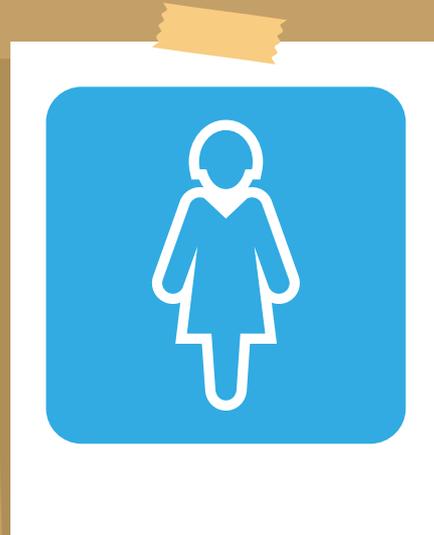


Marginalised Groups Indicator Report, 2024



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Marginalised Groups Indicator Report, 2024

Statistics South Africa

**Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General**

Report No. 03-19-05

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: 2024” 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 2024. 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.



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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.

1 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, 2024

Province	N ('000)			Percent		
	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both
WC	1 042	1 094	2 136	48,8	51,2	100,0
EC	1 264	1 241	2 505	50,4	49,6	100,0
NC	226	218	444	50,9	49,1	100,0
FS	553	488	1 041	53,1	46,9	100,0
KZN	2 164	2 182	4 346	49,8	50,2	100,0
NW	687	752	1 439	47,8	52,2	100,0
GP	2 447	2 330	4 777	51,2	48,8	100,0
MP	896	898	1 794	49,9	50,1	100,0
LP	1 253	1 276	2 529	49,5	50,5	100,0
RSA	10 530	10 480	21 009	50,1	49,9	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 1.1.2–Distribution of children by metro and sex, 2024

Metro	N ('000)			Percent		
	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both
Metro	3 701	3 786	7 487	49,4	50,6	100,0
Non-metro	6 829	6 694	13 523	50,5	49,5	100,0
RSA	10 530	10 480	21 009	50,1	49,9	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 1.1.3–Distribution of children by population group and sex, 2024

Population group	N ('000)			Percent		
	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both
Black African	9 078	9 065	18 143	50,0	50,0	100,0
Coloured	857	844	1 702	50,4	49,6	100,0
Indian/Asian	177	172	350	50,7	49,3	100,0
White	417	399	815	51,1	48,9	100,0
Total	10 530	10 480	21 009	50,1	49,9	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 1.1.4–Children as a proportion of the overall population by province and sex, 2024

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Children	Total	Children	Total	Children	Total	Children	Children	Children
WC	1 042	3 632	1 094	3 876	2 136	7 508	28,7	28,2	28,4
EC	1 264	3 200	1 241	3 333	2 505	6 533	39,5	37,2	38,3
NC	226	650	218	672	444	1 322	34,7	32,5	33,6
FS	553	1 515	488	1 538	1 041	3 053	36,5	31,8	34,1
KZN	2 164	5 805	2 182	6 292	4 346	12 096	37,3	34,7	35,9
NW	687	2 120	752	2 206	1 439	4 327	32,4	34,1	33,2
GP	2 447	8 636	2 330	8 387	4 777	17 023	28,3	27,8	28,1
MP	896	2 424	898	2 595	1 794	5 019	37,0	34,6	35,7
LP	1 253	2 990	1 276	3 308	2 529	6 298	41,9	38,6	40,2
RSA	10 530	30 972	10 480	32 208	21 009	63 179	34,0	32,5	33,3

Source: GHS 2024

Table 1.1.5–Children as a proportion of the overall population by metro and sex, 2024

Metro	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Children	Total	Children	Total	Children	Total	Children	Children	Children
Metro	3 701	13 225	3 786	13 442	7 487	26 667	28,0	28,2	28,1
Non-metro	6 829	17 746	6 694	18 766	13 523	36 512	38,5	35,7	37,0
RSA	10 530	30 972	10 480	32 208	21 009	63 179	34,0	32,5	33,3

Source: GHS 2024

Table 1.1.6–Children as a proportion of the overall population by population group and sex, 2024

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Children	Total	Children	Total	Children	Total	Children	Children	Children
Black African	9 078	25 481	9 065	26 493	18 143	51 974	35,6	34,2	34,9
Coloured	857	2 600	844	2 757	1 702	5 358	33,0	30,6	31,8
Indian/Asian	177	805	172	747	350	1 553	22,0	23,0	22,5
White	417	2 085	399	2 209	815	4 295	20,0	18,0	19,0
Total	10 530	30 972	10 480	32 208	21 009	63 179	34,0	32,5	33,3

Source: GHS 2024

1.2 Children: Household characteristics

Table 1.2.1–Children as a proportion of the overall population by population group and sex, 2024

Province and sex		N ('000)	Percent					
		Total	Maternal orphan	Paternal orphan	Double orphan	Not orphaned	Unspecified	Total
WC	Male	1 042	1,6	5,1	1,0	91,7	0,6	100,0
	Female	1 094	1,1	6,5	0,9	90,7	0,8	100,0
	Both	2 136	1,3	5,8	0,9	91,2	0,7	100,0
EC	Male	1 264	2,8	8,6	1,6	84,8	2,3	100,0
	Female	1 241	3,0	6,2	1,6	86,4	2,8	100,0
	Both	2 505	2,9	7,4	1,6	85,6	2,5	100,0
NC	Male	226	3,8	6,7	1,6	85,9	2,0	100,0
	Female	218	2,6	7,9	1,9	85,3	2,2	100,0
	Both	444	3,2	7,3	1,8	85,6	2,1	100,0
FS	Male	553	2,9	10,2	1,5	84,3	1,1	100,0
	Female	488	2,2	11,0	2,2	83,1	1,5	100,0
	Both	1 041	2,6	10,6	1,8	83,8	1,3	100,0
KZN	Male	2 164	3,2	8,5	1,9	85,1	1,4	100,0
	Female	2 182	2,8	8,5	1,6	85,7	1,4	100,0
	Both	4 346	3,0	8,5	1,8	85,4	1,4	100,0
NW	Male	687	4,6	7,3	2,7	81,8	3,5	100,0
	Female	752	3,7	8,2	2,2	82,7	3,2	100,0
	Both	1 439	4,1	7,8	2,4	82,3	3,3	100,0
GP	Male	2 447	2,8	6,5	0,7	88,4	1,6	100,0
	Female	2 330	2,3	6,3	1,2	88,5	1,7	100,0
	Both	4 777	2,5	6,4	1,0	88,5	1,6	100,0
MP	Male	896	2,3	9,0	1,4	86,3	1,0	100,0
	Female	898	2,7	9,4	1,9	84,9	1,2	100,0
	Both	1 794	2,5	9,2	1,6	85,6	1,1	100,0
LP	Male	1 253	2,0	6,4	1,6	88,5	1,5	100,0
	Female	1 276	2,0	6,1	2,1	88,8	0,9	100,0
	Both	2 529	2,0	6,3	1,8	88,7	1,2	100,0
RSA	Male	10 530	2,8	7,5	1,4	86,8	1,6	100,0
	Female	10 480	2,5	7,4	1,6	86,9	1,6	100,0
	Both	21 009	2,6	7,4	1,5	86,8	1,6	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 1.2.2–Distribution of children by metro, sex and orphan-hood status, 2024

Metro and sex		N ('000)	Percent					Total
			Total	Maternal orphan	Paternal orphan	Double orphan	Not orphaned		Unspecified
Metro	Male	3 701	2,8	7,2	0,8	88,0	1,2	100,0
	Female	3 786	1,9	6,6	1,1	88,8	1,6	100,0
	Both	7 487	2,3	6,9	1,0	88,4	1,4	100,0
Non-metro	Male	6 829	2,8	7,6	1,7	86,1	1,8	100,0
	Female	6 694	2,8	7,8	1,9	85,8	1,7	100,0
	Both	13 523	2,8	7,7	1,8	86,0	1,7	100,0
RSA	Male	10 530	2,8	7,5	1,4	86,8	1,6	100,0
	Female	10 480	2,5	7,4	1,6	86,9	1,6	100,0
	Both	21 009	2,6	7,4	1,5	86,8	1,6	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 1.2.3–Distribution of children by population group, sex and orphan-hood status, 2024

Population group and sex		N ('000)	Percent					Total
			Total	Maternal orphan	Paternal orphan	Double orphan	Not orphaned		Unspecified
Black African	Male	9 078	2,9	8,0	1,6	85,7	1,7	100,0
	Female	9 065	2,6	7,9	1,8	85,9	1,8	100,0
	Both	18 143	2,8	8,0	1,7	85,8	1,8	100,0
Coloured	Male	857	2,1	4,6	0,9	90,9	1,5	100,0
	Female	844	2,1	5,1	0,8	91,2	0,8	100,0
	Both	1 702	2,1	4,9	0,8	91,1	1,1	100,0
Indian/Asian	Male	177	0,4	2,5	..	97,1	..	100,0
	Female	172	1,5	1,3	..	97,1	..	100,0
	Both	350	0,9	1,9	..	97,1	..	100,0
White	Male	417	1,1	3,0	..	95,9	..	100,0
	Female	399	0,3	3,0	0,5	96,2	..	100,0
	Both	815	0,7	3,0	0,2	96,1	..	100,0
Total	Male	10 530	2,8	7,5	1,4	86,8	1,6	100,0
	Female	10 480	2,5	7,4	1,6	86,9	1,6	100,0
	Both	21 009	2,6	7,4	1,5	86,8	1,6	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 1.2.4–Children by sex and their parental living arrangements, 2024

Sex	N ('000)	Percent				Total
	Total	Lives with mother only	Lives with father only	Lives with both parents	Lives with neither parent	
Male	10 530	44,5	4,9	31,5	19,1	100,0
Female	10 480	46,6	3,6	31,3	18,5	100,0
Both	21 009	45,5	4,3	31,4	18,8	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 1.2.5–Distribution of children by province, sex and household composition, 2024

Province and sex		N ('000)	Percent					Total
		Total	Single	Nuclear	Extended	Complex	Unspecified	
WC	Male	1 042	..	49,6	44,2	6,2	..	100,0
	Female	1 094	..	51,6	43,0	5,4	..	100,0
	Both	2 136	..	50,6	43,6	5,8	..	100,0
EC	Male	1 264	0,1	24,5	72,6	2,6	0,1	100,0
	Female	1 241	..	22,9	75,2	1,9	..	100,0
	Both	2 505	0,1	23,7	73,9	2,2	0,0	100,0
NC	Male	226	..	33,8	61,1	5,1	..	100,0
	Female	218	..	35,1	62,1	2,8	..	100,0
	Both	444	..	34,4	61,6	4,0	..	100,0
FS	Male	553	0,2	47,3	52,1	0,5	..	100,0
	Female	488	0,1	42,9	56,2	0,7	0,1	100,0
	Both	1 041	0,1	45,2	54,0	0,6	0,1	100,0
KZN	Male	2 164	0	20,8	76,9	2,3	..	100,0
	Female	2 182	..	22,2	75,0	2,8	..	100,0
	Both	4 346	0	21,5	76,0	2,5	..	100,0
NW	Male	687	0,1	32,0	63,4	4,1	0,2	100,0
	Female	752	..	32,5	64,5	3,1	..	100,0
	Both	1 439	0,1	32,3	64,0	3,6	0,1	100,0
GP	Male	2 447	0,1	50,9	47,0	1,5	0,6	100,0
	Female	2 330	0	49,1	48,5	1,9	0,6	100,0
	Both	4 777	0,1	50,0	47,7	1,7	0,6	100,0
MP	Male	896	0,1	34,8	63,2	1,9	..	100,0
	Female	898	..	34,3	63,7	2,0	..	100,0
	Both	1 794	0	34,6	63,4	2,0	..	100,0
LP	Male	1 253	..	32,4	66,7	0,9	0,0	100,0
	Female	1 276	0,1	34,5	64,3	1,1	..	100,0
	Both	2 529	0,1	33,5	65,5	1,0	0,0	100,0
RSA	Male	10 530	0,1	36,0	61,3	2,4	0,2	100,0
	Female	10 480	0,0	35,9	61,6	2,4	0,1	100,0
	Both	21 009	0,0	35,9	61,5	2,4	0,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 1.2.6–Distribution of children by metro, sex and household composition, 2024

Metro and sex		N ('000)	Percent					Total
			Total	Single	Nuclear	Extended	Complex		Unspecified
Metro	Male	3 701,00	0,0	48,5	49,1	2,0	0,4	100,0
	Female	3 786,00	0,0	47,0	50,8	1,8	0,4	100,0
	Both	7 487,00	0,0	47,8	50,0	1,9	0,4	100,0
Non-metro	Male	6 829,00	0,1	29,3	67,9	2,7	0,0	100,0
	Female	6 694,00	0,0	29,5	67,7	2,7	..	100,0
	Both	13 523,00	0,1	29,4	67,8	2,7	0,0	100,0
RSA	Male	10 530,00	0,1	36,0	61,3	2,4	0,2	100,0
	Female	10 480,00	0,0	35,9	61,6	2,4	0,1	100,0
	Both	21 009,00	0,0	35,9	61,5	2,4	0,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 1.2.7–Distribution of children by population group, sex and household composition, 2024

Population group and sex		N ('000)	Percent					Total
			Total	Single	Nuclear	Extended	Complex		Unspecified
Black African	Male	9 078	0,1	32,8	65,1	1,9	0,2	100,0
	Female	9 065	0,0	33,0	64,8	2,1	0,1	100,0
	Both	18 143	0,0	32,9	64,9	2,0	0,2	100,0
Coloured	Male	857	..	42,3	49,6	8,2	..	100,0
	Female	844	..	39,8	54,2	6,0	..	100,0
	Both	1 702	..	41,0	51,9	7,1	..	100,0
Indian/Asian	Male	177	..	76,9	20,3	2,8	..	100,0
	Female	172	..	75,1	24,9	..	..	100,0
	Both	350	..	76,0	22,6	1,4	..	100,0
White	Male	417	..	76,8	20,5	2,6	..	100,0
	Female	399	..	75,5	21,2	3,2	..	100,0
	Both	815	..	76,2	20,9	2,9	..	100,0
Total	Male	10 530	0,1	36,0	61,3	2,4	0,2	100,0
	Female	10 480	0,0	35,9	61,6	2,4	0,1	100,0
	Both	21 009	0,0	35,9	61,5	2,4	0,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 1.2.8–Child-headed households by sex and intergenerational household type, 2024

Sex	N ('000)	Percent				Total
		Single generation	Double generation	Skip generation	Other	
Male	25	86,0	..	3,7	10,2	100,0
Female	14	65,3	9,9	..	24,8	100,0
Both	39	78,8	3,4	2,4	15,3	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

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, 2024

Sex	N ('000)		Percent
	Beneficiary	Total	Beneficiary
Male	7 216	10 530	68,5
Female	7 240	10 480	69,1
Both	14 455	21 009	68,8

Source: GHS 2024

Table 1.3.2–Children living in households without an employed adult by province and sex, 2024

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without		
WC	121	1 042	137	1 094	258	2 136	11,7	12,5	12,1
EC	594	1 264	617	1 241	1 211	2 505	47,0	49,7	48,3
NC	60	226	65	218	126	444	26,8	29,9	28,3
FS	185	553	187	488	372	1 041	33,4	38,3	35,7
KZN	785	2 164	731	2 182	1 516	4 346	36,3	33,5	34,9
NW	216	687	292	752	508	1 439	31,4	38,9	35,3
GP	428	2 447	436	2 330	864	4 777	17,5	18,7	18,1
MP	284	896	262	898	547	1 794	31,7	29,2	30,5
LP	509	1 253	519	1 276	1 029	2 529	40,6	40,7	40,7
RSA	3 183	10 530	3 247	10 480	6 430	21 009	30,2	31,0	30,6

Source: GHS 2024

Table 1.3.3–Children living in households without an employed adult by metro and sex, 2024

Metro	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without		
Metro	642	3 701	665	3 786	1 306	7 487	17,3	17,6	17,4
Non-metro	2 541	6 829	2 583	6 694	5 124	13 523	37,2	38,6	37,9
RSA	3 183	10 530	3 247	10 480	6 430	21 009	30,2	31,0	30,6

Source: GHS 2024

Table 1.3.4–Distribution of main source of income for child-headed households by metro, 2024

Metro	N ('000)	Percent				
	Total	Salaries/ wages/ commission	Remittances	Social grants	Unspecified	Total
Metro	10	13,6	78,7	..	7,7	100,0
Non-metro	29	..	85,8	14,2	..	100,0
RSA	39	3,4	84,0	10,6	2,0	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 1.3.5–Distribution of main source of income for child-headed households by sex, 2024

Sex	N ('000)	Percent				
	Total	Salaries/ wages/ commission	Remittances	Social grants	Unspecified	Total
Male	25	..	90,4	9,6	..	100,0
Female	14	9,9	72,2	12,3	5,6	100,0
Both	39	3,4	84,0	10,6	2,0	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 1.3.6–Distribution of children living in households by province, sex and household income quintile, 2024

Province and sex		N ('000)	Percent					Total
		Total	Below quintile 1 (R2010)	Between quintiles 1 & 2	Between quintiles 2 & 3	Between quintiles 3 & 4	Above quintile 4 (R20000)	
				(R2010 & R4150)	(R4150 & R7500)	(R7500 & R20000)		
WC	Male	1 042	5,0	7,5	18,6	37,6	31,4	100,0
	Female	1 094	4,8	7,8	17,9	36,8	32,7	100,0
	Both	2 136	4,9	7,6	18,3	37,2	32,1	100,0
EC	Male	1 264	10,1	23,5	31,3	25,3	9,8	100,0
	Female	1 241	10,0	22,8	34,0	24,2	9,0	100,0
	Both	2 505	10,0	23,1	32,7	24,8	9,4	100,0
NC	Male	226	7,9	17,5	23,3	32,5	18,8	100,0
	Female	218	9,9	20,4	24,4	27,1	18,2	100,0
	Both	444	8,9	18,9	23,8	29,8	18,5	100,0
FS	Male	553	12,1	23,1	26,0	24,5	14,2	100,0
	Female	488	12,9	26,9	26,2	23,5	10,4	100,0
	Both	1 041	12,5	24,9	26,1	24,0	12,5	100,0
KZN	Male	2 164	8,6	22,4	28,6	26,4	14,0	100,0
	Female	2 182	7,4	21,9	27,4	27,1	16,2	100,0
	Both	4 346	8,0	22,1	28,0	26,8	15,1	100,0
NW	Male	687	11,7	18,8	31,2	24,8	13,4	100,0
	Female	752	14,6	22,8	25,6	25,6	11,3	100,0
	Both	1 439	13,2	20,9	28,3	25,2	12,3	100,0
GP	Male	2 447	8,2	12,9	18,9	29,2	30,8	100,0
	Female	2 330	9,5	12,8	19,8	29,2	28,6	100,0
	Both	4 777	8,9	12,9	19,3	29,2	29,7	100,0
MP	Male	896	11,7	21,8	26,0	26,1	14,4	100,0
	Female	898	9,4	22,8	24,3	27,8	15,6	100,0
	Both	1 794	10,6	22,3	25,2	26,9	15,0	100,0
LP	Male	1 253	11,7	25,7	27,6	23,1	11,8	100,0
	Female	1 276	11,3	25,8	27,2	22,7	13,0	100,0
	Both	2 529	11,5	25,8	27,4	22,9	12,4	100,0
RSA	Male	10 530	9,4	18,9	25,3	27,5	18,9	100,0
	Female	10 480	9,4	19,3	25,0	27,5	18,8	100,0
	Both	21 009	9,4	19,1	25,1	27,5	18,9	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 1.3.7–Distribution of children living in households by metro, sex and household income quintile, 2024

Metro and sex		N ('000)	Percent					Total	
			Total	Below quintile 1 (R2010)	Between quintiles 1 & 2	Between quintiles 2 & 3	Between quintiles 3 & 4		Above quintile 4 (R20000)
					(R2010 & R4150)	(R4150 & R7500)	(R7500 & R20000)		
Metro	Male	3 701	8,1	12,2	19,2	30,3	30,2	100,0	
	Female	3 786	8,5	11,7	19,8	30,3	29,7	100,0	
	Both	7 487	8,3	11,9	19,5	30,3	29,9	100,0	
Non-metro	Male	6 829	10,0	22,5	28,6	26,0	12,9	100,0	
	Female	6 694	9,9	23,7	27,9	25,9	12,7	100,0	
	Both	13 523	10,0	23,1	28,2	26,0	12,8	100,0	
RSA	Male	10 530	9,4	18,9	25,3	27,5	18,9	100,0	
	Female	10 480	9,4	19,3	25,0	27,5	18,8	100,0	
	Both	21 009	9,4	19,1	25,1	27,5	18,9	100,0	

Source: GHS 2024

Table 1.3.8–Distribution of children living in households by population group, sex and household income quintile, 2024

Population group and sex		N ('000)	Percent					Total	
			Total	Below quintile 1 (R2010)	Between quintiles 1 & 2	Between quintiles 2 & 3	Between quintiles 3 & 4		Above quintile 4 (R20000)
					(R2010 & R4150)	(R4150 & R7500)	(R7500 & R20000)		
Black African	Male	9 078	10,2	20,8	27,1	27,4	14,5	100,0	
	Female	9 065	10,4	21,3	26,9	27,0	14,4	100,0	
	Both	18 143	10,3	21,1	27,0	27,2	14,5	100,0	
Coloured	Male	857	5,5	9,9	19,4	35,8	29,4	100,0	
	Female	844	3,9	10,7	19,0	36,0	30,3	100,0	
	Both	1 702	4,7	10,3	19,2	35,9	29,9	100,0	
Indian/Asian	Male	177	2,8	3,6	13,9	27,3	52,4	100,0	
	Female	172	1,8	3,0	6,0	34,4	54,8	100,0	
	Both	350	2,3	3,3	10,0	30,8	53,6	100,0	
White	Male	417	2,4	1,7	2,5	14,1	79,3	100,0	
	Female	399	1,1	0,5	2,3	16,4	79,7	100,0	
	Both	815	1,8	1,1	2,4	15,2	79,5	100,0	
Total	Male	10 530	9,4	18,9	25,3	27,5	18,9	100,0	
	Female	10 480	9,4	19,3	25,0	27,5	18,8	100,0	
	Both	21 009	9,4	19,1	25,1	27,5	18,9	100,0	

Source: GHS 2024

1.4 Children: Health

Table 1.4.1–Children with access to medical aid by metro and sex, 2024

Metro and sex		N ('000)	Percent			
		Total	Medical aid	No medical aid	Unspecified	Total
Metro	Male	3 701	20,2	79,7	0,1	100,0
	Female	3 786	20,5	79,4	0,1	100,0
	Both	7 487	20,4	79,5	0,1	100,0
Non-metro	Male	6 829	9,2	90,7	0,1	100,0
	Female	6 694	8,7	91,2	0,0	100,0
	Both	13 523	9,0	91,0	0,0	100,0
RSA	Male	10 530	13,1	86,9	0,1	100,0
	Female	10 480	13,0	87,0	0,1	100,0
	Both	21 009	13,0	86,9	0,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 1.4.2–Distribution of main type of healthcare facility visited by children by metro and sex, 2024

Metro and sex		N ('000)	Percent							
		Total	Public hospital	Public clinic	Public: Other	Private hospital/ clinic/ doctor	Other facilities	Traditional healer	Unspecified	Total
Metro	Male	3 701	7,5	64,3	0,2	27,5	0,5	..	..	100,0
	Female	3 786	7,0	63,3	0,1	28,7	0,9	..	..	100,0
	Both	7 487	7,3	63,8	0,1	28,1	0,7	..	..	100,0
Non-metro	Male	6 829	4,5	82,4	0,4	12,2	0,4	0,0	0,0	100,0
	Female	6 694	4,3	83,3	0,7	11,1	0,5	0,0	..	100,0
	Both	13 523	4,4	82,9	0,6	11,7	0,5	0,0	0,0	100,0
RSA	Male	10 530	5,6	76,0	0,3	17,6	0,5	0,0	0,0	100,0
	Female	10 480	5,3	76,1	0,4	17,5	0,7	0,0	..	100,0
	Both	21 009	5,4	76,1	0,4	17,5	0,6	0,0	0,0	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 1.4.3–Children who suffered from chronic diseases compared to the overall population by province, 2024

Province	N ('000)				Percent	
	Children		Total		Children	Total
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	
WC	55	2 136	1 272	7 508	2,6	16,9
EC	33	2 505	1 105	6 533	1,3	16,9
NC	6	444	256	1 322	1,3	19,4
FS	7	1 041	497	3 053	0,6	16,3
KZN	55	4 346	1 548	12 096	1,3	12,8
NW	9	1 439	652	4 327	0,7	15,1
GP	58	4 777	2 018	17 023	1,2	11,9
MP	25	1 794	570	5 019	1,4	11,4
LP	11	2 529	439	6 298	0,4	7,0
RSA	258	21 009	8 358	63 179	1,2	13,2

Source: GHS 2024

Table 1.4.4–Children who suffered from chronic diseases compared to the overall population by metro, 2024

Metro	N ('000)				Percent	
	Children		Total		Children	Total
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	
Metro	117	7 487	3 730	26 667	1,6	14,0
Non-metro	141	13 523	4 628	36 512	1,0	12,7
RSA	258	21 009	8 358	63 179	1,2	13,2

Source: GHS 2024

Table 1.4.5–Children who suffered from chronic diseases compared to the overall population by sex, 2024

Sex	N ('000)				Percent	
	Children		Total		Children	Total
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	
Male	138	10 530	3 059	30 972	1,3	9,9
Female	120	10 480	5 300	32 208	1,1	16,5
Both	258	21 009	8 358	63 179	1,2	13,2

Source: GHS 2024

1.5 Children: Vulnerability to hunger

Table 1.5.1–Children living in households that reported hunger by province and sex, 2024

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering		
WC	208	1 041	181	1 093	389	2 134	20,0	16,6	18,2
EC	222	1 262	220	1 241	442	2 503	17,6	17,7	17,7
NC	52	225	51	218	103	443	23,0	23,5	23,3
FS	77	552	83	488	161	1 041	14,0	17,1	15,4
KZN	490	2 164	491	2 182	982	4 346	22,7	22,5	22,6
NW	120	685	173	750	293	1 434	17,6	23,0	20,4
GP	272	2 445	276	2 326	548	4 771	11,1	11,9	11,5
MP	194	896	172	897	366	1 792	21,7	19,2	20,4
LP	67	1 250	74	1 272	141	2 522	5,3	5,8	5,6
RSA	1 703	10 519	1 721	10 466	3 425	20 986	16,2	16,4	16,3

Source: GHS 2024.

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 1.5.2–Children living in households that reported hunger by metro and sex, 2024

Metro	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering		
Metro	501	3 698	492	3 780	993	7 478	13,6	13,0	13,3
Non-metro	1 202	6 822	1 229	6 686	2 431	13 508	17,6	18,4	18,0
RSA	1 703	10 519	1 721	10 466	3 425	20 986	16,2	16,4	16,3

Source: GHS 2024.

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 1.5.3–Children living in households that reported hunger by population group and sex, 2024

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering		
Black African	1 553	9 070	1 600	9 052	3 153	18 122	17,1	17,7	17,4
Coloured	132	856	105	843	237	1 699	15,4	12,4	13,9
Indian/Asian	13	177	3	172	16	350	7,2	1,9	4,6
White	6	417	14	399	19	815	1,3	3,5	2,4
Total	1 703	10 519	1 721	10 466	3 425	20 986	16,2	16,4	16,3

Source: GHS 2024.

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 1.5.4–Child-inclusive households that reported hunger by province, 2024

Province	N ('000)		Percent
	Suffering	Total	Suffering
WC	202	1 100	18,3
EC	140	908	15,5
NC	47	204	22,9
FS	71	541	13,1
KZN	345	1 715	20,1
NW	127	667	19,1
GP	264	2 665	9,9
MP	161	843	19,1
LP	45	1 029	4,4
RSA	1 401	9 674	14,5

Source: GHS 2024.

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 1.5.5–Child-inclusive households that reported hunger by metro, 2024

Metro	N ('000)		Percent
	Suffering	Total	Suffering
Metro	481	4 040	11,9
Non-metro	920	5 634	16,3
RSA	1 401	9 674	14,5

Source: GHS 2024.

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 1.5.6–Child-inclusive households that reported hunger by sex, 2024

Sex	N ('000)		Percent
	Suffering	Total	Suffering
Male	529	4 563	11,6
Female	872	5 111	17,1
Both	1 401	9 674	14,5

Source: GHS 2024.

Excluding unspecified cases.

1.6 Children: Education

Table 1.6.1–School attendance by children of compulsory school age (7-15) by age group and sex, 2024

Age group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Attending	Total	Attending	Total	Attending	Total	Attending	Attending	Attending
7-13 years	4 087	4 140	4 086	4 127	8 172	8 267	98,7	99,0	98,9
14-15 years	1 095	1 129	1 199	1 217	2 295	2 346	97,0	98,5	97,8
Total	5 182	5 269	5 285	5 344	10 467	10 613	98,4	98,9	98,6

Source: GHS 2024.

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 1.6.2–Learners in public ordinary schools (POS) benefiting from the “No Fees School” policy by sex, 2024

Sex	N ('000)	Percent
	Total	Beneficiary
Male	3 405	97,5
Female	3 452	97,6
Both	6 857	97,6

Source: GHS 2024.

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 1.6.3–Children aged 0-4 years attending day care centres by province and sex, 2024

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Attending	Total	Attending	Total	Attending	Total	Attending		
WC	28	144	22	146	50	290	19,8	14,9	17,3
EC	42	118	53	124	94	242	35,3	42,3	38,9
NC	2	13	2	20	3	33	13,5	8,6	10,5
FS	18	83	14	63	32	146	21,9	22,4	22,1
KZN	62	169	56	165	118	335	36,4	34,0	35,2
NW	12	74	8	67	20	141	16,9	11,3	14,2
GP	60	305	48	294	108	599	19,6	16,5	18,1
MP	12	84	19	85	31	169	14,0	22,2	18,1
LP	19	182	13	196	33	378	10,5	6,9	8,6
RSA	255	1 172	235	1 160	489	2 332	21,7	20,2	21,0

Source: GHS 2024.

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 1.6.4–Children aged 0-4 attending day care centres by metro and sex, 2024

Metro	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Attending	Total	Attending	Total	Attending	Total	Attending		
Metro	91	442	89	447	180	889	20,6	19,9	20,2
Non-metro	164	730	146	714	310	1 444	22,4	20,4	21,4
RSA	255	1 172	235	1 160	489	2 332	21,7	20,2	21,0

Source: GHS 2024.

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 1.6.5–Children aged 7-13 attending educational institutions by province and sex, 2024

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Attending	Total	Attending	Total	Attending	Total	Attending		
WC	406	408	433	442	839	850	99,4	98,0	98,7
EC	518	524	460	465	978	988	99,0	98,9	99,0
NC	86	88	75	75	161	164	97,1	99,3	98,1
FS	216	218	191	191	407	409	99,3	100,0	99,6
KZN	841	851	865	870	1 706	1 721	98,8	99,4	99,1
NW	256	259	305	306	561	565	98,9	99,5	99,3
GP	896	914	896	907	1 792	1 822	98,0	98,8	98,4
MP	361	371	338	345	698	715	97,3	98,0	97,7
LP	506	507	524	526	1 030	1 033	99,9	99,6	99,7
RSA	4 087	4 140	4 086	4 127	8 172	8 267	98,7	99,0	98,9

Source: GHS 2024.

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 1.6.6–Children aged 7-13 attending educational institutions by metro and sex, 2024

Metro	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Attending	Total	Attending	Total	Attending	Total	Attending		
Metro	1 403	1 428	1 458	1 478	2 861	2 906	98,2	98,7	98,5
Non-metro	2 684	2 712	2 627	2 649	5 311	5 361	99,0	99,2	99,1
RSA	4 087	4 140	4 086	4 127	8 172	8 267	98,7	99,0	98,9

Source: GHS 2024.

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 1.6.7–Children aged 14-17 attending educational institutions by province and sex, 2024

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Attending	Total	Attending	Total	Attending	Total	Attending		
WC	210	232	238	260	448	493	90,2	91,6	90,9
EC	253	272	276	290	529	562	93,1	95,1	94,1
NC	38	42	51	54	88	96	89,8	94,1	92,2
FS	126	128	113	115	238	243	98,5	97,6	98,1
KZN	463	482	440	472	903	955	96,1	93,1	94,6
NW	124	140	144	154	269	294	88,9	93,4	91,2
GP	555	577	524	541	1 079	1 118	96,1	96,9	96,5
MP	179	187	195	201	375	388	95,8	97,3	96,5
LP	246	253	242	252	489	505	97,4	96,1	96,7
RSA	2 195	2 314	2 223	2 340	4 417	4 654	94,8	95,0	94,9

Source: GHS 2024.

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 1.6.8–Children aged 14-17 attending educational institutions by metro and sex, 2024

Metro	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Attending	Total	Attending	Total	Attending	Total	Attending		
Metro	825	866	855	897	1 680	1 763	95,3	95,4	95,3
Non-metro	1 370	1 448	1 367	1 443	2 737	2 891	94,6	94,7	94,7
RSA	2 195	2 314	2 223	2 340	4 417	4 654	94,8	95,0	94,9

Source: GHS 2024.

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 1.6.9–Children aged 15 who have not completed grade 7, by province and sex, 2024

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Not completed	Total	Not completed	Total	Not completed	Total	Not completed		
WC	5	50	2	61	7	111	11,0	2,8	6,5
EC	12	65	10	96	22	161	18,7	10,4	13,8
NC	2	14	1	18	4	32	18,0	5,9	11,2
FS	7	30	1	25	8	54	23,4	5,1	15,1
KZN	6	113	1	115	7	228	5,4	1,1	3,2
NW	6	26	3	40	9	66	23,4	8,0	14,0
GP	5	133	1	143	6	276	4,0	0,5	2,2
MP	..	42	3	49	3	91	..	5,7	3,1
LP	5	61	2	74	6	135	7,5	2,5	4,8
RSA	49	534	24	621	73	1 155	9,2	3,8	6,3

Source: GHS 2024.

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 1.6.10–Children aged 15 who have not completed grade 7, by metro and sex, 2024

Metro	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Not completed	Total	Not completed	Total	Not completed	Total	Not completed		
Metro	16	196	5	235	21	431	8,0	2,1	4,8
Non-metro	33	338	19	387	52	724	9,9	4,9	7,2
RSA	49	534	24	621	73	1 155	9,2	3,8	6,3

Source: GHS 2024.

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 1.6.11–Children aged 17 who have not completed grade 9, by province and sex, 2024

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Not completed	Total	Not completed	Total	Not completed	Total	Not completed		
WC	12	54	8	56	20	109	21,7	15,2	18,4
EC	19	67	12	68	31	135	28,2	17,5	22,8
NC	4	9	1	13	5	22	43,5	4,4	21,1
FS	10	32	6	29	16	61	32,3	19,0	25,9
KZN	23	112	8	113	31	225	20,3	6,9	13,6
NW	15	43	5	28	20	71	34,6	19,1	28,4
GP	11	153	3	120	15	272	7,5	2,7	5,4
MP	10	47	7	53	17	100	21,3	12,4	16,6
LP	16	64	5	58	21	122	24,5	9,4	17,3
RSA	120	581	55	537	175	1 118	20,6	10,2	15,6

Source: GHS 2024.

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 1.6.12–Children aged 17 who have not completed grade 9, by metro and sex, 2024

Metro	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Not completed	Total	Not completed	Total	Not completed	Total	Not completed		
Metro	23	218	11	209	34	426	10,5	5,3	7,9
Non-metro	97	364	44	328	141	692	26,7	13,3	20,3
RSA	120	581	55	537	175	1 118	20,6	10,2	15,6

Source: GHS 2024.

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 1.6.13–Distribution of reasons for children aged 7–17 who are not attending school by province, 2024

Reason		WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
N ('000)	Total	56	43	11	6	67	30	69	30	20	331
Percent	Too old/ young	6,0	3,8	..	..	1,8	..	2,3	4,0	4,0	3,0
	Has completed education/satisfied with level of education	38,1	13,9	7,8	48,6	29,3	5,6	17,2	8,0	..	20,1
	School/education institution too far	..	7,2	..	..	..	..	4,9	..	2,7	2,1
	Difficulties to get to school (transport)	..	3,0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0,4
	No money for fees	6,2	10,8	2,2	..	6,7	4,6	35,8	8,9	17,9	13,6
	Working, do not have time	2,9	..	..	..	6,0	..	2,6	2,4	..	2,5
	COVID-19	..	3,1	..	..	5,5	3,4	..	6,2	17,8	3,4
	Family commitments	13,3	5,2	13,3	..	1,2	12,2	1,3	..	..	5,0
	Education is useless	4,9	14,1	25,2	11,8	4,9	32,3	2,4	13,1	23,6	10,7
	Unable to perform at school	..	3,0	..	15,2	11,1	2,2	0,9	9,8	..	4,2
	Illness	..	1,9	6,2	11,9	10,4	..	3,5	..	..	3,5
	Pregnancy	3,0	..	5,8	..	..	2,6	..	..	..	0,9
	Got married	2,9	16,1	9,0	6,9	4,1	7,8	6,1	8,3	18,3	7,6
	Disability	1,9	1,2	7,9	5,6	..	..	1,6	..	3,2	1,4
	Violence in school	2,3	7,7	4,8	..	7,9	12,9	12,3	26,9	4,8	9,6
	Not accepted for enrolment	..	..	..	..	..	..	0,7	..	..	0,2
	Do not have time/too busy	18,4	9,0	17,9	..	11,1	16,4	8,3	12,5	7,7	11,9
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 1.6.14–Distribution of reasons for children aged 7–17 who are not attending school by Metro, 2024

Reason		Metro	Non-metro	RSA
N ('000)	Total	127	204	331
Percent	Too old/ young	3,6	2,5	3,0
	Has completed education/satisfied with level of education	20,4	20,0	20,1
	School/education institution too far	3,3	1,4	2,1
	Difficulties to get to school (transport)	..	0,6	0,4
	No money for fees	22,5	8,1	13,6
	Working, do not have time	3,3	1,9	2,5
	COVID-19	0,7	5,2	3,4
	Family commitments	4,5	5,3	5,0
	Education is useless	4,9	14,3	10,7
	Unable to perform at school	3,7	4,5	4,2
	Illness	3,5	3,5	3,5
	Pregnancy	..	1,5	0,9
	Got married	5,7	8,8	7,6
	Disability	0,8	1,7	1,4
	Violence in school	8,3	10,4	9,6
	Not accepted for enrolment	0,4	..	0,2
	Do not have time/too busy	14,4	10,3	11,9
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	

Source: GHS 2024

1.7 Children: Housing and basic services

Table 1.7.1–Distribution of child-headed households by type of housing, metro and sex, 2024

Metro and sex		N ('000)	Percent			
			Total	Formal	Traditional	Informal	Total
Metro	Male	5	53,5	..	46,5	100,0
	Female	5	..	..	100,0	100,0
	Both	10	28,2	..	71,8	100,0
Non-metro	Male	20	100,0	..	..	100,0
	Female	9	91,1	8,9	..	100,0
	Both	29	97,3	2,7	..	100,0
RSA	Male	25	90,5	..	9,5	100,0
	Female	14	59,8	5,9	34,3	100,0
	Both	39	79,8	2,0	18,2	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 1.7.2–Living condition indicators of children compared to the overall population, 2024**Access to piped water**

	N ('000)	Percent	
	Total	Access	Unspecified
Not children	42 170	77,5	1,4
Children	21 009	70,4	2,2
Total	63 179	75,2	1,7

Source: GHS 2024

Access to improved sanitation

	N ('000)	Percent
	Total	Access
Not children	42 170	83,8
Children	21 009	80,4
Total	63 179	82,7

Source: GHS 2024

Refuse/ waste removed by the municipality

	N ('000)	Percent
	Total	Access
Not children	42 170	63,7
Children	21 009	54,4
Total	63 179	60,6

Source: GHS 2024

Access to electricity connected to the mains

	N ('000)	Percent	
	Total	Access	Unspecified
Not children	42 170	93,2	4,3
Children	21 009	94,7	3,2
Total	63 179	93,7	3,9

Source: GHS 2024

Use solid fuels for cooking

	N ('000)	Percent
	Total	Access
Not children	42 170	9,1
Children	21 009	14,4
Total	63 179	10,9

Source: GHS 2024

1.8 Key findings

There was approximately 21 million persons aged 17 and younger in South Africa in 2024, accounting for 33,3% of the overall population. Amongst the children, 50,1% were males and 49,9% were females. Provincial variations showed that Limpopo (40,2%), Eastern Cape (38,3%), KwaZulu-Natal (35,9%) and Mpumalanga (35,7%) had the highest proportion of children in relation to the total population. Provinces with the lowest percentage of children were Gauteng (28,1%) and Western Cape (28,4%).

Household characteristics showed that nationally, 7,4% of the children were paternal orphans, 2,6% were maternal orphans and 1,5% were double orphans. Parental living arrangements indicated that 45,5% lived with their mother only, 31,4% lived with both parents, 18,8% lived with neither parent and 4,3% lived with their father only. Household composition disaggregation showed that majority of children were in extended households and 35,9% lived in nuclear households. Provincially, there were significant differences, as children in Western Cape (50,6%) and Gauteng (50,0%) lived in nuclear households and children in Eastern Cape (73,9%) and KwaZulu-Natal (76,0%) lived in extended households. Population group analysis showed that majority of black African and coloured children were more likely to be in extended households, while white and Indian/Asian children were in nuclear household.

In 2024, 68,8% of children were beneficiaries of social grants. About 30,6% of children lived in households without an employed adult, with Eastern Cape (48,3%) and Limpopo (40,7%) reporting the highest percentages while Western Cape (12,1%) and Gauteng (18,1%) had the lowest percentages. Approximately, 16,3% of children lived in households that reportedly experienced hunger. Provincially, children residing in households that reported to experience hunger were predominantly in Northern Cape (23,3%), KwaZulu-Natal (22,6%) and Limpopo (5,6%) and Gauteng (11,5%) and Free State (15,4%) reported lowest percentage than the national average. Geographical disparities showed that children living in the non-metro areas (18,0%) experienced hunger compared to children in the metro areas (13,3%). Children from the black African and Coloured population groups were more likely to live in households that reportedly experienced hunger, compared to other population groups.

In 2024, 98,6% of children of compulsory school age (7-15 years) attended school and majority benefited from the “No Fees School” policy. Approximately 21,0% of children aged 0-4 attended day care centres in 2024. Provincially, children in Eastern Cape (38,9%) and KwaZulu-Natal (35,2%) were more likely to attend day care centres compared to children in Limpopo (8,6%) and Northern Cape (10,5%). The most cited reason among children aged 7-17 not attending school was being satisfied with the level of education, the second common reason was having no money for fees.

2 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, 2024

Province	N ('000)			Percent		
	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both
WC	1 197	1 248	2 445	49,0	51,0	100,0
EC	1 054	984	2 038	51,7	48,3	100,0
NC	191	230	421	45,4	54,6	100,0
FS	511	486	997	51,3	48,7	100,0
KZN	2 046	2 109	4 155	49,3	50,7	100,0
NW	676	714	1 390	48,6	51,4	100,0
GP	3 126	2 925	6 051	51,7	48,3	100,0
MP	808	870	1 678	48,1	51,9	100,0
LP	973	1 056	2 029	48,0	52,0	100,0
RSA	10 582	10 622	21 204	49,9	50,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 2.1.2–Distribution of youth by metro and sex, 2024

Metro	N ('000)			Percent		
	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both
Metro	4 556	4 460	9 016	50,5	49,5	100,0
Non-metro	6 026	6 162	12 188	49,4	50,6	100,0
RSA	10 582	10 622	21 204	49,9	50,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 2.1.3–Distribution of youth by population group and sex, 2024

Population group	N ('000)			Percent		
	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both
Black African	9 020	9 099	18 120	49,8	50,2	100,0
Coloured	853	849	1 702	50,1	49,9	100,0
Indian/Asian	235	205	440	53,4	46,6	100,0
White	474	469	942	50,3	49,7	100,0
Total	10 582	10 622	21 204	49,9	50,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 2.1.4–Distribution of youth by age group and sex, 2024

Age group	N ('000)			Percent		
	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both
15-24 years	5 184	5 216	10 400	49,8	50,2	100,0
25-34 years	5 398	5 406	10 804	50,0	50,0	100,0
Total	10 582	10 622	21 204	49,9	50,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 2.1.5–Youth as a proportion of the overall population by province and sex, 2024

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Youth	Total	Youth	Total	Youth	Total	Youth		
WC	1 197	3 632	1 248	3 876	2 445	7 508	32,9	32,2	32,6
EC	1 054	3 200	984	3 333	2 038	6 533	32,9	29,5	31,2
NC	191	650	230	672	421	1 322	29,4	34,2	31,8
FS	511	1 515	486	1 538	997	3 053	33,7	31,6	32,7
KZN	2 046	5 805	2 109	6 292	4 155	12 096	35,3	33,5	34,3
NW	676	2 120	714	2 206	1 390	4 327	31,9	32,4	32,1
GP	3 126	8 636	2 925	8 387	6 051	17 023	36,2	34,9	35,5
MP	808	2 424	870	2 595	1 678	5 019	33,3	33,5	33,4
LP	973	2 990	1 056	3 308	2 029	6 298	32,5	31,9	32,2
RSA	10 582	30 972	10 622	32 208	21 204	63 179	34,2	33,0	33,6

Source: GHS 2024

Table 2.1.6–Youth as a proportion of the overall population by metro and sex, 2024

Metro	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Youth	Total	Youth	Total	Youth	Total	Youth		
Metro	4 556	13 225	4 460	13 442	9 016	26 667	34,5	33,2	33,8
Non-metro	6 026	17 746	6 162	18 766	12 188	36 512	34,0	32,8	33,4
RSA	10 582	30 972	10 622	32 208	21 204	63 179	34,2	33,0	33,6

Source: GHS 2024

Table 2.1.7–Youth as a proportion of the overall population by population group and sex, 2024

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Youth	Total	Youth	Total	Youth	Total	Youth		
Black African	9 020	25 481	9 099	26 493	18 120	51 974	35,4	34,3	34,9
Coloured	853	2 600	849	2 757	1 702	5 358	32,8	30,8	31,8
Indian/Asian	235	805	205	747	440	1 553	29,1	27,4	28,3
White	474	2 085	469	2 209	942	4 295	22,7	21,2	21,9
Total	10 582	30 972	10 622	32 208	21 204	63 179	34,2	33,0	33,6

Source: GHS 2024

2.2 Youth: Household characteristics

Table 2.2.1–Distribution of youth-headed households by province, 2024

Province	N ('000)		Percent
	Youth	Total	Youth
WC	474	2 195	21,6
EC	340	1 780	19,1
NC	79	388	20,2
FS	227	1 024	22,2
KZN	797	3 387	23,5
NW	329	1 432	23,0
GP	1 659	5 981	27,7
MP	346	1 542	22,4
LP	423	1 822	23,2
RSA	4 674	19 551	23,9

Source: GHS 2024

Table 2.2.2–Distribution of youth-headed households by metro, 2024

Metro	N ('000)		Percent
	Youth	Total	Youth
Metro	2 212	8 915	24,8
Non-metro	2 461	10 636	23,1
RSA	4 674	19 551	23,9

Source: GHS 2024

Table 2.2.3–Distribution of youth-headed households by population group, 2024

Population group	N ('000)		Percent
	Youth	Total	Youth
Black African	4 243	16 267	26,1
Coloured	179	1 296	13,8
Indian/Asian	68	451	15,2
White	183	1 536	11,9
Total	4 674	19 551	23,9

Source: GHS 2024

Table 2.2.4–Distribution of youth-headed households by sex, 2024

Sex	N ('000)		Percent
	Youth	Total	Youth
Male	2 992	11 253	26,6
Female	1 681	8 298	20,3
Both	4 674	19 551	23,9

Source: GHS 2024

Table 2.2.5–Distribution of youth-headed households by province and age group, 2024

Province	N ('000)			Percent		
	15-24 years	25-34 years	Total	15-24 years	25-34 years	Total
WC	89	385	474	18,8	81,2	100,0
EC	70	270	340	20,6	79,4	100,0
NC	13	65	79	17,0	83,0	100,0
FS	46	181	227	20,4	79,6	100,0
KZN	134	663	797	16,8	83,2	100,0
NW	78	251	329	23,7	76,3	100,0
GP	268	1 391	1 659	16,2	83,8	100,0
MP	55	291	346	15,9	84,1	100,0
LP	116	307	423	27,4	72,6	100,0
RSA	870	3 804	4 674	18,6	81,4	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 2.2.6–Distribution of youth-headed households by metro and age group, 2024

Metro	N ('000)			Percent		
	15-24 years	25-34 years	Total	15-24 years	25-34 years	Total
Metro	359	1 854	2 212	16,2	83,8	100,0
Non-metro	511	1 950	2 461	20,8	79,2	100,0
RSA	870	3 804	4 674	18,6	81,4	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 2.2.7–Distribution of youth-headed households by population group and age group, 2024

Population group	N ('000)			Percent		
	15-24 years	25-34 years	Total	15-24 years	25-34 years	Total
Black African	812	3 431	4 243	19,1	80,9	100,0
Coloured	25	154	179	14,1	85,9	100,0
Indian/Asian	8	60	68	11,9	88,1	100,0
White	25	159	183	13,4	86,6	100,0
Total	870	3 804	4 674	18,6	81,4	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 2.2.8–Distribution of youth-headed households by sex and age group, 2024

Sex	N ('000)			Percent		
	15-24 years	25-34 years	Total	15-24 years	25-34 years	Total
Male	520	2 472	2 992	17,4	82,6	100,0
Female	350	1 331	1 681	20,8	79,2	100,0
Both	870	3 804	4 674	18,6	81,4	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 2.2.9–Distribution of youth by province and household composition, 2024

Province	N ('000)	Percent					
	Total	Single	Nuclear	Extended	Complex	Unspecified	Total
WC	2 445	3,8	44,5	43,7	8,0	..	100,0
EC	2 038	6,3	22,5	67,6	3,6	..	100,0
NC	421	3,7	29,4	61,6	5,4	..	100,0
FS	997	6,0	39,6	53,5	1,0	..	100,0
KZN	4 155	4,4	21,4	70,5	3,7	0,1	100,0
NW	1 390	5,7	31,4	58,3	4,4	0,2	100,0
GP	6 051	7,7	42,2	46,0	3,7	0,3	100,0
MP	1 678	5,0	29,9	62,5	2,6	..	100,0
LP	2 029	7,3	32,1	58,9	1,8	0,0	100,0
RSA	21 204	5,9	33,5	56,6	3,9	0,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 2.2.10–Distribution of youth by metro and household composition, 2024

Metro	N ('000)	Percent					
	Total	Single	Nuclear	Extended	Complex	Unspecified	Total
Metro	9 016	6,6	40,8	48,1	4,2	0,2	100,0
Non-metro	12 188	5,4	28,0	62,9	3,6	0,0	100,0
RSA	21 204	5,9	33,5	56,6	3,9	0,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 2.2.11–Distribution of youth by population group and household composition, 2024

Population group	N ('000)	Percent					
	Total	Single	Nuclear	Extended	Complex	Unspecified	Total
Black African	18 120	6,5	30,5	59,6	3,3	0,1	100,0
Coloured	1 702	1,3	39,5	50,5	8,7	..	100,0
Indian/Asian	440	4,3	66,4	22,9	6,3	..	100,0
White	942	3,6	64,8	26,1	5,5	..	100,0
Total	21 204	5,9	33,5	56,6	3,9	0,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 2.2.12–Distribution of youth by sex and household composition, 2024

Sex	N ('000)	Percent					
	Total	Single	Nuclear	Extended	Complex	Unspecified	Total
Male	10582	8,9	32,2	54,5	4,3	0,2	100,0
Female	10622	3,0	34,7	58,7	3,5	0,1	100,0
Both	21204	5,9	33,5	56,6	3,9	0,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 2.2.13–Distribution of youth by age group and household composition, 2024

Age group	N ('000)	Percent					Total
	Total	Single	Nuclear	Extended	Complex	Unspecified	
15-24 years	10 400	2,8	33,5	59,8	3,7	0,2	100,0
25-34 years	10 804	8,9	33,5	53,5	4,0	0,0	100,0
Total	21 204	5,9	33,5	56,6	3,9	0,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 2.2.14–Distribution of youth headed households across intergenerational household type by province, 2024

Province	N ('000)	Percent					Total
	Total	Single generation	Double generation	Triple generation	Skip generation	Other	
WC	474	55,8	36,8	..	0,3	7,1	100,0
EC	340	62,6	30,0	0,7	..	6,7	100,0
NC	79	44,8	49,6	..	..	5,7	100,0
FS	227	54,8	38,4	0,8	0,4	5,6	100,0
KZN	797	59,1	31,3	0,7	0,6	8,3	100,0
NW	329	60,3	33,6	0,4	1,2	4,4	100,0
GP	1 659	63,9	30,5	0,1	0,1	5,4	100,0
MP	346	54,8	39,2	..	..	6,0	100,0
LP	423	61,3	34,3	0,4	0,2	3,8	100,0
RSA	4 674	60,2	33,1	0,3	0,3	6,0	100,0

Source: GHS 2024.

Other include unspecified cases.

Table 2.2.15–Distribution of youth headed households across intergenerational household type by metro, 2024

Metro	N ('000)	Percent					Total
	Total	Single generation	Double generation	Triple generation	Skip generation	Other	
Metro	2 212	63,0	31,0	0,2	0,2	5,7	100,0
Non-metro	2 461	57,8	35,1	0,4	0,4	6,4	100,0
RSA	4 674	60,2	33,1	0,3	0,3	6,0	100,0

Source: GHS 2024.

Other include unspecified cases.

Table 2.2.16–Distribution of youth headed households across intergenerational household type by population group, 2024

Population group	N ('000)	Percent					
	Total	Single generation	Double generation	Triple generation	Skip generation	Other	Total
Black African	4 243	61,7	31,7	0,3	0,3	6,1	100,0
Coloured	179	34,6	59,1	0,9	0,9	4,5	100,0
Indian/Asian	68	33,4	55,0	..	..	11,7	100,0
White	183	62,3	33,6	..	..	4,0	100,0
Total	4 674	60,2	33,1	0,3	0,3	6,0	100,0

Source: GHS 2024.

Other include unspecified cases.

Table 2.2.17–Distribution of youth headed households across intergenerational household type by sex, 2024

Sex	N ('000)	Percent					
	Total	Single generation	Double generation	Triple generation	Skip generation	Other	Total
Male	2 992	70,8	23,1	..	0,2	5,8	100,0
Female	1 681	41,5	51,0	0,9	0,4	6,3	100,0
Both	4 674	60,2	33,1	0,3	0,3	6,0	100,0

Source: GHS 2024.

Other include unspecified cases.

Table 2.2.18–Distribution of youth headed households across intergenerational household type by age group, 2024

Age group	N ('000)	Percent					
	Total	Single generation	Double generation	Triple generation	Skip generation	Other	Total
15-24 years	870	75,1	13,1	0,2	0,6	11,0	100,0
25-34 years	3 804	56,8	37,7	0,3	0,2	4,9	100,0
Total	4 674	60,2	33,1	0,3	0,3	6,0	100,0

Source: GHS 2024.

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, 2024

Sex	N ('000)		Percent
	Beneficiary	Total	Beneficiary
Male	2 789	10 582	26,4
Female	3 027	10 622	28,5
Both	5 815	21 204	27,4

Source: GHS 2024

Table 2.3.2–Youth who are beneficiaries of social grants by age group, 2024

Age group	N ('000)		Percent
	Beneficiary	Total	Beneficiary
15-24 years	3 737	10 400	35,9
25-34 years	2 078	10 804	19,2
Total	5 815	21 204	27,4

Source: GHS 2024

Table 2.3.3–Youth living in households without an employed adult by province and sex, 2024

Province	N ('000)						Per cent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without		
WC	117	1 197	138	1 248	254	2 445	9,7	11,1	10,4
EC	440	1 054	419	984	859	2 038	41,8	42,6	42,2
NC	50	191	58	230	108	421	26,4	25,1	25,7
FS	166	511	163	486	329	997	32,5	33,5	33,0
KZN	540	2 046	599	2 109	1 139	4 155	26,4	28,4	27,4
NW	212	676	217	714	429	1 390	31,4	30,4	30,9
GP	513	3 126	508	2 925	1 021	6 051	16,4	17,4	16,9
MP	207	808	249	870	456	1 678	25,6	28,6	27,2
LP	353	973	408	1 056	761	2 029	36,3	38,6	37,5
RSA	2 599	10 582	2 759	10 622	5 358	21 204	24,6	26,0	25,3

Source: GHS 2024

Table 2.3.4–Youth living in households without an employed adult by metro and sex, 2024

Metro	N ('000)						Per cent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without		
Metro	716	4 556	712	4 460	1 429	9 016	15,7	16,0	15,8
Non-metro	1 883	6 026	2 046	6 162	3 929	12 188	31,2	33,2	32,2
RSA	2 599	10 582	2 759	10 622	5 358	21 204	24,6	26,0	25,3

Source: GHS 2024

Table 2.3.5–Youth living in households without an employed adult by age group and sex, 2024

Age group	N ('000)						Per cent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without		
15-24 years	1 508	5 184	1 568	5 216	3 076	10 400	29,1	30,1	29,6
25-34 years	1 091	5 398	1 191	5 406	2 282	10 804	20,2	22,0	21,1
Total	2 599	10 582	2 759	10 622	5 358	21 204	24,6	26,0	25,3

Source: GHS 2024

Table 2.3.6–Youth-headed households without an employed adult by province and sex, 2024

Province	N ('000)						Per cent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without		
WC	36	287	54	187	91	474	12,6	29,1	19,1
EC	73	201	70	139	143	340	36,3	50,7	42,2
NC	10	41	17	37	27	79	24,3	46,3	34,7
FS	48	156	38	71	86	227	30,7	53,4	37,8
KZN	123	487	147	310	270	797	25,2	47,5	33,9
NW	67	217	52	112	119	329	31,0	46,2	36,2
GP	188	1 131	154	528	342	1 659	16,6	29,1	20,6
MP	45	209	73	137	117	346	21,3	53,1	33,9
LP	88	263	102	160	190	423	33,5	63,8	45,0
RSA	678	2 992	708	1 681	1 385	4 674	22,6	42,1	29,6

Source: GHS 2024

Table 2.3.7–Youth-headed households without an employed adult by metro and sex, 2024

Metro	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without		
Metro	240	1 459	235	754	474	2 212	16,4	31,1	21,4
Non-metro	438	1 534	473	928	911	2 461	28,6	51,0	37,0
RSA	678	2 992	708	1 681	1 385	4 674	22,6	42,1	29,6

Source: GHS 2024

Table 2.3.8–Distribution of main sources of income for youth-headed households by metro, 2024

Metro	N ('000)	Per cent						
	Total	Salaries/ wages/ commission	Remit- tances	Social grants	Sales of farming products and services	Other non-farm income	Unspecified	Total
Metro	2 212	68,7	11,8	6,7	..	10,6	2,2	100,0
Non-metro	2 461	51,0	21,9	16,8	0,1	8,4	1,8	100,0
RSA	4 674	59,4	17,1	12,0	0,1	9,4	2,0	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 2.3.9–Distribution of main sources of income for youth-headed households by sex, 2024

Sex	N ('000)	Per cent						
	Total	Salaries/ wages/ commission	Remit-tances	Social grants	Sales of farming products and services	Other non-farm income	Unspecified	Total
Male	2 992	65,5	13,4	7,3	0,1	11,2	2,5	100,0
Female	1 681	48,4	23,7	20,4	0,1	6,3	1,2	100,0
Both	4 674	59,4	17,1	12,0	0,1	9,4	2,0	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 2.3.10–Employed youth by province and age group, 2024

Province	N ('000)			Per cent		
	15-24 years	25-34 years	Total	15-24 years	25-34 years	Total
WC	241	776	1 017	23,7	76,3	100,0
EC	115	435	550	20,9	79,1	100,0
NC	30	92	122	24,7	75,3	100,0
FS	44	200	244	18,0	82,0	100,0
KZN	174	883	1 057	16,4	83,6	100,0
NW	58	237	296	19,7	80,3	100,0
GP	242	1 256	1 498	16,2	83,8	100,0
MP	95	350	445	21,4	78,6	100,0
LP	86	469	555	15,6	84,4	100,0
RSA	1 086	4 699	5 784	18,8	81,2	100,0

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 2.3.11–Employed youth by metro and age group, 2024

Metro	N ('000)			Per cent		
	15-24 years	25-34 years	Total	15-24 years	25-34 years	Total
Metro	473	2 197	2 670	17,7	82,3	100,0
Non-metro	613	2 501	3 114	19,7	80,3	100,0
RSA	1 086	4 699	5 784	18,8	81,2	100,0

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 2.3.12–Employed youth by population group and age group, 2024

Population group	N ('000)			Per cent		
	15-24 years	25-34 years	Total	15-24 years	25-34 years	Total
Black African	742	3 662	4 404	16,8	83,2	100,0
Coloured	182	478	660	27,6	72,4	100,0
Indian/Asian	32	140	172	18,4	81,6	100,0
White	130	419	549	23,7	76,3	100,0
Total	1 086	4 699	5 784	18,8	81,2	100,0

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 2.3.13–Unemployed youth by province and age group, 2024

Province	N ('000)			Per cent		
	15-24 years	25-34 years	Total	15-24 years	25-34 years	Total
WC	172	221	393	43,7	56,3	100,0
EC	160	370	529	30,2	69,8	100,0
NC	40	59	99	40,7	59,3	100,0
FS	88	177	265	33,1	66,9	100,0
KZN	272	558	830	32,8	67,2	100,0
NW	102	233	335	30,5	69,5	100,0
GP	482	953	1 435	33,6	66,4	100,0
MP	167	278	445	37,6	62,4	100,0
LP	159	334	493	32,3	67,7	100,0
RSA	1 643	3 182	4 826	34,1	65,9	100,0

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 2.3.14–Unemployed youth by metro and age group, 2024

Metro and age group	N ('000)			Per cent		
	15-24 years	25-34 years	Total	15-24 years	25-34 years	Total
Metro	637	1 267	1 905	33,5	66,5	100,0
Non-metro	1 006	1 915	2 921	34,4	65,6	100,0
RSA	1 643	3 182	4 826	34,1	65,9	100,0

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 2.3.15–Unemployed youth by population group and age group, 2024

Population group and age group	N ('000)			Per cent		
	15-24 years	25-34 years	Total	15-24 years	25-34 years	Total
Black African	1 448	2 934	4 382	33,0	67,0	100,0
Coloured	147	150	298	49,4	50,6	100,0
Indian/Asian	18	47	66	27,9	72,1	100,0
White	30	51	81	37,2	62,8	100,0
Total	1 643	3 182	4 826	34,1	65,9	100,0

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 2.3.16–Not economically active youth by province and age group, 2024

Province	N ('000)			Percent		
	15-24 years	25-34 years	Total	15-24 years	25-34 years	Total
WC	710	219	929	76,4	23,6	100,0
EC	1 014	426	1 440	70,4	29,6	100,0
NC	153	54	207	74,0	26,0	100,0
FS	356	119	475	75,0	25,0	100,0
KZN	1 612	691	2 303	70,0	30,0	100,0
NW	546	234	780	70,0	30,0	100,0
GP	1 752	496	2 248	78,0	22,0	100,0
MP	598	183	781	76,5	23,5	100,0
LP	801	307	1 107	72,3	27,7	100,0
RSA	7 544	2 728	10 272	73,4	26,6	100,0

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 2.3.17–Not economically active youth by metro and age group, 2024

Metro	N ('000)			Per cent		
	15-24 years	25-34 years	Total	15-24 years	25-34 years	Total
Metro	2 685	863	3 548	75,7	24,3	100,0
Non-metro	4 859	1 865	6 723	72,3	27,7	100,0
RSA	7 544	2 728	10 272	73,4	26,6	100,0

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 2.3.18–Not economically active youth by population group and age group, 2024

Population group	N ('000)			Per cent		
	15-24 years	25-34 years	Total	15-24 years	25-34 years	Total
Black African	6 506	2 396	8 902	73,1	26,9	100,0
Coloured	534	218	752	71,0	29,0	100,0
Indian/Asian	145	48	194	75,0	25,0	100,0
White	359	65	423	84,8	15,2	100,0
Total	7 544	2 728	10 272	73,4	26,6	100,0

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 2.3.19–Youth labour force participation rate by province and age group, 2024

Province	N ('000)						Per cent		
	15-24 years		25-34 years		Total		15-24 years	25-34 years	Total
	Participated	Total	Participated	Total	Participated	Total	Participated		
WC	413	1 123	998	1 217	1 411	2 340	36,8	82,0	60,3
EC	275	1 289	805	1 230	1 080	2 520	21,3	65,4	42,8
NC	70	224	151	205	221	429	31,5	73,7	51,6
FS	132	488	377	496	509	984	27,0	76,1	51,7
KZN	446	2 059	1 441	2 132	1 887	4 191	21,7	67,6	45,0
NW	160	707	471	705	631	1 411	22,7	66,8	44,7
GP	724	2 477	2 208	2 704	2 932	5 180	29,2	81,7	56,6
MP	262	860	628	811	890	1 671	30,5	77,4	53,3
LP	246	1 046	803	1 109	1 048	2 156	23,5	72,3	48,6
RSA	2 729	10 273	7 881	10 609	10 610	20 882	26,6	74,3	50,8

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 2.3.20–Youth labour force participation rate by metro and age group, 2024

Metro	N ('000)						Per cent		
	15-24 years		25-34 years		Total		15-24 years	25-34 years	Total
	Participated	Total	Participated	Total	Participated	Total	Participated		
Metro	1 110	3 795	3 465	4 328	4 575	8 123	29,2	80,1	56,3
Non-metro	1 619	6 478	4 416	6 281	6 035	12 758	25,0	70,3	47,3
RSA	2 729	10 273	7 881	10 609	10 610	20 882	26,6	74,3	50,8

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 2.3.21–Youth labour force participation rate by population group and age group, 2024

Population group	N ('000)						Per cent		
	15-24 years		25-34 years		Total		15-24 years	25-34 years	Total
	Participated	Total	Participated	Total	Participated	Total	Participated		
Black African	2 190	8 695	6 596	8 993	8 786	17 688	25,2	73,4	49,7
Coloured	329	863	628	846	957	1 710	38,1	74,2	56,0
Indian/Asian	50	195	188	236	237	431	25,5	79,5	55,0
White	160	519	469	534	630	1 053	30,9	87,9	59,8
Total	2 729	10 273	7 881	10 609	10 610	20 882	26,6	74,3	50,8

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 2.3.22–Youth unemployment rate by province and age group, 2024

Province group	N ('000)						Per cent		
	15-24 years		25-34 years		Total		15-24 years	25-34 years	Total
	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed		
WC	172	413	221	998	393	1 411	41,6	22,2	27,9
EC	160	275	370	805	529	1 080	58,2	45,9	49,0
NC	40	70	59	151	99	221	57,1	38,9	44,7
FS	88	132	177	377	265	509	66,7	47,0	52,1
KZN	272	446	558	1 441	830	1 887	61,1	38,7	44,0
NW	102	160	233	471	335	631	63,7	49,6	53,2
GP	482	724	953	2 208	1 435	2 932	66,6	43,1	48,9
MP	167	262	278	628	445	890	63,8	44,3	50,0
LP	159	246	334	803	493	1 048	64,8	41,6	47,0
RSA	1 643	2 729	3 182	7 881	4 826	10 610	60,2	40,4	45,5

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 2.3.23–Youth unemployment rate by metro and age group, 2024

Metro	N ('000)						Per cent		
	15-24 years		25-34 years		Total		15-24 years	25-34 years	Total
	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed		
Metro	637	1 110	1 267	3 465	1 905	4 575	57,4	36,6	41,6
Non-metro	1 006	1 619	1 915	4 416	2 921	6 035	62,1	43,4	48,4
RSA	1 643	2 729	3 182	7 881	4 826	10 610	60,2	40,4	45,5

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 2.3.24–Youth unemployment rate by population group and age group, 2024

Population group	N ('000)						Per cent		
	15-24 years		25-34 years		Total		15-24 years	25-34 years	Total
	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed		
Black African	1 448	2 190	2 934	6 596	4 382	8 786	66,1	44,5	49,9
Coloured	147	329	150	628	298	957	44,7	24,0	31,1
Indian/Asian	18	50	47	188	66	237	36,7	25,2	27,6
White	30	160	51	469	81	630	18,8	10,8	12,9
Total	1 643	2 729	3 182	7 881	4 826	10 610	60,2	40,4	45,5

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 2.3.25–Youth labour absorption rate by province and age group, 2024

Province	N ('000)						Per cent		
	15-24 years		25-34 years		Total		15-24 years	25-34 years	Total
	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed		
WC	241	1 123	776	1 217	1 017	2 340	21,5	63,8	43,5
EC	115	1 289	435	1 230	550	2 520	8,9	35,4	21,8
NC	30	224	92	205	122	429	13,5	45,0	28,5
FS	44	488	200	496	244	984	9,0	40,3	24,8
KZN	174	2 059	883	2 132	1 057	4 191	8,4	41,4	25,2
NW	58	707	237	705	296	1 411	8,2	33,7	20,9
GP	242	2 477	1 256	2 704	1 498	5 180	9,8	46,4	28,9
MP	95	860	350	811	445	1 671	11,0	43,1	26,6
LP	86	1 046	469	1 109	555	2 156	8,3	42,3	25,8
RSA	1 086	10 273	4 699	10 609	5 784	20 882	10,6	44,3	27,7

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 2.3.26–Youth labour absorption rate by metro and age group, 2024

Metro	N ('000)						Per cent		
	15-24 years		25-34 years		Total		15-24 years	25-34 years	Total
	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed		
Metro	473	3 795	2 197	4 328	2 670	8 123	12,5	50,8	32,9
Non-metro	613	6 478	2 501	6 281	3 114	12 758	9,5	39,8	24,4
RSA	1 086	10 273	4 699	10 609	5 784	20 882	10,6	44,3	27,7

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 2.3.27–Youth labour absorption rate by population group and age group, 2024

Population group	N ('000)						Per cent		
	15-24 years		25-34 years		Total		15-24 years	25-34 years	Total
	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed		
Black African	742	8 695	3 662	8 993	4 404	17 688	8,5	40,7	24,9
Coloured	182	863	478	846	660	1 710	21,1	56,4	38,6
Indian/Asian	32	195	140	236	172	431	16,2	59,4	39,8
White	130	519	419	534	549	1 053	25,1	78,4	52,1
Total	1 086	10 273	4 699	10 609	5 784	20 882	10,6	44,3	27,7

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 2.3.28–Youth economic inactivity rate by province and age group, 2024

Province	N ('000)						Per cent		
	15-24 years		25-34 years		Total		15-24 years	25-34 years	Total
	Inactive	Total	Inactive	Total	Inactive	Total	Inactive		
WC	710	1 123	219	1 217	929	2 340	63,2	18,0	39,7
EC	1 014	1 289	426	1 230	1 440	2 520	78,7	34,6	57,2
NC	153	224	54	205	207	429	68,5	26,3	48,4
FS	356	488	119	496	475	984	73,0	23,9	48,3
KZN	1 612	2 059	691	2 132	2 303	4 191	78,3	32,4	55,0
NW	546	707	234	705	780	1 411	77,3	33,2	55,3
GP	1 752	2 477	496	2 704	2 248	5 180	70,8	18,3	43,4
MP	598	860	183	811	781	1 671	69,5	22,6	46,7
LP	801	1 046	307	1 109	1 107	2 156	76,5	27,7	51,4
RSA	7 544	10 273	2 728	10 609	10 272	20 882	73,4	25,7	49,2

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 2.3.29–Youth economic inactivity rate by metro and age group, 2024

Metro	N ('000)						Per cent		
	15-24 years		25-34 years		Total		15-24 years	25-34 years	Total
	Inactive	Total	Inactive	Total	Inactive	Total	Inactive		
Metro	2 685	3 795	863	4 328	3 548	8 123	70,8	19,9	43,7
Non-metro	4 859	6 478	1 865	6 281	6 723	12 758	75,0	29,7	52,7
RSA	7 544	10 273	2 728	10 609	10 272	20 882	73,4	25,7	49,2

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 2.3.30–Youth economic inactivity rate by population group and age group, 2024

Population group	N ('000)						Per cent		
	15-24 years		25-34 years		Total		15-24 years	25-34 years	Total
	Inactive	Total	Inactive	Total	Inactive	Total	Inactive		
Black African	6 506	8 695	2 396	8 993	8 902	17 688	74,8	26,6	50,3
Coloured	534	863	218	846	752	1 710	61,9	25,8	44,0
Indian/Asian	145	195	48	236	194	431	74,5	20,5	45,0
White	359	519	65	534	423	1 053	69,1	12,1	40,2
Total	7 544	10 273	2 728	10 609	10 272	20 882	73,4	25,7	49,2

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

2.4 Youth: Health

Table 2.4.1—Youth who suffered from chronic diseases compared to the overall population by province, 2024

Province	N ('000)				Percent	
	Youth		Total		Youth	Total
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	
WC	84	2 445	1 272	7 508	3,5	16,9
EC	124	2 038	1 105	6 533	6,1	16,9
NC	22	421	256	1 322	5,3	19,4
FS	56	997	497	3 053	5,6	16,3
KZN	205	4 155	1 548	12 096	4,9	12,8
NW	57	1 390	652	4 327	4,1	15,1
GP	158	6 051	2 018	17 023	2,6	11,9
MP	51	1 678	570	5 019	3,0	11,4
LP	38	2 029	439	6 298	1,9	7,0
RSA	795	21 204	8 358	63 179	3,8	13,2

Source: GHS 2024

Table 2.4.2—Youth who suffered from chronic diseases compared to the overall population by metro, 2024

Metro	N ('000)				Percent	
	Youth		Total		Youth	Total
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	
Metro	301	9 016	3 730	26 667	3,3	14,0
Non-metro	494	12 188	4 628	36 512	4,1	12,7
RSA	795	21 204	8 358	63 179	3,8	13,2

Source: GHS 2024

Table 2.4.3—Youth who suffered from chronic diseases compared to the overall population by sex, 2024

Sex	N ('000)				Percent	
	Youth		Total		Youth	Total
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	
Male	264	10 582	3 059	30 972	2,5	9,9
Female	531	10 622	5 300	32 208	5,0	16,5
Both	795	21 204	8 358	63 179	3,8	13,2

Source: GHS 2024

Table 2.4.4–Youth who suffered from chronic diseases compared to the overall population by age group, 2024

Age group	N ('000)				Percent	
	Youth		Total		Youth	Total
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	
Not youth	..	..	7 563	41 975	..	18,0
15-24 years	217	10 400	217	10 400	2,1	2,1
25-34 years	578	10 804	578	10 804	5,3	5,3
Total	795	21 204	8 358	63 179	3,8	13,2

Source: GHS 2024

2.5 Youth: Vulnerability to hunger

Table 2.5.1–Youth living in households that reported hunger by province and sex, 2024

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering		
WC	235	1 194	211	1 246	446	2 440	19,7	16,9	18,3
EC	201	1 053	162	983	363	2 036	19,1	16,5	17,8
NC	53	190	57	230	110	420	27,9	24,8	26,2
FS	69	511	71	486	140	997	13,5	14,7	14,1
KZN	413	2 044	468	2 109	881	4 153	20,2	22,2	21,2
NW	151	674	137	711	287	1 385	22,4	19,2	20,8
GP	297	3 113	323	2 910	620	6 023	9,5	11,1	10,3
MP	179	807	186	868	365	1 675	22,2	21,4	21,8
LP	57	969	52	1 053	109	2 022	5,9	5,0	5,4
RSA	1 656	10 555	1 667	10 595	3 323	21 150	15,7	15,7	15,7

Source: GHS 2024.

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 2.5.2–Youth living in households that reported hunger by metro and sex, 2024

Metro	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering		
Metro	543	4 539	554	4 441	1 097	8 981	12,0	12,5	12,2
Non-metro	1 112	6 015	1 113	6 154	2 226	12 169	18,5	18,1	18,3
RSA	1 656	10 555	1 667	10 595	3 323	21 150	15,7	15,7	15,7

Source: GHS 2024.

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 2.5.3–Youth living in households that reported hunger by population group and sex, 2024

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering		
Black African	1 516	9 001	1 548	9 079	3 064	18 080	16,8	17,1	16,9
Coloured	123	853	108	847	231	1 700	14,4	12,7	13,6
Indian/Asian	11	230	3	205	14	436	4,9	1,3	3,2
White	5	471	9	464	14	935	1,1	1,9	1,5
Total	1 656	10 555	1 667	10 595	3 323	21 150	15,7	15,7	15,7

Source: GHS 2024.

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 2.5.4–Youth living in households that reported hunger by age group and sex, 2024

Age group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering		
15-24 years	904	5 173	897	5 206	1 801	10 379	17,5	17,2	17,3
25-34 years	752	5 382	770	5 389	1 522	10 771	14,0	14,3	14,1
Total	1 656	10 555	1 667	10 595	3 323	21 150	15,7	15,7	15,7

Source: GHS 2024.

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 2.5.5–Youth-headed households that reported hunger by province and sex, 2024

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering		
WC	31	285	40	187	71	472	10,8	21,5	15,0
EC	23	200	19	139	42	339	11,5	13,7	12,4
NC	11	41	10	37	20	79	25,7	25,9	25,8
FS	17	156	12	71	29	227	10,9	17,0	12,8
KZN	87	487	67	310	154	797	17,9	21,8	19,4
NW	57	215	15	112	72	328	26,3	13,6	21,9
GP	85	1 125	43	528	128	1 653	7,5	8,2	7,7
MP	51	209	35	135	86	344	24,5	25,6	24,9
LP	11	258	5	160	16	418	4,3	2,8	3,7
RSA	372	2 978	246	1 680	618	4 658	12,5	14,7	13,3

Source: GHS 2024.

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 2.5.6–Youth-headed households that reported hunger by metro and sex, 2024

Metro	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering		
Metro	123	1 451	92	754	215	2 204	8,5	12,2	9,7
Non-metro	249	1 527	154	926	403	2 453	16,3	16,7	16,4
RSA	372	2 978	246	1 680	618	4 658	12,5	14,7	13,3

Source: GHS 2024.

Excluding unspecified cases.

2.6 Youth: Education

Table 2.6.1–Youth who attend educational institutions by population group and sex, 2024

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Attending	Total	Attending	Total	Attending	Total	Attending		
Black African	2 554	9 017	2 688	9 096	5 242	18 113	28,3	29,6	28,9
Coloured	190	853	214	849	404	1 702	22,3	25,2	23,7
Indian/Asian	67	235	54	205	121	440	28,8	26,2	27,6
White	162	472	154	467	316	940	34,3	33,0	33,6
Total	2 974	10 578	3 110	10 617	6 084	21 195	28,1	29,3	28,7

Source: GHS 2024.

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 2.6.2–Youth who attend educational institutions by age group and sex, 2024

Age group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Attending	Total	Attending	Total	Attending	Total	Attending		
15-24 years	2 772	5 181	2 803	5 214	5 575	10 395	53,5	53,8	53,6
25-34 years	202	5 396	307	5 403	509	10 800	3,7	5,7	4,7
Total	2 974	10 578	3 110	10 617	6 084	21 195	28,1	29,3	28,7

Source: GHS 2024.

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 2.6.3–Distribution of the types of educational institutions attended by the youth by population group and sex, 2024

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	2 554	82,6	..	8,2	5,1	2,7	1,4	100,0
	Female	2 688	72,6	0,2	14,0	8,2	4,3	0,7	100,0
	Both	5 242	77,5	0,1	11,2	6,7	3,5	1,1	100,0
Coloured	Male	190	72,9	..	10,5	6,6	4,0	6,0	100,0
	Female	214	70,0	..	17,1	5,3	6,1	1,5	100,0
	Both	404	71,4	..	14,0	5,9	5,1	3,6	100,0
Indian/ Asian	Male	67	48,6	..	43,1	0,7	7,6	..	100,0
	Female	54	48,3	..	43,3	2,9	3,5	2,0	100,0
	Both	121	48,5	..	43,2	1,7	5,8	0,9	100,0
White	Male	162	56,2	..	20,9	2,5	14,3	6,0	100,0
	Female	154	51,2	..	35,2	1,0	7,8	4,8	100,0
	Both	316	53,8	..	27,9	1,8	11,1	5,4	100,0
Total	Male	2 974	79,8	..	9,8	5,0	3,5	1,9	100,0
	Female	3 110	70,9	0,2	15,7	7,6	4,6	1,0	100,0
	Both	6 084	75,3	0,1	12,8	6,3	4,1	1,4	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 2.6.4–Youth who are not attending any educational institution and who are not employed, by population group and sex, 2024

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	NEET	Total	NEET	Total	NEET	Total	NEET		
Black African	3 567	9 020	4 412	9 099	7 979	18 120	39,5	48,5	44,0
Coloured	319	853	308	849	627	1 702	37,4	36,3	36,9
Indian/ Asian	28	235	74	205	102	440	12,1	36,0	23,3
White	63	474	73	469	136	942	13,3	15,6	14,5
Total	3 978	10 582	4 867	10 622	8 845	21 204	37,6	45,8	41,7

Source: GHS 2024.

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 2.6.5—Distribution of the highest levels of education attained by the youth, by population group and age group, 2024

Population group and age group		N ('000)	Percent						
			Total	Less than matric	Matric	Other tertiary	Graduates	Other	Unspecified	Total
Black African	15-24 years	8 895	64,4	31,3	2,4	1,2	0,8	0,1	100,0
	25-34 years	9 225	41,1	41,5	9,2	6,8	1,3	0,0	100,0
	Total	18 120	52,5	36,5	5,9	4,0	1,0	0,0	100,0
Coloured	15-24 years	850	62,8	32,1	2,2	0,9	1,7	0,3	100,0
	25-34 years	852	44,5	36,8	9,0	7,7	2,0	..	100,0
	Total	1 702	53,6	34,4	5,6	4,3	1,9	0,2	100,0
Indian/Asian	15-24 years	184	44,0	42,8	1,1	11,5	0,5	..	100,0
	25-34 years	255	13,3	58,2	3,3	22,4	2,8	..	100,0
	Total	440	26,1	51,8	2,4	17,8	1,9	..	100,0
White	15-24 years	471	47,2	43,0	3,2	6,2	0,1	0,3	100,0
	25-34 years	472	12,4	41,3	9,8	33,2	3,2	..	100,0
	Total	942	29,8	42,2	6,5	19,7	1,7	0,1	100,0
Total	15-24 years	10 400	63,1	32,1	2,4	1,6	0,8	0,1	100,0
	25-34 years	10 804	39,5	41,5	9,1	8,4	1,5	0,0	100,0
	Total	21 204	51,1	36,9	5,8	5,0	1,1	0,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 2.6.6—Distribution of the highest levels of education attained by the youth, by sex and age group, 2024

Sex and age group		N ('000)	Percent						
			Total	Less than matric	Matric	Other tertiary	Graduates	Other	Unspecified	Total
Male	15-24 years	5 184	67,2	29,0	1,6	1,1	0,9	0,1	100,0
	25-34 years	5 398	42,1	41,3	8,1	6,7	1,9	0,0	100,0
	Total	10 582	54,4	35,3	4,9	3,9	1,4	0,1	100,0
Female	15-24 years	5 216	59,0	35,1	3,1	2,0	0,7	0,1	100,0
	25-34 years	5 406	36,9	41,8	10,1	10,1	1,0	..	100,0
	Total	10 622	47,8	38,5	6,7	6,1	0,9	0,0	100,0
Both	15-24 years	10 400	63,1	32,1	2,4	1,6	0,8	0,1	100,0
	25-34 years	10 804	39,5	41,5	9,1	8,4	1,5	0,0	100,0
	Total	21 204	51,1	36,9	5,8	5,0	1,1	0,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

2.7 Youth: Housing and basic services

Table 2.7.1–Distribution of youth headed households by metro, sex and type of housing, 2024

Metro and sex		N ('000)	Percent				Total
		Total	Formal	Traditional	Informal	Other	
Metro	Male	1 459	76,4	0,3	22,7	0,5	100,0
	Female	754	82,6	..	17,2	0,2	100,0
	Both	2 212	78,5	0,2	20,9	0,4	100,0
Non-metro	Male	1 534	78,2	5,9	15,5	0,4	100,0
	Female	928	82,5	5,5	11,1	0,9	100,0
	Both	2 461	79,8	5,8	13,8	0,6	100,0
RSA	Male	2 992	77,3	3,2	19,0	0,5	100,0
	Female	1 681	82,5	3,0	13,8	0,6	100,0
	Both	4 674	79,2	3,1	17,2	0,5	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 2.7.2–Distribution of youth headed households by age group, sex and type of housing, 2024

Age group and sex		N ('000)	Percent				Total
		Total	Formal	Traditional	Informal	Other	
15-24 years	Male	520	75,8	4,1	19,4	0,7	100,0
	Female	350	83,5	3,2	12,7	0,6	100,0
	Both	870	78,9	3,7	16,7	0,7	100,0
25-34 years	Male	2 472	77,6	3,0	18,9	0,4	100,0
	Female	1 331	82,3	3,0	14,2	0,6	100,0
	Both	3 804	79,3	3,0	17,3	0,5	100,0
Total	Male	2 992	77,3	3,2	19,0	0,5	100,0
	Female	1 681	82,5	3,0	13,8	0,6	100,0
	Both	4 674	79,2	3,1	17,2	0,5	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 2.7.3–Distribution of youth living in formal, informal and traditional housing by metro and sex, 2024

Metro and sex		N ('000)	Percent				Total
		Total	Formal	Traditional	Informal	Other	
Metro	Male	4 556	87,5	0,7	11,1	0,7	100,0
	Female	4 460	87,3	0,8	11,6	0,3	100,0
	Both	9 016	87,4	0,7	11,4	0,5	100,0
Non-metro	Male	6 026	84,4	9,0	6,5	0,1	100,0
	Female	6 162	85,7	7,9	6,2	0,1	100,0
	Both	12 188	85,1	8,5	6,3	0,1	100,0
RSA	Male	10 582	85,7	5,4	8,5	0,4	100,0
	Female	10 622	86,4	4,9	8,5	0,2	100,0
	Both	21 204	86,1	5,2	8,5	0,3	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 2.7.4–Distribution of youth living in formal, informal and traditional housing by age group and sex, 2024

Age group and sex		N ('000)	Percent				
			Total	Formal	Traditional	Informal	Other	Total
15-24 years	Male	5 184	86,7	6,0	7,0	0,3	100,0
	Female	5 216	86,4	5,5	8,1	0,1	100,0
	Both	10 400	86,5	5,7	7,5	0,2	100,0
25-34 years	Male	5 398	84,8	4,9	9,8	0,4	100,0
	Female	5 406	86,4	4,4	8,9	0,3	100,0
	Both	10 804	85,6	4,7	9,4	0,4	100,0
Total	Male	10 582	85,7	5,4	8,5	0,4	100,0
	Female	10 622	86,4	4,9	8,5	0,2	100,0
	Both	21 204	86,1	5,2	8,5	0,3	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 2.7.5–Living condition indicators of the youth compared to the overall population, by age group, 2024**Access to piped water**

Age group	N ('000)	Percent		
		Total	Access	Unspecified
Not youth	41 975	75,0	1,7	
15-24 years	10 400	74,4	1,9	
25-34 years	10 804	76,4	1,6	
15-34 years	21 204	75,4	1,7	
Total	63 179	75,2	1,7	

Source: GHS 2024

Access to improved sanitation

Age group	N ('000)	Percent
		Access
Not youth	41 975	83,0
15-24 years	10 400	81,4
25-34 years	10 804	82,5
15-34 years	21 204	82,0
Total	63 179	82,7

Source: GHS 2024

Refuse/ waste removed by the municipality

Age group	N ('000)	Percent
	Total	Access
Not youth	41 975	60,7
15-24 years	10 400	59,1
25-34 years	10 804	61,8
15-34 years	21 204	60,5
Total	63 179	60,6

Source: GHS 2024

Access to electricity connected to the mains

Age group	N ('000)	Percent	
		Access	Unspecified
Not youth	41 975	93,9	3,9
15-24 years	10 400	94,4	3,5
25-34 years	10 804	92,4	4,6
15-34 years	21 204	93,3	4,0
Total	63 179	93,7	3,9

Source: GHS 2024

Use solid fuels for cooking

Age group	N ('000)	Percent
		Access
Not youth	41 975	11,1
15-24 years	10 400	11,7
25-34 years	10 804	9,1
15-34 years	21 204	10,4
Total	63 179	10,9

Source: GHS 2024

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, 2024/25

Province	N ('000)		Percent
	Unsafe	Total responded	Unsafe
WC	744	2 301	32,3
EC	276	1 874	14,7
NC	31	400	7,7
FS	98	955	10,2
KZN	614	3 893	15,7
NW	129	1 337	9,6
GP	1 393	5 799	24,0
MP	216	1 577	13,6
LP	42	1 882	2,2
RSA	3 544	20 019	17,7

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2024/25

Table 2.8.2–Youth who feel unsafe or very unsafe to walk alone in their area during the day by sex, 2024/25

Sex	N ('000)		Percent
	Unsafe	Total responded	Unsafe
Male	1 611	10 011	16,0
Female	1 933	10 009	19,3
Both	3 544	20 019	17,7

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2024/25

Table 2.8.3–Youth who feel unsafe or very unsafe to walk alone in their area during the day by age group, 2024/25

Age group	N ('000)		Percent
	Unsafe	Total responded	Unsafe
15-24 years	1 747	9 907	17,6
25-34 years	1 797	10 113	17,7
Total	3 544	20 019	17,7

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2024/25

Table 2.8.4–Youth who feel unsafe or very unsafe to walk alone in their area at night by province, 2024/25

Province	N ('000)		Percent
	Unsafe	Total responded	Unsafe
WC	1 394	2 301	60,5
EC	1 205	1 874	64,3
NC	281	400	70,1
FS	576	955	60,2
KZN	2 580	3 893	66,2
NW	837	1 337	62,6
GP	4 087	5 799	70,4
MP	1 172	1 577	74,3
LP	659	1 882	34,9
RSA	12 790	20 019	63,8

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2024/25

Table 2.8.5–Youth who feel unsafe or very unsafe to walk alone in their area at night by sex, 2024/25

Sex	N ('000)		Percent
	Unsafe	Total responded	Unsafe
Male	6 165	10 011	61,5
Female	6 625	10 009	66,1
Both	12 790	20 019	63,8

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2024/25

Table 2.8.6–Youth who feel unsafe or very unsafe to walk alone in their area at night by age group, 2024/25

Age group	N ('000)		Percent
	Unsafe	Total responded	Unsafe
15-24 years	6 382	9 907	64,4
25-34 years	6 408	10 113	63,3
Total	12 790	20 019	63,8

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2024/25

Table 2.8.7–Youth who have been victims of theft of personal property crime during the past 5 years by sex, 2024/25

Sex	N ('000)		Percent
	Suffering	Total responded	Suffering
Male	801	10 011	8,0
Female	794	10 009	7,9
Both	1 595	20 019	7,9

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2024/25

Table 2.8.8—Youth who have been victims of theft of personal property crime during the past 5 years by age group, 2024/25

Age group	N ('000)		Percent
	Suffering	Total responded	Suffering
15-24 years	693	9 907	6,9
25-34 years	902	10 113	8,9
Total	1 595	20 019	7,9

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2024/25

2.9 Key findings

South Africa has a relatively young population, with persons aged 15-34 accounting for 33,6% of the population; 49,9% were males and 50,1% were females. Provincial distribution showed that Eastern Cape had the highest share of males (51,7%), Gauteng (51,7%), while the highest proportion of females were in Northern Cape (54,6%), Limpopo (52,0%), Mpumalanga (51,9%) and North West (51,4%). Population group disaggregation showed that there were more young males than females in all population groups, except for the black Africans. Additionally, males reported the highest percentage share of youth as a proportion of the overall population compared to their female counterparts, at 34,0% and 33,0% respectively. Gauteng 35,5% and KwaZulu-Natal (34,3%) provinces had higher proportions of young people, while the smallest proportion of the youth population was in Eastern Cape (31,2%) and Northern Cape (31,8%). Gender disparities showed that there were slightly more females in youth aged 15-24 while youth aged 25-34 had an equal share of male and females.

Household composition indicated that 23,9% of youth headed households and were more likely to be headed by males. Majority of youth resided in extended households (56,6%) while 33,5% resided in nuclear households. Intergenerational household type analysis showed that youth-headed households were more likely to be of single generation and 33,1% were in double generation. This trend persisted in almost all the provinces except in Northern Cape, where majority of youth headed households were predominantly in double generation (49,6%) and 44,8% were in single generation households. Population group dynamics showed that black African and white households-headed by youth were more likely to be in single generation whilst majority of coloured and Indian/Asian youth-headed households were in double generation. In 2024, 15,7% of youth lived in households that reportedly experienced hunger. Youth in Northern Cape (26,2%), Mpumalanga (21,8%) and KwaZulu-Natal (21,2%) lived in households that reportedly experienced hunger.

Approximately 27,4% of youth were beneficiaries of social grants in 2024. Findings indicated that young people in Eastern Cape (42,2%), Limpopo (37,5%) and Free State (33,0%) lived in households without an employed adult. Labour market analysis showed that labour force participation rate for youth was reported at 50,8%, and those aged 25-34 reported higher participation rates compared to the 15–24 age group. The analysis of unemployment also indicated that youth unemployment rate was 45,5%, those aged 25-34 reported lower unemployment rate compared to those aged 15-24. Inactivity rate was higher for youth aged 15–24, compared to youth aged 25–34.

Nationally, 15,7% of the youth lived in households that reportedly experienced hunger, with Northern Cape (26,2%), Mpumalanga (21,8%) and KwaZulu-Natal (21,2%) reporting the highest percentages. Approximately, 28,7% of youth attended educational institutions in 2024, majority attending school (75,3%), 12,8% at higher education institutions and 6,3% attended FET colleges. A higher percentage of young females (45,68) were not in employment, education and training (NEET) compared to their male counterparts (37,6%).

Approximately 17,7% of the youth felt unsafe walking alone in their area during the day in 2024/25, with the Western Cape (32,3%) and Gauteng (24,0%) reporting higher percentages. 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 (74,3%) and Gauteng (70,4%).

3 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, 2024

Province	N ('000)	Percent
WC	3 876	12,0
EC	3 333	10,3
NC	672	2,1
FS	1 538	4,8
KZN	6 292	19,5
NW	2 206	6,9
GP	8 387	26,0
MP	2 595	8,1
LP	3 308	10,3
RSA	32 208	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 3.1.2–Distribution of the female population by metro, 2024

Metro	N ('000)	Percent
Metro	13 442	41,7
Non-metro	18 766	58,3
RSA	32 208	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 3.1.3–Distribution of the female population by population group, 2024

Population group	N ('000)	Percent
Black African	26 493	82,3
Coloured	2 757	8,6
Indian/Asian	747	2,3
White	2 209	6,9
Total	32 208	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 3.1.4–Distribution of the female population by age group, 2024

Age group	N ('000)	Percent
0-4 years	2 846	8,8
5-14 years	5 887	18,3
15-24 years	5 216	16,2
25-34 years	5 406	16,8
35-44 years	5 063	15,7
45-54 years	3 143	9,8
55-64 years	2 321	7,2
65-74 years	1 492	4,6
75+ years	833	2,6
Total	32 208	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 3.1.5–Distribution of women (18 years and above) by province and marital status, 2024

Province	N ('000)	Percent			
	Total	Married/ cohabiting	Widow/ widower/ divorced	Never married	Total
WC	2 782	47,6	14,4	37,9	100,0
EC	2 092	33,6	18,5	47,9	100,0
NC	453	42,1	11,9	46,0	100,0
FS	1 050	41,1	17,5	41,4	100,0
KZN	4 109	29,3	11,0	59,7	100,0
NW	1 455	41,7	12,3	46,1	100,0
GP	6 057	44,9	10,8	44,3	100,0
MP	1 697	35,1	12,5	52,4	100,0
LP	2 032	40,7	14,4	44,9	100,0
RSA	21 727	39,6	13,0	47,5	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 3.1.6–Distribution of women (18 years and above) by metro and marital status, 2024

Metro	N ('000)	Percent			
	Total	Married/ cohabiting	Widow/ widower/ divorced	Never married	Total
Metro	9 656	43,9	12,1	44,0	100,0
Non-metro	12 071	36,1	13,6	50,3	100,0
RSA	21 727	39,6	13,0	47,5	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 3.1.7–Distribution of women (18 years and above) by population group and marital status, 2024

Population group	N ('000)	Percent			
	Total	Married/ cohabiting	Widow/ widower/ divorced	Never married	Total
Black African	17 428	35,5	11,6	52,9	100,0
Coloured	1 912	47,4	15,7	36,9	100,0
Indian/ Asian	575	60,5	18,1	21,4	100,0
White	1 811	64,1	21,2	14,7	100,0
Total	21 727	39,6	13,0	47,5	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 3.1.8–Distribution of women (18 years and above) by age group and marital status, 2024

Age group	N ('000)	Percent			
	Total	Married/ cohabiting	Widow/ widower/ divorced	Never married	Total
15-24 years	3 469	10,4	0,1	89,4	100,0
25-34 years	5 406	37,2	0,8	62,1	100,0
35-44 years	5 063	54,0	4,0	42,0	100,0
45-54 years	3 143	55,2	14,1	30,7	100,0
55-64 years	2 321	48,2	31,6	20,2	100,0
65-74 years	1 492	33,1	52,1	14,8	100,0
75+ years	833	17,8	73,4	8,8	100,0
Total	21 727	39,6	13,0	47,5	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

3.2 Women: Household characteristics

Table 3.2.1–Households headed by females aged 15 and above by province, 2024

Province	N ('000)		Percent
	Female	Total	Female
WC	871	2 195	39,7
EC	869	1 780	48,8
NC	178	388	45,8
FS	443	1 024	43,2
KZN	1 584	3 387	46,8
NW	556	1 432	38,8
GP	2 231	5 981	37,3
MP	720	1 542	46,7
LP	846	1 820	46,5
RSA	8 297	19 550	42,4

Source: GHS 2024

Table 3.2.2–Households headed by females aged 15 years and above by metro, 2024

Metro	N ('000)		Percent
	Female	Total	Female
Metro	3 503	8 915	39,3
Non-metro	4 794	10 635	45,1
RSA	8 297	19 550	42,4

Source: GHS 2024

Table 3.2.3–Households headed by females aged 15 years and above by population group, 2024

Population group	N ('000)		Percent
	Female	Total	Female
Black African	7 065	16 266	43,4
Coloured	593	1 296	45,8
Indian/Asian	138	451	30,5
White	502	1 536	32,7
Total	8 297	19 550	42,4

Source: GHS 2024

Table 3.2.4–Households headed by females aged 15 years and above by age group, 2024

Age group	N ('000)		Percent
	Female	Total	Female
15-24 years	350	870	40,2
25-34 years	1 331	3 804	35,0
35-44 years	2 002	5 100	39,2
45-54 years	1 734	4 242	40,9
55-64 years	1 375	2 904	47,3
65+ years	1 505	2 631	57,2
Total	8 297	19 550	42,4

Source: GHS 2024

Table 3.2.5–Distribution of male and female-headed households by province, sex and household composition, 2024

Province and sex		N ('000)	Percent					Total
			Total	Single	Nuclear	Extended	Complex		Unspecified
WC	Male	1 325	19,2	59,8	17,6	3,5	..	100,0
	Female	871	20,5	40,0	34,1	5,3	..	100,0
	Both	2 195	19,7	51,9	24,2	4,2	..	100,0
EC	Male	912	36,2	33,8	28,0	1,9	..	100,0
	Female	869	21,2	25,2	51,6	1,9	0,1	100,0
	Both	1 780	28,9	29,6	39,5	1,9	0,0	100,0
NC	Male	211	25,7	42,5	27,6	4,2	..	100,0
	Female	178	16,3	35,7	46,3	1,6	..	100,0
	Both	388	21,4	39,4	36,2	3,0	..	100,0
FS	Male	581	31,5	49,9	17,9	0,6	0,1	100,0
	Female	443	16,7	35,4	47,3	0,5	..	100,0
	Both	1 024	25,1	43,6	30,6	0,6	0,1	100,0
KZN	Male	1 803	35,2	35,1	27,5	2,2	..	100,0
	Female	1 584	17,6	25,7	54,1	2,4	0,1	100,0
	Both	3 387	27,0	30,7	40,0	2,3	0,1	100,0
NW	Male	876	39,8	37,5	21,2	1,6	..	100,0
	Female	556	19,0	30,6	47,3	3,0	0,1	100,0
	Both	1 432	31,7	34,8	31,3	2,1	0,1	100,0
GP	Male	3 750	31,9	50,2	16,4	1,4	0,1	100,0
	Female	2 231	23,5	35,3	38,7	2,4	0,1	100,0
	Both	5 981	28,8	44,6	24,7	1,8	0,1	100,0
MP	Male	821	34,1	39,9	25,1	0,9	..	100,0
	Female	720	15,5	33,8	48,9	1,7	..	100,0
	Both	1 542	25,4	37,0	36,3	1,3	..	100,0
LP	Male	974	36,0	36,8	26,4	0,6	0,1	100,0
	Female	846	16,8	34,1	47,8	1,4	..	100,0
	Both	1 820	27,1	35,6	36,3	1,0	0,1	100,0
RSA	Male	11 253	32,3	44,5	21,4	1,7	0,0	100,0
	Female	8 297	19,6	32,3	45,5	2,4	0,1	100,0
	Both	19 550	26,9	39,4	31,7	2,0	0,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

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

Table 3.2.6–Distribution of male and female-headed households by metro, sex and household composition, 2024

Metro and sex		N ('000)	Percent					Total
		Total	Single	Nuclear	Extended	Complex	Unspecified	
Metro	Male	5 412	29,8	50,7	17,8	1,7	0,1	100,0
	Female	3 503	23,0	34,3	39,9	2,6	0,1	100,0
	Both	8 915	27,1	44,3	26,5	2,1	0,1	100,0
Non-metro	Male	5 841	34,6	38,8	24,8	1,8	0,0	100,0
	Female	4 794	17,1	30,9	49,6	2,3	0,1	100,0
	Both	10 635	26,7	35,2	36,0	2,0	0,0	100,0
RSA	Male	11 253	32,3	44,5	21,4	1,7	0,0	100,0
	Female	8 297	19,6	32,3	45,5	2,4	0,1	100,0
	Both	19 550	26,9	39,4	31,7	2,0	0,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

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

Table 3.2.7–Distribution of male and female-headed households by population group, sex and household composition, 2024

Population group and sex		N ('000)	Percent					Total
		Total	Single	Nuclear	Extended	Complex	Unspecified	
Black African	Male	9 201	36,7	39,2	22,5	1,4	0,0	100,0
	Female	7 065	18,2	31,6	48,1	2,0	0,1	100,0
	Both	16 266	28,7	35,9	33,6	1,7	0,1	100,0
Coloured	Male	703	9,6	60,8	25,9	3,8	..	100,0
	Female	593	11,6	38,3	44,1	6,0	..	100,0
	Both	1 296	10,5	50,5	34,2	4,8	..	100,0
Indian/Asian	Male	314	18,4	61,9	15,8	4,0	..	100,0
	Female	138	33,0	40,1	24,5	2,5	..	100,0
	Both	451	22,8	55,2	18,4	3,5	..	100,0
White	Male	1 035	12,3	75,0	10,2	2,4	..	100,0
	Female	502	45,7	33,4	17,4	3,5	..	100,0
	Both	1 536	23,2	61,5	12,6	2,7	..	100,0
Total	Male	11 253	32,3	44,5	21,4	1,7	0,0	100,0
	Female	8 297	19,6	32,3	45,5	2,4	0,1	100,0
	Both	19 550	26,9	39,4	31,7	2,0	0,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

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

Table 3.2.8—Distribution of male and female-headed households by age group, sex and household composition, 2024

Age group and sex		N ('000)	Percent					Total
		Total	Single	Nuclear	Extended	Complex	Unspecified	
15-24 years	Male	520	67,3	11,3	16,9	4,5	..	100
	Female	350	49,7	13,7	27,6	9,0	..	100
	Both	870	60,2	12,3	21,2	6,3	..	100
25-34 years	Male	2 472	45,0	37,4	15,5	2,1	..	100
	Female	1 331	25,6	35,3	36,2	2,8	0,1	100
	Both	3 804	38,2	36,6	22,8	2,3	0,0	100
35-44 years	Male	3 098	31,1	52,1	15,3	1,5	..	100
	Female	2 002	17,4	48,4	32,0	2,1	0,0	100
	Both	5 100	25,7	50,6	21,9	1,8	0,0	100
45-54 years	Male	2 508	26,7	52,2	19,8	1,3	0,0	100
	Female	1 734	14,5	40,0	43,2	2,2	0,1	100
	Both	4 242	21,7	47,2	29,3	1,7	0,1	100
55-64 years	Male	1 530	21,7	43,3	33,3	1,4	0,2	100
	Female	1 375	15,4	21,6	60,9	2,0	..	100
	Both	2 904	18,8	33,1	46,4	1,7	0,1	100
65+ years	Male	1 125	18,4	39,3	40,8	1,6	..	100
	Female	1 505	20,1	13,7	64,6	1,5	0,1	100
	Both	2 631	19,3	24,7	54,4	1,5	0,0	100
Total	Male	11 253	32,3	44,5	21,4	1,7	0,0	100
	Female	8 297	19,6	32,3	45,5	2,4	0,1	100
	Both	19 550	26,9	39,4	31,7	2,0	0,1	100

Source: GHS 2024

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, 2024

Province and sex		N ('000)	Percent					Total
			Single generation	Double generation	Triple generation	Skip generation	Other	
WC	Male	1 325	40,8	48,9	7,0	1,1	2,2	100,0
	Female	871	28,3	48,4	16,0	3,2	4,0	100,0
	Both	2 195	35,8	48,7	10,6	1,9	2,9	100,0
EC	Male	912	54,5	27,2	10,0	4,0	4,3	100,0
	Female	869	24,3	37,1	23,7	11,5	3,5	100,0
	Both	1 780	39,8	32,0	16,7	7,6	3,9	100,0
NC	Male	211	46,8	32,8	10,4	3,9	6,0	100,0
	Female	178	21,3	51,1	20,3	5,4	1,8	100,0
	Both	388	35,1	41,2	14,9	4,6	4,1	100,0
FS	Male	581	49,4	39,3	7,1	1,9	2,3	100,0
	Female	443	20,0	45,7	21,0	11,3	2,0	100,0
	Both	1 024	36,7	42,1	13,1	5,9	2,2	100,0
KZN	Male	1 803	53,0	31,4	8,6	3,0	4,0	100,0
	Female	1 584	21,7	39,6	28,0	7,3	3,4	100,0
	Both	3 387	38,4	35,2	17,7	5,0	3,7	100,0
NW	Male	876	57,4	29,9	7,4	2,2	3,1	100,0
	Female	556	23,2	43,0	22,9	7,4	3,6	100,0
	Both	1 432	44,1	35,0	13,4	4,2	3,3	100,0
GP	Male	3 750	52,9	38,7	4,7	1,0	2,8	100,0
	Female	2 231	30,5	44,9	16,8	4,5	3,4	100,0
	Both	5 981	44,5	41,0	9,2	2,3	3,0	100,0
MP	Male	821	53,1	32,6	9,4	1,3	3,6	100,0
	Female	720	18,1	45,7	24,7	7,7	3,8	100,0
	Both	1 542	36,7	38,7	16,6	4,3	3,7	100,0
LP	Male	974	50,4	32,2	10,2	4,1	3,0	100,0
	Female	846	19,9	43,7	24,2	10,1	2,2	100,0
	Both	1 820	36,2	37,5	16,7	6,9	2,6	100,0
RSA	Male	11 253	51,5	36,0	7,3	2,1	3,2	100,0
	Female	8 297	24,5	43,4	21,7	7,0	3,3	100,0
	Both	19 550	40,0	39,2	13,4	4,2	3,2	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

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 metro and sex, 2024

Metro and sex		N ('000)	Percent					Total
			Single generation	Double generation	Triple generation	Skip generation	Other	
Metro	Male	5 412	50,3	40,7	5,2	1,1	2,8	100,0
	Female	3 503	29,8	44,2	18,1	4,7	3,3	100,0
	Both	8 915	42,2	42,0	10,2	2,5	3,0	100,0
Non-metro	Male	5 841	52,5	31,7	9,2	2,9	3,6	100,0
	Female	4 794	20,7	42,9	24,4	8,8	3,2	100,0
	Both	10 635	38,2	36,8	16,1	5,6	3,4	100,0
RSA	Male	11 253	51,5	36,0	7,3	2,1	3,2	100,0
	Female	8 297	24,5	43,4	21,7	7,0	3,3	100,0
	Both	19 550	40,0	39,2	13,4	4,2	3,2	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

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, 2024

Population group and sex		N ('000)	Percent					Total
			Single generation	Double generation	Triple generation	Skip generation	Other	
Black African	Male	9 201	53,9	32,8	7,6	2,2	3,5	100,0
	Female	7 065	22,5	43,4	23,2	7,7	3,3	100,0
	Both	16 266	40,3	37,4	14,3	4,6	3,4	100,0
Coloured	Male	703	26,1	57,5	13,2	2,3	0,9	100,0
	Female	593	18,6	50,0	22,8	5,7	2,9	100,0
	Both	1 296	22,7	54,1	17,6	3,8	1,8	100,0
Indian/Asian	Male	314	37,2	53,9	3,5	1,6	3,8	100,0
	Female	138	33,7	52,8	11,1	..	2,4	100,0
	Both	451	36,2	53,6	5,8	1,1	3,4	100,0
White	Male	1 035	51,0	44,5	1,9	0,8	1,7	100,0
	Female	502	57,9	33,5	3,3	1,5	3,9	100,0
	Both	1 536	53,3	40,9	2,4	1,0	2,4	100,0
Total	Male	11 253	51,5	36,0	7,3	2,1	3,2	100,0
	Female	8 297	24,5	43,4	21,7	7,0	3,3	100,0
	Both	19 550	40,0	39,2	13,4	4,2	3,2	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

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, 2024

Age group and sex		N ('000)	Percent					Total
			Total	Single generation	Double generation	Triple generation	Skip generation		Other
15-24 years	Male	520	81,9	7,2	..	0,5	10,4	100,0
	Female	350	65,0	22,0	0,5	0,7	11,8	100,0
	Both	870	75,1	13,1	0,2	0,6	11,0	100,0
25-34 years	Male	2 472	68,5	26,5	..	0,2	4,9	100,0
	Female	1 331	35,3	58,6	1,0	0,3	4,9	100,0
	Both	3 804	56,8	37,7	0,3	0,2	4,9	100,0
35-44 years	Male	3 098	49,0	46,9	1,2	0,4	2,5	100,0
	Female	2 002	22,4	65,3	9,0	0,6	2,6	100,0
	Both	5 100	38,6	54,1	4,2	0,5	2,6	100,0
45-54 years	Male	2 508	41,1	49,0	6,6	0,8	2,5	100,0
	Female	1 734	16,7	50,4	27,2	3,3	2,5	100,0
	Both	4 242	31,1	49,6	15,0	1,8	2,5	100,0
55-64 years	Male	1 530	39,5	32,9	21,1	4,4	2,0	100,0
	Female	1 375	18,6	25,3	41,8	11,7	2,5	100,0
	Both	2 904	29,6	29,3	30,9	7,9	2,3	100,0
65+ years	Male	1 125	46,3	15,6	26,2	10,8	1,1	100,0
	Female	1 505	22,8	14,5	37,3	23,0	2,4	100,0
	Both	2 631	32,9	15,0	32,5	17,8	1,8	100,0
Total	Male	11 253	51,5	36,0	7,3	2,1	3,2	100,0
	Female	8 297	24,5	43,4	21,7	7,0	3,3	100,0
	Both	19 550	40,0	39,2	13,4	4,2	3,2	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

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, 2024

Province	Male	Female	Both
WC	3,2	3,2	3,2
EC	3,0	3,5	3,3
NC	3,2	3,8	3,4
FS	2,8	3,2	3,0
KZN	3,0	4,1	3,5
NW	2,7	3,4	2,9
GP	2,7	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 2024

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 metro, 2024

Metro	Male	Female	Both
Metro	2,8	3,3	3,0
Non-metro	3,0	3,7	3,3
RSA	2,9	3,6	3,2

Source: GHS 2024

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, 2024

Population group	Male	Female	Both
Black African	2,8	3,7	3,2
Coloured	3,8	3,7	3,8
Indian/Asian	3,0	2,5	2,9
White	2,8	2,0	2,5
Total	2,9	3,6	3,2

Source: GHS 2024

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, 2024

Age group	Male	Female	Both
15-24 years	1,5	2,0	1,7
25-34 years	2,1	3,0	2,4
35-44 years	2,9	3,6	3,2
45-54 years	3,3	3,7	3,4
55-64 years	3,5	4,1	3,8
65+ years	3,5	3,8	3,7
Total	2,9	3,6	3,2

Source: GHS 2024

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, 2024

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	0,1
	Female	0,8	0,2	0,7	0,3
	Both	0,7	0,2	0,5	0,2
NC	Male	0,4	0,1	0,3	0,2
	Female	0,7	0,1	0,6	0,2
	Both	0,6	0,1	0,4	0,2
FS	Male	0,4	0,1	0,3	0,1
	Female	0,7	0,1	0,6	0,2
	Both	0,5	0,1	0,4	0,2
KZN	Male	0,4	0,1	0,3	0,1
	Female	0,8	0,1	0,6	0,3
	Both	0,6	0,1	0,5	0,2
NW	Male	0,4	0,1	0,3	0,1
	Female	0,7	0,2	0,6	0,2
	Both	0,5	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	0,3	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	0,2	0,5	0,2
RSA	Male	0,4	0,1	0,3	0,1
	Female	0,7	0,1	0,6	0,2
	Both	0,5	0,1	0,4	0,2

Source: GHS 2024

Table 3.3.2–Dependency ratios by metro and sex of the household head, 2024

Metro 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	0,1
	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	0,2
	Both	0,5	0,1	0,4	0,2

Source: GHS 2024

Table 3.3.3–Households without an employed household member by province and sex of household head, 2024

Province	N ('000)						Per cent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without		
WC	211	1 325	253	871	464	2 195	15,9	29,1	21,1
EC	340	912	460	869	800	1 780	37,3	53,0	44,9
NC	62	211	67	178	129	388	29,3	37,9	33,3
FS	174	581	231	443	405	1 024	29,9	52,2	39,5
KZN	482	1 803	619	1 584	1 100	3 387	26,7	39,1	32,5
NW	246	876	271	556	517	1 432	28,1	48,7	36,1
GP	626	3 750	656	2 231	1 283	5 981	16,7	29,4	21,4
MP	202	821	309	720	511	1 542	24,5	42,9	33,1
LP	289	974	432	848	721	1 822	29,7	51,0	39,6
RSA	2 631	11 253	3 299	8 298	5 930	19 551	23,4	39,8	30,3

Source: GHS 2024

Table 3.3.4–Households without an employed household member by metro and sex of household head, 2024

Metro	N ('000)						Per cent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without		
Metro	959	5 412	1 060	3 503	2 019	8 915	17,7	30,2	22,6
Non-metro	1 672	5 841	2 239	4 795	3 911	10 636	28,6	46,7	36,8
RSA	2 631	11 253	3 299	8 298	5 930	19 551	23,4	39,8	30,3

Source: GHS 2024

Table 3.3.5–Households without an employed household member by population group and sex of household head, 2024

Population group	N ('000)						Per cent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without		
Black African	2 234	9 201	2 911	7 066	5 145	16 267	24,3	41,2	31,6
Coloured	131	703	187	593	318	1 296	18,6	31,6	24,5
Indian/Asian	48	314	40	138	88	451	15,2	29,3	19,5
White	218	1 035	161	502	379	1 536	21,1	32,0	24,6
Total	2 631	11 253	3 299	8 298	5 930	19 551	23,4	39,8	30,3

Source: GHS 2024

Table 3.3.6–Employed who are employers as a proportion of the overall employed by province and sex, 2024

Province	N ('000)						Per cent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Employer	Total	Employer	Total	Employer	Total	Employer		
WC	102	1 462	34	1 287	136	2 749	7,0	2,6	4,9
EC	39	754	13	698	52	1 452	5,2	1,8	3,6
NC	7	186	3	151	11	337	4,0	2,1	3,1
FS	29	454	11	322	40	775	6,4	3,3	5,1
KZN	124	1 479	29	1 361	153	2 840	8,4	2,1	5,4
NW	58	603	13	352	70	956	9,5	3,7	7,4
GP	231	2 883	72	2 153	303	5 037	8,0	3,3	6,0
MP	41	696	17	545	58	1 241	5,9	3,2	4,7
LP	69	884	27	675	96	1 559	7,8	4,0	6,2
RSA	700	9 402	218	7 545	918	16 946	7,4	2,9	5,4

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 3.3.7–Employed who are employers as a proportion of the overall employed by metro and sex, 2024

Metro	N ('000)						Per cent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Employer	Total	Employer	Total	Employer	Total	Employer		
Metro	368	4 631	120	3 763	488	8 394	8	3,2	5,8
Non-metro	331	4 770	99	3 782	430	8 552	6,9	2,6	5
RSA	700	9 402	218	7 545	918	16 946	7,4	2,9	5,4

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 3.3.8–Employed who are employers as a proportion of the overall employed by population group and sex, 2024

Population group	N ('000)						Per cent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Employer	Total	Employer	Total	Employer	Total	Employer		
Black African	436	7 186	138	5 747	574	12 934	6,1	2,4	4,4
Coloured	44	910	16	816	60	1 726	4,8	2,0	3,5
Indian/Asian	52	362	9	202	61	564	14,3	4,7	10,9
White	168	943	55	779	223	1 723	17,8	7,1	12,9
Total	700	9 402	218	7 545	918	16 946	7,4	2,9	5,4

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 3.3.9–Employed who are employers as a proportion of the overall employed by age group and sex, 2024

Age group	N ('000)						Per cent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Employer	Total	Employer	Total	Employer	Total	Employer		
15-34 years	160	3 306	54	2 478	214	5 784	4,8	2,2	3,7
35-64 years	540	6 096	164	5 066	704	11 162	8,9	3,2	6,3
Total	700	9 402	218	7 545	918	16 946	7,4	2,9	5,4

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 3.3.10–Employed who are own-account workers as a proportion of the employed by province and sex, 2024

Province	N ('000)						Per cent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Own-account	Total	Own-account	Total	Own-account	Total	Own-account		
WC	112	1 462	104	1 287	215	2 749	7,6	8,1	7,8
EC	72	754	54	698	125	1 452	9,5	7,7	8,6
NC	13	186	8	151	21	337	7,2	5,2	6,3
FS	57	454	31	322	87	775	12,5	9,5	11,3
KZN	153	1 479	167	1 361	320	2 840	10,4	12,2	11,3
NW	63	603	34	352	97	956	10,5	9,5	10,1
GP	385	2 883	248	2 153	633	5 037	13,3	11,5	12,6
MP	93	696	88	545	181	1 241	13,4	16,1	14,6
LP	119	884	109	675	228	1 559	13,4	16,1	14,6
RSA	1 067	9 402	841	7 545	1 907	16 946	11,3	11,1	11,3

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 3.3.11–Employed who are own-account workers as a proportion of the employed by metro and sex, 2024

Metro	N ('000)						Per cent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Own-account	Total	Own-account	Total	Own-account	Total	Own-account		
Metro	583	4 631	390	3 763	974	8 394	12,6	10,4	11,6
Non-metro	484	4 770	450	3 782	934	8 552	10,1	11,9	10,9
RSA	1 067	9 402	841	7 545	1 907	16 946	11,3	11,1	11,3

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 3.3.12–Employed who are own-account workers as a proportion of the employed by population group and sex, 2024

Population group	N ('000)						Per cent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Own-account	Total	Own-account	Total	Own-account	Total	Own-account		
Black African	896	7 186	704	5 747	1 600	12 934	12,5	12,3	12,4
Coloured	50	910	36	816	86	1 726	5,5	4,4	5,0
Indian/Asian	53	362	15	202	69	564	14,7	7,5	12,1
White	68	943	85	779	153	1 723	7,2	10,9	8,9
Total	1 067	9 402	841	7 545	1 907	16 946	11,3	11,1	11,3

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 3.3.13–Employed who are own-account workers as a proportion of the employed by age group and sex, 2024

Age group	N ('000)						Per cent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Own-account	Total	Own-account	Total	Own-account	Total	Own-account		
15-34 years	307	3 306	231	2 478	538	5 784	9,3	9,3	9,3
35-64 years	760	6 096	609	5 066	1 369	11 162	12,5	12	12,3
Total	1 067	9 402	841	7 545	1 907	16 946	11,3	11,1	11,3

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 3.3.14—Employed who are working as contributing family members as a proportion of the employed by province and sex, 2024

Province	N ('000)						Per cent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Contributing member	Total	Contributing member	Total	Contributing member	Total	Contributing member		
WC	3	1 462	6	1 287	9	2 749	0,2	0,5	0,3
EC	2	754	4	698	7	1 452	0,3	0,6	0,5
NC	2	186	1	151	3	337	1,1	0,6	0,9
FS	3	454	7	322	10	775	0,7	2,1	1,3
KZN	9	1 479	12	1 361	21	2 840	0,6	0,9	0,7
NW	5	603	3	352	9	956	0,9	1,0	0,9
GP	16	2 883	16	2 153	32	5 037	0,6	0,7	0,6
MP	1	696	6	545	7	1 241	0,2	1,0	0,6
LP	3	884	7	675	11	1 559	0,4	1,1	0,7
RSA	46	9 402	62	7 545	108	16 946	0,5	0,8	0,6

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 3.3.15—Employed who are working as contributing family members as a proportion of the employed by metro and sex, 2024

Metro	N ('000)						Per cent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Contributing member	Total	Contributing member	Total	Contributing member	Total	Contributing member		
Metro	20	4 631	25	3 763	45	8 394	0,4	0,7	0,5
Non-metro	25	4 770	37	3 782	62	8 552	0,5	1,0	0,7
RSA	46	9 402	62	7 545	108	16 946	0,5	0,8	0,6

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 3.3.16—Employed who are working as contributing family members as a proportion of the employed by population group and sex, 2024

Population group	N ('000)						Per cent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Contributing member	Total	Contributing member	Total	Contributing member	Total	Contributing member		
Black African	31	7 186	51	5 747	81	12 934	0,4	0,9	0,6
Coloured	4	910	2	816	6	1 726	0,4	0,3	0,3
Indian/Asian	5	362	0	202	5	564	1,5	0,0	1,0
White	6	943	9	779	15	1 723	0,7	1,1	0,9
Total	46	9 402	62	7 545	108	16 946	0,5	0,8	0,6

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 3.3.17–Employed who are working as contributing family members as a proportion of the employed by age group and sex, 2024

Age group	N ('000)						Per cent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Contributing member	Total	Contributing member	Total	Contributing member	Total	Contributing member		
15-34 years	27	3 306	30	2 478	58	5 784	0,8	1,2	1,0
35-64 years	18	6 096	31	5 066	50	11 162	0,3	0,6	0,4
Total	46	9 402	62	7 545	108	16 946	0,5	0,8	0,6

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 3.3.18–Distribution of employed persons by province, sex and working sector, 2024

Province and sex		N ('000)	Per cent				
		Total	Formal	Informal	Agriculture	Domestic worker	Total
WC	Male	1 462	74,3	14,5	8,6	2,6	100,0
	Female	1 287	74,0	10,4	3,8	11,8	100,0
	Both	2 749	74,2	12,6	6,4	6,9	100,0
EC	Male	754	62,8	23,0	10,6	3,6	100,0
	Female	698	70,9	13,4	6,3	9,3	100,0
	Both	1 452	66,7	18,4	8,5	6,4	100,0
NC	Male	186	67,0	13,4	16,7	2,8	100,0
	Female	151	72,6	12,4	5,1	9,9	100,0
	Both	337	69,6	12,9	11,5	6,0	100,0
FS	Male	454	53,0	27,7	14,6	4,7	100,0
	Female	322	61,0	19,6	3,6	15,8	100,0
	Both	775	56,3	24,3	10,1	9,3	100,0
KZN	Male	1 479	64,1	25,6	7,0	3,2	100,0
	Female	1 361	68,5	17,5	3,0	11,1	100,0
	Both	2 840	66,2	21,7	5,1	7,0	100,0
NW	Male	603	67,1	22,6	8,3	2,0	100,0
	Female	352	72,8	15,0	3,4	8,8	100,0
	Both	956	69,2	19,8	6,5	4,5	100,0
GP	Male	2 883	76,7	19,7	0,9	2,7	100,0
	Female	2 153	74,2	13,4	1,0	11,5	100,0
	Both	5 037	75,6	17,0	0,9	6,4	100,0
MP	Male	696	54,5	30,5	11,5	3,5	100,0
	Female	545	56,0	25,6	5,4	13,0	100,0
	Both	1 241	55,2	28,4	8,8	7,7	100,0
LP	Male	884	57,0	30,9	9,8	2,4	100,0
	Female	675	55,1	24,0	10,3	10,6	100,0
	Both	1 559	56,1	27,9	10,0	6,0	100,0
RSA	Male	9 402	67,8	22,4	6,9	2,9	100,0
	Female	7 545	69,1	15,8	3,8	11,3	100,0
	Both	16 946	68,4	19,4	5,5	6,7	100,0

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 3.3.19–Distribution of employed persons by metro, sex and working sector, 2024

Metro and sex		N ('000)	Per cent				
		Total	Formal	Informal	Agriculture	Domestic worker	Total
Metro	Male	4 631	76,8	19,6	1,0	2,6	100,0
	Female	3 763	75,9	12,5	0,4	11,2	100,0
	Both	8 394	76,4	16,4	0,7	6,5	100,0
Non-metro	Male	4 770	59,0	25,1	12,7	3,2	100,0
	Female	3 782	62,4	19,1	7,1	11,4	100,0
	Both	8 552	60,5	22,4	10,2	6,8	100,0
RSA	Male	9 402	67,8	22,4	6,9	2,9	100,0
	Female	7 545	69,1	15,8	3,8	11,3	100,0
	Both	16 946	68,4	19,4	5,5	6,7	100,0

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 3.3.20–Distribution of employed persons by population group, sex and working sector, 2024

Population group and sex		N ('000)	Per cent				
		Total	Formal	Informal	Agriculture	Domestic worker	Total
Black African	Male	7 186	63,3	25,9	7,3	3,5	100,0
	Female	5 747	63,7	18,4	4,2	13,7	100,0
	Both	12 934	63,5	22,6	5,9	8,0	100,0
Coloured	Male	910	75,4	12,3	10,1	2,2	100,0
	Female	816	79,3	9,1	4,6	7,0	100,0
	Both	1 726	77,3	10,8	7,5	4,4	100,0
Indian/Asian	Male	362	79,5	20,0	0,1	0,4	100,0
	Female	202	92,7	7,3	..	..	100,0
	Both	564	84,2	15,5	0,1	0,3	100,0
White	Male	943	90,5	6,1	3,4	..	100,0
	Female	779	92,3	5,6	0,8	1,3	100,0
	Both	1 723	91,3	5,9	2,2	0,6	100,0
Total	Male	9 402	67,8	22,4	6,9	2,9	100,0
	Female	7 545	69,1	15,8	3,8	11,3	100,0
	Both	16 946	68,4	19,4	5,5	6,7	100,0

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 3.3.21–Distribution of employed persons by age group, sex and working sector, 2024

Age group and sex		N ('000)	Per cent				
			Total	Formal	Informal	Agriculture	Domestic worker	Total
15-34 years	Male	3 306	64,6	24,1	9,0	2,3	100,0
	Female	2 478	72,9	16,2	4,6	6,3	100,0
	Both	5 784	68,2	20,7	7,1	4,0	100,0
35-64 years	Male	6 096	69,5	21,5	5,8	3,2	100,0
	Female	5 066	67,3	15,6	3,4	13,8	100,0
	Both	11 162	68,5	18,8	4,7	8,0	100,0
Total	Male	9 402	67,8	22,4	6,9	2,9	100,0
	Female	7 545	69,1	15,8	3,8	11,3	100,0
	Both	16 946	68,4	19,4	5,5	6,7	100,0

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 3.3.22–Labour force participation rates for women aged 15-64 by province and age group, 2024

Province	N ('000)						Per cent		
	15-34 years		35-64 years		Total		15-34 years	35-64 years	Total
	Participated	Total	Participated	Total	Participated	Total	Participated		
WC	681	1 158	930	1 414	1 610	2 572	58,8	65,8	62,6
EC	514	1 223	580	1 078	1 094	2 301	42,1	53,8	47,6
NC	107	212	114	205	221	418	50,4	55,7	53,0
FS	235	501	315	488	550	989	46,9	64,5	55,6
KZN	892	2 119	1 138	1 885	2 030	4 004	42,1	60,4	50,7
NW	260	678	366	680	626	1 358	38,3	53,9	46,1
GP	1 369	2 590	2 041	2 948	3 410	5 538	52,9	69,2	61,6
MP	405	815	482	770	886	1 584	49,7	62,6	55,9
LP	458	1 063	619	1 033	1 077	2 096	43,1	59,9	51,4
RSA	4 921	10 360	6 584	10 499	11 505	20 859	47,5	62,7	55,2

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 3.3.23–Labour force participation rates for women aged 15-64 by metro and age group, 2024

Metro	N ('000)						Per cent		
	15-34 years		35-64 years		Total		15-34 years	35-64 years	Total
	Participated	Total	Participated	Total	Participated	Total	Participated		
Metro	2 189	4 112	3 262	4 806	5 451	8 918	53,2	67,9	61,1
Non-metro	2 732	6 248	3 322	5 693	6 054	11 941	43,7	58,3	50,7
RSA	4 921	10 360	6 584	10 499	11 505	20 859	47,5	62,7	55,2

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 3.3.24–Labour force participation rates for women aged 15-64 by population group and age group, 2024

Population group	N ('000)						Per cent		
	15-34 years		35-64 years		Total		15-34 years	35-64 years	Total
	Participated	Total	Participated	Total	Participated	Total	Participated		
Black African	4 068	8 786	5 293	8 330	9 361	17 116	46,3	63,5	54,7
Coloured	457	850	577	1 007	1 035	1 858	53,8	57,3	55,7
Indian/Asian	97	207	158	296	255	503	46,9	53,3	50,7
White	298	516	556	866	854	1 382	57,7	64,2	61,8
Total	4 921	10 360	6 584	10 499	11 505	20 859	47,5	62,7	55,2

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 3.3.25–Female unemployment rate by province and age group, 2024

Province	N ('000)						Per cent		
	15-34 years		35-64 years		Total		15-34 years	35-64 years	Total
	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed		
WC	210	681	114	930	323	1 610	30,8	12,2	20,1
EC	248	514	149	580	397	1 094	48,2	25,7	36,3
NC	52	107	18	114	70	221	48,7	15,4	31,5
FS	146	235	83	315	228	550	61,9	26,3	41,5
KZN	432	892	236	1 138	668	2 030	48,5	20,7	32,9
NW	157	260	116	366	273	626	60,4	31,8	43,7
GP	708	1 369	549	2 041	1 257	3 410	51,7	26,9	36,9
MP	229	405	112	482	341	886	56,6	23,3	38,5
LP	261	458	141	619	402	1 077	57,0	22,8	37,3
RSA	2 442	4 921	1 518	6 584	3 960	11 505	49,6	23,1	34,4

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 3.3.26–Female unemployment rate by metro and age group, 2024

Metro	N ('000)						Per cent		
	15-34 years		35-64 years		Total		15-34 years	35-64 years	Total
	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed		
Metro	977	2 189	712	3 262	1 688	5 451	44,6	21,8	31,0
Non-metro	1 466	2 732	806	3 322	2 272	6 054	53,6	24,3	37,5
RSA	2 442	4 921	1 518	6 584	3 960	11 505	49,6	23,1	34,4

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 3.3.27–Female unemployment rate by population group and age group, 2024

Population group	N ('000)						Per cent		
	15-34 years		35-64 years		Total		15-34 years	35-64 years	Total
	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed		
Black African	2 213	4 068	1 400	5 293	3 613	9 361	54,4	26,5	38,6
Coloured	153	457	66	577	219	1 035	33,5	11,4	21,2
Indian/Asian	32	97	21	158	53	255	32,9	13,4	20,8
White	44	298	31	556	75	854	14,6	5,6	8,7
Total	2 442	4 921	1 518	6 584	3 960	11 505	49,6	23,1	34,4

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 3.3.28–Female absorption rate by province and age group, 2024

Province	N ('000)						Per cent		
	15-34 years		35-64 years		Total		15-34 years	35-64 years	Total
	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed		
WC	471	1 158	816	1 414	1 287	2 572	40,7	57,7	50,0
EC	266	1 223	431	1 078	698	2 301	21,8	40,0	30,3
NC	55	212	96	205	151	418	25,9	47,1	36,3
FS	90	501	232	488	322	989	17,9	47,6	32,5
KZN	460	2 119	902	1 885	1 361	4 004	21,7	47,8	34,0
NW	103	678	250	680	352	1 358	15,2	36,7	26,0
GP	662	2 590	1 492	2 948	2 153	5 538	25,5	50,6	38,9
MP	176	815	369	770	545	1 584	21,5	48,0	34,4
LP	197	1 063	478	1 033	675	2 096	18,5	46,3	32,2
RSA	2 478	10 360	5 066	10 499	7 545	20 859	23,9	48,3	36,2

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 3.3.29–Female absorption rate by metro and age group, 2024

Metro	N ('000)						Per cent		
	15-34 years		35-64 years		Total		15-34 years	35-64 years	Total
	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed		
Metro	1 212	4 112	2 551	4 806	3 763	8 918	29,5	53,1	42,2
Non-metro	1 266	6 248	2 516	5 693	3 782	11 941	20,3	44,2	31,7
RSA	2 478	10 360	5 066	10 499	7 545	20 859	23,9	48,3	36,2

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 3.3.30–Female absorption rate by population group and age group, 2024

Population group	N ('000)						Per cent		
	15-34 years		35-64 years		Total		15-34 years	35-64 years	Total
	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed		
Black African	1 855	8 786	3 893	8 330	5 747	17 116	21,1	46,7	33,6
Coloured	304	850	512	1 007	816	1 858	35,8	50,8	43,9
Indian/Asian	65	207	137	296	202	503	31,5	46,2	40,1
White	254	516	525	866	779	1 382	49,3	60,6	56,4
Total	2 478	10 360	5 066	10 499	7 545	20 859	23,9	48,3	36,2

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 3.3.31–Female inactivity rate by province and age group, 2024

Province	N ('000)						Per cent		
	15-34 years		35-64 years		Total		15-34 years	35-64 years	Total
	Inactive	Total	Inactive	Total	Inactive	Total	Inactive		
WC	477	1 158	484	1 414	962	2 572	41,2	34,2	37,4
EC	709	1 223	498	1 078	1 206	2 301	57,9	46,2	52,4
NC	105	212	91	205	196	418	49,6	44,3	47,0
FS	266	501	173	488	439	989	53,1	35,5	44,4
KZN	1 227	2 119	747	1 885	1 974	4 004	57,9	39,6	49,3
NW	418	678	314	680	732	1 358	61,7	46,1	53,9
GP	1 221	2 590	907	2 948	2 128	5 538	47,1	30,8	38,4
MP	410	815	288	770	698	1 584	50,3	37,4	44,1
LP	605	1 063	414	1 033	1 019	2 096	56,9	40,1	48,6
RSA	5 439	10 360	3 915	10 499	9 354	20 859	52,5	37,3	44,8

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 3.3.32–Female inactivity rate by metro and age group, 2024

Metro	N ('000)						Per cent		
	15-34 years		35-64 years		Total		15-34 years	35-64 years	Total
	Inactive	Total	Inactive	Total	Inactive	Total	Inactive		
Metro	1 923	4 112	1 544	4 806	3 467	8 918	46,8	32,1	38,9
Non-metro	3 516	6 248	2 372	5 693	5 888	11 941	56,3	41,7	49,3
RSA	5 439	10 360	3 915	10 499	9 354	20 859	52,5	37,3	44,8

Source: QLFS Q3, 2024

Table 3.3.33–Female inactivity rate by population group and age group, 2024

Population group	N ('000)						Per cent		
	15-34 years		35-64 years		Total		15-34 years	35-64 years	Total
	Inactive	Total	Inactive	Total	Inactive	Total	Inactive		
Black African	4 718	8 786	3 037	8 330	7 755	17 116	53,7	36,5	45,3
Coloured	393	850	430	1 007	823	1 858	46,2	42,7	44,3
Indian/Asian	110	207	138	296	248	503	53,1	46,7	49,3
White	218	516	310	866	528	1 382	42,3	35,8	38,2
Total	5 439	10 360	3 915	10 499	9 354	20 859	52,5	37,3	44,8

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 3.3.34–Sex parity ratios in income earnings by province, 2024

Province	R1-R1500	R1501-R2500	R2501-R3500	R3501-R5500	R5501-R7500	R7501-R11500	R11501+
WC	1,8	1,7	1,2	1,1	0,6	0,7	0,7
EC	1,3	1,2	0,8	0,9	0,6	0,8	0,9
NC	2,1	0,9	1,5	0,5	0,6	0,5	0,8
FS	1,2	1,5	0,9	0,4	0,4	0,5	0,6
KZN	1,6	1,8	0,9	0,7	0,6	0,8	0,8
NW	0,9	0,8	0,9	0,7	0,3	0,4	0,5
GP	1,0	0,9	1,3	0,8	0,5	0,5	0,7
MP	1,2	1,3	1,0	0,6	0,9	0,5	0,5
LP	1,6	1,5	0,7	0,6	0,6	0,4	0,6
RSA	1,3	1,3	1,0	0,8	0,6	0,6	0,7

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 3.3.35–Sex parity ratios in income earnings by metro, 2024

Metro	R1-R1500	R1501-R2500	R2501-R3500	R3501-R5500	R5501-R7500	R7501-R11500	R11501+
Metro	1,2	1,1	1,2	0,9	0,6	0,6	0,8
Non-metro	1,4	1,4	0,9	0,7	0,6	0,5	0,6
RSA	1,3	1,3	1,0	0,8	0,6	0,6	0,7

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 3.3.36–Sex parity ratios in income earnings by population group, 2024

Population group	R1-R1500	R1501-R2500	R2501-R3500	R3501-R5500	R5501-R7500	R7501-R11500	R11501+
Black African	1,4	1,3	1,0	0,7	0,6	0,5	0,7
Coloured	1,7	1,0	1,0	1,2	0,6	0,7	0,8
Indian/Asian	0,2	0,7	0,8	0,5	0,2	0,6	0,6
White	0,7	1,5	0,8	1,6	1,0	1,6	0,7
Total	1,3	1,3	1,0	0,8	0,6	0,6	0,7

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

3.4 Women: Health

Table 3.4.1–Persons with access to medical aid by province and sex, 2024

Province and sex		N ('000)	Percent			
		Total	Medical aid	No medical aid	Unspecified	Total
WC	Male	3 632	24,4	75,5	0,1	100,0
	Female	3 876	26,3	73,6	0,0	100,0
	Both	7 508	25,4	74,6	0,1	100,0
EC	Male	3 200	10,1	89,8	0,1	100,0
	Female	3 333	10,8	89,2	..	100,0
	Both	6 533	10,4	89,5	0,0	100,0
NC	Male	650	15,3	84,7	..	100,0
	Female	672	16,5	83,3	0,2	100,0
	Both	1 322	15,9	84,0	0,1	100,0
FS	Male	1 515	12,3	87,7	0,0	100,0
	Female	1 538	12,6	87,4	..	100,0
	Both	3 053	12,4	87,5	0,0	100,0
KZN	Male	5 805	9,5	90,2	0,3	100,0
	Female	6 292	10,8	89,0	0,2	100,0
	Both	12 096	10,2	89,6	0,2	100,0
NW	Male	2 120	15,3	84,5	0,2	100,0
	Female	2 206	12,1	87,7	0,1	100,0
	Both	4 327	13,7	86,1	0,2	100,0
GP	Male	8 636	20,5	79,3	0,2	100,0
	Female	8 387	22,2	77,6	0,2	100,0
	Both	17 023	21,3	78,5	0,2	100,0
MP	Male	2 424	10,6	89,4	0,1	100,0
	Female	2 595	10,3	89,6	0,1	100,0
	Both	5 019	10,4	89,5	0,1	100,0
LP	Male	2 990	9,8	90,1	0,0	100,0
	Female	3 308	10,1	89,8	0,1	100,0
	Both	6 298	10,0	90,0	0,1	100,0
RSA	Male	30 972	15,1	84,7	0,2	100,0
	Female	32 208	15,8	84,1	0,1	100,0
	Both	63 179	15,5	84,4	0,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 3.4.2–Persons with access to medical aid by metro and sex, 2024

Metro and sex		N ('000)	Percent			
		Total	Medical aid	No medical aid	Unspecified	Total
Metro	Male	13 225	21,0	78,8	0,2	100,0
	Female	13 442	23,1	76,7	0,1	100,0
	Both	26 667	22,1	77,8	0,2	100,0
Non-metro	Male	17 746	10,8	89,1	0,1	100,0
	Female	18 766	10,6	89,3	0,1	100,0
	Both	36 512	10,7	89,2	0,1	100,0
RSA	Male	30 972	15,1	84,7	0,2	100,0
	Female	32 208	15,8	84,1	0,1	100,0
	Both	63 179	15,5	84,4	0,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 3.4.3–Persons with access to medical aid by population group and sex, 2024

Population group and sex		N ('000)	Percent			
		Total	Medical aid	No medical aid	Unspecified	Total
Black African	Male	25 481	9,7	90,1	0,2	100,0
	Female	26 493	10,2	89,7	0,1	100,0
	Both	51 974	9,9	89,9	0,2	100,0
Coloured	Male	2 600	17,8	82,2	0,0	100,0
	Female	2 757	20,0	79,9	0,1	100,0
	Both	5 358	18,9	81,0	0,1	100,0
Indian/Asian	Male	805	42,7	57,3	..	100,0
	Female	747	44,9	55	0,1	100,0
	Both	1 553	43,8	56,2	0,0	100,0
White	Male	2 085	67,9	32,0	0,1	100,0
	Female	2 209	68,7	31,3	0,1	100,0
	Both	4 295	68,3	31,6	0,1	100,0
Total	Male	30 972	15,1	84,7	0,2	100,0
	Female	32 208	15,8	84,1	0,1	100,0
	Both	63 179	15,5	84,4	0,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

3.5 Women: Vulnerability to hunger

Table 3.5.1–Households that reported hunger by province, 2024

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering		
WC	162	1 316	175	869	337	2 185	12,3	20,2	15,4
EC	126	908	123	867	249	1 776	13,9	14,2	14,0
NC	38	209	42	177	80	386	18,3	23,8	20,8
FS	62	580	61	441	123	1 021	10,6	13,9	12,0
KZN	261	1 799	291	1 582	552	3 381	14,5	18,4	16,3
NW	157	873	105	555	262	1 428	18,0	19,0	18,4
GP	293	3 736	202	2 225	494	5 961	7,8	9,1	8,3
MP	140	820	140	718	280	1 538	17,1	19,4	18,2
LP	49	966	32	844	81	1 811	5,1	3,8	4,5
RSA	1 288	11 207	1 171	8 280	2 459	19 487	11,5	14,1	12,6

Source: GHS 2024.

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 3.5.2–Households that reported hunger by metro, 2024

Metro	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering		
Metro	476	5 386	404	3 493	881	8 879	8,8	11,6	9,9
Non-metro	812	5 821	767	4 787	1 579	10 608	13,9	16,0	14,9
RSA	1 288	11 207	1 171	8 280	2 459	19 487	11,5	14,1	12,6

Source: GHS 2024.

Excluding unspecified cases.

3.6 Women: Education

Table 3.6.1—Persons aged 20 and above who are functionally literate by province and sex, 2024

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Literate	Total	Literate	Total	Literate	Total	Literate		
WC	2 337	2 478	2 512	2 651	4 849	5 129	94,3	94,8	94,6
EC	1 574	1 833	1 715	1 986	3 289	3 819	85,9	86,4	86,1
NC	351	402	374	429	725	832	87,2	87,2	87,2
FS	799	918	870	998	1 669	1 917	87,0	87,2	87,1
KZN	3 115	3 419	3 433	3 905	6 548	7 324	91,1	87,9	89,4
NW	1 165	1 351	1 190	1 397	2 356	2 747	86,3	85,2	85,7
GP	5 647	5 919	5 527	5 785	11 174	11 704	95,4	95,5	95,5
MP	1 243	1 439	1 358	1 609	2 601	3 048	86,4	84,4	85,3
LP	1 441	1 630	1 645	1 924	3 086	3 554	88,4	85,5	86,8
RSA	17 672	19 388	18 626	20 684	36 298	40 072	91,2	90,0	90,6

Source: GHS 2024.

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 3.6.2—Persons aged 20 and above who are functionally literate by metro and sex, 2024

Metro	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Literate	Total	Literate	Total	Literate	Total	Literate		
Metro	8 717	9 148	8 787	9 225	17 504	18 373	95,3	95,2	95,3
Non-metro	8 956	10 240	9 839	11 459	18 794	21 700	87,5	85,9	86,6
RSA	17 672	19 388	18 626	20 684	36 298	40 072	91,2	90,0	90,6

Source: GHS 2024.

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 3.6.3—Persons aged 20 and above who are functionally literate by population group and sex, 2024

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Literate	Total	Literate	Total	Literate	Total	Literate		
Black African	13 925	15 501	14 642	16 531	28 567	32 031	89,8	88,6	89,2
Coloured	1 531	1 656	1 686	1 829	3 217	3 485	92,5	92,2	92,3
Indian/Asian	599	610	542	562	1 141	1 171	98,2	96,6	97,4
White	1 617	1 622	1 755	1 763	3 372	3 385	99,7	99,6	99,6
Total	17 672	19 388	18 626	20 684	36 298	40 072	91,2	90,0	90,6

Source: GHS 2024.

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 3.6.4—Persons aged 20 and above who are functionally literate by age group and sex, 2024

Age group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Literate	Total	Literate	Total	Literate	Total	Literate		
20-39 years	10 184	10 587	10 353	10 604	20 537	21 191	96,2	97,6	96,9
40-59 years	5 865	6 516	6 093	6 685	11 959	13 201	90,0	91,1	90,6
60+ years	1 623	2 285	2 179	3 395	3 802	5 681	71,0	64,2	66,9
Total	17 672	19 388	18 626	20 684	36 298	40 072	91,2	90,0	90,6

Source: GHS 2024.

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 3.6.5—Distribution of persons aged 25 and above by province, sex and the highest level of education attained, 2024

Province and sex		N ('000)	Percent						
		Total	Less than matric	Matric	Other tertiary	Graduates	Other	Unspecified	Total
WC	Male	2 202	45,9	31,3	8,3	12,4	2,1	..	100,0
	Female	2 353	43,4	30,9	9,8	14,5	1,5	..	100,0
	Both	4 555	44,6	31,1	9,0	13,5	1,8	..	100,0
EC	Male	1 594	62,0	24,5	7,4	5,1	1,1	0,0	100,0
	Female	1 798	62,1	22,8	9,0	5,6	0,6	..	100,0
	Both	3 393	62,0	23,6	8,2	5,4	0,8	0,0	100,0
NC	Male	357	58,8	25,1	7,4	4,7	4,0	..	100,0
	Female	376	56,7	27,6	8,9	5,5	1,3	..	100,0
	Both	733	57,7	26,4	8,2	5,1	2,6	..	100,0
FS	Male	801	55,7	33,1	5,3	4,8	1,0	0,1	100,0
	Female	884	57,0	29,9	7,1	4,7	1,2	..	100,0
	Both	1 685	56,4	31,5	6,2	4,8	1,1	0,1	100,0
KZN	Male	2 967	45,4	40,6	4,6	6,4	3,0	..	100,0
	Female	3 424	47,8	35,6	6,5	7,6	2,5	..	100,0
	Both	6 392	46,6	37,9	5,6	7,0	2,7	..	100,0
NW	Male	1 177	57,0	29,5	6,7	3,7	3,0	..	100,0
	Female	1 218	53,6	31,5	7,9	4,8	2,2	..	100,0
	Both	2 396	55,3	30,5	7,3	4,3	2,6	..	100,0
GP	Male	5 208	38,3	36,7	9,2	11,3	4,5	..	100,0
	Female	5 111	36,5	36,9	10,8	13,5	2,4	..	100,0
	Both	10 319	37,4	36,8	10,0	12,4	3,4	..	100,0
MP	Male	1 270	54,0	33,3	7,6	4,2	0,8	..	100,0
	Female	1 391	51,5	34,7	8,7	4,4	0,6	..	100,0
	Both	2 661	52,7	34,1	8,2	4,3	0,7	..	100,0
LP	Male	1 409	56,5	26,9	8,5	6,1	2,0	..	100,0
	Female	1 703	60,5	24,4	8,8	5,4	0,9	..	100,0
	Both	3 112	58,7	25,5	8,7	5,7	1,4	..	100,0
RSA	Male	16 985	48,0	33,6	7,5	8,1	2,8	0,0	100,0
	Female	18 259	47,9	32,3	8,9	9,1	1,7	..	100,0
	Both	35 244	48,0	32,9	8,2	8,6	2,3	0,0	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 3.6.6—Distribution of persons aged 25 and above by metro, sex and the highest level of education attained, 2024

Metro and sex		N ('000)	Percent						Total
			Total	Less than matric	Matric	Other tertiary	Graduates	Other		Unspecified
Metro	Male	8 094	39,2	37,7	8,5	11,2	3,5	..	100,0
	Female	8 214	38,0	36,7	10,2	13,0	2,1	..	100,0
	Both	16 308	38,6	37,2	9,3	12,1	2,8	..	100,0
Non-metro	Male	8 891	56,0	29,8	6,6	5,3	2,3	0,0	100,0
	Female	10 045	56,1	28,6	7,9	5,9	1,5	..	100,0
	Both	18 936	56,1	29,2	7,3	5,6	1,8	0,0	100,0
RSA	Male	16 985	48,0	33,6	7,5	8,1	2,8	0,0	100,0
	Female	18 259	47,9	32,3	8,9	9,1	1,7	..	100,0
	Both	35 244	48,0	32,9	8,2	8,6	2,3	0,0	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 3.6.7—Distribution of persons aged 25 and above by population group, sex and the highest level of education attained, 2024

Population group and sex		N ('000)	Percent						Total
			Total	Less than matric	Matric	Other tertiary	Graduates	Other		Unspecified
Black African	Male	13 458	52,3	32,5	6,6	5,7	2,9	0,0	100,0
	Female	14 461	52,1	31,1	8,1	6,9	1,9	..	100,0
	Both	27 919	52,2	31,8	7,3	6,3	2,4	0,0	100,0
Coloured	Male	1 454	54,8	30,3	6,8	5,4	2,8	..	100,0
	Female	1 627	52,9	29,4	8,7	7,4	1,5	..	100,0
	Both	3 081	53,8	29,8	7,8	6,5	2,2	..	100,0
Indian/Asian	Male	561	19,6	51,6	8,3	17,4	3,1	..	100,0
	Female	517	23,4	47,3	7,5	19,3	2,5	..	100,0
	Both	1 079	21,4	49,5	7,9	18,3	2,8	..	100,0
White	Male	1 512	13,9	39,4	16,5	28,3	1,8	..	100,0
	Female	1 653	14,4	41,0	16,9	26,8	0,8	..	100,0
	Both	3 165	14,2	40,2	16,7	27,6	1,3	..	100,0
Total	Male	16 985	48,0	33,6	7,5	8,1	2,8	0,0	100,0
	Female	18 259	47,9	32,3	8,9	9,1	1,7	..	100,0
	Both	35 244	48,0	32,9	8,2	8,6	2,3	0,0	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

3.7 Women: Housing and basic services

Table 3.7.1–Distribution of the type of housing by metro and sex of the household head, 2024

Metro and sex		N ('000)	Percent				
			Total	Formal	Traditional	Informal	Other	Total
Metro	Male	5 412	81,8	0,5	17,2	0,5	100,0
	Female	3 503	86,7	0,7	12,4	0,2	100,0
	Both	8 915	83,7	0,6	15,3	0,4	100,0
Non-metro	Male	5 841	83,1	6,1	10,5	0,3	100,0
	Female	4 795	85,8	7,6	6,4	0,3	100,0
	Both	10 636	84,3	6,7	8,7	0,3	100,0
RSA	Male	11 253	82,5	3,4	13,8	0,4	100,0
	Female	8 298	86,2	4,7	8,9	0,2	100,0
	Both	19 551	84,1	3,9	11,7	0,3	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 3.7.2–Distribution of the living condition indicators of male- and female-headed households, 2024

Access to piped water

Sex	N ('000)	Percent	
		Total	Access
Male	34 840	77,7	1,5
Female	28 340	72,0	2,0
Both	63 179	75,2	1,7

Source: GHS 2024

Access to improved sanitation

Sex	N ('000)	Percent
		Access
Male	34 840	84,1
Female	28 340	80,9
Both	63 179	82,7

Source: GHS 2024

Refuse/ waste removed by the municipality

Sex	N ('000)	Percent
		Access
Male	34 840	65,2
Female	28 340	55,0
Both	63 179	60,6

Source: GHS 2024

Access to electricity connected to the mains

Sex	N ('000)	Percent	
	Total	Access	Unspecified
Male	34 840	92,4	4,7
Female	28 340	95,3	3,0
Both	63 179	93,7	3,9

Source: GHS 2024

Use solid fuels for cooking

Sex	N ('000)	Percent
	Total	Access
Male	34 840	8,2
Female	28 340	14,2
Both	63 179	10,9

Source: GHS 2024

3.8 Women: Violence and crime victims**Table 3.8.1–Women who feel unsafe or very unsafe to walk alone in their area during the day by province, 2024/25**

Province	N ('000)		Percent
	Unsafe	Total responded	Unsafe
WC	992	2 844	34,8
EC	406	2 247	18,0
NC	60	489	12,1
FS	139	1 088	12,7
KZN	826	4 442	18,5
NW	177	1 575	11,2
GP	1 691	6 322	26,7
MP	270	1 783	15,1
LP	63	2 103	2,9
RSA	4 622	22 892	20,1

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2024/25

Table 3.8.2–Women who feel unsafe or very unsafe to walk alone in their area during the day by age group, 2024/25

Age group	N ('000)		Percent
	Unsafe	Total responded	Unsafe
15-24 years	914	4 790	19,0
25-34 years	1 019	5 219	19,5
35+ years	2 689	12 884	20,8
Total	4 622	22 892	20,1

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2024/25

Table 3.8.3–Women who feel unsafe or very unsafe to walk alone in their area at night by province, 2024/25

Province	N ('000)		Percent
	Unsafe	Total responded	Unsafe
WC	1 854	2 844	65,1
EC	1 515	2 247	67,4
NC	353	489	72,1
FS	722	1 088	66,3
KZN	2 937	4 442	66,1
NW	1 006	1 575	63,8
GP	4 637	6 322	73,3
MP	1 363	1 783	76,4
LP	771	2 103	36,6
RSA	15 158	22 892	66,2

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2024/25

Table 3.8.4–Women who feel unsafe or very unsafe to walk alone in their area at night by age group, 2024/25

Age group	N ('000)		Percent
	Unsafe	Total responded	Unsafe
15-24 years	3 173	4 790	66,2
25-34 years	3 452	5 219	66,1
35+ years	8 532	12 884	66,2
Total	15 158	22 892	66,2

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2024/25

Table 3.8.5–Women who have been victims of theft of personal property crime during the past 5 years by province, 2024/25

Province	N ('000)		Percent
	Unsafe	Total responded	Unsafe
WC	230	2 844	8,0
EC	125	2 247	5,5
NC	14	489	2,7
FS	62	1 088	5,6
KZN	319	4 442	7,1
NW	53	1 575	3,3
GP	581	6 322	9,1
MP	84	1 783	4,7
LP	80	2 103	3,8
RSA	1 547	22 892	6,7

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2024/25

Table 3.8.6—Women who have been victims of theft of personal property crime during the past 5 years by population group, 2024/25

Population group	N ('000)		Percent
	Suffering	Total responded	Suffering
Black African	1 205	18 318	6,5
Coloured	131	2 051	6,3
Indian/Asian	49	613	7,9
White	162	1 910	8,4
Total	1 547	22 892	6,7

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2024/25

3.9 Key findings

There were 32,2 million females in south Africa, with 58,3% residing in non-metropolitan areas and 41,7 residing in metropolitan areas. Provincial disaggregation indicated that, 26,0% were in Gauteng, 19,5% in KwaZulu-Natal and 12,0% in Western Cape. Majority of females were aged 5-14, representing 18,3%, followed by those aged 15-24 and 25-34 at 16,2% and 16,8% respectively. Analysis by marital status showed that 47,5% of females were never married, 39,6% married/cohabited and 13,0% were widowed/divorced.

Household composition showed that 42,4% of households were headed by females aged 15 and older, prevalent in Eastern Cape (48,8%) Mpumalanga (46,7%), Limpopo (46,5%) and least likely to be in Gauteng (37,3%) and North West (38,8%). Majority of male-heads (44,5%) headed nuclear households whilst female-heads (45,5%) were most likely to head extended households. Geographical divide showed that 38,8% of male-headed households in the non-metro were more likely to be in nuclear households followed by 34,6% were in single households and 24,8% were in extended households. The opposite was observed for female-headed households in the non-metro areas were likely to reside in extended households (49,6%), followed by nuclear households (30,9%) and single households (17,1%). There were significant gender differences across intergenerational household types, with 51,5% of male-headed households living in single generation households, while 43,4% of female-headed lived in double generation households. This trend was noticeable across the provinces, except in Western Cape where 48,9% of male-headed and 48,4% of female-headed households were in double generation.

In 2024, the female labour force participation rates were reportedly higher in Western Cape (62,6%) and Gauteng (61,6%) compared to other provinces. Females aged between 35-64 reported higher labour force participation rates compared to those aged 15-34. Females that were own-account workers as a proportion of the employed were more likely to be in Mpumalanga (16,1%), Limpopo (16,1%) and KwaZulu Natal (12,2%). Employment by sector showed that 69,1% of females were employed in the formal sector, 15,8% in the informal sector, 11,3% in domestic work and 3,8% in agriculture. Unemployment rate was 34,4% for females, with North West (43,7%) and Free State (41,5%) reporting the highest unemployment rate. Analysis by age-group indicated that unemployment and inactivity rate was more common amongst females aged 15–34, compared to those aged 35-64. Geographical disparities showed that females residing in non-metropolitan areas experienced a higher unemployment rate at 37,5% while those residing in metropolitan areas reported an unemployment rate of 31,0%.

Approximately 15,5% of the population had access to medical aid in 2024, females (15,8%) and 15,1% of males. Provincial disaggregation showed that, Western Cape (25,4%) Gauteng (21,3%) and Northern Cape (15,9%), reported higher percentages than national average in accessing medical aid while the lowest percentage was reported in Limpopo (10,0%) KwaZulu-Natal (10,2%) and Eastern Cape (10,4%). Nationally, 12,6% of households reported to have experienced hunger; with the highest percentages reported in Northern Cape (20,8%), North West (18,4%) and Mpumalanga (18,2%) and the lowest percentages were reported in Limpopo (4,5%) and Gauteng (8,3%). Female-headed households were more likely to experience hunger reporting 14,1% compared to 11,5% of their male counterparts and the trend persists in all the provinces, except in Limpopo.

Access to basic service plays an important role, affecting the socio-economic behaviour of the population. In 2024, 72,0% of female-headed households had access to piped water, 80,9% had access to improved sanitation and 55,0% had their waste removed by the municipality. Nationally, 20,1% of females reportedly felt unsafe walking alone in their area of residence during the day in 2024/25 and 66,2% felt unsafe walking alone in their area at night.

4 INDICATORS: OLDER PERSONS

4.1 Demography of older persons

Table 4.1.1–Distribution of older persons by province and sex, 2024

Province	N ('000)			Percent		
	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both
WC	324	504	828	39,1	60,9	100,0
EC	295	429	724	40,8	59,2	100,0
NC	67	79	146	45,7	54,3	100,0
FS	106	181	287	36,9	63,1	100,0
KZN	378	612	990	38,2	61,8	100,0
NW	167	230	397	42,1	57,9	100,0
GP	601	813	1 415	42,5	57,5	100,0
MP	156	244	400	38,9	61,1	100,0
LP	191	303	494	38,7	61,3	100,0
RSA	2 285	3 395	5 681	40,2	59,8	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 4.1.2–Distribution of older persons by metro and sex, 2024

Metro	N ('000)			Percent		
	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both
Metro	1 033	1 472	2 505	41,2	58,8	100,0
Non-metro	1 253	1 923	3 176	39,4	60,6	100,0
RSA	2 285	3 395	5 681	40,2	59,8	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 4.1.3–Distribution of older persons by population group and sex, 2024

Population group	N ('000)			Percent		
	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both
Black African	1 422	2 263	3 685	38,6	61,4	100,0
Coloured	243	359	602	40,3	59,7	100,0
Indian/Asian	97	128	225	43,3	56,7	100,0
White	523	645	1 168	44,8	55,2	100,0
Total	2 285	3 395	5 681	40,2	59,8	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 4.1.4—Older persons as a proportion of the overall population by province and sex, 2024

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Older persons	Total	Older persons	Total	Older persons	Total	Older persons		
WC	324	3 632	504	3 876	828	7 508	8,9	13,0	11,0
EC	295	3 200	429	3 333	724	6 533	9,2	12,9	11,1
NC	67	650	79	672	146	1 322	10,3	11,8	11,0
FS	106	1 515	181	1 538	287	3 053	7,0	11,8	9,4
KZN	378	5 805	612	6 292	990	12 096	6,5	9,7	8,2
NW	167	2 120	230	2 206	397	4 327	7,9	10,4	9,2
GP	601	8 636	813	8 387	1 415	17 023	7,0	9,7	8,3
MP	156	2 424	244	2 595	400	5 019	6,4	9,4	8,0
LP	191	2 990	303	3 308	494	6 298	6,4	9,1	7,8
RSA	2 285	30 972	3 395	32 208	5 681	63 179	7,4	10,5	9,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 4.1.5—Older persons as a proportion of the overall population by metro and sex, 2024

Metro	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Older persons	Total	Older persons	Total	Older persons	Total	Older persons		
Metro	1 033	13 225	1 472	13 442	2 505	26 667	7,8	11,0	9,4
Non-metro	1 253	17 746	1 923	18 766	3 176	36 512	7,1	10,2	8,7
RSA	2 285	30 972	3 395	32 208	5 681	63 179	7,4	10,5	9,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 4.1.6—Older persons as a proportion of the overall population by population group and sex, 2024

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Older persons	Total	Older persons	Total	Older persons	Total	Older persons		
Black African	1 422	25 481	2 263	26 493	3 685	51 974	5,6	8,5	7,1
Coloured	243	2 600	359	2 757	602	5 358	9,3	13,0	11,2
Indian/Asian	97	805	128	747	225	1 553	12,1	17,1	14,5
White	523	2 085	645	2 209	1 168	4 295	25,1	29,2	27,2
Total	2 285	30 972	3 395	32 208	5 681	63 179	7,4	10,5	9,0

Source: GHS 2024

4.2 Older persons: Household characteristics

Table 4.2.1–Distribution of households headed by persons 60 years and older by province and sex, 2024

Province	N ('000)			Percent		
	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both
WC	221	239	460	48,1	51,9	100,0
EC	240	307	547	43,9	56,1	100,0
NC	51	48	99	51,2	48,8	100,0
FS	91	138	229	39,6	60,4	100,0
KZN	315	421	736	42,8	57,2	100,0
NW	141	153	294	48,0	52,0	100,0
GP	471	488	960	49,1	50,9	100,0
MP	129	180	309	41,7	58,3	100,0
LP	169	234	403	41,9	58,1	100,0
RSA	1 828	2 209	4 037	45,3	54,7	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 4.2.2–Distribution of households headed by persons 60 years and older by metro and sex, 2024

Metro	N ('000)			Percent		
	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both
Metro	778,0	860,0	1 638,0	47,5	52,5	100,0
Non-metro	1 050,0	1 349,0	2 399,0	43,8	56,2	100,0
RSA	1 828,0	2 209,0	4 037,0	45,3	54,7	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 4.2.3–Distribution of households headed by persons 60 years and older by population group and sex, 2024

Population group	N ('000)			Percent		
	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both
Black African	1 209	1 735	2 944	41,1	58,9	100,0
Coloured	161	190	351	46,0	54,0	100,0
Indian/Asian	77	55	132	58,4	41,6	100,0
White	381	229	610	62,4	37,6	100,0
Total	1 828	2 209	4 037	45,3	54,7	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 4.2.4—Persons aged 60 years and older living across different types of intergenerational households by province and sex, 2024

Province and sex		N ('000)	Percent					Total
			Total	Single generation	Double generation	Triple generation	Skip generation		Other
WC	Male	324	43,6	22,0	28,2	4,4	1,7	100,0
	Female	504	32,6	26,5	31,7	6,7	2,5	100,0
	Both	828	36,9	24,7	30,3	5,8	2,2	100,0
EC	Male	295	35,4	17,1	33,9	11,3	2,3	100,0
	Female	429	18,9	15,4	44,3	19,5	2,0	100,0
	Both	724	25,6	16,1	40,1	16,2	2,1	100,0
NC	Male	67	43,3	20,2	22,6	9,2	4,7	100,0
	Female	79	28,7	23,6	31,4	14,4	1,9	100,0
	Both	146	35,4	22,1	27,4	12,0	3,2	100,0
FS	Male	106	40,1	16,9	33,6	8,8	0,5	100,0
	Female	181	22,2	11,8	41,9	23,3	0,8	100,0
	Both	287	28,8	13,7	38,9	18,0	0,7	100,0
KZN	Male	378	29,9	21,4	38,3	9,4	1,0	100,0
	Female	612	15,2	17,4	50,8	15,1	1,4	100,0
	Both	990	20,8	19,0	46,0	12,9	1,3	100,0
NW	Male	167	32,3	18,6	39,3	8,0	1,8	100,0
	Female	230	15,6	16,8	47,8	16,8	3,1	100,0
	Both	397	22,6	17,5	44,2	13,1	2,5	100,0
GP	Male	601	43,7	28,9	20,8	4,9	1,8	100,0
	Female	813	28,1	26,1	34,6	9,5	1,6	100,0
	Both	1 415	34,7	27,3	28,7	7,6	1,7	100,0
MP	Male	156	33,9	18,9	39,5	5,8	1,9	100,0
	Female	244	16,0	18,7	48,3	15,4	1,5	100,0
	Both	400	23,0	18,8	44,9	11,7	1,7	100,0
LP	Male	191	24,7	20,2	43,4	9,9	1,7	100,0
	Female	303	10,6	20,2	47,4	20,8	1,0	100,0
	Both	494	16,1	20,2	45,8	16,6	1,3	100,0
RSA	Male	2 285	37,1	22,2	31,6	7,4	1,7	100,0
	Female	3 395	21,7	20,7	41,7	14,1	1,8	100,0
	Both	5 681	27,9	21,3	37,6	11,4	1,8	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Other include unspecified cases.

Table 4.2.5—Persons aged 60 years and older living across different types of intergenerational households by metro and sex, 2024

Metro and sex		N ('000)	Percent					Total
			Total	Single generation	Double generation	Triple generation	Skip generation		Other
Metro	Male	1 033	42,7	28,6	21,4	5,3	2,0	100,0
	Female	1 472	28,7	26,6	33,5	9,1	2,1	100,0
	Both	2 505	34,5	27,4	28,5	7,5	2,1	100,0
Non-metro	Male	1 253	32,4	16,9	40,0	9,2	1,5	100,0
	Female	1 923	16,4	16,2	47,9	18,0	1,5	100,0
	Both	3 176	22,7	16,5	44,8	14,5	1,5	100,0
RSA	Male	2 285	37,1	22,2	31,6	7,4	1,7	100,0
	Female	3 395	21,7	20,7	41,7	14,1	1,8	100,0
	Both	5 681	27,9	21,3	37,6	11,4	1,8	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Other include unspecified cases.

Table 4.2.6—Persons aged 60 years and older living across different types of intergenerational households by population group and sex, 2024

Population group and sex		N ('000)	Percent					Total
			Total	Single generation	Double generation	Triple generation	Skip generation		Other
Black African	Male	1 422	26,4	20,2	41,7	9,8	1,9	100,0
	Female	2 263	9,9	17,2	53,1	18,3	1,5	100,0
	Both	3 685	16,3	18,3	48,7	15,0	1,6	100,0
Coloured	Male	243	29,6	24,0	38,9	6,9	0,6	100,0
	Female	359	17,5	28,3	41,0	11,9	1,3	100,0
	Both	602	22,4	26,5	40,2	9,9	1,0	100,0
Indian/Asian	Male	97	44,9	34,7	13,7	5,2	1,4	100,0
	Female	128	31,0	39,1	25,7	2,5	1,6	100,0
	Both	225	37,0	37,2	20,5	3,7	1,5	100,0
White	Male	523	68,0	24,5	4,0	1,5	2,0	100,0
	Female	645	63,5	25,4	4,9	3,2	3,0	100,0
	Both	1 168	65,5	25,0	4,5	2,5	2,5	100,0
Total	Male	2 285	37,1	22,2	31,6	7,4	1,7	100,0
	Female	3 395	21,7	20,7	41,7	14,1	1,8	100,0
	Both	5 681	27,9	21,3	37,6	11,4	1,8	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Other include unspecified cases.

Table 4.2.7–Distribution of households headed by persons aged 60 years and older by province and household composition, 2024

Province	N ('000)	Percent					
	Total	Single	Nuclear	Extended	Complex	Unspecified	Total
WC	460	18,7	36,9	40,0	4,3	..	100,0
EC	547	20,1	21,0	57,1	1,6	0,1	100,0
NC	99	20,4	29,0	48,5	2,1	..	100,0
FS	229	24,0	19,2	55,8	0,7	0,2	100,0
KZN	736	14,3	22,5	61,4	1,7	..	100,0
NW	294	23,6	21,6	54,2	0,6	..	100,0
GP	960	23,3	31,7	43,8	1,2	0,1	100,0
MP	309	17,0	20,9	61,6	0,5	..	100,0
LP	403	14,9	21,4	63,0	0,7	..	100,0
RSA	4 037	19,4	25,8	53,2	1,6	0,0	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 4.2.8–Distribution of households headed by persons aged 60 years and older by metro and household composition, 2024

Metro	N ('000)	Percent					
	Total	Single	Nuclear	Extended	Complex	Unspecified	Total
Metro	1 638	21,9	32,2	43,6	2,2	0,1	100,0
Non-metro	2 399	17,7	21,4	59,7	1,2	0,0	100,0
RSA	4 037	19,4	25,8	53,2	1,6	0,0	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 4.2.9–Distribution of households headed by persons aged 60 years and older by population group and household composition, 2024

Population group	N ('000)	Percent					
	Total	Single	Nuclear	Extended	Complex	Unspecified	Total
Black African	2 944	16,8	19,5	62,6	1,1	0,1	100,0
Coloured	351	15,2	27,6	53,3	3,9	..	100,0
Indian/Asian	132	29,1	41,2	27,4	2,3	..	100,0
White	610	32,1	51,9	13,4	2,6	..	100,0
Total	4 037	19,4	25,8	53,2	1,6	0,0	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 4.2.10–Distribution of households headed by persons aged 60 years and older by sex and household composition, 2024

Sex	N ('000)	Percent					
	Total	Single	Nuclear	Extended	Complex	Unspecified	Total
Male	1 828	19,4	39,4	39,7	1,5	0,0	100,0
Female	2 209	19,3	14,6	64,4	1,6	0,0	100,0
Both	4 037	19,4	25,8	53,2	1,6	0,0	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

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

Source: GHS 2024

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, 2024

Province	N ('000)		Percent
	Beneficiary	Total	Beneficiary
WC	453	828	54,7
EC	579	724	80,0
NC	109	146	74,5
FS	237	287	82,4
KZN	753	990	76,0
NW	325	397	81,6
GP	891	1 415	63,0
MP	314	400	78,4
LP	427	494	86,5
RSA	4 086	5 681	71,9

Source: GHS 2024

Table 4.3.2–Older persons who are beneficiaries of social grants by metro, 2024

Metro	N ('000)		Percent
	Beneficiary	Total	Beneficiary
Metro	1 529	2 505	61,0
Non-metro	2 557	3 176	80,5
RSA	4 086	5 681	71,9

Source: GHS 2024

Table 4.3.3–Older persons who are beneficiaries of social grants by population group, 2024 –

Population group	N ('000)		Percent
	Beneficiary	Total	Beneficiary
Black African	3 168	3 685	86,0
Coloured	465	602	77,3
Indian/Asian	131	225	58,1
White	322	1 168	27,6
Total	4 086	5 681	71,9

Source: GHS 2024

Table 4.3.4–Older persons who are beneficiaries of social grants by sex, 2024

Sex	N ('000)		Percent
	Beneficiary	Total	Beneficiary
Male	1 500	2 285	65,6
Female	2 586	3 395	76,2
Both	4 086	5 681	71,9

Source: GHS 2024

Table 4.3.5–Labour force participation rate of older persons by province and sex, 2024

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Participated	Total	Participated	Total	Participated	Total	Participated		
WC	75	334	59	509	134	843	22,3	11,6	15,9
EC	25	247	30	453	55	700	10,0	6,7	7,9
NC	7	48	13	88	20	136	14,8	14,7	14,8
FS	23	127	25	184	48	311	18,0	13,4	15,3
KZN	61	382	48	655	110	1 037	16,0	7,4	10,6
NW	23	186	11	231	34	417	12,2	4,9	8,1
GP	144	688	121	1 058	265	1 746	20,9	11,5	15,2
MP	36	171	31	261	67	432	20,9	11,8	15,4
LP	38	216	38	365	76	581	17,7	10,3	13,1
RSA	431	2 399	377	3 804	807	6 203	18,0	9,9	13,0

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 4.3.6–Labour force participation rate of older persons by metro and sex, 2024

Metro	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Participated	Total	Participated	Total	Participated	Total	Participated		
Metro	213	1 069	188	1 637	401	2 706	19,9	11,5	14,8
Non-metro	217	1 330	189	2 167	406	3 497	16,4	8,7	11,6
RSA	431	2 399	377	3 804	807	6 203	18,0	9,9	13,0

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 4.3.7–Labour force participation rate of older persons by population group and sex, 2024

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Participated	Total	Participated	Total	Participated	Total	Participated		
Black African	249	1 580	228	2 684	477	4 265	15,8	8,5	11,2
Coloured	37	254	28	360	65	614	14,6	7,9	10,6
Indian/Asian	20	94	6	115	26	209	21,5	4,8	12,3
White	124	471	115	645	239	1 115	26,4	17,8	21,4
Total	431	2 399	377	3 804	807	6 203	18,0	9,9	13,0

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 4.3.8–Unemployment rate of older persons by province and sex, 2024

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed		
WC	2	75	..	59	2	134	2,2	..	1,2
EC	2	25	..	30	2	55	6,7	..	3,0
NC	0	7	..	13	0	20	5,3	..	1,9
FS	0	23	..	25	0	48	2,1	..	1,0
KZN	7	61	1	48	8	110	10,9	2,3	7,1
NW	1	23	1	11	3	34	6,4	9,4	7,4
GP	6	144	6	121	12	265	4,1	4,8	4,4
MP	5	36	..	31	5	67	12,9	..	7,0
LP	2	38	3	38	5	76	6,3	7,9	7,1
RSA	25	431	11	377	36	807	5,9	2,9	4,5

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 4.3.9–Unemployment rate of older persons by metro and sex, 2024

Metro	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed		
Metro	8	213	6	188	13	401	3,6	3,1	3,4
Non-metro	18	217	5	189	23	406	8,1	2,7	5,6
RSA	25	431	11	377	36	807	5,9	2,9	4,5

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 4.3.10–Unemployment rate of older persons by population group and sex, 2024

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed	Total	Unemployed		
Black African	19	249	10	228	29	477	7,8	4,4	6,1
Coloured	1	37	..	28	1	65	2,2	..	1,2
Indian/Asian	1	20	..	6	1	26	4,6	..	3,6
White	4	124	1	115	5	239	3,4	1,0	2,2
Total	25	431	11	377	36	807	5,9	2,9	4,5

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 4.3.11–Absorption rate of older persons by province and sex, 2024

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed		
WC	73	334	59	509	132	843	21,8	11,6	15,7
EC	23	247	30	453	54	700	9,4	6,7	7,7
NC	7	48	13	88	20	136	14,0	14,7	14,5
FS	22	127	25	184	47	311	17,6	13,4	15,1
KZN	55	382	47	655	102	1 037	14,3	7,2	9,8
NW	21	186	10	231	31	417	11,4	4,4	7,5
GP	138	688	115	1 058	253	1 746	20,0	10,9	14,5
MP	31	171	31	261	62	432	18,2	11,8	14,4
LP	36	216	35	365	70	581	16,6	9,5	12,1
RSA	406	2 399	365	3 804	771	6 203	16,9	9,6	12,4

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 4.3.12–Absorption rate of older persons by metro and sex, 2024

Metro	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed		
Metro	206	1 069	182	1 637	388	2 706	19,2	11,1	14,3
Non-metro	200	1 330	184	2 167	383	3 497	15,0	8,5	11,0
RSA	406	2 399	365	3 804	771	6 203	16,9	9,6	12,4

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 4.3.13–Absorption rate of older persons by population group and sex, 2024

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed	Total	Absorbed		
Black African	230	1 580	218	2 684	448	4 265	14,5	8,1	10,5
Coloured	36	254	28	360	65	614	14,2	7,9	10,5
Indian/Asian	19	94	6	115	25	209	20,5	4,8	11,8
White	120	471	114	645	234	1 115	25,6	17,6	21,0
Total	406	2 399	365	3 804	771	6 203	16,9	9,6	12,4

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 4.3.14–Inactivity rate of older persons by province and sex, 2024

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Inactive	Total	Inactive	Total	Inactive	Total	Inactive		
WC	260	334	450	509	710	843	77,7	88,4	84,1
EC	222	247	423	453	645	700	90,0	93,3	92,1
NC	41	48	75	88	116	136	85,2	85,3	85,2
FS	104	127	160	184	264	311	82,0	86,6	84,7
KZN	321	382	607	655	928	1 037	84,0	92,6	89,4
NW	163	186	220	231	383	417	87,8	95,1	91,9
GP	544	688	936	1 058	1 481	1 746	79,1	88,5	84,8
MP	135	171	230	261	365	432	79,1	88,2	84,6
LP	177	216	328	365	505	581	82,3	89,7	86,9
RSA	1 968	2 399	3 428	3 804	5 396	6 203	82,0	90,1	87,0

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 4.3.15–Inactivity rate of older persons by metro and sex, 2024

Metro	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Inactive	Total	Inactive	Total	Inactive	Total	Inactive		
Metro	856	1 069	1 449	1 637	2 305	2 706	80,1	88,5	85,2
Non-metro	1 112	1 330	1 979	2 167	3 091	3 497	83,6	91,3	88,4
RSA	1 968	2 399	3 428	3 804	5 396	6 203	82,0	90,1	87,0

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 4.3.16–Inactivity rate of older persons by population group and sex, 2024

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Inactive	Total	Inactive	Total	Inactive	Total	Inactive		
Black African	1 331	1 580	2 457	2 684	3 788	4 265	84,2	91,5	88,8
Coloured	217	254	331	360	549	614	85,4	92,1	89,4
Indian/Asian	74	94	110	115	184	209	78,5	95,2	87,7
White	346	471	530	645	876	1 115	73,6	82,2	78,6
Total	1 968	2 399	3 428	3 804	5 396	6 203	82,0	90,1	87,0

Source: QLFS Q3 2024

Table 4.3.17–Older persons living in households without an employed adult by province and sex, 2024

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without		
WC	134	324	216	504	350	828	41,5	42,8	42,3
EC	177	295	288	429	464	724	59,8	67,1	64,2
NC	33	67	31	79	64	146	49,3	38,9	43,6
FS	61	106	106	181	167	287	57,5	58,6	58,2
KZN	174	378	276	612	450	990	46,0	45,1	45,4
NW	86	167	139	230	225	397	51,6	60,3	56,6
GP	251	601	339	813	590	1 415	41,8	41,6	41,7
MP	77	156	122	244	199	400	49,5	50,0	49,8
LP	112	191	176	303	288	494	58,4	58,3	58,4
RSA	1 105	2 285	1 692	3 395	2 797	5 681	48,3	49,8	49,2

Source: GHS 2024

Table 4.3.18–Older persons living in households without an employed adult by metro and sex, 2024

Metro	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without		
Metro	439	1 033	643	1 472	1 082	2 505	42,5	43,7	43,2
Non-metro	666	1 253	1 050	1 923	1 715	3 176	53,2	54,6	54,0
RSA	1 105	2 285	1 692	3 395	2 797	5 681	48,3	49,8	49,2

Source: GHS 2024

Table 4.3.19—Older persons living in households without an employed adult by population group and sex, 2024

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without	Total	Without		
Black African	713	1 422	1 181	2 263	1 893	3 685	50,1	52,2	51,4
Coloured	101	243	129	359	229	602	41,6	35,8	38,1
Indian/Asian	44	97	51	128	94	225	44,8	39,6	41,8
White	248	523	333	645	580	1 168	47,3	51,5	49,7
Total	1 105	2 285	1 692	3 395	2 797	5 681	48,3	49,8	49,2

Source: GHS 2024

Table 4.3.20—Distribution of the main source of income in households headed by older persons by province and sex, 2024

Province and sex		N ('000)	Per cent						
		Total	Salaries/ wages/ commission	Remit- tances	Social grants	Sales of farming products and services	Other non- farm income	Unspecified	Total
WC	Male	221	34,6	..	53,4	..	10,8	1,2	100,0
	Female	239	33,2	1,1	59,4	..	5,4	0,9	100,0
	Both	460	33,9	0,6	56,5	..	8	1,0	100,0
EC	Male	240	17,5	1,4	74,2	..	5,9	0,9	100,0
	Female	307	9,9	2,6	86,1	..	1,1	0,3	100,0
	Both	547	13,2	2,1	80,9	..	3,2	0,5	100,0
NC	Male	51	16,1	1,7	71,9	1,8	8,5	..	100,0
	Female	48	21,8	2,6	74,4	..	1,1	..	100,0
	Both	99	18,9	2,2	73,1	0,9	4,9	..	100,0
FS	Male	91	22,5	1,3	72,8	..	2,9	0,6	100,0
	Female	138	13,4	3,3	81,4	0,6	1,3	..	100,0
	Both	229	17,0	2,5	78,0	0,3	2	0,2	100,0
KZN	Male	315	23,7	2,6	65,1	..	8	0,7	100,0
	Female	421	25,7	3,4	67,5	..	2,9	0,4	100,0
	Both	736	24,8	3,1	66,5	..	5,1	0,5	100,0
NW	Male	141	20,0	1,4	73,7	1,4	2,5	1,0	100,0
	Female	153	14,6	4,8	79,5	..	1,1	..	100,0
	Both	294	17,2	3,2	76,7	0,7	1,8	0,5	100,0
GP	Male	471	29,0	0,5	58,4	0,2	11,3	0,6	100,0
	Female	488	30,7	5,3	58,8	0,2	4,4	0,6	100,0
	Both	960	29,9	3,0	58,6	0,2	7,8	0,6	100,0
MP	Male	129	19,6	0,4	71,5	..	8,5	..	100,0
	Female	180	18,2	5,0	71,6	..	4,5	0,7	100,0
	Both	309	18,8	3,1	71,6	..	6,2	0,4	100,0
LP	Male	169	17,1	1,2	76,6	..	4,8	0,3	100,0
	Female	234	12,9	2,8	81,1	0,7	2,5	..	100,0
	Both	403	14,7	2,1	79,3	0,4	3,4	0,1	100,0
RSA	Male	1 828	24,1	1,1	65,9	0,2	8	0,7	100,0
	Female	2 209	21,8	3,6	70,9	0,2	3,1	0,4	100,0
	Both	4 037	22,9	2,5	68,7	0,2	5,3	0,5	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 4.3.21–Distribution of the main source of income in households headed by older persons by metro and sex, 2024

Metro 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
Metro	Male	778	32,7	0,8	55,1	0,1	10,5	0,9	100,0
	Female	860	31,3	3,9	59,6	0,1	4,5	0,6	100,0
	Both	1 638	32,0	2,4	57,4	0,1	7,3	0,8	100,0
Non-metro	Male	1 050	17,8	1,4	74,0	0,3	6,2	0,5	100,0
	Female	1 349	15,8	3,4	78,2	0,2	2,2	0,2	100,0
	Both	2 399	16,6	2,5	76,3	0,2	3,9	0,3	100,0
RSA	Male	1 828	24,1	1,1	65,9	0,2	8,0	0,7	100,0
	Female	2 209	21,8	3,6	70,9	0,2	3,1	0,4	100,0
	Both	4 037	22,9	2,5	68,7	0,2	5,3	0,5	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 4.3.22–Households headed by older persons that are classified as low income households (at most a household income of quintile 1) by province and sex, 2024

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Low income	Total	Low income	Total	Low income	Total	Low income		
WC	15	221	20	239	35	460	6,8	8,3	7,6
EC	41	240	43	307	84	547	17,0	14,1	15,4
NC	7	51	5	48	12	99	13,8	10,5	12,2
FS	21	91	20	138	41	229	23,0	14,5	17,9
KZN	37	315	30	421	67	736	11,7	7,2	9,1
NW	29	141	20	153	49	294	20,8	12,8	16,6
GP	66	471	53	488	119	960	14,0	10,8	12,4
MP	22	129	19	180	42	309	17,4	10,6	13,5
LP	22	169	27	234	49	403	13,1	11,6	12,2
RSA	260	1828	237	2209	497	4037	14,2	10,7	12,3

Source: GHS 2024

Household income quintile 1 is less or equal to R2000.

Table 4.3.23–Households headed by older persons that are classified as low income households (at most a household income of quintile 1) by metro and sex, 2024

Metro	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Low income	Total	Low income	Total	Low income	Total	Low income		
Metro	95	778	92	860	188	1 638	12,3	10,7	11,5
Non-metro	165	1 050	144	1 349	309	2 399	15,7	10,7	12,9
RSA	260	1 828	237	2 209	497	4 037	14,2	10,7	12,3

Source: GHS 2024

Household income quintile 1 is less or equal to R2000.

Table 4.3.24—Households headed by older persons that are classified as low income households (at most a household income of quintile 1) by population group and sex, 2024

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Low income	Total	Low income	Total	Low income	Total	Low income		
Black African	217	1 209	191	1 735	408	2 944	18,0	11,0	13,9
Coloured	17	161	20	190	37	351	10,3	10,8	10,6
Indian/Asian	8	77	9	55	17	132	10,0	16,8	12,8
White	19	381	16	229	35	610	5,0	6,9	5,7
Total	260	1 828	237	2 209	497	4 037	14,2	10,7	12,3

Source: GHS 2024

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, 2024

Province and sex		N ('000)	Percent							Total
			Public hospital	Public clinic	Public: Other	Private hospital/ clinic/ doctor	Other facilities	Traditional healer	Unspecified	
WC	Male	324	16,5	25,0	0,5	55,7	2,3	..	..	100,0
	Female	504	16,0	31,6	0,4	50,8	1,2	..	..	100,0
	Both	828	16,2	29,0	0,4	52,7	1,6	..	..	100,0
EC	Male	295	4,1	75,1	..	20,4	0,4	..	..	100,0
	Female	429	4,1	79,2	0,3	15,3	0,9	0,2	..	100,0
	Both	724	4,1	77,5	0,2	17,4	0,7	0,1	..	100,0
NC	Male	67	4,5	61,0	..	31,0	3,5	..	..	100,0
	Female	79	2,5	64,3	..	33,1	..	..	..	100,0
	Both	146	3,4	62,8	..	32,2	1,6	..	..	100,0
FS	Male	106	3,4	75,0	..	21,2	..	0,4	..	100,0
	Female	181	4,2	70,9	..	24,2	0,6	..	..	100,0
	Both	287	3,9	72,4	..	23,1	0,4	0,2	..	100,0
KZN	Male	378	5,4	60,5	1,5	32,5	0,1	..	..	100,0
	Female	612	5,8	67,1	0,8	25,3	0,9	0,0	0,1	100,0
	Both	990	5,6	64,6	1,1	28,0	0,6	0,0	0,1	100,0
NW	Male	167	4,3	78,8	1,2	15,7	..	..	..	100,0
	Female	230	5,0	77,2	0,8	16,1	0,3	..	0,6	100,0
	Both	397	4,7	77,9	0,9	16,0	0,1	..	0,4	100,0
GP	Male	601	9,2	48,9	..	40,4	1,2	..	0,1	100,0
	Female	813	7,2	52,4	..	38,9	1,5	..	..	100,0
	Both	1 415	8,1	51,0	..	39,5	1,4	..	0,1	100,0
MP	Male	156	3,1	70,8	0,4	25,3	0,4	..	..	100,0
	Female	244	3,1	79,1	..	17,4	0,4	..	..	100,0
	Both	400	3,1	75,9	0,1	20,5	0,4	..	..	100,0
LP	Male	191	7,6	77,7	..	13,7	0,9	..	..	100,0
	Female	303	8,1	80,4	..	11,1	0,4	..	..	100,0
	Both	494	7,9	79,4	..	12,1	0,6	..	..	100,0
RSA	Male	2 285	7,7	58,5	0,4	32,4	0,9	0,0	0,0	100,0
	Female	3 395	7,2	62,7	0,3	28,7	0,9	0,0	0,1	100,0
	Both	5 681	7,4	61,0	0,3	30,2	0,9	0,0	0,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 4.4.2–Distribution of types of healthcare facilities visited by older persons by metro and sex, 2024

Metro and sex		N ('000)	Percent							
		Total	Public hospital	Public clinic	Public: Other	Private hospital/ clinic/ doctor	Other facilities	Traditional healer	Unspecified	Total
Metro	Male	1 033	10,2	42,5	..	45,9	1,4	..	0,1	100,0
	Female	1 472	9,7	45,3	0,1	43,4	1,5	0,0	..	100,0
	Both	2 505	9,9	44,1	0,0	44,4	1,5	0,0	0,0	100,0
Non-metro	Male	1 253	5,6	71,7	0,8	21,3	0,6	0,0	..	100,0
	Female	1 923	5,3	76,1	0,5	17,5	0,5	0,0	0,1	100,0
	Both	3 176	5,4	74,4	0,6	19,0	0,5	0,0	0,1	100,0
RSA	Male	2 285	7,7	58,5	0,4	32,4	0,9	0,0	0,0	100,0
	Female	3 395	7,2	62,7	0,3	28,7	0,9	0,0	0,1	100,0
	Both	5 681	7,4	61,0	0,3	30,2	0,9	0,0	0,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 4.4.3–Older persons with access to medical aid by metro and sex, 2024

Metro and sex		N ('000)	Percent			
		Total	Medical aid	No medical aid	Unspecified	Total
Metro	Male	1 033	34,2	65,7	0,1	100,0
	Female	1 472	31,7	68,3	0,1	100,0
	Both	2 505	32,7	67,2	0,1	100,0
Non-metro	Male	1 253	15,5	84,4	0,2	100,0
	Female	1 923	12,1	87,9	0,1	100,0
	Both	3 176	13,4	86,5	0,1	100,0
RSA	Male	2 285	23,9	75,9	0,1	100,0
	Female	3 395	20,6	79,4	0,1	100,0
	Both	5 681	21,9	78,0	0,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 4.4.4—Older persons with access to medical aid by population group and sex, 2024

Population group and sex		N ('000)	Percent			
			Total	Medical aid	No medical aid	Unspecified	Total
Black African	Male	1 422	7,3	92,5	0,2	100,0
	Female	2 263	6,2	93,7	0,1	100,0
	Both	3 685	6,6	93,2	0,1	100,0
Coloured	Male	243	15,7	84,3	..	100,0
	Female	359	16,5	83,5	..	100,0
	Both	602	16,2	83,8	..	100,0
Indian/ Asian	Male	97	38,1	61,9	..	100,0
	Female	128	28,6	71,4	..	100,0
	Both	225	32,7	67,3	..	100,0
White	Male	523	70,3	29,7	..	100,0
	Female	645	71,6	28,4	..	100,0
	Both	1 168	71,0	29,0	..	100,0
Total	Male	2 285	23,9	75,9	0,1	100,0
	Female	3 395	20,6	79,4	0,1	100,0
	Both	5 681	21,9	78,0	0,1	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 4.4.4—Persons 60 years and older who suffered from chronic diseases compared to the overall population by province, 2024

Province	N ('000)				Percent	
	Older persons		Total		Older persons	Total
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	
WC	514	828	1 272	7 508	62,1	16,9
EC	503	724	1 105	6 533	69,5	16,9
NC	99	146	256	1 322	68,2	19,4
FS	187	287	497	3 053	65,0	16,3
KZN	601	990	1 548	12 096	60,7	12,8
NW	242	397	652	4 327	60,9	15,1
GP	831	1 415	2 018	17 023	58,8	11,9
MP	239	400	570	5 019	59,8	11,4
LP	191	494	439	6 298	38,7	7,0
RSA	3 408	5 681	8 358	63 179	60,0	13,2

Source: GHS 2024

Table 4.4.4.5–Persons 60 years and older who suffered from chronic diseases compared to the overall population by metro, 2024

Metro	N ('000)				Percent	
	Older persons		Total		Older persons	Total
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	
Metro	1 546	2 505	3 730	26 667	61,7	14,0
Non-metro	1 862	3 176	4 628	36 512	58,6	12,7
RSA	3 408	5 681	8 358	63 179	60,0	13,2

Source: GHS 2024

Table 4.4.6–Persons 60 years and older who suffered from chronic diseases compared to the overall population by sex, 2024

Sex	N ('000)				Percent	
	Older persons		Total		Older persons	Total
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	
Male	1 218	2 285	3 059	30 972	53,3	9,9
Female	2 190	3 395	5 300	32 208	64,5	16,5
Both	3 408	5 681	8 358	63 179	60,0	13,2

Source: GHS 2024

4.5 Older persons: Vulnerability to hunger

Table 4.5.1–Older persons living in households that reported hunger by province and sex, 2024

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering		
WC	29	321	70	499	99	821	9,0	14,0	12,1
EC	39	294	60	428	99	723	13,3	14,0	13,7
NC	9	66	11	79	19	145	13,3	13,4	13,4
FS	11	106	15	181	26	287	10,4	8,4	9,1
KZN	43	377	90	610	133	987	11,4	14,8	13,5
NW	25	165	41	229	66	394	15,0	17,9	16,7
GP	30	600	65	812	95	1 412	4,9	8,1	6,7
MP	20	155	44	244	64	399	13,2	17,9	16,1
LP	7	190	13	303	21	493	3,8	4,5	4,2
RSA	213	2 275	409	3 385	622	5 660	9,4	12,1	11,0

Source: GHS 2024

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 4.5.2—Older persons living in households that reported hunger by metro and sex, 2024

Metro	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering		
Metro	68	1 028	127	1 467	196	2 495	6,7	8,7	7,8
Non-metro	144	1 247	282	1 918	427	3 165	11,6	14,7	13,5
RSA	213	2 275	409	3 385	622	5 660	9,4	12,1	11,0

Source: GHS 2024

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 4.5.3—Older persons living in households that reported hunger by population group and sex, 2024

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering		
Black African	175	1 416	346	2 260	522	3 675	12,4	15,3	14,2
Coloured	31	242	49	359	80	601	13,0	13,6	13,3
Indian/Asian	..	97	5	128	5	225	..	3,9	2,2
White	6	519	9	639	15	1 158	1,2	1,4	1,3
Total	213	2 275	409	3 385	622	5 660	9,4	12,1	11,0

Source: GHS 2024

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 4.5.4—Younger persons (less than 60 years) living in households that reported hunger by province and sex, 2024

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering		
WC	622	3 299	565	3 366	1 186	6 666	18,8	16,8	17,8
EC	518	2 902	485	2 902	1 003	5 804	17,9	16,7	17,3
NC	135	581	131	591	266	1 172	23,3	22,1	22,7
FS	176	1 407	194	1 356	370	2 763	12,5	14,3	13,4
KZN	1 053	5 422	1 172	5 678	2 224	11 100	19,4	20,6	20,0
NW	368	1 946	402	1 970	770	3 916	18,9	20,4	19,7
GP	802	8 002	785	7 548	1 588	15 551	10,0	10,4	10,2
MP	469	2 266	436	2 346	905	4 612	20,7	18,6	19,6
LP	157	2 790	155	2 996	312	5 786	5,6	5,2	5,4
RSA	4 300	28 616	4 325	28 753	8 625	57 369	15,0	15,0	15,0

Source: GHS 2024

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 4.5.5–Younger persons (less than 60 years) living in households that reported hunger by metro and sex, 2024

Metro	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering		
Metro	1 455	12 149	1 411	11 933	2 866	24 082	12,0	11,8	11,9
Non-metro	2 845	16 467	2 914	16 820	5 759	33 287	17,3	17,3	17,3
RSA	4 300	28 616	4 325	28 753	8 625	57 369	15,0	15,0	15,0

Source: GHS 2024

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 4.5.6–Younger persons (less than 60 years) living in households that reported hunger by population group and sex, 2024

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering	Total	Suffering		
Black African	3 886	24 006	3 978	24 184	7 864	48 190	16,2	16,4	16,3
Coloured	348	2 353	295	2 393	643	4 747	14,8	12,3	13,6
Indian/Asian	33	701	12	617	45	1 318	4,8	1,9	3,4
White	33	1 555	40	1 559	73	3 114	2,1	2,6	2,3
Total	4 300	28 616	4 325	28 753	8 625	57 369	15,0	15,0	15,0

Source: GHS 2024

Excluding unspecified cases.

4.6 Older persons: Education

Table 4.6.6.1–Older persons who are functionally literate by province and sex, 2024

Province	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Literate	Total	Literate	Total	Literate	Total	Literate		
WC	270	324	424	504	694	828	83,4	84,1	83,8
EC	191	295	260	429	451	724	64,7	60,7	62,3
NC	50	67	53	79	103	146	75,0	66,5	70,4
FS	60	106	97	181	157	287	56,6	53,5	54,7
KZN	260	378	343	612	603	990	68,7	56,0	60,9
NW	100	167	127	230	227	397	59,8	55,1	57,1
GP	503	601	663	813	1 166	1 415	83,7	81,5	82,4
MP	84	156	103	244	187	400	53,8	42,2	46,7
LP	104	191	110	303	215	494	54,7	36,4	43,5
RSA	1 623	2 285	2 179	3 395	3 802	5 681	71,0	64,2	66,9

Source: GHS 2024

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 4.6.2—Older persons who are functionally literate by metro and sex, 2024

Metro	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Literate	Total	Literate	Total	Literate	Total	Literate		
Metro	877	1 033	1 214	1 472	2 091	2 505	84,9	82,5	83,5
Non-metro	746	1 253	965	1 923	1 711	3 176	59,5	50,2	53,9
RSA	1 623	2 285	2 179	3 395	3 802	5 681	71,0	64,2	66,9

Source: GHS 2024

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 4.6.3—Older persons who are functionally literate by population group and sex, 2024

Population group	N ('000)						Percent		
	Male		Female		Both		Male	Female	Both
	Literate	Total	Literate	Total	Literate	Total	Literate		
Black African	827	1 422	1 157	2 263	1 984	3 685	58,1	51,1	53,8
Coloured	182	243	273	359	455	602	75,1	76,0	75,6
Indian/Asian	94	97	109	128	203	225	96,7	85,5	90,4
White	519	523	640	645	1 159	1 168	99,2	99,2	99,2
Total	1 623	2 285	2 179	3 395	3 802	5 681	71,0	64,2	66,9

Source: GHS 2024

Excluding unspecified cases.

Table 4.6.4—Distribution of older persons by province, sex and the highest level of education attained, 2024

Province and sex		N ('000)	Percent					Total
		Total	Less than matric	Matric	Other tertiary	Graduates	Other	
WC	Male	324	49,3	20,4	10,5	17,6	2,3	100,0
	Female	504	58,0	18,6	9,3	11,4	2,7	100,0
	Both	828	54,6	19,3	9,7	13,8	2,5	100,0
EC	Male	295	72,7	12,0	7,2	5,6	2,4	100,0
	Female	429	81,5	6,6	7,2	3,4	1,3	100,0
	Both	724	77,9	8,8	7,2	4,3	1,7	100,0
NC	Male	67	62,1	21,3	6,1	3,8	6,8	100,0
	Female	79	72,2	14,6	4,7	6,3	2,3	100,0
	Both	146	67,6	17,6	5,3	5,1	4,3	100,0
FS	Male	106	74,9	16,4	1,0	5,3	2,4	100,0
	Female	181	77,4	13,5	3,1	5,0	0,9	100,0
	Both	287	76,5	14,6	2,3	5,1	1,5	100,0
KZN	Male	378	58,5	22,7	5,9	7,4	5,6	100,0
	Female	612	73,1	14,2	2,6	4,7	5,3	100,0
	Both	990	67,5	17,4	3,8	5,8	5,4	100,0
NW	Male	167	82,2	7,4	2,4	3,4	4,6	100,0
	Female	230	79,5	9,5	3,9	3,0	4,1	100,0
	Both	397	80,6	8,6	3,3	3,2	4,3	100,0
GP	Male	601	51,8	25,2	5,9	12,0	5,1	100,0
	Female	813	56,5	22,5	7,5	8,8	4,8	100,0
	Both	1 415	54,5	23,7	6,8	10,1	4,9	100,0
MP	Male	156	76,0	9,1	7,1	5,7	2,1	100,0
	Female	244	81,2	10,5	3,6	4,1	0,6	100,0
	Both	400	79,2	9,9	5,0	4,7	1,2	100,0
LP	Male	191	77,0	11,9	3,7	3,7	3,7	100,0
	Female	303	86,6	5,3	3,2	2,6	2,2	100,0
	Both	494	82,9	7,9	3,4	3,0	2,8	100,0
RSA	Male	2 285	62,6	18,4	6,1	8,9	4,0	100,0
	Female	3 395	70,4	14,5	5,6	6,2	3,3	100,0
	Both	5 681	67,3	16,0	5,8	7,3	3,6	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 4.6.5–Distribution of older persons by metro, sex and the highest level of education attained, 2024

Metro and sex		N ('000)	Percent					Total
			Total	Less than matric	Matric	Other tertiary	Graduates		Other
Metro	Male	1 033	49,8	25,5	7,8	12,6	4,2	100,0
	Female	1 472	57,3	21,3	7,7	9,3	4,4	100,0
	Both	2 505	54,2	23,1	7,7	10,7	4,3	100,0
Non-metro	Male	1 253	73,2	12,5	4,7	5,8	3,8	100,0
	Female	1 923	80,4	9,2	4,1	3,8	2,4	100,0
	Both	3 176	77,6	10,5	4,3	4,6	3,0	100,0
RSA	Male	2 285	62,6	18,4	6,1	8,9	4,0	100,0
	Female	3 395	70,4	14,5	5,6	6,2	3,3	100,0
	Both	5 681	67,3	16,0	5,8	7,3	3,6	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 4.6.6–Distribution of older persons by population group, sex and the highest level of education attained, 2024

Population group and sex		N ('000)	Percent					Total
			Total	Less than matric	Matric	Other tertiary	Graduates		Other
Black African	Male	1 422	79,8	9,7	2,5	2,7	5,2	100,0
	Female	2 263	84,1	6,1	2,9	3,0	3,9	100,0
	Both	3 685	82,5	7,5	2,7	2,9	4,4	100,0
Coloured	Male	243	75,3	13,5	2,8	5,1	3,2	100,0
	Female	359	79,5	9,9	4,5	3,3	2,7	100,0
	Both	602	77,8	11,4	3,8	4,1	2,9	100,0
Indian/Asian	Male	97	33,3	46,0	8,0	10,1	2,6	100,0
	Female	128	53,0	27,5	6,1	7,0	6,4	100,0
	Both	225	44,5	35,5	6,9	8,4	4,7	100,0
White	Male	523	15,4	39,1	17,2	27,1	1,2	100,0
	Female	645	20,5	43,8	15,8	19,0	0,9	100,0
	Both	1 168	18,2	41,7	16,4	22,6	1,0	100,0
Total	Male	2 285	62,6	18,4	6,1	8,9	4,0	100,0
	Female	3 395	70,4	14,5	5,6	6,2	3,3	100,0
	Both	5 681	67,3	16,0	5,8	7,3	3,6	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

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, 2024

Province and sex		N ('000)	Percent				Total
		Total	Formal	Traditional	Informal	Other	
WC	Male	324	98,0	..	1,5	0,6	100,0
	Female	504	97,1	0,1	2,4	0,4	100,0
	Both	828	97,4	0,1	2,0	0,5	100,0
EC	Male	295	76,4	19,2	2,9	1,6	100,0
	Female	429	73,2	24,3	1,1	1,4	100,0
	Both	724	74,5	22,2	1,8	1,5	100,0
NC	Male	67	96,0	..	4,0	..	100,0
	Female	79	92,0	..	8,0	..	100,0
	Both	146	93,8	..	6,2	..	100,0
FS	Male	106	85,1	4,8	10,2	..	100,0
	Female	181	91,9	2,3	5,8	..	100,0
	Both	287	89,4	3,2	7,4	..	100,0
KZN	Male	378	89,5	9,4	0,4	0,7	100,0
	Female	612	87,3	11,7	0,7	0,2	100,0
	Both	990	88,1	10,8	0,6	0,4	100,0
NW	Male	167	92,6	..	7,4	..	100,0
	Female	230	92,7	..	7,3	..	100,0
	Both	397	92,6	..	7,4	..	100,0
GP	Male	601	92,8	0,6	6,2	0,4	100,0
	Female	813	96,5	0,5	3,0	..	100,0
	Both	1 415	94,9	0,5	4,4	0,2	100,0
MP	Male	156	96,4	1,3	2,4	..	100,0
	Female	244	96,2	2,3	1,6	..	100,0
	Both	400	96,3	1,9	1,9	..	100,0
LP	Male	191	95,6	3,6	0,8	..	100,0
	Female	303	97,9	2,0	0,1	..	100,0
	Both	494	97,0	2,6	0,4	..	100,0
RSA	Male	2 285	91,1	4,8	3,6	0,5	100,0
	Female	3 395	91,5	5,8	2,5	0,3	100,0
	Both	5 681	91,3	5,4	2,9	0,4	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 4.7.2–Distribution of persons 60 years and older living in formal, informal and traditional housing by metro and sex, 2024

Metro and sex		N ('000)	Percent				
		Total	Formal	Traditional	Informal	Other	Total
Metro	Male	1 033	93,9	0,8	4,3	1,0	100,0
	Female	1 472	96,1	0,8	2,5	0,6	100,0
	Both	2 505	95,2	0,8	3,2	0,8	100,0
Non-metro	Male	1 253	88,7	8,1	3,1	0,1	100,0
	Female	1 923	88,0	9,6	2,5	..	100,0
	Both	3 176	88,3	9,0	2,7	0,0	100,0
RSA	Male	2 285	91,1	4,8	3,6	0,5	100,0
	Female	3 395	91,5	5,8	2,5	0,3	100,0
	Both	5 681	91,3	5,4	2,9	0,4	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 4.7.3–Distribution of persons 60 years and older living in formal, informal and traditional housing by age group and sex, 2024

Age group and sex		N ('000)	Percent				
		Total	Formal	Traditional	Informal	Other	Total
60-69 years	Male	1 449	90,1	4,9	4,6	0,4	100,0
	Female	1 927	90,3	6,0	3,5	0,2	100,0
	Both	3 376	90,2	5,5	4,0	0,3	100,0
70+ years	Male	836	92,7	4,7	1,9	0,7	100,0
	Female	1 469	93,0	5,5	1,1	0,4	100,0
	Both	2 305	92,9	5,2	1,4	0,5	100,0
Total	Male	2 285	91,1	4,8	3,6	0,5	100,0
	Female	3 395	91,5	5,8	2,5	0,3	100,0
	Both	5 681	91,3	5,4	2,9	0,4	100,0

Source: GHS 2024

Table 4.7.4—Living condition indicators of persons 60 years and above compared to the overall population, 2024**Access to piped water**

Age group	N ('000)	Percent	
	Total	Access	Unspecified
Not Older persons	57 498	74,9	1,7
Older persons	5 681	77,6	1,4
Total	63 179	75,2	1,7

Source: GHS 2024

Access to improved sanitation

Age group	N ('000)	Percent
	Total	Access
Not Older persons	57 498	82,2
Older persons	5 681	86,8
Total	63 179	82,7

Source: GHS 2024

Refuse/ waste removed by the municipality

Age group	N ('000)	Percent
	Total	Access
Not Older persons	57 498	60,3
Older persons	5 681	64,2
Total	63 179	60,6

Source: GHS 2024

Access to electricity connected to the mains

Age group	N ('000)	Percent	
	Total	Access	Unspecified
Not Older persons	57 498	93,4	4,1
Older persons	5 681	96,8	2,4
Total	63 179	93,7	3,9

Source: GHS 2024

Use solid fuels for cooking

Age group	N ('000)	Percent
	Total	Access
Not Older persons	57 498	10,9
Older persons	5 681	10,5
Total	63 179	10,9

Source: GHS 2024

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, 2024/25

Province	N ('000)		Percent
	Unsafe	Total responded	Unsafe
WC	253	918	27,5
EC	154	822	18,7
NC	15	166	9,0
FS	61	345	17,6
KZN	278	1 142	24,3
NW	47	470	10,0
GP	414	1 563	26,4
MP	69	449	15,3
LP	13	548	2,3
RSA	1 303	6 423	20,2

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2024/25

Table 4.8.2—Older persons who feel unsafe or very unsafe to walk alone in their area during the day by sex, 2024/25

Sex	N ('000)		Percent
	Unsafe	Total responded	Unsafe
Male	534	2 627	20,3
Female	769	3 795	20,2
Both	1 303	6 423	20,2

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2024/25

Table 4.8.3—Older persons who feel unsafe or very unsafe to walk alone in their area at night by province, 2024/25

Province	N ('000)		Percent
	Unsafe	Total responded	Unsafe
WC	601	918	65,4
EC	527	822	64,1
NC	103	166	62,2
FS	231	345	67,0
KZN	684	1 142	59,9
NW	293	470	62,2
GP	1 113	1 563	71,1
MP	342	449	76,0
LP	209	548	38,1
RSA	4 103	6 423	63,8

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2024/25

Table 4.8.4—Older persons who feel unsafe or very unsafe to walk alone in their area at night by sex, 2024/25

Sex	N ('000)		Percent
	Unsafe	Total responded	Unsafe
Male	1 634	2 627	62,2
Female	2 469	3 795	65,0
Both	4 103	6 423	63,8

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2024/25

Table 4.8.5—Older persons who have been victims of theft of personal property crime during the past 5 years by sex, 2024/25

Sex	N ('000)		Percent
	Suffering	Total responded	Suffering
Male	130	2 627	4,9
Female	164	3 795	4,3
Both	294	6 423	4,5

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2024/25

4.9 Key findings

South Africa's population aged 60 and older was estimated at 5,5 million, representing 9,0% of the total population in 2024. Among those, approximately 59,8% were females and 40,2% were males.

Provincial disparities shows that Eastern Cape had the highest percentage of older people, representing 11,1%, followed by Northern Cape and Western Cape both reporting 11,0%. The white population group had the highest proportion of persons aged 60 and above, reported at 27,2% followed by Indian/Asian with 14,5% and females outnumbered males.

Gauteng had the highest number of households headed by older persons, followed by KwaZulu Natal and Northern Cape and Free State had the lowest number of households. Gender disparities showed that 54,7% of households of older persons were headed by females, with the trend evident in all the provinces, except in Northern Cape. 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 where higher proportion of older persons resided 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 (53,2%) followed by those in nuclear households (25,8%), with the least living in complex households (1,6%). The trend was consistent even in metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas. 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.

Labour market indicators showed that approximately 13,0% of the older population participated in the labour force in 2024, while 4,5% were unemployed and 12,4% were employed. Male older persons reported higher percentages of participating in the labour force compared to their female counterparts. Majority of households headed by the older persons indicated that grants were their main source of income, followed by salaries/wages at 22,9%.

Majority of older persons used public clinics for their health care needs across eight provinces, except in Western Cape where private hospital/clinic/doctor was used than any other type of health care facility. In 2024, 21,9% of older persons had access to medical aid and coverage was higher amongst males than females. Medical aid coverage among older persons was uneven across population groups, with white older persons accounting for 70,0% of coverage, compared to just 6,6% among black Africans. Nationally, chronic diseases affected 60,0% of the older persons.

Nationally, 11,0% of older persons resided in households that reported to suffer from hunger. Provincial disaggregation showed that females were more likely to reside in households compared to their male counterparts. Limpopo (4,2%), followed by Gauteng (6,7%) reported the lowest percentage of older persons living in households that reported to experience hunger. Majority of older person had access to electricity (96,8%), while 77,6% had access to piped water and 64,2% had their refused removed by the municipality. Approximately, 63,8% of older persons reported feeling unsafe walking alone in their area at night, whilst 20,2% of older persons reported feeling unsafe walking alone in their area during the day.

5 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 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							
		Total	No schooling	Some primary	Completed primary	Some secondary	Matric/grade 12	Higher	Other	Total
Black African	Male	767	19,5	20,5	5,6	25,5	15,1	5,5	8,2	100,0
	Female	1 376	23,0	20,8	6,0	25,2	12,7	5,6	6,7	100,0
	Both	2 143	21,7	20,7	5,9	25,3	13,5	5,6	7,3	100,0
Coloured	Male	89	9,0	17,9	7,9	32,6	15,7	7,7	9,3	100,0
	Female	136	8,6	19,9	9,9	33,0	13,3	6,7	8,6	100,0
	Both	225	8,8	19,1	9,1	32,8	14,2	7,1	8,9	100,0
Indian/Asian	Male	41	6,2	10,2	4,3	26,9	29,6	17,3	5,4	100,0
	Female	54	9,7	17,3	5,8	27,5	22,2	11,4	6,0	100,0
	Both	95	8,2	14,2	5,2	27,3	25,4	14,0	5,7	100,0
White	Male	170	2,5	1,4	0,9	17,5	32,3	41,1	4,4	100,0
	Female	196	2,6	1,5	0,9	21,9	38,0	30,0	5,1	100,0
	Both	366	2,5	1,5	0,9	19,9	35,3	35,2	4,8	100,0
Other	Male	6	5,9	5,8	2,8	20,7	21,5	36,4	6,9	100,0
	Female	5	4,0	7,6	4,0	23,4	22,8	32,1	6,0	100,0
	Both	11	4,9	6,7	3,4	22,0	22,2	34,3	6,5	100,0
Total	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

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.

