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Economic headlines

Inflation ticks higher in August



Food and non-alcoholic beverages inflation quickened for the first time in nine months (click [here](#) to read more).

GDP stalls in the first quarter



Manufacturing, trade and mining dampened growth (click [here](#) to read more).

Formal business employment shrinks further



Manufacturing experienced the largest decline in Q1: 2026 (click [here](#) to read more).

Economic wrap-up for September



Stats SA released 28 publications in the month (click [here](#) to read more).

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

Monthly economic indicators

	y/y percentage change			m/m percentage change			3-month
	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	May-Jul
Mining production 	-5,1	-4,3	-7,5	-5,6	0,1	-1,9	-5,5
Manufacturing production 	-4,6	-1,8	1,1	1,2	0,8	2,2	1,0
Electricity generation 	-8,5	-7,9	-7,9	0,9	-0,7	-0,4	-1,3
Buildings completed (value) 	-40,7	-3,0	-44,9	-24,8	21,8	-15,3	-25,8
Wholesale trade sales 	-7,1	-6,0	-1,1	-7,5	-2,5	6,2	-6,8
Retail trade sales 	2,2	1,1	3,4	0,1	-0,8	2,5	1,0
Motor trade sales 	0,2	2,2	3,2	-2,0	-2,9	4,1	-3,6
Income from tourist accommodation 	2,2	2,8	7,0	0,9	0,0	2,0	1,4
Restaurants, catering & fast-food income 	-0,6	1,0	6,6	3,3	-1,7	3,7	1,2
Rail transport: Freight payload 	-1,0	4,1	14,0	-5,5	4,4	2,0	-0,5
Road transport: Freight payload 	4,5	0,8	-2,7	1,9	-3,8	-3,1	1,1
Rail transport: Passenger journeys 	24,2	29,2	27,2	1,8	8,1	1,7	7,9
Road transport: Passenger journeys 	-3,4	1,1	1,1	-0,7	2,3	-0,1	2,5
	Jun-26	Jul-26	Aug-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	Aug-26	
Consumer Price Index (CPI) 	5,0	4,3	4,4	0,7	0,2	0,0	
Producer Price Index (PPI) 	7,5	5,7	5,0	-0,1	-1,0	-0,4	

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 (February–April) and the latest 3 months (May–July)

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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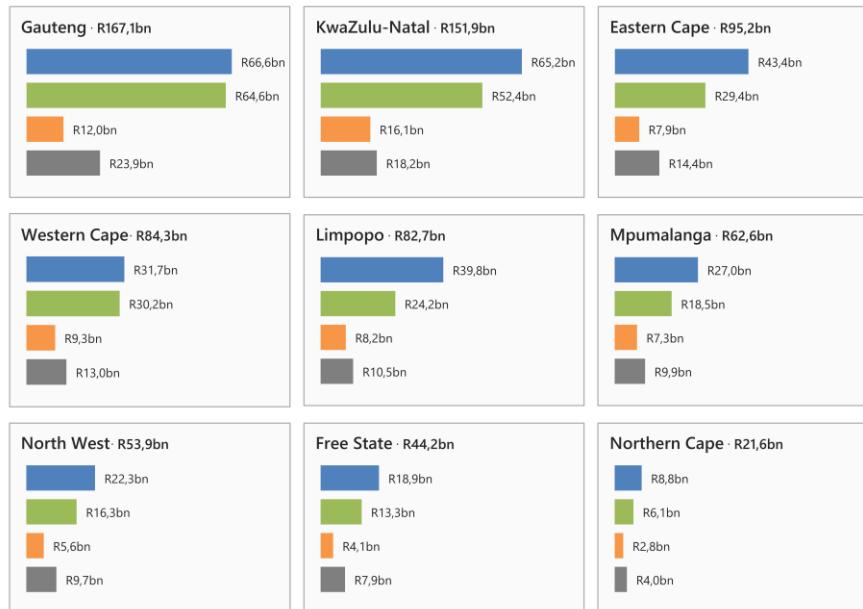


Feature article

Provincial government spending patterns tell us what they prioritise

Total expenditure in 2024/2025 (R billion)

■ Education ■ Health ■ Economic affairs ■ Other



Source: Financial statistics of provincial government, 2024/2025

Spending priorities of provincial governments

Expenditure patterns across South Africa's provinces are similar but not identical.

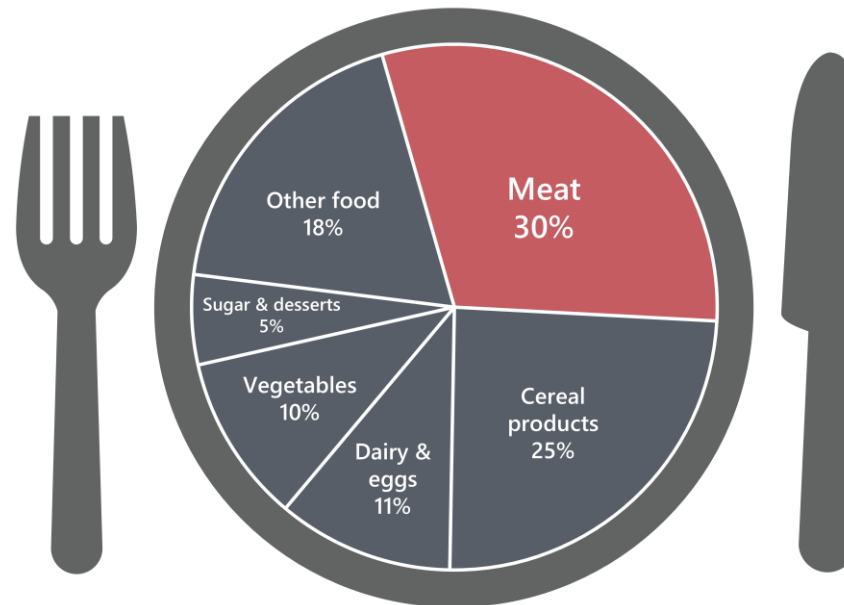
The provincial government's biggest task is managing the country's public education and healthcare systems. Together, these two functions accounted for 75,8% of total provincial government expenditure in 2024/2025. Both dominate the bulk of spending across all provinces.

Gauteng was the biggest spender overall (R167,1 billion) and allocated the most funding to education and health. This is not surprising, as Gauteng had the largest population in 2024, estimated at 15,7 million individuals. Northern Cape, with the smallest population, spent the least overall.

Read more [here](#).

Infographic of the month

How much do we love our meat?
Meat accounts for **30%** of household spending on food



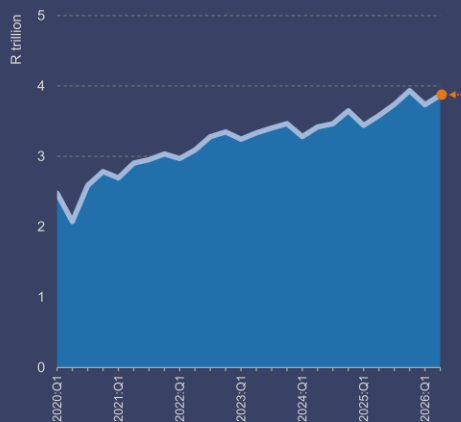
Percentages have been rounded and may not sum to 100% Source: Consumer Price Index, August 2026 Download the release and Excel files [here](#)

Additional infographic of the month

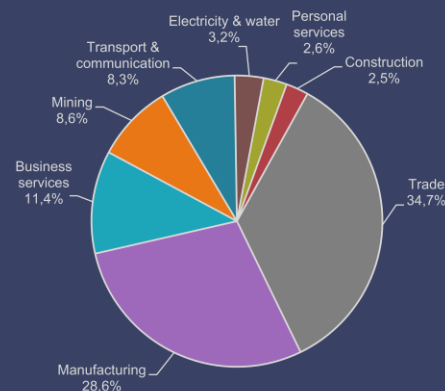
Turnover in the formal business sector, Q2: 2026

Selected results from the Quarterly financial statistics (QFS) survey

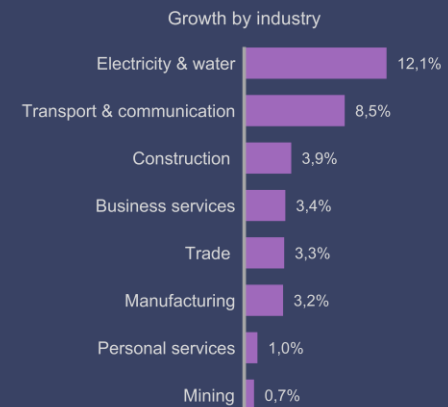
The South African formal business sector generated **R3,87 trillion** in turnover in Q2: 2026, a rise of 3,7% compared with Q1: 2026



Breakdown of turnover generated by the formal business sector in Q2: 2026 by industry. Total: R3,87 trillion



Formal business sector turnover increased by **3,7%** in Q2: 2026 vs Q1: 2026



Source: Quarterly financial statistics (QFS), June 2026

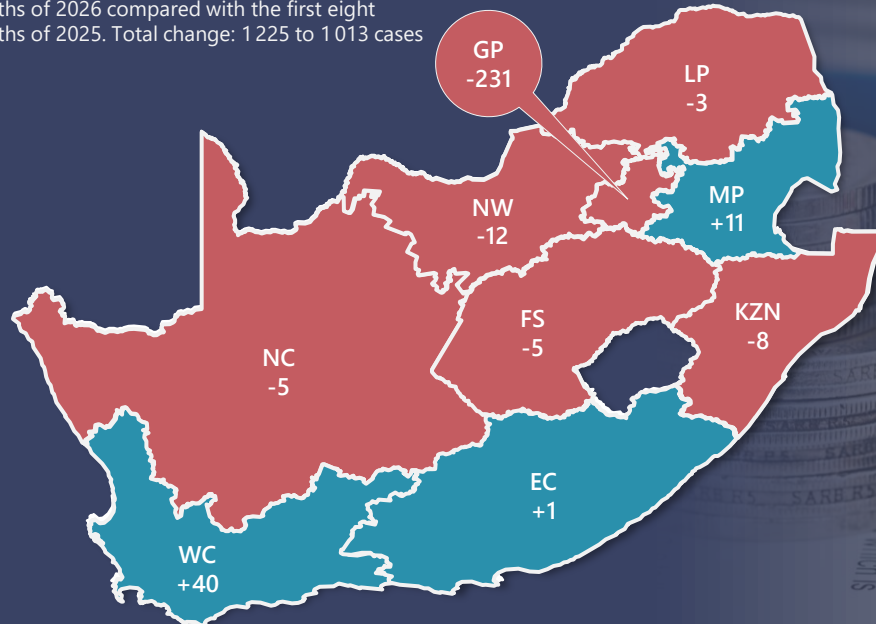
Excludes agriculture, financial intermediation, insurance, government institutions and educational institutions

Click [here](#) to read more

Provincial snapshot

Gauteng registered the largest decline in insolvencies

Change in the number of insolvencies in the first eight months of 2026 compared with the first eight months of 2025. Total change: 1 225 to 1 013 cases



Source: Statistics of insolvencies, August 2026 Download the release [here](#) Photo: pixabay.com



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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
Website: www.statssa.gov.za



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