



BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES: ECONOMIC SURVEY OF SOUTH AFRICA

This Newsletter aims to explore the research landscape in topics that have been identified to support the economic landscape of South Africa, with a specific focus on the work that the OECD has done and the report that they've recently launched: 2017 Economic Survey of South Africa.

The mission of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is to promote policies that will improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world.

South Africa as key partner of the OECD, has managed to widen public services to millions of citizens in particular health, electricity, housing and education over the last two decades. This progress has been underpinned by a sound framework for macroeconomic policy. The conduct of monetary policy in South Africa is aligned with best practices in OECD countries, including an independent, inflation-targeting

central bank. Fiscal policy is following a moderate consolidation path justified by the need to limit the growing public debt and maintain the confidence of financial markets (Gurría, 2017).

The OECD Economic Survey of South Africa, launched in Pretoria at the of July 2017, stated that wide-ranging structural reforms will be needed to put the economy on a new growth trajectory, boost job creation and improve inclusivity.

Based on their findings the OECD have recommended the following:

- Financing Mechanism for higher Education
- Developing a vocational System to address SA's skill shortages and redirect young people to training
- Involvement of independent experts in the annual review of the minimum wage
- Simplifying and harmonising customs

procedures, harmonising transport regulations, and developing regional infrastructure.

An Overview of the Economic Survey, with the main conclusions, is accessible [here](#).

According to the [OECD's Data page](#) South Africa's population has shown a growth rate of 1.6%, with CO2 emissions equal to 8.1 tonnes per capita. With a growing population one will necessarily start looking at how these are influencing the green economic landscape.

In a report by the African Centre for a Green Economy (AFRICEGE) the emerging sectors that have mapped the Green economy of South Africa have been identified. Amongst these the following have further been highlighted Rural Energy, Biogas & Biofuels, Sustainable Water management and Ecosystems Services.

Titles from OECD iLibrary mapped to Green Economy of South Africa includes the [Green Growth Studies series](#) with the latest Green Growth Indicators for 2017 includes data on South Africa as well as [OECD Studies on Water](#).

OECD iLibrary offers access to



SOUTH AFRICA: RESEARCH OUTPUT IN AREAS SUPPORTING THE GREEN ECONOMY

According to data from Clarivate Analytics Research Analytics Tool, InCites. South Africa produced 1,310 papers covering the topics Rural Energy, Biogas & Biofuels, Sustainable Water management and Ecosystems Services. Of these papers 167 were in collaboration with the UK and 200 with the USA.

For each published paper, it is possible to calculate an expected (mean) citation value based on its document type, publication year and subject category (or even journal). Then, for each published item, the actual Times Cited may be compared with its expected rate. We can therefore determine the fields in which

South Africa has published the most compared with the fields in which they have outperformed the global expected level.

Applying the abovementioned methodology, these papers performed 1.62 times the global expected level.

The top 5 research areas based on number of papers in which most of the authors from South Africa have published, covering these topics are: Environmental Sciences, Ecology, Energy & Fuels, Environmental Studies, Water Resources & Biodiversity Conversation (Clarivate Analytics InCites).

Taking a closer look to the Category normalized citation impact of these papers, Ecology achieved the highest impact compared to the global average at 2.36, followed by Biodiversity Conservation with a category normalized citation impact of 2.14 (Clarivate Analytics InCites).

The organisations that have mostly contributed to the research output of these results are CSIR South Africa, Stellenbosch University, University of Cape Town, University of Kwazulu Natal, University of Pretoria, Nelson Mandela University, Rhodes University and University of Witwatersrand. Not only have they published the most papers in the field of Ecology, but their papers have achieved a category normalized citation impact above the global expected level.

PUBLISHERS AND PROVIDERS WITH CONTENT COVERING GREEN ECONOMY SUBJECT AREAS AS WELL AS ECONOMIC INFORMATION

OECD iLibrary



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