Western Cape Government

FOR YOU

#KnowYourMunicipality: The 2023 Socio-Economic Profile

Oudtshoorn Municipality

CONTENTS

OUDTSHOORN: AT A GLANCE…… 3

Introduction…… 4

Demographics…… 5

Education…… 7

Health…… 9

Poverty…… 11

Basic Service Delivery …… 13

Safety and Security …… 15

GDPR Performance…… 17

Labour Market Performance …… 19

Risk and Vulnerability Factors…… 21

Conclusion…… 23

SOURCES…… 24

Oudtshoorn Municipality: At a Glance

Demographics

Population, 2022; Actual households, 2022

Population
138 257

Households
31 795

Education

2022

Matric Pass Rate	83.9%
Learner Retention Rate	73.8%
Learner-Teacher Ratio	29.7

Poverty

2022

Gini Coefficient	0.57
Poverty Head Count Ratio (UBPL)	63.8%

Health

2022/23

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

Immunisation Rate
94.1%

Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100 000 live births)
0

Teenage Pregnancies – Delivery rate to women U/18
20.6%

Safety and Security

Actual number of reported cases in 2022/23

Residential Burglaries	DUI	Drug-related Crimes	Murder	Sexual Offences
523	122	1 138	18	145

Access to Basic Service Delivery

Percentage of households with access to basic services, 2022

Water	Refuse Removal	Electricity	Sanitation	Formal Housing
85.1%	86.0%	92.3%	88.5%	89.5%

Road Safety

2021/22

Fatal Crashes	10
Road User Fatalities	12

Labour

2022

Unemployment Rate (narrow definition)
22.2%

Socio-economic Risks

Risk 1	Unemployment
Risk 2	Poverty
Risk 3	Safety and security

Largest 3 Sectors

Contribution to GDP, 2021

Finance, insurance, real estate and business services	Wholesale & retail trade, catering and accommodation	Manufacturing
23.8%	15.2%	18.3%

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 Oudtshoorn Municipality in relation to the broader Garden Route District.

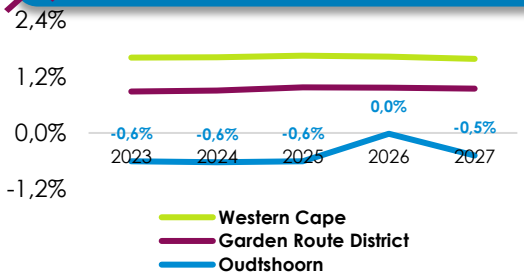
DEMOGRAPHICS

Population 2022
138 257

Estimated Population
135 104 2027

Estimated Average Annual Population Growth Rate 2023 - 2027
-0.4%

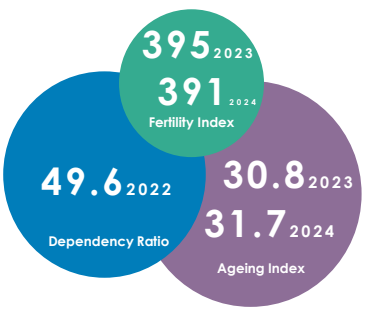
Estimated Population Growth



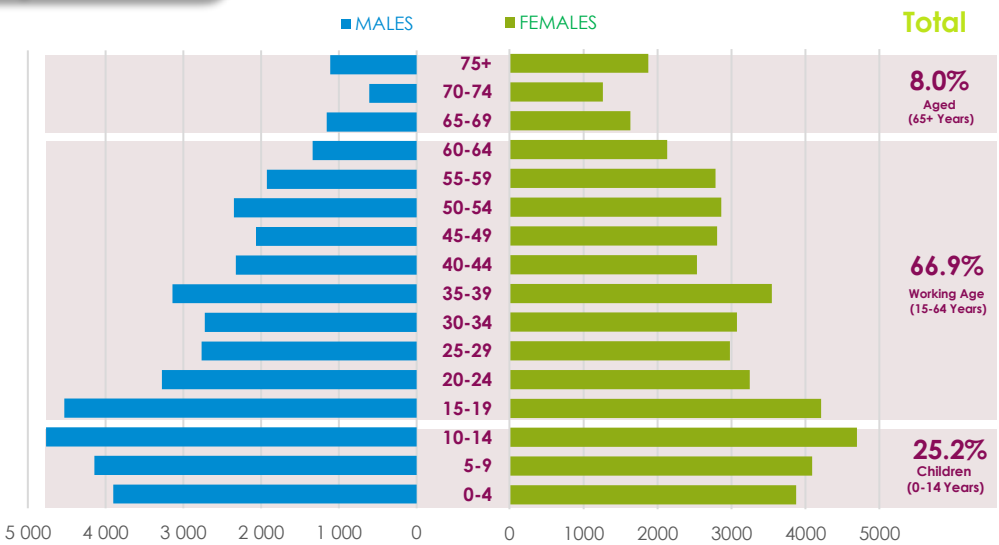
Gender and Age Dynamics

Female 52.3%

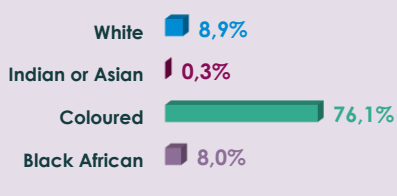
Male 47.7%



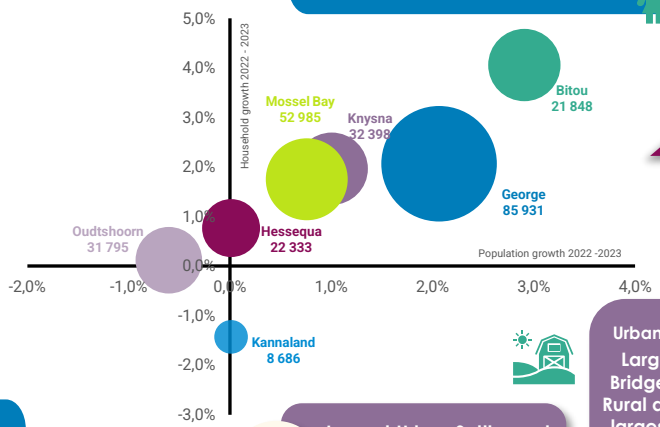
Population by Age 2022



Racial Split



Population and Household Growth 2022



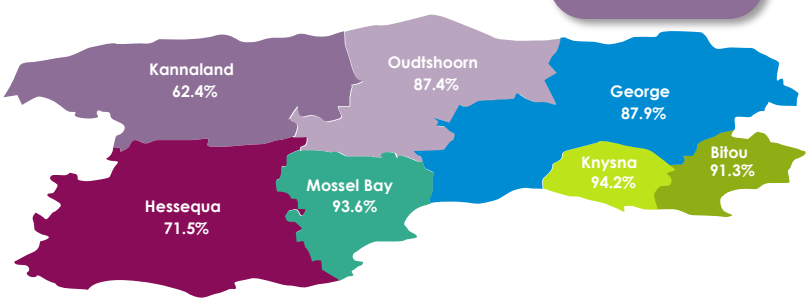
4.3
Household Size

Urban/Rural change:
Largest growth in Bridgeton (21.6%) & Rural area 12.6% with largest decrease in Oudtshoorn (32%)

Largest Urban Settlement:
Oudtshoorn (31%) & Bridgeton (21.6%)

Level of Urbanisation 2021

25.2 people/km²	2023
25.1 people/km²	2024
24.9 people/km²	2025



Population and Household Growth

In 2022, the Oudtshoorn Municipality was home to 138 257 individuals, making it the third most populated municipal area within the region. The Mid-year population estimates (MYPE) released by Stats SA in February 2023 reflects that the municipal population is anticipated to decline at an annual average rate of 0.4 per cent over the 2023 to 2027 period. This demographic decline is potentially driven by semigration from this locale into more developed regions. The only areas within the municipal area that are estimated to have seen increases over the decade between 2011 and 2021 are Bongolethu and Bridgeton.

With a total of 31 795 households recorded in 2022, the Oudtshoorn municipal area exhibits an average household size of 4.3 persons. This is significantly greater than the district average of 3.3. With the high levels of poverty in the municipal area (highest in the district) the large household sizes stem mainly from the challenge faced by individuals to afford separate living arrangements. Multiple family members therefore share a single household. The average household size recorded a slight decline from 4.4 persons in 2011. This is reflective of outmigration by members of the household and declining fertility rates. Household growth is therefore forecast to stagnate over the 2023 to 2027 period, while the outmigration and declining fertility rates leads to a forecasted population decline. Furthermore, it is noteworthy that the number of households recorded during the 2022 Census exceeds the count employed in the Local Government Equitable Share calculations by 25.4 per cent, signifying a higher-than-projected rise of households over the interval from 2011 to 2022. The divergence bears implications for the provisioning of municipal services and the requisite infrastructure.

Gender, Age and Race Dynamics

A more in-depth analysis of the demographic composition within the municipal area reveals that 66.9 per cent of its residents fall within the economically active age group of 15 to 64 years. The overall population distribution leans in favour of females only from age group 25 to 29 and upward, reflecting an outmigration of working aged males from the municipal area after the age of 24, ostensibly in pursuit of employment opportunities elsewhere. Moreover, a segment comprising 25.2 per cent of the population is aged below 14 years, thereby engendering a comparatively high dependency on the working-age cohort. This sizable youth contingent underscores a mounting demand for educational resources and future employment prospects within the municipal area. Additionally, a relatively sizable elderly population, constituting 8.0 per cent of the total, signifies that the municipal area is an attractive destination for retirement, a pattern observed across the scenic expanse of the Garden Route. The insights derived from the age distribution patterns are instrumental for municipal planning, particularly concerning the availability of housing and government services tailored to meet the diverse needs of distinct age groups. Sustainable employment expansion holds paramount significance for the municipal area to mitigate the outmigration of the working-age populace, capable of actively fostering economic growth.

Furthermore, the prominent racial demographic category in the municipal area is the coloured population, representing 76.1 percent of the total population, followed by the white population at 8.9 per cent and the black African population at 8.0 per cent. The Indian or Asian demographic group is the minority, accounting for merely 0.3 per cent of the municipal populace.

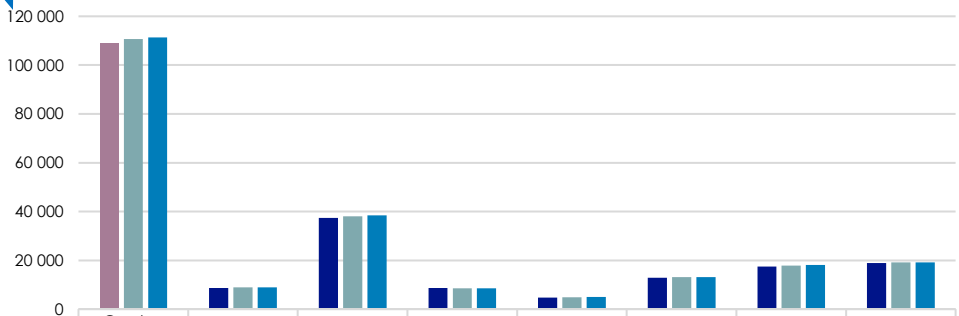
Level of Urbanisation and Population Density

The Oudtshoorn municipal area spans 3 537.1 km^2 and is situated in the semi-arid Klein Karoo. In 2023, it had a relatively low population density of 25.2 persons per km^2 and is expected to decrease to 24.9 persons per km^2 by 2025. Oudtshoorn experienced the most significant decline in urbanisation of 12.6 percentage points over the 2001 to 2021 period, accompanied by an increase in the rural population during the same period as agricultural activity expanded in the municipal area.

The population is concentrated within the towns of Oudtshoorn, Bridgeton and Bongolethu, with Bridgeton and Bongolethu having the highest population densities. Bridgeton has shown a substantial increase in density over the 2001 to 2021 period, fueled by the comparatively greater affordability of housing options, drawing individuals into the town.

EDUCATION

Learner enrolment



	Garden Route	Bitou	George	Hessequa	Kannaland	Knysna	Mossel Bay	Oudtshoorn
2020	108 744	8723	37367	8635	4793	12870	17458	18898
2021	110610	8910	38065	8595	4890	13099	17893	19158
2022	111 336	8 941	38 458	8 591	4 958	13 134	18 079	19 175

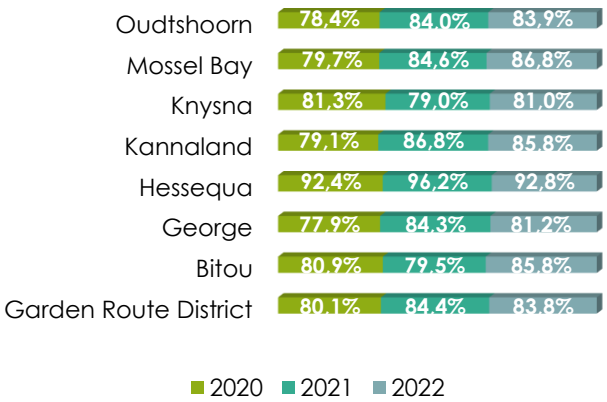
Educational facilities 2022

34
Number of schools

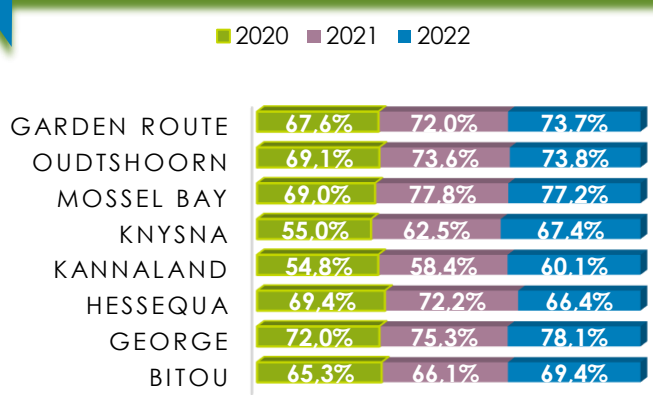
85.4%
Proportion of no-fee schools

Number of schools with libraries **15**

Education outcomes



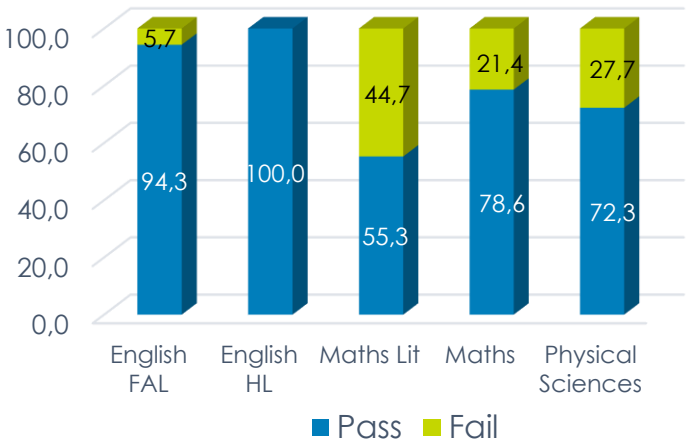
Learner retention 2020 - 2022



Learner-Teacher Ratio 2020- 2022

Garden Route District	30,1	30,2	29,8
Bitou	32,3	32,4	31,8
Mossel Bay	30,2	30,9	30,1
George	30,0	29,7	29,7
Hessequa	29,1	28,9	28,7
Knysna	30,1	30,3	28,99
Kannaland	30,9	31,7	31,2
Oudtshoorn	29.6	29.7	29.7

Subject Outcomes



Learner enrolment and learner-teacher ratio

Ensuring that school aged children have access to schools and are enrolled allows the community to meet its future skills demands, builds a foundation for a more informed and productive society and is instrumental in improving the overall quality of life. In 2022, the Oudtshoorn municipal area ranked second in the GRD in terms of enrolled learners, attributed to its comparatively sizable youth demographic. Notwithstanding an overall population decline, the region demonstrated a marginal uptick in learner enrollment, albeit the most modest increase across the district, with a rise of 186 pupils observed between 2021 and 2022. This nominal increase in learner enrollments is indicative of diminishing fertility rates and outmigration patterns within the municipal area. The marginal increase of learners has contributed to a stagnating learner-teacher ratio, which at 29.7 in 2022, is below the provincial and GRD average.

Education infrastructure and facilities

Education and skills development play a vital role in shaping the future socioeconomic landscape of the municipal area. They empower the population and significantly impact the local economy's development and its human resource capacity. The Western Cape Education Department (WCED) is committed to this cause, ensuring access to education for the children of the municipal area with the availability of 34 schools. Furthermore, the WCED recognizes the need for education facilities in this Municipality with its particularly large youth cohort (children under 14 years of age) and has as such allocated R50.0 million towards the construction of a new high school in De Rust in the 2023/24 MTEF. The municipal area is also somewhat of an education centre in the GRD because of the presence of the South African Army Infantry School and a Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) campus. This contributed to a 3.1 percentage point rise in the proportion of individuals over the age of 20 with higher education qualifications across the 2011 to 2022 period.

Of the 34 schools in the municipal area, 85.4 per cent operate as no fee schools. This is positive to note given that a substantial 24 per cent of learners in 2021 cited financial constraints as the primary reason for prematurely dropping out of school. In addition, 15 schools have libraries. This is particularly crucial to the disadvantaged learners of the municipal area, creating an enriched learning environment that supports academic achievement, fosters a love for reading, and prepares students for a lifetime of learning.

Learner Retention

The municipal area exhibits a learner retention rate that is higher than the District average. It has also demonstrated a consistent upward trajectory from 2020 to 2022, boding well for the future economic potential of the municipal area.

Education Outcomes

In addition to an increased proportion of learners reaching Grade 12, the municipal area boasts a matric pass rate that slightly surpasses the district average. However, a marginal decrease of 0.1 percentage points was observed between 2021 and 2022. Of particular concern, is the decline in bachelor passes, with subject-specific analyses attributing this trend to poor outcomes in mathematical literacy. Addressing this issue is imperative, given the pivotal role of high proficiency in subjects like mathematics and physical science in the unfolding fourth industrial revolution.

Against the backdrop of a rising demand for skilled labor in the municipal area, the significance of matric certificates and higher education qualifications is escalating as instrumental mechanisms for uplifting families from poverty and contributing to economic development. It is paramount to meticulously consider the determinants influencing the overall quality of education in the pursuit of improved educational outcomes.

HEALTH

Healthcare Facilities

6 Fixed PHC Facilities

3 Mobile Clinics

11 ART Clinics/ Treatment Sites

11 TB Clinics/ Treatment Sites

1 District Hospital

Emergency Medical Services

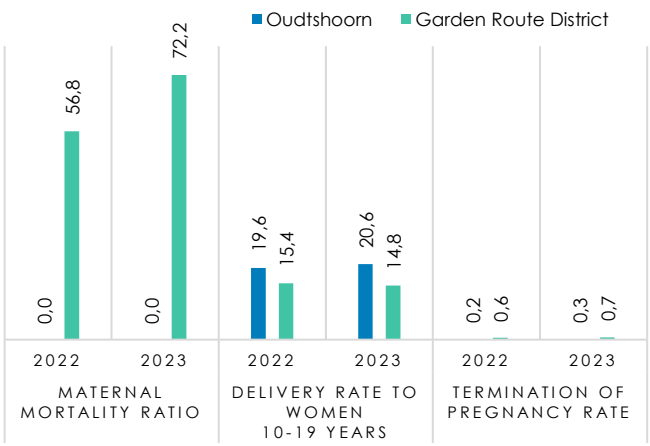
EMS per 10 000 people

GRD	0,4
Kannaland	1,8
Hessequa	0,7
Mossel Bay	0,3
George	0,4
Oudtshoorn	**0,5**
Bitou	0,1
Knysna	0,3

Maternal Health

OUDTSHOORN 2023: Maternal Health Indicators

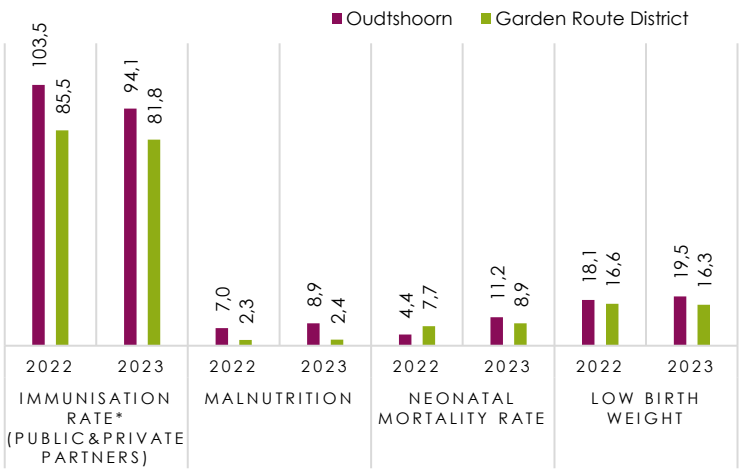
- Maternal deaths in facility : 0
- Deliveries in facility u19 years : 334
- Termination of pregnancy : 60



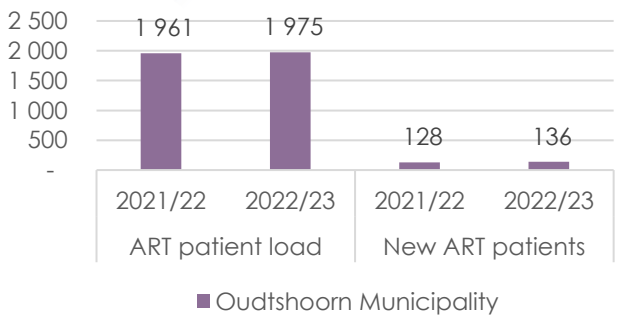
Child Health

OUDTSHOORN 2023: Child Health Indicators

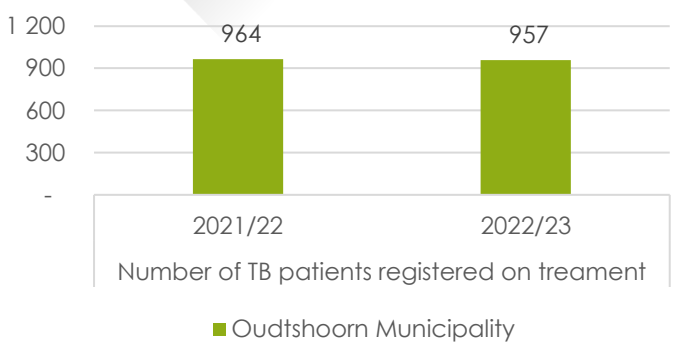
- Live births under 2500g (low birth weight) : 313
- Inpatient deaths 6-28 day : 18
- Immunisation u1 year : 1 300
- Severe acute malnutrition u5 years : 67



HIV/AIDS



Tuberculosis



Healthcare services

In 2022, a mere 15.8 per cent of the South African population had access to medical aid, underscoring the significance of government healthcare facilities in delivering essential primary healthcare services to the majority of the country's residents. Within the Oudtshoorn municipal area during the same year, there were a total of 6 primary healthcare facilities. Additionally, the municipal area had 3 mobile/satellite clinics and one regional hospital, catering to the healthcare needs of the residents. It is noteworthy that this municipal area accounted for 14.9 per cent of the healthcare facilities present in the broader Garden Route District.

Furthermore, with the development of 3 additional TB clinics, the residents in the municipal area had access to 11 Antiretroviral treatment sites and 11 tuberculosis clinics in 2022, further enhancing the availability of critical TB and ART treatment services available for households. This is especially necessary with the rising number of ART and TB patients registered for treatment within the municipal area from 2021/22 to 2022/23.

Enhancing the quantity of functional ambulances contributes to an expanded reach of emergency medical services across the municipal area. During the fiscal year 2022/23, the region was equipped with 5 Provincial ambulances, equating to a ratio of 0.5 ambulances per 10 000 residents. This is above the GRD average of 0.4 ambulances per 10 000 residents. Encouragingly, there is a noteworthy increment of one operational ambulance compared to the preceding year. It is imperative to acknowledge that this metric exclusively accounts for Provincial ambulances and does not encompass services provided by private entities.

Child and maternal health

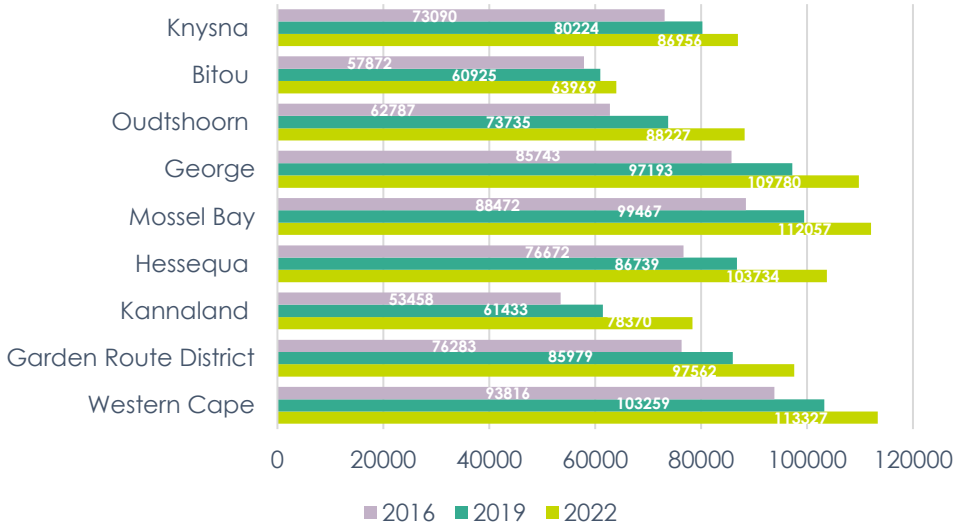
Within the municipal area, there has been an increase in teenage pregnancies. In 2022/23, 334 deliveries (20.6 per cent) occurred among females under the age of 20, which is significantly greater than the District rate of 14.8 percent. The increase in teenage pregnancies coincided with an increase in pregnancy terminations, with 652 pregnancy terminations reported in 2022/23. The high rate of teenage pregnancies reflects a need for expanded family planning initiatives and support services within the municipal area and greater GRD, as unplanned pregnancies pose a risk to the future quality of life of teenagers.

1 300 children under the age of one were immunised, translating to an immunisation coverage rate of 94.1 per cent. It however exhibited a reduction thereby placing a greater proportion of young children at risk of serious illness. The prevalence of malnourished children under the age of five, particularly those suffering from severe acute malnutrition, per 100 000 individuals in the municipal area, increased from 2021/22 to 2022/23. Moreover, there is an observed increase in the percentage of infants born with a birth weight below 2.5 kilograms during this period. Both metrics have yet to revert to pre-pandemic levels. Notably, these indicators surpass the district average, underscoring a distinct challenge concerning food security and malnutrition within the municipal area. The high levels of poverty in the municipal area contribute significantly to an enduring challenge regarding households' access to nutritious food.

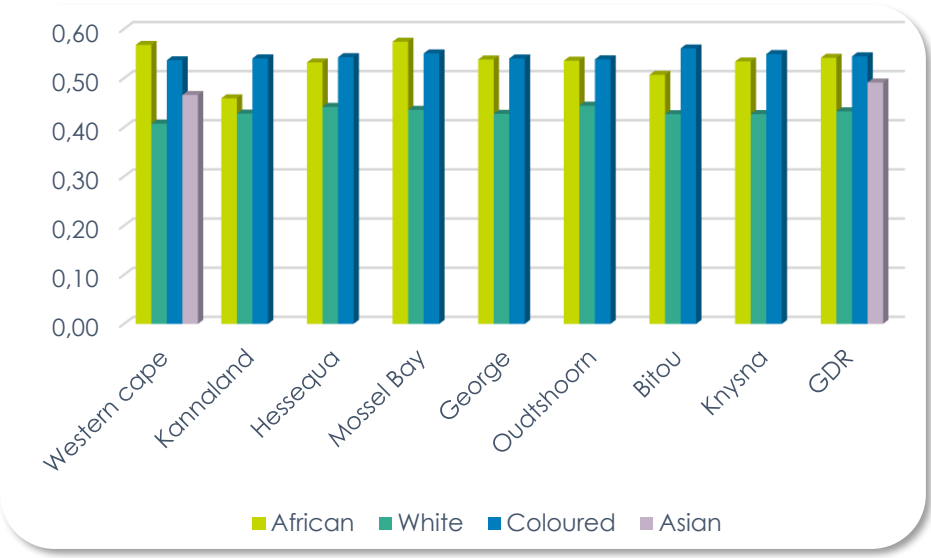
The municipal area recorded no maternal fatalities; however, regrettably, 18 infants succumbed before reaching 28 days of life. Notably, the municipal area exhibits one of the highest neonatal mortality rates within the GRD, marking a disconcerting trend, particularly with the observed increase in these rates from 2021/22 to 2022/23. This emphasizes the need for improved antenatal and postnatal care.

POVERTY

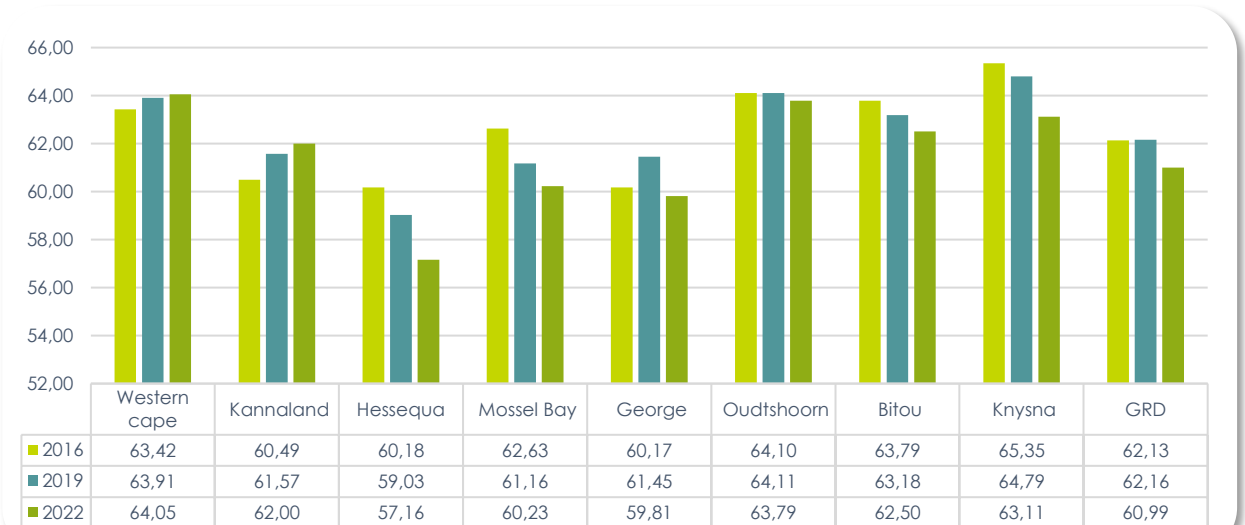
GDP per capita



Income Inequality



Poverty Line



	Western cape	Kannaland	Hessequa	Mossel Bay	George	Oudtshoorn	Bitou	Knysna	GRD
2016	63,42	60,49	60,18	62,63	60,17	64,10	63,79	65,35	62,13
2019	63,91	61,57	59,03	61,16	61,45	64,11	63,18	64,79	62,16
2022	64,05	62,00	57,16	60,23	59,81	63,79	62,50	63,11	60,99

GDPR Per Capita

During the timeframe spanning from 2016 to 2022, the regional economy exhibited a growth rate surpassing that of the population, resulting in a notable upswing in the GDPR per capita i.e., GDPR per person. Over this period, GDPR per capita experienced a robust increase of 28.8 per cent, indicative of enhanced standards of living and heightened economic well-being within the Oudtshoorn municipal area. It has however grown from a low base. At R88 227, the GDP per capita remains below the District (R97 562) and the Western Cape (R113 327) average, pointing to potential areas for further improvement.

It is imperative to acknowledge that the distribution of GDP per capita within the municipal area is not uniform. Disparities prevail, with a segment of the population enjoying affluence, while others grapple with financial challenges in an economic landscape characterized by inflation, escalating interest rates, and unemployment.

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, endeavouring to lower the Gini coefficient from 0.7 in 2010 to 0.6 by 2030. The Oudtshoorn municipal area meets that goal at 0.57 and has amongst the most equally distributed incomes in the Province. When viewed in conjunction with the low GDP per capita, it reflects that the majority of the population are grappling with limited economic opportunities and resources. By global standards, the Gini coefficient of 0.57 is still high and reflects the discrepancy between persons with well renumerated jobs in the town of Oudtshoorn, compared to the lower income earned by farm workers as well as backyard dwellers and households residing in the informal settlements across the municipal area. Income inequality is also more pronounced among the coloured and black African demographic groups where some households have built wealth, whilst others have yet to escape the poverty trap.

Poverty

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. In 2022, 63.8 per cent of the municipal population fell below the UBPL. This figure improved marginally from the 64.1 per cent recorded in 2019, indicating some progress despite the challenging economic conditions facing households across the country.

The municipal area exhibits the highest levels of poverty in the District but is slightly lower when compared to the Western Cape rate. This points to a significant number of households being confronted with the adverse effects of poverty. These consequences include lower life expectancy, malnutrition, food insecurity, heightened exposure to crime and substance abuse, reduced educational attainment, and substandard living conditions. Therefore, the NDP sets the ambitious goal of eradicating poverty by 2030. To alleviate these negative impacts of poverty, the Department of Social Development Oudtshoorn SASSA office issues grants to 51 362 individuals. Beneficiaries of child support grants constituted 63.2 per cent of this total, with 11 464 pensioners receiving old age grants, thus offering vital income support to these households.

BASIC SERVICE DELIVERY

Total number of households

31 795	255 977
Oudtshoorn	Garden Route District

Formal main dwelling

89,5%

89.0%

28 467	227 812
Oudtshoorn	Garden Route District

Formal Dwelling	Traditional dwelling	Informal dwelling	Other/Unspecified
89,5% Oudtshoorn 89.0% Garden Route	1,7% Oudtshoorn 1.2% Garden Route	8,5% Oudtshoorn 9.6% Garden Route	0.3% Oudtshoorn 0.2% Garden Route

Piped water inside dwelling

Oudtshoorn	85,1%
Garden Route	85.0%

Flush/chemical toilet

Oudtshoorn	88,5%
Garden Route	93.7%

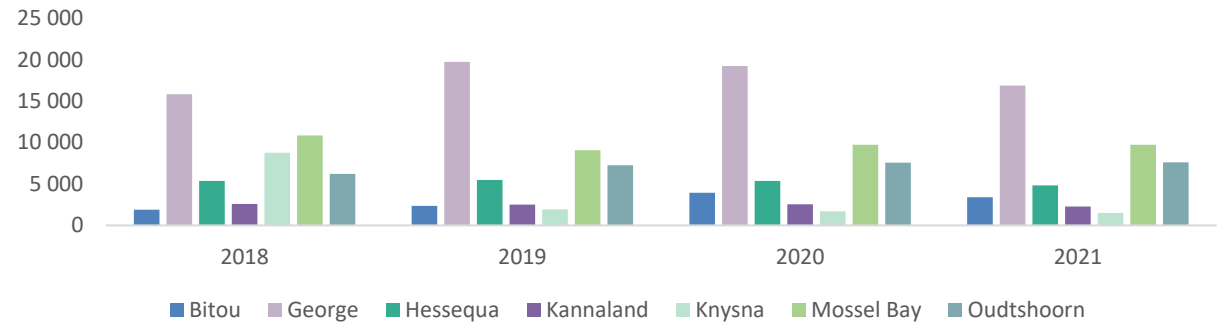
Electricity (incl. generator) as primary source of lighting

Oudtshoorn	92,3%
Garden Route	95.5%

Refuse removal at least once a week

Oudtshoorn	86,0%
Garden Route	88.8%

Indigent Households Garden Route Municipalities



Introduction

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 assesses the extent to which this objective has been realised by examining the progress reflected in the 2022 Census data.

Housing and Household Services

There has been a slight rise in the percentage of households with access to formal housing, escalating from 88.5 per cent in 2011 to 89.5 per cent in 2022. This achievement is largely attributed to housing units constructed by the state, catering to the housing needs of low-income households, while the growth in households are subdued. The access to formal housing is slightly above the GRD average which has been dragged downward due to the large proportion of informal housing in the George municipal area. With 8.5 per cent of households living in informal dwellings, 1.7 per cent in traditional dwellings and 0.3 per cent in other/unspecified housing, it reflects further room for improvement to see enhanced living conditions for vulnerable households in the municipal area.

The increase in the proportion of households residing in formal dwellings was accompanied by an 8.1 per cent surge in households equipped with flush toilets, an 8 per cent increase in access to regular refuse removal, a 7.1 per cent upswing in households using electricity for lighting, and a substantial 10.1 per cent increment in households enjoying access to piped water within their dwellings. However, it remains pertinent to acknowledge that the municipal area still lags in terms of providing essential services across all categories excluding access to piped water within the dwelling. This lag underscores the Municipality's difficulties associated with extending services to rural farmlands and informal settlements, as well as the lack of access to these basic services within backyard dwellings within the municipal area.

Free Basic Services

Municipalities also provide a package of free basic services to households who are financially vulnerable and struggle to pay for services. There was a significant surge (16.7 per cent) in registered indigent households in 2020 attributable to the adverse economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in income losses impeding households' capacity to cover their municipal service expenses. While the pace of growth decelerated, an upward trajectory persisted in 2021 (4.6 per cent) and endured into 2022 (0.6 per cent), indicative of a sustained departure from pre-pandemic levels. This is contrary to the trend observed in municipal areas with a decrease in the number of registered indigent households. The stressed economic conditions continue to exert pressure on household incomes and thereby keep demand for free basic services at elevated levels.

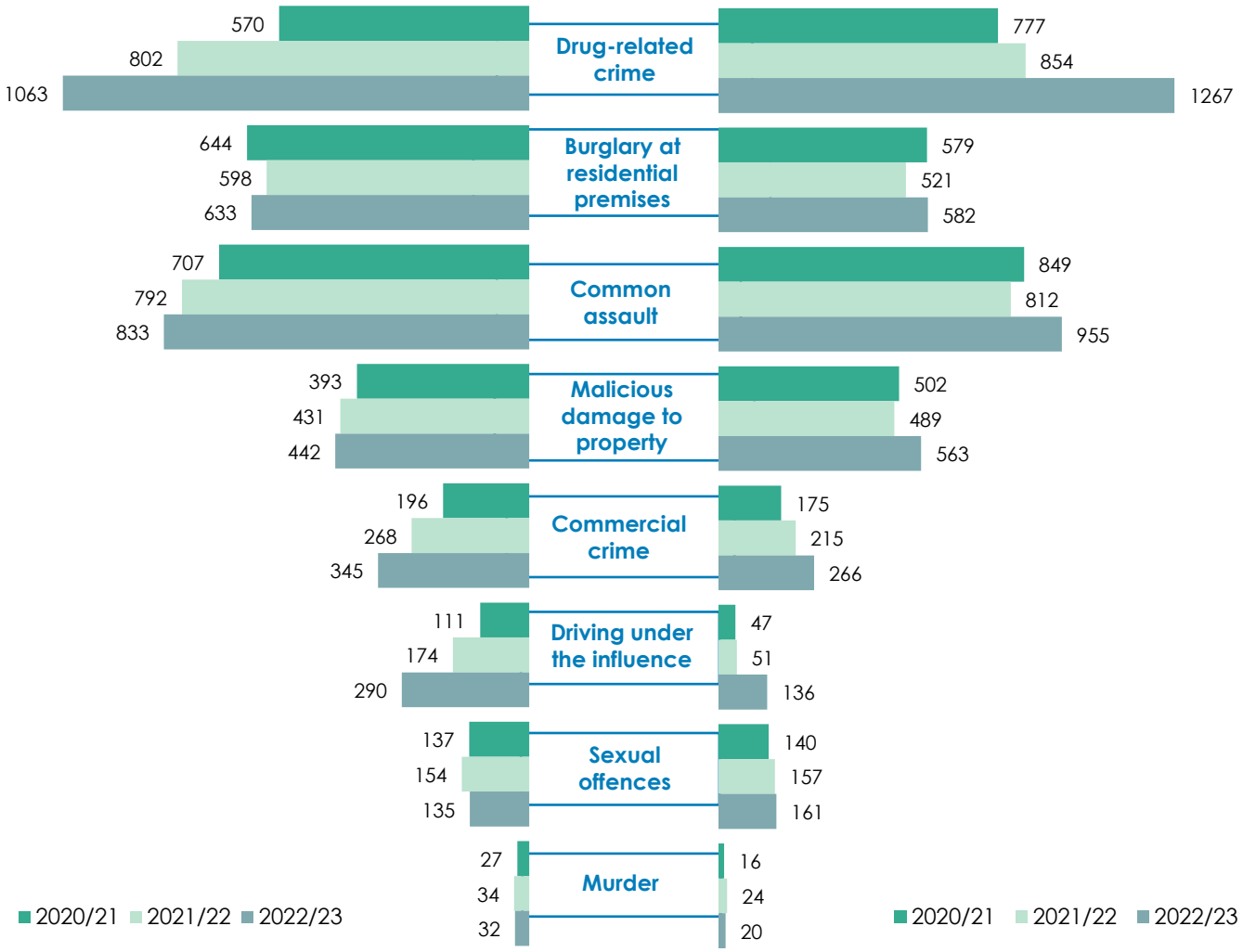
SAFETY AND SECURITY

GARDEN ROUTE

6 674 Total reported crime per 100 000 people in the Garden Route District in 2022/23

OUDTSHOORN

7 795 Total reported crime per 100 000 people in Oudtshoorn in 2022/23



Crime Rates in GRD and Oudtshoorn Municipality

The high levels of poverty and inequality give rise to elevated crime levels necessitating the development of the Western Cape Safety Plan. In it, the Western Cape Government (WCG) expresses their vision to ensure that the Province is a place where all people feel secure and live free from fear. The Oudtshoorn Municipality shares in this goal, as it is not spared from the safety concerns present throughout the Province and GRD.

Crime rates in the municipal area rose from 2021 to 2022. It should be acknowledged that the decline in overall crime during the preceding year was influenced by the enforcement of COVID-19 lockdown regulations in 2021. However, the ascent in crime rates threaten the Oudtshoorn Municipality's ability to maintain its position as a safe town, as outlined in its Integrated Development Plan (IDP). In fact, at an aggregate level, the incidence of crime per 100 000 residents in the Oudtshoorn municipal area ranks as the second highest in the region, surpassed only by Kannaland. This is predominantly attributed to the prevalence of drug-related offenses within the municipal area. It further exhibits elevated occurrences of contact crimes, such as sexual offences and common assault, when compared to the GRD. It is pertinent to note however, that the GRD contends with elevated crime rates across all other categories delineated in the infographic.

The primary factors contributing to crime in the Oudtshoorn Municipality and greater region of the Garden Route include the absence of surveillance cameras in high-risk areas, inadequate lighting, high unemployment rates, drug and alcohol abuse, instances of domestic violence, repeat offences by released prisoners, the seasonal influx of labourers and social intolerance. Furthermore, crime is exacerbated by the high levels of poverty in the municipal area.

Total Reported Cases of Crimes

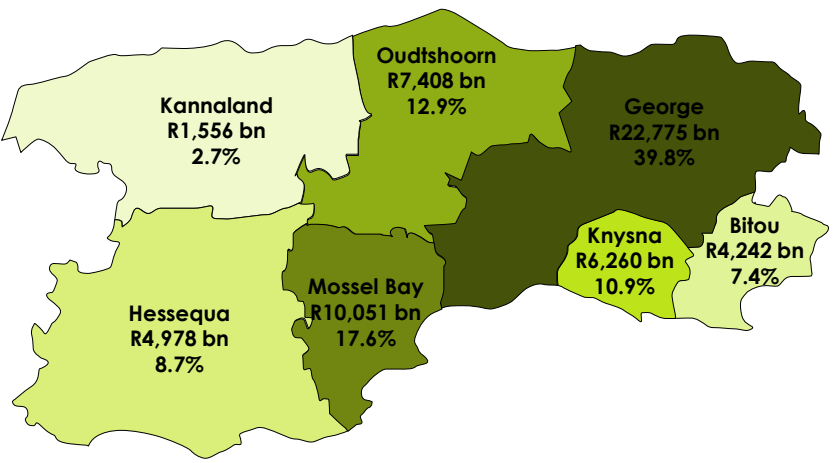
Murder is defined as the unlawful and intentional killing of another person. 18 murders were reported in the municipal area in 2022/23, which decreased from 22 in the previous year. On the other hand, common assault (assault that involves the use of force or violence against another person without causing serious bodily harm) is at heightened levels with 145 cases reported, influenced by substance abuse as well as gender-based violence.

South Africa is amongst the top 5 countries in the world with respect to reports of rape. Oudtshoorn is no exception with 145 cases of sexual offences (including rape, sex work, pornography, public indecency and human trafficking) reported within the municipal area, up from 142 in 2021/22. It should be noted that many cases of sexual offences go unreported. Substance abuse drives up drug-related crimes (a situation where the perpetrator is found to be in possession of, under the influence of, or selling illegal drugs) with 1 138 cases reported, and saw the largest rise from the total incidences recorded in 2021/22. In addition, driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol (where the driver of a vehicle is found to be over the legal blood alcohol limit) had 122 reported cases. Alcohol use is a leading factor in road traffic crashes. Substance abuse places a burden on health care and police services, disrupts families and bears significant social and economic costs within communities.

Substance abuse and poverty further contribute to residential burglaries (the unlawful entry of a residential structure with the intent to commit a crime, usually a theft) with 523 cases reported in the municipal area, while difficult economic times is met with a rise in commercial crimes (theft, fraud or dishonesty committed against a business by an employee that results in the business suffering financial loss) as an easy way for employees to maintain their standard of living. In addition to this, 506 cases of malicious damage to property, severely impact local businesses, especially SMMEs. Failure to curb such crimes can lead to a vicious cycle of declining economic activity and joblessness that fuels poverty and gives rise to other crimes across the Municipality. *Curbing crime is thus crucial to realising the vision of the WCG that is "a safer Western Cape where everyone prospers".*

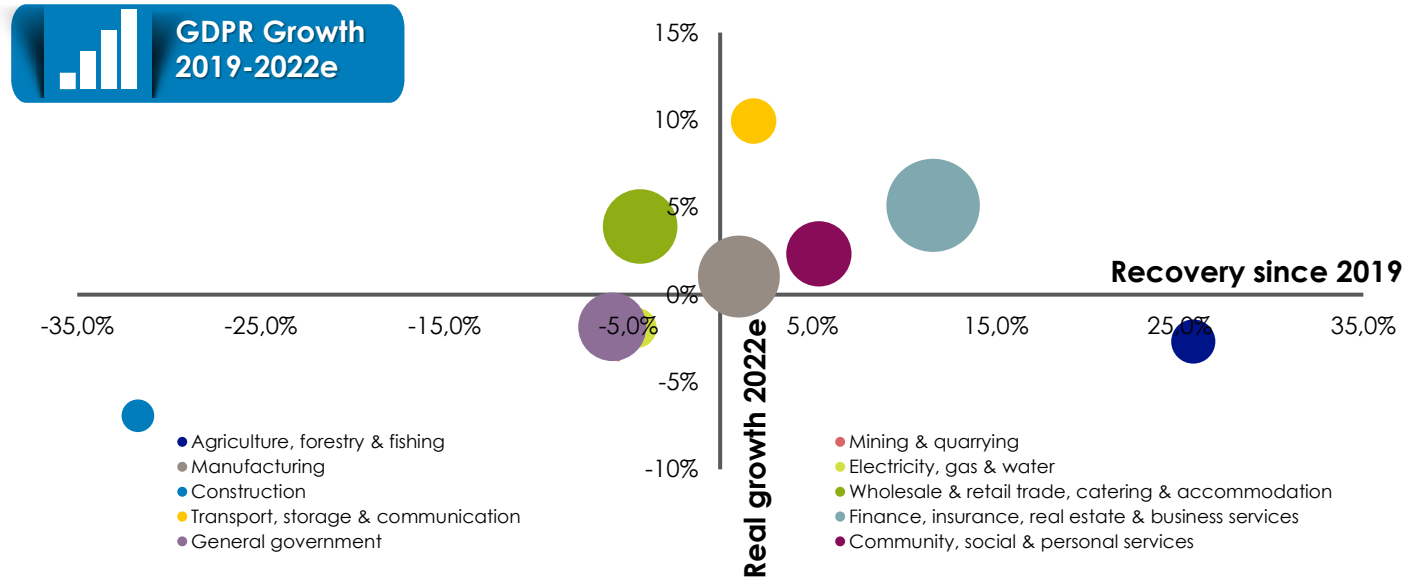
GDPR PERFORMANCE

GDPR Contribution 2021

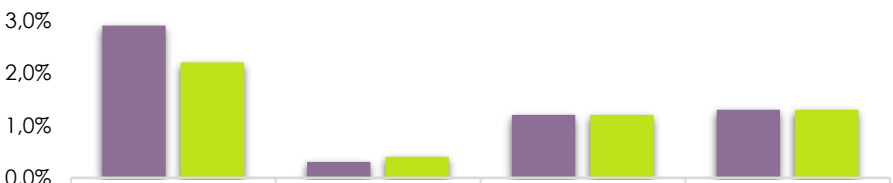


Sectoral contribution to GDPR 2021

GDPR Growth 2019-2022e



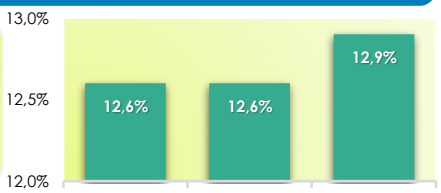
GDPR forecast



	2022	2023	2024	2025
Garden Route	2,9%	0,3%	1,2%	1,3%
Oudtshoorn	2,2%	0,4%	1,2%	1,3%

International Trade, 2022

Tourism spend % of GDP



GDPR Sectoral Performance

The Oudtshoorn municipal area lies in the semi-arid Klein Karoo. Its abundant ostrich farms offer immersive tourism experiences, also supplying meat, feathers and leather products that contribute to a flourishing trade in artisanal goods and sustain the local meat processing industry. In recent years, the local economy has diversified into eco-tourism, offering activities such as hiking and exploration of the Swartberg Pass, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the Cango Caves.

In 2021, the Oudtshoorn municipal area had a GDPR of R7.4 billion and 26 839 people in employment. While local economic activity is based mainly on agriculture, finance (23.8 per cent), manufacturing (18.3 per cent) and trade (15.2 per cent) are the leading economic sectors in terms of GDPR. Klein Karoo (Pty) Ltd, a local giant operating in these sectors, provides credit, machinery and other inputs for farming and is the world's leading producer of ostrich feathers, leather and meat. It provides these services to local farmers and customers around the world through its various subsidiaries, namely Klein Karoo Agri, Klein Karoo Seed Production and Cape Karoo International. The ostrich industry, therefore, has a well-developed local value chain. Along with the Cango Caves, it also offers a unique tourism experience, attracting domestic and international visitors to the Little Karoo. The tourism industry has however experienced a slow recovery in the constrained post-pandemic economy where total visitors in 2022 still fall short of the 2019 number.

Economic expansion in 2022, estimated at 2.2 per cent, resulted in the economy reaching full recovery from the downturn of 2020. The sectors that contributed the most to this expansion included finance (1.3 percentage points), transport (0.6 of a percentage point) and trade (0.5 of a percentage point). Contractions in the agriculture, electricity, gas and water, construction and general government sectors dampened the economic prospects for growth in 2022.

While the economy as a whole has recovered, the mining, electricity, gas and water, construction and trade sectors have not yet recovered the losses recorded in 2022. On the other hand, despite contracting in 2022, the agriculture sector is still performing at elevated levels because of its exceptional performance in 2020 and 2021. The ostrich industry came under pressure in 2022 as feed and fuel prices soared and poor rains affected water availability and logistical challenges in China and the United States dampened sales. International demand for ostrich products overall remained strong, however, boosting regional exports and benefiting the local manufacturing sector.

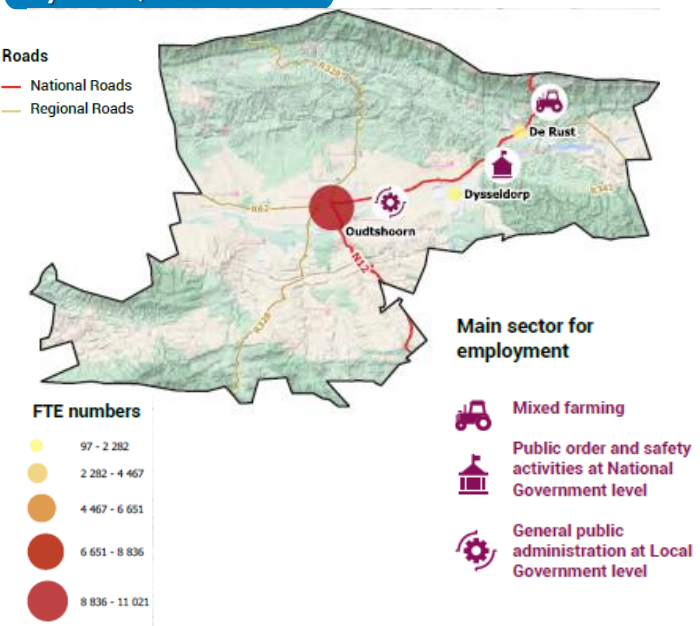
Thanks to its agricultural and agro-processing industries, the Oudtshoorn municipal area has maintained a positive trade balance in recent years, one that reached R627.2 million in 2022. Ostrich products are among the top exports of this municipal area, with skins and other parts of the birds generating R194.5 million in export earnings and other raw hides and skins bringing in R20.8 million in 2022. The top imports into the region are indicative of the municipal area's other production capabilities, with seeds, fruit and spores (R39.9 million) and machinery for sorting earth or stone (R3.8 million) being among the most significant imports.

GDPR Forecast

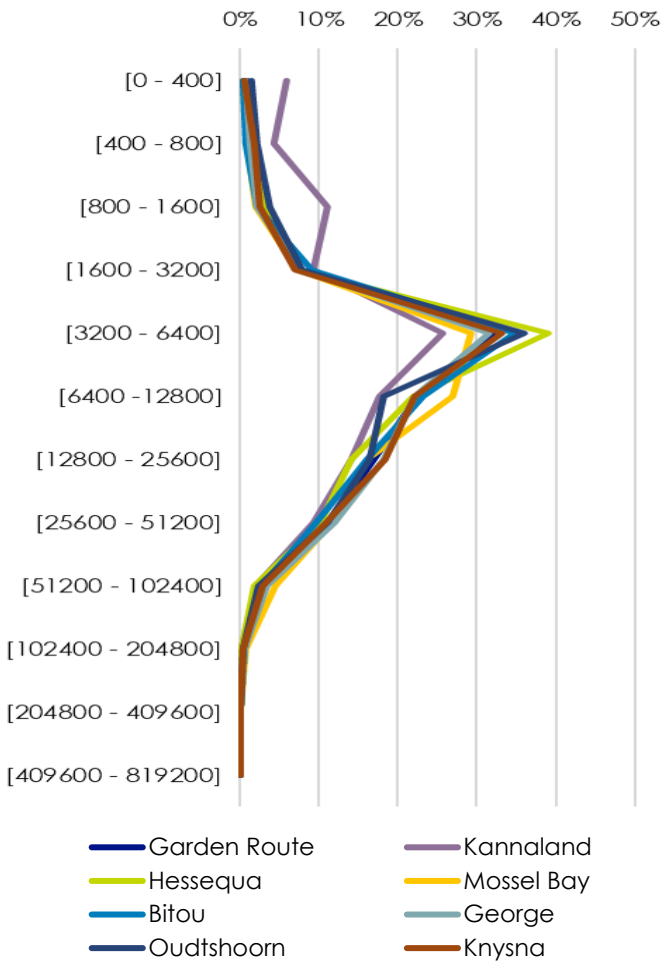
Given the slow recovery of tourism, the reduction in consumer purchasing power and fears that the trade and agriculture sectors will continue to shrink, GDPR growth in the Oudtshoorn municipal area is expected to increase marginally by 0.4 per cent in 2023. However, the expectation is that household spending will subsequently improve, prompting growth of 1.2 per cent in 2024.

LABOUR MARKET PERFORMANCE

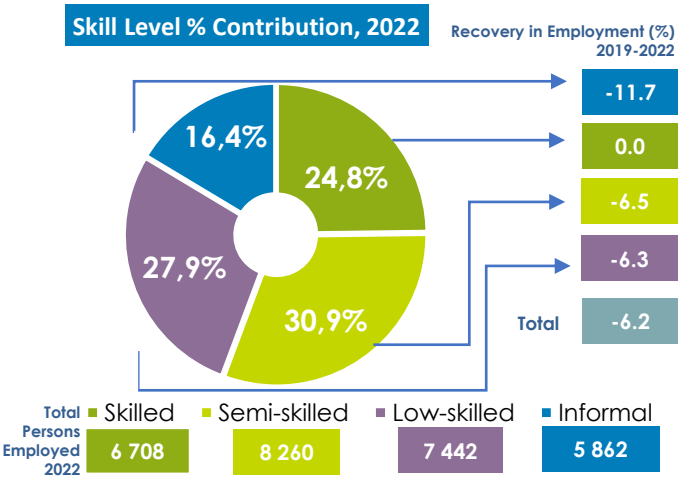
Formal Employment by Town, 2022



Wage Distribution per municipal area, 2022



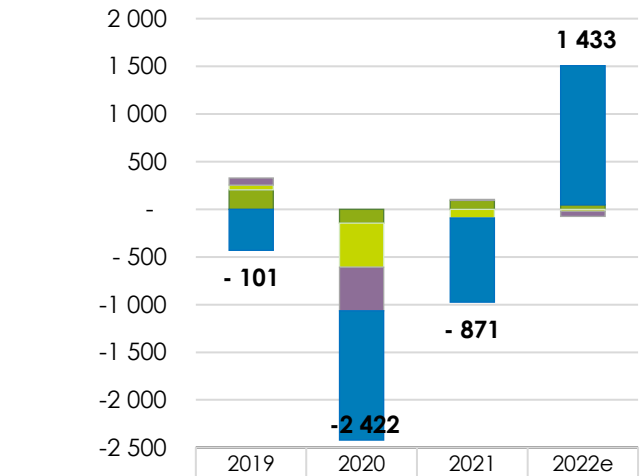
Skill Level % Contribution, 2022



Top 5 Sectors

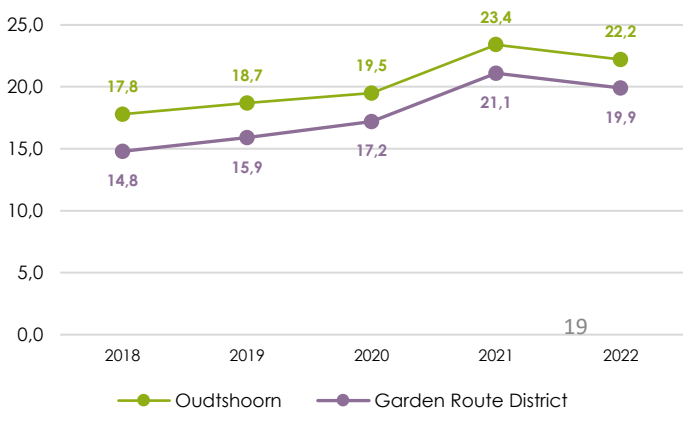
Sector	No. of FTE Jobs
Administration of the state and the economic and social policy of the community	1 820
Mixed farming	1 197
Processing and preserving of meat	924
Provision of services to the community as a whole	624
Support activities to agriculture and post-harvest crop activities	396

Net employment per sector, 2019-2022



	2019	2020	2021	2022e
Total	- 101	-2 422	- 871	1 433
Informal	- 429	-1 357	- 882	1 460
Low skilled	72	- 458	9	- 53
Semi-skilled	53	- 463	- 91	- 22
Skilled	203	- 144	93	48

Unemployment rate 2018-2022



Labour Market Performance

The Oudtshoorn municipal area has three main towns fuelling the labour market: Oudtshoorn, known as the ostrich capital of the world; Dysselsdorp, established as a British mission station in the 19th century; and De Rust, a quaint village just north of the Olifants River. The Ostrich Industry in the Oudtshoorn municipal area is one of the largest in the global market and therefore has a well-developed local value chain. As such, mixed farming and meat processing are amongst the largest employers in the municipal area, with 1 197 and 924 formal jobs, respectively, but the single largest employer in the municipal area remains public administration (1 820 jobs). There are numerous government offices offering employment in the municipal area including the Oudtshoorn Municipality, the Garden Route District Municipality, Department of Social Development, Department of Agriculture, Department of Home Affairs, Department of Labour, a magistrate court, and post office, amongst others.

The agriculture sector's precarious performance has resulted in some subsectors creating jobs while others shed jobs. For example, the employment of mixed farming and non-perennial crop cultivators increased while those working in animal production and agricultural support activities lost their jobs. However, the most significant job losses were recorded for retail workers and those working in short-term accommodation facilities, underscoring both the importance of tourism for local jobs and the slow recovery of tourism in the area.

Labour in the Oudtshoorn municipal area is mostly semi-skilled (30.9 per cent) and low-skilled (27.9 per cent). Semi-skilled workers tend to be concentrated in the trade, finance and manufacturing sectors. By contrast, low-skilled workers are usually employed in agriculture and community services. Semi-skilled and low-skilled employment have yet to reach pre-pandemic levels, with a -6.5 and -6.3 per cent backlog still existing. As tertiary sector activities in the Oudtshoorn municipal area have grown over the past decade, the number of skilled workers in the area has increased, especially in the finance sector. Skilled employment marks as the only category that has reached its pre-pandemic level of employment. Informal employment constitutes only 16.4 per cent of employment in the municipal area and was the hardest hit by the pandemic, showing the slowest recovery, with 11.7 per cent less jobs than its 2019 level.

2022 reflects the first year since the COVID-19 pandemic where there was net job growth in the municipal area, largely boosted by employment in the informal sector in that year. This contributed to a welcome reduction in the unemployment rate by 1.2 percentage points. At 22.2 per cent in 2022, it however remains above the District average, and contributes to the high poverty rate in the municipal area. In addition to this, the Oudtshoorn municipal area had the largest proportion of people in the District who were not economically active (42.6 per cent). This places strain on the state for financial support and provision of services as reflected in the 3.5 percentage point rise in housing demand in 2023 and the rise in the number of indigent households. It should be noted that the proportion of economically inactive persons may be worsened by the presence of the South African Army Infantry School and the South Cape TVET College campus in Oudtshoorn as people are studying and therefore are not part of the job market.

Wage Distribution

The Oudtshoorn municipal area had the highest proportion of people living below the food poverty line: at 33.4 per cent in 2021 and 32.1 per cent in 2022. Of the three main towns in the area, only Oudtshoorn, the epicentre of the services sector in the municipal area, had a median income above the municipal average. Dysselsdorp and De Rust are small towns that serve surrounding agricultural communities, which are mainly involved in ostrich farming. Of those with formal employment, 51.4 per cent earn less than R6 400 per month, which is above the District average of 45.3 per cent. Poverty has therefore become a significant factor in these towns, as most young people have jobs in Oudtshoorn or work as seasonal labourers on neighbouring farms. The lack of diversity in employment opportunities and low incomes make individuals in this area vulnerable to economic shocks and impact on their standard of living.

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
Bitou	19	2.32	25	6.50	24	7.17	21	6.84
George	9	1.60	16	3.38	22	6.03	8	4.36
Hessequa	10	1.60	13	2.96	11	5.28	16	5.12
Kannaland	24	2.90	4	1.24	6	4.66	11	4.72
Knysna	14	1.92	24	5.66	19	5.93	23	8.13
Mossel Bay	5	1.26	11	2.82	13	5.40	19	6.10
Oudtshoorn	21	2.68	9	2.63	5	4.57	13	5.00

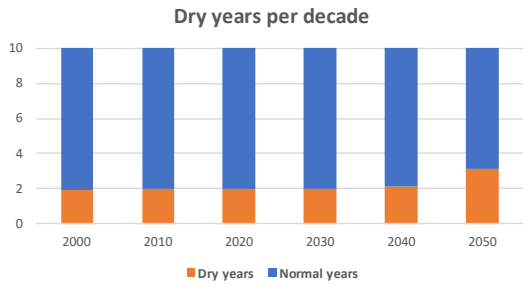
HAZARDS*

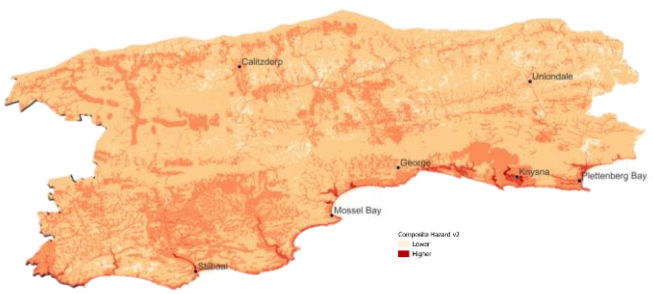
Oudtshoorn Overall Population Growth Pressure:
Very low or even decreasing growth in most settlements *

Six of the Top 10 Risks in the Garden Route are environmental in nature (Provincial Disaster Risk Register)	Oudtshoorn's identified Hydro-meteorological Hazards to settlements in as observed by the CSIR (The Greenbook *)
1. Human Diseases (Covid-19)	
2. Hazmat Incidents: Roads / Rail / Sea	
3. Alien Invasive Plants	An overall increased drought tendency.
4. Wildfires	Subject to possible wildfires occurring in wildland-urban interface with settlements, with moderate potential increase in exposure of settlements to wildfires.
5. Coastal Erosion	
6. Sanitation/Waste Disruption	
7. Drought	Medium potential increase in exposure to heat extremes, whilst having an overall increased drought tendency, with high potential increase in exposure to drought.
8. Electricity Disruption	
9. Floods (Stormwater/Riverine/Coastal)	Medium flood risk to settlements, with very low to low potential increase in exposure to flooding in settlements.
10. Severe Wind	

Garden Route no. of dry years per decade†						
	2000	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050
Dry years	1.9	2	2	2	2.1	3.1
Wet years	8.1	8	8	8	7.9	6.9

Temperature change (2050 compared to historic)†	
Mean temperature increase (District)	1.2 °C higher
Additional days per year with daily maximum temperature above 30 °C (Oudshoorn)	20 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

† Jack, C., Van Aardenne, L., Wolski, P., Pinto, I., Quagraine, K. & Kloppers, P. 2022. SmartAgri: Updated Climate Change Trends and Projections for the Western Cape. Cape Town: University of Cape Town. Available at https://www.elsenburg.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/SmartAgri-Climate-Change.pdf

Drought

According to the CSIR Green Book, Oudtshoorn has a high potential exposure to an increase in drought. Currently 1.9 years per decade are at risk of drought, and this will increase to 3.1 out of every 10 years by 2050. Water, and related sanitation services, is a key ingredient for socioeconomic development, food security and healthy ecosystems, and is vital for reducing the burden of disease and improving the health, welfare and productivity of populations. A deteriorating water catchment system, through ecosystem loss (transformation or land use change) and alien infestation, or watercourse and wetland modification, will lead to lower inputs into the water supply systems, and a lower overall water security due to lower natural retention and lower quality of water. During extended drought periods, even end users far from major source areas are likely to experience shortages as the overall system runs low.

Temperatures

Average temperature has been increasing since the 1900s. Projections indicate that Oudtshoorn can expect an additional 20 extremely hot days per year by 2050, which will affect food security, exposure to extreme heat, health and water quality.

Vegetation Fires

Although critical for a healthy ecosystem, fire is a significant threat to human lives, food security, socio-economic activities and livelihoods, as well as infrastructure and other assets. Furthermore, in many areas land has been converted from natural vegetation to other land-cover types - some of which significantly modify the fuel loads (e.g., the establishment of forest plantations and the spread of several introduced tree species such as pines, hakea, wattles and 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

Oudtshoorn, a municipal area situated in the semi-arid plains of the Klein Karoo, serves as a distinctive focal point for both the ostrich Industry and tourism. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the municipal economy has successfully rebounded. While employment recovery initially lagged the economic resurgence, 2022 witnessed a significant net job growth, predominantly driven by an upswing in informal employment opportunities. This positive development has had a favorable impact on unemployment and poverty rates.

However, notwithstanding these improvements, the Municipality remains susceptible to elevated levels of poverty and unemployment compared to the District average. These conditions contribute to heightened rates of child malnutrition and low birth weight, indicative of a deficiency in food security within the municipal area. Additionally, poverty raises concerns regarding safety and security, evidenced by escalating crime rates, particularly in drug-related crime, sexual offenses, common assaults, and malicious damage to property. Ensuring safety and security is of paramount importance for both the municipality and the Western Cape Government.

Progress has been made in the realm of education, signaling optimistic prospects for meeting the increasing demand for skilled individuals in the expanding tertiary sector of the municipal economy. The growth in the proportion of individuals with higher education qualifications can be attributed to the presence of higher education institutions in the municipal area. Despite an increase in teenage pregnancies, learner retention rates have also improved. Regrettably, the matric pass rate experienced a decline from 2021 to 2022, primarily attributed to underperformance in mathematics and mathematical literacy, necessitating targeted interventions.

A constrained economy, coupled with a scarcity of higher-income job opportunities and a high dependency ratio, has led to heightened demands for housing, municipal services, and essential government provisions such as education and healthcare. This is evidenced by higher learner-teacher ratios, an escalating demand for housing, and a growing number of registered indigent households requiring free basic services. To effectively address the outlined developmental challenges and enhance the well-being of residents in the municipal area, sustained collaboration among the Municipality, other tiers of government, and the private sector is imperative.

SOURCES

1. Demographics

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

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

SOURCES

5. Basic services

- Households: Department of Social Development, 2023; Census 2022
- Access to housing: Department of Social Development, 2023; Census 2022
- Access to water: Department of Social Development, 2023; Census 2022
- Access to electricity: Department of Social Development, 2023; Census 2022
- Access to sanitation: Department of Social Development, 2023; Census 2022
- Access to refuse removal: Department of Social Development, 2023; 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*