



## Statistics SA Census 2022: SA population reaches 62 million

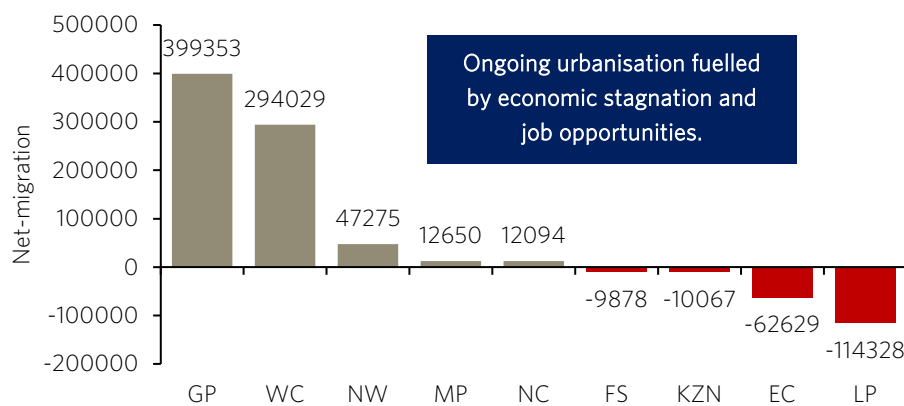
### Highlights



**Population**  
**62 027 503**

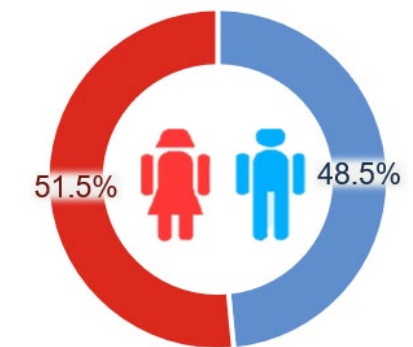
Up 19.8%  
since 2011

Number of households  
**almost doubled** since  
1996 to **17.8 million**



Positive net-migration registered in Gauteng (GP), Western Cape (WC), North West (NW), Mpumalanga (MP), and Northern Cape (NC)

Free State (FS), KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), Eastern Cape (EC) and Limpopo (LP) experienced negative net-migration



Gender demographic split

% of persons with  
**no schooling** ↓  
from 19.1% in 1996 to  
6.9% in 2022 =  
**more people are  
attending school**



**82.4%** of  
households had  
access to piped  
water (inside  
their dwelling or  
yard) in 2022



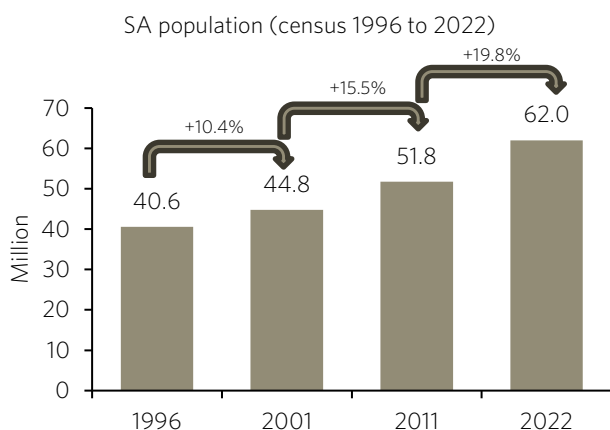
**94.7%** of  
households had  
access to  
electricity for  
lighting in 2022

All data in the publication is sourced from Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) unless otherwise stated.

## Population composition: Urbanisation continues in line with availability of job opportunities

South Africa's (SA) population grew by 10.3 million to 62 million between 2011 and 2022. The majority of the country's population resides in the three economic powerhouses: Gauteng, Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

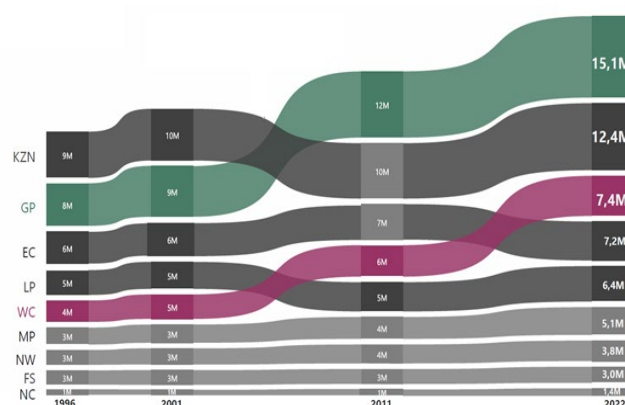
Population growth rate on the rise



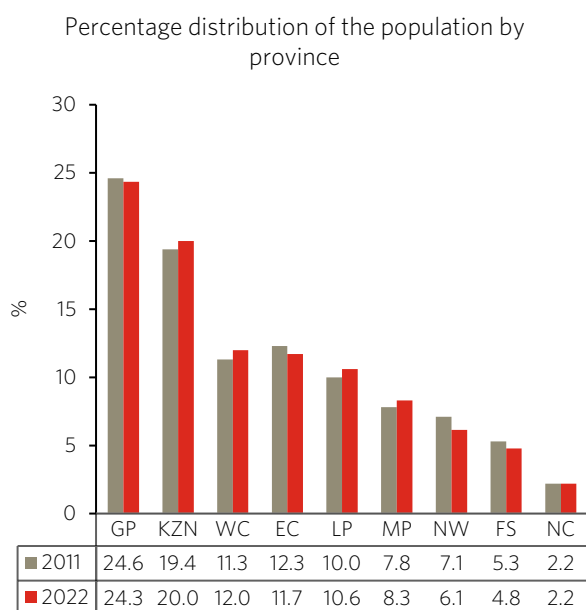
Between 2001 and 2011, GP overtook KZN as the most populated province.

WC is the third most populated province, moving up from fifth position in 1996.

MP, NW, FS and NC have experienced population growth over the years but retained their positions in the ranking.

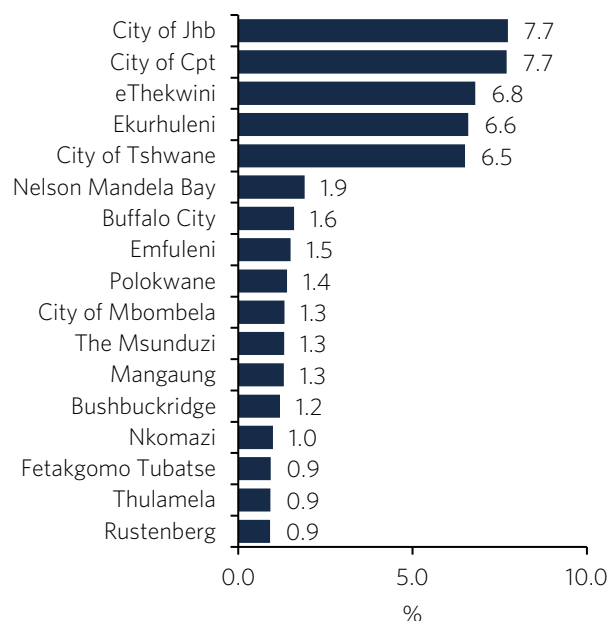


The proportion of the population living in GP, EC, NW and FS decreased from 2011 to 2022. KZN, WC, LP and MP recorded a higher proportion over the same period, while NC remained constant.



50% of the population lives in the 17 largest municipalities and 10% of the population lives in the smallest 95 municipalities.

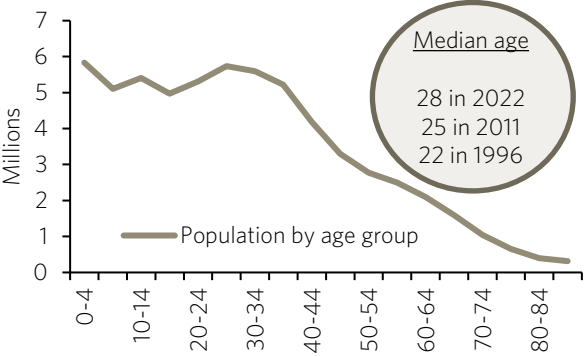
Population distribution in largest 17 municipalities



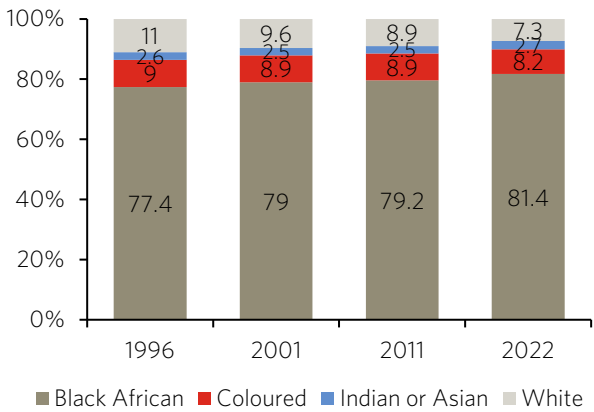
Demographics: Black African females speaking IsiZulu represent the majority of SA

The median age is rising, signalling declining fertility rates and/or rising life expectancy over the years. The majority of the population are young, Black African and female, with IsiZulu being the most popular language spoken.

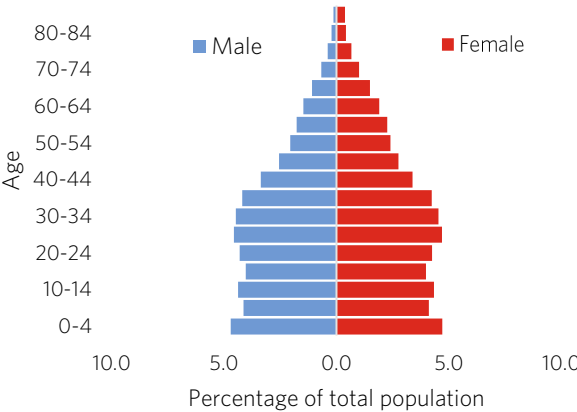
Population distribution is skewed to the younger age group but the median age is rising.



The proportion of coloureds and whites declined in 2022.

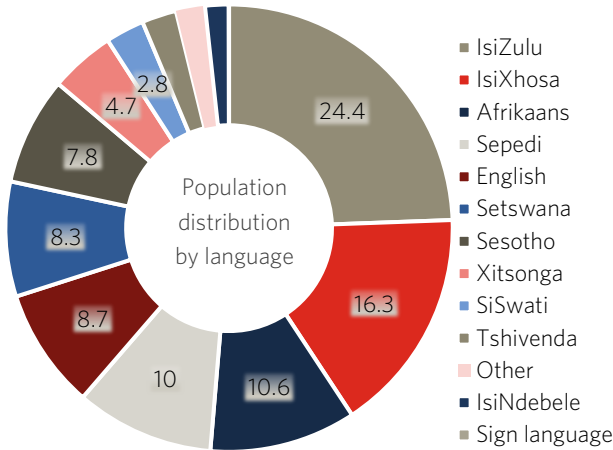


Females accounted for 51.5% of the population and males were 48.5%. Females have a higher life expectancy.



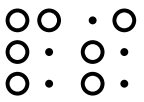
Dent in the population pyramid at ages 10 to 24 may be attributed to the Aids epidemic of the 1990s and 2000s.

Top three languages are IsiZulu, IsiXhosa and Afrikaans



Majority of the population (62.2%, up from 54% in 2011) has never been married. The proportion of people legally married and those living with a partner but not married is down to 24% (previously 29.9%) and 7.8% (previously 9.2%), respectively.

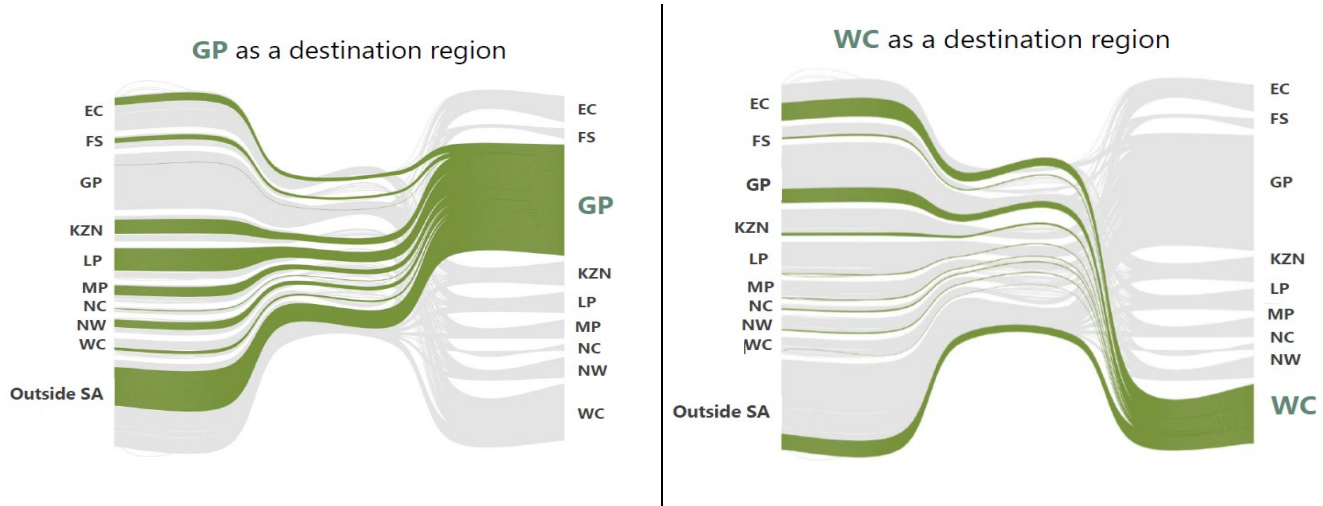
More than 4 in 5 persons believe in Christianity (85.3% of the population in 2022).



Prevalence of disability down from 7.4% in 2011 to 6% in 2022. Disability prevalence increases with age.

Migration trends; international migrants are just above 3% of SA's population

Gauteng and Western Cape were the top two migration destinations from within and outside of SA. The majority of international immigrants are from Zimbabwe and there is evidence of more SA residents leaving the country.



**Semigration risks:**

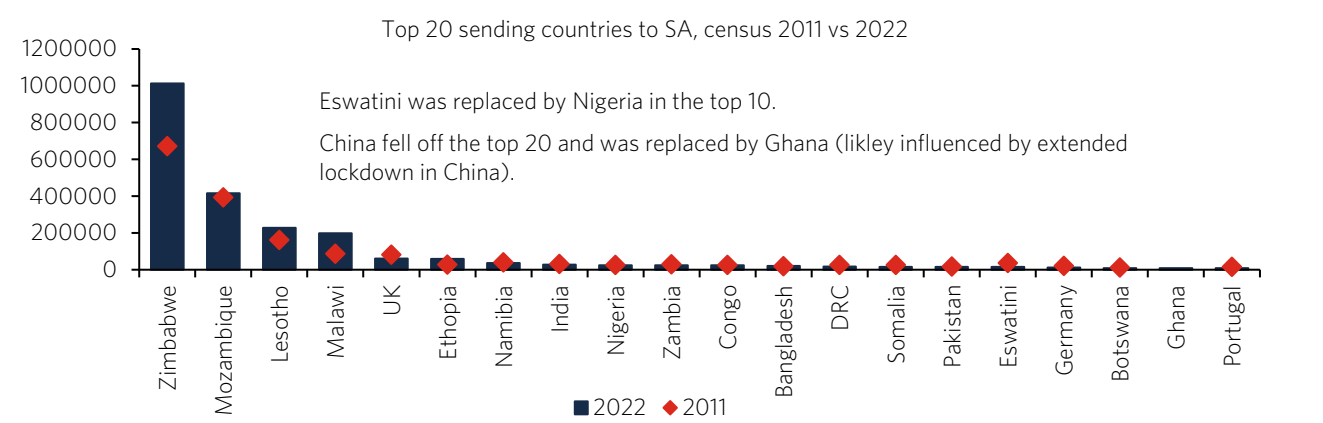
As the population grows in certain areas due to semigration, the probability of service delivery dropping increases relative to the higher influx of migrants.

There is a steady increase in the number of people born outside of SA.

Year	Population born outside of SA
1996	~800,000
2001	~1,000,000
2011	~2,200,000
2022	~2,400,000

Majority of immigrants are male and young adults aged between 20 and 44 years.

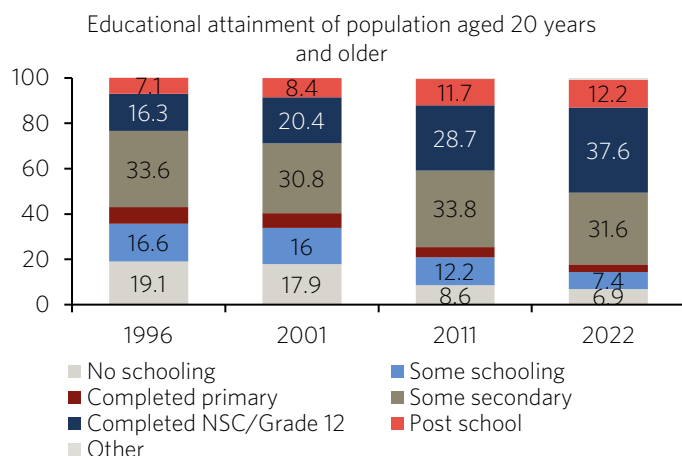
There were more than 2.4 million international migrants. An overwhelming majority of immigrants originate from Zimbabwe (accounting for 45.5% of migrants from the Southern African Development (SADC) region, or 1 million).



## Better access to education and school completion rates

The number of persons completing secondary (national senior certificate (NSC) or grade 12) and post-secondary education continued to increase. However, dropout rates are still a concern, particularly among the older scholars.

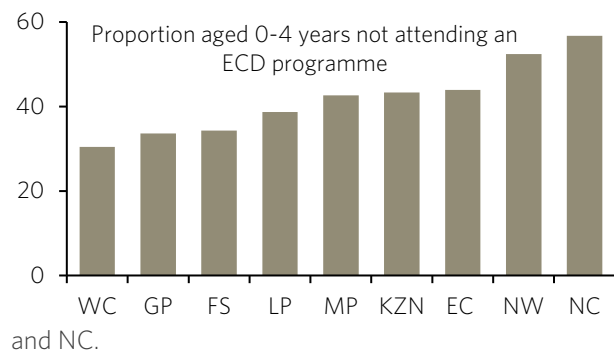
Percentage who completed matric more than doubled from 16.3% in 1996 to 37.6% in 2022.



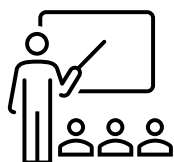
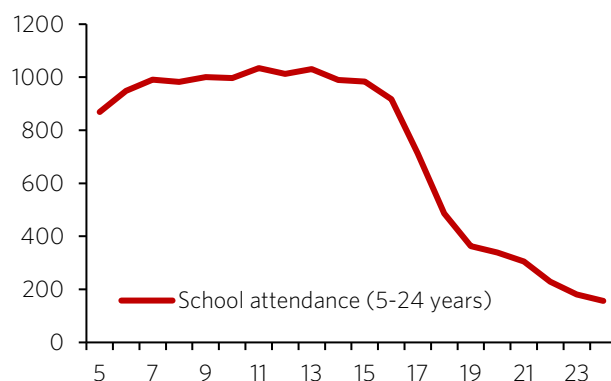
### Top 3 fields of study in 2022

- 1 **Education** - female dominated
- 2 **Engineering** - male dominated
- 3 **Business, Economics and Management Sciences** - female dominated

Most children aged 0 to 4 years attended a crèche (36%). Non-attendance of an early childhood development (ECD) programme is more prevalent in NW

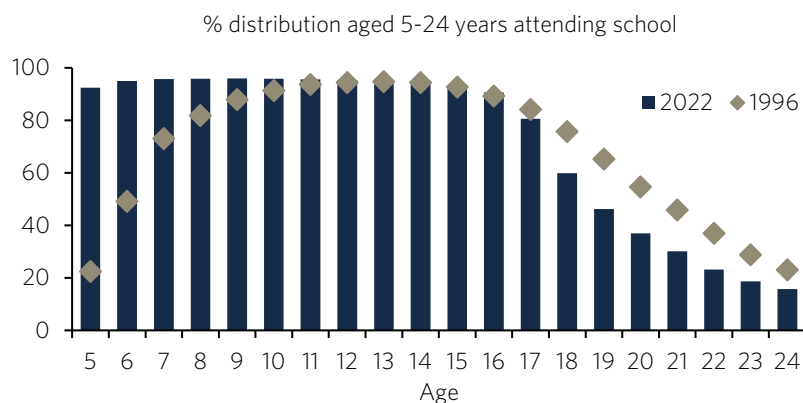


School attendance peaks around 11 to 13 year olds (grade 5 to 7) and starts to decline thereafter.



Across all the census years, EC, FS, MP and LP consistently displayed school attendance levels above the national average for individuals aged 5 to 24 years.

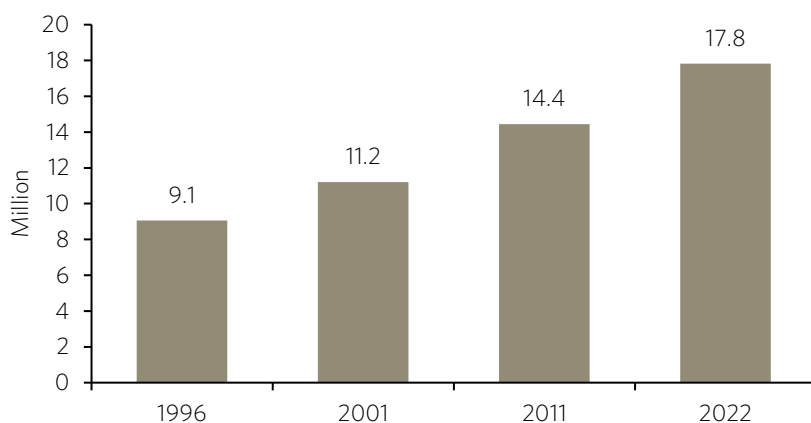
School attendance among 5 to 9-year-olds has improved significantly since 1996 but is lower among 17-year-olds and above.



## Amount and quality of housing improved but welfare needs attention

Higher number of households, boosted by urbanisation and government's Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP), has translated into a smaller average household size but homelessness remains a major socioeconomic problem.

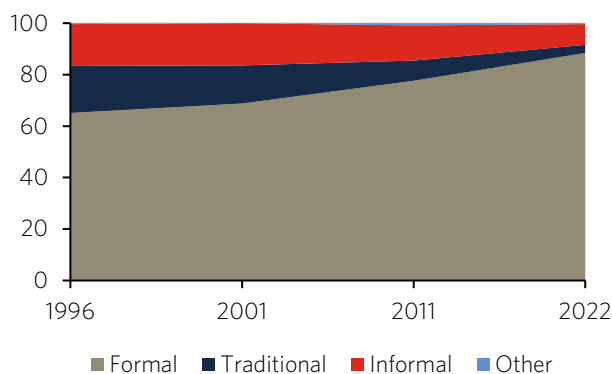
Number of households grew by 23.4% to 17.8 million between 2011 and 2022 but the rate of growth is slightly lower relative to 28.9% between 2001 and 2011.



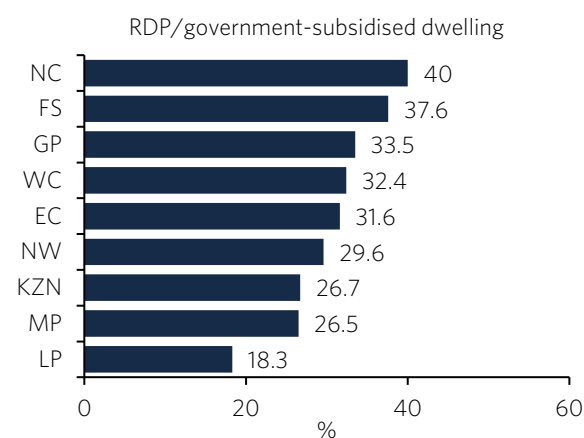
Average household size down to 3.5 from 3.6 in 2011.

KZN has the highest household size (4.4) and GP has the lowest (2.8).

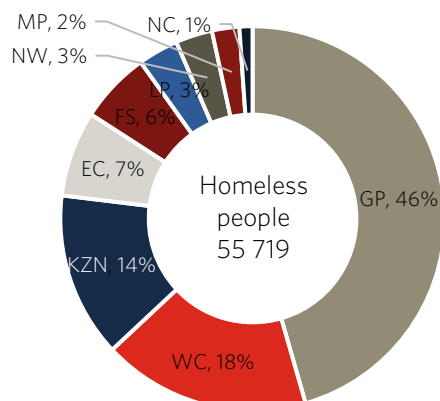
Households residing in formal dwellings (88.5% in 2022 from 65.1% in 1996) are overcrowding informal and traditional dwellings.



On average, 29.9% of SA households reside in dwellings either subsidised by the government or RDP.



Gauteng had the highest proportion of homeless people.



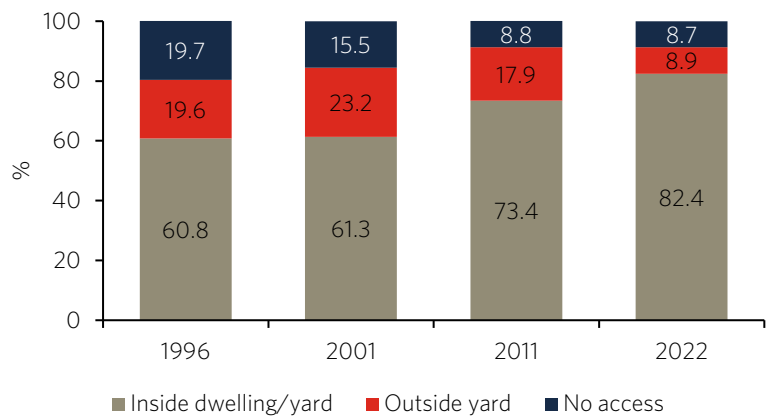
Stats SA adjusted the food poverty line up to R760 per person per month in 2023 (R663 in 2022).

On the other hand, National Treasury is expecting the number of grant recipients to decrease from 27.4 million in fiscal year 2023/24 to 19.6 million by March 2026 assuming a discontinuation of the Social Relief of Distress (SRD) grant, which is unlikely in our view. Homelessness coupled with the increasing cost of living necessitates some form of an extension of the SRD grant to prevent an escalation of homelessness.

General improvement in service delivery, but reliability of services still questionable

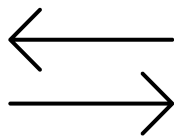
A higher proportion of the population has access to piped water, electricity for lighting and internet access.

Percentage of households with access to piped water inside dwelling/yard increased from 60.8% in 1996 to 82.4% in 2022.



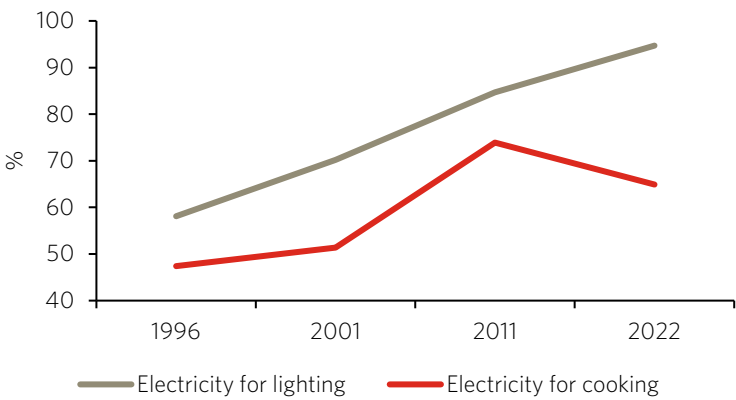
Access to piped water inside dwelling/yard was highest in GP (94.2%), followed by WC (93.1%), and lowest in LP (61.2%) where subsistence farming is more prevalent.

Radio continues to be replaced by TV and landlines are replaced by cellphones.

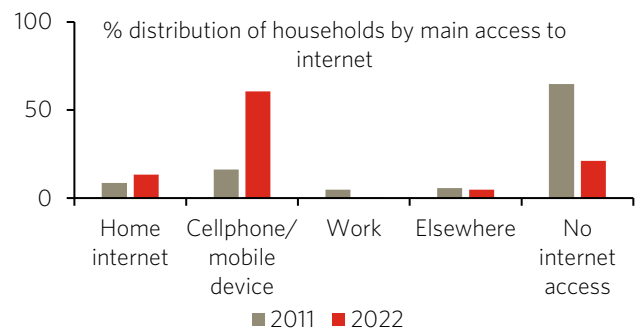


92.1% of households owned a cellphone in 2022, up from 88.9% in 2011.

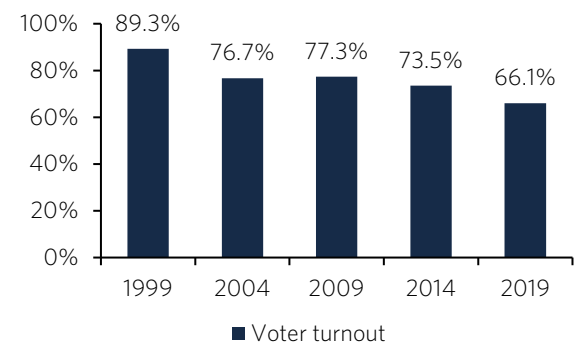
Access to electricity for lighting in SA up from 58.1% in 1996 to 94.7% in 2022. Above 90% across all provinces but loadshedding is a constraint.



Work from home environment and cellphone ownership influences internet access trends.



Declining voter turnout over the years. Unreliability of service delivery could dent this further.



Source: Independent Electoral Commission (IEC)



## Have you been counted?

Census 2022 was the first digital census in SA. Three methods were used to gather data and information, namely, computer-assisted personal interviews, computer-assisted web interviews, and computer-assisted telephonic interviews. According to Stats SA, the different modes of data collection were an advantage in conducting a census during the COVID-19 pandemic when movement was restricted and people had to isolate and maintain a safe distance. Apart from the pandemic, other challenges included climate change (flooding in other parts of the country) and the changing fiscal environment. These factors impacted the planning and the roll-out of the census which was initially scheduled for October 2021 but instead conducted in February 2022. Consequently, the results cover a 11-year period as opposed to the 10-year period initially planned.

SA conducts a de facto census meaning 'individuals are counted based on where they were on the census reference night'. The reference night for the 2022 census was midnight of 2 to 3 February 2022. Census was conducted between 3 February 2022 and 31 May 2022.

According to Stats SA, data quality measures are built in to ensure accuracy of results. These measures

include validation rules, monitoring, minimal editing and imputations, process and data evaluation by independent experts and a validation process.

The average national data collection rate was 94%. FS province had the highest rate of 98% followed by LP (97%) and 96% from KZN and GP (top two populated provinces). WC had the lowest rate of 82% (only province below 90%).

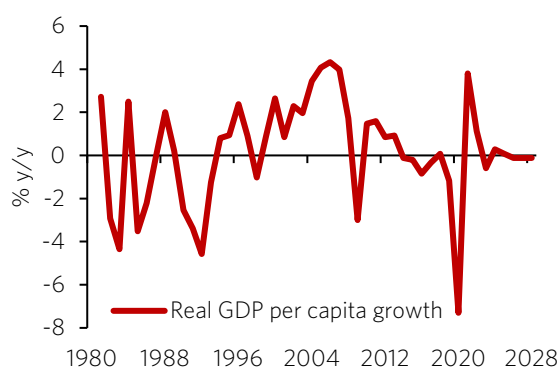
Conducting a census is a huge undertaking and is not immune to errors. To measure the accuracy (content error) and reach (coverage error) of the census, a post-enumeration survey (PES) is conducted shortly after the census process is completed. This process aims to 'identify and measure how many households and persons were erroneously included, missed or counted more than once in the census'. PES is conducted on a sample of the population. The PES results reveal that the net undercount rate for persons was 31.06% and 30.49% for households.

The estimate of the true population is derived using the census results and the PES estimates and adjustments.

## Rising social demands on the fiscus as SA's population grows in a weak economy

A crucial element of the census is to help in planning, decision making, and monitoring. Census 2022 results broadly indicate improvements in housing conditions, education and service delivery, however, the quality of services and the reliability of services are questionable leaving the country facing a high level of unemployment, loadshedding, water disruptions (despite higher access rates) and homelessness. This indicates the need to successfully implement reforms to address these structural constraints and grow the economy. Higher sustainable economic growth could lead to employment creation and higher standards of living across the population.

### Weak real GDP growth projected in the medium-term



Source: IMF, Momentum Investments



According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), real gross domestic product (GDP) per capita growth is estimated to be negative 0.6% in 2023 and average 0.2% over the medium-term as illustrated in the chart above. The negative and weak projection for real GDP per capita indicates that population growth is outpacing economic growth and this is weighing on standards of living.

As such, social demands are likely to continue climbing in a moribund economy, placing more pressure on an

already strained fiscus. Although government has touted plans to cut expenditure in response to declining tax revenues, it will be difficult to do so in the run up to an election year.

A relatively young population and a high number of stayaway voters complicates the election landscape. Moreover, semigration trends will likely also influence election results at the upcoming 2024 national elections.

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