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Global economic activity continues to firm up. Global output is estimated to have grown by 3.7 percent in 2017, which is 0.1 percentage point faster than projected in the fall and ½ percentage point higher than in 2016. The pickup in growth has been broad based, with notable upside surprises in Europe and Asia. Global growth forecasts for 2018 and 2019 have been revised upward by 0.2 percentage point to 3.9 percent.





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The **South African economy** grew by 1, 3% in 2017, exceeding National Treasury's expectation of 1,0% growth announced during the National Budget Speech in February. The finance and mining industries also contributed positively to GDP growth in 2017.

The **North West Province** shows improvement in most of the developmental indicators (2009 used as baseline). Similar improvements are seen in both the number and percentage of people living in poverty below the upper poverty line, currently measured at 52.8% (59.1% in 2009) respectively. The Index of Buying Power has also increased for the NW province.

increased for the NW province. IHS Global Insight's Index of Buying Power (IBP) indicates that 6% of the country's spending power is located in the NW. The unemployment rate is slightly higher than the national average, while the percentage of people living in poverty is marginally lower than the national average.



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