

Mbalo Brief

the missing piece of the puzzle

June 2025



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IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS



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Editor's Comment



The scourge of child abuse and neglect is rampant in South Africa and affects many children across the country. A recent study found that one in three girls and one in five boys in South Africa have experienced some form of violence before turning 18. Moreover, the Department of Social Development (DSD) reported more than 26 000 cases of child abuse and neglect in the 2024/25 financial year. That's extremely concerning, and more needs to be done to ensure that our children are protected and free from harm. One of the campaigns that seeks to raise awareness about the rights and wellbeing of children is Child Protection Week (CPW). Celebrated annually from 29 May until the beginning of June, it reminds communities, caregivers, and authorities of their responsibility to keep children safe from harm, abuse, neglect, and exploitation. This year's Child Protection Week theme, "Working together in ending violence against children", urges all South Africans to unite in protecting children from all forms of abuse and harm. The campaign also calls on everyone to play a role – whether by reporting abuse, supporting vulnerable families, or educating children about their rights. Children and their peers are also encouraged to speak up when they experience, suspect or witness abuse. This is because protecting children should not depend solely on the government, but should become a shared responsibility. A safer South Africa begins with safe and supported children.

This month's feature article is based on the *General Household Survey, 2024* (statistical release P0318), published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) on 27 May 2025. Look out for our monthly crossword puzzle and the solutions for May 2025. Articles published in this issue are based on results of industry surveys conducted for March and April 2025.

Enjoy the read!



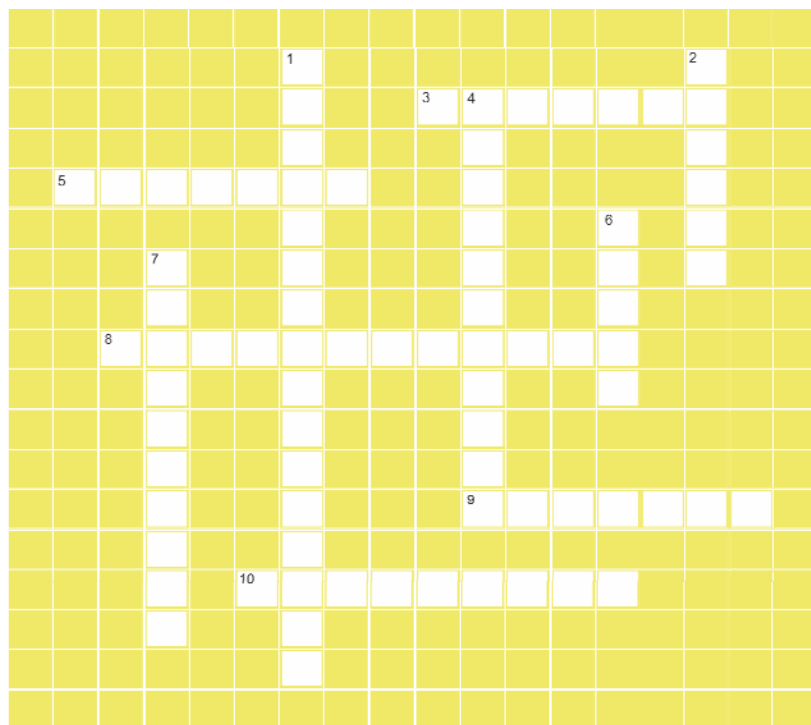


Contents

Editor's comment.....	i
Crossword puzzle.....	iii
Feature article on General Household Survey, 2024.....	1
Primary industries	15
Mining: Production and sales	15
Secondary industries	17
Manufacturing: Production and sales	17
Selected building statistics of the private sector	18
Electricity generated and available for distribution	20
Tertiary industries	22
Wholesale trade sales	22
Retail trade sales	23
Motor trade sales	25
Food and beverages.....	26
Tourist accommodation	28
International tourism	29
Statistics of civil cases for debt	34
Statistics of liquidations	36
Land transport	37
Prices	39
Producer price index (PPI)	39
Consumer price index (CPI)	41
Glossary.....	44



Crossword Puzzle



Across

3. The percentage of individuals aged five and older who attended school was highest in which province?
5. What is the South African under-20 national soccer team called?
8. After salaries, what was another source of income amongst South African households?
9. What type of household consists of spouses living alone, or with their children?
10. Which continent is also a country?

Down

1. Which South African city was the starting point of the 98th edition of the comrades marathon?
2. More than 80% of South African households lived in dwellings in 2024? fill in the missing word.
4. What is the movement of people from one region into another region in the same country called?
6. True or false? The General Household Survey replaced the December Household Survey?
7. Unscramble (cottonpier) to reveal a word which means 'the state of being kept from harm'?

Solutions for May 2025 puzzle

Across

3. Metals
7. False
6. Composition

Down

1. True
2. Constitution
4. IsiXhosa
5. Leo





Feature article

Feature article on General Household Survey, 2024

1. Introduction

Since the first General Household Survey (GHS) conducted in 2002, living conditions have improved for some households in South Africa. However, several areas still raise concerns and require urgent attention. More than two decades later, poverty remains a persistent challenge. According to findings from the latest General Household Survey (GHS) released by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), four in every ten households in South Africa or 25,4 million individuals rely on social grants as the main source of income. GHS is an annual household-based survey which provides comprehensive data on the living conditions of households across South Africa. The survey replaced the October Household Survey (OHS) and is Stats SA's longest running survey. Data collected from the survey helps to track the progress of development in the country and measures the performance of programmes as well as the quality of service delivery in a number of key service sectors. Six main areas are covered in the survey including education, health and social development, housing, households access to services and facilities and food security and agriculture.

GHS data is collected from interviews of 21 000 households including all private households and residents in workers' hostels across all nine provinces in South Africa. The survey does not cover other collective living quarters such as students' hostels, old-age homes, hospitals, prisons and military barracks, and is therefore only representative of non-institutionalised and non-military persons or households in South Africa.

This feature article is based on the *General Household Survey, 2024* (statistical release P0318), which was published by Stats SA on 27 May 2025. The article will present a selection of key findings from the General Household Survey (GHS) 2024, which was conducted between January and

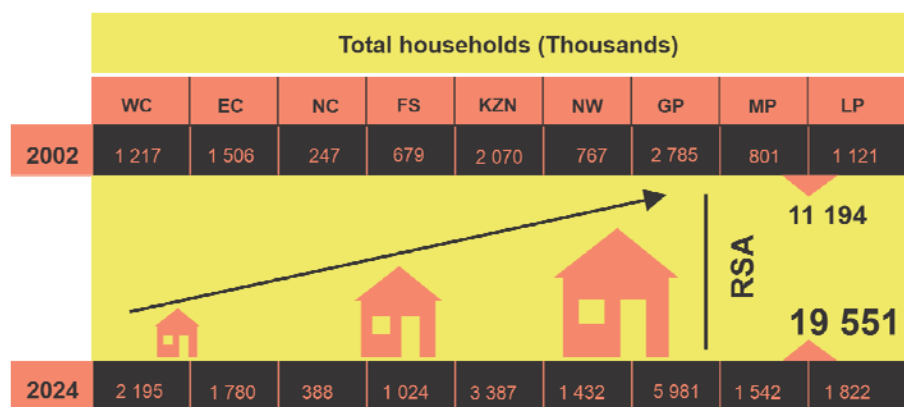
December 2024. Data on basic population statistics, education and households' access to services and facilities will be provided. Readers who wish to access the full publication may do so by clicking on the following link: https://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=1854&PPN=P0318&SCH=7403 8.

2. Basic population statistics

This section presents key findings of the population statistics of South African households for the period 2002–2024. Findings on the number of households, marital status, household size, headship and household composition will be provided here.

2.1 Household estimates

Figure 1: Number of households per province, 2002–2024



Nationally, the number of households increased from 11,2 million in 2002 to 19,6 million in 2024. In 2024, Gauteng had the largest number of households (6 million), followed by KwaZulu-Natal (3,4 million), Western Cape (2,2 million), Limpopo (1,8 million), Eastern Cape (1,8 million), Mpumalanga (1,5 million) and North West (1,4 million). Northern Cape – the least populous province in South Africa also had the smallest number of households at 388 000.

2.2 Percentage distribution of individuals aged 18 and older by marital status, 2024

A slightly higher percentage of males than females aged 18 and older (55,7% compared to 49,6%) were categorised as single. A higher percentage of females than males in this age group were widowed (9,9% compared to 2,6%) or divorced/separated (3,1% compared to 2,0%). The picture changes notably when the relationship status is compared between different age groups.

Although marriage and cohabitation are more common among women than men in the age group 18–34, the situation is reversed for older age groups, particularly for women older than 60. Marriage was much more common amongst males than females in both the 60–74 (62,5% compared to 32,8%), and over 75 age groups (59,8% compared to 16,2%). By contrast, 79,9% of women in the age group 75 and older remained single or widowed compared to 35,6% of males in the same age group.

2.3 Percentage distribution of household size by province and rural/urban status, 2024

More than one-quarter (26,9%) of South African households consisted of a single member in 2024. Single-person households were most common in North West (31,7%) and least common in Western Cape (19,7%). By contrast, households that comprised six members or more, were most common in KwaZulu-Natal (18,6%) and Northern Cape (18,0%). Larger households with more than six members were more common in rural areas (19,3%) than in urban areas (9,8%).

2.4 Percentage distribution of female-headed households by province and urban/rural status, 2024

More than four-tenths (42,4%) of households in South Africa were headed by females in 2024. About 40,4% of urban and 47,1% of rural households were headed by females. Female-headed households were most common in Eastern Cape (48,8%) than in Gauteng (37,3%).

2.5 Percentage distribution of households by their composition, province and rural/urban status, 2024

Nationally, an estimated 39,4% of households were classified as nuclear (couples or one or more parent(s) living with children) while 31,7% of households were classified broadly as extended households (a nuclear core combined with other family members such as parents or siblings). Only 2,0% of households were classified as complex, meaning they contained at least one non-related person. Extended households were more common in rural than urban areas (42,6% compared to 26,9%), while nuclear families were more common in urban areas than in rural areas (43,6% compared to 29,8%). Nuclear households were most common in Western Cape (51,9%) and Gauteng (44,7%), while extended households were most widespread in KwaZulu-Natal (40,0%) and Eastern Cape (39,5%).

3. Education

This section focuses on childcare arrangements (of children aged 0–4), educational institution attendance, higher education enrolment and educational attainments (of individuals aged 20 and older).

3.1 Percentage distribution of children aged 0–4 that used different childcare arrangements by province, 2024

Nationally, more than half (57,6%) of children aged 0–4 stayed home with a parent or guardian, or with another adult. The figure was most pronounced in Northern Cape (72,9%) and KwaZulu-Natal (70,5%). Only 35,0% of children in this age group attended formal early childhood development (ECD) facilities, nationally. Attendance of ECD facilities was most common in Western Cape (42,1%), Free State (41,3%) and Gauteng (41,1%) and least common in Northern Cape (22,0%) and KwaZulu-Natal (26,3%).

3.2 Percentage distribution of individuals aged five and older who were attending educational institutions by province and type of institution attended, 2024

The percentage of individuals aged five and older who attended school was highest in Limpopo (92,7%), Eastern Cape (92,6%), KwaZulu-Natal (92,3%), Mpumalanga (90,7%) and Northern Cape (90,6%), and lowest in Gauteng (76,9%). Attendance of higher education institutions was most common in

Gauteng (10,0%) and Western Cape (7,7%) and least common in Eastern Cape (2,6%) and Northern Cape (2,5%).

The results show a high percentage of school attendance (primary and secondary school) in the age group 7–16, after which the attendance of educational facilities drops sharply. By the age of 24, approximately 10,7% of individuals were still attending an educational facility. The figure also shows a noticeable representation of learners who were older than the ideal completion age in primary and secondary schools.

3.3 Percentage distribution of individuals aged 7–24 who attended educational institutions by province, 2002 and 2024

Nationally, the percentage of persons aged 7–24 who attended educational institutions increased from 73,1% in 2002 to 75,1% in 2024. Attendance increased for eight of the nine provinces where Mpumalanga was the only province which declined by 0,5 of a percentage point between 2002 and 2024. The highest percentage point increases of 6,3 and 5,1 were observed in Northern Cape (from 64,6% in 2002 to 70,8% in 2024) and Free State (from 73,1% in 2002 to 78,2% in 2024), respectively.

Figure 2: Distribution of students enrolled at higher education institutions by population group, 2002 and 2024

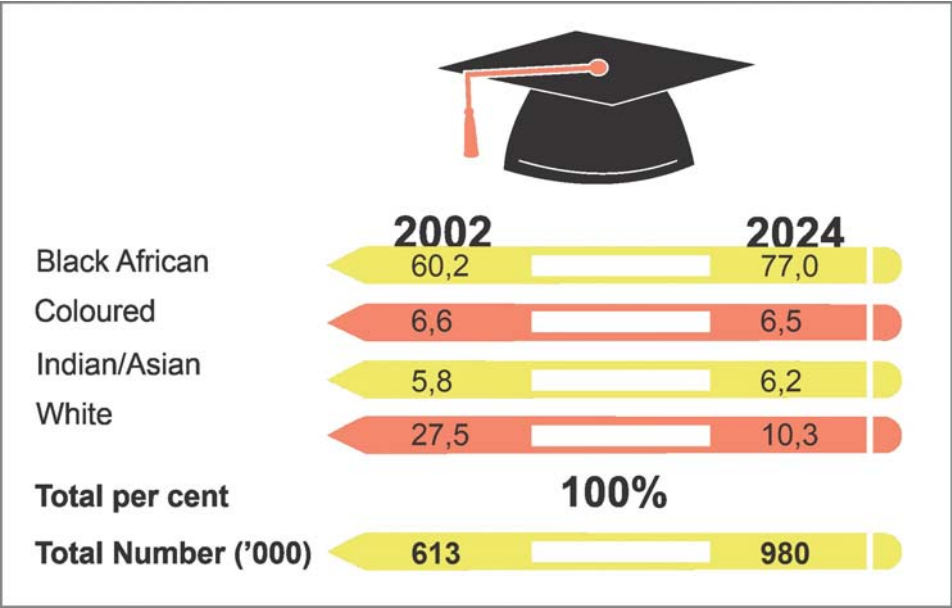


Figure 2 above shows that the total number of students enrolled at higher education institutions increased by 59,7% between 2002 and 2024, growing to 980 000 in 2024 from 613 000 in 2002. Black African students comprised more than three-quarters (77,0%) of all students in 2024 (up from 60,2% in 2002). White students comprised 10,3% of all students in 2024, down from 27,5% in 2002.

3.4 Percentage distribution of educational attainment for individuals aged 20 and older, 2002–2024

The results show that percentages of individuals aged 20 and older who attained at least Grade 12 has been increasing consistently since 2002, expanding from 21,3% in 2002 to 36,0% in 2024. Over this period, the percentage of individuals with some post-school education increased from 9,2% to 16,1%. While the percentage of individuals without any schooling decreased from 11,4% in 2002 to 3,0% in 2024.

3.5 Percentage distribution of educational attainment for individuals aged 20 and older by province, 2024

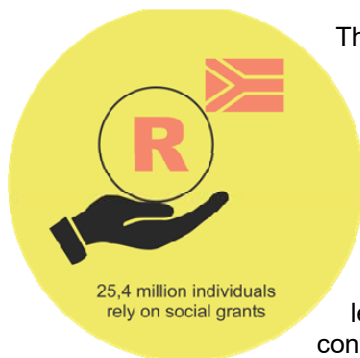
Individuals without any formal education were most common in Limpopo (5,7%) and Mpumalanga (5,5%) and least common in Western Cape (0,9%) and Gauteng (1,1%). Findings show that 20,4% of individuals aged 20 and older have attained some academic qualifications that are equivalent to or less than Grade 9. Grade 9 is the final year of the senior phase and learners are allowed to leave school on its completion or when they turn 15 years old, whichever comes first. Individuals with lower secondary qualifications or less were most common in Eastern Cape (35,7%) and Northern Cape (34,4%).

Nationally, more than one-third (36,0%) of persons aged 20 years and older have attained Grade 12 as their highest level of education, while 16,1% have attained some post-school qualifications. Post-school qualifications were most common in Gauteng (21,6%) and Western Cape (21,5%) and least common in Free State (10,6%) and North West (10,9%).

4. Households access to services and facilities

This section provides detailed results on social security, housing, drinking water, sanitation, access to electricity, internet access and food security.

4.1 Social security



The percentage of individuals that benefited from social grants increased gradually from 12,8% in 2003 to approximately 31% between 2017 and 2019 before rising steadily to 40,1% in 2024. This growth was tracked closely by that of households that received at least one social grant.

The percentage of households that received at least one social grant increased relatively consistently from 30,8% in 2003 to 45,5% in 2019, before rising to 52,4% in 2020 due to the introduction of the Social relief of distress (SRD) COVID-19 grants. The percentage of households that receive at least one grant has, since then, declined to 50,4% in 2024.

4.1.1 Percentage distribution of households and individuals who have benefitted from social grants, 2003–2024

Grant beneficiaries were most common in Eastern Cape (54,2%) and Limpopo (51,5%) and least common in Western Cape (25,0%) and Gauteng (26,9%). Households that received at least one type of social grant were most common in Eastern Cape (64,7%), Northern Cape (63,7%) and Free State (63,5%), and least common in Gauteng (36,5%) and Western Cape (38,3%).

4.2 Housing

4.2.1 Percentage distribution of households that lived in formal, informal and traditional dwellings by province, 2024

More than eight-tenths (84,1%) of South African households lived in formal dwellings in 2024, followed by 11,7% who lived in informal dwellings, and 3,9% in traditional dwellings. Households that lived in formal dwellings were most common in Limpopo (95,3%) and Mpumalanga (90,6%). Western Cape (18,6%) had the highest percentage of households that lived in informal dwellings, followed by Gauteng (17,2%) and North West (17,2%). Traditional dwellings were most common in Eastern Cape (17,7%) and KwaZulu-Natal (10,3%).

4.3 Drinking water

4.3.1 Percentage distribution of households with access to piped or tap water in their dwellings, off-site or on-site by province, selected years 2002–2024

Tap water inside dwellings, on-site, or offsite was most common among households in Western Cape (99,0%), Gauteng (98,0%), and Northern Cape (95,1%) and least common in Limpopo (62,9%) and Eastern Cape (69,9%). Although the percentage of households in Eastern Cape with access to water in the dwelling, on- or off-site increased by 23,1 percentage points between 2002 and 2012. Access has since declined by 9,3 percentage points to 69,9%. A similar pattern is observed in Limpopo where access to piped or tap water in their dwellings, off-site or on-site increased from 73,8% in 2002 to 84,0% in 2010, before declining to 62,9% in 2024, just over 10 percentage points lower than in two decades earlier in 2002. On a more positive note,

access to water in KwaZulu-Natal increased by 7,5 percentage points to 82,9% over this period.

Although, nationally, access to tap water inside dwellings, off-site or on-site improved by 3,3 percentage points between 2002 and 2024, it is notable that access actually declined in four provinces during this period. Declines were observed in Limpopo (-10,9 percentage points), Mpumalanga (-3,0 percentage points), Free State (-0,8 percentage points) and Gauteng (-0,7 percentage points). Although the percentage of households with access to water has been declining, it is important to note that a larger number of households received tap water in 2024 than two decades earlier.

4.3.2 Perceptions of households receiving quality drinking water per province, 2024

About 84,4% of households believed that their water was safe to drink. Trust in the quality of water ranged from 90,8% in Limpopo, 89,4% in Gauteng and 89,6% in Western Cape to 66,8% in Northern Cape, and 75,9% in North West. Nationally, 84,4% of households reported that their water was clear, without colour and free from mud, while 82,4% reported that the water tasted good. Quality drinking water was most common in Limpopo, Gauteng and Western Cape. In Northern Cape, only 65,5% of households felt that their water was clear, while 63,6% felt that it tasted good. Nationally, 85,0% of households stated that their drinking water was free from any smell. Households that reported that their water was free from any smell were most common in Western Cape (90,2%) and Gauteng (89,7%), and least common in Northern Cape (70,4%).

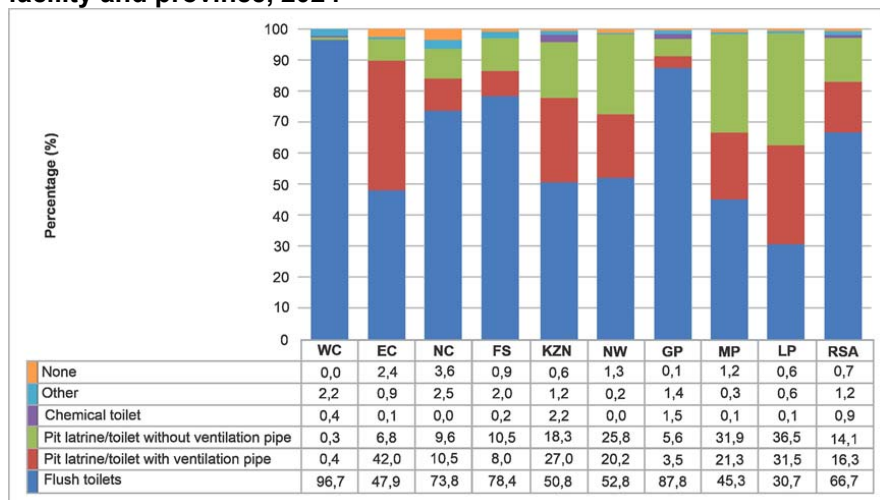
4.4 Sanitation

4.4.1 Percentage distribution of households that have access to improved sanitation by province, 2002–2024

Nationally, the percentage of households with access to improved sanitation increased from 61,7% in 2002 to 83,1% in 2024. Households' access to improved sanitation was highest in Western Cape (97,1%), Gauteng (91,3%) and Eastern Cape (89,9%), and most limited in Limpopo (62,2%) and Mpumalanga (66,6%). In Eastern Cape, households' access to improved sanitation facilities increased by 56,5 percentage points between 2002 and 2024, growing from 33,4% to 89,9%. Similarly, the percentage of households with access to improved sanitation increased by 35,3 percentage points in

Limpopo, and 26,9 percentage points in KwaZulu-Natal over the same period.

4.4.2 Figure 3: Percentage distribution of households by type of toilet facility and province, 2024



As shown on Figure 3 above, almost two-thirds (66,7%) of households used flush toilets that were either connected to a public sewerage system or a septic or conservancy tanks, while another 16,3% used pit toilets that are connected to ventilation pipes. Households that did not have access to improved sanitation facilities largely depended on pit toilets without ventilation pipes (14,1%).

The use of flush toilets was most common in Western Cape (96,7%), Gauteng (87,8%) and Free State (78,4%). About one-third (30,7%) of households in Limpopo used some type of flush toilet, while another 31,5% used ventilated pit toilets. The largest percentage of pit toilets with ventilation pipes were observed in Eastern Cape (42,0%), Limpopo (31,5%) and KwaZulu-Natal (27,0%).

In the absence of flush toilets, 68,0% of households in Limpopo used pit latrines, the majority without ventilation pipes. Almost one-third (31,9%) of households in Mpumalanga and 25,8% of households in North West used pit toilets without ventilation pipes.

4.5 Access to electricity

4.5.1 Percentage distribution of households connected to the mains electricity supply by province for selected years between 2002 and 2024

The percentage of South African households that were connected to the mains electricity supply increased from 76,7% in 2002 to 90,2% in 2024. In 2024, households with access to mains electricity were most common in Limpopo (96,6%), Western Cape (96,0%), KwaZulu-Natal (93,5%) and Eastern Cape (93,4%), and least common in Gauteng (83,2%) and Mpumalanga (89,4%). The largest increases between 2002 and 2024 were observed in Eastern Cape, 38,1 percentage points (from 55,3% in 2002 to 93,4% in 2024), KwaZulu-Natal, 24,9 percentage points (from 68,6% in 2002 to 93,5% in 2024), and Limpopo, 24,0 percentage points (from 72,6 % in 2002 to 96,6% in 2024). However, the percentage of households with access to mains electricity declined in Gauteng (-4,0 percentage points) during the same period. This decline can be associated with the rapid immigration (the movement of people into another region of the same country) experienced by the province and a rapid increase in household numbers.

4.5.2 Percentage distribution of main sources of energy used for cooking by province, 2024

The percentage of households that used electricity as a main source of energy for cooking was highest in KwaZulu-Natal (85,8%) and Free State (84,6%) and lowest in Limpopo (62,9%).

Other sources of electricity (such as those from generators) were most common in Gauteng (9,8%) and Western Cape (3,1%).

The use of paraffin was most common in Gauteng (4,3%) and least common in Western Cape (0,3%) and Limpopo (0,4%). The use of wood or coal was particularly noticeable in Limpopo (34,3%), Mpumalanga (19,7%), Eastern Cape (8,5%), North West (7,9%) and KwaZulu-Natal (7,6%). Less than 1% of households used wood for cooking in Western Cape (0,4%). Gas was most frequently used by households in Western Cape (22,1%) and Northern Cape (14,7%).

4.6 Internet access

4.6.1 Percentage distribution of households with access to the Internet by province and type of Internet access, 2024

Results show that 82,1% of South African households had at least one member who had access to or used the Internet at one or more locations such as their home, work, place of study, internet café or at a public hot spot. Internet access using all available means was highest in Western Cape (92,0%) and Gauteng (86,0%), and lowest in Northern Cape (70,3%) and Eastern Cape (70,7%). Just 17,4% of South African households had access to fixed Internet at home. Access to the Internet at home was highest among households in Western Cape (44,9%) and Gauteng (25,8%), and lowest in Mpumalanga (5,6%) and Limpopo (7,0%). More than three-quarters (75,6%) of households could access the Internet using mobile devices. Access to Public Wi-Fi spots was highest in Western Cape (12,9%), Northern Cape (10,5%) and Gauteng (10,0%), and lowest in Limpopo (1,4%) and Eastern Cape (1,7%).

4.6.2 Percentage distribution of main source of household income by province, 2024

Nationally, 54,5% of households reported salaries/wages/commission as their main sources of income, followed by grants (23,8%), other sources of income (10,1%) and remittances (8,7%). Source of main income varies considerably across provinces. Western Cape (68,2%) and Gauteng (63,5%) were the only two provinces in which more than 60% of households reported salaries as their main source of income. By comparison, more than a third of households in Eastern Cape (38,9%) and Northern Cape (34,4%) listed social grants as their main source of income. Remittances were the main source of income for 12,3% of households in Limpopo, 11,8% of households in Mpumalanga and 11,5% of households in Eastern Cape.

4.6.3 Figure 4: Percentage distribution of households experiencing food adequacy or inadequacy by province, 2024

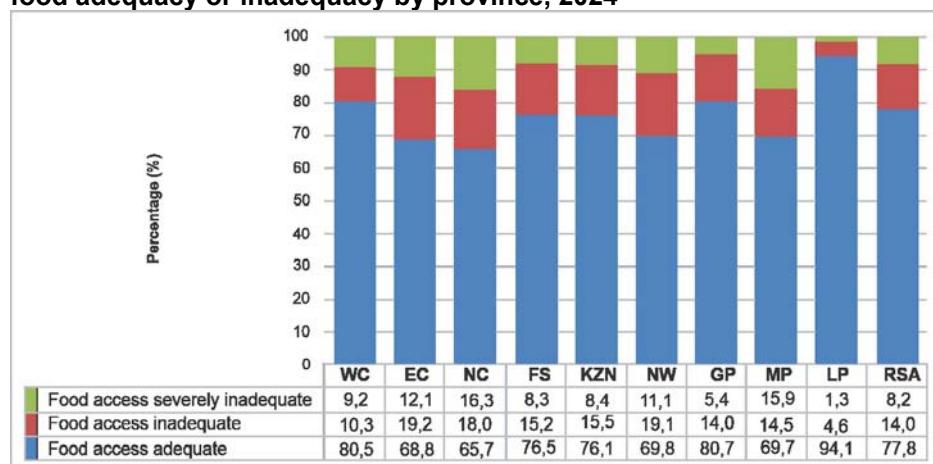


Figure 4 above shows that approximately 22,2% of households, nationally, considered their access to food as inadequate or severely inadequate. Food access problems were most common in Northern Cape (34,3%), and Eastern Cape (31,2%). Only 5,9% of households in Limpopo had inadequate or severely inadequate access to food.

5. Conclusion

The number of households in South Africa increased from 11,2 million in 2002 to 19,6 million in 2024. More males than females were categorised as being single in 2024. More than one-quarter (26,9%) of South African households consisted of a single member in 2024. In terms of household headship, more households were female-headed. Nationally, an estimated 39,4% of households were classified as nuclear. More than half of children aged 0–4 stayed home with a parent or guardian, or with another adult. School attendance of individuals aged five and older was highest amongst people residing in Limpopo. Nationally, the percentage of persons aged 7–24 who attended educational institutions increased in 2024. Additionally, enrolment into higher education institutions increased between 2002 and 2024. Since 2002, the number of people who obtained Grade 12 has been increasing. While individuals without any formal education were mostly concentrated in Limpopo. The percentage of individuals that benefited from social grants increased gradually with most beneficiaries found in the

Eastern Cape. In 2024, most South African households lived in formal dwellings. Tap water inside dwellings, on-site, or offsite was most common among households in Western Cape. Nationally, the percentage of households with access to improved sanitation increased in 2024. The use of flush toilets was most common in Western Cape. The percentage of South African households that were connected to the mains electricity supply increased in 2024. KwaZulu-Natal had the highest percentage of households using electricity as energy source for cooking. Most South African households had access to Internet. Salaries/wages/commission was the main source of income in households. Food access problems were most prevalent in the Northern Cape.



Primary industries

Mining: Production and sales



On May 20, 2025, South Africa's Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources, Gwede Mantashe, announced Cabinet's official approval of the Critical Minerals and Metals Strategy (CMMS). The strategy aims to position South Africa as a globally competitive supplier of critical minerals, while ensuring these resources drive domestic industrialisation, energy transition, economic development, and national security.

Critical minerals are identified based on their importance to the country's economic growth and strategic priorities. These include highly critical minerals such as Platinum Group Metals (PGMs), manganese, iron ore, coal, and chrome; moderately to highly critical ones like gold and palladium; and moderately critical minerals such as copper and aluminium. The CMMS is built on six strategic pillars that guide a structured approach across the entire mining value chain (from exploration to beneficiation), supporting economic transformation and enhancing global competitiveness. Ultimately, the strategy seeks to maximise long-term value from South Africa's mineral wealth by aligning resource development with sustainable economic growth in a rapidly changing global context. Data published by Stats SA show that mineral sales at current prices increased by 1,6% year-on-year in March 2025. This article summarises the results of the *Mining: Production and sales* (statistical release P2041) for March 2025.



Mineral sales at current prices increased by 1,6% year-on-year in March 2025 (**see Table A**).

The largest positive contributors to the 1,6% increase were:

- gold (13,9%, contributing 2,0 percentage points);

- iron ore (15,9%, contributing 1,9 percentage points); and
- coal (6,0%, contributing 1,6 percentage points).

The largest negative contributor was PGMs (-13,9%, contributing -3,1 percentage points).

Table A – Key growth rates in mineral sales at current prices for March 2025

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

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.

Mining production decreased by 2,8% year-on-year in March 2025 (see **Table B**). The largest negative contributors were:

- PGMs (-9,9%, contributing -3,0 percentage points); and
- gold (-11,1%, contributing -1,5 percentage points).

The largest positive contributor was iron ore (7,5%, contributing 1,1 percentage points).

Table B – Key growth rates in the volume of mining production for March 2025

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

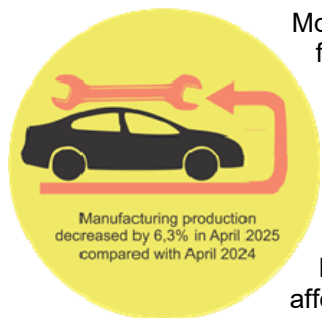
¹ Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

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



Secondary industries

Manufacturing: Production and sales



Motor vehicles were manufactured to provide a faster, more convenient and efficient mode of transport for passengers and goods, among others. However, the manufactured motor vehicle could jeopardise, harm the lives of consumers, cause accidents or shorten the lifespan of the product if there are any defects or problems. Manufacturers need to notify the National Consumer Commission (NCC) about the affected motor vehicles; the model, year it was manufactured or, in the case of accessories or parts,

installed, and any defects or problems so that they can be recalled (a request to return, exchange or replace a product after a manufacturer or consumer body discovers defects that could hinder performance, harm consumers or produce legal issues for the manufacturer). On 13 May 2025, the NCC reported that various motor vehicle manufacturers notified them of different motor vehicles to be recalled. Most of these motor vehicles are recalled due to airbag defects, brake hoses, seatbelts and battery problems. The NCC advised consumers with affected motor vehicles to book them in at their nearest agents or dealerships for a check and the replacement of defective components. In April 2025, manufacturing production decreased by 6,3% according to the latest data published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA). The motor vehicles, parts and accessories and other transport equipment was one of the largest negative contributors with -13,0%, contributing -1,2 percentage points. This article summarises the *Manufacturing: Production and sales* results (statistical release P3041.2) for April 2025.



Manufacturing production decreased by 6,3% in April 2025 compared with April 2024 (**see Table C**). The largest negative contributions were made by the following divisions:

- food and beverages (-7,6%, contributing -1,8 percentage points);
- basic iron and steel, non-ferrous metal products, metal products and machinery (-6,3%, contributing -1,4 percentage points);
- motor vehicles, parts and accessories and other transport equipment (-13,0%, contributing -1,2 percentage points); and
- petroleum, chemical products, rubber and plastic products (-4,7%, contributing -1,0 percentage point).

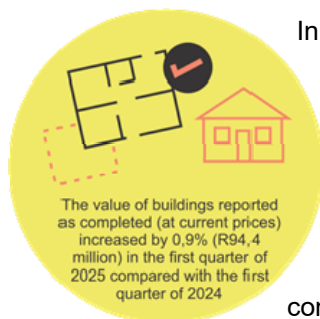
Table C – Key growth rates in the volume of manufacturing production for April 2025

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

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



In South Africa, sectional title units, like other types of houses, require building plans even when conducting extensions or alterations. A sectional title unit is a part of a building or a separate building on a piece of land that has been converted into a sectional title scheme (involves individual ownership of specific units (like apartments or townhouses) within a larger property, along with a shared ownership of the common areas). According to the Sectional Titles Act,

1986 (Act No. 95 of 1986), division of buildings into sections (apartments, townhouses, etc.) and the establishment of common property (shared hallways, gardens, swimming pools, etc.) is permissible. A resident

who wishes to extend or alter a sectional title unit must obtain approval from the local authority and body corporate (a group of people or an entity that is recognised as a legal entity distinct from its members, with rights and responsibilities of its own). The building plan must be prepared with the help of an architect or land surveyor and the new sectional plan be registered at the Deeds Office. The selected building statistics of the private sector data released by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) for March 2025 recorded an increase for residential buildings by R120,6 million in the first quarter of 2025 compared with the first quarter of 2024. 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 March 2025.



The value of buildings reported as completed (at current prices) increased by 0,9% (R94,4 million) in the first quarter of 2025 compared with the first quarter of 2024 (**see Table D**).

Increases were reported for non-residential buildings (R687,8 million) and residential buildings (R120,6 million). A decrease was reported for additions and alterations (-R713,9 million).

The largest positive contributors to the total increase of 0,9% (R94,4 million) were:

- Western Cape (contributing 3,3 percentage points or R333,0 million);
- KwaZulu-Natal (contributing 2,2 percentage points or R223,9 million); and
- North West (contributing 1,6 percentage points or R166,0 million).

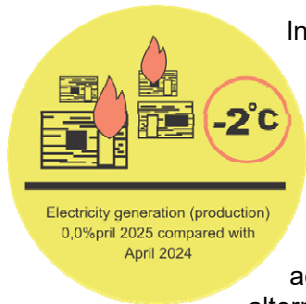
The largest negative contributors were Eastern Cape (contributing -3,9 percentage points or -R401,6 million) and Gauteng (contributing -1,0 percentage point or -R106,3 million).

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

Type of building	Jan – Mar 2024	Jan – Mar 2025	Difference in value between Jan – Mar 2024 and Jan – Mar 2025	% change between Jan – Mar 2024 and Jan – Mar 2025
	R'000	R'000	R'000	
Residential buildings	11 172 087	10 067 258	-1 104 829	-9,9
- Dwelling-houses	6 761 920	6 827 541	65 621	1,0
- Flats and townhouses	4 330 990	2 789 121	-1 541 869	-35,6
- Other residential buildings	79 177	450 596	371 419	469,1
Non-residential buildings	3 976 502	4 928 817	952 315	23,9
Additions and alterations	6 349 215	6 774 637	425 422	6,7
Total	21 497 804	21 770 712	272 908	1,3

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

Electricity generated and available for distribution



In South Africa, house fires tend to rise sharply during the winter months. According to Johannesburg Emergency Medical Services (EMS) spokesperson Robert Mulaudzi, shack fires on the Highveld are especially common in winter due to extremely cold temperatures. This increase is most evident in informal settlements and rural areas, where many residents have limited or no access to electricity. As a result, people often rely on alternative heating sources such as braziers, paraffin stoves, candles, open fires, and gas heaters in poorly ventilated dwellings. These methods are frequently used overnight or left unattended, significantly increasing the risk of fire. Improving access to electricity could help reduce

such incidents by lessening the dependence on unsafe energy alternatives. Notably, electricity distribution decreased by 2,8% year-on-year in April 2025. When electricity distribution decreases, it means that less electricity is being delivered to end users such as homes, businesses, schools, and factories over a certain period, compared to the previous period. This article summarises the results of the *Electricity generated and available for distribution* (statistical release P4141) for April 2025.



Electricity generation (production) was flat in April 2025 compared with April 2024 **(see Table E)**.

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

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

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

Electricity distribution (consumption) decreased by 2,8% year-on-year in April 2025 **(see Table F)**.

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

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

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



South Africa's wholesale industry plays a crucial role in moving goods and services across the country and beyond. In March 2025, wholesale trade sales decreased by 2,7% compared to March 2024. One of the major contributors to this decline was dealers in the machinery, equipment, and supplies, which decreased by 10,5%, contributing 1,8 percentage points. According to Independent Online (IOL), several factors may have influenced this decrease. A stronger rand made imported machinery parts

cheaper, reducing local prices. Lower manufacturing output also meant companies delayed buying or upgrading equipment. In addition, less load shedding and lower diesel prices lowered production costs, which may have reduced the need for additional machinery. These combined factors helped drive the decline in sales in this sector. Presented in this article is a summary of the *Wholesale trade sales* (statistical release P6141.2) for March 2025.



Wholesale trade sales decreased by 2,7% in March 2025 compared with March 2024 (**see Table G**).

The main negative contributors were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (-14,0%, contributing -3,5 percentage points); and
- machinery, equipment and supplies (-10,5%, contributing -1,8 percentage points).

The main positive contributors were dealers in:

- 'other' household goods except precious stones (15,9%, contributing 1,6 percentage points); and
- food, beverages and tobacco (5,0%, contributing 0,7 of a percentage point).

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

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

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



In today's complex and dynamic business environment, compliance is very crucial. Compliance ensures that every retail business abides by the law and is fair. By complying with laws and regulations, retailers can avoid fines, legal penalties, enhance their reputation, and build consumers' and stakeholders' trust. For instance, in May 2025, retailers had to ensure system compliance and update shelf labels after the scrapping of the planned value-added tax (VAT) hike. Retailers adhering to compliance are viewed as trustworthy and reliable and attract customers

and investors. On the other hand, non-compliance by retailers can range from financial penalties to business closure, among others. The latest figures released by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) for March 2025 show that one of the largest positive contributors to the increase in retail trade sales was textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (3,5%, contributing 0,5 of percentage points). This article summarises the *Retail trade sales* release (statistical release P6242.1) for March 2025.



Retail trade sales increased by 1,5% year-on-year in March 2025 (see Table H). The largest positive contributors to this increase were retailers in:

- pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries (7,1%, contributing 0,5 of a percentage point); and
- textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (3,5%, contributing 0,5 of a percentage point).

Retail trade sales increased by 4,1% in the first quarter of 2025 compared with the first quarter of 2024. The largest contributors to this increase were:

- general dealers (3,6%, contributing 1,6 percentage points); and
- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (9,9%, contributing 1,5 percentage points).

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

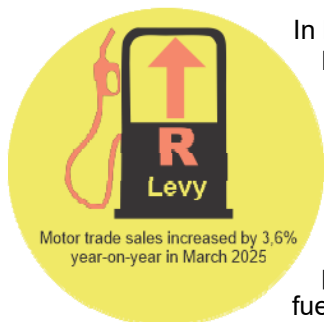
	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	6,2	7,6	3,1	7,0	4,1	1,5
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,7	0,9	-0,3	0,9	-1,2	-0,2
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	1,1	1,2	2,0	1,9	1,1	0,1

^{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



In his budget speech tabled in May 2025, Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana announced an increase in the General Fuel Levy, effective 4 June 2025, the first hike in three years. The increase, intended to address a budget shortfall following the cancellation of the previously proposed Value-added tax (VAT) hike, resulted in an increase in fuel levy by 16 cents per litre for petrol and 15 cents per litre for diesel. This brings fuel taxes to R4,01 per litre for petrol and R3,85 per

litre for diesel. The General Fuel Levy is a tax that is charged on every litre of fuel sold. Although June is forecasted to see a drop in fuel prices, the long-term implications of this tax adjustment could be significant, especially if global oil prices recover. Fuel remains a core input cost across nearly all sectors of the South African economy. Any increase in fuel levies inevitably raises transportation and operational costs. This is particularly relevant to the motor industry, where vehicles and spare parts are frequently transported over long distances from manufacturers to dealerships and customers. These additional costs may be passed on to consumers, potentially driving up vehicle prices and reducing sales volumes. The motor industry is especially sensitive to changes in fuel pricing. Higher running costs may cause consumers to delay new vehicle purchases or opt for more fuel-efficient models – potentially slowing momentum in a sector that had recently shown signs of recovery – and could, in turn, counteract the notable 15,8% increase in new vehicle sales recorded in March 2025, which contributed 3,6 percentage points to the economic growth. Presented in this article is a summary of the results from the *Motor trade sales* (statistical release P6343.2) for March 2025.



Motor trade sales increased by 3,6% year-on-year in March 2025 (**see Table I**). The main positive contributors to this increase were:

- new vehicle sales (15,8%, contributing 3,6 percentage points); and
- used vehicle sales (6,4%, contributing 1,2 percentage points).

Motor trade sales decreased by 0,8% in the first quarter of 2025 compared with the first quarter of 2024. The main negative contributors to this decrease were:

- fuel sales (-6,6%, contributing -1,9 percentage points); and
- workshop income (-11,3%, contributing -0,6 of a percentage point).

The only positive contributors were:

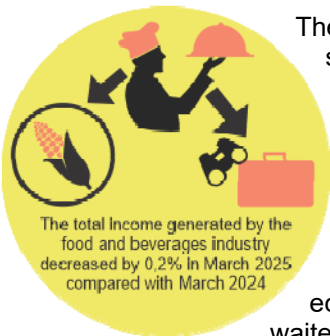
- used vehicle sales (6,0%, contributing 1,1 percentage points); and
- new vehicle sales (4,7%, contributing 1,1 percentage points).

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

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

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



The catering industry plays a significant role in strengthening the economy by creating employment opportunities, supporting local suppliers, and contributing to the tourism sector. It also supports the agricultural industry through the demand for fresh, locally sourced ingredients. Catering services play a crucial role in connecting businesses with social events, thereby contributing significantly to the economy through the employment of chefs, waiters, and other staff. Catering refers to any business that provides food and beverages to large groups of people,

typically delivered and served at the client’s location. Unlike traditional restaurants or cafes, caterers operate by bringing their services directly to venues such as offices, hotels, concert halls, and event spaces. Their work is often associated with special occasions, including weddings, birthday parties, corporate conferences, and other gatherings. Over the years, the catering sector has consistently shown positive growth, contributing to the increase in income within the broader food and beverage industry. For example, in March 2025, despite the 0,2% year-on-year decrease in overall food and beverages income, catering services still managed to contribute positively, recording a 0,8% year-on-year increase, contributing 0,1 of a percentage point. This article summarises the results of the *Food and beverages* release (statistical release P6420) for March 2025.



Total income generated by the food and beverages industry decreased by 0,2% in March 2025 compared with March 2024 (see Table J).

A negative annual growth rate was recorded for bar sales (-6,7%), while the highest positive annual growth rate was recorded for ‘other’ income (5,1%).

In March 2025, the negative contributor to the 0,2% year-on-year decrease was restaurants and coffee shops (-3,9%, contributing -1,9 percentage points).

The main positive contributor was takeaway and fast-food outlets (4,1%, contributing 1,6 percentage points).

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

Type of enterprise	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25
Food sales	0,6	2,8	-0,3	3,9	-0,1	0,5
Bar sales	-6,3	3,1	1,0	2,0	-7,9	-6,7
Other income	-18,8	-13,2	-22,5	-7,7	8,1	5,1
Total	-0,8	2,3	-0,9	3,3	-0,8	-0,2

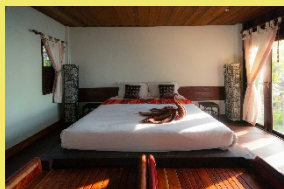
A full release on *Food and beverages* (statistical release P6420) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Tourist accommodation



South Africa's tourism industry thrives mainly due to the country's scenic beaches, wildlife reserves, and vibrant hospitality industry. However, as winter sets in, people travel less frequently, which results in reduced demand for tourism establishments and consequently a loss of income. Statistics South Africa's (Stats SA) latest tourist accommodation data shows a significant decline in the growth of tourist accommodation income in March 2025. Year-on-year, total income increased by only 2,5%, the

lowest recorded in six months since October 2024. This follows a peak of 11,8% in January 2025 and a notable slowdown to 5,8% in February 2025. Income from accommodation specifically grew by just 6,9% in March 2025, a steep drop from 16,6% in January 2025. The decline is partly driven by a 1,0% drop in stay unit nights sold, suggesting reduced tourist activity. While stay unit availability remained unchanged, average income per stay unit night also declined to 8,0%—its lowest since October 2024 when it was 8,5%. This article summarises the results of *Tourist accommodation* (statistical release P6410) for March 2025.



The total income for the tourist accommodation industry increased by 2,5% in March 2025 compared with March 2024 (**see Table K**).

Income from accommodation increased by 6,9% year-on-year in March 2025, the result of an 8,0% increase in the average income per stay unit night sold.

In March 2025, the main contributors to the 6,9% year-on-year increase in income from accommodation were:

- hotels (8,5%, contributing 4,9 percentage points); and
- 'other' accommodation (5,3%, contributing 1,9 percentage points).

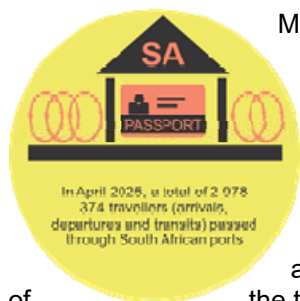
Table K – Year-on-year percentage change in tourist accommodation statistics for March 2025

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

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



Many tourists who visit South Africa use various modes of travel and various ports of entry for both arrival and departure. Ports of entry are crucial for tourism and serve as designated facilities for individuals and goods to enter the country legally and through official channels. Thus, secured ports of entry will ensure border officials record every traveller coming in and out of the country and ensure a secure experience for travellers. Most

of the travellers who come to South Africa use three modes of travel, namely road, sea and air. According to the April 2025 data published in the *International tourism* statistical release by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) on 27 May 2025, a total of 2 978 374 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports. About 164 941 (92,6%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 12 931 came in by road and 323 arrived by sea. On the other hand, tourists from the SADC countries came by road (580 025), air (54 530) and sea (3). The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 12 276 (86,4%); while 1 940 (13,6%) used road transport, and none

preferred sea. Most tourists who arrived by road came through Beit Bridge port (153 013) and Lebombo port (146 560). The majority of tourists who came by air entered through OR Tambo International Airport (155 964) and Cape Town International Airport (72 198). Tourists who arrived by sea came through Cape Town Harbour (309) and Durban Harbour (17). Presented in this article is a summary of the results of *International tourism* (statistical release P3050) for April 2025.

Travellers

Number of travellers



In April 2025, a total of 2 978 374 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports (**Table L**).

These travellers were made up of 817 353 South African residents and 2 161 021 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 391 787 arrivals, 425 073 departures and 493 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 1 115 585, 1 007 258 and 38 178, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in March 2025 and April 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 13,9% (from 343 852 in March 2025 to 391 787 in April 2025). Departures increased by 16,6% (from 364 598 in March 2025 to 425 073 in April 2025) and transits increased by 4,9% (from 470 in March 2025 to 493 in April 2025). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 0,8% (from 1 107 069 in March 2025 to 1 115 585 in April 2025), departures increased by 2,1% (from 986 507 in March 2025 to 1 007 258 in April 2025), and transits increased by 4,7% (from 36 470 in March 2025 to 38 178 in April 2025).

Mode of travel of travellers

In April 2025, road was the most common mode of travel used by 1 995 713 (67,0%) of the 2 978 374 travellers. The total number of air travellers was 969 657 (32,6%). Compared to air and road, a smaller number of travellers,

13 004 (0,4%) used sea into and out of South Africa. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 177 622 (45,3%) came by air, 213 764 (54,6%) came by road, and 401 (0,1%) arrived by sea. For departures, 195 481 (46,0%) used air, 228 924 (53,9%) used road and 668 (0,2%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 493 (100,0%) used air.

In the case of foreign travellers, 261 135 (23,4%) arrived by air, 852 956 (76,5%) came by road, and 1 494 (0,1%) arrived by sea. When departing South Africa, 296 748 (29,5%) foreign travellers left by air, 700 069 (69,5%) left by road and 10 441 (1,0%) left by sea. Of all travellers in transit, 38 178 (100,0%) used air.

Visitors

In April 2025, 27 340 (2,5%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors, while 1 088 245 (97,5%) were classified as visitors. Visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in April 2025 but did not depart in April 2025 [380 900 (35,0%)].
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in April 2025 and left in April 2025 [356 927 (32,8%)].
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in April 2025 [350 418 (32,2%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors/tourists. In April 2025, there were 260 359 (23,9%) same-day visitors and 827 886 (76,1%) tourists. Between March 2025 and April 2025, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 2,7% (from 267 567 in March 2025 to 260 359 in April 2025) and that of tourists increased by 2,2% (from 810 442 in March 2025 to 827 886 in April 2025). Between April 2024 and April 2025, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 26,7% (from 205 446 in April 2024 to 260 359 in April 2025) and that of tourists increased by 17,9% (from 702 021 in April 2024 to 827 886 in April 2025).

Of the 260 359 same-day visitors, a majority, 241 008 (92,6%) arrived in the country by road, 19 345 (7,4%) arrived by air, and six (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. Information on tourists shows that 595 075 (71,9%) came by road, 232 485 (28,1%) used air, and 326 (less than 0,1%) used sea.

Tourists

Sex and age distribution of tourists

Sex

There were more male [473 496 (57,2%)] than female [354 390 (42,8%)] tourists. Male tourists constituted the majority of tourists for all three regions, SADC countries [371 210 (58,5%)], overseas countries [93 156 (52,3%)] and 'other' African countries [8 586 (60,4%)]. Similarly, most female tourists were from SADC countries [263 348 (41,5%)], followed by overseas countries [85 039 (47,7%)] and 'other' African countries [5 630 (39,6%)].

Age

The age distribution indicates that out of all tourists, [6,5% (53 462)] were aged younger than 15; [8,7% (72 416)] were aged between 15 and 24; [22,6% (187 143)] were aged between 25 and 34; [28,9% (239 522)] were aged between 35 and 44; [18,9% (156 157)] were aged between 45 and 54; [9,0% (74 726)] were aged between 55 and 64; [5,4% (44 460)] were aged 65 and older.

Purpose of visit of tourists

In April 2025, the majority of tourists, 805 104 (97,2%), were in South Africa for holiday compared to 17 843 (2,2%), 4 600 (0,6%) and 339 (less than 0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and medical treatment, respectively.

Mode of travel of tourists

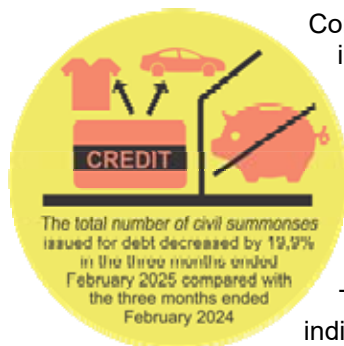
About 164 941 (92,6%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 12 931 (7,3%) came in by road and 323 (0,2%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the SADC countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 580 025 (91,4%), 54 530 (8,6%) came by air and three (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 12 276 (86,4%); while 1 940 (13,6%) used road transport, and none preferred sea. Most tourists who arrived by road came through Beit Bridge port (153 013) and Lebombo port (146 560). The majority of tourists who came by air entered through OR Tambo International Airport (155 964) and Cape Town International Airport (72 198). Tourists

who arrived by sea came through Cape Town Harbour (309) and Durban Harbour (17).

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

Travel direction	April	March	April	% Change	% Change
	2024	2025	2025	March 2025 – April 2025	April 2024 – April 2025
Total	2 452 795	2 838 966	2 978 374	4,9%	21,4%
South African residents	667 428	708 920	817 353	15,3%	22,5%
Arrivals	337 454	343 852	391 787	13,9%	16,1%
Departures	329 436	364 598	425 073	16,6%	29,0%
Transits	538	470	493	4,9%	-8,4%
Foreign travellers	1 785 367	2 130 046	2 161 021	1,5%	21,0%
Arrivals	934 880	1 107 069	1 115 585	0,8%	19,3%
Departures	814 587	986 507	1 007 258	2,1%	23,7%
Transits	35 900	36 470	38 178	4,7%	6,3%

Statistics of civil cases for debt



Consumers use credit for various reasons, including buying a house, paying for education, etc. Even so, managing debt effectively while maintaining savings is a key challenge for many South Africans. According to TransUnion's Consumer Pulse study for Quarter 1 (Q1) of 2025, 38% of respondents indicated that they will not be able to pay at least one of their current bills and loans in full. The study also reveals that 25% of respondents

indicated that they would dip into their savings to pay their current bills and loans. A further 20% of consumers aim to borrow money from friends or family members to meet their payment commitments. Consumers should bear in mind that any default on financial obligations can remain on a credit report for a year, which may hinder their chances of qualifying for loans, motor vehicle financing, and other credit-related services. Consumers who are struggling to meet their payment commitments should always engage with their lenders to potentially renegotiate repayment terms. Despite financial strain reported by some consumers, data from Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) suggests that consumers may be on the right track regarding debt repayment. Results 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 18,3% in the first quarter of 2025. This article summarises the results of the *Statistics of civil cases for debt* release (statistical release P0041) for March 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 total number of civil summonses issued for debt decreased by 18,3% in the first quarter of 2025 compared with the first quarter of 2024. The largest contributors to the 18,3% decrease in civil summonses issued were:

- 'other' debts (contributing -10,5 percentage points);
- money lent (contributing -3,2 percentage points);
- promissory notes (contributing -1,9 percentage points); and
- services (contributing -1,7 percentage points).

The number of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total number of civil judgements recorded for debt decreased by 13,9% in the first quarter of 2025 compared with the first quarter of 2024 **(see Table M)**. The largest contributors to the 13,9% decrease were civil judgements relating to:

- services (contributing -7,7 percentage points);
- money lent (contributing -4,0 percentage points); and
- rent (contributing -1,2 percentage points).

The value of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total value of civil judgements recorded for debt decreased by 2,9% in the first quarter of 2025 compared with the first quarter of 2024 **(see Table M)**. The largest negative contributor was money lent (contributing -4,3 percentage points) and the largest positive contributor was promissory notes (contributing 1,7 percentage points).

In March 2025, 10 028 civil judgements for debt amounting to R316,1 million were recorded. The largest contributors to the total value of judgements were:

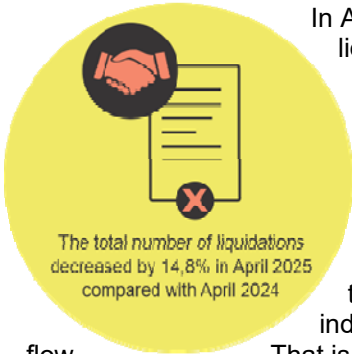
- services (R75,4 million or 23,9%);
- money lent (R66,7 million or 21,1%);
- 'other' debts (R65,8 million or 20,8%); and
- promissory notes (R56,7 million or 17,9%).

Table M – Key figures for March 2025

Actual estimates	Mar 2025	% change between Mar 2024 and Mar 2025	% change between Jan – Mar 2024 and Jan – Mar 2025
Number of civil summonses issued for debt	31 523	-12,9	-18,3
Number of civil judgements recorded for debt	10 028	-8,7	-13,9
Value of civil judgements recorded for debt (R million)	316,1	13,3	-2,9

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



In April 2025, South Africa recorded 109 business liquidations, bringing the total number of company closures from January to April to 482. According to Stats SA, the majority of these were voluntary liquidations—98 out of 109 in April—while only 11 were compulsory. Companies in the Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry, and Fishing sector have shown greater resilience, with just one liquidation reported in this industry so far this year. This low figure is likely because these industries have regular seasons and steady cash

flow.

That is, they typically follow a cyclical (repeated) pattern, with predictable production and harvest periods, allowing for more effective financial planning compared to sectors with less steady and revenue streams. Companies in this industry also receive government support, including financial assistance, infrastructure development, and training opportunities, aimed at boosting agricultural production, supporting agro-processing, and fostering sustainable practices. This article summarises the results of the *Statistics of liquidation* (statistical release P0043.1) for April 2025.



The total number of liquidations decreased by 14,8% in April 2025 compared with April 2024 (**see Table N**).

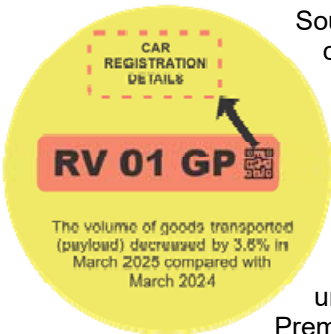
Liquidations of close corporations decreased by 12 cases and liquidations of companies decreased by 7 cases during this period. The number of liquidations decreased by 6,9% in the three months ended April 2025 compared with the three months ended April 2024. A decrease of 6,0% in the number of liquidations was recorded in the first four months of 2025 compared with the first four months of 2024.

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

Number of liquidations April 2025	% change between April 2024 and April 2025	% change between Feb – Apr 2024 and Feb – Apr 2025	% change between January to April 2024 and January to April 2025
109	-14,8	-6,9	-6,0

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

Land transport



South Africa has been experiencing license plate cloning (stealing or copying another motor vehicle’s number plate system to conceal their identity or commit illegal activities) and other vehicle crimes such as hijacking and theft. In 2023, during the State of the Province address, Gauteng Premier Panyaza Lesufi announced plans to launch a new high-tech number plate system to curb crimes involving undocumented motor vehicles. On 05 June 2025, Premier Lesufi and Road and Transport MEC

Kedibone Diale-Tlabela unveiled a number plate system designed to combat vehicle-related crime and improve road safety. The system introduces tamper-evident decals (stickers or labels designed to be easily detected if they have been removed or altered), forensic QR codes and a digitised back-end portal to improve traceability and reduce fraud. As part of the six-month pilot project, the new number plates will first be fitted on vehicles operated by the government’s fleet services. A broader provincial rollout is expected to follow, depending on the outcome of the trial phase. If the piloted system becomes successful, it will assist authorities to curb domestic

and cross border theft of freight and passenger motor vehicles. In March 2025, the volume of goods transported (payload) decreased by 3,6% according to *Land transport* data by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA). This article summarises the results of *Land transport* (statistical release P7162) for March 2025.



The volume of goods transported (payload) decreased by 3,6% in March 2025 compared with March 2024 (see Table O).

The corresponding income decreased by 0,7% over the same period.

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

	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25
Freight payload	-10,3	-10,6	-6,9	-4,7	-4,1	-3,6
Freight income	-5,8	-6,1	-6,2	-3,0	-3,4	-0,7

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

The number of passenger journeys increased by 11,5% in March 2025 compared with March 2024 (see Table P). The corresponding income increased by 4,1% over the same period.

Table P – Year-on-year percentage change in passenger transportation for March 2025

	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25
Passenger journeys	14,2	1,3	2,5	11,0	3,9	11,5
Passenger income	2,3	-4,0	-4,1	1,4	-1,6	4,1

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)



The world has been experiencing a shortage of cocoa due to poor weather conditions and disease impacting cocoa crops in major cocoa-producing countries like the Ivory Coast and Ghana. According to the International Cocoa Organisation (ICCO), during the second week of April 2025, cocoa was also affected by a 10% tariff imposed by the United States of America (USA). This shortage will lead to higher prices for chocolate and other cocoa products, such as chocolate, cocoa butter, etc. With the rising

cocoa prices, consumers might end up cutting back on chocolate and other cocoa products or opt for cheaper alternative treats. Producers may also resort to shrinkflation (the practice of reducing the size, weight or volume of a product) while keeping the price the same to compensate for rising cocoa costs. In April 2025, the annual producer price inflation (final manufacturing) was 0,5% driven by food products, beverages and tobacco products (4,7%, contributing 1,4 percentage points). The annual percentage change in the PPI for agriculture, forestry and fishing was 4,4% in April 2025, compared with 2,4% in March 2025. The index increased by 4,5% month-on-month. The main contributor to the annual rate was agriculture (4,7%, contributing 4,1 percentage points). This article summarises the results of the *Producer price index* (statistical release P0142.1) for April 2025.

Final manufactured goods – headline PPI



Annual producer price inflation (final manufacturing) was 0,5% in April 2025, unchanged from March 2025 (**see Table Q**).

The producer price index (PPI) increased by 0,5% month-on-month in April 2025. The main positive contributor to the headline PPI annual inflation rate

was food products, beverages and tobacco products (4,7%, contributing 1,4 percentage points).

The main positive contributor to the monthly rate was food products, beverages and tobacco products (0,9%, 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 April 2025, compared with 7,4% in March 2025. The index increased by 2,4% month-on-month. The main contributors to the annual rate were basic and fabricated metals (13,2%, contributing 6,6 percentage points) and chemicals, rubber and plastic products (4,2%, contributing 1,2 percentage points). The main contributor to the monthly rate was basic and fabricated metals (4,2%, contributing 2,1 percentage points).

Electricity and water

The annual percentage change in the PPI for electricity and water was 11,2% in April 2025, compared with 10,0% in March 2025. The index increased by 6,4% month-on-month. The contributors to the annual rate were electricity (12,5%, contributing 10,7 percentage points) and water (4,6%, contributing 0,7 of a percentage point). The contributors to the monthly rate were electricity (7,3%, contributing 6,3 percentage points) and water (1,1%, contributing 0,2 of a percentage point).

Mining

The annual percentage change in the PPI for mining was 4,1% in April 2025, compared with 5,9% in March 2025. The index increased by 3,2% month-on-month. The positive contributors to the annual rate were:

- gold and other metal ores (21,7%, contributing 5,8 percentage points);
- non-ferrous metal ores (2,9%, contributing 1,5 percentage points); and
- stone quarrying, clay and diamonds (26,0%, contributing 1,1 percentage points).

The main contributors to the monthly rate were non-ferrous metal ores (3,7%, contributing 1,8 percentage points) and gold and other metal ores (4,9%, contributing 1,5 percentage points).

Agriculture, forestry and fishing

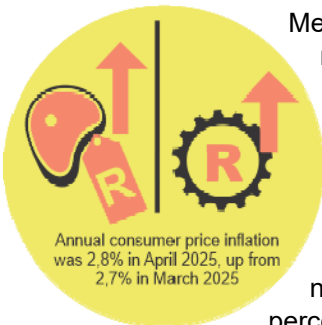
The annual percentage change in the PPI for agriculture, forestry and fishing was 4,4% in April 2025, compared with 2,4% in March 2025. The index increased by 4,5% month-on-month. The main contributor to the annual rate was agriculture (4,7% and contributing 4,1 percentage points). The main contributor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

Table Q – Key PPI figures for April 2025

Product	Weight	Index (Dec 2023=100)			% change	
		Apr 2024	Mar 2025	Apr2025	Apr 2025 vs. Mar 2025	Apr 2025 vs. Apr 2024
Final manufactured goods	100,00	102,2	102,2	102,7	0,5	0,5
Intermediate manufactured goods	100,00	104,0	110,2	112,8	2,4	8,5
Electricity and water	100,00	105,0	109,8	116,8	6,4	11,2
Mining	100,00	103,8	104,7	108,1	3,2	4,1
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	100,00	98,7	98,6	103,0	4,5	4,4

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)



Meat prices have been steadily climbing, driven by rising production costs and supply shortages, with significant implications for consumers and the broader economy. According to data from Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), consumer food price inflation rose to 3,3% in April 2025, up from 2,2% in March 2025. A key driver of this increase was the 4,0% rise in prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages, which contributed 0,7 percentage points to the overall inflation rate. This surge was largely attributed to higher meat prices, particularly for beef products such as stewing beef, mince, and steak. On average, meat prices rose by 2,3% between March and April 2025, marking the highest monthly

increase since January 2023, when prices rose by 2,5%. Mike Gcabo, CEO of Beef South Africa, attributes the rising meat prices to escalating cattle feed costs driven by increased soy and maize prices. These input costs are placing significant financial strain on meat producers, which in turn is reflected in consumer prices. Gcabo also notes that the cattle industry is still recovering from recent outbreaks of diseases, such as foot-and-mouth disease, which have sharply reduced the supply of healthy, slaughter-ready cattle. As a result, the limited supply combined with strong demand led to an increase in meat prices. This article summarises the results of the *Consumer price index* (CPI) (statistical release P0141) for April 2025.

Headline consumer price index (CPI) for all urban areas



Annual consumer price inflation was 2,8% in April 2025, up from 2,7% in March 2025 (see **Table R**).

The CPI increased by 0,3% month-on-month in April 2025. The main positive contributors to the 2,8% annual inflation rate were:

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

In April 2025, the annual inflation rate for:

- goods was 1,7%, down from 2,0% in March 2025; and
- services was 3,8%, up from 3,5% in March 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	101,9									
	Rate	3,2	3,2	2,7	2,8									

^{1/} Annual average. A full release on the *Consumer Price Index* (statistical release P0141) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.



Glossary



Primary industries

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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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