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Economic headlines

Inflation the lowest in almost five years



The headline rate softened on the back of lower fuel prices (click [here](#) to read more).


The rise of late marriages



Marriage is now being postponed as individuals prioritise careers and independence (click [here](#) to read more).

Mining production weakens in February



Recording the biggest monthly loss in two years. Listen to the results [here](#). 
















Retailers record year-on-year gains



Four of the seven retail groups witnessed a positive February. Listen to a breakdown [here](#). 

Click [here](#) to browse more headlines.

Monthly economic indicators

	y/y percentage change			m/m percentage change			3-month
	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Dec-Feb
Mining production 	-2,6	-1,5	-9,6	-4,2	0,0	-4,4	-6,7
Manufacturing production 	-1,2	-3,2	-3,2	-2,3	0,4	0,3	-2,3
Electricity generation 	3,6	5,7	0,4	-1,6	0,4	-2,5	-2,1
Buildings completed (value) 	-1,0	-20,0	0,9	-3,3	-33,5	17,9	-15,6
Wholesale trade sales 	0,2	-0,8	-6,6	2,2	0,3	-1,2	0,9
Retail trade sales 	3,1	7,0	3,9	0,0	0,7	-1,3	1,3
Motor trade sales 	-4,0	0,3	-5,2	1,6	0,4	-2,4	1,7
Income from tourist accommodation 	12,8	16,6	12,2	-0,3	3,7	-1,7	1,9
Restaurants, catering & fast-food income 	-0,9	3,3	-0,5	1,3	-1,1	1,1	0,5
Rail transport: Freight payload 	2,2	7,2	6,8	5,1	0,9	1,0	4,6
Road transport: Freight payload 	-8,9	-7,0	-6,9	-0,4	2,0	0,2	1,4
Rail transport: Passenger journeys 	77,4	69,9	46,7	3,9	0,4	-5,4	1,3
Road transport: Passenger journeys 	-8,5	0,0	-6,6	3,6	7,0	-6,9	1,1
	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	
Consumer Price Index (CPI) 	3,2	3,2	2,7	0,3	0,9	0,4	
Producer Price Index (PPI) 	1,1	1,0	0,5	0,5	0,4	0,6	

ABOUT

The indicators shown here provide an overview of how various sectors of South Africa's economy are performing.

Click on an indicator name to access the complete report on Stats SA's website

y/y = year-on-year
m/m = month-on-month
3-month = percentage change between the previous 3 months (September–November) and the latest 3 months (December–February)

Keep up to date with our release schedule [here](#). A complete catalogue of Stats SA releases and reports is available [here](#).



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Feature article

Forestry & logging provides these raw materials

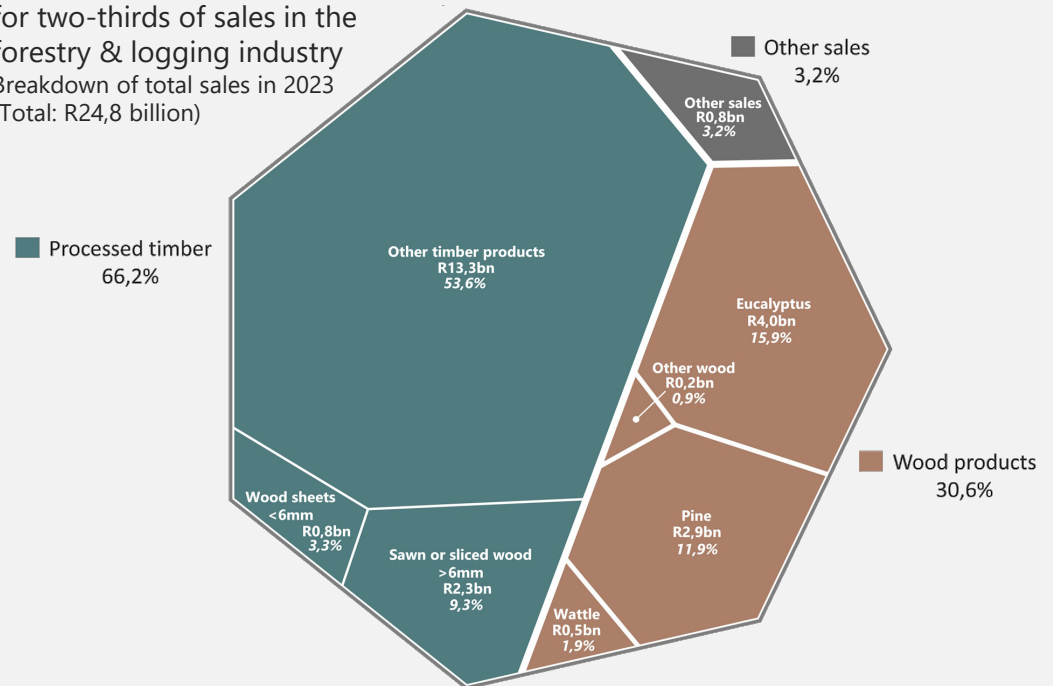
Forestry & logging is the second smallest of 16 industries covered by Stats SA's structural industry surveys. To get a sense of scale, manufacturing – the biggest of the 16 – is 82 times larger if income is used as a measuring tool.

Despite its relatively small size, the industry produces essential raw materials used elsewhere in the economy. Within the industry, sales are dominated by processed timber (sawmill products), followed by wood products and 'other' sales. 'Other' timber products, which account for just over half of total sales, mainly includes charcoal, sterilised wood pulp and paper.

In terms of wood products, eucalyptus generated the most income, followed by pine and wattle.

Click [here](#) to read more.

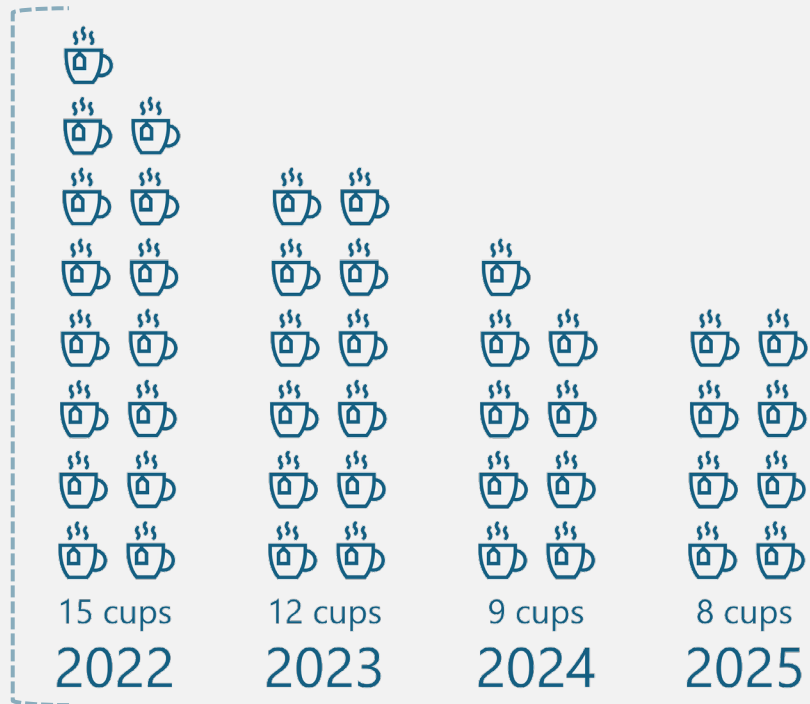
Processed timber accounts for two-thirds of sales in the forestry & logging industry
Breakdown of total sales in 2023
(Total: R24,8 billion)



Infographic of the month

How many cups of tea does R5 buy?

Black tea prices have risen sharply since 2022



Assumes 2,5 grams per cup Based on the average price for a box of tea (250 grams) Calculated from the *CPI_Average Prices_All urban(202503)* Excel file Download the data [here](#)



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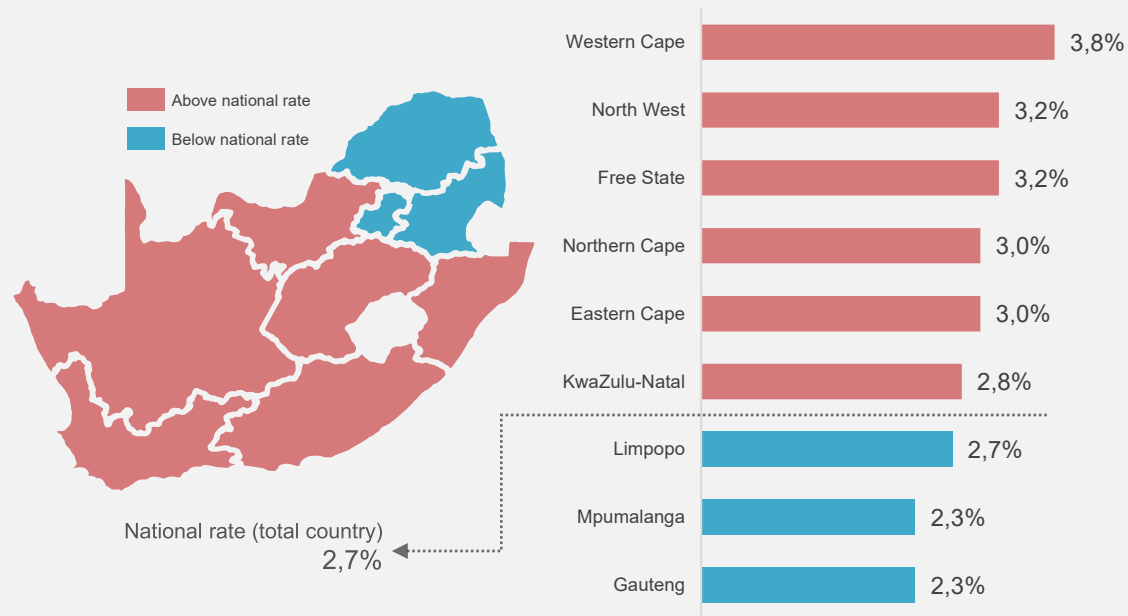
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Provincial snapshot

Inflation outpaces the national rate in six provinces

Annual consumer inflation, March 2025



Source: Consumer Price Index (CPI), March 2025, Table A Download the release [here](#)



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