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## **STATISTICAL RELEASE**

### **P0441.2**

# Provincial gross domestic product

2023

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## Introduction

In August 2021, Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) completed a comprehensive overhaul of its national accounts, which included rebasing of the gross domestic product (GDP) and a benchmarking exercise. This resulted in an upward revision of the size of the South African economy as well as changes to the composition of both the supply and demand sides of economic activity.

Due to the changes at a national level, similar changes were needed at a provincial level. Moreover, methodological improvements and new data sources needed to be incorporated. In September 2023, Stats SA released experimental estimates of provincial GDP in a discussion document (D0441.1).

After receiving feedback and incorporating changes to the experimental estimates where possible, Stats SA now publishes the provincial GDP as an official statistical release (P0441.2). The release contains updated time series data. Please note that detailed tables, both in nominal and real terms are available in a Microsoft Excel workbook on the Stats SA website.

## Key findings for 2023

The South African real GDP increased by 0,7% in 2023 compared with 2022. The provinces that recorded the largest growth rates were:

- KwaZulu-Natal (1,1%);
- Western Cape (0,8%); and
- Eastern Cape (0,8%).

The provinces that recorded the lowest growth rates were North West (0,3%) and Free State (0,1%) – see Figure 1.

The growth rates for KwaZulu-Natal, Western Cape and Eastern Cape were above the national average, while the rest of the provinces recorded growth rates below or similar to the national average.

**Figure 1 – GDP growth rates by province, 2014–2023 (%)**

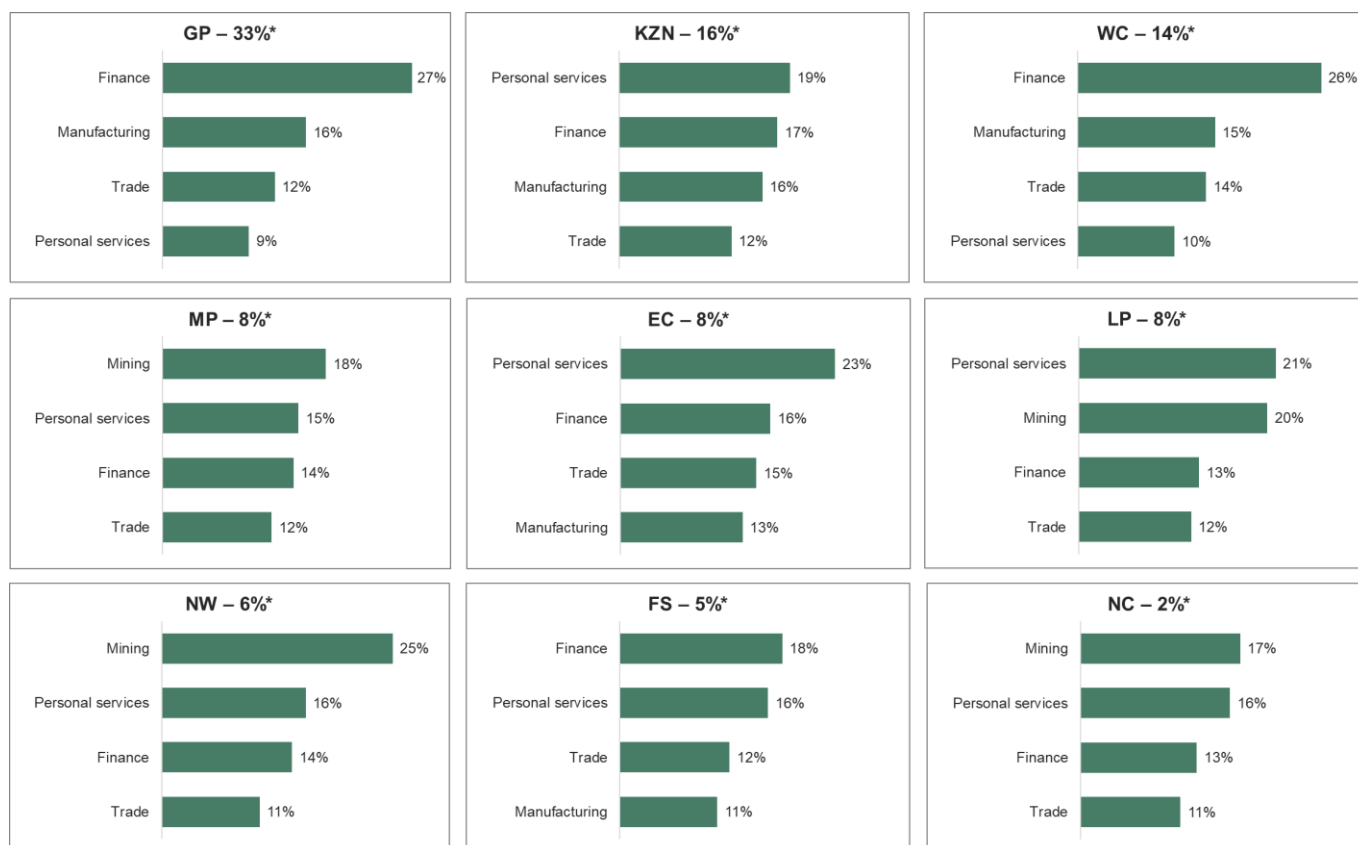


In 2023, Gauteng remained the largest province in terms of nominal GDP (contributing 33,2% to South Africa’s GDP), followed by KwaZulu-Natal (16,2%) and Western Cape (14,0%), while Northern Cape (2,3%) was the smallest.

The structure of the economy in each province differs:

- finance, real estate and business services was the largest contributor in Gauteng (27%), Western Cape (26%) and Free State (18%);
- personal services was the largest contributor in Eastern Cape (23%), Limpopo (21%) and KwaZulu-Natal (19%); and
- mining and quarrying was the largest contributor in North West (25%), Mpumalanga (18%) and Northern Cape (17%) – see Figure 2.

**Figure 2 – GDP contributions by provinces and largest industries in 2023 (%)**

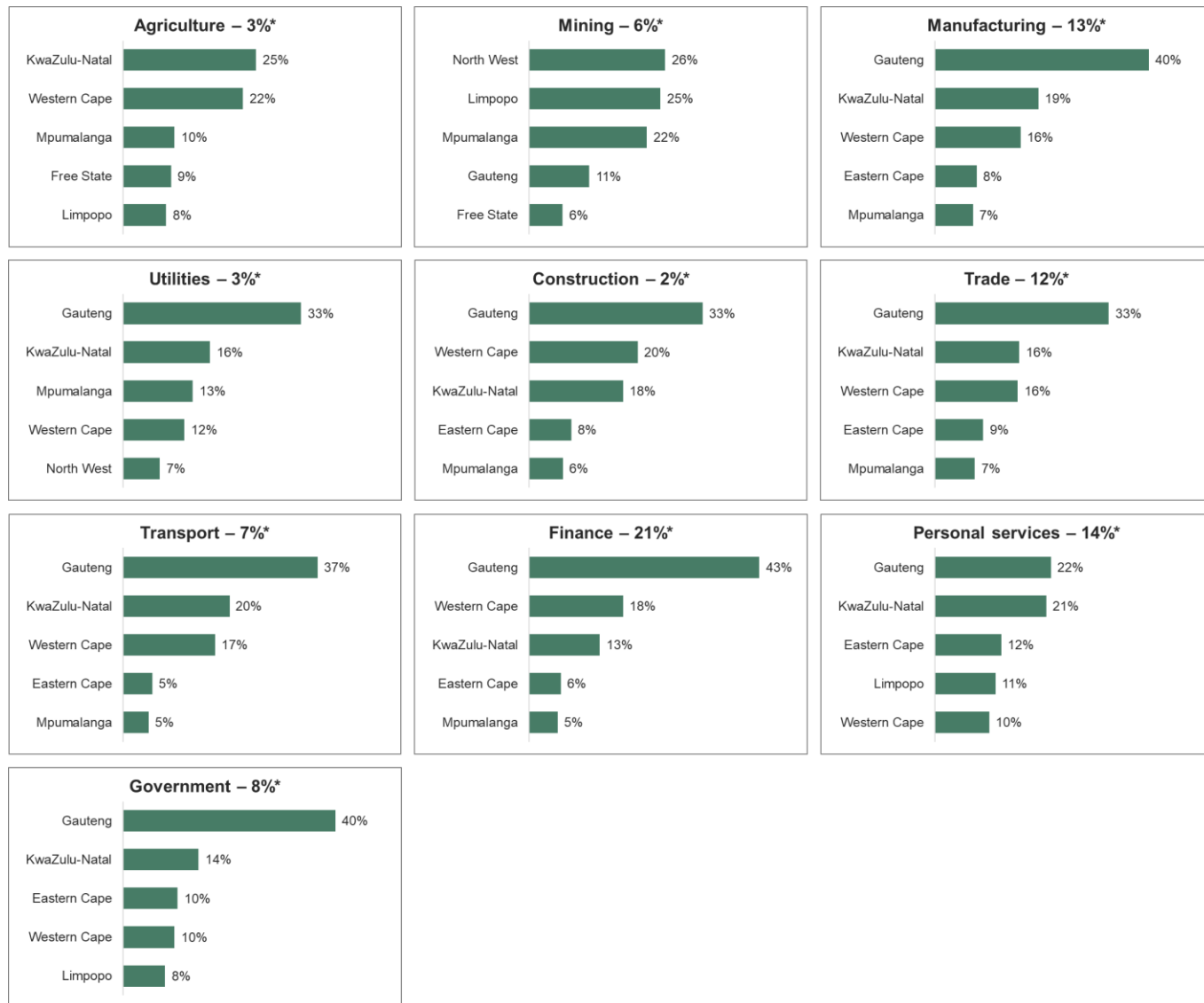


\* Provincial contribution to South Africa's GDP.

Figure 3 shows the provincial contribution to industry value added in 2023:

- Gauteng (43%), Western Cape (18%) and KwaZulu-Natal (13%) were the largest contributors to the finance, real estate and business services industry;
- Gauteng (22%), KwaZulu-Natal (21%) and Eastern Cape (12%) were the largest contributors to the personal services industry; and
- Gauteng (40%), KwaZulu-Natal (19%) and Western Cape (16%) were the largest contributors to the manufacturing industry.

**Figure 3 – Largest provincial contributions to industry value added at basic prices in 2023 (%)**



\* Industry contribution to South Africa’s GDP.

*Risenga Maluleke*  
**Risenga Maluleke**  
 Statistician-General

## Detailed results

**Table 1 – GDP by province at current prices, 2013–2023**

Rand million

Province	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Western Cape	543 601	579 116	622 338	665 617	709 832	746 667	778 422	768 793	851 084	919 084	984 653
Eastern Cape	309 603	330 821	354 083	378 975	403 373	420 921	437 230	426 956	474 763	501 096	537 352
Northern Cape	83 095	90 391	94 941	100 891	106 442	112 942	119 347	122 780	139 730	152 540	158 236
Free State	191 277	202 114	216 772	233 650	248 945	260 673	277 104	277 144	308 665	328 901	342 064
KwaZulu-Natal	630 455	675 126	725 592	783 155	839 707	885 201	918 521	898 435	989 281	1 063 905	1 137 671
North West	251 399	264 011	279 379	294 703	314 571	333 465	351 229	362 703	423 371	444 845	449 149
Gauteng	1 284 362	1 382 727	1 478 351	1 590 712	1 697 395	1 795 260	1 891 292	1 847 431	2 037 834	2 192 013	2 329 820
Mpumalanga	293 183	310 538	329 528	359 929	386 605	411 868	433 408	436 116	507 240	532 595	549 466
Limpopo	281 656	299 031	319 808	351 922	371 320	396 194	418 654	422 402	488 182	520 545	535 582
<b>GDP at market prices</b>	<b>3 868 630</b>	<b>4 133 874</b>	<b>4 420 793</b>	<b>4 759 553</b>	<b>5 078 190</b>	<b>5 363 190</b>	<b>5 625 207</b>	<b>5 562 760</b>	<b>6 220 151</b>	<b>6 655 524</b>	<b>7 023 994</b>

Percentage contributions

Province	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Western Cape	14,1	14,0	14,1	14,0	14,0	13,9	13,8	13,8	13,7	13,8	14,0
Eastern Cape	8,0	8,0	8,0	8,0	7,9	7,8	7,8	7,7	7,6	7,5	7,7
Northern Cape	2,1	2,2	2,1	2,1	2,1	2,1	2,1	2,2	2,2	2,3	2,3
Free State	4,9	4,9	4,9	4,9	4,9	4,9	4,9	5,0	5,0	4,9	4,9
KwaZulu-Natal	16,3	16,3	16,4	16,5	16,5	16,5	16,3	16,2	15,9	16,0	16,2
North West	6,5	6,4	6,3	6,2	6,2	6,2	6,2	6,5	6,8	6,7	6,4
Gauteng	33,2	33,4	33,4	33,4	33,4	33,5	33,6	33,2	32,8	32,9	33,2
Mpumalanga	7,6	7,5	7,5	7,6	7,6	7,7	7,7	7,8	8,2	8,0	7,8
Limpopo	7,3	7,2	7,2	7,4	7,3	7,4	7,4	7,6	7,8	7,8	7,6
<b>GDP at market prices</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>

**Table 2 – GDP by province at constant 2015 prices, 2013–2023**

Rand million

Province	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Western Cape	603 097	613 677	622 338	629 343	634 499	645 387	647 704	609 325	637 464	655 071	660 600
Eastern Cape	348 092	350 764	354 083	356 759	358 567	362 501	362 737	341 094	359 110	366 666	369 581
Northern Cape	90 905	93 122	94 941	94 644	96 469	97 628	97 422	92 310	97 574	98 623	99 078
Free State	213 389	217 362	216 772	216 682	220 013	221 566	221 439	208 511	217 392	221 302	221 627
KwaZulu-Natal	703 098	716 928	725 592	731 181	742 666	753 611	754 833	717 476	751 042	758 684	766 726
North West	274 492	268 416	279 379	272 471	276 326	279 393	278 918	263 430	282 256	283 604	284 596
Gauteng	1 437 070	1 461 034	1 478 351	1 497 236	1 512 450	1 543 405	1 552 611	1 439 997	1 505 372	1 547 898	1 558 387
Mpumalanga	321 770	328 094	329 528	331 621	335 919	339 897	339 420	321 310	339 208	340 860	342 126
Limpopo	310 377	313 722	319 808	320 235	324 792	328 400	328 585	307 452	324 598	327 592	329 712
<b>GDP at market prices</b>	<b>4 302 291</b>	<b>4 363 118</b>	<b>4 420 793</b>	<b>4 450 171</b>	<b>4 501 702</b>	<b>4 571 783</b>	<b>4 583 667</b>	<b>4 300 904</b>	<b>4 514 016</b>	<b>4 600 300</b>	<b>4 632 433</b>

Percentage changes

Province	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Western Cape		1,8	1,4	1,1	0,8	1,7	0,4	-5,9	4,6	2,8	0,8
Eastern Cape		0,8	0,9	0,8	0,5	1,1	0,1	-6,0	5,3	2,1	0,8
Northern Cape		2,4	2,0	-0,3	1,9	1,2	-0,2	-5,2	5,7	1,1	0,5
Free State		1,9	-0,3	0,0	1,5	0,7	-0,1	-5,8	4,3	1,8	0,1
KwaZulu-Natal		2,0	1,2	0,8	1,6	1,5	0,2	-4,9	4,7	1,0	1,1
North West		-2,2	4,1	-2,5	1,4	1,1	-0,2	-5,6	7,1	0,5	0,3
Gauteng		1,7	1,2	1,3	1,0	2,0	0,6	-7,3	4,5	2,8	0,7
Mpumalanga		2,0	0,4	0,6	1,3	1,2	-0,1	-5,3	5,6	0,5	0,4
Limpopo		1,1	1,9	0,1	1,4	1,1	0,1	-6,4	5,6	0,9	0,6
<b>GDP at market prices</b>		<b>1,4</b>	<b>1,3</b>	<b>0,7</b>	<b>1,2</b>	<b>1,6</b>	<b>0,3</b>	<b>-6,2</b>	<b>5,0</b>	<b>1,9</b>	<b>0,7</b>



## Explanatory notes

<b>Background</b>	<p>1 In August 2021, Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) completed a comprehensive overhaul of its national accounts, which included rebasing of the gross domestic product (GDP) and a benchmarking exercise. This resulted in an upward revision of the size of the South African economy as well as changes to the composition of both the supply and demand sides of economic activity.</p> <p>Due to the changes at a national level, similar changes were needed at a provincial level. Moreover, methodological improvements and new data sources needed to be incorporated. In September 2023, Stats SA released experimental estimates of provincial GDP in a discussion document (D0441.1). Stats SA now publishes these statistics as official annually.</p>
<b>Purpose of provincial GDP data</b>	<p>2 Provincial GDP estimates are important for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a strong policy interest in economic growth in different parts of the country as the base for provincial policy formulation and evaluation.</li> <li>• Provinces are keen to understand how they stack up against their peers, and how much they contribute to the national economic performance.</li> <li>• Such information could help private investors to better assess where to undertake investments.</li> <li>• In the context of the budget allocation, provincial GDP estimates are used as one of the indicators for equitable allocation of funds across South African provinces.</li> </ul>
<b>Benchmarking</b>	<p>3 The System of National Accounts (SNA) 2008 recommends benchmarking and rebasing of national accounts after every five years. In line with this, Stats SA in collaboration with the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) undertook the benchmarking and rebasing exercise in 2019 to provide an integrated, coherent set of economic statistics to inform users about the dynamics of the South African economy. The revisions in the national accounts arising from the latest benchmarking were largely a result of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a change of the base year (from 2010 to 2015) for the estimates at constant prices;</li> <li>• availability of new sources of information, including results of intermittent structural industry surveys (previously called large sample surveys);</li> <li>• improvements in methodology; and</li> <li>• revisions and improvements in basic economic datasets as part of Stats SA's improvement strategy.</li> </ul>
<b>Methodology and design</b>	<p>4 A top-down method was used to compile the provincial GDP estimates. The methodology entails using provincial data (indicators) to estimate economic activities across provinces. This entails distribution of industry totals from supply and use tables (SUTs) across provinces using provincial indicators as distribution keys. Provincial indicators are derived from various sources. Data gaps were filled through extrapolation and interpolation with available data. The provincial estimates were balanced and adjusted to maintain consistency with national totals.</p>
<b>Constant price estimates</b>	<p>5 A double deflation technique was used to compile estimates at constant prices. That is, output and intermediate consumption were deflated separately using relevant price indices. This ensures greater coherence in the national accounts, where growth of real GDP from the expenditure side must equal growth of real GDP from the production side.</p>
<b>Revisions</b>	<p>6 Estimates of provincial GDP will be routinely revised as new data sources are incorporated or existing data sources revised. Figures for 2021 to 2023 are preliminary and subject to revision.</p>
<b>Comparability with previously published information</b>	<p>7 The previously published data from 1995 to 2019 are not comparable with the current provincial GDP estimates due to the benchmarking in 2021.</p>

- Reference documents**      **8**    Detailed information on the compilation of the provincial GDP estimates is available in the National Accounts Sources and Methods document on the Stats SA website: <https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/Report%2004-04-04/Report%2004-04-042021.pdf>
- Rounding-off of figures**      **9**    Where necessary, the figures in the tables have been rounded off to the nearest digit shown. There may, therefore, be slight discrepancies between the sums of the constituent items and the totals shown.

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