

## GDP growth

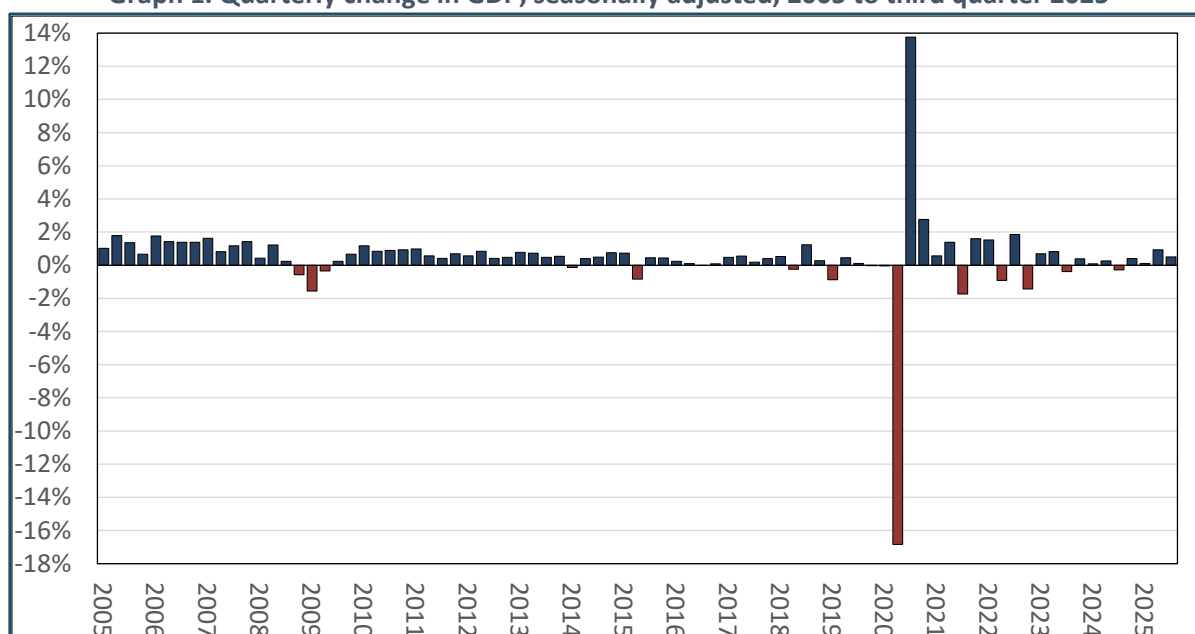
*The GDP increased by 0.5% in the third quarter of 2025. Growth in the year to the third quarter was 1.9%, but it was somewhat inflated by an extraordinary jump reported for agriculture.*

The 1.9% increase in the GDP through the third quarter of 2025 was the first full-year increase since 2018. (Graph 1) It means that, for the first time in many years, the GDP has grown faster than the population. Construction and utilities, however, shrank 5.6% over the past year.

In large part, the return to relatively stable economic growth, albeit at a low rate by global standards, reflects the improved electricity situation as well as continuing high prices for South Africa's mining exports. These issues are discussed in more detail in the sections on infrastructure and exports.

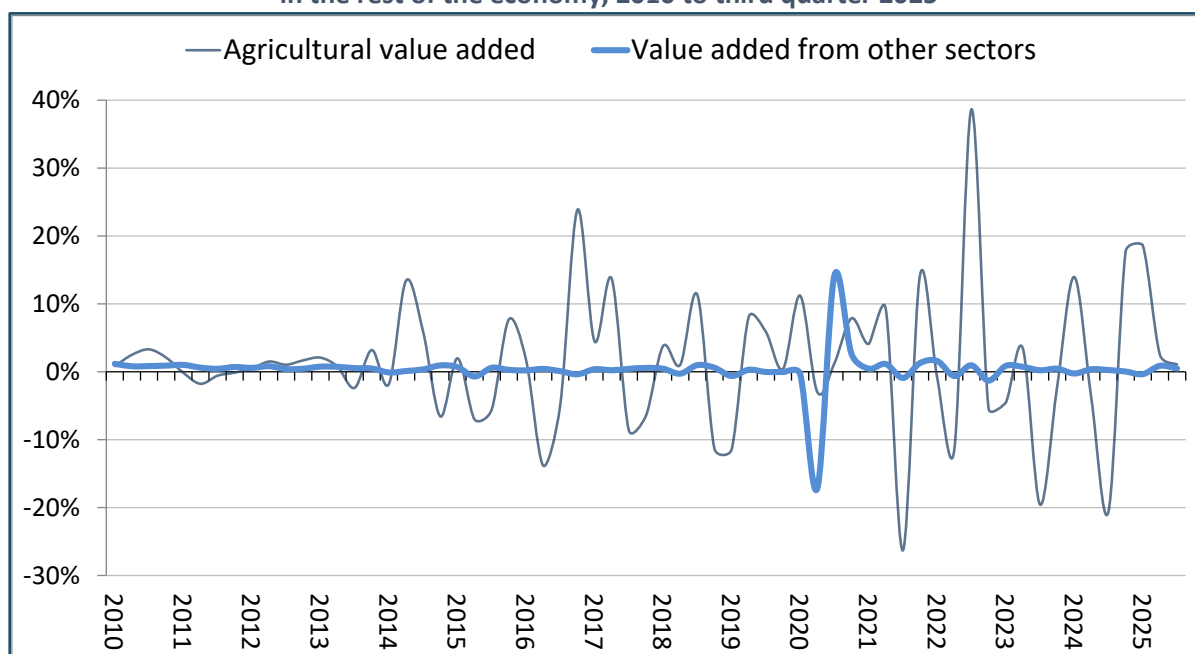
The picture is, however, complicated by the continued extraordinary fluctuations in reported agricultural GDP, as shown in Graph 2. Value added outside of agriculture climbed only 1% in the year to the third quarter of 2025. Statistics South Africa found, however, that agricultural value added jumped by an extraordinary 45%. The figures for the second to the third quarter of 2025 seem more reliable, with 1% growth in agricultural value added and 0.5% for the rest of the economy.

**Graph 1. Quarterly change in GDP, seasonally adjusted, 2005 to third quarter 2025**



Source: Calculated from Statistics South Africa. GDP quarterly figures, seasonally adjusted.  
GDP P0441 – 2025Q3. Excel spreadsheet. Accessed at [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za) in November 2025.

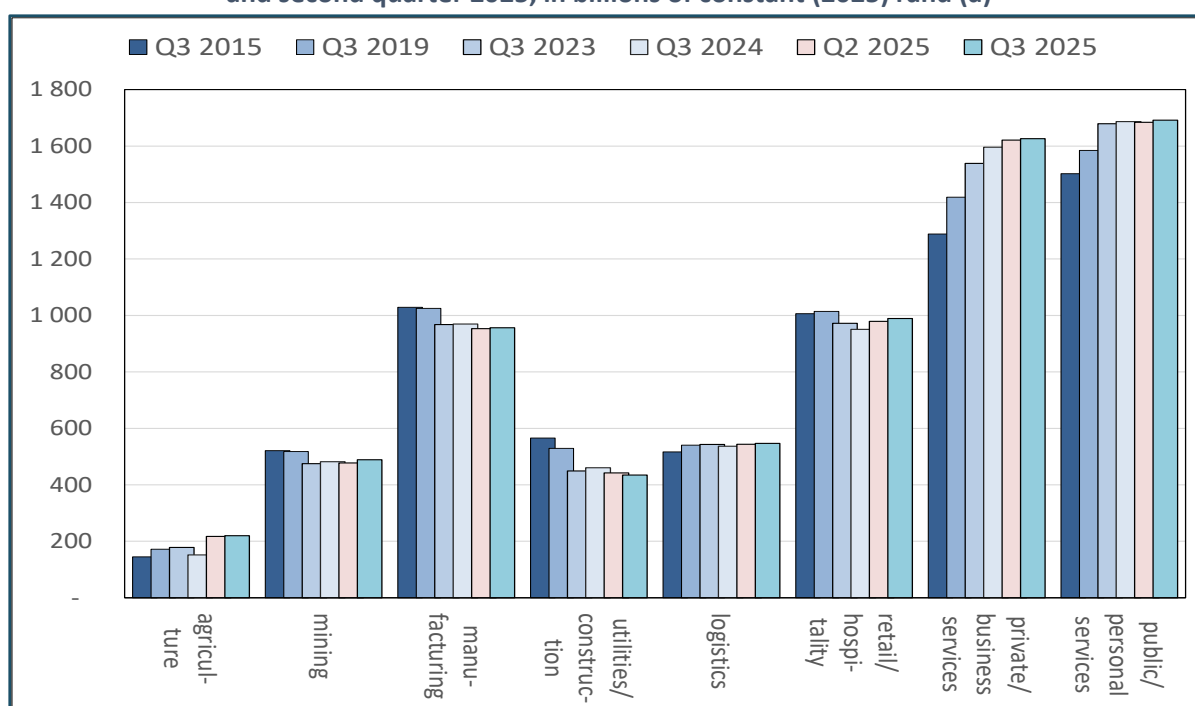
**Graph 2. Quarter on quarter change in value added in agriculture and in the rest of the economy, 2010 to third quarter 2025**



Source: Calculated from Statistics South Africa. GDP quarterly figures, seasonally adjusted. GDP P0441 – 2025Q3. Excel spreadsheet. Accessed at [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za) in November 2025.

Manufacturing value added inched up in the third quarter of 2025. Still, that did not make up for losses earlier in the year, leaving it down by 1.3% compared to the third quarter of 2024. Mining growth for the quarter was substantially stronger, at 2.3%. As a result, mining value added climbed by 1.4% for the year. Construction contracted by 5.6% in the year to the third quarter. Retail and hospitality saw relatively rapid growth, as did private business services, including finance. (Graph 3)

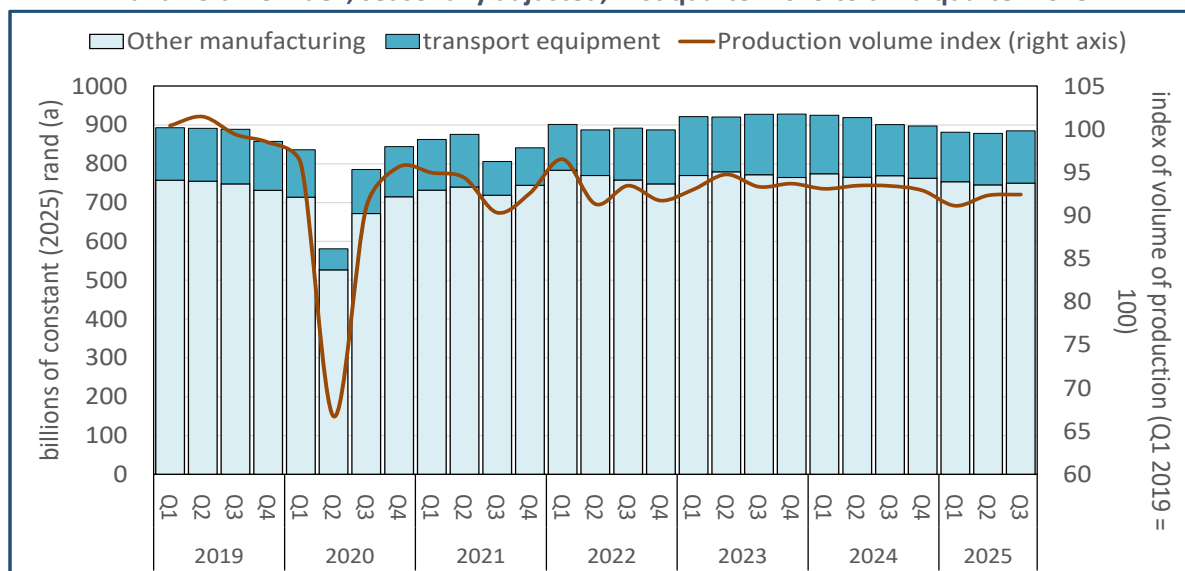
**Graph 3. Value added by sector, third quarter 2015, 2019, 2023, 2024 and 2025, and second quarter 2025, in billions of constant (2025) rand (a)**



Note: (a) Rebased with implicit deficits per sector. Source: Calculated from Statistics South Africa. GDP quarterly figures. GDP P0441 – 2025Q3. Excel spreadsheet. Accessed [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za) in November 2025.

Manufacturing sales climbed 0.7% in the third quarter 2025 in constant rand. The modest increase ended a steady decline over the past two years, with manufacturing sales overall falling by 4.7%. (Graph 4). Auto sales alone plummeted 17.8% from the end of 2023, although they recovered 2.2% in the year to the third quarter of 2025, mostly in the third quarter. Sales in the rest of manufacturing fell 2% in real terms over the past two years, with a 0.6% recovery in the third quarter of 2025.

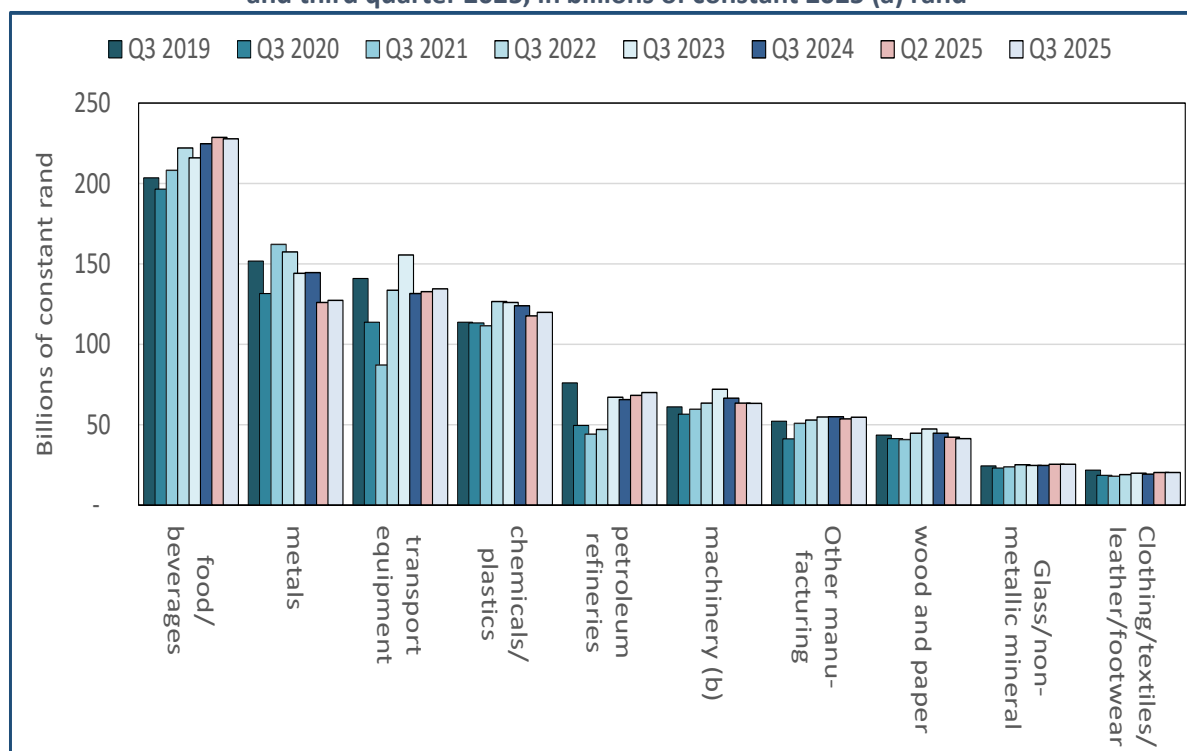
**Graph 4. Quarterly manufacturing sales in billions of constant 2025 rand (a) and volume index, seasonally adjusted, first quarter 2019 to third quarter 2025**



*Note: (a) Seasonally adjusted. Sales in billions of constant rand reflatd using CPI rebased to Q3 2025. Monthly data summed for sales and averaged for index. Source: Calculated from Statistics South Africa. Manufacturing Production and Sales. Excel Spreadsheet. Downloaded from [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za) in November 2025.*

Falling sales of basic metals, mostly ferrochrome and crude steel, have been a drag on the sector since 2021. In constant rand, the industry has seen a 20% fall in revenue from the third quarter of 2021, with a 12% drop in the year to the third quarter of 2025 alone. (The crisis in ferrochrome is discussed in greater detail in the section on trade.) Sales of machinery and chemicals fell by over 3% in the past year. Most of the rest of manufacturing eked out modest gains in the same period. (Graph 5)

**Graph 5. Sales by manufacturing industry, third quarter 2019 to 2024, and second quarter, and third quarter 2025, in billions of constant 2025 (a) rand**



*Notes: (a) Values are seasonally adjusted. Rebased using CPI rebased to Q3 2025. (b) Includes electrical machinery. Source: Calculated from Statistics South Africa. Manufacturing Production and Sales. Excel Spreadsheet. Downloaded from [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za) in November 2025*