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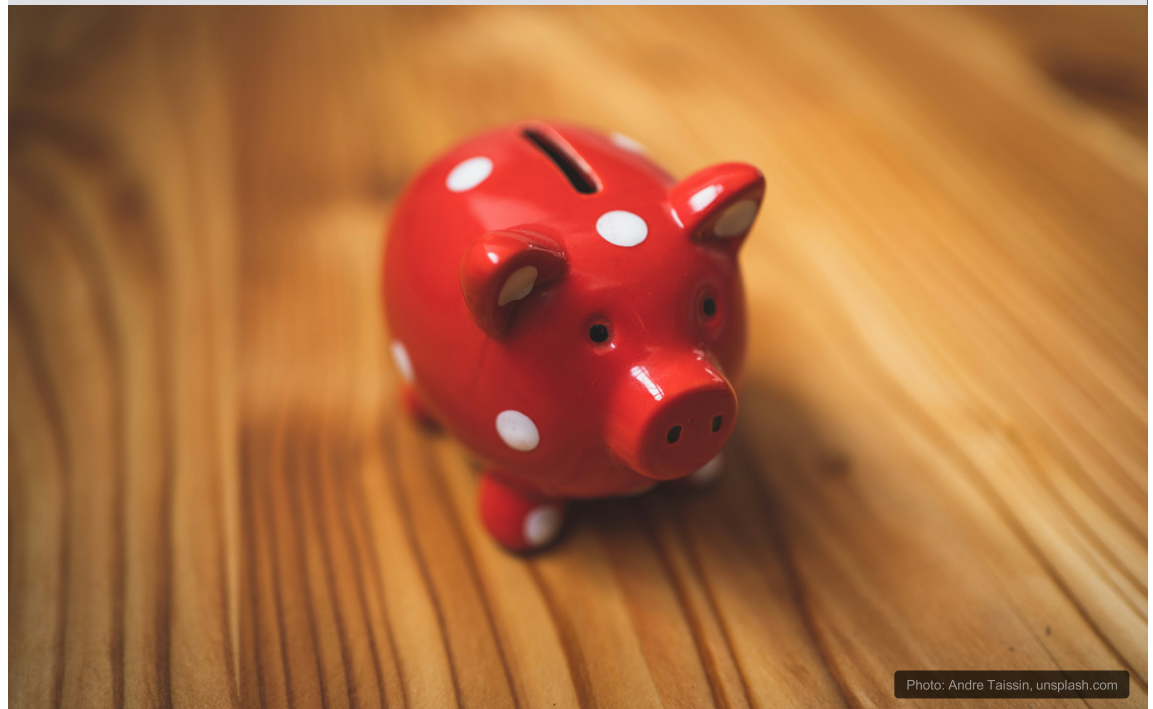


Photo: Andre Taissin, unsplash.com



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Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS



Economic headlines

Economic activity expands in the first quarter



South Africa's GDP recorded its sixth consecutive increase (click [here](#) to read more).

Consumer inflation continues to bite



Largely driven by painful fuel price increases (click [here](#) to read more).

An analysis of intergovernmental grants



Provincial government was the dominant beneficiary in 2024/25 (click [here](#) to read more).
















Formal sector employment weakens



The first quarter experienced a loss of 80 000 jobs (click [here](#) to read more).

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

Monthly economic indicators

	y/y percentage change			m/m percentage change			3-month
	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	Feb-Apr
Mining production 	9,8	2,5	8,2	3,0	-4,8	3,3	2,4
Manufacturing production 	-2,2	1,5	-2,9	-1,8	1,2	-2,7	-1,3
Electricity generation 	-3,9	-6,9	-9,0	-0,8	-1,4	-1,7	-1,8
Buildings completed (value) 	19,0	22,5	-2,8	80,2	-0,4	-10,1	3,0
Wholesale trade sales 	-1,4	8,9	3,3	0,8	6,2	-2,4	2,8
Retail trade sales 	1,6	2,5	1,3	-1,1	0,1	0,9	-0,3
Motor trade sales 	5,6	15,3	6,5	1,2	6,2	-3,8	4,0
Income from tourist accommodation 	7,5	13,7	6,5	2,2	2,2	-1,1	2,9
Restaurants, catering & fast-food income 	4,2	1,9	-2,1	-1,6	0,6	-3,0	-1,4
Rail transport: Freight payload 	3,3	0,1	-5,8	-7,4	-2,3	-4,8	-5,1
Road transport: Freight payload 	-3,3	1,2	10,2	1,2	2,5	5,8	4,7
Rail transport: Passenger journeys 	26,6	31,9	28,6	0,5	8,4	-4,7	7,3
Road transport: Passenger journeys 	-3,7	-2,1	-1,3	-1,2	3,4	0,7	2,6
	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	
Consumer Price Index (CPI) 	3,1	4,0	4,5	0,6	1,1	0,7	
Producer Price Index (PPI) 	2,3	4,8	7,8	1,1	3,0	2,6	

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
 3-month = percentage change between the previous 3 months (November–January) and the latest 3 months (February–April)

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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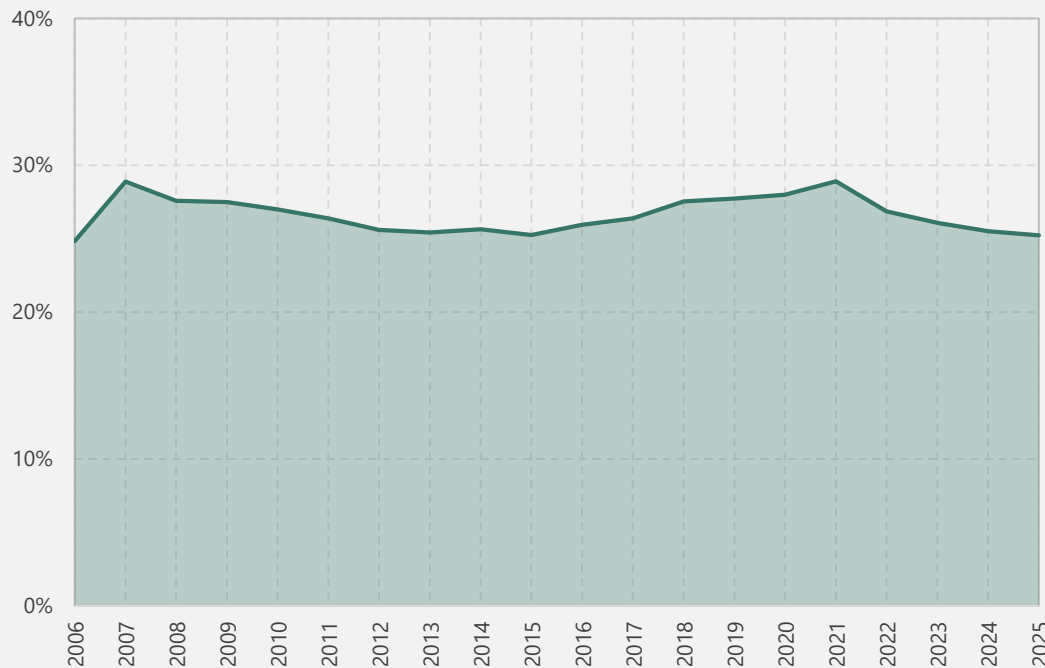
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IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS



Feature article

Employee-related costs as a percentage of total operational expenditure



Source: Financial census of municipalities for the year ended 30 June 2025

A 20-year snapshot of the municipal wage bill

The payment of salaries and wages accounts for a sizable portion of the municipal budget. National Treasury states that local government spending on employee-related costs should lie within a range of 25% to 40% of total operational expenditure.

The contribution was 24,8% in 2006. After flatlining between 2011 and 2016, it rose to 28,9% in 2021. It then declined to reach the lower end of the National Treasury norm at 25,2% in 2025. In 2025, 136 municipalities fell snugly between 25% and 40%. This left 37 municipalities above the range and 84 municipalities below it.

Sedibeng District Municipality in Gauteng registered the highest percentage in 2025 (76%). Emfuleni Local Municipality, located in Sedibeng, recorded the lowest at 12%.

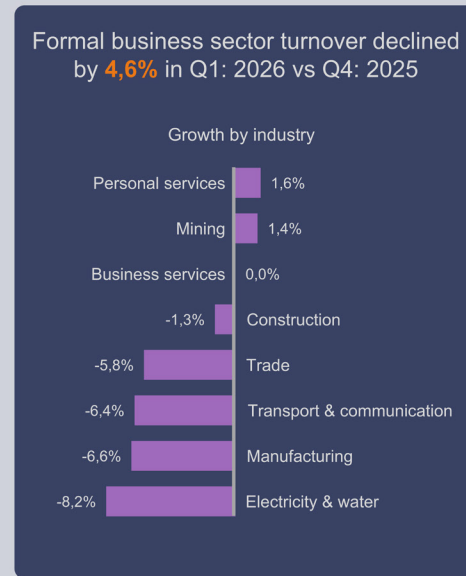
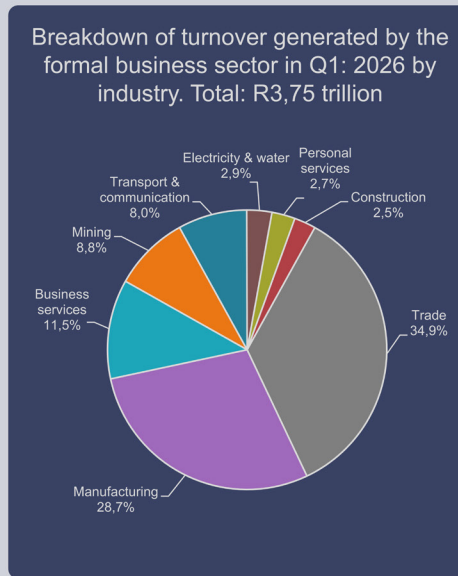
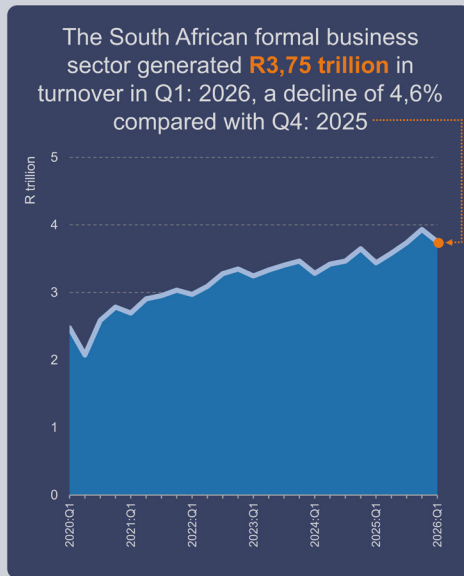
Read more [here](#).



Infographic of the month

Turnover in the formal business sector, Q1: 2026

Selected results from the Quarterly financial statistics (QFS) survey



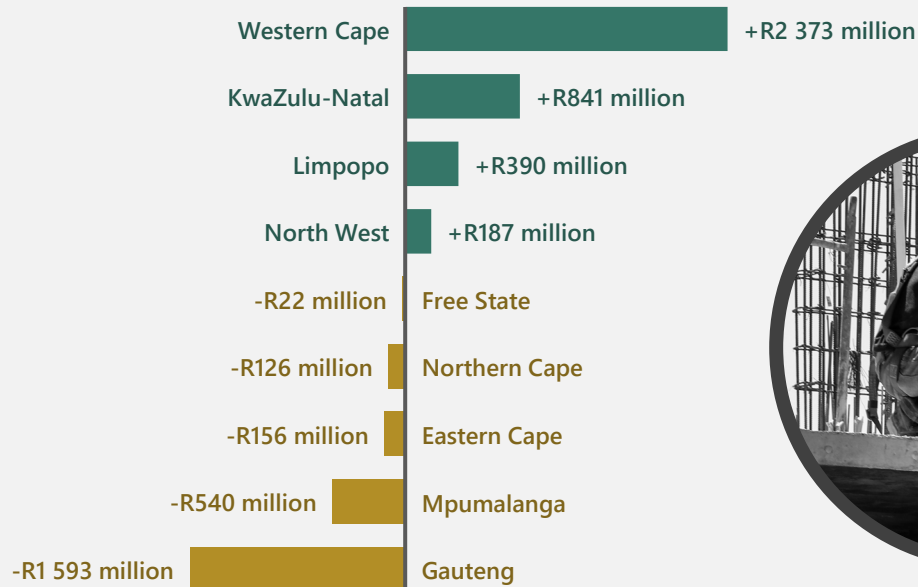
Source: Quarterly financial statistics (QFS), March 2026
Excludes agriculture, financial intermediation, insurance, government institutions and educational institutions

Click [here](#) to read more

Provincial snapshot

Change in the value of buildings completed, 2025 compared with 2024

Western Cape recorded the largest increase, followed by KwaZulu-Natal. Total change: +R1 352 million



In current prices Source: Selected building statistics of the private sector as reported by local government institutions, 2025. Table B.2 Download the release and Excel files [here](#)

Contact us

Head Office
ISlbalu House, Koch Street
Salvokop, Pretoria
0002

Private Bag X44
Pretoria 0001
South Africa

Main switchboard
Tel: +27 12 310 8911
User Information Services
Tel: +27 12 310 8600

Click [here](#) for contact details for provincial offices.



E-mail: info@statssa.gov.za
Website: www.statssa.gov.za



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