

Pre-Matric Results 2017 Analysis

4 January 2018

In October 2017, a total of 634,814 full-time candidates sat for the NSC exams at 6,844 venues around South Africa, with KwaZulu Natal with 169,023 and Gauteng with 112,164 candidates having the highest numbers. As we wait for the results of the Matric Class of 2017, the nation will be excited in the achievements of the Class of 2017. The Public Service Accountability Monitor (PSAM) has previously (<http://www.dispatchlive.co.za/news/2017/11/28/celebration-time-matric-wont-cut-tough-job-market/>) cautioned that with the current unemployment rate at 27.7%, the future for a Grade 12 pupil hoping to join the job market without studying further does not look good. While many pupils plan to study further, there are those who are hoping to find jobs in the current year 2018. The future prospects of the Class of 2017 for study and work will be affected by lack of funding to further studies and, the rising unemployment rate to be able to work. Youth, in particular, continue bearing the brunt of poverty and unemployment. For example, for the third (3rd) quarter of 2017, the Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) reported that unemployment rate for youths (aged 15 to 34) years) was 38,6%. Learners from to disadvantaged backgrounds are likely perform poor because, they are enrolled in schools with fewer resources, such as education materials and staff. The access to quality of education remains very poor mostly in the historically deprived areas; some of the schools do not even meet the basic learning infrastructure requirements such as access to laboratories, libraries and Internet connections. This condition results in learners experiencing learning deprivation, higher-grade repetition and dropout rates.

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