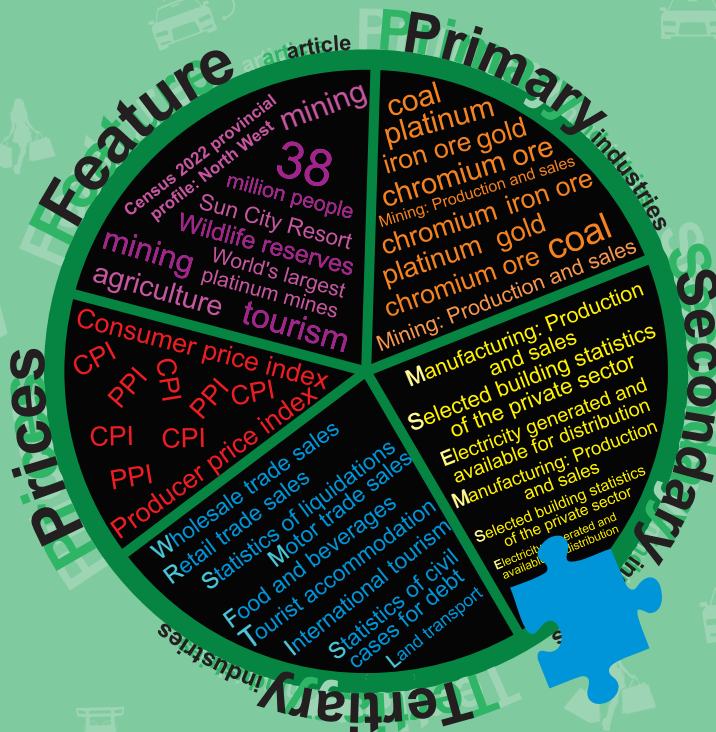


Mbalo Brief

the missing piece of the puzzle

April 2025



Issue 03/2025

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS



stats sa

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Editor's Comment



In South Africa, many newborns die, with thousands failing to breathe at all and many others dying within days of birth, showing a significant public health concern. The latest report from Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), [Perinatal Deaths in South Africa, 2016–2020](#), published on 31 March 2025 highlights that stillbirths have more than doubled since 1997, reaching 15 908 in 2020.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), perinatal mortality refers to stillbirths and deaths within the first week of life per 1 000 total live births. It includes stillbirths (intrauterine foetal deaths) when a baby dies while in the womb before or during delivery, and early neonatal deaths which occur within the first seven days of life. The perinatal period begins at 22 weeks of gestation and ends seven days after birth; however, for international comparison, a 28-week gestation cut-off is often used. In South Africa, a stillbirth is defined as a foetus of at least 26 weeks that shows no signs of life at birth.

The number of babies who did not survive their first week of life in South Africa has increased over the years. Early neonatal deaths (those occurring within the first seven days) rose from 7 039 in 1997 to 8 212 in 2020, reaching 11 060 in 2009. Overall, perinatal deaths – which include both stillbirths and early neonatal deaths – increased from 13 021 in 1997 to 24 120 in 2020, with the highest recorded number at 25 422 in 2009. Early neonatal mortality accounts for roughly a third (on average 33,8%) of perinatal deaths over the period 2016 to 2020.

This month's feature article is based on the *Census 2022 Provincial Profile: North West* (Report No. 03-01-75), published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) on 27 June 2024. Look out for our monthly crossword puzzle and the solutions for March 2025. Articles published in this issue are based on results of industry surveys conducted for January and February 2025.

Enjoy the read!



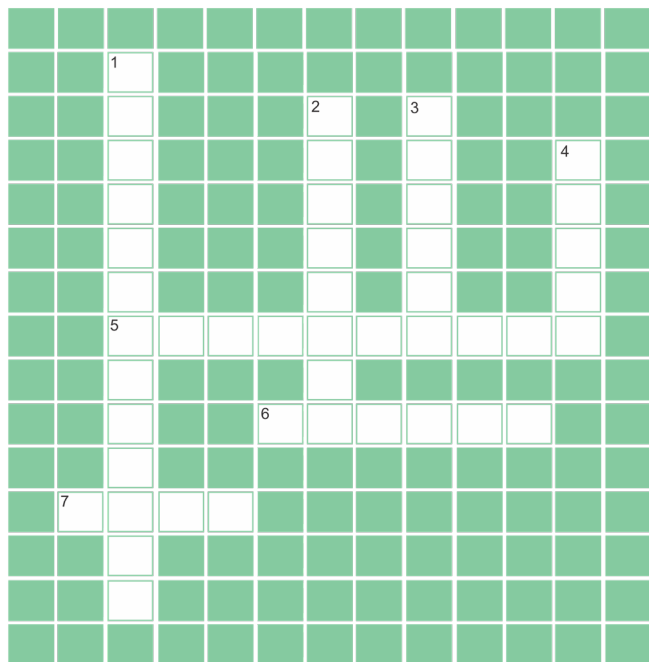


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Crossword Puzzle



Across

5. In which province was the new coal mine opened? [Read Mining: Production and sales for clue]
6. What is a tax imposed on goods and services imported to another country called?
7. How many provinces border North West province?

Down

1. Who is the Premier of North West?
2. What was the most spoken language in North West in 2011 and 2022? [Read feature article for clue]
3. Which is the only continent with land in all four hemispheres?

Solutions for March 2025 puzzle

Across

3. Ecuador
5. Kiribati
6. Money lent
7. Rarely

Down

1. Barbara Creecy
2. Male
4. Eight



Feature article

Census 2022 provincial profile: North West

1. Introduction



The North West province is located in the central part of South Africa, bordering Botswana to the north and the provinces of Gauteng, Free State, and Limpopo to the east, south, and west, respectively. The capital city of North West is Mahikeng (formerly known as Mafikeng). The province has a population of approximately 3,8 million people, with most of the population residing in urban areas such as Rustenburg, Klerksdorp, and Potchefstroom. The economy of

North West is driven by mining, agriculture and tourism. The province is home to some of the world's largest platinum mines such as Impala mine and Kroondal mine among others. North West is also known for its wildlife reserves and national parks, including the Pilanesberg Game Reserve, Madikwe Game Reserve and the Kgaswane Mountain Reserve. The famous Sun City Resort is also located in this province. Dynamics of the South African economy measured by gross domestic product (GDP) indicate that North West is the least contributor to the economy, compared to other provinces, with an economic growth rate of 0,6%, which is below the national average of 1,9%. The province's GDP is largely driven by the mining (30%), personal services (17%), finance (16%), and trade (12%) industries. North West is the seventh most populated province and has maintained this position since 1996.

This feature article is based on the Census 2022 provincial profile: North West (Report No. 03-01-75), 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 North West, population characteristics, education and household characteristics as well as access to basic services.

2. Population characteristics

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

2.1 Population distribution

Figure 1: Population distribution of North West, Census 1996–2022

Province	Population				Growth rates		
	Census 1996	Census 2001	Census 2011	Census 2022	1996-2001	2001-2011	2011-2022
Western Cape	3 956 875	4 524 335	5 822 734	7 433 020	2,7	2,5	2,4
Eastern Cape	6 147 244	6 278 651	6 562 053	7 230 204	0,4	0,4	0,9
Northern Cape	1 011 864	991 876	1 145 861	1 355 945	-0,4	1,4	1,6
Free State	2 633 504	2 706 775	2 745 590	2 964 412	0,5	0,1	0,7
KwaZulu-Natal	8 572 302	9 584 129	10 267 300	12 423 907	2,2	0,7	1,9
North West	2 726 828	2 982 064	3 509 953	3 804 547	1,8	1,6	0,8
Gauteng	7 834 620	9 390 528	12 272 263	15 099 423	3,6	2,7	2,0
Mpumalanga	3 124 203	3 365 957	4 039 939	5 143 324	1,5	1,8	2,3
Limpopo	4 576 133	4 995 462	5 404 868	6 572 721	1,8	0,8	1,9
South Africa	40 583 573	44 819 778	51 770 560	62 027 503	2,0	1,4	1,8

Source: Census 1996, 2001, 2011 & 2022

The Census 2022 results indicate that the South African population increased from 40,6 million in 1996 to 62,0 million in 2022. Over the same period, North West's population increased from 2,7 million in 1996 to 3,8 million in 2022. The province grew by 0,3 million people between 2011 and 2022. However, the population growth rate declined from 1996 to 2022 with a rate of 1,8% to 0,8%.

The population grew at a rate of 0,8% from 2011 to 2022 while at national level the population grew at a rate of about 1,8% over the same period.

2.2 Population density



Population density refers to the number of people per square kilometre. 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.

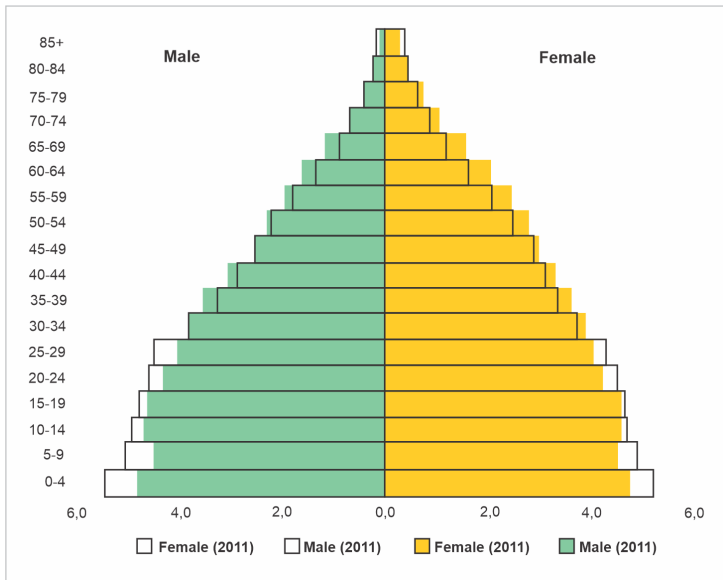
2.2.1 Population density by local municipality, Census 2011–2022

North West had a population density of 33 persons per square kilometre in 2011 and that increased to 36 persons per square kilometre in 2022. The results show that Rustenburg local municipality was the mostly densely populated municipality in North West, with 161 persons per square kilometre in 2011, which increased to 165 persons per square kilometre in 2022. Among municipalities with the least population density were Kagisano/Molopo local municipality, which recorded four persons per square kilometre in 2011 and five persons per square kilometre in 2022, and Naledi local municipality which had nine persons per square kilometre in 2011 and 2022, respectively.

2.3 Age and sex structure

South Africa was a predominantly female population in Census 2022, with females constituting 51,3% and males 48,5%. Similarly, the population in North West was predominantly female in Census 2022, with females constituting 51,5% and males 49,5%.

Figure 2: North West population pyramid, Census 2011 (transparent) and 2022 (coloured)



The population pyramid in Figure 2 above, shows the age-sex structure of North West. The results show that children below the age of five years dominated the North West population, although the proportions decreased slightly over the period 2011 to 2022. Despite this decrease, persons aged 0–4 remained the largest age group in North West. The group of persons aged 10–14 was the second largest age group, and interestingly, the numbers increased over the same period. The pyramid further shows that youth between the ages of 14 and 34, for males and females constituted most of the population in North West.

In 2022, 7 out of 10 persons (65,5%) in North West were of working age. Children and older persons constituted about 28,3% and 6,2%, respectively. Looking at older persons, there were no municipalities that had proportions of elderly persons above 10%. Only Moretele local municipality showed the highest proportion of elderly persons, at 8,5%.

District dynamics in age structure revealed that the leading district in population size was Bojanala with about 1,6 million persons. Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati showed the highest proportion (32,7%) of children.

The age structure for local municipalities showed that the leading municipality was Rustenburg municipality with about 400 677 of the population in the working age, which represents over 70% of the population.

2.4 Dependency ratio

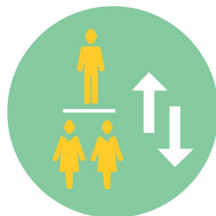
This indicator compares the number of dependents (children aged 0–14 and older persons aged 65 and older) to persons who are economically active (working population 15–64). The dependency ratio represents the socio-economic burden that the working age population must bear.

The dependency ratio of North West was 55 in 2011, which is relatively high, suggesting that the province does not have enough workforce that can support the dependent population. The total dependency ratio decreased to 53 per 100 in 2022.

The two districts in North West, namely, Ngaka Modiri Molema and Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati, had the highest total dependency ratio than the provincial average in 2022 (59 per 100 and 64 per 100, respectively). Both Bojanala and Dr Kenneth Kaunda districts had the lowest total dependency ratio than that of the province (48 per 100 and 50 per 100, respectively).

Several local municipalities in North West such as Ratlou, Tswaing, Ramotshere Moiloa, Mamusa, Greater Taung and Kagisano/Molopo had the highest total dependency ratio, suggesting that there was an insufficient number of people in the workforce that can support the dependent population.

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. The sex ratio indicator measures the sex composition of the population. The results show a slight increase in sex ratio, from 93 in 1996 to 94 in 2022, nationally. The North West province had a sex ratio of 98 in 1996, 99 in 2001 and 98 in 2022. However, the

province recorded the sex ratio above 100, reaching 103 in 2011.

2.6 Population group

2.6.1 Percentage distribution by population group, Census 2011–2022

The results indicated that the black African population made up the highest proportion in North West in 2011 and 2022, at 89,8% and 93,7%, respectively. On the other hand, the white population decreased from 7,3% in 2011 to 4,5% in 2022. The Indian/Asian population had the lowest proportion, at 0,1% for both census years.

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

Looking at district dynamics, Bojanala, Ngaka Modiri Molema and Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati had the highest proportions of the black African population, with 95,4%, 96,4% and 95,1%, respectively, compared to that of the province. Moses Kotane, the Greater Taung and Ratlou local municipalities had the highest proportions of the black African population, (99,3%, 99,1% and 99,0%, respectively). The Indian/Asian population had the lowest proportion, with an average of 0,1%. Several local municipalities, Moretele, Ratlou, Tswaing, and others, recorded zero proportions of the Indian/Asian population. Naledi local municipality had the highest proportion of the coloured population, at 11,5%.

2.7 Marital status

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

In 2022, the highest proportion of the population aged 12 and older in North West who were never married was 64,0%. Looking at districts in North West, the results show that more than two-thirds (67%) of persons aged 12 and older in Ngaka Modiri Molema (69,1%) and Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati (70,7%) were never married. Bojanala (23,3%) and Dr Kenneth Kaunda (22,5%) districts recorded the highest proportion of persons that were legally married.

The local municipalities with the highest proportion of persons who were never married were Ratlou (74,7%), Kagiso/Molopo (74,5%), and Ramotshere Moiloa (71,3%).

2.8 Language

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



Setswana remained the most spoken language in North West. The proportion of those speaking Setswana increased from 67,8% in 2011 to 72,8% in 2022. The second most frequently spoken language was Sesotho at 5,9% in both 2011 and 2022. Afrikaans was the third most spoken language, at 5,2% in 2022, from 8,8% in 2011.

2.9 Religion

The results indicate that the majority of the population identified as Christians (95,3%), while 2,3% followed Traditional African religion. No religious affiliation or belief was reported by 1,2% of the population.

3. Education

3.1 Educational institution attendance

In 2022, there was an increase in the proportions of persons aged 5–24 who attended educational institutions in the North West province, from 70,4% in 2011 to 72,8% in 2022. The highest attendance was reported in Greater Taung Municipality, with 78,7% in 2011 and 76,9% in 2022. The lowest proportions of persons attending an educational institution were observed in Rustenburg municipality, with 62,9% in 2011 and 68,8% in 2022.

3.2 Level of education

The provincial profile shows that the majority (33,2%) of persons aged 20 and older had Grade 12/Matric as their highest level of education, followed by those with some secondary schooling (32,5%). The smallest proportion (7,5%) of persons in this age group had no schooling. Ngaka Modiri Molema (21,0%), Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati (9,6%) and Dr Kenneth Kaunda (20,1%) districts had lower proportions of persons aged 20 and older who

had Grade 12/Matric. Furthermore, all municipalities in North West districts had lower proportions of persons who had Grade 12/Matric than the provincial average.

3.3 Field of education

The 2022 results indicate that around 27% of persons in the province had studied business management, followed by 26,5% of those who qualified in humanities, social sciences and applied humanities-related fields. The proportion of persons who studied law was 2,7%, which is the lowest in the province, followed by natural and mathematical sciences (3,5%). Males predominately qualified in business management and engineering, and other applied sciences (24% and 26,2%, respectively). In the engineering and other applied sciences, males recorded 11 percentage points above the provincial average.

On the other hand, the highest proportion of females qualified in humanities, social sciences and applied humanities, business management and health sciences (33,2%, 28,9% and 10,9%, respectively). In the humanities, social sciences and applied humanities, females recorded seven percentage points higher than the provincial average.

4. Household characteristics and access to services

4.1 Household size

Census 2022 results show that there was an increase in the number of households in North West, from 1 061 998 households in 2011 to 1 141 284 in 2022. The average household size remained unchanged at 3,3 in both 2011 and 2022. The average household size in Bojanala district municipality increased from 3,0 in 2011 to 3,1 in 2022, while in Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati district municipality, it increased from 3,7 in 2011 to 3,8 in 2022. Tswaing local municipality had the highest household size of 4,1 compared to other local municipalities, while Madibeng local municipality maintained a lower household size of 3,0 in both 2011 and 2022.

4.2 Household headship and composition

In 2022, the majority of the households in the North West province were male-headed (53,7%) compared to female-headed (46,3%). In all North West districts, households were mostly headed by males, with Bojanala

recording the highest proportion (56,0%), followed by Ngaka Modiri Molema (51,5%) and Dr Kenneth Kaunda (52,3%). Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti had the lowest proportions of male-headed households, at 51,1%.

4.3 Housing

In 2022, Bojanala district had the highest number of households living in formal dwellings (447 335). The number of those who lived in informal dwellings was 78 262. Bojanala district had the highest number of households living in traditional dwellings (3 476), followed by Ngaka Modiri Molema district, with 2 976. Looking at local municipalities in North West, Madibeng local municipality had the lowest proportion (76,4%) of households living in formal dwellings, followed by Tswaing local municipality (83, 5%).

4.4 Access to piped water inside the dwelling/yard

In 2022, North West recorded an increase in the proportion of households with access to piped water inside the dwelling, from 69,3% in 2011 to 74,5% in 2022. Dr Kenneth Kaunda district municipality had the highest percentage of households with access to piped water inside the dwelling/in the yard (90,7%), followed by Bojanala district municipality (77,1%) and Ngaka Modiri Molema district municipality (64,5%). Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti district had the lowest percentage of households with access to piped water inside the dwelling (56,3%).

4.5 Main type of toilet facility

The percentage distribution of households with access to a flush toilet in North West increased from 45,4% in 2011 to 58,5% in 2022. The majority of households (667 287) in North West used a flush toilet connected to the public sewage system, followed by households with a pit toilet/toilet without a ventilation pipe (249 125). Households using a bucket toilet system collected by the municipality were lower in numbers (1 098) compared to households with other types of toilet facilities (4 937). There were 23 205 households in the province without a toilet facility. Bojanala district municipality had the largest number of households without a toilet facility (7 798), followed by the Ngaka Modiri Molema district municipality (6 188).

4.6 Main energy source for lighting

In 2022, Bojanala district municipality had the highest number of households using electricity as their energy source for lighting (500 067), followed by Ngaka Modiri Molema district municipality (243 423).

4.7 Main energy source for cooking

The highest number of households in North West used electricity for cooking (795 686), followed by gas (251 562) and wood (45 749).

4.8 Type of refuse removal

In 2022, Bojanala district municipality had the highest number of households (307 836) that had their refuse removed by the local authorities or a private company or community members at least once a week, followed by Dr Kenneth Kaunda district municipality (175 487).

4.9 Ownership of household goods

The proportion of households who owned a cellphone in North West increased from 86,8% in 2011 to 90,8% in 2022. The proportion of households that owned a refrigerator increased from 65,1% in 2011 to 81,1% in 2022. Lastly, the proportion of households that owned a motor vehicle increased from 23,1% in 2011 to 25,9% in 2022.

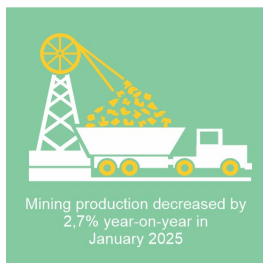
5. Conclusion

The population of North West has been growing since Census 1996. The most spoken language in the province was Setswana. Looking at marital status, Census 2022 results show that the highest proportion of the population aged 12 and over was never married. In terms of education, the majority of persons aged 20 and older had Grade 12/Matric as their highest level of education, followed by those with some secondary schooling and the least were those with no schooling.



Primary industries

Mining: Production and sales



Coal is a diverse resource used to manufacture a variety of products. Though it is most commonly used for energy production, it is also used to manufacture steel, cement, chemicals, plastics and other materials. Therefore, an adequate supply of coal is essential for many industries, not only for energy production. On 14 March 2025, mining company, Seriti, officially opened its Naudesbank colliery (a coal mine and the buildings and

equipment associated with it) in Carolina, Mpumalanga. The R500 million development, which includes infrastructure projects, will not only support mining activities but also benefit the local community, according to Seriti. The coal mine is expected to generate around 300 direct jobs, and therefore boost the mining sector and contribute to economic growth. With mining production declining by 2,7% in January 2025, it marks the third consecutive decline since November 2024 and the steepest decline since June 2024. This is according to *Mining: Production and sales* data published by Stats SA. Therefore, a development of this kind can help drive mining growth into a positive territory through the supply of quality coals which are essential for manufacturing. This article summarises the results of *Mining: Production and sales* (statistical release P2041) for January 2025.



Mining production decreased by 2,7% year-on-year in January 2025 (see Table A). The largest negative contributors were:

- iron ore (-15,1%, contributing -2,7 percentage points);
- PGMs (-3,8%, contributing -1,1 percentage points); and

- coal (-4,4%, contributing -1,0 percentage point).

Table A – 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	0,5	4,8	1,1	-0,9	-2,4	-2,7
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	3,3	4,2	-3,0	0,0	-3,7	-1,2
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	-1,4	0,9	3,7	3,9	-0,5	-3,5

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

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

Mineral sales at current prices decreased by 5,9% year-on-year in January 2025 (**see Table B**). The largest negative contributors were gold (-21,1%, contributing -5,8 percentage points) and chromium ore (-26,8%, contributing -1,7 percentage points).

The largest positive contributor was coal (14,2%, contributing 3,1 percentage points).

Table B – Key growth rates in mineral sales at current prices for January 2025

	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-11,5	7,9	0,7	8,2	-9,4	-5,9
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-22,1	17,6	3,0	5,9	-10,1	2,5
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	10,6	-2,8	-7,7	2,1	5,4	6,8

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

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



Secondary industries

Manufacturing: Production and sales



The automotive manufacturing industry, considered the largest manufacturing sector, is key to South Africa's (SA) economic growth, as it contributes to the gross domestic product (GDP) and employment. Recently, South Africa's automotive industry has started facing a new challenge due to an influx of low-priced vehicles, especially from China, which is disrupting the local market. Chinese automakers, which import cars into South Africa, like Chery, Haval (Great Wall Motors

(GWM)) and BAIC, are expanding rapidly in the country mainly because their vehicles are affordable and feature-rich, often undercutting locally assembled models. This has resulted in price pressure for local manufacturers like Toyota, Volkswagen, Ford, BMW, and Mercedes-Benz, which assemble cars in SA. The price pressures can affect profit margins, production volumes, and potentially employment in the manufacturing sector if demand shifts heavily toward imports. According to BusinessLIVE, this price pressure has prompted local car manufacturers to plan to approach the government with a proposal to reduce production costs and make locally manufactured vehicles more competitively priced. The proposal includes a request that the government allow local car manufacturers to convert billions of rands in unused import duty credits into cash. By converting the credits into cash, car manufacturers hope to lower production costs and, ultimately, slash the retail prices of domestically produced cars. A decrease in the retail prices of vehicles may potentially increase the sales of vehicles. The latest results released by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) indicate that manufacturing production relating to motor vehicles, parts and accessories and other transport equipment declined by -10,1% (contributing -0,8 of a percentage point). This article summarises the *Manufacturing: Production and sales results* (statistical release P3041.2) for January 2025.



Manufacturing production decreased by 3,3% in January 2025 compared with February 2024 (see **Table C**). The largest negative contributions were made by the following divisions:

- petroleum, chemical products, rubber and plastic products (-9,1%, contributing -2,1 percentage points);
- food and beverages (-3,2%, contributing -0,8 of a percentage point); and
- motor vehicles, parts and accessories and other transport equipment (-10,1%, contributing -0,8 of a percentage point).

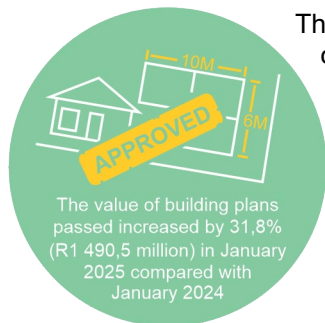
Table C – Key growth rates in the volume of manufacturing production for January 2025

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

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 as reported by local government institutions



The approval of building plans is a critical step in the construction process, ensuring that structures are designed and built to meet safety, accessibility, and environmental standards. By reviewing and approving building plans, municipalities and regulatory authorities can verify compliance with local building codes, zoning regulations, and other legal requirements, thereby protecting the health, safety, and welfare of occupants and

the broader community. However, it may take a while for building plans to get approved due to several factors including the complexity of the project and the workload of the municipal planning department, often delaying the building project. To minimise these delays, some metropolitan municipalities in South Africa, such as City of Cape Town, City of Johannesburg and City of Tshwane have introduced digital building plan approval systems to improve the efficiency and turnaround times for the review and approval of building plans submitted. This is achieved by enabling digital submissions of building plans, which reduces bottlenecks and paperwork delays. Plans can be reviewed in parallel by different departments (fire, town planning, building control, etc.) and can be submitted 24/7 and not just during office hours, reducing processing time by 30 – 50% compared to manual systems. These systems may potentially increase the number of the building plans passed. The results published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) show that the value of building plans passed increased by 31,8% (R1 490,5 million) in January 2025 compared with January 2024. Presented in this article is a summary of the *Selected building statistics of the private sector as reported by local government institutions* (statistical release P5041.1) for January 2025.



The value of building plans passed increased by 31,8% (R1 490,5 million) in January 2025 compared with January 2024 (see Table D).

Increases were reported for non-residential buildings (R515,0 million), additions and alterations (R494,7 million) and residential buildings (R480,9 million).

The largest positive contributors to the total increase of 31,8% (R1 490,5 million) were:

- Western Cape (contributing 21,3 percentage points or R999,0 million);
- KwaZulu-Natal (contributing 11,1 percentage points or R519,7 million); and
- Mpumalanga (contributing 5,5 percentage points or R256,3 million).

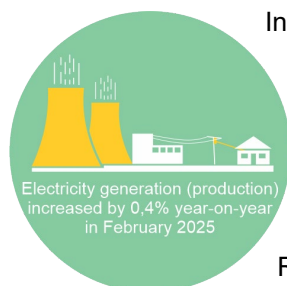
The largest negative contributors were Gauteng (contributing -3,9 percentage points or -R182,0 million) and Free State (contributing -2,4 percentage points or -R114,3 million).

Table D – Building plans passed by larger municipalities at current prices by type of building, January 2025

Type of building	Jan 2024	Jan 2025	Difference in value between Jan 2024 and Jan 2025	% change between Jan 2024 and Jan 2025
	R'000	R'000	R'000	
Residential buildings	2 641 211	3 122 062	480 851	18,2
-Dwelling-houses	1 984 968	2 131 840	146 872	7,4
-Flats and townhouses	629 325	929 179	299 854	47,6
-Other residential buildings	26 918	61 043	34 125	126,8
Non-residential buildings	646 429	1 161 440	515 011	79,7
Additions and alterations	1 392 946	1 887 599	494 653	35,5
Total	4 680 586	6 171 101	1 490 515	31,8

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



In January 2025, electricity generation increased by 5,7% year-on-year according to the latest data published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA). More than 80% of this electricity generated in South Africa is primarily from coal-fired power stations. While these power stations assist the national power utility to provide electricity to households, they have significant environmental and health implications.

Recognising this, Eskom has adopted several policies aimed at transitioning electricity generation to renewable energy, which also involves decommissioning some of its coal-fired power stations. However, the power utility has requested for more time to transition

to renewable energy and to be exempt from complying with environmental laws. The Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Dr Dion George, has granted Eskom exemption from Minimum Emission Standards (MES) for eight of its coal-fired power station. Two power stations, Duvha and Matla, were granted nine-year MES exemptions until their planned decommissioning dates in 2034. Six other power stations were granted five-year MES exemptions until 1 April 2030. These are Kendal, Lethabo, Majuba, Matimba, Medupi and Tutuka. In granting the exemption, the Minister said these exemptions are not a “blanket reprieve” and are specifically tailored to each facility, and come with a set of conditions for non-compliance. These include implementing emission reduction measures and health interventions, among others. Presented in this article is a summary of the results for the *Electricity generated and available for distribution* (statistical release P4141) for February 2025.



Electricity generation (production) increased by 0,4% year-on-year in February 2025 (see Table E).

Table E – Key growth rates in the volume of electricity for February 2025

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

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) decreased by -3,5% year-on-year in February 2025 (see Table F).

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

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

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



A tariff is tax levied on goods and services imported into a country. Imposing tariffs on goods and services is a norm for most countries as it generates revenue while protecting local industries by encouraging consumers to buy local goods. However, imposing higher tariffs on imports can weaken an economy by reducing demand and leading to job losses. The president of the United States of America (USA), Donald Trump, imposed tariffs of between 10% and 31%

on South Africa, which will affect various sectors. One of the sectors that will be affected is agriculture, which relies heavily on exports. According to Wandile Sihlobo, the Chief Economist of the Agricultural Business Chamber of South Africa, the USA accounts for 4% of South Africa's agricultural exports; the biggest products are citrus, wine, grapes and nuts. Sihlobo reiterated that these agricultural exports entered the USA market duty free and now they fall under the tariff level of between 10% and 31% imposed on South Africa. The import tariffs will result in South African products becoming expensive and less attractive to USA consumers. The end result of the tariffs will be that producers will produce fewer products for export and generate fewer sales, among others. This article summarises the results of the *Wholesale trade sales* (statistical release P6141.2) for January 2025.



Wholesale trade sales decreased by 0,9% in January 2025 compared with January 2024 (see Table G).

The main negative contributor was dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (-11,1%, contributing -3,0 percentage points).

The main positive contributors were dealers in:

- 'other' household goods except precious stones (11,3%, contributing 1,2 percentage points);
- fee or contract basis (24,9%, contributing 0,6 of a percentage point); and
- 'other' goods (7,0%, contributing 0,6 of a percentage point).

Table G – Key growth rates in wholesale trade sales for January 2025

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

¹ Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated. A full release on *Wholesale trade sales* (statistical release 6141.2) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Retail trade sales



Retail trade plays an important role in the economy as it acts as a bridge between suppliers and consumers, contributing to the gross domestic product (GDP). Nielsen IQ (NIQ) South Africa (SA) (a global market research firm) reported in the *State of the Retail Nation* that in 2024, South African consumers spent R359 billion on food and liquor as well as R278 billion on other goods such as non-alcoholic beverages, personal and healthcare products, snacks, home and pet

supplies, baby food and care, and tobacco. According to NIQ SA, retail spending in December 2024 totalled R78 billion. The latest figures released by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) for January 2025 show that one of the largest contributors to the increase in retail trade sales was general dealers

(8,4%, contributing 3,6 of a percentage point). This article summarises the *Retail trade sales* (statistical release P6242.1) for January 2025.



Retail trade sales increased by 7,0% year-on-year in January 2025 (see Table H). The largest contributors to this increase were:

- general dealers (8,4%, contributing 3,6 percentage points); and
- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (10,1%, contributing 1,6 percentage points).

Retail trade sales increased by 5,7% in the three months ended January 2025, compared with the three months ended January 2024. The largest positive contributors to this increase were:

- general dealers (7,0%, contributing 3,0 percentage points); and
- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (9,4%, contributing 1,9 percentage points).

Table H – Key growth rates in retail trade sales for January 2025

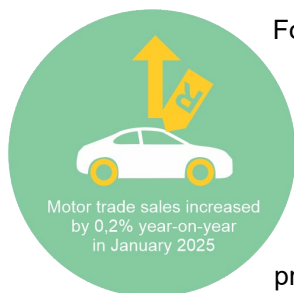
	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	3,3	1,1	6,2	7,6	3,2	7,0
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,7	-0,6	1,8	1,0	-0,4	1,2
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	1,7	1,0	1,2	1,3	2,1	2,1

^{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



For many South Africans, owning a car is an aspiration as it offers convenience in light of the poor public transportation system, among many reasons. However, affordability remains a stumbling block in car ownership. Over the years, the prices of new vehicles have increased significantly due to a variety of reasons. According to the latest vehicle price index published by TransUnion, new vehicle prices increased by 1,7% year-on-year in the fourth quarter of 2024 due to supply chain constraints and production costs, while used vehicle prices declined by 2,8%, reflecting greater affordability-driven demand. The report also highlights the continued shift towards used vehicles, with financing for used vehicles surpassing that of new vehicle financing at a ratio of 1,56 to 1. When people purchase used vehicles, it is largely driven by affordability as there are many costs associated with vehicle ownership. Similarly, data by Stats SA indicates that used vehicle sales were among the positive drivers of motor trade sales for January 2025. Used vehicles accounted for 8,8% of sales and contributed 1,7% towards the 0,2% increase in motor trade sales. This article summarises *Motor trade sales* (statistical release P6343.2) for January 2025.



Motor trade sales increased by 0,2% year-on-year in January 2025 (See Table I). The main positive contributors to this increase were:

- used vehicle sales (8,8%, contributing 1,7 percentage points); and
- new vehicle sales (2,9%, contributing 0,7 of a percentage point).

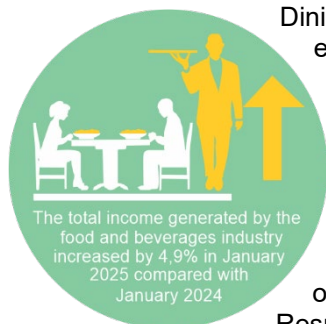
The largest negative contributor was fuel sales (-7,9%, contributing -2,3 percentage points).

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

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

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



Dining at a restaurant is more than just a meal; it is an experience that indulges the senses, encourages social interaction, offers convenience and provides a break from the routine of home-cooked food. In addition, restaurant dining – which falls under the restaurant industry – plays an important role in the economy, contributing to job creation, tourism and overall economic growth. However, in the last few months, dining out, whether weekly or monthly, has been declining.

Results published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) show that income for restaurants and coffee shops decreased by 0,2% in January 2025. This was the fifth consecutive decrease since the 6,9% decrease recorded in September 2024. According to Independent Online (IOL) news, some of the reasons for the decrease in customers dining out are because some South African consumers prefer preparing meals and eating at home, viewing it as a more economical and healthier alternative to eating out. This shift is facilitated by the availability of ready-made meals and meal delivery services. Additionally, increased use of delivery services has fostered a shift towards takeaways and fast food, reflecting a growing

consumer preference for more convenience and speed. Presented in this article is a summary of the results for *Food and beverages* (statistical release P6420) for January 2025.



Total income generated by the food and beverages industry increased by 4,9% in January 2025 compared with January 2024 (see Table J).

The main positive contributor to the 4,9% year-on-year increase was takeaway and fast-food outlets (9,3%, contributing 3,6 percentage points). The negative contributor was restaurants and coffee shops (-0,2%, contributing -0,1 of a percentage point).

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

Type of enterprise	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25
Restaurants and coffee shops	0,3	-6,9	-5,6	-5,2	-5,8	-0,2
Takeaway and fast-food outlets	2,6	-4,6	2,6	10,4	3,4	9,3
Catering services	7,9	-1,7	8,4	8,3	8,8	12,5
Total	2,1	-5,4	-0,8	2,3	-0,9	4,9


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

Tourist accommodation



A new resort aimed at domestic and international travellers is being built in KwaZulu-Natal. The construction of a R2 billion resort known as Club Med South Africa started in March 2024 and will be opened in July 2026. Upon completion, guests can expect premium accommodation, gourmet meals, open bars and a dedicated kids' club certified for children aged from 4 months. The new resort will benefit the tourism industry by stimulating economic growth and offering diverse guest experiences, among others. According to the income results published by

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) in January 2025, hotels (24,6%, contributing 14,1 percentage points) was one of the main contributors to the 16,7% year-on-year increase in income from accommodation. This article summarises the results of *Tourist accommodation* (statistical release P6410) for January 2025.



The total income for the tourist accommodation industry increased by 12,1% in January 2025 compared with January 2024 (see Table K).

Income from accommodation increased by 16,7% year-on-year in January 2025, the result of a 4,5% increase in the number of stay unit nights sold and an 11,7% increase in the average income per stay unit night sold.

In January 2025, the main contributors to the 16,7% year-on-year increase in income from accommodation were:

- hotels (24,6%, contributing 14,1 percentage points); and
- ‘other’ accommodation (7,7%, contributing 2,7 percentage points).

Table K – Year-on-year percentage change in tourist accommodation statistics for January 2025

	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25
Stay units available	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Stay unit nights sold	1,1	3,4	1,9	3,9	1,2	4,5
Average income per stay unit night sold	3,6	9,4	8,5	8,6	11,5	11,7
Income from accommodation	4,7	13,1	10,5	12,9	12,8	16,7
Total income¹	2,4	8,0	7,7	9,8	7,7	12,1

¹Includes 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 is a major destination for immigrants in Southern Africa, with the majority coming from neighbouring countries such as Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Lesotho. Most immigrants come to the country seeking better economic and educational opportunities or fleeing political instability in their countries.

According to the *Report on migration statistics based on various data sources including Census 2022 results*, South Africa's immigrant population has seen a steady rise over the past

few decades, increasing from 2,1% of the total population in 1996 to 3,9% in 2022. By 2022, the number of immigrants in the country had reached 2,4 million, with women making up just over one million of that total. Moreover, the *International tourism* (statistical release P3050) shows that in February 2025, a total 1 916 995 (76,1%) foreign travellers passed through South Africa's ports of entry, an increase from 1 786 050 in February 2024. A rise in the number of immigrants in a country may have a negative impact, such as exerting pressure on public services (housing, hospitals, schools, etc.) or creating a wage competition such as in low-skilled sectors, where a sudden increase in labour supply can sometimes push wages down or make it harder for locals to find jobs—especially if there is an already high level of unemployment. However, there are also some positives to an increase in migration, such as migrants often taking up jobs in industries that struggle to attract local workers like private households, agriculture, construction, or healthcare. Some migrants start businesses, which can create jobs and generate tax revenue for the host country while those with special skills bring expertise, new ideas, and innovation, especially in technology, science, and engineering. All these factors can have long term impact on the economic growth. Presented in this article is a summary of the results of *International tourism* (statistical release P3050) for February 2024.

Travellers

Number of travellers



A total of 2 517 551 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports in February 2025 (see Table L).

These travellers were made up of 600 556 South African residents and 1 916 995 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 297 388 arrivals, 302 781 departures and 387 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 1 024 787, 861 915 and 30 293, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in January 2025 and February 2025 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and transits decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 36,8% (from 470 486 in January 2025 to 297 388 in February 2025). Departures decreased by 11,6% (from 342 632 in January 2025 to 302 781 in February 2025) and transits decreased by 7,2% (from 417 in January 2025 to 387 in February 2025). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 21,8% (from 1 310 377 in January 2025 to 1 024 787 in February 2025), departures decreased by 7,7% (from 934 182 in January 2025 to 861 915 in February 2025), and transits decreased by 1,3% (from 30 697 in January 2025 to 30 293 in February 2025).

Mode of travel of travellers

In February 2025, road was the most common mode of travel used by 1 611 628 (64,0%) of the 2 517 551 travellers. The total number of air travellers was 854 923 (34,0%). Compared to air and road, a smaller number of travellers, 51 000 (2,0%) used sea into and out of South Africa. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 123 625 (41,6%) came by air, 152 037 (51,1%) came by road and 21 726 (7,3%) arrived by sea. For departures, 126 582 (41,8%) used air, 154 913 (51,2%) used road and 21

286 (7,0%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 387 (100,0%) used air. In the case of foreign travellers, 286 926 (28,0%) arrived by air, 734 891 (71,7%) came by road and 2 970 (0,3%) arrived by sea. When departing South Africa, 287 110 (33,3%) foreign travellers left by air, 569 787 (66,1%) left by road and 5 018 (0,6%) left by sea. Of all travellers in transit, 30 293 (100,0%) used air.

Visitors

In February 2025, 24 123 (2,4%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors, while 1 000 664 (97,6%) were classified as visitors. Visitors were categorised into three groups:

- I. Arrivals only – comprising of visitors who entered the country in February 2025 but did not depart in February 2025 [392 097 (39,2%)].
- II. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in February 2025 and left in February 2025 [316 717 (31,7%)].
- III. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in February 2025 [291 850 (29,2%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors/tourists. In February 2025, there were 236 553 (23,6%) same-day visitors and 764 111 (76,4%) tourists. Between January 2025 and February 2025, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 9,2% (from 260 646 in January 2025 to 236 553 in February 2025) and that of tourists decreased by 24,6% (from 1 013 984 in January 2025 to 764 111 in February 2025). Between February 2024 and February 2025, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 16,4% (from 203 191 in February 2024 to 236 553 in February 2025) whereas that of tourists increased by 5,3% (from 725 674 in February 2024 to 764 111 in February 2025).

Of the 236 553 same-day visitors, a majority, 221 776 (93,8%) arrived in the country by road, 14 445 (6,1%) arrived by air, and 332 (0,1%) arrived by sea. Information on tourists shows that 498 701 (65,3%) came by road, 263 682 (34,5%) used air, and 1 728 (0,2%) used sea.

Tourists

Sex and age distribution of tourists

Sex

There were more male [447 323 (58,5%)] than female [316 788 (41,5%)] tourists. Male tourists constituted the majority of tourists for all three regions; SADC countries [322 535 (60,7%)], overseas countries [114 373 (53,0%)] and 'other' African countries [9 777 (62,7%)]. Similarly, the largest portion of female tourists was from SADC countries [209 109 (39,3%)], followed by overseas countries [101 457 (47,0%)] and 'other' African countries [5 812 (37,3%)].

Age

The age distribution indicates that out of all tourists, [4,1% (31 253)] were younger than 15; [8,2% (62 425)] were aged between 15 and 24; [23,1% (176 658)] were aged between 25 and 34; [28,4% (216 819)] were aged between 35 and 44; [18,5% (141 606)] were aged between 45 and 54; [10,4% (79 482)] were aged between 55 and 64; [7,3% (55 868)] were aged 65 and older.

Purpose of visit of tourists

The number of tourists by region and sub-region. Detailed data on the country of residence and purpose of visit is presented in Annexure C on pages 19 to 22. It is observed that in February 2025, the majority of tourists, 737 197 (96,5%), were in South Africa for holiday compared to 21 279 (2,8%); 5 329 (0,7%) and 306 (less than 0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and medical treatment respectively.

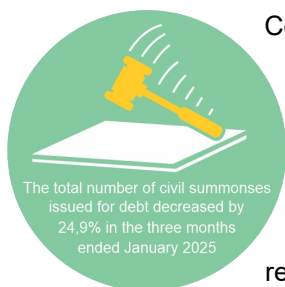
Mode of travel of tourists

About 203 984 (94,5%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 10 544 (4,9%) came in by road and 1 302 (0,6%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the SADC countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road at 486 270 (91,5%), 44 964 (8,5%) came by air and 410 (0,1%) arrived by sea. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 13 853 (88,9%); while 1 720 (11,0%) used road transport and 16 (0,1%) preferred sea.

Table L – Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction, February 2025

Travel Direction	February 2024	January 2025	February 2025	% Change Jan 2025 – Feb 2025	% Change Feb 2024 – Feb 2025
Total	2 397 507	3 088 791	2 517 551	-18,5%	5,0%
South African residents	611 457	813 535	600 556	-26,2%	-1,8%
Arrivals	303 987	470 486	297 388	-36,8%	-2,2%
Departures	307 099	342 632	302 781	-11,6%	-1,4%
Transits	371	417	387	-7,2%	4,3%
Foreign travellers	1 786 050	2 275 256	1 916 995	-15,7%	7,3%
Arrivals	955 283	1 310 377	1 024 787	-21,8%	7,3%
Departures	800 664	934 182	861 915	-7,7%	7,7%
Transits	30 103	30 697	30 293	-1,3%	0,6%

Statistics of civil cases for debt



Consumer debt in South Africa continues to be a source of concern, with many people struggling to keep up with loan repayments due to the rising cost of living, high interest rates and economic pressures. A report by Debtbusters, a debt management company, shows that in the fourth quarter of 2024, consumers faced rising burdens and spent 68% of their take-home pay on debt repayments. Those earning R35 000 or more a month

used 74% of their income to repay debts. In light of this debt crisis, some consumers turned to debt counselling as a solution. Debt counselling is a legal process that helps individuals struggling with debt find a way to manage and repay their obligations, involving a registered debt

counsellor who assesses the situation, negotiates with creditors, and proposes a manageable repayment plan. Debtbusters further indicates that the demand for online debt management was up by 9% in 2024 and debt counselling enquiries for the full year increased by 8% compared with 2023. Moreover, the latest data from Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) show that the total number of civil summonses issued for debt decreased by 24,9% in the three months ended January 2025 compared with the three months ended January 2024, suggesting that more South Africans are managing their debts more effectively. One of the reasons for this is the increase in debt counselling, as debt counselling aims to resolve debt issues before they escalate to legal action. Presented in this article is a summary of the results of *Statistics of civil cases for debt* (statistical release P0041) for January 2025.

The number of civil summonses issued for debt



The total number of civil summonses issued for debt decreased by 24,9% in the three months ended January 2025 compared with the three months ended January 2024 (see Table M).

The largest contributors to the 24,9% decrease in civil summonses issued were:

- 'other' debts (contributing -13,8 percentage points);
- money lent (contributing -4,2 percentage points); and
- services (contributing -3,5 percentage points).

The number of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total number of civil judgements recorded for debt decreased by 11,6% in the three months ended January 2025 compared with the three months ended January 2024. The largest contributors to the 11,6% decrease were civil judgements relating to:

- services (contributing -8,5 percentage points); and
- 'other' debts (contributing -1,0 percentage point).

The value of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total value of civil judgements recorded for debt decreased by 11,0% in the three months ended January 2025 compared with the three months ended January 2024. The largest negative contributors were:

- 'other' debts (contributing -3,8 percentage points);
- money lent (contributing -2,9 percentage points);
- promissory notes (contributing -2,3 percentage points); and
- services (contributing -2,0 percentage points).

Goods sold (contributing 0,7 of a percentage point) was the only positive contributor.

In January 2025, 7 920 civil judgements for debt amounting to R227,8 million were recorded. The largest contributors to the total value of judgements were:

- money lent (R55,7 million or 24,5%);
- services (R51,3 million or 22,5%);
- 'other' debts (R43,8 million or 19,2%); and
- promissory notes (R32,5 million or 14,3%).

Table M – Key figures for January 2025

Actual estimates	Jan 2025	% change between Jan 2024 and Jan 2025	% change between Nov 2023 – Jan 2024 and Nov 2024 – Jan 2025
Number of civil summonses issued for debt	23 075	-30,5	-24,9
Number of civil judgements recorded for debt	7 920	-15,1	-11,6
Value of civil judgements recorded for debt (R million)	227,8	-15,4	-11,0

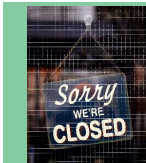
A full release on *Statistics of civil cases for debt* (statistical release P0041) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Statistics of liquidations



Companies under financial distress can approach the courts to file an application for business rescue in order to rehabilitate and restructure their financial affairs. The courts caution that this should be done only when business owners want to genuinely save the company from getting liquidated, as they are receiving an influx of applications that are initiated under false pretences. According to legal experts from Webber Wentzel, companies are abusing the system and filing for business rescue as a tactic to

delay paying off their debts or obstructing the liquidation process, which undermines the integrity of the legal framework designed to assist financially distressed businesses. During business rescue, creditors' rights are suspended and they cannot enforce payment or take legal action against the company. However, entering into business rescue doesn't mean debts are erased or forgotten. It simply postpones the enforcement of those debts while a plan is devised to pay creditors. So, if an application is made and after review is found not to be for legitimate reasons, the courts can order the individual who filed for application and not the company to pay for the legal fees. Moreover, the business rescue application can also be ignored, thus inevitably placing the company at a greater risk of becoming liquidated. According to the *Statistics of liquidations* statistical release published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), in February 2025 the total number of liquidations increased by 1,4% compared with February 2024. This release summarises the findings of the *Statistics of liquidations* (statistical release P0043.1) for February 2025.



The total number of liquidations increased by 1,4% in February 2025 compared with February 2024 (see Table N).

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

The total number of liquidations decreased by 12,5% in the three months ended February 2025 compared with the three months ended February 2024.

The total number of liquidations in the first two months of 2025 decreased by 0,4% compared with the first two months of 2024.

Table N – Key growth rates in the number of liquidations for February 2025

Number of liquidations February 2025	% change between February 2024 and February 2025	% change between Dec 2023 to Feb 2024 and Dec 2024 to Feb 2025	% change between January to February 2024 and January to February 2025
140	1,4	-12,5	-0,4

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

Land transport



Railways are a vital part of South Africa's passenger transportation system; they are cheaper than taxis and buses, making them a more affordable way to commute to work and school. According to President Cyril Ramaphosa, affordable public transport helps to reduce the cost of living for millions of South Africans. Without affordable and reliable alternatives, households spend a large proportion of their income on transport. Fixing rail public transport, therefore,

plays a big role in reducing poverty. This is one of the reasons why the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA), a state-owned enterprise responsible for most passenger rail services in the country, has implemented several initiatives aimed at enhancing its services, which have led to increased ridership. These initiatives include restoring rail corridors, introducing new trains, upgrading stations, and enhancing security, ultimately improving the passenger experience and increasing commuter rail trips. This increase in ridership for PRASA has contributed to the overall increase in the number of passenger journeys. Results for *Land transport* (statistical release P7162) for January 2025 show that the number of passenger journeys increased by 11,1% in January 2025 compared with January 2024. The results of this release are further discussed in detail in the paragraphs that follow.



The number of passenger journeys increased by 11,1% in January 2025 compared with January 2024 (see Table O).

The corresponding income increased by 1,6% over the same period.

Table O – Year-on-year percentage change in freight transportation for January 2025

	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25
Passenger journeys	11,6	4,3	14,2	1,3	2,5	11,1
Passenger income	7,3	3,4	2,3	-4,0	-4,1	1,6

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

The volume of goods transported (payload) decreased by 4,2% in January 2025 compared with January 2024 (**see Table P**). The corresponding income decreased by 2,4% over the same period.

Income from freight transportation decreased by 5,0% in the three months ended January 2025 compared with the three months ended January 2024. The main negative contributors to this decrease were:

- 'other' freight (-16,8%, contributing -3,4 percentage points);
- agriculture and forestry primary products (-22,9%, contributing -1,4 percentage points); and
- primary mining and quarrying products (-2,7%, contributing -0,9 of a percentage point).

Table P – Year-on-year percentage change in freight transportation for January 2025

	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25
Freight payload	-6,3	-12,1	-10,3	-10,6	-6,9	-4,2
Freight income	-3,0	-11,9	-5,8	-6,1	-6,2	-2,4

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)



South Africa was hard-hit by a mid-summer drought in the 2023–24 season, leading to a 21% decline in maize production to 12,9 million tonnes. This significant reduction is largely attributed to drought conditions, particularly influenced by the El Niño weather phenomenon. National Geographic defines “El Niño as a climate pattern that describes the unusual warming of surface waters in the eastern Pacific Ocean.” In Southern Africa, El Niño brings high temperatures and below-

average rainfall from November to April, significantly affecting agriculture. Wandile Sihlobo, the Chief Economist of the Agricultural Business Chamber of South Africa (Agbiz), explains that the decrease in the production of maize has led to a tightening of maize stocks and an increase in white maize spot price (the current price for immediate delivery and payment). For instance, by 14 February 2025, the white maize spot price was R5 559 per tonne. Although well below the R6 700 per tonne at the start of January 2025, it is still 30% higher than a year ago. This price surge of maize was reflected in grain and mill products, which increased by 7,1% in February 2025 compared with February 2024. This ultimately contributed to the 4,2% increase recorded for food products, beverages and tobacco products, the main contributor to the headline producer price index (PPI) annual inflation rate. This article summarises the results of the *Producer price index* (statistical release P0142.1) for February 2025.

Final manufactured goods – headline PPI

Headline consumer price index (CPI) for all urban areas

a



Annual producer price inflation (final manufacturing) was 1,0% in February 2025, down from 1,1% in January 2025 (see Table Q).

The PPI increased by 0,4% month-on-month in February 2025. The main contributor to the headline PPI annual inflation rate was food products, beverages and tobacco products (4,2% and contributing 1,2 percentage points). The main contributor to the monthly rate was coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products (1,6%, contributing 0,3 of a percentage point).

Intermediate manufactured goods

The annual percentage change in the PPI for intermediate manufactured goods was 8,5% in February 2025, compared with 7,3% in January 2025. The index increased by 1,9% month-on-month. The main contributors to the annual rate were basic and fabricated metals (11,0%, contributing 5,5 percentage points) and chemicals, rubber and plastic products (8,7%, contributing 2,5 percentage points). The main contributors to the monthly rate were basic and fabricated metals (2,7%, contributing 1,4 percentage points) and chemicals, rubber and plastic products (2,1%, contributing 0,6 of a percentage point).

Electricity and water

The annual percentage change in the PPI for electricity and water was 10,8% in February 2025, compared with 10,0% in January 2025. The index increased by 1,4% month-on-month. The contributors to the annual rate were electricity (11,9%, contributing 10,1 percentage points) and water (5,6%, contributing 0,8 of a percentage point). The contributor to the monthly rate was electricity (1,7%, contributing 1,5 percentage points).

Mining

The annual percentage change in the PPI for mining was 2,5% in February 2025, compared with 0,7% in January 2025. The index increased by 2,0% month-on-month. The main positive contributors to the annual rate were gold and other metal ores (14,4% and contributing 3,9 percentage points) and non-ferrous metal ores (2,4% and contributing 1,2 percentage points). The positive contributors to the monthly rate were:

- gold and other metal ores (4,5%, contributing 1,3 percentage points);
- non-ferrous metal ores (2,4%, contributing 1,2 percentage points); and
- stone quarrying, clay and diamonds (11,5%, contributing 0,6 of a percentage point).

Agriculture, forestry and fishing

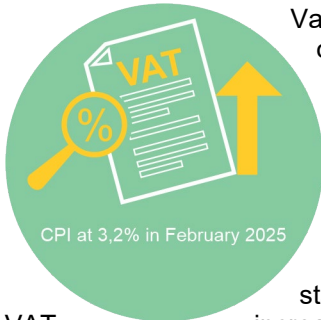
The annual percentage change in the PPI for agriculture, forestry and fishing was 7,6% in February 2025, compared with 7,5% in January 2025. The index decreased by 2,3% month-on-month. The main contributor to the annual rate was agriculture (8,3% and contributing 7,2 percentage points). The main negative contributor to the monthly rate was agriculture (-2,7%, contributing -2,4 percentage points).

Table Q – Key PPI figures for February 2025

Product	Weight	Index (Dec 2023=100)			% change	
		Feb 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	Feb 2025 vs. Jan 2025	Feb 2025 vs. Feb 2024
Final manufactured goods	100,00	100,6	101,2	101,6	0,4	1,0
Intermediate manufactured goods	100,00	101,5	108,1	110,1	1,9	8,5
Electricity and water	100,00	101,4	110,8	112,4	1,4	10,8
Mining	100,00	100,8	101,3	103,3	2,0	2,5
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	100,00	94,0	103,5	101,1	-2,3	7,6

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)



Value-added Tax (VAT) is a consumption tax levied on the sale of goods and services at each stage of production. An increase in VAT can impact the economy, particularly the consumer price index (CPI), a measure that tracks changes in the prices of a basket of goods and services typically purchased by households. During his revised budget speech, Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana, proposed two increases in the standard VAT rate of 15% over two years. The first

VAT increase of 0,5% applies from 1 May 2025, and the second VAT increase of 0,5% will apply from 1 April 2026, taking VAT to 15,5% and 16% respectively. Consumers, especially those from low-income households, will further be strained financially by the VAT hike. When businesses absorb the VAT hike in their input costs, they are likely to pass it on to consumers, and this will translate into higher prices for goods and services. While the government plans to extend its list of zero-exempt goods to ease the financial burden, a bulk of consumer expenditure is still subject to VAT. Consumers will pay more for items such as groceries, clothing, electronics and services. As these increase, so will the CPI, which may be perceived as inflationary pressure. In February 2025, the CPI was 3,2%, unchanged from January 2025. Presented in this article is a summary of the *Consumer price index* (statistical release P0141) results for February 2025.

Headline consumer price index (CPI) for all urban areas



Annual consumer price inflation was 3,2% in February 2025, unchanged from January 2025. The CPI increased by 0,9% month-on-month in February 2025. The main contributors to the 3,2% annual inflation rate were:

- housing and utilities (4,4%, contributing 1,0 percentage point);
- food and non-alcoholic beverages (2,8%, contributing 0,5 of a percentage point); and
- restaurants and accommodation services (4,6%, contributing 0,3 of a percentage point).

In February 2025, the annual inflation rate for:

- goods was 2,5%, up from 2,4% in January 2025; and
- services was 3,8%, down from 4,0% in January 2025.

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
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
	Rate	3,2	2,9	3,2	4,4	5,2	4,9	4,6	4,9	5,0	5,0	5,5	5,9	4,5
2022	Index	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
	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
	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
	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	101,2											
	Rate	3,2	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.



Glossary



Primary industries

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Secondary industries

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

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

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

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

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



Tertiary industries

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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