



stats sa

Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

29th Meeting of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers

Statistics South Africa and The Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers

Fourways, Johannesburg, South Africa, 27 to 31 October 2025

Venue: The Indaba Hotel (c/o Winnie Mandela Drive & Pieter Wenning Road, Fourways)

Welcome to the 29th meeting of the Wiesbaden Group

1. Background

The Wiesbaden group on Business Registers, in collaboration with Statistics South Africa, is organising the 29th Meeting of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 27 to 31 October 2025.

The Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers is an international expert group under the umbrella of the UN Statistical Commission engaged in further development of business registers, survey frames and associated topics. The group provides a forum for the exchange of views and experiences, and the conduct of joint work related to the development, maintenance and use of business registers. The group's work supports a more integrated approach to structural economic statistics and addresses new globalisation-related analytical needs. It is engaged with contemporary and emerging issues in the development and use of business registers. In particular, the Wiesbaden Group addresses forward-looking matters and identifies new challenges concerning business registers in a wider sense. The group analyses the changing nature and roles of the business register as the backbone of business statistics and a source of statistical data.

The Wiesbaden Group is an informal body and participation is voluntary. Participants are, however, required to contribute to the programme of the biennial meetings of the group. Although its mandate does not emanate from a formal body, the Wiesbaden Group reports to the UN Statistical Commission on its activities and recommendations of practices and standards



2. Objectives of the Wiesbaden Group Meeting

The meeting aims to address the following objectives:

- To discuss specific technical topics/themes or challenges related to business registers.
- To share knowledge, innovations, and best practices in building and maintaining statistical business registers.
- To identify actionable solutions and strategies to address country/regional challenges concerning statistical business registers.
- To foster collaboration among stakeholders and enhance technical capacity.

3. Meeting duration

The meeting will be conducted over five days, with the fifth (5th) day designated solely for the African countries¹.

¹ See preliminary program for details



4. Topics to be covered

The programme for the 29th Meeting of The Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers will be organised in sessions around “thematic areas,” as follows:

- Enhancing Data Quality and Coverage
- Globalisation and Profiling of Multinational Enterprises
- Geospatial and Environmental Data
- New Data Sources: Social Media, Web Scraping and Big Data
- Modernising the Statistical Business Register
- Digital Economy and the Statistical Business Register
- Classification
- Using the Statistical Business Register to produce business statistics
- Unique Identifier for Businesses
- Statistical Units
- Informal Economy
- African Group:
 - Governance and Maintenance
 - Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing
 - Ethical and Legal Considerations in Data Use

The programme will be available on the website once finalised – e.g. pending the duration of sessions.

5. Wiesbaden Group Steering Committee

Meetings are held at the venue and are restricted to members of the Wiesbaden Group Steering Committee.



6. Meeting venue

The meeting will be held at the Indaba Hotel in Fourways, Johannesburg, South Africa.



Nestled in the heart of Johannesburg's northern suburbs, the Indaba Hotel offers a serene escape with a blend of luxurious comfort and modern amenities. Surrounded by lush gardens and tranquil water features, this elegant hotel provides an ideal setting for both business and leisure travellers.

Dining at the Indaba Hotel is a delightful experience, with a variety of options to suit every palate. From the cosy and casual atmosphere of Epsom Restaurant, where you can enjoy delicious meals throughout the day, to the vibrant Chief's Boma Restaurant, offering a truly African feast with over 120 dishes, including traditional favourites and game meats. Whether you're looking for a relaxed meal or an authentic culinary adventure, Indaba Hotel has something special for everyone.



The Indaba Hotel Fourways, which opened its doors in 1952 to weary travellers and the Johannesburg elite, now boasts 250 bedrooms, 24 conference rooms, two restaurants, a Gin Sensorium, a Wine Tasting Room and an award winning African Day Spa. This 17-hectare conference resort is still a “country hotel” at heart and is recognized as an “oasis” in the busy heart of Fourways, providing lodging, entertainment and sustainable employment to the community at large.

Ever-evolving, the Indaba Hotel is now a compelling blend of business-like convenience and efficiency, with a relaxed and warm country atmosphere. It features an impressive selection of conference venues and banqueting facilities, making it the perfect destination for business and leisure travellers alike – your perfect “home away from home.”

7. Address:

Corner of Winnie Mandela Drive and Pieter Wenning Road, Fourways, Johannesburg.

GPS coordinates: 25° 59'58.737"S | 28° 0'44.621"E

<https://www.indabahotel.co.za/>

8. Persons with disabilities

Ample parking bays are located close to the entrance. The hotel is easily accessible as all facilities at the venue are situated on the ground floor (inclusive of accommodation rooms).

9. Refreshment breaks

Tea and coffee will be served daily in the foyer in front of the meeting room. Additional refreshments can be purchased at the restaurant within the facility at each participant's own cost.

10. Simultaneous interpretation

Interpretation will be provided in English and French, based on requests and/or need.

11. Wi-Fi hotspots

Wi-Fi hotspots are located throughout the Indaba Hotel, Spa and Conference Centre.



12. Hotels

Please be advised that participants or their organisations are responsible for making their own accommodation arrangements. The cost of the accommodation will also need to be covered by each participant. Liberty has been taken to identify a few hotels that are conveniently located within a three-kilometre radius of the meeting venue (Indaba Hotel, Spa and Conference Centre). The hope is that participants will find it helpful in making accommodation arrangements. Please find below a list of hotels. A conference booking code is available for those delegates wishing to stay at the Indaba Hotel.

Hotels	Kilometres and driving time to Indaba Conference Centre	Email	Telephone	Room Types
The Indaba Hotel, Spa & Conference Centre (meeting venue)	Located at meeting venue	Indaba@indabahotel.co.za	+27 11 840 6600 +27 11 840 6610	Standard twin, standard double and luxury suites
The Palazzo Montecasino	2,9km/5 min	palazzo.reservations@tsogosun.com	+27 11 510 3000	Superior, deluxe and executive
The Pivot Hotel Montecasino	2,9km/5 min	pivot.reservations@tsogosun.com	+27 11 367 4367	Superior rooms with either a queen bed or 2 double beds
The Piazza Hotel Montecasino	2,9km/5 min	piazza.reservations@tsogosun.com	+27 11 557 7007	Standard room with an open plan bathroom and separate shower
City Lodge Hotel Fourways	2,8km/5 min	clfourways.resv@citylodgehotels.com	+27 11 244 6000	Standard rooms with double bed OR 2 single beds



12. (a). Indaba Hotel accommodation information

Booking code: 6139685

Accommodation type	Option
Single – per room, per night	Bed and breakfast
Single – per room, per night	Dinner, bed and breakfast
Sharing – per room, per night	Bed and breakfast
Sharing – per room, per night	Dinner, bed and breakfast

13. Airport

OR Tambo International Airport (<https://ortambo-airport.com/index.html>) is the busiest airport in Africa. It is situated in the Kempton Park district of Johannesburg, 23 km northwest of the city centre and 46 km south of Pretoria city centre. Formerly Jan Smuts Airport, it has been renamed in honour of the late former African National Congress (ANC) President, Oliver Reginald Tambo, who was more commonly referred to as OR Tambo.

Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town have modern airports with facilities to match. Apart from shops and restaurants, international arrival halls have banks and foreign exchange outlets. All airports offer wireless internet (Wi-Fi) access throughout the building or designated 'hot spots' where coverage exists. Wi-Fi facilities are available at the International and Domestic Terminals at OR Tambo International Airport.



14. Transport

Transportation to and from OR Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg, to the identified hotels, will be organised by Stats SA.

To allow for the smooth running of this process, each participant's itinerary is required. It is therefore crucial that all participants send their itinerary, such as flight details, arrival and departure times, as well as confirmed accommodation details in advance, to the meeting organisers. The itinerary form, available on the meeting website, must be completed and sent via email to Wiesbaden2025RSA@statssa.gov.za. An example of the itinerary form is annexed on the last page of this document.

There will be vehicles available to transport participants from the airport to the listed hotels. The Stats SA transport service will be provided on a daily basis from the listed hotels to the venue and vice versa. Please note that Stats SA will only provide transport support to and from the listed hotels (see part 12).

The meeting venue, however, offers transport daily to and from the hotel to the nearby mall on an hourly basis without costs. Delegates are requested to request the service through the hotel's reception, should there be a need. An airport shuttle from the hotel comes at a cost and this service is outsourced by the venue.

14.(a) e-hailing Services

The top e-hailing services in South Africa are **Uber**, **Bolt**, and **inDrive**.

- **Uber** offers a range of vehicle options (Standard, XL, Luxury) and upfront pricing.
- **Bolt** is popular for its competitive rates and widely available.
- **inDrive** allows you to negotiate fares directly with drivers before the trip begins.

All these apps are available for download on the Google Play Store and Apple App Store. They support card and/or cash payments (depending on the service), and most offer features like real-time tracking, driver ratings, and customer support.

Tips for Using E-Hailing Services:

- Always check the license plate and driver's name before getting into the vehicle.
- Avoid sharing your ride with strangers unless using a verified carpooling option.
- If traveling late at night, share your trip details with a friend or colleague for safety



15. Visa requirement

Requirements for visitor visas differ from country to country and the requirements are subject to change. For more information on which countries are currently exempt, please check:

<http://www.dha.gov.za/index.php/immigration-services/exempt-countries>

As each application is treated as an individual case, participants should make enquiries with their nearest South African mission or consulate abroad, or any office of the Department of Home Affairs, to see whether they are required to apply for a visa. Remember that there is a fee charged for issuing a visa, and participants should check the cost with the office. The fee is payable in different currencies in different countries. For more information, please check:

<http://www.dha.gov.za/index.php/applying-for-sa-visa>

Visas are not issued at South African ports of entry, and airline officials are obliged to insist on visas before allowing passengers to board. If you arrive without a visa, immigration officials are obliged to place you on a flight back to your home country.

<http://www.dha.gov.za/index.php/applying-for-sa-visa>

The South African online eVisa service provides a convenient and secure option to process an eVisa application with the South African Department of Home Affairs. The service provides direct interaction with the department that is responsible for lawfully processing and granting eVisas to travellers entering South Africa. For more information, please check:

<https://ehome.dha.gov.za/epermit/home>

16. Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is at the attendee's own expense and should be arranged in advance.

17. Embassies and Missions:

To view a list of South African Embassies, Consulates, and Diplomatic Missions please visit the following website: <https://www.dirco.gov.za>



18. Emergency medical services (EMS)

The necessary health and safety protocols are in place.

Hospitals	Kilometres and driving time from Indaba Conference Centre	Links
Life Fourways Hospital (Open 24 Hours)	3,8 km/9 mins	https://www.lifehealthcare.co.za/hospitals/gauteng/johannesburg/life-fourways-hospital/
Cure Day Hospitals Fourways (Closes 4:30 pm)	2,8 km/7 mins	https://cure.co.za/cure-fourways/
Netcare Olivedale Hospital (Open 24 Hours)	9,8 km/17 min	https://www.netcare.co.za/netcare-hospitals

19. Currency

The South African currency is known as the Rand (ZAR). Bank notes are available in denominations of R10, R20, R50, R100 and R200. Silver coins are available in denominations of R1, R2 and R5. Brass coins are available in denominations of 10c, 20c and 50c. All major credit cards (Visa, Master Card, American Express and Diners Club) are widely accepted in and around South Africa.

20. Value Added Tax (VAT)

VAT is set at 15% and should be included in the retail price displayed on goods and services. Refunds on VAT paid for goods taken out of the country may be claimed by visitors. VAT refund administration offices can be found at all major international departure points, and visitors will be required to provide the original VAT documentation with their claim. Please note that VAT refunds exclude services rendered or goods consumed.



21. Business and trading hours

In general, business and shopping hours are from 09h00 to 17h00 on weekdays. However, most shopping malls operate with extended hours and are open seven days a week. Banking hours are generally from 08h30 to 15h00 on weekdays and 08h30 to 11h00 on Saturdays. Most banks are closed on Sundays.

22. Tipping

Tipping, normally at 10% of the total bill, is accepted in most restaurants. For groups of 10 or more a service charge is normally included in the bill and an additional tip is at the discretion of the group depending on their service experience at the restaurant. Tipping of hotel staff is at the discretion of the guest.

23. Shopping, entertainment and dining

One of the main attractions in Fourways is Fourways Mall, which ranks among the largest shopping centres in Africa, and the largest mall in South Africa. Fourways Mall with its 178,000 m² of shopping space, consists of over 400 stores, a two-level food court, an open-air exhibition arena, entertainment area, paddle courts, outdoor mini golf course, various restaurants and over 8000 parking bays.

The mall also hosts over 30 fast food and restaurant options, and all major banks, including forex shops. <https://fourwaysmall.com/>

Fourways is also home to Montecasino, a leisure and casino complex. It is themed after Monte Casino in Italy and designed to replicate an ancient Tuscan village. <https://www.montecasino.co.za/>

24. Weather in Fourways

Participants will be visiting South Africa during mid-spring, in October. The temperatures in Fourways in October are comfortable with a low of 14°C (57,2°F), and average highs of 27°C (80,6°F). About three to nine days of rain can be expected in Fourways in October. It would therefore be suggested to bring along an umbrella to avoid getting caught in poor weather. In October, the average length of the day is approximately 12 hours and 20 minutes. The sunrise in Fourways in October is around 05:33, and sunset is around 18:14.



25. Electricity

In South Africa, the power sockets are of type C, M and N. The standard voltage is 230 V and the standard frequency is 50 Hz. For more information, please refer to the following link:

<https://www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plug-voltage-by-country/south-africa>.

26. Water

Water in Johannesburg has been treated to be free from harmful micro-organisms and chemical contaminants, making it safe to drink straight from the tap.

27. Time Difference

South African Standard Time (SAST) is the time zone used by all of South Africa as well as Eswatini and Lesotho. The zone is two hours ahead of UTC (UTC+02:00) and is the same as Central Africa Time.



28. General safety and security

South Africa is a diverse and beautiful country with a lot to offer tourists, including stunning landscapes, wildlife, and cultural experiences. However, it is important to note that like any destination, South Africa has certain safety considerations that travellers should be aware of.

O.R. Tambo International Airport remains the heartbeat of international arrivals and departures, has interesting retail shops and restaurants. It is one of the busiest airport in Africa. Travellers/Delegates are encouraged to become more vigilant, aware of surroundings and report security incidents to the security officers.

Carry credits cards rather than large amounts of cash.

Delegates are also advised to keep valuables, phones hidden, (keep expensive items like jewellery, cameras, and electronics out of sight), to use secure transportation, and be aware of potential risks like pickpockets and scams. Keep copies of your passport and other essential documents in a secure location separate from the originals. Always keep emergency contacts availed handy.

There will be a host/information desk at the venue for the duration of the meeting, where Stats SA officials will be stationed. Delegates are requested to contact this desk should there be any matter that needs to be attended to.

29. Host contact details

If you have any questions regarding the 29th meeting of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers, please do not hesitate to contact the organisers at: Wiesbaden2025RSA@statssa.gov.za

Ground transport contact persons:

First Name	Last Name	Mobile No.	Email address
Ms. Rendani	Rasalanavho	+27 82 941 9384	RendaniR@statssa.gov.za
Ms. Nozipho	Mofokeng	+27 82 904 7159	NoziphoMo@statssa.gov.za
Ms. Mpho	Makgotlwe	+27 82 888 2586	MphoM@statssa.gov.za
Mr. Michael	van Huysteen	+27 82 905 2235	MichaelVH@statssa.gov.za



30. Participants' Itinerary form to be completed for ground transport purposes

Annex 1

No	Details of participants	
1.	First Name:	Last name:
2.	Expected arrival:	Date: Time: Flight number:
3.	Expected departure:	Date: Time:
4.	Country:	
5.	Choice of hotel:	
6.	Passport number:	
	Date and place it was issued:	
	Date of Expiry:	

This form should be completed (downloaded and populated) through the meeting website accessible under the “ Information and downloads” tab and emailed back to the organisers at:

Wiesbaden2025RSA@statssa.gov.za

