

**Motivation of the Impact Pulse for the Cape
Chamber Western Cape Economy Innovation
Awards 2026**

Why the Impact Pulse?

Ambitious strategies often fail at one critical point: **implementation**.

In the public sector, plans are sometimes launched with strong intent, but without real-time feedback, it becomes difficult to know:

- Are our interventions having an impact on the broader economy?
- Are we still responding to current economic realities?
- Should we adjust, accelerate, or redirect resources?

The **Impact Pulse** was created to close that gap.

It is an economic intelligence tool designed to support the implementation of the Western Cape Government's **Growth for Jobs (G4J) Strategy**. It consolidates a wide range of robust economic data into clear, cohesive indicators and regularly delivers them in a dynamic, accessible, and decision-ready format.

Instead of relying on static reports or outdated data, decision-makers and budget managers receive up-to-date economic signals that help them:

- Align projects with current economic conditions,
- Identify emerging risks and opportunities early,
- Assess whether interventions are having a macroeconomic impact,
- Course-correct where necessary, and
- Allocate budgets more strategically.

The Impact Pulse ensures that implementation is not blind. It ensures that implementation is informed, adaptive, and accountable.

By embedding real-time economic intelligence into government processes and existing government systems, the tool strengthens good governance. It supports public officials to move beyond planning into measurable delivery, ensuring that the Growth for Jobs Strategy remains responsive to the evolving Western Cape economy.

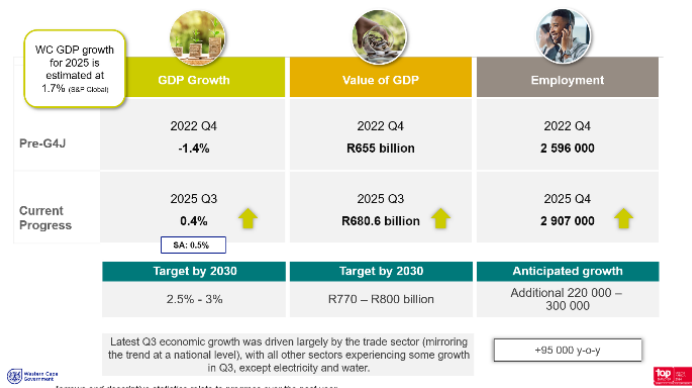


Figure.7; Screenshot of Impact Pulse 86th February Presentation to HODs of WC Provincial Departments

It was designed as part of the G4J Implementation Plan by DEDAT HOD Jo-Ann Johnston and executed by the REPP unit, with oversight by Tshegang Chipeya and Ilse van Schalkwyk, delivery of presentations by Tshegang Chipeya, research and analysis by Romy Bogner and Shuray Bux, and data management and dashboard development by Andrew Perrins.

What Is the Impact Pulse?

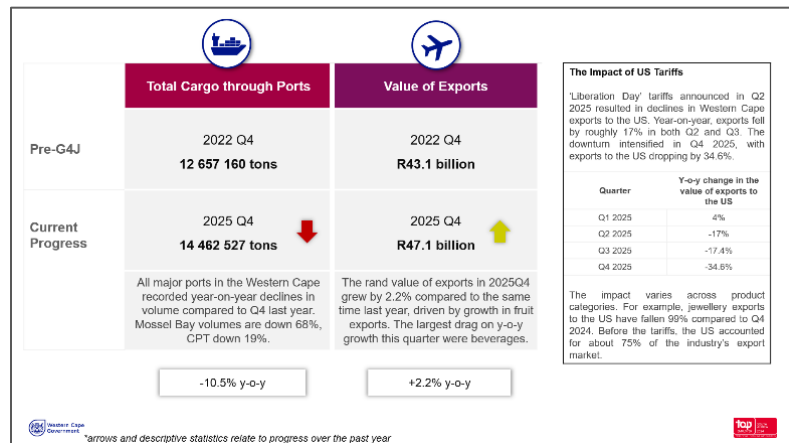
The **Impact Pulse** is not just a dashboard. It is a fully integrated economic intelligence system designed to strengthen governance and improve implementation outcomes.

It brings together five powerful elements:

1. Robust Research and Data

Economic research and high-quality datasets are translated into clear, trackable economic indicators. Instead of raw numbers sitting in reports, the data becomes actionable signals that show what is happening in the economy and what it means for policy.

Figure 8: Screenshot of the Impact Pulse Presentation to G0J HODs as at 86 February 868



2. Online Dashboards

These indicators are consolidated into accessible online dashboards. Decision-makers can quickly see economic trends, risks and opportunities in one place, without waiting for lengthy reports.

3. Embedded in Quarterly Governance Structures

The Impact Pulse is permanently integrated into quarterly Growth for Jobs (G4J) implementation meetings. It is a standing agenda item at:

- The G4J Cabinet Committee (Provincial Ministers overseeing budgets),
- G4J HOD meetings (Heads of Department responsible for departmental budgets and delivery), and
- G4J Technical Leads (overseeing implementation and project managers).

This ensures that economic developments are always considered when reviewing performance, allocating budgets and approving projects.

4. Presented by a Senior Economist

The system is brought to life through in-person presentations by a Senior Economist. This allows for real-time engagement, discussion and immediate clarification. It is not a passive dashboard; it is an interactive economic briefing where decision-makers can interrogate the data and test assumptions.

5. Integrated into the G4J Reporting System

The Impact Pulse is being integrated directly into the G4J reporting and project-tracking system. This will ensure that:

- It is continuously available,
- It informs project approvals and milestone tracking,
- Decision-makers do not have to wait for quarterly meetings, and
- Economic intelligence becomes part of everyday governance.

Why This Is Innovative

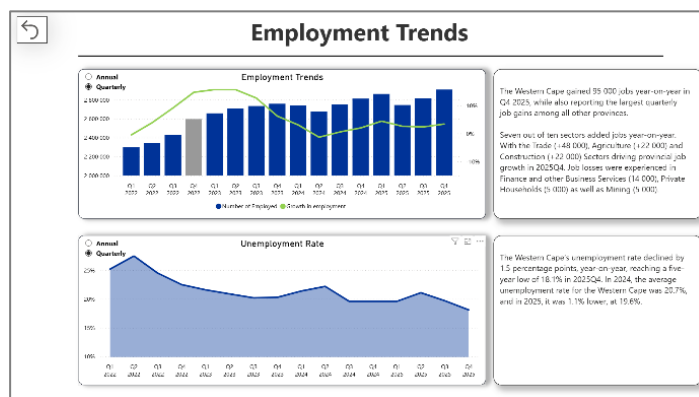
The Impact Pulse transforms economic data from a background research function into an active governance tool.

It embeds macroeconomic intelligence directly into budgeting, oversight and implementation processes.

It creates a structured feedback loop between the economy and government action.

In short, the Impact Pulse is not merely a tool; it is an innovative governance system that ensures strategy, budgets and implementation remain aligned with real economic conditions.

Figure 9: Screenshot of Impact Pulse Dashboard on Employment? as at 89 February 868



Where Has the Impact Pulse Been Used?

All Growth for Jobs (G4J) projects proposed for the 2026/27 financial year were developed in a governance environment where decision-makers had received repeated Impact Pulse briefings before project design. The tool was presented to more than 30 senior officials, including the Premier, Provincial Ministers and Heads of Department, during formal oversight forums that oversee projects representing approximately R1.2 billion in budget submissions.

Impact Pulse presentations do more than track standard economic indicators like jobs, GDP, exports, investment, business confidence, youth unemployment and tourism performance since the 2022 baseline. They also include timely updates on key global and domestic economic developments, such as tariff changes and geopolitical events like the US–Iran conflict and shifts in energy markets, and how these may influence economic trends and Priority Focus Area targets.

This ensures that G4J interventions and the limited taxpayer resources used to implement them are more responsive to the Western Cape economy's risks and opportunities, with decision-makers consistently kept informed through the Impact Pulse system.