

Mbalo Brief

the missing piece of the puzzle

February 2026

Glossary
Primary Industries
Secondary Industries
Tertiary Industries
Feature article
Prices
Glossary

Issue 01/2026

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS



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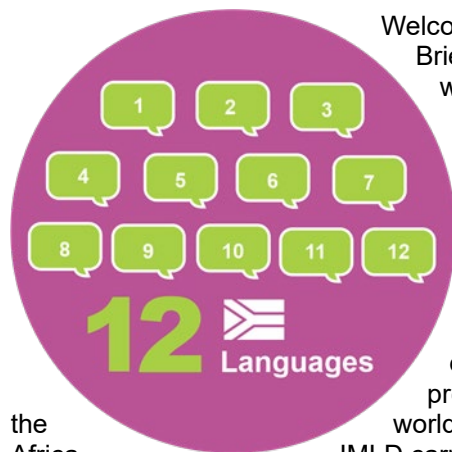
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Editor's Comment



Welcome to the February issue of Mbaló Brief, our first issue for 2026. February is widely recognised as the month of love, but it is also a time to celebrate something equally powerful, our languages. On 17 November 1999, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) declared 21 February as International Mother Language Day (IMLD). The day promotes linguistic diversity, multilingualism and the preservation of mother languages around the world. In a country as diverse as South

Africa, IMLD carries a significant meaning. Our Constitution recognises 12 official languages, namely: English, Xitsonga, Sepedi, Setswana, Sesotho siSwati, isiZulu, isiXhosa, Afrikaans, isiNdebele, Tshivenda and, most recently, South African Sign Language (SASL). This means that all these languages are equal and can be used in education and public life, government communication and for accessing services. While some languages may be more widely spoken or commonly used in certain spaces, it does not mean the other languages are inferior. It is important to treat all languages with respect and embrace the linguistic diversity that exists in our workplaces, schools and communities to avoid being tribalistic and foster a culture of unity that extends beyond IMLD.

This month's feature article is based on the *Cultural Dynamics in South Africa* (Report No: 03-01-84), published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) on 05 March 2025. Also, don't miss our monthly crossword puzzle and the November 2025 solutions. Articles in this issue draw on the results of industry surveys conducted for November and December 2025.

Enjoy the read!



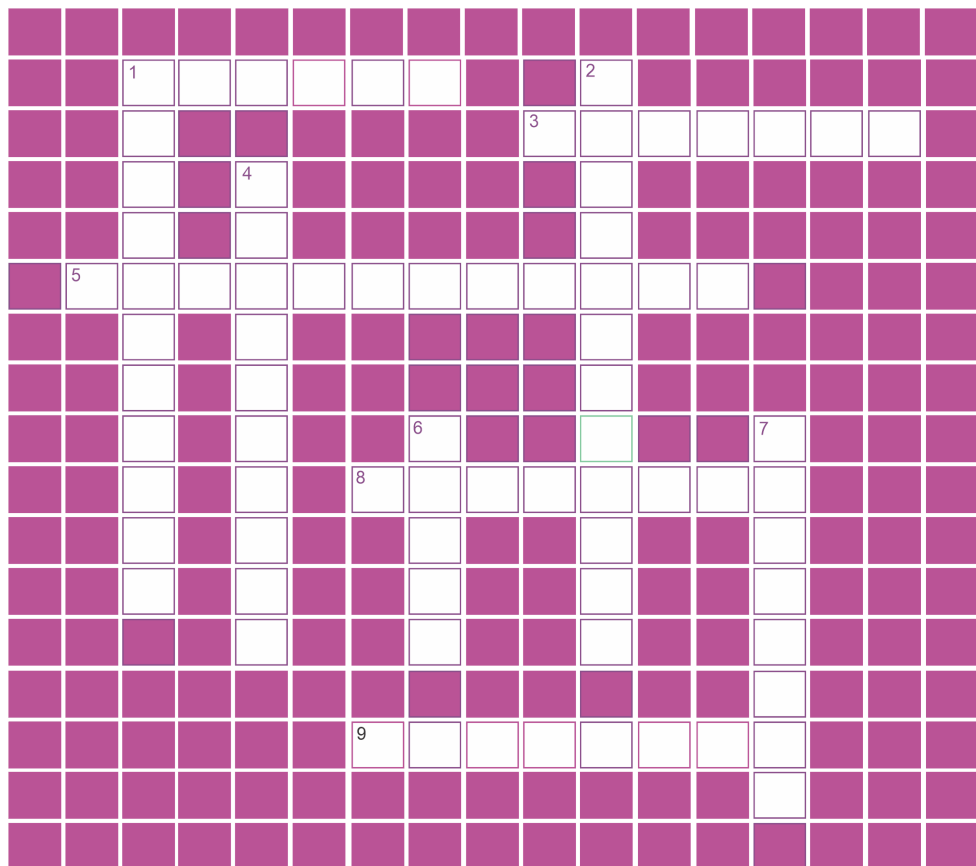


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Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. Which language was predominately spoken in South African households in Limpopo?
3. Which country has the most official languages in the world?
5. Between Census 1996 and 2022, multilingual households were more prevalent in Gauteng and which province?
8. Khmer language is the official and dominate language spoken in which Asian country?
9. Where in Gauteng will the malt facility be built? Read Manufacturing: Production and sales article for a clue.

Down

1. What's the last name of world-renowned author who wrote the play 'The Merchant of Venice'?
2. What is the name of the disease that is driving up meat prices? Refer to the Food and beverages article for a clue.
4. What's the coldest continent in the world?
6. The SONA 2026 was the third since the formation of the Government of National Unity(GNU). True or false?
7. Retired judge and chairperson of the commission that the President of South Africa established to investigate criminality, political interference and corruption in the criminal justice system. (Surname only).

Solutions for November 2025 puzzle

Across

4. Nasrec
6. Rand
8. Mandlanga

Down

1. South Africa
2. KwaZulu-Natal
3. Air
5. Shopping
7. May



Feature article

Cultural dynamics in South Africa

Introduction

South Africa is one of the most culturally diverse countries in the world. Known as the Rainbow Nation, it is home to different cultures, traditions and languages spread across its nine provinces. According to UNESCO, culture is a collection of beliefs, values, customs and practices that characterise a particular group of society. Embedded in it are language, art, religion, and social norms, shaping how individuals interact with one another and perceive the world. Since the dawn of democracy in South Africa, culture has evolved and continues to evolve, influenced by social interaction, economic change and generational shifts.

This feature article is based on *Cultural dynamics in South Africa*, Report No: 03-01-84 published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) on 05 March 2025. Stats SA has released a number of census thematic reports that form part of phase 2 of Census 2022 dissemination products. This report on cultural dynamics forms part of the thematic reports, aimed at providing valuable insights into cultural aspects measured across censuses from 1996 to 2022. In measuring cultural dynamics, indicators such as language, population group, religion and marriage were investigated. The report also provides insights on how the South African society interacts with a number of different cultural aspects to promote social cohesion in the last three decades. This feature article will focus on language and culture in South Africa, multi-racial households, patterns and trends in religious affiliation, culture and nuptiality. The full report can be accessed and downloaded from the Stats SA website on www.statssa.gov.za.

Language and culture in South Africa

This section provides key findings on languages spoken in South African households by population group and province, multilingual households, and language and educational progress.

Figure 1: Percentage distribution of population by language spoken in the household, Census 1996–2022

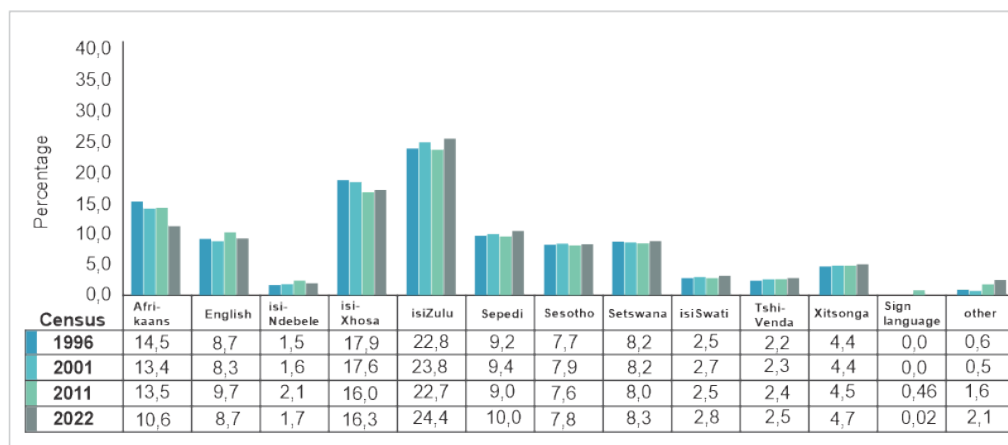


Figure 1 shows the percentage distribution of languages most often spoken in South African households for all censuses conducted since 1996. The data indicate that isiZulu remains the most spoken language in the country, a picture that hasn't changed much in the past three decades. Results show that in 2022 almost a quarter of the population (24,4%) in the country spoke isiZulu, an increase from 22,8% in 1996. IsiXhosa was the second most spoken language in South African households. In 2022, 16,3% of the population spoke isiXhosa; this was 1,6 percentage points lower compared with 17,9% in 1996. Afrikaans, at 10,6% in 2022, was the third most spoken language in South African households. Sign language (0,02%), other (2,1%) and isiNdebele (1,7%) were the least spoken languages in South African households in 2022.

Percentage distribution of population by language spoken in the household and province, Census 2022

The findings presented are a reflection of cultural diversity through linguistic distribution in each province. The findings indicated that almost a quarter (23,2%) of the population in Gauteng spoke isiZulu, while one in ten either spoke Sesotho (13,1%), Sepedi (12,7%) or Setswana (10,3%). The province was home to the largest proportion of persons who communicated using non-official languages in the country at about 4%. On the contrary, isiZulu was more dominant in KwaZulu-Natal (80,0%) and isiXhosa was more dominant in Eastern Cape (81,8%). The results further show that seven out of ten persons in the North West (72,8%) and Free State (72,2%) provinces spoke Setswana and Sesotho, respectively. Limpopo, on the other hand, reflected dominance of Sepedi speakers, constituting over half of the population (55,6%), followed by Tshivenda (17,4%) and Xitsonga (17,2%). Interestingly, Mpumalanga had a higher proportion of siSwati speakers (30,6%), followed by isiZulu (27,9%) and isiNdebele at 9,8%. Sign language was almost evenly spread across the nine provinces.

Percentage distribution of population by language spoken in the household and population group, Census 2022

The findings show spoken language differences across the four population groups in the country. Among black Africans, a variety of languages are spoken at home. In all four censuses, about a third of the black African population spoke isiZulu (29,9%), followed by isiXhosa (20,0%) and Sepedi (12,2%). Looking at the language profile of the coloured population group, the majority (more than 70%) were Afrikaans speakers, although a decrease of about 10 percentage points was recorded over the period 1996–2022. The Indian/Asian population group, on the other hand, predominantly spoke English (94,6%) at home in 2022. The profile of the white population group showed that two languages, English and Afrikaans, were the most commonly spoken languages among the group. Afrikaans speakers constituted almost 60%, and those who speak English increased slightly from 39,1% in 1996 to 41,1% in 2022. Furthermore, the results indicate that over a third (35,2%) of those who identified as “other” population group spoke other non-official languages, while another third (32,3%) spoke English, and one in five was an Afrikaans speaker in 2022.

Figure 2: Percentage of multilingual households by province, Census 1996 and 2022

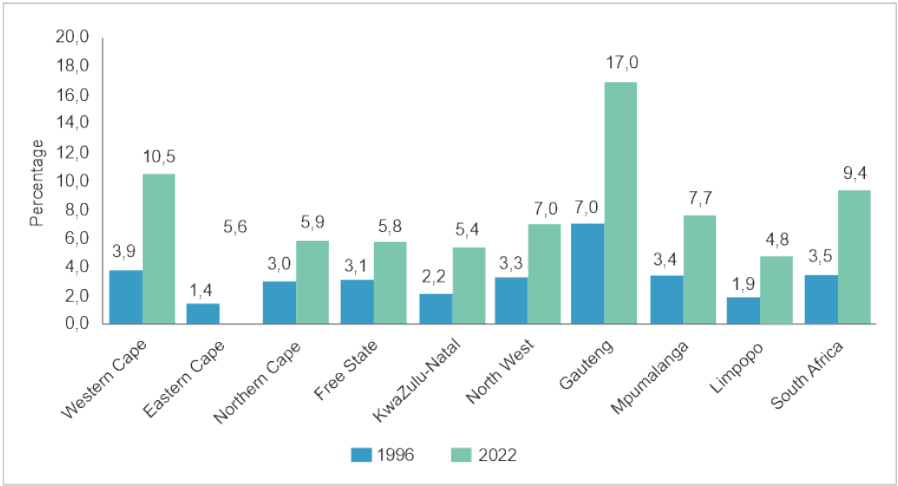
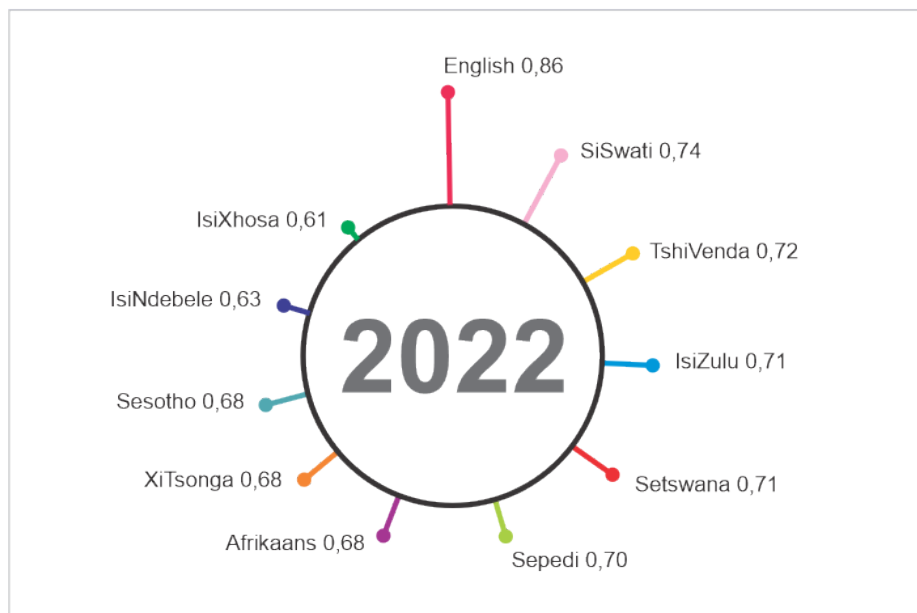


Figure 2 presents the proportion of multilingual households by province for Censuses 1996 and 2022. These are households with two or more members who each speak a different language. Nationally, results show an upward trend in the proportion of multilingual households. In 1996, only 3,5% of the households in the country were multilingual; this increased to 9,4% in 2022. Provincially, a similar trend was observed; Gauteng and Western Cape recorded the largest proportions of multilingual households compared with other provinces. In Gauteng, the proportion of multilingual households increased from 7,0% in 1996 to 17,0% in 2022, while in Western Cape it increased from 3,9% to 10,5% during the same period. Increases were also recorded for Eastern Cape (from 1,4% to 5,6%), while Limpopo (1,9% to 4,8%) recorded the lowest proportions of multilingual households on average between 1996 and 2022.

Figure 3: Proportion of persons who go on to complete Grade 12/matric after completing Grade 9 by spoken language



In 2022, English speakers had the highest proportion of those who progressed and completed secondary education in the country at 0,86, followed by siSwati speakers with 0,74 and Tshivenda speakers with 0,72. On the other hand, isiXhosa speakers had the lowest proportions of those who completed Grade12/matric in the country compared with other language speakers in 2022 at 0,61.

Multi-racial households

This section examines households by population group of the head of the household between Census 2001 and Census 2022, trends and patterns of multi-racial households in South Africa, households by province and type, multi-racial households by sex of the household head, and multi-racial households by household composition.

Figure 3: Households by population group of head of household, Censuses 2001–2022

Population group	Census 2001		Census 2011		Census 2022	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
Black African	8 625 050	77,0	11 360 319	78,6	13 563 385	76,1
Coloured	888 036	7,9	1 056 048	7,3	1 588 703	8,9
Indian/Asian	282 930	2,5	347 199	2,4	565 218	3,2
White	1 409 689	12,6	1 606 428	11,1	2 058 249	11,5
Other	-	-	79 642	0,6	53 224	0,3
Total	11 205 705	100,0	14 449 636	100,0	17 828 778	100,0

Note: Census 1996 data was not included.

Trends and patterns of multi-racial households in South Africa

For the purpose of this article, multi-racial households are defined as households with two or more persons from different population groups (black African, white, coloured, Indian/Asian, and other) living together as one household. Results provide insights into the extent of household structure shifts over the last two-and-a-half decades in South Africa. While the majority of households in South Africa are single-race households, there has been a substantial and consistent upward trend in multi-racial households (1,3% in 2001 to 11,4% in 2022).

Multi-racial households by province and type, Censuses 2001, 2011 and 2022

Generally, most provinces showed a pattern similar to the national one, characterised mostly by single-race households. Censuses 2001 and 2011 indicated that multi-racial households were more prevalent in the Northern Cape (4,0% in 2001 to 4,7% in 2011), followed by Western Cape (2,1% in 2001 to 2,8% in 2011). Census 2022 shows a slightly different pattern; multi-racial households were more prominent in Western Cape with 17%, followed by Gauteng with 14,6% and Northern Cape with 10,6%. Limpopo recorded the lowest prevalence of multi-racial households with 0,3% in 2001 and 6,7% in 2022.

Multi-racial households by sex of the head of the household and census year

Findings reveal that in 2001 there were 57,4% female-headed multi-racial households in South Africa. Census 2011 showed a change with more males (68,5%) heading multi-racial households, and in 2022, 63,3% of multi-racial households were headed by females.

Multi-racial households by household composition, Census 2001–2022

Overall, there have been shifts in South African multi-racial households' composition for the period 2001–2022. In 2001, multi-racial households were mostly in complex households (45%), followed by nuclear households with 28,3%. The pattern changed in 2011 where higher proportions of multi-racial households were in nuclear households (42,2%), followed by extended households (33,7%). Again, in 2022 a shift was observed; multi-racial households were mostly in extended households (57,3%), followed by nuclear households (40,7%).

Patterns and trends in religious affiliation

This section will present patterns and trends in religious affiliation, looking at the percentage distribution of the population by religious affiliation across all censuses and the distribution of the population by religious affiliation status and socio-demographic characteristics.

Percentage distribution of population by religious affiliation, Censuses 1996, 2001 and 2022

The results show that South Africa's population is predominantly affiliated to Christianity, and the percentage of persons affiliated to Christianity increased from 75,9% in 1996 to 84,5% in 2022. However, it is also noted that persons affiliated to Traditional African religion increased by almost eight percentage points (from 0,0% to 7,8% over the same period). Conversely, persons with no religious affiliation decreased by 8,8 percentage points, from 11,7% to 2,9%. Furthermore, the percentage share of persons affiliated to Islam (1,4% in 1996 to 1,6% in 2022) and Hinduism (1,4% in 1996 to 1,1% in 2022) changed slightly between 1996 and 2022. The proportion of those whose religion was undetermined decreased from 9,4% in 1996 to 1,9% in 2022; this may be attributed to improved data collection processes between censuses.

Percentage distribution of population by religious affiliation and province, Censuses 1996, 2001 and 2022

There were distinct provincial differences in religious affiliation across all census years. The findings indicate that KwaZulu-Natal had the highest proportions of persons affiliated to Hinduism in all census years, although there were slight decreases (1996: 5,5%; 2001: 4,7%; and 2022: 4,2%). In Census 2022, KwaZulu-Natal recorded the highest percentage share of persons affiliated to African Traditional religion (13,5%), while the percentage of persons not affiliated to any religion increased between Censuses 1996 (13,9%) and 2001 (18,5%) and decreased significantly in Census 2022 (3,3%). Limpopo, on the other hand, had the highest percentage share of persons not affiliated to any religion in Censuses 1996 and 2001 (27,9% and 29,4%, respectively). However, there was a sharp decrease of 24 percentage points in the proportion of persons not affiliated to any religion between 2001 and 2022 (5,1%). The profile of Western Cape shows the highest percentage of persons affiliated to the Islamic religion despite a slight decrease across all censuses (6,9% in 1996, 6,5% in 2001 and 5,2% in 2022). Eastern Cape recorded the second-highest percentage of persons affiliated to Traditional African religion in 2022 (11%).

Distribution of the population by religious affiliation status and socio-demographic characteristics, Census 2022

The results show that six in ten males (61,3%) were not affiliated to any religion compared with females (38,7%). Furthermore, the results on population group variations show that the majority of those not affiliated to any religion were black Africans (85,5%), followed by whites (12,0%); however, it is important to note that this is a reflection of the distribution of the population by race in the country, i.e. black Africans are the majority. The profile of the population by age of those affiliated and those not affiliated to religion followed a similar distribution.

Culture and nuptiality

The Culture and nuptiality section will deal with the marital status of the population aged 12 and older, as well as the singulate mean age at marriage (SMAM) of the population by sex and population group.

Distribution of population 12 years and older by marital status, Census 1996–2022

The trends in nuptiality (frequency, characteristics and dissolution of marriages in a population) indicate that there were decreases in the percentage of the legally married population from 35,6% in 1996 to 31,5% in 2001 and to 29,9% in 2011, and to less than one quarter (23,8%) in 2022. Conversely, those who never married increased, with the largest increase recorded in 2001 at 54%, and 61,7% in 2022. Those who reported living together as a married couple or cohabiting increased from 4,5% in 1996 to 7,2% in 2001, and to 9,2% in 2011.

Singulate Mean Age at Marriage (SMAM) by sex and population group, Census 1996–2022

SMAM is a demographic measure which is used to calculate the average length of single life expressed in years among those who get married before the age of 50. The results show that the SMAM for males is generally higher than that of females, indicating that female South Africans marry earlier than their male counterparts. The SMAM for males at the national level has steadily increased from 30,3 years in 1996 to 33,8 years in 2022, while that for females increased from 27,9 years in 1996 to 30,7 years in 2022. Overall, the gap between the male and female SMAM has increased over the years.

Conclusion

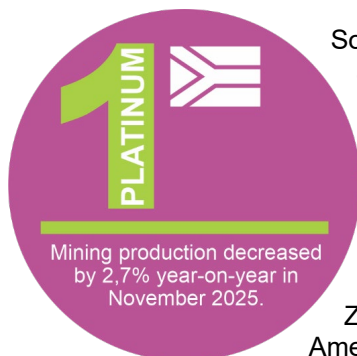
The cultural dynamics of South Africa relating to language did not change much as isiZulu remained the most spoken language in South African households since Census 1996. Most provinces, with the exception of Gauteng, had one dominant language spoken in the household. Multilingual households more than doubled over the period 1996–2022, with Gauteng and Western Cape recording the largest proportions of multilingual households in the country. When it comes to educational progression, results showed that English speakers had the highest proportion of those who completed secondary education. Although the majority of households in South Africa were single-race households, there has been a substantial shift towards multi-racial households. There were more female-headed multi-racial households in South Africa than male-headed households. Multi-racial households were mostly in extended households. Furthermore, results showed that South Africa's population is predominantly affiliated to Christianity. More males were not affiliated to any religion compared with

females. The proportion of the legally married population is gradually decreasing. Females tend to marry earlier than their male counterparts.



Primary industries

Mining: Production and sales



South Africa is a relatively industrialised country, and its economy has long relied on its rich mineral resources, including platinum. This country is the world's largest producer of platinum, supplying about 70% to 80% of the global total, largely from the Bushveld Complex, which contains the biggest platinum-group metal reserves on Earth.

Although countries such as Russia, Zimbabwe, Canada, and the United States of America also mine platinum, they produce far less, and just the above-mentioned four countries account for almost all of the platinum mined worldwide. Platinum is important because of its special properties: it does not rust, conducts electricity well, and works as a powerful catalyst. These qualities make it useful in everyday technologies, such as car catalytic converters that reduce harmful emissions, electronics and medical devices, and hydrogen fuel cells that help produce clean energy. In November 2025, Platinum group metals (PGMs) was among the largest contributors towards the decrease in mining production, recording a 2,8% decrease and contributing -0,8 of a percentage point. This article summarises the results of the *Mining: Production and sales* (statistical release P2041) for November 2025.



Mining production decreased by 2,7% year-on-year in November 2025 (see Table A).

The largest negative contributors were:

- coal (-7,9%, contributing -2,1 percentage points);
- iron ore (-7,6%, contributing -1,1 percentage points);
- PGMs (-2,8%, contributing -0,8 of a percentage point); and
- gold (-6,0%, contributing -0,5 of a percentage point).

Manganese ore (17,0%, contributing 1,1 percentage points) was the largest positive contributor.

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

	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	2,5	5,4	0,4	1,4	6,1	-2,7
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,1	1,3	-0,9	2,0	2,7	-5,9
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	3,8	5,3	3,0	2,6	2,1	1,6

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

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

Mineral sales at current prices decreased by 0,3% year-on-year in November 2025 (**see Table B**). The largest negative contributors were:

- gold (-27,9%, contributing -6,0 percentage points);
- coal (-15,0%, contributing -3,8 percentage points); and
- iron ore (-16,6%, contributing -1,7 percentage points).

The largest positive contributor was PGMs (42,3%, contributing 9,7 percentage points).

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

	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-14,0	2,3	22,8	16,4	13,6	-0,3
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-6,8	10,3	-3,0	7,9	-0,9	-2,4
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	9,2	10,7	4,7	7,6	6,1	7,7

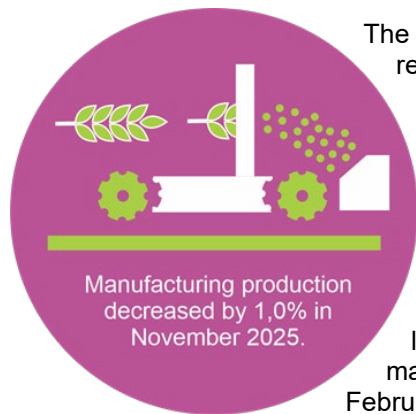
¹ Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

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 brewing and agriculture industries will receive a boost after a new malt facility is constructed in South Africa. The new malt facility will supply malt and replace malt imports for Heineken Beverages and source all its barley (a hardy cereal cultivated for use in brewing and stockfeed) from local farmers. A French malt producer Scoufflet, one of the world's largest malt producers officially launched to construct a new R2 billion malting facility in Midvaal, Gauteng, on 05 February 2025. The facility is being developed

next to Heineken Beverages' Sedibeng Brewery following a partnership signed between Heineken Beverages and Scoufflet in March 2025. The new malt facility will be in operation by mid-2027. The malting facility is expected to have an annual production capacity of about 100 000 tonnes. This new venture will not only support the brewing sector but it will also contribute to the overall growth of South African manufacturing industry, which has already experienced a decline in November 2025. According to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), manufacturing production decreased by 1,0% in November 2025, signaling a decline in the overall manufacturing industry during the fourth quarter of 2025. Presented in this article is a summary of the results of *Manufacturing: Production and sales* (statistical release P3041.2) for November 2025.



Manufacturing production decreased by 1,0% in November 2025 compared with November 2024 (see Table C).

The largest negative contributions were made by the following divisions:

- wood and wood products, paper, publishing and printing (-7,9%, contributing -0,8 of a percentage point);
- basic iron and steel, non-ferrous metal products, metal products and machinery (-2,5%, contributing -0,6 of a percentage point); and
- motor vehicles, parts and accessories and other transport equipment (-4,4%, contributing -0,4 of a percentage point).

The petroleum, chemical products, rubber and plastic products division was the largest positive contributor (5,5%, contributing 1,1 percentage points).

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

	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	1,8	-1,1	-1,6	1,0	0,4	-1,0
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,0	-0,8	0,4	0,3	1,0	-1,1
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	1,4	2,3	1,8	0,4	0,4	0,6

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

House plan



REJECTED

The value of building plans passed (at current prices) decreased by 1,8% (-R1 659,5 million) during January to November 2025.

In South Africa, many people are building backyard rooms without approved building plans from the local municipality to address the shortage of affordable housing and for the purpose of renting to tenants. According to National Building Regulations (NBR), before construction of a backroom (backyard dwelling or extension), any structural, permanent or habitable addition, formal approval must be required at local municipality. Failure to comply with regulations may result in a fine or demolition of unapproved structure. In November 2025,

extensions to existing buildings as well as internal and external alterations of existing buildings increased. According to the *Selected building statistics of the private sector* figures published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), additions and alterations increased to R1 945,7 million. Presented in this article is a summary of the *Selected building statistics of the private sector* (statistical release P5041.1) for November 2025.

The value of building plans passed



The value of building plans passed decreased by 1,8% (-R1 659,5 million) during January to November 2025 compared with January to November 2024 (see Table D).

Decreases were reported for non-residential buildings (-R2 029,2 million) and residential buildings (-R1 576,0 million). An increase was reported for additions and alterations (R1 945,7 million).

The largest negative contributors to the total decrease of 1,8% (-R1 659,5 million) were Gauteng (contributing -4,5 percentage points or -R4 285,9

million) and KwaZulu-Natal (contributing -1,0 percentage point or -R948,5 million).

The largest positive contributors were Western Cape (contributing 2,8 percentage points or R2 678,2 million) and Eastern Cape (contributing 1,5 percentage points or R1 421,7 million).

Buildings reported as completed

The value of buildings reported as completed increased by 1,1% (R522,7 million) during January to November 2025 compared with January to November 2024. Increases were reported for residential buildings (R1 367,2 million) and non-residential buildings (R303,2 million). A decrease was reported for additions and alterations (-R1 147,7 million).

Four out of the nine provinces reported year-on-year increases in the value of buildings completed during January to November 2025. The largest positive contributors were Western Cape (contributing 3,6 percentage points or R1 716,0 million) and KwaZulu-Natal (contributing 1,6 percentage points or R767,1 million).

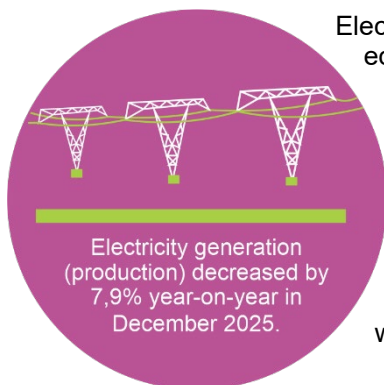
The largest negative contributors were Gauteng (contributing -3,2 percentage points or -R1 539,0 million) and Mpumalanga (contributing -1,2 percentage points or -R582,1 million).

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

Type of building	Jan – Nov 2024	Jan – Nov 2025	Difference in value between Jan – Nov 2024 and Jan – Nov 2025	% change between Jan – Nov 2024 and Jan – Nov 2025
	R'000	R'000	R'000	
Residential buildings	45 488 308	43 912 278	-1 576 030	-3,5
- Dwelling houses	28 334 543	29 964 527	1 629 984	5,8
- Flats and townhouses	15 471 856	12 517 658	-2 954 198	-19,1
- Other residential buildings	1 681 909	1 430 093	-251 816	-15,0
Non-residential buildings	22 973 714	20 944 535	-2 029 179	-8,8
Additions and alterations	26 297 140	28 242 807	1 945 667	7,4
Total	94 759 162	93 099 620	-1 659 542	-1,8

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

Electricity generated and available for distribution



Electricity is a critical backbone of South Africa's economy, powering households, industries, and essential public services. Electricity generated in South Africa by all producers declined to 17 477 gigawatt-hours (GWh) in December 2025, down from 18 325 GWh in November 2025. Of the total electricity generated in December, approximately 14 454 GWh was distributed by the national electricity supplier, Eskom, with the remainder supplied by independent

power producers. Gauteng received the largest share of electricity at 3 839 GWh, while the Northern Cape recorded the lowest volume at 465 GWh. Electricity generation was highest during the colder months, from May to August 2025, when output consistently exceeded 20 000 GWh. The decline in electricity production can be attributed to several factors, including ongoing capacity challenges. In addition, lower consumer demand, driven by reduced peak usage, energy-saving practices and a growing shift towards solar installations, has eased pressure on the electricity system. These and other factors have made it possible for Eskom to suspend nationwide load shedding for an extended period. Presented in this article is a summary of the findings of *Electricity generated and available for distribution* (statistical release P4141) for December 2025.



Electricity generation (production) decreased by 7,9% year-on-year in December 2025 (see Table E).

Total electricity generation was 2,0% lower in 2025 compared with 2024. The 2,0% decrease in annual electricity generation followed an increase of 4,9% in 2024 and a decrease of 4,4% in 2023.

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

	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-2,3	-3,1	-5,7	-5,2	-7,3	-7,9
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,0	-1,2	-1,3	-0,7	-1,3	-1,4
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	0,7	-1,0	-1,8	-2,8	-3,0	-3,2

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

Electricity distribution (consumption) decreased by 7,1% year-on-year in December 2025 (see Table F).

Total electricity distribution was 4,2% lower in 2025 compared with 2024. The 4,2% decrease in annual electricity distribution followed an increase of 3,5% in 2024 and a decrease of 4,0% in 2023.

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

	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-4,4	-4,9	-7,9	-7,2	-7,7	-7,1
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,5	-1,2	-2,6	-0,6	-0,4	0,3
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	0,3	-1,7	-2,5	-3,7	-3,8	-2,9

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 in South Africa includes a variety of traders, from large distribution firms to smaller independent wholesalers. Among these are cash-and-carry outlets that supply goods in bulk to spaza shops, tuckshops, and other small retailers. In recent years, many have expanded to serve walk-in customers and households as well as consumers. By offering products at competitive prices, they enable independent businesses to stock their shelves, serve their communities, and remain competitive in the local market. Cash-and-carry

wholesalers are also important to the economy because they support entrepreneurship, create jobs, and strengthen supply chains. Acting as a link between manufacturers and retailers, they ensure products reach townships, rural areas, and smaller towns efficiently. In doing so, they help sustain local economic activity and contribute to the overall health of South Africa's retail and wholesale sectors. This article summarises the results of the *Wholesale trade sales* (statistical release P6141.2) for November 2025.



Wholesale trade sales increased by 1,2% in November 2025 compared with November 2024 (**see Table G**).

The main positive contributor was dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (5,0%, contributing 1,0 percentage point).

Wholesale trade sales increased by 1,0% in the three months ended November 2025 compared with the three months ended November 2024.

The main positive contributor was dealers in machinery, equipment and supplies (4,0%, contributing 0,6 of a percentage point).

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

	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25
Year-on-year % change unadjusted	-0,2	-0,1	2,5	2,8	-0,9	1,2
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,9	1,6	-0,1	-0,6	0,6	0,4
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	-1,1	-0,2	1,5	1,2	1,1	0,4

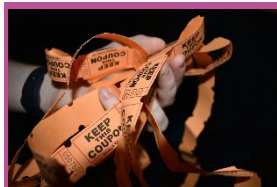
¹ Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated. A full release on *Wholesale trade sales* (statistical release 6141.2) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Retail trade sales



Owing to the rise in prices, some consumers are using various methods to save money in order to purchase groceries and items such as clothing among others. One of the methods used by consumers is the purchasing of stamps which are redeemed for groceries, clothing, etc. These stamps are available at some retailers in South Africa. One of the retailers is Shoprite Holdings Ltd which announced on 4 February 2026, that customers are pouring more than R120 million a month into stamps which saw an annual growth in excess of 20%. According to

Shoprite Ltd, consumers redeem booklet stamps during shopping periods such as Black Friday, Easter, festive season and January’s back-to-school period. These consumer spending trends extend beyond individual retailers. According to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), retail trade sales increased by 3,5% year-on-year in November 2025. Presented in this article is a summary of the *Retail trade sales* (statistical release P6242.1) for November 2025.



Retail trade sales increased by 3,5% year-on-year in November 2025 (see Table H).

The largest positive contributors to this increase were:

- general dealers (2,2%, contributing 1,0 percentage point);
- all 'other' retailers (8,0%, contributing 0,8 of a percentage point); and
- retailers in pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries (10,1%, contributing 0,6 of a percentage point).

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

- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (3,9%, contributing 0,7 of a percentage point);
- general dealers (1,6%, contributing 0,7 of a percentage point); and
- all 'other' retailers (6,4%, contributing 0,6 of a percentage point).

The only negative contributor was retailers in food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores (-0,7%, contributing -0,1 of a percentage point).

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

	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	1,7	5,7	2,2	3,0	3,0	3,5
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-0,2	2,3	-1,4	-0,1	1,0	0,6
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	1,0	1,1	1,0	1,0	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 *Retail trade sales* (statistical release P6242.1) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Motor trade sales



Buying a car is among the largest purchases a person can make. For this reason, having repairs done at an accredited and graded workshop is important. Accredited workshops are required to meet strict criteria and standards that ensure vehicle safety, optimal performance, and longevity through expert repairs and regular maintenance. Accreditation also means the workshop uses proper tools and diagnostic equipment necessary to perform accurate repairs.

Additionally, accredited workshops carry insurance, including coverage for defective workmanship, providing peace of mind in the rare case when repairs go wrong. Amongst others, the motor trade sales survey collects information from a sample of enterprises in South Africa that are predominantly involved in the motor trade, including information on workshops and their income. Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) reported that motor trade sales decreased by 0,1% year-on-year in November 2025. One of the main negative contributors was workshop income (-8,2%, contributing -0,3 of a percentage point). Presented in this article is a summary of *Motor trade sales* (statistical release P6343.1) for November 2025.



Motor trade sales decreased by 0,1% year-on-year in November 2025 (see Table I).

The main negative contributors were:

- fuel sales (-4,4%, contributing -1,1 percentage points); and
- workshop income (-8,2%, contributing -0,3 of a percentage point).

The positive contributor was new vehicle sales (6,4%, contributing 1,7 percentage points).

Motor trade sales increased by 3,4% in the three months ended November 2025 compared with the three months ended November 2024. The main positive contributors to this increase were:

- new vehicle sales (15,9%, contributing 4,1 percentage points); and
- sales of accessories (2,5%, contributing 0,5 of a percentage point).

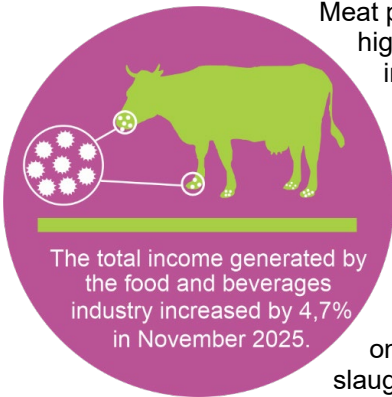
The main negative contributor was fuel sales (-4,8%, contributing -1,3 percentage points).

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

	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	3,3	3,1	1,8	9,1	1,8	-0,1
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,8	0,8	1,1	-0,9	0,5	-0,1
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	0,7	1,3	1,9	1,8	1,5	0,4

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



Meat prices in South Africa have surged to their highest levels since 2018. Recent consumer price index (CPI) data show that the year-on-year meat inflation rose from -0,4% in December 2024 to 12,6% in December 2025, highlighting the rapid rise in meat prices over the past year. This surge is primarily driven by supply disruptions caused by the ongoing foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreaks affecting cattle and increased production costs. FMD has led to movement restrictions on cattle, farm quarantines, and reduced slaughter capacity, limiting the amount of beef supplied to markets. This decrease in supply pushes

prices up as demand exceeds supply. Other contributing factors to the increase in meat prices include higher feed costs, driven by higher global prices of grains such as maize and soy, which are essential for livestock production. As production costs increase, meat prices rise across the food sector, affecting prices charged by restaurants, grocery stores, catering services, takeaway outlets, and fast-food establishments, all of which form part of the food and beverages survey. Presented in this article is a summary of the *Food and beverages* (statistical release P6420) for November 2025.



The total income generated by the food and beverages industry increased by 4,7% in November 2025 compared with November 2024 (see Table J).

Positive annual growth rates were recorded for 'other' income (9,2%) and food sales (6,8%). In November 2025, the largest positive contributor to the 4,7% year-on-year increase was restaurants and coffee shops (7,1%, contributing 3,3 percentage points).

Total income increased by 6,0% in the three months ended November 2025 compared with the three months ended November 2024. The largest contributors to this increase were restaurants and coffee shops (6,4%, contributing 3,0 percentage points) and takeaway and fast-food outlets (7,1%, contributing 2,8 percentage points).

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

Type of income	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25
Food sales	-1,8	4,9	9,5	7,8	8,5	6,8
Bar sales	-10,0	-15,6	-14,0	-4,6	-5,3	-10,8
Other income	4,3	-1,3	12,8	8,4	13,3	9,2
Total	-2,7	2,2	6,4	6,3	7,0	4,7

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

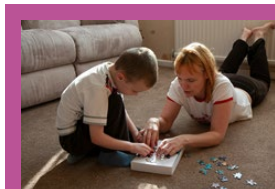
Tourist accommodation



The South African tourism industry is making strides towards becoming inclusive by being accessible to people with mental health conditions, including autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and other related conditions. Individuals with these mental health conditions are commonly referred to as neurodivergent, and for many of them, travelling can cause a significant amount of stress, discomfort and anxiety due to busy and noisy places. In response to this, The President Hotel in Cape Town became the

first hotel in South Africa to adapt its hotel rooms for neurodivergent travellers to eliminate anxiety and stress associated with travelling. The hotel rooms were designed with the help of Autism South Africa to offer calming and soothing spaces that support sensory comfort for travellers. Some of the amenities in the hotel room include specialised lighting controls to adjust brightness and colour in the room, a weighted blanket to provide soothing pressure for relaxation, a white noise machine

and a sensory tent for children who need a quiet retreat after a stimulating day. Additionally, the check-in process was also redesigned to reduce anxiety, allowing travellers to avoid queues and complete check-in in a calm, quiet space. By being more inclusive, this hotel can attract more travellers and contribute towards South African tourism. Hotels led the growth in the tourist accommodation industry in November 2025, contributing 15,1% (8,9 percentage points) to the 13,6% year-on-year increase in income from accommodation. This article summarises the *Tourist accommodation* (statistical release P6410) for November 2025.



Total income for the tourist accommodation industry increased by 11,9% in November 2025 compared with November 2024 (see Table K).

Income from accommodation increased by 13,6% year-on-year in November 2025, the result of an 8,1% increase in the number of stay unit nights sold and a 5,1% increase in the average income per stay unit night sold.

In November 2025, the main contributors to the 13,6% year-on-year increase in income from accommodation were:

- hotels (15,1%, contributing 8,9 percentage points); and
- 'other' accommodation (11,8%, contributing 4,1 percentage points).

Income from accommodation increased by 10,7% in the three months ended November 2025 compared with the three months ended November 2024. The main contributors to this increase were:

- hotels (10,5%, contributing 6,0 percentage points); and
- 'other' accommodation (11,8%, contributing 4,3 percentage points).

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

	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25
Stay units available	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,0
Stay unit nights sold	4,0	7,8	6,4	0,7	10,1	8,1
Average income per stay unit night sold	2,7	2,7	6,7	2,2	4,7	5,1
Income from accommodation	6,8	10,7	13,5	2,9	15,3	13,6
Total income¹	6,2	10,6	10,8	1,9	12,7	11,9

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



The OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg is the largest and busiest airport in Africa. The airport receives over 21 million passengers and has the capacity to handle 28 million passengers per annum. In order to handle increasing passenger traffic, modernise ageing infrastructure and improve safety and passenger experience, the OR Tambo International Airport is upgrading its facilities to the tune of a R14,5 billion five-year programme. The five-year programme began in December 2025, and much of the current work is concerned with

improving comfort and experience in high-traffic passenger areas for millions of passengers who pass through the airport each year. Passengers can look forward to significant improvements. In December 2025, a total of 3 962 073 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 November 2025.



A total of 3 962 073 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports in December 2025 (see Table L).

These travellers were made up of 1 188 119 South African residents and 2 773 954 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 519 668 arrivals, 667 890 departures and 561 travellers in transit. The corresponding volumes for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit were 1 339 217, 1 393 309 and 41 428 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in November 2025 and December 2025 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers, whereas that of transits decreased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 43,0% (from 363 368 in November 2025 to 519 668 in December 2025), departures increased by 82,9% (from 365 169 in November 2025 to 667 890 in December 2025), and transits decreased by 1,8% (from 571 in November 2025 to 561 in December 2025). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 6,0% (from 1 263 598 in November 2025 to 1 339 217 in December 2025), departures increased by 30,6% (from 1 067 056 in November 2025 to 1 393 309 in December 2025), and transits decreased by 6,5% (from 44 330 in November 2025 to 41 428 in December 2025).

A comparison between the movements in December 2024 and December 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 11,1% (from 467 578 in December 2024 to 519 668 in December 2025), departures increased by 17,5% (from 568 257 in December 2024 to 667 890 in December 2025), and transits increased by 5,6% (from 531 in December 2024 to 561 in December 2025). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 10,2% (from 1 215 250 in December 2024 to 1 339 217 in December 2025), departures increased by 20,9% (from 1 152 618 in December 2024 to 1 393 309 in December 2025), and transits

increased by 25,0% (from 33 142 in December 2024 to 41 428 in December 2025).

Mode of travel of travellers

In December 2025, road was the most common mode of travel used by 2 681 630 (67,7%) of the 3 962 073 travellers. The total number of air travellers was 1 236 450 (31,2%). Compared to air and road, a smaller number of travellers, 43 993 (1,1%) used sea into and out of South Africa. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 245 938 (47,3%) came by air, 258 713 (49,8%) came by road and 15 017 (2,9%) arrived by sea. For departures, 277 582 (41,6%) used air, 376 952 (56,4%) used road and 13 356 (2,0%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 561 (100,0%) used air.

Visitors

In December 2025, 25 710 (1,9%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors, while 1 313 507 (98,1%) were classified as visitors. Visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in December 2025 but did not depart in December 2025 [433 736 (33,0%)].
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in December 2025 and left in December 2025 [488 992 (37,2%)].
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in December 2025 [390 779 (29,8%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors/tourists. In December 2025, there were 316 342 (24,1%) same-day visitors and 997 165 (75,9%) tourists. Between November 2025 and December 2025, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 8,4% (from 291 935 in November 2025 to 316 342 in December 2025) and that of tourists increased by 6,1% (from 939 654 in November 2025 to 997 165 in December 2025). Between December 2024 and December 2025, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 18,2% (from 267 630 in December 2024 to 316 342 in December 2025) and that of tourists increased by 8,4% (from 920 147 in December 2024 to 997 165 in December 2025).

Of the 316 342 same-day visitors, a majority, 294 395 (93,1%) arrived in the country by road, 21 534 (6,8%) arrived by air and 413 (0,1%) arrived by sea.

Information on tourists shows that 669 536 (67,1%) came by road, 322 564 (32,3%) used air and 5 065 (0,5%) used sea.

Tourists

Sex and age distribution of tourists

Sex

In December 2025, there were more male [544 716 (54,6%)] than female [452 449 (45,4%)] tourists. Male tourists constituted the majority of tourists for all three regions, SADC countries [411 279 (55,7%)], overseas countries [122 382 (51,3%)] and 'other' African countries [10 567 (54,4%)]. Similarly, the largest portion of female tourists was from SADC countries [327 083 (44,3%)], followed by overseas countries [116 179 (48,7%)] and 'other' African countries [8 841 (45,6%)].

Age

The age distribution indicates that out of all tourists, [9,4% (94 171)] were aged younger than 15; [11,5% (114 672)] were aged between 15 and 24; [23,4% (233 243)] were aged between 25 and 34; [26,5% (264 706)] were aged between 35 and 44; [16,6% (165 378)] were aged between 45 and 54; [7,9% (78 929)] were aged between 55 and 64; and [4,6% (46 066)] were aged 65 and older.

Purpose of visit of tourists

In December 2025, the majority of tourists, 978 438 (98,1%), were in South Africa for holiday compared to 16 695 (1,7%); 1 841 (0,2%) and 191 (less than 0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and medical treatment, respectively.

Mode of travel of tourists

In December 2025, 223 326 (93,6%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, while 11 217 (4,7%) came in by road and 4 018 (1,7%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the SADC countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 655 514 (88,8%), 81 829 (11,1%) came by air and 1 019 (0,1%) came by sea. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 16 801 (86,6%); while 2 579

(13,3%) used road transport and 28 (0,1%) arrived by sea. Most tourists who arrived by road came through Lebombo port (174 652) and Beit Bridge port (156 968). The majority of tourists who came by air entered through OR Tambo International Airport (190 055) and Cape Town International Airport (128 567). Tourists who arrived by sea came through Cape Town Harbour (3 901) and Durban Harbour (1 164).

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

Travel direction	December	November	December	% Change	% Change
	2024	2025	2025	Nov 2025 – Dec 2025	Dec 2024 – Dec 2025
Total	3 437 376	3 104 092	3 962 073	27,6	15,3
South African residents	1 036 366	729 108	1 188 119	63,0	14,6
Arrivals	467 578	363 368	519 668	43,0	11,1
Departures	568 257	365 169	667 890	82,9	17,5
Transits	531	571	561	-1,8	5,6
Foreign travellers	2 401 010	2 374 984	2 773 954	16,8	15,5
Arrivals	1 215 250	1 263 598	1 339 217	6,0	10,2
Departures	1 152 618	1 067 056	1 393 309	30,6	20,9
Transits	33 142	44 330	41 428	-6,5	25,0

A full release on *International tourism* (statistical release P0350) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Statistics of civil cases for debt



The total number of civil summonses issued for debt decreased by 7,1% in the three months ended November 2025.

The National Credit Act, 2005 (Act No. 34 of 2005) had been designed to provide consumers with debt relief for over-indebtedness through debt restructuring and debt review, among others. Even with these developments, consumers are still drowning in debt. According to the DebtBusters' Debt Index for the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2025, released on 04 February 2026, consumers remain indebted.

The results indicate that consumers who applied for debt counselling in Q4 of 2025 needed 71% of their take-home pay to service their debt; this is the highest level recorded since 2017. In addition, 96% of these consumers had a personal loan and 59% had a one-month loan, which indicates that personal loans – especially one-month loans – are used to supplement their income. 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 7,1% in November 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 November 2025.



The total number of civil summonses issued for debt decreased by 7,1% in the three months ended November 2025 compared with the three months ended November 2024 (see Table M).

The largest negative contributors to the 7,1% decrease in civil summonses issued were:

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

Rent (contributing 0,9 of a percentage point) was the only positive contributor.

The number of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total number of civil judgements recorded for debt decreased by 7,6% in the three months ended November 2025 compared with the three months ended November 2024.

The largest negative contributors to the 7,6% decrease were civil judgements relating to:

- money lent (contributing -3,9 percentage points);
- services (contributing -2,8 percentage points); and
- goods sold (contributing -0,9 of a percentage point).

Promissory notes (contributing 0,4 of a percentage point) was the only positive contributor.

The value of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total value of civil judgements recorded for debt decreased by 0,8% in the three months ended November 2025 compared with the three months ended November 2024.

The negative contributors were:

- money lent (contributing -3,8 percentage points);
- rent (contributing -2,6 percentage points); and
- goods sold (contributing -1,3 percentage points).

Promissory notes (contributing 2,6 percentage points), services (contributing 2,4 percentage points) and 'other' debts (contributing 1,9 percentage points) were the positive contributors.

In November 2025, 9 394 civil judgements for debt amounting to R270,5 million were recorded. The largest contributors to the total value of judgements were:

- services (R70,4 million or 26,0%);
- money lent (R61,4 million or 22,7%);
- 'other' debts (R55,7 million or 20,6%); and
- promissory notes (R42,7 million or 15,8%).

Table M – Key figures for November 2025

Actual estimates	Nov 2025	% change between Nov 2024 and Nov 2025	% change between Sep–Nov 2024 and Sep–Nov 2025
Number of civil summonses issued for debt	29 587	-7,4	-7,1
Number of civil judgements recorded for debt	9 394	-12,6	-7,6
Value of civil judgements recorded for debt (R million)	270,5	-15,1	-0,8

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

Statistics of liquidations



The number of liquidations decreased by 1,1% in 2025 compared with 2024.

Liquidation trends offer a snapshot of the health of the economy because they reflect how businesses are coping with prevailing economic conditions. The number of liquidations increased from 90 in December 2024 to 100 in December 2025. Of the 90 liquidations recorded in 2025, 89 were voluntary, while 11 were compulsory. A voluntary liquidation takes place when a company or close corporation, by its own choice, resolves to wind up its affairs. According to BusinessTech, such liquidations do not necessarily indicate insolvency or financial distress, as businesses may

opt to liquidate in order to release capital for other activities. However, a rise in voluntary liquidations can also signal deteriorating business conditions, leaving owners with little choice but to cease operations. An increase in liquidations can affect the broader economy in several ways. It may weigh on economic growth through job losses, reduced household income, and weaker consumer spending. Higher liquidation levels may also place additional pressure on government finances as tax revenues may decline and demand as fewer businesses pay tax or value-added tax (VAT). This article summarises the results of the *Statistics of liquidations* (statistical release P0043.1) for December 2025.



The number of liquidations decreased by 1,1% in 2025 compared with 2024 (see Table N).

Liquidations of companies decreased by 1,8% (from 851 to 836) and liquidations of close corporations decreased by 0,3% (from 700 to 698) during this period.

The number of liquidations decreased by 14,5% (from 414 to 354) in the fourth quarter of 2025 compared with the fourth quarter of 2024.

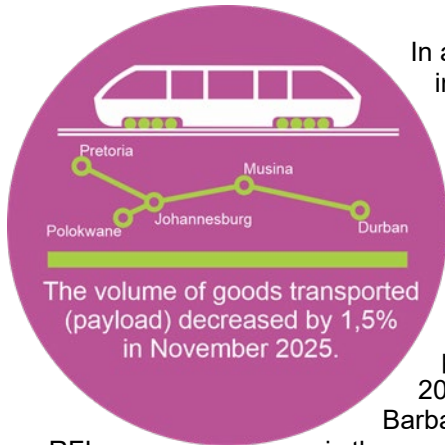
The number of liquidations increased by 11,1% (from 90 to 100) in December 2025 compared with December 2024. Liquidations of companies increased by 25 cases, while liquidations of close corporations decreased by 15 cases during this period.

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

Number of liquidations December 2025	% change between Dec 2024 and Dec 2025	% change between Oct – Dec 2024 and Oct – Dec 2025	% change between Jan – Dec 2024 and Jan – Dec 2025
100	11,1	-14,5	-1,1

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

Land transport



In an effort to grow the rail system and increase passenger journeys among others, the Department of Transport (DOT) launched a series of Requests for Information (RFI) (formal procurement document used by organisations to gather data about vendors qualifications, service and products before initiating formal bidding process) to invite private companies interested in investing in passenger rail system. On 26 October 2025, the Department of Transport Minister, Barbara Creecy, announced that one of the

RFIs is the possible introduction of a new generation of regional trains that will connect cities such as Pretoria, Johannesburg, Polokwane, Musina, Mbombela and Durban. According to Minister Creecy, the regional trains will use existing network up to 120 kilometres per hour, 160 to 200 kilometres per hour will be constructed. Minister Creecy announced that a new 300 kilometres per hour high speed railway between Johannesburg and Durban will be tested. The regional trains will assist the department to ensure they reach the 600 million passenger journeys per annum by 2030. According to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), the number of passenger journeys decreased by 1,5% in November 2025 compared with November 2024. Presented in this article is a summary of the results of *Land transport* (statistical release P7162) for November 2025.



The volume of goods transported (payload) decreased by 1,5% in November 2025 compared with November 2024. The corresponding income increased by 3,2% over the same period (**see Table O**).

Income from freight transportation increased by 5,3% in the three months ended November 2025 compared with the three months ended November 2024. The main positive contributors to this increase were:

- primary mining and quarrying products (6,7%, contributing 2,3 percentage points);

- agriculture and forestry primary products (29,8%, contributing 2,2 percentage points); and
- parcels (34,5%, contributing 1,0 percentage point).

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

	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25
Passenger journeys	3,7	0,7	0,0	3,8	3,0	-1,5
Passenger income	1,5	-0,1	0,5	6,4	6,6	3,2

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 4,0% in November 2025 compared with November 2024 (**see Table P**). The corresponding income increased by 17,4% over the same period.

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

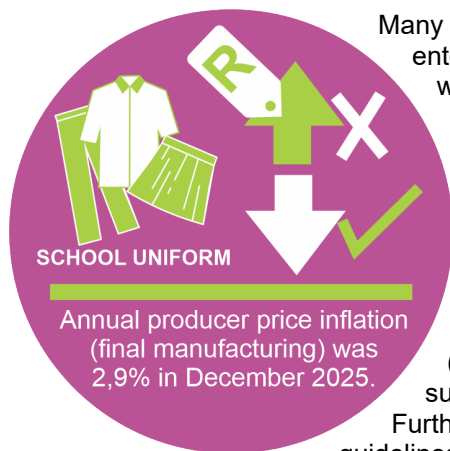
	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25
Freight payload	17,7	10,4	9,1	9,1	3,8	4,0
Freight income	2,5	7,9	11,1	8,1	15,6	17,4

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



Prices

Producer price index (PPI)



Many schools in South Africa had previously entered into exclusive supply agreements with selected producers and suppliers of school uniforms, which prevented or lessened competition in the market. Consequently, parents had to pay higher prices for school uniforms due to exclusive agreements. The Competition Commission reported in January 2026 that it is collaborating with the Department of Basic Education (DBE) to develop a tool that will monitor suppliers and prices of school uniforms.

Furthermore, they will ensure compliance with guidelines to help schools foster fair competition among school uniform and learning material suppliers. The tool is expected to be available before the end of 2026. The introduction of the tool will not only benefit parents, but also various producers to have competitive and affordable prices. Statistics South Africa's (Stats SA) latest producer price index (PPI) data show that annual producer inflation was 2,9% in December 2025, unchanged from November 2025. Presented in this article is a summary of the *Producer price index* (PPI) release (statistical release P0142.1) for December 2025.



Annual producer price inflation (final manufacturing) was 2,9% in December 2025, unchanged from November 2025 (see Table Q).

Annual producer price inflation (final manufacturing) was 2,9% in December 2025, unchanged from November 2025. The producer price index (PPI) increased by 0,2% month-on-month in December 2025.

The main positive contributors to the headline PPI annual inflation rate were food products, beverages and tobacco products (2,9%, contributing 0,9 of a percentage point) and furniture and other manufacturing (11,9%, contributing 0,5 of a percentage point).

The main positive contributor to the monthly rate was coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products (0,7%, contributing 0,2 of a percentage point).

Intermediate manufactured goods

The annual percentage change in the PPI for intermediate manufactured goods was 10,1% in December 2025, compared with 10,7% in November 2025. The index remained unchanged month-on-month.

The main positive contributors to the annual rate were basic and fabricated metals (22,1%, contributing 11,1 percentage points) and sawmilling and wood (8,2%, contributing 0,9 of a percentage point).

Electricity and water

The annual percentage change in the PPI for electricity and water was 16,9% in December 2025, compared with 15,3% in November 2025. The index increased by 0,2% month-on-month. The contributors to the annual rate were electricity (17,7%, contributing 15,2 percentage points) and water (11,6%, contributing 1,7 percentage points).

The main contributor to the monthly rate was electricity (0,2%, contributing 0,1 of a percentage point).

Mining

The annual percentage change in the PPI for mining was 25,7% in December 2025, compared with 19,9% in November 2025. The index increased by 2,6% month-on-month.

The positive contributors to the annual rate were non-ferrous metal ores (40,3%, contributing 19,8 percentage points) and gold and other metal ores (25,5%, contributing 7,5 percentage points).

The main positive contributors to the monthly rate were non-ferrous metal ores (3,5%, contributing 1,9 percentage points) and gold and other metal ores (1,8%, contributing 0,5 of a percentage point).

Agriculture, forestry and fishing

The annual percentage change in the PPI for agriculture, forestry and fishing was -5,0% in December 2025, compared with -2,4% in November 2025. The index decreased by 3,0% month-on-month.

The main negative contributor to the annual rate was agriculture (-6,6%, contributing -5,8 percentage points).

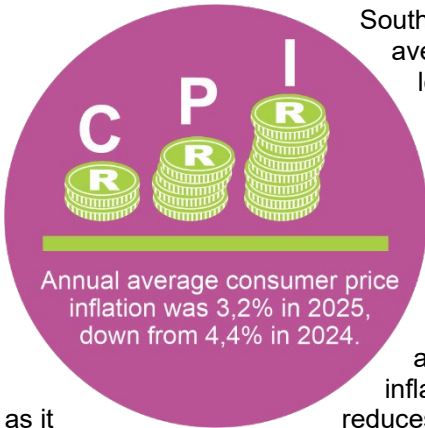
The main negative contributor to the monthly rate was agriculture (-3,4%, contributing -3,0 percentage points).

Table Q – Key PPI figures for December 2025

Product	Weight	Index (Dec 2023=100)			% change	
		Dec 2024	Nov 2025	Dec 2025	Dec 2025 vs. Nov 2025	Dec 2025 vs. Dec 2024
Final manufactured goods	100,00	100,7	103,4	103,6	0,2	2,9
Intermediate manufactured goods	100,00	105,8	116,5	116,5	0,0	10,1
Electricity and water	100,00	110,3	128,7	128,9	0,2	16,9
Mining	100,00	98,5	120,7	123,8	2,6	25,7
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	100,00	104,7	102,6	99,5	-3,0	-5,0

A full release on the *Producer price index* (Statistical release P0142.1) is available on the website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Consumer price index (CPI)



South Africa's consumer price index (CPI) averaged 3,2% in 2025, marking a 21-year low and the lowest inflation rate since 2004, when it stood at 1,4%. A decline in annual CPI inflation indicates that prices are still rising, but at a slower pace than in previous years. As a result, the cost of living is increasing more gradually. While everyday items such as food, fuel and transport are not becoming cheaper, their price increases are more moderate. This slowdown in

inflation may positively impact households, as it reduces pressure on the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) to raise interest rates. The SARB targets inflation within a 3% to 6% range, which is considered consistent with price stability and sustainable economic growth. When inflation remains within this band, it lowers the likelihood of interest rate hikes and increases the possibility of rate cuts or an extended pause, supporting stable or lower interest rates. This, in turn, eases bond, vehicle and credit repayments, providing relief to both consumers and businesses. Presented in this article is a summary of the *Consumer price index* (statistical release P0141) for December 2025.

Headline consumer price index (CPI) for all urban areas



Annual average consumer price inflation was 3,2% in 2025, down from 4,4% in 2024 (see Table R).

Headline consumer price index (CPI) for all urban areas

Annual consumer price inflation was 3,6% in December 2025, up from 3,5% in November 2025. The CPI increased by 0,2% month-on-month in December 2025. The main contributors to the 3,6% annual inflation rate were:

- housing and utilities (4,9%, contributing 1,2 percentage points);

- food and non-alcoholic beverages (4,4%, contributing 0,8 of a percentage point); and
- insurance and financial services (7,0%, contributing 0,7 of a percentage point).

In December 2025, the annual inflation rate for:

- goods was 3,0%, up from 2,9% in November 2025; and
- services was 4,2%, up from 4,1% in November 2025.

Table R – Consumer price index: Index numbers and year-on-year rates
Base year: Dec 2024 = 100

Year	Index /rate	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ave- rage ¹
2021	Index	81,7	82,2	82,8	83,3	83,4	83,5	84,5	84,8	85,0	85,3	85,6	86,1	84,0
	Rate	3,2	2,9	3,2	4,4	5,2	4,9	4,6	4,9	5,0	5,0	5,5	5,9	4,5
2022	Index	86,3	86,8	87,7	88,2	88,8	89,8	91,1	91,3	91,4	91,7	92,0	92,3	89,8
	Rate	5,7	5,7	5,9	5,9	6,5	7,4	7,8	7,6	7,5	7,6	7,4	7,2	6,9
2023	Index	92,2	92,9	93,9	94,2	94,4	94,6	95,4	95,7	96,3	97,2	97,1	97,1	95,1
	Rate	6,9	7,0	7,1	6,8	6,3	5,4	4,7	4,8	5,4	5,9	5,5	5,1	6,0
2024	Index	97,2	98,1	98,9	99,1	99,3	99,4	99,8	99,9	100,0	99,9	99,9	100,0	99,3
	Rate	5,3	5,6	5,3	5,2	5,2	5,1	4,6	4,4	3,8	2,8	2,9	3,0	4,4
2025	Index	100,3	101,2	101,6	101,9	102,1	102,4	103,3	103,2	103,4	103,5	103,4	103,6	102,5
	Rate	3,2	3,2	2,7	2,8	2,8	3,0	3,5	3,3	3,4	3,6	3,5	3,6	3,2

^{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.



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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