

Mbalo Brief

the missing piece of the puzzle

September 2025



Issue 08/2025

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS



stats sa

Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



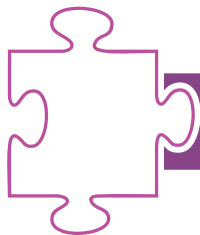
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Editor's Comment



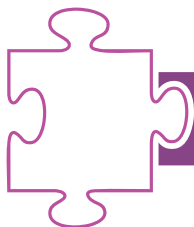
In South Africa, legally and traditionally, when a woman marries, she has the option of changing her maiden surname to that of her spouse, or she can choose to use a double-barrel surname by combining both surnames. However, for men, the same right does not apply, as it is not legally possible for a husband to assume his wife's surname without first obtaining approval from the

Department of Home Affairs. This changed on Thursday, 11 September 2025, when the Constitutional Court (ConCourt) delivered a progressive ruling. The court declared that Section 26(1)(a) to (c) of the Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1992 (Act No.51 of 1992) was unconstitutional, as it went against the South African Constitution and unfairly discriminated on the basis of gender. The ConCourt ordered that the legislation be amended or new legislation be passed within two years, to give men the same right as women to assume their spouse's surname. This momentous decision marks an important step towards gender equality by eradicating gender norms in our society. It affirms that surname changes after marriage should be a matter of personal choice, free from discriminatory laws.

This month's feature article is based on the Gender Series Volume XII: Financial Inclusion through a Gender Lens, 2024 (Report No: 03-10-29), published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) on 28 August 2025. Also, don't miss our monthly crossword puzzle and the August 2025 solutions. Articles in this issue draw on the results of industry surveys conducted for June and July 2025.

Enjoy the read!



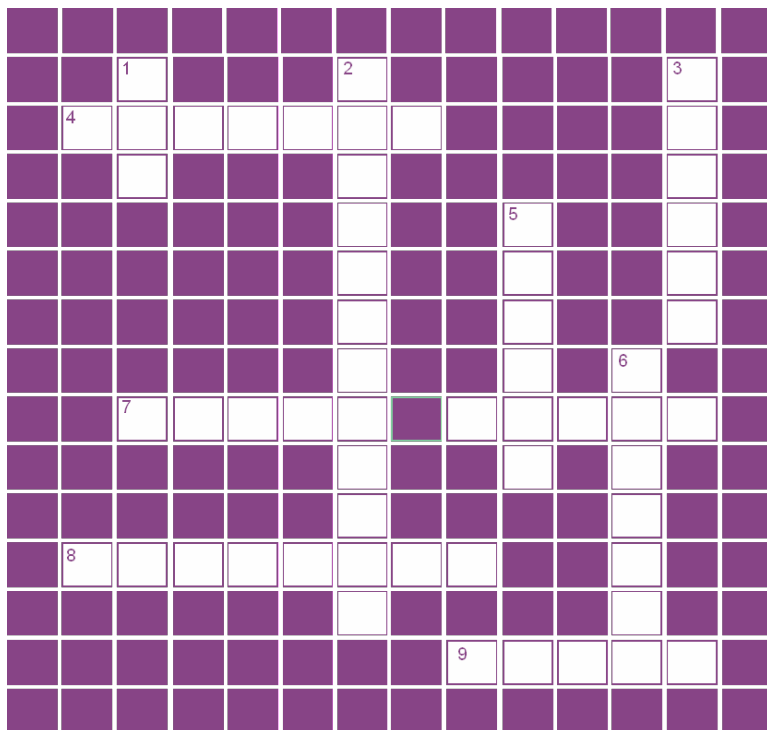


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Crossword Puzzle



Across

4. What's the 8th planet from the sun?
7. Which public holiday in South Africa is formerly known as Shaka Day?
8. Which part of the pig, especially the feet, is considered a delicacy in South Africa?
9. True or false? females were more likely to own informal businesses across all provinces in 2017.

Down

1. According to the feature article, which gender was more likely to have fully paid-off houses?
2. What does the U in USSD stand for?
3. Which country gifted the statue of Liberty to United States of America (USA)?
5. Complete the saying. A penny saved is a penny _____.
6. What is money kept in the bank to earn interest called?

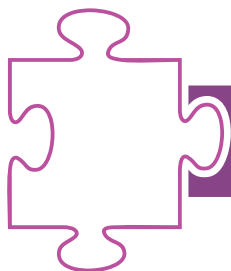
Solutions for August 2025 puzzle

Across

1. Hotels
4. True
5. Mars
6. Western Cape

Down

1. Horticulture
2. SARB
3. Free State



Feature article

on Gender Series Volume XII: Financial inclusion through a gender lens, 2024

Introduction

In many developing countries, women face significant barriers to accessing financial services and economic opportunities as opposed to their male counterparts. According to the World Bank's 2021 Global Findex database, 1,4 billion (24%) adults were excluded from accessing financial services, with the majority being women. In South Africa, where women make up over half of the population (51% or approximately 32,2 million), the situation is no different. Women remain disadvantaged when it comes to accessing credit, investing, transacting, or receiving business funding. This lack of access to financial services not only limits their financial independence but also reinforces gender inequality, social exclusion and poverty. By making financial services more inclusive and accessible to everyone, especially women, it promotes economic empowerment of women and fosters a culture of independence.

This feature article is based on *Gender Series Volume XII: Financial inclusion through a gender lens (2024)*, Report No:03-10-29, published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) on 28 August 2025. The report investigates how South African households and informal business owners are engaging with the financial system, with a special focus on gender differences. Using secondary survey data from Statistics South Africa, including the General Household Survey (GHS), and the Income and Expenditure Survey (IES), among others and other external data sources from the South African Reserve Bank (SARB), the report looks at who is being financially included and who is being left behind. For the purpose of this feature article, select sections such as demographic profile, access to financial and related resources, and financial inclusion of households, among others will be

discussed. The full report can be accessed and downloaded from the Stats SA website on www.statssa.gov.za.

1. Demographic Profile

This section provides key demographic profiles of the South African population, including the female population by province, the total population by sex, the female population by population group and female headship. Demographics are important in providing a broad understanding of the different characteristics of the population.

Figure 1: Female population by province, 2025

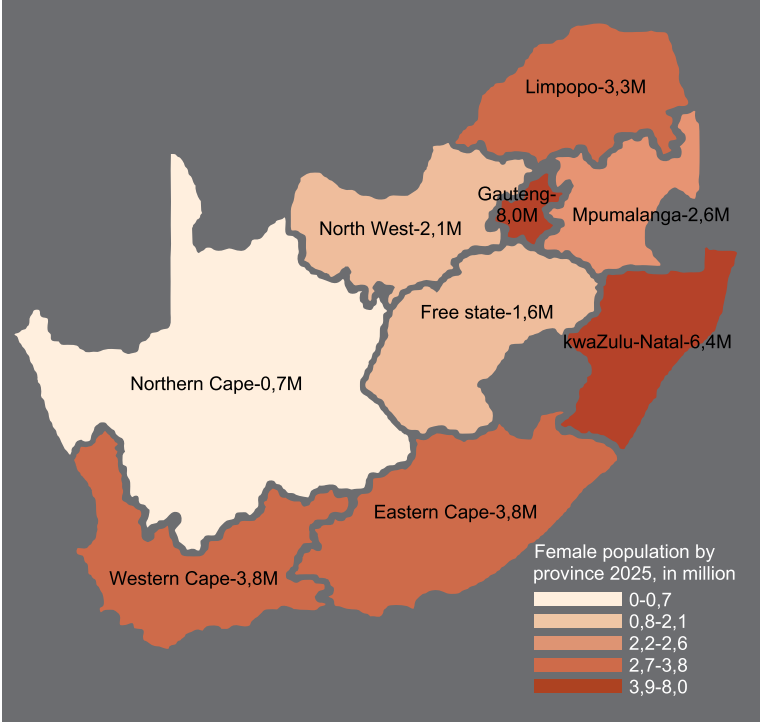


Figure 1 shows the female population by province in 2025. The Mid-Year Population Estimates (MYPE), 2025 estimated the South African population at 63,1 million persons, with the female population accounting for 51,1% (approximately 32,2 million) of the population. Gauteng had the largest share of the female population, with approximately 8,0 million females (24,7%), followed by KwaZulu-Natal with an estimated 6,4 million females (19,8%) living in the province. Northern Cape remains the province with the smallest share of the female population with 697 052 persons (2,2%).

Percentage share of the total population by sex, 2014–2025

In all the reporting years, from 2014 to 2025, females consistently accounted for the highest proportion of the population relative to their male counterparts. Both the male and female population remained stable from 2022 to 2025 (48,9% and 51,1%, respectively).

Percentage distribution of females by population group, 2014 and 2025

The white population was the only population group that showed a positive increase of 0,3 percentage points in the female population (from 51,4% in 2014 to 51,7% in 2025), while the other population groups recorded a decline in the percentage of females for the reporting period. In 2025, the black African and coloured populations recorded the same percentage as the national average (51,1%), while the Indian/Asian population recorded a percentage lower than the national average at 48,8%.

Female-headed households by province, 2024

There were 19,6 million households in South Africa in 2024, of which 8,3 million (42,4%) were headed by females. Provincial distribution shows that female-headed households were most common in Eastern Cape (48,8%), KwaZulu-Natal (46,8%) and Mpumalanga (46,7%), and least common in Gauteng (37,3%).

2. Access to financial and related resources

This section examines household access to the internet by sex of the household head and province, access to banking, which includes access to debit and credit cards and financial literacy and also household ownership. All of which enable access to financial services and inclusion.

Access to digitisation

Digitisation within households refers to the integration of digital technologies into everyday home activities. It not only enhances convenience and efficiency but also offers new ways to manage and enjoy daily lives. Access to the internet is a fundamental aspect of digitisation as it provides access to a wide range of digital services and resources.

Table 1: Percentage distribution of households with access to the internet by sex of the household head, 2014 and 2024

Sex of the household head	N ('000)					
	2014			2024		
	No access	Access	Total	No access	Access	Total
Male	4 265	4 497	8 762	2 102	9 150	11 253
Female	3 308	2 834	6 142	1 402	6 897	8 298
Both sexes	7 574	7 330	14 904	3 504	16 047	19 551
Per cent (%)						
Male	48,7	51,3	100,0	18,7	81,3	100,0
Female	53,9	46,1	100,0	16,9	83,1	100,0
Both sexes	50,8	49,2	100,0	17,9	82,1	100,0

Source: GHS, 2014 & 2024

Access to the internet is vital for communication and access to information. Table 1 above indicates that, nationally, access to the internet by at least one member who had access to the internet at one or more locations, such as their home, work, place of study, or an internet café, increased by 32,9 percentage points (from 49,2% in 2014 to 82,1% in 2024). Between 2014 and 2024, female-headed households' access to the internet increased by 37,0 percentage points (from 46,1% in 2014 to 83,1% in 2024), while access for male-headed households increased by 30,0 percentage points (from 51,3% in 2014 to 81,3% in 2024). In 2014, female-headed households reported lower percentages of access to the internet compared to their male counterparts, while the opposite is observed in 2024.

Percentage of households with access to the internet by province and sex of the household head, 2014 and 2024

In 2014, female-headed households reported a lower percentage of access to the internet compared to male-headed households in seven provinces, while the inverse is reported in 2024, where female-headed households reported higher percentages of internet access in seven provinces. At

national level, in 2024, the gender disparity in internet access among household heads was relatively minimal, measuring at 1,8 percentage points. However, Mpumalanga exhibited the most pronounced gap at nearly 8,3 percentage points, followed by the Free State with a disparity of 5,5 percentage points. In 2024, Female-headed households in Western Cape (91,6%), Gauteng (87,1%) and KwaZulu-Natal (85,5%) reported higher percentages of access to the internet, higher than the national average, whereas the lowest percentages were reported in Eastern Cape (72,8%) and Northern Cape (67,8%). The largest percentage increase in access to the internet was reported for both sexes in Limpopo (39,2% for males and 48,4% for females) and KwaZulu-Natal (39,6% for males and 46,7% for females).

3. Access to banking

Figure 2: Profile of various account holders by sex, 2023

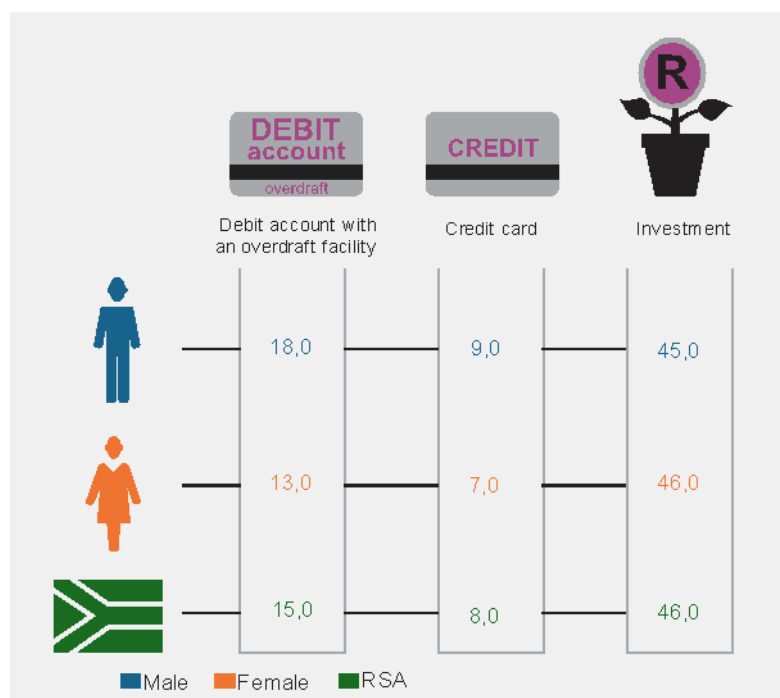


Figure 2 shows the percentage of persons with access to various accounts by sex in 2023. The South African Reserve Bank (SARB) study highlighted slight gender differences in financial access. While a slightly larger percentage of males (9,0%) reported possessing a credit card in their own name compared to females (7,0%), a smaller percentage of males (45,0%) than females (46,0%) made financial investments. Nationally, 15,0% of individuals reported having a debit card with an overdraft facility (18,0% for males and 13,0% of females). The data also reflects a relatively low penetration rate in credit and debit account facilities with an overdraft facility compared to more developed economies.

Profile of debit card account holders with an overdraft facility by population group, 2023

Data indicates that individuals from the white (32,0%) and Indian (25,0%) population groups were more likely to hold debit cards with an overdraft facility, relative to the overall average of 15,0%. In contrast, the prevalence of such financial products among the coloured (15,0%) and black African (12,0%) population groups remained at or below the national average, suggesting disparities in access to or uptake of overdraft-enabled debit accounts across demographic groups.

Percentage of credit card holders in their own name by population group, 2023

Results reveal that individuals from the white (22,0%) and Indian (15,0%) population groups reported the highest rates of credit card ownership, both exceeding the national average of 8,0%. In contrast, the black African (6,0%) and coloured (5,0%) population groups reported the lowest levels of credit card possession, highlighting notable disparities in access to, or utilisation of, credit facilities across demographic groups.

Indicative financial literacy needs comparison by sex, 2023

Financial literacy is essential for empowering individuals to make informed decisions about saving, investing, and managing resources. The data indicate that 32,0% of female respondents expressed a need for financial literacy education, slightly exceeding the 30,0% reported by male respondents. This marginal difference suggests a relatively balanced demand across sexes, with a modestly higher need among females.

Percentage distribution of households by tenure status and sex of the household head, 2014 and 2024

The data shows that more than half of households were more likely to own the dwellings they occupied. Nationally, the percentage of households that occupied dwellings that were owned and fully paid off declined slightly from 54,0% in 2014 to 53,8% in 2024. In contrast, the percentage of households that occupied dwellings rent-free increased from 13,8% in 2014 to 14,8% in 2024 over the same period, indicating a modest shift in tenure arrangements.

Gender-based differences in housing tenure were also evident. That is, female-headed households were more likely to occupy dwellings that are owned and fully paid off, suggesting a greater degree of housing security among this group. Conversely, male-headed households were more frequently found in rented dwellings or in properties that were owned but not yet fully paid off, reflecting differing financial and housing dynamics between sexes. These trends highlight the need for gender-sensitive approaches and support systems that ensure fair access to secure housing, especially for individuals facing socio-economic challenges and aiming for long-term asset growth.

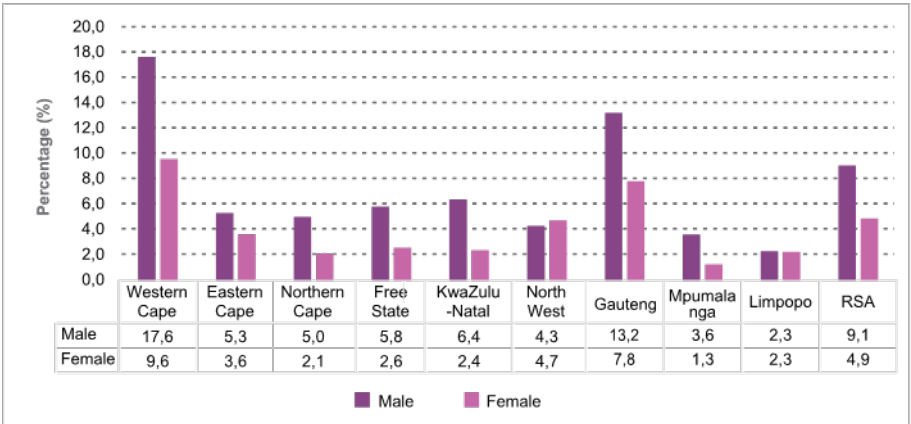
Percentage distribution of female-headed households by tenure status and province, 2024

The results show that female-headed households that lived in rented dwellings were most common in Gauteng (34,1%) and Western Cape (26,7%), and least common in Eastern Cape (10,0%). Female-headed households that occupied dwellings that were owned and paid off were most common in North West (77,8%), Mpumalanga (75,6%) and Limpopo (74,0%), and least common in Gauteng (41,6%).

4. Financial inclusion of households

This section presents financial inclusion data of households, including household access to and usage of financial services such as mortgage bond and access to loans from money lenders.

Figure 3: Percentage of households with access to a mortgage bond by sex of head of household and province, 2022/23



Source: IES 2022/2023

Figure 3 illustrates the percentage of households with access to a mortgage bond by sex of household-head and province for the year 2022/2023. Nationally, 9,1% of male-headed households had access to a mortgage bond, compared to 4,9% of female-headed households. North West was the only province where female-headed households had a higher access rate at 4,7%, compared to their male counterparts at 4,3%, Limpopo male-headed households and female-headed households reported the same percentage of having access to mortgage bonds (2,3%). The widest gender gap in access, with males dominating in terms of access to a mortgage bond, was observed in Western Cape (8,0% percentage points), followed by Gauteng (5,4% percentage points) and KwaZulu-Natal (4,0% percentage points).

Percentage of households with access to a mortgage bond by sex of head of household and geographic location, 2022/23

Both male and female-headed households in urban areas had significantly higher access to mortgage bonds than those in non-urban areas. Furthermore, the gender gap in access to mortgage bonds in non-urban areas recorded 0,2 percentage points while 5,1 percentage points were recorded for urban areas. Female-headed households reported lower percentages of access to mortgage bonds, irrespective of the geographic location.

Percentage distribution of households with access to a mortgage bond by sex and age group of the head of household, 2022/23

Among households headed by youth (aged 15–34) and adults (aged 35–59), females reported lower access to mortgage bonds compared to their male counterparts in 2022 and 2023. The gender gap in access was narrow among households headed by youth (aged 15–34). Notably, households headed by older persons showed the lowest access rate to mortgage bonds with 12,8% for females and 9,6% for males.

Money lenders

Percentage distribution of households with access to loans from money lenders by sex of head of household and province, 2022/23

Nationally, the data shows minimal variation between male- and female-headed households, with access to loans from money lenders at 3,1% for females and 2,9% for males. A provincial disaggregation shows that, in six provinces, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, North West, Northern Cape, Mpumalanga and Limpopo, male-headed households had marginally higher access to loans from money lenders than their female counterparts.

Percentage distribution of households with access to loans from money lenders by sex of head of household and geographic location, 2022/23

Among male-headed households, those residing in non-urban areas reported greater access (3,1%) to loans from money lenders than their urban counterparts (2,8%). Conversely, female-headed households in non-urban areas showed lower access (3,0%) relative to those in urban areas (3,2%). These findings suggest nuanced gender and geographic disparities in accessing informal credit sources.

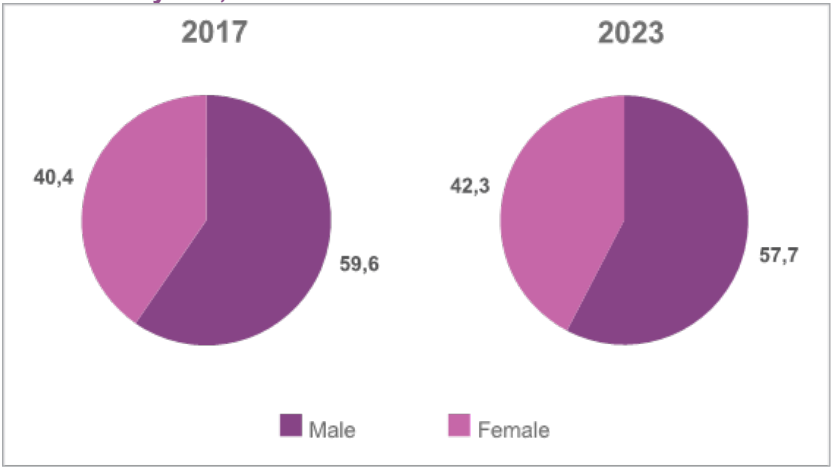
Percentage distribution of households with access to loans from money lenders by sex of head of household and age group, 2022/23

The findings indicate that the percentage of female-headed households with access to loans from money lenders was higher in households headed by adults and older persons, compared to their male counterparts. In contrast, among youth-headed households, male-headed households displayed higher access than female-headed ones. Notably, gender disparities in

access to informal credit were most pronounced in households headed by youth and older persons, suggesting that age and sex intersect to influence borrowing patterns within the informal lending sector.

Access to financial and related resources by informal businesses

Figure 4: Percentage distribution of persons running informal businesses by sex, 2017 and 2023



Source: SESE 2017 and 2023

Figure 4 shows the percentage distribution of individuals running informal businesses by sex in 2017 and 2023. From 2017 to 2023, the gender distribution of individuals running informal businesses in South Africa showed a gradual shift. Males consistently made up the majority of individuals who run informal businesses, although their share declined slightly from 59,6% in 2017 to 57,7% in 2023. In contrast, females' participation increased, rising from 40,4% in 2017 to 42,3% in 2023. This trend suggests a growing involvement of females in informal entrepreneurship, reflecting broader efforts to promote gender inclusion and economic empowerment in the sector.

Percentage distribution of persons running informal businesses by sex and province, 2017 and 2023

In 2017, males were more likely to own informal businesses across all provinces, with the exception of Northern Cape, where females reported

higher ownership rates. By 2023, this pattern persisted, but the percentage of women running informal businesses increased in four provinces, Western Cape (4,3 percentage points), Eastern Cape (3,7 percentage points), Gauteng (8,2 percentage points) and Mpumalanga (3,6 percentage points). However, gender disparities widened in North West, Limpopo and Western Cape where the gap between male and female business ownership grew. These trends highlight both progress in women's participation in certain regions and persistent inequalities in others.

Percentage distribution of informal business owners by sex and age group, 2017 and 2023

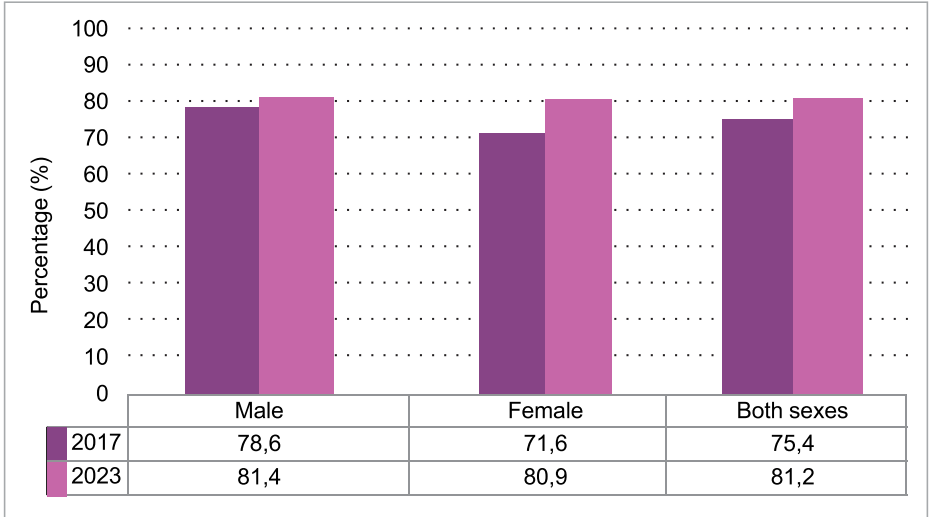
The majority of informal business owners were predominantly in the 35–54 age group, indicating that prime working-age adults dominate the sector. Among males, those aged 35–44 had the highest ownership rates, increasing slightly from 35,2% in 2017 to 35,7% in 2023. Their female counterparts also saw a modest rise, from 28,2% to 29,5% over the same period. Interestingly, female business owners aged 15–24 increased from 3,3% in 2017 to 5,2% in 2023, while male ownership in that age group declined from 5,1% to 4,0%, suggesting a growing entrepreneurial interest among young females.

Proportion of informal businesses with access to finance by sex of the business owner, 2017 and 2023

The percentage of persons who run informal businesses with access to asset finance decreased between 2017 and 2023. There was a 0,5 percentage point decrease in the proportion of informal businesses that had access to asset finance, while the businesses that had access to mortgage loans and credit facilities remained unchanged. Businesses run by males were more likely to have access to mortgage loan and credit facility compared to their female counterparts.

Sources of money for starting informal businesses

Figure 5: Percentage distribution of persons who used their own money to start an informal business by sex, 2017 and 2023



Source: SESE 2017 and 2023

Figure 5 shows the percentage distribution of individuals who utilised personal funds to establish informal businesses. Across both years, a higher percentage of males reported using their own money compared to females. In 2017, approximately 78,6% of males financed their business start-up with personal funds, increasing to 81,4% in 2023. Among females, the use of personal funds to start the informal business rose by 9,3 percentage points from 71,6% in 2017 to 80,9% in 2023.

Proportion of persons who needed funding to start their informal businesses by sex, 2017 and 2023

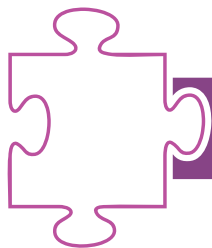
The results show that the majority of informal businesses sought financial support to start their businesses, with the percentage increasing from 58,8% in 2017 to 61,3% in 2023. A disaggregation by sex showed that male-owned businesses were more likely to require funding during the reported period, increasing slightly from 53,6% in 2017 to 54,1% in 2023.

Percentage distribution of persons who borrowed money to start a business by sex, 2017 and 2023

In 2017, approximately 22,4% of males reported borrowing money to start their business, compared to 18,8% of females. However, in 2023, both groups experienced a decline in borrowing, with male borrowers decreasing by 3,6 percentage points and female borrowers by 6,0 percentage points.

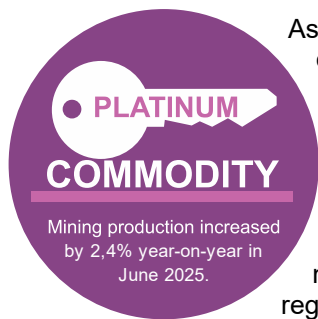
5. Conclusion

Females reported the highest percentage share of the overall population compared with their male counterparts for 2014–2025. In 2024, internet access increased for both genders, with women gaining a higher percentage share of internet access over males. In terms of home ownership, females were likely to own fully paid-off houses. However, they were still lagging behind their male counterparts with accessing mortgage bonds and credit cards. There were more females than males running informal businesses in 2024. A higher percentage of males reported using their own money to start informal businesses compared to females for the reporting period.



Primary industries

Mining: Production and sales



As of January 2025, South Africa had 561 mines owned by 174 mining companies, producing 26 different minerals. Among these minerals, Platinum Group Metals (PGMs) stand out as a key commodity, playing a major role in supporting the country's economic growth. The PGM sector, however, experienced severe disruptions in early 2025. Heavy rainfall, measuring up to 300mm within 24 hours in some regions, far above historical norms, caused

widespread operational challenges. At the time, the CEO of Anglo American Platinum, Craig Miller, reported that the intense rainfall and overflowing rivers caused water ingress at Tumela Mine, which overwhelmed pumping systems and flooded parts of the underground workings. The heavy rainfall not only drove up costs due to additional pumping but also led to production stoppages, equipment damage, and safety risks, all of which contributed to the earlier decline in PGM output. According to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), production only began to recover in June 2025, when PGMs recorded their first positive growth of the year with a 3,0% year-on-year increase. This article summarises the results of the *Mining: Production and sales* (statistical release P2041) for June 2025.



Mining production increased by 2,4% year-on-year in June 2025 (see Table A).

The largest positive contributors were:

- PGMs (3,0%, contributing 1,0 percentage point);

- coal (3,7%, contributing 0,8 of a percentage point); and
- chromium ore (9,0%, contributing 0,5 of a percentage point).

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

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

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 decreased by 14,4% year-on-year in June 2025. The largest negative contributors were:

- gold (-53,7%, contributing -13,6 percentage points);
- manganese ore (-33,7%, contributing -2,7 percentage points); and
- coal (-5,5%, contributing -1,2 percentage points).

The largest positive contributor was PGMs (23,5%, contributing 4,4 percentage points).

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

	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-6,1	-11,6	2,5	0,6	18,7	-14,4
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,6	-9,2	3,0	7,1	4,7	-6,6
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	6,1	-8,4	-9,2	-8,0	3,3	6,6

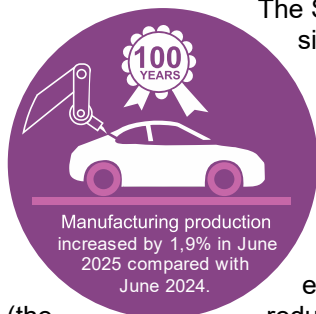
¹ Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

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



Secondary industries

Manufacturing: Production and sales



The South African manufacturing industry celebrated a significant milestone, reflecting on its history and impact. The motor vehicle manufacturing industry turned 100 years old in 2024. The early days of the motor industry in South Africa started in Port Elizabeth, now called Gqeberha, in the 1920s when Ford Motor Company of South Africa and General Motors began establishing local factories. Nowadays, the manufacturing industry experiences challenges such as deindustrialisation

(the reduction of manufacturing within an economy) and the tariff imposition by the United States of America (USA), along with a shift to electric vehicle production, among others. These challenges usually negatively affect the production and sales of motor vehicles. Although the industry is facing some challenges, Naamsa (The Automotive Business Council) stated that it accounts for 21,9% of the manufacturing output and motor vehicles and components that are exported to 148 international markets. In June 2025, as reported by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), the manufacturing production increased by 1,9% compared with June 2024. 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 the:

- food and beverages division (6,0%, contributing 1,4 percentage points); and

- the petroleum, chemical products, rubber and plastic products division (1,9%, contributing 0,4 of a percentage point).

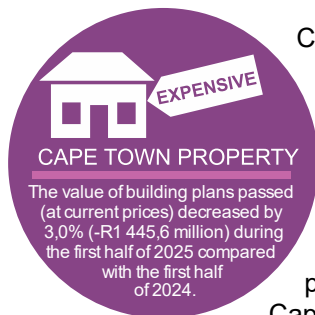
Table C – Key growth rates in the volume of manufacturing production for June 2025

	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



Cape Town is not only the favourite tourist destination, but also the favourite city for homeowners due to its natural beauty and strong demand for seaside apartments, among others. According to the 2025 Africa Wealth Report published by Henley and Partners in partnership with New World Wealth, Cape Town is now the most expensive place in Africa to buy property. The report states that prime real estate in Cape Town now averages R102 750 per square

metre (m²), with pieces of prime apartments between 100m² and 200m² higher than anywhere else in Africa. Western Cape municipalities ensure that all properties and buildings have approved building plans and are built in a safe environment. The selected building statistics of the private sector data published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) revealed that the value of the building plans passed decreased by 3,0% during the first half of 2025. The Western Cape was the leading largest positive contributor (contributing 6,0 percentage points or R2 843,8 million) to the total increase since January 2025. 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 June 2025.



The value of building plans passed (at current prices) decreased by 3,0% (-R1 445,6 million) during the first half of 2025 compared with the first half of 2024. (see Table D).

Decreases were reported for residential buildings (-R1 546,0 million) and non-residential buildings (-R1 433,8 million). An increase was reported for additions and alterations (R1 534,2 million).

The largest negative contributors to the total decrease of 3,0% (-R1 445,6 million) were Gauteng (contributing -7,2 percentage points or -R3 412,9 million), North West (contributing -1,5 percentage points or -R696,9 million) and KwaZulu-Natal (contributing -1,0 percentage point or -R457,5 million).

The largest positive contributors were Western Cape (contributing 6,0 percentage points or R2 843,8 million) and Eastern Cape (contributing 0,9 of a percentage point or R432,2 million).

Buildings reported as completed at current prices

The value of buildings reported as completed (at current prices) increased by 3,1% (R693,2 million) during the first half of 2025 compared with the first half of 2024. Increases were reported for residential buildings (R533,5 million) and non-residential buildings (R461,8 million).

A decrease was reported for additions and alterations (-R302,2 million).

Four out of the nine provinces reported year-on-year increases in the value of buildings completed during the first half of 2025, of which Western Cape (contributing 4,8 percentage points or R1 077,3 million) and North West (contributing 2,1 percentage points or R478,1 million) were the largest positive contributors.

The largest negative contributors were Eastern Cape (contributing -1,4 percentage points or -R311,2 million), Gauteng (contributing -1,3 percentage points or -R298,5 million) and Mpumalanga (contributing -0,9 of a percentage point or -R206,9 million).

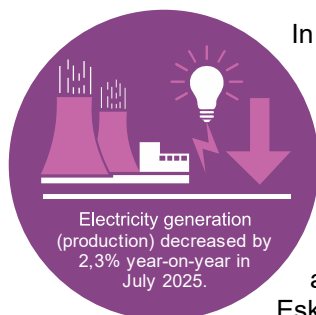
Table D – Building plans passed by larger municipalities at current prices by type of building, June 2025

Type of building	January to June 2024	January to June 2025	Difference in value between January to June 2024 and January to June 2025	% change between January to June 2024 and January to June 2025
	R'000	R'000	R'000	
Residential buildings	23 321 783	21 775 811	-1 545 972	-6,6
- Dwelling houses	14 300 693	14 676 570	375 877	2,6
- Flats and townhouses	8 241 828	6 501 648	-1 740 180	-21,1
- Other residential buildings	779 262	597 593	-181 669	-23,3
Non-residential buildings	11 214 612	9 780 806	-1 433 806	-12,8
Additions and alterations	12 921 327	14 455 555	1 534 228	11,9
Total	47 457 722	46 012 172	-1 445 550	-3,0

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 line with the National Energy Regulator of South Africa's (NERSA) approval, Eskom has increased tariffs for direct customers by 12,74%, effective from 1 April 2025. For most municipal customers, including those in Cape Town, Tshwane, and Johannesburg, the increase took effect on 1 July 2025, coinciding with the start of the municipal financial year. This adjustment applies to all cities and towns supplied directly by

Eskom or through their local municipalities. Since municipalities purchase bulk electricity from Eskom and add their own charges to cover distribution costs, customers will experience higher electricity expenses. For prepaid users, this translates to fewer units for the same amount of money, while postpaid customers will see the increase

reflected in their monthly bills. In the short term, consumers may slightly reduce non-essential electricity use, such as adjusting lights or thermostats. Overall consumption may remain relatively stable due to electricity's essential nature. In the long run, businesses and households may adjust their usage more significantly, investing in energy efficiency or changing usage patterns in response to higher tariffs. Thus, it might not immediately affect the electricity generation or distribution. Presented in this article is a summary of the *Electricity generated and available for distribution* (statistical release P4141) in July 2025.



Electricity generation (production) decreased by 2,3% year-on-year in July 2025 (see Table E).

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

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

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

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

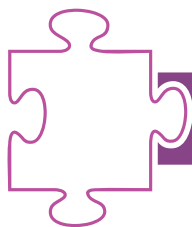
Electricity distribution (consumption) decreased by 4,5% year-on-year in July 2025 (see Table F).

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

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

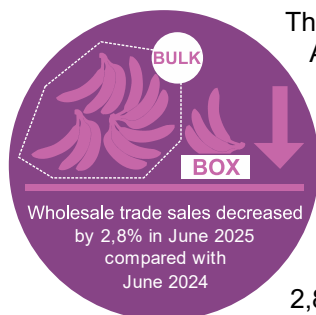
¹ Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

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



The wholesale industry plays a vital role in South Africa's supply chain, acting as an intermediary between manufacturers, retailers and other businesses. Wholesalers purchase goods in bulk directly from producers and distribute them in smaller quantities to retailers, government institutions, and other commercial clients. Data released by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) show that wholesale trade sales decreased by 2,8% in June 2025 compared with June 2024. A

decrease in wholesale trade sales prices generally indicates that goods sold in bulk are being traded at lower prices than before. This trend can be attributed to weaker demand from retailers or an oversupply of goods in the market. In such cases, producers are often compelled to reduce prices to stimulate demand. Lower wholesale trade sales may also be influenced by declining input costs, such as reduced prices for fuel, raw materials, or imports. When wholesalers pass on these savings, bulk prices fall. While this can place financial pressure on wholesalers and producers, it may also benefit the wider economy. Declining wholesale prices often filter down to the retail level, easing cost pressures for consumers and contributing to lower inflation in the consumer price index (CPI). This article summarises the results of the *Wholesale trade sales* (statistical release P6141.2) for June 2025.



Wholesale trade sales decreased by 2,8% in June 2025 compared with June 2024 (**see Table G**).

The main negative contributors were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (-7,9%, contributing -1,9 percentage points); and
- machinery, equipment and supplies (-8,1%, contributing -1,4 percentage points).

Wholesale trade sales decreased by 5,1% in the second quarter of 2025 compared with the second quarter of 2024. The main negative contributor category was dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (-16,3%, contributing -4,1 percentage points).

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

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

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



Recently, many consumers complained about retailers, spaza shops and wholesalers selling expired, fake and damaged products, which is in violation of the Consumer Protection Act (CPA), 2008 (Act No. 68 of 2008). The CPA states that consumers have a right to safe, good-quality goods. The National Consumer Commission (NCC) enforces CPA and conducts inspections to check compliance with the law. Between February and June 2025, the NCC conducted inspections on suppliers of foodstuff in Mpumalanga

and discovered that some suppliers were contravening the CPA by selling expired, dented, and damaged products, which include canned foodstuffs,

beverages, snacks, jams, sauces, maize meal, peanut butter and frozen items. According to the NCC, some of the foodstuffs had no ingredients lists, unclear and missing best-before dates. The NCC instructed the suppliers to remove and destroy expired and damaged stock, correctly label goods and display the price on or near to expire goods offered for sale. The suppliers were required to comply within 15 days of receipt of notice; failure to do so would result in the matter being referred to the National Consumer Tribunal, where suppliers may face a fine of up to R1 million or 10% of their annual turnover. Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) reported that retail trade sales increased by 1,6% in June 2025, with general dealers as one of the largest positive contributors (2,8%, contributing 1,2 percentage points). Presented in this article is a summary of the *Retail trade sales* release (statistical release P6242.1) for June 2025.



Retail trade sales increased by 1,6% year-on-year in June 2025 (see Table H).

The largest positive contributors to this increase were retailers in:

- textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (4,6%, contributing 0,8 of a percentage point); and
- hardware, paint and glass (5,4%, contributing 0,4 of a percentage point).

Retail trade sales increased by 3,7% in the second quarter of 2025 compared with the second quarter of 2024. The largest positive contributors to this increase were:

- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (9,8%, contributing 1,6 percentage points); and
- general dealers (2,8%, contributing 1,2 percentage points).

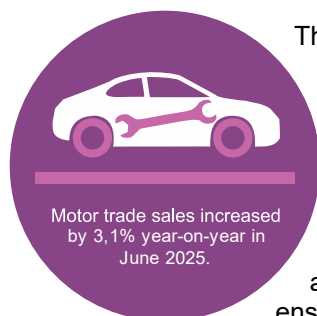
Table H – Key growth rates in retail trade sales for June 2025

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

^{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



The National Consumer Commission (NCC) has recently recalled several vehicle models, including the Ford Mustang, Ford Transit Custom, BMW X3 (G45), and Hino 500 Series buses, following supplier notifications of safety concerns related to fuel tanks, airbags, and steering components. The NCC, established under the Consumer Protection Act, 2008 (Act No. 68 of 2008), plays a key role in safeguarding consumer rights and ensuring fair compensation where goods and services

fail to meet the required standards. Vehicle recalls can have far-reaching economic implications. Manufacturers bear significant direct costs in covering repairs, replacements, logistics, and compensation. Beyond financial losses, recalls may tarnish a brand's reputation, weaken consumer trust, and reduce future sales as customers turn to competitors. Car owners may also face lower resale values and potentially higher insurance premiums, further discouraging demand. Collectively, these factors can lead to a decline in the number of vehicles sold by the affected manufacturers. Presented in this article is a summary of the *Motor trade sales* (statistical release P6343.2) for June 2025.



Motor trade sales increased by 3,1% year-on-year in June 2025 (see Table I).

The positive contributors to this increase were:

- sales of accessories (10,3%, contributing 2,0 percentage points);
- new vehicle sales (6,8%, contributing 1,6 percentage points); and
- used vehicle sales (4,8%, contributing 1,0 percentage point).

The largest negative contributors were:

- workshop income (-11,1%, contributing -0,6 of a percentage point); and
- fuel sales (-1,9%, contributing -0,5 of a percentage point).

Motor trade sales increased by 2,5% in the second quarter of 2025 compared with the second quarter of 2024. The positive contributors to this increase were:

- new vehicle sales (7,3%, contributing 1,7 percentage points);
- sales of accessories (5,0%, contributing 1,0 percentage point); and
- used vehicle sales (4,4%, contributing 0,9 of a percentage point).

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

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

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

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



In his May 2025 national budget speech, Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana announced an increase in excise duties on tobacco and alcohol to boost revenue and curb consumption. For alcohol specifically, he proposed an above-inflation increase of 6,75% which came into effect from 1 April 2025, affecting malt beer, unfortified and fortified wine, sparkling wine, ciders, alcoholic fruit beverages and spirits. While many people enjoy these drinks in bars for the social

interaction, vibrant atmosphere, and entertainment they provide, the higher excise duties might mean that consumers are paying more for their beverages as costs are passed down to them. Combined with the fact that bar prices are already much higher than retail liquor stores, this has encouraged some consumers to cut costs by drinking less at bars and more at home, contributing to the -4,3% annual decline in bar sales. This article is a summary of the *Food and beverages* (statistical release P6420) for June 2025.



Total income generated by the food and beverages industry decreased by 0,7% in June 2025 compared with June 2024 (see Table J).

The largest negative annual growth rate was recorded for bar sales (-4,3%) in June 2025.

In June 2025, the largest negative contributor to the 0,7% year-on-year decrease was restaurants and coffee shops (-2,2%, contributing -1,0 percentage point).

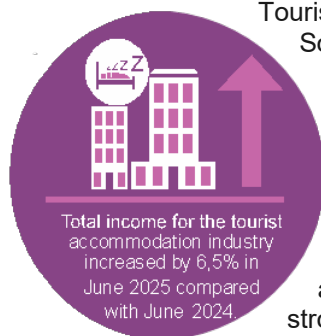
Total income increased by 4,1% in the second quarter of 2025 compared with the second quarter of 2024. The largest contributor to this increase was takeaway and fast-food outlets (6,2%, contributing 2,5 percentage points).

Table J – Year-on-year percentage change in food and beverages income at constant 2019 prices by type of income, June 2025

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

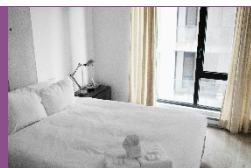
A full release on *Food and beverages* (statistical release P6420) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Tourist accommodation



Tourist accommodation data published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) for June 2025 shows that from January to June 2025, the number of available stay units was mostly flat, with no major increases or decreases. This signals a stable supply of accommodation units in the market without additional rooms being added or removed. In contrast, the number of stay unit nights sold, suggests that there is increased demand for accommodation units with some months recording stronger growth than others. The months of January

and May 2025 recorded the strongest growth in stay unit nights sold at 5,3% and 10,5%, respectively, while March 2025 was the only month which recorded a decline of 1,6%. The fluctuation in demand may be driven by seasonal changes or events happening around that particular month. Despite the flat growth in available accommodation units or rooms, the tourist accommodation industry saw an increase in total income generated of 6,5% in June 2025. This article summarises the *Tourist accommodation* (statistical release P6410) for June 2025.



The total income for the tourist accommodation industry increased by 6,5% in June 2025 compared with June 2024 (see Table K).

Income from accommodation increased by 6,5% year-on-year in June 2025, the result of a 2,7% increase in the number of stay unit nights sold and a 3,7% increase in the average income per stay unit night sold.

In June 2025, the positive contributors to the 6,5% year-on-year increase in income from accommodation were:

- hotels (12,9%, contributing 6,9 percentage points); and
- 'other' accommodation (0,4%, contributing 0,2 of a percentage point).

Income from accommodation increased by 11,4% in the second quarter of 2025 compared with the second quarter of 2024. The main contributors to this increase were:

- hotels (14,2%, contributing 7,9 percentage points); and
- 'other' accommodation (8,2%, contributing 3,1 percentage points).

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

	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25
Stay units available	0,0	0,1	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,0
Stay unit nights sold	5,3	2,4	-1,6	3,9	10,5	2,7
Average income per stay unit night sold	10,8	10,0	7,5	10,0	2,8	3,7
Income from accommodation	16,6	12,6	5,7	14,3	13,5	6,5
Total income¹	11,8	5,8	2,0	9,3	11,5	6,5

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



Travellers embark on trips from one place to another for various reasons. One of the reasons is sports tourism (involving people travelling to observe or attend a local or international sports competition). In September 2025, travellers from Lesotho, Nigeria, Rwanda, Zimbabwe and Mali flocked to South Africa to watch some of the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifier games. Hosting an international event such as these qualifier games may boost the tourism industry, create jobs

and improve South Africa as a preferred global tourist destination. In July 2025, 3 073 360 travellers (arrivals, departures, and transits) passed through South Africa's borders, an increase compared with June 2025, according to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA). Presented in this article is a summary of the results of *International tourism* (statistical release P0350) for July 2025.

Travellers

Number of travellers



A total of 3 073 360 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports in July 2025 (see Table L).

These travellers were made up of 879 504 South African residents and 2 193 856 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 466 075 arrivals, 412 857 departures and 572 travellers in transit. The corresponding volumes for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit were 1 201 015, 943 827 and 49 014, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in June 2025 and July 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 27,1% (from 366 732 in June

2025 to 466 075 in July 2025). Departures increased by 3,3% (from 399 719 in June 2025 to 412 857 in July 2025) and transits increased by 1,2% (from 565 in June 2025 to 572 in July 2025). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 15,4% (from 1 040 785 in June 2025 to 1 201 015 in July 2025), departures increased by 7,0% (from 882 242 in June 2025 to 943 827 in July 2025), and transits increased by 10,4% (from 44 401 in June 2025 to 49 014 in July 2025).

Mode of travel of travellers

In July 2025, road was the most common mode of travel used by 2 087 869 (67,9%) of the 3 073 360 travellers. The total number of air travellers was 985 295 (32,1%). Compared with air and road travellers, a smaller number of travellers (196, less than 0,1%) used sea transport into and out of South Africa. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 230 072 (49,4%) came by air, 236 003 (50,6%) came by road and none preferred sea. For departures, 186 229 (45,1%) used air, 226 605 (54,9%) used road and 23 (less than 0,1%) left by sea. All travellers in transit [572 (100,0%)] used air.

Visitors

In July 2025, 26 939 (2,2%) foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors, while 1 174 076 (97,8%) were classified as visitors. Visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in July 2025 but did not depart in July 2025 [458 415 (39,0%)].
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in July 2025 and left in July 2025 [339 745 (28,9%)].
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in July 2025 [375 916 (32,0%)].

Tourists

Sex and age distribution of tourists

Sex

In July 2025, there were more male [504 950 (57,3%)] than female [376 443

(42,7%)] tourists. Male tourists constituted the majority of tourists for all three regions: SADC countries [399 191 (58,4%)]]; overseas countries [96 319 (52,7%)]]; and 'other' African countries [8 862 (62,0%)]. Similarly, the largest portion of female tourists was from SADC countries [284 327 (41,6%)], followed by overseas countries [86 278 (47,3%)] and 'other' African countries [5 421 (38,0%)].

Age

The age distribution indicates that out of all tourists, 6,1% (53 498) were aged younger than 15; 11,3% (99 685) were aged between 15 and 24; 23,1% (203 755) were aged between 25 and 34; 28,9% (254 542) were aged between 35 and 44; 18,8% (165 349) were aged between 45 and 54; 7,9% (69 496) were aged between 55 and 64; and 4,0% (35 067) were aged 65 and older.

Purpose of visit of tourists

In July 2025, the majority of tourists [855 065 (97,0%)] were in South Africa for holiday compared with 19 388 (2,2%), 6 607 (0,7%) and 333 (less than 0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and medical treatment, respectively.

Mode of travel of tourists

In July 2025, 168 999 (92,6%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, while 13 598 (7,4%) came in by road and none preferred sea. Tourists from the SADC countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road [633 978 (92,8%)], 49 540 (7,2%) came by air and none arrived by sea. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 12 77 (85,3%), while 2 106 (14,7%) used road transport and none preferred sea. Most tourists who arrived by road came through Lebombo port (190 543) and Beit Bridge port (163 579). The majority of tourists who came by air entered through OR Tambo International Airport (167 215) and Cape Town International Airport (59 945). No tourists arrived by sea.

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

Travel direction	June	June	July	% change	% change
	2024	2025	2025	June 2025 – July 2025	July 2024 – July 2025
Total	2 395 815	2 734 444	3 073 360	12,4	28,3
South African residents	702 205	767 016	879 504	14,7	25,2
Arrivals	380 393	366 732	466 075	27,1	22,5
Departures	321 285	399 719	412 857	3,3	28,5
Transits	527	565	572	1,2	8,5
Foreign travellers	1 693 610	1 967 428	2 193 856	11,5	29,5
Arrivals	922 151	1 040 785	1 201 015	15,4	30,2
Departures	728 642	882 242	943 827	7,0	29,5
Transits	42 817	44 401	49 014	10,4	14,5

Statistics of the civil cases for debt

Online and physical gambling in South Africa is thriving with consumers

aiming to meet expenses and settle debts. The

National Gambling Board (NGB), which is

responsible for the oversight of the regulation of

the gambling industry in the country, reported

that gross gambling revenue from 1 April 2023

to 31 March 2024 was R59,3 billion. According

to NGB, betting accounted for the largest share

of gross gambling revenue at 60,5%, casinos

(29,3%), Limited Pay-out Machines (LPMs) and

bingo (slot machines) (7%). The NGB always



The total number of civil summonses issued for debt decreased by 14,7% in the second quarter of 2025 compared with the second quarter of 2024.

advises gamblers to know when to stop but many find themselves unable to stop resulting in failing to settle their debts and eventually facing civil summonses. The Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) indicated that the total number of civil summonses issued for debt decreased by 14,7%. This article summarises the results of the *Statistics for civil cases for debt* (statistical release P0041) for June 2025.

The number of civil summonses issued for debt



The total number of civil summonses issued for debt decreased by 14,7% in the second quarter of 2025 compared with the second quarter of 2024 (see Table M).

The largest contributors to the 14,7% decrease in civil summonses issued were:

- 'other' debts (contributing -6,2 percentage points);
- services (contributing -3,2 percentage points);
- money lent (contributing -2,2 percentage points); and
- promissory notes (contributing -2,1 percentage points).

The number of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total number of civil judgements recorded for debt decreased by 19,8% in the second quarter of 2025 compared with the second quarter of 2024.

The largest contributors to the 19,8% decrease were civil judgements relating to:

- services (contributing -9,3 percentage points);
- 'other' debts (contributing -5,0 percentage points);
- money lent (contributing -2,0 percentage points); and
- rent (contributing -2,0 percentage points).

The value of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total value of civil judgements recorded for debt decreased by 10,1% in the second quarter of 2025 compared with the second quarter of 2024.

The largest negative contributors were:

- money lent (contributing -3,5 percentage points);
- 'other' debts (contributing -3,0 percentage points);
- services (contributing -1,4 percentage points); and
- goods sold (contributing -1,2 percentage points).

In June 2025, 9 241 civil judgements for debt amounting to R299,5 million were recorded.

The largest contributors to the total value of judgements were:

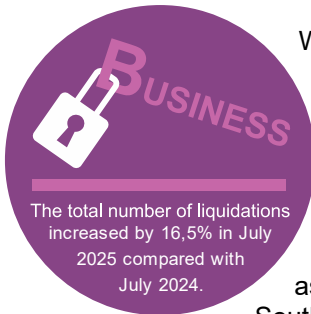
- money lent (R76,7 million or 25,6%);
- services (R66,6 million or 22,3%);
- 'other' debts (R65,6 million or 21,9%); and
- promissory notes (R46,0 million or 15,4%).

Table M – Key figures for June 2025

Actual estimates	June 2025	% change between June 2024 and June 2025	% change between April to June 2024 and April to June 2025
Number of civil summonses issued for debt	31 726	-4,4	-14,7
Number of civil judgements recorded for debt	9 241	-8,3	-19,8
Value of civil judgements recorded for debt (R million)	299,5	11,9	-10,1

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

Statistics of liquidations



When a company in South Africa faces financial distress and can no longer meet its obligations, liquidation often becomes the final step to legally close its operations. Liquidation is the process through which a company's assets are sold to settle outstanding debts before the business is formally dissolved. In most cases, liquidation leads to the termination of employment contracts, as the company ceases its operations. However,

South African labour law, such as the Insolvency Act, 1936 (Act No. 24 of 1936), provides employees with specific protections to safeguard their rights. Workers are entitled to claim outstanding wages, accrued leave pay, and severance pay up to the date of liquidation. The extent of these payments, however, depends on the financial position of the company, meaning employees may not always receive full compensation. This often creates financial hardship for workers who suddenly find themselves unemployed and may contribute to the rising unemployment rate in the country. According to data published by Statistics South Africa, liquidations of close corporations increased by 26 cases in July 2025 compared with July 2024, while company liquidations decreased by 4 cases over the same period. This article presents a summary of the *Statistics of liquidations* (statistical release P0043.1) for July 2025.



The total number of liquidations increased by 16,5% in July 2025 compared with July 2024. (see Table N).

Liquidations of close corporations increased by 26 cases while liquidations of companies decreased by four cases during this period.

The number of liquidations increased by 12,4% in the three months ended July 2025 compared with the three months ended July 2024. An increase of 1,8% in the number of liquidations was recorded in the first seven months of 2025 compared with the first seven months of 2024.

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

Number of liquidations July 2025	% change between July 2024 and July 2025	% change between May – July 2024 and May – July 2025	% change between January to July 2024 and January to July 2025
155	16,5	12,4	1,8

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

Land transport



The South African government has been planning to regulate e-hailing services such as Bolt, Uber, etc. for some time. This was after taxi operators raised concerns about the e-hailing systems' anti-competition conduct and the fact that they encroach on their routes, among others. The unregulated e-hailing system caused conflicts that led to impounding of e-hailing motor vehicles, fines and killing of drivers. In order to minimise these conflicts, the National Land Transport

Amendment Act, 2023 (Act No. 23 of 2023), which was approved by President Cyril Ramaphosa in 2024, is due to be implemented before the end of 2025. The Act states that e-hailing drivers will now use an official e-hailing operating licence and will no longer be required to use charter permits and a metred taxi operating licence. According to the law, each e-hailing motor vehicle will be branded or carry a sign that indicates it is an e-hailing vehicle, and its operating licence will show its jurisdiction. Under the new law, e-hailing drivers will be vetted and their profile photographs must be up to date for client identification. E-hailing drivers who fail to comply with the new legislation will be imprisoned for up to two years or face a penalty of up to R10 000. The regulation of e-hailing motor vehicles will be convenient to commuters. Statistics South Africa's *land transport* data show that the number of passenger journeys increased by 11,9% in June 2025 compared with June 2024. Presented in this article is a summary of the *Land transport* (statistical release P7162) for June 2025.



The volume of goods transported (payload) decreased by 2,4% in June 2025 compared with June 2024 (see Table O).

The corresponding income decreased by 0,2% over the same period.

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

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

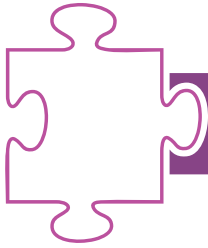
A full release on *Land transport* (statistical release P7162) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

The number of passenger journeys increased by 11,9% in June 2025 compared with June 2024 (see Table P). The corresponding income decreased by 1,3% over the same period.

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

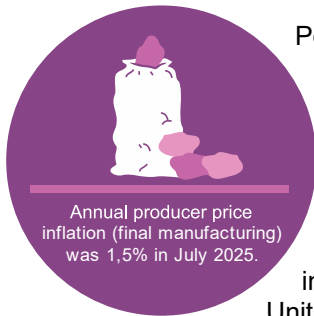
	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25
Freight payload	11,0	3,9	11,5	2,6	9,3	11,9
Freight income	1,4	-1,6	4,1	1,7	-4,4	-1,3

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)



Potatoes have been one of the world's favourite staple food for thousands of years. Potatoes can be produced 12 months in a year and are resistant to drought, cold and barren land with wide adaptability. On 30 May 2025, the United Nations celebrated International Day of Potato to raise awareness of the multiple nutritional benefits, etc. of the potato and a generator of income for producers and families. According to

United Nations, by 2030, the total production of

potatoes will reach 750 million tons with an increase of 112% of which the production of Asia, Africa and Latin America will exceed 440 million tons, with an increase of 100% accounting for about 59% of the world. According to Potato South Africa (an organisation representing and advocating for South Africa's potato industry and producers), reported that South Africa produces an average of 2,5 million tons of potatoes per annum. The organisation stated that South Africa is the third largest potato producer in Africa, after Egypt and Algeria. In July 2025, Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) reported that the annual percentage change in the producer price index (PPI) for agriculture, forestry and fisheries was 6,5%. The main contributors to the annual rate of 6,5% were agriculture (6,6%, contributing 5,7 percentage points). This article summarises the results of the *Producer price index* (PPI) (statistical release P0142.1) for July 2025.

Final manufactured goods – headline PPI



Annual producer price inflation (final manufacturing) was 1,5% in July 2025, compared with 0,6% in June 2025. (see Table Q).

The producer price index (PPI) increased by 0,7% month-on-month in July 2025.

The main positive contributor to the headline PPI annual inflation rate was food products, beverages and tobacco products (3,9%, contributing 1,1 percentage points).

The main positive contributors to the monthly rate were coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products (1,3%, contributing 0,3 of a percentage point) and paper and printed products (2,5%, contributing 0,2 of a percentage point).

Intermediate manufactured goods

The annual percentage change in the PPI for intermediate manufactured goods was 6,4% in July 2025, compared with 5,5% in June 2025. The index increased by 0,6% month-on-month. The main positive contributor to the annual rate was basic and fabricated metals (12,5% and contributing 6,3 percentage points). The main contributor to the monthly rate was basic and fabricated metals (2,0%, contributing 1,0 percentage point).

Electricity and water

The annual percentage change in the PPI for electricity and water was 4,9% in July 2025, compared with 10,7% in June 2025. The index increased by 3,8% month-on-month. The contributors to the annual rate were electricity (3,7%, contributing 3,4 percentage points) and water (11,6%, contributing 1,2 percentage points).

The contributors to the monthly rate were electricity (3,1%, contributing 2,7 percentage points) and water (10,4%, contributing 1,1 percentage points).

Mining

The annual percentage change in the PPI for mining was 7,5% in July 2025, compared with 4,8% in June 2025. The index increased by 2,6% month-on-month.

Positive contributors to the annual rate were:

- gold and other metal ores (19,9%, contributing 5,2 percentage points);
- non-ferrous metal ores (5,2%, contributing 2,8 percentage points); and

- stone quarrying, clay and diamonds (30,0%, contributing 1,3 percentage points).

The main positive contributor to the monthly rate was non-ferrous metal ores (5,5%, contributing 2,8 percentage points).

Agriculture, forestry and fishing

The annual percentage change in the PPI for agriculture, forestry and fishing was 6,5% in July 2025, compared with 5,0% in June 2025. The index decreased by 1,3% month-on-month.

Main contributors to the annual rate were agriculture (6,6% and contributing 5,7 percentage points) and fishing (8,3%, contributing 0,7 of a percentage point).

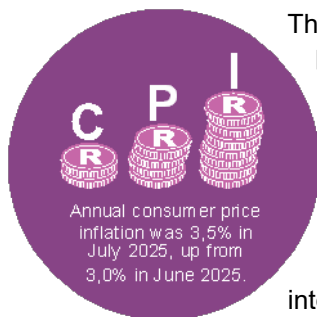
The contributor to the monthly rate was agriculture (-1,5%, contributing -1,3 percentage points).

Table Q – Key PPI figures for July 2025

Product	Weight	Index (Dec 2023=100)			% change	
		Jul 2024	Jun 2025	Jul 2025	Jul 2025 vs. Jun 2025	Jul 2025 vs. Jul 2024
Final manufactured goods	100,00	101,8	102,6	103,3	0,7	1,5
Intermediate manufactured goods	100,00	105,0	111,0	111,7	0,6	6,4
Electricity and water	100,00	153,6	155,2	161,1	3,8	4,9
Mining	100,00	102,8	107,7	110,5	2,6	7,5
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	100,00	96,0	103,5	102,2	-1,3	6,5

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)



The South African Reserve Bank (SARB) has proposed updating its inflation target to 3%, moving away from the current 3–6% target band. This means SARB would aim for stricter price stability by fixing inflation closer to the lower end of the band. In so doing, SARB hopes to strengthen price stability, enhance investor confidence, and create conditions for lower borrowing costs in the future. The SARB adjusts interest rates primarily to control inflation, promote economic growth, and maintain financial stability. When

the consumer price index (CPI) rate stays within the 3–6% band, it signals that prices are rising at a manageable pace — not too fast, which would reduce people's purchasing power, and not too slow, which could indicate weak demand or a slowing economy. Several factors can lead to an increase in CPI, including persistent increases in food, fuel, transport, and housing costs or a sharp weakening of the rand. In July 2025, South Africa's annual consumer price inflation was 3,5%, up from 3,0% in June, keeping it within SARB's target band of 3–6%. Presented in this article is a summary of the *Consumer price index* (statistical release P0141) for July 2025.

Headline consumer price index (CPI) for all urban areas



Annual consumer price inflation was 3,5% in July 2025, up from 3,0% in June 2025 (see Table R).

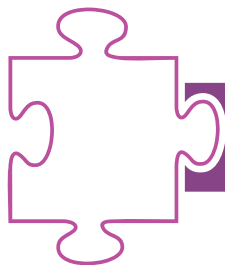
The CPI increased by 0,9% month-on-month in July 2025. The main contributors to the 3,5% annual inflation rate were food and non-alcoholic beverages (5,7%, contributing 1,0 percentage point) and housing and utilities (4,3%, contributing 1,0 percentage point).

In July 2025, the annual inflation rate for goods was 3,2%, up from 2,3% in June 2025; services was 3,6%, down from 3,7% in June 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	102,1	102,4	103,3						
	Rate	3,2	3,2	2,7	2,8	2,8	3,0	3,5						

^{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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