

Income & Expenditure Survey 2022/2023

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Income and Expenditure Patterns in South Africa



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Household income in South Africa

Total annual *household
income



In 2023, total annual household income by South African households amounted to R4,3 trillion

Average annual
household income



Average annual household income was R204 359

Median annual
household income



Median annual household income was R95 770

***Household income** refers to all money received from salary, wages or own business, investments, allowances, plus remittances from family members living elsewhere, state pension or grant as well as money benefits from employer.



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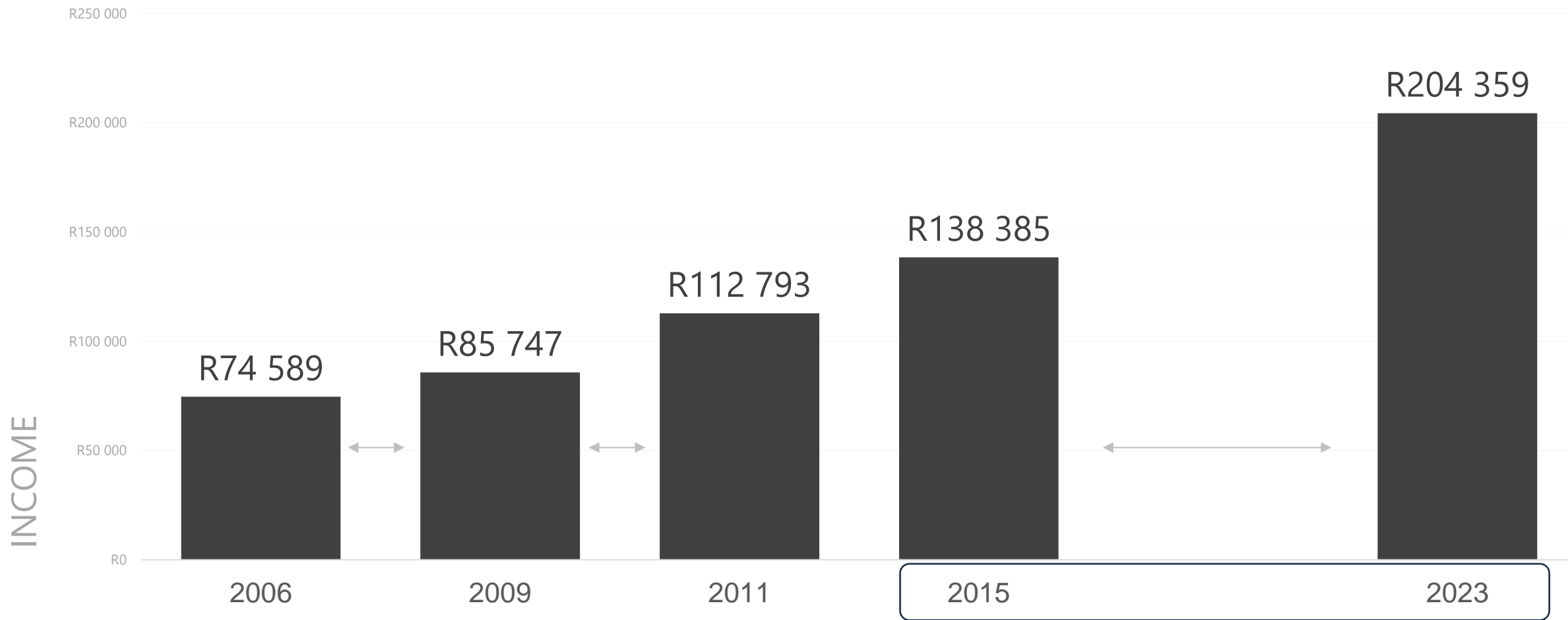
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Nominal income trend: 2006 to 2023

Source: Income & Expenditure Survey 2022/2023

Average nominal household income between 2006 and 2023



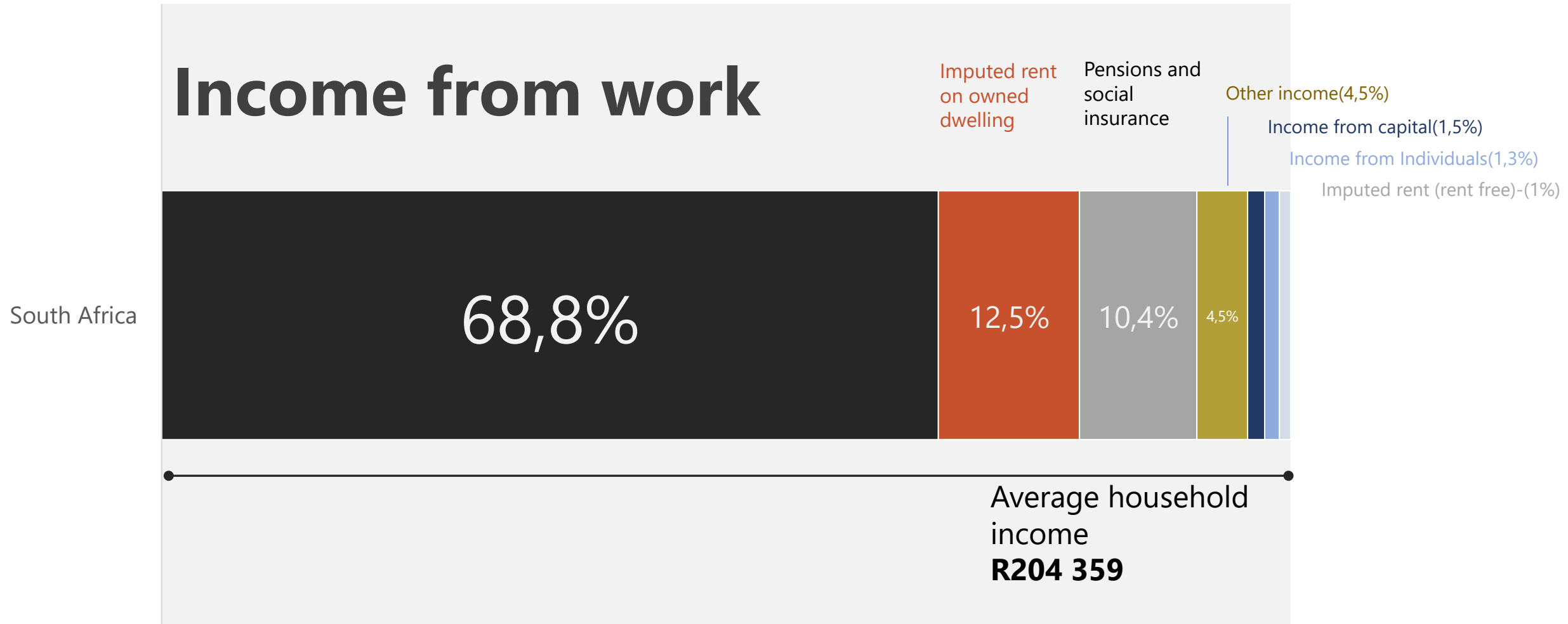
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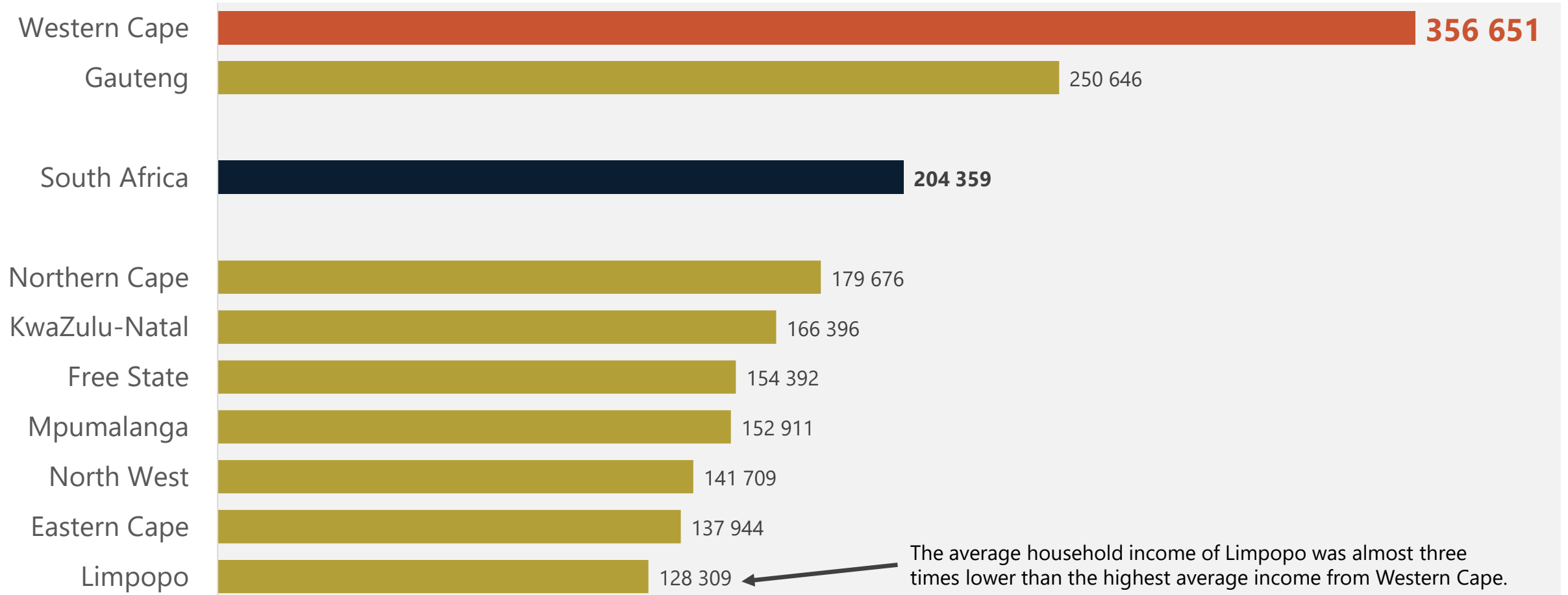
Nationally, most of the income (almost 70%) was earned from work

Average annual household income, 2023



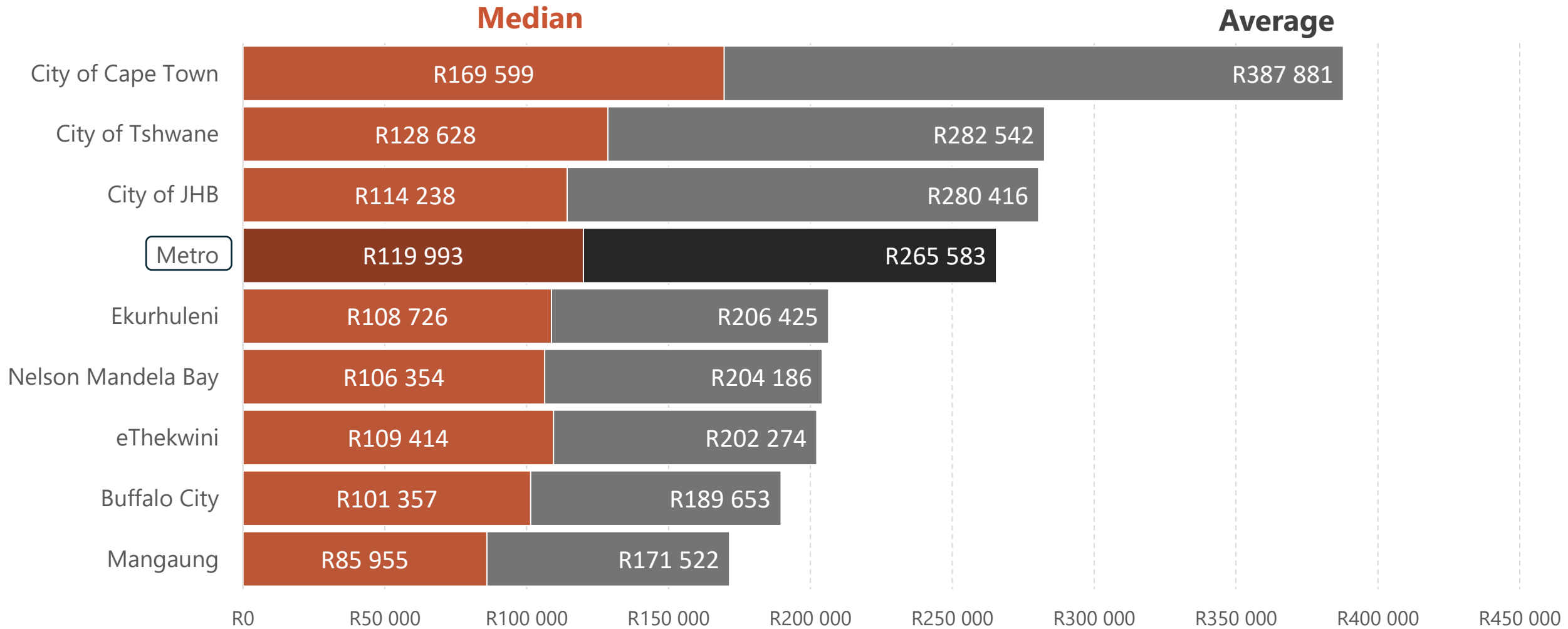
The Western Cape has the highest average income when compared to other provinces.

Average annual household income (Rands) by province 2023



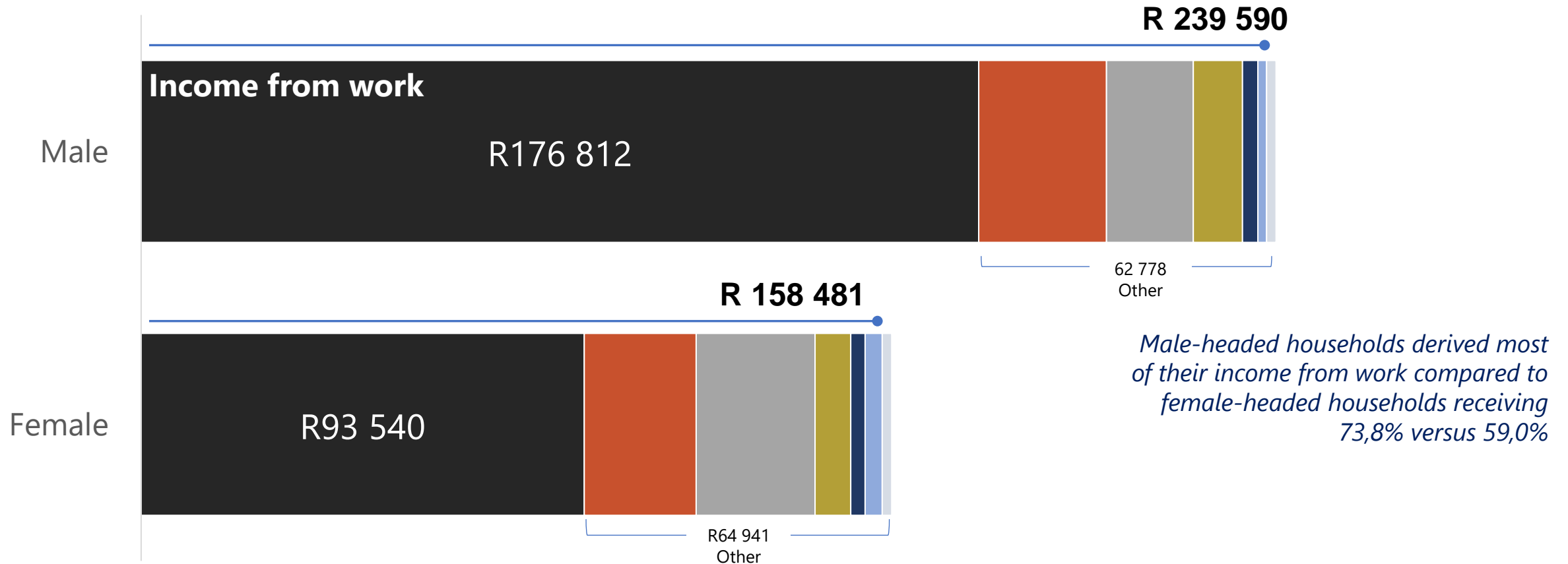
City of Cape Town had the highest average (R387 881) and median (R169 599) household income

Average and median household income by metropolitan area, 2023



Female-headed households earned significantly less income than male counterparts

Average annual household income by sex of household head, 2023

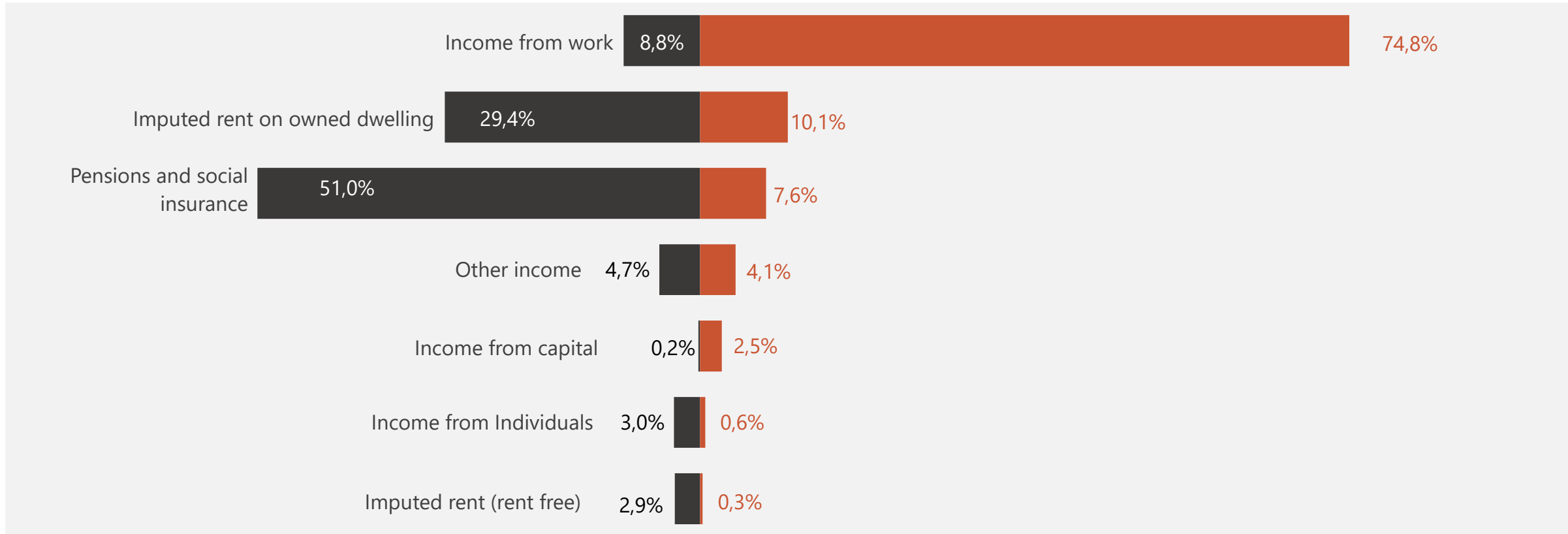


Lower-income households relied mainly on pensions and social insurance

Percentage distribution of annual income of South African households by per capita income deciles, 2023

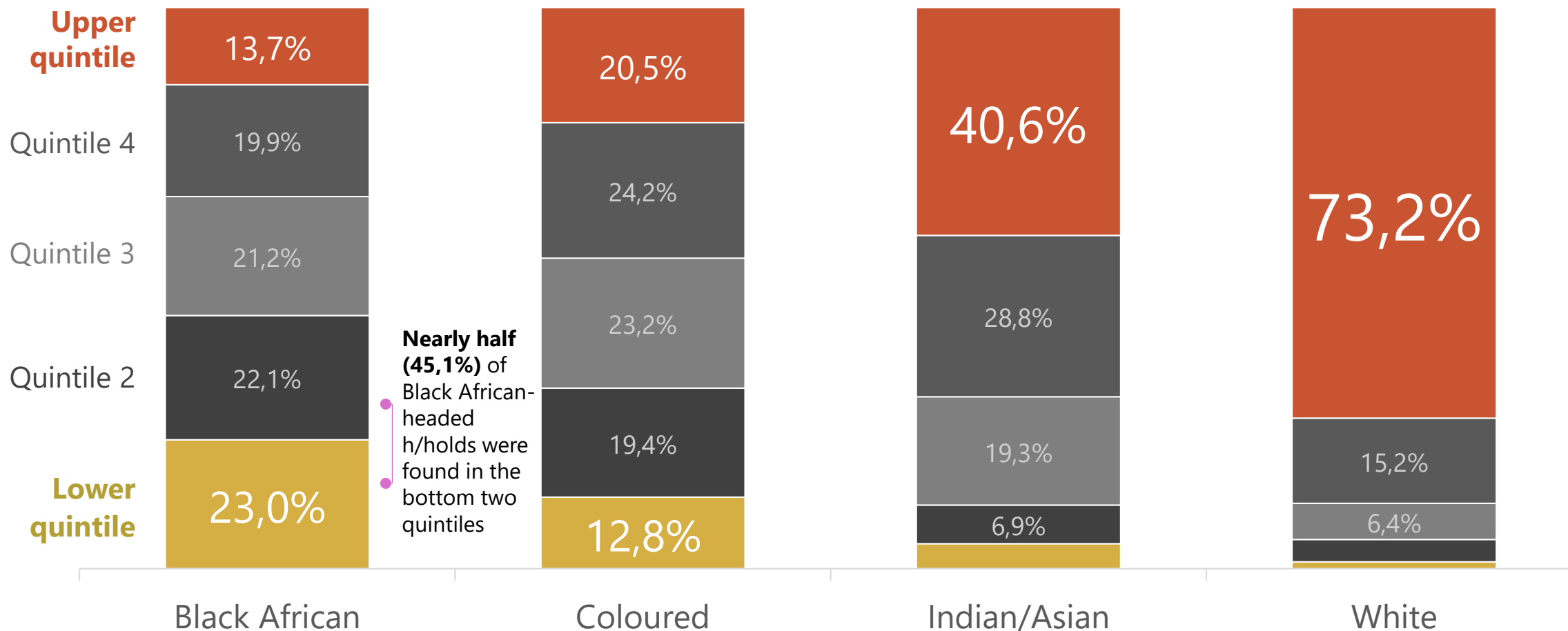
Decile 1 (Poorest Decile)

Decile 10 (Wealthiest Decile)



Close to three quarters of White-headed h/holds were found in the upper quintile

Percentage distribution of households by income per capita quintiles and population group of the household head, 2023



Income and expenditure patterns in South Africa



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Household consumption expenditure in South Africa

Total annual *household
consumption expenditure



In 2023, total annual household consumption expenditure by South African households amounted to R3,0 trillion

Average annual household
consumption expenditure



Average annual household consumption expenditure was R143 691

Median annual household
consumption expenditure

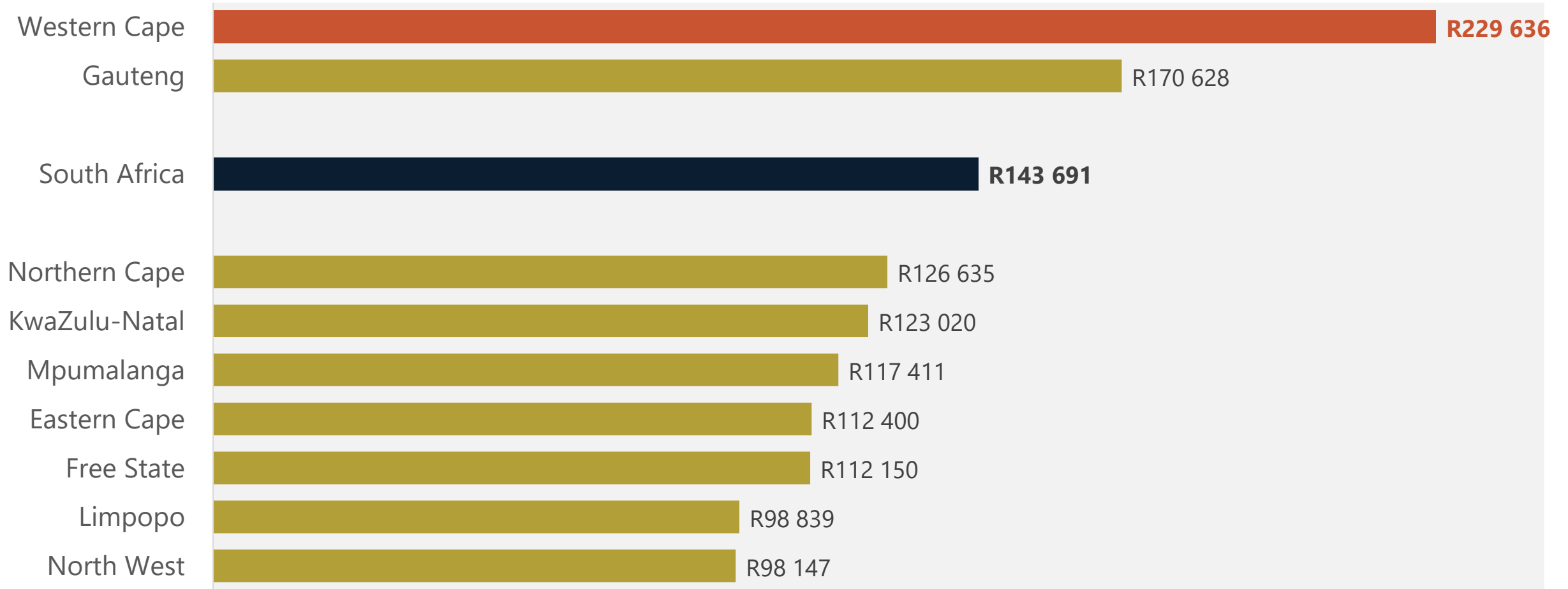


Median annual household consumption expenditure R82 861

* **Household consumption expenditure** refers to expenditure on goods and services acquired and privately used by household members including imputed values for items produced and consumed by the household itself

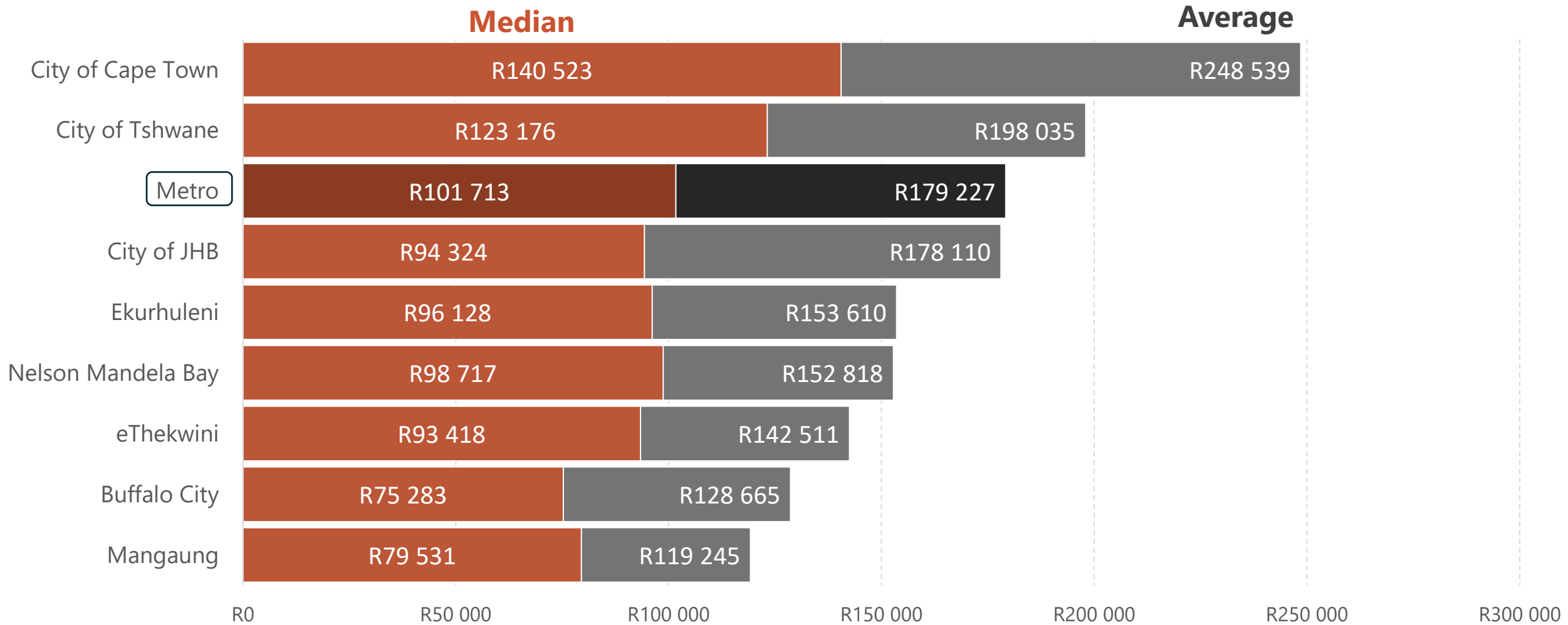
Households in WC (R229 636) spent more than twice the amount spent by households in NW & LP

Average annual household consumption expenditure by province, 2023



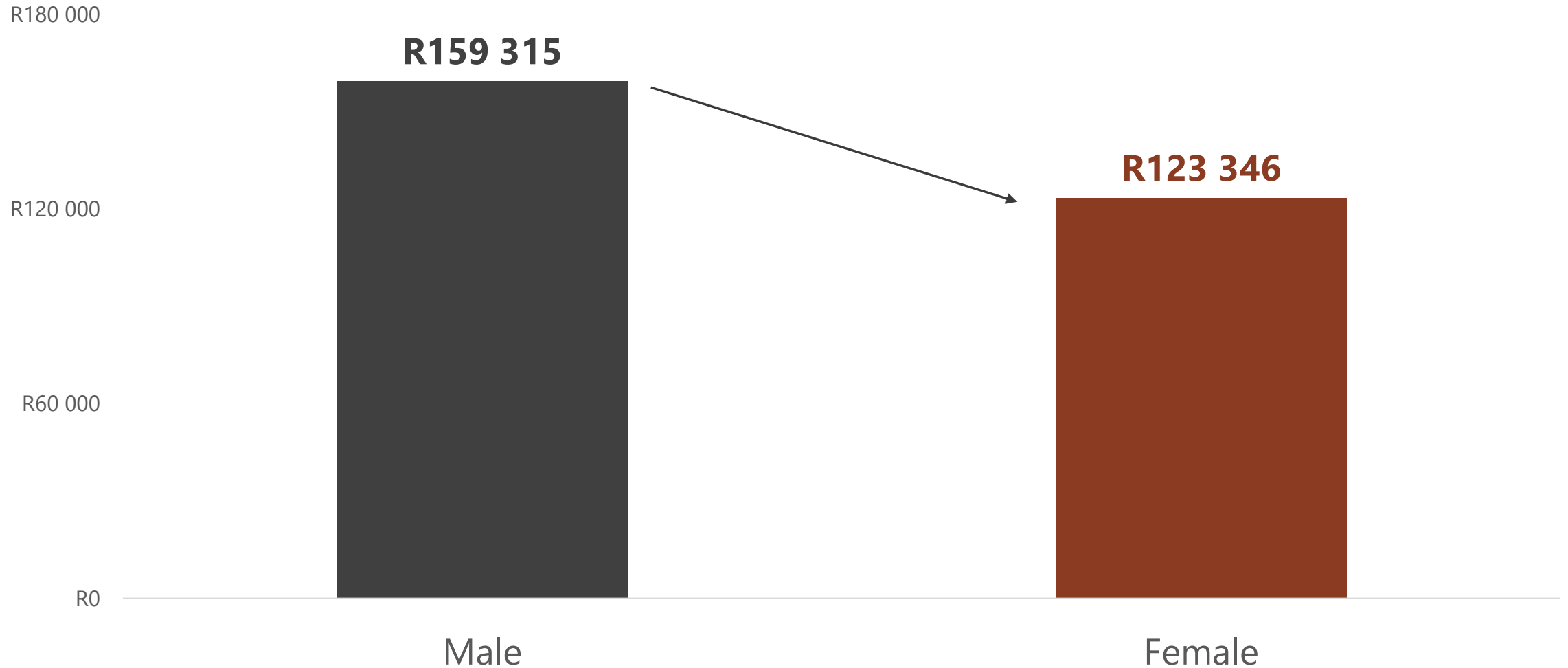
The average household consumption expenditure for metropolitan areas was R179 227

Average and median household consumption expenditure by metropolitan area, 2023



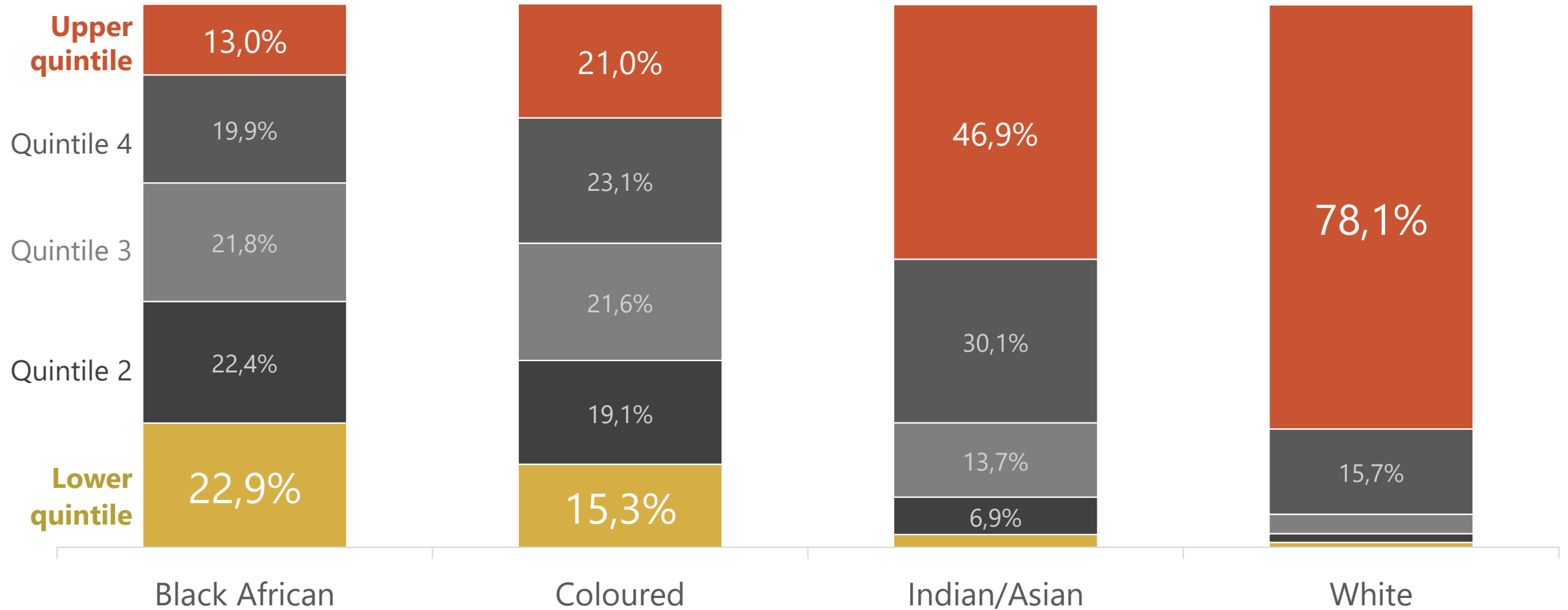
Male-headed households spent more than female-headed households in 2023

Average annual household consumption expenditure by sex of household head, 2023



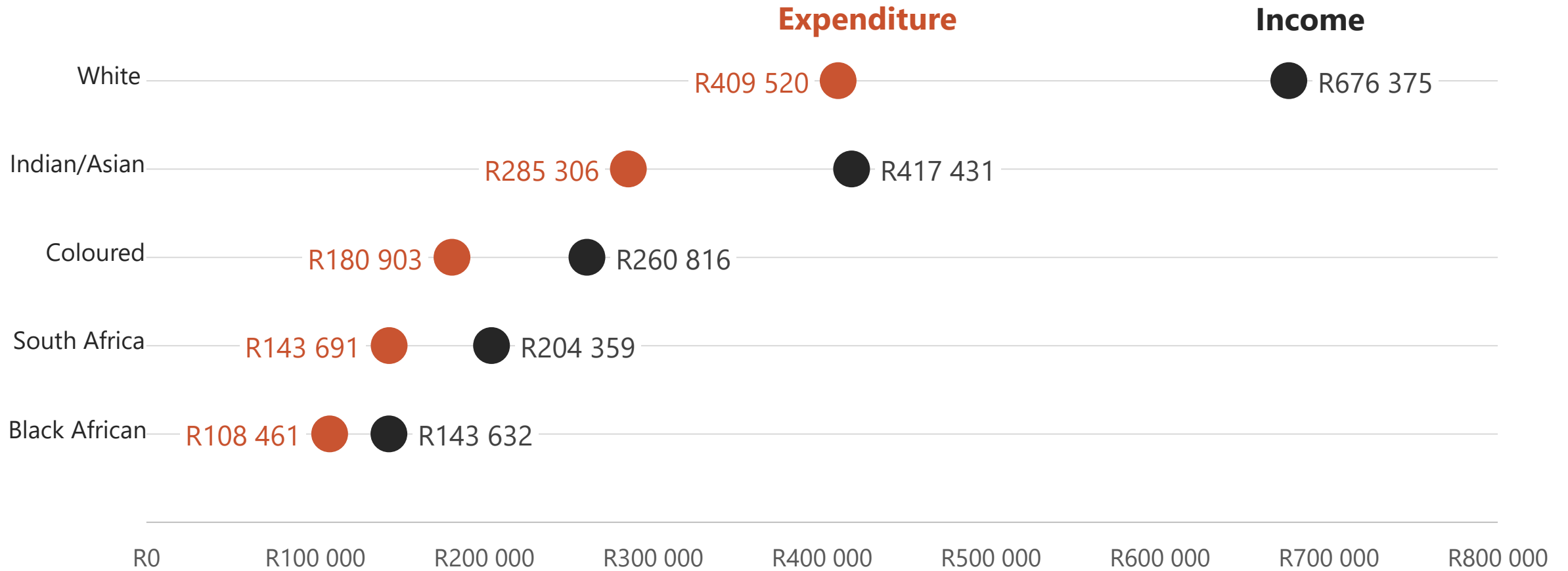
Almost half (45,3%) of black African-headed households were in the bottom two expenditure quintiles.

Percentage distribution of households by per capita expenditure quintiles and population group of household head, 2023



White headed h/holds had significantly higher income & consumption expenditure vs other population groups

Distribution of **average** annual household consumption expenditure and income by population group of household head, 2023



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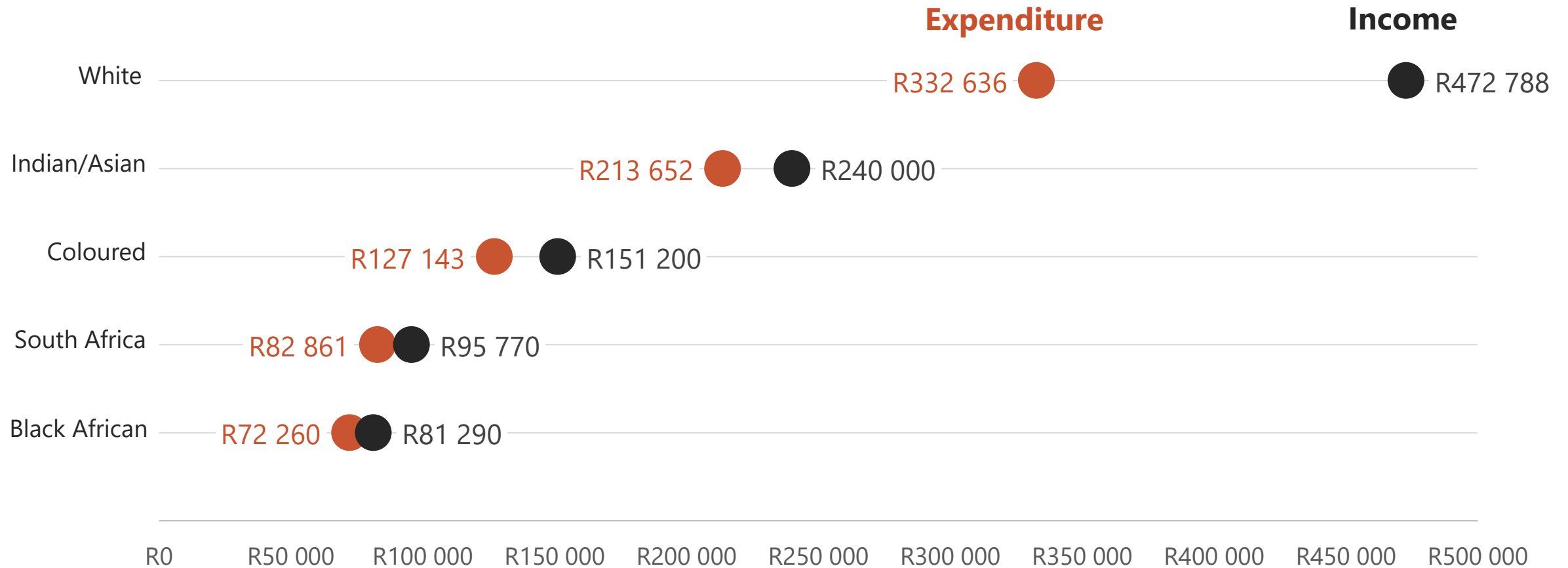
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White headed h/holds had significantly higher median income & consumption expenditure vs other population groups

Distribution of **Median** household consumption expenditure and income, by population group of household head, 2023



Distribution of household consumption expenditure by expenditure divisions



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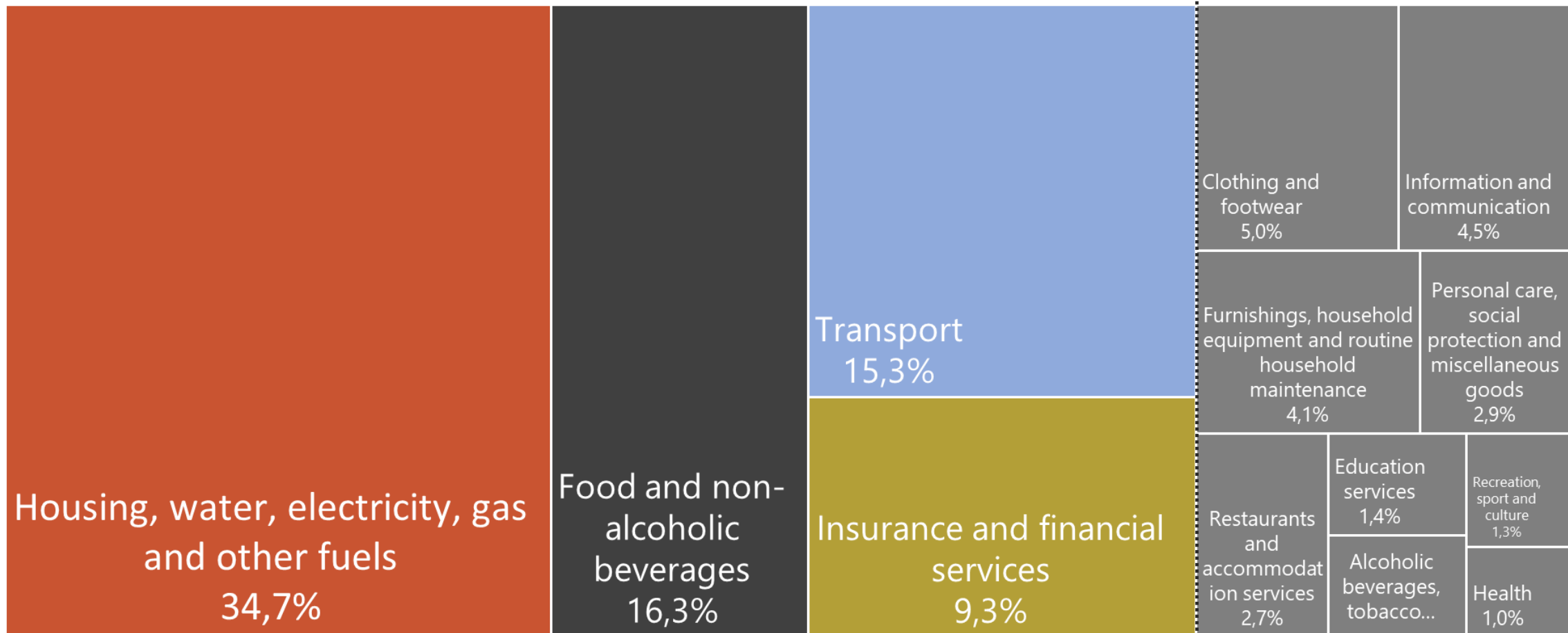
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Households in SA spent over one-third (34,7%) on housing & related expenditure

Percentage distribution of annual household consumption expenditure by division expenditure, 2023

75,6% of Expenditure

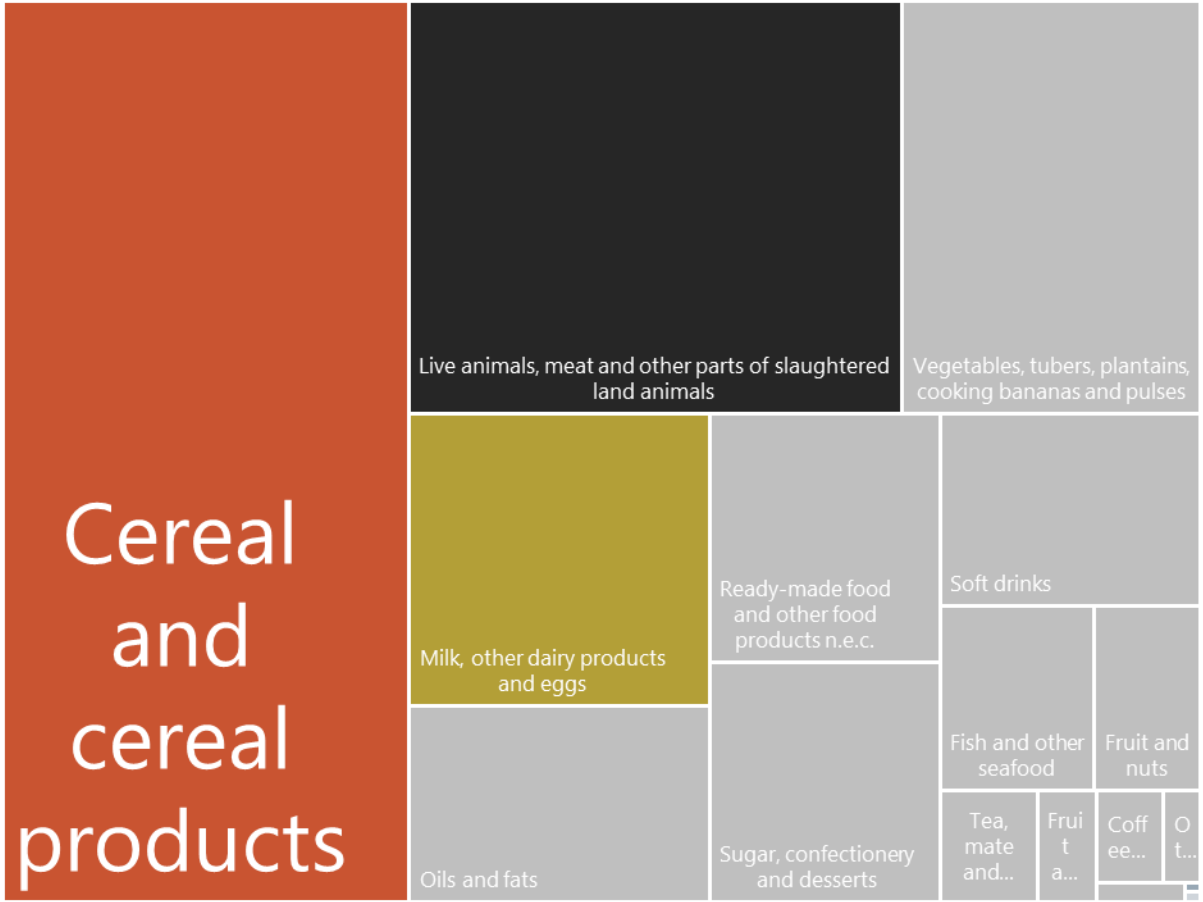
24,4% of Expenditure



Cereal and related products make up the bulk of spending on food items by those in the lowest decile

Average household consumption expenditure by class expenditure and expenditure deciles on food and non-alcoholic beverages, 2023

Decile 1 (Poorest Decile): Total Spend R7 433 per household per year

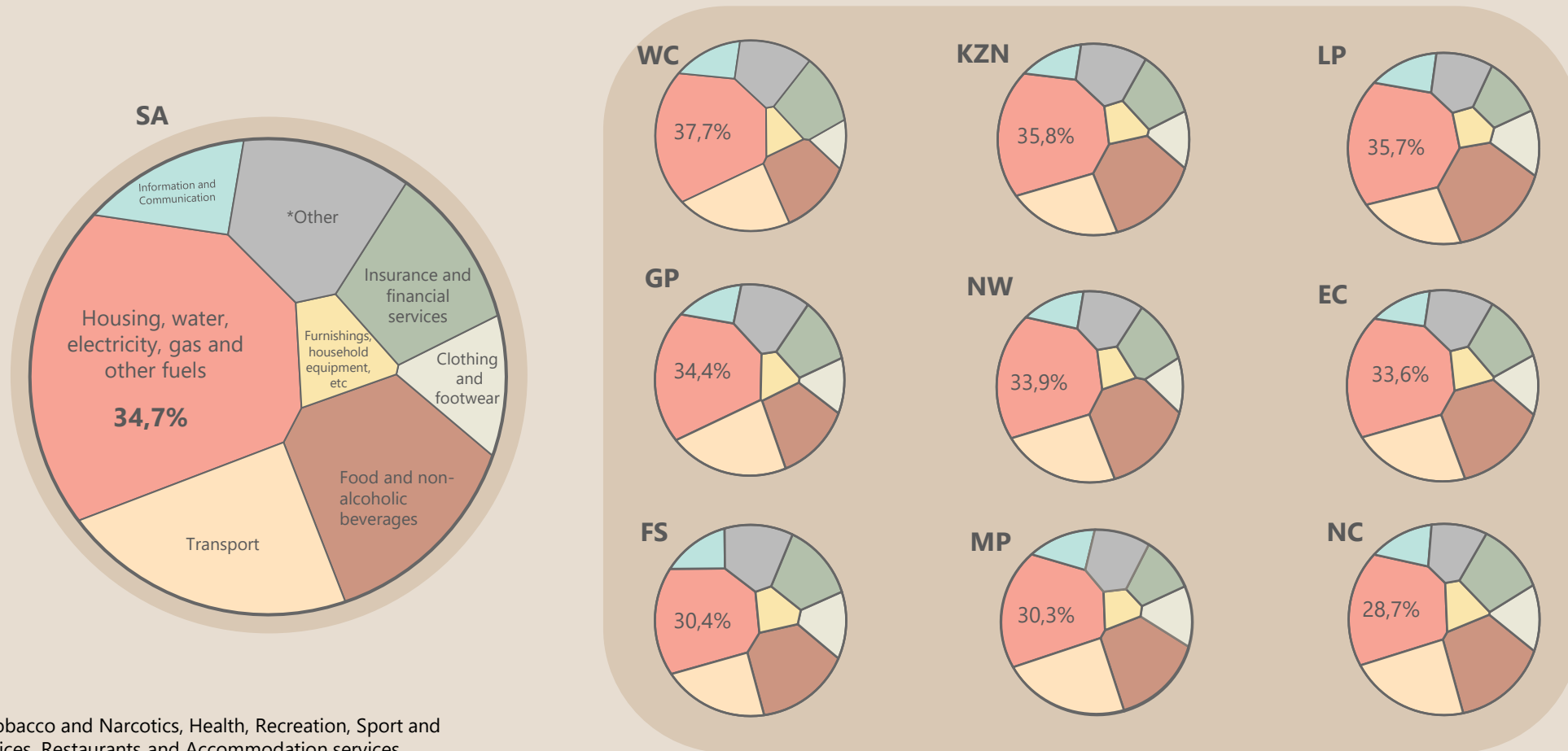


Decile 10 (Wealthiest Decile) Total Spend R44 998 per household per year



In SA, annual household spending on housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels accounts for more than one-third of total consumption expenditure.

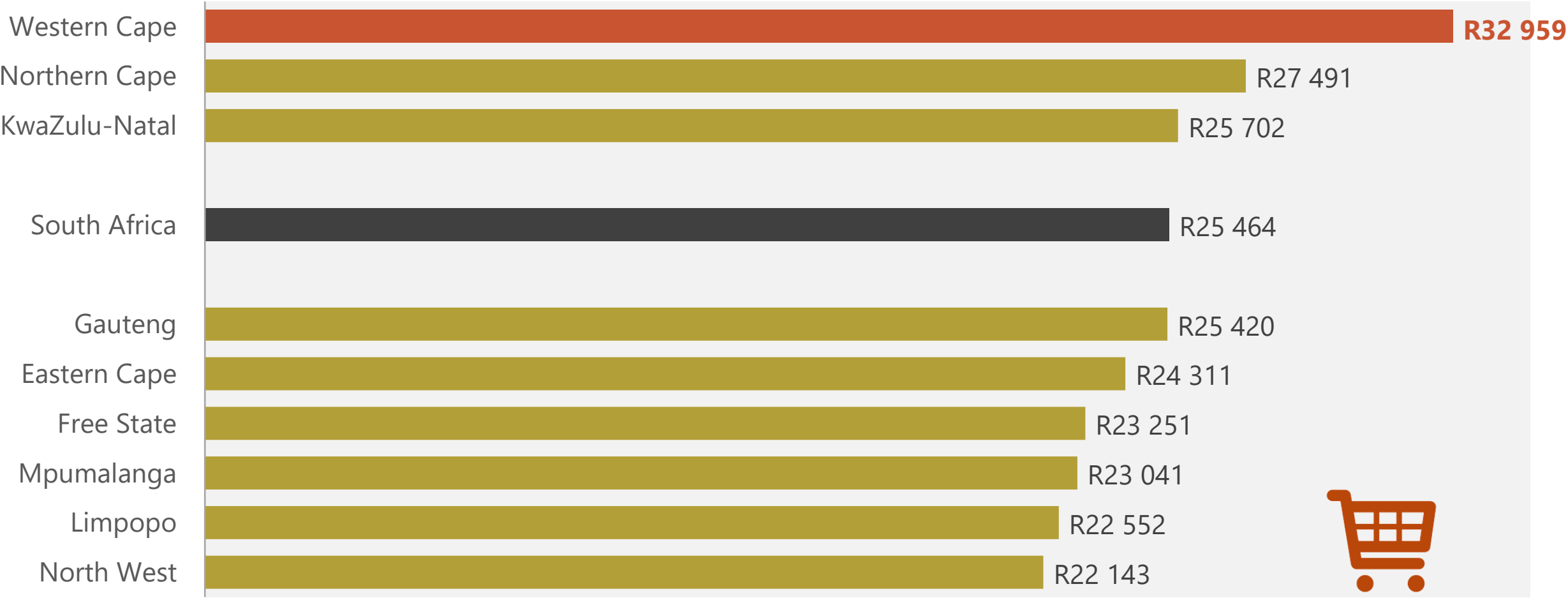
Percentage distribution of annual household consumption expenditure by division expenditure and province, 2023



*Other includes
 Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics, Health, Recreation, Sport and Culture, Education services, Restaurants and Accommodation services
 Personal care, Social Protection and Miscellaneous goods

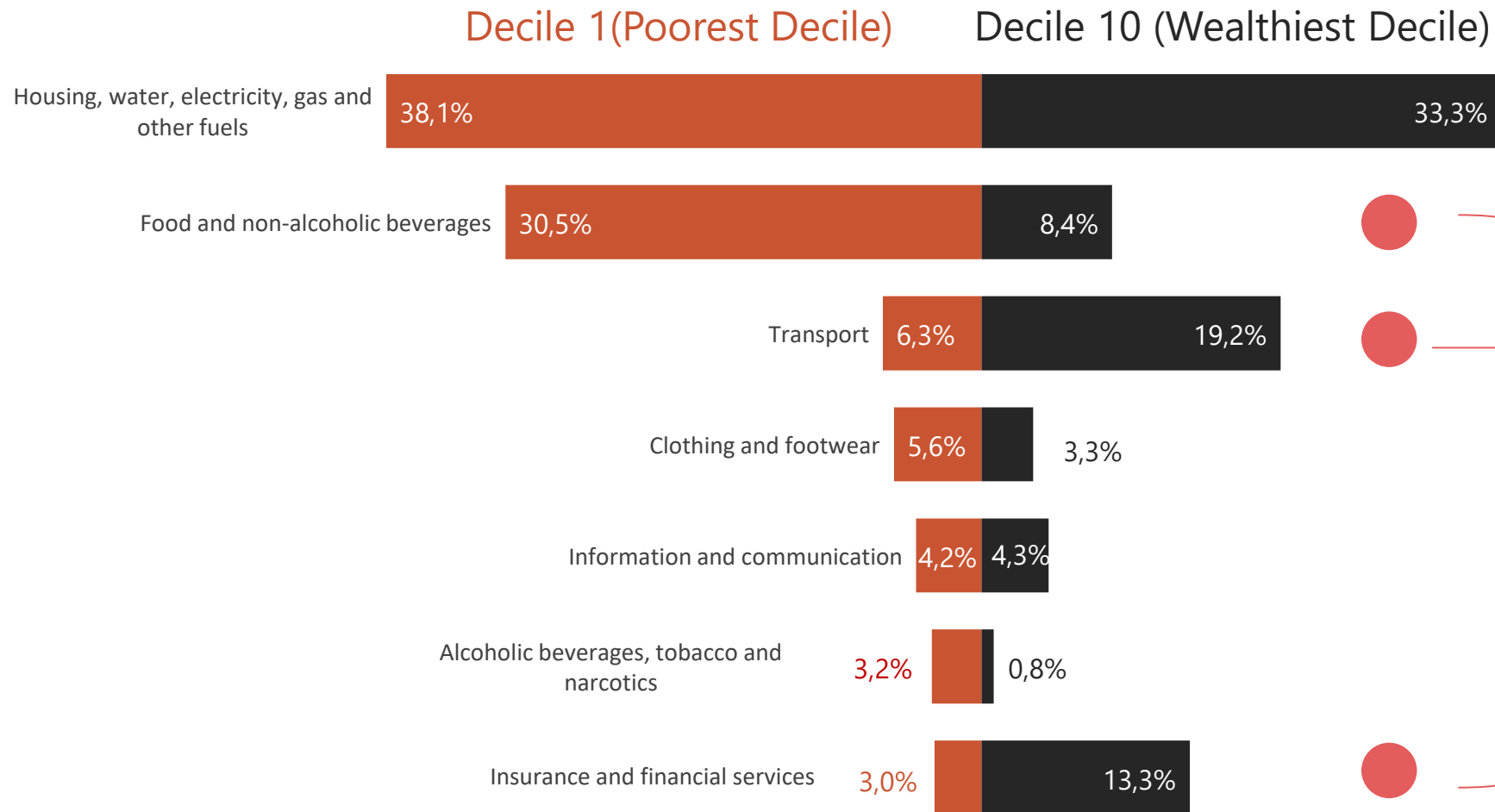
H/holds in the WC spent one and half times more than households in NW & LP on food, beverages & narcotics

Average annual consumption expenditure on food, beverages and narcotics by province, 2023



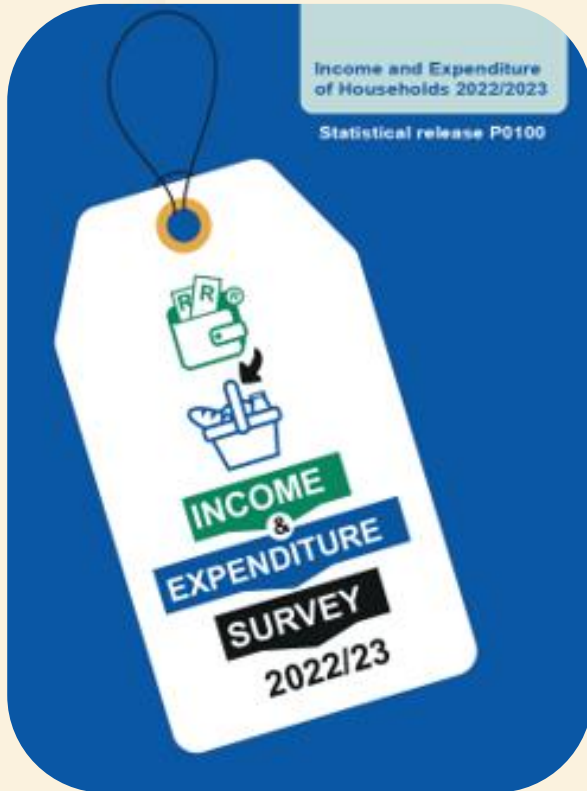
Housing and food represent over 68% of expenditures for the poorest decile

Percentage distribution of **selected** annual household consumption expenditure by division expenditure and income decile, 2023



Large disparities in proportions spent on categories such as food, transport and insurance between poorest and wealthiest

Conclusion



In 2023, on average, household consumption expenditure amounted to R143 691, while average annual household income was R204 359

Black African-headed households accounted for 62,2% of all household consumption expenditure in 2023 and spent on average R108 461

Western Cape and Gauteng combined accounted for the majority of the total household consumption expenditure (54,4%)

In terms of average annual household consumption expenditure, households in Western Cape are the richest (R229 636) while the poorest province was North West (R98 147)

Between 2006 and 2023 Black African (36,2%) and Coloured-headed households (17,9%) experienced the largest real growth in household consumption expenditure



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FUTURE PRODUCTS FROM IES 2022/23

- Poverty Trends Report (Report 03-10-06)-June 2025
- Child Poverty Report (Report 03-10-22) – November 2025
- Subjective Poverty Report (Report 03-10-01) – February 2026
- Inequality Trends Report (Report 03-10-19)
- Men, Women & Children Report (Report 03-10-02)



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CPI '25



Update of the CPI basket and weights

28 January 2025



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IES forms the basis for the CPI weights – new IES allows update of the CPI weights and basket



Update the basket of the CPI: to remain current with consumer preferences and technology changes

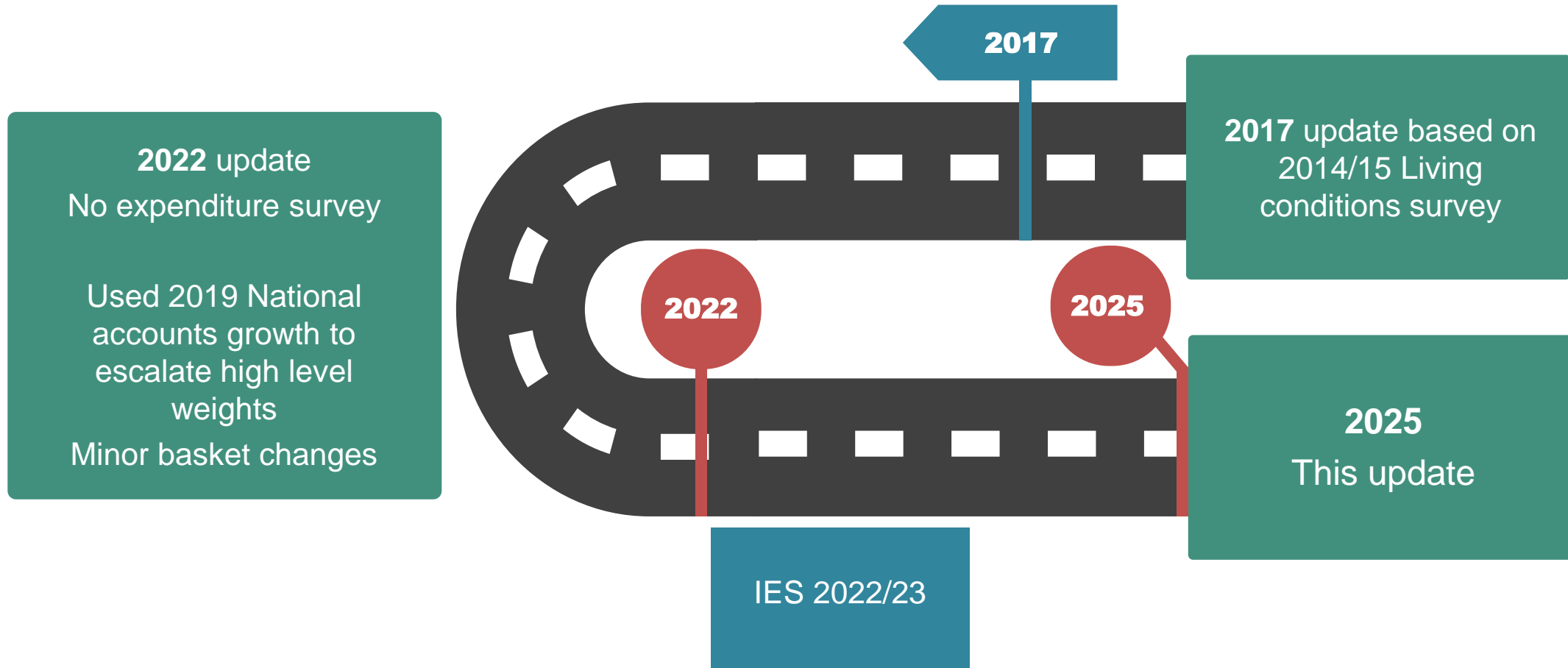
Update the weights of the CPI: to reflect recent consumer expenditure patterns

Implement the new version of the COICOP classification: to be in line with international standards

Re-reference the index to December 2024: to facilitate introduction of new basket and weights

Background to basket and weights update

CPI



Income &
Expenditure
of Households
2022/2023

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