



Western Cape
Government

A large green shield-shaped logo with a white border. Inside the shield, the letters "SEP" are written in large, bold, white capital letters. Below "SEP", the words "SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE" are written in smaller, white, capital letters. The background of the page is a light grey grid with various icons in circular frames, including a building, a Wi-Fi symbol, a person working, a family, a graduation cap, a stack of coins with an upward arrow, a pencil and ruler, and an ambulance.

SEP

SOCIO-ECONOMIC
PROFILE

George Municipality

2021



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George: At a Glance

Demographics

Population Estimates, 2021; Actual households, 2020



Population

221 637



Households

57 447

Education

2020



Matric Pass Rate	77.9%
Learner retention rate	72.0%
Learner-Teacher Ratio	30.0

Poverty

2020



Gini Coefficient	0.62
Human Development Index	0.76

Health

2020/21



Primary Health Care Facilities

14

Immunisation Rate

66.0%

Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100 000 live births)

230.6

Teenage Pregnancies - Delivery rate to women U/18

13.2%

Safety and Security

Actual number of reported cases in 2020/21



Residential Burglaries

1 097

DUI

204

Drug-related Crimes

866

Murder

68

Sexual Offences

347

Access to Basic Service Delivery

Percentage of households with access to basic services, 2020



Water

95.8%

Refuse Removal

88.2%



Electricity

90.3%



Sanitation

87.9%



Housing

82.5%



Road Safety

2020/21

Fatal Crashes 43

Road User Fatalities 46

Labour

2020

Unemployment Rate (narrow definition)

14.2%



Socio-economic Risks

- Risk 1 Job losses
- Risk 2 Safety and Security
- Risk 3 In-migration

Largest 3 Sectors

Contribution to GDP, 2019

Finance, insurance, real estate and business services

27.0%

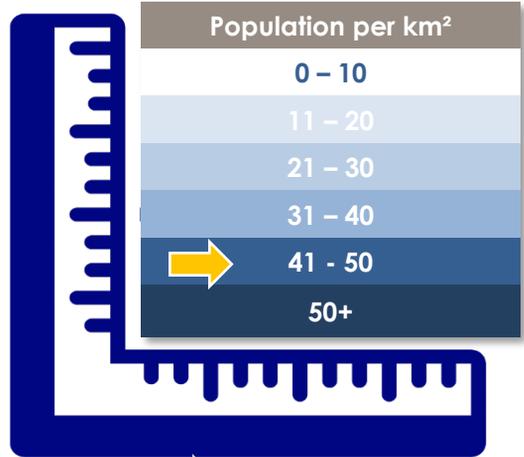
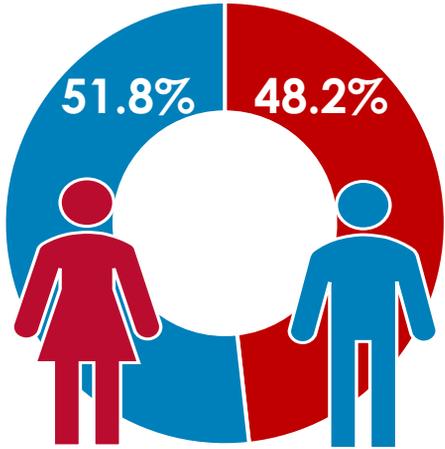
Wholesale & retail trade, catering and accommodation

18.6%

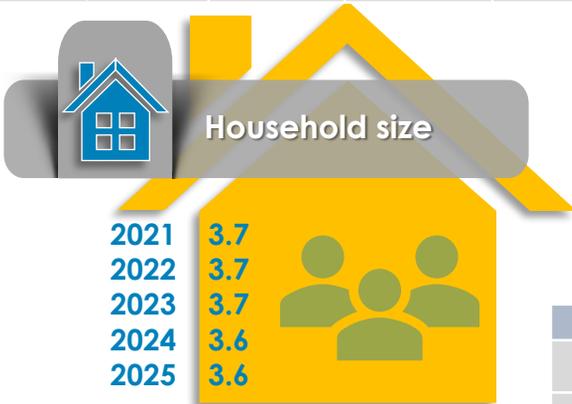
Manufacturing

15.1%

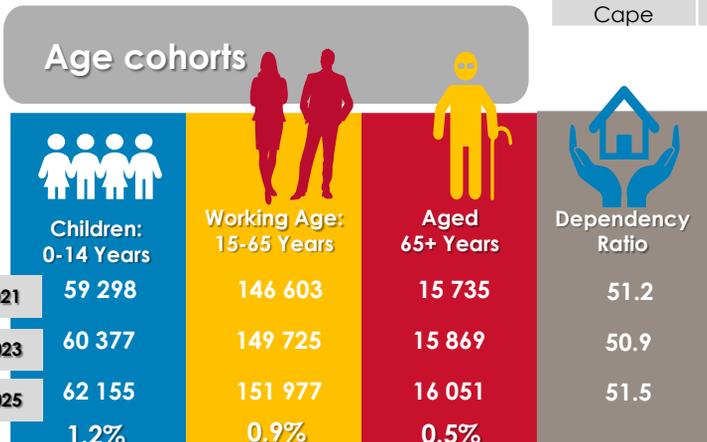
DEMOGRAPHICS



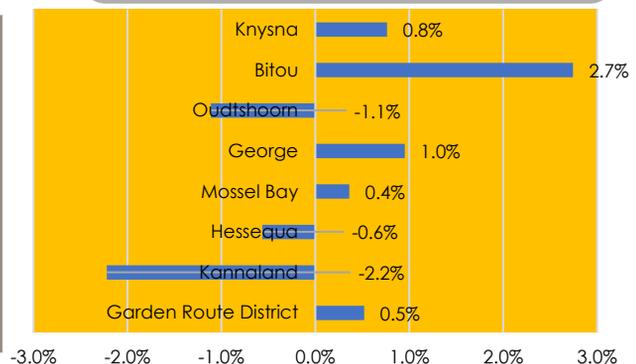
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Garden Route	91.6	92.2	92.4	92.5	92.7
Kannaland	87.2	87.4	87.3	87.2	87.1
Hessequa	88.4	88.8	88.8	88.8	88.8
Mossel Bay	90.4	90.8	90.7	90.7	90.6
George	93.2	93.8	94.1	94.3	94.5
Oudtshoorn	88.2	88.7	88.8	89.0	89.1
Bitou	95.4	96.1	96.4	96.6	96.9
Knysna	93.1	93.7	93.8	94.0	94.1



	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
George	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9
Garden Route	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Western Cape	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4



Population growth 2021 - 2025



Demographics

Population

The population of George is 221 637 people in 2021, making it the most populated municipal area in the Garden Route District (GRD). This total is expected to grow to 230 183 by 2025, equating to an average annual growth rate of 1.0 per cent.

Sex Ratio

The overall sex ratio depicts the number of males per 100 females in the population. The data indicates that there are slightly more females than males in the George municipal area with a ratio of 51.8 per cent (females) to 48.2 per cent (males). The number of males per 100 females for George increases slightly year on year towards 2025 which could be attributed to in-migration of working males to the George municipal area.

Age Cohorts

Between 2021 and 2025, the largest population growth was recorded in the 0-14 years of age cohort which grew at an annual average rate of 1.2 per cent, compared to a growth of 0.9 per cent in the working age population and 0.5% per cent in the aged population. These predicted growth rates increases the dependency ratio from 51.2 in 2021 to 51.5 in 2025. Higher dependency places strain on the income of the working age population.

Household sizes

Household size refers to the number of people per household. The size of households is on a downward trend from 3.7 people per household in 2021 to 3.6 in 2025. Contributing factors to a reduction in household size could include, but are not limited to, lower fertility rates, ageing population, construction of smaller households, etc. Smaller household sizes often lead to a greater demand for housing.

Population density

Amidst rapid urbanisation across the Western Cape, population density figures will aid public sector decision makers to mitigate environmental, individual health and service delivery risks. In 2021, the population density of the George municipal area was 43 persons per square kilometre. In order of lowest to highest, the various local municipal areas in the GRD compare as follows:

● Kannaland	5 people/km ²
● Hessequa	9 people/km ²
● Oudtshoorn	26 people/km ²
● George	43 people/km²
● Mossel Bay	48 people/km ²
● Knysna	68 people/km ²
● Bitou	70 people/km ²

Educational facilities

50

Number of schools

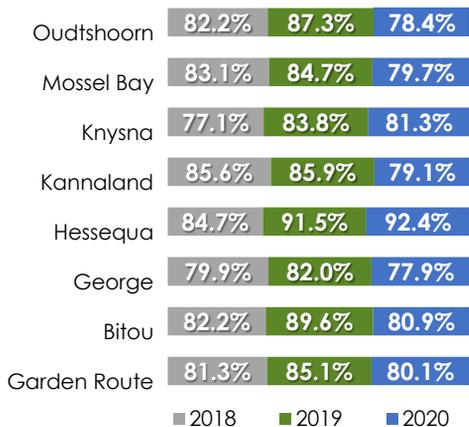
35

Number of no-fee schools

29

Number of schools with libraries

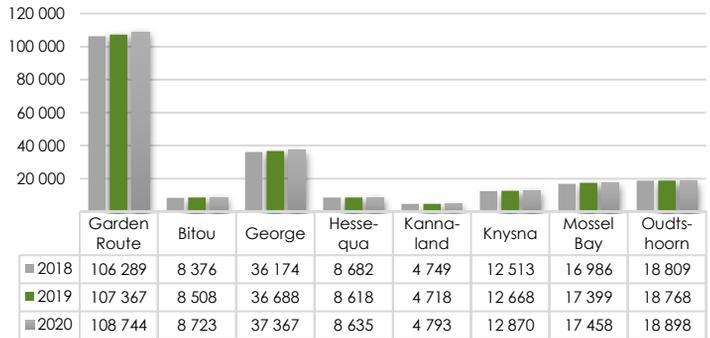
Education outcomes



■ 2018 ■ 2019 ■ 2020

EDUCATION

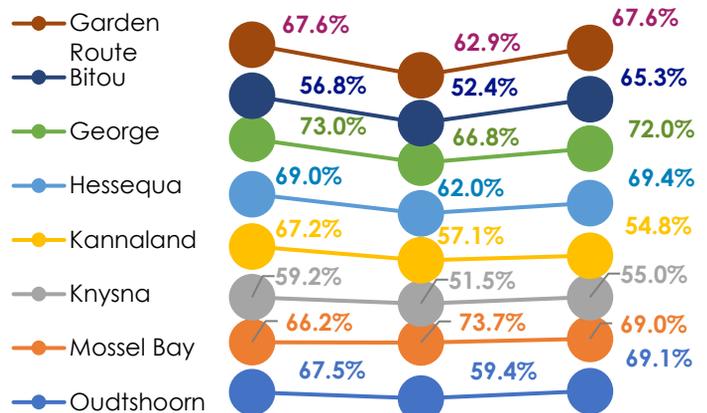
Learner enrolment



Learner-Teacher Ratio 2018 - 2020

	2018	2019	2020
Garden Route	30.1	30.2	30.1
Bitou	32.2	32.4	32.3
George	29.9	29.7	30.0
Hessequa	28.7	28.9	29.1
Kannaland	31.5	31.7	31.0
Knysna	30.0	30.3	30.1
Mossel Bay	30.2	30.9	30.2
Oudtshoorn	30.0	29.7	29.6

Learner retention



Education

Learner enrolment, the learner-teacher ratio and learner retention rate

Learner enrolment in George increased by 1.6 per cent annually from 36 174 in 2018 to 37 367 in 2020. This annual average increase is higher than the District annual average growth rate of 1.1 per cent and is reflective of the high 0-14 age population growth rate. The learner teacher ratio at 30.0 is amongst the lowest in the GRD and is slightly higher when compared to 2019 (29.7). The learner retention rate in George is on an upward trend, increasing from 66.8 per cent in 2019 to 72.0 per cent in 2020 and is the highest in the District.

Number of schools

In 2020, George had a total of 50 public ordinary schools. The large number of schools contributed to the relatively low learner teacher ratio when compared to the other municipalities in the District.

Number of no-fee schools

Given the tough economic climate, schools have been reporting an increase in parents being unable to pay their school fees. In an effort to alleviate some of the funding challenges the Western Cape Department of Education (WCED) offered certain fee-paying schools an opportunity to become no-fee schools. The George municipal area has an increasing proportion of no fee schools, with 70 per cent of schools being registered with the Western Cape Department of Education as no-fee schools in 2020. Note that George has the second lowest proportion of no fee schools in the District.

Schools with libraries and media centres

Schools with libraries and media centres have gradually decreased from 33 in 2017 to 29 in 2020. Access to libraries and media centres can have a positive impact on the overall quality of education.

Education Outcomes (Matric Pass Rates)

Education remains one of the key avenues through which the state is involved in the economy. In preparing individuals for future engagement in the labour market, policy choices and decisions in the sphere of education play a critical role in determining the extent to which future economic and poverty reduction plans can be realised. George's matric outcomes have dropped significantly from 82 per cent in 2019 to 77.9 per cent in 2020 largely due to COVID-19 related disruptions to the school year. George Municipality underperforms against the District matric pass rate of 80.1 per cent.

HEALTH



Tuberculosis

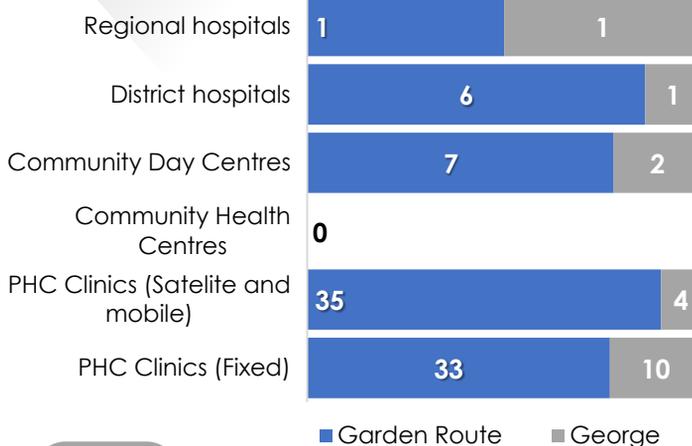


Maternal health

	Maternal Mortality Rate		Delivery rate to women under 20 years		Termination of pregnancy rate	
	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21
George	85.9	230.6	15.0	13.2	0.0	0.1
Garden Route District	33.4	121.5	15.6	14.7	0.6	0.5



Healthcare facilities

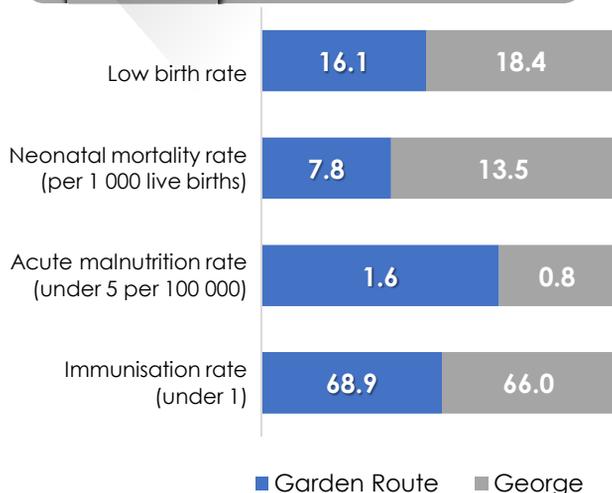


Emergency medical services

Health Indicator	George	Garden Route
EMS Operational Ambulances	9	28
No. of operational ambulances per 10 000 people	2	2



Child health



HIV/AIDS

Area	Total Registered patients receiving ART		Number of new ART patients	
	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21
George	9 468	99 59	957	795
Garden Route	25 738	26 996	2 576	2 068

Health

Healthcare Facilities

According to the 2019 Inequality Trend report by Statistics South Africa, 75.1 per cent of households in South Africa usually use public healthcare facilities when a household member gets ill compared to 24.9 per cent who use some private healthcare facilities in 2017. This is associated with the low proportion of households with access to Medical Aid, at 16.9 per cent for South Africa and 25 per cent for the Western Cape in 2017. In terms of healthcare facilities, the George municipal area had 14 primary healthcare clinics in 2020/21, which comprises of 10 fixed and 4 mobile clinics. In addition, there is a district hospital, a regional hospital and 2 community day centres.

Emergency Medical Services

Provision of more operational ambulances can provide greater coverage of emergency medical services. The George municipal area had 2 ambulances per 10 000 inhabitants in 2020 which is on par with the District average. It is worth noting that this number only refers to Provincial ambulances and excludes all private service providers.

HIV/AIDS and TB

George's total registered patients receiving anti retroviral treatment (ART) increased by 795 patients between 2019/20 and 2020/21. A total of 26 996 registered patients received ART in the GRD in 2020/21. George, at 9 959 patients, represents 36.9 per cent of the patients receiving ART in the GRD.

The George municipal area experienced a significant decline in tuberculosis (TB) cases from 2018/19 to 2020/21. 1 162 TB patients were registered in 2020/21 compared to 1 532 in 2018/19.

Child Health

Immunisation rates in the George municipal area at 66.0 per cent is slightly lower than that of the GRD at 68.9 per cent in 2020/21. The Immunisation rate for George has however increased significantly from the 2017/18 rate of 54.4 per cent. The number of malnourished children under five years (per 100 000) in George in 2020/21 was 0.8, a deterioration from the 2019/20 rate of 0.3. The Neonatal mortality rate (per 1 000 live births) in the George municipal area declined from 16.6 in 2018/19 to 13.5 in 2020/21. The low birth weight rate was recorded at 18.4 per cent, a slight improvement from 19.0 per cent recorded in 2019/20.

Maternal Health

The maternal mortality rate in the George municipal area was 230,6 per 100 000 live births in 2020/21 and has increased significantly from 85,9 in 2019/20. The maternal mortality rate is higher than the GRD rate of 121,9 as recorded in 2020/21.

The delivery rate to women under 19 years in George was recorded at 13.2 per cent in 2020/21 and is slightly lower than the District rate of 14.7 per cent. Teen delivery is on a downward trend in the George municipal area, declining from 15.9 per cent in 2018/19.

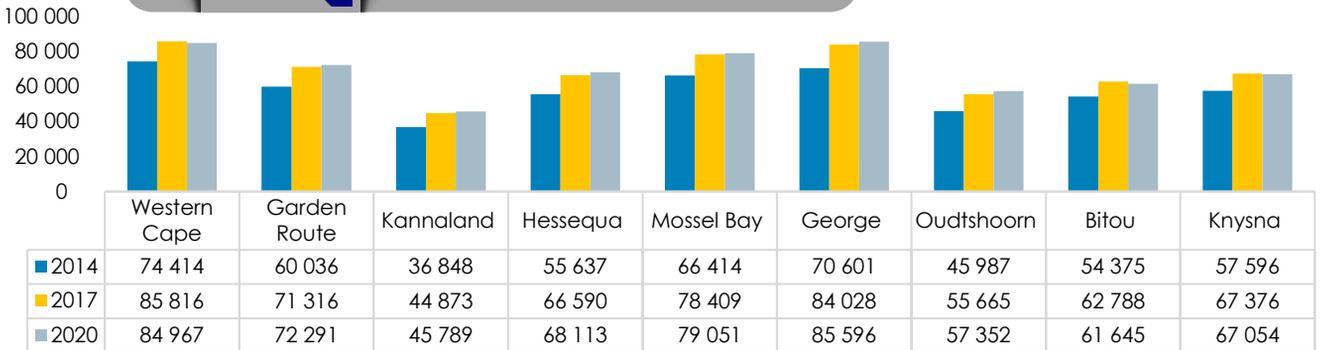
The termination of pregnancy rate has also declined slightly from 1.1 per cent in 2019/20 to 0.9 per cent in 2020/21 within the George municipal area. Conversely, the District had a higher teen delivery rate but lower levels of terminations.

A review of the COVID-19 related health information for the District has been included in the Municipal Economic Review and Outlook of 2021. This includes an analysis of the number of recorded cases, hospital admissions and recorded deaths for the period March 2020 to October 2021.

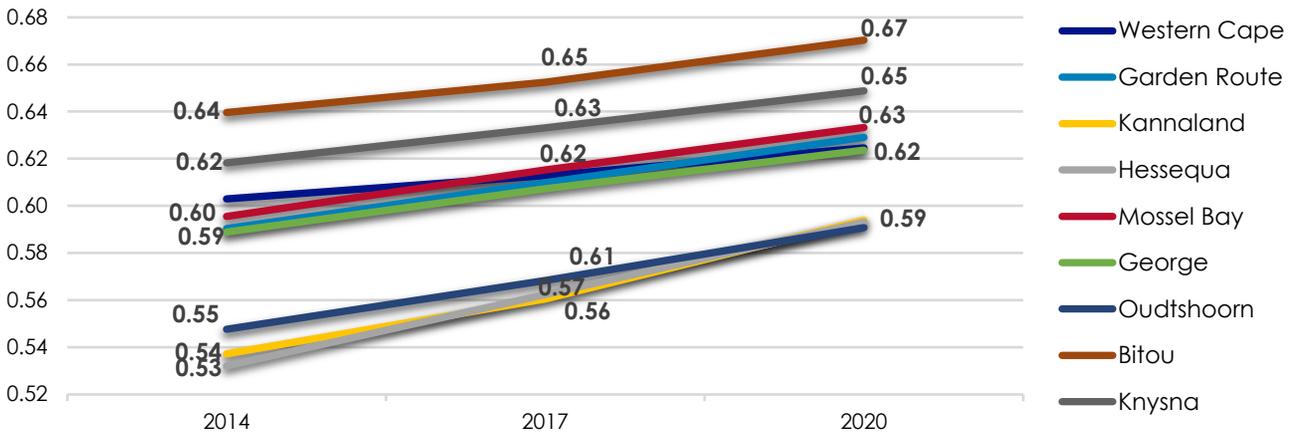
POVERTY



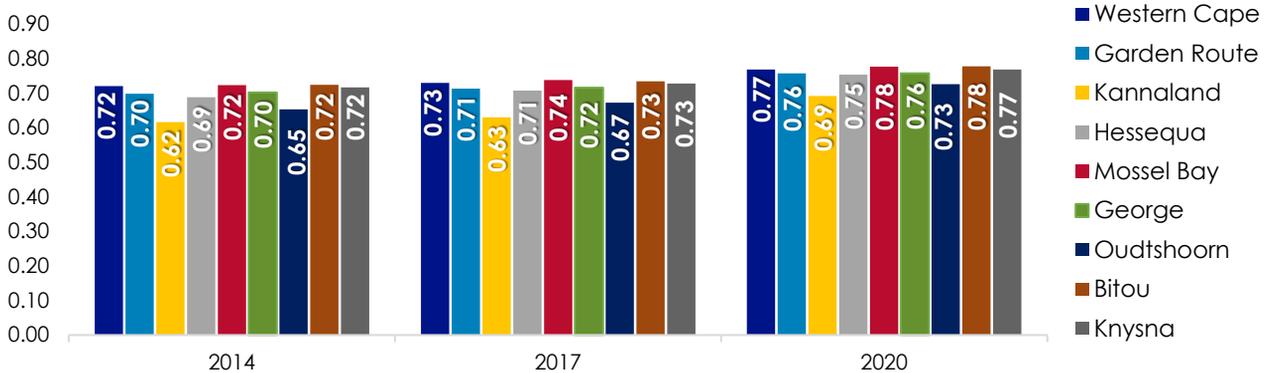
GDP per capita



Income inequality



Human development



Poverty

GDPR Per Capita

An increase in GDPR per capita, i.e., GDPR per person, is experienced only if the economic growth rate exceeds the population growth rate.

At R85 596 in 2020, George's GDPR per capita stands above that of the GRD's figure of R72 291 and the Western Cape figure of R84 967. It is positive to note that GDP per capita has been on an upward trend, despite the sluggish economy.

Income Inequality

Even though real GDP per capita reflects changes in the overall well-being of the population, the money will not be equally distributed across the population. The National Development Plan (NDP) has set a target of reducing income inequality in South Africa from a Gini coefficient of 0.7 in 2010 to 0.6 by 2030. Income inequality has increased in George from 0.59 in 2014 to 0.62 in 2020 and is therefore underperforming against the 2030 NDP goal. It is however slightly lower than the GRD Gini coefficient of 0.63.

Human Development

The United Nations uses the Human Development Index (HDI) to assess the relative level of socio-economic development in countries. Indicators that measure human development are education levels, income and health. It is a measure of peoples' ability to live a long and healthy life, to communicate, participate in the community and to have sufficient means to be able to afford a decent living. The HDI is represented by a number between 0 and 1, where 1 indicates a high level of human development and 0 represents no human development.

There has been a general increase in the HDI in the George municipal area from 0.72 in 2014 to 0.78 in 2020. The trend for the GRD has been similar. The rise in the HDI is attributed to an increase in the GDP per capita, literacy rates and life expectancy since 2014.

BASIC SERVICE DELIVERY



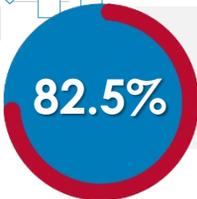
Total number of households

57 447

George Municipality

175 680

Garden Route District



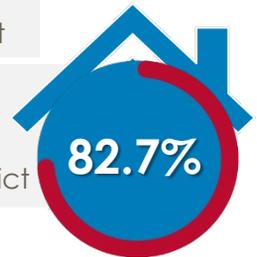
Formal main dwelling

47 388

George Municipality

145 268

Garden Route District



75.1% George
75.1% Garden Route

House/brick structure on separate stand/yard



0.6% George
0.7% Garden Route

Traditional dwelling



5.4% George
6.2% Garden Route

Flat/simplex/duplex/triplex or room/flat on shared property

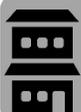
1.1% George
1.2% Garden Route

Other/Unspecified



2.0% George
1.5% Garden Route

House/flat/room in backyard



7.8% George
6.2% Garden Route

Informal dwelling in backyard



8.1% George
9.2% Garden Route

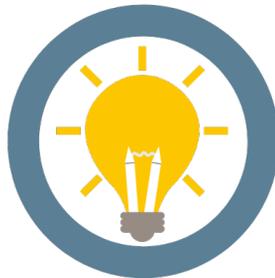
Informal dwelling not in backyard



Piped water inside dwelling/within 200m

George 95.8%

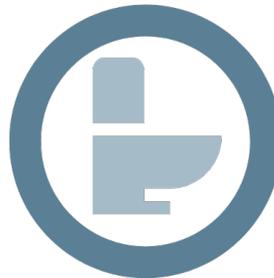
Garden Route 95.2%



Electricity as primary source of lighting

George 90.3%

Garden Route 90.7%



Flush/chemical toilet

George 87.9%

Garden Route 85.1%



Refuse removed at least once a week

George 88.2%

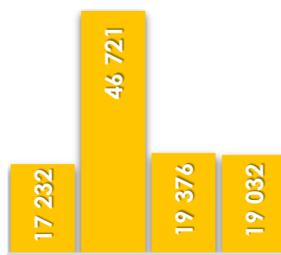
Garden Route 86.5%

Free basic water



2016 2017 2018 2019

Free basic electricity



2016 2017 2018 2019

Free basic sanitation



2016 2017 2018 2019

Free basic refuse removal



2016 2017 2018 2019

Basic Service Delivery

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

This section considers to what extent this has been achieved by reflecting on the latest available information from Quantec Research for 2020. The latest official statistics was collected by Statistics South Africa for the 2016 Community Survey; the 2021 Census will provide the updated official statistics. The information on free basic services is obtained from Statistics South Africa's Non-Financial Census of Municipalities survey findings.

Housing and Household Services

With a total of 57 447 households in the George municipal area, 82.5 per cent had access to formal housing, the third lowest when compared with other municipalities in the GRD area. The District average was 82.7 per cent. Considering the high level of households living in informal dwellings (17.5 per cent), access to formal housing is a challenge in the George municipal area.

Even though there was a relatively low proportion of households living in formal dwellings, service access levels were significantly higher, with access to piped water inside/within 200m of the dwelling at 95.8 per cent, access to a flush or chemical toilet at 87.9 per cent, access to electricity (for lighting) at 90.3 per cent and the removal of refuse at least weekly by the local authority at 88.2 per cent of households. These access levels were above the District averages for all services excluding access to electricity. Note that there were slight declines in access to piped water and electricity from 2019 to 2020.

Free Basic Services

Municipalities also provide a package of free basic services to households who are financially vulnerable and struggle to pay for services. The number of households receiving free basic services in the George municipal area has shown a slight increase from 2018 to 2019 in all services excluding free basic electricity where it decreased slightly. The stressed economic conditions are anticipated to exert pressure on household income levels, which is in turn likely to see the number of indigent households and the demand for free basic services increase further in the upcoming years.

SAFETY AND SECURITY



MURDER		2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Actual Number	George	95	75	68
	Garden Route District	215	204	163
Per 100 000	George	44	34	31
	Garden Route District	35	33	26

SEXUAL OFFENCES		2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Actual Number	George	451	378	347
	Garden Route District	1 070	991	838
Per 100 000	George	208	172	157
	Garden Route District	173	159	133



DRUG-RELATED OFFENCES		2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Actual Number	George	1 860	1 434	866
	Garden Route District	7 300	5 790	3 534
Per 100 000	George	859	653	391
	Garden Route District	1 181	927	563

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE		2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Actual Number	George	711	670	204
	Garden Route District	1 740	1 932	690
Per 100 000	George	328	305	92
	Garden Route District	281	309	110



Fatal Crashes	George	29	33	43
Road User Fatalities	George	35	51	46



RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES		2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Actual Number	George	1 647	1 564	1 097
	Garden Route District	5 156	4 844	3 990
Per 100 000	George	761	713	495
	Garden Route District	834	776	635

Safety and Security

Murder

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

Within the George municipal area, the number of murders decreased annually from 95 in 2018/19 to 68 in 2020/21. The murder rate (per 100 000 people) decreased from 44 in 2018/19 to 31 in 2020/21. The murder rate for the GRD also declined (35 in 2018/19 and 26 in 2020/21) and is slightly lower than that of the George area. The murder rate in George is amongst the highest in the GRD. 2017's global murder rate was 6.1 (per 100 000 people) and is significantly below the reports within both the District and the Municipality.

Sexual Offences

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

In 2020/21, there were 347 sexual offences in the George area, equating to 157 cases per 100 000 people. It is on the decline but remains at higher levels than those reported in the GRD of 133 cases per 100 000 people. South Africa is amongst the top 5 countries in the world with respect to reports of rape, therefore it is a huge problem that needs to be addressed.

Drug-related Offences

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

Drug-related crime within the George area more than halved from 1 860 cases in 2018/19 to 866 cases in 2020/21 and is largely attributed to the decriminalisation of marijuana. When considering the rate per 100 000 people, it declined from 859 to 351 in George. The District had a higher incidence of drug-related offences with 563 cases per 100 000 people in 2020/21.

Driving under the influence (DUI)

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

The number of cases per 100 000 people of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs in the George area shows a declining trend from 305 in 2019/20 to 92 in 2020/21. The significant decline is largely due to the COVID-19 related restrictions on alcohol and the implementation of curfews. In line with the declining trend in DUI's in George, road user fatalities also fell from 51 fatalities in 2019/20 to 46 fatalities in 2020/21. The incidence of DUI's is slightly lower than the District which had an incidence rate of 110 per 100 000 people in 2020/21.

Residential Burglaries

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

The crime statistics released by SAPS and Stats SA indicate that the number of residential burglaries increased by 6.7 per cent in South Africa from April 2019 to April 2020. Residential burglary cases within the George area however decreased significantly by 33.4 per cent from 1 646 in 2018/19 to 1 097 in 2020/21. When considering the rate per 100 000 population i.e., 495 cases per 100 000 in 2020/21, George's rate is below the District rate of 635 cases per 100 000 people in the same reporting year.

Economy and Labour Market Performance

SECTOR	GDP				Employment	
	R Million value 2019	Trend 2015 – 2019	Real GDP growth 2020e	Number of jobs 2019	Average annual change 2015 - 2019	Net change 2020e
PS Primary Sector	606.2	-3.7	10.8	8 127	131	-380
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	574.2	-3.8	11.9	8 093	132	-378
Mining & quarrying	32.0	0.6	-17.9	34	-1	-2
SS Secondary sector	4 436.5	0.5	-11.2	12 828	27	-1 151
Manufacturing	2 804.2	1.3	-8.8	7 860	77	-509
Electricity, gas & water	644.4	-1.3	-7.3	359	2	-13
Construction	987.9	-1.2	-21.9	4 609	-52	-629
TS Tertiary sector	13 513.7	2.1	-6.0	61 984	1 213	-3 516
Wholesale & retail trade, catering & accommodation	3 479.6	1.0	-10.3	21 364	462	-1 492
Transport, storage & communication	2 151.6	2.1	-14.3	4 223	94	-205
Finance, insurance, real estate & business services	5 012.1	3.6	-3.2	17 417	622	-730
General government	1 702.0	-0.2	-0.3	7 749	-44	49
Community, social & personal services	1 168.4	1.0	-2.5	11 231	79	-1 138
George	18 556.4	1.5	-6.4	82 939	1 372	-5 047

Skill Levels Formal employment	Skill Level Contribution 2020 (%)	Average growth (%) 2016 - 2020	Number of jobs	
			2019	2020
Skilled	33.5	1.5	20 455	19 708
Semi-skilled	39.6	-0.4	24 803	23 337
Low-skilled	26.9	-1.4	17 007	15 854
TOTAL	100.0	-0.1	62 265	58 899

Informal Employment	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of informal jobs	20 093	19 960	20 047	21 075	21 533	22 626	20 874	21 853	21 476	20 674	18 993
% of Total Employment	29.3	28.5	27.8	28.2	28.3	28.4	26.1	26.7	25.9	24.9	24.4

Unemployment rates	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Bitou	20.3	20.5	20.5	20.3	20.5	20.5	22.1	22.9	22.7	24.5	24.2
George	14.7	14.5	14.2	13.6	13.6	13.1	13.9	14.2	13.8	14.7	14.2
Hessequa	7.0	7.0	6.8	6.5	6.5	6.1	6.6	6.8	6.7	7.2	7.2
Kannaland	8.3	8.5	8.4	8.0	8.2	7.5	8.2	8.6	8.5	9.2	8.7
Knysna	17.8	17.7	17.5	17.1	17.1	16.9	18.0	18.5	18.1	19.4	18.9
Mossel Bay	14.3	14.3	14.1	13.6	13.7	13.4	14.4	14.8	14.5	15.6	15.2
Oudtshoorn	19.0	18.9	18.5	17.9	17.8	17.1	17.9	18.3	17.8	18.7	17.6
Garden Route	15.0	15.0	14.7	14.3	14.3	13.9	14.8	15.2	14.9	15.9	15.4
Western Cape	15.9	16.1	16.1	16.0	16.4	16.5	17.7	18.4	18.3	19.6	18.9

Economy and Labour Market Performance

Sectoral Overview

In 2019, the economy of George was valued at R18.556 billion (current prices) and employed 82 939 people. Historical trends between 2015 and 2019 indicate that the municipal area realised an average annual growth rate of 1.5 per cent, which can mostly be attributed to the tertiary sector that registered a positive annual growth rate of 2.1 per cent.

In terms of sectoral contribution, the finance, insurance, real estate and business services (R5.012 billion), wholesale and retail trade, catering and accommodation (R3.480 billion) and manufacturing (R2.804 billion) sectors were the main drivers that contributed to the positive growth in the George economy. Growth in the economy slowed to -6.4 per cent in 2020, with only the agriculture sector registering positive growth as a result of improved drought conditions and favourable commodity prices.

Net employment in all sectors mirrored the declining GDP growth rate, with only General Government managing to create jobs (49) in 2020. The largest amount of job losses occurred within the Tertiary sector (-3 516), followed by the Secondary sector (-1 151). Despite the growth of 10.8 per cent in the Primary sector, it still registered 380 job losses.

Formal and Informal Employment

It is estimated that George's total employed will in 2019 amount to 87 892 workers, of which 58 899 (75.6 per cent) are employed in the formal sector while 18 993 (24.4 per cent) are informally employed. Employment in the formal sector had an annual average decline of 0.1 per cent from 2016 to 2020 while the informal sector suffered an annual average decline of 2.3 per cent over this period.

Most of the formally employed consisted of semi-skilled (39.6 per cent) and skilled (33.5 per cent) workers. The low-skilled category only contributed 26.9 per cent to total formal employment and was notably outpaced by the other two categories in terms of average annual growth between 2016 and 2020. Low skilled employment declined by 1.4 per cent, while jobs requiring semi-skilled workers declined by 0.4 per cent. The growth in the skilled category (1.5 per cent) reflects the market demand for more skilled labour, especially with the growing tertiary sector in the George municipal area.

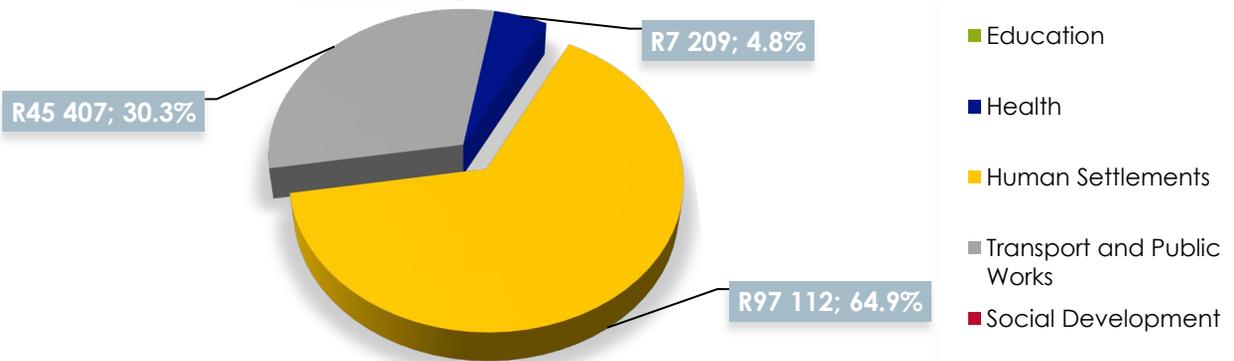
Unemployment

George (14.2 per cent) has the third lowest unemployment rate in the Garden Route District and is below the District (15.4 per cent) and Western Cape (18.9 per cent) unemployment rates. Unemployment has been volatile from 2010-2020. After jumping from 13.8 per cent in 2018 to 14.7 per cent in 2019, it declined slightly to 14.2 per cent in 2020. This was largely due to an increase in the discouraged work seekers and not economically active population. Unfortunately most job losses affected low and semi skilled workers whom are more vulnerable to living in poverty during times of economic decline.

PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE SPEND

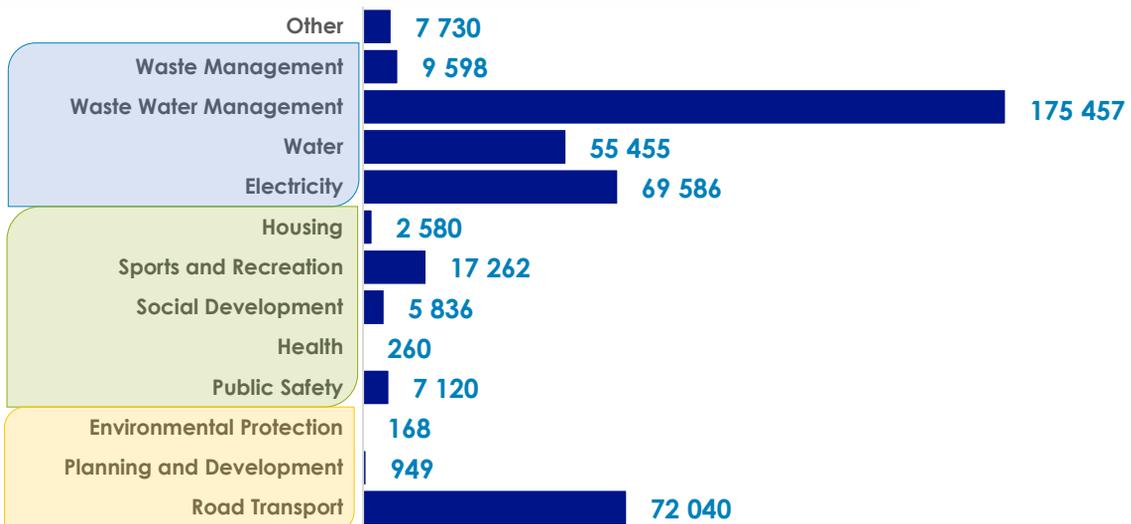
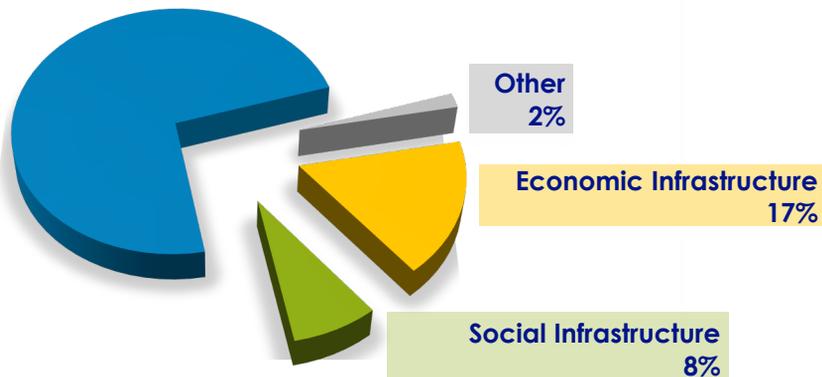


Provincial infrastructure spend (R'000)



Municipal infrastructure spend (R'000)

Trading Services
73%



Public Infrastructure Spend (2021/22)

Spending on Social Infrastructure

Spending on social infrastructure aids in social development and has the spill-over effect of enabling economic growth. The Western Cape Government (WCG) will spend 69.7 per cent of its infrastructure budget on social infrastructure.

As displayed in the pie chart the WCG will be allocating 64.9 per cent of its infrastructure budget on human settlements. This is crucial in light of in-migration, population growth, land invasions and increasing demand for housing. The Municipality has allocated a further R2.58 million towards this function.

A healthy and resilient community increases productivity and reduces pressures on government resources. Spending on health is especially necessary in response to the pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic on health infrastructure. As such the Department of Health has allocated 4.8 per cent (R7.21 million) of infrastructure spending towards Health.

No spending has been allocated by WCG towards education or social development. The Municipality has however allocated 7.8 per cent (R33.06 million) of the capital budget towards social infrastructure. R17.26 million has been allocated towards sports and recreation and R5.84 million towards social development. This will serve to improve the quality of life of individuals in the municipal area. Community safety has been prioritized by the WCG due to high levels of crime in the Western Cape. Crime has a negative impact on social development, as well as the economy as it deters private investment and causes business losses. It further creates a burden on government resources in terms of justice system costs, victim assistance and replacement of assets. The Municipality has therefore allocated R7.12 million of its capital budget towards public safety.

Spending on Economic Infrastructure

Economic infrastructure is defined as infrastructure that promotes economic activity. Considering the economic contraction in 2021, spending on economic infrastructure is crucial for economic recovery.

The WCG allocated R30.3 million (30.3 per cent of the infrastructure budget) towards economic infrastructure, i.e., Transport and Public Works. Road transport and public works related infrastructure go a long way towards unlocking the region's economic potential, especially with George's position on the Garden Route making it an economic hub and prime tourist destination. The Municipality assists by contributing a further R72.04 million (i.e., 17.0 per cent of total municipal infrastructure spending) towards road transport. As part of their economic infrastructure allocation, the Municipality will also contribute R949 000 towards planning and development and R168 000 towards environmental protection.

Spending on Trading Services

Basic services are crucial for improving the living conditions of citizens within the municipal area and enabling economic activity for businesses via access to water, electricity, sanitation and refuse removal. The majority of the Municipality's infrastructure budget i.e., 73.1 per cent or R310.10 million is allocated towards the provision of basic services. The majority of spending on trading services have been allocated towards water management (R175.46 million) in light of recent droughts. This was followed by electricity (R69.59 million); water management (R55.46 million) and waste management (R9.60 million).

SOURCES

1. Demographics

- Population: *Department of Social Development, 2021*
- Sex ratio: *Department of Social Development, 2021*
- Age cohorts: *Department of Social Development, 2021*
- Number of households: *Department of Social Development, 2021*
- Household size: *Department of Social Development, 2021*
- Population density: *Department of Social Development, 2021*

2. Education

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

3. Health

- Healthcare facilities: *Department of Health, 2021*
- Emergency medical services: *Department of Health, 2021*
- HIV/AIDS: *Department of Health, 2021*
- Tuberculosis: *Department of Health, 2021*
- Child health: *Department of Health, 2021*
- Maternal health: *Department of Health, 2021*

4. Poverty

- GDP per capita: *Statistics South Africa, 2021*
- Income Inequality (Gini-coefficient): *Quantec Research, 2021*
- Human Development (Human Development Index): *Quantec Research, 2021*

SOURCES

5. Basic services

- Households: Quantec Research, 2021
- Access to housing: Quantec Research, 2021
- Access to water: Quantec Research, 2021
- Access to electricity: Quantec Research, 2021
- Access to sanitation: Quantec Research, 2021
- Access to refuse removal: Quantec Research, 2021
- Free Basic Services: *Statistics South Africa, Non-Financial Census of Municipalities 2020*

6. Safety and security

- Murder: *South African Police Service (SAPS), 2021, own calculations*
- Sexual offences: *South African Police Service (SAPS), 2021, own calculations*
- Drug-related crimes: *South African Police Service (SAPS), 2021, own calculations*
- Driving under the influence: *South African Police Service (SAPS), 2021, own calculations*
- Residential burglaries: *South African Police Service (SAPS), 2020, 2021 calculations*
- Road user fatalities: *Department of Transport and Public Works, 2021*

7. Economy

- Sector Performance: *Quantec Research, 2021*
- Employment growth per sector: *Quantec Research, 2021*
- Trends in labour force skills: *Quantec Research, 2021*
- Unemployment rates: *Quantec Research, 2021*

8. Public infrastructure spend

- Provincial Infrastructure Spend: *Estimates of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure (EPRE), 2021; Overview of Adjusted Provincial and Municipal Infrastructure Spend (OAPMII), 2021*
- Municipal Infrastructure Spend: *Final approved 2021/22 municipal budgets, Budget Schedule A5*