



stats sa

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STATISTICAL RELEASE

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Non-financial census of municipalities for the year ended 30 June 2021

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PREFACE

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) has undertaken an annual non-financial census of municipalities with effect from 2002. The purpose of the census is to measure selected aspects of service delivery of municipalities. The results of this census provide information that can serve as a framework for policymakers and other stakeholders for planning and monitoring. The census enables users to analyse the services provided by municipalities in terms of water, electricity, sewerage and sanitation and solid waste management. The 2021 non-financial census of municipalities obtained information on various issues, including:

- particulars of services provided in the municipalities as at 30 June 2020 and 30 June 2021; and
- particulars of total employment in the municipalities as at 30 June 2020 and 30 June 2021.

This statistical release contains the preliminary results of the 2021 non-financial census of municipalities and the revised figures for 2020. In the event of revised figures being obtained for 2021, they will be incorporated into the next non-financial census of municipalities publication (if applicable).

For the purposes of this printed version, all results are presented at provincial level. Unit data for all municipalities (2020 and 2021) can be obtained from the Stats SA website (or can be made available upon request).



Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

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Background

The census provides information that serves as a framework for policymakers and other stakeholders for analysis, planning and monitoring in terms of service delivery of water, electricity, solid waste management and sewerage and sanitation.

Purpose of the survey

This publication is directed towards the following major goals:

- Assists in monitoring the progress made with regard to the implementation of service provision, free basic services and poverty alleviation as national priorities.
- Provides baseline non-financial information from those institutions classified as municipalities in terms of the Local Government Municipal Structures Act, 1998 (Act No. 117 of 1998).
- Provides information that can serve as a framework for policymakers and other stakeholders for planning, as well as monitoring and evaluating the performance of municipalities.
- Allows national and provincial governments and other stakeholders to analyse the actual services provided by municipalities.
- Makes data available for use by researchers, organisations and individuals.

Methodology

Scope of the survey

All 257 municipalities responded to the survey for 2021.

Questionnaire and data collection

The methods used for collection included personal visits, telephone and email. Data are generally comparable between the 2020 and 2021 publications.

Limitations of the survey

- This publication is not necessarily comparable with the Stats SA Population Census, 2011, the Community Survey, 2016, and/or household survey data, mainly due to:
 - i. The data source is municipalities as opposed to households.
 - ii. The different definitions of 'household'. Most municipalities do not have a system for identifying multiple households served by one billing unit or delivery point.
 - iii. Different reporting periods.
- The term 'consumer unit' or 'billing unit' (as used by the municipality for their recording purposes) is not directly comparable with other Stats SA household-based surveys.

Collection rates for the 2021 financial year per province

Province	Municipalities				Collection rate (%)
	Metropolitan municipalities	District municipalities	Local municipalities	Total	
Western Cape	1	5	24	30	100
Eastern Cape	2	6	31	39	100
Northern Cape	0	5	26	31	100
Free State	1	4	18	23	100
KwaZulu-Natal	1	10	43	54	100
North West	0	4	18	22	100
Gauteng	3	2	6	11	100
Mpumalanga	0	3	17	20	100
Limpopo	0	5	22	27	100
Total	8	44	205	257	100

List of municipalities (2021)**Western Cape (30)****City of Cape Town Metro****West Coast District Municipality**

Matzikama
Cederberg
Bergrivier
Saldanha Bay
Swartland

Cape Winelands District Municipality

Witzenberg
Drakenstein
Stellenbosch
Breede Valley
Langeberg

Overberg District Municipality

Theewaterskloof
Overstrand
Cape Agulhas
Swellendam

Garden Route District Municipality

Kannaland
Hessequa
Mossel Bay
George
Oudtshoorn
Bitou
Knysna

Central Karoo District Municipality

Laingsburg
Prince Albert
Beaufort West

Eastern Cape (39)**Nelson Mandela Bay Metro****Buffalo City Metro****Sarah Baartman District Municipality**

Dr Beyers Naude
Blue Crane Route
Makana
Ndlambe
Sunday's River Valley
Kouga
Kou-Kamma

Amathole District Municipality

Mbhashe
Mnquma
Great Kei
Amahlathi
Ngqushwa
Raymond Mhlaba

Chris Hani District Municipality

Inxuba Yethemba
Enoch Mgijima
Intsika Yethu
Emalahleni
Engcobo
Sakhisizwe

Eastern Cape (concluded)**Alfred Nzo District Municipality**

Matatiele
Umzimvubu
Ntabankulu
Winnie Madikizela Mandela

O.R. Tambo District Municipality

Ngquza Hill
Port St Johns
Nyandeni
Mhlontlo
King Sabata Dalindyebo

Joe Gqabi District Municipality

Elundini
Walter Sisulu
Senqu

Northern Cape (31)**Namakwa District Municipality**

Richtersveld
Nama Khoi
Kamiesberg
Hantam
Karoo Hoogland
Khai-Ma

Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality

Ubuntu
Umsobomvu
Emthanjeni
Kareeberg
Renosterberg
Thembelihle
Siyathemba
Siyancuma

ZF Mgcawu District Municipality

Dawid Kruiper
Kai !Garib
!Kheis
Tsantsabane
Kgatelopele

John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality

Ga-Segonyana
Gamagara
Joe Morolong

Frances Baard District Municipality

Dikgatlong
Magareng
Phokwane
Sol Plaatje

Free State (23)**Mangaung Metro****Xhariep District Municipality**

Letsemeng
Kopanong
Mohokare

Lejweleputswa District Municipality

Masilonyana
Tokologo
Tswelopele
Matjhabeng
Nala

Thabo Mofutsanyane District Municipality

Setsoto
Dihlabeng
Nketoana
Maluti a Phofung
Phumelela
Mantsopa

Fezile Dabi District Municipality

Moqhaka
Ngwathe
Metsimaholo
Mafube

KwaZulu-Natal (54)**eThekweni Metro****Ugu District Municipality**

Umdoni
Umzumbe
uMuziwabantu
Ray Nkonyeni

uMgungundlovu District Municipality

uMshwathi
uMngeni
Mpofana
Impendle
Msunduzi
Mkhambathini
Richmond

uThukela District Municipality

Alfred Duma
Inkosi Langelibalele
Okhahlamba

uMzinyathi District Municipality

Endumeni
Nqutu
Msinga
Umvoti

Amajuba District Municipality

Newcastle
eMadlangeni
Dannhauser

KwaZulu-Natal (concluded)**Zululand District Municipality**

eDumbe
uPhongolo
Abaqulusi
Nongoma
Ulundi

uMkhanyakude District Municipality

uMhlabuyalingana
Jozini
The Big Five Hlabisa
Mtubatuba

King Cetshwayo District Municipality

Mfolozi
City of uMhlathuze
uMlalazi
Mthonjaneni
Nkandla

iLembe District Municipality

Mandeni
KwaDukuza
Ndwedwe
Maphumulo

Harry Gwala District Municipality

Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma
Greater Kokstad
Ubuhlebezwe
Umzimkhulu

North West (22)**Bojanala Platinum District Municipality**

Moretele
Madibeng
Rustenburg
Kgetlengrivier
Moses Kotane

Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality

Ratlou
Tswaing
Mahikeng
Ditsobotla
Ramotshere Moiloa

Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality

Kagisano-Molopo
Naledi
Mamusa
Greater Taung
Lekwa-Teemane

Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality

JB Marks
City of Matlosana
Maquass Hills

Gauteng (11)**City of Johannesburg Metro****City of Tshwane Metro****City of Ekurhuleni Metro****Sedibeng District Municipality**

Emfuleni
Midvaal
Lesedi

West Rand District Municipality

Mogale City
Rand West
Merafong City

Mpumalanga (20)**Gert Sibande District Municipality**

Albert Luthuli
Msukaligwa
Mkhondo
Dr Pixley ka Isaka Seme
Lekwa
Dipaleseng
Govan Mbeki

Nkangala District Municipality

Emalahleni
Steve Tshwete
Emakhazeni
Thembisile
Dr J.S. Moroka
Victor Khanye

Ehlanzeni District Municipality

Bushbuckridge
Thaba Chweu
City of Mbombela
Nkomazi

Limpopo (27)**Mopani District Municipality**

Ba-Phalaborwa
Greater Giyani
Greater Letaba
Greater Tzaneen
Maruleng

Vhembe District Municipality

Musina
Thulamela
Makhado
Collins Chabane

Capricorn District Municipality

Blouberg
Molemole
Polokwane
Lepelle-Nkumpi

Waterberg District Municipality

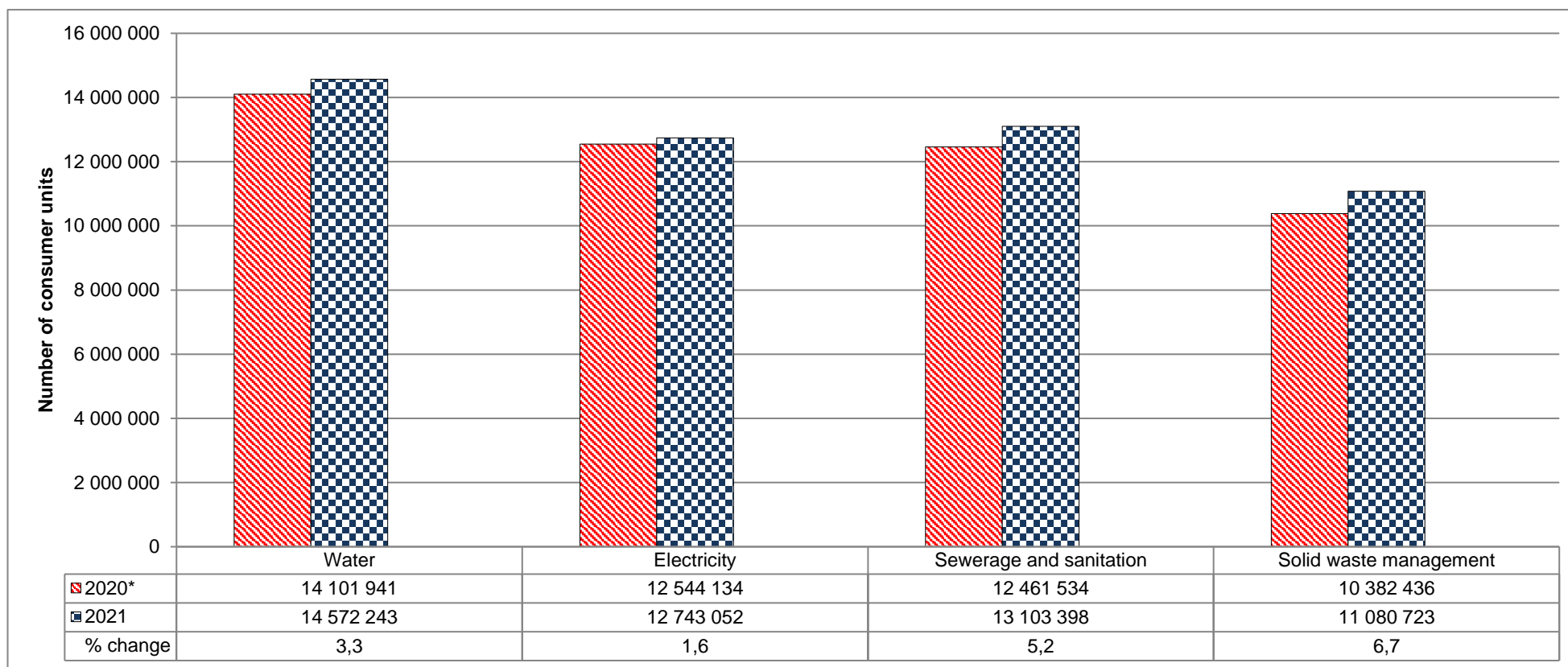
Thabazimbi
Lephalale
Modimolle-Mookgophong
Bela-Bela
Mogalakwena

Sekhukhune District Municipality

Makhuduthamaga
Fetakgomo Tubatse
Elias Motsoaledi
Ephriam Mogale

Key findings

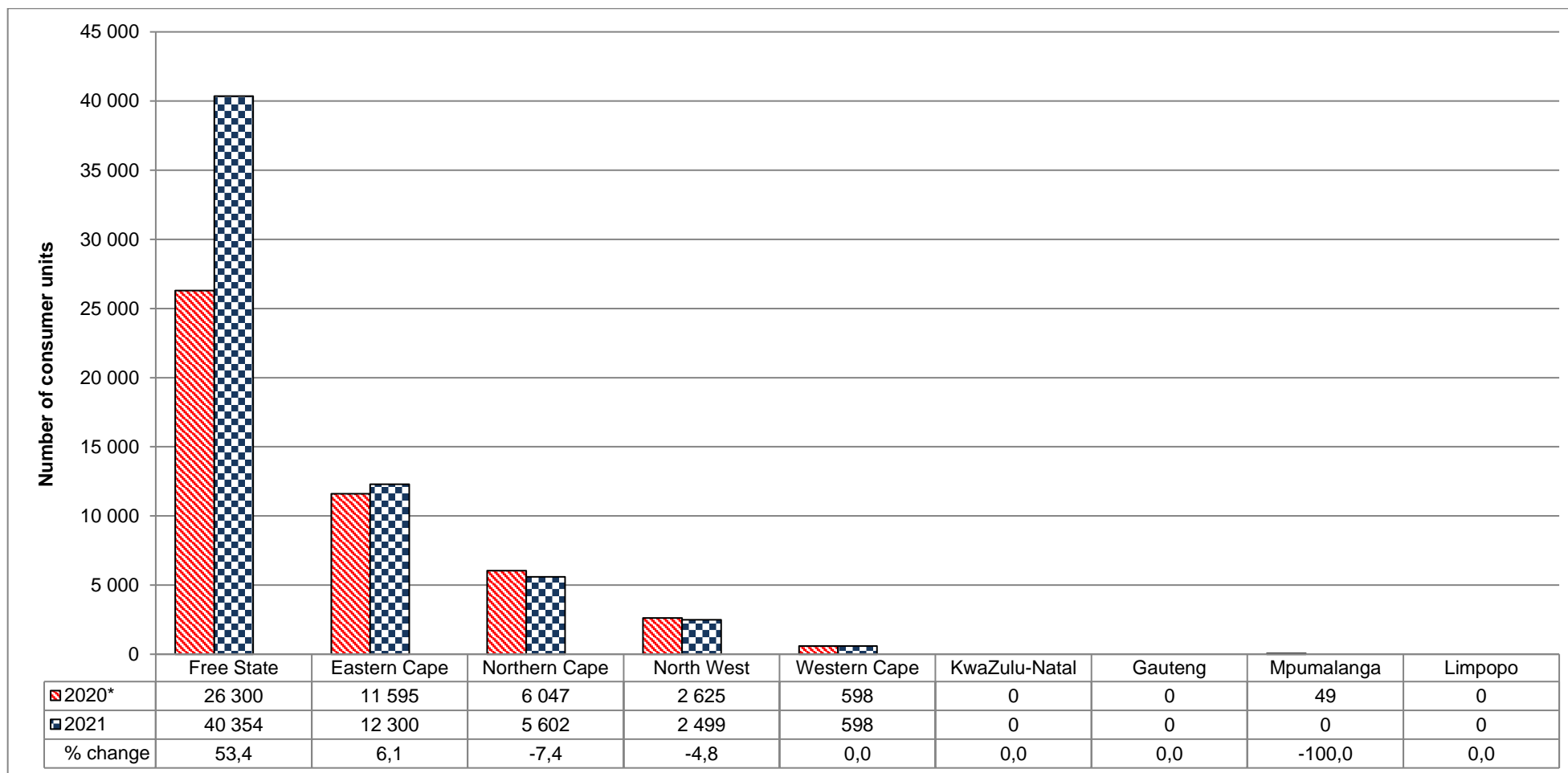
Figure A – Number of consumer units receiving services from municipalities



* Some figures have been revised.

The number of consumer units receiving services from municipalities increased between 2020 and 2021. For the period under review, solid waste management showed the highest percentage increase (6,7%), followed by sewerage and sanitation (5,2%), water (3,3%) and electricity (1,6%).

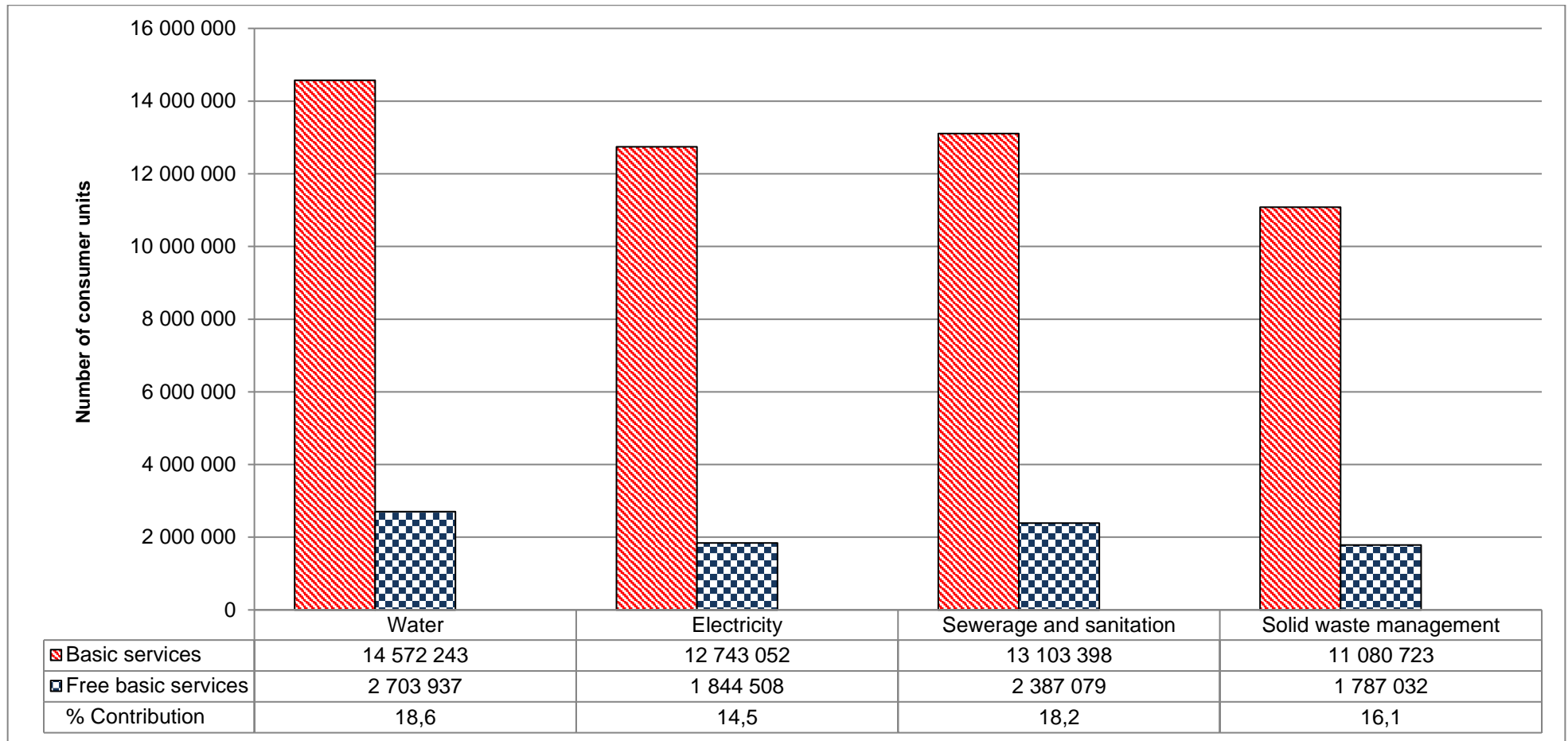
Figure B – Number of consumer units using the bucket toilet system provided by municipalities in each province



* Some figures have been revised.

Over the period 2020 to 2021, increases in the provision of bucket toilets were reported in Free State (53,4%) and Eastern Cape (6,1%). Decreases in the provision of bucket toilets were reported in the following provinces: Mpumalanga (-100,0%), Northern Cape (-7,4%) and North West (-4,8%). KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng and Limpopo are the only provinces that reported zero in the provision of bucket toilets by municipalities.

Figure C – Number of consumer units receiving services and free basic services: 2021



* Some figures have been revised.

Figure C shows the number of consumer units that received services and those that benefited from the free basic services policy in 2021. As a proportion of the total number of units receiving water services, the number of units receiving free basic water services was 18,6%. The corresponding percentages regarding the other services were 18,2% for sewerage and sanitation, 16,1% for solid waste management and 14,5% for electricity.

Table A – Number of consumer units receiving water services and free basic water services from municipalities

Province	2020*			2021		
	Number of consumer units receiving water services	Number of consumer units receiving free basic water services	Proportion benefiting (%)	Number of consumer units receiving water services	Number of consumer units receiving free basic water services	Proportion benefiting (%)
Western Cape	1 428 558	567 767	39,7	1 465 910	583 716	39,8
Eastern Cape	1 438 117	454 966	31,6	1 580 136	393 782	24,9
Northern Cape	318 345	72 037	22,6	322 527	64 214	19,9
Free State	905 882	155 346	17,1	928 320	165 792	17,9
KwaZulu-Natal	2 477 329	755 272	30,5	2 542 583	646 198	25,4
North West	1 152 488	110 310	9,6	1 166 984	113 756	9,7
Gauteng	3 780 072	1 050 874	27,8	3 909 046	547 875	14,0
Mpumalanga	1 236 463	104 481	8,4	1 247 184	71 426	5,7
Limpopo	1 364 687	111 295	8,2	1 409 553	117 178	8,3
South Africa	14 101 941	3 382 348	24,0	14 572 243	2 703 937	18,6

* Some figures have been revised.

Table A shows the proportion of consumer units that benefited from the free basic water services policy. According to 2021 estimates, 14,6 million consumer units received water from municipalities in South Africa, of which 2,7 million (18,6%) consumer units received free basic water services.

Western Cape showed the highest proportion of consumer units that benefited from the free basic water services policy (39,8%), followed by KwaZulu-Natal (25,4%) and Eastern Cape (24,9%). The provinces with the lowest proportion of consumer units that benefited from the free basic water services policy were Mpumalanga (5,7%), Limpopo (8,3%) and North West (9,7%).

Differences in the number of consumer units receiving free basic services between 2020 and 2021 were the result of households not renewing their status in 2021 and they were therefore automatically deregistered by their respective municipalities. Furthermore, some households have reached a predefined threshold that made them no longer eligible to receive benefits.

Table B – Number of consumer units receiving electricity services and free basic electricity services from municipalities

Province	2020*			2021		
	Number of consumer units receiving electricity services	Number of consumer units receiving free basic electricity services	Proportion benefiting (%)	Number of consumer units receiving electricity services	Number of consumer units receiving free basic electricity services	Proportion benefiting (%)
Western Cape	1 616 818	460 875	28,5	1 625 148	453 886	27,9
Eastern Cape	1 396 930	303 753	21,7	1 418 785	262 763	18,5
Northern Cape	306 262	76 535	25,0	312 395	67 549	21,6
Free State	846 087	158 758	18,8	865 690	167 318	19,3
KwaZulu-Natal	2 012 343	317 810	15,8	2 040 975	203 954	10,0
North West	1 077 730	112 272	10,4	1 081 641	120 441	11,1
Gauteng	2 714 343	784 735	28,9	2 724 879	420 201	15,4
Mpumalanga	1 035 927	83 708	8,1	1 072 112	64 771	6,0
Limpopo	1 537 694	76 674	5,0	1 601 427	83 625	5,2
South Africa	12 544 134	2 375 120	18,9	12 743 052	1 844 508	14,5

* Some figures have been revised.

Table B shows the proportion of consumer units that benefited from the free basic electricity services policy. According to 2021 estimates, 12,7 million consumer units received electricity services from municipalities in South Africa, and 1,8 million (14,5%) consumer units received free basic electricity services.

Western Cape showed the highest proportion of consumer units that benefited from the free basic electricity services policy (27,9%), followed by Northern Cape (21,6%) and Free State (19,3%). Limpopo showed the lowest proportion (5,2%), followed by Mpumalanga (6,0%) and KwaZulu-Natal (10,0%).

Differences in the number of consumer units receiving free basic services between 2020 and 2021 were the result of households not renewing their status in 2021 and they were therefore automatically deregistered by their respective municipalities. Furthermore, some households have reached a predefined threshold that made them no longer eligible to receive benefits.

Table C – Number of consumer units receiving sewerage and sanitation services and free basic sewerage and sanitation services from municipalities

Province	2020*			2021		
	Number of consumer units receiving sewerage and sanitation services	Number of consumer units receiving free basic sewerage and sanitation services	Proportion benefiting (%)	Number of consumer units receiving sewerage and sanitation services	Number of consumer units receiving free basic sewerage and sanitation services	Proportion benefiting (%)
Western Cape	1 243 063	563 924	45,4	1 268 838	581 311	45,8
Eastern Cape	1 490 082	418 509	28,1	1 572 507	306 741	19,5
Northern Cape	300 762	66 494	22,1	306 472	58 405	19,1
Free State	813 056	154 363	19,0	910 852	165 905	18,2
KwaZulu-Natal	2 341 003	559 327	23,9	2 376 877	533 276	22,4
North West	984 038	77 971	7,9	1 025 833	82 973	8,1
Gauteng	3 066 410	831 170	27,1	3 395 898	539 802	15,9
Mpumalanga	1 142 886	100 457	8,8	1 146 807	66 533	5,8
Limpopo	1 080 234	48 408	4,5	1 099 314	52 133	4,7
South Africa	12 461 534	2 820 623	22,6	13 103 398	2 387 079	18,2

* Some figures have been revised.

Table C shows the proportion of consumer units receiving free basic sewerage and sanitation services from municipalities. According to 2021 estimates, 13,1 million consumer units received sewerage and sanitation services from municipalities in South Africa, and 18,2% of these consumer units had access to free basic sewerage and sanitation services.

Western Cape showed the highest proportion of consumer units that benefited from free basic sewerage and sanitation services (45,8%), followed by KwaZulu-Natal (22,4%) and Eastern Cape (19,5%). The province with the lowest proportion was Limpopo (4,7%), followed by Mpumalanga (5,8%) and North West (8,1%).

Differences in the number of consumer units receiving free basic services between 2020 and 2021 were the result of households not renewing their status in 2021 and they were therefore automatically deregistered by their respective municipalities. Furthermore, some households have reached a predefined threshold that made them no longer eligible to receive benefits.

Table D – Number of consumer units receiving solid waste management services and free basic solid waste management services from municipalities

Province	2020*			2021		
	Number of consumer units receiving solid waste management services	Number of consumer units receiving free basic solid waste management services	Proportion benefiting (%)	Number of consumer units receiving solid waste management services	Number of consumer units receiving free basic solid waste management services	Proportion benefiting (%)
Western Cape	1 325 137	597 121	45,1	1 348 233	603 937	44,8
Eastern Cape	787 744	194 780	24,7	794 950	181 123	22,8
Northern Cape	245 254	68 127	27,8	257 347	60 270	23,4
Free State	762 568	152 961	20,1	764 274	165 888	21,7
KwaZulu-Natal	1 782 818	699 030	39,2	1 808 573	222 838	12,3
North West	754 654	109 595	14,5	758 928	113 584	15,0
Gauteng	3 543 734	782 635	22,1	4 140 625	328 487	7,9
Mpumalanga	705 739	100 115	14,2	717 823	67 509	9,4
Limpopo	474 788	33 768	7,1	489 970	43 396	8,9
South Africa	10 382 436	2 738 132	26,4	11 080 723	1 787 032	16,1

* Some figures have been revised.

Table D shows the proportion of consumer units receiving solid waste management services as a free basic service. According to 2021 estimates, 11,1 million consumer units received solid waste management services from municipalities in South Africa, and 16,1% of these consumer units had access to free basic solid waste management services.

Western Cape showed the highest proportion of consumer units that benefited from free basic solid waste management services (44,8%), followed by Northern Cape (23,4%) and Eastern Cape (22,8%). The province with the lowest proportion was Gauteng (7,9%), followed by Limpopo (8,9%) and Mpumalanga (9,4%).

Differences in the number of consumer units receiving free basic services between 2020 and 2021 were the result of households not renewing their status in 2021 and they were therefore automatically deregistered by their respective municipalities. Furthermore, some households have reached a predefined threshold that made them no longer eligible to receive benefits.

Table 1.1 – Managerial positions by province according to Section 54A and 56 of Local Government Municipal System Act, 2000 (Act No.32 of 2000)

Province	Full-time				Part-time				Vacant posts		Total posts (including vacancies)	
	Male		Female		Male		Female		2020*	2021	2020*	2021
	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021				
Western Cape	113	102	22	26	0	0	0	0	24	31	159	159
Eastern Cape	136	141	83	84	0	0	0	0	33	27	252	252
Northern Cape	91	87	28	28	0	0	0	0	24	28	143	143
Free State	71	73	27	31	0	0	0	0	32	26	130	130
KwaZulu-Natal	176	191	82	85	0	0	0	0	53	35	311	311
North West	82	84	34	32	0	0	0	0	23	23	139	139
Gauteng	55	59	37	41	0	0	0	0	33	25	125	125
Mpumalanga	74	80	36	34	0	0	0	0	21	17	131	131
Limpopo	79	83	49	51	0	0	0	0	44	38	172	172
South Africa	877	900	398	412	0	0	0	0	287	250	1 562	1 562

* Some figures have been revised.

Table 1.2 – Managerial positions by province according to Organogram (excluding Section 56 managers)

Province	Full-time				Part-time				Vacant posts		Total posts (including vacancies)	
	Male		Female		Male		Female		2020*	2021	2020*	2021
	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021				
Western Cape	1 140	730	573	336	9	4	3	0	209	185	1 934	1 255
Eastern Cape	686	684	461	458	4	10	4	5	203	212	1 358	1 369
Northern Cape	223	221	125	140	1	1	0	0	63	53	412	415
Free State	393	322	183	487	1	1	6	1	278	52	861	863
KwaZulu-Natal	1 068	1 076	718	706	5	3	3	0	296	308	2 090	2 093
North West	402	414	195	208	2	0	0	0	69	52	668	674
Gauteng	2 466	2 908	1 800	2 152	10	22	2	7	900	949	5 178	6 038
Mpumalanga	438	440	209	214	4	6	0	2	141	132	792	794
Limpopo	440	438	205	184	0	0	1	0	128	151	774	773
South Africa	7 256	7 233	4 469	4 885	36	47	19	15	2 287	2 094	14 067	14 274

* Some figures have been revised.

Table 1.3 – Number of councillors by province

Province	Full-time				Part-time				Vacant posts		Total posts (including vacancies)	
	Male		Female		Male		Female		2020*	2021	2020*	2021
	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021				
Western Cape	158	163	85	94	382	365	254	258	3	2	882	882
Eastern Cape	119	129	100	113	764	757	576	572	18	6	1 577	1 577
Northern Cape	33	25	41	36	210	215	153	165	8	4	445	445
Free State	47	69	55	52	352	382	253	203	1	2	708	708
KwaZulu-Natal	279	141	170	104	975	1 120	543	609	7	0	1 974	1 974
North West	118	106	83	77	465	479	307	312	2	1	975	975
Gauteng	314	71	201	57	359	620	251	383	11	5	1 136	1 136
Mpumalanga	95	106	91	101	445	461	332	308	19	6	982	982
Limpopo	116	198	85	155	605	518	475	415	6	1	1 287	1 287
South Africa	1 279	1 008	911	789	4 557	4 917	3 144	3 225	75	27	9 966	9 966

* Some figures have been revised.

Table 1.4 – Executive mayor and mayor positions by province

Province	Full-time				Part-time				Vacant posts		Total posts (including vacancies)	
	Male		Female		Male		Female		2020*	2021	2020*	2021
	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021				
Western Cape	26	24	4	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	30
Eastern Cape	24	20	15	18	0	0	0	0	0	1	39	39
Northern Cape	20	20	11	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	31
Free State	12	15	11	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	23
KwaZulu-Natal	44	43	10	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	54	54
North West	11	12	11	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	22
Gauteng	9	8	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	11
Mpumalanga	12	12	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	20
Limpopo	17	20	10	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	27	27
South Africa	175	174	82	81	0	0	0	0	0	2	257	257

* Some figures have been revised.

Table 1.5 – Employment positions including managerial positions by province

Province	Employment type							
	Full-time		Part-time		Vacant posts		Total posts (including vacancies)	
	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021
Western Cape	45 583	45 325	1 604	2 758	4 817	297	52 004	48 380
Eastern Cape	29 044	28 621	792	3 479	2 444	239	32 280	32 339
Northern Cape	8 597	8 471	601	664	236	160	9 434	9 295
Free State	14 566	15 974	744	91	2 766	177	18 076	16 242
KwaZulu-Natal	48 800	48 888	3 893	1 909	3 970	400	56 663	51 197
North West	12 845	12 388	634	676	333	75	13 812	13 139
Gauteng	82 122	81 337	1 930	2 769	16 922	4 720	100 974	88 826
Mpumalanga	14 904	14 987	157	155	2 081	159	17 142	15 301
Limpopo	13 851	13 772	18	22	1 089	189	14 958	13 983
South Africa	270 312	269 763	10 373	12 523	34 658	6 416	315 343	288 702

* Some figures have been revised.

Table 2 – Number of municipalities in each province that provide services

Province	Number of municipalities	Water		Electricity		Sewerage and sanitation		Solid waste management	
		2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021
Western Cape	30	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26
Eastern Cape	39	14	14	24	24	14	14	33	33
Northern Cape	31	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26
Free State	23	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19
KwaZulu-Natal	54	15	15	26	29	15	15	43	43
North West	22	18	18	14	14	18	18	16	16
Gauteng	11	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
Mpumalanga	20	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17
Limpopo	27	10	10	18	18	10	10	22	22
South Africa	257	154	154	179	182	154	154	211	211

* Some figures have been revised.

Table 3 – Number of consumer units in each province receiving services from municipalities

Province	Water		Electricity		Sewerage and sanitation		Solid waste management	
	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021
Western Cape	1 428 558	1 465 910	1 616 818	1 625 148	1 243 063	1 268 838	1 325 137	1 348 233
Eastern Cape	1 438 117	1 580 136	1 396 930	1 418 785	1 490 082	1 572 507	787 744	794 950
Northern Cape	318 345	322 527	306 262	312 395	300 762	306 472	245 254	257 347
Free State	905 882	928 320	846 087	865 690	813 056	910 852	762 568	764 274
KwaZulu-Natal	2 477 329	2 542 583	2 012 343	2 040 975	2 341 003	2 376 877	1 782 818	1 808 573
North West	1 152 488	1 166 984	1 077 730	1 081 641	984 038	1 025 833	754 654	758 928
Gauteng	3 780 072	3 909 046	2 714 343	2 724 879	3 066 410	3 395 898	3 543 734	4 140 625
Mpumalanga	1 236 463	1 247 184	1 035 927	1 072 112	1 142 886	1 146 807	705 739	717 823
Limpopo	1 364 687	1 409 553	1 537 694	1 601 427	1 080 234	1 099 314	474 788	489 970
South Africa	14 101 941	14 572 243	12 544 134	12 743 052	12 461 534	13 103 398	10 382 436	11 080 723

* Some figures have been revised.

Table 4 – Number of consumer units in each province receiving water services from municipalities

Province	Number of domestic consumer units served through a delivery point								Total number of non-domestic consumer units receiving water services		Total number of consumer units receiving water services	
	Inside the yard		Less than 200m from yard		More than 200m from yard		Total number of domestic consumer units receiving water services					
	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021
Western Cape	1 149 473	1 159 623	212 955	230 868	468	8 819	1 362 896	1 399 310	65 662	66 600	1 428 558	1 465 910
Eastern Cape	763 130	807 889	602 745	611 931	37 342	124 014	1 403 217	1 543 834	34 900	36 302	1 438 117	1 580 136
Northern Cape	259 850	261 314	43 016	45 917	6 647	6 470	309 513	313 701	8 832	8 826	318 345	322 527
Free State	780 802	807 522	82 565	75 806	5 704	6 653	869 071	889 981	36 811	38 339	905 882	928 320
KwaZulu-Natal	1 551 520	1 563 877	759 965	785 952	116 401	139 138	2 427 886	2 488 967	49 443	53 616	2 477 329	2 542 583
North West	807 115	810 163	188 798	187 828	138 533	149 720	1 134 446	1 147 711	18 042	19 273	1 152 488	1 166 984
Gauteng	2 940 601	3 075 521	423 478	382 586	219 786	245 096	3 583 865	3 703 203	196 207	205 843	3 780 072	3 909 046
Mpumalanga	954 075	973 350	183 370	181 412	39 516	34 993	1 176 961	1 189 755	59 502	57 429	1 236 463	1 247 184
Limpopo	751 855	763 462	463 705	463 620	127 992	161 207	1 343 552	1 388 289	21 135	21 264	1 364 687	1 409 553
South Africa	9 958 421	10 222 721	2 960 597	2 965 920	692 389	876 110	13 611 407	14 064 751	490 534	507 492	14 101 941	14 572 243

* Some figures have been revised.

Table 5 – Number of consumer units in each province receiving sewerage and sanitation services from municipalities

Province	Flush toilets connected to public sewerage system		Flush toilets connected to septic tank		Bucket system		Ventilated improved pit latrines		Other		Total number of domestic consumer units receiving sewerage and sanitation services		Total number of non-domestic consumer units receiving sewerage and sanitation services		Total number of consumer units receiving sewerage and sanitation services	
	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021
Western Cape	1 078 289	1 095 117	47 447	48 247	598	598	4 541	3 774	53 033	61 437	1 183 908	1 209 173	59 155	59 665	1 243 063	1 268 838
Eastern Cape	620 166	637 976	30 021	26 235	11 595	12 300	767 361	833 453	32 045	32 031	1 461 188	1 541 995	28 894	30 512	1 490 082	1 572 507
Northern Cape	194 057	201 206	32 319	31 930	6 047	5 602	47 988	49 453	7 225	5 635	287 636	293 826	13 126	12 646	300 762	306 472
Free State	575 258	664 586	15 449	16 560	26 300	40 354	142 759	126 335	19 294	25 330	779 060	873 165	33 996	37 687	813 056	910 852
KwaZulu-Natal	873 557	882 339	172 223	171 311	0	0	967 428	983 670	290 182	295 088	2 303 390	2 332 408	37 613	44 469	2 341 003	2 376 877
North West	588 272	594 166	25 581	25 736	2 625	2 499	235 803	256 173	113 609	129 242	965 890	1 007 816	18 148	18 017	984 038	1 025 833
Gauteng	2 637 368	2 897 579	18 046	30 818	0	0	188 453	133 373	64 651	164 255	2 908 518	3 226 025	157 892	169 873	3 066 410	3 395 898
Mpumalanga	508 601	511 408	22 216	24 913	49	0	441 862	434 806	142 067	147 730	1 114 795	1 118 857	28 091	27 950	1 142 886	1 146 807
Limpopo	352 019	356 776	21 188	23 520	0	0	529 174	542 358	167 064	165 809	1 069 445	1 088 463	10 789	10 851	1 080 234	1 099 314
South Africa	7 427 587	7 841 153	384 490	399 270	47 214	61 353	3 325 369	3 363 395	889 170	1 026 557	12 073 830	12 691 728	387 704	411 670	12 461 534	13 103 398

* Some figures have been revised.

Table 6 – Number of municipalities in each province with a policy in place relating to the provision of free basic services

Province	Number of municipalities	Number of municipalities in each province with a free basic policy	
		2020*	2021
Western Cape	30	26	26
Eastern Cape	39	38	38
Northern Cape	31	26	26
Free State	23	19	19
KwaZulu-Natal	54	53	53
North West	22	18	18
Gauteng	11	9	9
Mpumalanga	20	17	17
Limpopo	27	26	26
South Africa	257	232	232

* Some figures have been revised.

Table 7 – Number of municipalities in each province which have implemented the policy relating to the provision of free basic services

Province	Number of municipalities	Water		Electricity		Sewerage and sanitation		Solid waste management	
		2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021
Western Cape	30	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26
Eastern Cape	39	14	14	33	33	14	14	30	31
Northern Cape	31	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26
Free State	23	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19
KwaZulu-Natal	54	15	15	42	43	12	13	38	39
North West	22	16	16	18	18	15	15	16	16
Gauteng	11	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
Mpumalanga	20	17	17	17	17	15	16	15	16
Limpopo	27	10	10	22	22	10	10	17	18
South Africa	257	152	152	212	213	146	148	196	200

* Some figures have been revised.

Table 8 – Number of municipalities in each province providing free basic services at standard and other levels

Province	Water				Electricity				Sewerage and sanitation				Solid waste management			
	6kl		Other		50kWh		Other		R50 and above		Below R50		R50 and above		Below R50	
	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021
Western Cape	24	23	2	3	22	20	4	6	25	25	1	1	26	25	0	1
Eastern Cape	12	12	2	2	32	31	1	2	13	12	1	2	30	30	0	1
Northern Cape	25	25	1	1	26	26	0	0	26	26	0	0	25	25	1	1
Free State	18	17	1	2	19	19	0	0	19	19	0	0	18	18	1	1
KwaZulu-Natal	13	13	2	2	38	39	4	4	9	11	3	2	35	37	3	2
North West	15	15	1	1	17	16	1	2	10	11	5	4	14	14	2	2
Gauteng	7	7	2	2	6	6	3	3	8	8	1	1	9	9	0	0
Mpumalanga	14	15	3	2	17	17	0	0	11	12	4	4	15	16	0	0
Limpopo	10	10	0	0	20	19	2	3	8	9	2	1	13	15	4	3
South Africa	138	137	14	15	197	193	15	20	129	133	17	15	185	189	11	11

* Some figures have been revised.

Table 9 – Number of domestic consumer units in each province receiving free basic services from municipalities

Province	Water		Electricity		Sewerage and sanitation		Solid waste management	
	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021
Western Cape	567 767	583 716	460 875	453 886	563 924	581 311	597 121	603 937
Eastern Cape	454 966	393 782	303 753	262 763	418 509	306 741	194 780	181 123
Northern Cape	72 037	64 214	76 535	67 549	66 494	58 405	68 127	60 270
Free State	155 346	165 792	158 758	167 318	154 363	165 905	152 961	165 888
KwaZulu-Natal	755 272	646 198	317 810	203 954	559 327	533 276	699 030	222 838
North West	110 310	113 756	112 272	120 441	77 971	82 973	109 595	113 584
Gauteng	1 050 874	547 875	784 735	420 201	831 170	539 802	782 635	328 487
Mpumalanga	104 481	71 426	83 708	64 771	100 457	66 533	100 115	67 509
Limpopo	111 295	117 178	76 674	83 625	48 408	52 133	33 768	43 396
South Africa	3 382 348	2 703 937	2 375 120	1 844 508	2 820 623	2 387 079	2 738 132	1 787 032

* Some figures have been revised.

Table 10.1 (a) – Number of municipalities using mechanisms to provide free basic services to indigent households for 2021: Water

Province	Number of municipalities implementing free basic water services	Self-targeting approach	Other approaches
Western Cape	26	25	1
Eastern Cape	14	11	3
Northern Cape	26	26	0
Free State	19	18	1
KwaZulu-Natal	15	13	2
North West	16	16	0
Gauteng	9	9	0
Mpumalanga	17	16	1
Limpopo	10	9	1
South Africa	152	143	9

* Other approaches include geographic, broad-based, and consumption-based approaches.

Table 10.1 (b) – Number of municipalities using mechanisms to provide free basic services to indigent households for 2021: Electricity

Province	Number of municipalities implementing free basic electricity services	Self-targeting approach	Other approaches
Western Cape	26	25	1
Eastern Cape	33	32	1
Northern Cape	26	26	0
Free State	19	19	0
KwaZulu-Natal	43	42	1
North West	18	18	0
Gauteng	9	9	0
Mpumalanga	17	16	1
Limpopo	22	22	0
South Africa	213	209	4

* Other approaches include geographic and technical approaches.

Table 10.1 (c) – Number of municipalities using mechanisms to provide free basic services to indigent households for 2021: Sewerage and sanitation

Province	Number of municipalities implementing free basic sewerage and sanitation services	Self-targeting approach	Other approaches
Western Cape	26	26	0
Eastern Cape	14	11	3
Northern Cape	26	26	0
Free State	19	19	0
KwaZulu-Natal	13	11	2
North West	15	15	0
Gauteng	9	9	0
Mpumalanga	16	15	1
Limpopo	10	9	1
South Africa	148	141	7

* Other approaches include geographic, consumption-based, property value-based, and broad-based approaches.

Table 10.1 (d) – Number of municipalities using mechanisms to provide free basic services to indigent households for 2021: Solid waste management

Province	Number of municipalities implementing free basic solid waste management services	Self-targeting approach	Other approaches
Western Cape	26	26	0
Eastern Cape	31	30	1
Northern Cape	26	26	0
Free State	19	18	1
KwaZulu-Natal	39	38	1
North West	16	16	0
Gauteng	9	9	0
Mpumalanga	16	15	1
Limpopo	18	18	0
South Africa	200	196	4

* Other approaches include geographic, broad-based, and consumption-based approaches.

Table 11 – Number of municipalities in each province using indicated monthly income cut-off points to identify indigent households: 2021

Province	Number of municipalities	R1 980 and below	Between R1 981 and R3 960	Above R3 960
Western Cape	30	0	7	19
Eastern Cape	39	2	35	1
Northern Cape	31	0	13	13
Free State	23	1	9	9
KwaZulu-Natal	54	0	35	18
North West	22	0	15	3
Gauteng	11	0	2	7
Mpumalanga	20	0	16	1
Limpopo	27	0	25	1
South Africa	257	3	157	72

Table 12 – Number of indigent households in each province benefiting from an indigent support system

Province	Indigent households identified by the municipalities		Beneficiaries							
			Water		Electricity		Sewerage and sanitation		Solid waste management	
	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021
Western Cape	350 602	354 475	335 577	344 269	347 496	351 936	332 034	341 864	332 061	341 687
Eastern Cape	601 602	594 923	279 824	290 243	292 046	262 753	217 430	203 202	193 874	181 123
Northern Cape	77 972	71 282	69 037	64 214	73 535	67 549	63 494	58 405	65 127	60 270
Free State	164 634	173 855	155 346	165 792	158 758	167 318	154 363	165 905	152 961	165 888
KwaZulu-Natal	1 034 931	742 251	745 132	636 873	317 710	203 954	498 680	473 722	665 240	185 121
North West	134 647	149 807	110 310	113 756	110 527	120 441	77 971	82 973	109 595	113 584
Gauteng	809 845	334 496	779 764	294 856	648 896	312 797	560 227	294 737	782 635	301 837
Mpumalanga	109 537	77 693	104 481	71 426	83 697	64 769	100 457	66 533	100 115	67 509
Limpopo	198 886	189 004	111 295	117 178	76 674	83 625	48 408	52 133	33 768	43 396
South Africa	3 482 656	2 687 786	2 690 766	2 098 607	2 109 339	1 635 142	2 053 064	1 739 474	2 435 376	1 460 415

* Some figures have been revised.

Table 13 – Number of municipalities in each province that provide free basic alternative energy

Province	Number of municipalities	Solar home system		Fire gel		Paraffin		Other**	
		2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021
Western Cape	30	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastern Cape	39	8	8	4	4	10	10	5	7
Northern Cape	31	3	3	0	0	2	1	3	2
Free State	23	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
KwaZulu-Natal	54	3	3	3	3	0	0	0	0
North West	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gauteng	11	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mpumalanga	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Limpopo	27	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
South Africa	257	19	20	7	7	12	11	9	9

* Some figures have been revised.

** Other includes coal, liquefied petroleum gas and candles.

Table 14 - Number of indigent households in each province provided with free basic alternative energy

Province	Solar home system		Fire gel		Paraffin		Other**	
	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021	2020*	2021
Western Cape	1 620	1 620	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastern Cape	30 424	24 736	6 112	5 880	24 608	23 690	9 818	9 955
Northern Cape	10 337	10 337	0	0	625	527	1 054	1 054
Free State	6 450	6 450	0	0	0	0	0	0
KwaZulu-Natal	4 148	4 148	3 449	3 449	0	0	0	0
North West	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gauteng	84 950	84 950	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mpumalanga	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Limpopo	3 597	3 603	0	0	0	0	4	0
South Africa	141 526	135 844	9 561	9 329	25 233	24 217	10 876	11 009

* Some figures have been revised.

** Other includes coal, liquefied petroleum gas and candles.

Explanatory notes

Introduction	This publication contains results of the annual non-financial census of municipalities for the financial year ended 30 June 2021 and the revised figures for the financial year ended 30 June 2020.
Scope of the survey	This survey covers selected non-financial information of all 257 municipalities for the 2020/2021 financial year. The census provides information that can serve as a framework for policymakers and other stakeholders for analysis, planning and monitoring in terms of service delivery of water, electricity, solid waste management, sewerage and sanitation, indigent households and employment.
Statistical unit	The statistical unit is the municipality.
Survey methodology and design	The information is collected annually from all municipalities through questionnaires.
Reliability of estimates	Inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by municipalities. Every effort is made to reduce errors to a minimum by carefully designing the questionnaire, undertaking pilot studies/workshops and editing processes.
Abbreviations and symbols	0 Nil or not applicable Stats SA Statistics South Africa
Comparability with the previous census	The 2021 non-financial census of municipalities is generally comparable with the 2020 non-financial census of municipalities.
Revision of data	The 2021 information is preliminary and is subject to revision. The revised figures are due to respondents reporting revisions.

Glossary

Broad-based approach	Each consumer unit in that municipality receives free basic services on the current billing system of the municipality.
Consumer unit/billing unit	An entity to which the service is (or would be) delivered and which receives one bill if the service is billed, alternatively known as a delivery point. (This concept is often referred to as a household by municipalities, but this is not strictly correct, as households and consumer units do not coincide one to one, particularly in blocks of flats, on stands where there are multiple households in the same dwelling or in additional dwellings, such as garden flats, backyard rooms, etc., and in the case of public taps).
Consumption-based approach	This is a targeting method where those consumer units using a low amount of the service are provided with it for free. This is only applicable if the amount of the service can be measured.
District municipality	District municipality means a municipality that has municipal executive and legislative authority in an area that includes more than one municipality and which is described in section 155(1) of the Constitution as a category C municipality. (Refer to Local Government: Municipal Structures Act, 1998 (Act No.117 of 1998)).
Domestic consumer unit	This includes all other consumer units excluding non-domestic, e.g. residential.
Electricity	Provision of electricity service to consumer units connected to national grid and non-grid.
Employees	Employees are those people employed by the individual/enterprise/business/organisation who received payment (in salaries, wages, commission, piece rates or payments in kind) for any part of the reference period (excluding independent contractors and employers).
Free basic water	An amount of water determined by the government that should be provided free to poor households to meet basic needs is currently set at 6kl per month per household within 200 metres from each dwelling.
Full-time employees	Full-time employees are those employees (permanent, temporary or casual) who normally work the agreed hours for a full-time employee in a specific occupation. If agreed hours do not apply, employees are regarded as full-time if they normally work 35 hours per week, including seasonal employees.
Geographic approach	The process whereby consumers living in a particular area are assumed to have the same socio-economic profile and therefore tariffs can be set on location.
Household	(a) A group of persons who live together and provide themselves jointly with food or other essentials for living, or a single person who lives alone, (b) A billing unit or delivery point. Both definitions were specified in the questionnaire. Given the different meanings of 'household', users are advised to use caution when comparing this publication with other Stats SA publications that report data at the household level (for example, the General Household Survey and the Quarterly Labour Force Survey).

Indigent household	These are poor households as determined by municipalities. The basis on which a municipality determines if a household is indigent (and the criteria used for such determination) can vary.
Local municipality	Local municipality means a municipality that shares municipal executive and legislative authority in its area with a district municipality within whose area it falls, and which is described in section 155(1) of the Constitution as a category B municipality. (Refer to Local Government: Municipal Structures Act, 1998 (Act No. 117 of 1998)).
Managerial position	For the purpose of this survey, managerial positions refer to Section 56 managers, according to the Local Government Municipal System Act, 2000 (Act No. 32 of 2000, as amended) and other managers according to the organogram.
Metropolitan municipality	Metropolitan municipality means a municipality that has exclusive executive and legislative authority in its area and which is described in section 155(1) of the Constitution as a category A municipality. (Refer to Local Government: Municipal Structure Act 1998, (Act No. 117 of 1998)).
Municipality	Municipality is a generic term describing the unit of government in the local sphere responsible for local government in a geographically demarcated area and includes district, local and metropolitan municipalities. A municipality is an institution consisting of a municipal council (elected political representatives) and the municipal administration (appointed officials).
Non-domestic consumer unit	This includes all other consumer units excluding domestic, e.g. industrial, commercial, schools, clinics, hospitals and government departments, etc.
Part-time employees	Part-time employees are employees (permanent, temporary or casual) who are not full-time employees as defined above or who normally work less than 35 hours per week, including seasonal employees.
Property value-based approach	This approach gives an indication of the level of household wealth, thus household income.
Solid waste management services	Provision of refuse removal service to consumer units, generally not less than once a week.
Sewerage and sanitation services	Provision of flush toilet connected to the public sewerage system, or conservancy tank, bucket toilet, pit latrine/toilet with ventilation pipe, pit latrine/toilet without ventilation pipe, other toilets such as ecological toilet (e.g. urine diversion, enviro loo).
Self-targeting approach	A system whereby only indigent households receive the benefits of the free basic services programme as mutually determined by the service provider and service authority.
Targeting based on plot size	This method uses a charge based on plot size, with a zero rating for properties under a determined threshold.
Technical approach	The process whereby technology is used to regulate the provision of free basic services (including water and electricity meters).
Water services	Provision of piped water services to consumer units, inside the yard, less than 200m from the yard and more than 200m from the yard.

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