

South Africa

Main indicators and characteristics of collective bargaining

This note presents the main indicators and characteristics of collective bargaining in South Africa for 2019 or the latest year available. The purpose of this note is to provide a snapshot of the functioning of collective bargaining in South Africa that can be used for comparisons with other countries in the database. Therefore, this note does not provide a precise description of the legal provisions or standard practices in South Africa but only a general summary.

The first version of the OECD and AIAS, Institutional Characteristics of Trade Unions, Wage Setting, State Intervention and Social Pacts (ICTWSS) database has been released in February 2021 and has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation “EaSI” (2014-2020), VS/2019/0185. The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Union.

The OECD/AIAS ICTWSS database together with its codebook, a note on methodology and sources and a glossary is publicly available at www.oecd.org/employment/ictwss-database.htm. For any information or correction, please contact CollectiveBargaining@oecd.org.

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The actors and scope of collective bargaining

<i>Trade union density (% of employees)</i>	29% (in 2019)
<i>Adjusted bargaining (or union) coverage rate (% of employees with the right to bargain)</i>	30.1% (in 2019)
<i>Employer organisation density (% of employees)</i>	42% (in 2014)

Wage setting

<i>The predominant level at which wage bargaining takes place (in terms of coverage of employees)</i>	Intermediate or alternating between sector and company bargaining
<i>The combination of levels at which collective bargaining over wages takes place</i>	Missing
<i>Reach or incidence of additional enterprise bargaining</i>	Missing
<i>Favourability</i>	Missing
<i>Opening clauses in sectoral collective agreements</i>	Missing
<i>Crisis-related, temporary opening clauses in collective agreement</i>	Missing
<i>Mandatory extension of collective agreements to non-organised employers</i>	Extension is used in many industries, but there are limitations (e.g. thresholds or the government can (and sometimes do) decide not to extend (clauses in) collective agreements)
<i>Is there a statutory minimum wage in your country?</i>	Yes, there is one or more statutory minimum wage rate(s) that cover(s) all or most employees

Wage co-ordination

<i>Coordination of wage-setting</i>	Missing
<i>Type of coordination of wage setting</i>	Missing

Works councils and employee representation in the enterprise

<i>Status of works council</i>	Works councils (etc.) are voluntary, i.e. even where they are mandated by law, there are no legal sanctions for non-observance
<i>Involvement of works councils (or similar structures) in wage negotiations</i>	Works councils is formally (by law or agreement) barred from negotiating (plant-level) agreements and involvement of works councils in negotiating (plant-level) agreements is rare

Social pacts and agreements

<i>A social pact or central agreement is signed in specified year</i>	No
<i>Existence of a tripartite council for the purpose of negotiation, consultation or information exchange over social and economic policies</i>	Council with various societal interest representatives, including unions and employers