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Your monthly update on South Africa's economic indicators

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Photo: Michael Fousert, unsplash.com



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## Economic headlines

### Consumer inflation slows in July



The headline rate cooled for the first time in five months (click [here](#) to read more).

### Unpacking spending on social protection



These 12 institutions contribute, in part, to government's social protection mandate (click [here](#) to read more).

### Gender gaps in the labour market



Women bear a disproportionate burden of unemployment (click [here](#) to read more)

### Women's progress in democratic South Africa



Insights from the population census data (click [here](#) to read more).

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

## Monthly economic indicators

|                                                                                                                            | y/y percentage change |        |        | m/m percentage change |        |        | q/q      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|--------|-----------------------|--------|--------|----------|
|                                                                                                                            | Apr-26                | May-26 | Jun-26 | Apr-26                | May-26 | Jun-26 | Q2: 2026 |
| Mining production                         | 7,9                   | -5,1   | -4,0   | 3,0                   | -5,2   | 0,3    | -2,7     |
| Manufacturing production                  | -3,0                  | -4,4   | -1,7   | -2,6                  | 1,0    | 0,9    | -1,5     |
| Electricity generation                    | -8,7                  | -8,7   | -8,1   | -1,8                  | 0,8    | -0,7   | -2,5     |
| Buildings completed (value)               | -2,8                  | -40,7  | -3,6   | -12,0                 | -25,3  | 21,7   | -10,2    |
| Wholesale trade sales                     | 3,3                   | -7,1   | -6,8   | -2,3                  | -7,4   | -3,4   | -4,2     |
| Retail trade sales                        | 1,2                   | 2,2    | 1,6    | 0,8                   | 0,0    | -0,6   | 0,4      |
| Motor trade sales                         | 6,1                   | 0,2    | 1,5    | -4,4                  | -2,6   | -2,7   | -2,9     |
| Income from tourist accommodation         | 5,9                   | 2,2    | 2,4    | -1,3                  | 0,7    | -0,4   | 1,2      |
| Restaurants, catering & fast-food income  | -2,4                  | -0,6   | 1,0    | -3,7                  | 3,2    | -1,7   | -2,0     |
| Rail transport: Freight payload           | 4,5                   | -1,0   | 4,1    | 3,4                   | -4,6   | 3,4    | -2,7     |
| Road transport: Freight payload           | 7,4                   | 4,5    | 0,9    | 3,3                   | 1,4    | -2,4   | 5,4      |
| Rail transport: Passenger journeys        | 28,6                  | 24,2   | 29,2   | -4,1                  | 2,1    | 8,7    | 5,6      |
| Road transport: Passenger journeys        | -1,4                  | -3,4   | 2,1    | 0,7                   | -0,7   | 3,0    | 3,1      |
|                                                                                                                            | May-26                | Jun-26 | Jul-26 | May-26                | Jun-26 | Jul-26 |          |
| Consumer Price Index (CPI)              | 4,5                   | 5,0    | 4,3    | 0,7                   | 0,7    | 0,2    |          |
| Producer Price Index (PPI)              | 7,8                   | 7,5    | 5,7    | 2,6                   | -0,1   | -1,0   |          |

### 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, Q2: 2026 compared with Q1: 2026

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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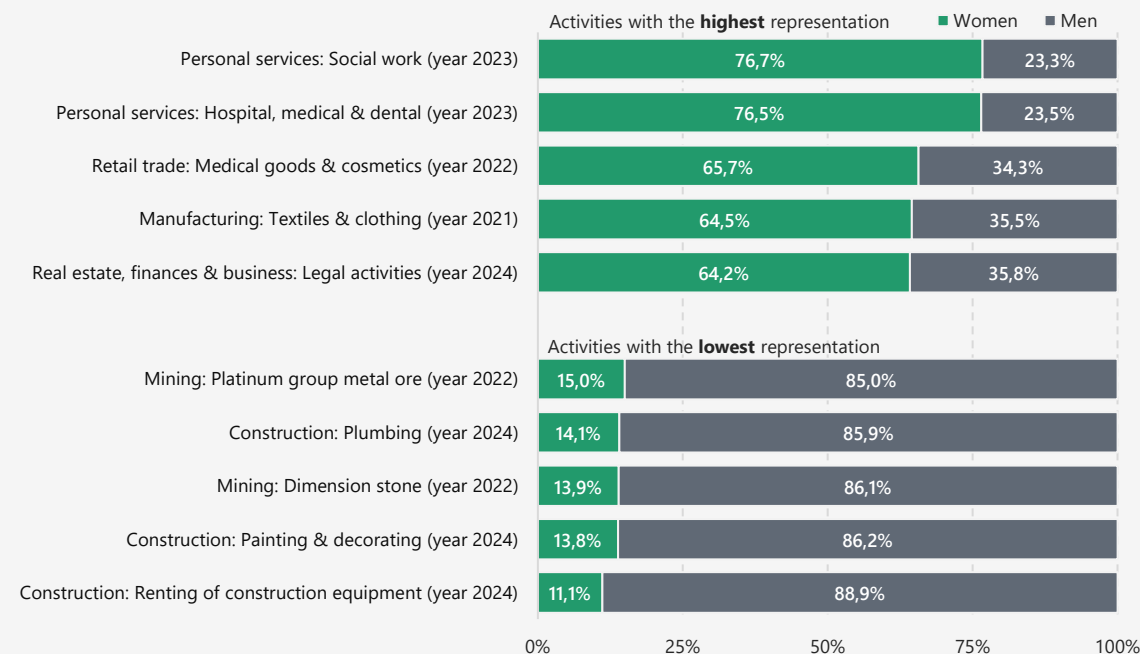
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## Feature article

### Where women are most (and least) represented in the formal business sector

Percentage breakdown of employment. Highest and lowest representation from a list of just over 120 activities



Source: Selected structural industry statistics reports Activities classified as 'other' are excluded from the chart

### Gender representation in the formal business sector

Gender representation varies across the economy, with women more highly represented in some sectors compared with others. Stats SA's structural industry surveys allows us to measure gender representation within industries.

Data exist for 123 activities across 14 industries. Two activities in the personal services industry recorded the highest representation. Women occupied more than 70% of jobs in social work and hospital, medical & dental activities.

On the other end of the scale, renting of construction or demolition equipment in the construction industry recorded the lowest percentage, followed by painting & decorating, and mining of dimension stone.

Read more [here](#).

## Infographic of the month

### Spring may be on its way, but the cold continues to linger

The cost of keeping warm. Price changes for products that help keep the chill at bay, July 2025 to July 2026

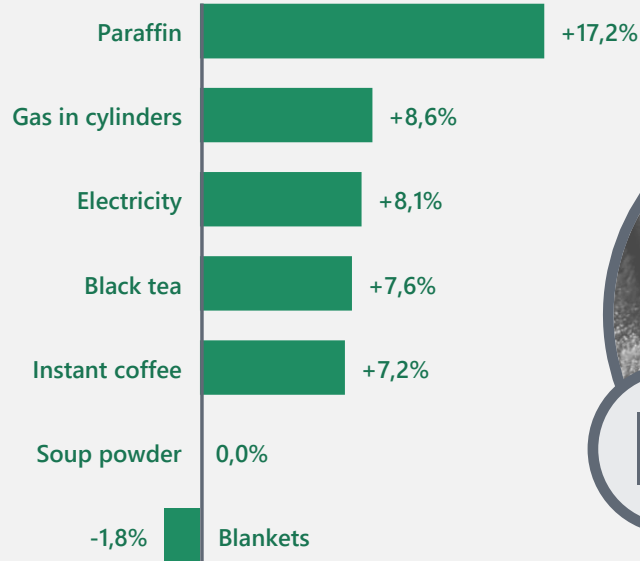
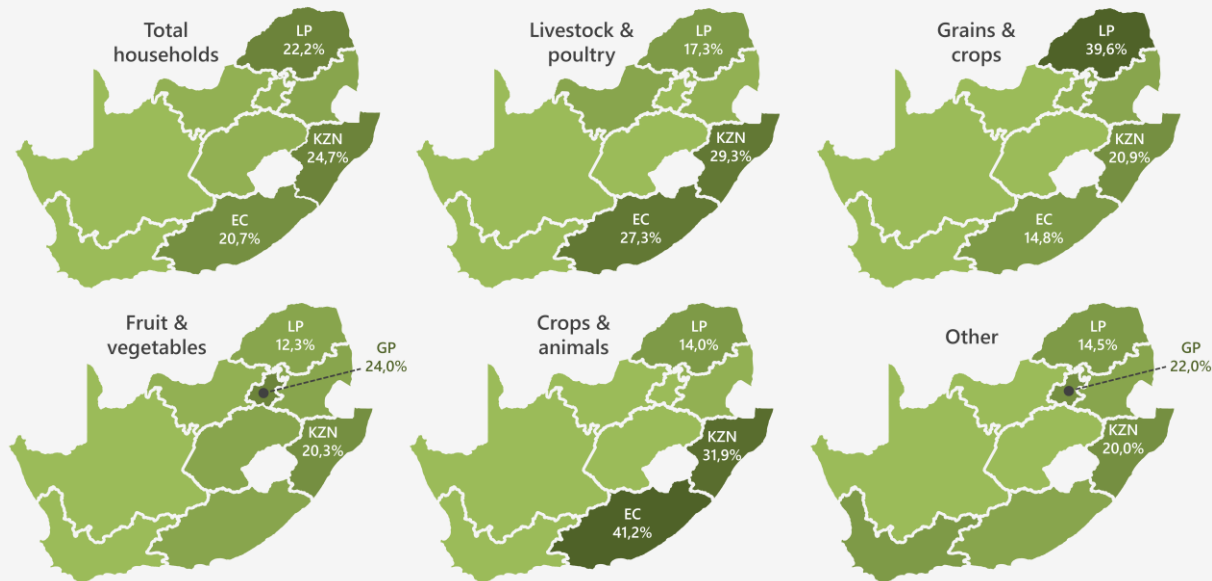


Photo: Rion de Villiers, unsplash.com Data source: Consumer Price Index, July 2026 Download the release and Excel files [here](#)

## Provincial snapshot

### Distribution of women-headed agricultural households by activity and province

In 2022, 39,6% of women-headed agricultural households involved in the production of grains & crops lived in Limpopo



Source: Census 2022: Agricultural households, Report No. 03-11-01 (2022). Tables 3.22 to 3.27 Read more [here](#)

## Contact us

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



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