

How's Life in SOUTH AFRICA?



South Africa's current well-being, 2019 or latest available year

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| Income and Wealth | | Household income ... | Household wealth ... | S80/S20 income ratio (household income for the top 20% is 32.4x that of the bottom 20%) 3 |
| Housing | | Housing affordability (81.9% of household disposable income left after housing costs) 1 | Overcrowding rate ... | |
| Work and Job Quality | | Employment rate (49% of the population aged 25-64) 3 | Gender wage gap ... | Long hours in paid work (15.4% of employees usually work 50+ hours/week) 3 |
| Health | | Life expectancy at birth (64.2 years) 3 | Gap in life expectancy by education (men) ... | |
| Knowledge and Skills | | Student skills in science ... | Students with low skills ... | |
| Environmental Quality | | Access to green space ... | Exposure to outdoor air pollution (100% of population > WHO threshold) 3 | |
| Subjective Well-being | | Life satisfaction ... | Negative affect balance (11.6% of population report more negative than positive feelings) 3 | |
| Safety | | Homicides (13.7 per 100 000 population) 2 | Gender gap in feeling safe (women feel 13 percentage points less safe than men walking alone at night) 2 | |
| Work-life Balance | | Time off ... | Gender gap in hours worked ... | |
| Social Connections | | Social interactions ... | Lack of social support (10% of people report having no friends or relatives to count on in times of trouble) 3 | |
| Civic Engagement | | Voter turnout (66.1% of registered voters voted) 1 | Having no say in government ... | |

Note: **1**=top-performing OECD tier (equivalent), **2**=middle-performing OECD tier (equivalent), **3**=bottom-performing OECD tier (equivalent). Data for employment rate, long hours in paid work, negative affect balance, gender gap in feeling safe, and lack of social support refer to 2020.

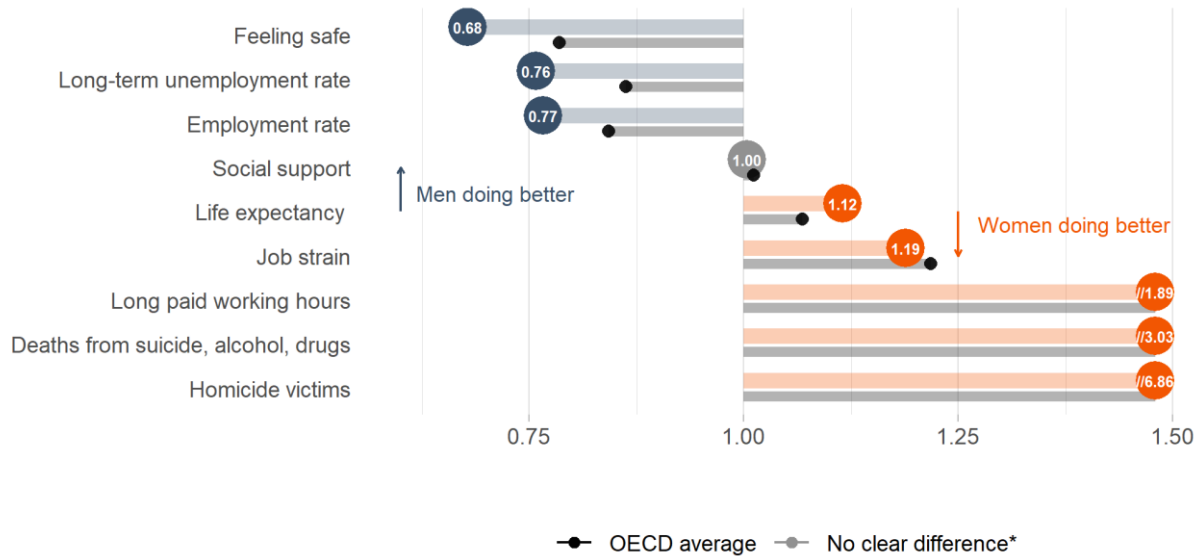
South Africa's resources for future well-being, 2019 or latest available year

| Natural Capital | Economic Capital | Human Capital | Social Capital |
|---|--|---|---|
| Greenhouse gas emissions per capita ... | Produced fixed assets ... | Educational attainment of young adults (54.1% with at least upper secondary) 3 | Trust in others ... |
| Material footprint (8.4 tonnes per capita) 1 ↗ | Financial net worth of government ... | Premature mortality (22 067 potential years lost per 100 000 population) 3 ↗ | Trust in government (52% of the population) 2 ↔ |
| Red List Index of threatened species (0.77 on 0-1 scale) 3 ↘ | Household debt ... | Labour underutilisation rate ... | Gender parity in politics (42% women in national parliament) 1 ... |

Note: **1**=top-performing OECD tier (equivalent), **2**=middle-performing OECD tier (equivalent), **3**=bottom-performing OECD tier (equivalent). ↗ indicates consistent improvement; ↔ indicates no clear or consistent trend; ↘ indicates consistent deterioration, and "..." indicates insufficient time series to determine trends since 2010. Data refer to 2019 or the latest available year for all indicators except for the Red List Index (2021), educational attainment of young adults, and trust in government (2020).

Inequalities between men and women in South Africa

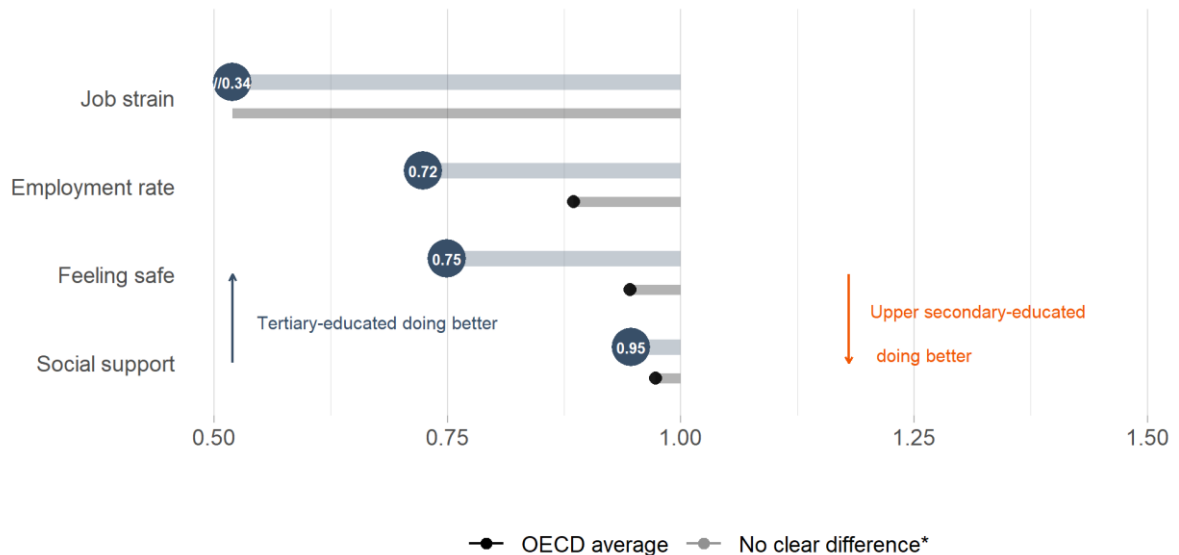
Gender ratios (distance from parity) for selected indicators of current well-being, 2019 or latest available year



Note: *Grey bubbles denote no clear difference between men and women, defined as gender ratios within 0.03 points distance to parity. Data refer to 2019 or the latest available year for all indicators except for the employment rate, long-term unemployment rate, long paid working hours, and life expectancy (2020 or the latest available year). Data for social support and feeling safe refer to pooled averages from 2010 to 2020.

Inequalities between people with different educational attainment in South Africa

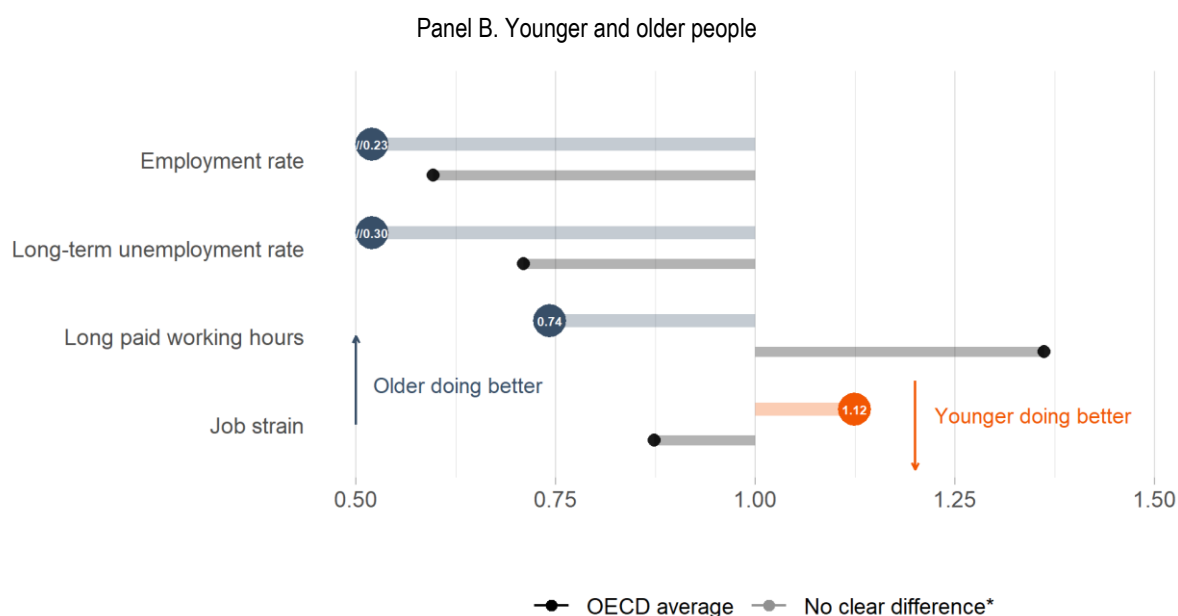
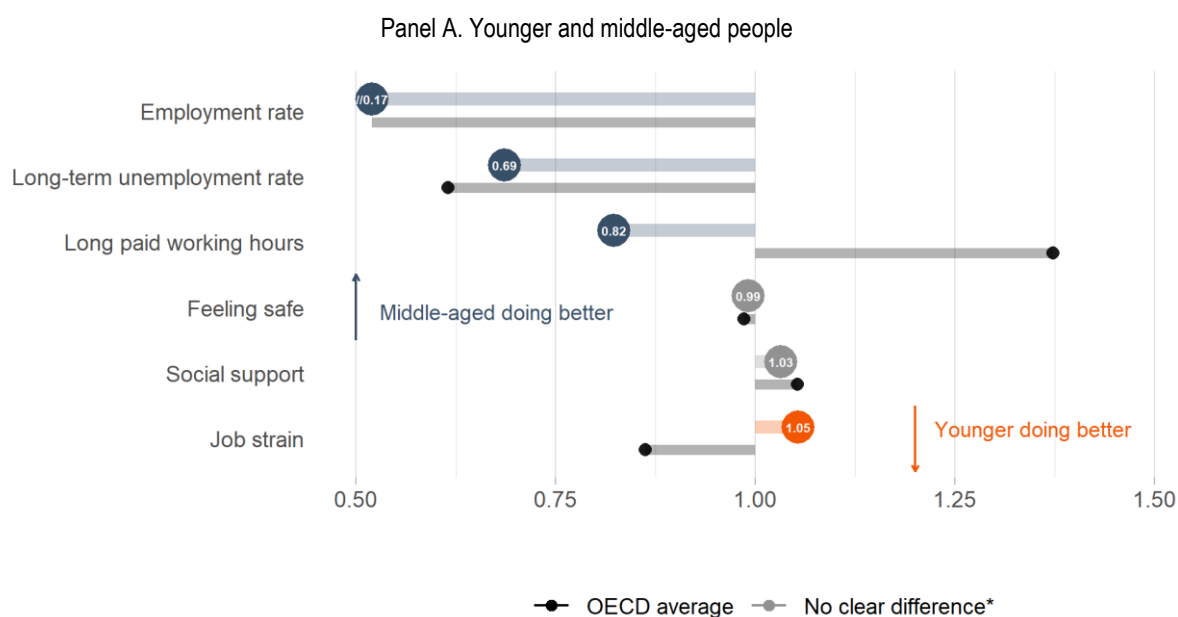
Education ratios (distance from parity) for selected indicators of current well-being, 2019 or latest available year



Note: Note: *Grey bubbles denote no clear difference between groups with different educational attainment, defined as education ratios within 0.03 points distance to parity. Data refer to 2019 or the latest available year for all indicators except for the employment rate (2020 or the latest available year). Data for social support and feeling safe refer to pooled averages from 2010 to 2020.

Inequalities between age groups in South Africa

Age ratios (distance from parity) for selected indicators of current well-being, 2019 or latest available year



Note: Age ranges differ according to each indicator and are only broadly comparable. They generally refer to 15-24/29 years for young people, 25/30 to 45/50 years for the middle-aged and 50 years and over for older people. See the [How's Life? Well-being database](#) for further details. *Grey bubbles denote no clear difference between age groups, defined as age ratios within 0.03 points distance to parity. Data refer to 2019 or the latest available year for all indicators except for the employment rate, long-term unemployment rate, and long paid working hours (2020 or the latest available year). Data for social support and feeling safe refer to pooled averages from 2010 to 2020.

For more information

Find the data used in the *COVID-19 and Well-being: Life in the Pandemic* section of this country profile (pp. 1-3), and more information about indicator definitions, sources and methodology [here](#).

Access the complete OECD (2021) [COVID-19 and Well-being: Life in the Pandemic](#) publication.

Find the data used in the *How's Life?* section (pp.4-8) of this country profile in the [How's Life? Well-being database](#). For methodological details on how change since 2010 is defined, see the [Reader's Guide](#) of *How's Life? 2020*.

Access the latest edition of the [How's Life? publication series](#).