



Western Cape
Government
FOR YOU



#KnowYourMunicipality: The 2023 Socio-Economic Profile

Beaufort West Municipality



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Beaufort West: At a Glance

Demographics

Census, 2022; Actual households, 2022



Population
72 972



Households
19 216

Education

2022



Matric Pass Rate **79.0%**
Learner Retention Rate **60.0%**
Learner-Teacher Ratio **31.9**

Poverty

2022



Gini Coefficient **0.58**
Poverty Head Count Ratio (UBPL) **65.9%**

Health

2022/23



Primary Health Care Facilities
6
(excl. mobile/satellite clinics)

Immunisation Rate
76.2%

Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100 000 live births)
122.7

Teenage Pregnancies – Delivery rate to women U/19
17.4%

Safety and Security

Actual number of reported cases in 2022/23



Residential Burglaries
361

DUI
137

Drug-related Crimes
369

Murder
16

Sexual Offences
38

Access to Basic Service Delivery

Percentage of households with access to basic services, 2021

Water
87.2%



Refuse Removal
79.6%



Electricity
97.3%



Sanitation
98.0%



Housing
99.4%



Labour

2021

Unemployment Rate (narrow definition)

28.1%



Socio-economic Risks

Risk 1 Job losses
Risk 2 High unemployment rate
Risk 3 Low skills base (Labour)

Largest 3 Sectors

Contribution to GDP, 2021

General Government

20.7%



Community, social and personal services

17.8%



Finance, insurance, real estate and business services

15.6%



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 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 Beaufort West Municipality in relation to the broader Central Karoo District.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population 72 972 2022



Household numbers 2023

19 216

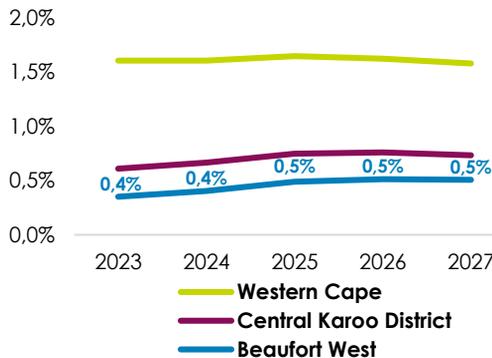
Estimated Population

74 867 2027

Estimated Average Annual Population Growth Rate 2023 - 2027

0.5%

Estimated Population Growth



Gender and Age Dynamics



Female 52.2%

Male 47.8%

459 2023

462 2024

Fertility Index

59.6 2011

52.0 2022

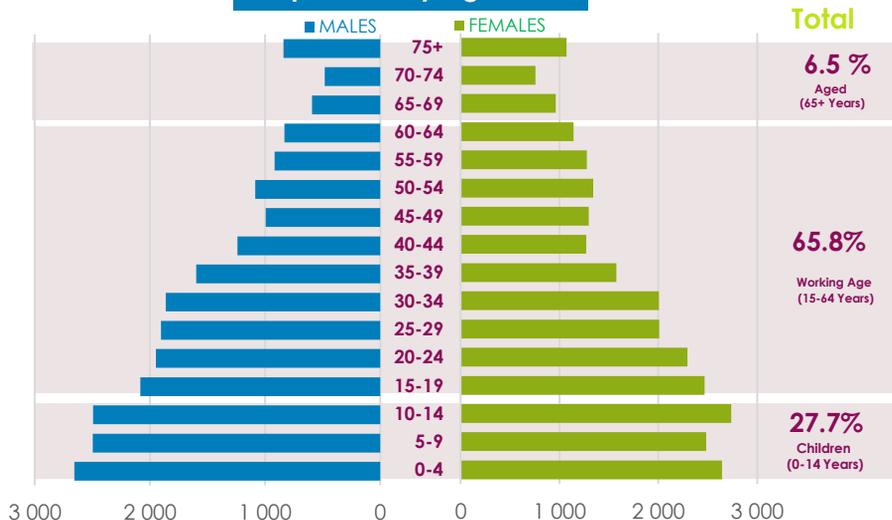
Dependency Ratio

31.2 2023

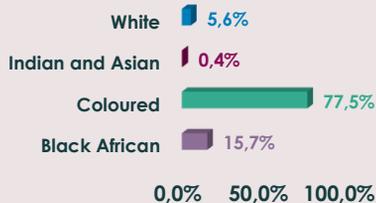
32.1 2024

Ageing Index

Population by Age 2022



Racial Split

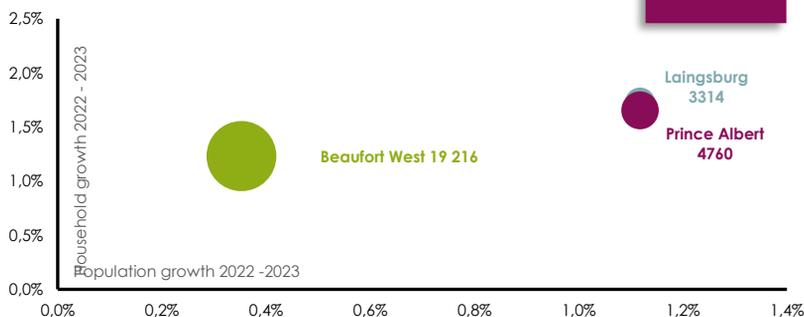


Population and Household Growth 2022



3.8

Household Size



Level of Urbanisation 2021



2.4 people/km² 2023

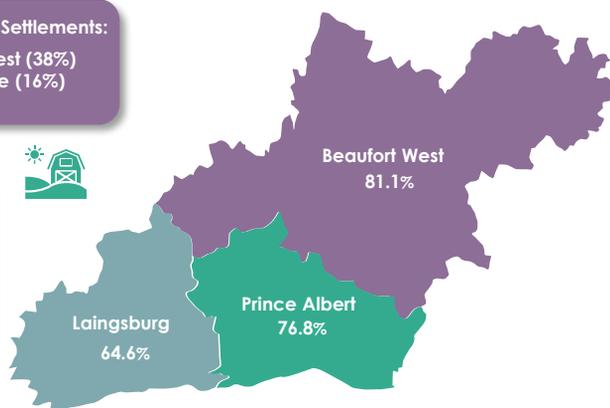
2.4 people/km² 2024

2.4 people/km² 2023

Largest Urban Settlements:

Beaufort West (38%) & Rustdene (16%)

Urban/Rural change: Largest increase in Rooiwalke (7%) & Beaufort West (5%)
Density change: Highest & Largest increase in Rooiwalke & Rustdene & Kwa-Mandlenkosi



Population and Household Growth

The Beaufort West municipal area is the largest of the three municipal areas in the CKD. At the core of the Beaufort West municipal area is the town of Beaufort West, a hub of economic activity and the centre of the region's public sector services. Positioned strategically along the N1, this town serves as a pit stop for tourists and transporters. This municipal area is also home to a few smaller towns such as Merweville, Murraysburg and Nelspoort, that, while modest, are rich in history.

Beaufort West municipal area has an estimated population of 72 972 as per the latest Census 2022 data. The municipal area is estimated to have relative population growth rate (grew at rate of 3.7 per cent per annum) between 2011 (49 586) and 2022 and is forecast to grow by an average annual rate of 0.5 per cent between 2022 and 2027 below the district forecasted growth of 0.7 per cent. Notably, household numbers have also shown an upward trend when compared to the figures recorded in 2011. Despite the growth in population and households, it is noteworthy that the household size has remained consistent at 3.8 between the Census figures of 2011 and 2022. This implies that while there is an increase in the number of households, the average size of each household has not undergone significant changes over this period.

Gender, Age and Race Dynamics

The infographic provides an overview of the municipal area's population distribution across different age groups, presented as a dependency ratio, indicating the workforce (ages 15-64) versus dependents (children and seniors). Demographic insights are vital for economic planning, highlighting potential challenges in resource allocation and social welfare programs.

A thorough examination of the demographic structure within the municipal area highlights that 65.8 per cent of the population falls within the economically active age group, spanning from 15 to 64 years. The second-largest demographic segment is constituted by children, accounting for 27.7 per cent of the population, while the aged, those above 65, make up a modest 6.5 per cent of the total population.

The population structure reveals a notable improvement in the dependency ratio, which stands at 52.0 per cent in 2022. This marks a positive shift from the 2011 dependency ratio of 59.6 per cent. The improvement in the dependency ratio is attributed to the growth observed in the working-age cohort, working age population (increased by 3.2 percentage points) coupled with a decline in the children population; however, the aged segments increased by 0.6 percentage points between 2011 and 2022. This demographic trend signifies a positive trajectory in terms of the municipality's evolving age distribution, signaling a potential boost in the productivity and economic contributions of the working-age population.

Understanding of the racial demographics is vital for formulating targeted policies, fostering social cohesion, and addressing disparities, ensuring a more equitable and inclusive economic development trajectory in the region. The racial split within the Beaufort West municipal area echoes that the population is predominately coloured; the coloured racial group accounted for 77.5 per cent of the population, this is followed by the Black Africans accounting for 15.7 per cent, white racial group at 5.6 per cent, while Indians and Asians represent 0.4 per cent of the population.

The Human Sex ratio (SR)

The human sex ratio indicates a lower male to female ratio; with males accounting for 47.8 per cent of the population versus females at 52.2 per cent resulting in a sex ratio of 91.4 males per 100 females in 2022. There has been a consistent decrease in the sex ratio within the Beaufort West municipal area; this ratio decreased from 94.8 in 2011. This indicates a situation where there are fewer males relative to females in the population. A lower sex ratio can be influenced by various factors such as migration patterns, socioeconomic conditions, or specific demographics within the population.

Level of Urbanisation

The Beaufort West municipal area is the largest in the District in terms of population. Beaufort West municipal area is the most urbanised area in the CKD, with 81.1 per cent of the population residing in the urban areas. The largest urban settlements are Beaufort West (38 per cent) and Rustdene (16 per cent). Notably, urban areas experienced considerably more population growth than rural areas with the largest increase in Rooivlakte and Beaufort West .

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. The Beaufort West municipal area covers an area of 21 916 km². The municipal area is sparsely populated, with a population density of only 2.4 person per square kilometre. Rooivlakte, Rustdene and Kwa- Mandlenkosi experienced the highest density change.

● Beaufort West	2.4 people/km²
● Laingsburg	1.1 people/km ²
● Prince Albert	1.8 people/km ²
● Central Karoo District	2 people/km ²

EDUCATION



Learner enrolment



Educational facilities 2022

18

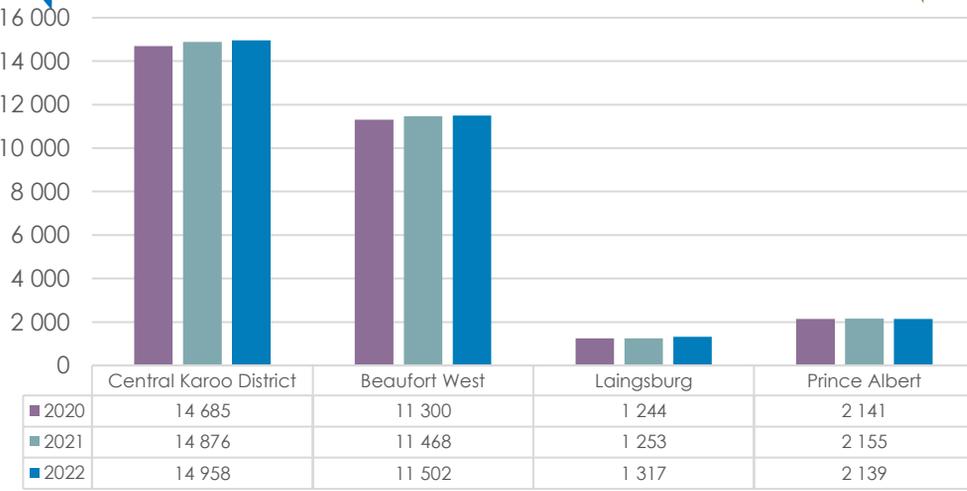
Number of schools

77.8%

Proportion of no-fee schools

Number of schools with libraries

15



2020 2021 2022



Education outcomes



Learner retention 2020 - 2022

2020 2021 2022



2020 2021 2022

PRINCE ALBERT



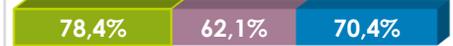
BEAUFORT WEST



LAINGSBURG



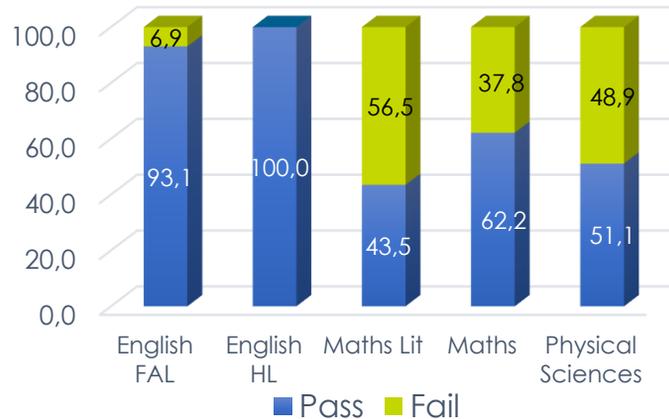
CENTRAL KAROO DISTRICT



Learner-Teacher Ratio 2020- 2022



Subject Outcomes



Education is on one of the primary resources of change, its role is to help people acquire knowledge and skills, which can, in turn be used to acquire jobs. Education indicators include learner enrolment and educational facilities, learner retention, teacher ratios and matric pass rates etc. These indicators provide important information for policy formation and evaluation and are used in funding formulas to distribute public funds to the education sector.

Learner enrolment and Educational facilities.

A total of 11 468 learners were enrolled in 2021 in the municipal area; this number increased to 11 502 in 2022 reflecting an increase in enrolment of 0.3 per cent between 2021 and 2022. These learners were enrolled in the 18 public schools. 77.8 per cent of the public schools in the Beaufort West municipal area are categorised as no fee school as per the education policy implying that these schools have the right not to charge school fees. 15 public schools in the area have library facilities; school libraries can help students to find and use information and serve as a storehouse of information related to textbooks and beyond.

Learner teacher ratio

Learner teacher ratios are indicative of the capacity of schools to accommodate more learners. Learner-teacher ratio upper limits of 40:1 in ordinary primary schools and 35:1 in ordinary high schools is set by the Department of Education. Low learner-teacher ratios are associated with more interaction between teachers and learners which could contribute to better quality education. According to the 2021 Schools Realities Publications the learner teacher ratio is high for government only paid teachers meaning that teachers paid by government are faced with larger numbers of learners per teacher.

The learner teacher ratio recorded an improvement from 33.1 learners per teacher in 2021 to 32.4 learners per teacher in 2022 in the municipal area.

Learner Retention

The learner retention rate measures the proportion of learners in Grade 12 who were in Grade 10 two years prior. Learner retention rates were severely affected by the impact of COVID-19. The learner retention rate dropped from 79.5 per cent in 2020 to 64.3 per cent in 2021 as learners did not return to the schooling system after COVID-19. In 2022, Beaufort West municipal area showed a further regression in learner retention rates with 60.0 per cent of the learners retained in the education system. This implied that 40 per cent of learners did not successfully complete their studies or were not retained in the education system. These learners leave the schooling system without the necessary skills to adequately contribute to the economy.

Learner dropout rates have implication for other social ills such as teenage pregnancies and drug use. Measures to address school drop-out rates can include expanding learner opportunities in technical and vocational streams, implementing early intervention that motivates learners to stay at school and increased support to learners at risk of dropping out, implementing behavioral programmes and psychological support to learners.

Education outcomes (Matric Pass Rates) and subject outcomes

The Beaufort West municipal area experienced fluctuations in education outcomes, recording a decline from 83.5 per cent recorded in 2021 to 79.0 per cent in 2022. This number should also be read in conjunction with the dropout rates as many students dropped out of the education system which will have an impact on the future prospect of finding jobs which will further worsen the youth unemployment rate.

Unfavourable outcomes have been recorded for Mathematical literacy and Physical Science with 56.5 per cent fail and 48.9 fail respectively in 2022. On the hand, English recorded a 100 per cent pass rate and Mathematics pass rates were better at 62.2 per cent.

In terms of educational attainment 6.8 per cent of the population currently possesses a higher education qualification, indicating a marginal increase in this crucial aspect between 2011 and 2022. On the contrary, there has been an improvement in the segment of the population aged 20 and above who have no formal schooling. This figure has decreased from 10.1 per cent in 2011 to 5.2 per cent in 2022, signifying a positive trend towards increased access to education for a broader demographic.



Healthcare Facilities



6 Fixed PHC Facilities
5 Mobile Clinics

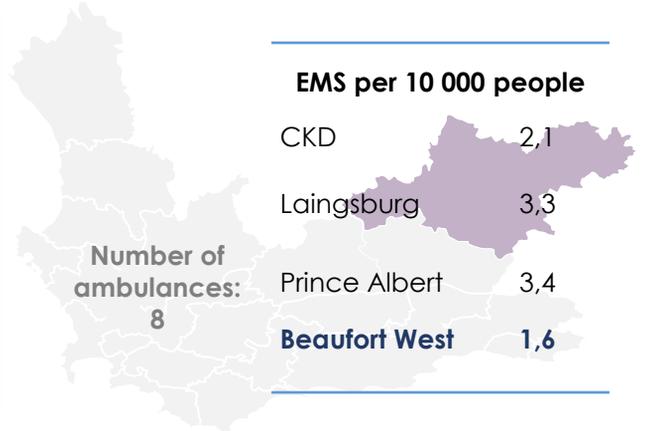


8 ART Clinics/
Treatment Sites
7 TB Clinics/
Treatment Sites



2 District Hospitals

Emergency Medical Services



Maternal Health

BEAUFORT WEST 2023:
Maternal Health Indicators

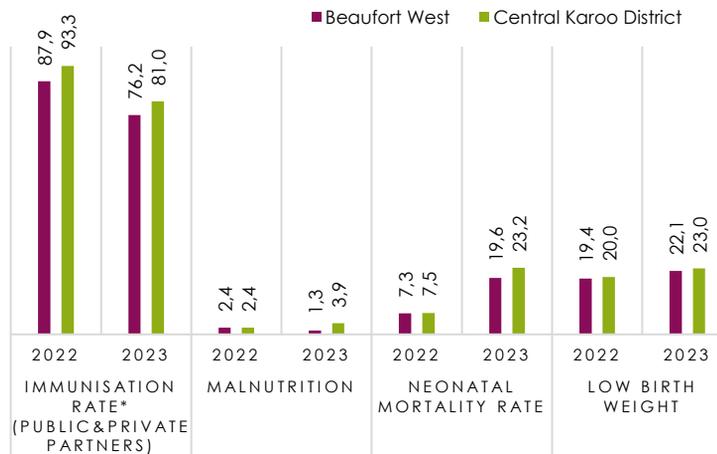
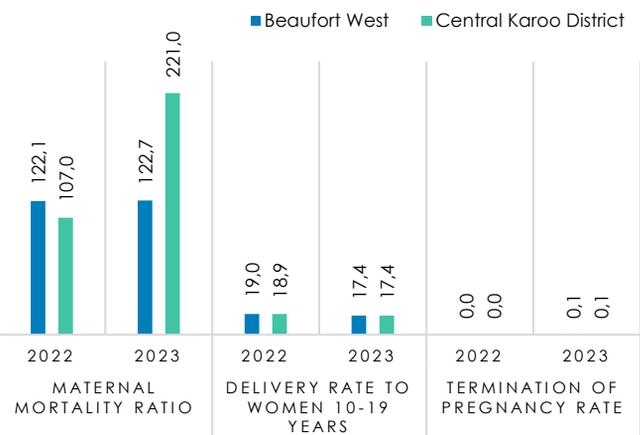
- Maternal deaths in facility : 1
- Deliveries in facility u19 years : 145
- Termination of pregnancy : 15



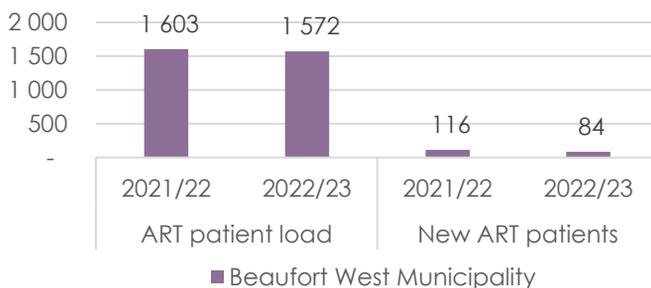
Child Health

BEAUFORT WEST 2023:
Child Health Indicators

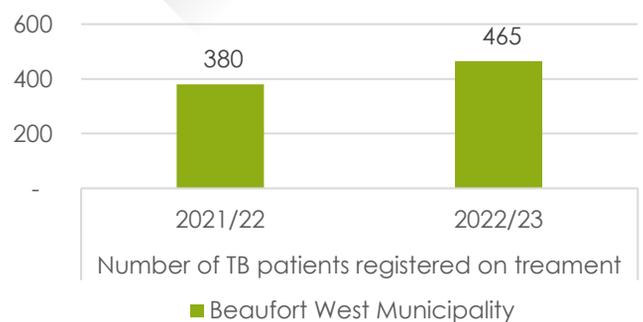
- Live births under 2500g (low birth weight) : 180
- Inpatient deaths 6-28 day : 16
- Immunisation u1 year : 675
- Severe acute malnutrition u5 years : 6



HIV/AIDS



Tuberculosis



Understanding the indicators related to health care access, facilities, emergency services, child and maternal health provides valuable insights into the population's overall wellbeing. By assessing factors such as infant mortality rates and maternal healthcare access, we can gauge the progress in promoting the health and welfare of mothers and children within the region.

Healthcare facilities and Emergency medical services

In 2022, the Beaufort West area was equipped with a total of 6 primary healthcare facilities. In addition, there are 2 district hospitals, and 5 mobile/satellite clinics. Additionally, there are 8 Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) treatment sites and 7 Tuberculosis (TB) clinics, reflecting comprehensive healthcare infrastructure within the region.

To ensure prompt emergency response and medical assistance, the area was served by 8 ambulances. It is important to note that this translates to 1.6 ambulances per 10 000 people in 2022. This figure specifically pertains to Provincial ambulances and does not account for any services provided by private ambulance providers. However, it's important to assess whether this ratio meets the demand for emergency services and whether there are any geographical or logistical considerations that might impact response times.

Maternal health

The maternal mortality rate increased marginally from 122.1 per 100 000 population in 2021/22 to 122.7 per 100 000 population in 2022/23. In the Beaufort West municipal area, the maternal ratio was below average when compared to the Central Karoo District average of 221 maternal deaths per 100 000 population.

Teenage pregnancies and subsequent childbirth have been identified as prominent factors contributing to high school dropout rates among teenage girls. It is imperative to implement interventions aimed at mitigating these issues, with a particular focus on comprehensive family planning initiatives. In the Beaufort West area, the incidence of teenage pregnancies, defined as births to women under 19 years old, stands at 17.4 per cent having decreased from 19.0 per cent in 2021/22. Although this rate is a matter of concern, it is comparatively on par with the recorded Central Karoo District rate of 17.4 per cent.

Termination of pregnancies associated with unplanned pregnancies, is recorded at 0.1 per cent and on par with Central Karoo District rate.

Child health

There has been a regression in the immunisation coverage rate for children under the age of one in the municipal area. In 2022/23, the coverage rate declined to 76.2 per cent from the previous year's rate of 87.9 per cent. It is noteworthy that the municipal area's immunisation coverage rate remains lower than the Central Karoo District average, which stood at 81.0 per cent in 2022. It is further observed that the broader Central Karoo District has also experienced a decline in its average compared to the preceding year. This highlights the need for continued efforts and targeted interventions to sustain and improve immunisation rates, not only within the municipal area but also at the District level.

An improvement in malnourished children under the age of five years (severe acute malnutrition) is observed from 2.4 per 100 000 in 2021/22 to 1.3 per 100 000 population in 2022/23. The Central Karoo District rate however increased from 2.4 per 100 000 to 3.9 per 100 000 during the same period.

The neonatal mortality rate (deaths per 1 000 live births between 6 and 28 days of life) declined marginally to 19.6 deaths per 1 000 live births from 2021/22 to 2022/23, however, an analysis of the actual numbers reflects 16 reported inpatient deaths between 6-28 days of life in the municipal area. Effective interventions such as improved care around the time of birth and vaccination remains critical. In terms of data availability, updated quality and disaggregated data which allow the most vulnerable children to be identified are critical to achieving the goal of ending preventable deaths of children. In addition, the number of all babies born in health facilities that weighed less than 2 500 grams also increased from 19.4 to 22.1 per cent during the reporting period, indicating possible challenges with long-term maternal malnutrition and poor health care in pregnancy.

HIV/AIDS & Tuberculosis

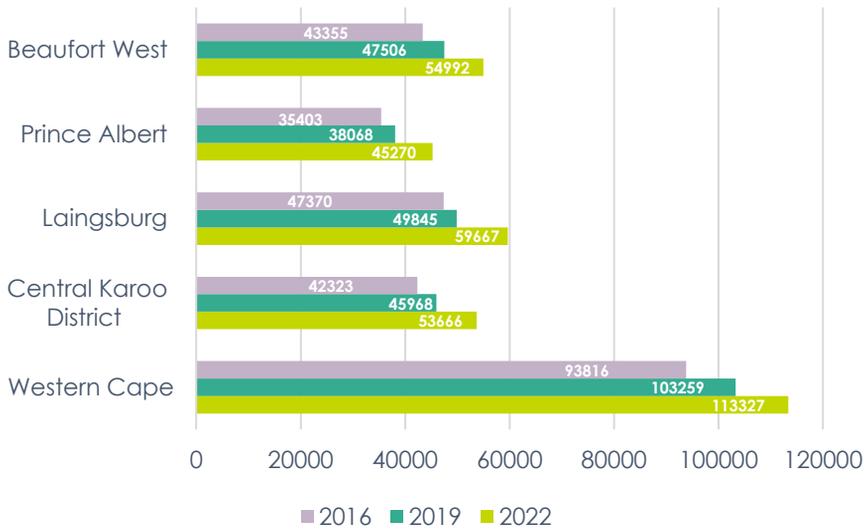
The number of patients registered for ART saw a notable decrease from 1 603 patients in 2021/22 to 1 572 patients in 2022/23; this change reflects an almost 1.9 per cent decline in the number of individuals registered for ART during this timeframe. The decrease in utilisation of ART treatment, which is crucial for managing HIV/AIDS is concerning as individuals who stop treatment may experience drug resistance.

On the other hand, there was an increase in the number of patients receiving TB treatment. The figure rose by 22.4 per cent, bringing the total number of registered patients to 465 in 2022/23. This upswing implies a proactive approach in identifying and treating individuals with TB in the community, contributing to better public health outcomes.

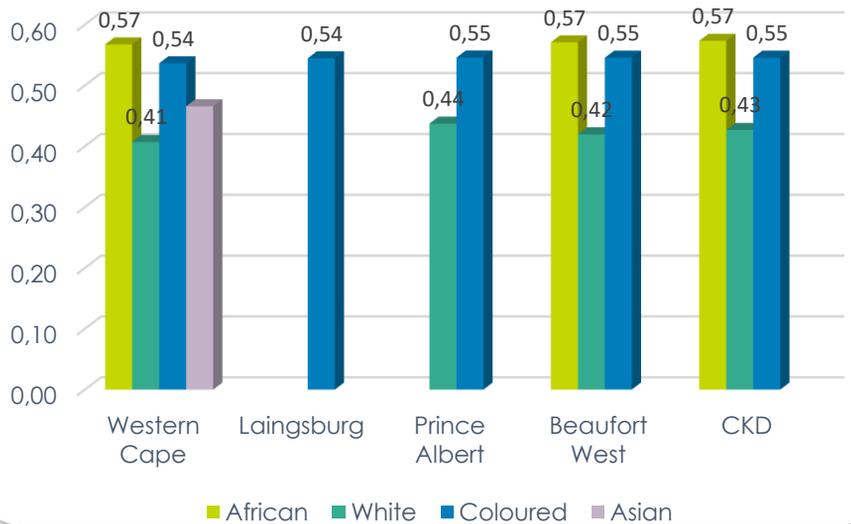
POVERTY



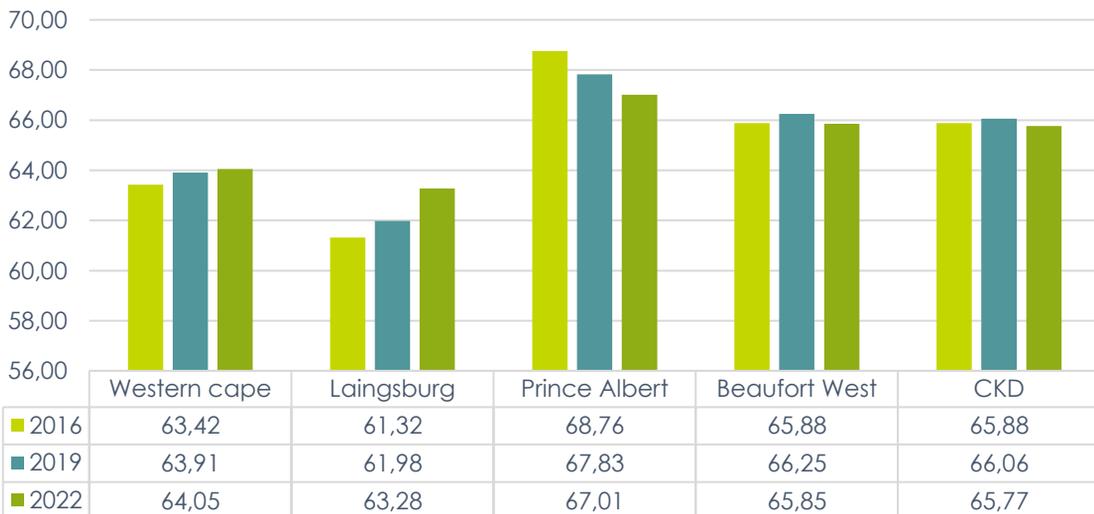
GDP per capita



Income Inequality



Poverty Line



GDPR Per Capita

GDPR per capita measures the total economic output of a region relative to the size of the population living there. The GDPR per capita is useful for comparing living standards across regions and growth in GDPR per capita is considered a summary indicator of economic development in a particular area.

An increase in GDPR per capita, i.e., GDPR per person, is experienced only if the economic growth rate exceeds the population growth rate. While Beaufort West municipal area is the biggest economy in the District, it only recorded a GDPR per Capita of R54 992. This is above the District GDPR but considerably below the Provincial level of R113 327 in 2022. This means that people in Beaufort West have lower levels of income than the Provincial average.

It should be noted that GDPR per capita expanded in the Beaufort West municipal area over the 3-year period. This positive performance could be ascribed to the strength of the local agriculture sector, which enabled economic expansion in a context of slow population growth. Beaufort West municipal area, recorded GDPR per capita growth of 15.8 per cent in 2022, a significant increase relative to its performance in 2021.

Income Inequality

South Africa suffers among the highest levels of inequality in the world when measured by the commonly used Gini index. Inequality manifests itself through a skewed income distribution, unequal access to opportunities, and regional disparities.

The National Development Plan (NDP) has set a target of reducing income inequality in South Africa from a Gini coefficient of 0.7 in 2010 to 0.6 by 2030. The Beaufort West municipal area's income inequality has improved from 0.59 to 0.58 in 2022, however it was the second-highest Gini coefficient of the three municipal areas in the CKD during the reference period. Beaufort West's Gini coefficient remains lower than the Provincial income inequality level of 0.60 in 2022. Insufficient economic diversification is central to the lack of high-paying jobs in Beaufort West. This is particularly apparent in the towns of Leeu-Gamka and Klaarstroom, which have the lowest median incomes in the CKD. These low incomes are accompanied by significant income inequality. A substantial proportion of individuals earn even less than the average median income contributing to a disparity in living standards.

In terms of racial groups, income disparities are noticeable in the African racial group with a Gini coefficient of 0.57 in 2022; followed by the coloured racial group with 0.55; the white racial group on the other hand indicates a more equal distribution of wealth with a Gini coefficient 0.43 in 2022. Other racial group income inequality levels were not significant due to their population contribution and disaggregated data availability.

Poverty Line

The Upper Bound Poverty Line (UBPL) head count ratio is the proportion of the population living below the UBPL i.e., that cannot afford to purchase adequate levels of food and non-food items. The UBPL in South Africa is R1 417 (in April 2022 prices) per person per month.

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. In 2022, poverty was higher in Beaufort West; it was above the District average with 65.9 per cent of the population falling below the UBPL.

BASIC SERVICE DELIVERY

19 216
Beaufort West

27 290
Central Karoo District

Total number of households

99.4%

Formal main dwelling

19 100

Beaufort West

26 962

Central Karoo District

98.8%

99.4% Beaufort West
98.8% Central Karoo

Formal dwelling



0.0% Beaufort West
0.0% Central Karoo

Traditional dwelling



0.4% Beaufort West
0.8% Central Karoo

Informal dwelling

0.3% Beaufort West
0.6% Central Karoo

Other/Unspecified



Piped water inside dwelling

Beaufort West 87.2%
Central Karoo 87.1%



Flush toilet connected to sewerage

Beaufort West 98.0%
Central Karoo 97.5%



Electricity as primary source of lighting

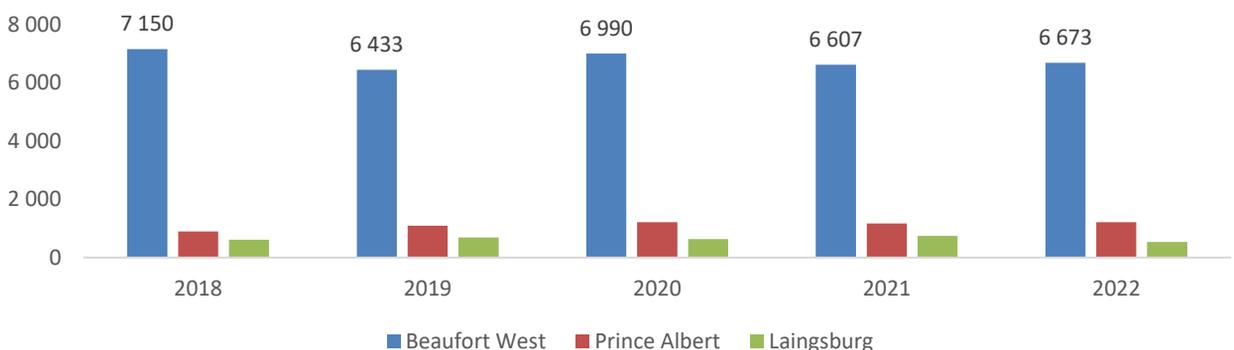
Beaufort West 97.3%
Central Karoo 96.6%



Refuse removal at least once a week

Beaufort West 79.6%
Central Karoo 81.5%

Indigent Households Central Karoo Municipalities



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 the Statistics South Africa 2022 Census data.

Housing and Household Services

With a total of 19 216 households in Beaufort West municipal area, 99.4 per cent had access to formal housing; this is higher than the District average of 98.8 per cent in 2022. The Beaufort West municipal area also had the lowest proportion of informal dwellings within the District, at a total of 0.4 per cent compared to the District's total of 0.8 per cent. The Beaufort West municipal area however, due to its household size has the highest housing demand in the CKD, with 50.0 per cent of households registered on the Western Cape Housing Demand Database. This demand stems from the prevalence of informal settlements and lower wages in areas such as Merweville and Murraysburg. To address this challenge, a few housing support programmes have identified intervention sites for the 2023/24 MTREF period. These include the Finance Linked Individual Subsidy (FLISP), for which 120 subsidised housing units are being built in the Beaufort West area, and the Integrated Residential Development Programme (IRDP), for which 220 IRDP houses are being built in the Murraysburg area. In addition, 67 IRDP houses are being constructed in the Essopville area under the auspices of the IRDP.

In addition to suitable housing, access to basic services such as water and sanitation plays a pivotal role in the overall wellbeing of communities. Local municipalities are essential in cultivating an environment that promotes private investment and entrepreneurship, resulting in local economic opportunities that positively impact the community.

Apart from refuse removal services, access levels in the Beaufort West municipal area were at better levels than access than the District average with access to piped water inside the dwelling at 87.2 per cent, access to electricity (for lighting) at 97.3 per cent, access to flush toilet connected to sewage at 98.0 per cent. Removal of refuse at least weekly by local authority at 79.6 per cent of households was lower than the District averages for water and sanitation services.

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 Beaufort West municipal area has fluctuated between 2018 to 2022, with 6 673 households classified as indigent household in 2022. The stressed economic conditions are expected to exert additional pressure on household income, which will likely increase the demand for free basic services and in turn the number of indigent households.

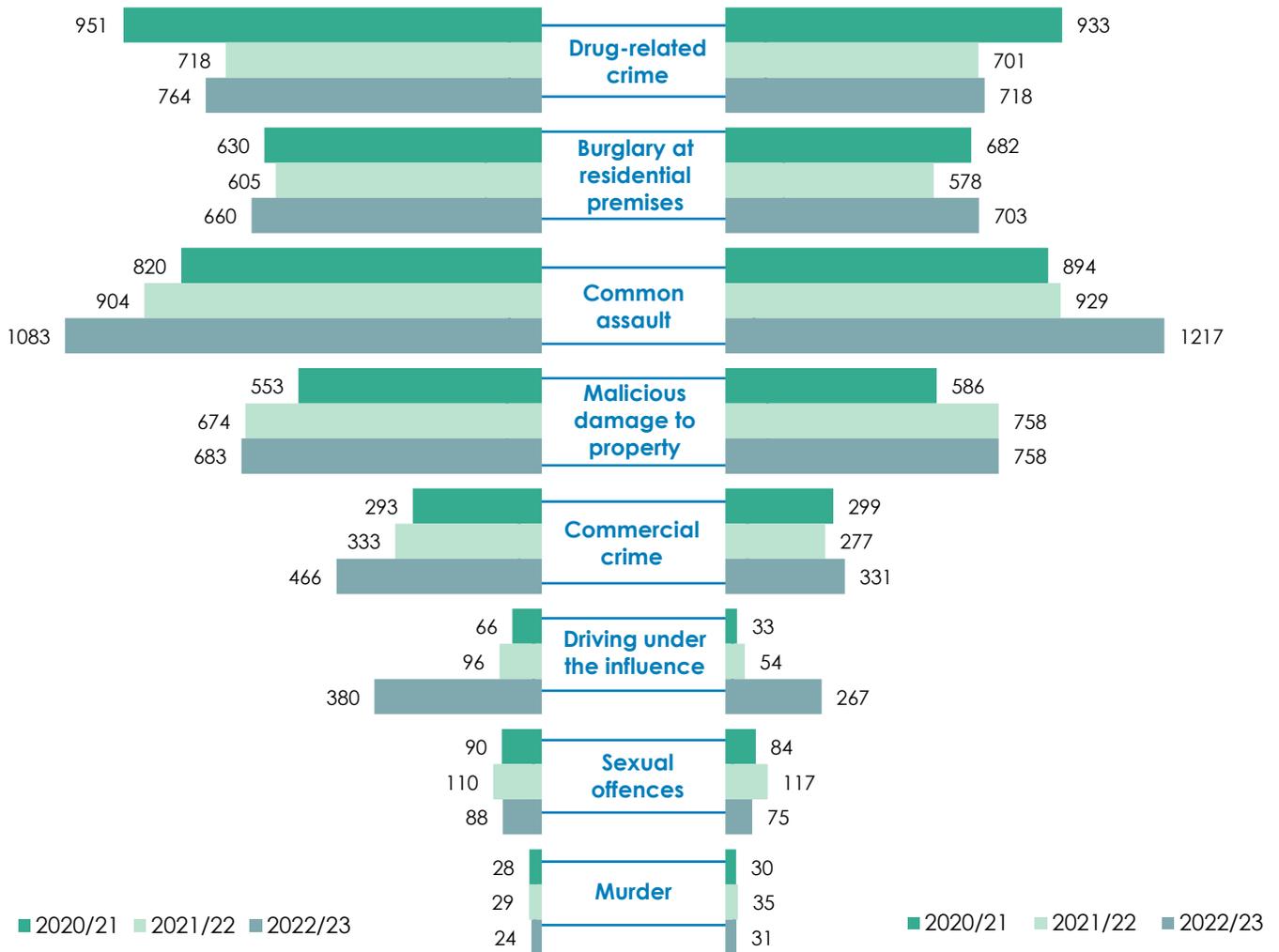
SAFETY AND SECURITY

CENTRAL KAROO

7 722 Total reported
crime per 100 000 people in the
Central Karoo District in 2022/23

BEAUFORT WEST

7 806 Total reported
crime per 100 000 people in
Beaufort West in 2022/23



■ 2020/21 ■ 2021/22 ■ 2022/23

■ 2020/21 ■ 2021/22 ■ 2022/23

Drug-related
crime
359 (2021/22)
369 (2022/23)

Murder
18 (2021/22)
16 (2022/23)

Sexual
offences
60 (2021/22)
38 (2022/23)

Driving under
the influence
28 (2021/22)
137 (2022/23)



Residential
burglaries
296 (2021/22)
361 (2022/23)

Common assault
476 (2021/22)
625 (2022/23)

Damage to
property
388 (2021/22)
389 (2022/23)

Commercial
crime
142 (2021/22)
170 (2022/23)

Murder

Violent crime like murder within Beaufort West municipal area improved in 2022/23, with 16 murders reported compared to 18 murders reported in 2021/22. The murder rate in Beaufort West, when calculated per 100 000 people, is higher than the murder rate in the broader Central Karoo region for the reporting period. This indicates that, in relative terms, the incidence of murder in Beaufort West is comparatively higher than the surrounding area, which necessitates targeted safety interventions to deal with crime in the Municipal area.

Sexual Offences

South Africa has unfortunately earned the classification of having one of the highest rape statistics globally. Within Beaufort West municipal area, reported sexual offense cases declined from 60 cases in 2021/22 to 38 cases in 2022/23, reflecting a substantial decrease of 36.7 per cent during this reporting period.

However, when evaluating sexual offenses per 100 000 people, the analysis reveals fluctuations between 2020/21 and 2022/23. While reported cases increased in 2021/22, there was a subsequent decline in 2022/23. Crucially, sexual offenses are inseparable from the broader context of gender-based violence. Women and children, unfortunately, remain vulnerable victims of rape and sexual assault, leading to severe consequences such as unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, and the propagation of HIV/AIDS.

Drug-related Offences

The prevalence of drug-related crime in Beaufort West municipal area escalated from 359 actual cases in 2021/22 to 369 actual cases in 2022/23, constituting an increase of 2.8 per cent in reported cases. Nevertheless, when considering drug-related offenses per 100 000 people, fluctuations are noted between 2020/21 and 2022/23.

Driving under the influence (DUI)

The number of cases of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs in the Beaufort West area saw an alarming increase from 28 actual cases in 2021 to 137 actual cases in 2022/23. This translates into a rate of 267 cases per 100 000 people in 2022/23, which is below the District's average of 380 cases per 100 000 people.

Residential Burglaries and Damage to Properties

Beaufort West municipal area witnessed a significant increase in property related crime with the actual number of residential burglaries increasing from 296 burglaries in 2021/22 to 361 burglaries in 2022/23, reflecting an increase of 22.0 per cent between the reporting period.

The number of reported cases of damages to property increased marginally from 388 to 389 between 2021/22 and the 2022/23. Understanding and monitoring such trends are crucial for assessing community safety, law enforcement effectiveness, and potential areas for preventive measures or interventions.

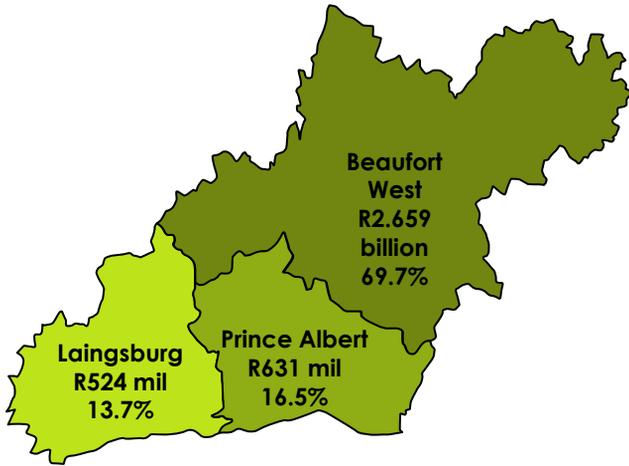
Commercial Crime

There is a notable increase in reported cases of commercial crime from 142 actual cases in 2021/22 to 170 actual cases in 2022/23, which highlights a growing concern for the economic landscape within the Municipal area.

GDPR PERFORMANCE



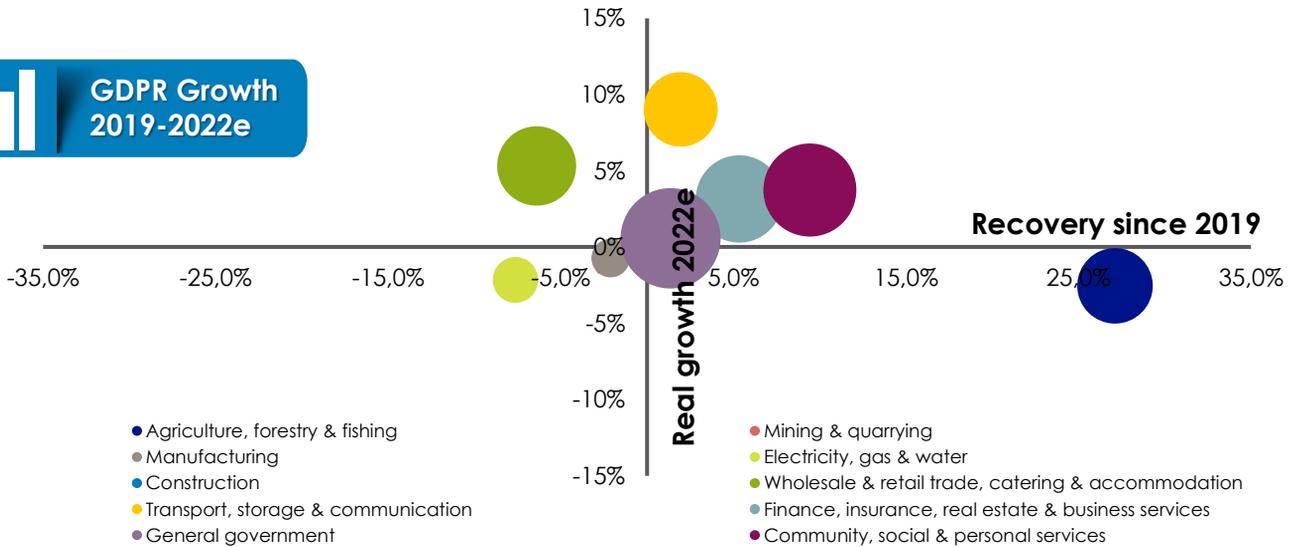
GDPR Contribution 2021



Sectoral contribution to GDPR 2021



GDPR Growth 2019-2022e



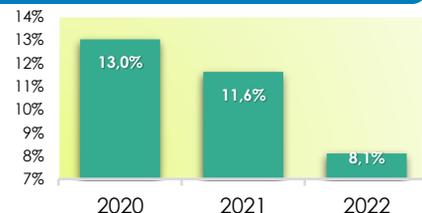
GDPR forecast



International Trade, 2022



Tourism spend % of GDP



GDPR Performance

The Beaufort West municipal area had the largest economy in the CKD in 2021 (R2.7 billion). The government sector is the most significant source of economic activity and employment in the Beaufort West municipal area, contributing R549.5 million (20.7 per cent) to the economy in 2021. All spheres of government are active in the region. However, most jobs stem from the local and provincial governments and the Beaufort West Prison. The community services and finance sectors also contribute substantially to the local economy. In 2021, these two sectors accounted for 15.7 per cent and 16.0 per cent of GDPR, respectively.

The economy was also propelled upwards in 2021 by the transport sector, which accounted for 12.9 per cent to the GDPR of the Beaufort West municipal area (growing at 4.4 per cent in 2021) and with this surge in growth, the transport sector completed the process of recovering ground lost during the COVID-19 pandemic and contributed 11.4 percent to the GDPR in 2021 (growing at 6.3 per cent).

In 2022, the GDPR is estimated to have expanded by 2.3 per cent. The tertiary sector is the only sector that reported growth at 3.9 per cent in 2022. Economic growth prospects were dampened by contractions in all industries within the primary and secondary sectors, with the primary sector shrinking by an estimated 2.5 percent in 2022 and the secondary sector by an estimate of 3.6 per cent. These contractions highlight the extent to which the mining; manufacturing; electricity, gas and water and construction sectors are struggling to recover from the impact of the pandemic. However, public sector spending can be valuable in revitalising the local construction industry.

GDPR Forecast

The economy of the Beaufort West municipal area is expected to contract in 2023 by 0.9 per cent before resuming growth in 2024 for which an expansion of 0.8 per cent is forecast. These predictions reflect concerns about continued pressure on household spending and the knock-on effects of this on vital local sectors such as community services, transport and tourism.

Trade Balance

International trade is not a significant factor in the economy of the Beaufort West municipal area. The trade balance of the area decreased significantly between 2020 and 2022, falling from negative R2.5 million to negative R12.4 million during this period. The tertiary sector dominates the economy, including general government, community services and finance. Harvesting machinery worth R8.0 million was the top imported product in 2022. The second-largest import was mechanical appliances used for dispersing liquids and powders (R4.1 million), devices most often associated with administering medication and vaccinations to livestock. The top two exported products in 2022 were tractors (R0.7 million) and motor vehicles for the transport of goods (R0.5 million). However, the trade balance of the area remains negative, indicating a local economy that is not realising its potential.

Tourism Spend

The tourism sector accounted for 8.1 per cent of GDPR in 2022 implying a change of 3.5 percentage points compared to the 11.6 per cent contribution in 2021. To further develop tourism in the municipal area and ensure that the industry is sustainable over the long term, it is essential that strategies be put in place to attract visitors during off-peak periods.

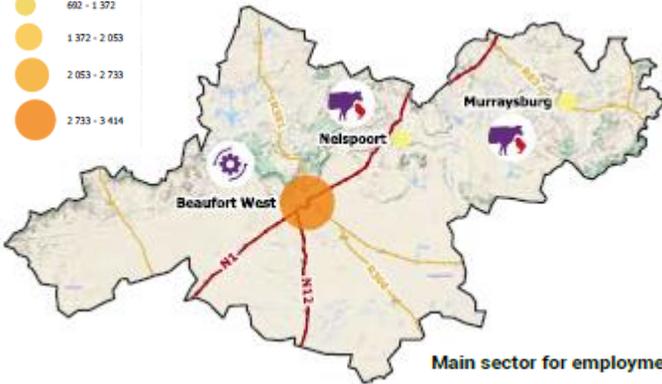
LABOUR MARKET PERFORMANCE

Roads

- National Roads
- Regional Roads

FTE numbers

- 11 - 692
- 692 - 1 372
- 1 372 - 2 053
- 2 053 - 2 733
- 2 733 - 3 414

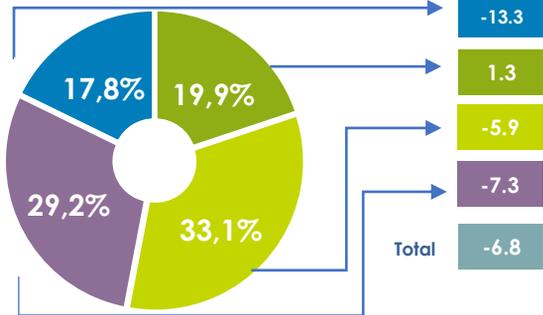


Formal Employment by Town, 2022

Main sector for employment

- General public administration at Local Government level
- Mixed farming

Skill Level % Contribution, 2022

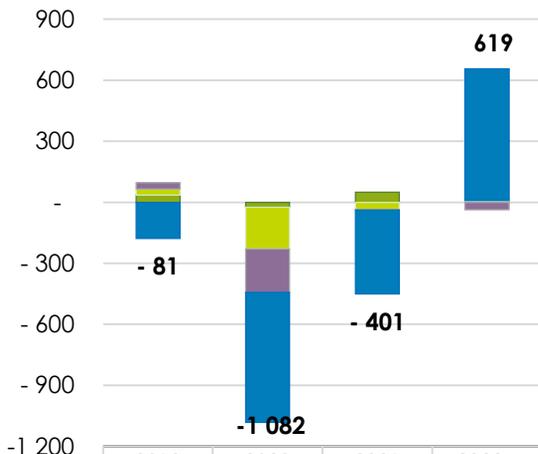


Recovery in Employment (%) 2019-2022

- 13.3
- 1.3
- 5.9
- 7.3
- Total -6.8

Total Persons Employed 2022	Skilled	Semi-skilled	Low-skilled	Informal
	2 233	3 713	3 235	2 635

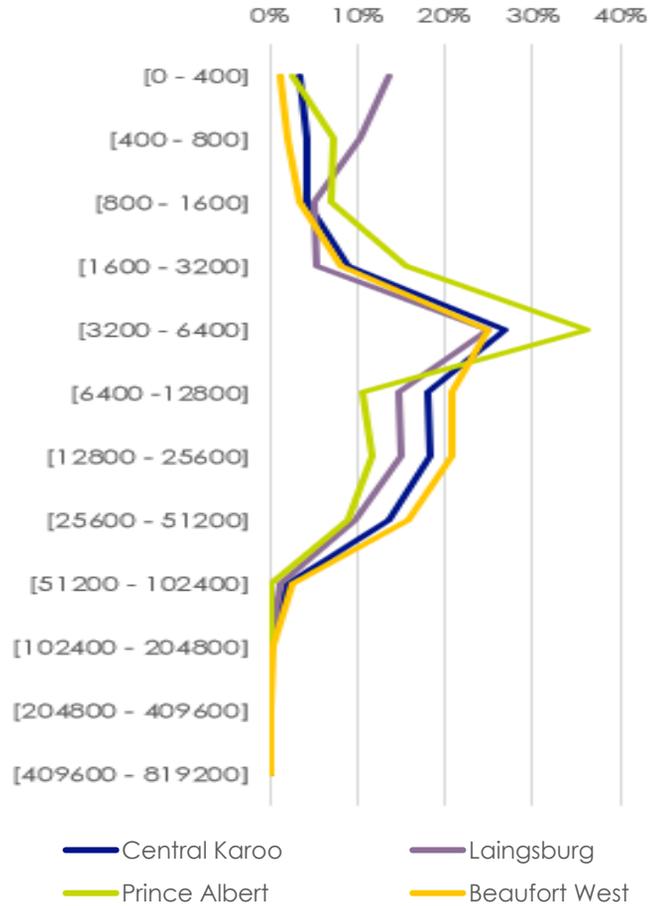
Net employment per sector, 2019-2022



	2019	2020	2021	2022e
Total	-81	-1 082	-401	619
Informal	-178	-639	-412	647
Low skilled	32	-214	-3	-37
Semi-skilled	29	-205	-35	6
Skilled	36	-24	49	3



Wage Distribution per municipal area, 2022



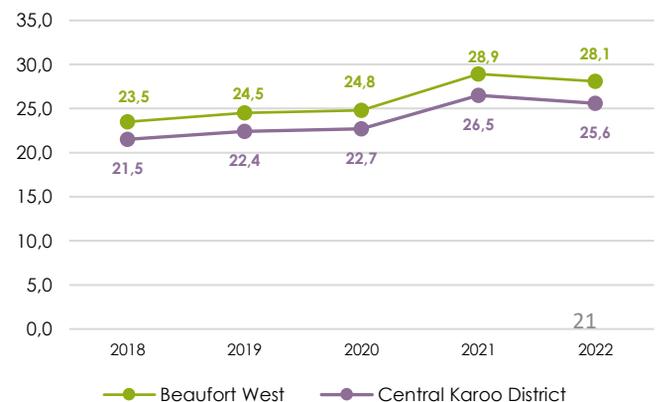
Sector

Sector	No. of FTE Jobs
Administration of the state and the economic and social policy of the community	1 548
Provision of services to the community as a whole	336
Short term accommodation activities	178
Retail of automotive fuel in specialized stores	159
Mixed farming	152

Top 5 Sectors



Unemployment rate 2018-2022



- Beaufort West
- Central Karoo District

Labour Market Performance

With 11 197 people formally and informally employed in 2021, the municipal area had a labour absorption rate (53.3 per cent). The not economically active population was at 46.7 per cent. It is evident that the Beaufort West municipal area needs economic revitalisation. Ideally, this will increase labour force participation and promote job creation.

Most of the jobs stem from the local and provincial governments and the Beaufort West Prison. Despite the economic recovery experienced in 2021, the economy continued to shed jobs, with an estimated 401 net jobs lost. This was largely driven by job losses in the wholesale & retail trade, catering & accommodation (-240 jobs); transport, storage and communication (-68 jobs); finance and insurance and construction lost 50 jobs each, followed by 34 job losses in Agricultural sector, reflecting that employment creation is lagging the improved GDP. Only the general government and the community and social sector was able to create jobs during 2021.

The net job growth in the municipal area is expected to be positive in 2022, largely boosted by employment in the informal sector. This contributed to a welcome reduction in the unemployment rate by 0.8 percentage points. Unemployment rate at 28.1 per cent in 2022, however remains rife and above the District average, and contributes to the high poverty rate in the municipal area.

Skills Distribution

Skills facilitation is becoming essential in ensuring that local labourers find employment. Over the past decade, skilled workers were more likely to be employed in the Beaufort West than semi-skilled or low-skilled workers. Low skilled and semi-skilled are more likely to be employed at Murraysburg and Nelspoort mostly in the mixed farming industry.

It is estimated that Beaufort West municipal area employment in 2021 amount to 11 197 workers, of which 9 203 (82.2 per cent) are employed in the formal sector and 2 635 (17.8 per cent) are informally employed. The informal sector is an essential source of jobs, accounting for 17.8 per cent of employment in 2021. As formal employment faltered in 2022, the informal sector recorded a surge in jobs, mainly in retail.

Most of the formally employed consisted of semi-skilled (33.3 per cent) and low skilled (29.3 per cent) workers. The skilled category only contributed 19.9 per cent to total formal employment. The skilled category grew at a pace of 1.3 per cent per annum from 2019 to 2022 notably outpacing low-skilled employment which shed 7.3 per cent of jobs per annum and semi-skilled employment -5.9 per cent. The informal sector shed most of the jobs at -13.3 per cent of jobs between 2019 and 2022. The growth in the skilled category reflects the increasing market demand for skilled labour and the need for skills development initiatives in the municipal area.

Wage Distribution

Wage levels are higher in the Beaufort West municipal area, which has a diversified economy and is the epicentre of public sector services in the CKD. In addition, the town of Beaufort West is the most significant urban centre within the District. While most workers in this municipal area also earned between R3 200 and R6 400 in 2022, a noteworthy 20.7 per cent of workers fell into the R12 800 to R25 600 wage bracket. In addition, 18.9 per cent of workers in the area fell into higher salary brackets (those for earnings above R25 600) the largest such share in the CKD. In 2022, the Beaufort West municipal area also had the highest median income in the CKD at R9 812.

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
Beaufort West	23	2.90	20	3.77	18	5.83	2	2.0
Laingsburg	20	2.56	12	2.96	7	4.73	4	3.26
Beaufort West	25	3.39	19	3.71	4	4.52	3	3.26

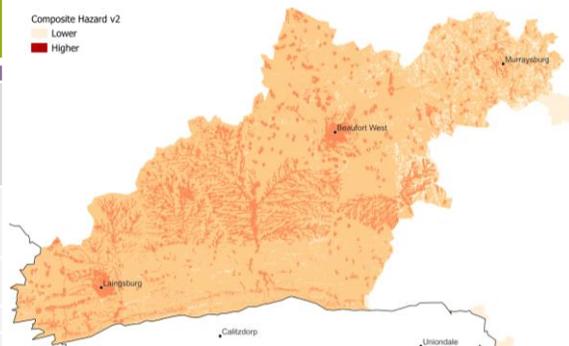


HAZARDS*

Beaufort West Overall Population Growth Pressure:

Low no change suggests no real growth pressure in most settlements *

Composite Hazard v2
Lower
Higher



Six of the Top 10 Risks in the Central Karoo are environmental in nature (Provincial Disaster Risk Register)

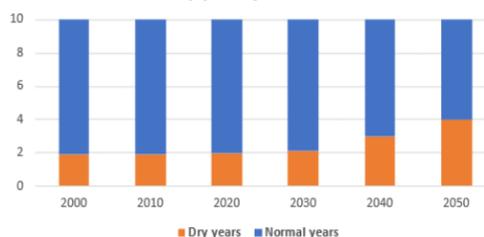
Beaufort West's identified Hydro-meteorological Hazards to settlements as observed by the CSIR (The Greenbook *)

1. Drought	An increase in drought tendency years expected, with high potential increase in settlements' exposure to drought
2. Human Health Conditions And Diseases	See comments under 'drought' and 'heat waves'
3. Shale Gas Drilling And Extraction	
4. Water Pollution	
5. Floods	Potential increase to exposure in settlements to flooding is very low
6. Critical Service Disruptions: Waste Management	
7. Heat Waves	Potential increase in exposure to heat extremes are high to extreme
8. Structural Fires	Low risk exposure
9. Wildfires	Low potential increase to exposure of settlements to wildfires, but fire-danger days remain a risk for agriculture
10. Critical Service Disruptions: Water Security And Supply	See comments under 'drought'

Temperature change (2050 compared to historic):†

Mean temperature increase (District)	1.4 °C higher
Additional days per year with daily maximum temperature above 30 °C (Beaufort West)	23 days

Dry days per decade



Central Karoo no. of dry years per decade†

	2000	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050
Dry years	1.9	1.9	2	2.1	3	4
Wet years	8.1	8.1	8	7.9	7	6

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

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

Drought

According to the CSIR Green Book, Beaufort West has a general overall tendency to be exposed to an increase in drought. Currently 1.9 years per decade are at risk of drought, and this will increase to 4 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. The higher our dependence on groundwater, the more likely we are to suffer water security issues. During extended drought periods, even end users far from major source areas are likely to experience shortages as the overall system runs low. This was the situation during the 2015-2019 drought in the Western Cape, when eventually the overall water supply scheme ran low due to the multi-year duration of the drought.

Temperatures

Average temperature has been increasing since the 1900s. Projections indicate that Beaufort West can expect an additional 23 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. This is especially true at the wildland-urban interface where vegetation fuel loads in proximity to built structures and numerous informal fires add to the likelihood and severity of fire risk. Uncontained fires will also cause damage in rural/agricultural areas where infrastructure, crops and livestock may be lost to extensive firelines.

Furthermore, in many areas land has been converted from natural vegetation to other land-cover types - some of which significantly modify the fuel loads (e.g. the establishment of forest plantations and the spread of several introduced tree species such as pines, hakea, wattles and eucalyptus). Fires in vegetation with high fuel loads increase soil erosion and run-off, which negatively affects ecosystem services and increases the impact of floods, among other factors. Where severe fires have occurred due to high fuel loads, resulting soil erosion leads to the sedimentation of rivers and dams and therefore declining water quality (and increased water treatment costs).

Floods

Floods result in millions or billions of Rands' damage to built structures or lost productivity, the loss of livelihoods and in some cases the loss of lives. A 2016 report calculated that four severe weather events between 2011 and 2014 caused more than R1.6 billion worth of damage in the Western Cape, and in the recent September 2023 severe weather event, flood-related infrastructure damage alone amounted to R2 billion. Flooding is also one of the main disaster risks affected by climate change. Changes in rainfall volume, intensity and timing will alter flood risk profiles, and necessitate a constant reconsideration of risks and risk reduction measures.

CONCLUSION

The Beaufort West municipal area exhibited a positive population growth rate in 2022. Projections indicate a slowing down in growth trajectory, with an anticipated average annual increase of 0.5 per cent between 2023 to 2027. Notably, household numbers have also shown an upward trend when compared to the figures recorded in 2011. Despite the growth in population and households, household size has remained consistent between the census figures of 2011 and 2022. This implies that while there is an increase in the number of households, the average size of each household has not undergone significant changes over this period.

The dependency ratio reflects an improvement, indicating a growing working-age population. However, although the child population declined between 2011 and 2022, it remains high, emphasising the need for school infrastructure and social development initiatives. The sex ratio, however, reflects a worrisome trend with a declining sex ratio of 91.4 males per 100 female's indicative of immigration patterns for men and the resulting increase in female headed households.

The educational situation faces challenges like declining retention rates at high schools. Implementing programs for vulnerable learners and increasing vocational training institutions could help address these issues.

Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in the Beaufort West area remains high reflecting gaps in prenatal and postnatal care, inadequate facilities, or difficulties in accessing timely and appropriate medical interventions during pregnancy and childbirth.

The Beaufort West municipal area due to its rural nature and lack of economic diversification recorded exceptionally low GDP per capita compared to that of the Province and recorded the second lowest GDP per capita in the District. The unemployment rate in the Beaufort West municipal area has shown a consistent upward trend since 2018, reaching a concerning 28.9 per cent in 2022 and then slightly improved to 28.1 per cent in 2023. To foster the well-being and development of the region, it is imperative to address economic challenges through a multifaceted approach. Despite economic challenges, households in Beaufort West enjoy access to high service standards.

The economic cost and social cost of crime cannot be over emphasised as it has an implication for well-being and resource allocation by Government, businesses and citizens. In terms of safety and security Sexual offences and murder were the only categories of crime that saw improvement, this was followed by damage to property which marginally increased between 2021/22 and 2022/23. To address persistent crime in the municipal area, it is imperative to prioritise crime prevention strategies and community policing along with enhanced law enforcement capabilities.

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*