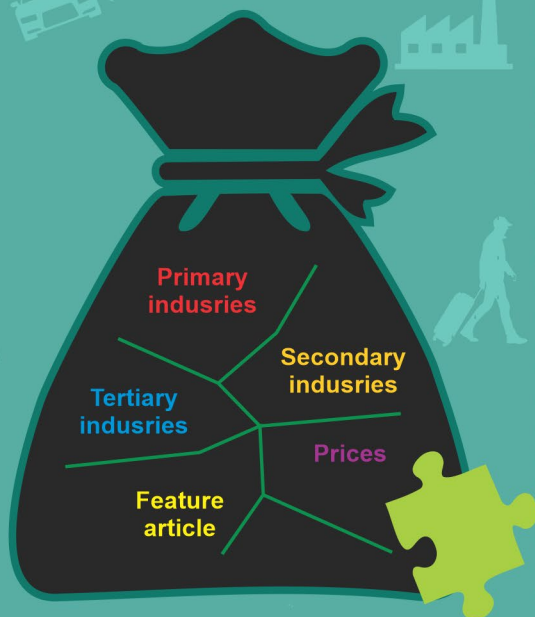


# Mbalo Brief

the missing piece of the puzzle

May 2025



WEALTH OF INFORMATION

Issue 04/2025

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS



stats sa

Department:  
Statistics South Africa  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Statistics South Africa  
Private Bag X44  
Pretoria 0001  
South Africa

ISibalo House, Koch Street, Salvokop  
Pretoria 0002

User information services: (012) 310 8600  
Main switchboard: (012) 310 8911

Website: [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za)  
Email: [info@statssa.gov.za](mailto:info@statssa.gov.za)





## Editor's Comment



On 6 May 2025, the Constitutional Court of South Africa made an important decision about a law that caused some South Africans to lose their South African citizenship. The court said that part of the South African Citizenship Act, 1995 (Act No. 88 of 1995), specifically section 6(1)(a), is unconstitutional, which means it goes against the country's Constitution. Since 6 October 1995, this section of the law said that if a South African citizen became a citizen of another country without first getting permission from the government, they would

automatically lose their South African citizenship. But the Court decided this rule was unfair and should not be allowed. This ruling means that South Africans now have stronger rights to keep their citizenship, even if they become citizens of another country. Having dual citizenship can be helpful: It can make it easier to travel, work, study, or visit family in other countries. It may also give people access to healthcare and financial services in both countries. The Minister of Home Affairs, Dr Leon Schreiber, said that the Department of Home Affairs will follow the court's decision. He also said the department is already working to help people who were affected by this law to get their South African citizenship back. This ruling will benefit affected citizens greatly as it provides them protection of their South African citizenship.

This month's feature article is based on the Census 2022 Provincial Profile: Eastern Cape (Report No. 03-01-71), published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) on 27 June 2024. Look out for our monthly crossword puzzle and the solutions for April 2025. Articles published in this issue are based on the results of industry surveys conducted for February and March 2025.

Enjoy the read!

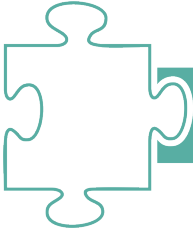




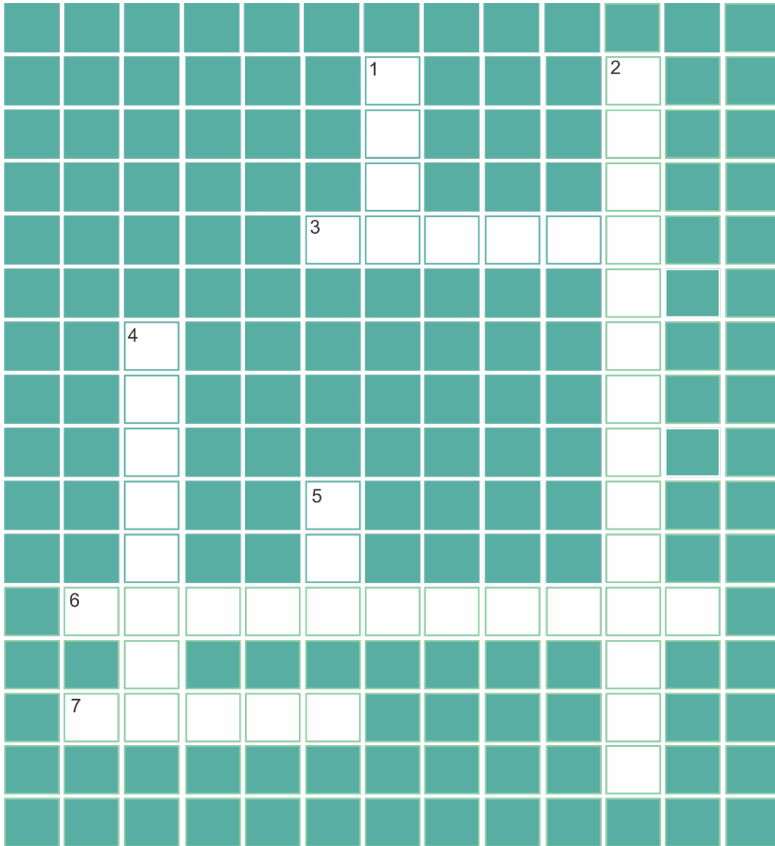
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# Crossword Puzzle



### Across

3. South Africa is a major producer of Platinum Group...Fill in the missing word.
6. Sex ratio is a key measure of sex....in a given population. Fill in the missing word.
7. True or false? VAT increased by 0,5% on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2025.

### Down

1. True or false? Hotels remained the popular choice for tourist accommodation in South Africa.
2. The ...Court of South Africa has ruled that a provision in the Citizenship Act, 1995 (Act No. 88 of 1995), which previously led to automatic loss of South African citizenship for those who acquired citizenship elsewhere, is unconstitutional.
4. Which language is the most spoken in Eastern Cape? Read the feature article for clues.
5. What is the name of the newly elected pope? Fill in the name only.

### Solutions for April 2025 puzzle

#### Across

5. Mpumalanga
6. Tariff
7. Four

#### Down

1. Kagiso Mokgosi
2. Setswana
3. Africa



## Feature article

### Feature article on Census 2022 provincial profile: Eastern Cape

#### 1. Introduction



Eastern Cape is known for its rugged coastline, scenic mountains and wildlife reserves including the Addo Elephant Park, which is located in Gqeberha (formerly Port Elizabeth), the most populous city in the province. Known for its rich cultural heritage and natural beauty, the province is a blend of rolling hills, scenic coastlines, and rural landscapes. It is the birthplace of prominent South African leaders such as Nelson Mandela, Thabo Mbeki, Steve Biko and Desmond Tutu. It plays a significant role in the country's political and historical narrative. The province

holds immense potential in manufacturing, agriculture, tourism, and renewable energy. The dynamics of the South African economy measured by gross domestic product (GDP) indicate that Eastern Cape has the third largest growth rate (2,1%), which is also above the national average (1,9%). The province's GDP is largely driven by personal services (27%), finance (18%) and trade industries (17%). This feature article is based on the Census 2022 provincial profile: Eastern Cape (Report No. 03-01-71) published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) on 27 June 2024. 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, and access to basic services. This month, we explore the economic indicators of Eastern Cape in terms of population characteristics, education and household characteristics as well as access to basic services, using all censuses from Census 1996 to Census 2022. The article also

outlines the patterns and trends in the indicators highlighted. Where possible, inter-provincial comparisons are made to highlight how this province fares to other provinces in the country. Such information can serve as a base for decision-making and resource allocation in different spheres of government.

## 2. Population characteristics

### 2.1 Population distribution

Population characteristics include demographic variables such as age, sex, population group, language, etc. All these are important in determining the structure of the population. The population distribution informs us about the diversity existing in society, such as understanding whether the society is youthful or aging, including the language spoken by majority of individuals. All these aspects are important, particularly when resources are being allocated.

**Figure 1 – population distribution of Eastern Cape, Census 1996 – 2022**

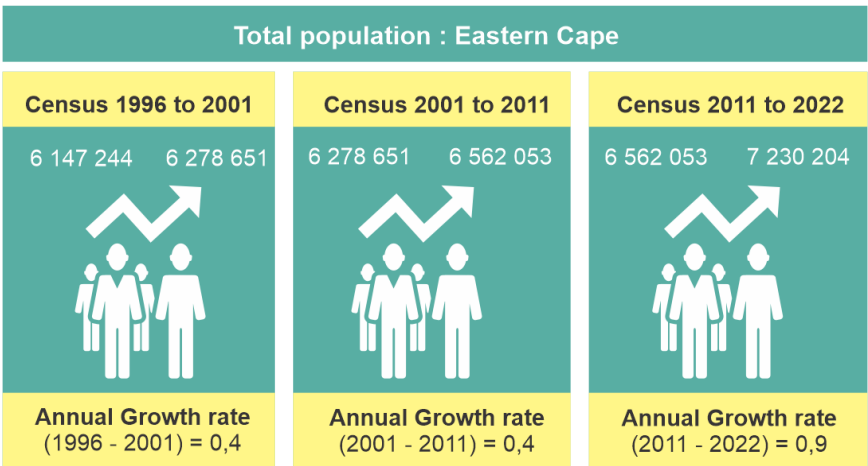


Figure 1 above, shows the distribution of population by province over four census periods between 1996 and 2022 in South Africa. A national increase in population of roughly 20 million was observed between 1996 and 2022. The population grew by 2% between 1996 and 2001 and by 1,8% between

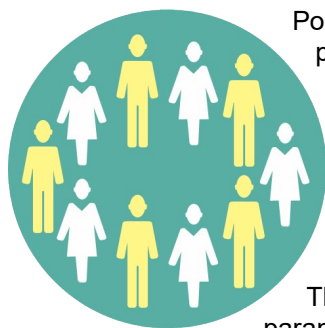


2011 and 2022. A slower population growth of 1,4% was observed from 2001 to 2011. Eastern Cape recorded an upward trend in population size (from 6,1 million in 1996 to 7,2 million in 2022).

The provincial growth rate was constant (0,4%) in the first two census periods (1996–2001 and 2001–2011). A higher growth rate of 0,9% was observed between 2011 and 2022. However, the provincial growth rate was lower than the national average across all censuses.

District dynamics show that OR Tambo District (1 501 702) and Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality (1 190 496) had the biggest share of the population in the province in Census 2022, the same pattern was observed for Census 2011. Joe Gqabi District recorded the lowest population size for both census years (348 673 in 2011 and 393 048 in 2022).

## 2.2 Population density



Population density is measured as the number of persons per land area. As population increases in a particular area, there are both development and environment-related positive and negative implications including land degradation, disease breakouts, strained infrastructure and inadequate provision of basic services in situations where too many people are concentrated in a very small land area.

Therefore, the information on population density is paramount in informing planning and decision-making.

Eastern Cape's land area is 168 966 square kilometres. The results show that the province was sparsely populated with approximately 39 and 43 persons per square kilometres in 2011 and 2022, respectively. A further breakdown of the results shows that Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan had the highest population density of about 608 persons per square kilometre in 2022, a slight increase from 589 persons per square kilometre in 2011. Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality had the second highest population density (354) while Dr Beyers Naude Municipality recorded the lowest population density with approximately four persons per square kilometre in 2022.

### 2.3 Age and sex structure

The age and sex structure of the population is better represented in terms of population pyramid. It shows the number of females and males in different age groups. The age structure is subdivided into three categories of functional age groups: children (0–14), working-age group (15–64) and those aged 65 and older.

In 2022, the proportions of males in Eastern Cape was 47,4%, lower than the national average of 48,5%, while that of females was 52,6%, which was slightly higher than the national average of 51,5%.

**Figure 2. Eastern Cape population pyramid, Census 2011 (transparent) and 2022 (coloured)**

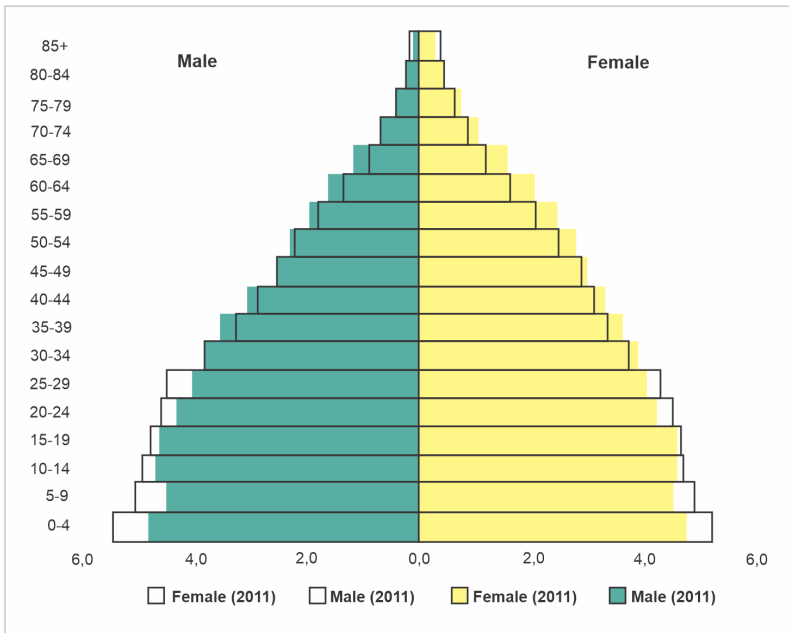


Figure 2 above, shows a comparison of the age-sex structure between the 2011 and 2022 censuses. The results indicate a decrease in the proportions for both males and females for the age groups 0 to 24 in 2022. In contrast, an increase in proportions is displayed for both males and females from age

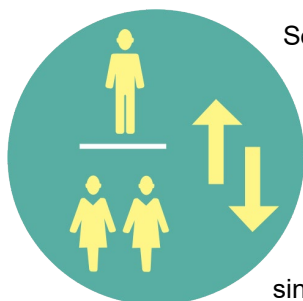
25 to 49 in the same period. The proportions of males and females are almost similar for age group 50–54 in both census years.

## 2.4 Dependency ratios

The dependency ratio is expressed as the number of children aged 0–14 and those aged 65 and older to the working-age population (aged 15–64). The dependency ratio of Eastern Cape decreased from 66,0% in 2011 to 60,0% in 2022. When dependency ratios are higher, it indicates a large proportion of the dependent population (children and elderly), meaning that there is a greater burden carried by the working-age population to support the dependent population. Lower ratios indicate a relatively smaller proportion of dependents, meaning there are enough working people to support the dependent population. A ratio above 50 is generally considered high.

In both censuses, the dependency ratios of Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (48,3), Sara Baartman District Municipality (51,7) and Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality (45,2) had the lowest dependency ratios, which were also below the provincial average of 60,0. This is an indication that the economically active population in these districts can support children and older persons. Alfred Nzo District Municipality on the other hand reflected the highest dependency ratio of 73,7. This implies that the economically active persons in this district have more children and older persons to support compared with other districts.

## 2.5 Sex ratio



Sex ratio is a key measure of sex composition in a given population. This indicator gives the number of males for every 100 females in the population. A sex ratio above 100 indicates more males than females in the population, and a sex ratio below 100 indicates the opposite.

The sex ratio of South Africa has been fluctuating since 1996, from 93 in 1996 and 92 in 2001 to 95 and 94 in 2011 and 2022, respectively. The provincial profile showed a similar pattern in sex ratio over the same period, from 86 in both 1996 and 2001 to 89 and 90 in 2011 and 2022, respectively. However, unlike the national ratio,

Eastern Cape recorded an upward trend in sex ratios for the period 2011–2022.

## 2.6 Population group

The largest population group in Eastern Cape for Census 2022 was black Africans (85,7%), followed by coloureds (7,6%) and whites (5,6%). Similar patterns were observed for Census 2011. Indians/Asians and other population groups constituted less than 1% of the population for both periods.

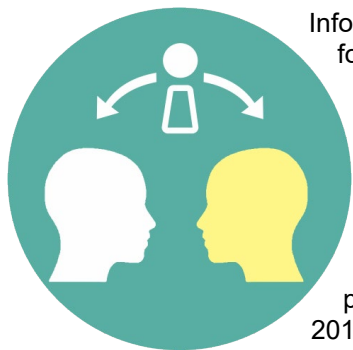
## 2.7 Marital status

Demographers and social scientists use indicators from marital status to understand changing patterns in marriage, cohabitation, divorce and separation, key factors in household composition and their influence on several key demographic indicators such as fertility. In South African Censuses, the question on marital status is posed to persons aged 12 and older.

In 2022, more than half of Eastern Cape's population aged 12 and older was never married (64,2%), followed by proportions of legally married persons (24,0%), widowed (5,8%), living together (4,0%), divorced (1,5%) and those separated, but still legally married constituted 0,6%.

The district profile showed that in OR Tambo, 70,4% persons aged 12 and older were never married, which was higher than the provincial average. Alfred Nzo (68,8%) and Amathole (64,7%) District Municipalities also recorded percentages higher than the provincial average. Looking at the married category, Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality recorded higher percentages of married persons with 27,7%. Among persons that were divorced, Nelson Mandela Bay recorded 2,7%, Sara Baartman 2,2% and Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality 2,1%, whilst the remaining districts recorded proportions below 2,0%.

## 2.8 Language



Information on the language most spoken is required for planning purposes, including development of educational curriculum in various languages as well as determining the extent of growth and preservation of particular languages locally. The most spoken language in Eastern Cape in the Censuses 2011 and 2022 was isiXhosa (78,8% and 81,8%, respectively). Afrikaans was the second most spoken language, although the percentage decreased slightly over the period 2011–2022 (from 10,6% to 9,6%). With the exception of English and Sesotho languages, which were spoken by 4,8% and 2,4%, respectively, the remaining other languages constitute less than 1,0% each in 2022.

## 2.9 Religion

In 2022, about 86,1% of the population in Eastern Cape affiliated with Christianity and 11% were affiliated with traditional African religion. Approximately 1,3% of the population had no religious affiliation, and persons affiliated to Islam were less than 1,0%.

## 3. Education

### 3.1 Educational attendance

The proportion of persons aged 5–24 who attended an educational institution in Eastern Cape remained unchanged at about 77% in Censuses 2011 and 2022. At district level, the highest increase in attendance was observed for Sara Baartman at about 2,6% (from 66,1% in 2011 to 68,7% in 2022). This was followed by Buffalo City, which saw an increase of 1,4% (from 74,9% in 2011 to 76,3% in 2022), and Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan with 1,2% (from 70,7% in 2011 to 71,8% in 2022). The remaining districts showed a slight decrease of 1% or less.

### 3.2 Level of education

In 2022, the proportion of those aged 20 and older with some secondary education below grade 12 was 37,5%, followed by those with grade 12 (27,2%). Only 10% of the population of those aged 20 and older acquired a qualification above grade 12. The results also show that 7,2% of this population did not have any schooling and about 12,2% had not completed primary education.

### 3.3 Field of education

In 2022, a third (30,8%) of the population in Eastern Cape qualified in humanities and social sciences related fields, more than a fifth (26,9%) studied business management, 4,1% studied natural and mathematical sciences and those who studied law were at 2,6%. Looking at sex variations in educational attainment, about 25,1% of males qualified in business management, followed by those who studied humanities, social sciences and applied humanities (22,0%) and engineering and other applied sciences (21,5%). Females equally qualified in humanities, social sciences and applied humanities (37,1%) and business management (28,2%). In the health science field, about 10,6% of females qualified in health sciences, while their male counterparts constituted about 4,8%.

## 4. Household characteristics and access to services

A household is a group of persons who live together and provide themselves jointly with food, shelter and other essentials for living or a single person who lives alone.

### 4.1 Households and average household size

Results for census 2011 and 2022 showed an increase in the number of households in Eastern Cape, from around 1,7 million in 2011 to 1,8 million in 2022. Over the same period, the average household size remained unchanged at 3,9 persons.

### 4.2 Household headship and composition

In 2022, more than half of households in the province (51,9%) were headed by females. This pattern was largely driven by three districts (OR Tambo

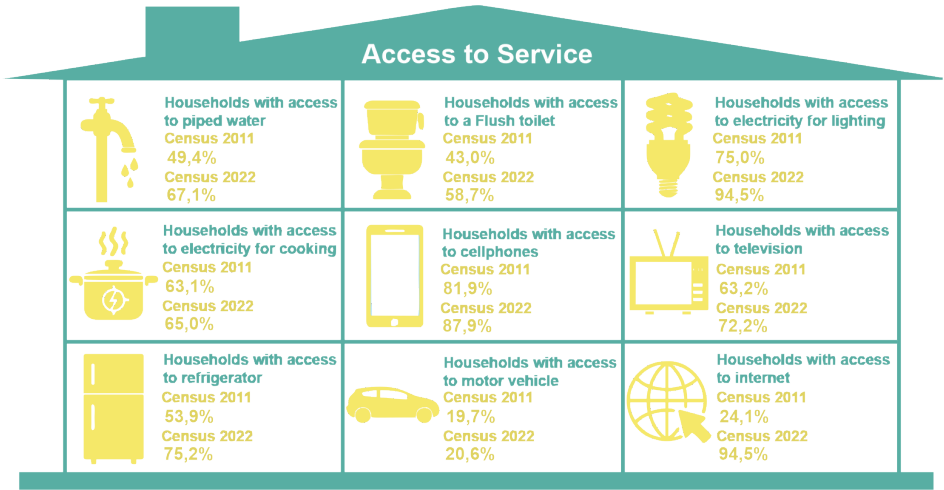
(57,9%), Alfred Nzo (57,5%) and Buffalo City (52,5%). Child-headed households declined from 16 712 in 2011 to 10 319 in 2022.

### 4.3 Housing



In 2022, 83,6% of households in Eastern Cape resided in formal dwellings, 11,7% resided in traditional dwellings and 4,4% resided in informal dwellings. Variations at district level showed that Nelson Mandela Bay (92%), Sarah Baartman (90,9%), Buffalo City (85,6%), Chris Hani (85,7%) and Joe Gqabi (86%) districts recorded the highest proportions of households residing in formal dwellings and they were above the provincial average of 83,6%. In contrast, the profile of households residing in traditional dwellings showed that Alfred Nzo (28%), O.R. Tambo (21,5%), Amathole (16,3%) and Chris Hani (12,9%) recorded the highest proportions above the provincial average of 11,7%.

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



#### 4.4 Access to piped water inside the dwelling/ yard

Nationally, access to piped water inside dwelling and in yard increased from 73,4% in 2011 to 82,4% in 2022. The profile of Eastern Cape showed an upward trend in households with access to piped water inside the dwelling, from 49,4% in 2011 to 67,1%.

#### 4.5 Access to a flush toilet

Nationally, there was about a 10,7% increase in the proportion of households with access to flush toilets (from 60,1% in 2011 to 70,8% in 2022). Eastern Cape profile showed an upward trend in households with access to flush toilets (from 43% in 2011 to 58,7% in 2022).

#### 4.6 Main source of energy used for lighting

In 2022, majority (94,5%) of households in the province were using electricity for lighting, followed by those using candles (2,2%) and paraffin (2,0%).

#### 4.7 Main source of energy used for cooking

The province recorded 65,0% of households using electricity for cooking, followed by gas (25,0%) wood (6,0%) and paraffin (3,0%).

#### 4.8 Type of refuse removal

The results showed that in 2022, more than half (53,9%) of households in the province had their refuse removed by local authority at least once a week and about 35% had their own refuse dump whilst 6,6% did not have any refuse removal facilities.

#### 4.9 Ownership of household goods

Census 2022 results indicate that majority of households in South Africa owned cell phones (92,1%), followed by those that owned refrigerators (83,2%) and televisions (79%). Motor vehicle ownership reflected the lowest proportions (31,1%) compared with goods/assets. For Eastern Cape, ownership of refrigerators increased from 53,9% in 2011 to 75,2% in 2022, televisions ownership increased from 63,2% in 2011 to 72,2% in 2022. Cellphone ownership increased from 81,9% in 2011 to 87,9% in 2022 while motor vehicle ownership increased from 19,7% in 2011 to 20,6% in 2022.



#### 4.10 Access to Internet

Nationally, access to Internet increased by 44% (from 35,2% in 2011 to 78,9% in 2022). Eastern Cape showed an increase from 24,1% in 2011 to 65,7% in 2022. However, in both censuses, the percentage of households with access to the Internet were lower than the national average.

#### 5. Conclusion

Eastern Cape has experienced steady population growth and remains generally sparsely populated, with higher concentrations in urban areas like Nelson Mandela Bay and OR Tambo District. The province has more females than males, and the population structure is dominated by working-age individuals. The dependency ratio, which reflects the pressure on the working population, has decreased in some areas but remains high in others. Most residents are black Africans and speak isiXhosa, with a majority affiliated to Christianity. Most adults have at least some secondary education, while higher education attainment remains relatively low. Humanities and social sciences are the most common fields of study, with noticeable gender differences in areas like business, engineering, and applied sciences. Eastern Cape has seen an increase in the number of households over time, while the average household size has largely remained the same. Female-headed households are more common in the province. Ownership of goods and Internet access among households has increased, though it remains lower than the national average.



## Primary industries

### Mining: Production and sales



South Africa is a major producer of platinum group metals (PGMs), accounting for a significant portion of the global supply. According to the Department of Mineral Resources (DMRE), South Africa holds more than 90% of global PGMs reserves and 75% of global supply. The PGMs are amongst the minerals that are exempted from import tariff imposed by Donald Trump, the president of United States of America (USA), on 02 April 2025, according to the announcement made by the Mineral Council of South Africa (MCSA) on 03 April 2025.

The MCSA reported that in 2024, total South African exports of mineral products and precious metals to the USA amounted to R65,3 billion, with PGMs accounting for 76,3% of the total. In February 2025, mining production decreased by 9,6% year-on-year according to the latest data published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA). The PGMs were the largest negative contributors with -23,9%, contributing -5,8 percentage points. This article summarises the results of *Mining: Production and sales* (statistical release P2041) for February 2025.



Mining production decreased by 9,6% year-on-year in February 2025 (**see Table A**). The largest negative contributors were:

- PGMs (-23,9%, contributing -5,8 percentage points);
- iron ore (-10,5%, contributing -1,9 percentage points);

- gold (-7,6%, contributing -1,0 percentage point); and
- coal (-4,3%, contributing -1,0 percentage point).

**Table A – Key growth rates in the volume of mining production for February 2025**

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

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

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

Mineral sales at current prices decreased by 12,9% year-on-year in February 2025 (**see Table B**). The largest negative contributors were:

- iron ore (-29,5%, contributing -4,9 percentage points);
- gold (-32,7%, contributing -3,5 percentage points);
- PGMs (-12,2%, contributing -2,5 percentage points); and
- chromium ore (-23,2%, contributing -2,1 percentage points).

The largest positive contributor was coal (5,3%, contributing 1,4 percentage points).

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

	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	7,9	0,8	8,2	-9,4	-6,3	-12,9
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	17,3	2,5	5,4	-10,2	1,3	-10,4
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1</sup>	-2,9	-8,2	1,2	4,3	5,4	-8,8

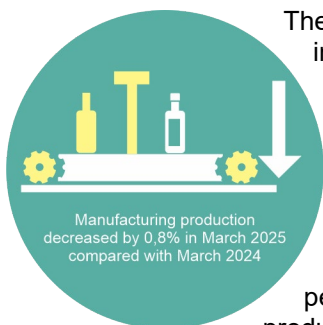
<sup>1</sup> Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

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



## Secondary industries

### Manufacturing: Production and sales



The manufacturing industry, one of the biggest industries in the South African economy, is experiencing a setback in the volume of production. According to *Manufacturing: Production and sales* data published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), in March 2025 manufacturing production declined by 0,8%, marking the fifth consecutive decrease since November 2024 when it declined by 1,7%. The petroleum, chemical products, rubber and plastic products division (-2,5% and contributing -0,5 of a percentage point) was one of the largest negative contributors to manufacturing growth. The petroleum, chemical products, rubber and plastic products division is the second-largest manufacturing division and is a supplier of critical materials, including fuel, chemical products, plastics and rubber components. These materials are essential for manufacturing a variety of products in the automotive, mining and agriculture industries, like machinery, parts, vehicles and protective gear, among many others. Therefore, a decline in this division often triggers a ripple effect, increasing input costs and slowing down production across multiple sectors. When this division recovers, it revives broader industrial growth and maintains economic momentum. This article summarises the *Manufacturing: Production and sales results* (statistical release P3041.2) for March 2025.



Manufacturing production decreased by 0,8% in March 2025 compared with March 2024 (**see Table C**). The largest negative contributions were made by the following divisions:

- petroleum, chemical products, rubber and plastic products (-2,5%, contributing -0,5 of a percentage point); and
- electrical machinery (-12,2%, contributing -0,3 of a percentage point).

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

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

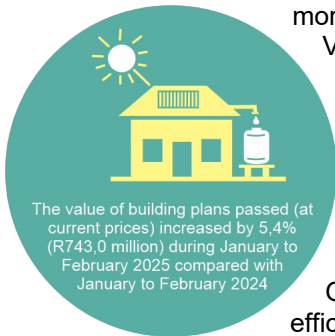
<sup>1</sup> Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

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

## Selected building statistics of the private sector

South Africa is making strides in ensuring that buildings are greener and more efficient through the launch of the Green Star Version 2 (Green Star V2), a green building rating tool. The tool, which was developed by the Green Building Council of South Africa (GBCSA), is in line with international best practices and local environmental challenges and encourages developers to design properties that are not only environmentally responsible, but also resilient and sustainable.

Green Star V2 places greater emphasis on energy efficiency, water conservation, carbon reduction and occupant health. It also introduces more flexible and performance-based metrics, making it easier for a wide range of building types, including offices, industrial, healthcare, schools and residential apartments, to meet sustainability goals. As South Africa continues to grapple with load shedding, water shortages and climate change, tools like Green Star V2 play a crucial role in transforming the construction sector. Beyond being environmentally friendly, certified buildings have lower operating costs, better indoor quality, and stronger long-term value, benefiting both owners and tenants. With future growth expected in the construction sector reflected by an increase in



the value of building plans passed (R743,0) according to Stats SA, it would be beneficial for the country if these planned construction projects comply with sustainability standards. 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 February 2025.



The value of building plans passed (at current prices) increased by 5,4% (R743,0 million) during January to February 2025 compared with January to February 2024 (see Table D).

Increases were reported for non-residential buildings (R1 212,8 million) and additions and alterations (R604,4 million). A decrease was reported for residential buildings (-R1 074,1 million).

The largest positive contributors to the total increase of 5,4% (R743,0 million) were:

- Western Cape (contributing 6,6 percentage points or R908,9 million);
- Mpumalanga (contributing 4,1 percentage points or R566,6 million); and
- KwaZulu-Natal (contributing 3,5 percentage points or R474,8 million).

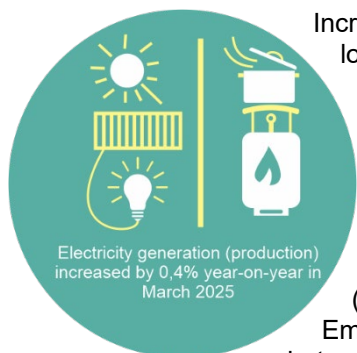
The largest negative contributor was Gauteng (contributing -9,5 percentage points or -R1 298,7 million).

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

Type of building	Jan–Feb 2024	Jan–Feb 2025	Difference in value between Jan-Feb 2024 and Jan-Feb 2025	% change between Jan-Feb 2024 and Jan-Feb 2025
	R'000	R'000	R'000	
<b>Residential buildings</b>	7 628 865	6 554 728	-1 074 137	-14,1
- Dwelling-houses	4 543 147	4 512 081	-31 066	-0,7
- Flats and townhouses	3 034 591	1 628 487	-1 406 104	-46,3
- Other residential buildings	51 127	414 160	363 033	710,1
<b>Non-residential buildings</b>	2 301 571	3 514 349	1 212 778	52,7
<b>Additions and alterations</b>	3 752 330	4 356 712	604 382	16,1
<b>Total</b>	13 682 766	14 425 789	743 023	5,4


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

## Electricity generated and available for distribution



Increasing electricity tariffs and frequent loadshedding has made South African consumers look for alternative energy sources for lighting and cooking among others. One of the attractive energy sources for households and businesses is solar energy. However, the regulatory body in South Africa responsible for overseeing the electricity supply industry, the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA), requires that all Small-Scale Embedded Generation (SSEG) systems including photovoltaic (PV) installation systems are registered with Eskom or the local municipality, depending on who supplies electricity. Rooftop solar installations in the five to 10 kilowatts (kW) or kilovolt-amperes

(kVA) range are also included, however, the systems above 100kW/kVA must register with Nersa. Eskom warned solar users that they have until March 2026 to register their solar systems. The registration is to ensure safety and performance of the national grid by making sure all installations are compliant with the national standards and municipal by-laws. In March 2025, electricity generation increased by 1,1% year-on-year according to the latest data published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA). Presented in this article is a summary of the results for the *Electricity generated and available for distribution* (statistical release P4141) for March 2025.



Electricity generation (production) increased by 1,1% year-on-year in March 2025 (see Table E).

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

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

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

Electricity distribution (consumption) decreased by 1,5% year-on-year in March 2025 (see Table F).



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

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

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

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

**Table F – Key growth rates in the volume of electricity distributed for March 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 <sup>1</sup>	1,3	-0,1	-1,0	-1,9	-1,5	-2,3

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

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



## Tertiary industries

### Wholesale trade sales



Wholesale trade sales decreased by 6,4% in February 2025 compared with February 2024

Owing to the rising petrol price in South Africa, there's a growing interest in alternative fuel sources especially those that offer savings and environmental benefits. One of the emerging solutions is the introduction of liquified petroleum gas (LPG) for cooking, heating and as fuel for motor vehicles. The LPG offers several benefits, including being a clean-burning fuel, a convenient and portable energy source and a non-toxic option. According to World Liquid Gas Association (WLGA), the voice for the global liquid gas industry, LPG demand across

Africa is 15,6 metric tons (MT) with two-thirds consumed in North Africa. WLGA indicated that LPG demand in South Africa was estimated to be close to 500 000 MT in 2024, the third highest in sub-Saharan Africa. LPG contributes to cleaner indoor air and can assist in reducing urban air pollution. The latest results released by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) indicate that the main negative contributor to wholesale trade sales decrease of 6,4% in February 2025 was dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (-24,5%, contributing -6,5 percentage points). This article summarises the results of the *Wholesale trade sales* (statistical release P6141.2) for February 2025.



Wholesale trade sales decreased by 6,4% in February 2025 compared with February 2024 (see Table G).

The main negative contributor was dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (-24,5%, contributing -6,5 percentage points).

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

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

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

### Retail trade sales

The textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods industry is vital to South Africa as it employs thousands of citizens and supports other sectors such as agriculture, transport, and manufacturing. According to the digital magazine SME South Africa, the textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods industry in South Africa currently makes up around 14% of manufacturing employment in the country. This means that the sector facilitates an estimated 60 000 to 80 000 jobs. In recognition of its importance, the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC) has implemented various programmes and initiatives aimed at enhancing competitiveness, driving job creation, and promoting import substitution. These include the Clothing and Textiles Competitiveness Programme (CTCP), which helps the industry upgrade its equipment, processes, products, and workforce, repositioning South Africa to compete more effectively with other low-cost manufacturing countries such as China, Bangladesh, and Vietnam. The initiative also



supports major retailers in the textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods sectors by boosting local production capacity through investments in modern machinery and skills development, thereby improving the price, quality, and delivery speed of locally made products. The February 2025 results of the *Retail trade sales* (statistical release P6242.1) show that retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (15,7%, contributing 2,3 percentage points) were the largest positive contributor to the 3,9% year-on-year increase in sales in February 2025. This article summarises the results of this release.



Retail trade sales increased by 3,9% year-on-year in February 2025 (see Table H). The largest positive contributors to this increase were:

- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (15,7%, contributing 2,3 percentage points); and
- general dealers (3,4%, contributing 1,6 percentage points).

Retail trade sales increased by 4,4% in the three months ended February 2025 compared with the three months ended February 2024. The largest positive contributors to this increase were:

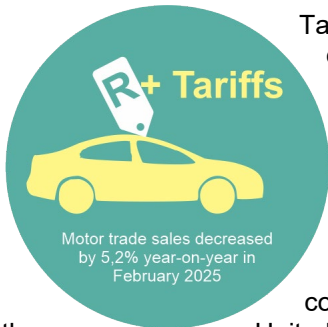
- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (10,1%, contributing 1,9 percentage points); and
- general dealers (4,1%, contributing 1,8 percentage points).

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

	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	1,0	6,2	7,6	3,1	7,0	3,9
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-0,7	1,7	1,0	0,0	0,7	-1,3
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1/</sup>	1,0	1,1	1,2	2,2	2,2	1,3

<sup>1/</sup> Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.  
 A full release on *Retail trade sales* (statistical release P6242.1) is available on the Stats SA website: [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za).

## Motor trade sales



Tariffs are taxes imposed on imported goods, essentially increasing their price for domestic buyers. These taxes can be used to protect domestic industries which helps in supporting local businesses among other things; and raise revenue for the government or act as a tool for negotiation in international trade. Tariffs can make foreign products more expensive, making it harder for foreign companies to sell in that country. The president of

the United States of America (USA), Donald Trump, recently imposed tariffs of between 10% and 31% on South Africa, which will affect various sectors. One of the sectors that will be affected is motor trade, which relies heavily on exports. According to Mikel Mabasa, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of South Africa (Naamsa) cautioned that the USA move could have serious implications for jobs and investment in South Africa's automotive sector. "The USA decision to impose the tariffs undermines the existing trade agreements and the principle of fair, rules-based trading system. The South Africa (SA) auto industry contributes significantly to economic development, employment and industrialization and these tariffs could undermine our progress," said Mabasa. According to Mabasa, "the USA is the third largest destination for South African automotive exports, with approximately R35 billion worth of vehicles shipped in 2024. The proposed 25% tariff increase will severely impact local manufacturers operating in SA such as BMW, Ford, Isuzu, Mercedes-Benz, Nissan, Toyota and Volkswagen who produce vehicles for global markets." Tariffs can raise production costs, reduce the global competitiveness of South African products and placing strain on local producers who rely on these inputs. The data released by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) indicates that motor trade sales decreased by 5.2% year-on-year in February 2025. The recent increase in tariffs will disrupt the motor trade industry in general, and could result in further decrease in motor trade sales. This article summarises *Motor trade sales* (statistical release P6343.2) for February 2025.



Motor trade sales decreased by 5,2% year-on-year in February 2025. (See Table I). The main negative contributors to this decrease were:

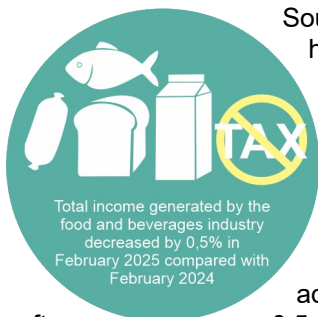
- fuel sales (-10,0%, contributing -2,7 percentage points);
- sales of accessories (-7,9%, contributing -1,6 percentage points); and
- workshop income (-16,9%, contributing -1,0 percentage point).

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

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

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

## Food and beverages



South African households have been experiencing high food prices for some time. The rising cost of food is putting pressure on South African households, particularly those with limited financial resources. In order to cushion vulnerable households, on 12 March 2025, Finance Minister, Mr Enoch Godongwana, announced during the 2025 Budget Speech that government was expanding the basket of value-added tax (VAT) zero-rated food items. This came

after a 0,5 % VAT increase proposal which would have been implemented in two parts, on 1 May 2025 and on 1 April 2026. The VAT increase has ultimately been cancelled. According to Minister Godongwana,

the VAT zero-rated food items include canned vegetables, dairy liquid blends and organ meats from sheep, poultry and other animals among others. The recent figures released by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) indicate that the total income generated by the food and beverages industry decreased by 0,5% in February 2025, with one of the positive annual growth rate being food sales at 0,4%. Presented in this article is a summary of the results for *Food and beverages* (statistical release P6420) for February 2025.



Total income generated by the food and beverages industry decreased by 0,5% in February 2025 compared with February 2024 (see Table J).

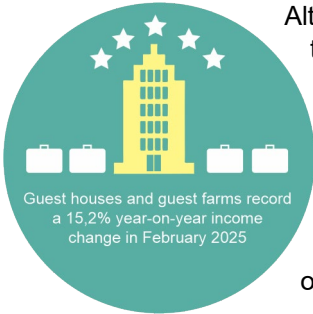
A negative annual growth rate was recorded for bar sales (-8,5%), while the highest positive annual growth rate was recorded for 'other' income (5,1%).

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

Type of enterprise	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25
Food sales	-4,2	0,6	2,8	-0,3	3,9	0,4
Bar sales	-8,6	-6,3	3,1	1,0	2,0	-8,5
Other income	-23,4	-18,8	-13,2	-22,5	-7,7	5,1
<b>Total</b>	<b>-5,4</b>	<b>-0,8</b>	<b>2,3</b>	<b>-0,9</b>	<b>3,3</b>	<b>-0,5</b>

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

## Tourist accommodation



Although hotels remain the most popular choice for tourist accommodation in South Africa, guest houses and guest farms are quickly gaining ground. In February 2025, year-on-year percentage change in income from guest houses and guest farms was 15,2%, compared to 19,7% recorded by hotels. Guest houses are typically small, privately owned establishments with fewer than 16 rooms, often offering meals such as breakfast and

sometimes dinner. Guest farms, by contrast, are operational farms that provide overnight stays along with farm-related activities. These may include a range of accommodation options, from rustic cottages to upscale suites, and often feature farm tours, animal interactions, and home-cooked meals. Both guest houses and guest farms provide a more personal and intimate alternative to conventional hotels. Beyond serving tourists, they also contribute to the local economy by creating jobs in areas like housekeeping, hospitality, and catering, while enriching the tourism landscape with experiences that go beyond the traditional hotel stay. This article summarises the results of the *Tourist accommodation* (statistical release P6410) for February 2025.

Total income for the tourist accommodation industry increased by 5,7% in February 2025 compared with February 2024 (see Table K). Income from accommodation increased by 12,2% year-on-year in February 2025, the result of a 2,4% increase in the number of stay unit nights sold and a 9,5% increase in the average income per stay unit night sold.

In February 2025, the main contributor to the 12,2% year-on-year increase in income from accommodation was hotels (19,7%, contributing 11,8 percentage points).

Income from accommodation increased by 13,8% in the three months ended February 2025 compared with the three months ended February 2024. The main contributors to this increase were:

- hotels (19,2%, contributing 11,3 percentage points); and
- 'other' accommodation (6,3%, contributing 2,1 percentage points).



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

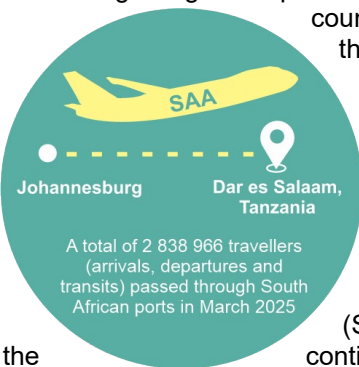
	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25
Stay units available	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Stay unit nights sold	3,4	1,9	3,9	1,2	5,3	2,4
Average income per stay unit night sold	9,4	8,5	8,6	11,5	10,8	9,5
Income from accommodation	13,1	10,5	12,9	12,8	16,6	12,2
<b>Total income<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>8,0</b>	<b>7,7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

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

## International tourism

Airline networks play an important role in the tourism industry and could contribute positively to tourism-related sectors such as hotels, restaurant, etc. Recognising the important role airlines play in driving economic growth,



countries are increasingly investing in expanding their network airline systems. Expanding airline networks strengthen the tourism sector by attracting more international visitors, which ultimately leads to them spending more on hotels, restaurants, etc. Likewise, effective cargo services facilitate quicker movement of goods between countries, playing a key role in driving economic growth. In ensuring a better airline network, South African Airways (SAA) is extending its reach globally and across

the continent by establishing more travel routes, making air travel more accessible. The South African airline launched a new flight route under its new operation, marking a significant milestone in

strengthening regional tourism and economic ties. The new route connects Africa's biggest and key economic cities, Johannesburg and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania's capital, by offering daily direct and connecting flights between these cities. This is a significant milestone for South African tourism as travelling to South Africa will become more accessible, faster and convenient for travellers. The flights are also expected to attract new travellers to explore destinations in South Africa and visit the country more frequently, thereby increasing the number of travellers who visit the country. In March 2025, South Africa welcomed 2 838 966 travellers according to the *International tourism* statistical release published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) on 29 April 2025. With SAA expanding its market, the number of travellers is likely to grow significantly in the future. Presented in this article is a summary of the results of *International tourism* (statistical release P3050) for March 2025.

## Travellers

### Number of travellers



The routine data collected by the DHA immigration officers at the ports of entry into and out of South Africa shows that a total of 2 838 966 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports in March 2025.

These travellers were made up of 708 920 South African residents and 2 130 046 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 343 852 arrivals, 364 598 departures and 470 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 1 107 069, 986 507 and 36 470 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in February 2025 and March 2025 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and transits increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 15,6% (from 297 388 in February 2025 to 343 852 in March 2025). Departures increased by 20,4% (from 302 781 in February 2025 to 364 598 in March 2025) and transits increased by 21,4% (from 387 in February 2025 to 470 in March 2025). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 8,0% (from 1 024 787 in February

2025 to 1 107 069 in March 2025), departures increased by 14,5% (from 861 915 in February 2025 to 986 507 in March 2025), and transits increased by 20,4% (from 30 293 in February 2025 to 36 470 in March 2025).

### Mode of travel of travellers

In March 2025, road was the most common mode of travel used by 1 822 213 (64,2%) of the 2 838 966 travellers. The total number of air travellers was 960 591 (33,8%). Compared with air and road, a smaller number of travellers [56 162 (2,0%)] used sea into and out of South Africa. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 150 599 (43,8%) came by air, 180 598 (52,5%) came by road and 12 655 (3,7%) arrived by sea. For departures, 164 372 (45,1%) used air, 190 037 (52,1%) used road and 10 189 (2,8%) left by sea. All travellers in transit [470 (100,0%)] used air.

### Visitors

In March 2025, 29 060 (2,6%) foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors, while 1 078 009 (97,4%) were classified as visitors. Visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in March 2025 but did not depart in March 2025 [372 381 (34,5%)].
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in March 2025 and left in March 2025 [351 914 (32,6%)].
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in March 2025 [353 714 (32,8%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In March 2025, there were 267 567 (24,8%) same-day visitors and 810 442 (75,2%) tourists. Between February 2025 and March 2025, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 13,1% (from 236 553 in February 2025 to 267 567 in March 2025) and that of tourists increased by 6,1% (from 764 111 in February 2025 to 810 442 in March 2025). Between March 2024 and March 2025, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 22,6% (from 218 317 in March 2024 to 267 567 in March 2025) and that of tourists increased by 7,9% (from 750 968 in March 2024 to 810 442 in March 2025).

Of the 267 567 same-day visitors, the majority [249 362 (93,2%)] arrived in the country by road, 17 900 (6,7%) arrived by air and 305 (0,1%) arrived by

sea. Information on tourists shows that 544 406 (67,2%) came by road, 261 148 (32,2%) used air and 4 888 (0,6%) used sea.

## Tourists

### Sex and age distribution of tourists

#### Sex

There were more male [473 775 (58,5%)] than female [336 667 (41,5%)] tourists. Male tourists constituted the majority of tourists for all three regions: SADC countries [351 110 (60,6%)] overseas countries [112 217 (52,3%)] and 'other' African countries [9 793 (62,6%)]. Similarly, the largest portion of female tourists was from SADC countries [228 114 (39,4%)], followed by overseas countries [102 329 (47,7%)] and 'other' African countries [5 839 (37,4%)].

#### Age

The age distribution indicates that out of all tourists, 3,7% (29 650) were aged younger than 15; 7,5% (60 789) were aged between 15 and 24; 23,6% (191 024) were aged between 25 and 34; 28,8% (233 501) were aged between 35 and 44; 18,7% (151 698) were aged between 45 and 54; 10,4% (84 313) were aged between 55 and 64; and 7,3% (59 466) were aged 65 and older.

### Purpose of visit of tourists

In March 2025, the majority of tourists [789 643 (97,4%)] were in South Africa for holiday compared with 17 562 (2,2%), 2 874 (0,4%) and 363 (less than 0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and medical treatment respectively.

### Mode of travel of tourists

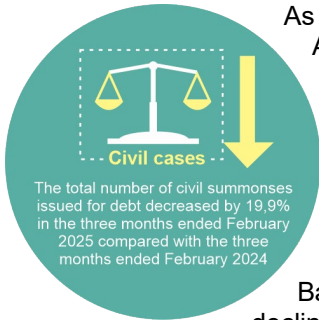
About 198 952 (92,7%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, while 11 195 (5,2%) came in by road and 4 399 (2,1%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the SADC countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road [531 219 (91,7%)], 47 526 (8,2%) came by air and 479 (0,1%) arrived by sea. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 13 804 (88,3%), while 1 818 (11,6%) used road

transport and 10 (0,1%) preferred sea. Most tourists who arrived by road came through Lebombo port (153 017) and Beit Bridge port (127 951). The majority of tourists who came by air entered through OR Tambo International Airport (148 918) and Cape Town International Airport (108 769). Tourists who arrived by sea came through Cape Town Harbour (4 719) and Durban Harbour (169).

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

Travel direction	March 2024	February 2025	March 2025	% Change Feb 2025 – Mar 2025	% Change Mar 2024 – Mar 2025
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 710 991</b>	<b>2 517 551</b>	<b>2 838 966</b>	<b>12,8%</b>	<b>4,7%</b>
<b>South African residents</b>	<b>776 848</b>	<b>600 556</b>	<b>708 920</b>	<b>18,0%</b>	<b>-8,7%</b>
Arrivals	366 237	297 388	343 852	15,6%	-6,1%
Departures	410 217	302 781	364 598	20,4%	-11,1%
Transits	394	387	470	21,4%	19,3%
<b>Foreign travellers</b>	<b>1 934 143</b>	<b>1 916 995</b>	<b>2 130 046</b>	<b>11,1%</b>	<b>10,1%</b>
Arrivals	995 770	1 024 787	1 107 069	8,0%	11,2%
Departures	902 238	861 915	986 507	14,5%	9,3%
Transits	36 135	30 293	36 470	20,4%	0,9%

## Statistics of civil cases for debt



As the economic conditions slowly improve in South Africa, reflected by a drop in inflation and interest rates, South African consumers can take advantage of this. Lower inflation and repo rates can ease the financial burden on households, especially those struggling with debt. Inflation, measured by the consumer price index (CPI) affects the overall cost of living, while the repo rate, which is determined by South African Reserve Bank (SARB), reduces the cost of borrowing. CPI declined to its lowest in five years in June 2020 to 2,7%,

and the repo rate gradually declined to 7,5% giving consumers more disposable income. With this in mind, head of financial education at Old Mutual, John Manyike, believes that now is the right time for consumers to tackle their debt. Manyike advises consumers to keep debt repayments constant and pay in full to avoid extra charges, and most importantly, to avoid taking on more debt as the interest rate eases. Doing this can significantly improve one's credit score and avoid civil summonses being issued due to non-payment of debt. Data by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) suggests that consumers may be on the right track regarding debt repayment. Findings from the monthly statistical release, *Statistics of civil cases for debt*, which records civil cases and civil summonses for debt issued in South Africa, indicate that the number of civil summonses issued for debt decreased by 19,9% in February 2025. This article summarises the results of the *Statistics of civil cases for debt* (statistical release P0041) for February 2025.

### The number of civil summonses issued for debt



The total number of civil summonses issued for debt decreased by 19,9% in the three months ended February 2025 compared with the three months ended February 2024 (see **Table M**).

The largest contributors to the 19,9% decrease in civil summonses issued were:

- 'other' debts (contributing -10,9 percentage points);
- money lent (contributing -4,0 percentage points); and

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

### The number of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total number of civil judgements recorded for debt decreased by 15,3% in the three months ended February 2025 compared with the three months ended February 2024 (see Table M). The largest contributors to the 15,3% decrease were civil judgements relating to:

- services (contributing -10,5 percentage points);
- money lent (contributing -2,6 percentage points); and
- 'other' debts (contributing -1,5 percentage points).

### The value of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total value of civil judgements recorded for debt decreased by 11,1% in the three months ended February 2025 compared with the three months ended February 2024 (see Table M). The largest negative contributors were:

- money lent (contributing -6,9 percentage points);
- services (contributing -2,4 percentage points); and
- 'other' debts (contributing -2,4 percentage points).

Goods sold (contributing 1,3 percentage points) was the only positive contributor.

In February 2025, 9 217 civil judgements for debt amounting to R282,3 million were recorded. The largest contributors to the total value of judgements were:

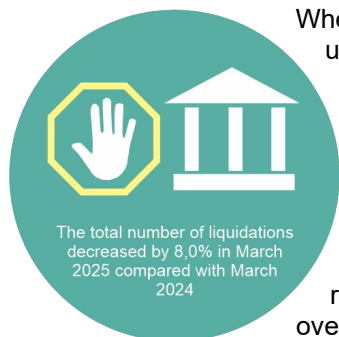
- 'other' debts (R61,5 million or 21,8%);
- services (R60,1 million or 21,3%);
- money lent (R54,8 million or 19,4%); and
- promissory notes (R42,9 million or 15,2%).

**Table M – Key figures for February 2025**

Actual estimates	Feb 2025	% change between Feb 2024 and Feb 2025	% change between Dec 2023 – Jan 2024 and Dec 2024 – Feb 2025
Number of civil summonses issued for debt	31 898	-12,1	-19,9
Number of civil judgements recorded for debt	9 217	-16,0	-15,3
Value of civil judgements recorded for debt (R million)	282,3	-6,1	-11,1

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

## Statistics of liquidations



When businesses face financial distress and are unable to meet their payment obligations, liquidation becomes the final step to close their operations legally. In most cases, businesses prefer voluntary liquidation (when a company or close corporation winds up its affairs by their own choice) over compulsory liquidation (when a company or close corporation is required to wind-up its affairs by a court order). Some of the reasons businesses prefer voluntary liquidation over compulsory liquidation include the fact that

voluntary liquidation involves a potentially faster process with less hassles, and it allows the company to manage the winding down of operations in a controlled manner, which can be beneficial for creditors and the company's reputation. On the other hand, compulsory liquidation's involvement of the court and creditors can lead to additional delays in the process. The data published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) for March 2025 indicate that there were 127 liquidations in March (76 liquidations of companies and 51 of close corporations). Out of the total, 60 company liquidations were voluntary, while 16 were compulsory, and 45 liquidations of close corporations were voluntary, while 6 were compulsory. This release summarises the findings of



the *Statistics of liquidations* release (statistical release P0043.1) for March 2025.



The total number of liquidations decreased by 8,0% in March 2025 compared with March 2024 (see Table N).

Liquidations of close corporations decreased by 21 cases, while liquidations of companies increased by 10 cases during this period.

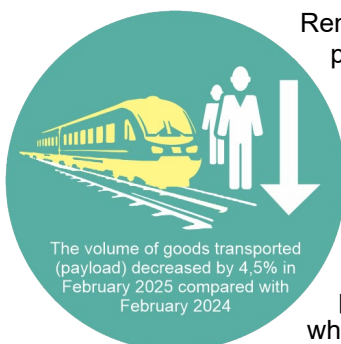
The total number of liquidations decreased by 3,1% in the first quarter of 2025 compared with the first quarter of 2024.

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

Number of liquidations March 2025	% change between March 2024 and March 2025	% change between January to March 2024 and January to March 2025
127	-8,0	-3,1

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

## Land transport



Remote and hybrid work modes that were introduced post the COVID-19 pandemic have shaped how South Africans use public transportation to commute to work. This has resulted in reduced demand for public transport during certain periods as people work from the comfort of their homes. Gauteng's rapid rail passenger system is one of the travel modes that have seen a shift in passenger travel trends. Gautrain previously attracted mostly white collar workers who were office bound before the introduction of remote and hybrid work. However, after the introduction of

remote work it meant people were travelling to work less frequently, resulting in a decline in ridership. Gautrain's passenger numbers have declined from 13,9 million in 2019/20 to 7,9 million passengers in the 2023/24 financial year. To boost passenger numbers, the rail service is introducing the KlevaMova initiative to make Gautrain more accessible to people who were previously underserved due to affordability. This initiative will offer a 50% discount to families with a combined household income of less than R350 000, students, pensioners and South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) disability grant recipients. While this initiative will ease the financial burden on low-income households, it will also benefit goods transported via road as commuters use rail transport. In February 2025, the volume of goods transported (payload) decreased by 4,5% according to *Land transport* data by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA). If the uptake of this initiative is positive, it will positively impact freight transportation by reducing road congestion and road accidents, allowing freight transportations to deliver goods on time. This article summarises the results of *Land transport* (statistical release P7162) for February 2025.



The volume of goods transported (payload) decreased by 4,5% in February 2025 compared with February 2024 (see Table O).

The corresponding income decreased by 3,4% over the same period.

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

	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25
<b>Freight payload</b>	-12,1	-10,3	-10,6	-6,9	-4,7	-4,5
<b>Freight income</b>	-11,9	-5,8	-6,1	-6,2	-3,0	-3,4

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

The number of passenger journeys increased by 3,6% in February 2025 compared with February 2024 (see Table P). The corresponding income decreased by 1,7% over the same period.

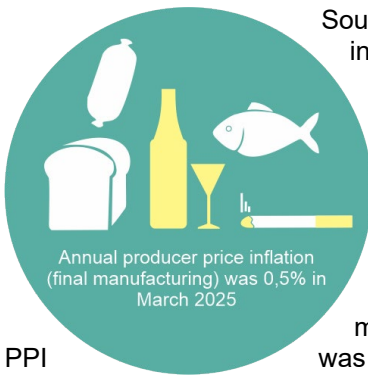
**Table P – Year-on-year percentage change in freight transportation for February 2025**

	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25
<b>Passenger journeys</b>	4,3	14,2	1,3	2,5	11,0	3,6
<b>Passenger income</b>	3,4	2,3	-4,0	-4,1	1,4	-1,7

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



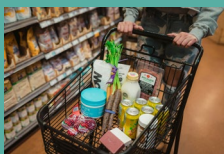
## Producer price index (PPI)



South Africa's annual producer price index (PPI) inflation for final manufactured goods decreased to 0,5% in March 2025, down from 1,0% in February 2025, signaling a decline in overall factory cost increases. However, monthly, prices still rose by 0,6%, showing that short-term production costs are still climbing. According to the PPI statistical release published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), the main driver behind the monthly and annual increases in the rate of

PPI was food products, beverages and tobacco. Annually, these items rose by 4,1%, contributing 1,3 percentage points to the annual inflation rate. In March alone, they increased by 1,1%, accounting for 0,3 of a percentage point of the monthly increase. While a drop in annual inflation suggests that producers are seeing some relief in factory costs, the continued monthly increase, especially in essential goods like food, may still put upward pressure on consumer prices in the coming months. This article summarises the results of the *Producer price index* (statistical release P0142.1) for March 2025.

## Final manufactured goods – headline PPI



Annual producer price inflation (final manufacturing) was 0,5% in March 2025, down from 1,0% in February 2025 (see Table Q).

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

### Intermediate manufactured goods

The annual percentage change in the PPI for intermediate manufactured goods was 7,4% in March 2025, compared with 8,5% in February 2025. The index increased by 0,1% month-on-month. The main contributors to the annual rate were basic and fabricated metals (10,2%, contributing 5,1 percentage points) and chemicals, rubber and plastic products (6,9%, contributing 2,0 percentage points). The main contributor to the monthly rate was basic and fabricated metals (0,7%, contributing 0,4 of a percentage point).

### Electricity and water

The annual percentage change in the PPI for electricity and water was 10,0% in March 2025, compared with 10,8% in February 2025. The index decreased by 2,3% month-on-month. The contributors to the annual rate were electricity (10,8%, contributing 9,2 percentage points) and water (5,6%, contributing 0,8 of a percentage point). The main contributor to the monthly rate was electricity (-2,7% and contributing -2,3 percentage points).

### Mining

The annual percentage change in the PPI for mining was 5,9% in March 2025, compared with 2,5% in February 2025. The index increased by 1,4% month-on-month. The positive contributors to the annual rate were:

- gold and other metal ores (16,6%, contributing 4,6 percentage points);
- non-ferrous metal ores (3,8%, contributing 1,9 percentage points); and
- stone quarrying, clay and diamonds (38,0%, contributing 1,6 percentage points).

The main positive contributor to the monthly rate was non-ferrous metal ores (2,8%, contributing 1,4 percentage points).

## Agriculture, forestry and fishing

The annual percentage change in the PPI for agriculture, forestry and fishing was 2,4% in March 2025, compared with 7,6% in February 2025. The index decreased by 2,5% month-on-month. The main contributor to the annual rate was agriculture (2,4%, contributing 2,1 percentage points). The main negative contributor to the monthly rate was agriculture (-2,7%, contributing - 2,3 percentage points).

**Table Q – Key PPI figures for March 2025**

Product	Weight	Index (Dec 2023=100)			% change	
		Mar 2024	Feb 2025	Mar 2025	Mar 2025 vs. Feb 2025	Mar 2025 vs. Mar 2024
Final manufactured goods	100,00	101,7	101,6	102,2	0,6	0,5
Intermediate manufactured goods	100,00	102,6	110,1	110,2	0,1	7,4
Electricity and water	100,00	99,8	112,4	109,8	-2,3	10,0
Mining	100,00	98,9	103,3	104,7	1,4	5,9
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	100,00	96,3	101,1	98,6	-2,5	2,4

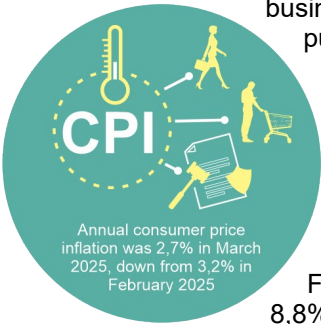
A full release on the *Producer price index* (statistical release P0142.1) is available on the website: [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za).

## Consumer price index (CPI)

The consumer price index (CPI) is crucial for tracking inflation rates and the cost of living in an economy. It serves as a key indicator for policymakers, businesses and consumers to understand changes in purchasing power and guide economic decisions.

In March 2025, the headline consumer inflation decreased for the first time in five months, from 3,2% in February 2025 to 2,7% in March 2025. This is the lowest inflation rate since October 2024, when the rate was 2,8%. The March 2025 decline was due to lower fuel prices and tuition inflation. The fuel index decreased by 0,4% from February, taking the annual rate from -3,6% to -

8,8%. On the other hand, the price index for education increased by 4,5%, lower than the 6,4% rise in 2024. A higher CPI indicates



higher inflation, while a falling CPI indicates lower inflation or even deflation. Presented in this article is a summary of the *Consumer price index* (statistical release P0141) results for March 2025.

### Headline consumer price index (CPI) for all urban areas



Annual consumer price inflation was 2,7% in March 2025, down from 3,2% in February 2025. The CPI increased by 0,4% month-on-month in March 2025. The main positive contributors to the 2,7% annual inflation rate were (see Table R):

- housing and utilities (4,4%, contributing 1,0 percentage point);
- food and non-alcoholic beverages (2,7%, contributing 0,5 of a percentage point); and
- restaurants and accommodation services (4,2%, contributing 0,3 of a percentage point).3

In March 2025, the annual inflation rate for:

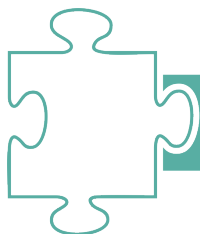
- goods was 2,0%, down from 2,5% in February 2025; and
- services was 3,5%, down from 3,8% in February 2025.

**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	101,6										
	Rate	3,2	3,2	2,7										

<sup>1/</sup> Annual average. A full release on the *Consumer Price Index* (statistical release P0141) is available on the Stats SA website: [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za).





## Glossary



### Primary industries

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

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

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

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

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

**PGMs – Platinum group metals:** include platinum; iridium; 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'.

**Editorial & Layout**

Maune Lerobane  
Wendy Ngoveni  
Mandla Mahlangu  
Ouma Hlongoane

**Language Editors**

Salomien Rudolph  
Shalom Noxolo Piorkowski  
Rinao Emmah Tshatsinde

**Design & Layout**

Thabo Kgaile

**Printing & Distribution**

Brian Seaba  
Johannes Serage  
Joey Baker  
Anneline Bezuidenhout  
Millie Steenkamp  
Enoch Baloyi  
Piet Sibanyoni