

South Africa - General Household Survey 2025

Statistics South Africa

Report generated on: June 2, 2026

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Identification

SURVEY ID NUMBER
zaf-statssa-ghs-2025-v1

TITLE
General Household Survey 2025

ABBREVIATION OR ACRONYM
GHS 2025

COUNTRY

Name	Country code
South Africa	zaf

STUDY TYPE
Household Survey

ABSTRACT
The GHS is an annual household survey that measures the living circumstances of South African households. The GHS collects data on education, health, and social development, housing, access to services and facilities, food security, and agriculture.

KIND OF DATA
Sample survey data [ssd]

UNIT OF ANALYSIS
Households and individuals

Version

VERSION DESCRIPTION
v1: Edited, anonymised dataset for public distribution

VERSION DATE
2026-06

VERSION NOTES
Version 1 was originally downloaded from Stats SA on June 2nd, 2026

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE
The General Household Survey has national coverage.

GEOGRAPHIC UNIT
The lowest level of geographic aggregation for the data is Province (and metropolitan municipality, where this applies)

UNIVERSE
The target population of the survey consists of all private households in all nine provinces of South Africa and residents in workers' hostels. The survey does not cover other collective living quarters such as students' hostels, old-age homes, hospitals, prisons and military barracks, and is therefore only representative of non-institutionalised and non-military persons or households in South Africa.

Producers and sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATORS

Name	Affiliation
Statistics South Africa	Government of South Africa

Sampling

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

The General Household Survey (GHS) 2025 used the 2013 Master Sample. This master sample is shared by the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS), General Household Survey (GHS), Living Conditions Survey (LCS), Domestic Tourism Survey (DTS), and the Income and Expenditure Survey (IES). This survey followed a two-stage stratified sampling approach. In the first stage, primary sampling units (PSUs) based on Census 2001 Enumeration Areas were selected using probability-proportional-to-size (PPS) within metropolitan and non-metropolitan strata. In the second stage, dwelling units (DUs) were systematically selected within each sampled PSU. The design was self-weighting at the provincial level and incorporated secondary stratification using key demographic and socioeconomic variables, including household size, education, gender, industry, and income. To improve efficiency, very small enumeration areas were excluded or merged, while large areas were split. In total, about 3,080 PSUs were selected nationally, producing a representative sample of South African households.

For further details, refer to the GHS-2025 metadata documentation.

WEIGHTING

The sample weights were constructed to account for the following: the original selection probabilities (design weights), adjustments for PSUs that were sub-sampled or segmented, excluded population from the sampling frame, non-response, weight trimming, and benchmarking to known population estimates from the Demographic Analysis Division within Stats SA. The sampling weights for the data collected from the sampled households were constructed so that the responses could be properly expanded to represent the entire civilian population of South Africa. The design weights, which are the inverse sampling rate (ISR) for the province, are assigned to each of the households in a province.

Mid-year population estimates produced by the Demographic Analysis Division were used for benchmarking. The final survey weights were constructed using regression estimation to calibrate to national-level population estimates cross-classified by 5-year age groups, gender and race, and provincial population estimates by broad age groups. The 5-year age groups are: 0-4; 5-9; 10-14; 55-59; 60-64; and 65 and older. The provincial level age groups include 0-14, 15-34, 35-64, and 65 years and older. The calibrated weights were constructed such that all persons in a household would have the same final weight.

Note: Caution must be exercised when interpreting the results of the GHS at low levels of disaggregation. The sample and reporting are based on the provincial boundaries as defined in December/January 2006. These new boundaries resulted in minor changes to the boundaries of some provinces, especially Gauteng, North West, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, Eastern and Western Cape. In previous reports, the sample was based on the provincial boundaries as defined in 2001, and there will therefore be slight comparative differences in terms of provincial boundary definitions.

Data Collection

DATES OF DATA COLLECTION

Start	End
2025-01	2025-12

TIME PERIODS

Start date	End date
2025	2025

DATA COLLECTION MODE

Face-to-face computer-assisted interviews [CAPI]

DATA COLLECTION NOTES

Data was collected using face-to-face interviewing with CAPI questionnaires

DATA COLLECTORS

Name	Affiliation	Abbreviation	Role
Statistics South Africa	Government of South Africa	StatsSA	Data collection and production

Access policy

ACCESS CONDITIONS

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CITATION REQUIREMENTS

Statistics South Africa. General Household Survey 2025 [dataset]. Version 1. Pretoria: Statistics SA [producer], 2026. Cape Town: DataFirst [distributor], 2026. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25828/a4a6-p161>

ACCESS AUTHORITY

Name	Affiliation	URL	Email
DataFirst	University of Cape Town	Link	support@data1st.org

LOCATION OF DATA COLLECTION

DataFirst Dataportal

ARCHIVE WHERE STUDY IS ORIGINALLY STORED

Statistics South Africa website

Metadata production

DDI DOCUMENT ID

zaf-statssa-ghs-2025-v1

PRODUCERS

Name	Affiliation	Role
DataFirst	University of Cape Town	Metadata producer

DATE OF METADATA PRODUCTION

2026-06

DDI DOCUMENT VERSION

Version 1

Data Description

Data file	Cases	Variables
ghs-2025-hh-v1	0	206
ghs-2025-person-v1	0	121

Data file: ghs-2025-hh-v1

Cases:	0
Variables:	206

Variables

ID	Name	Label	Question
V1	uqnr	Unique number	
V2	personnr	Person number	
V3	psu	Primary sampling unit	
V4	prov	Province	
V5	head_popgrp	Population group of household head	
V6	head_sex	Sex of household head	
V7	head_age	Age of household head	
V8	hsg_maind	Type of main dwelling	
V9	hsg_walls	Type of material used for the wall	
V10	hsg_roof	Type of material used for the roof	
V11	hsg_floor	Type of material used for the floor	
V12	hsg_cond_wall	Walls condition	
V13	hsg_cond_roof	Roof condition	
V14	hsg_cond_floor	Floor condition	
V15	hsg_rm_tot	Total rooms	
V16	hsg_tenure	Ownership of dwelling	
V17	hsg_rent	Monthly rent or mortgage	
V18	hsg_rdp	RDP or state subsidised dwelling	
V19	hsg_subsidy	House subsidy received	
V20	wat_drinkwat	Main source of water	
V21	wat_dist	Distance of water source from the dwelling	
V22	wat_time	Time spent to fetch water	
V23	wat_pipe	Usage of piped or tap water	
V24	WAT_QLT_Safe	Safe to drink	
V25	WAT_QLT_Clear	Clear	
V26	WAT_QLT_Taste	Taste good	
V27	WAT_QLT_smell	Free from any smells	
V28	wat_treat	Treatment of drinking water	
V29	wat_mun_source	Water supply	
V30	wat_meter	Water meter	
V31	wat_pay	Payment for water	
V32	wat_inte_12mth	Water supply interruption	
V33	wat_inte_freq	Frequency of water interruptions	
V34	wat_inte_2days	Duration of water interruption	
V35	wat_inte_altsource	Alternative drinking water sources	
V36	wat_inte_15days	Total duration of interruption	
V37	wat_bottle	Frequency of drinking bottled water at home	
V38	san_toil	Type of toilet facility	

ID	Name	Label	Question
V39	san_share	Toilet facility shared	
V40	san_location	Location of the toilet facility	
V41	san_distance	Distance to nearest toilet facility	
V42	san_pit_empty	Emptied septic tank	
V43	san_pit_dispose	Where contents of pit latrine emptied	
V44	san_washfac	Hand washing facilities	
V45	san_wash	Use of soap to wash hands after using toilet	
V46	eng_access	Access to electricity	
V47	eng_mainelect	Main source of electricity	
V48	eng_mains	Connection to mains electricity supply	
V49	eng_supply	Supplier of electricity	
V50	eng_cook	Energy for cooking	
V51	eng_light	Energy for lighting	
V52	eng_sheat	Energy for space heating	
V53	eng_loadshed_freq	Electrical outages during the previous week	
V54	eng_pay	paying for electricity	
V55	swr_rub	Refuse removal	
V56	swr_burnwaste	Burnt solid waste	
V57	SWR_SEPWASTE	Separate or sort recyclable materials	
V58	SWR_NOTSEPWASTE_TIME	Not having enough time	
V59	SWR_NOTSEPWASTE_KNOWLEDGE	Can or cannot be recycled	
V60	SWR_NOTSEPWASTE_Importance	Recycling important	
V61	SWR_NOTSEPWASTE_SPACE	Lack space for recycling	
V62	SWR_NOTSEPWASTE_DIRTY	Recycling is dirty and untidy	
V63	SWR_NOTSEPWASTE_COST	Unable to pay recycling fee	
V64	SWR_NOTSEPWASTE_BENEFIT	Not enough financial benefits	
V65	SWR_NOTSEPWASTE_SERVICES	Inadequate services	
V66	SWR_NOTSEPWASTE_CONVENIENCE	Drop-off not conveniently	
V67	SWR_SEPWASTE_FREQ	Frequency of recycling household materials	
V68	SWR_SEPWASTE_TYPE	How households recycle the recyclable materials	
V69	SWR_PAPER	Quantity of paper and cardboard boxes recycled	
V70	SWR_GLASS	Quantity of glass/glass bottles recycled	
V71	SWR_METAL	Quantity of metal/aluminium cans recycled	
V72	SWR_ELECTRONICS	Quantity of electronics/electrical waste recycled	
V73	SWR_PLASTIC	Quantity plastic/plastic bags and/or plastic bottles recycled	
V74	swr_env_rub	Irregular or no waste removal	
V75	swr_env_lit	Littering	
V76	swr_env_wat	Water pollution	
V77	swr_env_air	Outdoor/indoor air pollution	
V78	swr_env_lan	Land degradation	
V79	swr_env_noi	Excessive noise	
V80	com_phone	Telephone	
V81	com_cell	Cellular telephone	
V82	com_int_fixed	Internet connection in the household	
V83	com_int_mobile	Any place via any other mobile access services	

ID	Name	Label	Question
V84	com_int_pubwifi	public wifi	
V85	com_int_stud	Internet for students at a school/university/college	
V86	com_int_work	At place of work	
V87	com_int_libr	Internet in a library or community hall/Thusong centre	
V88	com_int_cafe	Internet Caf	
V89	com_mail_post	Mail carrier at home (postal delivery, mailman/woman)	
V90	com_mail_Pbag	PO Box/ Private bag	
V91	com_mail_Postnet	Postnet branch	
V92	com_mail_Other	Other (e.g. local delivery office, school, shop)	
V93	tra_taxi	Trips using taxis	
V94	tra_bus	Trips using Buses	
V95	tra_train	Trips Using Trains	
V96	tra_taxi_trips	total number of trips using taxis	
V97	tra_taxi_cost	Total cost of using taxis	
V98	tra_taxi_dist	distance to the nearest taxi stop	
V99	tra_bus_trips	total number of trips using buses	
V100	tra_bus_cost	Total cost of using buses	
V101	tra_bus_dist	distance to the nearest bus stop	
V102	tra_train_trips	total number of trips using trains	
V103	tra_train_cost	Total cost of using trains	
V104	tra_train_dist	distance to the nearest train station	
V105	hhw_hltfac	Medical help	
V106	hhw_transp	Means of transport to nearest health facility	
V107	hhw_time	Travel time to health facility	
V108	fsd_hung_adult	Insufficient food for adult	
V109	fsd_hung_child	Insufficient food for children	
V110	fsd_worried	Worried about food	
V111	fsd_healthy	Lack of nutritious food	
V112	fsd_fewfoods	lack of variety food kind	
V113	fsd_fewfoods_days	lacked variety food kind for 5 or more days in the past 30 days	
V114	fsd_skipped	Skipped meals	
V115	fsd_skipped_days	skipped meals for 5 or more days in the past 30 days	
V116	fsd_ateless	ate less food	
V117	fsd_ateless_days	ate less food for 5 or more days in the past 30 days	
V118	fsd_ranout	run out of food	
V119	fsd_ranout_days	run out of food for 5 or more days in the past 30 days	
V120	fsd_hungry	Hunger	
V121	fsd_whlday	Not eating the whole day	
V122	agr_agri	Agricultural activities	
V123	agr_agrino	Members involved in agricultural activities	
V124	agr_agri_type_live	Livestock production	
V125	agr_agri_type_poul	Poultry production	
V126	agr_agri_type_grai	Grains and food crops	
V127	agr_agri_type_indus	Industrial crops	
V128	agr_agri_type_fruit	Fruit and vegetable production	

ID	Name	Label	Question
V129	agr_agri_type_fod	Fodder grazing/pasture or grass for animals	
V130	agr_agri_type_fish	Fish farming/aquaculture	
V131	agr_agri_type_for	Forestry	
V132	agr_agri_type_game	Game farming	
V133	agr_mainuse	Use of agricultural products and stock keeping	
V134	agr_plant_farm	Farm land	
V135	agr_plant_back	Backyard garden	
V136	agr_plant_schl	School garden	
V137	agr_plant_comm	Communal garden	
V138	agr_plant_vrd	On verges of roads and unused public/municipal land	
V139	agr_plant_oth	Other crop planting activities	
V140	fin_inc_sal	Salaries/wages/commission	
V141	fin_inc_buss	Income from a business	
V142	fin_inc_rem	Remittances	
V143	fin_inc_pen	Pensions	
V144	fin_inc_grant	Grants	
V145	fin_inc_agric	Sales of farm products and services	
V146	fin_inc_none	No Income	
V147	fin_inc_oth	Other income sources, e.g. rental income, interest	
V148	fin_inc_main	Main income source	
V149	fin_rem	Approximately how much from remittances	
V150	fin_pen	Approximately how much from pensions	
V151	fin_reqinc	Net household income per month in rand	
V152	fin_compinc	Monthly income of your household higher	
V153	fin_exp	Household expenditure	
V154	hwl_vehicle	Ownership of a motor vehicle	
V155	hwl_totveh	Total number of vehicles	
V156	hwl_domw	Domestic or household worker's services used by the household	
V157	hwl_status	Wealth/poverty status of you and your household at present	
V158	hwl_happy	Happier, the same or less happy with life	
V159	HWL_ANIMALS_DOGS	Number of dogs household keeps	
V160	HWL_ANIMALS_CATS	Number of cats household keeps	
V161	hwl_assets_tv	TV Set	
V162	hwl_assets_pool	Swimming pool	
V163	hwl_assets_dvd	DVD player/Blu-Ray player	
V164	hwl_assets_paytv	Pay TV (M-Net/DSTV/Top TV) Subscription	
V165	hwl_assets_ac	Air conditioner (excluding fans)	
V166	hwl_assets_comp	Computer/Desktop/Laptop	
V167	hwl_assets_vac	Vacuum cleaner	
V168	hwl_assets_dishw	Dishwashing machine	
V169	hwl_assets_washm	Washing machine	
V170	HWL_Assets_tumd	Tumble dryer	
V171	hwl_assets_freezer	Deep freezer	
V172	hwl_assets_fridge	Refrigerator or Combined Fridge Freezer	
V173	hwl_assets_estove	Electric stove	

ID	Name	Label	Question
V174	hwl_assets_microw	Microwave oven	
V175	hwl_assets_sink	Built-in kitchen sink	
V176	hwl_assets_secure	Home Security Service	
V177	hwl_assets_hometh	Home theatre system	
V178	hwl_assets_geyser	Geyser providing hot running water	
V179	hwl_assets_solarg	Solar hot water geyser	
V180	hwl_assets_solarp	Solar electrical panel(s)	
V181	hwl_assets_rainwtnk	Rain water tank	
V182	hwl_assets_borehole	Borehole	
V183	hwl_assets_radio	Radio	
V184	hwl_assets_Gstove	Gas stove	
V185	hwl_res_name	Person who answered most of the questions in the house section	
V186	hholdsiz	Household size	
V187	mobphon_hh	Own a mobile telephone	
V188	smartphone_hh	Own a smart phone	
V189	onemed_hh	Medical aid scheme	
V190	chld5yr_hh	Children 5 and younger	
V191	chld17yr_hh	Children 17 and younger	
V192	ad60plusyr_hh	Adults	
V193	lab_salary_hh	Household Monthly salary	
V194	soc_grant_hh	Social grant	
V195	totalgrnt_hh	Total social grant	
V196	undisab_hh	UN Disability	
V197	disab_hh	Disability	
V198	sevdisab_hh	Severe disability	
V199	econact_hh	Economically active	
V200	totmhinc	Household income	
V201	stratum	Stratum	
V202	geotype	Geographical type	
V203	metro	Metro	
V204	metro_code	Metro Code	
V205	rotation	Rotation	
V206	house_wgt	House Weight	

Total: 206

Data file: ghs-2025-person-v1

Cases:	0
Variables:	121

Variables

ID	Name	Label	Question
V207	uqnr	Unique number	
V208	personnr	Person number	
V209	psu	Primary sampling unit	
V210	prov	Province	
V211	Four_by_Four	Stayed Nights (B_Nights)	
V212	Sex	Gender	
V213	age	Age	
V214	age_grp1	Age group	
V215	Population	Population group	
V216	Languages	Languages	
V217	hhc_relationship	Relationship to the household head	
V218	hhc_marital	Marital status	
V219	spouse	Spouse/partner	
V220	spouse_name	Spouse number	
V221	hhc_fath_alive	Father alive	
V222	hhc_fath_parthh	Father part of the household	
V223	hhc_fath_name	Father person number	
V224	hhc_moth_alive	Mother still alive	
V225	hhc_moth_parthh	Mother part of the household	
V226	hhc_moth_name	Mother person number	
V227	education	Highest education level	
V228	ecd_chldatt	Type of ECD facility	
V229	ecd_notatt	Place where children spent most of their time during the day	
V230	ecd_notatt_rsn	Main reason for not attending the ECD facility	
V231	ecd_fees	Amount paid to attend the ECD facility	
V232	ecd_food	Received food from school	
V233	ecd_travel	How long does it takes to get to ECD	
V234	ECD_CARE_MAIN	Responsible for making sure that child is fed	
V235	ECD_CARE_RELATION	Relationship of the main caregiver to the child	
V236	ecd_read	Read books/tell stories	
V237	ecd_sing	Sing	
V238	ecd_colour	Colour	
V239	ecd_object	Objects	
V240	ecd_count	Count	
V241	ecd_play	Play	
V242	ECD_DISCIPLINE_DISTRACT	Distracting child when he/her misbehave	
V243	ECD_DISCIPLINE_EXPLAIN	Talk to him/her	
V244	ECD_DISCIPLINE_SHOUT	Shout at him/her	

ID	Name	Label	Question
V245	ECD_DISCIPLINE_SLAP	Punish child	
V246	ECD_DISCIPLINE_ISOLATE	Isolate child	
V247	ECD_DISCIPLINE_NOTHING	Do nothing	
V248	ecd_birth_cert	Birth certificate	
V249	ECD_MIG_BORN	Where was he/she born	
V250	ECD_MIG_PROV	In which province was he/she born	
V251	ECD_MIG_COUNTRY	In which country was he/she born	
V252	ECD_BTHPLACE	Born in a hospital, clinic or at home	
V253	ECD_BIRTH_ATTEND_DOCTOR	Doctor present	
V254	ECD_BIRTH_ATTEND_NURSE	Sister/nurse present	
V255	ECD_BIRTH_ATTEND_MIDWIFE	Traditional birth attendant	
V256	ECD_BIRTH_ATTEND_FAMILY	Family or friends	
V257	ECD_BIRTH_ATTEND_FATHER	Father of the child	
V258	edu_attend	Currently attending educational institution	
V259	edu_rsnn	Main reason for not attending an educational institution	
V260	edu_edui	Educational institution	
V261	edu_ppriv	Public or private institution	
V262	edu_corr	Distance learning classes	
V263	edu_mode_tr	Means of transport	
V264	edu_time	Time taken to school	
V265	edu_burs	Fee reductions or bursaries	
V266	edu_totfees	Total amount of tuition fees paid	
V267	edu_nofees	Reason for no fees payment	
V268	edu_grde	Current grade	
V269	edu_gr	Pre-primary	
V270	edu_same	Repeat Grade	
V271	edu_food	School feeding scheme	
V272	edu_eatfood	Provision of food	
V273	hlt_medi	Medical aid scheme	
V274	hlt_genhealth	Health status	
V275	hlt_preg	Pregnancy	
V276	hlt_pregstat	Current status of pregnancy	
V277	dsb_see	Seeing	
V278	dsb_hear	Hearing	
V279	dsb_wal	Walking	
V280	dsb_rem	Remembering	
V281	dsb_sel	Self-care	
V282	dsb_com	Communication	
V283	DSB_ALBINISM	ALBINISM	
V284	dsb_astd_eyeglass	Eyeglasses/spectacles /contact lenses	
V285	dsb_astd_hearaid	A hearing aid	
V286	dsb_astd_walkstick	A walking stick/walking frame or crutches	
V287	dsb_astd_prosthesis	A prosthesis/artificial limb	
V288	dsb_astd_whechair	A wheelchair	
V289	soc_grant	Social grants	

ID	Name	Label	Question
V290	soc_grant_oag	Old-age grant	
V291	soc_grant_dis	Disability grant	
V292	soc_grant_csg	Child support grant	
V293	soc_grant_csg_topup	Child support grant top-up	
V294	soc_grant_car	Care dependency grant	
V295	soc_grant_fos	Foster care grant	
V296	soc_grant_grn	Grant-in-aid	
V297	soc_grant_srd	Special COVID-19 social relief of distress grant	
V298	ltp_cell	Own a mobile telephone	
V299	ltp_cell_sphone	Own a smart phone	
V300	lab_wge	Working for a wage, commission or salary	
V301	lab_bus	Business Activities	
V302	lab_vol	Work without remuneration	
V303	lab_ret	Return to work or business	
V304	lab_amount	Willing to disclose their earning	
V305	lab_sto	Total salary/pay	
V306	lab_salper	Salary period	
V307	lab_salc	Income categories	
V308	lab_transp	Means of transport to go to work	
V309	lab_mins	Time taken to place of employment	
V310	lab_sector	Sector of organisation/business or branch	
V311	lab_look	Looking for any kind of job or trying business	
V312	lab_start	Liked to work	
V313	lab_rnsw	Reason for not trying to find work or starting a business	
V314	lab_accjob	Start work or a business	
V315	lab_res_name	Person number of the respondent	
V316	undisab	UN Disability	
V317	disab	Disability	
V318	sevdisab	Severe disability	
V319	geotype	Geography Type	
V320	metro_code	Metro Code	
V321	metro	Metro	
V322	stratum	Stratum	
V323	lab_salary	Salary	
V324	employ_Status1	Employment status one	
V325	employ_Status2	Employment status two	
V326	rotation	Rotation	
V327	person_wgt	Person weight	

Total: 121

Download related resources

Questionnaires

[GHS 2025 Questionnaire]

Title [GHS 2025 Questionnaire]
Filename q-ghs-2025.pdf

Reports

General Household Survey 2025: Statistical Release

Title General Household Survey 2025: Statistical Release
Filename ghs-2025-statistical-release.pdf

Other materials

General Household Survey 2025: Media Release

Title General Household Survey 2025: Media Release
Filename ghs-2025-media-release.pdf

General Household Survey 2025:Metadata

Title General Household Survey 2025:Metadata
Filename ghs-2025-metadata.pdf

General Household Survey 2025 Measuring the progress of development in the country [GHS Presentation]

Title General Household Survey 2025 Measuring the progress of development in the country [GHS Presentation]
Filename ghs-2025-presentation.pdf
