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STATISTICAL RELEASE

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Non-financial census of municipalities for the year ended 30 June 2023

Statistics South Africa periodically reprioritises its work programme. As a result, the Non-Financial Census of Municipalities survey will be reviewed during the 2025/2026 financial year. There will be no statistical release for this survey in 2026. For further clarification, please contact Malibongwe Mhemhe at malibongwem@statssa.gov.za.

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IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS



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 2023 non-financial census of municipalities obtained information on various issues, including:

- particulars of services provided in the municipalities as at 30 June 2022 and 30 June 2023;
- particulars of households receiving free basic services and those benefiting from the indigents support system as at 30 June 2022 and 30 June 2023; and
- particulars of total employment in the municipalities as at 30 June 2022 and 30 June 2023.

This statistical release contains the preliminary results of the 2023 non-financial census of municipalities and the revised figures for 2022.

In this printed version, all results are presented at the provincial level. Unit data for all municipalities (2022 and 2023) 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, sewerage and sanitation and solid waste management.

Purpose of the survey

This publication is directed towards the following major goals:

- Assists in monitoring progress on 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 2023.

Questionnaire and data collection

The methods used for collection included personal visits, telephone and email. Data are generally comparable between the 2022 and 2023 publications.

Limitations of the survey

- This publication is not necessarily comparable with the Stats SA Population Census, 2022, 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.

Table A – Collection rates for the 2023 financial year per province

Province	Municipalities				
	Metropolitan municipalities	District municipalities	Local municipalities	Total	Collection rate (%)
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 (2023)**Western Cape (30)****City of Cape Town Metropolitan****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 Metropolitan****Buffalo City Metropolitan****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
Dr AB Xuma
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 Metropolitan****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 Metropolitan****Ugu District Municipality**

Umdoni
Umzumbe
uMuziwabantu
Ray Nkonyeni

uMgungundlovu District Municipality

uMshwathi
uMngeni
Mpofana
Impendle
Msunduzi
Mkhambathini
Richmond

uThukela District Municipality

Alfred Duma
Inkosi Langalibalele
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
Umnikhulu

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
Maquassi Hills

Gauteng (11)

**City of Johannesburg
Metropolitan**

City of Tshwane Metropolitan

City of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan

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 JS 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

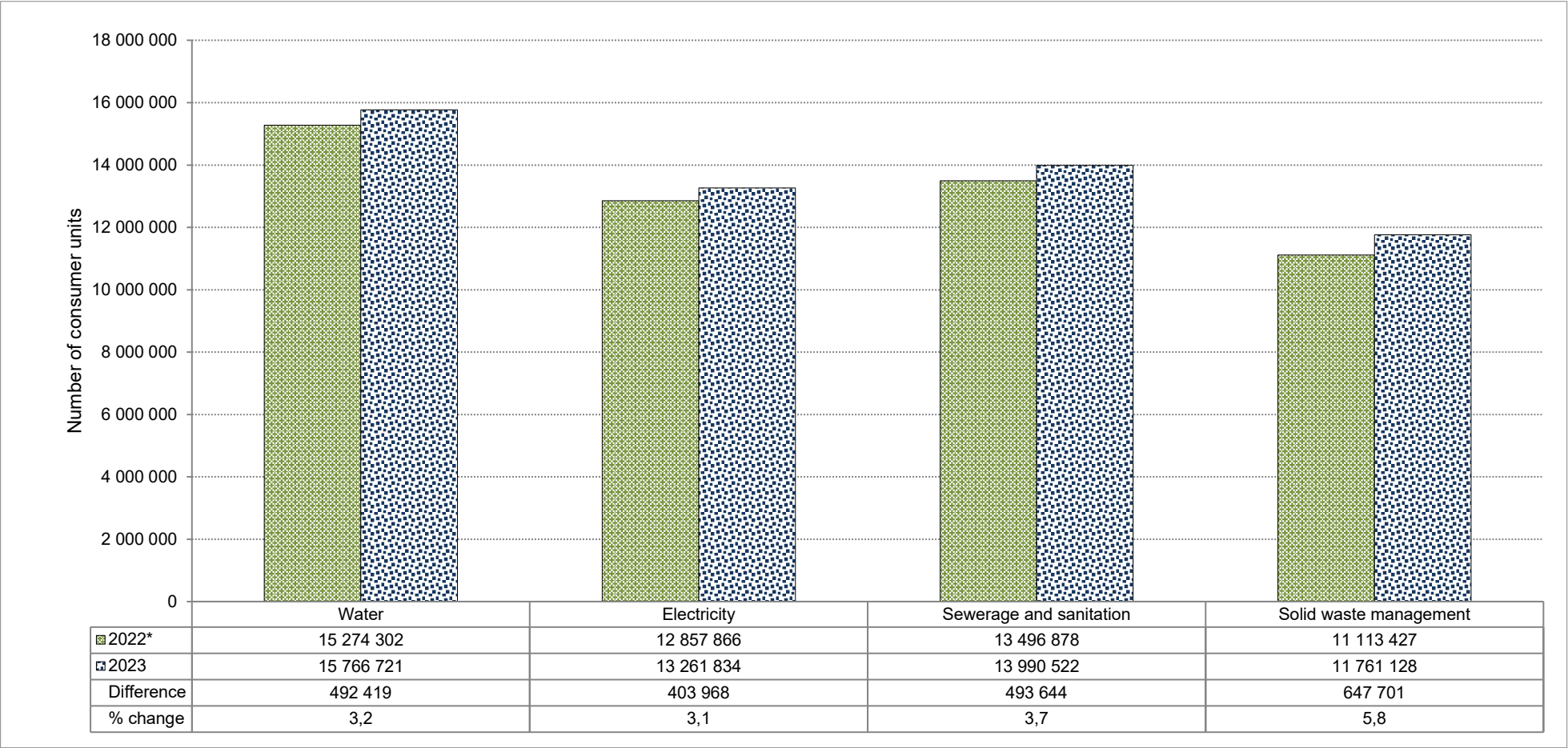
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Ephriam Mogale

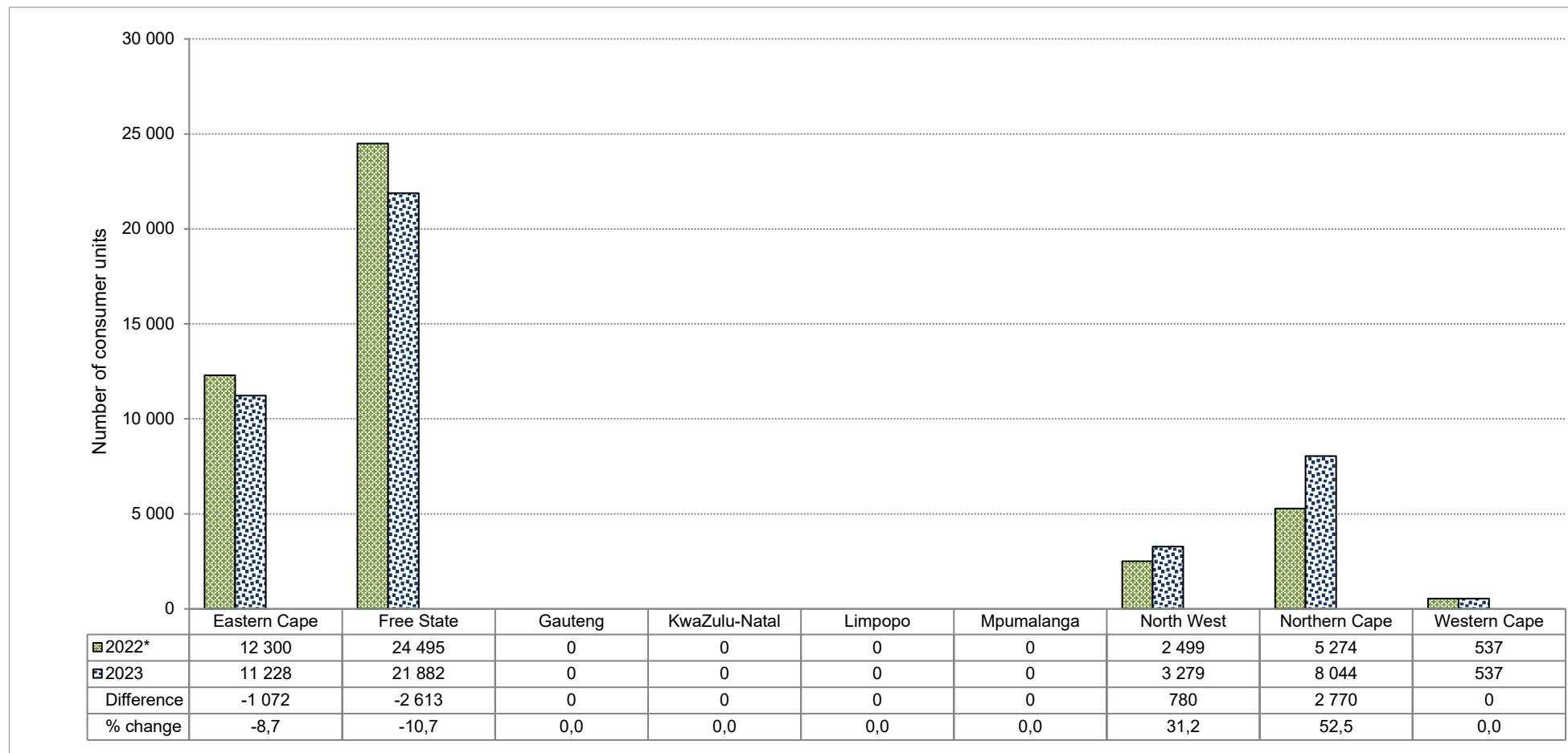
Key findings

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 the 2022 and 2023 financial years. For the period under review, solid waste management recorded the highest percentage increase (5,8%), followed by sewerage and sanitation (3,7%). Water (3,2%) and electricity (3,1%) recorded the lowest percentage increases.

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

* Some figures have been revised.

Between the 2022 and 2023 financial years, decreases in the municipal provision of bucket toilets were reported in Eastern Cape (-8,7%) and Free State (-10,7%). Municipalities in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo and Mpumalanga reported no provision of bucket toilets. The North West (31,2%) and Northern Cape (52,5%) provinces reported increases in the provision of bucket toilets. The Western Cape province reported no change in the number of consumer units using the bucket toilet system over this period.

Figure C – Number of consumer units receiving services and free basic services: 2023

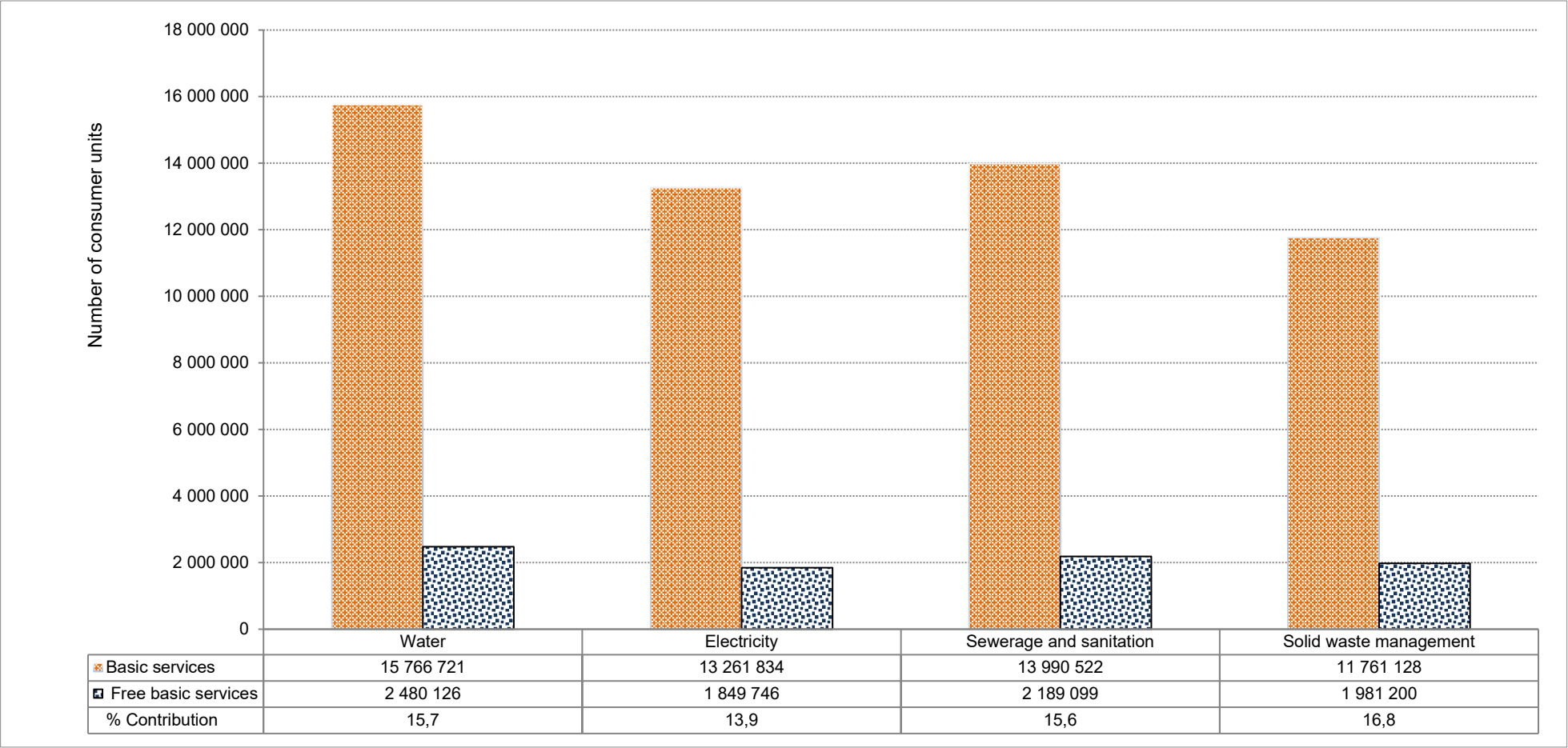


Figure C shows the number of consumer units that received services and those that benefited from the free basic services policy in 2023. As a proportion of the total number of units receiving solid waste management services, the percentage of units that received free basic solid waste management services was 16,8%. The corresponding percentages regarding the other services were 15,7% for water, 15,6% for sewerage and sanitation and 13,9% for electricity.

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

Province	2022*			2023		
	Number of consumer units receiving water services	Number of consumer units receiving free basic water services	%	Number of consumer units receiving water services	Number of consumer units receiving free basic water services	%
Western Cape	1 498 726	687 239	45,9	1 529 556	629 269	41,1
Eastern Cape	1 622 643	334 984	20,6	1 667 482	293 627	17,6
Northern Cape	325 607	65 719	20,2	332 811	68 696	20,6
Free State	943 075	158 649	16,8	951 883	171 468	18,0
KwaZulu-Natal	2 848 667	657 067	23,1	2 927 844	651 232	22,2
North West	1 280 974	96 179	7,5	1 298 116	95 464	7,4
Gauteng	4 079 304	408 667	10,0	4 245 409	364 153	8,6
Mpumalanga	1 263 937	79 596	6,3	1 354 453	84 994	6,3
Limpopo	1 411 369	107 096	7,6	1 459 167	121 223	8,3
South Africa	15 274 302	2 595 196	17,0	15 766 721	2 480 126	15,7

* Some figures have been revised.

Table A shows the proportion of consumer units that benefited from the free basic water services policy by province. According to the 2023 estimates, 15,8 million consumer units received water from municipalities in South Africa, of which 2,5 million (15,7%) received free basic water services. Western Cape showed the highest proportion of consumer units that benefited from the free basic water services policy (41,1%), followed by KwaZulu-Natal (22,2%) and Northern Cape (20,6%). The provinces with the lowest proportions of consumer units that benefited from the free basic water services policy were Mpumalanga (6,3%), North West (7,4%) and Limpopo (8,3%).

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

Province	2022*			2023		
	Number of consumer units receiving electricity services	Number of consumer units receiving free basic electricity services	%	Number of consumer units receiving electricity services	Number of consumer units receiving free basic electricity services	%
Western Cape	1 671 310	460 021	27,5	1 695 497	434 763	25,6
Eastern Cape	1 423 448	260 056	18,3	1 467 367	241 557	16,5
Northern Cape	321 694	67 561	21,0	337 949	71 484	21,2
Free State	875 480	158 218	18,1	901 626	171 513	19,0
KwaZulu-Natal	2 044 708	207 506	10,1	2 079 545	323 029	15,5
North West	1 081 573	118 773	11,0	1 089 596	107 092	9,8
Gauteng	2 692 113	423 746	15,7	2 866 014	357 414	12,5
Mpumalanga	1 134 278	75 875	6,7	1 189 662	74 680	6,3
Limpopo	1 613 262	68 333	4,2	1 634 578	68 214	4,2
South Africa	12 857 866	1 840 089	14,3	13 261 834	1 849 746	13,9

* Some figures have been revised.

Table B shows the proportion of consumer units that benefited from the free basic electricity services policy by province. According to the 2023 estimates, 13,3 million consumer units received electricity services from municipalities in South Africa, of which 1,8 million (13,9%) received free basic electricity services. Western Cape showed the highest proportion of consumer units that benefited from the free basic electricity services policy (25,6%), followed by Northern Cape (21,2%) and Free State (19,0%). Limpopo showed the lowest proportion (4,2%), followed by Mpumalanga (6,3%) and North West (9,8%).

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

Province	2022*			2023		
	Number of consumer units receiving sewerage and sanitation services	Number of consumer units receiving free basic sewerage and sanitation services	%	Number of consumer units receiving sewerage and sanitation services	Number of consumer units receiving free basic sewerage and sanitation services	%
Western Cape	1 314 740	685 459	52,1	1 368 441	627 773	45,9
Eastern Cape	1 719 446	289 887	16,9	1 744 529	269 900	15,5
Northern Cape	312 804	58 505	18,7	321 189	62 352	19,4
Free State	919 560	158 597	17,2	949 943	171 682	18,1
KwaZulu-Natal	2 427 128	532 175	21,9	2 508 636	479 582	19,1
North West	1 104 125	86 574	7,8	1 172 423	79 764	6,8
Gauteng	3 423 243	410 089	12,0	3 577 054	364 653	10,2
Mpumalanga	1 170 070	74 827	6,4	1 226 259	81 956	6,7
Limpopo	1 105 762	44 779	4,0	1 122 048	51 437	4,6
South Africa	13 496 878	2 340 892	17,3	13 990 522	2 189 099	15,6

* Some figures have been revised.

Table C shows the proportion of consumer units that benefited from free basic sewerage and sanitation services by province. According to the 2023 estimates, 14,0 million consumer units received sewerage and sanitation services from municipalities in South Africa, and 2,2 million (15,6%) of these 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 (45,9%), followed by Northern Cape (19,4%) and KwaZulu-Natal (19,1%). The province with the lowest proportion was Limpopo (4,6%), followed by Mpumalanga (6,7%) and North West (6,8%).

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

Province	2022*			2023		
	Number of consumer units receiving solid waste management services	Number of consumer units receiving free basic solid waste management services	%	Number of consumer units receiving solid waste management services	Number of consumer units receiving free basic solid waste management services	%
Western Cape	1 387 583	621 323	44,8	1 420 782	616 530	43,4
Eastern Cape	814 603	161 601	19,8	836 302	167 131	20,0
Northern Cape	256 468	61 301	23,9	257 025	64 568	25,1
Free State	768 257	158 566	20,6	781 953	171 662	22,0
KwaZulu-Natal	1 798 914	223 445	12,4	1 854 550	379 440	20,5
North West	754 458	95 562	12,7	772 675	93 963	12,2
Gauteng	4 093 736	421 521	10,3	4 581 044	372 001	8,1
Mpumalanga	746 336	75 878	10,2	758 951	81 761	10,8
Limpopo	493 072	26 901	5,5	497 846	34 144	6,9
South Africa	11 113 427	1 846 098	16,6	11 761 128	1 981 200	16,8

* Some figures have been revised.

Table D shows the proportion of consumer units that benefited from free basic solid waste management services by province. According to the 2023 estimates, 11,8 million consumer units received solid waste management services from municipalities in South Africa, and 2,0 million (16,8%) of these 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 (43,4%), followed by Northern Cape (25,1%) and Free State (22,0%). The province with the lowest proportion was Limpopo (6,9%), followed by Gauteng (8,1%) and Mpumalanga (10,8%).

Table 1.1 – Number of 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					
	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023
Western Cape	106	102	27	28	0	0	0	0	33	36	166	166
Eastern Cape	143	136	82	75	0	0	0	0	30	44	255	255
Northern Cape	81	62	25	26	0	0	0	0	38	56	144	144
Free State	60	63	21	18	0	0	0	0	45	45	126	126
KwaZulu-Natal	187	185	70	80	0	0	0	0	52	44	309	309
North West	70	60	30	27	0	0	0	0	40	53	140	140
Gauteng	49	54	30	33	0	0	0	0	43	35	122	122
Mpumalanga	57	57	26	29	0	0	0	0	41	38	124	124
Limpopo	72	77	51	52	0	0	0	0	50	44	173	173
South Africa	825	796	362	368	0	0	0	0	372	395	1 559	1 559

* Some figures have been revised.

Table 1.2 – Number of 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					
	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023
Western Cape	731	760	354	370	0	0	0	0	177	141	1 262	1 271
Eastern Cape	683	839	469	536	0	0	0	0	267	252	1 419	1 627
Northern Cape	216	220	146	137	0	0	0	0	52	80	414	437
Free State	332	429	494	197	0	0	0	0	75	193	901	819
KwaZulu-Natal	1 137	1 064	786	770	0	0	0	0	268	403	2 191	2 237
North West	416	447	200	187	0	0	0	0	73	69	689	703
Gauteng	2 804	2 543	2 078	1 914	0	0	0	0	923	1 014	5 805	5 471
Mpumalanga	460	479	220	238	0	0	0	0	128	116	808	833
Limpopo	427	474	192	196	0	0	0	0	163	130	782	800
South Africa	7 206	7 255	4 939	4 545	0	0	0	0	2 126	2 398	14 271	14 198

* 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					
	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023
Western Cape	172	183	102	91	368	365	253	254	0	3	895	896
Eastern Cape	156	207	140	188	766	703	547	495	3	5	1 612	1 598
Northern Cape	50	60	42	39	239	230	166	174	2	0	499	503
Free State	106	137	60	89	382	343	179	161	0	1	727	731
KwaZulu-Natal	282	289	156	166	1 090	1 077	520	515	6	49	2 054	2 096
North West	115	84	100	71	465	513	239	291	40	1	959	960
Gauteng	96	186	69	245	729	411	395	283	1	5	1 290	1 130
Mpumalanga	122	154	119	128	464	414	253	220	4	1	962	917
Limpopo	244	182	183	146	459	531	289	349	0	1	1 175	1 209
South Africa	1 343	1 482	971	1 163	4 962	4 587	2 841	2 742	56	66	10 173	10 040

* Some figures have been revised.

Table 1.4 – Number of executive mayor and mayor positions by province

Province	Full-time				Part-time				Vacant posts		Total posts (including vacancies)	
	Male		Female		Male		Female					
	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023
Western Cape	24	24	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	30
Eastern Cape	18	19	21	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	39
Northern Cape	23	22	8	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	31
Free State	12	11	11	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	23
KwaZulu-Natal	47	44	7	9	0	0	0	0	0	1	54	54
North West	11	15	11	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	22
Gauteng	6	8	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	11
Mpumalanga	14	9	6	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	20
Limpopo	20	21	7	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	27
South Africa	175	173	82	83	0	0	0	0	0	1	257	257

* Some figures have been revised.

Table 1.5 – Employment positions including managerial positions by province

Province	Full-time		Part-time		Vacant posts		Total posts (including vacancies)	
	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023
Western Cape	45 323	46 276	2 650	2 240	5 517	5 688	53 490	54 204
Eastern Cape	28 099	27 951	2 779	1 025	2 749	4 380	33 627	33 356
Northern Cape	7 614	7 440	626	625	974	929	9 214	8 994
Free State	15 981	15 094	68	55	1 579	1 071	17 628	16 220
KwaZulu-Natal	49 145	50 486	1 718	2 852	7 843	6 239	58 706	59 577
North West	13 184	12 977	379	79	1 928	2 165	15 491	15 221
Gauteng	94 135	93 219	808	1 650	11 386	11 098	106 329	105 967
Mpumalanga	14 417	14 291	57	517	3 995	3 343	18 469	18 151
Limpopo	13 851	13 001	80	18	2 434	2 832	16 365	15 851
South Africa	281 749	280 735	9 165	9 061	38 405	37 745	329 319	327 541

* 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	
		2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023
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	29	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	182	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	
	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023
Western Cape	1 498 726	1 529 556	1 671 310	1 695 497	1 314 740	1 368 441	1 387 583	1 420 782
Eastern Cape	1 622 643	1 667 482	1 423 448	1 467 367	1 719 446	1 744 529	814 603	836 302
Northern Cape	325 607	332 811	321 694	337 949	312 804	321 189	256 468	257 025
Free State	943 075	951 883	875 480	901 626	919 560	949 943	768 257	781 953
KwaZulu-Natal	2 848 667	2 927 844	2 044 708	2 079 545	2 427 128	2 508 636	1 798 914	1 854 550
North West	1 280 974	1 298 116	1 081 573	1 089 596	1 104 125	1 172 423	754 458	772 675
Gauteng	4 079 304	4 245 409	2 692 113	2 866 014	3 423 243	3 577 054	4 093 736	4 581 044
Mpumalanga	1 263 937	1 354 453	1 134 278	1 189 662	1 170 070	1 226 259	746 336	758 951
Limpopo	1 411 369	1 459 167	1 613 262	1 634 578	1 105 762	1 122 048	493 072	497 846
South Africa	15 274 302	15 766 721	12 857 866	13 261 834	13 496 878	13 990 522	11 113 427	11 761 128

* 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					
	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023
Western Cape	1 191 071	1 216 462	229 362	233 213	12 733	14 154	1 433 166	1 463 829	65 560	65 727	1 498 726	1 529 556
Eastern Cape	807 404	866 897	640 591	623 168	136 448	138 333	1 584 443	1 628 398	38 200	39 084	1 622 643	1 667 482
Northern Cape	256 916	260 023	52 097	54 999	7 749	8 944	316 762	323 966	8 845	8 845	325 607	332 811
Free State	826 818	833 228	74 971	75 349	3 842	5 862	905 631	914 439	37 444	37 444	943 075	951 883
KwaZulu-Natal	1 561 997	1 610 173	802 130	871 366	428 480	388 812	2 792 607	2 870 351	56 060	57 493	2 848 667	2 927 844
North West	838 567	851 760	212 661	223 698	129 351	121 722	1 180 579	1 197 180	100 395	100 936	1 280 974	1 298 116
Gauteng	3 424 486	3 588 193	410 162	409 757	36 186	38 390	3 870 834	4 036 340	208 470	209 069	4 079 304	4 245 409
Mpumalanga	961 496	1 016 020	172 680	200 879	69 427	76 764	1 203 603	1 293 663	60 334	60 790	1 263 937	1 354 453
Limpopo	785 714	832 943	443 746	439 255	160 645	165 705	1 390 105	1 437 903	21 264	21 264	1 411 369	1 459 167
South Africa	10 654 469	11 075 699	3 038 400	3 131 684	984 861	958 686	14 677 730	15 166 069	596 572	600 652	15 274 302	15 766 721

* 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	
	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023
Western Cape	1 134 051	1 175 615	54 808	63 024	537	537	4 958	5 458	59 673	62 092	1 254 027	1 306 726	60 713	61 715	1 314 740	1 368 441
Eastern Cape	703 936	725 630	36 043	35 879	12 300	11 228	858 397	862 604	78 511	78 929	1 689 187	1 714 270	30 259	30 259	1 719 446	1 744 529
Northern Cape	199 244	206 381	33 141	34 344	5 274	8 044	52 648	50 358	9 804	9 328	300 111	308 455	12 693	12 734	312 804	321 189
Free State	708 321	744 538	13 167	12 206	24 495	21 882	131 911	130 099	1 395	947	879 289	909 672	40 271	40 271	919 560	949 943
KwaZulu-Natal	905 232	917 737	171 333	176 121	0	0	1 001 520	1 065 225	301 276	300 353	2 379 361	2 459 436	47 767	49 200	2 427 128	2 508 636
North West	614 775	665 416	23 686	16 626	2 499	3 279	245 157	327 536	134 154	75 704	1 020 271	1 088 561	83 854	83 862	1 104 125	1 172 423
Gauteng	2 947 277	2 962 763	30 596	30 596	0	0	141 915	185 392	150 430	240 430	3 270 218	3 419 181	153 025	157 873	3 423 243	3 577 054
Mpumalanga	540 976	587 671	22 719	28 670	0	0	417 281	419 693	160 303	161 419	1 141 279	1 197 453	28 791	28 806	1 170 070	1 226 259
Limpopo	359 231	386 188	24 807	25 110	0	0	544 484	547 174	166 387	152 723	1 094 909	1 111 195	10 853	10 853	1 105 762	1 122 048
South Africa	8 113 043	8 371 939	410 300	422 576	45 105	44 970	3 398 271	3 593 539	1 061 933	1 081 925	13 028 652	13 514 949	468 226	475 573	13 496 878	13 990 522

* Some figures have been revised.

** Other includes non-ventilated pit toilets (unimproved pit latrines), chemical toilets, urine-diverting dry toilets (UDDT), etc.

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	
		2022*	2023
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	
		2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023
Western Cape	30	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26
Eastern Cape	39	14	14	33	33	14	14	31	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	43	43	14	14	38	37
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	16	16	16	16
Limpopo	27	10	9	22	22	10	9	18	18
South Africa	257	152	151	213	213	149	148	199	198

* 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	
	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023
Western Cape	24	25	2	1	20	20	6	6	25	25	1	1	26	26	0	0
Eastern Cape	12	12	2	2	31	31	2	2	12	13	2	1	29	30	2	1
Northern Cape	25	24	1	2	26	26	0	0	26	26	0	0	25	25	1	1
Free State	17	18	2	1	19	19	0	0	19	19	0	0	19	19	0	0
KwaZulu-Natal	14	13	1	2	40	39	3	4	12	13	2	1	36	35	2	2
North West	15	15	1	1	17	17	1	1	14	13	1	2	13	15	3	1
Gauteng	7	7	2	2	6	6	3	3	9	8	0	1	9	9	0	0
Mpumalanga	15	14	2	3	17	17	0	0	13	14	3	2	15	13	1	3
Limpopo	10	9	0	1	20	20	2	2	9	8	1	2	16	16	2	2
South Africa	139	137	13	15	196	195	17	18	139	139	10	10	188	188	11	10

* 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	
	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023
Western Cape	687 239	629 269	460 021	434 763	685 459	627 773	621 323	616 530
Eastern Cape	334 984	293 627	260 056	241 557	289 887	269 900	161 601	167 131
Northern Cape	65 719	68 696	67 561	71 484	58 505	62 352	61 301	64 568
Free State	158 649	171 468	158 218	171 513	158 597	171 682	158 566	171 662
KwaZulu-Natal	657 067	651 232	207 506	323 029	532 175	479 582	223 445	379 440
North West	96 179	95 464	118 773	107 092	86 574	79 764	95 562	93 963
Gauteng	408 667	364 153	423 746	357 414	410 089	364 653	421 521	372 001
Mpumalanga	79 596	84 994	75 875	74 680	74 827	81 956	75 878	81 761
Limpopo	107 096	121 223	68 333	68 214	44 779	51 437	26 901	34 144
South Africa	2 595 196	2 480 126	1 840 089	1 849 746	2 340 892	2 189 099	1 846 098	1 981 200

* Some figures have been revised.

Table 10.1 (a) – Number of municipalities using mechanisms to provide free basic services to indigent households for 2023: Water

Province	Number of municipalities	Number of municipalities implementing free basic water services	Self-targeting approach	Other approaches*
Western Cape	30	26	26	0
Eastern Cape	39	14	12	2
Northern Cape	31	26	26	0
Free State	23	19	19	0
KwaZulu-Natal	54	15	14	1
North West	22	16	16	0
Gauteng	11	9	9	0
Mpumalanga	20	17	16	1
Limpopo	27	9	8	1
South Africa	257	151	146	5

* Other approaches include the 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 2023: Electricity

Province	Number of municipalities	Number of municipalities implementing free basic electricity services	Self-targeting approach	Other approaches*
Western Cape	30	26	26	0
Eastern Cape	39	33	32	1
Northern Cape	31	26	26	0
Free State	23	19	19	0
KwaZulu-Natal	54	43	42	1
North West	22	18	18	0
Gauteng	11	9	9	0
Mpumalanga	20	17	16	1
Limpopo	27	22	21	1
South Africa	257	213	209	4

* Other approaches include the geographic and technical approaches.

Table 10.1 (c) – Number of municipalities using mechanisms to provide free basic services to indigent households for 2023: Sewerage and sanitation

Province	Number of municipalities	Number of municipalities implementing free basic sewerage and sanitation services	Self-targeting approach	Other approaches*
Western Cape	30	26	26	0
Eastern Cape	39	14	12	2
Northern Cape	31	26	26	0
Free State	23	19	19	0
KwaZulu-Natal	54	14	13	1
North West	22	15	15	0
Gauteng	11	9	9	0
Mpumalanga	20	16	15	1
Limpopo	27	9	8	1
South Africa	257	148	143	5

* Other approaches include the 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 2023: Solid waste management

Province	Number of municipalities	Number of municipalities implementing free basic solid waste management services	Self-targeting approach	Other approaches*
Western Cape	30	26	26	0
Eastern Cape	39	31	30	1
Northern Cape	31	26	26	0
Free State	23	19	19	0
KwaZulu-Natal	54	37	36	1
North West	22	16	16	0
Gauteng	11	9	9	0
Mpumalanga	20	16	15	1
Limpopo	27	18	17	1
South Africa	257	198	194	4

* Other approaches include the 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: 2023

Province	Number of municipalities	R1 985 and below	Between R1 986 and R3 970	Above R3 970
Western Cape	30	0	4	22
Eastern Cape	39	0	31	7
Northern Cape	31	0	7	19
Free State	23	0	4	15
KwaZulu-Natal	54	0	35	18
North West	22	0	12	6
Gauteng	11	0	2	7
Mpumalanga	20	1	12	4
Limpopo	27	1	18	7
South Africa	257	2	125	105

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	
	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023
Western Cape	390 293	318 562	376 958	309 470	387 338	316 622	375 478	308 024	377 546	309 924
Eastern Cape	399 302	368 110	185 140	190 088	251 940	231 764	184 360	166 361	160 464	157 368
Northern Cape	72 420	74 872	65 719	68 696	67 561	71 484	58 505	62 352	61 301	64 508
Free State	161 758	172 341	158 649	171 468	158 218	171 513	158 596	171 682	158 566	171 662
KwaZulu-Natal	739 564	1 068 078	640 374	651 232	207 506	323 029	471 206	479 382	184 558	378 363
North West	144 754	122 155	96 179	95 464	116 016	107 092	86 574	79 764	95 562	93 963
Gauteng	460 586	372 101	408 667	362 862	423 746	357 414	410 089	364 653	421 521	372 001
Mpumalanga	87 716	86 743	79 596	84 994	74 095	74 680	74 827	81 956	75 878	81 761
Limpopo	165 677	174 681	107 096	121 223	66 671	68 214	44 779	51 437	26 901	34 144
South Africa	2 622 070	2 757 643	2 118 378	2 055 497	1 753 091	1 721 812	1 864 414	1 765 611	1 562 297	1 663 694

* 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	
		2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023
Western Cape	30	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastern Cape	39	9	11	4	4	10	8	4	4
Northern Cape	31	3	3	0	0	1	3	2	4
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	1	0	0
Gauteng	11	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mpumalanga	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Limpopo	27	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Africa	257	21	23	7	7	11	12	6	8

* 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**	
	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023	2022*	2023
Western Cape	1 620	1 620	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastern Cape	37 182	39 269	6 253	8 904	22 252	21 339	10 910	13 755
Northern Cape	10 337	10 337	0	0	169	697	338	2 203
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	17 497	0	0
Gauteng	84 950	118 589	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mpumalanga	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Limpopo	5 232	3 544	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Africa	149 919	183 957	9 702	12 353	22 421	39 533	11 248	15 958

* Some figures have been revised.

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

Annexure A – Number of consumer units receiving water services and free basic water services by province and municipal category: 2023

Province	Category	Number of consumer units receiving water services	Number of consumer units receiving free basic water services	Percentage (%) contribution of those benefiting from free basic water services
Western Cape	Metro	893 524	506 269	56,7
	Local	635 138	122 980	19,4
	District	894	20	2,2
Eastern Cape	Metro	615 467	95 980	15,6
	Local	137 701	34 970	25,4
	District	914 314	162 677	17,8
Northern Cape	Metro	0	0	0,0
	Local	332 811	68 696	20,6
	District	0	0	0,0
Free State	Metro	289 580	66 812	23,1
	Local	662 303	104 656	15,8
	District	0	0	0,0
KwaZulu-Natal	Metro	1 240 807	599 478	48,3
	Local	430 668	18 555	4,3
	District	1 256 369	33 199	2,6
North West	Metro	0	0	0,0
	Local	1 255 773	95 464	7,6
	District	42 343	0	0,0
Gauteng	Metro	3 600 275	243 116	6,8
	Local	645 134	121 037	18,8
	District	0	0	0,0
Mpumalanga	Metro	0	0	0,0
	Local	1 354 453	84 994	6,3
	District	0	0	0,0
Limpopo	Metro	0	0	0,0
	Local	438 447	23 464	5,4
	District	1 020 720	97 759	9,6

Annexure B – Number of consumer units receiving electricity services and free basic electricity services by province and municipal category: 2023

Province	Category	Number of consumer units receiving electricity services	Number of consumer units receiving free basic electricity services	Percentage (%) contribution of those benefiting from free basic electricity services
Western Cape	Metro	1 147 981	304 661	26,5
	Local	547 420	130 087	23,8
	District	96	15	15,6
Eastern Cape	Metro	527 474	86 250	16,4
	Local	939 893	155 307	16,5
	District	0	0	0,0
Northern Cape	Metro	0	0	0,0
	Local	337 949	71 484	21,2
	District	0	0	0,0
Free State	Metro	259 427	66 812	25,8
	Local	642 199	104 701	16,3
	District	0	0	0,0
KwaZulu-Natal	Metro	792 514	230 000	29,0
	Local	1 278 961	93 029	7,3
	District	8 070	0	0,0
North West	Metro	0	0	0,0
	Local	1 089 596	107 092	9,8
	District	0	0	0,0
Gauteng	Metro	2 360 967	236 377	10,0
	Local	505 047	121 037	24,0
	District	0	0	0,0
Mpumalanga	Metro	0	0	0,0
	Local	1 189 662	74 680	6,3
	District	0	0	0,0
Limpopo	Metro	0	0	0,0
	Local	1 634 578	68 214	4,2
	District	0	0	0,0

Annexure C – Number of consumer units receiving sewerage and sanitation services and free basic sewerage and sanitation services by province and municipal category: 2023

Province	Category	Number of consumer units receiving sewerage and sanitation services	Number of consumer units receiving free basic sewerage and sanitation services	Percentage (%) contribution of those benefiting from free basic sewerage and sanitation services
Western Cape	Metro	759 148	506 269	66,7
	Local	609 197	121 489	19,9
	District	96	15	15,6
Eastern Cape	Metro	525 108	76 716	14,6
	Local	140 384	30 985	22,1
	District	1 079 037	162 199	15,0
Northern Cape	Metro	0	0	0,0
	Local	321 189	62 352	19,4
	District	0	0	0,0
Free State	Metro	288 364	66 812	23,2
	Local	661 579	104 870	15,9
	District	0	0	0,0
KwaZulu-Natal	Metro	901 433	446 400	49,5
	Local	365 655	17 820	4,9
	District	1 241 548	15 362	1,2
North West	Metro	0	0	0,0
	Local	1 107 859	79 764	7,2
	District	64 564	0	0,0
Gauteng	Metro	2 990 751	243 616	8,2
	Local	586 303	121 037	20,6
	District	0	0	0,0
Mpumalanga	Metro	0	0	0,0
	Local	1 226 259	81 956	6,7
	District	0	0	0,0
Limpopo	Metro	0	0	0,0
	Local	354 860	23 464	6,6
	District	767 188	27 973	3,7

Annexure D – Number of consumer units receiving solid waste management services and free basic solid waste management services by province and municipal category: 2023

Province	Category	Number of consumer units receiving solid waste management services	Number of consumer units receiving free basic solid waste management services	Percentage (%) contribution of those benefiting from free basic solid waste management services
Western Cape	Metro	891 967	493 126	55,3
	Local	528 719	123 389	23,3
	District	96	15	15,6
Eastern Cape	Metro	393 235	87 183	22,2
	Local	443 067	79 948	18,0
	District	0	0	0,0
Northern Cape	Metro	0	0	0,0
	Local	257 025	64 568	25,1
	District	0	0	0,0
Free State	Metro	250 737	66 812	26,6
	Local	531 216	104 850	19,7
	District	0	0	0,0
KwaZulu-Natal	Metro	1 234 282	316 117	25,6
	Local	620 268	63 323	10,2
	District	0	0	0,0
North West	Metro	0	0	0,0
	Local	772 675	93 963	12,2
	District	0	0	0,0
Gauteng	Metro	4 093 997	250 964	6,1
	Local	487 047	121 037	24,9
	District	0	0	0,0
Mpumalanga	Metro	0	0	0,0
	Local	758 951	81 761	10,8
	District	0	0	0,0
Limpopo	Metro	0	0	0,0
	Local	497 846	34 144	6,9
	District	0	0	0,0

Explanatory notes

Introduction	This publication contains results of the annual non-financial census of municipalities for the financial year ended 30 June 2023 and the revised figures for the financial year ended 30 June 2022. Stats SA has decided to review the NFCM survey during the 2025/2026 financial year. There will be no statistical release for this survey in 2026.
Scope of the survey	This survey covers selected non-financial information of all 257 municipalities for the 2022/2023 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	<div>0 Nil or not applicable</div> <div>* Revised</div> <div>Stats SA Statistics South Africa</div>
Comparability with the previous census	The 2023 non-financial census of municipalities is generally comparable with the 2022 non-financial census of municipalities.
Revision of data	Revised figures are mainly due to late submission of data to Stats SA, or respondents reporting revisions or corrections to their figures. Figures for 2023 are preliminary and subject to revision.

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 services	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 services	These services are provided by municipalities and include a minimum amount of water, electricity, sewerage and sanitation and solid waste management that is sufficient to cater for the basic needs of a poor household.
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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