

# 2007 School Realities

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Enquiries: (012) 312-5958

In 2007, there were 12 410 501 learners in ordinary public and independent schools (hereinafter collectively referred to as ordinary schools) in South Africa, who attended 26 099 schools and were served by 395 452 educators (see Table 4). These data are from the survey conducted on the 10th school day. Approximately 94% of functional ordinary schools submitted the survey forms. *Except where otherwise indicated, all data are according to the new provincial demarcation boundaries.*

**Table 1: List of abbreviations**

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

Tables 2 and 3 reflect, respectively, the number of ordinary public and of ordinary independent schools with their learner and educator numbers, while Table 4 combines the information of those two tables.

**Table 2: Number of learners, educators and schools in ordinary public schools, by province, in 2007**

Province	Learners	Educators	Schools
Eastern Cape	2 104 126	64 524	5 741
Free State	665 056	22 841	1 680
Gauteng	1 710 851	52 451	1 988
KwaZulu-Natal	2 793 827	84 315	5 860
Limpopo	1 746 566	53 072	3 965
Mpumalanga	1 069 094	32 192	1 944
North West	742 797	25 187	1 745
Northern Cape	261 816	8 373	600
Western Cape	947 087	30 167	1 451
<b>National</b>	<b>12 041 220</b>	<b>373 122</b>	<b>24 974</b>

**Table 3: Number of learners, educators and schools in ordinary independent schools, by province, in 2007**

Province	Learners	Educators	Schools
Eastern Cape	35 542	1 722	111
Free State	15 721	729	64
Gauteng	172 699	10 761	409
KwaZulu-Natal	55 051	3 708	200
Limpopo	36 388	1 725	115
Mpumalanga	18 680	997	89
North West	10 526	715	46
Northern Cape	2 696	149	13
Western Cape	21 978	1 824	78
<b>National</b>	<b>369 281</b>	<b>22 330</b>	<b>1 125</b>

**Table 4: Number of learners, educators and schools in ordinary schools, by province, in 2007**

Province	Learners	Educators	Schools
Eastern Cape	2 139 668	66 246	5 852
Free State	680 777	23 570	1 744
Gauteng	1 883 550	63 212	2 397
KwaZulu-Natal	2 848 878	88 023	6 060
Limpopo	1 782 954	54 797	4 080
Mpumalanga	1 087 774	33 189	2 033
North West	753 323	25 902	1 791
Northern Cape	264 512	8 522	613
Western Cape	969 065	31 991	1 529
<b>National</b>	<b>12 410 501</b>	<b>395 452</b>	<b>26 099</b>

Table 5 indicates the number of learners, educators and schools in all nine provinces for the period 2005 to 2007.

**Table 5: Number of learners, educators and schools in ordinary schools, by province, from 2005 to 2007**

Province	Learners			Educators			Schools		
	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
Eastern Cape	2 136 572	2 100 425	2 139 668	65 360	63 098	66 246	6 178	5 886	5 852
Free State	684 111	685 971	680 777	22 965	23 439	23 570	1 906	1 818	1 744
Gauteng	1 810 849	1 863 375	1 883 550	61 815	60 707	63 212	2 349	2 388	2 397
KwaZulu-Natal	2 790 378	2 768 015	2 848 878	82 947	85 220	88 023	5 960	5 954	6 060
Limpopo	1 753 862	1 771 320	1 782 954	51 896	53 652	54 797	4 026	4 102	4 080
Mpumalanga	1 058 505	1 092 382	1 087 774	31 845	31 998	33 189	2 195	2 079	2 033
North West	741 938	772 044	753 323	24 292	26 215	25 902	1 790	1 841	1 791
Northern Cape	261 988	261 736	264 512	8 208	8 706	8 522	615	622	613
Western Cape	979 484	978 517	969 065	32 415	32 825	31 991	1 572	1 579	1 529
<b>National</b>	<b>12 217 687</b>	<b>12 293 785</b>	<b>12 410 501</b>	<b>381 743</b>	<b>385 860</b>	<b>395 452</b>	<b>26 591</b>	<b>26 269</b>	<b>26 099</b>





# E M I S

Province	School Sector	Gender	FET Band				Other			Total Primary (Gr. 1-7)	Total Secondary (Gr. 8-12)	Total (Gr. 1-12)	Grand Total
			Gr. 10	Gr. 11	Gr. 12	Total	SNE	Post-Matric	Total				
Eastern Cape	Independent	Female	1 538	1 580	2 495	5 613	20	67	87	8 824	8 030	16 854	18 399
		Total	2 968	2 816	4 134	9 918	62	87	149	17 773	14 592	32 365	35 542
	Public	Female	81 530	65 565	48 830	195 925	1 025	131	1 156	652 719	349 458	1 002 177	1 062 474
		Total	150 334	116 508	85 307	352 149	2 348	229	2 577	1 336 590	647 744	1 984 334	2 104 126
	Both	Female	83 068	67 145	51 325	201 538	1 045	198	1 243	661 543	357 488	1 019 031	1 080 873
		Male	70 234	52 179	38 116	160 529	1 365	118	1 483	692 820	304 848	997 668	1 058 795
Total		153 302	119 324	89 441	362 067	2 410	316	2 726	1 354 363	662 336	2 016 699	2 139 668	
Free State	Independent	Female	708	542	462	1 712	3	0	3	4 054	3 364	7 418	7 889
		Total	1 328	1 055	897	3 280	5	0	5	8 112	6 649	14 761	15 721
	Public	Female	36 397	25 676	16 708	78 781	2 172	0	2 172	185 181	131 028	316 209	329 974
		Total	71 384	48 313	31 283	150 980	5 549	0	5 549	377 738	258 532	636 270	665 056
	Both	Female	37 105	26 218	17 170	80 493	2 175	0	2 175	189 235	134 392	323 627	337 863
		Male	35 607	23 150	15 010	73 767	3 379	0	3 379	196 615	130 789	327 404	342 914
Total		72 712	49 368	32 180	154 260	5 554	0	5 554	385 850	265 181	651 031	680 777	
Gauteng	Independent	Female	7 755	7 919	6 952	22 626	84	135	219	44 629	36 371	81 000	87 360
		Total	15 233	15 252	12 986	43 471	190	251	441	89 362	70 408	159 770	172 699
	Public	Female	83 667	71 215	45 349	200 231	941	51	992	499 375	331 043	830 418	853 907
		Total	168 201	134 067	82 422	384 690	2 654	123	2 777	1 009 087	653 588	1 662 675	1 710 851
	Both	Female	91 422	79 134	52 301	222 857	1 025	186	1 211	544 004	367 414	911 418	941 267
		Male	92 012	70 185	43 107	205 304	1 819	188	2 007	554 445	356 582	911 027	942 283
Total		183 434	149 319	95 408	428 161	2 844	374	3 218	1 098 449	723 996	1 822 445	1 883 550	
KwaZulu-Natal	Independent	Female	2 432	2 278	3 263	7 973	12	10	22	13 671	12 343	26 014	28 841
		Total	4 446	4 091	5 747	14 284	35	32	67	26 880	22 450	49 330	55 051
	Public	Female	118 343	112 115	81 872	312 330	1 537	15	1 552	802 893	515 159	1 318 052	1 379 568
		Total	234 069	213 831	153 455	601 355	4 179	57	4 236	1 653 555	1 015 277	2 668 832	2 793 827
	Both	Female	120 775	114 393	85 135	320 303	1 549	25	1 574	816 564	527 502	1 344 066	1 408 409
		Male	117 740	103 529	74 067	295 336	2 665	64	2 729	863 871	510 225	1 374 096	1 440 469
Total		238 515	217 922	159 202	615 639	4 214	89	4 303	1 680 435	1 037 727	2 718 162	2 848 878	
Limpopo	Independent	Female	1 627	1 832	2 502	5 961	14	0	14	8 933	8 516	17 449	18 909
		Total	3 013	3 263	4 573	10 849	35	2	37	17 790	15 781	33 571	36 388
	Public	Female	90 367	83 924	55 928	230 219	28	58	86	456 547	366 125	822 672	868 634
		Total	176 799	154 254	100 659	431 712	112	108	220	943 296	710 121	1 653 417	1 746 566
	Both	Female	91 994	85 756	58 430	236 180	42	58	100	465 480	374 641	840 121	887 543
		Male	87 818	71 761	46 802	206 381	105	52	157	495 606	351 261	846 867	895 411
Total		179 812	157 517	105 232	442 561	147	110	257	961 086	725 902	1 686 988	1 782 954	
Mpumalanga	Independent	Female	384	521	1 194	2 099	2	23	25	5 877	2 868	8 745	9 495
		Total	750	977	2 093	3 820	10	27	37	11 828	5 341	17 169	18 680
	Public	Female	50 810	47 467	30 428	128 705	279	2	281	301 392	212 498	513 890	532 291
		Total	99 990	89 425	55 823	245 238	664	11	675	619 337	412 837	1 032 174	1 069 094
	Both	Female	51 194	47 988	31 622	130 804	281	25	306	307 269	215 366	522 635	541 786
		Male	49 546	42 414	26 294	118 254	393	13	406	323 896	202 812	526 708	545 988
Total		100 740	90 402	57 916	249 058	674	38	712	631 165	418 178	1 049 343	1 087 774	
North West	Independent	Female	373	374	315	1 062	0	5	5	3 176	1 778	4 954	5 397
		Total	733	692	600	2 025	1	11	12	6 284	3 369	9 653	10 526
	Public	Female	36 741	28 308	17 161	82 210	160	71	231	219 097	138 218	357 315	365 531
		Total	73 165	53 100	31 977	158 242	362	135	497	452 331	273 944	726 275	742 797
	Both	Female	37 114	28 682	17 476	83 272	160	76	236	222 273	139 996	362 269	370 928
		Male	36 784	25 110	15 101	76 995	203	70	273	236 342	137 317	373 659	382 395
Total		73 898	53 792	32 577	160 267	363	146	509	458 615	277 313	735 928	753 323	
Northern Cape	Independent	Female	169	152	146	467	2	0	2	607	829	1 436	1 544
		Total	267	259	201	727	8	0	8	1 176	1 294	2 470	2 696
	Public	Female	11 947	9 063	5 454	26 464	36	0	36	78 344	46 794	125 138	129 873
		Total	23 653	16 925	10 300	50 878	97	0	97	160 641	91 691	252 332	261 816
	Both	Female	12 116	9 215	5 600	26 931	38	0	38	78 951	47 623	126 574	131 417
		Male	11 804	7 969	4 901	24 674	67	0	67	82 866	45 362	128 228	133 095
Total		23 920	17 184	10 501	51 605	105	0	105	161 817	92 985	254 802	264 512	
Western Cape	Independent	Female	863	859	898	2 620	11	19	30	5 451	4 126	9 577	10 837
		Total	1 668	1 678	1 784	5 130	32	50	82	11 282	8 143	19 425	21 978
	Public	Female	47 558	36 284	24 308	108 150	64	0	64	283 797	180 833	464 630	480 126
		Total	88 764	64 210	42 117	195 091	163	0	163	575 104	340 609	915 713	947 087
	Both	Female	48 421	37 143	25 206	110 770	75	19	94	289 248	184 959	474 207	490 963
		Male	42 011	28 745	18 695	89 451	120	31	151	297 138	163 793	460 931	478 102
Total		90 432	65 888	43 901	200 221	195	50	245	586 386	348 752	935 138	969 065	
National	Independent	Female	15 849	16 057	18 227	50 133	148	259	407	95 222	78 225	173 447	188 671
		Male	14 557	14 026	14 788	43 371	230	201	431	95 265	69 802	165 067	180 610
	Public	Total	30 406	30 083	33 015	93 504	378	460	838	190 487	148 027	338 514	369 281
		Female	557 360	479 617	326 038	1 363 015	6 242	328	6 570	3 479 345	2 271 156	5 750 501	6 002 378
	Both	Male	528 999	411 016	267 305	1 207 320	9 886	335	10 221	3 648 334	2 133 187	5 781 521	6 038 842
		Total	1 086 359	890 633	593 343	2 570 335	16 128	663	16 791	7 127 679	4 404 343	11 532 022	12 041 220
Both	Female	573 209	495 674	344 265	1 413 148	6 390	587	6 977	3 574 567	2 349 381	5 923 948	6 191 049	
	Male	543 556	425 042	282 093	1 250 691	10 116	536	10 652	3 743 599	2 202 989	5 946 588	6 219 452	
Total		1 116 765	920 716	626 358	2 663 839	16 506	1 123	17 629	7 318 166	4 552 370	11 870 536	12 410 501	

**Note 1:** Data exclude learners at stand-alone ECD sites, special schools, ABET centres and FET colleges.

**Note 2:** Owing to a shortage of space in the table, the male enrolment figures for ordinary public and independent schools are intentionally omitted in the provincial data, but are included in the national data.

**Figure 1: Percentage distribution of female learners in ordinary schools, by grade, in 2007**

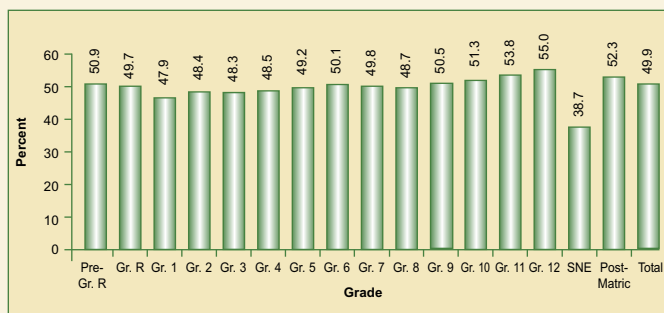
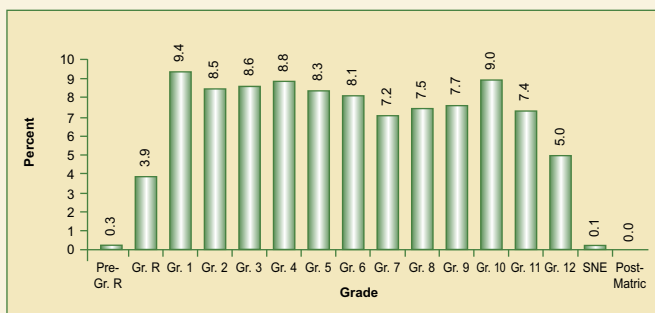


Figure 1 shows that there were fewer female than male learners in Grades R to 5, Grades 7 and 8, and SNE.

As Figure 2 indicates, 9.4% of the learners were enrolled in Grade 1 and 5.0% were enrolled in Grade 12. This means that for every Grade 12 learner there were 1.9 Grade 1 learners.

**Figure 2: Percentage distribution of learners in ordinary schools, by grade, in 2007**



Nationally, an upward trend in learner numbers is reflected for the period 2001 to 2007 (see Table 7 and Figure 3).

Table 8 reflects the following indicators:

**Table 7: Comparative data of learners in ordinary schools, by province, from 2001 to 2007**

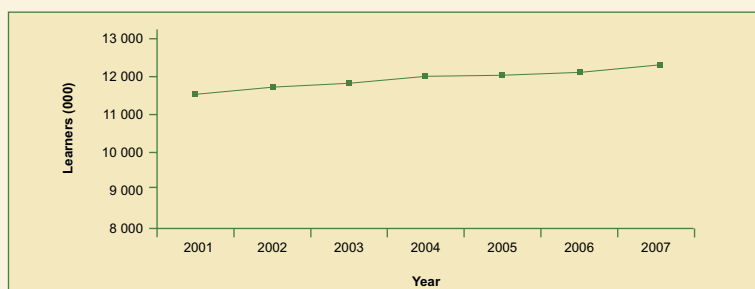
Province	Learners						
	Old Demarcation						New Demarcation
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	
Eastern Cape	2 033 832	2 072 054	2 116 426	2 150 308	2 206 575	2 165 994	2 139 668
Free State	716 021	705 368	696 155	690 490	689 189	686 346	680 777
Gauteng	1 561 359	1 617 017	1 661 817	1 697 908	1 745 262	1 770 110	1 883 550
KwaZulu-Natal	2 698 453	2 729 834	2 783 051	2 718 176	2 719 996	2 709 408	2 848 878
Limpopo	1 816 189	1 839 079	1 816 852	1 893 626	1 906 402	1 931 207	1 782 954
Mpumalanga	903 997	914 353	914 739	934 786	914 212	944 108	1 087 774
North West	893 144	897 342	891 036	903 379	845 942	905 256	753 323
Northern Cape	197 101	196 731	202 010	209 000	210 152	210 981	264 512
Western Cape	918 030	945 239	956 836	978 718	980 065	978 826	969 065
National	11 738 126	11 917 017	12 038 922	12 176 391	12 217 795	12 302 236	12 410 501

(a) When counting all educators, the learner-to-educator ratio for ordinary public schools nationally was 32.3, while, when counting only state-paid educators in these schools, the learner-to-educator ratio increased to 34.5.

(b) The gross enrolment ratio for primary schools nationally, using seven-year-olds as the appropriate school-age population for Grade 1, was 103%, with three provinces (the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga) higher than the national average, while it was 91% for secondary schools, with four provinces (Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo and Mpumalanga) higher than the national average.

(c) The gender parity index for primary schools was 0.97, with three provinces (the Eastern Cape, Gauteng and the Western Cape) higher than the national average, while it was 1.08 for secondary schools, with two provinces (the Eastern Cape and the Western Cape) higher than the national average. Gender parity index values higher than 1.00 indicate that, in proportion to the appropriate school-age population, there were more females than males in the school system.

**Figure 3: Trend line of learners in ordinary schools from 2001 to 2007**



**Table 8: Indicators for ordinary schools, by province, in 2007**

Province	LER		GER (%)			GPI		
	Public Schools, including State-Paid and SGB-Paid Educators	Public Schools, including only 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	32.6	34.2	120	77	101	0.98	1.20	1.04
Free State	29.1	30.6	91	86	89	0.97	1.05	1.00
Gauteng	32.6	36.6	98	98	98	0.99	1.03	1.01
KwaZulu-Natal	33.1	35.2	105	92	99	0.95	1.04	0.99
Limpopo	32.9	33.7	100	104	102	0.94	1.08	1.00
Mpumalanga	33.2	34.5	109	103	107	0.95	1.07	0.99
North West	29.5	30.8	95	84	90	0.95	1.01	0.97
Northern Cape	31.3	33.2	98	83	92	0.97	1.06	1.00
Western Cape	31.4	38.0	95	81	89	1.00	1.13	1.05
National	32.3	34.5	103	91	98	0.97	1.08	1.00