Western Cape Government

FOR **YOU**

CONTENTS

Garden Route District: At a Glance

Demographics
Actual households, 2022

Population
838 457
(Source: Census 2022)

Households
255 977
(Source: Census 2022)

Education
2022

Matric Pass Rate	**83.8%**
Learner Retention Rate	**73.7%**
Learner-Teacher Ratio	**29.8**

Poverty
2022

Gini Coefficient	**0.61**
Poverty Head Count Ratio (UBPL)	**61.0%**

Health
2022/23

Primary Health Care Facilities	Immunisation Rate	Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100 000 live births)	Teenage Pregnancies – Delivery rate to women U/19
40 (excl. mobile/satellite clinics)	**81.8%**	**72.2**	**14.8%**

Safety and Security
Actual number of reported cases in 2022/23

Residential Burglaries	DUI	Drug-related Crimes	Murder	Sexual Offences
3 990	**1 828**	**6 700**	**201**	**853**

Access to Basic Service Delivery
Percentage of households with access to basic services, 2022

Water	Refuse Removal	Electricity	Sanitation	Housing
85.0%	**88.8%**	**95.9%**	**93.7%**	**89.0%**

Labour
2022

Unemployment Rate (narrow definition)
19.9%

Socio-economic Risks

Risk 1 — **Job losses**
Risk 2 — **Low learner retention**
Risk 3 — **Low skills base (Labour)**

Largest 3 Sectors
Contribution to GDP, 2021

Finance, insurance, real estate and business services	Wholesale & retail trade, catering and accommodation	Manufacturing
30.4%	**16.4%**	**14.1%**

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 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 Garden Route District (GRD).
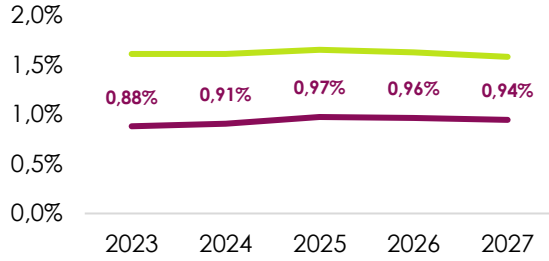
DEMOGRAPHICS

Population 2022
838 457

Estimated Population
878 264 2027

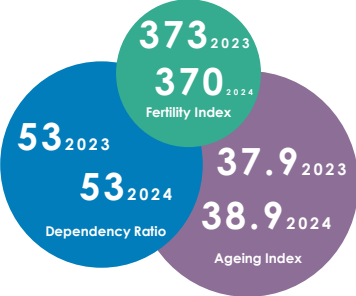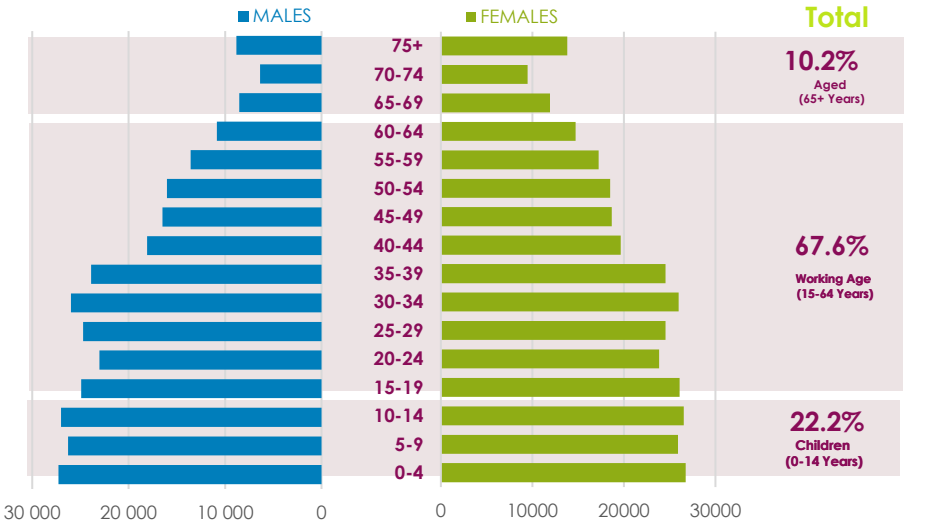**Estimated Average Annual Population Growth Rate 2023 - 2027**
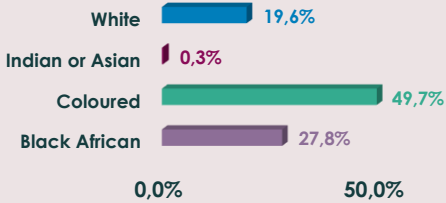**0.9%**

Estimated Population Growth

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Garden Route District	0,88%	0,91%	0,97%	0,96%	0,94%

- **Western Cape**
- **Garden Route District**

Gender and Age Dynamics

Female 51.4% | **Male 48.6%**

373 2023
370 2024
Fertility Index

53 2023
53 2024
Dependency Ratio

37.9 2023
38.9 2024
Ageing Index

Population by Age 2022

■ MALES ■ FEMALES **Total**

Age	
75+	
70-74	
65-69	**10.2%** Aged (65+ Years)
60-64	
55-59	
50-54	
45-49	
40-44	
35-39	**67.6%** Working Age (15-64 Years)
30-34	
25-29	
20-24	
15-19	
10-14	
5-9	**22.2%** Children (0-14 Years)
0-4	

Racial Split

White	19,6%
Indian or Asian	0,3%
Coloured	49,7%
Black African	27,8%

0,0% — 50,0%

Population and Household Growth 2022

Household growth 2022 - 2023 (vertical axis)
Population growth 2022 -2023 (horizontal axis)

- **Mossel Bay** 52 985
- **Knysna** 32 398
- **Bitou** 21 848
- **George** 85 931
- **Oudtshoorn** 31 795
- **Hessequa** 22 333
- **Kannaland** 8 686

3.3 Household Size

Large scale of variation within District. Bitou, Knysna and Mossel Bay – increase in urbanisation while Kannaland and George – possible development in rural areas and Oudtshoorn – decrease in urbanisation, Hessequa maintaining urbanisation level.
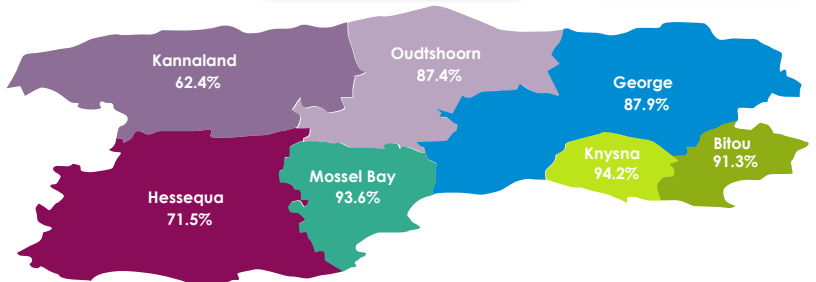
Second most populated District in the Province. 89% in 2001 to 88% in 2021.

Level of Urbanisation 2021

27.2 people/km²	2023
27.5 people/km²	2024
27.8 people/km²	2025

- Kannaland 62.4%
- Oudtshoorn 87.4%
- George 87.9%
- Hessequa 71.5%
- Mossel Bay 93.6%
- Knysna 94.2%
- Bitou 91.3%

Population and Household Growth

In 2022, the GRD was home to 838 457 individuals. At 11.3 per cent of the Provincial population, it is the third most populated region in the Western Cape. This demographic prominence can be attributed to its pivotal role as a growing economic hub. Notably, the GRD stands as the second fastest growing region in the Province, expanding its share of the Provincial population from 9.9 per cent in 2011. Projections suggest that the populace will experience an average annual growth rate of 0.9 per cent during the 2023 to 2027 period, predominantly driven by semigration into this locale. With a total of 255 977 households recorded in 2022, the region exhibits an average household size of 3.3 persons declining from 3.5 in 2011, potentially due to a surge of single working-age individuals relocating to the municipal area and shrinking family sizes. Consequently, the expansion of households is forecast to surpass the growth of the overall population. Furthermore, it is noteworthy that the number of households recorded during the 2022 Census exceeds the count utilised in the Local Government Equitable Share for each of the GRD municipalities, excluding only Bitou, signifying a higher-than-projected rise of households over the interval 2011 to 2022. This divergence bears implications for the provisioning of municipal services and the requisite infrastructure.

Gender, Age and Race Dynamics

A more in-depth analysis of the demographic composition within the region reveals that 67.6 per cent of its residents fall within the economically active age group of 15 to 64 years. The presence of a substantial working-age population is of particular significance within a burgeoning economic hub. While the overall population distribution leans slightly in favour of females, there is a notable surplus of males within the 25 to 34 age bracket, indicative of an influx of working-age males migrating to the municipal area, ostensibly in pursuit of employment opportunities. Moreover, a segment comprising 22.2 per cent of the population is aged below 14 years, thereby engendering a comparatively high dependency on the working-age cohort. This sizable youth contingent underscores a mounting demand for educational resources and future employment prospects within the GRD. Additionally, a sizable elderly population, constituting 10.2 per cent of the total, signifies that the region with its scenic expanse, is an attractive destination for retirement. The insights derived from the age distribution patterns are instrumental for municipal planning, particularly concerning the availability of housing and government services tailored to meet the diverse needs of distinct age groups.

Furthermore, the prominent racial demographic category in the municipal area is the coloured population, representing 49.7 per cent of the total population, followed by the black African population at 27.8 per cent and the white population at 19.6 per cent. The Indian or Asian demographic group is the minority, accounting for merely 0.3 per cent of the municipal populace.

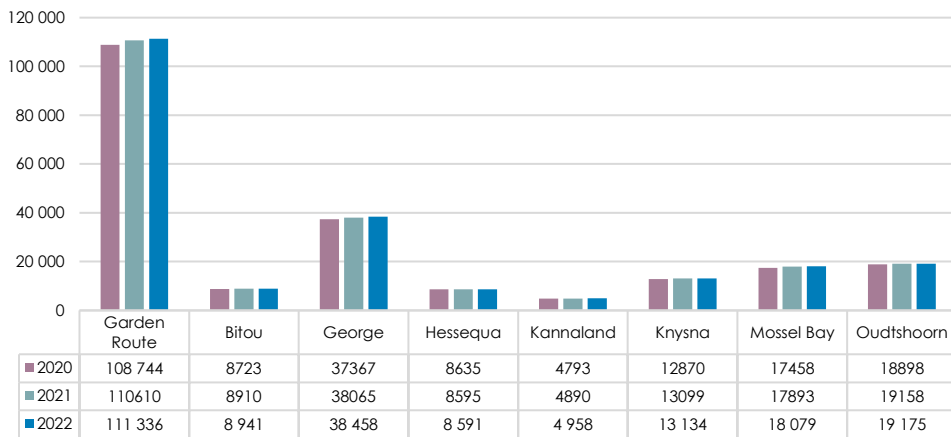## Level of Urbanisation and Population Density

Spanning an expansive 23 331.1km^2, the GRD is the second most urbanised district in the Province at 87.9 per cent. It is a kaleidoscope of contrasts, with highly urbanised coastal areas such as Knysna (94.2 per cent), Mossel Bay (93.6 per cent) and Bitou (91.3 per cent), while the rural farmlands in Kannaland (62.4 per cent), Hessequa (71.5 per cent) and Oudtshoorn (87.4 per cent) with greater agricultural activity contribute a larger share of rural population. The George municipal area stands out because of its unique circumstances. Although the urban population grew in this municipal area, certain developments around the town of George extended into the rural area, thereby raising the rural share.

In 2023, the GRD had a population density of 27.2 persons per km^2 and is expected to rise to 27.8 persons per km^2 by 2025. The concentration of the population gravitates toward the town of George and Mossel Bay, magnetised by the economic opportunities, social amenities, and connectivity advantages these municipal areas offer, while Bitou remains the fastest growing municipal area due to in-migration as the point of entry to the Western Cape along the N2. Distribution is sparser in the rural, less developed areas of the GRD, namely the Hessequa and Kannaland municipal areas.

EDUCATION

Learner enrolment

	Garden Route	Bitou	George	Hessequa	Kannaland	Knysna	Mossel Bay	Oudtshoorn
2020	108 744	8723	37367	8635	4793	12870	17458	18898
2021	110610	8910	38065	8595	4890	13099	17893	19158
2022	111 336	8 941	38 458	8 591	4 958	13 134	18 079	19 175

Educational facilities 2022

170
Number of schools

77,7%
Proportion of no-fee schools

Number of schools with libraries **93**

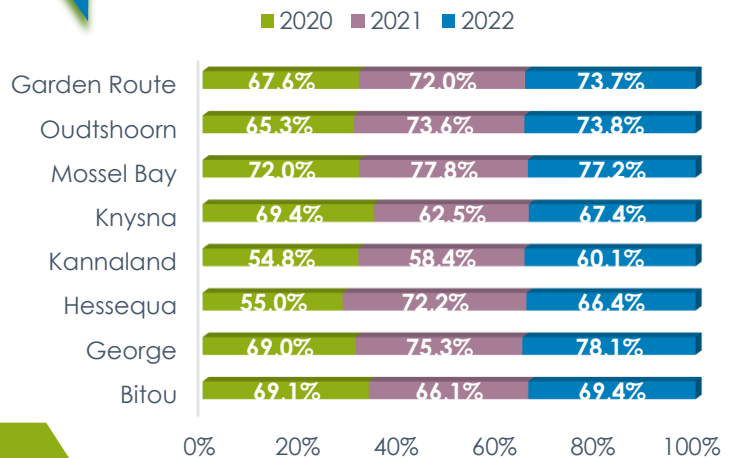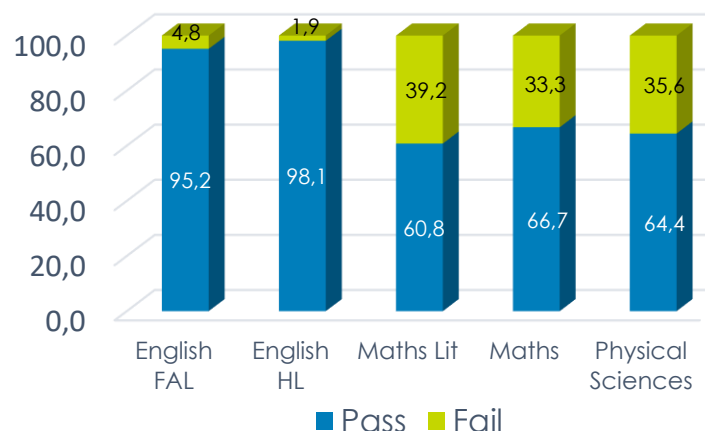## Education outcomes

	2020	2021	2022
Oudtshoorn	78,4%	84,0%	83,9%
Mossel Bay	79,7%	84,6%	86,8%
Knysna	81,3%	79,0%	81,0%
Kannaland	79,1%	86,8%	85,8%
Hessequa	92,4%	96,2%	92,8%
George	77,9%	84,3%	81,2%
Bitou	80,9%	79,5%	85,8%
Garden Route District	80,1%	84,4%	83,8%

■ 2020 ■ 2021 ■ 2022
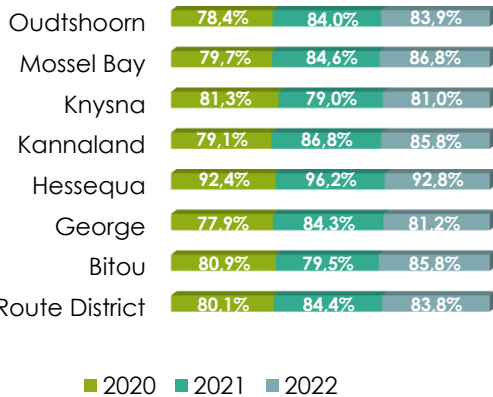
Learner retention 2020 - 2022

■2020 ■2021 ■2022

	2020	2021	2022
Garden Route	67.6%	72.0%	73.7%
Oudtshoorn	65.3%	73.6%	73.8%
Mossel Bay	72.0%	77.8%	77.2%
Knysna	69.4%	62.5%	67.4%
Kannaland	54.8%	58.4%	60.1%
Hessequa	55.0%	72.2%	66.4%
George	69.0%	75.3%	78.1%
Bitou	69.1%	66.1%	69.4%

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

Learner-Teacher Ratio 2020- 2022

Garden Route District	30,1 | 30,2 | 29,82
BITOU	32,3 | 32,4 | 31,82
Mossel Bay	30,2 | 30,9 | 30,13
George	30,0 | 29,7 | 29,67
Hessequa	29,1 | 28,9 | 28,73
Knysna	30,1 | 30,3 | 28,99
Kannaland	30,9 | 31,7 | 31,18
Oudtshoorn	29,6 | 29,7 | 29,82

Subject Outcomes

	English FAL	English HL	Maths Lit	Maths	Physical Sciences
Fail	4,8	1,9	39,2	33,3	35,6
Pass	95,2	98,1	60,8	66,7	64,4

■ Pass ■ Fail

EDUCATION

Learner enrolment and learner-teacher ratio

Ensuring that school aged children have access to schools and are enrolled in schools allows the community to meet the future skills demands in a growing economic hub. A more informed and productive society is instrumental in improving the overall quality of life. In 2022, the region had the 111 336 registered learners, a natural consequence of its great population size. It experienced notable growth in learner enrollment, witnessing an increase of 2 592 pupils between 2020 and 2022. This expansion is attributed to the concurrent growth of the working-age population in the GRD, a phenomenon driven by the availability of employment opportunities and enhanced economic prospects. Typically, families relocating to the region for employment often include school-age children, thereby amplifying the enrollment of learners. This influx of learners has fortunately been accompanied by an increased number of teachers, resulting in a reduction in the learner-teacher ratio, which, by 2022, had descended below the provincial average.

Education infrastructure and facilities

Education and skills development play a vital role in shaping the future socioeconomic landscape of the GRD. They empower the population and significantly impact the local economy's development and its human resource capacity. The Western Cape Education Department (WCED) is committed to this cause, ensuring access to education for the children of the region with the availability of 170 schools. More than three-quarters (77.7 per cent) of these schools operate as no fee schools. This is positive to note, given that a substantial 24 per cent of learners cited financial constraints as the primary reason for prematurely dropping out of school in the 2021 General Household Survey. A concerning trend of urban sprawl in municipal areas such as George is however affecting available land for potential school developments, affecting the future availability of proximate schools for a growing populace. According to the 2023/24 Overview of Provincial Infrastructure and Investment (OPMII), the WCED has documented 5 education infrastructure projects with a cumulative value of R265 million for the 2023/24 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework. Over the long term, additional education-specific infrastructure, such as new schools and additional classrooms, as well as maintenance of existing facilities, will be required in the GRD if access to education is to keep pace with the growing demand for schooling.

Learner Retention

At 73.7 per cent in 2022, the GRD had the third lowest Grade 10 to 12 learner retention rate in the Province. The learner retention rates vary across the District, with economic centres such as George, which offers more economic incentives for completing education, exhibiting higher retention rates than its more rural counterparts, such as Kannaland. It is noteworthy that the learner retention rate has been on an upward trend, boding well for the future economic potential of the region.

Education Outcomes

Lower learner-teacher ratios typically foster robust learner-teacher relationships, enabling the utilisation of personalised teaching approaches, and ultimately contributing to improved academic performance. This effect is somewhat present in the region which has the second highest matric pass rate in the Province, but saw a slight dip in both the matric pass rate and the bachelor pass rate between 2021 and 2022. Furthermore, subject outcomes reflect that a major reason for the declining educational outcomes is poor mathematics, mathematical literacy and physical science outcomes. This needs to be addressed as high performance in these subjects, in particular, are crucial in the enfolding fourth industrial revolution. With a growing demand for skilled labour in the region, matric certificates and higher education qualifications are becoming increasingly important as a lever to lift families out of poverty and contribute to economic development. It is imperative that the determinants influencing the overall quality of education be considered in the quest for optimal educational outcomes. It is however positive to note that over the 2011 to 2022 period, the percentage of persons over the age of 20 without schooling (2.4 per cent) has declined and those with higher education (13.7 per cent) increased.

HEALTH

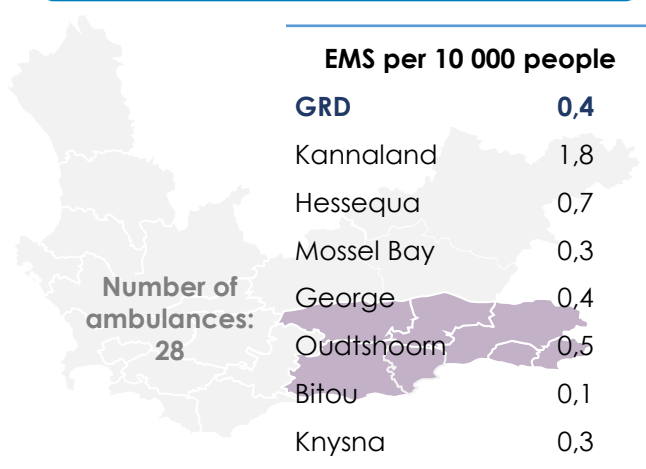## Healthcare Facilities

- 40 Fixed PHC Facilities
- 37 Mobile Clinics

- 70 ART Clinics/ Treatment Sites
- 72 TB Clinics/ Treatment Sites

- 6 District Hospitals
- 1 Regional Hospital

Emergency Medical Services

Number of ambulances: 28

EMS per 10 000 people

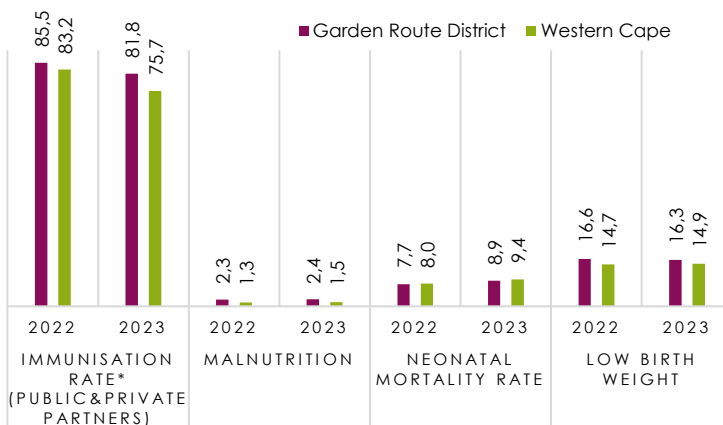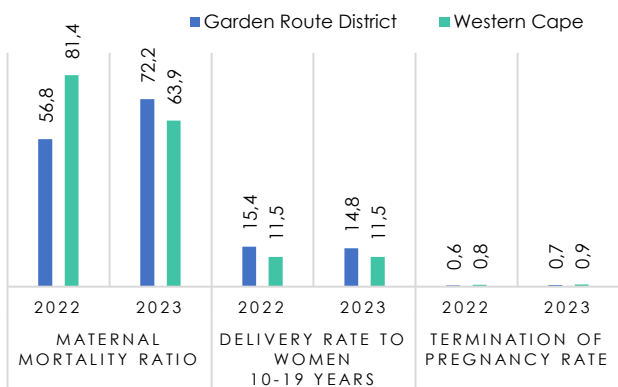|	
GRD	**0,4**
Kannaland	1,8
Hessequa	0,7
Mossel Bay	0,3
George	0,4
Oudtshoorn	0,5
Bitou	0,1
Knysna	0,3

Maternal Health

GARDEN ROUTE DISTRICT 2023: Maternal Health Indicators

- Maternal deaths in facility : 6
- Deliveries in facility u19 years : 1 244
- Termination of pregnancy : 1 080

Child Health

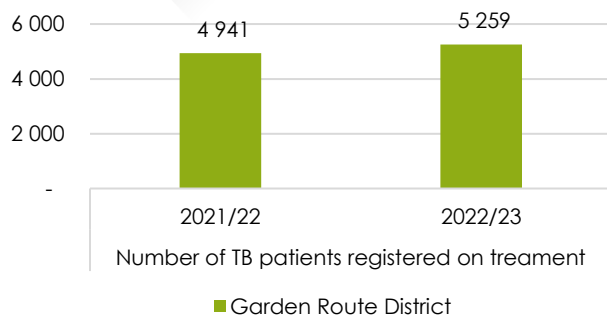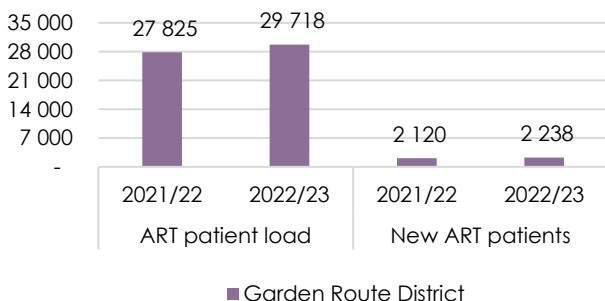**GARDEN ROUTE DISTRICT 2023: Child Health Indicators**

- Live births under 2500g (low birth weight) : 1 353
- Inpatient deaths 6-28 day : 74
- Immunisation u1 year : 8 334
- Severe acute malnutrition u5 years : 122

Maternal Health Chart

■ Garden Route District ■ Western Cape

	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
Garden Route District	56,8	72,2	15,4	14,8	0,6	0,7
Western Cape	81,4	63,9	11,5	11,5	0,8	0,9

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO | DELIVERY RATE TO WOMEN 10-19 YEARS | TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY RATE

Child Health Chart

■ Garden Route District ■ Western Cape

	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
Garden Route District	85,5	81,8	2,3	2,4	7,7	8,9	16,6	16,3
Western Cape	83,2	75,7	1,3	1,5	8,0	9,4	14,7	14,9

IMMUNISATION RATE* (PUBLIC&PRIVATE PARTNERS) | MALNUTRITION | NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE | LOW BIRTH WEIGHT

HIV/AIDS

	ART patient load		New ART patients	
	2021/22	2022/23	2021/22	2022/23
Garden Route District	27 825	29 718	2 120	2 238

■ Garden Route District

Tuberculosis

	2021/22	2022/23
Number of TB patients registered on treament	4 941	5 259

■ Garden Route District

Healthcare facilities

In 2022, a mere 15.8 per cent of the South African population had access to medical aid, underscoring the significance of government healthcare facilities in delivering essential primary healthcare services to the majority of the country's residents. Within the GRD, there was a total of 40 primary healthcare facilities. Additionally, the George municipal area had 37 mobile/satellite clinics, along with six district hospitals and one regional hospital, catering to the healthcare needs of the residents. It is noteworthy that 20.8 per cent of the healthcare facilities are present in the George municipal area, due to its larger population size.

Furthermore, the residents in the region had access to 70 antiretroviral therapy (ART) treatment sites and 72 tuberculosis (TB) clinics in 2022, augmenting the availability of critical TB and ART treatment services available for households. This is especially necessary with the rising number of ART and TB patients registered for treatment within the region from 2021/22 to 2022/23.

Enhancing the quantity of functional ambulances contributes to an expanded reach of emergency medical services across the GRD. In the 2022/23 fiscal year, the region had 28 Provincial ambulances, translating to 0.4 ambulances per 10 000 residents. This represents an increase compared to the prior fiscal year, as the Western Cape Department of Health (DoH) endeavors to keep pace with the expanding population. It should however be noted that this figure pertains exclusively to Provincial ambulances and does not include private service providers.

According to the 2023/24 Overview of Provincial Infrastructure and Investment, the DoH has documented 37 health infrastructure projects with a cumulative value of R86.784 million for the 2023/24 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework. This robust commitment to healthcare infrastructure development indicates a strategic initiative to enhance the region's healthcare capabilities and accessibility and improve health outcomes in the region.
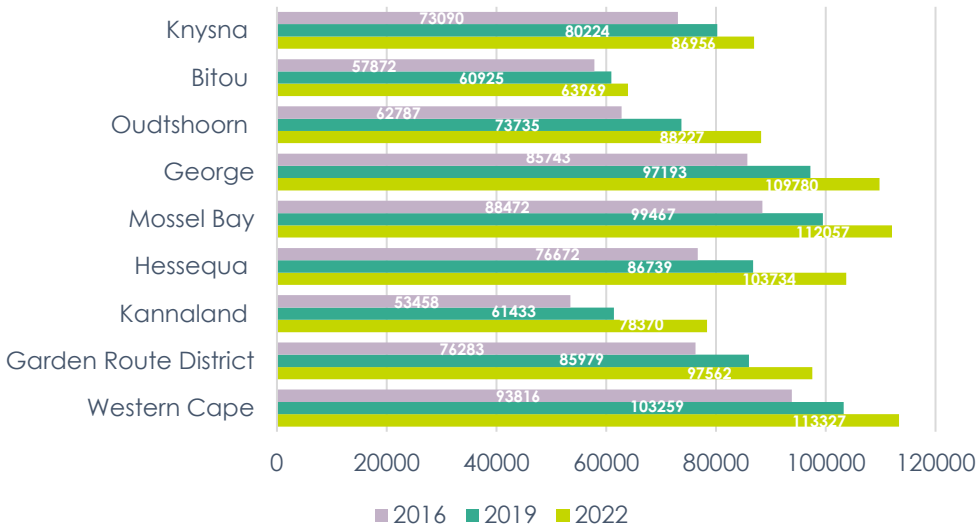
Maternal health and Child health

Within the GRD, there has been an observable decline in teenage pregnancies. In 2022/23, 1 244 deliveries (14.8 per cent) occurred among females under the age of 20, which is higher than the District rate of 11.5 per cent. The decrease in teenage pregnancies coincided with an increase in pregnancy terminations, with 1 080 pregnancy terminations reported in 2022/23. The high rate of teenage pregnancies reflects a need for expanded family planning initiatives and support services within the GRD, as unplanned pregnancies pose a risk to the future quality of life of teenagers.

8 334 children under the age of one were immunised, translating to an immunisation coverage rate of 81.8 per cent. This exhibits a reduction, thereby placing a greater proportion of young children at risk of serious illness. The prevalence of malnourished children under the age of five, particularly those suffering from severe acute malnutrition, per 100 000 individuals in the region, saw a marginal increase from 2021/22 to 2022/23. Fortunately, the percentage of infants born with a birth weight of less than 2.5 kilograms decreased over this period. In both cases, the region exhibited higher rates when compared to the Provincial average. Despite reductions in poverty and government feeding schemes, there remains a continued challenge in terms of households' access to nourishing food.
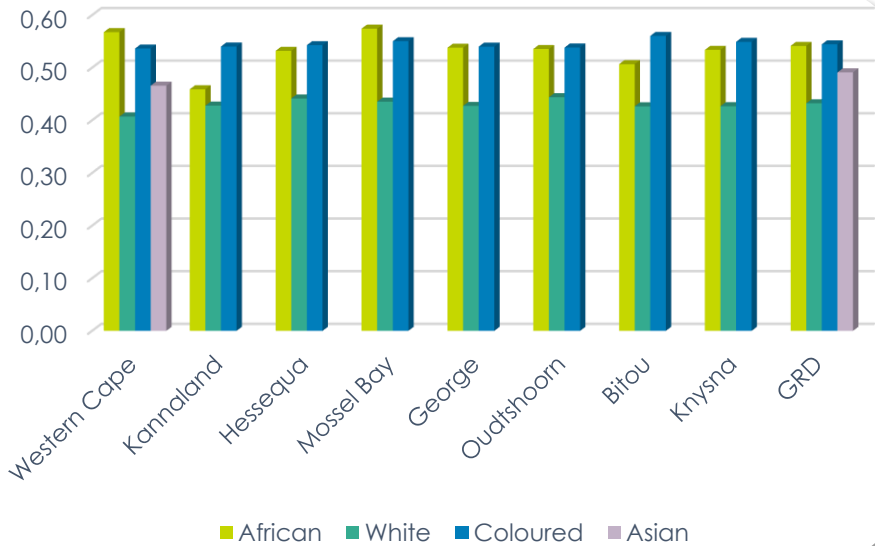
With 6 maternal deaths and 74 babies dying between 6 and 28 days of life, the region has amongst the highest maternal and neonatal mortality rates in the Province, presenting a concerning development especially as these rates have increased from 2021/22 to 2022/23. This emphasises the need for improved antenatal and postnatal care.
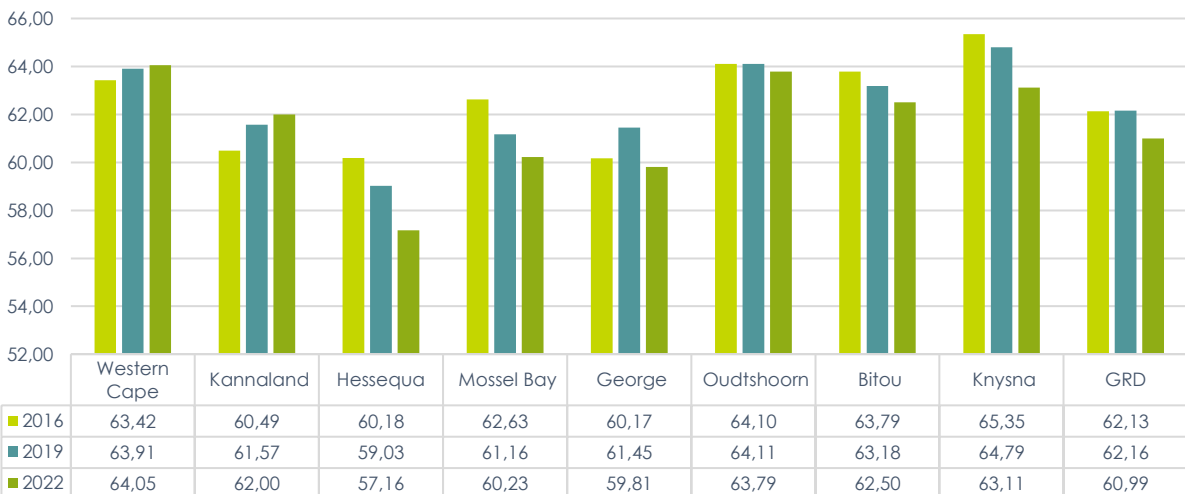
POVERTY

GDP per capita

City	2016	2019	2022
Knysna	73090	80224	86956
Bitou	57872	60925	63969
Oudtshoorn	62787	73735	88227
George	85743	97193	109780
Mossel Bay	88472	99467	112057
Hessequa	76672	86739	103734
Kannaland	53458	61433	78370
Garden Route District	76283	85979	97562
Western Cape	93816	103259	113327

■ 2016 ■ 2019 ■ 2022

Income Inequality

■ African ■ White ■ Coloured ■ Asian

Poverty Line

	Western Cape	Kannaland	Hessequa	Mossel Bay	George	Oudtshoorn	Bitou	Knysna	GRD
■ 2016	63,42	60,49	60,18	62,63	60,17	64,10	63,79	65,35	62,13
■ 2019	63,91	61,57	59,03	61,16	61,45	64,11	63,18	64,79	62,16
■ 2022	64,05	62,00	57,16	60,23	59,81	63,79	62,50	63,11	60,99

GDPR Per Capita

During the timeframe spanning from 2016 to 2022, the regional economy exhibited a growth rate surpassing that of the population, resulting in a notable upswing in the GDPR per capita i.e., GDPR per person. Over this period, GDPR per capita experienced a robust increase of 21.8 per cent, indicative of enhanced standards of living and heightened economic well-being within the GRD. At R109 780, the GDPR per capita in the District remained below that of the Western Cape (R113 327), pointing to potential areas for further improvement.

Over the reporting period, the Kannaland, Oudtshoorn and Hessequa municipal areas experienced the highest levels of GDPR per capita growth in the GRD. The high GDPR per capita growth in Kannaland and Oudtshoorn resulted from a combination of population decline and strong GDPR growth prompted by the post-pandemic economic recovery. Bitou on the other hand, saw the smallest increase as the above-average population growth has had a negative impact on GDPR per capita growth in Bitou.

However, it is imperative to acknowledge that the distribution of GDPR per capita within the GRD is not uniform. Disparities prevail, with a segment of the population enjoying affluence, while others grapple with financial challenges in an economic landscape characterised by inflation, escalating interest rates, and unemployment.

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, endeavouring to lower the Gini coefficient from 0.7 in 2010 to 0.6 by 2030.

The GRD nearly meets that goal with a Gini coefficient of 0.61, but along with the Overberg District (0.61), has amongst the most unequal distributions of income in the Province (0.60). This reflects the discrepancy between persons with well renumerated jobs in George as well as affluent households living along the coast, compared to the lower incomes earned by rural farm workers as well as households residing in the numerous informal settlements across the region. Income inequality is also more pronounced among the coloured (0.54) and black African (0.54) demographic groups where some households have built wealth, whilst others have yet to escape the poverty trap.

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. In 2022, 61.0 per cent of the GRD population fell below the UBPL. This figure improved marginally from the 62.2 per cent recorded in 2019, indicating progress despite the challenging economic conditions facing households across the country. Poverty is more pronounced in the Oudtshoorn, Bitou and Knysna municipal areas.

While the region exhibits lower levels of poverty compared to the Western Cape rate (64.1 per cent), the situation is far from comforting, given the significant number of households experiencing the adverse effects of poverty. These consequences include lower life expectancy, malnutrition, food insecurity, heightened exposure to crime and substance abuse, reduced educational attainment, and substandard living conditions. Therefore, the NDP sets the ambitious goal of eradicating poverty by 2030. To alleviate these negative impacts of poverty, GRD SASSA centres issues grants to a total of 188 598 people (30.2 per cent of the District's population), offering vital income support to these households.

BASIC SERVICE DELIVERY

255 977
Garden Route District

2 264 032
Western Cape

Total number of households

Formal main dwelling

227 812
Garden Route District

1 991 644
Western Cape

89.0%

88.0%

89.0% Garden Route 88,0% Western Cape	1.2% Garden Route 0,7% Western Cape	9.6% Garden Route 11.1% Western Cape	0.2% Garden Route 0,3% Western Cape
Formal Dwelling	Traditional dwelling	Informal dwelling	Other/Unspecified

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

Garden Route	85.0%
Western Cape	85.5%

Flush/chemical toilet

Garden Route	93.7%
Western Cape	93.9%

Electricity (incl. generator) as primary source of lighting

Garden Route	95.9%
Western Cape	96.5%

Refuse removal at least once a week

Garden Route	88.8%
Western Cape	88.7%

Indigent Households District Municipalities

Legend: Bitou, George, Hessequa, Kannaland, Knysna, Mossel Bay, Oudtshoorn

Years: 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021

BASIC SERVICE DELIVERY
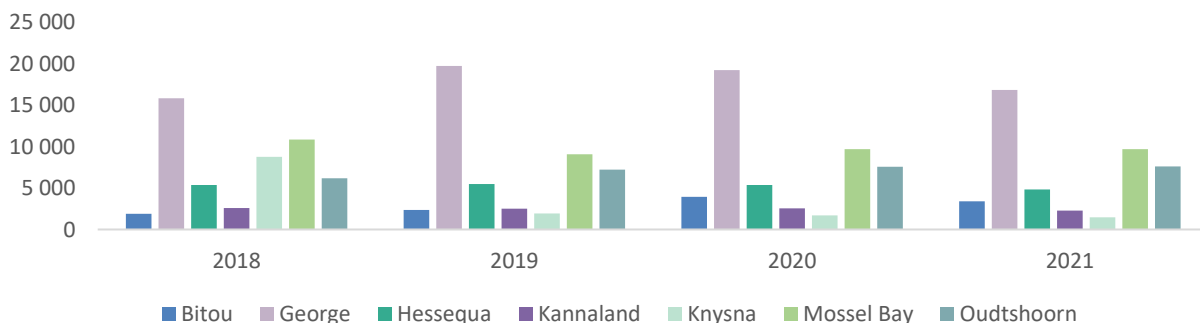
Introduction

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 assesses the extent to which this objective has been realised by examining the progress reflected in the 2022 Census data.

Housing and Household Services

There has been a notable rise in the percentage of households with access to formal housing, escalating from 83.8 per cent in 2011 to 89.0 per cent in 2022. This achievement is attributed to a substantial volume of housing units constructed by the state, catering to the housing needs of low-income households. It is noteworthy that within the George city area, all but 6 per cent of properties within the entry-level market (valued under R300 000) are government-subsidised properties, as reported in the Housing Market Studies for Intermediate Cities/ Larger Towns in the Western Cape: George City Area Report of 2022. This trend is observed in several municipalities in the region.

The access to formal housing is slightly above the Western Cape average which has been dragged downward due to the large proportion of informal housing in the City of Cape Town. With 9.6 per cent of households living in informal dwellings, 1.2 per cent in traditional dwellings and 0.2 per cent in other/unspecified housing, it reflects further room for improvement to see enhanced living conditions for vulnerable households in the GRD.

The increase in the proportion of households residing in formal dwellings was accompanied by an 8.5 per cent surge in households equipped with flush toilets, a 4.8 per cent upswing in households using electricity for lighting, and a substantial 13.2 per cent increment in households enjoying access to piped water within their dwellings. In contrast, access to regular refuse removal showed only a modest increase of 2.4 per cent. Nevertheless, these improvements underscore a solid commitment by the government to elevating living conditions and infrastructure throughout the GRD.

It remains pertinent to acknowledge that the GRD still lags in terms of providing essential services across all categories, excluding only refuse removal. This lag underscores the challenges faced by the regions municipalities in keeping pace with the growing demand for services, as well as the difficulties associated with extending services to rural farmlands and informal settlements.

Free Basic Services

Municipalities also provide a package of free basic services to households who are financially vulnerable and struggle to pay for services. There was a significant surge in registered indigent households in 2020 attributable to the adverse economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in income losses impeding households' capacity to cover their municipal service expenses. In 2021, a slight reduction occurred, and by 2022, a return to levels resembling the pre-COVID period was evident. As per the 2023/24 Municipal Economic Review and Outlook, in 2022, 43.7 per cent of households in Kannaland Municipality were registered as indigents, followed by 36.9 per cent in Oudtshoorn Municipality, underscoring heightened poverty levels in these municipal areas.

The stressed economic conditions will continue to exert pressure on household incomes and thereby keep demand for free basic services at elevated levels.
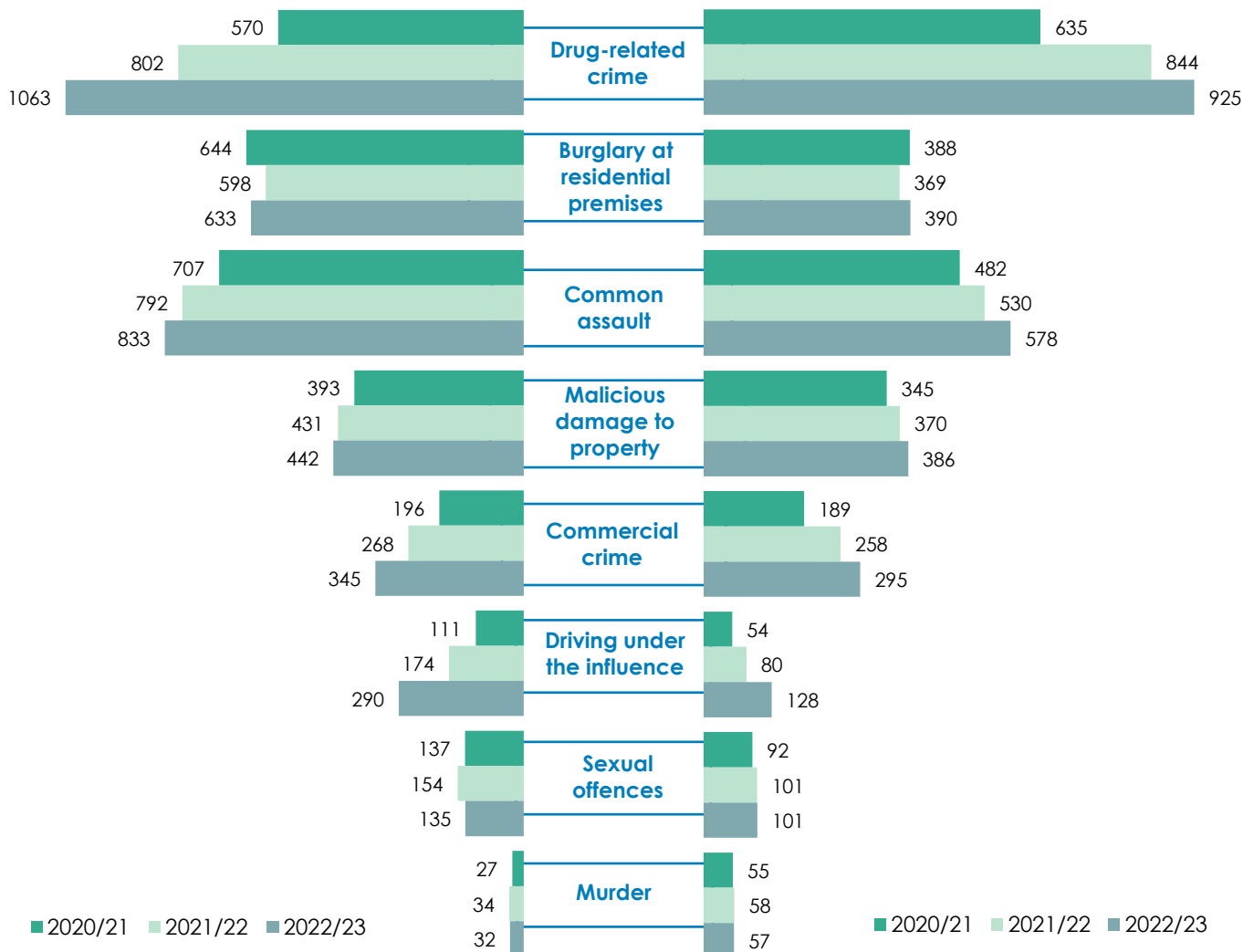
SAFETY AND SECURITY

GARDEN ROUTE
6 674 Total reported crime per 100 000 people in the Garden Route District in 2022/23

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

	Garden Route	Western Cape
Drug-related crime	570 / 802 / 1063	635 / 844 / 925
Burglary at residential premises	644 / 598 / 633	388 / 369 / 390
Common assault	707 / 792 / 833	482 / 530 / 578
Malicious damage to property	393 / 431 / 442	345 / 370 / 386
Commercial crime	196 / 268 / 345	189 / 258 / 295
Driving under the influence	111 / 174 / 290	54 / 80 / 128
Sexual offences	137 / 154 / 135	92 / 101 / 101
Murder	27 / 34 / 32	55 / 58 / 57

■2020/21 ■2021/22 ■2022/23

Actual numbers of reported crime

Drug-related crime
5 014 (2021/22)
6 700 (2022/23)

Murder
212 (2021/22)
201 (2022/23)

Sexual offences
960 (2021/22)
853 (2022/23)

Driving under the influence
1 086 (2021/22)
1 828 (2022/23)

Residential burglaries
3 740 (2021/22)
3 990 (2022/23)

Common assault
4 951 (2021/22)
5 246 (2022/23)

Damage to property
2 693 (2021/22)
2 786 (2022/23)

Commercial crime
1 674 (2021/22)
2 172 (2022/23)

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Crime Rates in GRD and Western Cape

The high levels of poverty and inequality give rise to elevated crime levels necessitating the development of the Western Cape Safety Plan. In it, the Western Cape Government (WCG) expresses their vision to ensure that the Province is a place where all people feel secure and live free from fear. The GRD Municipality shares this goal, as it is not spared from the safety concerns present throughout the Province.

Crime levels in the region rose from 2021/22 to 2022/23. It is important to highlight that COVID-19 lockdown regulations implemented in 2020/21 played a role in the overall decrease in crime during that year. The primary factors contributing to crime in the GRD include the absence of surveillance cameras in high-risk areas, inadequate lighting, high unemployment rates, drug and alcohol abuse, instances of domestic violence, repeat offences by released prisoners, the seasonal influx of labourers and social intolerance.

The Western Cape manifests heightened incidences across all crime categories outlined in the infographic in comparison to the GRD. This disparity is primarily influenced by elevated crime rates persisting in the City of Cape Town. Notably, within the regional context, the George municipal area has witnessed elevated levels of contact crimes, encompassing murder, sexual offences, and common assault. Conversely, municipal areas characterised by pronounced poverty concentrations, such as Oudtshoorn and Kannaland, exhibit heightened occurrences of drug-related crimes and burglaries at residential premises.

Total Reported Cases of Crimes

Murder is defined as the unlawful and intentional killing of another person. 201 murders were reported in the municipal area, largely attributed to gangsterism. Similarly, common assault (assault that involves the use of force or violence against another person without causing serious bodily harm) is at elevated levels with 5 246 cases reported, influenced by gangsterism, substance abuse as well as gender-based violence. Nevertheless, murder (-5.1 per cent), along with sexual offences (-11.1 per cent), were the only crime categories exhibiting declines from 2021/22 to 2022/23.

South Africa is amongst the top 5 countries in the world with respect to reports of rape. The GRD is no exception with 853 cases of sexual offences (including rape, sex work, pornography, public indecency and human trafficking) reported, down from 960 in 2021/22. It should be noted that many cases of sexual offences go unreported. Substance abuse drives up drug-related crimes (a situation where the perpetrator is found to be in possession of, under the influence of, or selling illegal drugs) with 6 700 cases reported, increasing by 33.6 per cent from 2021/22. In addition, driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol (where the driver of a vehicle is found to be over the legal blood alcohol limit) had 1 828 reported cases, and saw the largest rise (68.4 per cent) from the 2021/22 levels. Substance abuse places a burden on health care and police services, disrupts families and bears significant social and economic costs within communities.
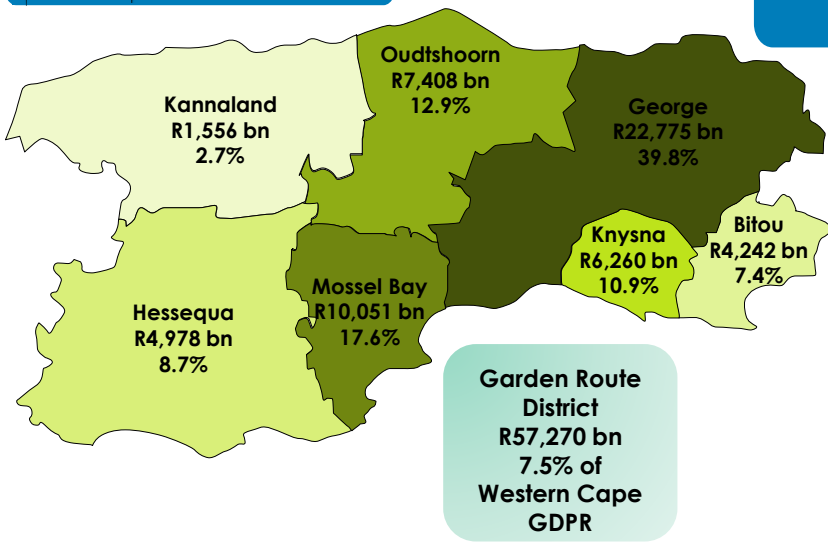
Substance abuse and poverty further contribute to residential burglaries (the unlawful entry of a residential structure with the intent to commit a crime, usually a theft) with 3 990 cases reported in the region, while difficult economic times is met with a rise in commercial crimes (theft, fraud or dishonesty committed against a business by an employee that results in the business suffering financial loss) as an easy way for employees to maintain their standard of living. In addition to this, 442 cases of malicious damage to property, severely impact local businesses, especially SMMEs. Failure to curb such crimes can lead to a vicious cycle of declining economic activity and joblessness that fuels poverty and gives rise to other crimes across the District. Curbing crime is thus crucial to realising the vision of the WCG that is *"a safer Western Cape where everyone prospers"*.
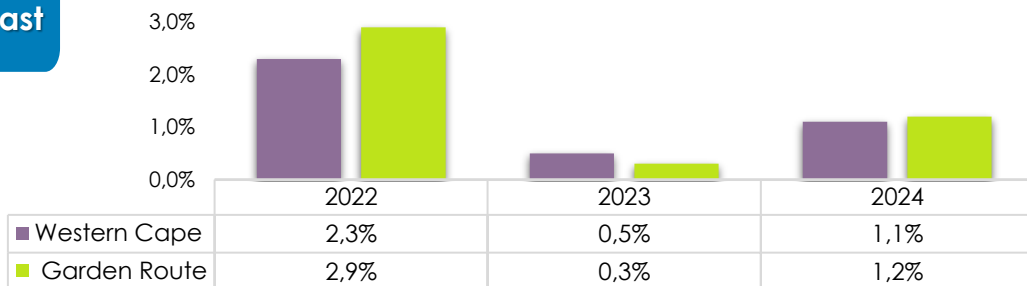
GDPR PERFORMANCE

GDPR Contribution 2021

Oudtshoorn R7,408 bn 12.9%

Kannaland R1,556 bn 2.7%

George R22,775 bn 39.8%

Knysna R6,260 bn 10.9%

Bitou R4,242 bn 7.4%

Mossel Bay R10,051 bn 17.6%

Hessequa R4,978 bn 8.7%

Garden Route District R57,270 bn 7.5% of Western Cape GDPR

Sectoral contribution to GDPR 2021

Finance; 30,4%

Manufacturing; 14,1%

Community, social and personal services; 10,4%

General government; 9,2%

Agriculture; 5,2%

Trade; 16,4%

Transport; 7,4%

Construct... 4,0%

Electrici...

GDPR Growth 2019 - 2022e

Recovery since 2019

Real growth 2022e

- Agriculture, forestry & fishing
- Manufacturing
- Construction
- Transport, storage & communication
- General government
- Mining & quarrying
- Electricity, gas & water
- Wholesale & retail trade, catering & accommodation
- Finance, insurance, real estate & business services
- Community, social & personal services

GDPR forecast

	2022	2023	2024
Western Cape	2,3%	0,5%	1,1%
Garden Route	2,9%	0,3%	1,2%

International Trade, 2022

Imports R15.7 billion

Exports R7.6 billion

Top exported products
- Apples, pears & quinces
- Citrus fruit
- Prepared leather

Top imported products
- Petroleum oils & oils other than crude
- New rubber pneumatic tyres
- Aluminium bars, rods & profiles

Tourism spend % of GDP

2020	2021	2022
13,4%	14,9%	15,2%

GDPR Performance

The GRD is located halfway between the metropoles of Cape Town and Gqeberha and strategically positioned along the N2 (a vital transport route for the GRD). The GRD is characterised by tourist activities in its scenic expanse, internationally renowned ostrich farms and Swartberg mountains and is well known for its dairies and wineries, creating numerous opportunities for economic activity in the region. The economic performance of the GRD has faces similar constraints as the national economy, such load-shedding, the COVID-19 pandemic, supply chain disruptions and poor business and consumer confidence. Estimates indicate a full economic recovery from the downturn in 2020 (-4.5 per cent), with a GDPR increase of 3.4 per cent in 2021 and 2.9 per cent in 2022.

While the rural hinterland of the GRD is focused on agriculture and agro-processing activities, with most businesses in the towns providing goods and services to these industries, the finance sector is the most significant economic sector in terms of GDPR contribution (R17.4 billion; 30.4 per cent of GDPR). Other prominent sectors include the trade and manufacturing sectors, which contributed 16.4 per cent and 14.1 per cent, respectively. The trade sector in the GRD is heavily reliant on domestic and international tourists. After the knock taken by the lock-down regulations in 2020 and parts of 2021, the tourism sector has shown a steady recovery. It however remains constrained by high fuel costs and reduced disposable income affecting domestic tourists.

George is growing as an urban hub, and the finance sector's performance buoyed the GRD's economy during the COVID-19 pandemic. It was one of only a handful of sectors that expanded during 2020, a development made possible by remote working opportunities allowing the sector to remain productive. The work-from-home trend also led to semigration into the GRD, stimulating the property market. Business services make up the most significant component of the finance sector. They include advertising, legal, architectural, engineering, accounting services, data processing and software development, equipment rental, and real estate activities. As the GRD becomes more urbanised, these business services will continue forming an environment where other industries can thrive.

The 2022 GDPR estimates indicate that most sectors have recovered from the declining growth experienced in 2020. However, the manufacturing, electricity, gas and water, construction and general government sectors have not fully recovered. Meat and dairy processing are the leading sources of manufacturing activity in the GRD. While high meat prices may have favoured producers in 2022, the increase in input costs caused by the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the effects of load-shedding have created substantial challenges for the industry, especially given its refrigeration needs. The general government sector also faltered in 2022, negatively affected by fiscal constraints.
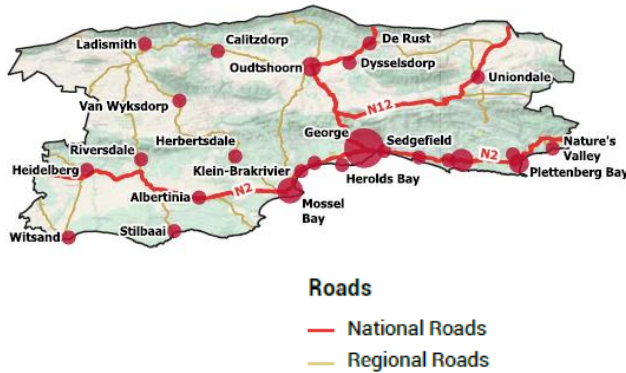
While the agriculture sector shrank by an estimated 2.4 per cent in 2022 due to rising input costs and weak consumer purchasing power, it is still performing at elevated levels boosted by the 17.8 per cent and 5.8 per cent growth it recorded in 2020 and 2021, respectively. This sector is characterised largely by mixed farming and cultivation of perennial (mainly bush and fruit trees) and non-perennial crops (especially vegetables). The GRD also has a well-established forestry and wood-processing industry that is concentrated in George and Knysna, although the extensive fires of 2017 were a blow to the industry. Despite its prominence in the GRD, the manufacturing and agriculture sectors have not been able to bring about a positive trade balance in the region, with imports valued at 15.7 billion and exports valued at R7.6 billion in 2022.
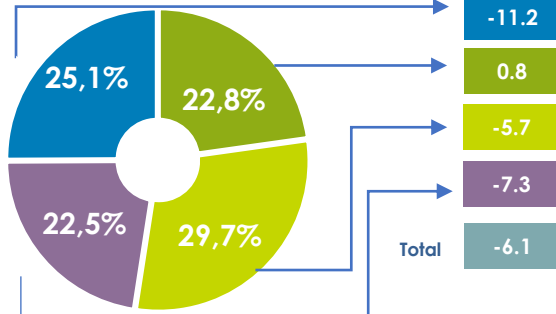
GDPR Forecast

Amidst further weakening of the agriculture, trade and construction sectors, the GDPR of the GRD is forecast to grow by only 0.3 per cent in 2023. However, the GDPR is forecast to expand by 1.2 per cent in 2024 because of an expected rebound in the retail market and strong anticipated growth of the transport and finance sectors, as the popularity of the area will continue to boost property sales. The 2024 GDPR equals the average annual economic performance between 2015 and 2019, indicating a normalisation of the economic performance post-2020.

LABOUR MARKET PERFORMANCE
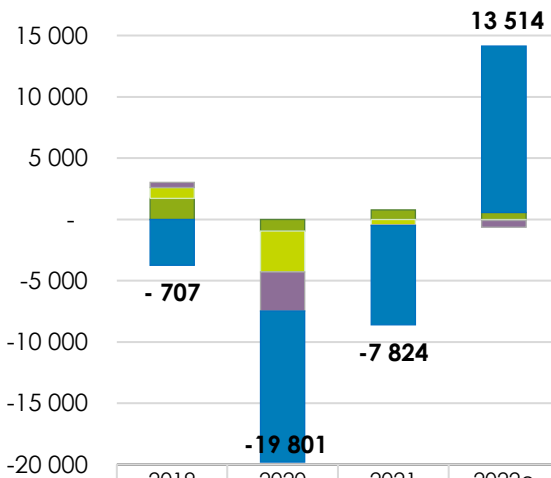
Number of businesses by town, 2022

Legend (businesses):
- 12 - 329
- 329 - 646
- 646 - 962
- 962 - 1 279
- 1 279 - 1 596
- 1 596 - 1 913
- 1 913 - 2 230
- 2 230 - 2 546
- 2 546 - 2 863
- 2 863 - 3 180

Roads
— National Roads
— Regional Roads

Wage Distribution per municipal area, 2022

Wage bands:
[0 – 400], [400 – 800], [800 – 1600], [1600 – 3200], [3200 – 6400], [6400 – 12800], [12800 – 25600], [25600 – 51200], [51200 – 102400], [102400 – 204800], [204800 – 409600], [409600 – 819200]

Legend: Garden Route, Kannaland, Hessequa, Mossel Bay, Bitou, George, Oudtshoorn, Knysna

Skill Level % Contribution, 2022

- 25,1%
- 22,8%
- 22,5%
- 29,7%

Recovery in Employment (%) 2019-2022
- -11.2
- 0.8
- -5.7
- -7.3
- Total: -6.1

Total Persons Employed 2022	Skilled	Semi-skilled	Low-skilled	Informal
	49 174	64 101	48 601	54 228

Top 5 Sectors

Sector	No. of FTE Jobs
Administration of the state and the economic and social policy of the community	12 970
Mixed farming	5 371
Short term accommodation activities	3 298
Restaurants and mobile food service activities	3 095
Provision of services to the community as a whole	2 775

Net employment per sector, 2019 - 2022

13 514

- 707
-19 801
-7 824

	2019	2020	2021	2022e
Total	- 707	-19 801	-7 824	13 514
Informal	-3 736	-12 318	-8 082	13 563
Low skilled	418	-3 202	- 50	- 559
Semi-skilled	902	-3 336	- 462	- 71
Skilled	1 709	- 945	770	581

Unemployment rate 2018 - 2022

Western Cape: 18,2 (2018), 19,5 (2019), 20,7 (2020), 25,0 (2021), 24,5 (2022)
Garden Route District: 14,8 (2018), 15,9 (2019), 17,2 (2020), 21,1 (2021), 19,9 (2022)

— Garden Route District — Western Cape
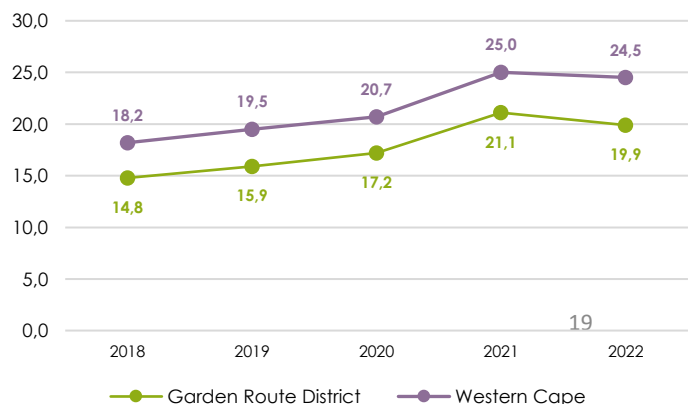
Labour Market Performance

The GRD economy experienced robust growth, reaching 2.9 per cent in 2022. This expansion coincided with an upswing in both formal and informal employment opportunities, marking a positive shift after a prolonged period of persistent job losses since 2018. Despite the creation of 13 514 jobs, the relief for those affected by unemployment is modest, as the economy has not yet reached a level where all individuals who lost their jobs in the past five years can be reintegrated into the workforce.

Notably, skilled workers demonstrated resilience, rebounding by 0.8 per cent from 2019 to 2022 following the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In contrast, semi-skilled employment (-5.7 per cent) and low-skilled employment (-7.3 per cent) have yet to recover their losses from 2019 to 2022, underscoring the resilience of skilled employment during economic downturns, which positively influences households with higher employment levels.

The informal sector, severely affected in 2019 and 2021, spearheaded job growth in 2022, indicating signs of recovery. However, employment levels remain 11.2 per cent lower than the 2019 performance. The 2022 economic landscape witnessed an improvement in labour participation and absorption rates, reflecting increased willingness and ability of individuals to secure employment. Coupled with net job growth, these favourable labour market dynamics led to a decline in the unemployment rate, decreasing by 1.2 percentage points to 19.9 per cent in the GRD in 2022.

The tourism sector, a significant player in the GRD, generated numerous jobs, with short-term accommodation services employing 3 298 individuals, and restaurants and mobile food service activities contributing an additional 3 095 jobs in 2022. However, due to the slow recovery of the tourism industry, the accommodation sector experienced a reduction of 401 formal jobs.

Despite a contraction of approximately 2.4 per cent in the agriculture sector in 2022, it remains a major employer in the district. Mixed farming and the cultivation of perennial and non-perennial crops, especially vegetables, offered substantial formal job opportunities, adding 599 jobs in 2022.

The long-established forestry and wood-processing industry, with roots dating back to the 1700s, faced challenges in 2022. Rising input costs, an unreliable energy supply, and a shortage of sawlogs owing to fires resulted in 672 job losses in the GRD, significantly impacting communities centered around forestry in Knysna and George municipal areas.

While the general government sector encountered challenges in 2022 owing to fiscal constraints, it retained its position as the primary formal sector employer in the GRD, accounting for 12 970 jobs, an increase of 487 compared to 2021. These positions are concentrated in George, Knysna, Mossel Bay, Oudtshoorn, Plettenberg Bay, and Riversdale.

Wage Distribution

In 2022, the financial landscape of the GRD varied for full-time employees. Agricultural labour yielded earnings ranging between R3 200 to R6 400 per month, indicating limited disposable income of local households working in this prominent sector. Mossel Bay and George shone, registering higher proportions of working-age individuals earning more substantial incomes. The town of Mossel Bay had the highest monthly median income in the GRD in 2022 – (R8 021) and highest proportion of taxpayers. George has a concentration of government offices and administrative functions which led to around 12.1 per cent of employees in this municipal area enjoying salaries ranging from R25 600 to R51 200.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on local businesses and consequent salary reductions resulted in a 4.1 per cent decline in average monthly taxable income in the GRD in 2021. Average monthly taxable income also declined in each of the District's seven municipal areas in the course of this year, having implications for municipal revenues in the region.

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 econ development. It measures air quality, env. governance, & the competition between the ecology and urban encroachment	
	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
Bitou	19	2.32	25	6.50	24	7.17	21	6.84
George	9	1.60	16	3.38	22	6.03	8	4.36
Hessequa	10	1.60	13	2.96	11	5.28	16	5.12
Kannaland	24	2.90	4	1.24	6	4.66	11	4.72
Knysna	14	1.92	24	5.66	19	5.93	23	8.13
Mossel Bay	5	1.26	11	2.82	13	5.40	19	6.10
Oudtshoorn	21	2.68	9	2.63	5	4.57	13	5.00

HAZARDS*

Overall Population Growth Pressure:
Continuous High growth pressure on the coast, and sometimes declining population inland*

Six of the Top 10 Risks in the Garden Route are environmental in nature (Provincial Disaster Risk Register)	Garden Route's identified Hydro-meteorological Hazards to settlements in as observed by the CSIR (The Greenbook *)
1. Human Diseases (Covid-19)	
2. Hazmat Incidents: Roads / Rail / Sea	
3. Alien Invasive Plants	An overall increased drought tendency.
4. Wildfires	Subject to possible wildfires occurring in wildland-urban interface with settlements, with very low to low potential increase in exposure to wildfires.
5. Coastal Erosion	Low increase in short-term coastal erosion exposure.
6. Sanitation/Waste Disruption	
7. Drought	Low potential increase in exposure to heat extremes, whilst having an overall increased drought tendency, with high potential increase in exposure of settlements to drought.
8. Electricity Disruption	
9. Floods (Stormwater/Riverine/Coastal)	Moderate increase in short-term coastal flooding exposure. Very low to low potential increase in exposure to flooding in settlements.
10. Severe Wind	

Garden Route no. of dry years per decade†						
	2000	**2010**	**2020**	**2030**	**2040**	**2050**
Dry years	1.9	2	2	2	2.1	3.1
Wet years	8.1	8	8	8	7.9	6.9

Temperature change (2050 compared to historic)†	
Mean temperature increase	1.2 °C higher
Additional days per year with daily maximum temperature above 30 °C	15-21 days

Dry years per decade

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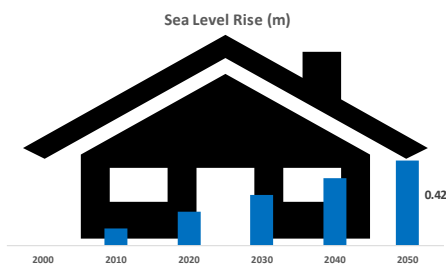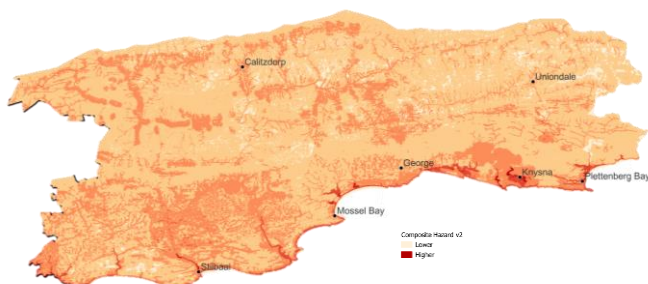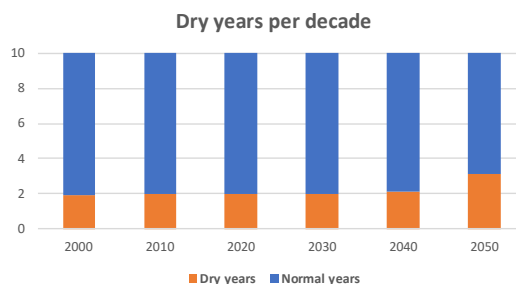
* Le Roux, A., van Niekerk, W., Arnold, K., Pieterse, A., Ludick, C., Forsyth, G., Le Maitre, D., Lötter, D., du Plessis, P. & Mans, G. 2019. Green Book Risk Profile Tool. Pretoria: CSIR. Available at: riskprofiles.greenbook.co.za

† Jack, C., Van Aardenne, L., Wolski, P., Pinto, I., 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

RISK AND VULNERABILITY FACTORS

Sea-level rise and Storm Surges

Although we expect fewer storm systems to reach the Western Cape in future, increased sea temperatures could mean increased storm activity and slightly stronger winds. At the same time the thermal expansion of the oceans will result in 0.25m – 0.75m of sea level rise by 2050, with associated swash run up of roughly 3.0m – 3.5m above the mean sea level (excluding tidal influence). Sandy shores are most affected – some areas in the Garden Route have seen beaches retreat landward at a rate of 0.6 m per year. This directly affects infrastructure and detracts from the amenity value of the coastline.

Drought

According to the CSIR Green Book, Garden Route has a High potential exposure to an increase in drought. Currently 1.9 years per decade are at risk of drought, and this will increase to 3.1 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. During extended drought periods, even end users far from major source areas are likely to experience shortages as the overall system runs low.

Temperatures

Average temperature has been increasing since the 1900s. Projections indicate that Garden Route can expect an additional 15-21 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. 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

Spanning an expansive 23 331km², the GRD is a kaleidoscope of contrasts. The GRD encompasses the ever-popular coastline of the Hessequa, Mossel Bay, George, Knysna and Bitou municipal areas, the internationally renowned ostrich farms and Swartberg mountains of the Oudtshoorn municipal area and the rural expanse of the Kannaland municipal area, well known for its dairies and wineries.

As a growing economic hub within the Province, the GRD faces the dynamic challenges of an expanding population, giving rise to amplified demands for housing, municipal services, and essential government provisions like education and healthcare. Despite these challenges, diligent efforts have expanded the range of services to accommodate the burgeoning population, rendering the area an appealing destination for residents, workers, and prospective investors.

The regional economy has effectively rebounded from the adverse consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although employment recovery initially lagged behind the economic resurgence, it has seen a notable upswing, attributed to growth in informal employment opportunities. This has exerted a favourable influence on the unemployment rate, reduced poverty rates, and decreased the proportion of households registered as indigent. Consequently, these improvements have also contributed to lower rates of low birth weight. Nevertheless, it remains imperative to address the persistent issue of elevated inequality within the GRD, as it engenders concerns related to safety and security, manifesting in escalating crime rates, in all categories reviewed, excluding murders and sexual offences. Commercial crime, malicious damage to property and burglaries has a particularly negative impact on business in the region. The promotion of safety and security holds paramount importance for both the GRD Municipality and the Western Cape Government.

Significant strides have been made in education, signaling positive prospects for meeting the surging demand for skilled individuals in the expanding tertiary sector of the regional economy. Learner retention rates have improved, partly attributed to declining rates of teenage pregnancies. However, it is unfortunate that the matriculation pass rates experienced a decline from 2021 to 2022. This decline primarily stems from underperformance in mathematics and mathematical literacy, necessitating targeted interventions.

To effectively address the developmental challenges outlined above and further enhance the well-being of the residents within the region, sustained collaboration among the GRD Municipality, other tiers of government, and the private sector is imperative.

SOURCES

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

- GDPR 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*