



Western Cape
Government
FOR YOU



#KnowYourMunicipality: The 2023 Socio-Economic Profile

Swellendam Municipality



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Swellendam: At a Glance

Demographics

Population Estimates, 2022; Actual households, 2022



Population
47 114



Households
16 220

Education

2022



Matric Pass Rate **89.0%**
Learner Retention Rate **65.3%**
Learner-Teacher Ratio **27.1**

Poverty

2022



Gini Coefficient **0.59**
Poverty Head Count Ratio (UBPL) **61.33%**

Health

2022/23



Primary Health Care Facilities
5
(excl. mobile/satellite clinics)

Immunisation Rate
56.9%

Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100 000 live births)
0.0

Teenage Pregnancies – Delivery rate to women U/19
13.8%

Safety and Security

Actual number of reported cases in 2022/23



Residential Burglaries
262

DUI
129

Drug-related Crimes
393

Murder
15

Sexual Offences
68

Access to Basic Service Delivery

Percentage of households with access to basic services, 2022

Water

99.1%



Refuse Removal

79.8%



Electricity

95.4%



Sanitation

96.1%



Housing

90.9%



Road Safety

2021/22

Fatal Crashes **8**
Road User Fatalities **9**

Labour

2022

Unemployment Rate (narrow definition)
9.4%



Socio-economic Risks

Risk 1 Low learner retention
Risk 2 High crime rates
Risk 3 High poverty levels

Largest 3 Sectors

Contribution to GDP, 2021

Finance, insurance, real estate and business services

27.9%



Wholesale & retail trade, catering and accommodation

18.2%



Community, social and personal services

12.1%



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 Swellendam Municipality in relation to the broader Overberg District.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Current Population

47 114 2022

Estimated Population

49 517 2027

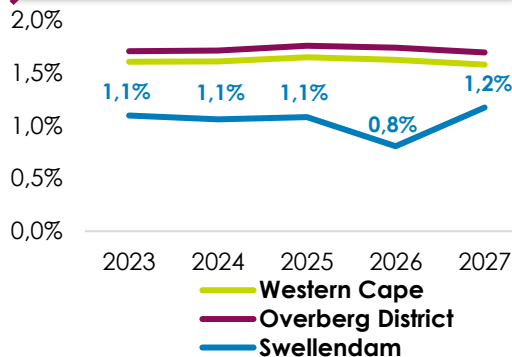


Estimated Average Annual Population Growth Rate 2022 - 2027

1.0%



Estimated Population Growth



Gender and Age Dynamics



Female

49.7%

Male

50.3%

397 2023

389 2024

Fertility Index

50 2023

49 2024

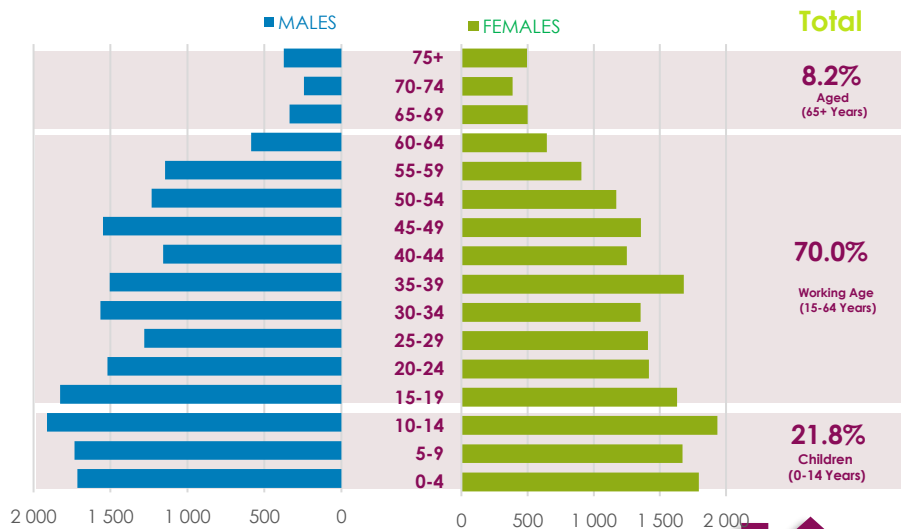
Dependency Ratio

21.9 2023

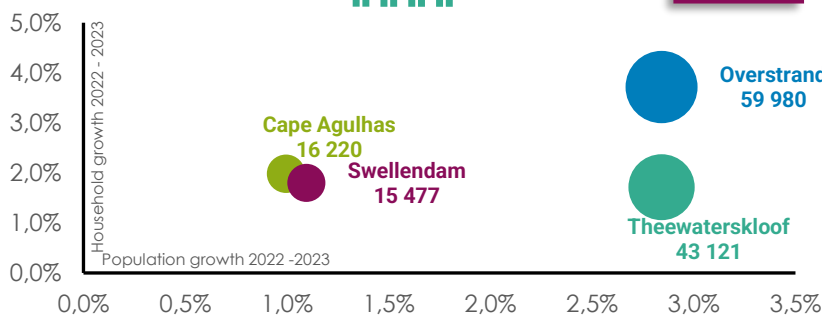
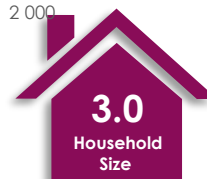
22.1 2024

Ageing Index

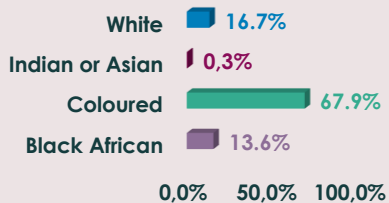
Population by Age 2022



Population and Household Growth 2022



Racial Split



Level of Urbanisation 2021



10.4 people/km² 2023

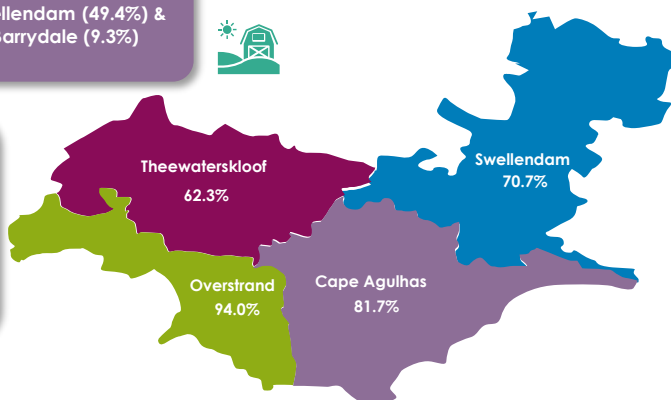
10.5 people/km² 2024

10.6 people/km² 2025

Largest Urban Settlements:

Swellendam (49.4%) & Barrydale (9.3%)

Urban/Rural change: Largest urban increase in Buffeljagsrivier (3.4%)
Density change: Highest & largest increase in Buffeljagsrivier



Population and Household Growth

The town of Swellendam is the seat of the municipal area. Despite the District's considerable population of 359 446 in 2022, the Swellendam area registers the second lowest population within the region, estimated at 47 114. Moreover, the average population growth in this area remains restrained, with annual growth of merely 1.0 per cent expected between 2022 and 2027.

Gender, Age and Race Dynamics

A closer look at the gender makeup of Swellendam reveals marginally greater representation of males compared to females. At the same time, the age distribution reveals a higher proportion of people in the working-age category (70.0 per cent), along with smaller groups of children (21.8 per cent) and the elderly (8.2 per cent). The relatively high and growing working-age population also results in a decrease in the dependency ratio, dropping from 50 in 2023 to 49 in 2024.

The racial composition of the population provides valuable insights, as it underscores the significance of inclusive policies and social unity in the pursuit of a more equitable society. Within Swellendam, it is evident that the population is primarily composed of coloured persons (67.9 per cent), followed by significant percentages of white (16.7 per cent) and black African (13.6 per cent) populations.

Level of Urbanisation

The impact of population dynamics are further emphasised by urbanisation trends, reflecting a country or region's economic and social transformation, with people moving to cities in search of better opportunities. Between 2001 and 2021, Swellendam witnessed a gradual increase in urbanisation, with the urban population rising from 63.5 per cent to 70.7 per cent. Swellendam emerged as the largest urban settlement, followed by Barrydale, Suurbraak and Buffelsjagrivier. Notably, the most considerable urban growth in the region was experienced by Buffelsjagrivier, followed by Swellendam and Infanta.

While urbanisation presents economic potential and improved living conditions for many, it also poses challenges related to inequality, infrastructure development, and governance that require careful attention and planning.

Population Density

In the context of the Overberg region, the overarching population density is recorded at 26 individuals per square kilometre. However, there is a substantial variance in population densities among different local areas within the region. As a quantitative measure used to assess the concentration of residents within a specific geographical area, it plays a pivotal role in understanding the degree of population crowding or dispersion. Overstrand, characterised by rapid population growth, registers the highest population density at 66 people per square kilometre, while Theewaterskloof, the most populous region in the District, maintains a comparatively moderate population density of 39.

The Cape Agulhas and Swellendam areas exhibit notably lower densities of 10 individuals per square kilometre, which holds its own significant relevance in urban planning and resource allocation. It is worth noting that low population density areas are likely to have higher per-person cost for social and economic infrastructure. However, it also offers opportunities for a more relaxed lifestyle, which some individuals and families find appealing.

EDUCATION : Swellendam



Learner enrolment



Educational facilities 2022

19

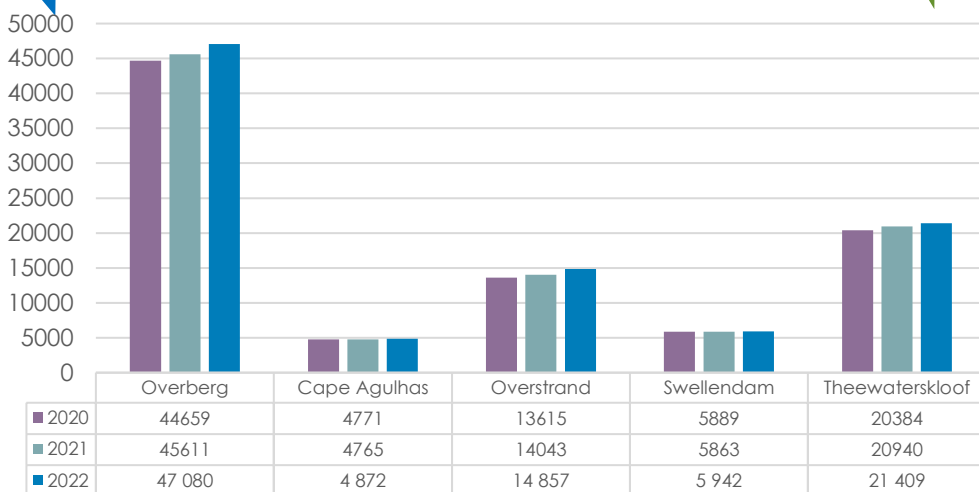
Number of schools

84.2%

Proportion of no-fee schools

Number of schools with libraries

8



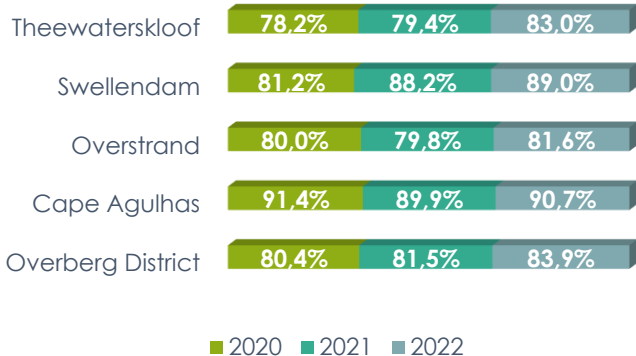
2020 2021 2022



Education outcomes

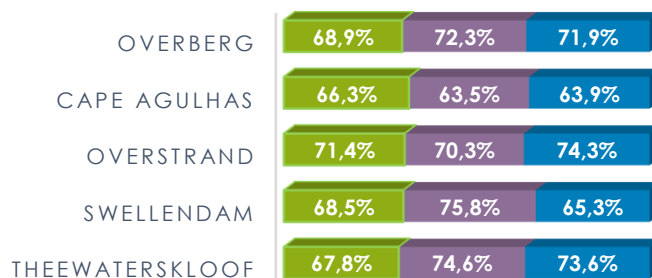


Learner retention 2020 - 2022



2020 2021 2022

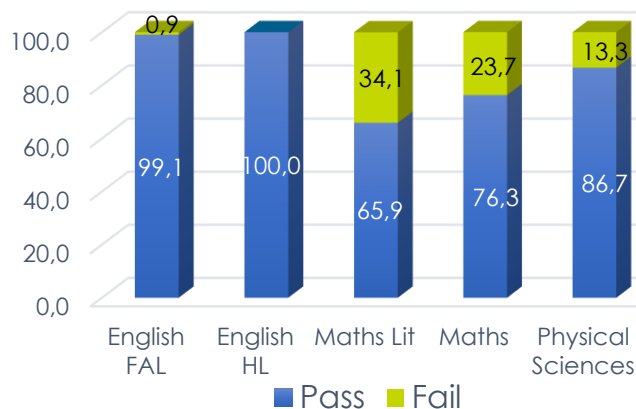
2020 2021 2022



Learner-Teacher Ratio 2020- 2022



Subject Outcomes



Introduction

School education is vital for personal growth, societal development, and the overall well-being of a community and nation. It shapes the future by nurturing the potential of each individual and providing them with the tools to contribute positively to society.

Education Facilities, Learner-teacher Ratio

In 2022, there were 19 schools in the Swellendam municipal area, of which 84.2 per cent were no fee schools and only 8 had libraries. The No-fee Schools Policy abolishes school fees in the poorest 40 per cent of schools nationally, for learners from Grade R to Grade 9, specifying that schools that do not charge fees will be allocated a larger total of funding per learner from the national budget for the foregone fee revenue. This applies to 16 of the 19 schools in the Swellendam area.

The learner-teacher ratio has shown a steady but slight overall decrease, from 27.9 in 2020 to 27.1 in 2022. As this ratio impacts teaching directly by indicating the teacher resource available as well as the class sizes and context in which teaching takes place, it implies that schools with higher ratios may struggle to provide the same quality of education as those with lower ratios, potentially exacerbating educational inequalities.

Learner Enrolment & Retention Rates

Within the Swellendam region, learner enrolment stood at 5 942 in 2022, slightly more than the 5 863 enrolled in 2021. Growing learner enrollment is a positive sign of increased access to education, greater awareness of its benefits, and often, progress in society. However, it also brings challenges related to infrastructure, resources, and the need for continuous improvements in educational quality to meet the needs of the expanding student population.

The learner retention rate is influenced by a wide array of factors, including economic influences such as unemployment, poverty/very low household income, as well as social concerns such as teenage pregnancies, overcrowded classrooms, student attitudes towards education, as well as other personal circumstances which can make it difficult for learners to focus on education. The grade 10 to 12 retention rate for the Swellendam area was extremely low, 65.3 per cent, indicating serious challenges and concerns. Mitigating school dropouts requires a collaborative effort and a commitment to creating a supportive and inclusive educational environment that accommodates the diverse needs of students, tailored to the unique local challenges and circumstances.

Education & Subject Outcomes

Swellendam's matric pass rate has seen a significant improvement from 81.2 per cent in 2020 to 89.0 per cent in 2022. Subject outcomes show good English pass rates, however, with mathematics (65.9 per cent mathematics literacy; 76.3 per cent mathematics) and physical sciences (86.7 per cent) dipping well below the overall pass rate. Good mathematics and science outcomes often serve as prerequisites for pursuing highest education and certain career paths and can therefore directly impact future opportunities and choices.

Cautiously said, their matric pass rate remains one of the highest in the District. However, since dropouts are inherently excluded from the assessment, Swellendam's low retention rate may distort education outcomes. Ensuring the retention of learners is a fundamental aspect of achieving holistic favourable education outcomes.

HEALTH



Healthcare Facilities



5 Fixed PHC Facilities
3 Mobile/Satellite Clinics



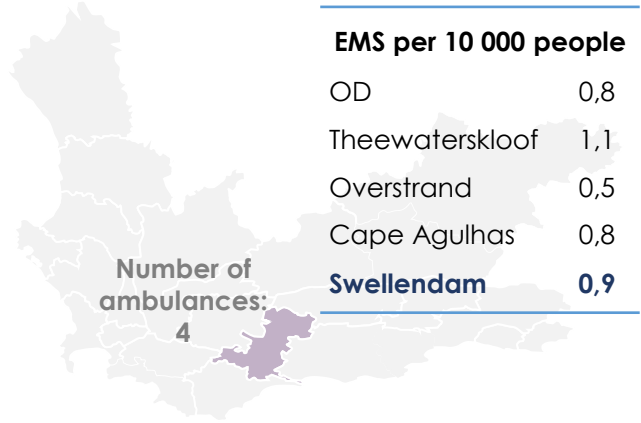
5 ART Clinics/
Treatment Sites
8 TB Clinics/
Treatment Sites



1 District Hospital



Emergency Medical Services



Maternal Health



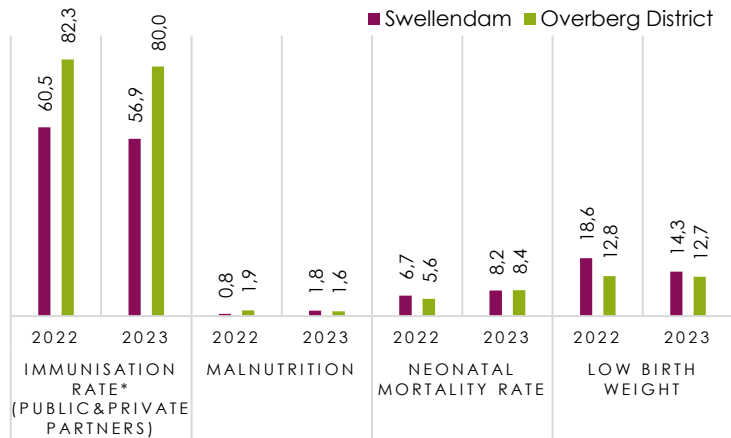
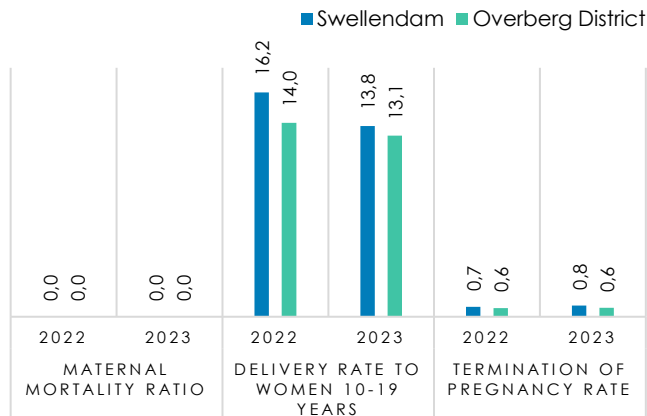
Child Health

SWELLENDAM 2023:
Maternal Health Indicators

- Maternal deaths in facility : 0
- Deliveries in facility u19 years : 68
- Termination of pregnancy : 89

SWELLENDAM 2023:
Child Health Indicators

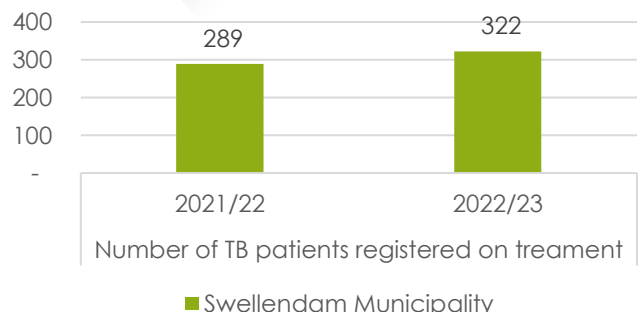
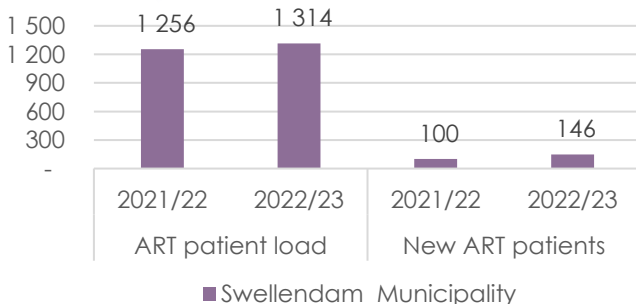
- Live births under 2500g (low birth weight) : 70
- Inpatient deaths 6-28 day : 4
- Immunisation u1 year : 475
- Severe acute malnutrition u5 years : 7



HIV/AIDS



Tuberculosis



Healthcare Facilities & Emergency Medical Services

South Africa's healthcare system is a mix of public and private providers, and its health facilities are an essential component of ensuring access to healthcare services for the country's diverse population. Government plays a pivotal role in providing healthcare services through the public sector, while the private sector offers additional options for those who can afford it. The public healthcare system follows a referral system, where patients receive primary care at clinics and are referred to district or provincial hospitals for more specialised care when needed. Across the Swellendam area, there is a total of 5 fixed primary health care facilities in Swellendam, Barrydale, Suurbraak, Railton and Buffeljagsrivier and 3 mobile/satellite clinics. In addition, there are also 5 anti-retroviral therapy (ART) and 8 tuberculosis (TB) clinics/ treatment sites as well as one district hospital situated in Swellendam.

As an integral part of the healthcare system, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) bridges the gap between an emergency and the delivery of medical care in a hospital setting. Timely and effective EMS response can significantly impact the survival and recovery. However, it is important to note that EMS encompasses a range of services, personnel, and resources designed to provide immediate medical assistance, transportation to healthcare facilities, and pre-hospital care to individuals facing critical health crises. Considered within this context, operational ambulances are a significant, but not the only component within medical emergency situations. Swellendam has a total of 4 ambulances servicing the area, which translates into 0,9 ambulances per 10 000 people in 2022/23. It is worth noting that this number only refers to Provincial ambulances and excludes private service providers.

Maternal Health

Maternal health refers to the well-being of women during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period, which includes the first six weeks after giving birth. It encompasses physical, mental, and social aspects of health related to pregnancy and childbirth. A few maternal health indicators are considered here. In the context of the Swellendam region, it is noteworthy that there were no reported maternal deaths in the 2021/22 as well as 2022/23 period (maternal mortality rate of zero). During the period spanning from 2021/22 to 2022/23, there was a decrease in the proportion of deliveries to women 10 - 19 years, falling from 16.2 per cent to 13.8 per cent. The latter figure translates into a total of 68 births to these young women. Conversely, the termination of pregnancy rate remained increased slightly, bringing the total number of termination of pregnancies performance for 2022/23 to 89.

Child Health

In terms of child health In the Swellendam area, the immunisation rate fell from an already low 60.5 per cent in 2021/22 to 56.9 per cent in 2022/23; this rate remains well below an optimal level. Severe child malnutrition remained low, with seven such confirmed cases for 2022/23. This represented a rise in the proportion of undernourished children under the age of five per 100 000 population, increasing from 0.8 in 2021/22 to 1.8 in 2022/23. This is higher than the overall District's rate of 1.6, which varies across the local areas, reaching a high of 3.0 per 100,000 people in the Theewaterskloof area (a total of 31 severely malnourished children). The low birth weight indicator for the Swellendam area presented an improvement, with the percentage of babies born in facilities under 2 500g decreasing from 18.6 per cent in 2021/22 to 14.3 per cent in 2022/23. However, the neonatal mortality rate (per 1 000 live births) registered some deterioration, from 6.7 in 2021/22 to 8.2 in 2022/23 – this translates into a total of 4 deaths before reaching 28 days. These indicators predominantly demonstrate deteriorating child health outcomes in the Swellendam area.

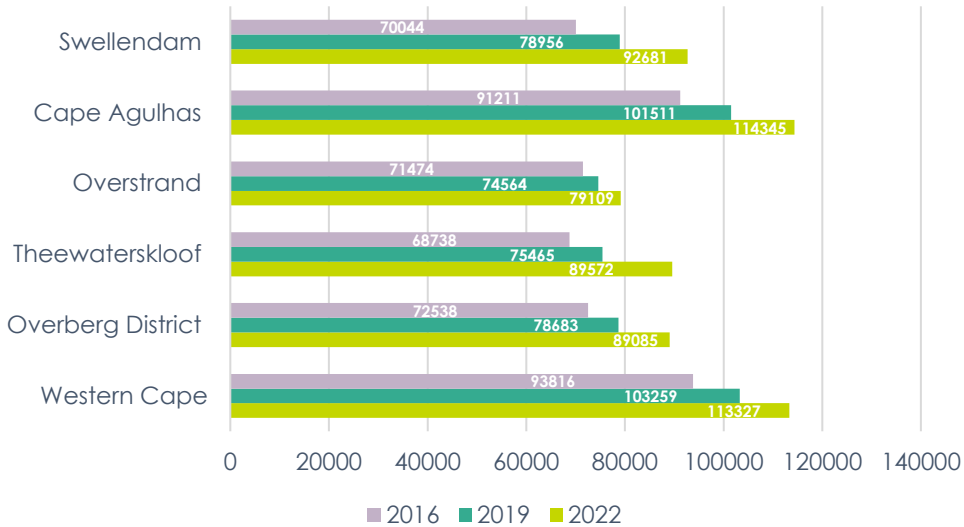
HIV/AIDS & Tuberculosis

In the Swellendam area, there has been an expansion in the total number of patients enrolled in antiretroviral treatment, marking an increase of 39 patients. This figure has risen from 1 256 during the 2021/22 to 1 314 in 2022/23. Similarly, there has been an uptick in the number of new patients commencing antiretroviral treatment, with 146 new patients in 2022/23, as compared to 100 in the preceding year. Similarly, growth in the TB patients registered on treatment was experienced, increasing from 289 in 2021/22 to 322 in 2022/23. These patterns indicate a growing demand for antiretroviral treatment and TB services, potentially carrying economic implications for the allocation and management of healthcare resources in the region.

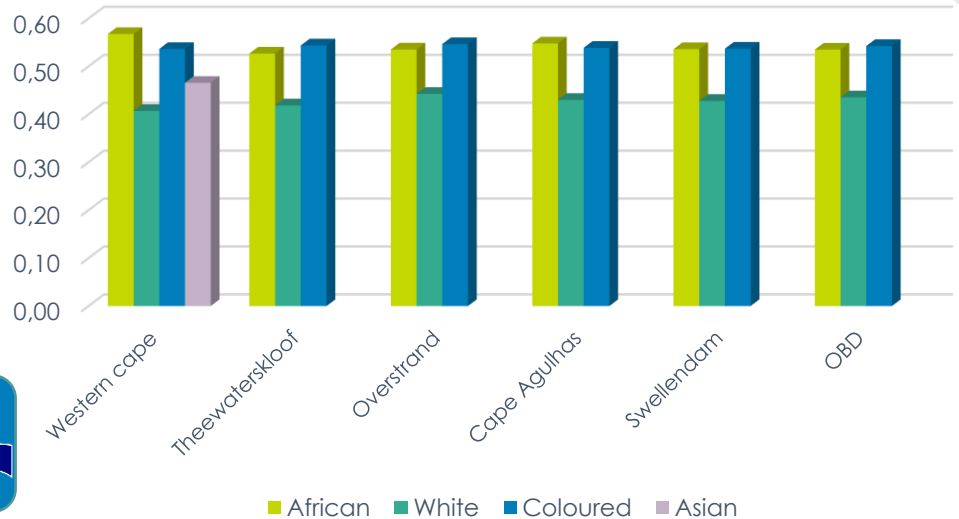
POVERTY



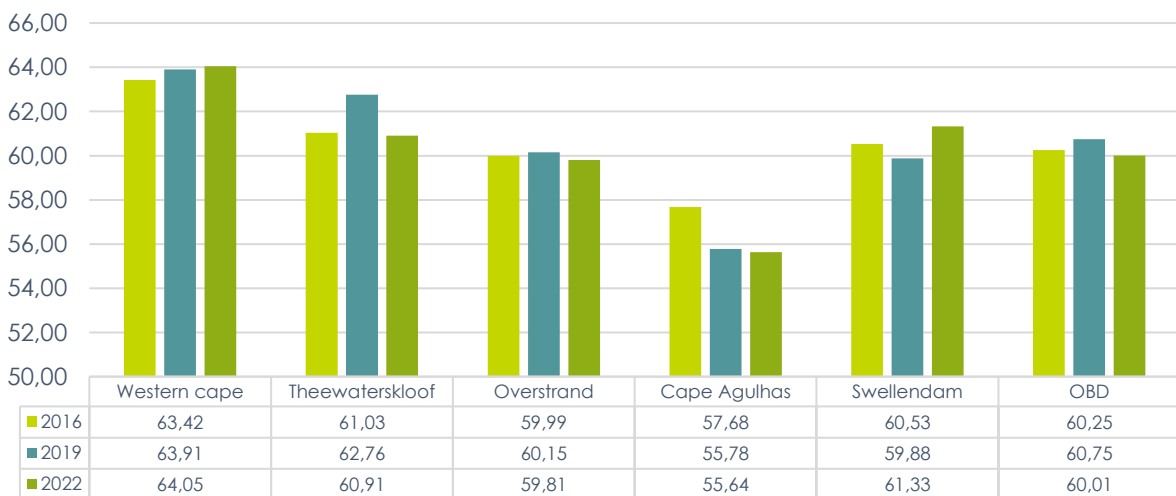
GDP per capita



Income Inequality



Poverty Line



GDPR Per Capita

An increase in the real regional Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita, which measures the GDP per person, occurs when the rate of real economic growth surpasses the rate of population growth. In 2022, the Swellendam area had a per capita GDPR of R92 681, surpassing the District average of R89 085. While real GDP per capita reflects changes in the overall well-being of the population, showing overall growth within Swellendam area, it is important to note that not everyone within the economy will earn the same income as indicated by the real GDP per capita measure.

However, while a high GDP per capita is generally desirable, it is essential to consider its distribution and the well-being of all segments of the population. Addressing income disparities, promoting inclusive growth, and addressing sustainability concerns are critical, especially in higher per capita GDP regions, such as the Swellendam area.

Income Inequality

South Africa grapples with some of the highest levels of inequality globally, as evidenced by the widely used Gini index. This inequality is manifested through an uneven distribution of income, disparities in access to opportunities, and regional economic differences. The National Development Plan (NDP) has established an ambitious goal of reducing income inequality in South Africa, aiming to lower the Gini coefficient from 0.7 in 2010 to 0.6 by 2030.

While Swellendam's Gini coefficient has steadily increased from 0.57 in 2015 to 0.61 in 2021 likely brought on by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy and employment, it exhibited a decrease to 0.59 in 2022, surpassing the target set by the National Development Plan (NDP) for 2030. This reduction suggests some advancement towards achieving the NDP's income inequality reduction goal and may have various socio-economic impacts, including potential improvements in social equity, economic stability, and well-being.

Poverty Line

Poverty affects the social development of communities through lower life expectancy, malnutrition and food insecurity, higher exposure to crime and substance abuse, lower educational attainment and poor living conditions. Different measures of poverty are used as indicators assess and quantify the extent of poverty within a population or region. They provide insights into the economic well-being and living conditions of individuals or households. The Upper Bound Poverty Line (UBPL) head count ratio is one such measure, quantifying the proportion of the population living below the UBPL that cannot afford to purchase adequate levels of food and non-food items. The UBPL in South Africa is R1 227 (in April 2019 prices) per person per month.

In 2022, 61.33 per cent of Swellendam's population fell below this UBPL. This figure improved somewhat from the 60.53 per cent and 59.88 per cent recorded for the 2016 and 2019 periods respectively. Within the Overberg region, this represents the highest proportion of people living in poverty, followed closely by Theewaterskloof (60.91 per cent) and Overstrand (59.81 per cent). Cape Agulhas (55.64 per cent) at the lowest proportion of its population living in poverty in the region.

BASIC SERVICE DELIVERY

15 477
Swellendam

134 798
Overberg District

Total number of households

Formal main dwelling

90.9%

14 064
Swellendam

117 986
Overberg District

87.5%

90.9% Swellendam
87.5% Overberg

Formal dwelling

0.6% Swellendam
0.7% Overberg

Traditional dwelling



8.3% Swellendam
11.5% Overberg

Informal dwelling

0.2% Swellendam
0.3% Overberg

Other/Unspecified



Piped water inside dwelling/ yard or community stand

Swellendam 99.1%
Overberg 98.8%



Flush/chemical toilet

Swellendam 96.1%
Overberg 94.1%



Electricity for lighting

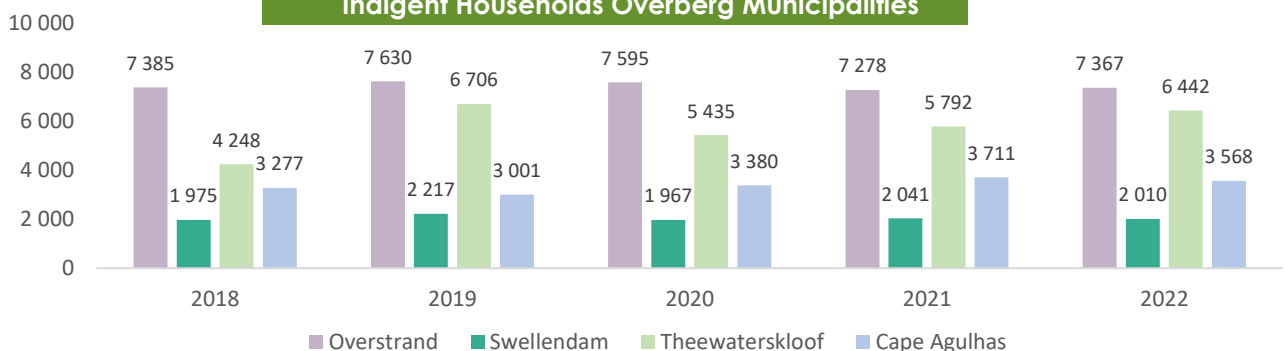
Swellendam 95.4%
Overberg 95.6%



Refuse removal at least once a week

Swellendam 79.8%
Overberg 84.9%

Indigent Households Overberg Municipalities



In accordance with the constitutional framework, it is mandated that every citizen has the right to access adequate housing, with the onus on the state to enact reasonable legislative measures and other relevant actions within the confines of its available resources, aiming for the progressive realisation of this right. This right extends to encompass not only housing but also includes access to essential services such as clean water, basic sanitation, reliable energy sources, and efficient waste disposal services, thereby ensuring that households can maintain a decent standard of living.

This segment of the analysis seeks to evaluate the extent to which these constitutional objectives have been attained, relying on the most recent data provided by Quantec Research for the 2022. The latest official statistics was collected by Statistics South Africa for the 2022 Census. Additionally, data pertaining to indigent households has been sourced from the Department of Local Government.

Housing and Household Services

Among the 15 477 households residing in the Swellendam area, a noteworthy 90.9 per cent enjoyed access to formal housing, surpassing the rate observed in the broader Overberg District, which stood at 87.5 per cent. Furthermore, the municipal area demonstrated a lower incidence of informal dwellings, accounting for only 8.3 per cent of the total, in contrast to the District's higher prevalence of 11.5 per cent.

The Swellendam area exhibited notably greater service access levels compared to formal housing access, with striking statistics such as access to piped water within the dwelling or yard, which reached an impressive 99.1 per cent. Access to flush or chemical toilets was prevalent among 96.1 per cent of households, access to electricity for lighting was accessible to 95.4 per cent of households. However, the regular removal of refuse by local authorities occurred in 79.8 per cent of households, less than the proportion of formal households. With the exception of refuse removal services, these service access levels were roughly on par or outperformed the corresponding figures for the District as a whole.

These findings suggest that the Swellendam has area demonstrates a somewhat greater level of housing provision and service accessibility, indicating a more favorable living environment for its residents compared to the broader Overberg District. This could have positive repercussions on the overall quality of life, economic opportunities, and public well-being within the Swellendam area.

Free Basic Services

In the context of Free Basic Services, municipalities offer a suite of essential services to households facing financial vulnerability and challenges in affording such services. In the Swellendam area, the number of households receiving these free basic services, categorised as indigent households, experienced similar totals between the years 2018 and 2021, with some relatively small fluctuations over the period. The prevailing adverse economic conditions exerted additional pressure on household incomes, thereby likely amplifying the demand for free basic services. The reduction in the count of indigent households to 2 010 in 2022 is indicative of a certain degree of economic easing.

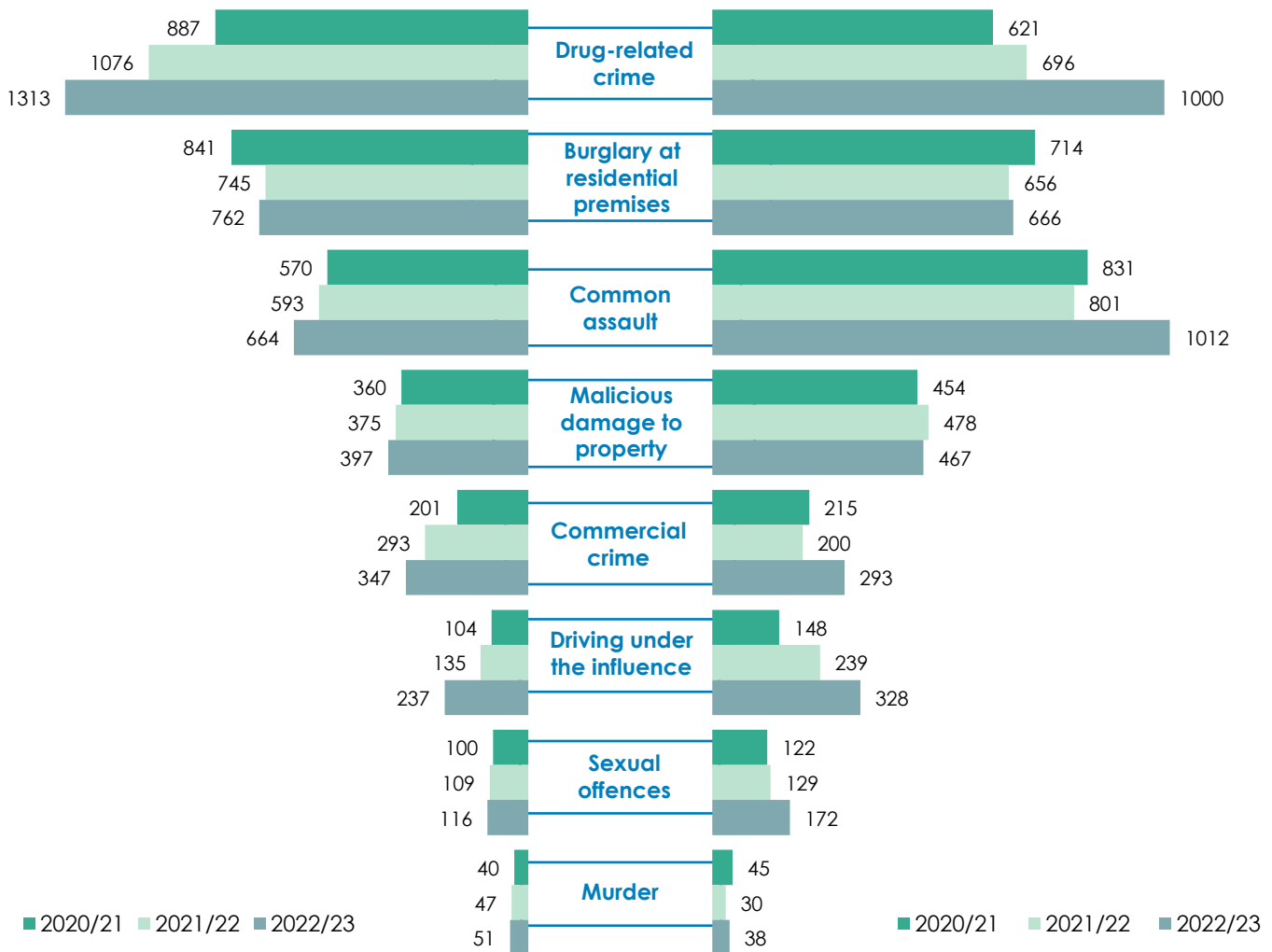
SAFETY AND SECURITY

OVERBERG

6 385 Total reported
crime per 100 000 people in the
Overberg District in 2022/23

SWELLENDAM

7 232 Total reported
crime per 100 000 people in
Swellendam in 2022/23



Drug-related
crime
271 (2021/22)
393 (2022/23)

Murder
12 (2021/22)
15 (2022/23)

Sexual
offences
50 (2021/22)
68 (2022/23)

Driving
under the
influence
93 (2021/22)
129 (2022/23)



Residential
burglaries
255 (2021/22)
262 (2022/23)

Common assault
311 (2021/22)
398 (2022/23)

Damage to
property
186 (2021/22)
183 (2022/23)

Commercial
crime
78 (2021/22)
115 (2022/23)

Murder

Recognising the impact criminal activities is of great importance, given that these consequences range from loss of life and personal trauma to their broader societal repercussions. The implications also extend to economic aspects, as well as the overall safety and well-being of communities within the region.

In the Swellendam area, there was an increase in the incidence of murder, from 12 in 2021/22 to 15 in 2022/23, leading to an increase in the murder rate (per 100 000 people) from 30 to 38. Furthermore, it is noteworthy that the murder rate per 100 000 people in the Swellendam area remains below the District's rate of 51 for the 2022/23 year, highlighting relative differences in the incidence of this serious crime within the broader region. These findings carry important implications for law enforcement, public safety, and efforts to maintain community well-being and security.

Sexual Offences

The incidence of sexual offenses in the area exhibited significant growth, with the total number escalating from 50 in 2021/22 to 68 in 2022/23. This upward trend, as witnessed in the Swellendam area, was also evident in the broader Overberg region, with the sexual offenses rate per 100 000 people increasing from 109 to 116 over the same period, while Swellendam experienced a more pronounced surge, rising from 129 to 172 per 100 000 people. The substantial difference in the rates underscores the relative severity of this crime category within the broader region.

Drug-related Offences

The occurrence and rate of drug-related crimes persist in its upward trajectory, with the Swellendam area reporting a rate of 1 000 per 100 000 persons in 2022/23. The District surpassed this rate, with a rate of 1 313 in 2022/23. The increase in Swellendam's rate signifies a concern in the surge related drug related offences underscoring the need for a focused response.

Driving Under the Influence (DUI)

Despite efforts to improve road safety, reckless driving and the drunk driving remain some of the leading causes of road accidents in South Africa. There has been a significant and concerning rise in cases (per 100 000 people) driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs in the Overberg region. Similarly, this rate has escalated in the Swellendam area, with the actual number of cases rising from 93 to 129 between 2021/22 and 2022/23.

Residential Burglaries

The rate of burglaries at residential premises in the Swellendam area has also experienced a mild increase from 656 in 2021/22 to 666 in 2022/23. For the same period, the Overberg region experienced a similar increase, from 745 to 762.

Damage to Property

There was also a slight fall in reported cases of damages to property, falling from 186 incidents in 2021/22 to 183 in 2022/23. However, comparatively, the rate is significantly above that of the District, at 467 compared to the District rate of 397 per 100 000. This high rate raises significant concerns within the Swellendam area and could be indicative of potential challenges in maintaining public infrastructure and private properties, which are crucial for a conducive business environment.

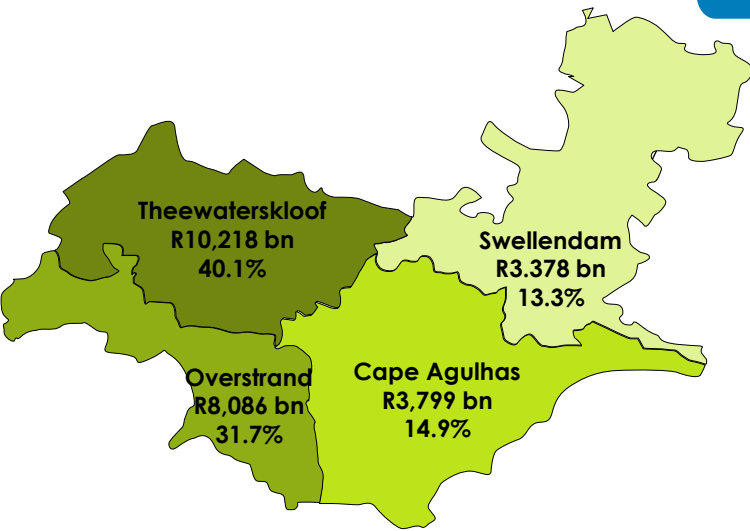
Commercial Crime

The continued presence and increase in reported cases of commercial crime, from 78 incidents in 2021/22 to 115 in 2022/23 highlights a continued concern for the economic environment. Commercial crimes, including fraud, and cybercrimes, have significant implications for businesses and investors. A rise suggests a greater incidence of fraudulent activities, which can lead to financial losses for businesses, damage business reputations, and erode investor trust. These crimes often result in legal battles and increased costs related to cybersecurity measures and fraud prevention efforts, diverting resources away from productive investments.

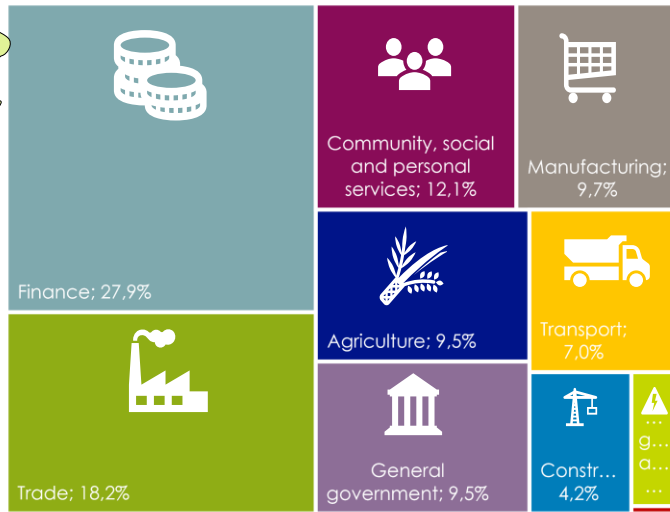
GDPR PERFORMANCE



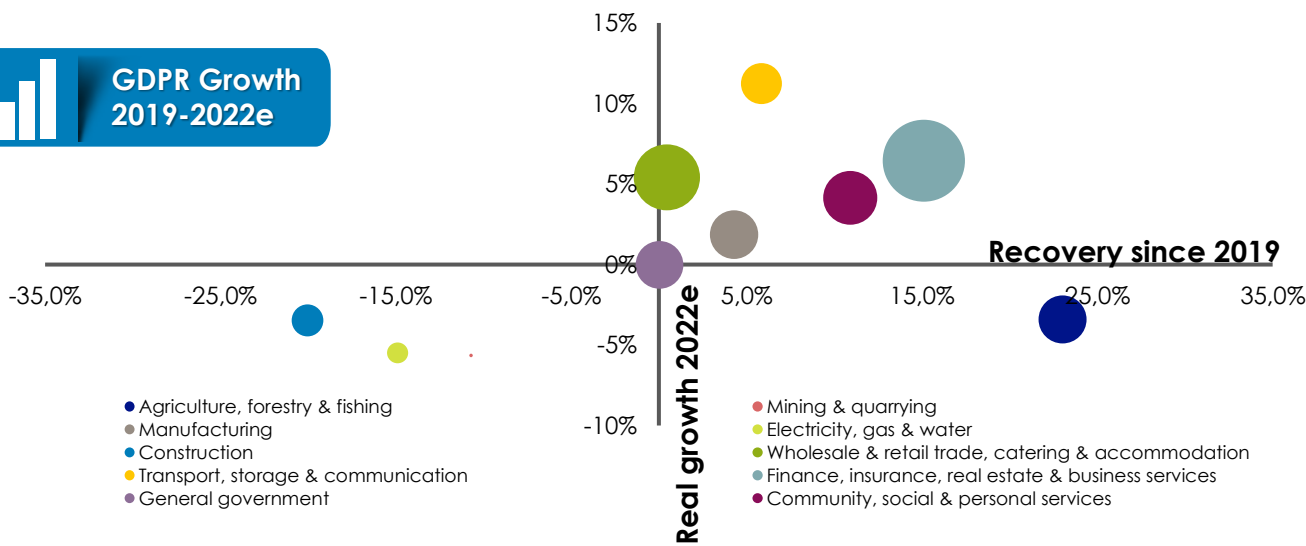
GDPR Contribution 2021



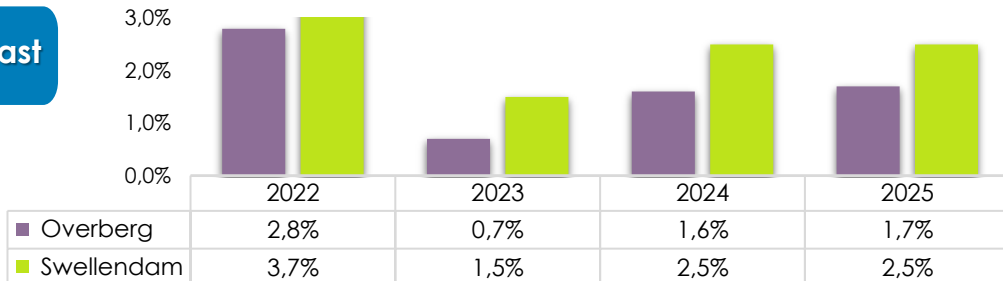
Sectoral contribution to GDPR 2021



GDPR Growth 2019-2022e



GDPR forecast



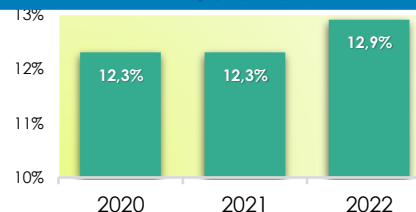
International Trade, 2022

Imports
R282.2 million

Exports
R551.9 million



Tourism spend % of GDP



GDPR Performance

The Swellendam municipal area has the largest geographical area in the OD but the smallest economy. GDPR in the area stood at R3.4 billion in 2021. GDPR growth in the area for 2022 has been estimated at 3.7 per cent, with the number of formal and informal jobs increasing by 1 221. Because of the strong performance of the agriculture sector, the Swellendam economy was not as severely affected by COVID-19 as some of the other municipal areas.

The finance and trade sectors are the leading economic sectors in the Swellendam municipal area, contributing R942.0 million and R614.3 million, respectively, to municipal GDPR in 2021. Headquartered in Swellendam and with offices in Heidelberg and Mossel Bay, Sentraal-Suid Co-operative is a giant in these sectors. The co-operative provides credit and insurance broker services to local farmers, agricultural equipment, and mechanisation and engineering services. It is also involved in processing grain seeds and handling and storing grain products. Sentraal-Suid Co-operative operates 20 AgriLand retail branches across the southern cape. The community, social and personal services (12.1 per cent), manufacturing (9.7 per cent) and agriculture (9.5 per cent) sectors all had significant contributions within the Swellendam economy.

One of the largest citrus growers in the area is Thornlands, located in Buffeljagsrivier. Having expanded from a small family-run farm to a leading citrus grower, this producer now has a packhouse that processes 25 000 tonnes of fruit annually and a transport company to ensure its products can be distributed nationally and regionally. Thornlands is a significant local employer. It also contributes to local economic development through the clinic and educational centre established on the farm. Indigo Fruit Farming, with farms in Buffeljagsrivier and elsewhere in the country, is another key citrus grower. It owns the ARISA Packhouse, a facility that was enlarged in 2020 because of the expansion of local citrus farming. Currently, the packhouse can process 3 000 tonnes of fruit per week. Along with being a leading provider of existing employment, the perennial crop-growing industry, mainly focused on citrus, was the principal source of new formal jobs in the Swellendam municipal area (340 new jobs) in 2022.

Scattered around Swellendam, numerous nurseries supply herbs, cut flowers and plants directly to consumers, retailers and wholesalers. These businesses, which constitute an essential source of employment, include Rooiklip Nursery, Hermitage Herbs and Nursery, Bella Donna Nursery, Hortus Capensis and Flora Jubilee. With a Swellendam farm and a Cape Town depot, Flora Jubilee supplies retailers such as Woolworths and Pick n Pay in the Western Cape. The company also exports succulents to destinations around the globe.

By 2022, most sectors had fully recovered from the pandemic. However, the mining, electricity, gas and water, and construction sectors were still underperforming. The sectors leading economic growth in 2022 included finance (1.9 percentage points), transport (0.9 of a percentage point) and trade (0.9 of a percentage point). This points to the strength of the agricultural value chain in the municipal area and highlights the potential of tourism to boost local economic development.

GDPR Forecast

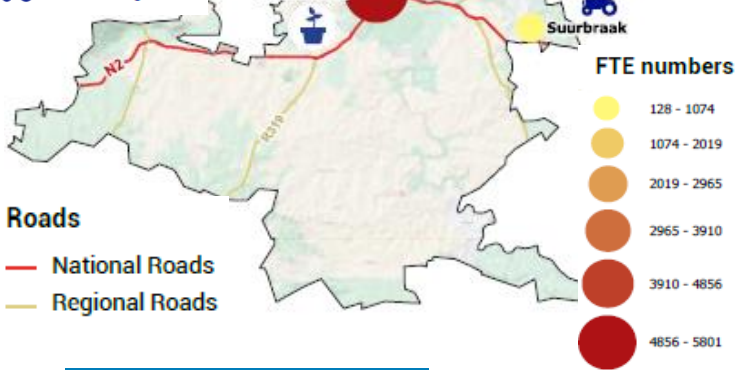
The economic outlook for the Swellendam municipal area is relatively subdued compared with 2022, with GDPR growth projected to reach 1.5 per cent in 2023. However, growth of 2.5 per cent is anticipated for 2024. While the agriculture sector is expected to underperform because of ongoing logistical challenges relating to citrus exports and rising input costs, the finance, manufacturing and trade sectors appear set to boost the Swellendam economy going into 2024.

LABOUR MARKET PERFORMANCE

Formal Employment by Town, 2022

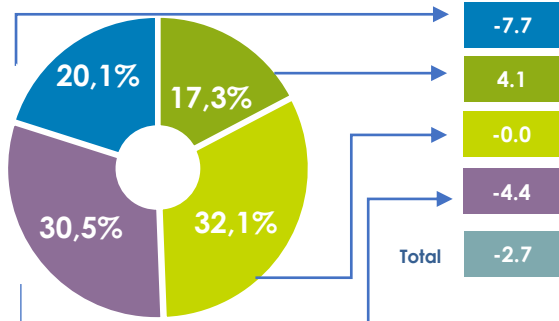
Main sector for employment

- Plant propagation
- Growing of citrus fruits
- Growing of pome fruits and stone fruits
- Mixed farming



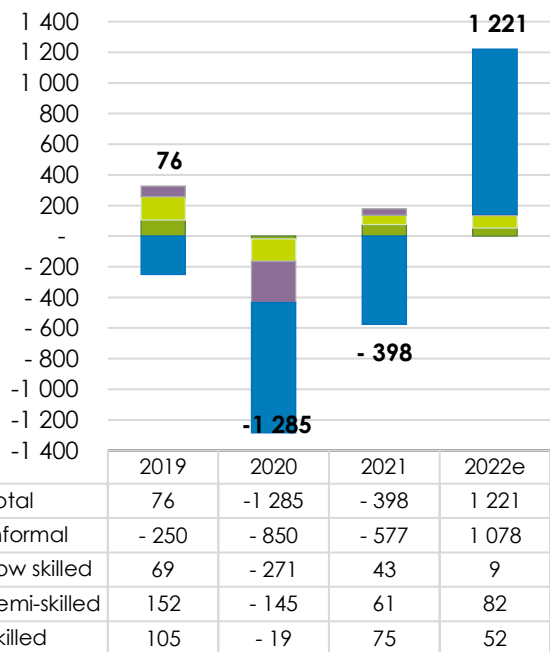
Skill Level % Contribution, 2022

Recovery in Employment (%) 2019-2022

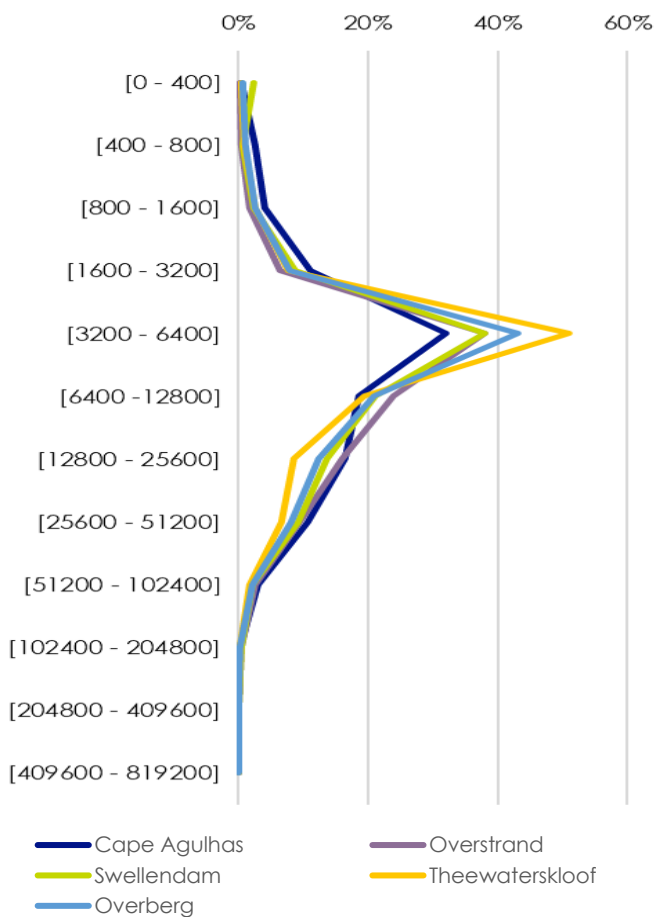


Total Persons Employed 2022	Skilled	Semi-skilled	Low-skilled	Informal
	2 728	5 047	4 724	4 182

Net employment per sector, 2019-2022



Wage Distribution per municipal area, 2022



Top 5 Sectors

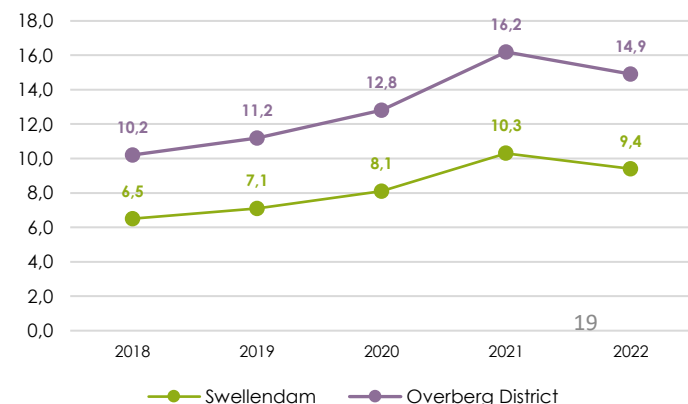


Sector

Sector	No. of FTE Jobs
Growing of perennial crops	1 901
Plant propagation	1 052
Mixed farming	842
Administration of the state and the economic and social policy of the community	680
Manufacture of vegetable and animal oils and fats	516



Unemployment rate 2018-2022



Labour Market Performance

The economic recovery has also brought some growth in employment, where 1 221 jobs were created in 2022, resulting in a decline in the unemployment rate of from 10.3 per cent in 2021 to 9.4 per cent in 2022. The favourable economic conditions have encouraged workers to re-enter the labour market, with the labour force participation rate increasing by 3.2 percentage points in 2022. Encouragingly, the Swellendam municipal area had the lowest unemployment rate in the OD in 2022. Strategic skills development initiatives are required to continue these positive employment gains, as most new jobs in the Swellendam municipal area are for semi-skilled or skilled workers.

Having introduced canola as a crop in South Africa in 1993, Southern Oil is now the country's largest canola crusher and canola oil manufacturer. The production of vegetable and animal oils and fat is a strong local industry in the Swellendam municipal area. A leading provider of formal employment (516 jobs), this industry employed an additional 46 people in 2022 because of substantial expansions in canola production volumes. Canola production is expected to increase further, presenting opportunities for expansion of processing capabilities in the Swellendam municipal area. Because of its strategic location in relation to dairy and pork producers, the industry can benefit from increased canola oil cake production for animal feed.

Informal employment is critical in providing employment opportunities in the Swellendam area, contributing a considerable 25.1 per cent to overall employment in 2022. Informal employment has contributed substantially to the positive labour market outcomes in 2022, adding 1 078 of the 1 221 new jobs created.

Skills Distribution

Most of the 15 460 workers in the area are semi-skilled and low-skilled workers (32.1 and 30.5 per cent, respectively), with a substantial number of formal workers being employed in growing perennial crops, mainly citrus (1 901), plant propagation (1 052) and mixed farming activities (842).

When evaluating the period of recovery from 2019 to 2022, it is evident that only the skilled workforce segment exhibited positive growth, at a good rate of 4.1 per cent. In stark contrast, the informal sector experienced a substantial decline in employment, contracting by 7.7 per cent. This was followed by relatively smaller contractions in the low-skilled workforce (4.4 per cent); overall, over the same period, the semi-skilled workforce experience no change. These trends signify shifts in the employment landscape and carry economic implications for the region.

Wage Distribution

In 2022, the financial landscape of the OD 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. However, Cape Agulhas and Overstrand shone, registering higher proportions of working-age individuals earning more substantial incomes. The OD's employment sector blends traditional industries, such as agriculture, with service-oriented industries, such as public administration, personal services, and restaurant and accommodation services. The Overstrand municipal area dominates tourism industry employment, with Cape Agulhas excelling in administrative and professional services. In contrast, the agricultural industry provides for those residing in the Theewaterskloof and Swellendam municipal areas.

The Swellendam municipal area embraced its rural landscape, relying heavily on agriculture and small businesses to drive employment and wages. However, generating employment opportunities posed challenges in this area. The Swellendam municipal area had the lowest number of taxpayers in the OD region in both 2020 and 2021 because of its small population, while also having the second-lowest proportion of total employed people in the OD after Theewaterskloof, which was reflected in the lower median incomes of smaller towns such as Barrydale (R4 501 per month) and Buffeljagsrivier (R4 435), where workers are earning incomes around the minimum wage. The economies of these towns are centered on farming activities such as growing pome fruit, stone fruit, grapes and citrus.

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
Cape Agulhas	6	1.44	1	1.00	21	5.97	7	4.27
Swellendam	11	1.71	2	1.02	15	5.57	14	5.09
Overstrand	8	1.54	22	4.07	23	6.39	18	5.30
Theewaterskloof	22	2.83	15	3.34	14	5.56	20	6.23



HAZARDS*

Swellendam Overall Population Growth Pressure: Medium growth pressure in Swellendam but overall, no or low change expected in most settlements *

Five of the Top 10 Risks in the Overberg are environmental in nature (Provincial Disaster Risk Register)	Swellendam's identified Hydro-meteorological Hazards to settlements as observed by the CSIR (The Greenbook *)
1. Electricity Disruption	
2. Structural Fire	Moderate potential increase in exposure of settlements to wildfires
3. Flooding	Moderate increase in extreme rain days for the mountainous areas in the northwest, coupled with Moderate increase in exposure to flooding in some settlements.
4. Wildfires	Area is prone to likelihood of wildfires, with Moderate potential increase in exposure to wildfires
5. Human Disease	
6. Animal Disease	
7. Hazmat	
8. Strong Wind	
9. Water Pollution	
10. Civil Unrest	

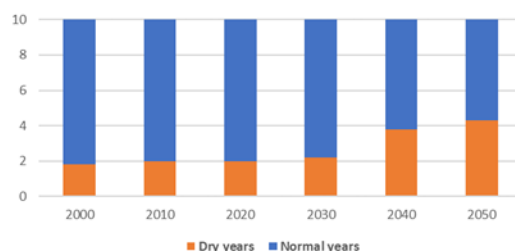
Overberg no. of dry years per decade[†]

	2000	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050
Dry years	1.8	2	2	2.2	3.8	4.3
Wet years	8.2	8	8	7.8	6.2	5.7

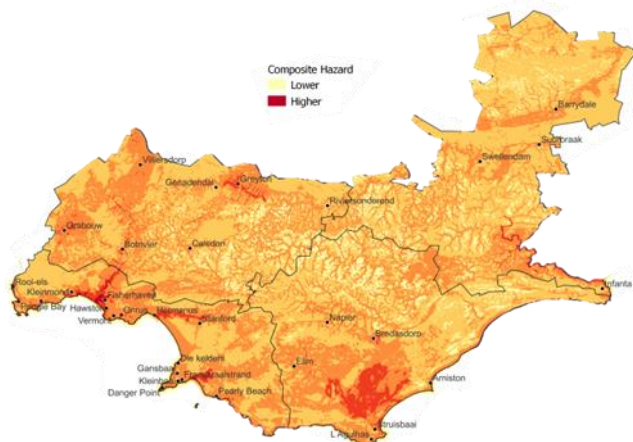
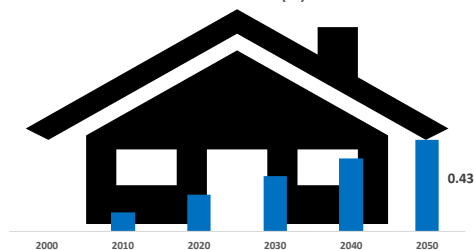
Temperature change (2050 compared to historic)[†]

Mean temperature increase (District)	1.1 °C higher
Additional days per year with daily maximum temperature above 30 °C (Swellendam)	16 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, L., Quagraine, K. & Kloppers, P. 2022. SmartAgri: Updated Climate Change Trends and Projections for the Western Cape. Cape Town: University of Cape Town. Available at <https://www.elsenburg.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/SmartAgri-Climate-Change.pdf>

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 Overberg have seen beaches retreat landward at a rate of 2m per year. This directly affects infrastructure and detracts from the amenity value of the coastline.

Drought

According to the CSIR Green Book, drought tendencies are present in Swellendam. Currently 2 years per decade are at risk of drought, and this will increase to 4.3 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 Swellendam can expect an additional 16 extremely 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 eucalyptus). 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

As one of the more rural and slow growing populations in the region, the Swellendam area comprises a comparatively low population of 47 114 within the larger District's population of 359 446 in 2022. The area's population growth is modest, with an anticipated annual growth rate of 1.0 per cent between 2022 and 2027.

Education in the Swellendam area faces challenges, as evidenced by the low grade 10 to 12 retention rate of 65.3 per cent, underscoring the need for collaborative efforts to mitigate school dropouts and create a more supportive and inclusive educational environment tailored to local circumstances. While the matric pass rate improved to 89.0 per cent in 2022, there are concerns regarding subject outcomes, particularly in mathematics and physical sciences, which can impact future opportunities and career choices.

In the economic context, the Swellendam area demonstrated growth in employment and Regional Gross Domestic Product (GDPR) in 2022, with key contributions from the finance, trade and services sectors. The informal employment played a significant role in employment outcomes.

In terms of well-being, the Swellendam municipal area's per capita GDP which reflects overall welfare, surpassed that of the District. However, it is essential to recognise that not all residents share equally in this prosperity, as 61.33 per cent of the population falls below the Upper Bound Poverty Line (UBPL). With regard to criminal activity, murder, common assault and sexual offences rates increased in 2022. The surge in drug-related offenses in 2022/23, persists as a concern. Although malicious damage to property declined slightly, the rate remained significantly above that of the District, which can impact public infrastructure and business environments. Commercial crime incidents also increased, posing challenges for businesses and investors.

Environmental factors, such as sea-level rise, drought, rising temperatures, vegetation fires, and floods, present various challenges and potential threats to the area, impacting ecosystems, livelihoods, and infrastructure. These issues require attention and planning for long-term resilience.

Overall, addressing these multifaceted challenges and opportunities requires coordinated efforts from various stakeholders to ensure the well-being and sustainability of the Swellendam area.

1. Demographics

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

2. Education

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

3. Health

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

4. Poverty

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

5. Basic services

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

6. Safety and security

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

7. GDPR Performance

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

8. Labour Market Performance

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