

# Skills and Education at a Glance

Following scepticism in some quarters about rapid improvements in matric pass rates in recent years, Minister of Basic Education Angie Motshekga set up a ministerial committee in 2013 to review a number of pertinent curriculum issues, amongst which was the controversial pass mark of 30 per cent. Although the senior certificate still holds currency amongst some employers, others no longer regard it as a reliable indicator of the abilities of the certificate holder. While the introduction of subjects like 'mathematical literacy' might contribute to the improvement of maths pass rates, it does not enlarge the pool of students that graduate with the scarce skills that our economy requires. According to available statistics, only 30 per cent of South African graduates hold qualifications in the critical fields of science, engineering and technology. Interventions are required to ensure that education system outputs meet the needs of South Africa's developmental objectives.

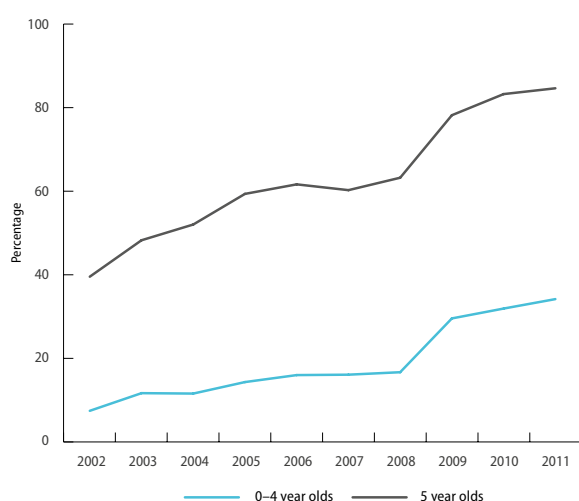
## Education: Vital statistics

National percentage of 2012 NSC candidates that qualify for bachelor programmes	26.6%
National percentage of 2012 NSC candidates that qualify for diploma programmes	29.9%
National percentage of 2012 NSC candidates that qualify for higher certificate programmes	17.3%
National percentage of 2012 NSC candidates performance at 30% and above in mathematics	54.0%
National percentage of 2012 NSC candidates performance at 30% and above in mathematical literacy	87.4%
National percentage of 2012 candidates performance at 30% and above in physical sciences	61.3%
Gross enrolment ratio (GER) – Total (Grades 1–12)	91
Gross enrolment ratio (GER) – Total (Grade R–12)	89
Learner-educator ratio (LER) in ordinary schools	29.2:1
National average educator-school ratio (ESR) in ordinary schools	16.3:1
National average learner-school ratio in ordinary schools	475:1

Source: Department of Education – National Senior Certificate Examination: Technical Report 2012

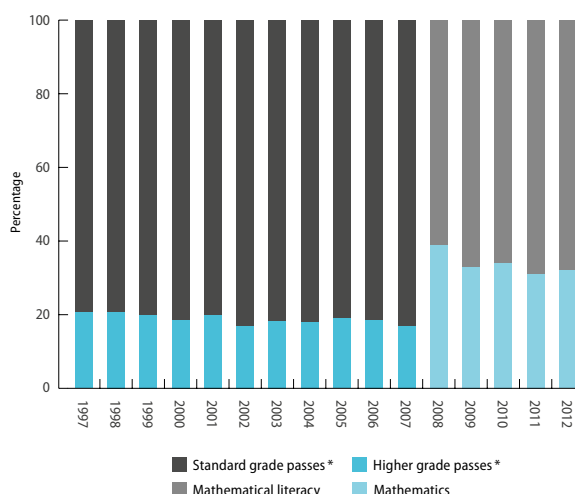
Data notes: National Senior Certificate (NSC)

## Percentage children attending early childhood development facilities



Source: Department of Basic Education

## Mathematics proficiency of matriculants



Source: Department of Education

Data notes: Standard grade data not available for 1995–1996

\*From 2008 onwards, standard grade and higher grades were replaced with mathematical literacy and mathematics

## Adult literacy rates 2011

74%

Eastern Cape



77%

Mpumalanga



79%

Free State



74%

North West



90%

Gauteng



74%

Northern Cape



78%

KwaZulu-Natal



87%

Western Cape

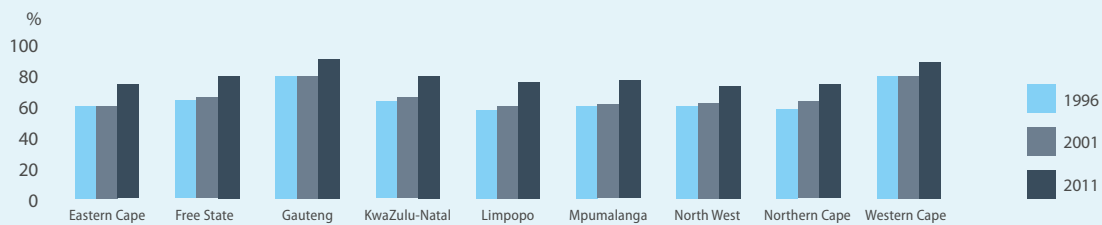


75%

Limpopo

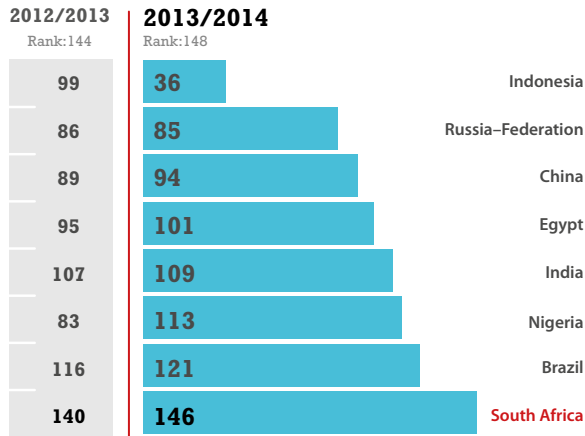


Adult literacy rates by province

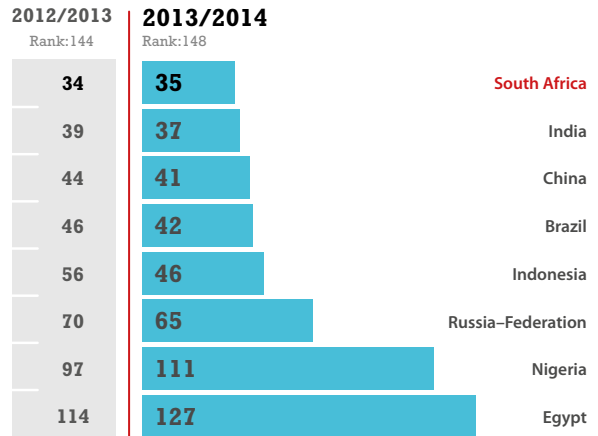


Source: Census 1996, 2001, and 2011

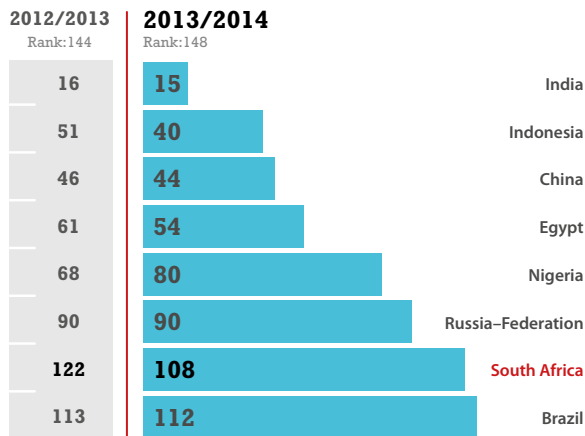
### Quality of the educational system in global comparison



### Quality of scientific research institutions



### Availability of scientists and engineers



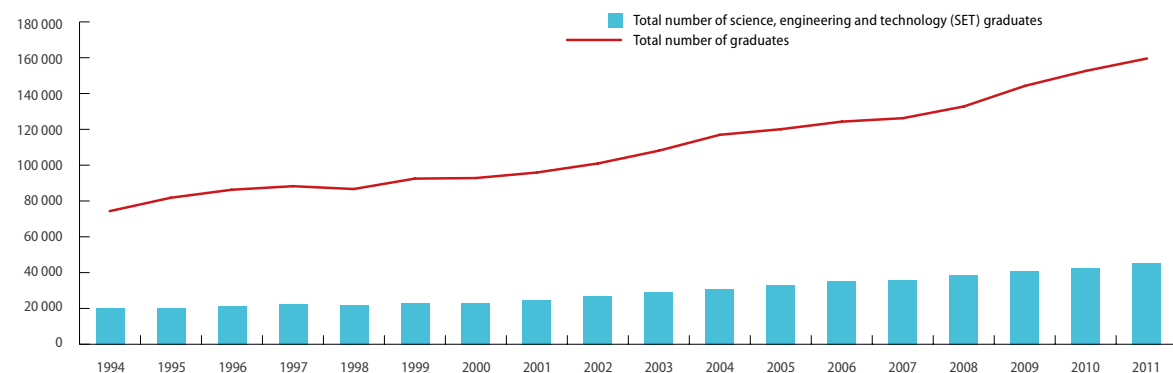
**11.8%**

The proportion of South Africans aged 20 years and older with higher education

Source: Stats SA, census 2011

Source: World Economic Forum: The Global Competitiveness Reports: 2013–2014  
 Data notes: Rank/148 reports the country's position among the 148 economies covered by the GCI 2013–2014. Rank/144 reports the country's position among the 144 economies covered by the GCI 2012–2013.

### Total graduates to SET graduates, 1994–2011



Source: Department of Higher Education and Training, Higher Education Management Information System