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Photo: Patrick Pahlke, unsplash.com



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Economic headlines

Three facts about manufacturing



Job losses had a significant impact on textile & clothing manufacturing (click [here](#) to read more).

Economic wrap-up for July 2023



If you've missed any recent economic data from Stats SA, we've got you covered (click [here](#) to read more).

Consumer inflation retreats to 5,4%



Dipping below the 6% upper limit of SARB's monetary policy target range (click [here](#) to read more).
















Retail trade slumps for a sixth straight month



Mainly pulled lower by general dealers and hardware stores (listen [here](#) for more). 🎧

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

Monthly economic indicators

	y/y percentage change			m/m percentage change			3-month
	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Mar-May
Mining production 	-1,3	3,2	-0,8	7,1	1,5	-3,8	3,1
Manufacturing production 	-1,7	3,6	2,5	3,8	0,7	-1,3	2,8
Electricity generation 	-5,6	-8,6	-9,0	4,0	-4,3	-0,9	0,3
Buildings completed (value) 	-29,9	-34,8	-34,1	37,1	-4,9	-14,2	15,4
Wholesale trade sales 	-1,9	3,7	-0,1	-1,0	3,7	-4,3	2,0
Retail trade sales 	-1,5	-1,8	-1,4	-0,7	0,2	-0,7	-0,7
Motor trade sales 	-2,8	-3,8	-0,8	-0,8	0,6	-0,4	-0,2
Income from tourist accommodation 	36,0	30,8	30,2	-1,6	4,1	13,6	8,1
Restaurants, catering & fast-food income 	8,8	5,8	6,7	-1,3	2,3	0,8	-0,4
Road transport: Freight payload 	7,7	15,6	1,9	-1,1	5,2	-5,1	-4,0
Rail transport: Freight payload 	-9,6	-6,1	-12,1	-2,8	4,3	-5,5	-3,3
Road transport: Passenger journeys 	8,8	-3,8	8,4	5,9	-13,4	10,9	-3,5
Rail transport: Passenger journeys 	60,8	82,9	169,9	14,2	-20,9	27,9	11,8
	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	
Consumer Price Index (CPI) 	6,8	6,3	5,4	0,4	0,2	0,2	
Producer Price Index (PPI) 	8,6	7,3	4,8	0,0	0,6	-0,3	

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 (December–February) with the latest 3 months (March–May)

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Feature article

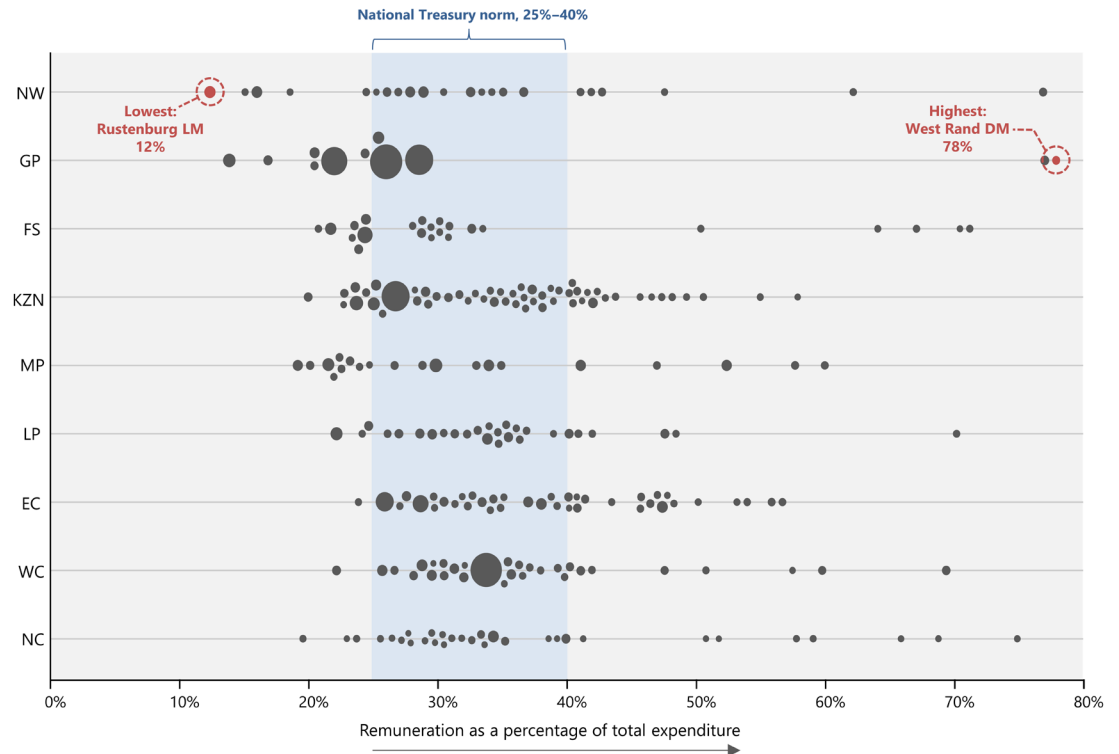
Falling inside the norm: Municipal spending on employees

Employee costs take up a sizable chunk of municipal spending. Staff remuneration costs accounted for 28% of total municipal expenditure in 2022, according to recent data from Stats SA. The aggregate proportion of 28% falls within the National Treasury norm of 25%–40%.

A more nuanced picture emerges if we map all 257 municipalities. In the chart, each dot represents a municipality. The location of each municipality on the x-axis represents its share of remuneration costs to its expenditure.

West Rand District Municipality appears on the far right, recording the highest proportion. Its remuneration costs accounted for 78% of its expenditure. Rustenburg Local Municipality in North West registered the lowest reading at 12%.

Click [here](#) to read more.



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Infographic of the month

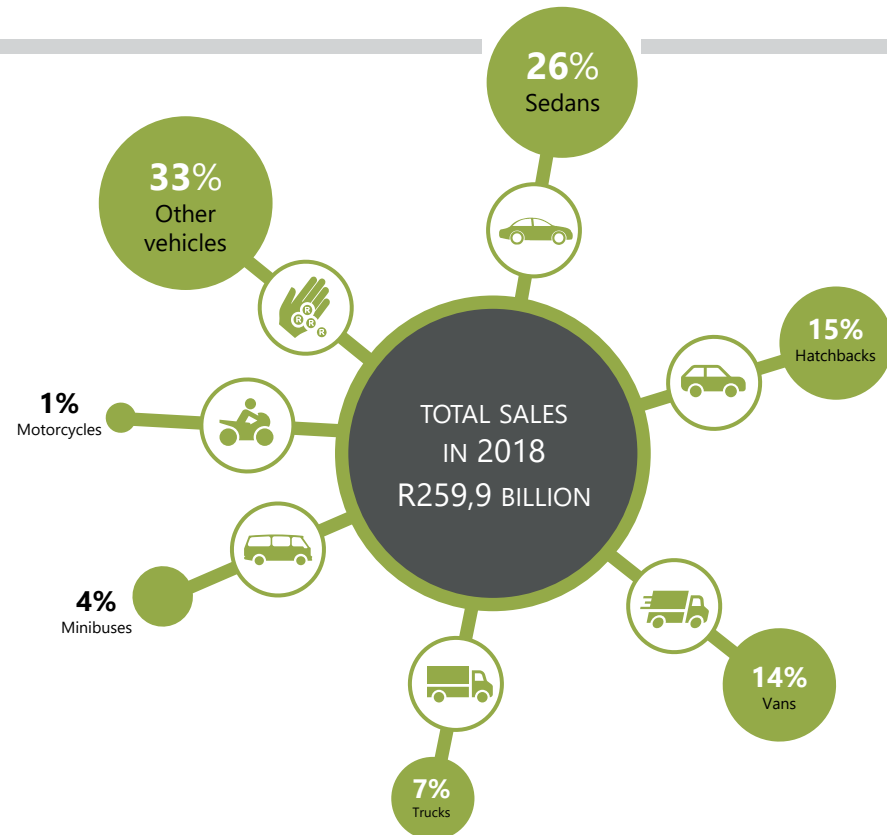
Motor trade: sedans in the driver's seat

Motorists in South Africa love their sedans. In 2018, sedans accounted for 26% of total retail sales in the motor trade industry. Hatchbacks were in second place (15%), followed by vans and trucks. Minibuses contributed 4%.

Stats SA's detailed survey on the motor trade industry also provides data on new and used vehicles. In 2018, new vehicles accounted for 59% of retail sales and used vehicles 41%.

Compare this with 2015. That year, new vehicles accounted for 62% and used vehicles 38% of total retail sales.

For more information, see Table 18 in *Motor trade industry, Report No. 63-01-02 (2018)*, available for download [here](#).



Provincial snapshot

Food & beverages accounts for the highest share of manufacturing employment in seven provinces
Percentage breakdown of number of employed (in manufacturing) in each province by type of manufacturer, 2021

Type of manufacturer	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	Total
Food & beverages	29%	19%	51%	39%	19%	28%	18%	33%	45%	23%
Textiles & clothing	8%	5%	0%	3%	17%	2%	3%	1%	2%	7%
Wood, paper & publishing	12%	6%	3%	5%	12%	6%	7%	20%	8%	9%
Petroleum & chemical products	13%	13%	8%	22%	15%	11%	16%	6%	8%	15%
Glass & non-metallic mineral products	3%	5%	6%	3%	3%	8%	5%	6%	13%	5%
Metals & machinery	15%	10%	24%	15%	15%	27%	27%	24%	19%	21%
Electrical machinery	2%	4%	1%	1%	3%	5%	6%	3%	1%	4%
Telecommunications & medical	2%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	2%	0%	0%	1%
Transport equipment	8%	35%	5%	9%	11%	7%	9%	4%	3%	11%
Furniture & other manufacturing	6%	3%	2%	3%	5%	5%	6%	3%	1%	5%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source: *Manufacturing industry: Financial, Report No.: 30-02-03 (2021)*, Table 24 (download [here](#)).

Percentages have been rounded and may not sum to 100%



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