**Western Cape Government**

FOR **YOU**

# CONTENTS

# Mossel Bay: At a Glance

## Demographics

### Population
**140 075**
(Source: Census 2022)

### Households
**52 985**
(Source: Mossel Bay Municipality)

## Education — 2022

| | |
|---|---|
| Matric Pass Rate | **86.8%** |
| Learner Retention Rate | **77.2%** |
| Learner-Teacher Ratio | **30.1** |

## Poverty — 2022

| | |
|---|---|
| Gini Coefficient | **0.61** |
| Poverty Head Count Ratio (UBPL) | **60.2%** |

## Health — 2022/23

| Primary Health Care Facilities | Immunisation Rate | Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100 000 live births) | Teenage Pregnancies – Delivery rate to women U/18 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **5** (excl. mobile/satellite clinics) | **105.9%** | **150.4%** | **14.4%** |

## Safety and Security

Actual number of reported cases in 2022/23

| Residential Burglaries | DUI | Drug-related Crimes | Murder | Sexual Offences |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **780** | **557** | **1 093** | **42** | **100** |

## Access to Basic Service Delivery

Percentage of households with access to basic services, 2022

| Water | Refuse Removal | Electricity | Sanitation | Housing |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **90.2%** | **92.5%** | **98.2%** | **97.1%** | **92.5%** |

## Labour — 2022

Unemployment Rate (narrow definition)
**19.5%**

## Socio-economic Risks

| | |
|---|---|
| Risk 1 | **High Inequality** |
| Risk 2 | **High poverty head count** |
| Risk 3 | **High maternal mortality** |

## Largest 3 Sectors

Contribution to GDP, 2021

| Finance, insurance, real estate and business services | Wholesale & retail trade, catering and accommodation | Manufacturing |
|---|---|---|
| **34%** | **15%** | **14%** |

# 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 Mossel Bay Municipality in relation to the broader Garden Route District.
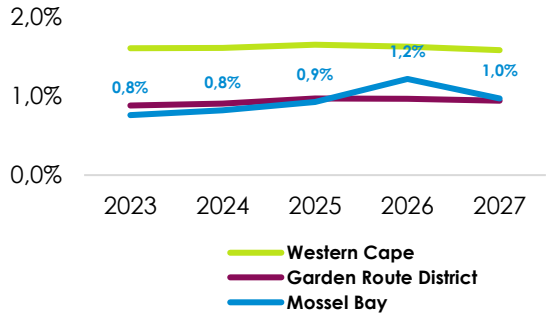
# DEMOGRAPHICS

## Population 140 075 2022

## Estimated Population 147 220 2027

### Estimated Average Annual Population Growth Rate 2023 - 2027
**1.0%**

### Estimated Population Growth

| | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 0.8% | 0.8% | 0.9% | 1.2% | 1.0% |

- Western Cape
- Garden Route District
- Mossel Bay

## Gender and Age Dynamics

**Female** 51.7% | **Male** 48.3%

- Fertility Index: 366 (2023), 365 (2024)
- Dependency Ratio: 56 (2023), 56 (2024)
- Ageing Index: 68.0 (2023), 71.0 (2024)

### Population by Age 2022

■ MALES  ■ FEMALES

| Age | Total |
|---|---|
| 75+ | |
| 70-74 | |
| 65-69 | **15.4%** Aged (65+ Years) |
| 60-64 | |
| 55-59 | |
| 50-54 | |
| 45-49 | |
| 40-44 | |
| 35-39 | |
| 30-34 | **66.7%** Working Age (15-64 Years) |
| 25-29 | |
| 20-24 | |
| 15-19 | |
| 10-14 | |
| 5-9 | **17.9%** Children (0-14 Years) |
| 0-4 | |

5 000 4 000 3 000 2 000 1 000 0 | 0 1 000 2 000 3 000 4 000 5 000

## Racial Split

| | |
|---|---|
| White | 34.1% |
| Indian or Asian | 1.7% |
| Coloured | 43,5% |
| Black African | 29.4 |

0,0% 50,0% 100,0%

## Population and Household Growth 2022

- Household growth 2022 - 2023 (vertical axis): 5,0% 4,0% 3,0% 2,0% 1,0% 0,0% -1,0% -2,0% -3,0%
- Population growth 2022 -2023 (horizontal axis): -2,0% -1,0% 0,0% 1,0% 2,0% 3,0% 4,0%

- Mossel Bay 31,159
- Knysna 24 444
- Bitou 24 328
- George 62 041
- Oudtshoorn 20 626
- Hessequa 15 626
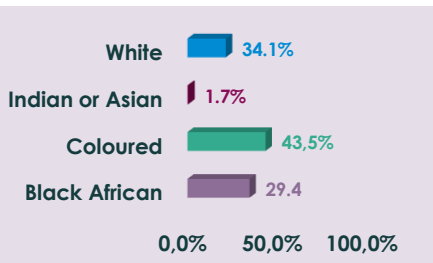- Kannaland 5 217
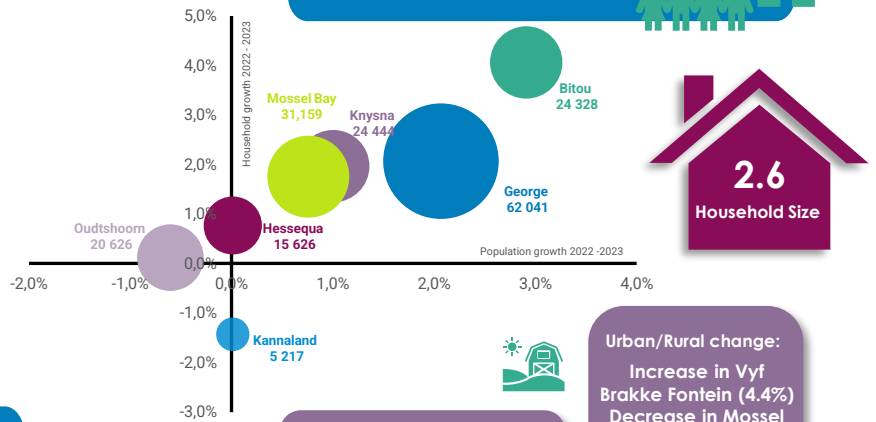
**2.6** Household Size

**Urban/Rural change:** Increase in Vyf Brakke Fontein (4.4%) Decrease in Mossel Bay (8%)

**Density change:** Highest in Isinyoka and largest change in Blue Ridge

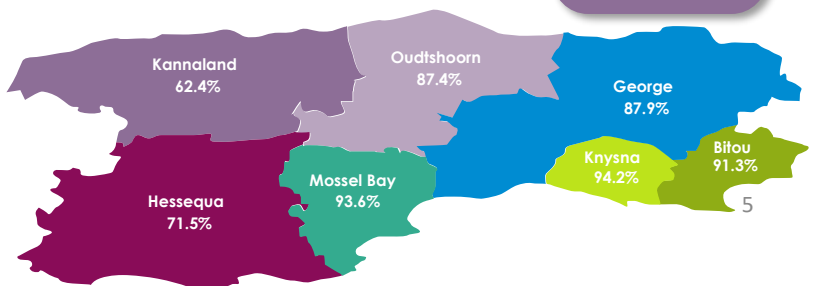**Largest Urban Settlement:** Mossel Bay (36%) & KwaNonqaba (21.3%)

## Level of Urbanisation 2021

| | |
|---|---|
| 48.3 people/km² | 2023 |
| 48.7 people/km² | 2024 |
| 49.1 people/km² | 2025 |

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

# DEMOGRAPHICS

## Population Growth

In the context of the Census 2022 findings, Mossel Bay Municipality's population amounted to 140 075 individuals in 2022, positioning it as the second largest population in the Garden Route after George (294 929). Projections indicate that this number is expected to grow to 147 220 people by 2027, reflecting an average annual growth rate of 1.0 percent during this timeframe. The moderate population growth can have various complex and multifaceted implications such as an ageing population which may have negative implications for the municipality's revenue sources, skill shortages in the productive sectors of the economy, reduced demand for goods and services, a reduced demand for housing, etc. Policymakers from the different spheres of government need to consider a holistic approach to address the challenges associated with slow population growth and promote sustainable socio-economic development.

## Gender, Age and Race Dynamics

In economic terms, the sex ratio (SR) provides a measure of the proportion of males to females in a given population. The available data suggests that in the Mossel Bay municipal area, there is a lower representation of males compared to females, with a distribution of 48.3 percent for males and 51.7 percent for females. The sex ratio in Mossel Bay has exhibited a gradual downward trend in the years leading up to 2022, according to census 2022 results. This phenomenon may be attributed to diverse factors, including a demographic changes, health and environmental factors, etc.

In terms of age representation, the largest share of the population, consist of the working age population (15 - 64 years) at 66.7 per cent, followed by the young children (0-14 years) aged cohort at 17.9 per cent and the elderly 15.4 per cent. The significant working-age population can contribute to higher economic productivity are more engaged in the labour force, leading to increased output and economic growth. The lower dependency ratio (sum of children and the elderly relative to the working-age population) is generally favourable to economic development. Mossel Bay's age distribution suggests that the working-age population may have a significant influence on consumption patterns and market demand. Businesses may need to adapt to cater to the preferences of this demographic. Intergovernmental policy should allocate resources to strategically address the needs of both the younger and older age cohorts, balancing investments in education, healthcare and social services.

## Level of Urbanisation

In an economic context, urbanisation refers to the process of population concentration and development in urban areas. Specifically, in Mossel Bay, the degree of urbanisation is estimated to rise from 48.3 people per square kilometer in 2023 and 48.7 people per square kilometer to 49.1 people per square kilometer in 2025. High levels of urbanisation are often associated with increased economic productivity and growth. Urban areas tend to concentrate resources, businesses and skilled labour, fostering innovation and economic development. Furthermore, urban areas offer a wide range of job opportunities, attracting people from rural areas in search for better employment prospects. High urbanisation rates may necessitate significant investments in infrastructure, including transportation, housing and utilities. This can stimulate economic activity and create jobs in construction and related industries. Effective urban planning and policy interventions are crucial to harness the positive aspects of urbanisation while addressing its associated challenges.
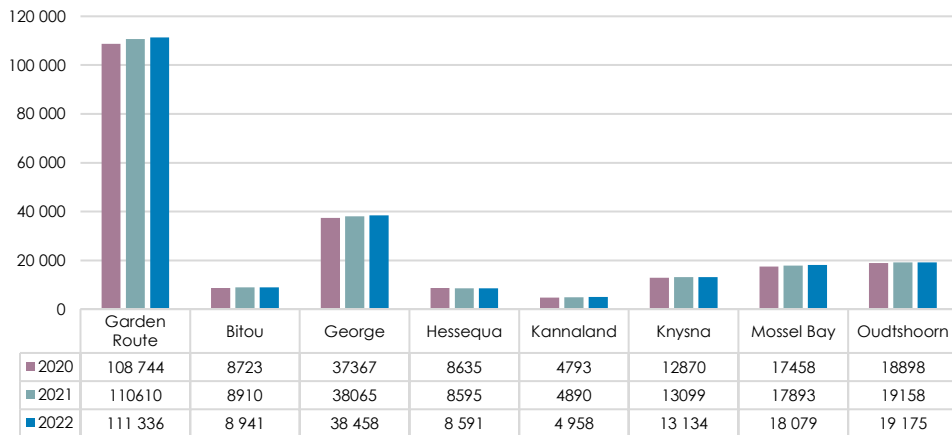
## Population density

Within the framework of the persistent urbanisation trend in the Western Cape, the utilisation of population density data emerges as a crucial instrument for public sector policymakers. This data proves instrumental in tackling environmental considerations, individual health metrics, and streamlining service provision. Notably, as of 2022, the Mossel Bay municipal area exhibited a population density of 48 individuals per square kilometer, denoting a notable degree of population concentration. This statistical insight is pivotal for comprehending the socio-economic terrain and facilitating judicious resource allocation within the locality. To enhance decision-making processes, policymakers are advised to integrate population density metrics with other socio-economic indicators, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the region.

- Garden Route — 27 people/km$^2$
- Hessequa — 9 people/km$^2$
- Knysna — 69 people/km$^2$
- **Mossel Bay** — **48 people/km$^2$**
- George — 43 people/km$^2$
- Oudtshoorn — 25 people/km$^2$
- Kannaland — 5 people/km$^2$
- Bitou — 72 people/ km2

# EDUCATION: Mossel Bay

## 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

**24**
Number of schools

**75,0%**
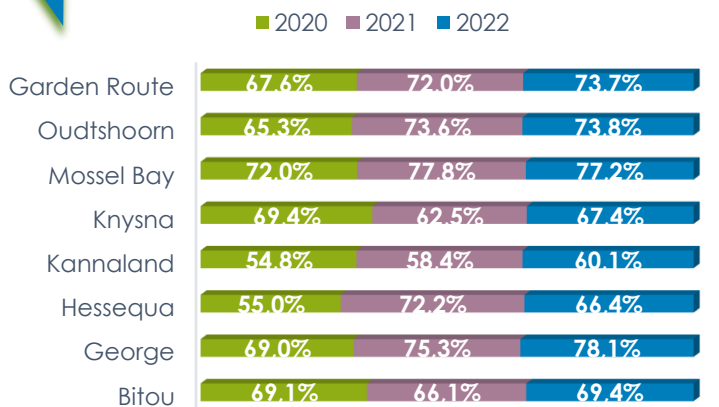Proportion of no-fee schools

Number of schools with libraries **16**
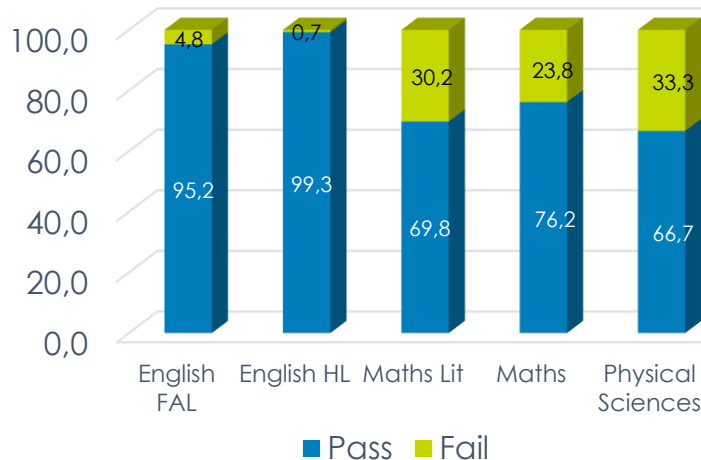
## Education outcomes

| | 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
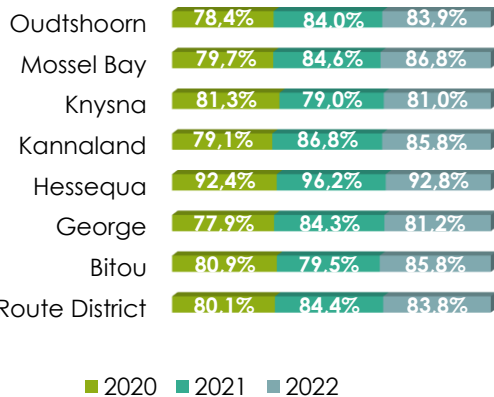
## Learner retention 2020 - 2022

■ 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%   50%   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 | 29.7 |

## Subject Outcomes

| | English FAL | English HL | Maths Lit | Maths | Physical Sciences |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fail | 4,8 | 0,7 | 30,2 | 23,8 | 33,3 |
| Pass | 95,2 | 99,3 | 69,8 | 76,2 | 66,7 |

■ Pass   ■ Fail

# EDUCATION

## Introduction

Education is one of the primary resources of change, a powerful driver of development and one of the strongest instruments for reducing poverty and improving health, gender equality, peace and stability. Its role is to help people acquire knowledge and skills, which can, in turn be used to acquire jobs, start businesses and produce goods and services.

## Learner enrolment

From 2020 to 2022, Mossel Bay witnessed a steady increase of student enrollment, with the pupil count rising from 17 458 to 18 079, representing an annual average increasing of 1.8 per cent. While increased enrollment is generally positive, it may also pose challenges related to the capacity of schools, teacher-student ratios, and the quality of education. A surge in learner enrollment results in increased demand for educational services, leading to economic opportunities in the education sector. Growing enrollment often necessitates the expansion and construction of educational infrastructure, including classrooms, laboratories, and other facilities. This can contribute to economic development through construction activities and related industries. This can stimulate job creation for teachers, administrative staff, and other professionals in the education industry. The implications for the job market is a well-educated workforce that can positively impact the economy by enhancing the overall skill level of the labour force.

## Education infrastructure and facilities

Within the Mossel Bay municipal area, there are a total of 25 schools, of which 75 per cent operate as no-fee schools. This noteworthy statistic holds significant socio-economic implications, particularly in light of the fact that 24 per cent of students in 2021 cited financial constraints as the reason for discontinuing their education, as per the General Household Survey of 2021.

Furthermore, out of the 25 schools in the area, 16 have been furnished with libraries. The provision of library resources within these schools plays a vital role in ameliorating the socio-economic disparity in academic achievements, as it affords students access to valuable information. This access, in turn, is directly correlated with enhanced educational outcomes. inconsistent

## Learner Retention Rate

The learner retention rate serves as a metric to gauge the proportion of Grade 12 students who were enrolled in Grade 10 two years earlier. Various socio-economic factors, student attitudes toward education, cognitive abilities, study techniques, and personal circumstances can all influence this rate, potentially hindering a learner's ability to remain engaged in their education. Additionally, the issue of overcrowded classrooms is frequently identified as a significant contributor to elevated dropout rates among students.

The learner retention rate in the Mossel Bay municipal area were consistent between 2020 and 2022, varying from 72.0 per cent in 2020, improving to 77.8 per cent in 2021 and then dropping slightly to 77.2 per cent in 2022, it is essential to recognise that almost one third of learners either left school, relocated from the municipal area, or repeated a grade between Grade 10 and Grade 12. This underscores the persistent challenges and socio-economic complexities that continue to impact educational continuity within the region and requires a coordinated effort from educators, communities and policymakers to create a supportive and inclusive educational environment that meets the diverse needs of learners.

## Learner teacher ratio

In the context of South African schools, the prescribed learner-to-teacher ratio typically falls within the range of 35:1 to 40:1; nonetheless, this standard is not consistently adhered to in the majority of Western Cape schools. It is worth noting that the learner-to-teacher ratio remained slightly above 30 between 2020 and 2022, falling below the recommended threshold. This positive shift has set in motion a ripple effect, encompassing reduced dropout rates, heightened academic performance, and other favorable outcomes.

## Education outcomes

Education continues to serve as a pivotal channel through which the government participates in the economy. The policymaking and strategic determinations made in the realm of education carry significant weight in shaping the level to which forthcoming economic objectives and poverty alleviation initiatives can be actualised. Notably, Mossel Bay's matriculation pass rate, consistently improved from 79.7 per cent in 2020, to  64.6 per cent in 2021 and 86.8 per cent in 2022. This improvement underscores the potential socio-economic benefits of a well-performing education system.

# HEALTH

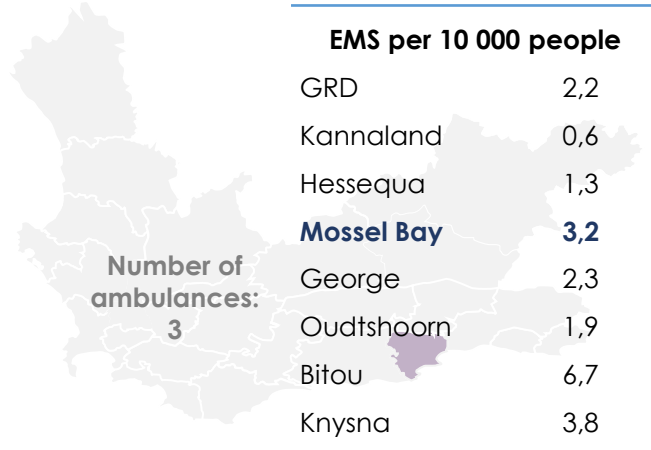## Healthcare Facilities

- 5 Fixed PHC Facilities
- 11 Mobile Clinics

- 17 ART Clinics/ Treatment Sites
- 15 TB Clinics/ Treatment Sites

- 1 District Hospital

## Emergency Medical Services

### EMS per 10 000 people

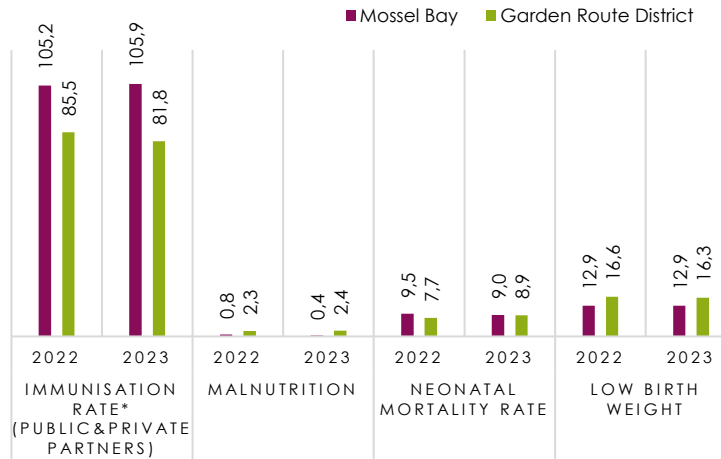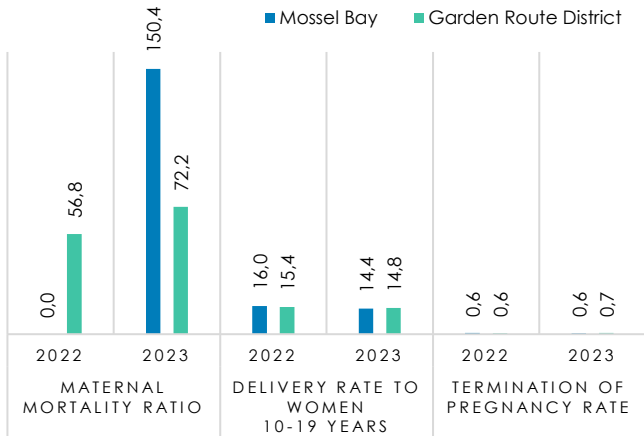| | |
|---|---|
| GRD | 2,2 |
| Kannaland | 0,6 |
| Hessequa | 1,3 |
| **Mossel Bay** | **3,2** |
| George | 2,3 |
| Oudtshoorn | 1,9 |
| Bitou | 6,7 |
| Knysna | 3,8 |

Number of ambulances: 3

## Maternal Health

**MOSSEL BAY 2023: Maternal Health Indicators**
- Maternal deaths in facility : 2
- Deliveries in facility u19 years : 193
- Termination of pregnancy : 143

## Child Health

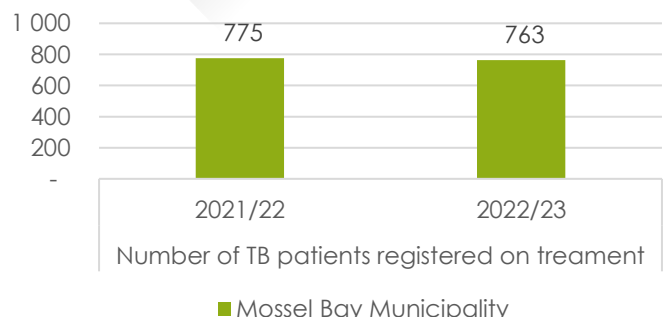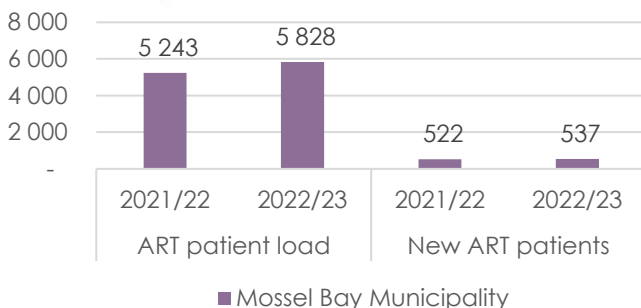**MOSSEL BAY 2023: Child Health Indicators**
- Live births under 2500g (low birth weight) : 171
- Inpatient deaths 6-28 day : 12
- Immunisation u1 year : 1 473
- Severe acute malnutrition u5 years : 3



Maternal Health chart — ■ Mossel Bay ■ Garden Route District

| | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|
| MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO (Mossel Bay) | 0,0 | 150,4 |
| MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO (Garden Route District) | 56,8 | 72,2 |
| DELIVERY RATE TO WOMEN 10-19 YEARS (Mossel Bay) | 16,0 | 14,4 |
| DELIVERY RATE TO WOMEN 10-19 YEARS (Garden Route District) | 15,4 | 14,8 |
| TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY RATE (Mossel Bay) | 0,6 | 0,6 |
| TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY RATE (Garden Route District) | 0,6 | 0,7 |



Child Health chart — ■ Mossel Bay ■ Garden Route District

| | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|
| IMMUNISATION RATE* (PUBLIC & PRIVATE PARTNERS) Mossel Bay | 105,2 | 105,9 |
| IMMUNISATION RATE* Garden Route District | 85,5 | 81,8 |
| MALNUTRITION Mossel Bay | 0,8 | 0,4 |
| MALNUTRITION Garden Route District | 2,3 | 2,4 |
| NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE Mossel Bay | 9,5 | 9,0 |
| NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE Garden Route District | 7,7 | 8,9 |
| LOW BIRTH WEIGHT Mossel Bay | 12,9 | 12,9 |
| LOW BIRTH WEIGHT Garden Route District | 16,6 | 16,3 |

## HIV/AIDS



| | 2021/22 | 2022/23 |
|---|---|---|
| ART patient load | 5 243 | 5 828 |
| New ART patients | 522 | 537 |

■ Mossel Bay Municipality

## Tuberculosis



| | 2021/22 | 2022/23 |
|---|---|---|
| Number of TB patients registered on treament | 775 | 763 |

■ Mossel Bay Municipality

## Healthcare facilities

In the fiscal year 2022, the Mossel Bay municipal area was endowed with a total of five fixed primary healthcare facilities. Additionally, the region featured eleven mobile/satellite clinics, seventeen dedicated Antiretroviral Treatment (ART) sites, and fifteen clinics exclusively designated for tuberculosis (TB) treatment. Noteworthy is the absence of a regional hospital, with only one district hospital serving the area.

It is crucial to underscore that Mossel Bay comprised 261 out of the 1301 healthcare facilities, constituting approximately 20 percent of the healthcare infrastructure across the broader Garden Route region. This distribution bears socio-economic ramifications for healthcare accessibility and services within the municipality. The concentration of healthcare facilities in Mossel Bay implies a significant proportion of the region's medical resources, influencing the socio-economic landscape by impacting the ease of healthcare access and the range of services available to the local population.

## Emergency medical services

Increasing the availability of operational ambulances can expand the scope of emergency medical service coverage. In 2022, the Mossel Bay municipal area had a total of 3 ambulances, while the Garden Route District had 28 ambulances during the same period. When considering the ratio of ambulances per 10 000 people, Mossel Bay had 3.2 ambulances, whereas the Garden Route had 2.2 in 2021. It's essential to note that this calculation exclusively pertains to provincial ambulances and does not encompass the presence of private service providers. This difference in ambulance provision has implications for emergency healthcare accessibility in the respective regions.

## Maternal health

Maternal health has significant socio-economic implications for an area, influencing the well-being of both mothers and their communities. Maternal health, furthermore, has implications for healthcare expenditure, employment, childcare development, poverty alleviation, etc. The number of maternal deaths per 100 000 live births in Mossel Bay, were impressive at zero in 2022, but increased sharply to 150.4 in 2023 whereas the Garden Route average was 56.8 in 2022 and 72.2 in 2023. On the other hand, the percentage of babies born to mothers under the age of 18 years were slightly on par with the district average in both 2022 and 2023. The termination of pregnancy rate also remained similarly on par with the district average between 2022 and 2023. Addressing maternal health issues involves a comprehensive approach, including improving healthcare access, promoting education, and addressing social determinants of health. Such efforts contribute not only to the health of mothers but also to the overall socio-economic development and resilience of communities.

## Child health

There were no major shifts in key health metrics between 2022 and 2023 as the Immunisation rate for infants under one year remained at 105 during this period. It's worth noting, however, that this rate remained considerably higher than the overall 85.5 per cent coverage in the Garden Route District. The number of malnourished children under five years per 100 000 people remained very low at 0.8 in 2022 and 0.4 in 2023 lower that the Garden Route District 2.4 during the same period.
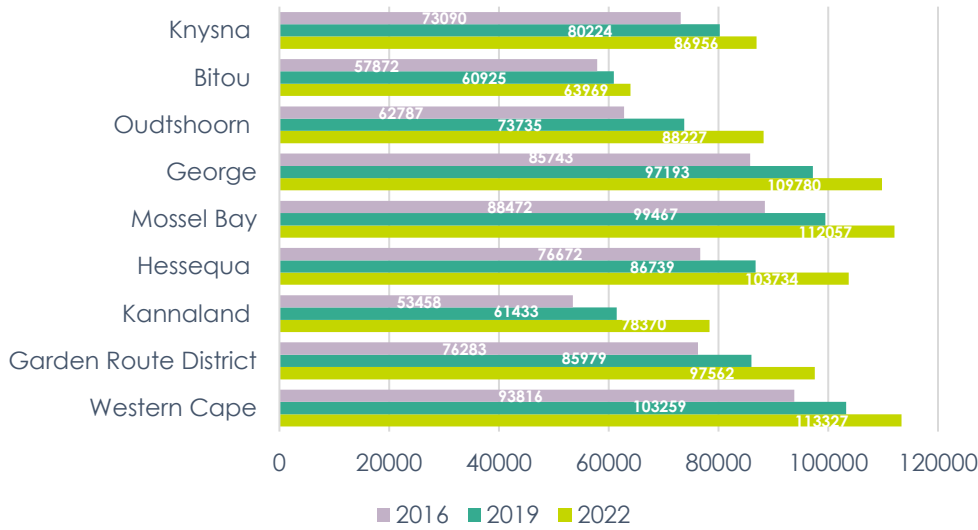
The neonatal mortality rate, measuring deaths per 1,000 live births within 28 days, displays a declining trend between 2022 and 2023, however the Garden Route district displays the opposite and are growing over the same period. Furthermore, the rate of low-birth-weight infants, those born under 2,500 grams, within Mossel Bay remained at 12.9 which was lower than the district average of 16 between 2022 and 2023.
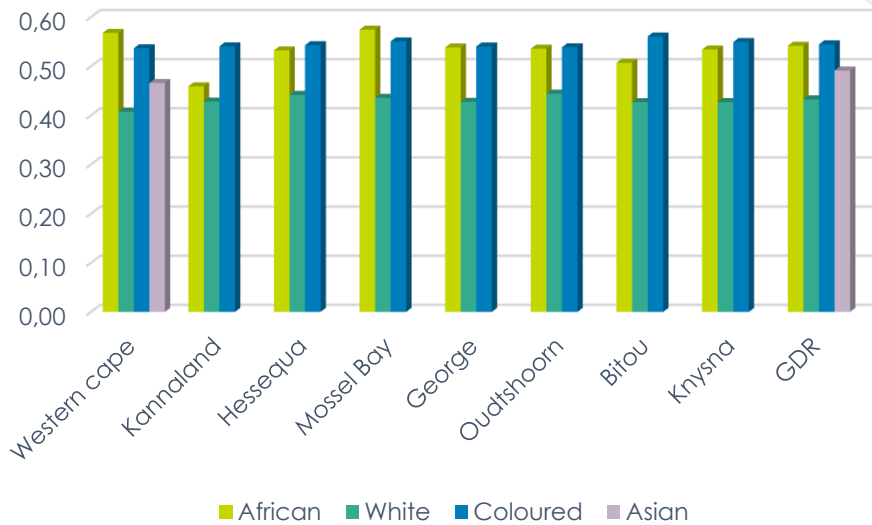
## HIV/AIDS & Tuberculosis

The Mossel Bay municipal area witnessed a notable rise in the count of registered individuals undergoing antiretroviral treatment (ART), experiencing an increase of 585 patients from the fiscal year 2021/22 to 2022/23. Specifically, a total of 15 new patients were added to the roster receiving antiretroviral treatment within the stated period. Contrastingly, there was an observed average annual decrease of 1.5 percent in the number of registered patients undergoing tuberculosis (TB) treatment in the Mossel Bay municipal area, declining from 775 in 2021/22 to 763 in 2022/23. These fluctuations in medical registration point towards socio-economic implications, reflecting the region's evolving healthcare landscape and potentially indicating shifts in disease prevalence and public health priorities.
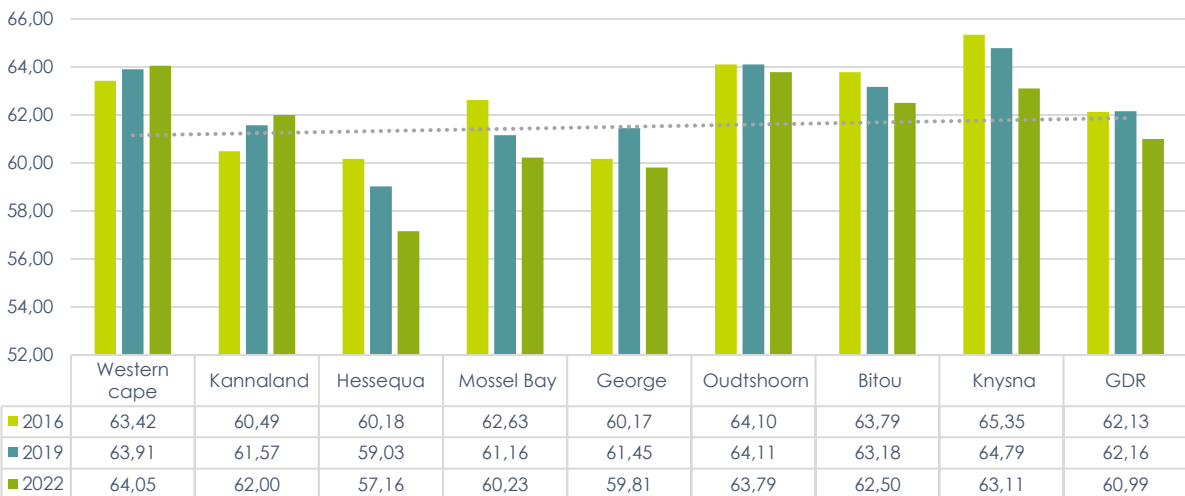
# POVERTY

## GDP per capita

| | 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 |

Legend: ■ 2016 ■ 2019 ■ 2022

## Income Inequality

Legend: ■ African ■ White ■ Coloured ■ Asian

## Poverty Line

| | Western cape | Kannaland | Hessequa | Mossel Bay | George | Oudtshoorn | Bitou | Knysna | GDR |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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

The per capita Gross Domestic Regional Product (GDPR) experiences growth only when the rate of economic expansion exceeds the rate of population growth. In 2022, the Mossel Bay Municipality exhibited a real GDPR per capita of R112 057, surpassing the Garden Route District's figure of R97 562 but falling short of the Western Cape's R113 327 for the same year. The ascent in Mossel Bay's GDPR per capita from R88 472 in 2016 and R99 467 in 2019 indicates an elevated standard of living for residents, accompanied by improved access to infrastructure and goods and services. However, it's important to note that the GDPR per capita metric does not unveil the distribution of income among the population, highlighting the need for a more comprehensive assessment of economic equity in the region. This economic trajectory holds socio-economic implications, reflecting the municipality's evolving economic landscape and potential disparities in wealth distribution.

## Income Inequality

South Africa contends with some of the most pronounced income disparities globally, as evidenced by the widely adopted Gini coefficient index. This inequality manifests through a skewed distribution of income, disparities in access to opportunities, and regional economic discrepancies. In pursuit of mitigating this issue, the National Development Plan (NDP) has set a target to reduce income inequality in South Africa, aiming to decrease the Gini coefficient from 0.7 in 2010 to 0.6 by 2030. However, in the Garden Route District, income inequality slightly surpasses the national target, registering at 0.61 in 2022. Specifically, Mossel Bay Municipality mirrors this inequality, holding a Gini coefficient of 0.61 in the same year.

Notably, within Mossel Bay, conspicuous income disparities are evident among different racial communities. African communities in Mossel Bay face the highest level of inequality, with a Gini coefficient of 0.57, followed by Coloured communities at 0.55. In contrast, the lowest level of income inequality is observed among white communities at 0.44. These variations in income distribution carry significant socio-economic ramifications, reflecting the broader impact of unequal economic conditions within the region.

## Poverty Line

The Upper Bound Poverty Line (UBPL) head count ratio represents the portion of the population unable to afford an adequate standard of living, encompassing both essential food and non-food items. In South Africa, the UBPL is set at R1 227 per person per month (in April 2019 prices). Poverty exerts significant socio-economic consequences on communities, leading to reduced life expectancy, malnutrition, food insecurity, heightened vulnerability to crime and substance abuse, lower educational achievements, and substandard living conditions. The National Development Plan (NDP) aspires to eradicate poverty by the year 2030.

In 2022, 60.2 percent of Mossel Bay's population resided below the Upper Bound Poverty Line (UBPL), indicating a modest improvement from 61.1 percent in 2016 and 62.6 percent in 2019. In comparison to other municipalities in the Garden Route, Mossel Bay ranks as the third-lowest in terms of the proportion of its population living in poverty. These poverty rates carry extensive socio-economic implications, including restricted access to basic necessities, diminished employment prospects, elevated crime rates, heightened vulnerability, among other consequences. Effectively addressing the socio-economic repercussions of individuals residing below the poverty line necessitates holistic strategies that encompass economic, educational, healthcare, and social interventions.

**52 985**
**Mossel Bay**

**255 977**
**Garden Route District**

## Total number of households

### Formal main dwelling

**92.5%**

**49 000**
Mossel Bay

**227 812**
Garden Route District

**89.0%**

**1.5% Mossel Bay**
**0.1% Garden Route**
**Traditional dwelling**

**5.8% Mossel Bay**
**9.6% Garden Route**
**Informal dwelling**

**Other/Unspecified**
**0.3% Mossel Bay**
**0.2% Garden Route**

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Mossel Bay | 90.2% |
| Garden Route | 85.0% |

**Flush/chemical toilet**

| | |
|---|---|
| Mossel Bay | 97.1% |
| Garden Route | 93.7% |

**Electricity (incl. generator) as primary source of lighting**

| | |
|---|---|
| Mossel Bay | 98.2% |
| Garden Route | 95.9% |

**Refuse removal at least once a week**

| | |
|---|---|
| Mossel Bay | 92.5% |
| Garden Route | 88.8% |

### Indigent Households Garden Route Municipalities

Bitou | George | Hessequa | Kannaland | Knysna | Mossel Bay | Oudtshoorn

# BASIC SERVICE DELIVERY
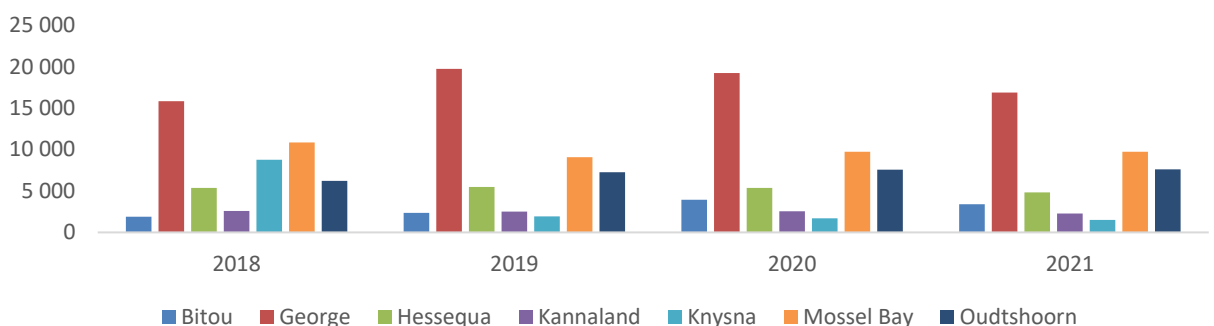
The Constitution stipulates that every citizen has the right to access to adequate housing and that the state must take reasonable legislative and other measures within its available resources to achieve the progressive realisation of this right. Access to housing also includes access to services such 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 Quantec Research for 2021. The latest official statistics was collected by Statistics South Africa for the 2022 Census. The information on indigent households is obtained from the Western Cape Department of Local Government statistics.

## Housing and Household Services

Within the Mossel Bay municipal area encompassing 52 985 households, 92.5 percent had access to formal housing, surpassing the Garden Route District's mean of 89 percent. Mossel Bay exhibited a diminished share of informal dwellings, constituting 5.8 percent, in contrast to the district-wide average of 9.6 percent for informal housing. This discrepancy in housing types implies distinct socio-economic dynamics within Mossel Bay, potentially influencing various economic and social indicators in comparison to the broader Garden Route District.

Service access levels within the Mossel Bay municipal area exceeded the access to formal housing in certain cases. Approximately 90.2 per cent of households had access to piped water either inside the dwelling/yard or through communal/neighbor's taps. An impressive 97.1 per cent had access to flush toilets or chemical toilets, and 98.2 per cent had access to electricity (including generators) for lighting. Additionally, local authorities removed refuse at least weekly for 92.5 per cent of households in the area. These disparities in housing and service access have socio-economic implications, impacting the living conditions and quality of life for the local population.

## Free Basic Services

Municipalities extend a suite of essential services without charge to households grappling with financial adversity and struggling to meet service-related expenses. In the Mossel Bay municipal area, there has been a noteworthy decline in the count of households availing themselves of free basic services, from 10 858 in 2018 to 9 714 in 2021. Given the challenging economic milieu, it is envisaged that these circumstances will exert added pressure on household incomes, likely resulting in an upswing in the demand for free basic services and, consequently, an increase in the number of households categorized as "indigent." It is imperative to underscore that this trend is context-specific and contingent upon the application of eligibility criteria in the region.
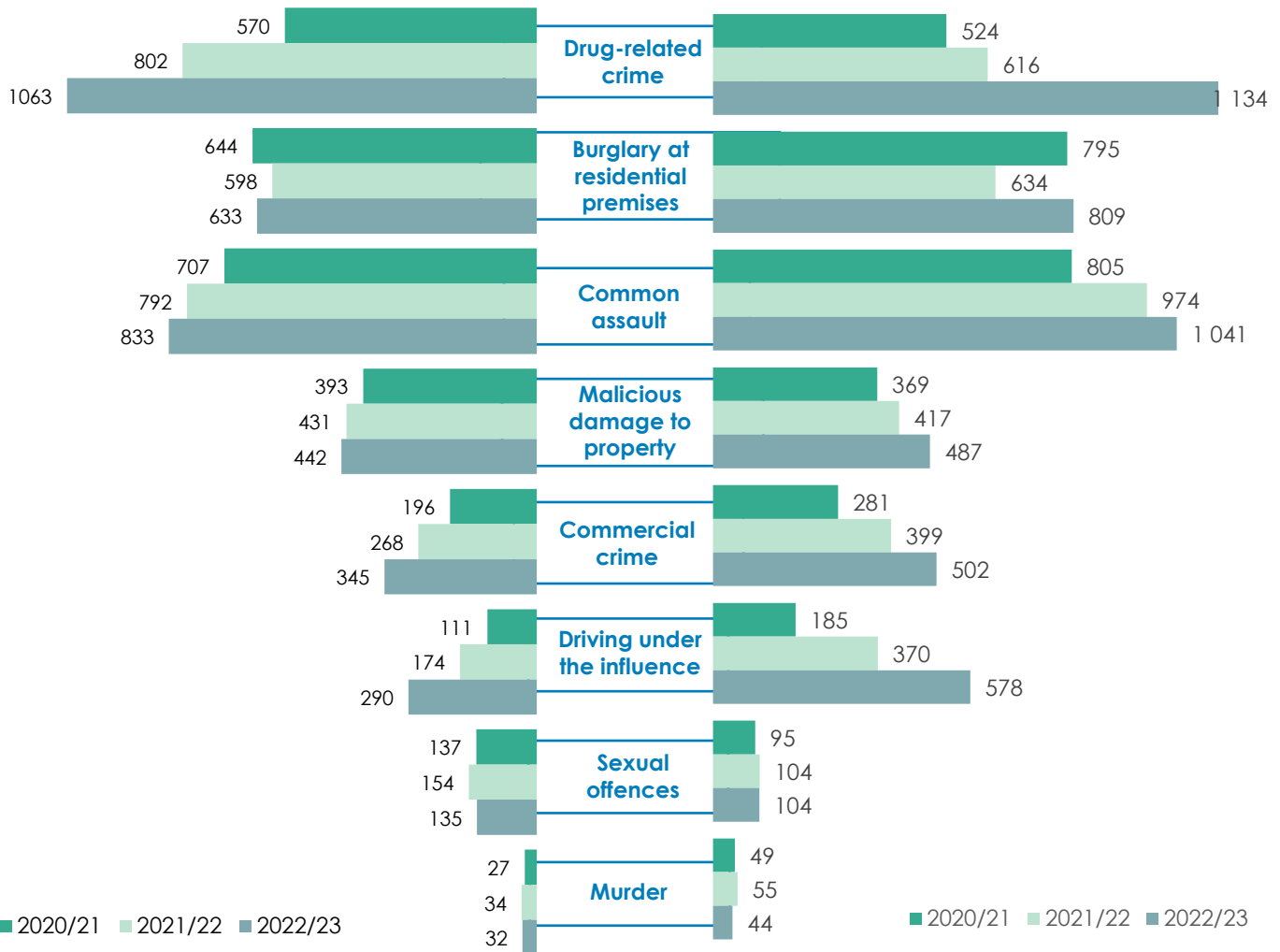
# SAFETY AND SECURITY

## GARDEN ROUTE

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

## MOSSEL BAY

**7 738** Total reported crime per 100 000 people in Mossel Bay in 2022/23

### Drug-related crime
Garden Route: 570 (2020/21), 802 (2021/22), 1063 (2022/23)
Mossel Bay: 524 (2020/21), 616 (2021/22), 1 134 (2022/23)

### Burglary at residential premises
Garden Route: 644 (2020/21), 598 (2021/22), 633 (2022/23)
Mossel Bay: 795 (2020/21), 634 (2021/22), 809 (2022/23)

### Common assault
Garden Route: 707 (2020/21), 792 (2021/22), 833 (2022/23)
Mossel Bay: 805 (2020/21), 974 (2021/22), 1 041 (2022/23)

### Malicious damage to property
Garden Route: 393 (2020/21), 431 (2021/22), 442 (2022/23)
Mossel Bay: 369 (2020/21), 417 (2021/22), 487 (2022/23)

### Commercial crime
Garden Route: 196 (2020/21), 268 (2021/22), 345 (2022/23)
Mossel Bay: 281 (2020/21), 399 (2021/22), 502 (2022/23)

### Driving under the influence
Garden Route: 111 (2020/21), 174 (2021/22), 290 (2022/23)
Mossel Bay: 185 (2020/21), 370 (2021/22), 578 (2022/23)

### Sexual offences
Garden Route: 137 (2020/21), 154 (2021/22), 135 (2022/23)
Mossel Bay: 95 (2020/21), 104 (2021/22), 104 (2022/23)

### Murder
Garden Route: 27 (2020/21), 34 (2021/22), 32 (2022/23)
Mossel Bay: 49 (2020/21), 55 (2021/22), 44 (2022/23)

■ 2020/21  ■ 2021/22  ■ 2022/23

## Actual numbers of reported crime

**Drug-related crime**
591 (2021/22)
1093 (2022/23)

**Murder**
52 (2021/22)
42 (2022/23)

**Sexual offences**
100 (2021/22)
100 (2022/23)

**Driving under the influence**
354 (2021/22)
557 (2022/23)

**Residential burglaries**
607 (2021/22)
780 (2022/23)

**Common assault**
933 (2021/22)
1004 (2022/23)

**Damage to property**
400 (2021/22)
469 (2022/23)

**Commercial crime**
383 (2021/22)
484 (2022/23)

## Murder

*Murder is defined as the unlawful and intentional killing of another person.*

In the Mossel Bay municipal area, there has been a noteworthy decline in the actual count of murders, decreasing from 52 cases in 2021 to 42 cases in 2022. However, despite this decrease in raw numbers, the murder rate in Mossel Bay, calculated per 100,000 people, exhibited an upward trend. It rose from 49 in 2020 to 55 in 2021 and then declined to 44 in 2022. It is pertinent to highlight that this rate surpasses the murder rate of 34 per 100,000 people recorded in 2022 for the Garden Route District. Notably, when juxtaposed against the global murder rate of 6.1 per 100,000 people reported by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in 2017, both the District and the Municipality's rates appear considerably elevated, indicating socio-economic implications tied to public safety and crime management within the region.

## Sexual Offences

*Sexual offences include rape (updated to the new definition of rape to provide for the inclusion of male rape), sex work, pornography, public indecency and human trafficking.*

In 2022, there were 100 sexual offenses reported in the Mossel Bay area. The incidence of sexual offenses per 100,000 people in the Mossel Bay municipal area (104) was lower than that of the District (135) in 2022. It's noteworthy that South Africa is among the top 5 countries globally in terms of reported rape cases, underscoring the magnitude of this issue, which necessitates addressing. In response, a National Strategic Plan on gender-based violence and femicide has been developed.

## Drug-related Offences

*Drug-related crimes refer to the situation where the perpetrator is found to be in possession of, under the influence of, or selling illegal drugs.*

In the Mossel Bay area, drug-related crimes increased from 591 cases in 2021 to 1 093 cases in 2022. When considering the rate per 100 000 people, Mossel Bay had 1 134 drug-related offenses per 100 000 people in 2022, which is higher than the Garden Route District's rate of 1 063 per 100 000 population.

## Driving under the influence (DUI)

*A situation where the driver of a vehicle is found to be over the legal blood alcohol limit.*

The number of DUI cases in the Mossel Bay area increased from 354 in 2021 to 557 in 2022. This translates to a rate of 578 cases per 100 000 people in 2022, which is more than the Garden Route District's rate of 290 cases per 100 000 people.
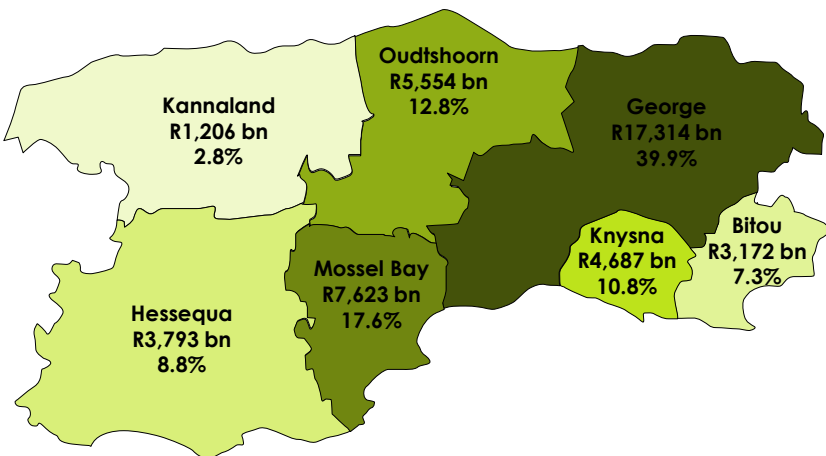
## Residential Burglaries

*The unlawful entry of a residential structure with the intent to commit a crime, usually a theft.*

The number of residential burglaries in the Mossel Bay area increased from 607 in 2021 to 780 in 2022. The Mossel Bay municipal area's rate of 809 residential burglaries per 100 000 population exceeded the District's rate of 633 in 2022. These crime trends have significant socio-economic implications for the community's safety and well-being.
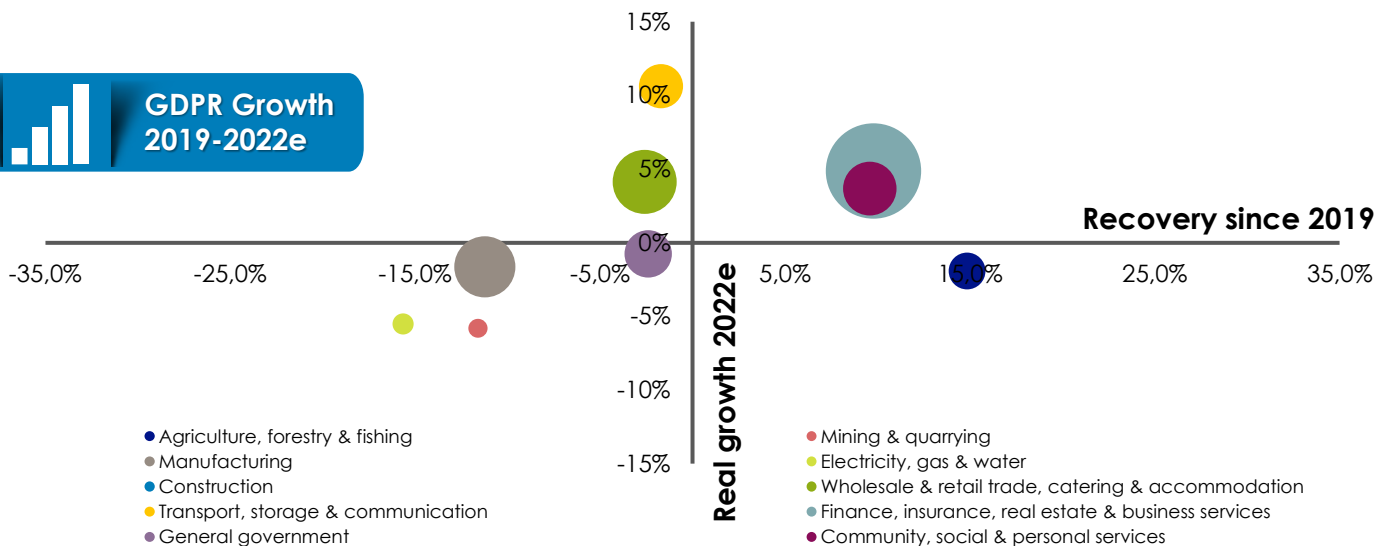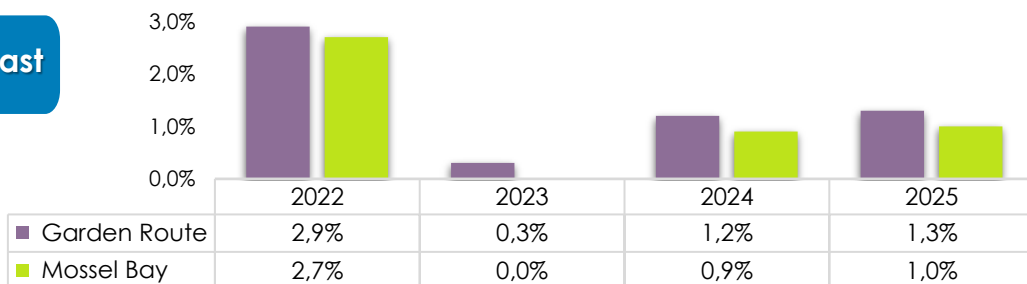
# GDPR PERFORMANCE

## GDPR Contribution 2021

**Kannaland**
R1,206 bn
2.8%

**Oudtshoorn**
R5,554 bn
12.8%

**George**
R17,314 bn
39.9%

**Mossel Bay**
R7,623 bn
17.6%

**Knysna**
R4,687 bn
10.8%

**Bitou**
R3,172 bn
7.3%

**Hessequa**
R3,793 bn
8.8%

## Sectoral contribution to GDPR 2021

- Finance; 33,6%
- Trade; 15,1%
- Manufacturing; 13,9%
- Comm... social and personal services; 10,7%
- General government; 8,3%
- Transport; 7,2%
- Agriculture; 5,0%
- Con...; 3,1%
- Ele...
- Min...

## GDPR Growth 2019-2022e



**Recovery since 2019** (x-axis: -35,0% to 35,0%)
**Real growth 2022e** (y-axis: -15% to 15%)

- 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 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Garden Route | 2,9% | 0,3% | 1,2% | 1,3% |
| Mossel Bay | 2,7% | 0,0% | 0,9% | 1,0% |

## International Trade, 2022

**Imports**
R13.1 billion

**Exports**
R3.0 billion

### Top exported products
- R629.5m Lightvessels, fire-floats & other vessels
- R595.6m Prepared leather
- R366.6m Citrus fruit

### Top imported products
- R12 521.9m Petroleum oils & oils other than crude
- R125.9m Aluminium bars, rods & profiles
- R76.9m Hydrazine and hydroxylamine & other inorganic bases

## Tourism spend % of GDP

| 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|---|---|---|
| 15,2% | 15,4% | 16,0% |

## GDPR Performance

In 2021, the Gross Domestic Regional Product (GDPR) of the Mossel Bay municipal area amounted to R7.623 billion which is 17.6 per cent of the Garden Route GDPR and are estimated to have grown by 2.7 per cent in 2022. Key sectors driving this GDP included finance (34 per cent), trade (15 per cent), and manufacturing (14.0 per cent). The town of Mossel Bay has a diverse economy, providing legal, accounting, financial and real estate services for individuals and businesses alike. The finance sector was particularly diverse, encompassing activities such as accounting, research and development, property leasing, and insurance. However, public administration and natural gas extraction are the cornerstones of employment.

The substantial contribution of the trade sector in 2021 highlights the significance of tourism to the local economy. Accommodation services and restaurants played a pivotal role in employment within the municipal area. However, it's important to note that the tourism sector is highly seasonal, with peak periods occurring during school holidays. The primary driver of growth in the area is the finance  sector, which are anticipated to grow by 4.9 per cent in 2023.

### GDPR Forecast

Given the substantial impact of load-shedding on the manufacturing sector, the uncertainties in the oil and gas industry, and households' reduced purchasing power, the economy of the Mossel Bay municipal area is forecast to stagnate in 2023. Growth of 0.9 per cent is anticipated in 2024, as the outlook for the trade sector is expected to improve.
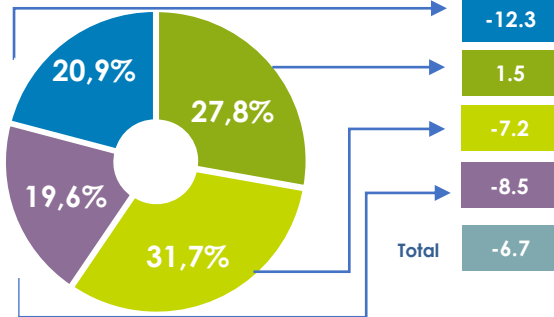
# LABOUR MARKET PERFORMANCE

## Formal Employment by Town, 2022

**Roads**
- National Roads
- Regional Roads

**FTE numbers**
- 116 – 3 024
- 3 024 – 5 932
- 5 932 – 8 839
- 8 839 – 11 747
- 11 747 – 14 655

Herbertsdale · Brandwacht · Groot Brakrivier · Klein Brak River · Mossel Bay
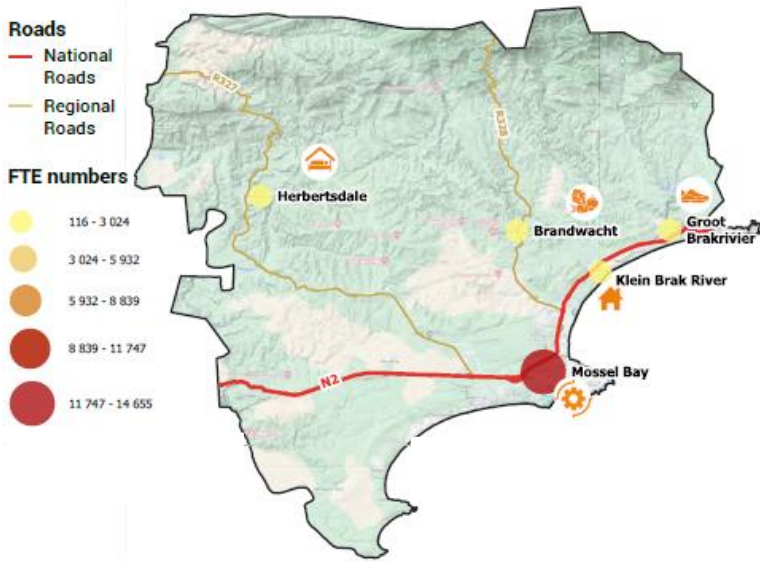
## Skill Level % Contribution, 2022

20,9% · 27,8% · 19,6% · 31,7%

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

| | |
|---|---|
| | -12.3 |
| | 1.5 |
| | -7.2 |
| | -8.5 |
| Total | -6.7 |

| Total Persons Employed 2022 | Skilled | Semi-skilled | Low-skilled | Informal |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 9 085 | 10 161 | 6 228 | 8 939 |

## Net employment per sector, 2019-2022

**2 156**

**- 222**
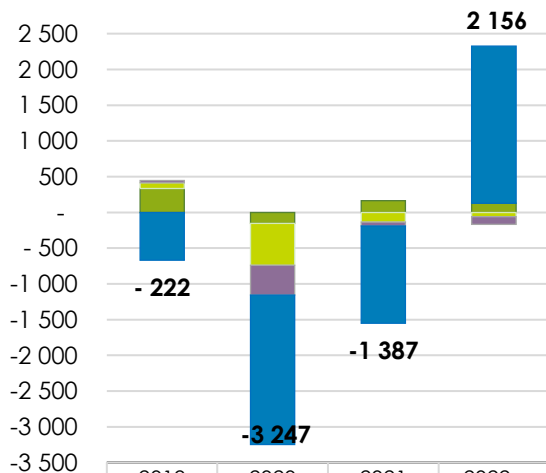
**-3 247**

**-1 387**

| | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022e |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | - 222 | -3 247 | -1 387 | 2 156 |
| Informal | - 670 | -2 088 | -1 362 | 2 198 |
| Low skilled | 34 | - 419 | - 53 | - 107 |
| Semi-skilled | 81 | - 587 | - 135 | - 62 |
| Skilled | 333 | - 153 | 163 | 127 |

## Wage Distribution per municipal area, 2022

0% · 10% · 20% · 30% · 40% · 50%

- [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
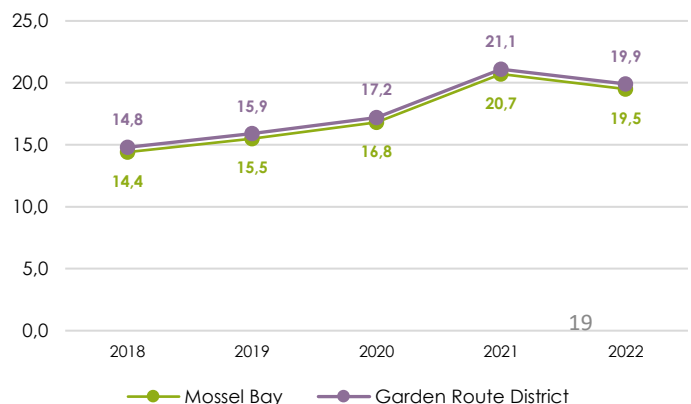- Oudtshoorn
- Knysna
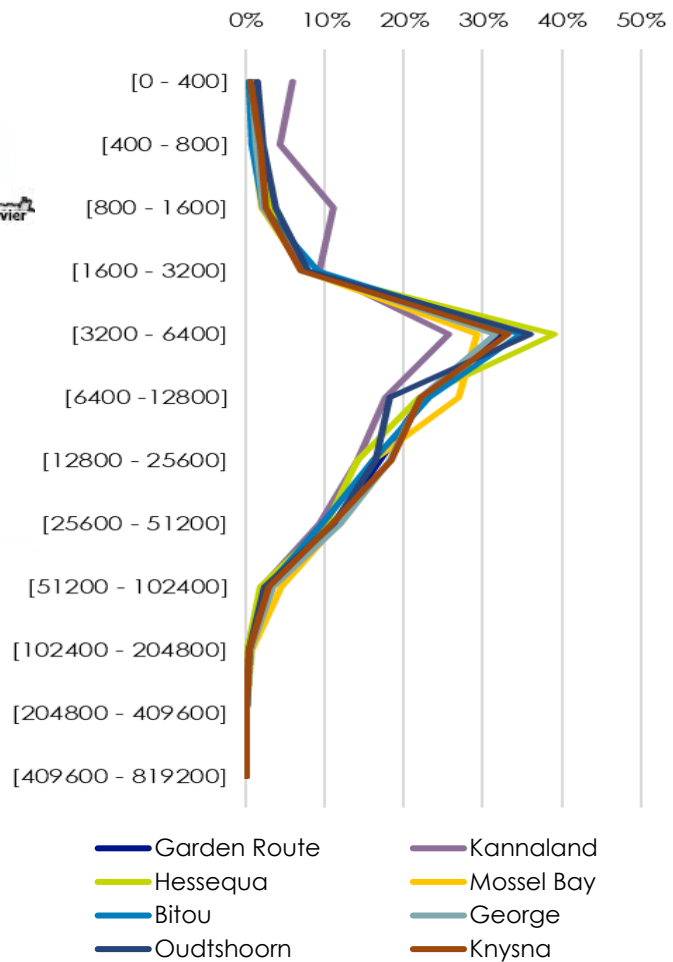
## Top 5 Sectors

| Sector | No. of FTE Jobs |
|---|---|
| Administration of the state and the economic and social policy of the community | 1 530 |
| Extraction of natural gas | 1 023 |
| Restaurants and mobile food service activities | 913 |
| Other personal service activities | 773 |
| Fishing | 646 |

## Unemployment rate 2018-2022

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mossel Bay | 14,4 | 15,5 | 16,8 | 20,7 | 19,5 |
| Garden Route District | 14,8 | 15,9 | 17,2 | 21,1 | 19,9 |

19

## Labour Market Performance

In parallel with the growth in Gross Domestic Regional Product (GDPR), employment saw an increase for the first time since 2020, resulting in the creation of 2 156 formal and informal jobs in 2022. Mossel Bay contributes 15.9 per cent to the Garden District's employment and 1.4 per cent of the Western Cape's share of employment. Notably, with 20.9 per cent of workers engaged in informal employment, the informal sector has become a crucial source of employment in the Mossel Bay municipal area. The job growth observed in 2022 led to a 1.2 percentage point reduction in the unemployment rate, bringing it down to 19.5 per cent, which is significantly below the Western Cape unemployment rate of 24.5 per cent.

Given the significance of the finance, trade and manufacturing sectors, there is an increasing demand for semi-skilled and skilled workers in these industries. This underscores the importance of targeted skills development initiatives to address the labor market's evolving needs and promote economic resilience.

## Skills Distribution

It is projected that Mossel Bay will have a total workforce of 32 257 individuals in 2023. Among them, 25 515 (79.1 per cent) will be formally employed, while 6 741 (20.9 per cent) will work in the informal sector. The informal economy was chiefly responsible for the significant job losses experienced in 2021, which is concerning, as the informal sector is typically expected to act as a buffer during economic downturns.

The majority of those in formal employment in Mossel Bay were comprised of semi-skilled workers (31.7 per cent) and skilled workers (27.8 per cent), while the low-skilled category accounted for 19.6 per cent of the total formal workforce. However, from 2019 to 2022, all categories of skilled employment in Mossel Bay exhibited a notably sluggish recovery as the economy recuperated from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Among these, the skilled category demonstrated signs of faster recovery, reflecting the rising market demand for skilled labor and emphasising the need for skills development initiatives, particularly in light of the growing tertiary sector in the Mossel Bay municipal area. These workforce dynamics have significant socio-economic implications, affecting income levels, employment opportunities, and the region's overall economic resilience.

## Wage Distribution

The wage distribution data of Mossel Bay indicates high levels income inequality and the disparities within the socio-economic landscape within Mossel Bay. In Mossel Bay, 29.2 per cent of workers fall into the [R3200 - R6400] income range, and 26.9 per cent are in the [R6400 - R12800] bracket. However, there are no workers in the highest income brackets, such as [R819200 - R1638400].

Compared to other municipalities in the Garden Route, Mossel Bay has a relatively higher concentration of workers in the [3200 - 6400] income range. This data highlights the income disparities and distribution within Mossel Bay , showcasing the concentration of workers in the middle-income brackets and the absence of extremely high-income earners in the region. These income distribution patterns have socio-economic implications for the area, including factors like living standards, affordability, and access to goods and services.

## 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).

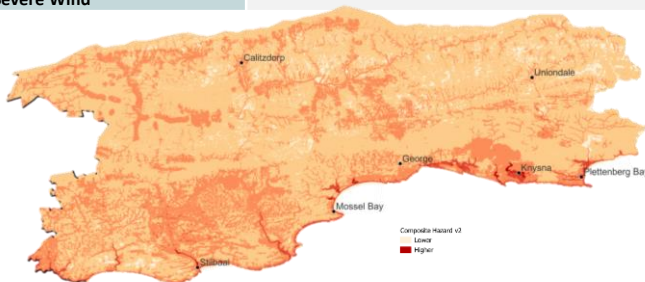| Municipality | Socio-Economic | | Economic | | Physical | | Environmental | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | The indicator shows the vulnerability of households living in the municipality with regards to the household's age composition, education and health status, access to basic services, 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*

**Mossel Bay Overall Population Growth Pressure:**
Continuous Medium growth pressure in most settlements *

| Six of the Top 10 Risks in the Garden Route are environmental in nature (Provincial Disaster Risk Register) | Mossel Bay'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 low potential increase in exposure of settlements to wildfires. |
| 5. Coastal Erosion | High increase in short-term coastal erosion exposure in Mossel Bay. |
| 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) | Low to moderate increase in short-term coastal flooding exposure. Moderate increase in extreme rainfall days in central areas of Mossel Bay, with very low to low increase in exposure to flooding in settlements. |
| 10. Severe Wind | |

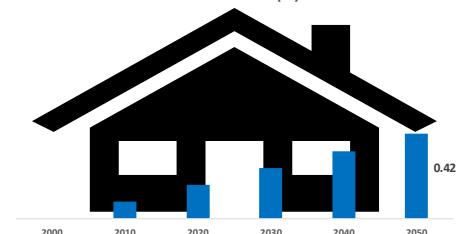| Garden Route no. of dry years per decade† | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2000 | 2010 | 2020 | 2030 | 2040 | 2050 |
| Dry years | 1.9 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2.1 | 3.1 |
| Wet years | 8.1 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 7.9 | 6.9 |

| Temperature change (2050 compared to historic)† | |
|---|---|
| Mean temperature increase (District) | 1.2 °C higher |
| Additional days per year with daily maximum temperature above 30 °C (Mossel Bay) | 20 days |



**Dry years per decade**
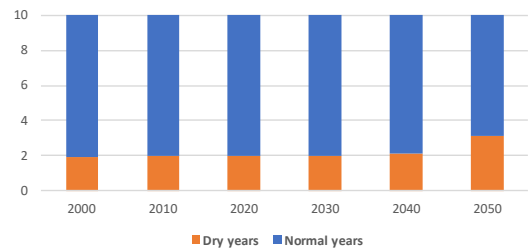


**Sea Level Rise (m)**

* 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

## 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. Mossel Bay faces moderate increase in short-term coastal flooding exposure as well as very low to low potential increase in exposure to flooding in settlements.

## Drought

According to the CSIR Green Book, Mossel Bay 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.

## 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). Mossel Bay is subject to possible wildfires occurring in wildland-urban interface with settlements, with low to moderate potential increase in exposure to wildfires.

## 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 moderate pace of population growth within the Mossel Bay municipal area presents a range of intricate and multifaceted implications. Notably, an ageing population may exert adverse effects on the Municipality's revenue streams, potentially leading to skill shortages in key sectors of the economy, diminished demand for goods and services, and a decreased need for housing. Policymakers across various governmental spheres must adopt a comprehensive approach to effectively address the challenges associated with sluggish population growth and foster sustainable socio-economic development.

In Mossel Bay, the presence of 25schools, with 75 per cent operating as no-fee schools, holds significant socio-economic relevance. This is especially noteworthy given that 24 per cent of students discontinued their education in 2021, citing financial constraints according to the General Household Survey of the same year.

While the absence of maternal deaths per 100 000 live births in 2022 is commendable, a stark increase to 150.4 in 2023 signals a concerning trend, necessitating a closer examination of healthcare and maternal well-being policies.

The escalating number of households accessing free basic services raises the possibility of strain on household incomes, potentially contributing to an upsurge in the count of "indigent" households. This trend underscores the need for targeted interventions to alleviate financial burdens on vulnerable populations.

Looking forward, Mossel Bay anticipates zero economic growth in 2023, with a marginal uptick of 0.9 per cent projected for 2024. The lethargic GDP growth is primarily attributed to the substantial impact of load shedding on the manufacturing sector, coupled with contractions in construction and agriculture sectors.

Additionally, the Municipality faces a heightened vulnerability to increased drought, posing risks of wildfires, particularly in wildland-urban interface areas.

These economic projections underscore the importance of strategic planning and risk mitigation measures to navigate the challenges ahead.

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