

Statistical release

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Survey of Employers and the Self-employed 2017

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SESE 2017 Highlights

- The number of persons who ran informal businesses declined from 2,3 million in 2001 to 1,1 million in 2009, before increasing to 1,8 million in 2017.
- Approximately 95% of informal business owners had only one business, and the majority of them have been operating the business for five years or longer.
- Gauteng (28,6%), followed by Limpopo (16,5%) and KwaZulu-Natal (14,7%), had the highest share of informal businesses.
- In 2017, men were more likely to run informal businesses than women.
- Black Africans had the highest proportion of the working-age population running informal businesses over the period 2001–2017, however, their proportion declined from 9,8% in 2001 to 5,4% in 2017.
- The proportion of the working-age population running informal businesses increased with age and peaked at 44–45 years.
- More than 70% of non-VAT registered businesses did not keep financial records. In 2017, 67,8% of persons running these businesses had less than matric qualification.
- More than 90% of persons who ran informal businesses did so without a licence or permit, and the majority of those who had licences or permits (40,2%) obtained them from a municipality/ provincial authority.
- The majority of informal businesses were in the trade industry, with most of them operated by men.
- Seven in every ten persons running non-VAT registered businesses used their own money to start the business.
- Unemployment was the main reason why most people started their businesses, accounting for more than 60% of the business owners.
- More than nine in every ten businesses had no business debt, credit facility, mortgage loan or asset finance.
- Among the non-VAT registered businesses, the Manufacturing industry had a higher proportion of businesses that used raw materials compared to any other industry, while businesses in the Trade industry had the highest proportion that used supplies compared to other industries.
- Eight in every ten persons in informal businesses did not have bank accounts. Among those who had bank accounts, more than 60% used them mainly to make business payments.
- In 2017, 88,5% of employees in informal businesses were paid employees compared to 65,3% recorded in 2001.
- The majority of employees in informal businesses were working in the Construction industry at 33,3%.

- The majority of the employers running non-VAT registered businesses accumulated total labour costs below R1 500 over the period 2001–2017. The proportion of those who accumulated total labour costs of R6 001+ increased from 2,8% to 14,1%.
- The proportion of persons running informal businesses with a turnover in the last month above R3 001 were higher among men compared to women. There was a huge gender gap of about 10,3 percentage points for persons who had a turnover of above R6 001, where men and women recorded 22,5% and 12,2% respectively in 2017.
- The highest proportions for those who had turnover above R6 000 in the last month in 2017, were in the Secondary (21,9%) industries.
- Larger proportions of women compared to men made net profits below R1 500.
- The highest proportions for those who earned net profits above R6 000 in the last month were in the Primary (17%) and Secondary (17,6%) industries in 2017.

Key concepts and definitions

Raw materials: products that are changed/processed in some way before reselling, e.g. flour to make bread. In this case, flour is a raw material because it is changed into bread before selling.

Supplies: products that are not changed before reselling, e.g. cold drinks bought and resold at a higher price. In this case, cold drinks have not been changed before selling, and are therefore regarded as supplies in this survey.

Turnover: total value of sales in a business during the reference period. This excludes any money coming from sources not related to the business.

Profit: the money generated from the business after deduction of expenses.

Business location: the site of operation. This may be different from the administrative activities of the business. For example, a taxi owner operates from a taxi rank, but does his administrative work at home. In this case, the site of operation is the taxi rank.

Industry classification is as follows:

Primary industry: Agriculture and Mining

Secondary industry: Manufacturing, Utilities and Construction

Tertiary industry: Trade, Transport, Finance, Social and personal services, and Private households

1. Introduction

The informal sector is a large part of employment in Africa and is the focus of this report in South Africa. It provides livelihoods to the most vulnerable individuals such as the urban poor, female heads of households, disabled people, and rural-based families. Participating in the informal sector enables the marginalised to survive economic downturns when formal sector jobs are in short supply, and where social security systems are inadequate.

Small businesses in the informal sector often do not have links with businesses in the formal sector, as they operate in different markets with different customers. An example is somebody selling food on the side of the street, or out of his or her household premises. Even in situations where these firms may be connected to formal firms, their low bargaining power and fierce cost-cutting competition render them unable to operate like formal sector entities.

Against this background, this report presents the results of the Survey of Employers and the Self-employed (SESE) conducted by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) in the third quarter of 2017. Comparisons are conducted between the five SESE surveys for the following years: 2001, 2005, 2009, 2013 and 2017.

2. Purpose of the survey

The SESE report aims to provide information about the characteristics of businesses in the informal sector in South Africa, and provides an understanding of their operation and access to services. The information presented in this report supplements the Quarterly Employment Statistics Survey (QES) that collects information from formal sector businesses that are registered for VAT.

The main objectives of SESE are:

- To determine the contribution made by businesses not registered for VAT towards economic growth.
- To collect reliable data about people running businesses not registered for VAT.
- To identify the non-income tax paying and income tax paying businesses within the non-VAT paying businesses.
- To produce comprehensive statistical information about informal sector businesses, at national and provincial levels.

3. How SESE was conducted

Currently, there is no sampling frame on which to base weights and raising factors for unregistered businesses in South Africa. As a result, SESE is a household-based survey, consisting of two phases. The first phase involves identifying individuals who are running businesses based on the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) conducted in the third quarter of each year (July–September). The second phase involves a follow-up interview with the owners of these businesses to determine the nature of their businesses.

The criterion for inclusion in SESE depends on whether the business is registered for value added tax (VAT). Only persons who had businesses that are not registered for VAT were included. These businesses are generally excluded from the Business Frame used by Stats SA during surveys to assess the formal economy.

In 2001, SESE was conducted in March and the SESE interview was undertaken immediately after the Labour Force Survey (LFS) interview while the enumerator was still at the dwelling unit. In 2005, SESE data collection occurred in September over a two-week period. In 2009, 2013 and 2017, data collection for the QLFS occurred in September during the middle two weeks of the month throughout the quarter, while SESE data collection was undertaken in the last week of the month, also throughout the quarter.

Because of these changes in the methodology, comparisons between the previous surveys and this survey should be interpreted with caution.

4. Data issues

SESE 2009 estimates that were previously published have been revised based on new population benchmarks from the 2011 Population Census. The 2005 SESE estimates have not been adjusted to reflect the new population benchmarks. The adjustment process in this regard is more complex since it involves the computation of new link factors to align the historical LFS series (2000 to 2007) to the QLFS series.

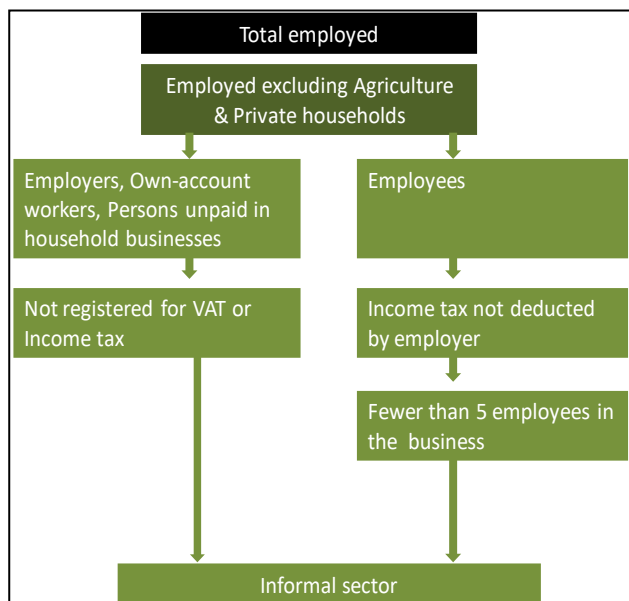
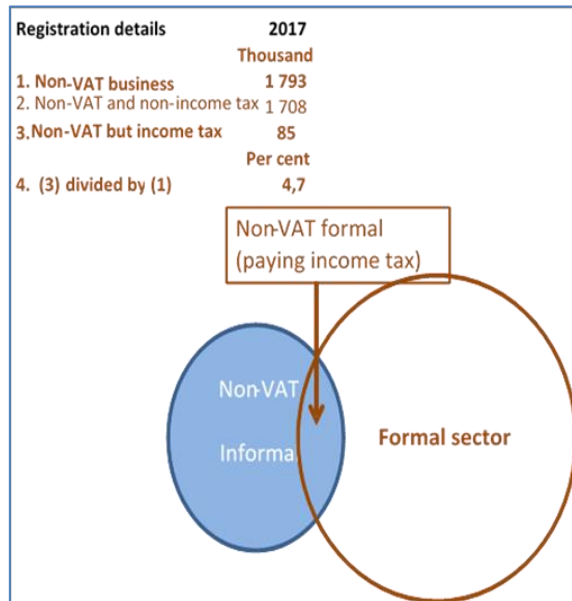
Caution is therefore required when interpreting trends based on the absolute numbers, which include the 2005 results. SESE trends based on proportions are more reliable. For this reason, the analysis in this report relies exclusively on trends of various proportions.

The statistical appendix includes both the absolute numbers and proportions, but it is advisable not to focus on differences in absolute numbers between 2001 and 2005 as well as those between 2005 and 2009 – the proportions would be more reliable.

The 2001 and 2005 datasets only covered those aged 15–64 years, while in 2009, 2013 and 2017 all persons aged 15 years and older were included. For comparability, the analysis is based only on those aged 15–64 years.

5. Non-VAT registered businesses in the context of the informal sector

The survey collects information on informal businesses from owners of such businesses. Details are collected from a maximum of three businesses. The analysis in this report is based on the main business operated by persons engaged in non-VAT registered businesses. The main business is the one that generated the most income. The vast majority of people in the survey were engaged in only one business (over 95,0%). But where they were engaged in more than one business, the main business did not necessarily have the same features as other businesses owned by the person/partners. In light of this, the results should be interpreted with caution.

Diagram 1: Defining the informal sector**Diagram 2: Formal sector businesses as a proportion of non-VAT registered businesses**

The informal sector is defined in terms of registration and the size of the business in terms of the number of employees. In line with international guidelines, Agriculture and Private households are identified separately and are not included in the formal or informal sectors. Employers, own-account workers and persons working unpaid in their household businesses, whose businesses are not registered for VAT or income tax, are part of the informal sector. The other element of informal sector employment comprises employees from whom income tax is not deducted by their employers and who work in businesses with fewer than five employees (Diagram 1).

Diagram 2 shows that non-VAT registered businesses are predominantly in the informal sector. In 2017, about 1,7 million of the 1,8 million persons who ran non-VAT registered businesses were operating in the informal sector.

The results of the SESE analysed in this report will refer to non-VAT registered businesses as informal businesses for ease of analysis.

6. Results

6.1 Profile of individuals running non-VAT registered businesses

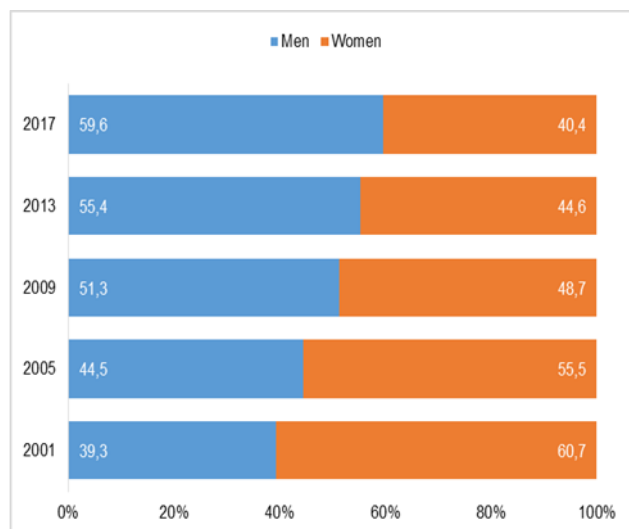
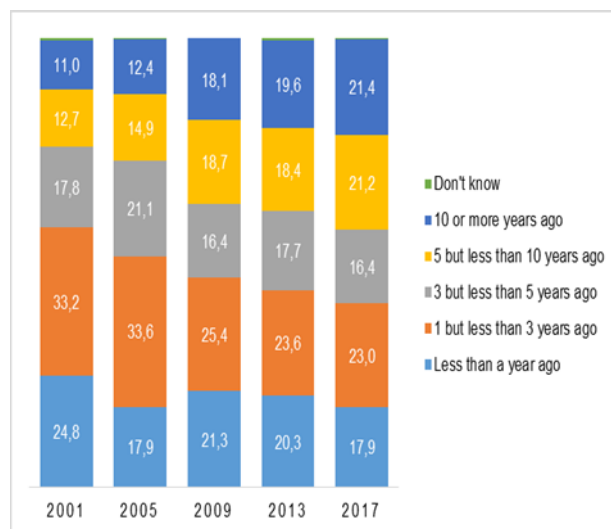
This section examines the characteristics of persons who ran non-VAT registered businesses (informal businesses) by sex, age group and population group. Table 1 presents the distribution of persons running such businesses according to the number of businesses each person has and the length of time the business operated, while the demographic profile of those operating informal businesses is presented in Table 2.

Table 1: Individuals running at least one non-VAT registered business, 2001–2017

	2001	2005*	2009	2013	2017	2001	2005	2009	2013	2017
	Thousand					Per cent				
By sex										
Women	1 370	925	557	677	725	60,7	55,5	48,7	44,6	40,4
Men	888	743	587	840	1 068	39,3	44,5	51,3	55,4	59,6
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
By number of businesses										
1 business	2 217	1 610	1 125	1 490	1 762	98,2	96,5	98,3	98,3	98,2
2 businesses	38	56	7	26	29	1,7	3,4	0,6	1,7	1,6
3 businesses	3	1	12	-	3	0,1	0,1	1,0	0,0	0,1
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Start of business operations										
Less than a year ago	559	299	244	308	321	24,8	17,9	21,3	20,3	17,9
1 but less than 3 years ago	749	560	290	358	413	33,2	33,6	25,4	23,6	23,0
3 but less than 5 years ago	403	352	187	268	294	17,8	21,1	16,4	17,7	16,4
5 but less than 10 years ago	288	249	214	278	379	12,7	14,9	18,7	18,4	21,2
10 or more years ago	249	207	208	298	383	11,0	12,4	18,1	19,6	21,4
Don't know	9	2	1	6	3	0,4	0,1	0,1	0,4	0,2
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories. * The 2005 SESE estimates have not been adjusted to reflect the new population benchmarks.

The number of persons who ran informal businesses declined from 2,3 million in 2001 to 1,1 million in 2009, before showing an increase in 2013 and 2017 to 1,5 million and 1,8 million, respectively. More than 95% of persons running non-VAT registered businesses had only one business. Over the period 2001 to 2005 the sector had a higher proportion of women, and from 2009 to 2017 men were more likely to run informal businesses compared to women as their proportion increased from 51,3% to 59,6% over this time. Individuals that operated informal businesses for five to ten years and ten years or more increased between 2001 and 2017, while those who had such businesses for less than five years showed a decrease.

Figure 1: Share of people running non-VAT registered businesses by sex, 2001–2017**Figure 2: Length of time the business has been operated, 2001–2017**

Although there was an overall decline in the number of persons running informal businesses (as shown in Table 1) in 2017 as compared to 2001, the results show interesting trends. In 2001 and 2005 a large proportion of non-VAT registered businesses were ran by women (over 55,0%) before the trend reversed with their male counterparts taking the lead from 2009 to 2017 (Figure 1).

Figure 2 shows that the proportion of people who operated informal businesses for a period of 10 years or longer increased from 11,0% in 2001 to 21,4% in 2017. A large increase was observed in the proportion of those that operated an informal business for 5 years but less than 10 years during this period. There was a decline in the proportion of those who ran informal businesses for a period of less than 5 years.

Table 2: Percentage of individuals running non-VAT registered businesses by population group, age group and province, 2001–2017

	2001	2005	2009	2013	2017
	Per cent				
By population group					
Black African	89,4	92,5	89,9	88,8	90,8
Coloured	3,7	3,1	3,8	3,1	3,5
Indian/Asian	2,2	0,9	1,2	2,6	1,8
White	4,7	3,5	5,1	5,5	3,9
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
By age					
15-24 yrs	9,4	7,8	6,0	4,9	4,4
25-34 yrs	29,3	27,7	25,6	25,3	24,6
35-44 yrs	27,9	28,7	33,6	31,7	32,4
45-54 yrs	21,3	24,8	24,1	26,0	25,1
55-64 yrs	12,1	11,0	10,8	12,1	13,6
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
By province					
Western Cape	5,3	5,6	6,8	6,0	8,5
Eastern Cape	10,1	12,3	12,2	9,5	9,8
Northern Cape	1,2	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,5
Free State	5,9	6,3	5,2	4,0	5,1
KwaZulu-Natal	25,4	20,0	20,6	20,0	14,7
North West	7,5	7,4	6,0	4,9	6,2
Gauteng	24,8	25,5	24,1	29,9	28,6
Mpumalanga	9,8	8,1	11,0	10,6	10,2
Limpopo	10,0	13,9	13,3	14,2	16,5
South Africa	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

The proportion of black Africans running informal businesses increased from 89,4% in 2001 to 90,8% in 2017, while the other population groups recorded declines during the same period. In 2017, the proportion of persons running informal businesses aged 35–64 years increased compared to 2001. The largest increase observed within this group was among those aged 35–44 years, which increased from 27,9% in 2001 to 32,4% in 2017. Table 2 also depicts that from 2001 to 2009, the proportion of persons running informal businesses was highly concentrated in Gauteng, followed by KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo and Eastern Cape, which all had proportions above 10%. Recent trends show that the proportions decreased in five of the nine provinces when comparing 2001 and 2017, and the highest concentration of informal businesses was observed in Gauteng (28,6%), followed by Limpopo (16,5%) and KwaZulu-Natal (14,7%).

6.2 Persons running non-VAT registered businesses as a percentage of the working-age population

This section focuses on the share of the working-age population running informal businesses by demographic characteristics (sex, age and population group), geographic location (province) as well as educational level. The intention is to provide information regarding the size of the informal sector businesses relative to the working-age population.

Figure 3: Proportion of the working-age population running non-VAT registered businesses by sex, 2001–2017



Figure 4: Proportion of the working-age population running non-VAT registered businesses by population group, 2001–2017

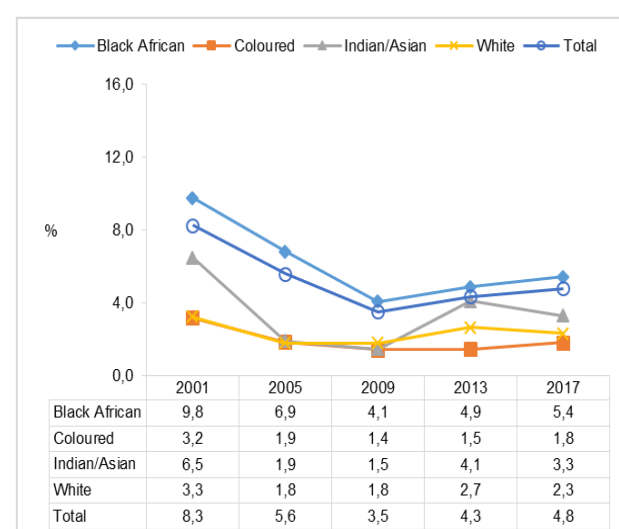


Figure 3 shows that, overall, the proportion of the population running non-VAT registered businesses has declined between 2001 and 2017 for both sexes. The proportion of the working-age population running informal businesses declined from 8,3% in 2001 to 3,5% in 2009, before increasing to 4,3% and 4,8% in 2013 and 2017, respectively (Figure 3). Between 2001 and 2005, a larger share of working-age women was involved in informal businesses compared to men. In 2009 the opposite was true as there was a larger share of men involved in running informal businesses, and this continued until 2017 where the proportion of working-age men was 2,0 percentage points higher than that of women.

Similar to the shares within different sexes, Figure 4 shows the shares of those running non-VAT registered businesses decreased for all population groups between 2001 and 2017. Among black Africans, the share of those with informal businesses declined from 9,8% in 2001 to 4,1% in 2009. However, for the white population group, the proportion remained lower and unchanged between 2005 and 2009 at 1,8%, but declined to 2,3% in 2017 from 2,7% in 2013. In 2013, this downward trend was reversed and the percentage of the working-age population engaged in informal businesses increased for all population groups, but in 2017 an increase was observed in only two population groups, i.e. black Africans and coloureds, whereas the Indian/Asian and white population groups recorded declines.

Figure 5: Proportion of the working-age population running non-VAT registered businesses by age group, 2001–2017

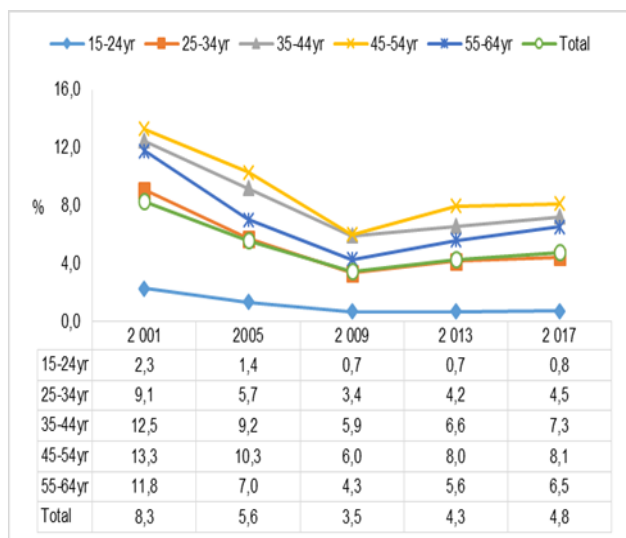
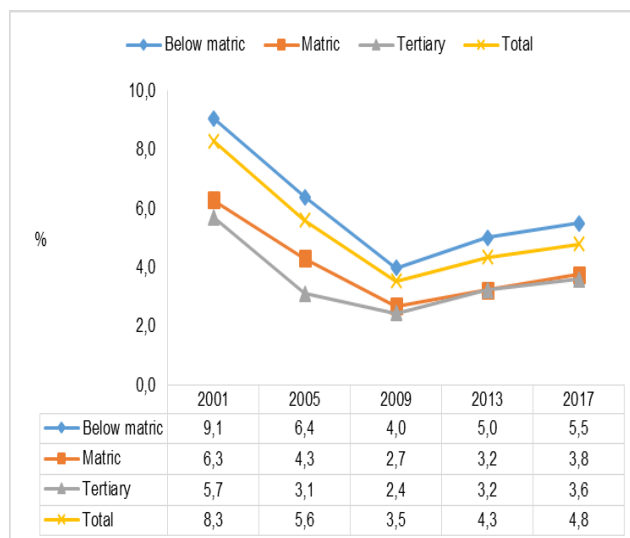


Figure 6: Proportion of the working-age population running non-VAT registered businesses by education level, 2001–2017



Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

For all age groups there was a decline in the proportion of the working-age population that ran informal businesses over the period 2001 to 2009, before increasing again in 2013. However, among the age group 15–24 years, the proportion remained unchanged between 2009 and 2013 (Figure 5). Over the period 2001–2017 the proportion of the working-age population who ran informal businesses decreased among all age groups, and the highest decrease was observed among the age group 45–54 years (8,1%).

Figure 6 shows a decrease in the proportion of the working-age population who ran informal businesses in all education level categories, from 8,3% in 2001 to 4,8% in 2017. Education levels of those with below matric recorded the largest decrease from 9,1% in 2001 to 5,5% in 2017 (down by 3,5 percentage points), followed by those who had matric and tertiary education at 2,6 and 2,0 percentage points, respectively.

Table 3: Proportion of the working-age population running non-VAT registered businesses by province, 2001–2017

	2001	2005	2009	2013	2017
	Per cent				
Western Cape	4,1	2,8	2,1	2,2	3,4
Eastern Cape	6,4	5,4	3,6	3,6	4,2
Northern Cape	4,1	1,7	1,2	1,6	1,1
Free State	7,7	5,8	3,3	3,3	4,8
KwaZulu-Natal	10,4	5,6	3,8	4,7	3,8
North West	8,5	5,8	3,1	3,1	4,4
Gauteng	8,9	6,2	3,3	5,0	5,1
Mpumalanga	11,5	6,5	5,1	6,1	6,4
Limpopo	8,6	8,0	4,8	6,3	8,0
RSA	8,3	5,6	3,5	4,3	4,8

Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

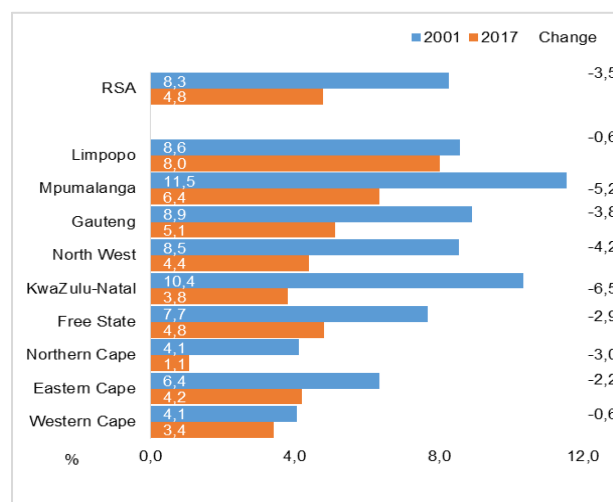
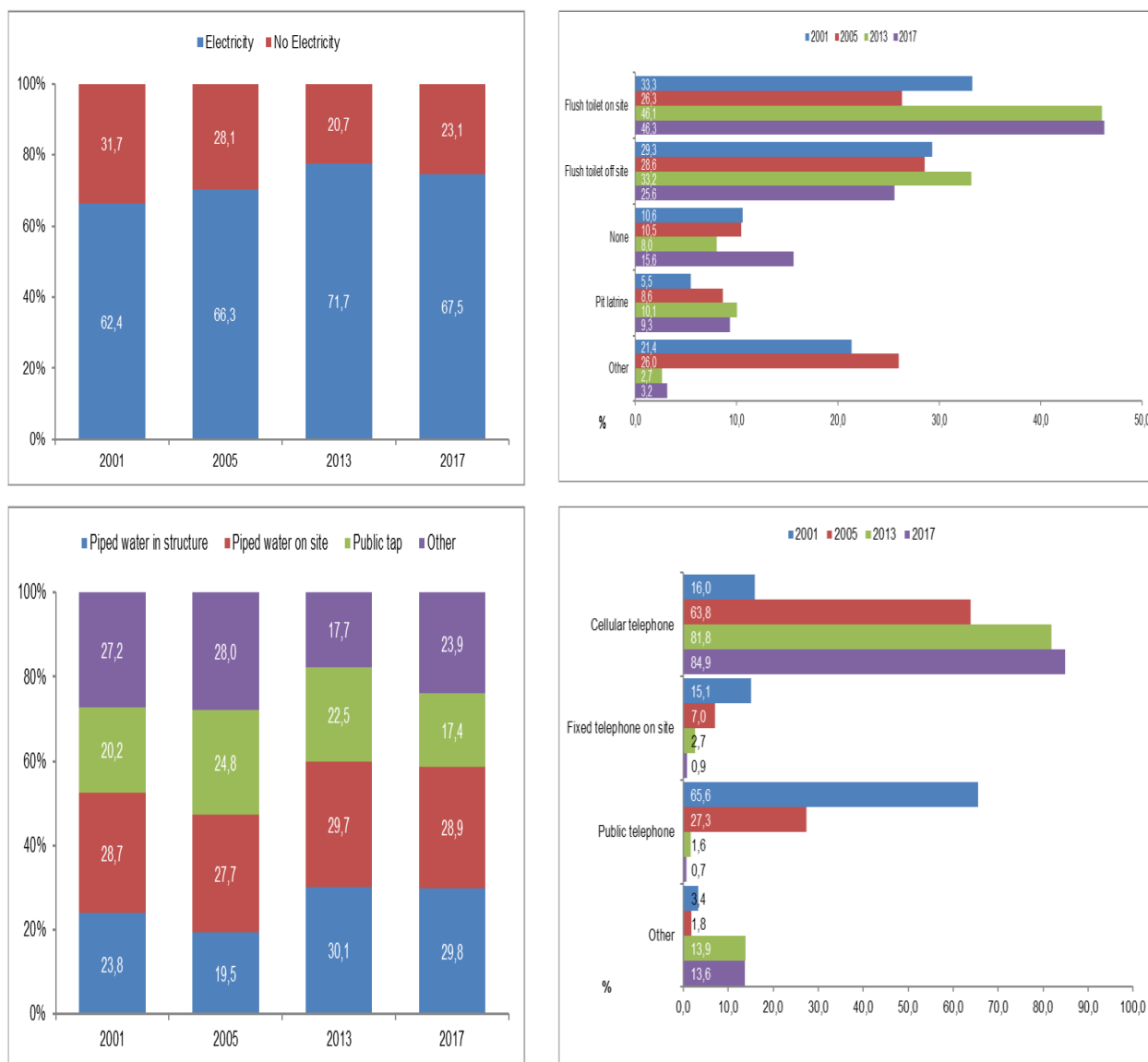
Figure 7: Proportion of the working-age population running non-VAT registered businesses by province, 2001 and 2017

Table 3 shows that the proportion of the working-age population running non-VAT registered businesses declined between 2001 and 2009 in all provinces, whereas in 2013 the proportion increased in six of the nine provinces but remained unchanged in Eastern Cape (3,6%), Free State (3,3%) and North West (3,1%). In 2017, the proportion for the working-age population running informal businesses increased in seven of the nine provinces compared to 2017. In 2017, the working-age population running informal businesses was highly concentrated in Limpopo (8,0%), followed by Mpumalanga (6,4%) and Gauteng (5,1%). On the other hand, KwaZulu-Natal, Western Cape and Northern Cape recorded the lowest proportions of the working-age population running informal businesses at 3,8%, 3,4% and 1,1%, respectively.

Figure 7 indicates that in 2017 compared to 2001, the proportion of the working-age population running informal businesses declined in every province. The largest decline was observed in KwaZulu-Natal (down by 6,5 percentage points), followed by Mpumalanga (down by 5,2 percentage points), while the lowest decline was recorded in Western Cape and Limpopo (both down by 0,6 of a percentage point).

6.3 Distribution of persons running non-VAT registered businesses

Figure 8: Access to amenities and services by persons running non-VAT registered businesses, 2001–2017



Note: Information on access to amenities was not collected in 2009.

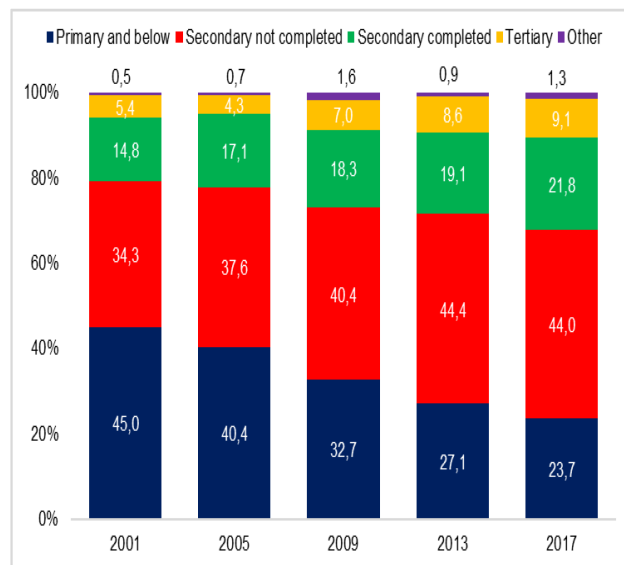
Figure 8 shows that more than one out of five persons (23,1%) running informal businesses had no electricity at their businesses; 9,3% only had a pit latrine, while as many as 15,6% had no toilet facilities available for their businesses in 2017. In addition, as many as 17,4% used water from a public tap while an additional 28,9% had piped water on site. As many as 8 out of persons had access to cellular telephones (84,9%) during this period. In 2001 about 65,6% of informal business owners had access to public phones but by 2017 this had declined to 0,7%.

Figure 9: Financial record-keeping by persons running non-VAT registered businesses, 2001–2017



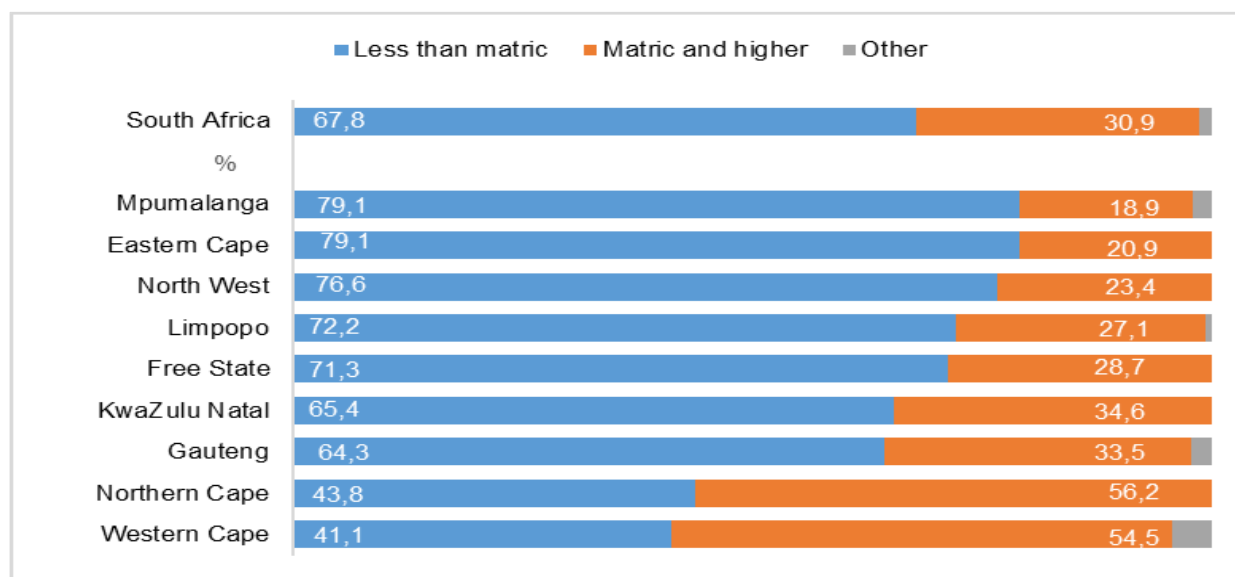
Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

Figure 10: Education profile of persons running non-VAT registered businesses, 2001–2017



Almost eight out of ten persons (78,9%) running informal businesses did not keep any records, while businesses that kept simple informal records and businesses that kept full annual accounts of their business transactions were 10,0% and 5,4% respectively in 2017; the latter two declined when compared to 2013 (Figure 9). During the period 2001 to 2017, there has been a decrease in the proportion of persons running non-VAT registered businesses who had less primary education, and there was an increase in those whose secondary education was not completed at 44% in 2017 from 34,3% in 2001. Similarly, there has been increases in those with secondary education completed and those who had tertiary education (Figure 10).

Figure 11: Education profile of persons running non-VAT registered businesses by province, 2017



Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

Figure 11 shows that in 2017 that the majority of persons running informal businesses had less than matric as their highest level of education. The share of informal business owners without matric was higher than the

national average in Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, North West, Limpopo and Free State. The share of those with educational levels of matric or higher was more than 50,0% in Western Cape and Northern Cape.

6.4 Licence to operate and location of non-VAT registered businesses

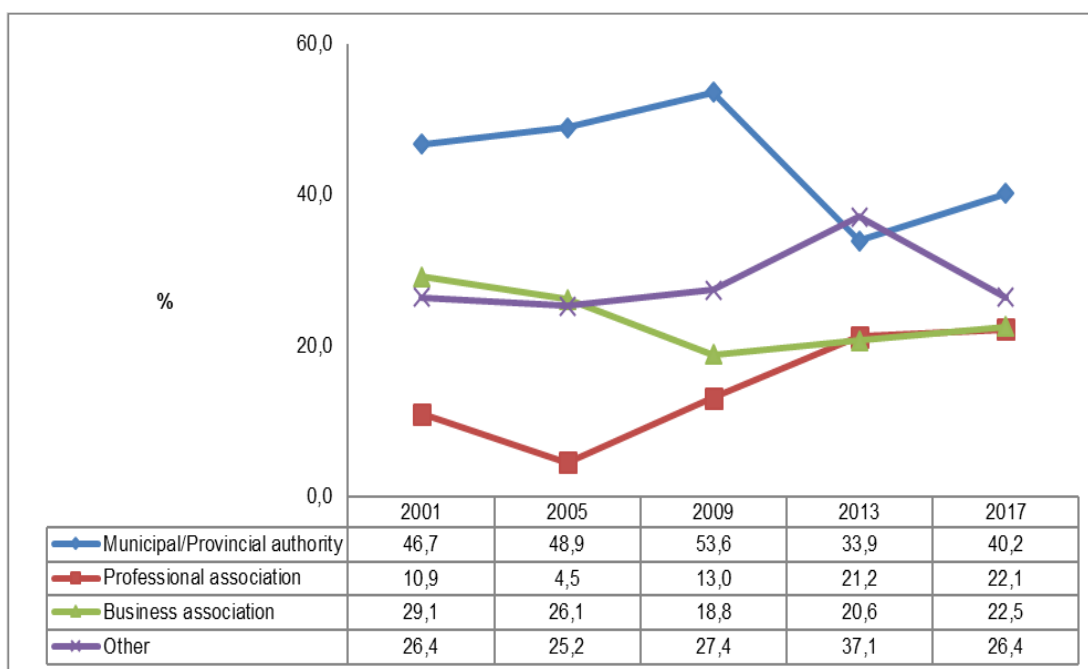
Table 4: Licence to operate a business and issuer of such licences for persons running non-VAT registered businesses, 2001–2017

	2001	2005	2009	2013	2017
If a business has a licence(s) or permit(s)	Per cent				
Yes	7,3	10,6	12,1	12,5	8,2
No	92,7	89,4	87,9	87,5	91,8
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Issuing authority for those who said yes					
Municipal/provincial authority	46,6	48,5	53,5	33,8	40,2
Professional association	10,7	4,8	12,9	20,9	22,1
Business association	28,9	26,1	18,8	20,5	22,5
Regional services council	8,7	4,1	1,0	-	-
Traditional leader	8,2	8,1	9,1	5,3	14,2
Protection agency/ies	1,6	5,9	-	1,4	2,7
Friend/relative	3,1	2,4	6,2	1,4	1,7
Other	4,8	4,7	11,1	29,0	7,8

Note: Persons may fall into more than one category as respondents were asked to indicate the all-issuing authority

Table 4 shows that in 2017, the proportion of persons who had a licence or a permit to run informal businesses was 8,2%, and those who did so without a licence or permit constituted 91,8%. The majority of those who had licences/permits to operate a business obtained them from a municipality/provincial authority (40,2%), followed by business associations (22,5%) and professional associations (22,1%). Over the period from 2001 to 2017, the majority of those businesses (above 85%) were operating without a licence or permit.

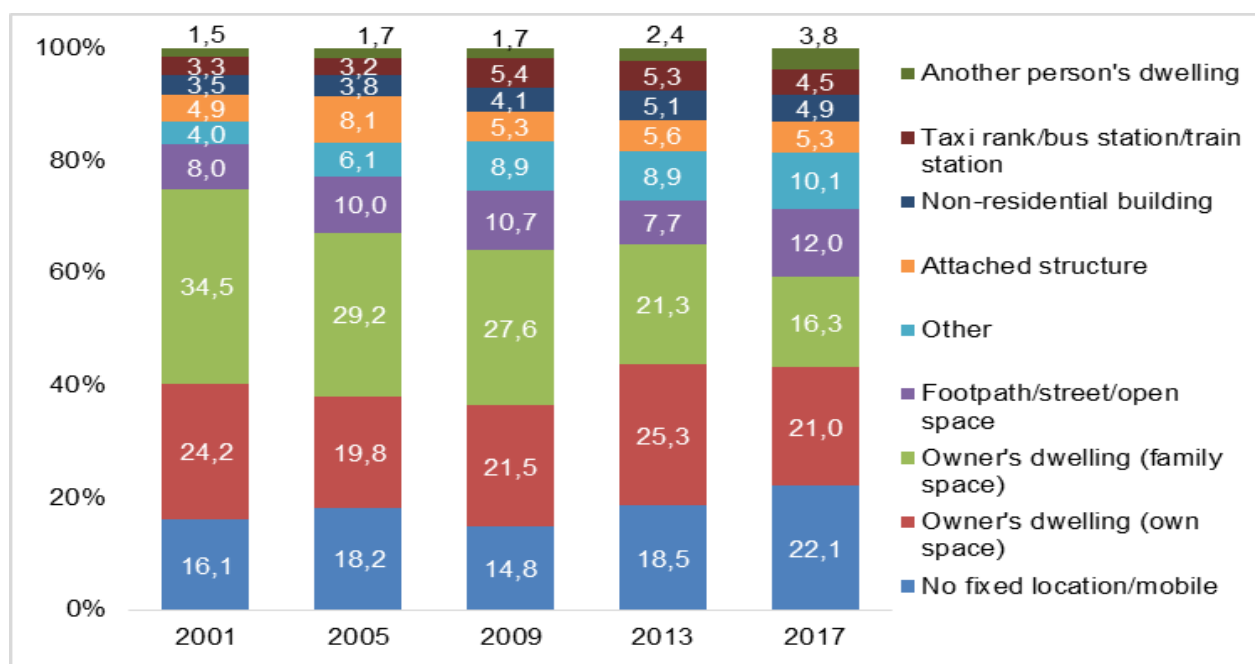
Figure 12: Proportion of persons running non-VAT registered businesses by type of licence/permit, 2001–2017



Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories. Persons may fall into more than one category as respondents were asked to indicate all issuing authority.

Over the period 2001 to 2017, most self-employed persons owning non-VAT registered businesses acquired their licences/permits from a municipal/provincial authority and these ranged from 33,8% to 53,5%. A decrease was recorded in 2013 for persons who obtained their licences/permits from a municipal/provincial authority after an observed steady increase from 2001 to 2009, and then declining to 40,2% in 2017. Those with licences/permits from business associations started increasing from 2013 to 2017, until they reached 22,5% in 2017. The percentage of persons who received licences/permits to operate their businesses from professional associations declined to 4,8% in 2005, which was the lowest percentage recorded for this period. Thereafter it increased to 22,1% in 2017.

Figure 13: Proportion of persons running non-VAT registered businesses by location, 2001–2017



Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories (Other includes Market, Customer's home/offices.)

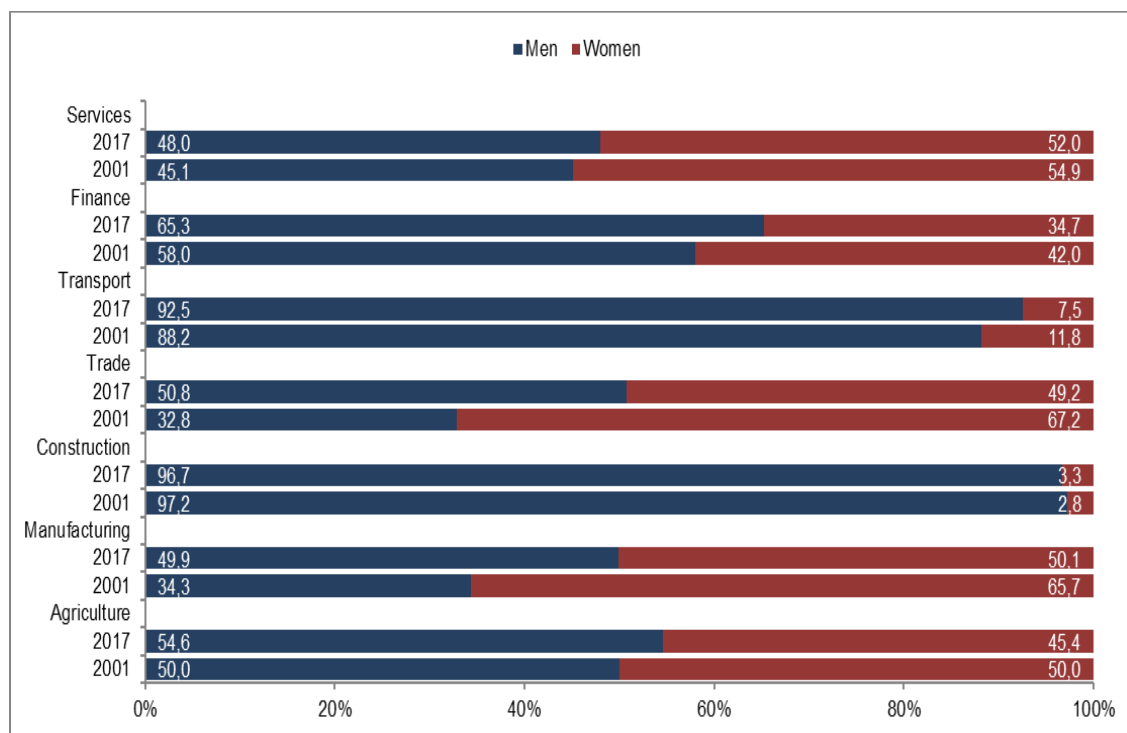
In 2001, most persons (34,5%) who had informal businesses operated their informal businesses from the owner's dwelling within the family space; this proportion declined to 16,3% in 2017 (Figure 13). A separate space reserved for the business at the owner's dwelling was the second most utilised location as recorded for 2001 (24,2%) and 2017 (21%). For the periods 2001 and 2017, another's person's dwelling was reported as the least likely location for an informal business owner to set up shop, at 1,5% and 3,8% for 2001 and 2017, respectively.

Table 5: Industry of non-VAT registered businesses, 2001–2017

	2001	2005	2009	2013	2017
	Per cent				
Agriculture	0,5	1,0	0,8	0,7	1,6
Manufacturing	10,7	12,1	9,6	7,4	7,3
Construction	3,2	5,8	10,3	10,7	12,0
Trade	69,6	66,1	57,0	54,4	51,5
Transport	3,3	4,4	3,7	6,2	5,8
Finance	5,8	3,5	3,1	7,6	7,9
Community and social services	6,8	6,9	10,5	13,1	12,2
Unspecified	0,1	0,1	4,9	0,0	0,0
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

The Trade industry reported the highest percentage of informal businesses over the period 2001 to 2017. The highest proportions in Trade were observed for the period 2001 to 2009, ranging from 69,6% in 2001 to 57,0% in 2009, then decreasing to 51,5% in 2017. Over the period 2001 to 2017, Agriculture, Construction, Community and social services, Transport and Finance reported increases in their share of non-VAT registered businesses, while the remaining industries experience decreases in their share.

Figure 14: Persons running non-VAT registered businesses by industry and sex, 2001 and 2017

Most men who were involved in informal businesses were in the Construction, Transport and Finance industries in both 2001 and 2017. For the same period, women were more likely to be involved in informal businesses in the Manufacturing and Community and social services industries. There was an increase of males from 50,0% in 2001 to 54,6% in 2017 reported in the Agricultural industry, and in Trade from 32,8% in 2001 to 50,8% in 2017.

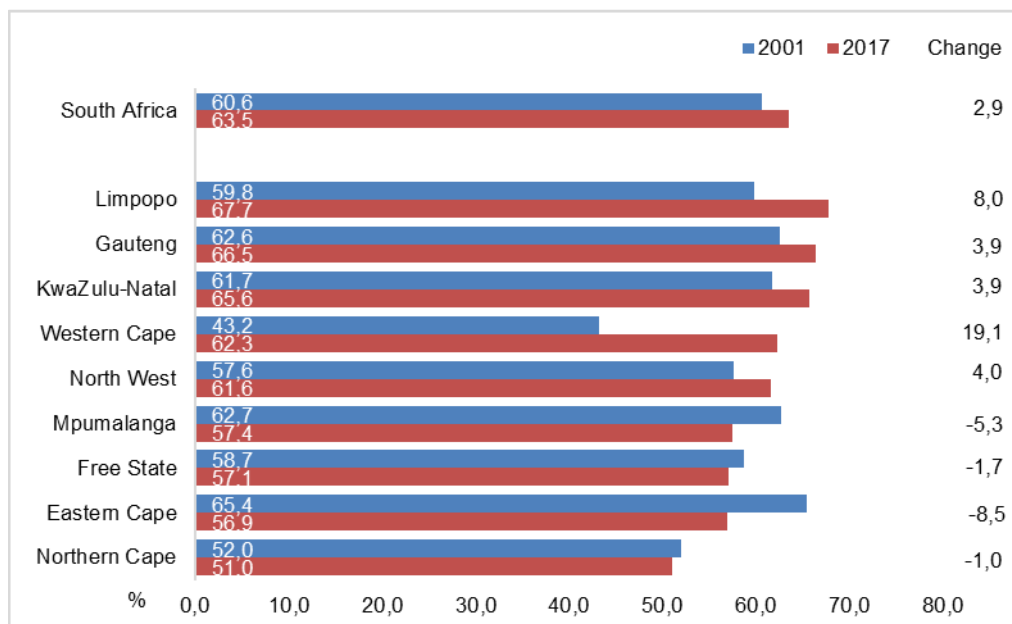
6.5 Reasons and sources of money for starting non-VAT registered businesses

Table 6: Main reason for running non-VAT registered businesses, 2001–2017

Reason	2001	2005	2009	2013	2017
	Per cent				
Inherited/family tradition	4,2	3,5	4,6	4,0	4,0
Unemployed/have no alternative income source	60,6	68,2	68,3	69,2	63,5
Retrenched	4,7	4,2	3,9	3,8	3,5
Inadequate income from the other source	12,3	3,9	3,9	3,0	1,5
I like the activity	4,8	8,2	5,0	3,8	4,1
I have the skills	5,1	4,1	8,3	7,1	7,0
I have the equipment	1,1	0,3	0,1	0,2	0,2
Activity brings high income	2,8	2,6	1,6	1,0	0,2
Small investment needed	1,8	1,0	0,8	0,2	0,0
Unhappy with previous work	1,1	1,1	1,8	1,7	1,4
Other	1,3	2,9	1,7	5,9	14,6
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Unemployment was recorded as the main reason people decided to start an informal business; people stating this reason ranged from 60,6% in 2001 to 63,5% in 2017. The second reason recorded in 2001 was inadequate income from the other source (12,3%), but this changed in 2017 with the second commonly stated reason reported being people feeling that they had the skills to run the business they were operating (7,0%).

Figure 15: Provincial distribution of unemployed persons running non-VAT registered businesses, 2001 and 2017



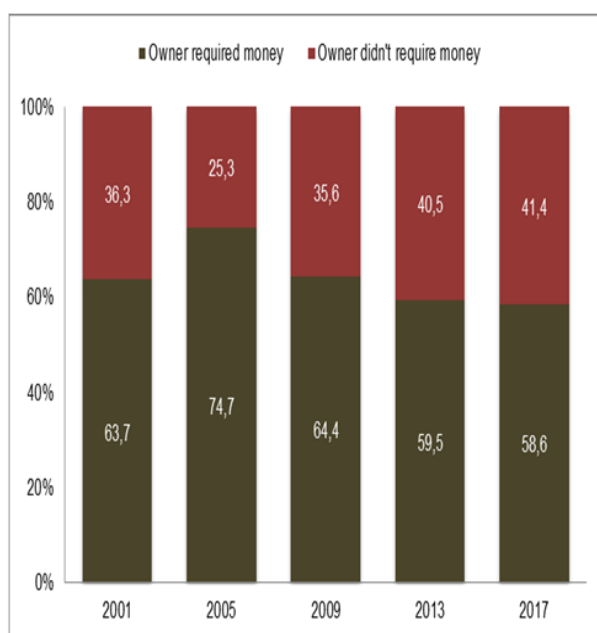
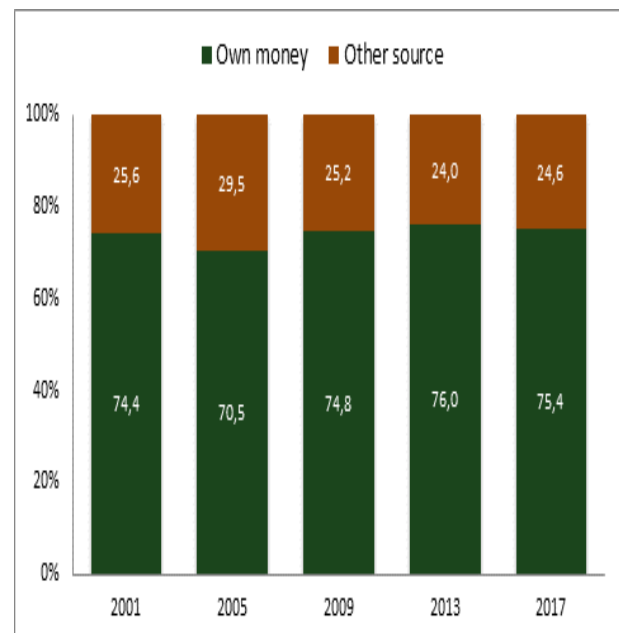
Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

Five of the nine provinces reported increases in the proportion of people who reported unemployment as the main reason they started their informal business, with the exception of Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga, Free State and Northern Cape over the period 2001 to 2017. Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal recorded similar increases, of 3,9% in 2017 compared to 2001 of people who stated unemployment as the reason for starting their businesses.

Table 7: Source of money to start non-VAT registered businesses, 2001–2017

	2001	2005	2009	2013	2017
Whether or not money was needed	Per cent				
Yes	63,7	74,7	64,4	59,5	58,6
No	36,3	25,3	35,6	40,5	41,4
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Source of money					
Own money	74,4	70,5	74,8	76,0	75,4
Other source	25,6	29,5	25,2	24,0	24,6
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Those who use their own money					
Source of own money					
Previous and/or present wage employment	44,1	57,9	47,4	53,8	56,8
Other business	3,2	4,4	3,1	2,8	4,4
Sale of livestock/crops	2,9	1,6	3,3	2,0	1,5
Sale of other assets	5,2	3,4	4,5	2,7	2,3
Inheritance	5,3	6,0	6,2	3,0	3,6
Pension from work	3,5	2,2	3,3	4,0	3,6
Retirement/severance pay	5,2	2,6	5,2	4,4	3,2
A policy that matured	0,6	0,2	0,5	0,1	0,1
Money paid out from a stokvel	6,0	2,3	8,8	5,8	5,9
Other	24,1	19,4	17,6	21,3	8,5
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Throughout the period under review, the majority of persons running non-VAT registered businesses needed money to start them as shown in Table 7. Most informal business owners used their own money to start their businesses, ranging from 74,4% in 2001 to 75,4% in 2017. The highest source of the money used to start the businesses was money earned from previous/present wage employment.

Figure 16: Whether money was needed to start non-VAT registered businesses, 2001–2017**Figure 17: Source of money to start non-VAT registered businesses, 2001–2017**

The highest proportion of people who needed money to start an informal business was reported in 2005 at 74,7%, followed by 2009 at 64,4%. In 2017 the proportion of those who needed money declined to 58,6% (Figure 16). Although 2005 reported the highest proportion of people who required money to start their businesses, the lowest proportion of people who used their own money (70,5%) was reported in the same period (Figure 17).

6.6 Access to loans to start non-VAT registered businesses

Figure 18: Proportion of those who borrowed money to start a non-VAT registered business by source of money, 2001–2017

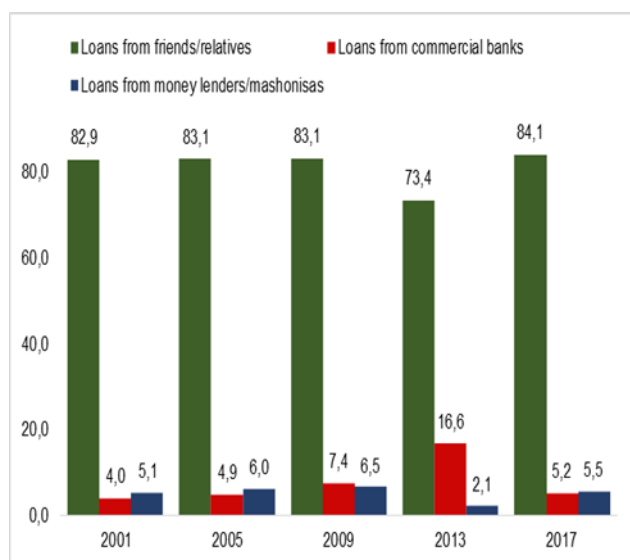


Figure 19: Proportion of those running non-VAT registered businesses who had business debts, 2001–2017

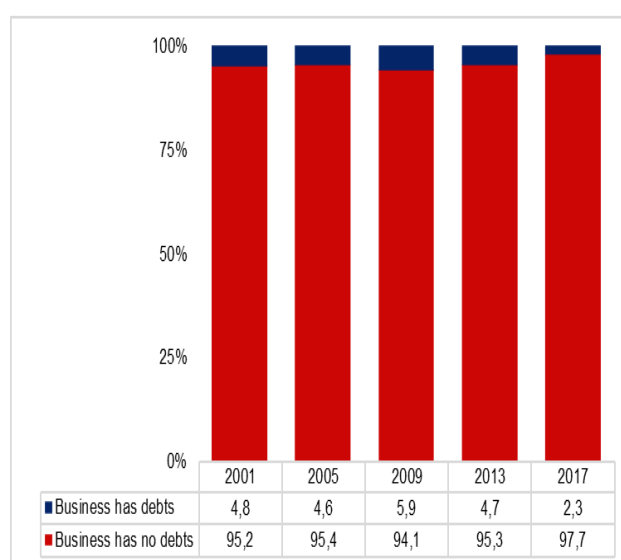


Figure 18 shows that throughout the period from 2001 to 2017, more than 80% of persons running non-VAT registered businesses borrowed money from friends/relatives, except in 2013 when the rate was 73,4%. Loans from commercial banks were the second highest source of money to start informal businesses in both 2009 and 2013. The vast majority of non-VAT registered businesses had no debts in all periods of the survey. In 2009 only 5,9% of these businesses had debts, which was the highest among all the years, while in 2017 only 2,3% had business debts (Figure 19).

6.7 Use of raw materials and supplies by non-VAT registered businesses

Table 8: Proportion of those who used raw materials by industry, 2001–2017

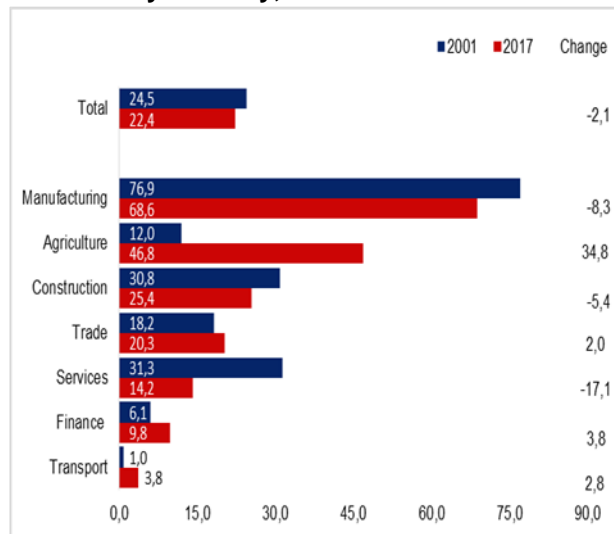
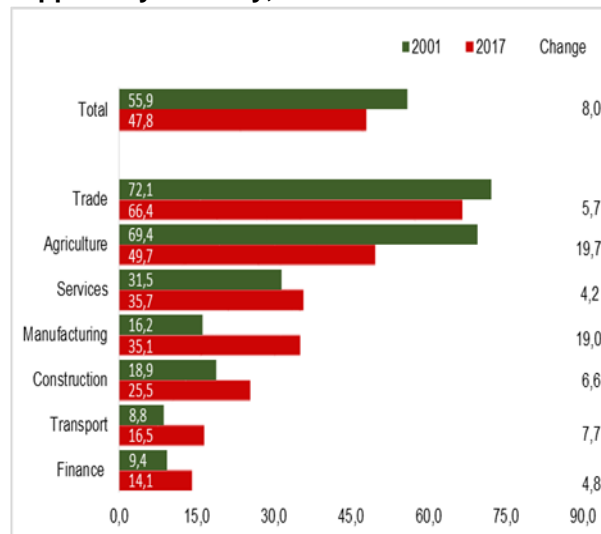
Use of raw materials	2001	2005	2009	2013	2017
Per cent					
Agriculture	9,1	35,3	50,0	45,5	46,8
Manufacturing	76,9	81,1	80,0	75,0	68,6
Construction	31,0	26,8	20,3	18,5	25,4
Trade	18,3	14,0	8,4	16,2	20,3
Transport	1,3	1,4	4,7	3,2	3,8
Finance	6,1	23,7	14,3	6,1	9,8
Services	31,4	42,2	28,3	15,7	14,2
Total	24,4	24,8	19,5	19,5	22,4

In both 2001 and 2005, close to a quarter of persons who were running informal businesses used raw materials. However, the proportion declined to its lowest at 19,5% in 2009 and 2013 before increasing to 22,4% in 2017. Persons working in the informal manufacturing industry had a higher proportion of using raw materials when compared to other industries. Over the period 2001 to 2017, the use of raw materials by the informal manufacturing industry was above 65%.

Table 9: Proportion of those who used supplies by industry, 2001–2017

Used supplies	2001	2005	2009	2013	2017
Per cent					
Agriculture	72,7	52,9	30,0	27,3	49,7
Manufacturing	16,1	19,4	13,6	14,3	35,1
Construction	18,3	22,7	12,7	14,8	25,5
Trade	72,1	86,8	77,3	65,1	66,4
Transport	9,2	20,5	27,9	16,1	16,5
Finance	9,2	52,5	22,9	9,6	14,1
Services	31,4	37,9	27,5	18,2	35,7
Total	55,8	67,0	54,5	42,3	47,8

Table 9 shows that the use of supplies by persons running informal businesses decreased from 55,8% in 2001 to 47,8% in 2017. The highest use of supplies by informal businesses was observed in 2005, at 67,0%. People running informal businesses in the trade industry had a higher proportion when compared to other industries that used supplies during the period, and their use ranged from 72,1% in 2001 to 66,4% in 2017.

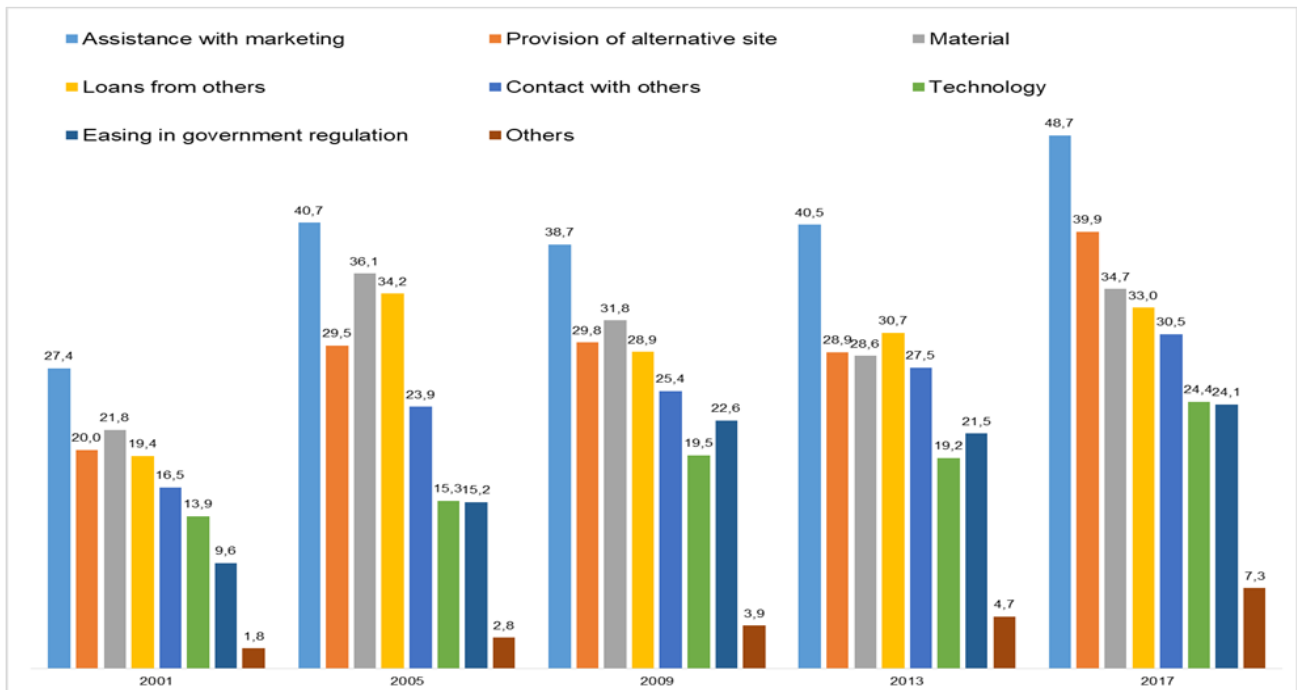
Figure 20: Proportion of those who used raw materials by industry, 2001 and 2017**Figure 21: Proportion of those who used supplies by industry, 2001 and 2017**

Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

Between 2001 and 2017, the share of who use of raw materials in their businesses decreased by 2,0 percentage points, while the share of those using supplies also declined by 8,0 percentage points. A large share of informal businesses in the Manufacturing industry used raw materials as depicted in Figure 20. However, this share decreased from 76,9% in 2001 to 68,6% in 2017. More than 40% of those in the Agriculture industry used both raw materials and supplies compared to businesses in other industries in 2017. The percentage of businesses in Construction and Community and social services using raw materials also declined between 2001 and 2017. Figure 21 shows that supplies were mainly used by businesses that were in the Trade and Agriculture industries.

6.8 Types of assistance needed by persons running non-VAT registered businesses

Figure 22: Proportion of those who needed various types of assistance, 2001–2017



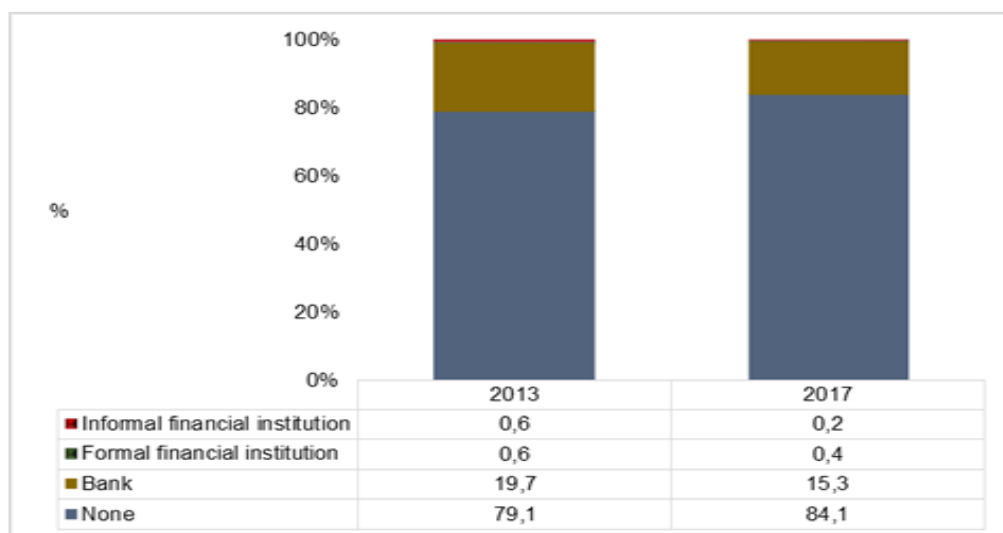
Note: Percentages are independent of each other since people may fall into more than one category.

For all the years from 2001 to 2017, persons running informal businesses stated marketing as the most required assistance, ranging from 27,4% in 2001 to 48,7% in 2017. In 2001 those who needed assistance with provision of an alternative site accounted for 20%; this increased to 29,5% in 2005 where it hovered around 29% until 2013, then increasing to 39,9% in 2017.

6.9 Financial inclusion of persons running non-VAT registered businesses

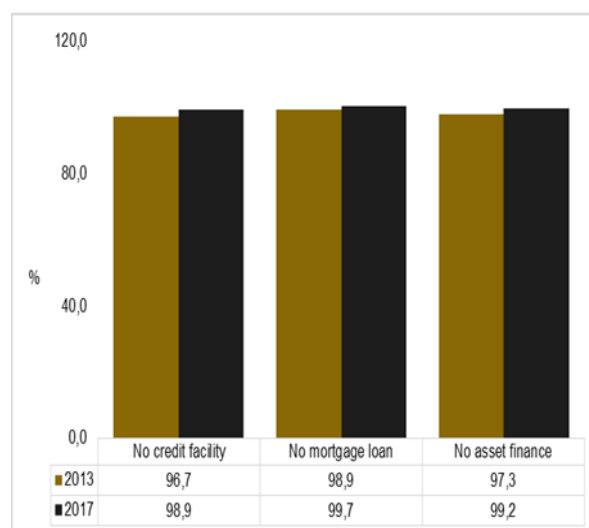
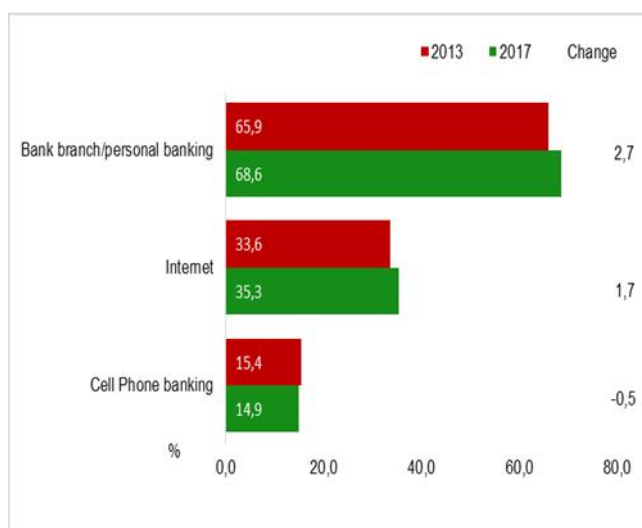
This section covers several questions that provide insight into the degree of financial awareness and integration of persons who were running informal businesses into modern financial arrangements available to business owners.

Figure 23: Institution where account held, 2013–2017



Nearly eight out of ten persons (79,1%) in 2013 running informal businesses had no savings, transactional or current accounts, and this increased to 84,1% in 2017. About 15,3% of persons in informal businesses in 2017 had bank accounts (Figure 23).

Figure 24: Mechanism for business payments, 2013–2017 **Figure 25: Access to finance, 2013–2017**



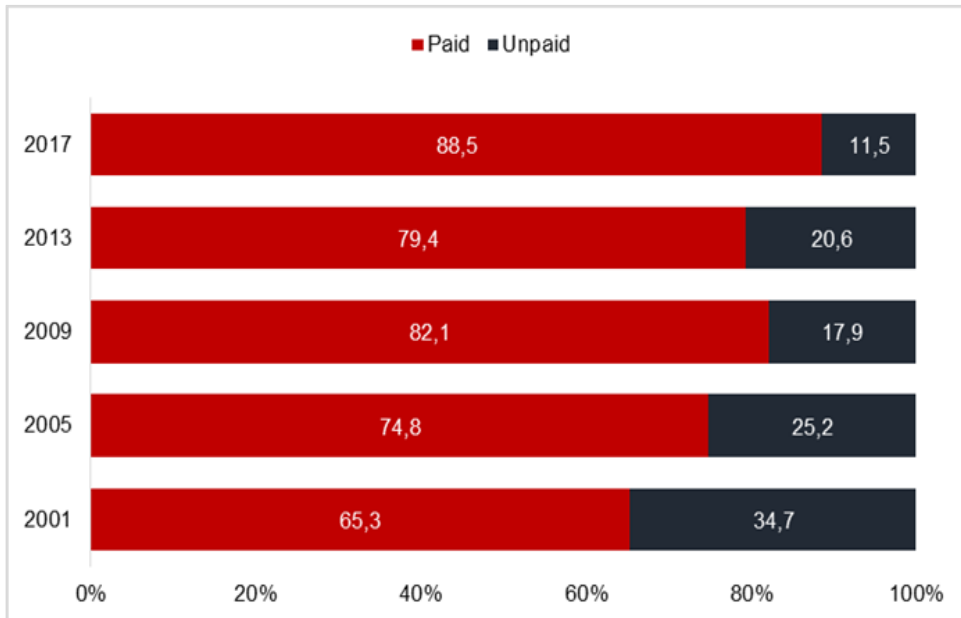
Note: Percentages are independent of each other since people may fall into more than one category.

In both 2013 and 2017, among those who had bank accounts, more than 65% used them as a mechanism to make business payments, while more than a third used the internet. In 2017, 14,9% of informal businesses used cell phone banking to make payments; this was a decline of 0,5 of a percentage point from 2013. The

proportion of informal businesses that had no credit facility, mortgage loan or asset finance increased between 2013 and 2017.

6.10 Employment and labour costs of non-VAT registered businesses

Figure 26: Proportion of those who have paid and unpaid employees



Between 2001 and 2017, paid employees accounted for the bigger share of employees working in informal businesses. The proportion of paid employees increased from 65,3% in 2001 to 88,5% in 2017 - an increase of 23,2 percentage points. Inversely, in 2001, 34,7% of employees in non-VAT registered businesses were unpaid; however, this declined to 11,5% in 2017 (Figure 26).

Table 10: Employees in non-VAT registered businesses by industry, 2001–2017

Industry	2001	2005	2009	2013	2017	2017
Per cent						Thousand
Agriculture	0,5	2,5	0,5	2,3	2,7	20
Manufacturing	9,2	11,5	8,4	5,5	8,7	67
Construction	15,8	15,7	31,7	22,8	33,3	254
Trade	47,9	41,5	27,6	34,5	24,4	186
Transport	12,0	4,2	5,8	5,2	8,1	62
Finance	6,4	14,5	3,1	3,7	6,1	47
Services	8,1	10,1	20,0	26,1	16,6	126
Private households	0,1		2,8		0,0	
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	761

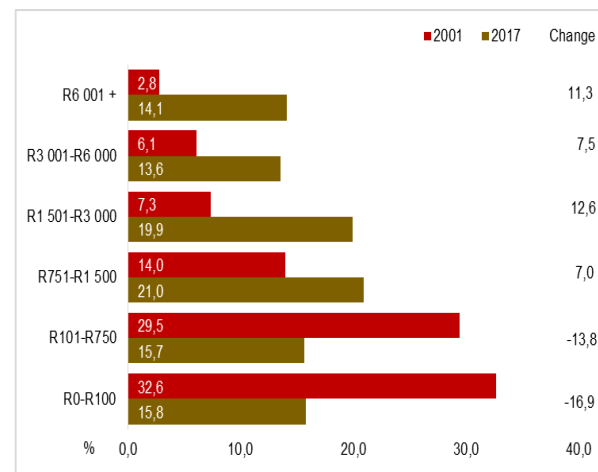
Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

In 2017, a third (33,3%) of employees of non-VAT registered businesses were working in the Construction industry. In 2001, the Trade industry employed the highest proportion of employees at 47,9%, but it declined to 24,4% in 2017. Agriculture accounted for the lowest share of employees at 2,7% in 2017.

Table 11: Total labour costs in the last month of employers running non-VAT registered businesses, 2001–2017

Labour costs	2001	2005	2009	2013	2017
	Per cent				
R0-R100	32,6	13,0	21,9	23,3	15,8
R101-R750	29,5	32,3	28,0	20,8	15,7
R751-R1 500	14,0	12,7	17,3	19,3	21,0
R1 501-R3 000	7,3	10,7	12,4	15,8	19,9
R3 001-R6 000	6,1	2,8	13,7	10,4	13,6
R6 001 +	2,8	4,9	6,6	10,4	14,1
Unspecified	7,7	23,5	0,0	0,0	0,0
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Figure 27: Total labour costs in the last month of employers running non-VAT registered businesses, 2001 and 2017



Note: No adjustment for inflation over the period has been undertaken. Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

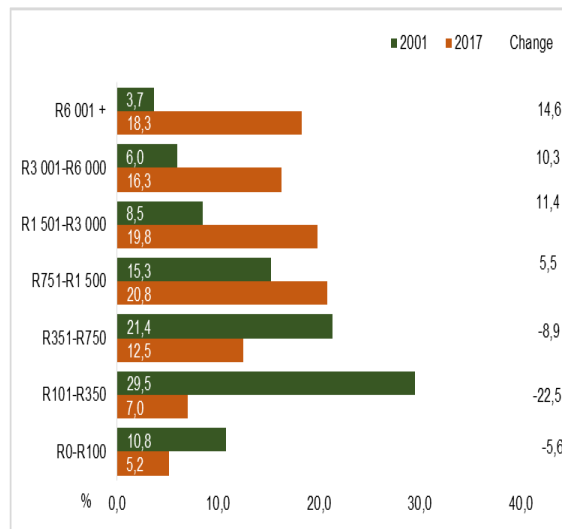
Table 11 shows that over the period 2001–2017, the majority of the employers running non-VAT registered businesses had labour costs below R1 500 in the month preceding the survey interview. The proportion of employers with labour costs of R100 or lower declined from 32,6% in 2001 to 15,8% in 2017. For those with labour costs between R101–R750, the proportion declined from 29,5% to 15,7% over the period 2001–2017. The proportion of those with labour costs ranging from R751–R1 500 increased from 14,0% to 21,0%. The largest increase in the proportions of employers running non-VAT registered businesses was observed among those with total labour costs of R1 501–R3 000 (an increase of 12,6 percentage points), followed by those with total labour costs of R6 001+ (11,3 percentage points) as shown in Figure 27.

6.11 Turnover and net profit of non-VAT registered businesses

Table 12: Turnover in the last month of persons running non-VAT registered businesses, 2001–2017

Turnover	2001	2005	2009	2013	2017
	Per cent				
R0-R100	10,8	11,4	8,8	8,2	5,2
R101-R350	29,5	21,4	14,5	11,0	7,0
R351-R750	21,4	23,3	18,7	13,8	12,5
R751-R1 500	15,3	17,0	19,9	19,3	20,8
R1 501-R3 000	8,5	12,2	15,8	18,5	19,8
R3 001-R6 000	6,0	7,0	10,8	14,6	16,3
R6 001 +	3,7	7,4	11,5	14,6	18,3
Unspecified	4,9	0,3	0,0	0,0	0,0
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Figure 28: Turnover in the last month of persons running non-VAT registered businesses, 2001 and 2017



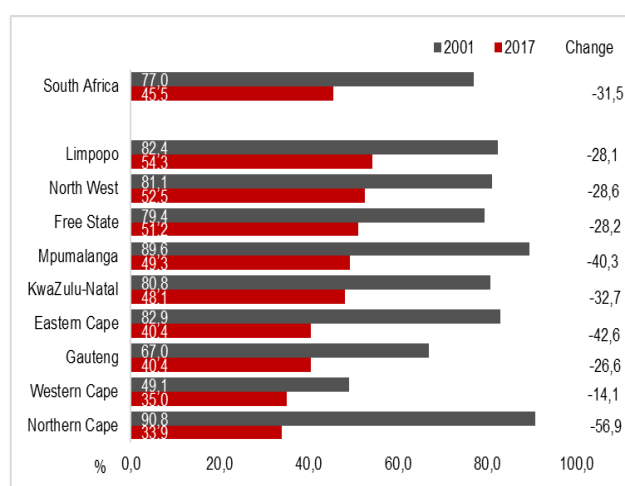
Note: No adjustment for inflation over the period has been undertaken. Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

Table 12 shows that over the period 2001–2017, the proportion of people with businesses in the lowest turnover categories declined while in higher categories, the proportions increased as shown in Table 12 and Figure 28. During this period, the largest increase was among those who had businesses with a turnover of R6 001+ (up by 14,6 percentage points), followed by those with a turnover of R1 501–R3 000 (up by 11,4 percentage points). The largest decline of 22,5 percentage points was observed among those with a turnover of R101–R350.

Table 13: Turnover of R0–R1 500 in the last month of persons running non-VAT registered businesses by province, 2001–2017

Province	2001	2005	2009	2013	2017
	Per cent				
Western Cape	49,1	62,4	35,7	48,1	35,0
Eastern Cape	82,9	76,8	71,2	56,3	40,4
Northern Cape	90,8	77,9	46,4	44,5	33,9
Free State	79,4	74,9	67,0	42,5	51,2
KwaZulu-Natal	80,8	76,8	65,8	53,1	48,1
North West	81,1	75,7	59,0	37,3	52,5
Gauteng	67,0	61,6	54,5	48,8	40,4
Mpumalanga	89,6	80,2	65,1	63,1	49,3
Limpopo	82,4	83,0	71,4	57,7	54,3
South Africa	77,0	73,1	61,9	52,3	45,5

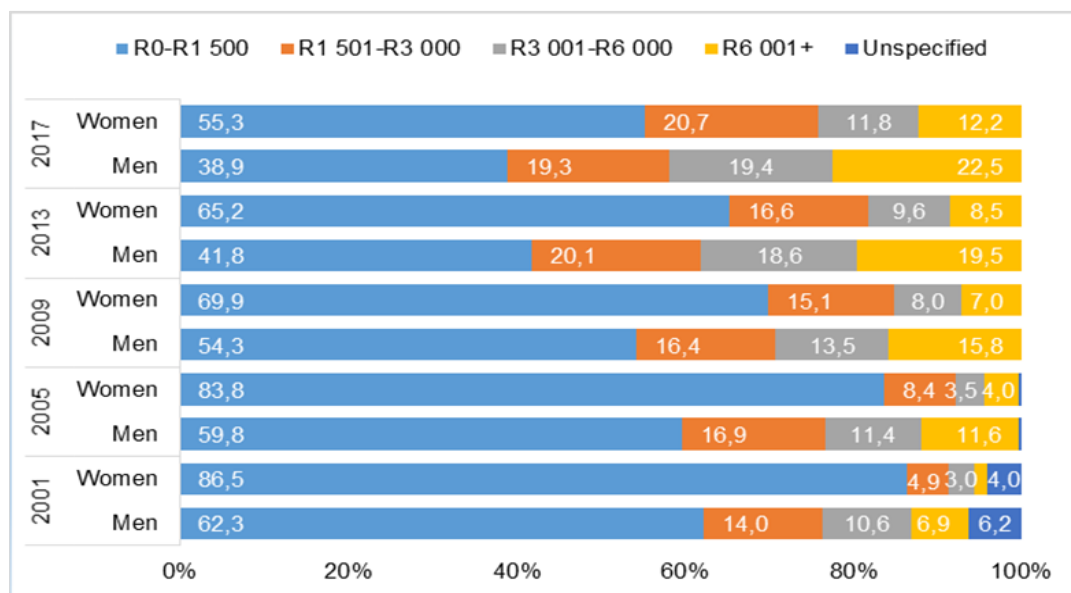
Figure 29: Turnover of R0–R1 500 in the last month of persons running non-VAT registered businesses by province, 2001 and 2017



Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

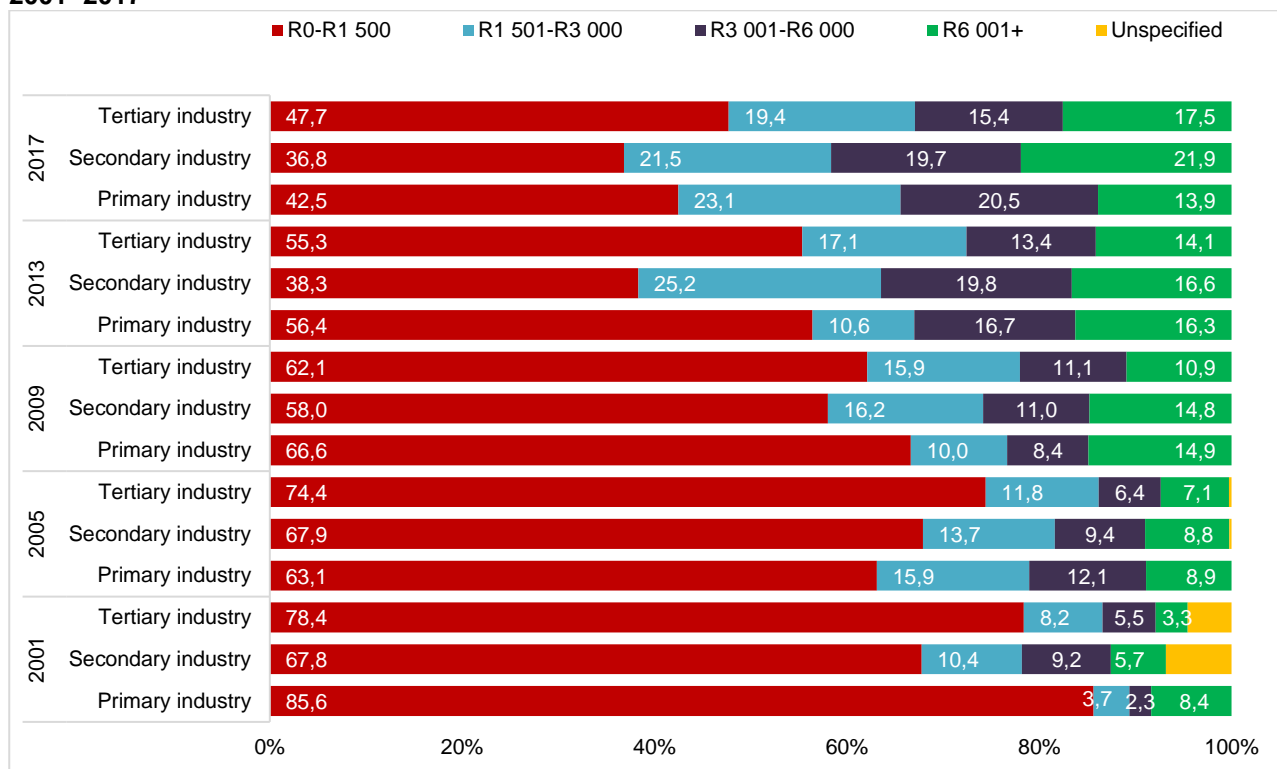
In 2001, all provinces – with the exception of Limpopo and Western Cape – reflected their highest proportions of persons running informal businesses with a turnover of R0–R1 500 compared to other years. For Limpopo (83,0%) and Western Cape (62,4%), their highest proportions were recorded in 2005 over the period 2001 to 2017. Figure 29 indicates that the proportion of persons running informal businesses with a turnover of R0–R1 500 declined in all provinces. The largest decline was observed in Northern Cape (down by 56,9 percentage points), followed by Eastern Cape (down by 42,6 percentage points) and Mpumalanga (down by 40,3 percentage points). Western Cape was the only province with a decline below 20,0 percentage points..

Figure 30: Turnover in the last month of persons running non-VAT registered businesses by sex, 2001–2017



Note: No adjustment for inflation over the period has been undertaken. Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

Over the period 2001–2017, the proportions of persons running informal businesses with a turnover below R3 000 were higher among women compared to men, while the opposite was observed for those with a turnover of R3 001–R6 000 and R6 001 or more. The largest proportions among women were observed for those with a turnover of R0–R1 500 over the period. However, their proportions have been decreasing, with the highest proportion recorded in 2001 (86,5%) followed by 2005 (83,8%), while the lowest was observed in 2017 (55,3%). Even though a turnover of above R6 000 increased for both men and women over the period 2001–2017, a large gender gap is observed. In 2017, men recorded a proportion of 22,5% compared to 12,2% for women in this turnover bracket.

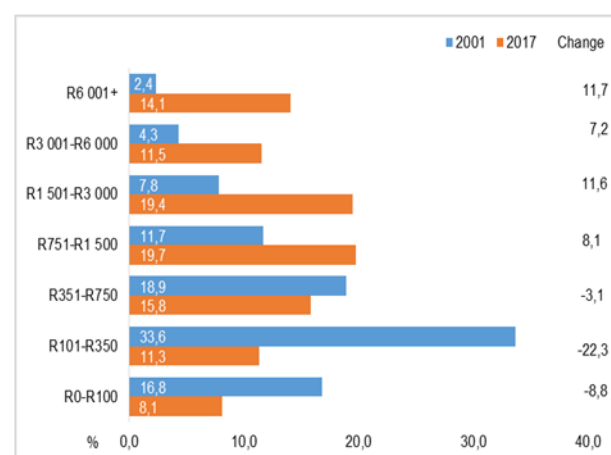
Figure 31: Turnover in the last month of persons running non-VAT registered businesses by industry, 2001–2017

Note: No adjustment for inflation over the period has been undertaken. Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

For all industries, a turnover of R0–R1 500 had the largest proportions, ranging between 40,0% and 90,0% with the exception of the secondary industries in 2013 and 2017. Among those with a turnover above R6 000, the proportions increased over the period. For those in the primary industries, the proportion increased from 8,4% in 2001 to 13,9% in 2017 compared to 5,7% in 2001 to 21,9% in 2017 for the secondary industries, and an increase from 3,3% in 2001 to 17,5% in 2017 for the tertiary industries.

Table 14: Net profits in the last month of persons running non-VAT registered businesses, 2001–2017

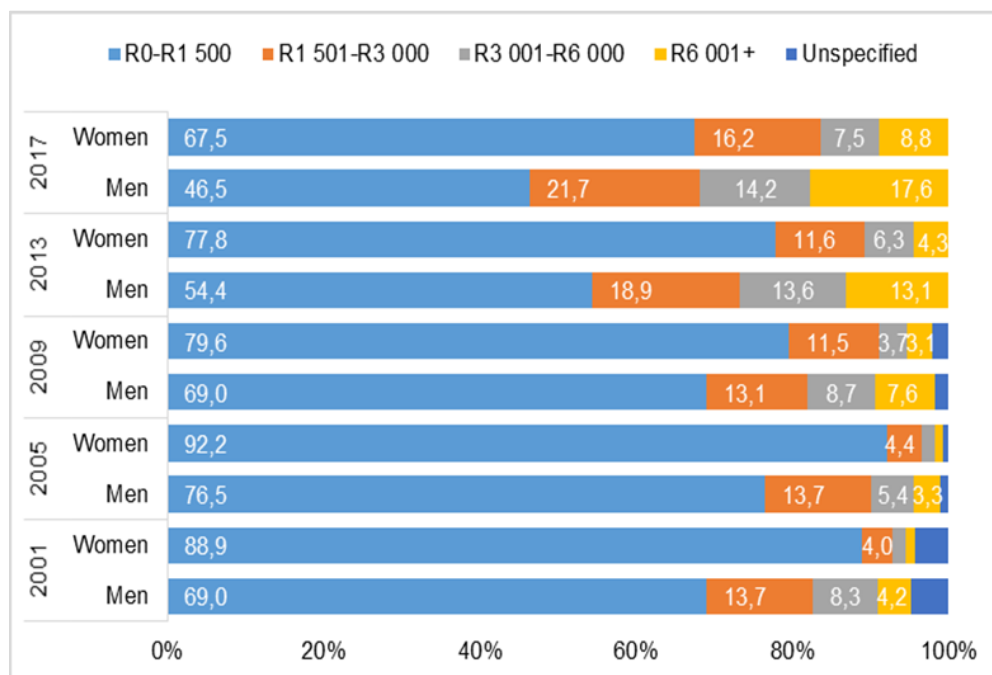
Net profits	2001	2005	2009	2013	2017
R0-R100	16,8	24,0	16,3	12,8	8,1
R101-R350	33,6	29,2	21,8	15,9	11,3
351-R750	18,9	18,7	20,4	18,3	15,8
R751-R1 500	11,7	13,4	15,6	17,9	19,7
R1 501-R3 000	7,8	8,5	12,3	15,6	19,4
R3 001-R6 000	4,3	3,3	6,2	10,3	11,5
R6 001+	2,4	2,1	5,4	9,2	14,1
Unspecified	4,5	0,8	1,9	0,0	0,0

Figure 32: Net profits in the last month of persons running non-VAT registered businesses, 2001 and 2017

Note: No adjustment for inflation over the period has been undertaken. Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

The results in Table 14 and Figure 32 show a general improvement in the net profits earned by persons running informal businesses over the period 2001–2017. In 2001, the proportions of persons who earned profits below R1 501 were higher, with the those making net profit of R101–R350 accounting for the largest share (33,6%). Those with net profits above R6 001 and R3 001–R6 000 accounted for 2,4% and 4,3% of informal business owners net profits, respectively. The proportions declined only for those who earned net profits less than R751. The highest decline of 22,3 percentage points was observed among those with net profits of R101–R350, followed by those who recorded R0–R100 (8,8 percentage points) and R351–R750 (3,1 percentage points) as net profits. The largest increase occurred among those who earned above R6 000 (11,7 percentage points), followed by those who earned R1 501–R3 000 (11,6 percentage points).

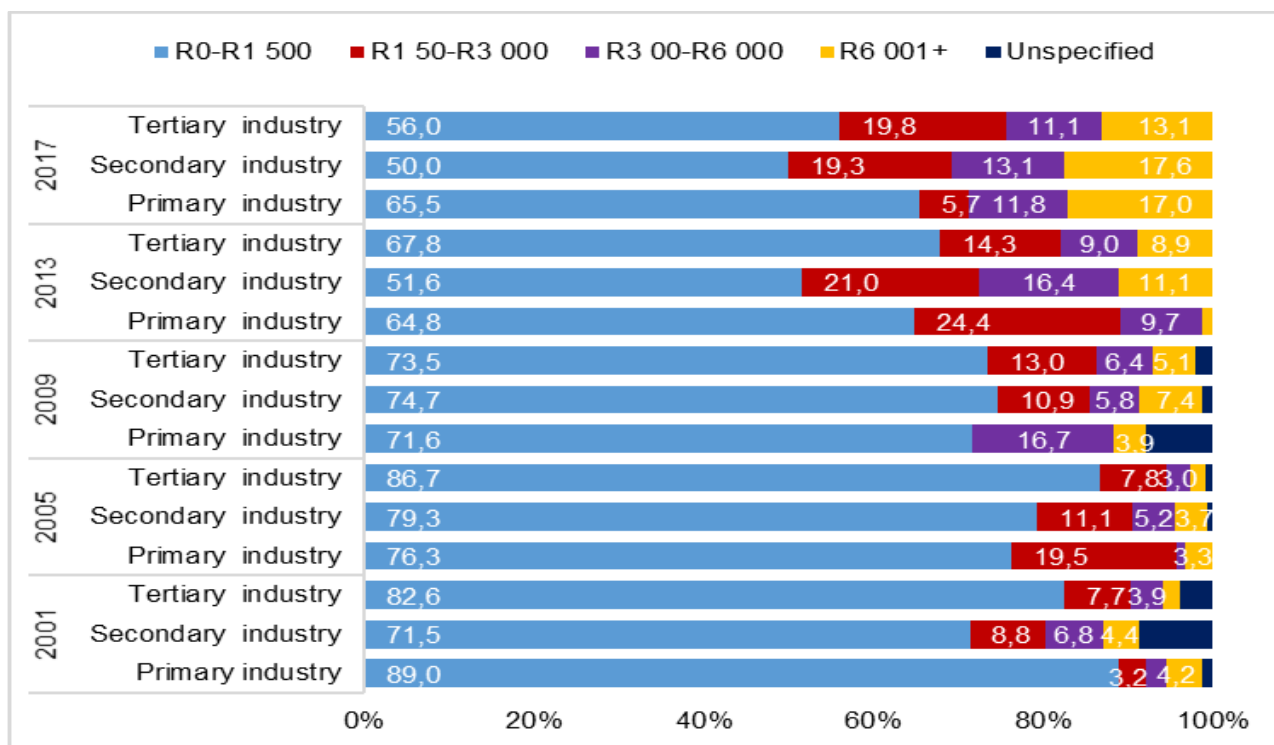
Figure 33: Net profits in the last month of persons running non-VAT registered businesses by sex, 2001–2017



Note: No adjustment for inflation over the period has been undertaken. Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

A larger proportion of men than women earned net profits in the highest ranges from their businesses, while the opposite was observed for women. For net profits above R1 500, men recorded the largest proportions while for net profits below R1 501, women recorded the highest. In 2017, the proportion of men (17,6%) who earned net profits above R6 000 was double the proportion of women (8,8%) who made similar net profits from their informal businesses.

Figure 34: Net profits in the last month of persons running non-VAT registered businesses by industry, 2001–2017



Note: No adjustment for inflation over the period has been undertaken. Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

The results show that all industries recorded proportions above 50,0% for persons earning net profit of R0–R1 500. Among those who were in the primary industries, the proportion of persons who had informal businesses with net profits of R0–R1 500 ranged from 64,8% in 2013 to 89,0% in 2001. From 2001 to 2009, all industries recorded proportions below 10,0% for persons earning a net profit above R6 000. In 2017, the highest proportion for those who earned net profits above R6 000 was in the secondary industries (17,6%), followed by the primary industries (17,0%) and tertiary industries (13,1%).

Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

7. Technical notes

7.1 Response details

Table 15: Response rate by province

Province	Jul–Sep 2017 (%)
Western Cape	49,4
Eastern Cape	76,6
Northern Cape	90,0
Free State	81,1
KwaZulu-Natal	69,3
North West	80,7
Gauteng	57,3
Mpumalanga	91,8
Limpopo	91,7
South Africa	73,6

7.2 Survey requirements and design

During the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) of quarter three 2017, persons running businesses were identified and later interviewed for the Survey of Employers and the Self-employed (SESE). The SESE and QLFS interviews were not conducted at the same time. As a result, the number of SESE persons was lower than those identified during QLFS screening. This was due to several reasons: refusals by some people to participate in SESE; some people not being at home during the SESE interview; demolished structures; vacant dwellings, etc. If all qualifying SESE persons identified in the QLFS Q3: 2017 had responded positively during SESE interviews, there would be no adjustment of SESE weights. The final SESE weights would be the same as the QLFS calibrated weights. The SESE weight adjustment accounts for those persons who qualified for SESE, but refused to take part or were not available for interviews. Persons identified as ineligible for SESE were not accounted for when the weight adjustment was undertaken.

7.3 Weighting

The sampling weights for the data collected from the sampled dwelling units are constructed in such a manner that the responses could be properly expanded to represent the entire civilian population of South Africa. The weights are the result of calculations involving several factors, including original selection probabilities, adjustment for non-response, and benchmarking to known population estimates from the Demography Chief Directorate of Stats SA.

7.4 Non-response adjustment

The non-respondent adjustment is done through the creation of adjustment classes. The adjustment classes are created using Response Homogeneity Groups (RHGs), where respondents are assumed to have the same characteristics with non-respondents in the group. The response rate (which is the ratio of responses to all eligible units in the sample) is calculated within each class. The inverse of the response rate (adjustment factor) is calculated within each class, and the result is multiplied by the person weight of the Q3: 2017 QLFS for the responding units to get the adjusted SESE person weight for non-responding units. In essence, the weights of responding persons are inflated to account for those that did not respond during SESE.

7.5 Final survey weights

The final SESE weight assigned to each responding unit is computed as the product of the QLFS person weight and the non-response adjustment factor. The sum of the QLFS person weight qualifying for SESE (for both respondents and non-respondents, excluding the out-of-scope persons) must be equal to the sum of the final SESE person weight.

The final SESE business weights were calculated as the ratio of the final adjusted SESE person weight to the number of businesses a person is running.

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8. Statistical Appendix

Table 1: Number of persons running non-VAT registered businesses						Percentage distribution				
	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017
	Thousand					Per cent				
By sex	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Women	1 370	925	557	677	725	60,7	55,5	48,7	44,6	40,4
Men	888	743	587	840	1 068	39,3	44,5	51,3	55,4	59,6
By population group	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Black/African	2 019	1 542	1 028	1 346	1 628	89,4	92,5	89,9	88,8	90,8
Coloured	83	52	44	47	62	3,7	3,1	3,8	3,1	3,5
Indian/Asian	49	16	13	39	33	2,2	0,9	1,2	2,6	1,8
White	107	58	58	84	70	4,7	3,5	5,1	5,5	3,9
By age	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
15-24 yrs	212	130	69	74	78	9,4	7,8	6,0	4,9	4,4
25-34 yrs	660	462	293	384	441	29,3	27,7	25,6	25,3	24,6
35-44 yrs	631	478	384	480	580	27,9	28,7	33,6	31,7	32,4
45-54 yrs	480	414	275	394	449	21,3	24,8	24,1	26,0	25,1
55-64 yrs	274	184	123	184	245	12,1	11,0	10,8	12,1	13,6
By number of business	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	100	100	100	100	100
1 business	2 217	1 610	1 125	1 490	1 762	98,2	96,5	98,3	98,3	98,2
2 businesses	38	56	7	26	29	1,7	3,4	0,6	1,7	1,6
3 businesses	3	1	12		3	0,1	0,1	1,0	0,0	0,1
By province	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Western Cape	120	93	78	91	153	5,3	5,6	6,8	6,0	8,5
Eastern Cape	227	206	139	144	176	10,1	12,3	12,2	9,5	9,8
Northern Cape	27	12	8	12	8	1,2	,7	,7	,8	,5
Free State	133	106	59	61	91	5,9	6,3	5,2	4,0	5,1
KwaZulu-Natal	574	334	236	304	263	25,4	20,0	20,6	20,0	14,7
North West	170	124	69	74	111	7,5	7,4	6,0	4,9	6,2
Gauteng	559	426	276	454	513	24,8	25,5	24,1	29,9	28,6
Mpumalanga	222	135	126	161	182	9,8	8,1	11,0	10,6	10,2
Limpopo	226	233	152	216	296	10,0	13,9	13,3	14,2	16,5

Note: For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates. Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

Table 2: Number of persons running at least one non-VAT registered business by reason why the owner started the business						Percentage distribution				
	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017
	Thousand					Per cent				
Main reason the business was started										
Both sexes	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	100	100	100	100	100
Inherited/family tradition	94	59	53	61	72	4,2	3,5	4,6	4,0	4,0
Unemployed/have no alternative income source	1 369	1 137	782	1 049	1 138	60,6	68,2	68,3	69,2	63,5
Retrenched	107	71	45	58	62	4,7	4,2	3,9	3,8	3,5
Inadequate income from the other source	279	64	44	46	27	12,3	3,9	3,9	3,0	1,5
I like the activity	108	136	57	57	73	4,8	8,2	5,0	3,8	4,1
I have the skills of this business	115	69	95	108	125	5,1	4,1	8,3	7,1	7,0
I have the equipment for this business	26	5	1	4	3	1,1	0,3	0,1	0,2	0,2
Activity brings high income	64	44	18	14	4	2,8	2,6	1,6	1,0	0,2
Small investment needed	41	16	9	4	1	1,8	1,0	0,8	0,2	0,0
Unhappy with previous work	25	18	21	25	26	1,1	1,1	1,8	1,7	1,4
New opportunity/idea				44	15				2,9	0,9
To make ends meet/provide for my family					163					9,1
Be my own boss/create employment for others					29					1,6
I want to earn money while I search for a job					22					1,2
Other	30	49	19	45	33	1,3	2,9	1,7	3,0	1,8

Note: Categories do not necessarily add up to the totals since an individual may have stated more than one reason.

Table 2: Number of persons running at least one non-VAT registered business by reason why the owner started the business (concluded)						Percentage distribution				
	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017
	Thousand					Per cent				
Women	1 370	925	557	677	599	100	100	100	100	100
Inherited/family tradition	51	28	26	28	26	3,7	3,1	4,7	4,2	4,3
Unemployed/have no alternative income source	878	671	399	492	440	64,1	72,5	71,7	72,6	73,5
Retrenched	31	15	9	15	10	2,3	1,7	1,6	2,2	1,7
Inadequate income from the other source	209	47	28	25	19	15,2	5,1	5,0	3,7	3,1
I like the activity	67	70	32	35	32	4,9	7,6	5,7	5,1	5,3
I have the skills of this business	48	25	31	31	39	3,5	2,7	5,6	4,5	6,5
I have the equipment for this business	7	3	1			0,5	0,4	0,1		
Activity brings high income	25	24	6	7	1	1,8	2,6	1,0	1,0	0,1
Small investment needed	27	9	7	3	1	2,0	1,0	1,2	0,5	0,1
Unhappy with previous work	11	10	7	5	6	0,8	1,1	1,2	0,8	1,0
New opportunity/idea				13	10				2,0	1,7
To make ends meet/provide for my family					101					16,9
Be my own boss/create employment for others					12					2,1
I want to earn money while I search for a job					12					2,0
Other	17	22	12	24	16	1,2	2,4	2,2	3,5	2,7
Men	888	743	587	840	980	100	100	100	100	100
Inherited/family tradition	44	30	27	33	46	4,9	4,1	4,5	4,0	4,7
Unemployed/have no alternative income source	490	466	382	557	698	55,3	62,8	65,2	66,4	71,2
Retrenched	76	55	36	43	52	8,6	7,5	6,1	5,2	5,3
Inadequate income from the other source	70	17	17	21	8	7,9	2,3	2,9	2,5	0,8
I like the activity	41	66	25	23	41	4,6	8,9	4,3	2,7	4,2
I have the skills of this business	67	44	64	77	86	7,6	5,9	10,8	9,2	8,8
I have the equipment for this business	19	1	1	4	3	2,1	0,2	0,1	0,4	0,4
Activity brings high income	39	20	13	8	3	4,4	2,8	2,2	0,9	0,3
Small investment needed	14	7	2	1		1,5	0,9	0,3	0,1	
Unhappy with previous work	14	9	14	20	20	1,5	1,2	2,4	2,4	2,0
New opportunity/idea				31	5				3,7	0,5
To make ends meet/provide for my family					62					6,3
Be my own boss/create employment for others					17					1,7
I want to earn money while I search for a job					10					1,0
Other	14	27	7	22	17	1,6	3,6	1,2	2,6	1,7

Note: Categories do not necessarily add up to the totals since an individual may have stated more than one reason.

Table 3: Number of persons running at least one non-VAT registered business by industry and whether the owner needed money to start the business						Percentage distribution				
	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017
	Thousand					Per cent				
Whether the owner needed money to start the business										
Both sexes	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Owner required money	1 438	1 246	736	902	1 050	63,7	74,7	64,4	59,5	58,6
Owner did not require money	819	422	407	614	743	36,3	25,3	35,6	40,5	41,4
Women	1 370	925	557	677	725	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Owner required money	897	725	395	424	484	65,5	78,4	70,9	62,6	66,8
Owner did not require money	473	200	162	253	241	34,5	21,6	29,1	37,4	33,2
Men	888	743	587	840	1 068	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Owner required money	541	521	341	479	566	60,9	70,1	58,2	57,0	53,0
Owner did not require money	347	222	246	361	503	39,1	29,9	41,8	43,0	47,0
Those who needed money to start the business										
Total	1 438	1 246	736	902	1 050	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Agriculture	8	13	6	7	17	0,6	1,0	0,8	0,8	1,6
Manufacturing	168	147	71	76	90	11,7	11,8	9,7	8,4	8,5
Construction	36	49	43	63	76	2,5	3,9	5,8	7,0	7,2
Trade	1 083	893	478	563	608	75,3	71,6	64,9	62,4	57,9
Transport	48	51	31	57	57	3,3	4,1	4,2	6,3	5,4
Finance	45	35	21	49	68	3,1	2,8	2,8	5,4	6,5
Community and social services	50	57	54	88	125	3,5	4,6	7,4	9,7	11,9
Other	1	1	33			0,0	0,1	4,5		

Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories. In 2001 and 2005 the totals include unspecified.

Table 4: Number of persons running at least one non-VAT registered business by whether the owner needed money to start the business and source						Percentage distribution				
	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017
	Thousand					Per cent				
Whether money was needed										
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	1 438	1 246	736	902	1 050	63,7	74,7	64,4	59,5	58,6
No	819	422	407	614	743	36,3	25,3	35,6	40,5	41,4
Source of money										
Both sexes	1 438	1 246	736	902	1 050	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Own money	1 070	878	550	686	791	74,4	70,5	74,8	76,0	75,4
Other source	368	367	186	217	259	25,6	29,5	25,2	24,0	24,6
Unspecified	1	0				0,1	0,0			
Women	897	725	395	424	484	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Own money	634	470	285	307	347	70,6	64,7	72,2	72,4	71,6
Other source	263	255	110	117	137	29,3	35,2	27,8	27,6	28,4
Unspecified	1	0				0,1	0,0			
Men	541	521	341	479	566	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Own money	436	409	266	379	445	80,7	78,5	77,8	79,2	78,6
Other source	105	112	76	100	121	19,3	21,5	22,2	20,8	21,4
Unspecified										

Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories. In 2001 and 2005 the totals include unspecified.

Table 4: Number of persons running at least one non-VAT registered business by whether the owner needed money to start the business and source (continued)						Percentage distribution				
	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017
	Thousand					Per cent				
Those who used their own money										
Source of own money (Both sexes)	1 070	878	550	686	791	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Previous and/or present wage employment	471	508	261	369	450	44,1	57,9	47,4	53,8	56,8
Other business	34	39	17	19	35	3,2	4,4	3,1	2,8	4,4
Sale of livestock/crops	31	14	18	14	12	2,9	1,6	3,3	2,0	1,5
Sale of other assets	55	30	25	18	18	5,2	3,4	4,5	2,7	2,3
Inheritance	56	52	34	21	28	5,3	6,0	6,2	3,0	3,6
Pension from work	37	19	18	28	28	3,5	2,2	3,3	4,0	3,6
Retirement/severance pay	56	23	29	30	25	5,2	2,6	5,2	4,4	3,2
A policy that matured	6	2	3	1	1	0,6	0,2	0,5	0,1	0,1
Money paid out from a stokvel	65	20	48	40	46	6,0	2,3	8,8	5,8	5,9
Old age grant					9					1,1
Other social grant (excluding old age grant)					71					9,0
Other	258	171	97	146	68	24,1	19,4	17,7	21,3	8,5
Source of own money (Women)	634	470	285	307	347	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Previous and/or present wage employment	225	218	110	116	149	35,6	46,5	38,8	38,0	43,0
Other business	18	22	5	7	12	2,9	4,7	1,6	2,3	3,5
Sale of livestock/crops	23	11	9	4	2	3,6	2,2	3,3	1,2	0,5
Sale of other assets	39	17	10	6	5	6,2	3,6	3,4	2,0	1,5
Inheritance	36	35	21	13	13	5,7	7,4	7,4	4,1	3,8
Pension from work	13	7	8	6	8	2,0	1,6	2,8	2,1	2,2
Retirement/severance pay	19	5	9	8	6	3,0	1,1	3,2	2,5	1,6
A policy that matured	3	1	2		1	0,4	0,1	0,8		0,1
Money paid out from a stokvel	55	16	41	35	39	8,7	3,3	14,2	11,3	11,2
Old age grant					7					2,1
Other social grant (excluding old age grant)					67					19,2
Other	202	138	70	112	39	31,8	29,4	24,5	36,5	11,1

Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories. In 2001 and 2005 the totals include unspecified.

Table 4: Number of persons running at least one non-VAT registered business by whether the owner needed money to start the business and source (concluded)						Percentage distribution				
	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017
	Thousand					Per cent				
Source of own money (Men)	436	409	266	379	445	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Previous and/or present wage employment	246	290	150	253	300	56,4	71,0	56,6	66,6	67,6
Other business	16	17	12	12	23	3,6	4,1	4,7	3,2	5,1
Sale of livestock/crops	8	3	9	10	10	1,8	0,8	3,3	2,6	2,3
Sale of other assets	16	13	15	12	13	3,7	3,1	5,7	3,2	2,9
Inheritance	20	18	13	8	15	4,6	4,3	5,0	2,1	3,4
Pension from work	24	12	10	21	20	5,5	2,9	3,8	5,6	4,6
Retirement/severance pay	37	18	20	23	20	8,4	4,4	7,4	6,0	4,4
A policy that matured	4	1	1	1		0,8	0,3	0,2	0,3	
Money paid out from a stokvel	9	5	8	5	8	2,1	1,1	3,0	1,4	1,7
Old age grant					2					0,4
Other social grant (excluding old age grant)					5					1,0
Other	57	33	28	34	29	13,0	8,0	10,4	9,0	6,5

Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories. In 2001 and 2005 the totals include unspecified.

Table 5: Number of persons running at least one non-VAT registered business by sex and when the business started operating						Percentage distribution				
	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017
	Thousand					Per cent				
When did the business start operating										
Both sexes	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Less than a year ago	559	299	244	308	321	24,8	17,9	21,3	20,3	17,9
1 but less than 3 years ago	749	560	290	358	413	33,2	33,6	25,4	23,6	23,0
3 but less than 5 years ago	403	352	187	268	294	17,8	21,1	16,4	17,7	16,4
5 but less than 10 years ago	288	249	214	278	379	12,7	14,9	18,7	18,4	21,2
10 or more years ago	249	207	208	298	383	11,0	12,4	18,1	19,6	21,4
Don't know	9	2	1	6	3	0,4	0,1	0,1	0,4	0,2
Women	1 370	925	557	677	725	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Less than a year ago	373	176	129	149	157	27,2	19,0	23,2	21,9	21,7
1 but less than 3 years ago	468	329	142	179	170	34,1	35,6	25,5	26,4	23,5
3 but less than 5 years ago	222	189	81	104	104	16,2	20,4	14,5	15,3	14,4
5 but less than 10 years ago	171	126	108	106	137	12,5	13,6	19,5	15,6	18,9
10 or more years ago	129	104	96	139	153	9,4	11,3	17,2	20,5	21,1
Don't know	7	1	1	2	3	0,5	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,4
Men	888	743	587	840	1 068	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Less than a year ago	186	123	115	160	164	21,0	16,6	19,6	19,0	15,3
1 but less than 3 years ago	282	231	148	180	243	31,7	31,0	25,3	21,4	22,7
3 but less than 5 years ago	181	163	107	164	189	20,4	22,0	18,2	19,6	17,7
5 but less than 10 years ago	116	123	105	173	242	13,1	16,5	18,0	20,6	22,7
10 or more years ago	120	103	112	159	231	13,5	13,8	19,0	18,9	21,6
Don't know	3	1		4		0,3	0,1		0,5	

Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

Table 6: Number of persons running at least one non-VAT registered business by whether they have licence/s or permit/s and the issuing authority						Percentage distribution				
	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017
	Thousand					Per cent				
Does the business have a licence/s or permit/s										
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	165	176	138	189	146	7,3	10,6	12,1	12,5	8,2
No	2 093	1 491	1 005	1 327	1 647	92,7	89,4	87,9	87,5	91,8
Unspecified										
Issuing authority										
Total	165	176	138	189	146	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Municipal/provincial authority	77	86	74	64	59	46,6	48,5	53,5	33,8	40,2
Professional association	18	8	18	40	32	10,7	4,8	12,9	20,9	22,1
Business association	48	46	26	39	33	28,9	26,1	18,8	20,5	22,5
Regional services council	14	7	1			8,7	4,1	1,0		
Traditional leader	14	14	13	10	21	8,2	8,1	9,1	5,3	14,2
Protection agency/ies	3	10		3	4	1,6	5,9		1,4	2,7
Friend/relative	5	4	9	3	3	3,1	2,4	6,2	1,4	1,7
CIPS/CIPRO				38					20,1	
Landlord					1					0,8
Other	8	8	15	17	10	4,8	4,7	11,1	8,9	7,0

Note: Each percentage is calculated separately and does not sum to 100,0% since an individual may have had more than one type of licence/permit.
n.a. = not applicable

Table 7: Number of persons running at least one non-VAT registered business by sex and industry						Percentage distribution				
	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017
	Thousand					Per cent				
Both sexes	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Agriculture	11	17	10	11	29	0,5	1,0	0,8	0,7	1,6
Manufacturing	242	201	110	112	131	10,7	12,1	9,6	7,4	7,3
Construction	71	97	118	162	216	3,2	5,8	10,3	10,7	12,0
Trade	1 571	1 103	652	825	924	69,6	66,1	57,0	54,4	51,5
Transport	76	73	43	93	105	3,3	4,4	3,7	6,2	5,8
Finance	131	59	35	115	141	5,8	3,5	3,1	7,6	7,9
Community and social services	153	116	120	198	218	6,8	6,9	10,5	13,1	12,2
Other	2	2	56			0,1	0,1	4,9		
Women	1 370	925	557	677	725	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Agriculture	5	5	5	7	13	0,4	0,5	0,9	1,0	1,8
Manufacturing	159	132	70	58	66	11,6	14,2	12,6	8,6	9,0
Construction	2	4	3	2	7	0,1	0,4	0,5	0,3	1,0
Trade	1 055	691	357	430	455	77,0	74,7	64,1	63,5	62,7
Transport	9	14	9	12	8	0,6	1,5	1,6	1,7	1,1
Finance	55	15	16	54	49	4,0	1,6	2,9	7,9	6,8
Community and social services	84	63	70	115	113	6,1	6,8	12,6	16,9	15,7
Other	1	1	27			0,1	0,1	4,9		
Men	888	743	587	840	1 068	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Agriculture	5	12	5	4	16	0,6	1,6	0,8	0,5	1,5
Manufacturing	83	70	40	54	65	9,3	9,4	6,7	6,4	6,1
Construction	69	93	115	160	209	7,8	12,5	19,6	19,0	19,5
Trade	516	412	295	395	469	58,2	55,4	50,3	47,1	43,9
Transport	67	59	34	82	97	7,5	7,9	5,7	9,8	9,1
Finance	76	44	20	61	92	8,6	6,0	3,3	7,3	8,6
Community and social services	69	52	50	84	105	7,8	7,1	8,5	10,0	9,8
Other	2	1	29			0,2	0,2	5,0		

Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

Table 8: Number of non-VAT registered businesses by industry and whether the business uses raw materials						Percentage distribution				
	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017
	Thousand					Per cent				
South Africa										
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Agriculture	11	17	10	11	29	0,5	1,0	0,8	0,7	1,6
Manufacturing	242	201	110	112	131	10,7	12,1	9,6	7,4	7,3
Construction	71	97	118	162	216	3,2	5,8	10,3	10,7	12,0
Trade	1 571	1 103	652	825	924	69,6	66,1	57,0	54,4	51,5
Transport	76	73	43	93	105	3,3	4,4	3,7	6,2	5,8
Finance	131	59	35	115	141	5,8	3,5	3,1	7,6	7,9
Community and social services	153	116	120	198	218	6,8	6,9	10,5	13,1	12,2
Other	2	2	56			0,1	0,1	4,9		
Uses raw materials										
Total	552	413	223	296	396	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Agriculture	1	6	5	5	14	0,2	1,4	2,2	1,7	3,5
Manufacturing	186	163	88	84	90	33,6	39,5	39,4	28,5	22,7
Construction	22	26	24	30	55	4,0	6,3	10,7	10,3	13,9
Trade	287	154	55	134	187	51,9	37,2	24,7	45,3	47,3
Transport	1	1	2	3	4	0,1	0,2	0,8	1,1	1,0
Finance	8	14	5	7	14	1,4	3,5	2,5	2,5	3,5
Community and social services	48	49	34	31	31	8,7	11,8	15,5	10,6	7,8
Other	0		10			0,0		4,3		
Does not use raw materials										
Total	1 704	1 251	921	1 221	1 398	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Agriculture	10	11	5	6	16	0,6	0,9	0,5	0,5	1,1
Manufacturing	56	38	22	28	41	3,3	3,0	2,4	2,3	2,9
Construction	49	69	94	131	161	2,9	5,6	10,2	10,8	11,5
Trade	1 284	947	597	691	737	75,4	75,7	64,8	56,6	52,7
Transport	75	72	41	90	101	4,4	5,8	4,4	7,4	7,2
Finance	123	45	30	107	127	7,2	3,6	3,3	8,8	9,1
Community and social services	105	67	85	167	187	6,2	5,3	9,3	13,7	13,4
Other	2	1	47			0,1	0,1	5,1		

Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories. In 2001 and 2005 the totals include unspecified.

Table 9: Number of persons running at least one non-VAT registered business by industry and whether the business uses supplies						Percentage distribution				
	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017
	Thousand					Per cent				
Total number of businesses										
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Agriculture	11	17	10	11	29	0,5	1,0	0,8	0,7	1,6
Manufacturing	242	201	110	112	131	10,7	12,1	9,6	7,4	7,3
Construction	71	97	118	162	216	3,2	5,8	10,3	10,7	12,0
Trade	1 571	1 103	652	825	924	69,6	66,1	57,0	54,4	51,5
Transport	76	73	43	93	105	3,3	4,4	3,7	6,2	5,8
Finance	131	59	35	115	141	5,8	3,5	3,1	7,6	7,9
Community and social services	153	116	120	198	218	6,8	6,9	10,5	13,1	12,2
Other	2	2	56			0,1	0,1	4,9		
Uses supplies										
Total	1 260	1 118	623	641	848	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Agriculture	8	9	3	3	15	0,6	0,8	0,5	0,4	1,7
Manufacturing	39	39	15	16	46	3,1	3,5	2,4	2,5	5,4
Construction	13	22	15	24	55	1,1	2,0	2,4	3,8	6,5
Trade	1 133	957	504	537	613	89,9	85,6	80,9	83,7	72,3
Transport	7	15	12	15	17	0,5	1,4	1,9	2,4	2,0
Finance	12	31	8	11	20	1,0	2,7	1,3	1,7	2,4
Community and social services	48	44	33	36	78	3,8	3,9	5,3	5,6	9,2
Other	0	1	33			0,0	0,1	5,3		
Does not use supplies										
Total	996	547	521	875	945	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Agriculture	3	8	6	8	15	0,3	1,5	1,2	0,9	1,6
Manufacturing	202	161	95	96	85	20,3	29,5	18,2	11,0	9,0
Construction	58	75	103	138	161	5,8	13,7	19,7	15,7	17,0
Trade	438	144	148	289	311	44,0	26,4	28,4	33,0	32,9
Transport	69	57	31	78	87	6,9	10,5	6,0	8,9	9,3
Finance	119	29	27	104	121	11,9	5,2	5,3	11,9	12,8
Community and social services	105	72	87	163	140	10,5	13,1	16,7	18,6	14,9
Other	2	0	23			0,2	0,1	4,5		

Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories. In 2001 and 2005 the totals include unspecified.

Table 10: Number of persons running at least one non-VAT registered business by location and whether they pay for the use of the location						Percentage distribution				
	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017
	Thousand					Per cent				
Location of operation										
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Within the owner's dwelling-with its own space	547	330	246	384	377	24,2	19,8	21,5	25,3	21,0
Within the owner's dwelling-without its own space	778	487	315	323	292	34,5	29,2	27,6	21,3	16,3
In a structure attached to owner's dwelling	111	135	61	85	96	4,9	8,1	5,3	5,6	5,3
Within another person's dwelling	34	28	20	36	69	1,5	1,7	1,7	2,4	3,8
In a non-residential building	79	63	47	78	88	3,5	3,8	4,1	5,1	4,9
From a taxi rank	74	53	62	80	80	3,3	3,2	5,4	5,3	4,5
On a footpath, street or open space	181	167	122	116	216	8,0	10,0	10,7	7,7	12,0
At a market	17	15	22	27	24	0,8	0,9	2,0	1,8	1,4
No fixed location/mobile	363	303	170	280	396	16,1	18,2	14,8	18,5	22,1
At a customer's home or offices	46	49	62	79	110	2,1	2,9	5,4	5,2	6,2
At an open market without permanent kiosk					9					0,5
Other										
Paying for location										
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	186	130	109	164	204	8,2	7,8	9,6	10,8	11,4
No	1 706	1 234	803	993	834	75,5	74,0	70,2	65,5	46,5
Not applicable	366	305	232	359	756	16,2	18,3	20,3	23,7	42,1
Paying for the location										
Total	186	130	109	164	204	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Within the owner's dwelling-with its own space	37	9	15	25	33	19,9	6,8	13,8	15,4	16,3
Within the owner's dwelling-without its own space	20	4	14	7	9	10,5	3,4	12,9	4,2	4,4
In a structure attached to owner's dwelling	7	6	3	10	15	3,5	4,9	2,6	6,0	7,4
Within another person's dwelling	17	9	10	18	51	9,3	7,2	8,7	11,2	24,8
In a non-residential building	42	40	34	57	56	22,5	30,7	31,4	34,8	27,6
From a taxi rank	26	18	12	28	15	14,1	13,5	10,7	17,0	7,6
On a footpath, street or open space	19	29	11	7	9	10,3	22,5	9,7	4,4	4,3
At a market	7	5	9	7	10	4,0	4,0	8,0	4,4	4,9
At a customer's home or offices	4	4				2,2	3,3			
Other	7	5	2	4	6	3,8	3,7	2,3	2,6	2,8

Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

Table 11: Number of persons running at least one non-VAT registered business where the owner needed money to start the business by whether they borrowed money and source						Percentage distribution				
	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017
	Thousand					Per cent				
Whether the owner needed money to start the business										
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Owner required money	1 438	1 246	736	902	1 050	63,7	74,7	64,4	59,5	58,6
Owner did not require money	819	422	407	614	743	36,3	25,3	35,6	40,5	41,4
Whether the owner borrowed money to start the business										
Total	1 438	1 246	736	902	1 050	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	251	314	173	185	222	17,5	25,2	23,5	20,5	21,2
No	1 187	927	563	717	828	82,5	74,4	76,5	79,5	78,8
Loans from commercial banks										
Total	251	314	173	185	222	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	10	15	13	31	11	4,0	4,9	7,4	16,6	5,2
No	241	299	160	154	211	96,0	95,1	92,6	83,4	94,8
Loans from friends/relatives										
Total	251	314	173	185	222	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	208	261	144	136	187	82,9	83,1	83,1	73,4	84,1
No	43	53	29	49	35	17,1	16,9	16,9	26,6	15,9
Loans from credit societies										
Total	251	314	173	185	222	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	2		12	9	12	0,9		6,8	4,9	5,2
No	249	314	161	176	211	99,1	100,0	93,2	95,1	94,8
Loans from money lenders/mashonisas										
Total	251	314	173	185	222	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	13	19	11	4	12	5,1	6,0	6,5	2,1	5,5
No	238	295	162	181	210	94,9	94,0	93,5	97,9	94,5

Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories. In 2001 and 2005 the totals include unspecified.

Table 11: Number of persons running at least one non-VAT registered business where the owner needed money to start the business by whether they borrowed money and source (concluded)						Percentage distribution				
	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017
	Thousand					Per cent				
Loans from (business) partners										
Total	251	314	173	185	222	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes		1		1			0,2		0,3	
No	251	314	173	184	222	100,0	99,8	100,0	99,7	100,0
Loans from business association										
Total	251	314	173	185	222	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	4	3		1		1,8	0,9		0,4	
No	247	311	173	184	222	98,2	99,1	100,0	99,6	100,0
Loans from NGO/CBO										
Total	251	314	173	185	222	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	1	8	2			0,3	2,6	1,4		
No	250	306	171	185	222	99,7	97,4	98,6	100,0	100,0
Loans from government agencies (e.g. IDC)										
Total					222					100,0
Yes					5					2,1
No					218					97,9
Loans from others										
Total	251	314	173	185	222	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	14	7	5	8	7	5,4	2,2	2,7	4,4	3,2
No	237	307	168	177	215	94,6	97,8	97,3	95,6	96,8

Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories. In 2001 and 2005 the totals include unspecified.

Table 12: Number of persons running at least one non-VAT registered business whose owner borrowed money by whether they are still paying the debt and amount						Percentage distribution				
	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017
	Thousand					Per cent				
Whether the owner needed money to start the business										
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Owner required money	1 438	1 246	736	902	1 050	63,7	74,7	64,4	59,5	58,6
Owner did not require money	819	422	407	614	743	36,3	25,3	35,6	40,5	41,4
Whether the owner borrowed money to start the business										
Total	1 438	1 241	736	902	1 050	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	251	314	173	185	222	17,5	25,3	23,5	20,5	21,2
No	1 187	927	563	717	828	82,5	74,7	76,5	79,5	78,8
Unspecified	0	5				0,0	0,4			
Are you paying off the debt										
Total	251	314	173	185	222	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	27	27	29	34	22	10,6	8,7	16,9	18,5	9,7
No	224	287	144	151	201	89,4	91,3	83,1	81,5	90,3
Does the business have any debts at present										
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	109	76	67	71	42	4,8	4,6	5,9	4,7	2,3
No	2 144	1 578	1 076	1 445	1 751	95,0	94,6	94,1	95,3	97,7
Current debt by industry										
Total	109	76	67	71	42	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Agriculture		1		1	1		1,6		1,8	3,0
Manufacturing	19	8	4	0		17,2	9,9	5,7	0,3	
Construction	1	3	4	6		0,6	3,8	6,7	8,7	
Trade	67	47	35	26	26	61,9	61,6	52,0	36,2	61,9
Transport	8	2	6	19	7	7,7	2,6	9,3	26,7	16,8
Finance	9	2	3	7	3	7,9	3,0	4,8	9,4	7,5
Community and social services	5	13	9	12	5	4,8	17,6	13,8	16,8	10,8
Other			5					7,8		

Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories. In 2001 and 2005 the totals include unspecified.

Table 13: Number of persons running at least one non-VAT registered business by whether they receive a grant/s and source of grant						Percentage distribution				
	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017
	Thousand					Per cent				
Did you obtain a grant to start the business										
Total	1 438	959	736	902	1 050	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	16	30	12	8	18	1,1	3,1	1,6	0,9	1,7
No	1 422	925	724	895	1 032	98,9	96,5	98,4	99,1	98,3
Source of grant										
From government										
Total	16	30	12	8	18	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	3	7	6	3	3	19,7	22,3	52,5	43,7	15,4
No	13	23	6	4	16	80,3	77,7	47,5	56,3	84,6
From a non-governmental organisation/CBO										
Total	16	30	12	8	18	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	4	3	1	0	2	23,9	10,0	9,6	1,6	11,6
No	12	27	11	8	16	76,1	90,0	90,4	98,4	88,4
Other sources										
Total	16	30	12	8	18	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	9	22	4	4	11	56,9	75,2	37,9	54,7	59,4
No	7	7	7	4	7	43,1	24,8	62,1	45,3	40,6

Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories.

Table 14: Number of persons running at least one non-VAT registered business by type of assistance required						Percentage distribution				
	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017
	Thousand					Per cent				
Type of assistance required										
Provision of alternative site										
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	451	492	340	438	715	20,0	29,5	29,8	28,9	39,9
No	1 805	1 162	803	1 078	1 078	79,9	69,6	70,2	71,1	60,1
Better access to loans										
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	438	571	331	465	591	19,4	34,2	28,9	30,7	33,0
No	1 818	1 082	813	1 052	1 202	80,5	64,9	71,1	69,3	67,0
Assistance with marketing										
Total	2 257	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	619	680	443	615	873	27,4	40,7	38,7	40,5	48,7
No	1 637	975	701	902	920	72,5	58,4	61,3	59,5	51,3
Better access to raw material/supplies										
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	492	602	364	433	622	21,8	36,1	31,8	28,6	34,7
No	1 764	1 049	780	1 083	1 172	78,1	62,9	68,2	71,4	65,3

Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories. In 2001 and 2005 the totals include unspecified.

Table 14: Number of persons running at least one non-VAT registered business by type of assistance required (concluded)						Percentage distribution				
	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017
	Thousand					Per cent				
Easing in government regulations										
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	218	254	259	326	432	9,6	15,2	22,6	21,5	24,1
No	2 038	1 400	885	1 191	1 361	90,3	84,0	77,4	78,5	75,9
Access to modern technology										
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	314	256	223	292	437	13,9	15,3	19,5	19,2	24,4
No	1 942	1 396	921	1 225	1 356	86,0	83,7	80,5	80,8	75,6
Forming contacts with others in similar business for co-operation										
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	373	399	290	417	548	16,5	23,9	25,4	27,5	30,5
No	1 883	1 255	854	1 100	1 245	83,4	75,3	74,6	72,5	69,5
Other										
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1 793	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Yes	41	47	45	72	132	1,8	2,8	3,9	4,7	7,3
No	2 215	1 604	1 099	1 445	1 662	98,1	96,2	96,1	95,3	92,7

Note: Due to rounding, totals may differ from the sum of the categories. In 2001 and 2005 the totals include unspecified.

Table 15: Number of persons running at least one non-VAT registered business by type of assistance required						Percentage distribution				
	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent				
Financial inclusion										
Does the business have a current/transaction/savings account?				1 517	1 793				100,0	100,0
Yes, from a bank				298	274				19,7	15,3
Yes, from another formal financial institution				9	7				0,6	0,4
Yes, from an informal organisation (e.g. stokvel)				9	4				0,6	0,2
No				1 200	1 508				79,1	84,1
Does the business have an investment/deposit account?				1 517	1 793				100,0	100,0
Yes, from a bank				99	99				6,6	5,5
Yes, from another formal financial institution				11	9				0,8	0,5
No				1 406	1 685				92,7	94,0
Does the business have asset finance?				1 517	1 793				100,0	100,0
Yes, from a bank				33	9				2,1	0,5
Yes, from another formal financial institution				9	4				0,6	0,2
No				1 475	1 780				97,3	99,2

Table 15: Number of persons running at least one non-VAT registered business by type of assistance required (concluded)						Percentage distribution				
	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent				
Does the business have a mortgage loan?				1 517	1 793				100,0	100,0
Yes, from a bank				9					0,6	
Yes, from another formal financial institution				7	5				0,5	0,3
No				1 500	1 788				98,9	99,7
Does the business have a credit facility?				1 517	1 793				100,0	100,0
Yes, from a bank				34	19				2,2	1,0
Yes, from another formal financial institution				16	1				1,0	0,1
No				1 467	1 773				96,7	98,9
Does the business have short-term insurance?				1 517	1 793				100,0	100,0
Yes, from a bank				15	13				1,0	0,7
Yes, from another formal financial institution (e.g. insurance)				43	22				2,8	1,2
No				1 459	1 758				96,2	98,0
Does the business make business payments through the account?				1 517	1 793				100,0	100,0
Yes				133	149				8,8	8,3
No				124	100				8,1	5,6
Not applicable (No account)				1 260	1 544				83,1	86,1
To make the business payments, does the business mainly use				127	1 720				100,0	100,0
Internet/cellphone banking				39	76				31,0	4,4
A branch/personal banking				88	247				69,0	14,3
Debit card/pay cash					1 391					80,9
Credit card					5					0,3
Other										

Table 16: Number of paid and unpaid employees by industry in the last week prior to the survey						Percentage distribution				
	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017
	Thousand					Per cent				
Paid and unpaid employees										
Total	661	592	538	1 007	761	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Agriculture	4	15	3	24	20	0,5	2,5	0,5	2,3	2,7
Manufacturing	61	68	45	55	67	9,2	11,5	8,4	5,5	8,7
Construction	105	93	171	229	254	15,8	15,7	31,7	22,8	33,3
Trade	317	246	148	347	186	47,9	41,5	27,6	34,5	24,4
Transport	79	25	31	52	62	12,0	4,2	5,8	5,2	8,1
Finance	42	86	17	37	47	6,4	14,5	3,1	3,7	6,1
Community and social services	53	60	108	262	126	8,1	10,1	20,0	26,1	16,6
Other	1	-	15	-	-	0,1		2,8		
Paid employees										
Total	431	443	442	800	674	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Agriculture	2	13	3	7	15	0,5	2,9	0,6	0,9	2,2
Manufacturing	49	40	43	30	62	11,4	9,1	9,8	3,8	9,2
Construction	99	93	166	221	237	22,9	20,9	37,6	27,6	35,2
Trade	123	143	104	209	134	28,6	32,3	23,6	26,1	19,9
Transport	77	24	29	47	58	17,9	5,3	6,6	5,8	8,7
Finance	38	83	15	34	43	8,9	18,6	3,4	4,2	6,4
Community and social services	43	48	67	253	124	9,9	10,9	15,2	31,6	18,4
Other	-	-	14	-				3,2		0,0
Unpaid employees										
Total	230	149	96	207	87	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Agriculture	1	2		17	5	0,6	1,4	0,0	8,0	6,2
Manufacturing	12	28	2	25	5	5,2	18,7	2,1	12,1	5,3
Construction	6		5	8	17	2,5	0,0	4,8	3,9	19,1
Trade	194	103	44	138	52	84,3	69,0	45,9	66,9	59,0
Transport	2	1	2	6	3	0,9	0,9	1,8	2,8	3,8
Finance	4	3	2	3	4	1,6	2,2	2,1	1,7	4,2
Community and social services	11	12	41	9	2	4,6	7,7	42,2	4,6	2,4
Other	1	-	1	-	-	0,3		1,0		

Table 17: Business turnover, net profits and labour cost in the month prior to the survey					
	SESE 2001	SESE 2005	SESE 2009	SESE 2013	SESE 2017
	Thousand				
Total turnover					
R0-R100	244	190	101	124	93
R101-R350	666	357	165	167	125
R351-R750	483	389	214	209	224
R751-R1 500	345	283	227	293	373
R1 501-R3 000	191	204	181	281	356
R3 001-R6 000	135	117	124	222	293
R6 001-R15 000	71	78	83	120	213
R15 001+	12	45	49	101	116
Unspecified	110	5			
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1793
Total net profit					
R0-R100	380	400	187	194	145
R101-R350	760	487	249	241	203
R351-R750	427	311	234	278	284
R751-R1 500	264	223	179	271	354

R1 501-R3 000	176	142	141	237	349
R3 001-R6 000	97	55	71	157	207
R6 001-R15 000	44	31	47	95	190
R15 001+	9	4	15	44	62
Unspecified	101	13	22		
Total	2 258	1 668	1 144	1 517	1793
Total labour cost					
R0-R100	101	42	46	86	55
R101-R750	91	103	59	77	55
R751-R1 500	43	41	37	71	73
R1 501-R3 000	23	34	26	59	70
R3 001-R6 000	19	9	29	38	48
R6 001-R15 000	7	16	11	18	35
R15 001+	2		3	21	15
Unspecified	24	75			
Total	309	319	211	370	351