South Africa

COUNTRY PROFILE

Overall Index Rank
23/30

Citizen Participation
2

Economic Opportunity
30

Total Youth Population (Aged 10–24)*
14,900,000
(29% of population)

World Bank Income Classification
Upper Middle

AT 23TH PLACE in the last of four tiers for youth wellbeing, South Africa comes in second among the sub-Saharan African countries behind Ghana, and places in the last of the four tiers of youth wellbeing. South Africa’s overall rank is brought down by high youth unemployment rates and significantly lower scores in health. Youth report a generally positive outlook in the health, citizen participation, and education domains.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

BELOW INDEX AVERAGE
ABOVE INDEX AVERAGE

-1 -0.8 -0.6 -0.4 -0.2 0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1

Candidacy age for national office
Economist Democracy Index
Existence of Youth Policy
Volunteer frequency
Youths’ perception of value in society
Youths’ feeling served by government

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

BELOW INDEX AVERAGE
ABOVE INDEX AVERAGE

-1 -0.8 -0.6 -0.4 -0.2 0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1

Youths’ income and wealth expectations
GDP per capita
Economic climate and competitiveness
Youth involved in early-stage entrepreneurial activity
Youth lending from a financial institution
Youth unemployment
Youth Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET)

The Global Youth Wellbeing Index ranks 30 countries from high (1st) to low (30th) youth wellbeing and is comprised of 40 indicators across six domains. For more information on the Index and to compare country overall and domain rankings, please visit www.youthindex.org.