Mbalo Brief

the missing piece of the puzzle

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS

stats sa

Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NDP 2030
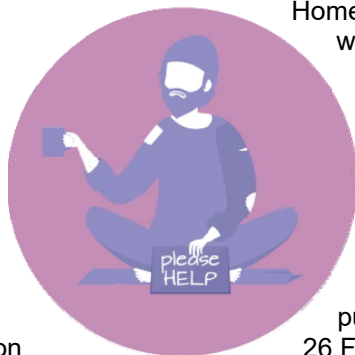
Homelessness is a known global phenomenon which affects approximately 150 million people around the world. It affects children, women and men of all races and ages in developed and developing countries. Over the last two decades, the number of homeless persons in South Africa increased substantially from 13 135 in 1996 to 55 719 in 2022. This is according to A Profile of Homeless Persons in South Africa, 2022, a recent report published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) on 26 February 2025. Adults (45%) and the youth (44%) make up the majority of homeless persons in South Africa. As humans, we are conditioned to believe that the homeless are living on the streets or in shelters as a result of their bad choices however, that is not always the case. There are many different reasons why people end up homeless. According to the report, the leading cause for homelessness is unemployment, but in the context of the youth, reasons relating to family such as divorce, arguments with family, domestic violence, neglect, etc. were the main reasons. For those reasons, people flee from their home situations in search of a better, safer or more peaceful life. However, what they are often met with on the streets is far worse than what they envisioned. The homeless are often exposed to other forms of violence and abuse, human trafficking, drug abuse, exploitation and exclusion from access to basic services and other rights (education and healthcare). This makes them vulnerable and dependent on life on the streets but with effective interventions from communities, private sectors and government we can help get them off the streets.

This month's feature article is based on the *Census 2022 Provincial Profile: Northern Cape* (Report No. 03-01-72), published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) on 27 June 2024. Look out for our monthly crossword puzzle and the solutions for February 2025. Articles published in this issue are based on results of industry surveys conducted for December 2024 and January 2025.
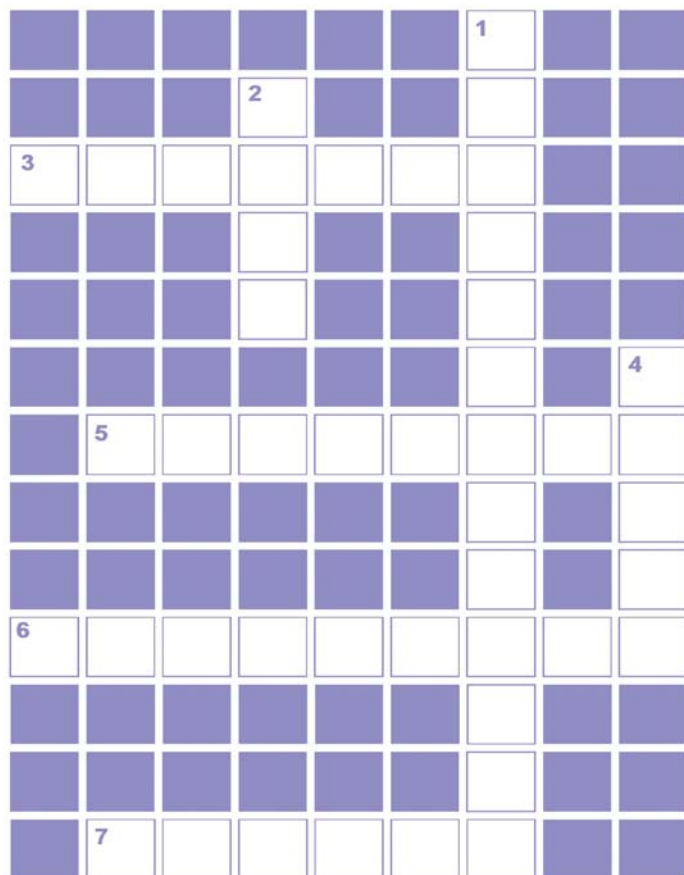
Enjoy the read!

Contents

Crossword Puzzle

Across

3. Which country is closest to the moon?
5. Which country celebrates New Year first?
6. Name one of the largest contributors to the 13,5% decrease in the number of civil summonses issued for debt. [Read Statistics of civil cases for debt article for clue]
7. What is the meaning of once in a blue moon?

Down

1. Who is the Minister of Transport in South Africa? [Read Land transport article for clue]
2. There were more........ than female tourists visiting South Africa in January 2025. [Read International tourism article for clue]
4. How many planets are in the solar system?

Solutions for February 2025 puzzle

Across
3. Sesotho
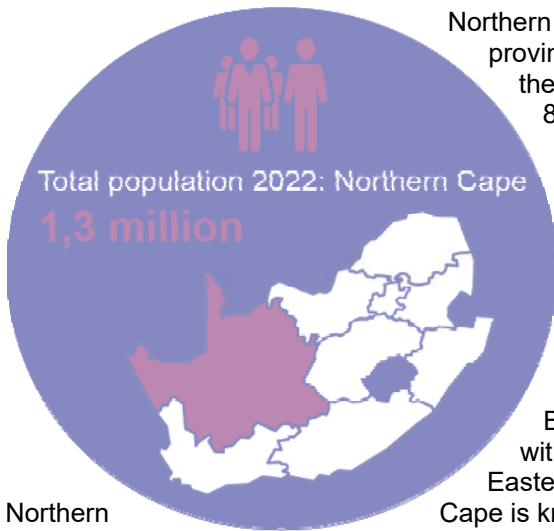4. Increase
5. True
6. Orange
7. China

Down
1. December
2. Mangaung

Census 2022 provincial profile: Northern Cape

Introduction

Total population 2022: Northern Cape
1,3 million

Northern Cape is South Africa's largest province, covering almost a third of the country's land area (372 889km²). Despite its size, it is the least populated of the nine South African provinces. In 2022, there were only 1,3 million people living in the province, which is around 2,2% of the country's population. The province shares international borders with Namibia and Botswana and shares borders with North West, Free State, Eastern Cape and Western Cape. Northern Cape is known for its vast desert landscapes, unique flora and fauna, and rich mining history. Kimberley is the largest city in Northern Cape and also the provincial capital. Kimberley is also known as the Diamond Capital of the World due to its significance as a major diamond mining centre when the first diamond was discovered in the late 1860's. The most famous landmark which came as a result of the diamond rush is a hand-dug diamond mine known as the Big Hole. Other places of interest include Augrabies Falls on the Orange River, San rock art, 4x4 safaris, Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park and the Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscapes. In 2023, the province contributed 2,3% to the country's gross domestic product (GDP), making it the smallest contributor among all provinces.

This feature article is based on the Census 2022 provincial profile: Northern Cape (Report No. 03-01-74), published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) on 27 June 2024. This report forms part of a series of publications generated from the recently conducted Census 2022. A report has been compiled for each of the nine provinces to profile the uniqueness of each province in terms of population dynamics, socio-economic development as well as access to basic services. This month, we explore the economic indicators of Northern Cape relating to population characteristics, education and household characteristics and access to basic services.

Population characteristics

This section presents key findings of the demographic profile of Northern Cape across censuses conducted since 1996. The results will further provide the population growth rates, age and sex structure of the Northern Cape population, population group dynamics, language, marital status, religion and population density of local municipalities in the province.

Population distribution

Figure 1: Population distribution of Northern Cape, Census 1996–2022

Northen Cape Province Population growth

Census 1996 to 2001	Census 2001 to 2011	Census 2011 to 2022
1 011 864 991 876	991 876 1 145 861	1 145 861 1 355 945
Annual Growth rate (1996 - 2001) = -0,4%	Annual Growth rate (2001 - 2011) = 1,4%	Annual Growth rate (2011 - 2022) = 1,6%
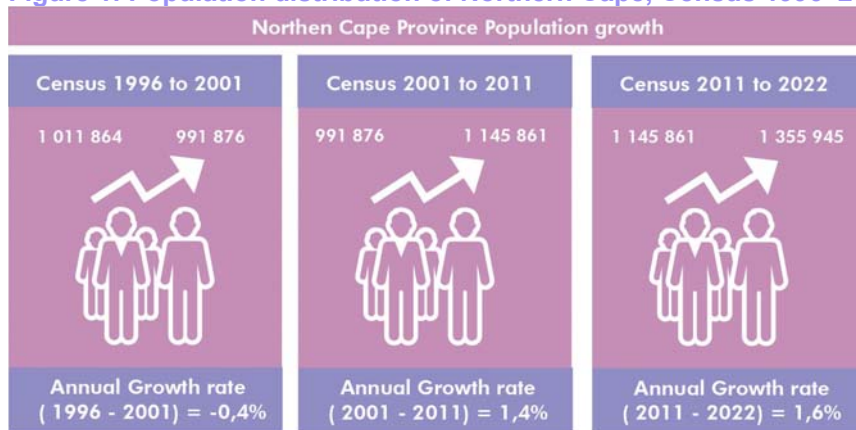
Figure 1 above, shows the distribution of the population by province across four censuses conducted in South Africa since 1996. Results indicate that the South African population grew from around 40 million in 1996 to 62 million in 2022. In the period between 1996 and 2022 the population size of Northern Cape grew from 1,0 million to 1,3 million. The population growth rate of Northern Cape decreased by -0,4% between the period 1996 and

2001 and increased for two intercensal (occurring between two censuses) periods at 1,4% and 1,6% respectively. Northern Cape's population grew at a rate below the national annual growth rate in two intercensal periods of 1996-2001 and 2011-2022.

Population density
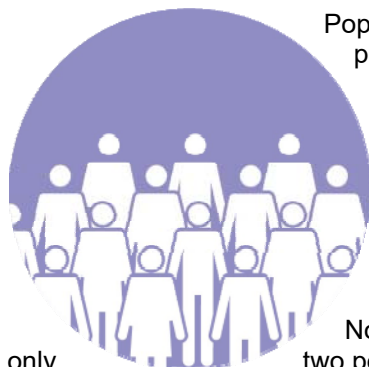
Population density refers to the number of people per square kilometre of land. It is the population to land area ratio. It refers to the average number of people occupying a specific area. It also depicts population concentration over a given land area.

Population density by local municipality, Census 2011–2022

Northern Cape has a low population density of only two people per square kilometre for both Census years (2011 and 2022). The results show that Frances Baard district recorded the highest population density than the provincial average in both Census years, with 29 people per square kilometre in 2011 and 33 people per square kilometre in 2022. Furthermore, Phokwane (76 in 2011 and 97 in 2022) and Sol Plaatjie (75 in 2011 and 82 in 2022) local municipalities were the most densely populated compared to the rest of the local municipalities and the overall province. Although population density remained the same for most municipalities, there seemed to be an emerging upward trend between 2011 and 2022.

Age and sex structure

Percentage distribution of population by province and sex, Census 2022

The South African population has a higher share of females than males, with females making up 51,5% compared to 48,5% for males. Northern Cape depicts a similar pattern to that of South Africa with 48,2% males and 51,8% females.

Figure 2: Northern Cape population pyramid, Censuses 2011 (transparent) & 2022 (coloured)
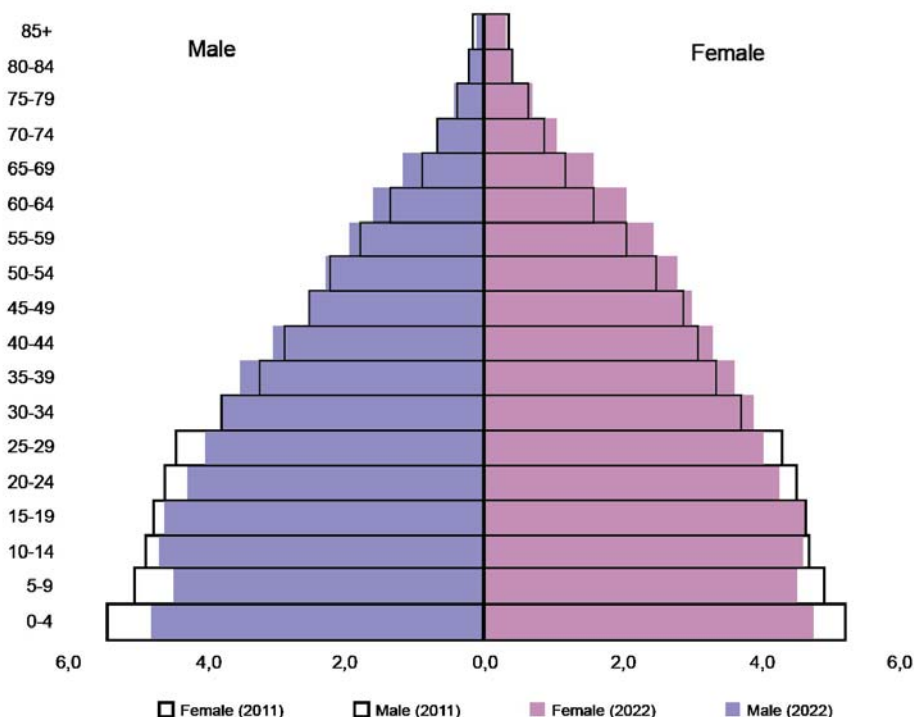
Figure 2 represents a population pyramid of Northern Cape for both Census 2011 and 2022. The age and sex structure for 2011 is transparent and the one for 2022 is coloured. A population pyramid is a visual representation of a population's distribution. The pyramid's shape indicates the population's age structure. The age structure of a population is determined by its fertility and mortality rates. The population pyramid can provide information about a country's degree of development as well as projections for demographic transitions.

It can be observed that both population pyramids for 2011 and 2022 have the shape of an expansive pyramid which is typical for developing countries. The population shows a decrease for both males and females for age groups 0–4 and 5–9 for both Census 2011 and 2022. For age groups 10–14

and 15–19, the pyramid shows a decrease in males and an increase in females. Furthermore, there was an increase for both male and females amongst the youth and the elderly in 2022 compared to 2011.

Dependency ratio

This indicator compares the number of dependents (children aged 0–14 and older persons aged 65 and older) to persons who are economically active (working population 15–64). The dependency ratio represents the socio-economic burden that the working age population must bear.

The dependency ratio shows a slight decline from 55,7 in 2011 to 52,5 in 2022. However, the district and local municipality profiles showed variations over the same period. Among districts, Pixley ka Seme showed the highest decline in dependency ratio (from 60,4 in 2011 to 54,4 in 2022), whilst ZF Mgcawu (from 50,5 in 2011 to 48,5 in 2022) and Frances Baard districts (from 54,1 in 2011 to 51,9 in 2022) recorded the lowest decline in dependency ratios.

Looking at the local municipality profile, most local municipalities recorded a downward trend in dependency ratios from Census 2011 to 2022. For 2011 and 2022, Joe Morolong local municipality had the highest dependency ratios from 84,6 in 2011 to 72,3 in 2022 per 100 population. !Kheis local municipality had the second highest dependency ratio of 65,9 per 100 population in 2011, however, this declined to 57,5 per 100 population in 2022. The second highest local municipality in 2022 was Thembelihle local municipality with 59,3 per 100 population.

Sex ratio

Sex ratio by province, Censuses 1996–2022

The sex ratio of South Africa has been fluctuating since 1996 up to 2022. In 1996, the sex ratio was 93 males per 100 females; it then decreased to 92 in 2001, 95 in 2011 and 94 in 2022. For Northern Cape, the same fluctuating trend is observed. In 1996 and 2001, the sex ratio of Northern Cape was 95 and 94. respectively. In 2011, the sex ratio of Northern Cape increased to 97 and decreased to 93 males per 100 of females in 2022.

Population group

Percentage distribution of population by population group, Census 2011–2022

The results show that half of the population in Northern Cape was black African for both 2011 and 2022 with 50,4% and 50,1%, respectively, whilst the coloured population group constituted 40,3% in 2011 and 41,6% in 2022. The white population group was the third largest with a slight increase from 7,1% in 2011 to 7,3% in 2022. The Indian/Asian population had the lowest proportion in 2011 and 2022 with 0,7% and 0,8%, respectively.

Distribution of population by population group, district and local municipality, Census 2022

There were diverse variations in population groups at district level. Namakwa and ZF Mgcawu districts recorded the highest proportion of the coloured population (85,5% and 66,3%, respectively). Conversely, the black African population was dominant in John Taolo Gaetsewe (89,7%) and Frances Baard (67,1%) districts.

There were significant variations in population groups at local municipality level. Nine in ten persons in Joe Morolong (97,5%) and Ga-Segonyana (92,3%) were black Africans and these figures were higher than the provincial average. The lowest proportion of black Africans was in Hantam

(1,4%) and Kareeberg (3,6%) local municipalities. On the other hand, coloureds were dominant in !Kheis (90,1%) and Nama Khoi (88,9%). In Gamagara and Thembelihle local municipalities, the white population group constituted almost a fifth of the population (18,8%) and (19,7%), respectively.

Marital status

Distribution of population aged 12 years and older by marital status, district and local municipality, Census 2022

At provincial level, 60,5% of the population reported to have never been married whilst 23,1% reported that they were legally married. The proportion of persons who were divorced was 1,8% and 5,0% of the population reported being widowed as their marital status. Proportions of persons who were separated but still legally married was the lowest compared to other marital statuses in Northern Cape.

Marital status at district level shows a similar pattern to that of the provincial level where proportions of those who never married were higher compared to other marital status categories. Amongst persons who never married, John Taolo Gaetsewe (69,3%) had the highest proportions, followed by Frances Baard (59,8%) and ZF Mgcawu (58,6%). For those who were married, Namakwa district had higher proportion (28,5%), followed by ZF Mgcawu (23,6%). A proportion of the population who were living together as husband and wife was highest in Pixley ka Seme at 11,5%, followed by ZF Mgcawu at 10,2%.

Joe Morolong local municipality had the highest proportion (75,5%) of never married population and this figure was higher than the district and provincial averages. Both the Nama Khoi and Richtersveld local municipalities, which are located in the Namakwa district municipality, recorded about a third of legally married persons. Nama Khoi and Sol Plaatjie local municipalities recorded about 3% of divorced persons, a percentage slightly higher than the district and provincial averages. Karoo Hoogland local municipality recorded 16% of persons living together.

Language

Distribution of population aged one year and older by language most often spoken in the household, Census 2011–2022

The results show that more than half of the population in Northern Cape spoke Afrikaans in both Census 2011 and 2022 (53,8% and 54,6%, respectively), followed by Setswana speakers at 33,0% in 2011 and 35,7% in 2022. The results indicate an upward trend in persons speaking Afrikaans and Setswana over the period 2011 to 2022.

Religion

Distribution of population by religious affiliation, Census 2022

In 2022, Christianity was the dominant religion in the province (97,8%), followed by Islam (0,8%) and Traditional African Religion (0,7%). Other religions accounted for 0,4%.

Education

This section focuses on attendance at an educational institution among persons aged 5–24 in Northern Cape between 2011 and 2022 censuses. Moreover, it explores the highest level of education completed by district and municipality, and field of education and sex.

Distribution of population aged 5–24 attending an educational institution by district and local municipality, Census 2011–2022

The percentage of persons attending an educational institution in Northern Cape increased slightly from 69,3% in 2011 to 70,3% in 2022.

The district profile shows that both John Taolo Gaetsewe and ZF Mgcawu recorded an increase of 3 percentage points of persons attending an educational institution over the period 2011 to 2022. Frances Baard recorded the highest proportion of attendance in an educational institution in

both 2011 and 2022 at 70,9%. The district with the lowest proportion of attendance in 2011 was ZF Mgcawu (64,0%). Namakwa (64,5% in 2011 and 64,2% in 2022) and Pixley ka Seme (68,0% in 2011 and 67,6% in 2022) districts recorded slight decreases in persons attending an educational institution.

Local municipalities with the highest proportion of attendance in an educational institution in 2011 was Joe Morolong (79,3%) and Phokwane (72,5%). Khâi-Ma (54,3%) and Kai !Garib (52,3%) recorded the lowest proportions of attendance in 2011. In 2022, the lowest proportions of attendance were observed in Karoo Hoogland (62,8%) and Khâi-Ma (61,0%).

Distribution of population aged 20 and older by highest level of education completed, district and municipality, Census 2022

The results show that at a provincial level, more than a third (38,5%) of the population aged 20 and above have some secondary education, followed by persons that completed Grade 12 (30,7%). Persons with no schooling accounted for 6,6%, whilst persons that attained higher education were 7,1%. The district profile shows a similar pattern with most districts having higher proportion of the population aged 20 and older with some secondary as the highest level of education. Namakwa district recorded the highest proportion of persons that completed some secondary education as the highest level with 44,9%, which is higher than the provincial average of 38,5%. The district with the lowest proportion of persons that completed some secondary is Pixley Ka Seme (36,1%). The local municipality profile shows that Gamagara recorded the highest proportion of persons that completed matric/grade 12 (37,7%) and persons that completed higher education (12,2%). Joe Morolong local municipality (15,0%) recorded the highest proportion of persons with no formal education, followed by Renosterberg (13,7%) and Karoo Hoogland (12,0%). Nama Khoi and Khâi-Ma local municipalities recorded the lowest (1,2%) proportion of persons with no schooling.

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

In Northern Cape, Humanities, social sciences and applied humanities was the most preferred field of education (28,1%), followed by Business management (24,9%). The field of education which was least preferred was

Law, followed by Natural and mathematical science with 2,8% and 4,0%, respectively. Males predominantly studied Engineering and other applied sciences as their preferred field of education (27,6%), followed by Business management (20,6%). In 2022, the field of education least studied by males was Law, at (3,6%). For females, Humanities, social sciences and applied humanities was the most preferred field of education with 28,4%, followed by Business management at (24,9%). For females, the least reported field of education was Natural and mathematical science (2,1%).

Household characteristics and access to services

This section focuses on household characteristics and access to services. It also gives detailed information on household size, household headship, type of housing and access to Internet.

Distribution of population, households and average household size by district and local municipality, Census 2011- 2022

Results show that the number of households increased from 301 400 in 2011 to 333 553 in 2022, and the average household size increased from 3,8 to 4,1 over the same period.

The districts profile shows that with the exception of Frances Baard district whose average household size remained the same, the rest of the districts recorded upward average household sizes. In 2022, Namakwa recorded the highest average household size (4,4) and this figure was slightly higher than the provincial average of 4,1, whilst Pixley ka Seme, ZF Mgcawu and Frances Baard districts recorded the lowest at 4,0. The local municipality profile in household size changes shows that Joe Morolong (4,7) and Nama Khoi (4,6) local municipalities recorded the highest proportions in average household sizes whilst Gamagara local municipality had the lowest average household size (2,2), followed by Tsantsabane with average household size of 3,3 persons.

Percentage of female-headed households by district, Census 2022

There were more male-headed households (50,9%) than female-headed households (49,1%) in 2022. This pattern of household headship is depicted in four out of the five districts. John Taolo Gaetsewe (50,6%) was the only district that recorded a higher proportion of female-headed households than male-headed households.

Distribution of households by type of main dwelling, district and local municipality, Census 2022

Eight in ten households in Northern Cape (85,9%) lived in formal dwellings whilst about 12% lived in informal dwellings and 1,4% lived in traditional dwellings.

At district level, three out of the five districts recorded proportions of households living in informal dwellings above the provincial average of 12,1%. These districts include ZF Mgcawu (19,6%), Pixley ka Seme (13,4%) and Frances Baard (12,3%). However, at local municipality level, variations and gaps in access to formal housing are very diverse. Thembelihle, Dawid Kruiper, Siyancuma, !Kheis, and Gamagara local municipalities recorded the highest proportion of households living in informal dwellings (31,5%, 27,8%, 23,7%, 19,5%, 16,4% and 15%, respectively), surpassing the provincial average. Local municipalities with the lowest proportion of households living in informal dwellings were Nama Khoi (1,4%) and Richtersveld (1,3%).

Percentage of households with access to piped water inside the dwelling/yard, Census 2011–2022

Nationally, there was an upward trend in proportions of households with access to piped water inside the dwelling or yard by 9% (from 73,4% in 2011 to 82,4% in 2022). The provincial profile of Northern Cape depicts a similar upward trend with a 4% increase (from 78% in 2011 to 81,9% in 2022).

Percentage of households with access to a flush toilet by province, Census 2011–2022

South Africa's proportion of households with access to flush toilets increased by 10% (from 60,1% in 2011 to 70,8% in 2022). Northern Cape's profile shows a similar upward trend in access to improved sanitation, with the proportion of households with access to flush toilets increasing from 66% in

2011 to 73% in 2022. The provincial average was above national average by 2%.

Distribution of households by main energy source for lighting by district and local municipality, Census 2022

In 2022, the most commonly used energy source for lighting was electricity (92,5%), followed by candles (4,4%).

A similar pattern was observed at district level, with Namakwa district having the highest proportion (96,7%) of households using electricity for lighting, followed by Pixley ka Seme (92,5%) and Frances Baard (92,3%). All local municipalities in ZF Mgcawu and Namakwa districts had near universal usage of electricity for lighting.

In John Taolo Gaetsewe district, 2,1% of households were using solar for lighting whilst Frances Baard district recorded the lowest proportion (1,1%) of households using solar. Ubuntu, Ga-Segonyana and Thembelihle local municipalities recorded proportions of households using solar above the provincial average of 1,5% (5%, 3,7% and 2,7%, respectively).

Percentage of households with access to the internet by province, Census 2011–2022

Nationally, access to Internet increased by 44% (from 35,2% in 2011 to 78,9% in 2022). In Northern Cape, the proportion of households with access to the Internet increased from 25,9% in 2011 to 71,2% in 2022.

Conclusion

The population of Northern Cape has been fluctuating between 1,0 million in 1996, 991 876 in 2001, 1,1 million in 2011 and 1,3 million in 2022. In 2022, the majority of the population in Northern Cape were female. For both 2011 and 2022, the population was predominantly black African. More than half of the population reported to have never been married. Afrikaans was the most spoken language in Northern Cape households in 2011 and 2022. In terms of religion, Christianity was the dominant religion in the province. The number of persons aged 5 to 20 who were attending an educational institution increased between 2011 and 2022. More than a third of the population in Northern Cape had some secondary education. Humanities, social sciences and applied humanities was the most preferred field of study

in 2022. Males mostly qualified in Engineering and other applied sciences, while females dominated in Humanities and social sciences related fields of education. In 2022, there were more male-headed households than female-headed households in Northern Cape. The number of households in Northern Cape increased over the period 2011 to 2022. The main type of dwelling in Northern Cape was formal dwellings. The proportion of households with access to piped water inside the dwelling/yard increased in 2022. The proportion of household with access to flush toilets also increase in 2022. Electricity was the main source of energy used for lighting in 2022. Internet access in households increased between Census 2011 and 2022.

Primary industries

Mining: Production and sales

Mining production decreased
by 2,4% year-on-year
in December 2024
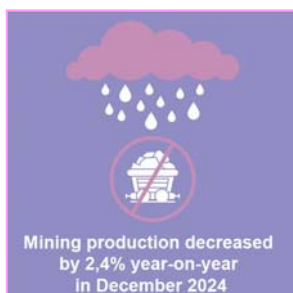
According to the data released by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), mining production decreased by 2,4% year-on-year in December 2024. In South Africa, December often marks the beginning or continuation of the rainy season. Rain can have a wide range of effects on mining operations, from causing flooding of underground mines and equipment damage to disrupting transport and worker safety. Flooding can delay mining operations for hours or days leading to a loss of productivity. Equipment may be damaged, and the extraction of minerals is paused until the water is pumped out and the mine is deemed safe to re-enter. As a result, mining companies employ several measures to mitigate these risks, such as drainage systems, erosion control techniques and weather forecasting. However, according to the Mining Review Africa (a leading bi-monthly magazine and digital platform focused on the African mining industry providing news, insights and reviews), these measures come at a cost, adding to the financial pressures faced by the mining industry which impact its profitability and sustainability such as fluctuating commodity prices which affect the revenue of mines. This article summarises the results of the *Mining: Production and sales* (statistical release P2041) for December 2024.

Mining production decreased by 2,4% year-on-year in December 2024 **(see Table A)**. The largest negative contributors were:

- PGMs (-7,1%, contributing -2,7 percentage points); and
- gold (-8,4%, contributing -1,1 percentage points).

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

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

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

Mineral sales at current prices decreased by 9,1% year-on-year in December 2024 **(see Table B)**. The largest negative contributors were gold (-34,3%, contributing -6,3 percentage points) and iron ore (-32,8%, contributing -5,1 percentage points). The largest positive contributor was coal (11,6%, contributing 2,5 percentage points).

Table B – Key growth rates in mineral sales at current prices for December 2024

|	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	25,5	-10,6	7,9	0,7	8,3	-9,1
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-2,0	-21,5	16,6	3,0	6,2	-9,9
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted [1]	10,2	10,8	-2,6	-7,5	2,0	5,4

[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 1,2% in December 2024 compared with December 2023
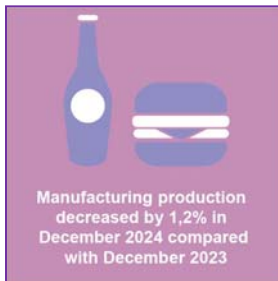
The manufacturing industry is broad and it involves the production and processing of food products and beverages, which encompass everything from raw food ingredients to packaged, ready-to-eat products that are distributed to stores, restaurants or directly to consumers. Manufacturing and consumer trends in the food and beverages industry have evolved significantly over recent years, shaped by changes in lifestyle and awareness such as health-conscious foods (food that support immunity and wellness) and plant-based beverages (plant-based beverages over traditional dairy-based options). These changes can have a notable impact on the manufacturing industry. The latest results released by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) indicate that even though manufacturing production decreased by 1,2%, the food and beverage division was the largest positive contribution with (5,8%, contributing 1,7 percentage points). This article summarises the *Manufacturing: Production and sales* results (statistical release P3041.2) for December 2024.

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

- basic iron and steel, non-ferrous metal products, metal products and machinery division (-6,0%, contributing -1,2 percentage points); and

- motor vehicles, parts and accessories and other transport equipment division (-20,8%, contributing -1,2 percentage points).

The largest positive contribution was made by the food and beverages division (5,8%, contributing 1,7 percentage points).

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

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

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

Selected building statistics of the private sector

The value of building plans passed decreased by 3,3% in 2024
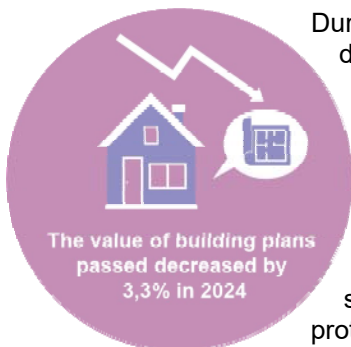
During an economic decline or financial instability, developers may postpone or cancel planned development projects due to decreased demand, limited access to finance, or overall market uncertainty. In South Africa, the value of approved building plans for residential properties can be affected by various local factors, many of which are tied to the country's distinct economic, political, and social environment. Social unrest, such as protests and strikes, can lead to delays or cancellations of residential construction projects. Political instability can also discourage both local and foreign investment in real estate development, causing a reduction in the number of completed residential projects. These factors can add to construction costs and lead to fewer residential developments being approved, particularly if they are seen as not meeting modern sustainability expectations. According to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), the value of building plans passed decreased by

3,3% in 2024. The decreases were reported for residential buildings, and additions and alterations. Despite the decrease in residential buildings and additions and alterations, an increase was reported for non-residential buildings. 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 December 2024.

The value of building plans passed decreased by 3,3% (-R3 329,3 million) in 2024 compared with 2023 **(see Table D)**. Decreases were reported for:

- residential buildings (-R3 486,8 million); and
- additions and alterations (-R1 607,4 million).

An increase was reported for non-residential buildings (R1 765,0 million).

The largest negative contributors to the total decrease of 3,3% (-R3 329,3 million) were Gauteng (contributing -4,2 percentage points or -R4 283,0 million) and Eastern Cape (contributing -1,0 percentage point or -R1 016,3 million).

The largest positive contributors were KwaZulu-Natal (contributing 1,1 percentage points or R1 099,2 million) and North West (contributing 0,6 of a percentage point or R573,3 million).

Table D – Building plans passed by larger municipalities at current prices by type of building

Type of building	Jan – Dec 2023	Jan – Dec 2024	Difference in value between Jan – Dec 2023 and Jan – Dec 2024	% change between Jan – Dec 2023 and Jan – Dec 2024
	R'000	R'000	R'000	
Residential buildings	50 364 441	46 877 602	-3 486 839	-6,9
-Dwelling-houses	32 871 658	30 076 299	-2 795 359	-8,5
-Flats and townhouses	16 685 337	14 778 060	-1 907 277	-11,4
-Other residential buildings	807 446	2 023 243	1 215 797	150,6
Non-residential buildings	21 888 959	23 653 935	1 764 976	8,1
Additions and alterations	29 689 902	28 082 479	-1 607 423	-5,4
Total	101 943 302	98 614 016	-3 329 286	-3,3

A full release on *Selected building statistics of the private sector as reported by local government institutions* (statistical release P5041.1) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Electricity generated and available for distribution

Electricity generation (production) increased by 5,7% year-on-year in January 2025.

South Africa's energy landscape has undergone a significant transformation in recent years, driven in part by the growing presence of independent power producers (IPPs). These are private entities that generate electricity and sell it to the national grid, municipalities, or directly to large consumers. They operate separately from Eskom, the state-owned power utility, and play a key role in diversifying the country's energy mix by using mostly wind and solar energy, reducing reliance on coal and addressing power shortages. These private companies have been instrumental in helping to address the country's energy shortages. According to the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, 6 180 Megawatt (MW) of electricity has

been delivered to the grid by operational IPPs since 2011. Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) began incorporating data from IPPs into its monthly *Electricity generated and available for distribution* statistical releases starting with the January 2024 release, published on 6 March 2024. The January 2025 release introduced data from independent power producers (IPPs) involved in electricity wheeling, which transports electricity from a generator to an end-user (customer) using an existing transmission or distribution network. This inclusion provides a more comprehensive overview of the country's electricity production by accounting for contributions from both traditional power plants and IPPs. Presented in this article is a summary of the results for the Electricity generated and available for distribution (statistical release P4141) for January 2025.

Electricity generation (production) increased by 5,7% year-on-year in January 2025 **(see Table E)**.

Table E – Key growth rates in the volume of mining production for January 2025

	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	6,7	8,9	2,9	6,9	3,6	5,7
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-0,7	1,3	-1,0	0,7	-1,5	0,4
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted [1]	3,2	2,7	1,4	0,7	-0,5	-0,4

[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 0,8% year-on-year in January 2025 **(see Table F)**.

Table F – Key growth rates in the volume of electricity distributed for January 2025

	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	4,5	6,4	0,6	3,1	-0,4	0,8
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-1,2	0,2	-1,1	-0,1	-0,9	0,2
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted [1]	1,9	1,3	-0,1	-0,9	-1,7	-1,3

[1] Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.
A full release on *Electricity generated and available for distribution* (statistical release P4141) is available on the Stats SA website www.statssa.gov.za.

Tertiary industries

Wholesale trade sales

Wholesale trade sales decreased by 0,3% in December 2024

Liquid fuels, such as petrol and diesel, play a vital role in the economy: they are a primary source for transportation, industrial processes and power generation. Fluctuations in the value of sales of these fuels impact the overall performance of the wholesale trade sales because dealers in the fuel sector dominate the top 10 enterprises in the wholesale industry. These fluctuations are due to factors such as changing fuel prices, economic and political conditions, consumer behaviour, and currency fluctuations. For instance, when the rand is stronger or global oil prices decrease, it often results in a decrease in the price of petroleum, which will influence the volume and value of sales recorded for that particular month. In December 2024, the value of sales of dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous and related products decreased by -28,2% which ultimately impacted the wholesale trade sales for that month, resulting in a 0,3% decrease in overall sales. This article summarises the results of the *Wholesale trade sales* (statistical release P6141.2) for December 2024.

Wholesale trade sales decreased by 0,3% in December 2024 compared with December 2023 **(see Table G)**.

The only negative contributor was dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (-28,2%, contributing -8,1 percentage points). The main positive contributors were dealers in:

- food, beverages and tobacco (10,4%, contributing 1,7 percentage points);
- 'other' household goods except precious stones (14,0%, contributing 1,4 percentage points); and
- machinery, equipment and supplies (9,9%, contributing 1,3 percentage points).

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

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

[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

Retail trade sales increased by 3,1% year-on-year in December 2024

Most general dealers in South Africa have been owned by the same families for up to four generations, and the reason for this is that they were established in the 18th and 19th centuries when transportation was limited and not easily accessible. General dealers are often found in places such as rural, village or old township areas and they carry varied stock to meet the essential needs of a community. Two of the advantages of this type of store is that it often offers discounts, making it more appealing to customers and secondly, it is easier for the owners to form bonds with their customers since the number of general dealers in areas are limited. December is one of the busiest months in terms of sales and travel. Most, if not all general dealers, notice a positive change during this time of the year since most people spend more on food and beverages during the festive season, and there are usually many events taking place. The latest figures released by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) for December 2024 show that one of the positive contributors to the increase in retail trade sales was general dealers (2,0%, contributing 0,9 of a percentage point). This indicates that there has been a rise in consumer demand for products in this category during this period. This article summarises the *Retail trade sales* (statistical release P6242.1) for December 2024.

Retail trade sales increased by 3,1% year-on-year in December 2024 **(see Table H)**. The largest positive contributors to this increase were:

- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (7,8%, contributing 1,8 percentage points); and
- general dealers (2,0%, contributing 0,9 of a percentage point).

Retail trade sales decreased by 0,1% in December 2024 compared with November 2024. This followed month-on-month changes of 1,0% in November 2024 and 1,7% in October 2024.

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

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

[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 4,4% year-on-year in December 2024

December is often associated with large bonuses, a month in which motor vehicle dealerships may see an increase in car sales. However, data from motor trade sales for December 2024 published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) indicate the opposite. According to motor trade sales data published on 20 February 2025, motor trade sales decreased by 4,4% year-on-year in December 2024. The largest contributor to this decrease was new vehicle sales with 9,9%. There are several factors that could have contributed to the decrease of new vehicle sales, especially in December. This article will focus on two factors namely; **Economic conditions**: South Africa has faced ongoing economic challenges, such as rising inflation, high fuel prices, and increased cost of living. These factors reduce consumer spending power, making people more cautious about big-ticket purchases like new cars. Another factor is the **increased focus on used vehicles**: In difficult economic times, consumers often turn to more affordable used vehicles than new ones. This shift in preference can contribute to a decrease in new vehicle sales. The combination of these factors contributed to a general decline of vehicle sales, especially in December 2024. This article summarises *Motor trade sales results* (statistical release P6343.2) for December 2024.

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

- new vehicle sales (-9,9%, contributing -2,4 percentage points);
- fuel sales (-3,9%, contributing -1,2 percentage points);
- sales of accessories (-3,7%, contributing -0,7 of a percentage point); and
- workshop income (-9,7%, contributing -0,5 of a percentage point).

In 2024, motor trade sales decreased by 3,4% compared with 2023. The largest negative contributors were:

- new vehicle sales (-7,3%, contributing -1,8 percentage points); and
- fuel sales (-3,5%, contributing -1,0 percentage point).

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

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

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

Food and beverages
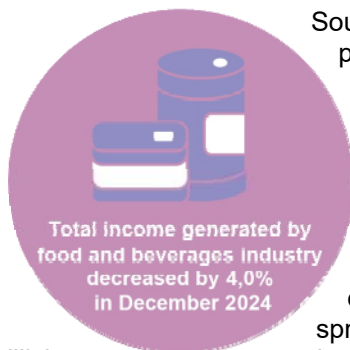
South Africa has been facing an increase in the production, sale and consumption of illicit and counterfeit food products which have caused illness and resulted in fatalities. In response, to fight illicit and counterfeit food products, the Consumer Goods Council of South Africa (CGCSA) has launched MyCGCSA App and a toll-free hotline, to help consumers verify products they buy from stores, as well as online or informal markets. The App will also spread awareness and alarm consumers about illicit goods. To use the App, consumers manually enter the barcode that appears on the food product or use the camera to scan. According to CGCSA, the App will confirm if a product is genuine or raise suspicion, prompting consumers to report the suspicious product using a toll-free hotline – 0800 014 856. The App can be downloaded on the Google Playstore and Apple App Store. It is important to note that the App is not just about educating consumers, but also raising awareness to encourage them to play an active role in curbing the spread of illicit goods. This helps in protecting their communities and contributes to building safer, more trustworthy markets for all. Although not directly related to the recent decline in food sales, the App comes at a critical time when the food and beverages industry is under strain, with food sales reporting a decline of 1,8% in December 2024, following a 2,8% increase in November 2024. This article summarises the results of *Food and beverages* (statistical release P6420) for December 2024.

Total income generated by the food and beverages industry decreased by 4,0% in December 2024 compared with December 2023 **(see Table J)**.

The highest negative annual growth rates were recorded for 'other' income (-26,6%) and bar sales (-12,1%).

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

Type of income	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24
Food sales	-4,9	1,9	-4,2	0,6	2,8	-1,8
Bar sales	-4,5	11,5	-8,6	-6,3	3,1	-12,1
Other income	-20,1	-18,7	-23,4	-18,8	-13,2	-26,6
Total	**-5,4**	**2,1**	**-5,4**	**-0,8**	**2,3**	**-4,0**

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 7,2% in December 2024 compared with December 2023

A new trend is emerging in the hospitality industry whereby guests are moving towards booking longer stays in hotels. This is according to data by Roomcacoon, a leading hotel management software which analysed over 4 500 rooms across hotels, guest-houses and B&Bs in South Africa. The data revealed that while the proportion of guests booking one-night accommodation declined to 57% from 60% in 2024, there was an increase in the proportion of guests booking longer stays. The number of guests booking accommodation for two, three, four and five or more nights increased to 20%, 10%, 5% and 7%, respectively. When guests stay for longer, it presents new revenue opportunities for hotels. Besides the increase in revenue per room, guests who stay longer are more likely to spend on additional amenities and services offered by the hotel such as dining in the hotel's restaurant or using the spa services. In December 2024, hotels (13,6%, contributing 8,1 percentage points), were the main contributor to the 12,1% year-on-year increase in income from accommodation, according to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) data. This article summarises the results of *Tourist accommodation* (statistical release P6410) for December 2024.

The total income for the tourist accommodation industry increased by 7,2% in December 2024 compared with December 2023 **(see Table K)**.

Income from accommodation increased by 12,1% year-on-year in December 2024, the result of a 0,2% increase in the number of stay unit nights sold and an 11,8% increase in the average income per stay unit night sold.

In December 2024, the main contributors to the 12,1% year-on-year increase in income from accommodation were:

- hotels (13,6%, contributing 8,1 percentage points); and
- 'other' accommodation (10,5%, contributing 3,5 percentage points).

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

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

[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

South Africa's tourism sector continues to show robust recovery and growth. In January 2025, a total of 3 088 791 travellers (arrivals, departures, and transits) passed through the country, with holidays being the primary reason for their visit. Approximately 97,5% of tourists came for leisure purposes. South African Tourism (SA Tourism), the tourism marketing arm of government which promotes the country domestically and internationally, reports that between January and October 2024, South Africa welcomed 7,2 million visitors, marking a notable 5,7% increase compared to the same period the previous year. Early signs from the recent festive season indicate a strong performance in the sector, with high occupancy rates and strong engagement in events nationwide. Looking ahead, SA Tourism aims to further strengthen South Africa's reputation as an attractive global destination, focusing on showcasing the nation's unique cultural and natural heritage, while promoting growth in tourism and contributing to economic development and job creation. This article summarises the results of *International tourism* (statistical release P0350) for January 2025.

Travellers

Number of travellers

In January 2025, a total of 3 088 791 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) entered and exited South Africa **(see Table L).**

These travellers were made up of 813 535 South African residents and 2 275 256 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 470 486 arrivals, 342 632 departures and 417 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 1 310 377, 934 182 and 30 697, respectively. A comparison between the movements in

December 2024 and January 2025 indicates that the volume of arrivals increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. In contrast, the volume of departures and transits decreased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 0,6% (from 467 578 in December 2024 to 470 486 in January 2025). Departures decreased by 39,7% (from 568 257 in December 2024 to 342 632 in January 2025) and transits decreased by 21,5% (from 531 in December 2024 to 417 in January 2025). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 7,8% (from 1 215 250 in December 2024 to 1 310 377 in January 2025), departures decreased by 19,0% (from 1 152 618 in December 2024 to 934 182 in January 2025), and transits decreased by 7,4% (from 33 142 in December 2024 to 30 697 in January 2025).

A comparison between the movements in January 2024 and January 2025 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and transits decreased for South African residents but increased for foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 8,3% (from 513 276 in January 2024 to 470 486 in January 2025), departures decreased by 4,1% (from 357 249 in January 2024 to 342 632 in January 2025) and transits decreased by 17,8% (from 507 in January 2024 to 417 in January 2025). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 4,6% (from 1 253 216 in January 2024 to 1 310 377 in January 2025), departures increased by 6,3% (from 879 052 in January 2024 to 934 182 in January 2025) and transits increased by 1,9% (from 30 131 in January 2024 to 30 697 in January 2025).

Mode of travel of travellers

In January 2025, road was the most common mode of travel used by 2 020 021 (65,4%) of the 3 088 791 travellers. The total number of air travellers was 1 030 313 (33,4%). Compared to air and road, a smaller number of travellers, 38 457 (1,2%) used sea into and out of South Africa. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 224 380 (47,7%) came by air, 232 402 (49,4%) came by road and 13 704 (2,9%) arrived by sea. For departures, 165 060 (48,2%) used air, 164 105 (47,9%) used road and 13 467 (3,9%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 417 (100,0%) used air. In the case of foreign travellers, 289 975 (22,1%) arrived by air, 1 017 594 (77,7%) came by road and 2 808 (0,2%) arrived by sea. When departing South Africa, 319 784 (34,2%) foreign travellers left by air, 605 920 (64,9%) left by road and 8 478 (0,9%) left by sea. Of all travellers in transit, 30 697 (100,0%) used air.

Visitors

Detailed information on the departure of travellers is not available in the movement control system. Data on the purpose of travel and the number of days that South African residents intend to spend or have spent abroad are not collected by the DHA. It is therefore not possible to categorise South African residents as tourists or non-tourists. However, some data are available on foreign arrivals for this categorisation. In January 2025, 35 747 (2,7%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors, while 1 274 630 (97,3%) were classified as visitors. Visitors were categorised into three groups:

i.   Arrivals only – comprising of visitors who entered the country in January 2025 but did not depart in January 2025 [627 702 (49,2%)].
ii.   Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in January 2025 and left in January 2025 [315 795 (24,8%)].
iii.   Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in January 2025 [331 133 (26,0%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors/tourists. In January 2025, there were 260 646 (20,4%) same-day visitors and 1 013 984 (79,6%) tourists. Between December 2024 and January 2025, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 2,6% (from 267 630 in December 2024 to 260 646 in January 2025) and that of tourists increased by 10,2% (from 920 147 in December 2024 to 1 013 984 in January 2025).

Between January 2024 and January 2025, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 6,5% (from 244 749 in January 2024 to 260 646 in January 2025), whereas that of tourists increased by 4,3% (from 971 846 in January 2024 to 1 013 984 in January 2025). Of the 260 646 same-day visitors, a majority, 243 878 (93,6%) arrived in the country by road, 16 530 (6,3%) arrived by air and 238 (0,1%) arrived by sea. Information on tourists shows that 750 450 (74,0%) came by road, 262 044 (25,8%) used air and 1 490 (0,1%) used sea.

Tourists

Sex and age distribution of tourists

Sex

There were more male [572 599 (56,5%)] than female [441 385 (43,5%)] tourists in January 2025. Male tourists constituted the majority of tourists for all three regions, SADC countries [452 987 (57,5%)], overseas countries [110 161 (52,3%)] and 'other' African countries [8 979 (60,2%)]. Similarly, the largest portion of female tourists was from SADC countries [334 573 (42,5%)], followed by overseas countries [100 548 (47,7%)] and 'other' African countries [5 942 (39,8%)].

Age

The age distribution indicates that out of all tourists, [5,4% (54 663)] were aged younger than 15; [8,2% (83 267)] were aged between 15 and 24; [23,7% (240 197)] were aged between 25 and 34; [29,5% (298 833)] were aged between 35 and 44; [18,4% (186 632)] were aged between 45 and 54; [8,8% (89 256)] were aged between 55 and 64; [6,0% (61 133)] were aged 65 and older. Taking the region of residence into consideration, results show that the highest proportion of tourists from SADC countries [33,1% (260 748)] and those from 'other' African countries [29,0% (4 332)] were aged between 35 and 44. In contrast, those from overseas countries [21,7% (45 688)] were aged 65 and older.
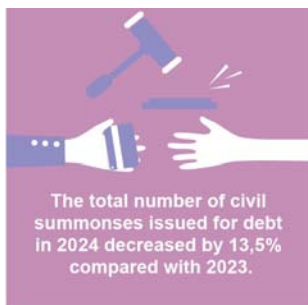
Purpose of visit of tourists

In January 2025, the majority of tourists, 988 932 (97,5%), were in South Africa for holiday compared to 17 655 (1,7%); 7 147 (0,7%) and 250 (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

Travel Direction	January 2024	December 2024	January 2025	% Change Dec 2024 – Jan 2025	% Change Jan 2024 – Jan 2025
Total	**3 033 431**	**3 437 376**	**3 088 791**	**-10,1%**	**1,8%**
South African residents	**871 032**	**1 036 366**	**813 535**	**-21,5%**	**-6,6%**
Arrivals	513 276	467 578	470 486	0,6%	-8,3%
Departures	357 249	568 257	342 632	-39,7%	-4,1%
Transits	507	531	417	-21,5%	-17,8%
Foreign travellers	**2 162 399**	**2 401 010**	**2 275 256**	**-5,2%**	**5,2%**
Arrivals	1 253 216	1 215 250	1 310 377	7,8%	4,6%
Departures	879 052	1 152 618	934 182	-19,0%	6,3%
Transits	30 131	33 142	30 697	-7,4%	1,9%

Statistics of civil cases for debt

The total number of civil summonses issued for debt in 2024 decreased by 13,5% compared with 2023.

When a debtor and creditor enter into an agreement, whether orally or in writing, the debtor has an obligation to repay the creditor in terms of the monies lent. However, if the debtor is unable to repay the debt, a consent judgment may be reached. This means that the debtor agrees to subject themselves to obey or accept a judgement of a court against them for debt they owe without defending the action. The judgement is drafted by the court with the consent of all parties involved, allowing the dispute to be resolved without the need for a trial. To reach a consent judgment, a debtor and creditor must first agree on the terms of the settlement and negotiate the amount of money to be paid. Once a debtor and creditor have reached an agreement, they submit it to the court for approval. The court then reviews the settlement

agreement to ensure that it is fair and reasonable. If the court approves the settlement, both parties enter into a consent judgment. However, if either party fails to comply with its terms, the court is compelled to enforce the consent judgement. Interestingly, the latest figures for civil cases for debt indicate that civil summonses issued for debt decreased by 13,5% in December 2024. One of the largest contributors to the decrease was money lent, which contributed -4,5% percentage point, suggesting that debtors are managing to pay their debt as per their agreements. This article summarises the results of the *Statistics of civil cases for debt* (statistical release P0041) for December 2024.

The number of civil summonses issued for debt

The total number of civil summonses issued for debt in 2024 decreased by 13,5% compared with 2023. **(see Table M)**.

The largest contributors to the 13,5% decrease were civil summonses relating to:

- money lent (contributing -4,5 percentage points);
- promissory notes (contributing -3,0 percentage points); and
- services (contributing -2,7 percentage points).

The number of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total number of civil judgements recorded for debt in 2024 decreased by 6,0% compared with 2023. The largest negative contributors to the 6,0% decrease were civil judgements relating to:

- money lent (contributing -2,5 percentage points);
- services (contributing -1,4 percentage points); and
- 'other' debts (contributing -1,0 percentage point).

Rent was the only positive contributor (contributing 0,1 of a percentage point).

The value of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total value of civil judgements recorded for debt in 2024 decreased by 2,7% compared with 2023. The largest negative contributor was money lent (contributing -4,5 percentage points) and the largest positive contributor was rent (contributing 0,9 of a percentage point).

In 2024, 126 045 civil judgements for debt amounting to R3 527,5 million were recorded. The largest contributors to the total value of judgements were:

- money lent (R904,3 million or 25,6%);
- services (R773,3 million or 21,9%); and
- 'other' debts (R739,9 million or 21,0%).

Table M – Key figures for December 2024

Actual estimates	Dec 2024	% change between Dec 2023 and Dec 2024	% change between Oct – Dec 2023 and Oct – Dec 2024	Annual % change between 2023 and 2024
Number of civil summonses issued for debt	18 432	-16,8	-19,4	-13,5
Number of civil judgements recorded for debt	7 215	-14,0	-9,2	-6,0
Value of civil judgements recorded for debt (R million)	207,9	-12,6	-6,0	-2,7

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
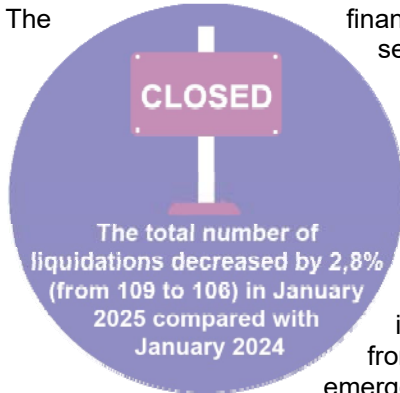
The finance, insurance, real estate, and business services industry is crucial to the economy because it provides essential services that support economic growth, investment, and stability. For instance, banks offer loans, credit, and investment opportunities, helping businesses grow and individuals buy homes, cars, education, etc. On the other hand, businesses and individuals rely on insurance to protect against financial losses from accidents, natural disasters, or health emergencies. Therefore, when companies in this sector get liquidated, it affects both businesses and individuals by reducing their access to credit and insurance. According to Investopedia, a website that provides financial education and information, the financing, insurance, real estate and business services industry is highly sensitive to economic downturns and market fluctuations. When the growth of the economy slows down and interest rates rise, financing and real estate businesses often struggle with lower demand for loans, investments, and property transactions, which may lead to liquidation. Even during periods of steady interest rates, past debt can still be overwhelming because companies in finance, insurance, real estate, and business services rely heavily on borrowing. In South Africa, the finance, insurance, real estate, and business services industry consistently experiences the highest number of company liquidations. Results from the *Statistics of liquidations,* January 2025 show that, in 2024, about 1 551 companies were liquidated, 473 of these were from the financing, insurance, real estate and business services, while in January 2025, 106 companies were liquidated and 40 of these were from this industry. In both periods, this industry recorded the highest number of liquidations. This release summarises the findings of the *Statistics of liquidations* (statistical release P0043.1) for January 2025.

The total number of liquidations decreased by 2,8% (from 109 to 106) in January 2025 compared with January 2024

The total number of liquidations decreased by 2,8% (from 109 to 106) in January 2025 compared with January 2024 **(see Table N)**.

Liquidations of companies decreased by 14 cases, while liquidations of close corporations increased by 11 cases during this period.

The total number of liquidations decreased by 16,9% (from 390 to 324) in the three months ended January 2025 compared with the three months ended January 2024.

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

Number of liquidations January 2025	% change between January 2024 and January 2025	% change between November 2023 to January 2024 and November 2024 to January 2025
106	-2,8	-16,9

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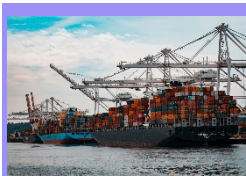
Land transport

The volume of goods transported (payload) decreased by 7,6% in December 2024 compared with December 2023

The efforts by the South African government to fix the logistics sector's challenges such as congestions and delays at ports is still ongoing. In June 2023, government established the National Logistics Crisis Committee (NLCC) to address the country's transport and logistics crisis by implementing swift and innovative solutions for supply chain challenges. In 2025, government renewed the NLCC's mandate which indicates the importance to address the national logistics system. Once the logistics system challenges have been minimised, more millions of freight will be transported. On 28 February 2025, during the launch of World Bank's report titled *"Driving Inclusive Growth in South Africa: Quick Wins with Competitive Markets and Efficient Institutions"*, the Department of Transport Minister Barbara Creecy said "Transnet and the

department have set the goal of 250 million tonnes of freight per year moving on the Transnet network by 2030. Transnet achieved 150 million tonnes of freight per year moving during the 2023/2024 financial year. At the ports, the target is to improve crane moves per hour from 2024, an average of 16 to 30 by 2030." The latest data released by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) for land transport shows that the volume of goods transported (payload) decreased by 7,6% in December 2024, an improvement from the -10,6% decrease in November 2024. This is a good sign that logistics sector is still recovering. This article summarises the results of the *Land transport* (statistical release P7162) for December 2024.

The volume of goods transported (payload) decreased by 7,6% in December 2024 compared with December 2023. **(see Table O)**.

The corresponding income decreased by 6,8% over the same period.

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

	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24
Freight payload	-5,8	-6,3	-12,1	-10,3	-10,6	-7,6
Freight income	-1,1	-3,0	-11,9	-5,8	-6,1	-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 6,2% in the fourth quarter of 2024 compared with the fourth quarter of 2023. The main negative contributors to this decrease were:

- 'other' freight (-21,1%, contributing -4,4 percentage points);
- primary mining and quarrying products (-4,1%, contributing -1,4 percentage points); and
- agriculture and forestry primary products (-20,3%, contributing -1,3 percentage points).

The number of passenger journeys increased by 2,8% in December 2024 compared with December 2023 **(see Table P)**. The corresponding income decreased by 4,5% over the same period.

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

	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24
Passenger journeys	15,2	11,6	4,3	14,2	1,3	2,8
Passenger income	10,3	7,3	3,4	2,3	-4,0	-4,5

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 (final manufacturing) was 1,1% in January 2025, up from 0,7% in December 2024.
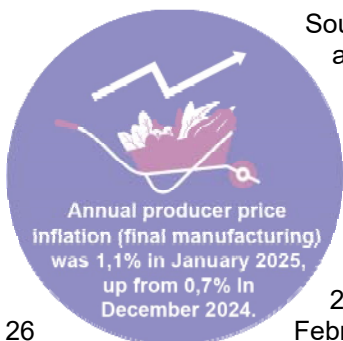
South Africa is growing its footprint in international agricultural trade to remain one of the top table grapes producers. On 05 March 2025, Department of Agriculture (DOA) Minister John Steenhuisen announced that South Africa has gained market access for the exportation of fresh table grapes to Philippines in Asia. According to Steenhuisen, the negotiations for the market was started on 20 January 2015 and the market was opened on 26 February 2025. The table grapes producers will start to export to Philippines when the first consignment is ready for loading. This export move comes at a time of notable growth in the agriculture sector. In January 2025, the annual percentage change in the PPI for agriculture, forestry and fishing was 7,5% compared with 4,7% in December 2024. This article summarises the results of the *Producer price index* (statistical release P0142.1) for January 2025.

Annual producer price inflation (final manufacturing) was 1,1% in January 2025, up from 0,7% in December 2024. **(see Table Q)**.

The producer price index (PPI) increased by 0,5% month-on-month in January 2025.

The main contributor to the headline PPI annual inflation rate was food products, beverages and tobacco products (4,4%, contributing 1,3 percentage points).

The main positive contributors to the monthly rate were:

- furniture and other manufacturing (1,9%, contributing 0,1 of a percentage point);
- textiles, clothing and footwear (1,7%, contributing 0,1 of a percentage point);
- metals, machinery, equipment and computing equipment (0,9%, contributing 0,1 of a percentage point);
- transport equipment (0,9%, contributing 0,1 of a percentage point); and
- coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products (0,5%, contributing 0,1 of a percentage point).

Intermediate manufactured goods

The annual percentage change in the PPI for intermediate manufactured goods was 7,3% in January 2025, compared with 5,8% in December 2024. The index increased by 2,2% month-on-month.

The main contributors to the annual rate were basic and fabricated metals (8,3%, contributing 4,2 percentage points) and chemicals, rubber and plastic products (8,3%, contributing 2,3 percentage points).

The main contributor to the monthly rate was basic and fabricated metals (3,3%, contributing 1,7 percentage points).

Electricity and water

The annual percentage change in the PPI for electricity and water was 10,0% in January 2025, compared with 10,3% in December 2024. The index increased by 0,5% month-on-month.

The contributors to the annual rate were electricity (10,9%, contributing 9,3 percentage points) and water (5,6%, contributing 0,8 of a percentage point).

The contributor to the monthly rate was electricity (0,5%, contributing 0,5 of a percentage point).

Mining

The annual percentage change in the PPI for mining was 0,7% in January 2025, compared with -1,5% in December 2024. The index increased by 2,8% month-on-month.

The main contributor to the annual rate was gold and other metal ores (7,9%, contributing 2,2 percentage points).

The main contributors to the monthly rate were gold and other metal ores (4,5%, contributing 1,3 percentage points) and coal and gas (4,7%, contributing 0,8 of a percentage point).

Agriculture, forestry and fishing

The annual percentage change in the PPI for agriculture, forestry and fishing was 7,5% in January 2025, compared with 4,7% in December 2024. The index decreased by 1,1% month-on-month.

The main contributor to the annual rate was agriculture (8,2%, contributing 7,1 percentage points). The negative contributor to the monthly rate was agriculture (-1,3%, contributing -1,2 percentage points).

Table Q – Key PPI figures for January 2025

Product	Weight	Index (Dec 2023=100)			% change	
		Jan 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Jan 2025 vs. Dec 2024	Jan 2025 vs. Jan 2024
Final manufactured goods	100,00	100,1	100,7	101,2	0,5	1,1
Intermediate manufactured goods	100,00	100,7	105,8	108,1	2,2	7,3
Electricity and water	100,00	100,7	110,3	110,8	0,5	10,0
Mining	100,00	100,6	98,5	101,3	2,8	0,7
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	100,00	96,3	104,7	103,5	-1,1	7,5

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 3,2% in January 2025

The consumer price index (CPI) is a widely used indicator of inflation, measuring the average change in prices of a basket of goods and services consumed by households. To ensure CPI remains a relevant and accurate reflection of consumer spending patterns, statistical agencies periodically update the products as well as the weights assigned to different products in the basket. This ensures that CPI better reflects shifts and trends in consumer spending. Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) recently updated the basket of goods on 28 January 2025. New items that have been added to the basket include air fryers, e-hailing services, school transport and subscriptions to streaming services. Items that exit the basket include rental of post box, hair relaxers and frozen potato chips. By adjusting the CPI weights, the statistical agency can provide a more precise picture of inflationary pressures and help policymakers, businesses, and individuals make informed decisions about the economy. The January 2025 release is based on the new basket. Presented in this article is a summary of the *Consumer price index* (statistical release P0141) results for January 2025.

Headline consumer price index (CPI) for all urban areas

Annual consumer price inflation was 3,2% in January 2025, up from 3,0% in December 2024 **(see Table R)**. The CPI increased by 0,3% month-on-month in January 2025. The main contributors to the 3,2% annual inflation rate were:

- housing and utilities (4,5%, contributing 1,1 percentage points);
- food and non-alcoholic beverages (2,3%, contributing 0,4 of a percentage point); and
- restaurants and accommodation services (4,9%, contributing 0,3 of a percentage point).

In January 2025, the annual inflation rate for:

- goods was 2,4%, up from 1,9% in December 2024; and
- services was 4,0%, down from 4,2% in December 2024.

Table R – Consumer price index: Index numbers and year-on-year rates
Base year: Dec 2024 = 100

Year	Index/rate	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average 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	4,6	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	81,7	82,2	82,8	83,3	83,4	83,5	84,5	84,8	85,0	85,3	85,6	86,1	84,0
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	86,3	86,8	87,7	88,2	88,8	89,8	91,1	91,3	91,4	91,7	92,0	92,3	89,8
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	92,2	92,9	93,9	94,2	94,4	94,6	95,4	95,7	96,3	97,2	97,1	97,1	95,1
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	97,2	98,1	98,9	99,1	99,3	99,4	99,8	99,9	100,0	99,9	99,9	100,0	99,3
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
2025	Index	100,3												
2025	Rate	3,2												

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.

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'.