



the missing piece of the puzzle



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Editor's comment

South Africa will have its seventh democratic elections in 2024. Every five years, South Africa holds national and provincial elections to elect the new National Assembly and provincial legislatures in each province. The 2024 national and provincial elections date will be announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa in due course. In terms of the Constitution, elections must be held within 90 days of the expiry date of the current term of the National Assembly and provincial legislatures being 21 May 2024.

For the first time, South Africans abroad will register as voters using an online self-registration portal. In addition, people who are not associated with political parties may stand as independent candidates to contest national and provincial elections. This year, voters will get three ballot papers and not two like previous elections. The first is a national ballot to vote for a political party to represent you in the National Assembly. The second ballot is the new regional ballot which will be used to vote for political parties or independent candidates contesting in the region for elections to the National Assembly. The third one is the provincial ballot to vote for political parties or independent candidates contesting elections of the provincial legislature. The online voter registration portal <https://registertovote.elections.org.za/Welcome> is still open for first time voters to register and for those voters who are already registered to update their registration details preceding the proclamation date before the elections.

This month, the educational article is based on the report titled *Gender Series Volume X: Gender disparities in access to and use of ICT in South Africa, 2016 to 2022* (Report No: 03-10-27) published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) on 26 October 2023. Also, have a look at our monthly crossword puzzle and solutions for the November 2023 puzzle. Articles published in this issue are based on the results of industry surveys conducted for November and December 2023.

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

Enjoy the read!



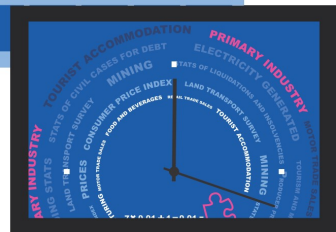
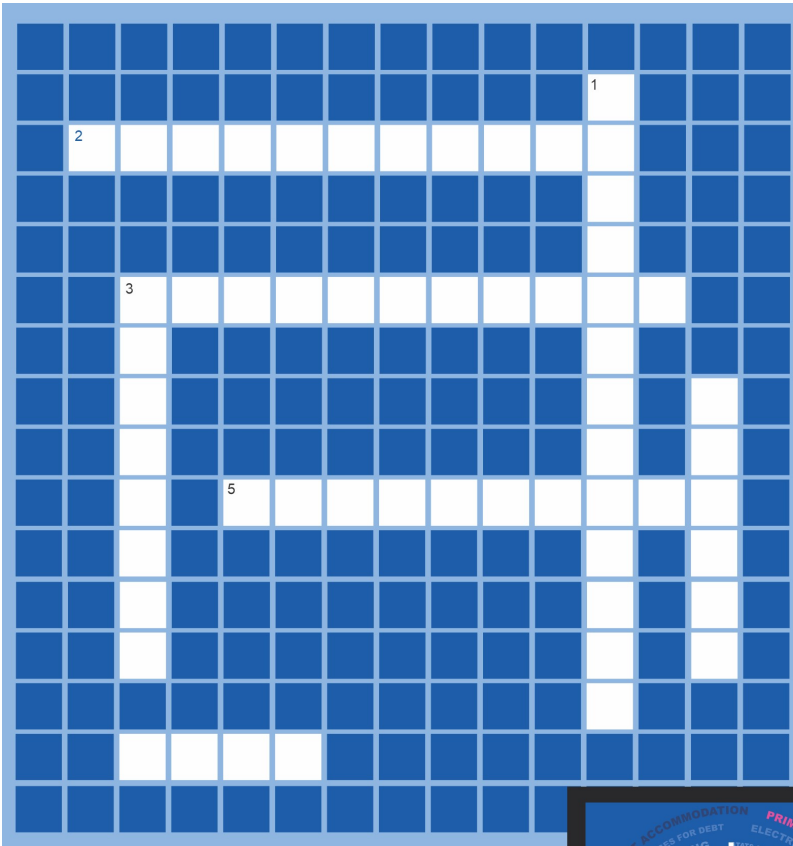


Contents

Editor’s comment	i
Crossword puzzle	iii
Educational article on Gender Series Volume X: Gender disparities in access to and use of ICT in South Africa, 2016 to 2022	1
Primary industries	14
Mining: Production and sales	14
Secondary industries	16
Manufacturing: Production and sales.....	16
Selected building statistics of the private sector	17
Electricity generated and available for distribution	19
Tertiary industries	21
Wholesale trade sales.....	21
Retail trade sales	22
Motor trade sales	23
Food and beverages	24
Tourist accommodation.....	25
Tourism and migration	27
Statistics of civil cases for debt.....	31
Statistics of liquidations.....	33
Land transport.....	34
Prices	33
Producer price index (PPI).....	33
Consumer price index (CPI).....	35
Glossary	41



Crossword puzzle





Across

- 2. Who is the Deputy Mayor of City of Tshwane?
- 3. What is the name of a South African who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984?
- 5. Which country won the African Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2023?
- 6. It is an annual address to the nation by the President of the Republic of South Africa as the Head of State. [Write abbreviation]

Down

- 1. Who said "an eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind"?
- 3. In which month did consumers spend more money in 2023? [Read Retail trade sales article for clue]
- 4. The Saudi Arabian market has shown an interest in four red meat products such as beef, lamb, and goat from the South African meat farmers. [Read the Food and beverage article for clue]

Solutions for November 2023 puzzle

Across

- 5. Motsepe
- 6. Kimberlite
- 7. Bones

Down

- 1. Ambidextrous
- 2. Median age
- 3. Webb Ellis
- 4. White





Educational article on gender disparities in access to and use of ICT in South Africa

Introduction

Gender inequality is rife across the world and there are many underlying root causes. One of the root causes is gender bias that restricts women's rights and access to opportunities. Gender bias is the tendency to provide preferential treatment towards one gender over the other or have prejudice against another gender. According to Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI) report released by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on 12 June 2023, there is no improvement in biases against women in a decade, with almost nine out of 10 men and women worldwide still holding such biases. The report states that half of the people worldwide still believe that men make better political leaders than women and more than 40% believe men make better business executives than women. The UNDP asserts that biased gender social norms are a major barrier to achieving gender equality by 2030. Although one of the primary goals of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is to empower women and ensure gender equality through the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), women still do not have access to internet and other ICT related tools in some parts of the world.

In a survey conducted by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) titled *Gender Series Volume X: Gender disparities in access to and use of ICT in South Africa, 2016-2022* (Report No.: 03-10-27), which this month's educational article is based on, such gender disparities are brought to light.

The report presents a selection of key findings sourced from *Mid-year population estimates (MYPE) 2022*, *General Household Survey (GHS) 2016 to 2022* and *Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS), 2016, 2019 and 2021* and Higher Education Information Management System (HEMIS) 2016 to 2021. A full report can be accessed on Stats SA's website www.statssa.gov.za. For the purpose of this article, focus will be placed on access to fixed telephone, computer and mobile telephone between 2016 and 2022.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is a diverse set of technological tools and resources used to transmit, store, create, share or exchange information. These technological tools and resources include computers, the Internet (websites, blogs and emails), live broadcasting technologies (radio, television and webcasting), recorded broadcasting





technologies (podcasting, audio and video players, and storage devices) and telephony (fixed or mobile, satellite, vision/video-conferencing, etc.) Usage of mobile telephones in South Africa has been increasing rapidly over the years. In addition, growth of households that have functioning internet connection is closely associated with the penetration of access to devices such as smart phones, tablets, laptops, and personal computers.

Demographics of the population

Female population by province, 2022

According to the 2022 mid-year population estimates (MYPE), of the 60,6 million people in South Africa, 31,0 million (51,1%) were females. Gauteng comprised the largest share of the female population, with approximately 8,1 million people (26,0%) living in the province. KwaZulu-Natal had the second largest female population in South Africa, with an estimated 6,0 million people (19,4%) living in this province. Northern Cape remained the province with the smallest share of the female population of 661 000 (2,1%).

Access to telephonic communication

Table 1: Percentage of persons who own mobile telephones by sex, 2016, 2019 and 2022

Sex	N ('000)								
	2016			2019			2022		
	Access	No access	Total	Access	No access	Total	Access	No access	Total
Male	14 867	8 428	23 295	17 385	5 314	22 699	18 835	5 338	24 174
Female	16 296	8 196	24 492	19 134	4 883	24 017	20 617	4 863	25 481
Both sexes	31 163	16 624	47 787	36 518	10 197	46 715	39 453	10 202	49 654
	Per cent								
Male	63,8	36,2	100,0	76,6	23,4	100,0	77,9	22,1	100,0
Female	66,5	33,5	100,0	79,7	20,3	100,0	80,9	19,1	100,0
Both sexes	65,2	34,8	100,0	78,2	21,8	100,0	79,5	20,6	100,0

Source: GHS 2016, 2019 and 2022

*Totals exclude unspecified mobile telephones

Table 1 indicates that nationally, the percentage of females who owned mobile telephones increased from 66,5% in 2016 to 80,9% in 2022. A similar pattern was observed among males with an increase of 14,1 percentage points (from 63,8% in 2016 to 77,9% in 2022). The percentage of females





who owned mobile telephones were generally higher than that of males in all provinces.

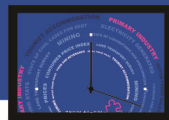
The highest increase in males who owned mobile telephones was recorded in Limpopo with 19,9 percentage points (from 57,7% in 2016 to 77,6% in 2022). For their female counterparts, mobile telephone ownership in KwaZulu-Natal increased by 18,1 percentage points (from 62,5% in 2016 to 80,6% in 2022). Provincial variations showed that Gauteng recorded the lowest percentage increase at 9,2 percentage points in females who owned mobile telephones (from 76,5% in 2016 to 85,7% in 2022). For their male counterparts, a similar pattern was observed in Gauteng with a 9,5 percentage point increase (from 75,3% in 2016 to 84,8% in 2022).

Percentage of households with access to fixed telephones by sex of the household head and province, 2016, 2019 and 2022

During the period under review, the overall usage of fixed telephones in households declined from 1,5 million (9,7%) to 1,3 million (7,2%) in 2022. Of the 15,6 million households in 2016, 1,5 million households had access to fixed telephones, which represented 9,7% of the households. In 2019, the households with access to fixed telephones decreased to 1,4 million, which represented 8,4%, and further declined to 1,3 million, which represented 7,2% of the households in 2022. In 2022, the gender variations indicate that female-headed households with access to fixed telephones decreased by 0,2 of a percentage point (from 6,8% in 2016 to 6,6% in 2022); their male counterparts declined by 4,1 percentage points (from 11,7% in 2016 to 7,6% in 2022).

The provincial variations reveal that Western Cape (24,1% for males and 17,7% for females), Gauteng (13,7% for males and 9,8% for females) and KwaZulu-Natal (13,3% for males and 6,1% for females) had the highest percentage of both male and female-headed households with access to fixed telephones compared to the other provinces in 2016. In 2022, Free State (12,0% for males and 8,7% for females) surpassed Gauteng (6,3% for males and 5,9% for females) and KwaZulu-Natal (10,8% for males and 7,4% for females) and was the second province to record highest percentage of male and female-headed households with access to fixed telephones after Western Cape (15,1% for males and 15,0% for females).

All nine provinces showed the same pattern as the country, where male-headed households with access to fixed telephones exceeded female-headed households, except in Free State where the opposite was observed



in 2016 (5,8% for females and 5,4% for males). However, male-headed households were in the majority in 2022.

Percentage of households with access to fixed telephones by sex of the household head and geographical location, 2016 and 2022

It was evident that the metros had more access to fixed telephones than non-metros. In 2016, male-headed households had more access to fixed telephones than female-headed households for both metros and non-metros. The percentage point difference was 6,2 (17,5% male-headed and 11,3% female-headed) in the metros and 2,4 (6,3% for male-headed and 3,9% for female-headed) in the non-metros.

In 2022, access to fixed telephones continued to decline for South African households. The male-headed households within the metros declined by 9,1 percentage points (17,5% in 2016 and 8,4% in 2022), while access to fixed telephones for female-headed households located in the metros decreased by 3,5 percentage points (from 11,3% in 2016 to 7,8% in 2022). For the non-metro areas, access to fixed telephones increased for male-headed (6,3% in 2016 and 6,9% in 2022) and female-headed households (3,9% in 2016 and 5,9% in 2022).

Percentage of households with access to fixed telephones by sex of the household head and dwelling type, 2016 and 2022

Access to fixed telephones for male-headed households in the year 2016 was as follows: 14,5% in formal dwellings; 1,5% in informal dwellings; and 1,0% in traditional dwellings. Access to fixed telephones for female-headed households was as follows: 8,2% in formal dwellings; 1,2% in informal dwellings; and 1,0% in traditional dwellings. For male-headed households and female-headed households, access to fixed telephones in traditional dwellings showed equality (with 1,0% for 2016, which increased to 5,1% for 2022). In 2022, female-headed households who resided in informal dwellings had more access than male-headed households (at 5,5% and 5,1% respectively). For formal dwellings, male-headed households had more access than female-headed households with a 1,2 percentage point difference.

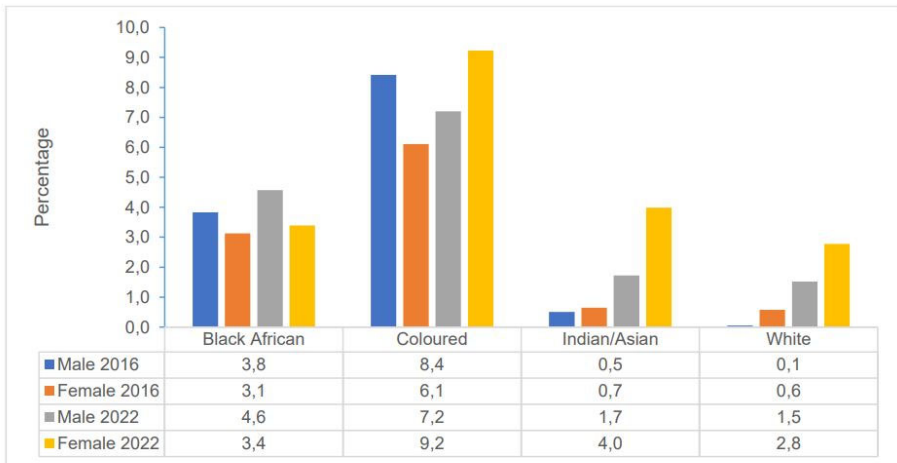
Percentage of households with or without access to fixed telephones and mobile telephones by sex of the household head and population group, 2016 and 2022





Majority of households had access to mobile telephones, followed by those who had both fixed telephones and mobile telephone irrespective of the sex of the household head. For the reference period, the percentage of households with no access to either mobile or fixed telephones increased from 3,4% in 2016 to 4,1% in 2022. The proportion of households with access to both fixed and mobile telephones declined by 2,4 percentage points from 9,5% in 2016 to 7,1% in 2022. Male-headed households recorded the highest percentage of households with access to both fixed telephones and mobile telephones in both reported years (11,6% in 2016 and 7,6% in 2022), showing a decline of 4,0 percentage points. In 2016, 3,4% of households reported to have no access to any fixed or mobile telephones; this increased to 4,1% in 2022 (an increase of 0,7 of a percentage point for both sexes).

Figure 1: Percentage of households with no access to either fixed telephones or mobile telephones by sex of the household head and population group, 2016 and 2022



Source: GHS 2016 and 2022

Figure 1 shows that for the reference period, coloureds had the largest percentage of both male (8,4% in 2016 and 7,2% in 2022) and female (6,1% in 2016 and 9,2% in 2022) heads of households without access to any fixed-line or mobile telephones for both sexes. Households headed by white males (0,1% in 2016 and 1,5% in 2022) and Indian/Asian male-headed households (0,5% in 2016 and 1,7% in 2022) population groups had the lowest percentages of those with no access to either fixed or mobile



telephones, and the highest proportions were observed in female-headed households in both years (0,6% in 2016 and 2,8% in 2022 for white females and 0,7% in 2016 and 4,0% in 2022 for Indian/Asian females). The percentage of households with no access to either fixed or mobile telephones increased by 0,8 of a percentage point (from 3,8% in 2016 to 4,6% in 2022) amongst black African male-headed households and 0,2 of a percentage point (from 3,1% in 2016 to 3,4% in 2022) among female-headed households.

Table 2: Percentage of households with access to internet by sex of the household head, 2016 and 2022

Sex	N ('000)								
	2016			2019			2022		
	Access	No access	Total	Access	No access	Total	Access	No access	Total
Male	5 630	3 589	9 218	6 384	3 598	9 982	8 031	2 652	10 683
Female	3 780	2 745	6 525	4 472	2 709	7 181	5 881	1 913	7 794
Both sexes	9 410	6 334	15 744	10 856	6 307	17 163	13 912	4 565	18 477
	Per cent								
Male	61,1	38,9	100,0	64,0	36,0	100,0	75,2	24,8	100,0
Female	57,9	42,1	100,0	62,3	37,7	100,0	75,5	24,5	100,0
Both sexes	59,8	40,2	100,0	63,3	36,7	100,0	75,3	24,7	100,0

Source: GHS 2016, 2019 and 2022

In 2016, 9,4 million households (59,8%) had access to the internet. Among those, the majority of male-headed households (61,1%) had internet connection while 57,9% of female-headed households had access to the internet. In 2022, a significant increase in internet connectivity was observed, where 75,2% of male-headed households and 75,5% of female-headed households had access to the internet. However, data shows females were more likely to reside in households with internet connection, slightly exceeding males in both years.





Figure 2: Percentage of households with access to internet by sex of household head and province, 2016 and 2022



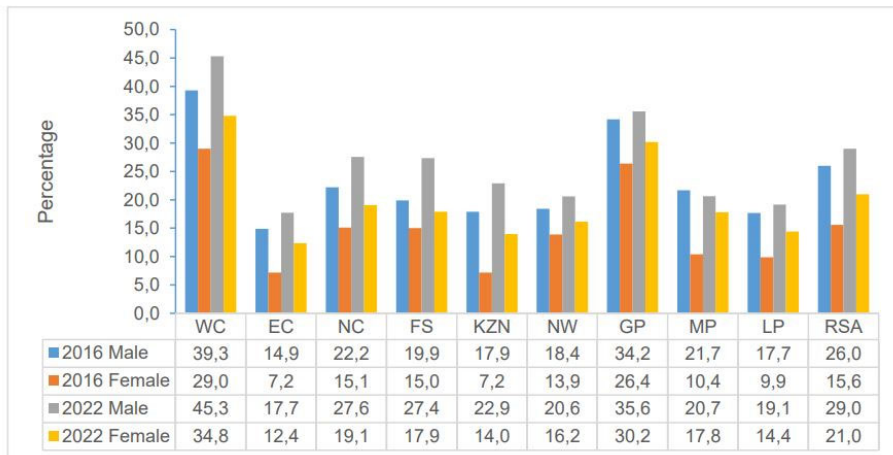
Source: GHS 2016 and 2022.

In 2016, provincial results revealed that Gauteng (72,7% for females and 72,7% for males) had the most households with internet connection, followed by Western Cape (69,3% for males and 69,2% for females) regardless of gender. However, in 2022, Western Cape (85,9% for males and 82,6% for females) had the most households with internet access, followed by Gauteng (81,0% for females and 79,5% for males). Households with the least internet connection were in Limpopo and Eastern Cape. Gender equality in internet connection was observed in Gauteng (72,7% each for males and females) and Western Cape (69,3% for males and 69,2% for females) in 2016. The analysis shows that in 2022, female-headed households (75,5%) and male-headed households almost reached gender equality (75,2%). In Gauteng, female-headed households were more likely to have internet connection (81,0%) than male-headed households (79,5%). In 2022, female-headed households had more internet connection than male-headed households.





Figure 3: Percentage of households with access to computers by province and sex of the household head, 2016 and 2022



Source: GHS 2016 and 2022

Access to a computers by male-headed households increased by 5,4 percentage points (from 26,0% in 2016 to 29,0% in 2022) while female-headed households increased by 3,0 percentage points (from 15,6% in 2016 to 21,0% in 2022). The availability of a computer within the household plays a dynamic role as each member of the household is able to utilise it for their benefit as well as the benefit of the household.

All the provinces recorded an increase in access to computers for both male and female-headed households, except in Mpumalanga where male-headed households recorded a decline of 1,0 percentage point (from 21,7% in 2016 to 20,7% in 2022). In 2016, at least 39,3% of male-headed households in Western Cape had access to a computer which increased to 45,3% in 2022. Although Northern Cape is the least populous province, it was observed that 15,1% of female-headed household had access to computers in 2016 and increased by 4,0 percentage points to 19,1% in 2022.

Percentage of households with access to computers by population group and sex of household head, 2016 and 2022

Black African female-headed households with access to computer increased by 5,3 percentage points (from 11,1% in 2016 to 16,4% in 2022) whilst black African male-headed households increased by 3,4 percentage points (from





16,7% in 2016 to 20,1% in 2022). The Indian/Asian population shows an improvement in households with access to a computer for both sexes at 16,1 percentage points for male-headed households (from 53,0% in 2016 and 69,1% in 2022) and 23,4 percentage points for female-headed households (from 62,1% to 70,0% in 2022) for the reference period. Three-quarters (75,0%) of male-headed households for the white population group had access to computers in 2016 which increased to 80,7% in 2022, while their female counterparts improved from 62,1% in 2016 to 70,0% in 2022. This analysis reveals that the majority of the white and Indian/Asian population households had access to a computer compared to other population groups.

Percentage of households who own a radio by sex of the household head and province, 2016 and 2022

Generally, radio ownership declined for both male and female-headed households during the reference period. Both male and female-headed households showed a decline of 21,4 percentage points and 21,8 percentage points respectively in 2022. Provincial differences reveal that Free State had the highest percentage of households with radio ownership (64,9% for male-headed households and 63,8% for female-headed households), followed by KwaZulu-Natal (63,2% for male-headed households and 56,8% for female-headed households) in 2016. In 2022, KwaZulu-Natal (50,0% for males and 46,9% for females) surpassed Free State (48,6% for males and 41,2% for females) and had the highest percentage of both male and female-headed households with radio ownership. Mpumalanga and Limpopo showed the lowest percentage of female-headed households with radio ownership with 22,3% and 22,7% respectively in 2022.

Percentage of households who owned televisions by sex of household head and province, 2016 and 2022

Ownership of a television among female-headed households increased from 81,7% in 2016 to 83,6% in 2022 while the contrary was observed for male-headed households (dropped from 81,2% in 2016 to 79,9% in 2022). Between 2016 and 2022, majority of households headed by both males and females owned televisions in Western Cape, followed by Gauteng, Free State and Mpumalanga. In 2016, female-headed households dominated in television ownership in seven provinces, except in Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal. In 2022, Northern Cape was the only province where television ownership was dominated by male-headed households with a





slight difference of 0,6 of a percentage point compared to female-headed households. In 2022, female-headed households were more likely to own a television than male-headed households.

In 2016, Indian/Asian and white male-headed households reached equity in television ownership (97,2% each), while Indian/Asian (97,4%) female-headed households exceeded the male-headed households with 0,2 of a percentage point, almost reaching gender equality. In 2016, white (97,2%) male-headed households exceeded female-headed households (96,2%) with 1,0 percentage point. Black African households were less likely to own a television compared to other population groups in South Africa. Male-headed households among black Africans recorded a decline in television ownership from 77,0% in 2016 to 76,4% in 2022 while the contrary was observed for their female counterparts from 79,4% in 2016 to 82,0% in 2022. Between 2016 and 2022, all four population groups recorded a decline in male-headed households who owned a television, while black African and coloured households recorded an increase in female-headed households who owned a television.

Percentage distribution of households without access to the selected ICT assets by province, 2022

Provincial figures indicate that North West (18,0%) recorded the highest percentage of households with no access to ICT assets (computer, television, radio), followed by Northern Cape (17,0%), Limpopo (15,6%), Mpumalanga (15,4%) and Eastern Cape (14,8%). Western Cape (5,8%) had the lowest percentage of households with no ICT assets followed by Free State (11,1%).

Percentage of households without access to the selected ICT assets by sex of the household head, 2016, 2019 and 2022

During the reference period, percentages of households with no access to ICT increased for both male and female-headed households, except for a slight decrease for female-headed households in 2022. The percentage of households with no access to selected ICT assets increased from 1,8 million (11,4%) to 2,4 million (12,7%) in 2022. Of the 15,7 million households in 2016, 1,8 million households had no access to ICT assets which represented 11,4% of the households. In 2022, the female-headed households were less likely than the male-headed households to be without access to the selected ICT assets. However, female-headed households



with no access to ICT assets decreased by 0,2 percentage points (from 11,8% in 2016 to 11,6% in 2022); while their male counterparts increased by 2,5 percentage points (from 11,1% in 2016 to 13,6% in 2022).

The percentage of households with no access to the selected ICT assets by sex and population group of the household head, 2016-2022

Black African households without access to selected ICT assets had higher percentages in both years while the white households without access had the lowest percentages. The black African male-headed households without access to ICT assets increased from 13,6% in 2016 to 16,1% in 2022 and black African female-headed households decreased by 0,4 percentage points from 13,4% to 13,0% in 2016 and 2022 respectively. Between 2016 and 2022, the percentage of Indian/Asian households headed by males without access to ICT assets increased from 2,2% to 4,3%, while the percentage of Indian/Asian households headed by females without access to these assets increased from 2,2% to 3,8%.

Conclusion

Findings of the report show that, across all provinces, a higher percentage of females than males owned mobile phone. Results further show that, with the exception of Free State, male-headed households with access to fixed telephones exceeded female-headed households in all provinces in 2016. However, male-headed households were in majority in 2022. This analysis reveals that the majority of the white and Indian/Asian population households had access to a computer compared to other population groups.



Primary industries

Mining: Production and sales

Mining production increased by 6,8% year-on-year in November 2023

Illegal mining is estimated to cost South Africa billions of rands each year. According to the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Gwede Mantashe, the country’s economy and mining sector lost approximately R49 billion in 2019 due to illegal mining. He also estimated that mining companies spend over R2 billion on security to prevent illegal mining. To tackle these challenges, President Cyril Ramaphosa has deployed 3 300 South African National Defence Force (SANDF) members to support the South African Police Service (SAPS) in “an intensified anti-criminality operation against illegal mining across all provinces”. The operation started in October 2023 and is expected to last until April 2024. This operation is expected to improve the safety of communities residing around mines and improve the country’s economic development. This article summarises the results of the *Mining: Production and sales* (statistical release P12041) for November 2023.

Mining production increased by 6,8% year-on-year in November 2023 (see **Table A**). The largest positive contributors were:

- PGMs (15,2%, contributing 3,9 percentage points);
- coal (10,6%, contributing 2,5 percentage points); and
- iron ore (20,1%, contributing 2,1 percentage points).

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

	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	0,9	-4,1	-2,2	-1,9	3,6	6,8
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,0	-1,8	1,0	0,0	2,0	2,1
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	1,2	-0,3	-1,6	-1,5	0,8	2,1

^{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 increased by 9,7% year-on-year in November 2023 (see **Table B**). The largest positive contributors were:





- iron ore (141,4%, contributing 10,2 percentage points);
- gold (64,9%, contributing 5,3 percentage points); and
- chromium ore (90,1%, contributing 4,1 percentage points).

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

	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-14,6	-25,0	-16,6	-20,1	-0,6	9,7
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-13,6	-5,6	7,1	-4,0	12,9	-0,1
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	-4,1	1,8	-5,5	-5,0	-0,7	7,1

^{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 increased by 1,9% in November 2023 compared with November 2022

South Africa plans to remain the largest passenger vehicle market in Africa. Global automotive manufacturing company, Stellantis, in partnership with the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC) and Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) is building an automotive manufacturing plant in the Coega Special Economic Zone at Gqeberha, in Eastern Cape. The automotive manufacturing plant is planned for completion by the end of 2025 and the first vehicle will be built in 2026. The first vehicle to be built will be a one-ton bakkie, with volumes expected to reach 50 000 units a year for domestic and export market. The plant's capacity, as determined by space and the paint plant, will produce 90 000 units a year. This venture will boost the economy and create more job opportunities. This article presents a summary of results of *Manufacturing: Production and sales* (statistical release P3041.2) for November 2023.

Manufacturing production increased by 1,9% in November 2023 compared with November 2022 (**see Table C**). The largest contributions were made by the following divisions:

- wood and wood products, paper, publishing and printing (8,0%, contributing 0,8 of a percentage point); and
- motor vehicles, parts and accessories and other transport equipment (5,7%, contributing 0,6 of a percentage point).



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

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

^{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 (at current prices) decreased by 13,8% (-R15 290,2 million) during January to November 2023 compared with January to November 2022

For the first time in 20 years, sectional title residential property prices have exceeded freehold residential property prices. Sectional title refers to ownership of a unit that forms part of a group-owned complex or development, whilst freehold refers to a property which stands on its own and does not form part of a complex or development. According to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Pam Golding Property Group, Dr Andrew Golding, in the fourth quarter of 2023, sectional title property prices grew at a faster rate of 1,8% compared to 1,5% for freehold properties. The gap further widened at the end of the fourth quarter in December 2023, when sectional title prices grew by +1,9% compared to 1,1% for freehold properties, said Golding. The demand for sectional title properties increased significantly over the last 10 years due to affordability, costs and security among others. This article summarises the results for the *Selected building statistics of the private sector* (statistical release P5041.1) for November 2023.

The value of building plans passed (at current prices) decreased by 13,8% (-R15 290,2 million) from January to November 2023 compared with January to November 2022 (see **Table D**). Decreases were reported for residential buildings (-19,1% or -R11 271,1 million), additions and alterations (-10,6% or -R3 284,5 million) and non-residential buildings (-3,6% or -R734,6 million).



The largest contributions to the total decrease of 13,8% (-R15 290,2 million) were made by KwaZulu-Natal (contributing -5,5 percentage points or -R6 120,5 million), Western Cape (contributing -4,1 percentage points or -R4 484,9 million) and Gauteng (contributing -2,0 percentage points or -R2 235,0 million).

Table D – Building plans passed by larger municipalities by type of building for November 2023

Type of building	January - November 2022	January – November 2023	Difference in value between January – November 2022 and January - November 2023	% change between January - November 2022 and January - November 2023
	^{1/}	^{1/}		
	R'000	R'000	R'000	
Residential buildings	58 865 919	47 594 862	-11 271 057	-19,1
- Dwelling houses	38 059 252	31 064 641	-6 994 611	-18,4
- Flats and townhouses	19 785 038	15 872 782	-3 912 256	-19,8
- Other residential buildings	1 021 629	657 439	-364 190	-35,6
Non-residential buildings	20 669 570	19 934 946	-734 624	-3,6
Additions and alterations	31 105 983	27 821 493	-3 284 490	-10,6
Total	110 641 472	95 351 301	-15 290 171	-13,8

^{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 3,3% year-on-year in November 2023

Electricity is an important resource for day-to-day activities in many households, industries, schools and hospitals. It is used for construction, machines, heating, cooking, lighting, etc. However, the production and



distribution of electricity does not come cheap. South Africa’s power utility, Eskom, is constantly faced with higher fuel costs, depreciation of its generation assets and higher procurement costs from independent power producers. These increased costs result in higher production costs which are eventually passed on to consumers. This is why the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA) approved Eskom’s price increase of 12,74% for 2024/2025. NERSA approved the tariff increase at a rate that will allow the utility to recover the revenue it spent on electricity production. This article summarises the results of the *Electricity generated and available for distribution* (statistical release P4141) for November 2023.

Electricity generation (production) decreased by 3,3% year-on-year in November 2023 (see Table E).

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

	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	3,7	-3,4	-6,4	-1,0	1,6	-3,3
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	3,9	-1,9	1,0	-0,6	4,2	-2,7
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	-1,1	-0,2	1,1	0,9	2,0	1,3

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

Electricity distribution (consumption) decreased by 2,7% year-on-year in November 2023 (see Table F).

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

	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-3,2	-3,1	-6,4	-1,2	1,0	-2,7
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	3,7	-2,1	1,0	-1,6	4,3	-2,5
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	-0,8	0,5	1,2	0,6	1,2	0,4

^{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 0,4% in November 2023 compared with November 2022

The price of solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products continue to be the main driver behind increase in wholesale trade sales. This is because when fuel price increases transport costs automatically go up and this pushes wholesalers to increase prices of goods to cover the transportation costs, and such hikes ultimately affect consumers. Recently this has become evident where the price of petroleum has become expensive. The expensive price of petroleum prompted some petrol stations to cut corners by diluting other petroleum products to generate more money and invade tax. An investigation by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) has found that 70 petrol stations across the country have been selling diluted diesel. According to DMRE, the diluted diesel was allegedly mixed with illuminating paraffin. The department has issued non-compliance notices to respective petrol stations. This article summarises results of the *Wholesale trade sales* (statistical release P6141.2) for November 2023.

Wholesale trade sales increased by 0,4% in November 2023 compared with November 2022 (**see Table G**). The main positive contribut/or was dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (4,8%, contributing 1,2 percentage points).

The main negative contributor was dealers in agricultural raw materials and livestock (-27,7%, contributing -2,5 percentage points)

Wholesale trade sales decreased by 1,6% in the three months ended November 2023 compared with the three months ended November 2022.

The main negative contributors were dealers in:

- solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (-8,6%, contributing -2,5 percentage points); and
- agricultural raw materials and livestock (-19,2%, contributing -1,5 percentage points).

The main positive contributor was dealers in machinery, equipment and supplies (14,7%, contributing 1,8 percentage points).



Table G – Key growth rates in wholesale trade sales for November 2023

	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sept-23	Oct-23	Nov-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-0,1	-3,1	4,0	-2,2	-3,0	0,4
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-2,5	1,4	3,8	-0,5	-3,7	4,0
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	-1,9	-2,5	-0,3	1,9	2,2	1,3

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

Retail trade sales

Retail trade sales decreased by 0,9% year-on-year in November 2023

Despite the dire state of the South African economy, consumers spent more money in December 2023 compared to the previous year. According to BankservAfrica (Africa's largest automated payments clearing house), the point-of-sales (POS) transactional data shows that total in-store card spend for December 2023 amounted to over R112 billion. That is a 13% increase from R100 billion recorded in December 2022. The highest spend and volumes were recorded at grocery stores and supermarkets, which almost doubled in value at R50 billion with 47 million card transactions (compared to R26 billion in December 2022). Interestingly, clothing purchases declined by 11% (R2,8 billion in December 2023 compared to R3,1 billion in December 2022). This article summarises results of *Retail trade sales* (statistical release 6242.1) for November 2023.

Retail trade sales decreased by 0,9% year-on-year in November 2023 (**see Table H**). The largest negative contributors to this decrease were retailers in:

- hardware, paint and glass (-5,3%, contributing -0,4 of a percentage point); and
- textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (-2,0%, contributing -0,4 of a percentage point).

Retail trade sales decreased by 0,7% in the three months ended November 2023 compared with the three months ended November 2022. The largest negative contributors to this decrease were:



- general dealers (-1,8%, contributing -0,8 of a percentage point); and
- retailers in hardware, paint and glass (-5,7%, contributing -0,5 of a percentage point).

Table H – Key growth rates in retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices

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

^{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 2,9% year-on-year in November 2023

In 2023, South Africa’s new vehicle sales have started to show more growth after the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic. Data from National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of South Africa (Naamsa) reported that new vehicle sales increased by 0,5% year-on-year in 2023 to 532 098 units compared to the 529 556 units in 2022. According to Naamsa, in 2023, vehicle export increased by 12,7% to 396 290 units compared to 351 785 vehicles exported in 2022. Although vehicle sales showed improvement, Naamsa indicated that it would likely take four years to recover from the pre-pandemic level of 536 612 units in 2019. This article summarises the results of *Motor trade sales* (statistical release P6343.2) for November 2023.

Motor trade sales decreased by 2,9% year-on-year in November 2023 (see **Table I**). The largest negative annual growth rates were recorded for:

- new vehicle sales (-11,2%); and
- workshop income (-8,3%).

The largest negative contributor to this decrease was new vehicle sales (contributing -3,0 percentage points).



Table I – Key growth rates in motor trade sales at constant 2019 prices for November 2023

	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sept-23	Oct-23	Nov-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	5,8	2,2	-2,4	-7,8	-2,6	-2,9
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,7	-0,7	-0,3	-2,0	0,1	1,0
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	-0,3	0,4	0,4	-0,9	-1,9	-2,1

^{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 1,0% in November 2023

South Africa’s diverse meat production is attracting different meat consuming markets around the African continent and the world. In a collaborative effort, Red Meat Industry Services (RMIS), Department of Agriculture Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) and Red Meat Abattoir Association (RMAA) have secured a deal with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that will reshape South Africa’s red meat export landscape. The Saudi Arabian market has shown an interest in four red meat products such as beef, lamb, mutton and goat from the South African meat farmers. The opening of the Saudi Arabian market will assist RMIS to come closer to its Red Meat Strategy 2030 which envisages a 20% export market for red meat by 2030. This article summarises the results of *Food and beverages* (statistical release P6420) for November 2023.

Total income generated by the food and beverages industry increased by 1,0% in November 2023 compared with November 2022 (see **Table J**). Bar sales recorded the highest annual growth rate (7,6%).

In November 2023, the main contributor to the 1,0% year-on-year increase was restaurants and coffee shops (2,5%, contributing 1,3 percentage points).



Total income increased by 1,8% in the three months ended November 2023 compared with the three months ended November 2022. The main contributor to this increase was restaurants and coffee shops (2,1%, contributing 1,1 percentage points).

Table J – Year-on-year percentage change in food and beverages income at constant 2019 prices by type of income for November 2023

Type of income	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sept-23	Oct-23	Nov-23
Food sales	6,9	0,8	1,0	3,8	-0,9	0,1
Bar sales	2,8	-10,7	-10,0	4,0	9,6	7,6
Other income	11,5	18,9	10,1	6,2	7,0	-0,7
Total	6,5	-0,2	-0,2	3,9	0,5	1,0

¹A 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 13,2% in November 2023

As exciting as it sounds, business travelling, or travelling for work purposes often leaves some people fatigued, stressed and less enthusiastic about their tasks. According to Forbes, “nearly 1 in 3 (31,9%) business travellers say they experience difficulty staying on top of their workload when travelling.” This is usually caused by flight delays or cancellations, lack of sleep, long meeting hours and lack of exercise among other causes. This has led to the increased popularity of leisure travel, a combination of business and leisure travel. Business travellers add a day or two to their itinerary, intending to do something leisurely after their business meetings. This type of travel does not only increase employee well-being, but it also has a positive impact on the tourism industry because it allows more tourists to stay longer in their booked accommodations to explore local attractions, dine at restaurants and participate in leisure activities. This ultimately leads to increased revenue for the tourism industry. This article summarises the results of the *Tourist accommodation* (statistical release P6410) for November 2023.



The total income for the tourist accommodation industry increased by 13,2% in November 2023 compared with November 2022 (see Table K).

Income from accommodation increased by 15,0% year-on-year in November 2023, the result of a 3,9% increase in the number of stay unit nights sold and a 10,7% increase in the average income per stay unit night sold.

In November 2023, the largest contributors to the 15,0% year-on-year increase in income from accommodation were:

- hotels (16,9%, contributing 10,9 percentage points); and
- 'other' accommodation (18,1%, contributing 5,1 percentage points).

Income from accommodation increased by 14,7% in the three months ended November 2023 compared with the three months ended November 2022.

The main contributors to this increase were:

- hotels (15,0%, contributing 9,5 percentage points); and
- 'other' accommodation (18,9%, contributing 5,6 percentage points).

Table K – Year-on-year percentage change in tourist accommodation statistics for November 2023

	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23
Stay units available	-0,1	-0,1	-0,1	-0,1	-0,1	-0,1
Stay unit nights sold	9,8	7,6	9,4	2,9	-1,3	3,9
Average income per stay unit nights sold	26,5	19,7	16,2	15,3	12,5	10,7
Income from accommodation	38,9	28,9	27,1	18,7	11,0	15,0
Total income ^{1/}	27,6	17,7	20,6	14,2	6,4	13,2

^{1/} Includes restaurant and bar sales and 'other' income. 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 3 478 783 travellers passed through South African ports of entry/exit in December 2023

International tourism is expected to return to pre-pandemic levels in 2024 after being severely disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic and its restrictions. According to the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the first UNWTO World Tourism Barometer of the year showed that there were an estimated 1,3 billion international arrivals in 2023, representing 88% of pre-pandemic levels. With world tourism increasing, South Africa is also experiencing a similar trend. Pre-pandemic, number of international arrivals (overnight tourists) was 10,23 million in 2019. However due to travel restrictions, international arrivals declined in 2021 and was 77,9% lower than 2019 at 2,26 million. In 2022, there was a slight recovery in international arrivals (approximately 5,70 million) at 44,3% below pre-pandemic levels. There was a significant improvement in 2023 with 8,48 million international arrivals representing 17,1% below pre-pandemic levels. Although the figures are improving, they remain lower than the pre-pandemic figure of 10,23 million in 2019. Presented in this article is a summary of *Tourism and migration* (statistical release P0351) for December 2023.

A total of 3 478 783 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry/exit in December 2023 (**see Table L**). The travellers were made up of 1 094 176 South African residents and 2 384 607 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 473 131 arrivals, 620 598 departures and 447 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 1 183 035, 1 167 550 and 34 022 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in November 2023 and December 2023 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers, whereas the volume of transits decreased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 46,1% (from 323 797 in November 2023 to 473 131 in December 2023). Departures increased by 92,0% (from 323 263 in November 2023 to 620 598 in December 2023) and transits decreased by 7,3% (from 482 in November 2023 to 447 in December 2023). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 16,5% (from 1 015 584 in November 2023 to 1 183 035 in December 2023), departures increased by



32,5% (from 880 886 in November 2023 to 1 167 550 in December 2023), and transits decreased by 10,5% (from 38 011 in November 2023 to 34 022 in December 2023).

Mode of travel by travellers

In December 2023, road was the most common mode of travel used by 2 390 122 (67,1%) of the 3 478 783 travellers. Total number of travellers who used air was 1 032 087 (29,7%). Compared to air and land, a smaller number of travellers, 56 574 (1,6%) used sea into and out of South Africa. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 200 812 (42,4%) came by air, 251 367 (53,1%) came by road and 20 952 (4,4%) arrived by sea. For departures, 239 500 (38,6%) used air, 357 669 (57,6%) used road and 23 429 (3,8%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 447 (100,0%) used air.

For foreign travellers, 289 863 (24,5%) arrived by air, 887 490 (75,0%) came by road and 5 682 (0,5%) arrived by sea. When departing South Africa, 267 443 (22,9%) foreign travellers left by air, 893 596 (76,5%) left by road and 6 511 (0,6%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 34 022 (100,0%) used air.

Visitors

In December 2023, 22 990 (1,9%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors, while 1 160 045 (98,1%) were classified as visitors. Visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – visitors who entered the country in December 2023 but did not depart in December 2023 [378 171 (32,6%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in December 2023 and left in December 2023 [407 369 (35,1%)]; and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in December 2023 [374 505 (32,3%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In December 2023, there were 297 585 (25,7%) same-day visitors and 862 460 (74,3%) tourists. Between November 2023 and December 2023, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 15,7% (from 257 191 in November 2023 to 297 585 in December 2023) and that of tourists increased by 17,9% (from 731 677 in November 2023 to 862 460 in December 2023). Between December 2022 and December 2023, the



volume of same-day visitors increased by 36,4% (from 218 094 in December 2022 to 297 585 in December 2023) and that of tourists increased by 27,2% (from 677 838 in December 2022 to 862 460 in December 2023).

Tourists

Sex distribution of tourists

There were more male [472 803 (54,8%)] than female [389 657 (45,2%)] tourists. Male tourists constituted the majority of tourists for all three regions, SADC countries [356 521 (55,7%)], overseas countries [106 652 (51,9%)] and 'other' African countries [9 051 (56,7%)]. Similarly, the largest portion of female tourists was from SADC countries [283 295 (44,3%)], followed by overseas countries 99 032 (48,1%) and 'other' African countries 6 900 (43,3%).

Age distribution of tourists

The age distribution indicates that out of all tourists, [81 694 (9,5%)] were aged younger than 15 years; [93 333 (10,8%)] were aged between 15 and 24 years; [207 147 (24,0%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years; [238 029 (27,6%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years; [137 995 (16,0%)] were aged between 45 and 54 years; [66 817 (7,7%)] were aged between 55 and 64 years; [37 445 (4,3%)] were aged 65 years and above.

Regional and national distribution of tourists

In December 2023, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 130 584 (63,5%); North America, 38 517 (18,7%); Asia, 16 811 (8,2%); Australasia, 11 082 (5,4%); Central and South America, 6 130 (3,0%) and The Middle East, 2 560 (1,2%). The 10 leading overseas countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in December 2023 were: United Kingdom (UK), 41 106 (20,0%); United States of America (USA), 33 027 (16,1%); Germany, 25 288 (12,3%); The Netherlands, 13 423 (6,5%); France, 10 315 (5,0%); Australia, 8 627 (4,2%); India, 6 737 (3,3%); Canada, 5 490 (2,7%); Switzerland, 4 758 (2,3%) and Italy, 4 639 (2,3%).

Tourists from these 10 countries constituted 74,6% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison of movements in the 10 leading countries between December 2022 and December 2023 shows that the number of tourists increased for 8 of 10 leading countries. The Netherlands had the



highest increase of 24,3% (from 10 800 tourists in December 2022 to 13 423 tourists in December 2023).

Purpose of visit by tourists

In December 2023, the majority of tourists, 884 059 (97,9%), were in South Africa for holiday compared to 16 362 (1,9%); 1 832 (0,2%) and 207 (less than 0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and medical treatment respectively.

Mode of travel by tourists

A total of 144 340 (91,1%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 14 064 (8,9%) came in by road and three (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the SADC countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 475 004 (92,4%), whilst 39 264 (7,6%) came by air and none arrived by sea. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 9 337 (89,6%); while 1 078 (10,4%) used road transport and none recorded by sea travel.

A total of 192 731 (93,7%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 11 273 (5,5%) came in by road and 1 680 (0,8%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the SADC countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 578 659 (90,4%), whilst 60 104 (9,4%) came by air and 1 053 (0,2%) arrived by sea. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 14 171 (88,8%); while 1 758 (11,0%) used road transport and 22 (0,1%) preferred sea.



Table L – Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction for December 2023

Travel direction	December 2022	November 2023	December 2023	% change Nov 2023 to Dec 2023	% change Dec 2022 to Dec 2023
Total	2 881 887	2 582 023	3 478 783	34,7%	20,7%
South African residents	965 599	647 542	1 094 176	69,0%	13,3%
Arrivals	407 837	323 797	473 131	46,1%	16,0%
Departures	557 365	323 263	620 598	92,0%	11,3%
Transit	397	482	447	7,3%	12,6%
Foreign travellers	1 916 288	1 934 481	2 384 607	23,3%	24,4%
Arrivals	971 425	1 015 584	1 183 035	16,5%	21,8%
Departures	918 272	880 886	1 167 550	32,5%	27,1%
Transit	26 591	38 011	34 022	-10,5%	27,9%

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

The total number of civil summonses issued for debt decreased by 7,4% in the three months ended November 2023

South African consumers are struggling with persistent interest rates and the high cost of living and are becoming increasingly dependent on credit to make it through the month. According to the Head of Transactional Banking at Absa Everyday Banking, Nick Nkosi, it is apparent that consumers are stressed financially as the bank has already recorded a steep increase in credit applications and extensions in 2024. “In 2023, Absa saw the highest application rate for credit ever, and this continued into January 2024. We see the trend moving in an upward trajectory”, said Nkosi. While these are tough economic times, taking on credit during a high inflationary environment will lead to higher repayments due to higher interest rates. This can also lead to an unsustainable level of debt as consumers might not be able to honour their debt repayments. It is essential that consumers reduce their reliance on credit and manage their debt effectively by paying on time to avoid a judgement or even a civil case for debt. This article summarises



the results of *Statistics of civil cases for debt* (statistical release P0041) for November 2023.

The number of civil summonses issued for debt

The total number of civil summonses issued for debt decreased by 7,4% in the three months ended November 2023, compared with the three months ended November 2022. The largest negative contributors to the 7,4% decrease in civil summonses issued were:

- money lent (contributing -5,0 percentage points); and
- 'other' debts (contributing -1,2 percentage points).

The number of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total number of civil judgements recorded for debt increased by 0,6% in the three months ended November 2023 compared with the three months ended November 2022. The largest positive contributors to the 0,6% increase were civil judgements relating to:

- rent (contributing 1,6 percentage points);
- 'other' debts (contributing 1,0 percentage point); and
- services (contributing 0,8 of a percentage point).

Promissory notes made the largest negative contribution (contributing -1,5 percentage points).

The value of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total value of civil judgements recorded for debt increased by 4,0% in the three months ended November 2023 compared with the three months ended November 2022. The largest positive contributors to the 4,0% increase were civil judgements relating to:

- services (contributing 4,1 percentage points); and
- 'other' debts (contributing 2,9 percentage points).

Goods sold made the largest negative contribution (contributing -1,8 percentage points).



In November 2023, 11 899 civil judgements for debt amounting to R338,2 million were recorded. The largest contributors to the total value of judgements were:

- money lent (R83,0 million or 24,5%);
- services (R79,4 million or 23,5%); and
- 'other' debts (R75,5 million or 22,3%).

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

Actual estimates	November 2023	% change between November 2022 and November 2023	% change between September to November 2022 and September to November 2023
Number of civil summonses issued for debt	42 592	-14,2	-7,4
Number of civil judgements recorded for debt	11 899	-2,0	0,6
Value of civil judgements recorded for debt (R million)	338,2	1,2	4,0

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 liquidation

Number of liquidations decreased by 13,1% in 2023 compared with 2022

Employees' financial security is often closely related to the stability of a company. When a company gets liquidated, it often results in the loss of jobs and income for its employees. In 2023, over 1600 South African businesses were forced to close down. The financing, insurance, real estate, and business services sector was the hardest hit with 554 businesses forced to close. Interestingly, the same sector lost around 7 000 jobs in the third quarter of 2023, and 57 000 in the first quarter. For both quarters, this was the sector with the highest number of jobs lost. According to Labour Protect Trade Union, "Contracts of service are suspended on the insolvency of the employer from the date of the sequestration order. During the suspension of the contract, the employee is not obliged to render any services to the employer nor entitled to receive any pay or employment benefits arising from the contract." Although employees may be entitled to claim from the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) if they have been retrenched or



dismissed due to a company's liquidation, these benefits may not fully address the financial and emotional impact of liquidation on employees. This article summarises results of the *Statistics of liquidations* (statistical release P0043.1) for December 2023.

The number of liquidations decreased by 13,1% in 2023 compared with 2022 (**see Table N**). Liquidations of companies decreased by 15,6% (from 1 091 to 921) and liquidations of close corporations decreased by 9,8% (from 816 to 736).

The total number of liquidations decreased by 13,5% in the fourth quarter of 2023 compared with the fourth quarter of 2022. There was a year-on-year decrease of 13,8% in December 2023.

Table N – Key growth rates in the number of liquidations for December 2023

Number of liquidations December 2023	% change between December 2022 and December 2023	% change between October to December 2022 and October to December 2023	% change between January to December 2022 and January to December 2023
137	-13,8	-13,5	-13,1

A full release on *Statistics of liquidations* (statistical release P0043.1) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Land transport

Volume of goods transported increased by 1,6% in November 2023

Freight transportation by sea is one of the drivers of the economy. It facilitates international trade, handles larger loads of goods, supports industries, is less expensive, more environmentally friendly and ensures that products reach consumers. However, delays in the Port of Durban, South Africa's biggest and busiest commercial port, have caused several challenges for some industries. This includes as the agriculture industry where the obstruction of movement of goods has disrupted timely exports of perishable goods, compromising product quality and leading to losses for farmers. The crisis has also affected the land transportation of goods from the harbour to inland consumers. According to Ctrack, a fleet management and vehicle tracking company, these delays are compounding problems along the value chain and logistics sector, with the congestion at sea freight



having a knock-on impact on the road freight sector. This article summarises the results of the *Land transport* (statistical release P7162) for November 2023.

The volume of goods transported (payload) increased by 1,6% in November 2023 compared with November 2022 (**see Table O**). The corresponding income increased by 3,3% over the same period.

Income from freight transportation increased by 4,6% in the three months ended November 2023 compared with the three months ended November 2022. The main positive contributors to this increase were:

- primary mining and quarrying products (10,9% and contributing 3,5 percentage points); and
- 'other' freight (16,0% and contributing 3,2 percentage points).

Table O – Year-on-year percentage change in freight transportation for November 2023

	June-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23
Freight payload	-2,5	-4,9	-10,0	0,3	-1,1	1,6
Freight income	0,3	-4,1	-4,6	4,5	6,2	3,3

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

The number of passenger journeys increased by 14,6% in November 2023 compared with November 2022 (**see Table P**). The corresponding income increased by 10,3% over the same period.

Table P – Year-on-year percentage change in passenger transportation for November 2023

	June-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23
Passenger journeys	15,8	19,4	14,2	23,8	23,0	14,6
Passenger income	16,9	10,0	10,6	14,8	15,1	10,3

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



Prices

Producer price index

Annual producer price inflation was 4,0% in December 2023

The economic statistics system has four principal price indices that are closely monitored, namely the producer price index (PPI), the consumer price index (CPI), and the export and import unit value (price) indices. PPI is used for a variety of purposes. For example, it is a short-term indicator of inflationary trends and it is used for contract price adjustments. This index measures the change in the price that producers charge for locally produced commodities by measuring the changes in prices for final manufactured goods (such as frozen fish) and intermediate goods (goods that have been manufactured to some extent and then sold to other manufacturers to create finished goods such as wood and steel). Furthermore, the price index measures the change in prices for electricity (production, collection and distribution of electricity), water (collection, purification and distribution of water); mining (such as coal and natural gas) and agriculture, forestry and fishing (growing of crops, farming of domestic animals and ocean and coastal fishing). This article summarises the results of the *Producer price index* (statistical release P0142.1) for December 2023.

Final manufactured goods – headline PPI

Annual producer price inflation (final manufacturing) was 4,0% in December 2023, down from 4,6% in November 2023 (**see Table Q**). The producer price index (PPI) decreased by 0,6% month-on-month in December 2023. The main contributors to the headline PPI annual inflation rate were:

- food products, beverages and tobacco products (increased by 4,6% year-on-year, contributing 1,2 percentage points);
- metals, machinery, equipment and computing equipment (increased by 6,8% year-on-year, contributing 1,0 percentage point); and
- transport equipment (increased by 6,7% year-on-year, contributing 0,6 of a percentage point).

The main contributor to the headline PPI monthly decrease was coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products, which decreased by 3,2% month-on-month, contributing -0,9 of a percentage point.



Intermediate manufactured goods

The annual percentage change in the PPI for intermediate manufactured goods was -2,2% in December 2023 (compared with -2,3% in November 2023). The index increased by 0,5% month-on-month. The main negative contributor to the annual rate was chemicals, rubber and plastic products (-2,5 percentage points). The main contributor to the monthly rate was basic and fabricated metals (0,4 of a percentage point).

Electricity and water

The annual percentage change in the PPI for electricity and water was 15,5% in December 2023 (compared with 16,1% in November 2023). The index decreased by 0,4% month-on-month. Electricity contributed 14,3 percentage points and water contributed 1,2 percentage points to the annual rate. Electricity contributed -0,5 of a percentage point to the monthly rate.

Mining

The annual percentage change in the PPI for mining was -7,6% in December 2023 (compared with -3,8% in November 2023). The index decreased by 0,9% month-on-month. The main negative contributors to the annual rate were non-ferrous metal ores (-11,2 percentage points) and coal and gas (-3,1 percentage points). The main negative contributors to the monthly rate were non-ferrous metal ores (-0,9 of a percentage point) and coal and gas (-0,9 of a percentage point).

Agriculture, forestry and fishing

The annual percentage change in the PPI for agriculture, forestry and fishing was 6,8% in December 2023 (compared with 8,0% in November 2023). The index decreased by 1,4% month-on-month. The main contributors to the annual rate were agriculture (5,4 percentage points) and fishing (1,1 percentage points). The contributor to the monthly rate was agriculture (-1,4 percentage points).



Table Q – Key PPI figures for December 2023

Product	Weight	Index (Dec 2020=100)			% change	
		December 2022	November 2023	December 2023	December 2023 vs. November 2023	December 2023 vs. December 2022
Final manufactured goods	100,00	125,8	131,6	130,8	-0,6	4,0
Intermediate manufactured goods	100,00	133,0	129,4	130,1	0,5	-2,2
Electricity and water	100,00	126,7	146,9	146,3	-0,4	15,5
Mining	100,00	134,8	125,6	124,5	-0,9	-7,6
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	100,00	125,7	136,1	134,2	-1,4	6,8

A full release on the *Producer price index* (statistical release P0142.1) is available on the website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Consumer price index (CPI)

CPI at 5,1% in December 2023

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) published the consumer price index (CPI) for December 2023 on 24 January 2024 to conclude the results for 2023. The published results indicate that the annual consumer price inflation decreased to 5,1% in December 2023 from 5,5% in November 2023. During the first five months from January to May of 2023, the inflation rate was consistently higher than 6,0%. For the remaining seven months from June to December of 2023, the inflation eased below 6,0%. The highest inflation reading in 2023 was 7,1% in March 2023 and the lowest was 4,7% in July 2023. The average inflation rate for the year was 6,0%, lower than 2022 which was 6,9%. This article summarises results of the *Consumer price index* (CPI) (statistical release P0141) for December 2023.

Headline consumer price index (CPI for all urban areas)

Annual consumer price inflation was 5,1% in December 2023, down from 5,5% in November 2023 (**see Table R**). The CPI was unchanged month-on-month in December 2023. The main contributors to the 5,1% annual inflation rate were:



- food and non-alcoholic beverages (increased by 8,5% year-on-year and contributed 1,5 percentage points);
- housing and utilities (increased by 5,7% year-on-year and contributed 1,3 percentage points);
- miscellaneous goods and services (increased by 5,1% year-on-year and contributed 0,7 of a percentage point); and
- transport (increased by 2,6% year-on-year and contributed 0,4 of a percentage point).

In December, the annual inflation rate for goods was 6,4%, down from 7,1% in November; and for services it was 3,8%, unchanged from November.

Table R – 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
2016	Index	94,4	95,7	96,4	97,2	97,4	97,9	98,7	98,6	98,8	99,3	99,6	100,0	97,8
	Rate	6,2	7,0	6,3	6,2	6,2	6,3	6,0	5,9	6,1	6,4	6,6	6,7	6,3
2017	Index	100,6	101,7	102,3	102,4	102,7	102,9	103,2	103,3	103,8	104,1	104,2	104,7	103,0
	Rate	6,6	6,3	6,1	5,3	5,4	5,1	4,6	4,8	5,1	4,8	4,6	4,7	5,3
2018	Index	105,0	105,8	106,2	107,0	107,2	107,6	108,5	108,4	108,9	109,4	109,6	109,4	107,8
	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	4,0	4,4	4,4	4,5	4,5	3,9	4,4	4,1	3,6	3,6	4,0	4,0
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	4,6	4,7	4,1	3,0	2,0	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	2,8	3,2	4,4	5,2	4,9	4,7	4,9	5,0	5,0	5,4	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	109,4	109,6	109,8	110,8	111,1	111,8	112,8	112,7	112,7	110,4
	Rate	6,9	7,0	7,1	6,8	6,3	5,4	4,7	4,8	5,4	5,9	5,5	5,1	6,0

A full release on the *Consumer price index* (Statistical release P0141) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.



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 the existing residence. Out-buildings and garages are included.

Other residential buildings: include institutions for the disabled, boarding houses, old age homes, hostels, hotels, 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'.

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