

## CONTENTS

HEADLINES  
ECONOMIC INDICATORS  
FEATURE ARTICLE

INFOGRAPHIC OF THE MONTH  
PROVINCIAL SNAPSHOT  
CONTACT US

Your monthly update on South Africa's economic indicators

### Headlines

Fuel prices push  
inflation higher  
Page 1

### Infographics

A breakdown of  
South Africa's energy mix  
Page 4

### Provincial snapshot

The cost of diesel  
across the country  
Page 5

### A 50-year tour of the petrol price Page 3



## Economic headlines

### Fuel prices push inflation higher



The headline rate rose to a 20-month high (click [here](#) to read more).

### Youth and the labour market



Those aged 15–24 face the highest unemployment rate (click [here](#) to read more).

### Factory-gate prices rise sharply



Fuel and fertilisers experienced record increases in April (click [here](#) to read more).


### The latest economic data



Performance in the first quarter was mostly positive (click [here](#) to read more).


### Business closures rise year-on-year



Liquidations increased by 17,1% in the 12 months up to April. Listen to the results [here](#). 
















### Civil debt cases down in the first quarter



The number edged lower by 0,2% compared with the first quarter of 2025. Listen to the results [here](#). 

Click [here](#) to browse more headlines.

## Monthly economic indicators

	y/y percentage change			m/m percentage change			q/q
	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Q1: 2026
Mining production 	4,7	9,7	2,5	3,5	3,0	-5,1	0,6
Manufacturing production 	-0,2	-2,3	0,9	1,7	-1,8	0,8	-1,0
Electricity generation 	-6,1	-3,9	-7,1	1,4	-0,5	-1,6	-0,8
Buildings completed (value) 	-33,1	19,0	22,5	-52,3	79,9	-1,2	-19,5
Wholesale trade sales 	-4,2	-1,4	8,3	-1,3	0,7	5,5	0,9
Retail trade sales 	4,4	1,6	2,6	0,9	-1,1	0,1	0,0
Motor trade sales 	2,7	5,6	14,7	-0,7	1,5	3,9	2,2
Income from tourist accommodation 	2,7	7,5	14,1	1,6	2,3	2,0	0,7
Restaurants, catering & fast-food income 	5,7	4,2	2,2	2,2	-1,5	1,1	0,1
Rail transport: Freight payload 	13,4	3,3	0,1	9,6	-7,2	-2,3	2,9
Road transport: Freight payload 	-5,7	-3,3	1,9	-1,0	1,0	2,7	0,7
Rail transport: Passenger journeys 	23,0	26,6	31,9	-0,4	0,6	8,0	7,8
Road transport: Passenger journeys 	-9,6	-3,7	-3,7	0,0	-1,1	2,2	1,0
	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	
Consumer Price Index (CPI) 	3,0	3,1	4,0	0,4	0,6	1,1	
Producer Price Index (PPI) 	1,8	2,3	4,8	0,0	1,1	3,0	

### ABOUT

The indicators shown here provide an overview of how various sectors of South Africa's economy are performing

Click on an indicator name to access the complete report on Stats SA's website

y/y = year-on-year  
 m/m = month-on-month  
 q/q = quarter-on-quarter percentage change, Q1: 2026 compared with Q4: 2025

Keep up to date with our release schedule [here](#). A complete catalogue of Stats SA releases and reports is available [here](#).



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Department:  
 Statistics South Africa  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS



## Feature article

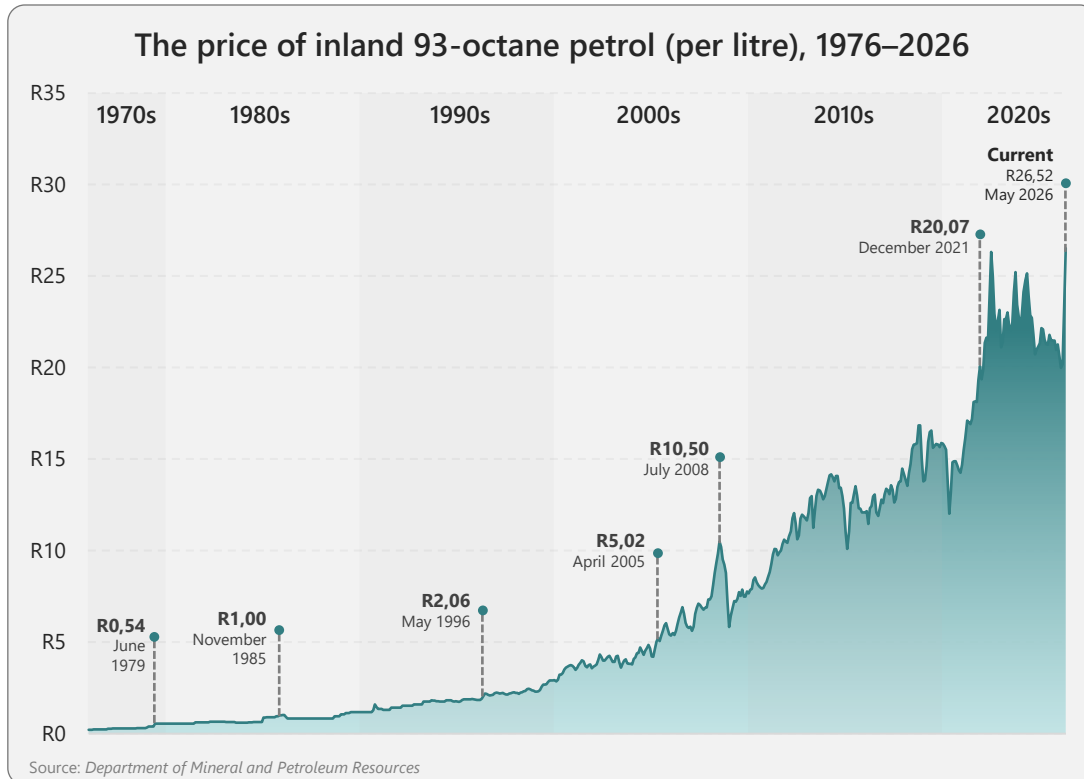
### A 50-year tour of the petrol price

The recent painful rise in fuel prices follows a long series of increases over the years. The price of inland 93-octane petrol was 21,1c per litre in January 1976, rising to 54,2c in June 1979. For those wondering about the decimal places in these two amounts – yes, the petrol price was set at fractions of a cent in the old days!

The R1 per litre mark was reached in November 1985 and increased to R5 two decades later. The price then doubled in just three years, breaching the R10 level in 2008. Christmas cheer was dampened in December 2021, when motorists had to pay more than R20 per litre.

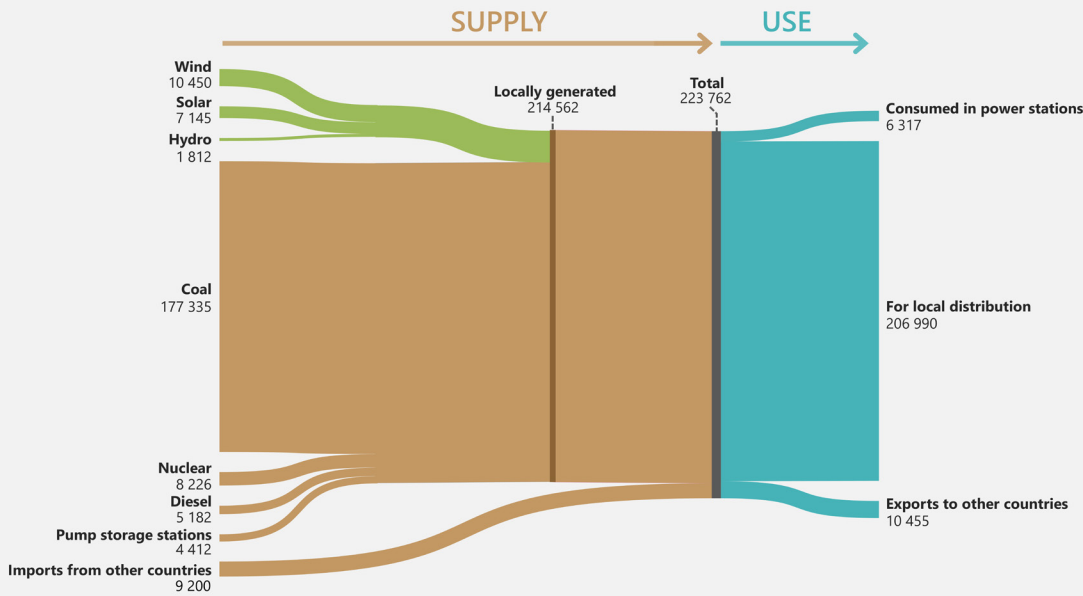
The price eased from R26,31 in July 2022, only for April and May of 2026 to spoil the party. The new price set in May 2026 is the highest on record for inland 93-octane petrol.

Read more [here](#).



## Infographic of the month

### Supply and use of electricity in gigawatt-hours (GWh), 2024



### A breakdown of the energy mix

Several energy sources drive our economy. Coal continues to be the primary source of fuel, driving 83% of local electricity generation in 2024. South Africa also uses other non-renewable sources, such as nuclear and diesel. The nation benefited from 9 200 gigawatt-hours (GWh) imported from other countries.

Renewable energy (including wind, solar and hydro) accounted for 9% of local production. Wind power supplied over half of the electricity generated by renewable sources in 2024, making it the most prominent form of green energy.

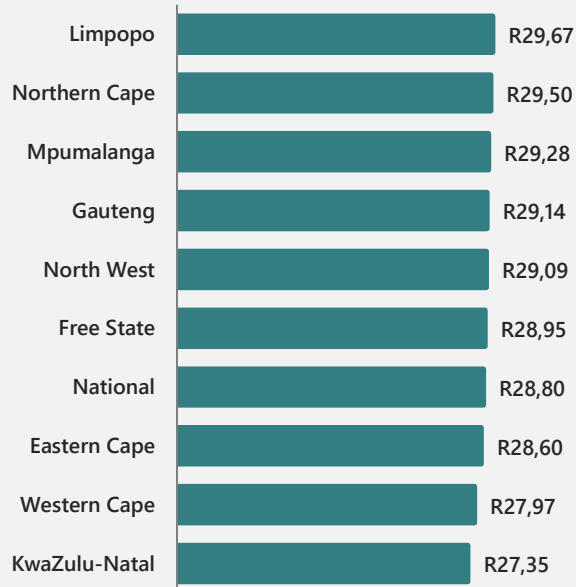
Once electricity is produced, it is either distributed locally, used in power stations, or exported to other countries. Local distribution accounts for the bulk of demand.

Read more [here](#).

Source: Electricity, gas and water supply industry, Report No. 41-01-02 (2024), Table 12

## Provincial snapshot

The average price for diesel in each province (per litre), April 2026



Source: Consumer Price Index (CPI), April 2026 Download the release and Excel files [here](#)

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