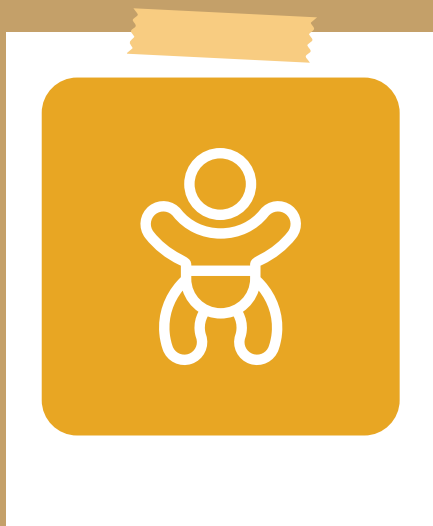


Marginalised Groups Indicator Report, 2023



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Marginalised Groups Indicator Report, 2023

Statistics South Africa

**Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General**

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Introduction

A wide range of interventions aimed at addressing the challenges faced by various sectors of the country's population necessitates adequate monitoring as well as information on key indicators that can be used to track progress.

Marginalised groups are one of the most affected sectors of the population. Marginalised groups¹ are defined as a part of the South African population that experience a higher risk of poverty and social exclusion than the general population. This sector requires a particular effort to be made at all levels of policy planning and implementation to inform, amongst other things, resource allocation.

Marginalised groups in this report are grouped as follows:

- Children – persons aged 17 years and younger;
- The youth – persons aged between 15 and 34 years;
- Women – the female population;
- Older persons – persons aged 60 years and older; and
- Persons with disabilities – those experiencing various levels of difficulties in functional domains such as seeing, hearing, walking, remembering and concentrating, self-care, communicating and social interaction.

One of the most effective ways of tracking progress made towards improving lives of marginalised groups in South Africa is through the monitoring of key indicators. This should ideally be done at a national, provincial and local level and should be reflected in various reports. The “Marginalised Groups Indicator Report: 2023” is such a report. Its purpose is to present information on key marginalised groups’ indicators by providing data relating to the socio-economic and demographic profile of marginalised groups in South Africa, using mainly secondary data from Stats SA. This report is the tenth report in the series and focuses on data collected during 2023. It is envisaged that the data presented in this report will be useful in providing government, researchers, other sector key stakeholders and the general public as a whole with information required to inform policy, research and debate.

The main sources of statistics reported on household, demographic and social indicators in this report are largely based on the General Household Survey (GHS). Economic indicators on the labour market were tabulated using the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS), while crime-related indicators were calculated using data from the Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS). GHS, QLFS and GPSJS household surveys each cover approximately 30 000 households that are representative of all nine provinces. Disability statistics were tabulated using Census 2022. All data from the above-mentioned Stats SA surveys are weighted so as to make the results representative of the overall population of the country.

Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

¹ Source: Social protection and Social Inclusion Glossary. DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion.

Definitions

- **Dependency ratio:** The average number of economically dependent population per 100 economically productive population, for a given country, territory, or geographic area, at a specific point in time.
- **Discouraged job-seeker:** A person who was not employed during the reference period, wanted to work, was available to work/start a business but did not take active steps to find work during the last four weeks, provided that the main reason given for not seeking work was any of the following: no jobs available in the area; unable to find work requiring his/her skills; lost hope of finding any kind of work.
- **Employed persons:** Persons of working age who, during the reference period, were engaged in any activity to produce goods or provide services for pay or profit. They comprise of: (a) employed persons “at work”, i.e. who worked in a job for at least one hour; (b) employed persons “not at work” due to temporary absence from a job, or to working-time arrangements (such as shift work, flexitime and compensatory leave for overtime).
- **Employment-to-population ratio (labour absorption rate):** The proportion of the working-age population that is employed.
- **Graduates:** Student who have satisfied all requirements of the full qualification for which he/she was registered for at Department of Higher Education and Training.
- **Head of the household:** Main decision-maker, or the person who owns or rents the dwelling, or the person who is the breadwinner.
- **Labour force participation rate:** The proportion of the working-age population that is either employed or unemployed.
- **Not economically active:** Persons aged 15–64 who are neither employed nor unemployed in the reference week.
- **Sex Parity Ratio (GPR):** The ratio of males to females in a given population, usually expressed as the number of males for every 100 females.
- **Unemployment rate:** The proportion of the labour force that is unemployed.
- **Household composition:** Households have been categorised into the following household types:
 - A **single household** is a one-person household.
 - **Nuclear households** consist of spouses living alone, or with their children.
 - **Extended households** include other relatives in addition to the nucleus.
 - **Complex households** consist of a nuclear or extended household core and non-related individuals.
- **Intergenerational households:**
 - A **single-generation** household consists of people of the same age group: a married or cohabiting couple, a single person, siblings, or roommates.
 - A **double-generation family household** consists of family members from at least two generations, i.e. parents and children.
 - **Triple generations households**, contains three generations of families (grandparents, parents and grandchildren) in the same household.

- **Skip generation household** comprises of grandchildren living with one or more grandparents in the absence of any biological parents.
- **Formal dwelling** refers to a structure built according to an approved plan i.e. house, flat, apartment, townhouse, flat let, duplex, second dwelling, etc.
- **Informal dwelling** is a makeshift structure not erected according to approved architectural plans, for example shacks or shanties in informal settlements or in backyards.
- **Traditional dwelling** is a category of architecture based on local needs, construction materials and reflecting local traditions. Traditional dwellings tend to evolve over time to reflect the environmental, cultural, technological, economic, and historical context in which it exists.

An **orphan** is defined as a child whose mother, father or both biological parents have died:

- A **maternal orphan** is a child whose mother has died but whose father is alive.
- A **paternal orphan** is a child whose father has died but whose mother is alive.
- A **double orphan** is a child whose biological mother and father have both passed away.

Type of diseases:

- A **chronic disease** is a disease that persists over a long duration, generally of slow progression and requires ongoing medical attention.

Access to basic household services:

- **Access to piped water** – refers to dwellings with access to a piped water source in the house or in the yard.
- **Improved sanitation** – refers to dwellings with flushing toilets connected to a sewage system or a septic tank including a pit toilet with ventilation pipe.
- **Refuse/waste** – refers to dwellings with rubbish removed by the municipality.
- **Electricity** – refers to dwellings which are connected to main electricity suppliers.
- **Solid fuels for cooking** – refer to dwellings that use wood, coal, and animal dung as source of energy for cooking.

Derived Concepts:

Metro- Geographical area consisting of districts of Cape Town, Johannesburg, Ekurhuleni, eThekweni, Nelson Mandela, Tshwane, Mangaung and Buffalo.

Non-Metro- Geographical areas other than metro.

INDICATORS: CHILDREN

Children are defined as persons aged 17 and younger.

1.1 Demography of children

Table 1.1.1 - Distribution of children by province and sex, 2023

Province	N ('000)			Percent		
	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both
WC	1 052	1 092	2 144	49,1	50,9	100,0
EC	1 247	1 264	2 511	49,7	50,3	100,0
NC	211	228	438	48,1	51,9	100,0
FS	507	519	1 026	49,4	50,6	100,0
KZN	2 236	2 098	4 335	51,6	48,4	100,0
NW	697	777	1 474	47,3	52,7	100,0
GP	2 424	2 318	4 743	51,1	48,9	100,0
MP	883	900	1 783	49,5	50,5	100,0
LP	1 262	1 270	2 531	49,8	50,2	100,0
RSA	10 520	10 466	20 986	50,1	49,9	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 1.1.2 - Distribution of children by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)			Percent		
	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both
Metro	3 684	3 773	7 457	49,4	50,6	100,0
Non-metro	6 836	6 694	13 530	50,5	49,5	100,0
RSA	10 520	10 466	20 986	50,1	49,9	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 1.1.3 - Distribution of children by population group and sex, 2023

Population group	N ('000)			Percent		
	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both
Black African	9 056	9 061	18 116	50,0	50,0	100,0
Coloured	864	831	1 695	51,0	49,0	100,0
Indian/ Asian	169	169	338	49,9	50,1	100,0
White	431	406	837	51,5	48,5	100,0
Total	10 520	10 466	20 986	50,1	49,9	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 1.1.4 - Children as a proportion of the overall population by province and sex, 2023

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Children	Total	Children	Total	Children	Total	Children		
WC	1 052	3 560	1 092	3 810	2 144	7 370	29,6	28,7	29,1
EC	1 247	3 182	1 264	3 355	2 511	6 536	39,2	37,7	38,4
NC	211	655	228	653	438	1 308	32,2	34,8	33,5
FS	507	1 452	519	1 575	1 026	3 027	34,9	33,0	33,9
KZN	2 236	5 722	2 098	6 238	4 335	11 960	39,1	33,6	36,2
NW	697	2 078	777	2 188	1 474	4 266	33,6	35,5	34,6
GP	2 424	8 496	2 318	8 148	4 743	16 644	28,5	28,5	28,5
MP	883	2 415	900	2 523	1 783	4 938	36,6	35,7	36,1
LP	1 262	2 960	1 270	3 273	2 531	6 233	42,6	38,8	40,6
RSA	10 520	30 519	10 466	31 764	20 986	62 283	34,5	33,0	33,7

Source: GHS 2023

Table 1.1.5 - Children as a proportion of the overall population by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Children	Total	Children	Total	Children	Total	Children		
Metro	3 684	12 984	3 773	13 202	7 457	26 185	28,4	28,6	28,5
Non-metro	6 836	17 536	6 694	18 562	13 530	36 098	39,0	36,1	37,5
RSA	10 520	30 519	10 466	31 764	20 986	62 283	34,5	33,0	33,7

Source: GHS 2023

Table 1.1.6 - Children as a proportion of the overall population by population group and sex, 2023

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Children	Total	Children	Total	Children	Total	Children		
Black African	9 056	25 049	9 061	26 066	18 116	51 115	36,2	34,8	35,4
Coloured	864	2 574	831	2 732	1 695	5 306	33,6	30,4	31,9
Indian/ Asian	169	794	169	739	338	1 534	21,2	22,9	22,0
White	431	2 102	406	2 226	837	4 328	20,5	18,2	19,3
Total	10 520	30 519	10 466	31 764	20 986	62 283	34,5	33,0	33,7

Source: GHS 2023

1.2 Children: Household characteristics

Table 1.2.1 - Distribution of children by province, sex and orphan-hood status, 2023

Province and sex		N ('000)	Percent					
		Total	Maternal orphan	Paternal orphan	Double orphan	Not orphaned	Unspecified	Total
WC	Male	1 052	2,1	6,4	1,6	89,3	0,8	100,0
	Female	1 092	1,3	5,7	0,8	91,6	0,5	100,0
	Both	2 144	1,7	6,0	1,2	90,5	0,6	100,0
EC	Male	1 247	3,2	8,7	2,0	83,0	3,1	100,0
	Female	1 264	2,6	8,1	1,9	84,4	3,0	100,0
	Both	2 511	2,9	8,4	1,9	83,7	3,1	100,0
NC	Male	211	4,0	7,1	1,7	85,9	1,3	100,0
	Female	228	1,8	7,2	2,1	86,8	2,1	100,0
	Both	438	2,9	7,1	1,9	86,4	1,7	100,0
FS	Male	507	3,4	10,1	1,3	83,6	1,6	100,0
	Female	519	4,5	7,8	2,6	83,6	1,5	100,0
	Both	1 026	3,9	8,9	2,0	83,6	1,6	100,0
KZN	Male	2 236	2,7	9,6	1,9	83,9	1,9	100,0
	Female	2 098	2,0	10,4	2,2	84,1	1,2	100,0
	Both	4 335	2,4	10,0	2,0	84,0	1,6	100,0
NW	Male	697	2,6	8,5	2,4	83,7	2,8	100,0
	Female	777	2,9	8,2	1,5	84,1	3,4	100,0
	Both	1 474	2,8	8,4	1,9	83,9	3,1	100,0
GP	Male	2 424	2,8	6,4	1,4	87,7	1,7	100,0
	Female	2 318	1,7	7,2	1,6	87,7	1,8	100,0
	Both	4 743	2,3	6,8	1,5	87,7	1,8	100,0
MP	Male	883	2,9	7,4	1,6	86,9	1,2	100,0
	Female	900	2,5	7,9	2,0	85,7	1,9	100,0
	Both	1 783	2,7	7,6	1,8	86,3	1,6	100,0
LP	Male	1 262	2,4	5,4	2,4	88,3	1,5	100,0
	Female	1 270	1,8	7,5	1,8	87,5	1,5	100,0
	Both	2 531	2,1	6,5	2,1	87,9	1,5	100,0
RSA	Male	10 520	2,7	7,7	1,8	86,0	1,8	100,0
	Female	10 466	2,1	8,0	1,8	86,3	1,8	100,0
	Both	20 986	2,4	7,8	1,8	86,1	1,8	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 1.2.2 - Distribution of children by geographic location, sex and orphan-hood status, 2023

Geographic location and sex		N ('000)	Percent					Total
		Total	Maternal orphan	Paternal orphan	Double orphan	Not orphaned	Unspecified	
Metro	Male	3 684	2,5	7,1	1,3	87,5	1,6	100,0
	Female	3 773	1,6	7,2	1,3	88,4	1,6	100,0
	Both	7 457	2,0	7,1	1,3	87,9	1,6	100,0
Non-metro	Male	6 836	2,9	8,0	2,0	85,2	2,0	100,0
	Female	6 694	2,5	8,5	2,1	85,1	1,9	100,0
	Both	13 530	2,7	8,2	2,0	85,1	1,9	100,0
RSA	Male	10 520	2,7	7,7	1,8	86,0	1,8	100,0
	Female	10 466	2,1	8,0	1,8	86,3	1,8	100,0
	Both	20 986	2,4	7,8	1,8	86,1	1,8	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 1.2.3 - Distribution of children by population group, sex and orphan-hood status, 2023

Population group and sex		N ('000)	Percent					Total
		Total	Maternal orphan	Paternal orphan	Double orphan	Not orphaned	Unspecified	
Black African	Male	9 056	3,0	8,1	1,9	85,0	2,0	100,0
	Female	9 061	2,3	8,5	2,0	85,2	2,0	100,0
	Both	18 116	2,6	8,3	2,0	85,1	2,0	100,0
Coloured	Male	864	1,9	6,0	1,3	89,7	1,1	100,0
	Female	831	1,5	7,3	0,7	90,1	0,5	100,0
	Both	1 695	1,7	6,6	1,0	89,9	0,8	100,0
Indian/ Asian	Male	169	0,8	2,4	0,6	96,2	..	100,0
	Female	169	0,5	1,0	..	98,5	..	100,0
	Both	338	0,6	1,7	0,3	97,3	..	100,0
White	Male	431	0,5	3,2	0,2	95,1	0,9	100,0
	Female	406	0,1	1,2	..	98,6	0,2	100,0
	Both	837	0,3	2,2	0,1	96,8	0,6	100,0
Total	Male	10 520	2,7	7,7	1,8	86,0	1,8	100,0
	Female	10 466	2,1	8,0	1,8	86,3	1,8	100,0
	Both	20 986	2,4	7,8	1,8	86,1	1,8	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 1.2.4 - Children by sex and their parental living arrangements, 2023

Sex	N ('000)	Percent				Total
	Total	Lives with mother only	Lives with father only	Lives with both parents	Lives with neither parent	
Male	10 520	44,6	4,8	31,3	19,4	100,0
Female	10 466	46,1	3,6	31,7	18,6	100,0
Both	20 986	45,4	4,2	31,5	19,0	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 1.2.5 - Distribution of children by province, sex and household composition, 2023

Province and sex		N ('000)	Percent					
		Total	Single	Nuclear	Extended	Complex	Unspecified	Total
WC	Male	1 052	..	47,0	46,9	6,0	0,1	100,0
	Female	1 092	..	47,7	45,1	7,3	..	100,0
	Both	2 144	..	47,3	46,0	6,7	0,0	100,0
EC	Male	1 247	0,0	22,0	74,9	2,8	0,3	100,0
	Female	1 264	0,1	22,3	74,2	2,8	0,6	100,0
	Both	2 511	0,1	22,2	74,5	2,8	0,4	100,0
NC	Male	211	0,1	37,5	59,3	3,1	..	100,0
	Female	228	..	30,2	66,7	3,2	..	100,0
	Both	438	0,1	33,7	63,1	3,1	..	100,0
FS	Male	507	0,1	46,5	51,6	1,6	0,2	100,0
	Female	519	..	43,7	54,6	1,3	0,5	100,0
	Both	1 026	0,0	45,1	53,1	1,4	0,3	100,0
KZN	Male	2 236	0,0	19,7	77,6	2,4	0,3	100,0
	Female	2 098	0,0	22,8	74,3	2,6	0,2	100,0
	Both	4 335	0,0	21,2	76,0	2,5	0,3	100,0
NW	Male	697	0,1	34,4	63,3	2,2	..	100,0
	Female	777	..	36,6	61,0	2,4	..	100,0
	Both	1 474	0,0	35,6	62,1	2,3	..	100,0
GP	Male	2 424	0,0	50,6	47,0	1,8	0,5	100,0
	Female	2 318	..	47,8	49,7	1,7	0,8	100,0
	Both	4 743	0,0	49,2	48,3	1,8	0,6	100,0
MP	Male	883	0,2	31,8	66,4	1,6	..	100,0
	Female	900	..	35,0	62,8	1,5	0,7	100,0
	Both	1 783	0,1	33,4	64,6	1,5	0,4	100,0
LP	Male	1 262	0,2	33,0	65,0	1,6	0,2	100,0
	Female	1 270	0,0	34,6	63,6	1,5	0,3	100,0
	Both	2 531	0,1	33,8	64,3	1,6	0,2	100,0
RSA	Male	10 520	0,1	35,1	62,1	2,5	0,3	100,0
	Female	10 466	0,0	35,6	61,4	2,6	0,4	100,0
	Both	20 986	0,0	35,3	61,8	2,6	0,3	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 1.2.6 - Distribution of children by geographic location, sex and household composition, 2023

Geographic location and sex		N ('000)	Percent					
		Total	Single	Nuclear	Extended	Complex	Unspecified	Total
Metro	Male	3 684	0,0	46,7	50,5	2,5	0,3	100,0
	Female	3 773	..	45,4	52,0	2,1	0,5	100,0
	Both	7 457	0,0	46,0	51,3	2,3	0,4	100,0
Non-metro	Male	6 836	0,1	28,8	68,4	2,5	0,2	100,0
	Female	6 694	0,0	30,0	66,6	2,9	0,4	100,0
	Both	13 530	0,1	29,4	67,5	2,7	0,3	100,0
RSA	Male	10 520	0,1	35,1	62,1	2,5	0,3	100,0
	Female	10 466	0,0	35,6	61,4	2,6	0,4	100,0
	Both	20 986	0,0	35,3	61,8	2,6	0,3	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 1.2.7 - Distribution of children by population group, sex and household composition, 2023

Population group and sex		N ('000)	Percent					
		Total	Single	Nuclear	Extended	Complex	Unspecified	Total
Black African	Male	9 056	0,1	32,2	65,5	2,0	0,3	100,0
	Female	9 061	0,0	32,9	64,5	2,1	0,5	100,0
	Both	18 116	0,0	32,5	65,0	2,0	0,4	100,0
Coloured	Male	864	0,1	41,4	50,8	7,6	0,1	100,0
	Female	831	..	37,9	53,3	8,8	..	100,0
	Both	1 695	0,0	39,7	52,0	8,2	0,0	100,0
Indian/ Asian	Male	169	..	56,1	42,3	1,6	..	100,0
	Female	169	..	56,1	43,1	0,8	..	100,0
	Both	338	..	56,1	42,7	1,2	..	100,0
White	Male	431	..	75,0	22,7	2,4	..	100,0
	Female	406	..	81,4	15,4	3,1	..	100,0
	Both	837	..	78,1	19,1	2,7	..	100,0
Total	Male	10 520	0,1	35,1	62,1	2,5	0,3	100,0
	Female	10 466	0,0	35,6	61,4	2,6	0,4	100,0
	Both	20 986	0,0	35,3	61,8	2,6	0,3	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 1.2.8 - Child-headed households by sex and intergenerational household type, 2023

Sex	N ('000)	Percent		
	Total	Single generation	Other	Total
Male	25	76,3	23,7	100,0
Female	24	85,9	14,1	100,0
Both	49	81,0	19,0	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Other include unspecified cases.

1.3 Children: Income, poverty, economic activity and social grants

Table 1.3.1 - Children who are beneficiaries of social grants by sex, 2023

Sex	N ('000)		Percent
	Beneficiary	Total	Beneficiary
Male	7 267	10 520	69,1
Female	7 254	10 466	69,3
Both	14 521	20 986	69,2

Source: GHS 2023

Table 1.3.2 - Children living in households without an employed adult by province and sex, 2023

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without		
WC	120	1 052	131	1 092	251	2 144	11,4	12,0	11,7
EC	533	1 247	516	1 264	1 049	2 511	42,8	40,8	41,8
NC	59	211	63	228	121	438	27,8	27,5	27,6
FS	180	507	200	519	380	1 026	35,5	38,5	37,0
KZN	676	2 236	677	2 098	1 353	4 335	30,2	32,2	31,2
NW	250	697	327	777	576	1 474	35,8	42,0	39,1
GP	412	2 424	387	2 318	799	4 743	17,0	16,7	16,8
MP	271	883	267	900	538	1 783	30,7	29,7	30,2
LP	522	1 262	495	1 270	1 016	2 531	41,3	39,0	40,2
RSA	3 022	10 520	3 061	10 466	6 083	20 986	28,7	29,2	29,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 1.3.3 - Children living in households without an employed adult by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without		
Metro	591	3 684	595	3 773	1 187	7 457	16,1	15,8	15,9
Non-metro	2 431	6 836	2 466	6 694	4 897	13 530	35,6	36,8	36,2
RSA	3 022	10 520	3 061	10 466	6 083	20 986	28,7	29,2	29,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 1.3.4 - Distribution of main source of income for child-headed households by geographic location, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)	Percent				
	Total	Salaries/ wages/ commission	Remittances	Social grants	Unspecified	Total
Metro	12	8,9	52,4	38,7	..	100,0
Non-metro	37	6,6	60,7	30,6	2,1	100,0
RSA	49	7,2	58,6	32,7	1,5	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 1.3.5 - Distribution of main source of income for child-headed households by sex, 2023

Sex	N ('000)	Percent				
	Total	Salaries/ wages/ commission	Remittances	Social grants	Unspecified	Total
Male	25	4,4	53,0	39,6	3,0	100,0
Female	24	10,1	64,4	25,5	..	100,0
Both	49	7,2	58,6	32,7	1,5	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 1.3.6 - Distribution of children by province, sex and household income quintile, 2023

Province and sex		N ('000)	Percent					
		Total	Below quintile 1 (R2 008)	Between quintiles 1 & 2 (R2 008 & R4 000)	Between quintiles 2 & 3 (R4 000 & R7 308)	Between quintiles 3 & 4 (R7 308 & R18 609)	Above quintile 4 (R18 609)	Total
WC	Male	1 052	3,6	9,2	17,6	36,3	33,4	100,0
	Female	1 092	5,4	10,1	14,8	37,4	32,3	100,0
	Both	2 144	4,5	9,7	16,2	36,8	32,8	100,0
EC	Male	1 247	10,4	22,3	31,6	27,2	8,6	100,0
	Female	1 264	9,8	22,5	31,8	26,6	9,3	100,0
	Both	2 511	10,1	22,4	31,7	26,9	9,0	100,0
NC	Male	211	11,1	21,0	22,3	30,1	15,5	100,0
	Female	228	11,5	18,4	24,1	30,8	15,2	100,0
	Both	438	11,3	19,7	23,2	30,5	15,3	100,0
FS	Male	507	14,9	25,8	22,9	25,3	11,0	100,0
	Female	519	19,0	24,1	26,5	19,8	10,7	100,0
	Both	1 026	17,0	25,0	24,7	22,5	10,8	100,0
KZN	Male	2 236	7,0	17,8	26,5	33,9	14,8	100,0
	Female	2 098	5,9	19,2	28,6	31,0	15,3	100,0
	Both	4 335	6,5	18,5	27,5	32,5	15,1	100,0
NW	Male	697	13,5	23,6	25,0	25,5	12,3	100,0
	Female	777	14,5	26,0	29,7	19,1	10,7	100,0
	Both	1 474	14,0	24,9	27,5	22,1	11,5	100,0
GP	Male	2 424	9,4	13,9	18,8	29,1	28,7	100,0
	Female	2 318	9,9	14,4	18,2	27,8	29,7	100,0
	Both	4 743	9,7	14,2	18,5	28,5	29,2	100,0
MP	Male	883	12,5	20,9	24,7	28,6	13,3	100,0
	Female	900	11,0	19,6	26,6	29,2	13,6	100,0
	Both	1 783	11,7	20,3	25,6	28,9	13,5	100,0
LP	Male	1 262	13,8	25,7	24,0	23,1	13,3	100,0
	Female	1 270	12,6	22,2	25,9	24,3	14,9	100,0
	Both	2 531	13,2	24,0	24,9	23,7	14,1	100,0
RSA	Male	10 520	9,8	18,6	23,6	29,5	18,5	100,0
	Female	10 466	9,9	18,7	24,6	28,0	18,8	100,0
	Both	20 986	9,8	18,7	24,1	28,7	18,6	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 1.3.7 - Distribution of children by geographic location, sex and household income quintile, 2023

Geographic location and sex		N ('000)	Percent					
		Total	Below quintile 1 (R2 008)	Between quintiles 1 & 2 (R2 008 & R4 000)	Between quintiles 2 & 3 (R4 000 & R7 308)	Between quintiles 3 & 4 (R7 308 & R18 609)	Above quintile 4 (R18 609)	Total
Metro	Male	3 684	7,5	12,1	18,5	32,1	29,8	100,0
	Female	3 773	8,1	12,3	18,3	31,0	30,2	100,0
	Both	7 457	7,8	12,2	18,4	31,6	30,0	100,0
Non-metro	Male	6 836	11,0	22,2	26,4	28,0	12,4	100,0
	Female	6 694	10,9	22,3	28,2	26,3	12,3	100,0
	Both	13 530	10,9	22,2	27,3	27,2	12,4	100,0
RSA	Male	10 520	9,8	18,6	23,6	29,5	18,5	100,0
	Female	10 466	9,9	18,7	24,6	28,0	18,8	100,0
	Both	20 986	9,8	18,7	24,1	28,7	18,6	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 1.3.8 - Distribution of children by population group, sex and household income quintile, 2023

Population group and sex		N ('000)	Percent					
		Total	Below quintile 1 (R2 008)	Between quintiles 1 & 2 (R2 008 & R4 000)	Between quintiles 2 & 3 (R4 000 & R7 308)	Between quintiles 3 & 4 (R7 308 & R18 609)	Above quintile 4 (R18 609)	Total
Black African	Male	9 056	10,6	20,4	25,3	29,7	14,0	100,0
	Female	9 061	10,6	20,3	26,4	28,1	14,5	100,0
	Both	18 116	10,6	20,3	25,9	28,9	14,3	100,0
Coloured	Male	864	5,9	12,0	19,5	33,7	28,9	100,0
	Female	831	6,2	12,6	18,5	35,2	27,6	100,0
	Both	1 695	6,0	12,3	19,0	34,4	28,2	100,0
Indian/ Asian	Male	169	5,9	3,1	3,4	43,3	44,3	100,0
	Female	169	4,4	2,5	7,8	33,3	52,1	100,0
	Both	338	5,1	2,8	5,6	38,3	48,2	100,0
White	Male	431	2,5	1,6	3,8	10,3	81,7	100,0
	Female	406	2,7	2,0	4,3	9,2	81,8	100,0
	Both	837	2,6	1,8	4,0	9,8	81,8	100,0
Total	Male	10 520	9,8	18,6	23,6	29,5	18,5	100,0
	Female	10 466	9,9	18,7	24,6	28,0	18,8	100,0
	Both	20 986	9,8	18,7	24,1	28,7	18,6	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

1.4 Children: Health

Table 1.4.1 - Children with access to medical aid by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location and sex		N ('000)	Percent			
		Total	Medical aid	No medical aid	Unspecified	Total
Metro	Male	3 684	21,7	78,1	0,1	100,0
	Female	3 773	20,5	79,4	0,1	100,0
	Both	7 457	21,1	78,8	0,1	100,0
Non-metro	Male	6 836	8,4	91,5	0,2	100,0
	Female	6 694	8,3	91,6	0,1	100,0
	Both	13 530	8,3	91,5	0,1	100,0
RSA	Male	10 520	13,1	86,8	0,1	100,0
	Female	10 466	12,7	87,2	0,1	100,0
	Both	20 986	12,9	87,0	0,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 1.4.2 - Distribution of main type of healthcare facility visited by children by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location and sex		N ('000)	Percent						
		Total	Public hospital	Public clinic	Public: Other	Private hospital/ clinic/ doctor	Other facilities	Traditional healer	Unspecified
Metro	Male	3 684	6,5	64,8	0,1	28,1	0,5	..	..
	Female	3 773	6,8	64,0	0,1	28,1	1,0	0,0	..
	Both	7 457	6,7	64,4	0,1	28,1	0,7	0,0	..
Non-metro	Male	6 836	4,6	83,0	0,4	11,5	0,4	0,1	0,0
	Female	6 694	3,7	84,3	0,6	10,9	0,4	0,1	0,0
	Both	13 530	4,2	83,6	0,5	11,2	0,4	0,1	0,0
RSA	Male	10 520	5,3	76,6	0,3	17,3	0,4	0,1	0,0
	Female	10 466	4,8	76,9	0,4	17,1	0,6	0,0	0,0
	Both	20 986	5,1	76,8	0,4	17,2	0,5	0,1	0,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 1.4.3 - Children who suffered from chronic diseases compared to the overall population by province, 2023

Province	N ('000)				Percent	
	Children		Total		Children	Total
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	
WC	71	2 144	1 287	7 370	3,3	17,5
EC	50	2 511	1 074	6 536	2,0	16,4
NC	8	438	234	1 308	1,8	17,9
FS	13	1 026	515	3 027	1,2	17,0
KZN	64	4 335	1 504	11 960	1,5	12,6
NW	25	1 474	652	4 266	1,7	15,3
GP	66	4 743	1 953	16 644	1,4	11,7
MP	26	1 783	593	4 938	1,4	12,0
LP	18	2 531	444	6 233	0,7	7,1
RSA	339	20 986	8 256	62 283	1,6	13,3

Source: GHS 2023

Table 1.4.4 - Children who suffered from chronic diseases compared to the overall population by geographic location, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)				Percent	
	Children		Total		Children	Total
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	
Metro	140	7 457	3 659	26 185	1,9	14,0
Non-metro	199	13 530	4 597	36 098	1,5	12,7
RSA	339	20 986	8 256	62 283	1,6	13,3

Source: GHS 2023

Table 1.4.5 - Children who suffered from chronic diseases compared to the overall population by sex, 2023

Sex	N ('000)				Percent	
	Children		Total		Children	Total
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	
Male	186	10 520	3 000	30 519	1,8	9,8
Female	152	10 466	5 256	31 764	1,5	16,5
Both	339	20 986	8 256	62 283	1,6	13,3

Source: GHS 2023

1.5 Children: Vulnerability to hunger

Table 1.5.1 - Children living in households that reported hunger by province and sex, 2023

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering		
WC	205	1 052	218	1 092	423	2 144	19,5	20,0	19,7
EC	128	1 246	123	1 263	250	2 509	10,2	9,7	10,0
NC	57	210	67	227	123	437	27,0	29,4	28,2
FS	82	507	68	517	150	1024	16,2	13,1	14,6
KZN	638	2 236	589	2 098	1 227	4 335	28,5	28,1	28,3
NW	155	697	190	776	345	1 473	22,2	24,5	23,4
GP	253	2 421	262	2 312	516	4 732	10,5	11,4	10,9
MP	175	883	174	898	350	1 781	19,9	19,4	19,6
LP	75	1 261	72	1270	147	2 531	5,9	5,7	5,8
RSA	1 767	10 513	1 763	10 453	3 530	20 966	16,8	16,9	16,8

Source: GHS 2023

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 1.5.2 - Children living in households that reported hunger by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering		
Metro	517	3 680	558	3 765	1 074	7 445	14,0	14,8	14,4
Non-metro	1 251	6 833	1 206	6 688	2 456	13 521	18,3	18,0	18,2
RSA	1 767	10 513	1 763	10 453	3 530	20 966	16,8	16,9	16,8

Source: GHS 2023

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 1.5.3 - Children living in households that reported hunger by population group and sex, 2023

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering		
Black African	1 625	9 052	1 635	9 052	3 260	18 104	17,9	18,1	18,0
Coloured	132	864	111	831	243	1 695	15,3	13,3	14,3
Indian/Asian	..	169	1	169	1	338	..	0,6	0,3
White	11	428	16	401	27	829	2,5	4,0	3,2
Total	1 767	10 513	1 763	10 453	3 530	20 966	16,8	16,9	16,8

Source: GHS 2023

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 1.5.4 - Child-inclusive households that reported hunger by province, 2023

Province	N ('000)		Percent
	Suffering	Total	Suffering
WC	226	1 079	20,9
EC	84	925	9,1
NC	59	211	28,2
FS	76	543	14,0
KZN	405	1 631	24,8
NW	138	683	20,3
GP	281	2 654	10,6
MP	152	830	18,3
LP	59	1 008	5,8
RSA	1 479	9 563	15,5

Source: GHS 2023

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 1.5.5 - Child-inclusive households that reported hunger by geographic location, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)		Percent
	Suffering	Total	Suffering
Metro	555	4 018	13,8
Non-metro	924	5 545	16,7
RSA	1 479	9 563	15,5

Source: GHS 2023

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 1.5.6 - Child-inclusive households that reported hunger by sex, 2023

Sex	N ('000)		Percent
	Suffering	Total	Suffering
Male	554	4 525	12,2
Female	925	5 038	18,4
Both	1 479	9 563	15,5

Source: GHS 2023
Excluding unspecified cases

1.6 Children: Education

Table 1.6.1 - School attendance by children of compulsory school age (7–15 years) by age group and sex, 2023

Age group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Attending	Total	Attending	Total	Attending	Total	Attending		
7–13 years	4 168	4 222	4 036	4 078	8 204	8 300	98,7	99,0	98,8
14–15 years	1 099	1 124	1 193	1 213	2 292	2 336	97,8	98,4	98,1
Total	5 267	5 346	5 229	5 29	10 496	10 637	98,5	98,8	98,7

Source: GHS 2023
Excluding unspecified cases

Table 1.6.2 - Learners in public ordinary schools (POS) benefiting from the “No Fees School” policy by sex, 2023

Sex	N ('000)	Percent
	Total	Beneficiary
Male	3 523	97,5
Female	3 454	97,3
Both	6 977	97,4

Source: GHS 2023
Excluding unspecified cases

Table 1.6.3 - Children aged 0–4 years attending day care centres by province and sex, 2023

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Attending	Total	Attending	Total	Attending	Total	Attending		
WC	32	136	17	145	48	282	23,3	11,6	17,2
EC	51	106	45	111	96	217	47,9	40,4	44,1
NC	4	14	7	24	11	38	25,5	29,4	28,0
FS	7	55	12	68	19	122	12,7	17,8	15,5
KZN	55	158	43	147	98	305	34,9	29,2	32,1
NW	11	53	21	74	32	128	20,3	28,1	24,9
GP	74	318	60	266	133	584	23,2	22,5	22,8
MP	33	87	25	77	57	164	37,5	32,1	35,0
LP	15	166	22	168	37	334	9,1	12,8	11,0
RSA	280	1 093	251	1 081	531	2 174	25,6	23,2	24,4

Source: GHS 2023
Excluding unspecified cases

Table 1.6.4 - Children aged 0–4 years attending day care centres by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Attending	Total	Attending	Total	Attending	Total	Attending		
Metro	84	435	81	421	165	856	19,3	19,2	19,3
Non-metro	196	658	170	660	366	1 318	29,8	25,8	27,8
RSA	280	1 093	251	1 081	531	2 174	25,6	23,2	24,4

Source: GHS 2023
Excluding unspecified cases

Table 1.6.5 - Children aged 7–13 attending educational institutions by province and sex, 2023

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Attending	Total	Attending	Total	Attending	Total	Attending		
WC	423	429	394	405	817	833	98,7	97,4	98,0
EC	519	523	468	475	987	998	99,2	98,6	98,9
NC	77	80	81	82	157	163	95,5	97,8	96,7
FS	209	211	196	198	405	409	99,3	98,9	99,1
KZN	921	931	844	847	1 765	1 778	98,9	99,7	99,3
NW	282	285	311	313	593	598	98,7	99,4	99,1
GP	900	916	884	891	1 784	1 808	98,3	99,2	98,7
MP	344	347	364	368	708	715	99,1	99,0	99,0
LP	494	501	494	498	988	999	98,7	99,1	98,9
RSA	4 168	4 222	4 036	4 078	8 204	8 300	98,7	99,0	98,8

Source: GHS 2023
Excluding unspecified cases

Table 1.6.6 - Children aged 7–13 attending educational institutions by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Attending	Total	Attending	Total	Attending	Total	Attending		
Metro	1 427	1 445	1 401	1 418	2 828	2 863	98,8	98,8	98,8
Non-metro	2 740	2 778	2 635	2 659	5 375	5 437	98,7	99,1	98,9
RSA	4 168	4 222	4 036	4 078	8 204	8 300	98,7	99,0	98,8

Source: GHS 2023
Excluding unspecified cases

Table 1.6.7 - Children aged 14–17 attending educational institutions by province and sex, 2023

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Attending	Total	Attending	Total	Attending	Total	Attending		
WC	207	230	233	243	440	473	89,9	96,0	93,0
EC	254	271	282	290	536	562	93,5	97,3	95,4
NC	40	46	45	48	85	95	86,8	93,2	90,1
FS	103	104	106	111	209	216	98,4	95,3	96,8
KZN	447	461	434	456	881	917	96,9	95,2	96,1
NW	133	143	145	156	279	298	93,7	93,3	93,5
GP	544	565	547	566	1 091	1 131	96,3	96,7	96,5
MP	181	186	184	197	365	383	97,6	93,0	95,2
LP	255	263	260	266	515	529	97,0	97,7	97,3
RSA	2 164	2 270	2 237	2 334	4 401	4 603	95,4	95,9	95,6

Source: GHS 2023

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 1.6.8 - Children aged 14–17 attending educational institutions by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Attending	Total	Attending	Total	Attending	Total	Attending		
Metro	793	827	894	927	1 687	1 754	95,8	96,4	96,1
Non-metro	1 371	1 44	1 343	1 407	2 714	2 849	95,1	95,5	95,3
RSA	2 164	2 270	2 237	2 334	4 401	4 603	95,4	95,9	95,6

Source: GHS 2023

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 1.6.9 - Children aged 15 who have not completed grade 7, by province and sex, 2023

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Not completed	Total	Not completed	Total	Not completed	Total	Not completed		
WC	9	62	7	80	15	142	13,9	8,4	10,8
EC	6	65	3	61	9	125	9,3	5,4	7,4
NC	3	13	2	13	4	25	21,6	13,1	17,4
FS	5	24	2	23	6	47	19,1	6,6	12,9
KZN	9	109	2	117	11	226	8,5	1,7	5,0
NW	7	35	4	42	11	77	18,9	10,4	14,3
GP	8	135	4	138	12	273	6,2	2,6	4,4
MP	4	45	1	52	5	97	8,8	1,7	5,0
LP	10	71	6	76	16	147	13,5	7,8	10,6
RSA	60	559	30	601	90	1 160	10,7	5,0	7,7

Source: GHS 2023

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 1.6.10 - Children aged 15 who have not completed grade 7, by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Not completed	Total	Not completed	Total	Not completed	Total	Not completed		
Metro	15	195	7	226	23	421	7,8	3,2	5,3
Non-metro	45	364	23	374	67	738	12,3	6,0	9,1
RSA	60	559	30	601	90	1 160	10,7	5,0	7,7

Source: GHS 2023

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 1.6.11 - Children aged 17 who have not completed grade 9, by province and sex, 2023

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Not completed	Total	Not completed	Total	Not completed	Total	Not completed		
WC	16	71	3	50	18	121	22,3	5,0	15,2
EC	12	51	10	66	22	116	24,6	15,1	19,2
NC	5	12	2	11	7	22	47,4	17,0	32,9
FS	6	23	0	27	7	50	28,5	1,3	13,6
KZN	20	111	8	103	27	214	17,6	7,4	12,7
NW	13	38	9	39	22	76	34,3	22,3	28,2
GP	15	134	8	150	23	284	11,1	5,6	8,2
MP	11	53	5	49	16	102	21,1	10,2	15,8
LP	14	60	7	59	21	119	22,7	11,6	17,2
RSA	112	553	51	553	164	1 106	20,4	9,2	14,8

Source: GHS 2023

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 1.6.12 - Children aged 17 who have not completed grade 9, by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Not completed	Total	Not completed	Total	Not completed	Total	Not completed		
Metro	22	188	11	233	33	421	11,7	4,8	7,9
Non-metro	90	364	40	320	130	684	24,8	12,5	19,0
RSA	112	553	51	553	164	1 106	20,4	9,2	14,8

Source: GHS 2023

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 1.6.13 - Distribution of reasons for children aged 7–17 not attending school by province, 2023

Reason		WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
N ('000)	Total	49	37	15	11	49	25	63	25	25	299
Percent	Too old/ young	5,5	1,7	5,5	3,4	10,9	4,7	6,0	..	9,7	5,8
	Has completed education/satisfied with level of education	21,3	7,5	14,9	33,6	17,1	9,7	9,4	24,6	..	14,1
	School/education institution too far	..	3,3	5,4	7,1	3,3	..	0,5	..	2,9	1,8
	Difficulties to get to school (transport)	..	..	..	..	0,6	..	..	..	..	0,1
	No money for fees	8,2	1,7	..	20,7	14,1	6,1	30,9	8,8	10,5	13,3
	Working, do not have time	..	..	..	5,2	..	..	1,1	4,1	3,8	1,1
	COVID-19	..	2,6	..	5,1	6,7	..	3,8	..	4,4	2,8
	Family commitments	14,0	7,1	27,3	5,3	2,2	8,6	2,7	2,1	..	6,6
	Education is useless	13,7	11,8	14,3	5,5	9,7	9,4	4,2	7,9	18,5	10,1
	Unable to perform at school	..	6,5	2,5	8,8	6,6	8,1	2,7	2,2	8,0	4,4
	Illness	..	4,9	..	5,4	..	12,5	2,4	3,6	2,7	2,9
	Pregnancy	..	..	..	..	1,4	2,9	0,8	5,2	2,6	1,3
	Got married	6,8	16,5	12,0	..	10,3	21,7	7,6	10,5	18,4	11,3
	Disability	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,5	..	..	0,3
	Violence in school	21,1	7,8	..	..	6,7	11,1	8,8	13,0	10,6	10,3
	Not accepted for enrolment	..	10,2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,2
	Do not have time/too busy	9,4	18,4	17,9	..	10,5	5,1	17,4	18,0	7,8	12,7
	Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 1.6.14 - Distribution of reasons for children aged 7–17 not attending school by geographic location, 2023

Reason		Metro	Non-metro	RSA
N ('000)	Total	103	196	299
Percent	Too old/ young	6,1	5,6	5,8
	Has completed education/satisfied with level of education	2,2	20,2	14,1
	School/education institution too far	0,7	2,4	1,8
	Difficulties to get to school (transport)	0,3	..	0,1
	No money for fees	21,4	9,0	13,3
	Working, do not have time	0,7	1,3	1,1
	COVID-19	1,4	3,5	2,8
	Family commitments	10,2	4,6	6,6
	Education is useless	7,5	11,5	10,1
	Unable to perform at school	3,8	4,8	4,4
	Illness	1,9	3,4	2,9
	Pregnancy	..	2,0	1,3
	Got married	9,1	12,4	11,3
	Disability	1,0	..	0,3
	Violence in school	18,1	6,2	10,3
	Not accepted for enrolment	..	1,9	1,2
	Do not have time/too busy	15,5	11,3	12,7
	Total	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

1.7 Children: Housing and basic services

Table 1.7.1 - Distribution of child-headed households by type of housing, geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location and sex		N ('000)	Percent			
		Total	Formal	Traditional	Informal	Total
Metro	Male	4	58,5	..	41,5	100,0
	Female	8	42,7	..	57,3	100,0
	Both	12	48,2	..	51,8	100,0
Non-metro	Male	21	82,6	7,4	10,0	100,0
	Female	16	62,2	24,6	13,2	100,0
	Both	37	73,7	14,9	11,4	100,0
RSA	Male	25	78,5	6,2	15,3	100,0
	Female	24	55,6	16,4	28,0	100,0
	Both	49	67,3	11,2	21,6	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 1.7.2 - Access to basic service of children compared to the overall population, 2023

Access to piped water

	N ('000)	Percent	
	Total	Access	Unspecified
Not children	41 297	76,4	1,6
Children	20 986	69,0	2,4
Total	62 283	73,9	1,8

Source: GHS 2023

Access to improved sanitation

	N ('000)	Percent
	Total	Access
Not children	41 297	84,6
Children	20 986	81,2
Total	62 283	83,5

Source: GHS 2023

Refuse/ waste removed by the municipality

	N ('000)	Percent	
	Total	Access	Unspecified
Not children	41 297	62,0	33,7
Children	20 986	52,7	42,8
Total	62 283	58,8	36,8

Source: GHS 2023

Access to electricity connected to the mains

	N ('000)	Percent	
	Total	Access	Unspecified
Not children	41 297	93,0	4,4
Children	20 986	94,0	3,8
Total	62 283	93,4	4,2

Source: GHS 2023

Use solid fuels for cooking

	N ('000)	Percent
	Total	Access
Not children	41 297	9,5
Children	20 986	14,8
Total	62 283	11,3

Source: GHS 2023

1.8 Key findings

Children are defined as persons aged 17 years and younger. In 2023, children made up 33,7% of the South African population, 50,1% male and 49,9% female. Provincial variations showed that Limpopo, Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga reported the highest proportion of children in relation to the total population. Provinces with the lowest percentage of children were Gauteng and Western Cape. Children made up 37,5% of the overall population in the non-metro, compared to 28,5% in metro. The proportion of children in the total population was highest among black Africans (35,4%) and coloureds (31,9%).

Approximately, 12,0% of children were either maternal, paternal or double orphans. Paternal orphans made up 7,8% of the population of children, double orphans 1,8%, and maternal orphans 2,4%. The majority of orphans were black African children, with a high proportion of them as paternal orphans. Majority of children (45,4%) lived with their mothers only in 2023, while 31,5% lived with both their biological parents and 19,0% lived with neither their biological parents. Approximately 61,8% of South African children lived in extended households, while 35,3% of children lived in nuclear households. Significant differences between geographical areas were observed, with 67,5% of children in non-metropolitan areas residing in extended households compared to 51,3% for children in metropolitan areas. In contrast, children in metropolitan areas were more likely to reside in nuclear households than those in non-metropolitan areas (46,0% and 29,4%, respectively). The living arrangements of children varied by population group as children of white and Indian/Asian population groups were more likely to live in nuclear households (78,1% and 56,1% respectively), whilst the children of the black African and coloured population groups (65,0% and 52,0% respectively) were more likely to be in extended households.

The analysis shows that social grants play a vital role in children's welfare as 69,2% of the children were beneficiaries of social grants in 2023. Approximately 12,9% of children had access to medical aid. Majority of children (76,8%) primarily used public clinics for healthcare facility visit, followed by private hospital/clinic/doctor (17,2%) and public hospitals (5,1%).

Approximately, 24,4% of children aged 0-4 attended day care centres. Nationally, majority of children aged 7-17 cited has completed education/satisfied with level of education (14,1%) and no money for fees (13,3%) as reasons for not attending schools.

In 2023, 16,8% of the children lived in households that experienced hunger. Children that experienced hunger were most likely to be found in KwaZulu-Natal (28,3%), Northern Cape (28,2%), and North West (23,4%). In contrast, children in Limpopo were less likely to report hunger, reporting at 5,8%. Children living in households without an employed adult account for 29% nationally while the Eastern Cape province alone reported 41,8%. In terms of access to household services, children were less likely to live in households with piped water, access to improved sanitation and refuse removal as compared to the general population.

They were more likely to live in households with access to electricity connected to the mains as compared to the general population.

INDICATORS: YOUTH

Youth are defined as persons aged 15–34.

2.1 Demography of youth

Table 2.1.1 - Distribution of youth by province and sex, 2023

Province	N ('000)			Percent		
	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both
WC	1 201	1 209	2 410	49,8	50,2	100,0
EC	1 060	994	2 054	51,6	48,4	100,0
NC	214	205	419	51,1	48,9	100,0
FS	491	504	995	49,4	50,6	100,0
KZN	1 996	2 156	4 152	48,1	51,9	100,0
NW	678	699	1 377	49,2	50,8	100,0
GP	3 064	2 882	5 945	51,5	48,5	100,0
MP	829	840	1 669	49,7	50,3	100,0
LP	970	1 058	2 028	47,8	52,2	100,0
RSA	10 504	10 547	21 050	49,9	50,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 2.1.2 - Distribution of youth by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)			Percent		
	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both
Metro	4 476	4 430	8 906	50,3	49,7	100,0
Non-metro	6 028	6 116	12 144	49,6	50,4	100,0
RSA	10 504	10 547	21 050	49,9	50,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 2.1.3 - Distribution of youth by population group and sex, 2023

Population group	N ('000)			Percent		
	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both
Black African	8 936	9 017	17 954	49,8	50,2	100,0
Coloured	850	846	1 696	50,1	49,9	100,0
Indian/ Asian	235	206	441	53,3	46,7	100,0
White	482	477	960	50,3	49,7	100,0
Total	10 504	10 547	21 050	49,9	50,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 2.1.4 - Distribution of youth by age group and sex, 2023

Age group	N ('000)			Percent		
	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both
15–24 years	5 057	5 091	10 148	49,8	50,2	100,0
25–34 years	5 447	5 456	10 902	50,0	50,0	100,0
Total	10 504	10 547	21 050	49,9	50,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 2.1.5 - Youth as a proportion of the overall population by province and sex, 2023

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Youth	Total	Youth	Total	Youth	Total	Youth	Youth	Youth
WC	1 201	3 560	1 209	3 810	2 410	7 370	33,7	31,7	32,7
EC	1 060	3 182	994	3 355	2 054	6 536	33,3	29,6	31,4
NC	214	655	205	653	419	1 308	32,7	31,4	32,1
FS	491	1 452	504	1 575	995	3 027	33,8	32,0	32,9
KZN	1 996	5 722	2 156	6 238	4 152	11 960	34,9	34,6	34,7
NW	678	2 078	699	2 188	1 377	4 266	32,6	31,9	32,3
GP	3 064	8 496	2 882	8 148	5 945	16 644	36,1	35,4	35,7
MP	829	2 415	840	2 523	1 669	4 938	34,3	33,3	33,8
LP	970	2 960	1 058	3 273	2 028	6 233	32,8	32,3	32,5
RSA	10 504	30 519	10 547	31 764	21 050	62 283	34,4	33,2	33,8

Source: GHS 2023

Table 2.1.6 - Youth as a proportion of the overall population by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Youth	Total	Youth	Total	Youth	Total	Youth	Youth	Youth
Metro	4 476	12 984	4 430	13 202	8 906	26 185	34,5	33,6	34,0
Non-metro	6 028	17 536	6 116	18 562	12 144	36 098	34,4	33,0	33,6
RSA	10 504	30 519	10 547	31 764	21 050	62 283	34,4	33,2	33,8

Source: GHS 2023

Table 2.1.7 - Youth as a proportion of the overall population by population group and sex, 2023

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Youth	Total	Youth	Total	Youth	Total	Youth	Youth	Youth
Black African	8 936	25 049	9 017	26 066	17 954	51 115	35,7	34,6	35,1
Coloured	850	2 574	846	2 732	1 696	5 306	33,0	31,0	32,0
Indian/Asian	235	794	206	739	441	1 534	29,6	27,8	28,7
White	482	2 102	477	2 226	960	4 328	22,9	21,4	22,2
Total	10 504	30 519	10 547	31 764	21 050	62 283	34,4	33,2	33,8

Source: GHS 2023

2.2 Youth: Household characteristics

Table 2.2.1 - Distribution of youth-headed households by province, 2023

Province	N ('000)		Percent
	Youth	Total	Youth
WC	475	2 136	22,2
EC	347	1 761	19,7
NC	79	380	20,8
FS	229	999	22,9
KZN	796	3 292	24,2
NW	328	1 390	23,6
GP	1 633	5 779	28,3
MP	348	1 493	23,3
LP	428	1 775	24,1
RSA	4 662	19 005	24,5

Source: GHS 2023

Table 2.2.2 - Distribution of youth-headed households by geographic location, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)		Percent
	Youth	Total	Youth
Metro	2 220	8 718	25,5
Non-metro	2 442	10 287	23,7
RSA	4 662	19 005	24,5

Source: GHS 2023

Table 2.2.3 - Distribution of youth-headed households by population group, 2023

Population group	N ('000)		Percent
	Youth	Total	Youth
Black African	4 217	15 738	26,8
Coloured	184	1 277	14,4
Indian/ Asian	69	444	15,6
White	191	1 546	12,4
Total	4 662	19 005	24,5

Source: GHS 2023

Table 2.2.4 - Distribution of youth-headed households by sex, 2023

Sex	N ('000)		Percent
	Youth	Total	Youth
Male	2 985	10 963	27,2
Female	1 678	8 042	20,9
Both	4 662	19 005	24,5

Source: GHS 2023

Table 2.2.5 - Distribution of youth-headed households by province and age group, 2023

Province	N ('000)			Percent		
	15–24 years	25–34 years	Total	15–24 years	25–34 years	Total
WC	62	413	475	13,0	87,0	100,0
EC	84	263	347	24,2	75,8	100,0
NC	9	70	79	11,0	89,0	100,0
FS	44	185	229	19,3	80,7	100,0
KZN	128	668	796	16,1	83,9	100,0
NW	73	255	328	22,3	77,7	100,0
GP	283	1 350	1 633	17,3	82,7	100,0
MP	66	282	348	18,9	81,1	100,0
LP	134	294	428	31,4	68,6	100,0
RSA	882	3 780	4 662	18,9	81,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 2.2.6 - Distribution of youth-headed households by geographic location and age group, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)			Percent		
	15–24 years	25–34 years	Total	15–24 years	25–34 years	Total
Metro	334	1 885	2 220	15,1	84,9	100,0
Non-metro	548	1 894	2 442	22,4	77,6	100,0
RSA	882	3 780	4 662	18,9	81,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 2.2.7 - Distribution of youth-headed households by population group and age group, 2023

Population group	N ('000)			Percent		
	15–24 years	25–34 years	Total	15–24 years	25–34 years	Total
Black African	826	3 392	4 217	19,6	80,4	100,0
Coloured	23	161	184	12,5	87,5	100,0
Indian/ Asian	8	61	69	11,5	88,5	100,0
White	26	165	191	13,5	86,5	100,0
Total	882	3 780	4 662	18,9	81,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 2.2.8 - Distribution of youth-headed households by sex and age group, 2023

Sex	N ('000)			Percent		
	15–24 years	25–34 years	Total	15–24 years	25–34 years	Total
Male	549	2 435	2 985	18,4	81,6	100,0
Female	333	1 344	1 678	19,9	80,1	100,0
Both	882	3 780	4 662	18,9	81,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 2.2.9 - Distribution of youth by province and household composition, 2023

Province	N ('000)	Percent					
	Total	Single	Nuclear	Extended	Complex	Unspecified	Total
WC	2 410	4,6	42,7	44,6	8,0	0,1	100,0
EC	2 054	6,4	20,9	68,1	4,5	0,1	100,0
NC	419	3,9	30,1	59,0	7,0	..	100,0
FS	995	5,2	41,1	51,2	2,1	0,4	100,0
KZN	4 152	4,3	20,8	71,0	3,5	0,3	100,0
NW	1 377	6,1	30,2	58,7	5,0	..	100,0
GP	5 945	7,8	41,9	46,2	3,4	0,6	100,0
MP	1 669	5,6	29,3	62,4	2,6	0,2	100,0
LP	2 028	8,3	29,7	58,6	3,0	0,4	100,0
RSA	21 050	6,2	32,6	56,8	4,1	0,3	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 2.2.10 - Distribution of youth by geographic location and household composition, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)	Percent					
	Total	Single	Nuclear	Extended	Complex	Unspecified	Total
Metro	8 906	6,9	40,0	48,8	3,8	0,4	100,0
Non-metro	12 144	5,6	27,1	62,7	4,2	0,3	100,0
RSA	21 050	6,2	32,6	56,8	4,1	0,3	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 2.2.11 - Distribution of youth by population group and household composition, 2023

Population group	N ('000)	Percent					
	Total	Single	Nuclear	Extended	Complex	Unspecified	Total
Black African	17 954	7,0	29,4	59,7	3,6	0,4	100,0
Coloured	1 696	1,0	40,3	50,6	8,0	0,1	100,0
Indian/ Asian	441	2,6	51,3	44,3	1,8	..	100,0
White	960	2,5	69,2	20,5	7,7	..	100,0
Total	21 050	6,2	32,6	56,8	4,1	0,3	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 2.2.12 - Distribution of youth by sex and household composition, 2023

Sex	N ('000)	Percent					
	Total	Single	Nuclear	Extended	Complex	Unspecified	Total
Male	10 504	9,3	31,4	54,5	4,3	0,4	100,0
Female	10 547	3,0	33,8	59,1	3,9	0,2	100,0
Both	21 050	6,2	32,6	56,8	4,1	0,3	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 2.2.13 - Distribution of youth by age group and household composition, 2023

Age group	N ('000)	Percent					
	Total	Single	Nuclear	Extended	Complex	Unspecified	Total
15–24 years	10 148	2,9	32,8	60,2	3,7	0,4	100,0
25–34 years	10 902	9,3	32,4	53,7	4,4	0,3	100,0
Total	21 050	6,2	32,6	56,8	4,1	0,3	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 2.2.14 - Distribution of youth headed households across intergenerational household type by province, 2023

Province	N ('000)	Percent					
	Total	Single generation	Double generation	Triple generation	Skip generation	Other	Total
WC	475	54,5	40,8	..	..	4,7	100,0
EC	347	60,9	29,2	0,4	..	9,5	100,0
NC	79	45,3	47,0	..	..	7,7	100,0
FS	229	51,1	42,0	0,4	0,7	5,8	100,0
KZN	796	64,0	28,2	0,4	..	7,4	100,0
NW	328	57,7	34,4	0,3	..	7,5	100,0
GP	1 633	62,1	32,2	0,2	0,2	5,3	100,0
MP	348	58,4	35,5	..	0,3	5,7	100,0
LP	428	59,9	33,6	0,2	0,7	5,6	100,0
RSA	4 662	60,0	33,4	0,2	0,2	6,2	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Other include unspecified cases

Table 2.2.15 - Distribution of youth headed households across intergenerational household type by geographic location, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)	Percent					
	Total	Single generation	Double generation	Triple generation	Skip generation	Other	Total
Metro	2 220	63,0	31,9	0,1	0,2	4,8	100,0
Non-metro	2 442	57,2	34,8	0,3	0,2	7,4	100,0
RSA	4 662	60,0	33,4	0,2	0,2	6,2	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Other include unspecified cases

Table 2.2.16 - Distribution of youth headed households across intergenerational household type by population group, 2023

Population group	N ('000)	Percent					
	Total	Single generation	Double generation	Triple generation	Skip generation	Other	Total
Black African	4 217	61,5	31,8	0,2	0,2	6,2	100,0
Coloured	184	33,1	61,2	..	0,3	5,3	100,0
Indian/ Asian	69	53,0	41,1	..	..	5,9	100,0
White	191	54,0	38,8	..	..	7,2	100,0
Total	4 662	60,0	33,4	0,2	0,2	6,2	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Other include unspecified cases

Table 2.2.17 - Distribution of youth headed households across intergenerational household type by sex, 2023

Sex	N ('000)	Percent					
	Total	Single generation	Double generation	Triple generation	Skip generation	Other	Total
Male	2 985	70,3	23,1	..	0,2	6,3	100,0
Female	1 678	41,5	51,7	0,6	0,1	6,0	100,0
Both	4 662	60,0	33,4	0,2	0,2	6,2	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Other include unspecified cases

Table 2.2.18 - Distribution of youth headed households across intergenerational household type by age group, 2023

Age group	N ('000)	Percent					
	Total	Single generation	Double generation	Triple generation	Skip generation	Other	Total
15–24 years	882	74,4	11,7	..	0,2	13,6	100,0
25–34 years	3 780	56,6	38,5	0,3	0,2	4,4	100,0
Total	4 662	60,0	33,4	0,2	0,2	6,2	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Other include unspecified cases

2.3 Youth: Income, poverty, economic activity and social grants

Table 2.3.1 - Youth who are beneficiaries of social grants by sex, 2023

Sex	N ('000)		Percent
	Beneficiary	Total	Beneficiary
Male	2 626	10 504	25,0
Female	2 775	10 547	26,3
Both	5 402	21 050	25,7

Source: GHS 2023

Table 2.3.2 - Youth who are beneficiaries of social grants by age group, 2023

Age group	N ('000)		Percent
	Beneficiary	Total	Beneficiary
15–24 years	3 544	10 148	34,9
25–34 years	1 858	10 902	17,0
Total	5 402	21 050	25,7

Source: GHS 2023

Table 2.3.3 - Youth living in households without an employed adult by province and sex, 2023

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without		
WC	115	1 201	146	1 209	261	2 410	9,6	12,1	10,8
EC	375	1 060	350	994	725	2 054	35,4	35,2	35,3
NC	52	214	48	205	100	419	24,5	23,3	23,9
FS	145	491	179	504	324	995	29,5	35,6	32,6
KZN	493	1 996	583	2 156	1 075	4 152	24,7	27,0	25,9
NW	203	678	251	699	455	1 377	30,0	36,0	33,0
GP	513	3 064	480	2 882	993	5 945	16,8	16,7	16,7
MP	232	829	241	840	473	1 669	28,0	28,7	28,4
LP	374	970	415	1 058	789	2 028	38,5	39,3	38,9
RSA	2 502	10 504	2 695	10 547	5 196	21 050	23,8	25,5	24,7

Source: GHS 2023

Table 2.3.4 - Youth living in households without an employed adult by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without		
Metro	663	4 476	679	4 430	1 341	8 906	14,8	15,3	15,1
Non-metro	1 839	6 028	2 016	6 116	3 855	12 144	30,5	33,0	31,7
RSA	2 502	10 504	2 695	10 547	5 196	21 050	23,8	25,5	24,7

Source: GHS 2023

Table 2.3.5 - Youth living in households without an employed adult by age group and sex, 2023

Age group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without		
15-24 years	1 405	5 057	1 443	5 091	2 848	10 148	27,8	28,3	28,1
25-34 years	1 097	5 447	1 252	5 456	2 349	10 902	20,1	22,9	21,5
Total	2 502	10 504	2 695	10 547	5 196	21 050	23,8	25,5	24,7

Source: GHS 2023

Table 2.3.6 - Youth-headed households without an employed adult by province and sex, 2023

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without		
WC	37	297	55	178	92	475	12,6	30,9	19,4
EC	72	219	56	127	129	347	33,0	44,3	37,2
NC	7	46	10	33	17	79	15,4	30,2	21,6
FS	54	151	50	78	104	229	35,6	64,8	45,5
KZN	124	470	141	326	265	796	26,4	43,3	33,3
NW	59	206	67	121	126	328	28,7	55,4	38,5
GP	188	1 100	197	533	385	1 633	17,1	37,0	23,6
MP	62	236	53	111	114	348	26,2	47,2	32,9
LP	104	258	102	169	206	428	40,1	60,4	48,2
RSA	707	2 985	732	1 678	1 439	4 662	23,7	43,6	30,9

Source: GHS 2023

Table 2.3.7 - Youth-headed households without an employed adult by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without		
Metro	246	1 463	242	756	489	2 220	16,8	32,1	22,0
Non-metro	461	1 521	489	921	951	2 442	30,3	53,1	38,9
RSA	707	2 985	732	1 678	1 439	4 662	23,7	43,6	30,9

Source: GHS 2023

Table 2.3.8 - Distribution of main sources of income for youth-headed households by geographic location, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)	Percent						
	Total	Salaries/wages/commission	Remittances	Social grants	Sales of farming products and services	Other non-farm income	Unspecified	Total
Metro	2 220	67,2	11,5	6,5	..	11,1	3,7	100,0
Non-metro	2 442	50,9	23,0	15,9	0,0	8,0	2,1	100,0
RSA	4 662	58,6	17,5	11,4	0,0	9,5	2,9	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 2.3.9 - Distribution of main sources of income for youth-headed households by sex, 2023

Sex	N ('000)	Percent						
	Total	Salaries/wages/commission	Remittances	Social grants	Sales of farming products and services	Other non-farm income	Unspecified	Total
Male	2 985	64,7	13,4	7,7	..	10,9	3,3	100,0
Female	1 678	47,8	24,9	18,1	0,1	6,9	2,2	100,0
Both	4 662	58,6	17,5	11,4	0,0	9,5	2,9	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 2.3.10 - Employed youth by province and age group, 2023

Province	N ('000)			Percent		
	15–24 years	25–34 years	Total	15–24 years	25–34 years	Total
WC	256	787	1 043	24,6	75,4	100,0
EC	109	456	565	19,3	80,7	100,0
NC	39	80	119	32,9	67,1	100,0
FS	45	191	236	18,9	81,1	100,0
KZN	189	907	1 096	17,2	82,8	100,0
NW	57	268	325	17,5	82,5	100,0
GP	274	1 300	1 574	17,4	82,6	100,0
MP	91	357	449	20,4	79,6	100,0
LP	90	464	555	16,3	83,7	100,0
RSA	1 150	4 811	5 961	19,3	80,7	100,0

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 2.3.11 - Employed youth by geographic location and age group, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)			Percent		
	15–24 years	25–34 years	Total	15–24 years	25–34 years	Total
Metro	500	2 218	2 718	18,4	81,6	100,0
Non-metro	649	2 593	3 242	20,0	80,0	100,0
RSA	1 150	4 811	5 961	19,3	80,7	100,0

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 2.3.12 - Employed youth by population group and age group, 2023

Population group	N ('000)			Percent		
	15–24 years	25–34 years	Total	15–24 years	25–34 years	Total
Black African	791	3 766	4 557	17,4	82,6	100,0
Coloured	201	498	699	28,7	71,3	100,0
Indian/ Asian	37	148	185	19,9	80,1	100,0
White	121	398	520	23,4	76,6	100,0
RSA	1 150	4 811	5 961	19,3	80,7	100,0

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 2.3.13 - Unemployed youth by province and age group, 2023

Province	N ('000)			Percent		
	15–24 years	25–34 years	Total	15–24 years	25–34 years	Total
WC	157	239	396	39,6	60,4	100,0
EC	173	384	557	31,0	69,0	100,0
NC	31	40	71	43,4	56,6	100,0
FS	83	194	277	29,9	70,1	100,0
KZN	307	470	777	39,6	60,4	100,0
NW	128	211	340	37,8	62,2	100,0
GP	436	915	1 351	32,2	67,8	100,0
MP	127	252	379	33,6	66,4	100,0
LP	144	281	425	33,9	66,1	100,0
RSA	1 586	2 987	4 573	34,7	65,3	100,0

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 2.3.14 - Unemployed youth by geographic location and age group, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)			Percent		
	15–24 years	25–34 years	Total	15–24 years	25–34 years	Total
Metro	616	1 238	1 854	33,2	66,8	100,0
Non-metro	971	1 748	2 719	35,7	64,3	100,0
RSA	1 586	2 987	4 573	34,7	65,3	100,0

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 2.3.15 - Unemployed youth by population group and age group, 2023

Population group	N ('000)			Percent		
	15–24 years	25–34 years	Total	15–24 years	25–34 years	Total
Black African	1 410	2 762	4 172	33,8	66,2	100,0
Coloured	118	153	271	43,5	56,5	100,0
Indian/ Asian	20	26	46	42,7	57,3	100,0
White	38	46	84	45,7	54,3	100,0
Total	1 586	2 987	4 573	34,7	65,3	100,0

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 2.3.16 - Not economically active youth by province and age group, 2023

Province	N ('000)			Percent		
	15–24 years	25–34 years	Total	15–24 years	25–34 years	Total
WC	660	219	880	75,1	24,9	100,0
EC	1 013	382	1 395	72,6	27,4	100,0
NC	169	70	238	70,8	29,2	100,0
FS	356	123	479	74,3	25,7	100,0
KZN	1 557	736	2 293	67,9	32,1	100,0
NW	547	193	740	74,0	26,0	100,0
GP	1 708	504	2 212	77,2	22,8	100,0
MP	649	193	842	77,0	23,0	100,0
LP	845	341	1 185	71,3	28,7	100,0
RSA	7 503	2 761	10 265	73,1	26,9	100,0

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 2.3.17 - Not economically active youth by geographic location and age group, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)			Percent		
	15–24 years	25–34 years	Total	15–24 years	25–34 years	Total
Metro	2 610	883	3 493	74,7	25,3	100,0
Non-metro	4 893	1 878	6 771	72,3	27,7	100,0
RSA	7 503	2 761	10 265	73,1	26,9	100,0

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 2.3.18 - Not economically active youth by population group and age group, 2023

Population group	N ('000)			Percent		
	15–24 years	25–34 years	Total	15–24 years	25–34 years	Total
Black African	6 449	2 413	8 862	72,8	27,2	100,0
Coloured	551	188	738	74,6	25,4	100,0
Indian/ Asian	138	64	202	68,4	31,6	100,0
White	366	97	462	79,0	21,0	100,0
Total	7 503	2 761	10 265	73,1	26,9	100,0

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 2.3.19 - Youth labour force participation rate by province and age group, 2023

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	15–24 years		25–34 years		Total		15–24 years	25–34 years	Total
	Participated	Total	Participated	Total	Participated	Total	Participated		
WC	413	1 073	1 026	1 245	1 439	2 319	38,5	82,4	62,1
EC	282	1 294	841	1 223	1 122	2 517	21,8	68,7	44,6
NC	70	239	120	190	190	428	29,2	63,3	44,3
FS	128	483	385	509	513	992	26,4	75,8	51,7
KZN	496	2 054	1 377	2 112	1 873	4 166	24,2	65,2	45,0
NW	185	733	479	672	664	1 404	25,3	71,3	47,3
GP	709	2 417	2 215	2 720	2 925	5 136	29,3	81,5	56,9
MP	219	867	609	802	828	1 670	25,2	75,9	49,6
LP	235	1 079	746	1 086	980	2 165	21,7	68,6	45,3
RSA	2 736	10 239	7 798	10 559	10 534	20 798	26,7	73,8	50,6

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 2.3.20 - Youth labour force participation rate by geographic location and age group, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)						Percent		
	15–24 years		25–34 years		Total		15–24 years	25–34 years	Total
	Participated	Total	Participated	Total	Participated	Total	Participated		
Metro	1 116	3 726	3 457	4 340	4 572	8 066	29,9	79,6	56,7
Non-metro	1 620	6 513	4 341	6 219	5 961	12 732	24,9	69,8	46,8
RSA	2 736	10 239	7 798	10 559	10 534	20 798	26,7	73,8	50,6

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 2.3.21 - Youth labour force participation rate by population group and age group, 2023

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	15–24 years		25–34 years		Total		15–24 years	25–34 years	Total
	Participated	Total	Participated	Total	Participated	Total	Participated		
Black African	2 201	8 650	6 528	8 941	8 729	17 591	25,4	73,0	49,6
Coloured	319	870	651	839	970	1 709	36,7	77,6	56,8
Indian/ Asian	57	194	174	238	231	433	29,1	73,2	53,4
White	160	525	444	541	604	1 066	30,4	82,1	56,6
Total	2 736	10 239	7 798	10 559	10 534	20 798	26,7	73,8	50,6

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 2.3.22 - Youth unemployment rate by province and age group, 2023

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	15–24 years		25–34 years		Total		15–24 years	25–34 years	Total
	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed		
WC	157	413	239	1 026	396	1 439	38,0	23,3	27,5
EC	173	282	384	841	557	1 122	61,4	45,7	49,6
NC	31	70	40	120	71	190	43,8	33,3	37,2
FS	83	128	194	385	277	513	65,0	50,4	54,0
KZN	307	496	470	1 377	777	1 873	62,0	34,1	41,5
NW	128	185	211	479	340	664	69,3	44,1	51,1
GP	436	709	915	2 215	1 351	2 925	61,4	41,3	46,2
MP	127	219	252	609	379	828	58,2	41,4	45,8
LP	144	235	281	746	425	980	61,5	37,7	43,4
RSA	1 586	2 736	2 987	7 798	4 573	10 534	58,0	38,3	43,4

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 2.3.23 - Youth unemployment rate by geographic location and age group, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)						Percent		
	15–24 years		25–34 years		Total		15–24 years	25–34 years	Total
	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed		
Metro	616	1 116	1 238	3 457	1 854	4 572	55,2	35,8	40,5
Non-metro	971	1 620	1 748	4 341	2 719	5 961	59,9	40,3	45,6
RSA	1 586	2 736	2 987	7 798	4 573	10 534	58,0	38,3	43,4

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 2.3.24 - Youth unemployment rate by population group and age group, 2023

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	15–24 years		25–34 years		Total		15–24 years	25–34 years	Total
	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed		
Black African	1 410	2 201	2 762	6 528	4 172	8 729	64,1	42,3	47,8
Coloured	118	319	153	651	271	970	37,0	23,5	27,9
Indian/ Asian	20	57	26	174	46	231	34,9	15,2	20,0
White	38	160	46	444	84	604	24,0	10,3	13,9
Total	1 586	2 736	2 987	7 798	4 573	10 534	58,0	38,3	43,4

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 2.3.25 - Youth labour absorption rate by province and age group, 2023

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	15–24 years		25–34 years		Total		15–24 years	25–34 years	Total
	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed		
WC	256	1 073	787	1 245	1 043	2 319	23,9	63,2	45,0
EC	109	1 294	456	1 223	565	2 517	8,4	37,3	22,5
NC	39	239	80	190	119	428	16,4	42,2	27,8
FS	45	483	191	509	236	992	9,2	37,6	23,8
KZN	189	2 054	907	2 112	1 096	4 166	9,2	42,9	26,3
NW	57	733	268	672	325	1 404	7,7	39,9	23,1
GP	274	2 417	1 300	2 720	1 574	5 136	11,3	47,8	30,6
MP	91	867	357	802	449	1 670	10,5	44,5	26,9
LP	90	1 079	464	1 086	555	2 165	8,4	42,8	25,6
RSA	1 150	10 239	4 811	10 559	5 961	20 798	11,2	45,6	28,7

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 2.3.26 - Youth labour absorption rate by geographic location and age group, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)						Percent		
	15–24 years		25–34 years		Total		15–24 years	25–34 years	Total
	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed		
Metro	500	3 726	2 218	4 340	2 718	8 066	13,4	51,1	33,7
Non-metro	649	6 513	2 593	6 219	3 242	12 732	10,0	41,7	25,5
RSA	1 150	10 239	4 811	10 559	5 961	20 798	11,2	45,6	28,7

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 2.3.27 - Youth labour absorption rate by population group and age group, 2023

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	15–24 years		25–34 years		Total		15–24 years	25–34 years	Total
	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed		
Black African	791	8 650	3 766	8 941	4 557	17 591	9,1	42,1	25,9
Coloured	201	870	498	839	699	1 709	23,1	59,4	40,9
Indian/Asian	37	194	148	238	185	433	18,9	62,1	42,7
White	121	525	398	541	520	1 066	23,1	73,7	48,8
Total	1 150	10 239	4 811	10 559	5 961	20 798	11,2	45,6	28,7

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 2.3.28 - Youth economic inactivity rate by province and age group, 2023

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	15–24 years		25–34 years		Total		15–24 years	25–34 years	Total
	Inactive	Total	Inactive	Total	Inactive	Total	Inactive		
WC	660	1 073	219	1 245	880	2 319	61,5	17,6	37,9
EC	1 013	1 294	382	1 223	1 395	2 517	78,2	31,3	55,4
NC	169	239	70	190	238	428	70,8	36,7	55,7
FS	356	483	123	509	479	992	73,6	24,2	48,3
KZN	1 557	2 054	736	2 112	2 293	4 166	75,8	34,8	55,0
NW	547	733	193	672	740	1 404	74,7	28,7	52,7
GP	1 708	2 417	504	2 720	2 212	5 136	70,7	18,5	43,1
MP	649	867	193	802	842	1 670	74,8	24,1	50,4
LP	845	1 079	341	1 086	1 185	2 165	78,3	31,4	54,7
RSA	7 503	10 239	2 761	10 559	10 265	20 798	73,3	26,2	49,4

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 2.3.29 - Youth economic inactivity rate by geographic location and age group, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)						Percent		
	15–24 years		25–34 years		Total		15–24 years	25–34 years	Total
	Inactive	Total	Inactive	Total	Inactive	Total	Inactive		
Metro	2 610	3 726	883	4 340	3 493	8 066	70,1	20,4	43,3
Non-metro	4 893	6 513	1 878	6 219	6 771	12 732	75,1	30,2	53,2
RSA	7 503	10 239	2 761	10 559	10 265	20 798	73,3	26,2	49,4

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 2.3.30 - Youth economic inactivity rate by population group and age group, 2023

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	15–24 years		25–34 years		Total		15–24 years	25–34 years	Total
	Inactive	Total	Inactive	Total	Inactive	Total	Inactive		
Black African	6 449	8 650	2 413	8 941	8 862	17 591	74,6	27,0	50,4
Coloured	551	870	188	839	738	1 709	63,3	22,4	43,2
Indian/Asian	138	194	64	238	202	433	70,9	26,8	46,6
White	366	525	97	541	462	1 066	69,6	17,9	43,4
Total	7 503	10 239	2 761	10 559	10 265	20 798	73,3	26,2	49,4

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

2.4 Youth: Health

Table 2.4.1 - Youth who suffered from chronic diseases compared to the overall population by province, 2023

Province	N ('000)				Percent	
	Youth		Total		Youth	Total
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	
WC	101	2 410	1 287	7 370	4,2	17,5
EC	126	2 054	1 074	6 536	6,1	16,4
NC	24	419	234	1 308	5,7	17,9
FS	59	995	515	3 027	5,9	17,0
KZN	173	4 152	1 504	11 960	4,2	12,6
NW	59	1 377	652	4 266	4,3	15,3
GP	146	5 945	1 953	16 644	2,5	11,7
MP	57	1 669	593	4 938	3,4	12,0
LP	31	2 028	444	6 233	1,5	7,1
RSA	777	21 050	8 256	62 283	3,7	13,3

Source: GHS 2023

Table 2.4.2 - Youth who suffered from chronic diseases compared to the overall population by geographic location, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)				Percent	
	Youth		Total		Youth	Total
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	
Metro	282	8 906	3 659	26 185	3,2	14,0
Non-metro	495	12 144	4 597	36 098	4,1	12,7
RSA	777	21 050	8 256	62 283	3,7	13,3

Source: GHS 2023

Table 2.4.3 - Youth who suffered from chronic diseases compared to the overall population by sex, 2023

Sex	N ('000)				Percent	
	Youth		Total		Youth	Total
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	
Male	241	10 504	3 000	30 519	2,3	9,8
Female	536	10 547	5 256	31 764	5,1	16,5
Both	777	21 050	8 256	62 283	3,7	13,3

Source: GHS 2023

Table 2.4.4 - Youth who suffered from chronic diseases compared to the overall population by age group, 2023

Age group	N ('000)				Percent	
	Youth		Total		Youth	Total
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	
Not youth	..	..	7 479	41 233	..	18,1
15–24 years	225	10 148	225	10 148	2,2	2,2
25–34 years	552	10 902	552	10 902	5,1	5,1
Total	777	21 050	8 256	62 283	3,7	13,3

Source: GHS 2023

2.5 Youth: Vulnerability to hunger

Table 2.5.1 - Youth living in households that reported hunger by province and sex, 2023

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering		
WC	222	1 201	219	1 209	441	2 410	18,5	18,1	18,3
EC	124	1 058	110	988	235	2 046	11,7	11,2	11,5
NC	52	213	51	205	103	418	24,3	25,0	24,6
FS	56	491	73	502	129	993	11,4	14,6	13,0
KZN	506	1 996	530	2 155	1 036	4 152	25,3	24,6	24,9
NW	160	677	164	699	325	1 376	23,7	23,5	23,6
GP	326	3 053	277	2 878	603	5 931	10,7	9,6	10,2
MP	166	825	163	838	329	1 663	20,1	19,5	19,8
LP	60	968	63	1 057	123	2 025	6,2	6,0	6,1
RSA	1 673	10 483	1 651	10 531	3 324	21 014	16,0	15,7	15,8

Source: GHS 2023

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 2.5.2 - Youth living in households that reported hunger by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering		
Metro	585	4 466	564	4 426	1 149	8 892	13,1	12,7	12,9
Non-metro	1 088	6 018	1 087	6 105	2 174	12 123	18,1	17,8	17,9
RSA	1 673	10 483	1 651	10 531	3 324	21 014	16,0	15,7	15,8

Source: GHS 2023

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 2.5.3 - Youth living in households that reported hunger by population group and sex, 2023

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering		
Black African	1 549	8 917	1 531	9 002	3 080	17 919	17,4	17,0	17,2
Coloured	105	850	108	846	213	1 696	12,3	12,8	12,6
Indian/ Asian	2	235	..	206	2	441	1,0	..	0,5
White	17	482	12	477	28	959	3,4	2,4	2,9
Total	1 673	10 483	1 651	10 531	3 324	21 014	16,0	15,7	15,8

Source: GHS 2023

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 2.5.4 - Youth living in households that reported hunger by age group and sex, 2023

Age group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering		
15–24 years	833	5 046	820	5 084	1 653	10 131	16,5	16,1	16,3
25–34 years	840	5 437	831	5 447	1 671	10 884	15,5	15,3	15,4
Total	1 673	10 483	1 651	10 531	3 324	21 014	16,0	15,7	15,8

Source: GHS 2023

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 2.5.5 - Youth-headed households that reported hunger by province and sex, 2023

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering		
WC	41	297	37	178	78	475	13,8	20,9	16,4
EC	19	218	11	124	30	343	8,6	8,9	8,7
NC	8	46	11	33	19	79	17,9	33,5	24,5
FS	18	151	7	78	26	229	12,2	9,6	11,3
KZN	116	470	90	324	205	795	24,6	27,7	25,9
NW	55	206	23	121	78	328	26,6	18,8	23,7
GP	111	1 095	63	531	173	1 627	10,1	11,8	10,7
MP	58	235	19	111	77	346	24,7	17,3	22,3
LP	17	257	10	168	26	425	6,6	5,7	6,2
RSA	442	2 976	271	1 671	713	4 646	14,9	16,2	15,4

Source: GHS 2023

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 2.5.6 - Youth-headed households that reported hunger by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering		
Metro	166	1 460	105	755	272	2 215	11,4	14,0	12,3
Non-metro	276	1 515	166	915	442	2 431	18,2	18,1	18,2
RSA	442	2 976	271	1 671	713	4 646	14,9	16,2	15,4

Source: GHS 2023

Excluding unspecified cases

2.6 Youth: Education

Table 2.6.1 - Youth who attend educational institutions by population group and sex, 2023

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Attending	Total	Attending	Total	Attending	Total	Attending		
Black African	2 506	8 932	2 693	9 015	5 199	17 947	28,1	29,9	29,0
Coloured	176	850	208	846	384	1 696	20,7	24,5	22,6
Indian/Asian	60	235	72	203	132	438	25,4	35,5	30,1
White	159	482	163	477	322	960	32,9	34,2	33,6
Total	2 901	10 500	3 136	10 541	6 037	21 041	27,6	29,8	28,7

Source: GHS 2023

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 2.6.2 - Youth who attend educational institutions by age group and sex, 2023

Age group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Attending	Total	Attending	Total	Attending	Total	Attending		
15–24 years	2 700	5 055	2 795	5 088	5 495	10 143	53,4	54,9	54,2
25–34 years	200	5 445	342	5 453	542	10 898	3,7	6,3	5,0
Total	2 901	10 500	3 136	10 541	6 037	21 041	27,6	29,8	28,7

Source: GHS 2023

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 2.6.3 - Distribution of the types of educational institutions attended by the youth by population group and sex, 2023

Population group and sex		N ('000)	Percent						
		Total	School/ pre-school	ABET/ literacy classes	Higher education institution	Further education and training college	Other college	Other	Total
Black African	Male	2 506	82,3	0,1	9,0	5,0	2,3	1,3	100,0
	Female	2 693	72,7	0,0	13,8	7,6	4,7	1,2	100,0
	Both	5 199	77,3	0,0	11,5	6,4	3,5	1,2	100,0
Coloured	Male	176	78,0	..	5,4	6,2	7,3	3,0	100,0
	Female	208	70,9	..	15,4	5,9	5,3	2,5	100,0
	Both	384	74,2	..	10,8	6,0	6,3	2,7	100,0
Indian/ Asian	Male	60	50,0	..	42,1	1,8	6,1	..	100,0
	Female	72	42,1	..	48,6	1,1	3,1	5,1	100,0
	Both	132	45,7	..	45,7	1,4	4,5	2,8	100,0
White	Male	159	57,5	..	24,9	6,1	6,8	4,6	100,0
	Female	163	49,8	..	37,1	3,4	6,1	3,5	100,0
	Both	322	53,6	..	31,1	4,7	6,4	4,1	100,0
Total	Male	2 901	80,0	0,1	10,3	5,1	3,0	1,6	100,0
	Female	3 136	70,7	0,0	15,9	7,1	4,8	1,5	100,0
	Both	6 037	75,2	0,0	13,2	6,1	3,9	1,5	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 2.6.4 - Youth who are not attending any educational institution and who are not employed (NEET), by population group and sex, 2023

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	NEET	Total	NEET	Total	NEET	Total	NEET		
Black African	3 508	8 936	4 342	9 017	7 850	17 954	39,3	48,2	43,7
Coloured	300	850	331	846	631	1 696	35,3	39,1	37,2
Indian/ Asian	22	235	46	206	68	441	9,4	22,5	15,5
White	45	482	87	477	132	960	9,4	18,1	13,7
Total	3 875	10 504	4 806	10 547	8 681	21 050	36,9	45,6	41,2

Source: GHS 2023

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 2.6.5 - Distribution of the highest levels of education attained by the youth, by population group and age group, 2023

Population group and age group		N ('000)	Percent						
		Total	Less than matric	Matric	Other tertiary	Graduates	Other	Unspecified	Total
Black African	15–24 years	8 653	65,5	29,9	2,4	1,2	0,8	0,2	100,0
	25–34 years	9 301	43,6	40,6	8,8	5,9	1,1	0,0	100,0
	Total	17 954	54,1	35,5	5,7	3,6	1,0	0,1	100,0
Coloured	15–24 years	840	64,2	30,6	2,4	1,2	1,3	0,4	100,0
	25–34 years	856	42,5	43,8	6,5	6,0	1,2	..	100,0
	Total	1 696	53,2	37,3	4,5	3,6	1,2	0,2	100,0
Indian/Asian	15–24 years	183	39,1	46,9	3,8	8,5	1,2	0,4	100,0
	25–34 years	258	18,7	48,4	6,4	17,0	9,4	..	100,0
	Total	441	27,2	47,8	5,3	13,5	6,0	0,2	100,0
White	15–24 years	472	46,8	43,8	3,3	5,4	0,2	0,5	100,0
	25–34 years	487	10,4	37,1	17,0	35,3	0,2	..	100,0
	Total	960	28,3	40,4	10,3	20,6	0,2	0,2	100,0
Total	15–24 years	10 148	64,1	30,9	2,4	1,5	0,8	0,2	100,0
	25–34 years	10 902	41,4	40,9	8,9	7,5	1,3	0,0	100,0
	Total	21 050	52,3	36,1	5,8	4,6	1,1	0,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 2.6.6 - Distribution of the highest levels of education attained by the youth, by sex and age group, 2023

Sex and age group		N ('000)	Percent						
		Total	Less than matric	Matric	Other tertiary	Graduates	Other	Unspecified	Total
Male	15–24 years	5 057	67,6	28,2	1,8	1,2	1,0	0,2	100,0
	25–34 years	5 447	44,0	39,8	7,8	6,6	1,7	0,0	100,0
	Total	10 504	55,4	34,2	4,9	4,0	1,4	0,1	100,0
Female	15–24 years	5 091	60,5	33,7	3,1	1,9	0,6	0,2	100,0
	25–34 years	5 456	38,8	42,0	10,0	8,3	0,9	..	100,0
	Total	10 547	49,3	38,0	6,7	5,2	0,7	0,1	100,0
Both	15–24 years	10 148	64,1	30,9	2,4	1,5	0,8	0,2	100,0
	25–34 years	10 902	41,4	40,9	8,9	7,5	1,3	0,0	100,0
	Total	21 050	52,3	36,1	5,8	4,6	1,1	0,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

2.7 Youth: Housing and basic services

Table 2.7.1 - Distribution of youth headed households by geographic location, sex and type of housing, 2023

Geographic location and sex		N ('000)	Percent				
		Total	Formal	Traditional	Informal	Other	Total
Metro	Male	1 463	74,1	0,2	25,4	0,3	100,0
	Female	756	77,9	..	21,7	0,3	100,0
	Both	2 220	75,4	0,1	24,2	0,3	100,0
Non-metro	Male	1 521	78,3	5,7	15,5	0,4	100,0
	Female	921	81,2	6,4	11,9	0,5	100,0
	Both	2 442	79,4	6,0	14,1	0,5	100,0
RSA	Male	2 985	76,3	3,0	20,3	0,4	100,0
	Female	1 678	79,8	3,5	16,3	0,4	100,0
	Both	4 662	77,5	3,2	18,9	0,4	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 2.7.2 - Distribution of youth headed households by age group, sex and type of housing, 2023

Age group and sex		N ('000)	Percent				
		Total	Formal	Traditional	Informal	Other	Total
15–24 years	Male	549	76,0	3,4	20,6	..	100,0
	Female	333	82,7	4,5	12,8	..	100,0
	Both	882	78,6	3,8	17,7	..	100,0
25–34 years	Male	2 435	76,3	2,9	20,3	0,5	100,0
	Female	1 344	79,0	3,3	17,2	0,5	100,0
	Both	3 780	77,3	3,0	19,2	0,5	100,0
Total	Male	2 985	76,3	3,0	20,3	0,4	100,0
	Female	1 678	79,8	3,5	16,3	0,4	100,0
	Both	4 662	77,5	3,2	18,9	0,4	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 2.7.3 - Distribution of youth living in formal, informal and traditional housing by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location and sex		N ('000)	Percent				
		Total	Formal	Traditional	Informal	Other	Total
Metro	Male	4 476	87,2	0,8	11,4	0,6	100,0
	Female	4 430	87,1	0,7	11,9	0,3	100,0
	Both	8 906	87,1	0,8	11,7	0,4	100,0
Non-metro	Male	6 028	84,3	8,6	6,9	0,2	100,0
	Female	6 116	85,1	8,2	6,7	0,1	100,0
	Both	12 144	84,7	8,4	6,8	0,1	100,0
RSA	Male	10 504	85,5	5,3	8,8	0,4	100,0
	Female	10 547	85,9	5,0	8,9	0,1	100,0
	Both	21 050	85,7	5,2	8,8	0,3	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 2.7.4 - Distribution of youth living in formal, informal and traditional housing by age group and sex, 2023

Age group and sex		N ('000)	Percent				
		Total	Formal	Traditional	Informal	Other	Total
15–24 years	Male	5 057	86,9	5,6	7,2	0,3	100,0
	Female	5 091	86,5	5,5	7,8	0,1	100,0
	Both	10 148	86,7	5,6	7,5	0,2	100,0
25–34 years	Male	5 447	84,3	4,9	10,3	0,5	100,0
	Female	5 456	85,4	4,5	9,9	0,2	100,0
	Both	10 902	84,9	4,7	10,1	0,3	100,0
Total	Male	10 504	85,5	5,3	8,8	0,4	100,0
	Female	10 547	85,9	5,0	8,9	0,1	100,0
	Both	21 050	85,7	5,2	8,8	0,3	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 2.7.5 - Access to basic services of the youth compared to the overall population, by age group, 2023**Access to piped water**

Age group	N ('000)	Percent	
	Total	Access	Unspecified
Not youth	41 233	73,7	1,8
15–24 years	10 148	73,0	2,1
25–34 years	10 902	75,6	1,6
15–34 years	21 050	74,3	1,8
Total	62 283	73,9	1,8

Source: GHS 2023

Access to improved sanitation

Age group	N ('000)	Percent
	Total	Access
Not youth	41 233	83,6
15–24 years	10 148	82,4
25–34 years	10 902	84,1
15–34 years	21 050	83,3
Total	62 283	83,5

Source: GHS 2023

Refuse/ waste removed by the municipality

Age group	N ('000)	Percent	
	Total	Access	Unspecified
Not youth	41 233	59,0	36,7
15–24 years	10 148	56,8	38,9
25–34 years	10 902	60,0	35,2
15–34 years	21 050	58,4	37,0
Total	62 283	58,8	36,8

Source: GHS 2023

Access to electricity connected to the mains

Age group	N ('000)	Percent	
	Total	Access	Unspecified
Not youth	41 233	93,5	4,2
15–24 years	10 148	94,0	3,9
25–34 years	10 902	92,2	4,5
15–34 years	21 050	93,1	4,2
Total	62 283	93,4	4,2

Source: GHS 2023

Use solid fuels for cooking

Age group	N ('000)	Percent
	Total	Access
Not youth	41 233	11,4
15–24 years	10 148	12,9
25–34 years	10 902	9,2
15–34 years	21 050	11,0
Total	62 283	11,3

Source: GHS 2023

2.8 Youth: Violence and crime victims**Table 2.8.1 - Youth who feel unsafe or very unsafe to walk alone in their area during the day by province, 2023/24**

Province	N ('000)		Percent
	Unsafe	Total responded	Unsafe
WC	826	2 274	36,3
EC	294	1 893	15,5
NC	40	399	9,9
FS	93	957	9,7
KZN	675	3 892	17,3
NW	125	1 325	9,4
GP	1 468	5 703	25,7
MP	164	1 572	10,4
LP	68	1 896	3,6
RSA	3 755	19 911	18,8

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2023/24

Table 2.8.2 - Youth who feel unsafe or very unsafe to walk alone in their area during the day by sex, 2023/24

Sex	N ('000)		Percent
	Unsafe	Total responded	Unsafe
Male	1 690	9 962	16,9
Female	2 065	9 949	20,7
Both	3 755	19 911	18,8

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2023/24

Table 2.8.3 - Youth who feel unsafe or very unsafe to walk alone in their area during the day by age group, 2023/24

Age group	N ('000)		Percent
	Unsafe	Total responded	Unsafe
15–24 years	1 884	9 822	19,1
25–34 years	1 871	10 089	18,5
Total	3 755	19 911	18,8

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2023/24

Table 2.8.4 - Youth who feel unsafe or very unsafe to walk alone in their area at night by province, 2023/24

Province	N ('000)		Percent
	Unsafe	Total responded	Unsafe
WC	1 631	2 274	71,7
EC	1 207	1 893	63,7
NC	237	399	59,5
FS	616	957	64,3
KZN	2 602	3 892	66,8
NW	757	1 325	57,1
GP	4 017	5 703	70,4
MP	1 134	1 572	72,1
LP	762	1 896	40,1
RSA	12 964	19 911	65,1

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2023/24

Table 2.8.5 - Youth who feel unsafe or very unsafe to walk alone in their area at night by sex, 2023/24

Sex	N ('000)		Percent
	Unsafe	Total responded	Unsafe
Male	6 208	9 962	62,3
Female	6 756	9 949	67,9
Both	12 964	19 911	65,1

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2023/24

Table 2.8.6 - Youth who feel unsafe or very unsafe to walk alone in their area at night by age group, 2023/24

Age group	N ('000)		Percent
	Unsafe	Total responded	Unsafe
15–24 years	6 437	9 822	65,5
25–34 years	6 528	10 089	64,6
Total	12 964	19 911	65,1

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2023/24

Table 2.8.7 - Youth who have been victims of property crime during the past 5 years by sex, 2023/24

Sex	N ('000)		Percent
	Suffering	Total responded	Suffering
Male	762	9 962	7,6
Female	670	9 949	6,7
Both	1 433	19 911	7,1

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2023/24

Table 2.8.8 - Youth who have been victims of property crime during the past 5 years by age group, 2023/24

Age group	N ('000)		Percent
	Suffering	Total responded	Suffering
15–24 years	607	9822	6,1
25–34 years	826	10 089	8,1
Total	1 433	19 911	7,1

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2023/24

2.9 Key findings

This chapter focuses on the population dynamics of young people aged 15–34 during 2023. Nationally, youth accounted for 33,8% of the South African population and 49,9% were males and 50,1% females. The provincial distribution showed that Eastern Cape had the highest share of males (51,6%), while Limpopo had the highest proportion of females (52,2%). The analysis showed that males reported the highest percentage share of youth to the overall population compared to their female counterparts. Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal provinces had higher proportions of young males at 36,1% and 34,9% respectively. Gauteng (35,4%) and KwaZulu-Natal (34,6%) reported the highest share for females. The smallest proportion of the youth population was in Eastern Cape (31,4%).

Other aspects of the South African demographic profile revealed that 24,5% of households were headed by persons aged 15–34. Youth-headed households within the age group 25–34 years were concentrated in the Northern Cape (89,0%) whilst the 15–24 age group reported the highest share in Limpopo (31,4%). Of the male youth headed households, 81,6% were headed by those aged 25–34, while 18,4% were headed by those aged 15–24. Of the female youth-headed households, 80,1% were headed by those aged 25–34 and 19,9% were headed by those aged 15–24.

The youth population's household living arrangement revealed that a significant proportion of the youth (56,8%) lived in extended households, with 54,5% for males and 59,1% for females. Intergenerational household types showed that more than half (60,0%) of youth-headed households were of a single generation while 33,4% were of the double generation. The black African population group (61,5%) displayed the highest proportion of youth headed household within the single generational type followed by the white population group with 54,0%, the Indian with 53,0% and the coloured with 33,1%. Double generation household type was highest amongst the coloured population group (61,2%) and least amongst the black African (31,8%) population group.

Approximately 25,7% of youth were beneficiaries of social grants in 2023. Findings indicate that the majority of young people aged 15–34 in Limpopo (38,9%) and Eastern Cape (35,3%) lived in households without an employed adult. When examining the extent to which youth participated in the labour market, findings show that labour force participation rate for youth was reported at 50,6%, and those aged 25–34 reported higher participation rates compared to the 15–24 age group. Furthermore, the majority of employed youth were those aged 25–34 and resided in metro areas. The analysis of unemployment also indicated that youth unemployment rates were higher among the older youth and mostly prevalent in non-metro areas. Inactivity rate was higher for youth aged 15–24, compared to youth aged 25–34.

The analysis revealed that 3,7% of youth were suffering with chronic diseases compared to the overall population at 13,3%. The highest share of youth who suffered from chronic diseases compared to the overall population where the highest in the Eastern Cape (6,1%) and lowest in Limpopo (1,5%).

Nationally, 15,8% of the youth lived in households that reportedly experienced hunger. KwaZulu-Natal reported the highest proportion of (24,9%), followed by Northern Cape (24,6%) and North West (23,6%). Approximately, 28,7% of youth attended educational institutions in 2023. Youth aged 15–24 reported higher proportions of educational institutions attendance, particularly among white and Indian/Asian population groups. A higher percentage of young females (45,6%) were not in employment, education and training (NEET) when compared to their male counterparts (36,9%).

One of the government's priorities is to increase social cohesion and a feeling of safety in communities. Approximately one-fifth of the youth felt unsafe walking alone in their area during the day in 2023/24, with the Western Cape (36,3%) and Gauteng (25,7%) provinces reporting higher percentages. A provincial analysis found that a higher proportion of young people felt unsafe walking alone in their neighbourhoods at night, with the highest proportions found in Mpumalanga (72,1%) and Western Cape (71,7%).

INDICATORS: WOMEN

Women are defined as the female population.

3.1 Demography of women

Table 3.1.1 - Distribution of the female population by province, 2023

Province	N ('000)	Percent
WC	3 810	12,0
EC	3 355	10,6
NC	653	2,1
FS	1 575	5,0
KZN	6 238	19,6
NW	2 188	6,9
GP	8 148	25,7
MP	2 523	7,9
LP	3 273	10,3
RSA	31 764	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 3.1.2 - Distribution of the female population by geographic location, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)	Percent
Metro	13 202	41,6
Non-metro	18 562	58,4
RSA	31 764	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 3.1.3 - Distribution of the female population by population group, 2023

Population group	N ('000)	Percent
Black African	26 066	82,1
Coloured	2 732	8,6
Indian/ Asian	739	2,3
White	2 226	7,0
Total	31 764	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 3.1.4 - Distribution of the female population by age group, 2023

Age group	N ('000)	Percent
0–4 years	2 867	9,0
5–14 years	5 876	18,5
15–24 years	5 091	16,0
25–34 years	5 456	17,2
35–44 years	4 882	15,4
45–54 years	3 056	9,6
55–64 years	2 284	7,2
65–74 years	1 449	4,6
75+ years	803	2,5
Total	31 764	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 3.1.5 - Distribution of females (18 years and above) by province and marital status, 2023

Province	N ('000)	Percent			
	Total	Married/ cohabiting	Widow/ widower/ divorced	Never married	Total
WC	2 718	49,5	15,1	35,4	100,0
EC	2 091	32,7	18,1	49,2	100,0
NC	426	45,8	11,2	43,0	100,0
FS	1 056	41,0	17,6	41,5	100,0
KZN	4 140	28,2	11,0	60,8	100,0
NW	1 411	42,6	12,4	45,0	100,0
GP	5 830	44,3	10,9	44,8	100,0
MP	1 624	33,2	13,5	53,4	100,0
LP	2 003	38,4	15,3	46,4	100,0
RSA	21 297	39,1	13,2	47,7	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 3.1.6 - Distribution of females (18 years and above) by geographic location and marital status, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)	Percent			
	Total	Married/ cohabiting	Widow/ widower/ divorced	Never married	Total
Metro	9 429	43,6	12,3	44,1	100,0
Non-metro	11 869	35,5	13,9	50,6	100,0
RSA	21 297	39,1	13,2	47,7	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 3.1.7 - Distribution of females (18 years and above) by population group and marital status, 2023

Population group	N ('000)	Percent			
	Total	Married/ cohabiting	Widow/ widower/ divorced	Never married	Total
Black African	17 006	34,6	12,0	53,4	100,0
Coloured	1 901	47,1	16,0	36,9	100,0
Indian/ Asian	570	60,7	17,6	21,7	100,0
White	1 820	65,6	19,8	14,6	100,0
Total	21 297	39,1	13,2	47,7	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 3.1.8 - Distribution of females (18 years and above) by age group and marital status, 2023

Age group	N ('000)	Percent			
	Total	Married/ cohabiting	Widow/ widower/ divorced	Never married	Total
15–24 years	3 367	11,5	0,1	88,3	100,0
25–34 years	5 456	36,2	0,9	62,9	100,0
35–44 years	4 882	52,5	4,7	42,9	100,0
45–54 years	3 056	55,1	15,4	29,6	100,0
55–64 years	2 284	46,5	31,7	21,8	100,0
65–74 years	1 449	34,8	51,3	13,9	100,0
75+ years	803	17,6	74,1	8,3	100,0
Total	21 297	39,1	13,2	47,7	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

3.2 Women: Household characteristics

Table 3.2.1 - Households headed by females aged 15 and above by province, 2023

Province	N ('000)		Percent
	Female	Total	Female
WC	857	2 136	40,1
EC	858	1 760	48,8
NC	164	380	43,2
FS	446	999	44,6
KZN	1 542	3 291	46,9
NW	576	1 390	41,5
GP	2 111	5 779	36,5
MP	650	1 493	43,6
LP	834	1 774	47,0
RSA	8 040	19 002	42,3

Source: GHS 2023

Table 3.2.2 - Households headed by females aged 15 and above by geographic location, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)		Percent
	Female	Total	Female
Metro	3 396	8 718	39,0
Non-metro	4 644	10 284	45,2
RSA	8 040	19 002	42,3

Source: GHS 2023

Table 3.2.3 - Households headed by females aged 15 and above by population group, 2023

Population group	N ('000)		Percent
	Female	Total	Female
Black African	6 829	15 735	43,4
Coloured	577	1 277	45,2
Indian/ Asian	134	444	30,1
White	499	1 546	32,3
Total	8 040	19 002	42,3

Source: GHS 2023

Table 3.2.4 - Households headed by females aged 15 and above by age group, 2023

Age group	N ('000)		Percent
	Female	Total	Female
15–24 years	333	882	37,8
25–34 years	1 344	3 780	35,6
35–44 years	1 883	4 923	38,3
45–54 years	1 689	4 021	42,0
55–64 years	1 346	2 862	47,0
65+ years	1 444	2 534	57,0
Total	8 040	19 002	42,3

Source: GHS 2023

Table 3.2.5 - Distribution of households by province, sex and household composition, 2023

Province and sex		N ('000)	Percent					
		Total	Single	Nuclear	Extended	Complex	Unspecified	Total
WC	Male	1 279	19,6	59,8	17,5	3,1	0,1	100,0
	Female	857	19,2	38,6	36,5	5,4	0,3	100,0
	Both	2 136	19,4	51,3	25,1	4,0	0,2	100,0
EC	Male	902	32,7	35,2	30,1	1,9	0,2	100,0
	Female	858	18,8	25,4	53,3	2,2	0,2	100,0
	Both	1 760	25,9	30,4	41,4	2,1	0,2	100,0
NC	Male	216	24,8	43,5	27,9	3,7	..	100,0
	Female	164	13,0	32,5	52,3	2,2	..	100,0
	Both	380	19,7	38,8	38,5	3,1	..	100,0
FS	Male	554	28,6	48,7	20,8	1,4	0,4	100,0
	Female	446	16,1	37,4	44,8	1,5	0,1	100,0
	Both	999	23,0	43,6	31,5	1,5	0,3	100,0
KZN	Male	1 749	33,6	35,6	28,7	2,0	0,1	100,0
	Female	1 542	20,0	24,0	53,6	2,2	0,3	100,0
	Both	3 291	27,2	30,2	40,4	2,1	0,2	100,0
NW	Male	813	39,8	35,9	22,0	2,2	..	100,0
	Female	576	18,9	31,7	47,2	2,1	..	100,0
	Both	1 390	31,1	34,2	32,5	2,2	..	100,0
GP	Male	3 668	31,5	49,0	17,7	1,7	0,1	100,0
	Female	2 111	23,4	36,7	37,6	1,9	0,5	100,0
	Both	5 779	28,5	44,5	25,0	1,8	0,2	100,0
MP	Male	843	34,7	38,7	24,3	1,9	0,4	100,0
	Female	650	13,1	33,2	52,4	1,3	..	100,0
	Both	1 493	25,3	36,3	36,5	1,7	0,2	100,0
LP	Male	939	37,7	34,3	26,2	1,7	0,1	100,0
	Female	834	17,8	33,6	47,3	1,0	0,3	100,0
	Both	1 774	28,3	34,0	36,1	1,4	0,2	100,0
RSA	Male	10 963	31,6	43,8	22,4	2,0	0,1	100,0
	Female	8 040	19,4	32,3	45,8	2,2	0,3	100,0
	Both	19 002	26,5	38,9	32,3	2,1	0,2	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Only households headed by a person of age 15 years or older are included

Table 3.2.6 - Distribution of households by geographic location, sex and household composition, 2023

Geographic location and sex		N ('000)	Percent					
		Total	Single	Nuclear	Extended	Complex	Unspecified	Total
Metro	Male	5 322	28,8	50,6	18,7	1,9	0,1	100,0
	Female	3 396	23,7	34,2	39,7	2,2	0,3	100,0
	Both	8 718	26,8	44,2	26,9	2,0	0,2	100,0
Non-metro	Male	5 640	34,3	37,5	25,8	2,2	0,2	100,0
	Female	4 644	16,4	30,9	50,3	2,2	0,3	100,0
	Both	10 284	26,2	34,5	36,9	2,2	0,2	100,0
RSA	Male	10 963	31,6	43,8	22,4	2,0	0,1	100,0
	Female	8 040	19,4	32,3	45,8	2,2	0,3	100,0
	Both	19 002	26,5	38,9	32,3	2,1	0,2	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Only households headed by a person of age 15 years or older are included

Table 3.2.7 - Distribution of households by population group, sex and household composition, 2023

Population group and sex		N ('000)	Percent					
		Total	Single	Nuclear	Extended	Complex	Unspecified	Total
Black African	Male	8 905	36,8	38,1	23,1	1,9	0,1	100,0
	Female	6 829	18,3	31,3	48,4	1,8	0,3	100,0
	Both	15 735	28,7	35,1	34,1	1,8	0,2	100,0
Coloured	Male	700	8,3	59,9	27,5	4,3	0,1	100,0
	Female	577	10,7	38,7	44,1	5,9	0,6	100,0
	Both	1 277	9,4	50,3	35,0	5,0	0,3	100,0
Indian/ Asian	Male	310	10,8	60,3	27,3	1,6	..	100,0
	Female	134	35,0	33,0	28,9	3,0	..	100,0
	Both	444	18,1	52,1	27,8	2,0	..	100,0
White	Male	1 047	9,8	77,1	10,9	2,2	..	100,0
	Female	499	41,2	38,2	16,6	3,9	..	100,0
	Both	1 546	20,0	64,5	12,8	2,7	..	100,0
Total	Male	10 963	31,6	43,8	22,4	2,0	0,1	100,0
	Female	8 040	19,4	32,3	45,8	2,2	0,3	100,0
	Both	19 002	26,5	38,9	32,3	2,1	0,2	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Only households headed by a person of age 15 years or older are included

Table 3.2.8 - Distribution of households by age group, sex and household composition, 2023

Age group and sex		N ('000)	Percent					
		Total	Single	Nuclear	Extended	Complex	Unspecified	Total
15–24 years	Male	549	65,1	9,6	21,7	3,5	0,2	100,0
	Female	333	43,8	13,4	29,3	13,1	0,5	100,0
	Both	882	57,1	11,0	24,5	7,1	0,3	100,0
25–34 years	Male	2 435	44,2	35,5	17,8	2,5	0,1	100,0
	Female	1 344	27,3	38,5	31,4	2,8	..	100,0
	Both	3 780	38,2	36,5	22,6	2,6	0,0	100,0
35–44 years	Male	3 040	32,5	50,6	14,6	2,1	0,2	100,0
	Female	1 883	17,5	48,0	32,6	1,7	0,3	100,0
	Both	4 923	26,7	49,6	21,5	1,9	0,2	100,0
45–54 years	Male	2 332	24,0	53,4	21,0	1,6	0,1	100,0
	Female	1 689	13,8	40,2	44,3	1,1	0,6	100,0
	Both	4 021	19,7	47,9	30,8	1,4	0,3	100,0
55–64 years	Male	1 517	20,1	44,4	33,8	1,7	0,0	100,0
	Female	1 346	14,7	19,6	63,9	1,6	0,2	100,0
	Both	2 862	17,5	32,8	47,9	1,6	0,1	100,0
65+ years	Male	1 089	16,8	39,6	41,9	1,6	0,2	100,0
	Female	1 444	20,2	12,7	65,2	1,7	0,2	100,0
	Both	2 534	18,7	24,2	55,2	1,7	0,2	100,0
Total	Male	10 963	31,6	43,8	22,4	2,0	0,1	100,0
	Female	8 040	19,4	32,3	45,8	2,2	0,3	100,0
	Both	19 002	26,5	38,9	32,3	2,1	0,2	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Only households headed by a person of age 15 years or older are included

Table 3.2.9 - Male and female-headed households across intergenerational household type by province and sex, 2023

Province and sex		N ('000)	Percent					Total
		Total	Single generation	Double generation	Triple generation	Skip generation	Other	
WC	Male	1 279	41,6	48,9	5,9	1,2	2,5	100,0
	Female	857	28,0	49,5	16,4	3,0	3,0	100,0
	Both	2 136	36,1	49,1	10,1	1,9	2,7	100,0
EC	Male	902	52,4	28,1	11,5	3,6	4,5	100,0
	Female	858	22,9	38,6	24,2	10,8	3,5	100,0
	Both	1 760	38,0	33,2	17,7	7,1	4,0	100,0
NC	Male	216	45,3	36,5	11,2	3,2	3,7	100,0
	Female	164	18,6	49,5	22,0	6,3	3,5	100,0
	Both	380	33,8	42,1	15,9	4,6	3,6	100,0
FS	Male	554	47,2	39,5	6,7	3,0	3,6	100,0
	Female	446	19,8	46,4	21,5	9,4	2,9	100,0
	Both	999	34,9	42,6	13,3	5,8	3,3	100,0
KZN	Male	1 749	52,6	32,0	8,8	2,9	3,7	100,0
	Female	1 542	24,4	38,3	27,1	7,1	3,0	100,0
	Both	3 291	39,4	35,0	17,4	4,9	3,4	100,0
NW	Male	813	57,0	29,2	7,0	3,1	3,7	100,0
	Female	576	22,0	44,0	23,5	7,2	3,3	100,0
	Both	1 390	42,5	35,3	13,8	4,8	3,6	100,0
GP	Male	3 668	51,7	38,7	5,5	1,1	3,0	100,0
	Female	2 111	29,1	45,5	18,2	4,6	2,7	100,0
	Both	5 779	43,4	41,2	10,1	2,4	2,9	100,0
MP	Male	843	52,7	32,7	8,9	2,0	3,7	100,0
	Female	650	17,1	43,4	28,0	8,3	3,3	100,0
	Both	1 493	37,2	37,4	17,2	4,7	3,5	100,0
LP	Male	939	50,3	31,5	11,4	3,6	3,2	100,0
	Female	834	20,6	43,5	23,6	10,0	2,3	100,0
	Both	1 774	36,3	37,2	17,1	6,6	2,8	100,0
RSA	Male	10 963	50,7	36,2	7,6	2,2	3,4	100,0
	Female	8 040	24,3	43,5	22,3	6,9	3,0	100,0
	Both	19 002	39,5	39,2	13,8	4,2	3,2	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Only households headed by a person of age 15 years or older are included

Other include unspecified cases

Table 3.2.10 - Male and female-headed households across intergenerational household type by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location and sex		N ('000)	Percent					Total
		Total	Single generation	Double generation	Triple generation	Skip generation	Other	
Metro	Male	5 322	49,5	41,2	5,7	1,2	2,6	100,0
	Female	3 396	29,9	44,8	18,8	4,0	2,5	100,0
	Both	8 718	41,8	42,6	10,8	2,3	2,5	100,0
Non-metro	Male	5 640	51,9	31,5	9,5	3,1	4,1	100,0
	Female	4 644	20,2	42,5	25,0	9,0	3,3	100,0
	Both	10 284	37,6	36,4	16,5	5,8	3,8	100,0
RSA	Male	10 963	50,7	36,2	7,6	2,2	3,4	100,0
	Female	8 040	24,3	43,5	22,3	6,9	3,0	100,0
	Both	19 002	39,5	39,2	13,8	4,2	3,2	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Only households headed by a person of age 15 years or older are included

Other include unspecified cases

Table 3.2.11 - Male and female-headed households across intergenerational household type by population group and sex, 2023

Population group and sex		N ('000)	Percent					Total
		Total	Single generation	Double generation	Triple generation	Skip generation	Other	
Black African	Male	8 905	53,3	32,8	7,8	2,3	3,7	100,0
	Female	6 829	22,5	43,1	23,9	7,7	2,9	100,0
	Both	15 735	39,9	37,3	14,8	4,7	3,4	100,0
Coloured	Male	700	26,7	54,9	13,8	2,6	2,0	100,0
	Female	577	17,6	52,5	22,2	4,1	3,6	100,0
	Both	1 277	22,6	53,8	17,6	3,3	2,7	100,0
Indian/ Asian	Male	310	31,7	59,6	4,7	0,9	3,0	100,0
	Female	134	41,4	42,8	13,4	1,1	1,3	100,0
	Both	444	34,6	54,6	7,3	1,0	2,5	100,0
White	Male	1 047	50,2	45,3	2,5	0,6	1,5	100,0
	Female	499	52,9	38,2	4,0	1,3	3,6	100,0
	Both	1 546	51,1	43,0	2,9	0,8	2,1	100,0
Total	Male	10 963	50,7	36,2	7,6	2,2	3,4	100,0
	Female	8 040	24,3	43,5	22,3	6,9	3,0	100,0
	Both	19 002	39,5	39,2	13,8	4,2	3,2	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Only households headed by a person of age 15 years or older are included

Other include unspecified cases

Table 3.2.12 - Male and female-headed households across intergenerational household type by age group and sex, 2023

Age group and sex		N ('000)	Percent					Total
		Total	Single generation	Double generation	Triple generation	Skip generation	Other	
15–24 years	Male	549	82,9	4,9	..	0,2	12,0	100,0
	Female	333	60,3	22,9	..	0,4	16,4	100,0
	Both	882	74,4	11,7	..	0,2	13,6	100,0
25–34 years	Male	2 435	67,5	27,2	..	0,3	5,0	100,0
	Female	1 344	36,9	58,9	0,8	0,1	3,4	100,0
	Both	3 780	56,6	38,5	0,3	0,2	4,4	100,0
35–44 years	Male	3 040	48,4	46,4	1,5	0,7	3,1	100,0
	Female	1 883	22,6	66,9	8,1	0,6	1,8	100,0
	Both	4 923	38,5	54,2	4,0	0,6	2,6	100,0
45–54 years	Male	2 332	38,7	50,6	7,4	1,1	2,2	100,0
	Female	1 689	16,5	50,7	27,1	3,1	2,7	100,0
	Both	4 021	29,4	50,6	15,6	2,0	2,4	100,0
55–64 years	Male	1 517	40,0	32,5	21,6	4,5	1,4	100,0
	Female	1 346	17,4	22,8	45,0	12,7	2,1	100,0
	Both	2 862	29,3	27,9	32,6	8,4	1,8	100,0
65+ years	Male	1 089	44,1	17,6	26,5	10,5	1,3	100,0
	Female	1 444	22,3	14,1	39,5	22,0	2,1	100,0
	Both	2 534	31,7	15,6	33,9	17,1	1,7	100,0
Total	Male	10 963	50,7	36,2	7,6	2,2	3,4	100,0
	Female	8 040	24,3	43,5	22,3	6,9	3,0	100,0
	Both	19 002	39,5	39,2	13,8	4,2	3,2	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Only households headed by a person of age 15 years or older are included

Other include unspecified cases

Table 3.2.13 - Mean household size by gender of the household head by province, 2023

Province	Male	Female	Both
WC	3,2	3,3	3,2
EC	3,1	3,6	3,4
NC	3,3	3,9	3,6
FS	2,9	3,3	3,1
KZN	3,1	4,1	3,5
NW	2,7	3,5	3,0
GP	2,8	3,2	2,9
MP	2,9	3,9	3,4
LP	3,0	3,7	3,3
RSA	2,9	3,6	3,2

Source: GHS 2023

Only households headed by a person of age 15 years or older are included

Table 3.2.14 - Mean household size by gender of the household head by geographic location, 2023

Geographic location	Male	Female	Both
Metro	2,9	3,3	3,0
Non-metro	3,0	3,8	3,3
RSA	2,9	3,6	3,2

Source: GHS 2023

Only households headed by a person of age 15 years or older are included

Table 3.2.15 - Mean household size by gender of the household head by population group, 2023

Population group	Male	Female	Both
Black African	2,9	3,7	3,2
Coloured	3,9	3,8	3,8
Indian/ Asian	3,4	2,5	3,1
White	2,8	2,1	2,6
Total	2,9	3,6	3,2

Source: GHS 2023

Only households headed by a person of age 15 years or older are included

Table 3.2.16 - Mean household size by gender of the household head by age group, 2023

Age group	Male	Female	Both
15–24 years	1,5	2,1	1,8
25–34 years	2,2	2,9	2,4
35–44 years	2,9	3,5	3,1
45–54 years	3,3	3,7	3,5
55–64 years	3,6	4,1	3,9
65+ years	3,6	3,9	3,8
Total	2,9	3,6	3,2

Source: GHS 2023

Only households headed by a person of age 15 years or older are included

3.3 Women: Income, poverty, economic activity and social grants

Table 3.3.1 - Dependency ratios by province and sex of the household head, 2023

Province and sex		Total dependency ratio	Old-age dependency ratio	Child dependency ratio	Mean proportion of children per household
WC	Male	0,4	0,1	0,3	0,2
	Female	0,5	0,1	0,4	0,2
	Both	0,5	0,1	0,4	0,2
EC	Male	0,5	0,1	0,4	0,2
	Female	0,9	0,2	0,7	0,3
	Both	0,7	0,1	0,5	0,2
NC	Male	0,5	0,1	0,4	0,2
	Female	0,7	0,1	0,6	0,3
	Both	0,6	0,1	0,5	0,2
FS	Male	0,4	0,1	0,3	0,1
	Female	0,7	0,1	0,6	0,3
	Both	0,5	0,1	0,4	0,2
KZN	Male	0,4	0,1	0,3	0,1
	Female	0,7	0,1	0,6	0,3
	Both	0,5	0,1	0,4	0,2
NW	Male	0,4	0,1	0,3	0,1
	Female	0,8	0,2	0,6	0,3
	Both	0,6	0,1	0,4	0,2
GP	Male	0,3	0,1	0,3	0,1
	Female	0,6	0,1	0,5	0,2
	Both	0,4	0,1	0,4	0,2
MP	Male	0,4	0,1	0,3	0,1
	Female	0,9	0,1	0,7	0,3
	Both	0,6	0,1	0,5	0,2
LP	Male	0,5	0,1	0,4	0,2
	Female	0,9	0,2	0,7	0,3
	Both	0,7	0,1	0,6	0,2
RSA	Male	0,4	0,1	0,3	0,1
	Female	0,7	0,1	0,6	0,3
	Both	0,5	0,1	0,4	0,2

Source: GHS 2023

Table 3.3.2 - Dependency ratios by geographic location and sex of the household head, 2023

Geographic location and sex		Total dependency ratio	Old-age dependency ratio	Child dependency ratio	Mean proportion of children per household
Metro	Male	0,3	0,1	0,3	0,1
	Female	0,6	0,1	0,5	0,2
	Both	0,4	0,1	0,3	0,2
Non-metro	Male	0,4	0,1	0,3	0,2
	Female	0,8	0,1	0,7	0,3
	Both	0,6	0,1	0,5	0,2
RSA	Male	0,4	0,1	0,3	0,1
	Female	0,7	0,1	0,6	0,3
	Both	0,5	0,1	0,4	0,2

Source: GHS 2023

Table 3.3.3 - Households without an employed household member by province and sex of household head, 2023

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without		
WC	205	1 279	237	857	442	2 136	16,0	27,6	20,7
EC	330	902	419	859	749	1 761	36,6	48,8	42,5
NC	58	216	62	164	121	380	27,0	38,0	31,7
FS	174	554	224	446	399	999	31,5	50,3	39,9
KZN	414	1 749	548	1 543	962	3 292	23,6	35,5	29,2
NW	241	813	285	576	526	1 390	29,6	49,4	37,8
GP	629	3 668	631	2 111	1 260	5 779	17,1	29,9	21,8
MP	216	843	267	650	483	1 493	25,6	41,1	32,3
LP	317	940	432	834	749	1 775	33,7	51,8	42,2
RSA	2 584	10 963	3 105	8 042	5 689	19 005	23,6	38,6	29,9

Source: GHS 2023

Table 3.3.4 - Households without an employed household member by geographic location and sex of household head, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without		
Metro	920	5 322	956	3 396	1 876	8 718	17,3	28,2	21,5
Non-metro	1 664	5 641	2 149	4 646	3 813	10 287	29,5	46,2	37,1
RSA	2 584	10 963	3 105	8 042	5 689	19 005	23,6	38,6	29,9

Source: GHS 2023

Table 3.3.5 - Households without an employed household member by population group and sex of household head, 2023

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without		
Black African	2 215	8 906	2 735	6 832	4 950	15 738	24,9	40,0	31,5
Coloured	131	700	183	577	314	1 277	18,7	31,7	24,6
Indian/ Asian	40	310	27	134	67	444	12,8	20,3	15,1
White	198	1 047	160	499	358	1 546	18,9	32,1	23,2
RSA	2 584	10 963	3 105	8 042	5 689	19 005	23,6	38,6	29,9

Source: GHS 2023

Table 3.3.6 – Distribution of employed persons who are employers as a proportion of the overall employed by province and sex, 2023

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Employer	Total	Employer	Total	Employer	Total	Employer		
WC	89	1 504	27	1 230	117	2 734	5,9	2,2	4,3
EC	33	732	11	726	44	1 459	4,5	1,5	3,0
NC	7	185	4	143	12	328	4,0	3,1	3,6
FS	19	422	4	305	23	727	4,6	1,2	3,2
KZN	96	1 493	31	1 301	127	2 794	6,5	2,3	4,5
NW	22	604	8	338	31	942	3,7	2,5	3,3
GP	156	2 797	58	2 222	214	5 019	5,6	2,6	4,3
MP	40	645	19	558	59	1 202	6,2	3,4	4,9
LP	58	853	23	686	81	1 539	6,8	3,3	5,3
RSA	523	9 236	184	7 509	707	16 745	5,7	2,5	4,2

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 3.3.7 - Distribution of employed persons who are employers as a proportion of the overall employed by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Employer	Total	Employer	Total	Employer	Total	Employer		
Metro	257	4 524	86	3 706	344	8 229	5,7	2,3	4,2
Non-metro	265	4 712	98	3 803	363	8 515	5,6	2,6	4,3
RSA	523	9 236	184	7 509	707	16 745	5,7	2,5	4,2

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 3.3.8 - Distribution of employed persons who are employers as a proportion of the overall employed by population group and sex, 2023

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Employer	Total	Employer	Total	Employer	Total	Employer		
Black African	310	7 004	117	5 699	427	12 703	4,4	2,1	3,4
Coloured	32	909	4	821	36	1 729	3,5	0,5	2,1
Indian/ Asian	49	359	4	194	53	553	13,5	2,3	9,6
White	132	964	58	796	191	1 760	13,7	7,3	10,8
Total	523	9 236	184	7 509	707	16 745	5,7	2,5	4,2

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 3.3.9 - Distribution of employed persons who are employers as a proportion of the overall employed by age group and sex, 2023

Age group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Employer	Total	Employer	Total	Employer	Total	Employer		
15–34 years	105	3 375	49	2 585	154	5 961	3,1	1,9	2,6
35–64 years	418	5 860	136	4 924	553	10 784	7,1	2,8	5,1
Total	523	9 236	184	7 509	707	16 745	5,7	2,5	4,2

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 3.3.10 - Distribution of employed persons who are own-account workers as a proportion of the employed by province and sex, 2023

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Own-account	Total	Own-account	Total	Own-account	Total	Own-account		
WC	104	1 504	65	1 230	169	2 734	6,9	5,3	6,2
EC	63	732	68	726	131	1 459	8,6	9,4	9,0
NC	5	185	2	143	7	328	2,4	1,5	2,0
FS	46	422	39	305	86	727	11,0	12,9	11,8
KZN	140	1 493	124	1 301	265	2 794	9,4	9,6	9,5
NW	54	604	21	338	74	942	8,9	6,1	7,9
GP	292	2 797	221	2 222	513	5 019	10,5	9,9	10,2
MP	79	645	97	558	176	1 202	12,3	17,5	14,7
LP	141	853	91	686	232	1 539	16,5	13,2	15,1
RSA	924	9 236	728	7 509	1 653	16 745	10,0	9,7	9,9

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 3.3.11 - Distribution of employed persons who are own-account workers as a proportion of the employed by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Own-account	Total	Own-account	Total	Own-account	Total	Own-account		
Metro	462	4 524	341	3 706	802	8 229	10,2	9,2	9,8
Non-metro	462	4 712	388	3 803	850	8 515	9,8	10,2	10,0
RSA	924	9 236	728	7 509	1 653	16 745	10,0	9,7	9,9

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 3.3.12 - Distribution of employed persons who are own-account workers as a proportion of the employed by population group and sex, 2023

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Own-account	Total	Own-account	Total	Own-account	Total	Own-account		
Black African	786	7 004	621	5 699	1 407	12 703	11,2	10,9	11,1
Coloured	43	909	19	821	62	1 729	4,7	2,4	3,6
Indian/ Asian	31	359	11	194	42	553	8,7	5,6	7,6
White	64	964	78	796	142	1 760	6,6	9,8	8,0
Total	924	9 236	728	7 509	1 653	16 745	10,0	9,7	9,9

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 3.3.13 - Distribution of employed persons who are own-account workers as a proportion of the employed by age group and sex, 2023

Age group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Own-account	Total	Own-account	Total	Own-account	Total	Own-account		
15-34 years	275	3 375	193	2 585	468	5 961	8,2	7,4	7,9
35-64 years	649	5 860	536	4 924	1 185	10 784	11,1	10,9	11,0
Total	924	9 236	728	7 509	1 653	16 745	10,0	9,7	9,9

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 3.3.14 - Employed persons who are working as contributing family members as a proportion of the employed by province and sex, 2023

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Contributing member	Total	Contributing member	Total	Contributing member	Total	Contributing member		
WC	1	1 504	5	1 230	7	2 734	0,1	0,4	0,2
EC	6	732	6	726	12	1 459	0,9	0,8	0,9
NC	..	185	1	143	1	328	..	0,5	0,2
FS	4	422	6	305	10	727	0,9	1,9	1,3
KZN	8	1 493	3	1 301	12	2 794	0,6	0,3	0,4
NW	4	604	2	338	6	942	0,7	0,5	0,6
GP	7	2 797	10	2 222	17	5 019	0,2	0,5	0,3
MP	3	645	6	558	9	1 202	0,5	1,1	0,8
LP	2	853	3	686	5	1 539	0,2	0,4	0,3
RSA	36	9 236	42	7 509	78	16 745	0,4	0,6	0,5

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 3.3.15 - Employed persons who are working as contributing family members as a proportion of the employed by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Contributing member	Total	Contributing member	Total	Contributing member	Total	Contributing member		
Metro	12	4 524	19	3 706	31	8 229	0,3	0,5	0,4
Non-metro	24	4 712	23	3 803	47	8 515	0,5	0,6	0,6
RSA	36	9 236	42	7 509	78	16 745	0,4	0,6	0,5

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 3.3.16 - Employed persons who are working as contributing family members as a proportion of the employed by population group and sex, 2023

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Contributing member	Total	Contributing member	Total	Contributing member	Total	Contributing member		
Black African	30	7 004	33	5 699	63	12 703	0,4	0,6	0,5
Coloured	..	909	4	821	4	1 729	..	0,4	0,2
Indian/Asian	2	359	2	194	3	553	0,4	0,8	0,6
White	4	964	4	796	9	1 760	0,5	0,5	0,5
Total	36	9 236	42	7 509	78	16 745	0,4	0,6	0,5

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 3.3.17 - Employed persons who are working as contributing family members as a proportion of the employed by age group and sex, 2023

Age group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Contributing member	Total	Contributing member	Total	Contributing member	Total	Contributing member		
15–34 years	23	3 375	16	2 585	40	5 961	0,7	0,6	0,7
35–64 years	13	5 860	26	4 924	38	10 784	0,2	0,5	0,4
Total	36	9 236	42	7 509	78	16 745	0,4	0,6	0,5

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 3.3.18 - Distribution of employed persons by province, sex and working sector, 2023

Province and sex		N ('000)	Percent				
		Total	Formal	Informal	Agriculture	Domestic worker	Total
WC	Male	1 504	71,7	16,0	9,9	2,5	100,0
	Female	1 230	72,7	9,8	7,3	10,2	100,0
	Both	2 734	72,1	13,2	8,7	6,0	100,0
EC	Male	732	58,6	23,7	13,7	3,9	100,0
	Female	726	65,8	18,7	4,9	10,5	100,0
	Both	1 459	62,2	21,2	9,3	7,2	100,0
NC	Male	185	64,3	8,2	24,0	3,4	100,0
	Female	143	73,1	8,0	5,4	13,6	100,0
	Both	328	68,1	8,1	15,9	7,8	100,0
FS	Male	422	59,8	21,1	13,1	5,9	100,0
	Female	305	61,5	22,3	3,0	13,2	100,0
	Both	727	60,5	21,6	8,9	9,0	100,0
KZN	Male	1 493	69,5	21,6	6,8	2,2	100,0
	Female	1 301	68,4	14,6	3,7	13,3	100,0
	Both	2 794	69,0	18,3	5,4	7,3	100,0
NW	Male	604	71,1	17,6	7,5	3,8	100,0
	Female	338	75,7	10,9	1,7	11,8	100,0
	Both	942	72,7	15,2	5,4	6,7	100,0
GP	Male	2 797	80,0	16,5	0,9	2,6	100,0
	Female	2 222	75,9	13,5	0,6	10,1	100,0
	Both	5 019	78,2	15,2	0,8	5,9	100,0
MP	Male	645	60,8	27,5	8,9	2,8	100,0
	Female	558	52,0	29,0	5,3	13,7	100,0
	Both	1 202	56,7	28,2	7,2	7,9	100,0
LP	Male	853	54,9	34,4	9,0	1,8	100,0
	Female	686	56,5	22,7	9,0	11,8	100,0
	Both	1 539	55,6	29,2	9,0	6,3	100,0
RSA	Male	9 236	69,8	20,3	7,1	2,8	100,0
	Female	7 509	68,9	15,7	4,0	11,4	100,0
	Both	16 745	69,4	18,3	5,7	6,7	100,0

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 3.3.19 - Distribution of employed persons by geographic location, sex and working sector, 2023

Geographic location and sex		N ('000)	Percent				
		Total	Formal	Informal	Agriculture	Domestic worker	Total
Metro	Male	4 524	79,6	17,0	1,0	2,4	100,0
	Female	3 706	76,7	12,1	0,7	10,5	100,0
	Both	8 229	78,3	14,8	0,8	6,1	100,0
Non-metro	Male	4 712	60,3	23,5	13,0	3,2	100,0
	Female	3 803	61,3	19,2	7,2	12,3	100,0
	Both	8 515	60,8	21,6	10,4	7,2	100,0
RSA	Male	9 236	69,8	20,3	7,1	2,8	100,0
	Female	7 509	68,9	15,7	4,0	11,4	100,0
	Both	16 745	69,4	18,3	5,7	6,7	100,0

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 3.3.20 - Distribution of employed persons by population group, sex and working sector, 2023

Population group and sex		N ('000)	Percent				
		Total	Formal	Informal	Agriculture	Domestic worker	Total
Black African	Male	7 004	65,9	23,6	7,1	3,4	100,0
	Female	5 699	64,4	17,9	3,7	13,9	100,0
	Both	12 703	65,3	21,0	5,6	8,1	100,0
Coloured	Male	909	72,5	11,9	13,8	1,8	100,0
	Female	821	75,3	8,4	9,2	7,2	100,0
	Both	1 729	73,8	10,2	11,6	4,4	100,0
Indian/ Asian	Male	359	81,1	18,5	0,4	..	100,0
	Female	194	87,6	10,6	0,5	1,3	100,0
	Both	553	83,4	15,7	0,4	0,5	100,0
White	Male	964	90,8	5,6	3,5	0,2	100,0
	Female	796	89,7	8,9	1,2	0,2	100,0
	Both	1 760	90,3	7,1	2,4	0,2	100,0
Total	Male	9 236	69,8	20,3	7,1	2,8	100,0
	Female	7 509	68,9	15,7	4,0	11,4	100,0
	Both	16 745	69,4	18,3	5,7	6,7	100,0

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 3.3.21 - Distribution of employed persons by age group, sex and working sector, 2023

Age group and sex		N ('000)	Percent				
		Total	Formal	Informal	Agriculture	Domestic worker	Total
15–34 years	Male	3 375	68,3	21,2	8,3	2,2	100,0
	Female	2 585	72,6	17,0	4,0	6,4	100,0
	Both	5 961	70,2	19,4	6,4	4,0	100,0
35–64 years	Male	5 860	70,6	19,8	6,4	3,2	100,0
	Female	4 924	66,9	15,0	4,0	14,0	100,0
	Both	10 784	68,9	17,6	5,3	8,1	100,0
Total	Male	9 236	69,8	20,3	7,1	2,8	100,0
	Female	7 509	68,9	15,7	4,0	11,4	100,0
	Both	16 745	69,4	18,3	5,7	6,7	100,0

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 3.3.22 - Labour force participation rates for females aged 15–64 by province and age group, 2023

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	15–34 years		35–64 years		Total		15–34 years	35–64 years	Total
	Participated	Total	Participated	Total	Participated	Total	Participated		
WC	669	1 157	906	1 369	1 575	2 526	57,8	66,2	62,4
EC	523	1 200	630	1 083	1 153	2 282	43,6	58,1	50,5
NC	80	214	115	209	195	423	37,5	54,9	46,1
FS	222	495	313	490	536	985	44,8	64,0	54,4
KZN	878	2 109	1 015	1 818	1 892	3 926	41,6	55,8	48,2
NW	267	658	361	676	628	1 333	40,6	53,4	47,1
GP	1 374	2 560	2 090	2 918	3 464	5 477	53,7	71,6	63,2
MP	399	849	480	749	878	1 598	47,0	64,0	55,0
LP	453	1 072	602	977	1 054	2 049	42,2	61,6	51,4
RSA	4 865	10 312	6 510	10 287	11 375	20 599	47,2	63,3	55,2

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 3.3.23 - Labour force participation rates for females aged 15–64 by geographic location and age group, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)						Percent		
	15–34 years		35–64 years		Total		15–34 years	35–64 years	Total
	Participated	Total	Participated	Total	Participated	Total	Participated		
Metro	2 150	4 052	3 222	4 707	5 372	8 759	53,1	68,5	61,3
Non-metro	2 715	6 260	3 288	5 580	6 003	11 840	43,4	58,9	50,7
RSA	4 865	10 312	6 510	10 287	11 375	20 599	47,2	63,3	55,2

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 3.3.24 - Labour force participation rates for females aged 15–64 by population group and age group, 2023

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	15–34 years		35–64 years		Total		15–34 years	35–64 years	Total
	Participated	Total	Participated	Total	Participated	Total	Participated		
Black African	4 044	8 731	5 213	8 117	9 257	16 848	46,3	64,2	54,9
Coloured	452	850	572	999	1 024	1 849	53,2	57,2	55,4
Indian/Asian	87	208	142	292	229	500	41,9	48,5	45,7
White	282	523	584	879	865	1 402	53,8	66,4	61,7
Total	4 865	10 312	6 510	10 287	11 375	20 599	47,2	63,3	55,2

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 3.3.25 - Female unemployment rate by province and age group, 2023

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	15–34 years		35–64 years		Total		15–34 years	35–64 years	Total
	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed		
WC	205	669	140	906	345	1 575	30,7	15,5	21,9
EC	270	523	156	630	426	1 153	51,7	24,8	37,0
NC	31	80	21	115	52	195	38,6	18,1	26,5
FS	132	222	99	313	231	536	59,2	31,7	43,1
KZN	394	878	197	1 015	592	1 892	44,9	19,5	31,3
NW	156	267	134	361	291	628	58,5	37,2	46,3
GP	675	1 374	567	2 090	1 242	3 464	49,1	27,1	35,8
MP	194	399	127	480	320	878	48,6	26,4	36,5
LP	223	453	145	602	368	1 054	49,3	24,1	34,9
RSA	2 280	4 865	1 587	6 510	3 867	11 375	46,9	24,4	34,0

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 3.3.26 - Female unemployment rate by geographic location and age group, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)						Percent		
	15–34 years		35–64 years		Total		15–34 years	35–64 years	Total
	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed		
Metro	926	2 150	740	3 222	1 666	5 372	43,1	23,0	31,0
Non-metro	1 354	2 715	846	3 288	2 200	6 003	49,9	25,7	36,7
RSA	2 280	4 865	1 587	6 510	3 867	11 375	46,9	24,4	34,0

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 3.3.27 - Female unemployment rate by population group and age group, 2023

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	15–34 years		35–64 years		Total		15–34 years	35–64 years	Total
	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed		
Black African	2 099	4 044	1 459	5 213	3 558	9 257	51,9	28,0	38,4
Coloured	119	452	84	572	204	1 024	26,3	14,8	19,9
Indian/ Asian	20	87	15	142	35	229	23,2	10,5	15,3
White	42	282	28	584	70	865	14,9	4,8	8,1
Total	2 280	4 865	1 587	6 510	3 867	11 375	46,9	24,4	34,0

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 3.3.28 - Female absorption rate by province and age group, 2023

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	15–34 years		35–64 years		Total		15–34 years	35–64 years	Total
	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed		
WC	464	1 157	766	1 369	1 230	2 526	40,1	55,9	48,7
EC	253	1 200	473	1 083	726	2 282	21,1	43,7	31,8
NC	49	214	94	209	143	423	23,0	44,9	33,8
FS	91	495	214	490	305	985	18,3	43,7	30,9
KZN	484	2 109	817	1 818	1 301	3 926	22,9	45,0	33,1
NW	111	658	227	676	338	1 333	16,8	33,6	25,3
GP	700	2 560	1 523	2 918	2 222	5 477	27,3	52,2	40,6
MP	205	849	353	749	558	1 598	24,1	47,1	34,9
LP	229	1 072	457	977	686	2 049	21,4	46,8	33,5
RSA	2 585	10 312	4 924	10 287	7 509	20 599	25,1	47,9	36,5

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 3.3.29 - Female absorption rate by metro and age group, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)						Percent		
	15–34 years		35–64 years		Total		15–34 years	35–64 years	Total
	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed		
Metro	1 224	4 052	2 482	4 707	3 706	8 759	30,2	52,7	42,3
Non-metro	1 362	6 260	2 441	5 580	3 803	11 840	21,8	43,8	32,1
RSA	2 585	10 312	4 924	10 287	7 509	20 599	25,1	47,9	36,5

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 3.3.30 - Female absorption rate by population group and age group, 2023

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	15–34 years		35–64 years		Total		15–34 years	35–64 years	Total
	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed		
Black African	1 945	8 731	3 753	8 117	5 699	16 848	22,3	46,2	33,8
Coloured	333	850	487	999	821	1 849	39,2	48,8	44,4
Indian/Asian	67	208	127	292	194	500	32,1	43,4	38,7
White	240	523	556	879	796	1 402	45,8	63,3	56,8
RSA	2 585	10 312	4 924	10 287	7 509	20 599	25,1	47,9	36,5

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 3.3.31 - Female inactivity rate by province and age group, 2023

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	15–34 years		35–64 years		Total		15–34 years	35–64 years	Total
	Inactive	Total	Inactive	Total	Inactive	Total	Inactive		
WC	488	1 157	463	1 369	951	2 526	42,2	33,8	37,6
EC	676	1 200	453	1 083	1 129	2 282	56,4	41,9	49,5
NC	134	214	94	209	228	423	62,5	45,1	53,9
FS	273	495	176	490	449	985	55,2	36,0	45,6
KZN	1 231	2 109	803	1 818	2 034	3 926	58,4	44,2	51,8
NW	391	658	315	676	705	1 333	59,4	46,6	52,9
GP	1 185	2 560	828	2 918	2 013	5 477	46,3	28,4	36,8
MP	450	849	270	749	720	1 598	53,0	36,0	45,0
LP	619	1 072	375	977	995	2 049	57,8	38,4	48,6
RSA	5 447	10 312	3 777	10 287	9 224	20 599	52,8	36,7	44,8

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 3.3.32 - Female inactivity rate by geographic location and age group, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)						Percent		
	15–34 years		35–64 years		Total		15–34 years	35–64 years	Total
	Inactive	Total	Inactive	Total	Inactive	Total	Inactive		
Metro	1 902	4 052	1 485	4 707	3 387	8 759	46,9	31,5	38,7
Non-metro	3 545	6 260	2 292	5 580	5 837	11 840	56,6	41,1	49,3
RSA	5 447	10 312	3 777	10 287	9 224	20 599	52,8	36,7	44,8

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 3.3.33 - Female inactivity rate by population group and age group, 2023

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	15–34 years		35–64 years		Total		15–34 years	35–64 years	Total
	Inactive	Total	Inactive	Total	Inactive	Total	Inactive		
Black African	4 687	8 731	2 904	8 117	7 591	16 848	53,7	35,8	45,1
Coloured	397	850	427	999	825	1 849	46,8	42,8	44,6
Indian/ Asian	121	208	151	292	271	500	58,1	51,5	54,3
White	241	523	295	879	536	1 402	46,2	33,6	38,3
Total	5 447	10 312	3 777	10 287	9 224	20 599	52,8	36,7	44,8

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 3.3.34 - Sex parity ratios in income earnings by province, 2023

Province	R1– R1 500	R1 501– R2 500	R2 501– R3 500	R3 501– R5 500	R5 501– R7 500	R7 501– R11 500	R11 501+
WC	1,8	1,1	0,7	1,0	0,5	0,6	0,8
EC	1,5	1,1	0,7	1,0	0,6	0,7	1,1
NC	2,0	2,0	0,8	0,5	0,5	0,5	0,7
FS	1,3	0,9	0,9	0,4	0,7	0,4	0,7
KZN	1,8	1,5	0,8	0,8	0,6	0,6	0,8
NW	1,1	0,7	0,5	0,6	0,3	0,3	0,5
GP	0,9	0,8	1,1	1,0	0,5	0,7	0,8
MP	1,7	1,0	1,4	0,9	0,6	0,5	0,7
LP	1,1	1,2	0,9	0,8	0,8	0,3	0,7
RSA	1,4	1,1	0,9	0,8	0,5	0,6	0,8

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 3.3.35 - Sex parity ratios in income earnings by geographic location, 2023

Geographic location	R1– R1 500	R1 501– R2 500	R2 501– R3 500	R3 501– R5 500	R5 501– R7 500	R7 501– R11 500	R11 501+
Metro	1,2	1,0	1,0	0,9	0,5	0,7	0,8
Non-metro	1,4	1,1	0,8	0,8	0,6	0,5	0,7
RSA	1,4	1,1	0,9	0,8	0,5	0,6	0,8

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 3.3.36 - Sex parity ratios in income earnings by population group, 2023

Population group	R1– R1 500	R1 501– R2 500	R2 501– R3 500	R3 501– R5 500	R5 501– R7 500	R7 501– R11 500	R11 501+
Black African	1,3	1,1	0,9	0,8	0,5	0,6	0,7
Coloured	1,9	1,0	1,0	1,0	0,8	0,6	0,8
Indian/ Asian	0,3	0,3	0,3	0,6	0,5	0,3	0,6
White	1,1	3,2	1,0	1,7	1,0	0,7	0,8
Total	1,4	1,1	0,9	0,8	0,5	0,6	0,8

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

3.4 Women: Health

Table 3.4.1 - Persons with access to medical aid by province and sex, 2023

Province and sex		N ('000)	Percent			
		Total	Medical aid	No medical aid	Unspecified	Total
WC	Male	3 560	25,1	74,8	0,1	100,0
	Female	3 810	26,3	73,6	0,1	100,0
	Both	7 370	25,7	74,2	0,1	100,0
EC	Male	3 182	9,3	90,6	0,0	100,0
	Female	3 355	10,2	89,8	..	100,0
	Both	6 536	9,8	90,2	0,0	100,0
NC	Male	655	14,1	85,8	0,1	100,0
	Female	653	16,6	83,3	0,1	100,0
	Both	1 308	15,3	84,6	0,1	100,0
FS	Male	1 452	12,7	87,3	0,1	100,0
	Female	1 575	14,0	86,0	0,1	100,0
	Both	3 027	13,3	86,6	0,1	100,0
KZN	Male	5 722	10,0	89,7	0,4	100,0
	Female	6 238	10,8	89,0	0,3	100,0
	Both	11 960	10,4	89,3	0,3	100,0
NW	Male	2 078	14,6	85,0	0,3	100,0
	Female	2 188	12,4	87,5	0,0	100,0
	Both	4 266	13,5	86,3	0,2	100,0
GP	Male	8 496	21,6	78,3	0,1	100,0
	Female	8 148	23,2	76,6	0,2	100,0
	Both	16 644	22,4	77,5	0,1	100,0
MP	Male	2 415	10,4	89,5	0,1	100,0
	Female	2 523	10,4	89,4	0,1	100,0
	Both	4 938	10,4	89,5	0,1	100,0
LP	Male	2 960	9,6	90,3	0,2	100,0
	Female	3 273	9,5	90,4	0,1	100,0
	Both	6 233	9,5	90,3	0,1	100,0
RSA	Male	30 519	15,4	84,4	0,2	100,0
	Female	31 764	16,0	83,9	0,1	100,0
	Both	62 283	15,7	84,1	0,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 3.4.2 - Persons with access to medical aid by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location and sex		N ('000)	Percent			
		Total	Medical aid	No medical aid	Unspecified	Total
Metro	Male	12 984	22,5	77,3	0,1	100,0
	Female	13 202	24,4	75,4	0,2	100,0
	Both	26 185	23,5	76,4	0,2	100,0
Non-metro	Male	17 536	10,2	89,7	0,2	100,0
	Female	18 562	10,0	89,9	0,1	100,0
	Both	36 098	10,1	89,8	0,1	100,0
RSA	Male	30 519	15,4	84,4	0,2	100,0
	Female	31 764	16,0	83,9	0,1	100,0
	Both	62 283	15,7	84,1	0,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 3.4.3 - Persons with access to medical aid by population group and sex, 2023

Population group and sex		N ('000)	Percent			
		Total	Medical aid	No medical aid	Unspecified	Total
Black African	Male	25 049	9,6	90,3	0,1	100,0
	Female	26 066	10,0	89,9	0,1	100,0
	Both	51 115	9,8	90,1	0,1	100,0
Coloured	Male	2 574	19,7	80,2	0,1	100,0
	Female	2 732	19,5	80,4	0,1	100,0
	Both	5 306	19,6	80,3	0,1	100,0
Indian/ Asian	Male	794	39,3	60,0	0,7	100,0
	Female	739	43,5	55,5	1,0	100,0
	Both	1 534	41,3	57,8	0,9	100,0
White	Male	2 102	70,7	29,1	0,2	100,0
	Female	2 226	72,6	27,3	0,1	100,0
	Both	4 328	71,7	28,1	0,2	100,0
Total	Male	30 519	15,4	84,4	0,2	100,0
	Female	31 764	16,0	83,9	0,1	100,0
	Both	62 283	15,7	84,1	0,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

3.5 Women: Vulnerability to hunger

Table 3.5.1 - Households that reported hunger by province, 2023

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering		
WC	164	1 279	172	855	336	2 135	12,8	20,2	15,8
EC	83	898	81	856	164	1 754	9,2	9,4	9,3
NC	37	214	51	163	88	378	17,5	31,0	23,3
FS	69	549	57	444	126	993	12,5	12,9	12,7
KZN	312	1 749	367	1 541	679	3 290	17,8	23,8	20,6
NW	176	812	114	576	290	1 389	21,7	19,7	20,9
GP	324	3 653	204	2 102	528	5 755	8,9	9,7	9,2
MP	160	837	113	650	273	1 487	19,1	17,4	18,3
LP	42	935	42	832	83	1 767	4,5	5,0	4,7
RSA	1 366	10 927	1 200	8 020	2 566	18 947	12,5	15,0	13,5

Source: GHS 2023.

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 3.5.2 - Households that reported hunger by geographic location, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering		
Metro	525	5 308	457	3 383	982	8 691	9,9	13,5	11,3
Non-metro	841	5 619	744	4 637	1 584	10 257	15,0	16,0	15,4
RSA	1 366	10 927	1 200	8 020	2 566	18 947	12,5	15,0	13,5

Source: GHS 2023.

Excluding unspecified cases

3.6 Women: Education

Table 3.6.1 - Persons aged 20 and above who are functionally literate by province and sex, 2023

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Literate	Total	Literate	Total	Literate	Total	Literate		
WC	2 263	2 398	2 466	2 604	4 730	5 002	94,4	94,7	94,6
EC	1 541	1 830	1 710	1 994	3 251	3 824	84,2	85,7	85,0
NC	365	421	356	404	721	826	86,6	88,1	87,3
FS	785	894	880	1 007	1 665	1 902	87,8	87,4	87,6
KZN	2 952	3 283	3 451	3 938	6 403	7 220	89,9	87,6	88,7
NW	1 106	1 309	1 157	1 354	2 263	2 663	84,5	85,5	85,0
GP	5 597	5 821	5 315	5 582	10 912	11 403	96,2	95,2	95,7
MP	1 252	1 467	1 304	1 542	2 556	3 008	85,4	84,6	85,0
LP	1 402	1 597	1 601	1 893	3 002	3 490	87,8	84,6	86,0
RSA	17 264	19 021	18 240	20 317	35 504	39 338	90,8	89,8	90,3

Source: GHS 2023

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 3.6.2 - Persons aged 20 and above who are functionally literate by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Literate	Total	Literate	Total	Literate	Total	Literate	Literate	Literate
Metro	8 512	8 909	8 585	9 042	17 097	17 951	95,5	95,0	95,2
Non-metro	8 752	10 111	9 655	11 276	18 406	21 387	86,6	85,6	86,1
RSA	17 264	19 021	18 240	20 317	35 504	39 338	90,8	89,8	90,3

Source: GHS 2023

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 3.6.3 - Persons aged 20 and above who are functionally literate by population group and sex, 2023

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Literate	Total	Literate	Total	Literate	Total	Literate	Literate	Literate
Black African	13 550	15 157	14 287	16 184	27 838	31 340	89,4	88,3	88,8
Coloured	1 505	1 633	1 668	1 807	3 173	3 440	92,2	92,3	92,2
Indian/ Asian	586	600	522	555	1 108	1 154	97,7	94,2	96,0
White	1 623	1 632	1 762	1 772	3 385	3 403	99,4	99,5	99,4
Total	17 264	19 021	18 240	20 317	35 504	39 338	90,8	89,8	90,3

Source: GHS 2023

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 3.6.4 - Persons aged 20 and above who are functionally literate by age group and sex, 2023

Age group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Literate	Total	Literate	Total	Literate	Total	Literate	Literate	Literate
20–39 years	10 089	10 536	10 322	10 549	20 411	21 085	95,8	97,8	96,8
40–59 years	5 638	6 263	5 837	6 471	11 475	12 734	90,0	90,2	90,1
60+ years	1 537	2 222	2 081	3 297	3 618	5 519	69,2	63,1	65,6
Total	17 264	19 021	18 240	20 317	35 504	39 338	90,8	89,8	90,3

Source: GHS 2023

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 3.6.5 - Distribution of persons aged 25 years and above by province, sex and the highest level of education attained, 2023

Province and sex		N ('000)	Percent						Total
		Total	Less than matric	Matric	Other tertiary	Graduates	Other	Unspecified	
WC	Male	2 142	45,9	31,2	8,7	12,0	2,2	..	100,0
	Female	2 371	44,7	31,9	9,3	12,8	1,4	..	100,0
	Both	4 513	45,3	31,6	9,0	12,4	1,8	..	100,0
EC	Male	1 595	63,3	23,6	7,3	4,6	1,1	0,0	100,0
	Female	1 791	62,6	22,8	8,9	5,2	0,5	..	100,0
	Both	3 386	63,0	23,2	8,1	4,9	0,8	0,0	100,0
NC	Male	374	55,0	27,8	8,8	4,4	3,8	0,1	100,0
	Female	351	58,9	25,5	8,8	5,6	1,1	0,1	100,0
	Both	725	56,9	26,7	8,8	5,0	2,5	0,1	100,0
FS	Male	793	55,4	32,3	5,7	5,2	1,3	0,1	100,0
	Female	894	55,5	31,5	7,0	5,3	0,7	..	100,0
	Both	1 687	55,4	31,8	6,4	5,3	1,0	0,0	100,0
KZN	Male	2 844	48,8	36,5	6,2	6,9	1,6	..	100,0
	Female	3 440	50,0	34,5	6,3	7,7	1,4	..	100,0
	Both	6 284	49,5	35,4	6,3	7,3	1,5	..	100,0
NW	Male	1 127	59,9	26,2	5,9	4,8	3,2	..	100,0
	Female	1 191	57,5	27,6	8,7	4,9	1,3	..	100,0
	Both	2 317	58,6	26,9	7,3	4,9	2,2	..	100,0
GP	Male	5 144	38,7	37,5	8,9	10,8	4,1	..	100,0
	Female	4 918	38,6	36,7	10,3	11,8	2,6	0,0	100,0
	Both	10 062	38,6	37,1	9,6	11,3	3,4	0,0	100,0
MP	Male	1 262	54,6	32,0	7,4	4,6	1,4	..	100,0
	Female	1 333	52,6	32,6	9,0	4,6	1,2	..	100,0
	Both	2 596	53,6	32,3	8,2	4,6	1,3	..	100,0
LP	Male	1 373	57,1	26,5	9,8	5,2	1,3	..	100,0
	Female	1 641	59,2	24,6	9,4	5,4	1,4	..	100,0
	Both	3 014	58,2	25,5	9,6	5,3	1,3	..	100,0
RSA	Male	16 654	49,0	32,6	7,9	8,0	2,5	0,0	100,0
	Female	17 930	49,4	31,8	8,8	8,5	1,6	0,0	100,0
	Both	34 584	49,2	32,2	8,3	8,2	2,0	0,0	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 3.6.6 - Distribution of persons aged 25 years and above by geographic location, sex and the highest level of education attained, 2023

Geographic location and sex		N ('000)	Percent						
		Total	Less than matric	Matric	Other tertiary	Graduates	Other	Unspecified	Total
Metro	Male	7 928	40,0	37,0	9,0	11,2	2,9	..	100,0
	Female	8 088	39,8	36,0	10,2	12,2	1,9	0,0	100,0
	Both	16 016	39,9	36,5	9,6	11,7	2,4	0,0	100,0
Non-metro	Male	8 727	57,3	28,7	6,9	5,0	2,1	0,0	100,0
	Female	9 842	57,3	28,3	7,6	5,4	1,4	0,0	100,0
	Both	18 568	57,3	28,5	7,3	5,2	1,7	0,0	100,0
RSA	Male	16 654	49,0	32,6	7,9	8,0	2,5	0,0	100,0
	Female	17 930	49,4	31,8	8,8	8,5	1,6	0,0	100,0
	Both	34 584	49,2	32,2	8,3	8,2	2,0	0,0	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 3.6.7 - Distribution of persons aged 25 years and above by population group, sex and the highest level of education attained, 2023

Population group and sex		N ('000)	Percent						
		Total	Less than matric	Matric	Other tertiary	Graduates	Other	Unspecified	Total
Black African	Male	13 151	53,7	31,6	6,7	5,4	2,6	0,0	100,0
	Female	14 153	53,6	30,7	8,0	6,1	1,7	0,0	100,0
	Both	27 304	53,6	31,1	7,3	5,7	2,1	0,0	100,0
Coloured	Male	1 433	52,8	32,8	7,0	4,8	2,4	0,1	100,0
	Female	1 606	53,2	31,2	7,1	6,8	1,7	..	100,0
	Both	3 038	53,0	32,0	7,1	5,9	2,0	0,0	100,0
Indian/Asian	Male	551	23,6	48,0	9,4	14,2	4,8	..	100,0
	Female	510	30,1	41,1	7,7	19,2	1,9	..	100,0
	Both	1 061	26,8	44,7	8,6	16,6	3,4	..	100,0
White	Male	1 520	14,1	35,7	18,6	31,1	0,5	..	100,0
	Female	1 661	16,0	38,6	17,5	27,1	0,7	0,1	100,0
	Both	3 181	15,1	37,2	18,0	29,0	0,6	0,1	100,0
Total	Male	16 654	49,0	32,6	7,9	8,0	2,5	0,0	100,0
	Female	17 930	49,4	31,8	8,8	8,5	1,6	0,0	100,0
	Both	34 584	49,2	32,2	8,3	8,2	2,0	0,0	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

3.7 Women: Housing and basic services

Table 3.7.1 - Distribution of the type of housing by geographic location and sex of the household head, 2023

Geographic location and sex		N ('000)	Percent				
		Total	Formal	Traditional	Informal	Other	Total
Metro	Male	5 322	81,4	0,4	17,7	0,5	100,0
	Female	3 396	85,5	0,6	13,3	0,5	100,0
	Both	8 718	83,0	0,5	16,0	0,5	100,0
Non-metro	Male	5 641	83,1	5,7	10,9	0,3	100,0
	Female	4 646	85,0	8,0	6,8	0,2	100,0
	Both	10 287	84,0	6,8	9,0	0,3	100,0
RSA	Male	10 963	82,3	3,2	14,2	0,4	100,0
	Female	8 042	85,2	4,9	9,5	0,4	100,0
	Both	19 005	83,5	3,9	12,2	0,4	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 3.7.2 - Access to basic services of male- and female-headed households, 2023

Access to piped water

Sex	N ('000)	Percent	
	Total	Access	Unspecified
Male	34 493	77,0	1,6
Female	27 790	70,0	2,1
Both	62 283	73,9	1,8

Source: GHS 2023

Access to improved sanitation

Sex	N ('000)	Percent
	Total	Access
Male	34 493	84,8
Female	27 790	81,9
Both	62 283	83,5

Source: GHS 2023

Refuse/ waste removed by the municipality

Sex	N ('000)	Percent	
	Total	Access	Unspecified
Male	34 493	63,5	32,1
Female	27 790	53,1	42,6
Both	62 283	58,8	36,8

Source: GHS 2023

Access to electricity connected to the mains

Sex	N ('000)	Percent	
	Total	Access	Unspecified
Male	34 493	92,1	5,0
Female	27 790	94,9	3,2
Both	62 283	93,4	4,2

Source: GHS 2023

Use solid fuels for cooking

Sex	N ('000)	Percent
	Total	Access
Male	34 493	9,0
Female	27 790	14,1
Both	62 283	11,3

Source: GHS 2023

3.8 Women: Violence and crime victims**Table 3.8.1 - Females who feel unsafe or very unsafe to walk alone in their area during the day by province, 2023/24**

Province	N ('000)		Percent
	Unsafe	Total responded	Unsafe
WC	1 046	2 857	36,6
EC	385	2 235	17,2
NC	60	459	13,0
FS	145	1 138	12,7
KZN	826	4 291	19,2
NW	174	1 459	11,9
GP	1 723	6 219	27,6
MP	217	1 703	12,7
LP	107	2 122	5,0
RSA	4 684	22 482	20,8

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2023/24

Table 3.8.2 - Females who feel unsafe or very unsafe to walk alone in their area during the day by age group, 2023/24

Age group	N ('000)		Percent
	Unsafe	Total responded	Unsafe
15–24 years	1 039	4 755	21,8
25–34 years	1 026	5 194	19,7
35+ years	2 619	12 533	20,8
Total	4 684	22 482	20,8

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2023/24

Table 3.8.3 - Females who feel unsafe or very unsafe to walk alone in their area at night by province, 2023/24

Province	N ('000)		Percent
	Unsafe	Total responded	Unsafe
WC	2 094	2 857	73,2
EC	1 515	2 235	67,7
NC	312	459	67,8
FS	760	1 138	66,7
KZN	2 838	4 291	66,1
NW	910	1 459	62,4
GP	4 545	6 219	73,0
MP	1 343	1 703	78,8
LP	843	2 122	39,7
RSA	15 160	22 482	67,4

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2023/24.

Table 3.8.4 - Females who feel unsafe or very unsafe to walk alone in their area at night by age group, 2023/24

Age group	N ('000)		Percent
	Unsafe	Total responded	Unsafe
15–24 years	3 275	4 755	68,8
25–34 years	3 481	5 194	67,0
35+ years	8 403	12 533	67,0
Total	15 160	22 482	67,4

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2023/24

Table 3.8.5 - Females who have been victims of property crime during the past 5 years by province, 2023/24

Province	N ('000)		Percent
	Unsafe	Total responded	Unsafe
WC	189	2 857	6,6
EC	112	2 235	5,0
NC	13	459	2,8
FS	50	1 138	4,4
KZN	178	4 291	4,1
NW	53	1 459	3,6
GP	586	6 219	9,4
MP	96	1 703	5,6
LP	62	2 122	2,9
RSA	1 340	22 482	5,9

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2023/24

Table 3.8.6 - Females who have been victims of property crime during the past 5 years by population group, 2023/24

Population group	N ('000)		Percent
	Suffering	Total responded	Suffering
Black African	1 059	17 935	5,9
Coloured	80	2 026	3,9
Indian/ Asian	39	604	6,4
White	162	1 918	8,4
Total	1 340	22 482	5,9

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2023/24

3.9 Key findings

This chapter focuses on the different characteristics of females to provide a comprehensive understanding of the distribution of the South African female population. In 2023, there were 32 million women in South Africa. Gauteng comprised the largest share of the female population, with 25,7% living in the province followed by KwaZulu-Natal (19,6%). Northern Cape province had the smallest share of the female population (2,1%). Geographically, 41,6% of females lived in metro areas whilst 58,4% were living in non-metro areas. Black Africans made up 82,1% of the population, whilst 8,6% were coloureds, 7,0% were Whites and 2,3% were Indian/Asians.

Other aspects of basic demographic profile of the female population included their marital status, status in the households, and educational attainment. A higher proportion of females aged 18 years and above have never been married (47,7%) and 39,1% were married/cohabiting.

Nationally, 42,3% of households were headed by females aged 15 and above. Higher proportions of female-headed households were in the Eastern Cape (48,8%) and Limpopo (47,0%). Majority of males (43,8%) headed nuclear households whilst females (45,8%) headed extended households. There were significant gender differences across intergenerational household types. Among males, 50,7% lived in single generation households, while 43,5% of female-headed households were double generation.

In 2023, there were more female-headed households without an employed household member compared to male-headed households (38,6% and 23,6% respectively). Among the employed, 9,7% of females were own-account workers and Mpumalanga (17,5%) had the highest proportion of female employers in the country. When observing those who were self-employed, there were no significant gender disparities in the distribution of own-account workers.

The labour force participation rate is the number of persons in the labour force as a percentage of the working-age population. In 2023, the female labour force participation rates were reportedly higher in Western Cape, Gauteng and Mpumalanga in contrast to other provinces. The analysis of persons who were employed or ran a business even if it's only for an hour showed that 68,9% of females were employed in the formal sector, 15,7% in the informal sector, 11,4% in domestic work and 4,0% in agriculture. Unemployment rate was 34,0% for females, with North West (46,3%) and Free State (43,1%) reporting the highest unemployment rate. Analysis by age-group indicated that unemployment and inactivity rate was more common amongst females aged 15–34.

Health issues may be regarded as a contributing factor that may affect the ability to work, therefore it is an important factor in the labour force participation. Nationally, females (83,9%) did not have access to medical aid. Females residing in metro areas (24,4%) reported higher proportions of having access to medical aid, compared to females residing in non-metro areas (10,0%). Nationally, 13,5% of South African households reported to experience hunger, with female-headed households reporting higher proportions compared to their male counterparts. Provincially, Northern Cape, Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal reported the highest proportions of female-headed households that reportedly suffered from hunger. When looking at access to basic services, 85,2% of females lived in formal dwelling, 70,0% had access to piped water and 81,9% had access to improved sanitation. Nationally, 20,8% of females reportedly felt unsafe walking alone in their area of residence during the day in 2023/24 and 67,4% felt unsafe walking alone in their area at night.

INDICATORS: OLDER PERSONS

4.1 Demography of older persons

Table 4.1.1 - Distribution of older persons by province and sex, 2023

Province	N ('000)			Percent		
	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both
WC	308	488	797	38,7	61,3	100,0
EC	282	403	685	41,1	58,9	100,0
NC	67	72	139	48,4	51,6	100,0
FS	99	181	280	35,5	64,5	100,0
KZN	355	602	957	37,1	62,9	100,0
NW	158	229	386	40,8	59,2	100,0
GP	593	808	1 401	42,3	57,7	100,0
MP	151	225	376	40,2	59,8	100,0
LP	208	291	500	41,7	58,3	100,0
RSA	2 222	3 299	5 521	40,2	59,8	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 4.1.2 - Distribution of older persons by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)			Percent		
	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both
Metro	979	1 451	2 429	40,3	59,7	100,0
Non-metro	1 243	1 848	3 091	40,2	59,8	100,0
RSA	2 222	3 299	5 521	40,2	59,8	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 4.1.3 - Distribution of older persons by population group and sex, 2023

Population group	N ('000)			Percent		
	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both
Black African	1 377	2 191	3 567	38,6	61,4	100,0
Coloured	234	346	580	40,3	59,7	100,0
Indian/ Asian	94	124	218	43,2	56,8	100,0
White	518	638	1 156	44,8	55,2	100,0
Total	2 222	3 299	5 521	40,2	59,8	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 4.1.4 - Older persons as a proportion of the overall population by province and sex, 2023

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Older persons	Total	Older persons	Total	Older persons	Total	Older persons		
WC	308	3 560	488	3 810	797	7 370	8,7	12,8	10,8
EC	282	3 182	403	3 355	685	6 536	8,8	12,0	10,5
NC	67	655	72	653	139	1 308	10,3	11,0	10,7
FS	99	1 452	181	1 575	280	3 027	6,9	11,5	9,3
KZN	355	5 722	602	6 238	957	11 960	6,2	9,6	8,0
NW	158	2 078	229	2 188	386	4 266	7,6	10,4	9,1
GP	593	8 496	808	8 148	1 401	16 644	7,0	9,9	8,4
MP	151	2 415	225	2 523	376	4 938	6,3	8,9	7,6
LP	208	2 960	291	3 273	500	6 233	7,0	8,9	8,0
RSA	2 222	30 519	3 299	31 764	5 521	62 283	7,3	10,4	8,9

Source: GHS 2023

Table 4.1.5 - Older persons as a proportion of the overall population by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Older persons	Total	Older persons	Total	Older persons	Total	Older persons		
Metro	979	12 984	1 451	13 202	2 429	26 185	7,5	11,0	9,3
Non-metro	1 243	17 536	1 848	18 562	3 091	36 098	7,1	10,0	8,6
RSA	2 222	30 519	3 299	31 764	5 521	62 283	7,3	10,4	8,9

Source: GHS 2023

Table 4.1.6 - Older persons as a proportion of the overall population by population group and sex, 2023

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Older persons	Total	Older persons	Total	Older persons	Total	Older persons		
Black African	1 377	25 049	2 191	26 066	3 567	51 115	5,5	8,4	7,0
Coloured	234	2 574	346	2 732	580	5 306	9,1	12,7	10,9
Indian/Asian	94	794	124	739	218	1 534	11,8	16,7	14,2
White	518	2 102	638	2 226	1 156	4 328	24,6	28,7	26,7
Total	2 222	30 519	3 299	31 764	5 521	62 283	7,3	10,4	8,9

Source: GHS 2023

4.2 Older persons: Household characteristics

Table 4.2.1 - Distribution of households headed by persons 60 years and older by province and sex, 2023

Province	N ('000)			Percent		
	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both
WC	219	234	453	48,3	51,7	100,0
EC	231	300	532	43,5	56,5	100,0
NC	50	43	93	53,6	46,4	100,0
FS	89	138	227	39,3	60,7	100,0
KZN	305	402	707	43,1	56,9	100,0
NW	128	162	290	44,1	55,9	100,0
GP	469	466	934	50,1	49,9	100,0
MP	122	163	285	42,7	57,3	100,0
LP	176	220	396	44,4	55,6	100,0
RSA	1 789	2 129	3 919	45,7	54,3	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 4.2.2 - Distribution of households headed by persons 60 years and older by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)			Percent		
	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both
Metro	754	829	1 584	47,6	52,4	100,0
Non-metro	1 035	1 300	2 335	44,3	55,7	100,0
RSA	1 789	2 129	3 919	45,7	54,3	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 4.2.3 - Distribution of households headed by persons 60 years and older by population group and sex, 2023

Population group	N ('000)			Percent		
	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both
Black African	1 179	1 678	2 857	41,3	58,7	100,0
Coloured	163	191	354	46,1	53,9	100,0
Indian/ Asian	74	45	119	62,2	37,8	100,0
White	373	216	589	63,4	36,6	100,0
RSA	1 789	2 129	3 919	45,7	54,3	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 4.2.4 - Persons aged 60 years and older by intergenerational households type by province and sex, 2023

Province and sex		N ('000)	Percent					Total
		Total	Single generation	Double generation	Triple generation	Skip generation	Other	
WC	Male	308	40,9	29,3	24,9	3,4	1,5	100,0
	Female	488	31,4	30,8	32,8	3,7	1,3	100,0
	Both	797	35,1	30,2	29,7	3,6	1,4	100,0
EC	Male	282	35,7	16,8	36,1	9,7	1,8	100,0
	Female	403	21,4	16,0	42,9	17,2	2,5	100,0
	Both	685	27,3	16,3	40,1	14,1	2,2	100,0
NC	Male	67	39,0	19,6	28,1	8,7	4,5	100,0
	Female	72	26,8	21,5	35,1	13,7	2,9	100,0
	Both	139	32,7	20,6	31,7	11,3	3,7	100,0
FS	Male	99	42,3	19,1	26,0	9,6	2,9	100,0
	Female	181	25,3	17,6	34,9	19,7	2,5	100,0
	Both	280	31,3	18,2	31,8	16,1	2,6	100,0
KZN	Male	355	29,3	25,2	36,2	8,0	1,2	100,0
	Female	602	14,2	17,0	53,2	14,8	0,8	100,0
	Both	957	19,8	20,0	46,9	12,3	1,0	100,0
NW	Male	158	36,1	20,3	27,4	13,3	2,9	100,0
	Female	229	16,0	19,9	44,7	17,5	1,9	100,0
	Both	386	24,2	20,0	37,7	15,8	2,3	100,0
GP	Male	593	40,2	30,9	25,0	2,8	1,1	100,0
	Female	808	27,3	26,6	34,6	10,0	1,6	100,0
	Both	1 401	32,7	28,4	30,5	7,0	1,4	100,0
MP	Male	151	35,2	19,2	36,1	7,1	2,3	100,0
	Female	225	13,3	17,8	52,8	14,8	1,3	100,0
	Both	376	22,1	18,4	46,1	11,7	1,7	100,0
LP	Male	208	26,3	16,2	46,6	10,0	0,8	100,0
	Female	291	10,4	17,3	50,9	20,6	0,7	100,0
	Both	500	17,0	16,9	49,1	16,2	0,8	100,0
RSA	Male	2 222	36,1	24,2	31,3	6,8	1,6	100,0
	Female	3 299	21,5	21,7	42,1	13,2	1,5	100,0
	Both	5 521	27,4	22,7	37,8	10,6	1,6	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Other include unspecified cases

Table 4.2.5 - Persons aged 60 years and older by intergenerational households type by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location and sex		N ('000)	Percent					
		Total	Single generation	Double generation	Triple generation	Skip generation	Other	Total
Metro	Male	979	39,1	33,2	23,2	3,1	1,5	100,0
	Female	1 451	27,9	29,5	33,9	7,4	1,4	100,0
	Both	2 429	32,4	31,0	29,6	5,6	1,4	100,0
Non-metro	Male	1 243	33,7	17,1	37,7	9,7	1,7	100,0
	Female	1 848	16,4	15,5	48,6	17,8	1,6	100,0
	Both	3 091	23,4	16,2	44,2	14,6	1,7	100,0
RSA	Male	2 222	36,1	24,2	31,3	6,8	1,6	100,0
	Female	3 299	21,5	21,7	42,1	13,2	1,5	100,0
	Both	5 521	27,4	22,7	37,8	10,6	1,6	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Other include unspecified cases

Table 4.2.6 - Persons aged 60 years and older by intergenerational households type by population group and sex, 2023

Population group and sex		N ('000)	Percent					
		Total	Single generation	Double generation	Triple generation	Skip generation	Other	Total
Black African	Male	1 377	26,4	21,7	40,3	9,5	2,1	100,0
	Female	2 191	9,9	16,6	53,7	18,1	1,7	100,0
	Both	3 567	16,3	18,6	48,5	14,8	1,9	100,0
Coloured	Male	234	28,8	27,0	37,1	5,6	1,4	100,0
	Female	346	20,0	29,5	40,7	7,7	2,0	100,0
	Both	580	23,5	28,5	39,3	6,9	1,8	100,0
Indian/ Asian	Male	94	32,4	41,0	25,4	1,3	..	100,0
	Female	124	26,9	42,3	28,4	2,3	..	100,0
	Both	218	29,3	41,7	27,1	1,9	..	100,0
White	Male	518	65,8	26,5	5,7	1,2	0,9	100,0
	Female	638	60,7	30,8	5,9	1,7	0,8	100,0
	Both	1 156	63,0	28,9	5,8	1,5	0,8	100,0
Total	Male	2 222	36,1	24,2	31,3	6,8	1,6	100,0
	Female	3 299	21,5	21,7	42,1	13,2	1,5	100,0
	Both	5 521	27,4	22,7	37,8	10,6	1,6	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Other include unspecified cases

Table 4.2.7 - Distribution of households headed by persons aged 60 years and older by province and household composition, 2023

Province	N ('000)	Percent					
	Total	Single	Nuclear	Extended	Complex	Unspecified	Total
WC	453	16,8	40,1	38,1	4,9	0,1	100,0
EC	532	19,4	21,2	57,6	1,4	0,3	100,0
NC	93	14,6	29,1	53,6	2,6	..	100,0
FS	227	25,8	19,6	53,4	0,8	0,4	100,0
KZN	707	13,5	21,9	63,1	1,2	0,3	100,0
NW	290	24,3	20,9	53,5	1,4	..	100,0
GP	934	20,5	31,9	46,6	0,9	0,2	100,0
MP	285	15,6	20,0	63,4	0,8	0,2	100,0
LP	396	15,9	20,4	63,1	0,7	..	100,0
RSA	3 919	18,3	26,0	54,0	1,5	0,2	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 4.2.8 - Distribution of households headed by persons aged 60 years and older by geographic location and household composition, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)	Percent					
	Total	Single	Nuclear	Extended	Complex	Unspecified	Total
Metro	1 584	19,4	33,5	45,4	1,6	0,1	100,0
Non-metro	2 335	17,5	20,9	59,9	1,5	0,2	100,0
RSA	3 919	18,3	26,0	54,0	1,5	0,2	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 4.2.9 - Distribution of households headed by persons aged 60 years and older by population group and household composition, 2023

Population group	N ('000)	Percent					
	Total	Single	Nuclear	Extended	Complex	Unspecified	Total
Black African	2 857	16,3	19,0	63,5	1,0	0,2	100,0
Coloured	354	13,1	30,7	51,6	4,2	0,4	100,0
Indian/ Asian	119	21,3	40,0	37,5	1,2	..	100,0
White	589	30,2	54,2	13,2	2,4	..	100,0
RSA	3 919	18,3	26,0	54,0	1,5	0,2	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 4.2.10 - Distribution of households headed by persons aged 60 years and older by sex and household composition, 2023

Sex	N ('000)	Percent					
	Total	Single	Nuclear	Extended	Complex	Unspecified	Total
Male	1 789	17,7	40,3	40,5	1,3	0,2	100,0
Female	2 129	18,7	13,9	65,5	1,7	0,2	100,0
Both	3 919	18,3	26,0	54,0	1,5	0,2	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 4.2.11 - Mean ratio of children to older persons in older person-headed households by province and sex of the household head

Province	Male	Female	Both
WC	0,5	0,8	0,6
EC	0,9	1,5	1,2
NC	0,7	1,2	1,0
FS	0,5	1,1	0,9
KZN	0,9	1,6	1,3
NW	0,6	1,2	0,9
GP	0,5	1,1	0,8
MP	0,8	1,6	1,2
LP	1,1	1,6	1,4
RSA	0,7	1,3	1,0

Source: GHS 2023

4.3 Older persons: Income, poverty, economic activity and social grants

Table 4.3.1 - Older persons who are beneficiaries of social grants by province, 2023

Province	N ('000)		Percent
	Beneficiary	Total	Beneficiary
WC	450	797	56,5
EC	556	685	81,3
NC	104	139	74,4
FS	228	280	81,3
KZN	763	957	79,7
NW	314	386	81,3
GP	878	1 401	62,7
MP	296	376	78,8
LP	422	500	84,5
RSA	4 010	5 521	72,6

Source: GHS 2023

Table 4.3.2 - Older persons who are beneficiaries of social grants by geographic location, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)		Percent
	Beneficiary	Total	Beneficiary
Metro	1 535	2 429	63,2
Non-metro	2 475	3 091	80,1
RSA	4 010	5 521	72,6

Source: GHS 2023

Table 4.3.3 - Older persons who are beneficiaries of social grants by population group, 2023

Population group	N ('000)		Percent
	Beneficiary	Total	Beneficiary
Black African	3 070	3 567	86,1
Coloured	454	580	78,3
Indian/ Asian	138	218	63,5
White	348	1 156	30,1
Total	4 010	5 521	72,6

Source: GHS 2023

Table 4.3.4 - Older persons who are beneficiaries of social grants by sex, 2023

Sex	N ('000)		Percent
	Beneficiary	Total	Beneficiary
Male	1 454	2 222	65,4
Female	2 556	3 299	77,5
Both	4 010	5 521	72,6

Source: GHS 2023

Table 4.3.5 - Labour force participation rate of older persons by province and sex, 2023

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Participated	Total	Participated	Total	Participated	Total	Participated		
WC	82	345	67	483	149	828	23,8	13,9	18,0
EC	33	233	34	464	67	697	14,1	7,3	9,5
NC	6	47	6	86	12	133	12,5	7,5	9,3
FS	23	121	15	177	38	298	18,9	8,6	12,8
KZN	51	371	57	664	107	1 035	13,6	8,5	10,4
NW	24	173	9	244	33	418	14,1	3,7	8,0
GP	114	641	96	967	210	1 608	17,8	9,9	13,1
MP	32	172	38	252	69	424	18,3	15,0	16,3
LP	41	218	29	335	70	553	18,6	8,8	12,7
RSA	405	2 322	351	3 672	756	5 994	17,4	9,6	12,6

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 4.3.6 - Labour force participation rate of older persons by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Participated	Total	Participated	Total	Participated	Total	Participated		
Metro	204	1 017	176	1 570	380	2 586	20,1	11,2	14,7
Non-metro	201	1 305	175	2 103	376	3 408	15,4	8,3	11,0
RSA	405	2 322	351	3 672	756	5 994	17,4	9,6	12,6

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 4.3.7 - Labour force participation rate of older persons by population group and sex, 2023

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Participated	Total	Participated	Total	Participated	Total	Participated		
Black African	230	1 519	203	2 577	433	4 096	15,1	7,9	10,6
Coloured	28	244	29	344	57	588	11,4	8,4	9,6
Indian/Asian	19	91	11	112	30	204	21,3	9,7	14,9
White	128	468	109	639	237	1 107	27,3	17	21,4
RSA	405	2 322	351	3 672	756	5 994	17,4	9,6	12,6

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 4.3.8 - Unemployment rate of older persons by province and sex, 2023

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed		
WC	1	82	..	67	1	149	0,9	..	0,5
EC	1	33	..	34	1	67	2,2	..	1,1
NC	0	6	0	6	0	12	2,8	2,1	2,4
FS	1	23	..	15	1	38	3,4	..	2,1
KZN	1	51	4	57	5	107	1,6	7,4	4,7
NW	..	24	1	9	1	33	..	8,4	2,3
GP	5	114	4	96	10	210	4,6	4,5	4,6
MP	2	32	2	38	4	69	6,0	6,4	6,2
LP	2	41	2	29	3	70	3,8	6,3	4,9
RSA	12	405	14	351	26	756	3,0	3,9	3,4

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 4.3.9 - Unemployment rate of older persons by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed		
Metro	5	204	6	176	11	380	2,6	3,2	2,9
Non-metro	7	201	8	175	15	376	3,3	4,6	3,9
RSA	12	405	14	351	26	756	3,0	3,9	3,4

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 4.3.10 - Unemployment rate of older persons by population group and sex, 2023

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed		
Black African	11	230	10	203	21	433	4,8	5,0	4,9
Coloured	1	28	0	29	1	57	3,3	0,5	1,9
Indian/Asian	..	19	1	11	1	30	..	5,4	1,9
White	..	128	3	109	3	237	..	2,6	1,2
Total	12	405	14	351	26	756	3,0	3,9	3,4

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 4.3.11 - Absorption rate of older persons by province and sex, 2023

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed		
WC	81	345	67	483	149	828	23,6	13,9	17,9
EC	32	233	34	464	66	697	13,7	7,3	9,4
NC	6	47	6	86	12	133	12,2	7,4	9,1
FS	22	121	15	177	37	298	18,3	8,6	12,5
KZN	50	371	52	664	102	1 035	13,4	7,9	9,9
NW	24	173	8	244	33	418	14,1	3,4	7,8
GP	109	641	92	967	200	1 608	17,0	9,5	12,5
MP	30	172	35	252	65	424	17,2	14,0	15,3
LP	39	218	28	335	67	553	17,9	8,2	12,1
RSA	393	2 322	338	3 672	730	5 994	16,9	9,2	12,2

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 4.3.12 - Absorption rate of older persons by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed		
Metro	199	1 017	171	1 570	369	2 586	19,5	10,9	14,3
Non-metro	194	1 305	167	2 103	361	3 408	14,9	7,9	10,6
RSA	393	2 322	338	3 672	730	5 994	16,9	9,2	12,2

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 4.3.13 - Absorption rate of older persons by population group and sex, 2023

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed		
Black African	219	1 519	193	2 577	411	4 096	14,4	7,5	10,0
Coloured	27	244	29	344	56	588	11,0	8,3	9,4
Indian/Asian	19	91	10	112	30	204	21,3	9,2	14,6
White	128	468	106	639	234	1 107	27,3	16,6	21,1
RSA	393	2 322	338	3 672	730	5 994	16,9	9,2	12,2

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 4.3.14 - Inactivity rate of older persons by province and sex, 2023

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Inactive	Total	Inactive	Total	Inactive	Total	Inactive		
WC	263	345	416	483	679	828	76,2	86,1	82,0
EC	200	233	430	464	630	697	85,9	92,7	90,5
NC	41	47	80	86	121	133	87,5	92,5	90,7
FS	98	121	162	177	260	298	81,1	91,4	87,2
KZN	321	371	607	664	928	1 035	86,4	91,5	89,6
NW	149	173	235	244	384	418	85,9	96,3	92,0
GP	527	641	871	967	1 398	1 608	82,2	90,1	86,9
MP	141	172	214	252	355	424	81,7	85,0	83,7
LP	178	218	305	335	483	553	81,4	91,2	87,3
RSA	1 917	2 322	3 321	3 672	5 238	5 994	82,6	90,4	87,4

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 4.3.15 - Inactivity rate of older persons by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Inactive	Total	Inactive	Total	Inactive	Total	Inactive		
Metro	813	1 017	1 393	1 570	2 206	2 586	79,9	88,8	85,3
Non-metro	1 104	1 305	1 927	2 103	3 032	3 408	84,6	91,7	89,0
RSA	1 917	2 322	3 321	3 672	5 238	5 994	82,6	90,4	87,4

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 4.3.16 - Inactivity rate of older persons by population group and sex, 2023

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Inactive	Total	Inactive	Total	Inactive	Total	Inactive		
Black African	1 289	1 519	2 374	2 577	3 663	4 096	84,9	92,1	89,4
Coloured	216	244	315	344	531	588	88,6	91,6	90,4
Indian/Asian	72	91	102	112	173	204	78,7	90,3	85,1
White	340	468	530	639	870	1 107	72,7	83,0	78,6
RSA	1 917	2 322	3 321	3 672	5 238	5 994	82,6	90,4	87,4

Source: QLFS Q3 2023

Table 4.3.17 - Older persons living in households without an employed adult by province and sex, 2023

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without		
WC	119	308	185	488	304	797	38,5	37,8	38,1
EC	168	282	247	403	414	685	59,5	61,3	60,5
NC	31	67	32	72	62	139	45,2	44,4	44,8
FS	58	99	105	181	163	280	58,4	58,0	58,1
KZN	165	355	251	602	416	957	46,6	41,7	43,5
NW	80	158	135	229	215	386	50,7	58,9	55,6
GP	220	593	308	808	528	1 401	37,1	38,1	37,7
MP	79	151	119	225	198	376	52,0	53,1	52,6
LP	119	208	163	291	282	500	57,3	55,8	56,4
RSA	1 038	2 222	1 544	3 299	2 582	5 521	46,7	46,8	46,8

Source: GHS 2023

Table 4.3.18 - Older persons living in households without an employed adult by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without		
Metro	386	979	570	1 451	956	2 429	39,4	39,3	39,4
Non-metro	652	1 243	973	1 848	1 626	3 091	52,5	52,7	52,6
RSA	1 038	2 222	1 544	3 299	2 582	5 521	46,7	46,8	46,8

Source: GHS 2023

Table 4.3.19 - Older persons living in households without an employed adult by population group and sex, 2023

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without		
Black African	690	1 377	1 082	2 191	1 772	3 567	50,1	49,4	49,7
Coloured	90	234	127	346	216	580	38,5	36,6	37,3
Indian/ Asian	40	94	39	124	78	218	42,1	31,2	35,9
White	219	518	297	638	515	1 156	42,2	46,5	44,6
Total	1 038	2 222	1 544	3 299	2 582	5 521	46,7	46,8	46,8

Source: GHS 2023

Table 4.3.20 - Distribution of the main source of income in households headed by older persons by province and sex, 2023

Province and sex		N ('000)	Percent						
		Total	Salaries/ wages/ commission	Remit- tances	Social grants	Sales of farming products and services	Other non-farm income	Unspecified	Total
WC	Male	219	32,4	0,8	53,0	..	10,6	3,3	100,0
	Female	234	35,6	0,7	58,2	..	4,3	1,2	100,0
	Both	453	34,1	0,8	55,7	..	7,3	2,2	100,0
EC	Male	231	17,9	0,4	77,9	0,2	3,1	0,4	100,0
	Female	300	12,6	2,6	84,5	..	0,2	..	100,0
	Both	532	14,9	1,7	81,7	0,1	1,5	0,2	100,0
NC	Male	50	21,2	0,7	69,5	3,3	5,4	..	100,0
	Female	43	23,3	0,7	73,6	..	2,4	..	100,0
	Both	93	22,2	0,7	71,4	1,8	4	..	100,0
FS	Male	89	18,5	2,3	71,6	..	6,9	0,6	100,0
	Female	138	16,5	3,2	76,0	0,5	3,4	0,4	100,0
	Both	227	17,3	2,9	74,3	0,3	4,8	0,5	100,0
KZN	Male	305	21,2	3,5	62,5	..	12,5	0,2	100,0
	Female	402	23,9	6,1	66,4	..	3,6	..	100,0
	Both	707	22,8	5,0	64,7	..	7,5	0,1	100,0
NW	Male	128	17,5	2,1	75,6	1,8	3,0	..	100,0
	Female	162	11,4	3,9	84,2	..	0,4	..	100,0
	Both	290	14,1	3,1	80,4	0,8	1,6	..	100,0
GP	Male	469	33,4	1,8	51,7	..	11,9	1,2	100,0
	Female	466	30,4	5,1	54,9	..	8,3	1,4	100,0
	Both	934	31,9	3,4	53,3	..	10,1	1,3	100,0
MP	Male	122	16,3	1,9	74,6	0,5	6,6	..	100,0
	Female	163	17,7	6,3	72,6	0,5	2,8	..	100,0
	Both	285	17,1	4,4	73,5	0,5	4,4	..	100,0
LP	Male	176	14,0	0,6	79,7	0,3	5,4	..	100,0
	Female	220	14,1	3,3	78,8	..	3,4	0,4	100,0
	Both	396	14,1	2,1	79,2	0,1	4,3	0,2	100,0
RSA	Male	1 789	23,9	1,7	64,6	0,3	8,6	0,8	100,0
	Female	2 129	22,1	4,1	69,4	0,1	3,9	0,5	100,0
	Both	3 919	22,9	3,0	67,2	0,2	6,1	0,7	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 4.3.21 - Distribution of the main source of income in households headed by older persons by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location and sex		N ('000)	Percent						
			Salaries/ wages/ commission	Remit- tances	Social grants	Sales of farming products and services	Other non-farm income	Unspecified	Total
Metro	Male	754	31,4	2,1	53,8	..	11,7	1,0	100,0
	Female	829	31,7	4,0	56,4	..	7,0	0,9	100,0
	Both	1 584	31,6	3,1	55,2	..	9,2	0,9	100,0
Non-metro	Male	1 035	18,4	1,4	72,5	0,5	6,4	0,7	100,0
	Female	1 300	15,9	4,1	77,7	0,1	1,9	0,3	100,0
	Both	2 335	17,0	2,9	75,4	0,3	3,9	0,5	100,0
RSA	Male	1 789	23,9	1,7	64,6	0,3	8,6	0,8	100,0
	Female	2 129	22,1	4,1	69,4	0,1	3,9	0,5	100,0
	Both	3 919	22,9	3,0	67,2	0,2	6,1	0,7	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 4.3.22 - Households headed by older persons in quintile 1 by province and sex, 2023

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Quintile 1	Total	Quintile 1	Total	Quintile 1	Total	Quintile 1		
WC	14	219	27	234	41	453	6,6	11,3	9,0
EC	37	231	33	300	69	532	15,8	11,0	13,1
NC	4	50	5	43	8	93	7,8	10,5	9,1
FS	15	89	16	138	32	227	17,2	11,8	13,9
KZN	33	305	32	402	65	707	10,8	7,9	9,1
NW	29	128	18	162	47	290	22,4	11,2	16,1
GP	58	469	58	466	116	934	12,4	12,4	12,4
MP	23	122	16	163	39	285	18,8	9,6	13,6
LP	27	176	21	220	47	396	15,1	9,3	11,9
RSA	239	1 789	224	2 129	464	3 919	13,4	10,5	11,8

Source: GHS 2023

Household income quintile 1 is less or equal to R2000

Table 4.3.23 - Households headed by older persons in quintile 1 by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Quintile 1	Total	Quintile 1	Total	Quintile 1	Total	Quintile 1		
Metro	79	754	90	829	168	1 584	10,4	10,8	10,6
Non-metro	161	1 035	135	1 300	295	2 335	15,5	10,4	12,6
RSA	239	1 789	224	2 129	464	3 919	13,4	10,5	11,8

Source: GHS 2023

Household income quintile 1 is less or equal to R2000

Table 4.3.24 - Households headed by older persons in quintile 1 by population group and sex, 2023

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Quintile 1	Total	Quintile 1	Total	Quintile 1	Total	Quintile 1		
Black African	208	1 179	171	1 678	380	2 857	17,7	10,2	13,3
Coloured	11	163	25	191	35	354	6,7	12,9	10,0
Indian/ Asian	2	74	7	45	9	119	2,3	15,4	7,3
White	18	373	21	216	40	589	4,9	9,9	6,8
Total	239	1 789	224	2 129	464	3 919	13,4	10,5	11,8

Source: GHS 2023

Household income quintile 1 is less or equal to R2000

4.4 Older persons: Health

Table 4.4.1 - Distribution of types of healthcare facilities visited by older persons by province and sex, 2023

Province and sex		N ('000)	Percent							
		Total	Public hospital	Public clinic	Public: Other	Private hospital/ clinic/ doctor	Other facilities	Traditional healer	Unspecified	Total
WC	Male	308	14,6	29,5	1,0	52,7	2,2	..	..	100,0
	Female	488	17,8	36,1	0,6	44,0	1,5	..	..	100,0
	Both	797	16,6	33,6	0,8	47,3	1,8	..	..	100,0
EC	Male	282	3,7	75,0	..	20,2	0,5	..	0,5	100,0
	Female	403	6,4	77,3	..	15,8	0,2	..	0,4	100,0
	Both	685	5,3	76,3	..	17,6	0,3	..	0,5	100,0
NC	Male	67	9,9	62,8	..	25,8	1,6	..	..	100,0
	Female	72	5,1	66,2	..	26,5	2,2	..	..	100,0
	Both	139	7,4	64,5	..	26,1	1,9	..	..	100,0
FS	Male	99	4,3	65,0	..	30,7	..	..	..	100,0
	Female	181	5,2	64,1	..	30,4	0,2	..	..	100,0
	Both	280	4,9	64,4	..	30,5	0,1	..	..	100,0
KZN	Male	355	1,9	70,4	0,8	26,5	0,1	..	0,2	100,0
	Female	602	4,2	74,4	0,3	20,9	0,3	0,1	..	100,0
	Both	957	3,3	72,9	0,5	23,0	0,2	0,0	0,1	100,0
NW	Male	158	4,8	74,8	..	20,0	0,5	..	..	100,0
	Female	229	7,5	74,2	0,4	17,5	..	..	0,5	100,0
	Both	386	6,4	74,4	0,2	18,5	0,2	..	0,3	100,0
GP	Male	593	5,5	49,0	0,2	43,9	1,3	..	..	100,0
	Female	808	4,8	53,8	..	40,2	1,1	0,1	..	100,0
	Both	1 401	5,1	51,7	0,1	41,8	1,2	0,0	..	100,0
MP	Male	151	5,3	71,9	..	21,5	0,4	0,9	..	100,0
	Female	225	3,3	79,5	..	16,9	0,3	..	..	100,0
	Both	376	4,1	76,4	..	18,8	0,3	0,3	..	100,0
LP	Male	208	8,3	77,0	..	14,2	0,3	..	0,3	100,0
	Female	291	5,1	85,0	..	9,8	0,1	..	..	100,0
	Both	500	6,4	81,7	..	11,6	0,2	..	0,1	100,0
RSA	Male	2 222	6,2	60,1	0,3	32,2	0,9	0,1	0,1	100,0
	Female	3 299	7,0	64,6	0,2	27,6	0,7	0,0	0,1	100,0
	Both	5 521	6,7	62,8	0,2	29,4	0,8	0,0	0,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 4.4.2 - Distribution of types of healthcare facilities visited by older persons by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location and sex		N ('000)	Percent							
		Total	Public hospital	Public clinic	Public: Other	Private hospital/ clinic/ doctor	Other facilities	Traditional healer	Unspecified	Total
Metro	Male	979	7,1	45,8	0,1	45,5	1,4	..	..	100,0
	Female	1 451	8,8	48,9	..	41,3	1,1	0,0	..	100,0
	Both	2 429	8,1	47,6	0,1	43,0	1,2	0,0	..	100,0
Non-metro	Male	1 243	5,6	71,4	0,5	21,7	0,5	0,1	0,2	100,0
	Female	1 848	5,5	76,9	0,3	16,8	0,3	0,0	0,1	100,0
	Both	3 091	5,5	74,7	0,4	18,8	0,4	0,1	0,2	100,0
RSA	Male	2 222	6,2	60,1	0,3	32,2	0,9	0,1	0,1	100,0
	Female	3 299	7,0	64,6	0,2	27,6	0,7	0,0	0,1	100,0
	Both	5 521	6,7	62,8	0,2	29,4	0,8	0,0	0,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 4.4.3 - Older persons with access to medical aid by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location and sex		N ('000)	Percent			
		Total	Medical aid	No medical aid	Unspecified	Total
Metro	Male	979	35,9	64,1	..	100,0
	Female	1 451	31,6	68,1	0,2	100,0
	Both	2 429	33,3	66,5	0,1	100,0
Non-metro	Male	1 243	15,1	84,7	0,2	100,0
	Female	1 848	11,9	88,1	0,0	100,0
	Both	3 091	13,2	86,8	0,1	100,0
RSA	Male	2 222	24,2	75,6	0,1	100,0
	Female	3 299	20,5	79,3	0,1	100,0
	Both	5 521	22,0	77,9	0,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 4.4.4 - Older persons with access to medical aid by population group and sex, 2023

Population group and sex		N ('000)	Percent			
		Total	Medical aid	No medical aid	Unspecified	Total
Black African	Male	1 377	7,3	92,5	0,2	100,0
	Female	2 191	6,2	93,8	0,0	100,0
	Both	3 567	6,6	93,3	0,1	100,0
Coloured	Male	234	17,5	82,5	..	100,0
	Female	346	16,3	83,7	..	100,0
	Both	580	16,8	83,2	..	100,0
Indian/Asian	Male	94	34,0	66,0	..	100,0
	Female	124	34,0	64,7	1,4	100,0
	Both	218	34,0	65,2	0,8	100,0
White	Male	518	70,6	29,4	..	100,0
	Female	638	69,5	30,2	0,3	100,0
	Both	1 156	70,0	29,8	0,2	100,0
RSA	Male	2 222	24,2	75,6	0,1	100,0
	Female	3 299	20,5	79,3	0,1	100,0
	Both	5 521	22,0	77,9	0,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 4.4.5 - Persons 60 years and older who suffered from chronic diseases compared to the overall population by province, 2023

Province	N ('000)				Percent	
	Older persons		Total		Older persons	Total
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	
WC	498	797	1 287	7 370	62,5	17,5
EC	471	685	1 074	6 536	68,8	16,4
NC	84	139	234	1 308	60,3	17,9
FS	199	280	515	3 027	70,8	17,0
KZN	609	957	1 504	11 960	63,6	12,6
NW	226	386	652	4 266	58,5	15,3
GP	809	1 401	1 953	16 644	57,8	11,7
MP	219	376	593	4 938	58,1	12,0
LP	194	500	444	6 233	38,7	7,1
RSA	3 308	5 521	8 256	62 283	59,9	13,3

Source: GHS 2023

Table 4.4.6 - Persons 60 years and older who suffered from chronic diseases compared to the overall population by geographic location, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)				Percent	
	Older persons		Total		Older persons	Total
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	
Metro	1 509	2 429	3 659	26 185	62,1	14,0
Non-metro	1 799	3 091	4 597	36 098	58,2	12,7
RSA	3 308	5 521	8 256	62 283	59,9	13,3

Source: GHS 2023

Table 4.4.7 - Persons 60 years and older who suffered from chronic diseases compared to the overall population by sex, 2023

Sex	N ('000)				Percent	
	Older persons		Total		Older persons	Total
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	
Male	1 133	2 222	3 000	30 519	51,0	9,8
Female	2 175	3 299	5 256	31 764	65,9	16,5
Both	3 308	5 521	8 256	62 283	59,9	13,3

Source: GHS 2023

4.5 Older persons: Vulnerability to hunger**Table 4.5.1 - Older persons living in households that reported hunger by province and sex, 2023**

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering		
WC	35	308	59	486	94	794	11,3	12,2	11,8
EC	18	280	33	401	51	681	6,4	8,2	7,5
NC	8	67	14	71	22	139	12,4	19,8	16,2
FS	10	99	17	179	27	278	9,7	9,5	9,6
KZN	47	355	116	602	162	957	13,2	19,2	17,0
NW	29	158	40	229	69	386	18,2	17,5	17,8
GP	31	589	62	807	93	1 396	5,3	7,7	6,7
MP	19	150	33	224	52	374	12,8	14,7	14,0
LP	9	208	13	290	21	498	4,1	4,5	4,3
RSA	205	2 215	387	3 289	592	5 504	9,3	11,8	10,8

Source: GHS 2023

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 4.5.2 - Older persons living in households that reported hunger by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Suffering	Suffering
Metro	62	976	129	1 445	191	2 421	6,4	8,9	7,9
Non-metro	143	1 239	258	1 844	401	3 083	11,6	14,0	13,0
RSA	205	2 215	387	3 289	592	5 504	9,3	11,8	10,8

Source: GHS 2023

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 4.5.3 - Older persons living in households that reported hunger by population group and sex, 2023

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering		
Black African	171	1 375	340	2 188	511	3 563	12,4	15,5	14,3
Coloured	22	234	40	345	62	579	9,5	11,5	10,7
Indian/ Asian	..	94	1	124	1	218	..	1,0	0,5
White	12	512	6	631	18	1 144	2,4	0,9	1,6
RSA	205	2 215	387	3 289	592	5 504	9,3	11,8	10,8

Source: GHS 2023

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 4.5.4 - Younger persons (less than 60 years) living in households that reported hunger by province and sex, 2023

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering		
WC	559	3 252	595	3 322	1 154	6 573	17,2	17,9	17,6
EC	323	2 897	300	2 944	623	5 841	11,1	10,2	10,7
NC	141	584	149	580	290	1 164	24,1	25,8	24,9
FS	183	1 348	181	1 389	364	2 738	13,6	13,0	13,3
KZN	1 311	5 367	1 395	5 635	2 707	11 002	24,4	24,8	24,6
NW	438	1 919	445	1 958	883	3 877	22,8	22,7	22,8
GP	810	7 882	708	7 318	1 518	15 199	10,3	9,7	10,0
MP	452	2 256	429	2 293	881	4 550	20,0	18,7	19,4
LP	157	2 745	156	2 978	313	5 723	5,7	5,2	5,5
RSA	4 374	28 250	4 360	28 418	8 734	56 668	15,5	15,3	15,4

Source: GHS 2023

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 4.5.5 - Younger persons (less than 60 years) living in households that reported hunger by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Suffering	Suffering
Metro	1 508	11 983	1 523	11 726	3 031	23 709	12,6	13,0	12,8
Non-metro	2 866	16 267	2 837	16 692	5 703	32 959	17,6	17,0	17,3
RSA	4 374	28 250	4 360	28 418	8 734	56 668	15,5	15,3	15,4

Source: GHS 2023

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 4.5.6 - Younger persons (less than 60 years) living in households that reported hunger by population group and sex, 2023

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Suffering	
Black African	4 026	23 633	4 027	23 839	8 054	47 473	17,0	16,9	17,0
Coloured	305	2 340	289	2 385	594	4 725	13,0	12,1	12,6
Indian/ Asian	5	700	2	616	7	1 316	0,7	0,4	0,6
White	37	1 577	42	1 577	78	3 154	2,3	2,6	2,5
RSA	4 374	28 250	4 360	28 418	8 734	56 668	15,5	15,3	15,4

Source: GHS 2023

Excluding unspecified cases

4.6 Older persons: Education

Table 4.6.1 - Older persons who are functionally literate by province and sex, 2023

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Literate	Total	Literate	Total	Literate	Total	Literate		
WC	262	308	397	488	659	797	85,1	81,3	82,7
EC	162	282	240	403	402	685	57,7	59,5	58,8
NC	44	67	48	72	92	139	65,9	66,7	66,3
FS	53	99	100	181	153	280	53,4	55,1	54,5
KZN	220	355	318	602	538	957	61,9	52,8	56,2
NW	93	158	124	229	217	386	59,0	54,3	56,2
GP	518	593	667	806	1 185	1 399	87,5	82,7	84,7
MP	76	151	90	225	167	376	50,5	40,1	44,3
LP	108	208	97	291	205	500	51,7	33,3	41,0
RSA	1 537	2 222	2 081	3 297	3 618	5 519	69,2	63,1	65,6

Source: GHS 2023

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 4.6.2 - Older persons who are functionally literate by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Literate	Total	Literate	Total	Literate	Total	Literate		
Metro	824	979	1 179	1 449	2 003	2 428	84,1	81,4	82,5
Non-metro	714	1 243	901	1 848	1 615	3 091	57,4	48,8	52,2
RSA	1 537	2 222	2 081	3 297	3 618	5 519	69,2	63,1	65,6

Source: GHS 2023

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 4.6.3 - Older persons who are functionally literate by population group and sex, 2023

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Literate	Total	Literate	Total	Literate	Total	Literate		
Black African	766	1 377	1 104	2 191	1 870	3 567	55,6	50,4	52,4
Coloured	178	234	252	346	431	580	76,2	73,0	74,3
Indian/ Asian	83	94	94	124	176	218	87,8	75,7	80,9
White	511	518	630	637	1 141	1 154	98,7	99,0	98,9
RSA	1 537	2 222	2 081	3 297	3 618	5 519	69,2	63,1	65,6

Source: GHS 2023
Excluding unspecified cases

Table 4.6.4 - Distribution of older persons by province, sex and the highest level of education attained, 2023

Province and sex		N ('000)	Percent						
		Total	Less than matric	Matric	Other tertiary	Graduates	Other	Unspecified	Total
WC	Male	308	49,2	19,0	10,3	18,4	3,1	..	100,0
	Female	488	62,3	18,1	9,7	8,0	1,9	..	100,0
	Both	797	57,2	18,5	9,9	12,0	2,4	..	100,0
EC	Male	282	77,7	9,7	6,6	4,9	1,1	..	100,0
	Female	403	82,1	7,7	5,5	4,5	0,2	..	100,0
	Both	685	80,3	8,5	5,9	4,7	0,6	..	100,0
NC	Male	67	68,9	13,0	6,4	4,9	6,8	..	100,0
	Female	72	77,8	12,4	4,4	4,0	1,4	..	100,0
	Both	139	73,4	12,7	5,4	4,4	4,0	..	100,0
FS	Male	99	77,4	13,2	2,8	5,9	0,6	..	100,0
	Female	181	79,0	11,3	5,3	3,4	1,0	..	100,0
	Both	280	78,4	11,9	4,4	4,3	0,9	..	100,0
KZN	Male	355	68,1	16,1	5,5	6,0	4,3	..	100,0
	Female	602	78,3	9,8	2,8	5,4	3,7	..	100,0
	Both	957	74,5	12,1	3,8	5,6	3,9	..	100,0
NW	Male	158	74,6	14,2	2,7	3,5	5,1	..	100,0
	Female	229	78,9	9,5	5,1	3,7	2,7	..	100,0
	Both	386	77,1	11,4	4,1	3,7	3,7	..	100,0
GP	Male	593	45,6	25,9	7,1	15,0	6,4	..	100,0
	Female	808	58,2	23,6	4,8	8,4	4,7	0,2	100,0
	Both	1 401	52,9	24,6	5,8	11,2	5,4	0,1	100,0
MP	Male	151	77,4	7,3	4,4	5,8	5,1	..	100,0
	Female	225	81,4	8,4	3,9	2,8	3,5	..	100,0
	Both	376	79,8	7,9	4,1	4,0	4,2	..	100,0
LP	Male	208	79,5	8,7	5,7	3,5	2,6	..	100,0
	Female	291	86,4	5,0	3,8	2,0	2,9	..	100,0
	Both	500	83,5	6,5	4,6	2,6	2,8	..	100,0
RSA	Male	2 222	63,3	16,6	6,4	9,5	4,2	..	100,0
	Female	3 299	72,5	13,8	5,1	5,7	2,9	0,1	100,0
	Both	5 521	68,8	14,9	5,6	7,2	3,4	0,0	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 4.6.5 - Distribution of older persons by geographic location, sex and the highest level of education attained, 2023

Geographic location and sex		N ('000)	Percent						
		Total	Less than matric	Matric	Other tertiary	Graduates	Other	Unspecified	Total
Metro	Male	979	50,6	23,3	7,9	14,5	3,7	..	100,0
	Female	1 451	61,8	20,0	5,9	8,6	3,7	0,1	100,0
	Both	2 429	57,3	21,3	6,7	11,0	3,7	0,1	100,0
Non-metro	Male	1 243	73,3	11,4	5,2	5,5	4,5	..	100,0
	Female	1 848	80,9	8,9	4,5	3,4	2,3	..	100,0
	Both	3 091	77,8	9,9	4,8	4,2	3,2	..	100,0
RSA	Male	2 222	63,3	16,6	6,4	9,5	4,2	..	100,0
	Female	3 299	72,5	13,8	5,1	5,7	2,9	0,1	100,0
	Both	5 521	68,8	14,9	5,6	7,2	3,4	0,0	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 4.6.6 - Distribution of older persons by population group, sex and the highest level of education attained, 2023

Population group and sex		N ('000)	Percent						
		Total	Less than matric	Matric	Other tertiary	Graduates	Other	Unspecified	Total
Black African	Male	1 377	79,6	9,5	2,5	2,9	5,6	..	100,0
	Female	2 191	84,6	6,7	2,6	2,6	3,6	..	100,0
	Both	3 567	82,7	7,8	2,5	2,7	4,4	..	100,0
Coloured	Male	234	69,8	15,6	5,0	4,7	4,9	..	100,0
	Female	346	82,9	8,8	3,3	2,3	2,6	..	100,0
	Both	580	77,7	11,6	4,0	3,3	3,6	..	100,0
Indian/Asian	Male	94	53,8	27,8	12,6	5,8	..	..	100,0
	Female	124	76,1	20,4	0,9	1,6	0,9	..	100,0
	Both	218	66,5	23,6	6,0	3,4	0,5	..	100,0
White	Male	518	18,7	34,0	16,4	30,0	0,8	..	100,0
	Female	638	24,5	39,5	15,7	19,0	1,0	0,3	100,0
	Both	1 156	21,9	37,0	16,0	23,9	0,9	0,2	100,0
Total	Male	2 222	63,3	16,6	6,4	9,5	4,2	..	100,0
	Female	3 299	72,5	13,8	5,1	5,7	2,9	0,1	100,0
	Both	5 521	68,8	14,9	5,6	7,2	3,4	0,0	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

4.7 Older persons: Housing and basic services

Table 4.7.1 - Distribution of persons 60 years and older living in formal, informal and traditional housing by province and sex, 2023

Province and sex		N ('000)	Percent				
		Total	Formal	Traditional	Informal	Other	Total
WC	Male	308	98,9	..	1,1	..	100,0
	Female	488	96,6	0,2	2,9	0,3	100,0
	Both	797	97,5	0,1	2,2	0,2	100,0
EC	Male	282	78,7	18,4	2,6	0,3	100,0
	Female	403	75,3	23,3	1,2	0,2	100,0
	Both	685	76,7	21,3	1,8	0,3	100,0
NC	Male	67	94,9	0,4	4,7	..	100,0
	Female	72	92,1	..	7,4	0,5	100,0
	Both	139	93,4	0,2	6,1	0,2	100,0
FS	Male	99	88,2	3,3	8,5	..	100,0
	Female	181	92,9	1,8	5,2	0,2	100,0
	Both	280	91,2	2,3	6,3	0,1	100,0
KZN	Male	355	88,2	11,6	0,2	..	100,0
	Female	602	86,1	13,4	0,5	..	100,0
	Both	957	86,9	12,7	0,4	..	100,0
NW	Male	158	92,7	..	7,3	..	100,0
	Female	229	93,8	0,7	5,5	..	100,0
	Both	386	93,4	0,4	6,2	..	100,0
GP	Male	593	95,3	..	4,7	..	100,0
	Female	808	97,4	..	2,6	..	100,0
	Both	1 401	96,5	..	3,5	..	100,0
MP	Male	151	95,2	2,1	2,7	..	100,0
	Female	225	96,2	2,6	1,2	..	100,0
	Both	376	95,8	2,4	1,8	..	100,0
LP	Male	208	95,2	3,1	1,5	0,2	100,0
	Female	291	97,1	2,9	..	..	100,0
	Both	500	96,3	3,0	0,6	0,1	100,0
RSA	Male	2 222	92,0	4,8	3,1	0,1	100,0
	Female	3 299	91,8	5,9	2,2	0,1	100,0
	Both	5 521	91,9	5,4	2,6	0,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 4.7.2 - Distribution of persons 60 years and older living in formal, informal and traditional housing by geographic location and sex, 2023

Geographic location and sex		N ('000)	Percent				
		Total	Formal	Traditional	Informal	Other	Total
Metro	Male	979	96,0	0,9	3,0	0,1	100,0
	Female	1 451	96,9	0,9	2,1	0,1	100,0
	Both	2 429	96,5	0,9	2,5	0,1	100,0
Non-metro	Male	1 243	88,9	7,8	3,2	0,0	100,0
	Female	1 848	87,8	9,8	2,3	0,1	100,0
	Both	3 091	88,3	9,0	2,7	0,1	100,0
RSA	Male	2 222	92,0	4,8	3,1	0,1	100,0
	Female	3 299	91,8	5,9	2,2	0,1	100,0
	Both	5 521	91,9	5,4	2,6	0,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 4.7.3 - Distribution of persons 60 years and older living in formal, informal and traditional housing by age group and sex, 2023

Age group and sex		N ('000)	Percent				
		Total	Formal	Traditional	Informal	Other	Total
60–69 years	Male	1 416	91,0	4,9	4,0	0,0	100,0
	Female	1 883	91,5	5,6	2,8	0,0	100,0
	Both	3 299	91,3	5,3	3,3	0,0	100,0
70+ years	Male	806	93,8	4,6	1,5	0,1	100,0
	Female	1 416	92,2	6,3	1,4	0,2	100,0
	Both	2 221	92,8	5,6	1,4	0,2	100,0
Total	Male	2 222	92,0	4,8	3,1	0,1	100,0
	Female	3 299	91,8	5,9	2,2	0,1	100,0
	Both	5 521	91,9	5,4	2,6	0,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2023

Table 4.7.4 – Access to basic services of persons 60 years and above compared to the overall population, 2023**Access to piped water**

Age group	N ('000)	Percent	
	Total	Access	Unspecified
Not older persons	56 763	73,6	1,9
Older persons	5 521	76,5	1,8
Total	62 283	73,9	1,8

Source: GHS 2023

Access to improved sanitation

	N ('000)	Percent
Age group	Total	Access
Not older persons	56 763	83,2
Older persons	5 521	86,7
Total	62 283	83,5

Source: GHS 2023

Refuse/ waste removed by the municipality

	N ('000)	Percent	
Age group	Total	Access	Unspecified
Not older persons	56 763	58,4	37,1
Older persons	5 521	63,7	33,0
Total	62 283	58,8	36,8

Source: GHS 2023

Access to electricity connected to the mains

	N ('000)	Percent	
Age group	Total	Access	Unspecified
Not older persons	56 763	93,0	4,4
Older persons	5 521	96,6	2,7
Total	62 283	93,4	4,2

Source: GHS 2023

Use solid fuels for cooking

	N ('000)	Percent
Age group	Total	Access
Not older persons	56 763	11,4
Older persons	5 521	10,2
Total	62 283	11,3

Source: GHS 2023

4.8 Older persons: Violence and crime victims

Table 4.8.1 - Older persons who feel unsafe or very unsafe to walk alone in their area during the day by province, 2023/24

Province	N ('000)		Percent
	Unsafe	Total responded	Unsafe
WC	241	829	29,0
EC	127	781	16,2
NC	23	136	16,9
FS	52	325	16,0
KZN	193	1 069	18,0
NW	70	450	15,5
GP	440	1 493	29,4
MP	43	427	10,0
LP	24	538	4,3
RSA	1 211	6 047	20,0

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2023/24

Table 4.8.2 - Older persons who feel unsafe or very unsafe to walk alone in their area during the day by sex, 2023/24

Sex	N ('000)		Percent
	Unsafe	Total responded	Unsafe
Male	441	2 422	18,2
Female	770	3 625	21,2
Both	1 211	6 047	20,0

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2023/24

Table 4.8.3 - Older persons who feel unsafe or very unsafe to walk alone in their area at night by province, 2023/24

Province	N ('000)		Percent
	Unsafe	Total responded	Unsafe
WC	544	829	65,5
EC	522	781	66,8
NC	101	136	74,1
FS	238	325	73,3
KZN	663	1 069	62,0
NW	287	450	63,7
GP	1 027	1 493	68,8
MP	335	427	78,4
LP	186	538	34,5
RSA	3 902	6 047	64,5

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2023/24

Table 4.8.4 - Older persons who feel unsafe or very unsafe to walk alone in their area at night by sex, 2023/24

Sex	N ('000)		Percent
	Unsafe	Total responded	Unsafe
Male	1 472	2 422	60,8
Female	2 430	3 625	67,0
Both	3 902	6 047	64,5

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2023/24

Table 4.8.5 - Older persons who have been victims of property crime during the past 5 years by sex, 2023/24

Sex	N ('000)		Percent
	Suffering	Total responded	Suffering
Male	108	2 422	4,4
Female	115	3 625	3,1
Both	224	6 047	3,6

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2023/24

4.9 Key findings

In 2023, persons aged 60 and above were estimated at 5,5 million, accounting for 8,9% of the overall South African population. Among those, approximately 59,8% were females and 40,2% were males.

Provincial variations shows that Mpumalanga had the lowest percentage of older persons, representing 7,6% of the provincial population; while the Western Cape had the highest percentage of older people, representing 10,8%, followed by Northern Cape and Eastern Cape reporting 10,7% and 10,5% respectively. Most of the older persons resided in metro areas, with females dominating in both geographical areas. The white population group had the highest proportion of persons aged 60 and above, reported at 26,7% followed by Indian/Asian with 14,2%.

Nationally, there were approximately 3,9 million households headed by persons aged 60 and above; with 54,3% of households headed by females and 45,7% headed by males. Northern Cape (53,6%) reported the highest proportion of older persons' male-headed households compared to other provinces and Free State (60,7%) reported the highest proportion of female-headed households. The male-headed households were more common among the white and Indian/Asian population groups and least common among the black Africans.

Nationally, triple-generation households were more common amongst older persons relative to other types of intergenerational households. Provincial variations showed that older persons in triple-generation households were more prevalent in six provinces except Western Cape, Northern Cape and Gauteng which had a higher proportion of older persons in single generation households. The black African and coloured older persons population were most likely to reside in triple-generation households. White older persons were most likely to reside in single-generation households, while older persons from the Indian/Asian population group were mostly likely to reside in double-generation households.

Nationally, majority of households headed by older persons were most likely to live in extended households (54,0%) followed by those in nuclear households (26,0%), with the least in complex households (1,5%). Black African and coloured older persons were most likely to live in extended households, while the white and Indian/Asian older persons were most likely to live in nuclear households. Majority of older persons resided in extended households regardless of geographical location.

In South Africa, about 4 million older persons (72,6%) received social grants in 2023. Provinces which had the highest percentage of older persons grant recipients were Limpopo, North West, Free State and Eastern Cape. Older persons in Western Cape (56,5%) and Gauteng (62,7%) were least likely to receive social grants. In comparison to their male counterparts, female older persons were more likely to receive social grants.

Approximately 12,6% of the older population participated in the labour force in 2023. Provincially, more older males were participating in the labour force compared to their female counterparts. Among all the population groups, the coloured older persons were the least participating in the labour force at 9,6%. Unemployment rate for older persons was 3,4%. Approximately 67,2% of households headed by the older persons indicated that grants were their main source of income, followed by salaries/wages at 22,9%.

Most older persons in eight out of nine provinces made use of public clinics for their health care needs, with Western Cape being the only province more likely to utilise private hospital/clinic/doctor than any other type of health care facility. In 2023, 22,0% of older persons had access to medical aid and coverage was higher amongst males than females. The medical aid coverage was racially skewed amongst the older persons, with white persons accounting for 70,0% coverage and 6,6% coverage for the black Africans. In all provinces, chronic diseases affected above 55% of the older persons, except for Limpopo where about 39% of the older persons had chronic illness.

About 10,8% of older person resided in household that reported to suffer from hunger. Nationally, 68,8% of older persons had less than matric as the highest level of education attained and 7,2% were graduates. Just over 90% of the older persons stayed in formal dwellings. 64,5% of older persons reported feeling unsafe walking alone in their area at night, whilst 20,0% of older persons reported feeling unsafe walking alone in their area during the day.

INDICATORS: PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Persons with disabilities are defined as people experiencing various levels of difficulty in functional domains such as seeing, hearing, walking, self-care, remembering and concentrating, communicating and social interaction.

The results are based on the UN recommended measure of disability which defines 'persons with disabilities' as: a person who reported 'some difficulty' in at least two domains of functioning, a 'lot of difficulty' in any of the six domains of functioning, 'unable to do' in any of the six domains of functioning, 'no difficulty' in any of the six domains of functioning, 'some difficulty' in one of the six domains of functioning.

Only persons aged 5 years and older are included.

5.1 Demography of persons with disabilities

Table 5.1.1 - Disability prevalence by province, 2022

Province	N ('000)		Percent
	Suffering	Total	Suffering
WC	355	6 595	5,4
EC	548	6 420	8,5
NC	90	1 176	7,6
FS	223	2 649	8,4
KZN	671	11 064	6,1
NW	234	3 353	7,0
GP	659	13 438	4,9
MP	232	4 545	5,1
LP	288	5 745	5,0
RSA	3 300	54 986	6,0

Source: Census 2022

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 5.1.2 - Disability prevalence by population group, 2022

Population group	N ('000)		Percent
	Suffering	Total	Suffering
Black African	2 544	44 570	5,7
Coloured	254	4 535	5,6
Indian/ Asian	103	1 585	6,5
White	387	4 085	9,5
Other	12	211	5,8
Total	3 300	54 986	6,0

Source: Census 2022

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 5.1.3 - Disability prevalence by sex, 2022

Sex	N ('000)		Percent
	Suffering	Total	Suffering
Male	1 303	26 519	4,9
Female	1 996	28 466	7,0
Both	3 300	54 986	6,0

Source: Census 2022

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 5.1.4 - Disability prevalence by age group, 2022

Age group	N ('000)		Percent
	Suffering	Total	Suffering
5–14 years	228	10 350	2,2
15–24 years	232	10 038	2,3
25–34 years	282	11 076	2,5
35–44 years	325	9 186	3,5
45–54 years	443	5 912	7,5
55–64 years	620	4 514	13,7
65–74 years	605	2 599	23,3
75+ years	566	1 311	43,1
Total	3 300	54 986	6,0

Source: Census 2022

Excluding unspecified cases

5.2 Household characteristics of persons with disabilities

Table 5.2.1 - Distribution of households with persons with disabilities by province, 2022

Province	N ('000)	Percent
WC	229	10,8
EC	322	15,2
NC	59	2,8
FS	151	7,1
KZN	394	18,6
NW	166	7,8
GP	430	20,3
MP	161	7,6
LP	211	9,9
RSA	2 123	100,0

Source: Census 2022

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 5.2.2 - Distribution of households with persons with disability by population group, 2022

Population group	N ('000)	Percent
Black African	1 745	82,2
Coloured	168	7,9
Indian/ Asian	38	1,8
White	165	7,8
Other	6	0,3
Total	2 123	100,0

Source: Census 2022

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 5.2.3 - Distribution of households with persons with disability by sex, 2022

Sex	N ('000)	Percent
Male	841	39,6
Female	1 282	60,4
Both	2 123	100,0

Source: Census 2022

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 5.2.4 - Distribution of household heads with disabilities by province, 2022

Province	N ('000)	Percent
WC	145	9,8
EC	244	16,4
NC	43	2,9
FS	111	7,5
KZN	278	18,7
NW	121	8,2
GP	292	19,7
MP	110	7,4
LP	141	9,5
RSA	1 485	100,0

Source: Census 2022

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 5.2.5 - Distribution of household heads with disabilities by sex, 2022

Sex	N ('000)	Percent
Male	543	36,6
Female	942	63,4
Both	1 485	100,0

Source: Census 2022

Excluding unspecified cases

5.3 Persons with disabilities: Education

Table 5.3.1 - Distribution of the highest level of education obtained by persons with disabilities aged 25 years and above by province and sex, 2022

Province and sex		N ('000)	Percent							
		Total	No schooling	Some primary	Completed primary	Some secondary	Matric/ grade 12	Higher	Other	Total
WC	Male	127	5,5	12,0	5,1	26,0	21,4	22,5	7,4	100,0
	Female	186	5,4	13,6	6,4	29,8	21,3	16,2	7,4	100,0
	Both	313	5,5	13,0	5,9	28,2	21,3	18,8	7,4	100,0
EC	Male	174	16,5	25,3	6,7	25,3	12,2	7,3	6,7	100,0
	Female	306	18,3	23,5	7,6	28,3	10,3	6,5	5,4	100,0
	Both	480	17,7	24,1	7,3	27,2	11,0	6,8	5,9	100,0
NC	Male	31	18,6	21,9	6,9	25,2	13,3	6,7	7,5	100,0
	Female	48	18,2	23,8	8,2	26,8	11,8	4,8	6,3	100,0
	Both	79	18,3	23,1	7,7	26,2	12,4	5,5	6,8	100,0
FS	Male	68	11,7	19,7	5,3	26,3	19,1	9,1	8,8	100,0
	Female	124	12,6	24,1	6,6	27,2	15,4	6,6	7,6	100,0
	Both	192	12,3	22,5	6,2	26,9	16,7	7,5	8,0	100,0
KZN	Male	204	18,3	16,7	4,7	23,8	19,7	9,6	7,2	100,0
	Female	368	23,8	21,3	5,2	21,4	14,8	6,9	6,5	100,0
	Both	572	21,9	19,7	5,0	22,2	16,5	7,9	6,8	100,0
NW	Male	80	21,2	21,0	5,2	23,6	14,1	6,2	8,7	100,0
	Female	121	19,8	22,1	6,2	25,8	13,4	5,5	7,2	100,0
	Both	202	20,3	21,7	5,8	24,9	13,7	5,8	7,8	100,0
GP	Male	227	8,1	10,5	3,8	27,1	24,9	18,3	7,3	100,0
	Female	337	9,0	11,9	4,5	30,5	23,8	13,5	6,8	100,0
	Both	565	8,7	11,3	4,2	29,1	24,2	15,4	7,0	100,0
MP	Male	74	26,8	16,0	4,6	21,0	17,1	6,9	7,4	100,0
	Female	121	35,1	16,1	4,4	18,7	14,2	5,1	6,4	100,0
	Both	195	32,0	16,0	4,5	19,6	15,3	5,8	6,8	100,0
LP	Male	88	25,9	16,1	4,6	22,3	13,5	8,6	9,1	100,0
	Female	155	40,8	14,3	4,0	17,1	10,2	5,8	7,8	100,0
	Both	243	35,4	15,0	4,2	19,0	11,4	6,8	8,3	100,0
RSA	Male	1 072	15,3	16,8	5,0	24,9	18,5	12,0	7,6	100,0
	Female	1 767	19,2	18,4	5,7	25,5	15,8	8,7	6,7	100,0
	Both	2 840	17,7	17,8	5,4	25,3	16,8	9,9	7,0	100,0

Source: Census 2022

Excluding unspecified cases

Table 5.3.2 - Distribution of the highest level of education obtained by persons with disabilities aged 25 years and above by population group and sex, 2022

Population group and sex		N ('000)	Percent						
			No schooling	Some primary	Completed primary	Some secondary	Matric/ grade 12	Higher	Other
Black African	Male	767	19,5	20,5	5,6	25,5	15,1	5,5	8,2
	Female	1 376	23,0	20,8	6,0	25,2	12,7	5,6	6,7
	Both	2 143	21,7	20,7	5,9	25,3	13,5	5,6	7,3
Coloured	Male	89	9,0	17,9	7,9	32,6	15,7	7,7	9,3
	Female	136	8,6	19,9	9,9	33,0	13,3	6,7	8,6
	Both	225	8,8	19,1	9,1	32,8	14,2	7,1	8,9
Indian/ Asian	Male	41	6,2	10,2	4,3	26,9	29,6	17,3	5,4
	Female	54	9,7	17,3	5,8	27,5	22,2	11,4	6,0
	Both	95	8,2	14,2	5,2	27,3	25,4	14,0	5,7
White	Male	170	2,5	1,4	0,9	17,5	32,3	41,1	4,4
	Female	196	2,6	1,5	0,9	21,9	38,0	30,0	5,1
	Both	366	2,5	1,5	0,9	19,9	35,3	35,2	4,8
Other	Male	6	5,9	5,8	2,8	20,7	21,5	36,4	6,9
	Female	5	4,0	7,6	4,0	23,4	22,8	32,1	6,0
	Both	11	4,9	6,7	3,4	22,0	22,2	34,3	6,5
Total	Male	1 072	15,3	16,8	5,0	24,9	18,5	12,0	7,6
	Female	1 767	19,2	18,4	5,7	25,5	15,8	8,7	6,7
	Both	2 840	17,7	17,8	5,4	25,3	16,8	9,9	7,0

Source: Census 2022
Excluding unspecified cases

5.4 Persons with disabilities: Housing and basic services

Table 5.4.1 - Access to basic services of persons with disabilities compared to the overall population, 2022

Access to piped water

	N ('000)	Percent
	Total	Access
Without disability	47 655	49,0
With disability	3 032	47,3
Total	50 687	48,9

Source: Census 2022
Excluding unspecified cases

Access to improved sanitation

	N ('000)	Percent
	Total	Access
Without disability	47 655	77,7
With disability	3 032	78,1
Total	50 687	77,8

Source: Census 2022
Excluding unspecified cases

Refuse/ waste removed by the municipality

	N ('000)	Percent
	Total	Access
Without disability	47 655	58,2
With disability	3 032	54,9
Total	50 687	58,0

Source: Census 2022

Excluding unspecified cases

Access to electricity connected to the mains

	N ('000)	Percent
	Total	Access
Without disability	47 655	94,8
With disability	3 032	95,0
Total	50 687	94,8

Source: Census 2022

Excluding unspecified cases

Use solid fuels for cooking

	N ('000)	Percent
	Total	Access
Without disability	47 655	17,8
With disability	3 032	20,3
Total	50 687	18,0

Source: Census 2022

Excluding unspecified cases

5.5 Key findings

Persons with disabilities are defined as people experiencing various levels of difficulty in functional domains such as seeing, hearing, walking, self-care, remembering and concentrating, communicating and social interaction.

Only persons aged 5 years and older are included. Nationally, 6,0% of the population reported to be living with disabilities. Provincial differences in disability prevalence revealed that Eastern Cape and Free State had the highest rates (8,5% and 8,4%, respectively), while Gauteng had the lowest at 4,9%. Females had a higher prevalence of disability compared to males (7,0% vs. 4,9%). The analysis of age groups revealed that prevalence of disability increases with age.

Older persons reported a higher disability prevalence than younger persons. More than 43,1% of persons aged 75 and older reportedly lived with a disability. However, this pattern is expected given the type of questions asked, in favour of older persons reporting a number of difficulties in functioning due to frailty.

Nationally, the majority of persons with disabilities aged 25 and above reported having some secondary schooling (25,3%), followed by those with some primary (17,8%) and those with no schooling (17,7%). Gauteng and Western Cape recorded the majority of persons with disabilities who have attained some secondary as their highest level of education (29,1% and 28,2% respectively). Limpopo (35,4%), Mpumalanga (32,0%), and KwaZulu-Natal (21,9%) reported the highest proportions of persons with disabilities with no schooling as their highest level of education.

Looking at the highest level of education by different population groups, the analysis showed that black Africans were the most disadvantaged compared to other population groups. Black Africans with disabilities tend to have a higher proportion of persons with only some primary education or no schooling as the highest level of education. On the other hand, white persons with disabilities are reported to attain higher educational levels, including matric and higher than matric.

