

# Post and telecommunications industry, 2019

An exploration of finances, employment and services



Joe de Beer  
DDG: Economic Statistics  
09 September 2021

Photo: [unsplash.com](https://unsplash.com)

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS

POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY, 2019



stats sa  
Department:  
Statistics South Africa  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# What is this survey about?



## Who was included?

Enterprises registered for VAT that are engaged in the following activities:

- National postal activities and courier activities
- Telecommunications

## Excluded activities

- Retail traders selling airtime cards, sim cards, phones, etc
- Dissemination of information via websites
- TV and internet public-pay management services
- Satellite car tracking
- Production of radio and television programmes

## When was it conducted?

- Questionnaires were completed for the financial year ended on any date between 1 July 2018 and 30 June 2019
- Employment figures are for 30 June 2019
- The survey was also conducted in 2006, 2010, 2013 and 2016

## What did it measure?

- Finances (including capital expenditure)
- Details of purchases and sales of goods and services
- Employment, salaries and wages, and ICT usage

1. Financial overview

2. Employment

3. Goods and services

# Exploring the industry



1

2

3

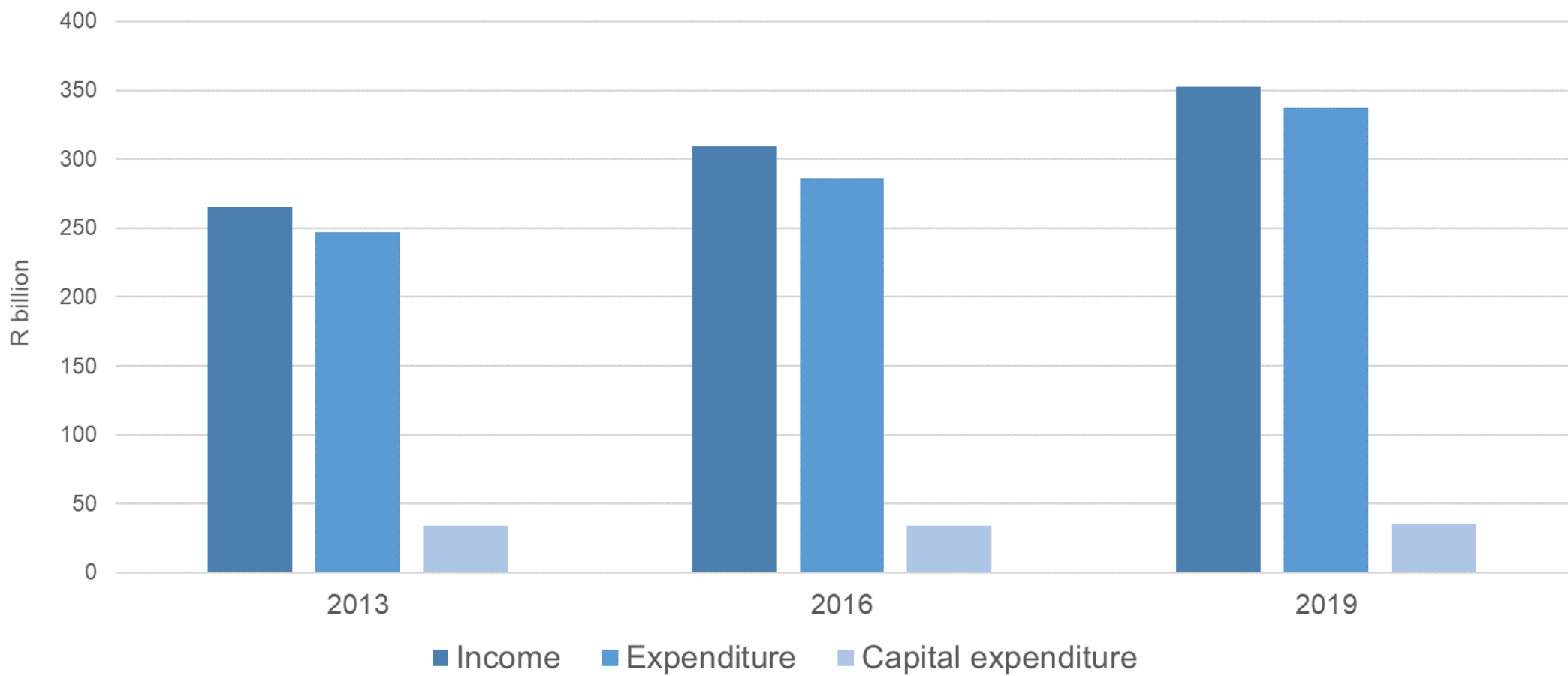


# Financial overview



# 1. Financial overview

In 2019, the industry generated R352 billion in income

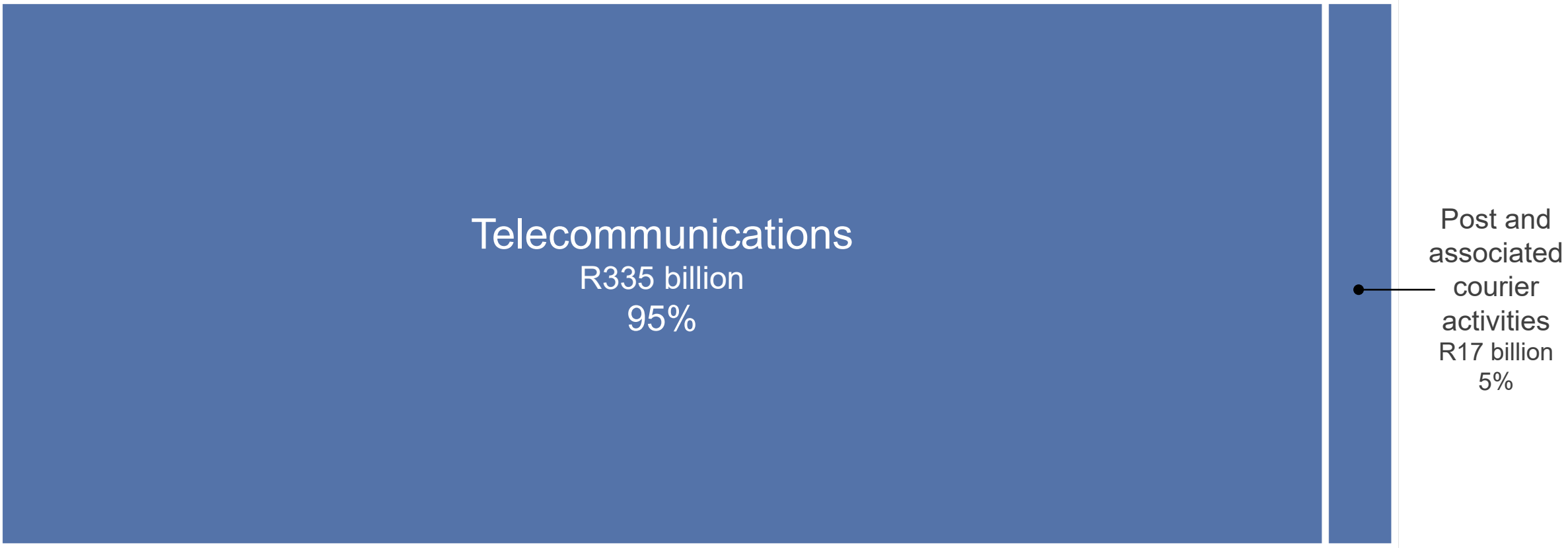


Source: Post and telecommunications industry, Report No. 75-01-01 (2019). Table A and Table H

# 1. Financial overview

## The telecommunications sector dominates the post and telecommunications industry

Percentage breakdown of total income generated in 2019 (R352 billion)



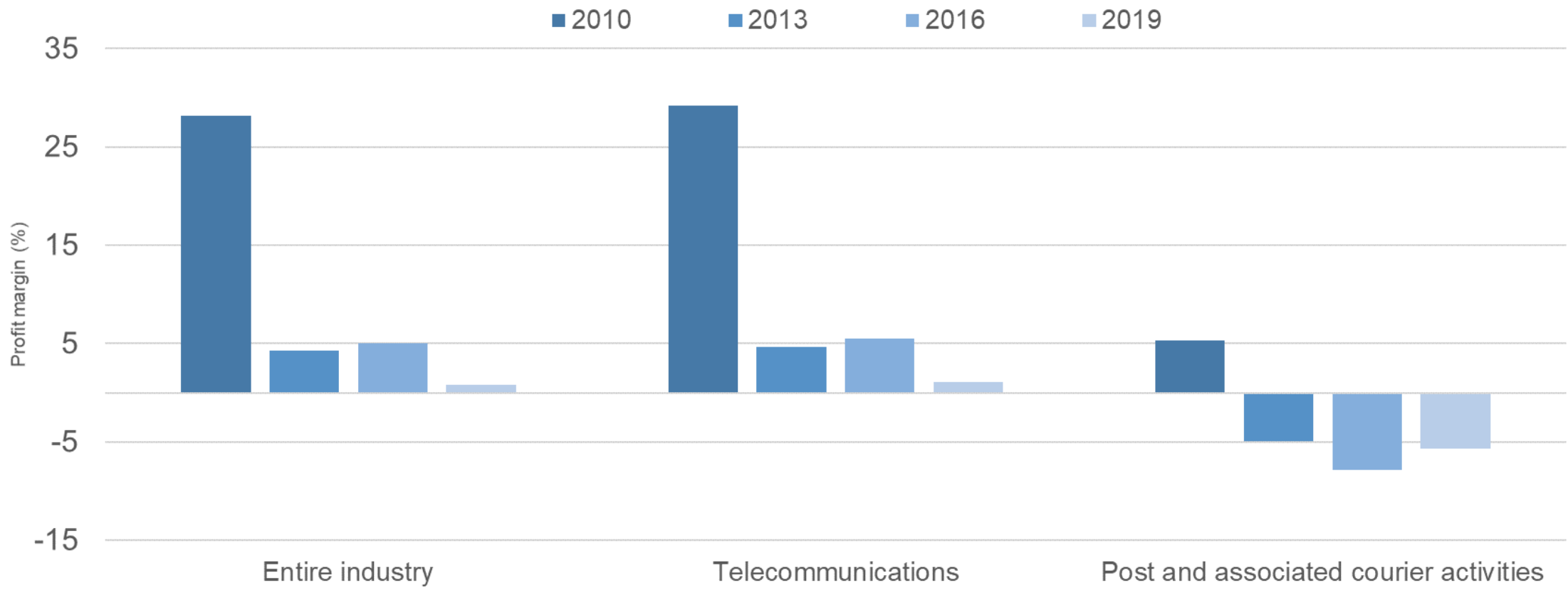
Source: Post and telecommunications industry, Report No. 75-01-01 (2019). Table 6



# 1. Financial overview

## Profit margins were relatively low in the period after 2010

Profit margins in the post and telecommunications industry, 2010-2019



Source: Post and telecommunications industry, Report No. 75-01-01 (2019). Table C

1

2

3



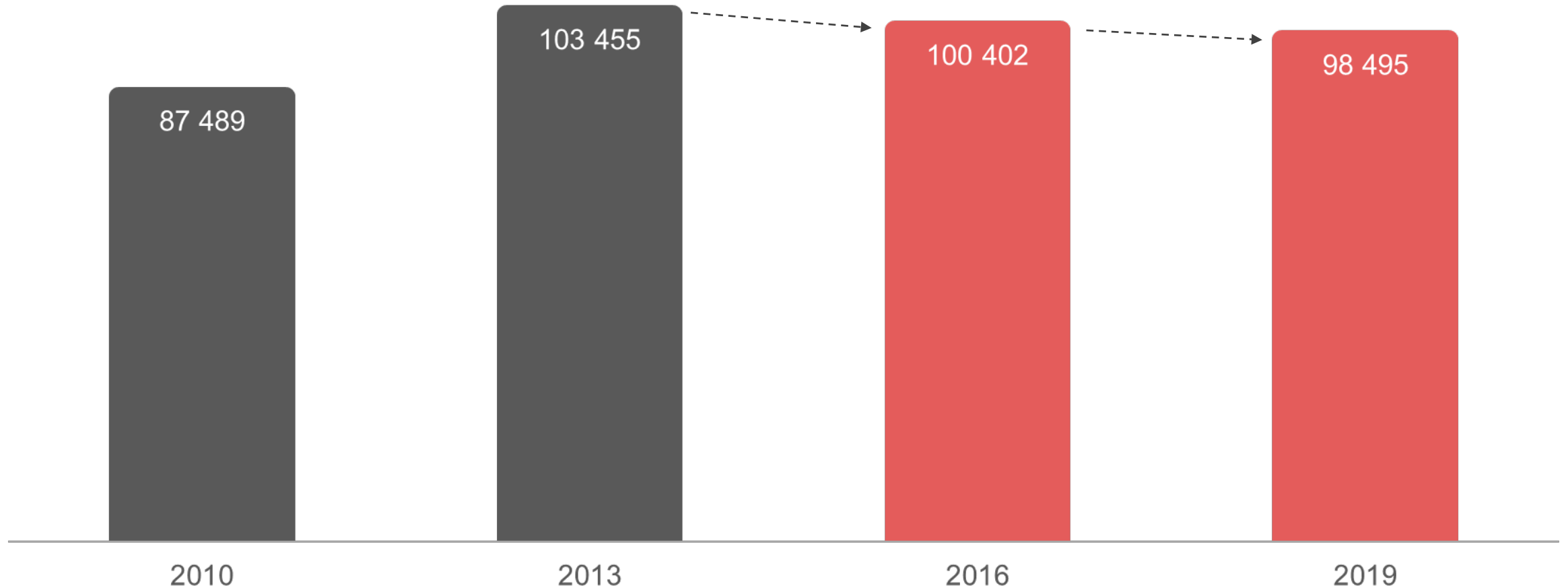
# Employment



# 2. Employment

## The 2016 and 2019 surveys recorded a decline in the number of employees

Total number of employees in the post and telecommunications industry

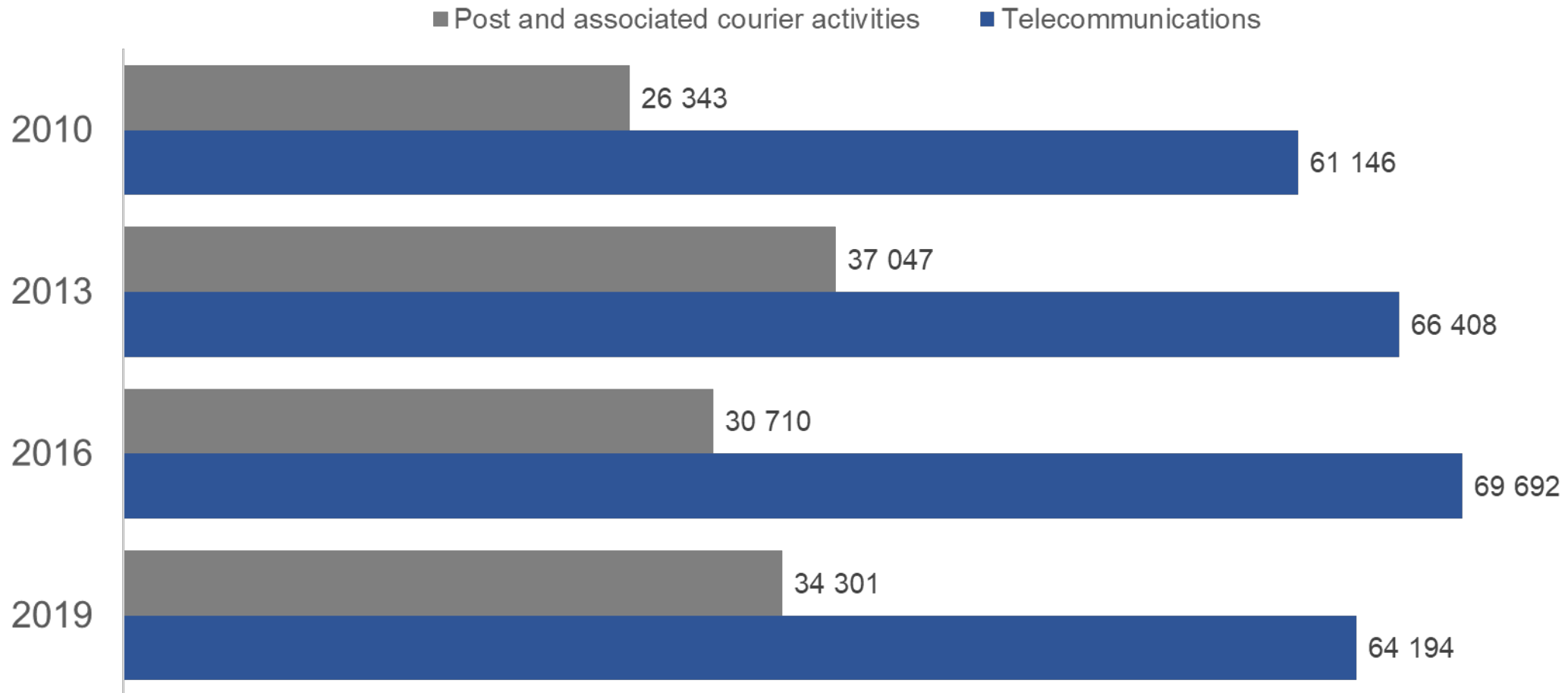


Source: Post and telecommunications industry, Report No. 75-01-01 (2019). Table D

# 2. Employment

## From 2013 to 2016, post and courier activities recorded a decline in employment

From 2016 to 2019, telecommunications recorded a decline. Number of employees in the post and telecommunications industry

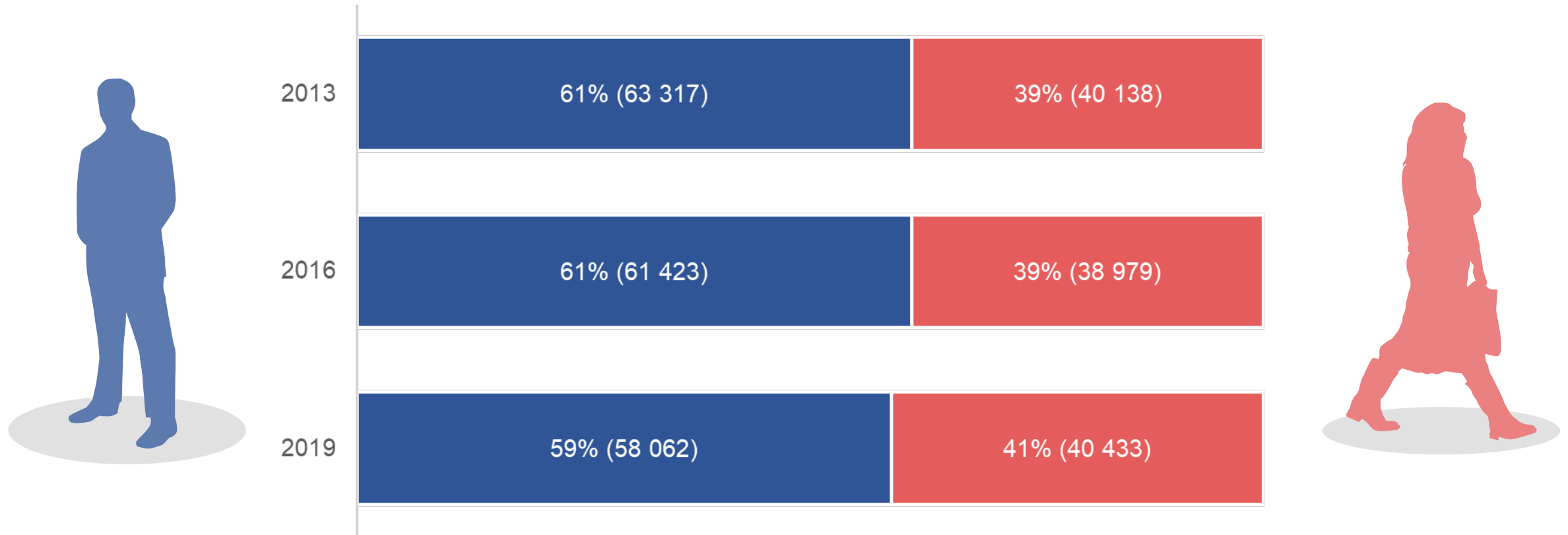


Source: Post and telecommunications industry, Report No. 75-01-01 (2019). Table D

# 2. Employment

## There was a slight increase in the percentage of female employees in 2019

Percentage breakdown of the workforce by male and female, 2013–2016



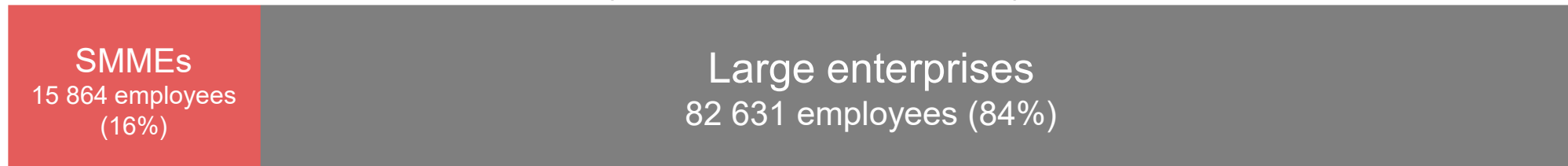
Source: Post and telecommunications industry, Report No. 75-01-01 (2019). Table 12

# 2. Employment

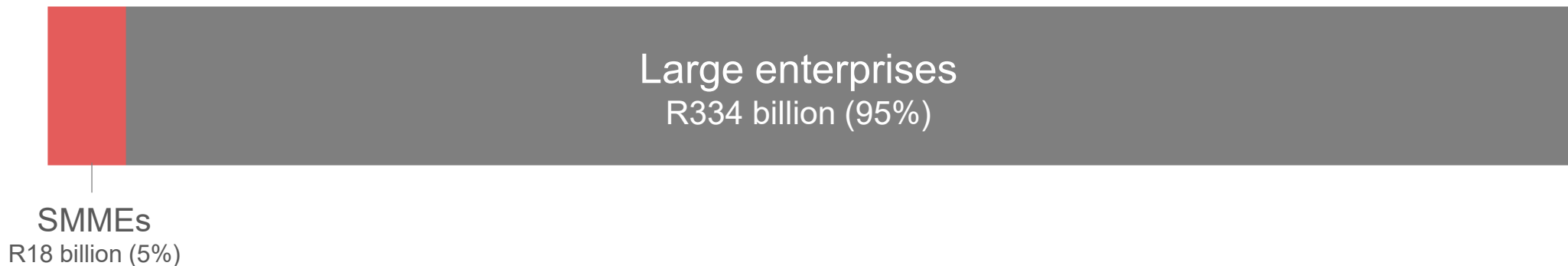
## Small, medium and micro enterprises employed 16% of the workforce and contributed 5% to total income

Employment and income in the post and telecommunications industry by enterprise size

Employment: 98 495 employees



Income: R352 billion



Source: Post and telecommunications industry, Report No. 75-01-01 (2019). Table 6 and Table 14

1

2

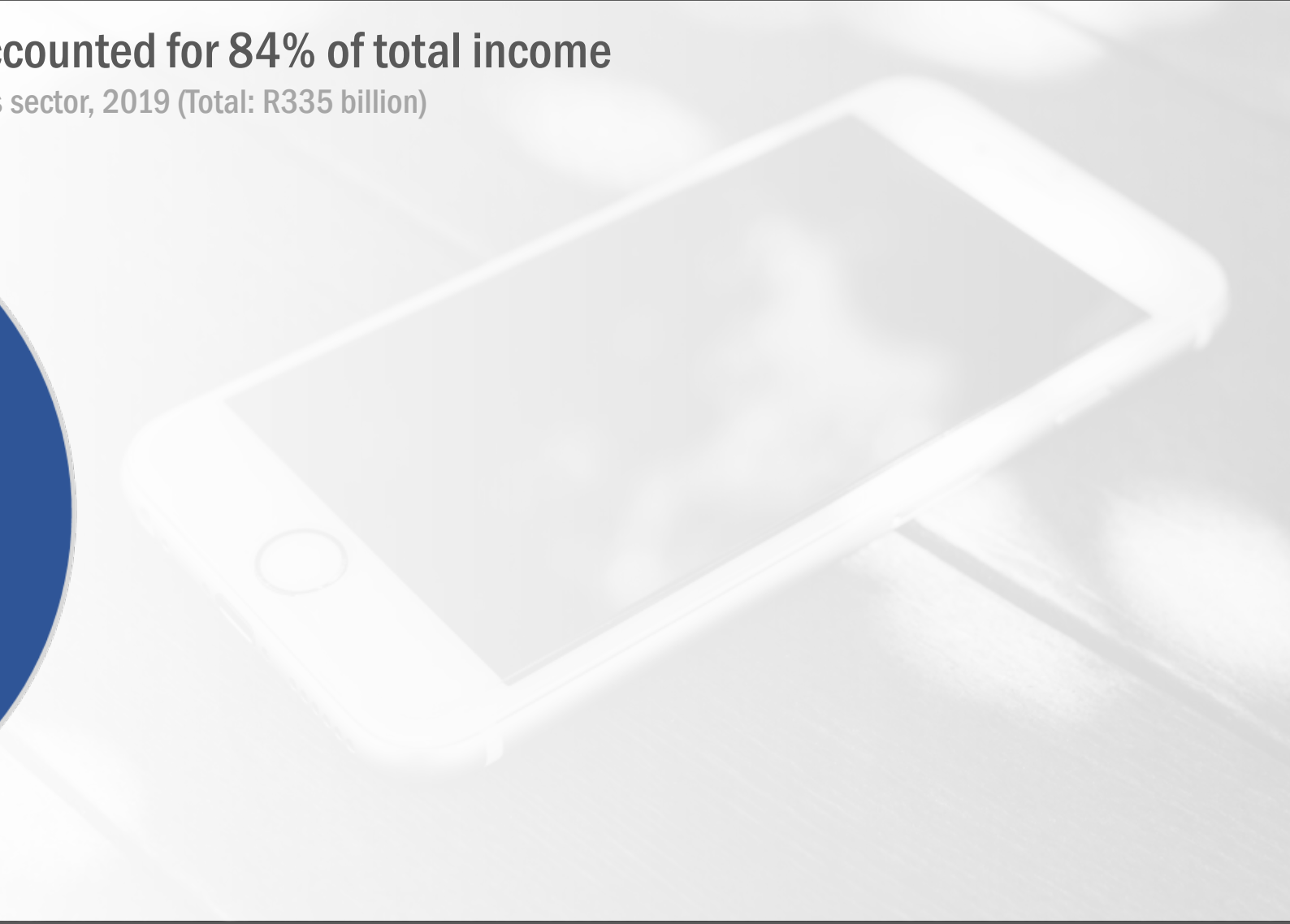
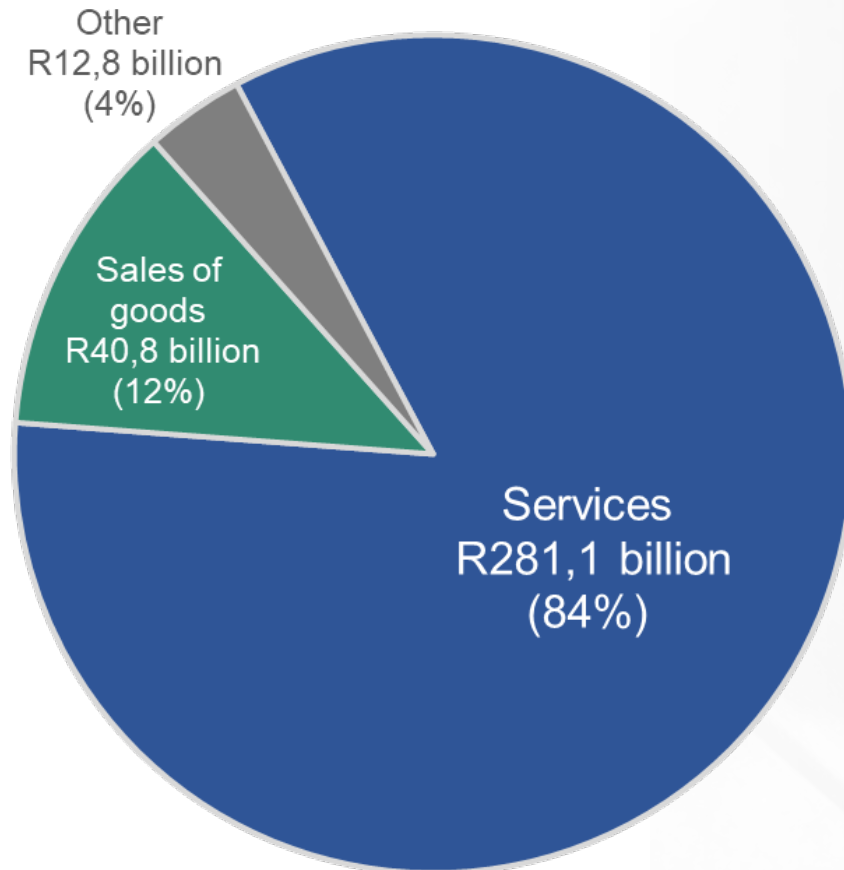
3

Goods and services

# 3. Goods and services

## Telecommunications sector: Services accounted for 84% of total income

Breakdown of income generated by the telecommunications sector, 2019 (Total: R335 billion)

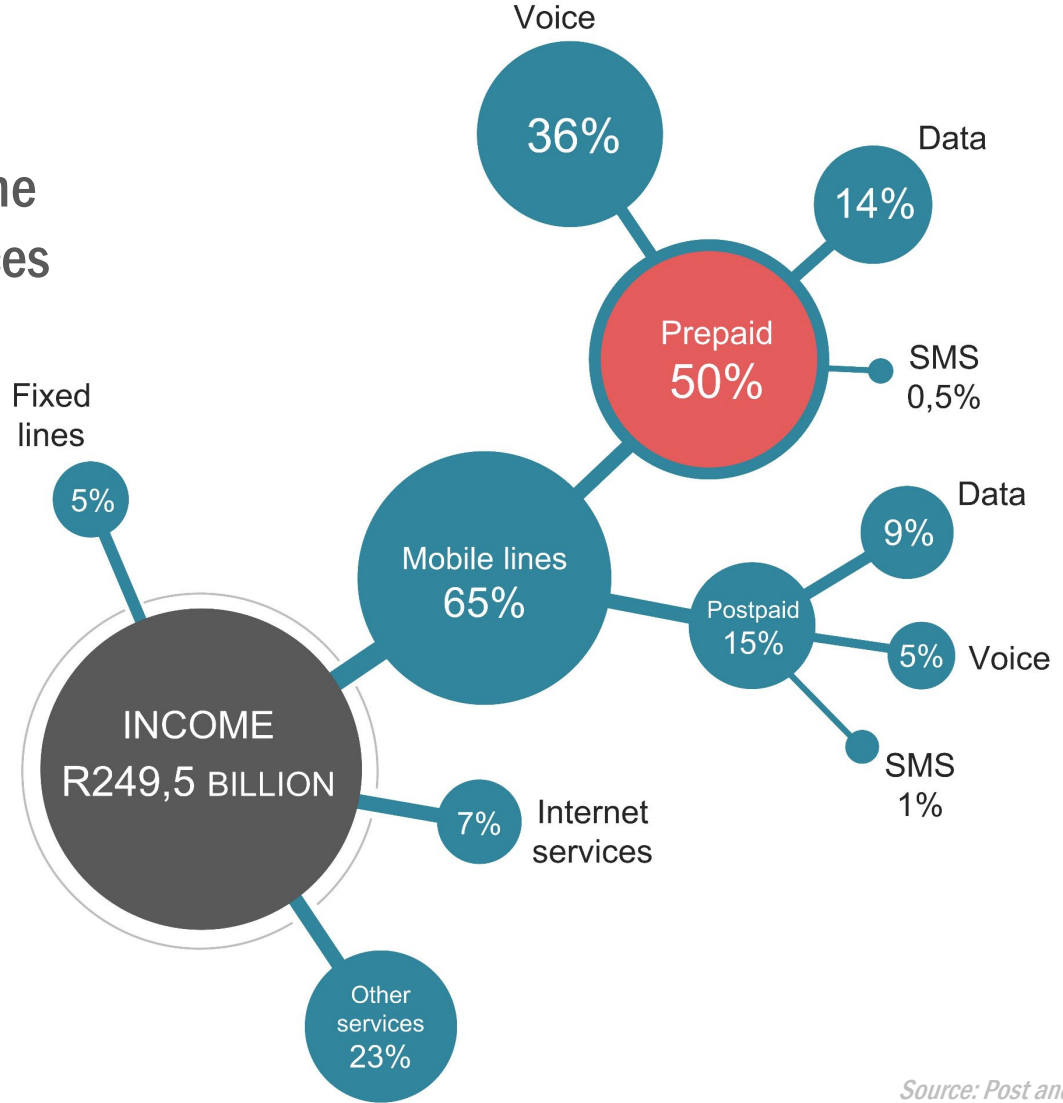


Source: Post and telecommunications industry, Report No. 75-01-01 (2019). Table 5



# 3. Goods and services

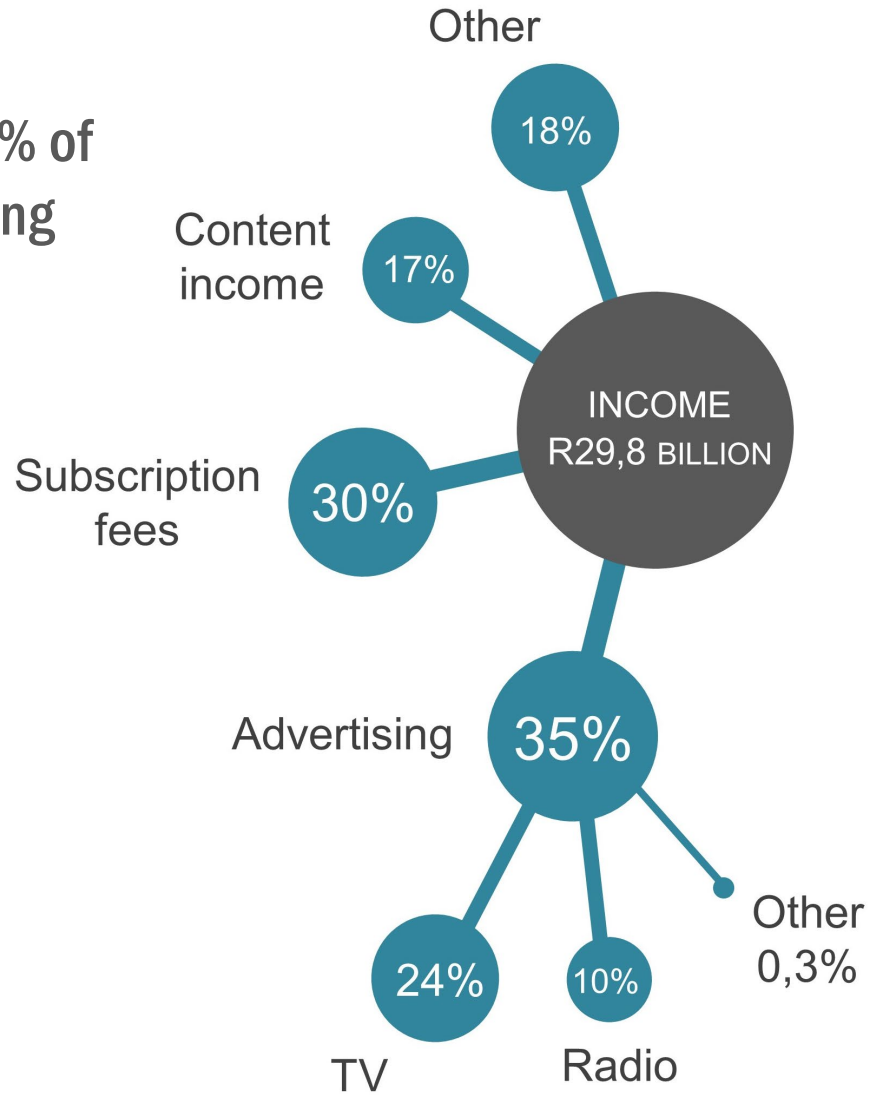
Telecommunications services:  
 Mobile prepaid services  
 accounted for half of total income  
 from telecommunications services  
 in 2019



Source: Post and telecommunications industry, Report No. 75-01-01 (2019). Table 18

# 3. Goods and services

Broadcasting services:  
Advertising accounted for 35% of  
total income from broadcasting  
services in 2019

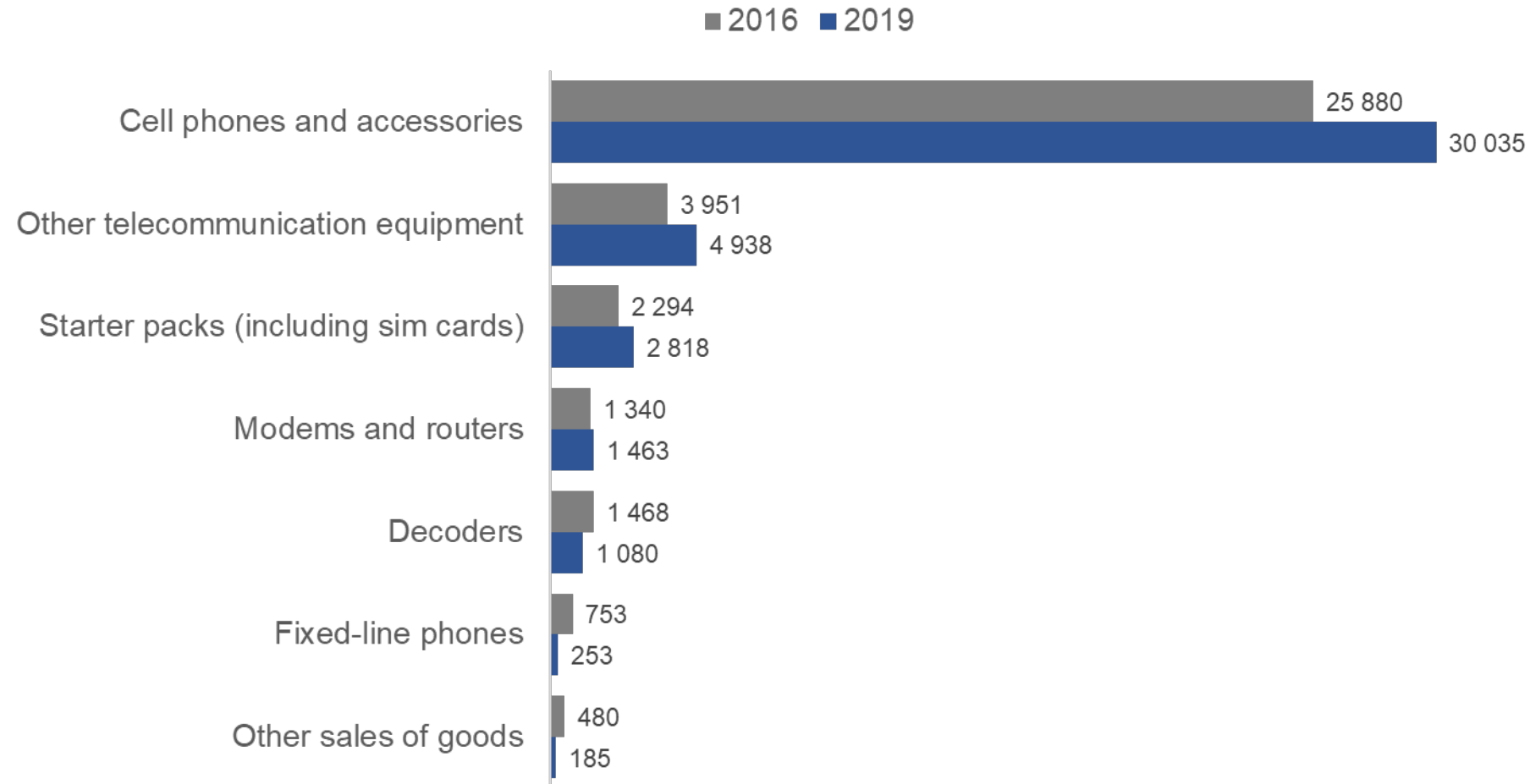


Source: Post and telecommunications industry, Report No. 75-01-01 (2019). Table 18

# 3. Goods and services

## Telecommunications sector: Income from sales of decoders and fixed-line phones have decreased

Income from sales of goods in the telecommunications sector (R million)

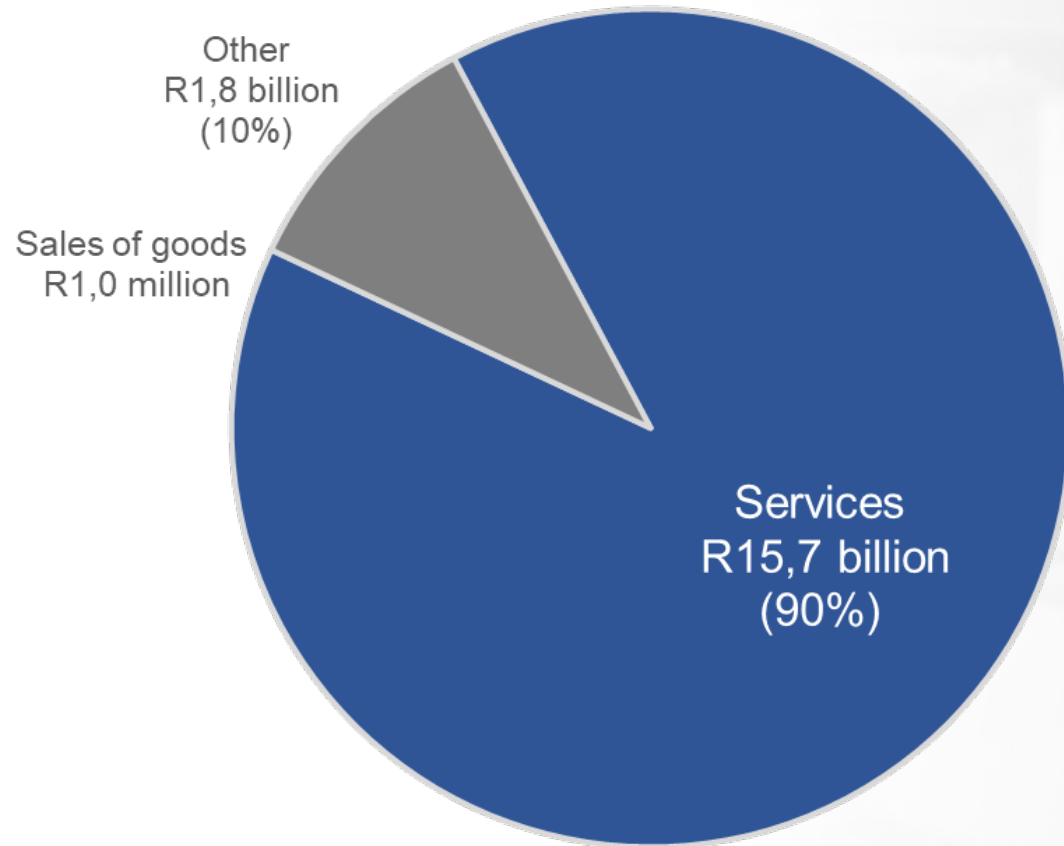


Source: Post and telecommunications industry, Report No. 75-01-01 (2019). Table 19

# 3. Goods and services

## Post and courier sector: Services accounted for 90% of total income

Income generated in the post and courier sector, 2019 (Total: R17,5 billion)

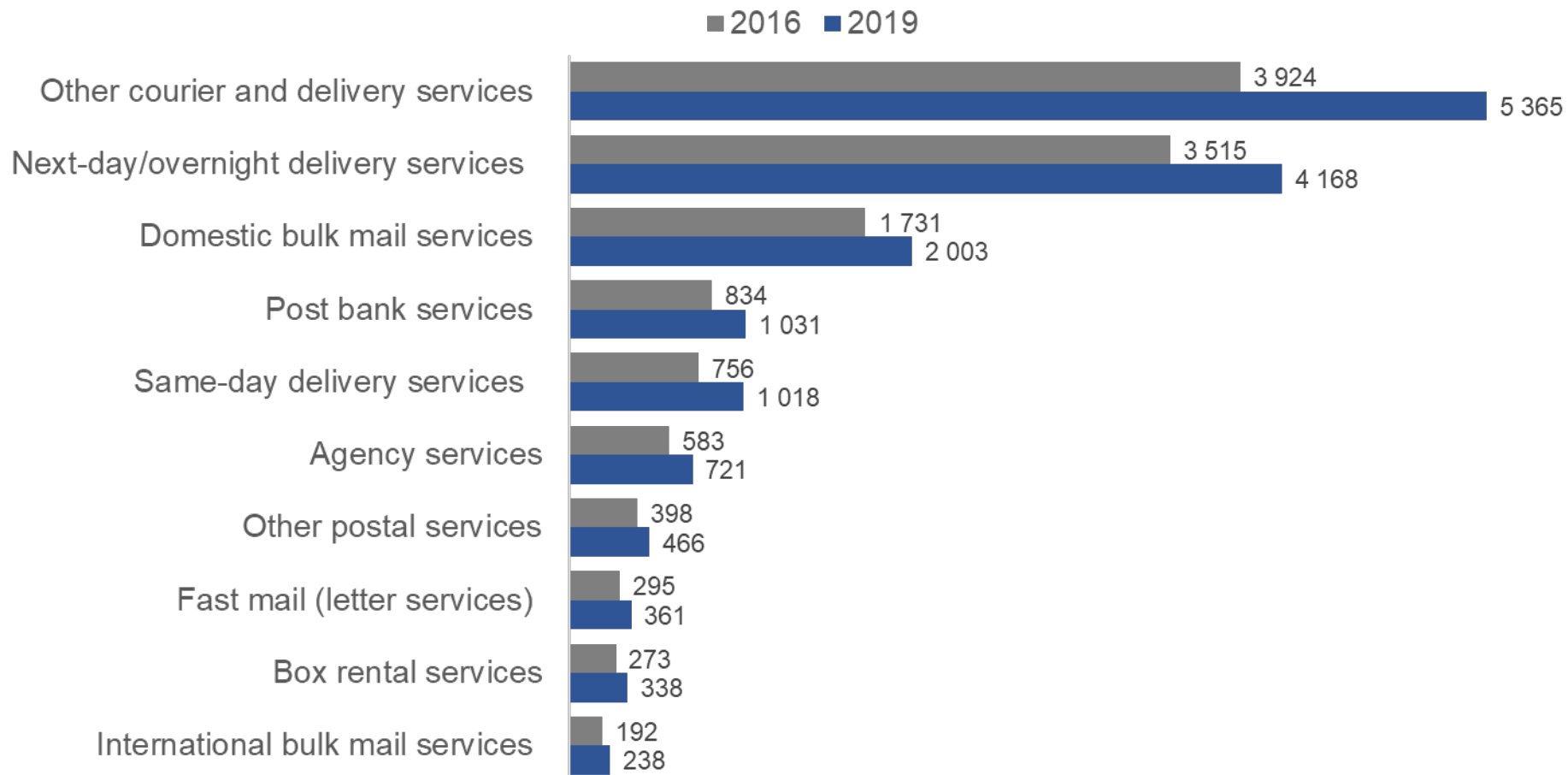


Source: Post and telecommunications industry, Report No. 75-01-01 (2019). Table 5

# 3. Goods and services

## Income generated by other courier and delivery services increased by R1,4 billion

Income from services in the post and courier sector (R million)



Source: Post and telecommunications industry, Report No. 75-01-01 (2019). Table 15

# Overview



## Overview

- The telecommunications sector dominates the post and telecommunications industry, generating 95% of total income
- Profit margins have been relatively low in the period after 2010, with the post and courier sector recording losses in 2013, 2016 and 2019
- The industry recorded a decline in the number of employees in 2016 and 2019
- Mobile prepaid and postpaid (contract) services accounted for 50% and 15%, respectively, to income of telecommunications services
- Income from sales of decoders and fixed-line phones have decreased, while income from cell phones and accessories and have increased
- Courier services accounted for the bulk of services income in the post and courier sector

Post and  
telecommunications  
industry  
2019

Thank you!

Technical enquiries:

Itani Magwaba: [itanim@statssa.gov.za](mailto:itanim@statssa.gov.za)  
Telephone: 012 310 8191

Tshepo Pekane: [tshepop@statssa.gov.za](mailto:tshepop@statssa.gov.za)  
Telephone: 012 337 6254



[statssa.gov.za](http://statssa.gov.za)



[twitter.com/StatsSA](https://twitter.com/StatsSA)



[facebook.com/StatsSA](https://facebook.com/StatsSA)