

Mbalo Brief



the missing piece of the puzzle

May 2023

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IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS



stats sa

Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





Statistics South Africa
Private Bag X44
Pretoria 0001
South Africa

ISibalo House, Koch Street, Salvokop
Pretoria 0002

User information services: (012) 310 8600
Main switchboard: (012) 310 8911

Website: www.statssa.gov.za
Email: info@statssa.gov.za





Editor's comment

A country's currency is a fundamental component of its national identity. The South African Reserve Bank unveiled upgraded banknotes and coins which help us celebrate our Constitution's diverse languages and national heritage which make us proudly and uniquely South African. The new banknotes will preserve the theme which honour former president Nelson Mandela by depicting his portrait on the front of all banknotes. Meanwhile the coin series will have a new theme centred around deep ecology (interconnectedness of living organism as an integral part of the environment), portrayed through the use of our flora and fauna on the coins. Some notable changes to the South African currency include enhanced colour on all the banknotes, the Big 5 which is now depicted as a family on the back of the banknotes to reinforce family bonds and the preamble to the South African Constitution and national flag which also features on the banknotes. The upgrade is in line with international best practice and has security features that protect against the circulation of counterfeit banknotes which citizens can fall victim to. The banknotes and coins started circulating on 04 May 2023.

In this month's issue of *Mbalo Brief*, our educational article focuses on *Transport Series Volume III: Profile of non-motorised users, 2020* (Report No: 71-03-03), published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) on 09 March 2023. Also have a look at our monthly crossword puzzle and solutions for April 2023. Articles published in this issue are based on the results of industry surveys conducted for February and March 2023. Release P0043 currently publishes both Liquidations and Insolvencies. The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DOJ & CD) experienced a computer hack in September 2021 and has since not been able to supply insolvencies data to Stats SA. Subsequently, Stats SA has decided to split the release P0043 into two releases with effect from April 2023 onwards, namely; P0043.1 Statistics of liquidations and P0043.2 Statistics of insolvencies.

The P0043.2 release will remain inactive until the computer hack at the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development is resolved.

For more details on any of the statistical releases, visit our website at: www.statssa.gov.za.

Enjoy the read!

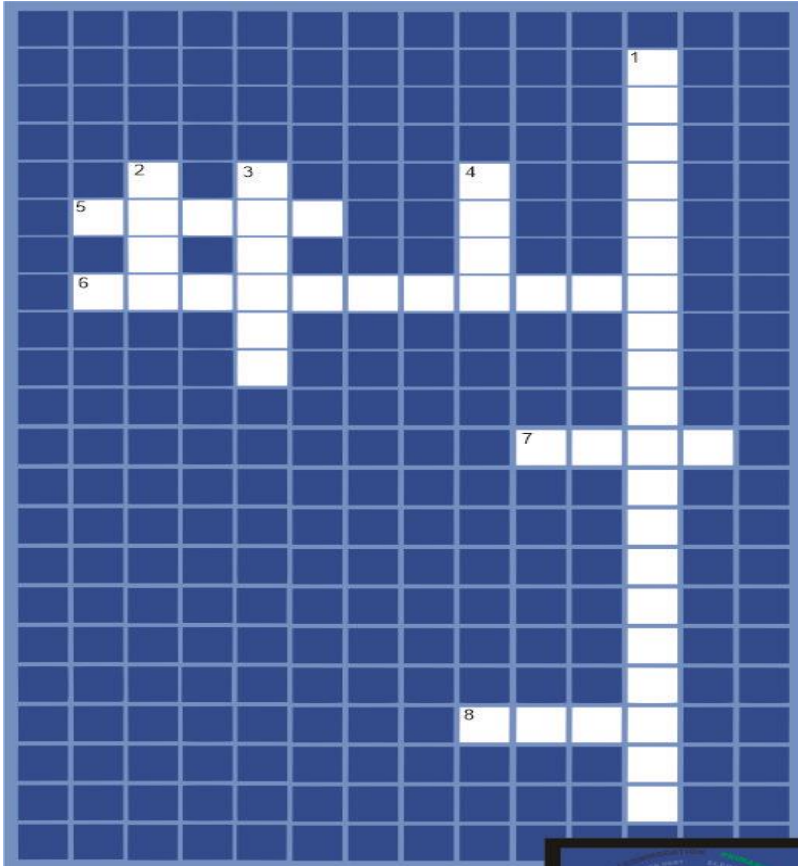




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Crossword puzzle





Across

Down

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5. First appearance (synonym). 6. The southern right whale replaces which animal on the new R5 coin? 7. A bird in the hand is better than two in the ...(fill in missing word). 8. What was the main mode of transport used by households, learners, workers and work seekers in 2013 and 2022?[Refer to the educational article for clue]. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Non-motorised transport (NMT) is also known as what? 2. What is the Ghanaian currency called? 3. What is a group of crows called? 4. In rugby, how many points is a try worth? |
|---|--|

Solutions for April 2023 puzzle

Across

Down

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Freedom Day 4. Inflation 5. Ramokgopa 6. True 7. Urban | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ecosystems 3. Female |
|---|--|





Educational article on Transport Series Volume III: Profile of non-motorised users, 2020

1. Introduction

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015. Sustainable Development Goal 11 is titled 'Sustainable Cities and Communities' and it aims to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. One way this can be achieved is through the development of an affordable and sustainable transportation system. In South Africa there are various modes of public transportation however due to rapid urbanisation in major cities this has led to an increase in carbon pollution and traffic congestion. Moreover, it is a reality that certain communities are marginalised from public transportation as a result of disability, geographical location, age and lack of affordability. In an effort to mitigate against these challenges the Department of Transport has developed the *Draft Non-Motorised Transport (NMT) policy* which seeks to integrate non-motorised transport into the South African transport system and develop appropriate infrastructure for NMT users. According to the United Nations Technology Centre and Network non-motorised transportation (also known as active transportation and human powered transportation) includes walking and bicycling, and variants such as small-wheeled transport (cycle rickshaws, skates, skateboards, push scooters and hand carts) and wheelchair travel. The integration of this mode of transport into public transportation system will improve the quality of life for different communities, improve safety for road users including pedestrians and cyclists and reduce carbon emissions amongst other reasons. This educational article is based on the report titled *Transport Series Volume III: Profile of non-motorised users, 2020* (Report No.: 71-03-03) published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) on 09 March 2023. The report is based on key findings from the *National Household Travel Survey (NHTS)* conducted in 2013 and 2020 which focuses on the main modes of transport used by households, learners, workers and work seekers, demographics and socio-economic status of NMT users and trends in NMT usage in 2013 and 2020. This article will focus on certain aspects of main modes of transport and profile of NMT users.













2. Methodology and data sources

NHTS conducted in 2003, 2013 and 2020 aimed to provide insights into South African households' travel modes, patterns, times and costs. The survey serves as the basis for Department of Transport's (DoT) research, planning and policy formulation and also assists transport authorities in effectively targeting subsidies. Moreover, NHTS serves as an important data source for defining and measuring Key Performance Indicators (KPI) for land passenger transport, as required in terms of the National Land Transport Transition Act, 2000 (Act No. 22 of 2000). NHTS primarily covers land transport travel, focusing on public and private transport, including NMT such as walking to destination, cycling or making use of animal-drawn transport. It looks into travel related to education, work, business, leisure and migration for individuals. Most of the work and education-related questions in the survey were associated with a randomly selected travel day (Monday to Sunday). In addition to these themes, household-level information was also collected about the demographic profiles of individuals, socio-economic circumstances of households and general attitudes and perceptions about transport.



3. Main mode of transport at a glance

Figure 1: Percentage distribution of mode of travel used by households, 2013 and 2020

	2013	2020
 Train	7,6	2,2
 Bus	18,1	9,4
 Taxi	51,0	61,8
 Car/truck driver	10,1	18,9
 Car/truck passenger	10,9	4,0
 Walking all the way	1,9	3,4
 Bicycle	0,2	0,0
 Animal drawn transport	0,1	0,0
Total	0,1	0,3

Source:NHTS, 2013 and 2022.
'Other' includes aircrafts, scooter/motorcycle, tuk-tuk, etc.

Figure 1 shows percentages of the main mode of travel used by households between 2013 and 2020. Taxis were the main mode of travel used by



households for 2013 and 2020. Furthermore, in 2020 there were more households that used taxis at 61,8% compared to 51,0% in 2013. The use of a car/truck as a driver at 18,9%, was the second most common mode of travel in 2020, while in 2013, buses at 18,1% were the second most used mode of travel by households. There was a percentage increase in the number of households that walked to their destination, from 1,9% in 2013 to 3,4% in 2020. The number of households which were travelling by train decreased from 7,6% in 2013 to 2,2% in 2020. Animal-drawn transport, bicycles and other transport were the least used modes of transport by households in 2013 and 2020.

Main mode of travel used by learners, 2013 and 2020

Five out of eight of the main modes of transport used by learners increased in 2013 and 2020. The percentage of learners using buses increased from 5,2% in 2013 to 5,9% in 2020. The use of taxi increased from 14,8% in 2013 to 15,9% in 2020. Car/truck as a driver increased from 1,6% in 2013 to 2,2% in 2020. Car/truck as passenger increased from 12,9% in 2013 to 14,0% in 2020 and “other” increased from 0,7% in 2013 to 2,3% in 2020. On the other hand, the percentage of learners who used trains and walked to their destination decreased both in 2013 and 2020 (from 1,2% in 2013 to 0,2% in 2020 and 63,4% in 2013 to 59,4% in 2020, respectively). The percentage of learners who cycled remained the same for 2013 and 2020.

Main mode of travel used by workers 2013 and 2020

Percentage of workers who used a car/truck as a driver increased from 30,8% in 2013 to 36,0% in 2020, while that of a taxi increased to 28,1% in 2020 from 26,5% in 2013. However, the percentage of workers who travelled by train decreased from 5,0% in 2013 to 1,1% in 2020, followed by those that used a bus (from 7,6% in 2013 to 5,8% in 2020). There was also a slight decline in the percentage of workers who walked to their destination (from 21,1% in 2013 to 20,3% in 2020).

Main mode of travel used by work seekers, 2020



About 44,0% of work seekers used taxi as main mode of transport to reach their destination. Walking to destination contributed the highest percentage (37,8%) to the category 'non-motorised transport', followed by bicycles (0,4%). Other modes used by work seekers are the use of a car/truck as a driver (5,0%), followed by those who were passengers in a car/truck (4,7%).



4. Non-motorised transport usage

4.1 Profile of households that used non-motorised transport

Figure 2: Households that used non-motorised transport by geographical location, 2013 and 2020

Geo location	2013		2020	
	NO. ('000)	%	NO. ('000)	%
 <p>Metro</p>	70	21,9	160	27,4
 <p>Non-metro</p>	249	78,1	426	72,6
Total	319	100,0	586	100,0

Source:NHTS, 2013 and 2020.

Figure 2 above shows the profile of households that used NMT by geographic location in 2013 and 2020. A total of 586 000 households in 2020 used NMT in South Africa. This is an increased number from 319 000 in 2013 of the total number of households that used NMT as their mode of transport across all the geographic locations. In both years (2013 and 2020), households in non-metropolitan(non-metro) areas were more likely to use NMT as their mode of transport (78,1% in 2013 and 72,6% in 2020) than in metropolitan (metro) areas (21,9% in 2013 to 27,4% in 2020).

Non-motorised transport by main source of household income

The main source of income for households using NMT in 2013 and 2020 was income from salaries/businesses at 44,8% in 2013 and 39,5% in 2020. Grants were the second highest source of income for both years with 22,3% in 2013 and 33,7% in 2020, while the third category was that of households with no source of income (from 13,1% in 2013 to 7,0% in 2020), followed by



other income sources (from 12,4% in 2013 to 19,1% in 2020). Meanwhile, for both years, pensions were the least source of income for households using NMT, from 3,6% in 2013 to 0,7% in 2020. There was a percentage increase for grants as sources of income in 2020 compared to 2013 for households using NMT. This was also observed for other sources of income.

Non-motorised transport by household income quintiles

The highest proportion of households that used NMT as a mode of transport, were divided into income quintiles (an equal divide of income groups of a population into five parts, with one being the poorest and five being the least poor). The quintile results were reported as follows: income quintile one (29,9%), followed by those within income quintile two (25,8%) and income quintile three (22,5%). The highest income quintile had the least percentage of households using NMT at 6,1% and income quintile four at 15,7%. This shows that the higher the income quintile, the lower the usage of NMT in households.



4.2 Profile of learners who used non-motorised transport

Table 1: Total number of learners who used non-motorised transport by geographical location, 2013 and 2020

Mode of travel		Geographic location		
		Metro	Non-metro	RSA
2013				
Walking all the way	Number	2 646	8 404	11 050
	Percent	99,7	99,8	99,8
Bicycle	Number	8	14	22
	Percent	0,3	0,2	0,2
Total	Number	2 654	8 418	11 072
	Percent	100,0	100,0	100,0
2020				
Walking all the way	Number	2 979	7 141	10 121
	Percent	99,9	99,8	99,8
Bicycle	Number	4	12	16
	Percent	0,1	0,2	0,2
Total	Number	2 983	7 153	10 136
	Percent	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: NHTS, 2013 and 2022.

Bicycle estimates to be used with caution.

In 2013, there was a total of 11,1 million learners who used NMT to get to their educational institutions. Of the 11,1 million learners who used NMT to get to their educational institutions, 8,4 million resided in non-metro areas while 2,7 million resided in metro areas. In 2020, 10,1 million learners used NMT to get to their educational institutions and 7,2 million were in non-metro areas, while 3,0 million were located in metro areas. Overall, there was a decrease in the number of learners who used NMT in 2020 (10,1 million) compared to 2013 (11,1 million). Bicycles are another form of NMT that learners used to get to their educational institutions. In 2013, there were approximately 22 000 learners using bicycles compared to approximately 16 000 learners in 2020. Proportions of bicycles were not enough to give reliable estimates; therefore, their estimates should be used with caution.





Percentage of learners who used non-motorised transport by sex group, 2013 and 2020

Male learners were more likely to use NMT than female learners in both 2013 and 2020. In 2013, 51,5% of male learners used NMT compared to their female counterparts who accounted for 48,4%. In 2020, 51,4% of male learners used NMT compared to 48,6% of female learners. Similarly, male learners were more likely to use bicycles than female learners (73,4% of male learners compared to 26,6% of female learners in 2013 and 65,9% of male learners compared to 34,1% of female learners in 2020).

Percentage of learners who walked to their educational institution for more than 60 minutes from their destination by province, geographic location and population group, 2020

White learners (8,1%) were more likely to walk for more than 60 minutes to get to their educational institutions, followed by black African learners (5,6%) and coloured learners (1,0%). Learners in non-metro areas walked more than 60 minutes at 6,3%, compared to 2,9% of those in metro areas. KwaZulu-Natal had the highest proportion of learners who walked more than 60 minutes to their educational institutions at 8,7%, followed by Eastern Cape at 7,8% and Limpopo at 5,4%. Generally, in South Africa, there were about 5,3% learners who walked for more than 60 minutes to their educational institutions.

4.3 Profile of workers who used non-motorised transport

Majority of workers walked to their workplace in 2013 and 2020 (2 925 and 2 704 respectively) than those workers who used bicycles at 149 in 2013 and 83 in 2020. Male workers were more likely to use NMT than female workers in both the years and for all the NMT modes. Generally, the number of workers using NMT for 2013 and 2020 has decreased (from 3 074 in 2013 to 2 788 in 2020) for both walking and bicycle modes.

Percentage of workers who used non-motorised transport by work sector and monthly per capita household income, 2020

Majority of workers who walked to their workplaces were from the formal work sector at 46,8%, followed by informal work sector 33,3%, then private households 19,4%. For workers using bicycles to get to their workplaces, 49,0% were from the formal work sector, followed by private households at



26,8% and informal work sector at 23,8%. The percentage of workers who used non-motorised transport was higher for lower monthly per capita household incomes. Nationally, workers with average household income per capita of between R0 to R1 000 contributed 53,6% to NMT users, followed by those between R 1 001 to R 3 000 (32,3%) income, R 3 001 to 6 000 (10,2%) and greater than R6 000 (4,0%).

Percentage of workers who used non-motorised transport and walked more than 60 minutes to their workplace by province, geographic location, population group and work sector, 2020

Workers from the informal sector were more likely to walk for 60 minutes and more at 9,7%, followed by workers from the formal sector at 9,3%. The black African population group were more likely to walk for more than 60 minutes (10,2%), followed by coloureds (3,5%) and whites (3,1%). Workers in metro areas had the highest percentage of those who walked for more than 60 minutes at 12,2% compared to workers in non-metro areas at 8,2%. Gauteng had the highest proportion of workers walking more than 60 minutes at 13,8%, followed by Mpumalanga at 11,6% and KwaZulu-Natal at 10,6%. Generally, nationally, an average of 9,3% of workers walked for more than 60 minutes to get to their workplaces.

4.4 Profile of work seekers who used non-motorised transport

Distribution of work seekers who used non-motorised transport by main source of household income, 2020

The highest percentage of work seekers who used NMT to get to their destinations were from households where the main source of income was grants (35,0%), followed by salaries (34,2%) and remittances (15,5%). Pensions (1,5%) were the least to be mentioned as the main source of income for households where work seekers used NMT to get to their destinations.

Percentage of work seekers who walked for more than 60 minutes to their destination by province, geographic location, population group and gender, 2020

Male work seekers were more likely to walk for more than 60 minutes (27,8%) than females (21,0%) to get to their destinations. The white





population group (48,3%) had the highest proportion of work seekers who were more likely to walk for more than 60 minutes to their destination, followed by black African (26,4%) and coloureds (13,0%). There were no Indian/Asians who walked for more than 60 minutes to get to their destination. In terms of geographic location, work seekers in the metro areas (28,8%) were more likely to walk to their destination for more than 60 minutes compared to workers in non-metro areas (23,7%). Free State had the highest percentage (32,3%) of work seekers who walked to their destination for more than 60 minutes, followed by Eastern Cape (27,7%), Limpopo (27,1%) and North West (27,1%). An average of 21,5% work seekers in South Africa walked for more than 60 minutes to their destination while looking for work or to start a business.

5. Conclusion

The main mode of public transport used by households, learners, work seekers and workers in 2013 and 2020 was taxi. In 2020, more households in non-metro areas used NMT as a mode of transport in contrast to 2013. The main source of income for households using NMT for 2013 and 2020 was income from salaries and businesses. Walking to destination was the most dominant form of NMT used by learners for 2013 and 2020. Males were more likely to use NMT compared to females. In 2020, white learners walked more than 60 minutes to get to their educational institutions compared to other population groups. Majority of workers who walked to their workplaces were from the formal work sector. The highest percentage of workers who used non-motorised transport had lower monthly per capita household income. White male work seekers were more likely to walk for more than 60 minutes to their destination compared to their female counterparts. The highest percentage of work seekers who used NMT to get to their destination were from households where the main source of income was grants. Free State had the highest proportion of work seekers who walked for more than 60 minutes to their destination.



Primary industries

Mining: Production and sales

Mining production decreased by 2,6% in March 2023

Mining sector is one of the industries that attracts investors in order to boost the economy of the country. However, when investors invest, they need a business that is profitable and that can yield a return on their investment. On 4 May 2023, Fraser Institute, a Canadian policy think tank, released 2022 Annual Survey of Mining Companies. The survey captures mining industry's perceptions of the investment potential of global mining jurisdictions on mineral potential and government policies. South Africa is shown to rank in the bottom 10 global mining jurisdiction for both Investment Attractiveness Index (IAI) and Policy Perception Index (PPI). The survey shows that South Africa is placed at 57 out of 62 for IAI and 53 out of 62 for PPI. The survey noted that investors expressed increased concern over the availability of labour skills and infrastructure in the mining sector. Moreover, respondents indicated that regulatory duplication and uncertainty concerning the administration and enforcement of existing regulations continue to be a deterrent to investment. Botswana was placed at 10 and two out of 62 in the world in IAI and PPI. This article summarises results of the *Mining: Production and sales* (statistical release P2041) for March 2023.

Mining production decreased by 2,6% year-on-year in March 2023 (see **Table A**). The most significant negative contributors were:

- diamonds (-54,7%, contributing -3,3 percentage points); and
- PGMs (-9,1%, contributing -2,2 percentage points).

The largest positive contributors were:

- gold (21,6%, contributing 2,8 percentage points); and
- manganese ore (23,1%, contributing 1,4 percentage points).



Table A – Key growth rates in the volume of mining production for March 2023

	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-10,7	-8,8	-3,5	-2,4	-7,6	-2,6
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-2,8	-0,7	0,3	3,8	-7,0	6,5
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	-0,3	-1,9	-3,4	-1,2	-1,0	1,0

^{1/} Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

A full release on *Mining: Production and sales* (statistical release P2041) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Mineral sales at current prices decreased by 15,1% year-on-year in March 2023 (**see Table B**). The largest negative contributors were:

- PGMs (-36,2%, contributing -13,1 percentage points);
- coal (-23,0%, contributing -6,0 percentage points); and
- gold (-20,9% and contributing -2,2 percentage points).

Chromium ore (63,0%, contributing 2,2 percentage points) and manganese ore (41,0%, contributing 1,7 percentage points) were significant positive contributors.

Table B – Key growth rates in mineral sales for March 2023

	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	1,7	-15,6	-0,1	7,6	-6,7	-15,1
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-5,8	-8,1	8,9	-0,8	-1,2	-2,8
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	-7,5	-8,5	-10,6	-7,7	-0,3	0,2

^{1/} Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

A full release on *Mining: Production and sales* (statistical release P2041) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.



Secondary industries

Manufacturing: Production and sales

Manufacturing production decreased by 1,1% in March 2023

Steel is one of the world's most important engineering and construction material that is sustainable and the most recycled non-combustible material (materials that do not burn or ignite when subjected to heat or fire). In 2023, World Steel Association (WSA) published world crude steel production for 64 countries that report to the association. WSA reported that 1 885 02 thousand tonnes (Tt) of steel had been produced in 2022. China is the leading steel producing country in the world with 1 017 959 Tt, followed by India (125 067 Tt), Japan (89 238 Tt) and United States of America (80 535 Tt). In the African region the leading steel producing country is Egypt with 9 819 Tt, followed by South Africa (4 403 Tt), Algeria (3 500 Tt), Libya (688 Tt) and Nigeria (650 Tt). This article summarises results from the *Manufacturing: Production and sales* (statistical release P3041.2) for March 2023.

Manufacturing production decreased by 1,1% in March 2023 compared with March 2022 (**see Table C**). The largest negative contributions were made by the following divisions:

- petroleum, chemical products, rubber and plastic products (-8,8%, contributing -2,0 percentage points); and
- textiles, clothing, leather and footwear (-12,1%, contributing -0,6 of a percentage point).

The largest positive contributions were made by the following divisions:

- food and beverages (5,7%, contributing 1,2 percentage points); and
- motor vehicles, parts and accessories and other transport equipment (5,6%, contributing 0,6 of a percentage point).



Table C – Key growth rates in the volume of manufacturing production for March 2023

	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	0,9	-2,1	-4,6	-4,3	-5,6	-1,1
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-6,0	1,7	0,2	0,3	-1,3	4,0
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	2,3	2,1	-1,5	-0,9	-1,0	1,4

^{1/} Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated. A full release on *Manufacturing: Production and sales* (statistical release P3041.2) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Selected building statistics of the private sector

The value of building plans passed decreased by 16,3% (-R2 840,1 million) during January to February 2023

Building plans passed is an important indicator of the confidence that consumers and investors have in an economy, as it gives insight into future investments and planned construction. According to AvaTrade, a regulated broker, “Building Plans report measures the current demand in the real estate market and estimates the future performance of the construction industry. It is designed to gauge the strength of the national housing market and the state of the economy in general”. Building plans passed can also give an overview of the provinces and municipalities which are fuelling economic growth and which have a negative impact on the economy. For instance, the value of building plans passed during January to February 2023 indicates a decrease of 16,3% for all building types. This is because all provinces, with the exception of Free State and North West, recorded a decrease in value during the same period. This article summarises the results for the *Selected building statistics of the private sector* (statistical release P5041.1) for February 2023.

The value of building plans passed decreased by 16,3% (-R2 840,1 million) during January to February 2023 compared with January to February 2022 (see Table D). Decreases were reported for non-residential buildings



(-25,9% or -R751,0 million) and residential buildings (-22,4% or -R2 307,8 million). An increase was reported for additions and alterations (5,2% or R218,8 million).

The largest contributions to the total decrease of 16,3% (-R2 840,1 million) were made by KwaZulu-Natal (contributing -9,5 percentage points or -R1 654,2 million) and Western Cape (contributing -4,0 percentage points or -R689,7 million).

The value of buildings reported as completed decreased by 9,6% (-R756,9 million) during January to February 2023 compared with January to February 2022. Decreases were reported for additions and alterations (-34,4% or -R657,2 million) and residential buildings (-7,6% or -R322,4 million). An increase was reported for non-residential buildings (12,9% or R222,8 million).

Table D – Building plans passed by larger municipalities at current prices by type of building

Type of building	January - February 2022	January - February 2023	Difference in value between January - February 2022 and January - February 2023	% change between January - February 2022 and January - February 2023
	R'000	R'000	R'000	
Residential buildings	10 292 430	7 984 609	-2 307 821	-22,4
- Dwelling houses	6 103 829	5 390 631	-713 198	-11,7
- Flats and townhouses	4 129 950	2 547 290	-1 582 660	-38,3
- Other residential buildings	58 651	46 688	-11 963	-20,4
Non-residential buildings	2 894 477	2 143 430	-751 047	-25,9
Additions and alterations	4 241 919	4 460 712	218 793	5,2
Total	17 428 826	14 588 751	-2 840 075	-16,3

^{1/} 2022 and 2023 figures should be regarded as preliminary because of possible backlogs and incomplete reporting by municipalities.

A full release on *Selected building statistics of the private sector as reported by local government institutions* (statistical release P5041.1) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.



Electricity generated and available for distribution

Electricity production decreased by 5,6% in March 2023

South Africa's demand for electricity tends to peak in winter. This is usually because many households use appliances such as heaters, electric blankets, kettles, etc. to keep warm. Minister in the Presidency responsible for Electricity, Dr Kgosientsho Ramokgopa says the demand for electricity in winter is expected to increase to between 32 000MW and 37 000MW. However, Eskom currently produces around 27,000MW and this can create an energy shortfall of 10,000MW. This means that both the government and Eskom will have to implement measures that can relieve the expected increase in demand. One such measure is the Demand-Side Management programmes (DSM) currently run by Eskom. These programmes offer incentives (such as favourable rates or discounts) to qualifying consumers (businesses, industries and households) to voluntarily reduce their energy consumption during peak demand periods. This assists the power utility to reduce pressure on the system during peak hours while helping consumers save on their electricity bills. This article presents a summary of the results from the *Electricity generated and available for distribution* (statistical release P4141) for March 2023.

Electricity generation (production) decreased by 5,6% year-on-year in March 2023 (see Table E).

Table E – Key growth rates in the volume of electricity generated for March 2023

	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-3,8	-1,8	-8,3	-8,0	-9,7	-5,6
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	2,4	1,7	-5,3	0,9	-1,0	4,0
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	-1,1	-2,8	-1,6	-2,5	-3,3	-1,6

^{1/} Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

Electricity distribution (consumption) decreased by 4,5% year-on-year in March 2023 (see Table F).



Table F – Key growth rates in the volume of electricity distributed for March 2023

	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-2,3	-2,4	-7,6	-7,3	-8,7	-4,5
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	3,0	0,6	-3,9	1,1	-2,2	4,7
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	-1,1	-3,3	-1,7	-2,5	-2,6	-1,3

^{1/} Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated. A full release on *Electricity generated and available for distribution* (statistical release P4141) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.



Tertiary industries

Wholesale trade sales

Wholesale trade sales increased by 14,0% in February 2023

Selling goods in bulk is no longer reserved for mega brands with established retail relationship. The advent of online wholesale marketplace/ platforms such as e-commerce, social media, Applications (Apps), etc. have revolutionised wholesale-to-business transactions. Wholesalers use the marketplace/ platforms to sell wholesale products in bulk to agents/brokers, medium and small businesses who purchase bulk wholesale orders to resell to consumers at retail prices. Selling goods through the marketplace/ platform assists wholesalers to expand their clientele and identify trending products which usually generate more revenue. When agents/brokers and other businesses establish business relations with wholesalers on marketplace/ platforms, they must ensure they deal with reputable wholesalers by verifying their identity to avoid scams. This article presents a summary of the results from *Wholesale trade sales* (statistical release P6141.2) for February 2023.

Wholesale trade sales increased by 14,0% in February 2023 compared with February 2022 (**see Table G**). The main contributors were dealers in:

- machinery, equipment and supplies (21,6%, contributing 3,1 percentage points);
- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (10,5%, contributing 2,7 percentage points);
- agricultural raw materials and livestock (37,9%, contributing 2,4 percentage points); and
- 'other' goods (27,2%, contributing 2,0 percentage points).

Wholesale trade sales increased by 13,2% in the three months ended February 2023 compared with the three months ended February 2022. The main contributors were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (24,3%, contributing 5,9 percentage points);
- machinery, equipment and supplies (14,8%, contributing 2,0 percentage points);
- agricultural raw materials and livestock (24,3%, contributing 1,6 percentage points); and



- ‘other’ goods (21,2%, contributing 1,6 percentage points).

Table G – Key growth rates in wholesale trade sales at current prices for February 2023

	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	28,2	19,6	17,0	14,1	11,3	14,0
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	4,3	-1,7	1,0	-3,4	0,4	4,1
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	7,4	4,4	4,3	0,4	-0,9	-1,7

^{1/} Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated. A full release on *Wholesale trade sales* (P6141.2) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Retail trade sales

Retail trade sales decreased by 0,5% in February 2023

When the COVID-19 pandemic began in South Africa, some consumers rushed to grocery stores to stock up on essential items over fear of shortage concerns. Soon after that, consumers became wary of visiting shopping malls for safety concerns. During this time, retailers saw a shift toward e-commerce, as it became a safer option and in some cases, the only option for shopping (especially for shops that were not permitted to open their doors during the pandemic). As a result, the grocery delivery industry boomed in South Africa. This saw retailers become more innovative in getting their goods to customers, by providing online shopping and delivery services. The rise in online shopping influenced retailers to develop delivery apps. This trend continued beyond the pandemic when many workers returned to their workplaces and sought a more convenient way of shopping at all levels, from selecting items, the checkout processes and payment methods to hassle-free and cost-effective delivery. This article presents a summary of results from the *Retail trade sales* (statistical release P6242.1) for February 2023.

Retail trade sales decreased by 0,5% year-on-year in February 2023. The largest negative contributors to this decrease were:

- general dealers (-1,5%, contributing -0,7 of a percentage point); and
- retailers in hardware, paint and glass (-7,7%, contributing -0,6 of a percentage point).



Retail trade sales decreased by 0,6% in the three months ended February 2023 compared with the three months ended February 2022. The largest negative contributors to this decrease were:

- retailers in hardware, paint and glass (-6,1%, contributing -0,5 of a percentage point); and
- general dealers (-0,6%, contributing -0,3 of a percentage point).

The largest positive contributor was retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (3,5%, contributing 0,7 of a percentage point).

Table H – Key growth rates in retail trade sales for February 2023

	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-0,4	-0,7	0,8	-0,5	-0,8	-0,5
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-0,3	0,3	1,0	-0,5	1,5	-0,1
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	-0,9	-0,8	-0,2	0,3	1,2	1,2

^{1/} Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

A full release on *Retail trade sales* (statistical release P6242.1) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Motor trade sales

Motor trade sales decreased by 1,5% year-on-year in February 2023

The International Organization of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers represents the interests of vehicle manufactures, importers and assemblers around the world. Amongst its responsibilities is to collect statistics relating to the motor vehicle industry. According to their 2022 data, China is the world’s leading country in terms of new vehicle sales as per the global ranking scale. As of 2022, China’s motor vehicle sales were 26,7 million units of the total 81,6 million global sales. United States of America (USA) ranked second with 14,2 million units, followed by India (4,7 million units), Japan (4,2 million units), and Germany (3,0 million units) in the top five category. South Africa ranked 23rd on the global ranking scale with 529 562 units sold. This article summarises *Motor trade sales* results (statistical release P6343.2) for February 2023.



Motor trade sales decreased by 1,5% year-on-year in February 2023 (see **Table I**). Negative annual growth rates were recorded for:

- used vehicle sales (-11,4%);
- convenience store sales (-8,0%); and
- workshop income (-4,5%).

The largest negative contributor to this decrease was used vehicle sales (contributing -2,5 percentage points).

Motor trade sales decreased by 0,7% in the three months ended February 2023 compared with the three months ended February 2022. The main negative contributor to this decrease was used vehicle sales (-11,2%, contributing -2,4 percentage points). The largest positive contributor was new vehicle sales (7,6% and contributing 1,8 percentage points).

Table I – Key growth rate figures in motor trade sales at constant 2019 for February 2023

	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	6,1	2,7	0,8	1,8	-2,5	-1,5
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,5	-1,9	-0,3	-0,1	-0,6	1,2
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	0,6	1,3	1,4	-0,8	-1,4	-1,0

^{1/} Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated. A full release on *Motor trade sales* (statistical release P6343.2) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Food and beverages

Total income generated by the food and beverages industry increased by 14,9% in February 2023

The world's efforts in making progress towards United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals 2 (SDG 2) to end hunger and achieve improved food security for all is progressing slowly. On 3 May 2023, the United Nations published 2023 Global Report on Food Crises annual report which indicated that more than a quarter of a billion people are now facing acute levels of hunger and some are on the brink of starvation. According to the annual report, 258 million people in 58 countries and territories face acute food



insecurity at crisis or worse level (IPC/CH Phase 3-5 i.e. different levels of severity of acute food insecurity) in 2022. The report states that in Central and Southern Africa region, the Democratic Republic of Congo had the highest numbers of people in IPC Phase 3 or above, at about 26,43 million, followed by Malawi (3,82 million), Mozambique (3,15 million), Zimbabwe (3 million), Central African Republic (2,65 million), Madagascar (2,22 million), Zambia (1,95 million), Angola (1,58 million) and Tanzania (1,1 million). South Africa and Botswana are among the countries that were not analysed in the report. Presented in this article is a summary of results for *Food and beverages* (statistical release P6420) for February 2023.

Total income generated by the food and beverages industry increased by 14,9% in February 2023 compared with February 2022 (**see Table J**). Positive annual growth rates were recorded for:

- bar sales (35,5%); and
- food sales (13,8%).

In February 2023, the main contributor to the 14,9% year-on-year increase was restaurants and coffee shops (18,7% and contributing 8,8 percentage points).

Total income increased by 15,8% in the three months ended February 2023 compared with the three months ended February 2022. The main contributors to this increase were:

- restaurants and coffee shops (16,4%, contributing 8,0 percentage points); and
- takeaway and fast-food outlets (10,9%, contributing 4,1 percentage points).



Table J – Year-on-year percentage change in food and beverages income at constant prices by type of income – February 2023

Type of income	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23
Food sales	20,2	12,1	15,0	14,3	15,5	13,8
Bar sales	1,5	-2,7	11,6	42,4	27,1	35,5
Other income	27,3	14,9	21,6	6,6	14,5	-1,2
Total	18,9	11,0	14,9	16,0	16,3	14,9

^{1/} Changes from zero in the preceding period cannot be calculated as a percentage. A full release on *Food and beverages* (statistical release P6420) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za

Tourist accommodation

Total income for the tourist accommodation industry increased by 34,8% in February 2023

Some tourist establishments are introducing technological innovations in their space to provide convenience and safety to tourists. Hotel Sky, a South African establishment in Sandton, has introduced automated robots within their staff members. These robots can deliver room service, provide travel information and can carry luggage for tourists to their rooms. Hotel Sky is credited as the first tourist establishment in Africa to introduce robots as staff. Presented in this article is a summary of results from the *Tourist accommodation industry* (statistical release P6410) for February 2023.

Total income for the tourist accommodation industry increased by 34,8% in February 2023 compared with February 2022 (**see Table K**). Income from accommodation increased by 59,4% year-on-year in February 2023, the result of a 12,0% increase in the number of stay unit nights sold and a 42,3% increase in the average income per stay unit night sold.

In February 2023, the largest contributors to the 59,4% year-on-year increase in income from accommodation were:

- hotels (69,1%, contributing 35,0 percentage points); and
- 'other' accommodation (55,9%, contributing 22,0 percentage points).



Table K – Year-on-year percentage change in tourist accommodation statistics (income at current prices) for February 2023

	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23
Stay units available	0,3	0,3	0,4	0,3	0,3	0,4
Stay unit nights sold	35,9	27,7	20,4	18,5	16,2	12,0
Average income per stay unit nights sold	15,3	20,3	19,4	19,9	34,3	42,3
Income from accommodation	56,7	53,6	43,8	42,1	56,0	59,4
Total income ^{1/}	79,3	33,8	28,3	41,2	39,4	34,8

^{1/} Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated. A full release on *Tourist accommodation* (Statistical release P6410) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Tourism and migration

A total of 2 445 237 travellers passed through South African ports of entry/exit in March 2023

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, South Africa barred entry to foreign travellers from high-risk countries. China was one of the countries included in the list. Consequently, international travel between the two countries was restricted. However, following a lift on all COVID-19 travel restrictions in June 2022, the country has been witnessing an influx of Chinese tourists. In March 2022, about 793 Chinese tourists came to the country, however, a year later (in March 2023) this number rose to 2 740, translating into a 245,5% increase. Moreover, the country welcomed its first group of Chinese tourists (who came directly from China) on 29 March 2023. Nomasonto Ndlovu, chief operations officer of South Africa Tourism, said the resumption of Chinese tourist visits would help grow the economy and create jobs. This article summarises the results of *Tourism and migration* (statistical release P0351) for March 2023.

Travellers

In March 2023, a total of 2 445 237 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry/exit in March 2023 (**see Table L**).



These were made up of 699 326 South African residents and 1 745 911 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 330 727 arrivals, 368 211 departures and 388 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 905 627, 813 003 and 27 281 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in February 2023 and March 2023 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and travellers in transit increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 22,8% (from 269 301 in February 2023 to 330 727 in March 2023). Departures increased by 30,5% (from 282 063 in February 2023 to 368 211 in March 2023) and transits increased by 16,2% (from 334 in February 2023 to 388 in March 2023). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 9,8% (from 824 868 in February 2023 to 905 627 in March 2023), departures increased by 14,9% (from 707 396 in February 2023 to 813 003 in March 2023), and transits increased by 18,8% (from 22 961 in February 2023 to 27 281 in March 2023).

A comparison between the movements in March 2022 and March 2023 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and travellers in transit increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 40,8% (from 234 833 in March 2022 to 330 727 in March 2023), departures increased by 37,2% (from 268 358 in March 2022 to 368 211 in March 2023) and transits increased by 39,6% (from 278 in March 2022 to 388 in March 2023). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 93,2% (from 468 636 in March 2022 to 905 627 in March 2023), departures increased by 93,9% (from 419 270 in March 2022 to 813 003 in March 2023) and transits increased by 42,9% (from 19 090 in March 2022 to 27 281 in March 2023).

Mode of travel of travellers

In March 2023, road was the most common mode of travel used by 1 546 620 (63,3%) of the 2 445 237 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air was 842 352 (34,4%). A smaller number of travellers, 56 265 (2,3%) used sea into and out of South Africa. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 136 551 (41,3%) came by air, 172 265 (52,1%) came by road and 21 911 (6,6%) arrived by sea. For departures, 162 008



(44,0%) used air, 187 593 (50,9%) used road and 18 610 (5,1%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 388 (100,0%) used air transport.

Visitors

In March 2023, 28 856 (3,2%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors, while 876 771 (96,8%) were classified as visitors. Visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in March 2023 but did not depart in March 2023 [289 749 (33,0%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in March 2023 and left in March 2023 [287 159 (32,8%)]; and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in March 2023 [299 863 (34,2%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In March 2023, there were 218 067 (24,9%) same-day visitors and 658 704 (75,1%) tourists. Between February 2023 and March 2023, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 17,5% (from 185 650 in February 2023 to 218 067 in March 2023) and that of tourists increased by 7,4% (from 613 432 in February 2023 to 658 704 in March 2023). Between March 2022 and March 2023, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 232,9% (from 65 499 in March 2022 to 218 067 in March 2023) and that of tourists increased by 83,1% (from 359 734 in March 2022 to 658 704 in March 2023).

Of the 218 067 same-day visitors, a majority, 202 513 (92,9%) arrived in the country by road, 15 295 (7,0%) flew into the country and 259 (0,1%) arrived by sea. Information on tourists shows that 435 059 (66,0%) used road, 221 509 (33,6%) came by air and 2 136 (0,3%) arrived by sea.

Tourists

Sex and age distribution of tourists

In March 2023, there were more male [387 396 (58,8%)] than female [271 308 (41,2%)] tourists. Male tourists constituted the majority of tourists for all three regions, SADC countries [279 354 (60,8%)], overseas countries [100 760 (53,7%)] and 'other' African countries [6 596 (63,4%)]. Similarly, the largest portion of female tourists was from SADC countries [180 180 (39,2%)], followed by overseas countries [86 871 (46,3%)] and the lowest from 'other' African countries [3 811 (36,6%)].



Age of tourists

The age distribution indicates that out of all tourists, [29 079 (4,4%)] were aged less than 15 years; [46 272 (7,0%)] were aged between 15 and 24 years; [157 012 (23,8%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years; [194 998 (29,6%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years; [121 338 (18,4%)] were aged between 45 and 54 years; [67 330 (10,2%)] were aged between 55 and 64 years; [42 675 (6,5%)] were aged 65 years and above.

Purpose of visit of tourists

In March 2023, the majority of tourists, 632 385 (96,0%), were in South Africa for holiday compared to 22 732 (3,5%); 3 259 (0,5%) and 328 (less than 0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and medical treatment respectively.

Mode of travel of tourists

In March 2023, 173 928 (92,7%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 11 945 (6,4%) came in by road and 1 758 (0,9%) arrived by sea.



Table L – Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction, March 2023

Travel direction	March 2022	February 2023	March 2023	% change February to March 2023	% change March 2022 to March 2023
Total	1 410 465	2 106 923	2 445 237	16,1%	73,4%
South African residents	503 469	551 698	699 326	26,8%	38,9%
Arrivals	234 833	269 301	330 727	22,8%	40,8%
Departures	268 358	282 063	368 211	30,5%	37,2%
Transit	278	334	388	16,2%	39,6%
Foreign travellers	906 996	1 555 225	1 745 911	12,3%	92,5%
Arrivals	468 636	824 868	905 627	9,8%	93,2%
Departures	419 270	707 396	813 003	14,9%	93,9%
Transit	19 090	22 961	27 281	18,8%	42,9%

A full release on *Tourism and migration* (statistical release P0351) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Statistics of civil cases for debt

Total number of civil summonses issued for debt increased by 3,5% in the three months ended February 2023

The Ombudsman for Banking Services (OBS) warned consumers in July 2022 to be wary of creditors attempting to collect prescribed debt. Prescribed debt refers to an old debt (for retail accounts, gym membership or cell phone accounts) usually three years old, that the consumer is no longer liable to pay. This occurs when a creditor has neither requested payment from the consumer, nor made any contact regarding legal action to be taken against them. In this case, the debt is erased, and the creditor no longer has the right to demand repayment in the future. However, this is subject to a few requirements, such as the fact that the consumer did not relocate or alter their contact information during the prescribed time without notifying the creditor. Moreover, not all debts can be prescribed after three years. Larger amounts such as home loans, municipal debts or television (TV) licences can even take 30 years to be prescribed. This article



summarises the results of the statistics of *civil cases for debt* (statistical release P0041) for February 2023.

The number of civil summonses issued for debt

The total number of civil summonses issued for debt increased by 3,5% in the three months ended February 2023 compared with the three months ended February 2022 (**see Table M**). The largest positive contributors to the 3,5% increase in civil summonses issued were:

- 'other' debts (contributing 5,0 percentage points); and
- money lent (contributing 1,5 percentage points).

Promissory notes were the largest negative contributor (contributing -2,3 percentage points).

The number of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total number of civil judgements recorded for debt decreased by 8,8% in the three months ended February 2023 compared with the three months ended February 2022. The largest contributors to the 8,8% decrease were civil judgements relating to:

- goods sold (contributing -4,1 percentage points);
- money lent (contributing -2,5 percentage points); and
- services (contributing -2,1 percentage points).

The value of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total value of civil judgements recorded for debt decreased by 10,5% in the three months ended February 2023 compared with the three months ended February 2022. The largest contributors to the 10,5% decrease were civil judgements relating to:

- goods sold (contributing -4,4 percentage points);
- money lent (contributing -3,7 percentage points); and
- 'other' debts (contributing -1,6 percentage points).

In February 2023, 10 541 civil judgements for debt amounting to R289,3 million were recorded. The largest contributors to the total value of judgements were:

- money lent (R87,4 million or 30,2%);
- services (R52,2 million or 18,0%); and



- 'other' debts (R51,0 million or 17,6%).

Table M – Key figures for civil summonses and judgements for February 2023

Actual estimates	February 2023	% change between February 2022 and February 2023	% change between December 2021 to February 2022 and December 2022 to February 2023
Number of civil summonses issued for debt	40 926	2,1	3,5
Number of civil judgements recorded for debt	10 541	-10,7	-8,8
Value of civil judgements recorded for debt (R million)	289,3	-5,7	-10,5

A full release on *Statistics of civil cases for debt* (statistical release P0041) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za

Statistics of liquidations

The total number of liquidations decreased by 7,7% in March 2023

When a company or a close corporation undergoes a voluntary or compulsory liquidation, it involves selling of all the assets, paying off creditors, issuing any remaining assets to the shareholders and closing the company or a close corporation. Once the decision to liquidate a company or a close corporation has been made, and the liquidation proceedings initiated, whether by means of a court application or the appointment of the liquidator, no creditor can take legal action against the company in process of liquidation. Debts due to creditors are handled by the appointed liquidator and all creditors must wait for the sale of assets to receive their respective benefits. Presented in this article is a summary of results of the *Statistics of liquidations* (statistical release P0043.1) for March 2023.

The total number of liquidations decreased by 7,7% in March 2023 compared with March 2022 (**see Table N**). Liquidations of companies decreased by 33 cases, while liquidations of close corporations increased by 19 cases during this period. The total number of liquidations decreased by 11,0% in the first quarter of 2023 compared with the first quarter of 2022.



Table N – Total number of liquidations for March 2023

Number of liquidations March 2023	% change between March 2022 and March 2023	% change between January to March 2022 and January to March 2023
168	-7,7	-11,0

A full release on *Statistics of liquidations and insolvencies* (statistical release P0043) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Land transport

Volume of transported goods increased by 7,7% in February 2023

Easter weekend is known as one of the busiest times on South African roads, especially on the N1 north between Gauteng and Limpopo. At this time, the traffic between the two provinces usually surges, resulting in heavy congestion. According to the Minister of Transport, Sindiwe Chikunga, “At the end of the Easter weekend on Monday, April 10, the highest traffic volume was recorded between 5 pm and 6 pm, when 3,244 vehicles were recorded passing through the Pumulani Plaza (along the N1 route) into Gauteng.” A surge in traffic volume increases travel time and negatively impacts road safety. In an effort to alleviate the congestion between Gauteng and Limpopo, the Gauteng Premier, Panyafa Lesufi and Limpopo Premier Stan Mathabatha revealed their plans to construct a railway line linking the two provinces for passenger and freight transportation. It is anticipated that once the rail link is completed, it will alleviate the traffic congestion between the two provinces, especially during Easter and festive holidays. This article summarises the results of the results from *Land transport* (statistical release P7162) for February 2023.

The volume of goods transported (payload) increased by 7,7% in February 2023 compared with February 2022. The corresponding income increased by 11,5% over the same period.

Income from freight transportation increased by 15,5% in the three months ended February 2023 compared with the three months ended February 2022. The main contributors to this increase were:

- primary mining and quarrying products (13,4%, contributing 4,4 percentage points);
- ‘other’ freight (21,1%, contributing 4,1 percentage points);
- manufactured food, beverages and tobacco products (18,2%, contributing 2,2 percentage points); and



- agriculture and forestry primary products (24,2%, contributing 1,8 percentage points).

Table O – Year-on-year percentage change in freight transportation: February 2023

	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23
Freight payload	19,0	23,9	17,7	12,9	17,2	7,7
Freight income	22,1	19,7	20,2	15,1	19,9	11,5

A full release on the *Land transport survey* (statistical release P7162) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

The number of passenger journeys increased by 12,9% in February 2023 compared with February 2022. The corresponding income increased by 19,1% over the same period.

Table P – Year-on-year percentage change in passenger transportation: February 2023

	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec -22	Jan-23	Feb-23
Passenger journeys	5,0	10,5	14,5	13,5	18,8	12,9
Passenger income	22,4	20,1	20,3	45,3	30,5	19,1

A full release on the *Land transport survey* (statistical release P7162) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.



Prices

Producer price index (PPI)

PPI for final manufactured goods (headline PPI) at 10,6% in March 2023

Manufacturers of food products are essential to the growth of South Africa's economy. This is because the factory prices they charge for finished products are usually one of the major contributors to the producer price index (PPI) outcome. In March 2023, the food component of PPI was 11,7% annually, down from 13,7% in February. This could mean that, despite the costly impact of load shedding (which diminished production time and increased costs due to the use of generators), food manufacturers saw a reduction in input costs at producer level. In addition, government has decided to extend a diesel fuel levy refund to manufacturers of foodstuffs for a period of two years, effective from 01 April 2023, to 31 March 2025 to limit the impact of load shedding on food prices. If food manufacturers can sustain the lower input costs, it may trickle down to consumer food prices since there is a direct relation between producer and consumer prices. This article presents results from the *Producer price index (PPI)* (statistical release P0142.1) for March 2023.

Annual producer price inflation (final manufacturing) was 10,6% in March 2023, down from 12,2% in February 2023. The producer price index increased by 1,0% month-on-month in March 2023. The main contributors to the headline PPI annual inflation rate were:

- Coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products increased by 12,2% year-on-year and contributed 3,3 percentage points.
- Food products, beverages and tobacco products increased by 8,1% year-on-year and contributed 2,1 percentage points.
- Metals, machinery, equipment and computing equipment increased by 9,2% year-on-year and contributed 1,4 percentage points.
- Transport equipment increased by 14,5% year-on-year and contributed 1,3 percentage points.
- Paper and printed products increased by 14,1% year-on-year and contributed 1,2 percentage points.



Intermediate manufactured goods

The annual percentage change in the PPI for intermediate manufactured goods was 5,0% in March 2023 (unchanged from 5,0% in February 2023). The index increased by 0,5% month-on-month. The main contributors to the annual rate were basic and fabricated metals (1,7 percentage points); chemicals, rubber and plastic products (1,6 percentage points); and sawmilling and wood (1,0 percentage point). The main contributor to the monthly rate was basic and fabricated metals (0,8 of a percentage point).

Electricity and water

The annual percentage change in the PPI for electricity and water was 10,1% in March 2023 (compared with 11,2% in February 2023). The index decreased by 1,3% month-on-month. Electricity contributed 9,2 percentage points and water contributed 1,0 percentage point to the annual rate. Electricity contributed -1,2 percentage points to the monthly rate.

Mining

The annual percentage change in the PPI for mining was 17,1% in March 2023 (compared with 19,5% in February 2023). The index increased by 2,2% month-on-month. The main contributors to the annual rate were coal and gas (6,6 percentage points); non-ferrous metal ores (4,5 percentage points); and gold and other metal ores (3,1 percentage points). The main contributors to the monthly rate were gold and other metal ores (1,1 percentage points); coal and gas (0,9 of a percentage point); and non-ferrous metal ores (0,7 of a percentage point).

Agriculture, forestry and fishing

The annual percentage change in the PPI for agriculture, forestry and fishing was 7,5% in March 2023 (compared with 14,2% in February 2023). The index decreased by 2,2% month-on-month. Agriculture (4,5 percentage points) and fishing (2,4 percentage points) were the main contributors to the annual rate. The main contributor to the monthly rate was agriculture (-2,5 percentage points).



Table Q – Key PPI figures for March 2023

Product	Weight	Index (Dec 2020=100)			% change	
		March 2022	February 2023	March 2023	March 2023 vs. February 2023	March 2023 vs. March 2022
Final manufactured goods	100,00	115,0	125,9	127,2	1,0	10,6
Intermediate manufactured goods	100,00	125,0	130,7	131,3	0,5	5,0
Electricity and water	100,00	114,6	127,8	126,2	-1,3	10,1
Mining	100,00	120,4	137,9	141,0	2,2	17,1
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	100,00	111,6	122,7	120,0	-2,2	7,5

A full release on the *Producer price index* is available on the website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Consumer price index (CPI)

CPI at 7,1% in March 2023

Consumer price index is an economic indicator measuring changes over time in the general level of prices for consumer goods and services. The index measures price fluctuations of a fixed basket of goods and services of constant quality and similar characteristic. When the prices of goods and services are surveyed in outlets, fieldworkers will ensure that they capture the price of the exact item as captured in the previous month in order to make a like-on-like comparison of price change between the two months. This article summarises the *Consumer price index* results (statistical release P0141) for March 2023.

Headline consumer price index (CPI for all urban areas)

Annual consumer price inflation was 7,1% in March 2023, up from 7,0% in February 2023 (**see Table S**). The consumer price index increased by 1,0% month-on-month in March 2023. The main contributors to the 7,1% annual inflation rate were:

- Food and non-alcoholic beverages increased by 14,0% year-on-year, and contributed 2,4 percentage points to the total CPI annual rate of 7,1%.



- Housing and utilities increased by 4,0% year-on-year, and contributed 1,0 percentage point. Transport increased by 8,9% year-on-year, and contributed 1,3 percentage points.
- Miscellaneous goods and services increased by 5,9% year-on-year, and contributed 0,9 of a percentage point.

In March the annual inflation rate for goods was 9,4%, down from 9,5% in February; and for services it was 4,5% down from 4,6% in February.

Table S – Consumer price index: Index numbers and year-on-year rates
Base year: Dec 2021=100

Year	Index/ rate	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average ¹
2018	Index	84,5	85,2	85,5	86,2	86,3	86,6	87,4	87,3	87,7	88,1	88,2	88,1	86,8
	Rate	4,4	4,0	3,8	4,5	4,4	4,6	5,1	4,9	4,9	5,1	5,2	4,5	4,7
2019	Index	87,9	88,6	89,4	89,9	90,2	90,5	90,8	91,1	91,3	91,3	91,4	91,6	90,3
	Rate	4,0	4,1	4,5	4,4	4,5	4,5	4,0	4,3	4,1	3,7	3,6	4,0	4,1
2020	Index	91,9	92,8	93,1	92,6	92,0	92,5	93,7	93,9	94,0	94,3	94,3	94,4	93,3
	Rate	4,5	4,6	4,1	3,0	2,1	2,2	3,2	3,1	3,0	3,3	3,2	3,1	3,3
2021	Index	94,8	95,4	96,1	96,7	96,8	97,0	98,1	98,5	98,7	99,0	99,4	100,0	97,5
	Rate	3,2	2,9	3,2	4,4	5,2	4,9	4,6	4,9	5,0	5,0	5,5	5,9	4,5
2022	Index	100,2	100,8	101,8	102,4	103,1	104,2	105,8	106,0	106,1	106,5	106,8	107,2	104,2
	Rate	5,7	5,7	5,9	5,9	6,5	7,4	7,8	7,6	7,5	7,6	7,4	7,2	6,9
2023	Index	107,1	107,9	109,0										
	Rate	6,9	7,0	7,1										

The statistical release P0141 - *Consumer price index* is available on the Stats SA website:

www.statssa.gov.za

¹ Annual average.



Glossary

Primary industries

Gigawatt-hour (gWh): one gigawatt-hour of electricity is equal to one million kilowatt-hours. A kilowatt-hour is the basic unit of electrical energy equal to one kilowatt of power supplied to or taken from an electric circuit steadily for one hour. One kilowatt-hour equals one thousand watt-hours.

Index of physical volume of manufacturing production: also known as a production index, is a statistical measure of the change in the volume of production. The production index of a major group is the ratio between the volume of production of a major group in a given period and the volume of production of the same major group in the base period.

Index of physical volume of mining production: a statistical measure of the change in the volume of production. The production index of a mineral group is the ratio between the volume of production of a mineral group in a given period and the volume of production of the same mineral group in the base period.

Index of the physical volume of electricity production: a statistical measure of the change in the volume of production of electricity in a given period and the volume of production of electricity in the base period.

Industry: a group of establishments engaged in the same or similar kinds of economic activity.

PGMs – Platinum group metals: include platinum; iridium; osmiridium, palladium; rhodium; ruthenium and osmium.

Sales: total value of sales and transfers-out of goods mined by the mining establishments and the amounts received for installation, erection or assembly or other services.



Secondary industries

Additions and alterations: extensions to existing buildings as well as internal and external alterations of existing buildings.

Blocks of flats: a structure, usually multi-storey, consisting of a number of dwellings sharing the same residential address, and usually sharing a common entrance, foyer or staircase.

Dwelling houses: a free-standing, complete structure on a separate stand or a self-contained dwelling-unit, e.g. granny flat, on the same premises as existing residence. Out-buildings and garages are included.

Other residential buildings: include institutions for the disabled, boarding houses, old age homes, hostels, hotel, motels, guest houses, holiday chalets, bed and breakfast accommodation, entertainment centres and casinos.

Residential buildings: dwelling houses, flats, townhouses and other residential buildings.

Tertiary industries

Acknowledgements of debt: a statement by a person/debtor in which he admits that he owes money to an individual or a company or a bank.

Acting household head: any member of the household acting on behalf of the head of the household.

Average income per stay unit night sold: average rate per stay unit (i.e. rate per room in a hotel or powered site in a caravan park) is calculated by dividing the total income from accommodation by the number of stay unit nights sold in the survey period.

Catering services: enterprises involved in the sale and supply of meals and drinks prepared on the premises on a contract basis and brought to other premises chosen by the person ordering them, to be served for immediate consumption to guests or customers. Include bars, taverns, other drinking places, ice-cream parlours, etc.



Civil judgements: decisions taken in a civil matter or a dispute between two people or parties.

Civil summonses: notices to appear before the court of law where a dispute between two parties or people has to be heard, i.e. not for criminal offence.

Day trip: a trip outside of the respondent's usual environment, where they leave and return within the same day (i.e. do not stay overnight).

Domestic tourism: a trip within the boundaries of South Africa but outside of the respondent's usual environment.

Note: The following categories are excluded from the definition of domestic visitor:

- persons travelling to another place within the country with the intention of setting up their usual residence in that place.
- Persons who travel to another place within the country and are remunerated from within the place visited.
- Persons who travel regularly or frequently between neighbouring localities as defined by the 'usual environment' rule.

Dwelling unit: structure or part of a structure or group structures occupied or meant to be occupied by one or more than one household.

Enterprise: a legal entity or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its sales activities.

Expenditure: the total consumption expenditure made by a visitor or on behalf of a visitor during his/her trip and stay at a destination.

Foreign traveller: a person who resides outside South Africa and visits the country temporarily.

Household: a group of persons who live together and provide themselves jointly with food and/or other essentials for living, or a single person who lives alone.

Household head: the main decision-maker, or the person who owns or rents the dwelling, or the person who is the main breadwinner.

Income from accommodation industry: income from amounts charged for rooms or equivalent. Other income is excluded (e.g. income from meals).



Income from bar sales: refers to income from liquor sales.

Income from food sales: refers to income from the sale of meals and non-alcoholic drinks.

Income from restaurant and bar sales: income from meals, banqueting and beverages and tobacco sales.

Insolvency: refers to an individual or partnership which is unable to pay its debt and is placed under final sequestration. The number of insolvencies does not refer to the number of persons involved, as a partnership which is unable to pay its debt is regarded as one insolvency, irrespective of the number of partners.

Liquidation: refers to the winding-up of the affairs of a company or close corporation when liabilities exceed assets and it can be resolved by voluntary action or by an order of the court.

Main purpose of trip: this is the purpose in the absence of which the trip would not have been made.

Microdata: data gathered on a small scale, such as data on an individual.

'Other' African countries: refers to all non SADC African countries.

Other income: includes all income not earned from food sales or bar sales.

Other SADC: refers to the thirteen countries, excluding South Africa, that belong to the Southern African Development Community.

Professional services: refer to medical doctors, dentists, advocates, attorney, auditors, accountants, architects, engineers, hospital services etc.

Promissory notes: written undertaking, signed by a person or party, to pay money to another person or to be the bearer of such a note on a specific date or on demand.

Restaurants and coffee shops: enterprises involved in the sale and provision of meals and drinks, ordered from a menu, prepared on the premises for immediate consumption and with provided seating.

Retailer: a retailer is an enterprise deriving more than 50% of its turnover from sales of goods to the general public for household use.



Retail trade: includes the resale (sale without transformation) of new and used goods and products to the general public for household use.

Stay unit: unit accommodation available to be charged out to guests, for example, a powered site in a caravan park or a room in a hotel.

Stay unit night sold: total number of stay units occupied on each night during the survey period.

Takeaway and fast-food outlets: enterprises involved in the sale and provision of meals and drinks, ordered from a menu, prepared on the premises for takeaway purposes in a packaged format, at a stand or in a location, with or without provided seating.

Total income: includes income from food sales, income from bar sales and other income.

Tourism: comprises the activities of persons travelling to, and staying in places outside their usual environment, for not more than one consecutive year, for leisure, business and other purposes not related to the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited.

Tourist: a visitor who stays at least one night in the place visited.

Tourist accommodation: any facility that regularly (or occasionally) provides 'paid' or 'unpaid' overnight accommodation for tourists.

Traveller: any person on a trip between two or more countries or between two or more localities within his/her country of residence.

Voluntary liquidation: takes place when a company or close corporation, by own choice, resolves to wind-up its affairs.

Wholesale trade: includes the resale (sale without transformation) of new and used goods and products to other wholesalers, retailers, agricultural, industrial, commercial, institutional and professional users either directly or through agents on a fee or contract basis.



Prices

Annual percentage change: change in the index of the relevant month of the current year compared with the index of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.

Consumer price index (CPI): an index that measures the price of a fixed basket of consumer goods and services.

Inflation rate: annual percentage change in the CPI for all items of the relevant month of the current year compared with the CPI for all items of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.

Monthly percentage change: change in the index of the relevant month compared to the index of the previous month expressed as a percentage.

Year-on-year: a term used frequently in investment research and other reports to mean 'compared with the same period in the previous fiscal year'.

**Editorial & Layout**

Maune Lerobane
Wendy Ngoveni
Mandla Mahlangu
Ouma Hlongoane

Language Editors

Salomien Rudolph
Shalom Noxolo Piorkowski
Rinao Emmah Tshatsinde

Design & Layout

Thabo Kgaile

Printing & Distribution

Brian Seaba
Johannes Serage
Joey Baker
Anneline Bezuidenhout
Millie Steenkamp
Enoch Baloyi
Steve Sibanyoni