

Economic Data Report



2nd Quarter, 2015 / 16

**Compiled by: NWDC Research and
Development Unit**

Q2 2015 2016

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1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Research and Development Unit is to gather, analyse and disseminate verified, reliable and relevant economic data, intelligence and research for the benefit of users to support informed decision making.

The performance indicators of the unit are:

A Quarterly Economic Data Report as well as

A Quarterly Research and Development Activity Report.

Economic data or economic statistics may refer to data (quantitative measures) describing an actual economy, past or present. These are typically found in time-series form, that is, covering more than one time period (say the monthly unemployment rate for the last five years) or in cross-sectional data in one time period (say for consumption and income levels for sample households). Data may also be collected from surveys of for example individuals and firms or aggregated to sectors and industries of a single economy or for the international economy. A collection of such data in table form comprises a data set.

The purpose of this report is to supply an overview of the economic data and information gathered and shared from a global, South African, African and North West provincial perspective in order to ensure that recent, relevant and reliable economic data supports NWDC and other client and stakeholder decisions and activities.

The economic data report will be structured as follows: First a macro-economic overview taking a global perspective in terms of developed and emerging economies moving to South Africa and the North West province. Secondly subjects that have an impact on the economy and relevance to NWDC will be covered including the Global Competitiveness, Foreign Direct Investment and Trade.

2. MACRO ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

2.1 The Global Economy

The World Economic Outlook Report of July 2015 of the IMF indicates slower growth in emerging markets and a gradual pickup in advanced economies. Global growth is projected at 3.3 percent in 2015, with a gradual pickup in advanced economies and a slowdown in emerging market and developing economies. In 2016, growth is expected to strengthen to 3.8 percent.

Underlying drivers for a gradual acceleration in economic activity in advanced economies are:
easy financial conditions,

- more neutral fiscal policy in the euro area,
- lower fuel prices,
- improving confidence and
- improving labor market conditions—remain intact.

In emerging market economies, the continued growth slowdown reflects several factors, including:

- lower commodity prices,
- tighter external financial conditions,
- structural bottlenecks,
- rebalancing in China, and
- economic distress related to geopolitical factors.

Near-term risks include increased financial market volatility and disruptive asset price shifts, while lower potential output growth remains an important medium-term risk in both advanced and emerging market economies. Lower commodity prices also pose risks to the outlook in low-income developing economies after many years of strong growth.

Developments Affecting the Forecast

Weaker First-Quarter Growth

The IMF's global economic forecasts, world growth—at 2.2 percent—fell some 0.8 percentage point from the April 2015 WEO due to an unexpected output contraction in the United States, with attendant spillovers to Canada and Mexico. One-off factors, notably harsh winter weather and port closures, as well as a strong downsizing of capital expenditure in the oil sector contributed to weakening U.S. activity.

Outside North America; Growth in output and domestic demand in emerging market and developing economies broadly weakened, as expected.

Oil Price Rebound

Oil prices have rebounded more than expected in the second quarter of 2015, the average annual oil price expected for 2015 is US\$59 a barrel, with a somewhat smaller increase forecast for 2016 and beyond, as global oil supply is running well above 2014 levels and global oil inventories are still rising. The reduction in oil investment may, however, lead to a somewhat weaker boost to activity in North America from lower oil prices than expected earlier.

Inflation

With the rebound in oil prices, fuel end-user prices have started rising. Core inflation has remained broadly stable well below inflation objectives. In many emerging market economies, notably those with weak domestic demand, headline inflation has declined.

Rise in Bond Yields

Longer-term sovereign bond yields have risen by about 30 basis points in the United States and by about 80 basis points on average in the euro area (excluding Greece) since April. However, financial conditions for corporate and household borrowers have remained broadly.

The World Economic Outlook Projections as per the World Economic Outlook Update July 2015

Overview of the World Economic Outlook Projections

Update July 2015

	Year over Year				Q2 over Q2				
			Projections		Difference from April 2015 WEO Update Projections		Estimates	Projections	
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
World Output (2)	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.8	-0.2	0.0	3.3	3.3	3.7
Advanced Economies	1.4	1.8	2.1	2.4	-0.3	0.0	1.7	2.2	2.3

United States	2.2	2.4	2.5	3.0	-0.6	-0.1	2.4	2.4	2.8
Euro Area (3)	-0.4	0.8	1.5	1.7	0.0	0.1	0.9	1.8	1.6
Germany	0.2	1.6	1.6	1.7	0.0	0.0	1.5	1.8	1.5
France	0.7	0.2	1.2	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7	1.3
Italy	-1.7	-0.4	0.7	1.2	0.2	0.1	-0.4	1.2	1.3
Spain	-1.2	1.4	3.1	2.5	0.6	0.5	2.0	3.3	2.2
Japan	1.6	-0.1	0.8	1.2	-0.2	0.0	-0.9	1.7	1.3
United Kingdom	1.7	2.9	2.4	2.2	-0.3	-0.1	3.2	2.2	2.1
Canada	2.0	2.4	1.5	2.1	-0.7	0.1	2.5	1.0	2.3
Other Advanced Economies (4)	2.2	2.8	2.7	3.1	-0.1	0.0	2.6	2.8	3.1
Emerging Market and Developing Economies (5)	5.0	4.6	4.2	4.7	-0.1	0.0	4.7	4.3	5.0
Commonwealth of Independent States	2.2	1.0	-2.2	1.2	0.4	0.9	-1.1	-3.5	1.5
Russia	1.3	0.6	-3.4	0.2	0.4	1.3	0.4	-4.8	1.8
Excluding Russia	4.2	1.9	0.7	3.3	0.3	0.1			
Emerging and Developing Asia	7.0	6.8	6.6	6.4	0.0	0.0	6.9	6.6	6.4
China	7.7	7.4	6.8	6.3	0.0	0.0	7.3	6.8	6.3
India (6)	6.9	7.32	7.5	7.5	0.0	0.0	7.5	7.3	7.5
ASEAN-5 (7)	5.1	4.6	4.7	5.1	-0.5	-0.2	4.8	4.7	5.2
Emerging and Developing Europe	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.9	0.0	-0.3	2.6	3.5	3.0
Latin America and the Caribbean	2.9	1.3	0.5	1.7	-0.4	-0.3	1.2	-0.1	2.1
Brazil	2.7	0.1	-0.5	0.7	-0.5	-0.3	-0.2	-2.1	2.3
Mexico	1.4	2.1	2.4	3.0	-0.6	-0.3	2.6	2.5	3.0
Middle East, North America, Afghanistan and Pakistan	2.4	2.7	2.6	3.8	-0.3	0.0			
Saudi Arabia	2.7	3.5	2.8	2.4	-0.2	-0.3	1.6	2.7	2.6
Sub-Saharan Africa	5.2	5.0	4.4	5.1	-0.1	0.0			
Nigeria	5.4	6.3	4.5	5.0	-0.3	0.0			
South Africa	2.2	1.5	2.0	2.1	0.0	0.0	1.3	1.5	2.4
Memorandum									
Low-Income Developing Countries	6.1	6.0	5.1	6.2	-0.4	0.2			
World Growth Based on Market Exchange Rates	2.5	2.7	2.6	3.2	-0.3	0.0	2.5	2.6	3.1
World Trade Volume (Goods and Services)	3.3	3.2	4.1	4.4	0.4	-0.3			
Imports									
Advanced Economies	2.1	3.3	4.5	4.5	1.2	0.2			
Emerging Markets and Developing Economies	5.2	3.4	3.6	4.7	0.1	-0.8			
Commodity Prices (U.S. dollars)									
Oil (8)	-0.9	-7.5	-38.8	9.1	0.8	-3.8	-28.7	-16.8	5.5

Nonfuel (average based on World commodity export weights)	-1.2	-4.0	-15.6	-1.7	-4.8	-0.3	-7.5	-12.6	0.7
Consumer Prices									
Advanced Economies	1.4	1.4	0.0	1.2	-0.4	-0.2	1.0	0.2	1.5
Emerging Markets and Developing Economies (5)	5.9	5.1	5.5	4.8	0.1	0.0	5.0	6.0	4.7
London Interbank Offered Rate (%)									
On U.S. Dollar Deposits (6 month)	0.4	0.3	0.4	1.2	-0.3	-0.7			
On Euro Deposit (3 month)	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0			
On Japanese Yen Deposit (6 month)	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	-0.1			

Note: Real effective exchange rates are assumed to remain constant at the levels prevailing during May 4–June 1, 2015. Economies are listed on the basis of economic size. The aggregated quarterly data are seasonally adjusted. Lithuania is now included in the euro area. Lithuania was previously included in the other advanced economies.

1/ Difference based on rounded figures for both the current and April 2015 WEO forecasts.

2/ The quarterly estimates and projections account for 90 percent of the world purchasing-power-parity weights.

3/ Includes Lithuania, which joined the euro area in January 2015.

4/ Excludes the G7 (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, United States) and euro area countries.

5/ The quarterly estimates and projections account for approximately 80 percent of the emerging market and developing economies.

6/ For India, data and forecasts are presented on a fiscal year basis and GDP from 2011 onward is based on GDP at market prices with FY2011/12 as a base year.

7/ Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam.

8/ Simple average of prices of U.K. Brent, Dubai Fateh, and West Texas Intermediate crude oil. The average price of oil in U.S. dollars a barrel was \$96.25 in 2014; the assumed price based on futures markets is \$58.87 in 2015 and \$64.22 in 2016.

2.1.1 IHS Top-10 Economic Predictions for 2015

During the past three years, world growth has been stuck at around 2.5 and slightly above. During that time, the contribution from the advanced economies (especially the United States and Europe) has increased, while the additions to global growth from emerging markets have decreased. IHS expects a slightly better overall performance for the world economy in 2015, with an expected growth rate of 3% or slightly higher. Solid and improving growth in the United States and a slight pickup in the pace of Eurozone economic activity are among the reasons for this moderately upbeat assessment. In the same vein, much lower oil prices and more monetary stimulus—in particular, from the Bank of Japan (BoJ), the European Central Bank (ECB), and the People's Bank of China (PBoC)—will not only support growth, but could also provide the basis for some upside surprises. Unfortunately, many of the downside risks that have plagued the global economy since the end of the Great Recession remain in place, including high public- and private-sector debt levels, corporate risk aversion, and daunting geopolitical risks.

1. US growth will be solid, in the 2.5–3.0% range.
2. The Eurozone recovery will proceed at a sluggish pace, but UK growth will be robust.
3. Japan's economy will regain weak growth momentum.
4. China's growth rate will decelerate more, but remain stronger than most.
5. A few emerging markets will struggle, while many will see above-average growth.
6. Commodity prices will slide further.
7. Inflation will be a distant threat, while deflationary worries persist.
8. The Federal Reserve, Bank of Canada, and Bank of England will likely start raising interest rates, while most other central banks will be on hold or provide more stimulus.
9. The US dollar will rise against most currencies, while the euro and yen will fall.
10. Perennial downside risks will be balanced by some upside risks.

2.1.2 Shockwaves and Economic Competitiveness

In the IHS Quarterly Economics of Q1 2015 Zbyszko Tabernacki; Vice President IHS Economics and Country Risk reports that Shockwaves and economic competitiveness are key issues that will influence the economy in 2015.

The recent rapid decline in oil prices is one of the latest shockwaves that hit the economy. The lower oil prices will benefit oil importing countries and have a negative impact on oil exporting countries. This in turn will produce divergent responses from policy makers and central banks as they attempt to stimulate growth and prevent deflation. The resulting violent swings in interest and exchange rates will cause rapid shifts in capital flows as investors seek higher returns at lower risk. Competitiveness will thus be the main issue.

2.1.3 Emerging Economies

Growth has weakened dramatically in some economies, and there are no clear signs of a strong rebound. The growth premium relative to the developed world is the smallest since 2002. Emerging markets currencies have depreciated since 2013 of which South Africa's currency was the most severely affected.

The new realities for emerging markets include:

- Both structural and cyclical forces contributed to the emerging markets' slowdowns.
- There was no decoupling of growth in emerging and advanced economies.
- The era of easy credit is coming to an end.
- The commodity "super-cycle" is over.
- Globalization has slowed.
- While macroeconomic management has generally been sound, there have been too few structural reforms; the state still plays too large a role.
- Cheap credit was used to finance consumption rather than a deepening of the capital stock, thus creating bottlenecks and hurting productivity growth.
- A return to the boom years of the 2000s is unlikely without stronger productivity growth.



African Political Risk

Three key African political risks that will affect economic growth and investment in the five-year outlook are:

- Political change and influence
- Regulatory risk and 'resource nationalism'
- Political violence and security risk

Sub-Saharan African Realities

- Services play a bigger role in the economy
- Structural transformation in the economy has not yet taken place. Most economies are resource based.
- Pressure on current account increases
- Highly unequal society as agricultural sector employment dominate

2.2 South African Realities

2.2.1 Highlights Q2 2015/2016

A positive indication for the South African economic outlook is Moody's Investors Service's decision to affirm South Africa's sovereign ratings and maintain a stable outlook on the rating at Baa2 based on the expectation that the fiscal consolidation path outlined in budget documents, commitment to sound macroeconomic policies and strong institutions will be maintained (September 2015).

The South African economy is suffering from:

- A steep fall in commodity prices which outweighs the benefits of cheaper oil,
- Electricity constraints,
- Drought that took a heavy toll on agricultural output and is expected to last for at least a year,
- Weak business confidence undermining investments,
- Skills shortages in the labour market,
- Economic inequality,
- Low savings and investment rates,
- Difficult industrial relations,
- Over-dependence on natural resources,
- The mining sector challenged by low mineral prices and higher labour cost following strikes resulting in closures and lay-offs,
- Subdued growth,
- Persistent unemployment rate at 25% as labour costs rise and productivity remains low,
- Consumer demand is also suppressed by expectations of higher inflation and interest rates and relatively high household debt levels.

Government is however aware that the country's economic growth performance needs to be improved in a sustainable manner and has responded as follows:

- Resolved that the energy challenge is an immediate priority,
- Speeding up the implementation of the structural policy reforms embedded in the National Development Plan,
- Maintaining a prudent fiscal position as a priority,
- Remaining committed to adhering to the set expenditure ceiling while reducing the growth of the debt portfolio.

Moody's expects South Africa to avoid recession in 2015, but forecasts growth of only 1.7% in 2015 and 1.9% in 2016, with 3% unlikely before 2017 or 2018, owing to the electricity shortages, low commodity prices, a severe drought and weaker-than-expected global growth influenced by uncertainty in the Chinese economy as well as the timing of any tightening of the US monetary policy that will make capital flows more volatile and have a considerable impact on the second half of 2015.

Despite the difficult background, fiscal planners appear to be stabilizing public finance through spending constraints and efficient tax collection. The Reserve Bank is also keeping inflation broadly under control despite the weakening rand.

- *South African Economic Growth Q2 2015/2016*

South Africa's gross domestic product (GDP) growth has slowed from 4.1% in the last quarter of 2014 to 1.3% in the first quarter of this year to -1.3% q/q in Q2 in August 2015.

South Africa's gross domestic product (GDP) contracted by 1.3% quarter-on-quarter in the quarter ended June 30. "The real economy has not performed that well, including construction, which has always been one of the main job creators,"

The biggest contributors to the contraction were the manufacturing sector, which contracted 6.3% quarter-on-quarter, and the mining sector, which contracted by 6.8% quarter-on-quarter. "Excluding these two sectors . . . the economy would have registered almost flat (0%) growth in the quarter. The lacklustre performance of both of these industries is partly explained through electricity supply cuts, weak demand and softer key commodity prices.

Investec economist Annabel Bishop commented that the contraction in GDP was not solely as a result of low commodity prices and below-trend global trade volumes. "Along with the dramatic impact on interest rate-sensitive sectors of higher interest rates, insufficient reinvestment in the electricity sector since 1994 has seen inadequate infrastructure to allow supply to meet demand, the upswell in the power of tripartite alliance members has seen rigid labour laws, debilitating strike action and a plunge in business confidence as the ease of doing business has declined materially – not least because of the threat to private sector property rights," she stated.

Meanwhile, agriculture contracted by 17.4% quarter-on-quarter, owing to severe drought conditions, while the utilities sector contracted by 2.9% quarter-on-quarter. However, the finance sector grew by 2.7% quarter-on-quarter and the personal services sector by 1.3%. Despite the negative quarter-on-quarter figure, the unadjusted GDP increased by 1.2% year-on-year in the second quarter, while it also increased by 1.6% for the first six months of the year, compared with the first six months of 2014.

North West University Business School Professor Raymond Parsons agreed that the domestic economy would struggle to reach the 2% growth rate for the full year. "Over the past 12 months, the growth rate averaged 1.6%. On present trends, the growth rate in 2015 as a whole is more likely to be about 1.5%, to which must now be added the impact of lower global commodity prices.

The table below reflects Statistics South Africa economic indicators in Q2 2015 2016:

INDICATOR for SA	MONTH /YEAR	%	Quarter on Quarter or Year on Year
Population (Mid-year Estimate)	Mid 2014	54mil	
GDP Growth	2015 Q2	-1,3%	QoQ
CPI	August 2015	4,6%	YoY
PPI	August 2015	3.5%	YoY
Unemployment	2015 Q2	25%	

2.2.2 Is South Africa a sustainable investment destination?

- Traditional growth theories and modern day case studies are not enough anymore to determine whether a country's growth will be sustainable to support profitable but also safe investment.
- Investment decisions are progressively being driven not only by the potential to maximise returns but also to improve the company's socio-economic footprint.
- Africa is the fastest growing continent but is also unique in terms of challenges and opportunities
- Therefore, IHS recommends 5 critical criteria to guide investment decisions.

- South Africa's attractiveness as investment destination will depend on structural reforms that lower labour market disruptions, raise productivity and increase capital spending.

2.2.3 IHS Global Insight Identifies 5 Critical Factors to Watch

FACTOR	COMPONENTS
Source of growth (IHS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demand composition • Supply side (production)
Exports (IHS and (WTO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensity • Diversity • Markets
Fiscal and external balances(IHS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic stability
Level of transformation of economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Productivity • Technological upgrading
Socio-economic development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment • Equality • Education • Health • Environment • Governance

2.2.4 South Africa's Export intensity

- South Africa is not so exposed and can increase exports.
- South Africa has markets but the diversity and composition of exports is the problem as mining and manufacturing is the major sectors but our production sectors are not showing any growth of employment and investment as productivity is decreasing and costs are increasing and it is not sustainable.

2.2.5 The following structural transformation in the economy is needed

Rise in agricultural sector productivity



Stronger links with manufacturing sector



Skills development



Labour shift from low-productive agricultural sector to higher productive manufacturing sector



Worker income increases



Poverty levels drop, income distribution improves



Country production base broadens



Economic diversification into high tech manufacturing and services

2.2.6 South Africa's sustainability "hope": National Development Plan (NDP)

The NDP is South Africa's long term plan to 2030 and might be the sustainability 'hope' of the country. It seeks amongst other things to reduce unemployment by improving manufacturing. The NDP will also result in a change in the risk for labour unrest by reducing it.

The New Growth Path, which is a short term plan drawing from the NDP goes into detail with the work that has to be done and sets a target of creating 5 million jobs in 10 years. It identifies inter alia: The mining value chain, with a particular emphasis on mineral beneficiation as well as on increasing the rate of mineral resource extraction as key activities to stimulate growth

The following issues must be addressed as per the NDP:

- Boost educational levels.
- Promote industries that are labour-absorbing, such as mining, agriculture, construction, hospitality and small businesses.
- Grow the more advanced sectors of the economy, such as manufacturing, parts of financial services, telecommunications and businesses services.
- Provide a social wage to enable the poorest of South Africa's people to have a decent standard of living and to build their capabilities to get better jobs, higher incomes and a broader range of benefits.
- The NDP seeks to place the economy on a production-led trajectory.

2.3 North West Province Economic Overview

2.3.1 North West Key Economic Indicators Compared to South Africa

The table below summarises the *key demographic and socio-economic characteristics* for the NWP and its four district municipalities' in context of the South African picture with regards to demographics, development, household infrastructure, labour, income and expenditure, economy, tourism and international trade as per the 2014 IHS Global Insight Indicators.

The NW region covers approximately 105 076 square kilometres, comprising 8.6% of the national area. The NWP is not densely populated when compared to the national population density. The NWP houses approximately 7% of the country's total population.

Key indicators South Africa, North West province and District Municipalities (2014)

	South Africa	North-West	Bojanala DM	Ngaka Modiri Molema DM	Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti DM	Dr Kenneth Kaunda DM
Region area (km ²)	1 221 246	105 076	18 370	27 985	44 053	14 668
Total population	53 781 908	3 670 889	1 602 614	866 535	474 823	726 916
Population density (number of people per km ²)	44,04	34,94	34,94	34,94	34,94	34,94
Economically Active Population (EAP) as % of total population, official definition	35,986%	31,310%	38,483%	22,786%	20,684%	32,600%
Number of households	15 341 533	1 098 814	526 384	231 248	127 189	213 993
Annual per household income (Rand, current prices)	168 920	135 990	141 920	116 877	101 838	162 355
Annual per capita income (Rand, current prices)	48 187	40 707	46 615	31 191	27 279	47 796

	South Africa	North-West	Bojanala DM	Ngaka Modiri Molema DM	Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti DM	Dr Kenneth Kaunda DM
Gini coefficient	0,64	0,61	0,61	0,61	0,59	0,62
Formal Sector Employment	12 109 001	674 221	371 715	111 955	53 451	137 100
Informal Sector Employment	2 305 887	104 566	58 087	18 268	9 107	19 104
Unemployment rate, official definition (%)	25,007%	26,196%	22,953%	30,229%	30,942%	29,308%
Share below the upper poverty line (StatsSA defined)	46,475%	47,403%	39,831%	56,652%	59,106%	45,427%
Poverty gap rate (from upper poverty line)	28,378%	28,208%	27,466%	28,796%	28,892%	28,191%
Human Development Index (HDI)	0.626	5.578	0.608	0.531	0.500	0.603
Index of buying power	1,000000000	0,055580383	0,027170996	0,010530833	0,005476255	0,012402298
Economic Output (R million in current prices)	3 404 494 638	198 968 011	111 514 503	33 302 311	13 011 912	41 139 285
Share of economic output (GVA % of SA in current prices)	100,00	5,84	3,28	0,98	0,38	1,21
Economic Output (R million in constant 2010 prices (R 1000))	2 729 203 315	153 664 276	88 037 300	25 586 875	9 920 398	30 119 703
Share of economic output (GVA % of SA in constant 2010 prices (R 1000))	100,00	5,63	3,23	0,94	0,36	1,10
Average annual growth (Constant 2010 Prices) 2014	1,6%	-0,5%	-1,4%	1,2%	2,3%	-0,2%
Average annual growth (Constant 2010 Prices) 2014 to 2019	2,7%	2,8%	3,4%	2,3%	2,5%	1,8%
Growth in Tourism (using bednights) by origin 2013	5,0%	9,0%	9,1%	7,7%	10,3%	9,3%
Growth in Tourism Spend 2013	5,8%	3,0%	2,7%	3,1%	4,7%	3,1%
International Trade						
Exports (R 1000)	1 003 825 998	18 300 516	14 718 510	1 086 254	364 150	2 131 602
Imports (R 1000)	1 072 463 997	5 553 622	2 131 904	441 338	120 572	2 859 808
Total Trade (R 1000)	2 076 289 995	23 854 138	16 850 414	1 527 592	484 722	4 991 410
Trade Balance (R 1000)	-68 637 999	12 746 893	12 586 606	644 916	243 578	-728 206
Exports as % of GDP	26,4%	8,1%	11,7%	2,8%	2,4%	4,5%
Total trade as % of GDP	54,7%	10,6%	13,4%	4,0%	3,2%	10,6%
Regional share - Exports	100,0%	1,8%	1,5%	0,1%	0,0%	0,2%
Regional share - Imports	100,0%	0,5%	0,2%	0,0%	0,0%	0,3%
Regional share - Total Trade	100,0%	1,1%	0,8%	0,1%	0,0%	0,2%

(Source: Regional eXplorer 832 (2.5q))

The NW shows improvement in most of the *developmental indicators* (2009 used as baseline). Most notable is the improvement in the Human Development Index (HDI) currently at 0.58 from 0.52 in 2009. Similar improvements are seen in both the number and percentage of people living in poverty below the upper

poverty line (StatsSA defined), currently measured at 47.4% (59.1% in 2009) respectively. Improvements in all measures relating to schooling and education are also reported.

The *Index of Buying Power* has also increased for the NW province. IHS Global Insight's Index of Buying Power (IBP) indicates that 5% of the country's spending power is located in the NW. Income levels in the NWP are below the national average (which is to be expected for the more rural areas in South Africa). The unemployment rate is slightly lower than that of the national average, while the percentage of people living in poverty is marginally higher than the national average. The NWP has a share of approximately 10.8% of national employment.

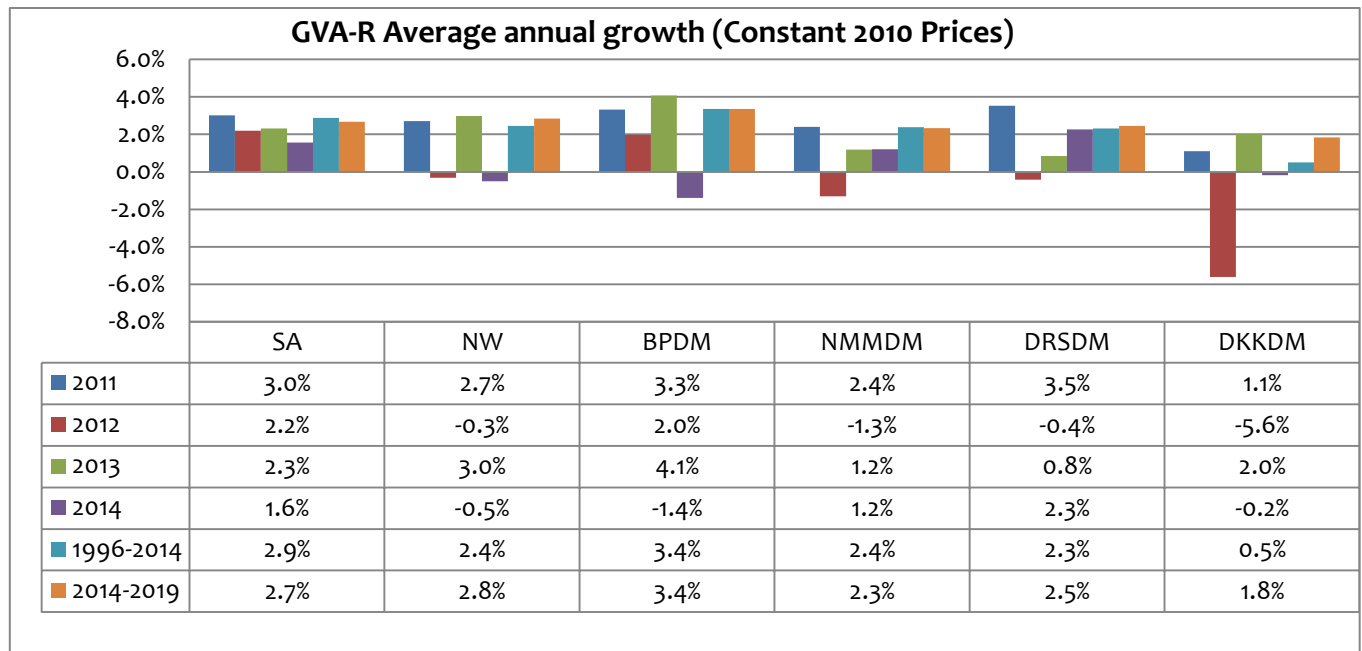
The 2014 *Gini coefficient* indicates that the level of equality is decreasing from 0,602 in 2009 to 0.614 in 2014 for the North West province. This is a trend for South Africa and the District Municipalities as well.

With regards to the economy, the *Tress index* provides insight into the level of concentration (or diversification) within an economic region. A Tress index value of 0 means that all economic sectors in the region contribute *equally* to GVA, whereas a Tress index of 1 means that only one economic sector makes up the whole GVA of the region. In the table below it is clear that the NW province has become more diversified in its economy from 2009 where it was the 2nd most concentrated economy and in 2014 the 4th most concentrated. This is an indication that the efforts to diversify the economy are paying off and can be contributed to the weaker performance of the mining sector. *The NWP is a large and significant local economy in the South African economic context.* The area contributes approximately 5.7% to national production with mining,

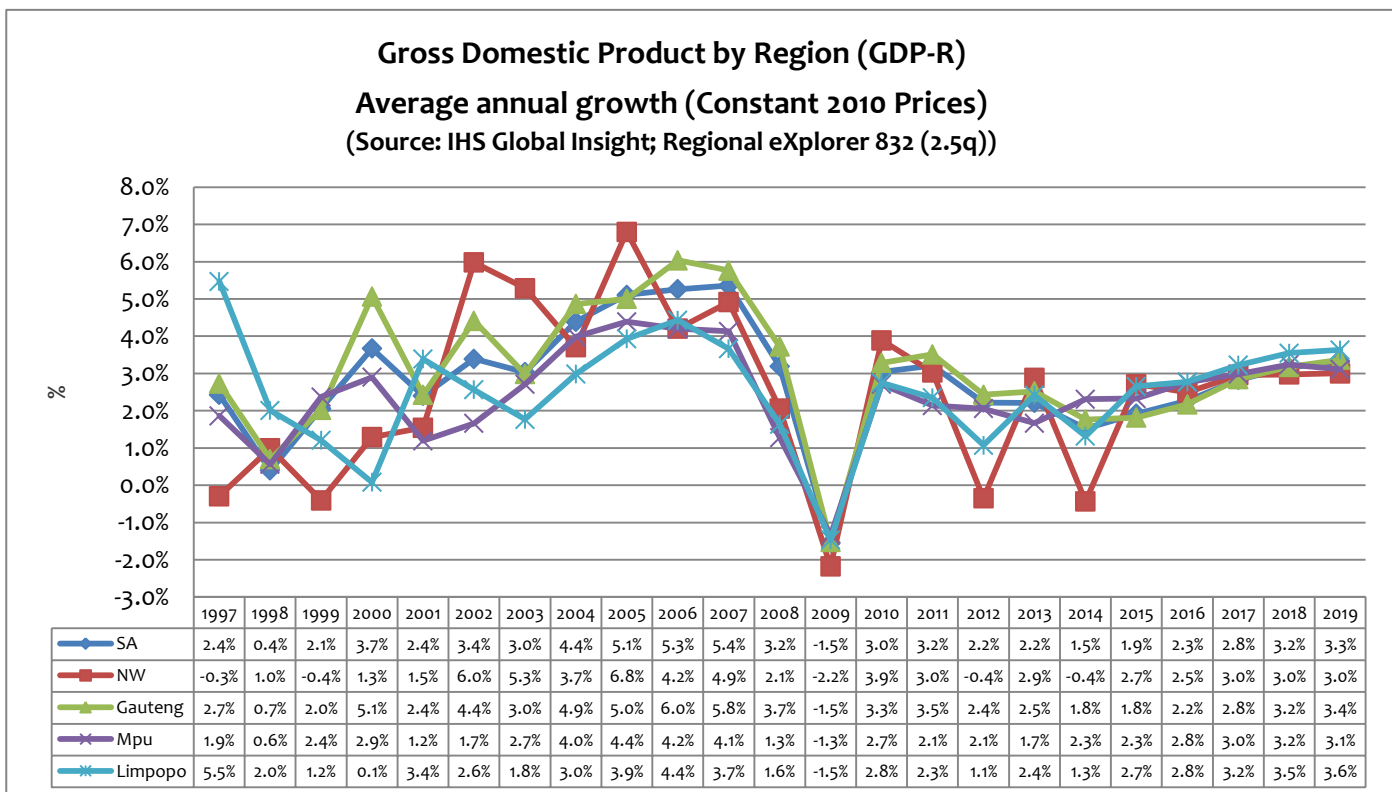
Table: Comparison of the Tress indices of SA, provinces and the NW district Municipalities between 2009 and 2014:

	2009	2014
South Africa	39,67	39,44
Western Cape	47,55	46,76
Eastern Cape	54,16	53,67
Northern Cape	41,19	42,68
Free State	34,13	36,65
KwaZulu-Natal	40,98	39,34
Gauteng	49,97	49,68
Mpumalanga	36,57	36,35
Limpopo	49,55	50,03
North-West	51,08	49,29
Bojanala DM	66,03	62,38
Ngaka Modiri Molema DM	47,56	48,93
Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati DM	45,88	46,86
Dr Kenneth Kaunda DM	43,42	43,77

The Average Annual growth rate for the North West province has clearly been negatively affected by the labour unrest in the mining sector in 2014 and declined to -0,5 from 3% in 2013. The DRSDM on the contrary has experienced increased growth from 0,8% in 2013 to 2,3% in 2014.



In the graph below the average annual growth of the North West province is compared with the national growth figures as well as with Gauteng, Limpopo and Mpumalanga and it is clear that the North West province growth is more volatile which can be attributed to the heavy reliance on mining.



According to the *Regional Economic Review: Current realities in the North West Province, A report from the TRADE (Trade and Development) research niche area of the North West University; March 2014*, the provincial economy is structurally unbalanced with the primary and tertiary sectors contributing more towards GDP-R and growing faster than the secondary sector. The situation is further exacerbated by;

- limited water and electricity supply,
- the poor state of infrastructure,
- shortage of skilled labourers and
- rigid regulatory and legislative policies.

A provincial input-output analysis points to a situation of high economic leakages and a dislocation of supply and demand across a number of industries. This has resulted in input and output activities between industries not operating in tandem, minimising the competitiveness of the province.

Employment

North West Employment Figures Compared to South Africa (Source: STASSA Q2 2015)

Item	April – June 2015		% Change Qtr-to- Qtr		% Change Year on year	
	SA	NW	SA	NW	SA	NW
Employment (Number)	15 657 000	940 000	1.3	3.0	3.7	6.9
Unemployment (Number)	5 230 000	316 000	-5.5	-12.5	1.5	2.5
Unemployment Rate	25%	25.2%	-1.4	-3.2	-0.5	-0.8
Expanded unemployment rate	34.9%	40.1%	-1.2	-3.1	-0.7	-2.2

The results for Q2: 2015 shows that the working-age population was 36,0 million – 15,7 million employed, 5,2 million unemployed and 15,1 million not economically active. Thus resulting in an unemployment rate of 25,0%, absorption rate of 43,5% and labour force participation rate of 58,1%. The formal sector accounted for the largest share of employment at 69,2% while Agriculture accounted for the lowest share (5,6%). Around 16% of the not economically active population was accounted for by the discouraged, while more than 80% were due to other reasons (i.e. student, home-maker etc.).

The results for Q2: 2015 reflect an increase in the not economically active population and a decrease in the economically active population.

The share of the unemployed in the working age population was 15,5% in Q1: 2015 and decreased to 14,5% in Q2: 2015. The share of the not economically active was 41,9% in Q2: 2015, reflecting 35,1% of the population which is inactive due to other reasons (e.g. student, illness/disability) and 6,8% due to discouragement.

On an annual basis, changes in the distribution of the working-age population by labour market components were less pronounced. The share of the unemployed population decreased from 14,6% in Q2: 2014 to 14,5% in Q2: 2015. The share of the not economically active population decreased from 42,7% in Q2: 2014 to 41,9% in Q2: 2015.

Employment increased in six of the nine provinces in Q2: 2015. The largest quarterly employment gains were observed in Limpopo (85 000), Gauteng (58 000) and North West (28 000). For the year ended June 2015, employment increased in all the nine provinces. The largest gains in employment were recorded in Gauteng (167 000), Limpopo (79 000) and KwaZulu-Natal (75 000)

North West Employment by Industry Figures Compared to South Africa (Source: STASSA Q2 2015)

Item	Number				% Change Qtr-to- Qtr		% Change Year on year	
	SA Apr - Jun 2015	NW Apr - Jun 2014	NW Apr - Jun 2015	NW % of Total	SA	NW	SA	NW
Total	15 657	879	940	6.00%	1.3	3	3.7	6.9
Agriculture	869	46	54	6.21%	-2.5	0.6	29.8	19.2
Mining	446	139	154	34.53%	0.7	9.8	6.5	10.6
Manufacturing	1 756	61	64	3.64%	-1.3	-5.2	0.7	4.5
Utilities	136	1	5	3.68%	-4.8	-34.1	15.2	364.1
Construction	1 401	51	62	4.43%	6	1.3	18.5	22.2
Trade	3 119	174	171	5.48%	2.4	13.3	-1.9	-1.7
Transport	922	26	25	2.71%	2.6	-16.1	-2.7	-1.1
Finance and other business services	2 164	70	110	5.08%	-1.4	4.6	7.6	56.6
Community and social services	3 548	224	212	5.98%	2.8	-0.9	0.5	-5.4
Private Households	1 292	88	83	6.42%	0.3	1	0.1	-5.6
Other	4			0.00%	-17.1		41.2	

2.3.2 North West Location and Infrastructure

Location is one of the NWP's greatest natural advantages. The main Cape Town to Zimbabwe railway line runs through the provincial capital of Mahikeng, linking the NWP to several southern African countries, including Angola, Zambia and Botswana. An extensive road network connects the major commercial centres of the province to the rest of the country via a network of 1 785 km of national roads. The vital east-west corridor links the eastern Africa seaboard at Maputo to the western African seaboard at Walvis Bay, running through the NWP en-route. Its strategic positioning has been further improved with the completion of the Trans Kalahari Corridor through Botswana and Namibia – and these developments bode well for a thriving business and tourism economy. In terms of airports, Mahikeng has an established airport with one of the longest runways in the world and Pilanesberg (near Sun City) also has an international airport, primarily servicing the tourism industry.

Water is considered one of the key limiting factors to development in the NWP. The province is not only depleting its precious water reserves, but suffers from an additional problem – that of pollution of groundwater caused by both natural and human-induced factors including mining and industrial activities, agriculture and domestic use. With regards to electricity, the NWP has a well-developed electricity distribution network due to mining activities. The current electricity crisis can also be seen as an opportunity to develop other energy technologies and to invest in renewable energy.

2.3.3 North West Policy Guidelines

Given the economic growth forecasts, key demographic and socio-economic characteristics and the current economic and structural realities in the North West, the NWPG has an important role to play in setting the framework for growth and outlining the necessary actions to stimulate growth in areas such as innovation, research and development, skills, education, exports, FDI and entrepreneurship. This also means identifying

and supporting business growth in areas where there is the greatest potential, whilst ensuring that the necessary economic infrastructure is in place to capitalise on the existing strengths and opportunities.

With the Focus of the 5th Administration on rebranding, repositioning and renewing (RRR) the VTSDs' economies as a strategic drive and to further focus on Agriculture, Culture and Tourism (ACT) as key sectors in the province. As the implementing arm of the NW province this approach will be promoted by the NWDC.

It is important to indicate the relative importance of agriculture, culture and tourism in the NWP. Agriculture (both narrow [2.8%] and broad [4.4%]) plays a smaller role than in most of the other provinces (with the exception of Gauteng and Limpopo). Along with most other provinces, except Gauteng, the cultural sector makes up a small part of GVA (2.7%). Culture and Tourism is difficult to isolate as it is spread across various sectors in the economy. The tourism sector contributes more (19%) to provincial GVA than agriculture and culture put together. In the total NWP economy ACT contributed approximately 23% of all value added in 2014.

Detailed sectors	Share of provincial GVA	Share of provincial employment
Narrow agriculture	2.77%	4.85%
Broad agriculture	4.40%	6.78%
Culture	2.71%	3.60%
Tourism	19.01%	18.82%

In terms of the VTSD focus, the areas / places identified as key role players are indicated in the table below.

Category (VTSD)	Local Municipality (LM)	District Municipality (DM)
Zeerust	Ramotshere Moiloa LM	Ngaka Modiri Molema DM
Koster	Kgetlengrivier LM	Bojanala Platinum DM
Coligny	Ditsobotla LM	Ngaka Modiri Molema DM
Hartbeesfontein(Dorpie) and Tigane (Township)	City of Matlosana	Kenneth Kaunda DM
Vryburg (Dorpie) & Huhudi (Township)	Naledi LM	Dr. Ruth S. Mompoti DM
Schweizer-Reneke / Itelegeng (Mamusa)	Mamusa LM	Dr. Ruth S. Mompoti DM
Derby	Kgetlengrivier LM	Bojanala Platinum DM
Delareyville	Tswaing LM	Ngaka Modiri Molema DM
Ottosdal	Tswaing LM	Ngaka Modiri Molema DM
Wolmaransstad / Tsweleng – Maquassi Hills	Maquassi Hills LM	Kenneth Kaunda DM
Swartruggens	Kgetlengrivier LM	Bojanala Platinum DM
Sannishof	Tswaing LM	Ngaka Modiri Molema DM
Ventersdorp & Tshing	Ventersdorp LM	Kenneth Kaunda D

Source: The FEED (2015).ACT

The Department of Finance, Economy and Enterprise Development (FEED) mapped the following priorities in their 2015/2016 strategic plan to grow the economy of the NWP.



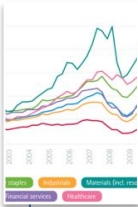
Low Agricultural Outputs

Whilst the employment numbers in the sector have increased with accompanying increased output, there's a need for further upward development for purposes of production, employment figures and agro-processing



Infrastructure Development

The Province needs to provide and maintain a solid economic infrastructure, including a reliable energy consumption grid, transport networks (road, rail, and aviation), and telecommunications



Diversification of Industries

The North West Province has to move with global trends. This calls for a thrust towards diversified local economies to include Arts and Crafts, Film industry, Green Economy industries (e.g. solar energy, waste management, and recycling projects)



Manufacturing vs Export Oriented Market

There is a need to investigate the potential of local beneficiation opportunities (based on the local outputs) and actively promote closer linkages between the local primary sector and manufacturing industries



Aggressive Enterprise Development

SMMEs are regarded as the back bone of many economies in developed and developing countries yet South Africa remains at the bottom of the rankings when it comes to countries that support small businesses to buttress the performance of their economies. To the extent that RSA has poor records on SMME support the implications are that provinces are not doing any better. The SMME strategy covers most of the challenges and plans to overcome them and therefore it suffices to mention Small Business Support as a challenge in this document



Foreign Direct Investment

The North West Province has the potential to attract foreign investment to support the local economies. The potential exists to attract local and foreign private investors to the province by providing a competitive set of incentives that could include both administrative (reducing the time required for development approval, information provision, etc.) and financial incentives disaggregated in terms of economic sectors and the value of investment particularly prioritising beneficiating activities. This can also be done through the formation of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) to reduce private sectors' risks and acquire necessary funds for investment

The North West Development Corporation (NWDC) has identified the following key and cross-cutting sectors, based on the renewed focus in the NWP

Key economic sectors include:

- Agriculture and agro-processing
- Culture
- Tourism
- Mining and mineral beneficiation
- Manufacturing
- Green economy
- ICT

Cross-cutting sectors include:

- Small and medium enterprise (SME)
- International trade
- Innovation and R&D
- Business process outsourcing (BPO)

Based on the information above NWDC will close the gap by focusing on smart specialization. Smart specialization is about placing greater emphasis on innovation and having an innovation-driven development strategy in place that focuses on each area's strength and competitive advantage. It aims at identifying factors of competitiveness and concentrating resources on key priorities. It also aims to harness area diversity by avoiding uniformity and duplication in investment goals. It combines goal-setting with a dynamic and entrepreneurial discovery process involving key stakeholders from government, business, academia and other knowledge-creating institutions.

3. SOUTH AFRICA'S GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS

The Global Competitiveness Report 2014 – 2015 by the World Economic Forum's (WEF) assesses the competitiveness landscape of 144 economies, providing insight into the drivers of their productivity and prosperity and measures over 100 indicators. South Africa ranked no 56 in 2014 down from 53 in 2013.

Positive rankings include:

- Quality of its institutions (36th),
- Including intellectual property protection (22nd),
- Property rights (20th),
- Efficiency of its legal framework in challenging and settling disputes (ninth and 15th, respectively),
- Accountability of private institutions (2nd)
- Financial market development remained impressive at seventh place, although their data pointed to "more difficulties" in all channels of obtaining finance
- Efficient market for goods and services, business sophistication and innovation, benefiting from good scientific research institutions, and strong collaboration between universities and the business sector in innovation were also identified as points supporting competitiveness.

Challenges include:

"South Africa's strong ties to advanced economies, notably the euro area, have made it more vulnerable to the economic slowdown of those economies," the WEF said.

These ties were identified as likely contributors to the deterioration of fiscal indicators in South Africa, including macroeconomic environment performance which dropped sharply in this year's index.

- Diversion of public funds,
- Perceived wastefulness of government spending,
- General lack of public trust in politicians
- Health of the workforce — at 132nd as a result of high rates of communicable diseases
- Higher education and training,
- Labour market efficiency
- Labour-employer relations (144th)

"Raising education standards and making its labour market more efficient will thus be critical in view of the country's high unemployment especially youth.

THE IMD WORLD COMPETITIVENESS SCOREBOARD

The IMD World Competitiveness Scoreboard 2015 by the Institute for Management Development in Zurich (IMD) assesses the competitiveness landscape of 61 economies, providing insight into the drivers of their productivity and prosperity. South Africa ranked no 53 in 2015:

Positive rankings include:

- Cost-of-living index (1)
- Office rent (7);
- Effective personal income-tax rate (2)

- Employer's social security contribution (3)
- Total public expenditure on education (3)
- Secondary school enrolment (7)
- Stock market capitalisation (3) and
- Finance and banking regulation (9).

EASE OF DOING BUSINESS (Business Environment/Climate)
(COMPARING BUSINESS REGULATIONS FOR DOMESTIC FIRMS IN 189 ECONOMIES World Bank Group Flagship Report 2015 for (2013/2014))

The aggregate ranking on the ease of doing business benchmarks each economy's performance on the indicators against that of all other economies in the Doing Business sample. While this ranking tells much about the business environment in an economy, it does not tell the whole story. A high ranking does mean that the government has created a regulatory environment conducive to operating a business.

Ease of Doing Business Ranking of South Africa

- Ease of Doing Business Ranking 43 (Overall)
- Protecting Minority Investors 17
- Paying Taxes 19
- Dealing with Construction Permits 32
- Resolving Insolvencies 39
- Enforcing Contracts 46
- Getting Credit 52
- Starting a Business 61
- Registering Property 97
- Trading Across Borders 100
- Getting Electricity 158

(Source: <http://www.doingbusiness.org/rankings>)

4. FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI)

4.1 Global Investment Trends

Global foreign direct investment (FDI) slowed by 16% to \$1.23-trillion in 2014. The declines were because of the fragility of the global economy, policy uncertainty for investors and elevated geopolitical risks.

FDI is viewed as a more stable source of investment into a country's economy as compared with investment inflows into the bond or stock markets.

FDI flows into developing economies flouted this trend, rising by 2% and investment into the African continent remained stable at \$54-billion.

4.2 Africa

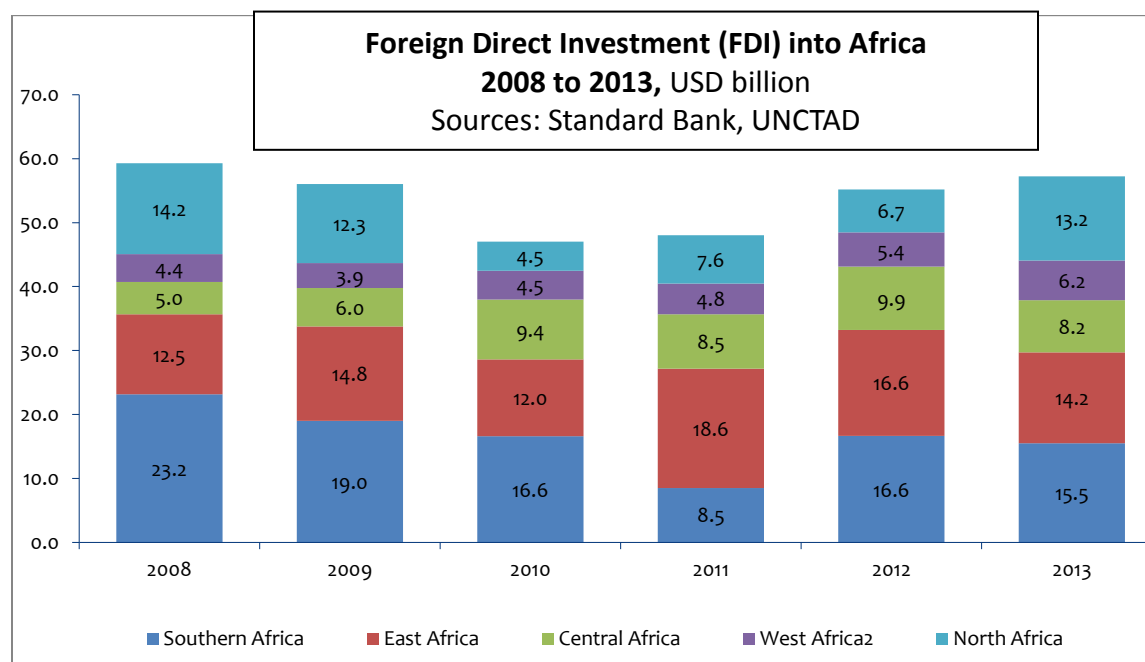
Regional Investment Trends:

The declines in the rest of the Southern African subregion were at a more muted 2%. Flows into West Africa shrank by 10% to \$12.8-billion, as a result of the Ebola virus outbreak, regional conflicts and falling commodity

prices affected several countries. Flows to East and Central Africa increased by 11% to \$6.8-billion and 33% to \$12.1-billion respectively

There is a focus shift towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and an Action Plan for promoting private sector contributions. SDGs are being formulated by the United Nations.

Foreign Direct investment (FDI) into Africa from 2008 to 2013



4.3 South Africa

South Africa saw a relatively steep decline. Investment flows into South Africa dropped by 31.2% to \$5.8-billion in 2014, down from \$8.3-billion in 2013. Mozambique saw a reduction of FDI flows by 21% or \$4.9-billion.

Several issues over the past year, including chronic power shortages and labour unrest, have weighed down South Africa's economy, resulting in lacklustre economic growth.

Uncertainty has also emerged as the government considers several changes to **policy and legislation** that private sector economists believe are weighing on investor and business confidence in the country. In May 2015, Annabel Bishop, group economist at Investec, noted that proposed legislation, including the Promotion and Protection of Investment Bill, the Expropriation Bill and a policy proposal on land reform, were "significantly contributing to low business confidence in South Africa".

The Promotion and Protection of Investment Bill

The department of trade and industry (DTI) is in the process of cancelling a number of bilateral investment treaties, with the aim of replacing this investment regime with the Promotion and Protection of Investment Bill. DTI has come under a great deal of fire for cancelling a number of investment treaties with trade partners such as Germany. But the UNCTAD report revealed that South Africa is just one of a host of nations that is in

the process of reviewing its international investment agreements regime and that there was “growing unease with the current functioning of the global international investment agreement regime”. A number of unforeseen outcomes as a result of international investment agreements had been identified. Experience had shown that these agreements “bite” – namely that their protection provisions “can and have been enforced by arbitral tribunals at sometimes huge costs to the state”, according to the report. International investment agreements can also have implications for numerous other areas at all levels of policymaking in countries, limiting the regulatory space of the contracting parties. Concerns have been raised that these limits on regulatory space “go too far, were not properly understood at the point of entry into or are inadequately balanced by safeguards for governments or by obligations on [multinational enterprises]”. (Source: 2015 World Investment Report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD))

(Source: UNTAD World Investment Report 2015)

Between January 2008 and June 2014 a total of 563 FDI projects were recorded in South Africa. These projects represent a total capital investment of **ZAR291.04 b** which is an average investment of **ZAR517.25 m** per project. During the period, a total of 110,370 jobs were created. (Source: Prepared by Trade and Investment South Africa (TISA) a division in the dti)

Destination State	Projects	CAPEX	Avg. CAPEX	Jobs Created	Avg. Jobs Created	Companies
Gauteng	247	77370.9	312.9	33665	136	225
Western Cape	89	25686.9	288.3	9626	108	84
Eastern Cape	39	26841.0	688.1	10613	272	29
KwaZulu-Natal	37	22086.0	597.2	9671	261	29
Northern Cape	23	27751.8	1206.7	4149	180	14
Mpumalanga	13	8981.2	690.8	4502	346	12
North West	8	6031.4	753.7	5078	634	8
Limpopo	7	7719.8	1102.8	3318	474	5
Free State	7	11203.9	1600.3	2880	411	7
Not Specified	93	77366.1	831.6	26868	288	91
Total	563	291038.8	517.2	110370	196	442

Notes:

- 1) ©fDi Intelligence, from the Financial Times Ltd 2014. Data subject to terms and conditions of use.
- 2) All Capex Figures shown in the table are in ZAR - South African Rand millions.
- 3) Capex data includes estimated values Financial Times Ltd takes no responsibility for the accuracy or otherwise of this data.
- 4) Jobs data includes estimated values Financial Times Ltd takes no responsibility for the accuracy or otherwise of this data.

4.4 North West Province

The North West Province received 1.42% (8) of all project (563) in South Africa between 2008 and 2014. This represents 2.07% (R 6 billion) of the capital investment and 4.6% (5 078 jobs).

North West FDI Projects Detail

#	Project Date	Investing Company	Industry Sector	Capital R mil	Jobs
1	Apr 2014	Syngenta	Food & Tobacco	63.545	57
2	Dec 2011	IGE Resources (International Gold Exploration)	Minerals	379.908	383
3	Apr 2011	Monsanto	Food & Tobacco	153.740	127
4	Aug 2010	Xstrata-Merafe	Metals	934.739	1218

5	Aug 2009	Platinum Australia	Metals	1950.107	1398
6	Nov 2008	Anglo Platinum	Metals	1950.107	1398
7	Jun 2008	Primus Special Projects (Pty)	Minerals	379.908	383
8	Jun 2008	Guangzhou Pharmaceuticals	Food & Tobacco	219.335	114

It must be noted that the information above was sourced from ©fDi Intelligence, from the Financial Times Ltd 2014 and that the projects above might not represent all the projects and expansions in the North West province as some projects are reported in other provinces as the head office of the investing companies are located there.

5. [TRADE](#)

Presenting the contents of the report in Johannesburg, Unctad economist Alex Izurieta said that international trade had slowed as a result of weak global demand. He also argued that demand was unlikely to strengthen materially in the near term, owing to a still weak global recovery. Unctad expects global growth of between 2.5% and 3% in 2014.

The way to expand trade at global level is through a “robust domestic-demand-led output recovery at national level”, rather than through the current emphasis on the cost of trade.

In the report, Unctad outlines a “balanced-growth scenario” premised on: income policies that support growth of demand; growth-enhancing fiscal policies; industrial policies to promote private investment and structural transformation; regulation of finance and capital controls to stabilise global financial markets; and development-orientated trade agreements.

Such policy prescriptions mesh with South Africa’s current deliberations on the introduction of a national minimum wage, as well as using public infrastructure investment programmes to stimulate demand for locally made manufacturing inputs.

However, there is less alignment in the area of trade policy, where South Africa aims to bolster the competitiveness of its tradeables sectors in a bid to materially increase exports, particularly the export of manufactured products.

“It is possible to achieve higher levels of global growth of above 6% to 7% continuously over the next ten years through a coordinated effort to press the accelerator on fiscal support,” Izurieta, who co-authored the report, argues.

Such support would be in the form of higher government spending on infrastructure, raising private-sector investments in productive activities and income policies that help bolster wages and, in so doing, create new demand.

To support such an outcome, Unctad says developing countries should be allowed sufficient “policy space” to pursue proactive trade and industrial policies as part of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, currently under consideration.

It also cautions developing countries not to enter into multilateral and bilateral agreements that will further erode their policy space to protect domestic industries, or to limit government’s ability to maximise the rents they are able to extract from the resources sector. Edited by: Terence Creamer

The following trade statistics were sourced from IHS Global Insight Regional Explorer with regards to trade of South Africa and the North West province.

International Trade Totals	South Africa		North West	
	2013	2014	2013	2014
Exports (R 1000)	924 055 893	1 003 825 998	20 156 967	18 300 516
Imports (R 1000)	991 185 991	1 072 463 997	6 022 629	5 553 622
Total Trade (R 1000)	1 915 241 883	2 076 289 995	26 179 596	23 854 138
Trade Balance (R 1000)	-67 130 098	-68 637 999	14 134 338	12 746 893
Exports as % of GDP	27.3%	26.4%	10.5%	8.1%
Total trade as % of GDP	56.6%	54.7%	13.7%	10.6%
Regional share - Exports	100.0%	100.0%	2.2%	1.8%
Regional share - Imports	100.0%	100.0%	0.6%	0.5%
Regional share - Total Trade	100.0%	100.0%	1.4%	1.1%
(Source: Regional eXplorer 832 (2.5q))				

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

When considering the above it is recommended that attention should be given to the following:

- Diversify the economy of the NW province
- Develop SMMEs
- Adhere to the ACTION strategic direction of the Premier being Agriculture, Culture and Tourism through Investment through Organizes Networking
- Actively seek for opportunities to benefit from the BRICS Fund.
- Develop and diversify the manufacturing sector.
- Identify leakages in the current manufacturing value chains to attract investment as well as investigate global value chains as the new trend.
- Utilise localisation strategies and products identified for local procurement by Eskom and Transnet to link to local suppliers and SMMEs that can benefit from the infrastructure development programmes.
- Increase agricultural activity and agro-processing.
- Contribute to rural development programmes.
- Utilise co-operatives to stimulate these economies.
- Utilise ICT for communication and training purposes
- Include designated groups, youth, women and disabled as beneficiaries of projects.
- The unemployed graduates database and other databases can be consulted for possible beneficiaries.
- Skilling in line with provincial plans is very important and closer co-operation should be encouraged between tertiary institutions and project drivers to be able to develop appropriate skills.

Report Submitted By

Date: 1 October 2015

J.A. Hoogkamer

Manager Research and Development,
North West Development Corporation
+27 14 594 2570