

Gauteng



Gauteng is the smallest of South Africa’s nine provinces, measuring 17,010 square kilometres. The province is also the most densely populated province in South Africa with approximately seven million inhabitants. The rate of urbanisation is 97%. Its three main cities are Johannesburg, Soweto and Tshwane (Pretoria).

Basic statistics for Gauteng:

Capital	Johannesburg
Principal Languages	Zulu 21.5%, Afrikaans 16.7%, English 13%
Population	7.35 million
% of total	18.1%
Area (km ²)	17,010
% of total	1.4%
GRP at 1994 prices	R 144,359 million
% of total GDP	37.73%

Gauteng has a multi-cultural population comprising African (70%), white (23%), coloured (4%) and Indian/Asian (2%). The Languages spoken are English, Afrikaans, Sesotho, Sepedi, Setswana and Zulu.

The province has the most important education and health centres in the country. Pretoria boasts the largest residential university in South Africa, the University of Pretoria, and what is believed to be the largest correspondence university in the world, the University of South Africa (Unisa). It is estimated that only some 9.5% of adults in the province have not received formal education. Gauteng is also host to a high number of scientific institutes and more than 60% of South Africa’s research and development takes place in here.

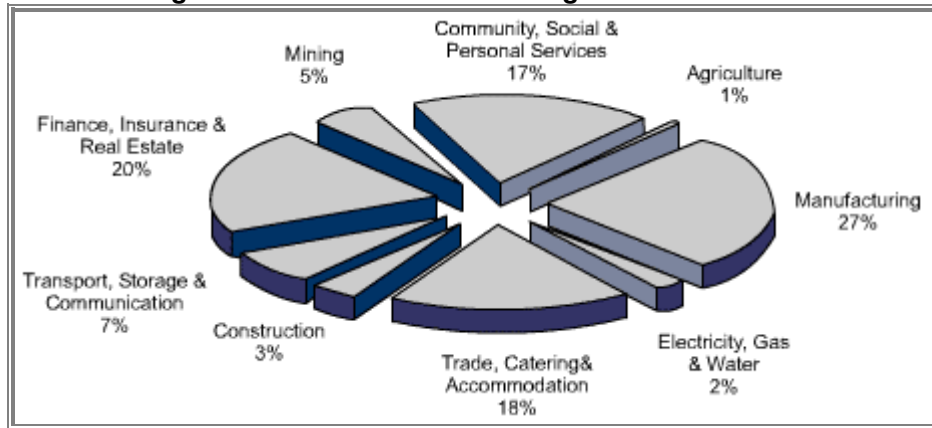
Gauteng is the economic hub and financial centre of South Africa. About 37.7% of the country’s GDP is generated in the province. Johannesburg, the gold capital of the world, and Pretoria, the administrative capital of the Republic, are located in Gauteng. Although the province is highly urbanised and industrialised, it contains wetlands of international importance, such as Blesbokspuit.

A large area of the province falls within the so-called maize triangle. The districts of Bronkhorstspuit, Cullinan and Heidelberg are important agricultural land, where groundnuts, sunflowers, cotton and sorghum are produced.

Industry in Gauteng is predominantly located in five areas: the Vaal Triangle, the East, West and Central Rand, and Pretoria. The Vaal Triangle has a strong manufacturing sector; the West Rand concentrates on primary mining, and the central Witwatersrand is dominated by the manufacturing and finance sectors with mining capital playing a major role. All these sectors rely heavily on the Vaal Dam on the Vaal River, from whence water is piped across the province.

Traditionally mining dominated the economy of Gauteng, but in recent decades the secondary and tertiary sectors have increased in importance. While mining's share of the gross regional product is now relatively small, it continues to be an important earner of foreign exchange and has significant forward and backward linkages to other sectors. The value of manufacturing in Gauteng currently exceeds R75 billion per annum.

Gauteng's economic sectors according to contribution to GRP



Source: Statistics SA

The highest growth sectors are however: information and communication technologies, higher value added manufacturing, tourism and technology-related sectors.

The banking and financial services sectors in South Africa are generally acknowledged to be on par with those in the industrialized world, and all four of the country's leading banks have their headquarters in Gauteng, as do some 80 other corporate and merchant banks and financial institutions. Gauteng is also home to the Johannesburg Securities Exchange, which is one of the twenty biggest bourses in the world in terms of market capitalization and turnover.

Gauteng has a greater proportion of its labour force in professional, technical, managerial and executive positions than any other province in South Africa. Its economic magnetism draws a large inflow of migrant labour from poorer regions in the country. It is the province with the highest per capita income. In 2000, the estimated figure for personal disposable income per capita (personal income minus direct tax) in Gauteng was with R25,988 roughly four times higher than the figure for the Northern Province (R6,021). Gauteng has a considerable higher income per capita than the national average of R13,502. By far the lowest income per capita figures are those of the Northern Province (R6,021) and the Eastern Cape (R7,792) (unisa 2003).

The trade, catering and accommodation sector in Gauteng tends to follow national trends. A number of tourism-related initiatives to improve the sector's performance and the fact that Gauteng is the principal point of entry for visitors travelling to South Africa by air have benefited the accommodation sector in particular. It is estimated that at least 75,000 direct tourism jobs account for 9% of formal sector employment. This figure, however, largely ignores the substantial use of temporary labour in the sector.