

# Mbalo Brief

the missing piece of the puzzle

November 2025

Secondary  
Industries

Primary  
Industries

Tertiary  
Industries

Glossary

Feature  
article

Prices

Glossary

Primary  
Industries

Issue 10/2025

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS



stats sa

Department:  
Statistics South Africa  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Statistics South Africa  
Private Bag X44  
Pretoria 0001  
South Africa

ISlballo House, Koch Street, Salvokop  
Pretoria 0002

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

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





## Editor's Comment



South Africa gears up to host the Group of Twenty (G20) Summit, placing the nation firmly on the global stage. The G20 is an international forum that brings together the world's major economies to discuss and coordinate global economic and financial priorities. The forum consists of 19 countries and two regional bodies—the European Union and the African Union—collectively representing approximately 85% of global gross domestic product (GDP), over 75% of global trade, and

around two-thirds of the world's population. Each year, the G20 hosts a summit where heads of state, ministers, and senior officials convene to address key global challenges and develop collaborative solutions that support global economic stability and growth. Johannesburg has been selected as the host city for the G20 Summit in 2025, scheduled for 22–23 November. This high-profile international event is expected to attract thousands of delegates, placing Johannesburg—and South Africa as a whole—on the global stage. The influx of visitors and activities linked to the summit is expected to boost the local economy through increased spending in sectors such as tourism, hospitality, transportation and event services. In addition, hosting such a major event may attract future investment as global business leaders and investors might see South Africa as a stable and influential destination.

This edition of *Mbalo Brief* is the final issue for the year; the next edition will be published in February 2026. Our feature article is based on the *Domestic tourism survey* (Statistical release P0352.1) published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) on 30 October 2025. Also, do not miss our monthly crossword puzzle and the October 2025 solutions. Articles in this issue draw on the results of industry surveys conducted for August and September 2025.

Enjoy the read!





# Contents

<b>Editor's comment.....</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>Crossword puzzle.....</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>Feature article on Domestic tourism survey, 2024.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Primary industries .....</b>	<b>11</b>
Mining: Production and sales .....	11
<b>Secondary industries .....</b>	<b>13</b>
Manufacturing: Production and sales .....	13
Selected building statistics of the private sector .....	14
Electricity generated and available for distribution.....	16
<b>Tertiary industries .....</b>	<b>19</b>
Wholesale trade sales .....	19
Retail trade sales.....	20
Motor trade sales.....	22
Food and beverages.....	23
Tourist accommodation .....	24
International tourism .....	26
Statistics of civil cases for debt .....	31
Statistics of liquidations .....	33
Land transport .....	34
<b>Prices.....</b>	<b>37</b>
Producer price index (PPI) .....	37
Consumer price index (CPI) .....	40
<b>Glossary .....</b>	<b>42</b>



### Across

4. Which expo centre was used for the G20?
6. What is South Africa's currency?
8. What is the name of the commission of inquiry launched in 2025 to investigate corruption and political interference in the justice system?

### Down

1. Which nation served as the host of the G20 Summit in 2025?
2. Which province was the most visited for overnight trips in 2024? Read the feature article for clues.
3. What was the mode of transport most used when visiting Western Cape for overnight trips? Read the feature article for clues.
5. What was the most common reason for day trips in 2023 and 2024? Read the feature article for clues.
7. Which month had the highest day-trip expenditure in 2024? Read the feature article for clues.

## Solutions for October 2025 puzzle

### Across

2. False
3. Mediterranean
6. Wholesale
7. Eight

### Down

1. Eastern Cape
4. Mitosis
5. Nile





## Feature article

### Feature article on the Domestic tourism survey, 2024

#### 1. Introduction

Tourism remains a key driver of economic growth in South Africa and is identified by the government as a priority sector for creating jobs and stimulating local development, as emphasised in the National Development Plan (NDP) 2030. This article presents the results of the *Domestic tourism survey (DTS), 2024* (Statistical release P0352.1), which measures the travel behaviour and expenditure patterns of South African residents when travelling within the country. The survey covers the period from January to December 2024, and, where relevant, comparisons are drawn with findings from 2023. The feature article explores the number and type of domestic day and overnight trips undertaken, travel expenditure, the purpose of travel, preferred provinces of destination, modes of transport and accommodation used, and differences in travel behaviour across demographic and population groups. Furthermore, the article will present trend analysis to provide insight into how South Africans engage with domestic tourism and highlight opportunities for strengthening the sector's contribution to the national economy.

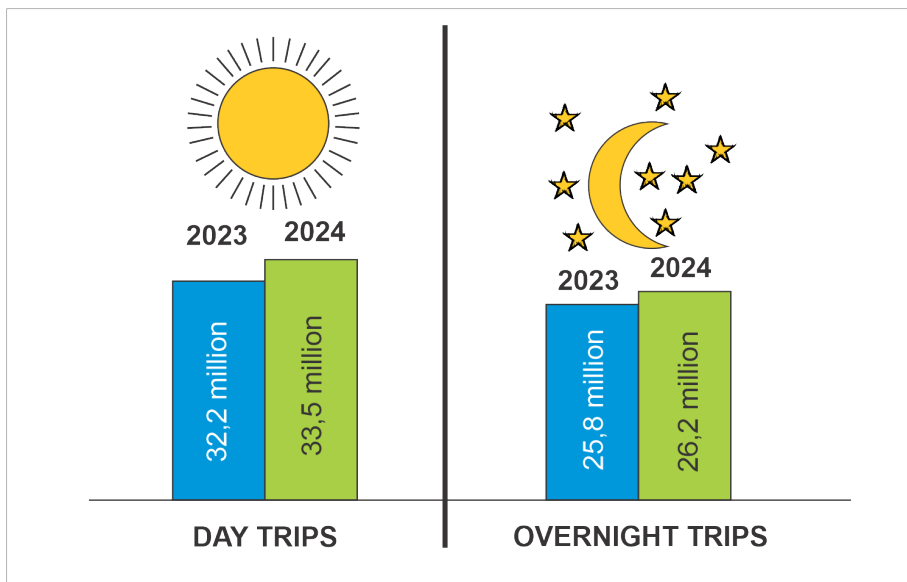
#### 2. Objectives of the Domestic tourism survey (DTS)

The Domestic tourism survey (DTS) is a large-scale household survey aimed at collecting accurate statistics on the travel behaviour and expenditure of South African residents travelling within the country. Such information is crucial when determining the contribution of tourism to the South African economy, as well as helping with planning, marketing, policy formulation, and regulation of tourism-related activities. The key objective of the DTS is to understand the domestic travel behaviour of an average South African resident. To do this, information is collected on the following:

- Domestic day and overnight trips undertaken.
- Trips undertaken by respondents and trips by other household members without the respondent accompanying them.
- Profile of the most recent day/overnight domestic trips undertaken both by the respondent and other household members (detailing information on destination, trip length, purpose of visit, accommodation, transport, activities, trip expenditure, etc.).
- Socio-demographics.

### 3. Number and types of trips undertaken by household members

#### 3.1. Day trips



In 2024, approximately 33,5 million day trips were undertaken within South Africa, up from 32,2 million in 2023. Similarly, there were about 26,2 million overnight trips in 2024, up from 25,8 million in 2023.

Most day trips in 2023 occurred in December, with approximately 4,3 million trips recorded. Other months with relatively high numbers of day trips included February and September, each with approximately 2,8 million trips, while April had the lowest number of trips taken at 2,1 million.








In 2024, December once again recorded the highest number of day trips, though slightly lower than the previous year, with 3,6 million trips. Contrary to 2023, the months with the next highest number of trips were May (3,3 million) and August (3,1 million). The lowest number of trips in 2024 was observed in November, with 2,3 million.

### 3.2 Overnight trips

In 2023, the highest number of overnight trips was recorded in December with 5,0 million overnight trips. This was followed by overnight trips taken in April with 2,4 million and July with 2,2 million trips. The months with the lowest number of overnight trips were May and November, each with approximately 1,4 million.

In 2024, December (3,8 million) again recorded the highest number of overnight trips, followed by June and March, with 2,7 million and 2,4 million trips, respectively. The lowest number of trips was observed in February and November, both with approximately 1,6 million overnight trips.

### 4. Total expenditure on domestic day and overnight trips

TOTAL EXPENDITURE OVERNIGHT TRIPS		2023	2024
Accommodation		6 077 686	6 020 194
Food and beverages		7 625 002	7 880 146
Domestic transport		12 247 985	12 625 760
Recreation and culture		719 894	865 668
Shopping		8 615 219	8 446 375
Other		2 327 239	2 515 631

In 2023, total expenditure incurred on domestic trips was about R57,9 billion. This constitutes day trip spending of about R20,2 billion and overnight trips spending of R37,6 billion. Total expenditure on domestic trips incurred in 2024 increased to approximately R60,6 billion. This constitutes day trips spending of about R22,2 billion, while spending on overnight trips amounted to R38,4 billion.

The main contributors to total expenditure in 2023 were on shopping (R18,6 billion), followed by domestic transport (R17,9 billion), while in 2024, the leading expenditure categories were domestic transport (R18,5 billion), followed closely by shopping at R18,4 billion. The least amount of money was spent on recreation and culture for both years (R934 million in 2023 and R2,8 billion in 2024).

For day trips, the highest expenditure in 2023 occurred in December, with R2,7 billion spent, followed by September (R2,4 billion) and October (R2,1 billion). In contrast, the lowest spending was recorded in January and February, at R955 million and R986 million, respectively.

In 2024, the month with the highest expenditure was May, with R3,7 billion spent. This was followed by December and April, each at approximately R2,3 billion. The lowest amount of money was spent in February and January at R1,3 billion each.

For overnight trips, the highest expenditure in 2023 occurred in December, reaching R8,8 billion, followed by August with R4 billion, and June with approximately R3,2 billion spent. The lowest expenditure was recorded in February (R1,5 billion). In 2024, December remained the peak month for overnight trip spending, with R6,8 billion. This was followed by March with R3,7 billion, and June with R3,6 billion. The lowest expenditure was recorded in November, with R2,2 billion spent.

## 5. Analysis of tourism patterns by province of destination

### 5.1 Main province of destination

In 2023, the main province of destination for day travellers was Gauteng (22,0%), followed by Western Cape (21,5%) and Limpopo (13,8%); a trend which continued in 2024, where Gauteng (21,7%) was the preferred province of destination, followed by Western Cape (21,5%) and Limpopo (13,0%). In both years (2023 and 2024), Free State was the province with the least number of travellers at 3,4% and 3,5%, respectively.

In 2023, when looking at the most recent overnight trips, the most visited province was Western Cape (15,9%), followed closely by Limpopo (15,6%) and KwaZulu-Natal at 15,2%. However, in 2024, KwaZulu-Natal was the

most visited province with 17,8%, followed by Limpopo with 16,8% and the Western Cape (15,0%).

## 5.2 Main purpose of travel

The most frequently cited reason for undertaking the most recent day trips in both years was personal shopping, accounting for 32,6% in 2023 and 30,4% in 2024. This was followed by visiting friends and relatives, which made up 22,5% in 2023 and 20,8% in 2024, and leisure activities, which increased slightly from 17,8% in 2023 to 19,8% in 2024. The least common reason for most recent day trips in 2023 was for educational purposes (1,3%), while in 2024, it was for sporting activities, either as a spectator or participant (0,9%).

In both years, the most common reason indicated for most recent overnight trips was to visit friends and relatives (44,5% in 2023 and 50,4% in 2024). Tourists were also likely to undertake most recent overnight trips for leisure purposes (25,6% in 2023 and 21,6% in 2024), making it the second most common reason. The third most common reason for most recent overnight trips was attending funerals (12,3% in 2023 and 11,2% in 2024).

## 5.3 Mode of transport

**Table 1 - Percentage (%) distribution of province of destination by main mode of transport on most recent day trips taken by household members, January–December 2023 and 2024**

Province of destination	Day trips (Percentages (%))									
	Air		Bus		Car		Taxi		Other <sup>1</sup>	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
Western Cape	22,4	33,3	4,4	10,4	30,8	28,9	1,8	4,2	27,0	21,4
Eastern Cape	17,0	6,7	8,3	17,3	8,7	9,2	14,0	13,2	22,7	2,3
Northern Cape	-	-	0,0	0,4	4,7	5,2	2,9	3,6	14,8	4,6
Free State	-	-	0,6	0,5	3,6	3,9	3,5	2,7	1,8	6,0
KwaZulu-Natal	30,8	-	4,3	3,7	6,3	5,2	13,6	14,2	2,5	4,1
North West	-	-	14,5	9,7	8,6	10,7	10,5	9,5	5,2	6,2
Gauteng	29,7	60,0	30,4	25,9	22,0	21,7	21,0	19,7	18,6	43,9
Mpumalanga	-	-	9,5	10,1	6,9	7,0	7,9	8,8	-	3,0
Limpopo	-	-	28,1	22,1	8,4	8,3	24,9	24,0	7,4	8,5
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>

\*Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced with asterisks.

<sup>1</sup> 'Other' includes motorcycles, bicycles, trains, etc.

In 2023, air transportation was most commonly used to reach destinations in KwaZulu-Natal (30,8%), followed by Gauteng (29,7%) and Western Cape (22,4%). When travelling by car, Western Cape was the most visited province (30,8%), followed by Gauteng (22,0%). For those who preferred bus as their mode of transport, Gauteng was the leading destination (30,4%), followed by Limpopo (28,1%) and North West (14,5%).

In 2024, most day travellers who used air transportation visited Gauteng (60,0%) and Western Cape (33,3%). Bus travel remained popular for trips to Gauteng (25,9%), Limpopo (22,1%), and Eastern Cape (17,3%). When cars were the preferred mode of transport, travellers mainly visited Western Cape, (28,9%), followed by Gauteng (21,7%).

For overnight trips, the results show that when trips were destined for Western Cape, tourists were most likely to use air transport with 44,4% in 2023 and 43,0% in 2024. Most tourists used buses to reach Eastern Cape (27,5%), followed by those who were destined for Gauteng (17,5%) in 2023, while in 2024, it was those who were destined to Gauteng (23,5%), then

Eastern Cape (20,2%). Taxis were mainly used to visit KwaZulu-Natal at 19,7% in 2023 and 21,3% in 2024.

## **6. Analysis of accommodation type by mode of transport**

In both 2023 and 2024, the majority of tourists preferred staying with friends and relatives, making it the most common accommodation type. In contrast, hostels/backpackers were the least preferred type of accommodation. In 2023, approximately 5,8 million tourists who stayed with friends and relatives used cars as their main mode of transport, followed by 4,2 million who used taxis. A similar trend was observed in 2024, where approximately 6,0 million tourists who stayed with friends and relatives used a car, followed by those who used taxis (4,2 million).

## **7. Analysis of travelling patterns of different population groups**

During 2023/2024, the majority of the most recent day trips undertaken in South Africa were by the black African population group, accounting for 63,5% of all trips. This was followed by the white population group with 19,9%, the coloured population group with 14,2%, and the Indian/Asian population group with 2,3%.

In terms of the most recent overnight trips, the black African population group once again recorded the highest proportion, accounting for 69,8% of all trips. The Indian/Asian population group recorded the lowest proportion, at approximately 2,4%.

The results show that on their most recent day trips in 2024, black Africans undertook 5,4 million trips for personal shopping and 3,0 million trips to visit friends and relatives, while for white travellers, 1,8 million trips were for leisure, followed by those who were for visiting friends and relatives (1,1 million). Coloured travellers undertook day trips mainly for leisure purposes (1,1 million), followed by those who travelled for personal shopping (912 000), and visiting friends and relatives (545 000).

In relation to the most recent overnight trips in 2024, the results further show that black Africans undertook about 6,5 million trips to visit friends and relatives, 1,7 million trips to attend funerals and 1,2 million for leisure purposes. Of the 2,9 million most recent overnight trips taken by the white population group, 1,5 million were for leisure purposes. Most of the trips taken by the coloured population group were for visiting friends and relatives

(733 000), while the Indian/Asian population group primarily undertook overnight trips for leisure purposes (196 000).

In 2024, the majority of the most recent day trips (3,6 million) undertaken by the black African were destined to Gauteng, approximately 2,8 million were destined to Limpopo, while almost equally, 1,9 million trips were to North West and Eastern Cape. The coloured and white population groups mostly preferred Western Cape as their province of destination, 2,4 million and 2,2 million, respectively.

The majority of the most recent overnight trips taken by the black population were headed to Limpopo (2,5 million), followed by KwaZulu-Natal (2,4 million), Eastern Cape (1,7 million) and Gauteng (1,6 million). The white population group was mostly headed to Western Cape (1,2 million) then Gauteng (417 000) on their most recent trips.

Between January and December 2024, the estimated total expenditure on the most recent day trips was approximately R14,8 billion. The black African population group accounted for the largest share of this spending, contributing around R8,2 billion. The white population group followed as the second-highest spenders, with an estimated R3 billion.

The total expenditure on the most recent overnight trips in 2024 was approximately R24,7 billion. Among black African tourists, the highest spending was on domestic transport (R5,0 billion), followed by shopping (R3,7 billion) and food and beverages (R2,7 billion). The white population group spent nearly equal amounts on domestic transport and accommodation, with each category accounting for approximately R2,2 billion.

## **8. Population group by average expenditure on most recent day and overnight trips taken by household members**

In 2024, the Indian/Asian travellers recorded the highest average spend per trip (R2 394) compared to other population groups. The white population group followed with R693 spent, black African population group spent (R568) while the coloured population spent the lowest amount on average per trip (R520).

The black African population group undertook the majority of most recent overnight trips, however, their average expenditure per trip was the lowest at

R1 348. The white tourists reported the highest amount of money spent on average per trip (R2 869), while the Indian/Asian and the coloured population groups spent R2 485 and R1 404 on average per trip, respectively.

## **9. Demographic analysis by most recent day trips taken by household members**

In both 2023 and 2024, individuals aged 35–44 years represented the highest proportion of day travellers, accounting for 24,1% and 23,7% respectively. Day travellers who were never married were more likely than individuals with other marital statuses to travel (43,5%), followed by those who were married in 2023 (38,7%). In 2024, similar trends were observed where individuals who were never married (44,9%) were most likely to travel, followed by those who were married (38,2%).

Individuals who had Grade 12/Standard 10 (28,3% in 2023 and 29,2% in 2024) were most likely to undertake day trips, followed by those who had completed some secondary school at 27,2% and 28,0% for 2023 and 2024, respectively.

Individuals aged 35–44 years had the highest proportion of overnight travellers in both 2023 and 2024, accounting for 22,5% and 22,1% respectively. Individuals aged 25–34 years followed this age group, with 19,2% in 2023 and 19,3% in 2024. In both years, individuals who were never married (47,8% in 2023 and 50,1% in 2024) were more likely to undertake overnight trips than those with other marital statuses, followed by married individuals (35,6% in 2023 and 33,6% in 2024).

In 2023, individuals who had completed Grade 12 and those who have completed some secondary education were equally likely to undertake overnight trips, each accounting for 27,4%. In 2024, those with Grade 12 made up the largest share of overnight travellers at 29,7%, followed by individuals who have completed some secondary education at 26,0%.

The most commonly cited reasons for taking trips across all demographic categories were visiting friends and relatives, shopping for personal purposes, and leisure. Among individuals aged 25– 34 years, approximately 35,5% took day trips for personal shopping, while 52,7% of their overnight trips were for visiting friends and relatives. Similarly, individuals who were

never married undertook about 71,3% of their day trips for personal shopping, and 60,9% of their overnight trips were for visiting friends and relatives.

Individuals aged 25–34 years spent the largest share of their money on shopping during day trips (44,7%) and on domestic transport during overnight trips (35,3%). Female day travellers spent approximately 63,8% of their day trip expenditure on shopping, and around 33,8% on domestic transport during overnight trips. Furthermore, individuals who have never been married spent most of their money on shopping while on both day trips and overnight trips (67,8% day trips and 33,2% overnight trips, respectively).

## 10. Conclusion

The results of the *Domestic tourism survey, 2024* show that domestic tourism in South Africa remains resilient and continues to make a significant contribution to the economy. Both day and overnight trips increased from 2023, accompanied by higher levels of spending. Travel for personal shopping, visiting friends and relatives, and leisure continued to dominate domestic tourism travel, with transport, shopping, food and beverages, and accommodation being the main spending categories. Provincial travel patterns highlight Gauteng, Western Cape, Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal as key destinations, while travelling by car remains the most common mode of transport. Demographic analysis shows that the majority of domestic travellers are between the ages of 35–44, with the black African population group representing the largest share of both day and overnight trips.





## Primary industries

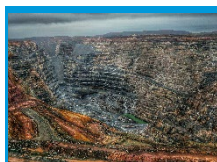
### Mining: Production and sales



for

According to mineral sales figures for August 2025 published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) in November 2025, mineral sales increased by 23,3% year-on-year. The data indicate that gold (471,5%, contributing 17,9 percentage points) and PGMs (44,1%, contributing 9,5 percentage points) were the largest positive contributors to the mineral sales. This article summarises the results of the *Mining: Production and sales* release (statistical release P2041) for August 2025.

Domestic and international mineral sales have been a major driver for economic growth, significantly boosting South Africa's economy and its gross domestic product (GDP). On 03 November 2025, the Mineral Council of South Africa reported that in 2014, the mining industry sold minerals worth R248 billion into the local economy. Coal dominated the mineral sales, accounting for R135 billion of the total, while diamond accounted for R7,7 billion, gold accounted for R5,8 billion, iron ore R5,3 billion, and PGMs accounted for R4,97 billion.



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

The largest negative contributors were:

- PGMs (-3,0%, contributing -0,9 of a percentage point);
- gold (-3,6%, contributing -0,4 of a percentage point); and
- manganese ore (-3,4%, contributing -0,3 of a percentage point).

The largest positive contributor was coal (4,1% and contributing 0,8 of a percentage point).

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

	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-2,2	-7,7	0,4	2,5	5,1	-0,2
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	3,8	0,3	3,7	0,3	1,2	-1,2
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1</sup>	-4,0	-2,5	2,8	4,2	5,8	3,3

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

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

Mineral sales at current prices increased by 23,3% year-on-year in August 2025 (see **Table B**). The largest positive contributors were:

- gold (471,5%, contributing 17,9 percentage points); and
- PGMs (44,1%, contributing 9,5 percentage points).

The largest negative contributors were manganese ore (-24,7%, contributing -2,3 percentage points) and iron ore (-14,0%, contributing -2,1 percentage points).

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

	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	2,5	0,6	18,7	-14,1	2,3	23,3
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	2,8	8,5	5,6	-6,9	10,1	-2,9
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1</sup>	-9,8	-7,5	4,9	8,9	10,7	4,7

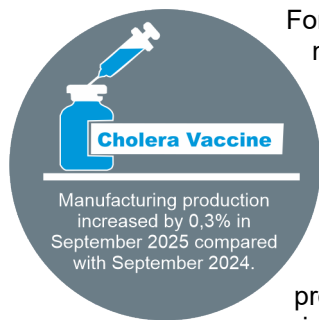
<sup>1</sup> Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

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



## Secondary industries

### Manufacturing: Production and sales



For the first time in 50 years, South Africa manufactured a vaccine from scratch, placing it ahead of other African countries. The oral cholera vaccine was manufactured through a Cape Town-based pharmaceutical firm, Biovac, with support from many external organisations using state-of-the-art equipment and technology.

Generally, South African vaccines are manufactured with help from countries abroad who provide the active ingredients to complete the vaccines. However, this oral cholera vaccine was developed from start to finish in the country. The vaccine is currently undergoing clinical trials in Gauteng and will further be tested in other provinces where cholera cases were reported. If the vaccine passes all stages and is deemed safe for humans, it will become available to the public and other countries from 2028. This milestone will make South Africa the only country in Africa to manufacture a cholera vaccine and show the country's capable manufacturing industry in producing a life-saving vaccine. In September 2025, manufacturing production increased by 0,3% in September 2025, signalling improvement in the overall manufacturing industry. Presented in this article is a summary of the results of *Manufacturing: Production and sales* (statistical release P3041.2) for September 2025.



Manufacturing production increased by 0,3% in September 2025 compared with September 2024 (see Table C).

The largest positive contributions were made by the motor vehicles, parts and accessories and other transport equipment division (7,6%, contributing 0,5 of a percentage point) and the food and beverages division (1,8%, contributing 0,5 of a percentage point)

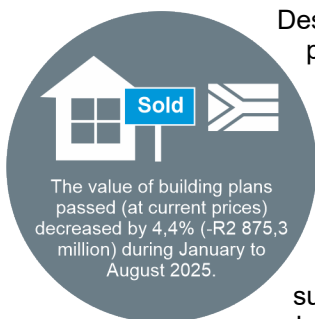
**Table C – Key growth rates in the volume of manufacturing production for September 2025**

	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-6,7	0,2	1,8	-1,1	-1,5	0,3
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,3	2,4	-0,1	-0,9	0,7	-0,5
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1</sup>	-1,3	-0,4	1,3	2,2	1,6	0,1

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

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

## Selected building statistics of the private sector



Despite international demand for South African properties, the country remains one of the most affordable places in the world to build a house. According to the Turner & Townsend International Construction Market Survey 2024, the average construction costs in Johannesburg and Cape Town stood at R17 791 per m<sup>2</sup> and R19 589 per m<sup>2</sup>, respectively, ranking among one of the lowest globally. The construction survey analyses construction costs from 91 global markets across 42 countries taking into account inputs

costs such as labour, material and plant which are essential for construction. In contrast, Lagos in Nigeria (R27 716 per m<sup>2</sup>), and Harare in Zimbabwe (R35 868 per m<sup>2</sup>) had the highest construction costs in Africa. Meanwhile, New York in the United States of America emerged as the most expensive city in the world to build a house at R103 016 per m<sup>2</sup>. Although South Africa's construction costs are relatively low, Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) data suggests that fewer people are building or that many building projects are being put on hold. According to the *Selected building statistics of the private sector* release, the value of building plans passed (at current

prices) declined by 4,4% (-R2 875,3 million) from January to August 2025 compared with the same period in 2024. The decline was driven mainly by decreases in non-residential buildings (-R2 529,3 million) and residential buildings (-R1 438,4 million). Presented in this article is a summary of the Selected building statistics of the private sector (statistical release P5041.1) for August 2025.

### The value of building plans passed



The value of building plans passed (at current prices) decreased by 4,4% (-R2 875,3 million) during January to August 2025 compared with January to August 2024 (see Table D).

Decreases were reported for non-residential buildings (-R2 529,3 million) and residential buildings (-R1 438,4 million). An increase was reported for additions and alterations (R1 092,4 million).

The largest negative contributors to the total decrease of 4,4% (-R2 875,3 million) were Gauteng (contributing -7,9 percentage points or -R5 215,3 million), KwaZulu-Natal (contributing -1,1 percentage points or -R751,6 million) and North West (contributing -0,8 of a percentage point or -R521,7 million).

The largest positive contributor was Western Cape (contributing 4,6 percentage points or R3 019,2 million).

### Buildings reported as completed

The value of buildings reported as completed (at current prices) increased by 0,9% (R308,6 million) during January to August 2025 compared with January to August 2024. Increases were reported for residential buildings (R1 105,4 million) and non-residential buildings (R70,5 million). A decrease was reported for additions and alterations (-R867,3 million).

Four out of the nine provinces reported year-on-year increases in the value of buildings completed during January to August 2025, of which Western Cape (contributing 4,9 percentage points or R1 611,3 million) and North West (contributing 1,2 percentage points or R391,9 million) were the largest positive contributors.

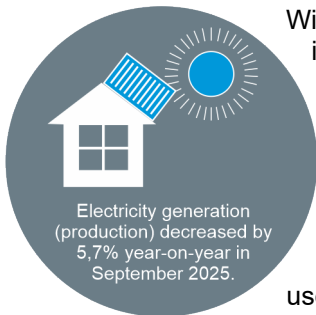
The largest negative contributor was Gauteng (contributing -4,6 percentage points or -R1 504,7 million).

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

Type of building	Jan – Aug 2024	Jan – Aug 2025	Difference in value between Jan – Aug 2024 and Jan – Aug 2025	% change between Jan – Aug 2024 and Jan – Aug 2025
	R'000	R'000	R'000	
<b>Residential buildings</b>	<b>31 595 032</b>	<b>30 156 664</b>	<b>-1 438 368</b>	<b>-4,6</b>
- Dwelling houses	19 825 700	20 219 478	393 778	2,0
- Flats and townhouses	10 891 491	9 010 285	-1 881 206	-17,3
- Other residential buildings	877 841	926 901	49 060	5,6
<b>Non-residential buildings</b>	<b>16 102 240</b>	<b>13 572 921</b>	<b>-2 529 319</b>	<b>-15,7</b>
<b>Additions and alterations</b>	<b>18 335 373</b>	<b>19 427 737</b>	<b>1 092 364</b>	<b>6,0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>66 032 645</b>	<b>63 157 322</b>	<b>-2 875 323</b>	<b>-4,4</b>

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

## Electricity generated and available for distribution



by

With the continued increase in solar system installation throughout South Africa, the safety aspect of installation is of concern. When installed by unqualified individuals, solar systems may cause overloading, ignite fire and affect electricity grid safety, among others. In order to comply with safety conditions and standards as required by the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA), Eskom announced that rooftop solar users must ensure their solar systems are approved professionals registered with the Department of Labour.

According to Eskom, solar system installations may be carried out by installation electricians and master installation electricians and only single-phase testers are excluded. Customers who are fully off-grid and not connected to Eskom’s network are not required to register, provided they can demonstrate that their systems operate independently of Eskom’s supply. The registration is to ensure the safety and performance of the national grid by making sure all installations are compliant with the national standards and municipal bylaws. According to Statistics South Africa’s (Stats SA) data on *Electricity generated and available for distribution*, electricity consumption decreased by 7,9% year-on-year in September 2025. Presented in this article is a summary of the *Electricity generated and available for distribution* release (statistical release P4141) for September 2025.



Electricity generation (production) decreased by 5,7% year-on-year in September 2025 (see Table E).

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

	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	0,1	2,4	-1,3	-2,3	-3,1	-5,7
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,1	1,4	-1,4	0,1	-1,1	-1,2
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1</sup>	-2,4	-0,3	0,2	0,9	-0,7	-1,5

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

Electricity distribution (consumption) decreased by 7,9% year-on-year in September 2025 (see Table F).

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

	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-2,7	-0,3	-3,8	-4,4	-4,9	-7,9
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,3	1,4	-2,5	0,6	-1,1	-2,5
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1</sup>	-2,2	-0,1	0,2	0,5	-1,5	-2,2

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

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





## Tertiary industries

### Wholesale trade sales



Consumers are regularly encouraged to purchase or support locally produced products to increase local production, stimulate job creation and reduce reliance on imports. However, supporting locally produced products is not always easy to achieve due to the influx of cheap or subsidised foreign products in the country. On 4 November 2025, the South African (SA) Canegrowers announced that South Africa has experienced an abnormal increase in heavily subsidised imported sugar in 2025, indicating that between January and

August 2025, 149 099 tonnes of sugar were imported compared to 35 730 tonnes during the same period. According to the SA Canegrowers, sugar imports in 2025 to date are already 400% higher than in 2024, which led to a 13% year-on-year drop in local sugar sales which threatens to destroy the industry. According to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), wholesale trade sales increased by 2,8% in August 2025 compared with August 2024. One of the main positive contributors was the category of food, beverages and tobacco (11,4%, contributing 1,7 percentage points). This article summarises the results of the *Wholesale trade sales* release (statistical release P6141.2) for August 2025.



Wholesale trade sales increased by 2,8% in August 2025 compared with August 2024 (see Table G).

The main positive contributors were dealers in:

- food, beverages and tobacco (11,4%, contributing 1,7 percentage points);

- 'other' goods (17,6%, contributing 1,4 percentage points); and
- fee or contract basis (36,5%, contributing 1,1 percentage points).

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

	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25
Year-on-year % change unadjusted	-1,9	-6,7	-5,6	-0,2	-0,1	2,8
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-3,1	3,1	-2,2	1,0	1,5	0,1
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1</sup>	0,4	-0,9	-2,5	-1,0	-0,1	1,6

<sup>1</sup> Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated. A full release on *Wholesale trade sales* (statistical release 6141.2) is available on the Stats SA website: [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za).

## Retail trade sales



Imagine walking into a supermarket and not having to worrying about the frustration of long checkout queues, empty till points or navigating the store. This may soon become a reality as South African retailer, Checkers has launched the country's first smart shopping trolley, Xpress Trolley in Western Cape in August 2025. The trolley has a built in scanner and automated checkout eliminating the traditional way of grocery shopping. According to Checkers, Xpress Trolley allows shoppers to scan items and place them in a bag which comes with the trolley. When products are added or removed inside the trolley, it updates the total amount and displays it on the screen making it easier to track. Once shopping is done, shoppers pay directly on the trolley and proceed to the designated checkout points. The trolley can also assist shoppers with navigating where certain products are located in store making the overall shopping experience easier, faster and more convenient therefore positively contributing to retail trade sales. According to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), retail trade sales increased by 2,3% year-on-year in August 2025 as a result of all 'other retailers' which was the biggest contributor by 7,9% and contributing 0,8 of a percentage point). Presented in

this article is a summary of the *Retail trade sales* (statistical release P6242.1) for August 2025.



Retail trade sales increased by 2,3% year-on-year in August 2025 (see Table H).

The largest positive contributors to this increase were:

- all 'other' retailers (7,9%, contributing 0,8 of a percentage point);
- retailers in hardware, paint and glass (8,1%, contributing 0,6 of a percentage point); and
- general dealers (0,8%, contributing 0,4 of a percentage point).

Retail trade sales increased by 3,2% in the three months ended August 2025 compared with the three months ended August 2024. The largest positive contributors to this increase were:

- all 'other' retailers (7,7%, contributing 0,8 of a percentage point);
- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (4,5%, contributing 0,8 of a percentage point);
- retailers in hardware, paint and glass (9,7%, contributing 0,7 of a percentage point); and
- general dealers (1,6%, contributing 0,7 of a percentage point).

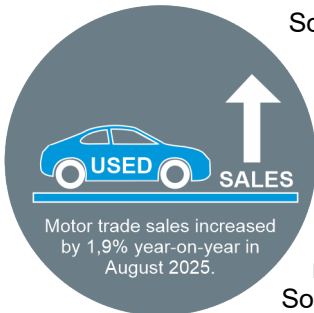
**Table H – Key growth rates in retail trade sales for August 2025**

	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	1,7	6,2	4,0	1,7	5,7	2,3
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-0,3	1,7	-0,5	-0,2	2,3	-1,2
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1/</sup>	-0,4	-0,2	0,4	0,9	1,2	1,2

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

A full release on *Retail trade sales* (statistical release P6242.1) is available on the Stats SA website: [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za).

## Motor trade sales



South Africa's new vehicle market has experienced a major increase, reaching its highest monthly sales in a decade. According to Naamsa – the automotive business council, domestic new vehicle sales rose to 55 956 units in October 2025, the highest monthly total since March 2015. Out of 55 956 units sold in October 2025, an estimated 44 278 units were sold by motor traders. The data released by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) indicates that motor trade

sales increased by 1,9% in August 2025. New motor vehicle sales (9,4%, contributing 2,4 percentage points) was one of the positive contributors to 1,9% in August 2025. Presented in this article is a summary of the *Motor trade sales* (statistical release P6343.2) for August 2025.



Motor trade sales increased by 1,9% year-on-year in August 2025 (see Table I).

The positive contributors to this increase were:

- new vehicle sales (9,4%, contributing 2,4 percentage points); and
- sales of accessories (4,8%, contributing 0,9 of a percentage point).

The largest negative contributor was fuel sales (-4,2%, contributing -1,1 percentage points).

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

- new vehicle sales (10,2%, contributing 2,6 percentage points);
- sales of accessories (6,4%, contributing 1,3 percentage points); and
- used vehicle sales (2,5%, contributing 0,5 of a percentage point).

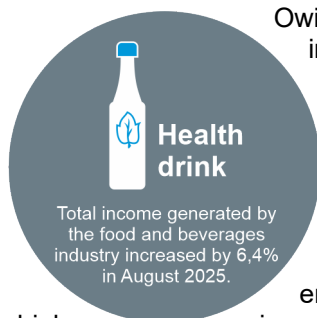
The largest negative contributor was fuel sales (-5,0%, contributing -1,3 percentage points).

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

	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	2,4	-1,0	3,0	3,3	3,1	1,9
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,0	-0,2	0,6	0,4	0,9	0,5
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1</sup>	-0,1	-0,1	0,6	0,7	1,4	1,5

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

## Food and beverages



Owing to greater awareness of health and dietary impact and wellness, many consumers are seeking healthier, more natural food and beverage options. Some food and beverages companies are expanding their products and offering beverages enriched with natural and healthy ingredients. One of the companies is Womoba, a subsidiary of the not-for-profit South Africa (SA) Canegrowers which launched Shesha energy drink in December 2024. Shesha energy

drink is made from juice extracted from fresh, raw sugarcane rather than processed sugar. According to SA Canegrowers, the sugarcane stalks are peeled and crushed to form the base of the drink and it is produced and canned in KwaZulu-Natal. According to Womoba, this innovative and proudly home-grown product supports job creation and economic growth in rural communities. The total income for the food and beverages industry for August 2025 published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) increased by 6,4%. The largest positive annual growth was recorded for 'other' income (10,6%). This article is a summary of *Food and beverages* (statistical release P6420) for August 2025.



Total income generated by the food and beverages industry increased by 6,4% in August 2025 compared with August 2024 (see Table J).

The largest positive annual growth rate was recorded for 'other' income (10,6%). A negative annual growth rate was recorded for bar sales (-8,2%).

In August 2025, the largest positive contributor to the 6,4% year-on-year increase was takeaway and fast-food outlets (11,1%, contributing 4,4 percentage points).

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

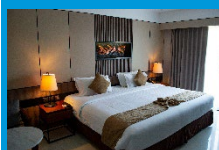
Type of income	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25
Food sales	1,9	6,0	4,5	-1,8	4,9	8,6
Bar sales	-2,6	6,4	7,2	-10,0	-15,6	-8,2
Other income	1,5	2,3	2,9	4,3	-1,3	10,6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,3</b>	<b>5,9</b>	<b>4,8</b>	<b>-2,7</b>	<b>2,2</b>	<b>6,4</b>

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

## Tourist accommodation

South Africa's tourism industry continues to recover and expand, driven by growth in both international and domestic travel, along with stronger performance across the accommodation and food service sectors. In August 2025, a total of 3 212 478 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African borders, an increase from 2 376 711 travellers

recorded in August 2024. This rise in tourist numbers aligns with higher income in the tourist accommodation industry. According to tourism data published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), total income generated from accommodation increased by 7,8% in August 2025 compared with August 2024. As more tourists visit the country, accommodation bookings increase, which directly boosts revenue for tourist accommodation. In August 2025, hotels recorded the highest number of bookings, followed by lodges, bed-and-breakfasts, and other smaller accommodation types. This article summarises the results of the *Tourist accommodation* release (statistical release P6410) for August 2025.



The total income for the tourist accommodation industry increased by 7,8% in August 2025 compared with August 2024 (see Table K).

Income from accommodation increased by 9,6% year-on-year in August 2025, the result of a 3,6% increase in the number of stay unit nights sold and a 5,7% increase in the average income per stay unit night sold.

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

- hotels (13,2%, contributing 7,1 percentage points); and
- 'other' accommodation (5,4%, contributing 2,2 percentage points).

Income from accommodation increased by 9,1% in the three months ended August 2025 compared with the three months ended August 2024. The main contributors to this increase were:

- hotels (15,1%, contributing 8,0 percentage points); and
- 'other' accommodation (2,7%, contributing 1,1 percentage points).

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

	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25
Stay units available	0,1	0,0	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1
Stay unit nights sold	-1,4	2,3	13,0	4,0	7,8	3,6
Average income per stay unit night sold	6,3	10,2	0,4	2,7	2,7	5,7
Income from accommodation	4,8	12,7	13,4	6,8	10,7	9,6
<b>Total income<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>1,0</b>	<b>8,5</b>	<b>10,9</b>	<b>6,2</b>	<b>10,6</b>	<b>7,8</b>

<sup>1</sup>Includes restaurant and bar sales and 'other' income.

A full release on *Tourist accommodation* (statistical release P6410) is available on the Stats SA website:

[www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za)

## International tourism



Tourism in South Africa continues its strong recovery, with international arrivals reaching 7,6 million in 2025. According to Patricia de Lille, Minister of Tourism, the country welcomed 7 634 261 million international tourists between January and September 2025, an increase of 1 108 222 million visitors compared with the same period last year. Much of this growth is driven by rising visitor numbers from Asia, Africa and Europe, as well as the build-up to the upcoming Group of 20

(G20) summit, which South Africa will host on 22–23 November 2025. In preparation for the summit, more than 130 meetings were held in several provinces, attracting delegates from around the world along with media representatives, support staff and observers, thereby boosting the number of international arrivals. Beyond contributing to business travel, delegates could also potentially contribute to leisure tourism by visiting local tourist attractions in those provinces. The G20 summit is expected to further



strengthen the tourism sector by boosting international arrivals, supporting the hospitality industry and driving the economy in general through direct spending and job creation. In September 2025, a total of 2 988 099 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports, according to Statistics South Africa. Presented in this article is a summary of *International tourism* (statistical release P0350) for September 2025.



A total of 2 988 099 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports in September 2025 (see Table L).

These 2 988 099 travellers were made up of 777 281 South African residents and 2 210 818 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 381 185 arrivals, 395 448 departures and 648 travellers in transit. The corresponding volumes for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit were 1 156 606, 1 001 265 and 52 947 respectively

A comparison between the movements in August 2025 and September 2025 indicates that the volume of arrivals and transits increased for South African residents but decreased for foreign travellers, whereas that of departures decreased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 0,7% (from 378 714 in August 2025 to 381 185 in September 2025), departures decreased by 3,2% (from 408 654 in August 2025 to 395 448 in September 2025) and transits increased by 7,8% (from 601 in August 2025 to 648 in September 2025). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 8,5% (from 1 263 873 in August 2025 to 1 156 606 in September 2025), departures decreased by 8,8% (from 1 097 522 in August 2025 to 1 001 265 in September 2025), and transits decreased by 16,1% (from 63 114 in August 2025 to 52 947 in September 2025).

A comparison between the movements in September 2024 and September 2025 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and transits increased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 11,6% (from 341 582 in September 2024 to 381 185 in September 2025), departures increased by 10,8% (from 356 924 in

September 2024 to 395 448 in September 2025) and transits increased by 9,1% (from 594 in September 2024 to 648 in September 2025). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 34,6% (from 859 361 in September 2024 to 1 156 606 in September 2025), departures increased by 37,2% (from 729 710 in September 2024 to 1 001 265 in September 2025) and transits increased by 22,2% (from 43 314 in September 2024 to 52 947 in September 2025).

### Mode of travel of travellers

In September 2025, by road was the most common mode of travel used by 2 018 489 (67,6%) of the 2 988 099 travellers. The total number of air travellers was 966 795 (32,4%). Compared with air and road travel, a smaller number of travellers [2 815 (0,1%)] used sea travel into and out of South Africa. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 180 664 (47,4%) came by air, 200 498 (52,6%) came by road and 23 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. For departures, 189 495 (47,9%) used air travel, 205 857 (52,1%) used road travel and 96 (less than 0,1%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 648 (100,0%) used air travel.

### Visitors

In September 2025, 26 761 (2,3%) foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors, while 1 129 845 (97,7%) were classified as visitors. Visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in September 2025 but did not depart in September 2025 [406 560 (36,0%)].
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in September 2025 and left in September 2025 [362 581 (32,1%)].
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in September 2025 [360 704 (31,9%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors/tourists. In September 2025, there were 283 478 (25,1%) same-day visitors and 846 367 (74,9%) tourists. Between August 2025 and September 2025, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 5,7% (from 300 487 in August 2025 to 283 478 in September 2025) and that of tourists decreased by 9,6% (from 935 738 in August 2025 to 846 367 in September 2025). Between September 2024 and September 2025, the volume of same-day

visitors increased by 65,1% (from 171 709 in September 2024 to 283 478 in September 2025) and that of tourists increased by 26,9% (from 666 718 in September 2024 to 846 367 in September 2025).

Of the 283 478 same-day visitors, the majority [254 841 (89,9%)] arrived in the country by road, 28 636 (10,1%) arrived by air and 1 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. Information on tourists shows that 611 494 (72,2%) came by road, 234 839 (27,7%) used air travel and 34 (less than 0,1%) used sea travel.

## **Tourists**

### **Sex and age distribution of tourists**

#### **Sex**

In September 2025, there were more male [491 555 (58,1%)] than female [354 812 (41,9%)] tourists. Male tourists constituted the majority of tourists for all three regions: SADC countries [384 617 (59,6%)] ; overseas countries [95 293 (52,4%)] ; and 'other' African countries [10 983 (62,1%)]. Similarly, the largest portion of female tourists was from SADC countries [261 128 (40,4%)] , followed by overseas countries [86 509 (47,6%)] and 'other' African countries [6 693 (37,9%)].

#### **Age**

The age distribution indicates that out of all tourists, 3,7% (30 908) were aged younger than 15; 7,8% (65 652) were aged between 15 and 24; 24,5% (207 006) were aged between 25 and 34; 29,2% (247 350) were aged between 35 and 44; 18,5% (156 799) were aged between 45 and 54; 9,8% (82 603) were aged between 55 and 64; and 6,6% (56 048) were aged 65 and older.

### **Purpose of visit of tourists**

In September 2025, the majority of tourists [822 017 (97,1%)] were in South Africa for holiday compared with 20 356 (2,4%), 3 751 (0,4%) and 243 (less than 0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and medical treatment, respectively.

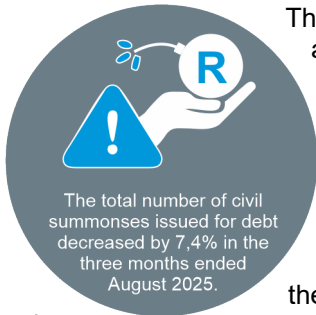
## Mode of travel of tourists

In September 2025, 167 549 (92,2%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, while 14 221 (7,8%) came in by road and 32 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the SADC countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 594 771 (92,1%), 50 972 (7,9%) came by air and 2 (less than 0,1%) came by sea. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 15 374 (87,0%), while 2 302 (13,0%) used road transport and none arrived by sea. Most tourists who arrived by road came through Lebombo port (173 765) and Beit Bridge port (148 641). The majority of tourists who came by air entered through OR Tambo International Airport (164 903) and Cape Town International Airport (67 052). Tourists who arrived by sea came through Cape Town Harbour (32) and Durban Harbour (2).

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

Travel direction	September	August	September	% change	% change
	2024	2025	2025	Aug 2025–Sep 2025	Sep 2024–Sep 2025
<b>Total</b>	2 331 485	3 212 478	2 988 099	-7,0	28,2
<b>South African residents</b>	699 100	787 969	777 281	-1,4	11,2
Arrivals	341 582	378 714	381 185	0,7	11,6
Departures	356 924	408 654	395 448	-3,2	10,8
Transits	594	601	648	7,8	9,1
<b>Foreign travellers</b>	1 632 385	2 424 509	2 210 818	-8,8	35,4
Arrivals	859 361	1 263 873	1 156 606	-8,5	34,6
Departures	729 710	1 097 522	1 001 265	-8,8	37,2
Transits	43 314	63 114	52 947	-16,1	22,2

## Statistics of civil cases for debt



The countdown to Black Friday has begun all around the world. Black Friday typically falls on the last Friday of November and is a global shopping phenomenon. Over the last five years, it has gained momentum in South Africa and is a major source of revenue for retailers. During Black Friday, retailers offer huge discounts on goods which attracts many consumers who want to save money. While these discounts help ease the financial burden on

cash-strapped shoppers, consumers also run into the risk of overspending and incurring debt, simply because goods are on sale. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of FinFix debt management company, Chris Coetzee, cautions consumers against overspending and using credit to fund their Black Friday purchases. "Unplanned credit-based purchases can quickly escalate into unmanageable debt, impacting individuals' ability to save for essential goals such as home ownership, education, and retirement," Coetzee said. If consumers avoid taking unnecessary credit and only buy essential items, they can avoid falling into a debt trap and the pattern of default. The latest *Statistics of civil cases for debt* data published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) shows that the total number of civil summonses issued for debt decreased by 7,4% in August 2025, suggesting that people are either paying debts on time or fewer people are being taken to court for unpaid debt. Presented in this article is a summary of the results of *Statistics of civil cases for debt* (statistical release P0041) for August 2025.



The total number of civil summonses issued for debt decreased by 7,4% in the three months ended August 2025 compared with the three months ended August 2024 (see Table M).

The largest negative contributors to the 7,4% decrease in civil summonses issued were:

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

- The positive contributors were:
- services (contributing 0,6 of a percentage point); and
- rent (contributing 0,3 of a percentage point).

### **The number of civil judgements recorded for debt**

The total number of civil judgements recorded for debt decreased by 8,7% in the three months ended August 2025 compared with the three months ended August 2024. The largest negative contributors to the 8,7% decrease were civil judgements relating to:

- services (contributing -4,0 percentage points);
- money lent (contributing -3,3 percentage points); and
- 'other' debts (contributing -1,6 percentage points).

Promissory notes (contributing 1,2 percentage points) was the only positive contributor

### **The value of civil judgements recorded for debt**

The total value of civil judgements recorded for debt increased by 7,7% in the three months ended August 2025 compared with the three months ended August 2024. The largest positive contributors were:

- promissory notes (contributing 4,7 percentage points);
- services (contributing 2,3 percentage points); and
- rent (contributing 0,9 of a percentage point).

In August 2025, 10 515 civil judgements for debt amounting to R344,4 million were recorded. The largest contributors to the total value of judgements were:

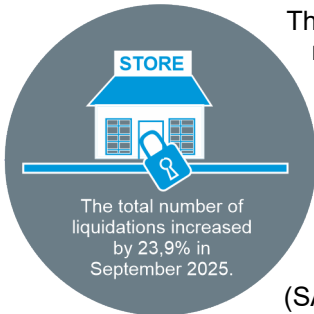
- services (R88,2 million or 25,6%);
- money lent (R79,5 million or 23,1%);
- 'other' debts (R68,0 million or 19,7%); and
- promissory notes (R51,1 million or 14,8%).

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

Actual estimates	Aug 2025	% change between Aug 2024 and Aug 2025	% change between Jun to Aug 2024 and Jun to Aug 2025
Number of civil summonses issued for debt	33 848	-9,4	-7,4
Number of civil judgements recorded for debt	10 515	-6,4	-8,7
Value of civil judgements recorded for debt (R million)	344,4	6,7	7,7

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

## Statistics of liquidations



The small and medium enterprise (SME) sector is regarded as the backbone of the economy, creating job opportunities. However, the SME sector is under extreme pressure as some of the businesses are at risk of closure. According to a survey titled Small Business Growth Index (SBGI) released on 01 August 2025 by Amalgamated Banks of South Africa (ABSA), the South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SACCI) and the Bureau of Market Research (BMR),

small businesses are experiencing rising operational costs which cause more than half of SMEs to be in decline, distress or at risk of closure. The report reveals that half of the businesses may not survive the next 12 months under the conditions they face. Ronnie Mbatsane, Managing Executive for SME Business at ABSA Business Banking said that SMEs account for more than 90% of all businesses in South Africa, yet many lack a consistent, real-time barometer to assess prevailing conditions, challenges and growth prospects. The liquidations data published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) indicate that liquidations of companies increased by 16 cases while those of close corporations increased by 12 cases in September 2025 compared with September 2024, showing that businesses are experiencing challenges to survive. This article presents a summary of the *Statistics of liquidations* (statistical release P0043.1) for September 2025.



The total number of liquidations increased by 23,9% in September 2025 compared with September 2024 (see Table N).

Liquidations of companies increased by 16 cases, and liquidations of close corporations increased by 12 cases during this period.

The number of liquidations increased by 13,0% in the third quarter of 2025 compared with the third quarter of 2024.

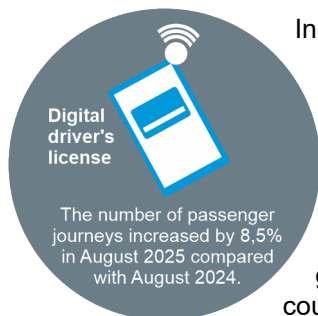
An increase of 3,8% in the number of liquidations was recorded in the first nine months of 2025 compared with the first nine months of 2024.

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

Number of liquidations September 2025	% change between Sep 2024 and Sep 2025	% change between Jul – Sep 2024 and Jul – Sep 2025	% change between Jan – Sep 2024 and Jan – Sep 2025
145	23,9	13,0	3,8

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

## Land transport



In a move to modernise South Africa's service delivery, the Digital Service Unit (DSU) in the Presidency in collaboration with the Department of Transport have developed a prototype for a digital driver's licence. The digital driver's licence will be stored in the newly developed MyMzansi, an application (app) that will host government departments with the aim of increasing access to government services for citizens across the country. Through the app, users will be able to apply

for a driver's licence, renew it within minutes, and make a payment all with the tap of a button. This will eliminate the need for long queues and delays in



issuing driver's licences, as well as eliminate the need to carry plastic driver's licence cards. Each driver's licence will have a QR code that traffic officers can scan to verify its authenticity on the spot. The digital licence is at the final stages of testing and is expected to be rolled out on a larger scale once successful. Introducing a digital driver's licence could improve efficiency and eliminate the backlog of unissued driver's licence. According to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), the number of passenger journeys increased by 8,5% in August 2025 compared with August 2024. Presented in this article is a summary of the results of *Land transport* (statistical release P7162) for August 2025.



The number of passenger journeys increased by 8,5% in August 2025 compared with August 2024. The corresponding income increased by 10,7% over the same period (**see Table O**).

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

	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25
<b>Passenger journeys</b>	12,8	6,1	15,6	17,7	10,4	8,5
<b>Passenger income</b>	0,5	4,4	3,8	2,5	7,9	10,7

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

The volume of goods transported (payload) increased by 0,5% in August 2025 compared with August 2024. The corresponding income increased by 0,4% over the same period (**see Table P**).

Income from freight transportation increased by 0,6% in the three months ended August 2025 compared with the three months ended August 2024. The main positive contributors to this increase were:

- primary mining, quarrying products (7,7% and contributing 2,7 percentage points); and
- agriculture, forestry primary products (11,5% and contributing 0,9 of a percentage point).

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

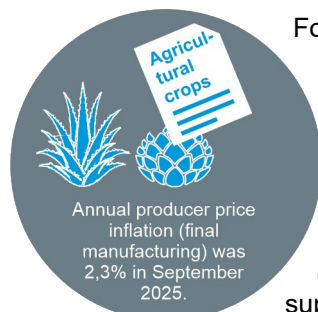
	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25
<b>Freight payload</b>	-0,5	-3,9	1,6	3,7	0,7	0,5
<b>Freight income</b>	-1,2	-3,0	0,8	1,5	-0,1	0,4

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



## Prices

### Producer price index (PPI)



For generations, South African communities have relied on indigenous crops and medicinal plants for their healing properties as well as their nutritional value. In July 2025, Minister of Agriculture, John Steenhuisen officially recognised indigenous crops and medicinal plants as agricultural products under the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act, 1996 (Act No. 47 of 1996). With the help of government support and funding, farmers can harvest and

cultivate a variety of indigenous crops for resale to retailers, processors or export markets. This will contribute to employment and economic growth while preserving African heritage. South Africa's indigenous crops include grains such as millet and Bambara groundnut, fruit like marula and wild plum, and vegetables such as amadumbe, cowpea, amaranth and jew's mallow. While medicinal plants include buchu, sutherlandia, devil's claw, aloe vera and African wormwood, which are essential for the health and beauty industries, along with the food and beverages industry among others. Statistics South Africa's (Stats SA) latest Producer Price Index (PPI) data shows that annual producer inflation was 2,3% in September 2025, up from 2,1% in August 2025, signalling moderate price pressures. Presented in this article is a summary of the *Producer price index* (PPI) release (statistical release P0142.1) for September 2025.



Annual producer price inflation (final manufacturing) was 2,3% in September 2025, compared with 2,1% in August 2025 (see Table Q).

The producer price index (PPI) decreased by 0,1% month-on-month in September 2025. The main positive contributor to the headline PPI annual inflation rate was food products, beverages and tobacco products (3,8%, contributing 1,1 percentage points).

The main negative contributor to the monthly rate was coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products (-0,6%, contributing -0,1 of a percentage point).

### Intermediate manufactured goods

The annual percentage change in the PPI for intermediate manufactured goods was 7,6% in September 2025, compared with 6,5% in August 2025. The index increased by 1,1% month-on-month. The main positive contributor to the annual rate was basic and fabricated metals (16,3% and contributing 8,2 percentage points). The main positive contributor to the monthly rate was basic and fabricated metals (2,8%, contributing 1,5 percentage points).

### Electricity and water

The annual percentage change in the PPI for electricity and water was 14,9% in September 2025, compared with 4,6% in August 2025. The index decreased by 18,2% month-on-month. The contributors to the annual rate were electricity (15,5% and contributing 13,3 percentage points) and water (11,6% and contributing 1,6 percentage points). The negative contributor to the monthly rate was electricity (-20,5%, contributing -18,2 percentage points).

## Mining

The annual percentage change in the PPI for mining was 16,0% in September 2025, compared with 8,5% in August 2025. The index increased by 2,9% month-on-month. The positive contributors to the annual rate were:

- non-ferrous metal ores (22,3%, contributing 11,1 percentage points);
- gold and other metal ores (27,0%, contributing 7,4 percentage points); and
- stone quarrying, clay and diamonds (21,0%, contributing 1,0 percentage point).

The positive contributors to the monthly rate were non-ferrous metal ores (3,9% and contributing 2,1 percentage points) and gold and other metal ores (5,9%, contributing 1,7 percentage points).

## Agriculture, forestry and fishing

The annual percentage change in the PPI for agriculture, forestry and fishing was -1,1% in September 2025, compared with 3,0% in August 2025. The index decreased by 2,1% month-on-month. The negative contributor to the annual rate was agriculture (-2,1%, contributing -1,9 percentage points). The negative contributor to the monthly rate was agriculture (-2,4%, contributing -2,1 percentage points).

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

Product	Weight	Index (Dec 2023=100)			% change	
		Sep 2024	Aug 2025	Sep 2025	Sep 2025 vs. Aug 2025	Sep 2025 vs. Sep 2024
Final manufactured goods	100,00	101,2	103,6	103,5	-0,1	2,3
Intermediate manufactured goods	100,00	105,2	112,0	113,2	1,1	7,6
Electricity and water	100,00	112,5	158,0	129,3	-18,2	14,9
Mining	100,00	99,3	111,9	115,2	2,9	16,0
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	100,00	98,8	99,8	97,7	-2,1	-1,1

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

## Consumer price index (CPI)



The price of eggs has been increasing post-COVID-19 due to supply chain bottlenecks and Avian flu, among other reasons. A few months into 2025, the price of eggs started to ease. According to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) the eggs category, which includes milk and other dairy products, remained in deflationary territory for the fourth consecutive month in September 2025. The data indicate that the price of eggs decreased to -8,2% in September 2025 from -6,7%

in August 2025. In September 2025, the annual average price of a box of 18 eggs was R62,58 which is a decrease from R69,36 in September 2024. Even though egg prices decreased, the annual consumer price inflation increased to 3,4% in September 2025 from 3,3% in August 2025. Presented in this article is a summary of the *Consumer price index* (statistical release P0141) for September 2025.

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



Annual consumer price inflation was 3,4% in September 2025, up from 3,3% in August 2025 (see Table R).

The CPI increased by 0,2% month-on-month in September 2025.

The main contributors to the 3,4% annual inflation rate were housing and utilities (4,5%, contributing 1,1 percentage points) and food and non-alcoholic beverages (4,5%, contributing 0,8 of a percentage point).

In September 2025, the annual inflation rate for:

- goods was 2,9%, down from 3,1% in August 2025; and
- services was 3,9%, up from 3,6% in August 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 <sup>1</sup>
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	103,2	103,4	..	..	..	..
	Rate	3,2	3,2	2,7	2,8	2,8	3,0	3,5	3,3	3,4	..	..	..	..

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



## Glossary



## Primary industries

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

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

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

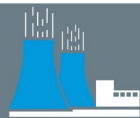
**Index of the physical volume of electricity production:** a statistical measure of the change in the volume of production of electricity in a given period and the volume of production of electricity in the base period.

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

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



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



## Secondary industries

**Additions and alterations:** extensions to existing buildings as well as internal and external alterations of existing buildings.

**Blocks of flats:** a structure, usually multi-storey, consisting of a number of dwellings sharing the same residential address, and usually sharing a common entrance, foyer or staircase.

**Dwelling houses:** a free-standing, complete structure on a separate stand or a self-contained dwelling-unit, e.g. granny flat, on the same premises as the existing residence. Out-buildings and garages are included.

**Other residential buildings:** include institutions for the disabled, boarding houses, old age homes, hostels, hotels, motels, guest houses, holiday chalets, bed and breakfast accommodation, entertainment centres and casinos.

**Residential buildings:** dwelling houses, flats, townhouses and other residential buildings.



## Tertiary industries

**Acknowledgements of debt:** a statement by a person/debtor in which he admits that he owes money to an individual or a company or a bank.

**Acting household head:** any member of the household acting on behalf of the head of the household.

**Average income per stay unit night sold:** average rate per stay unit (i.e. rate per room in a hotel or powered site in a caravan park) is calculated by dividing the total income from accommodation by the number of stay unit nights sold in the survey period.

**Catering services:** enterprises involved in the sale and supply of meals and drinks prepared on the premises on a contract basis and brought to other premises chosen by the person ordering them, to be served for immediate consumption to guests or customers. Include bars, taverns, other drinking places, ice-cream parlours, etc.

**Civil judgements:** decisions taken in a civil matter or a dispute between two people or parties.

**Civil summonses:** notices to appear before the court of law where a dispute between two parties or people has to be heard, i.e. not for criminal offence.

**Day trip:** a trip outside of the respondent's usual environment, where they leave and return within the same day (i.e. do not stay overnight).

**Domestic tourism:** a trip within the boundaries of South Africa but outside of the respondent's usual environment.

**Note:** The following categories are excluded from the definition of domestic visitor:

- persons travelling to another place within the country with the intention of setting up their usual residence in that place.
- Persons who travel to another place within the country and are remunerated from within the place visited.
- Persons who travel regularly or frequently between neighbouring localities as defined by the 'usual environment' rule.

**Dwelling unit:** structure or part of a structure or group structures occupied or meant to be occupied by one or more than one household.

**Enterprise:** a legal entity or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its sales activities.

**Expenditure:** the total consumption expenditure made by a visitor or on behalf of a visitor during his/her trip and stay at a destination.

**Foreign traveller:** a person who resides outside South Africa and visits the country temporarily.

**Household:** a group of persons who live together and provide themselves jointly with food and/or other essentials for living, or a single person who lives alone.

**Household head:** the main decision-maker, or the person who owns or rents the dwelling, or the person who is the main breadwinner.

**Income from accommodation industry:** income from amounts charged for rooms or equivalent. Other income is excluded (e.g. income from meals).

**Income from bar sales:** refers to income from liquor sales.

**Income from food sales:** refers to income from the sale of meals and non-alcoholic drinks.

**Income from restaurant and bar sales:** income from meals, banqueting and beverages and tobacco sales.

**Insolvency:** refers to an individual or partnership which is unable to pay its debt and is placed under final sequestration. The number of insolvencies does not refer to the number of persons involved, as a partnership which is unable to pay its debt is regarded as one insolvency, irrespective of the number of partners.

**Liquidation:** refers to the winding-up of the affairs of a company or close corporation when liabilities exceed assets and it can be resolved by voluntary action or by an order of the court.

**Main purpose of trip:** this is the purpose in the absence of which the trip would not have been made.

**Microdata:** data gathered on a small scale, such as data on an individual.

**‘Other’ African countries:** refers to all non SADC African countries.

**Other income:** includes all income not earned from food sales or bar sales.

**Other SADC:** refers to the thirteen countries, excluding South Africa, that belong to the Southern African Development Community.

**Professional services:** refer to medical doctors, dentists, advocates, attorney, auditors, accountants, architects, engineers, hospital services etc.

**Promissory notes:** written undertaking, signed by a person or party, to pay money to another person or to be the bearer of such a note on a specific date or on demand.

**Restaurants and coffee shops:** enterprises involved in the sale and provision of meals and drinks, ordered from a menu, prepared on the premises for immediate consumption and with provided seating.

**Retailer:** a retailer is an enterprise deriving more than 50% of its turnover from sales of goods to the general public for household use.

**Retail trade:** includes the resale (sale without transformation) of new and used goods and products to the general public for household use.

**Stay unit:** unit accommodation available to be charged out to guests, for example, a powered site in a caravan park or a room in a hotel.

**Stay unit night sold:** total number of stay units occupied on each night during the survey period.

**Takeaway and fast-food outlets:** enterprises involved in the sale and provision of meals and drinks, ordered from a menu, prepared on the premises for takeaway purposes in a packaged format, at a stand or in a location, with or without provided seating.

**Total income:** includes income from food sales, income from bar sales and other income.

**Tourism:** comprises the activities of persons travelling to, and staying in places outside their usual environment, for not more than one consecutive year, for leisure, business and other purposes not related to the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited.

**Tourist:** a visitor who stays at least one night in the place visited.

**Tourist accommodation:** any facility that regularly (or occasionally) provides 'paid' or 'unpaid' overnight accommodation for tourists.

**Traveller:** any person on a trip between two or more countries or between two or more localities within his/her country of residence.

**Voluntary liquidation:** takes place when a company or close corporation, by own choice, resolves to wind-up its affairs.

**Wholesale trade:** includes the resale (sale without transformation) of new and used goods and products to other wholesalers, retailers, agricultural, industrial, commercial, institutional and professional users either directly or through agents on a fee or contract basis.



**Annual percentage change:** change in the index of the relevant month of the current year compared with the index of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.

**Consumer price index (CPI):** an index that measures the price of a fixed basket of consumer goods and services.

**Inflation rate:** annual percentage change in the CPI for all items of the relevant month of the current year compared with the CPI for all items of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.

**Monthly percentage change:** change in the index of the relevant month compared to the index of the previous month expressed as a percentage.

**Year-on-year:** a term used frequently in investment research and other reports to mean 'compared with the same period in the previous fiscal year'

**Editorial & Layout**

Maune Lerobane  
Wendy Ngoveni  
Mandla Mahlangu  
Ouma Hlongoane

**Language Editors**

Salomien Rudolph  
Shalom Noxolo Piorkowski  
Rinao Emmah Tshatsinde

**Design & Layout**

Thabo Kgaile

**Printing & Distribution**

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