



Mbalo Brief

the missing piece of the puzzle



August 2025



Issue 07/2025

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS



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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



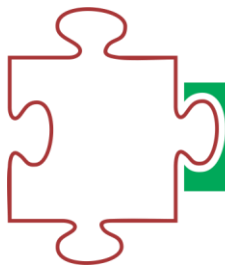
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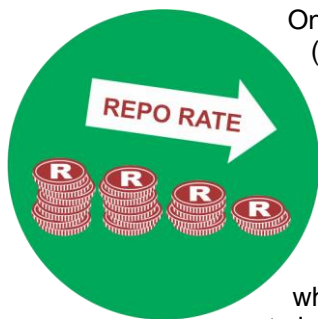
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Editor's Comment



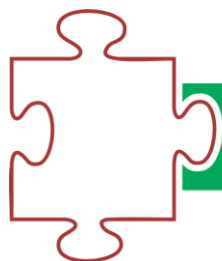
On 31 July 2025, the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) lowered the repo rate by 25 basis points to 7%, which became effective from 01 August 2025, marking its lowest level since November 2022. This reduction effectively brings the prime lending rate down to 10,50%. The repo rate, or repurchase rate, is the interest rate at which commercial banks borrow funds from the SARB, while the prime lending rate is the base rate at which banks lend money to consumers. When the

repo rate is cut, banks typically follow by reducing their prime rates, resulting in lower interest rates on home loans, car loans, personal loans, and credit cards, except for those with fixed-rate agreements. This leads to lower monthly repayments for many consumers, increasing their disposable income and encouraging spending, which can stimulate economic activity and support job creation. However, lower interest rates also mean reduced returns on savings and fixed deposits, which may discourage saving, particularly impacting pensioners and individuals who rely on interest income. The repo rate is set by SARB's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), which meets six times a year, typically every two months. These adjustments are aimed at keeping inflation within the SARB's target range of 3% to 6%. The next MPC meeting is scheduled for 18 September 2025.

This month's feature article is based on *Agricultural industry*, Report No. 11-01-01 (2023) published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) on 26 June 2025. Look out for our monthly crossword puzzle and the July 2025 solutions. Our articles are based on the results of industry surveys conducted in May and June 2025.

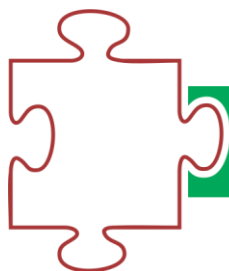
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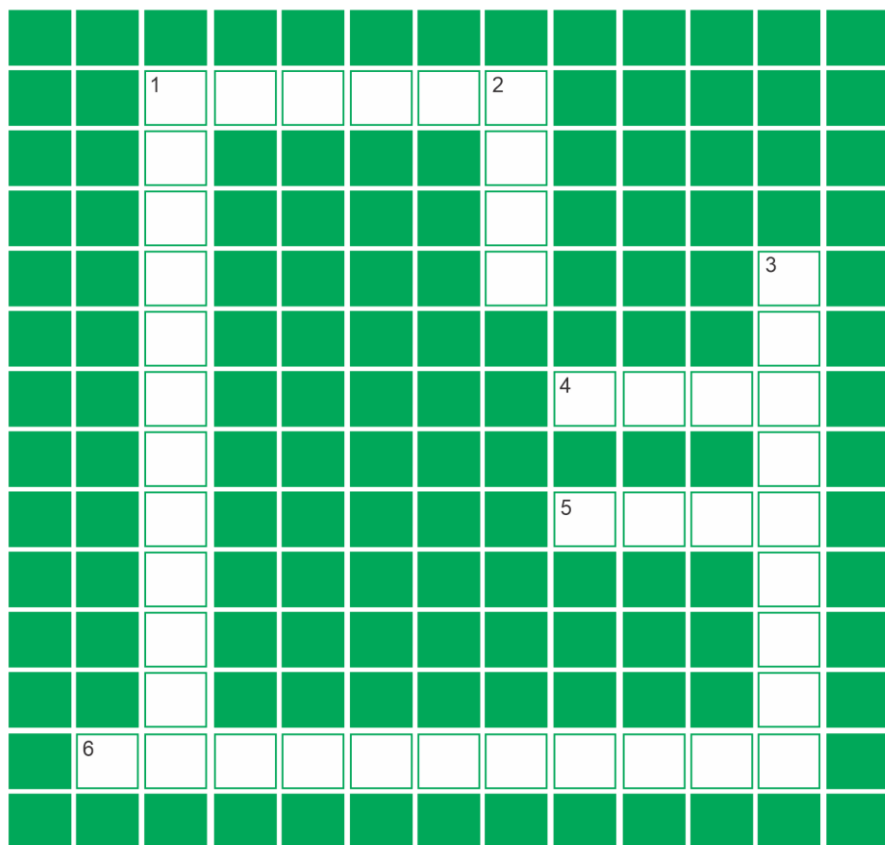


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Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. Based on the tourist accommodation article, which accommodation type contributed the most to the 12,1% year-on-year income growth in May 2025?
4. True or false? South Africa's national unemployment rate for quarter 2 of 2025 was 33,2%.
5. Which planet is known as the red planet?
6. Based on the feature article, which province generated the highest income in the agricultural industry in 2023?

Down

1. Which agricultural activity employed the most people in 2023?
2. What is the acronym for South Africa's central bank, which protects the currency's value to promote balanced and sustainable economic growth?
3. Which province was the leading producer of maize in 2023?

Solutions for the July 2025 puzzle

Across

4. Egypt
5. Benthos
6. Greenland
7. Africa

Down

1. Limpopo
2. Northern Cape
3. Mthombeni
5. Bamboo

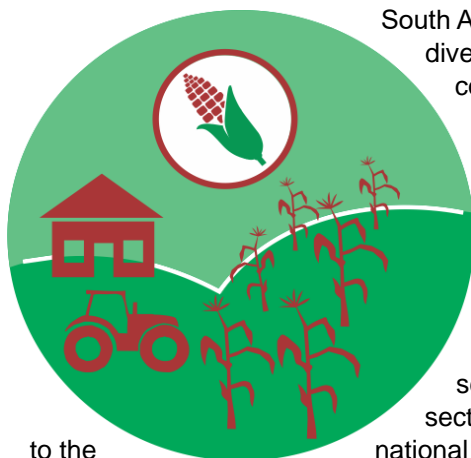




Feature article

Feature article on the agricultural industry

1. Introduction



South Africa's agricultural sector is remarkably diverse, shaped by a wide range of climatic conditions, from arid (dry) and Mediterranean to subtropical, which enable the cultivation of various crops including grains, fruits, vegetables, sugar, and wine, as well as extensive livestock farming. This diversity is evident in both the variety of agricultural products and the coexistence of commercial and small-scale farming operations. Although the sector contributes a relatively small portion national gross domestic product (GDP), it plays to the a vital role in ensuring food security, supporting rural employment, and driving broader economic development. In the face of ongoing challenges such as climate change, water scarcity, and land reform, the industry continues to shift towards more sustainable, innovative, and inclusive practices. This article is based on the *Agricultural Industry*, Report No. 11-01-01 (2023), published on 26 June 2025, with a particular focus on income generation, employment trends, and the production and sale of field crops, horticultural products, and livestock.

2. Background

The *Agricultural Industry*, Report No. 11-01-01 (2023), presents estimates in respect of the agricultural industry for 2023. The survey aims to provide financial, production, employment and related information for the commercial agricultural industry in South Africa. This is the first large sample survey conducted for the agricultural industry. The most recent available publications for the industry are the *Annual agricultural survey* for 2023 (statistical release P1101) and the *Census of Commercial Agriculture* (CoCA) for 2017 (Report No. 11-02-01 (2017)).

The following categories of data items were collected: industrial classification, details of employment, income, expenditure, details of purchases and details of sales. The questionnaires were completed for the financial year ended on any date between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023, according to the usual reporting schedule of the enterprise, with the following exceptions: animals on farms as at 30 June 2023; and employment as at 30 June 2023.

3. Income and employment

3.1 Income by type of activity

The total income for the agricultural industry in 2023 was R491,7 billion. This represents an increase of 6,8% per annum compared with the income reported in the 2017 *Census of Commercial Agriculture* (CoCA), which was R332,0 billion. In 2023, the main contributor to total income was farming of livestock (R186,1 billion or 37,8%), followed by mixed farming (where both crops and livestock are raised on the same farm) (R115,9 billion or 23,6%) and horticulture (R103,5 billion or 21,0%). Comparing 2017 and 2023, the largest gain in percentage share of income was in agricultural services and fertiliser production (1,4 percentage points, from 1,1% in 2017 to 2,5% in 2023). Over the same period, the largest loss in percentage share was in farming of livestock (-2,4 percentage points, from 40,2% to 37,8%).

The province contributing the most to total income in 2023 was Western Cape (R100,9 billion or 20,6% of the national total), followed by Free State (R80,2 billion or 16,3%), Gauteng (R55,5 billion or 11,3%), Mpumalanga (R52,2 billion or 10,6%) and North West (R52,2 billion or 10,6%).

The provinces with gains in percentage share of income between 2017 and 2023 were Free State (2,2 percentage points, from 14,1% to 16,3%), Gauteng (1,8 percentage points, from 9,5% to 11,3%) and Western Cape (1,2 percentage points, from 19,4% to 20,6%). North West lost the biggest percentage share (-1,4 percentage points, from 12,0% to 10,6%).

3.2 Employment by type of activity

The total number of persons employed in the agricultural industry as at 30



June 2023 was 770 181. This represents an annualised increase of 0,5% compared with the number employed as at 30 June 2018 (753 059). In terms of employment, the agricultural activity with the largest number of employees in 2023 was horticulture (311 426 employees or 40,4% of the national total), followed by mixed farming (154 409 or 20,0%) and growing of cereals and other crops (139 210 or 18,1%).

There was a large drop in the percentage share of employment in farming of livestock between 2018 and 2023 (-5,1 percentage points, from 22,9% in 2018 to 17,8% in 2023). The largest gains in percentage share were in horticulture (3,8 percentage points, from 36,6% in 2018 to 40,4% in 2023) and agricultural services and fertiliser production (1,9 percentage points, from 1,8% in 2018 to 3,7% in 2023).

Western Cape was by far the largest employer in 2023 (195 984 employees or 25,5% of the national total), followed by Limpopo (103 404 or 13,4%) and KwaZulu-Natal (88 025 or 11,4%). The provinces with the smallest number of employees were Gauteng (38 386 or 5,0%) and North West (58 777 or 7,6%).

Between 2018 and 2023, KwaZulu-Natal lost the largest number of jobs (-7 038), followed by Northern Cape (-3 147) and Mpumalanga (-928). This was offset by gains in the following provinces: Western Cape (+8 988 jobs);

Limpopo (+5 984); Free State (+5 700 jobs); and Eastern Cape (+5 381 jobs).

3.3 Percentage contribution of income and employment by enterprise size

Large enterprises (those with an annual turnover greater than R35 million) contributed 66,6% to the total income of the agricultural large sample survey in 2023, whereas their contribution to employment was 47,4%. Small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) contributed 33,4% to the total income, while their percentage contribution to employment was 52,6%.

Based on the ratio of contributions, horticulture had the highest contribution to employment compared with its contribution to income (contributing 40,4% to employment and 21,0% to income), whereas farming of livestock had the highest contribution to income compared with its contribution to employment (contributing 37,8% to income and 17,8% to employment).

Based on the ratio of contributions, Limpopo had the highest contribution to employment compared with its contribution to income (contributing 13,4% to employment and 8,2% to income), followed by Western Cape (contributing 25,5% to employment and 20,6% to income), Northern Cape (contributing 8,0% to employment and 5,4% to income) and KwaZulu-Natal (contributing 11,4% to employment and 9,3% to income). Gauteng (contributing 11,3% to income and 5,0% to employment) had the highest contribution to income compared with its contribution to employment, followed by Free State (contributing 16,3% to income and 10,5% to employment) and North West (contributing 10,6% to income and 7,6% to employment).

3.4 Percentage contribution of type of commodity to gross farming income by province

Of the total income of R491,7 billion in the agricultural industry in 2023, R424,5 billion (or 86,3%) was derived directly from agricultural activities and is herein referred to as gross farming income. In 2023, animals and animal products category was the largest contributor to gross farming income with 46,5% of the national total, down from 52,0% in 2017. At a provincial level, the steepest decline in animals and animal products (as a proportion) was in North West (from 72,3% in 2017 to 55,5% in 2023, a decrease of 16,8 percentage points). Comparing 2017 and 2023, an increase of 4,9 percentage points in the share of gross farming income was recorded for

field crops and products (from 23,5% in 2017 to 28,4% in 2023). The largest increase in the share of field crops and products was recorded for North West (from 20,6% in 2017 to 35,9% in 2023), followed by Mpumalanga (from 31,3% in 2017 to 42,8% in 2023) and Free State (from 43,3% in 2017 to 51,0% in 2023). Western Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo are the only provinces where field crops and products lost a share of gross farming income in 2023 compared with 2017.

4. Field crops

4.1 Selected field crops: area planted and production

Between 2017 and 2023, the area planted increased for maize, soya beans, wheat, sunflower seeds and sugarcane. All major field crops were mostly planted under dry land. In 2023, the crop with the highest proportion planted under dry land was sunflower seeds (93,6%), followed by soya beans (90,4%), maize (90,0%), sugarcane (72,8%) and wheat (69,2%). Between 2017 and 2023, maize production increased by 24,0% (from 10,8 million tons to 13,4 million tons).

Free State produced 43,0% of maize in the country in 2023, followed by Mpumalanga (19,6%) and North West (16,2%). There was a 46,7% growth in soya bean production between 2017 and 2023 (from 0,8 million tons to 1,2 million tons). The leading provinces for soya bean production in 2023 were Free State and Mpumalanga, contributing 35,0% and 32,5%, respectively.

Sunflower seed production increased by 16,1% (from 556 thousand tons to 645 thousand tons) between 2017 and 2023. Three provinces accounted for 97,9% of the country's total in 2023, namely Free State (51,3%), North West (28,2%) and Limpopo (18,4%).

Wheat production increased by 58,6% from 1,0 million tons in 2017 to 1,6 million tons in 2023. Western Cape and Northern Cape were dominant in 2023, contributing 63,0% to the national total (Western Cape: 39,4% and Northern Cape: 23,6%).

Sugarcane is mainly produced commercially in two provinces, namely KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga. Production increased by 2,1 million tons from 7,5 million tons to 9,6 million tons between 2017 and 2023. The largest increase was in KwaZulu-Natal (1,5 million tons).

5. Horticultural products




5.1 Vegetables

Commodity	2017	2023
 Potatoes	1 973 155	1 761 099
 Onions	602 568	495 509
 Tomatoes	357 150	349 528
 Cabbages	153 143	173 526

The major vegetables in terms of area planted were potatoes, onions, tomatoes and cabbages. Potatoes dominated the production in both 2017 and 2023, with potatoes and cabbages showing an increase in the same period. Furthermore, there were decreases of 10,7% in the production of potatoes (from 2,0 million tons to 1,8 million tons), 17,8% for onions (from 603 thousand tons to 496 thousand tons) and 2,1% for tomatoes (from 357 thousand tons to 350 thousand tons) between 2017 and 2023. Cabbages recorded an increase of 13,3% in production (from 153 thousand tons to 174 thousand tons).

In 2023, the three leading provinces in potato production were Free State (36,9% of the national total), Limpopo (20,5%) and Western Cape (10,1%). The largest proportion of the country's onions was produced in Western Cape (51,0%), followed by Limpopo (19,1%) and Northern Cape (15,8%). Limpopo produced 64,1% of the country's tomatoes in 2023. Over 60,0% of cabbages were produced in three provinces, namely North West (23,5%), KwaZulu-Natal (18,6%) and Gauteng (18,6%).

5.2 Citrus fruits

Commodity	2017	2023
 Oranges	1 372 238	1 492 455
 Apples	907 1311	243 666
 Wine grapes	783 263	954 660
 Lemons	388 004	556 941
 Naartjies	201 618	434 290
 Pears	355 881	373 163
 Table grapes	328 173	356 009
 Bananas	219 573	185 819

Citrus fruits continue to play an important role in the economy, with strong links to packaging, processing and distribution in the agricultural value chain. Oranges accounted for 56 208 hectares planted in 2023, up by 13,8% from 2017. There were large increases in naartjies (47,8%) and lemons (53,6%) in terms of area planted between 2017 and 2023. The largest increase in production was for naartjies with an increase of 115,4% between 2017 and 2023 (from 202 thousand tons to 434 thousand tons), followed by lemons (43,5%) (from 388 thousand tons to 557 thousand tons) and oranges (8,8%) (from 1,4 million tons to 1,5 million tons). Production per hectare for oranges

and lemons declined between 2017 and 2023. The three leading provinces in orange production in 2023 were Limpopo (55,3% of the national total), Eastern Cape (22,9%) and Western Cape (12,2%). A total of 87,5% of the country's naartjies were produced in three provinces, namely Limpopo (39,0%), Western Cape (25,5%) and Eastern Cape (23,0%). Eastern Cape and Limpopo were the leading producers of lemons (84,9% of the total in 2023), producing 45,8% and 39,1%, respectively.

5.3 Subtropical fruits

The cultivation of subtropical fruits is only possible in certain parts of the country due to the nature of their climatic requirements. Between 2017 and 2023, banana production decreased by 15,4% (from 220 thousand tons to 186 thousand tons). Bananas showed a decrease in production per hectare from 21,1 tons per hectare in 2017 to 18,3 tons per hectare in 2023. The two leading provinces in banana production in 2023 were Mpumalanga (58,9% of the national total) and Limpopo (23,5%).





5.4 Deciduous fruits and viticulture

Like other activities within the agricultural industry, the deciduous fruit (fruits from trees, shrubs, or vines that shed their leaves seasonally, typically during the winter) and viticulture sectors (cultivation and harvesting of grapes) are continually changing and evolving to adapt to industry and climate demands. In terms of area planted, apples, pears, table grapes and wine grapes showed increases between 2017 and 2023. Among major deciduous fruits and viticulture, wine grapes had the largest area planted (in hectares) in both years. Between 2017 and 2023, the highest increase in production was for apples (37,1%) (from 907 thousand tons to 1,2 million tons) and wine grapes (21,9%) (from 783 thousand tons to 955 thousand tons). Compared with 2017, apples and wine grapes showed an increase in production per hectare in 2023, while pears and table grapes showed a decrease. The two leading provinces in apple production in 2023 were Western Cape (90,0% of the national total) and Eastern Cape (6,4%). The two provinces are also leading in the production of pears, with 87,0% for Western Cape and 12,7% for Eastern Cape. Most of the country's wine grapes in 2023 were produced in Western Cape (95,4%), while the two leading provinces for table grapes production were Western Cape (64,8%) and Northern Cape (22,8%).

5.5 Tree nuts

Macadamia nuts grew by 18,6% in terms of area planted and by 29,5% in terms of production (production per hectare also increased). Pecan nuts grew by 0,7% in terms of area planted and decreased by 33,4% in terms of production (production per hectare also decreased). The three leading provinces in macadamia nut production in 2023 were Mpumalanga (60,3% of the national total), KwaZulu-Natal (19,4%) and Limpopo (13,6%). Most of the country's pecan nuts were produced in Northern Cape (47,2%) and Free State (24,6%).

6. Animals (livestock) sold and on farm, 2023

Type of Animal (put infographic of animal here)	Number sold 2017	Number sold 2023	Number on farms 2017	Number on farms 2023
	4 694 378	2 853 288	5 900 550	4 694 378
	3 089 126	2 254 483	8 034 741	6 611 909
	1 885 886	2 623 702	1 418 248	1 885 886
			156 354 149	145 260 154

Cattle, sheep, pigs and chickens are the most reared animals in the agricultural industry in South Africa. Between 2017 and 2023, the number of cattle sold decreased by 12,1% (from 3,2 million to 2,9 million). The leading provinces in cattle sales in 2023 were Free State (accounting for 22,9% of

the national total), Gauteng (20,0%) and Mpumalanga (13,4%). There was a decrease of 20,4% (from 5,9 million to 4,7 million) in the number of cattle on farms between 2018 and 2023. The provinces with the highest number of cattle on farms in 2023 were Free State (23,2%), Eastern Cape (17,5%) and KwaZulu-Natal (15,6%).

Compared with 2017, the number of sheep sold in 2023 decreased by 27,0% (from 3,1 million to 2,3 million). Most sheep were sold in Free State (24,0%), Northern Cape (22,5%) and Eastern Cape (20,5%). The number of sheep on farms fell by 17,7% (from 8,0 million in 2018 to 6,6 million in 2023). In 2023, Eastern Cape (28,9%), Northern Cape (28,4%) and Free State (18,5%) had the highest number of sheep on farms.

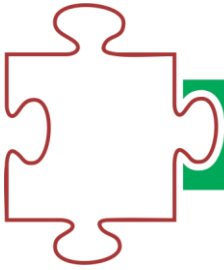
There was an increase of 23,9% (from 2,1 million to 2,6 million) in the number of pigs sold between 2017 and 2023. Pigs were sold mainly in Mpumalanga (18,5%), Gauteng (16,7%) and Western Cape (15,0%) in 2023. The number of pigs on farms increased by 34,6% (from 1,4 million in 2018 to 1,9 million in 2023). Eastern Cape (21,5%) had the highest number of pigs on farms in 2023, followed by Gauteng (17,4%) and Limpopo (14,2%).

Chicken farming is dominated by very large enterprises which predominantly sell value-added products instead of live chickens. Between 2018 and 2023, the number of chickens on farms decreased by 7,1%, and in 2023, Western Cape (16,3%), Gauteng (16,1%) and North West (15,8%) had the highest number of chickens on farms.

7. Conclusion

South Africa's agricultural industry remains a critical pillar of the national economy, contributing to livelihoods, food security, and trade. In 2023, the primary sources of income in the sector were farming of animals, mixed farming, and horticulture, with the Western Cape leading in provincial income contributions. The sector also played a key role in employment, with horticulture accounting for the largest share of jobs. While large enterprises generated most of the income, small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMMEs) provided more employment. Notably, horticulture contributed more significantly to employment than to income. Gross farming income showed a shift from animal products to field crops, and between 2017 and 2023, production of major crops such as maize, soya beans, wheat, sunflower seeds, and sugarcane grew substantially, particularly in Free State,

Mpumalanga, and North West. There was also growth in citrus fruits like naartjies and lemons, as well as in deciduous fruits and wine grapes. However, yields of certain vegetables, including potatoes and onions, declined. In the livestock sector, pig farming expanded, while cattle and sheep numbers declined. Chicken farming remained concentrated in large enterprises.



Primary industries

Mining: Production and sales



South Africa has a large quantity of mineral resources, accounting for a significant proportion of world production and reserves. According to manganese report released by United States Geological Survey (USGS) in January 2025, South Africa (SA) was the world's largest producer of manganese in 2024. The report indicates that SA produced 7,4 million metric tons of manganese in 2024. The USGS also highlights that SA holds the largest reserves of manganese at 560 million metric tons and 70% of the world's

known manganese ore resources. Manganese is a metallic element that resembles iron and used in steel industry to make batteries and alloys (a metal made to resist corrosion) among others. Although South Africa remains the world's largest producer of manganese, manganese ore was amongst the largest negative contributors to mining production in May 2025. According to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), manganese ore declined by -13,0% (contributing -1,0 percentage point) in May 2025. This article summarises the results of the *Mining: Production and sales* (statistical release P2041) for May 2025.



Mining production increased by 0,2% year-on-year in May 2025 (see Table A).

The largest positive contributor was iron ore (12,5%, contributing 1,7 percentage points).

The largest negative contributors were:

- manganese ore (-13,0%, contributing -1,0 percentage point); and
- coal (-4,6%, contributing -1,0 percentage point).

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

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

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

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

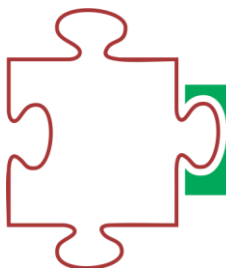
Mineral sales at current prices increased by 18,8% year-on-year in May 2025 (**see Table B**). The largest positive contributor was gold (338,7%, contributing 25,5 percentage points). The largest negative contributor was PGMs (-15,6%, contributing -4,1 percentage points).

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

	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-9,3	-6,1	-11,6	2,4	0,6	18,8
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-11,0	1,7	-9,1	2,9	7,6	6,3
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	4,4	6,5	-8,0	-8,9	-7,7	4,1

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.



Secondary industries

Manufacturing: Production and sales



Food and beverages is one of the biggest subsectors of South Africa's manufacturing industry and plays a key role in the economy. In June 2025, as reported by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), this subsector was one of the biggest contributors to the 1,9% growth in manufacturing production, growing by 6,0% and contributing 1,4% to overall manufacturing output. However, meat, fish and fruit and dairy products were the only two divisions which recorded negative growth rates declining by -0,9% and -6,7%, respectively.

A decrease in meat and dairy products production may be attributed to a supply shortage of cattle which are the main source of meat, dairy and leather products. Recently, many South African farmers were affected by an outbreak of the foot and mouth disease, a highly contagious viral disease that affects livestock including cattle. When infected, cattle produce less milk, become less productive and in some severe cases leads to death. This disruption affects manufacturing plants that rely on milk and meat to produce goods like cheese, yoghurt and other dairy or meat-based products. As a result, manufacturing outputs for those products may be negatively impacted. Presented in this article is a summary of *Manufacturing: Production and sales* (statistical release P3041.2) for June 2025.



Manufacturing production increased by 1,9% in June 2025 compared with June 2024 (see Table C).

The largest positive contributions were made by:

- food and beverages division (6,0%, contributing 1,4 percentage points); and
- petroleum, chemical products, rubber and plastic products division (1,9%, contributing 0,4 of a percentage point).

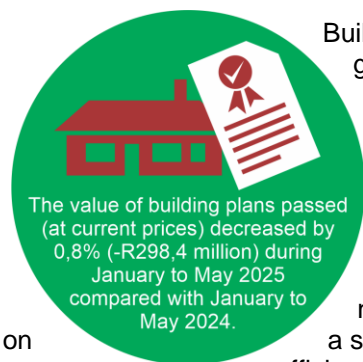
Table C – Key growth rates in the volume of manufacturing production for June 2025

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

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



on
energy

Buildings are among the contributors to greenhouse gas emissions due to the amount of energy they consume. To address this, by law, it is mandatory for all non-residential buildings in South Africa to register and display an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) on the property in line with regulations under the National Energy Act, 2008 (Act No. 34 of 2008). An EPC measures a building's energy efficiency based on a scale from A to G, with A being extremely efficient and G being the least efficient. EPC also

forms part of a broader initiative to combat climate change in the country. Since the launch of this regulation in December 2020, a total of 7 113 government buildings have been registered for the certificate and 3 884 EPCs have been issued, according to the Department of Electricity and Energy. The Department aims to reach 60 000 registrations for certification by 7 December 2025 and urges property owners to comply before this date. Failure to do so may result in a fine of R5 million, five years in prison or both. Making buildings energy-efficient can save property owners money on operational costs due to lower electricity costs and possibly increase the value of the building. The selected building statistics of the private sector data published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) revealed that the value of building plans passed (at current prices) decreased by 0,8% (-R298,4 million) during January to May 2025 compared with January to May 2024, indicating reduced building activity. 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 May 2025.



The value of building plans passed (at current prices) decreased by 0,8% (-R298,4 million) during January to May 2025 compared with January to May 2024 (see Table D).

Decreases were reported for residential buildings (-R1 637,1 million) and non-residential buildings (-R198,7 million). An increase was reported for additions and alterations (R1 537,5 million).

The largest negative contributors to the total decrease of 0,8% (-R298,4 million) were Gauteng (contributing -7,4 percentage points or -R2 873,8 million), North West (contributing -1,9 percentage points or -R735,6 million) and KwaZulu-Natal (contributing -1,4 percentage points or -R557,9 million).

The largest positive contributors were Western Cape (contributing 8,0 percentage points or R3 104,4 million) and Eastern Cape (contributing 1,5 percentage points or R597,7 million).

Buildings reported as completed at current prices

The value of buildings reported as completed (at current prices) increased by 3,1% (R577,6 million) during January to May 2025 compared with

January to May 2024. Increases were reported for residential buildings (R611,4 million) and non-residential buildings (R198,3 million). A decrease was reported for additions and alterations (-R232,2 million).

Four out of the nine provinces reported year-on-year increases in the value of buildings completed during January to May 2025, where Western Cape (contributing 3,5 percentage points or R669,1 million), North West (contributing 2,2 percentage points or R423,8 million) and KwaZulu-Natal (contributing 0,6 of a percentage point or R113,4 million) were the largest positive contributors.

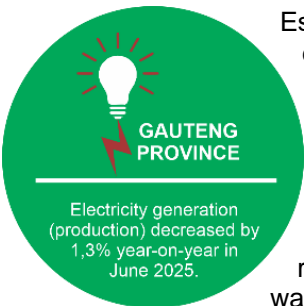
The largest negative contributors were Eastern Cape (contributing -1,4 percentage points or -R263,7 million) and Mpumalanga (contributing -1,1 percentage points or -R200,1 million).

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

Type of building	Jan to May 2024	Jan to May 2025	Difference in value between Jan to May 2024 and Jan to May 2025	% change between Jan to May 2024 and Jan to May 2025
	R'000	R'000	R'000	
Residential buildings	19 552 241	17 915 160	-1 637 081	-8,4
- Dwelling houses	11 744 428	12 008 574	264 146	2,2
- Flats and townhouses	7 058 827	5 376 915	-1 681 912	-23,8
- Other residential buildings	748 986	529 671	-219 315	-29,3
Non-residential buildings	8 675 765	8 477 016	-198 749	-2,3
Additions and alterations	10 586 875	12 124 328	1 537 453	14,5
Total	38 814 881	38 516 504	-298 377	-0,8


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

Electricity generated and available for distribution



Eskom, South Africa’s power utility, produces and delivers electricity services to various provinces in order to supply homes, businesses and critical infrastructures. According to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), the volume of electricity delivered to provinces in June 2025 decreased by 3,8% from 17 896 gigawatt-hours (GWh) in May 2025 to 17 819 GWh in June 2025. The results show that the highest volume of electricity was delivered in Gauteng, an increase to 5 105 GW in

June 2025 from 4 841 GW in May 2025. Furthermore, the volume of electricity decreased to 3 222 GWh in June 2025 from 3 324 GWh in May 2025 for KwaZulu-Natal, and to 2 535 GWh in June 2025 from 2 595 GWh in May 2025 for Mpumalanga. These three provinces are provinces that received higher volumes of electricity in June 2025. Some of the reasons Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal receive the highest volume of electricity than other provinces include the high concentration of industries, industrial activities and the largest population among others. This article summarises the results of the *Electricity generated and available for distribution* (statistical release P4141) for June 2025.



Electricity generation (production) decreased by 1,3% year-on-year in June 2025. (see Table E).

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

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

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

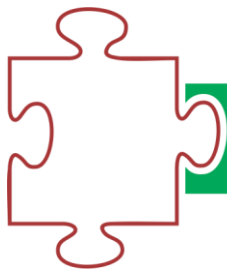
Electricity distribution (consumption) decreased by 3,8% year-on-year in June 2025 (see Table F).

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

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

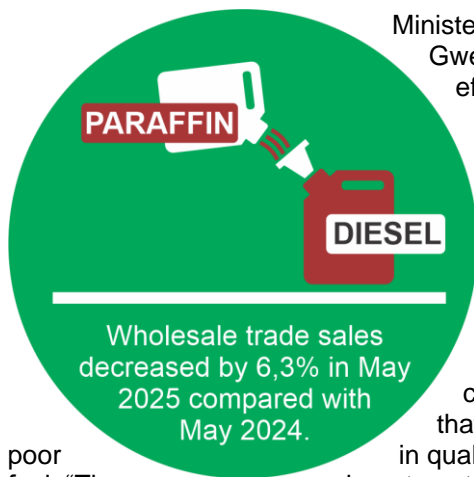
¹ Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

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



Tertiary industries

Wholesale trade sales



Minister of Mineral and Resources, Mr Gwede Mantashe, has vowed to intensify efforts to enforce fuel quality compliance in the country. This came after an investigation conducted by the department found that some petrol stations were diluting diesel with illuminating paraffin to make more profit and evade paying tax. Minister Mantashe stated that regular and random fuel testing will continue to filter out petrol stations that adulterated (to render something in quality after adding another substance)

poor fuel. “The department has established a fuel sampling and testing programme to verify compliance with the minimum specifications and standards at retail and wholesale depot outlets,” said Minister Mantashe. According to Minister Mantashe, Authentix A1 Marker, a multi-layered chemical security solution is used to trace the presence of paraffin in diesel. The marker is also used by wholesalers and retailers. In May 2025, solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products was the main negative contributor to the wholesale trade sales decrease of 6,3%. Presented in this article is a summary of *Wholesale trade sales* (statistical release P6141.2) for May 2025.



Wholesale trade sales decreased by 6,3% in May 2025 compared with May 2024 (see Table G).

The main negative contributor was dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (-21,4%, contributing -5,6 percentage points).

Wholesale trade sales decreased by 5,2% in the three months ended May 2025 compared with the three months ended May 2024. The main negative contributors were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (-18,4%, contributing -4,7 percentage points); and
- machinery, equipment and supplies (-8,2%, contributing -1,3 percentage points).

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

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

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

More South African's are choosing digital payment methods over traditional payment methods like cash and card to transact. According to Stitch's 2025 *State of consumer payments in South Africa* report, while people still use cash for daily transactions, digital payment methods are becoming a preferred way to pay, especially online. In a survey of 2000 South African shoppers, conducted with global research firm, Censuswide, more than 90%

of respondents indicated that they have tried or used a new payment method outside of cash or card in 2024. The most popular way to pay in 2024 chosen by 45% respondents was pay-by-bank, which includes mobile app-based methods like scan-to-pay and instant EFTs (electronic funds transfers). Digital wallets, including Apple Pay, Google Pay and Samsung Pay, came second and was used by 24% of respondents. These methods enable consumers to link their bank cards with their smartphones or watches allowing quick, one-tap payments. Retailers in South Africa can benefit from this trend by offering various payment options to meet customer demand, reach a wider audience and increase sales. The shift to digital payments can contribute to growth in the retail sector due to its efficiency. According to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), retail trade sales increased by 4,2% in May 2025 compared to May 2024 indicating increased consumer spending. Presented in this article is a summary of the *Retail trade sales* release (statistical release P6242.1) for May 2025.



Retail trade sales increased by 4,2% year-on-year in May 2025 compared with May 2024 (**see Table H**).

The largest positive contributors to this increase were:

- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (12,5%, contributing 2,1 percentage points); and
- general dealers (3,6%, contributing 1,6 percentage points).

Retail trade sales increased by 3,5% in the three months ended May 2025 compared with the three months ended May 2024. The largest positive contributors to this increase were:

- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (9,5%, contributing 1,5 percentage points); and
- general dealers (2,8%, contributing 1,3 percentage points).

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

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

^{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 South Africa, motor traders are allowed to sell a wide range of cars

including new, used and demo cars. A demo car is a vehicle that is used as an advertisement of a particular make or model and used by a dealership for promotional purposes such as test driving or showroom displays and it is usually considered as a used car. Demo cars are typically used for short periods by dealerships; and generally have low kilometres and shorter ownership history. A demo car is provided by the dealership to allow prospective owner to experience a vehicle firsthand and assess its suitability before buying it. Once the overall quality of the

demo car satisfies the prospective driver, that might stimulate the sales of that model or make of the car. As a result, this buyer confidence in demo cars can contribute to growth in the overall motor trade industry. Supporting this, data released by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) indicates that the used vehicle sales, at 9,6%, was one of the major positive contributors to the motor trade sales increase of 4,7% in May 2025. Presented in this article is a summary of the results from the *Motor trade sales* (statistical release P6343.2) for May 2025.





Motor trade sales increased by 4,7% year-on-year in May 2025 (see Table I).

The positive contributors to this increase were:

- used vehicle sales (9,6%, contributing 1,9 percentage points);
- sales of accessories (6,6%, contributing 1,3 percentage points);
- fuel sales (4,8%, contributing 1,3 percentage points); and
- new vehicle sales (5,2%, contributing 1,2 percentage points).

The main negative contributor was workshop income (-15,3%, contributing -0,9 of a percentage point).

Motor trade sales increased by 2,8% in the three months ended May 2025 compared with the three months ended May 2024. The positive contributors to this increase were:

- new vehicle sales (9,9%, contributing 2,3 percentage points);
- used vehicle sales (4,6%, contributing 0,9 of a percentage point); and
- sales of accessories (2,9%, contributing 0,6 of a percentage point).

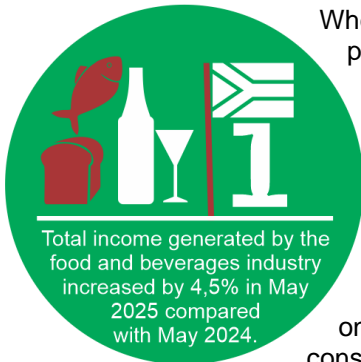
The largest negative contributor was workshop income (-12,0%, contributing -0,7 of a percentage point).

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

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

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

Food and beverages



When wine fanatics think of the top wine producing countries, they often think about Italy, France or United States of America (USA). But unbelievable to some, South Africa is one of the top wine producing countries in the world. According to Titan Travel (a travel agency based in the United Kingdom (UK)) South Africa (SA) is the leading global wine tourism destination in 2025. Wine tourism is a form of travel focused on visiting wineries and wine regions to taste, consume and buy wines. To be recognised as the

leading wine tourism destination, the Titan Travel stated that South Africa earned the highest wine tourism score of 8,38 out of 10, followed by Portugal (7,75) and Italy (7). Some of the factors that were used to rank countries include the average cost of a wine bottle, the number of wine tours and vineyard tasting prices. SA popular wines consumed around the world are Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Cabernet and Pinotage among others. The recent figures released by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) indicate that the total income generated by the food and beverages industry increased by 4,5% in May 2025. This article summarises the results of the *Food and beverages industry* (statistical release P6420) for May 2025.



Total income generated by the food and beverages industry increased by 4,5% in May 2025 compared with May 2024 (**see Table J**).

The largest annual growth rate was recorded for 'other' income (7,2%).

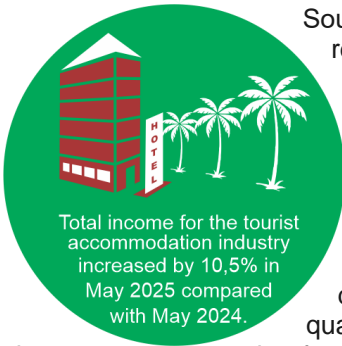
Total income increased by 4,3% in the three months ended May 2025 compared with the three months ended May 2024. The largest contributor to this increase was takeaway and fast-food outlets (6,6%, contributing 2,6 percentage points).

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

Type of income	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25
Food sales	-0,3	3,9	-0,1	1,8	6,0	4,1
Bar sales	1,0	2,0	-7,9	-2,5	12,5	6,7
Other income	-22,5	-7,7	8,1	4,2	22,3	7,2
Total	-0,9	3,3	-0,8	1,3	7,2	4,5

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 tourist accommodation industry recorded growth in May 2025, with total income rising by 10,5% year-on-year, according to the latest Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) data. This increase was primarily driven by the hotel sector, which recorded a 19,1% increase in income. The strong performance reflects the country's rising appeal as a sought-after travel destination, attracting both domestic and international visitors in search of quality stays. Smith Travel Research (STR) figures

show that four-star hotels contributed to this increase, driven by a strong demand from both leisure and business travellers. Demand was further boosted by increased travel, both local and international, to popular destinations such as Johannesburg, Cape Town, the Kruger National Park, and other attractions. In South Africa, Johannesburg stands out as the leading destination for business travellers, serving as the nation's economic and financial hub, while Cape Town remains the top choice for leisure visitors. This article summarises the *Tourist accommodation* (statistical release P6410) for May 2025.



Total income for the tourist accommodation industry increased by 10,5% in May 2025 compared with May 2024 (see Table K).

Income from accommodation increased by 12,1% year-on-year in May 2025, the result of a 10,0% increase in the number of stay unit nights sold and a 1,9% increase in the average income per stay unit night sold.

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

- hotels (19,1%, contributing 10,6 percentage points); and
- 'other' accommodation (3,2%, contributing 1,2 percentage points).

Income from accommodation increased by 10,5% in the three months ended May 2025 compared with the three months ended May 2024. The main contributors to this increase were:

- hotels (12,1%, contributing 6,9 percentage points); and
- 'other' accommodation (8,5%, contributing 3,1 percentage points).

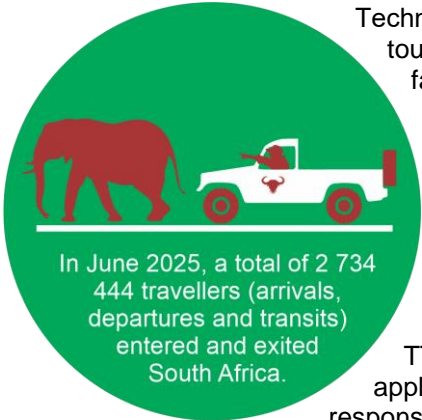
Table K – Year-on-year percentage change in tourist accommodation statistics for May 2025

	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25
Stay units available	0,0	0,0	0,1	0,1	0,0	0,0
Stay unit nights sold	1,2	5,3	2,4	-1,6	3,9	10,0
Average income per stay unit night sold	11,5	10,8	10,0	7,5	10,0	1,9
Income from accommodation	12,8	16,6	12,6	5,7	14,3	12,1
Total income¹	7,7	11,8	5,8	2,0	9,3	10,5

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



Technology is transforming South Africa’s tourism industry by making travel easier and faster. In February 2025, Department of Home Affairs launched the Trusted Tour Operator Scheme (TTOS) to speed up visa applications for large tour groups through a digital platform. Previously, tour operators had to submit paper-based applications, which took longer to process and often discouraged tourists from visiting South Africa. With TTOS’s online portal, tour operators now apply online for a visa and receive a response within 24 hours on average. This faster visa process has attracted 25 024 additional tourists from key markets such as India and China. Due to its success, Minister of Home Affairs, Dr Leon Schreiber, announced an expansion of the scheme growing the number of approved operators from 65 to 110, further strengthening tourism prospects. By using technology to streamline travel, improve efficiency and enhance visitor experience, South Africa is positioning itself as a top global tourist destination. In June 2025, 2 734 444 travellers (arrivals, departures, and transits) passed through South Africa’s borders, an increase compared to June 2024, according to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA). Presented in this article is a summary of the results of *International tourism* (statistical release P0350) for May 2025.

Travellers

Number of travellers



In June 2025, a total of 2 734 444 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) entered and exited South Africa (see Table L).

These travellers were made up of 736 622 South African residents and 2 140 490 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 368 610 arrivals, 367 507

departures and 505 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 1 125 559, 971 790 and 43 141, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in April 2025 and May 2025 indicates that the volume of arrivals decreased for South African residents but increased for foreign travellers. The volume of departures decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers, whereas transits increased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 5,9% (from 391 787 in April 2025 to 368 610 in May 2025). Departures decreased by 13,5% (from 425 073 in April 2025 to 367 507 in May 2025) and transits increased by 2,4% (from 493 in April 2025 to 505 in May 2025). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 0,9% (from 1 115 585 in April 2025 to 1 125 559 in May 2025), departures decreased by 3,5% (from 1 007 258 in April 2025 to 971 790 in May 2025), and transits increased by 13,0% (from 38 178 in April 2025 to 43 141 in May 2025).

Mode of travel of travellers

In June 2025, road was the most common mode of travel used by 1 863 671 (68,2%) of the 2 734 444 travellers. The total number of air travellers was 862 920 (31,6%). Compared to air and road, a smaller number of travellers, 7 853 (0,3%) used sea into and out of South Africa. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 167 551 (45,7%) came by air, 199 160 (54,3%) came by road and 21 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. For departures, 194 009 (48,5%) used air, 205 641 (51,4%) used road and 69 (less than 0,1%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 565 (100,0%) used air.

Visitors

In June 2025, 24 543 (2,4%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors, while 1 016 242 (97,6%) were classified as visitors. Visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in June 2025 but did not depart in June 2025 [362 955 (35,7%)].
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in June 2025 and left in June 2025 [315 662 (31,1%)].
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in June 2025 [337 625 (33,2%)].

Tourists

Sex and age distribution of tourists

Sex

In June 2025, there were more male [444 989 (59,3%)] than female [305 188 (40,7%)] tourists. Male tourists constituted the majority of tourists for all three regions, Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries [357 661 (60,3%)], overseas countries [77 708 (54,7%)] and 'other' African countries [9 052 (64,1%)]. Similarly, the largest portion of female tourists was from SADC countries [235 334 (39,7%)], followed by overseas countries [64 360 (45,3%)] and 'other' African countries [5 077 (35,9%)].

Age

The age distribution indicates that out of all tourists, [4,0% (30 361)] were aged younger than 15; [9,3% (69 986)] were aged between 15 and 24; [24,1% (180 738)] were aged between 25 and 34; [30,0% (224 914)] were aged between 35 and 44; [19,3% (144 925)] were aged between 45 and 54; [8,5% (63 731)] were aged between 55 and 64 and [4,7% (35 522)] were aged 65 and older.

Purpose of visit of tourists

In June 2025, the majority of tourists, 728 569 (97,1%), were in South Africa for holiday compared to 19 024 (2,5%); 2 264 (0,3%) and 320 (less than 0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and medical treatment, respectively.

Mode of travel of tourists

In June 2023, 133 607 (94,0%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 8 460 (6,0%) came in by road and one (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the SADC countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 548 611 (92,5%), 44 384 (7,5%) came by air and none preferred sea. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 12 099 (85,6%); while 2 030 (14,4%) used road transport and none preferred sea. Most tourists who arrived by road came through Lebombo port (164 796) and Beit Bridge port (137 524). The majority of tourists who came by air entered through OR Tambo International Airport (139 240) and Cape Town International Airport (47 943). Tourists who arrived by sea came through Cape Town Harbour (1).

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

Travel direction	June	May	June	% Change	% Change
	2024	2025	2025	May 2025 – June 2025	June 2024 – June 2025
Total	2 452 882	2 877 112	2 734 444	-5,0%	11,5%
South African residents	793 697	736 622	767 016	4,1%	-3,4%
Arrivals	370 442	368 610	366 732	-0,5%	-1,0%
Departures	422 734	367 507	399 719	8,8%	-5,4%
Transits	521	505	565	11,9%	8,4%
Foreign travellers	1 659 185	2 140 490	1 967 428	-8,1%	18,6%
Arrivals	872 501	1 125 559	1 040 785	-7,5%	19,3%
Departures	749 398	971 790	882 242	-9,2%	17,7%
Transits	37 286	43 141	44 401	2,9%	19,1%

Statistics of the civil cases for debt



The total number of civil summonses issued for debt decreased by 17,1% in the three months ended May 2025 compared with the three months ended May 2024.

This

South African provinces are very diverse in nature. Each with different population sizes, living costs and economic conditions, which may increase one's exposure to credit and the likelihood of being served with summonses. According to Statistics South Africa's (Stats SA) latest *Statistics of civil cases for debt* survey, out of 31 193 civil summonses cases issued for debt in South Africa in May 2025, Gauteng received the highest number of civil summons applications. This province recorded 8 665 cases, accounting for over

a quarter of all applications received in the country. It was followed closely by Western Cape with 7 278 cases and KwaZulu-Natal with 5 799. What these three provinces have in common is the fact that they are the most populous in the country, with Gauteng having the largest population overall. A growing population increases financial pressure on households due to higher demand for housing, education, healthcare, and other essential services. As a result, many individuals rely on credit to manage rising expenses and when they default, it often leads to legal action being taken against them, adding to the number of civil summonses recorded in that province. This article summarises the results of the *Statistics for civil cases for debt* (statistical release P0041) for May 2025.

The number of civil summonses issued for debt



The total number of civil summonses issued for debt decreased by 17,1% in the three months ended May 2025 compared with the three months ended May 2024 (see Table M).

The largest contributors to the 17,1% decrease in civil summonses issued were:

- 'other' debts (contributing -7,7 percentage points);
- services (contributing -3,8 percentage points);
- money lent (contributing -2,3 percentage points); and
- goods sold (contributing -1,6 percentage points)

The number of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total number of civil judgements recorded for debt decreased by 19,7% in the three months ended May 2025 compared with the three months ended May 2024. The largest contributors to the 19,7% decrease were civil judgements relating to:

- services (contributing -8,4 percentage points);
- 'other' debts (contributing -4,1 percentage points);
- money lent (contributing -3,0 percentage points); and
- rent (contributing -2,1 percentage points).

The value of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total value of civil judgements recorded for debt decreased by 8,0% in the three months ended May 2025 compared with the three months ended May 2024. The largest negative contributors were:

- money lent (contributing -3,5 percentage points);
- 'other' debts (contributing -2,3 percentage points); and
- goods sold (contributing -1,9 percentage points).

Promissory notes (contributing 1,0 percentage point) was the only positive contributor.

In May 2025, 9 185 civil judgements for debt amounting to R280,5 million were recorded. The largest contributors to the total value of judgements were:

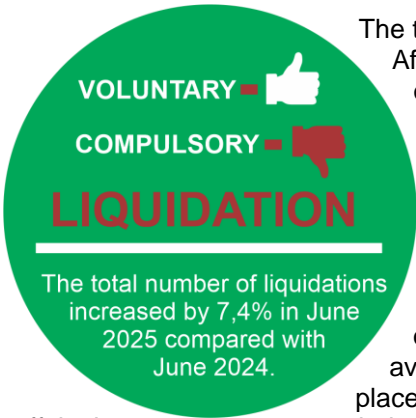
- money lent (R69,6 million or 24,8%);
- services (R66,6 million or 23,7%);
- 'other' debts (R52,7 million or 18,8%); and
- promissory notes (R44,2 million or 15,8%).

Table M – Key figures for May 2025

Actual estimates	May 2025	% change between May 2024 and May 2025	% change between Mar–May 2024 and Mar–May 2025
Number of civil summonses issued for debt	31 193	-15,2	-17,1
Number of civil judgements recorded for debt	9 185	-18,3	-19,7
Value of civil judgements recorded for debt (R million)	280,5	-2,1	-8,0

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

Statistics of liquidations



The timelines to liquidate a company in South Africa vary and depend on whether the type of liquidation is compulsory or voluntary. According to Burger Huyser Attorneys, a law firm based in Johannesburg, the liquidation process can take six to twelve months or more to complete, depending on factors such as the complexity of the company’s finances and involvement of creditors among others. The law firm indicates that on average, voluntary liquidation, which takes place when a company resolves to wind-up its affairs by own choice, can take about two to three months to complete. On the other hand, compulsory liquidation, which takes place when the affairs of a company are wind-up by order of the court, often takes six to twelve months to complete the process of liquidation. The data published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) for June 2025 indicate that there was a total of 130 liquidations. Of the 130 liquidations recorded for June 2025, 117 were voluntary and 13 were compulsory. This article summarises the results of the *Statistics of liquidation* release (statistical release P0043.1) for June 2025.



The total number of liquidations increased by 7,4% in June 2025 compared with June 2024 (see Table N).

Liquidations of companies increased by eight cases and liquidations of close corporations increased by one case during this period.

The number of liquidations increased by 1,6% in the second quarter of 2025 compared with the second quarter of 2024. A decrease of 0,8% in the number of liquidations was recorded in the first six months of 2025 compared with the first six months of 2024.

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

Number of liquidations June 2025	% change between June 2024 and June 2025	% change between April – June 2024 and April – June 2025	% change between January to June 2024 and January to June 2025
130	7,4	1,6	-0,8

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

Land transport



Many rural areas in South Africa lack proper roads and infrastructure, making them difficult to access. Poor road conditions also lead to longer travel time. One solution is to introduce alternative transport options, such as expanding the rail network to help close this gap. The Department of Transport, in collaboration with the Gauteng and Limpopo provincial governments, are moving forward with plans to launch the country's first high-speed (bullet) train.

Scheduled for operation in 2030, the bullet train will operate between Pretoria and Polokwane, and will later be extended to Musina. The train will travel at an average speed of 175km/h and peak at 200km/h on certain sections, covering a distance of 500km. A trip from Pretoria to Polokwane, which would normally take about three hours by car will be cut in half to just 90 minutes by rail. Statistics South Africa's *land transport* data shows that public transportation usage is on the rise. The number of passenger journeys increased by 8,7% in May 2025 compared with May 2024. Rail passenger journeys increased by 3,0%, while road transport declined by 0,2%. This trend highlights a growing preference for rail transport over road transportation. Introducing a bullet train will benefit passengers and the land transport sector as it will significantly reduce travel time, offer convenience and encourage passengers to travel more often, thereby contributing positively to the transport sector. Presented in this article is a summary of the *Land transport* (statistical release P7162) for May 2025.



The number of passenger journeys increased by 8,7% in May 2025 compared with May 2024 (**see Table O**). The corresponding income decreased by 5,1% over the same period.

Table O – Year-on-year percentage change in passenger transportation for May 2025

	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25
Passenger journeys	2,5	11,0	3,9	11,5	2,6	8,7
Passenger income	-4,1	1,4	-1,6	4,1	1,7	-5,1

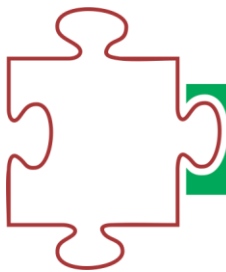
A full release on *Land transport* (statistical release P7162) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

The volume of goods transported (payload) decreased by 3,7% in May 2025 compared with May 2024 (**see Table P**). The corresponding income decreased by 0,4% over the same period.

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

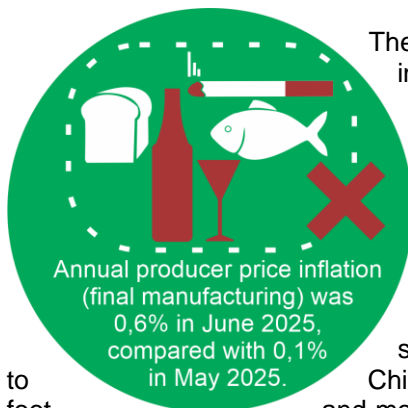
	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25
Freight payload	-6,9	-4,7	-4,1	-3,8	-5,5	-3,7
Freight income	-6,2	-3,0	-3,4	-0,8	-1,5	-0,4

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



Prices

Producer price index (PPI)



The food, beverages and tobacco products industry is a significant contributor to the South African economy, contributing to the gross domestic product (GDP), employment and trade. Thus, the ban of food, beverages and tobacco products has a negative impact on the economy, causing losses for producers and exporters and disrupting supply chain.

This was evident after Chinese authorities suspended meat exports from South Africa

to foot- and-mouth disease in Mpumalanga, Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal. Meat producers and exporters experienced financial losses as some shipments en route to China had to be returned due to the suspension. In spite of the suspension, the main positive contributor to the headline producer price index (PPI) annual inflation rate in June was food products, beverages and tobacco products (4,0%, contributing 1,2 percentage points). This article summarises the results of the *Producer price index* (PPI) (statistical release P0142.1) for June 2025.

Final manufactured goods – headline PPI



Annual producer price inflation (final manufacturing) was 0,6% in June 2025, compared with 0,1% in May 2025 (see **Table Q**).

The producer price index (PPI) increased by 0,2% month-on-month in June 2025. The main positive contributor to the headline PPI annual inflation rate

was food products, beverages and tobacco products (4,0%, contributing 1,2 percentage points). The main contributor to the monthly rate was food products, beverages and tobacco products (0,6%, contributing 0,2 of a percentage point).

Intermediate manufactured goods

The annual percentage change in the PPI for intermediate manufactured goods was 5,5% in June 2025, compared with 6,9% in May 2025. The index decreased by 0,7% month-on-month. The main positive contributor to the annual rate was basic and fabricated metals (11,8%, contributing 5,9 percentage points). The main contributor to the monthly rate was chemicals, rubber and plastic products (-2,9%, contributing -0,8 of a percentage point).

Electricity and water

The annual percentage change in the PPI for electricity and water was 10,7% in June 2025, compared with 10,8% in May 2025. The index increased by 31,2% month-on-month. The contributors to the annual rate were electricity (11,1%, contributing 9,9 percentage points) and water (4,6%, contributing 0,5 of a percentage point). The main contributor to the monthly rate was electricity (35,9%, contributing 31,1 percentage points).

Mining

The annual percentage change in the PPI for mining was 4,8% in June 2025, compared with 2,8% in May 2025. The index increased by 1,7% month-on-month. The positive contributors to the annual rate were:

- gold and other metal ores (17,4%, contributing 4,6 percentage points);
- non-ferrous metal ores (2,2%, contributing 1,1 percentage points); and
- stone quarrying, clay and diamonds (25,9%, contributing 1,1 percentage points).

The positive contributor to the monthly rate was non-ferrous metal ores (5,3%, contributing 2,6 percentage points).

Agriculture, forestry and fishing

The annual percentage change in the PPI for agriculture, forestry and fishing was 5,0% in June 2025, compared with 6,0% in May 2025. The index increased by 0,3% month-on-month.

The main contributors to the annual rate were agriculture (4,8%, contributing 4,2 percentage points) and fishing (9,4%, contributing 0,8 of a percentage point).

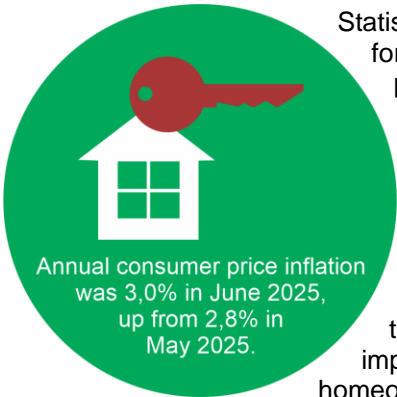
The contributor to the monthly rate was agriculture (0,3%, contributing 0,3 of a percentage point).

Table Q – Key PPI figures for June 2025

Product	Weight	Index (Dec 2023=100)			% change	
		June 2024	May 2025	June 2025	June 2025 vs. May 2025	June 2025 vs. June 2024
Final manufactured goods	100,00	102,0	102,4	102,6	0,2	0,6
Intermediate manufactured goods	100,00	105,2	111,8	111,0	-0,7	5,5
Electricity and water	100,00	140,2	118,3	155,2	31,2	10,7
Mining	100,00	102,8	105,9	107,7	1,7	4,8
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	100,00	98,6	103,2	103,5	0,3	5,0

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)



Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) collects figures for actual rental for housing once a quarter as part of its consumer price index (CPI), to calculate quarterly price relatives for specific dwellings and to track changes in rental prices. The rental survey covers various housing types including houses, flats and townhouses among others. The annual change for actual rentals increased from 2,9% in the first quarter of 2025 to 3,0% in the second quarter of 2025. The rate for imputed rentals (the estimated rental price that a homeowner would pay themselves if they were renting their property) also increased from 2,4% to 2,5% over the same period. In June 2025, the CPI was 3,0% from 2,8% in May 2025. This article

summarises the results of the *Consumer price index* (CPI) (statistical release P0141) for June 2025.

Headline consumer price index (CPI) for all urban areas



Annual consumer price inflation was 3,0% in June 2025, up from 2,8% in May 2025 (see Table R).

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

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

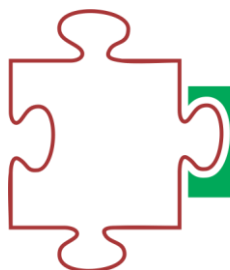
In June 2025, the annual inflation rate for:

- goods was 2,3%, up from 1,8% in May 2025; and
- services was 3,7%, up from 3,6% in May 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	Ave- rage 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	102,1	102,4							
	Rate	3,2	3,2	2,7	2,8	2,8	3,0							

^{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.

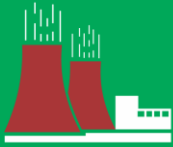
Index of physical volume of mining production: a statistical measure of the change in the volume of production. The production index of a mineral group is the ratio between the volume of production of a mineral group in a given period and the volume of production of the same mineral group in the base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