



Western Cape  
Government  
**FOR YOU**



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

**Knysna Municipality**



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# KNYSNA: AT A GLANCE

## Demographics

Population Estimates, 2022; Actual households, 2022



Population  
**96 055**

(Source: Census 2022)



Households  
**32 398**

(Source: Knysna Municipality)

## Education

2022



Matric Pass Rate **81.0%**  
Learner Retention Rate **67.4%**  
Learner-Teacher Ratio **28.9**

## Poverty

2022



Gini Coefficient **0.63**  
Poverty Head Count Ratio (UBPL) **63.1%**

## Health

2022/23



Primary Health Care Facilities  
**5**  
(excl. mobile/satellite clinics)

Immunisation Rate  
**66.6%**

Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100 000 live births)  
**60.8%**

Teenage Pregnancies – Delivery rate to women U/18  
**11.2%**

## Safety and Security

Actual number of reported cases in 2022/23



Residential Burglaries  
**556**

DUI  
**135**

Drug-related Crimes  
**795**

Murder  
**18**

Sexual Offences  
**164**

## Access to Basic Service Delivery

Percentage of households with access to basic services, 2022

Water

**82.6%**



Refuse Removal

**89.3%**



Electricity

**93.9%**



Sanitation

**90.6%**



Housing

**83.7%**



## Labour

2022

Unemployment Rate (narrow definition)

**24.3%**



## Socio-economic Risks

Risk 1 Low economic growth  
Risk 2 High inequality  
Risk 3 Drug related crimes

## Largest 3 Sectors

Contribution to GDP, 2021

Finance, insurance, real estate and business services

**31%**



Wholesale & retail trade, catering and accommodation

**17%**



Community, Social & Personal Services

**12%**



# INTRODUCTION

Provincial Treasury produces socio-economic profiles for each of the Western Cape municipalities on an annual basis. These profiles provide the Western Cape municipalities with data and analyses pertaining to their municipal area, which may 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.

The indicators reflect the socio-economic reality of municipalities. As such, 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 2011 Census and 2016 Community Survey 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 Knysna Municipality in relation to the broader Garden Route District.

# DEMOGRAPHICS

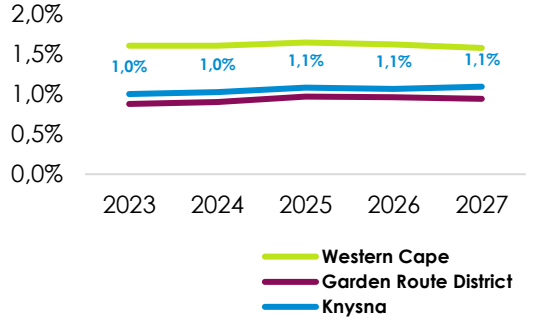
Population 96 055 (2022)



Estimated Population  
**101 603** 2027

Estimated Average Annual Population Growth Rate 2023 - 2027  
**1.1%**

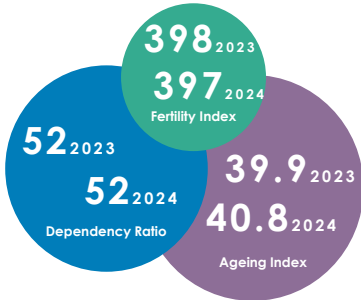
## Estimated Population Growth



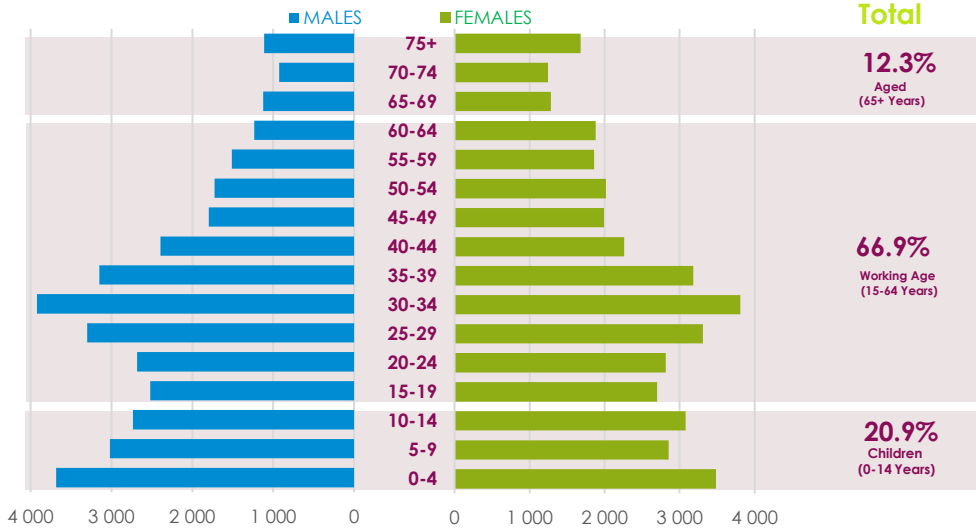
## Gender and Age Dynamics



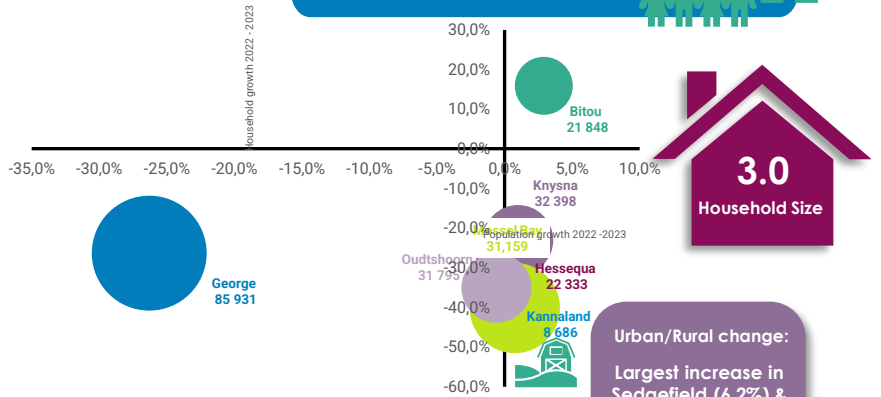
Female **51.2%** | Male **48.8%**



## Population by Age 2022



## Population and Household Growth 2022

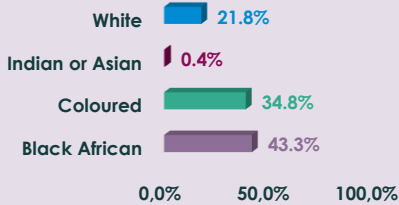


**3.0**  
Household Size

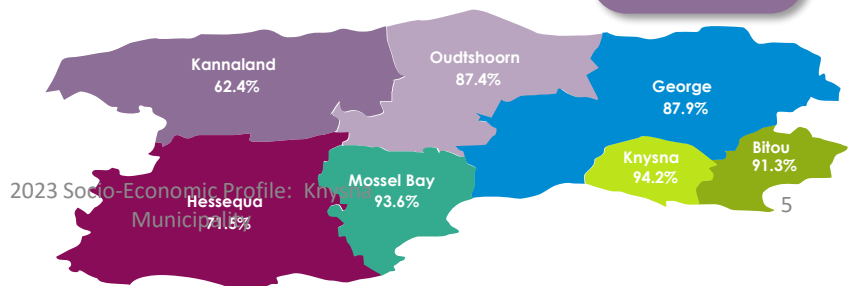
Urban/Rural change:  
Largest increase in Sedgefield (6.2%) & decrease in rural area (6.8%)  
Density change:  
Largest and highest increase in Rhenendal

Largest Urban Settlement:  
Knysna (73%) & Sedgefield (13.5%)

## Racial Split



## Level of Urbanisation 2021



## Population Growth

In the context of the Census 2022 findings, Knysna Municipality's population amounted to 96 055 individuals in 2022, positioning it as the fourth largest municipal jurisdiction within the Garden Route District, following George, Mossel Bay and Oudtshoorn. Projections indicate that this number is expected to rise to 101 603 by 2027, reflecting an average annual growth rate of 1.1 percent during this timeframe. This notable population expansion could potentially give rise to significant challenges in delivering essential services in the Knysna area, as the increased populace will lead to heightened demands for resources such as food, water, housing, energy, healthcare, transportation, and more. The adverse consequences stemming from this heightened consumption include ecological degradation, escalated conflicts, and an elevated risk of large-scale disasters, such as pandemics.

## Gender, Age and Race Dynamics

In economic terms, the sex ratio (SR) provides a measure of the proportion of males to females in a given population. The available data suggests that in the Knysna municipal area, there is a lower representation of males compared to females, with a distribution of 48.8 percent for males and 51.2 percent for females. The sex ratio in Knysna has exhibited a gradual downward trend in the years leading up to 2022, according to census 2022 results. This phenomenon may be attributed to diverse factors, including a demographic changes, health and environmental factors, etc.

In terms of age representation, the largest share of the population, consist of the working age population (15 -64 years) at 66.9 per cent, followed by the young children (0-14 years) aged cohort at 20.9 per cent and the elderly 12.3 per cent. This is an indication that the Knysna area is experiencing rapid population growth which will increase the demand for service delivery. The large working age population suggests a potentially more robust and productive labour force, which can positively impact on economic output and resultant improvement of municipal revenue. The lower dependency ratio, in this case, may mean a lower economic burden on the working-age population, allowing for greater economic productivity.

## Level of Urbanisation

In an economic context, urbanisation refers to the process of population concentration and development in urban areas. Specifically in Knysna, the degree of urbanisation has risen, with the population density increasing from 69.5 individuals per square kilometre in 2023 to an approximate 70.2 people per square kilometre in 2024 and further to 71 people per square kilometre in 2025.

## Population density

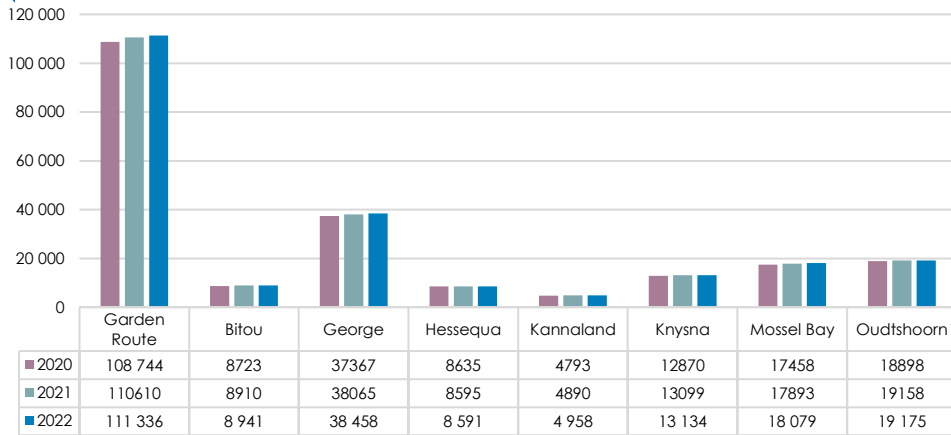
In the context of the Western Cape's ongoing urbanisation trend, population density data becomes a valuable tool for public sector policymakers. This information helps in addressing environmental concerns, individual health factors, and optimising service delivery. In 2022, the population density in the Knysna municipal area was 69 individuals per square kilometre. This data provides critical insights into the socio-economic landscape and resource allocation within the region.

• Garden Route	27 people/km <sup>2</sup>
• Hessequa	9 people/km <sup>2</sup>
• <b>Knysna</b>	<b>69 people/km<sup>2</sup></b>
• Mossel Bay	48 people/km <sup>2</sup>
• George	43 people/km <sup>2</sup>
• Oudtshoorn	25 people/km <sup>2</sup>
• Kannaland	5 people/km <sup>2</sup>
• Bitou	72 people/ km <sup>2</sup>

# EDUCATION: KNYSNA



## Learner enrolment



## Educational facilities 2022

19

Number of schools

78,9%

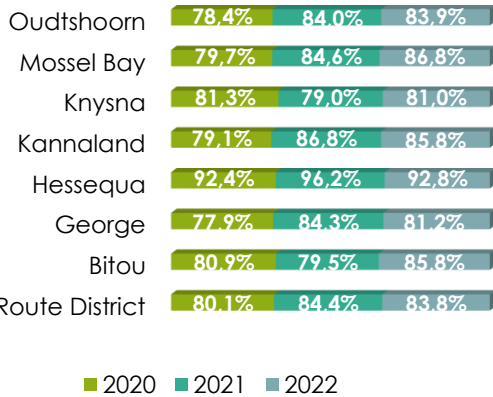
Proportion of no-fee schools

Number of schools with libraries

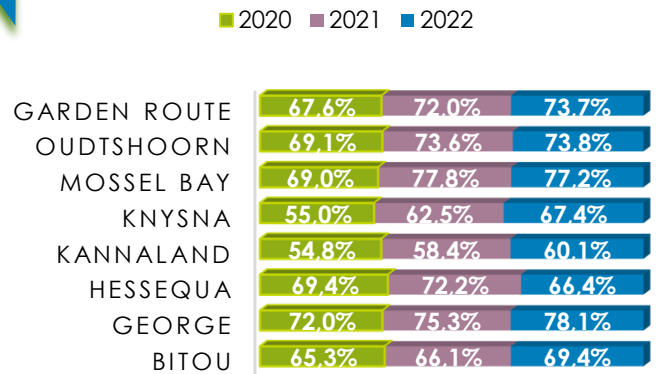
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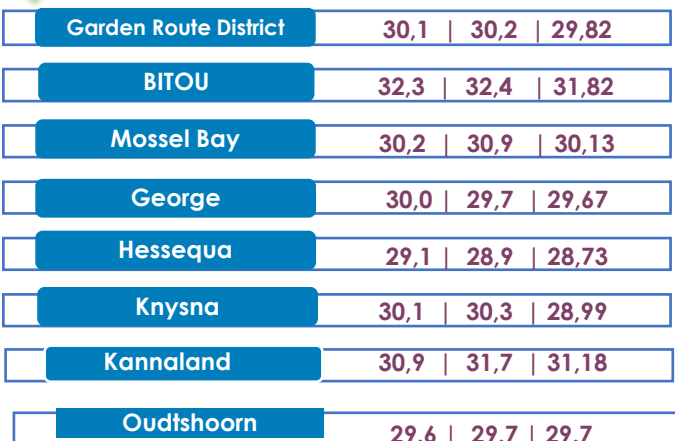
## Education outcomes



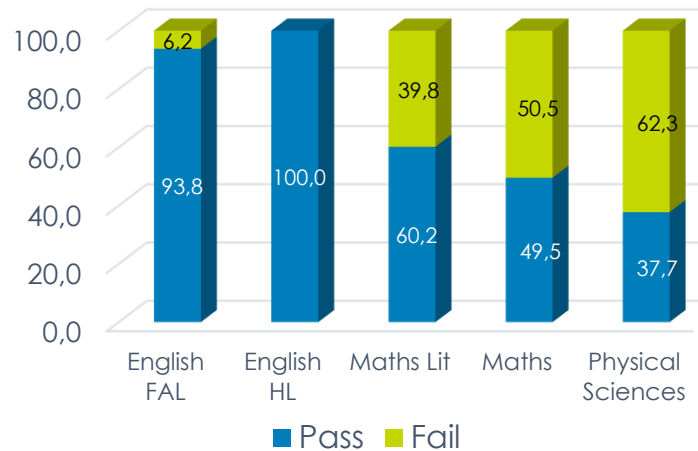
## Learner retention 2020 - 2022



## Learner-Teacher Ratio 2020-2022



## Subject Outcomes



## Introduction

Education is one of the primary resources of change, a powerful driver of development and one of the strongest instruments for reducing poverty and improving health, gender equality, peace and stability. Its role is to help people acquire knowledge and skills, which can, in turn be used to acquire jobs, start businesses and produce goods and services.

## Learner enrolment

From 2020 to 2022, Knysna witnessed a steady rise in student enrollment, with the pupil count escalating from 12 870 to 13 134, representing an annual growth rate of 1.0 per cent. The growth in learner enrolment numbers could be ascribed to various factors such as population growth, migration patterns, urbanisation, etc. Failure to augment the teacher workforce in response to this growth could potentially lead to adverse consequences for the quality of education within classrooms.

## Education infrastructure and facilities

Within the Knysna municipal area, there are a total of 19 educational institutions, of which an excessive 79.8 per cent operate as no-fee schools. This noteworthy statistic holds significant socio-economic implications, particularly in light of the fact that 24 per cent of students in 2021 cited financial constraints as the reason for discontinuing their education, as per the General Household Survey of 2021.

Furthermore, out of the 19 schools in the area, 11 have been furnished with libraries. The provision of library resources within these schools plays a vital role in ameliorating the socio-economic disparity in academic achievements, as it affords students access to valuable information. This access, in turn, is directly correlated with enhanced educational outcomes.

## Learner Retention Rate

The learner retention rate serves as a metric to gauge the proportion of Grade 12 students who were enrolled in Grade 10 two years earlier. Various socio-economic factors, student attitudes toward education, cognitive abilities, study techniques, and personal circumstances can all influence this rate, potentially hindering a learner's ability to remain engaged in their education. Additionally, the issue of overcrowded classrooms is frequently identified as a significant contributor to elevated dropout rates among students.

While it is noteworthy that the learner retention rate in the Knysna municipal area exhibited a gradual improvement, ascending from 62.5 per cent in 2020 to 67.4 per cent in 2022, it is essential to recognise that over one-third of learners either left school, relocated from the municipal area, or repeated a grade between Grade 10 and Grade 12. This underscores the persistent challenges and socio-economic complexities that continue to impact educational continuity within the region.

## Learner teacher ratio

In the context of South African schools, the prescribed learner-to-teacher ratio typically falls within the range of 35:1 to 40:1; nonetheless, this standard is not consistently adhered to in the majority of Western Cape schools. It is worth noting that the learner-to-teacher ratio exhibited a slight decline between 2020 and 2022, falling below the recommended threshold. This positive shift has set in motion a ripple effect, encompassing reduced dropout rates, heightened academic performance, and other favorable outcomes.

## Education outcomes

Education continues to serve as a pivotal channel through which the government participates in the economy. The policymaking and strategic determinations made in the realm of education carry significant weight in shaping the level to which forthcoming economic objectives and poverty alleviation initiatives can be actualised. Notably, Knysna's matriculation pass rate, remained constant around 80- per cent between 2020 to 2022. This improvement underscores the potential socio-economic benefits of a well-performing education system.



# HEALTH



## Healthcare Facilities



5 Fixed PHC Facilities  
5 Mobile Clinics



6 ART Clinics/  
Treatment Sites  
8 TB Clinics/  
Treatment Sites



1 District Hospital



## Emergency Medical Services

### EMS per 10 000 people

GRD	2,2
Kannaland	0,6
Hessequa	1,3
Mossel Bay	3,2
George	2,3
Oudtshoorn	1,9
Bitou	6,7
<b>Knysna</b>	<b>3,8</b>

Number of ambulances:  
2



## Maternal Health



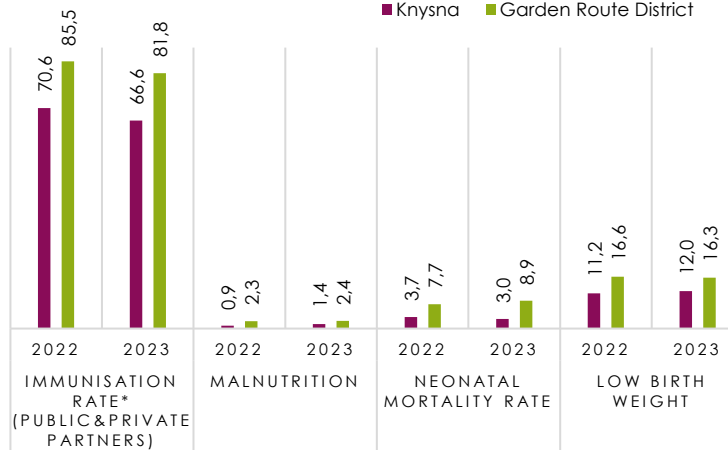
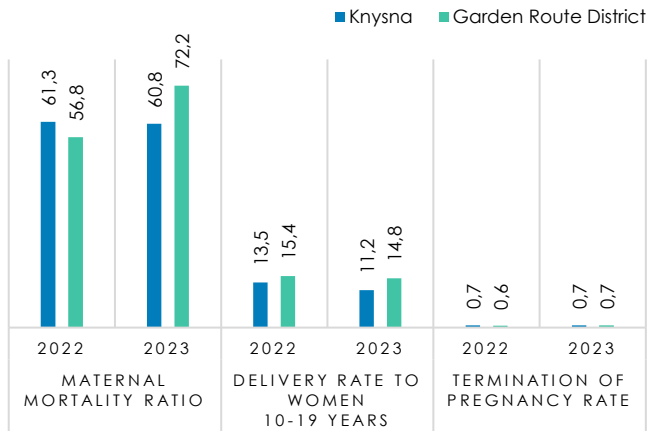
## Child Health

KNYSNA 2023:  
Maternal Health Indicators

- Maternal deaths in facility : 1
- Deliveries in facility u19 years : 190
- Termination of pregnancy : 149

KNYSNA 2023:  
Child Health Indicators

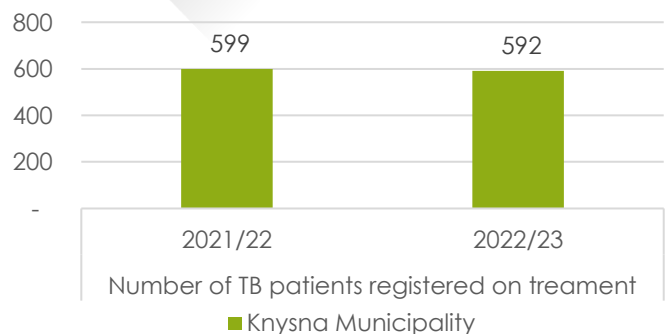
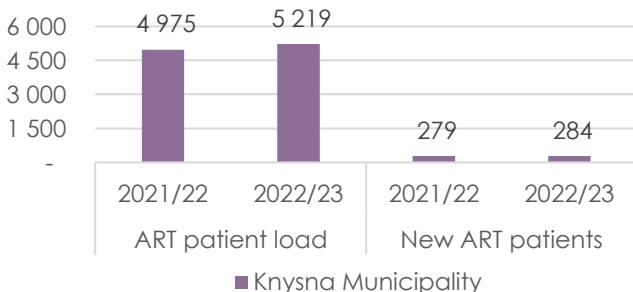
- Live births under 2500g (low birth weight) : 197
- Inpatient deaths 6-28 day : 5
- Immunisation u1 year : 997
- Severe acute malnutrition u5 years : 10



## HIV/AIDS



## Tuberculosis



## Healthcare facilities

In the year 2022, the Knysna municipal area was equipped with a total of 5 primary healthcare facilities, which consisted of 4 stationary clinics and 1 community day center. Moreover, the region boasted 5 mobile/satellite clinics, 6 sites dedicated to Antiretroviral Treatment (ART), and 8 clinics specifically designated for tuberculosis (TB) treatment. It's important to note that there was one district and no regional hospitals present in the municipal area. Knysna accounted for 30 out of the 72 healthcare facilities, representing approximately 41.6 per cent of the healthcare infrastructure within the broader Garden Route region. This distribution has socio-economic implications for healthcare access and services within the municipality.

## Emergency medical services

Increasing the availability of operational ambulances can expand the scope of emergency medical service coverage. In 2022, the Knysna municipal area had a total of 2 ambulances, while the Garden Route District had 28 ambulances during the same period. When considering the ratio of ambulances per 10 000 people, Knysna had 3.8 ambulances, whereas the Garden Route had 2.2 in 2021. It's essential to note that this calculation exclusively pertains to provincial ambulances and does not encompass the presence of private service providers. This difference in ambulance provision has implications for emergency healthcare accessibility in the respective regions.

## Maternal health

Maternal health has significant socio-economic implications for an area, influencing the well-being of both mothers and their communities. Maternal health, furthermore, has implication for healthcare expenditure, employment, childcare development, poverty alleviation, etc. The number of maternal deaths per 100 000 live births in Knysna, exceeded the Garden Route District average in 2022 but slightly recovered below the district average in 2023. On the other hand, the percentage of babies born to mothers under the age of 18 years remained just below the district average in both 2022 and 2023. The termination of pregnancy rate remained on par with the district average between 2022 and 2023. Addressing maternal health issues involves a comprehensive approach, including improving healthcare access, promoting education, and addressing social determinants of health. Such efforts contribute not only to the health of mothers but also to the overall socio-economic development and resilience of communities.

## Child health

There were slight shifts in key health metrics between 2022 and 2023 as Immunisation coverage for infants under one year declined modestly from 70.6 per cent to 66.6 percent during this period. It's worth noting, however, that this rate remains considerably lower than the overall 85.5 per cent coverage in the Garden Route District. A concerning trend was observed in the increase of severe acute malnutrition among children under five in Knysna, with the rate increasing notably from 0.9 to 1.4 per 100 000 people between 2022 and 2023. The Garden Route District experienced a slight uptick in malnutrition rates, rising from 2.3 to 2.4 during the same timeframe.

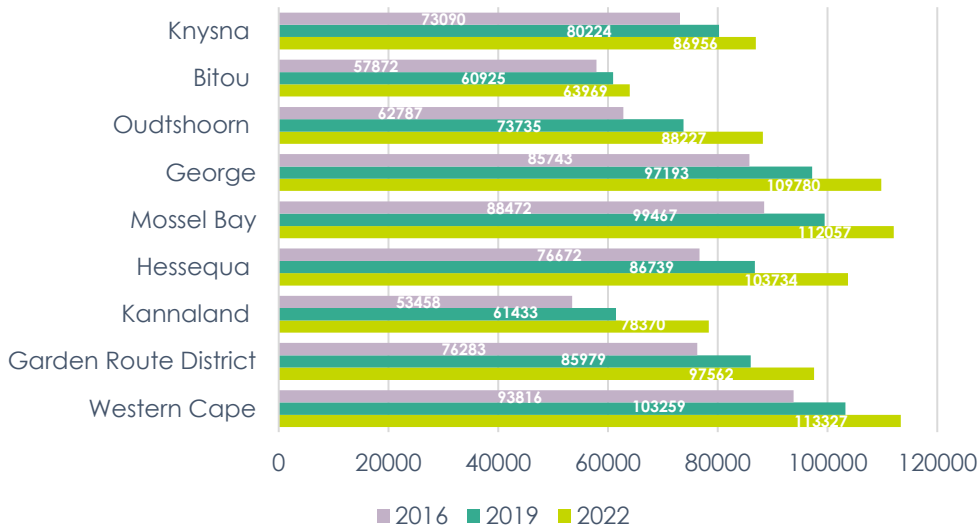
The neonatal mortality rate, measuring deaths per 1 000 live births within 28 days, displays a declining trend between 2022 and 2023, however the Garden Route district displays the opposite and are growing over the same period. Furthermore, the rate of low-birth-weight infants, those born under 2 500 grams, within Knysna are growing marginally whereas the district average is declining over the same period.

## HIV/AIDS & Tuberculosis

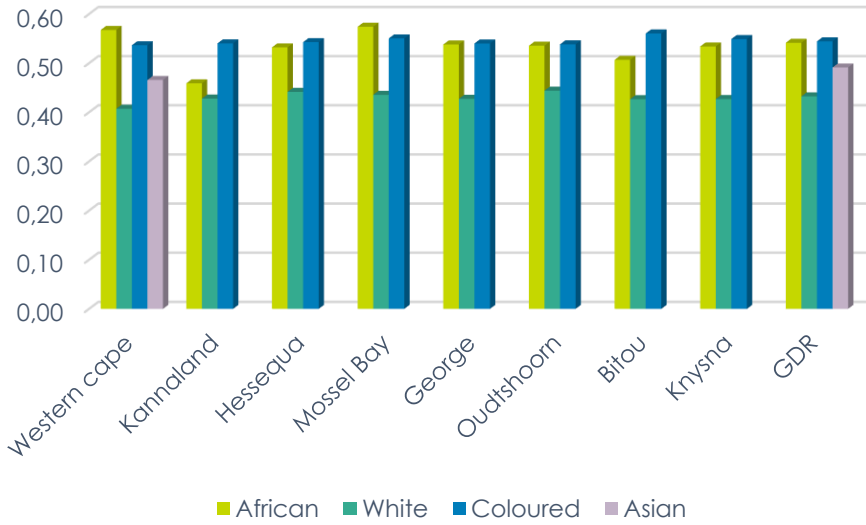
The number of registered patients receiving antiretroviral treatment (ART) in the Knysna municipal area increased by 244 patients between 2021/22 to 2022/23, In total, 279 new registered patients received antiretroviral treatment in the Knysna municipal area in 2021/22 growing to 284 in 2022/23. There has been an average annual decline of 1.2 per cent between 2021/22 (599) and 2022/23 (592) in the number of registered patients receiving TB treatment in the Knysna municipal area.

# POVERTY

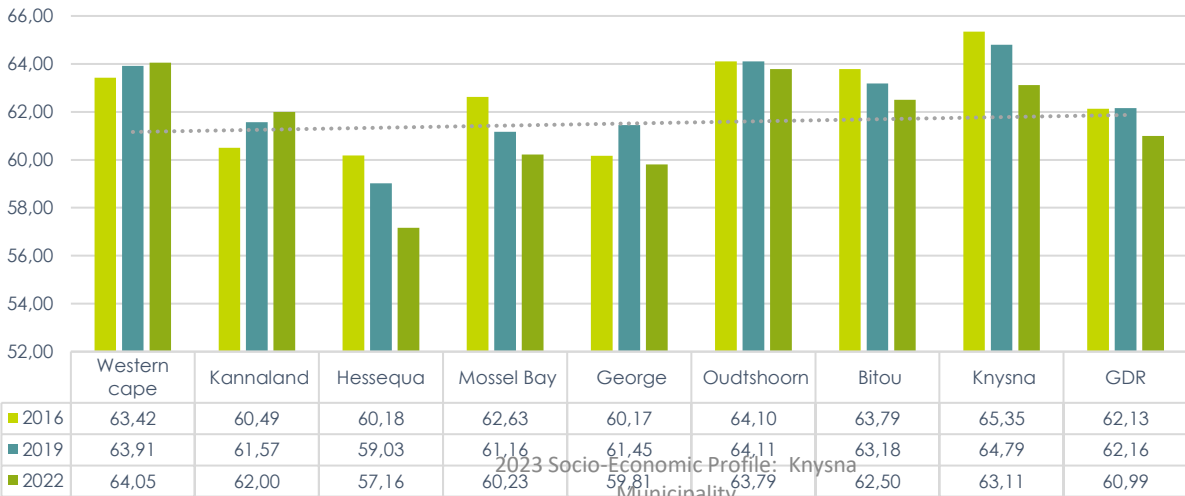
## GDP per capita



## Income Inequality



## Poverty Line



## GDPR Per Capita

The per capita Gross Domestic Regional Product (GDPR) only sees an increase when the rate of economic growth surpasses the rate of population growth. In 2022, Knysna Municipality had a real GDPR per capita of R86 956, which is lower than both the Garden Route District's figure of R97 562 and the Western Cape's R113 327 for the same year. The gradual increase in Knysna's GDPR per capita, from R73 090 in 2016 to R80 224 in 2019, and further to R86 956 in 2022, can be attributed to population growth and demographics.

## Income Inequality

South Africa grapples with some of the most severe levels of income inequality worldwide, as indicated by the widely utilised Gini coefficient index. This inequality is evident in a skewed income distribution, disparities in access to opportunities, and regional economic gaps.

The National Development Plan (NDP) has established a goal of decreasing income inequality in South Africa, aiming to reduce the Gini coefficient from 0.7 in 2010 to 0.6 by 2030. In the Garden Route District, income inequality slightly exceeds the national target, standing at 0.61 in 2022. Specifically, Knysna Municipality exhibits even higher inequality with a Gini coefficient of 0.63 in the same year. Notably, within Knysna, pronounced income disparities exist among different racial communities. Coloured communities in Knysna experience the highest level of inequality with a Gini coefficient of 0.55, followed by African communities at 0.53, while the lowest level of income inequality is observed among white communities at 0.43. These disparities in income distribution have far-reaching socio-economic implications.

## Poverty Line

The Upper Bound Poverty Line (UBPL) head count ratio represents the portion of the population unable to afford an adequate standard of living, encompassing both essential food and non-food items. In South Africa, the UBPL is set at R1,227 per person per month (in April 2019 prices). Poverty exerts significant socio-economic consequences on communities, leading to reduced life expectancy, malnutrition, food insecurity, heightened vulnerability to crime and substance abuse, lower educational achievements, and substandard living conditions. The National Development Plan (NDP) aspires to eradicate poverty by the year 2030.

In 2022, 63.1 per cent of Knysna's population lived below the UBPL, marking a slight improvement from 65.3 per cent in 2016, 64.7 per cent in 2019 and 63.1 per cent in 2022. Among the municipalities in the Garden Route, Knysna ranks as the second highest in terms of the proportion of people living in poverty, trailing behind Oudtshoorn (63.7 per cent). These poverty rates have far-reaching socio-economic implications, impacting the well-being and development of the region.

# BASIC SERVICE DELIVERY

32 398

Knysna

255 977

Garden Route District

## Total number of households

### Formal main dwelling

83.7%

27 127

Knysna

227 812

Garden Route District

89.0%



1.8% Knysna  
1.2% Garden Route  
Traditional dwelling



14.2% Knysna  
9.6% Garden Route  
Informal dwelling



0.3% Knysna  
0.2% Garden Route  
Other/Unspecified



Piped water inside dwelling/yard or communal/neighbor's tap

Knysna 82.6%  
Garden Route 85.0%



Flush/chemical toilet

Knysna 90.6%  
Garden Route 93.7%



Electricity (incl. generator) as primary source of lighting

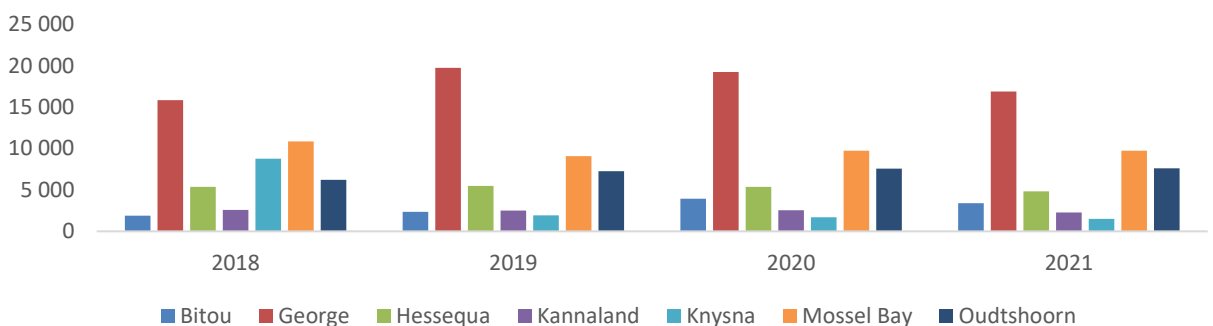
Knysna 93.9%  
Garden Route 95.9%



Refuse removal at least once a week

Knysna 89.3%  
Garden Route 88.8

### Indigent Households Garden Route 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 Quantec Research for 2021. The latest official statistics was collected by Statistics South Africa for the 2022 Census. The information on indigent households is obtained from the Western Cape Department of Local Government statistics.

## Housing and Household Services

Among the 32 398 households in the Knysna municipal area, 83.7 per cent had access to formal housing, which is slightly lower than the Garden Route District's average of 89 per cent. In contrast, Knysna had a higher proportion of informal dwellings, totaling 14.2 per cent, whereas the District's average for informal housing was 9.6 per cent.

Service access levels within the municipal area exceeded the access to formal housing significantly. Approximately 82.6 per cent of households had access to piped water either inside the dwelling/yard or through communal/neighbor's taps. An impressive 90.6 per cent had access to flush toilets or chemical toilets, and 93.9 per cent had access to electricity (including generators) for lighting. Additionally, local authorities removed refuse at least weekly for 89.3 per cent of households in the area and is also the only service in Knysna that exceeds the Garden District average marginally. These disparities in housing and service access have socio-economic implications, impacting the living conditions and quality of life for the local population.

## Free Basic Services

Municipalities offer a set of essential services at no cost to households facing financial hardship and difficulty in covering service expenses. In the Knysna municipal area, there has been a significant decline in the number of households receiving free basic services, from 8,780 in 2018 to 1,924 in 2019, 1,689 in 2020 and 1,485 in 2021. Given the challenging economic conditions, it is anticipated that these conditions will place additional strain on household incomes, leading to a likely increase in the demand for free basic services and consequently, the number of households falling under the "indigent" category. However, it's important to note that this trend is specific to the region and contingent on the eligibility criteria applied.

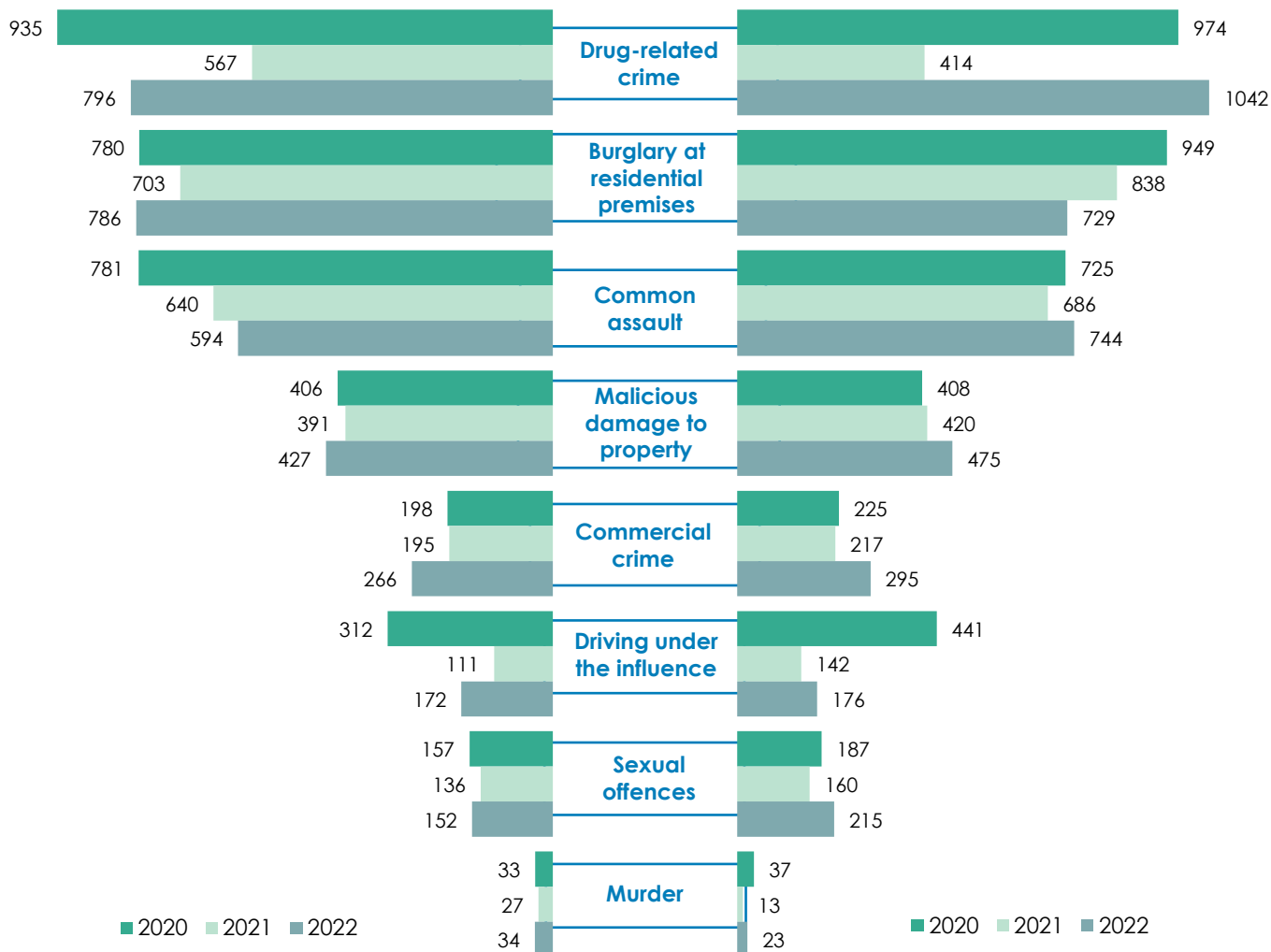
# SAFETY AND SECURITY

## GARDEN ROUTE

**5 698** Total reported crime per 100 000 people in the Garden Route District in 2022

## KNYSNA

**6 655** Total reported crime per 100 000 people in Knysna in 2022



Drug-related crime  
313 (2021)  
795 (2022)

Murder  
10 (2021)  
18 (2022)

Sexual offences  
121 (2021)  
164 (2022)

Driving under the influence  
107 (2021)  
135 (2022)

Residential burglaries  
634 (2021)  
556 (2022)

Common assault  
518 (2021)  
568 (2022)

Damage to property  
317 (2021)  
363 (2022)

Commercial crime  
164 (2021)  
225 (2022)

Actual numbers of reported crime

## Murder

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

In the Knysna municipal area, the actual counts of murder rose from 10 in 2021 to 18 in 2022. However, the murder rate in Knysna, measured per 100,000 people, decreased from 37 in 2020 to 13 in 2021 and thereafter to 23 in 2022. This rate is lower than the Garden Route District's murder rate of 34 per 100,000 people in 2022. It's worth noting that, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in 2019, the global murder rate in 2017 stood at 6.1 per 100,000 people, significantly lower than both the District and the Municipality's reported rates.

## Sexual Offences

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

In 2022, there were 76 sexual offenses reported in the Knysna area. The incidence of sexual offenses per 100,000 people in the Knysna municipal area (215) was lower than that of the District (152) in 2022. It's noteworthy that South Africa is among the top 5 countries globally in terms of reported rape cases, underscoring the magnitude of this issue, which necessitates addressing. In response, a National Strategic Plan on gender-based violence and femicide has been developed.

## Drug-related Offences

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

In the Knysna area, drug-related crimes increased from 313 cases in 2021 to 795 cases in 2022. When considering the rate per 100,000 people, Knysna had 1,042 drug-related offenses per 100,000 people in 2022, which is higher than the Garden Route District's rate of 796 per 100,000 population.

## Driving under the influence (DUI)

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

The number of DUI cases in the Knysna area increased from 107 in 2021 to 135 in 2022. This translates to a rate of 176 cases per 100,000 people in 2022, which is more than the Garden Route District's rate of 172 cases per 100,000 people.

## Residential Burglaries

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

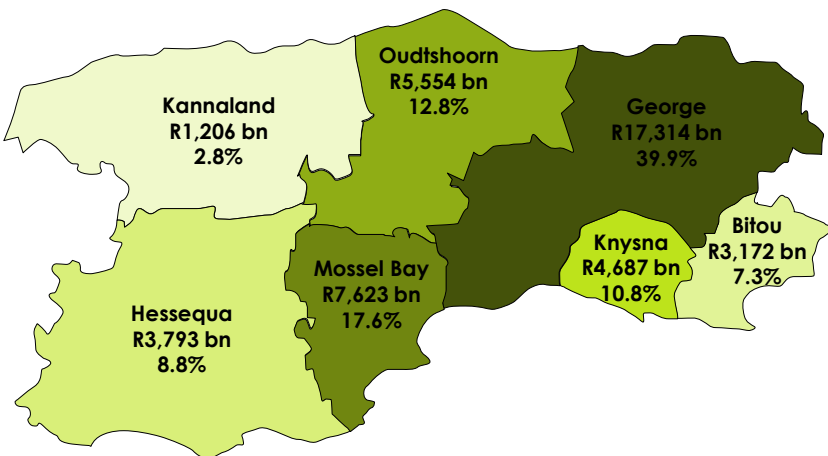
The number of residential burglaries in the Knysna area declined from 634 in 2021 to 556 in 2022. The Knysna municipal area's rate of 729 residential burglaries per 100,000 population is lower than the District's rate of 786 for 2022. These crime trends have significant socio-economic implications for the community's safety and well-being.



# GDPR PERFORMANCE



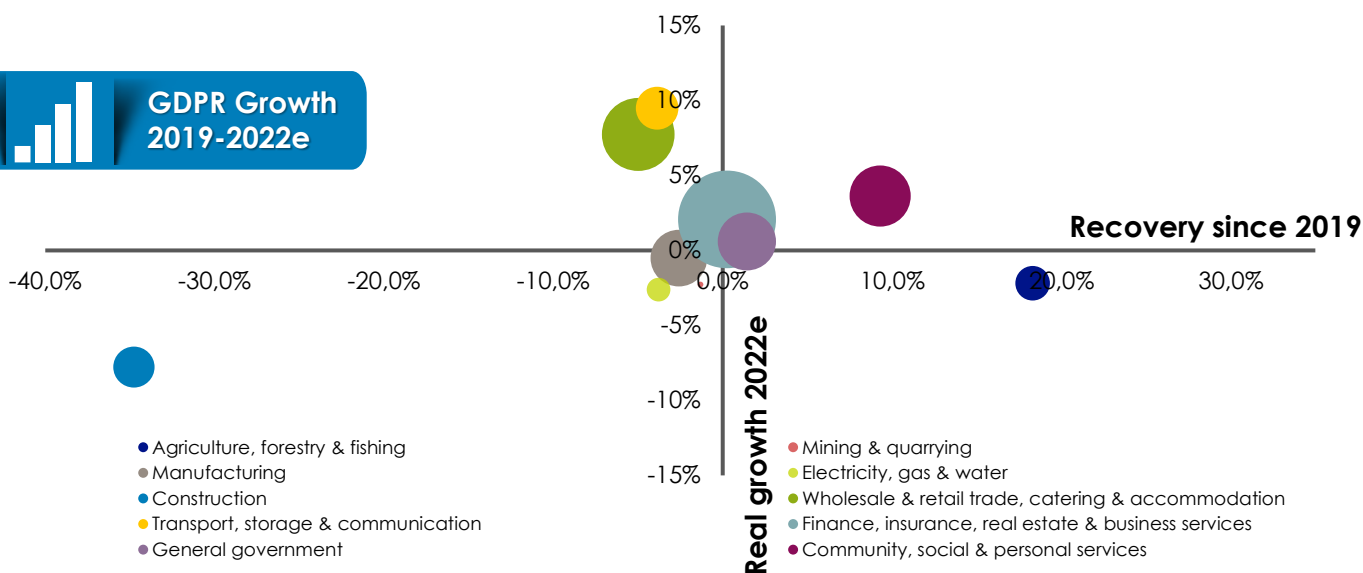
## GDPR Contribution 2021



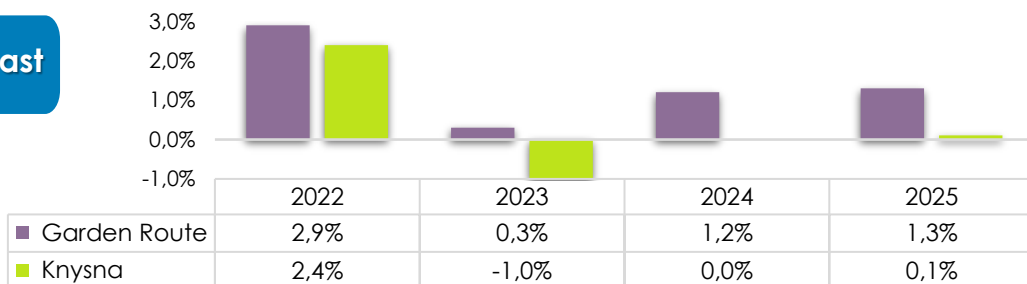
## Sectoral contribution to GDPR 2021



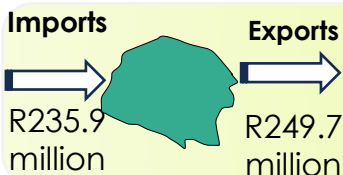
## GDPR Growth 2019-2022e



## GDPR forecast



## International Trade, 2022



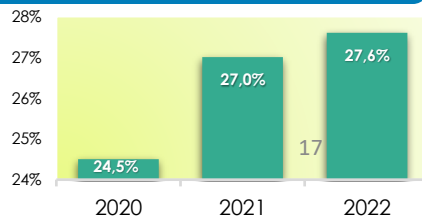
### Top exported products



### Top imported products



## Tourism spend % of GDP



## GDPR Performance

In 2021, the Gross Domestic Regional Product (GDPR) of the Knysna municipal area amounted to R4.687 billion. Key sectors driving this GDP included finance (31 per cent), trade (17 per cent), and community, social and personal services (12.0 per cent). The finance sector was particularly diverse, encompassing activities such as accounting, research and development, property leasing, and insurance. The majority of economic activity was concentrated in the Central Business District within Knysna Municipality serving as a significant employer in the region. Residential real estate activities also added substantial value to the finance sector.

The substantial contribution of the trade sector in 2021 highlights the significance of tourism to the local economy. Accommodation services and restaurants played a pivotal role in employment within the municipal area. However, it's important to note that the tourism sector is highly seasonal, with peak periods occurring during school holidays.

The Knysna municipal area's economy faced significant challenges due to its reliance on tourism, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic led to a sharp contraction of 4.7 per cent in 2020. However, the economy began to recover, expanding by 2.4 per cent in 2022. This growth rate signifies a rebound from the economic downturn experienced in 2020. These economic fluctuations have substantial socio-economic implications, impacting local employment, income levels, and overall economic well-being.

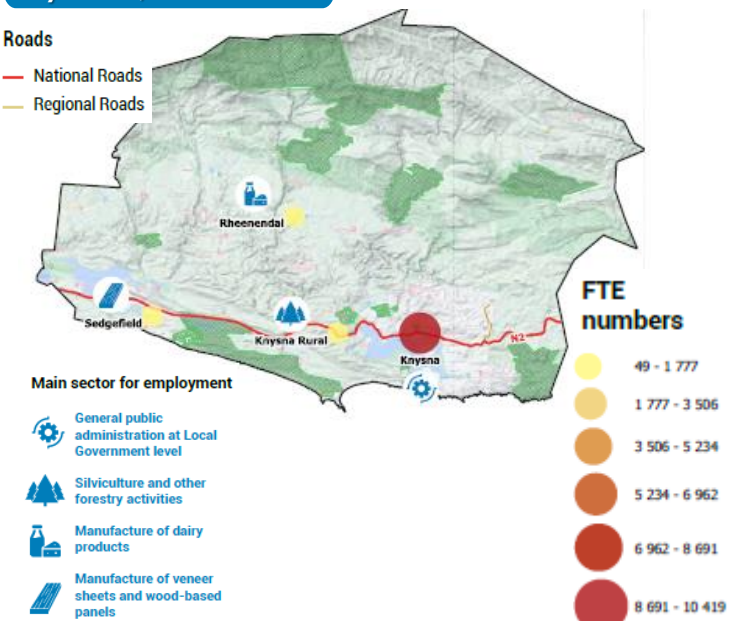
## GDPR Forecast

The Gross Domestic Regional Product (GDPR) of the Knysna municipal area is expected to remain relatively stagnant, contracting by a further 1.0 per cent in 2023. Notably, the finance sector, a substantial contributor to the GDPR, is anticipated to experience growth, projected at 2.0 per cent in 2023 and an additional 1.2 per cent in 2024. The performance of the finance sector in 2022 was boosted by semigration, which buoyed the local property market. The average sale price of property increased by 10.3 per cent between 2021 and 2022, even as the number of property sales in the Wilderness, Knysna and Sedgefield areas declined by an average of 4.7 per cent. The extent of the price increase is apparent when considering the average Provincial property price increase over the same period, recorded at 5.9 per cent.

The economy of the Knysna municipal area is mainly dependent on household spending, either on tourist activities or for the acquisition of goods and services within local communities. This makes the economy particularly vulnerable to the conditions affecting the national economy. It is forecast that the municipal economy will contract by a further 1.0 per cent in 2023 before stagnating in 2024, primarily because of continued declines in the construction sector and poor growth prospects for the trade sector.

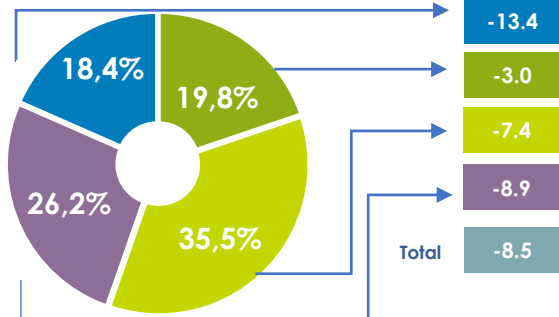
# LABOUR MARKET PERFORMANCE

## Formal Employment by Town, 2022



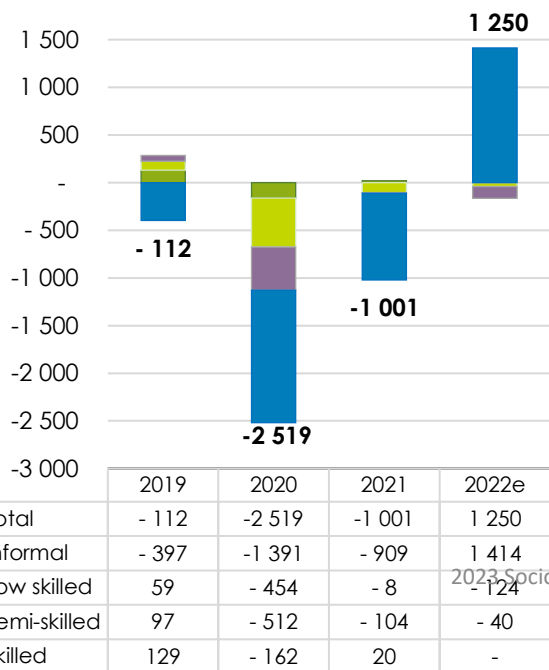
## Skill Level % Contribution, 2022

Recovery in Employment (%) 2019-2022

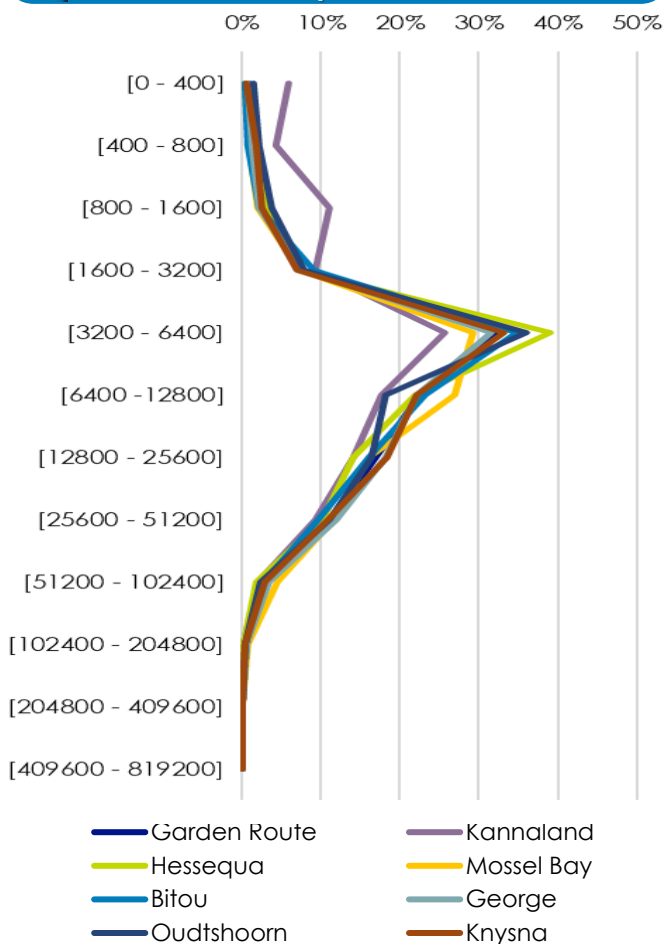


Total Persons Employed 2022	Skilled	Semi-skilled	Low-skilled	Informal
	4 626	8 240	5 995	5 706

## Net employment per sector, 2019-2022



## Wage Distribution per municipal area, 2022



## Sector

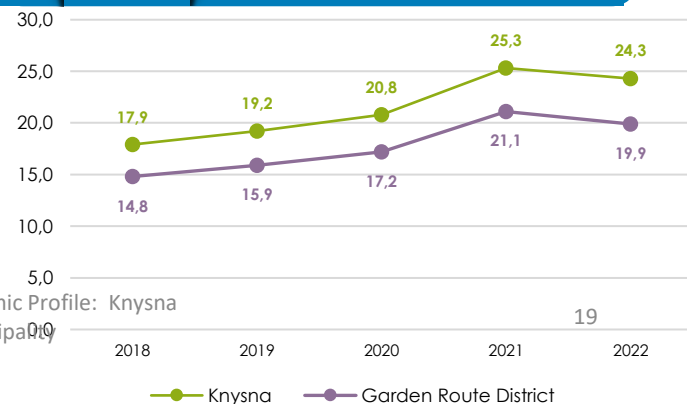
No. of FTE Jobs

### Top 5 Sectors



Administration of the state and the economic and social policy of the community	1 801
Short term accommodation activities	860
Construction of buildings (for erection of complete prefabricated constructions from self-manufactured parts not of concrete, see divisions 16 and 25)	525
Restaurants and mobile food service activities	446
Manufacture of products of wood, cork, straw and plaiting materials	414

## Unemployment rate 2018-2022



## Labour Market Performance

In parallel with the growth in Gross Domestic Regional Product (GDPR), employment saw an increase for the first time since 2020, resulting in the creation of 1,250 formal and informal jobs in 2022. Knysna contributes 11.5 per cent to the Garden District's employment and one per cent of the Western Cape's share of employment. Notably, with 18.4 per cent of workers engaged in informal employment, the informal sector has become a crucial source of employment in the Knysna municipal area. The job growth observed in 2022 led to a 1.0 percentage point reduction in the unemployment rate, bringing it down to 24.3 per cent, which is slightly below the Western Cape unemployment rate of 24.5 per cent.

Given the significance of the trade, tourism, and general government sectors, there is an increasing demand for semi-skilled and skilled workers in these industries. This underscores the importance of targeted skills development initiatives to address the labour market's evolving needs and promote economic resilience.

## Skills Distribution

It is projected that Knysna will have a total workforce of 23,317 individuals in 2023. Among them, 19,217 (81.6 per cent) will be formally employed, while 4 100 (18.4 per cent) will work in the informal sector. The informal economy was chiefly responsible for the significant job losses experienced in 2021, which is concerning, as the informal sector is typically expected to act as a buffer during economic downturns.

The majority of those in formal employment in Knysna were comprised of semi-skilled workers (35.5 per cent) and skilled workers (19.8 per cent), while the low-skilled category accounted for 26.2 per cent of the total formal workforce. However, from 2019 to 2022, all categories of skilled employment in Knysna exhibited a notably sluggish recovery as the economy recuperated from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Among these, the skilled category demonstrated signs of faster recovery, reflecting the rising market demand for skilled labor and emphasising the need for skills development initiatives, particularly in light of the growing tertiary sector in the Knysna municipal area. These workforce dynamics have significant socio-economic implications, affecting income levels, employment opportunities, and the region's overall economic resilience.

## Wage Distribution

The wage distribution data of Knysna indicates high levels income inequality and the disparities within the socio-economic landscape within Knysna. In Knysna, 33.2 per cent of workers fall into the [R3200 - R6400] income range, and 22.2 per cent are in the [R6400 - R12800] bracket. However, there are no workers in the highest income brackets, such as [R819200 - R1638400].

Compared to other municipalities in the Garden Route, Knysna has a relatively higher concentration of workers in the [3200 - 6400] income range. This data highlights the income disparities and distribution within Knysna, showcasing the concentration of workers in the middle-income brackets and the absence of extremely high-income earners in the region. These income distribution patterns have socio-economic implications for the area, including factors like living standards, affordability, and access to goods and services.

# 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	
	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



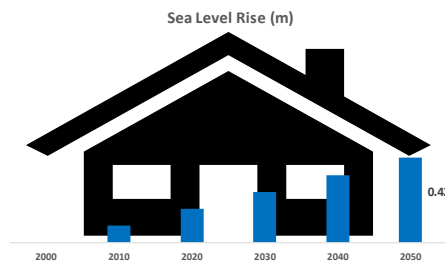
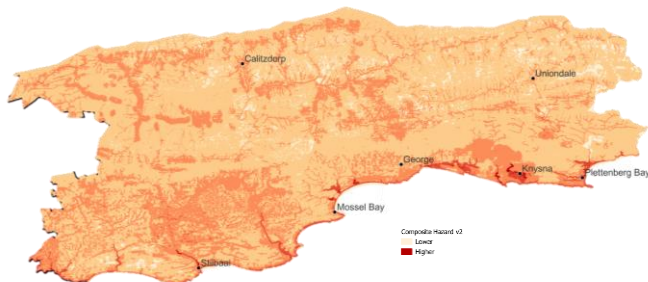
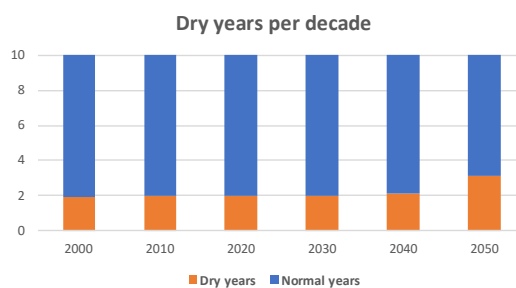
## HAZARDS\*

**Knysna Overall Population Growth Pressure:**  
Continuous Medium to High growth pressure in most settlements \*

Garden Route no. of dry years per decade <sup>†</sup>						
	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) <sup>†</sup>	
Mean temperature increase (District)	1.2 °C higher
Additional days per year with daily maximum temperature above 30 °C (Knysna)	18 days

Six of the Top 10 Risks in the Garden Route are environmental in nature (Provincial Disaster Risk Register)	Knysna'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 very low to low potential increase in exposure of settlements to wildfires.
5. Coastal Erosion	Low increase in short-term coastal erosion exposure.
6. Sanitation/Waste Disruption	
7. Drought	Low potential increase in exposure to heat extremes, whilst having an overall increased drought tendency, with high potential increase in exposure of settlements to drought.
8. Electricity Disruption	
9. Floods (Stormwater/Riverine/Coastal)	Low to moderate increase in short-term coastal flooding exposure. Very low increase in exposure to flooding in settlements.
10. Severe Wind	



\* 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](http://riskprofiles.greenbook.co.za)

† Jack, C., Van Aardenne, L., Wolski, P., Pinto, L., Quagraine, K. & Klopper, P. 2022. Smart Agri: 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>

## Sea-level rise and Storm Surges

Although we expect fewer storm systems to reach the Western Cape in future, increased sea temperatures could mean increased storm activity and slightly stronger winds. At the same time the thermal expansion of the oceans will result in 0.25m – 0.75m of sea level rise by 2050, with associated swash run up of roughly 3.0m – 3.5m above the mean sea level (excluding tidal influence). Sandy shores are most affected – some areas in the Garden Route have seen beaches retreat landward at a rate of 0.6 m per year. This directly affects infrastructure and detracts from the amenity value of the coastline.

## Drought

According to the CSIR Green Book, Knysna 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 Knysna can expect an additional 18 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

The Knysna area's population growth can have significant implications across various sectors, including the economy, environment, healthcare and social infrastructure. The population growth may cause demographic imbalances such as changes in the age structure of the population, changes to workforce demographics and increased internal and external migration.

The Knysna municipal area's economy faced significant challenges due to its reliance on tourism, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. To mitigate these negative implications, it's crucial for communities to diversify their economies, invest in sustainable tourism practices, and implement strategies to protect the environment and local culture. Balancing the economic benefits of tourism with the need for long-term sustainability is key to ensuring the well-being of local communities.

Education in the Knysna area faces challenges, despite high learner enrolment numbers, a high proportion of no-fee schools, acceptable learner-teacher ratio and high learner retention. There are concerns regarding subject outcomes, particularly in math and physical sciences, which can impact future opportunities and career choices. A high failure rate in these subjects may affect Knysna's ability to adapt to changing technological landscapes and participate in emerging industries. Addressing high failure rates in mathematics and physical sciences requires a comprehensive approach, including targeted educational policies, investment in teacher training, improvement in learning resources and efforts to address socio-economic disparities in education.

Knysna has a relatively high level of inequality as measured by the Gini coefficient and can hinder overall economic growth and stability and requires a multi-faceted approach involving targeted policies to foster a more equitable distribution of resources.

Knysna has a high incidence of drug related crime, 1 042 cases per 100 000 people compared to the Garden Route district 796 cases per 100 000 people which will have negative socio-economic implications for the quality of life for Knysna residents and can cause a decline in tourism and harm the local economy. To address high drug-related crime requires a comprehensive approach that includes preventative measures, rehabilitation programs, community policing, education and efforts to address the root causes of the drug abuse.

Environmental factors, such as sea-level rise, drought, rising temperatures, vegetation fires, and floods, present various challenges and potential threats to the area, impacting ecosystems, livelihoods, and infrastructure. These issues require attention and planning for long-term resilience.

## 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: *Department of Social Development, 2023*
- 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 and Wellness, 2023*
- Child health: *Department of Health and Wellness, 2023*
- Maternal health: *Department of Health, 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*