



#KnowYourMunicipality: The 2023 Socio-Economic Profile

Cape Winelands District Municipality



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Cape Winelands District: At a Glance

M	Population			Housel	holds
пип ММПМ	877 36	8		242	283
MANANA	(Source: Department of Health)				: Cape Winelands District Municipality)
ducation		2022	Poverty	,	2022
	Matric Pass Rate	77.4%			0.59
	Learner Retention Rate	76.0%		Povertv Head C	count Ratio (UBPL) 64.83
	Learner-Teacher Ratio	27.77			
lealth					2022/23
	Primary Health Care Facilities	Immunisatior Rate		ortality Ratio 10 live births)	Teenage Pregnancies – Delivery rate to women
	40	7/ 407	F		U/18
	(excl. mobile/satellite clinics)	76.4%	52	1.7	13.3%
afety and	Security		Act	ual number of rep	orted cases in 2022/23
49 0	Residential Burglaries	DUI	Drug-related Crimes	Murder	Sexual Offences
ŐĎ	4391	768	6783	395	989
ccess to B	asic Service Delive	ery Pe	rcentage of hous	eholds with acce	ss to basic services, 2022
Water	Refuse Removal	Electrici	ty s	Sanitation	Housing
87.1%	85.6%	97.1	% 🖪 🤅	76.2%	88.8% 🗡
	آڭ			Q	
	Labour	2022	Socio-ec	conomic Risks	3
	Unemployment Rate	<u> </u>	Risk 1	Job losses	
	(narrow definition)	Ă	Risk 2 Risk 3	Low learner retent Low skills base (La	
argest 3 Se	14.7% ectors			Co	ntribution to GDP, 2021
	ance, real estate	Wholesale	e & retail trade,		
nance insur					Nanufacturing

Provincial Treasury produces socio-economic profiles for each of the Western Cape municipalities on an annual basis. These profiles provide the Western Cape municipalities with data and analyses pertaining to their municipal area, which may assist in planning, budgeting and the prioritisation of municipal services.

The profiles include information on recent trends in GDP and labour market performance, demographics, education and health outcomes. It further unpacks per capita income, inequality and poverty, access to housing and basic services as well as crime levels.

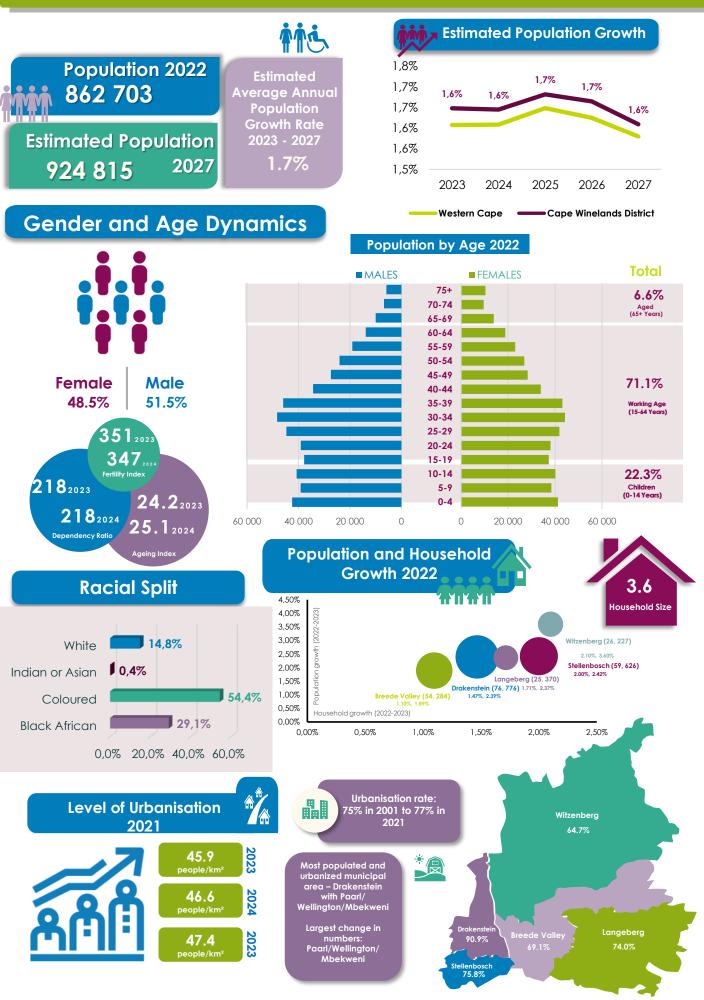
The indicators reflect the socio-economic reality of municipalities. As such, valuable insight can be gained as to the developmental challenges faced by communities residing within a specific geographical area. While some developmental challenges are not within the municipality's mandate to address, these profiles also provide spatial information for other spheres of Government in order to improve the quality of lives of people within each municipal area.

This profile uses data primarily sourced from Statistics South Africa, administrative data from sector departments, the Municipal Review and Outlook (MERO), *Global Insight Regional Explorer* and Quantec. The data sourced from sector departments are the most recent that is available. The Statistics South Africa 2022 Census contains the latest survey data available at municipal level.

The format of the profile allows for easy readability with the data being displayed in infographics, followed by the relevant trend analyses.

The information contained in this profile highlights information for the Cape Winelands District Municipality in relation to the broader Cape Winelands District.

DEMOGRAPHICS



Population and Household Growth

As of 2022, 13.4 percent of the Western Cape's population resides in the Cape Winelands District, totaling 862 703 persons. By 2027, it is estimated to reach 924 815 persons, reflecting an average annual growth rate of 1.7 percent. This growth rate aligns with the provincial average. Such demographic changes hold socio-economic implications for the district. The household size is anticipated to remain stable at an average household size of 3.6 in 2022 till 2027, is influenced by cultural norms and socio-economic factors impacting employment, education, and housing markets. Understanding these shifts is essential for policymakers and planners in adapting social services and infrastructure to evolving household structures.

Gender, Age and Race Dynamics

The sex ratio in the Cape Winelands District, representing males per 100 females, stands at 48.5 per cent (males) to 51.5 per cent (females) in 2022. This ratio slightly increases to 99 by 2027. Potential explanations for this shift include factors such as an influx of working males or changes in female mortality rates. This demographic dynamic has ramifications for labor market trends and social services planning. Analyzing age cohorts, the dependency ratio highlights the balance between the working-age population (15–64 years) and those dependent on them. Despite a 2.5 per cent growth in the aged population (65+ years) from 2022 to 2026, the overall dependency ratio remains relatively stable at 1.7 per cent. This stability suggests that despite an aging population, the workforce can adequately support dependents, possibly indicating improvements in life expectancy or the district's appeal as a retirement destination.

The Cape Winelands District's population, totaling 862 703 individuals, manifests a nuanced demographic composition across various racial groups, each contributing uniquely to the district's economic landscape. The sizable presence of 469 019 individuals in the Coloured population signifies a substantial segment with significant socio-economic implications. Coloured communities often play pivotal roles in local economies, and their demographics influence labor markets, consumer behavior, and community development initiatives. Policymakers must prioritize strategies that address the specific socio-economic needs of the Coloured population to ensure inclusive growth and equitable distribution of economic opportunities. Furthermore, the Black African population, comprising 251 207 individuals, holds considerable significance in shaping the district's socio-economic dynamics. This demographic segment often forms a substantial part of the labor force, and its economic well-being directly impacts productivity and overall community welfare. Tailoring policies to enhance education, employment, and entrepreneurial opportunities for the Black African population is imperative for fostering sustainable economic development. A focus on skills development and job creation within this group can contribute not only to individual prosperity but also to the district's overall economic resilience and competitiveness. In essence, recognizing and addressing the distinct socio-economic roles of each racial group is essential for formulating comprehensive economic policies that promote inclusive growth in the Cape Winelands District

Level of Urbanisation

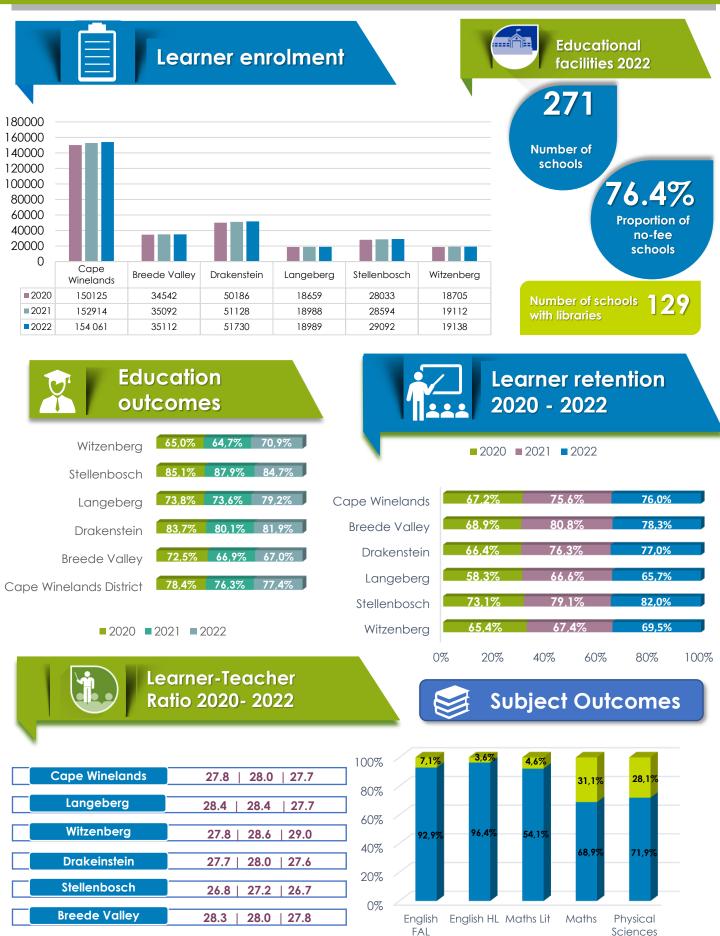
As the district boasting the highest population count, ranking second only to the metropolitan area with an estimated population of approximately 1 million in 2021, it comes as no surprise that the Cape Winelands District has undergone a discernible surge in urbanization. Employing established alignment, modeling, and spatial boundary frameworks for urban and rural categorization, the estimated urbanization percentage has seen a modest rise from 75 per cent in 2001 to 77 per cent. While this 2.1 per cent increase may appear relatively modest when juxtaposed with other districts, it represents a substantive urbanization increment, accounting for the addition of 260,000 individuals in urban areas within the 2001 to 2020 timeframe out of the total estimated population growth of 320,000 persons. In delineating the urbanization landscape within the district for 2021, Drakenstein emerges as the most urbanized municipality, with an estimated 91 per cent of its populace residing in urban classified areas, followed by Stellenbosch at 76 per cent, Langeberg at 74 per cent, Breede Valley at 70 per cent, and Witzenberg at 65 per cent. Notably, the most significant urbanization growth over the period from 2001 to 2021 is anticipated in Witzenberg, with a notable 12 per cent increase, and Langeberg, experiencing a substantial 9.6 per cent growth in urbanization, exemplifying the evolving urban dynamics within the local municipalities of the Cape Winelands District.

Population density

Population density, measured as the number of individuals per square kilometer, is a critical metric influenced by economic, social, and geographical factors. In 2022, the district's overall population density is 45 people per square kilometer, with significant variations across local municipal areas. Notably, Stellenbosch, Drakenstein, and Breede Valley exhibit higher population densities, indicating potential areas for focused urban development and resource allocation. This data aids in responsive municipal planning, budgeting, and environmental risk management.

- Stellenbosch 240 people/km²
- Drakenstein 194 people/km²
- Breede Valley 51 people/km²
- Langeberg 27 people/km²
- Witzenberg
 14 people/km²

EDUCATION



Pass Fail

Introduction

Education stands as a potent catalyst for societal upliftment and the cultivation of a robust and proficient economy. Enhanced educational outcomes not only boost productivity and facilitate employment but also play a pivotal role in fostering economic and social advancements. Moreover, the indirect benefits on health and life expectancy underscore the profound socio-economic implications associated with the educational status of a given community.

Learner enrolment

In the Cape Winelands District, learner enrolment witnessed a commendable increase from 150 125 in 2020 to 154 061 in 2022, representing a rise of 3 936 learners within this period. This surge in enrolment bears positive socio-economic implications as it aligns with the potential for a larger skilled workforce, contributing to economic development and progress.

Learner Retention Rate

Learner retention, defined as the continuation of learners in the schooling system until the completion of compulsory education, is influenced by a myriad of factors, including economic and social determinants. Economic influences such as unemployment, poverty, and low household income, alongside social concerns like overcrowded classrooms and student attitudes, significantly impact retention rates. In the Cape Winelands District, the upward trajectory in the learner retention rate, increasing from 67.2 per cent in 2020 to 76.0 per cent in 2022, is a positive indicator of improved schooling system efficiency and quality. However, the persistent challenge of more than 20 per cent of learners dropping out necessitates targeted interventions to address socio-economic barriers hindering educational continuity.

Learner teacher ratio

The learner-teacher ratio serves as a key metric reflecting a school's capacity to accommodate learners effectively. South African public schools often contend with large class sizes, and while the causal relationship between class size and academic outcomes is debated, smaller class sizes are generally regarded as conducive to improved learner performance. In the Western Cape, state-paid educators face a notably higher average learner-teacher ratio of 39.8 compared to the more favorable ratio of 31.9 in schools with both state-paid and SGB-paid educators. This discrepancy highlights potential challenges in state-funded public schools and underscores the socio-economic implications associated with resource allocation in education. The district figure of 27.7 in 2022 ranks favourably when compared to the Metro and Provincial figures alike.

Education outcomes

Education stands as a pivotal avenue through which the state actively engages in the economy. Policy decisions in the realm of education play a crucial role in shaping individuals for future participation in the labor market, thereby influencing the realization of economic and poverty reduction objectives. The matric pass rate in the District has experienced a decline, decreasing from 78.4 per cent in 2020 to 77.4 per cent in 2022, marking the lowest among all Districts in the Province. This decline holds socio-economic implications, potentially impacting the region's workforce readiness and the efficacy of poverty reduction initiatives. Notably, Stellenbosch and Drakenstein exhibit high pass rates, albeit with a slight regression in the Drakenstein average from 2020 to 2022, while Witzenberg and Breede Valley grapple with the lowest pass rates, experiencing a decline over the past three years

Education infrastructure and facilities

The District currently boasts 271 public ordinary schools, a figure that has remained constant in recent years. The Department of Education, in the 2022/23 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), has outlined seven infrastructure projects within the Cape Winelands District, with notable allocations for key institutions like Waveren Secondary School in Witzenberg and Dal Josaphat Primary School in Drakenstein. These investments, totaling millions in spending, signal a commitment to enhancing educational infrastructure, which in turn has economic ramifications by fostering a conducive environment for quality learning.

The No-Fee Schools policy, designed to eliminate fees in the poorest 40 per cent of schools nationally for learners from Grade R to Grade 9, contributes to addressing financial barriers to education. In the Cape Winelands District, 76.4 per cent of schools (a total of 207 schools) operate as no-fee schools in 2022. This statistic is particularly noteworthy in the context of national dropout rates, where 24.7 per cent of learners in South Africa reported leaving school in 2021 due to financial constraints. The prevalence of no-fee schools in the district aligns with socio-economic considerations, ensuring that a significant portion of the student population has access to education despite economic challenges.

Out of the 271 schools in the Cape Winelands District, 129 are equipped with libraries. The presence of library facilities in schools contributes to bridging the academic attainment gap by providing students with access to information, directly impacting educational outcomes. This underscores the economic importance of investing in educational resources, as a well-equipped educational environment is instrumental in fostering a knowledgeable and skilled workforce, with potential long-term socio-economic benefits

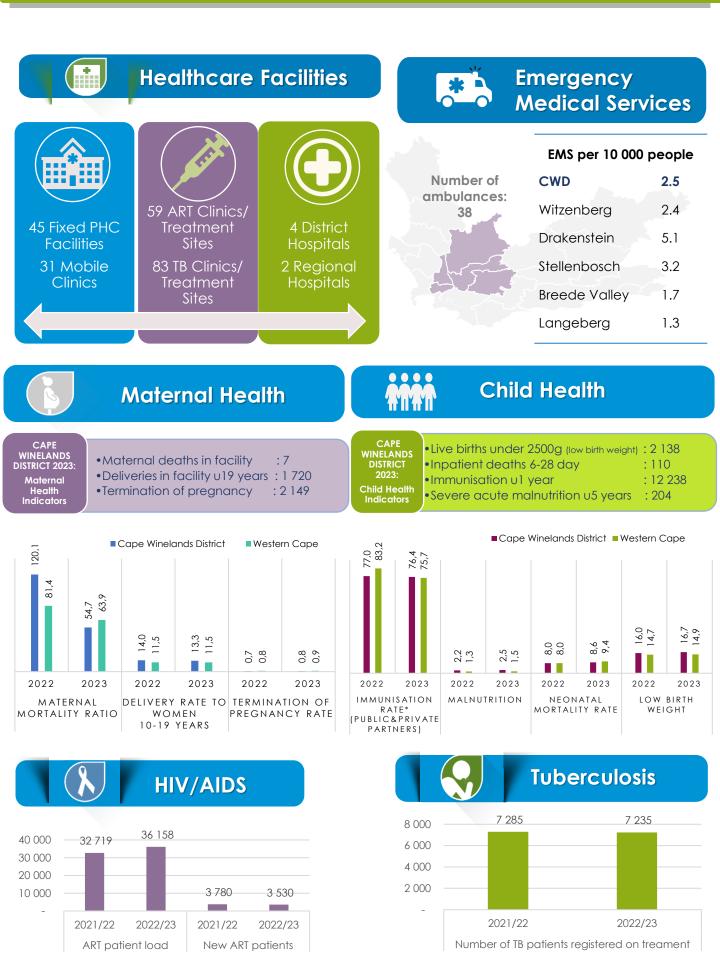
Subject outcomes

The performance cross-analysis across various subjects reveals important insights into the skill set of the student population and its potential impact on the socio-economic landscape. In language proficiency, English FAL and HL exhibit high pass rates of 92.9 per cent and 96.4 per cent, respectively, indicating a strong foundation in communication skills. The economic implication lies in the potential for a workforce adept at effective communication, crucial for various sectors such as business, administration, and international relations. However, the presence of a 7.1 per cent failure rate in English FAL and 3.6 per cent in English HL highlights the importance of addressing language education gaps to ensure a well-rounded workforce capable of contributing meaningfully to the economy.

Moving to mathematical literacy, the 54.1 per cent pass rate in Maths Lit suggests a moderate level of success in practical mathematical applications. This skill is particularly relevant for everyday problemsolving in various economic contexts. However, the 4.6 per cent failure rate indicates a need for focused efforts to enhance mathematical literacy, ensuring that individuals possess the numerical skills essential for navigating real-world economic challenges. Bridging this gap in mathematical proficiency is essential for equipping the workforce with the capabilities required for positions in finance, economics, and other sectors heavily reliant on quantitative skills.

In the realm of pure mathematics and physical sciences, the pass rates of 68.9 per cent and 71.9 per cent, respectively, demonstrate a solid foundation in STEM-related subjects. Proficiency in these areas is critical for fostering innovation and technological advancements, contributing directly to economic development. However, the high failure rate in Mathematics at 31.1 per cent and Physical Sciences at 28.1 per cent underscores the need for targeted interventions to address challenges in STEM education. Enhancing the proficiency of students in these subjects is paramount for securing a skilled workforce that can drive scientific and technological progress, positioning the region competitively in the global economy.

HEALTH



Cape Winelands District

Cape Winelands District

HEALTH

Healthcare facilities

As per the 2021 General Household Survey (GHS), the Western Cape boasts the second-largest percentage of individuals with medical aid coverage, reaching 23.7 per cent. Despite this, the significance of government healthcare facilities remains paramount in delivering primary healthcare services to a substantial majority of the Province's population. Within the Cape Winelands District in 2022, there were 45 primary healthcare clinics, consisting of 40 fixed clinics and 5 community day centers. Additionally, the district featured 33 mobile/satellite clinics, 4 district hospitals, 59 ART treatment sites, and 83 TB clinics. This comprehensive healthcare infrastructure is critical for addressing the diverse medical needs of the community, contributing to the overall well-being and productivity of the population

Emergency medical services

The provision of emergency medical services is a critical component of the healthcare system, and in 2021, the Cape Winelands District had a total of 38 ambulances. This translates to 2.5 ambulances per 10 000 people servicing the municipal area, reflecting the need for an increased number of operational ambulances to ensure greater coverage. The inclusion of private service providers would further contribute to an enhanced emergency medical response system. Strengthening emergency medical services is integral to minimizing the impact of health emergencies on individuals and the broader community, thus promoting overall economic stability

Maternal health

Maternal health indicators reveal noteworthy trends, with the maternal mortality in facility ratio (MMFR) in the Cape Winelands District decreasing from 120.1 deaths per 100 000 live births in 2021.22 to 54.7 in 2022/23. This indicates a decline in MMFR, emphasizing the importance of ongoing efforts to enhance maternal healthcare services. The district's MMFR is lower than the provincial rate, which decreased during the same period. The rates in specific municipal areas, such as Drakenstein and Breede Valley, underscore the need for targeted interventions in maternal healthcare. Moreover, the slight decrease in the delivery rate to women under 19 years of age signals the importance of comprehensive reproductive health programs to support the well-being of young mothers.

Child health

While immunization rates within the Cape Winelands District slightly deteriorate from 77.0 per cent in 2021/22 to 76.4 per cent in 2022/23, challenges persist, especially concerning the immunization coverage for children under the age of one. The region has the lowest coverage rate compared to other districts in the province, particularly in Drakenstein (70.3 per cent) and Stellenbosch (64.3 per cent) municipal areas. Addressing this discrepancy is vital to ensure a healthier and more resilient workforce in the long term. The increase in the number of malnourished children under five years of age raises concerns about long-term maternal nutrition and the need for improved healthcare during pregnancy, reflecting potential socio-economic challenges.

HIV/AIDS & Tuberculosis

Examining the healthcare landscape, there is a notable shift in the number of registered patients receiving antiretroviral treatment (ART) in the Cape Winelands District. Although the total registered patients on ART increased from 32 719 in 2021/22 to 36 158 in 2022/23, the number of new patients receiving ART decreased from 3 780 to 3 530 during the same period. The annual decrease in registered patients receiving TB treatment highlights the ongoing effort to combat tuberculosis. The importance of continuous ART is underscored not only for individual health but also for preventing the transmission of HIV to others, thus mitigating potential economic burdens associated with increased healthcare costs.

POVERTY







POVERTY

GDPR Per Capita

The GDPR per capita, denoting the economic output per person, undergoes growth only when the economic expansion surpasses the rate of population growth. In 2022, the real GDPR per capita in the Cape Winelands District stood at R93 873, trailing behind the Western Cape's figure of R113 327 for the same period. Despite this, Drakenstein demonstrated noteworthy economic performance, registering a per capita income of R100 051 in 2022— the second-highest in the Cape Winelands District. Although this figure experienced a moderate progression from R82 386 in 2016 to R100 051 in 2022, the municipality's resilience is evident in maintaining relatively high per capita incomes amid the challenges posed by the recent recessionary economic environment and the global impact of COVID-19.

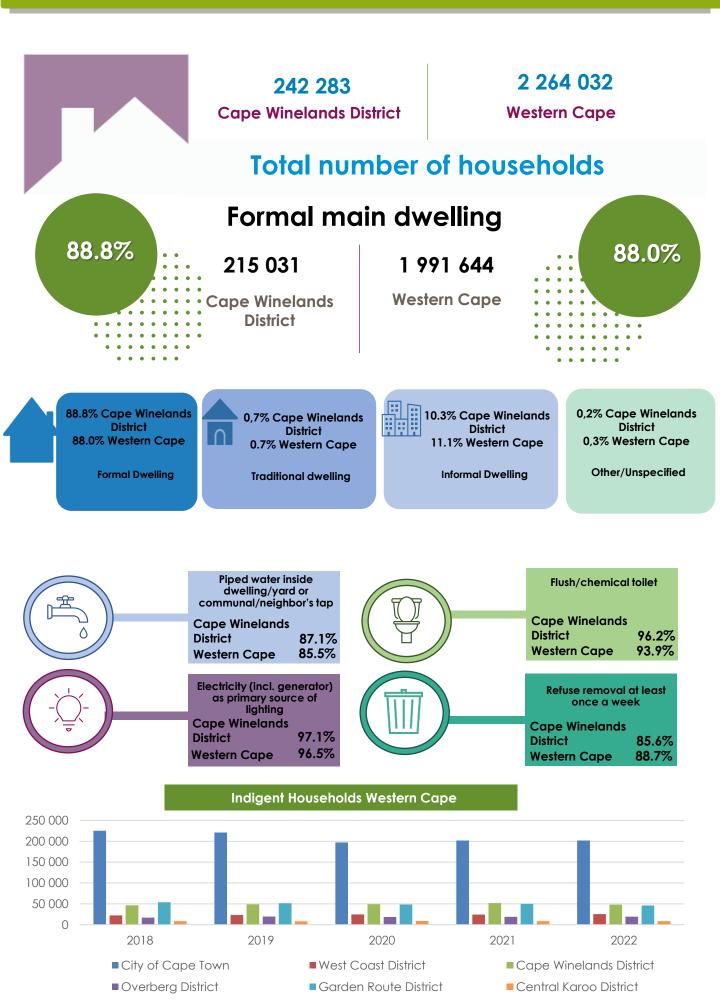
Income Inequality

South Africa contends with some of the world's highest levels of inequality, measured by the widely used Gini index. This inequality is manifested in skewed income distribution, unequal access to opportunities, and regional disparities. The National Development Plan (NDP) sets a goal of reducing income inequality in South Africa from a Gini coefficient of 0.7 in 2010 to 0.6 by 2030. However, income inequality has increased in the Cape Winelands District improved from 0.61 in 2021 to 0.59 in 2022, a trend exacerbated by the potential aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. Drakenstein mirrors the district's trajectory, improving in inequality from 0.61 in 2021 to 0.59 in 2022

Poverty Line

The Upper Bound Poverty Line (UBPL) headcount ratio gauges the proportion of the population unable to afford adequate levels of food and non-food items, impacting social development across various dimensions. In South Africa, the UBPL is set at R1 335 (in April 2021 prices) per person per month. Poverty's ramifications include lower life expectancy, malnutrition, food insecurity, increased exposure to crime and substance abuse, lower educational attainment, and substandard living conditions. Despite marginal improvement from 2019, Langeberg recorded that 63.63 per cent of its population fell below the UBPL in 2022, with Stellenbosch (66.68 per cent) also exhibiting a substantial proportion of people living in poverty within the Cape Winelands District. Langeberg's figure falls below the district's overall poverty rate of 64.83 per cent in 2022. Addressing these disparities is crucial for achieving the NDP's goal of eliminating poverty by 2030.

BASIC SERVICE DELIVERY



As per the Constitution, each citizen is entitled to the right of access to adequate housing, and the state is mandated to undertake reasonable legislative and other measures within its available resources to progressively realize this right. Access to housing extends beyond mere shelter, encompassing services such as potable water, basic sanitation, safe energy sources, and refuse removal to ensure households maintain a decent standard of living. This evaluation assesses the extent to which these objectives have been accomplished, drawing insights from the latest available data provided by Quantec Research for 2021. Notably, the most recent official statistics were derived from Statistics South Africa's 2016 Community Survey, with the eagerly anticipated 2021 Census slated to furnish updated official statistics. Key insights regarding free basic services are garnered from Statistics South Africa's Non-Financial Census of Municipalities survey findings.

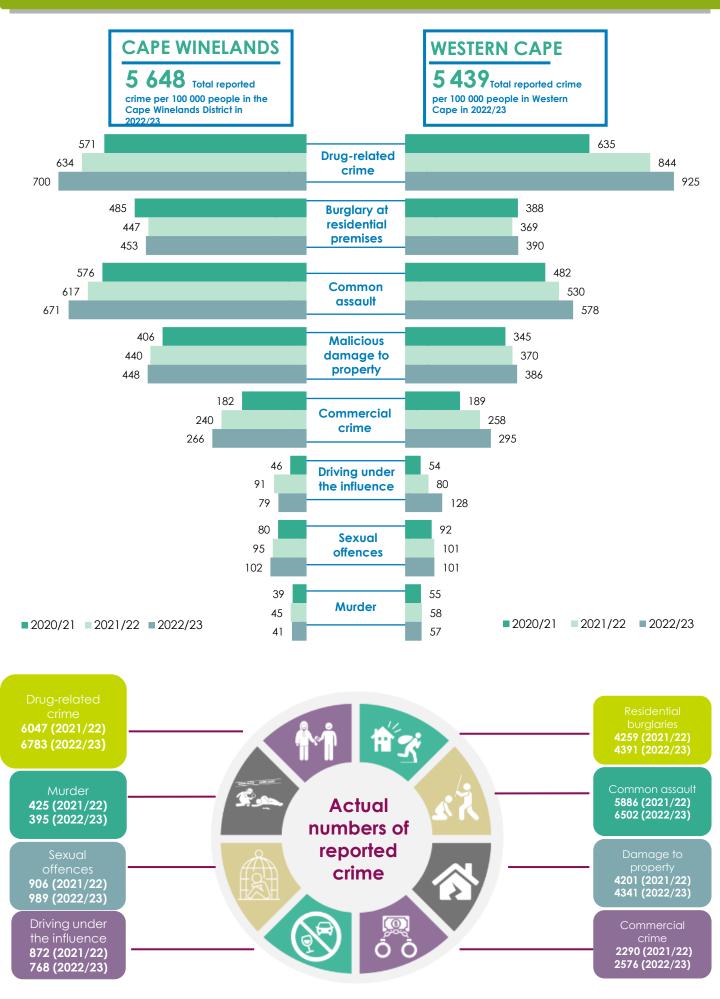
Housing and Household Services

Within the Cape Winelands District, which encompasses a total of 242 283 households, 88.8 per cent had access to formal housing, surpassing the Provincial average of 88.0 per cent. While the prevalence of informal dwellings stands at 10.3 per cent in the district, certain municipal areas, particularly Stellenbosch (11.8 per cent) and Breede Valley (11.3 per cent), grapple with more pronounced challenges. However, it's noteworthy that the district's proportion of informal dwellings is lower than the Provincial rate of 11.1 per cent. Basic services play a pivotal role in enhancing living conditions and facilitating economic activities through access to water, electricity, sanitation, and refuse removal. In 2022, access levels to all basic services, except refuse removal, exceeded those of formal dwellings. Notably, access to piped water within or near the dwelling reached 87.1 per cent, electricity access for lighting stood at 97.1 per cent, access to a flush or chemical toilet reached 85.6 per cent, and removal of refuse at least weekly by local authorities was achieved by 85.6 per cent of households

Free Basic Services

Municipalities play a crucial role in providing a package of free basic services to financially vulnerable households struggling to cover service costs. The number of households benefiting from these services in the Cape Winelands District witnessed a decline from 2021 to 2022. The prevailing economic stress is expected to heighten household income challenges, potentially increasing the demand for free basic services and the number of indigent households. However, the specifics of this scenario are contingent on area-specific conditions and the criteria employed for qualification.

SAFETY AND SECURITY



Murder

The actual number of reported murders in the Cape Winelands District decreased from 425 cases in 2021/22 to 395 in 2022/23, resulting in a slight decrease in the murder rate from 45 occurrences per 100 000 people to 41. It's noteworthy that, despite this decrease, the District's murder rate in 2022/23 remained notably below the Provincial average of 57. Murder rates are significant indicators not only of public safety but also of the broader socio-economic environment, reflecting challenges that require comprehensive and targeted interventions

Sexual Offences

Sexual offences, encompassing various crimes such as rape, sex work, pornography, public indecency, and human trafficking, witnessed an increase from 906 reported cases in 2021/22 to 988 in 2022/23 in the Cape Winelands District. This escalation highlights the pressing need for strategies to address the complex social issues contributing to sexual offences. South Africa's high ranking among countries with reported rape cases underscores the urgency of comprehensive measures to tackle this pervasive issue.

Drug-related Offences

Drug-related crimes, involving possession, influence, or sale of illegal drugs, increased from 6 047 cases in 2021/22 to 6 783 cases in 2022/23 within the Cape Winelands District. This uptick in drug-related incidents aligns with efforts to curb illegal drug activities, impacting both public safety and the socio-economic well-being of the community.

Driving under the influence (DUI)

Instances of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs exhibited a significant decrease from 872 in 2021/22 to 768 in 2022/23 within the Cape Winelands District. This rise not only poses immediate risks to road safety but also contributes to an increase in road user fatalities and fatal crashes. Addressing DUI cases requires a comprehensive approach that combines law enforcement, education, and societal awareness to ensure safer roads

Residential Burglaries

Residential burglaries, constituting the unlawful entry into residential structures with criminal intent, decreased from 4 259 in 2021/22 to 4 391 in 2022/23 within the Cape Winelands District. While this decline is positive, residential burglaries still represent a concerning threat to individuals and property. Continued efforts in community policing and crime prevention strategies are essential for sustaining this positive trend and ensuring the safety and security of residents.

Common Assault

The common assault rate in the Cape Winelands District (CWD) per 100 000 people increased from 576 in 2020/21 to 617 in 2021/22 and is projected to further rise to 671 in 2022/23. This uptrend indicates a potential threat to public safety and may have socio-economic implications. Common assaults can deter tourism, hinder business activities, and affect the overall well-being of residents. Moreover, the need for increased law enforcement and community engagement becomes imperative to address the root causes and consequences of rising assault rates.

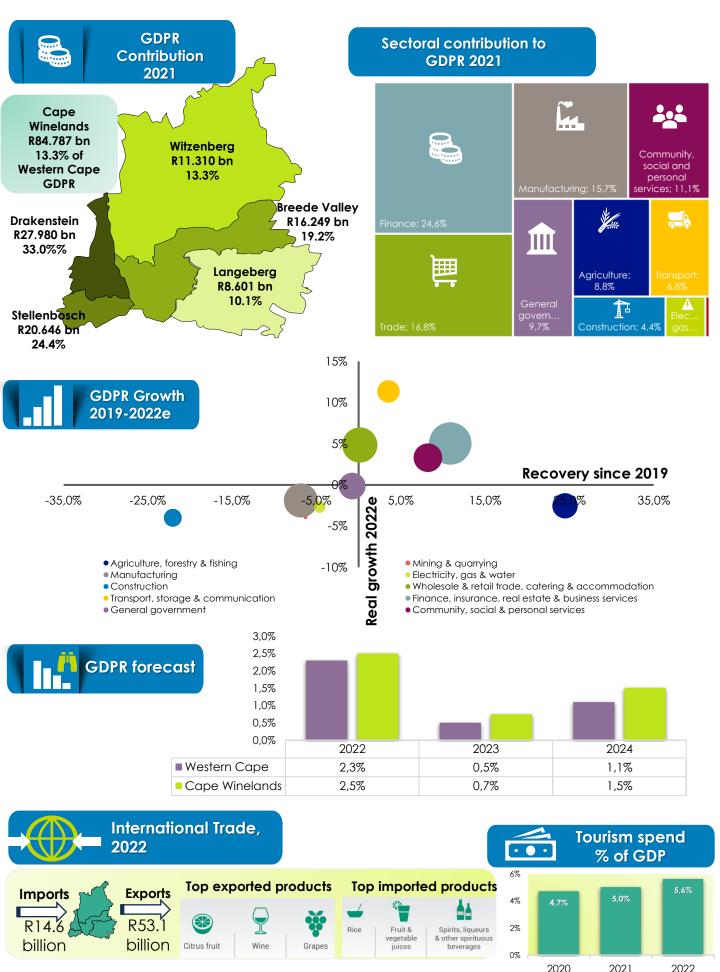
Damage to Property

The rate of malicious damage to property in CWD per 100 000 people showed an escalation from 406 in 2020/21 to 440 in 2021/22, with a further increase projected to 448 in 2022/23. This rise suggests potential challenges in maintaining public and private infrastructure, impacting the socio-economic landscape. Increased incidents of property damage can lead to higher maintenance costs, insurance claims, and a general decrease in property values, influencing the economic prosperity and overall appeal of the district.

Commercial Crime

The commercial crime rate in CWD per 100c000 people experienced a notable increase from 182 in 2020/21 to 240 in 2021/22, with a further projection to 266 in 2022/23. This rise signals a potential threat to the business environment, with implications for economic growth and investment. Commercial crimes, including fraud and white-collar offenses, can erode business trust, disrupt financial stability, and deter potential investors. Implementing robust measures to curb commercial crime is crucial for fostering a conducive business environment and sustaining economic development.

GDPR PERFORMANCE



GDPR Performance

The Cape Winelands District (CWD) stands as the largest economic contributor within the Province, boasting a thriving tertiary services sector, particularly concentrated in the municipal areas of Drakenstein and Stellenbosch. In 2021, the CWD recorded a Gross Domestic Product (GDPR) of R84.8 billion, constituting 11.1 per cent of the Provincial GDPR. Notably, the labor-intensive agriculture sector, both formal and informal, played a significant role in the employment landscape, contributing to 15.1 per cent of Provincial employment with a workforce of 346 926 individuals.

The economic performance of CWD in 2022 was primarily propelled by the Drakenstein municipal area, which experienced an estimated growth of 2.0 per cent, contributing 0.7 percentage points to the overall GDPR growth. Drakenstein, home to the largest municipal economy in the CWD, accounted for a substantial 33.0 per cent (R28.0 billion) of the District's GDPR in 2021. Additionally, the Stellenbosch municipal area made a noteworthy contribution to GDPR growth in 2022, contributing 0.6 percentage points. These economic dynamics underscore the significance of specific regions, such as Drakenstein and Stellenbosch, in shaping the overall economic landscape and growth trajectory of the Cape Winelands District.

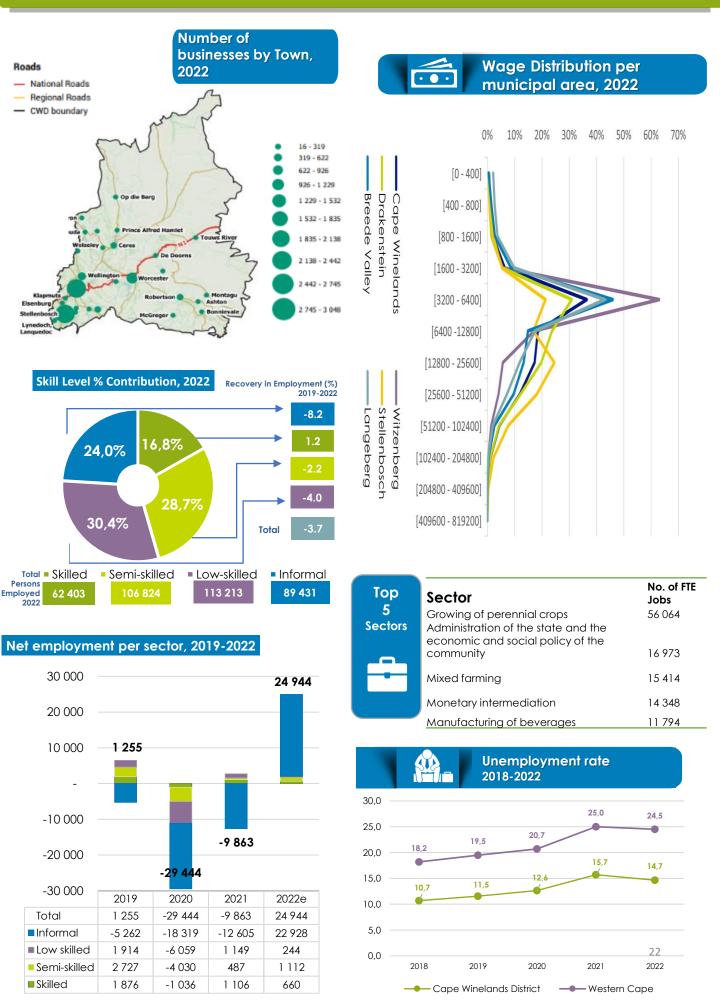
In the fiscal year 2022, the finance sector exhibited robust growth, estimated at 5.0 per cent, making the most substantial contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDPR) expansion within the Cape Winelands District (CWD). Concurrently, the transport and trade sectors played significant roles in the positive economic performance, driven by increased employment. This surge influenced household spending, heightened tourism, and fostered a general uptick in economic activity, particularly evident in the elevated demand for transport services. Nevertheless, challenges emerged within a critical transport subsector, specifically freight transport, as labor strikes at the Port of Cape Town and escalating costs of capital and other inputs hindered sectoral performance, resulting in a loss of 613 land transport jobs in 2022.

Contrastingly, the primary and secondary sectors experienced contractions in 2022. Mining, manufacturing, electricity, gas, water, and construction sectors operated below pre-COVID-19 levels. Factors such as load shedding and escalating input costs in agriculture and construction emerged as primary impediments to growth in 2022. Additionally, a reduction in wine exports, primarily attributed to shipping challenges at the Port of Cape Town, cast a shadow over the manufacturing sector's performance during the same period. These economic dynamics underscore the sectoral nuances influencing the overall economic landscape of the Cape Winelands District in the specified year.

GDPR Forecast

Looking ahead to 2023, the Gross Domestic Product (GDPR) is projected to experience a further deceleration, slowing to 0.7 per cent, with a gradual recovery anticipated in 2024, showing a modest uptick of 1.5 per cent. This expected rebound is poised to marginally surpass the economic performance observed in the five years preceding the COVID-19 pandemic. The finance sector is anticipated to maintain its pivotal role in propelling the economic trajectory of the Cape Winelands District (CWD). However, the manufacturing sector is forecasted to face challenges in 2023, primarily due to issues related to load-shedding. Concurrently, the transport sector is expected to be impacted negatively by elevated fuel prices during the same period. Additionally, the construction sector is foreseen to experience a decline in 2023 but is projected to rebound in 2024. This resurgence is attributed to the implementation of public sector capital infrastructure spending projects totaling R5.5 billion over the 2023/24 Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) period. The approval of building plans in Paarl and Stellenbosch, coupled with subsequent construction activities, is poised to make a substantial contribution to the economy. Despite uncertainties in various sectors, the GDPR growth rate for 2024 is anticipated to exceed the average growth rate recorded between 2015 and 2019, signaling a positive outlook for the economic landscape of the Cape Winelands District

LABOUR MARKET PERFORMANCE



Labour Market Performance

The foremost driver of employment growth within the Cape Winelands District (CWD) in 2022 was the Drakenstein municipal area, contributing a significant 1.7 percentage points to the overall increase. The Breede Valley municipal area also underscored its economic significance by contributing 1.6 percentage points to employment growth in the District. Following closely were the Stellenbosch and Langeberg municipal areas, each making a noteworthy contribution of 1.4 percentage points. The flourishing towns of Stellenbosch, Paarl, and Worcester have been instrumental in the prominence of the finance sector, constituting 24.6 per cent (R20.8 billion) of the District's Gross Domestic Product (GDPR) in 2022. Other pivotal sectors, such as trade (16.8 per cent) and manufacturing (15.7 per cent), also made substantial contributions to both GDPR and employment. Agriculture, being a primary source of formal employment opportunities, played a crucial role in the CWD economy. In 2022, key subsectors within agriculture, including perennial crop production (56 064 jobs), mixed farming (15 414 jobs), and non-perennial crop production (4 158 jobs), were the largest contributors to employment. The prevalence of agriculture in employment sheds light on socio-economic challenges in the CWD, such as tenure insecurity, low wages, and seasonal work leading to inconsistent income levels throughout the year.

Furthermore, state administration (16 973 jobs) and monetary intermediation (14 348 jobs) emerged as subsectors significantly contributing to CWD employment. The comparatively higher salaries in these industries, juxtaposed with the lower and inconsistent wages in primary agriculture activities, exacerbate inequality within the CWD. This economic landscape highlights the intricate interplay between sectors, employment dynamics, and socio-economic challenges within the district.

Skills Distribution

In 2022, the employment landscape in the Cape Winelands District (CWD) reflects a total employment figure of 371 870 individuals. Within this total, the formal sector comprises 282 439 jobs, highlighting the substantial role of formal employment in the district's economic structure. The distribution of formal employment reveals a skilled workforce of 62 402, semi-skilled positions numbering 106 824, and low-skilled roles accounting for 113 213 jobs. Additionally, the informal sector plays a notable part, employing 89 431 individuals, showcasing the diversity of employment types within the district. Analyzing specific municipal areas within the CWD, the Drakenstein municipality stands out with the highest total employment figure at 106 097 jobs, reflecting a robust formal sector with 84 154 positions. This area also demonstrates a balanced distribution of skills, with 21,620 skilled, 31,050 semi-skilled, and 31,484 low-skilled workers. In comparison, Stellenbosch and Breede Valley municipalities exhibit total employment figures of 73 780 and 80 863, respectively. Stellenbosch leans towards a higher proportion of skilled workers (14 500) and lower-skilled workers (17 717), while Breede Valley has a more even distribution across skill categories. These employment dynamics underscore the varying economic compositions across municipal areas within the CWD, reflecting a nuanced and diversified workforce.

Wage Distribution

Within the Cape Winelands District (CWD), a detailed analysis of municipal-level Gross Domestic Product (GDP) distribution reveals a nuanced economic landscape. The majority of municipalities fall within the middle-income brackets, with a significant concentration in the [1600 - 3200] and [3200 - 6400] ranges, comprising 6.3 per cent and 36.5 per cent, respectively. This distribution signifies a diverse economic structure with a substantial portion of the municipalities positioned in mid-range GDP categories. The [6400 - 12800] and [12800 - 25600] brackets contribute significantly, collectively representing 35.8 per cent of the total. Interestingly, the [12800 - 25600] range stands out with 17.3 per cent, indicating a cluster of municipalities with relatively higher GDP levels. While the highest income brackets, [25600 - 51200] to [819200 - 1638400], collectively contribute 17.7 per cent, it is noteworthy that the extreme ends of the GDP spectrum. This distribution underscores a balanced economic profile within the CWD, characterized by a substantial middle-income base and pockets of higher-income municipalities.

Drought

According to the CSIR Green Book, Witzenberg has a High potential exposure of all settlements to increase in drought. Currently 2 years per decade are at risk of drought, and this will increase to 5 out of every 10 years by 2050.

Water, and related sanitation services, is a key ingredient for socioeconomic development, food security and healthy ecosystems, and is vital for reducing the burden of disease and improving the health, welfare and productivity of populations. A deteriorating water catchment system, through ecosystem loss (transformation or land use change) and alien infestation, or watercourse and wetland modification, will lead to lower inputs into the water supply systems, and a lower overall water security due to lower natural retention and lower quality of water. The higher our dependence on groundwater, the more likely we are to suffer water security issues. During extended drought periods, even end users far from major source areas are likely to experience shortages as the overall system runs low. This was the situation during the 2015-2019 drought in the Western Cape, when eventually the overall water supply scheme ran low due to the multi-year duration of the drought.

Temperatures

Average temperature has been increasing since the 1900s. Projections indicate that Witzenberg can expect an additional 21 extremely hot days per year by 2050 (the highest in the District), which will affect food security, exposure to extreme heat, health and water quality. This is of particular importance given that Witzenberg is the 5th most populated municipality in the Western Cape, excluding the City of Cape Town, and population growth pressure in all settlements remains continuously high to extremely high.

Vegetation Fires

Although critical for a healthy ecosystem, fire is a significant threat to human lives, food security, socioeconomic activities and livelihoods, as well as infrastructure and other assets. This is especially true at the wildland-urban interface where vegetation fuel loads in proximity to built structures and numerous informal fires add to the likelihood and severity of fire risk. Uncontained fires will also cause damage in rural/agricultural areas where infrastructure, crops and livestock may be lost to extensive firelines.

Furthermore, in many areas land has been converted from natural vegetation to other land-cover types - some of which significantly modify the fuel loads (e.g. the establishment of forest plantations and the spread of several introduced tree species such as pines, hakea, wattles and eucalypts). Fires in vegetation with high fuel loads increase soil erosion and run-off, which negatively affects ecosystem services and increases the impact of floods, among other factors. Where severe fires have occurred due to high fuel loads, resulting soil erosion leads to the sedimentation of rivers and dams and therefore declining water quality (and increased water treatment costs).

Floods

Floods result in millions or billions of Rands' damage to built structures or lost productivity, the loss of livelihoods and in some cases the loss of lives. A 2016 report calculated that four severe weather events between 2011 and 2014 caused more than R1.6 billion worth of damage in the Western Cape, and in the recent September 2023 severe weather event, flood-related infrastructure damage alone amounted to R2 billion. Flooding is also one of the main disaster risks affected by climate change. Changes in rainfall volume, intensity and timing will alter flood risk profiles, and necessitate a constant reconsideration of risks and risk reduction measures.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the socio-economic profile of the Cape Winelands District Municipality reveals a region of remarkable diversity and potential, yet it grapples with significant socio-economic challenges that necessitate strategic attention. The municipality's crown jewel lies in its thriving agricultural sector, contributing substantially to the local and national economy. However, the data underscores the persistent challenge of high unemployment rates, particularly among the youth, signaling a critical need for coordinated efforts to cultivate job opportunities and enhance the employability of the workforce. A collaborative approach involving local government, businesses, and educational institutions is imperative to address this challenge and foster a more economically inclusive environment.

Environmental sustainability emerges as a pivotal consideration for the Cape Winelands District, given the inherent vulnerability of its agricultural activities to climate change. As extreme weather events become more frequent, there is an urgent need for the municipality to implement resilient and adaptive measures to safeguard the agricultural sector and the livelihoods it sustains. Additionally, infrastructural shortcomings, particularly in rural areas, pose a risk to economic development and equitable access to essential services. Prioritizing strategic infrastructure investments will be pivotal in ensuring that the municipality is well-equipped to meet the evolving needs of its residents and businesses, thereby bolstering overall socio-economic resilience.

The Cape Winelands District Municipality has the potential to turn these challenges into opportunities by leveraging its unique strengths, including its cultural and natural assets. Encouraging sustainable tourism, promoting agribusiness innovation, and investing in skills development are avenues to not only overcome socio-economic challenges but also to cultivate a dynamic and resilient local economy. Through targeted interventions, the municipality can chart a course towards a future that is characterized by economic vibrancy, social equity, and environmental sustainability, ensuring a high quality of life for its residents.

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