stats sa
Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa, ISIbalo House, Koch Street, Salvokop, Pretoria, 0002
www.statssa.gov.za, info@statssa.gov.za, Tel +27 12 310 8911

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Contents

Abbreviations		**vii**
Summary and Key Findings		**viii**
1	**Introduction**	**1**
1.1	Purpose	1
1.2	Survey scope	1
2	**Basic population statistics**	**2**
2.1	Population estimates	2
2.2	Household estimates	3
3	**Household composition**	**4**
3.1	Household composition and living arrangements	4
3.2	Living arrangements of children	7
4	**Education**	**8**
4.1	Educational profile of learners aged 0–4 years	9
4.2	General attendance of individuals aged five years and older at educational institutions	11
4.3	School attendance	15
4.4	Attendance at institutions of higher education	16
4.5	Educational attainment of persons aged 20 years and older	18
4.6	Functional literacy	18
5	**Health**	**19**
5.1	Self-reported health and health care provision	19
5.2	Medical aid coverage	21
5.3	Teenage pregnancy	22
6	**General Functioning**	**23**
7	**Social security**	**24**
8	**Housing**	**26**
9	**Drinking water**	**29**
9.1	Access to drinking water	29
9.2	Fetching water	33
9.3	Functionality of water supply	33
9.4	Alternative sources of water	35
9.5	Water Quality	37
10	**Sanitation**	**38**
10.1	Sanitation facilities	38
10.2	Household Hygiene	40
11	**Energy**	**43**
11.1	Access to electricity	43
11.2	Main sources of energy for cooking	46
11.3	Loadshedding and electricity interruptions	46
12	**Solid waste**	**48**
12.1	Refuse removal	48
12.2	Burning refuse	50
12.3	Recycling	51
13	**Environmental trends**	**52**
14	**Communication and postal services**	**54**
14.1	Landlines and cell phones	54
14.2	Internet access	54
14.3	Mail	57
15	**Transport**	**58**
16	**Agriculture**	**60**
17	**Access to food**	**61**
18	**Household sources of income**	**64**

19 Household assets 67
20 Technical notes 69
20.1 Response rates 69
20.2 Sample design 69
20.3 Allocating sample sizes to strata 71
20.4 Methodology and fieldwork 73
20.5 Editing and imputation 73
20.6 Weighting 74
20.7 Data revisions 75
20.8 Sampling and the interpretation of the data 75
20.9 Comparability with previous surveys 76
20.10 Questionnaire 76
20.11 Measures of precision for selected variables of the General Household Surveys 77
20.11.1 Variance estimation 77
20.11.2 Coefficient of variation 78
20.11.3 P-value of an estimate of change 78
20.12 Limitations of the study 84
22 Glossary 85
ADDENDUM TABLES 87
GENERAL INFORMATION 164

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 3.1 – Percentage (%) distribution of individuals aged 18 years and older by marital status, 2025 4
Figure 3.2 – Percentage (%) distribution of household size by province and rural/urban status, 2025 5
Figure 3.3 – Percentage (%) distribution of female-headed households by province and urban/rural status, 2025 5
Figure 3.4 – Percentage (%) distribution of households by their composition, province and rural/urban status, 2025 .. 6
Figure 3.5 – Percentage (%) distribution of inter-generational households by province and rural/urban status, 2025 .. 6
Figure 3.6 – Percentage (%) distribution of children's orphanhood status by province, 2025 7
Figure 3.7 – Percentage (%) distribution of children's living arrangements by province and urban/rural status, 2025 .. 8
Figure 4.1 – Percentage (%) distribution of the methods used by household members to discipline children aged 0 – 6 years when they misbehave by province, 2025 10
Figure 4.2 – Type of educational institution attended by individuals aged 5–24 years, 2025 12
Figure 4.3–Percentage (%) distribution of individuals aged 7–24 years who attended educational institutions by province, 2002 and 2025 13
Figure 4.4 – Percentage (%) distribution of main reasons given by individuals aged 7–18 years for not attending an educational institution by sex, 2025 13
Figure 4.5 – Percentage (%) distribution of individuals aged 5 years and older who attended schools and who did not pay tuition fees by province, 2025 14
Figure 4.6 – Percentage (%) distribution of learners who attended school by main mode of transport to school and province, 2025 15
Figure 4.7 – Percentage (%) distribution of learners attending public schools who benefited from the school nutrition programme by province, 2009 and 2025 15
Figure 4.8 – Percentage (%) distribution of student participation rates for individuals aged 18– 29 years by population group, 2002 and 2025 16
Figure 4.9 – Percentage (%) distribution of educational attainment for individuals aged 20 years and older, 2002–2025 17
Figure 4.10 – Percentage (%) distribution of educational attainment for individuals aged 20 years and older by province, 2025 18
Figure 4.11 – Percentage (%) distribution of individuals aged 20 years and older with no formal education or highest level of education less than Grade 7 (functional illiteracy) by sex and age group, 2002 and 2025 19
Figure 5.1 – Percentage (%) distribution of self-reported health status of individuals by sex and population group, 2025 20
Figure 5.2 – Percentage (%) distribution of the type of healthcare facility consulted first by households when members fall ill or get injured by province, 2025 20
Figure 5.3 – Percentage (%) distribution of individuals who are members of medical aid schemes by province, 2025 21
Figure 5.4 – Percentage (%) distribution of individuals who are members of medical aid schemes by metropolitan area, 2025 22
Figure 5.5 – Percentage (%) distribution of individuals who are members of medical aid schemes by population group, and share of medical aid scheme members by population group, 2025 22
Figure 5.6 – Percentage (%) distribution of females aged 14–19 who were pregnant during the year preceding the survey, 2025 23
Figure 7.1 – Percentage (%) distribution of households and individuals who have benefited from social grants, 2003–2025 24
Figure 7.2 – Percentage (%) distribution of individuals and households benefiting from social grants by province, 2025 25
Figure 7.3 – Percentage (%) distribution of individuals aged 18–59 years that benefited from the special COVID-19 social relief of distress grant by province, 2020–2025 25
Figure 7.4 – Percentage (%) of individuals and households benefiting from social grants by metropolitan area, 2025 26
Figure 8.1 – Percentage (%) distribution of households that lived in formal, informal and traditional dwellings by province, 2025 26
Figure 8.2 – Percentage (%) distribution of households that lived in formal, informal and other types of dwellings by metropolitan area, 2025 27
Figure 8.3 – Percentage (%) distribution of dwelling units by tenure status and province, 2025 27
Figure 8.4 – Percentage (%) distribution of households that received a government housing subsidy by sex of the household head, 2002 and 2025 28
Figure 8.5 – Percentage (%) distribution of households that said that their 'RDP' or state-subsidised house had weak or very weak walls and/or roof by province, 2025 28
Figure 9.1 – Percentage (%) distribution of households with access to piped or tap water in their dwellings, off-site or on-site by province, selected years 2002–2025 29
Figure 9.2 – Percentage (%) distribution of households with access to piped or tap water in their dwellings, off-site or on-site by metropolitan area, 2025 31
Figure 9.3 – Access to piped municipal water supplies, 2004–2025 32
Figure 9.4 – Percentage distribution of households by time taken to fetch drinking water, 2025 33
Figure 9.5 – Percentage (%) distribution of households by frequency of water interruptions and province, 2025 34
Figure 9.6 – Percentage (%) distribution of households that reported water interruptions that lasted at least 2 days or longer than 15 days by province, 2025 34

Figure 9.7 – Percentage (%) distribution of households that reported water interruptions that lasted at least 2 days by metropolitan area, 2025 35
Figure 9.8 – Percentage (%) distribution of household consumption of bottled water by province, 2025 36
Figure 9.9 – Percentage distribution of household perceptions regarding the quality of the water they drink per province, 2025 37
Figure 10.1 – Percentage (%) distribution of households that have access to improved sanitation by province, 2002–2025 38
Figure 10.2 – Percentage (%) distribution of households by type of toilet facility and province, 2025 39
Figure 10.3 – Percentage (%) distribution of households that have access to improved sanitation by metropolitan area, 2025 40
Figure 10.4 – Percentage (%) distribution of households that have ever emptied their pit latrines by province, 2025 40
Figure 10.5 – Percentage (%) distribution of households by the methods usually used by household members to clean their hands after using the toilet, 2019–2025 41
Figure 10.6 – Percentage (%) distribution of households by the methods usually used by household members to clean their hands after using the toilet by province and the percentage of households with access to hand washing facilities, 2025 42
Figure 11.1 – Percentage (%) distribution of households connected to the mains electricity supply by province for selected years between 2002 and 2025 43
Figure 11.2 – Percentage (%) distribution of households connected to different sources of electricity by province, 2025 44
Figure 11.3 – Percentage (%) distribution of households connected to different sources of electricity by metropolitan area, 2025 44
Figure 11.4 – Percentage (%) distribution of main sources of energy used for cooking by year, 2002–2025 45
Figure 11.5 – Percentage (%) distribution of main sources of energy used for cooking by province, 2025 46
Figure 11.6 – Percentage (%) distribution of the number of days households experienced loadshedding and/or unscheduled electricity outages during the previous week, 2023–2025 47
Figure 11.7 – Percentage (%) distribution of the number of days households experienced loadshedding and/or unscheduled electricity outages during the previous week by province, 2025 47
Figure 12.1 – Percentage (%) distribution of household refuse removal for even years between 2002 and 2025 48
Figure 12.2 – Percentage (%) distribution of household refuse removal by metropolitan areas, 2025 50
Figure 12.3 – Percentage (%) distribution of households that burn some or all of their solid waste by province, 202550
Figure 12.4 – Percentage (%) distribution of households that separate or sort recyclable materials from household waste for recycling by province, 2025 51
Figure 12.5 – Percentage (%) distribution of households that mainly recycle the recyclable materials from household waste by metropolitan areas, 2025 51
Figure 12.6 – Percentage (%) distribution of households by main reasons for not recycling household waste, 2025. 52
Figure 13.1 – Percentage (%) distribution of households who experience specific kinds of environmental problems, 2003–2025 53
Figure 13.2 – Percentage (%) distribution of households who experience specific kinds of environmental problems by metropolitan area, 2025 53
Figure 14.1 – Percentage (%) distribution of households who have a functional landline and cellular telephone in their dwellings by province, 2025 54
Figure 14.2 – Percentage (%) distribution of households with access to the Internet at home or through all means, 2010–2025 55
Figure 14.3 – Percentage (%) distribution of households without any mail services, 2002–2025 57
Figure 14.4 – Percentage (%) distribution of households that received mail services by type of service and geographical area, 2025 58
Figure 15.1 – Percentage (%) distribution of households who made use of public transport during the week preceding the survey by province, 2025 59
Figure 15.2 – Percentage (%) distribution of households who made use of public transport during the week preceding the survey by metropolitan area, 2025 59
Figure 16.1 – Percentage (%) distribution of households involved in agricultural activities by province, 2025 60
Figure 16.2 – Percentage (%) distribution of households' main reasons for agricultural involvement in South Africa by province, 2025 60
Figure 17.1 – Vulnerability to hunger and access to food, 2002–2025 62
Figure 17.2 – Percentage (%) distribution of households experiencing food adequacy or inadequacy by province, 2025 63
Figure 17.3 – Percentage (%) distribution of households experiencing food adequacy or inadequacy by metropolitan areas, 2025 63
Figure 18.1 – Percentage (%) distribution of sources of household income by province, 2025 64
Figure 18.2 – Percentage (%) distribution of main source of household income by province, 2025 65
Figure 18.3 – Percentage (%) distribution of main source of household income by metropolitan area, 2025 65
Figure 18.4 – Percentage (%) distribution of main source of household income, 2010–2025 66
Figure 19.1 – Percentage (%) distribution of household ownership of cats and dogs, by province 68
Figure 20.1 – Distribution of primary sampling units by province, 2007 (old) Master Sample and the new Master Sample (designed in 2013) 70
Figure 20.2 – Summary of the sections covered by GHS 2025 77
Figure 20.3 – CV Thresholds 78

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1 – Population per province, 2002–2025 2
Table 2.2 – Number of households per province, 2002–2025 3
Table 4.1 – Percentage (%) distribution of children aged 0–4 years that used different childcare arrangements by province, 2025 9
Table 4.2 – Percentage (%) distribution of individuals aged five years and older who were attending educational institutions by province and type of institution attended, 2025 11
Table 4.3 – Distribution of students enrolled at higher education institutions by population group, 2002 and 2025 16
Table 5.1 – Medical aid coverage, 2002–2025 21
Table 6.1 – Distribution of individuals aged 5 years and older with disability by sex and province, 2025 23
Table 9.1 – Comparison of the main water source for drinking used by households, 2002–2025 30
Table 9.2 – Percentage (%) distribution of households by alternative water sources used during water interruptions that lasted 2 days or longer, 2025 36
Table 12.1 – Household refuse removal by province and urban/rural status, 2025 49
Table 14.1 – Percentage (%) distribution of households with access to the Internet by province and type of Internet access, 2025 55
Table 14.2 – Percentage (%) distribution of households with access to the Internet by metro and type of internet access, 2025 56
Table 14.3 – Households' access to the Internet by place of access, urban/rural status and province, 2025 56
Table 15.1 – Mode of transport used by household members to travel to school and work, 2025 58
Table 16.1 – Nature of agricultural production activities per province, 2025 61
Table 19.1 – Percentage (%) distribution of household ownership of selected assets by urban/rural status, 2025 67
Table 20.1 – Response rates per province, GHS 2025 69
Table 20.2 – Comparison between the 2007 (old) Master Sample and the new Master Sample (designed in 2013) 70
Table 20.3 – Measures of precision for relationship to the household head, 2025 79
Table 20.4 – Measures of precision for marital status, 2025 79
Table 20.5 – Measures of precision for educational institution attended, 2025 79
Table 20.6 – Measures of precision for highest level of education, 2025 80
Table 20.7 – Measures of precision for disability status, 2025 80
Table 20.8 – Measures of precision for medical aid coverage, 2025 80
Table 20.9 – Measures of precision for Main Dwelling, 2025 81
Table 20.10 – Measures of precision for type of toilet facility, 2025 81
Table 20.11 – Measures of precision for main source of water for household use, 2025 82
Table 20.12 – Measures of precision for tenure status, 2025 82
Table 20.13 – Measures of precision for refuse removal, 2025 82
Table 20.14 – Measures of precision for main source of energy used for cooking, 2025 83
Table 20.15 – Measures of precision for main source of energy used for lighting, 2025 83
Table 20.16 – Measures of precision for health facility used by households, 2025 83

Abbreviations

EC	Eastern Cape
FS	Free State
GP	Gauteng
KZN	KwaZulu-Natal
LP	Limpopo
MP	Mpumalanga
NC	Northern Cape
NW	North West
RSA	Republic of South Africa
WC	Western Cape

BUF	Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality
CPT	City of Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality
EKU	Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality
ETH	eThekwini Metropolitan Municipality
JHB	City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality
MAN	Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality
NMA	Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality
TSH	City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality

CAPI	Computer-Assisted Personal Interviews
CATI	Computer-Assisted Telephonic Interviews
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CV	Coefficient of Variation
DU	Dwelling Unit
EA	Enumeration Area
ECD	Early Childhood Development
FIES	Food Insecurity Experience Scale
GHS	General Household Survey
HFIAS	Household Food Insecurity Access Scale
MYPE	Mid-Year Population Estimates
NSC	National Senior Certificate
NQF	National Qualifications Framework
NTC	National Technical Certificate
OHS	October Household Survey
PAPI	Paper-assisted Personal Interviews
PSU	Primary Sampling Unit
RDP	Reconstruction and Development Plan
SRD	Special COVID-19 Social Relief of Distress Grant
Stats SA	Statistics South Africa
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training

Summary and Key Findings

The General Household Survey (GHS) tracks the progress of development and identifies persistent service delivery gaps in South Africa. Over the past 24 years the survey has yielded a rich set of information across a wide variety of themes. The 2025 results highlight important patterns in household composition, education, health, income and access to basic services.

Families continue to play a central role in child development, although living arrangements remain diverse. Nearly one in five children (18,5%) lived with neither biological parent, while fewer than a third (31,4%) lived with both parents and almost half (45,9%) lived with their mothers only. Orphanhood affected 11,2% of children. Just over a quarter (26,6%) of households were single-person households, while nuclear households accounted for 38,9%. Female-headed households comprised 42,6% nationally, with a higher prevalence in rural areas (47,6%).

Participation in early childhood development (ECD) programmes remained uneven. Just over one-third (36,3%) of children aged 0–4 years attended ECD facilities, while more than half (50,2%) stayed at home. School participation was near universal up to age 15 (97,1%), although many learners remained in school beyond the expected age, with 8,8% of 21-year-olds still attending secondary school. Educational attainment continued to improve steadily: the proportion of adults aged 20 years and older with no education declined from 11,4% in 2002 to 2,6% in 2025, while the share with at least a National Senior Certificate (Grade 12) increased from 30,7% to 53,5%. Almost two-thirds (65,1%) of learners attended no-fee schools, although attendance varied substantially by province, ranging from 90,1% in Limpopo to 48,4% in the Western Cape.

Medical aid coverage remained stable at around 15,5%, with marked provincial disparities. Coverage was highest in the Western Cape (25,9%) and Gauteng (22,1%), and lowest in Limpopo (8,2%) and KwaZulu-Natal (9,5%). Black African individuals accounted for more than half (52,2%) of all medical aid beneficiaries.

Social grants continued to play a critical role in household livelihoods, particularly following the introduction of the COVID-19 Social Relief of Distress (SRD) grant. By 2025, 39,5% of individuals and 50,6% of households benefited from grants, which were the main source of income for nearly one-quarter (23,4%) of households nationally. Salaries and wages remained the main source of income for more than half (54,3%) of households, although this share varied considerably between provinces, from 68,2% in the Western Cape to 39,0% in the Eastern Cape.

Living conditions showed continued, though uneven, improvement. Most households resided in formal dwellings (84,2%), while 12,1% continued to live in informal dwellings. Access to improved water, sanitation, and electricity increased over time. Despite declines in access to water in Limpopo (-10,6 percentage points) and Mpumalanga (-4,2 percentage points), access to improved sanitation increased substantially in the Eastern Cape (54,6 percentage points), Limpopo (37,9 percentage points), and KwaZulu-Natal (30,6 percentage points) since 2002, driven in part by the installation of ventilated pit latrines. Although access to piped water increased by only 1,3 percentage points between 2004 and 2025, this translated into an additional 6,7 million households gaining access to safe piped water.

The proportion of households connected to mains electricity increased from 76,7% in 2002 to 90,6% in 2025, accompanied by a substantial decline in the use of wood (from 20,0% to 8,0%) and paraffin (from 16,1% to 1,9%) as the main sources of energy for cooking. However, due to its relative abundance, wood remained in use by 37,6% of households in Limpopo and 16,3% in Mpumalanga.

About three-fifths of households had refuse removed, although access to refuse removal services remained highly unequal. While 84,9% of urban households received refuse removal services, only 13,0% of households in rural areas did. More than four-fifths (84,7%) of households reported burning waste at least occasionally. Despite the potential environmental benefits of recycling, only one-tenth (10,5%) of

households separated recyclable materials, and an even smaller proportion recycled these materials formally.

Access to the internet continued to expand rapidly, reaching 85,6% of households by 2025, while access to mail services continued to decline. The survey found that more than two-thirds (67,4%) of households no longer had access to any mail services.

Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

1 Introduction

This statistical release presents a selection of key findings from the General Household Survey (GHS) 2025, which was conducted between January and December 2025.

1.1 Purpose

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) has conducted the General Household Survey (GHS) on an annual basis since 2002, following the discontinuation of the October Household Survey (OHS), conducted between 1993 and 1999. The GHS is a nationally representative, omnibus household survey designed to support evidence-based planning, monitoring, and evaluation of socio-economic development outcomes in South Africa. It serves as a key instrument for tracking the reach, effectiveness, and quality of public service delivery, as well as for assessing the performance of government programmes over time.

The survey collects information across six core policy domains: education; health and social development; housing; households' access to services and facilities; food security; and agriculture. These domains align closely with national development priorities and provide critical indicators for assessing progress towards policy objectives, including improved living conditions and equitable access to basic services.

This report presents the main findings from the General Household Survey 2025, with a specific focus on selected service delivery outcomes of policy relevance. It further provides in-depth analysis of key indicators to inform policy formulation, implementation, and review. In addition, the report examines trends in selected variables over a 24 year period since the inception of the GHS in 2002, allowing for an assessment of medium- to long-term developments and structural changes.

Two complementary analytical reports are published in conjunction with this report, namely Selected Provincial Development Indicators (P0318.2) and Selected Development Indicators: Metros (P0318.3).

1.2 Survey scope

The target population of the survey consists of all private households and residents in workers' hostels across all nine provinces of South Africa. The survey does not cover other collective living quarters such as students' hostels, old-age homes, hospitals, prisons and military barracks, and is therefore only representative of non-institutionalised and non-military persons or households in South Africa.

The findings of the GHS 2025 provide a critical assessment of the levels of development in the country, as well as the extent of service delivery and the quality of services in several key service sectors. Among these are: education, health, disability, social security, housing, energy, access to and use of water and sanitation, environment, refuse removal, telecommunications, transport, household income, access to food, and agriculture.

2 Basic population statistics

2.1 Population estimates

The population figures in Table 2.1 are based on mid-year population estimates produced for 2025 using the 2017 series mid-year population estimates (MYPE).

Table 2.1 – Population per province, 2002–2025

	Total population (Thousands)									
	WC	**EC**	**NC**	**FS**	**KZN**	**NW**	**GP**	**MP**	**LP**	**RSA**
2002	4 756	6 515	1 030	2 645	9 660	3 054	9 764	3 478	5 019	**45 921**
2003	4 858	6 505	1 040	2 652	9 718	3 097	10 010	3 530	5 050	**46 461**
2004	4 960	6 498	1 050	2 661	9 783	3 141	10 258	3 586	5 085	**47 021**
2005	5 063	6 493	1 060	2 670	9 853	3 186	10 511	3 643	5 123	**47 602**
2006	5 168	6 489	1 071	2 680	9 928	3 232	10 772	3 701	5 165	**48 205**
2007	5 276	6 484	1 082	2 691	10 005	3 281	11 044	3 760	5 207	**48 830**
2008	5 388	6 480	1 093	2 704	10 087	3 330	11 325	3 820	5 252	**49 479**
2009	5 502	6 478	1 105	2 717	10 175	3 382	11 612	3 883	5 299	**50 152**
2010	5 618	6 477	1 117	2 732	10 268	3 434	11 910	3 947	5 349	**50 850**
2011	5 738	6 476	1 130	2 748	10 365	3 488	12 219	4 012	5 400	**51 574**
2012	5 860	6 476	1 143	2 764	10 468	3 545	12 539	4 078	5 453	**52 325**
2013	5 985	6 477	1 156	2 782	10 576	3 603	12 868	4 147	5 511	**53 104**
2014	6 112	6 481	1 170	2 802	10 691	3 663	13 203	4 218	5 573	**53 912**
2015	6 242	6 486	1 184	2 822	10 812	3 726	13 549	4 291	5 638	**54 750**
2016	6 374	6 492	1 199	2 844	10 941	3 790	13 906	4 367	5 707	**55 620**
2017	6 510	6 499	1 214	2 867	11 075	3 856	14 278	4 444	5 779	**56 522**
2018	6 650	6 508	1 230	2 891	11 215	3 925	14 661	4 523	5 854	**57 458**
2019	6 794	6 519	1 246	2 917	11 363	3 997	15 055	4 605	5 933	**58 429**
2020	6 941	6 530	1 263	2 945	11 519	4 070	15 465	4 689	6 015	**59 437**
2021	7 091	6 542	1 280	2 973	11 682	4 146	15 888	4 776	6 102	**60 482**
2022	7 231	6 539	1 294	3 000	11 822	4 206	16 267	4 857	6 168	**61 384**
2023	7 370	6 536	1 308	3 027	11 960	4 266	16 644	4 938	6 233	**62 283**
2024	7 508	6 533	1 322	3 053	12 096	4 327	17 023	5 019	6 298	**63 179**
2025	7 646	6 530	1 335	3 079	12 231	4 386	17 402	5 099	6 363	**64 072**

The 2017 series of the Mid-Year Population Estimates (MYPE) replaced the previously utilised 2013 series, as it more accurately reflected the demographic shifts identified through Census 2011. The adoption of updated benchmark population totals derived from the latest mid-year population estimates necessitates a comprehensive recalibration of all historical time-series data to ensure internal consistency and comparability over time.

Given the resource-intensive nature of this recalibration process, as well as the potential for user misunderstanding arising from frequent revisions to published weights and estimates, the introduction of new benchmark totals is generally limited to approximately five-year intervals. This approach seeks to balance methodological robustness with statistical stability and user clarity.

The currently applied 2017 series model will, in due course, be superseded by the 2025 series model, which will incorporate demographic information from Census 2022. This update will enable improved alignment with the most recent population dynamics and enhance the accuracy of derived estimates.

Users are advised to consult Statistical Release P0302: Mid-Year Population Estimates for the most recent and officially endorsed population estimates.

2.2 Household estimates

Table 2.2 outlines the estimated number of households to which the GHS data were benchmarked in each province. Household estimates were calculated using the 2017 series MYPE for 2025 and the United Nations headship ratio methodology.

Table 2.2 – Number of households per province, 2002–2025

	Total households (Thousands)									
	WC	**EC**	**NC**	**FS**	**KZN**	**NW**	**GP**	**MP**	**LP**	**RSA**
2002	1 217	1 506	247	679	2 070	767	2 785	801	1 121	**11 194**
2003	1 251	1 518	252	692	2 105	789	2 882	827	1 144	**11 459**
2004	1 287	1 526	257	703	2 137	812	2 982	851	1 164	**11 718**
2005	1 323	1 530	261	715	2 168	834	3 088	876	1 181	**11 977**
2006	1 360	1 532	266	726	2 198	858	3 202	902	1 199	**12 243**
2007	1 396	1 541	272	738	2 240	881	3 305	929	1 222	**12 522**
2008	1 432	1 551	277	751	2 284	906	3 416	956	1 247	**12 819**
2009	1 469	1 561	282	763	2 331	930	3 537	984	1 272	**13 128**
2010	1 507	1 571	287	775	2 382	956	3 668	1 013	1 298	**13 456**
2011	1 547	1 580	293	787	2 434	982	3 807	1 043	1 324	**13 797**
2012	1 585	1 596	299	801	2 495	1 008	3 938	1 074	1 357	**14 152**
2013	1 626	1 611	305	815	2 556	1 037	4 075	1 105	1 390	**14 521**
2014	1 670	1 624	311	830	2 619	1 067	4 220	1 138	1 424	**14 904**
2015	1 718	1 636	318	845	2 683	1 099	4 377	1 172	1 459	**15 307**
2016	1 771	1 648	325	862	2 752	1 135	4 546	1 208	1 495	**15 744**
2017	1 823	1 667	333	882	2 827	1 172	4 709	1 248	1 537	**16 199**
2018	1 877	1 685	342	901	2 905	1 210	4 884	1 289	1 579	**16 671**
2019	1 933	1 702	350	921	2 985	1 248	5 072	1 332	1 621	**17 163**
2020	1 962	1 709	354	931	3 026	1 267	5 174	1 354	1 641	**17 418**
2021	2 021	1 725	363	952	3 111	1 308	5 384	1 399	1 684	**17 947**
2022	2 079	1 742	371	975	3 200	1 349	5 587	1 445	1 729	**18 477**
2023	2 136	1 761	380	999	3 292	1 390	5 779	1 493	1 775	**19 005**
2024	2 195	1 780	388	1 024	3 387	1 432	5 981	1 542	1 822	**19 551**
2025	2 256	1 799	397	1 049	3 483	1 476	6 193	1 591	1 870	**20 114**

The model estimates that the number of households increased from 11,2 million in 2002 to 20,1 million in 2025, reflecting sustained demographic and socio-economic change over the period. Gauteng accounted for the largest share of households, followed by KwaZulu-Natal, Western Cape, Limpopo, and Eastern Cape. Consistent with its relatively small population size, the Northern Cape recorded the lowest number of households among the provinces.

Household benchmarking totals will be revised in 2027 with the implementation of the 2025 series, which incorporates updated demographic information derived from Census 2022. This revision will ensure improved alignment of household estimates with the most recent population structure and dynamics.

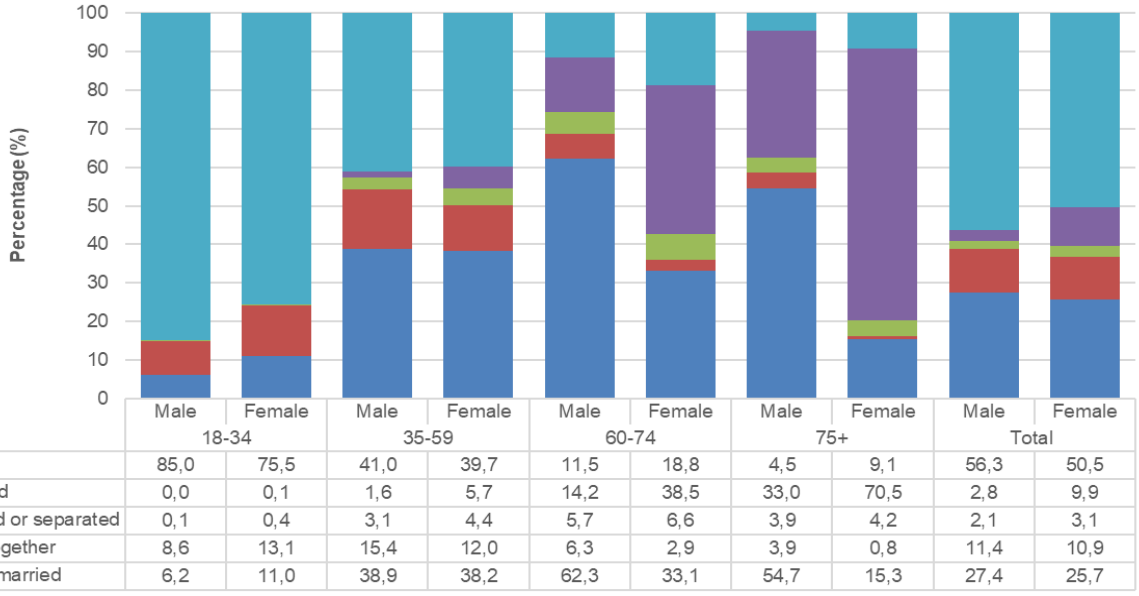
3 Household composition

3.1 Household composition and living arrangements

Most individuals rely on their families and households for their physical, social and economic well-being and survival; hence, most people consider families and households as their most important social institutions and social reference groups. Although traditional family structures are constantly changing, they remain important in countries such as South Africa, where large proportions of the population are subject to debilitating poverty and unemployment, and where institutional support is inadequate.

Stats SA defines households as all individuals who live together under the same roof or in the same yard, and who share resources such as food or money to keep the household functioning. The definition is more restrictive than the concept of a family, which usually refers to individuals who are related by blood and who may live far apart. Although household members are usually related, blood relations are not a prerequisite for the formation of a household. The living arrangements of individuals are generally defined in terms of marital status and the composition of households.

Figure 3.1 – Percentage (%) distribution of individuals aged 18 years and older by marital status, 2025

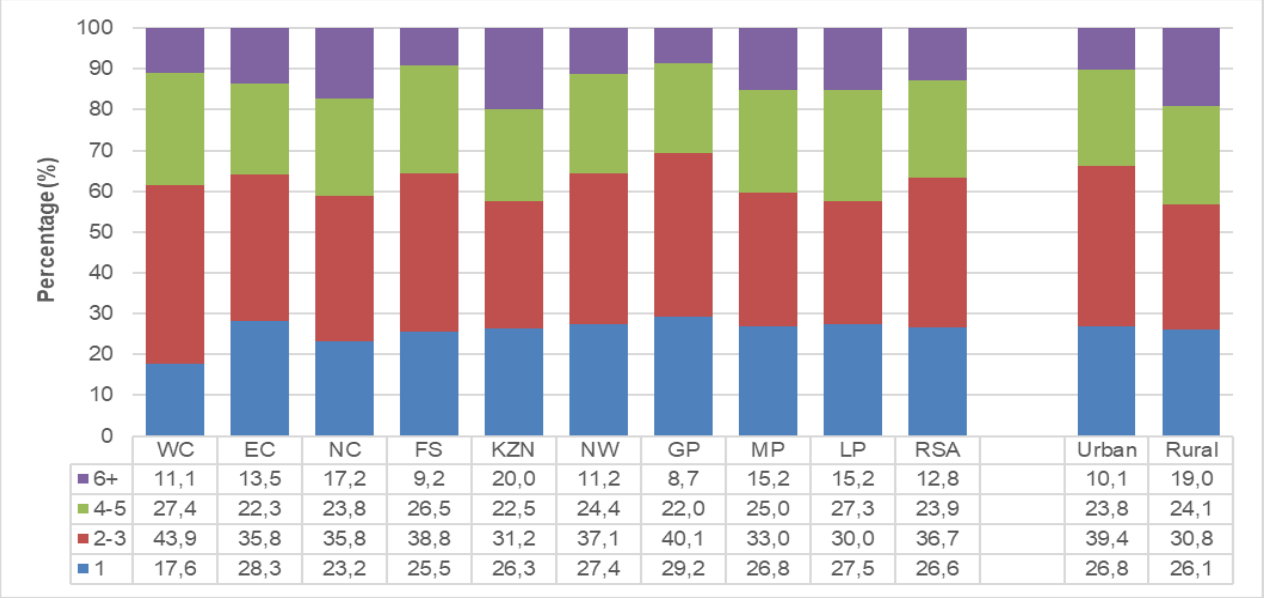


	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	18-34		35-59		60-74		75+		Total	
Single	85,0	75,5	41,0	39,7	11,5	18,8	4,5	9,1	56,3	50,5
Widowed	0,0	0,1	1,6	5,7	14,2	38,5	33,0	70,5	2,8	9,9
Divorced or separated	0,1	0,4	3,1	4,4	5,7	6,6	3,9	4,2	2,1	3,1
Living together	8,6	13,1	15,4	12,0	6,3	2,9	3,9	0,8	11,4	10,9
Legally married	6,2	11,0	38,9	38,2	62,3	33,1	54,7	15,3	27,4	25,7

Figure 3.1 indicates that a marginally higher proportion of males than females aged 18 years and older were classified as single (56,3% compared with 50,5%). Conversely, females in this age group were more likely than males to be widowed (9,9% compared with 2,8%) or divorced/separated (3,1% compared with 2,1%). Notable differences emerge when relationship status is analysed across age groups.

Among individuals aged 18–34 years, marriage and cohabitation were more prevalent among females than males. However, this pattern reverses in older age groups, particularly among individuals aged 60 years and older. Marriage was substantially more common among males than females in both the 60–74 age group (62,3% compared with 33,1%) and the 75 years and older age group (54,7% compared with 15,3%). In contrast, a large majority of women aged 75 years and older (79,6%) were either single or widowed, compared with 37,5% of men in the same age group.

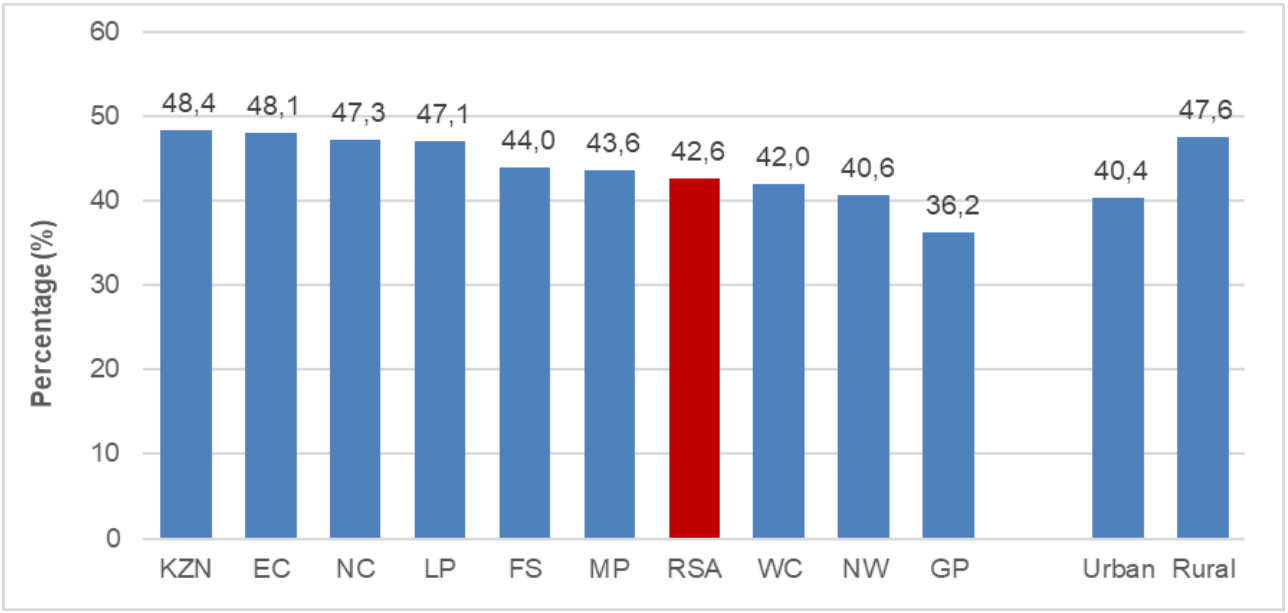
Figure 3.2 – Percentage (%) distribution of household size by province and rural/urban status, 2025



	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA	Urban	Rural
6+	11,1	13,5	17,2	9,2	20,0	11,2	8,7	15,2	15,2	12,8	10,1	19,0
4-5	27,4	22,3	23,8	26,5	22,5	24,4	22,0	25,0	27,3	23,9	23,8	24,1
2-3	43,9	35,8	35,8	38,8	31,2	37,1	40,1	33,0	30,0	36,7	39,4	30,8
1	17,6	28,3	23,2	25,5	26,3	27,4	29,2	26,8	27,5	26,6	26,8	26,1

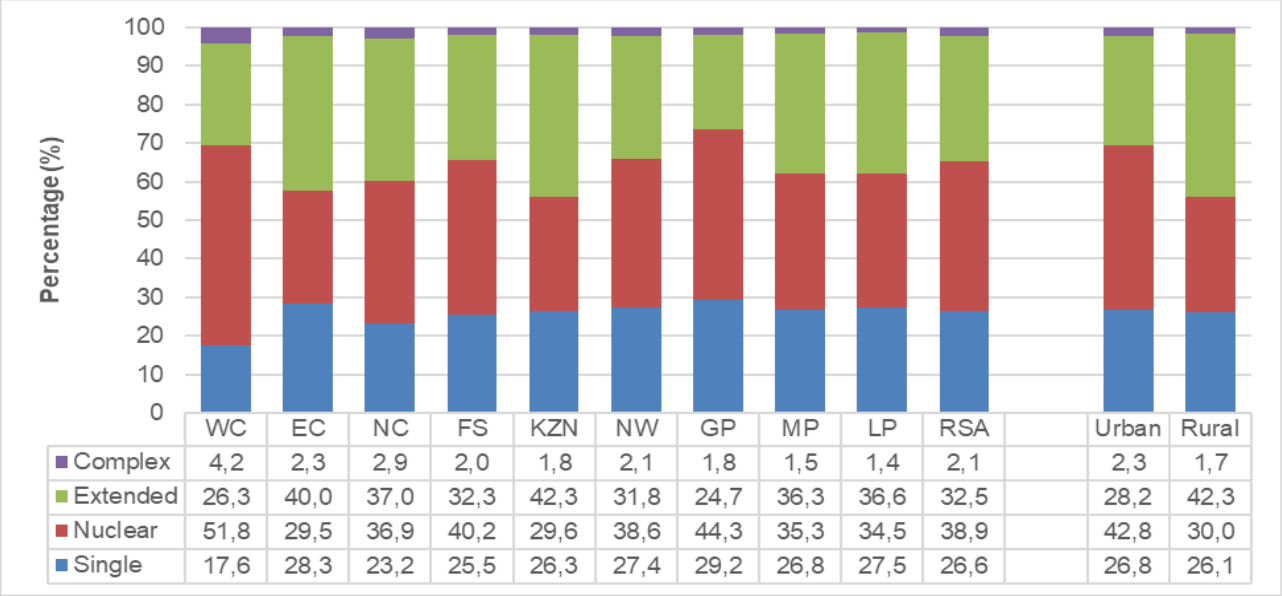
More than one-quarter (26,6%) of South African households consisted of a single person in 2025. Single-person households were most common in Gauteng (29,2%) and least common in Western Cape (17,6%). By contrast, households that comprised six people or more were most common in KwaZulu-Natal (20,0%) and Northern Cape (17,2%). Larger households with more than six members were more common in rural areas (19,0%) than urban areas (10,1%).

Figure 3.3 – Percentage (%) distribution of female-headed households by province and urban/rural status, 2025



More than four-tenths (42,6%) of households in South Africa were headed by females in 2025. According to Figure 3.3, 40,4% of urban and 47,6% of rural households were headed by females. Female-headed households were most common in KwaZulu-Natal (48,4%) and least common in Gauteng (36,2%).

Figure 3.4 – Percentage (%) distribution of households by their composition, province and rural/urban status, 2025

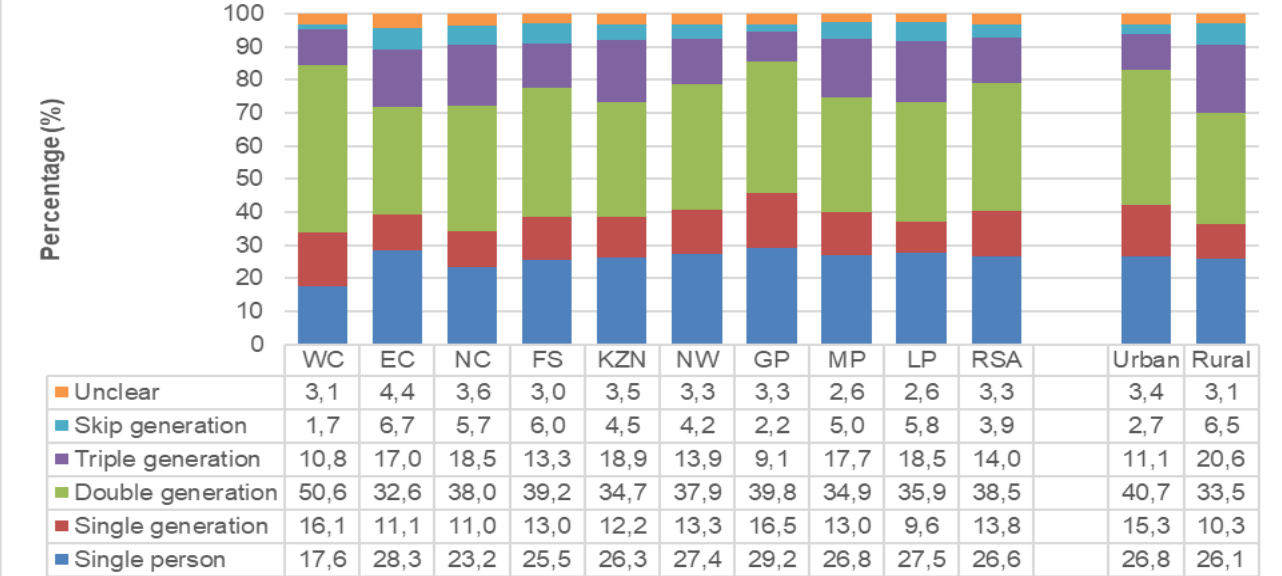


	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA	Urban	Rural
Complex	4,2	2,3	2,9	2,0	1,8	2,1	1,8	1,5	1,4	2,1	2,3	1,7
Extended	26,3	40,0	37,0	32,3	42,3	31,8	24,7	36,3	36,6	32,5	28,2	42,3
Nuclear	51,8	29,5	36,9	40,2	29,6	38,6	44,3	35,3	34,5	38,9	42,8	30,0
Single	17,6	28,3	23,2	25,5	26,3	27,4	29,2	26,8	27,5	26,6	26,8	26,1

Households may assume a range of structural configurations. Figure 3.4 presents household composition based on the presence of a core nuclear unit. At the national level, an estimated 38,9% of households were classified as nuclear households, defined as couples or one or more parent(s) living with children. A further 32,5% of households were classified broadly as extended households, comprising a nuclear core together with additional related family members, such as parents or siblings. Only a small proportion of households (2,1%) were classified as complex households, meaning that they included at least one non-related household member.

Marked spatial differentials are evident in household composition. Extended households were considerably more prevalent in rural areas than urban areas (42,3% compared to 28,2%), whereas nuclear households were more common in urban (42,8%) than rural areas (30,0%). Provincial patterns further reflect these differences: nuclear households were most prevalent in the Western Cape (51,8%) and Gauteng (44,3%), while extended households were most widespread in KwaZulu-Natal (42,3%) and the Eastern Cape (40,0%).

Figure 3.5 – Percentage (%) distribution of inter-generational households by province and rural/urban status, 2025



	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA	Urban	Rural
Unclear	3,1	4,4	3,6	3,0	3,5	3,3	3,3	2,6	2,6	3,3	3,4	3,1
Skip generation	1,7	6,7	5,7	6,0	4,5	4,2	2,2	5,0	5,8	3,9	2,7	6,5
Triple generation	10,8	17,0	18,5	13,3	18,9	13,9	9,1	17,7	18,5	14,0	11,1	20,6
Double generation	50,6	32,6	38,0	39,2	34,7	37,9	39,8	34,9	35,9	38,5	40,7	33,5
Single generation	16,1	11,1	11,0	13,0	12,2	13,3	16,5	13,0	9,6	13,8	15,3	10,3
Single person	17,6	28,3	23,2	25,5	26,3	27,4	29,2	26,8	27,5	26,6	26,8	26,1

Figure 3.5 presents household composition based on an inter-generational classification. At the national level, an estimated 38,5% of households were classified as double-generational households, consisting primarily of parents and their children. A further 13,8% of households were classified as single-generation households, typically comprising partners or siblings living together. Approximately 14,0% of households were identified as three-generation households, while 3,9% were classified as skip-generation households, in which grandparents reside with their grandchildren in the absence of the parental generation.

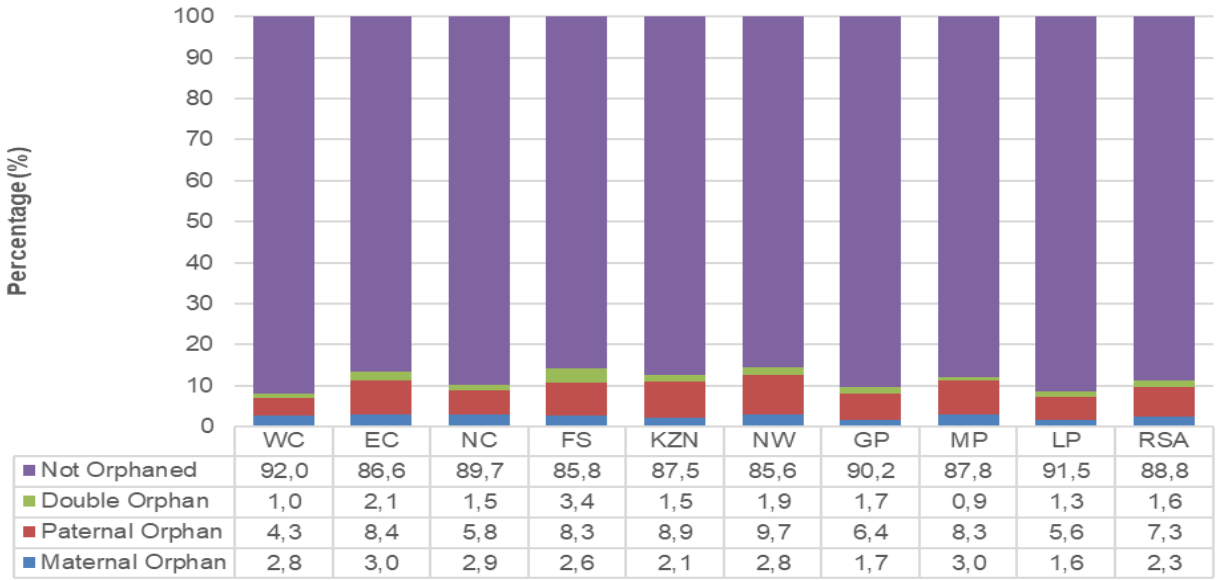
Provincial variation in inter-generational household structures is evident. The highest proportions of skip-generation households were recorded in the Eastern Cape (6,7%), Free State (6,0%), Limpopo (5,8%), and Northern Cape (5,7%). Three-generation (inter-generational) households were most prevalent in KwaZulu-Natal (18,9%), Limpopo (18,5%), and the Northern Cape (18,5%).

Spatial differences further indicate that both skip-generation and three-generation households were more common in rural areas than in urban areas, reflecting differing demographic profiles, household formation patterns, and socio-economic conditions across settlement types.

3.2 Living arrangements of children

Figure 3.6 outlines the percentage distribution of children according to orphanhood status. Orphans are commonly defined as children who have lost one or both biological parents, irrespective of the cause of death.

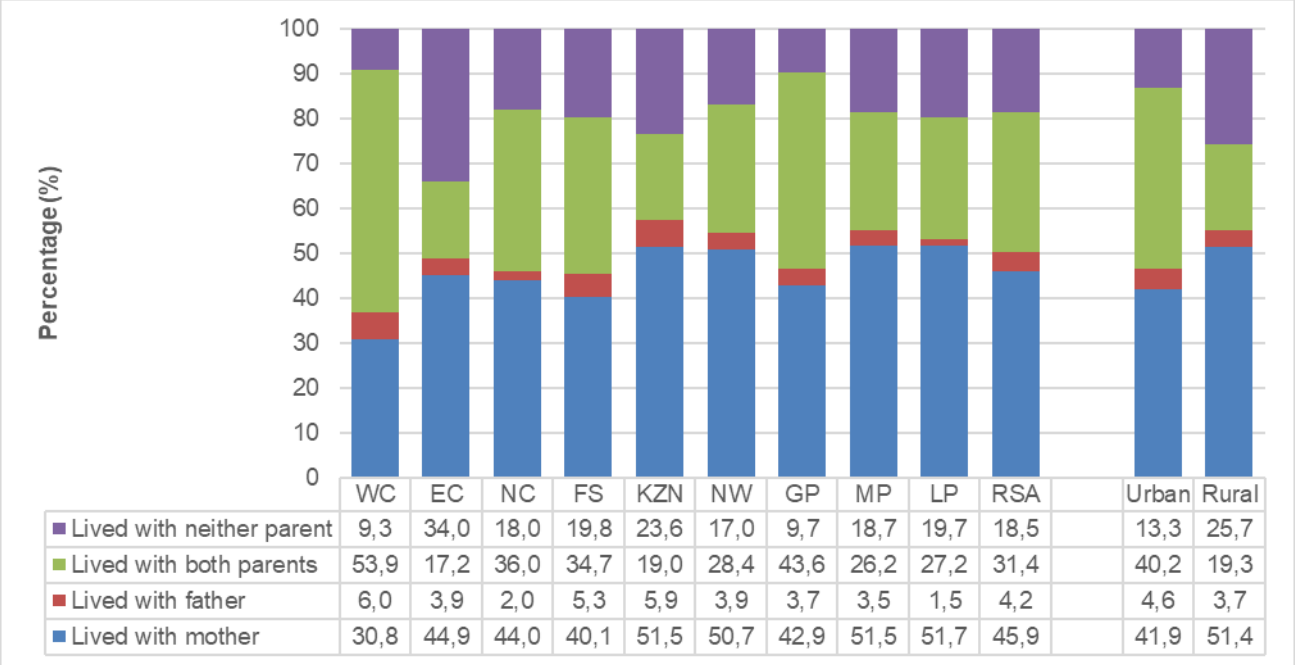
Figure 3.6 – Percentage (%) distribution of children's orphanhood status by province, 2025



	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
Not Orphaned	92,0	86,6	89,7	85,8	87,5	85,6	90,2	87,8	91,5	88,8
Double Orphan	1,0	2,1	1,5	3,4	1,5	1,9	1,7	0,9	1,3	1,6
Paternal Orphan	4,3	8,4	5,8	8,3	8,9	9,7	6,4	8,3	5,6	7,3
Maternal Orphan	2,8	3,0	2,9	2,6	2,1	2,8	1,7	3,0	1,6	2,3

Figure 3.6 shows that 11,2% of children in South Africa could be classified as orphans who have lost either one or both of their parents. While 1,6% had lost both parents, 2,3% had lost their mothers and 7,3% had lost their fathers. The percentage of orphaned children was the highest in North West (14,4%) and Free State (14,2%), and lowest in Western Cape (8,1%).

Figure 3.7 – Percentage (%) distribution of children's living arrangements by province and urban/rural status, 2025



	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA	Urban	Rural
Lived with neither parent	9,3	34,0	18,0	19,8	23,6	17,0	9,7	18,7	19,7	18,5	13,3	25,7
Lived with both parents	53,9	17,2	36,0	34,7	19,0	28,4	43,6	26,2	27,2	31,4	40,2	19,3
Lived with father	6,0	3,9	2,0	5,3	5,9	3,9	3,7	3,5	1,5	4,2	4,6	3,7
Lived with mother	30,8	44,9	44,0	40,1	51,5	50,7	42,9	51,5	51,7	45,9	41,9	51,4

Figure 3.7 indicates that 18,5% of all children were not living with either of their biological parents, while 31,4% lived with both parents. A substantially higher proportion of children lived exclusively with their mothers (45,9%) compared with those living exclusively with their fathers (4,2%). The prevalence of children not living with either parent was highest in the Eastern Cape (34,0%), followed by KwaZulu-Natal (23,6%) and the Free State (19,8%), and lowest in the Western Cape (9,3%) and Gauteng (9,7%).

Pronounced differences were also observed by settlement type. In urban areas, the largest proportions of children lived with both parents (40,2%) or with their mothers only (41,9%). In contrast, in rural areas more than half of all children (51,4%) lived with their mothers only, while fewer than one in five (19,3%) lived with both parents.

Families and households play a critical role in supporting the developmental, emotional, and cognitive well-being of children. While biological parents often play a central role in child development, the benefits associated with co-residence depend largely on the quality, stability, and adequacy of care and support that can be provided within the household context.

4 Education

All South Africans have a constitutional right to basic education, and the Bill of Rights places an obligation on government to progressively make education available and accessible to all through reasonable legislative and other measures. Investment in human resources forms the foundation of a nation's social and economic development, making the acquisition of skills and knowledge among the population essential for inclusive growth and long-term national prosperity.

The systematic monitoring of core education and education-related indicators on an annual basis enables detailed analysis of the changing circumstances of learners and the broader education system. As outlined earlier, this section provides an overview of key dimensions of the education profile of South Africans over the period 2002 to 2025. In particular, the analysis highlights major patterns and trends in early childhood attendance among children aged 0–4 years; participation in schooling and higher education; overall educational attendance rates; and the educational attainment of individuals aged 20 years and older.

4.1 Educational profile of learners aged 0–4 years

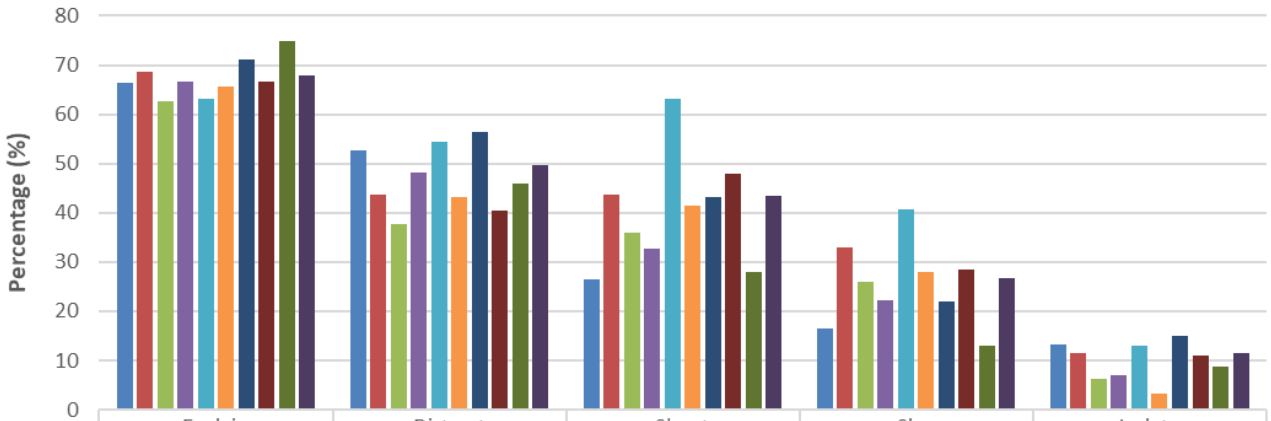
Policy decisions and investments by government related to access to early childhood development (ECD) provisioning have increased over time. It is very difficult to measure the direct contribution of the state towards ECD activities because a household-based survey, such as the GHS, is not designed to accurately identify the suppliers of ECD services. These surveys can, however, quantify the children making use of such services. The survey shows that access to and participation in ECD activities among children aged 0–4 increased over time.

Table 4.1 – Percentage (%) distribution of children aged 0–4 who used different childcare arrangements by province, 2025

Care arrangements for children aged 0–4 years	Province (Per cent)									
	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
At home with parent or guardian	43,1	52,7	56,2	37,1	58,5	63,2	45,1	55,0	42,0	50,2
Grade R, Pre-school, nursery school, crèche, educare centre	39,7	37,5	23,0	48,5	26,5	30,5	41,5	36,9	39,7	36,3
At home with another adult	10,9	6,2	12,5	7,3	11,6	4,4	6,9	4,9	5,6	7,8
Day mother/gogo	3,0	2,0	6,5	5,0	1,9	0,0	4,1	0,8	11,4	3,7
At somebody else's dwelling	2,6	0,9	1,3	2,1	0,8	0,3	1,3	1,7	0,4	1,2
At home with someone younger than 18 years	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,3	0,0	0,4	0,0	0,6	0,2
School (Grade 1 or 2)	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,1	0,8	0,2	0,1	0,2	0,2
Home based playgroup	0,5	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,1	0,0	0,4	0,0	0,0	0,2
Other	0,3	0,7	0,5	0,0	0,3	0,8	0,2	0,6	0,0	0,3
Total	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**

Table 4.1 summarises the attendance of children aged 0–4 years at different types of ECD facilities or care arrangements, and the extent to which children were exposed to stimulation activities across provinces during 2025. Nationally, over half (58,0%) of children aged 0–4 stayed home with a parent or guardian, or with another adult. The figure was most pronounced in KwaZulu-Natal (70,1%) and Northern Cape (68,7%). Only 36,3% of children in this age group attended formal ECD facilities, nationally. Attendance of ECD facilities was most common in Free State (48,5%), Gauteng (41,5%), Western Cape (39,7%), and Limpopo (39,7%), and least common in Northen Cape (23,0%) and KwaZulu-Natal (26,5%).

Figure 4.1 – Percentage (%) distribution of the methods used by household members to discipline children aged 0 – 6 years when they misbehave by province, 2025



	Explain	Distract	Shout	Slap	Isolate
WC	66,3	52,8	26,4	16,5	13,2
EC	68,6	43,6	43,7	33,0	11,6
NC	62,7	37,7	36,0	26,0	6,2
FS	66,7	48,1	32,6	22,1	7,0
KZN	63,1	54,5	63,0	40,8	13,0
NW	65,6	43,1	41,5	27,9	3,3
GP	71,1	56,3	43,2	22,0	15,1
MP	66,6	40,5	47,8	28,3	11,0
LP	74,9	45,9	28,0	13,0	8,9
RSA	68,0	49,7	43,5	26,6	11,5

Figure 4.1 summarises the methods used by household members to discipline children aged 0–6 years who misbehave, disaggregated by province. At the national level, explanatory discipline was by far the most commonly reported method, with 68,0% of households indicating that children were disciplined through explanation. This was substantially higher than the proportion of households that reported isolating children as a disciplinary measure (11,5%).

The use of distraction as a disciplinary method was most prevalent in Gauteng (56,3%), followed by KwaZulu-Natal (54,5%) and the Western Cape (52,8%). By contrast, shouting was reported as a disciplinary method by 43,5% of households nationally, with the highest prevalence observed in KwaZulu-Natal (63,0%).

Nationally, slightly more than one quarter of households reported the use of slapping as a disciplinary method. These findings highlight notable variation in disciplinary practices across provinces and underscore differing approaches to early childhood discipline within households.

4.2 General attendance of individuals aged five years and older at educational institutions

Almost one-third (30,7%) of individuals aged five years and older attended some kind of educational institution. Table 4.2 shows that, nationally, 87,7% of these individuals attended primary or secondary schools, while a further 5,4% attended tertiary institutions. Only 2,5% of individuals attended Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges.

Table 4.2 – Percentage (%) distribution of individuals aged five years and older who were attending educational institutions by province and type of institution attended, 2025

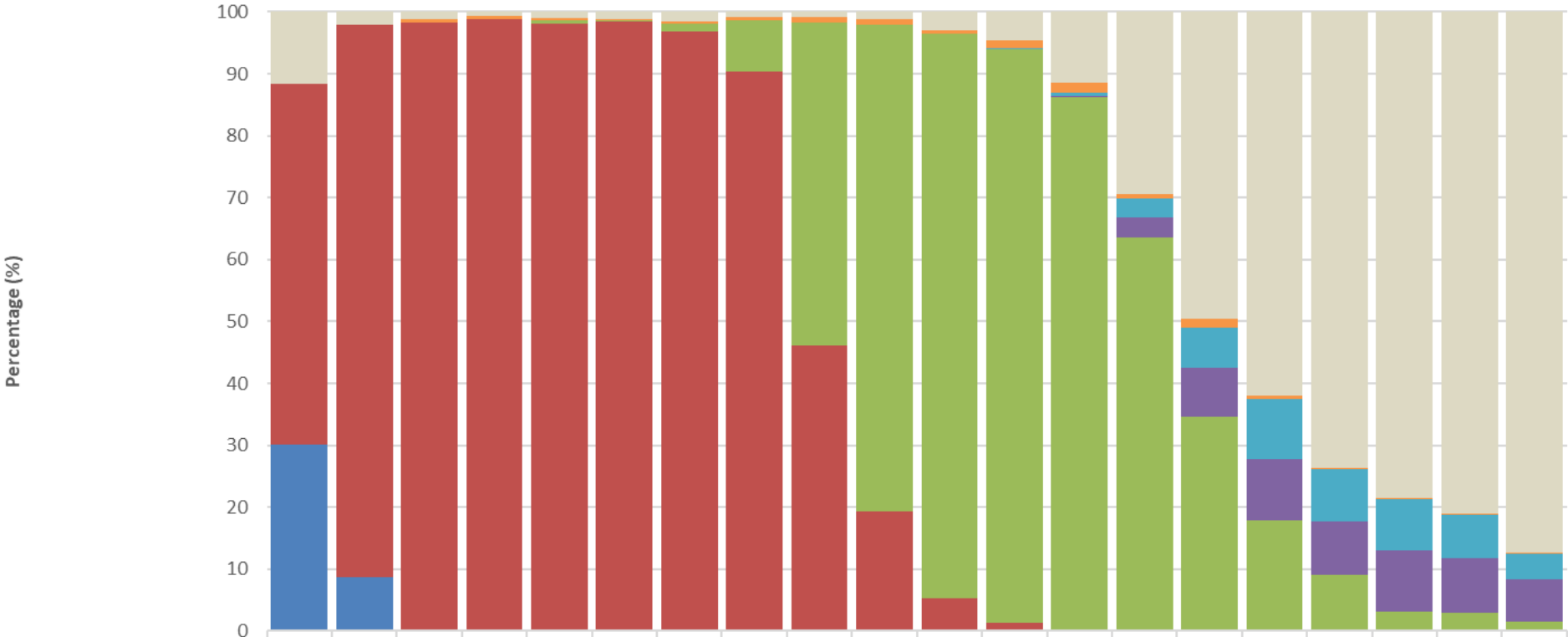
	Province (per cent)									
Type of institution	**WC**	**EC**	**NC**	**FS**	**KZN**	**NW**	**GP**	**MP**	**LP**	**RSA**
Pre-school	3,4	2,6	2,9	2,2	2,4	1,7	3,5	1,8	1,6	2,6
School	81,8	92,3	89,0	88,9	91,1	90,4	78,4	91,3	91,2	87,0
Higher education institutions	8,4	1,9	3,2	5,1	3,7	3,5	9,7	2,9	3,2	5,4
TVET	2,6	1,6	2,7	2,6	1,8	2,6	3,2	2,4	2,7	2,5
Other colleges	1,9	1,0	1,7	0,8	0,5	1,2	3,7	1,1	0,7	1,6
Home Schooling	0,3	0,2	0,2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,4	0,1	0,1	0,2
Other	1,8	0,5	0,4	0,4	0,3	0,6	1,3	0,4	0,6	0,8
Total (Thousands)	**1 864**	**1 974**	**353**	**902**	**3 663**	**1 260**	**4 502**	**1 497**	**2 131**	**18 146**

Note: Unspecified was excluded from the denominator when calculating percentages

The percentage of individuals aged five years and older who attended school was the highest in Eastern Cape (92,3%), Mpumalanga (91,3%), Limpopo (91,2%) and KwaZulu-Natal (91,1%) and lowest in Gauteng (78,4%). Attendance at higher education institutions was most common in Gauteng (9,7%) and Western Cape (8,4%) and least common in Mpumalanga (2,9%) and Eastern Cape (1,9%).

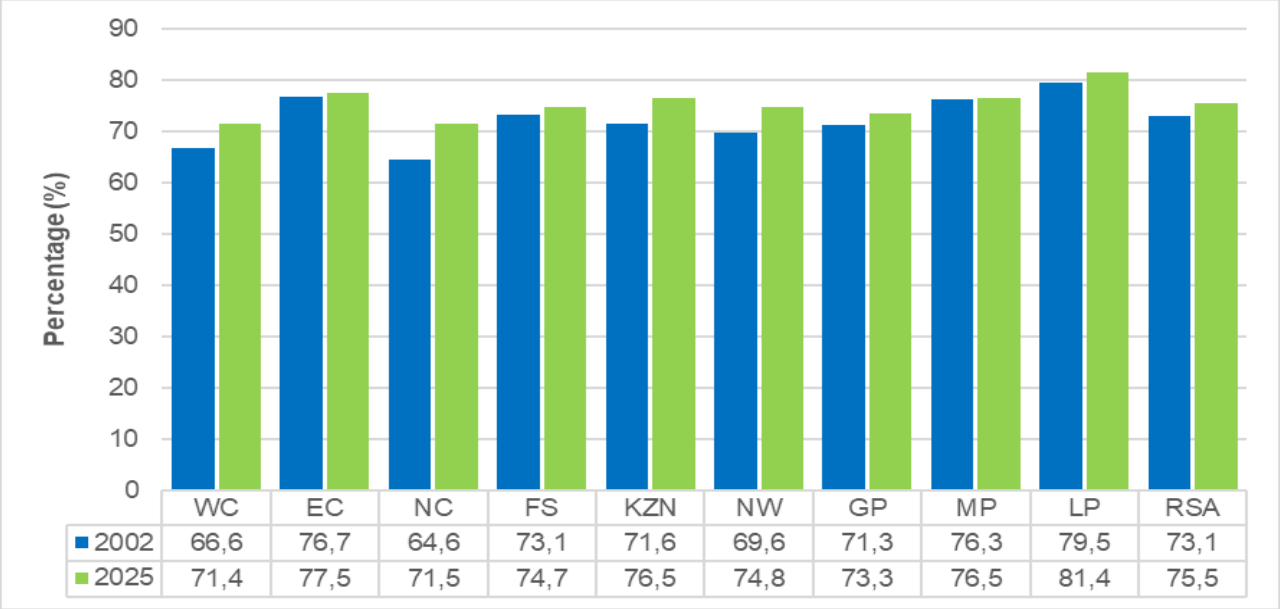
The percentage of individuals aged 5–24 years that attended educational institutions by single ages is presented in Figure 4.2. The figure shows very high school attendance (primary and secondary school) in the age group 7–16 years, after which attendance at educational facilities drops sharply. By the age of 24 years, approximately 12,7% of individuals were still attending an educational facility. The figure also shows a noticeable representation of learners who were older than the ideal completion age in primary and secondary schools.

Figure 4.2 – Type of educational institution attended by individuals aged 5–24 years, 2025



	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Not in education	11,7	2,1	1,2	0,6	1,0	1,1	1,6	0,9	0,8	1,2	2,9	4,7	11,4	29,5	49,5	62,0	73,7	78,5	81,0	87,3
Other	0,0	0,0	0,5	0,6	0,5	0,2	0,3	0,5	1,0	0,8	0,5	1,3	1,6	0,7	1,5	0,6	0,2	0,2	0,3	0,3
TVET and other colleges	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,1	0,6	3,1	6,5	9,6	8,4	8,2	7,0	4,1
University	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,1	3,2	7,8	10,0	8,6	10,0	8,7	6,9
Secondary school	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,5	0,2	1,3	8,3	52,1	78,6	91,3	92,6	85,9	63,2	34,6	17,5	8,8	3,0	2,9	1,5
Primary school	58,3	89,2	98,3	98,7	98,1	98,5	96,8	90,4	46,1	19,4	5,3	1,4	0,3	0,3	0,0	0,3	0,3	0,1	0,2	0,0
Pre-school	30,0	8,7	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0

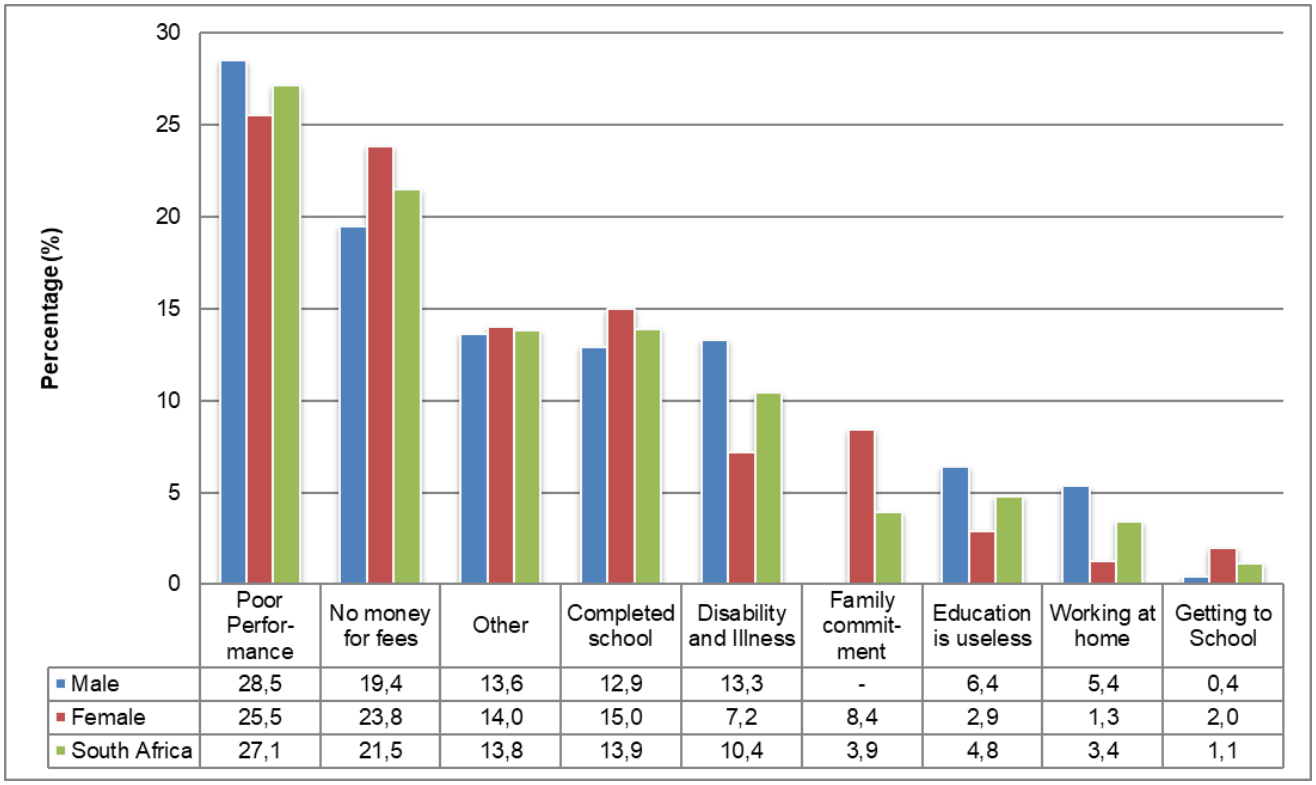
Figure 4.3 – Percentage (%) distribution of individuals aged 7–24 years who attended educational institutions by province, 2002 and 2025



	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
2002	66,6	76,7	64,6	73,1	71,6	69,6	71,3	76,3	79,5	73,1
2025	71,4	77,5	71,5	74,7	76,5	74,8	73,3	76,5	81,4	75,5

Figure 4.3 shows that, nationally, the percentage of persons aged 7–24 years who attended educational institutions increased from 73,1% in 2002 to 75,5% in 2025. Attendance increased across most provinces between 2002 and 2025 with the highest increase observed in Northern Cape (+6,9 percentage points), North West (+5,2 percentage points) and KwaZulu-Natal (+4,9 percentage points). Mpumalanga had the lowest increase at 0,2 of a percentage point between 2002 and 2025.

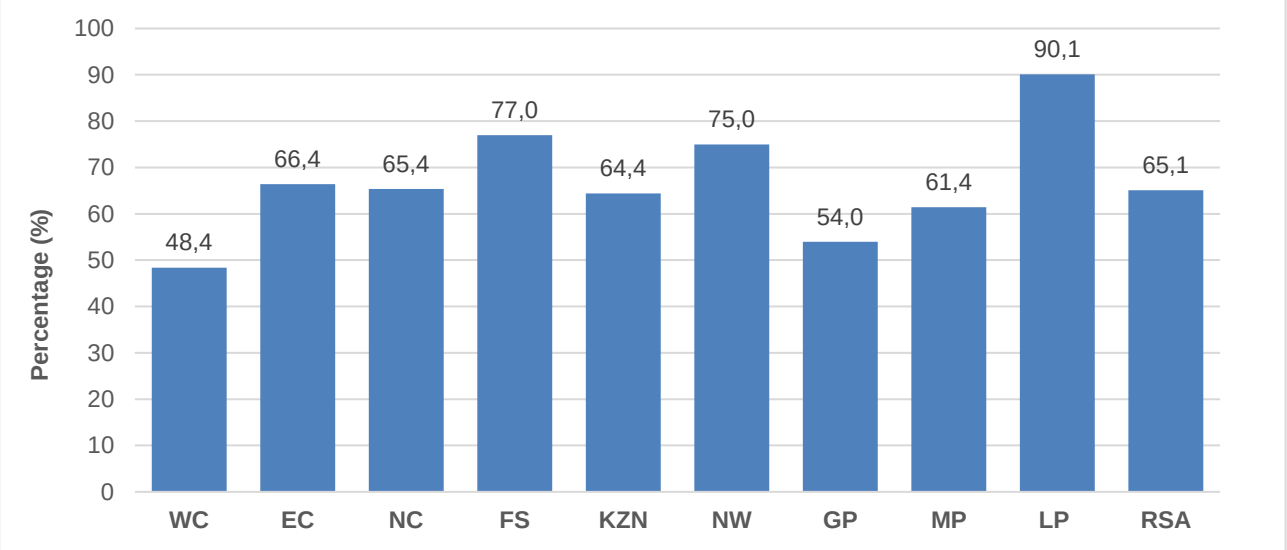
Figure 4.4 – Percentage (%) distribution of main reasons given by individuals aged 7–18 years for not attending an educational institution by sex, 2025



	Poor Perfor-mance	No money for fees	Other	Completed school	Disability and Illness	Family commit-ment	Education is useless	Working at home	Getting to School
Male	28,5	19,4	13,6	12,9	13,3	-	6,4	5,4	0,4
Female	25,5	23,8	14,0	15,0	7,2	8,4	2,9	1,3	2,0
South Africa	27,1	21,5	13,8	13,9	10,4	3,9	4,8	3,4	1,1

The main reasons provided by males and females in the age group 7–18 years for not attending any educational institutions are depicted in Figure 4.4. Learners most commonly reported poor performance (27,1%), no money for fees (21,5%) and completed school (13,9%) as the main reasons for not attending an educational institution. Less than one-fifth of individuals aged 7–18 years indicated either other reasons (13,8%) or disability and illness (10,4%) as the main reason for not attending school. Although 3,9% of individuals left their studies as a result of family commitments (i.e. getting married, minding children and pregnancy), it more commonly applied to females (8,4%) than males (0,0%).

Figure 4.5 – Percentage (%) distribution of individuals aged 5 years and older who attended schools and who did not pay tuition fees by province, 2025

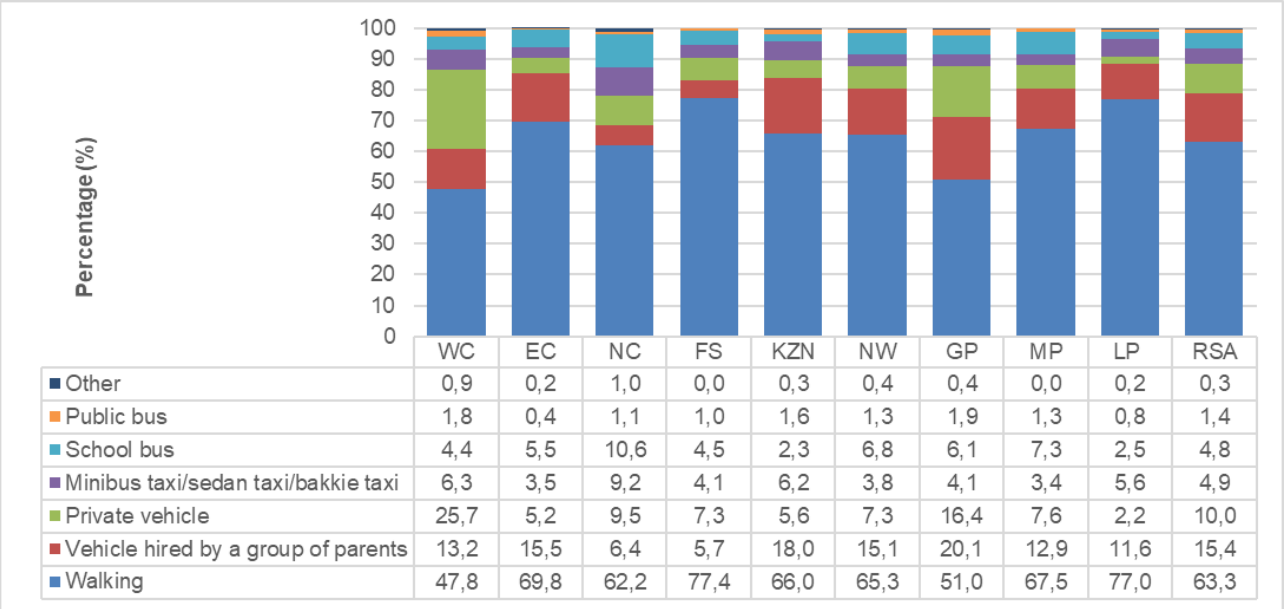


Although inadequate access to money to pay for fees remains a major hurdle for learners, two-thirds (65,1%) of learners aged five years and older attended schools where no tuition fees were levied in 2025 (Figure 4.5). The attendance of no-fee schools was most common in Limpopo (90,1%), and least common in the Western Cape (48,4%) and Gauteng (54,0%).

4.3 School attendance

There were approximately 15,8 million learners at school in 2025. The largest percentage of these learners attended schools in Gauteng (22,4%) and KwaZulu-Natal (21,2%).

Figure 4.6 – Percentage (%) distribution of learners who attended school by main mode of transport to school and province, 2025

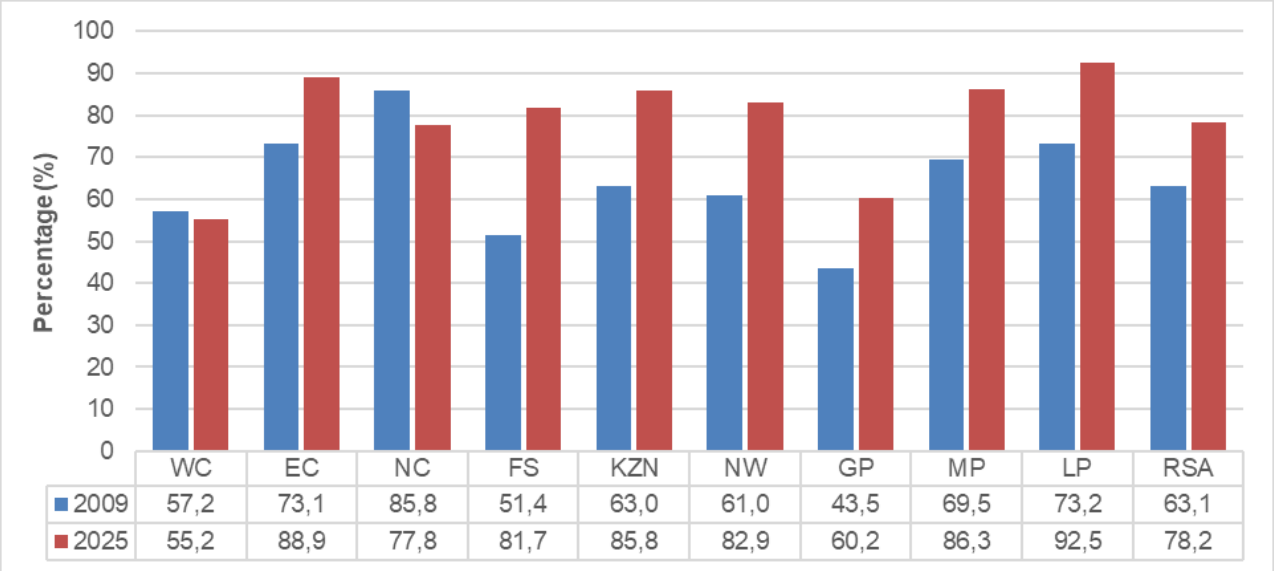


	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
Other	0,9	0,2	1,0	0,0	0,3	0,4	0,4	0,0	0,2	0,3
Public bus	1,8	0,4	1,1	1,0	1,6	1,3	1,9	1,3	0,8	1,4
School bus	4,4	5,5	10,6	4,5	2,3	6,8	6,1	7,3	2,5	4,8
Minibus taxi/sedan taxi/bakkie taxi	6,3	3,5	9,2	4,1	6,2	3,8	4,1	3,4	5,6	4,9
Private vehicle	25,7	5,2	9,5	7,3	5,6	7,3	16,4	7,6	2,2	10,0
Vehicle hired by a group of parents	13,2	15,5	6,4	5,7	18,0	15,1	20,1	12,9	11,6	15,4
Walking	47,8	69,8	62,2	77,4	66,0	65,3	51,0	67,5	77,0	63,3

Note: *School bus refers to "Minibus/bus provided by institution/government and not paid for"*
Other includes "bicycle/motorcycle", "train" and "other" categories

Figure 4.6 shows that 63,3% of learners walked to school. Another 15,4% of learners were transported to school by vehicles hired by parents, while 10,0% were transported using private vehicles. Although 4,8% used buses or minibuses provided by the school, 1,4% used public buses. Walking to school was most common in Free State (77,4%), Limpopo (77,0%) and Mpumalanga (67,5%) and least common in the Western Cape (47,8%). About one-quarter (25,7%) of learners in the Western Cape and 16,4% of learners in Gauteng were transported to school by private vehicles, compared to 2,2% with learners in Limpopo. The use of vehicles hired by parents was highest in Gauteng (20,1%) and KwaZulu-Natal (18,0%).

Figure 4.7 – Percentage (%) distribution of learners attending public schools who benefited from the school nutrition programme by province, 2009 and 2025



	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
2009	57,2	73,1	85,8	51,4	63,0	61,0	43,5	69,5	73,2	63,1
2025	55,2	88,9	77,8	81,7	85,8	82,9	60,2	86,3	92,5	78,2

Figure 4.7 presents the percentage of learners attending public schools who benefited from a school nutrition programme by province in 2009 and 2025. At the national level, more than three-quarters (78,2%) of learners in public schools benefited from school feeding schemes in 2025, representing a substantial increase from 63,1% in 2009.

In 2025, over 80% of learners in the Eastern Cape, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, North West, Mpumalanga, and Limpopo benefitted from school nutrition programmes at public schools. The highest coverage was recorded in Limpopo (92,5%) and Eastern Cape (88,9%). In contrast, participation in school feeding schemes was notably lower in the Western Cape (55,2%) and Gauteng (60,2%).

4.4 Attendance at institutions of higher education

Table 4.3 shows that the total number of students enrolled at higher education institutions increased by 59,1% between 2002 and 2025, growing to 976 147. Black African students comprised almost three-quarters (73,9%) of all students in 2025 (up from 60,2% in 2002). White students comprised 13,7% of all students in 2025, down from 27,5% a few decades earlier. Even though most students are black African, the education participation rate of this population group remained proportionally low in comparison with the Indian/Asian and white population groups.

Table 4.3 – Distribution of students enrolled at higher education institutions by population group, 2002 and 2025

Population Group	2002	2025
Black African	60,2	73,9
Coloured	6,6	5,5
Indian/Asian	5,8	6,9
White	27,5	13,7
Total per cent	**100,0**	**100,0**
Total Number ('000)	**613**	**976**

Figure 4.8 – Percentage (%) distribution of student participation rates for individuals aged 18– 29 years by population group, 2002 and 2025

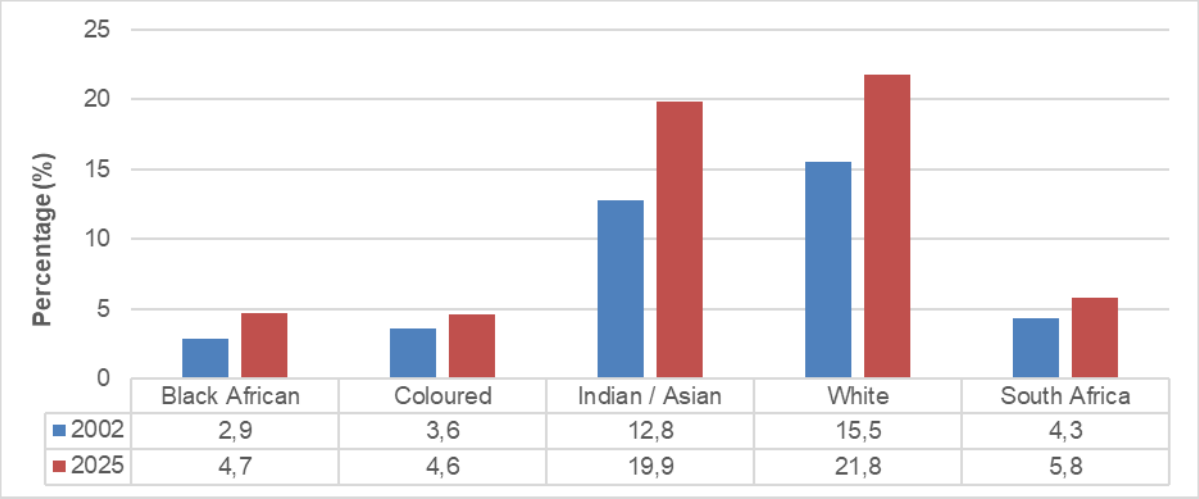
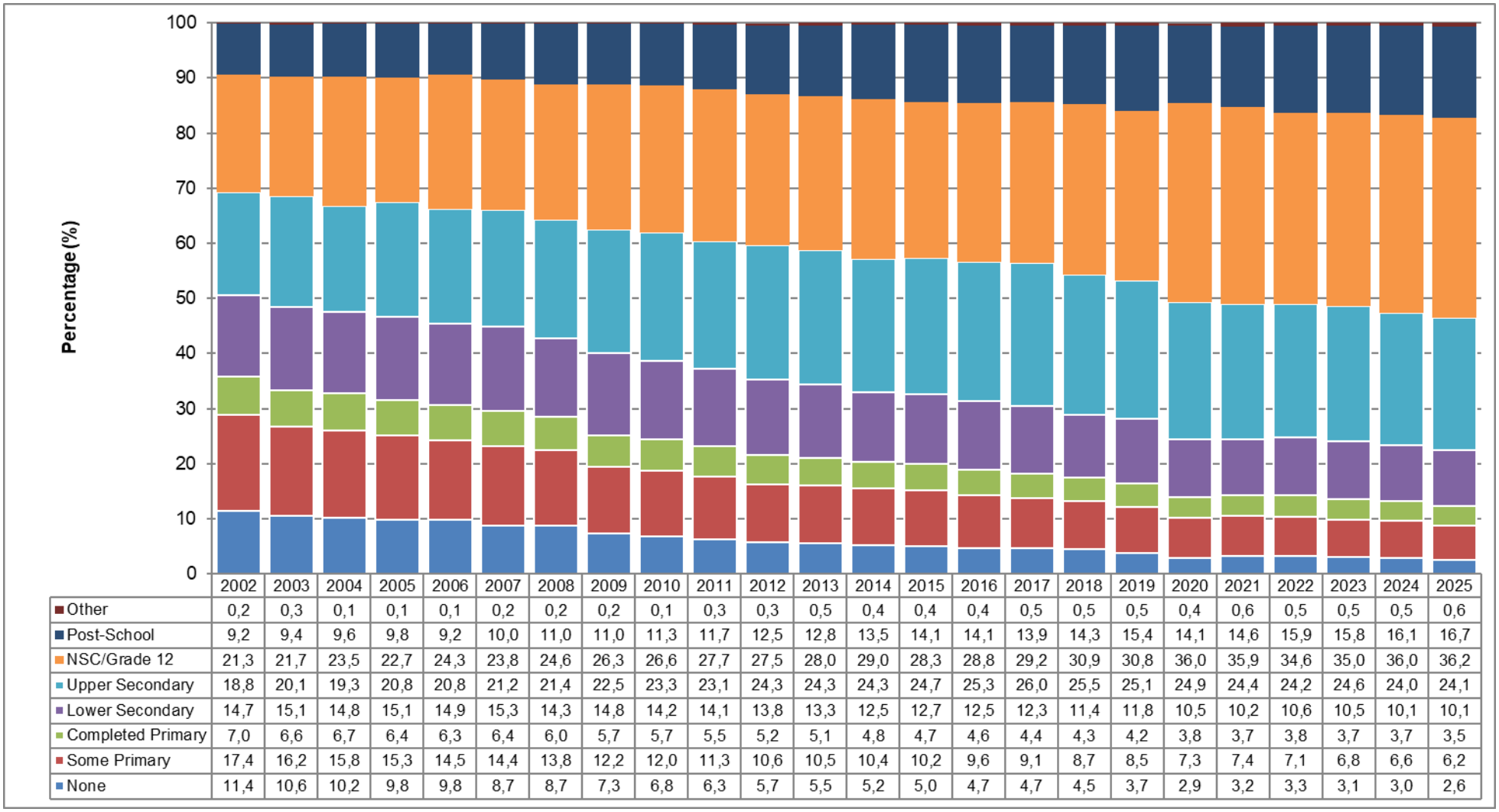


Figure 4.8 shows that the percentage of persons aged 18–29 years who were enrolled at an institution of higher education in the country increased from 4,3% in 2002 to 5,8% in 2025. Enrolment at a higher education institution was most common among Whites (21,8%) and Indians/Asians (19,9%). By comparison, 4,6% of the coloured and 4,7% of the black African population groups were enrolled in institutions of higher education.

Figure 4.9 – Percentage (%) distribution of educational attainment for individuals aged 20 years and older, 2002–2025



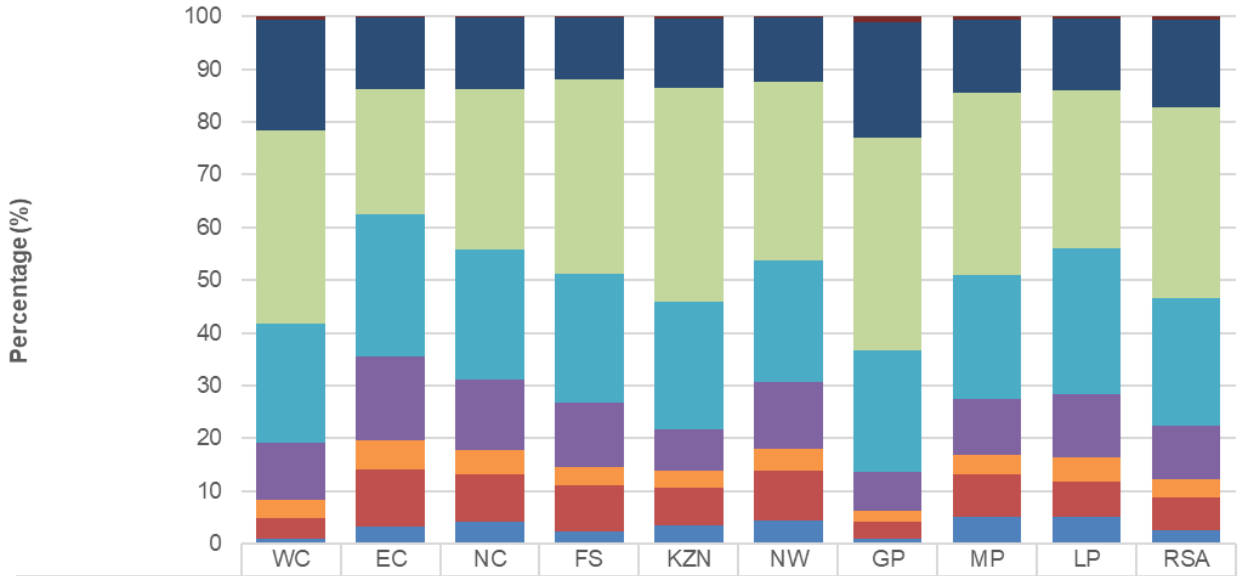
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Other	0,2	0,3	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,1	0,3	0,3	0,5	0,4	0,4	0,4	0,5	0,5	0,5	0,4	0,6	0,5	0,5	0,5	0,6
Post-School	9,2	9,4	9,6	9,8	9,2	10,0	11,0	11,0	11,3	11,7	12,5	12,8	13,5	14,1	14,1	13,9	14,3	15,4	14,1	14,6	15,9	15,8	16,1	16,7
NSC/Grade 12	21,3	21,7	23,5	22,7	24,3	23,8	24,6	26,3	26,6	27,7	27,5	28,0	29,0	28,3	28,8	29,2	30,9	30,8	36,0	35,9	34,6	35,0	36,0	36,2
Upper Secondary	18,8	20,1	19,3	20,8	20,8	21,2	21,4	22,5	23,3	23,1	24,3	24,3	24,3	24,7	25,3	26,0	25,5	25,1	24,9	24,4	24,2	24,6	24,0	24,1
Lower Secondary	14,7	15,1	14,8	15,1	14,9	15,3	14,3	14,8	14,2	14,1	13,8	13,3	12,5	12,7	12,5	12,3	11,4	11,8	10,5	10,2	10,6	10,5	10,1	10,1
Completed Primary	7,0	6,6	6,7	6,4	6,3	6,4	6,0	5,7	5,7	5,5	5,2	5,1	4,8	4,7	4,6	4,4	4,3	4,2	3,8	3,7	3,8	3,7	3,7	3,5
Some Primary	17,4	16,2	15,8	15,3	14,5	14,4	13,8	12,2	12,0	11,3	10,6	10,5	10,4	10,2	9,6	9,1	8,7	8,5	7,3	7,4	7,1	6,8	6,6	6,2
None	11,4	10,6	10,2	9,8	9,8	8,7	8,7	7,3	6,8	6,3	5,7	5,5	5,2	5,0	4,7	4,7	4,5	3,7	2,9	3,2	3,3	3,1	3,0	2,6

Note: Post-school education refers to any qualification higher than Grade 12. Lower secondary refers to grades 8 and 9. Upper secondary refers to grade 10 and 11

4.5 Educational attainment of persons aged 20 years and older

Figure 4.9 on the previous page presents the highest level of education attained by individuals aged 20 years and older. The figure shows that the percentage of individuals in this age group who have attained at least Grade 12 has been increasing consistently since 2002, expanding from 30,5% in 2002 to 52,9% in 2025. Over this period, the percentage of individuals with some post-school education increased from 9,2% to 16,7%. The percentage of individuals without any schooling decreased from 11,4% in 2002 to 2,6% in 2025.

Figure 4.10 – Percentage (%) distribution of educational attainment for individuals aged 20 years and older by province, 2025



	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
Other	0,6	0,3	0,2	0,0	0,3	0,1	1,1	0,7	0,3	0,6
Post School	21,0	13,4	13,5	11,9	13,2	12,2	22,0	13,7	13,8	16,7
NSC/Grade 12	36,7	24,0	30,5	36,9	40,5	33,9	40,3	34,8	30,0	36,2
Upper Secondary	22,6	27,0	24,6	24,5	24,2	23,1	23,0	23,5	27,5	24,1
Lower Secondary	10,7	15,7	13,3	12,2	8,0	12,6	7,4	10,6	12,0	10,1
Completed Primary	3,6	5,6	4,8	3,5	3,2	4,2	2,2	3,6	4,6	3,5
Some Primary	4,0	10,9	9,0	8,5	7,2	9,5	3,1	8,1	6,9	6,2
None	0,8	3,2	4,1	2,4	3,4	4,3	1,0	5,1	5,0	2,6

According to Figure 4.10, individuals without any formal education were most common in Mpumalanga (5,1%) and Limpopo (5,0%) and least common in the Western Cape (0,8%) and Gauteng (1,0%). The figure shows that 19,8% of individuals aged 20 years or older have attained some academic qualifications that are equivalent to or less than Grade 9. Grade 9 is the final year of the senior phase and learners are allowed to leave school on its completion or when they turn 15 years old, whichever comes first. Individuals with lower secondary qualifications or less were most common in the Eastern Cape (35,4%) and the Northern Cape (31,2%).

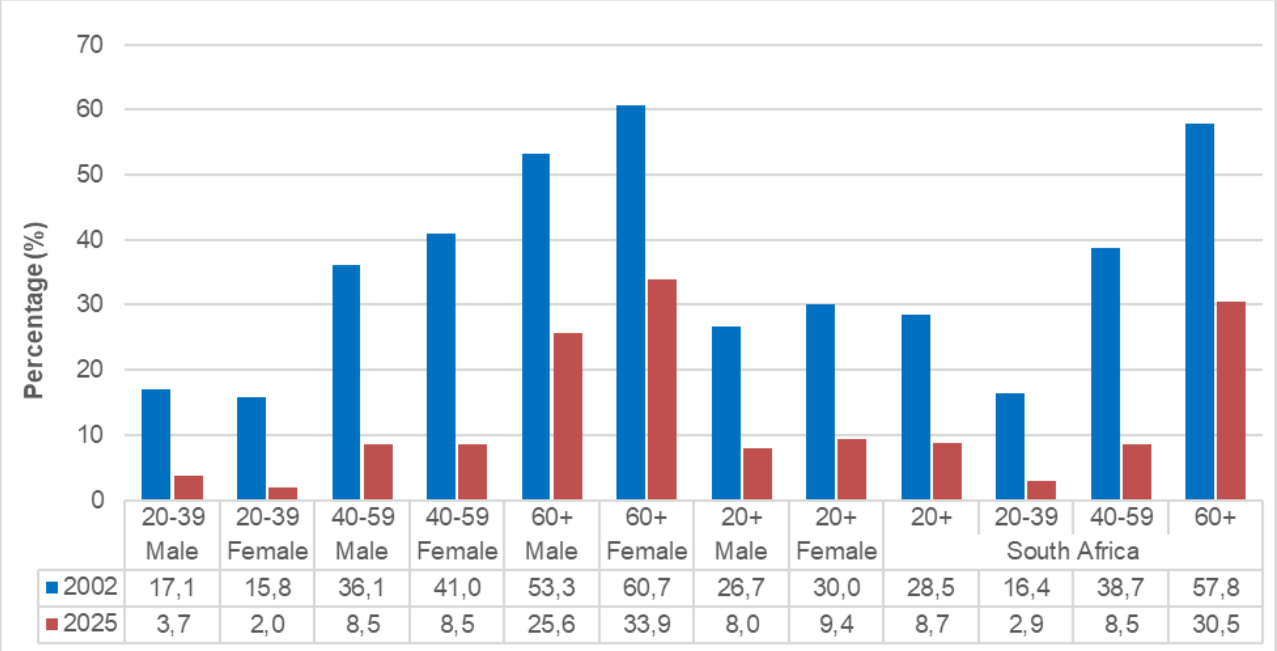
Nationally, more than one-third (36,2%) of persons aged 20 years and older have attained Grade 12 as their highest level of education, while 16,7% have attained some post-school qualifications. Post-school qualifications were most common in Gauteng (22,0%) and Western Cape (21,0%) and least common in Free State (11,9%) and the North West (12,2%).

4.6 Functional literacy

Literacy rates can be used as a key social indicator of development. Although a simple definition of literacy is the ability to read and write in at least one language, the simplicity of this measure is complicated by the need to know what is read and written, and for what purpose, and also how well it is done. Because it is so difficult to measure literacy, the GHS has historically measured adult literacy rates based on an individual's functional

literacy, e.g. whether they have completed at least Grade 7. This measure is closely related to educational attainment as described above, and is presented in Figure 4.11.

Figure 4.11 – Percentage (%) distribution of individuals aged 20 years and older with no formal education or highest level of education less than Grade 7 (functional illiteracy) by sex and age group, 2002 and 2025



	20-39 Male	20-39 Female	40-59 Male	40-59 Female	60+ Male	60+ Female	20+ Male	20+ Female	20+ South Africa	20-39 South Africa	40-59 South Africa	60+ South Africa
2002	17,1	15,8	36,1	41,0	53,3	60,7	26,7	30,0	28,5	16,4	38,7	57,8
2025	3,7	2,0	8,5	8,5	25,6	33,9	8,0	9,4	8,7	2,9	8,5	30,5

According to Figure 4.11, the percentage of individuals over the age of 20 years who could be regarded as functionally illiterate (who have either received no schooling or who have not completed Grade 7 yet) has declined from 28,5% in 2002 to 8,7% in 2025.

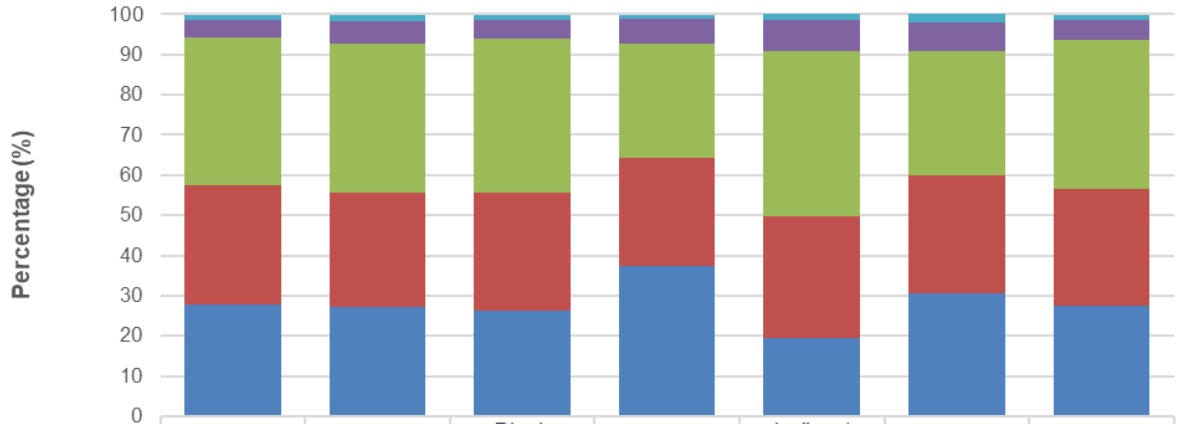
Individuals over the age of 60 years have consistently remained most likely to be functionally illiterate, followed by individuals in the age groups 40–59 and 20–39. Improved access to schooling has led to a significant decline in the percentage of functionally illiterate individuals in the 20–39 age group. Between 2002 and 2025, the prevalence of functional illiteracy in the age group 20–39 years declined noticeably for men (17,1% to 3,7%) and women (15,8% to 2,0%). The difference between men and women in terms of functional illiteracy has, however, declined significantly over time. Although a higher percentage of women than men over the age of 60 years were functionally illiterate in 2025 (33,9% compared with 25,6%), the difference has declined in each successive age group, to the point that, in 2025, a smaller percentage of women in the age group 20–39 were functionally illiterate than their male peers (2,0% compared with 3,7%).

5 Health

5.1 Self-reported health and health care provision

The GHS asked persons to assess their own health based on their own definition of health. Figure 5.1 shows that more than nine-tenths (93,6%) of South Africans perceived their health to be good, very good or excellent. A slightly higher percentage of males (27,7%) than females (27,0%) rated their health as ‘excellent’. The percentage of persons who rated their health as excellent was the highest among coloureds (37,5%) and lowest amongst Indians/Asians (19,6%).

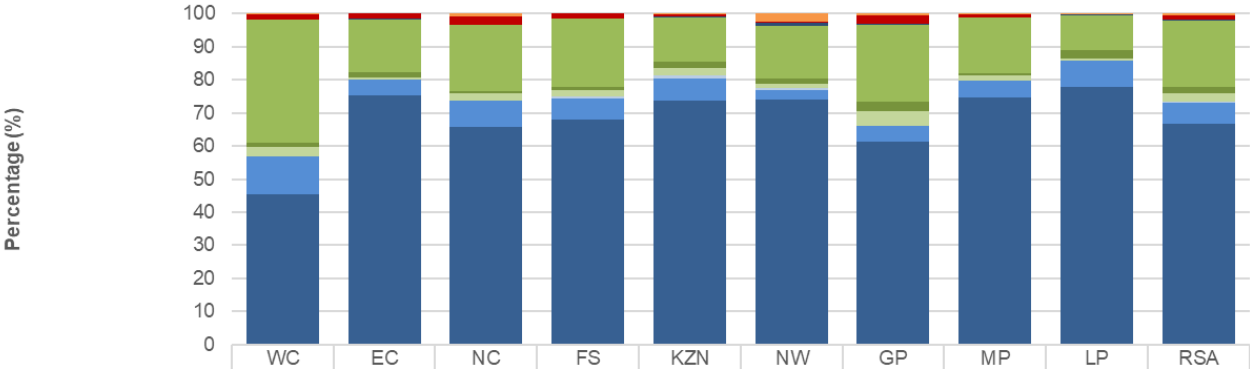
Figure 5.1 – Percentage (%) distribution of self-reported health status of individuals by sex and population group, 2025



	Sex		Population group				South Africa
	Male	Female	Black African	Coloured	Indian / Asian	White	
Poor	1,3	1,6	1,4	1,0	1,5	2,2	1,4
Fair	4,3	5,5	4,6	6,2	7,5	7,0	4,9
Good	36,8	37,2	38,3	28,5	41,3	30,9	37,0
Very Good	29,8	28,6	29,4	26,8	30,1	29,3	29,2
Excellent	27,7	27,0	26,3	37,5	19,6	30,6	27,4

The type of healthcare facility consulted by household members is influenced by factors such as households' proximity to facilities as well as personal preferences based on factors such as affordability and the perceived quality of services.

Figure 5.2 – Percentage (%) distribution of the type of healthcare facility consulted first by households when members fall ill or get injured by province, 2025



	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
Other	0,2	0,1	1,1	0,2	0,2	2,5	0,6	0,3	0,3	0,5
Pharmacy	1,6	1,6	2,4	1,5	0,9	0,5	2,6	0,9	0,2	1,5
Traditional healer	0,1	0,2	0,0	0,0	0,2	0,7	0,2	0,2	0,3	0,2
Private doctor	37,1	15,9	20,0	20,7	13,2	16,1	23,4	16,9	10,4	20,0
Private clinic	1,3	1,5	0,5	0,9	2,1	1,4	2,6	0,6	2,4	1,9
Private hospital	2,9	0,6	2,4	2,0	2,2	1,2	4,4	1,6	0,6	2,5
Other public institution	0,1	0,2	0,1	0,6	0,8	0,8	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,3
Public hospital	11,4	4,8	7,7	6,2	6,8	2,8	5,0	5,1	8,1	6,2
Public clinic	45,3	75,2	65,9	68,0	73,6	74,1	61,2	74,6	77,7	66,8

Figure 5.2 presents the type of healthcare facility that households generally visit first when household members fall ill or have accidents. Nationally, 73,3% of households said that they would first go to public clinics, hospitals or other public institutions, while 24,4% of households said that they would first consult a private doctor, private clinic or hospital. The use of public health facilities was least common in the Western Cape (56,8%) and Gauteng (66,2%), and most common in Limpopo (85,8%), the Eastern Cape (80,2%) and Mpumalanga (79,7%).

5.2 Medical aid coverage

Despite some minor fluctuations over the period, Table 5.1 shows that the percentage of individuals who were covered by a medical aid scheme changed very little between 2002 and 2025, declining only slightly from 15,9% to 15,5%. It is, however, notable that the number of individuals who were covered by a medical aid scheme increased from 7,3 million to 10,0 million persons during this period.

Table 5.1 – Medical aid coverage, 2002–2025

	Year (Numbers in thousands)											
Indicator	**2002**	**2004**	**2008**	**2010**	**2012**	**2014**	**2016**	**2018**	**2020**	**2022**	**2024**	**2025**
Number covered by a medical aid scheme	7 284	7 268	8 057	8 967	9 157	9 470	9 447	9 380	9 017	9 699	9 783	9 960
Number not covered by a medical aid scheme	38 445	39 666	41 266	41 606	42 819	43 946	45 646	47 628	50 328	51 590	53 307	53 972
Subtotal	**45 728**	**46 934**	**49 322**	**50 573**	**51 976**	**53 416**	**55 093**	**57 008**	**59 346**	**61 289**	**63 090**	63 932
Percentage covered by a medical aid scheme	**15,9**	**15,5**	**16,3**	**17,7**	**17,6**	**17,7**	**17,1**	**16,4**	**15,2**	**15,8**	**15,5**	15,5
Do not know	140	58	101	23	58	46	53	42	63	95	89	139
Unspecified	53	29	56	254	291	451	474	408	27	-	-	1
Total population	**45 868**	**46 992**	**49 423**	**50 596**	**52 034**	**53 462**	**55 146**	**57 050**	**59 409**	**61 384**	**63 179**	**64 071**

Figure 5.3 – Percentage (%) distribution of individuals who are members of medical aid schemes by province, 2025

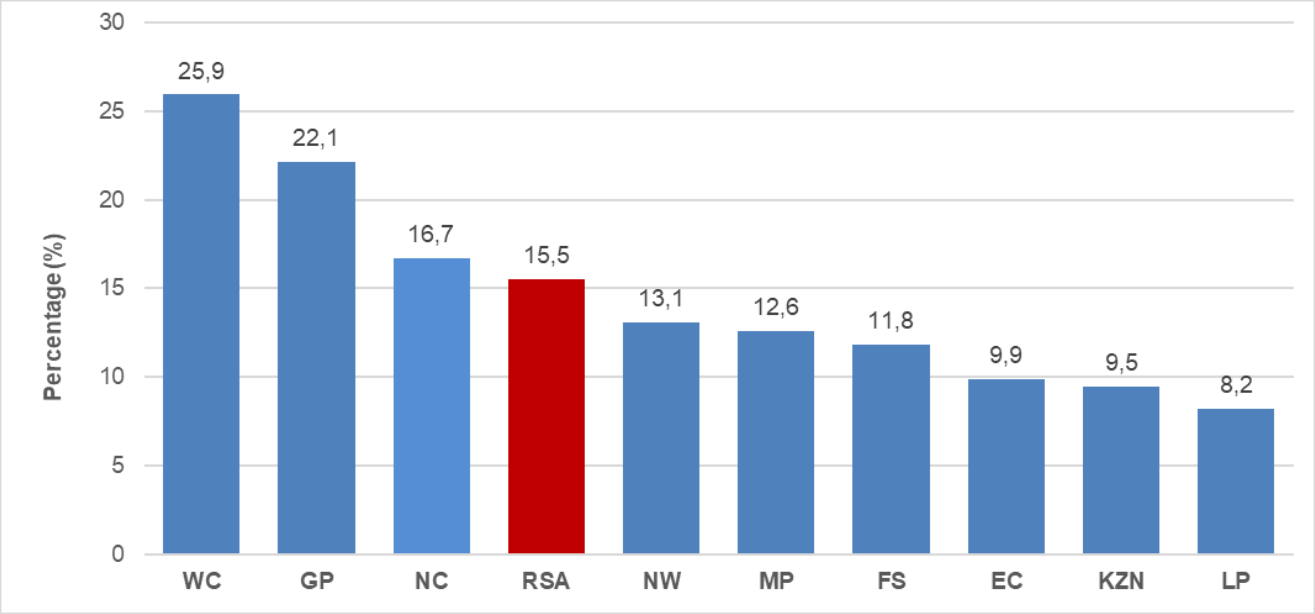
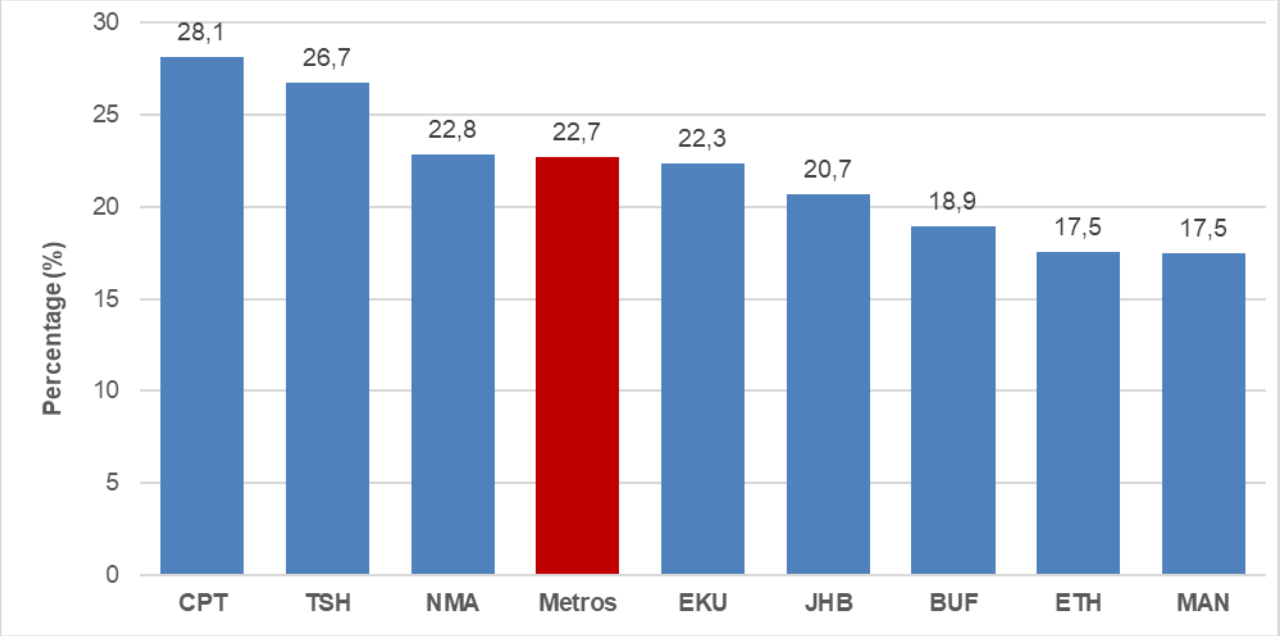


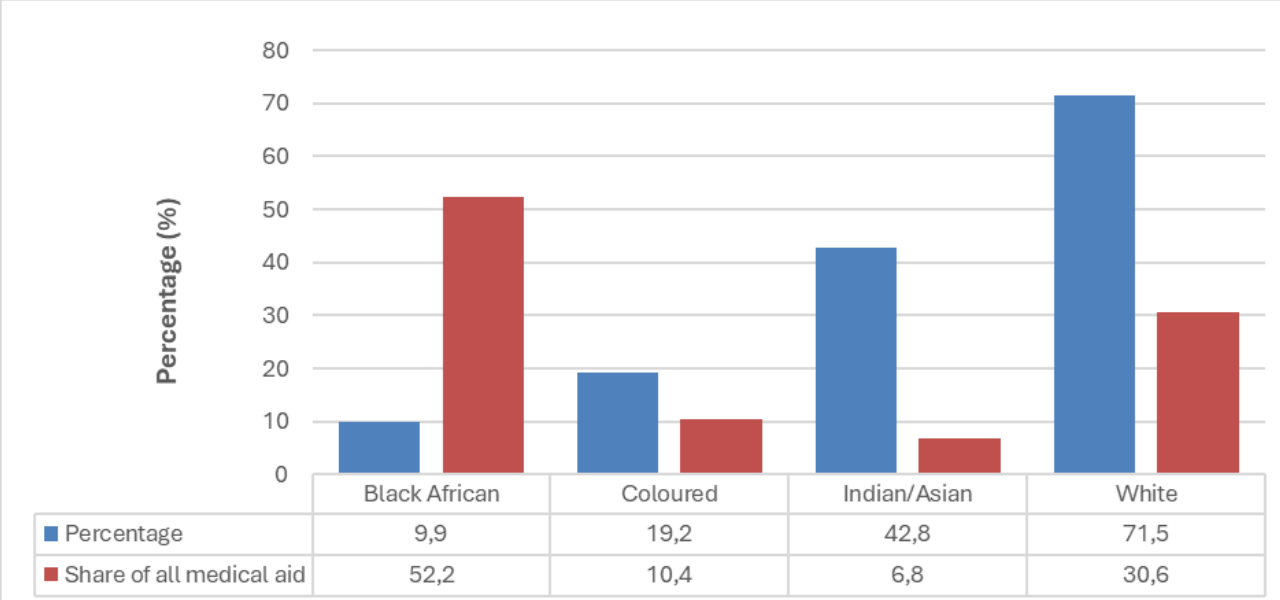
Figure 5.3 indicates that medical aid coverage was most prevalent in the Western Cape (25,9%) and Gauteng (22,1%), while it was least prevalent in Limpopo (8,2%) and KwaZulu-Natal (9,5%).

Figure 5.4 – Percentage (%) distribution of individuals who are members of medical aid schemes by metropolitan area, 2025



A higher percentage of individuals residing in metropolitan areas were members of medical aid schemes compared with the general population (22,7% versus 15,5%). Figure 5.4 shows that membership was most prevalent in Cape Town (28,1%) and Tshwane (26,7%), and least common in Mangaung (17,5%) and eThekwini (17,5%).

Figure 5.5 – Percentage (%) distribution of individuals who are members of medical aid schemes by population group, and share of medical aid scheme members by population group, 2025



	Black African	Coloured	Indian/Asian	White
Percentage	9,9	19,2	42,8	71,5
Share of all medical aid	52,2	10,4	6,8	30,6

Figure 5.5 shows that 71,5% of white individuals were members of a medical aid scheme compared with 42,8% of Indian/Asian individuals, 19,2% of coloureds and 9,9% of black Africans. However, expressed as a share of all medical aid members, black Africans comprised 52,2% of all members compared with 30,6% of whites.

5.3 Teenage pregnancy

The questionnaire asked whether any females between the ages of 12 and 50 years were pregnant during the 12 months before the survey. The results for teenagers aged 14– 19 years of age are presented in Figure 5.6.

Figure 5.6 – Percentage (%) distribution of females aged 14–19 who were pregnant during the year preceding the survey, 2025

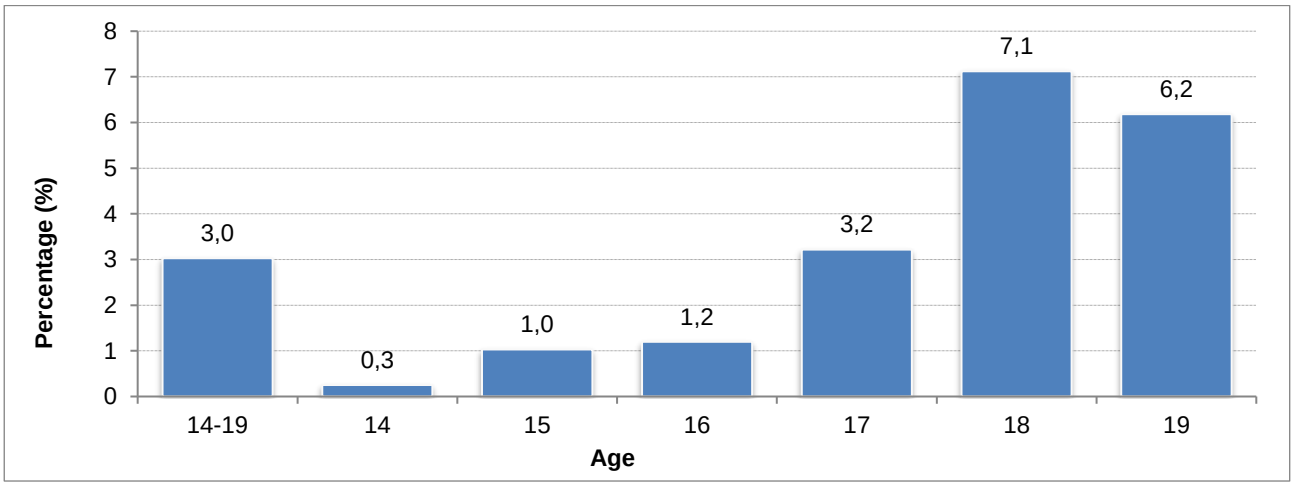


Figure 5.6 shows that 3,0% of females in the age group 14–19 years were at different stages of pregnancy during the 12 months before the survey. The prevalence of pregnancy increased with age, rising from 0,3% for females aged 14 years to 7,1% for females aged 18 years.

6 General Functioning

The questions used to establish general functioning were developed by the Washington Group and were first introduced in the 2009 questionnaire. These questions require each person in the household to rate their ability to perform a range of activities such as seeing, hearing, walking a kilometre or climbing a flight of stairs, remembering and concentrating, self-care, and communicating in his/her most commonly used language (including sign language).

Table 6.1 – Distribution of individuals aged 5 years and older with a disability by sex and province, 2025

Sex	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
					Percentage (%)					
Male	4,1	6,5	8,3	5,1	4,9	5,7	4,0	5,1	2,7	**4,7**
Female	5,4	7,7	12,1	7,6	6,8	7,1	4,4	4,7	3,0	**5,7**
Total	**4,7**	**7,1**	**10,2**	**6,4**	**5,9**	**6,4**	**4,2**	**4,9**	**2,9**	**5,2**
					Number (Thousands)					
Male	140	189	50	70	259	114	321	115	74	**1 331**
Female	194	230	74	110	396	141	358	110	88	**1 701**
Total	**335**	**418**	**124**	**180**	**654**	**255**	**679**	**224**	**162**	**3 032**
Population aged 5+	**7 060**	**5 884**	**1 213**	**2 827**	**11 064**	**3 999**	**16 110**	**4 567**	**5 658**	**58 382**

During the analysis, individuals who said that they had some difficulty with two or more of the activities or had a lot of difficulty, or were unable to perform any one activity, were classified as having a disability. The analysis was only confined to individuals aged 5 years and older as children below the age of five years may often be mistakenly categorised as being unable to walk, remember, communicate, or care for themselves when it may be due to their level of development rather than any innate disabilities they might have. The findings are presented in Table 6.1.

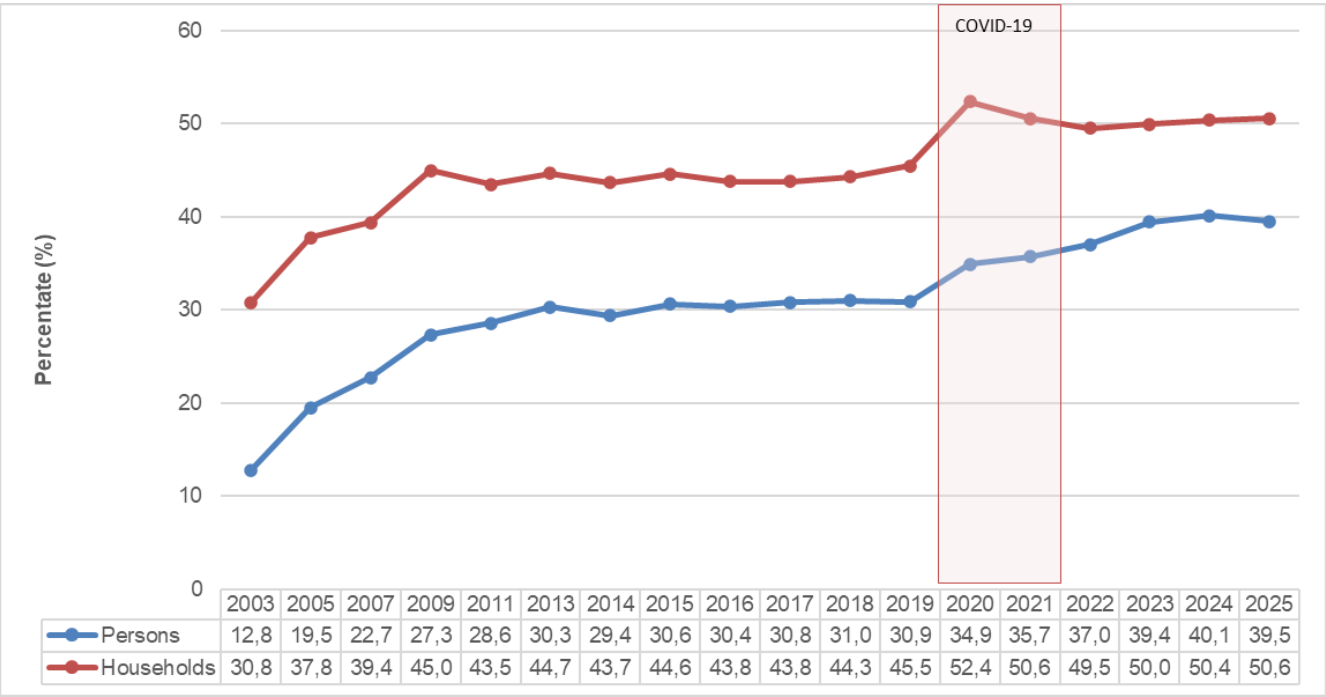
Table 6.1 shows that 5,2% of South Africans aged 5 years and older were persons with disabilities. Disabilities were more common for females (5,7%) than for males (4,7%). Persons with disabilities were most common in the Northern Cape (10,2%) and least common in Limpopo (2,9%).

7 Social security

The percentage of individuals who benefited from social grants increased gradually from 12,8% in 2003 to approximately 31% between 2017 and 2019 before rising steadily to 40,1% in 2024, before dropping back slightly to 39,5% in 2025. This growth was tracked closely by that of households that received at least one social grant.

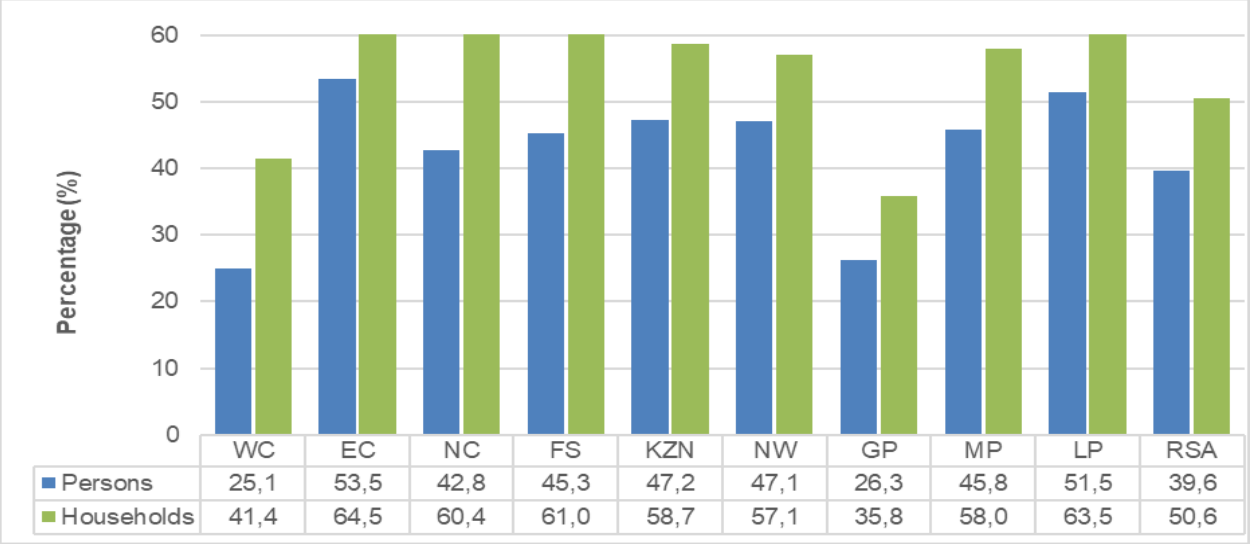
The percentage of households that received at least one social grant increased relatively consistently from 30,8% in 2003 to 45,5% in 2019, before rising to 52,4% in 2020 as a result of the introduction of the SRD Covid-19 grants. The percentage of households that receive at least one grant has, since then, declined to 50,6% in 2025, the same level as in 2021.

Figure 7.1 – Percentage (%) distribution of households and individuals who have benefited from social grants, 2003–2025



	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Persons	12,8	19,5	22,7	27,3	28,6	30,3	29,4	30,6	30,4	30,8	31,0	30,9	34,9	35,7	37,0	39,4	40,1	39,5
Households	30,8	37,8	39,4	45,0	43,5	44,7	43,7	44,6	43,8	43,8	44,3	45,5	52,4	50,6	49,5	50,0	50,4	50,6

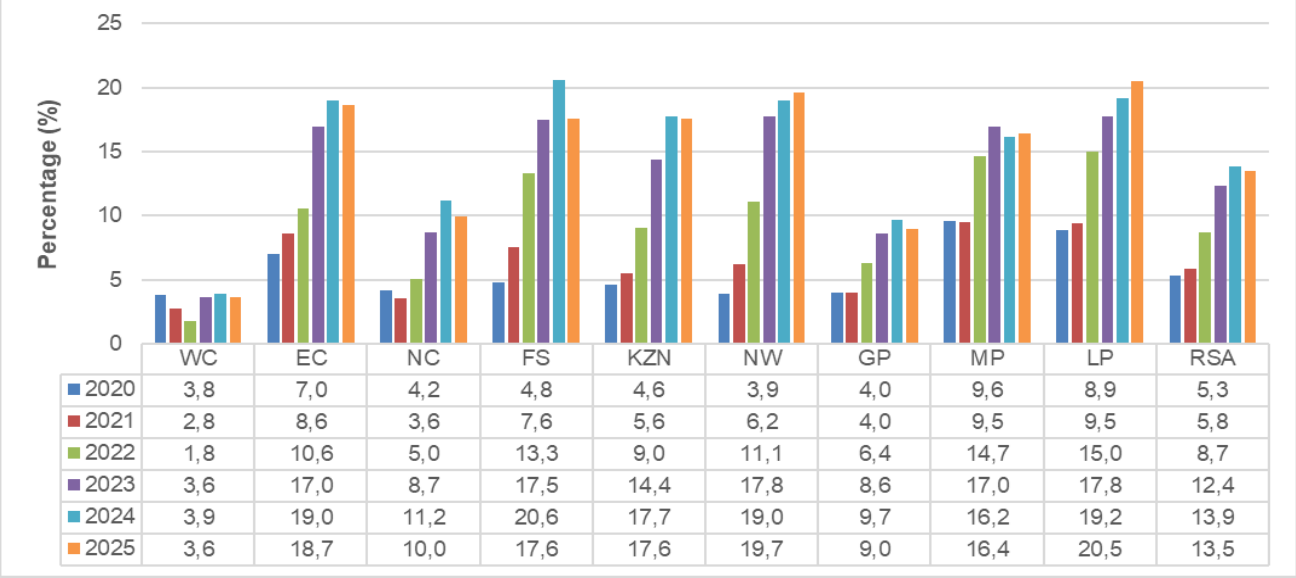
Figure 7.2 – Percentage (%) distribution of individuals and households benefiting from social grants by province, 2025



	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
Persons	25,1	53,5	42,8	45,3	47,2	47,1	26,3	45,8	51,5	39,6
Households	41,4	64,5	60,4	61,0	58,7	57,1	35,8	58,0	63,5	50,6

Figure 7.2 summarises the provincial distribution of individuals and households that benefited from social grants in 2025. Grant beneficiaries were most common in the Eastern Cape (53,5%) and Limpopo (51,5%), and least common in the Western Cape (25,1%) and Gauteng (26,3%). Households that received at least one type of social grant were most common in the Eastern Cape (64,5%), Limpopo (63,5%) and Free State (61,0%), and least common in Gauteng (35,8%) and the Western Cape (41,4%).

Figure 7.3 – Percentage (%) distribution of individuals aged 18–59 years that benefited from the special COVID-19 social relief of distress grant by province, 2020–2025

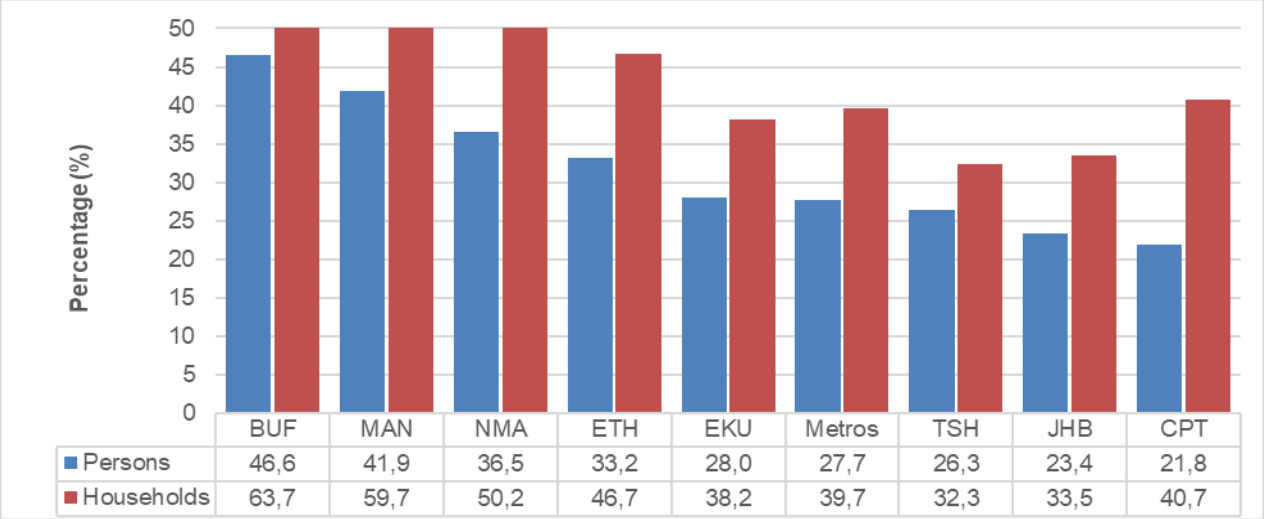


	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
2020	3,8	7,0	4,2	4,8	4,6	3,9	4,0	9,6	8,9	5,3
2021	2,8	8,6	3,6	7,6	5,6	6,2	4,0	9,5	9,5	5,8
2022	1,8	10,6	5,0	13,3	9,0	11,1	6,4	14,7	15,0	8,7
2023	3,6	17,0	8,7	17,5	14,4	17,8	8,6	17,0	17,8	12,4
2024	3,9	19,0	11,2	20,6	17,7	19,0	9,7	16,2	19,2	13,9
2025	3,6	18,7	10,0	17,6	17,6	19,7	9,0	16,4	20,5	13,5

The Special COVID-19 Social Relief of Distress (SRD) grant was introduced in 2020 to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since its introduction, the proportion of individuals aged 18–59 years who received the grant increased from 5,3% in 2020 to 13,9% in 2024, before declining marginally to 13,5% in 2025.

Figure 7.3 shows that uptake of the SRD grant was highest in Limpopo (20,5%) and North West (19,7%) in 2025. In contrast, the lowest levels of uptake were recorded in the Western Cape (3,6%) and Gauteng (9,0%).

Figure 7.4 – Percentage (%) of individuals and households benefiting from social grants by metropolitan area, 2025



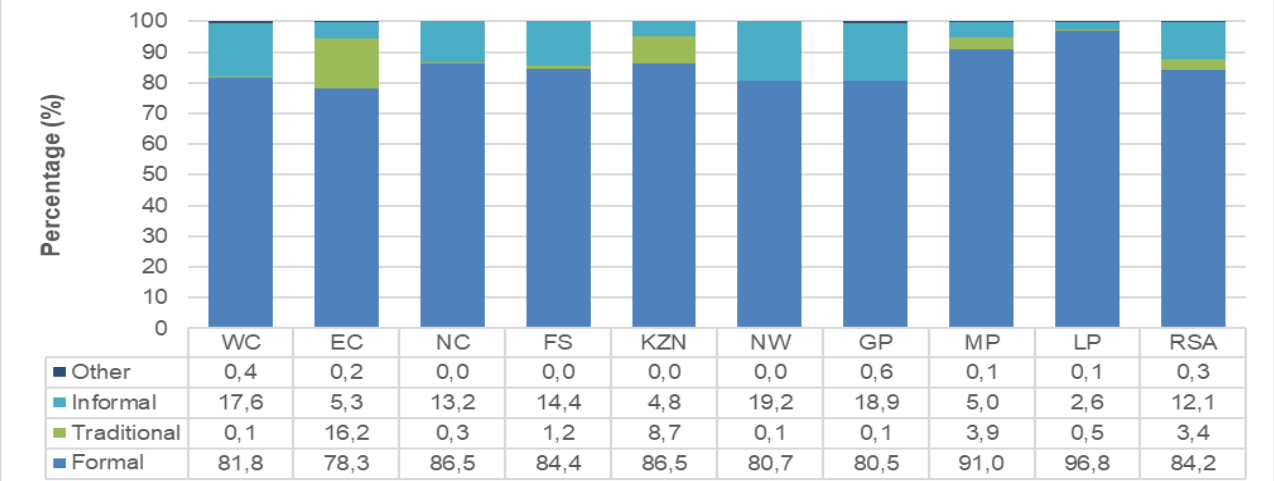
	BUF	MAN	NMA	ETH	EKU	Metros	TSH	JHB	CPT
Persons	46,6	41,9	36,5	33,2	28,0	27,7	26,3	23,4	21,8
Households	63,7	59,7	50,2	46,7	38,2	39,7	32,3	33,5	40,7

The percentage of individuals and households that received social grants in the various metropolitan areas during 2025 are presented in Figure 7.4. The figure shows that 27,7% of all individuals, and 39,7% of all households in metropolitan areas received some kind of social grant (compared with 39,6% of individuals and 50,6% of households nationally). Individual grant receipt was highest in Buffalo City (46,6%), Mangaung (41,9%) and Nelson Mandela Bay (36,5%), and lowest in the City of Cape Town (21,8%), the City of Johannesburg (23,4%) and the City of Tshwane (26,3%). Figure 7.4 further shows that the receipt of one or more social grants was most common among households in Buffalo City (63,7%) and Mangaung (59,7%) and least common in the City of Tshwane (32,3%) and the City of Johannesburg (33,5%).

8 Housing

Shelter satisfies a basic human need for physical security and comfort and the characteristics of the dwellings in which households live provide an important indication of the well-being of household members. Section 8 presents selected findings from 2002 to 2025 on the types of dwellings in which South African households lived as well as the perceived quality thereof.

Figure 8.1 – Percentage (%) distribution of households that lived in formal, informal and traditional dwellings by province, 2025

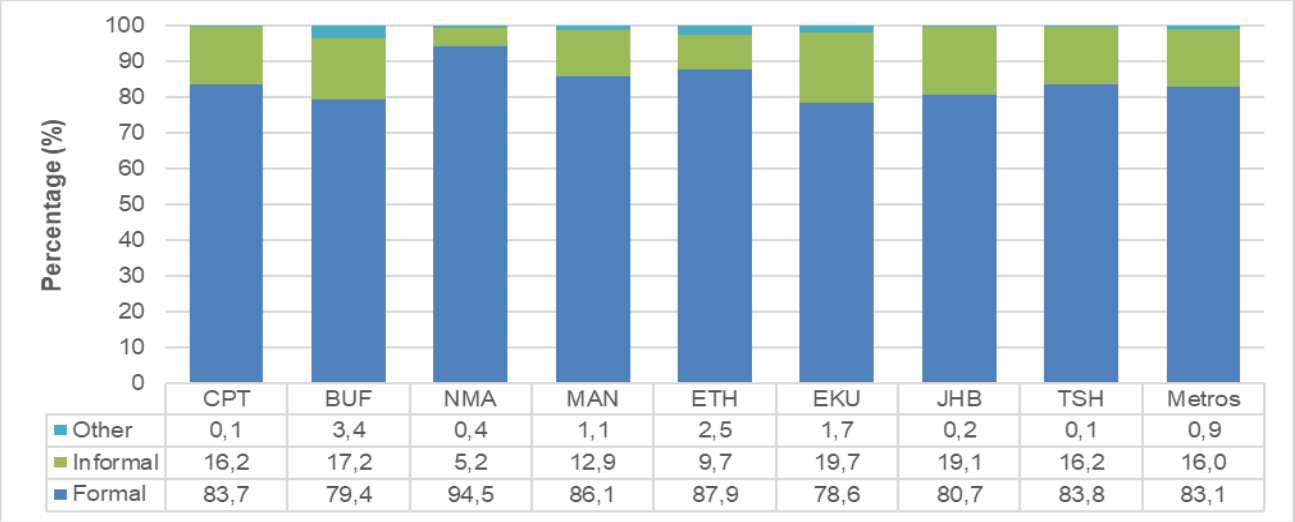


	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
Other	0,4	0,2	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,6	0,1	0,1	0,3
Informal	17,6	5,3	13,2	14,4	4,8	19,2	18,9	5,0	2,6	12,1
Traditional	0,1	16,2	0,3	1,2	8,7	0,1	0,1	3,9	0,5	3,4
Formal	81,8	78,3	86,5	84,4	86,5	80,7	80,5	91,0	96,8	84,2

Figure 8.1 shows that more than eight-tenths (84,2%) of South African households lived in formal dwellings in 2025, followed by 12,1% in informal dwellings, and 3,4% in traditional dwellings. Households that lived in formal dwellings were most common in Limpopo (96,8%) and Mpumalanga (91,0%). North West (19,2%) had the

highest percentage of households that lived in informal dwellings, followed by Gauteng (18,9%) and the Western Cape (17,6%). Traditional dwellings were most common in the Eastern Cape (16,2%) and KwaZulu-Natal (8,7%).

Figure 8.2 – Percentage (%) distribution of households that lived in formal, informal and other types of dwellings by metropolitan area, 2025

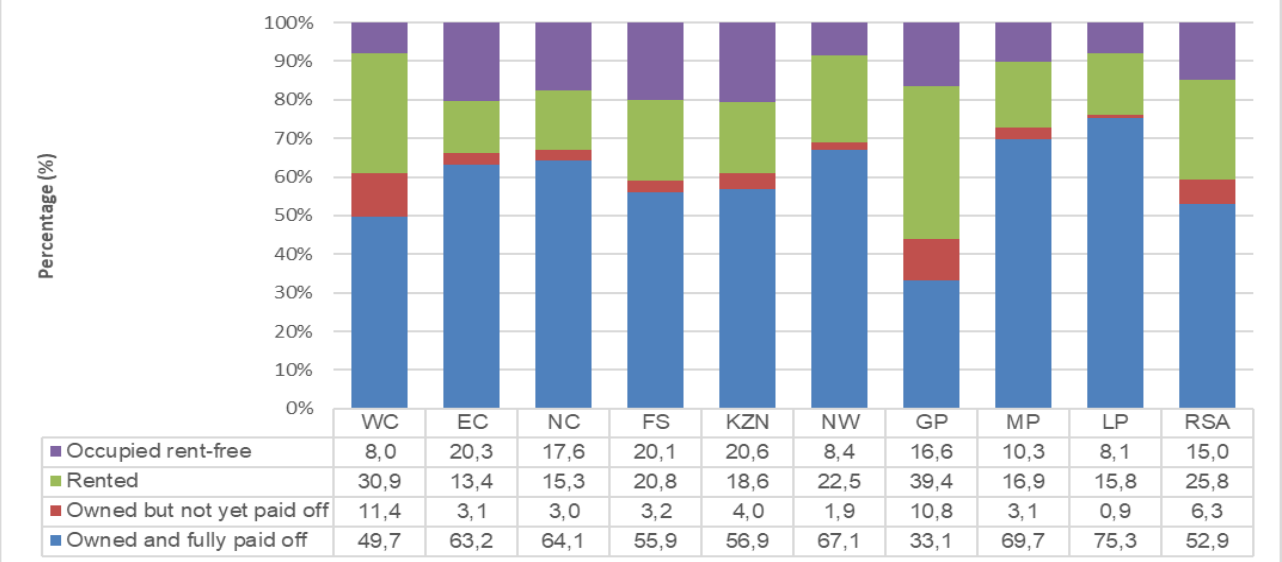


	CPT	BUF	NMA	MAN	ETH	EKU	JHB	TSH	Metros
Other	0,1	3,4	0,4	1,1	2,5	1,7	0,2	0,1	0,9
Informal	16,2	17,2	5,2	12,9	9,7	19,7	19,1	16,2	16,0
Formal	83,7	79,4	94,5	86,1	87,9	78,6	80,7	83,8	83,1

Note: Other includes traditional and 'other' dwellings

Figure 8.2 shows that 83,1% of households in metropolitan areas lived in formal dwellings while 16,0% lived in informal dwellings. Informal dwellings were most common in Ekurhuleni (19,7%) and the City of Johannesburg (19,1%), and least common in Nelson Mandela Bay (5,2%).

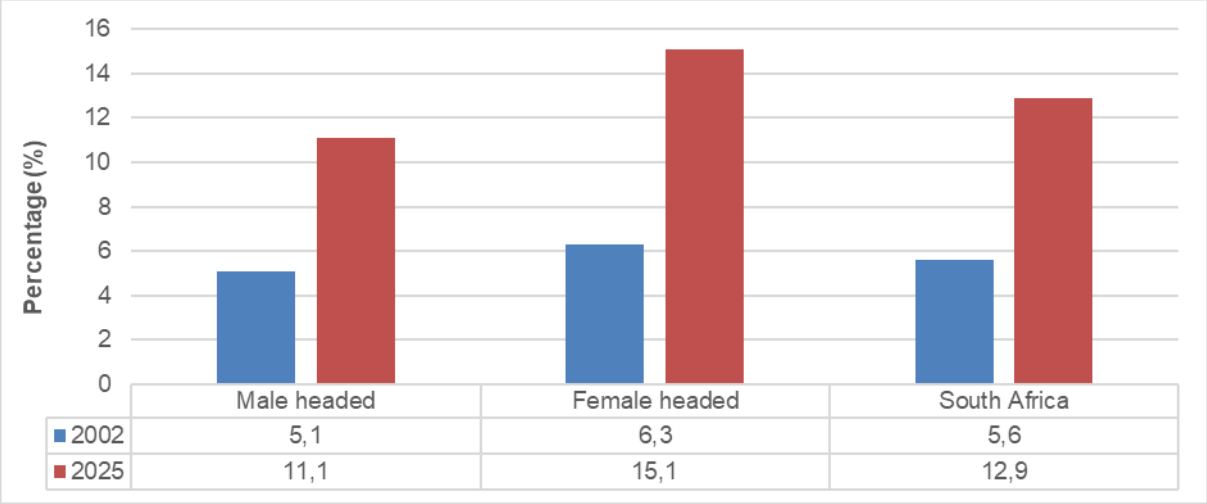
Figure 8.3 – Percentage (%) distribution of dwelling units by tenure status and province, 2025



	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
Occupied rent-free	8,0	20,3	17,6	20,1	20,6	8,4	16,6	10,3	8,1	15,0
Rented	30,9	13,4	15,3	20,8	18,6	22,5	39,4	16,9	15,8	25,8
Owned but not yet paid off	11,4	3,1	3,0	3,2	4,0	1,9	10,8	3,1	0,9	6,3
Owned and fully paid off	49,7	63,2	64,1	55,9	56,9	67,1	33,1	69,7	75,3	52,9

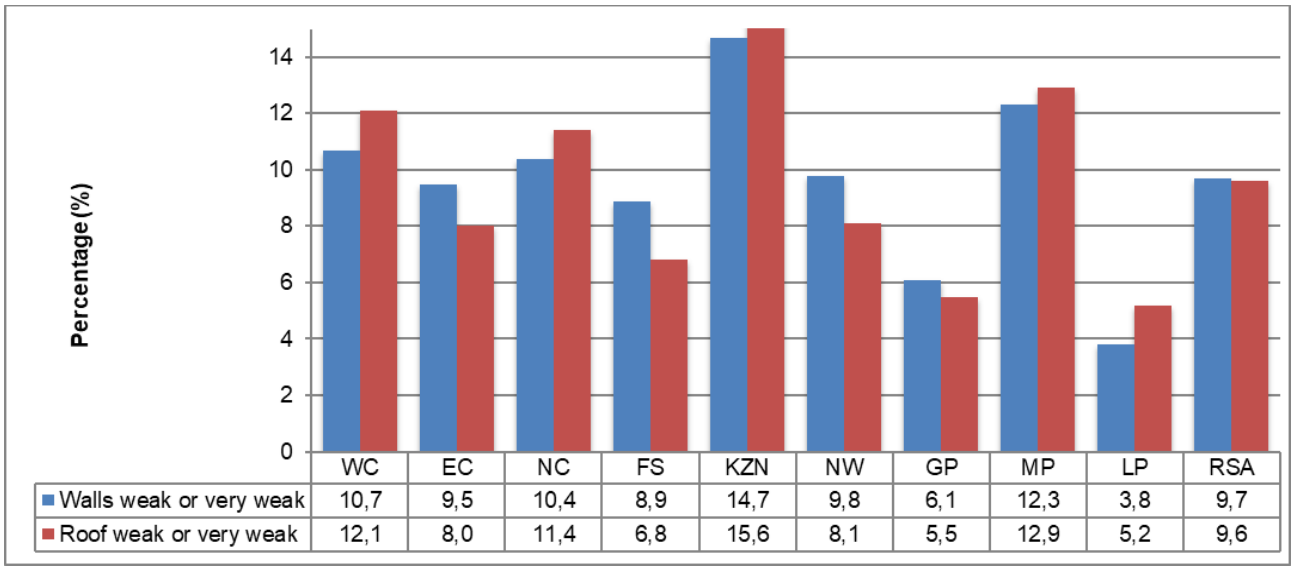
Figure 8.3 shows that households that lived in rented dwellings were most common in Gauteng (39,4%) and the Western Cape (30,9%), and least common in the Eastern Cape (13,4%), Northern Cape (15,3%) and Limpopo (15,8%). Households that owned the dwellings they lived in, regardless of whether they have fully paid it off or not, were most common in Limpopo (76,2%), Mpumalanga (72,8%) and North West (69,0%). Only 43,9% of households in Gauteng and 61,1% in the Western Cape owned the dwellings they lived in. Nationally, 15,0% of households occupied the dwellings they were living in rent-free.

Figure 8.4 – Percentage (%) distribution of households that received a government housing subsidy by sex of the household head, 2002 and 2025



The GHS includes a number of questions aimed at establishing the extent to which subsidised housing provided by the state was used, and the quality of these dwellings. Figure 8.4 shows that the percentage of households that received some form of government housing subsidy increased from 5,6% in 2002 to 12,9% in 2025. A notably higher percentage of female-headed households (15,1%) than male-headed households (11,1%) received subsidies. This is in line with government policies that give preference to households headed by individuals from vulnerable groups, including females and individuals with disabilities.

Figure 8.5 – Percentage (%) distribution of households that said that their 'RDP' or state-subsidised house had weak or very weak walls and/or roof by province, 2025



As a result of the concerns raised by community groups about the quality of state-provided housing, a number of questions were included in the GHS questionnaires to facilitate an analysis of the extent of problems experienced by households with the construction of these dwellings. Respondents were asked to indicate whether the walls and roofs of their dwellings were: very good, good, needed minor repairs, weak or very weak.

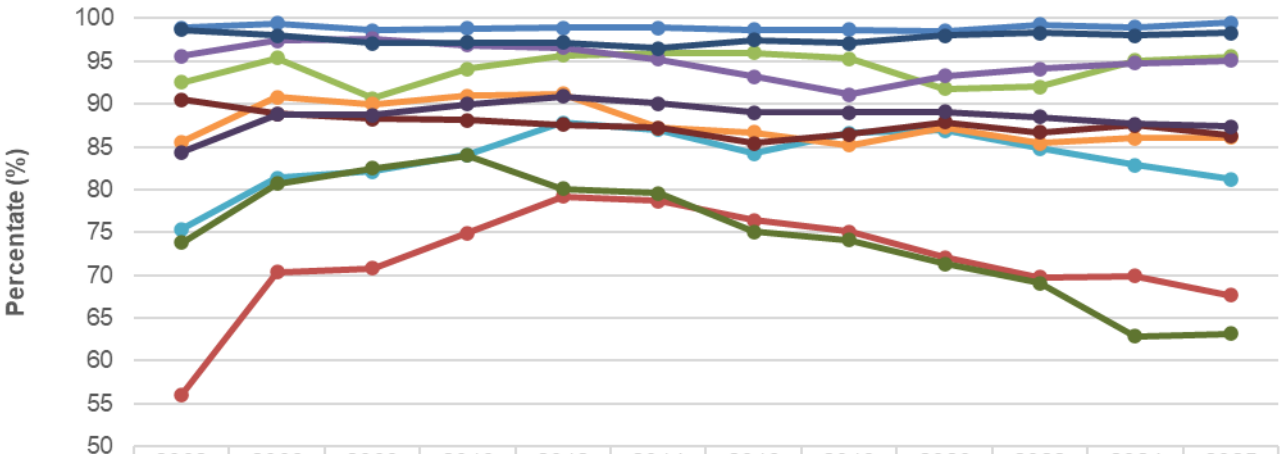
Figure 8.5 shows that, nationally, 9,6% of households that lived in subsidised dwellings reported weak or very weak roofs, while 9,7% reported weak or very weak walls. Responses varied across provinces. Households in KwaZulu-Natal (respectively 14,7% and 15,6%) were generally least satisfied with the quality of walls and roofs, while those in Limpopo complained least about the state of their dwellings' walls (3,8%) and roofs (5,2%).

9 Drinking water

9.1 Access to drinking water

The provision of safe and readily available water is important for public health and poverty reduction. The proportion of households with access to piped or tap water in their dwellings, off-site or on-site by province is represented in Figure 9.1.

Figure 9.1 – Percentage (%) distribution of households with access to piped or tap water in their dwellings, off-site or on-site by province, selected years 2002–2025



	2002	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022	2024	2025
WC	98,9	99,4	98,6	98,8	98,9	98,9	98,7	98,7	98,5	99,3	99,0	99,5
EC	56,1	70,4	70,8	74,9	79,2	78,7	76,4	75,1	72,1	69,8	69,9	67,7
NC	92,5	95,4	90,7	94,1	95,7	96,0	96,0	95,3	91,8	92,0	95,1	95,5
FS	95,6	97,4	97,6	96,9	96,6	95,2	93,2	91,1	93,3	94,1	94,8	95,1
KZN	75,4	81,4	82,1	84,1	87,8	87,0	84,2	86,6	86,9	84,8	82,9	81,2
NW	85,6	90,8	90,0	91,0	91,2	87,2	86,7	85,2	87,3	85,4	86,0	86,1
GP	98,7	98,0	97,1	97,2	97,2	96,5	97,5	97,1	98,0	98,3	98,0	98,3
MP	90,5	88,9	88,3	88,1	87,6	87,2	85,4	86,5	87,9	86,7	87,5	86,3
LP	73,8	80,7	82,5	84,0	80,1	79,6	75,1	74,1	71,3	69,1	62,9	63,2
RSA	84,4	88,8	88,7	90,0	90,9	90,1	89,0	89,0	89,1	88,5	87,7	87,4

Access to drinking water on-site: Water accessed in the dwelling or in the yard

Access to drinking water off-site: Water accessed outside the yard using a neighbour's tap, public or communal taps.

Figure 9.1 shows that tap water inside dwellings, on-site, or off-site was most common among households in the Western Cape (99,5%), Gauteng (98,3%), and the Northern Cape (95,5%) and least common in Limpopo (63,2%) and the Eastern Cape (67,7%). Although the percentage of households in Eastern Cape with access to water in the dwelling, on- or off-site increased by 23,1 percentage points between 2002 and 2012, access has declined by 11,5 percentage points to 67,7% since then. A similar pattern is observed in Limpopo where access to piped or tap water in dwellings, off-site or on-site increased from 73,8% to 84,0% in 2010, before declining to 63,2% in 2025, just over 10 percentage points lower than in two decades earlier in 2002. On a more positive note, access to water in KwaZulu-Natal increased by 5,8 percentage points to 81,2% over this period.

Although, nationally, access to tap water inside dwellings, off-site or on-site improved by 3,0 percentage points between 2002 and 2025, it is notable that access actually declined in four provinces during this period. Declines were observed in Limpopo (-10,6 percentage points), Mpumalanga (-4,2 percentage points), the Free State (-0,5 of a percentage point) and Gauteng (-0,4 of a percentage point). Although the percentage of households with access to water has been declining, it is important to note that a larger number of households received tap water in 2025 than two decades earlier.

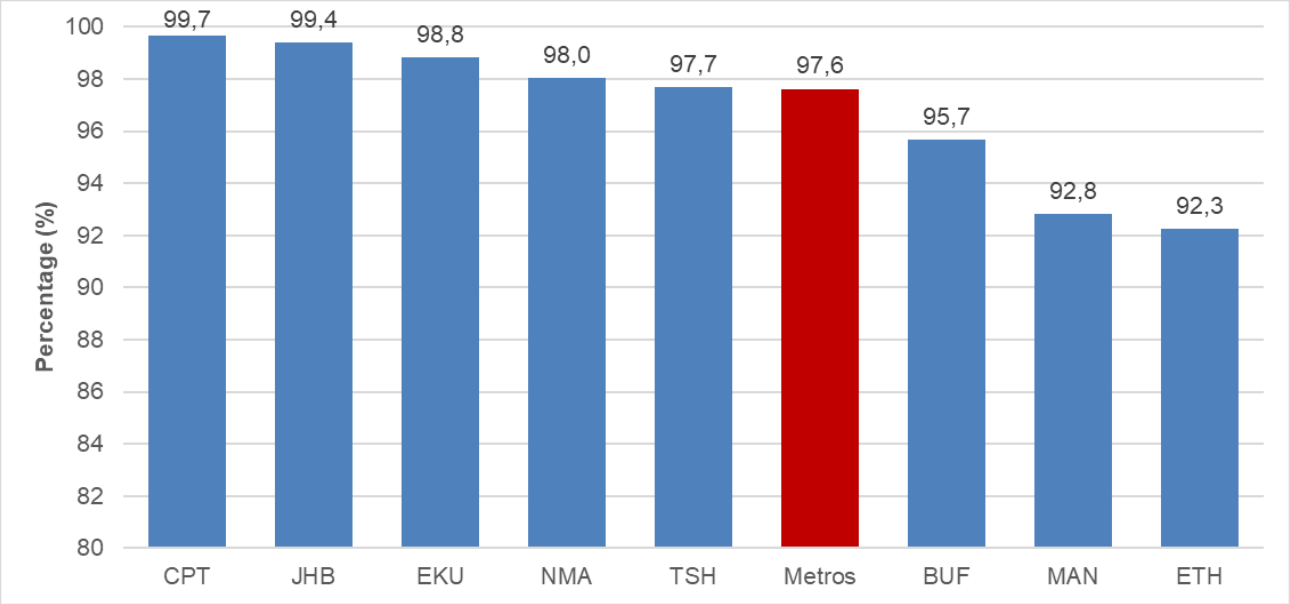
Table 9.1 – Comparison of the main water source for drinking used by households, 2002–2025

	Year											
	2002	**2004**	**2006**	**2008**	**2010**	**2012**	**2014**	**2016**	**2018**	**2022**	**2024**	**2025**
Percentage (%)												
Piped (tap) water in dwelling	40,4	40,1	41,2	43,7	42,8	44,6	46,4	46,6	46,3	45,8	46,4	45,1
Piped (tap) water on site/yard	27,7	29,3	30,2	27,1	29,1	27,6	27,0	26,8	28,5	30,0	30,4	31,2
Borehole on site	2,7	1,6	1,2	1,2	1,1	1,4	1,9	1,8	2,1	2,3	2,6	2,6
Rainwater tank on site	1,3	0,3	0,4	0,5	0,3	0,6	0,4	0,8	1,2	1,9	2,3	2,4
Neighbour's tap	0,6	2,3	2,1	2,6	2,5	2,9	2,7	2,4	1,9	2,0	2,2	2,5
Public/communal tap	13,6	14,8	15,4	15,6	15,5	15,9	14,0	13,2	12,3	10,7	8,8	8,6
Water-carrier/tanker	0,6	0,6	1,1	1,1	1,4	1,4	1,2	2,4	1,8	1,4	1,1	1,5
Water vendor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,3	1,7	2,2	2,2
Borehole outside yard	2,8	2,7	2,3	1,9	1,3	1,1	1,2	1,6	1,5	1,1	1,2	1,1
Flowing water/stream/river	5,9	4,7	3,3	3,5	3,2	2,3	2,7	2,1	1,7	1,5	1,2	1,4
Stagnant water/dam/pool	0,7	0,6	0,3	0,3	0,3	0,2	0,4	0,2	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1
Well	1,4	1,0	1,0	0,6	0,3	0,4	0,5	0,3	0,3	0,2	0,3	0,4
Spring	2,0	1,8	1,3	1,5	1,5	1,3	0,9	1,0	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,5
Other	0,3	0,2	0,2	0,3	0,6	0,5	0,7	0,9	0,4	0,7	0,5	0,5
Total	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**
Total												
Piped (tap) water in dwelling	4 521	4 698	5 037	5 582	5 757	6 304	6 908	7 339	7 722	8 459	9 068	9 069
Piped (tap) water on site/yard	3 097	3 429	3 695	3 460	3 920	3 902	4 023	4 214	4 758	5 540	5 941	6 284
Borehole on site	301	190	140	153	154	196	278	288	353	421	506	522
Rainwater tank on site	143	40	51	68	45	79	65	121	205	345	449	480
Neighbour's tap	63	267	253	337	341	411	409	378	314	370	419	495
Public/communal tap	1 522	1 737	1 882	1 995	2 089	2 241	2 084	2 078	2 044	1 977	1 727	1 732
Water-carrier/tanker	71	70	135	144	194	191	184	370	294	265	224	310
Water vendor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	212	310	420	433
Borehole outside yard	315	311	280	248	172	158	185	249	257	197	242	215
Flowing water/stream/river	660	553	405	447	428	323	401	335	279	276	241	278
Stagnant water/dam/pool	83	66	31	37	40	30	52	34	23	22	12	28
Well	159	120	127	70	36	54	73	50	42	43	61	75
Spring	224	208	163	190	205	184	140	154	104	131	142	93
Other	28	18	25	33	74	67	101	134	65	123	99	101
Subtotal	**11 187**	**11 707**	**12 223**	**12 765**	**13 456**	**14 140**	**14 904**	**15 744**	**16 671**	**18 477**	**19 551**	**20 114**
Unspecified	**8**	**12**	**20**	**55**	**0**	**12**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Total	**11 194**	**11 718**	**12 243**	**12 819**	**13 456**	**14 152**	**14 904**	**15 744**	**16 671**	**18 477**	**19 551**	**20 114**

-: Category was only introduced in 2019

Table 9.1 presents a comparison of the main sources of water used by households. An estimated 45,1% of households had access to piped water in their dwellings in 2025. A further 31,2% accessed water on-site while 8,6% relied on communal taps and 2,5% relied on a neighbour's tap. Although households' access to piped water improved over time, 2,4% of households used water from rivers, streams, stagnant water pools, dams, wells and springs in 2025.

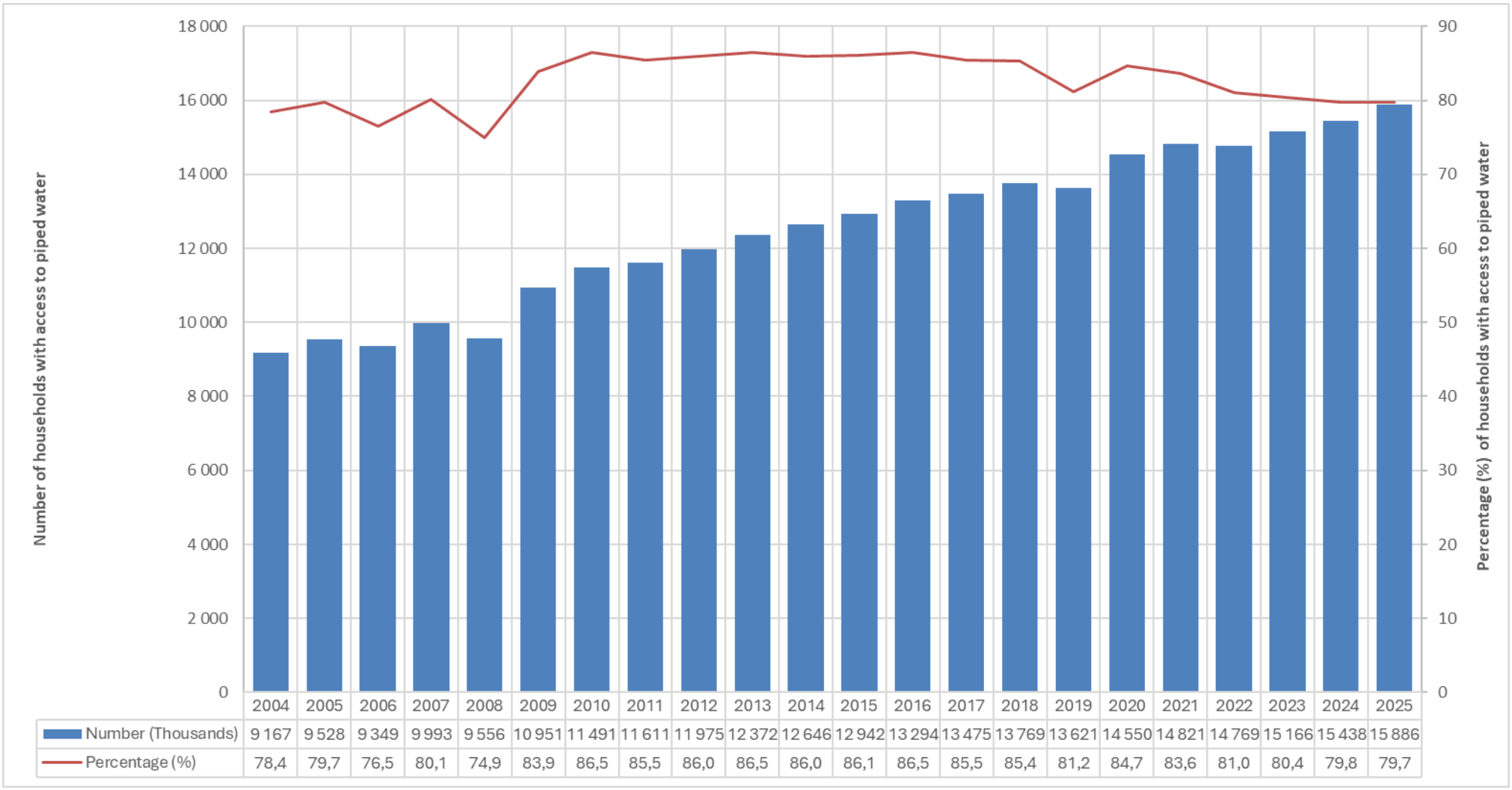
Figure 9.2 – Percentage (%) distribution of households with access to piped or tap water in their dwellings, off-site or on-site by metropolitan area, 2025



The percentage of households with access to piped or tap water in their dwellings, off-site or on-site by metropolitan area, is presented in Figure 9.2. The figure shows that 97,6% of households in metros had access to piped or tap water. This type of access to water was most common in the City of Cape Town (99,7%), the City of Johannesburg (99,4%), and Ekurhuleni (98,8%). The lowest access amongst metros was recorded in eThekwini (92,3%), and Mangaung (92,8%).

Figure 9.3 shows that, despite a rather modest increase in the percentage of households with access to piped or tap water between 2004 and 2025 (1,3 percentage points), the number of households with access to piped or tap water from municipalities increased by 72,8% between 2004 and 2025, expanding from 9,2 million to 15,9 million during this period.

Figure 9.3 – Access to piped municipal water supplies, 2004–2025

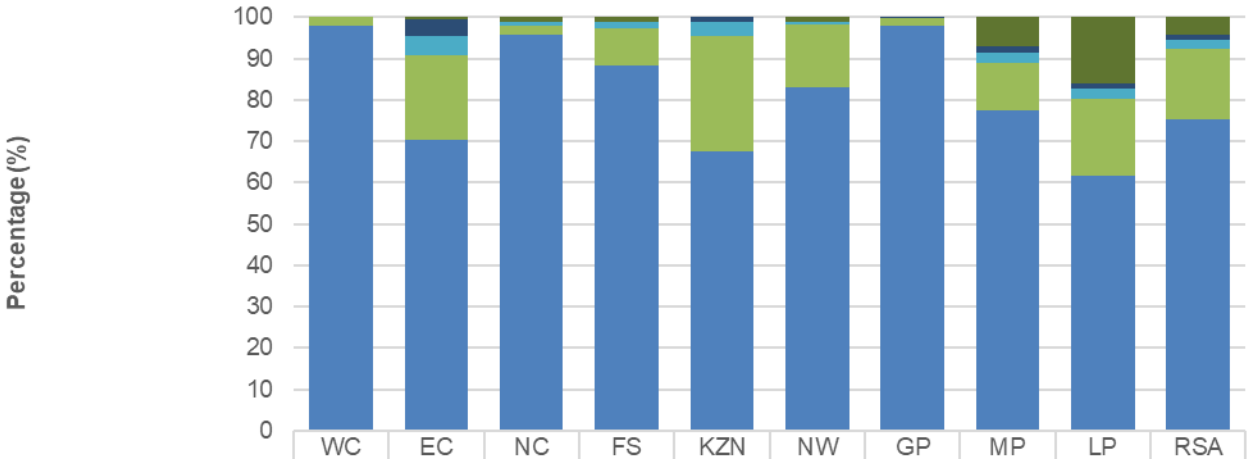


	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number (Thousands)	9 167	9 528	9 349	9 993	9 556	10 951	11 491	11 611	11 975	12 372	12 646	12 942	13 294	13 475	13 769	13 621	14 550	14 821	14 769	15 166	15 438	15 886
Percentage (%)	78,4	79,7	76,5	80,1	74,9	83,9	86,5	85,5	86,0	86,5	86,0	86,1	86,5	85,5	85,4	81,2	84,7	83,6	81,0	80,4	79,8	79,7

9.2 Fetching water

Figure 9.4 shows that just over three-quarters (75,2%) of households who did not have water in their dwelling or in their yards took less than 30 minutes to fetch water (i.e. to go there, get water and come back) from the nearest collection point. A further 17,0% took between 31 and 60 minutes. Households that took less than 30 minutes were most common in the Western Cape (98,0%%) and Gauteng (97,9%) and least common in Limpopo (61,5%) and KwaZulu-Natal (67,4%).

Figure 9.4 – Percentage distribution of households by time taken to fetch drinking water, 2025



	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
Members do not collect	0,0	0,5	1,1	1,2	0,0	1,1	0,0	7,0	15,9	4,2
More than 90 minutes	0,0	4,1	0,0	0,0	1,1	0,2	0,2	1,7	1,2	1,3
61-90 minutes	0,0	4,5	1,1	1,6	3,5	0,5	0,0	2,3	2,5	2,3
31-60 minutes	2,0	20,5	2,0	8,9	28,0	15,3	1,9	11,4	18,9	17,0
Less than 30 minutes	98,0	70,4	95,8	88,3	67,4	83,0	97,9	77,6	61,5	75,2

9.3 Functionality of water supply

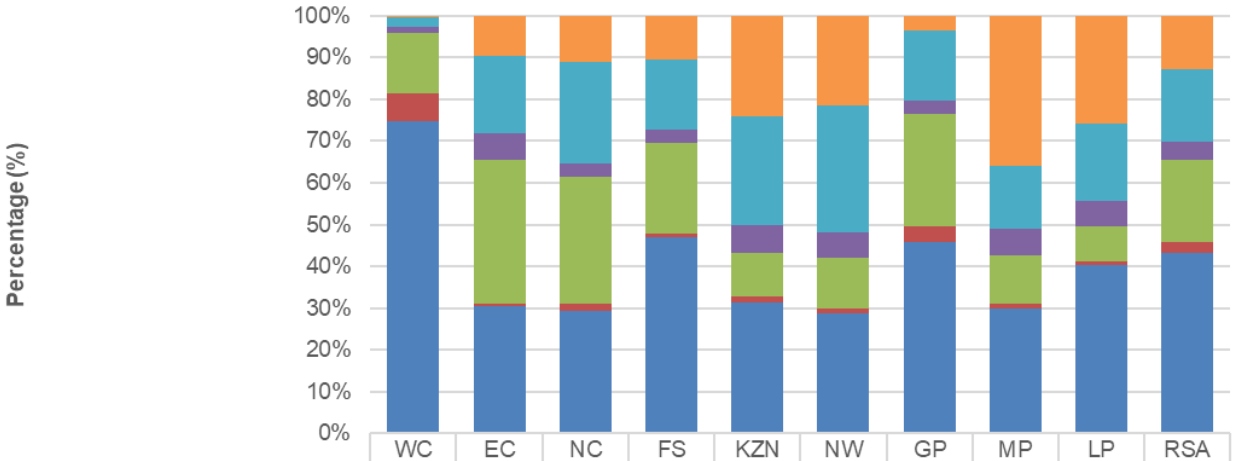
The functionality of municipal water supply services measures the extent to which households that received water from a municipality had reported, over the 12 months before the survey, interruptions that lasted more than 2 days at a time, or more than 15 days in total during the whole period. In addition to this number of days, households were asked to specify the frequency of these water interruptions.

Figure 9.5 shows that 56,8% of households in South Africa experienced water interruptions in 2025. Weekly water interruptions (12,7%) were most common in Mpumalanga (36,0%), Limpopo (25,9%) and KwaZulu-Natal (24,2%), and least common in the Western Cape (0,3%). Only 2,8% of the households experienced water interruptions only once in the past 12 months.

The figure indicates that approximately two-fifths (43,2%) of households reported no water interruptions during the preceding 12 months. Households that did not experience water interruptions were most prevalent in the Western Cape (74,8%), followed by the Free State (47,0%).

In contrast, substantially lower proportions of households reported no water interruptions in several provinces. Only 28,6% of households in North West, 29,4% in the Northern Cape, 30,0% in Mpumalanga, and 30,6% in the Eastern Cape indicated uninterrupted water supply over the same period. These provincial disparities highlight significant differences in the reliability of household water access across the country and point to ongoing infrastructure and service delivery challenges in certain regions.

Figure 9.5 – Percentage (%) distribution of households by frequency of water interruptions and province, 2025



	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
Every week	0,3	9,7	11,1	10,5	24,2	21,6	3,5	36,0	25,9	12,7
A couple of times per month	2,4	18,5	24,2	16,7	25,9	30,2	16,9	15,1	18,3	17,5
Once per month	1,5	6,5	3,2	3,2	6,8	6,1	3,1	6,2	6,2	4,4
A couple of times per year	14,5	34,2	30,4	21,8	10,2	12,4	26,9	11,8	8,5	19,5
Only one time over the past year	6,5	0,6	1,7	0,7	1,6	1,1	3,8	0,9	0,9	2,8
No water interruption	74,8	30,6	29,4	47,0	31,4	28,6	45,8	30,0	40,2	43,2

Figure 9.6 – Percentage (%) distribution of households that reported water interruptions that lasted at least 2 days or longer than 15 days by province, 2025

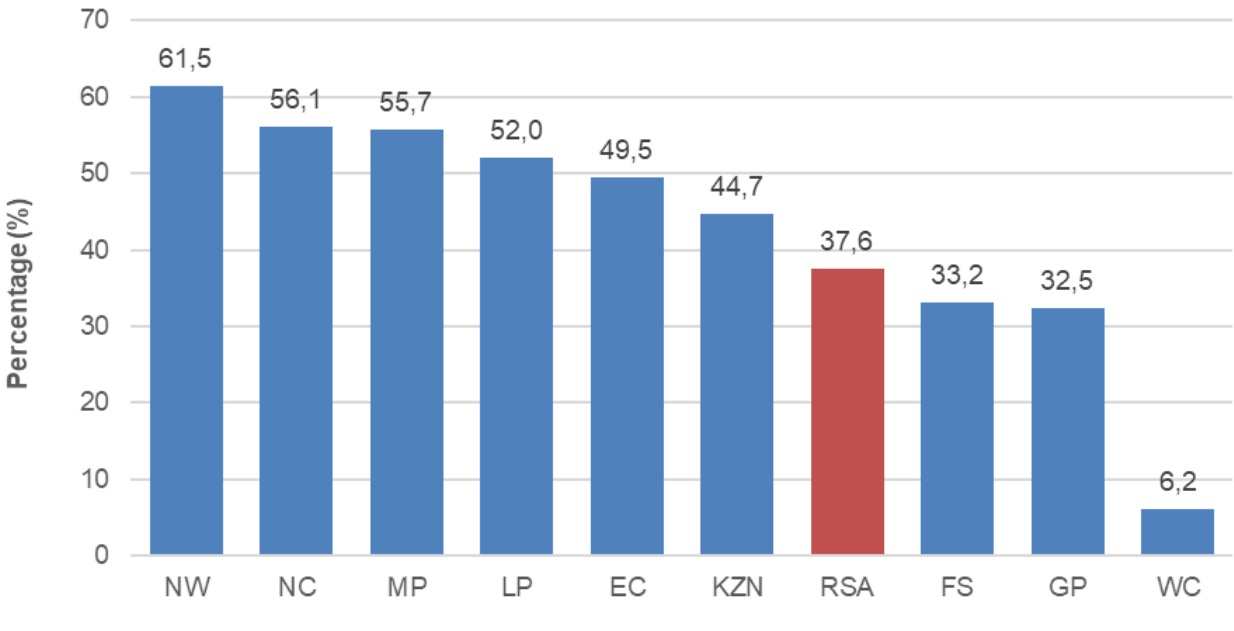


Figure 9.6 shows that water interruptions that lasted at least two days were most common for households in North West (61,5%), the Northern Cape (56,1%), and Mpumalanga (55,7%) and least common for households in Western Cape (6,2%) and Gauteng (32,5%). More than one-third (37,6%) of South African households reported some dysfunction in water supply services in 2025.

Figure 9.7 – Percentage (%) distribution of households that reported water interruptions that lasted at least 2 days by metropolitan area, 2025

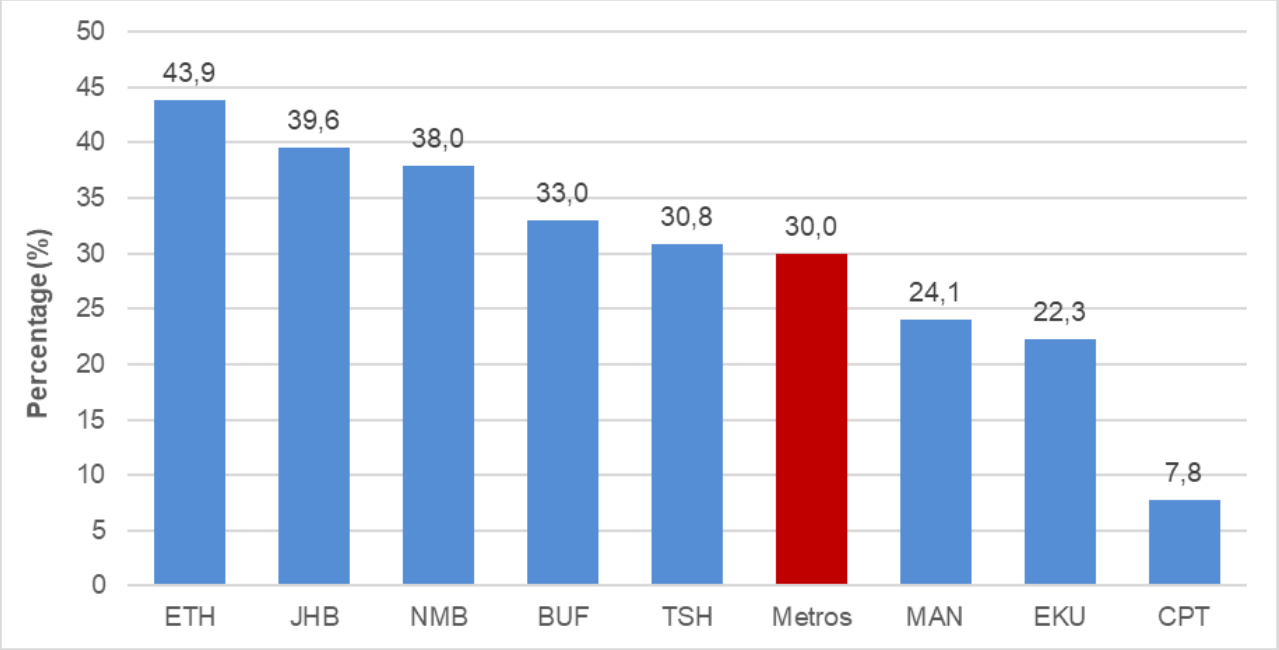


Figure 9.7 shows the percentage that reported water interruptions that lasted at least two days by metropolitan areas. Compared with households nationally, a smaller percentage of households in metropolitan areas reported water interruptions (30,0% compared with 37,6%). Water interruptions were most common in eThekwini (43,9%), which is almost six time more common than in the City of Cape Town (7,8%).

9.4 Alternative sources of water

Table 9.2 presents the alternative water sources utilised by households that experienced water interruptions lasting two days or longer during the preceding year. At the national level, nearly one-third (29,8%) of affected households relied on water provided by tankers or purchased from water vendors. A further 4,5% sourced water from springs, wells, dams, pools, rivers, or streams. Rainwater harvesting tanks (3,5%) and boreholes (2,8%) were also reported as alternative sources, although to a lesser extent. In addition, 43,7% of households relied on stored water during periods of interruption, while 10,8% reported having no backup water arrangements.

Provincial variation in coping mechanisms is evident. Reliance on water vendors was highest in Limpopo (21,9%) and North West (19,8%). The use of water tankers was most common in the Western Cape (36,3%), followed by KwaZulu-Natal (30,3%), Gauteng (29,5%), and the Northern Cape (29,5%). Drawing water from natural sources such as springs, wells, dams, pools, rivers or streams was most prevalent in KwaZulu-Natal (9,8%), the Eastern Cape (8,9%), and Limpopo (6,6%).

These patterns reflect significant provincial differences in household resilience to water supply disruptions and underscore disparities in access to alternative water sources during extended interruptions.

Table 9.2 – Percentage (%) distribution of households by alternative water sources used during water interruptions that lasted 2 days or longer, 2025

Alternative water source	Province									
	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
Borehole	4,0	0,5	3,9	1,4	1,6	6,5	1,8	2,5	7,8	2,8
Spring	2,6	4,8	0,3	0,7	1,4	0,1	0,5	0,4	2,2	1,2
Well	1,1	0,0	0,0	1,5	0,3	0,4	0,3	1,2	1,5	0,6
Rainwater tank	2,2	22,0	2,3	1,3	5,0	1,0	1,0	0,8	0,5	3,5
Dam/Pool	0,0	0,7	0,6	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2	0,9	0,1	0,3
River/Stream	0,0	3,5	1,8	0,4	7,8	0,3	0,0	2,2	2,8	2,4
Bottled water	17,6	4,0	2,1	7,5	5,1	4,3	6,8	1,8	1,4	5,0
Water vendor	2,6	2,7	2,8	1,3	2,6	19,8	5,7	9,0	21,9	7,7
Water tanker	36,3	25,0	29,5	27,0	30,3	12,2	29,5	4,6	2,5	22,1
Stored water	9,8	24,2	45,9	47,4	36,6	44,3	41,0	68,4	55,5	43,7
None	3,4	2,1	0,9	6,4	5,4	5,9	5,8	2,7	3,5	4,7
Do not Know	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,4	0,3	0,0	0,0	0,1
Other	20,5	10,7	10,0	5,0	3,7	5,0	7,1	5,7	0,3	6,0
Total	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**

Figure 9.8 – Percentage (%) distribution of household consumption of bottled water by province, 2025

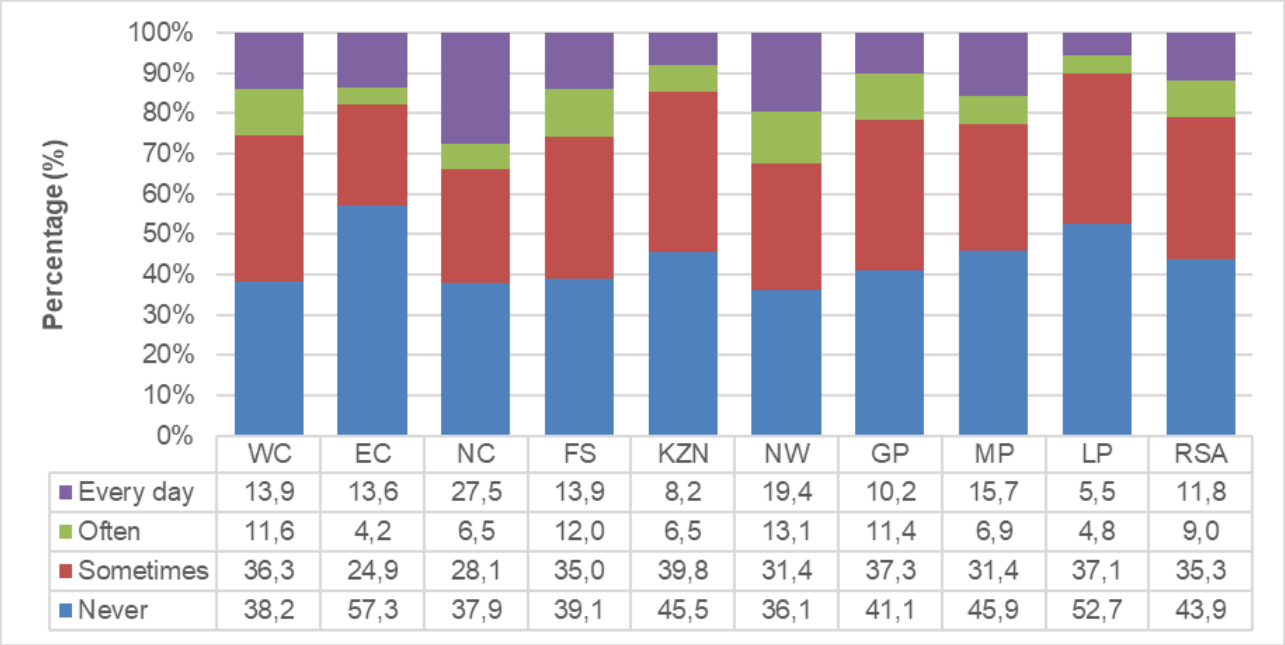


Figure 9.8 shows the percentage of households that consumed bottled water at home by province. Nationally, 43,9% of households never drank bottled water while 35,3% of households drank it sometimes. Drinking bottled water everyday was most common in the Northern Cape (27,5%) and North West (19,4%) and least common in Limpopo (5,5%).

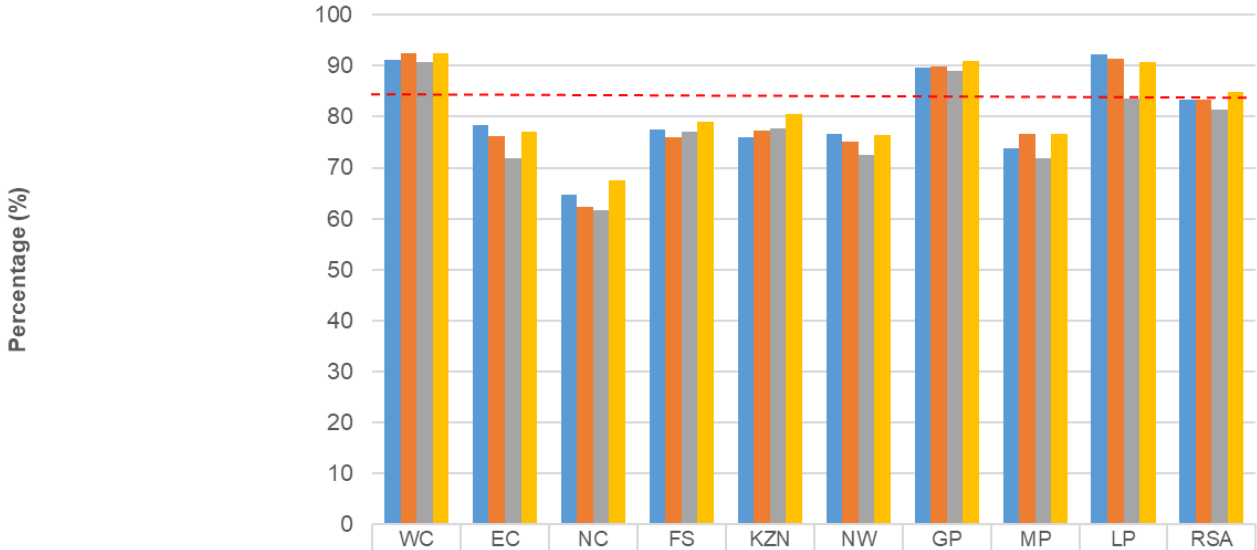
9.5 Water Quality

Figure 9.9 indicates that, at the national level, 83,3% of households perceived their drinking water to be safe. Confidence in water safety varied considerably across provinces, ranging from high levels in Limpopo (92,3%), the Western Cape (91,3%), and Gauteng (89,6%) to substantially lower levels in the Northern Cape (64,7%) and KwaZulu-Natal (76,0%).

Nationally, 83,5% of households reported that their drinking water was clear, colourless, and free from visible sediment, while 81,5% indicated that the water tasted good. The perception that water was both clear and palatable was most prevalent in the Western Cape, Gauteng and Limpopo. In contrast, perceptions of water quality were notably weaker in the Northern Cape, where only 62,3% of households reported that their water was clear and 61,7% indicated that it tasted good.

With regard to odour, 84,8% of households nationally reported that their drinking water was free from any smell. Households reporting odour-free water were most common in the Western Cape (92,4%) and Gauteng (91,0%), while the lowest proportion was recorded in the Northern Cape (67,6%).

Figure 9.9 – Percentage distribution of household perceptions regarding the quality of the water they drink per province, 2025



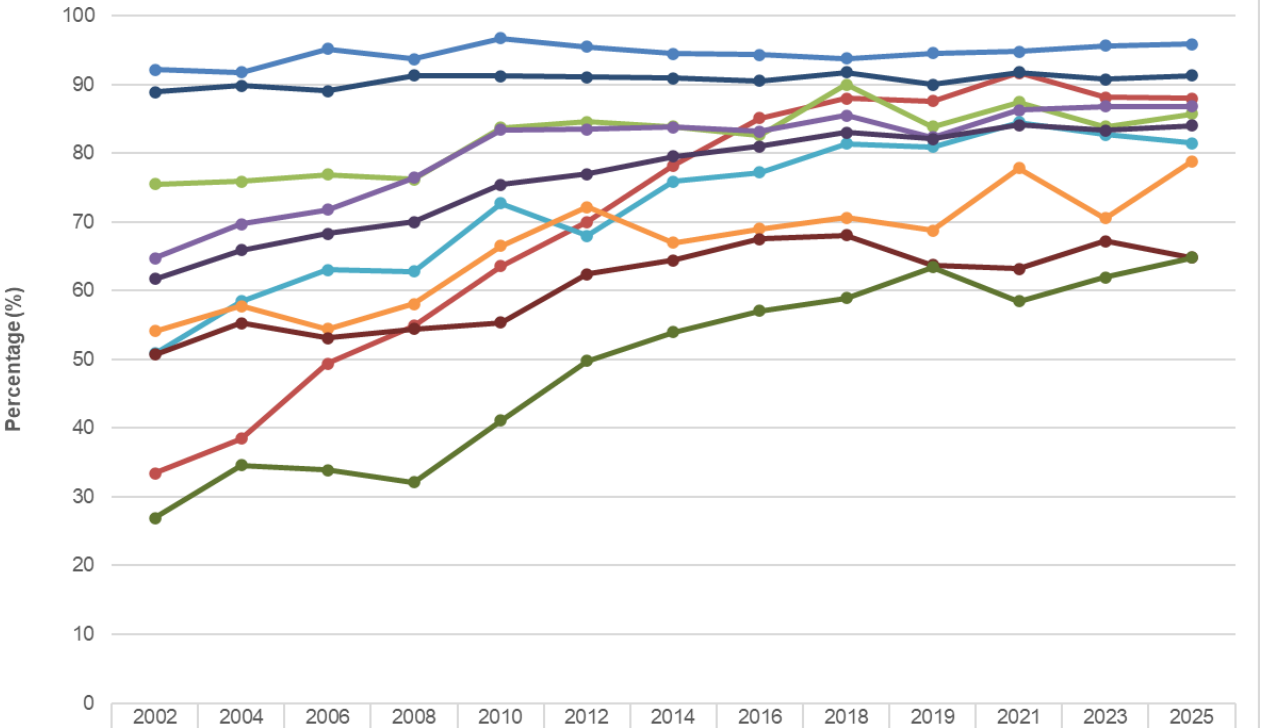
	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
Safe to drink	91,3	78,4	64,7	77,4	76,0	76,7	89,6	73,8	92,3	83,3
Clear, has not colour, free from mud	92,4	76,1	62,3	76,0	77,2	75,1	89,8	76,6	91,4	83,5
Taste good	90,8	72,0	61,7	77,0	77,6	72,5	89,0	71,9	83,6	81,5
Free from odour, smell	92,4	77,1	67,6	78,9	80,5	76,4	91,0	76,6	90,6	84,8

10 Sanitation

10.1 Sanitation facilities

Access to adequate sanitation facilities is a key indicator of household living conditions, public health, and overall quality of life. Improved sanitation reduces the risk of waterborne diseases, enhances environmental health, and contributes to human dignity**. In this report, improved sanitation is defined as the use of flush toilets connected to a public sewerage system or septic tank, or pit toilets fitted with a ventilation pipe.**

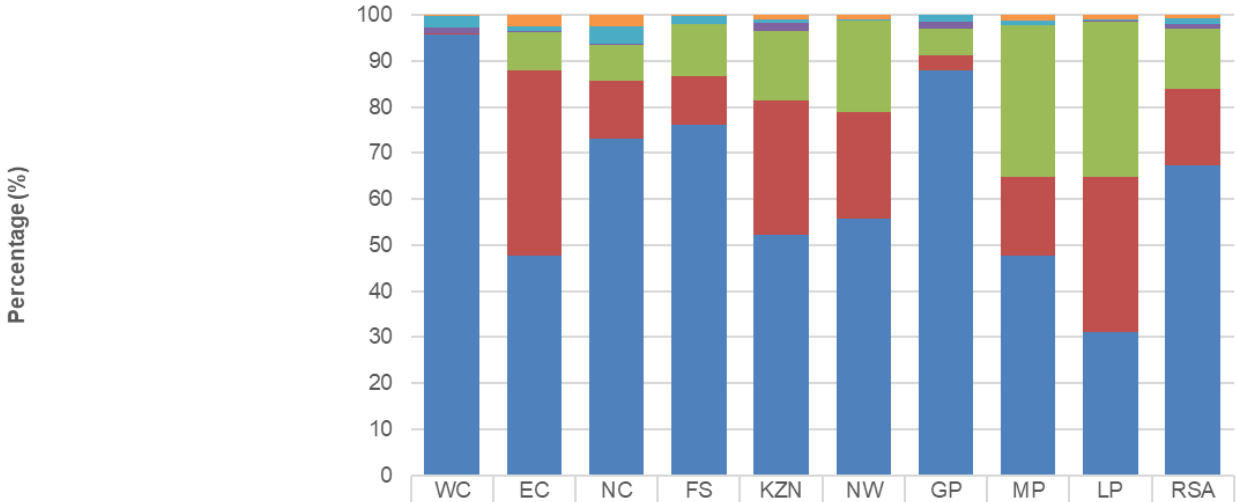
Figure 10.1 – Percentage (%) distribution of households that have access to improved sanitation by province, 2002–2025



	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2019	2021	2023	2025
WC	92,2	91,8	95,2	93,7	96,7	95,5	94,5	94,3	93,8	94,5	94,8	95,6	95,9
EC	33,4	38,5	49,4	54,9	63,6	70,0	78,2	85,1	88,0	87,6	91,7	88,1	88,0
NC	75,5	75,9	76,9	76,2	83,7	84,6	83,9	82,6	90,0	83,9	87,4	83,9	85,7
FS	64,7	69,7	71,8	76,4	83,4	83,5	83,8	83,2	85,5	82,3	86,3	86,8	86,8
KZN	50,9	58,5	63,0	62,8	72,7	68,0	75,9	77,2	81,4	80,9	84,5	82,7	81,5
NW	54,1	57,8	54,4	58,1	66,5	72,2	67,0	69,0	70,6	68,8	77,8	70,5	78,8
GP	88,9	89,8	89,1	91,3	91,2	91,1	90,9	90,5	91,8	90,0	91,8	90,7	91,3
MP	50,7	55,3	53,1	54,4	55,4	62,4	64,4	67,5	68,1	63,7	63,2	67,2	64,8
LP	26,9	34,6	33,9	32,1	41,1	49,8	54,0	57,1	58,9	63,4	58,5	61,9	64,8
RSA	61,7	65,9	68,3	70,0	75,4	77,0	79,5	81,0	83,0	82,1	84,1	83,3	84,0

Figure 10.1 shows the percentage of households per province that had access to improved sanitation facilities. Nationally, the percentage of households with access to improved sanitation increased from 61,7% in 2002 to 84,0% in 2025. Households' access to improved sanitation was highest in the Western Cape (95,9%), Gauteng (91,3%) and the Eastern Cape (88,0%), and most limited in Limpopo (64,8%) and Mpumalanga (64,8%). In the Eastern Cape, households' access to improved sanitation facilities increased by 54,6 percentage points between 2002 and 2025, growing from 33,4% to 88,0%. Similarly, the percentage of households with access to improved sanitation increased by 37,9 percentage points in Limpopo and 30,6 percentage points in KwaZulu-Natal over the same period.

Figure 10.2 – Percentage (%) distribution of households by type of toilet facility and province, 2025



	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
None	0,3	2,4	2,5	0,3	1,0	0,9	0,1	1,3	0,9	0,8
Other	2,4	1,0	3,8	1,7	0,8	0,4	1,4	0,9	0,4	1,2
Chemical toilet	1,4	0,3	0,3	0,1	1,8	0,0	1,5	0,0	0,1	1,0
Pit latrine/toilet without ventilation pipe	0,0	8,4	7,7	11,1	15,0	19,8	5,7	33,0	33,7	13,0
Pit latrine/toilet with ventilation pipe	0,1	40,2	12,7	10,7	29,3	23,1	3,5	17,2	33,6	16,8
Flush toilets	95,7	47,8	73,0	76,1	52,2	55,8	87,8	47,6	31,2	67,3

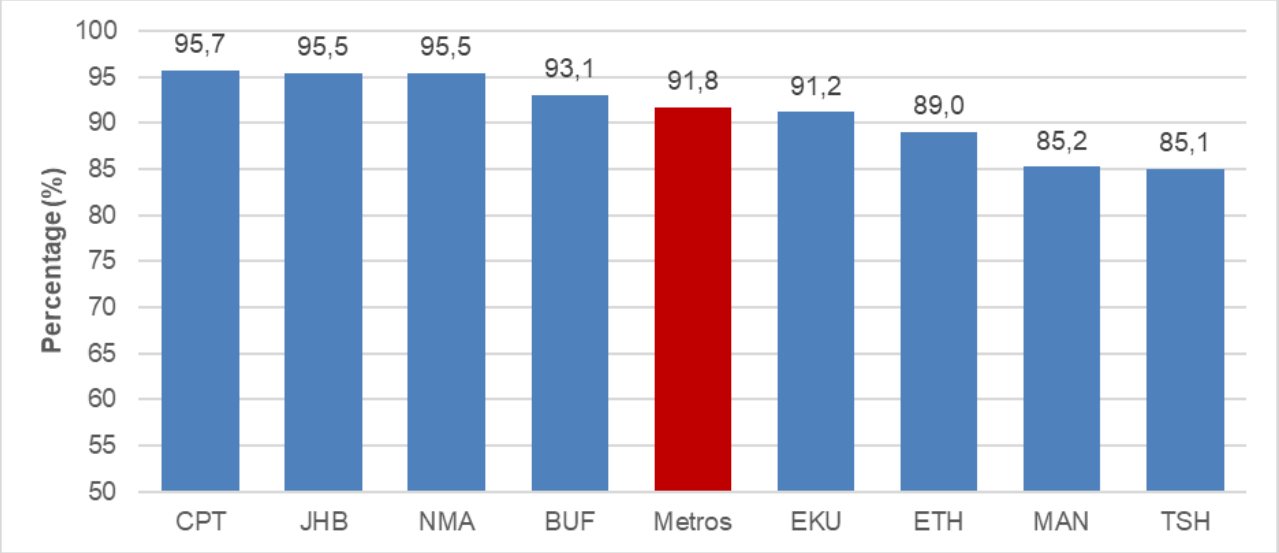
Much of the improvement observed in the Eastern Cape since 2002 is due to the installation of Ventilated Pit (VIP) toilets. The distribution of different sanitation options by province in 2025 is presented in Figure 10.2. Nationally, almost two-thirds (67,3%) of households used flush toilets that were either connected to a public sewerage system or a septic or conservancy tank, while another 16,8% used pit toilets that are connected to ventilation pipes. Households that did not have access to improved sanitation facilities largely depended on pit toilets without ventilation pipes (13,0%).

The use of flush toilets was most common in the Western Cape (95,7%), Gauteng (87,8%) and the Free State (76,1%). About one-third (31,2%) of households in Limpopo used some type of flush toilet, while another 33,6% used ventilated pit toilets. The largest percentage of pit toilets with ventilation pipes was observed in the Eastern Cape (40,2%), Limpopo (33,6%) and KwaZulu-Natal (29,3%).

In the absence of flush toilets, 67,3% of households in Limpopo used pit latrines, the majority without ventilation pipes. Almost one-third (33,0%) of households in Mpumalanga and 19,8% of households in North West used pit toilets without ventilation pipes.

Figure 10.3 presents households' access to improved sanitation facilities in metropolitan areas. Access was highest in the City of Cape Town (95,7%) and the City of Johannesburg (95,5%). In contrast, lower levels of access were observed in the City of Tshwane (85,1%), Mangaung (85,2%) and eThekwini (89,0%).

Figure 10.3 – Percentage (%) distribution of households that have access to improved sanitation by metropolitan area, 2025



10.2 Household Hygiene

Improved sanitation facilities are those designed to hygienically separate excreta from human contact. For sanitation facilities such as flush/pour flush toilets connected to piped sewer systems or septic tanks, excreta are treated and disposed of in situ or transported through a sewer with wastewater and then treated off-site. To meet the criteria for a safely managed sanitation service, the excreta from septic tanks or pit latrines (including ventilated pit latrines) and composting toilets should be stored temporarily and then emptied and treated off-site.

Figure 10.4 – Percentage (%) distribution of households that have ever emptied their pit latrines by province, 2025

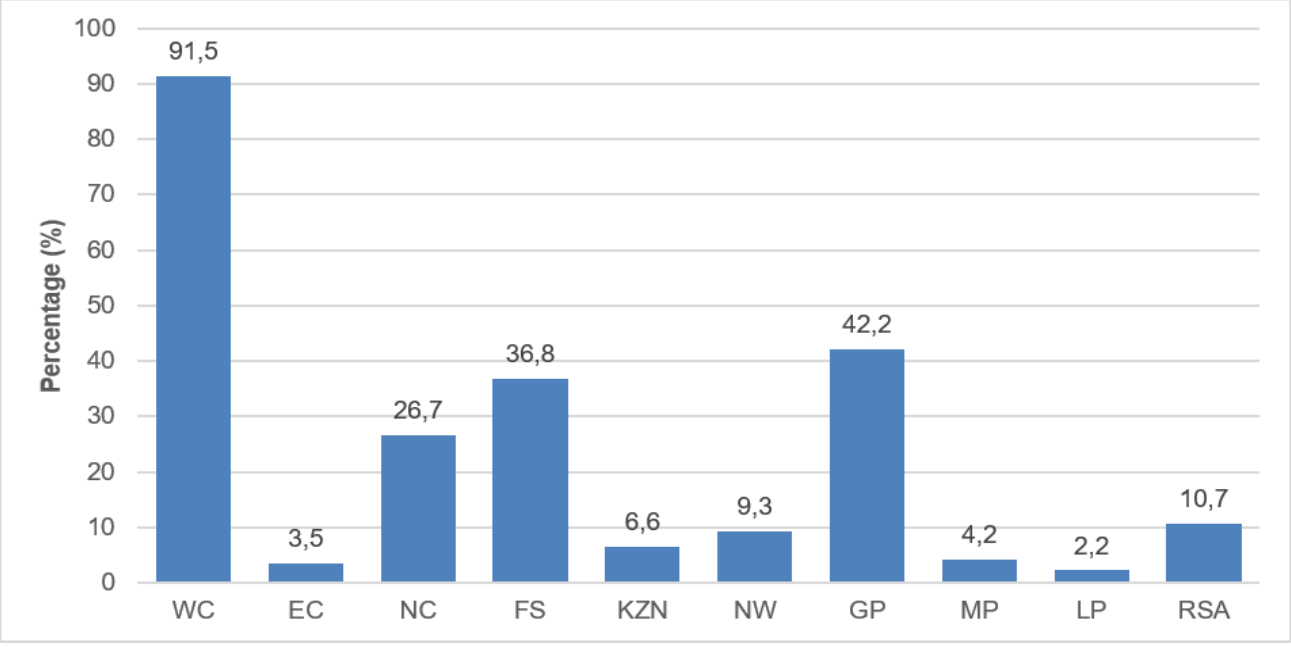
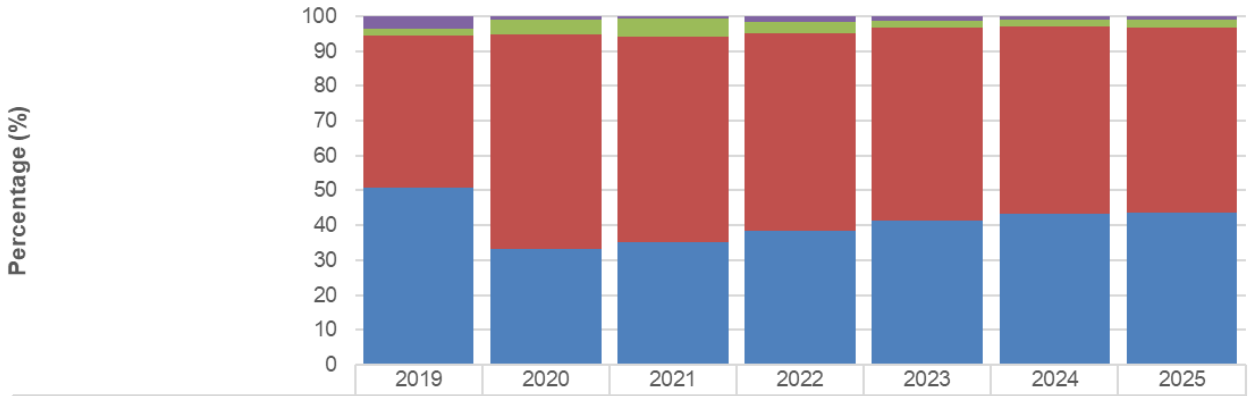


Figure 10.4 shows that, nationally, only one-tenth (10,7%) of households reported that their septic or conservancy tanks, or the chambers of the pit toilets they used have ever been emptied. Emptying was most common in the Western Cape (91,5%), Gauteng (42,2%) and the Free State (36,8%), and least common in Limpopo (2,2%) and the Eastern Cape (3,5%).

Figure 10.5 – Percentage (%) distribution of households by the methods usually used by household members to clean their hands after using the toilet, 2019–2025



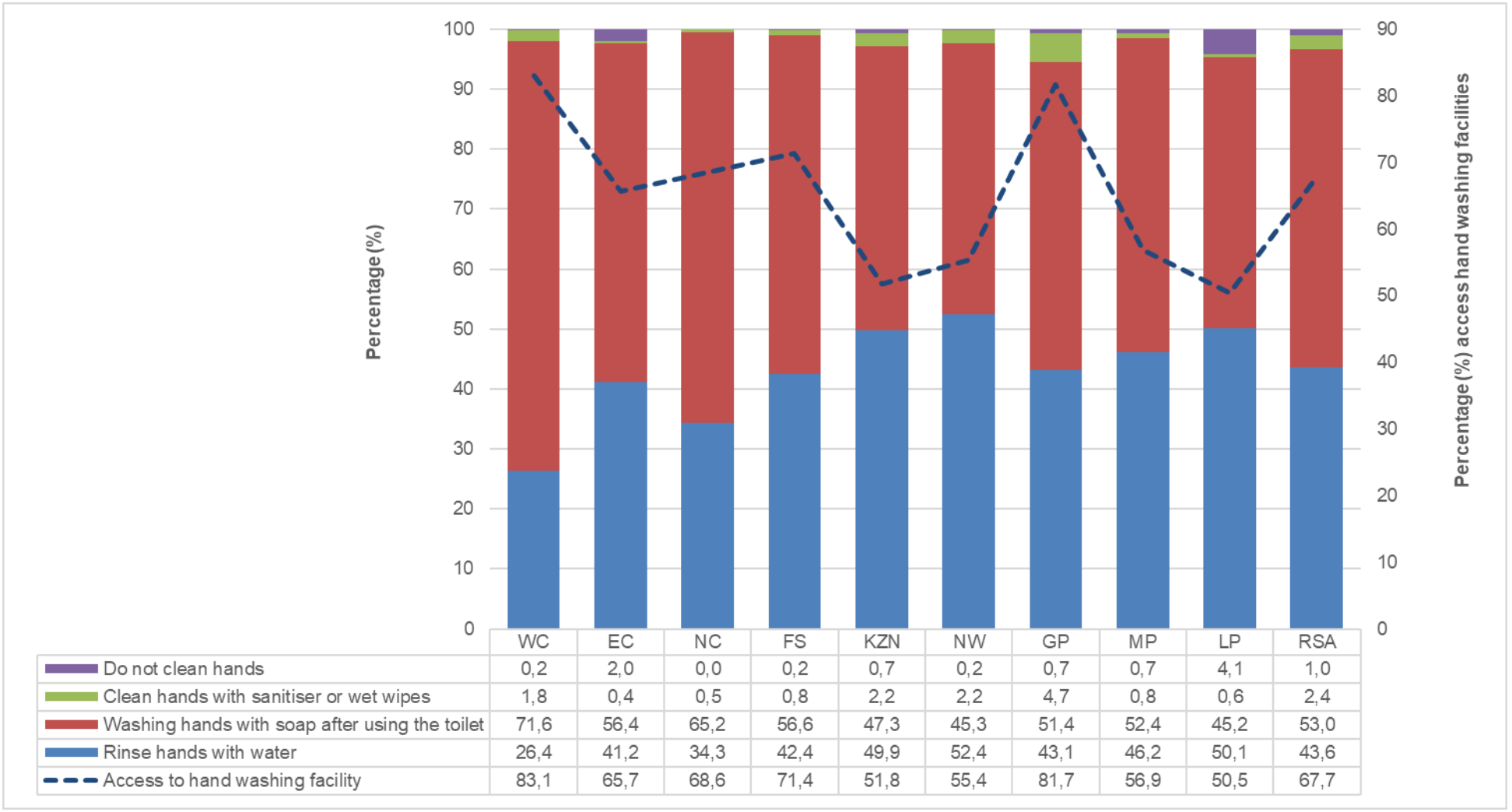
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Do not clean hands	3,7	1,2	0,8	1,5	1,4	1,0	1,0
Use sanitiser or wet wipes	1,9	4,2	5,0	3,4	1,9	2,1	2,4
Wash hands with soap and water	43,6	61,4	59,1	56,5	55,3	53,7	53,0
Rinse hands with water	50,8	33,3	35,2	38,6	41,4	43,2	43,6

Figure 10.5 compares the methods used nationally by household members to clean hands after using the toilet between 2019 (before the start of COVID-19) and 2025. The figure shows that the percentage of households whose members usually wash hands with soap and water increased notably from 43,6% to 61,4% in 2020, before declining to 53,0% in 2025. The percentage of households whose members only rinsed their hands with water decreased from 50,8% to 33,3% in 2020, before slowly increasing to 43,6% in 2025. The percentage of households whose members did not clean hands decreased from 3,7% in 2019 to 1,0% in 2025.

Figure 10.6 shows that more than two-thirds (67,7%) of households had access to hand washing facilities nationally. Hand washing facilities were most common in the Western Cape (83,1%) and Gauteng (81,7%), and least common in Limpopo (50,5%), KwaZulu-Natal (51,8%) and North West (55,4%).

All households were also asked to indicate whether (and how) household members usually washed their hands after they had used the toilet. Washing hands with soap was most common among households in the Western Cape (71,6%) and Northern Cape (65,2%), and least frequent in Limpopo (45,2%) and North West (45,3%). Rinsing hands with water was most common in North West (52,4%) and Limpopo (50,1%), and least common in the Western Cape (26,4%). In Limpopo, 4,1% of households reported that their members did not clean their hands at all after using the toilet.

Figure 10.6 – Percentage (%) distribution of households by the methods usually used by household members to clean their hands after using the toilet by province and the percentage of households with access to hand washing facilities, 2025



	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
Do not clean hands	0,2	2,0	0,0	0,2	0,7	0,2	0,7	0,7	4,1	1,0
Clean hands with sanitiser or wet wipes	1,8	0,4	0,5	0,8	2,2	2,2	4,7	0,8	0,6	2,4
Washing hands with soap after using the toilet	71,6	56,4	65,2	56,6	47,3	45,3	51,4	52,4	45,2	53,0
Rinse hands with water	26,4	41,2	34,3	42,4	49,9	52,4	43,1	46,2	50,1	43,6
Access to hand washing facility	83,1	65,7	68,6	71,4	51,8	55,4	81,7	56,9	50,5	67,7

11 Energy

Having adequate and affordable access to energy sources is vital to address household poverty. In order to assess household access to energy, the GHS measures the diversity and main sources of energy used by households to satisfy basic human needs (cooking, lighting, and space heating). In addition to measuring access to electricity, the GHS is also concerned with measuring the extent to which households are connected to and use grid or mains electricity as this could provide a useful measure to guide future electrification programmes.

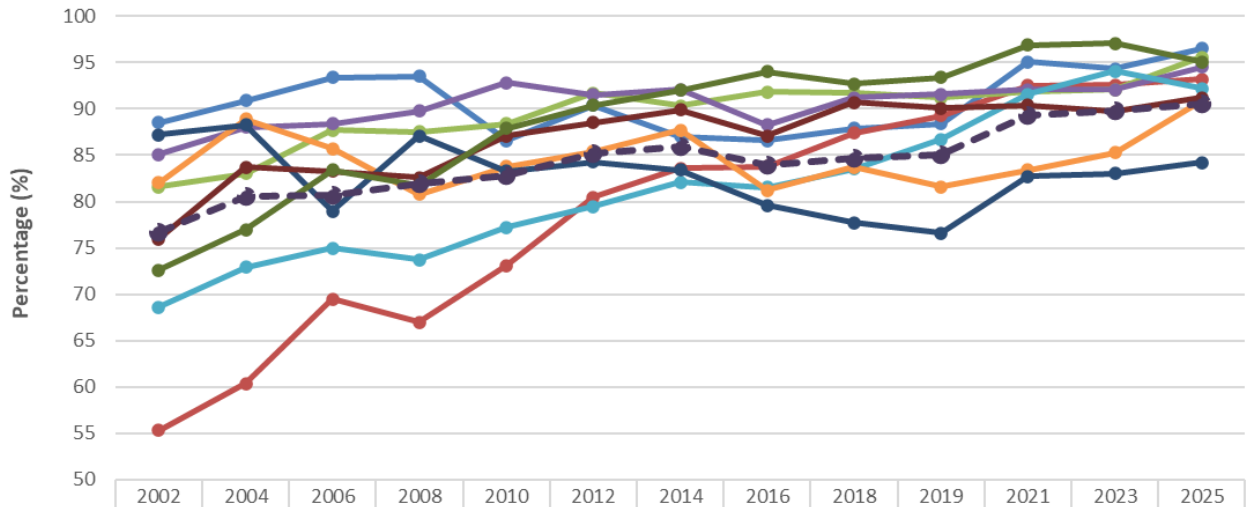
11.1 Access to electricity

The percentage of South African households that were connected to the mains electricity supply increased from 76,7% in 2002 to 90,6% in 2025. Figure 11.1 shows that households with access to mains electricity were most common in the Western Cape (96,5%), Northern Cape (95,6%) and Limpopo (95,1%), and least common in Gauteng (84,2%) and North West (90,9%).

Mains electricity is provided by the municipality or by ESKOM. Electricity from generators and solar panels is not considered part of the mains supply.

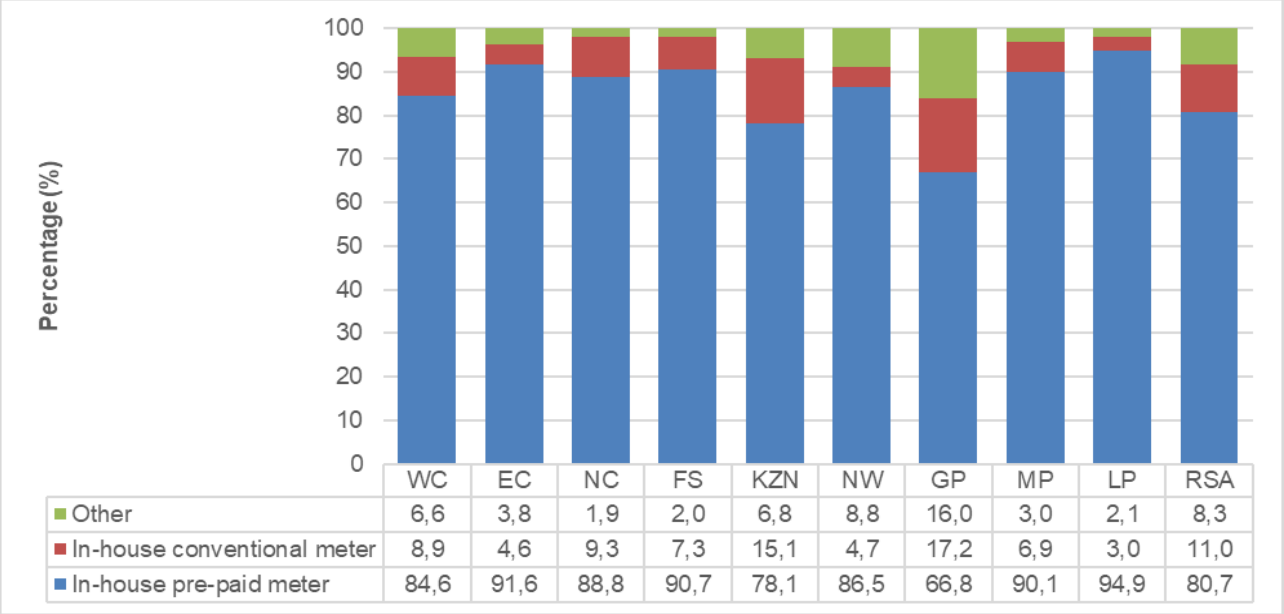
The largest increases between 2002 and 2025 were observed in the Eastern Cape (+37,9 percentage points), KwaZulu-Natal (+23,6 percentage points), and Limpopo (+22,5 percentage points). However, the percentage of households with access to mains electricity declined in Gauteng (-3,0 percentage points) during the same period. This decline can be associated with the rapid in-migration experienced by the province and a rapid increase in household numbers.

Figure 11.1 – Percentage (%) distribution of households connected to the mains electricity supply by province for selected years between 2002 and 2025



	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2019	2021	2023	2025
WC	88,5	90,9	93,4	93,5	86,6	90,4	87,0	86,6	87,9	88,4	95,1	94,3	96,5
EC	55,3	60,4	69,5	67,0	73,1	80,5	83,6	83,8	87,4	89,3	92,5	92,6	93,2
NC	81,6	83,0	87,7	87,5	88,4	91,7	90,3	91,8	91,7	91,2	91,8	92,1	95,6
FS	85,1	88,0	88,4	89,8	92,8	91,5	92,1	88,3	91,2	91,6	92,1	92,1	94,5
KZN	68,6	72,9	75,0	73,7	77,2	79,5	82,1	81,5	83,5	86,7	91,6	94,1	92,2
NW	82,0	88,9	85,7	80,8	83,8	85,4	87,7	81,2	83,7	81,6	83,4	85,3	90,9
GP	87,2	88,3	79,0	87,1	83,3	84,3	83,4	79,6	77,7	76,6	82,7	83,0	84,2
MP	76,0	83,7	83,3	82,6	87,1	88,5	89,9	87,1	90,7	90,1	90,4	89,7	91,2
LP	72,6	77,0	83,4	81,8	87,9	90,4	92,0	94,0	92,7	93,4	96,9	97,1	95,1
RSA	76,7	80,6	80,7	81,9	82,8	85,2	85,9	83,9	84,7	85,0	89,3	89,8	90,6

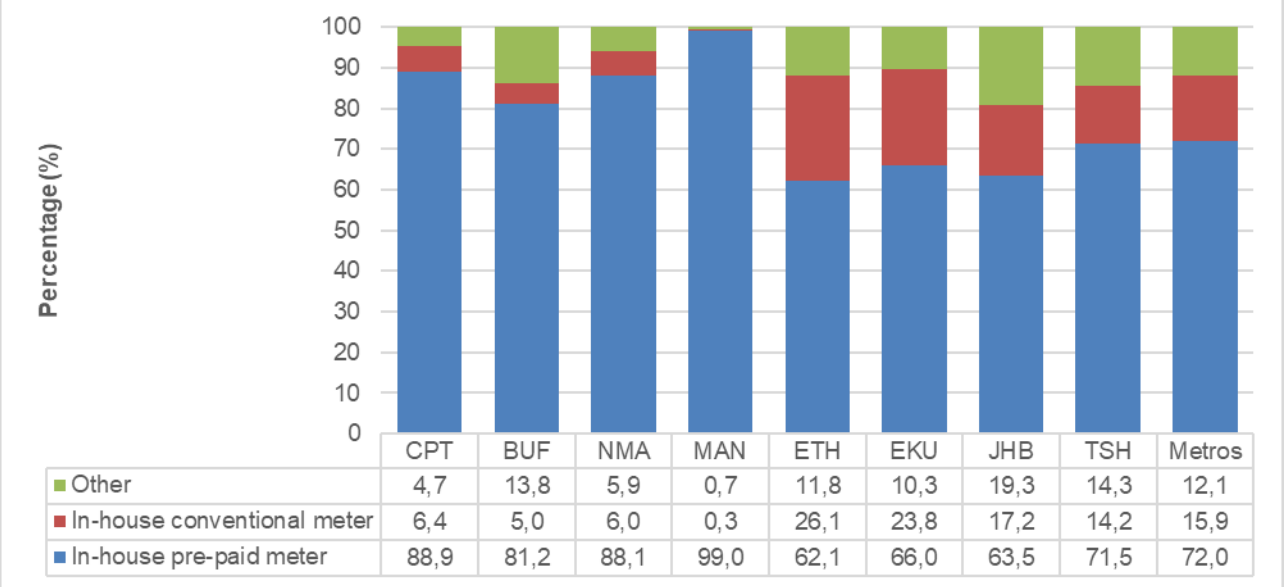
Figure 11.2 – Percentage (%) distribution of households connected to different sources of electricity by province, 2025



	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
Other	6,6	3,8	1,9	2,0	6,8	8,8	16,0	3,0	2,1	8,3
In-house conventional meter	8,9	4,6	9,3	7,3	15,1	4,7	17,2	6,9	3,0	11,0
In-house pre-paid meter	84,6	91,6	88,8	90,7	78,1	86,5	66,8	90,1	94,9	80,7

Figure 11.2 shows that 80,7% of South African households used electricity from pre-paid meters, while 11,0% were still billed using a conventional meter. A percentage (8,3%) of households obtained electricity from other sources (e.g. neighbour or landlord). This figure was particularly large in Gauteng (16,0%). The use of conventional meters was the highest in Gauteng (17,2%) and KwaZulu-Natal (15,1%).

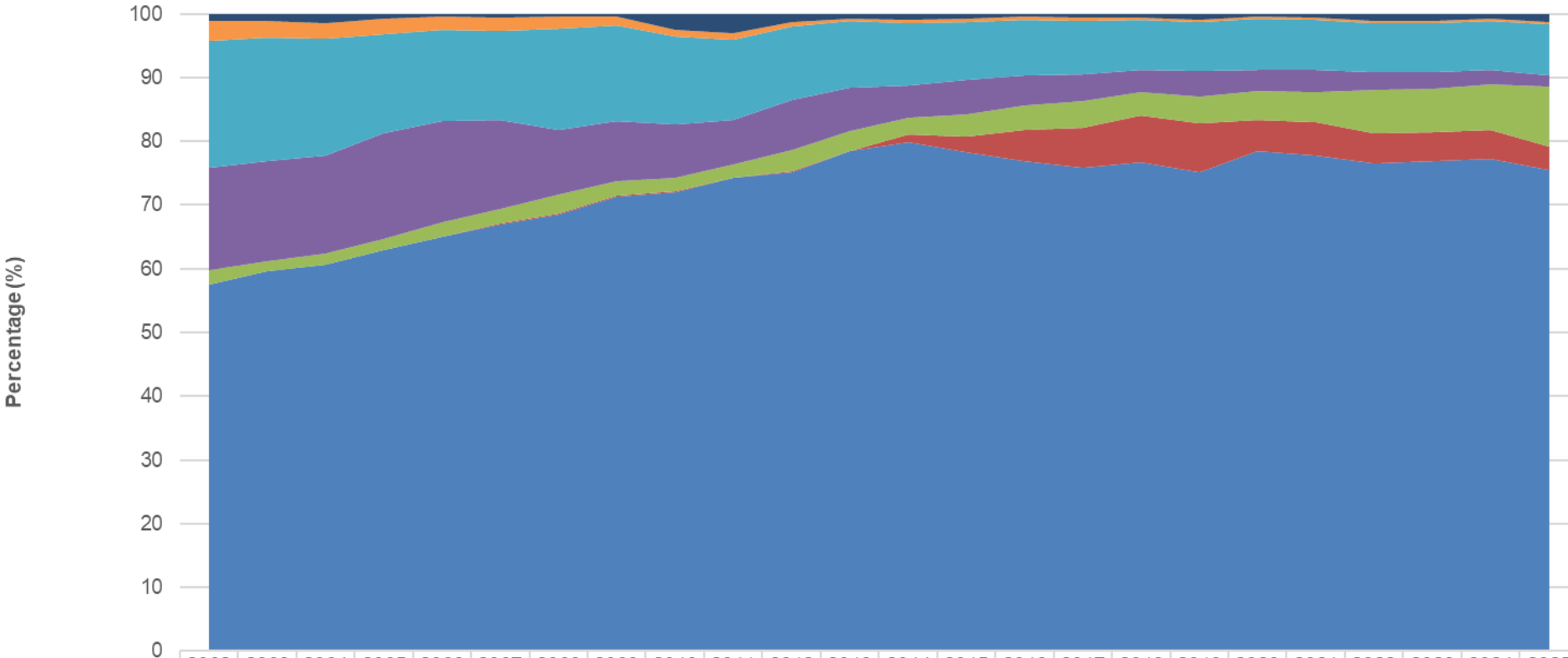
Figure 11.3 – Percentage (%) distribution of households connected to different sources of electricity by metropolitan area, 2025



	CPT	BUF	NMA	MAN	ETH	EKU	JHB	TSH	Metros
Other	4,7	13,8	5,9	0,7	11,8	10,3	19,3	14,3	12,1
In-house conventional meter	6,4	5,0	6,0	0,3	26,1	23,8	17,2	14,2	15,9
In-house pre-paid meter	88,9	81,2	88,1	99,0	62,1	66,0	63,5	71,5	72,0

Conventional electricity meters were more common amongst households in metros than nationally (15,9% compared with 11,0%). Figure 11.3 shows that the use of conventional meters was most widespread in eThekwini (26,1%) and Ekurhuleni (23,8%) and least common in Mangaung (0,3%). Pre-paid meters were, by contrast, most common in Mangaung (99,0%) and the City of Cape Town (88,9%). Approximately one-fifth (19,3%) of households in the City of Johannesburg obtained electricity from other sources (e.g. neighbour or landlord) compared with 12,1% across all metros.

Figure 11.4 – Percentage (%) distribution of main sources of energy used for cooking by year, 2002–2025



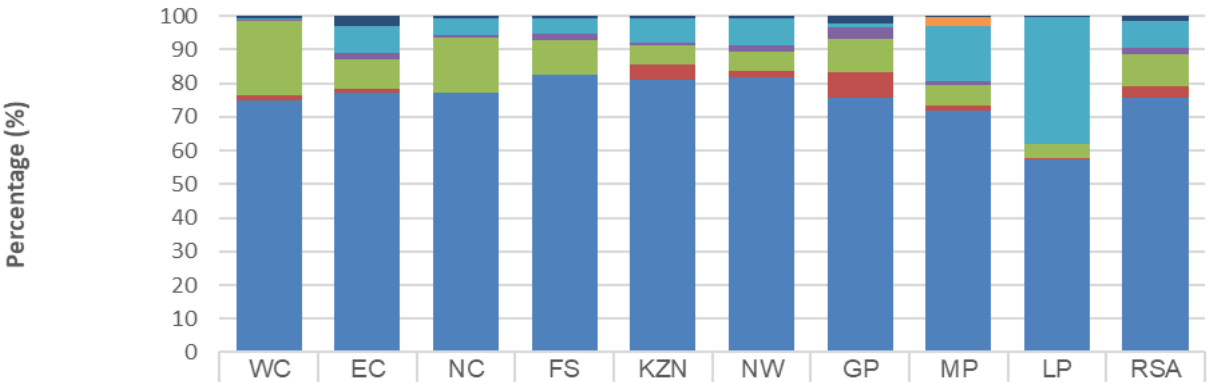
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Other	1,1	1,1	1,4	0,8	0,5	0,5	0,5	0,5	2,5	3,1	1,3	0,7	1,0	0,8	0,5	0,6	0,6	0,9	0,4	0,7	1,1	1,1	0,8	1,3
Coal	3,0	2,7	2,4	2,4	2,1	2,2	1,8	1,3	1,2	0,9	0,8	0,4	0,6	0,5	0,5	0,4	0,4	0,4	0,3	0,4	0,4	0,3	0,3	0,3
Wood	20,0	19,3	18,4	15,6	14,3	13,9	15,8	15,1	13,7	12,6	11,6	10,4	9,7	9,1	8,8	8,4	7,7	7,8	8,1	7,7	7,7	7,8	7,7	8,0
Paraffin	16,1	15,8	15,4	16,5	15,9	14,1	10,3	9,4	8,4	7,0	7,8	6,8	5,0	5,4	4,7	4,2	3,6	3,9	3,4	3,5	2,8	2,5	2,2	1,9
Gas	2,2	1,6	1,7	1,8	2,2	2,2	3,0	2,2	2,2	2,1	3,3	3,2	2,7	3,5	3,8	4,2	3,6	4,2	4,5	4,8	6,7	6,8	7,2	9,4
Other Electricity	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,1	0,0	1,2	2,5	4,9	6,3	7,3	7,8	4,9	5,3	4,8	4,5	4,5	3,7
Electricity	57,5	59,5	60,7	62,9	64,9	67,0	68,6	71,4	72,1	74,2	75,2	78,4	79,9	78,2	76,9	75,9	76,8	75,1	78,5	77,7	76,5	76,9	77,3	75,5

11.2 Main sources of energy for cooking

The main sources of energy used by households for cooking during the period 2002 to 2025 are presented in Figure 11.4. The figure shows that the percentage of households that used electricity for cooking increased from 57,5% in 2002 to 75,5% in 2025. This increase was accompanied by an increase in the percentage of households that used alternative sources of electricity, such as generators. This form of energy for cooking increased from 1,2% in 2014 to 3,7% in 2025. The percentage of households that used gas (mostly standard LPG – Liquefied Petroleum Gas) also increased, rising from 2,2% in 2002 to 9,4% in 2025.

The use of paraffin, coal and firewood declined notably since 2002. The percentage of households that used paraffin declined from 16,1% in 2002 to 1,9% in 2025, while the percentage of households that used firewood decreased from 20,0% in 2002 to 8,0% in 2025.

Figure 11.5 – Percentage (%) distribution of main sources of energy used for cooking by province, 2025



	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
Other	0,6	3,0	0,7	0,6	0,7	0,7	2,3	0,6	0,3	1,3
Coal	0,0	0,1	0,0	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,2	2,4	0,0	0,3
Wood	0,5	7,8	5,0	4,7	7,3	8,1	0,8	16,3	37,6	8,0
Paraffin	0,3	2,1	0,6	2,0	0,6	1,8	3,7	1,1	0,4	1,9
Gas	22,1	8,8	16,3	10,0	5,6	5,8	9,7	6,4	4,0	9,4
Other Electricity	1,5	1,0	0,2	0,2	4,7	2,0	7,6	1,4	0,5	3,7
Electricity	74,9	77,3	77,1	82,4	81,0	81,6	75,7	71,8	57,2	75,5

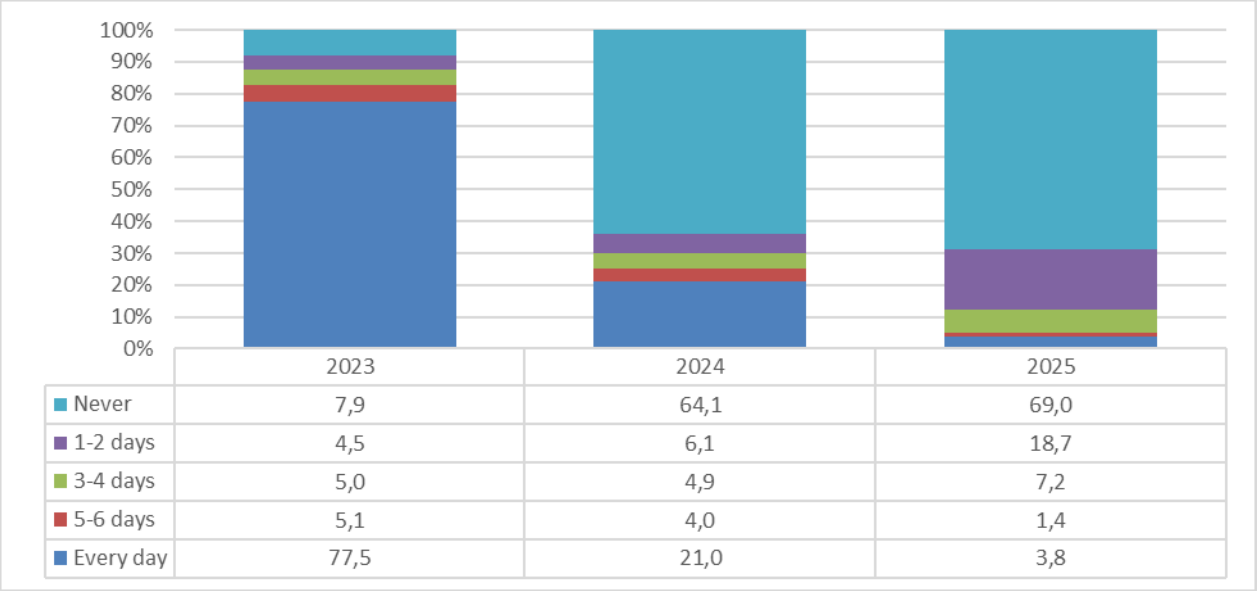
The main sources of energy used for cooking in 2025 by province are presented in Figure 11.5. The percentage of households that used electricity as a main source of energy for cooking was highest in the Free State (82,4%) and North West (81,6%) and lowest in Limpopo (57,2%). Other sources of electricity (such as those from generators and solar panels) were most common in Gauteng (7,6%) and KwaZulu-Natal (4,7%).

The use of paraffin was most common in Gauteng (3,7%) and least common in the Western Cape (0,3%) and Limpopo (0,4%). The use of wood or coal was particularly noticeable in Limpopo (37,6%), Mpumalanga (18,7%), North West (8,1%) and the Eastern Cape (7,9%). Less than 1,0% of households used wood for cooking in the Western Cape (0,5%). Gas was most frequently used by households in the Western Cape (22,1%) and Northern Cape (16,3%).

11.3 Loadshedding and electricity interruptions

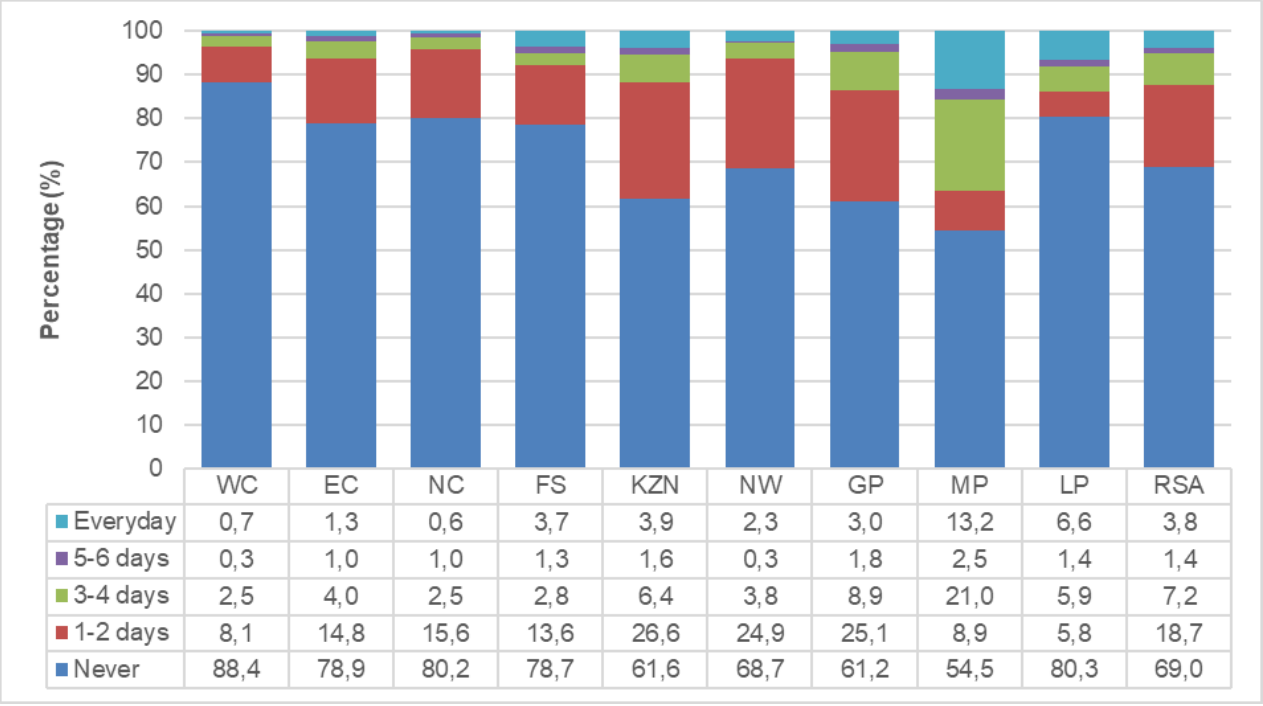
South Africa experienced persistently high levels of electricity supply interruptions as a result of structural challenges within the national power system, commonly referred to as loadshedding, since around 2022. Loadshedding was implemented as a demand-management measure to stabilise the national grid, and the frequency and severity has improved notably over the past three years. Figure 11.6 shows that the percentage of households that experienced any loadshedding and/or electrical interruptions decreased from 92,1% in 2023 to 35,9% in 2024 and 31,0% in 2025.

Figure 11.6 – Percentage (%) distribution of the number of days households experienced loadshedding and/or unscheduled electricity outages during the previous week, 2023–2025



	2023	2024	2025
Never	7,9	64,1	69,0
1-2 days	4,5	6,1	18,7
3-4 days	5,0	4,9	7,2
5-6 days	5,1	4,0	1,4
Every day	77,5	21,0	3,8

Figure 11.7 – Percentage (%) distribution of the number of days households experienced loadshedding and/or unscheduled electricity outages during the previous week by province, 2025



	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
Everyday	0,7	1,3	0,6	3,7	3,9	2,3	3,0	13,2	6,6	3,8
5-6 days	0,3	1,0	1,0	1,3	1,6	0,3	1,8	2,5	1,4	1,4
3-4 days	2,5	4,0	2,5	2,8	6,4	3,8	8,9	21,0	5,9	7,2
1-2 days	8,1	14,8	15,6	13,6	26,6	24,9	25,1	8,9	5,8	18,7
Never	88,4	78,9	80,2	78,7	61,6	68,7	61,2	54,5	80,3	69,0

Figure 11.7 shows the percentage of households that experienced scheduled loadshedding and/or unscheduled outages or blackouts during the seven days before the interview by province. Nationally, 3,8% of the households experienced loadshedding every day, while 69,0% did not experience any interruptions which could be linked to the suspension of loadshedding in most months of the year in 2025. Daily electricity interruptions were most common in Mpumalanga (13,2%) and Limpopo (6,6%), and least common in the Northern Cape (0,6%) and Western Cape (0,7%).

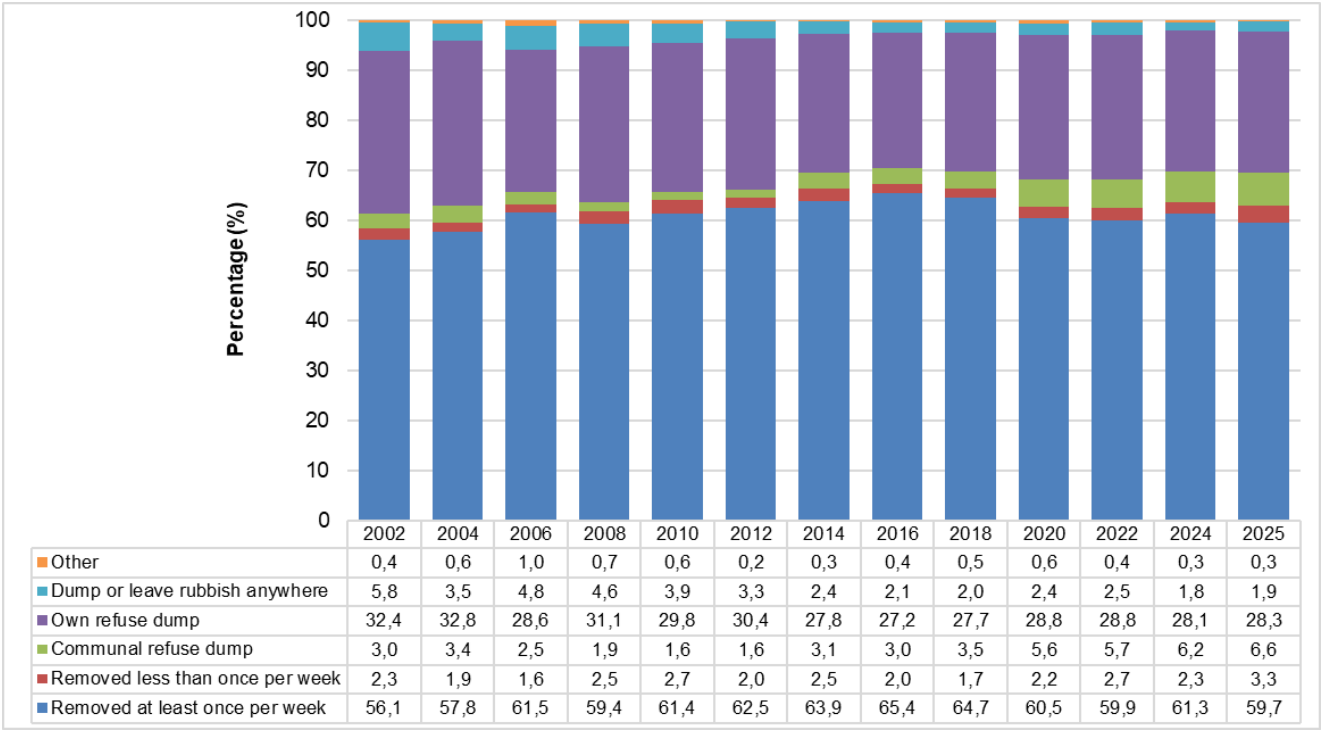
12 Solid waste

12.1 Refuse removal

Access to effective household waste and refuse removal services is a critical component of a healthy living environment and sustainable communities. Regular refuse removal reduces environmental pollution, limits the spread of disease, and contributes to improved public health and safety, making it an important indicator of service delivery and living conditions at household level.

Figure 12.1 shows that, nationally, household refuse was removed at least once per week (59,7%) or less than once per week (3,3%). More than one-third (34,9%) of households used communal or household refuse dumps, while 1,9% of households had no facilities at all. It is notable that the percentage of households that used communal refuse dumps has been increasing consistently over the five years before the 2025 survey, growing from 3,0% in 2016 to 6,6% in 2025.

Figure 12.1 – Percentage (%) distribution of household refuse removal for even years between 2002 and 2025



	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022	2024	2025
Other	0,4	0,6	1,0	0,7	0,6	0,2	0,3	0,4	0,5	0,6	0,4	0,3	0,3
Dump or leave rubbish anywhere	5,8	3,5	4,8	4,6	3,9	3,3	2,4	2,1	2,0	2,4	2,5	1,8	1,9
Own refuse dump	32,4	32,8	28,6	31,1	29,8	30,4	27,8	27,2	27,7	28,8	28,8	28,1	28,3
Communal refuse dump	3,0	3,4	2,5	1,9	1,6	1,6	3,1	3,0	3,5	5,6	5,7	6,2	6,6
Removed less than once per week	2,3	1,9	1,6	2,5	2,7	2,0	2,5	2,0	1,7	2,2	2,7	2,3	3,3
Removed at least once per week	56,1	57,8	61,5	59,4	61,4	62,5	63,9	65,4	64,7	60,5	59,9	61,3	59,7

The national figures, however, hide large discrepancies between rural and urban areas, and between urban and metropolitan areas. Households in urban areas are more likely to receive some rubbish removal services than those in rural areas, while a larger percentage of rural households are left to rely on their own refuse dumps. This is presented in Table 12.1.

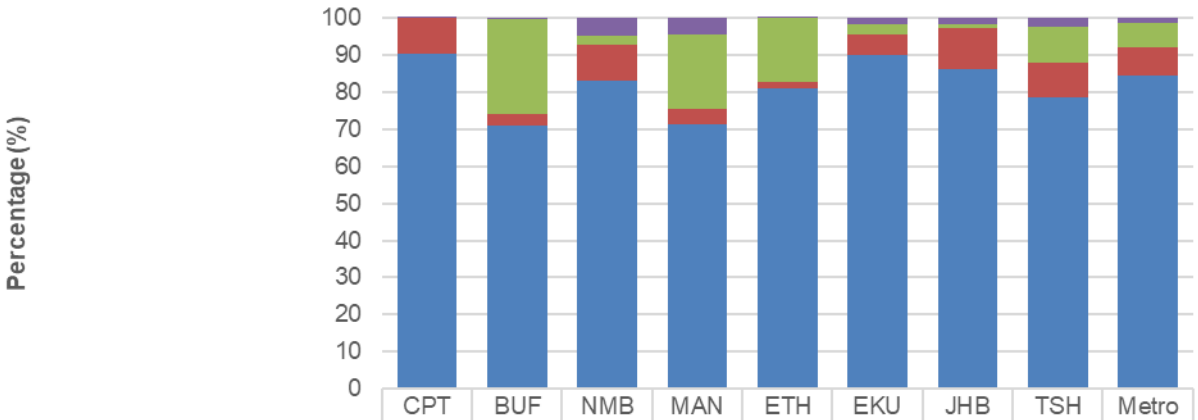
Table 12.1 – Household refuse removal by province and urban/rural status, 2025

Province	Urban/ Rural status	Removed at least once a week or less often	Communal refuse dump	Own refuse dump	Other
Western Cape	Rural	74,4	9,5	12,4	3,7
	Urban	92,0	7,5	0,2	0,3
	Total	**91,1**	**7,6**	**0,8**	**0,5**
Eastern Cape	Rural	1,9	2,7	93,8	1,6
	Urban	73,0	8,0	15,7	3,3
	Total	**41,2**	**5,6**	**50,6**	**2,6**
Northern Cape	Rural	22,5	11,5	61,5	4,5
	Urban	83,3	2,4	7,9	6,4
	Total	**65,3**	**5,1**	**23,7**	**5,9**
Free State	Rural	27,6	8,3	58,6	5,5
	Urban	85,0	3,8	8,9	2,4
	Total	**73,7**	**4,7**	**18,7**	**3,0**
KwaZulu-Natal	Rural	7,7	4,8	86,9	0,6
	Urban	85,0	3,4	11,2	0,4
	Total	**50,2**	**4,0**	**45,3**	**0,4**
North West	Rural	26,1	5,2	64,3	4,4
	Urban	85,1	5,7	5,2	4,1
	Total	**51,1**	**5,4**	**39,3**	**4,3**
Gauteng	Rural	26,3	20,2	37,5	16,0
	Urban	84,8	8,7	4,5	2,0
	Total	**83,1**	**9,0**	**5,4**	**2,4**
Mpumalanga	Rural	15,1	8,4	71,5	5,0
	Urban	80,8	3,2	14,2	1,9
	Total	**45,0**	**6,1**	**45,4**	**3,6**
Limpopo	Rural	6,7	6,2	84,1	3,1
	Urban	85,9	3,5	10,3	0,3
	Total	**24,3**	**5,6**	**67,6**	**2,5**
South Africa	**Rural**	13,0	6,2	77,7	3,2
	Urban	84,9	6,7	6,6	1,8
	Total	**62,9**	**6,6**	**28,3**	**2,2**

Table 12.1 shows that, nationally, close to two-thirds (62,9%) of households had their refuse removed on a weekly basis or less often, while 28,3% had to use their own refuse dumps. Refuse removal was most common in the Western Cape (91,1%) and Gauteng (83,1%), and least common in Limpopo (24,3%). Compared with urban areas, refuse removal took place much less often in rural areas. The table shows that refuse removal was least common in the rural areas of the Eastern Cape (1,9%), Limpopo (6,7%) and KwaZulu-Natal (7,7%). Overall, 77,7% of households in rural areas discarded refuse themselves compared with only 6,6% of households in urban areas.

Figure 12.2 shows that refuse is removed at least once per week or less often for 84,4% of all households in metropolitan areas, notably higher than the national figure of 62,9%. Refuse removal was most common in the City of Cape Town (90,3%), Ekurhuleni (89,9%), and the City of Johannesburg (86,1%), and least common in Buffalo City (70,8%) and Mangaung (71,3%).

Figure 12.2 – Percentage (%) distribution of household refuse removal by metropolitan areas, 2025

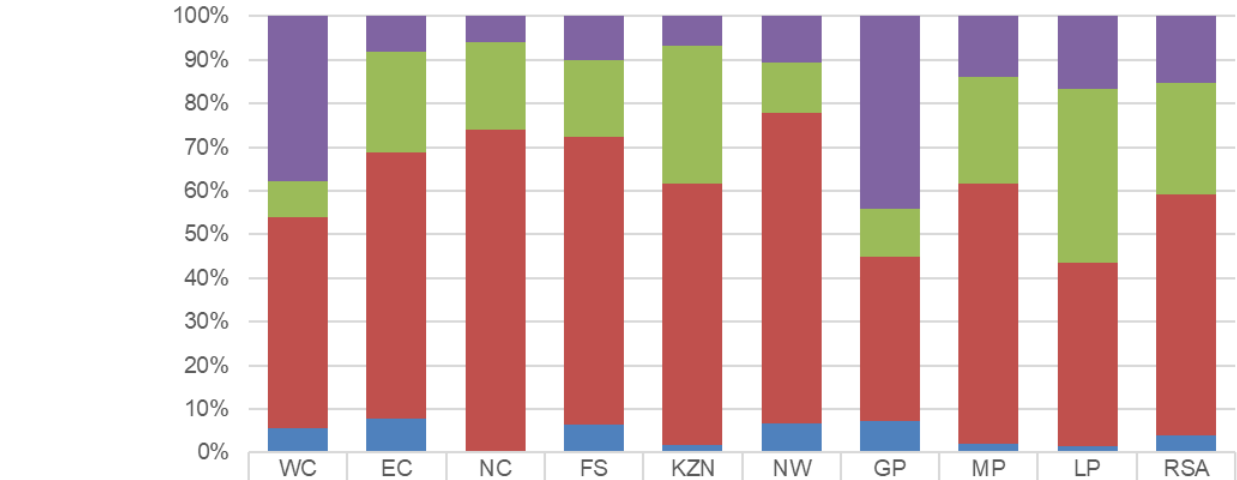


	CPT	BUF	NMB	MAN	ETH	EKU	JHB	TSH	Metro
Other	0,1	0,4	4,9	4,5	0,1	1,9	1,7	2,5	1,5
Own rubbish dump	0,1	25,5	2,6	20,0	17,1	2,6	1,1	9,5	6,3
Communal refuse dump	9,6	3,2	9,5	4,2	2,0	5,6	11,1	9,5	7,8
Removed (weekly or less often)	90,3	70,8	83,0	71,3	80,9	89,9	86,1	78,6	84,4

12.2 Burning refuse

Burning household waste is a relatively common practice that poses significant health and environmental risks. It contributes to air pollution and releases harmful pollutants that can impact human health, particularly in those with respiratory or heart conditions. Figure 12.3 shows that 84,7% of households in South Africa burned their refuse from time to time. Burning refuse was least common in the Western Cape and Gauteng where respectively 37,8% and 44,2% of households never burned their refuse. Burning waste from time to time was most common in the Northern Cape (94,1%), KwaZulu-Natal (93,3%) and the Eastern Cape (91,8%). Nationally, 55,1 % of households burned their waste every week or bi-weekly, and 25,6% monthly or less often.

Figure 12.3 – Percentage (%) distribution of households that burn some or all of their solid waste by province, 2025



	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
Never	37,8	8,2	6,0	10,0	6,8	10,5	44,2	13,9	16,6	15,3
Monthly or less often	8,3	22,9	20,0	17,6	31,7	11,6	11,1	24,5	39,9	25,6
Weekly / Bi-Weekly	48,4	61,1	73,6	65,9	59,9	71,2	37,4	59,6	41,9	55,1
Every day	5,5	7,7	0,5	6,5	1,7	6,7	7,4	2,0	1,6	4,0

12.3 Recycling

Recycling plays an increasingly important role in South Africa's waste management and environmental sustainability efforts. By diverting recyclable materials from landfills, recycling helps to conserve natural resources, reduce environmental pollution, and mitigate the pressure on already constrained landfill capacity. In addition, the recycling sector contributes to economic activity and job creation, particularly within informal and small-scale enterprises, while supporting the transition towards a more circular and resource-efficient economy.

Figure 12.4 – Percentage (%) distribution of households that separate or sort recyclable materials from household waste for recycling by province, 2025

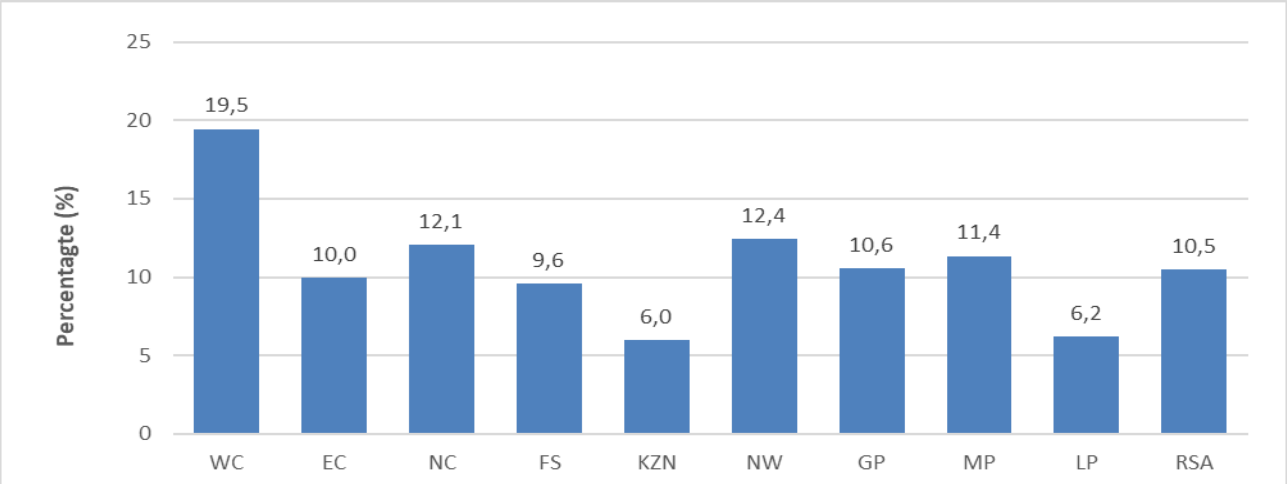
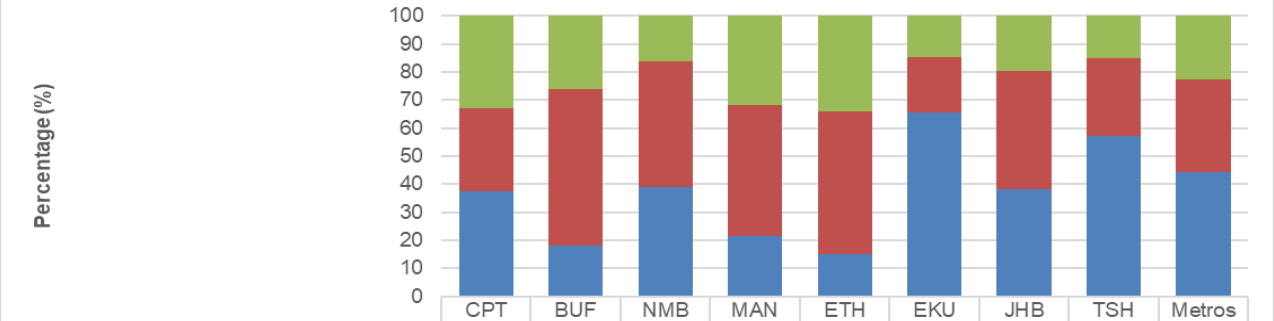


Figure 12.4 shows that only 10,5% of households separated or sorted household recyclable materials from household waste for recycling. Households that separated recyclable waste for recycling were most common in the Western Cape (19,5%), North West (12,4%) and the Northern Cape (12,1%), and least common in KwaZulu-Natal (6,0%) and Limpopo (6,2%).

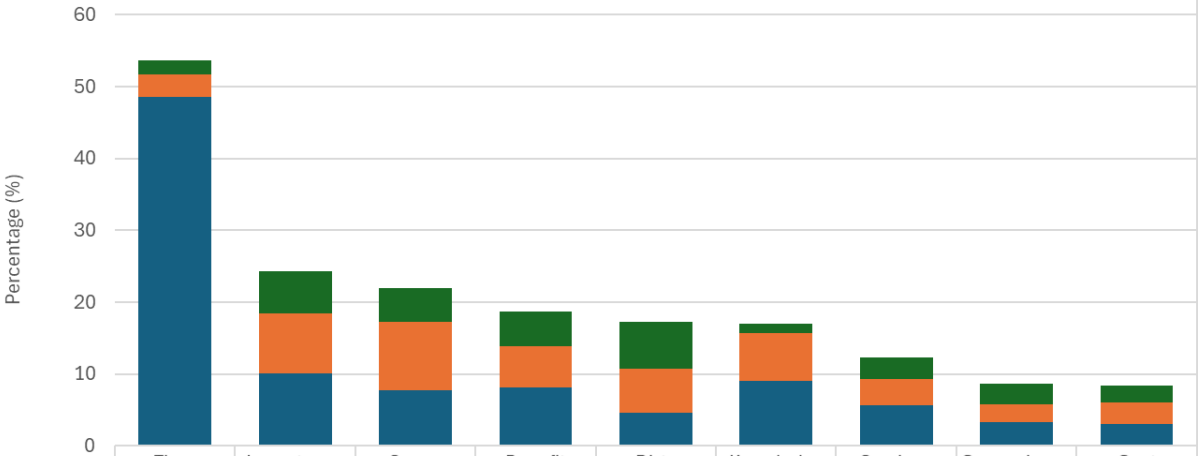
Figure 12.5 – Percentage (%) distribution of households that mainly recycle the recyclable materials from household waste by metropolitan areas, 2025



	CPT	BUF	NMB	MAN	ETH	EKU	JHB	TSH	Metros
Kerbside collection	33,1	26,1	16,3	31,8	34,2	14,7	19,5	15,0	22,9
Drop-off / central collection point	29,4	55,8	44,7	46,8	50,9	19,6	42,4	27,8	33,0
Separated by household to supoort waste pickers	37,5	18,1	39,1	21,4	15,0	65,7	38,1	57,2	44,1

Of the households that separated material for recycling, Figure 12.5 shows that 44,1% did it to support waste pickers, while a third (33,0%) dropped material off at a central collection point, and 22,9% put it out for kerbside collection. Kerbside collection of recycling materials was highest in eThekwini (34,2%) and the City of Cape Town (33,1%), and lowest in Ekurhuleni (14,7%) and the City of Tshwane (15,0%). Support for waste pickers was most common in Ekurhuleni (65,7%) and the City of Tshwane (57,2%) and least common in eThekwini (15,0%) and Buffalo City (18,1%).

Figure 12.6 – Percentage (%) distribution of households by main reasons for not recycling household waste, 2025.



	Time	Importance	Space	Benefit	Dirty	Knowledge	Services	Convenience	Cost
3rd most important	1,9	5,9	4,7	4,8	6,6	1,3	3,0	2,8	2,4
2nd most important	3,1	8,4	9,5	5,8	6,1	6,8	3,7	2,6	3,1
Most important	48,6	10,1	7,8	8,1	4,6	9,0	5,6	3,2	3,0

The main reasons for not recycling household waste are presented in Figure 12.6. The figure shows that a lack of time (53,6%) was considered the main reason if primary, secondary or tertiary reasons are combined. This is followed by the perceived importance of recycling (24,4%), inadequate space to store recycled material (22,0%), and not getting enough financial benefit (18,7%). The least common reasons were an unwillingness/inability to pay for services (8,5%), inconvenience (8,7%) and inadequate availability of recycling services (12,3%).

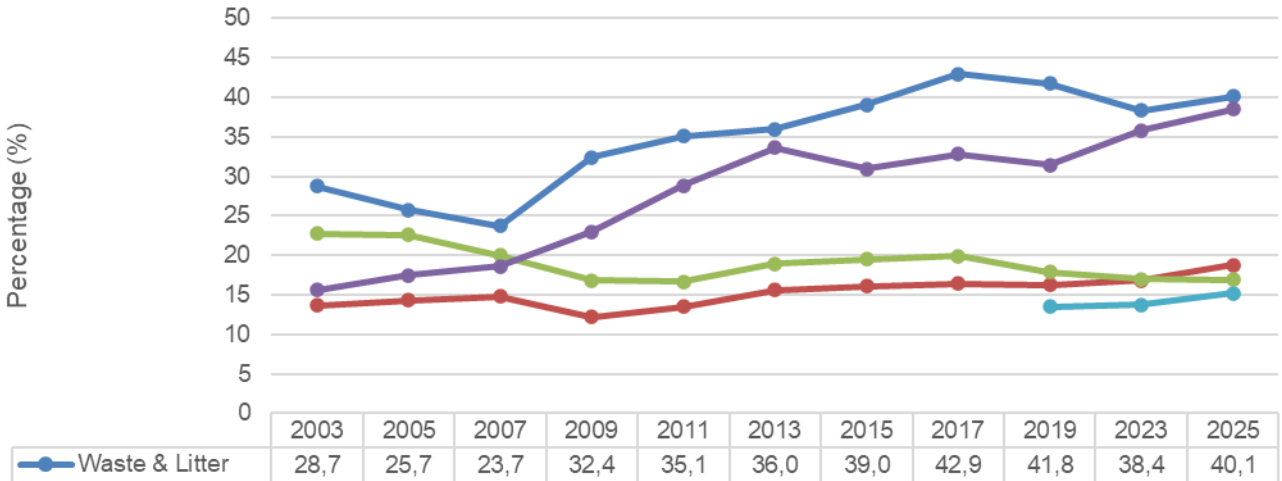
13 Environmental trends

The GHS includes a number of questions on the environment, the most important of which have been included in the questionnaire from 2003 onwards. These questions specifically ask households whether they have experienced any of the environmental problems listed in the area where they live. Figure 13.1 summarises these responses for all years between 2003 and 2025, with the exception of COVID-19 years (2020 and 2021).

Figure 13.1 reveals that waste removal problems and littering[1] (40,1%), and land degradation and soil erosion (38,5%) were the two environmental problems that concerned the highest percentage of households in 2025. The proportion of households that felt that there were problems with littering and waste removal in their areas increased notably since 2009 when 32,4% of households regarded this as a problem. Households that considered air pollution to be a problem decreased from 22,7% in 2003 to 16,9% in 2025. This corresponds with a switch from wood and coal to electricity as a main source of energy. Households that considered noise a problem increased from 13,5% in 2019 to 15,2% in 2025.

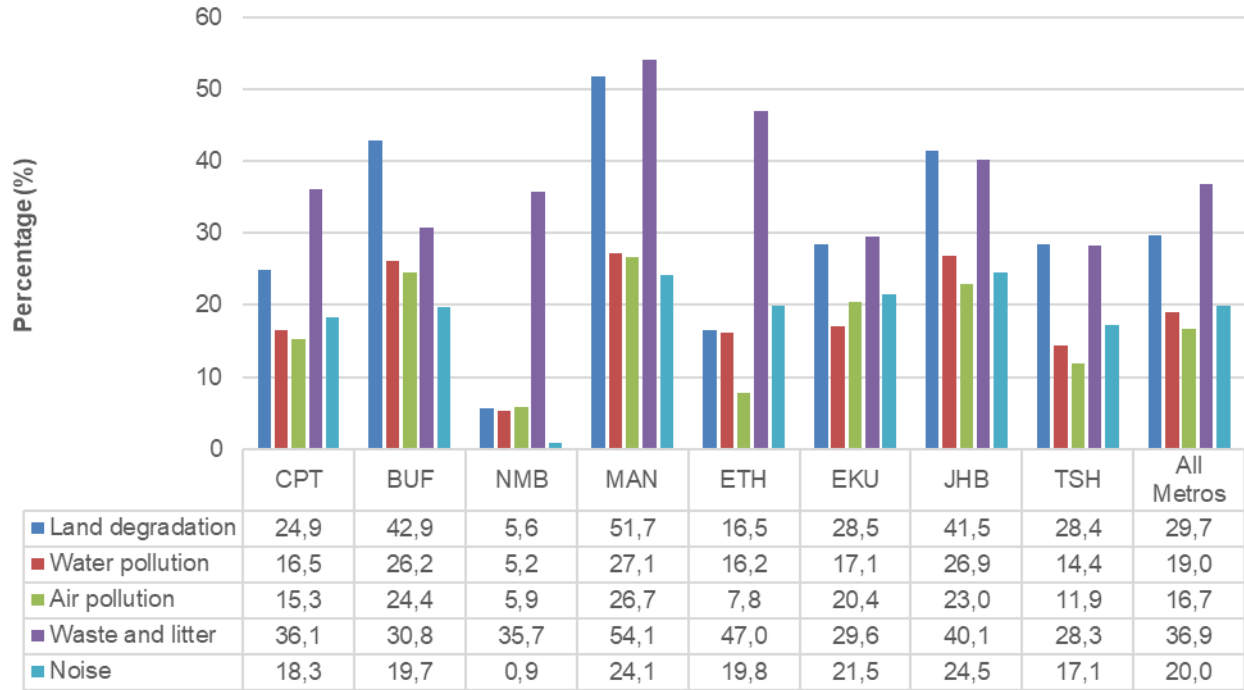
[1] The question related to waste removal/littering was asked slightly differently in 2009 in that the two categories were separated in 2009, while it was combined as an option in the previous years. For the purposes of comparison, they were grouped together again for 2009. The slight modification may also have contributed to a higher number of households concerned about waste removal/littering.

Figure 13.1 – Percentage (%) distribution of households who experience specific kinds of environmental problems, 2003–2025



	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2023	2025
Waste & Litter	28,7	25,7	23,7	32,4	35,1	36,0	39,0	42,9	41,8	38,4	40,1
Water pollution	13,7	14,3	14,8	12,2	13,5	15,6	16,1	16,4	16,2	16,8	18,8
Air pollution	22,7	22,6	20,0	16,8	16,6	18,9	19,5	19,9	17,9	16,9	16,9
Land degradation	15,6	17,5	18,6	23,0	28,8	33,6	30,9	32,8	31,4	35,8	38,5
Noise									13,5	13,7	15,2

Figure 13.2 – Percentage (%) distribution of households who experience specific kinds of environmental problems by metropolitan area, 2025



	CPT	BUF	NMB	MAN	ETH	EKU	JHB	TSH	All Metros
Land degradation	24,9	42,9	5,6	51,7	16,5	28,5	41,5	28,4	29,7
Water pollution	16,5	26,2	5,2	27,1	16,2	17,1	26,9	14,4	19,0
Air pollution	15,3	24,4	5,9	26,7	7,8	20,4	23,0	11,9	16,7
Waste and litter	36,1	30,8	35,7	54,1	47,0	29,6	40,1	28,3	36,9
Noise	18,3	19,7	0,9	24,1	19,8	21,5	24,5	17,1	20,0

Figure 13.2 shows that waste removal problems and littering (36,9%), and land degradation (29,7%) were the most common environmental problems in metros. With the exception of Mangaung (51,7%) and Buffalo City (42,9%), where land degradation was considered the most important environmental problem, waste removal and littering were considered most important across most of the other metros. More than two-quarters (54,1%) of households in Mangaung considered waste removal and littering a problem. Water, air and noise pollution were generally considered the least common problems across all metropolitan areas.

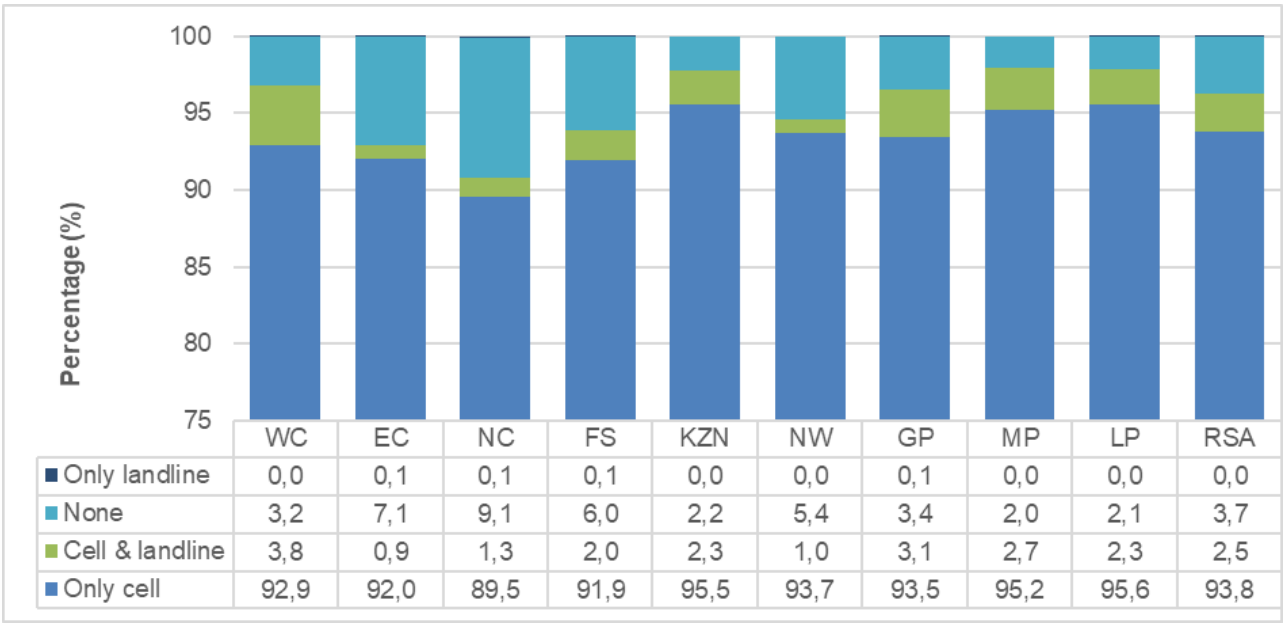
14 Communication and postal services

Communication plays an important role in the fundamental operation of a society. It links people and businesses, facilitating communication and the flow of ideas and information, and coordinating economic activities and development.

14.1 Landlines and cell phones

Figure 14.1 summarises statistics collected on access to functional landlines and cellular (mobile) phones within the sampled dwelling units during 2025. Nationally, only 3,7% of households did not have access to either landlines or cellular phones and no South African households exclusively used landlines. By comparison, 93,8% of South African households exclusively used cellular phones. The exclusive use of cellular phones was most common in Limpopo (95,6%), KwaZulu-Natal (95,5%) and Mpumalanga (95,2%) and least common in the Northern Cape (89,5%). Households that used both cellular phones and landlines were most common in the Western Cape (3,8%).

Figure 14.1 – Percentage (%) distribution of households who have a functional landline and cellular telephone in their dwellings by province, 2025



	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
Only landline	0,0	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,0
None	3,2	7,1	9,1	6,0	2,2	5,4	3,4	2,0	2,1	3,7
Cell & landline	3,8	0,9	1,3	2,0	2,3	1,0	3,1	2,7	2,3	2,5
Only cell	92,9	92,0	89,5	91,9	95,5	93,7	93,5	95,2	95,6	93,8

14.2 Internet access

The Internet is a vital resource to access information and to communicate with others. Having access to the Internet has become so ubiquitous that it is difficult to imagine how access has expanded over the years. Figure 14.2 shows that the percentage of households who could access the Internet through a fixed connection (be it dial-up, ADSL or, more recently, fibre) has remained relatively stable between 2010 and 2021, before increasing steadily to 20,6% in 2025. By contrast, mobile broadband – connecting to the Internet through a cellphone – increased by 57,6 percentage points over the same period, growing from 28,0% in 2010 to 85,6% in 2025.

Figure 14.2 – Percentage (%) distribution of households with access to the Internet at home or through all means, 2010–2025

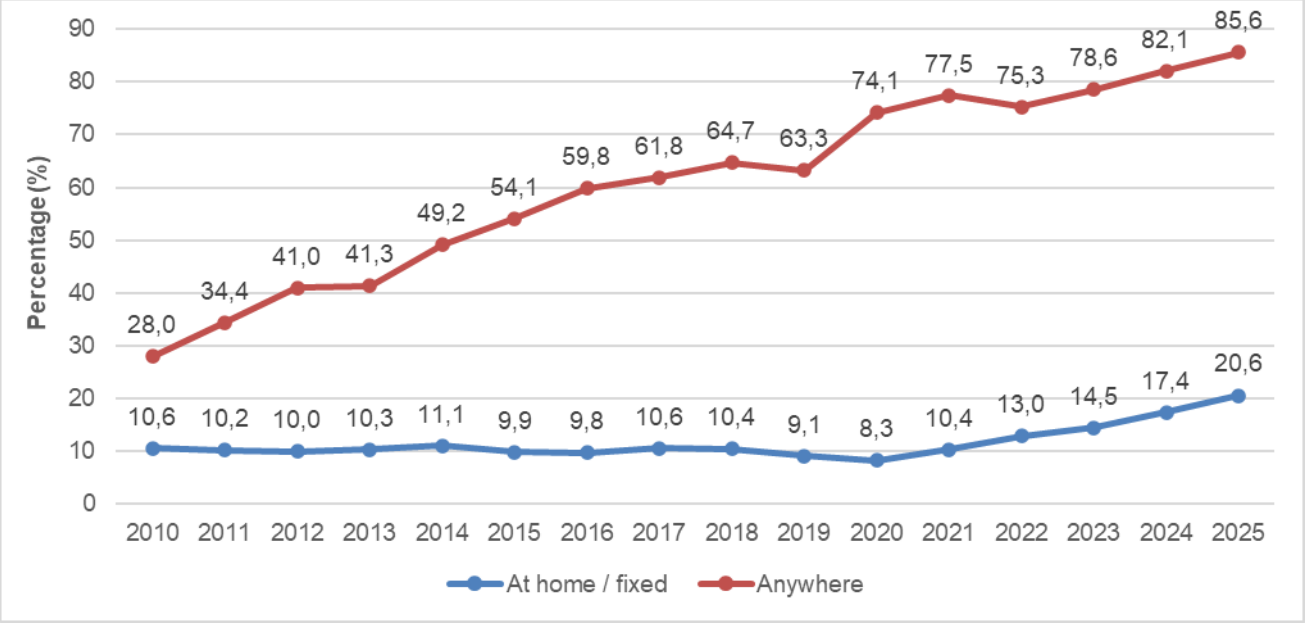


Table 14.1 – Percentage (%) distribution of households with access to the Internet by province and type of Internet access, 2025

Type of internet access	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
Mobile	80,6	71,1	68,8	76,3	84,9	75,4	77,3	82,4	81,4	**78,9**
Fixed Internet at home	49,7	11,6	11,6	11,6	10,6	8,9	31,1	7,3	5,9	**20,6**
Internet at work	21,5	8,7	9,4	9,4	10,7	5,9	18,5	8,9	3,7	**12,9**
Public Wi-Fi	16,4	4,8	12,6	7,9	4,3	4,9	10,4	9,3	2,3	**8,2**
Internet Café	12,7	2,8	0,2	3,2	2,9	2,0	7,4	6,6	0,6	**5,4**
At an educational facility	7,6	3,9	0,8	5,9	2,4	4,3	4,8	2,1	0,7	**4,0**
At a library	6,8	0,8	0,2	3,2	3,1	0,9	1,1	0,9	0,4	**2,1**
Any kind of access	**93,8**	**74,5**	**74,7**	**83,1**	**87,3**	**77,9**	**88,5**	**85,4**	**83,8**	**85,6**

Table 14.1 shows that 85,6% of South African households had at least one member who had access to or used the Internet at one or more locations such as their home, work, place of study, internet café, or at a public hot spot. Internet access using all available means was highest in the Western Cape (93,8%) and Gauteng (88,5%), and lowest in the Eastern Cape (74,5%) and Northern Cape (74,7%). Just 20,6% of South African households had access to fixed Internet at home. Access to the Internet at home was highest among households in Western Cape (49,7%) and Gauteng (31,1%), and lowest in Mpumalanga (7,3%) and Limpopo (5,9%). More than three-quarters (78,9%) of households could access the Internet using mobile devices. Access to Public Wi-Fi spots was highest in the Western Cape (16,4%), Northern Cape (12,6%) and Gauteng (10,4%), and lowest in Limpopo (2,3%) and KwaZulu-Natal (4,3%).

Table 14.2 – Percentage (%) distribution of households with access to the Internet by metro and type of internet access, 2025

Type of internet access	CPT	BUF	NMA	MAN	ETH	EKU	JHB	TSH	Metros	RSA
Mobile	80,8	42,2	90,4	78,1	89,5	77,6	81,4	66,1	**78,6**	**78,9**
Fixed internet at home	55,4	12,3	33,6	12,3	22,1	29,9	34,8	31,8	**33,5**	**20,6**
Internet at work	21,9	17,4	11,8	11,2	19,8	25,7	21,5	10,9	**19,4**	**12,9**
Public Wi-Fi	12,5	4,3	8,0	6,6	1,0	6,3	14,4	9,2	**9,1**	**8,2**
Internet Café	18,9	9,6	0,2	2,5	4,1	11,9	11,4	0,2	**9,0**	**5,4**
At an educational facility	6,5	4,3	2,5	9,2	3,9	6,8	4,7	4,7	**5,3**	**4,0**
At a library	5,1	1,6	0,3	2,2	3,8	1,6	1,6	0,1	**2,2**	**2,1**
Any kind of access	**95,5**	**56,3**	**91,1**	**82,0**	**92,1**	**93,5**	**90,4**	**81,1**	**89,3**	**85,6**

A higher proportion of households in metropolitan areas (89,3%) had access to the Internet compared with South African households overall (85,6%). Nearly four-fifths of metropolitan residents (78,6%) accessed the Internet via mobile connections, a level broadly comparable to the national average (78,9%). By contrast, access to fixed Internet connections at home was substantially higher in metropolitan areas, where 33,5% of households reported such access, compared with 20,6% nationally.

Marked variation was observed between metropolitan municipalities. More than half of households in the City of Cape Town (55,4%) had access to fixed Internet connections at home, compared while 34,8% in the City of Johannesburg, 31,8% in the City of Tshwane, and 29,9% in Ekurhuleni. Overall, average Internet access levels across all seven access categories presented in Table 14.2 were consistently higher in metropolitan areas than for South African households as a whole.

Table 14.3 – Households' access to the Internet by place of access, urban/rural status and province, 2025

Place where Internet is accessed	Rural/ Urban status	Province (per cent)									
		WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
At home	Metro	55,4	25,1	-	12,3	22,1	-	32,5	-	-	**33,5**
	Urban	41,4	9,9	14,4	13,1	7,8	16,7	21,2	13,8	13,7	**17,6**
	Rural	24,5	0,7	4,8	4,3	0,7	3,1	18,3	1,9	3,6	**2,7**
	Total	**49,7**	**11,6**	**11,6**	**11,6**	**10,6**	**8,9**	**31,1**	**7,3**	**5,9**	**20,6**
At work	Metro	21,9	14,0	-	11,2	19,8	-	19,8	-	-	**19,4**
	Urban	21,4	8,8	11,6	8,8	8,4	8,1	10,1	13,1	5,1	**11,0**
	Rural	17,1	4,1	4,1	7,9	2,9	4,3	8,2	5,5	3,3	**4,2**
	Total	**21,5**	**8,7**	**9,4**	**9,4**	**10,7**	**5,9**	**18,5**	**8,9**	**3,7**	**12,9**
Using mobile devices	Metro	80,8	71,1	-	78,1	89,5	-	76,1	-	-	**78,6**
	Urban	80,2	77,2	70,7	74,6	86,2	80,9	85,5	87,6	86,4	**82,1**
	Rural	80,4	68,2	64,5	78,9	79,6	71,4	74,0	78,1	80,0	**76,4**
	Total	**80,6**	**71,1**	**68,8**	**76,3**	**84,9**	**75,4**	**77,3**	**82,4**	**81,4**	**78,9**
At Internet cafes or educational facilities	Metro	24,6	7,7	-	9,7	9,3	-	13,7	-	-	**14,2**
	Urban	16,8	8,2	1,4	10,6	2,9	7,6	2,3	8,7	2,3	**7,1**
	Rural	10,4	4,8	0,3	3,3	5,7	4,6	0,0	8,9	1,1	**4,6**
	Total	**21,6**	**6,6**	**1,1**	**9,3**	**6,5**	**5,9**	**12,2**	**8,8**	**1,3**	**9,7**

Table 14.3 shows that household access to the Internet at home was highest in the Western Cape (49,7%) and Gauteng (31,1%) and lowest in Limpopo (5,9%) and Mpumalanga (7,3%). While 33,5% of households in metropolitan areas had access to the Internet at home, this was true for only 2,7% of rural households in general and less than 1% of rural households in the Eastern Cape (0,7%) and KwaZulu-Natal (0,7%). A large percentage of households accessed the Internet at work (12,9%) and Internet cafés or at educational institutions (9,7%). Households in the Western Cape (21,5%) and Gauteng (18,5%) were most likely to access the Internet at work, while only 3,7% of households in Limpopo and 5,9% in North West accessed the internet at work.

Using mobile devices to access the Internet includes access on cellular telephones or using mobile access devices such as 3G cards. It is clear from Table 14.3 that mobile access to the Internet has made it much more accessible to households in rural areas. Nationally, Internet access using mobile devices (78,9%) was the most common form of access to the Internet. Although the use of mobile Internet devices in rural areas (76,4%) still lags, its use in urban (82,1%) and metropolitan areas (78,6%) is much more common than any of the alternative methods.

14.3 Mail

The volume of mail that is handled by the South African Post Office has declined steeply over the past few decades as demand for physical post declined and electronic alternatives such as email became more common. Figure 14.3 shows that the percentage of households that did not receive any mail increased steadily from 9,0% in 2002 to 32,7% in 2019, before increasing sharply to 67,4% in 2025 in the wake of COVID-19.

Figure 14.3 – Percentage (%) distribution of households without any mail services, 2002–2025

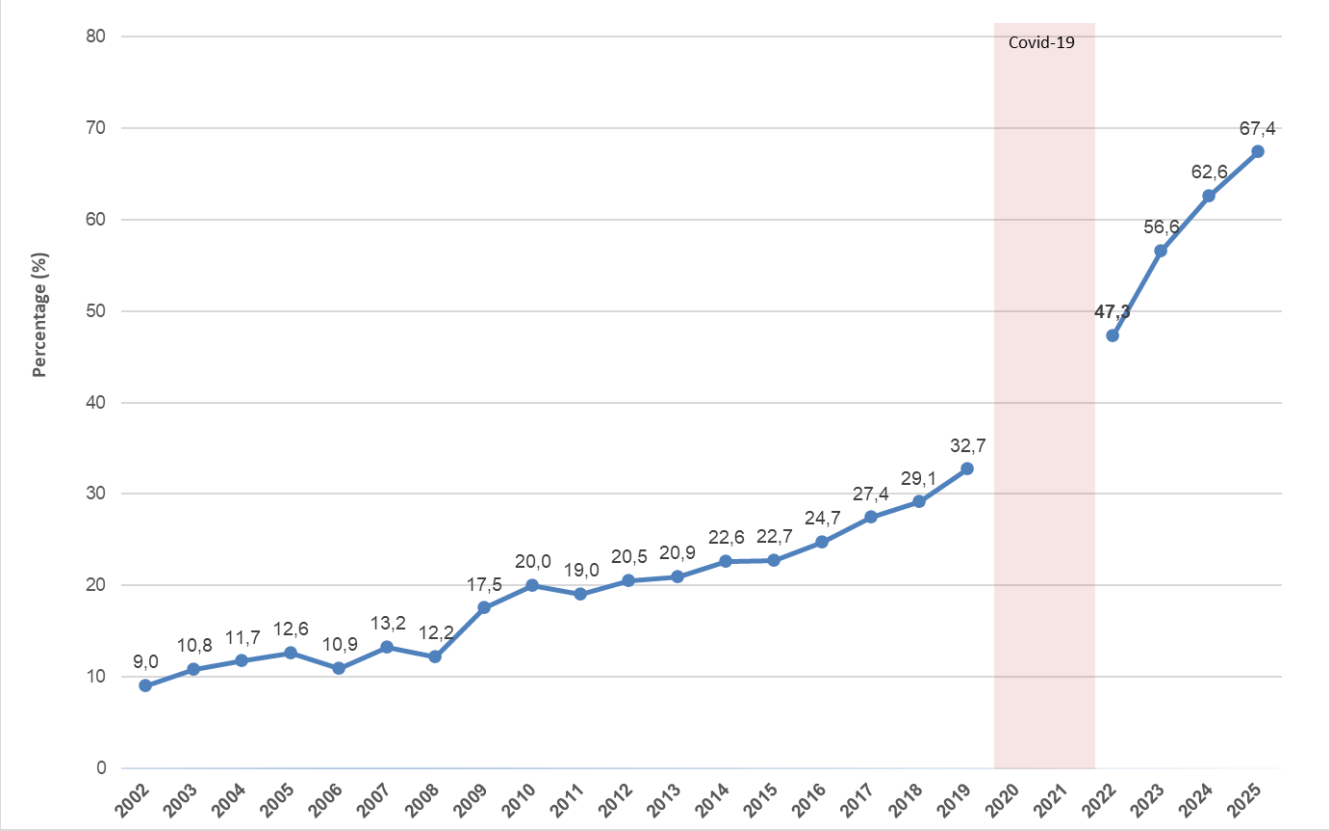
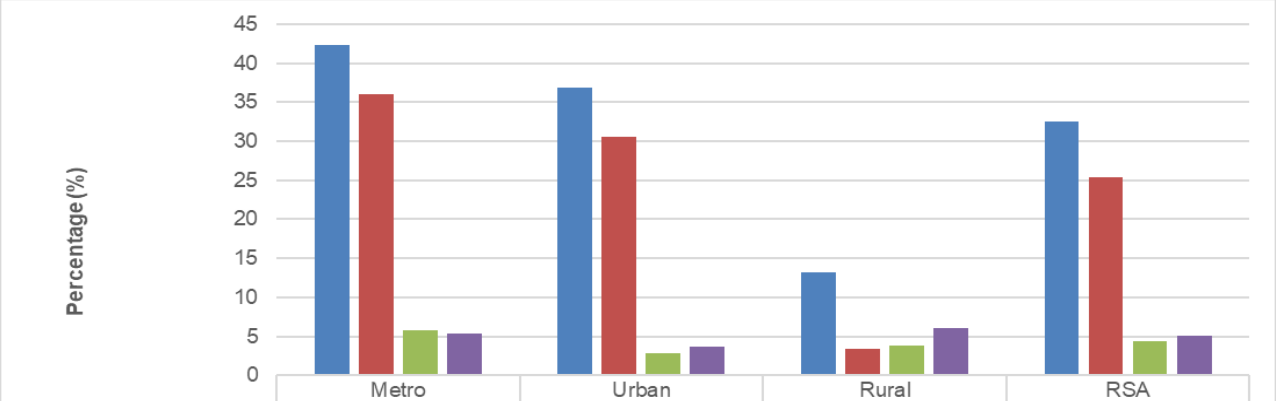


Figure 14.4 – Percentage (%) distribution of households that received mail services by type of service and geographical area, 2025



	Metro	Urban	Rural	RSA
Any method	42,3	36,8	13,2	32,6
Mail delivery at home	36,0	30,6	3,5	25,3
Private Bag	5,7	2,8	3,8	4,4
Other	5,4	3,7	6,0	5,1

Figure 14.4 illustrates disparities in household access to mail services across settlement types, with households in rural areas experiencing substantially poorer access than their urban and metropolitan counterparts. While 42,3% of households in metropolitan areas and 36,8% of households in urban areas reported access to mail services, fewer than one-fifth (13,2%) of rural households had similar access.

Access to home mail delivery was particularly limited in rural areas, where only 3,5% of households reported receiving mail at home, compared with 30,6% of households in urban areas and 36,0% in metropolitan areas. A relatively small proportion of rural households (3,8%) and urban households (2,8%) relied on post boxes or private mail bags. Alternative arrangements for receiving mail–such as collection through schools, community leaders, or workplaces–were more common among rural households (6,0%) than among those in metropolitan (5,4%) or urban areas (3,7%).

15 Transport

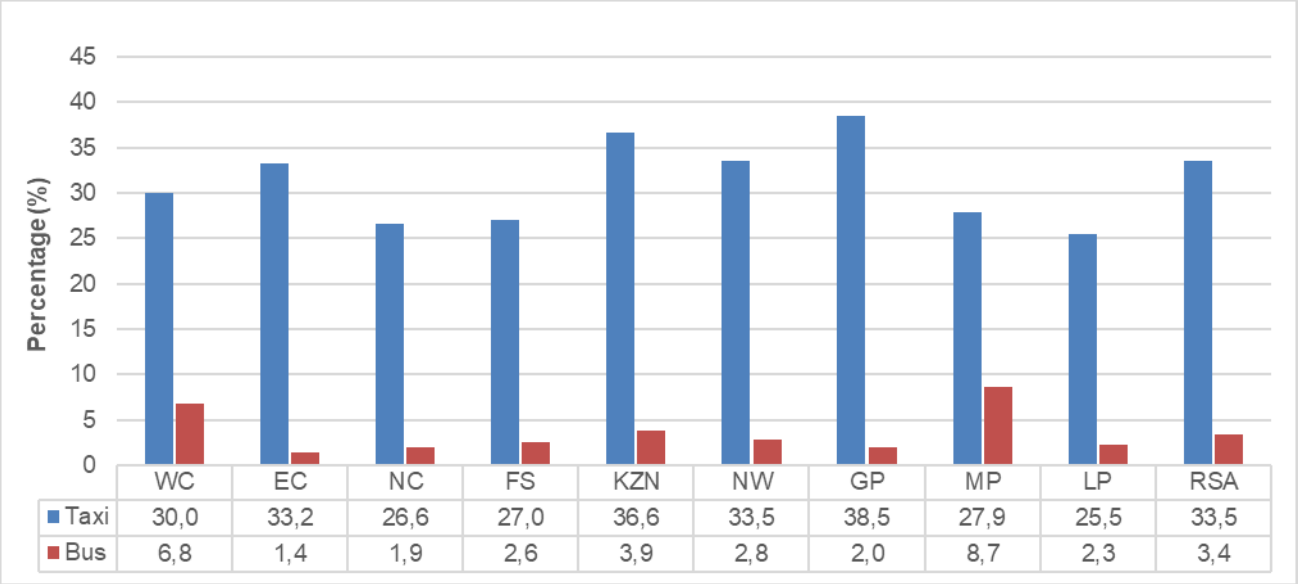
The transport questions asked in the GHS focus primarily on the use of public and/or state-subsidised transport, the cost of transport to households and the types of transport and time needed to travel to work and school.

Table 15.1 – Mode of transport used by household members to travel to school and work, 2025

	Usual transport to school		Usual transport to work	
Mode of transport	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**
Walking	10 243	60,6	4 299	22,5
Bicycle	12	0,1	79	0,4
Motorcycle	6	0,0	36	0,2
Minibus taxi/sedan taxi/bakkie taxi	1 105	6,5	4 595	24,0
Bus	281	1,7	581	3,0
Train	13	0,1	118	0,6
Minibus/bus provided by institution/government and not paid for	844	5,0	n/a	n/a
Vehicle hired by a group of parents	2 505	14,8	n/a	n/a
Own car or other private vehicle	1 826	10,8	5 023	26,3
Lift club by a group of people sharing a private vehicle	n/a	n/a	501	2,6
None, students/works from home	n/a	n/a	2 349	12,3
Company car/staff transporter	n/a	n/a	1 442	7,5
Total	**16 905**	**100,0**	**19 115**	**100,0**

Table 15.1 shows that just over three-fifths (60,5%) of the learners walked to school, while a further 14,8% used transport that was arranged by parents, 10,8% travelled by private car, and 6,5% used taxis. The most used mode of transport to travel to work was a private car (26,3%), followed by taxis (24,0%) and walking (22,5%). The survey found that 12,3% of the working population worked from home and that they therefore had no need for transport. It is notable that 7,5% used company cars or staff transport.

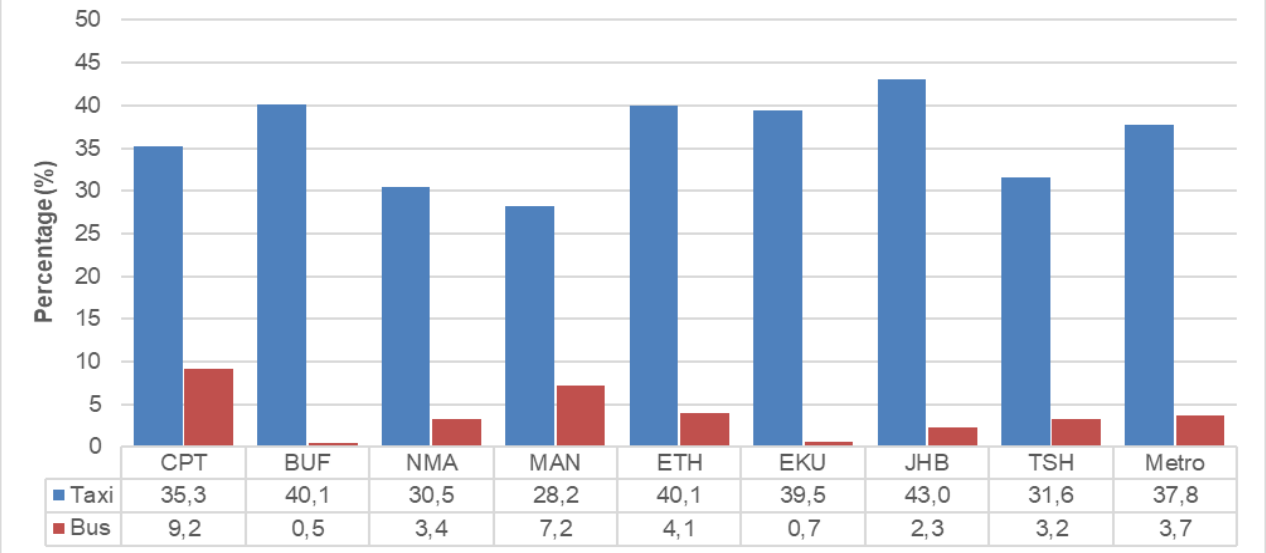
Figure 15.1 – Percentage (%) distribution of households who made use of public transport during the week preceding the survey by province, 2025



	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
Taxi	30,0	33,2	26,6	27,0	36,6	33,5	38,5	27,9	25,5	33,5
Bus	6,8	1,4	1,9	2,6	3,9	2,8	2,0	8,7	2,3	3,4

Figure 15.1 shows that 33,5% of South African households had at least one household member who used a taxi during the week preceding the survey. The use of taxis was most common in Gauteng (38,5%) and KwaZulu-Natal (36,6%). By comparison, only 3,4% of South African households used a bus during the preceding week. It is notable that 8,7% of households in Mpumalanga used a bus.

Figure 15.2 – Percentage (%) distribution of households who made use of public transport during the week preceding the survey by metropolitan area, 2025



	CPT	BUF	NMA	MAN	ETH	EKU	JHB	TSH	Metro
Taxi	35,3	40,1	30,5	28,2	40,1	39,5	43,0	31,6	37,8
Bus	9,2	0,5	3,4	7,2	4,1	0,7	2,3	3,2	3,7

In metropolitan areas, 37,8% of households included at least one member who used a taxi during the week preceding the survey. This percentage was the highest in the City of Johannesburg (43,0%), Buffalo City (40,1%) and eThekwini (40,1%). By comparison, 3,7% of households used buses during the previous week. The use of buses was most common in the City of Cape Town (9,2%) and Mangaung (7,2%).

16 Agriculture

Agriculture plays an important role in household livelihoods, and it often contributes directly and indirectly to income generation, food security and employment. For many households, agricultural activities provide a primary or supplementary source of livelihood through the production of food for own consumption, and the sale of surplus produce. Agriculture also serves as a critical coping and risk-management strategy, helping households to smooth consumption, reduce vulnerability to economic shocks, and strengthen resilience in contexts where access to formal employment and stable income opportunities is limited.

Figure 16.1 – Percentage (%) distribution of households involved in agricultural activities by province, 2025

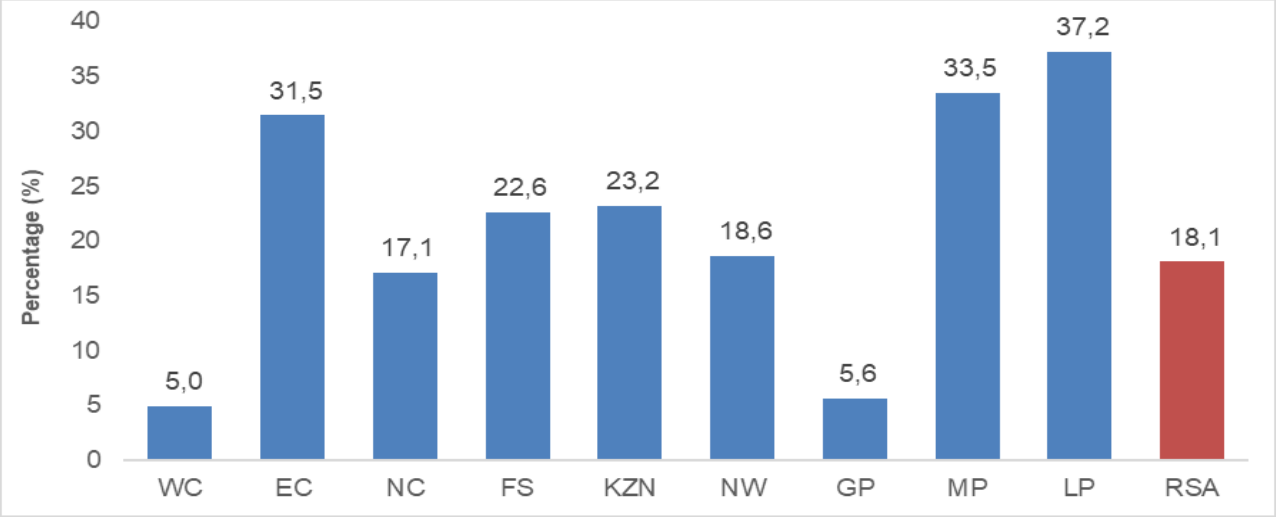
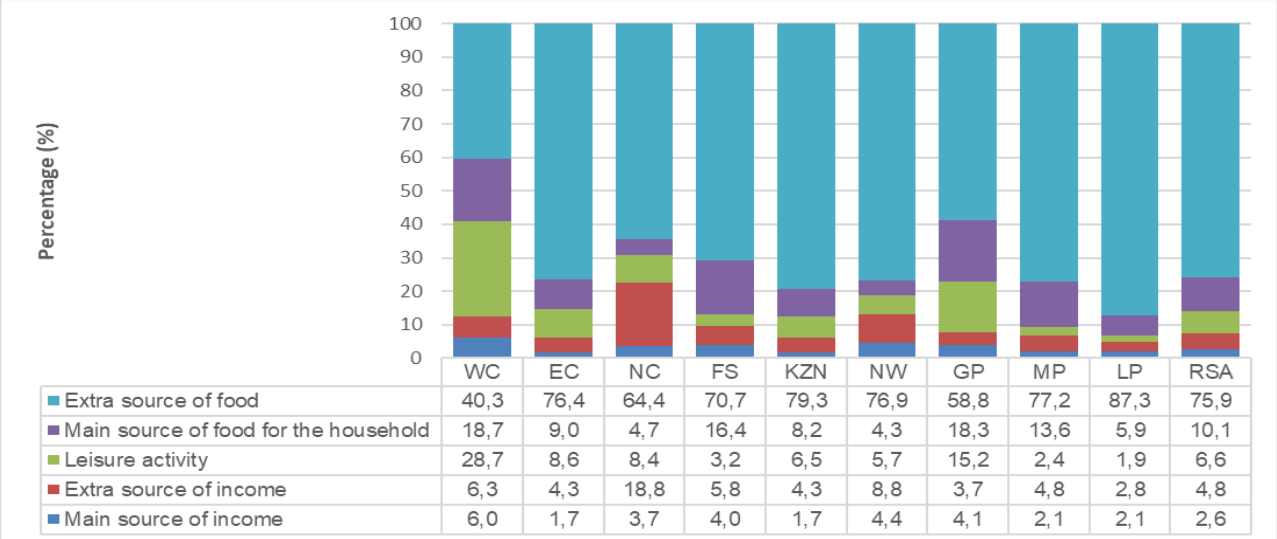


Figure 16.1 shows that only 18,1% of South African households were involved in some sort of agricultural production activities during the reference period. Households in Limpopo (37,2%), Mpumalanga (33,5%) and the Eastern Cape (31,5%) and were most involved, while only 5,0% of households in the Western Cape, and 5,6% of households in Gauteng engaged in some agricultural activity.

Figure 16.2 – Percentage (%) distribution of households' main reasons for agricultural involvement in South Africa by province, 2025



	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
Extra source of food	40,3	76,4	64,4	70,7	79,3	76,9	58,8	77,2	87,3	75,9
Main source of food for the household	18,7	9,0	4,7	16,4	8,2	4,3	18,3	13,6	5,9	10,1
Leisure activity	28,7	8,6	8,4	3,2	6,5	5,7	15,2	2,4	1,9	6,6
Extra source of income	6,3	4,3	18,8	5,8	4,3	8,8	3,7	4,8	2,8	4,8
Main source of income	6,0	1,7	3,7	4,0	1,7	4,4	4,1	2,1	2,1	2,6

Figure 16.2 shows that the vast majority of South African households that engaged in agriculture did so in an attempt to secure an additional (75,9%) or a main (10,1%) source of food. The production of an additional source of food was most commonly reported in Limpopo (87,3%) and KwaZulu-Natal (79,3%).

By contrast, only 40,3% of households in the Western Cape used the production of an additional source of food as a reason to engage in agriculture. Only 7,4% of households engaged in agriculture to generate any income. Participation in agriculture to generate an extra source of income was most common in the Northern Cape (18,8%) and North West (8,8%). Agriculture as a leisure activity was most common in the Western Cape (28,7%) and Gauteng (15,2%).

Table 16.1 – Nature of agricultural production activities per province, 2025

		Province									
Measure	**Production activity**	**WC**	**EC**	**NC**	**FS**	**KZN**	**NW**	**GP**	**MP**	**LP**	**RSA**
Number (Thousands)	Livestock production	8	298	25	31	274	59	12	89	123	**919**
	Poultry production	9	356	21	24	406	136	18	164	134	**1 269**
	Grains and food crops	3	256	2	28	453	26	28	269	543	**1 608**
	Fruits and vegetables	99	301	37	205	267	190	311	395	447	**2 253**
Percentage	Livestock production	7,1	52,6	36,5	13,0	33,9	21,6	3,4	16,8	17,7	**25,3**
	Poultry production	8,5	63,0	31,6	10,3	50,1	49,4	5,2	30,8	19,3	**34,9**
	Grains and food crops	2,3	45,2	3,0	12,0	56,0	9,4	8,0	50,5	78,1	**44,2**
	Fruits and vegetables	87,9	53,2	55,0	86,7	33,0	69,2	89,9	74,1	64,2	**61,9**

Note: A particular household can be involved in more than one activity, and percentages therefore do not add up to 100%

Table 16.1 shows that, of the households that were engaged in agricultural production, 61,9% (2,3 million households) grew fruits and vegetables, 44,2% (1,6 million households) cultivated grains and food crops, while 34,9% (1,3 million households) produced poultry. Livestock was produced by 25,3% of the households in South Africa.

17 Access to food

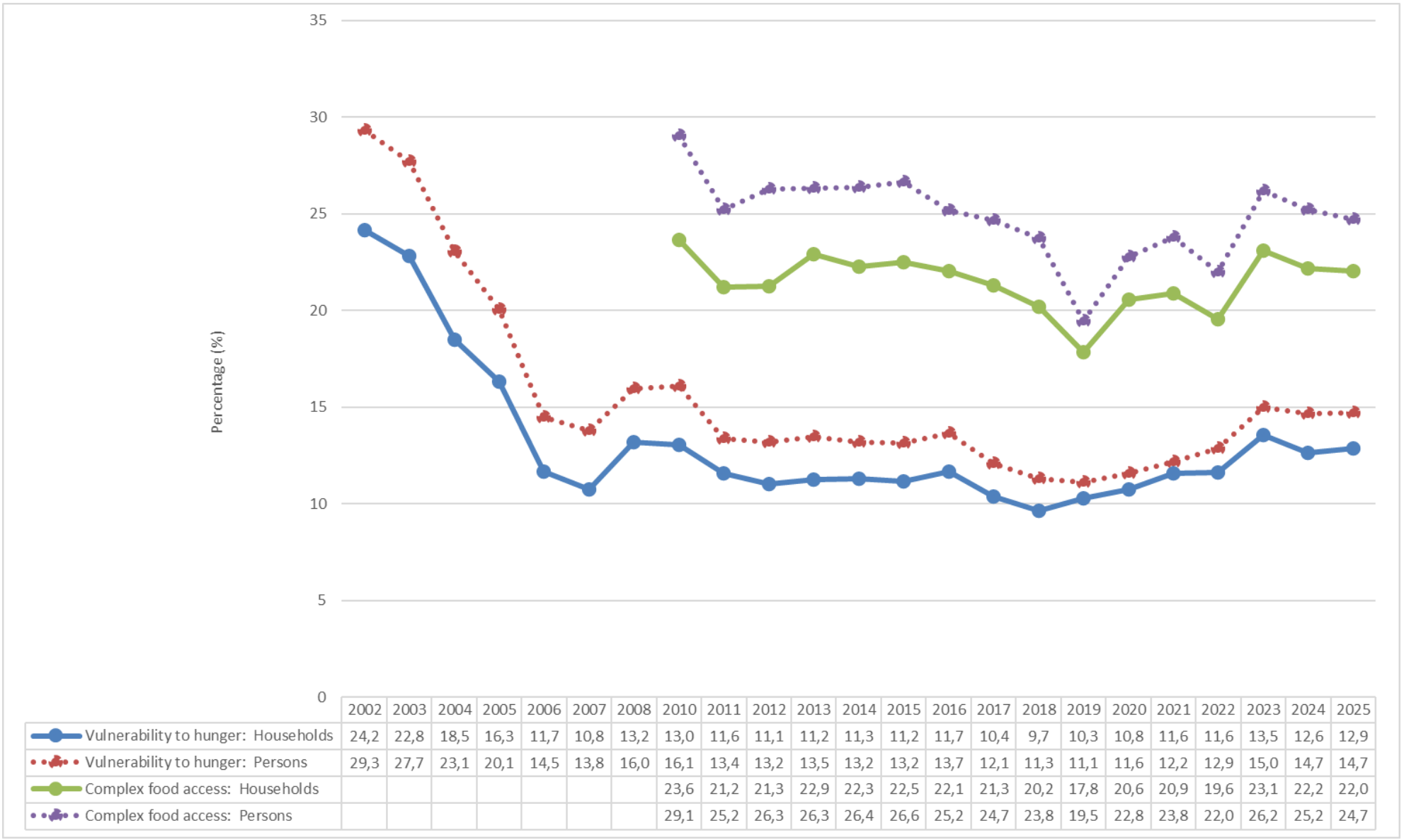
Between 2002 and 2008, the GHS asked households to indicate whether, and how often, adults and children went hungry because there was not enough food in the household. The question was not asked in 2009 but reinstated in the 2010 questionnaire and has been asked annually since then.

Figure 17.1 shows that the percentage of persons that experienced hunger decreased from 29,3% in 2002 to 11,1% by 2019 before gradually increasing to 14,7% in 2025. The percentage of households who were vulnerable to hunger reflects a similar pattern to persons vulnerable to hunger as it declined from 24,2% in 2002 to 12,9% in 2025.

Since 2009, the GHS questionnaire has also included a set of questions based on the Household Food Insecurity Access Scale (HFIAS) to determine households' access to food. These questions aim to measure households' food access by asking households about modifications they made in their diet or eating patterns during the previous month because of limited sources available where they could obtain food. The index provides a slightly more sensitive measure of food access than the question on hunger. The question used in 2009 was expanded in 2010 with the addition of a question on possible decreases in the variety of foods consumed. The index seems to reflect a similar pattern, though it is slightly higher.

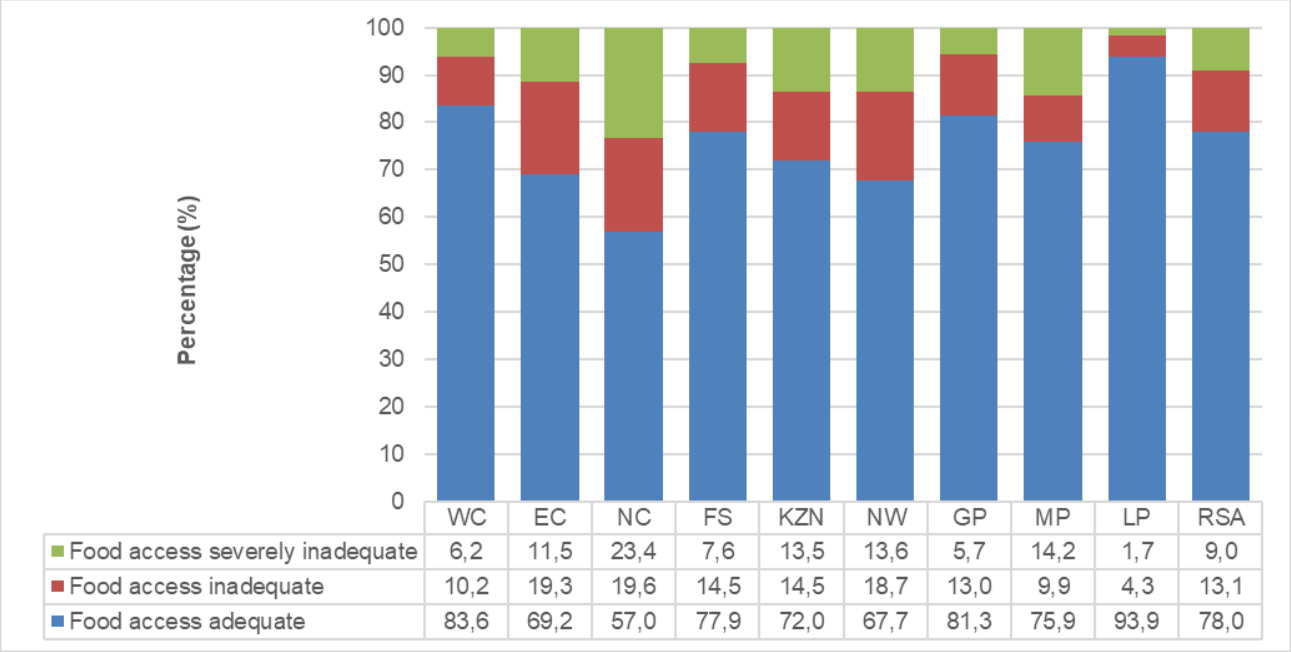
Figure 17.1 shows that the percentage of households that had limited access to food decreased from 23,6% in 2010 to 17,8% in 2019, after which it increased to 22,0% by 2025. Simultaneously, the percentage of persons with more limited access to food declined from 25,2% in 2011 to 19,5% in 2019 before increasing to 24,7% by 2025.

Figure 17.1 – Vulnerability to hunger and access to food, 2002–2025



	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Vulnerability to hunger: Households	24,2	22,8	18,5	16,3	11,7	10,8	13,2	13,0	11,6	11,1	11,2	11,3	11,2	11,7	10,4	9,7	10,3	10,8	11,6	11,6	13,5	12,6	12,9
Vulnerability to hunger: Persons	29,3	27,7	23,1	20,1	14,5	13,8	16,0	16,1	13,4	13,2	13,5	13,2	13,2	13,7	12,1	11,3	11,1	11,6	12,2	12,9	15,0	14,7	14,7
Complex food access: Households								23,6	21,2	21,3	22,9	22,3	22,5	22,1	21,3	20,2	17,8	20,6	20,9	19,6	23,1	22,2	22,0
Complex food access: Persons								29,1	25,2	26,3	26,3	26,4	26,6	25,2	24,7	23,8	19,5	22,8	23,8	22,0	26,2	25,2	24,7

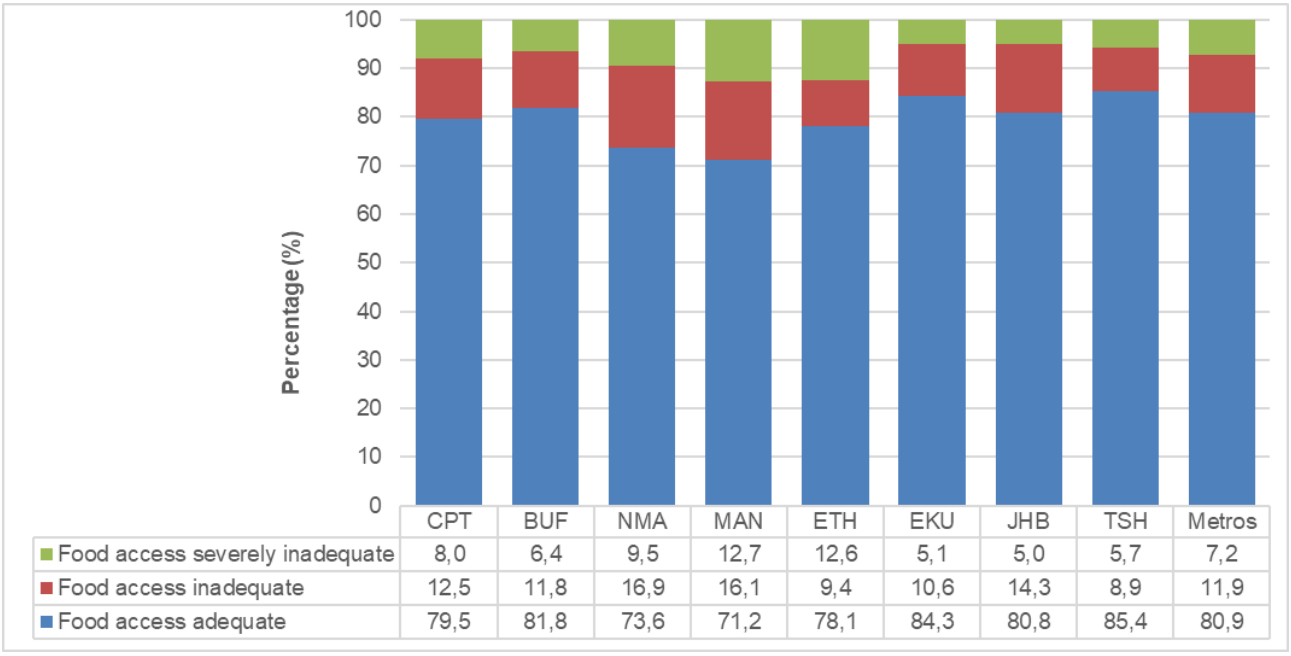
Figure 17.2 – Percentage (%) distribution of households experiencing food adequacy or inadequacy by province, 2025



	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
Food access severely inadequate	6,2	11,5	23,4	7,6	13,5	13,6	5,7	14,2	1,7	9,0
Food access inadequate	10,2	19,3	19,6	14,5	14,5	18,7	13,0	9,9	4,3	13,1
Food access adequate	83,6	69,2	57,0	77,9	72,0	67,7	81,3	75,9	93,9	78,0

Figure 17.2 shows that 22,0% of households, nationally, considered their access to food as inadequate or severely inadequate. Food access problems were most common in Northern Cape (43,0%), North West (32,3%) and Eastern Cape (30,8%). Only 6,1% of households in Limpopo had inadequate or severely inadequate access to food.

Figure 17.3 – Percentage (%) distribution of households experiencing food adequacy or inadequacy by metropolitan areas, 2025



	CPT	BUF	NMA	MAN	ETH	EKU	JHB	TSH	Metros
Food access severely inadequate	8,0	6,4	9,5	12,7	12,6	5,1	5,0	5,7	7,2
Food access inadequate	12,5	11,8	16,9	16,1	9,4	10,6	14,3	8,9	11,9
Food access adequate	79,5	81,8	73,6	71,2	78,1	84,3	80,8	85,4	80,9

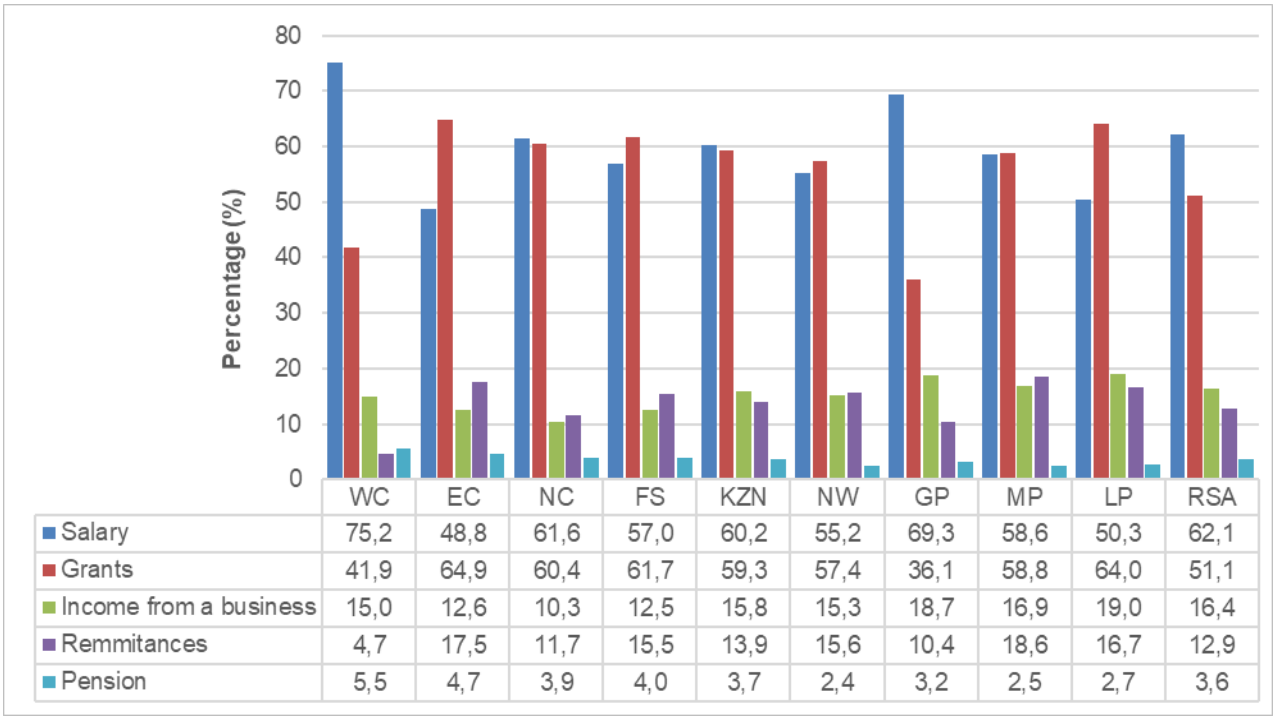
Figure 17.3 shows that 19,1% of metropolitan households had experienced inadequate or severely inadequate access to food during the preceding year. Food access problems were most common in Mangaung (28,8%) and Nelson Mandela Bay (26,4%).

18 Household sources of income

The diversification of livelihood strategies is considered an important strategy to reduce poverty and to improve the livelihoods of households. A range of possible factors could motivate households to diversify the various sources of income they receive. These could, inter alia, include the need to generate enough income to ensure a sufficient livelihood; and limit the risk associated with relying on a single source of income.

To assess livelihood diversification, households were asked to identify their sources of income from a predefined list of seven categories. These categories included salaries and wages; income from business activities; remittances; social grants; pensions; income from farming activities; and income derived from rental earnings and interest.

Figure 18.1 – Percentage (%) distribution of sources of household income by province, 2025

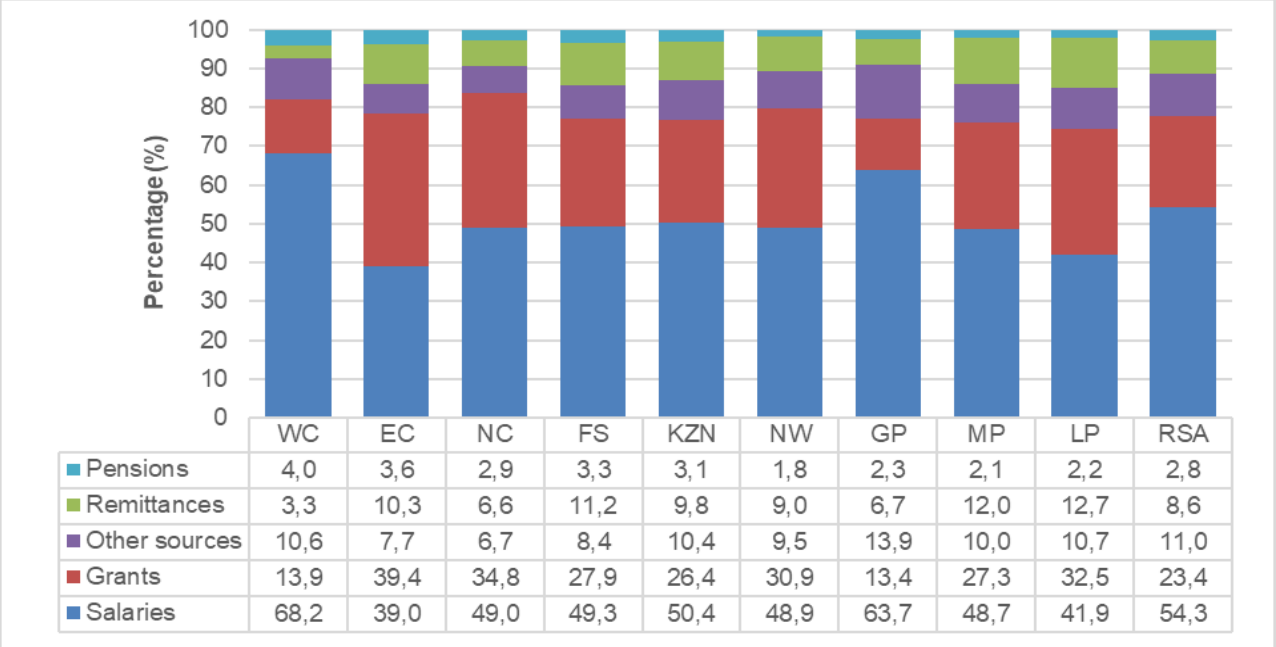


	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
Salary	75,2	48,8	61,6	57,0	60,2	55,2	69,3	58,6	50,3	62,1
Grants	41,9	64,9	60,4	61,7	59,3	57,4	36,1	58,8	64,0	51,1
Income from a business	15,0	12,6	10,3	12,5	15,8	15,3	18,7	16,9	19,0	16,4
Remmitances	4,7	17,5	11,7	15,5	13,9	15,6	10,4	18,6	16,7	12,9
Pension	5,5	4,7	3,9	4,0	3,7	2,4	3,2	2,5	2,7	3,6

Note: A specific household can have more than one source of income. Percentages, therefore, do not add up to 100%

Figure 18.1 summarises the percentage of households according to the various sources of income reported. Nationally, salaries (62,1%) and grants (51,1%) were the most common sources of income reported by households. Provincially, salaries as a source of income were most common in the Western Cape (75,2%) and Gauteng (69,3%), and least common in the Eastern Cape (48,8%) and Limpopo (50,3%). Grants were notably more prevalent than salaries as a source of income in the Eastern Cape (64,9% vs 48,8%), Limpopo (64,0% vs 50,3%), Free State (61,7% vs 57,0%) and North West (57,4% vs 55,2%). Remittances as a source of income played an important role in most provinces, but especially in Mpumalanga (18,6%), the Eastern Cape (17,5%) and Limpopo (16,7%).

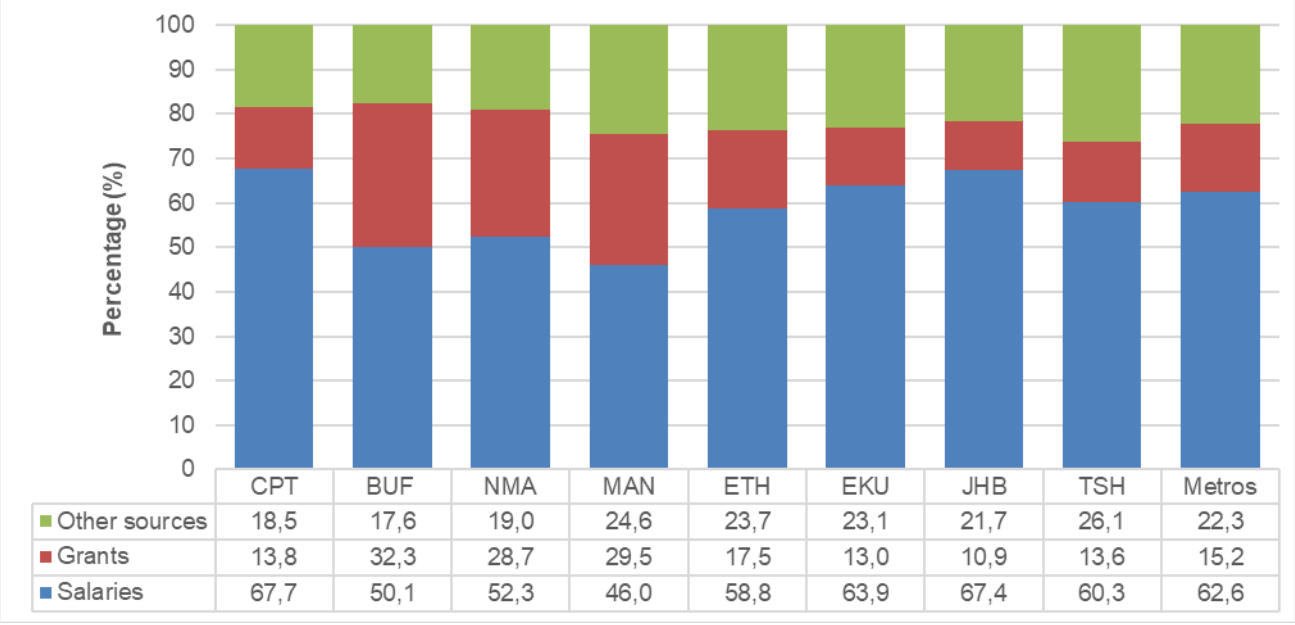
Figure 18.2 – Percentage (%) distribution of main source of household income by province, 2025



	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
Pensions	4,0	3,6	2,9	3,3	3,1	1,8	2,3	2,1	2,2	2,8
Remittances	3,3	10,3	6,6	11,2	9,8	9,0	6,7	12,0	12,7	8,6
Other sources	10,6	7,7	6,7	8,4	10,4	9,5	13,9	10,0	10,7	11,0
Grants	13,9	39,4	34,8	27,9	26,4	30,9	13,4	27,3	32,5	23,4
Salaries	68,2	39,0	49,0	49,3	50,4	48,9	63,7	48,7	41,9	54,3

Statistics South Africa defines a household's main source of income as the single source that contributes the largest share to the total income of the household, even though households may receive income from multiple sources. The concept is used to identify the dominant income stream supporting household livelihoods. Figure 18.2 shows that, nationally, 54,3% of households reported salaries/wages/commission as their main sources of income, followed by grants (23,4%), other sources of income (11,0%) and remittances (8,6%). Source of main income varies considerably across provinces. The Western Cape (68,2%) and Gauteng (63,7%) were the only two provinces in which more than 60% of households reported salaries as their main source of income. By comparison, more than a third of households in the Eastern Cape (39,4%) and Northern Cape (34,8%) listed social grants as their main source of income. Remittances were the main source of income for 12,7% of households in Limpopo, 12,0% of households in Mpumalanga and 11,2% of households in the Free State.

Figure 18.3 – Percentage (%) distribution of main source of household income by metropolitan area, 2025

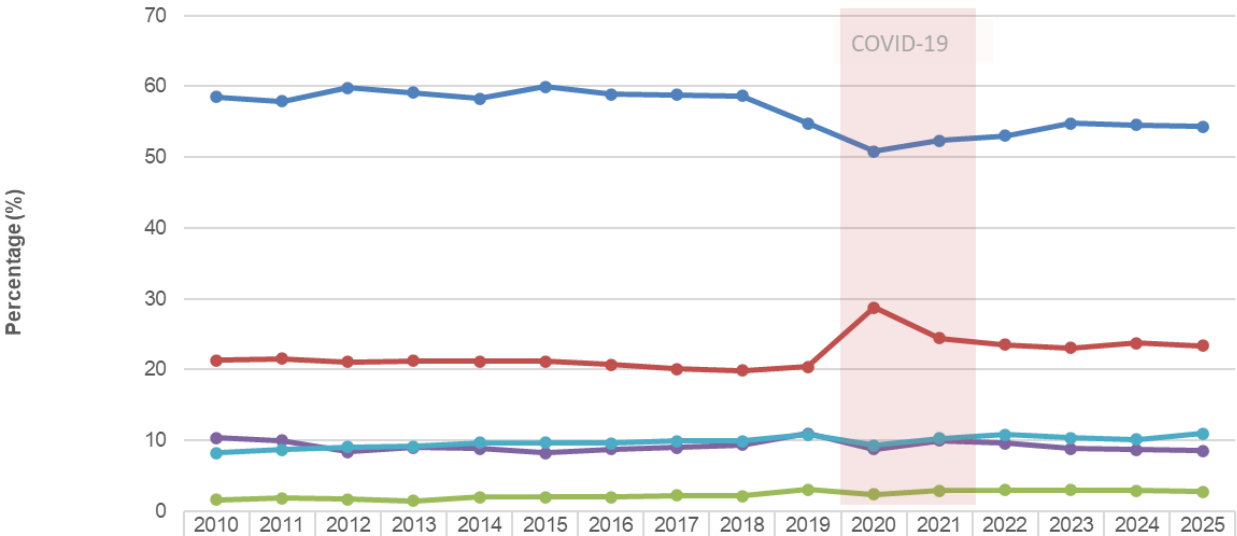


	CPT	BUF	NMA	MAN	ETH	EKU	JHB	TSH	Metros
Other sources	18,5	17,6	19,0	24,6	23,7	23,1	21,7	26,1	22,3
Grants	13,8	32,3	28,7	29,5	17,5	13,0	10,9	13,6	15,2
Salaries	67,7	50,1	52,3	46,0	58,8	63,9	67,4	60,3	62,6

Note: Other sources of income refers to income from pensions, remittances, rental income, interest, income from a business or sales of farming products or services.

Households' main sources of income by metropolitan area are presented in Figure 18.3. More than three-fifths (62,6%) of metropolitan households reported salaries or wages as their main source of income, while 15,2% of households reported social grants as the main source of income. Salaries and wages as the main source of income was most common in the City of Cape Town (67,7%), the City of Johannesburg (67,4%) and Ekurhuleni (63,9%), and least common in Mangaung (46,0%). By comparison, almost a third (32,3%) of households in Buffalo City, 29,5% in Mangaung and 28,7% of households in Nelson Mandela Bay considered social grants as the main source of income.

Figure 18.4 – Percentage (%) distribution of main source of household income, 2010–2025



	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Salaries	58,5	57,9	59,8	59,2	58,3	59,9	58,9	58,8	58,6	54,8	50,8	52,4	53,0	54,8	54,5	54,3
Grants	21,3	21,6	21,1	21,2	21,2	21,1	20,7	20,1	19,9	20,4	28,8	24,4	23,5	23,0	23,8	23,4
Pensions	1,6	1,8	1,7	1,5	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,2	2,2	3,0	2,4	2,9	3,0	3,0	2,9	2,8
Remittances	10,4	10,0	8,4	9,0	8,9	8,3	8,8	9,0	9,4	11,0	8,8	10,0	9,6	8,8	8,7	8,6
Other	8,2	8,7	9,1	9,1	9,7	9,7	9,6	9,9	9,9	10,8	9,3	10,3	10,8	10,4	10,1	11,0

Figure 18.4 shows that the share of households for whom salaries and wages constituted the main source of income declined from a peak of 58,6% in 2018 to 50,8% during the COVID-19 restrictions in 2020, before recovering gradually to 54,3% in 2025. By comparison, the proportion of households identifying social grants as their main source of income increased sharply from 20,4% in 2019 to 28,8% in 2020. This increase largely reflects the introduction of the COVID-19 Social Relief of Distress (SRD) grant in 2020, which was implemented to mitigate income losses arising from reduced employment and earnings.

Although the proportion of households relying primarily on social grants has since declined to 23,4%, post-COVID-19 estimates remain notably higher than levels observed prior to 2020. In contrast, the percentage of households that regarded remittances as their main source of income declined by 1,8 percentage points between 2010 and 2025.

19 Household assets

Assets provide a more stable and long-term indicator of economic well-being than income alone. Household assets reflect accumulated wealth, living standards, and access to basic services and opportunities, helping to distinguish between chronic and transitory poverty. Asset data also enable analysts to assess household resilience, vulnerability to shocks, and disparities in socio-economic conditions, thereby supporting more accurate targeting, monitoring, and evaluation of social and development policies.

Table 19.1 – Percentage (%) distribution of household ownership of selected assets by urban/rural status, 2025

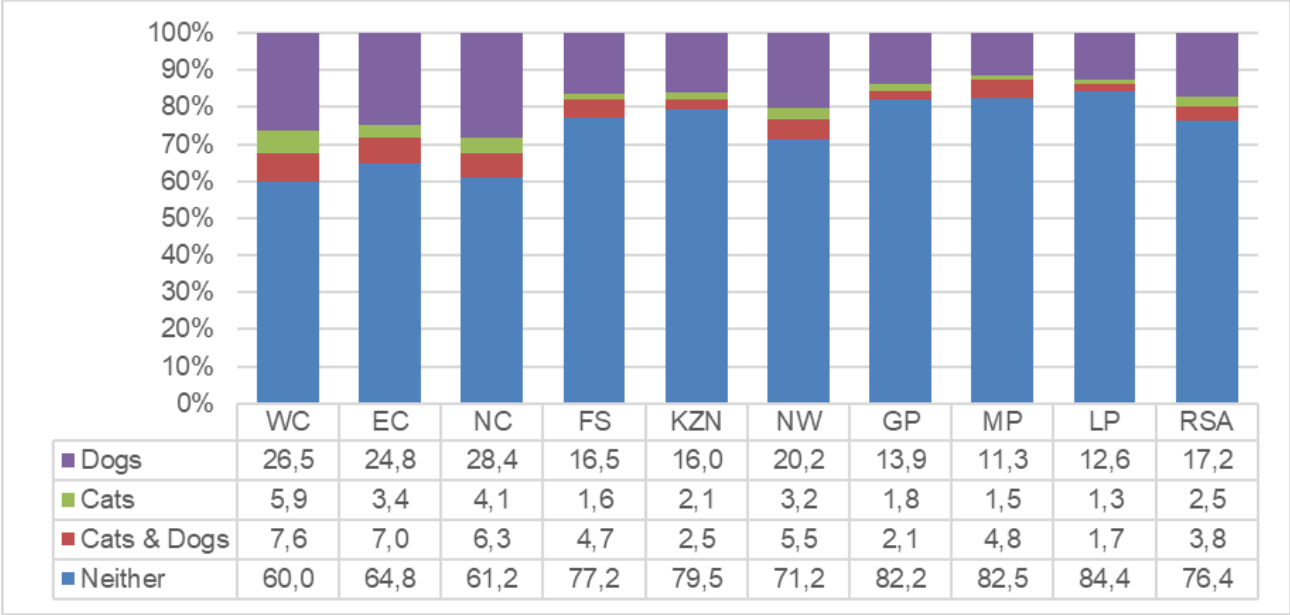
	Rural	Urban	Metro	South Africa
Electric Stove	87,0	88,9	88,9	**88,3**
Refrigerator	73,5	85,0	85,4	**81,5**
Television	69,9	79,7	79,8	**76,7**
Microwave Oven	42,3	67,1	67,1	**59,5**
Pay-tv decoder	57,1	58,6	56,9	**58,1**
Built-in kitchen sink	14,9	52,9	54,6	**41,2**
Washing Machine	23,2	48,4	47,5	**40,7**
Radio	32,6	29,0	30,0	**30,1**
Gas Stove	20,2	35,1	36,1	**30,5**
Working Vehicle	17,1	36,8	37,8	**30,8**
Geyser	7,6	36,4	39,1	**27,6**
Computer	10,8	32,0	34,5	**25,6**
Freezer	25,4	22,3	20,3	**23,2**
DVD Player	13,3	17,4	17,3	**16,1**
Home security	1,8	15,6	18,1	**11,4**
Rainwater tank	27,7	5,7	4,8	**12,4**
Vacuum Cleaner	1,7	13,4	14,4	**9,9**
Home Theatre	4,0	12,3	13,4	**9,8**
Air Conditioning	2,8	9,3	9,1	**7,3**
Tumble Drier	2,1	8,9	9,0	**6,8**
Dish Washer	1,1	8,0	9,1	**5,9**
Swimming pool	0,5	6,0	7,1	**4,3**
Borehole	7,9	2,2	2,2	**3,9**
Solar Geyser	1,7	4,2	4,4	**3,4**
Solar Panels	1,6	4,1	4,8	**3,4**

Table 16.1 shows that households commonly owned electric stoves (88,3%), refrigerators (81,5%) and televisions (76,7%) and ownership of these items was more common in metropolitan and urban areas than in rural areas. Even so, ownership of electric stoves (87,0%), refrigerators (73,5%), and televisions (69,9%) was still quite common amongst rural households. Nationally, 58,1% of households owned DStv or OpenView television decoders in working condition. The question did not ask whether households had an active subscription at the time of the interview. It is notable that there is a relatively small gap between the ownership of pay-tv decoders in rural (57,1%), urban (58,6%) and metropolitan (56,9%) areas.

In comparison, gas stoves, vehicles, geysers and computers are much more common in metropolitan and urban areas than rural areas. Just over one-third (36,1%) of metropolitan households owned a gas stove compared to 20,2% of rural households. Similarly, a larger percentage of metropolitan households than rural households owned vehicles (37,8% compared to 17,1%), geysers (39,1% compared with 7,6%) and computers (34,5% compared with 10,8%). Slightly more than one-tenth (11,4%) of South African households had home security services. Households with access to security at home were more common in metropolitan areas (18,1%) than in rural areas (1,8%).

Compared with households in general, a larger percentage of rural households had rainwater tanks (27,7% vs 12,4%) and boreholes (7,9% vs 3,9%). The survey found that solar geysers (3,4%) and solar panels (3,4%) remained relatively rare in 2025.

Figure 19.1 – Percentage (%) distribution of household ownership of cats and dogs, by province



	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
Dogs	26,5	24,8	28,4	16,5	16,0	20,2	13,9	11,3	12,6	17,2
Cats	5,9	3,4	4,1	1,6	2,1	3,2	1,8	1,5	1,3	2,5
Cats & Dogs	7,6	7,0	6,3	4,7	2,5	5,5	2,1	4,8	1,7	3,8
Neither	60,0	64,8	61,2	77,2	79,5	71,2	82,2	82,5	84,4	76,4

To establish a baseline for understanding the public health and safety implications associated with the ownership of dogs and cats, households were asked to report the number of dogs and cats they owned. The survey found that, nationally, fewer than a quarter (23,5%) of households owned pets, comprising an estimated 7,4 million dogs and 2,0 million cats.

Ownership of dogs only (17,2%) was considerably more common than ownership of cats only (2,5%), while a further 3,8% of households reported owning both dogs and cats. Dog ownership was most prevalent in the Northern Cape (34,7%), Western Cape (34,1%), and Eastern Cape (31,8%), and least common in Gauteng (15,9%). In contrast, household ownership of cats was highest in the Western Cape (13,5%).

20 Technical notes

20.1 Response rates

The national response rate for the survey was 85,2%. The highest response rate (97,0%) was recorded in Limpopo and the lowest in Gauteng (75,2%). This is presented in Table 20.1.

Table 20.1 – Response rates per province, GHS 2025

Province / Metropolitan Area	Response Rates
Western Cape	**78,67**
Non-metro	92,26
City of Cape Town	72,57
Eastern Cape	**93,95**
Non-metro	96,50
Buffalo City	95,78
Nelson Mandela Bay	83,20
Northern Cape	**84,95**
Free State	**86,89**
Non-metro	86,74
Mangaung	87,23
KwaZulu-Natal	**89,62**
Non-metro	94,97
eThekwini	80,68
North West	**88,40**
Gauteng	**75,20**
Non-metro	83,05
Ekurhuleni	84,61
City of Johannesburg	69,57
City of Tshwane	69,53
Mpumalanga	**91,32**
Limpopo	**96,97**
South Africa	**85,16**

20.2 Sample design

The General Household Survey (GHS) uses the Master Sample frame which has been developed as a general-purpose household survey frame that can be used by all other Stats SA household-based surveys that have design requirements that are reasonably compatible with the GHS. The GHS 2025 collection was based on the 2013 Master Sample that is, in turn, 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 with 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.

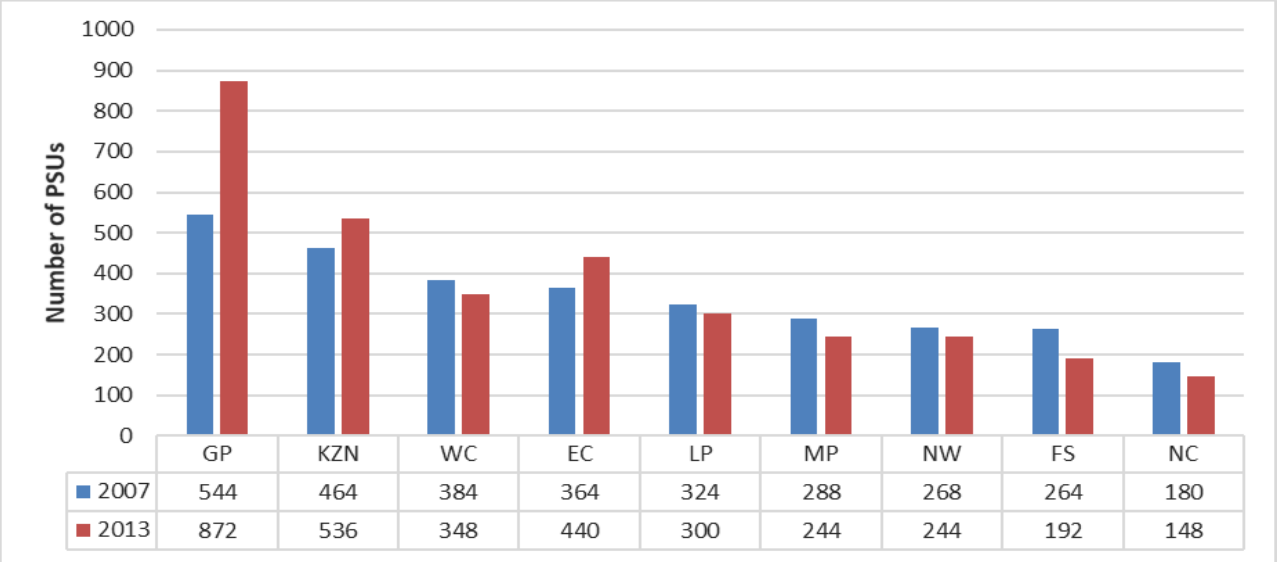
Table 20.2 – Comparison between the 2007 (old) Master Sample and the new Master Sample (designed in 2013)

	2007 Master Sample (GHS 2008-2014)	2013 Master Sample (GHS 2015 onwards)
Design	Two-stage stratified design	Two-stage stratified design
Number of primary sampling units (PSUs)	3 080 PSUs	3 324 PSUs
Number of dwelling units (DUs)	Approximately 30 000 DUs	Approximately 33 000 DUs
Stratification	No stratification by geo-type within metros/non-metros	Stratification by geo-type within metros/non-metros
Geo-types	4 geo-types, namely urban formal, urban informal, tribal areas, and rural formal	3 geo-types, namely urban, traditional, and farms
Sample	Sample representative at national, provincial and metro levels, but estimates only produced to provincial level	Sample representative at national, provincial and metro levels Weights produced to publish estimates at metro level

There are a number of aspects in which the two Master Samples differ. The number of geo-types were, firstly, reduced from four to three (excluding urban informal, and keeping urban, rural traditional and rural farms). The new Master Sample, furthermore, allows for the publication of estimates at metro level.

Primary stratification occurred at provincial and metro/non-metro levels, for mining, and geography type, while the secondary strata were created within the primary strata based on the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the population. Given the change in the provincial distribution of the South African population between 2001 and 2011, the Master Sample was accordingly adjusted. This is presented in Figure 20.1. There was also an 8% increase in the sample size of the Master Sample of PSUs to improve the precision of the GHS estimates. In particular, the sample sizes increased most notably in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape.

Figure 20.1 – Distribution of primary sampling units by province, 2007 (old) Master Sample and the new Master Sample (designed in 2013)



	GP	KZN	WC	EC	LP	MP	NW	FS	NC
2007	544	464	384	364	324	288	268	264	180
2013	872	536	348	440	300	244	244	192	148

20.3 Allocating sample sizes to strata[2]

The randomised PPS systematic sampling method is described below. This procedure was applied independently within each design stratum.

Let N be the total number of PSUs in the stratum, and the number of PSUs to be selected from the stratum is denoted by n. Also, let x_i denote the size measure of the PSU i within the stratum, where $i = 1, 2, 3, ..., N.$ Then, the method for selecting the sample of n PSUs with the Randomised PPS systematic sampling method can be described as follows:

Step 1: Randomise the PSUs within the stratum

The list of N PSUs within the stratum can be randomised by generating uniform random between 0 and 1, and then by sorting the N PSUs in ascending or descending order of these random numbers. Once the PSUs have been randomised, we can generate permanent sequence numbers for the PSUs.

Step 2: Define normalised measures of size for the PSUs

We denote by x_i the measure of size (MOS) of PSU i within the design stratum. Then, the measure of size for the stratum is given by $X = \sum_{i=1}^{N} x_i$. We define the normalised size measure p_i of PSU i as $p_i = x_i / X; \quad i = 1, 2, 3, - - - N,$ where N is the total number of PSUs in the design stratum. Then, p_i is the relative size of the PSU i in the stratum, and $\sum_{i=1}^{N} p_i = 1$ for all strata. It should be noted that the value of $n \times p_i$, which is the selection probability of PSU i must be less than one.

Step 3: Obtain inverse sampling rates (ISRs)

Let R be the stratum inverse sampling rate (ISR). The stratum ISR is the same as the corresponding provincial ISR because of the proportional allocation within the province. It should also be noted that the proportional allocation within the province also results in a self-weighting design.

Then, the PSU inverse sampling rates (ISRs) are obtained as follows:

First, define N real numbers $Z_i = n \times p_i \times R; i = 1, 2, 3, - - -, N$. It is easy to verify that $\sum_{i=1}^{N} Z_i = n \times R$. Next, round the N real numbers $Z_i; i = 1, 2, 3, ..., N$ to integer values $R_i; i = 1, 2, 3, ..., N$ such that each R_i is as close as possible to the corresponding Z_i value and the R_i values add up to $n \times R$ within the stratum. In other words, the sum of the absolute differences between the R_i and the corresponding Z_i values is minimised subject to the constraint that the R_i values add up to $n \times R$ within the stratum. Drew, Choudhry and Gray (1978) provide a simple algorithm to obtain the integer R_i values as follows:

[2] Source: Sample Selection and Rotation for the Redesigned South African Labour Force Survey by G. Hussain Choudhry, 2007.

Let $"d"$ be the difference between the value $n \times R$ and the sum $S = \sum_{i=1}^{N} [Z_i]$, where $[.]$ is the integer function, then R_i values can be obtained by rounding up the $"d"$ Z_i values with the largest fraction parts, and by rounding down the remaining $(N-d)$ of them. It should be noted that the integer sizes $R_i; i = 1, 2, 3, ..., N$ are also the PSU inverse sampling rates (ISRs) for systematic sampling of dwelling units.

Step 4: Obtain cumulative ISR values

We denote by $C_i; i = 1, 2, 3, ..., N$ the cumulative ISRs of the PSUs within the stratum. It should be noted that the PSUs within the stratum have been sorted according to the sequence numbers that were assigned after the randomisation. Then, the cumulative ISRs are defined as follows:

$C_1 = R_1,$
$C_j = C_{(j-1)} + R_j; \quad j = 2, 3, ---, N.$

It should be noted that the value C_N will be equal to $n \times R$, which is also the total number of systematic samples of dwelling units that can be selected from the stratum.

Step 5: Generate an integer random number r between 1 and R, and compute n integers $r_1, r_2, ---, r_n$ as follows:

$r_1 = r$
$r_2 = r_1 + R$
$r_3 = r_2 + R$
.
.
$r_i = r_{(i-1)} + R$
.
.
$r_n = r_{(n-1)} + R.$

Step 6: Select n PSUs out of the N PSUs in the stratum with the labels (sequence numbers) number $i_1, i_2, \ldots, i_n$ such that:

$C_{i_1-1} < r_1 \leq C_{i_1}$
$C_{i_2-1} < r_2 \leq C_{i_2}$
.
.
$C_{i_n-1} < r_n \leq C_{i_n}.$

Then, the n PSUs with the labels $i_1, i_2, \ldots, i_n$ would get selected with probabilities proportional to size, and the selection probability of the PSU i will be given by R_i / R.

20.4 Methodology and fieldwork

A multi-stage sample design was used in this survey, which is based on a stratified design with probability proportional to size selection of primary sampling units (PSUs) at the first stage and sampling of dwelling units (DUs) with systematic sampling at 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). Survey officers employed and trained by Stats SA visited all the sampled dwelling units in each of the nine provinces. During the first phase of the survey, sampled dwelling units were visited and informed about the coming survey as part of the publicity campaign.

Approximately 233 enumerators and 62 provincial and district coordinators participated in the survey across all nine provinces. An additional 27 quality assurers were responsible for monitoring and ensuring questionnaire quality. National refresher training took place over a period of two days. The national trainers then trained provincial trainers for two days at provincial level.

A total of 20 095 households were successfully interviewed during face-to-face interviews that took place between early January and mid-December each 2025.

20.5 Editing and imputation

Historically the GHS used a conservative and hands-off approach to editing. Manual editing, and little if any imputation was done. The focus of the editing process was on clearing skip violations and ensuring that each variable only contained valid values. Very few limits to valid values were set, and data were largely released as they were received from the field.

With GHS 2009, Stats SA introduced an automated editing and imputation system that was continued for GHS 2010–2015. The challenge was to remain true, as much as possible, to the conservative approach used prior to GHS 2009, and yet, at the same time, to develop a standard set of rules to be used during editing which could be applied consistently across time. When testing for *skip violations* and doing automated editing, the following general rules are applied in cases where *one question follows the filter question* and the skip is violated:

- If the filter question had a missing value, the filter is allocated the value that corresponds with the subsequent question which had a valid value.

- If the values of the filter question and subsequent question are inconsistent, the filter question's value is set to missing and imputed using either the hot-deck or nearest neighbour imputation techniques. The imputed value is then once again tested against the skip rule. If the skip rule remains violated, the question subsequent to the filter question is dealt with by either setting it to missing and imputing or, if that fails, printing a message of edit failure for further investigation, decision-making and manual editing.

In cases where *skip violations* take place for questions where *multiple questions follow the filter question*, the rules used are as follows:

- If the filter question has a missing value, the filter is allocated the value that corresponds with the value expected given the completion of the remainder of the question set.
- If the filter question and the values of subsequent questions values were inconsistent, a counter is set to see what proportion of the subsequent questions have been completed. If more than 50% of the

subsequent questions have been completed, the filter question's value is modified to correspond with the fact that the rest of the questions in the set were completed. If less than 50% of the subsequent questions in the set were completed, the value of the filter question is set to missing and imputed using either the hot-deck or nearest neighbour imputation techniques. The imputed value is then once again tested against the skip rule. If the skip rule remains violated the questions in the set that follows the filter question are set to missing.

When dealing with *internal inconsistencies,* as much as possible was done using logical imputation, i.e. information from other questions is compared with the inconsistent information. If other evidence is found to back up either of the two inconsistent viewpoints, the inconsistency is resolved accordingly. If the internal consistency remains, the question subsequent to the filter question is dealt with by either setting it to missing and imputing its value or printing a message of edit failure for further investigation, decision-making and manual editing.

Two imputation techniques were used for imputing missing values: hot deck and nearest neighbour. In both cases the already published code was used for imputation. The variable composition of hot decks is based on a combination of the variables used for the Census (where appropriate), an analysis of odds ratios and logistic regression models. Generally, as in the QLFS system, the GHS adds geographic variables such as province, geography type, metro/non-metro, population group, etc. to further refine the decks. This was not done for Census 2001 and it is assumed that the reason for this is the differences in deck size and position for sample surveys as opposed to a multi-million record database.

The 'No' imputations assume that if the 'Yes'/'No' question had to be completed and there is a missing value next to any of the options, the response should have been 'No'. Missing values are therefore converted to the code for 'No', namely '2'. This is only done if there is some evidence that the questions have been completed. Otherwise, all remain missing. For questions for which each option represents a question, no 'No' imputations were made.

20.6 Weighting[3]

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 older. The provincial level age groups are 0–14, 15–34, 35–64; and 65 years and older. The calibrated weights were constructed such that all persons in a household would have the same final weight.

The Statistics Canada software StatMx was used for constructing calibration weights. The population controls at national and provincial level were used for the cells defined by cross-classification of Age by Gender by Race. Records for which the age, population group or sex had item non-response could not be weighted and were therefore excluded from the dataset. No additional imputation was done to retain these records.

[3] Source: Sampling and Weighting System for the Redesigned South African Labour Force Survey, by G. HussainChoudhry, 2007.

Household estimates that were developed using the UN headship ratio methodology were used to weight household files. The databases of Census 1996, Census 2001, Community Survey 2007 and Census 2011 were used to analyse trends and develop models to predict the number of households for each year. The weighting system was based on tables for the expected distribution of household heads for specific age categories, per population group and province.

20.7 Data revisions

Stats SA survey data are benchmarked data against mid-year population estimates which are informed by the best available population data and most recent assumptions. Since populations change and estimates become less accurate the further they are projected into the future, benchmark figures have to be reviewed and replaced with more appropriate figures from time to time.

GHS data was reweighted in 2013 based on the 2013 series Mid-Year Population estimates which were released after the publication of Census 2011 data. The 2013 series benchmark totals were replaced with the 2017 series in 2018, and the 2017 series is scheduled to be replaced by the 2025 series in 2027, with the release of GHS 2026 data.

In order to ensure comparability across the whole data series, the introduction of new benchmark totals means that all historical data also have to be reweighted. Weighting and benchmarking were also adjusted for the provincial boundaries that came into effect in 2011. The data for the GHS 2002 to 2025 as presented in this release are therefore comparable.

Household estimates, developed using the UN headship ratio methodology, were used to calibrate household files. The databases of Census 1996, Census 2001, Community Survey 2007 and Census 2011 were used to analyse trends and develop models to predict the number of households for each year. The weighting system was based on tables for the expected distribution of household heads for specific age categories, per population group and province.

Missing values and unknown values were excluded from totals used as denominators for the calculation of percentages, unless otherwise specified. Frequency values have been rounded off to the nearest thousand. Population totals in all tables reflect the population and sub-populations as calculated with SAS and rounded off. This will not always correspond exactly with the sum of the preceding rows because all numbers are rounded off to the nearest thousand.

20.8 Sampling and the interpretation of the data

Caution must be exercised when interpreting the results of the GHS at low levels of disaggregation. The sample and reporting are based on the provincial boundaries as defined in 2011. These new boundaries resulted in minor changes to the boundaries of some provinces, especially Gauteng, North West, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, Eastern Cape, and Western Cape. In previous reports the sample was based on the provincial boundaries as defined in 2006, and there will therefore be slight comparative differences in terms of provincial boundary definitions.

20.9 Comparability with previous surveys

GHS questions and response options are modified from time to address changing government priorities as well as gaps identified through stakeholder interaction. When modifying the questionnaire, a balance is always struck between trying to maintain comparability over time and improving the quality of our measurements over time. As a result, variables do not always remain comparable over time and it is advisable to consult the meta data or to contact Stats SA to establish comparability when in doubt.

In most instances, changes do not negatively affect comparability. Modifications in the questions on marital status, highest level of education, and social grants have, for instance, not affected comparability at all. However, the questions used to measure disability until 2008 and thereafter are not comparable as a set of questions devised by the Washington Group replaced the questions used until 2008. Each individual is asked to rate their ability to perform six different tasks and their inability to perform two or more of the activities, of alternatively being unable to do one renders them disabled. Similarly, the comparison of the total number of rooms in a dwelling should also be treated with caution as a single room with multiple uses were added in 2014, based on the Census 2011 categories.

The transition to CAPI has also required some modifications to the questions and response options. Although modifications were tested before they were implemented, slight variations linked to the electronic format, and changes in the question order, response options and entrenched skip patterns and enabling conditions might occur.

20.10 Questionnaire

Figure 20.2 summarises the details of the questions included in the GHS questionnaire. The questions are covered in 19 sub-sections, each focusing on a particular aspect. Depending on the need for additional information, the questionnaire is adapted on an annual basis. New sections may be introduced on a specific topic for which information is needed, or additional questions may be added to existing sections. Likewise, questions that are no longer necessary may be removed.

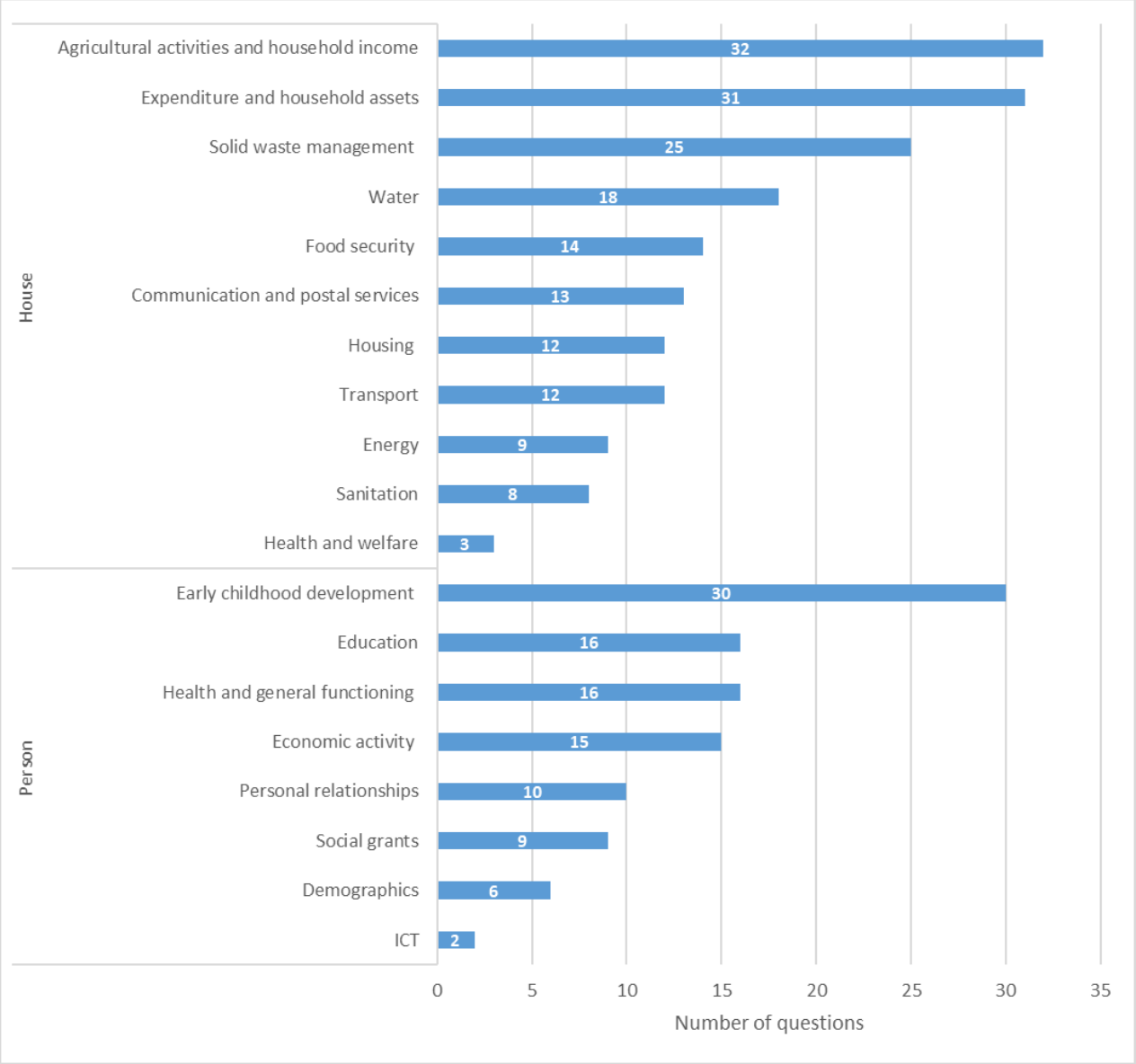
The GHS questionnaire has undergone some revisions over time. These changes were primarily the result of shifts in focus of government programmes over time. The 2002–2004 questionnaires were very similar. Changes made to the GHS 2005 questionnaire included additional questions in the education section with a total of 179 questions. Between 2006 and 2008, the questionnaire remained virtually unchanged. For GHS 2009, extensive stakeholder consultation took place during which the questionnaire was reviewed to be more in line with the monitoring and evaluation frameworks of the various government departments. Particular sections that were modified substantially during the review process were the sections on education, social development, housing, agriculture, and food security.

Even though the number of sections and pages in the questionnaire remained the same, questions in the GHS 2009 were increased from 166 to 185 between 2006 and 2008. Following the introduction of a dedicated survey on Domestic Tourism, the section on tourism was dropped for GHS 2010. Due to a further rotation of questions, particularly the addition of a module on Early Childhood Development (ECD) in 2015, the GHS 2016 questionnaire contained 219 questions. The number of ECD questions were decreased in 2019 in order to reduce respondent burden.

As of 2019, computer assisted personal interviews (CAPI) replaced paper-assisted data collection (PAPI). Although the structure of the questionnaire remained recognisable, sections, questions and response options were modified, in most cases very slightly, to satisfy the requirements of the electronic platform. The number of questions were also further reduced to reduce interview time.

Although the overall length of the CAPI questionnaire was shortened significantly in 2020 and 2021 to accommodate the telephonic interviews, the longer 2019 questionnaire was reintroduced in 2022 to date. Currently, the GHS 2025 questionnaires contained approximately 281 questions.

Figure 20.2 – Summary of the sections covered by GHS 2025



20.11 Measures of precision for selected variables of the General Household Surveys

Since estimates are based on sample data, they differ from figures that would have been obtained from complete enumeration of the population using the same instrument. Results are subject to both sampling and non-sampling errors. Non-sampling errors include biases from inaccurate reporting, processing, and tabulation, etc., as well as errors from non-responses and incomplete reporting. These types of errors cannot be measured readily. However, to some extent, non-sampling errors can be minimised to some extent through the procedures used for data collection, editing, quality control, and non-response adjustment. The variances of the survey estimates are used to measure sampling errors.

20.11.1 Variance estimation

The most commonly used methods for estimating variances of survey estimates from complex surveys such as the QLFS are the Taylor-series Linearization, Jack-knife Replication, Balanced Repeated Replication (BRR), and Bootstrap methods (Wolter, 2007). The Fay's BRR method has been used for variance estimation in the QLFS because of its simplicity.

20.11.2 Coefficient of variation

It is more useful in many situations to assess the size of the standard error relative to the magnitude of the characteristic being measured (the standard error is defined as the square root of the variance). The coefficient of variation (cv) provides such a measure. It is the ratio of the standard error of the survey estimate to the value of the estimate itself expressed as a percentage. It is very useful in comparing the precision of several different survey estimates, where their sizes or scales differ from one another.

Coefficient of variation (CV) is a measure of the relative size of error defined as 100 X (standard error/estimated value).

20.11.3 P-value of an estimate of change

The p-value corresponding to an estimate of change is the probability of observing a value larger than the particular observed value under the hypothesis that there is no real change. If the p-value 0,05, the difference is not significant.

Figure 20.3 – CV Thresholds

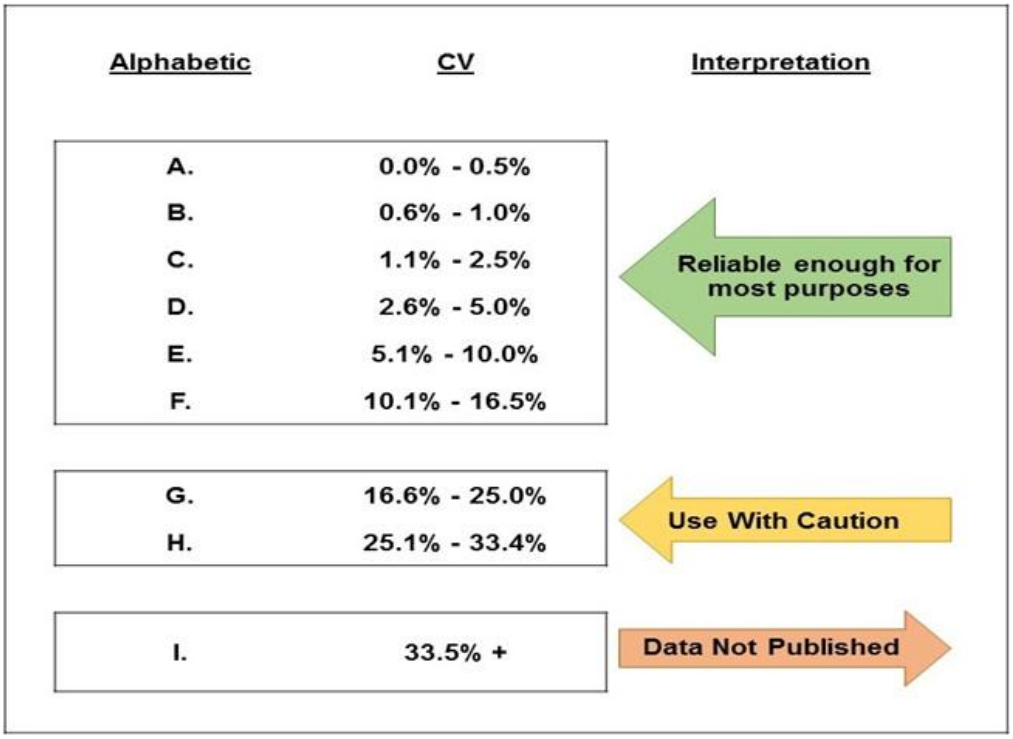


Table 20.3 – Measures of precision for relationship to the household head, 2025

Relationship to head/acting head of the household	Weighted Frequency	Percent	95% Confidence Limits		Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Design Effect
Head/Acting Head	17 855 192	27,9	27,5	28,2	0,2	0,6*	1,1
Spouse/Partner	6 805 667	10,6	10,4	10,9	0,1	1,2*	1,2
Son/Daughter/step- or adopted child	21 438 316	33,5	33,0	33,9	0,2	0,7*	1,7
Sibling	2 417 395	3,8	3,5	4,0	0,1	3,1*	2,6
Parent	286 399	0,4	0,4	0,5	0,0	8,4*	2,1
Grandparent	13 035	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	31,5**	1,4
Grandchild	10 035 201	15,7	15,1	16,2	0,3	1,8*	4,0
Other relative	4 621 619	7,2	6,8	7,6	0,2	2,6*	3,5
Non-related persons	597 045	0,9	0,8	1,1	0,1	9,1*	5,2

* Indicates 0% to 16,5% Coefficient of Variation for reliable enough statistics
** Indicates 16,6% to 33,4% Coefficient of Variation for statistics that should be used with caution
*** Indicates Coefficient of Variation greater than 33,5%

Table 20.4 – Measures of precision for marital status, 2025

Marital Status	Weighted Frequency	Percent	95% Confidence Limits		Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Design Effect
Legally married	11 417 071	17,8	17,3	18,3	0,2	1,4*	2,8
Living together like husband and wife/partners	4 811 755	7,5	7,2	7,9	0,2	2,3*	3,0
Divorced	804 174	1,3	1,2	1,4	0,1	4,2*	1,5
Separated, but still legally married	310 473	0,5	0,4	0,5	0,0	6,0*	1,2
Widowed	2 757 934	4,3	4,1	4,5	0,1	1,9*	1,1
Single, but have lived together with someone as husband/wife before	876 018	1,4	1,2	1,5	0,1	5,2*	2,5
Single and have never been married/never lived together as husband/wife before	43 092 444	67,3	66,7	67,8	0,3	0,4*	2,3

* Indicates 0% to 16,5% Coefficient of Variation for reliable enough statistics
** Indicates 16,6% to 33,4% Coefficient of Variation for statistics that should be used with caution
*** Indicates Coefficient of Variation greater than 33,5%

Table 20.5 – Measures of precision for educational institution attended, 2025

Educational institution attended	Weighted Frequency	Percent	95% Confidence Limits		Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Design Effect
Pre-school	469 550	2,6	2,3	2,9	0,1	5,4*	1,6
Grade R–12	15 778 748	87,6	87,0	88,3	0,3	0,4*	2,1
ABET/AET	2 018	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	70,7***	1,1
Higher education institutions	976 147	5,4	4,9	5,9	0,2	4,5*	2,2
TVET	448 636	2,5	2,2	2,8	0,1	5,9*	1,8
Other colleges	296 309	1,6	1,4	1,9	0,1	7,8*	2,0
Home schooling	34 859	0,2	0,1	0,3	0,1	27,4**	2,9

* Indicates 0% to 16,5% Coefficient of Variation for reliable enough statistics
** Indicates 16,6% to 33,4% Coefficient of Variation for statistics that should be used with caution
*** Indicates Coefficient of Variation greater than 33,5%

Table 20.6 – Measures of precision for highest level of education, 2025

Highest level of education	Weighted Frequency	Percent	95% Confidence Limits		Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Design Effect
No schooling	2 642 578	4,6	4,4	4,8	0,1	2,2*	1,4
Grade R– 4	11 181 624	19,5	19,1	19,9	0,2	1,0*	1,5
Grade 5	2 836 031	4,9	4,8	5,1	0,1	2,0*	1,3
Grade 8– 11	18 388 194	32,1	31,6	32,6	0,3	0,8*	1,8
Grade 12	15 147 344	26,4	25,9	26,9	0,3	1,0*	2,2
NTCI–II	93 235	0,2	0,1	0,2	0,0	11,3*	1,3
NTCIII	160 588	0,3	0,2	0,3	0,0	8,3*	1,2
N4– N6	671 636	1,2	1,1	1,3	0,1	4,7*	1,6
Certificate/diploma without Grade12	154 581	0,3	0,2	0,3	0,0	10,7*	1,9
Certificate/diploma with Grade12	2 635 539	4,6	4,3	4,8	0,1	2,8*	2,2
Post matric qualifications	3 423 896	6,0	5,6	6,3	0,2	3,0*	3,6

* Indicates 0% to 16,5% Coefficient of Variation for reliable enough statistics
** Indicates 16,6% to 33,4% Coefficient of Variation for statistics that should be used with caution
*** Indicates Coefficient of Variation greater than 33,5%

Table 20.7 – Measures of precision for disability status, 2025

Disability status	Weighted Frequency	Percent	95% Confidence Limits		Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Design Effect
No	55 350 142	94,8	94,6	95,0	0,1	0,1*	1,9
Yes	3 031 904	5,2	5,0	5,4	0,1	2,4*	1,9

* Indicates 0% to 16,5% Coefficient of Variation for reliable enough statistics
** Indicates 16,6% to 33,4% Coefficient of Variation for statistics that should be used with caution
*** Indicates Coefficient of Variation greater than 33,5%

Table 20.8 – Measures of precision for medical aid coverage, 2025

Medical aid coverage	Weighted Frequency	Percent	95% Confidence Limits		Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Design Effect
Yes	9 959 699	15,5	14,8	16,2	0,4	2,3*	6,5
No	53 971 958	84,2	83,5	84,9	0,4	0,4*	6,5
Do not know	139 206	0,2	0,2	0,3	0,0	12,3*	2,2

* Indicates 0% to 16,5% Coefficient of Variation for reliable enough statistics
** Indicates 16,6% to 33,4% Coefficient of Variation for statistics that should be used with caution
*** Indicates Coefficient of Variation greater than 33,5%

Table 20.9 – Measures of precision for Main Dwelling, 2025

Main Dwelling	Weighted Frequency	Percent	95% Confidence limits		Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Design Effect
Brick/concrete house	13 013 927	64,9	63,7	66,0	0,6	0,9*	2,9
Traditional dwelling	686 244	3,4	3,0	3,8	0,2	5,7*	2,3
Flat or apartment	1 045 290	5,2	4,5	5,9	0,3	6,7*	4,9
Cluster house in complex	135 820	0,7	0,4	0,9	0,1	19,6**	5,2
Town house	259 143	1,3	1,0	1,6	0,2	12,4*	4,1
Semi-Detached house	404 028	2,0	1,7	2,3	0,2	8,1*	2,7
Dwelling/house/flat/room in backyard	1 229 612	6,1	5,5	6,7	0,3	5,0*	3,2
Informal dwelling/shack in backyard	827 612	4,1	3,7	4,5	0,2	5,2*	2,4
Informal dwelling/shack not in backyard	1 614 528	8,0	7,3	8,8	0,4	4,8*	4,0
Room/flatlet on a property	844 511	4,2	3,7	4,7	0,2	5,6*	2,8
Caravan/tent	3 238	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	65,3***	1,4

* Indicates 0% to 16,5% Coefficient of Variation for reliable enough statistics
** Indicates 16,6% to 33,4% Coefficient of Variation for statistics that should be used with caution
*** Indicates Coefficient of Variation greater than 33,5%

Table 20.10 – Measures of precision for type of toilet facility, 2025

Type of toilet facility	Weighted Frequency	Percent	95% Confidence Limits for		Standard Error of Percent	Coefficient of Variation	Design Effect
Flush toilet (connected to sewerage system)	12 466 049	62,1	61,0	63,3	0,6	0,9*	2,8
Flush toilet (with septic tank)	974 880	4,9	4,4	5,3	0,2	5,0*	2,5
Pour flush toilet	86 614	0,4	0,3	0,6	0,1	15,0*	1,9
Chemical toilet	195 513	1,0	0,7	1,3	0,1	15,2*	4,5
Pit toilet with ventilation (VIP)	3 369 818	16,8	16,0	17,6	0,4	2,5*	2,6
Pit toilet without ventilation,with a slab	1 932 053	9,6	9,0	10,3	0,3	3,5*	2,6
Pit toilet without ventilation, without a slab	687 808	3,4	3,0	3,8	0,2	6,2*	2,7
Bucket toilet(collected by municipality)	119 601	0,6	0,4	0,8	0,1	17,9**	3,8
Bucket toilet (emptied by household)	35 488	0,2	0,1	0,3	0,0	22,3**	1,8
Ecological sanitation system	37 725	0,2	0,1	0,3	0,1	33,9***	4,3
Open defecation	154 921	0,8	0,6	0,9	0,1	11,3*	2,0

* Indicates 0% to 16,5% Coefficient of Variation for reliable enough statistics
** Indicates 16,6% to 33,4% Coefficient of Variation for statistics that should be used with caution
*** Indicates Coefficient of Variation greater than 33,5%

Table 20.11 – Measures of precision for main source of water for household use, 2025

Main source of water for household use	Weighted Frequency	Percent	95% Confidence Limits for		Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Design Effect
Piped water in dwelling	9 068 599	45,3	44,3	46,4	0,5	1,2*	2,3
Piped water in yard	6 283 625	31,4	30,3	32,4	0,5	1,7*	2,7
Borehole in yard	522 060	2,6	2,3	2,9	0,2	6,3*	2,1
Rain water tank	479 880	2,4	2,1	2,7	0,1	5,7*	1,6
Neighbour tap	495 384	2,5	2,2	2,8	0,2	6,2*	2,0
Public tap	1 731 922	8,7	7,9	9,4	0,4	4,4*	3,6
Water tanker	309 777	1,5	1,2	1,9	0,2	11,7*	4,3
Water vendor	433 252	2,2	1,8	2,5	0,2	8,0*	2,8
Borehole outside yard	215 248	1,1	0,9	1,3	0,1	10,6*	2,4
Flowing water /River/stream	277 764	1,4	1,2	1,6	0,1	8,7*	2,1
Dam/pool/stagnant water	27 898	0,1	0,1	0,2	0,0	21,3**	1,3
Well protected	20 069	0,1	0,0	0,2	0,0	40,8***	3,3
Well unprotected	55 255	0,3	0,2	0,4	0,1	19,9**	2,2
spring protected	27 580	0,1	0,1	0,2	0,0	22,5**	1,4
spring unprotected	64 975	0,3	0,2	0,4	0,1	17,5**	2,0

* Indicates 0% to 16,5% Coefficient of Variation for reliable enough statistics
** Indicates 16,6% to 33,4% Coefficient of Variation for statistics that should be used with caution
*** Indicates Coefficient of Variation greater than 33,5%

Table 20.12 – Measures of precision for tenure status, 2025

Tenure status	Weighted Frequency	Percent	95% Confidence Limits		Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Design Effect
Rented from private owner	4 883 938	24,4	23,5	25,4	0,5	2,0*	2,6
Rented from other	277 738	1,4	1,1	1,7	0,2	11,0*	3,4
Owned but not yet paid off to bank	1 057 773	5,3	4,8	5,8	0,2	4,6*	2,4
Owned but not yet paid off to private owner	192 092	1,0	0,7	1,2	0,1	11,7*	2,6
Owned and fully paid off	10 574 064	52,9	51,9	54,0	0,5	1,0*	2,3
Occupied rent free	2 990 704	15,0	14,2	15,7	0,4	2,6*	2,4

* Indicates 0% to 16,5% Coefficient of Variation for reliable enough statistics
** Indicates 16,6% to 33,4% Coefficient of Variation for statistics that should be used with caution
*** Indicates Coefficient of Variation greater than 33,5%

Table 20.13 – Measures of precision for refuse removal, 2025

Refuse Removal	Weighted Frequency	Percent	95% Confidence Limits		Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Design Effect
Removed by local authority/private company/community at least once a week	11 997 487	59,8	58,6	61,0	0,6	1,0*	3,0
Removed by local authority/private company/community less often than once a week	655 309	3,3	2,8	3,7	0,2	7,5*	3,8
Communal refuse dump	806 437	4,0	3,5	4,5	0,3	6,6*	3,6
Communal container	514 105	2,6	2,1	3,0	0,2	8,5*	3,8
Own refuse dump	5 697 100	28,4	27,5	29,3	0,5	1,7*	2,3
Dump anywhere	390 927	1,9	1,6	2,3	0,2	9,4*	3,5

* Indicates 0% to 16,5% Coefficient of Variation for reliable enough statistics
** Indicates 16,6% to 33,4% Coefficient of Variation for statistics that should be used with caution
*** Indicates Coefficient of Variation greater than 33,5%

Table 20.14 – Measures of precision for main source of energy used for cooking, 2025

Main source of energy used for cooking	Weighted Frequency	Percent	95% Confidence Limits		Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Design Effect
Electricity from mains	15 178 482	76,3	75,3	77,3	0,5	0,7*	3,0
Other sources of electricity	748 290	3,8	3,2	4,3	0,3	6,9*	3,7
Gas	1 884 387	9,5	8,8	10,1	0,3	3,6*	2,7
Paraffin	372 520	1,9	1,6	2,2	0,2	8,6*	2,8
Wood	1 608 603	8,1	7,6	8,6	0,3	3,3*	1,9
Coal	55 942	0,3	0,2	0,4	0,1	17,9**	1,8
Animal dung	6 097	0,0	0,0	0,1	0,0	41,8***	1,1
Solar power	41 047	0,2	0,1	0,3	0,0	22,5**	2,1

* Indicates 0% to 16,5% Coefficient of Variation for reliable enough statistics
** Indicates 16,6% to 33,4% Coefficient of Variation for statistics that should be used with caution
*** Indicates Coefficient of Variation greater than 33,5%

Table 20.15 – Measures of precision for main source of energy used for lighting, 2025

Main source of energy used for lighting	Weighted Frequency	Percent	95% Confidence Limits		Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Design Effect
Electricity from mains	18 020 045	90,7	89,9	91,4	0,4	0,4*	3,8
Other sources of electricity	817 166	4,1	3,6	4,6	0,3	6,5*	3,6
Gas	23 370	0,1	0,1	0,2	0,0	23,4**	1,3
Paraffin	99 782	0,5	0,4	0,6	0,1	14,8*	2,2
Candles	691 669	3,5	3,0	3,9	0,2	6,7*	3,2
Solar power	225 039	1,1	0,9	1,4	0,1	10,7*	2,6

* Indicates 0% to 16,5% Coefficient of Variation for reliable enough statistics
** Indicates 16,6% to 33,4% Coefficient of Variation for statistics that should be used with caution
*** Indicates Coefficient of Variation greater than 33,5%

Table 20.16 – Measures of precision for health facility used by households, 2025

Health facilities used by households	Weighted Frequency	Percent	95% Confidence Limits		Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Design Effect
Public hospital	1 253 915	6,2	5,7	6,8	0,3	4,2*	2,4
Public clinic	13 423 332	66,8	65,9	67,8	0,5	0,7*	2,0
Other public institution	52 763	0,3	0,1	0,4	0,1	27,5**	4,0
Private hospital	510 759	2,5	2,2	2,9	0,2	7,4*	2,9
Private clinic	379 032	1,9	1,6	2,1	0,1	7,0*	1,9
Private doctor	4 027 587	20,1	19,3	20,8	0,4	2,0*	2,0
Traditional healer	45 775	0,2	0,1	0,3	0,0	18,0**	1,5
Spiritual healer's / church	26 705	0,1	0,1	0,2	0,0	20,9**	1,2
Pharmacy	304 239	1,5	1,3	1,8	0,1	8,0*	2,0
Health facility provided by employer	46 637	0,2	0,1	0,4	0,1	27,8**	3,6
Alternative medicine	10 625	0,1	0,0	0,1	0,0	34,9***	1,3

* Indicates 0% to 16,5% Coefficient of Variation for reliable enough statistics
** Indicates 16,6% to 33,4% Coefficient of Variation for statistics that should be used with caution
*** Indicates Coefficient of Variation greater than 33,5%

20.12 Limitations of the study

The questionnaires for the GHS series were revised extensively in 2009 and some questions might not be exactly comparable to the data series before then.

Analysts and users of the data are also advised not to do a comparative analysis over time before studying the questionnaires of the years concerned in detail, as there have also been small modifications to options to a number of questions.

In addition to changes to the questions, the data collection period has also changed since 2002.

- Between 2002 and 2008 data were gathered during July.
- The data collection period was extended to 3 months (July to September) between 2010 and 2012.
- As from 2013, the data collection period was extended to 12 months (January to December). Although the extension is not necessarily a limitation, it should be borne in mind when using the data for comparative purposes.

22 Glossary

Household

Group of persons who live together and provide themselves jointly with food and/or other essentials for living, or a single person who lives alone.

Note: The persons basically occupy a common dwelling unit (or part of it) for at least four nights in a week on average during the past four weeks prior to the survey interview, sharing resources as a unit. Other explanatory phrases can be 'eating from the same pot' and 'cook and eat together'.

Persons who occupy the same dwelling unit but do not share food or other essentials, are regarded as separate households. For example, people who share a dwelling unit, but buy food separately, and generally provide for themselves separately, are regarded as separate households within the same dwelling unit. They are generally referred to as multiple households (even though they may be occupying the same dwelling).

Conversely, a household may occupy more than one structure. If persons on a plot, stand or yard eat together, but sleep in separate structures (e.g. a room at the back of the house for single young male members of a family), all these persons should be regarded as one household.

Multiple household

When two or more households live in the same dwelling unit.

Note: If there are two or more households in the selected dwelling unit and they do not share resources, all households are to be interviewed. The whole dwelling unit has been given one chance of selection and all households located there were interviewed using separate questionnaires.

Household head

Main decision-maker, or the person who owns or rents the dwelling, or the person who is the main breadwinner.

Nuclear households

Consist of spouses living alone, or with their children

Extended households

Family that extends beyond the nuclear family and which consists of parents, their children, and other family members such as aunts, uncles, grandparents and cousins, all living in the same household.

Complex households

Consist of a nuclear or extended household core and non-related individuals.

Single-generation households

Consist of family members from the same generation (i.e. siblings, parents) living together.

Double-generation households

Consist of family members from at least two generations, i.e. parents and children.

Triple-generation households

Contains three generations of families (grandparents, parents and grandchildren) in the same household.

Skip-generation households

Comprised of grandchildren living with one or more grandparents in the absence of any biological parents.

Formal dwelling

Structure built according to approved plans, i.e. house on a separate stand, flat or apartment, townhouse, room in backyard, rooms or flatlet elsewhere. Contrasted with *informal dwelling* and *traditional dwelling.*

Informal dwelling

Makeshift structure not erected according to approved architectural plans, for example *shack*s or *shanties* in *informal settlement*s or in backyards.

Piped water in dwelling or on-site

Piped water inside the household's own dwelling or in their yard. It excludes water from a neighbour's tap or a public tap that is not on site.

Hygienic toilet facility

Flush toilet, chemical toilet or pit latrine with ventilation pipe.

UN disability

Concentrating and remembering are grouped together as one category. If an individual has 'Some difficulty' with two or more of the six categories, then they are disabled. If an individual has 'A lot of difficulty' or is 'Unable to do' for one or more categories they are classified as disabled.

Severe disability

If an individual has 'A lot of difficulty' or is 'Unable to do' for one or more categories they are classified as severely disabled.

Social Relief of Distress Grant

Social Relief of Distress is paid to South African citizens or permanent residents, who have insufficient means and meet one or more of the following criteria:

- The applicant is awaiting payment of an approved social grant.
- The applicant has been found medically unfit to undertake remunerative work for a period of less than 6 months.

- The bread winner is deceased and application is made within three months of the date of death.
- No maintenance is received from a parent, child or spouse obliged by law to pay maintenance, and proof is furnished that efforts made to obtain maintenance have been unsuccessful.
- The bread winner of that person`s family has been admitted to an institution funded by the state (prison, psychiatric hospital, state home for older persons, treatment centre for substance abuse or child and youth care centre).
- The applicant has been affected by a disaster as defined in the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002) or the Fund-raising Act, 1978 (Act No. 107 of 1978).
- The person is not receiving assistance from any other organisation or.
- Refusal of the application for social relief of distress will cause undue hardships.
- Period of Social Relief of Distress (New Policy)

Social Relief of Distress is issued monthly for a maximum period of 3 months. An extension a further 3 months may be granted in exceptional cases.

COVID-19 SRD grants A special grant of R350 per month that was implemented by the government to ease the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The grant is aimed at individuals who are currently unemployed, or who do not receive any form of income, social grant or UIF payment. The grant was initially meant to be paid for six months, but it has been extended a number of times.

Improved source of water This includes 'Piped water in dwelling or in yard', and 'Water from a neighbour's tap or public/communal tap' are also included provided that the distance to the water source is less than 200 metres.

ADDENDUM TABLES

1. Population

1.1 By province, population group and sex, 2025

Province	Thousands														
	Black African			Coloured			Indian/Asian			White			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Western Cape	1 311	1 359	**2 670**	1 736	1 882	**3 618**	95	66	**161**	586	611	**1 197**	3 728	3 917	**7 646**
Eastern Cape	2 834	2 878	**5 711**	223	235	**458**	27	6	**32**	166	163	**329**	3 250	3 281	**6 530**
Northern Cape	362	349	**711**	252	284	**536**	2	3	**4**	42	43	**85**	657	678	**1 335**
Free State	1 340	1 445	**2 785**	45	45	**90**	9	4	**12**	100	91	**192**	1 494	1 585	**3 079**
KwaZulu-Natal	5 277	5 809	**11 085**	42	46	**89**	443	422	**864**	89	104	**193**	5 851	6 380	**12 231**
North West	2 065	2 050	**4 115**	31	21	**52**	10	23	**33**	102	84	**186**	2 208	2 179	**4 386**
Gauteng	7 365	7 364	**14 729**	267	248	**515**	205	210	**416**	830	913	**1 743**	8 666	8 735	**17 402**
Mpumalanga	2 344	2 410	**4 754**	27	16	**42**	24	23	**47**	114	142	**256**	2 508	2 591	**5 099**
Limpopo	3 015	3 257	**6 272**	*	6	**10**	*	*	*****	38	42	**79**	3 059	3 304	**6 363**
South Africa	**25 912**	**26 920**	**52 832**	**2 626**	**2 783**	**5 409**	**816**	**755**	**1 572**	**2 067**	**2 192**	**4 259**	**31 422**	**32 650**	**64 072**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

1. Population

1.2 By age group, population group and sex, 2025

Age group	Thousands														
	Black African			Coloured			Indian/Asian			White			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
00-04	2 482	2 458	**4 940**	236	230	**466**	47	46	**93**	97	93	**190**	2 862	2 827	**5 689**
05-09	2 557	2 540	**5 098**	243	238	**481**	50	48	**98**	110	105	**215**	2 960	2 932	**5 892**
10-14	2 563	2 562	**5 125**	241	237	**478**	50	48	**98**	121	116	**237**	2 975	2 963	**5 938**
15-19	2 445	2 466	**4 911**	228	225	**453**	48	45	**94**	128	124	**252**	2 850	2 861	**5 710**
20-24	2 097	2 123	**4 220**	205	203	**408**	49	44	**93**	109	108	**217**	2 459	2 478	**4 937**
25-29	2 174	2 188	**4 362**	209	208	**417**	62	53	**114**	109	109	**217**	2 553	2 558	**5 111**
30-34	2 394	2 409	**4 803**	215	215	**430**	76	63	**139**	120	119	**239**	2 804	2 806	**5 610**
35-39	2 407	2 410	**4 817**	209	211	**420**	81	65	**146**	138	137	**274**	2 835	2 823	**5 658**
40-44	2 027	2 000	**4 028**	180	188	**368**	81	65	**146**	148	147	**295**	2 436	2 400	**4 836**
45-49	1 464	1 430	**2 893**	148	153	**300**	67	54	**121**	144	149	**292**	1 822	1 784	**3 606**
50-54	1 095	1 092	**2 187**	139	151	**290**	58	50	**107**	163	170	**333**	1 455	1 463	**2 918**
55-59	741	907	**1 648**	123	150	**273**	46	44	**91**	153	162	**315**	1 063	1 264	**2 327**
60-64	575	775	**1 351**	102	128	**230**	37	40	**76**	136	150	**286**	849	1 093	**1 943**
65-69	408	601	**1 009**	71	98	**169**	27	33	**60**	126	144	**270**	632	877	**1 508**
70-74	261	435	**696**	43	70	**113**	19	26	**45**	105	127	**233**	428	657	**1 086**
75+	222	524	**746**	37	77	**113**	18	34	**52**	162	231	**393**	439	865	**1 304**
Total	**25 912**	**26 920**	**52 832**	**2 626**	**2 783**	**5 409**	**816**	**755**	**1 572**	**2 067**	**2 192**	**4 259**	**31 422**	**32 650**	**64 072**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

2. Education

2.1 Population aged 20 years and older, by highest level of education and province, 2025

Highest level of education	Thousands									
	Western Cape	Eastern Cape	Northern Cape	Free State	KwaZulu-Natal	North West	Gauteng	Mpumalanga	Limpopo	South Africa
None	42	123	34	47	246	115	114	158	181	**1 060**
Grade R/0	*	7	*	*	*	5	*	5	*	**22**
Grade 1/ Sub A/Class 1	6	21	3	10	30	16	12	16	13	**127**
Grade 2 / Sub B/Class 2	11	38	6	14	59	19	21	23	31	**222**
Grade 3/Standard 1/ ABET / AET 1	21	46	10	14	82	34	43	26	32	**309**
Grade 4/ Standard 2	36	86	11	30	134	37	72	52	48	**505**
Grade 5/ Standard 3/ ABET / AET 2	48	89	11	34	96	49	85	56	53	**523**
Grade 6/Standard 4	82	131	33	62	125	94	124	76	69	**796**
Grade 7/Standard 5/ ABET 3	184	214	40	68	234	113	257	112	166	**1 387**
Grade 8/Standard 6/Form 1	236	291	54	109	250	148	396	134	159	**1 777**
Grade 9/Standard 7/Form 2/ ABET / AET 4/NCV Level 1	315	311	57	125	337	190	467	196	274	**2 271**
Grade 10/ Standard 8/ Form 3/NCV Level 2	575	458	113	252	671	267	1 057	296	427	**4 115**
Grade 11/ Standard 9/ Form 4/NCV Level 3	547	559	89	195	1 062	334	1 558	414	547	**5 305**
Grade 12/Standard 10/Form 5/Matric (No Exemption)/NCV Level 4	1 872	913	251	696	2 948	901	4 656	1 063	1 054	**14 354**
NTC 1/ N1	5	3	*	*	*	*	4	*	*	**21**
NTC 2/ N2	15	3	*	4	5	*	13	13	8	**65**
NTC 3/ N3	14	6	3	15	16	6	50	19	27	**157**

2. Education

2.1 Population aged 20 years and older, by highest level of education and province, 2025 (concluded)

Highest level of education	Thousands									
	Western Cape	**Eastern Cape**	**Northern Cape**	**Free State**	**KwaZulu-Natal**	**North West**	**Gauteng**	**Mpumalanga**	**Limpopo**	**South Africa**
N4/NTC 4 /Occupation Certificate-NQF Level 5	33	9	7	16	22	8	62	15	11	**184**
N5/NTC 5 /Occupation Certificate-NQF Level 5	10	19	6	9	23	6	51	20	15	**159**
N6/NTC 6 /Occupation Certificate-NQF Level 5	20	27	9	24	30	35	112	23	41	**321**
Certificate with less than Grade 12/Std 10	4	7	*	7	8	4	17	4	5	**57**
Diploma with less than Grade 12/Std 10	16	4	*	13	18	7	31	4	*	**97**
Higher/National/Advance certificate with Grade 12/Std 10	62	37	16	9	59	37	223	65	50	**558**
Diploma with Grade 12/Std 10 / Certificate-NQF Level 6	286	221	38	71	315	114	686	138	200	**2 069**
Higher Diploma / Occupation Certificate (B-Tech)-NQF Level 7	92	25	2	13	71	12	156	19	11	**402**
Post Higher Diploma (University/University of Technology Master's degree)-NQF Level 9	356	125	21	62	347	75	807	110	106	**2 010**
Bachelor's Degree / Occupation Certificate-NQF Level 7	121	37	11	17	76	25	289	20	40	**636**
Honours Degree / Postgraduate diploma / Occupation Certificate-NQF Level 8	80	10	*	6	18	9	154	14	19	**313**
Doctoral Degrees (NQF Level 10)	20	*	*	*	*	6	24	*	4	**64**
Other	32	9	2	*	25	4	124	21	11	**229**
Do not know	101	34	12	27	123	78	295	24	31	**727**
Unspecified	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	**3**
Total population aged 20 years and older	**5 245**	**3 867**	**848**	**1 952**	**7 435**	**2 754**	**11 966**	**3 137**	**3 637**	**40 843**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or less unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.
This table measures the highest level of education for adults over the age of 20 years.

2. Education

2.2 Population aged 20 years and older, by highest level of education, population group and sex, 2025

Highest level of education	Thousands														
	Black African			Coloured			Indian/Asian			White			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
None	377	639	**1 017**	10	17	**27**	*	5	**10**	*	6	**7**	393	667	**1 060**
Grade R/0	11	11	**22**	*	*	*****	*	*	*****	*	*	*****	11	11	**22**
Grade 1/Sub A/Class 1	48	73	**121**	*	3	**5**	*	*	*****	*	*	*****	50	76	**127**
Grade 2/Sub B/Class 2	98	110	**208**	6	5	**11**	*	*	*****	*	*	*****	106	117	**222**
Grade 3/Standard 1/ ABET / AET 1	143	137	**280**	15	8	**23**	3	*	**5**	*	*	*****	162	147	**309**
Grade 4/ Standard 2	198	268	**466**	13	20	**33**	*	*	*****	*	*	*****	213	292	**505**
Grade 5/Standard 3/ ABET / AET 2	211	244	**454**	24	32	**56**	*	9	**11**	*	*	*****	237	286	**523**
Grade 6/Standard 4	369	335	**704**	35	46	**81**	*	9	**10**	*	*	*****	406	390	**796**
Grade 7/Standard 5/ ABET 3	624	561	**1 185**	64	108	**173**	7	10	**17**	*	7	**13**	701	686	**1 387**
Grade 8/Standard 6/Form 1	757	710	**1 467**	120	126	**246**	11	18	**30**	21	14	**35**	909	868	**1 777**
Grade 9/Standard 7/Form 2/ ABET / AET 4/NCV Level 1	1 074	851	**1 924**	129	137	**267**	13	21	**34**	28	18	**46**	1 244	1 027	**2 271**
Grade 10/Standard 8/ Form 3/NCV Level 2	1 798	1 525	**3 322**	248	233	**482**	58	34	**91**	106	114	**220**	2 210	1 905	**4 115**
Grade 11/Standard 9/ Form 4/NCV Level 3	2 280	2 547	**4 827**	159	191	**349**	37	19	**56**	30	43	**73**	2 505	2 800	**5 305**
Grade 12/Standard 10/Form 5/Matric (No Exemption)/NCV Level 4	5 471	5 901	**11 372**	568	623	**1 191**	279	257	**536**	571	684	**1 255**	6 889	7 466	**14 354**
NTC 1/ N1	7	7	**13**	4	*	**4**	*	*	*****	4	*	**4**	15	7	**21**
NTC 2/ N2	31	19	**50**	5	*	**7**	*	*	*****	8	*	**8**	44	21	**65**
NTC 3/ N3	63	54	**116**	6	*	**9**	5	*	**6**	25	*	**26**	99	58	**157**

2. Education

2.2 Population aged 20 years and older, by highest level of education, population group and sex, 2025 (concluded)

Highest level of education	Thousands														
	Black African			Coloured			Indian/Asian			White			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
N4/NTC 4/Occupation Certificate-NQF Level 5	61	79	**139**	7	12	**19**	*	*	*****	15	10	**25**	83	101	**184**
N5/NTC 5/Occupation Certificate-NQF Level 5	56	77	**133**	*	6	**8**	*	*	*****	5	10	**15**	63	96	**159**
N6/NTC 6/Occupation Certificate-NQF Level 5	122	140	**262**	4	8	**12**	*	*	**3**	36	8	**45**	164	157	**321**
Certificate with less than Grade 12/Std 10	20	22	**43**	*	2	**5**	*	*	*****	5	*	**5**	31	26	**57**
Diploma with less than Grade 12/Std 10	32	32	**64**	*	*	**4**	*	*	*****	12	15	**27**	47	50	**97**
Higher/National/Advance certificate with Grade 12/Std 10	176	245	**420**	13	33	**46**	*	*	**10**	43	38	**81**	237	321	**558**
Diploma with Grade 12/Std 10/Certificate-NQF Level 6	554	842	**1 395**	83	82	**165**	44	39	**83**	179	246	**425**	860	1 209	**2 069**
Higher Diploma / Occupation Certificate (B-Tech)-NQF Level 7	125	139	**264**	12	20	**33**	6	10	**15**	51	39	**90**	194	209	**402**
Post Higher Diploma (University/University of Technology Master's degree)-NQF Level 9	474	726	**1 199**	44	68	**112**	66	72	**138**	260	301	**561**	844	1 166	**2 010**
Bachelor's Degree/Occupation Certificate-NQF Level 7	147	202	**349**	21	13	**34**	28	29	**57**	83	112	**196**	279	356	**636**
Honours Degree/Postgraduate diploma / Occupation Certificate-NQF Level 8	86	59	**144**	8	13	**21**	19	6	**25**	76	47	**123**	189	124	**313**
Doctoral Degrees (NQF Level 10)	10	14	**24**	*	*	*****	*	*	*****	23	13	**37**	33	31	**64**
Other	97	67	**164**	16	5	**21**	19	*	**24**	9	10	**19**	142	87	**229**
Do not know	348	260	**607**	54	29	**83**	5	7	**12**	12	13	**25**	419	308	**727**
Unspecified	*	*	*****	*	*	*****	*	*	*****	*	*	*****	*	*	**3**
Total population aged 20 years and older	**15 864**	**16 895**	**32 759**	**1 679**	**1 851**	**3 531**	**620**	**569**	**1 189**	**1 611**	**1 753**	**3 364**	**19 775**	**21 068**	**40 843**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

2. Education

2.3 Population aged 20 years and older, by highest level of education, age group and sex, 2025

Highest level of education	Thousands														
	20-24			25-34			35-44			45+			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
None	15	7	**22**	34	25	**59**	48	38	**85**	296	597	**893**	393	667	**1 060**
Grade R/0	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	4	**6**	6	7	**13**	11	11	**22**
Grade 1/ Sub A/Class 1	*	*	*	*	*	**5**	9	6	**15**	36	68	**104**	50	76	**127**
Grade 2 / Sub B/Class 2	*	*	*	7	4	**10**	15	12	**27**	83	100	**183**	106	117	**222**
Grade 3/Standard 1/ ABET / AET 1	14	*	**17**	16	5	**21**	13	16	**29**	119	123	**241**	162	147	**309**
Grade 4/ Standard 2	6	5	**12**	23	14	**37**	35	26	**61**	149	246	**395**	213	292	**505**
Grade 5/ Standard 3/ ABET / AET 2	15	7	**22**	33	18	**51**	38	30	**68**	151	231	**382**	237	286	**523**
Grade 6/Standard 4	29	10	**39**	67	34	**101**	115	73	**188**	195	273	**468**	406	390	**796**
Grade 7/Standard 5/ ABET 3	60	34	**94**	118	94	**212**	160	95	**255**	362	464	**826**	701	686	**1 387**
Grade 8/Standard 6/Form 1	64	48	**112**	230	148	**378**	212	162	**373**	403	511	**914**	909	868	**1 777**
Grade 9/Standard 7/Form 2/ABET/ AET 4/NCV Level 1	203	106	**309**	348	248	**596**	316	255	**572**	376	418	**794**	1 244	1 027	**2 271**
Grade 10/ Standard 8/ Form 3/NCV Level 2	308	190	**497**	625	417	**1 041**	618	563	**1 181**	660	736	**1 396**	2 210	1 905	**4 115**
Grade 11/ Standard 9/ Form 4/NCV Level 3	335	319	**654**	753	819	**1 571**	825	897	**1 722**	592	765	**1 358**	2 505	2 800	**5 305**
Grade 12/Standard 10/Form 5/Matric (No Exemption)/NCV Level 4	1 167	1 424	**2 591**	2 124	2 272	**4 396**	1 832	1 923	**3 754**	1 766	1 847	**3 613**	6 889	7 466	**14 354**
NTC 1/ N1	6	*	**9**	4	*	**4**	*	*	**3**	*	*	**5**	15	7	**21**
NTC 2/ N2	6	5	**12**	17	10	**27**	8	*	**12**	13	*	**15**	44	21	**65**
NTC 3/ N3	13	17	**29**	27	24	**50**	30	11	**40**	30	7	**37**	99	58	**157**

2. Education

2.3 Population aged 20 years and older, by highest level of education, age group and sex, 2025 (concluded)

Highest level of education	Thousands														
	20-24			25-34			35-44			45+			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
N4/NTC 4 /Occupation Certificate-NQF Level 5	8	25	**33**	32	29	**61**	20	29	**48**	23	18	**41**	83	101	**184**
N5/NTC 5 /Occupation Certificate-NQF Level 5	10	16	**26**	25	44	**69**	15	19	**34**	12	17	**29**	63	96	**159**
N6/NTC 6 /Occupation Certificate-NQF Level 5	12	24	**35**	52	82	**134**	52	32	**85**	48	19	**67**	164	157	**321**
Certificate with less than Grade 12/Std 10	*	*	**7**	6	8	**14**	6	6	**13**	16	7	**23**	31	26	**57**
Diploma with less than Grade 12/Std 10	5	*	**8**	*	14	**16**	13	13	**26**	26	21	**48**	47	50	**97**
Higher/National/Advance certificate with Grade 12/Std 10	14	23	**37**	83	103	**186**	66	112	**179**	74	83	**156**	237	321	**558**
Diploma with Grade 12/Std 10 / Certificate-NQF Level 6	38	70	**108**	245	325	**569**	271	351	**622**	306	464	**769**	860	1 209	**2 069**
Higher Diploma / Occupation Certificate (B-Tech)-NQF Level 7	8	12	**21**	57	53	**110**	45	60	**106**	83	83	**166**	194	209	**402**
Post Higher Diploma (University/University of Technology Master's degree)-NQF Level 9	58	92	**150**	218	379	**597**	219	287	**507**	349	408	**756**	844	1 166	**2 010**
Bachelor's Degree / Occupation Certificate-NQF Level 7	23	15	**37**	72	88	**161**	65	94	**159**	120	159	**279**	279	356	**636**
Honours Degree / Postgraduate diploma / Occupation Certificate-NQF Level 8	*	*	*****	28	29	**57**	49	35	**84**	111	61	**172**	189	124	**313**
Doctoral Degrees (NQF Level 10)	*	*	*****	*	7	**8**	*	5	**10**	27	18	**45**	33	31	**64**
Other	24	9	**33**	45	35	**80**	51	18	**69**	21	25	**46**	142	87	**229**
Do not know	8	6	**14**	62	33	**95**	114	47	**161**	235	222	**457**	419	308	**727**
Unspecified	*	*	*****	*	*	*****	*	*	*****	*	*	*****	*	*	**3**
Total population aged 20 years and older	**2 459**	**2 478**	**4 937**	**5 357**	**5 363**	**10 721**	**5 271**	**5 223**	**10 494**	**6 688**	**8 003**	**14 691**	**19 775**	**21 068**	**40 843**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

3. Attendance at an educational institution

3.1 Population attending and not attending an educational institution by population group and age group, 2025

Population group and age group		Thousands			
		Attending	Not attending	Do not know	Total
Black African	05–06	1 989	132	3	**2 123**
	07–15	9 050	110	*	**9 160**
	16–20	3 375	1 451	*	**4 829**
	21–25	689	3 431	*	**4 121**
	26+	551	27 093	16	**27 660**
	Total	**15 653**	**32 217**	**23**	**47 892**
Coloured	05–06	170	28	*	**198**
	07–15	823	19	*	**843**
	16–20	270	189	*	**459**
	21–25	44	389	*	**433**
	26+	42	2 967	*	**3 009**
	Total	**1 350**	**3 593**	*****	**4 943**
Indian/Asian	05–06	37	5	*	**43**
	07–15	171	*	*	**171**
	16–20	68	25	*	**92**
	21–25	30	73	*	**103**
	26+	27	1 043	*	**1 070**
	Total	**333**	**1 146**	*****	**1 479**

3. Attendance at an educational institution

3.1 Population attending and not attending an educational institution by population group and age group, 2025 (concluded)

Population group and age group		Thousands			
		Attending	**Not attending**	**Do not know**	**Total**
White	05–06	89	2	*	**91**
	07–15	402	4	*	**406**
	16–20	185	63	*	**248**
	21–25	89	127	*	**216**
	26+	45	3 061	*	**3 108**
	Total	**810**	**3 257**	*****	**4 069**
Total	**05–06**	2 285	167	3	**2 455**
	07–15	10 445	133	*	**10 579**
	16–20	3 898	1 728	*	**5 628**
	21–25	853	4 020	*	**4 873**
	26+	664	34 164	18	**34 847**
	Total	**18 146**	**40 212**	**25**	**58 383**

Totals exclude not applicable attendance.
Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

3. Attendance at an educational institution

3.2 Population attending an educational institution, by type of institution, age group and sex, 2025

	Thousands																	
	05-06			07-15			16-20			21-25			26+			Total		
Educational institution	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**
Pre-school	226	243	**470**	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	226	243	**470**
School	909	907	**1 816**	5 197	5 190	**10 387**	1 741	1 643	**3 384**	108	61	**169**	11	12	**23**	7 966	7 813	**15 779**
Adult Education and Training (AET) Learning Centre	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Higher educational institution	*	*	*	*	*	*	82	149	**231**	135	235	**370**	150	225	**375**	367	609	**976**
TVET	*	*	*	*	*	*	49	82	**132**	74	130	**204**	34	79	**113**	157	291	**449**
Other college	*	*	*	*	*	*	35	52	**87**	40	54	**95**	46	68	**114**	122	174	**296**
Home-based education/home schooling	*	*	*	10	6	**16**	*	11	**14**	*	*	*	*	*	*	14	21	**35**
Other than any of the above	*	*	*	28	14	**42**	28	22	**50**	5	8	**13**	13	23	**36**	73	66	**140**
Total	**1 135**	**1 150**	**2 285**	**5 235**	**5 210**	**10 445**	**1 939**	**1 959**	**3 898**	**362**	**490**	**853**	**255**	**410**	**664**	**8 926**	**9 219**	**18 146**

Due to rounding numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

3. Attendance at an educational institution

3.3 Population aged 5 years and older attending an educational institution, by type of institution and province, 2025

Educational institution	Thousands									
	Western Cape	**Eastern Cape**	**Northern Cape**	**Free State**	**KwaZulu-Natal**	**North West**	**Gauteng**	**Mpumalanga**	**Limpopo**	**South Africa**
Pre-school	63	51	10	20	87	22	156	27	34	**470**
School	1 525	1 821	314	801	3 338	1 139	3 529	1 367	1 944	**15 779**
Adult Education and Training Learning Centre	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*****
Higher Educational Institution	156	38	11	46	136	44	434	44	67	**976**
TVET	48	31	10	24	66	33	142	36	58	**449**
Other College	35	19	6	7	17	15	168	16	14	**296**
Home based education/home schooling	*	*	*	*	8	*	16	*	*	**35**
Other than any of the above	33	10	1	3	11	7	56	6	12	**140**
Total population 5 years and older attending educational institution	**1 864**	**1 974**	**353**	**902**	**3 663**	**1 260**	**4 502**	**1 497**	**2 131**	**18 146**

Due to rounding numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

3. Attendance at an educational institution

3.4 Population aged 5 years and older attending an educational institution, by type of institution, population group and sex, 2025

	Thousands														
	Black African			Coloured			Indian/Asian			White			Total		
Educational institution	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**
Pre-school	178	203	**381**	19	26	**46**	*	*	**13**	24	6	**31**	226	243	**470**
School	6 973	6 835	**13 808**	586	585	**1 170**	122	97	**218**	286	297	**583**	7 966	7 813	**15 779**
Adult Education and Training Learning Centre	*	*	*****	*	*	*****	*	*	*****	*	*	*****	*	*	*****
Higher Educational Institution	265	457	**722**	17	37	**54**	29	38	**67**	56	77	**133**	367	609	**976**
TVET	140	267	**407**	10	14	**25**	*	*	*****	7	10	**17**	157	291	**449**
Other College	95	142	**237**	12	16	**28**	*	7	**11**	11	9	**20**	122	174	**296**
Home based education/home schooling	*	6	**12**	*	*	*****	*	8	**13**	*	6	**7**	14	21	**35**
Other than any of the above	42	42	**84**	13	12	**25**	*	8	**11**	15	*	**20**	73	66	**140**
Total	**7 700**	**7 953**	**15 653**	**659**	**691**	**1 350**	**167**	**166**	**333**	**400**	**410**	**810**	**8 926**	**9 219**	**18 146**

Due to rounding numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

3. Attendance at an educational institution

3.5 Population aged 5 years and older attending an educational institution, by annual tuition fee, population group and sex, 2025

	Thousands														
	Black African			Coloured			Indian/Asian			White			Total		
Tuition fees	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
None	4 983	4 877	**9 860**	324	358	**682**	4	14	**17**	24	14	**38**	5 335	5 263	**10 598**
R1 - R100	212	198	**411**	4	11	**15**	*	*	**	*	*	**	216	209	**426**
R101 - R200	260	266	**526**	8	14	**22**	*	*	**	*	*	**	268	280	**548**
R201 - R300	228	214	**443**	15	12	**28**	*	*	**	*	*	**	244	227	**470**
R301 - R500	215	228	**443**	15	6	**20**	*	*	**	*	*	**	232	237	**468**
R501 - R1 000	164	173	**337**	19	24	**43**	10	4	**14**	*	*	**4**	194	203	**397**
R1 001 - R2 000	162	202	**364**	51	53	**105**	19	15	**34**	12	9	**21**	244	280	**524**
R2 001 - R3 000	140	153	**293**	25	22	**47**	28	12	**40**	16	15	**30**	209	201	**410**
R3 001 - R4 000	95	135	**230**	12	7	**19**	4	3	**7**	19	19	**38**	130	164	**294**
R4 001 - R8 000	205	202	**407**	31	32	**63**	27	8	**35**	16	23	**39**	279	265	**544**
R8 001 - R12 000	182	242	**424**	20	28	**48**	5	10	**15**	13	27	**41**	220	307	**528**
R12 001 - R16 000	144	193	**337**	24	21	**46**	5	20	**25**	26	28	**54**	199	262	**461**
R16 001 - R20 000	114	151	**265**	21	13	**34**	16	3	**18**	48	34	**82**	199	201	**400**
R20 001 - R40 000	221	267	**487**	24	28	**53**	18	34	**52**	84	87	**172**	347	417	**764**
R40 001 - R80 000	111	137	**248**	12	16	**28**	25	24	**49**	84	83	**168**	233	260	**493**
More than R80 000	36	37	**72**	5	3	**9**	*	*	**	31	42	**74**	74	88	**161**
Do not know	141	171	**312**	38	29	**66**	*	*	**	12	19	**32**	192	220	**412**
Not applicable	*	6	**12**	*	*	**	*	8	**13**	*	6	**7**	14	21	**35**
Total	**7 700**	**7 953**	**15 653**	**659**	**691**	**1 350**	**167**	**166**	**333**	**400**	**410**	**810**	**8 926**	**9 219**	**18 146**

Due to rounding numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

3. Attendance at an educational institution

3.6 Population aged 5 years and older attending an educational institution, by annual tuition fee and type of institution, 2025

Tuition fees		Thousands							
	Pre-school	School	Adult Education and Training Learning Centre	Higher Educational Institution	TVET	Other College	Home-based education/ home schooling	Other than any of the above	Total
None	77	10 244	*	102	101	30	*	42	**10 598**
R1 - R100	13	408	*	*	*	*	*	*	**426**
R101 - R200	25	521	*	*	*	*	*	*	**548**
R201 - R300	20	444	*	*	*	*	*	*	**470**
R301 - R500	25	432	*	*	*	*	*	6	**468**
R501 - R1 000	32	356	*	*	*	*	*	5	**397**
R1 001 - R2 000	19	464	*	7	13	9	*	12	**524**
R2 001 - R3 000	19	351	*	15	11	7	*	7	**410**
R3 001 - R4 000	11	221	*	18	23	9	*	11	**294**
R4 001 - R8 000	13	410	*	38	53	21	*	9	**544**
R8 001 - R12 000	15	364	*	57	52	36	*	4	**528**
R12 001 - R16 000	9	324	*	50	47	26	*	5	**461**
R16 001 - R20 000	5	274	*	71	25	20	*	5	**400**
R20 001 - R40 000	6	465	*	211	41	37	*	*	**764**
R40 001 - R80 000	5	208	*	209	17	45	*	9	**493**
More than R80 000	*	65	*	82	*	9	*	5	**161**
Do not know	4	185	*	113	58	42	*	9	**412**
Not applicable	*	*	*	*	*	*	35	*	**35**
Total	**470**	**15 779**	*****	**976**	**449**	**296**	**35**	**140**	**18 146**

Due to rounding numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

3. Attendance at an educational institution

3.7 Population aged 5 years and older attending an educational institution that benefited from reductions or partial bursaries, by type of institution, sex and province, 2025

Educational institution		Thousands									
		Western Cape	Eastern Cape	Northern Cape	Free State	KwaZulu-Natal	North West	Gauteng	Mpumalanga	Limpopo	South Africa
Pre-school	Male	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	**8**
	Female	5	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	**8**
	Total	**5**	**4**	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	**16**
School	Male	135	103	21	20	130	*	79	10	47	**545**
	Female	125	73	26	16	111	*	92	7	39	**494**
	Total	**260**	**175**	**47**	**36**	**241**	**5**	**171**	**17**	**86**	**1 039**
Higher Educational Institution	Male	18	13	*	5	13	4	40	6	14	**114**
	Female	23	8	1	10	43	15	83	16	19	**220**
	Total	**41**	**22**	**2**	**15**	**57**	**19**	**123**	**21**	**33**	**334**
TVET	Male	6	4	1	4	6	6	18	*	14	**59**
	Female	18	6	4	4	20	11	37	11	17	**128**
	Total	**25**	**10**	**5**	**8**	**26**	**17**	**55**	**11**	**31**	**187**
Other College	Male	*	*	*	*	*	*	10	*	*	**18**
	Female	4	4	2	*	*	*	25	*	*	**40**
	Total	**5**	**4**	**3**	*****	*****	*****	**35**	**4**	*****	**58**

3. Attendance at an educational institution

3.7 Population aged 5 years and older attending an educational institution that benefited from reductions or partial bursaries, by type of institution, sex and province, 2025(concluded)

Educational institution		Thousands									
		Western Cape	Eastern Cape	Northern Cape	Free State	KwaZulu-Natal	North West	Gauteng	Mpuma-langa	Limpopo	South Africa
Other than any of the above	Male	4	*	*	*	*	*	12	*	*	**17**
	Female	3	*	*	*	*	*	6	*	*	**11**
	Total	**7**	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	**17**	*****	*****	**28**
Total	**Male**	**164**	**124**	**24**	**30**	**150**	**14**	**161**	**19**	**76**	**761**
	Female	**180**	**92**	**33**	**32**	**176**	**32**	**244**	**36**	**76**	**900**
	Total	**343**	**215**	**57**	**61**	**326**	**46**	**405**	**55**	**152**	**1 661**

Due to rounding numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

3. Attendance at an educational institution

3.8 Population aged 5 years and older currently attending school by grade and by province, 2025

School grade	Thousands									
	Western Cape	Eastern Cape	Northern Cape	Free State	KwaZulu-Natal	North West	Gauteng	Mpumalanga	Limpopo	South Africa
Grade R/0	92	121	22	42	162	74	130	72	135	**850**
Grade 1	118	138	23	67	284	98	270	132	147	**1 277**
Grade 2	93	143	26	57	247	76	251	94	140	**1 126**
Grade 3	141	143	26	56	249	96	287	77	151	**1 226**
Grade 4	119	158	21	78	251	76	300	114	158	**1 275**
Grade 5	104	143	25	68	276	103	260	99	128	**1 205**
Grade 6	116	148	25	69	241	76	274	123	155	**1 227**
Grade 7	127	146	31	62	270	97	269	119	153	**1 273**
Grade 8	120	156	30	93	305	100	305	99	175	**1 381**
Grade 9 / NCV Level 1	113	150	23	63	273	105	299	102	154	**1 282**
Grade 10 / NCV Level 2	145	137	27	55	305	92	348	141	176	**1 425**
Grade 11 / NCV Level 3	116	148	25	46	278	91	286	110	157	**1 258**
Grade 12/Matric / NCV Level 4	121	90	11	44	195	57	241	88	113	**960**
N1 / NTC1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	**8**
N2 / NTC2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*****
N3 /NTC 3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*****
Total	**1 525**	**1 821**	**314**	**801**	**3 338**	**1 139**	**3 529**	**1 367**	**1 944**	**15 779**

Due to rounding numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

3. Attendance at an educational institution

3.9 Population aged 0–4 years attending a day care centre, crèche, early childhood development centre (ECD) playgroup, nursery school or pre-primary school, by whether they attend or not, and by province, 2025

Province	Thousands		
	Attend	Do not attend	Total
Western Cape	252	333	**585**
Eastern Cape	256	391	**647**
Northern Cape	36	86	**122**
Free State	135	117	**252**
KwaZulu-Natal	333	834	**1 167**
North West	121	266	**387**
Gauteng	596	695	**1 291**
Mpumalanga	201	331	**532**
Limpopo	362	343	**705**
South Africa	**2 293**	**3 396**	**5 689**

Due to rounding numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks

3. Attendance at an educational institution

3.10 Population aged 0–4 years attending a day care centre, crèche, early childhood development centre (ECD) playgroup, nursery school or pre-primary school, by whether they attend these institutions, and by population group and sex, 2025

Population group and sex		Thousands		
		Attend	**Do not attend**	**Total**
Black African	Male	1 000	1 482	**2 482**
	Female	1 010	1 448	**2 458**
	Total	**2 010**	**2 930**	**4 940**
Coloured	Male	66	170	**236**
	Female	83	147	**230**
	Total	**149**	**317**	**466**
Indian/Asian	Male	12	35	**47**
	Female	10	35	**46**
	Total	**22**	**71**	**93**
White	Male	57	40	**97**
	Female	54	39	**93**
	Total	**112**	**79**	**190**
Total	**Male**	**1 135**	**1 727**	**2 862**
	Female	**1 157**	**1 670**	**2 827**
	Total	**2 293**	**3 396**	**5 689**

Due to rounding numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks

4. Medical aid coverage

4.1 Medical aid coverage, by province and population group, 2025

Province		Thousands									
		Western Cape	**Eastern Cape**	**Northern Cape**	**Free State**	**KwaZulu-Natal**	**North West**	**Gauteng**	**Mpumalanga**	**Limpopo**	**South Africa**
Covered	Black African	316	337	98	245	668	443	2 179	454	461	**5 202**
	Coloured	648	78	70	16	35	15	165	15	*	**1 040**
	Indian/Asian	70	15	*	*	313	11	259	*	*	**673**
	White	947	217	54	102	144	106	1 244	172	59	**3 044**
	Total	**1 982**	**647**	**223**	**364**	**1 160**	**574**	**3 846**	**643**	**520**	**9 960**
Not Covered	Black African	2 348	5 367	611	2 539	10 380	3 664	12 508	4 286	5 805	**47 509**
	Coloured	2 965	380	466	73	54	37	350	28	10	**4 362**
	Indian/Asian	90	17	3	11	539	23	156	44	*	**886**
	White	250	112	31	90	49	81	499	84	20	**1 215**
	Total	**5 653**	**5 877**	**1 111**	**2 712**	**11 022**	**3 804**	**13 514**	**4 442**	**5 837**	**53 972**
Do not know	Black African	5	7	*	*	37	8	41	14	6	**120**
	Coloured	5	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	**7**
	Indian/Asian	*	*	*	*	13	*	*	*	*	**13**
	White	**11**	**7**	*****	*****	**50**	**8**	**41**	**14**	**6**	**139**
	Total	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	**1**
Total	Black African	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	**1**
	Coloured	**2 670**	**5 711**	**711**	**2 785**	**11 085**	**4 115**	**14 729**	**4 754**	**6 272**	**52 832**
	Indian/Asian	**3 618**	**458**	**536**	**90**	**89**	**52**	**515**	**42**	**10**	**5 409**
	White	**161**	**32**	**4**	**12**	**864**	**33**	**416**	**47**	*****	**1 572**
	Total	**1 197**	**329**	**85**	**192**	**193**	**186**	**1 743**	**256**	**79**	**4 259**

Due to rounding numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks

4. Medical aid coverage

4.2 Medical aid coverage, by population group and sex, 2025

Population group and sex		Thousands			
		Covered	Not Covered	Do not know	Total
Black African	Male	2 473	23 377	61	*
	Female	2 729	24 132	59	*
	Total	**5 202**	**47 509**	**120**	*****
Coloured	Male	492	2 130	*	*
	Female	548	2 232	*	*
	Total	**1 040**	**4 362**	**7**	*****
Indian/Asian	Male	315	498	*	*
	Female	359	388	9	*
	Total	**673**	**886**	**13**	*****
White	Male	1 451	617	*	*
	Female	1 593	599	*	*
	Total	**3 044**	**1 215**	*****	*****
Total	**Male**	**4 731**	**26 621**	**69**	*****
	Female	**5 229**	**27 351**	**70**	*****
	Total	**9 960**	**53 972**	**139**	*****

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

4. Medical aid coverage

4.3 Medical aid coverage, by age group, 2025

Age group	Thousands			
	Covered	Not Covered	Do not know	Total
00–09	1 504	10 059	17	**11 581**
10–19	1 494	10 145	9	**11 648**
20–29	995	9 018	35	**10 048**
30–39	1 582	9 656	29	**11 268**
40–49	1 667	6 746	30	**8 443**
50–59	1 281	3 945	18	**5 244**
60+	1 436	4 403	*	**5 840**
Total	**9 960**	**53 972**	**139**	**64 072**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

5. Health

5.1 General health perception, by province, 2025

Province	Thousands						
	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	Not sure	Total
Western Cape	2 601	2 489	2 111	348	91	5	**7 646**
Eastern Cape	2 379	1 871	1 722	404	150	5	**6 530**
Northern Cape	284	236	653	137	24	*	**1 335**
Free State	916	774	1 107	239	43	*	**3 079**
KwaZulu-Natal	2 270	3 823	5 302	547	280	9	**12 231**
North West	680	1 064	2 294	276	67	6	**4 386**
Gauteng	5 313	5 464	5 692	774	155	*	**17 402**
Mpumalanga	999	1 735	2 054	249	56	6	**5 099**
Limpopo	2 101	1 239	2 796	187	38	*	**6 363**
South Africa	**17 544**	**18 695**	**23 731**	**3 160**	**904**	**38**	**64 072**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

5. Health

5.2 The household's normal place of consultation by province, 2025

Place of consultation		Thousands									
		Western Cape	**Eastern Cape**	**Northern Cape**	**Free State**	**KwaZulu-Natal**	**North West**	**Gauteng**	**Mpumalanga**	**Limpopo**	**South Africa**
Public sector	Public hospital	257	86	30	65	235	41	307	81	151	**1 254**
	Public clinic	1 022	1 351	261	714	2 562	1 093	3 782	1 186	1 453	**13 423**
	Other in public sector	*	4	*	*	27	11	*	*	*	**53**
	Total	**1 281**	**1 441**	**292**	**785**	**2 824**	**1 145**	**4 092**	**1 267**	**1 603**	**14 730**
Private sector	Private hospital	66	10	9	20	77	18	272	25	12	**511**
	Private clinic	30	27	2	10	74	20	162	9	45	**379**
	Private doctor/specialist	837	286	80	217	459	238	1 449	269	195	**4 028**
	Traditional healer	*	*	*	*	8	10	14	*	6	**46**
	Spiritual healer's workplace/church	*	*	*	*	*	*	11	4	*	**27**
	Pharmacy/chemist	36	29	10	16	32	7	157	14	*	**304**
	Health facility provided by employer	*	*	3	*	*	32	8	*	*	**47**
	Alternative medicine, e.g. homoeopathist	*	*	*	*	*	*	8	*	*	**11**
	Other in private sector	*	*	*	*	*	*	12	*	*	**17**
	Total	**975**	**357**	**105**	**264**	**655**	**331**	**2 092**	**324**	**266**	**5 369**
Unspecified/Do not know	Unspecified/Do not know	*	*	*	*	*	*	9	*	*	**16**
	Total	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	**9**	*****	*****	**16**
Total	**Total**	2 256	1 799	397	1 049	3 483	1 476	6 193	1 591	1 870	**20 114**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

5. Health

5.3 The household's normal place of consultation and whether at least one member is covered by medical aid, 2025

Place of consultation		Thousands			
		Covered	**Not Covered**	**Unspecified**	**Total**
Public sector	Public hospital	138	1 116	*	**1 254**
	Public clinic	703	12 718	*	**13 423**
	Other in public sector	7	46	*	**53**
	Total	**849**	**13 879**	*****	**14 730**
Private sector	Private hospital	422	89	*	**511**
	Private clinic	229	150	*	**379**
	Private doctor/specialist	2 838	1 189	*	**4 028**
	Traditional healer	*	44	*	**46**
	Spiritual healer's workplace/church	*	23	*	**27**
	Pharmacy/chemist	73	231	*	**304**
	Health facility provided by employer	35	11	*	**47**
	Alternative medicine, e.g. homoeopathist	*	9	*	**11**
	Other in private sector	*	15	*	**17**
	Total	**3 606**	**1 762**	*****	**5 369**
Unspecified/Do not know	Unspecified/Do not know	*	9	*	**16**
	Total	*****	**9**	*****	**16**
Total	**Total**	4 461	15 650	*	**20 114**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

6. General Functioning

6.1 Population aged 5 years and older that have some difficulty or are unable to do basic activities, by province, 2025

Degree of difficulty with which basic activities are carried out		Thousands									
		Western Cape	**Eastern Cape**	**Northern Cape**	**Free State**	**KwaZulu-Natal**	**North West**	**Gauteng**	**Mpumalanga**	**Limpopo**	**South Africa**
Seeing	Some difficulty	329	316	133	192	559	229	999	179	172	**3 108**
	A lot of difficulty	61	66	11	24	101	24	82	45	18	**432**
	Unable to do	*	8	3	3	7	7	7	3	5	**46**
	Total	**392**	**390**	**147**	**219**	**667**	**260**	**1 088**	**227**	**195**	**3 586**
Hearing	Some difficulty	115	114	49	67	189	65	264	76	56	**994**
	A lot of difficulty	29	31	7	12	35	11	33	18	8	**184**
	Unable to do	*	5	*	*	5	*	9	4	*	**28**
	Total	**145**	**150**	**56**	**78**	**228**	**78**	**306**	**98**	**67**	**1 206**
Walking	Some difficulty	178	199	64	62	311	75	312	95	90	**1 385**
	A lot of difficulty	83	94	25	24	143	27	109	46	39	**589**
	Unable to do	35	19	5	6	28	18	26	11	8	**156**
	Total	**296**	**312**	**94**	**92**	**482**	**120**	**447**	**151**	**137**	**2 130**
Remembering and concentrating	Some difficulty	108	236	54	96	366	119	245	83	42	**1 348**
	A lot of difficulty	35	52	14	36	108	62	65	29	22	**423**
	Unable to do	8	11	*	4	14	6	18	*	5	**68**
	Total	**152**	**300**	**68**	**137**	**488**	**186**	**327**	**112**	**69**	**1 839**
Self-care	Some difficulty	100	105	33	47	209	93	243	83	133	**1 046**
	A lot of difficulty	31	42	15	11	60	41	86	27	19	**331**
	Unable to do	26	33	7	7	23	25	36	16	8	**182**
	Total	**156**	**180**	**55**	**65**	**292**	**158**	**365**	**127**	**160**	**1 559**
Communication	Some difficulty	47	45	7	17	62	19	127	40	27	**391**
	A lot of difficulty	25	16	5	6	38	6	32	8	14	**150**
	Unable to do	8	14	*	4	18	7	20	5	5	**81**
	Total	**80**	**76**	**12**	**26**	**119**	**31**	**180**	**53**	**45**	**622**
Total aged 5 years and older		**7 060**	**5 884**	**1 213**	**2 827**	**11 064**	**3 999**	**16 111**	**4 567**	**5 658**	**58 383**

Totals exclude the ‘don’t know’ and ‘No difficulty’ options as well as unspecified.
Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
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Only individuals aged five years and older are used for this analysis as children below the age of five years are often mistakenly categorised as being unable to walk, remember, communicate, or care for themselves when it is due to their level of development rather than any innate disabilities they might have. These issues are however actively addressed during training of fieldworkers.

6. General Functioning

6.2 Population aged 5 years and older that have some difficulty, a lot of difficulty or are unable to do basic activities, by population group and sex, 2025

Degree of difficulty with which basic activities are carried out		Thousands														
		Black African			Coloured			Indian/Asian			White			Total		
		Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Seeing	Some difficulty	1 488	842	**2 330**	144	109	**253**	67	54	**121**	216	188	**404**	**1 915**	**1 194**	**3 108**
	A lot of difficulty	196	127	**323**	28	20	**48**	*	*	**5**	32	24	**56**	**260**	**173**	**432**
	Unable to do	23	18	**41**	*	*	**2**	*	*	*****	*	*	*****	**27**	**19**	**46**
	Total	**1 707**	**987**	**2 694**	**173**	**130**	**303**	**72**	**56**	**128**	**249**	**213**	**462**	**2 201**	**1 386**	**3 586**
Hearing	Some difficulty	382	297	**678**	59	47	**106**	18	24	**43**	78	89	**167**	**537**	**457**	**994**
	A lot of difficulty	81	46	**127**	15	6	**21**	5	2	**7**	15	14	**29**	**116**	**68**	**184**
	Unable to do	11	10	**21**	*	*	*****	*	*	*****	*	*	*****	**14**	**13**	**28**
	Total	**473**	**352**	**826**	**74**	**53**	**127**	**23**	**27**	**50**	**97**	**105**	**202**	**668**	**538**	**1 206**
Walking	Some difficulty	625	359	**984**	100	48	**148**	41	19	**60**	105	87	**192**	**871**	**513**	**1 385**
	A lot of difficulty	270	171	**441**	36	29	**65**	7	11	**18**	39	27	**66**	**352**	**237**	**589**
	Unable to do	57	45	**102**	9	12	**21**	*	*	*****	19	11	**31**	**87**	**69**	**156**
	Total	**952**	**576**	**1 528**	**145**	**89**	**234**	**50**	**30**	**80**	**163**	**125**	**289**	**1 311**	**819**	**2 130**
Remembering and concentrating	Some difficulty	636	478	**1 113**	54	40	**94**	17	13	**30**	59	51	**110**	**766**	**582**	**1 348**
	A lot of difficulty	179	182	**361**	12	17	**29**	*	6	**12**	9	13	**22**	**205**	**218**	**423**
	Unable to do	27	32	**58**	*	*	**4**	*	*	*****	*	*	*****	**31**	**36**	**68**
	Total	**841**	**691**	**1 533**	**68**	**59**	**127**	**24**	**19**	**43**	**69**	**67**	**136**	**1 003**	**836**	**1 839**

Totals exclude the 'don't know' and 'No difficulty' options as well as unspecified.
Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.
Only individuals aged five years and older are used for this analysis as children below the age of five years are often mistakenly categorised as being unable to walk, remember, communicate, or care for themselves when it is due to their level of development rather than any innate disabilities they might have. These issues are however actively addressed during training of fieldworkers.

6. General Functioning

6.2 Population aged 5 years and older that have some difficulty, a lot of difficulty or are unable to do basic activities, by population group and sex, 2025 (concluded)

Degree of difficulty with which basic activities are carried out		Thousands														
		Black African			Coloured			Indian/Asian			White			Total		
		Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Self-care	Some difficulty	418	429	**848**	37	39	**77**	13	17	**30**	47	45	**92**	**516**	**530**	**1 046**
	A lot of difficulty	136	143	**279**	12	13	**25**	7	3	**11**	8	8	**16**	**164**	**168**	**331**
	Unable to do	70	86	**156**	8	8	**15**	*	*	*****	8	*	**10**	**86**	**96**	**182**
	Total	**625**	**659**	**1 284**	**57**	**60**	**117**	**20**	**20**	**40**	**63**	**55**	**118**	**765**	**794**	**1 559**
Communication	Some difficulty	137	169	**306**	15	15	**30**	*	7	**10**	21	24	**45**	**176**	**214**	**391**
	A lot of difficulty	52	71	**122**	4	5	**9**	*	*	**8**	5	6	**11**	**65**	**85**	**150**
	Unable to do	25	44	**69**	*	*	**5**	*	*	*****	*	*	*****	**31**	**50**	**81**
	Total	**214**	**283**	**497**	**20**	**24**	**44**	**8**	**10**	**18**	**30**	**32**	**62**	**272**	**350**	**622**
Total aged 5 years and older		**24 022**	**24 462**	**23 430**	**47 892**	**2 552**	**2 391**	**4 943**	**710**	**769**	**1 479**	**2 099**	**1 970**	**4 069**	**29 823**	**28 560**

Totals exclude the 'don't know' and 'No difficulty' options as well as unspecified.
Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

Only individuals aged five years and older are used for this analysis as children below the age of five years are often mistakenly categorised as being unable to walk, remember, communicate, or care for themselves when it is due to their level of development rather than any innate disabilities they might have. These issues are however actively addressed during training of fieldworkers.

7. Social Welfare

7.1 Population that received social grants, relief assistance or social relief, by population group, sex and province, 2025

Population group and sex		Thousands									
		Western Cape	**Eastern Cape**	**Northern Cape**	**Free State**	**KwaZulu-Natal**	**North West**	**Gauteng**	**Mpumalanga**	**Limpopo**	**South Africa**
Black African	Male	291	1 618	142	603	2 534	961	1 968	1 117	1 533	**10 768**
	Female	329	1 657	151	732	3 032	1 045	2 283	1 181	1 717	**12 128**
	Total	**619**	**3 275**	**293**	**1 335**	**5 567**	**2 007**	**4 251**	**2 298**	**3 251**	**22 896**
Coloured	Male	552	77	118	16	8	19	62	6	*	**857**
	Female	658	120	145	14	9	10	61	*	*	**1 019**
	Total	**1 210**	**196**	**262**	**30**	**16**	**29**	**123**	**6**	*****	**1 877**
Indian/Asian	Male	*	*	*	*	47	*	13	*	*	**65**
	Female	6	*	*	*	83	*	27	*	*	**117**
	Total	**10**	*****	*****	*****	**130**	*****	**40**	*****	*****	**182**
White	Male	25	6	4	16	6	14	64	6	5	**148**
	Female	48	9	11	12	16	14	86	18	8	**222**
	Total	**73**	**16**	**15**	**29**	**22**	**28**	**150**	**24**	**13**	**370**
Total	**Male**	**872**	**1 701**	**264**	**635**	**2 596**	**994**	**2 108**	**1 128**	**1 539**	**11 838**
	Female	**1 041**	**1 786**	**307**	**758**	**3 140**	**1 069**	**2 457**	**1 200**	**1 727**	**13 486**
	Total	**1 913**	**3 487**	**571**	**1 393**	**5 736**	**2 063**	**4 565**	**2 329**	**3 266**	**25 324**

Totals exclude unspecified grant receipt.
Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks

8. Dwellings and Services

8.1 Type of dwelling, by number of rooms in the dwelling

8.1.1 All population groups, 2025

Type of dwelling	Thousands			
	1–3 rooms	4–5 rooms	6+ rooms	Total
Dwelling/house or brick/concrete block structure on a separate stand or yard or on farm	2 258	4 326	6 416	**13 014**
Traditional dwelling/hut/structure made of traditional materials	260	216	210	**686**
Flat or apartment in a block of flats	426	473	145	**1 045**
Cluster house in complex	8	64	63	**136**
Town house (semi-detached house in complex)	45	118	96	**259**
Semi-detached house	90	188	125	**404**
Dwelling/house/flat/room in backyard	1 136	54	39	**1 230**
Informal dwelling/shack in backyard	785	31	7	**828**
Informal dwelling/shack not in backyard	1 342	242	28	**1 615**
Room/flat let on a property or a larger dwelling servant quarters/granny flat	744	83	17	**845**
Caravan/tent	*	*	*	**3**
Other	46	3	*	**50**
Total	**7 142**	**5 798**	**7 147**	**20 114**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

8. Dwellings and Services

8.1 Type of dwelling, by number of rooms in the dwelling

8.1.2 Black African population group, 2025

Type of dwelling	Thousands			
	1–3 rooms	4–5 rooms	6+ rooms	Total
Dwelling/house or brick/concrete block structure on a separate stand or yard or on farm	2 131	3 841	4 778	**10 761**
Traditional dwelling/hut/structure made of traditional materials	260	215	210	**686**
Flat or apartment in a block of flats	369	301	80	**752**
Cluster house in complex	7	20	19	**46**
Town house (semi-detached house in complex)	32	54	26	**112**
Semi-Detached house	30	50	12	**93**
Dwelling/house/flat/room in backyard	1 106	40	32	**1 179**
Informal dwelling/shack in backyard	747	26	7	**784**
Informal dwelling/shack not in backyard	1 308	222	23	**1 555**
Room/flat let on a property or a larger dwelling servant quarters/granny flat	717	69	9	**794**
Caravan/tent	*	*	*	**3**
Other	45	*	*	**47**
Total	**6 754**	**4 840**	**5 197**	**16 814**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

8. Dwellings and Services

8.1 Type of dwelling, by number of rooms in the dwelling

8.1.3 Other ** population group, 2025

Type of dwelling	Thousands			
	1–3 rooms	4–5 rooms	6+ rooms	Total
Dwelling/house or brick/concrete block structure on a separate stand or yard or on farm	126	485	1 639	**2 253**
Traditional dwelling/hut/structure made of traditional materials	*	*	*	**
Flat or apartment in a block of flats	57	172	65	**293**
Cluster house in complex	*	44	44	**90**
Town house (semi-detached house in complex)	13	64	71	**148**
Semi-Detached house	60	138	112	**311**
Dwelling/house/flat/room in backyard	29	14	7	**50**
Informal dwelling/shack in backyard	38	5	*	**43**
Informal dwelling/shack not in backyard	34	21	5	**59**
Room/flatlet on a property or a larger dwelling servant quarters/granny flat	27	14	8	**50**
Caravan/tent	*	*	*	**
Other	**388**	**959**	**1 951**	**3 301**
Total	126	485	1 639	**2 253**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

8. Dwellings and Services

8.2 Type of dwelling of households, by province, 2025

Type of dwelling	Thousands									
	Western Cape	**Eastern Cape**	**Northern Cape**	**Free State**	**KwaZulu-Natal**	**North West**	**Gauteng**	**Mpumalanga**	**Limpopo**	**South Africa**
Dwelling/house or brick/concrete block structure on a separate stand or yard or on farm	1 252	1 287	302	788	2 485	1 033	2 922	1 289	1 656	**13 014**
Traditional dwelling/hut/structure made of traditional materials	*	291	*	12	304	*	*	61	9	**686**
Flat or apartment in a block of flats	195	24	9	32	170	26	550	31	7	**1 045**
Cluster house in complex	34	5	*	*	*	*	89	*	*	**136**
Town house (semi-detached house in complex)	36	5	*	11	8	*	185	6	4	**259**
Semi-detached house	234	29	16	4	91	*	17	6	*	**404**
Dwelling/house/flat/room in backyard	37	6	*	25	32	69	988	22	51	**1 230**
Informal dwelling/shack in backyard	148	20	10	28	43	81	470	19	8	**828**
Informal dwelling/shack not in backyard	249	75	43	123	123	202	699	61	40	**1 615**
Room/flatlet on a property or a larger dwelling servant quarters/granny flat	58	56	14	27	220	54	234	93	90	**845**
Caravan/tent	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	**3**
Other	9	3	*	*	*	*	36	*	*	**50**
Total	**2 256**	**1 799**	**397**	**1 049**	**3 483**	**1 476**	**6 193**	**1 591**	**1 870**	**20 114**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

8. Dwellings and Services

8.3 Type of dwelling of households, by main source of water, 2025

Type of dwelling	Thousands							
	Piped (Tap) water in dwelling	**Piped (Tap) water on site or in yard**	**Borehole on site**	**Rain-water tank on site**	**Neighbours tap**	**Public tap**	**Water-carrier /Tanker**	**Water vendor**
Formal dwelling/house or brick/concrete block structure on a separate stand or yard or on farm	6 689	3 261	448	343	314	841	198	377
Traditional dwelling/hut/structure made of traditional materials	16	133	9	117	29	149	32	*
Flat or apartment in a block of flats	949	82	*	*	*	*	*	6
Cluster house in complex	135	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Town house (semi-detached house in complex)	253	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Semi-detached house	373	29	*	*	*	*	*	*
Dwelling/house/flat/room in backyard	220	940	18	*	6	24	*	4
Informal dwelling/shack in backyard	57	679	*	*	14	50	13	7
Informal dwelling/shack not in backyard	95	672	9	*	119	626	55	21
Room/flatlet on a property or a larger dwelling servant quarters/granny flat	249	472	33	16	9	34	10	14
Caravan/tent	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Other	31	12	*	*	*	6	*	*
Total	**9 069**	**6 284**	**522**	**480**	**495**	**1 732**	**310**	**433**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

8. Dwellings and Services

8.3 Type of dwelling of households, by main source of water, 2025 (concluded)

Type of dwelling	Thousands								
	Borehole off site / communal	**Flowing water / Stream / River**	**Dam / Pool / Stagnant water**	**Well protected**	**Well unprotected**	**Spring protected**	**Spring unprotected**	**Other**	**Total**
Formal dwelling/house or brick/concrete block structure on a separate stand or yard or on farm	163	170	15	13	38	17	34	92	**13 014**
Traditional dwelling/hut/structure made of traditional materials	29	99	13	*	17	7	26	*	**686**
Flat or apartment in a block of flats	*	*	*	*	*	2	*	*	**1 045**
Cluster house in complex	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	**136**
Town house (semi-detached house in complex)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	**259**
Semi-detached house	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	**404**
Dwelling/house/flat/room in backyard	8	4	*	*	*	*	*	*	**1 230**
Informal dwelling/shack in backyard	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	**828**
Informal dwelling/shack not in backyard	6	*	*	*	*	*	*	6	**1 615**
Room/flatlet on a property or a larger dwelling servant quarters/granny flat	6	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	**845**
Caravan/tent	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	**3**
Other	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	**50**
Total	**215**	**278**	**28**	**20**	**55**	**28**	**65**	**101**	**20 114**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

8. Dwellings and Services

8.4 Households by type of dwelling, by tenure status, 2025

Type of dwelling	Thousands								
	Rented	**Rented from other**	**Owned, but not yet paid off to bank/financial institution**	**Owned, but not yet paid off to private lender**	**Owned and fully paid off**	**Occupied rent-free**	**Other**	**Do not know**	**Total**
Dwelling/house or brick/concrete block structure on a separate stand or yard or on farm	1 414	72	850	159	8 588	1 836	75	20	**13 014**
Traditional dwelling/hut/structure made of traditional materials	17	*	*	*	530	137	*	*	**686**
Flat or apartment in a block of flats	682	133	68	*	90	63	*	*	**1 045**
Cluster house in complex	65	*	35	*	25	*	*	*	**136**
Town house (semi-detached house in complex)	94	17	58	18	60	10	*	*	**259**
Semi-detached house	81	12	41	2	223	42	*	*	**404**
Dwelling/house/flat/room in backyard	937	8	*	*	126	155	4	*	**1 230**
Informal dwelling/shack in backyard	571	*	*	*	113	133	8	*	**828**
Informal dwelling/shack not in backyard	379	*	*	*	780	437	12	*	**1 615**
Room/flatlet on a property or a larger dwelling servant quarters/granny flat	631	27	*	*	36	139	*	*	**845**
Caravan/tent	2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	**3**
Other	10	*	*	*	4	35	*	*	**50**
Total	**4 884**	**278**	**1 058**	**192**	**10 574**	**2 991**	**114**	**24**	**20 114**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

8. Dwellings and Services

8.5 Tenure status of households, by province, 2025

Province	Thousands								
	Rented	Rented from other	Owned, but not yet paid off to bank/financial institution	Owned, but not yet paid off to private lender	Owned and fully paid off	Occupied rent-free	Other	Do not know	Total
Western Cape	643	53	237	18	1 116	181	8	*	**2 256**
Eastern Cape	219	20	45	10	1 131	364	7	*	**1 799**
Northern Cape	52	8	8	3	251	69	5	*	**397**
Free State	201	18	25	8	586	211	*	*	**1 049**
KwaZulu-Natal	602	40	108	29	1 968	713	12	10	**3 483**
North West	324	*	21	7	985	123	7	*	**1 476**
Gauteng	2 324	90	559	104	2 029	1 017	63	7	**6 193**
Mpumalanga	245	23	39	10	1 107	164	*	*	**1 591**
Limpopo	274	19	15	*	1 400	150	9	*	**1 870**
South Africa	**4 884**	**278**	**1 058**	**192**	**10 574**	**2 991**	**114**	**24**	**20 114**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

8. Dwellings and Services

8.6 Type of ownership of the dwellings of households, by population group and sex of the household head, 2025

Population group and sex		Thousands								
		Rented	Rented from other	Owned, but not yet paid off to bank/financial institution	Owned, but not yet paid off to private lender	Owned and fully paid off	Occupied rent-free	Other	Do not know	Total
Black African	Male	2 855	113	339	73	4 396	1 668	54	6	**9 506**
	Female	1 341	85	170	40	4 536	1 073	48	14	**7 308**
	Total	**4 196**	**199**	**509**	**113**	**8 932**	**2 742**	**102**	**20**	**16 814**
Coloured	Male	108	15	99	7	386	89	*	*	**706**
	Female	81	32	51	*	361	76	*	*	**609**
	Total	**189**	**47**	**150**	**12**	**747**	**165**	**5**	*****	**1 315**
Indian/Asian	Male	103	7	54	9	130	10	*	*	**318**
	Female	31	*	25	*	69	8	*	*	**142**
	Total	**134**	**10**	**79**	**16**	**199**	**18**	*****	*****	**459**
White	Male	230	13	234	39	459	43	4	*	**1 022**
	Female	134	9	86	13	238	22	*	*	**504**
	Total	**364**	**22**	**319**	**52**	**696**	**65**	**6**	*****	**1 526**
Total	Male	**3 297**	**149**	**726**	**128**	**5 370**	**1 811**	**62**	**9**	**11 552**
	Female	**1 587**	**129**	**332**	**64**	**5 204**	**1 180**	**51**	**15**	**8 563**
	Total	**4 884**	**278**	**1 058**	**192**	**10 574**	**2 991**	**114**	**24**	**20 114**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

8. Dwellings and Services

8.7. Type of dwelling of households, by main source of energy

8.7.1 For cooking, 2025

Type of dwelling	Thousands										
	Electricity from mains	**Other source of electricity**	**Gas/LPG**	**Paraffin**	**Wood**	**Coal/Charcoal**	**Animal dung**	**Solar power**	**None**	**Other**	**Total**
Dwelling/house or brick/concrete block structure on a separate stand or yard or on farm	10 260	111	1 263	66	1 210	27	3	37	14	24	**13 014**
Traditional dwelling/hut/structure made of traditional materials	413	*	39	21	197	9	*	*	*	*	**686**
Flat or apartment in a block of flats	880	37	116	9	*	*	*	*	*	*	**1 045**
Cluster house in complex	127	*	8	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	**136**
Town house (semi-detached house in complex)	212	*	47	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	**259**
Semi-Detached house	298	*	101	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	**404**
Dwelling/house/flat/room in backyard	926	209	28	7	10	*	*	*	4	46	**1 230**
Informal dwelling/shack in backyard	474	190	50	45	22	*	*	*	*	43	**828**
Informal dwelling/shack not in backyard	868	112	186	212	149	20	*	*	14	50	**1 615**
Room/flatlet on a property or a larger dwelling servant quarters/granny flat	676	79	44	13	17	*	*	*	*	14	**845**
Caravan/tent	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	**3**
Other	43	5	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	**50**
Total	**15 178**	**748**	**1 884**	**373**	**1 609**	**56**	**6**	**41**	**39**	**180**	**20 114**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

8. Dwellings and Services

8.7 Type of dwelling of households, by main source of energy

8.7.2 For heating, 2025

Type of dwelling	Thousands										
	Electricity from mains	**Other source of electricity**	**Gas/LPG**	**Paraffin**	**Wood**	**Coal/Charcoal**	**Animal dung**	**Solar power**	**None**	**Other**	**Total**
Dwelling/house or brick/concrete block structure on a separate stand or yard or on farm	6 663	71	631	490	1 375	116	6	37	3 555	70	**13 014**
Traditional dwelling/hut/structure made of traditional materials	126	*	6	44	303	14	3	*	185	4	**686**
Flat or apartment in a block of flats	691	11	69	9	*	*	*	*	261	5	**1 045**
Cluster house in complex	112	*	10	*	*	*	*	*	10	*	**136**
Town house (semi-detached house in complex)	163	*	42	*	*	*	*	*	50	*	**259**
Semi-Detached house	262	*	13	15	9	*	*	*	103	*	**404**
Dwelling/house/flat/room in backyard	683	148	13	12	23	*	*	*	295	51	**1 230**
Informal dwelling/shack in backyard	303	103	14	25	49	5	*	*	289	38	**828**
Informal dwelling/shack not in backyard	482	68	42	114	259	46	*	*	557	42	**1 615**
Room/flatlet on a property or a larger dwelling servant quarters/granny flat	382	45	16	13	27	*	*	*	348	13	**845**
Caravan/tent	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	**3**
Other	25	5	*	*	*	*	*	*	16	*	**50**
Total	**9 893**	**452**	**859**	**723**	**2 050**	**186**	**11**	**43**	**5 670**	**228**	**20 114**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

8. Dwellings and Services

8.7 Type of dwelling of households, by main source of energy

8.7.3 For lighting, 2025

Type of dwelling	Thousands								
	Electricity from mains	Other source of electricity	Gas/LPG	Paraffin	Candles	Solar power	None	Other	Total
Dwelling/house or brick/concrete block structure on a separate stand or yard or on farm	12 460	132	17	21	201	135	19	30	**13 014**
Traditional dwelling/hut/structure made of traditional materials	611	5	*	7	53	9	*	*	**686**
Flat or apartment in a block of flats	993	40	*	6	*	*	*	*	**1 045**
Cluster house in complex	135	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	**136**
Town house (semi-detached house in complex)	259	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	**259**
Semi-Detached house	393	*	*	*	6	*	*	*	**404**
Dwelling/house/flat/room in backyard	951	217	*	*	12	*	*	47	**1 230**
Informal dwelling/shack in backyard	501	194	*	4	76	6	*	42	**828**
Informal dwelling/shack not in backyard	959	137	*	56	320	64	9	68	**1 615**
Room/flatlet on a property or a larger dwelling servant quarters/granny flat	712	85	*	5	19	8	*	14	**845**
Caravan/tent	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	**3**
Other	44	5	*	*	*	*	*	*	**50**
Total	**18 020**	**817**	**23**	**100**	**692**	**225**	**35**	**203**	**20 114**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks

9. Water Services

9.1 Main source of water for households, by province, 2025

Main source of water	Thousands									
	Western Cape	**Eastern Cape**	**Northern Cape**	**Free State**	**KwaZulu-Natal**	**North West**	**Gauteng**	**Mpumalanga**	**Limpopo**	**South Africa**
Piped (tap) water in dwelling/house	1 777	644	200	415	1 306	357	3 609	472	288	**9 069**
Piped (tap) water in yard	289	289	123	532	1 104	606	2 130	671	540	**6 284**
Borehole in yard	4	13	5	23	43	92	44	26	272	**522**
Rain-water tank in yard	*	390	*	*	75	*	*	*	3	**480**
Neighbours tap	*	34	6	18	111	88	57	72	104	**495**
Public/communal tap	173	251	50	32	307	220	293	158	248	**1 732**
Water-carrier/tanker	*	2	3	*	171	34	40	37	21	**310**
Water vendor (charge involved)	*	*	4	16	24	54	7	92	234	**433**
Borehole outside yard	*	7	*	*	90	15	9	22	62	**215**
Flowing water/stream/river	*	84	*	*	160	*	*	*	27	**278**
Stagnant water/dam/pool	*	16	*	*	9	*	*	*	*	**28**
Well protected	*	*	*	*	11	*	*	*	*	**20**
Well unprotected	*	3	*	*	34	*	*	7	11	**55**
Spring protected	*	13	*	*	11	*	*	*	4	**28**
Spring unprotected	*	48	*	*	10	*	*	*	6	**65**
Other	*	5	*	*	16	4	*	24	47	**101**
Total	**2 256**	**1 799**	**397**	**1 049**	**3 483**	**1 476**	**6 193**	**1 591**	**1 870**	**20 114**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

9. Water Services

9.2 Households by main source of water, by population group of the household head, 2025

Main source of water	Thousands				
	Black African	Coloured	Indian/Asian	White	Total
Piped (tap) water in dwelling/house	6 086	1 130	443	1 409	**9 069**
Piped (tap) water in yard	6 106	148	10	20	**6 284**
Borehole in yard	444	7	*	69	**522**
Rain-water tank in yard	471	3	*	5	**480**
Neighbours tap	492	*	*	*	**495**
Public/communal tap	1 715	16	*	*	**1 732**
Water-carrier/tanker	308	*	*	*	**310**
Water vendor (charge involved)	423	4	*	6	**433**
Borehole outside yard	201	*	*	12	**215**
Flowing water/stream/river	275	*	*	*	**278**
Stagnant water/dam/pool	28	*	*	*	**28**
Well protected	20	*	*	*	**20**
Well unprotected	55	*	*	*	**55**
Spring protected	26	*	*	*	**28**
Spring unprotected	65	*	*	*	**65**
OTHER	98	*	*	*	**101**
Total	**16 814**	**1 315**	**459**	**1 526**	**20 114**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

9. Water Services

9.3 Households whose main source of water was supplied by the local municipality, by province, 2025

Main source of water supplied by local municipality	Thousands									
	Western Cape	Eastern Cape	Northern Cape	Free State	KwaZulu-Natal	North West	Gauteng	Mpumalanga	Limpopo	South Africa
Yes	2 029	984	335	923	2 632	969	5 716	1 326	972	**15 886**
No	225	812	61	126	795	475	413	248	885	**4 040**
Do not know	*	3	*	*	55	32	63	18	13	**188**
Unspecified	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*****
Total	**2 256**	**1 799**	**397**	**1 049**	**3 483**	**1 476**	**6 193**	**1 591**	**1 870**	**20 114**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

9. Water Services

9.4 Households whose main source of water was supplied by the local municipality, by population group and sex of the household head, 2025

Main source of water supplied by local municipality	Thousands														
	Black African			Coloured			Indian/Asian			White			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Yes	7 452	5 663	**13 115**	593	542	**1 135**	287	128	**416**	804	417	**1 221**	9 136	6 751	**15 886**
No	1 943	1 580	**3 522**	114	65	**179**	26	13	**39**	214	84	**299**	2 297	1 742	**4 040**
Do not know	111	65	**176**	*	*	*****	*	*	*****	4	*	**6**	119	69	**188**
Unspecified	*	*	*****	*	*	*****	*	*	*****	*	*	*****	*	*	*****
Total	**9 506**	**7 308**	**16 814**	**706**	**609**	**1 315**	**318**	**142**	**459**	**1 022**	**504**	**1 526**	**11 552**	**8 563**	**20 114**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

9. Water Services

9.5 Households without water in the dwelling or on site, by the distance household members have to travel to reach the nearest water source, and population group of the household head, 2025

Distance travelled to the nearest water source	Thousands				
	Black African	Coloured	Indian/Asian	White	Total
Less than 200m	2 282	17	*	16	**2 317**
Between 201m–500m	920	7	*	5	**933**
Between 501m–1km	272	*	*	*	**273**
More than 1km	152	*	*	*	**157**
Do not know	79	*	*	*	**79**
Total	**3 705**	**28**	**3**	**23**	**3 760**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

10. Communication

10.1 Households' ownership of a cellular phone, by population group and sex of the household head, 2025

Population group and sex of household head		Thousands		
		Yes	No	Total
Black African	Male	9 079	427	**9 506**
	Female	7 093	215	**7 308**
	Total	**16 172**	**641**	**16 814**
Coloured	Male	667	40	**706**
	Female	573	36	**609**
	Total	**1 240**	**76**	**1 315**
Indian/Asian	Male	318	*	**318**
	Female	141	*	**142**
	Total	**458**	*****	**459**
White	Male	1 007	15	**1 022**
	Female	491	13	**504**
	Total	**1 498**	**27**	**1 526**
Total	**Male**	**11 070**	**481**	**11 552**
	Female	**8 298**	**265**	**8 563**
	Total	**19 368**	**746**	**20 114**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

10. Communication

10.2 Households' ownership of a cellular phone, by province, 2025

Cell phone	Thousands									
	Western Cape	**Eastern Cape**	**Northern Cape**	**Free State**	**KwaZulu-Natal**	**North West**	**Gauteng**	**Mpumalanga**	**Limpopo**	**South Africa**
Yes	2 183	1 672	361	986	3 405	1 396	5 978	1 559	1 829	**19 368**
No	73	128	36	64	77	79	215	32	40	**746**
Total	**2 256**	**1 799**	**397**	**1 049**	**3 483**	**1 476**	**6 193**	**1 591**	**1 870**	**20 114**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

10. Communication

10.3 Households with connection to a landline phone, by population group and sex of the household head, 2025

Population group and sex of household head		Thousands			
		Yes	No	Unspecified	Total
Black African	Male	195	9 311	*	**9 506**
	Female	123	7 184	*	**7 308**
	Total	**318**	**16 495**	*****	**16 814**
Coloured	Male	19	687	*	**706**
	Female	23	586	*	**609**
	Total	**42**	**1 273**	*****	**1 315**
Indian/Asian	Male	30	288	*	**318**
	Female	14	127	*	**142**
	Total	**44**	**415**	*****	**459**
White	Male	74	947	*	**1 022**
	Female	24	478	*	**504**
	Total	**99**	**1 425**	*****	**1 526**
Total	**Male**	**318**	**11 234**	*****	**11 552**
	Female	**185**	**8 375**	*****	**8 563**
	Total	**503**	**19 609**	*****	**20 114**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

10. Communication

10.4 Households' ownership of a landline phone, by province, 2025

Ownership of a landline phone	Thousands									
	Western Cape	**Eastern Cape**	**Northern Cape**	**Free State**	**KwaZulu-Natal**	**North West**	**Gauteng**	**Mpumalanga**	**Limpopo**	**South Africa**
Yes	88	17	5	22	79	14	192	43	43	**503**
No	2 169	1 783	391	1 028	3 404	1 461	5 998	1 548	1 827	**19 609**
Unspecified	*	*	*	*	*	*	3	*	*	**3**
Total	**2 256**	**1 799**	**397**	**1 049**	**3 483**	**1 476**	**6 193**	**1 591**	**1 870**	**20 114**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

11. Energy

11.1 Electricity connection to the mains, by population group, sex of the household head and province, 2025

Population group and sex		Thousands									
		Western Cape	**Eastern Cape**	**Northern Cape**	**Free State**	**KwaZulu-Natal**	**North West**	**Gauteng**	**Mpumalanga**	**Limpopo**	**South Africa**
Black African	Male	516	731	122	489	1 363	732	2 657	734	918	**8 263**
	Female	373	739	99	410	1 434	538	1 708	624	832	**6 757**
	Total	**889**	**1 470**	**222**	**899**	**2 797**	**1 269**	**4 366**	**1 358**	**1 750**	**15 019**
Coloured	Male	435	56	62	12	22	4	78	5	*	**676**
	Female	371	56	72	8	15	8	55	*	*	**587**
	Total	**806**	**112**	**134**	**20**	**37**	**12**	**133**	**8**	*****	**1 263**
Indian/Asian	Male	26	5	*	3	182	4	86	8	*	**317**
	Female	5	*	*	*	98	*	31	*	*	**137**
	Total	**31**	**6**	*****	**5**	**280**	**4**	**117**	**8**	*****	**454**
White	Male	277	65	15	47	62	43	411	54	16	**991**
	Female	173	23	8	21	32	13	189	23	8	**490**
	Total	**451**	**88**	**23**	**68**	**93**	**55**	**600**	**78**	**24**	**1 481**
Total	Male	**1 254**	**857**	**200**	**552**	**1 629**	**783**	**3 233**	**801**	**937**	**10 247**
	Female	**923**	**819**	**179**	**440**	**1 578**	**558**	**1 984**	**650**	**840**	**7 971**
	Total	**2 177**	**1 676**	**379**	**992**	**3 208**	**1 341**	**5 216**	**1 451**	**1 777**	**18 217**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

11. Energy

11.2 Main source of energy used by households, by province

11.2.1 For cooking, 2025

Energy for cooking	Thousands									
	Western Cape	**Eastern Cape**	**Northern Cape**	**Free State**	**KwaZulu-Natal**	**North West**	**Gauteng**	**Mpumalanga**	**Limpopo**	**South Africa**
Electricity from mains	1 690	1 390	306	865	2 821	1 204	4 690	1 143	1 069	**15 178**
Other source of electricity	34	17	1	2	164	29	469	22	9	**748**
Gas/LPG	499	158	65	105	196	86	598	102	75	**1 884**
Paraffin	7	39	2	21	21	26	232	18	7	**373**
Wood	11	140	20	50	255	119	52	259	702	**1 609**
Coal/Charcoal	*	*	*	*	*	*	12	39	*	**56**
Animal dung	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	**6**
Solar power	7	*	*	5	*	7	12	*	*	**41**
None	5	4	*	*	11	*	11	*	5	**39**
Other	*	43	*	*	12	*	117	*	*	**180**
Total	**2 256**	**1 799**	**397**	**1 049**	**3 483**	**1 476**	**6 193**	**1 591**	**1 870**	**20 114**

Totals exclude households that did not specify electricity connections Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

11. Energy

11.2 Main source of energy used by households, by province

11.2.2 For heating, 2025

Energy for heating	Thousands									
	Western Cape	**Eastern Cape**	**Northern Cape**	**Free State**	**KwaZulu-Natal**	**North West**	**Gauteng**	**Mpumalanga**	**Limpopo**	**South Africa**
Electricity from mains	1 245	331	132	468	1 947	739	3 588	604	839	**9 893**
Other source of electricity	19	7	*	*	32	19	357	5	11	**452**
Gas/LPG	89	95	18	76	39	32	434	64	11	**859**
Paraffin	147	307	2	149	6	9	93	8	*	**723**
Wood	114	322	97	132	333	178	178	213	484	**2 050**
Coal/Charcoal	*	*	3	5	5	4	81	79	4	**186**
Animal dung	*	*	*	4	3	1	*	*	*	**11**
Solar power	5	*	*	*	*	5	20	*	*	**43**
None	628	687	141	208	1 093	484	1 330	583	516	**5 670**
Other	7	46	2	*	21	5	113	30	*	**228**
Total	**2 256**	**1 799**	**397**	**1 049**	**3 483**	**1 476**	**6 193**	**1 591**	**1 870**	**20 114**

Totals exclude households that did not specify electricity connections Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

11. Energy

11.2 Main source of energy used by households, by province

11.2.3 For lighting, 2025

Energy for lighting	Thousands									
	Western Cape	**Eastern Cape**	**Northern Cape**	**Free State**	**KwaZulu-Natal**	**North West**	**Gauteng**	**Mpumalanga**	**Limpopo**	**South Africa**
Electricity from mains	2 160	1 670	375	983	3 162	1 329	5 133	1 445	1 764	**18 020**
Other source of electricity	44	19	2	7	166	30	507	28	15	**817**
Gas/LPG	6	*	*	*	6	*	*	*	4	**23**
Paraffin	*	18	*	4	*	6	54	8	5	**100**
Candles	23	35	11	34	88	78	279	82	62	**692**
Solar power	16	11	6	15	24	30	86	21	15	**225**
None	*	3	*	*	19	*	*	*	4	**35**
Other	*	43	*	3	15	*	127	6	*	**203**
Total	**2 256**	**1 799**	**397**	**1 049**	**3 483**	**1 476**	**6 193**	**1 591**	**1 870**	**20 114**

Totals exclude households that did not specify electricity connections Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

11. Energy

11.3 Main source of energy used by households, by population group of the household head

11.3.1 For cooking, 2025

Energy for cooking	Thousands				
	Black African	Coloured	Indian/Asian	White	Total
Electricity from mains	12 777	997	341	1 064	**15 178**
Other source of electricity	719	18	*	9	**748**
Gas/LPG	1 073	271	116	425	**1 884**
Paraffin	371	*	*	*	**373**
Wood	1 585	23	*	*	**1 609**
Coal/Charcoal	56	*	*	*	**56**
Animal dung	6	*	*	*	**6**
Solar power	12	*	*	25	**41**
None	37	2	*	*	**39**
Other	178	*	*	*	**180**
Total	**16 814**	**1 315**	**459**	**1 526**	**20 114**

Totals exclude households that did not specify electricity connections Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

11. Energy

11.3 Main source of energy used by households, by population group of the household head

11.3.2 For heating, 2025

Energy for heating	Thousands				
	Black African	**Coloured**	**Indian/Asian**	**White**	**Total**
Electricity from mains	7 819	745	389	940	**9 893**
Other source of electricity	436	13	*	*	**452**
Gas/LPG	586	52	26	195	**859**
Paraffin	708	12	*	*	**723**
Wood	1 877	102	*	69	**2 050**
Coal/Charcoal	178	5	*	*	**186**
Animal dung	11	*	*	*	**11**
Solar power	17	*	*	25	**43**
None	4 967	380	40	283	**5 670**
Other	215	4	*	7	**228**
Total	**16 814**	**1 315**	**459**	**1 526**	**20 114**

Totals exclude households that did not specify electricity connections Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

11. Energy

11.3 Main source of energy used by households, by population group of the household head

11.3.3 For lighting, 2025

Energy for lighting	Thousands				
	Black African	Coloured	Indian/Asian	White	Total
Electricity from mains	14 864	1 255	449	1 452	**18 020**
Other source of electricity	781	21	*	11	**817**
Gas/LPG	17	4	*	*	**23**
Paraffin	100	*	*	*	**100**
Candles	665	24	*	*	**692**
?	155	6	*	59	**225**
None	32	*	*	*	**35**
Other	200	*	*	*	**203**
Total	**16 814**	**1 315**	**459**	**1 526**	**20 114**

Totals exclude households that did not specify electricity connections Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

12. Sanitation

12.1 Sanitation facility used by households, by province, 2025

Type of sanitation facility	Thousands									
	Western Cape	Eastern Cape	Northern Cape	Free State	KwaZulu-Natal	North West	Gauteng	Mpumalanga	Limpopo	South Africa
Flush toilet connected to a public sewerage system	2 105	788	259	756	1 581	608	5 352	620	398	**12 466**
Flush toilet connected to a septic tank or conservancy	54	59	30	33	216	206	67	128	181	**975**
Pour flush toilet connected to a septic tank	*	13	*	9	21	8	19	9	5	**87**
Chemical toilet	32	5	*	*	61	*	94	*	*	**196**
Pit latrine/toilet with ventilation pipe	*	723	51	113	1 021	341	217	273	628	**3 370**
Pit latrine/toilet without ventilation pipe, with slab	*	112	23	58	396	224	220	358	541	**1 932**
Pit latrine/toilet without ventilation pipe, either without slab or open pit	*	39	8	58	124	69	133	168	90	**688**
Bucket toilet (Collected by Municipality)	37	10	7	*	*	*	60	*	*	**120**
Bucket toilet (Emptied by the Household)	10	*	6	10	*	*	7	*	*	**35**
Ecological Sanitation	*	*	*	*	15	*	10	*	*	**38**
Open defecation (e.g no facilities, field, bush)	7	44	10	*	33	13	7	20	17	**155**
Other	*	7	3	5	13	*	6	7	7	**53**
Unspecified	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*****
Total	**2 256**	**1 799**	**397**	**1 049**	**3 483**	**1 476**	**6 193**	**1 591**	**1 870**	**20 114**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

12. Sanitation

12.2 Sanitation facility used by households, by population group of the household head, 2025

Type of sanitation facility	Thousands				
	Black African	**Coloured**	**Indian/Asian**	**White**	**Total**
Flush toilet connected to a public sewerage system	9 424	1 190	447	1 405	**12 466**
Flush toilet connected to a septic tank or conservancy	811	45	9	110	**975**
Pour flush toilet connected to a septic tank	75	*	*	10	**87**
Chemical toilet	187	9	*	*	**196**
Pit latrine/toilet with ventilation pipe	3 348	17	4	*	**3 370**
Pit latrine/toilet without ventilation pipe, with slab	1 920	12	*	*	**1 932**
Pit latrine/toilet without ventilation pipe, either without slab or open pit	683	5	*	*	**688**
Bucket toilet (Collected by Municipality)	110	9	*	*	**120**
Bucket toilet (Emptied by the Household)	24	10	*	*	**35**
Ecological Sanitation	38	*	*	*	**38**
Open defecation (e.g no facilities, field, bush)	142	13	*	*	**155**
Other	51	*	*	*	**53**
Unspecified	*	*	*	*	*****
Total	**16 814**	**1 315**	**459**	**1 526**	**20 114**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

12. Sanitation

12.3 Sanitation facility used by households, by type of dwelling, 2025

Type of sanitation facility	Thousands					
	Dwelling/house or brick/concrete block structure on a separate stand or yard or on farm	Traditional dwelling/hut/structure made of traditional materials	Flat or apartment in a block of flats	Cluster house in complex	Town house (semi-detached house in complex)	Semi-Detached house
Flush toilet connected to a public sewerage system	7 779	22	1 034	135	259	395
Flush toilet connected to a septic tank or conservancy	765	12	6	*	*	5
Pour flush toilet connected to a septic tank	56	*	*	*	*	*
Chemical toilet	63	6	*	*	*	*
Pit latrine/toilet with ventilation pipe	2 458	445	*	*	*	*
Pit latrine/toilet without ventilation pipe, with slab	1 341	119	*	*	*	*
Pit latrine/toilet without ventilation pipe, either without slab or open pit	429	40	*	*	*	*
Bucket toilet (Collected by Municipality)	7	*	*	*	*	*
Bucket toilet (Emptied by the Household)	7	*	*	*	*	*
Ecological Sanitation	13	*	*	*	*	*
Open defecation (e.g no facilities, field, bush)	68	38	*	*	*	*
Other	29	*	*	*	*	*
Unspecified	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total	**13 014**	**686**	**1 045**	**136**	**259**	**404**

12. Sanitation

12.3 Sanitation facility used by households, by type of dwelling, 2025 (concluded)

Type of sanitation facility	Thousands						
	Dwelling/house/flat/room in backyard	Informal dwelling/shack in backyard	Informal dwelling/shack not in backyard	Room/flatlet on a property or a larger dwelling servant quarters/granny flat	Caravan/tent	Other	Total
Flush toilet connected to a public sewerage system	1 104	628	480	590	*	39	**12 466**
Flush toilet connected to a septic tank or conservancy	47	17	42	70	*	10	**975**
Pour flush toilet connected to a septic tank	*	*	22	6	*	*	**87**
Chemical toilet	4	28	92	*	*	*	**196**
Pit latrine/toilet with ventilation pipe	33	50	290	87	*	*	**3 370**
Pit latrine/toilet without ventilation pipe, with slab	25	63	316	68	*	*	**1 932**
Pit latrine/toilet without ventilation pipe, either without slab or open pit	5	22	171	19	*	*	**688**
Bucket toilet (Collected by Municipality)	9	7	97	*	*	*	**120**
Bucket toilet (Emptied by the Household)	*	4	22	*	*	*	**35**
Ecological Sanitation	*	*	25	*	*	*	**38**
Open defecation (e.g no facilities, field, bush)	*	*	41	*	*	*	**155**
Other	*	*	16	*	*	*	**53**
Unspecified	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Total	**1 230**	**828**	**1 615**	**845**	*****	**50**	**20 114**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

13. Refuse Removal

13.1 Type of refuse removal services used by households, by population group of the household head, 2025

Refuse removal	Thousands				
	Black African	Coloured	Indian/Asian	White	South Africa
Removed by local authority/private company at least once a week	8 594	1 153	410	1 279	**11 437**
Removed by local authority/private company less often than once a week	471	21	12	38	**542**
Removed by community members, contracted by the municipality, at least once a week	408	29	10	53	**500**
Removed by community members, contracted by the municipality, less often than once a week	75	*	*	*	**79**
Removed by community members at least once a week	33	12	*	13	**60**
Removed by community members less often than once a week	28	5	*	*	**35**
Communal refuse dump	775	16	*	14	**806**
Communal container/central collection point	453	13	12	35	**514**
Own refuse dump	5 581	37	9	71	**5 697**
Dump or leave rubbish anywhere	363	20	*	7	**391**
Other	31	9	*	12	**52**
Unspecified	*	*	*	*	*****
Total	**16 814**	**1 315**	**459**	**1 526**	**20 114**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

14. Transport

14.1 Number of trips made by household member per week using each of the following modes of transport, by province, 2025

Mode of transport and number of trips		Thousands									
		Western Cape	**Eastern Cape**	**Northern Cape**	**Free State**	**KwaZulu-Natal**	**North West**	**Gauteng**	**Mpumalanga**	**Limpopo**	**South Africa**
Taxi	1-10	540	538	95	225	1 051	455	1 860	391	455	**5 611**
	11-20	104	47	9	48	159	32	443	47	20	**908**
	21-30	27	9	*	5	44	8	61	5	*	**160**
	31-40	*	*	*	*	10	*	10	*	*	**27**
	41+	*	*	*	5	9	*	10	*	*	**29**
	Not travelled	1 580	1 202	291	766	2 209	981	3 809	1 148	1 393	**13 379**
Train	1-10	36	*	*	*	11	*	65	*	*	**117**
	11-20	6	*	*	*	*	*	13	*	*	**23**
	21-30	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	**3**
	41+	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	**1**
	Not travelled	2 212	1 798	397	1 049	3 469	1 471	6 114	1 591	1 870	**19 970**
Bus	1-10	128	21	6	24	107	34	92	104	37	**552**
	11-20	22	4	*	3	24	*	27	28	4	**120**
	21-30	4	*	*	*	*	*	*	4	*	**14**
	31-40	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	**4**
	41+	2 103	1 775	389	1 022	3 348	1 435	6 072	1 454	1 828	**19 425**
	Not travelled	540	538	95	225	1 051	455	1 860	391	455	**5 611**

Total excludes unspecified.
Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

14. Transport

14.2 Distance travelled to get to the nearest minibus taxi/sedan taxi/bakkie taxi, bus and train, by population group of the household head, 2025

		Thousands				
Mode of transport	**Distance travelled**	**Black African**	**Coloured**	**Indian/Asian**	**White**	**Total**
Taxi	Less than 1km	4 958	275	*	18	**5 302**
	Between 1km and 3km	1 247	40	*	*	**1 289**
	More than 3km	126	18	*	*	**144**
Bus	Less than 1km	403	63	51	7	**474**
	Between 1km and 3km	178	14	*	*	**192**
	More than 3km	18	5	*	*	**23**
Train	Less than 1km	44	4	*	*	**50**
	Between 1km and 3km	61	*	*	*	**66**
	More than 3km	25	*	*	*	**28**

Total excludes unspecified.
Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

14. Transport

14.3 Money spent during the previous calendar week by households per transport mode, by the sex of the household head, 2025

Mode of transport	Money spent in the previous calendar week	Thousands		
		Male	Female	Total
Taxi	0 - 199	1 916	1 823	**3 740**
	200 - 399	1 039	891	**1 930**
	400 - 599	365	279	**644**
	600 - 799	114	101	**215**
	800+	105	89	**194**
	Unspecified	8 012	5 380	**13 392**
Train	0 - 199	65	49	**114**
	200 - 399	15	5	**20**
	400 - 599	*	*	**
	600 - 799	*	*	**
	800+	*	*	**
	Unspecified	11 466	8 505	**19 970**
Bus	0 - 199	159	150	**308**
	200 - 399	119	138	**256**
	400 - 599	33	31	**64**
	600 - 799	13	8	**21**
	800+	19	6	**24**
	Unspecified	11 209	8 231	**19 441**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

14. Transport

14.4 Time taken to get to the health facility that members of the household normally go to, by transport mode, 2025

Mode of transport	Thousands Time in minutes Less than 15 minutes	15 - 29 minutes	30 - 89 minutes	90 minutes and more	Do not know	Unspecified	Total
Walking	3 641	4 117	1 453	140	6	*	**9 357**
Minibus taxi/sedan taxi/bakkie taxi	1 657	2 840	813	37	*	*	**5 350**
Bus	16	49	42	*	*	*	**107**
Train	*	5	*	*	*	*	**8**
Own transport	2 732	1 850	330	30	10	*	**4 952**
Bicycle/motorcycle	21	22	*	*	*	*	**45**
Other	104	120	49	10	8	*	**292**
Unspecified	*	*	*	*	*	*	*****
Total	**8 171**	**9 004**	**2 691**	**217**	**27**	**3**	**20 114**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

15. Environment

15.1 Environmental problems experienced in the community or neighbouring farms, by province, 2025

Environmental problems experienced	Thousands									
	Western Cape	**Eastern Cape**	**Northern Cape**	**Free State**	**KwaZulu-Natal**	**North West**	**Gauteng**	**Mpumalanga**	**Limpopo**	**South Africa**
Littering	661	712	144	497	1 104	454	2 010	660	599	**6 841**
Outdoor/indoor air pollution	248	402	81	226	335	371	1 152	285	309	**3 408**
Water pollution	259	459	62	278	671	288	1 259	228	270	**3 776**
Land degradation/over-utilisation of natural resources	387	881	166	587	928	803	2 060	1 079	851	**7 742**
Excessive noise/noise pollution	304	145	78	177	415	170	1 370	227	175	**3 059**
Irregular or no waste removal	219	506	101	457	736	469	1 212	769	269	**4 739**
Total number of Household RSA	2 256	1 799	397	1 049	3 483	1 476	6 193	1 591	1 870	**20 114**

Households can experience more than one environmental problem
Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

15. Environment

15.2 Environmental problems experienced in the community or neighbouring farms, by population group and sex of the household head, 2025

Nature of environmental problem	Thousands														
	Black African			Coloured			Indian/Asian			White			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Littering	3 533	2 686	**6 219**	160	156	**316**	95	31	**126**	107	73	**180**	**3 895**	**2 946**	**6 841**
Irregular or no waste removal	2 523	1 904	**4 427**	77	63	**140**	40	13	**53**	81	37	**119**	**2 721**	**2 017**	**4 739**
Outdoor/indoor air pollution	1 863	1 330	**3 193**	60	59	**118**	18	4	**22**	51	24	**75**	**1 992**	**1 416**	**3 408**
Excessive noise/noise pollution	1 593	1 127	**2 720**	79	80	**159**	28	12	**40**	75	65	**140**	**1 775**	**1 284**	**3 059**
Water pollution	1 999	1 547	**3 546**	54	52	**106**	20	6	**25**	68	30	**98**	**2 141**	**1 635**	**3 776**
Land degradation/over-utilisation of natural resources	3 961	3 168	**7 129**	125	116	**241**	46	12	**59**	206	107	**313**	**4 338**	**3 403**	**7 742**
Total number of household RSA	9 506	7 308	**16 814**	706	609	**1 315**	318	142	**459**	1 022	504	**1 526**	**11 552**	**8 563**	**20 114**

Households can experience more than one environmental problem
Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

16. Income and Expenditure

16.1 Sources of income for households, by province, 2025

Sources of income	Thousands									
	Western Cape	**Eastern Cape**	**Northern Cape**	**Free State**	**KwaZulu-Natal**	**North West**	**Gauteng**	**Mpumalanga**	**Limpopo**	**South Africa**
Salaries/wages/commission	1 696	879	244	598	2 095	814	4 292	932	941	**12 491**
Income from a business	339	227	41	131	550	225	1 160	268	356	**3 296**
Grants	945	1 168	240	647	2 064	847	2 237	935	1 196	**10 279**
Pensions	125	85	16	42	129	35	196	39	50	**718**
Remittances	105	315	46	163	483	230	644	295	311	**2 593**
Other income e.g. rental income, interest	89	32	7	26	113	28	259	25	16	**594**
No income	43	11	6	11	47	12	112	23	24	**289**
Sales of farm products and services	*	4	5	*	*	7	3	3	*	**32**
Total	2 256	1 799	397	1 049	3 483	1 476	6 193	1 591	1 870	**20 114**

More than one source of income is possible per household.
Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

16. Income and Expenditure

16.2 Households' sources of income, by population group and sex of the household head, 2025

	Thousands														
	Black African			Coloured			Indian/Asian			White			Total		
Sources of income	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Salaries/wages/commission	6 271	3 964	**10 235**	565	426	**992**	216	88	**304**	677	282	**960**	**7 729**	**4 762**	**12 491**
Grants	4 120	5 012	**9 132**	372	399	**771**	82	51	**132**	148	96	**244**	**4 722**	**5 557**	**10 279**
No income	188	56	**244**	10	4	**13**	*	*	*****	19	11	**30**	**218**	**71**	**289**
Remittances	866	1 524	**2 389**	28	71	**99**	14	18	**32**	30	43	**73**	**937**	**1 656**	**2 593**
Income from a business	1 794	840	**2 634**	85	42	**127**	110	13	**122**	313	100	**413**	**2 301**	**994**	**3 296**
Other income e.g. rental income, interest	224	182	**405**	17	18	**35**	29	27	**56**	47	51	**98**	**317**	**277**	**594**
Pensions	154	167	**322**	43	31	**74**	22	14	**36**	179	108	**287**	**398**	**321**	**718**
Sales of farm products and services	14	7	**21**	*	*	**3**	*	*	*****	*	*	**8**	**21**	**11**	**32**
Total	9 506	7 308	**16 814**	706	609	**1 315**	318	142	**459**	1 022	504	**1 526**	**11 552**	**8 563**	**20 114**

More than one source of income is possible per household.
Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks

16. Income and Expenditure

16.3 Monthly household expenditure category, by province, 2025

Expenditure category	Thousands									
	Western Cape	Eastern Cape	Northern Cape	Free State	KwaZulu-Natal	North West	Gauteng	Mpumalanga	Limpopo	South Africa
R0	9	*	*	3	*	*	5	*	*	**28**
R1 - R199	*	3	*	*	*	*	9	5	*	**29**
R200 - R399	5	38	12	27	51	36	59	16	33	**278**
R400 - R799	35	72	20	34	114	65	152	62	88	**641**
R800 - R1 199	56	106	21	77	187	97	232	110	160	**1 047**
R1 200 - R1 799	57	143	16	112	313	163	364	141	260	**1 569**
R1 800 - R2 499	182	308	48	185	535	210	687	234	368	**2 756**
R2 500 - R4 999	466	495	104	249	931	394	1 509	523	545	**5 217**
R5 000 - R9 999	552	337	88	169	568	280	1 455	252	238	**3 939**
R10 000–R19 999	361	166	55	102	321	121	757	154	94	**2 130**
R20 000–R39 999	300	87	21	47	264	62	584	60	61	**1 487**
R40 000 or more	200	11	3	10	62	17	293	22	15	**633**
DO NOT KNOW	19	10	3	5	129	21	55	8	7	**257**
REFUSE	11	21	3	26	*	*	26	4	*	**96**
Unspecified	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	**5**
Total	**2 256**	**1 799**	**397**	**1 049**	**3 483**	**1 476**	**6 193**	**1 591**	**1 870**	**20 114**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

16. Income and Expenditure

16.4 Monthly household expenditure category, by population group and sex of the household head, 2025

Expenditure category	Thousands														
	Black African			Coloured			Indian/Asian			White			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
R0	18	4	**21**	*	*	*	*	*	*****	*	*	**5**	**22**	**7**	**28**
R1 - R199	26	*	**28**	*	*	*	*	*	*****	*	*	*****	**26**	*****	**29**
R200 - R399	217	49	**266**	5	4	**9**	*	*	*****	*	*	*****	**224**	**53**	**278**
R400 - R799	423	198	**621**	11	9	**20**	*	*	*****	*	*	*****	**435**	**207**	**641**
R800 - R1 199	573	440	**1 013**	12	17	**29**	4	*	**4**	*	*	*****	**588**	**458**	**1 047**
R1 200 - R1 799	785	744	**1 530**	6	21	**28**	*	*	*****	5	*	**10**	**798**	**771**	**1 569**
R1 800 - R2 499	1 299	1 321	**2 619**	41	61	**102**	4	7	**11**	10	15	**25**	**1 353**	**1 404**	**2 756**
R2 500 - R4 999	2 535	2 272	**4 806**	149	160	**309**	28	8	**37**	41	24	**65**	**2 753**	**2 464**	**5 217**
R5 000 - R9 999	1 975	1 363	**3 339**	184	166	**350**	50	30	**80**	95	75	**170**	**2 304**	**1 635**	**3 939**
R10 000–R19 999	880	521	**1 402**	142	102	**244**	89	37	**126**	229	129	**358**	**1 341**	**790**	**2 130**
R20 000–R39 999	483	223	**707**	113	40	**154**	87	50	**137**	344	146	**490**	**1 027**	**460**	**1 487**
R40 000 or more	140	59	**199**	28	13	**40**	47	7	**53**	250	91	**341**	**463**	**170**	**633**
DO NOT KNOW	116	92	**208**	9	8	**17**	4	*	**5**	26	*	**26**	**155**	**101**	**257**
REFUSE	36	18	**53**	4	6	**10**	*	*	*****	18	12	**30**	**60**	**36**	**96**
Unspecified	*	*	*****	*	*	*****	*	*	*****	*	*	*****	*****	*****	**5**
Total	**9 506**	**7 308**	**16 814**	**706**	**609**	**1 315**	**318**	**142**	**459**	**1 022**	**504**	**1 526**	**11 552**	**8 563**	**20 114**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

17. Household Assets

17.1 Number of households owning a particular asset by province, 2025

Sources of income	Thousands									
	Western Cape	Eastern Cape	Northern Cape	Free State	KwaZulu-Natal	North West	Gauteng	Mpumalanga	Limpopo	South Africa
TV Set	1 856	1 279	299	861	2 594	1 078	4 898	1 181	1 383	**15 430**
Pay TV (M-Net/ DSTV/ Top TV) Subscription	1 191	996	235	642	1 962	813	3 574	1 024	1 248	**11 687**
Washing machine	1 479	557	235	413	717	630	2 905	655	590	**8 182**
Deep freezer - free standing	786	240	158	241	977	320	847	450	655	**4 673**
Refrigerator or combined fridge freezer	1 988	1 442	315	899	2 891	1 177	5 161	1 221	1 286	**16 381**
Electric stove	1 980	1 638	360	916	3 166	1 314	5 420	1 388	1 575	**17 756**
Microwave oven	1 739	995	247	739	1 849	805	4 017	804	776	**11 971**
Built in kitchen sink	1 636	568	147	427	1 180	390	3 077	559	311	**8 296**
Gas Stove	1 006	614	159	284	967	356	2 231	327	196	**6 142**
Radio	675	449	115	460	1 188	512	1 768	445	437	**6 050**
Solar hot water geyser	159	28	21	37	50	23	298	24	45	**685**
DVD player/ Blu ray player	416	224	99	287	416	252	1 063	206	278	**3 239**
Air conditioner (Excluding fans)	316	48	31	42	320	56	456	73	125	**1 466**
Computer/ Desktop/ Laptop	891	276	109	219	659	268	2 066	327	321	**5 138**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

17. Household Assets

17.1 Number of households owning a particular asset by province, 2025 (concluded)

Sources of income	Thousands									
	Western Cape	Eastern Cape	Northern Cape	Free State	KwaZulu-Natal	North West	Gauteng	Mpumalanga	Limpopo	South Africa
Geyser providing hot running water	1 071	279	90	205	754	239	2 364	285	260	**5 548**
Home security service	227	140	40	128	175	123	949	87	95	**1 964**
Tumble dryer	391	47	18	66	148	51	479	92	73	**1 364**
Vacuum cleaner/ Floor polisher	565	118	32	82	212	85	782	85	23	**1 982**
Rain water tank	183	685	23	29	600	173	153	174	475	**2 494**
Dish washing machine	362	39	14	31	145	42	487	46	21	**1 186**
Home theatre system	358	109	25	69	318	86	1 167	83	76	**2 291**
Borehole	99	29	13	43	53	108	140	38	269	**792**
Solar electrical panel	108	26	14	19	55	48	352	34	19	**675**
Swimming pool	181	31	10	18	89	38	456	25	16	**864**
Total households	**2 256**	**1 799**	**397**	**1 049**	**3 483**	**1 476**	**6 193**	**1 591**	**1 870**	**20 114**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks

18. Agriculture

18.1 Number of households involved in one or more agricultural production activity, by province, 2025

Involved in agricultural production	Thousands									
	Western Cape	**Eastern Cape**	**Northern Cape**	**Free State**	**KwaZulu-Natal**	**North West**	**Gauteng**	**Mpumalanga**	**Limpopo**	**South Africa**
Yes	112	566	68	237	809	275	346	533	696	**3 642**
No	2 144	1 234	329	813	2 673	1 201	5 847	1 059	1 174	**16 473**
Total	**2 256**	**1 799**	**397**	**1 049**	**3 483**	**1 476**	**6 193**	**1 591**	**1 870**	**20 114**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks

18. Agriculture

18.2 Number of households involved in one or more agricultural production activity, by population group and sex of the household head, 2025

	Thousands														
	Black African			Coloured			Indian/Asian			White			Total		
Involved in agricultural production	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Yes	1 655	1 672	**3 327**	52	36	**89**	16	10	**27**	135	64	**200**	**1 859**	**1 783**	**3 642**
No	7 851	5 636	**13 487**	654	573	**1 227**	301	131	**432**	886	440	**1 326**	**9 693**	**6 780**	**16 473**
Total	**9 506**	**7 308**	**16 814**	**706**	**609**	**1 315**	**318**	**142**	**459**	**1 022**	**504**	**1 526**	**11 552**	**8 563**	**20 114**

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.
Values based on three or fewer unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced by asterisks.

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Enquiries

User information services: Telephone number: 012 310 8600
Email address: info@statssa.gov.za

Technical enquiries: Niël Roux
Telephone number: 012 310 2939
Email address: NielR@statssa.gov.za

Postal address: Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001

Produced by Stats SA