on level of

education were used in this analysis namely: some primary, primary completed, some secondary, secondary completed, tertiary and other. In 2022 Limpopo recorded 33,1% persons with some secondary schooling, followed by 31,5% of those with grade12/matric.



Approximately 10% of persons in the province completed higher education whilst 14,1% had no formal education.

Capricorn and Vhembe districts recorded the highest proportions of persons with higher education (13,7% and 10,6%, respectively) compared to the provincial average. For persons with grade12/matric, Capricorn and Waterberg districts recorded around 34,7% and 33,7%, respectively, higher than that of the province. Among those with no schooling, the highest proportions were seen in Mopani (18,9%), Vhembe (15,8%) and Sekhukhune (15,1%) and these were higher than the provincial average.

About 14,1% of persons had no schooling in the province. Mopani (18,9%), Vhembe (15,8%) and Sekhukhune (15,1%) districts had higher proportions of persons with no schooling and higher than the provincial average. Only Waterberg (8,3%) and Capricorn (10,3%) districts had the lowest proportions compared to the provincial average.

4.3 Field of Education

In 2022, about 26,4% of persons 20 years and older in Limpopo qualified in humanities, social sciences and applied humanities followed by 25,8% of those in business management. About 2,7% qualified in Law. The variation by sex shows that 27,1% of males in the province studied engineering and other applied sciences followed by 22,1% of males in business management. About 30,3% of females qualified in humanities, social sciences and applied humanities followed by those who qualified in business management (28,8%). Law was the least reported field of education for both males and females in the province.

4.3.1 Distribution of persons aged 20 years and older by field of education and population group

The results by population group indicate that black Africans mostly qualified in humanities, social sciences and applied humanities (26,6%), business

management (26,3%) and engineering and other applied sciences (17,8%). The pattern was similar among coloured and Indian/Asian population groups concerning those that studied business management (29,0% coloured and 32,5% Indian/Asian) and, humanities, social sciences and applied humanities (23,3% coloureds and 22,1% Indian/Asian). Among persons who qualified in natural and mathematical sciences, coloured population group constituted about 2%. About 25% of white population group studied humanities, social sciences and applied humanities and 20,6% studied business management. Law was the least field of education, particularly among black Africans.

5. Household characteristics and access to services

5.1 Introduction

This section focuses on household structure, composition, and access to basic services. The well-being of a household is affected by these characteristics and data is important for tracking the progress of government programmes that aim to improve household living conditions and their access to basic services.

5.2 Household size

Results show that the total number of households in Limpopo increased from 1,4 million in 2011 to 1,8 million in 2022, whilst the average household size declined from 3,8 persons in 2011 to 3,6 in 2022.

Districts with the highest proportion of households was Vhembe (436 959 or 24,1%), which accounted for just less than one-quarter of the households in the province in 2022, followed closely by Capricorn with 427 174 or 23,6%. Waterberg district recorded the lowest share of households (248 526 or 13,7%). Amongst the local municipalities in 2022, Bela-Bela (22 449 or 8,4%) and Thabazimbi (26 832 or 10,8%), both in the Waterberg district recorded the least number of households in the province. Polokwane had the highest number of households in both 2011 (203 605) and 2022 (249 443).

5.3 Household headship and composition

The number of households headed by children younger than 15 years in Limpopo decreased by more than half from 4 528 in 2011 to 2 130 in 2022.

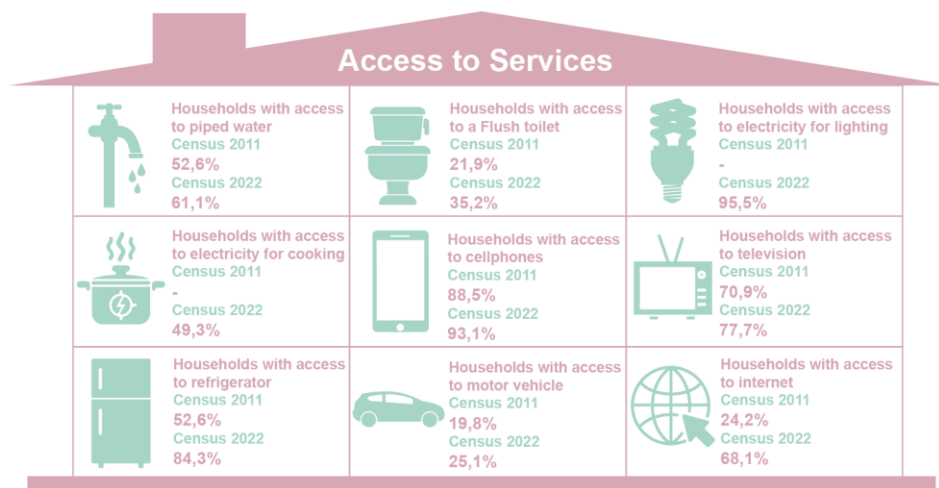
Households headed by children aged 15 to 17 years decreased from 15 140 in 2011 to 9 282 in 2022. The highest percentage of households headed by children younger than 15 years were found in Vhembe and Mopani districts (both 0,4% in 2011 and 0,2% in 2022), both higher than the provincial average of 0,3% in 2011 and 0,1% in 2022.

Results further show that more households in Limpopo were headed by females (51,6%) than males (48,4%) in 2022. At district level, 53,3% of households in Sekhukhune and 52,4% in Mopani districts were headed by females, higher than the provincial average of 51,6%. Waterberg district was the only district with a larger proportion of male-headed households (51,4%) than female-headed households (49,7%).

5.4 Housing

Globally, housing units and type of living quarters remain core questions in censuses. These questions play a critical role in understanding the living conditions of households and their effects on the general welfare of household members. Census 2022 results show that the vast majority of households in the province, 94,7% resided in formal dwellings, with smaller percentages residing in informal dwellings (2,7%) and traditional dwellings (2,2%).

Figure 3 – Access to basic services and ownership of household items, Census 2011 – 2022



5.5.1 Access to piped water

In 2022, the proportion of households with access to piped water inside the dwelling/yard in Limpopo was just over three-fifths (61,1%). This was an increase from 52,6% in 2011.

5.5.2 Access to flush toilets

There was an increase in the proportion of households with access to a flush toilet from 21,9% in 2011 to 35,2% in 2022.

5.5.3 Access to electricity for lighting and cooking

In 2022, approximately 95,5% of households used electricity for lighting. The results indicated that 49,3% of households used electricity for cooking, 18,1% used gas, 32,5% used other energy sources. Only less than 1% households did not have any source of energy for cooking.

5.5.4 Type of refuse removal

Majority of households (55,6%) in Limpopo used their own dump to remove refuse, followed by 32,2% whose refuse was removed by local authorities at least once a week. About 1,9% of households used communal refuse dump and another 1,9% used communal container/central collection points.

5.5.5 Ownership of selected household goods in South Africa and Limpopo, Census 2011 – 2022

Results revealed that ownership of the selected goods in households in South Africa increased in each type of goods from 2011 to 2022. It can be observed that ownership of the selected goods in households in Limpopo increased in each type of goods from 2011 to 2022. This pattern is similar to that of a national level. In Limpopo, ownership of cell phones in households increased from 88,5% in 2011 to 93,1% in 2022. Furthermore, motor vehicle ownership in households increased from 19,8% in 2011 to 25,1% in 2022.

5.5.6 Access to Internet

The proportion of households with internet access is lower than that of the national level for both 2011 (34,9% national and 24,2% provincial) and 2022 (68,1% national and 78,9% provincial). However, both national and provincial proportions increased from 2011 to 2022. The provincial proportion of households with no access to Internet in Limpopo decreased from 75,8% in 2011 to 31,9% in 2022.

6. Conclusion

The population in Limpopo has been growing since 1996 to 2022. The population size of Limpopo was ranked number five in South Africa. Females dominate the population of Limpopo compared to males. The province has a young population who are mostly between the ages of 0-29 years while black Africans continue to dominate the province. Large proportions of persons were never married, speak Sepedi and were Christians. Limpopo had a slight decline in the proportions of persons aged 5-24 years who were attending educational institutions. Nearly one third of the population had grade12/matric. Humanities, social sciences and applied humanities were the most reported fields of education in Limpopo. Findings revealed that males qualified in engineering and other applied sciences whilst females qualified in humanities, social sciences and applied humanities. The number

of households in Limpopo have grown in both 2011 and 2022. There was increase in the number of households with access to piped water inside dwelling/in yard. Electricity was the main source of energy used for lighting and cooking in Limpopo. Households with access to Internet increased over the period 2011 and 2022.



Primary industries

Mining: Production and sales



South Africa is the largest manganese-producing country in the world. According to US Geological Survey (USGS), it is estimated that South Africa had manganese output of 7,2 million metric tons in 2023 and holds a title as the leading manganese-producing country in the world. According to the USGS, South Africa accounts for an estimated 70% of the world's manganese resources. Gabon is the second leading manganese-producing country with 4,6 million metric tons output, followed by Australia (3 million metric tons), Ghana (840 000 metric tons), China (740 000 metric tons), India (720 000 metric tons), Brazil (620 000 metric tons), Côte d'Ivoire (390 000 metric tons), Ukraine (320 000 metric tons) and Malaysia (250 000 metric tons). Manganese is used to remove oxygen from a compound and sulfur from material in dry cell batteries and also as black-brown pigment in paint among others. The latest Mining: production and sales data indicate that manganese ore was one of the largest positive contributors in the increase of mining production in August 2024 with 16,0%, contributing 1,2 percentage points. This article summarises the results of the *Mining: Production and sales* (statistical release P2041) for August 2024.



Mining production increased by 0,3% year-on-year in August 2024 (see Table A). The largest positive contributors were:

- manganese ore (16,0%, contributing 1,2 percentage points);
- PGMs (4,7%, contributing 1,2 percentage points); and
- chromium ore (24,8%, contributing 1,1 percentage points).

Iron ore (-15,2%, contributing -2,1 percentage points) and gold (-4,6%, contributing -0,7 of a percentage point) were the largest negative contributors.

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

	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-4,0	2,6	1,4	-3,5	-1,0	0,3
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-4,2	1,7	-0,9	-1,8	-0,8	2,9
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	-1,2	0,9	-0,2	-0,5	-2,7	-1,4

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

Mineral sales at current prices decreased by 9,9% year-on-year in August 2024 (**see Table B**). The largest negative contributors were:

- gold (-80,5%, contributing -13,9 percentage points);
- 'other' non-metallic minerals (-38,3%, contributing -2,3 percentage points); and
- PGMs (-5,4%, contributing -1,1 percentage points).

The largest positive contributors were:

- manganese ore (65,1%, contributing 3,6 percentage points);
- chromium ore (28,2%, contributing 2,1 percentage points); and
- coal (5,9%, contributing 1,5 percentage points).

Table B – Key growth rates in mineral sales for August 2024

	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-14,0	12,6	-18,6	18,0	25,4	-9,9
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-13,0	16,8	-8,5	21,4	-1,8	-20,7
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	-8,9	-12,4	-12,1	3,6	9,7	10,6

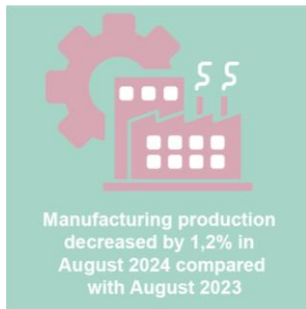
¹ Percentage change between the previous three months and the three months ending in the month indicated. A full release on *Mining: Production and sales* (statistical release P2041) is available on the Stats SA website www.statssa.gov.za.



Secondary industries

Manufacturing: Production and sales

The manufacturing sector contributes to economic growth and boosts a country's Gross domestic product (GDP). Simply put, GDP is a total value of all goods and services produced within a country over a specific period. If a country produces a lot of valuable goods and services, its GDP will grow, indicating a strong economy. Currently, the manufacturing sector is facing challenges in South Africa, as shown by a decrease of 1,2% in August 2024 with the largest negative contribution made by the motor vehicles, parts and accessories and other transport equipment



sector at -16,1%. Despite these challenges, there are ongoing efforts to improve the situation. In August 2024, CFAO Motors South Africa, one of the comprehensive automotive dealer networks of multi-brand dealerships in South Africa, announced a new joint venture with Ogihara Thailand – leading automotive tools and dies makers and auto stamping parts manufacturers in Thailand – to build a component manufacturing plant in Durban. The plant will supply Toyota South Africa with enhanced capabilities to produce high-quality vehicle body parts for the automotive industry. This joint venture is expected to create jobs, bring foreign investment to the country and strengthen the vehicle market and the manufacturing industry. Furthermore, the venture will be beneficial to manufacturing as it is intended to phase in the sourcing of additional local press parts currently imported. With these ongoing efforts, there is hope for a comeback in manufacturing production. This article summarises *Manufacturing: Production and sales* results (statistical release P3041.2) for August 2024.



Manufacturing production decreased by 1,2% in August 2024 compared with August 2023 (see **Table C**). The largest negative contributions were made by the following divisions:

- motor vehicles, parts and accessories and other transport equipment (-16,1%, contributing -1,6 percentage points); and
- basic iron and steel, non-ferrous metal products, metal products and machinery (-5,4%, contributing -1,2 percentage points).

The largest positive contribution was made by the food and beverages division (5,8%, contributing 1,3 percentage points).

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

	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-6,8	4,2	-2,0	-5,2	1,6	-1,2
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-2,4	4,9	-3,4	0,0	1,6	-0,6
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	-1,2	-0,9	-0,9	0,5	-0,5	0,1

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

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

Selected building statistics of the private sector

The number of building plans passed is an indication of the outlook for the construction sector in the future. An increase in building plans passed suggests that South Africans are building and investing in property. However, the current statistics suggest that South Africans are putting building on hold owing to tougher economic conditions. The selected building statistics of the private sector data released by for August 2024 reveal that the value of the building plans passed decreased by 9,7% (-R6 880,4 million) during January to August 2024 compared with January to August 2023



The value of building plans passed (at current prices) decreased by 9,7% (-R6 880,4 million) during January to August 2024 compared with January to August 2023

reported for residential buildings (-R4 290,4 million) which comprise of dwelling houses, flats, townhouses and other buildings. While all types of residential buildings decreased, dwelling houses recorded the biggest decrease at R3 322 954. A dwelling house is a free-standing, complete structure on a separate stand or a self-contained dwelling-unit, as opposed to townhouses and flats which house a large number of people. This article presents the results of the *Selected building statistics of the private sector as reported by local government institutions* (statistical release P5041.1) for August 2024.

Buildings plans passed



The value of building plans passed (at current prices) decreased by 9,7% (-R6 880,4 million) during January to August 2024 compared with January to August 2023 (see Table D). Decreases were reported for:

- residential buildings (-R4 290,4 million);
- additions and alterations (-R1 717,6 million); and
- non-residential buildings (-R872,4 million).

The largest negative contributions to the total decrease of 9,7% (-R6 880,4 million) were made by Gauteng (contributing -5,6 percentage points or -R3 947,7 million), Western Cape (contributing -4,1 percentage points or -R2 860,9 million) and Eastern Cape (contributing -1,4 percentage points or -R962,3 million).

The largest positive contributors were North West (contributing 1,1 percentage points or R768,7 million) and KwaZulu-Natal (contributing 0,9 of a percentage point or R606,8 million).

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

Type of building	Jan – Aug 2023	Jan – Aug 2024	Difference in value between Jan – Aug 2023 and Jan – Aug 2024	% change between Jan – Aug 2023 and Jan – Aug 2024
	R'000	R'000	R'000	
Residential buildings	34 728 275	30 437 900	-4 290 375	-12,4
- Dwelling houses	22 927 945	19 604 991	-3 322 954	-14,5
- Flats and townhouses	11 322 198	9 957 492	-1 364 706	-12,1
- Other residential buildings	478 132	875 417	397 285	83,1
Non-residential buildings	16 183 983	15 311 604	-872 379	-5,4
Additions and alterations	19 719 678	18 002 049	-1 717 629	-8,7
Total	70 631 936	63 751 553	-6 880 383	-9,7

1/ 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.

Electricity generated and available for distribution



The data released by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) for September 2024 show that electricity generation (production) increased by 8,5% year-on-year. Eskom is a South African public electricity utility established in 1923. The utility generates, transmits, and distributes electricity not only in South Africa but in some countries in Africa as well, making it the largest producer of electricity in Africa,

and among the top utilities in the world in terms of generation capacity and sales. Eskom generates approximately 95% of electricity used in South Africa and emits 42% of the country's total greenhouse gas emissions. The company uses prepaid meters to supply residents with electricity. Recently, Eskom started urging prepaid electricity customers to update their meters by 24 November 2024 to comply with new standards to ensure that they can continue to accept electricity tokens as required by the Standard Transfer Specification Association (STSA). After this deadline, meters will no longer accept electricity tokens unless they are updated to Key Revision Number (KRN) 2, which prevents service interruptions. The KRN 2 can also report when a meter is being tampered with as well as monitoring the electricity purchased by customers. This article summarises the results of *Electricity generated and available for distribution* (statistical release P4141) for September 2024.



Electricity generation (production) increased by 8,5% year-on-year in September 2024 (see Table E).

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

	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	5,7	5,5	5,4	8,5	6,3	8,5
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,4	-0,4	2,4	1,4	-0,7	1,6
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	1,4	1,4	2,5	2,6	3,3	2,9

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.

Electricity distribution (consumption) increased by 6,1% year-on-year in September 2024 (see Table F).

Table F – Key growth rates in the volume of electricity distributed, September 2024

	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	6,2	4,7	3,3	6,9	4,2	6,1
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,9	-0,5	1,0	1,7	-1,1	0,3
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	0,7	0,5	1,7	1,8	2,0	1,5

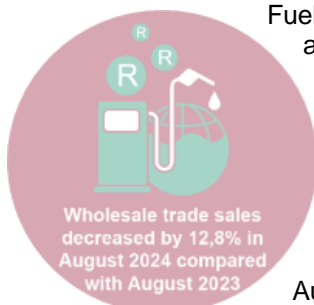
¹ Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

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



Fuel, paraffin and gas price differences between inland and coastal parts of South Africa have been a big bone of contention for consumers. Fuel price data from the Department of Minerals and Energy (DMRE) shows that fuel, paraffin and gas are expensive in inland than the coastal region. One of the reasons for fuel, paraffin and gas price differences between inland and coastal, is additional transportation costs. According to Automobile Association (AA), the transport costs of fuel from depots at the coast to inland outlets plays a major role. Transportation takes place by road, rail, pipeline or a combination thereof. As of 6 November 2024, consumers in inland are paying higher fuel prices. Petrol now costs R20,98 per litre for 93 octane and R21,30 per litre for 95 octane. The price of illuminating paraffin has increased to R12,87 per litre, while the wholesale price for 0,05% diesel is R18,66 per litre and the wholesale price for 0,005% diesel is R18,77 per litre. Liquefied petroleum (LP) Gas is R36,44 per kilogram. In comparison, coastal consumers pay less for fuel (R20,19 for 93 and R20,51 for 95 octane per litre), illuminating paraffin (R11,87 for per litre), diesel (R17,87 diesel 0,05% (wholesale) and diesel 0,005% (wholesale) R18,01 per litre) and LP Gas (R33,48 per kilogram). Data published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) shows that solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products was one of the major negative contributors to the wholesale trade sales in August 2024 with -33,6% and contributing -9,4 percentage points. This article summarises the results of *Wholesale trade sales* (statistical release 6141.2) for August 2024.



Wholesale trade sales decreased by 12,8% in August 2024 compared with August 2023 (**see Table G**). The main negative contributors were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (-33,6%, contributing -9,4 percentage points);
- construction and building materials (-21,8%, contributing -1,1 percentage points); and
- 'other' goods (-12,6%, contributing -1,0 percentage point).

Wholesale trade sales decreased by 5,2% in the three months ended August 2024 compared with the three months ended August 2023. The main negative contributor was dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (-22,6%, contributing -6,2 percentage points).

The main positive contributor was dealers in machinery, equipment and supplies (7,8%, contributing 1,1 percentage points).

Table G – Key growth rates in wholesale trade sales for August 2024

	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	
Year-on-year % change unadjusted	-8,7	5,4	-1,8	-3,9	1,7	-12,8	
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-3,5	3,9	-2,3	-1,2	0,9	-6,6	
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	-1,3	-0,6	-0,2	0,1	-1,5	-3,1	

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 6141.2) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Retail trade sales



The August 2024 retail trade sales data by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) marks the sixth consecutive increase in retail sales since February 2024, when it decreased by 0,8%. Retail trade sales increased by 3,2% year-on-year in August 2024, up from 2% in July 2024. Six of the seven types of retailers recorded positive growth rates.

According to senior economist at First National Bank (FNB), Siphamandla Mkhwanazi, the increased retail sales is attributed to an improved consumer environment in the second half of the year aided by declining fuel costs, uninterrupted energy

supply and a post-election recovery in the consumer segment. Shopping activity may further increase because of the upcoming Black Friday and festive season shopping as South African consumers spend their money mainly on food, clothing, electronics and furniture to make their holidays jollier. This article summarises the *Retail trade sales* results (statistical release P6242.1) for August 2024.



Retail trade sales increased by 3,2% year-on-year in August 2024 (see Table H).

The largest positive contributor to this increase was general dealers (4,6%, contributing 2,1 percentage points).

Retail trade sales increased by 3,0% in the three months ended August 2024 compared with the three months ended August 2023. The largest contributors to this increase were:

- general dealers (4,8%, contributing 2,1 percentage points); and
- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (3,7%, contributing 0,6 of a percentage point).

Table H – Key growth rates in retail trade sales for August 2024

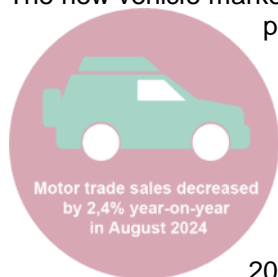
	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	2,1	0,5	1,7	4,0	1,7	3,2
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,7	0,5	0,2	1,1	-0,2	0,5
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	0,1	0,4	0,8	1,5	1,4	1,4

^{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

The new vehicle market in South Africa is still recovering from post-pandemic production crisis, with manufacturers facing challenges meeting the growing demand according to the TransUnion's latest Vehicle Pricing Index (VPI), resulting in a notable decline in vehicle sales and financing in South Africa. Additionally, the slower rate of vehicle production has resulted in new vehicles being sold at higher prices, further impacting the sales and import tariffs. In August 2024, motor trade sales decreased by 2,4% with the sales of accessories being the largest negative contributor with 7,9%. These findings show that the motor trade sector has been significantly impacted by the ongoing production crisis, resulting in the decline in motor trade sales. This article summarises *Motor trade sales* results (statistical release P6343.2) for August 2024.



Motor trade sales decreased by 2,4% year-on-year in August 2024 (see Table I). The largest negative contributors to this decrease were:

- sales of accessories (-7,9%, contributing -1,7 percentage points); and

- new vehicle sales (-4,9%, contributing -1,2 percentage points).

The only positive contributor was used vehicle sales (7,5%, contributing 1,5 percentage points).

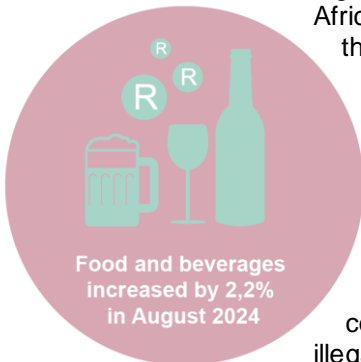
Table I – Key growth rates in motor trade sales for August 2024

	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24
Year-on-year % change unadjusted	-10,2	3,4	-8,5	-9,5	0,2	-2,4
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-6,7	5,7	-5,5	4,7	0,5	0,0
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	-1,2	-2,7	-5,3	-1,5	-1,0	3,0

¹ Percentage change between the previous three months and the three 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

In recent years, there has been a concerning rise in the production and sale of illicit alcohol, not only in South Africa but globally. Illicit alcohol is alcohol that is sold or produced illegally, without payment of applicable taxes and duties, or in violation of regulations. The illicit alcohol production in South Africa is increasing and poses a significant risk to the health of consumers. The trade of illicit alcohol is a crisis globally, and according to various studies and reports, illegal alcohol may account for between 10% and 30% of total alcohol consumption worldwide, with some countries having much higher levels of illegal consumption than others. The World Health Organization (WHO) 2018 report estimated that 11,2% of the total alcohol consumed worldwide was illicit. This includes illegally produced alcohol, counterfeit alcohol, and unregulated homemade alcohol. Africa accounts for 40% of total illicit alcohol consumption. According to a study by the Drinks Federation of South Africa (DF-SA), in 2020 illicit alcohol contributed around 22% of alcohol in South Africa, up from 13,5% in 2017. The study indicates that in South Africa's adjacent nations like Mozambique and Zambia, the averages are as high as 73% and 70%. Consumers are urged to exercise extreme caution when purchasing liquor, as they may end up with an illegal product without even realising it. The sales of illicit alcohol can negatively affect the food and



beverages industry because according to Tax Justice South Africa, an estimated 500 million litres of harmful illegal alcohol are consumed in South Africa each year, costing taxpayers R6 billion in lost revenue. This is because the South African liquor industry contributes an estimated R68 billion annually to the fiscus of about 3% of the total GDP. Here are a few tips on what consumers can look for to determine if the liquor they purchased is illegal or not:

Check the bottle and cap for smudges, discoloration, or dents.

- Inspect whether the bottle shape is consistent with the brand and whether the cap splits when opened.
- The quality of the liquid should be monitored for haziness, floating particles, uneven fill levels, or a diluted look.
- Labels may be uneven in height, misspell words, be poorly printed, or not include barcodes.

A warning sign could also be missing on the back of the labels. Despite the crisis of the rising number of illicit alcohol sold in the country, the latest food and beverages industry saw an increase of 2,2% in August 2024 and the largest contributor to this increase was recorded for bar sales with 9,2%. This article summarises the results of *Food and beverages* (statistical release P6420) for August 2024.



he food and beverages industry increased by 2,2% in August 2024 compared with August 2023 (see Table J).

The largest positive annual growth rate was recorded for bar sales (9,2%). The only negative annual growth rate was recorded for 'other' income (-13,4%).

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

Type of income	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24
Food sales	-0,2	-4,8	-0,5	-0,7	-4,9	2,1
Bar sales	7,6	-4,4	3,4	-1,9	-4,5	9,2
Other income	0,1	-1,9	-3,4	-11,4	-20,1	-13,4
Total	0,7	-4,7	-0,2	-1,2	-5,4	2,2

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

Tourist accommodation



You've probably seen the phrase "stay in units sold" somewhere, but you may not know what it means. For August 2024, stay unit night sold contributed 0,9% to the increase of 5,6% of the income from accommodation; this is according to the latest data released by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) on the Tourist Accommodation Survey published on 30 October 2024. The term "stay unit night sold" is a metric that tracks how many nights of accommodation (per unit) have been booked during

a specific period. This measure is important for hotels or vacation rentals since it gives insight into:

- Occupancy rates, which is the number of available units booked out of the total number of units.
- Revenue generation, which refers to the process through which a business earns income by providing goods or services to its customers. It's a key focus for any organisation because it directly impacts profitability and growth.

Revenue generation helps in terms of understanding booking patterns (e.g. seasonality or special events) and enables firms to forecast future demand and optimise room price, marketing efforts, and inventory management strategies. Tracking the number of "stay unit night sold" is essential for

several reasons, one being inventory management which assists in knowing how many units or stay units are being sold. This article summarises the results of *Tourist accommodation* (statistical release P6410) for August 2024.



Total income for the tourist accommodation industry increased by 2,9% in August 2024 compared with August 2023 (see Table K).

Income from accommodation increased by 5,6% year-on-year in August 2024, the result of a 0,9% increase in the number of stay unit nights sold and a 4,7% increase in the average income per stay unit night sold. Although modest, this increase in the “stay unit nights sold” indicates growth in the tourist accommodation sector.

Table K – Year-on-year percentage change in tourist accommodation statistics for August 2024

	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24
Stay units available	-0,3	-0,1	-0,1	0,0	0,1	0,1
Stay unit nights sold	6,7	3,6	-1,3	3,1	-2,6	0,9
Average income per stay unit night sold	7,3	4,8	14,9	7,2	11,2	4,7
Income from accommodation	14,4	8,6	13,4	10,5	8,3	5,6
Total income¹	9,8	5,6	8,6	6,1	2,6	2,9

¹ Includes restaurant and bar sales and ‘other’ income.
A full release on *Tourist accommodation* (statistical release P6410) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

International tourism



International tourism is driven by a variety of factors including, but not limited to, culinary experiences, recreational activities and accommodation options. Such factors can attract tourists and influence their choices when deciding which country to visit. South Africa's diverse attractions make it a popular choice for travellers from around the world, with Cape Town being one of the hotspots for international tourists. Cape Town has once again received international acclaim as a world-class tourist destination. The city was voted the best in the world for its food by the 2024 Condé Nast Travelers Readers' Choice Awards. The Condé Nast are one of the prestigious awards that celebrate excellence in the travel and tourism industry. An impressive score of 95,65 was cast for the city and placed it on top, surpassing Milan, Valencia, Tokyo, Porto and Hong Kong among others who made the top 10. Cape Town's Mayoral Committee Member (MMC) for Economic Growth, James Vos, said "Cape Town's recognition as one of the world's best cities for food by Condé Nast is a testament to our goal of driving a thriving visitor economy through unforgettable culinary experiences." Food has an impact on tourism as 80% of travellers will research food and drinks before heading off on their travels; this is according to Global Food Tourism. Looking at the bigger picture, awards like these do not only boost the City of Cape Town's reputation but also contribute to the overall growth of tourism in South Africa. This explains some of the driving forces behind the 2 331 485 million travellers who passed through South African ports in September 2024. This article summarises the results of *International tourism* (statistical release P0350) for September 2024.

Travellers

Number of travellers



A total of 2 331 485 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports in September 2024 (see Table L).

These travellers were made up of 699 100 South African residents and 1 632 385 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 341 582 arrivals, 356 924 departures and 594 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 859 361, 729 710 and 43 314 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in August 2024 and September 2024 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and transits increased for South African residents but decreased for foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 11,5% (from 306 442 in August 2024 to 341 582 in September 2024). Departures increased by 6,4% (from 335 433 in August 2024 to 356 924 in September 2024) and transits increased by 3,7% (from 573 in August 2024 to 594 in September 2024). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 7,0% (from 924 111 in August 2024 to 859 361 in September 2024), departures decreased by 3,6% (from 757 052 in August 2024 to 729 710 in September 2024), and transits decreased by 18,4% (from 53 100 in August 2024 to 43 314 in September 2024).

A comparison between the movements in September 2023 and September 2024 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures decreased for South African residents and foreign travellers, but the volume of transits increased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 6,1% (from 363 659 in September 2023 to 341 582 in September 2024), departures decreased by 11,4% (from 402 641 in September 2023 to 356 924 in September 2024) and transits increased by 26,7% (from 469 in September 2023 to 594 in September 2024). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 8,9% (from 943 387 in September 2023 to 859 361 in September 2024), departures decreased by 10,3% (from 813 196 in September 2023 to 729 710 in September 2024) and transits increased by 8,1% (from 40 058 in September 2023 to 43 314 in September 2024).

Visitors

In September 2024, 20 934 (2,4%) foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors, while 838 427 (97,6%) were classified as visitors. Visitors were categorised into three groups:

- I. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in September 2024 but did not depart in September 2024 [334 311 (39,9%)].
- II. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in September 2024 and left in September 2024 [270 258 (32,2%)].
- III. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in September 2024 [233 858 (27,9%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In September 2024, there were 171 709 (20,5%) same-day visitors and 666 718 (79,5%) tourists. Between August 2024 and September 2024, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 6,7% (from 183 960 in August 2024 to 171 709 in September 2024) and that of tourists decreased by 7,2% (from 718 508 in August 2024 to 666 718 in September 2024). Between September 2023 and September 2024, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 26,6% (from 233 986 in September 2023 to 171 709 in September 2024) and that of tourists decreased by 2,5% (from 684 161 in September 2023 to 666 718 in September 2024).

Of the 171 709 same-day visitors, the majority [152 642 (88,9%)] arrived in the country by road, 19 065 (11,1%) arrived by air and 2 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. Information on tourists shows that 482 115 (72,3%) came by road, 184 601 (27,7%) used air and 2 (less than 0,1%) used sea.

Tourists

Sex and age distribution of tourists

Sex

There were more male [388 305 (58,2%)] than female [278 413 (41,8%)] tourists. Male tourists constituted the majority of tourists for all three regions: SADC countries [304 659 (59,9%)]; overseas countries [73 953 (51,9%)]; and 'other' African countries [9 097 (63,9%)]. Similarly, the largest portion of female tourists was from SADC countries [204 358 (40,1%)], followed by overseas countries [68 557 (48,1%)] and 'other' African countries [5 130 (36,1%)].

Age

The age distribution indicates that out of all tourists, [24 510 (3,7%)] were aged younger than 15 years; [50 437 (7,6%)] were aged between 15 and 24 years; [162 754 (24,4%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years; [200 206 (30,0%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years; [121 785 (18,3%)] were aged between 45 and 54 years; [64 509 (9,7%)] were aged between 55 and 64 years; [42 517 (6,4%)] were aged 65 years and older.

Purpose of visit of tourists

In September 2024, the majority of tourists [645 764 (96,9%)], were in South Africa for holiday compared with 18 590 (2,8%), 2 169 (0,3%) and 195 (less than 0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and medical treatment, respectively.

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

Travel direction	September 2023	August 2024	September 2024	% change Aug 2024 – Sep 2024	% change Sep 2023 – Sep 2024
Total	2 563 410	2 376 711	2 331 485	-1,9%	-9,0%
South African residents	766 769	642 448	699 100	8,8%	-8,8%
Arrivals	363 659	306 442	341 582	11,5%	-6,1%
Departures	402 641	335 433	356 924	6,4%	-11,4%
Transit	469	573	594	3,7%	26,7%
Foreign travellers	1 796 641	1 734 263	1 632 385	-5,9%	-9,1%
Arrivals	943 387	924 111	859 361	-7,0%	-8,9%
Departures	813 196	757 052	729 710	-3,6%	-10,3%
Transit	40 058	53 100	43 314	-18,4%	8,1%

^{1/} A full release on *International tourism* (statistical release P0350) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Statistics of civil cases for debt



The total number of civil summonses issued for debt decreased by 14,5% in the three months ended August 2024 compared with the three months ended August 2023

There are several factors that contribute to a debt judgment being instituted against a debtor who is in arrears in terms of the credit agreement with a creditor. One of the factors is when a debtor ignores a letter of demand or section 129 notice (a formal notification issued by creditors to debtor who falls behind on their monthly repayments) issued by a creditor. When a debtor has been in arrears for at least 20 business days, the creditor issues a section 129

notice and a debtor has 10 days to respond to the notice. Within the 10 days period, a debtor should acknowledge the debt and present a plan to settle the debt or dispute the claim if there is a mistake or apply for debt counselling which offers legal protection against repossession or court order. If a debtor fails to respond 10 days after receiving the letter of demand, a creditor has the right to take further legal action to recover the debt. The court might allow a creditor to settle the debt by repossession (to take personal possessions such as a car, house, etc. from a consumer in default of installment due) or impose financial penalties among others depending on the nature of debt. Data released by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) indicates that the total number of civil judgements recorded for debt decreased by 10,8% in the three months ended August 2024 and other debts (all other kinds of outstanding debt such as salaries and wages, medical fund debt, sponsored debt, class and tuition debt, tax, assessment rates and property levies) contributed -2,2 percentage points to the decrease. A decrease in the number of civil judgements recorded for debt may be due to fewer defaults or improved financial management. This article summarises the results of the *Statistics of civil cases for debt* (statistical release P0041) for August 2024.



The total number of civil summonses issued for debt decreased by 14,5% in the three months ended August 2024 compared with the three months ended August 2023 (see Table M).

The largest contributors to the 14,5% decrease in civil summonses issued were:

- services (contributing -4,0 percentage points);
- promissory notes (contributing -3,9 percentage points); and
- money lent (contributing -3,7 percentage points).

The number of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total number of civil judgements recorded for debt decreased by 10,8% in the three months ended August 2024 compared with the three months ended August 2023. The largest negative contributors to the 10,8% decrease were civil judgements relating to:

- services (contributing -4,7 percentage points);
- 'other' debts (contributing -2,2 percentage points); and
- promissory notes (contributing -1,9 percentage points).

Rent (contributing 0,5 of a percentage point) was the only positive contributor.

The value of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total value of civil judgements recorded for debt decreased by 6,9% in the three months ended August 2024 compared with the three months ended August 2023. The largest negative contributors to the 6,9% decrease were:

- money lent (contributing -5,1 percentage points);
- promissory notes (contributing -2,2 percentage points); and
- goods sold (contributing -1,2 percentage points).

Rent (contributing 1,9 percentage points) was the only positive contributor.

In August 2024, 11 151 civil judgements for debt amounting to R316,5 million were recorded. The largest contributors to the total value of judgements were:

- money lent (R79,7 million or 25,2%);
- services (R72,2 million or 22,8%);
- 'other' debts (R69,9 million or 22,1%); and
- rent (R40,7 million or 12,9%).

Table M – Key figures for the month of August 2024

Actual estimates	Aug 2024	% change between Aug 2023 and Aug 2024	% change between Jun – Aug 2023 and Jun – Aug 2024
Number of civil summonses issued for debt	37 619	-9,8	-14,5
Number of civil judgements recorded for debt	11 151	-7,3	-10,8
Value of civil judgements recorded for debt (R million)	316,5	-4,0	-6,9

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 liquidations

Liquidation data published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) for



The total number of liquidations decreased by 25,0% in September 2024

September 2024 points to a declining trend in the number of businesses ceasing operations. The highest number of liquidations was recorded in 2020 when it peaked at 2 035 liquidations due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its restrictions. However, since then, the numbers are declining annually. 2023 had the lowest number of liquidations in five years with 1 657 liquidations, followed by a decrease of 1 907 liquidations in 2022, after a decrease of 1 932 in 2021. In the first three quarters of 2024 a total of 1 137 businesses were liquidated, with majority of the liquidations being voluntary

(1 012). Financing, insurance, real estate, business services and unclassified continues being the hardest hit industries. This article summarises *Statistics of liquidations* (statistical release P0043.1) for September 2024.



The total number of liquidations decreased by 25,0% in September 2024 compared with September 2023 (see Table N).

Voluntary liquidations decreased by 31 cases and compulsory liquidations decreased by eight cases during this period.

The number of liquidations decreased by 13,7% (from 438 to 378) in the third quarter of 2024 compared with the third quarter of 2023.

A decrease of 8,3% (from 1 240 to 1 137) in the number of liquidations was recorded in the first nine months of 2024, compared with the first nine months of 2023.

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

Number of liquidations September 2024	% change between September 2023 and September 2024	% change between July – September 2023 and July – September 2024	% change between January – September 2023 and January – September 2024
117	-25,0	-13,7	-8,3

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

Land transport



Minibus taxis play a crucial role in the transportation sector, ferrying passengers to and from school, work and on leisure trips. Since various countries are striving to swap gas-powered motor vehicles for electric vehicles to reduce transportation emissions and help fight climate change, the minibus taxis are not exempted. A consortium led by GoMetro (a transport technology platform leading in heavy-duty vehicle electrification) launched South Africa’s first electric

minibus model named eKamva in October 2024. The 15-seater minibus has a range of more than 200 kilometres between charges and fast-charges within 75 minutes via a 60 kilowatt (kW) direct current (DC) charger and slow-charges overnight for 10 hours. The consortium will install its own charging solution called FixEV at taxi ranks in Stellenbosch and Century City in Cape Town over the next 12 months to power its minibuses. The minibus will hit the road in 2025. The adoption of electric-powered minibuses in South Africa could have wide-ranging benefits for the land transport sector, which is already experiencing growth in passenger journeys, at 11,6% in August 2024, as per data published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) on

22 October 2024. This article summarises the results of *Land transport* (statistical release P7162) for August 2024.



The volume of goods transported (payload) decreased by 6,7% in August 2024 compared with August 2023 (see Table O). The corresponding income decreased by 2,7% over the same period.

Income from freight transportation decreased by 1,6% in the three months ended August 2024 compared with the three months ended August 2023. The main negative contributors to this decrease were:

- ‘other’ freight (-11,2%, contributing -2,4 percentage points); and
- agriculture and forestry primary products (-7,4%, contributing -0,5 of a percentage point).

The main positive contributors were:

- containers (13,7%, contributing 0,6 of a percentage point); and
- commercial products (22,8%, contributing 0,5 of a percentage point).

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

	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24
Freight payload	-4,1	-6,1	-8,6	-3,8	-5,8	-6,7
Freight income	0,5	0,6	-1,1	-0,8	-1,1	-2,7

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 11,6% in August 2024 compared with August 2023 (see Table P). The corresponding income increased by 7,3% over the same period.

**Table P – Year-on-year percentage change in freight transportation
August 2024**

	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24
Passenger journeys	4,2	29,1	6,7	3,0	15,2	11,6
Passenger income	3,4	17,1	11,7	7,3	10,3	7,3

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



Prices

Producer price index (PPI)

The producer price index (PPI) measures inflation from the viewpoint of the producers and the average selling price they receive for their output over time. As per the recent data from Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), the annual producer price index inflation was at 1,0% in September 2024. The leading contributor to the PPI annual inflation rate was the category food products, beverages, and tobacco products, with a contribution of 3,4%. The food products, beverages, and tobacco products industries are key sectors within the global economy and South Africa is no



exception to this set-up. As the food and beverages industry increasingly focuses on health, sustainability and innovation, the tobacco industry is also undergoing transformation with reduced risk products and regulatory challenges. Changes in raw material prices, processing and packaging costs, transportation, taxes, and regulatory policies all play significant roles in determining the PPI in these sectors. Food, beverages, and tobacco products contribute to the PPI by tracking the changes in their production costs and the prices producers receive for these goods. This article summarises the results of the *Producer price index* (statistical release P0142.1) for September 2024.



Annual producer price inflation (final manufacturing) was 1,0% in September 2024, down from 2,8% in August 2024 (see Table Q).

The producer price index (PPI) decreased by 0,3% month-on-month in September 2024.

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

- food products, beverages and tobacco products (3,8%, contributing 1,1 percentage points) and;
- metals, machinery, equipment and computing equipment (3,4%, contributing 0,5 of a percentage point).

The main negative contributor to the headline PPI monthly decrease was coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products (-2,1%, contributing -0,5 of a percentage point).

Table Q – Key PPI figures for September 2024

Product	Weight	Index (Dec 2023=100)			% change	
		Sep 2023	Aug 2024	Sep 2024	Sep 2024 vs. Aug 2024	Sep 2024 vs. Sep 2023
Final manufactured goods	100,00	100,2	101,5	101,2	-0,3	1,0
Intermediate manufactured goods	100,00	100,4	105,2	105,2	0,0	4,8
Electricity and water	100,00	102,5	151,0	112,5	-25,5	9,8
Mining	100,00	104,3	103,1	99,3	-3,7	-4,8
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	100,00	95,4	96,9	98,8	2,0	3,6

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

Intermediate manufactured goods

The annual percentage change in the PPI for intermediate manufactured goods was 4,8% in September 2024, compared with 4,2% in August 2024. The index remained unchanged month-on-month. The main contributors to the annual rate were chemicals, rubber and plastic products (2,5 percentage points) and basic and fabricated metals (1,7 percentage points).



Electricity and water

The annual percentage change in the PPI for electricity and water was 9,8% in September 2024, compared with 7,1% in August 2024. The index decreased by 25,5% month-on-month. Electricity contributed 8,9 percentage points and water contributed 0,9 of a percentage point to the annual rate. Electricity contributed -25,5 percentage points to the monthly rate.



Mining

The annual percentage change in the PPI for mining was -4,8% in September 2024, compared with -1,7% in August 2024. The index decreased by 3,7% month-on-month. The main negative contributors to the annual rate were non-ferrous metal ores (-6,9 percentage points) and coal and gas (-0,9 of a percentage point). The main negative contributors to the monthly rate were non-ferrous metal ores (-2,0 percentage points), coal and gas (-1,0 percentage point) and gold and other metal ores (-0,6 of a percentage point).

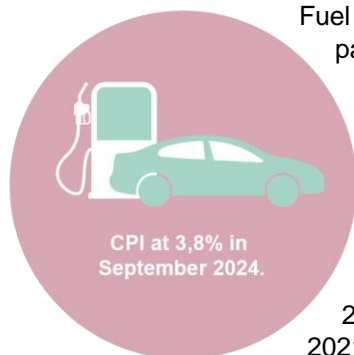


Agriculture, forestry and fishing

The annual percentage change in the PPI for agriculture, forestry and fishing was 3,6% in September 2024, compared with 6,1% in August 2024. The index increased by 2,0% month-on-month. The main contributor to the annual rate was agriculture (3,3 percentage points). The main contributor to the monthly rate was agriculture (1,8 percentage points).



Consumer price index (CPI)



Fuel prices are a major contributor to inflation, particularly in the transport sector. When fuel prices decrease, it can lead to a decrease in the overall inflation rate as transport costs (fuel, purchases of vehicles and public transport) account for a significant portion of the consumer price index (CPI). For instance, the CPI rate for September 2024 decreased for a fourth consecutive month, from 4,4% in August 2024 to 3,8% in September 2024. This is the lowest inflation rate since March 2021, when the rate was 3,2%. Transport was the only negative contributor (-1,1%, contributing -0,2 of a percentage point) in September 2024. Lower fuel prices were one of the reasons for the decrease in transport inflation. September 2024 fuel prices dropped for a fourth successive month from R23,11 in August 2024 for a litre of inland 95-octane petrol to R22,19 in September, the lowest price since February 2023 (R21,68). This article summarises the *Consumer price index* results (statistical release P0141) for September 2024.

Headline consumer price index (CPI) for all urban areas



Annual consumer price inflation was 3,8% in September 2024, down from 4,4% in August 2024 (see Table R). The CPI increased by 0,1% month-on-month in September 2024. The main positive contributors to the 3,8% annual inflation rate were:

- housing and utilities (4,8%, contributing 1,1 percentage points);
- miscellaneous goods and services (6,9%, contributing 1,0 percentage point);
- food and non-alcoholic beverages (4,7%, contributing 0,9 of a percentage point); and
- alcoholic beverages and tobacco (4,7%, contributing 0,3 of a percentage point).

Transport was the only negative contributor (-1,1%, contributing -0,2 of a percentage point).

In September 2024, the annual inflation rate of:

- goods was 3,3%, down from 4,4% in August 2024; and
- services was 4,4%, down from 4,5% in August 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	Ave- rage 1
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	4,5	4,6	4,1	3,0	2,1	2,2	3,2	3,1	3,0	3,3	3,2	3,1	3,3
2021	Index	94,8	95,4	96,1	96,7	96,8	97,0	98,1	98,5	98,7	99,0	99,4	100,0	97,5
	Rate	3,2	2,9	3,2	4,4	5,2	4,9	4,6	4,9	5,0	5,0	5,5	5,9	4,5
2022	Index	100,2	100,8	101,8	102,4	103,1	104,2	105,8	106,0	106,1	106,5	106,8	107,2	104,2
	Rate	5,7	5,7	5,9	5,9	6,5	7,4	7,8	7,6	7,5	7,6	7,4	7,2	6,9
2023	Index	107,1	107,9	109,0	109,4	109,6	109,8	110,8	111,1	111,8	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	114,8	115,1	115,3	115,4	115,9	116,0	116,1
	Rate	5,3	5,6	5,3	5,2	5,2	5,1	4,6	4,4	3,8

1/ Annual average. 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.



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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