



SOUTH AFRICA

Region: Sub-Saharan Africa

Income Category: Upper Middle Income



Human capital – knowledge, skills, and good health – empowers people to achieve their potential and drives economic growth. This brief tracks progress by South Africa in building and using human capital. The Human Capital Complementary Indicators offer a snapshot of human capital investments at four stages of the lifecycle. The figures show the latest available data, benchmarked against regional averages. The figures also report progress over the previous 5 years.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

- **Neonatal mortality rate.** The neonatal mortality rate is **11** per 1,000 live births (2022). This remains unchanged since 2017. The indicator is lower than the regional average.
- **Participation rate in organized learning.** In 2020, **73%** of children one year younger than the official primary school entry age participated in an organized learning program, compared to 72% in 2015. The indicator is above the regional average.
- **DTP vaccination rate, third dose.** In 2023, **79%** of infants received the third dose of the diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine, compared to 82% in 2018. The indicator is similar to the regional average.

SCHOOL AGE

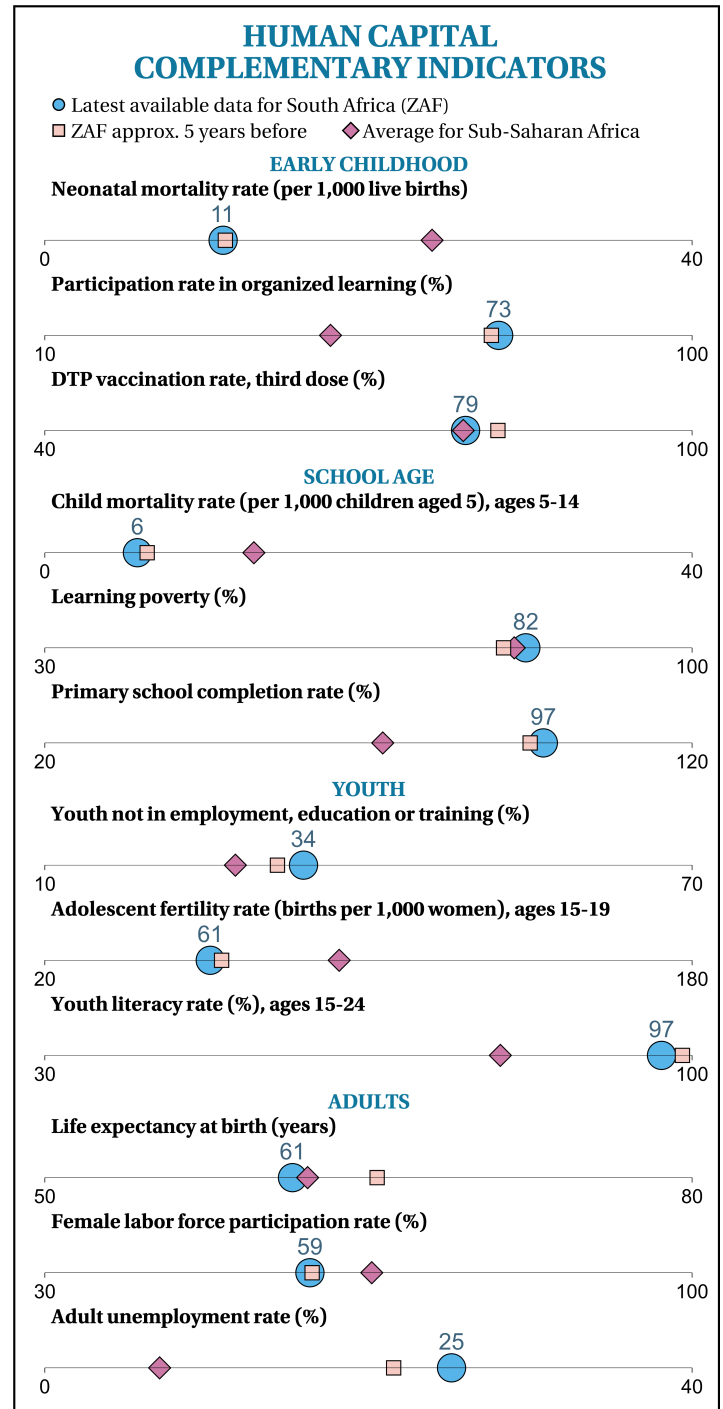
- **Child mortality rate.** The mortality rate for children ages 5-14 is **6** per 1,000 children aged 5 (2022). This remains unchanged since 2017. The indicator is lower than the regional average.
- **Learning poverty.** In 2021, **82%** of children could not read and understand a simple text, by age 10, compared to 80% in 2016. The indicator is above the regional average.
- **Primary school completion rate.** The primary school completion rate is **97%** (by the official entrance age of the last grade) (2021), compared to 95% in 2016. The indicator is higher than the regional average.

YOUTH

- **Youth not in employment, education or training.** In 2023, **34%** of youth (ages 15-24) were not in employment, education or training, compared to 32% in 2018. The indicator is higher than the regional average.
- **Adolescent fertility rate.** The number of births for every 1,000 women ages 15-19 is **61** (2022), compared to 64 in 2017. The indicator is below the regional average.
- **Youth literacy rate.** The share of youth (ages 15-24) who are literate is **97%** (2021), compared to 99% in 2015. The indicator is higher than the regional average.

ADULTS

- **Life expectancy at birth.** Life expectancy at birth is **61** years (2022), compared to 65 in 2017. The indicator is lower than the regional average.
- **Female labor force participation rate.** Female labor force participation as a percentage of the female working-age population (ages 25+) is **59%** (2023). This remains unchanged since 2018. The indicator is below the regional average.
- **Adult unemployment rate.** Unemployed adults as a share of the adult labor force (ages 25+) is **25%** (2023), compared to 22% in 2018. The indicator is higher than the regional average.



Note: Missing symbols indicate internationally comparable data are not available to generate the corresponding statistic.

