



Western Cape  
Government  
**FOR YOU**



**#KnowYourMunicipality: The 2023 Socio-Economic Profile**

**Central Karoo District Municipality**



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# Central Karoo District : At a Glance

## Demographics

census, 2022; Actual households, 2022



Population  
**102 173**



Households  
**27 290**

## Education

2022



Matric Pass Rate **80.6%**  
Learner Retention Rate **68.4%**  
Learner-Teacher Ratio **32.4**

## Poverty

2022



Gini Coefficient **0.58**  
Poverty Head Count Ratio (UBPL) **65.8%**

## Health

2022/23



Primary Health Care Facilities  
**6**  
(excl. mobile/satellite clinics)

Immunisation Rate  
**81.0%**

Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100 000 live births)  
**221.0**

Teenage Pregnancies – Delivery rate to women U/19  
**17.4%**

## Safety and Security

Actual number of reported cases in 2022/23



Residential Burglaries  
**499**

DUI  
**287**

Drug-related Crimes  
**577**

Murder  
**18**

Sexual Offences  
**83**

## Access to Basic Service Delivery

Percentage of households with access to basic services, 2021

Water

**87.1%**



Refuse Removal

**79.6%**



Electricity

**96.6%**



Sanitation

**97.5%**



Housing

**98.8%**



## Labour

2021

Unemployment Rate (narrow definition)

**25.6%**



## Socio-economic Risks

Risk 1 Job losses  
Risk 2 High unemployment rate  
Risk 3 Low skills base (Labour)

## Largest 3 Sectors

Contribution to GDP, 2021

General Government

**21.0%**



Community and social services

**18.0%**



Agriculture

**15.0%**



# INTRODUCTION

This publication is produced by the Provincial Treasury for each of the Western Cape municipalities on an annual basis. These socio-economic profiles provide each municipality with up-to-date socio-economic data as well as analysis pertaining to the municipal area, to 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. A new addition to the profile is the inclusion of risk and vulnerability indicators related to climate change which is critical to development.

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 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 Central Karoo District in relation to the broader Western Cape Province.

# DEMOGRAPHICS

Population 102 173 2022



Households 2022

27 290

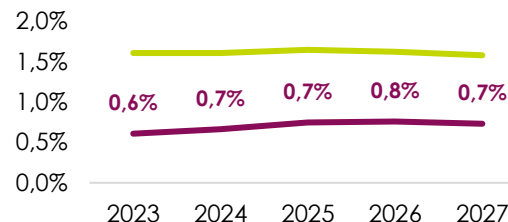
Estimated Population

105 718 2027

Estimated Average Annual Population Growth Rate 2023 - 2027

0.7%

## Estimated Population Growth



## Gender and Age Dynamics



Female  
52.1%

Male  
47.9%

417 2023

417 2024

Fertility Index

62.0 2023

51.8 2022

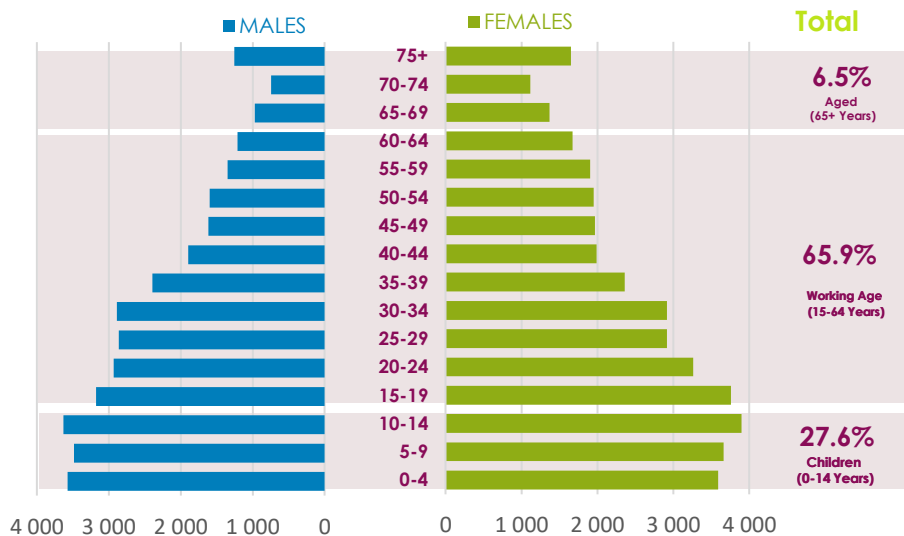
Dependency Ratio

33.6 2023

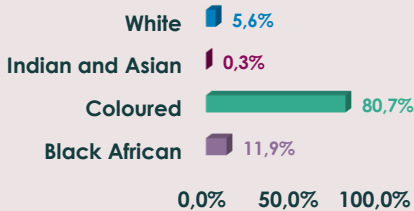
34.5 2024

Ageing Index

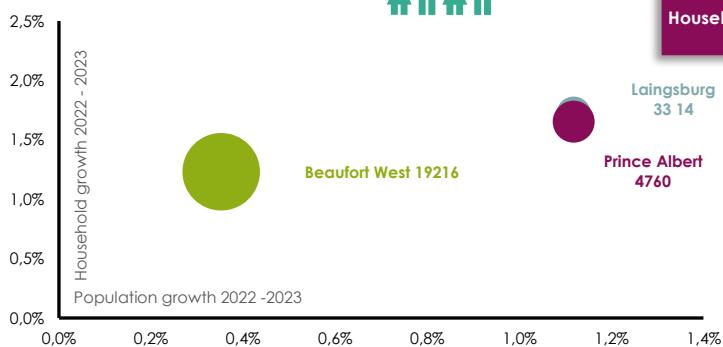
## Population by Age 2022



## Racial Split



## Population and Household Growth 2022



3.7

Household Size

## Level of Urbanisation 2021



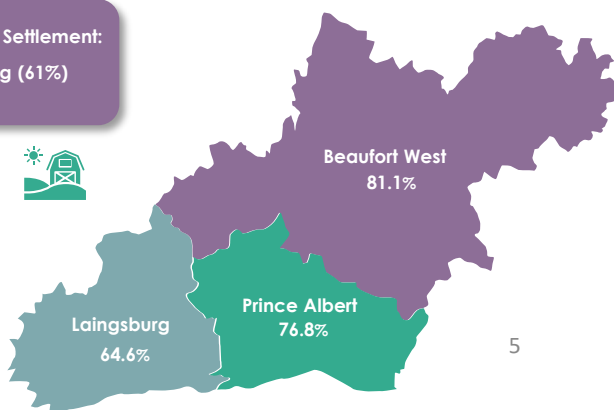
2.0 people/km<sup>2</sup> 2023

2.0 people/km<sup>2</sup> 2024

2.0 people/km<sup>2</sup> 2023

Largest Urban Settlement:  
Laingsburg (61%)

Urban/Rural change:  
Largest increase in rural area (6.9%) and decrease in town (4.5%)  
Density change:  
Highest in Matjiesfontein but low overall



## Population and Household Growth

The Central Karoo District Municipality is a Category C municipality located in the Western Cape Province. It is comprised of three local municipalities: Laingsburg, Prince Albert and Beaufort West. The seat of the district is Beaufort West; with Beaufort West and Laingsburg Municipalities strategically positioned along the N1, serving as pit stop for tourists and transporters. The towns in the District include Beaufort West, Klaarstroom, Laingsburg, Leeu-Gamka, Matjiesfontein, Merweville, Murraysburg, Nelspoort, Prince Albert, Welgemoed.

The Central Karoo District with an estimated population of 102 173 as per the latest Census 2022 data is estimated to have grown by 3.5 per cent per annum between 2011 and 2022. The CKD population is forecast to grow by an average annual rate of 0.7 per cent between 2022 and 2027 below the Western Cape average of 1.5 per cent. Notably, household numbers have also shown an upward trend when compared to the figures recorded in 2011. Despite the growth in population and households, the household size has remained consistent at 3.7 between the census figures of 2011 and 2022. This implies that the average size of each household has not undergone significant changes over this period.

## Gender, Age and Race Dynamics

The infographic provides an overview of the municipal area's population distribution across different age groups, presented as a dependency ratio, indicating the workforce (ages 15 - 64) versus dependents (children and seniors). Demographic insights are vital for economic planning, highlighting potential challenges in resource allocation and social welfare programs.

A thorough examination of the demographic structure within the municipal area highlights that 65.9 per cent of the population falls within the economically active age group, spanning from 15 to 64 years. The second-largest demographic segment is constituted by children, accounting for 27.6 per cent of the population, while the aged, those above 65, make up a modest 6.5 per cent of the total population.

The population structure reveals a notable improvement in the dependency ratio, which stands at 51.8 per cent in 2022. This marks a positive shift from the 2011 dependency ratio of 59.6 per cent. The improvement in the dependency ratio is attributed to the growth observed in the working-age cohort, coupled with a decline in both the children; however, the aged segments increased between 2011 and 2022. This demographic trend signifies a positive trajectory in terms of the municipality's evolving age distribution, signaling a potential boost in the productivity and economic contributions of the working-age population.

Understanding of the racial demographics is vital for formulating targeted policies, fostering social cohesion, and addressing disparities, ensuring a more equitable and inclusive economic development trajectory in the region. The racial split within the Central Karoo District area echoes that the population is predominately Coloured; the coloured racial group accounted for almost 80.7 per cent of the population, this is followed by Black Africans accounting for 11.9 per cent and the white racial group at 5.6 per cent and; Indians and other represent zero per cent of the population.

## The Human Sex ratio (SR)

The human sex ratio indicates a lower male to female ratio; with males accounting for 47.9 per cent of the population versus females at 52.1 per cent resulting in a sex ratio of 92.0 males per 100 females in 2022. There has been a consistent decrease in the sex ratio within the CKD, with the Beaufort West municipal area recording the lowest sex ratio of 91.4 males per 100 females, followed by Prince Albert recording a sex ratio of 92.3 males per 100 females in 2022. This indicates a situation where there are fewer males relative to females in the population. A lower sex ratio can be influenced by various factors such as migration patterns, socioeconomic conditions, or specific demographics within the population.

## Level of Urbanisation

The Central Karoo District is the least populated District in the Western Cape. In 2021, the Beaufort West municipal area had the largest population and the highest level of urbanisation in the District. The Prince Albert municipal area is the second largest in the District in terms of population. Laingsburg, the smallest municipal area, has grown in population in both urban and rural classified areas.

## Population density

Amidst rapid urbanisation across the Western Cape, population density figures will aid public sector decision makers to mitigate environmental, individual health and service delivery risks. The Central Karoo District area covers an area of 38 854 km<sup>2</sup>. In terms of geographic size. The CKD is sparsely populated, with a population density of 2 person per square kilometre.

●	<b>Central Karoo District</b>	<b>2 people/km<sup>2</sup></b>
●	Laingsburg	1.1 people/km <sup>2</sup>
●	Prince Albert	1.8 people/km <sup>2</sup>
●	Beaufort West	2.4 people/km <sup>2</sup>



# EDUCATION : CENTRAL KAROO



## Learner enrolment



## Educational facilities 2022

26

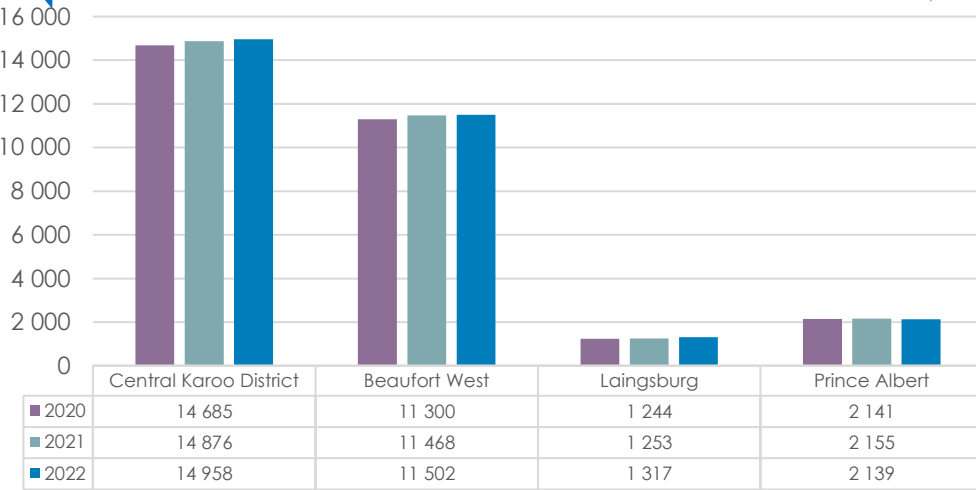
Number of schools

84.6%

Proportion of no-fee schools

Number of schools with libraries

21



2020 2021 2022



## Education outcomes



## Learner retention 2020 - 2022

2020 2021 2022

Laingsburg 60,0% 82,9% 81,6%

Prince Albert 90,0% 85,2% 94,4%

Beaufort West 70,9% 83,5% 79,0%

Central Karoo District 71,7% 83,6% 80,6%

2020 2021 2022

Central Karoo District

67,0% 62,1% 68,4%

Prince Albert

79,5% 55,4% 60,0%

Laingsburg

67,0% 50,6% 59,0%

Beaufort West

78,4% 64,3% 70,4%

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%



## Learner-Teacher Ratio 2020- 2022



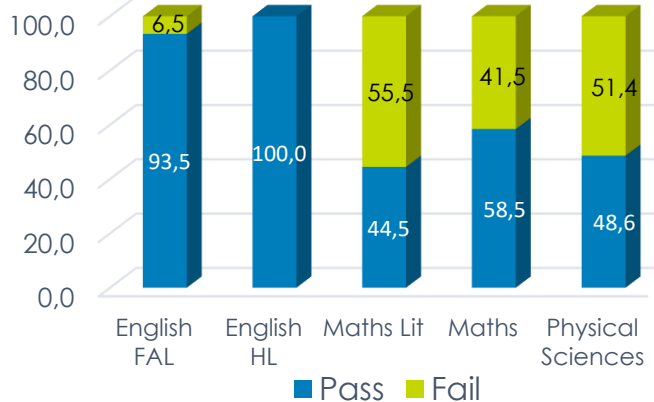
## Subject Outcomes

Beaufort West 33.6 | 33.1 | 32.4

Laingsburg 31.1 | 33.0 | 32.9

Prince Albert 31.0 | 31.2 | 31.93

Central Karoo 33.0 | 32.8 | 32.4



Pass Fail



Education is on one of the primary resources of change, its role is to help people acquire knowledge and skills, which can, in turn be used to acquire jobs. Education indicators include learner enrolment, learner retention, teacher ratios and matric pass rates etc. These indicators provides important information for policy formation and evaluation and are used in funding formulas to distribute public funds to the education sector.

## **Learner enrolment and Educational facilities.**

A total of 14 876 learners were enrolled in 2021 in the CKD area; this number increased to 14 958 in 2022 reflecting an increase in enrolment of 0.6 per cent between 2021 and 2022. These learners were enrolled in 26 public schools in the District. 84.6 per cent of the Public schools in CKD area are categorized as no fee school as per the education policy implying that these schools have the right to charge no school fees; with Laingsburg and Prince Albert municipal areas having 100 per cent no school fees. 21 (80.7 per cent) of the public schools in the area have library facilities.

## **Learner teacher ratio**

Learner teacher ratios are indicative of the capacity of schools to accommodate more learners. Learner-teacher ratio upper limits of 40:1 in ordinary primary schools and 35:1 in ordinary high schools are set by the Department of Education. Low learner-teacher ratios are associated with more interaction between teachers and learners which could contribute to better quality education. According to the 2021 Schools Realities Publications the learner teacher ratio is high for government only paid teachers meaning that teachers paid by government are faced with larger numbers of learners per teacher.

The learner teacher ratio recorded an improvement from 32.8 learners per teacher in 2021 to 32.4 learners per teacher in 2022.

## **Learner Retention**

The learner retention rate measures the proportion of learners in Grade 12 who were in Grade 10 two years prior. Learner retention rates were severely affected by the impact of COVID in 2020 with learner retention rate dropping from 78.4 per cent in 2020 to 62.1 per cent in 2021 as learners did not return to the schooling system after COVID-19. In 2022, the CKD area showed an improvement in learner retention rates with 70.4 per cent of the learners retained in the education system.

Despite the recovery 29.6 per cent of learners did not successfully complete their studies or were not retained in the education system. These learners leave the schooling system without the necessary skills to adequately contribute to the economy. Learner drop-out rates have implications for other social ills such as teenage pregnancies and drug use. Measures to address school dropout rates can include expanding learner opportunities in technical and vocational streams, implementing early intervention that motivates learners to stay at school and increased support to learners at risk of dropping out, implementing behavioral programmes and psychological support to learners.

## **Education outcomes (Matric Pass Rates) and subject outcomes**

The Central Karoo District area experienced fluctuations in education outcomes, recording a decline from 83.6 per cent in 2021 to 80.6 per cent in 2022. This number should also be read in conjunction with the dropout rates; as a large number of students dropped out of the education system which will have an impact on the future prospect of finding jobs which will further worsen the youth unemployment rate.

Unfavourable outcomes have been recorded for Physical Science showing a dismal fail at 100 per cent; Mathematics and Mathematics literacy recoded 40.4 per cent and 50 per cent fail respectively in 2022. It is noted that Mathematics and Physical Sciences are prerequisites in many study fields such as Engineering, Medicine, natural sciences etc.

In relation to educational achievement, there has been a regression between 2011 and 2022 among individuals with higher education; 6.7 percent of the population currently possesses a higher education qualification. On the contrary, there has been an improvement in the segment of the population aged 20 and above who have no formal schooling. This figure has decreased from 10.1 percent in 2011 to a more 5.2 percent in 2022.



## Healthcare Facilities



9 Fixed PHC Facilities  
10 Mobile Clinics

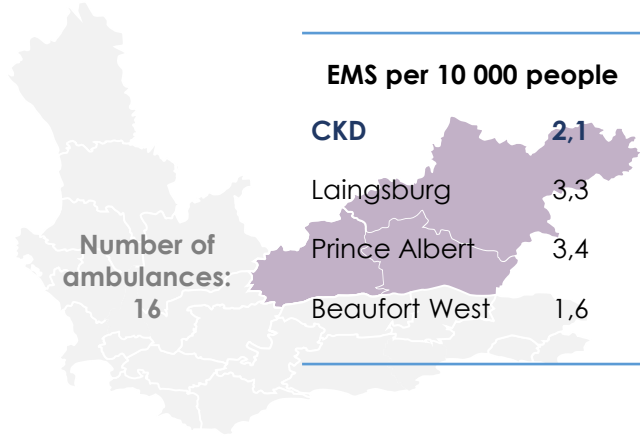


12 ART Clinics/  
Treatment Sites  
12 TB Clinics/  
Treatment Sites



4 District Hospitals

## Emergency Medical Services



## Maternal Health

CENTRAL KAROO DISTRICT 2023:  
Maternal Health Indicators

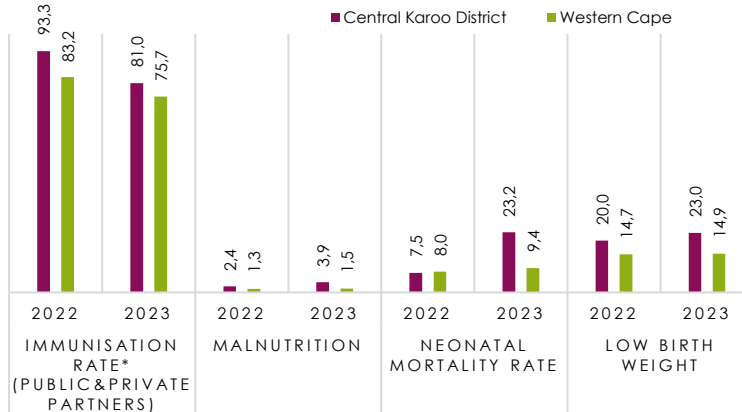
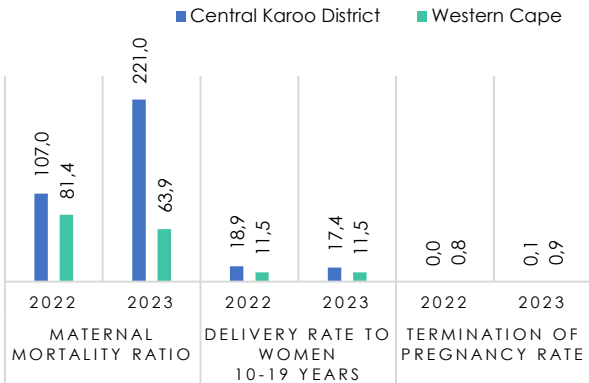
- Maternal deaths in facility : 1
- Deliveries in facility u19 years : 160
- Termination of pregnancy : 15



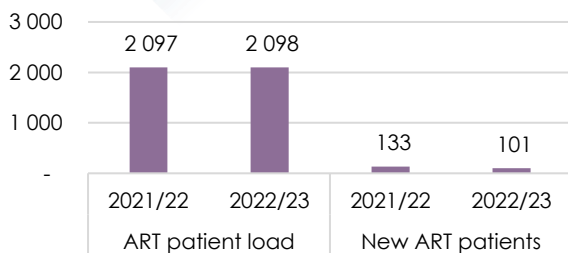
## Child Health

CENTRAL KAROO DISTRICT 2023:  
Child Health Indicators

- Live births under 2500g (low birth weight) : 208
- Inpatient deaths 6-28 day : 21
- Immunisation u1 year : 948
- Severe acute malnutrition u5 years : 24



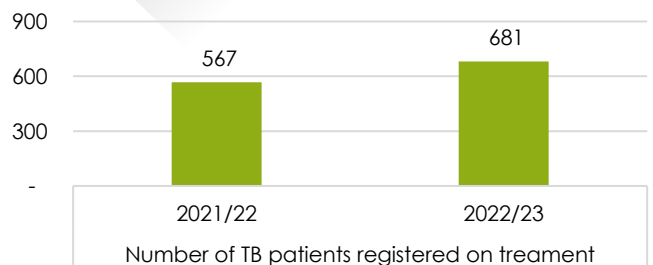
## HIV/AIDS



■ Central Karoo District



## Tuberculosis



■ Central Karoo District

Understanding the indicators related to health care access, facilities, emergency services, child and maternal health provides valuable insights into the population's overall wellbeing. By assessing factors such as infant mortality rates and maternal healthcare access, we can gauge the progress in promoting the health and welfare of mothers and children within the region.

## Healthcare facilities and Emergency medical services

In 2022, the CKD area was equipped with a total of 9 primary healthcare facilities. In addition, there are 4 District hospitals and 10 mobile/satellite clinics. Additionally, there were 12 Antiretroviral Therapy(ART) treatment sites and 12 Tuberculosis(TB) clinics, reflecting a comprehensive healthcare infrastructure within the region.

To ensure prompt emergency response and medical assistance, the area was served by 16 ambulances. It is important to note that this translates to 2 ambulances per 10,000 people in 2022. This figure specifically pertains to Provincial ambulances and does not account for any services provided by private ambulance providers. Within the CKD Laingsburg and Prince Albert municipal areas have a higher ambulance coverage per 10 000 people than Beaufort Municipal area due to their small population sizes. It is important however, to assess whether this ratio meets the demand for emergency services and whether there are any geographical or logistical considerations that might impact response times due to the rural nature of the District .

## Maternal health

Maternal mortality rate increased from 107.0 per 100 000 population in 2021/22 to 221.0 per 100 000 population in 2022/23, the maternal ratio was above the Provincial average in both 2021/22 and 2022/23.

Teenage pregnancies and subsequent childbirth have been identified as prominent factors contributing to high school dropout rates among teenage girls. The incidence of teenage pregnancies, defined as births to women under 19 years old, was recoded at 17.4 per cent in 2022/23 having decreased from 18.9 per cent in 2021/22. This is comparatively higher than the teenage pregnancy rate in the Province (11.5 per cent). Within the CKD teenage pregnancies were higher in the Laingsburg area at 19.1 per cent in 2022/23, higher than the District average.

Termination of pregnancies associated with unplanned pregnancies, is recorded at 0.1 percent below the Provincial rate in 2022. While this statistic change remains minimal , it emphasizes the need for sustained efforts in preventing unplanned pregnancies and underlines the importance of ongoing support and education in this regard.

## Child health

There has been a regression in the immunisation coverage rate for children under the age of one in the CKD In 2022/23, the coverage rate declined to 81.0 percent from the previous year's rate of 93.3. per cent. The CKD immunisation coverage rate, however, remains higher than the Western Cape average, which stood at 75.7 percent in 2022; the Provincial immunisation coverage has also witnessed a decline between 2021 and 2022 . This highlights the need for continued efforts and targeted interventions to sustain and improve immunisation rates, not only within the municipal area but also at the district level.

A regression in malnourished children under the age of five years (severe acute malnutrition) is observed; the rate regressed from 2.4 per 100 000 to 3.9 per 100 000 population between 2021 and 2022.

The neonatal mortality rate (deaths per 1 000 live births before 28 days of life) increased to 23.2 deaths per 1 000 live births in 2022/23 from 20.0 deaths per 1 000 live births in 2021/22, with 21 reported inpatient deaths between 6 -28 days in the District. Effective interventions such as improved care around the time of birth, vaccination remains critical. In terms of data availability, updated quality and disaggregated data which allow the most vulnerable children to be identified are critical to achieving the goal of ending preventable deaths of children.

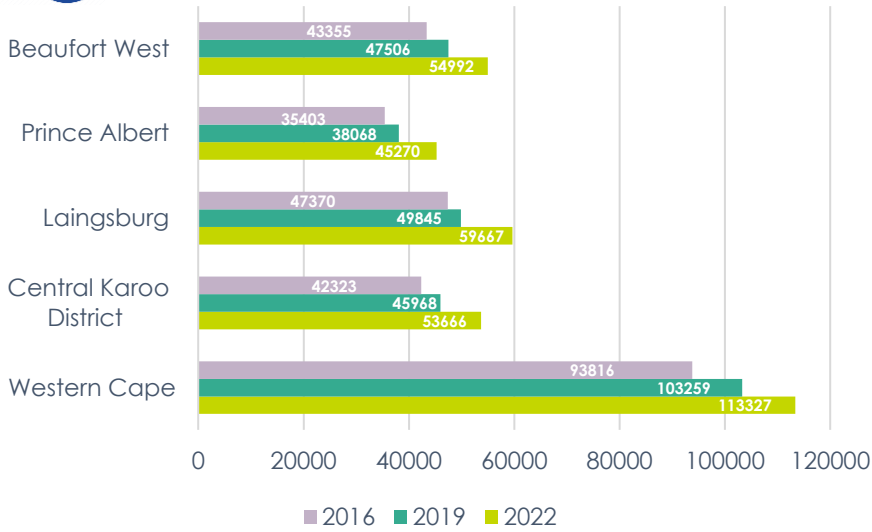
In addition, the number of all babies born in health facility that weighed less than 2 500 grams also increased from 20.0 per 100 000 to 23.0 per 100 000 during the reporting period indicating possible challenges with long-term maternal malnutrition and poor health care in pregnancy.

## **HIV/AIDS & Tuberculosis**

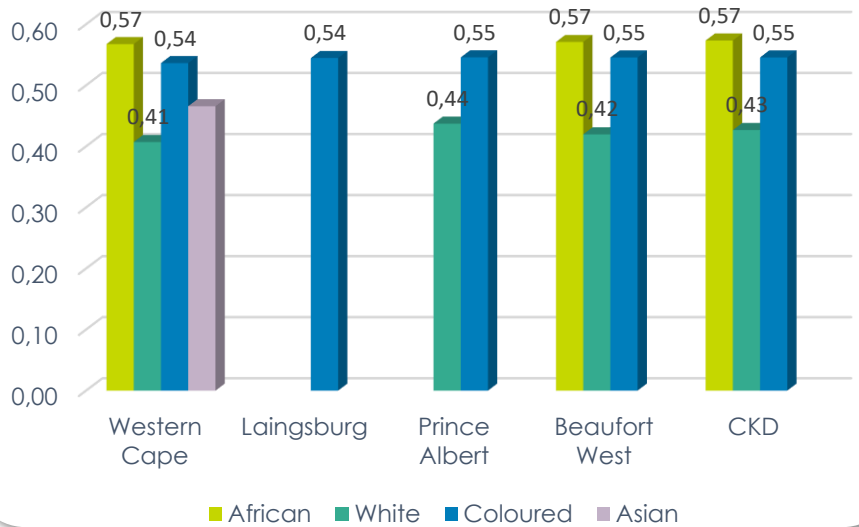
The number of patients registered for antiretroviral treatment (ART) recorded a minimal increase in 2022/23. On the other hand, there was an increase in the number of patients receiving TB (tuberculosis) treatment. The figure rose by 20.1 percent, bringing the total number of registered patients to 681 in 2022/23. This upswing implies a proactive approach to identifying and treating individuals with tuberculosis in the community, contributing to better public health outcomes.

# POVERTY

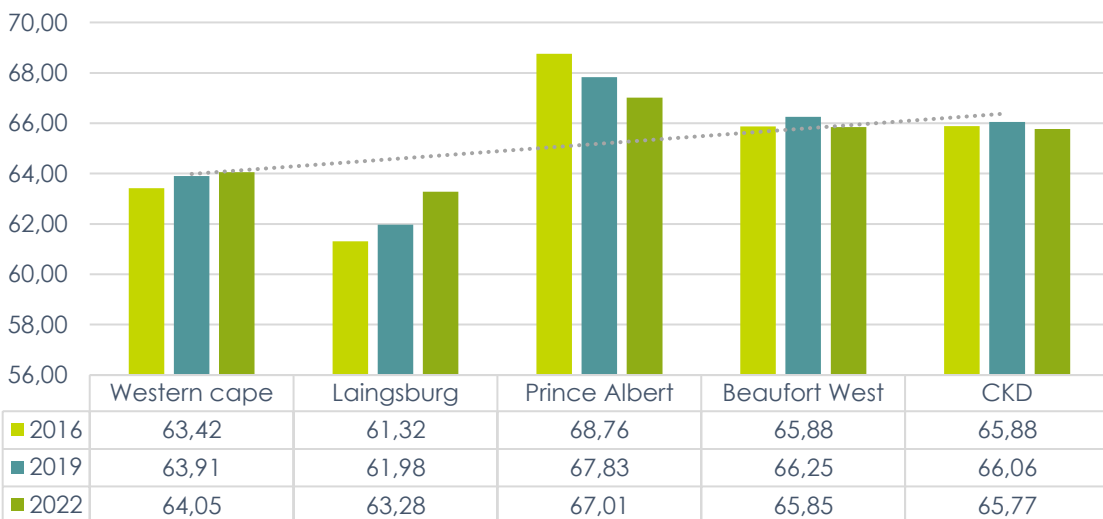
## GDP per capita



## Income Inequality



## Poverty Line



## GDPR Per Capita

GDPR per capita measures the total economic output of a region relative to the size of the population living there. The GDPR per capita is useful for comparing living standards across regions and growth in GDPR per capita is considered a summary indicator of economic development in a particular area.

An increase in GDPR per capita, i.e., GDPR per person, is experienced only if the economic growth rate exceeds the population growth rate. The CKD recorded GDPR per Capita of R53 666 is considerably below the Provincial level of 113 327 in 2022; indicating lower levels of income than the Provincial average. It should be noted that GDPR per capita expanded in the CKD area over the 3-year period. This positive performance could be ascribed to the strength of the local agriculture sector, which enabled economic expansion in a context of slow population growth.

## Income Inequality

South Africa suffers among the highest levels of inequality in the world when measured by the commonly used Gini index. Inequality manifests itself through a skewed income distribution, unequal access to opportunities, and regional disparities.

The National Development Plan (NDP) has set a target of reducing income inequality in South Africa from a Gini coefficient of 0.7 in 2010 to 0.6 by 2030. The CKD income inequality has improved to 0.58 in 2022 and remains lower than the Provincial income inequality level of 0.60 in 2022. In terms of racial groups, income disparities are noticeable in the African racial group with a Gini coefficient of 0.57 in 2022; followed by the coloured racial group with 0.55; the white racial group on the other hand demonstrate a more equal distribution of wealth with a Gini coefficient 0.43 in 2022. Other racial group income inequality levels were not significant due to their population contribution and disaggregated data availability.

## Poverty Line

The Upper Bound Poverty Line (UBPL) head count ratio is the proportion of the population living below the UBPL i.e., that cannot afford to purchase adequate levels of food and non-food items. The UBPL in South Africa is R1 417 (in April 2022 prices) per person per month.

Poverty affects the social development of communities through lower life expectancy, malnutrition and food insecurity, higher exposure to crime and substance abuse, lower educational attainment and poor living conditions. In 2022, poverty was higher in CKD at 65.8 compared to the Western Cape average of 64.1. Within the CKD poverty levels were higher in Prince Albert followed by Beaufort west municipal areas with 67.0 per cent and 65.8 per cent respectively of the population falling below the UBPL in 2022.

# BASIC SERVICE DELIVERY

27 290

Central Karoo District

2 264 032

Western Cape

## Total number of households

### Formal main dwelling

98.8%

26 962

Central Karoo

Western Cape

88,0%

98.8% Central Karoo  
88.0% Western Cape

House/brick structure  
on separate stand/yard

0.0% Central Karoo  
0.7% Western Cape

Traditional dwelling

0.8% Central Karoo  
11.1% Western Cape

Informal dwelling

0.6% Central Karoo  
0.3% Western Cape

Other/Unspecified



Piped water inside  
dwelling/yard or  
communal/neighbor's tap

Central Karoo 87.1%  
Western Cape 85,5%



Flush/chemical toilet

Central Karoo 97.5%  
Western Cape 93,9%%



Electricity (incl. generator)  
as primary source of  
lighting

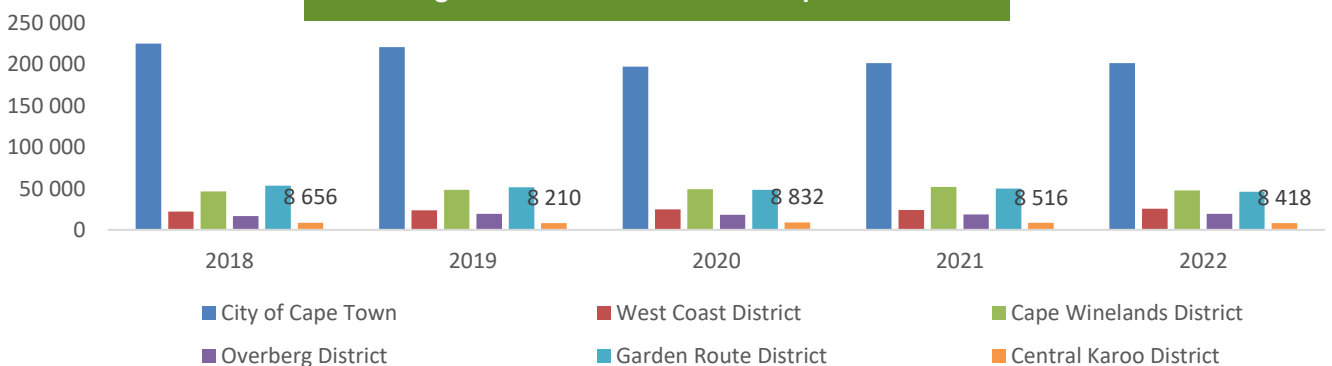
Central Karoo 96.6%  
Western Cape 96.%



Refuse removal at least  
once a week

Central Karoo 79.6%  
Western Cape 88,7%

### Indigent Households Western Cape districts





The Constitution stipulates that every citizen has the right to access to adequate housing and that the state must take reasonable legislative and other measures within its available resources to achieve the progressive realisation of this right. Access to housing also includes access to services such as potable water, basic sanitation, safe energy sources and refuse removal services, to ensure that households enjoy a decent standard of living.

This section considers to what extent this has been achieved by reflecting on the latest available information from the Statistics South Africa 2022 Census data.

## Housing and Household Services

With a total of 27 290 households in the CKD area, 98.8 per cent had access to formal housing; this is higher than the Western Cape average of 88.8 per cent in 2022. The Beaufort West municipal area due to its household size has the highest housing demand in the CKD, with 50.0 per cent of households registered on the Western Cape Housing Demand Database. This demand stems from the prevalence of informal settlements and lower wages in areas such as Merweville and Murraysburg. To address this challenge, a few housing support programmes have identified intervention sites for the 2023/24 MTREF period. These include the Finance Linked Individual Subsidy (FLISP), for which 120 subsidised housing units are being built in the Beaufort West area, and the Integrated Residential Development Programme (IRDP), for which 220 IRDP houses are being built in the Murrayburg area. In addition, 67 IRDP houses are being constructed in the Essopville area under the auspices of the IRDP.

In addition to suitable housing, access to basic services such as water and sanitation plays a pivotal role in the overall wellbeing of communities. Local municipalities are essential in cultivating an environment that promotes private investment and entrepreneurship, resulting in local economic opportunities that positively impact the community.

Apart from refuse removal services, access levels in the Central Karoo District were at better levels than the Provincial average with access to piped water inside the dwelling at 87.1 per cent, access to electricity (for lighting) at 96.6 per cent, access to flush connected to sewage at 97.5 per cent. Removal of refuse at least weekly by local authority at 79.6 per cent of households was lower than the provincial average of 81.5 per cent.

## Free Basic Services

Municipalities also provide a package of free basic services to households who are financially vulnerable and struggle to pay for services. The number of households receiving free basic services in the Central Karoo District area between 2018 to 2022 fluctuated, with 2022 showing decline in indigent households. As expected, Beaufort West has the highest indigent Households at 6 673, followed by Prince Albert municipal area 1 208 and Laingsburg 537 in 2022. The stressed economic conditions is expected to exert additional pressure on household income, which will likely increase the demand for free basic services and in turn the number of indigent households.

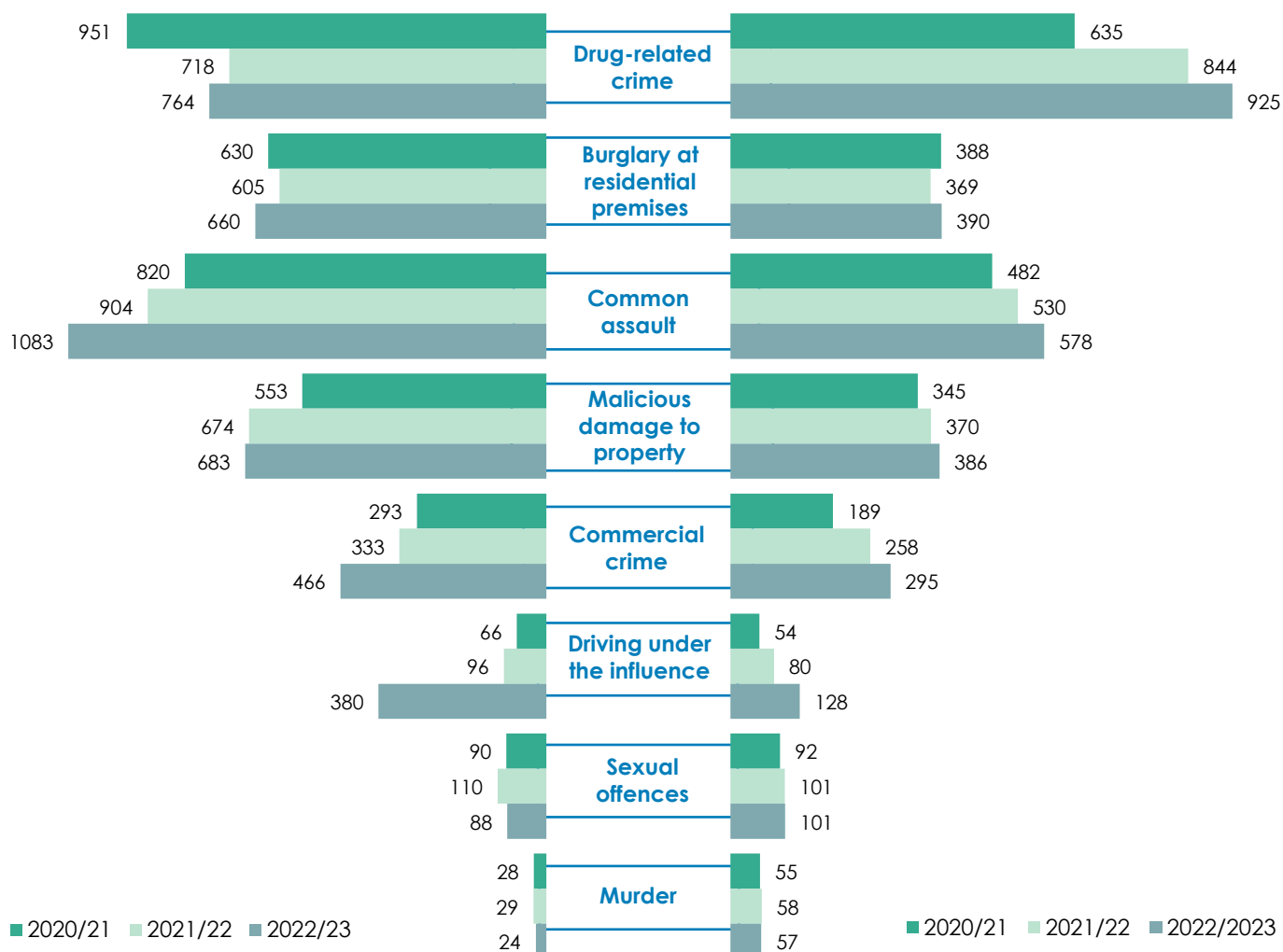
# SAFETY AND SECURITY

## CENTRAL KAROO

**7 722** Total reported  
crime per 100 000 people in the  
Central Karoo District in 2022/23

## WESTERN CAPE

**5 439** Total reported  
crime per 100 000 people in  
Western Cape in 2022/23



Drug-related crime  
540 (2021/22)  
577 (2022/23)

Murder  
22 (2021/22)  
18 (2022/23)

Sexual offences  
83 (2021/22)  
67 (2022/23)

Driving under the influence  
72 (2021/22)  
287 (2022/23)



Residential burglaries  
455 (2021/22)  
499 (2022/23)

Common assault  
680 (2021/22)  
819 (2022/23)

Damage to property  
507 (2021/22)  
516 (2022/23)

Commercial crime  
250 (2021/22)  
352 (2022/23)

## Murder

Violent crime like murder within the CKD area improved in 2022/23, with 18 murders reported compared to 22 murders reported in 2021/22. The incidence of murder in CKD were comparatively lower than the Province with CKD reported murder rate at 24 per 100 000 people compared to 57 per 100 000 in the broader Province in 2022/23. Within the District, the murder rate in Beaufort per 100 000 people, is higher than the murder rate in the broader Central Karoo region for 2022/23. No murder cases were reported for Laingsburg municipal area for 2022/23, Prince Albert area reported 2 murders in 2022/23. This still necessitates targeted safety interventions to deal with crime in CKD area.

## Sexual Offences

South Africa has unfortunately earned the classification of having one of the highest rape statistics globally. Within CKD, reported sexual offense cases declined from 83 cases in 2021/22 to 67 cases in 2022/23, reflecting a decrease of 19.3 per cent during this reporting period. However, when evaluating sexual offenses per 100 000 people, the analysis reveals fluctuations between 2020/21 and 2022/23. While reported cases increased in 2021/22, there was subsequent decline in 2022/23 at 88 cases per 100 000 lower than the Provincial average of 101 per 100 000 people. Crucially, sexual offenses are inseparable from the broader context of gender-based violence. Women and children, unfortunately, remain vulnerable victims of rape and sexual assault, leading to severe consequences such as unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, and the propagation of HIV/AIDS.

## Drug-related Offences

The prevalence of drug-related crime in the Central Karoo District escalated from 540 actual cases in 2021/22 to 577 actual cases in 2022/23, constituting an increase of 7.0 per cent in reported cases. Nevertheless, when considering drug-related offenses per 100 000 people, fluctuations are noted between 2020/21 and 2022/23.

## Driving under the influence (DUI)

The number of cases of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs in the CKD saw an alarming increase from 72 actual cases in 2021 to 287 actual cases in 2022/23. This translates into a rate of 380 cases per 100 000 people in 2022/23, which is above the Provincial average of 128 cases per 100 000 people.

## Residential Burglaries and damage to properties

The CKD area witness a significant increase in property related crime with the actual number of residential burglaries increasing from 455 burglaries in 2021/22 to 499 burglaries in 2022/23, reflecting an increase of 9.7 per cent between the reporting period.

The number of reported cases for damages to property increased from 507 to 516 between 2021/22 and 2022/23.

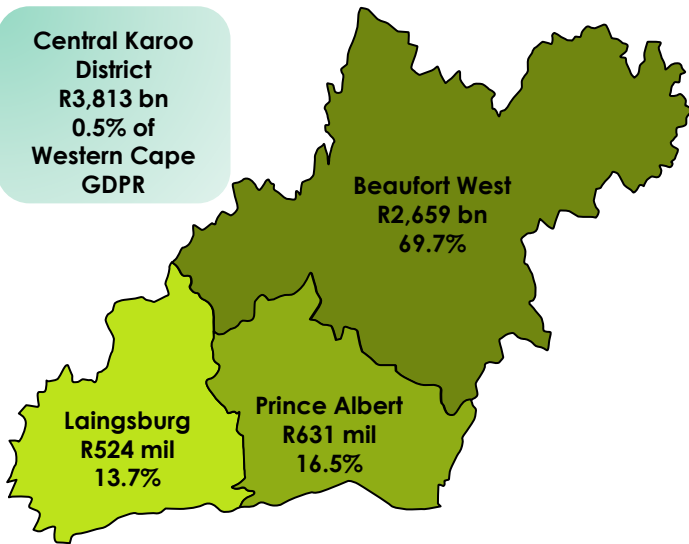
## Commercial Crime

There is also a notable increase in reported cases of commercial crime from 250 actual cases in 2021/22 to 352 actual cases in 2022/23 highlights a growing concern for the economic landscape within the District. Understanding and monitoring such trends are crucial for assessing community safety, law enforcement effectiveness, and potential areas for preventive measures or interventions.

# GDPR PERFORMANCE

## GDPR Contribution 2021

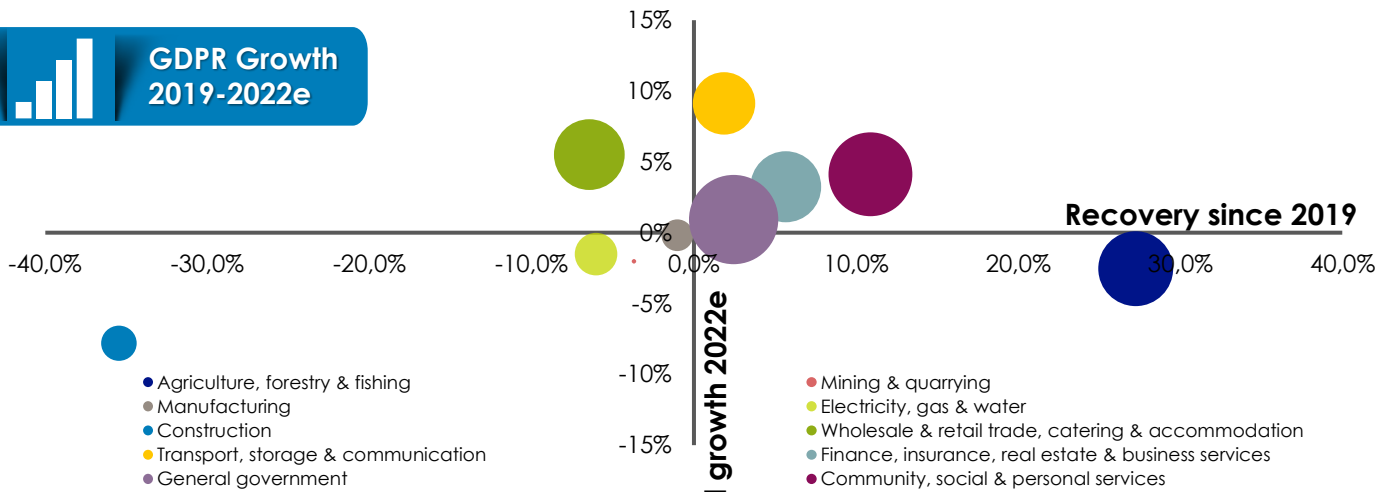
Central Karoo District  
R3,813 bn  
0.5% of Western Cape GDP



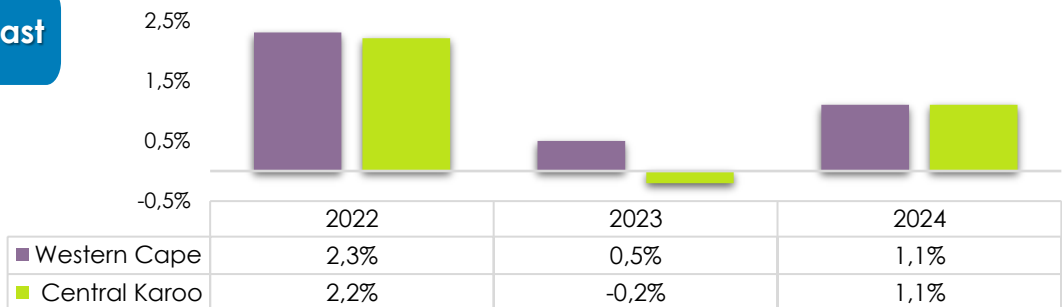
## Sectoral contribution to GDP 2021



## GDPR Growth 2019-2022e



## GDPR forecast



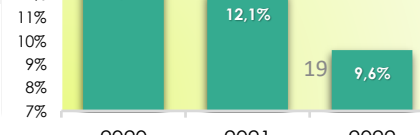
## International Trade, 2022

Imports: R21.5 million  
Exports: R121.8 million

### Top exported products



### Top imported products



## GDPR Performance

The sparsely populated CKD contributed only R3.8 billion (0.5 per cent) to the Provincial economy in 2021. Of the three Municipalities; the Beaufort West municipal area had the largest economy in the CKD in 2021 contributing R2.7 billion (69.7 per cent), followed by Prince Albert and Laingsburg contributing R631 million and R524 million respectively in 2021. The general government and community services sectors were responsible for most economic activity in the District, collectively contributing 39.0 per cent of the GDPR of the CKD in 2021. This is followed by Agriculture contributing 15 per cent and to the District economy. Trade and Finance at 13 per cent each were also among the top performing sectors in the District.

The GDPR is estimated to have expanded by 2.2 per cent in 2022. The tertiary sector is the only sector that reported growth at 4.1 per cent in 2022. Economic growth prospects were dampened by contractions in all industries within the primary and secondary sectors, with the primary sector shrinking by an estimated 2.5 per cent in 2022 and the secondary sector by an estimate of 3.3 per cent. These contractions highlight the extent to which the mining; manufacturing; electricity, gas and water and construction sectors are struggling to recover from the impact of the pandemic. However, public sector spending can be valuable in revitalising the local construction industry.

## GDPR Forecast

The economy of the CKD area is expected to contract in 2023 by 0.2 per cent before resuming growth in 2024 for which an expansion of 1.1 per cent is forecast. These predictions reflect concerns about continued pressure on household spending and the knock-on effects of this on vital local sectors such as community services, transport and tourism.

## Trade Balance

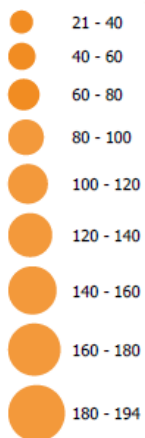
The trade balance has grown steadily, increasing from R20.3 million in 2012 to R100.3 million in 2022. Agriculture and manufacturing play a central role in the economic life of the District, accounting for 38.5 per cent and 61.5 per cent respectively of the CKD trade balance in 2022. The 2023 Municipal Economic Review and Outlook for CKD indicates that half of the CKD's exports are animal byproducts, including sweetened and non-sweetened milk and cream (R21.9 million and R16.2 million, respectively), whey (R8.8 million), buttermilk and other fermented or acidified milk and cream products (R2.8 million) and cheese and curd (R2.1 million). The production of these goods speaks to the agro-processing capabilities of the CKD.

The top imported products in 2022 was harvesting or threshing machinery (R8.0 million), which is used to harvest the irrigated lucerne crops that are found throughout the District, preparations used in animal feeding worth R5.2 million were imported in 2022.

## Tourism Spend

The Tourism sector accounted for 9.6 per cent of GDPR in 2022 implying a change of -2.5 percentage points compared to the 12.1 per cent contribution in 2021. To further develop tourism in the municipal area and ensure that the industry is sustainable over the long term, it is essential that strategies be put in place to attract visitors during off-peak periods.

# LABOUR MARKET PERFORMANCE



## Number of businesses by Town, 2022

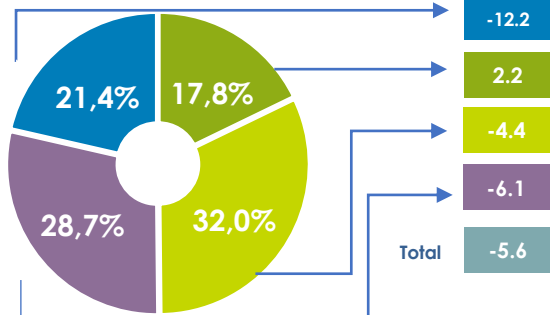
### Roads

- National Roads
- Regional Roads



## Skill Level % Contribution, 2022

### Recovery in Employment (%) 2019-2022

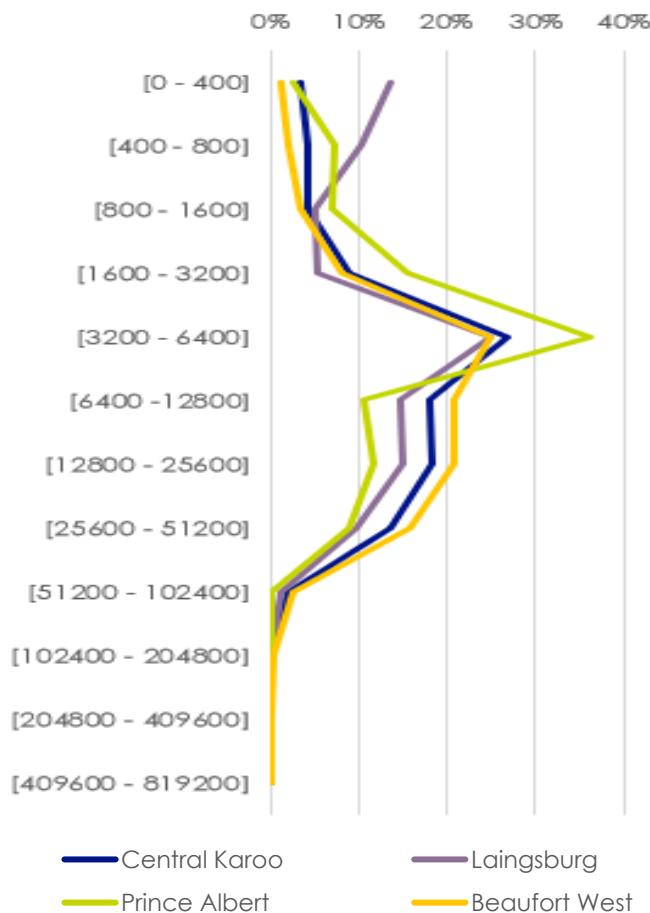


Total Persons Employed 2022	Skilled	Semi-skilled	Low-skilled	Informal
	3 258	5 852	5 254	3 918

-12.2
2.2
-4.4
-6.1
<b>Total</b>
-5.6

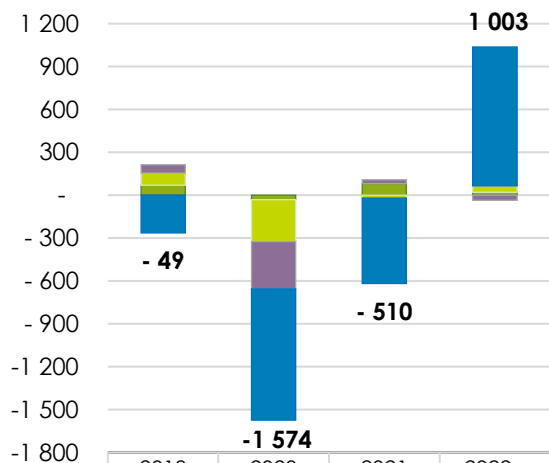


## Wage Distribution per municipal area, 2022



- Central Karoo
- Laingsburg
- Prince Albert
- Beaufort West

## Net employment per sector, 2019-2022



Sector	2019	2020	2021	2022e
Total	-49	-1 574	-510	1 003
Informal	-263	-918	-597	973
Low skilled	59	-332	26	-35
Semi-skilled	85	-293	-20	44
Skilled	70	-31	81	21

## Top 5 Sectors

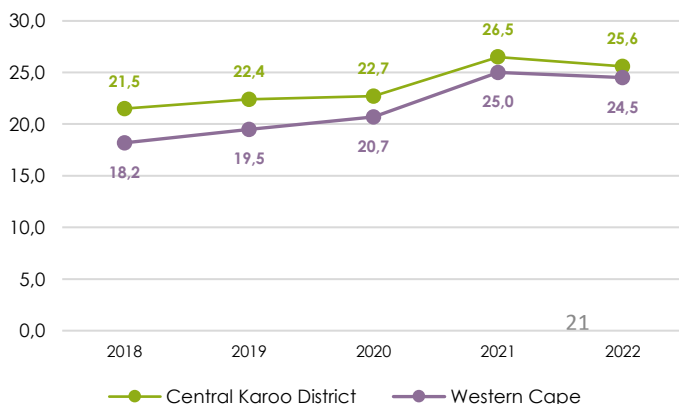


### Sector

Sector	No. of FTE Jobs
Administration of the state and the economic and social policy of the community	2 243
Provision of services to the community as a whole	440
Retail of automotive fuel in specialized stores	288
Mixed farming	270
Short term accommodation activities	268



## Unemployment rate 2018-2022



## Labour Market Performance

It is estimated that the CKD area employment in 2022 amount to 18282 workers, of which 14 364 (78.6 per cent) are employed in the formal sector and 3 918(21.4 per cent) are informally employed.

The labour force participation rate increased by 1.9 percentage points to reach 52.7 per cent, highlighting the limited extent of economic activity in the District. In this context, it is perhaps unsurprising that a large cohort of CKD residents are economically inactive (47.3 per cent in 2022) and that working persons have several dependents even as many residents look to the government for income support.

Despite this, the favourable job market conditions in 2022 resulted in unemployment falling to 25.6 per cent (a 0.9-percentage point decrease) and, consequently, a marginal decline in the economically inactive population(-1.9 per cent). The unemployment rate in the CKD is higher than that of the Province (24.5 per cent), highlighting the need for private sector investment to facilitate job creation in the District. The net job growth in the District is expected to be positive in 2022 , largely boosted by employment in the informal sector. The informal sector created a net job growth of 973 in 2022.

## Skills Distribution

Most of the formally employed consisted of low skilled (32.0 per cent) and semi- skilled (28.7 per cent) workers. The skilled category only accounted for 17.8 per cent to total formal employment. The skilled category grew at a pace of 2.2 per cent per annum from 2019 to 2022 notably outpacing low-skilled employment which shed 6.1 per cent of jobs per annum and semi-skilled employment -4.4 per cent. The informal sector shed most of the jobs at -12.2 per cent of jobs between 2019 and 2022. The growth in the skilled category reflects the increasing market demand for skilled labour and the need for skills development initiatives in the municipal area.

## Wage Distribution

In 2022, the financial outcomes for full-time employees within the CKD were varied. Individuals engaged in low-income occupations within the District typically earned between R3 200 and R6 400 a month. This bracket mainly included retail and agricultural workers. Of the workers in this wage bracket, 36.4 per cent – the largest share – resided in the Prince Albert municipal area. Wage levels were higher in the Beaufort West municipal area, which has a diversified economy and is the epicentre of public sector services in the CKD.



# RISK AND VULNERABILITY FACTORS



## VULNERABILITY\*

Local municipalities are ranked according to their vulnerability relative to all 25 municipalities in the province (Rank). A higher ranking (out of 25) indicates the municipality is comparatively worse off.

An additional score (out of 10) is provided for vulnerability factors relative to all 213 municipalities in the country (Score).

Municipality	Socio-Economic		Economic		Physical		Environmental	
	The indicator shows the vulnerability of households living in the municipality with regards to the household's age composition, education and health status, access to basic services, and safety and security (2011 baseline)		Vulnerability of the municipality to external shocks is based on the economic diversity, size of the economy, labour force, GDP growth rate and the income inequality present in the municipality (2011 baseline)		Physical vulnerability addresses the physical fabric and connectedness of the settlements in the municipality. The more remote and/or structurally vulnerable, the higher the physical vulnerability score		Env. vulnerability represents the conflict between preserving natural environment & growth pressures associated with population growth, urbanisation, and economic development. It measures air quality, env. governance, & the competition between the ecology and urban encroachment	
	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
Beaufort West	23	2.90	20	3.77	18	5.83	2	2.0
Laingsburg	20	2.56	12	2.96	7	4.73	4	3.26
Prince Albert	25	3.39	19	3.71	4	4.52	3	3.26

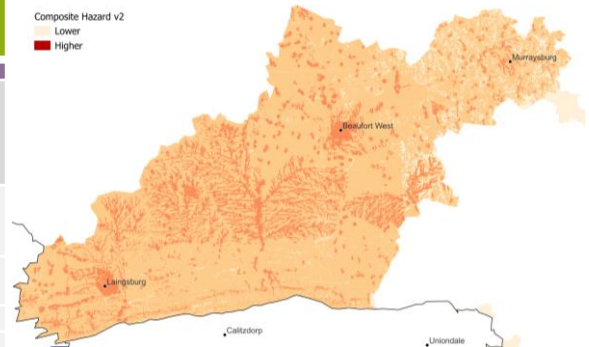


## HAZARDS\*

### Overall Population Growth Pressure:

Low to no change except in specific settlements \*

Composite Hazard v2  
Lower  
Higher



Six of the Top 10 Risks in the Central Karoo are environmental in nature (Provincial Disaster Risk Register)

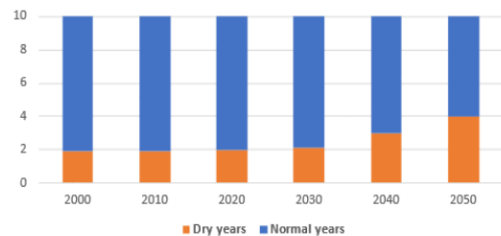
Central Karoo's identified Hydro-meteorological Hazards to settlements as observed by the CSIR (The Greenbook \*)

<b>1. Drought</b>	An increase in drought tendency years expected, with high potential increase in settlements' exposure to drought
<b>2. Human Health Conditions And Diseases</b>	See comments under 'drought' and 'heat waves'
<b>3. Shale Gas Drilling And Extraction</b>	
<b>4. Water Pollution</b>	
<b>5. Floods</b>	Potential increase to exposure in settlements to flooding is very low
<b>6. Critical Service Disruptions: Waste Management</b>	
<b>7. Heat Waves</b>	Potential increase in exposure to heat extremes are high to extreme
<b>8. Structural Fires</b>	Low risk exposure
<b>9. Wildfires</b>	Low potential increase to exposure of settlements to wildfires, but fire-danger days remain a risk for agriculture
<b>10. Critical Service Disruptions: Water Security And Supply</b>	See comments under 'drought'

### Temperature change (2050 compared to historic):

Mean temperature increase	1.4 °C higher
Additional days per year with daily maximum temperature above 30 °C	21-23 days

### Dry years per decade



### Central Karoo no. of dry years per decade<sup>†</sup>

	2000	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050
Dry years	1.9	1.9	2	2.1	3	4
Wet years	8.1	8.1	8	7.9	7	6

\* Le Roux, A., van Niekerk, W., Arnold, K., Pieterse, A., Ludick, C., Forsyth, G., Le Maitre, D., Lötter, D., du Plessis, P. & Mans, G. 2019. Green Book Risk Profile Tool. Pretoria: CSIR. Available at: riskprofiles.greenbook.co.za

<sup>†</sup> Jack, C., Van Aardenne, L., Wolski, P., Pinto, L., Quagraine, K. & Kloppers, P. 2022. SmartAgri: Updated Climate Change Trends and Projections for the Western Cape. Cape Town: University of Cape Town. Available at <https://www.elsenburg.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/SmartAgri-Climate-Change.pdf>

## Drought

According to the CSIR Green Book, Central Karoo has a general overall tendency to be exposed to an increase in drought. Currently 1.9 years per decade are at risk of drought, and this will increase to 4 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 Central Karoo can expect an additional 21-23 hot days per year by 2050, which will affect food security, exposure to extreme heat, health and water quality.

## Vegetation Fires

Although critical for a healthy ecosystem, fire is a significant threat to human lives, food security, socio-economic 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

The CKD area exhibited a positive population growth rate, expanding by 3.5 per cent from 2011 to 2022. Projections indicate a slowing down in growth trajectory, with an anticipated average annual increase of 0.7 per cent between 2023 to 2027. However, the Laingsburg and Prince Albert area are expected to grow above the District average between 2022 to 2027. Notably, household numbers have also shown an upward trend when compared to the figures recorded in 2011. Despite the increase in the number of households, the average household size remained stable.

The dependency ratio improved to 52.0 per cent, indicating a growing working-age population and a declining children population group. The sex ratio, reflect a worrisome trend with a declining sex ratio of 92.0 males per 100 female's indicative of immigration patterns for men and the resulting increase in female headed households.

Addressing declining retention rates in high schools is crucial. Implementing programs for vulnerable learners and increasing vocational training institutions could help address these issues. In terms of health outcomes, the increase in Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) is concerning and requires a thorough investigation into factors such as healthcare infrastructure, prenatal and postnatal care, and accessibility to medical interventions.

The CKD due to its rural nature and lack of economic diversification recorded exceptionally low GDP per capita compared to that of the Province. With the three biggest sectors constituting, government, the community and social services sectors and the Agricultural sector. The unemployment rate has shown a consistent upward trend since 2018, reaching a concerning 25.6 per cent in 2022 higher than the Provincial unemployment rate of 24.5 per cent.

The economic cost and social cost of crime cannot be over emphasised as it has an implication for well-being and resource allocation by Government, businesses and citizens. In terms of safety and security Sexual offences and Murder were the only categorise of crime that saw improvement in 2022/23. It is essential to prioritise crime prevention strategies and community policing along with enhanced law enforcement capabilities.

## 1. Demographics

- Population: *Department of Social Development, 2023; Census 2022*
- Sex ratio: *Department of Social Development, 2023*
- Age cohorts: *Department of Social Development, 2023*
- Number of households: *Department of Social Development, 2023*
- Household size: *Department of Social Development, 2023*
- Urbanisation: *Department of Social Development, 2023*
- Population density: *Department of Social Development, 2023*

## 2. Education

- Learner enrolment: *Western Cape Education Department, 2021; Annual Survey of Public and Independent Schools (ASS), 2023*
- Learner-teacher ratio: *Western Cape Education Department, 2020; Annual Survey of Public and Independent Schools (ASS), 2023*
- Learner retention: *Western Cape Education Department, 2020; Annual Survey of Public and Independent Schools (ASS), 2023*
- Educational facilities: *Western Cape Education Department, 2020; Annual Survey of Public and Independent Schools (ASS), 2023*
- No-fee schools: *Western Cape Education Department, 2020; Annual Survey of Public and Independent Schools (ASS), 2023*
- Schools with libraries: *Western Cape Education Department, 2020; Annual Survey of Public and Independent Schools (ASS), 2023*
- Educational outcomes: *Western Cape Education Department, 2020; Annual Survey of Public and Independent Schools (ASS), 2023*

## 3. Health

- Healthcare facilities: *Department of Health and Wellness, 2023*
- Emergency medical services: *Department of Health and Wellness, 2023*
- HIV/AIDS: *Department of Health and Wellness, 2023*
- Tuberculosis: *Department of Health and Wellness, 2023*
- Child health: *Department of Health and Wellness, 2023*
- Maternal health: *Department of Health and Wellness, 2023*

## 4. Poverty

- GDP per capita: *Statistics South Africa, 2023*
- Income Inequality (Gini-coefficient): *Quantec Research, 2023*
- Human Development (Human Development Index): *Quantec Research, 2023*

## 5. Basic services

- Households: Quantec Research, 2023
- Access to housing: Quantec Research, 2023
- Access to water: Quantec Research, 2023
- Access to electricity: Quantec Research, 2023
- Access to sanitation: Quantec Research, 2023
- Access to refuse removal: Quantec Research, 2023
- Free Basic Services: *Statistics South Africa, Non-Financial Census of Municipalities 2020*

## 6. Safety and security

- Murder: *South African Police Service (SAPS), 2023, own calculations*
- Sexual offences: *South African Police Service (SAPS), 2023, own calculations*
- Drug-related crimes: *South African Police Service (SAPS), 2023, own calculations*
- Driving under the influence: *South African Police Service (SAPS), 2023, own calculations*
- Residential burglaries: *South African Police Service (SAPS), 2020, 2023 calculations*

## 7. GDPR Performance

- GDPR Sector Performance: *Quantec Research, 2023*
- *GDPR Forecasts: Quantec Research, 2023*
- *International Trade: Quantec Research, 2023*
- *Tourism spend: S&P Global, 2023*

## 8. Labour Market Performance

- Wage distribution: *Nell, A. Visagie, J. Spatial Tax Panel 2014-2022 [dataset]. Version 3. National Treasury - Cities Support Programme and Human Sciences Research Council [producer and distributor], 2023.*
- Formal Employment: *Nell, A. Visagie, J. Spatial Tax Panel 2014-2022 [dataset]. Version 3. National Treasury - Cities Support Programme and Human Sciences Research Council [producer and distributor], 2023.*
- Trends in labour force skills: *Quantec Research, 2023*
- Unemployment rates: *Quantec Research, 2023*