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Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 1262

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Inkosi R N Cebekhulu (IFP) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

- (a) What sectors of the economy have (i) grown and (ii) declined in the past financial year and
- (b) how has the specified growth and/or decline affect the job market? [NW1518E]

REPLY

The latest available data cover the calendar year 2021.

According to Statistics South Africa, GDP rebounded significantly in 2021, growing by 4.9% for the full year. This was after the economy contracted by 6.4% in 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic triggered a global recession. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), global GDP shrank by 3.3% in 2020 reflecting the impact of both the health crisis and breakdowns in global supply-chains, as unprecedented restrictions were imposed on international travel and freight movement.

In South Africa, the economic recovery began to show results in 2021. The following sectors grew in GDP terms in 2021 (year-on-year percentage change, in constant Rands):

- Mining and Quarrying (11.8%);
- Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (8.3%);

- Manufacturing (6.6%);
- Trade, Catering and Accommodation (6%);
- Personal Services (5.3%);
- Transport, Storage and Communication (5.1%);
- Finance, Real Estate and Business Services (3.7%); and
- Electricity, Gas and Water (2.2%).

General Government Services experienced neither growth nor decline in 2021.

According to Statistics South Africa, the only sector which contracted in 2021 was the Construction sector which experienced a decline of 1.9%.

In respect of the labour market, there are two surveys published by StatsSA, a household survey (the QLFS) and a firm-level survey (QES). During the pandemic period, StatsSA used telephone interviews for the QLFS instead of physical surveys, and this has been accompanied by a declining response-rate, which requires the data to be used with caution.

Both sets of data indicates that the jobs recovery has lagged the GDP recovery. The QLFS records a total jobs decline of 3,2% and the QES a jobs growth of 1,6%

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