

South Africa - General Household Survey 2024

Statistics South Africa

Report generated on: June 2, 2025

Visit our data catalog at: <https://www.datafirst.uct.ac.za/dataportal/index.php>

Identification

SURVEY ID NUMBER
zaf-statssa-ghs-2024-v1

TITLE
General Household Survey 2024

ABBREVIATION OR ACRONYM
GHS 2024

COUNTRY

Name	Country code
South Africa	zaf

STUDY TYPE
Household Survey

ABSTRACT
The GHS is an annual household survey which measures the living circumstances of South African households. The GHS collects data on education, health, and social development, housing, access to services and facilities, food security, and agriculture.

KIND OF DATA
Sample survey data

UNIT OF ANALYSIS
Households and individuals

Version

VERSION DESCRIPTION
v1: Edited, anonymised dataset for public distribution

VERSION DATE
2024

VERSION NOTES
Version 1 was originally downloaded from Stats SA in June 2025

Scope

NOTES
The scope of the General Household Survey includes:

Household characteristics: Dwelling type, home ownership, access to water and sanitation, access to services, transport, household assets, land ownership, agricultural production
Individuals' characteristics: demographic characteristics, relationship to household head, marital status, language, education, employment, income, health, fertility, mortality, disability, access to social services

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE
The General Household Survey has national coverage.

GEOGRAPHIC UNIT

The lowest level of geographic aggregation for the data is Province (and metropolitan municipality, where this applies)

UNIVERSE

The survey covers all de jure household members (usual residents) of households in the nine provinces of South Africa, and residents in workers' hostels. The survey does not cover collective living quarters such as student hostels, old age homes, hospitals, prisons, and military barracks.

Producers and sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATORS

Name	Affiliation
Statistics South Africa	Government of South Africa

Sampling

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

From 2015 the General Household Survey (GHS) uses a Master Sample (MS) frame developed in 2013 as a general-purpose sampling frame to be used for all Stats SA household-based surveys. This MS has design requirements that are reasonably compatible with the GHS. The 2013 Master Sample is based on information collected during the 2011 Census conducted by Stats SA. In preparation for Census 2011, the country was divided into 103 576 enumeration areas (EAs). The census EAs, together with the auxiliary information for the EAs, were used as the frame units or building blocks for the formation of primary sampling units (PSUs) for the Master Sample, since they covered the entire country, and had other information that is crucial for stratification and creation of PSUs. There are 3 324 primary sampling units (PSUs) in the Master Sample, with an expected sample of approximately 33 000 dwelling units (DUs). The number of PSUs in the current Master Sample (3 324) reflect an 8,0% increase in the size of the Master Sample compared to the previous (2008) Master Sample (which had 3 080 PSUs). The larger Master Sample of PSUs was selected to improve the precision (smaller coefficients of variation, known as CVs) of the GHS estimates. The Master Sample is designed to be representative at provincial level and within provinces at metro/non-metro levels. Within the metros, the sample is further distributed by geographical type. The three geography types are Urban, Tribal and Farms. This implies, for example, that within a metropolitan area, the sample is representative of the different geography types that may exist within that metro.

The sample for the GHS is based on a stratified two-stage design with probability proportional to size (PPS) sampling of PSUs in the first stage, and sampling of dwelling units (DUs) with systematic sampling in the second stage. After allocating the sample to the provinces, the sample was further stratified by geography (primary stratification), and by population attributes using Census 2011 data (secondary stratification).

WEIGHTING

The sample weights were constructed in order to account for the following: the original selection probabilities (design weights), adjustments for PSUs that were sub-sampled or segmented, excluded population from the sampling frame, non-response, weight trimming, and benchmarking to known population estimates from the Demographic Analysis Division within Stats SA. The sampling weights for the data collected from the sampled households were constructed so that the responses could be properly expanded to represent the entire civilian population of South Africa. The design weights, which are the inverse sampling rate (ISR) for the province, are assigned to each of the households in a province.

Mid-year population estimates produced by the Demographic Analysis Division were used for benchmarking. The final survey weights were constructed using regression estimation to calibrate to national level population estimates cross-classified by 5-year age groups, gender and race, and provincial population estimates by broad age groups. The 5-year age groups are: 0-4, 5-9, 10-14, 55-59, 60-64; and 65 and over. The provincial level age groups are 0-14, 15-34, 35-64; and 65 years and over. The calibrated weights were constructed such that all persons in a household would have the same final weight.

Note on Independently Calibrated Weights for the Person and Household Data Files

Until 2010 Statistics SA used an integrating weighting methodology. 'Integrated' weights allocated the same weight to all household members. The household head's weight was carried over the house file. This model allowed the replication of the population size if household sizes were multiplied with the household weight. However, this method provided variable household totals from year to year. Therefore from 2010 the Person and House files across the whole GHS series are calibrated independently from each other. The person data is calibrated using the mid-year population estimates from the

2017 series, while the house data is weighted using household estimates that are also based on the 2017 mid-year population series. However, this method means that the totals will not be aligned. For weights that are better aligned users can transfer the weight allocated to the household head to the household file. Statistics SA ensures that all households in the house file are also represented in the person file.

Data Collection

DATES OF DATA COLLECTION

Start	End
2024-05-01	2024-12-01

DATA COLLECTION MODE

Computer Assisted Personal Interview

DATA COLLECTION NOTES

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, StatsSA changed the mode of collecting GHS 2020 data from Computer Assisted Personal Interviews (CAPI) to Computer-assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI). After the pandemic, in 2022, the GHS reintroduced the CAPI interviews.

Questionnaires

QUESTIONNAIRES

Data was collected with a household questionnaire and a questionnaire administered to a household member to elicit information on household members.

Data Appraisal

DATA APPRAISAL

Since 2019, the questionnaire for the GHS series changed and the variables were also renamed. For correspondence between old names (GHS pre-2019) and new name (GHS post-2019), see the document [ghs-2019-variables-renamed](#).

Access policy

ACCESS CONDITIONS

Public access data for use under a Creative Commons CC-BY (Attribution-only) License

CITATION REQUIREMENTS

Statistics South Africa. General Household Survey 2024 [dataset]. Version 1. Pretoria: Statistics SA [producer], 2025. Cape Town: DataFirst [distributor], 2025. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25828/rx6h-3r34>

ACCESS AUTHORITY

Name	Affiliation	Email	URL
DataFirst	University of Cape Town	support@data1st.org	support.data1st.org

Metadata production

PRODUCERS

Name	Affiliation	Role
DataFirst	University of Cape Town	Metadata producer

DATE OF METADATA PRODUCTION
2025-06-02

DDI DOCUMENT VERSION
Version 1

Data Description

Data file	Cases	Variables
ghs-2024-hhold-v1	1000	190
ghs-2024-person-v1	1000	114

Data file: ghs-2024-hhold-v1

Cases: 1000

Variables: 190

Variables

ID	Name	Label	Question
V606	uqnr	Unique number	
V607	personnr	Person number	
V608	psu	Primary sampling unit	
V609	prov	Province	
V610	head_popgrp	Population group of household head	
V611	head_sex	Sex of household head	
V612	head_age	Age of household head	
V613	hsg_maind	Type of main dwelling	
V614	hsg_walls	Type of material used for the wall	
V615	hsg_roof	Type of material used for the roof	
V616	hsg_floor	Type of material used for the floor	
V617	hsg_cond_wall	Walls condition	
V618	hsg_cond_roof	Roof condition	
V619	hsg_cond_floor	Floor condition	
V620	hsg_rm_tot	Total rooms	
V621	hsg_tenure	Ownership of dwelling	
V622	hsg_rent	Monthly rent or mortgage	
V623	hsg_rdp	RDP or state subsidised dwelling	
V624	hsg_subsidy	House subsidy received	
V625	wat_drinkwat	Main source of water	
V626	wat_dist	Distance of water source from the dwelling	
V627	wat_time	Time spent to fetch water	
V628	wat_pipe	Usage of piped or tap water	
V629	WAT_QLT_Safe	Safe to drink	
V630	WAT_QLT_Clear	Clear	
V631	WAT_QLT_Taste	Taste good	
V632	WAT_QLT_smell	Free from any smells	
V633	wat_treat	Treatment of drinking water	
V634	wat_mun_source	Water supply	
V635	wat_meter	Water meter	
V636	wat_pay	Payment for water	
V637	wat_inte_12mth	Water supply interruption	
V638	wat_inte_freq	Frequency of water interruptions	
V639	wat_inte_2days	Duration of water interruption	
V640	wat_inte_altsource	Alternative drinking water sources	
V641	wat_inte_15days	Total duration of interruption	
V642	wat_bottle	Frequency of drinking bottled water at home	
V643	san_toil	Type of toilet facility	

ID	Name	Label	Question
V644	san_share	Toilet facility shared	
V645	san_location	Location of the toilet facility	
V646	san_distance	Distance to nearest toilet facility	
V647	san_pit_empty	Emptied septic tank	
V648	san_pit_dispose	Where contents of pit latrine emptied	
V649	san_washfac	Hand washing facilities	
V650	san_wash	Use of soap to wash hands after using toilet	
V651	eng_access	Access to electricity	
V652	eng_mainselect	Main source of electricity	
V653	eng_mains	Connection to mains electricity supply	
V654	eng_supply	Supplier of electricity	
V655	eng_cook	Energy for cooking	
V656	eng_light	Energy for lighting	
V657	eng_sheat	Energy for space heating	
V658	eng_loadshed_freq	Electrical outages during the previous week	
V659	eng_light_alt	Alternative source of energy for lighting	
V660	eng_cook_alt	Alternative source of energy for cooking	
V661	eng_pay	paying for electricity	
V662	swr_rub	Refuse removal	
V663	swr_burnwaste	Burnt solid waste	
V664	swr_env_rub	Irregular or no waste removal	
V665	swr_env_lit	Littering	
V666	swr_env_wat	Water pollution	
V667	swr_env_air	Outdoor/indoor air pollution	
V668	swr_env_lan	Land degradation	
V669	swr_env_noi	Excessive noise	
V670	com_phone	Telephone	
V671	com_cell	Cellular telephone	
V672	com_int_fixed	Internet connection in the household	
V673	com_int_mobile	Any place via any other mobile access services	
V674	com_int_pubwifi	public wifi	
V675	com_int_stud	Internet for students at a school/university/college	
V676	com_int_work	At place of work	
V677	com_int_libr	Internet in a library or community hall/Thusong centre	
V678	com_int_cafe	Internet Café	
V679	com_mail_post	Mail carrier at home (postal delivery, mailman/woman)	
V680	com_mail_Pbag	PO Box/ Private bag	
V681	com_mail_Postnet	Postnet branch	
V682	com_mail_Other	Other (e.g. local delivery office, school, shop)	
V683	tra_taxi	Trips using taxis	
V684	tra_bus	Trips using Buses	
V685	tra_train	Trips Using Trains	
V686	tra_taxi_trips	total number of trips using taxis	
V687	tra_taxi_cost	Total cost of using taxis	
V688	tra_taxi_dist	distance to the nearest taxi stop	

ID	Name	Label	Question
V689	tra_bus_trips	total number of trips using buses	
V690	tra_bus_cost	Total cost of using buses	
V691	tra_bus_dist	distance to the nearest bus stop	
V692	tra_train_trips	total number of trips using trains	
V693	tra_train_cost	Total cost of using trains	
V694	tra_train_dist	distance to the nearest train station	
V695	hhw_hltfac	Medical help	
V696	hhw_transp	Means of transport to nearest health facility	
V697	hhw_time	Travel time to health facility	
V698	fsd_hung_adult	Insufficient food for adult	
V699	fsd_hung_child	Insufficient food for children	
V700	fsd_worried	Worried about food	
V701	fsd_healthy	Lack of nutritious food	
V702	fsd_fewfoods	lack of variety food kind	
V703	fsd_fewfoods_days	lacked variety food kind for 5 or more days in the past 30 days	
V704	fsd_skipped	Skipped meals	
V705	fsd_skipped_days	skipped meals for 5 or more days in the past 30 days	
V706	fsd_ateless	ate less food	
V707	fsd_ateless_days	ate less food for 5 or more days in the past 30 days	
V708	fsd_ranout	run out of food	
V709	fsd_ranout_days	run out of food for 5 or more days in the past 30 days	
V710	fsd_hungry	Hunger	
V711	fsd_whlday	Not eating the whole day	
V712	agr_agri	Agricultural activities	
V713	agr_agrino	Members involved in agricultural activities	
V714	agr_agrdecmaker	Main decision maker	
V715	agr_agri_type_live	Livestock production	
V716	agr_agri_type_poul	Poultry production	
V717	agr_agri_type_grai	Grains and food crops	
V718	agr_agri_type_indus	Industrial crops	
V719	agr_agri_type_fruit	Fruit and vegetable production	
V720	agr_agri_type_fod	Fodder grazing/pasture or grass for animals	
V721	agr_agri_type_fish	Fish farming/aquaculture	
V722	agr_agri_type_for	Forestry	
V723	agr_agri_type_game	Game farming	
V724	agr_mainuse	Use of agricultural products and stock keeping	
V725	agr_plant_farm	Farm land	
V726	agr_plant_back	Backyard garden	
V727	agr_plant_schl	School garden	
V728	agr_plant_comm	Communal garden	
V729	agr_plant_vrd	On verges of roads and unused public/municipal land	
V730	agr_plant_oth	Other crop planting activities	
V731	fin_inc_sal	Salaries/wages/commission	
V732	fin_inc_buss	Income from a business	
V733	fin_inc_rem	Remittances	

ID	Name	Label	Question
V734	fin_inc_pen	Pensions	
V735	fin_inc_grant	Grants	
V736	fin_inc_agric	Sales of farm products and services	
V737	fin_inc_none	No Income	
V738	fin_inc_oth	Other income sources, e.g. rental income, interest	
V739	fin_inc_main	Main income source	
V740	fin_rem	Approximately how much from remittances	
V741	fin_pen	Approximately how much from pensions	
V742	fin_reqinc	Net household income per month in rand	
V743	fin_compinc	Monthly income of your household higher	
V744	fin_exp	Household expenditure	
V745	hwl_vehicle	Ownership of a motor vehicle	
V746	hwl_totveh	Total number of vehicles	
V747	hwl_domw	Domestic or household worker's services used by the household	
V748	hwl_status	Wealth/poverty status of you and your household at present	
V749	hwl_happy	Happier, the same or less happy with life	
V750	hwl_assets_tv	TV Set	
V751	hwl_assets_pool	Swimming pool	
V752	hwl_assets_dvd	DVD player/Blu-Ray player	
V753	hwl_assets_paytv	Pay TV (M-Net/DSTV/Top TV) Subscription	
V754	hwl_assets_ac	Air conditioner (excluding fans)	
V755	hwl_assets_comp	Computer/Desktop/Laptop	
V756	hwl_assets_vac	Vacuum cleaner	
V757	hwl_assets_dishw	Dishwashing machine	
V758	hwl_assets_washm	Washing machine	
V759	HWL_Assets_tumd	Tumble dryer	
V760	hwl_assets_freezer	Deep freezer - free standing	
V761	hwl_assets_fridge	Refrigerator or Combined Fridge Freezer	
V762	hwl_assets_estove	Electric stove	
V763	hwl_assets_microw	Microwave oven	
V764	hwl_assets_sink	Built-in kitchen sink	
V765	hwl_assets_secure	Home Security Service	
V766	hwl_assets_hometh	Home theatre system	
V767	hwl_assets_geyser	Geyser providing hot running water	
V768	hwl_assets_solarg	Solar hot water geyser	
V769	hwl_assets_solarp	Solar electrical panel(s)	
V770	hwl_assets_rainwtnk	Rain water tank	
V771	hwl_assets_borehole	Borehole	
V772	hwl_assets_radio	Radio	
V773	hwl_assets_Gstove	Gas stove	
V774	hwl_res_name	Person who answered most of the questions in the house section	
V775	hholdsiz	Household size	
V776	mobphon_hh	Own a mobile telephone	
V777	smartphone_hh	Own a smart phone	
V778	onemed_hh	Medical aid scheme	

ID	Name	Label	Question
V779	chld5yr_hh	Children 5 and younger	
V780	chld17yr_hh	Children 17 and younger	
V781	ad60plusyr_hh	Adults	
V782	lab_salary_hh	Household Monthly salary	
V783	soc_grant_hh	Social grant	
V784	totalgrnt_hh	Total social grant	
V785	undisab_hh	UN Disability	
V786	disab_hh	Disability	
V787	sevdisab_hh	Severe disability	
V788	econact_hh	Economically active	
V789	totmhinc	Household income	
V790	stratum	Stratum	
V791	geotype	Geographical type	
V792	metro	Metro	
V793	metro_code	Metro Code	
V794	rotation	Rotation	
V795	house_wgt	House Weight	

Total: 190

Data file: ghs-2024-person-v1

Cases: 1000

Variables: 114

Variables

ID	Name	Label	Question
V796	uqnr	Unique number	
V797	personnr	Person number	
V798	psu	Primary sampling unit	
V799	prov	Province	
V800	Four_by_Four	Stayed Nights (B_Nights)	
V801	Sex	Gender	
V802	age	Age	
V803	age_grp1	Age group	
V804	Population	Population group	
V805	Languages	Languages	
V806	hhc_relationship	Relationship to the household head	
V807	hhc_marital	Marital status	
V808	spouse	Spouse/partner	
V809	spouse_name	Spouse number	
V810	hhc_fath_alive	Father alive	
V811	hhc_fath_parthh	Father part of the household	
V812	hhc_fath_name	Father person number	
V813	hhc_moth_alive	Mother still alive	
V814	hhc_moth_parthh	Mother part of the household	
V815	hhc_moth_name	Mother person number	
V816	education	Highest education level	
V817	ecd_chldatt	Type of ECD facility	
V818	ecd_notatt	Place where children spent most of their time during the day	
V819	ecd_notatt_rsn	Main reason for not attending the ECD facility	
V820	ecd_fees	Amount paid to attend the ECD facility	
V821	ecd_read	Read books/tell stories	
V822	ecd_sing	Sing	
V823	ecd_colour	Colour	
V824	ecd_object	Objects	
V825	ecd_count	Count	
V826	ecd_play	Play	
V827	ecd_care	Care	
V828	ecd_birth_cert	Birth certificate	
V829	edu_attend	Currently attending educational institution	
V830	edu_rsn	Main reason for not attending an educational institution	
V831	edu_edui	Educational institution	
V832	edu_ppriv	Public or private institution	
V833	edu_corr	Distance learning classes	

ID	Name	Label	Question
V834	edu_mode_tr	Means of transport	
V835	edu_time	Time taken to school	
V836	edu_burs	Fee reductions or bursaries	
V837	edu_totfees	Total amount of tuition fees paid	
V838	edu_nofees	Reason for no fees payment	
V839	edu_grde	Current grade	
V840	edu_same	Repeat Grade	
V841	edu_food	School feeding scheme	
V842	edu_eatfood	Provision of food	
V843	edu_vlnc	Violence, corporal punishment or verbal abuse	
V844	edu_vlnc_corp	Corporal punishment by teacher	
V845	edu_vlnc_phyt	Physical violence by teacher	
V846	edu_vlnc_vert	Verbal abuse by teacher	
V847	edu_vlnc_verl	Verbal abuse by learners	
V848	edu_vlnc_phyl	Physical abuse	
V849	edu_abs	Absent from school	
V850	edu_abs_days	Number of days absent	
V851	edu_abs_rsn	Main reason absent	
V852	hlt_medi	Medical aid scheme	
V853	hlt_genhealth	Health status	
V854	hlt_chronic_asm	Asthma	
V855	hlt_chronic_dbt	Diabetes	
V856	hlt_chronic_can	Cancer	
V857	hlt_chronic_HIV	HIV and AIDS	
V858	hlt_chronic_hbp	Hypertension/high blood pressure	
V859	hlt_chronic_arth	Arthritis	
V860	hlt_chronic_strk	Stroke	
V861	hlt_chronic_tb	Tuberculosis	
V862	hlt_chronic_broncho	Pneumonia / Bronchitis	
V863	hlt_preg	Pregnancy	
V864	hlt_pregstat	Current status of pregnancy	
V865	dsb_see	Seeing	
V866	dsb_hear	Hearing	
V867	dsb_wal	Walking	
V868	dsb_rem	Remembering	
V869	dsb_sel	Self-care	
V870	dsb_com	Communication	
V871	soc_grant	Social grants	
V872	soc_grant_oag	Old-age grant	
V873	soc_grant_dis	Disability grant	
V874	soc_grant_csg	Child support grant	
V875	soc_grant_csg_topup	Child support grant top-up	
V876	soc_grant_car	Care dependency grant	
V877	soc_grant_fos	Foster care grant	
V878	soc_grant_grn	Grant-in-aid	

ID	Name	Label	Question
V879	soc_grant_srd	Special COVID-19 social relief of distress grant	
V880	ltp_cell	Own a mobile telephone	
V881	ltp_cell_sphone	Own a smart phone	
V882	lab_wge	Working for a wage, commission or salary	
V883	lab_bus	Business Activities	
V884	lab_vol	Work without remuneration	
V885	lab_ret	Return to work or business	
V886	lab_amount	Willing to disclose their earning	
V887	lab_sto	Total salary/pay	
V888	lab_salper	Salary period	
V889	lab_salc	Income categories	
V890	lab_transp	Means of transport to go to work	
V891	lab_mins	Time taken to place of employment	
V892	lab_sector	Sector of organisation/business or branch	
V893	lab_look	Looking for any kind of job or trying business	
V894	lab_start	Liked to work	
V895	lab_rnsb	Reason for not trying to find work or starting a business	
V896	lab_accjob	Start work or a business	
V897	lab_res_name	Person number of the respondent	
V898	undisab	UN Disability	
V899	disab	Disability	
V900	sevdisab	Severe disability	
V901	geotype	Geography Type	
V902	metro_code	Metro Code	
V903	metro	Metro	
V904	stratum	Stratum	
V905	lab_salary	Salary	
V906	employ_Status1	Employment status one	
V907	employ_Status2	Employment status two	
V908	rotation	Rotation	
V909	person_wgt	Person weight	

Total: 114