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Editor's comment

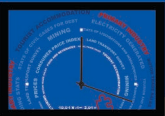
South Africa has recorded 50 consecutive days without load shedding as of 15 May 2024. This marks the longest period of uninterrupted power supply in nearly three years. It also surpasses the festive season record (15 December 2023 to 2 January 2024) when the country experienced 18 days without load shedding, following a 20-day load shedding-free winter of June 2022. According to Kgosientsho Ramokgopa, the Minister of Electricity, this results from an improvement in the performance of power plants following long-term maintenance. The minister also credited the improvement to reducing unplanned outages: "From 26 April 2024 to date, unplanned outages have reduced by close to 4 400MW from 15 523MW to 11 036MW."

This month, the educational article is based on the report titled *Marriages and divorces, 2022*, (statistical release P0307) published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) on 14 March 2024. The release presents a selection of key findings sourced from the South African population and housing censuses, household-based sample surveys and administrative data. Also, look out for our monthly crossword puzzle and solutions for April 2024. Articles published in this issue are based on the results of industry surveys conducted for February and March 2024.

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

Enjoy the read!



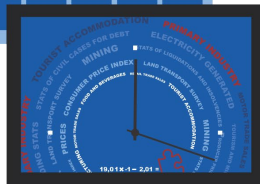
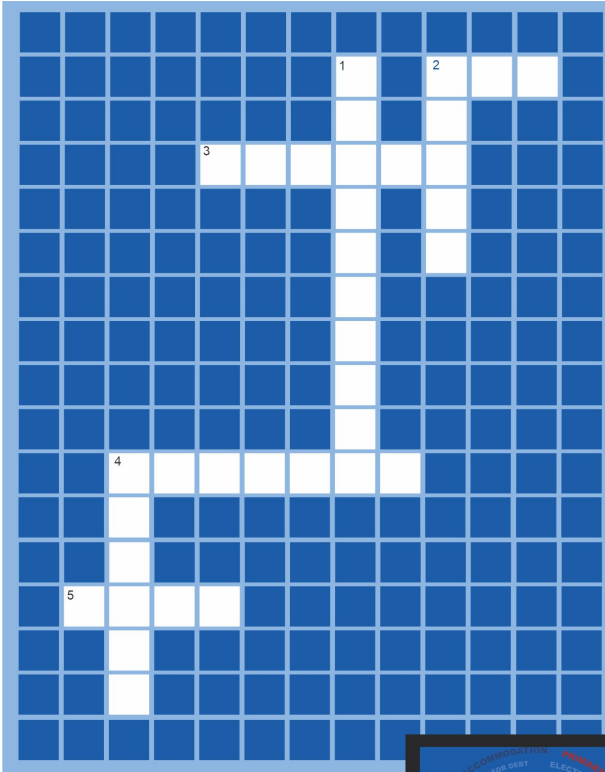


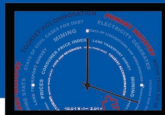
Contents

- Editor’s comment**i
- Crossword puzzle**.....iii
- Educational article on marriages and divorces, 2022**.....1
- Primary industries**12
 - Mining: Production and sales12
- Secondary industries**14
 - Manufacturing: Production and sales14
 - Selected building statistics of the private sector15
 - Electricity generated and available for distribution16
- Tertiary industries**19
 - Wholesale trade sales19
 - Retail trade sales20
 - Motor trade sales21
 - Food and beverages22
 - Tourist accommodation23
 - International tourism.....24
 - Statistics of civil cases for debt30
 - Statistics of liquidations32
 - Land transport33
- Prices**35
 - Producer price index (PPI) 35
 - Consumer price index (CPI)..... 37
- Glossary**.....39



Crossword puzzle





Across

- 2. In which month is International Workers Day observed?
- 3. Are most marriages solemnised in warmer or colder months? Read the educational article for clues.
- 4. Which province had the highest number of solemnised marriages in 2022?
- 5. True or false? The Marriage Act, 1961 (Act No. 25 of 1961) requires that only licensed marriage officers solemnise civil marriages and issue a marriage certificate.

Down

- 1. The Electoral of South Africa manages free and fair elections at all levels of government. Please fill in the missing word.
- 2. According to the consumer price index (CPI) article, in which month are education prices collected/surveyed?
- 4. In which area in Cape Town was the building that collapsed in May?

Solutions from April 2024 puzzle

Across

- 4. Mireille Wenger
- 5. Eid
- 7. Female
- 8. False

Down

- 1. Nkosindiphile Xhakaza
- 2. April
- 3. Liver
- 6. Five





Educational article on marriages and divorces

1. Introduction

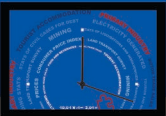
Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) reports on marriages and divorces statistics derived from three main sources namely, those compiled from population censuses; household-based sample surveys and administrative data (i.e. those compiled from civil registration systems and administrative records). Data from these sources provide information on different aspects of marriages and divorces in the country. Census and survey data are by nature subjective and provide cross-sectional data on individuals' marital status (never married, married, divorced, widowed, etc.). Three types of marriages are recognised under South African law: civil marriages, customary marriages and civil unions. The solemnisation and registration of these marriages are managed by Department of Home Affairs (DHA). This article provides information on civil and customary marriages, civil unions and divorces for 2022, based on data from the South African national marriage registration systems of the DHA and data on divorces granted by the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJ&CD) and the Office of the Chief Justice (OCJ). This article is based on the *Marriages and divorces* (statistical release P0307) published by Statistics South Africa on 14 March 2024.

2. Background

Not all marriages are registered in South Africa, as some are not recognised by the law of the country. The three types of marriages that are recognised by the law include civil marriages, customary marriages and civil unions. The DHA is responsible for managing registered marriages and unions under the following legislations:

- Civil marriages are administered through the Marriage Act, 1961 (Act No. 25 of 1961) as amended, and its associated regulations.
- Customary marriages are governed by the Recognition of Customary Marriages Act, 1998 (Act No. 120 of 1998) which came into effect on 15 November 2000.
- The Civil Union Act, 2006 (Act No. 17 of 2006) which came into operation on 30 November 2006, governs civil unions (relationships between same-sex couples that are legally recognised by state





authorities). The Act accommodates persons who cannot or wish not to enter into a marriage under the Marriage Act, 1961.

Stats SA publishes data on marriages for South African citizens and permanent residents that are collected through the civil registration systems of the DHA. Before 2008, the data in the annual release of Marriages and divorces (statistical release P0307) covered only civil marriages. However, in 2009, Stats SA started publishing available data on customary marriages and civil unions. The registration of customary marriages and civil unions began in 2003 and 2007, respectively.

The DoJ&CD and OCJ are responsible for handling matters relating to the dissolution of registered marriages (civil and customary) and civil unions. This responsibility of the department is mandated through:

- The Divorce Act, 1979 (Act No.70 of 1979), as amended; and
- The Jurisdiction of Regional Courts Amendment Act, 2008 (Act No. 31 of 2008), which came into effect on 9 August 2010.

Data on divorces is obtained from various regional and high courts that deal with divorce matters. The data are based on successful divorce cases that have been issued with a decree of divorce. Divorce cases came from marriages that were registered in different years as well as divorce cases that were filed in different years but whose divorce decrees were granted in 2022. It should be noted that although both data on marriages and divorces are collected in the same year, the data sets are not linked to each other.

3. Marriages

3.1 Civil marriages

A civil marriage in South Africa is a legally recognised union between a man and a woman, governed by the Marriage Act, 1961 (Act No. 25 of 1961).

3.1.1 Trends in the registration of civil marriages (2013 – 2022)

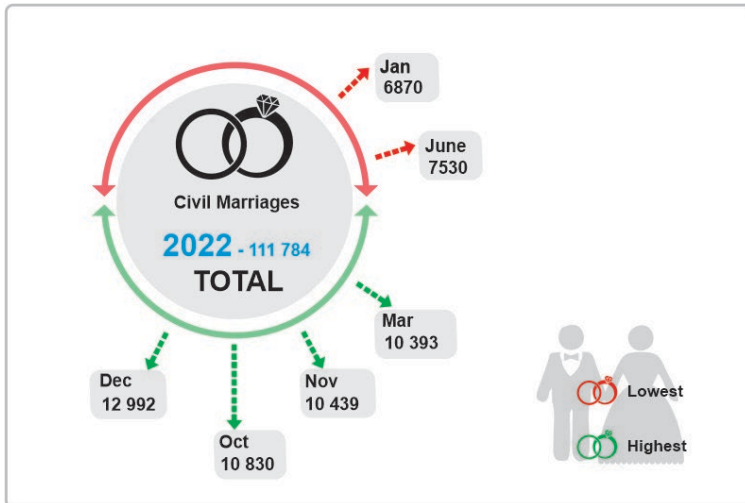
In 2022, about 111 784 civil marriages of South African citizens and permanent residents were registered at the DHA. The number of registered marriages consistently declined in the nine years between (2013 to 2022)

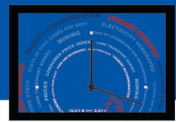


except for a slight increase of 0,6% between 2015 and 2016 and an increase of 5,0% between 2021 and 2022. During these ten years, the highest number of marriages was recorded in 2013 (158 642) and the lowest number in 2020 (89 338). Furthermore, 93,4% of civil marriages were registered in 2022, the year in which they occurred.

Seasonal monthly variations in the registration of civil marriages shows that generally, the warmer months (beginning in September and peaking in December) are the most popular months for solemnising (performing a ceremony) marriages in South Africa. In Addition, March and April are the second most popular choices as it is inter-seasonal (not too hot and not yet cold) and also possibly influenced by the Easter long weekend. In 2022, the highest number of marriages [12 992 (11,6%)] took place in December and the lowest number of marriages, [6 870 (6,1%)] occurred in January. The national lockdown regulations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic had a negative impact on marriage solemnisation between 2020 and 2021 with just 384 marriages solemnised in April 2020 compared to 10 526 in the same month in 2019.

Figure 1 – Number of civil marriages by month of solemnisation, 2022





3.1.2 Solemnisation of civil marriages

The Marriage Act, 1961 (Act No. 25 of 1961) requires that only licensed marriage officers solemnise civil marriages and issue a marriage certificate. Civil marriages are generally solemnised by civil marriage officers at the DHA offices and by religious marriage officers at chapels or religious buildings. After a solemnisation ceremony, the marriage officer issues the couple with an abridged hand-written marriage certificate, at no cost, and submits it to the DHA office where the marriage is registered on the marriage register. This information also gets to be recorded on the National Population Register (NPR).

In 2022, more than half, 63 539 (56,8%) of the 111 784 marriages were solemnised by the DHA marriage officers and 34 630 (31,0%) by 'religious' rites. The type of solemnisation rite was not specified in 13 615 (12,2%) marriages. Additionally, 412 (0,4%) marriages of South African citizens and permanent residents were solemnised outside the borders of South Africa but subsequently registered in South Africa.

3.1.3 Solemnisation of civil marriages by province

The province of registration is not necessarily the province of the usual residence of the couple since couples can marry at any place of their choice. In 2022, the highest number of marriages was registered in Gauteng [29 096 (26,0%)] and the lowest in Northern Cape [3 334 (3,0%)]. Looking at ways of marriage solemnisation within each province, Free State had the highest proportion of marriages, 75,3% (5 422) solemnised by civil marriage officers. Western Cape recorded the highest proportion, 47,2% (7 700) of marriages solemnised by religious marriage officers.

The majority of marriages in 2022 for both bridegrooms and brides were first-time marriages in all provinces. For bridegrooms, there were 89 624 (80,2%) never-married men and for the brides, there were 95 452 (85,4%) never-married women. During the same period, there were about 4 734 (4,2%) male divorcees and 596 (0,5%) widowers, whilst 2 938 (2,6%) divorcees were females and 367 (0,3%) were widows. The marital status of 16 830 (15,1%) bridegrooms and 13 027 (11,7%) brides was unspecified.

Looking at marital status in each province, Limpopo had the highest proportion of marriages between bridegrooms 6 512 (85,3%) and brides 6 986 (91,5%) marrying for the first time. Remarriages were more dominant in



divorcees compared to the widowed 4 734 (4,2%) bridegroom divorcees compared to 596 (0,5%) widowers and 2 938 (2,6%) bride divorcees compared to 367 (0,3%) widows.

3.1.4 Age at the time of civil marriage

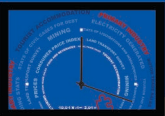
It was observed that most men chose to marry women who were younger than them. This pattern is the same irrespective of the marital status of the spouses at the time of marriage. For instance, 75,3% of men who were never married before and married women who were never married, were older than their brides. Similarly, 78,2% of men who were never married but married widows were older than their brides. Most never-married men 21 050 (23,5%) and women 24 036 (25,2%) were aged between 30 to 34 years.

Most widowed men (91,7%) married women who had never been married before. The proportion of widowers who married older widows was 14,9% and widowers who married widows of their same age was 9,5%.

The marriage legislation in South Africa put restrictions on marriages involving children under 18 years. These children require the consent of a parent, a guardian or a commissioner of child welfare before entering into a marriage. In addition to the above consent, boys younger than 18 years and girls younger than 15 years of age require the consent of the Minister of Home Affairs before they can get married.

The median age of bridegrooms is always higher than the median age of brides. The median ages of bridegrooms and brides remained the same from 2018 to 2021 with 37 years and 33 years for bridegrooms and brides respectively. The median age increased to 38 years for bridegrooms and 34 years for brides in 2022. The median ages of never-married men increased from 35 years in 2021 to 36 years in 2022 whilst that of never-married women increased from 31 years to 33 years during the same period.

The median age of male divorcees increased from 56 years in 2018 to 58 years in 2022 and the median age of female divorcees increased from 50 years to 52 years during the same period. There was a six-year age difference in the median ages between male and female divorcees who married in 2022. The median ages of widowers and widows in 2022 were 60 years and 35 years respectively, resulting in a 25-year age gap.



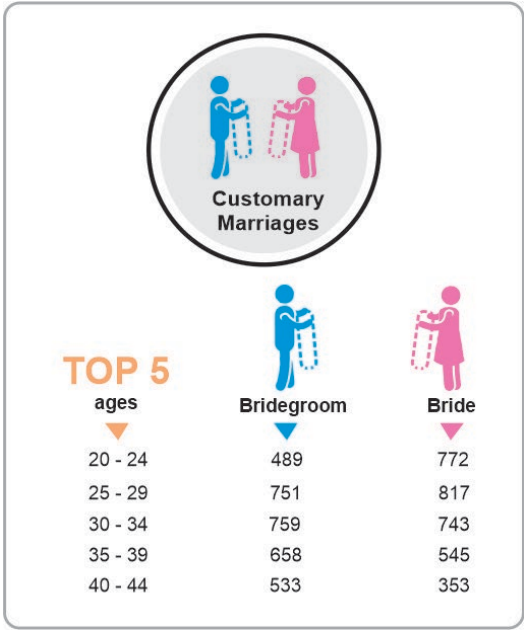
3.2 Customary marriages

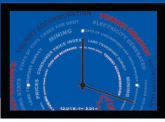
Customary marriages are negotiated, celebrated or concluded according to any of the systems of indigenous African customary law which exists in South Africa as prescribed in the Recognition of Customary Marriages Act, 1998 (Act No. 120 of 1998).

3.2.1 Trends in the registration of customary marriages (2013 – 2022)

In 2022, 4 376 customary marriages were registered at DHA, indicating an increase of 63,5% from 2 676 customary marriages registered in 2021. The lowest number of registered customary marriages was recorded in 2020 (1 585). The majority of customary marriages were registered later than the year of marriage. In 2022, about 8,8% of marriages were registered the same year it took place. Unlike with civil marriages, couples marrying under customary marriages tend to register their marriages years after the event has occurred.

Figure 2 – Proportion of customary marriages registered by age group and sex, 2022





3.2.2 Age at the time of customary marriage

Most bridegrooms were aged 30–34 years 759 (17,3%) while most brides were aged 25–29 years 817 (18,7%). Marriages of children aged younger than 18 years were more likely for brides 335 (7,7%) than bridegrooms 27 (0,6%). Since the Customary Marriages Act of 1998 recognises polygamy (marriage between one person and two or more spouses simultaneously), a husband who has registered his marriage under the Act is permitted to register additional marriages under the Act provided he adheres to the regulations under the Act regarding his property. That is, at his own cost, the husband has to get an order from a competent court that will regulate his future matrimonial property system.

3.3 Civil unions

Civil unions refer to the voluntary union of two persons who are both 18 years of age or older, which is solemnised and registered by way of either a marriage or a civil partnership, in accordance with the procedures prescribed in the Civil Union Act, 2006 (Act No. 17 of 2006). This applies to both same-sex and opposite-sex unions. In this article, spouse-1 and spouse-2 are used because the data does not specify the sex of the spouse.

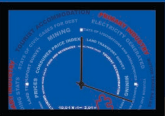
3.3.1 Trends in the registration of civil unions (2013–2022)

In 2022, 2 461 civil unions were registered. The number of civil unions registered in South Africa increased between 2013 and 2022 except for a decrease in 2020. Civil unions registered increased by 9,9% from 2 240 in 2021 to 2 461 in 2022. Most unions were registered the same year the event occurred, thus 90% of unions that took place in 2022 were registered that year.

4. Divorces

4.1 Trends in divorces (2013– 022)

The 2022 divorce data is based on 20 196 completed divorce forms that Stats SA received and processed. The number (20 196) indicates an increase of 1 988 (10,9%) divorces from the 18 208 cases processed in



2021. The total number of divorces increased between 2013 and 2017; and decreased between 2018 and 2020. In 2022, about 193 divorces were granted for same-sex couples. The observed crude divorce rate was 33 divorces per 100 000 estimated resident population in 2022.

In 2022, black African couples had the highest number of divorces compared to other population groups; this pattern has been the same for nine years (2013 to 2022). More than half, 11 048 (54,7%) of the 20 196 divorces granted in 2022 were from black African population group followed by white 3 912 (19,4%), coloured 3 179 (15,7%), India/Asian 867 (4,3%) and divorces from different population groups (mixed) 554 (2,7%). The population group of 636 (3,1%) couples was not specified.

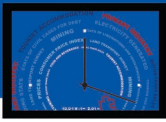
The crude divorce rates by population groups show that the white population group had the highest rate of 84 per 100 000 estimated resident population followed by the coloured and Indian/Asian population groups with 60 and 56 per 100 000 respectively. The black African population had 23 per 100 000 estimated resident population.

4.2 Number of divorces by way of solemnisation of marriage

About 10 306 (51,0%) of the 2022 divorce cases were from marriages that were solemnised by civil rites (DHA) and 8 234 (40,8%) by religious rites. About 66,8% of divorces from the white population group and 64,7% of divorces from the coloured population group were from marriages that were solemnised by religious rites. Most divorces from the black African and Indian/Asian population groups were from marriages that were solemnised by civil rites, 69,3% and 48,6% respectively.

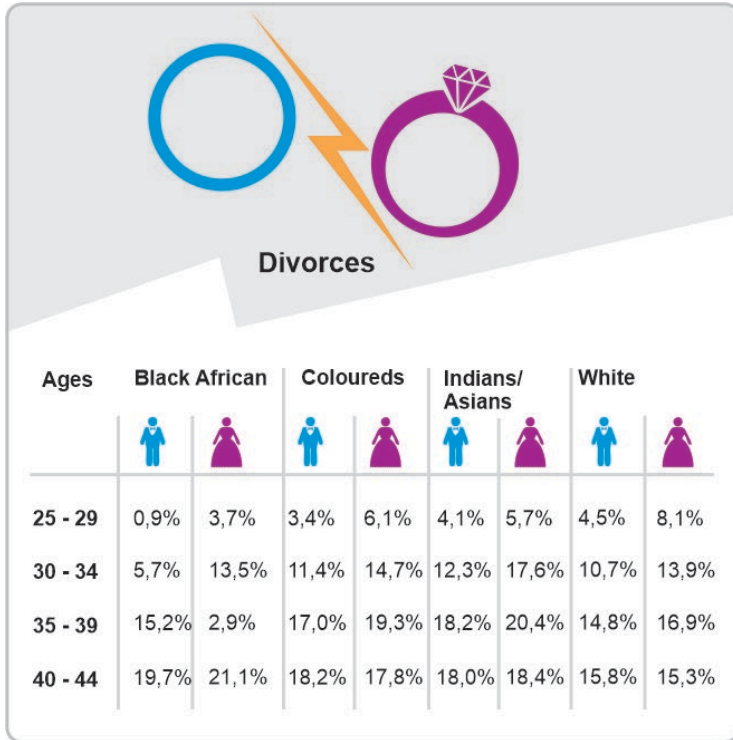
4.3 Number of times married

The 2022 divorce cases for both men and women were mainly from individuals who had been married once. More than 80,0% of divorces for men and women were from first-time marriages compared to 9,0% of men and 7,7% of women from second-time marriages. Less than 2% of men and women were getting divorced for at least three times.

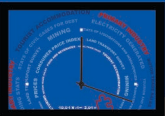


4.4 Age at the time of divorce

Figure 3 – The proportion of divorces of top 4 age groups by population and sex – 2022



The median age at the time of divorce in 2022 was 46 years for males and 42 years for females, indicating that generally, divorced males were older than divorced females, with a difference of about four years. The pattern of median ages in 2022 by population group showed that black African and white males had the highest median age of 46 years each, while coloured and Indian/Asian population groups recorded the median ages of 44 years and 43 years respectively. The difference in the median ages at the time of divorce between males and females was greater in the black African population group (five years) compared to the white population with four years, coloured population with three years and Indian/Asian population groups with two years.



Although there were differences in the ages at which most men and women from the various population groups divorced, the age patterns were quite similar. There were fewer divorces among the younger (less than 25 years old) and the older (65 years and older) divorcees. For black African males, the peak age group was for those aged between 45 and 49 years (19,8%) followed by those aged 40 to 44 years (19,7%). The peak age group for coloured and white population groups was between 40 and 44 years with 18,2% and 15,8% respectively. The peak for Indian/Asian population group was those aged 35 to 39 years with 18,2%. In the case of females, the peak age group for divorce was 35 to 39 years for all population groups.

4.5 Duration of marriage of divorcing couples and population group

Statistics from the annual divorce data do not give a comprehensive picture of the number of marriages ending in divorce. However, there is data on the duration of marriages for divorces granted in 2022. The largest number [5 379 (26,6%)] of divorces were for marriages that lasted between five and nine years. This group is followed by marriages that lasted between 10 and 14 years [4 379 (21,7%)] and marriages that lasted for less than five years [3 149 (15,6%)]. Results showed that four in ten divorces 8 528 (42,2%) of the 20 196 in 2022 were from marriages that lasted for less than 10 years.

Population group variations showed that 27,7% of divorces from the black African; 25,7% from coloured, 25,3% from white and 22,1% from Indian/Asian population groups were from marriages that lasted between five and nine years. The white population had the highest proportion (18,2%) of divorces that occurred in the first four years. The proportion of divorces in all population groups declined as the duration of marriage increased, with a significant decline being observed after fourteen years of marriage. The proportion of divorces from the Indian/Asian population group is higher (15,1%) than the other population groups for marriages that did not last for 15 years and more.

4.6 Divorces involving couples with children less than 18 years

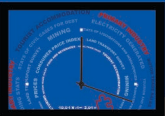
In 2022, more than half, 11 164 (55,3%) of the 20 196 divorces had children younger than 18 years whereas 9 032 (44,7%) divorces had no children. The profile of white divorcees showed that more than half of the recorded divorces were without children (55,8%). Looking at the black African and coloured divorcees, divorces involving couples with children constituted



about 59,3% and 57,3% respectively. Meanwhile, 59,7% of children affected by divorce were from the black African population group; 16,7% from the coloured population group; 14,7% from the white population group and 3,7% from the Indian/Asian population group.

5. Conclusion

Overall, information provided in this release showed an increasing trend in the number of registered civil marriages, fluctuations in customary marriages and an increasing trend in civil unions except in 2020. The findings further show that from the total number of registered civil marriages in South Africa in 2022, more than half were solemnised by the DHA marriage officers. The highest number of civil marriages was registered in Gauteng, followed by KwaZulu-Natal and Western Cape. Most civil marriages in 2022 for both bridegrooms and brides were first-time marriages, with women generally entering into marriage at younger ages than men do. On the other hand, majority of bridegrooms who entered into customary marriages were older than their brides, with the gap in median ages at registration of customary marriage much wider than those for other types of marriages. Concerning divorces, the number of divorces granted showed an increase from 2013 to 2017 then decreased until 2020 and increased in 2021 and 2022. Data further showed that divorces were mainly from people who had married for the first time. There were more wives than husbands who filed the divorce, with husbands generally getting divorced at a later age than wives. The provincial distribution shows that Gauteng, Western Cape, and KwaZulu-Natal were the provinces with the highest number of divorces granted.



Primary industries

Mining: production and sales

Mining production increased by 9,9% year-on-year in February 2024

As the global mining industry continues to evolve, technological innovations play a vital role in reshaping its landscape. At the Mining Indaba 2023 which was held in Cape Town, “MTN Business made significant developments in implementing 5G private networks, which allows to connect a new range of IoT devices and applications bringing digital transformation into South African mines,” says Tumi Sekhukhune-Chamayou, the Chief Enterprise Business officer at MTN. One of the key advantages of 5G private networks in mining is the ability to gather real-time insights and enables remote monitoring. This has significantly improved operational efficiency and decision-making processes. The transformative impact of 5G private networks extends to automation within mining operations. “This not only increases operational efficiency but it also enhances safety by reducing the need for human intervention in hazardous environments,” says Sekhukhune-Chamayou. Mines are now installing autonomous vehicles, drones, and robotic systems that are powered by the high speed of 5G. 5G also contributes to improved health and safety protocols, as it enables quick responses to potential risks and ensures a safer working environment for mining personnel. This article summarises the results of the *Mining: production and sales* (statistical release P12041) for February 2024.

Mining production increased by 9,9% year-on-year in February 2024 (see Table A). The largest positive contributors were:

- iron ore (42,9%, contributing 5,1 percentage points);
- coal (14,6%, contributing 3,7 percentage points); and
- chromium ore (20,6%, contributing 1,0 percentage point).

Table A – Key growth rates in the volume of mining production for February 2024

	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-1,7	3,9	7,3	0,2	-2,8	9,9
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,0	2,2	2,1	-4,8	-0,4	5,0
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	-0,6	1,4	2,5	2,3	0,1	-1,4

^{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 2,8% year-on-year in February 2024. The largest negative contributors were:

- PGMs (-29,5%, contributing -8,2 percentage points);
- manganese ore (-24,4%, contributing -1,7 percentage points); and
- coal (-4,3%, contributing -1,2 percentage points).

The largest positive contributors were:

- iron ore (22,6%, contributing 3,1 percentage points);
- gold (25,0%, contributing 2,1 percentage points); and
- chromium ore (23,4%, contributing 1,7 percentage points)

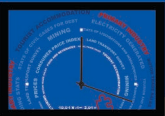
Table B – Key growth rates in mineral sales for February 2024

	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-20,1	-0,6	10,0	9,0	5,9	-2,8
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-4,0	13,0	2,5	3,7	-2,4	-7,0
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	-5,0	-0,6	8,0	15,8	11,3	5,3

^{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 4,1% in February 2024 compared with February 2023

Businesses are crucial to the economic growth of the country, and every business expansion results in job creation and stimulates the growth of the economy. Recently, South Africa welcomed the re-establishment of Tetra Pak, a global leader in packaging and processing solutions for the food industry, which has had a presence and manufacturing footprint in South Africa since 1963. The factory was originally built in 1979. The factory recently underwent an upgrade that forms part of a R500 million investment by Tetra Pak in the South African economy. President Cyril Ramaphosa hailed the opening of a Tetra Pak food processing facility in KwaZulu-Natal, where he said, “It is a pleasure to be here at the reopening of this expanded Tetra Pak facility that will help support our goals as government and business, which is to create jobs, drive innovation, promote localisation and advance the low-carbon circular economy.” Tetra Pak has announced that through this expansion, it will be exporting products throughout the continent. Exports to the rest of Africa already include Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Botswana, Nigeria and Kenya. This export potential amounts to approximately R500 million annually. This is very timely given South Africa’s recent commencement of trade under the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) which aims to increase intra-African trade by reducing trade barriers and promoting economic integration between African countries. This article presents a summary of the results of *Manufacturing: Production and sales* (statistical release P3041.2) for February 2024.

Manufacturing production increased by 4,1% in February 2024 compared with February 2023 (**see Table C**).

- The largest positive contributions were made by the following divisions:
- wood and wood products, paper, publishing and printing (14,9%, contributing 1,5 percentage points);
 - food and beverages (5,8%, contributing 1,3 percentage points); and
 - petroleum, chemical products, rubber and plastic products (4,7%, contributing 1,0 percentage point).

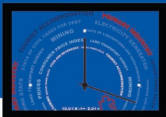


Table C – Key growth rates in the volume of manufacturing production for February 2024

	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-4,4	2,7	2,7	1,8	2,9	4,1
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-0,1	0,3	0,5	-0,6	0,4	-0,3
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	-1,1	-0,3	0,0	0,4	0,4	0,0

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

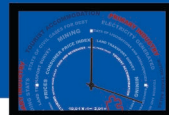
A full release on *Manufacturing: Production and sales* (statistical release P3041.2) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Selected building statistics of the private sector

The value of building plans passed (at current prices) decreased by 16,1% (-R2 445,6 million) during January to February 2024 compared with January to February 2023

According to World Green Building Council (WGBC), a non-profit organisation and global network of national Green Building Councils, every building on the planet must be net zero carbon by 2050 to keep global warming below two degrees Celsius. To assist in achieving universal net zero carbon in the building sector by 2050, on 22 November 2023, the Green Building Council of South Africa (GBCSA) awarded Infrastructure South Africa (ISA) a Net Zero Carbon Level 1: Building Emissions certification for the standardised design of small clinics. The Net Zero Carbon Level 1 Building Emissions certificate signifies a building that is highly energy-efficient so that there are zero net carbon emissions on an annual basis. ISA is the single point of entry for accelerated infrastructure investment responsible to oversee the preparation, appraisal and evaluation of a market-ready infrastructure project pipeline to support South Africa's Infrastructure Investment Plan and the National Infrastructure Plan 2050. This article summarises the results of the *Selected building statistics of the private sector* (statistical release P5041.1) for February 2024.

The value of building plans passed (at current prices) decreased by 16,1% (-R2 445,6 million) during January to February 2024 compared with January to February 2023 (**see Table D**). Decreases were reported for additions and alterations (-16,8% or -R759,7 million), residential buildings (-16,2% or -R1 305,6 million) and non-residential buildings (-14,7% or -R380,3 million).



The largest contributions to the total decrease of 16,1% (-R2 445,6 million) were made by Gauteng (contributing -11,6 percentage points or -R1 764,8 million) and Western Cape (contributing -5,6 percentage points or -R842,4 million).

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

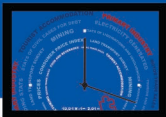
Type of building	January to February 2023	January to February 2024	Difference in value between January to February 2023 and January to February 2024	% change between January to February 2023 and January to February 2024
	^{1/}	^{1/}		
	R'000	R'000	R'000	
Residential buildings	8 067 072	6 761 491	-1 305 581	-16,2
- Dwelling houses	5 359 369	4 534 747	-824 622	-15,4
- Flats and townhouses	2 661 015	2 175 617	-485 398	-18,2
- Other residential buildings	46 688	51 127	4 439	9,5
Non-residential buildings	2 578 568	2 198 259	-380 309	-14,7
Additions and alterations	4 521 460	3 761 739	-759 721	-16,8
Total	15 167 100	12 721 489	-2 445 611	-16,1

^{1/} 2023 and 2024 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 generation (production) was flat in March 2024 compared with March 2023

Since interventions to end loadshedding may take a while in South Africa, some areas are coming up with mechanisms to keep their lights on even during loadshedding. Clarens, a town in Free State, is the first in South Africa to transition to Eskom’s load curtailment programme to address power interruptions. Load curtailment is when large power users are directly



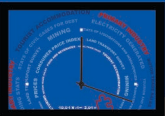
requested to reduce their power usage. Instead of having their power entirely cut off, these customers are only required to reduce their total demand by a certain percentage. For instance, during curtailment stages 1 to 4, cooperating customers must reduce demand by 10% to 20%. According to Bibi Bedir, Eskom’s Senior Manager for Retail in the Free State, “Group curtailment requires the collaborative efforts of the entire community to reduce load when requested. Once a system emergency is declared, Eskom gives a nominated group coordinator two hours’ notice of load curtailment that should be sustained throughout loadshedding. The group coordinator directs the community which equipment to be switched off to achieve the required demand reduction.” Eskom continuously monitors the reduction in demand of its curtailment customers as three instances of non-compliance will result in the reinstatement of normal loadshedding. Presented in this article is a summary of the results of the *Electricity generated and available for distribution* (statistical release P4141) for March 2024.

Electricity generation (production) was flat in March 2024 compared with March 2023 (see Table E).

Table E – Key growth rates in the volume of electricity generated for March 2024

	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	1,6	-3,0	4,4	0,8	4,2	0,0
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	4,0	-2,5	0,9	-1,7	1,5	-0,1
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	2,2	1,5	2,6	0,0	-0,1	-1,0

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

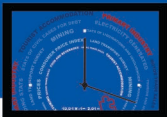


Electricity distribution (consumption) decreased by 0,7% year-on-year in March 2024 (see Table F).

Table F – Key growth rates in the volume of electricity distributed for March 2024

	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	1,0	-2,3	4,6	1,5	5,0	-0,7
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	4,1	-2,2	1,7	-1,1	0,4	-0,8
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	1,4	0,6	2,5	0,7	1,0	-0,7

^{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 1,6% in February 2024 compared with February 2023

Producers manufacture products or brands for wholesalers to sell to retailers and the public. However, what happens when certain brands or branded products are not as reliable or profitable as the producer thought? Producers will typically reassess their marketing strategies, explore new markets or discontinue those branded products. According to Euromonitor International's new artificial intelligence (AI) powered Passport Innovation platform, nearly one-third of brands launched in 2022 were discontinued by the end of 2023 across 32 global markets. In South Africa, the brands that were pulled off the shelves were Nesquik, Hellmann's mayonnaise, Chocolate Log, Tempo, Simba tomato chips and Peck's and Redro fish paste, to name a few. Some of the reasons for the product discontinuations were low demand and lack of sufficient sales. This article summarises the results of the *Wholesale trade sales* (statistical release P6141.2) for February 2024.

Wholesale trade sales increased by 1,6% in February 2024 compared with February 2023 (**see Table G**). The main positive contributors were dealers in:

- machinery, equipment and supplies (11,4%, contributing 1,7 percentage points); and
- food, beverages and tobacco (12,3%, contributing 1,6 percentage points).

The main negative contributor was the category of dealers in agricultural raw materials and livestock (-19,0%, contributing -1,7 percentage points).

Wholesale trade sales decreased by 1,9% in the three months ended February 2024 compared with the three months ended February 2023. The main negative contributor was the category of dealers in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (-8,9%, contributing -2,6 percentage points).

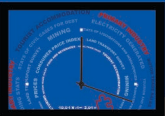


Table G –Key growth rates in wholesale trade sales at current prices

	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-2,2	-3,0	1,0	-5,7	-1,6	1,6
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-0,4	-3,3	4,1	-4,9	1,5	3,7
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	1,6	2,3	1,5	-1,4	-1,3	-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 0,8% year-on-year in February 2024

Online retailers are giving South African brick and mortar (physical) retailers a run for their market share. In 2020 Shein (online retailer) was introduced to South African customers. According to the Marketing All Product Survey, Shein has grown to around 250 000 shoppers who are attracted by its low-cost ‘fast fashion’. And over the last few years, new online players have entered the market, shaking up the local landscape, which is increasingly being dominated by multinational shopping sites, such as Temu, Shein, AliExpress and Wish. Another online retailer set to hit the ground running is Amazon which launched its first online store here in South Africa on the 7th of May 2024, promising its clientele both international and local brands. Amazon, customers are going to get free delivery on their first order, followed by free delivery for subsequent orders above R500, with 24/7 customer support, and easy returns. This article summarises the results of *Retail trade sales* (statistical release 6242.1) for February 2024.

Retail trade sales decreased by 0,8% year-on-year in February 2024 (see **Table H**). The largest negative contributor to this decrease was retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (-6,8%, contributing -1,1 percentage points).

Retail trade sales increased by 0,5% in the three months ended February 2024 compared with the three months ended February 2023. The largest



positive contributor to this increase was general dealers (1,6%, contributing 0,7 of a percentage point).

Table H – Key growth rates in retail trade sales for February 2024

	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	1,0	-2,3	-1,0	3,2	-2,0	-0,8
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,1	-1,4	1,0	1,4	-3,2	0,4
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	0,9	0,5	-0,1	-0,2	-0,1	-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 increased by 1,5% year-on-year in February 2024

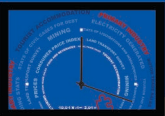
The never-ending unfavourable economic conditions in South Africa which had seen consumers bearing the brunt of high living costs fuelled by high inflation rate and increasing fuel prices, amongst other factors, are forcing consumers to reconsider their options when buying a car. As a result, consumers are turning to the used vehicle market because used cars are generally affordable compared to new cars. The February 2024 figures show that sales of used vehicles which increased by 4,5% annually, had pushed up the annual growth rate for motor trade sales by 1,5% compared with the same period in 2023. The other contributors to the major annual growth rate were recorded in the sales of accessories (3,2%) and fuel sales (2,9%). This article summarises *Motor trade sales results* (statistical release P6343.2) for February 2024.

Motor trade sales increased by 1,5% year-on-year in February 2024 (**see Table I**). The largest positive annual growth rates were recorded for:

- used vehicle sales (4,5%);
- sales of accessories (3,2%); and
- fuel sales (2,9%).

The largest positive contributors to this increase were:

- used vehicle sales (contributing 0,9 of a percentage point);



- fuel sales (contributing 0,8 of a percentage point); and
- sales of accessories (contributing 0,7 of a percentage point).

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

	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-7,8	-2,6	-2,9	-2,5	2,7	1,5
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-3,0	2,1	0,6	2,3	1,0	-0,7
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ^{1/}	-2,1	-3,7	-3,2	0,4	2,9	3,9

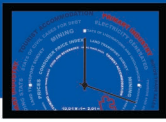
^{1/} Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated. A full release on *Motor trade sales* (statistical release P6343.2) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Food and beverages

Total income generated by the food and beverages industry increased by 2,6% in February 2024

Whether you enjoy “koffie”, “kofu”, or just plain “ikhofi”, locals can take pride that Cape Town’s vibrant café culture has earned its global recognition as one of the world’s top cities for coffee, according to the prestigious US culinary magazine *Food & Wine*. The Mother City secured a spot on the magazine’s 2024 list of the top 10 cities for coffee. The ranking was determined by votes from over 180 food experts. Enver Duminy, CEO of Cape Town Tourism, says, “Cape Town’s recognition as one of the world’s best cities for coffee is a testament to our local coffee community’s passion, creativity, and resilience. From the exceptional roasters to the skilled baristas, our city’s coffee scene reflects the vibrant and diverse culture that makes Cape Town so special”. Duminy invites local and global coffee lovers to come and experience the rich flavours, warm hospitality, and unforgettable moments that await them in the Mother City. This article summarises the results of the *Food and beverages* (statistical release P6410) for February 2024.

Total income generated by the food and beverages industry increased by 2,6% in February 2024 compared with February 2023 (see **Table J**). ‘Other’ income recorded the highest annual growth rate (9,7%).



In February 2024, the main contributors to the 2,6% year-on-year increase were catering services (9,2%, contributing 1,1 percentage points) and restaurants and coffee shops (1,8%, contributing 1,0 percentage point).

Table J – Year-on-year percentage change in food and beverages income at constant 2019 prices by type of income for February 2024

Type of income	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24
Food sales	1,4	2,5	3,0	10,4	-1,4	1,8
Bar sales	7,7	-1,8	-3,1	1,8	-4,7	1,5
Other income	4,0	-1,3	-9,2	-10,4	-6,7	9,2
Total	3,9	0,5	-0,6	5,2	-3,2	2,6

¹A full release on *Food and beverages* (statistical release P6420) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Tourist accommodation

The total income for the tourist accommodation industry increased by 11,0% in February 2024

A tourist is a visitor who stays at least one night in the place visited. However, for others, touring means leaving behind their four-legged animals (pets). Fortunately, tourists do not need to worry about leaving their pets behind as there are some pet-friendly hotels located in some parts of the country. Examples of some of the pet-friendly hotels are The Oyster Box Hotel located at Umhlanga in KwaZulu-Natal, the Twelve Apostles Hotel and The Bay Hotel located in the Western Cape, The Southern Sun in Sandton and Home Suit Hotel located in Johannesburg, Gauteng. These hotels provide dog beds and dog menus, ensuring that pet-lover travellers and their pets have an unforgettable and comfortable stay. This means that tourists can now stay in some of these tourist establishments without having to worry about leaving pets behind. This article summarises the results of the *Tourist accommodation* (statistical release P6410) for February 2024.

The total income for the tourist accommodation industry increased by 11,0% in February 2024 compared with February 2023 (see **Table K**). Income from accommodation increased by 10,5% year-on-year in February 2024, the result of a 4,9% increase in the number of stay unit nights sold and a 5,3% increase in the average income per stay unit night sold.

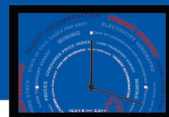


Table K – Year-on-year percentage change in tourist accommodation statistics

	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24
Stay units available	-0,1	-0,1	-0,1	-0,2	-0,1	-0,1
Stay unit nights sold	2,9	-1,3	3,8	3,3	9,9	4,9
Average income per stay unit nights sold	15,3	12,5	10,5	6,5	4,7	5,3
Income from accommodation	18,7	11,0	14,7	10,0	15,0	10,5
Total income ^{1/}	14,2	6,4	13,5	6,8	13,6	11,0

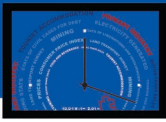
^{1/} Includes restaurant and bar sales and 'other' income. Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

A full release on *Tourist accommodation* (statistical release P6410) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

International tourism

A total of 2 710 991 foreign travellers arrived in South Africa during March 2024

South Africa has an attractive appeal for many would-be travellers as a destination that offers an extensive variety of breath taking holidays and experiences throughout the year. Such attractions include superb beaches, world-famous game reserves, dramatic mountains, sophisticated cities, adventure activities, and much more. A trip to South Africa is very affordable as the rand offers great value for money against major world currencies such as the dollar, euro, pound, yen and the yuan. According to Minister of Tourism Patricia de Lille, “The rise in international travel is due to a visa-waiver scheme and targeted marketing initiatives.” This article summarises the results of *International Tourism* (statistical release P0350) for March 2024.



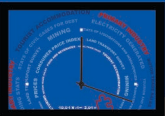
Travellers

Number of travellers

Routine data collected by the Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) immigration officers at the ports of entry into and out of South Africa shows that a total of 2 710 991 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports in March 2024 (**see Table L**). These travellers were made up of 776 848 South African residents and 1 934 143 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 366 237 arrivals, 410 217 departures and 394 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 995 770, 902 238 and 36 135 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in February 2024 and March 2024 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and transits increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 20,5% (from 303 987 in February 2024 to 366 237 in March 2024). Departures increased by 33,6% (from 307 099 in February 2024 to 410 217 in March 2024) and transits increased by 6,2% (from 371 in February 2024 to 394 in March 2024). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 4,2% (from 955 283 in February 2024 to 995 770 in March 2024), departures increased by 12,7% (from 800 664 in February 2024 to 902 238 in March 2024) and transits increased by 20,0% (from 30 103 in February 2024 to 36 135 in March 2024).

A comparison between the movements in March 2023 and March 2024 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and transits increased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 10,7% (from 330 727 in March 2023 to 366 237 in March 2024), departures increased by 11,4% (from 368 211 in March 2023 to 410 217 in March 2024) and transits increased by 1,5% (from 388 in March 2023 to 394 in March 2024). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 10,0% (from 905 627 in March 2023 to 995 770 in March 2024), departures increased by 11,0% (from 813 003 in March 2023 to 902 238 in March 2024) and transits increased by 32,5% (from 27 281 in March 2023 to 36 135 in March 2024).



Mode of travel of travellers

In March 2024, road was the most common mode of travel used by 1 683 097 (62,1%) of the 2 710 991 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air was 952 012 (35,1%). Compared to air and road, a smaller number of travellers [75 882 (2,8%)] used sea into and out of South Africa. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 153 546 (41,9%) came by air, 188 090 (51,4%) came by road and 24 601 (6,7%) arrived by sea. For departures, 171 360 (41,8%) used air, 210 926 (51,4%) used road and 27 931 (6,8%) left by sea. All travellers in transit [394 (100,0%)] used air.

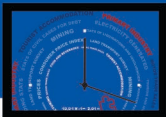
In the case of foreign travellers, 283 285 (28,4%) arrived by air, 702 432 (70,5%) came by road and 10 053 (1,0%) arrived by sea. When departing South Africa, 307 292 (34,1%) foreign travellers left by air, 581 649 (64,5%) left by road and 13 297 (1,5%) left by sea. All travellers in transit [36 135 (100,0%)] used air.

Visitors

Detailed information on the departure of travellers is not available in the movement control system. Data on the purpose of travel and the number of days South African residents intend to spend or spent abroad are not collected by the DHA. It is therefore not possible to categorise South African residents as tourists or non-tourists. However, some data are available on foreign arrivals for this categorisation.

In March 2024, 26 485 (2,7%) foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors, while 969 285 (97,3%) were classified as visitors. Visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in March 2024 but did not depart in March 2024 [337 955 (34,9%)];
- ii. single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in March 2024 and left in March 2024 [337 433 (34,8%)]; and
- iii. multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in March 2024 [293 897 (30,3%)].



Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In March 2024, there were 218 317 (22,5%) same-day visitors and 750 968 (77,5%) tourists. Between February 2024 and March 2024, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 7,4% (from 203 191 in February 2024 to 218 317 in March 2024) and that of tourists increased by 3,5% (from 725 674 in February 2024 to 750 968 in March 2024). Between March 2023 and March 2024, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 0,1% (from 218 067 in March 2023 to 218 317 in March 2024) and that of tourists increased by 14,0% (from 658 704 in March 2023 to 750 968 in March 2024).

Of the 218 317 same-day visitors, the majority [199 275 (91,3%)] arrived in the country by road, 17 677 (8,1%) arrived by air and 1 365 (0,6%) arrived by sea. Information on tourists shows that 489 361 (65,2%) came by road, 257 765 (34,3%) used air and 3 842 (0,5%) used sea.

Tourists

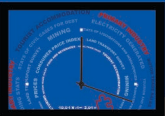
Sex and age distribution of tourists

Sex

In March 2024 there were more male [432 652 (57,6%)] than female [318 316 (42,4%)] tourists. Male tourists constituted the majority of tourists for all three regions, SADC countries [311 522 (59,9%)], overseas countries [112 280 (51,8%)] and 'other' African countries [8 148 (62,1%)]. Similarly, the largest portion of female tourists was from SADC countries [208 653 (40,1%)], followed by overseas countries [104 283 (48,2%)] and 'other' African countries [4 975 (37,9%)].

Age

The age distribution indicates that out of all tourists, 39 136 (5,2%) were aged younger than 15 years; 57 737 (7,7%) were aged between 15 and 24 years; 173 499 (23,1%) were aged between 25 and 34 years; 215 475 (28,7%) were aged between 35 and 44 years; 138 526 (18,4%) were aged between 45 and 54 years; 75 081 (10,0%) were aged between 55 and 64 years; and 51 514 (6,9%) were aged 65 years and older.



Regional and national distribution of tourists

In March 2024, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 139 827 (64,6%); North America, 41 519 (19,2%); Asia, 16 742 (7,7%); Australasia, 9 649 (4,5%); Central and South America, 6 076 (2,8%); and Middle East, 2 750 (1,3%).

Tourists visiting South Africa in March 2024 were: UK, 41 896 (19,3%); Germany, 35 714 (16,5%); USA, 35 302 (16,3%); France, 11 915 (5,5%); the Netherlands, 9 591 (4,4%); Australia, 7 953 (3,7%); Canada, 6 217 (2,9%); India, 5 203 (2,4%); Belgium, 4 812 (2,2%); and China, 4 340 (2,0%). Tourists from these 10 countries constituted 75,2% of all tourists from overseas countries.

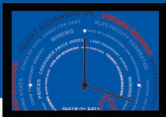
A comparison of movements in the 10 leading countries between March 2023 and March 2024 shows that the number of tourists increased for 8 of the 10 leading countries. China had the highest increase of 58,4% (from 2 740 tourists in March 2023 to 4 340 tourists in March 2024).

Purpose of visit of tourists

In March 2024, the majority of tourists [726 784 (96,8%)] were in South Africa for holiday compared with 21 496 (2,9%), 2 416 (0,3%) and 272 (less than 0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and medical treatment respectively.

Mode of travel of tourists

Tourists are categorised by their countries of residence and regions. Information on the specific region and country of residence of tourists and the mode of travel used to enter South Africa is provided in Annexure B on pages 17 to 20, whereas the port of entry used by tourists is provided in Annexure G on page 37. Overseas tourists who arrived in the country by air were 200 641 (92,6%), whilst 12 470 (5,8%) came in by road and 3 452 (1,6%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the SADC countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road [475 397 (91,4%)], 44 402 (8,5%) came by air and 376 (0,1%) arrived by sea. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 11 830 (90,1%), while 1 279 (9,7%) used road transport and 14 (0,1%) preferred sea. Most tourists who arrived by road came through Beit Bridge port [134 274 (27,4%)] and Lebombo [120 697 (24,7%)]. The majority of tourists who came by air

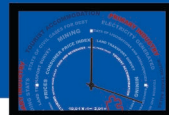


entered through OR Tambo International Airport [142 664 (55,3%)] and Cape Town International Airport [111 438 (43,2%)]. Tourists who arrived by sea came through Cape Town Harbour [3 612 (94,0%)].

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

Travel direction	March 2023	February 2024	March 2024	% change February 2024 to March 2024	% change March 2023 to March 2024
Total	2 445 237	2 397 507	2 710 991	13,1%	10,9%
South African residents	699 326	611 457	776 848	27,0%	11,1%
Arrivals	330 727	303 987	366 237	20,5%	10,7%
Departures	368 211	307 099	410 217	33,6%	11,4%
Transit	388	371	394	6,2%	1,5%
Foreign travellers	1 745 911	1 786 050	1 934 143	8,3%	10,8%
Arrivals	905 627	955 283	995 770	4,2%	10,0%
Departures	813 003	800 664	902 238	12,7%	11,0%
Transit	27 281	30 103	36 135	20,0%	32,5%

A full release on *International tourism* (statistical release P0350) 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 14,5% in the three months ended February 2024 compared with the three months ended February 2023

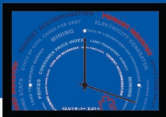
Declining buying power as well as increases in the prices of food, electricity and fuel are some of the reasons that force consumers to rely on credit. However, consumers are often subject to default as they are unable to repay their debt. When a consumer enters into an agreement with a service provider and defaults on that credit agreement, the service provider will send default data (negative information when failing to pay your account) to credit bureaus. Credit bureaus are agencies that gather and organise information about consumers to create reports of consumers' credit information, indicating how they manage their credit. The default data/information remains on the credit report for one or two years depending on the description of default. Civil court judgments are also included in the credit report and remain for five years or until the judgment is revoked in court. When the debt has been paid, the creditor has seven days to update the information and inform the credit bureaus of the paid-up status. The bureaus in turn, have seven days from receiving the notification from the creditor to amend the consumer's credit report. Ultimately a consumer's name is cleared of default listings and judgements. This article summarises the results of the *Statistics of civil cases for debt* (statistical release P0041) for February 2024.

The number of civil summonses issued for debt

The total number of civil summonses issued for debt decreased by 14,5% in the three months ended February 2024 compared with the three months ended February 2023 (**see Table M**). The largest negative contributors to the 14,5% decrease in civil summonses issued were:

- money lent (contributing -8,8 percentage points);
- services (contributing -3,4 percentage points); and
- promissory notes (contributing -1,7 percentage points).

'Other' debts was the only positive 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 1,5% in the three months ended February 2024 compared with the three months ended February 2023. The largest negative contributors to the 1,5% decrease were civil judgements relating to:

- money lent (contributing -4,3 percentage points);
- promissory notes (contributing -1,1 percentage points); and
- 'other' debts (contributing -0,7 of a percentage point).

Services was the largest positive contributor (contributing 4,4 percentage points).

The value of civil judgements recorded for debt

The total value of civil judgements recorded for debt increased by 11,3% in the three months ended February 2024 compared with the three months ended February 2023. The largest positive contributors to the 11,3% increase were civil judgements relating to:

- services (contributing 5,1 percentage points);
- 'other' debts (contributing 4,6 percentage points); and
- promissory notes (contributing 2,5 percentage points).

Money lent was the only negative contributor (contributing -1,9 percentage points).

In February 2024, 10 966 civil judgements for debt amounting to R300,5 million were recorded. The largest contributors to the total value of judgements were:

- money lent (R86,6 million or 28,8%);
- services (R66,4 million or 22,1%); and
- 'other' debts (R60,9 million or 20,3%).

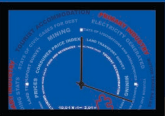


Table M – Key figures for civil summonses and judgements for February 2024

Actual estimates	February 2024	% change between February 2023 and February 2024	% change between December 2022 to February 2023 and December 2023 to February 2024
Number of civil summonses issued for debt	36 274	-13,1	-14,5
Number of civil judgements recorded for debt	10 966	2,8	-1,5
Value of civil judgements recorded for debt (R million)	300,5	5,6	11,3

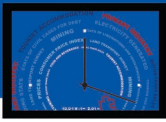
A full release on *Statistics of civil cases for debt* (statistical release P0041) is available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Statistics of liquidations

The total number of liquidations decreased by 17,9% in March 2024 compared with March 2023.

Between January and March 2024, 385 companies were liquidated in South Africa, compared with the same period in 2023. Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) released the country’s liquidations statistics on 25 March 2024, which revealed that liquidations decreased year-on-year in March 2024. However, there were far higher numbers of liquidations in January 2024 which meant that South Africa had seen more liquidations in the first three months of 2024 than in the same period in 2023. South Africa recorded 109 liquidations in January 2024 compared with 81 in January 2023, 138 liquidations in February 2024 compared with 162 in February 2023, and 138 in March 2024 compared with 168 in March 2023. Overall, South Africa had 1 657 liquidations in 2023, a significant decrease from 1 907 recorded in 2022. This article summarises the results of the *Statistics of liquidations* (statistical release P0043.1) for March 2024.

The total number of liquidations decreased by 17,9% in March 2024 compared with March 2023 (see **Table N**). Liquidations of close corporations decreased by 17 cases and liquidations of companies decreased by 13 cases during this period.



The total number of liquidations decreased by 6,3% in the first quarter of 2024 compared with the first quarter of 2023.

Table N – Key growth rates in the number of liquidations for March 2024

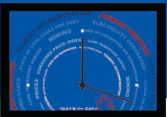
Number of liquidations March 2024	% change between March 2023 and March 2024	% change between Jan- Jan 2023 and Jan-Mar 2024
138	-17,9	-6,3

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

Land transport

The volume of goods transported (payload) decreased by 1,5% in February 2024 compared with February 2023

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by all United Nations members in 2015 recognises that road safety is a prerequisite to ensuring healthy lives, promoting well-being and making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. The significance of the Sustainable Development Goal, Target 3,6, is to prevent the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents by at least 50% in 2030. However, on 19 March 2024, Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) published Road Transport Accident Deaths in South Africa, 2007-2019 report which revealed that the number of deaths from road transport accidents increased from 6 190 in 2007 to 6 423 in 2019. According to the report, factors that contributed to road traffic accidents include human error, inadequate infrastructure, vehicle defects and environmental conditions. Human factors, such as speeding, reckless driving, distracted driving (often due to smartphone usage) and driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, are among the primary causes. Additionally, fatigue and lack of sleep impair driver judgment and reaction times, increasing the likelihood of accidents. This article summarises the results of the *Land transport* (statistical release P7162) for February 2024.



The volume of goods transported (payload) decreased by 1,5% in February 2024 compared with February 2023 (**see Table O**). The corresponding income increased by 5,1% over the same period.

Income from freight transportation increased by 2,8% in the three months ended February 2024 compared with the three months ended February 2023. The main positive contributors to this increase were:

- primary mining and quarrying products (4,8%, contributing 1,6 percentage points); and
- containers (36,1%, contributing 1,6 percentage points).

Table O – Year-on-year percentage change in freight transportation for February 2024

	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24
Freight payload	0,3	-1,1	3,2	-2,8	-6,7	-1,5
Freight income	4,5	6,2	3,7	3,8	-0,4	5,1

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 17,1% in February 2024 compared with February 2023 (**see Table P**). The corresponding income increased by 9,8% over the same period.

Table P – Year-on-year percentage change in passenger transportation for February 2024

	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24
Passenger journeys	23,8	23,0	16,6	9,2	21,4	17,1
Passenger income	14,8	15,1	12,9	6,6	13,6	9,8

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



Prices

Producer price index (PPI)

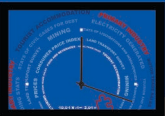
PPI at 4,6% in March 2024

South Africa is one of the African countries which produces several unique leading products that are internationally consumed and utilised. Rooibos, a uniquely South African herbal tea that comes from the fermented leaves of the *Aspalathus Linearis* shrub, is one of the products that is native to South Africa. Whether you take it cold or hot, sweet or plain, Rooibos has gained international acclaim for its distinctive flavour and health benefits such as cancer fighting properties and antioxidants. According to South African Rooibos Council (SARC), about 20,000 tons of rooibos, which is enough for around 6 billion cups of tea, is produced annually as a result of the work of a sector that employs more than 5,000 people. Rooibos is exported to more than 60 countries across the globe with the biggest importers being Germany, Netherlands, Japan, United Kingdom and United States of America among others. This article summarises the results of the *Producer price index* (statistical release P0141.2) for March 2024.

Annual producer price inflation (final manufacturing) was 4,6% in March 2024, up from 4,5% in February 2024 (**see Table Q**). The producer price index (PPI) increased by 1,1% month-on-month in March 2024. The main contributors to the headline PPI annual inflation rate were:

- food products, beverages and tobacco products (increased by 4,4% year-on-year and contributed 1,3 percentage points);
- coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products (increased by 4,6% year-on-year and contributed 1,1 percentage points); and
- metals, machinery, equipment and computing equipment (increased by 5,5% year-on-year and contributed 0,8 of a percentage point).

The main contributors to the headline PPI monthly increase were coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products (increased by 2,5% month-on-month and contributed 0,6 of a percentage point) and food products, beverages and tobacco products (increased by 1,2% month-on-month and contributed 0,3 of a percentage point).



Intermediate manufactured goods

The annual percentage change in the PPI for intermediate manufactured goods was 1,7% in March 2024 (compared with 1,0% in February 2024). The index increased by 1,1% month-on-month.

The main contributors to the annual rate were basic and fabricated metals (0,8 of a percentage point) and chemicals, rubber and plastic products (0,4 of a percentage point) – see Figure 2.1. The main contributor to the monthly rate was basic and fabricated metals (0,6 of a percentage point).

Electricity and water

The annual percentage change in the PPI for electricity and water was 15,6% in March 2024 (compared with 16,0% in February 2024). The index decreased by 1,6% month-on-month. Electricity contributed 14,0 percentage points and water contributed 1,5 percentage points to the annual rate. Electricity contributed -1,5 percentage points to the monthly rate.

Mining

The annual percentage change in the PPI for mining was -12,7% in March 2024 (compared with -9,0% in February 2024). The index decreased by 1,9% month-on-month. The main negative contributors to the annual rate were non-ferrous metal ores (-15,6 percentage points) and coal and gas (-2,3 percentage points). The main negative contributors to the monthly rate were coal and gas (-1,4 percentage points) and stone quarrying, clay and diamonds (-1,0 percentage point).

Agriculture, forestry and fishing

The annual percentage change in the PPI for agriculture, forestry and fishing was 7,7% in March 2024 (compared with 2,8% in February 2024). The index increased by 2,4% month-on-month. The main contributor to the annual rate was agriculture (7,3 percentage points). The contributor to the monthly rate was agriculture (2,5 percentage points).

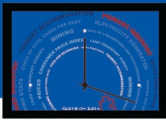


Table Q – Key PPI figures for March 2024

Product	Weight	Index (Dec 2023=100)			% change	
		March 2023	February 2024	March 2024	March 2024 vs. JFebruary 2024	March 2024 vs. March 2023
Final manufactured goods	100,00	97,2	100,6	101,7	1,1	4,6
Intermediate manufactured goods	100,00	100,9	101,5	102,6	1,1	1,7
Electricity and water	100,00	86,3	101,4	99,8	-1,6	15,6
Mining	100,00	113,3	100,8	98,9	-1,9	-12,7
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	100,00	89,4	94,0	96,3	2,4	7,7

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)

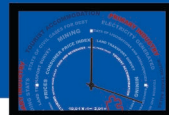
CPI at 5,3% in March 2024

The consumer price index (CPI) measures the changes in the prices consumers pay for a basket of goods and services. However, not all items in the CPI are surveyed every month. Items such as school, crèche and university fees are only surveyed once a year, specifically in March.

This is because education fees only change once a year and the best time to collect the new fees for the new year is in March when most schools have settled in. Overall, education was 6,3% more expensive in 2024 than in 2023. This exceeds the 5,7% annual increase in 2023 and is the highest since 2020 when the inflation rate was 6,4%. High schools recorded the highest increase (7,3%), followed by primary schools and tertiary institutions (5,9%). This article summarises the *Consumer price index* (statistical release p0141) for March 2024.

Headline consumer price index (CPI) for all urban areas

Annual consumer price inflation was 5,3% in March 2024, down from 5,6% in February 2024 (**see Table R**). The consumer price index increased by 0,8% month-on-month in March 2024. The main contributors to the 5,3% annual inflation rate were:



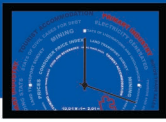
- housing and utilities (increased by 5,9% year-on-year and contributed 1,4 percentage points);
- miscellaneous goods and services (increased by 8,5% year-on-year and contributed 1,2 percentage points);
- food and non-alcoholic beverages (increased by 5,1% year-on-year and contributed 0,9 of a percentage point); and
- transport (increased by 5,3% year-on-year and contributed 0,8 of a percentage point).

In March 2024, the annual inflation rate for goods was 5,7%, down from 6,2% in February 2024; and for services it was 5,0%, up from 4,9% in February 2024.

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
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
2024	Index	112,8	113,9	114,8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Rate	5,3	5,6	5,3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

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.

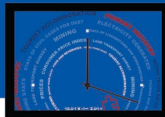
Index of physical volume of mining production: a statistical measure of the change in the volume of production. The production index of a mineral group is the ratio between the volume of production of a mineral group in a given period and the volume of production of the same mineral group in the base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

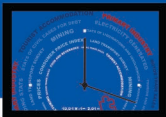
Tertiary industries

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.

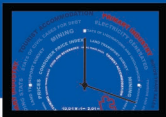
Other SADC: refers to the thirteen countries, excluding South Africa, that belong to the Southern African Development Community.

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.

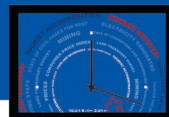
Tourist: a visitor who stays at least one night in the place visited.

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'

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