

SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX

SOUTH AFRICA: A PROVINCIAL PERSPECTIVE

IQbusiness, in partnership with the Social Progress Imperative – a non-profit organisation, started by Harvard University – has developed a Social Progress Index (SPI) to showcase and measure the social and environmental outcomes of the nine South African provinces.

Independent of economic proxies, the SPI provides a complete account of the real quality of life in our society.

The report represents a significant milestone

for the global movement to accelerate social progress in the provinces of South Africa. It's proven to be an invaluable tool for decision-making as it looks to develop smarter investments and more responsive policies rooted in the data.

Furthermore, the SPI complements existing indicators of progress like GDP, helping to untangle the relationship between social progress and economic growth. Download the full report at www.iqbusiness.net/spi



TOP ACHIEVERS

Gauteng (68.01) and Western Cape (66.70) are the best performers overall, with high scores in most components of the Index.

BEST OF THE REST

With the remaining provinces' scores clustered together, **Limpopo (48.18)** has the next best performance after Gauteng and the Western Cape – and the top scores in Shelter, Personal Safety and Personal Rights.

WORK TO BE DONE

The **Northern Cape (41.86)** is the worst overall performer, with the lowest score for Health and Wellness.

KEY ISSUE 1: CRIME

Gauteng and Western Cape

Crime is a critical issue in Western Cape and Gauteng, with very low Personal Safety and Personal Rights scores pulling their overall scores down.

KEY ISSUE 2: SERVICE DELIVERY

Eastern Cape

The Eastern Cape lags far behind in almost all areas of government service delivery, such as healthcare, water and sanitation, shelter, and education.

KEY ISSUE 3: ENVIRONMENT

Mpumalanga

Mpumalanga's Environmental Quality score (8.61) is the lowest score recorded on any measure in the index, reflecting serious environmental concerns. The Western Cape, on the other hand, scores exceptionally well on Environmental Quality (93.69).

KEY ISSUE 4: HEALTH AND WELFARE

Northern Cape, Free State, North West

The scores for the Northern Cape, Free State, and North West for the components of Nutrition and Basic Healthcare, and Health and Wellness, are some of the lowest across the Index. This must be urgently addressed to improve their social progress.