

SA manufacturing production up 35.3% in May

South African manufacturing production increased by 35.3% in May 2021 compared with May 2020.



Workers sort avocados at a farm factory in Nelspruit in Mpumalanga province, about 82 km north of the Swaziland border, South Africa. Source: Reuters/Siphiwe Sibeko

The largest contributions were made by the following divisions:

- motor vehicles, parts and accessories and other transport equipment (215.7% and contributing 8.9 percentage points);
- basic iron and steel, non-ferrous metal products, metal products and machinery (42.0% and contributing 8.0 percentage points);
- food and beverages (21.5% and contributing 7.4 percentage points); and
- wood and wood products, paper, publishing and printing (40.0% and contributing 4.0 percentage points).

Seasonally adjusted manufacturing production decreased by 2.6% in May 2021 compared with April 2021. This followed month-on-month changes of -1.2% in April 2021 and 3.7% in March 2021.

Seasonally adjusted manufacturing production increased by 1.0% in the three months ended May 2021 compared with the previous three months. Six of the ten manufacturing divisions reported positive growth rates over this period.



1 Jul 2021



The largest positive contributions were made by the following divisions:

- food and beverages (3.2% and contributing 1.0 percentage point); and
- motor vehicles, parts and accessories and other transport equipment (7.5% and contributing 0.7 of a percentage point).

The largest negative contribution was made by the petroleum, chemical products, rubber and plastic products division (-5.1% and contributing -1.0 percentage point).

Sales results for May 2021

Seasonally adjusted manufacturing sales decreased by 0.1% in May 2021 compared with April 2021. This followed month-on-month changes of -2.4% in April 2021 and 6.3% in March 2021.

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