# Gender Series Volume IX: <br> Women Empowerment, 2017-2022 

Risenga Maluleke<br>Statistician-General Statistics South Africa

twitter.com/StatsSA
(f) facebook.com/StatsSA

## ABOUT THE GENDER SERIES VOLUME IX AND ITS OBJECTIVES

$\checkmark$
Provides analysis relating to gender disparities, trends and patterns in women empowerment as well as an in-depth analysis of economic, social and political domains to ascertain progress toward gender equality

Analysis in women empowerment over the past 5 years

Data sources: Survey and administrative data sources

Legislative framework and international agreements promoting women empowerment : RSA constitution, National Development Plan, SDGs, Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

## Framework for Women Empowerment



## The South

 Africanpopulation in 2022
is estimated at ...
up by 640074 (annual rate of growth 1,06\%)
from 2021 estimates

## Approximately $51,1 \%$ ( 31,0 million) of the population is female.



South Africa has a youthful population, with a significant youth bulge aged 25-39
SA age structure by 5 year age groups, 2022
$\begin{array}{r}80+ \\ 75-79 \\ 70-74 \\ 65-69 \\ 60-64 \\ 55-59 \\ 50-54 \\ 45-49 \\ 40-44 \\ 35-39 \\ 30-34 \\ 25-29 \\ 20-24 \\ 15-19 \\ 10-14 \\ 5-9 \\ 0-4 \\ \hline\end{array}$
6\%



Males Labour Force Participation Rates and Employment rates are consistently higher than females, while inactivity rates and unemployment rates show the opposite trend.

Labour force indicators by sex, 2017-2022


20,0

Source: QLFS Q:1 2017-2022
201720182019202020212022

## Participation rates were higher where there were no children in the household

Labour force participation rate by sex and presence of children 2022


National employment rates declined by 6,9 percentage points for males and 6,1 percentage points for females. Noticeable decrease in employment rates of males and females was in Gauteng.

Percentage change in Employment rate by province and sex, 2017-2022


The gender gap between male and female graduates remained relatively stable over the 5-year reference period (0,92 in 2017 and 0,91 in 2022), favouring males.

Gender parity ratio of employment rates by educational attainment


Working for households as domestic workers was more common among females than males. There was a 4,7 percentage point increase for women in skilled agriculture.

Share of females by occupation,2017 and 2022
Source: QLFS Q:1 2017 and QLFS Q1: 2022






Skilled agriculture


Craft and related trade


Plant and machine operator


In 2020, women's median monthly earnings were $77,8 \%$ of men's median monthly earnings

Median Female earnings as a percentage of median male earnings, 2017-2020


Approximately a quarter of commercial farm employees were employed in Western Cape.

Percentage of individuals employed in commercial farms by sex, 2018


A higher proportion of males were employers, while females were more likely to be own account workers

Employers and own-account workers by sex and number of employees, 2022


## NO EMPLOYEES



Eastern Cape had highest unemployment rates for males and females in 2022. In General Females have higher unemployment rates, with FS showing the largest Gender Gap

Provincial unemployment rate by sex, 2022


Source: QLFS Q1: 2022

Females with children in their households were more likely to be unemployed than males.
Unemployment for females increased with the number of children present.

Unemployment by sex and presence of children, 2022


Males were more likely to be in short-term unemployment (61,5\%) than their female counterparts (38,5\%). Males and females experienced long-term unemployment equally.

Duration of unemployment by sex, 2022


Long term


Short term

Between 2017 and 2022, over 90\% of unemployed males and females relied on remittances for their survival. In 2022, 7,6\% of females relied on social grants as a means of survival.

Means of survival of unemployed persons by sex, 2022

100,0


Approximately a quarter of females rated being a home maker as a reason for inactivity. Discouragement and being a student was higher amongst males than females .


Over half (53,5\%) of households headed by males owned their dwellings in 2021. The proportion of female headed households who own traditional homes was higher than that of their male counterparts.

Dwelling ownership by type of dwelling and sex of household head, 2021


## Social Empowerment



Males occupy most senior management positions (SMS) in the public sector. A similar trend was noted among the middle management positions (MMS).

Percentage distribution of females in senior (SMS) and middle (MMS) management positions in the public sector by sex, 2018-2021

## SMS

| Male | 58,4\% | 57,6\% | 57,0\% | 56,2\% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Female | 41,6\% | 42,4\% | 43,0\% | 43,8\% |
|  | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |

## MMS



A larger proportion of females are of the opinion that gender-based violence has increased in their areas

Perceptions by whether gender-based violence has increased, decreased or remained the same in their area by sex, 2020/21

|  | don't know |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | decreased | 17,9\% | 17,3\% |
| whether gender-based violence has... | stayed the same | 33,2\% | 36,5\% |
|  | increased | 38,0\% | 34,5\% |

Both males ( $88,2 \%$ ) and females ( $87,3 \%$ ) think that the spouse or intimate partners commit the most acts of gender-based violence.

Individual perceptions by whom they think commit the most acts of gender-based violence by sex, 2020/21

## Male Female




South Africa experienced an increase in the proportion of seats held by females in parliament, from 33,0\% in 2004 to 46,0\% in 2019. Cabinet achieved parity in 2019.

Percentage of females in political positions, 20004-2019

## 100\%

100\%
100\%


100\%


Three in every ten mayors are women. Appointments were equally distributed in North West, while wide gaps were observed in Western Cape, Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal

Percentage of municipal mayors who are female, 2021
$\square$ Male $\quad$ Female


Source: Non-financial census of municipalities, 2021


The National and municipal elections voter turnout was highest among females.

Percentage share of voter turnout by sex, 2019 and 2021

## 2019 National elections



2021 Municipal elections


## $R E \cap A P$

Economic: Labour force participation
Males participate at higher rates than females. Employment rates declined for both males and females

## Economic

## Economic: Unemployment in women

Unemployment generally increases poverty. Unemployment rate is higher for women than for men.

Economic: Resource equity
Median earnings of females were less than male median earnings. Between 2017 and 2022,higher percentage of male headed households owned dwellings.

Political: Women in decision making positions
Gender equity progress on ministerial and parliament positions. Equity at municipal level is still problematic.

## NOW IN THE FIELD

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN

## GENSUS 2022

Geospatial Information Frame
Quarterly Labour Force Survey ( Collected quarterly)
General Household Survey ( January - December 2022)
Domestic Tourism Survey ( January - December 2022)
Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (April 2022 - March 2024),
Consumer Price Index

Upcoming Survey
Income and Expenditure Survey for 12 months (November 2022 November 2023)


## Gender Series Volume IX:

 Women Empowerment,
## Ndzi hela kwala!

