

Economic Snapshot: Amathole District

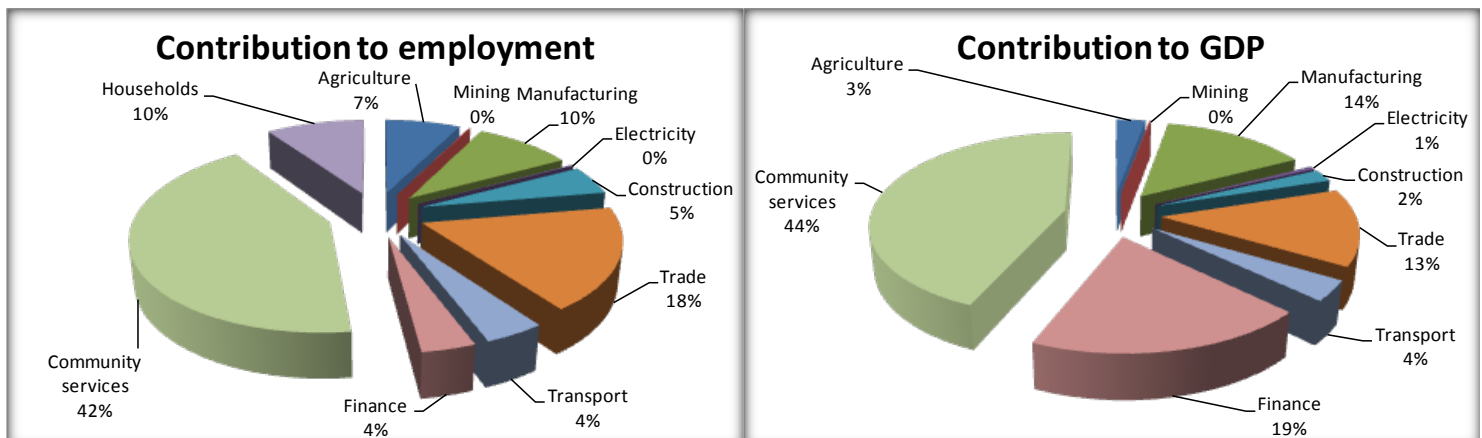
The Amathole District stretches from the Indian Ocean in the south to the Amathole mountains in the north. The district covers a land area of 23 577km² and is made up of Amahlati, Nxuba, Nkonkobe, Ngqushwa, Great Kei, Mnquma and Mbashe local municipalities.

Socio-Economic Indicators 2010

Population	982 046	Number of people unemployed	76 312
Population of working age	582 510	Official Unemployment rate	44%
No of households	245 166	No of people with Matric and certificate/diploma	31 223
GDP growth rate	2.1%	Access to electricity	58%
GDP per capita (ZAR)	13 785	Access to formal housing	45%
Poverty rate	53%	Access to hygienic toilets	22%
Literacy	57%	Access to water at or above RDP standard	54%
Number of people employed	94 785		

Economic Sector Overview

The district economy is largely driven by government, both in terms of employment and economic growth.



IDP and LED strategic priorities

The Amathole District Municipality IDP focuses on enterprise development, co-operatives development, heritage resource management, tourism development, environment and agricultural development.

Current LED focus is on tourism development, agriculture development and heritage development.

Opportunities to facilitate economic growth and create jobs

There are four investment corridors that offer major potential for growth and job creation in Amathole district. These corridors are also focused on agricultural production and processing: berry production (N6); citrus farming (R63); pineapples (R72); and essential oils and alternative crops (R63).

Heritage tourism has been identified as a sector with major potential. Routes targeted for investment are the Maqoma Route (Fort Beaufort, Balfour and Seymour), Makana Route (Ngqushwa), Sandile Route (Buffalo City and Amahlati) and the Phalo Route (Grei Kei, Mnquma and Mbashe).

