

Business Dynamics: South Africa

November 2025

Table of Contents

Business Dynamics: South Africa

HEADLINES

OPERATIONAL AND REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

South Africa faces regulatory strain amid energy crisis and low business freedom

FINANCING AND INVESTMENT

South Africa's financial constraints hamper investor confidence

SKILLS AND LABOUR

South Africa gains in labour freedom, but youth unemployment remains an issue

TRADE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

South Africa's trade freedom rises on improved logistics and infrastructure

DIGITALISATION AND INNOVATION

Digital divide limits tech impact, but government aims to advance digital services

OPERATIONAL AND REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

- Chart 1 Operational and Legal Environment Key Indicators
- Chart 2 Index of Economic Freedom Ranking by Pillar in South Africa and Regional Comparison 2024
- Chart 3 Index of Economic Freedom Ranking 2019-2024
- Chart 4 Index of Economic Freedom: Judicial Effectiveness Pillar Rank in South Africa and Regional Comparison 2019-2024
- Chart 5 Index of Economic Freedom: Government Integrity Pillar Rank in South Africa and Regional Comparison 2019-2024
- Chart 6 Corruption Perceptions Ranking: South Africa and Regional Comparison 2019-2024

FINANCING AND INVESTMENT

- Chart 7 Key Financial and Investment Indicators
- Chart 8 Index of Economic Freedom: Property Rights Pillar Rank in South Africa and Regional Comparison 2019-2024
- Chart 9 Bank Claims on the Private Sector as % of GDP 2019-2024
- Chart 10 Bank Nonperforming Loans to Total Gross Loans 2019-2024

SKILLS AND LABOUR

- Chart 11 Key Skills and Labour Indicators
- Chart 12 Population Aged 15+ with Higher Education 2019-2024
- Chart 13 Education Indicators 2024
- Chart 14 Number of University Graduates by Programme 2024
- Chart 15 Employment by Age 2024
- Chart 16 Employment by Gender 2024
- Chart 17 Youth Unemployment Rate 2019-2024
- Chart 18 Labour Structure Change 2019-2024
- Chart 19 Labour Structure Comparison 2024
- Chart 20 Self-Employed as % of Total Employed Population 2024
- Chart 21 Index of Economic Freedom: Labour Pillar Rank in South Africa and Regional Comparison 2019-2024
- Chart 22 Wage per Hour in Manufacturing Sector 2019-2024
- Chart 23 Labour Market Regulations in South Africa and Regional Comparison 2024

TRADE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Chart 24 Key Infrastructure Indicators
- Chart 25 Index of Economic Freedom: Trade Freedom Pillar Rank in South Africa and Regional Comparison 2019-2024
- Chart 26 The Top Four Largest South Africa's Export Categories 2019-2024
- Chart 27 Turnover of Transport and Storage Industry by Category in South Africa 2024
- Chart 28 Transportation Mode Indicators in South Africa and Regional Comparison

Chart 29 - Road Infrastructure

DIGITALISATION AND INNOVATION

- Chart 30 Innovation and Digitalisation Key Indicators
- Chart 31 Network Readiness Ranking by Pillar in South Africa and Regional Comparison 2024
- Chart 32 Network Readiness Ranking for South Africa and Regional Comparison 2019-2024
- Chart 33 Network Readiness Ranking: Technology Pillar for South Africa and Regional Comparison 2019-2024
- Chart 34 Intellectual Property: South Africa Compared to Selected Regional Peers 2024

APPENDIX A

The 2024 Index of Economic Freedom

APPENDIX B

The Network Readiness Index (NRI) 2024

About Euromonitor International

Euromonitor International is an independent market intelligence provider. Data, insight and analysis stem from in-the-field research spanning 210 national markets.

Content ranges from the in-depth and country-specific, to key strategic themes with a global range and significance. Products cover a comprehensive range of insights and market data, but can be broadly categorised as:

- Strategy Briefings: Global or regional in scope, and focussing on the most important themes shaping consumer demand, the key markets, competitive environment and future outlook across a range of industries.
- Company Profiles: Analysis dedicated to the world's most significant companies, with detailed insight into their activities, focus of operations, their competitors, their geographic presence and performance.
- Country Reports: For an in-depth understanding of specific countries, whether by industry, economic metrics or consumer
 trends and lifestyles. These reports cover current trends, consumer demand, market potential and future prospects, with
 country-specific local insight and comprehensive data, unavailable elsewhere.

For more information on this report, further enquiries can be directed via this link www.euromonitor.com/business-dynamics-south-africa/report.