

2008 School Realities

Published September 2008
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EMIS

In 2008, there were 12 239 363 learners in ordinary public and independent schools (hereinafter collectively referred to as ordinary schools) in South Africa, who attended 25 875 schools and were served by 400 953 educators (see Tables 2 and 3). These data are from the survey conducted on the 10th school day. Approximately 97% of functional ordinary schools submitted the survey forms. *Except where otherwise indicated, all data are according to the new provincial demarcation boundaries.* The figures in this publication are preliminary and the final figures will be published in the more comprehensive report *Education Statistics in South Africa 2008*.

Table 1: List of abbreviations

ABET	Adult Basic Education and Training	GPI	Gender Parity Index
ECD	Early Childhood Development	LER	Learner-to-Educator Ratio
FET	Further Education and Training	LSR	Learner-to-School Ratio
GER	Gross Enrolment Ratio	SGB	School Governing Body
GET	General Education and Training	SNE	Special Needs Education

Table 2 shows how many ordinary public and independent schools there were in 2008, and how many learners and educators there were in each. It further shows that the highest and lowest percentage of ordinary school learners and educators in the country were based in KwaZulu-Natal and the Northern Cape, respectively.

Table 2: Number of learners, educators and schools in the ordinary school sector, by province, in 2008

Province	Ordinary Public Schools			Ordinary Independent Schools			Ordinary Public and Independent Schools					
	Learners	Educators	Schools	Learners	Educators	Schools	Learners	As % of National Total	Educators	As % of National Total	Schools	As % of National Total
Eastern Cape	2 037 777	64 371	5 686	42 217	2 165	139	2 079 994	17.0	66 536	16.6	5 825	22.5
Free State	656 074	22 696	1 614	14 514	687	61	670 588	5.5	23 383	5.8	1 675	6.5
Gauteng	1 716 196	53 017	1 989	177 831	11 290	416	1 894 027	15.5	64 307	16.0	2 405	9.3
KwaZulu-Natal	2 725 855	83 760	5 783	45 565	3 223	155	2 771 420	22.6	86 983	21.7	5 938	22.9
Limpopo	1 735 806	55 647	4 023	28 863	1 436	99	1 764 669	14.4	57 083	14.2	4 122	15.9
Mpumalanga	1 034 719	32 784	1 873	16 812	860	86	1 051 531	8.6	33 644	8.4	1 959	7.6
North West	765 762	25 736	1 730	13 498	884	54	779 260	6.4	26 620	6.6	1 784	6.9
Northern Cape	263 086	8 835	602	2 780	184	15	265 866	2.2	9 019	2.2	617	2.4
Western Cape	937 887	31 214	1 451	24 121	2 164	99	962 008	7.9	33 378	8.3	1 550	6.0
National	11 873 162	378 060	24 751	366 201	22 893	1 124	12 239 363	100.0	400 953	100.0	25 875	100.0

Table 3 reflects a decrease in learner numbers from 2007 to 2008, an increase in educator numbers from 2006 to 2008, and a decrease in the number of ordinary schools from 2006 to 2008.

Table 3: Number of learners, educators and schools in the ordinary school sector, by province, from 2006 to 2008

Province	Learners			Educators			Schools		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
Eastern Cape	2 100 425	2 139 668	2 079 994	63 098	66 246	66 536	5 886	5 852	5 825
Free State	685 971	680 777	670 588	23 439	23 570	23 383	1 818	1 744	1 675
Gauteng	1 863 375	1 883 550	1 894 027	60 707	63 212	64 307	2 388	2 397	2 405
KwaZulu-Natal	2 768 015	2 848 878	2 771 420	85 220	88 023	86 983	5 954	6 060	5 938
Limpopo	1 771 320	1 782 954	1 764 669	53 652	54 797	57 083	4 102	4 080	4 122
Mpumalanga	1 092 382	1 087 774	1 051 531	31 998	33 189	33 644	2 079	2 033	1 959
North West	772 044	753 323	779 260	26 215	25 902	26 620	1 841	1 791	1 784
Northern Cape	261 736	264 512	265 866	8 706	8 522	9 019	622	613	617
Western Cape	978 517	969 065	962 008	32 825	31 991	33 378	1 579	1 529	1 550
National	12 293 785	12 410 501	12 239 363	385 860	395 452	400 953	26 269	26 099	25 875

Sources:
2006: As published in the report *Education Statistics in South Africa 2006*.
2007: As published in the report *School Realities 2007*.

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Figure 1: Percentage distribution of female learners in ordinary schools, by grade, in 2008

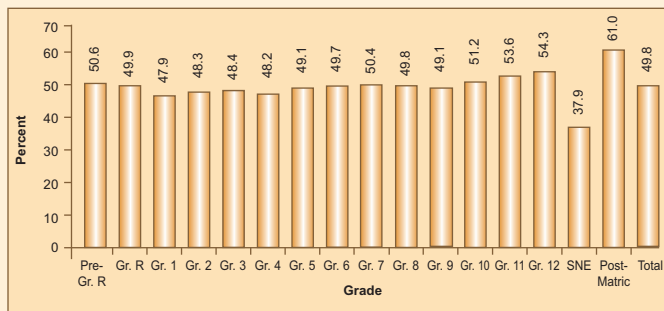


Figure 1 shows that the lowest percentage of female learners (47.9%) was in Grade 1 and the highest percentage (54.3%) was in Grade 12.

As Figure 2 indicates, 9.2% of the learners were enrolled in Grade 1 and 4.9% were enrolled in Grade 12. This means that for every Grade 12 learner there were approximately two Grade 1 learners.

Table 5: Comparative data of learners in ordinary schools, by province, from 2002 to 2008

Province	Learners						
	Old Demarcation				New Demarcation		
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Eastern Cape	2 072 054	2 116 426	2 150 308	2 206 575	2 100 425	2 139 668	2 079 994
Free State	705 368	696 155	690 490	689 189	685 971	680 777	670 588
Gauteng	1 617 017	1 661 817	1 697 908	1 745 262	1 863 375	1 883 550	1 894 027
KwaZulu-Natal	2 729 834	2 783 051	2 718 176	2 719 966	2 768 015	2 848 878	2 771 420
Limpopo	1 839 079	1 816 852	1 893 626	1 906 402	1 771 320	1 782 954	1 764 669
Mpumalanga	914 353	914 739	934 786	914 212	1 092 382	1 087 774	1 051 531
North West	897 342	891 036	903 379	845 942	772 044	753 323	779 260
Northern Cape	196 731	202 010	209 000	210 152	261 736	264 512	265 866
Western Cape	945 239	956 836	978 718	980 065	978 517	969 065	962 008
National	11 917 017	12 038 922	12 176 391	12 217 765	12 293 785	12 410 501	12 239 363

Sources:
2002-2006: As published in the reports *Education Statistics in South Africa at a Glance* and *Education Statistics in South Africa*.
2007: As published in the report *School Realities 2007*.

Figure 3: Trend line of learners in ordinary schools, from 2002 to 2008

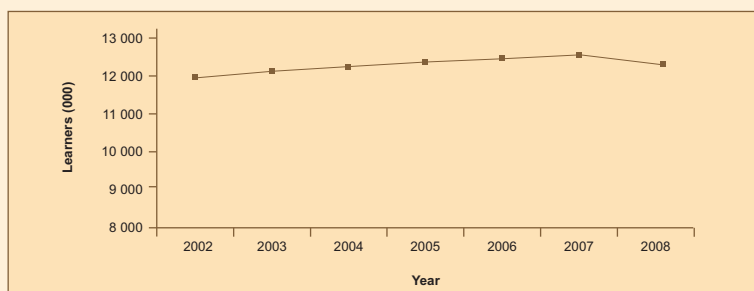


Table 6: Indicators for ordinary schools, by province, in 2008

Province	Ordinary Public Schools			Ordinary Public and Independent Schools					
	LER		LSR	GER (%)			GPI		
	State-Paid and SGB-Paid Educators	State-Paid Educators		Primary (Gr. 1-7)	Secondary (Gr. 8-12)	Total (Gr. 1-12)	Primary (Gr. 1-7)	Secondary (Gr. 8-12)	Total (Gr. 1-12)
Eastern Cape	31.7	33.5	358	119	75	100	1.00	1.23	1.08
Free State	28.9	30.4	406	90	85	88	0.97	1.02	0.99
Gauteng	32.4	36.4	863	87	88	87	1.01	1.03	1.01
KwaZulu-Natal	32.5	34.5	471	99	83	92	0.96	1.04	0.99
Limpopo	31.2	32.1	431	101	102	102	1.00	1.13	1.05
Mpumalanga	31.6	33.0	552	102	95	99	0.95	1.06	0.99
North West	29.8	31.4	443	94	81	89	0.92	0.96	0.93
Northern Cape	29.8	31.7	437	93	76	86	0.97	1.07	1.00
Western Cape	30.0	35.7	646	84	71	79	0.97	1.08	1.01
National	31.4	33.7	480	98	85	92	0.98	1.08	1.01

Source for population figures: Mid-year Population Estimates 2008, Statistical Release P0302, Statistics South Africa (31 July 2008).