

Economic Snapshot: Joe Gqabi District

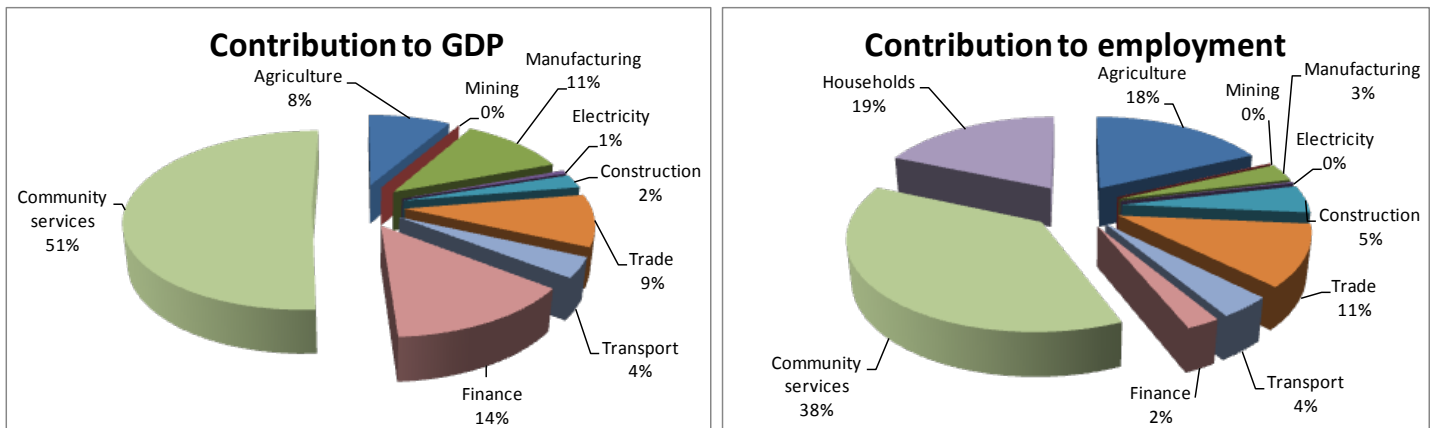
Joe Gqabi District Municipality (JGDM) is located in the north of the Eastern Cape, bordering the Free State and Lesotho. JGDM covers 26,517 square kilometres. The district is sparsely populated, accounting for 5.3% of the Eastern Cape population. The District is made up of four local municipalities; Gariep, Maletswai, Senqu and Elundini.

District Socio-Economic Indicators 2010

Population	376 633	Number of people unemployed	15 058
Population of working age	224 018	Official Unemployment rate	30%
No of households	98 655	No of people with Matric and certificate/diploma	11 803
GDP growth rate	1.7%	Access to electricity	60%
GDP per capita	6 671	Access to formal housing	53%
Poverty rate	58%	Access to hygienic toilets	33%
Literacy	54%	Access to water at or above RDP Standard	50%
Number of people employed	36 038		

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 IDP addresses water and sanitation, municipal services upgrading, social safety nets, access linkages programme, governance and administration

LED initiatives focus on job creation, food security, development of local economy, rural development, agriculture, timber industry development and tourism.

Opportunities to facilitate economic growth and create jobs

The greatest potential for economic growth and job creation exist in the agriculture and tourism sectors. Project that can drive expansion and growth in the agriculture sector are establishment of a regional brand and a marketing cooperative. There is potential for of apple, peach and berry production and processing. Priority projects for tourism should be the Geo-park and the Madiba corridor.

The Joe Gqabi Development Agency is spearheading the revival of the Aliwal Spa, Aliwal North Private Hospital and Senqu Plastics.

