

# FreeFACTS

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## Quality of life still shows racial, regional cleavages

This edition of *FreeFACTS* looks at the Quality of Life Index (QOLI), developed by the Centre for Risk Analysis.

It looks at ten indicators by race and province, such as matric pass rate, the proportion of people with access to electricity and sanitation, medical aid coverage, and murder rates. Using those indicators it then determines a quality of life for each of our nine provinces as well as black, Coloured, Indian, and white South Africans.

Unsurprisingly, there are clear racial and provincial cleavages in the findings. Gauteng and the Western Cape, our two most developed provinces, have the highest QOLI, with the lowest being Mpumalanga and the Eastern Cape, with Limpopo faring only slightly better.

Breaking the findings down by race, white South Africans have the highest QOLI, with Indians second. Black South Africans have the lowest score, with Coloured South Africans third.

The difference between provinces is reflected in migration patterns, where provinces such as Gauteng and the Western Cape have seen their populations increase rapidly over the past 25 years, with other provinces seeing much smaller increases, as people move to places with better prospects and a better quality of life.

The difference in the QOLI index will not surprise anyone with even a passing knowledge of South African history. However, it is also true that the lives of black and Coloured South Africans did improve in the immediate post-apartheid period, but to a large degree, those advances have stalled in the past 10 years.

This is a result of the governing African National Congress moving away from policies which encourage economic and employment growth but rather looking to statist policies which have failed across the world. Failing to implement growth-boosting policies (while at the same time fixing healthcare and education) will see a continued decline in the quality of life measure for all, which has serious implications for South Africa's future.

An unstable and possibly even more violent South Africa is inevitable unless people's lives begin to once again improve.

— **Marius Roodt**

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## Quality of Life

Quality of Life Index (QOLI)						
Province	Matric pass rate	Unemployment (expanded definition)	Spending R10 000 or more per month	Dwellings owned but not yet paid off to bank	Access to piped water	Electricity for cooking
Eastern Cape	7.7	4.7	1.0	0.3	7.4	8.0
Free State	8.8	5.9	1.3	0.4	9.2	8.8
Gauteng	8.7	6.1	2.6	1.1	9.8	8.8
KwaZulu-Natal	8.1	5.4	1.2	0.4	8.5	8.7
Limpopo	7.3	5.4	0.9	0.1	7.0	6.5
Mpumalanga	8.0	5.5	1.3	0.3	8.5	7.4
North West	8.7	5.4	1.2	0.3	8.2	8.4
Northern Cape	7.7	5.5	1.8	0.4	9.4	8.6
Western Cape	8.2	7.3	3.6	1.5	9.9	8.5
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>8.3</b>

  

Province	Access to a basic sanitation facility	Waste removal	Medical aid coverage	Murder rate	Index score 1
Eastern Cape	8.7	7.0	1.1	4.2	5.0
Free State	8.1	3.9	1.5	6.7	5.5
Gauteng	9.1	8.1	2.5	7.0	6.4
KwaZulu-Natal	8.1	7.6	1.3	5.7	5.5
Limpopo	6.3	7.5	1.0	8.5	5.1
Mpumalanga	6.4	3.5	1.3	7.7	5.0
North West	6.9	6.7	1.6	7.9	5.5
Northern Cape	8.3	5.9	1.9	7.4	5.7
Western Cape	9.6	9.4	2.4	4.2	6.5
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>5.7</b>

  

Race	Matric pass rate	Unemployment (expanded definition)	Spending R10 000 or more per month	Dwellings owned but not yet paid off to bank	Access to piped water	Electricity for cooking
Black	8.1	5.4	1.0	0.3	8.6	8.2
Coloured	8.2	6.7	3.0	1.4	9.8	8.7
Indian/Asian	8.1	7.4	5.5	2.2	9.9	9.0
White	8.2	8.6	7.0	2.7	9.4	8.4
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>8.3</b>

  

Race	Access to a basic sanitation facility	Waste removal	Medical aid coverage	Murder rate	Index score 1 <sup>a</sup>	Index score 2 <sup>a</sup>
Black	7.9	6.9	1.1	(6.4)	5.3	5.4
Coloured	9.6	8.9	2.1	(6.4)	6.5	6.5
Indian/Asian	9.9	8.9	4.7	(6.4)	7.3	7.2
White	9.9	9.2	7.2	(6.4)	7.8	7.7
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>(6.4)</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>5.7</b>

Source: Centre for Risk Analysis, *Macro Review: South Africa's Quality of Life*, January 2021

a Does not factor in the murder rate.

b Takes into account the murder rate.

The QOLI Index provides an overview of the quality of life in South Africa. The Index is based on ten weighted indicators that are indicative of the quality of life of a person or household. Each indicator has been translated into a score of between 0 and 10. A score closer to 0 would indicate poor performance on the indicator in question. Inversely, a score closer to 10 would indicate better performance. Statistics for the murder rate by race were unavailable therefore two composite scores are included, with one taking into account the murder rate and the other not. As can be seen there is no significant difference. The following sections examine each of the indicators and show how the QOLI score was determined.

## Quality of Life

QOLI – Matric pass rate		
Province	Proportion passed	Score
Eastern Cape	76.5%	7.7
Free State	88.4%	8.8
Gauteng	87.2%	8.7
KwaZulu-Natal	81.3%	8.1
Limpopo	73.2%	7.3
Mpumalanga	80.3%	8.0
North West	86.8%	8.7
Northern Cape	76.5%	7.7
Western Cape	82.3%	8.2
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>81.3%</b>	<b>8.1</b>
Race		
Black	81.0%	8.1
Coloured	81.7%	8.2
Indian/Asian	81.0%	8.1
White	82.0%	8.2
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>81.3%</b>	<b>8.1</b>

Source: Centre for Risk Analysis, *Macro Review: South Africa's Quality of Life*, January 2021

This indicator looked at expanded unemployment in 2020 in South Africa — this includes not only those who are looking for work but also those who have given up looking for work but would do so if given the opportunity (discouraged workseekers). Apart from the Western Cape the situation in South Africa is dire, only that province has an unemployment rate of below 30% and Gauteng is the only other province below 40%. In the Eastern Cape more than half of all people are unemployed, an untenable situation. Nearly half of all black South Africans are unemployed and a third of Coloured South Africans. A much lower proportion of whites have no job.

This shows the matric pass rate for 2019. Most provinces did fairly well on this indicator with only two provinces having pass rates of below 80%. There were also not significant differences in the pass rates of the various race groups.

QOLI – Unemployment		
Province	Rate (expanded)	Score (expanded definition)
Eastern Cape	52.8%	4.7
Free State	41.2%	5.9
Gauteng	38.7%	6.1
KwaZulu-Natal	46.2%	5.4
Limpopo	46.5%	5.4
Mpumalanga	45.4%	5.5
North West	46.3%	5.4
Northern Cape	45.1%	5.5
Western Cape	27.3%	7.3
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>42.0%</b>	<b>5.8</b>
Race		
Black	46.3%	5.4
Coloured	33.1%	6.7
Indian/Asian	26.2%	7.4
White	14.3%	8.6
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>42.0%</b>	<b>5.8</b>

Source: Centre for Risk Analysis, *Macro Review: South Africa's Quality of Life*, January 2021

## Quality of Life

QOLI – Household spending		
Province	Households spending more than R10 000	Spending R10 000 or more per month
Eastern Cape	9.8%	1.0
Free State	12.8%	1.3
Gauteng	25.7%	2.6
KwaZulu-Natal	11.9%	1.2
Limpopo	8.5%	0.9
Mpumalanga	12.5%	1.3
North-West	11.9%	1.2
Northern Cape	18.0%	1.8
Western Cape	35.9%	3.6
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>18.3%</b>	<b>1.8</b>
Race		
Black	10.5%	1.0
Coloured	29.9%	3.0
Indian/Asian	54.6%	5.5
White	69.6%	7.0
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>18.3%</b>	<b>1.8</b>

Source: Centre for Risk Analysis, *Macro Review: South Africa's Quality of Life*, January 2021

This indicator effectively shows how many people live in homes which are bonded to a bank. Because being able to pay for a mortgage implies having a job or being a business owner with a certain level of income the higher this indicator the higher the level of development. As has been the pattern the Western Cape and Gauteng did best on this indicator, as did white and Indian South Africans.

This indicator shows the proportion of households that spend more than R10 000 a month. The Western Cape had the highest proportion with nearly 40% of the households in that province spending more than R10 000 per month, followed by Gauteng, where a quarter spent more than R10 000 a month. Less than 10% of households spent more than R10 000 a month in the Eastern Cape and Limpopo. Only 10% of black households spent over that amount of month, compared to more than two-thirds of white households.

QOLI – Dwellings		
Province	Dwellings owned but not yet fully paid off proportions	Dwellings owned but not yet fully paid off
Eastern Cape	3.1%	0.3
Free State	3.9%	0.4
Gauteng	10.5%	1.1
KwaZulu-Natal	4.1%	0.4
Limpopo	1.2%	0.1
Mpumalanga	3.3%	0.3
North-West	2.6%	0.3
Northern Cape	4.0%	0.4
Western Cape	14.5%	1.5
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>6.6%</b>	<b>0.7</b>
Race		
Black	3.3%	0.3
Coloured	13.5%	1.4
Indian/Asian	22.0%	2.2
White	26.7%	2.7
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>6.6%</b>	<b>0.7</b>

Source: Centre for Risk Analysis, *Macro Review: South Africa's Quality of Life*, January 2021

## Quality of Life

QOLI – Water access		
Province	Proportion with access to piped water	Access to piped water
Eastern Cape	73.9%	7.4
Free State	92.0%	9.2
Gauteng	97.6%	9.8
KwaZulu-Natal	85.4%	8.5
Limpopo	70.1%	7.0
Mpumalanga	85.1%	8.5
North-West	82.1%	8.2
Northern Cape	94.0%	9.4
Western Cape	98.5%	9.9
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>88.2%</b>	<b>8.8</b>
Race		
Black	86.3%	8.6
Coloured	98.3%	9.8
Indian/Asian	98.6%	9.9
White	94.0%	9.4
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>88.2%</b>	<b>8.8</b>

Source: Centre for Risk Analysis, *Macro Review: South Africa's Quality of Life*, January 2021

Limpopo and Mpumalanga fare the worst on this scale, with the Eastern Cape doing only slightly better, with the Free State topping this indicator. Black South Africans have access to electricity for cooking at slightly below the national average.

The availability of clean, piped water is a good proxy to show levels of service of delivery and thus quality of life. In four provinces do more than 90% of people have access to piped water (Free State, Gauteng, Northern Cape, and Western Cape) with relatively high levels of access for each of the four race groups.

Quality of Life Index – Electricity Access		
Province	Proportion with access to electricity for cooking	Electricity for cooking
Eastern Cape	79.7%	8.0
Free State	88.3%	8.8
Gauteng	87.6%	8.8
KwaZulu-Natal	86.5%	8.7
Limpopo	65.0%	6.5
Mpumalanga	74.4%	7.4
North-West	84.1%	8.4
Northern Cape	86.0%	8.6
Western Cape	84.7%	8.5
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>82.9%</b>	<b>8.3</b>
Race		
Black	82.1%	8.2
Coloured	87.4%	8.7
Indian/Asian	90.3%	9.0
White	84.3%	8.4
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>82.9%</b>	<b>8.3</b>

Source: Centre for Risk Analysis, *Macro Review: South Africa's Quality of Life*, January 2021

## Quality of Life

Quality of Life Index – Sanitation		
Province	Proportion with access to a basic sanitation facility	Access to a basic sanitation facility
Eastern Cape	87.3%	8.7
Free State	80.7%	8.1
Gauteng	90.9%	9.1
KwaZulu-Natal	81.0%	8.1
Limpopo	63.0%	6.3
Mpumalanga	63.7%	6.4
North-West	68.8%	6.9
Northern Cape	83.4%	8.3
Western Cape	96.0%	9.6
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>82.3%</b>	<b>8.2</b>
Race		
Black	78.7%	7.9
Coloured	96.3%	9.6
Indian/Asian	98.8%	9.9
White	99.4%	9.9
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>82.3%</b>	<b>8.2</b>

Source: Centre for Risk Analysis, *Macro Review: South Africa's Quality of Life*, January 2021

This indicator shows the proportion of people that have regular waste removal, another good proxy for service delivery metrics. The Free State and Mpumalanga fare the worst, by far, with the Western Cape doing the best, by some distance.

This indicator shows the proportion of households which have access to a pit latrine, chemical toilet, or flush toilet. Limpopo, Mpumalanga, and North-West are the provinces which fare worst with Gauteng and the Western Cape having the best rating. Coloured, Indian, and white South Africans have very high levels of access to a basic sanitation facility.

Quality of Life Index – Waste removal		
Province	Proportion that experience no or irregular waste removal	Waste removal
Eastern Cape	29.8%	7.0
Free State	61.1%	3.9
Gauteng	19.0%	8.1
KwaZulu-Natal	24.3%	7.6
Limpopo	24.7%	7.5
Mpumalanga	65.2%	3.5
North-West	32.9%	6.7
Northern Cape	41.4%	5.9
Western Cape	6.4%	9.4
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>27.4%</b>	<b>7.3</b>
Race		
Black	31.5%	6.9
Coloured	11.5%	8.9
Indian/Asian	11.1%	8.9
White	7.9%	9.2
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>27.4%</b>	<b>7.3</b>

Source: Centre for Risk Analysis, *Macro Review: South Africa's Quality of Life*, January 2021

## Quality of Life

Quality of Life Index – Medical aid coverage		
Province	Proportion with medical aid coverage	Medical aid coverage
Eastern Cape	10.8%	1.1
Free State	14.7%	1.5
Gauteng	24.9%	2.5
KwaZulu-Natal	13.1%	1.3
Limpopo	9.9%	1.0
Mpumalanga	12.6%	1.3
North-West	16.3%	1.6
Northern Cape	19.3%	1.9
Western Cape	24.1%	2.4
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>17.2%</b>	<b>1.7</b>
Race		
Black	10.8%	1.1
Coloured	20.6%	2.1
Indian/Asian	47.3%	4.7
White	72.4%	7.2
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>17.2%</b>	<b>1.7</b>

Source: Centre for Risk Analysis, *Macro Review: South Africa's Quality of Life*, January 2021

Figures for murder by race are not available but this shows that there are significant regional differences in murder rates. Limpopo had a low murder rate by South African standards, nearly four times lower than the Western Cape. It, along with KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape, are the only provinces with murder rates above the national average.

Medical aid coverage is a good proxy for income level and whether a person has a formal job. Gauteng performs best here, closely followed by the Western Cape. The two provinces with the lowest level of employment, Eastern Cape and Limpopo, fare worst. Only 10% of black households are covered by medical aid, compared to nearly three quarters of white households.

Quality of Life Index – Murder rate		
Province	Murders per 100 000 people	Murder rate
Eastern Cape	58	4.2
Free State	33	6.7
Gauteng	30	7.0
KwaZulu-Natal	43	5.7
Limpopo	15	8.5
Mpumalanga	23	7.7
North-West	21	7.9
Northern Cape	26	7.4
Western Cape	58	4.2
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>6.4</b>

Source: Centre for Risk Analysis, *Macro Review: South Africa's Quality of Life*, January 2021