



Western Cape
Government
FOR YOU



#KnowYourMunicipality: The 2023 Socio-Economic Profile

West Coast District Municipality



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West Coast: At a Glance

Demographics

Population Estimates, 2022; Actual households, 2022



Population
497 394



Households
132 174

Education

2022



Matric Pass Rate **78.9%**
Learner Retention Rate **78.3%**
Learner-Teacher Ratio **30.4**

Poverty

2022



Gini Coefficient **0.59**
Poverty Head Count Ratio (UBPL) **64.24%**

Health

2022/23



Primary Health Care Facilities
36
(excl. mobile/satellite clinics)

Immunisation Rate
76.2%

Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100 000 live births)
0.1

Teenage Pregnancies – Delivery rate to women U/19
16.0%

Safety and Security

Actual number of reported cases in 2022/23



Residential Burglaries
2 553

DUI
791

Drug-related Crimes
4 341

Murder
146

Sexual Offences
505

Access to Basic Service Delivery

Percentage of households with access to basic services, 2022

Water

86.3%



Refuse Removal

84.0%



Electricity

95.6%



Sanitation

94.3%



Housing

87.6%



Labour

2022

Unemployment Rate (narrow definition)

15.4%



Socio-economic Risks

Risk 1 Increasing crime
Risk 2 Low retention rate
Risk 3 High poverty levels

Largest 3 Sectors

Contribution to GDP, 2021

Finance, insurance, real estate and business services

21.0%



Wholesale & retail trade, catering and accommodation

16.8%



Manufacturing

14.6%



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 West Coast District Municipality in relation to the broader Western Cape Province.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population 2022

497 394

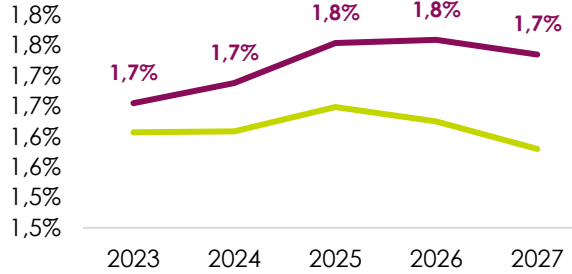
Estimated Population

514 622 2027



Estimated Average Annual Population Growth Rate 2023 - 2027
1.7%

Estimated Population Growth



Gender and Age Dynamics



Female
51,1%

Male
48,9%

345 2023

342 2024

Fertility Index

44 2023

43 2024

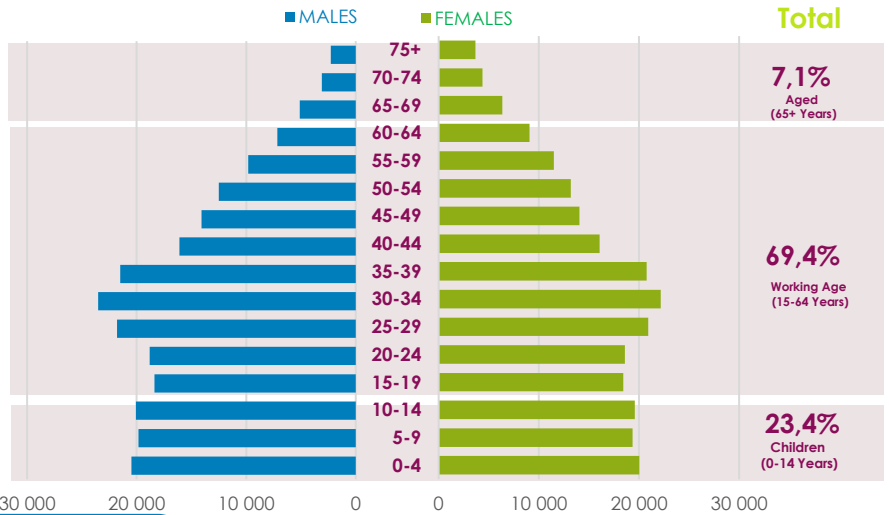
Dependency Ratio

21.2 2023

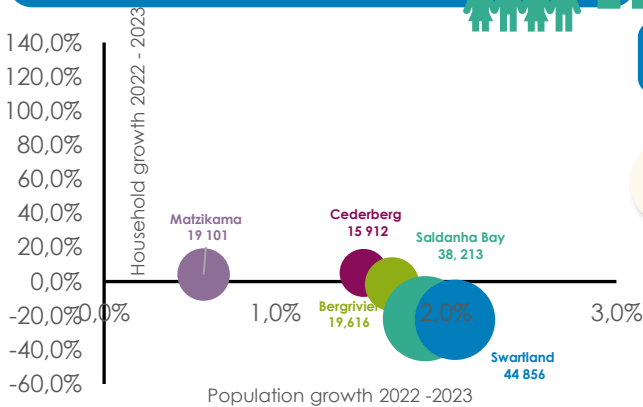
21.7 2024

Ageing Index

Population by Age 2022



Population and Household Growth 2022



Level of Urbanisation 2021

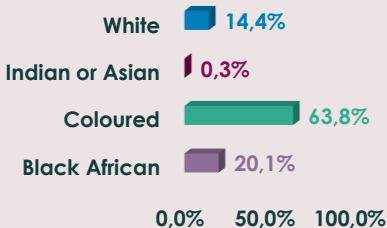
West Coast District is estimated to have the second highest urbanisation between 2001 - 2021 in the Province at 9.1%

Estimated that Bergrievier and Matzikama experienced the highest level of urbanisation between 2001-2021. Cederberg is the least urbanized municipality in the District while Saldanha and Swartland are the most urbanized.



3.3
Household Size

Racial Split

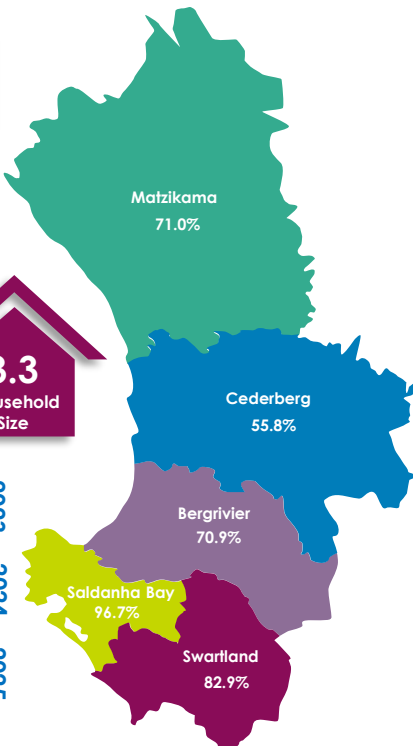


15.4
people/km²

15.7
people/km²

16.0
people/km²

2023
2024
2025



Population and Household Growth

In 2022, the West Coast District (WCD) is home to 497 394 individuals, positioning it as the third most populous district in the Province, excluding metropolitan area. Projections indicate that this population will expand to 514 622 by the year 2027, reflecting an average annual growth rate of 1.7 per cent.

From a socio-economic perspective, the population growth in the West Coast District holds several implications. Firstly, the increase in population suggests a potential rise in demand for goods and services, which could stimulate local economic activities. This may lead to increased job opportunities, particularly in sectors such as retail, healthcare, and education.

Gender, Age and Race Dynamics

A detailed examination of the demographic composition of the West Coast District reveals a slight majority of females (50.8 per cent) compared to males (49.2 per cent). The age distribution highlights a significant proportion of individuals in the working-age category (69.3 per cent), with smaller segments representing children (20.4 per cent) and the elderly (10.4 per cent). The proportion of the working-age population seems relatively consistent, as indicated by an unchanged dependency ratio from 2023 to 2024.

From a socio-economic standpoint, these demographic patterns carry several implications. The higher representation of females may have implications for workforce dynamics, potentially influencing labour market trends, wage structures, and family dynamics. Policies addressing gender equality and work-life balance may become increasingly important to accommodate and harness the potential of the diverse workforce.

Level of Urbanisation

The influence of population dynamics is underscored by patterns of urbanisation, a phenomenon that mirrors the economic and social evolution of a country or region as individuals relocate to urban areas in pursuit of improved opportunities. In the West Coast District, estimates indicate the second-highest urbanisation rate in the Province, reaching 9.1 per cent between 2001 and 2021.

The variations in urbanisation rates among municipalities within the West Coast District further highlight the heterogeneity of development within the region. Matzikama and Bergrivier stand out with the highest levels of urbanisation between 2001 and 2021, potentially indicating more rapid economic and social transformations in these areas. On the other hand, Cederberg emerges as the least urbanized municipality in the District, suggesting a different development trajectory.

Saldanha and Swartland being the most urbanised municipalities imply a concentration of economic activities and opportunities in these areas, possibly attracting a higher influx of residents seeking better prospects. This could lead to increased demand for housing, services, and infrastructure, necessitating strategic planning to ensure sustainable urban development.

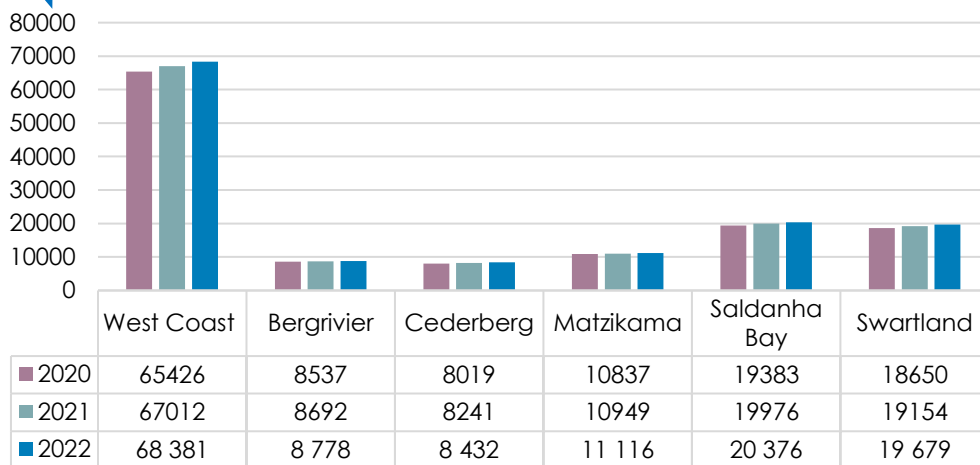
Population Density

Population density refers to the quantification of individuals within a specified area, indicating the concentration of people in that region. The determinants of population density encompass economic, social, connectivity/location, and accessibility factors. These metrics play a pivotal role in enhancing adaptability to swift urbanisation, aiding municipalities in strategic planning and budgeting for efficient service provision, and mitigating environmental risks. As of 2022, the West Coast District exhibited a population density of 15 individuals per square kilometer.

EDUCATION: West Coast



Learner enrolment



Educational facilities 2022

121

Number of schools

78.9%

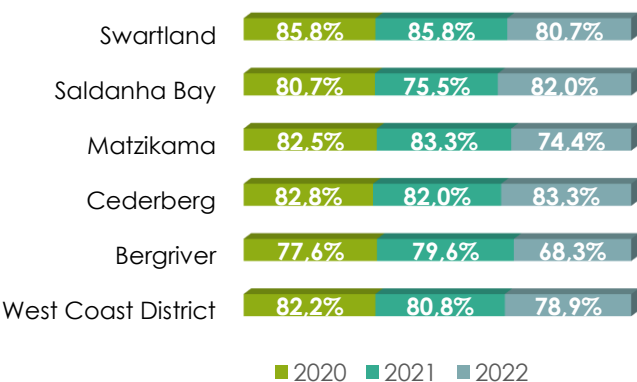
Proportion of no-fee schools

Number of schools with libraries

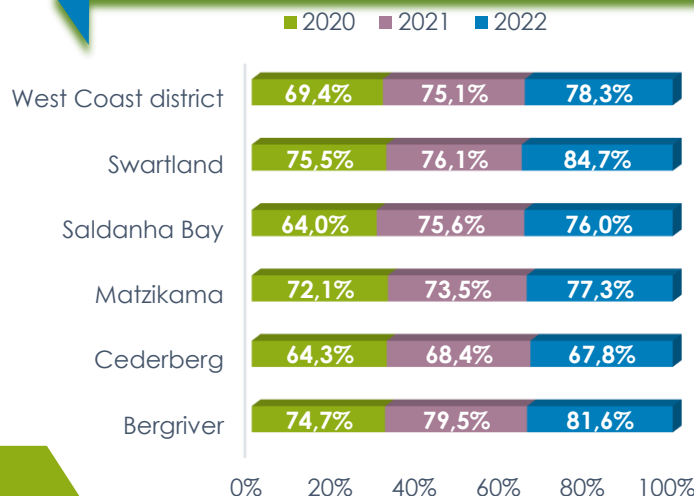
54



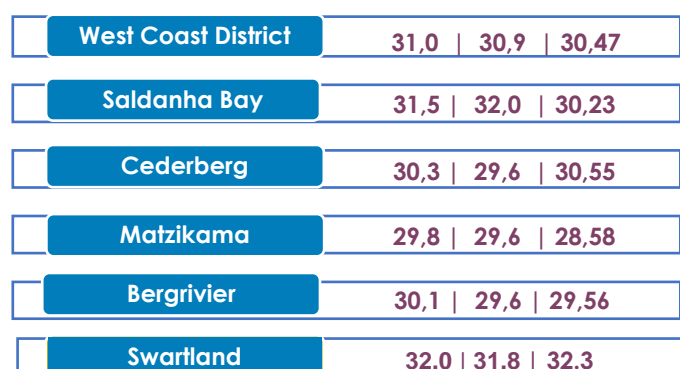
Education outcomes



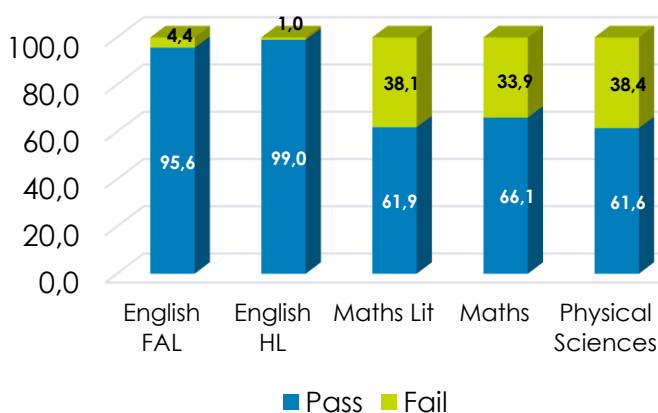
Learner retention 2020 - 2022



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 121 schools in the West Coast District municipal area, of which 78.9 per cent were no fee schools and only 54 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.

The learner-teacher ratio has shown a slight improvement, with a slight decrease from 30.9 in 2020 to 30.5 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 relatively higher ratios, such as Swartland within the West Coast region, may struggle to provide the same quality of education as those with lower ratios, potentially exacerbating educational inequalities.

Learner Enrolment & Retention Rates

Within the region, learner enrolment stood at 68 381 in 2022, slightly more than the 67 012 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 within the area. 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 West Coast stood at a modest 78.3 per cent, signaling significant challenges and concerns. Swartland emerged with the most favorable rate among the local municipalities, with a retention rate of 84.7 per cent, while Cederberg scored the lowest in the region with 67.8 per cent. 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

The West Coast District's matric outcomes decreased from 80.8 per cent in 2021 to 78.9 per cent in 2022. Subject outcomes show relatively good English pass rates, however, with mathematics (66.1 per cent mathematics literacy; 61.9 per cent mathematics) and physical sciences (61.6 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.

When examining matric pass rates, it is imperative to consider them together with retention rates, as low retention rates can potentially distort educational outcomes. Observing the results, there is typically a correlation where outcomes appear higher when retention rates are lower. Ensuring the retention of learners is a fundamental aspect of achieving holistic favourable education outcomes.



Healthcare Facilities



29 Fixed PHC Facilities
36 Mobile Clinics



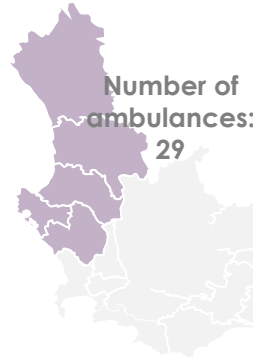
46 ART Clinics/
Treatment Sites
66 TB Clinics/
Treatment Sites



7 District Hospital



Emergency Medical Services



EMS per 10 000 people

WCD	EMS per 10 000 people
Matzikama	0.8
Cederberg	1.1
Bergrivier	0.7
Saldanha Bay	0.4
Swartland	0.4



Maternal Health

WEST COAST DISTRICT 2023: Maternal Health Indicators

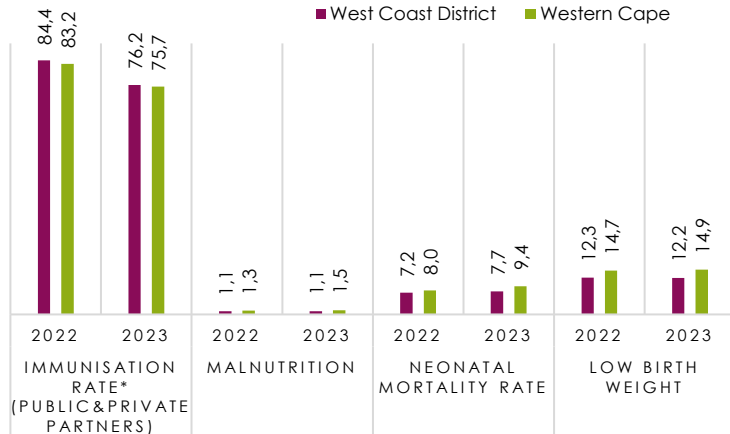
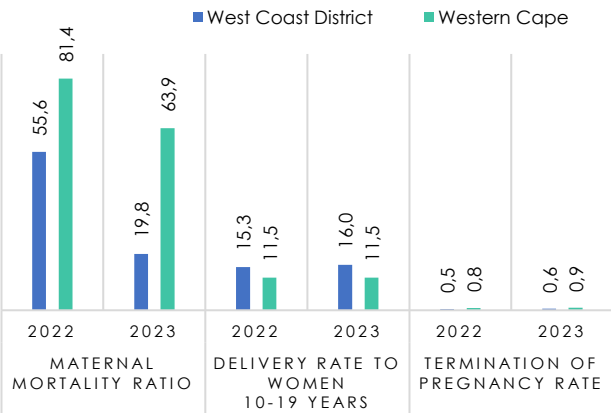
- Maternal deaths in facility : 1
- Deliveries in facility u19 years : 819
- Termination of pregnancy : 809



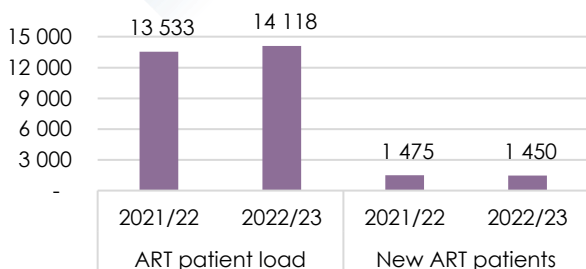
Child Health

WEST COAST DISTRICT 2023: Child Health Indicators

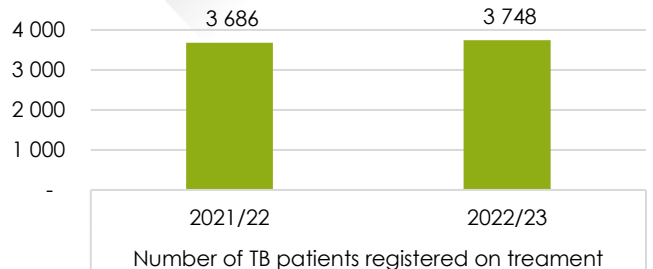
- Live births under 2500g (low birth weight) : 613
- Inpatient deaths 6-28 day : 39
- Immunisation u1 year : 5 928
- Severe acute malnutrition u5 years : 44



HIV/AIDS



Tuberculosis



■ West Coast District

■ West Coast District

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 West Coast area, there is a total of 29 fixed primary health care facilities and 36 mobile/satellite clinics. In addition, there are also 46 anti-retroviral therapy (ART) and 68 tuberculosis (TB) clinics/ treatment sites as well as 7 district hospitals.

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. West Coast has a total of 29 ambulances servicing the area, which translates into 0.6 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 West Coast region, it is noteworthy that there was 1 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 slight increase in the proportion of deliveries to women 10-19 years, from 15.3 per cent to 16.0 per cent. The latter figure translates into a total of 819 births to these young women. Similarly, the termination of pregnancy rate also increase slightly, bringing the total number of termination of pregnancies performance for 2022/23 to 0.6.

Child Health

In terms of child health In the West Coast area, the immunisation rate fell from 84.4 per cent in 2021/22 to 76.2 per cent in 2022/23. Severe child malnutrition remained low, with 44 such cases confirmed for 2022/23, with a rate of 1,1. This fell below the overall Provincial rate of 1.5 for the same period. Meanwhile, the neonatal mortality rate (NMR) per 1 000 live births in the West Coast area increased from 7.2 in 2021/22 to 7.7 in 2022/23. The low-birth-weight indicator for the West Coast area indicated a slight improvement, with the percentage of babies born in facilities under 2 500g decreasing from 12.3 per cent in 2021/22 to 12.2 per cent in 2022/23.

HIV/AIDS & Tuberculosis

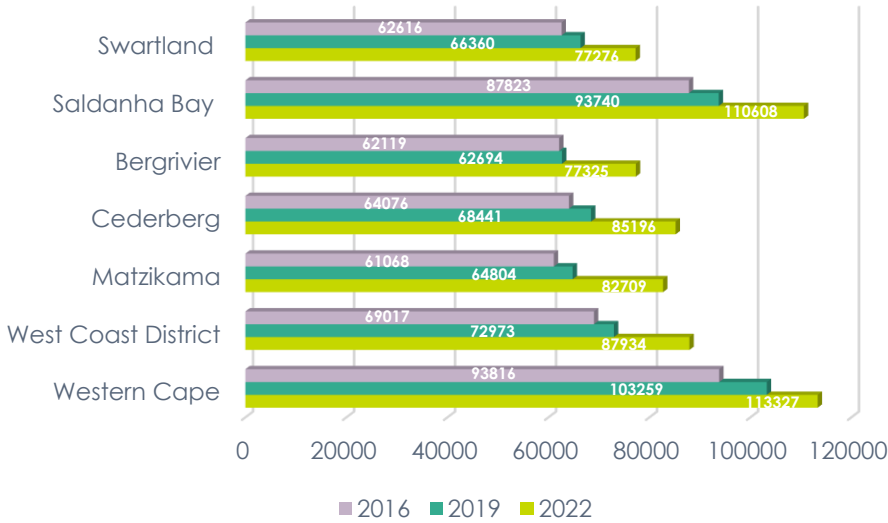
In the realm of socio-economic dynamics, a notable surge has been observed in the overall count of individuals undergoing antiretroviral treatment during the 2021/22 period. This trend has persisted, witnessing a further elevation in the total number of patients engaged in antiretroviral treatment, rising from 13 533 in 2021/22 to 14 118 in the subsequent year of 2022/23. However, there has been a drop in new patients embarking on antiretroviral treatment, from 1 475 individuals in the previous year to 1 450 in 2022/23.

The upturn in the number of TB patients registered on treatment, from 3 686 in 2021/22 to 3 748 in 2022/23, interlinks health issues and highlights the interconnected nature of various diseases within the broader healthcare landscape. This emphasises the need for a holistic approach to healthcare policy and resource allocation, recognizing the intersectionality of diseases and their socio-economic repercussions.

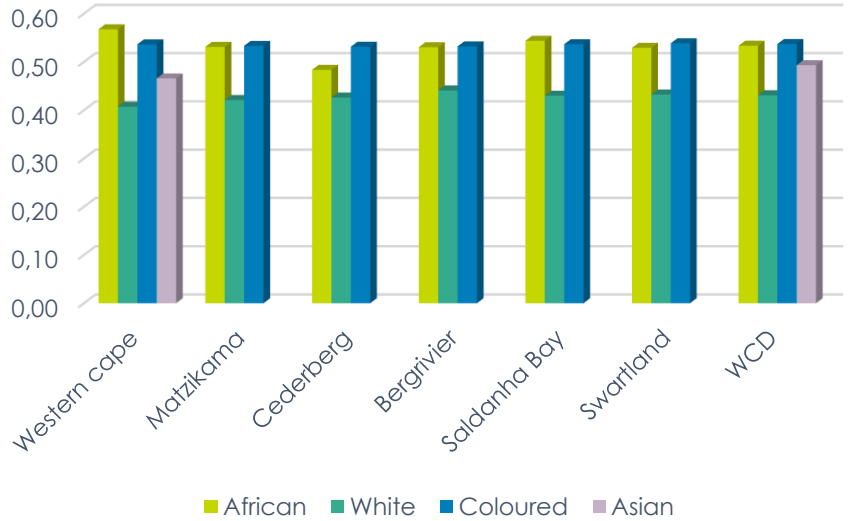
POVERTY



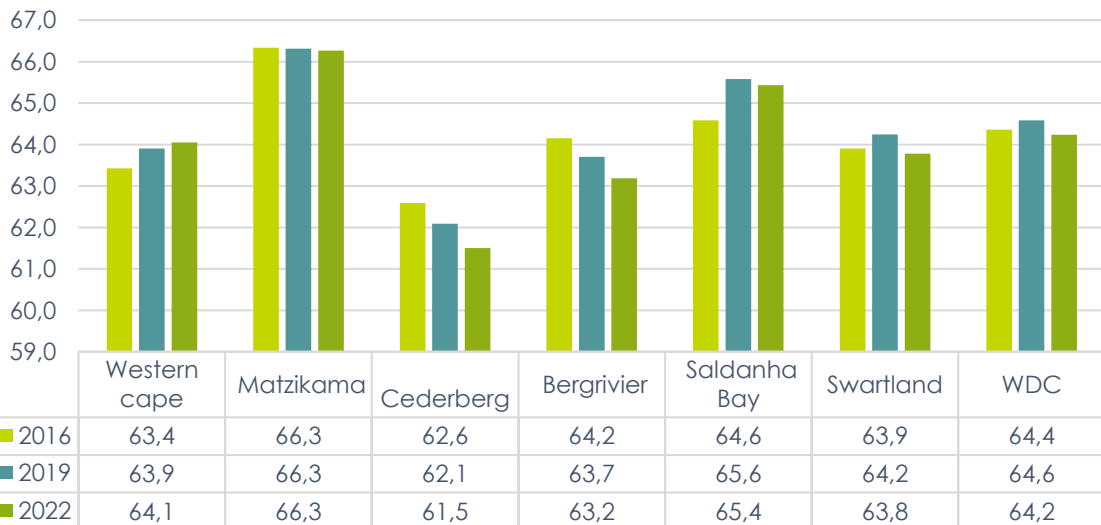
GDP per capita



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 District had a per capita GDPR of R87 934, in comparison with the Province's R113 327. Within the District, the local municipal areas varied greatly, from a high of R110 608 in the Saldanha Bay area to a low of R77 276 in the Swartland area. While real GDP per capita reflects changes in the overall well-being of the population, it is important to note that not everyone in an economy will earn the same income as indicated by the real GDP per capita measure.

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 in higher per capita GDP regions.

Income Inequality

South Africa grapples with some of the highest levels of inequality globally, as evidenced by the widely used Gini coefficient. 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 the District's Gini coefficient has steadily increased from 0.58 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. This reduction in the Gini suggests some advancement achieving the NDP's income inequality reduction goal within the West Coast area 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, 64.2 per cent of West Coast's population fell below this UBPL. This figure deteriorated slightly from the 64.4 per cent and 64.5 per cent recorded for the 2016 and 2019 periods respectively. Within the West Coast region, Matzikama (66.3 per cent in 2022) represents the highest proportion of people living in poverty. This was followed closely by Saldanha Bay (65.4 per cent), while Swartland (63.8 per cent) had the lowest proportion of its population living in poverty in the region.

BASIC SERVICE DELIVERY

150 840
West Coast District

2 264 032
Western Cape

Total number of households

Formal main dwelling

87,6%

132 174
West Coast District

1 991 644
Western Cape

88,0%



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

West Coast **86,3%**
Western Cape **85,5%**



Flush/chemical toilet

West Coast **94,5%**
Western Cape **93,9%**



Electricity (incl. generator) as primary source of lighting

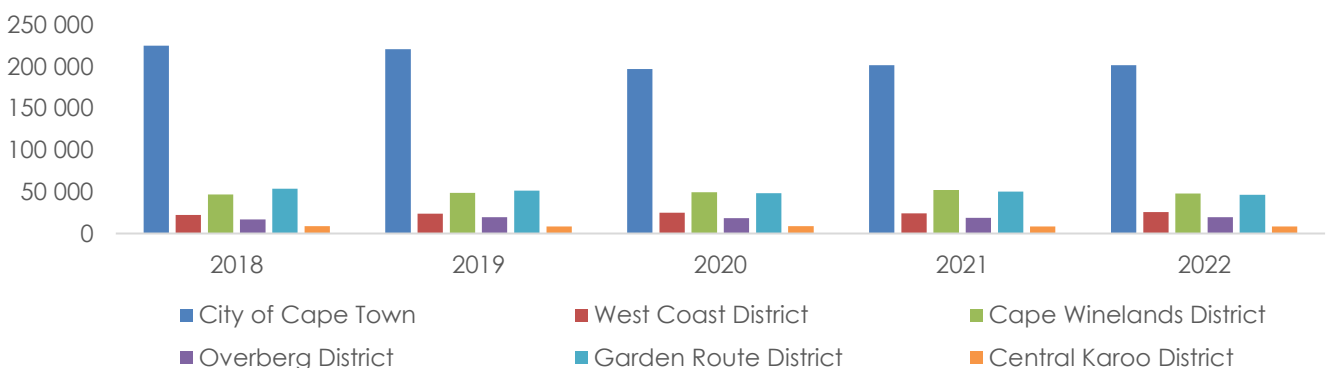
West Coast **95,6%**
Western Cape **96,5%**



Refuse removal at least once a week

West Coast **84,0%**
Western Cape **88,7%**

Indigent Households Western Cape



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 132 174 households residing in the West Coast District area, a noteworthy 87.6 per cent enjoyed access to formal housing, marginally below that of the Province, which stood at 88.0 per cent. Furthermore, the region demonstrated a slightly lower proportion of informal dwellings, accounting for only 10.4 per cent of the total, in contrast to the Province's 11.1 per cent. Informal housing poses a specific challenge in Cederberg, accounting for 18.0 per cent of the total households in this region.

The West Coast region demonstrated higher levels of service access to piped water within households or yards, reaching 86.5 per cent. The prevalence of access to flush or chemical toilets was notable, encompassing 94.5 per cent of households. However, access to electricity (95.6 per cent) and refuse removal (84.0 per cent) fell below the averages observed in the Western Cape Province.

From a socio-economic standpoint, these statistics suggest that the West Coast area generally enjoys better infrastructure related to water supply and sanitation compared to the rest of the Western Cape Province. The high percentage of households with access to piped water and modern toilet facilities indicates a relatively advanced level of development in terms of basic amenities.

On the other hand, the lower percentages for access to electricity and refuse removal in comparison to the provincial averages may point towards potential challenges or disparities in the socio-economic development of the West Coast region. Limited access to electricity can have implications for various aspects of daily life, including education, communication, and overall quality of living. Similarly, lower rates of refuse removal may indicate issues related to waste management and environmental conditions.

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. While there appeared to be fluctuations in indigent household totals over the 2018 to 2022 period, most of the local municipalities registered a higher total by 2022.

The prevailing adverse economic conditions exerted additional pressure on household incomes, thereby likely amplifying the demand for free basic services.

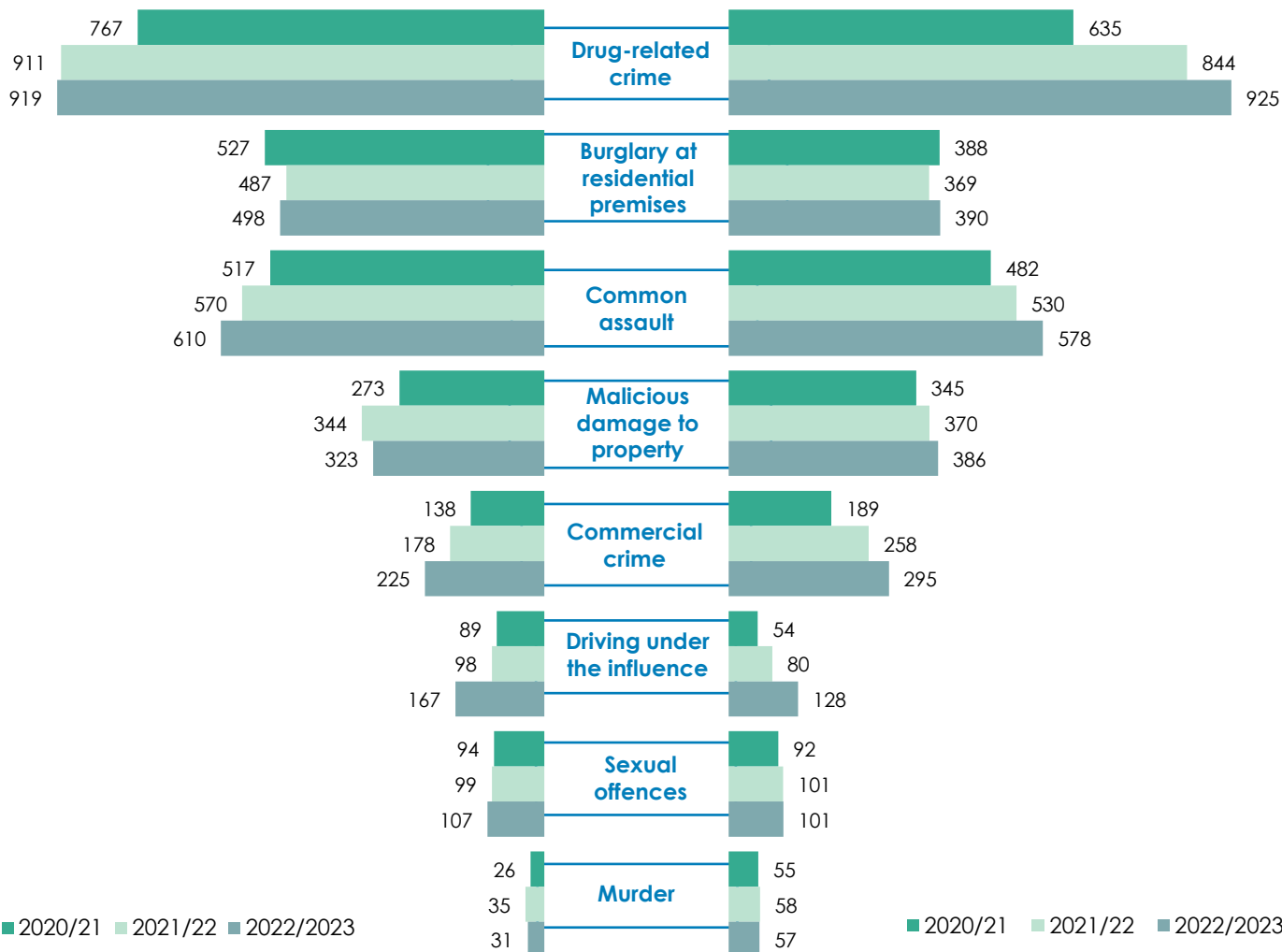
SAFETY AND SECURITY

WEST COAST

4 979 Total reported crime per 100 000 people in the Cape Winelands District in 2022/23

WESTERN CAPE

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



Drug-related crime

4 241 (2021/22)
4 341 (2022/23)

Murder

165 (2021/22)
146 (2022/23)

Sexual offences

458 (2021/22)
505 (2022/23)

Driving under the influence

458 (2021/22)
791 (2022/23)

Residential burglaries

2 264 (2021/22)
2 353 (2022/23)

Common assault

2 653 (2021/22)
2 883 (2022/23)

Damage to property

1 602 (2021/22)
1 526 (2022/23)

Commercial crime

827 (2021/22)
1 064 (2022/23)

Actual numbers of reported crime

Murder

The murder rate in the District experienced a decrease from 35 per 100 000 people in 2021/22 to 31 in 2022/23. Conversely, the Provincial murder rate during the same timeframe was markedly higher, reaching 57 per 100 000 people in 2022/23.

The decline in the District's murder rate indicates that factors such as population dynamics or specific local conditions may be influencing the overall rate, adding a layer of complexity to the interpretation. On the other hand, the significantly elevated Provincial murder rate raises concerns about broader issues that may be impacting the entire Province, hinting at systemic challenges that extend beyond the District level.

Sexual Offences

In the fiscal year 2022/23, the West Coast region recorded 505 incidents of sexual offences. When examining this data in relation to the broader Province, the West Coast area exhibited a slightly higher rate of sexual offences per 100 000 population compared to the Western Cape as a whole, with figures of 107 for the West Coast compared to the Province's 101.

The higher incidence of sexual offences in the District may indicate specific challenges related to public safety and the prevalence of such crimes in the local community. Factors such as social inequality, access to education and economic opportunities can contribute to the occurrence of sexual offences, and understanding these dynamics is crucial for effective intervention and prevention measures.

Drug-related Offences

In the West Coast region, there was a substantial rise in drug-related crime rate, escalating from 911 cases in 2021/22 to 919 cases per 100 000 persons in 2022/23. The Province similarly experienced a significant increase in drug-related offences, with the rate climbing from 844 in 2021/22 to 925 in 2022/23. Despite these increases, the West Coast area's rate of drug-related crimes, at 919 per 100 000 people, was slightly below the Province's rate of 925.

The notable increase in drug-related crimes in both the West Coast and the broader Province suggests a concerning trend in terms of substance abuse, trafficking, or related criminal activities. This could be indicative of underlying social issues, such as unemployment, poverty, and lack of access to education and rehabilitation services, which may contribute to the prevalence of drug-related crimes.

Driving Under the Influence (DUI)

The instances of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs in the West Coast rose between 2021/22 and 2022/23, with the number increasing from 98 to 167. This results in a rate of 167 per 100 000 people in 2022/23, surpassing the Province's rate of 128 per 100 000 population.

The increase in cases of driving under the influence indicates potential challenges related to public safety, substance abuse, and law enforcement within the West Coast municipal area. Socioeconomic factors, such as access to public transportation, economic stability, and educational campaigns about the risks associated with impaired driving, may play a role in influencing these trends.

Residential Burglaries

The West Coast region experienced a rise in residential burglaries, with the number increasing from 2 264 in the 2021/22 to 2 353 in 2022/23. Despite this increase, the District's burglary rate per 100 000 population was 498, which remained higher than the Province's rate of 390 per 100 000 population for 2022/23.

Damage to Property

There was a slight decrease in reported cases of damages to property, decreasing from 1 602 incidents in 2021/22 to 1 526 in 2022/23. The District's rate of 323 was below the Province's 386 per 100 000 people in 2022/23. This high incidence within the Province could be indicative of potential challenges in maintaining public infrastructure and private properties, which are crucial for a conducive business environment.

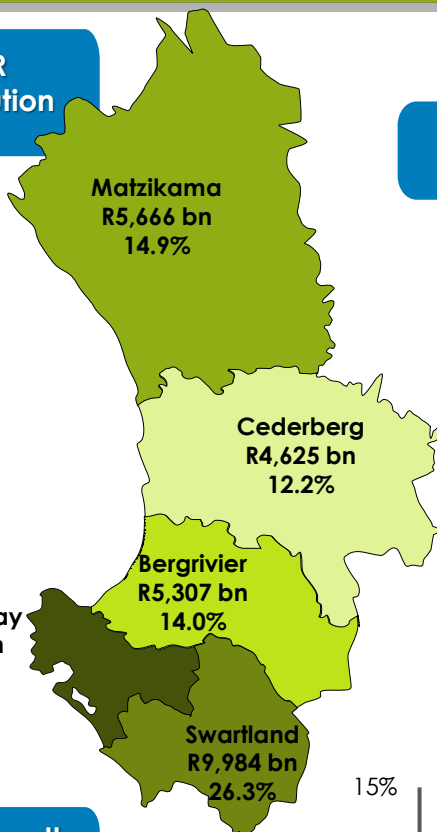
Commercial Crime

The continued presence and increase in reported cases of commercial crime, from 827 incidents in 2021/22 to 1 064 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

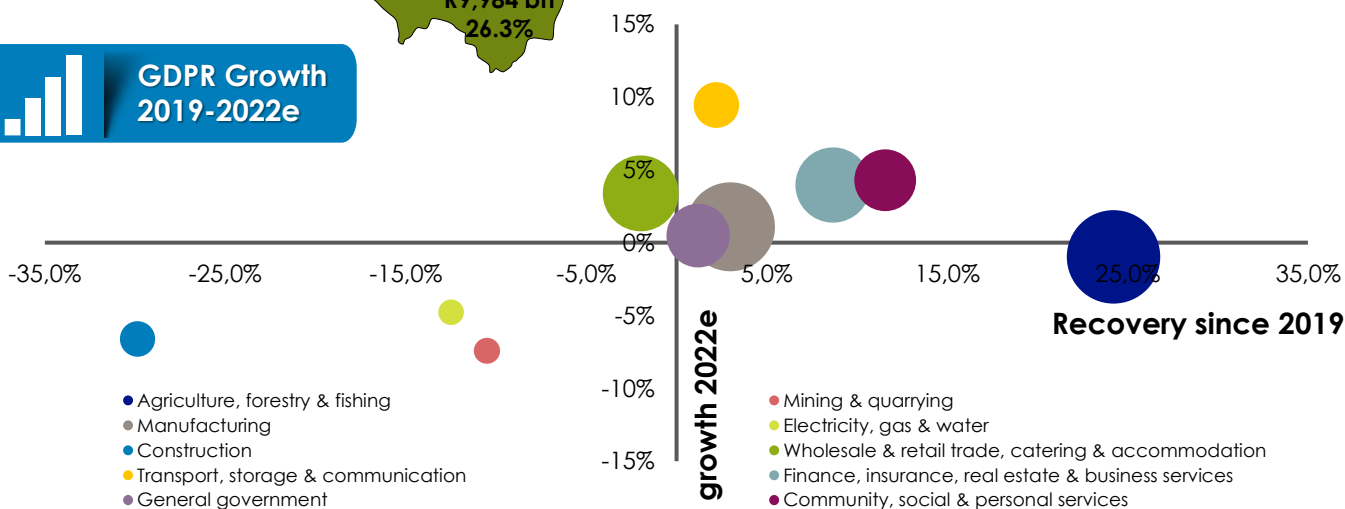


West Coast
R37,952 bn
5.0% of
Western Cape
GDPR

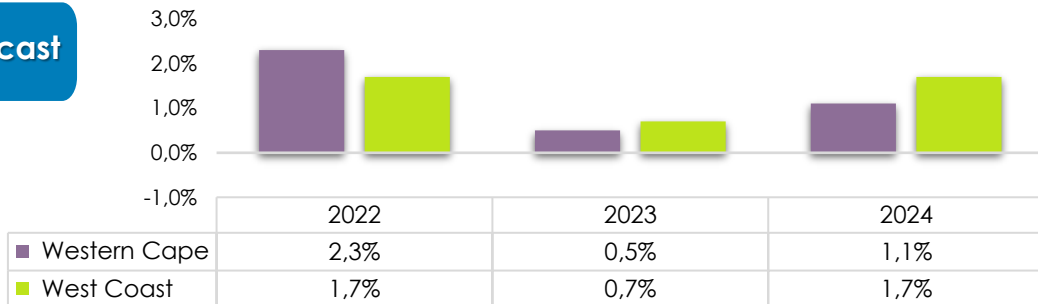
Sectoral contribution to GDPR 2021



GDPR Growth 2019-2022e



GDPR forecast



International Trade, 2022

Imports: R5.6 billion
Exports: R9.7 billion

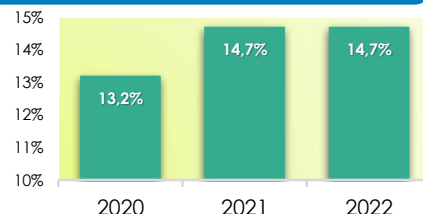
Top exported products



Top imported products



Tourism spend % of GDP



GDPR Performance

In 2021, the District's economy, valued at R38.0 billion, constituted 5.0 per cent of the Provincial Gross Domestic Product (GDPR). The primary economic driver was the agriculture, forestry, and fishing sector, contributing R8.2 billion (21.5 per cent) to the District's GDPR in the same year. This sector encompasses the cultivation of citrus fruits (Cederberg) and grapes (Bergrivier), mixed farming activities (Swartland and Cederberg), and fishing operations (Saldanha Bay). These activities serve as the principal sources of employment in the West Coast District (WCD), employing 20 516 individuals in perennial crop production, 7 171 in mixed farming, and 5 700 in fishing as of 2022. Public administration also plays a notable role in employment, with 7 825 formal full-time workers engaged in this sector. The District's agricultural success has fostered the growth of a substantial agroprocessing industry, contributing R7.4 billion (19.5 per cent) to the District's economic output in 2021. Each municipal area specialises in specific agroprocessing activities aligned with local primary agriculture; for instance, Swartland focuses on meat and dairy products, Saldanha Bay and Bergrivier lead in fish processing, Cederberg specialises in rooibos tea production, and Matzikama is central to the Olifants River winemaking region.

From a socio-economic perspective, the West Coast District's reliance on agriculture, forestry, and fishing underscores the sector's pivotal role in driving both economic output and employment. The concentration of specialised activities across municipal areas reflects a nuanced economic landscape shaped by the local composition of primary agriculture. The high employment figures in perennial crop production, mixed farming, and fishing highlight the significance of these sectors in sustaining livelihoods within the District. Furthermore, the success in agriculture has given rise to a robust agroprocessing sector, diversifying the economy and contributing significantly to its overall output. However, the District's economic dependence on these sectors also implies vulnerability to external factors such as climate change, market fluctuations, and policy changes affecting agriculture and related industries. Balancing economic diversification with the need to maintain the strengths of the agricultural sector will be crucial for the West Coast District to navigate potential challenges and foster sustainable socio-economic development.

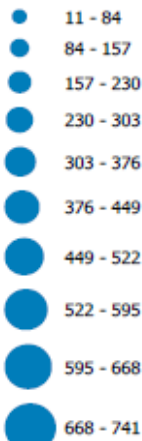
GDPR Forecast

Anticipated to slow to 0.7 per cent in 2023, Gross Domestic Product (GDPR) growth in the West Coast District (WCD) is primarily hindered by the foreseen contractions in both the agriculture and transport sectors. The adverse impact of the 2023 flooding events is expected to be particularly felt in farming communities due to incurred damages to crops and essential infrastructure. Municipal areas with a strong agricultural focus, such as Bergrivier, Cederberg, and Matzikama, face additional challenges as they heavily rely on freight transport for their connections to local and international markets. The escalating fuel costs negatively affect producers in these regions. However, a positive upturn of 1.7 per cent is anticipated for 2024, with optimism centered on a more favorable performance in the agriculture sector. Furthermore, the construction sector is poised to experience a substantial upswing in this period, driven by planned public sector investments in infrastructure. This positive economic outlook for 2023 and 2024 holds significant implications for the WCD, potentially serving as a crucial factor in recovering from the economic downturn experienced between 2015 and 2019, preceding the COVID-19 pandemic.

Socio-economically, the forecasted slowing of GDPR growth in 2023 reflects the interconnected challenges facing the WCD, notably in key sectors like agriculture and transport. The specific vulnerabilities of agriculturally oriented municipal areas underscore the intricate relationship between economic activities, market access, and environmental factors. The rising fuel costs and damages from the flooding events further highlight the delicate balance in sustaining economic viability for local producers. The projected rebound in 2024, especially in the agriculture sector and the expected boost in the construction industry, signify potential avenues for recovery and growth. This positive outlook presents an opportunity for the WCD to not only overcome the challenges of recent years but also to surpass the pre-pandemic economic performance, emphasizing the importance of strategic planning and resilience-building measures for sustained socio-economic development.

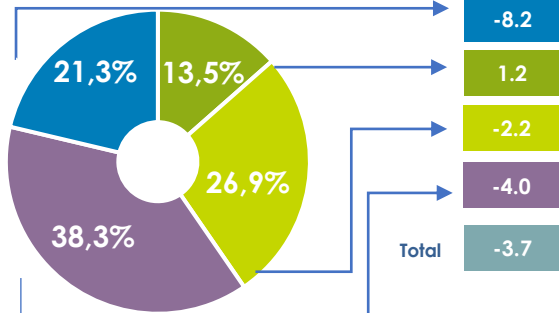
LABOUR MARKET PERFORMANCE

Number of business by Town, 2022



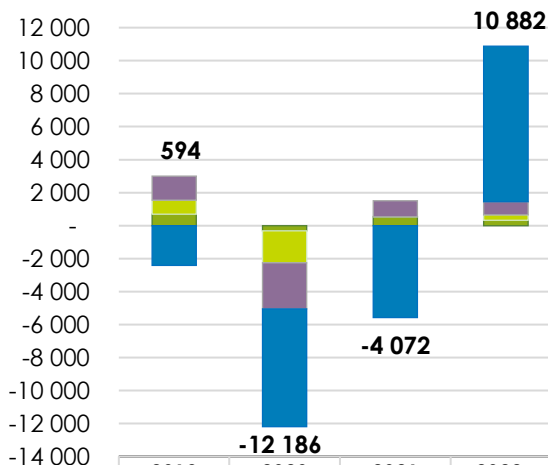
Skill Level % Contribution, 2022

Recovery in Employment (%)
2019-2022



Total Persons Employed 2022	Skilled	Semi-skilled	Low-skilled	Informal
	23 538	47 018	67 032	37 313

Net employment per sector, 2019-2022



	2019	2020	2021	2022e
Total	594	-12 186	-4 072	10 882
Informal	-2 411	-7 131	-5 572	9 424
Low skilled	1 453	-2 790	959	811
Semi-skilled	866	-1 949	6	330
Skilled	686	-316	535	317



Wage Distribution per municipal area, 2022



West Coast
Cederberg
Saldanha Bay
Matzikama
Bergrivier
Swartland

Top 5 Sectors



Sector

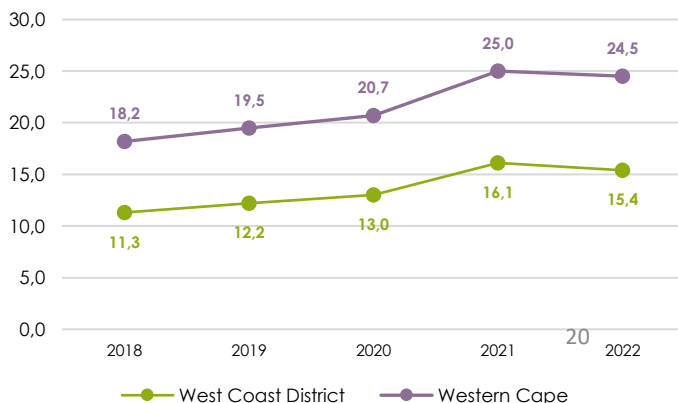
Growing of perennial crops
Administration of the state and the economic and social policy of the community
Mixed farming
Fishing
Retail sale in non-specialized stores

No. of FTE Jobs

20 516
7 825
7 171
5 700
4 943



Unemployment rate 2018-2022



Labour Market Performance

The District's economy contracted by 1.1 per cent during 2021, while GDP growth exceeded 5.4 per cent in 2021. Although GDP bounced back with ease post-COVID-19, the constrained national economy and reduced business confidence resulted in substantial job losses in 2020 and 2021. GDP growth is estimated to have slowed to 1.7 per cent in 2022, primarily because of load-shedding, high interest rates, rising input costs for farming and the normalisation of international commodity prices, all of which affected the local agriculture sector. Despite these challenges, informal and formal employment increased by 10 882 in 2022.

In 2022, there was a notable reintegration of workers into the job market, countering the significant exodus experienced in 2020 and leading to a 2.3 percentage point upswing in the labor force participation rate. Fortunately, this influx of workers was met with additional employment opportunities, contributing to a rise in the labor absorption rate to 53.4 per cent. Comparatively, while the labor force participation rate of the West Coast District (WCD) at 63.1 per cent is slightly lower than that of the broader Western Cape at 64.9 per cent, the WCD exhibits a higher labor absorption rate of 53.4 per cent, surpassing the Province's rate by 4.4 percentage points. This suggests that individuals are more likely to secure employment in the WCD compared to other regions within the province. A parallel trend is observed in the unemployment rate, with the WCD reporting a lower rate of 15.4 per cent in 2022 compared to the Province's higher rate of 24.5 per cent. Although the WCD experienced a marginal reduction of 0.7 percentage points in its unemployment rate in 2022, it remained notably elevated compared to the pre-COVID-19 level of 12.2 per cent in 2019. Achieving substantial economic growth becomes imperative to effectively lower the unemployment rate to pre-pandemic levels.

In terms of employment growth in 2022, Swartland emerged as the leader, contributing 1.7 percentage points to the overall 6.6 per cent growth in the District. Saldanha Bay closely followed, contributing 1.6 percentage points to employment growth. The increase in formal employment was particularly notable in the agriculture sector, with leading subsectors such as perennial crop production, non-perennial crop production, and mixed farming generating a substantial number of jobs. Additionally, the informal sector experienced significant job growth, with a focus on agriculture and trade, concentrated largely in the Swartland municipal area. The demographic dynamics of Swartland, marked by the fastest population growth in the West Coast District at 2.1 per cent annually on average, create a heightened demand for consumer goods, thereby stimulating retail activities in the region. This socio-economic analysis underscores the diverse economic contributions of different municipal areas within the District and emphasises the need for targeted strategies to address sector-specific challenges and leverage opportunities for sustained and inclusive growth.

Skills Distribution

It is estimated that West Coast's total employed will in 2022 amount to 174 901 workers, of which 137 588 (78.6 per cent) are employed in the formal sector and 37 313 (21.3 per cent) are informally employed. Employment in the formal sector had an annual average of 2.3 per cent from 2019 to 2022 while the informal sector suffered an annual average decline of 8.2 per cent over this period. However, the informal economy was responsible for the majority of the job gains in 2022.

Most of the formally employed consisted of low-skilled (38.3 per cent) and semi-skilled (26.9 per cent) workers. Although the skilled category only contributed 13.5 per cent to total formal employment (2022), it outpaced the other two categories in terms of average annual growth – between 2019 and 2022, the skilled cohort grew on average by 1.2 per cent while the semi-skilled and low-skilled categories contracted by 4.0 per cent and 2.2 per cent respectively.

Wage Distribution

In the Western Cape District (WCD), a significant proportion of formal employment is concentrated in agricultural work, constituting 41.6 per cent of the workforce. The income distribution within this sector reveals that the majority of workers earned monthly incomes ranging from R3 200 to R6 400. This economic landscape contributes to varied income capabilities and economic activities across different municipal areas and towns. Consequently, the financial resources available to households are influenced by these disparities, affecting their spending patterns and ability to access goods and services.

In terms of tax contributions, the WCD accounted for only 4.8 per cent of the total taxpayers in the Western Cape in 2021. This low percentage suggests that a substantial portion of the employed population in the district is not formally registered as taxpayers. Specifically, only 28.7 per cent of those employed in the WCD are registered taxpayers, underscoring the generally modest income levels within the formal employment sector in the district. Despite this, there was a marginal increase in the number of taxpayers in 2021 compared to the preceding year.

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
Matzikama	17	2.17	23	4.26	25	7.19	1	1.91
Cederberg	18	2.29	10	2.82	16	5.75	12	4.75
Bergrivier	3	1.23	5	1.30	2	4.33	10	4.48
Saldanha Bay	1	1.00	18	3.67	10	5.22	17	5.23
Swartland	7	1.45	8	2.32	8	5.15	5	4.10

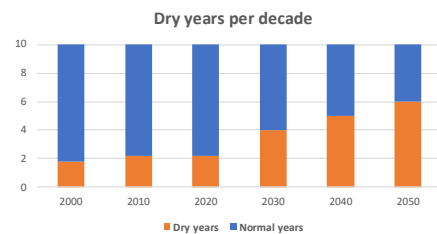
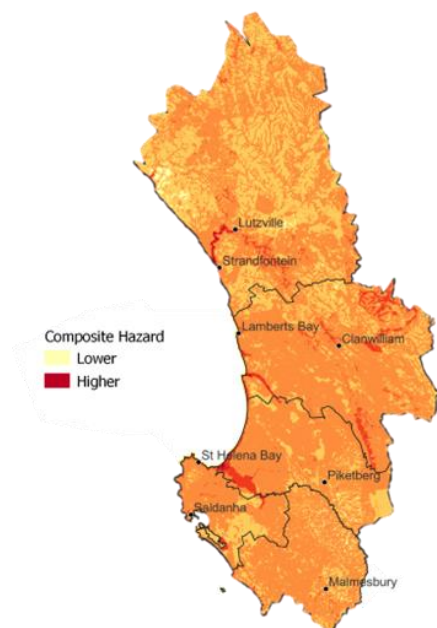


HAZARDS *

Overall Population Growth Pressure:

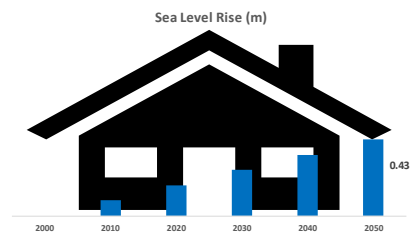
Very high growth pressure in the south, declining northward *

Four of the Top 10 Risks in the Cape Winelands are environmental in nature (Provincial Disaster Risk Register)	West Coast's identified Hydro-meteorological Hazards to settlements as observed by the CSIR (The Greenbook *)
1. Human Health Conditions And Reportable Human Diseases	
2. Structural Fires (Formal/Informal)	Low short term coastal erosion exposure risk with moderate exposure of settlements to coastal flooding
3. Civil Unrest	High likelihood of wildfires, with moderate to high potential increase in exposure of all settlements to wildfires
4. Severe Weather	
5. Wildfires	
6. Service Disruption: Electricity	Moderate to high potential increase in exposure of all settlements to wildfires
7. Floods	
8. Transport Incidents/ Road Accidents	Significant drought tendencies present, with High potential increase in exposure of all settlements to drought
9. Service Disruption: Water Supply	
10. Hazmat Incidents (Road / Rail)	Moderate to significant decrease in extreme rainfall days coupled with very low to low potential increase in exposure of settlements to flooding



Temperature change (2050 compared to historic)†	
Mean temperature increase	1.3 °C higher
Additional days per year with daily maximum temperature above 30 °C	21-25 days

West Coast no. of dry years per decade‡						
	2000	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050
Dry years	1.8	2.2	2.2	4	5	6
Wet years	8.2	7.8	7.8	6	5	4



* 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., Quagrain, 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 West Coast have seen beaches retreat landward at a rate of 1m per year. This directly affects infrastructure and detracts from the amenity value of the coastline.

Drought

According to the CSIR Green Book, West Coast has a high potential exposure to an increase in drought. Currently 2.2 years per decade are at risk of drought, and this will increase to 6 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 West Coast can expect an additional 21-25 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.

The Western City District (WCD) boasts a significant population of young and working-age residents, with this demographic steadily growing. This demographic composition presents a valuable opportunity for a demographic advantage, allowing the government to channel investments towards healthcare and education. Such strategic actions aim to foster future development and economic growth by bolstering the workforce and creating higher-quality job opportunities. Despite an increase in the number of taxpayers due to higher employment rates, the WCD has witnessed a decline in average monthly taxable income. This decline poses implications for living standards, potentially restricting access to essentials such as education and healthcare. Nevertheless, there has been a reduction in income inequality, alleviating the potential instability stemming from pronounced disparities. Ultimately, a more equitable distribution of resources has the potential to lift numerous individuals and families above the poverty threshold.

The ongoing population growth in the WCD has spurred increased demand for housing, necessitating stronger support for basic services throughout the District. However, escalating crime rates in the District pose challenges, potentially discouraging businesses from investing in the area. This could lead to reduced economic growth and fewer job opportunities in certain regions. Such developments, where they occur, place additional burdens on local government budgets due to increased security costs and may negatively impact tourism. Although total crimes in the WCD increased in 2022, the rate remained lower than that of the Province. It is crucial to contextualise the decrease in crime rates in 2021, which occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic with various restrictions and adjustments. As lockdown levels were gradually eased, crime rates began to rise steadily. The ability to detect all categories of crime has been adversely impacted by the pandemic, primarily due to limitations on the movement of goods and people, the alcohol ban, and curfews enforced during the lockdown. Thus, acknowledging the continued concern regarding crime levels in the WCD is imperative.

The educational landscape within the District displays promising trends characterised by an increase in learner enrolments and a declining learner-teacher ratio. These trends suggest improved accessibility to education, potentially leading to enhanced learning outcomes. Despite a positive rise in retention rates, the declining matriculation pass rates indicate a challenge. Many young individuals in the WCD are not obtaining a National Senior Certificate, constraining their prospects for tertiary education and higher-paying employment. This situation may result in a diminished tax base, potentially hindering economic growth.

In terms of health, while neonatal mortality rates have increased, stable rates of severe acute malnutrition and low birth weight for infants in most municipalities suggest improved overall health and wellbeing for residents. However, concerns arise from trends in Matzikama. Sustaining health improvements necessitates a coordinated effort addressing not only healthcare services but also the social, economic, and cultural factors contributing to health challenges. Positive developments, such as a decrease in teenage pregnancies and maternal deaths, alleviate the burden on healthcare systems, potentially leading to cost savings and more efficient allocation of healthcare resources.

To enhance community wellbeing and safety in the WCD, strategic investments in education and skills development for the growing youth population, addressing the demand for affordable housing, reducing crime rates, improving educational quality, and promoting holistic health and wellbeing are crucial. Prioritising teenage pregnancy prevention and maternal health contributes positively to healthcare efficiency. Community engagement, local economic development, and equitable resource distribution play essential roles in fostering a sense of wellbeing and security among residents.

1. Demographics

- Population: *Census 2022*
- Sex ratio: *Census 2022*
- Age cohorts: *Census 2022*
- Racial split: *Census 2022*
- Number of households: *Census 2022*
- Household size: *Census 2022*
- 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: *Census, 2022*
- Access to housing: *Census, 2022*
- Access to water: *Census, 2022*
- Access to electricity: *Census, 2022*
- Access to sanitation: *Census, 2022*
- Access to refuse removal: *Census, 2022*
- Free Basic Services: *Department of Local Government, 2022*

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*