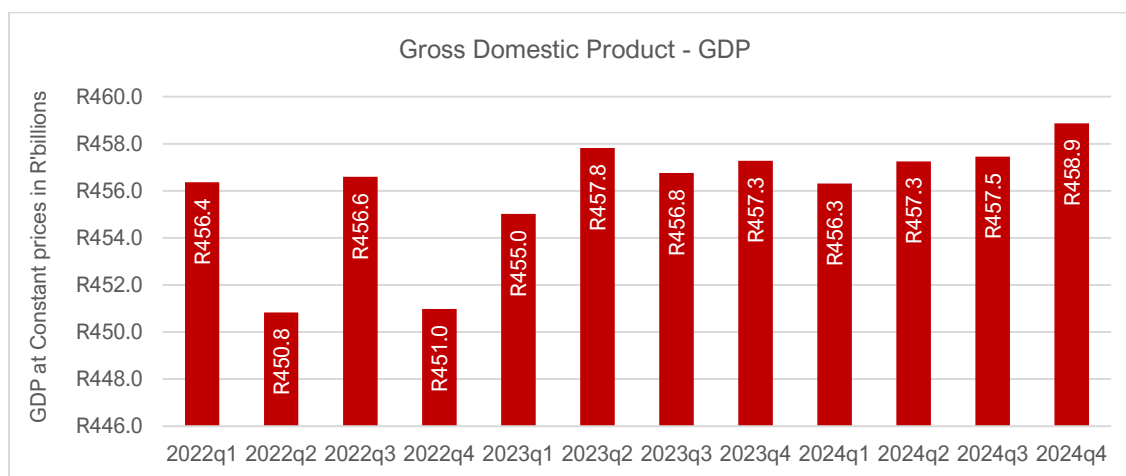


DURBAN'S GDP GROWTH RATE WITNESSED A SLIGHT INCREASE IN 2024

1. Introduction

Durban's economic performance in 2024 showcased a steady yet moderate growth trajectory, with GDP figures reflecting both sectoral resilience and certain contractions. The city's total GDP for the year recorded a progressive increase from **R456,31 billion** in Q1 to **R457,25 billion** in Q2, followed by **R457,45 billion** in Q3, and reaching **R458,87 billion** in Q4. The overall GDP growth of **0.3%** in Q4 signals a stable economic expansion despite challenges in key sectors.



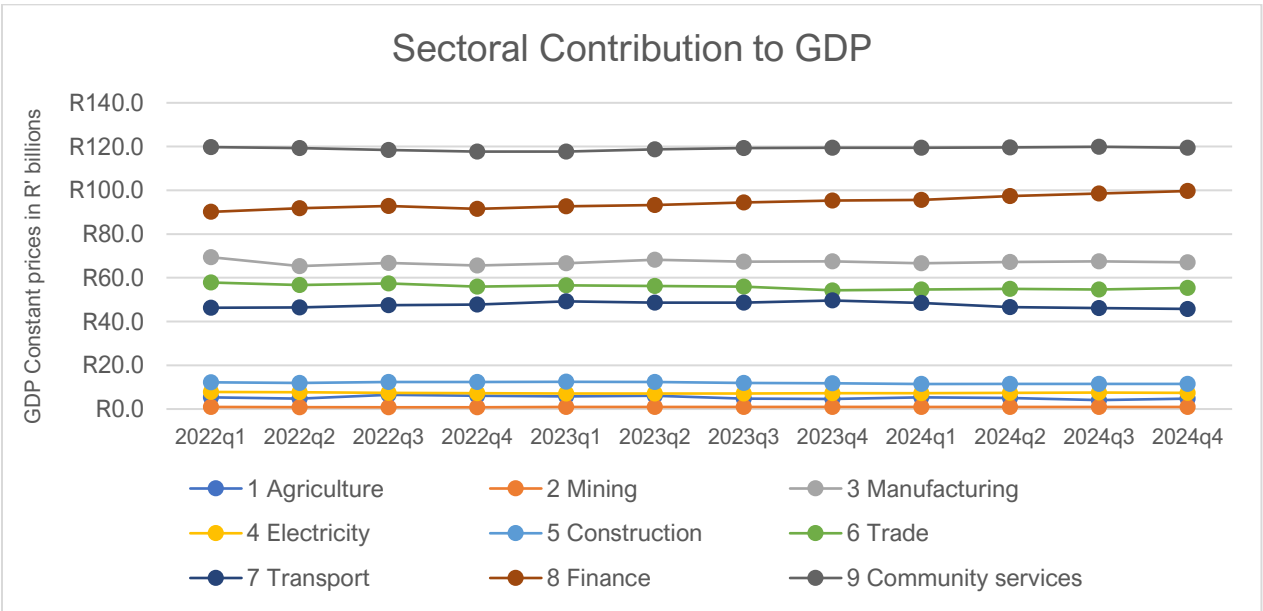
2. Sectoral Contribution

Throughout the year, various sectors experienced fluctuations that shaped the overall economic outlook. The **agriculture sector** exhibited substantial volatility, rebounding strongly in Q4 with an impressive **17.2%** growth after a sharp decline in Q3. This significant recovery suggests the influence of seasonal changes or external market forces affecting agricultural output. **Mining**, in contrast, remained largely stable with minor fluctuations, though it recorded a **0.2%** contraction in Q4, indicating slight reductions in production or demand.

Manufacturing, one of the largest contributors to Durban's GDP, faced a **0.6%** decline in Q4, hinting at challenges such as increasing production costs, weaker consumer

demand, or slowing exports. Similarly, **electricity** saw a **1.4%** contraction, potentially due to changes in consumption patterns, efficiency enhancements, or supply disruptions. The **construction** sector also experienced a **0.4%** decline, reflecting possible delays in infrastructure projects or reduced investment in new developments.

While some sectors faced contractions, others showed resilience and growth. **Trade** grew by **1.4%** in Q4, suggesting an increase in retail activity and consumer spending, which is often a strong indicator of economic confidence. The **finance sector** also posted a **1.1%** growth, reinforcing its stability as a key pillar of Durban’s economy. However, the **transport sector** experienced a noticeable decline, with figures dropping from **46,210,871** in Q3 to **45,769,458** in Q4, likely due to logistical constraints or reduced freight demand. Meanwhile, **community services** contracted slightly by **0.3%**, indicating a potential decrease in government or non-profit sector expenditures.



3. Conclusion and Economic Outlook

In conclusion, Durban’s economy in 2024 demonstrated moderate but consistent growth, with key sectors like agriculture, trade, and finance driving expansion, while manufacturing, electricity, and transport faced contractions. The **0.3%** GDP increase in Q4 underscores economic stability, yet challenges remain in revitalizing industrial output and infrastructure development. Moving into 2025, it will be crucial for Durban to implement strategic interventions to sustain economic momentum, support struggling sectors, and encourage investment-driven growth. Addressing constraints in logistics, production efficiency, and infrastructural investments will be key to unlocking the city's full economic

Produced by **The Durban EDGE** Team of the

The Economic Development Unit of

eThekweni Municipality

For more information, contact edge@durban.gov.za

