M b a l o   B r i e f

the missing piece of the puzzle

CPI
Glossary Prices
Retail trade sales PPI
Statistics of liquidations
Food and beverages Tourist accommodation
Primary industries
Manufacturing: Production and sales PPI
Statistics of liquidations Statistics of civil
Statistics of cases for debt Land
liquidations PPI Prices transport
Secondary industries
Glossary Food and beverages
Wholesale trade sales International tourism
Retail trade sales industries
Glossary Retail trade sales
Tertiary industries
Tourist Food and beverages
accommodation Glossary
CPI International tourism
Statistics of civil CPI
cases for debt Prices
Motor trade sales
Mining: Production and sales
Primary industries

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS

Household income and expenditure are fundamental components of a country's economic landscape, influencing everything from consumer behaviour and savings rates to economic growth and stability. Statistics South Africa recently published the *Income & Expenditure Survey (IES) 2022/2023* (statistical release P0100). This statistical release focuses on the income, consumption and spending patterns of households at national, provincial and metropolitan levels. The results of IES are used to inform the adjustment of poverty and inequality profiles, income and expenditure patterns of households and the basket of goods and services required for the compilation of the consumer price index (CPI). The information presented in IES was collected from 19 940 households across the country over a 12-month period through a combination of diary and recall data collection methodology. With the diary method, participants recorded their income and expenditure in a diary as it happened. While with recall method, participants were asked to recall and report their expenditure from memory. The results show that in 2023, total annual household income by South African households amounted to R4,3 trillion. On average, the estimated household consumption expenditure per household in South Africa was R143 691. Households spent most of their income on housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (34,7%), followed by food and non-alcoholic beverages (16,3%), transport (15,3%) and insurance and financial services (9,3%).

This month's feature article is based on the *Census 2022 provincial profile: Free State* (Report No. 03-01-73), published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) on 27 June 2024. Look out for our monthly crossword puzzle and the solutions for November. Articles published in this issue are based on results of industry surveys conducted for November and December 2024.

Enjoy the read!

Contents

Crossword Puzzle

Across[1]

3. Which language was the most spoken in Free State in 2022?
4. Did the marriage rate in Free State increase or decrease in 2022?
5. True or false? The population of Free State was 3 million in 2024.
6. The…...Free State is the former name of Free State province. Fill in the missing word.
7. Which country is the world's largest producer of gold?

Down[1]

1. In which month does Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) publish the average annual consumer price inflation? Read the Consumer price index (CPI) article for clues.
2. Aside from Thabo Mofutsanyane, which other district in Free State was the biggest in terms of population size in 2022?

[1] Please read the feature article for clues on all questions based on Free State.

Solutions for November 2024 puzzle

Across
4. True
6. Insurance
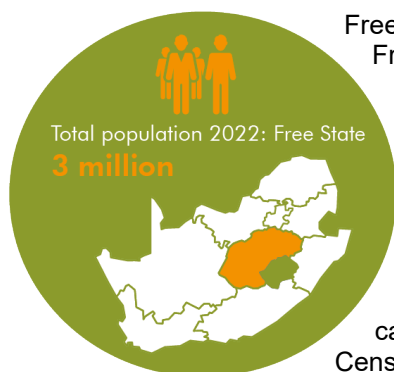7. Vhembe

Down
1. Sekhukhune
2. Bar sales
3. Botswana
5. Sepedi

Census 2022 provincial profile: Free State

1. Introduction

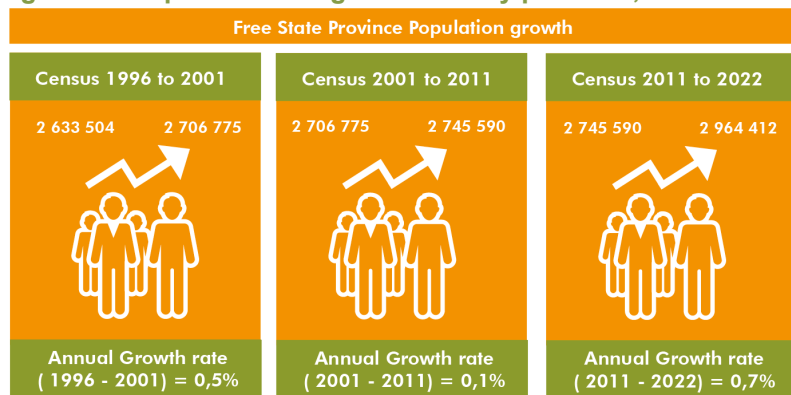Total population 2022: Free State
3 million

Free State province, formerly known as Orange Free State during apartheid, is the second least populated province in South Africa with approximately 3 million people. The province has a thriving agricultural industry, and this is attributed to its rich soil and pleasant climate. It has more than 3 000 farms, which produce over 70% of the grain in the country. The capital city, Bloemfontein, also serves as the judicial capital of the country. This article explores the Census 2022 results for Free State concerning population characteristics, education, household characteristics and access to services. Where necessary, a comparison between results from Censuses 1996 and 2011 is made. The article will cover Free State and its districts: Xhariep, Lejweleputswa, Thabo Mofutsanyane, Fezile Dabi and Mangaung. The article is based on *Provincial profile: Free State, Census 2022* (Report No. 03-01-73) published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) on 27 June 2024.

2. Population characteristics

2.1 Population distribution

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

Free State Province Population growth

Census 1996 to 2001	Census 2001 to 2011	Census 2011 to 2022
2 633 504 2 706 775	2 706 775 2 745 590	2 745 590 2 964 412
Annual Growth rate (1996 - 2001) = 0,5%	Annual Growth rate (2001 - 2011) = 0,1%	Annual Growth rate (2011 - 2022) = 0,7%

The Census 2022 results indicate that the South African population grew from 40 million in 1996 to 62 million in 2022. Over the same period, Free State's population grew from 2,6 million in 1996 to approximately 3 million in 2022 (see Figure 1). The province recorded an upward trend in population growth rate (from 0,5% between 1996 to 2001 to 0,7% between 2011 to 2022). However, the population grew at a rate lower than the national average over the same period (2,0% between 1996 to 2001 and 1,8% between 2011 to 2022). Thabo Mofutsanyane (831 421) and Mangaung metropolitan area (811 431) were the biggest districts in terms of population size whilst Xhariep district (131 901) recorded the least population size, and this pattern is the same in all censuses. Furthermore, the district profile showed that Thabo Mofutsanyane grew at an annual rate of 1,2%, followed by Xhariep and Lejweleputswa at a rate of 0,8%, respectively. The annual population growth rates for these three districts were higher than the provincial average.

2.2 Population density

Population density refers to the number of people per unit of area, usually transcribed as per kilometre and which may include, for example, areas of water. The Census 2022 results show Free State as one of the most sparsely populated provinces with 12 persons per square kilometre in 2022 from 11 persons per square kilometre in 2011.

District variations in population density show that with the exception of Xhariep district (four persons per square kilometre for both 2011 and 2022 censuses), the rest recorded population densities above the provincial average. Mangaung metropolitan area recorded the highest population density in the province for both census years (2011 and 2022) at 78 and 82 persons per square kilometre, respectively. Thabo Mofutsanyane's population density increased slightly from 22 in 2011 to 25 in 2022 persons per square kilometre. Looking at the local municipal profile, the majority of local municipalities in the province had low population densities. Kopanong and Tokologo local municipalities, both recorded three persons per square kilometre for both censuses, followed by Mohokare which recorded four persons for both censuses. However, Metsimaholo (87 in 2011 to 92 in 2022), Maluti a Phofung (77 in 2011 to 92 in 2022) and Matjhabeng (72 in 2011 to 77 in 2022) had relatively higher population densities.

2.3 Age and sex structure

The national profile shows that there were more females than males (51,5% and 48,5%, respectively). Free State depicts a similar pattern with 52,5% females and 47,5% males.

Figure 2 – Free State population pyramid, Census 2011 (transparent) and Census 2022 (blue and pink)
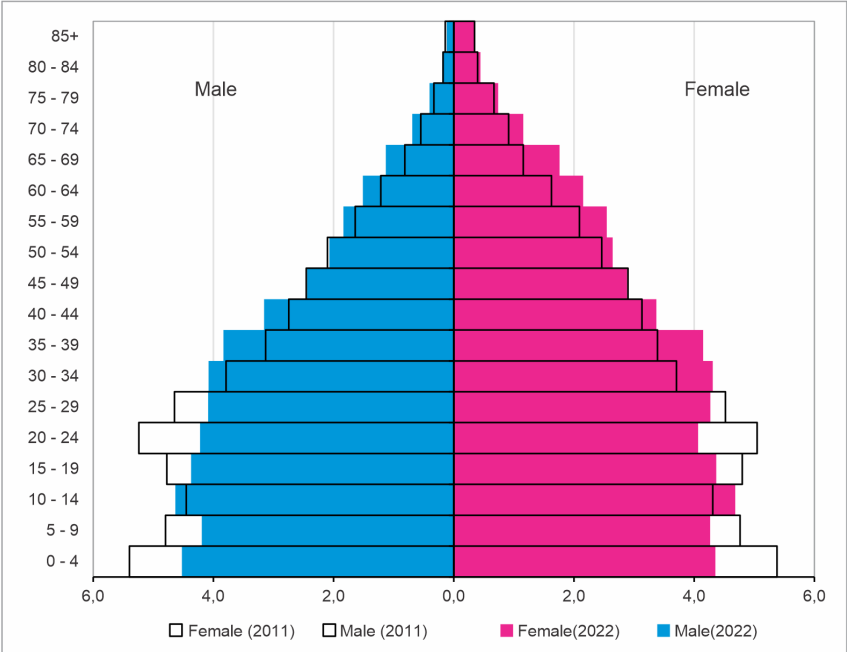
The population pyramid in Figure 2 above, shows the age-sex structure of Free State. The broad base structure is typical of a province with high birth rates. Although the base seems to have decreased in 2022 for the group 0 to 9 years, it increased for the group 10 to 14 years. Results further showed a decrease in the proportion of youth for both males and females 15 to 29 years from 2011 to 2022. The pyramid further shows that the adult population in 2022 increased for both males and females and also depicts more older female persons than their male counterparts.

In 2022, the labour force age group (15 to 64 years) at 66,4 %, constituted the biggest share of the population, followed by children 0 to 14 years at 26,6% and older persons 65 years and older at 7%.

2.4 Dependency ratio

Age dependency ratios are used to measure the financial burden on the working population. When dependency ratios are higher, it indicates a large proportion of the dependent population (children and elderly), meaning that there is a greater burden carried by the working-age population to support the dependent population. Lower ratios indicate a relatively smaller proportion of dependents, meaning there are enough working people to support the dependent population. A ratio above 50 is generally considered high.

The dependency ratio in Free State was 52,9 in 2011 and 50,7 in 2022, depicting a slight decrease during the intercensal (interval between two censuses) period. In 2022, three districts namely, Xhariep, Thabo Mofutsanyane and Lejweleputswa recorded a dependency ratio above the provincial average (55,5, 53,2 and 51,7, respectively). Fezile Dabi district and Mangaung metropolitan on the other hand recorded dependency ratios lower than the province (50,6 and 46,7, respectively).

2.5 Sex ratio

Sex ratio is the number of males and the number of females, expressed as the number of males per 100 females. High sex ratios reflect a bias towards more males and low sex ratios a bias towards more females. The sex ratio indicator measures the sex composition of the population.

The sex ratio of Free State fluctuated between 97 in 1996, 92 in 2001, 94 in 2011 and decreased to 90 in 2022. These results indicate that, generally, in all four censuses, there were more females than males.

2.6 Population group

The black African population group had the highest proportion in Free State (87,6% in 2011 and 88,8% in 2022), followed by white population (8,7% in 2011 and 8,0% in 2022) and coloured population (3,1% in 2011 and 2,6% in

2022). The Indian/Asian population group recorded the least proportions with 0,4% for both 2011 and 2022.

2.7 Marital status

In 2022, more than half of Free State population aged 12 and older was never married (57,3%), followed by proportions of legally married persons (24,4%), living together (9,6%), widowed (6,1%), divorced (1,9%) and those separated, but still legally married constituted 0,7%.

The marriage rate in Free State increased from 229 per 1000 persons in 2011 to 242 per 1000 persons in 2022. The district with the highest marriage rate was Mangaung with 260 per 1000 persons in 2022. This was followed by Fezile Dabi district with 250. The municipality with the highest marriage rate was Metsimaholo municipality with 278 per 1000 persons in 2022.

The divorce rate in Free State increased from 12 per 1000 persons in 2011 to 19 per 1000 persons in 2022. The highest divorce rate was observed in Mangaung metropolitan municipality with 16 per 1000 persons in 2011 and 24 per 1000 persons in 2022.

2.8 Language

The most spoken language in the province was Sesotho 64,1% in 2011 and 72,3% in 2022. Afrikaans was the second most spoken language at 12,8% in 2011 and 10,3% in 2022. IsiXhosa (5,5% in 2022) and Setswana (5,3% in 2022) were the third and fourth most spoken languages in the province.

2.9 Religion

In 2022, about 92,7% of the population in Free State identified themselves as Christians whilst about 5% affiliated to traditional African religions, and 1,3% of the population did not affiliate to any religion.

3 Education

3.1 Educational institution attendance

In 2022, Free State recorded an educational attendance of 76,8% which was 3,7% higher than the 73,1% recorded in 2011. Thabo Mofutsanyane district

had the highest proportion of population attending an educational institution at 77,9%, followed by Mangaung 77,2%, in 2022. Mohokare municipality had the highest proportions of population attending educational institution at 80,9%. The lowest proportion of persons attending an educational institution was recorded in Letsemeng local municipality (50,2%).

3.2 Level of education

The provincial profile shows that 36,5% of the population attained grade 12/matric in 2022 and 33,8% obtained secondary education. Furthermore, Free State had 10,2% of the population that have obtained higher education, followed by those who have completed some part of primary education at   9,7%. Mangaung (38,6%) metropolitan and Fezile Dabi (38,5%) district had the highest proportion of the population above 20 years and older that finished Grade 12/matric. The local municipality with the highest proportion of 20 years and older population who finished matric were Moqhaka (39,2%) and Metsimaholo (39,6%).

3.3 Field of education

The provincial profile shows that about 29% of persons in Free State qualified in Humanities and social science-related fields followed by Business management (27,8%). About 36% of females studied Humanities as compared to 20,2% of their male counterparts. Females who studied business management accounted for almost a third (29,5%) of the population. Males who qualified in this field accounted for 25,6%. About 23,2% of the male population studied engineering and other applied sciences.

4. Household characteristics and access to services

4.1 Household size

Census 2022 results show an increase in the number of households in Free State, from 823 285 in 2011 to 845 250 in 2022. The average household size in the province increased from 3,3 in 2011 to 3,5 in 2022.

Xhariep district had the highest average household size of 3,7 in 2022, followed by Lejweleputswa with an average household size of 3,6. While Fezile Dabi and Mangaung each had an average household size of 3,5. Only Thabo Mofutsanyane district had an average household size lower than the provincial average (3,4).

4.2 Household headship and composition

In 2022, Free State had more female-headed households (50,9%) than male-headed households (49,1%). Only two districts had more female-headed households than male: Thabo Mofutsanyane (53,3%) and Fezile Dabi (51,5%). Meanwhile, Xhariep (51,4%), Lejweleputswa (50,8%) and Mangaung (50,3%) had more male-headed households than female-headed households.

4.3 Housing

In 2022, Xhariep (91,0%), Mangaung (90,1%) and Fezile Dabi (89,4%) districts had the highest proportion of the population living in formal dwellings. Lejweleputswa (88,2%) and Thabo Mofutsanyane (86,4%) districts had lower proportions of the population living in formal dwellings. Thabo Mofutsanyane district (2,7%) had the highest proportion of the population living in traditional dwellings. Lejweleputswa and Thabo Mofutsanyane recorded the highest proportion of the population living in informal dwellings at 10,9% and 10,3%, respectively.

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

Households with access to piped water
Census 2011
89,1%
Census 2022
92,2%

Households with access to Flush toilet
Census 2011
67,1%
Census 2022
76,3%

Households with access to Electricity for lighting
Census 2011
91,1%
Census 2022
95,0%

Households with access to Electricity for cooking
Census 2011
84,6%
Census 2022
78,6%

Households with access to Cell phones
Census 2011
87,9%
Census 2022
91,1%

Households with access to Television
Census 2011
78,2%
Census 2022
81,0%

Households with access to Refrigerator
Census 2011
73,2%
Census 2022
84,0%

Households with access to Motor Vehicle
Census 2011
25,7%
Census 2022
26,2%

Households with access to Internet
Census 2011
31,2%
Census 2022
79,2%

4.4 Access to piped water inside the dwelling/yard

In 2022, Free State recorded minor increases in the proportion of households with access to piped water inside the dwelling, from 89,1% in 2011 to 92,2% in 2022. Lejweleputswa (90,8% in 2011 to 93,1% in 2022) and Fezile Dabi (91,5% in 2011 to 94,3% in 2022) districts recorded the highest proportion of households with piped water inside the dwelling for both censuses.

4.5 Main type of toilet facility

About 76,3% of households in Free State had access to flush toilets in 2022. Almost all the districts had more than 86% of households with access to flush toilets, except for Mangaung and Thabo Mofutsanyana which recorded a lower proportion of households with access to flush toilets at 71,0% and 64,1%, respectively.

Thabo Mofutsanyane district recorded a slightly higher proportion of households that use chemical toilets at 2,4%. Furthermore, Thabo Mofutsanyane and Mangaung had the highest proportion of households using a pit latrine/toilet with ventilation pipe (VIP) at 9,6% and 8,5%,

respectively. Similarly, Thabo Mofutsanyane (15,9%) and Mangaung (13,5%) recorded the highest proportion of households who used a pit latrine/toilet without a ventilation pipe.

4.6 Main energy source for lighting

Approximately 95% of households in the province used electricity for lighting in 2022. The districts that recorded a lower proportion of households that used electricity for lighting than that of the province were Xhariep (94%), Thabo Mofutsanyane (94%), and Fezile Dabi (94%). Metsimaholo and Phumelela local municipalities had the lowest proportions of households that used electricity for lighting, 89% and 85%, respectively.

4.7 Main energy source for cooking

Generally, about 78,6% of households in Free State used electricity for cooking, followed by gas (16,4%), paraffin (3%) and wood (1,6%), while other sources of energy remained below 1%.

4.8 Type of refuse removal

Approximately 65,1% of households in the province had their refuse removed by the local authority at least once a week, 20,1% had their own refuse dumb and 7,9% had no rubbish disposal. Fezile Dabi (85,8%), Xhariep (68,7%) and Lejweleputswa (68,3%) had their refuse removed by the local authority at least once a week. Thabo Mofutsanyane (31,6%) had the highest proportion of households that had their own refuse removal while Mangaung, 10,9%, had the highest proportion of households with no rubbish disposal.

4.9 Ownership of household goods

The proportion of households who owned cellphones in Free State increased from 87,9% in 2011 to 91,1% in 2022. The proportion of households that owned a television increased from 78,2% in 2011 to 81,0% in 2022. The proportion of households who owned a refrigerator increased from 73,2% in 2011 to 84,0% in 2022. Lastly, the proportion of households who owned a motor car increased slightly from 25,7% in 2011 to 26,2% in 2022.

4.10 Access to internet

The proportion of households with access to the Internet in South Africa increased massively from 35,2% in 2011 to 78,9% in 2022. In the same period, Internet access among households in the Free State increased from 31,2% in 2011 to 79,2% in 2022.

5. Conclusion

The population of Free State has been growing since the 1996 census. In 2022, the population in Free State was predominantly female. In terms of population pyramid, majority of the population was of working-age, followed by children and older persons. Population group dynamics showed that the black African population made up the highest proportion in the province, followed by the white population. Looking at marital status, about half of the Free State population 12 years and older was never married. The most spoken language in the province was Sesotho. The majority of the population identified themselves as Christians. The attendance of an educational institution among persons 5 to 20 years increased from 2011 to 2022. Less than 15% of the population 20 years and older completed higher education. Majority of the population qualified in Humanities and social science-related fields or Business management. Both fields of study were dominated by females while males dominated engineering and other applied sciences. The number of households in Free State increased over the period 2011 to 2022. There were more female-headed households in the province compared to male-headed households. The main type of dwelling in the Free State was formal dwellings. Electricity was the main source of energy used for lighting and cooking in 2022. Ownership of household goods such as cell phones, televisions, refrigerators and motor vehicles increased from 2011 to 2022.

Mining: Production and sales

Mining production decreased
by 0,9% year-on-year
in November 2024

Mineral mining has been the cornerstone of South Africa's economy for more than 150 years, employing millions across the country and contributing to the gross domestic product (GDP). The start of gold mining as a mineral in South Africa dates back to 1850 but it was not until 1886 when a prospector (a person who searches for mineral deposits, especially by drilling and excavation) discovered gold in Witwatersrand, Johannesburg when it boomed. This discovery attracted prospectors from all around the world and kicked off the Witwatersrand Gold Rush and subsequent development of the gold mining industry. By 1970, South Africa's gold production peaked at 1000 tonnes making it the world's largest producer. Fast forward to today, the once thriving industry is declining. According to Globaldata, China holds the title for the world's largest producer of gold with 370 metric tonnes as of 2023. Further down on the ranking is South Africa in the eleventh position with 110 metric tonnes produced annually. The declining state of gold production is also documented by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) in the *Mining: Production and sales* publication for November 2024. According to the results, the largest negative contributor to the 0,9% year-on-year decrease in mining production is gold at -11,5% and contributed -1,5 percentage points. This article summarises the results of the *Mining: Production and sales* (statistical release P2041) for November 2024.

Mining production decreased by 0,9% year-on-year in November 2024 **(see Table A)**. The largest negative contributors were:

- gold (-11,5%, contributing -1,5 percentage points);
- iron ore (-3,8%, contributing -0,5 of a percentage point);
- coal (-1,6%, contributing -0,3 of a percentage point); and
- diamonds (-11,4%, contributing -0,2 of a percentage point).

PGMs (4,0%, contributing 1,3 percentage points) and chromium ore (15,6%, contributing 0,7 of a percentage point) were the largest positive contributors.

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

	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-3,4	-1,5	0,5	4,8	1,1	-0,9
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-1,3	-1,2	3,4	4,2	-2,8	-0,2
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted [1]	-0,5	-2,9	-1,2	1,1	4,0	4,0

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

Mineral sales at current prices increased by 8,1% year-on-year in November 2024 **(see Table B)**. The largest positive contributors were:
- gold (93,4%, contributing 11,4 percentage points);
- coal (8,5%, contributing 2,1 percentage points); and
- PGMs (4,3%, contributing 1,0 percentage point).

The largest negative contributor was iron ore (-28,2%, contributing -4,4 percentage points).

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

	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	18,1	25,5	-10,6	7,9	0,7	8,1
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	22,1	-0,8	-22,2	16,7	3,3	6,7
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted [1]	4,3	11,4	12,1	-1,4	-7,4	2,2

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

Manufacturing: Production and sales

Manufacturing production decreased by 2,6% in November 2024 compared with November 2023

Steel is the most commonly used metal in the world by different sectors of the economy. On 06 January 2025, ArcelorMittal South Africa (AMSA) announced the closure of its long steel plants in Newcastle and Vereeniging, and AMRAS (the rail and structural subsidiary). AMSA is South Africa's largest steel producer, producing 7,1 million tonnes of liquid steel per year. According to a statement issued by AMSA, the decision to close its Longs Business is due to sustained challenges, including weak economic growth, high logistics and energy costs and an influx of low-cost steel imports, particularly from China. Its long steel unit produces fencing material, rail, rods and bars used in the construction, mining and manufacturing sectors. The manufacturing sector uses long steel to manufacture engine parts and the structural components of vehicles. Therefore, a decreased supply of this crucial metal will further disrupt production as the manufacturing sector is already under strain. According to the *Manufacturing: Production and sales* statistical release published on 09 January 2025, manufacturing decreased by 2,6% in November 2024 compared with November 2023. Motor vehicles, parts and accessories and other transport equipment division (-11,5%, contributing -1,2 percentage points) was the largest negative contributor to the 2,6% year-on-year decrease. AMSA's closure will pose challenges for automakers in sourcing high-grade steel, and they may resort to alternatives such as imported steel. The reliant on imported steel may disrupt the production lines, reduce manufacturing outputs and potentially lead to manufacturing plants closures

due to higher input costs and reduced competition. This article summarises *Manufacturing: Production and sales* results (statistical release P3041.2) for November 2024.

Manufacturing production decreased by 2,6% in November 2024 compared with November 2023 **(see Table C)**.

The following divisions made the largest negative contributions:
- motor vehicles, parts and accessories and other transport equipment (-11,5%, contributing -1,2 percentage points);
- basic iron and steel, non-ferrous metal products, metal products and machinery (-2,8%, contributing -0,6 of a percentage point);
- wood and wood products, paper, publishing and printing (-4,4%, contributing -0,5 of a percentage point); and
- textiles, clothing, leather and footwear (-7,5%, contributing -0,3 of a percentage point).

The largest positive contribution was made by the petroleum, chemical products, rubber and plastic products division (1,3%, contributing 0,3 of a percentage point).

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

	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-4,7	2,2	-0,9	-1,4	0,9	-2,6
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,2	1,8	-1,0	-0,3	0,8	-1,1
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted[1]	0,8	-0,3	0,3	0,0	0,3	-0,2

[1] Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.
A full release on *Manufacturing: Production and sales* (statistical release P3041.2) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Selected building statistics of the private sector

Energy-efficient buildings have become more important than ever in a time when rising energy prices and climate change are global concerns. In an effort to promote energy efficiency improvement in buildings, the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy published regulations for the mandatory display and submission of Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) for buildings in terms of section 19 of the National Energy Act, 2008 (Act No. 34 of 2008) in 2024. According to the regulations, all non-residential buildings (factories and commercial, financial and other office buildings, as well as other buildings not used for residential purposes, such as churches, halls, clubs, schools and hospitals) larger than 1 000 square metres (m^2) must be registered on the National Building Energy Performance Register (NBEPR) system administered by the South African Energy Development Institute (SANEDI). These registrations are to be displayed by the EPCs publicly by 7 December 2025. An EPC is designed to assist building owners and accounting officers to identify areas to improve energy efficiency in line with global best practices, and ensure that a building remains economically sustainable while reducing the energy footprint. The selected building statistics of the private sector data released by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) for November 2024 recorded an increase for non-residential buildings by R1 663,7 million during January to November 2024 compared with January to November 2023. 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 November 2024.

Buildings plans passed

The value of building plans passed decreased by 4,2% (-R4 020,2 million) during January to November 2024 compared with January to November 2023 (**see Table D**).

Decreases were reported for:
- residential buildings (-R3 687,8 million); and

- additions and alterations (-R1 996,0 million).

An increase was reported for non-residential buildings (R1 663,7 million).

The largest negative contributors to the total decrease of 4,2% (-R4 020,2 million) were:
- Gauteng (contributing -4,5 percentage points or -R4 295,0 million);
- Eastern Cape (contributing -1,2 percentage points or -R1 132,9 million); and
- Western Cape (contributing -0,5 of a percentage point or -R456,6 million).

The largest positive contributors were KwaZulu-Natal (contributing 1,4 percentage points or R1 302,5 million) and North West (contributing 0,5 of a percentage point or R526,8 million).

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

Type of building	Jan – Nov 2023	Jan – Nov 2024	Difference in value between Jan – Nov 2023 and Jan – Nov 2024	% change between Jan – Nov 2023 and Jan – Nov 2024
	R'000	R'000	R'000	
Residential buildings	**47 693 242**	**44 005 419**	**-3 687 823**	**-7,7**
- Dwelling houses	31 061 822	28 010 978	-3 050 844	-9,8
- Flats and townhouses	15 930 369	14 199 025	-1 731 344	-10,9
- Other residential buildings	701 051	1 795 416	1 094 365	156,1
Non-residential buildings	**20 222 299**	**21 885 964**	**1 663 665**	**8,2**
Additions and alterations	**27 875 426**	**25 879 404**	**-1 996 022**	**-7,2**
Total	**95 790 967**	**91 770 787**	**-4 020 180**	**-4,2**

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

South Africa has historically relied largely on coal to generate electricity.

Electricity generation (production) increased by 6,6% year-on-year in November 2024
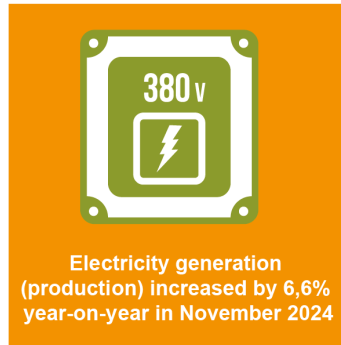
Eskom, the state-owned electricity supplier responsible for overseeing the transmission and distribution networks that provide power to the nation, in addition to producing electricity, has been relying on coal-fired power plants to generate electricity. However, Eskom has now expanded its generation capacity by embracing renewable energy-based power plants, including wind and solar electricity. On Tuesday 21 January 2025, Eskom achieved a milestone last attained in June 2018; delivering 300 days in a row of electricity, without loadshedding. Data published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) indicates that electricity generation (production) saw an increase of 6,6% year-on-year in November 2024. This article summarises the results of the *Electricity: generated and available for distribution* (statistical release P4141) for November 2024.
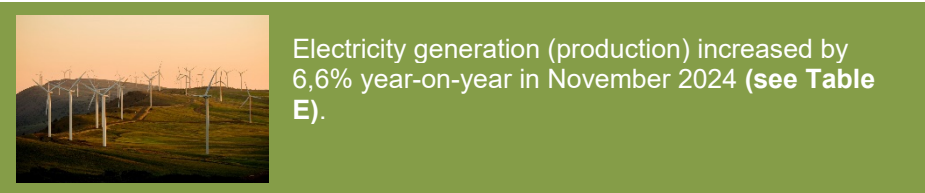

Electricity generation (production) increased by 6,6% year-on-year in November 2024 **(see Table E)**.

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

	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	5,4	8,5	6,3	8,5	2,7	6,6
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	2,5	1,3	-0,7	1,4	-1,1	0,8
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted[1]	2,5	2,6	3,3	2,8	1,5	0,8

[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 2,7% year-on-year in November 2024 **(see Table F)**.

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

	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	3,3	6,9	4,2	6,1	0,2	2,7
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,0	1,6	-1,1	0,2	-1,2	0,1
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted [1]	1,6	1,7	1,9	1,3	0,0	-0,8

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

Tertiary industries

Wholesale trade sales

Wholesale trade sales decreased by 9,6% in November 2024 compared with November 2023

Transportation is essential in the context of South African's wholesale trade industry because large amounts of goods are transported via road from manufacturers to retailers across the country. Therefore, when the price of fuel goes up it has a negative impact on wholesale trade sales. Fuel hikes significantly increase transportation costs for wholesalers and result in higher wholesale prices for goods due to the increased costs involved in delivery. With effect from 05 February 2025, the price of both grades of petrol increased by 82 cents per litre, while diesel increased by R1,01 for 50ppm and R1,05 for 500ppm. Illuminating petrol increased by 97 cents per litre. This latest increase marks the fourth consecutive increase since 06 November 2024. The negative impact of fuel is clearly reflected in the latest monthly *Wholesale trade sales* statistical release published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA). The findings indicate that in November 2024, dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products was the main negative driver to the year-on-year decrease of 9,6% in wholesale trade sales. The division decreased by 36,5% and contributed -10,0 percentage points to wholesale trade sales. This article summarises the results of *Wholesale trade sales* (statistical release 6141.2) for November 2024.

Wholesale trade sales decreased by 9,6% in November 2024 compared with November 2023 **(see Table G)**.

The main negative contributor was dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (-36,5%, contributing -10,0 percentage points).

The main positive contributor was dealers in food, beverages and tobacco (2,9%, contributing 0,4 of a percentage point).

Wholesale trade sales decreased by 5,5% in the three months ended November 2024 compared with the three months ended November 2023. The main negative contributor was dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (-28,3%, contributing -7,7 percentage points).

The main positive contributors were dealers in:
- food, beverages and tobacco (6,2%, contributing 0,8 of a percentage point);
- 'other' goods (10,3%, contributing 0,8 of a percentage point); and
- 'other' household goods except precious stones (5,7%, contributing 0,6 of a percentage point).

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

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

[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

Retailers adopt or use different strategies to increase sales and profit, create new markets, or expand existing ones. One of the strategies often used is to export locally produced products and services to international markets. However, suppose retailers are unable to produce enough goods for domestic and international markets, then in that case, they might be unable to make a profit and the local market might be flooded by foreign products. In 2024, the South African Footwear and Leather Industries Association (SAFLIA), a non-profit organisation committed to the promotion and survival and growth of the footwear and leather sector in southern Africa, reported that there was a decline in local footwear production and an increase in imports in South Africa. According to SAFLIA, from January to August 2024 local production decreased by 15% while imports increased by 35%. SAFLIA indicates that 114,7 million pairs of footwear were brought into the country compared with 85,3 million in the same period in 2023. Despite the increase in imports, the retail trade sales data released by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) for November 2024 recorded that one of the largest positive contributors to the increase was retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (9,5%, contributing 1,7 percentage points). This indicates that there has been a rise in consumer demand for other products in this category. This article summarises the *Retail trade sales* (statistical release P6242.1) for November 2024.

Retail trade sales increased by 7,7% year-on-year in November 2024 **(see Table H)**. The largest positive contributors to this increase were:

- general dealers (11,9%, contributing 5,2 percentage points);
- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (9,5%, contributing 1,7 percentage points); and
- retailers in household furniture, appliances and equipment (9,4%, contributing 0,5 of a percentage point).

The only negative contributor was retailers in hardware, paint and glass (-4,3%, contributing -0,4 of a percentage point).

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

	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	4,0	1,7	3,3	1,1	6,2	7,7
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,2	0,0	0,8	-0,4	1,6	0,8
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted [1/]	1,8	1,7	1,8	1,2	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

Motor trade sales decreased by 2,2% year-on-year in November 2024
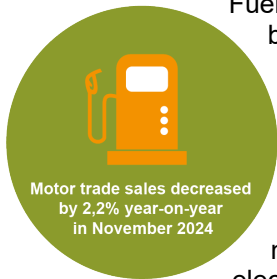
Fuel usage in South Africa is multifaceted and influenced by various factors, including historical context, economic context and environmental issues. Historically, South Africa used coal for energy production, leading to a reliance on coal for both electricity and fuel. In an economic context, South Africa has a highly energy-intensive economy, particularly in sectors like mining and manufacturing. The country's reliance on coal for electricity generation is a major factor, but there are ongoing efforts to diversify the energy mix with renewables. South Africa also faces environmental issues related to climate change and air pollution due to the use of coal; in particular, it contributes significantly to carbon emissions. Fuel use also ties into urbanisation trends, transportation systems, and government policies aimed at promoting cleaner energy. With that being said, the most-used fuels in South Africa are petrol and diesel as the majority of the transport sector relies heavily on these, particularly for road transport and freight. This is why decreases or increases when it comes to petrol and diesel fuel sales can greatly impact the economy.

Figures released by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) in January 2025 show that there was a decrease of 2,2% year-on-year in motor trade sales in November 2024.

One of the largest contributors to this decrease was fuel sales, with 6,5%. On a positive note, motor trade sales saw an increase in new vehicle sales with 4,4%. This article summarises *Motor trade sales results* (statistical release P6343.2) for November 2024.

Motor trade sales decreased by 2,2% year-on-year in November 2024 **(see Table I).**

The largest negative contributors to this decrease were:
- fuel sales (-6,5% and contributing -1,8 percentage points);
- sales of accessories (-5,6%, contributing -1,1 percentage points); and
- workshop income (-8,1%, contributing -0,5 of a percentage point).

The largest positive contributor was new vehicle sales (4,4%, contributing 1,1 percentage points).

Table I - Key growth rates in motor trade sales at constant 2019 prices

|	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-9,7	-0,7	-3,9	-6,7	2,0	-2,2
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	3,7	0,1	-1,0	-1,8	2,6	-0,8
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted[1]	-1,3	-0,9	2,2	-0,2	-0,1	-1,0

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

Food and beverages
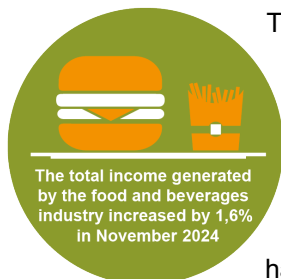
The takeaway and fast-food industry in South Africa is a testament to the country's love for convenient and affordable food. Takeaway and fast-food outlets are one of the economy's biggest drivers in South Africa. Most takeaway and fast-food outlets have online ordering systems, and this is what most people prefer after a long day of work because it provides them with convenience such as having their orders delivered straight to their door and saves time as they no longer wait in long queues for their meals or cook for themselves. According to the recent figures released by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), the total income generated by the food and beverages industry increased by 1,6% in November 2024, with one of the positive contributors to the 1,6% year-on-year increase being takeaway and fast-food outlets (8,7%, contributing 3,3 percentage points). This article summarises the results of *Food and beverages* (statistical release P6420) for November 2024.
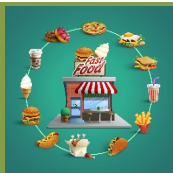
The total income generated by the food and beverages industry increased by 1,6% in November 2024 compared with November 2023 **(see Table J)**.

The positive contributors to the 1,6% year-on-year increase were takeaway and fast-food outlets (8,7%, contributing 3,3 percentage points) and catering services (10,2%, contributing 1,2 percentage points). The negative contributor was restaurants and coffee shops (-5,6%, contributing -2,8 percentage points).

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

Type of enterprise	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24
Restaurants and coffee shops	-5,4	-9,0	0,3	-6,9	-5,6	-5,6
Takeaway and fast-food outlets	1,2	-5,1	2,6	-4,6	2,6	8,7
Catering services	7,8	8,6	7,9	-1,7	8,4	10,2
Total	**-1,2**	**-5,4**	**2,1**	**-5,4**	**-0,8**	**1,6**

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

Tourist accommodation

The total income for the tourist accommodation industry increased by 9,4% in November 2024

When it comes to the tourism industry, hotels play a crucial role in ensuring that travellers have a comfortable and enjoyable experience. From providing a place to rest after a long journey to offering unique amenities and services, hotels are an important part of the travel sector. The data released by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) show that the total income for the tourist accommodation industry increased by 9,4% in November 2024, with hotels being one of the main contributors to the 12,1% year-on-year increase with 13,3% and contributing 7,8 percentage points. South Africa is expected to see even more growth in hotel accommodation with more travellers planning to visit in and around the country in 2025. This expected growth is due to events and meetings such as the Group of 20 – which is an intergovernmental forum comprising 20 countries – or the G20 Summit that will attract visitors to South Africa from countries from the European Union (EU) and the African Union (AU) this year. The main event, the G20 Leaders' Summit, will be held in Johannesburg in November 2025, and it will be the first time the summit is hosted on the African continent. The G20 is aimed at addressing major issues related to the global economy such as international financial stability and sustainable development through annual meetings of heads of state. South Africa will host the G20, which brings with it a large number of events and meetings throughout the year. This article summarises the results of *Tourist accommodation* (statistical release P6410) for November 2024.

The total income for the tourist accommodation industry increased by 9,4% in November 2024 compared with November 2023 **(see Table K)**.

Income from accommodation increased by 12,1% year-on-year in November 2024, the result of a 4,1% increase in the number of stay unit nights sold and a 7,6% increase in the average income per stay unit night sold.

In November 2024, the main contributors to the 12,1% year-on-year increase in income from accommodation were:
- hotels (13,3%, contributing 7,8 percentage points); and
- 'other' accommodation (9,0%, contributing 3,1 percentage points).

Table K: Year-on-year percentage change in tourist accommodation statistics for November 2024

	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24
Stay units available	0,0	0,1	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,0
Stay unit nights sold	3,1	-2,6	1,1	3,4	1,9	4,1
Average income per stay unit night sold	7,2	11,2	3,6	9,4	8,5	7,6
Income from accommodation	10,5	8,3	4,7	13,1	10,5	12,1
Total income[1]	**6,1**	**2,6**	**2,4**	**8,0**	**7,7**	**9,4**

[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

A total of 3 437 376 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports in December 2024

South Africa is one of the African countries with the most powerful passport in the world. A powerful passport allows its citizens to travel to many countries without needing a visa or obtaining a visa on arrival. According to 2025 results of the world's most powerful passport published by Henley & Partners (a British consultancy specialising in citizenship and residence), South Africa's passport increased between 2024 and 2025 and broke into the top 50 in the world for the first time in a decade. The rankings show that South Africa improved from 53rd position in 2024 to 48th in 2025, allowing the country's passport access to 106 destinations. South Africa is also a popular destination for different travellers. Statistics South Africa's (Stats SA) recently published data show that the arrival of both South African and foreign travellers increased from 1 309 947 in November 2024 to 1 682 828 in December 2024. This article summarises the results of *International tourism* (statistical release P0350) for December 2024.

Travellers

Number of travellers

A total of 3 437 376 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports in December 2024 **(see Table L)**.

These travellers were made up of 1 036 366 South African residents and 2 401 010 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 467 578 arrivals, 568 257 departures and 531 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 1 215 250, 1 152 618 and 33 142 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in November 2024 and December 2024 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures increased for both

South African residents and foreign travellers, whereas transits decreased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 52,3% (from 307 019 in November 2024 to 467 578 in December 2024). Departures increased by 83,5% (from 309 611 in November 2024 to 568 257 in December 2024) and transits decreased by 3,3% (from 549 in November 2024 to 531 in December 2024). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 21,2% (from 1 002 928 in November 2024 to 1 215 250 in December 2024), departures increased by 38,1% (from 834 756 in November 2024 to 1 152 618 in December 2024), and transits decreased by 19,3% (from 41 093 in November 2024 to 33 142 in December 2024).

A comparison between the movements in December 2023 and December 2024 indicates that the volume of arrivals decreased for South African residents but increased for foreign travellers whereas that of departures decreased for both groups of travellers. The volume of transits increased for South African residents but decreased for foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 1,2% (from 473 131 in December 2023 to 467 578 in December 2024), departures decreased by 8,4% (from 620 598 in December 2023 to 568 257 in December 2024) and transits increased by 18,8% (from 447 in December 2023 to 531 in December 2024). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 2,7% (from 1 183 035 in December 2023 to 1 215 250 in December 2024), departures decreased by 1,3% (from 1 167 550 in December 2023 to 1 152 618 in December 2024) and transits decreased by 2,6% (from 34 022 in December 2023 to 33 142 in December 2024).

Mode of travel for travellers

In December 2024, road was the most common mode of travel used by 2 259 967 (65,7%) of the 3 437 376 travellers. The total number of air travellers was 1 116 088 (32,5%). Compared with air and road, a smaller number of travellers [61 321 (1,8%)] used sea into and out of South Africa. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 220 033 (47,1%) came by air, 226 869 (48,5%) came by road and 20 676 (4,4%) arrived by sea. For departures, 252 261 (44,4%) used air, 295 783 (52,1%) used road and 20 213 (3,6%) left by sea. All travellers in transit [531 (100,0%)] used air.

In the case of foreign travellers, 317 572 (26,1%) arrived by air, 883 235 (72,7%) came by road and 14 443 (1,2%) arrived by sea. When departing

South Africa, 292 549 (25,4%) foreign travellers left by air, 854 080 (74,1%) left by road and 5 989 (0,5%) left by sea. Of all travellers in transit, 33 142 (100,0%) used air.

Visitors

In December 2024, 27 473 (2,3%) foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors, while 1 187 777 (97,7%) were classified as visitors. Visitors were categorised into three groups:

i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in December 2024 but did not depart in December 2024 [439 816 (37,0%)].
ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in December 2024 and left in December 2024 [403 137 (33,9%)].
iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in December 2024 [344 824 (29,0%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors/tourists. In December 2024, there were 267 630 (22,5%) same-day visitors and 920 147 (77,5%) tourists. Between November 2024 and December 2024, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 29,2% (from 207 215 in November 2024 to 267 630 in December 2024) and that of tourists increased by 19,8% (from 767 927 in November 2024 to 920 147 in December 2024). Between December 2023 and December 2024, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 10,1% (from 297 585 in December 2023 to 267 630 in December 2024) whereas that of tourists increased by 6,7% (from 862 460 in December 2023 to 920 147 in December 2024). Of the 267 630 same-day visitors, the majority [249 254 (93,1%)] arrived in the country by road, 17 344 (6,5%) arrived by air and 1 032 (0,4%) arrived by sea.

Tourists

Sex and age distribution of tourists

Sex

There were more male [503 706 (54,7%)] than female [416 441 (45,3%)] tourists. Male tourists constituted the majority of tourists for all three regions: SADC countries [378 783 (55,8%)]; overseas countries [114 276 (51,4%)]; and 'other' African countries [9 971 (57,1%)]. Similarly, the largest portion of

female tourists was from SADC countries [300 623 (44,2%)], followed by overseas countries [107 887 (48,6%)] and 'other' African countries [7 489 (42,9%)].

Age

The age distribution indicates that out of all tourists, 9,4% (86 481) were aged younger than 15; 11,2% (102 781) were aged between 15 and 24; 23,5% (216 508) were aged between 25 and 34; 26,7% (246 106) were aged between 35 and 44; 16,2% (148 722) were aged between 45 and 54; 8,0% (73 636) were aged between 55 and 64; and 5,0% (45 911)] were aged 65 and older.

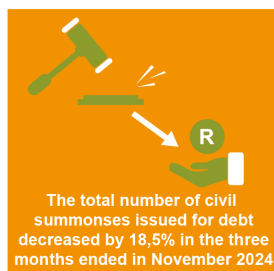## Purpose of visit of tourists

In December 2024, the majority of tourists [900 784 (97,9%)] were in South Africa for holiday compared to 17 201 (1,9%), 1 904 (0,2%) and 258 (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 December 2024

Travel direction	December 2023	November 2024	December 2024	% change Nov 2024 – Dec 2024	% change Dec 2023 – Dec 2024
Total	3 478 783	2 495 956	3 437 376	37,7%	-1,2%
South African residents	1 094 176	617 179	1 036 366	67,9%	-5,3%
Arrivals	473 131	307 019	467 578	52,3%	-1,2%
Departures	620 598	309 611	568 257	83,5%	-8,4%
Transit	447	549	531	-3,3%	18,8%
Foreign travellers	2 384 607	1 878 777	2 401 010	27,8%	0,7%
Arrivals	1 183 035	1 002 928	1 215 250	21,2%	2,7%
Departures	1 167 550	834 756	1 152 618	38,1%	-1,3%
Transit	34 022	41 093	33 142	-19,3%	-2,6%

[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 18,5% in the three months ended in November 2024

The latest figures for civil cases for debt indicate that civil summonses issued for debt decreased by 18,5% in November 2024. The largest contributor to the decrease was "other debts", which is referred to as 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. "Other debts" fall under the category of prescription of debt. Prescription of debt is the process by which a debtor in South Africa is released from the legal obligation to repay a debt after a predetermined amount of time has elapsed.

The average prescription term for most debts (including personal loans, credit card debt, and legal lawsuits) is three years. However, certain debts such as home loans, municipal rates etc., require an extended prescription term of 30 years. This period begins on the date the debt becomes due and payable, or when the creditor becomes aware (or could reasonably have become aware) of it. The Prescription Act, 1969 (Act No. 68 of 1969) specifies that once a debt is "prescribed", the creditor can no longer use the legal system to have the debtor repay their debt. The Act further states that a debt can be prescribed if the debtor has not admitted to owing the debt in writing or verbally, has not made payment towards the outstanding amount and summons was not issued and served on the debtor in the past three years. It is important to note that prescriptions can be interrupted or paused by acts such as the debtor admitting the debt (e.g., partial payment). The creditor initiates legal action (such as filing a summons or beginning a court case). Prescription may not be applicable in some cases, such as when the debtor is juvenile or legally unable. If a debt is prescribed, the debtor can use the prescription as a defense if the creditor attempts to take legal action. This article summarises the results of the *Statistics of civil cases for debt* (statistical release P0041) for November 2024.

The number of civil summonses issued for debt

The total number of civil summonses issued for debt decreased by 18,5% in the three months ended November 2024 compared with the three months ended November 2023 **(see Table M)**.

The largest contributors to the 18,5% decrease in civil summonses issued were:
- 'other' debts (contributing -5,4 percentage points);
- services (contributing -4,9 percentage points);
- money lent (contributing -3,5 percentage points); and
- promissory notes (contributing -2,5 percentage points).

The number of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total number of civil judgements recorded for debt decreased by 7,8% in the three months ended November 2024 compared with the three months ended November 2023.

The largest negative contributors to the 7,8% decrease were civil judgements relating to:
- services (contributing -4,4 percentage points);
- rent (contributing -2,2 percentage points); and
- money lent (contributing -2,1 percentage points).

Promissory notes (contributing 0,9 of a percentage point) was the largest positive contributor.

The value of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total value of civil judgements recorded for debt decreased by 5,8% in the three months ended November 2024 compared with the three months ended November 2023.

The largest negative contributors were:
- money lent (contributing -3,8 percentage points); and
- services (contributing -3,2 percentage points).

Promissory notes (contributing 1,3 percentage points) and goods sold (contributing 1,1 percentage points) were the largest positive contributors.

In November 2024, 10 659 civil judgements for debt amounting to R316,0 million were recorded. The largest contributors to the total value of judgements were:
- money lent (R82,8 million or 26,2%);
- services (R73,0 million or 23,1%);
- 'other' debts (R61,0 million or 19,3%); and
- promissory notes (R39,4 million or 12,5%).

Table M – Key figures for November 2024

Actual estimates	Nov 2024	% change between Nov 2023 and Nov 2024	% change between Sep – Nov 2023 and Sep – Nov 2024
Number of civil summonses issued for debt	32 142	-24,3	-18,5
Number of civil judgements recorded for debt	10 659	-7,7	-7,8
Value of civil judgements recorded for debt (R million)	316,0	-7,1	-5,8

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

Statistics of liquidations

The number of liquidations decreased by 6,4% in 2024 compared with 2023

In today's business world, compliance is more important than ever before. Every country has a multitude of laws and regulations that businesses must adhere to, and failure to do so can result in serious consequences. In South Africa, companies that failed to meet the compliance requirements set by the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) – specifically the registration of their beneficial ownership information by 30 November 2024 – have risked deregistration. The requirement to

register beneficial ownership information emanates from South Africa's recent commitment to improve transparency and addressing the country's placement on the Financial Action Task Force (FAFT) greylist (the practise of publicly identifying countries with strategic Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) deficiencies). A deregistered company faces consequences that include inability to legally trade, invoice clients or access its own assets to operate. Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) also collects administrative information on liquidations from CIPC and the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC). The data released by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) in January 2025 indicate that the liquidations of companies decreased by 41 cases, and liquidations of close corporations decreased by 6 cases in the fourth quarter of 2024 compared with the fourth quarter of 2023. This article summarises the *Statistics of liquidations* (statistical release P0043.1) for December 2024.

The number of liquidations decreased by 6,4% in 2024 compared with 2023 **(see Table N)**.

Liquidations of companies decreased by 7,6% (from 921 to 851) and liquidations of close corporations decreased by 4,9% (from 736 to 700) during this period.

The number of liquidations decreased by 0,7% (from 417 to 414) in the fourth quarter of 2024 compared with the fourth quarter of 2023.

The total number of liquidations decreased by 34,3% (from 137 to 90) in December 2024 compared with December 2023. Liquidations of companies decreased by 41 cases and liquidations of close corporations decreased by 6 cases during this period.

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

Number of liquidations December 2024	% change between December 2023 and December 2024	% change between October – December 2023 and October – December 2024	% change between January – December 2023 and January – December 2024
90	-34,3	-0,7	-6,4

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

Land transport

The volume of goods transported (payload) decreased by 11,3% in November 2024 compared with November 2023

In South Africa, most goods are commonly transported by road because it is cost-effective. The latest data released by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) for land transport shows that the volume of goods transported (payload) decreased by 11,3% in November 2024 with road freight being one of the contributors decreasing by 2,6% (contributing -2,2 percentage points). This decrease indicates a challenging operating environment in road freight. Although not directly linked to the decrease in the volume of goods transported, recently, vehicles, especially those that transport goods have been targeted by criminals along the country's roads. These criminals place sharp objects such as metal spikes, rocks and nails to puncture tyres of these vehicles. Drivers of the targeted vehicles are then forced to pull over, making them vulnerable to robbery. There are notable areas where these criminals operate. While spiking can happen at any time in the day, it most often occurs after dark because criminals take advantage of the darkness to hide dangers from unsuspecting drivers until it is too late for them to brake or avoid the objects. This article summarises the results of the *Land transport* (statistical release P7162) for November 2024.

The volume of goods transported (payload) decreased by 11,3% in November 2024 compared with November 2023 **(see Table O)**.

The income from freight decreased by 6,8% in November 2024 compared with November 2023.

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

	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24
Freight payload	-3,8	-5,8	-6,3	-12,1	-10,3	-11,3
Freight income	-0,8	-1,1	-3,0	-11,9	-5,8	-6,8

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

Income from freight transportation decreased by 8,2% in the three months ended November 2024 compared with the three months ended November 2023. The main negative contributors to this decrease were:
- 'other' freight (-25,3%, contributing -5,6 percentage points);
- primary mining and quarrying products (-6,9%, contributing -2,3 percentage points); and
- agriculture and forestry primary products (-17,8%, contributing -1,1 percentage points).

The main positive contributor was containers (19,2%, contributing 0,9 of a percentage point).

The number of passenger journeys increased by 1,3% in November 2024 compared with November 2023 **(see Table P)**. The corresponding income decreased by 4,0% over the same period.

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

	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24
Passenger Journeys	3,0	15,2	11,6	4,3	14,2	1,3
Passenger income	7,3	10,3	7,3	3,4	2,3	-4,0

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)

Annual producer price inflation was 0,7% in December 2024, up from -0,1% in November 2024
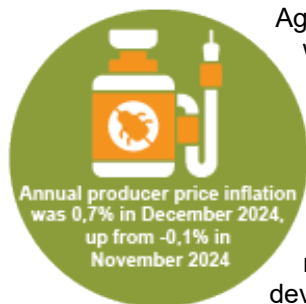
Agriculture has long relied on pesticides to control weeds, insect infestations and diseases that pose a threat to crops. In addition, pesticides are essential for increasing harvests. Though beneficial for farmers, pesticides are harmful to the environment due to the ingredients used. As such, their use has raised concerns about their impact on human health and the environment. In response to this, the European Union (EU) has developed a farm-to-fork strategy within its European Green Deal policy to reduce agricultural chemicals and deal with climate change by 2050. As part of EU's farm-to-fork strategy, certain pesticides and active ingredients used in pesticides will be banned in the region. Since South Africa exports agricultural products to the EU, if the ban is imposed it may affect producer prices. Research conducted by the Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP) looked at the potential impact of such bans on four major South African agricultural sectors – maize, pome fruits, table grapes and citrus. BFAP notes that the ban will impact the different produce differently, some positively while others negatively. For instance, the citrus fruit sector exports 36% of the crop to Europe. The ban will mean that farmers need to look at alternative pesticides of which most are expensive. This may lead to farmers producing less as a result of higher inputs costs causing citrus to become more expensive. In December 2024, the annual producer price inflation (final manufacturing) was 0,7% driven by food products, beverages and tobacco products (4,2%, contributing 1,2 percentage points). This article summarises the results of the *Producer price index* (statistical release P0142.1) for December 2024.

Annual producer price inflation (final manufacturing) was 0,7% in December 2024, up from -0,1% in November 2024 **(see Table Q)**.

The main contributor to the headline PPI annual inflation rate was food products, beverages and tobacco products (4,2%, contributing 1,2 percentage points).

The contributors to the monthly rate were food products, beverages and tobacco products (0,4%, contributing 0,1 of a percentage point) and coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products (0,4%, contributing 0,1 of a percentage point).

Intermediate manufactured goods

The annual percentage change in the PPI for intermediate manufactured goods was 5,8% in December 2024, compared with 5,7% in November 2024. The index increased by 0,6% month-on-month. The main contributors to the annual rate were basic and fabricated metals (2,6 percentage points) and chemicals, rubber and plastic products. The main contributors to the monthly rate were chemicals, rubber and plastic products (0,3 of a percentage point) and textiles and leather goods (0,2 of a percentage point)

Electricity and water

The annual percentage change in the PPI for electricity and water was 10,3% in December 2024, compared with 11,2% in November 2024. The index decreased by 1,2% month-on-month. Electricity contributed 9,4 percentage points and water contributed 0,9 of a percentage point to the annual rate. The contributor to the monthly rate was electricity (-1,2 percentage points).

Mining

The annual percentage change in the PPI for mining was -1,5% in December 2024, compared with -0,2% in November 2024. The index decreased by 2,2% month-on-month. The main negative contributor to the annual rate was coal and gas (-2,5 percentage points). The negative contributors to the monthly rate were coal and gas (-1,8 percentage points) and non-ferrous metal ores.

Agriculture, forestry and fishing

The annual percentage change in the PPI for agriculture, forestry and fishing was 4,7% in December 2024, compared with 3,6% in November 2024. The index decreased by 0,4% month-on-month. The main contributor to the annual rate was agriculture (4,3 percentage points). The contributor to the monthly rate was agriculture (-0,4 of a percentage points).

Table Q – Key PPI figures for December 2024

Product	Weight	Index (Dec 2023=100)			% change	
		Dec 2023	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Dec 2024 vs. Nov 2024	Dec 2024 vs. Dec 2023
Final manufactured goods	100,00	100,0	100,5	100,7	0,2	0,7
Intermediate manufactured goods	100,00	100,0	105,2	105,8	0,6	5,8
Electricity and water	100,00	100,0	111,6	110,3	-1,2	10,3
Mining	100,00	100,0	100,7	98,5	-2,2	-1,5
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	100,00	100,0	105,1	104,7	-0,4	4,7

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

Consumer price index (CPI)

CPI at 3,0% in December 2024

The annual average consumer price inflation rate is an important economic indicator that measures the rate of change in the general price level of goods and services in an economy over a calendar year (12 months). Specifically, it measures the average consumer price index (CPI) for all urban areas for one year compared with that for the previous year. It is different from the monthly consumer price inflation which shows the immediate price change in a specific

month. The annual CPI is used to inform the cost-of-living adjustments (social grants, pension, wages, etc.), adjust monetary policy (such as interest rates), manage economic growth, and assess the impact of inflation on individual spending, business operations, and investment returns. Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) publishes the annual CPI in the December CPI release of each year. For 2024, the annual average consumer price inflation was 4,4%. This was 1,6 percentage points lower than the corresponding average of 6,0% in 2023. This means that, on average, prices across the economy have increased by 4,4% compared to 2023. The 2024 annual inflation rate was the lowest in four years, since the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 when it was 3,3%. Presented in this article is a summary of the *Consumer price index* (statistical release P0141) results for December 2024.

Headline consumer price index (CPI) for all urban areas

Annual consumer price inflation was 3,0% in December 2024, up from 2,9% in November 2024 **(see Table R)**. The CPI increased by 0,1% month-on-month in December 2024. The main contributors to the 3,0% annual inflation rate were:
- housing and utilities (4,4%, contributing 1,0 percentage point);
- miscellaneous goods and services (6,6%, contributing 1,0 percentage point);
- food and non-alcoholic beverages (2,5%, contributing 0,5 of a percentage point); and
- alcoholic beverages and tobacco (4,3%, contributing 0,3 of a percentage point).

In December 2024, the annual inflation rate for:
- goods was 1,9%, up from 1,6% in November 2024; and
- services was 4,2%, down from 4,3% in November 2024.

Annual average headline CPI for 2024

Average annual consumer price inflation was 4,4% in 2024 (that is, the average CPI for all urban areas for 2024 compared with that for 2023). This was 1,6 percentage points lower than the corresponding average of 6,0% in 2023.

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

Year	Index /rate	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ave-rage 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
2018	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
2019	Rate	4,0	4,0	4,4	4,4	4,5	4,5	3,9	4,4	4,1	3,6	3,6	4,0	4,0
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
2020	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
2021	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
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
2020	Rate	4,6	4,7	4,1	3,0	2,0	2,2	3,2	3,1	3,0	3,3	3,2	3,1	3,3
2021	Index	94,8	95,4	96,1	96,7	96,8	97,0	98,1	98,5	98,7	99,0	99,4	100,0	97,5
2021	Rate	3,2	2,8	3,2	4,4	5,2	4,9	4,7	4,9	5,0	5,0	5,4	5,9	4,5
2022	Index	100,2	100,8	101,8	102,4	103,1	104,2	105,8	106,0	106,1	106,5	106,8	107,2	104,2
2022	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
2023	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	116,0.	116,0	116,1	.115,3
2024	Rate	5,3	5,6	5,3	5,2	5,2	5,1	4,6	4,4	3,8	2,8	2,9	3,0	4,4

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.

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

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

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

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

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

Tertiary industries

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

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

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

Catering services: enterprises involved in the sale and supply of meals and drinks prepared on the premises on a contract basis and brought to other

premises chosen by the person ordering them, to be served for immediate consumption to guests or customers. Include bars, taverns, other drinking places, ice-cream parlours, etc.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wholesale trade: includes the resale (sale without transformation) of new and used goods and products to other wholesalers, retailers, agricultural,

industrial, commercial, institutional and professional users either directly or through agents on a fee or contract basis.

Prices

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

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

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

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

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