



Western Cape  
Government  
**FOR YOU**



**#KnowYourMunicipality: The 2023 Socio-Economic Profile**

**Laingsburg Municipality**



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# Laingsburg: At a Glance

## Demographics

Census 2022; Actual households, 2022



Population  
**11 366**

(Source: Census 2022)



Households  
**3 314**

(Source: Census 2022)

## Education

2022



Matric Pass Rate **81.6%**  
Learner Retention Rate **59.0%**  
Learner-Teacher Ratio **32.9**

## Poverty

2021



Gini Coefficient **0.57**  
Poverty Head Count Ratio (UBPL) **63.3%**

## Health

2021/22



Primary Health Care Facilities  
**1**  
(excl. mobile/satellite clinics)

Immunisation Rate  
**77.1%**

Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100 000 live births)  
**0.0**

Teenage Pregnancies – Delivery rate to women U/19  
**19.1%**

## Safety and Security

Actual number of reported cases in 2022



Residential Burglaries  
**74**

DUI  
**39**

Drug-related Crimes  
**107**

Murder  
**0**

Sexual Offences  
**10**

## Access to Basic Service Delivery

Percentage of households with access to basic services, 2022

Water  
**84.5%**



Refuse Removal  
**80.0%**



Electricity  
**92.3%**



Sanitation  
**95.6%**



Housing  
**96.2%**



## Labour

2021

Unemployment Rate (narrow definition)

**20.2%**



## Socio-economic Risks

- Risk 1 Job losses
- Risk 2 Low learner retention
- Risk 3 Low skills base (Labour)

## Largest 3 Sectors

Contribution to GDP, 2021

Agriculture

**22.9%**



General Government

**20.5%**



Community and Social Services

**16.6%**



# INTRODUCTION

This publication is produced by the Provincial Treasury for each of the Western Cape municipalities on an annual basis. These socio-economic profiles provide each municipality with up-to-date socio-economic data as well as analysis pertaining to the municipal area, to assist in planning, budgeting and the prioritisation of municipal services.

The profiles include information on recent trends in GDP and labour market performance, demographics, education and health outcomes. It further unpacks per capita income, inequality and poverty, access to housing and basic services as well as crime levels. A new addition to the profile is the inclusion of risk and vulnerability indicators related to climate change which is critical to development.

Valuable insight can be gained as to the developmental challenges faced by communities residing within a specific geographical area. While some developmental challenges are not within the municipality's mandate to address, these profiles also provide spatial information for other spheres of Government in order to improve the quality of lives of people within each municipal area.

This profile uses data primarily sourced from Statistics South Africa, administrative data from sector departments, the Municipal Review and Outlook (MERO), Global Insight Regional Explorer and Quantec. The data sourced from sector departments are the most recent that is available. The Statistics South Africa 2022 Census contains the latest survey data available at municipal level.

The format of the profile allows for easy readability with the data being displayed in infographics, followed by the relevant trend analyses.

The information contained in this profile highlights information for the Laingsburg Municipality in relation to the broader Central Karoo District.

# DEMOGRAPHICS

Population 11 366 2022



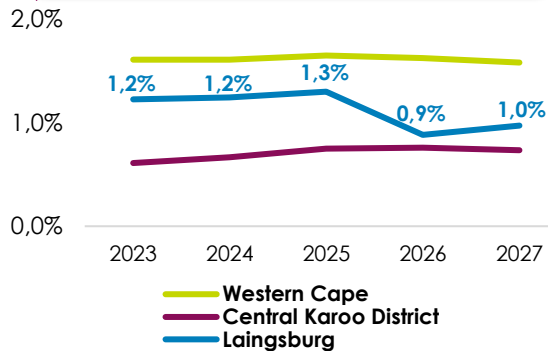
Households 2023  
3 314

Estimated Population  
11988 2027

Estimated Average Annual Population Growth Rate 2023 - 2027

1.1%

## Estimated Population Growth



## Gender and Age Dynamics



Female 51.2% | Male 48.8%

374<sub>2023</sub>

372<sub>2024</sub>

Fertility Index

46.4<sub>2022</sub>

55.6<sub>2023</sub>

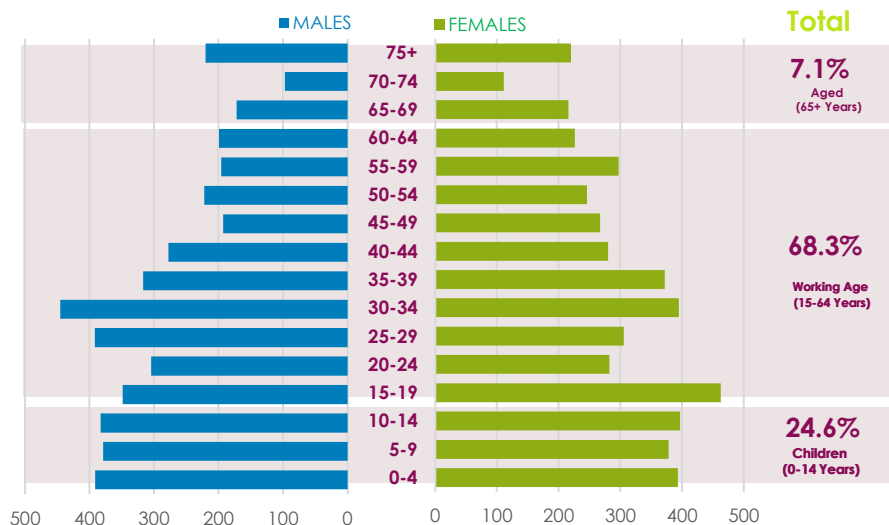
Dependency Ratio

46.0<sub>2023</sub>

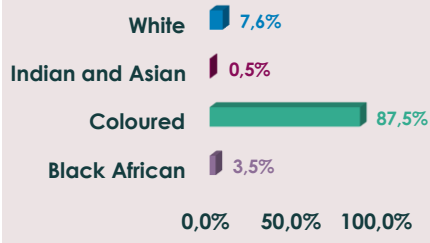
47.3<sub>2024</sub>

Ageing Index

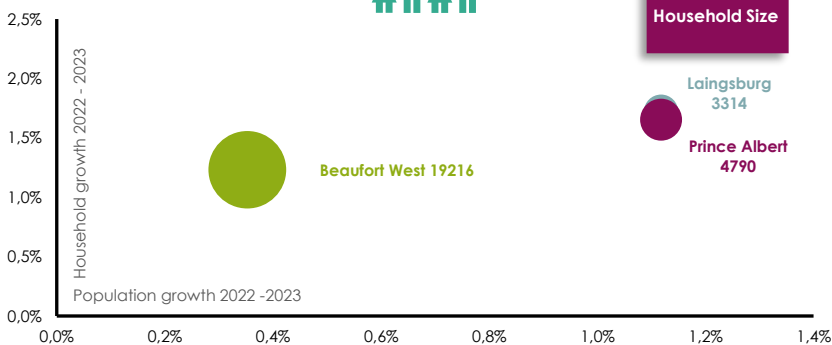
## Population by Age 2022



## Racial Split



## Population and Household Growth 2022



## Level of Urbanisation 2021



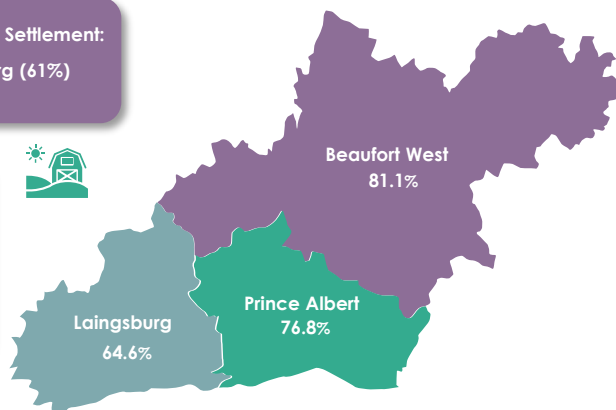
1.3 people/km<sup>2</sup> 2022

1.1 people/km<sup>2</sup> 2024

1.1 people/km<sup>2</sup> 2023

Largest Urban Settlement: Laingsburg (61%)

Urban/Rural change: Largest increase in rural area (6.9%) and decrease in town (4.5%)  
Density change: Highest in Matjiesfontein but low overall



## Population and Household Growth

Laingsburg is the entry point to the Central Karoo District (CKD) if driving from Cape Town along the N1 to Johannesburg. The town can be identified as a geologically fascinating area, steeped in history and tradition a worthwhile and hospitable stop on the busy N1 highway through the Great Karoo.

The population profile of the Laingsburg is a testament to the rural character of the area; the municipal area has the smallest population in the Western Cape Province. Laingsburg is also the least populous municipality within the CKD with an estimated population of 11 336 as per the latest Census 2022 data. The population is estimated to have grown by 3.1 per cent between 2011 and 2022.

The Laingsburg municipal area is estimated to have relatively rapid population growth rate and is forecast to grow by an average annual rate of 1.1 per cent between 2023 and 2027 above the district forecasted growth of 0.7 per cent. However, these increases are from a small base.

The current number of household is estimated at 3 314; household growth is also expected to expand to follow the population trends. The 2022 census records the average household size at 3.4 people per household; this is an increase compared to 3.3 people per household recorded in the 2011 census data for Laingsburg municipal area. Contributing factors to the trend in Laingsburg could include higher fertility rates as indicated in the higher teenage pregnancies in the municipal area or increase in woman of reproductive age.

## 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.

An analysis of the demographic composition within the municipal area reveals that 68.3 per cent of the population is categorised as economically active group (those 15 to 64 years). Children (those younger than 15) on the other hand comprise the second largest group at 24.6 per cent, while the aged (those above 65) constitutes 7.1 per cent of the population.

The structure indicates an improved dependency ratio of 46.4 per cent due to growth in the working age cohort and a decrease in the children population within the municipal area in 2022 compared to 2011. However, high youth unemployment coupled with high poverty rates will have a significant impact on the overall community wellbeing. This highlights the need for intervention targeting youth and investment in post-school skills training opportunities in the Laingsburg municipal area.

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 Laingsburg municipal area echoes the sentiment that the population is predominately Coloured; the coloured racial group accounted for 86.1 per cent of the total population. This is followed by the white racial group at 9.9 per cent and Black Africans account only for 3.8 per cent. This racial split differs largely from the Country's racial split with Black Africans constituting 81.4 per cent of the total population, while the coloured population only comprise 8.2 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 48.8 per cent of the population versus females at 51.2 per cent of the population resulting in a sex ratio of 95.1 males per 100 females. A consistent decrease in the sex ratio within the Laingsburg municipal area has been observed; with the ratio decreasing from a more equitable distribution of both males and females at 99.5 males per 100 females in 2011.

The human sex ratio is indicative of fertility rates, mortality rates during childhood and migration patterns within the municipality area. The declining trend in the sex ratio is more pronounced in the other two municipal areas in the District with the Beaufort West municipal area recording a sex ratio of 91.4 males per 100 females and Prince Albert recording a sex ratio of 92.3 males per 100 females respectively in 2022. These declining sex ratios might be explained by migration patterns as young males might leave the municipal area in search of better opportunities.

## Level of Urbanisation

Laingsburg as the smallest municipal area, has grown in population in both urban and rural classified areas. Estimated to be the least urbanised municipal area in the District, its level of urbanisation decreased slightly from 2001 to 2021 – with both Laingsburg and Matjiesfontein accounting for smaller shares of the overall municipal population. The Laingsburg area accounted for the largest share of the urban settlement at 61 per cent and recorded the largest increase in rural area (6.9 per cent) and a decrease in town population (4.5 per cent).

## 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 Laingsburg municipal area covers an area of 8 784 square kilometres. The municipal area is sparsely populated, with a population density of only 1 person per square kilometre.

- **Laingsburg** 1.1 people/km<sup>2</sup>
- Prince Albert 1.8 people/km<sup>2</sup>
- Beaufort West 2.4 people/km<sup>2</sup>
- Central Karoo District 2 people/ km<sup>2</sup>

# EDUCATION



## Learner enrolment



## Educational facilities 2022

4

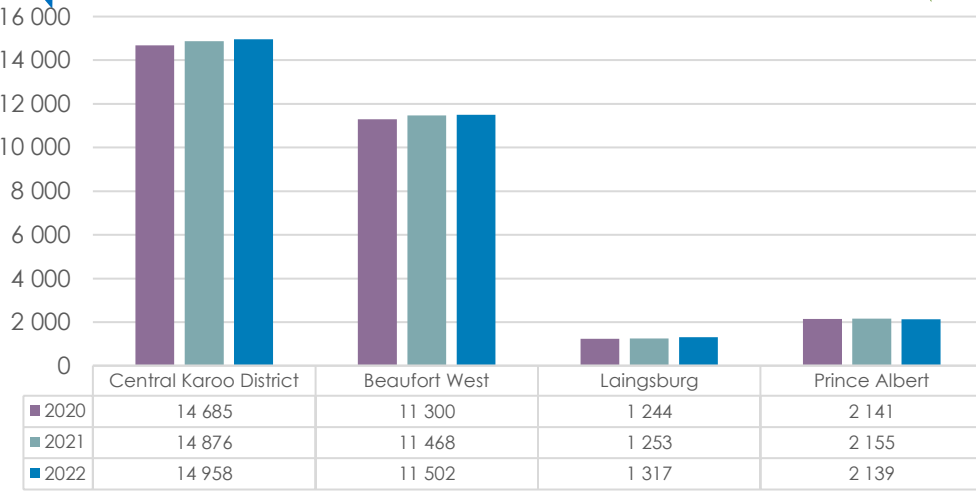
Number of schools

100%

Proportion of no-fee schools

Number of schools with libraries

2



2020 2021 2022



## Education outcomes

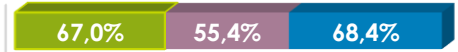
## Learner retention 2020 - 2022

2020 2021 2022



2020 2021 2022

PRINCE ALBERT



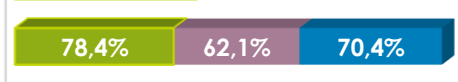
BEAUFORT WEST



LAINGSBURG



CENTRAL KAROO DISTRICT



## Learner-Teacher Ratio 2020- 2022

2020 | 2021 | 2022

Beaufort West 33,6 | 33,1 | 32,4

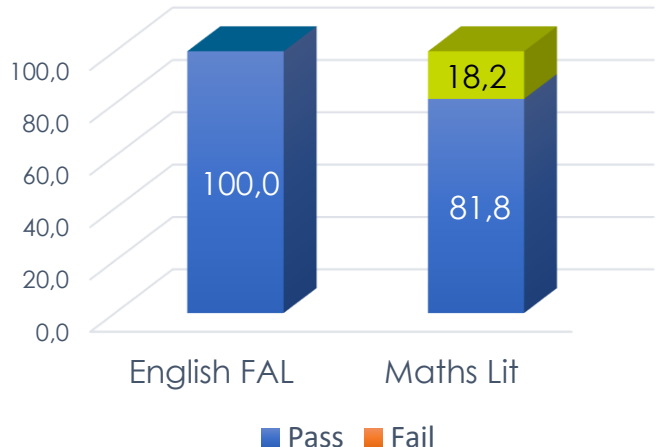
Laingsburg 31,1 | 33,0 | 32,9

Prince Albert 31,0 | 31,2 | 31,9

Central Karoo 33,0 | 32,8 | 32,4



## Subject Outcomes





Education is 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, learner retention, learner-teacher ratios and matric pass rates etc. These indicators provides 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 1 317 learners were enrolled in 2022 in the Laingsburg municipal area reflecting an increase in enrolment of 3.6 per cent between 2021 and 2022. These learners were enrolled in the 4 public schools; all the four schools are categorized as no fee school as per the education policy implying that these schools have the right to not charge school fees. Only 50 per cent of these schools 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 are 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 teachers meaning that teachers paid by government are faced with larger numbers of learners per teacher.

The learner teacher ratio recorded an increase with almost 33 learners per teacher in 2022. The increase in learner teacher ratio is clarified by the increase in learner enrolment numbers in the Laingsburg 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 in 2020 which saw learner retention dropping from 81.2 per cent to 50.6 per cent as learners did not return to the schooling system after COVID-19. In 2022, the learner retention rate in the Laingsburg municipal area showed a slight improvement reflecting 59.0 per cent retention in schools in the area. However, this implies that more than 40 per cent of the 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 an 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 and processes and increased support to learners at risk of dropping out, implementing learner retention strategies that motivates learners to stay at school, as well as behavioural programmes and psychological support to learners.

## **Education outcomes (Matric Pass Rates) and subject outcomes**

Education remains one of the key avenues through which the state is involved in the economy. The Laingsburg municipal area experienced fluctuations in matric outcomes during this period, recording a decline of 1.3 percentage points from an 82.9 per cent to an 81.6 per cent matric pass rate between 2021 and 2022. Although the regression in the Matric pass rate is minimal, it is still concerning that a large number of students drop out of the education system which will have an impact on the future prospect of finding jobs which will worsen the youth unemployment rate.

Pass rates are indicated for English and Mathematical Literacy. Mathematics subject is not indicated as the schools in the municipal area have a shortage Mathematics teachers.



## Healthcare Facilities



1 Fixed PHC Facilities  
2 Mobile Clinics

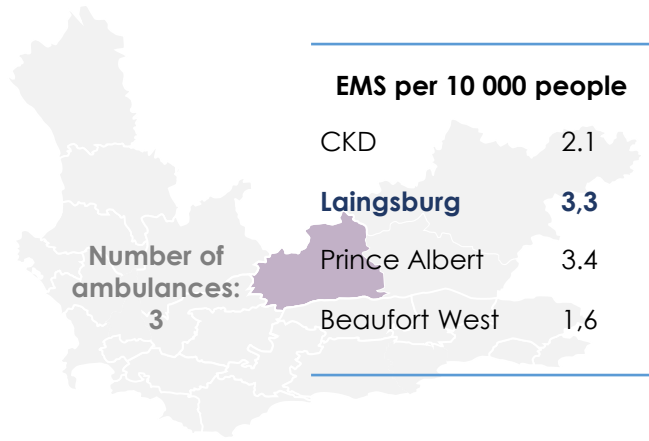


1 ART Clinics/  
Treatment Sites  
2 TB Clinics/  
Treatment Sites



1 Regional Hospital

## Emergency Medical Services



## Maternal Health



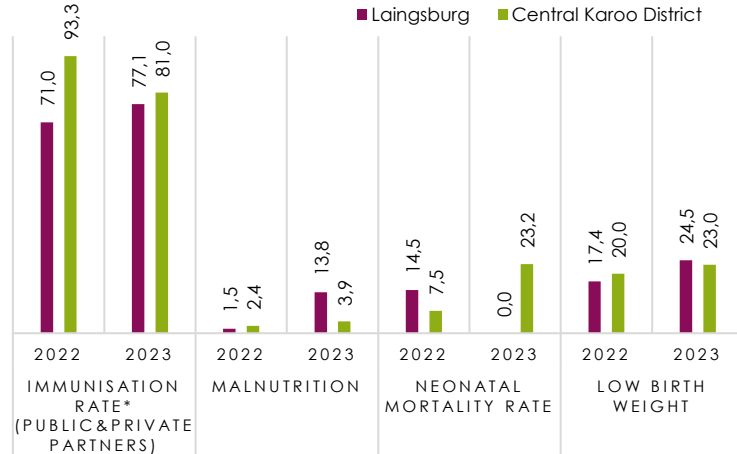
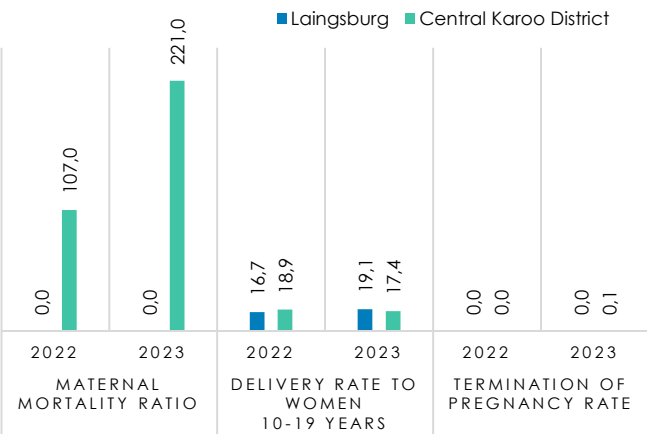
## Child Health

LAINGSBURG 2023:  
Maternal Health Indicators

- Maternal deaths in facility : 0
- Deliveries in facility u19 years : 9
- Termination of pregnancy : 0

LAINGSBURG 2023:  
Child Health Indicators

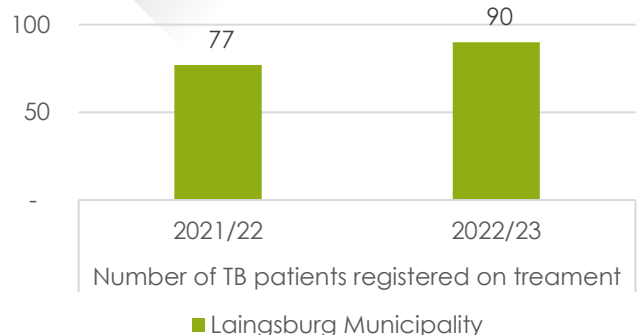
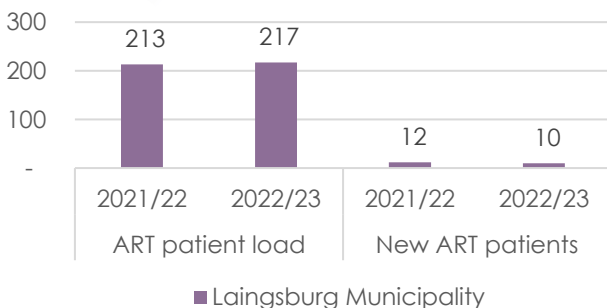
- Live births under 2500g (low birth weight) : 12
- Inpatient deaths 6-28 day : 0
- Immunisation u1 year : 108
- Severe acute malnutrition u5 years : 9



## HIV/AIDS



## Tuberculosis



Understanding the indicators related to 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 Laingsburg municipal area had 4 primary healthcare facilities, comprising of 1 fixed clinics, 1 regional hospital and 2 mobile/satellite clinics. In addition to these there is 1 ART treatment site and 2 TB clinics.

The provision of more operational ambulances can provide greater coverage of emergency medical services. The Laingsburg municipal area had 3 ambulances servicing the region, in 2022. This number translates to 3.3 ambulances per 10 000 people in 2022. This number only refers to Provincial ambulances and excludes all private service providers and remained unchanged between 2020/21 and 2021/22.

## **Maternal health**

In 2022/23, the Laingsburg municipal area recorded zero maternal deaths (0.0) compared to the Central Karoo District maternal Mortality rate of 221 maternal deaths per 100 000 live births. Teenage pregnancies (births to women under 19 years) were however, higher in the Laingsburg municipal area (19.1 per cent) compared to the CKD average of 17.4 per cent. Pregnancies and birth to teenagers are significant contributors to high school dropout rates among teenage girls. Concerns over teenage pregnancies were also raised by the Municipality during the Strategic Integrated Municipal Engagements(SIME process) which point out the significance of implementing interventions to curb teenage pregnancies. Termination of pregnancy rate remained unchanged across the reporting period for Laingsburg Municipality.

## **Child health**

The immunisation coverage for children under the age of one in the municipal area improved from 71.0 per cent in 2021/22 to 77.1 per cent in 2022/23 ,however, the coverage is lower than the District average of 81.0 per cent although the CKD rate has declined compared to the prior year.

The number of malnourished children under five years of age (severe acute malnutrition) in the municipal area increased from 1.5 per 100 000 people in 2021/22 to 13.8 per 100 000 people in 2022/23. The CKD rate also increased from 2.4 per 100 000 people to 3.9 per cent per 100 000 people over the same period .

The neonatal mortality rate (deaths per 1 000 live births before 28 days of life) in the municipal area is recorded at zero compared to the Central Karoo District average of 23.2 in 2022/23.

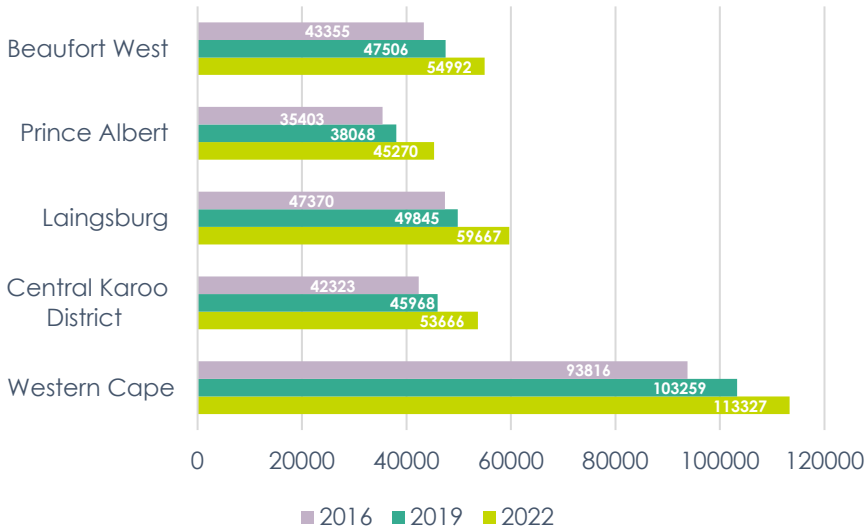
A total of 24.5 per cent of all babies born in facility in the municipal area in 2022/23 weighed less than 2 500 grams indicating possible challenges with long-term maternal malnutrition and poor health care in pregnancy

## **HIV/AIDS & Tuberculosis**

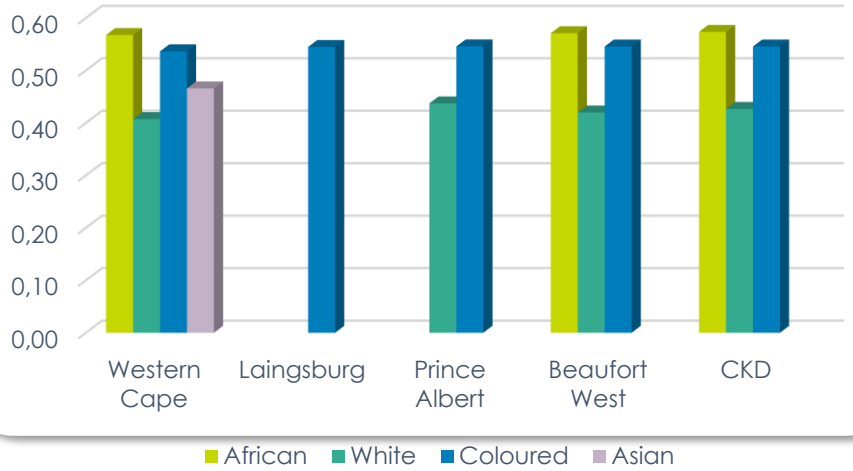
In total, 217 registered patients received antiretroviral treatment(ART) in 2022/23. In turn, the number of patients receiving TB treatment increased from 77 patients in 2021/22 to 90 patients in 2022/23 reflecting a change of 16.8 per cent between the two years.



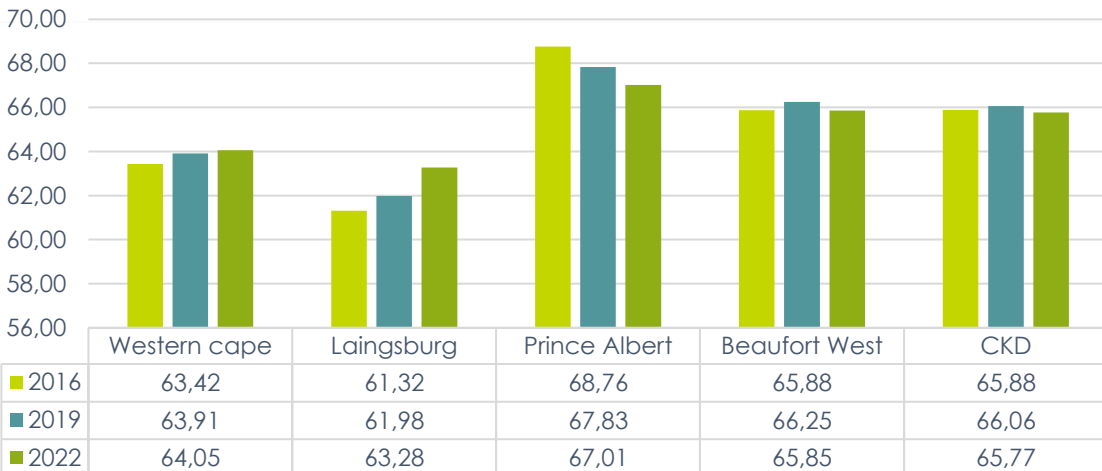
## GDP per capita



## 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 Laingsburg's municipal area being the smallest economy in the district recorded the highest GDPR per Capita at R59 667, above the district GDPR, this is still considerably below the Provincial level of R113 327 in 2022. This means that people in Laingsburg have lower levels of GDPR per capita than the Provincial average.

It should be noted that GDPR per capita expanded in the Laingsburg 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. Laingsburg municipal area, recorded GDPR per capita growth of 19.7 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 Laingsburg municipal area registered the least pronounced level of income inequality in the District between 2019 and 2022. Income inequality has improved from 0.58 in 2021 to 0.57 in 2022. The Laingsburg Gini coefficient also remains lower than the Provincial income inequality level of 0.60 in 2022. The 2023/24 Municipal Economic Review and Outlook indicates that the number of taxpayers in Laingsburg rose alongside an increase in the share of the total employed in 2021. However, despite these positive developments, Laingsburg continues to have the lowest number of taxpayers in the District.

Income disparities are also noticeable in the Coloured racial group with a Gini coefficient of 0.54 in 2022. Other racial group income inequality levels could not be analysed due to 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 2019 62.0 per cent of Laingsburg's population fell below the UBPL. This figure regressed to 63.3 per cent recorded in 2022. The Laingsburg poverty lines although relatively high were still below the district average between 2016 to 2022.

# BASIC SERVICE DELIVERY

**3 314**  
Laingsburg

**27 290**  
Central Karoo District

## Total number of households

**96.2%**

### Formal main dwelling

**98.8%**

**3 181**

Laingsburg

**26 962**

Central Karoo District

96.2% Laingsburg  
98.8% Central Karoo  
Formal dwellings



0.8% Laingsburg  
0.0% Central Karoo  
Traditional dwelling



2.4% Laingsburg  
0.6% Central Karoo  
Informal dwelling

0.6% Laingsburg  
0.6% Central Karoo  
Other/Unspecified

Other/Unspecified



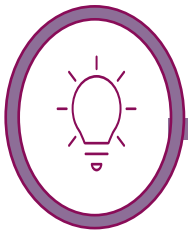
#### Piped water inside dwelling

Laingsburg **84.5%**  
Central Karoo **87.1%**



#### Flush toilet connected to the sewage

Laingsburg **95.6%**  
Central Karoo **97.5%**



#### Electricity as primary source of lighting

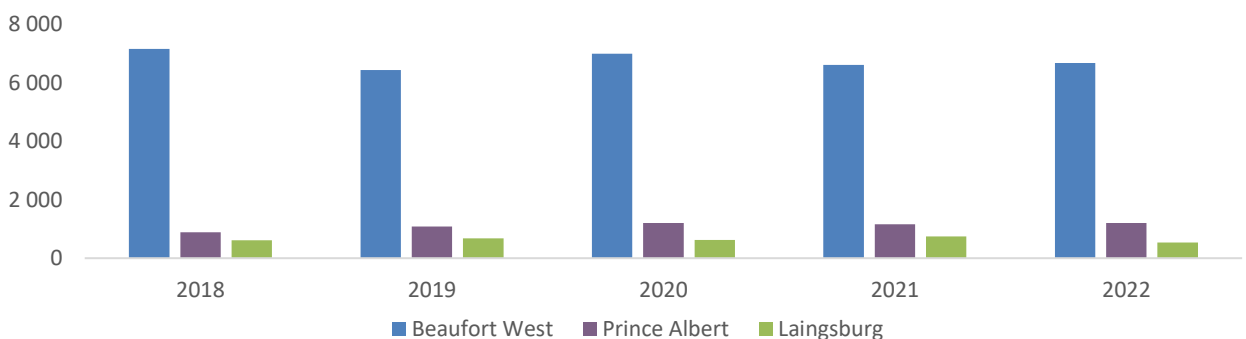
Laingsburg **92.3%**  
Central Karoo **96.6%**



#### Refuse removal at least once a week

Laingsburg **80.0%**  
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 latest Statistics South Africa 2022 Census data.

## **Housing and Household Services**

The 2022 Census estimates that 3 314 households resides in the Laingsburg municipal area, of which 96.2 per cent had access to formal housing. A total of 2.4 per cent of households resides in informal dwellings and a further 0.8 per cent resides in traditional dwellings. The government faces challenges in providing essential services and housing support without a corresponding economic base. Housing projects in Matjiesfontein and Laingsburg aim to address these needs in the medium term.

The number of households in the municipal area has seen a significant increase, rising from 2 408 in 2011 to 3 314 in 2022 in accordance with population growth. Despite notable progress in various basic services, such as electricity access for lighting at 92.3 percent, access to flush or chemical toilets at 95.6 percent, and refuse removal at least weekly by the local authority at 80.0 percent, the overall access levels fall below the district averages for all these services. Access to piped water inside dwellings is at 84.5 percent, with an additional 15 percent of households having water access inside the yard. The data indicates a positive trend in improving living conditions in terms of basic services, although disparities persist compared to district averages, highlighting areas for targeted improvement.

Efforts should be directed towards bridging these gaps, ensuring equitable access to essential services for all residents. Addressing these disparities is crucial for fostering inclusive socio-economic development within the Laingsburg municipal area, ultimately contributing to the overall prosperity of the community.

## **Free Basic Services**

Municipalities also provide a package of free basic services to households who are financially vulnerable and struggle to pay for services. A household is classified as indigent if the family earn a combined income that is less than the threshold specified in the indigent policy of a municipal area. This threshold is set at R3 500 for the Laingsburg Municipality in 2022.

The number of indigent households in Laingsburg area showed fluctuations between 2018 and 2022. A downward trend is noted in 2022 with a 2.8 per cent decrease in the households registered as indigent households from 2021. In 2022, this reflected in a mere 16.2 per cent of households registered as indigent households which does not bode well with the upper bound poverty line which suggests that 62.3 per cent of the households were living below the upper bound poverty line which is R1 417 (in April 2022 prices) per person per month in South Africa. Community Road shows are encouraged to ensure that qualifying households register for the indigent subsidy.

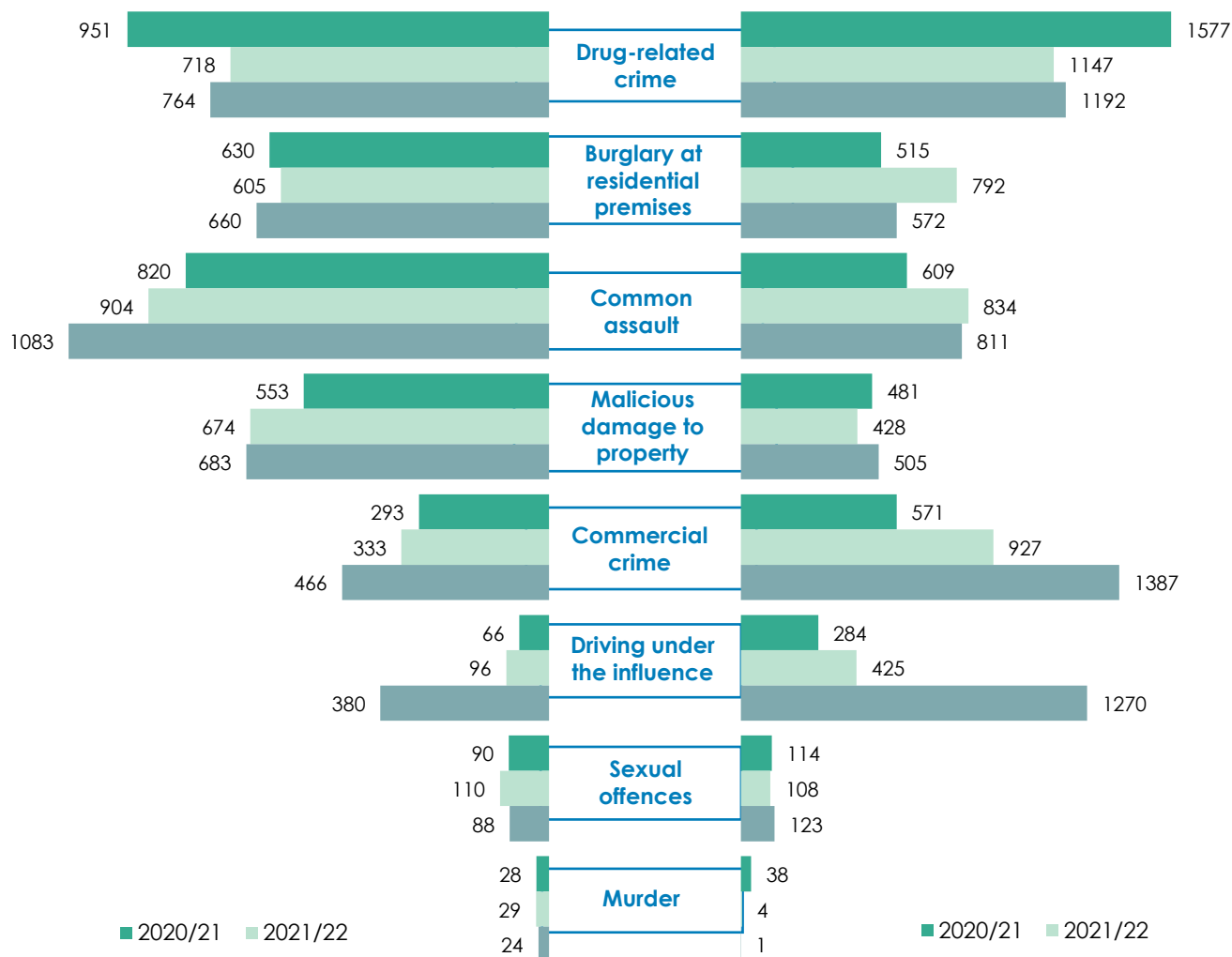
# SAFETY AND SECURITY

## CENTRAL KAROO

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

## LAINGSBURG

**9 472** Total reported  
crime per 100 000 people in  
Laingsburg in 2022/23



Drug-related crime  
107 (2021/22)  
112 (2022/23)

Murder  
0 (2021/22)  
0 (2022/23)

Sexual offences  
10 (2021/22)  
12 (2022/23)

Driving under the influence  
39 (2021/22)  
119 (2022/23)



Residential burglaries  
74 (2021/22)  
54 (2022/23)

Common assault  
77 (2021/22)  
76 (2022/23)

Damage to property  
40 (2021/22)  
47 (2022/23)

Commercial crime  
86 (2021/22)  
130 (2022/23)



## **Murder**

The incidence of violent crime, particularly murder, remain unchanged with no reported murders in both 2021/22 and 2022/23. The number of murders per 100 000 people also showed a substantial decrease from 38 murders per 100 000 in 2020/21 to 1 murder per 100 000 in 2022/23.

## **Sexual Offences**

Sexual offences cases reported in Laingsburg municipal area increased from 10 sexual offences in 2021/22 to 12 actual cases in 2022/23. The incidence of sexual offences (per 100 000 people) fluctuated between 2020/21 to 2022/23 within the Laingsburg municipal are; this rate was also higher than the District average in 2022/23. Sexual offences can also be viewed in the context of gender-based violence ,with more women and children falling victims of rape and sexual assault leading to unwanted pregnancies, Sexual transmitted disease and the spread of HIV/Aids.

## **Drug-related Offences**

The incidence of drug-related crime in the Laingsburg area also witnessed an increase from 107 actual cases in 2021/22 to 112 actual cases in 2022/23, marking a 4.6 per cent rise in reported cases. However, when examining drug-related offenses per 100 000 people, the situation reveals a fluctuating trend. These offenses had initially decreased from 1 577 per 100 000 people in 2020/21 to 1 147 per 100 000 in 2021/22 before experiencing an upturn in 2022/23. Notably, in this latest period, drug-related offenses per 100 000 people exceeded the overall District's rate. Increased drug-related offenses exert a strain on public resources for law enforcement and rehabilitation, potential negative impacts on property values, and the fostering of an environment that can deter investment and economic development.

## **Driving under the influence (DUI)**

The number of cases of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs in the Laingsburg area witnessed an upsurge from 39 actual cases in 2021/22 to 119 actual cases in 2022/23. Likewise, the rate of driving under the influence per 100 000 people also followed the same trend increasing from 2020/21 to 2022/23 . Notably, in the latest period, Laingsburg's rate per 100 000 people exceeded the District's average of 380 cases per 100 000 people.

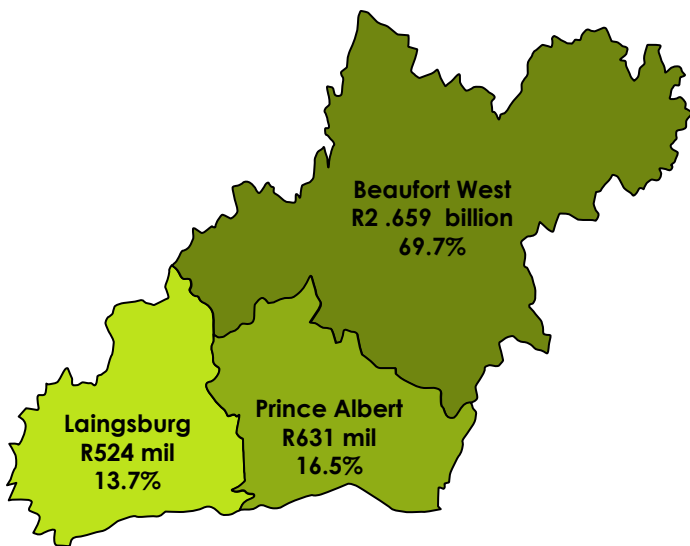
## **Residential Burglaries and damage to properties**

The Laingsburg municipal area experienced a notable downswing in property-related crime, particularly residential burglaries, with the actual count declining from 74 incidents in 2021/22 to 54 burglaries in 2022, indicating a substantial 37 per cent decrease between the two years. However, the number of residential burglaries per 100 000 people increased in the reporting period. Beyond the immediate impact on affected individuals, rising burglary rates may contribute to a sense of insecurity, potentially dissuading potential residents or investors. This, in turn, could have cascading effects on property values, community cohesion, and local businesses.

# GDPR PERFORMANCE



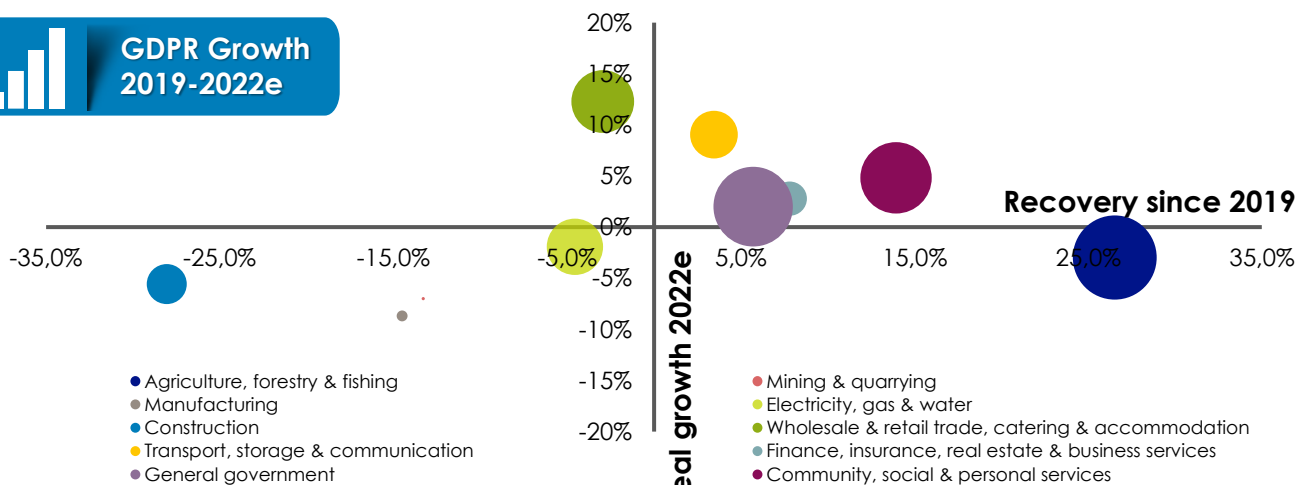
## GDPR Contribution 2021



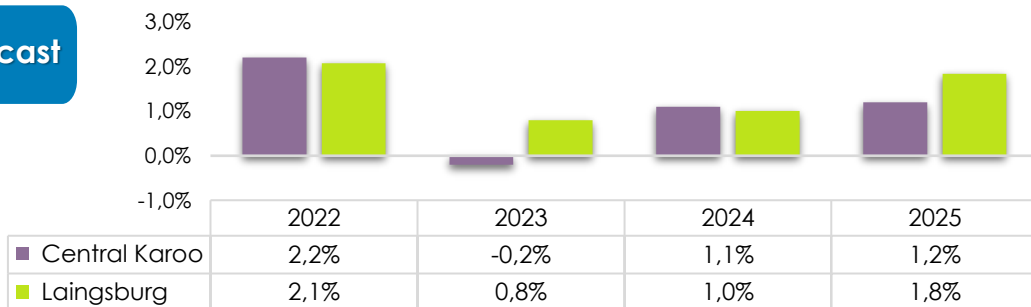
## Sectoral contribution to GDPR 2021



## GDPR Growth 2019-2022e



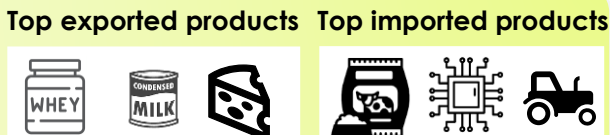
## GDPR forecast



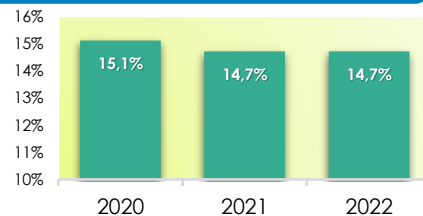
## International Trade, 2022

**Imports**  
R5.4 million

**Exports**  
R19.2 million



## Tourism spend % of GDP



## GDPR Performance

The Laingsburg municipal area had a GDPR of R524.1 million in 2021 reflecting a growth rate of 2.1 per cent and contributed 13.7 per cent of regional GDPR, making it the smallest economy in the CKD. In 2021, the agriculture sector contributed 22.9 per cent of municipal GDPR. The strong dependence on this sector results in the economy of the area being more vulnerable to external shocks such as drought, which can threaten local livelihoods. Agricultural activities, including sheep and ostrich farming, form the basis of the economy.

Thanks to the supply of water from Floriskraal Dam, the area also supports the production of lucerne, wine grapes, olives, stone fruit, pecan nuts and vegetables. The economy benefits from expenditure by business and leisure travelers and transporters, as evidenced by the large cohort of fuel retail workers and those employed in retail and accommodation services. However, domestic tourism is under pressure, with the rise of fuel prices affecting travel to remote or faraway destinations. Cash-strapped travelers may simply opt for destinations closer to home.

An estimated 2.1 per cent expansion in GDPR was recorded in the area in 2022. This was mainly due to solid growth in the trade sector which benefits from passing traffic. The transport sector's robust performance in 2022 also boosted the local economy, contributing 0.7 of a percentage point to the GDPR growth for the year and again highlighting the valuable role that the N1 plays in the economy of the Laingsburg municipal area. Despite the estimated 12.3 per cent expansion in trade, this sector is still performing below pre-COVID-19 levels.

Other sectors that have not fully recovered from the impact of the pandemic include mining; manufacturing; electricity, gas and water and construction. Energy security is essential for agro-processors, which have extensive refrigeration needs. However, funding to invest in solar or battery storage is not always easily accessible, especially given high interest rates. The electricity sector is more prominent in the Laingsburg municipal economy than in other municipal areas of the CKD. With a GDPR contribution of 10.2 per cent in 2022, this sector is poised for expansion. Renewable energy projects such as the recently completed Karusa wind farm and planned projects, including the Rietkloof and Brandvalley wind farms, will strengthen this local value chain and help alleviate South Africa's energy crisis.

Amid the economic challenges relating to load-shedding, increased interest rates and high inflation, it is forecast that the economy of the Laingsburg municipal area will grow by only 0.8 per cent in 2023. Trade, transport and agriculture are expected to falter amid high inflation rates as well as rising fuel and other input costs. However, construction is set to rebound, with public sector infrastructure investment projects anticipated to play an important role in enhancing local economic performance. These projects include upgrading and additions at the Laingsburg Clinic and ambulance station, and at the Matjiesfontein Satellite Clinic. They also encompass new housing developments in Matjiesfontein and Laingsburg. The upward trend in GDPR is expected to continue in 2024, when growth is forecast to reach 1.0 per cent.

## The Trade Balance

The trade balance of the Laingsburg municipal area has fluctuated in recent years. Stricter international trade regulations introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic brought about a significant decrease in the animal product trade, causing the balance to fall to negative R26.1 million in 2020. Since then, it has made an impressive recovery, rising to R13.8 million in 2022. Imports into the municipal area revolve around agriculture, with preparations used in animal feed being the top import of 2022 (R5.2 million). Livestock production has delivered considerable benefits in terms of export returns, with whey (R8.8 million), sweetened milk and cream (R5.3 million) and cheese and curd (R2.1 million) being the top three exports of the Laingsburg municipal area in 2022.

## Tourism Spend as a percentage of GDP

Boasting vast landscapes, a fascinating history and a rich cultural heritage. The town lies in a geologically fascinating area, steeped in history and traditional, a worthwhile and hospitable stop on the busy N1 highway through the Great Karoo. Tourism sector in Laingsburg accounted for 14.7 per cent of GDP in 2022 implying no change in percentage contribution from 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

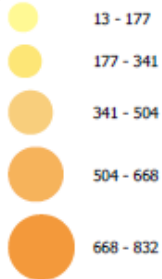
## Formal Employment by Town, 2022

### Main sector for employment

General public administration at Local Government level

Manufacture of cement, lime and plaster

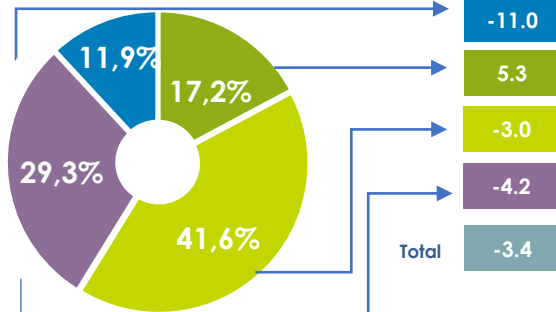
### FTE numbers



**Roads**  
 - National Roads  
 - Regional Roads

### Skill Level % Contribution, 2022

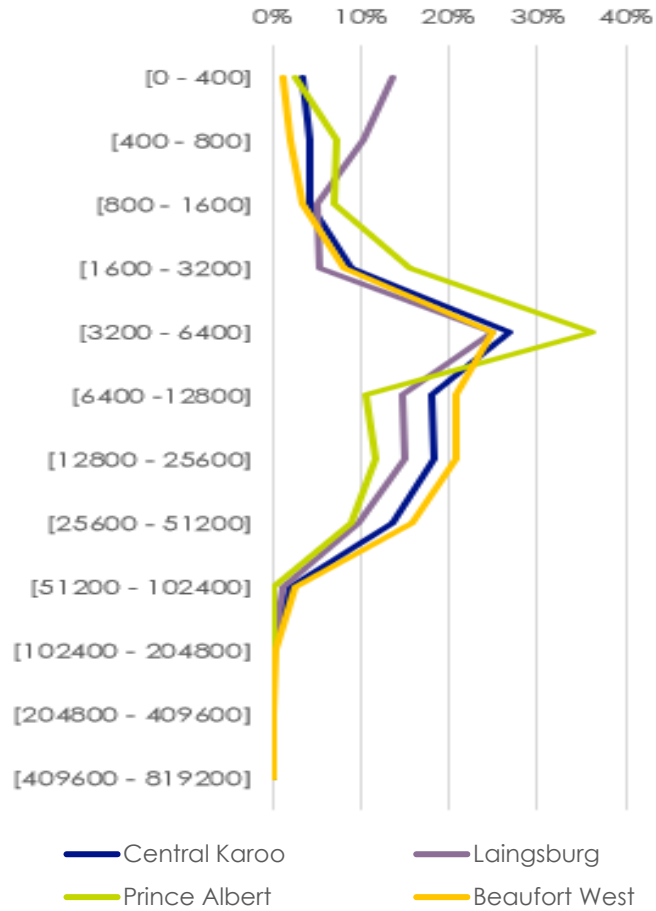
Recovery in Employment (%) 2019-2022



Total Persons Employed 2022	Skilled	Semi-skilled	Low-skilled	Informal
	459	1 115	772	420



## Wage Distribution per municipal area, 2022



— Central Karoo — Laingsburg  
 — Prince Albert — Beaufort West

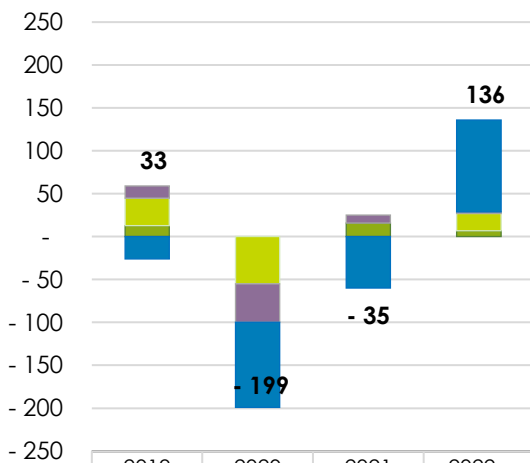
### Top 5 Sectors



#### Sector

Sector	No. of FTE Jobs
Administration of the state and the economic and social policy of the community	371
Growing of perennial crops	100
Retail of automotive fuel in specialized stores	84
Provision of services to the community as a whole	57
Mixed farming	44

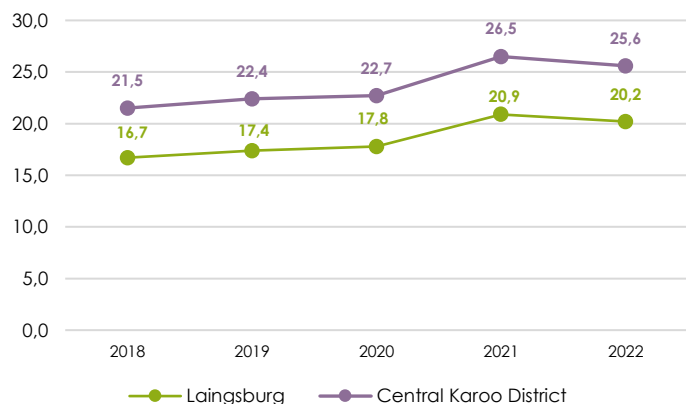
### Net employment per sector, 2019-2022



	2019	2020	2021	2022e
Total	33	- 199	- 35	136
Informal	-26	- 99	- 60	107
Low skilled	14	- 45	9	2
Semi-skilled	32	- 55	-	20
Skilled	13	-	16	7



## Unemployment rate 2018-2022



## Labour Market Performance

While it lacks a diverse economy, the Laingsburg municipal area has an active labour force, which grew in 2022. The labour force participation rate increased by 2.1 percentage points in 2022 to reach 65.1 per cent, marginally exceeding that of the Province (64.9 per cent).

The proportion of people who are not economically active recorded a decline of 2.1 percentage points. At the same time, the unemployment rate (the lowest in the CKD) fell to 20.2 per cent. This was primarily due to a substantial increase in the number of informal jobs within agriculture and retail and community services.

## Skills Distribution and job losses

It is estimated that Laingsburg the total employed amount to 2 766 workers in 2022, of which 2 346 (84.8 per cent) are employed in the formal sector and 420 (15.2 per cent) are informally employed.

Most of the formally employed consisted of semi-skilled (41.6 per cent) and 29.3 per cent low skilled workers. The skilled category only contributed 17.2 per cent to total formal employment. Overall, the economy of Laingsburg shed 3.4 per cent jobs between 2019 to 2022. Low-skilled employment shed 4.2 per cent of jobs and semi-skilled employment shed 3.0 per cent of jobs between 2019 and 2022. The skilled category grew by 5.3 per cent from 2019 to 2022 notably outpacing all other skills categories. The growth in the skilled category the resilience of the skilled employment in times of economic downturn.

Job losses were also evident in the informal sector with 11.0 per jobs shed between 2019 - 2022; indicative of the vulnerability of the jobs in the informal sector economy.

## Wage Distribution

In 2022, the financial landscape of the Laingsburg municipal area varied for full-time employees. As the smallest municipal area in terms of population within both the CKD and South Africa, Laingsburg faced unique challenges. Perhaps most notably, it had the largest share of workers in the District (10.3 per cent) who fell within the wage range of R400 to R800 in 2022 and a further 13.5 per cent of the population earned between the R0-R400 income range. However, in a development that defied expectations and highlighted the area's resilience, Laingsburg also experienced remarkable growth in the number of taxpayers in 2021 (a rise of 12.5 per cent). Additionally, it was the only municipal area in the CKD where the number of taxpayers increased in 2021.

Matjiesfontein, where the economy revolves around tourism, hospitality and historical preservation, had the second-highest median income in the District in 2022: R8 175. The variety of circumstances and outcomes across the CKD described above highlights the region's complexity and economic diversity.

# 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 economic 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
Prince Albert	25	3.39	19	3.71	4	4.52	3	3.26



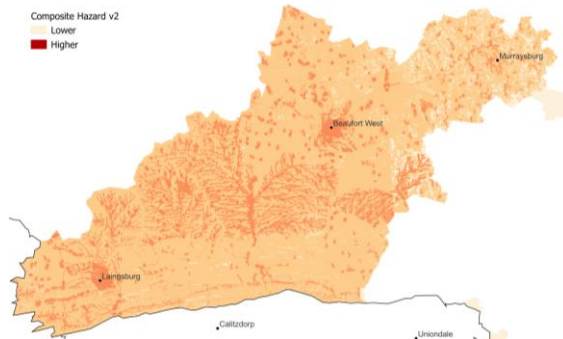
## HAZARDS\*

### Laingsburg Overall Population Growth Pressure:

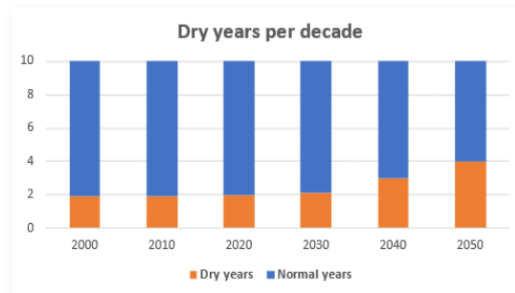
Medium overall to High growth pressure in Matjiesfontein \*

Six of the Top 10 Risks in the Central Karoo are environmental in nature (Provincial Disaster Risk Register)	Laingsburg's identified Hydro-meteorological Hazards to settlements as observed by the CSIR (The Greenbook *)
<b>1. Drought</b>	Increase in drought tendencies and high potential increase in exposure to drought in settlements
<b>2. Human Health Conditions And Diseases</b>	See comment on 'drought' and 'heat waves'
<b>3. Shale Gas Drilling And Extraction</b>	
<b>4. Water Pollution</b>	
<b>5. Floods</b>	Overall, a moderate decrease in extreme rainfall days anticipated. Low potential increase in exposure to flooding in settlements
<b>6. Critical Service Disruptions: Waste Management</b>	
<b>7. Heat Waves</b>	Medium potential increase in exposure to heat extremes.
<b>8. Structural Fires</b>	Low potential increase in exposure to wildfires in settlements
<b>9. Wildfires</b>	Overall, relatively low increase in fire danger days
<b>10. Critical Service Disruptions: Water Security And Supply</b>	See comment on 'drought'

Central Karoo no. of dry years per decade <sup>†</sup>						
	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



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 (Laingsburg)	21 days



\* 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

<sup>†</sup> Jack, C., Van Aardenne, L., Wolski, P., Pinto, I., Quagrainie, 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, Laingsburg has a high 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 Laingsburg can expect an additional 21 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 eucalypts). Fires in vegetation with high fuel loads increase soil erosion and run-off, which negatively affects ecosystem services and increases the impact of floods, among other factors. Where severe fires have occurred due to high fuel loads, resulting soil erosion leads to the sedimentation of rivers and dams and therefore declining water quality (and increased water treatment costs).

## 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 Laingsburg municipal area demonstrated positive population growth in 2022, with a projected annual growth rate of 1.1 per cent from 2023 to 2027. The improving dependency ratio suggests a growing working-age population, but concerns arise from declining sex ratios, indicating immigration patterns and a potential rise in female-headed households.

Challenges in education include high dropout rates and a shortage of mathematics teachers, leading students to opt for mathematics literacy, impacting the overall quality of education. Government interventions should focus on hiring mathematics teachers, implementing programs for at-risk learners, and expanding vocational training. Additionally, targeted efforts are needed to address issues like teenage pregnancies, drug use, and health implications to ensure the well-being of the population, fostering healthier communities, economic growth, and elevated living standards.

Despite being the smallest municipality in the district and province, Laingsburg contributed 13.7 per cent to the CKD regional Gross Domestic Product (GDP). However, its rural nature and limited economic diversity result in a low GDP per capita compared to the province, contributing to higher unemployment and poverty rates. Diversifying economic activities and targeted interventions are essential to address rising unemployment and foster socio-economic development in the Laingsburg municipal area.

Income inequality in Laingsburg is less pronounced than in other municipalities. The increasing trend in poverty rates from 2016 to 2022 underscores the need for comprehensive economic development strategies.

Rising crime incidents, such as driving under the influence, drug related crimes, sexual assaults burglaries, damage to property, and commercial crimes in 2022/23, necessitate prioritized crime prevention strategies, community policing, and enhanced law enforcement capabilities.

Access to basic services is generally good, with households mostly in formal dwellings, but solid refuse removal lags due to the rural nature, affecting households in rural areas.

## 1. Demographics

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

## 2. Education

- Learner enrolment: *Western Cape Education Department, 2022; Annual Survey of Public and Independent Schools (ASS), 2023*
- Learner-teacher ratio: *Western Cape Education Department, 2022; 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, 2022; Annual Survey of Public and Independent Schools (ASS), 2023*
- No-fee schools: *Western Cape Education Department, 2022; Annual Survey of Public and Independent Schools (ASS), 2023*
- Schools with libraries: *Western Cape Education Department, 2022; Annual Survey of Public and Independent Schools (ASS), 2023*
- Educational outcomes: *Western Cape Education Department, 2022; Annual Survey of Public and Independent Schools (ASS), 2023*

## 3. Health

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

## 4. Poverty

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

## 5. Basic services

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

## 6. Safety and security

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

## 7. GDPR Performance

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

## 8. Labour Market Performance

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