



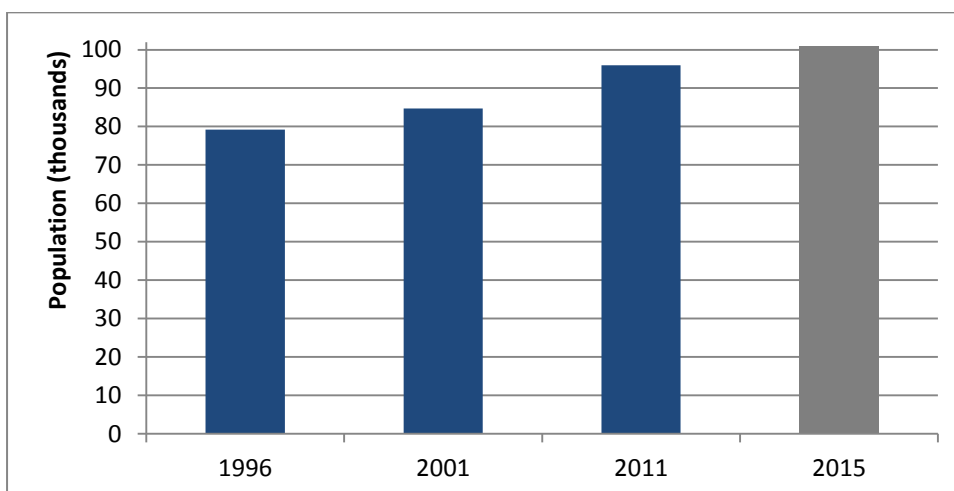
## OVERVIEW OF OUDTSHOORN MUNICIPALITY

**Andrew Partridge, November 2015**

*"Oudtshoorn Municipality is the fourth largest in the Eden District and contributed 11.6 per cent of Eden District's GDP and 13.3 per cent of employment in 2013 (Figure 2.12). The municipal economy generated R3.9 billion of Eden District's R33.6 billion gross value added in 2013. The municipal region is well-known as a tourist attraction and while relatively closely integrated with the bordering George economy, it has strong agricultural roots."*  
(WCGPT, 2015, p. 379)

### **Demographics**

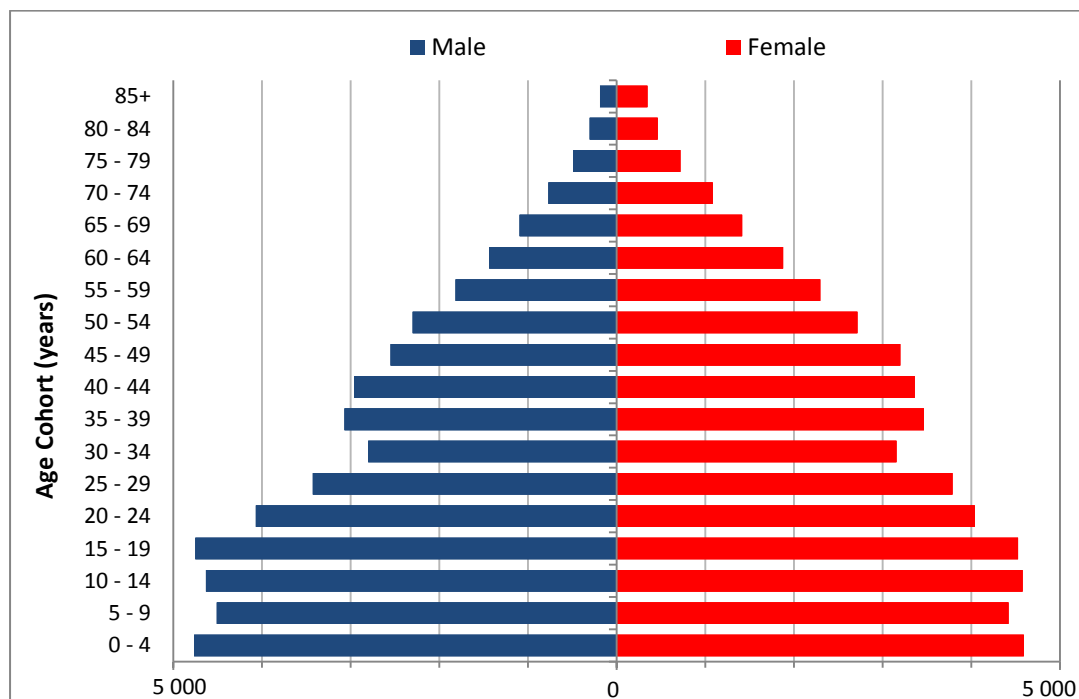
The population of Oudtshoorn Municipality has been growing steadily at approximately 1.3% per annum between 1996 and 2011, with a total of 95 933 people enumerated in the municipality in South Africa's 2011 census (Stats SA, 2011). This is shown in Figure 1 below which shows the population according to the censuses of 1996, 2001 and 2011; as well as the projected population for 2015 assuming population growth continues at the annual rate of increase experienced between 1996 and 2011. The projected population for 2015 using this method stands at 100 970.



**Figure 1: Population of Oudtshoorn Municipality; 1996, 2001, 2011 & 2015**

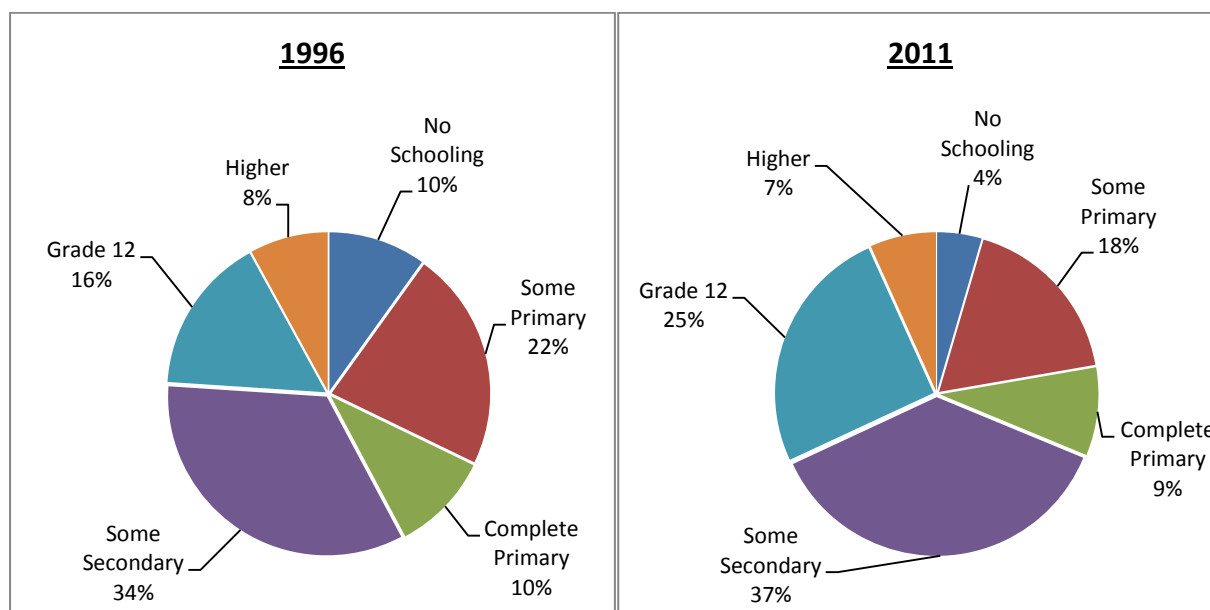
Source: Created using data from Stats SA (2011)

Figure 2 breaks down the Oudtshoorn population by gender and age cohort. There is a large proportion of the population below 20 years of age, with a bulge between the ages of 35 and 50 years of age. 48% of the population are male and 52% female as per the country's 2011 census (Stats SA, 2011).



**Figure 2: Oudtshoorn Population by Gender and Age Cohort, 2011**  
 Source: Created using data from Stats SA (2011)

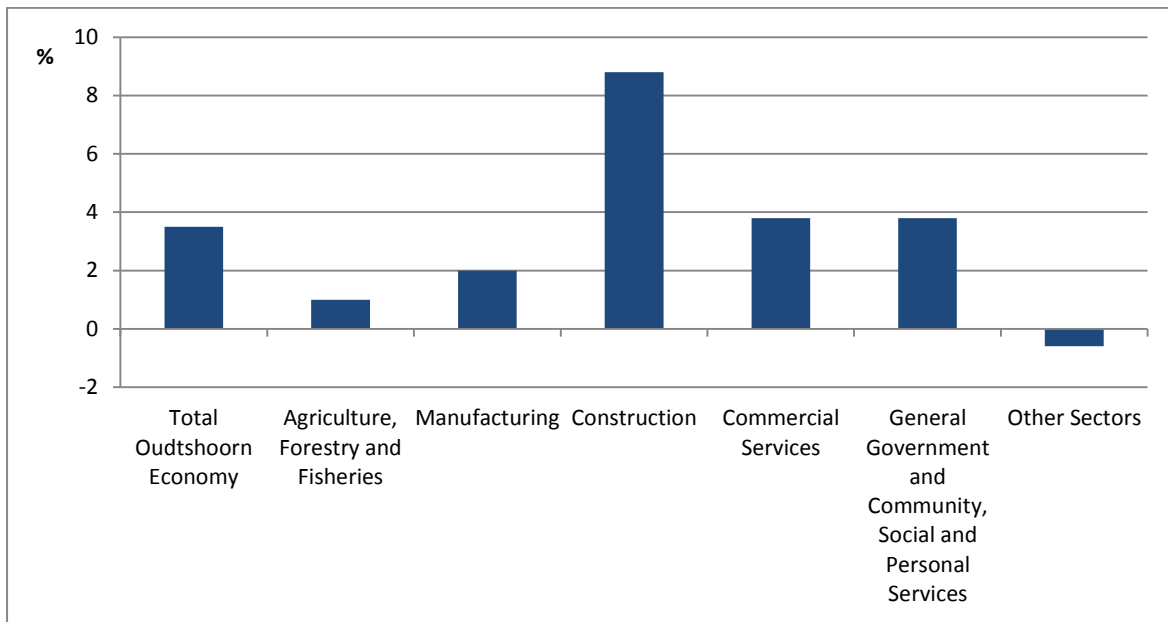
Figure 3 shows the educational attainment for 1996 and 2011. Significant gains have been made in education in the municipality in the past 15 years as evident from the increase in the proportion of the population with complete primary and above.



**Figure 3: Oudtshoorn Population by Educational Attainment, 1996 & 2011**  
 Source: Created using data from Stats SA (2011)

## Economy

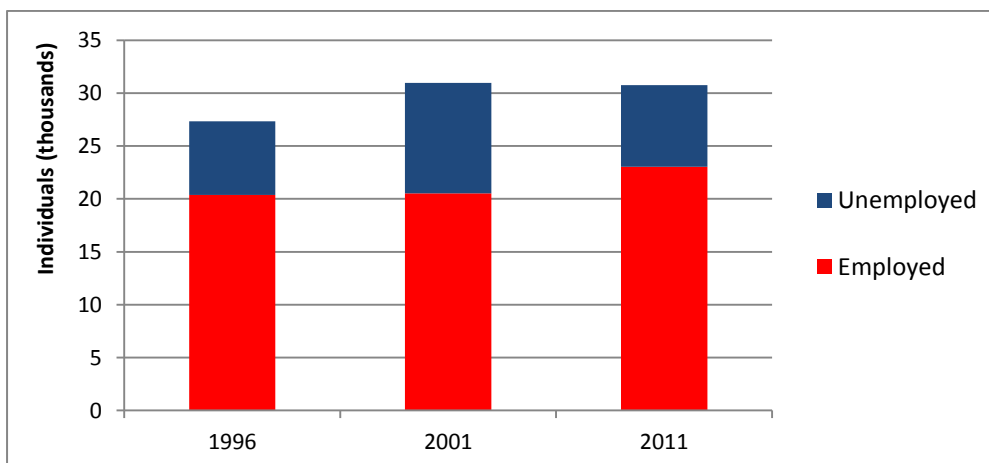
Oudtshoorn Municipality generated R3.9 billion of Eden District's R33.6 billion gross value added (GVA) in 2013. This was after real growth per annum of 3.5% between 2005 and 2013 in the municipality (WCGPT, 2015). Figure 4 shows real annual GVA growth per sector in Oudtshoorn Municipality between 2005 and 2013. All the main sectors grew significantly over the eight year period. GVA growth was particularly high in the construction sector which grew at 8.8% per annum.



**Figure 4: Real Average Annual GVA Growth by Sector in Oudtshoorn Municipality, 2005-2013**

Source: Created using data from (WCGPT, 2015)

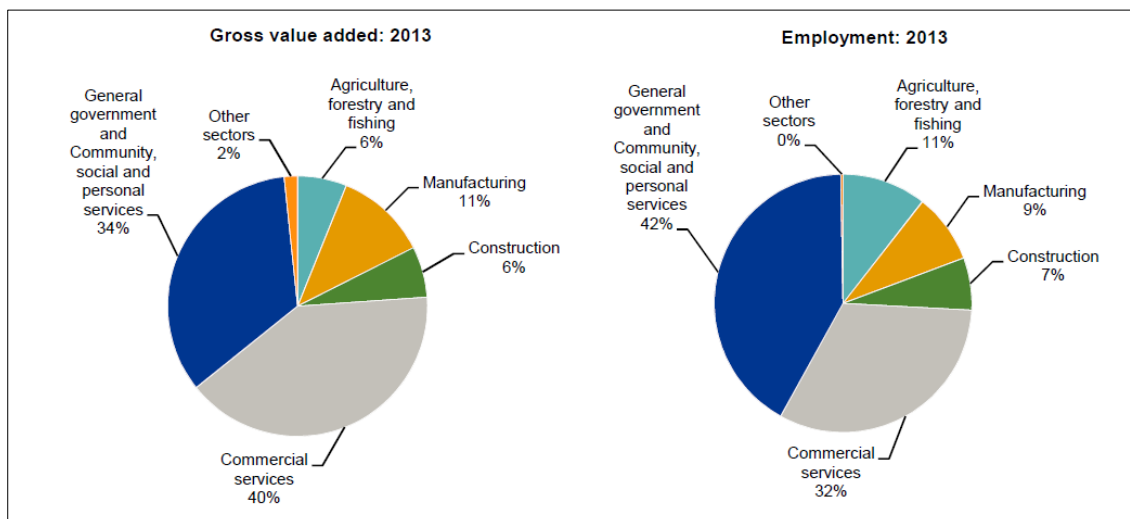
Figure 5 shows the employment status of Oudtshoorn's labour force for 1996, 2001 and 2011. Between 2001 and 2011 employment increased by 12% from 20 517 to 23 031, an increase of 2 514 jobs (251 jobs per annum). Over this 10 year period unemployment decreased from 34% to 25%.



**Figure 5: Employment Status of Oudtshoorn Labour Force, 1996, 2001 & 2011**

Source: Created using data from Stats SA (2011)

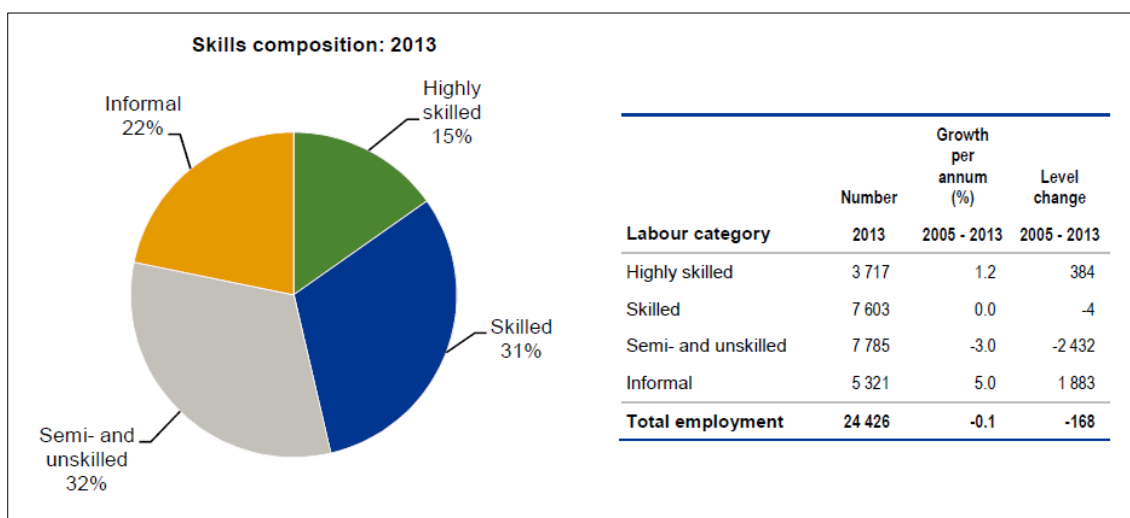
The main contributors to GVA and employment in the Oudtshoorn economy are “general government and community, social and personal services” and “commercial services”, together making up 74% of both GVA and employment and showing that there is good provision of both public and private services in the municipal area. Figure 6 shows the sector breakdown of GVA and Employment for 2013. The agriculture, forestry and fisheries sector is another significant employer in the economy (11%), particularly for the level of GVA (6%), illustrating the high labour intensity and job-creating potential of this sector.



**Figure 6: Composition of Gross Value Added and Employment, 2013**

Source: (WCGPT, 2015)

Figure 7 shows the skills composition of the Oudtshoorn workforce. The skills composition in the workforce is fairly balanced, with slightly more workers classified as semi- and unskilled; and skilled; than informal; and highly skilled. Whilst there has been a decline in the number of semi- and unskilled jobs between 2005 and 2013, there was an increase in the number of highly skilled jobs and informal, making the workforce more balanced in terms of skill.

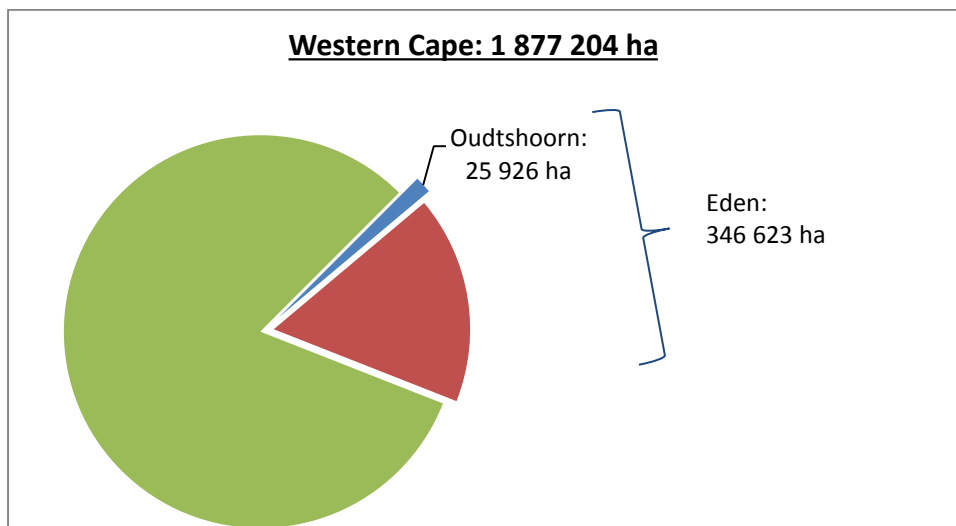


**Figure 7: Skills Composition of Oudtshoorn Work Force, 2013**

Source: (WCGPT, 2015)

## Agricultural Production

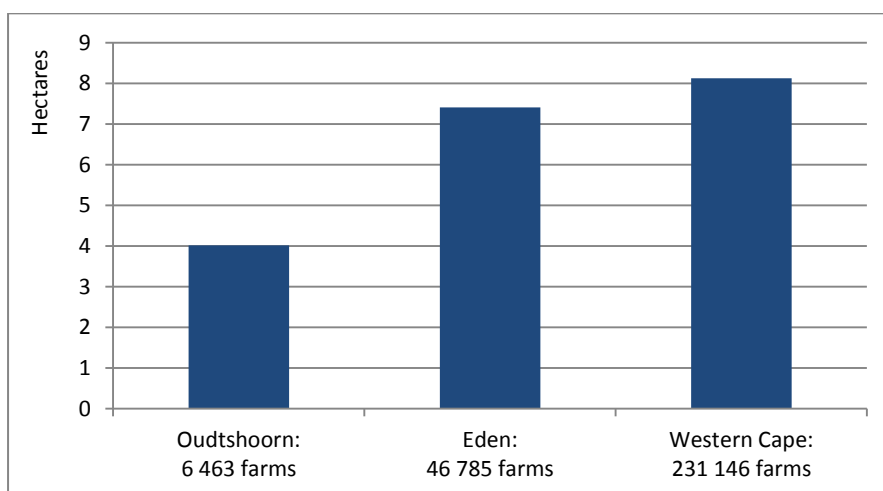
Oudtshoorn has a well-established agricultural sector, contributing R238 million of the R3 892 million GVA of the municipal economy after positive real annual growth of 1% per annum between 2005 and 2013 (WCGPT, 2015). Currently there is approximately 26 thousand hectares of land under agricultural use in the Oudtshoorn Municipality, 7.5% of the total agricultural land in the Eden District and 1.4% of total agricultural land in the Western Cape Province (see Figure 8 below).



**Figure 8: Oudtshoorn Agricultural Land in Relation to Total District and Provincial Agricultural Land**

Source: Created using data from WCDOA (2014)

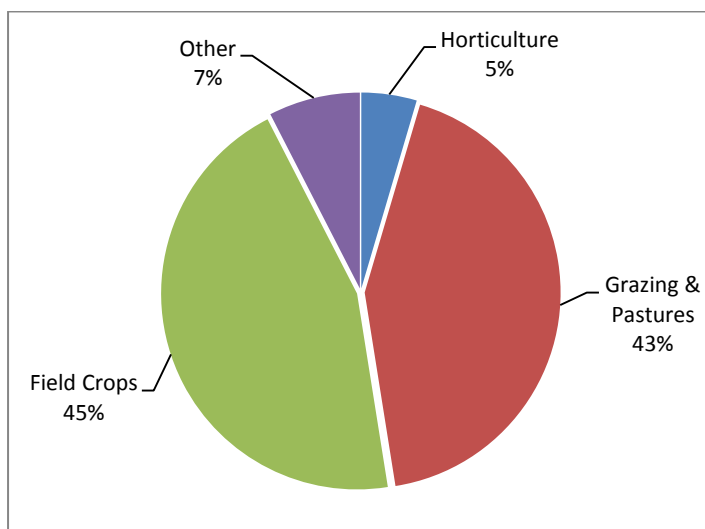
Relative to the area size, Oudtshoorn has a large number of farming units. This is illustrated in Figure 9 below which shows the average farm size for Oudtshoorn compared to the average at the district (Eden) and provincial (Western Cape) level. Average farm size is calculated simply by dividing the total area under agricultural use divided by the number of farms. In Oudtshoorn the 26 thousand hectares of farmland is divided up between 6.4 thousand farms, meaning an average farm size of 4.01 hectares. This is significantly lower than the average farm size seen at the district (7.41 ha) and provincial (8.12 ha) level.



**Figure 9: Average Farm Unit Size for Oudtshoorn, Eden and thh Western Cape, 2014**

Source: Created using data from WCDOA (2014)

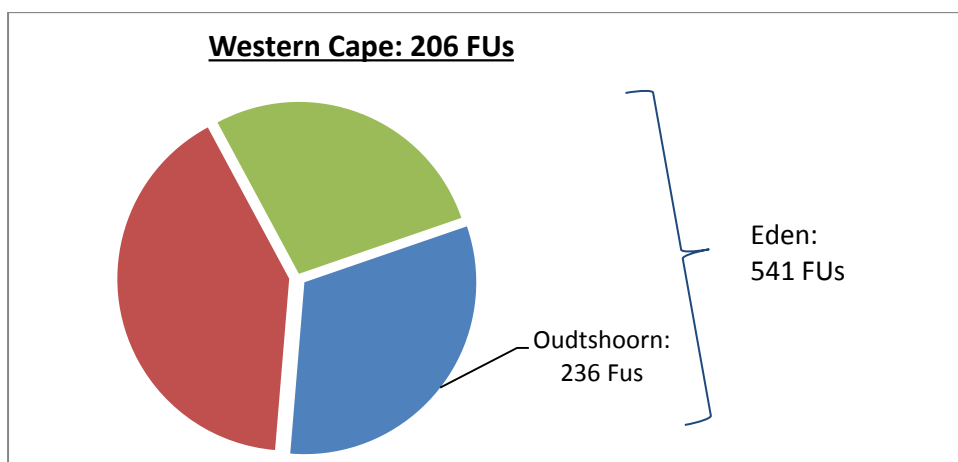
The majority of agricultural land in Oudtshoorn municipality is used for field crops (45%) or grazing and pastures (43%). This is illustrated in the breakdown of land use for the municipality in Figure 10 below. 96% of the land dedicated to field crops is used for lucerne, making up 43% of the municipality's total agricultural land. The reason for this is that lucerne is the most common cultivated pastures used for feeding ostriches (Brand, 2014), and Oudtshoorn is generally regarded as the ostrich capital of the world (NAMC, 2010; DAFF, 2012). "Other" land use in Figure 10 includes fallow, weeds and stubble.



**Figure 10: Agricultural Land Use in Oudtshoorn Municipality, 2014**

Source: Created using data from WCDOA (2014)

In 2012 the National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries estimated that 77% of ostrich production takes place in the Western Cape (DAFF, 2012). In the Western Cape there are 747 farming units involved in rearing ostriches at any scale. Of these 747 farming units, 541 (72%) are found in the Eden District, and 236 (32%) are found in the Oudtshoorn Municipality.

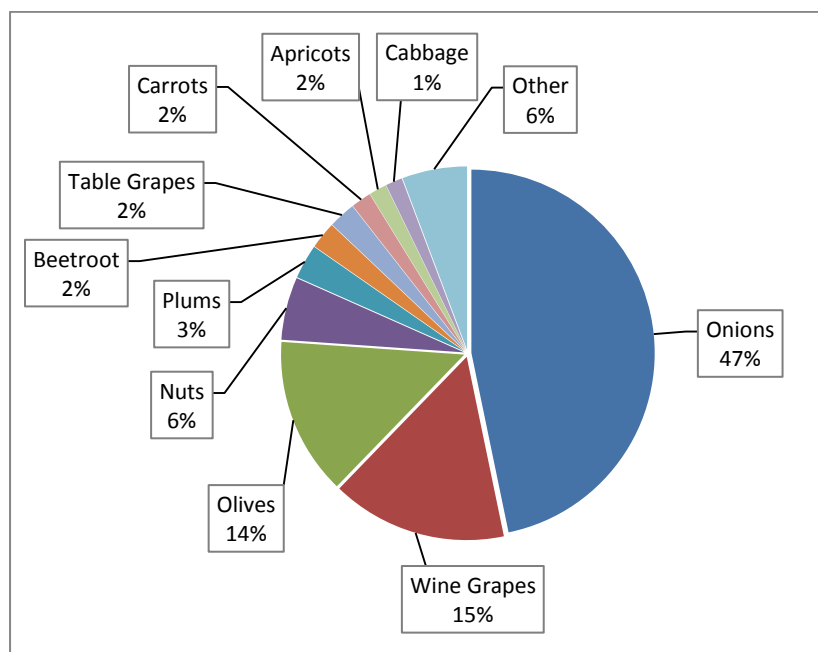


**Figure 11: Oudtshoorn Ostrich Farming Units (FUs) in Relation to Total District and Province FUs**

Source: Created using data from WCDOA (2015)

Horticultural production is very diverse in Oudtshoorn, with 27 different horticultural products being grown. Figure 12 shows the top ten horticultural products grown in Oudtshoorn according to area under production. The product grown on the most land is onions, accounting for 47% of the

municipality's horticultural land. Wine grapes and olives are also grown widely in the area, accounting for 15% and 14% of the land respectively. Oudtshoorn Municipality is an important area for a number of niche crops as evident by the large share in provincial land under production. In particular, 93% of the land on which radishes are grown in the Western Cape is in Oudtshoorn. Similarly 18% of land used for beetroot production in the province; 11% of the land used for onion production; and 10% of the land used for nuts; are all in Oudtshoorn (WCDOA, 2014)



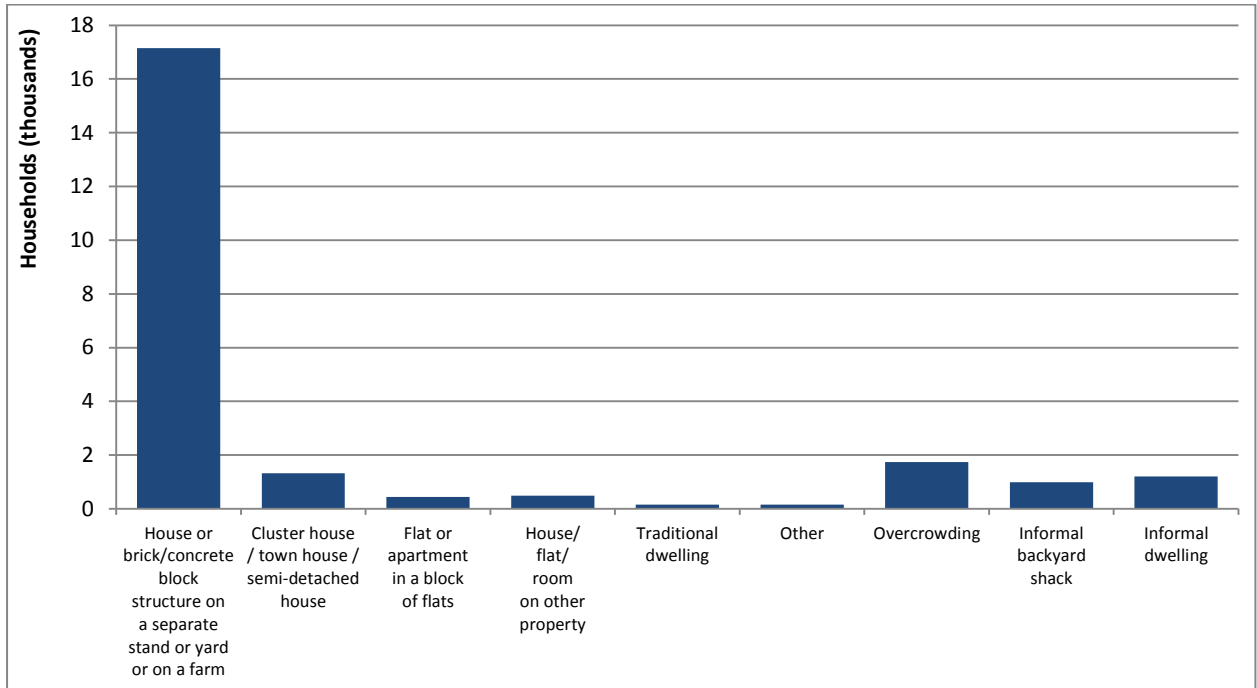
**Figure 12: Top Ten Horticultural Products Grown in Oudtshoorn by Land Area under Production, 2014**

Source: Created using data from WCDOA (2014)

The full list of horticultural products grown on agricultural land in Oudtshoorn (from A-Z-) is: Apples, apricots, beetroot, butternut, cabbage, carrots, figs, flowers, herbs, lemon, mellons, nectarines, nuts, olives, onions, oranges, peaches, plums, pomegranate, potatoes, prickly pear, radish, spinach, table grapes, watermelon and wine grapes

### Infrastructure and Basic Service Provision

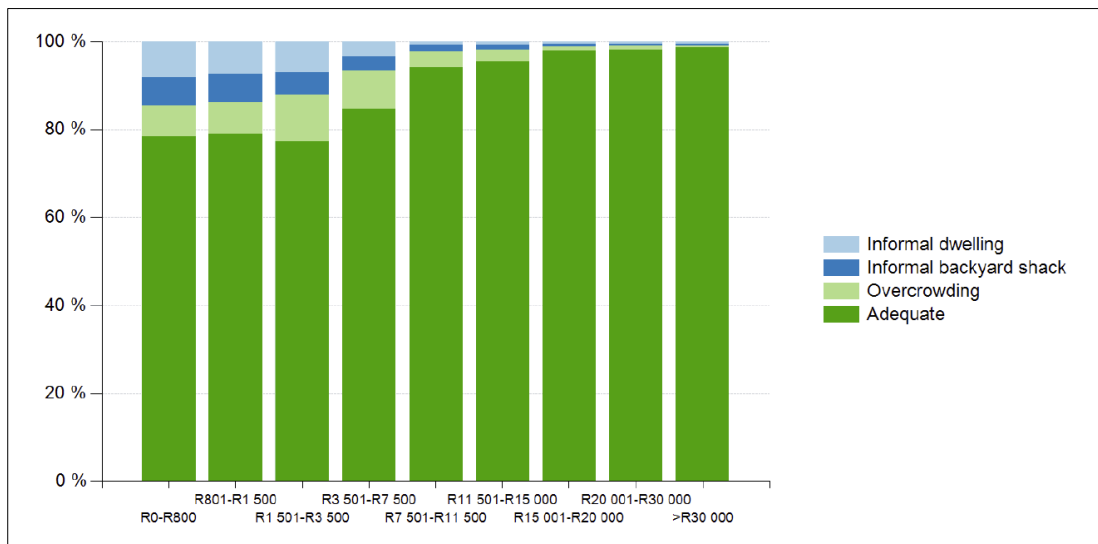
The majority of Oudtshoorn's housing classifies as a "house or brick/concrete block structure on a separate stand or yard or on a farm", accounting for 74% of housing in the municipality. This is shown in Figure 13 below which breaks down Oudtshoorn's housing by the type of dwelling



**Figure 13: Breakdown of Oudtshoorn Housing by Dwelling Type, 2011**

Source: Created using data from WCDHS (2015)

83% of Oudtshoorn's residents live in "adequate" dwellings, where adequate housing is defined by the Western Cape Department of Human Settlements as "all Census 2011 dwelling types excluding informal dwellings and informal backyard shacks. Includes traditional dwellings and formal backyard structures" (WCDHS, 2015, p. 1). This is not uniform across all income groups, as illustrated in Figure 14 which shows the housing breakdown by household income bracket.

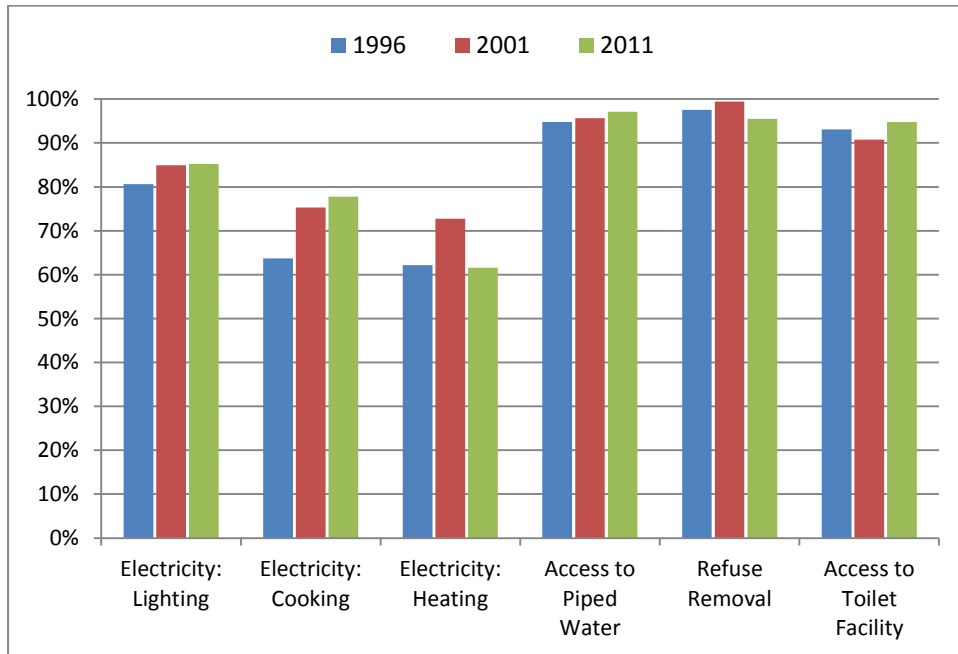


**Figure 14: Housing Status by Income Group, Oudtshoorn, 2011**

Source: (WCDHS, 2015)



Figure 15 shows the proportion of households with access to specific basic services in Oudtshoorn Municipality for 1996, 2001 and 2011 respectively. Gains have been made in some areas, and not in others. The figures are, however, reasonably high, reflective of the progress made in terms of housing and service provision in the area.



**Figure 15: Proportion of Household with Access to Basic Services, Oudtshoorn, 1996, 2001 & 2011**

*Source: Created using data from Stats SA (2011)*

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