



Census Wazi — User Guide

Intro

Census Wazi is an interactive dashboard for exploring South African Census data at the level of individual municipalities. It is published by [OpenUp](#) and draws on data from Statistics South Africa (Stats SA).

What you will see

When you open the dashboard, the screen is split into two parts:

- **Left side — the map:** A map of South Africa showing all 213 local and metropolitan municipalities, colour-coded by the data currently selected.
- **Right side — the data panel:** Statistics, charts, and controls for the selected geography and data section.

By default, the dashboard opens showing data for **South Africa as a whole**.



Step 1 — Choose a geography

You can explore data at the national level or for any individual municipality.

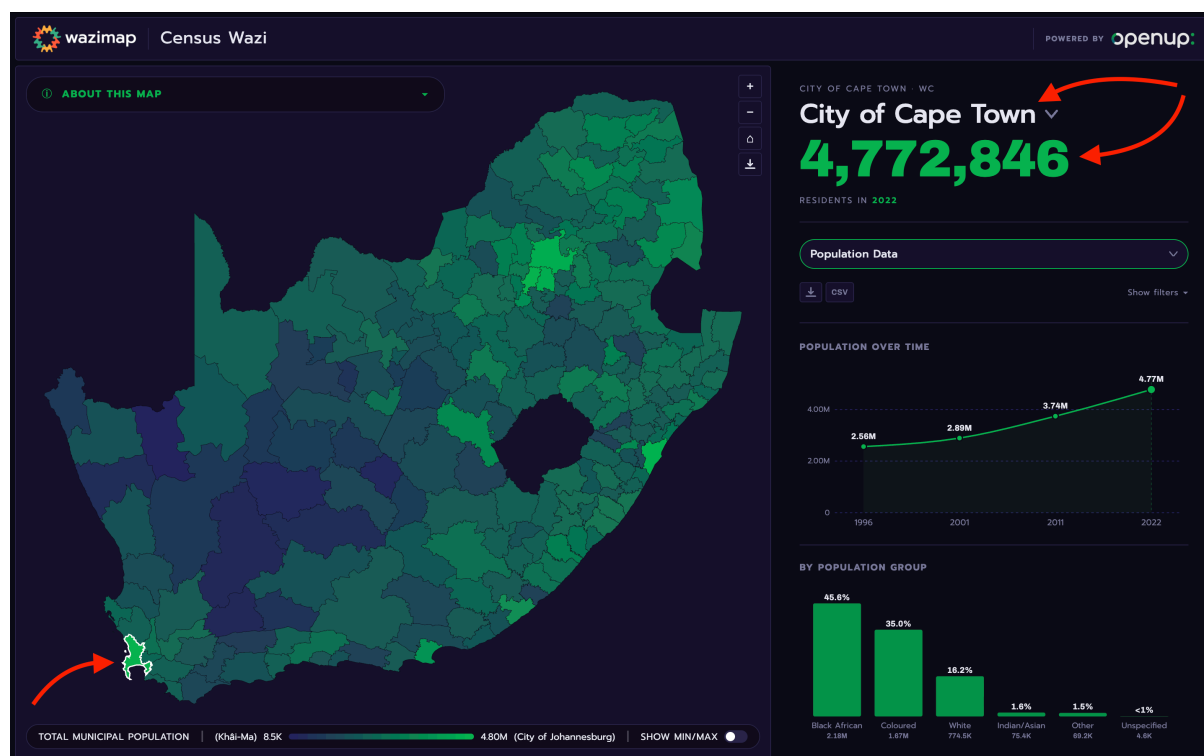
To select a municipality, do one of the following:

- Click directly on a municipality on the map, **or**
- Click the municipality name displayed at the top of the right panel — this opens a searchable dropdown where you can type to find a municipality by name

Once selected, the map will highlight your municipality and the right panel will update to show its data.

To return to the national view, click the selected municipality again on the map, or click anywhere on the empty map background.

What the panel header shows: Once you select a geography, the top of the right panel displays the total population (or count, depending on your filters) for that place, along with the year it refers to. This number updates as you change sections, filters, and years.

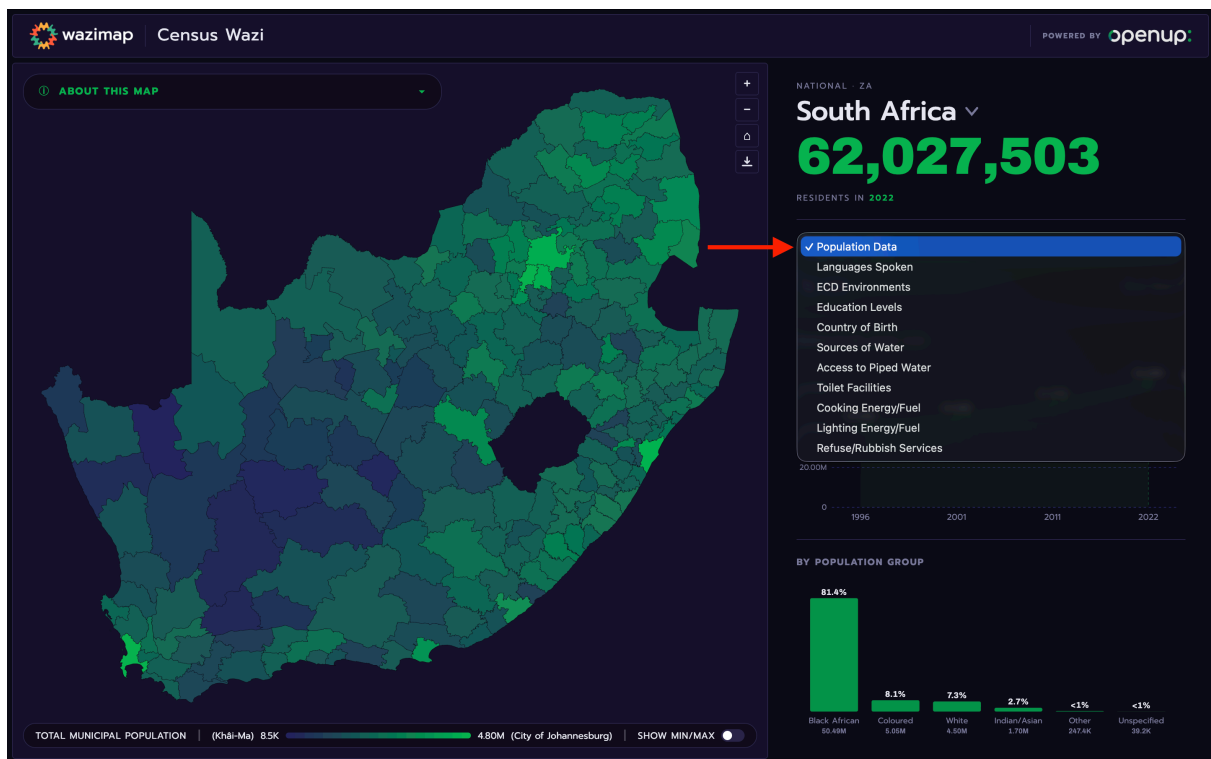


Step 2 — Choose a data section

Use the **dropdown selector** in the right panel to switch between data sections. Each section draws on 2022 Census data, except for Population Data which covers all four census years (1996, 2001, 2011, and 2022).

Section	What it shows
Population Data	Population size over time (1996–2022), by population group, sex, and age band
Languages Spoken	Home language most often spoken, by population group
ECD Environments	Children attending early childhood development facilities, by environment type and population group
Education Levels	Highest level of education completed, by population group and sex
Country of Birth	Country of birth of residents, by sex
Sources of Water	Main source of household water, by population group and sex
Access to Piped Water	Distance to the nearest piped water access point, by population group and sex
Toilet Facilities	Type of toilet facility used, by population group and sex
Cooking Energy/Fuel	Main energy/fuel source used for cooking, by population group and sex
Lighting Energy/Fuel	Main energy/fuel source used for lighting, by population group and sex
Refuse/Rubbish Services	Method of refuse removal, by population group and sex

Note: Switching to any section other than Population Data will automatically set the year to 2022.



Step 3 — Explore with filters

Each section includes filters that let you narrow down the data. The filter panel sits just below the section selector, and can be accessed by clicking **Show filters**. Important to note is that **filters affect both the charts in the panel, and the colour shading on the map.**

To add a filter:

1. Click **Add filter +**
2. Choose a filter type (e.g. *Population Group*)
3. Select a value from the dropdown (e.g. *Black African*)

Active filters appear as **pills** below the section selector. To remove a single filter, click the **x** on its pill. To remove all filters at once, click **Clear All Filters** (appears in the top-right corner of the panel when filters are active).

Changing the year (Population Data only):

In the Population Data section, you can use the **Year filter** to switch between 1996, 2001, 2011, and 2022. The **Population Over Time** chart always shows all four census years. The year filter controls which year's data is shown in the other charts, the map shading, and the headline population figure.

What filters are available depends on the section. For example:

- **Population Data** offers filters for *Census Year*, *Population Group*, *Sex*, *Age Group*, and *Age Band*
- **Languages Spoken** offers filters for *Language* and *Population Group*
- **ECD Environments** offers filters for *Environment Type* and *Population Group*
- **All other sections** offer *Population Group*, *Sex*, and a *section-specific category filter*

Tip: In any section, selecting only a *Population Group* (and/or *Sex*) filter — without selecting a specific language, education level, water source, etc. — will display population data for that group on the map. This is the same as viewing that group under Population Data.



The Map

The map shades each municipality based on the data being explored. The colour scale runs from **dark purple** (lowest values) to **bright green** (highest values).


The scale is calculated from the actual range of values across all municipalities, so colours are always relative to the current dataset. The legend at the bottom of the map shows the colour bar alongside the minimum and maximum values (or percentages with filters applied) and which municipalities they belong to. These min/max municipalities can be shown on the map by clicking the toggle in the legend bar.

Hover over any municipality to see a tooltip with its name and the value being mapped.

The tooltip shows: Any active filters appear as chips. The count shows residents (or speakers, children, etc. depending on the section) for the selected year. **Share of total** is that count as a percentage of the municipality's total population for the same year (except for ECD, which is a percentage of the municipality's total child (0-4) population). At the bottom, percentage changes relative to other census years reflect the filtered data — this only appears in the Population Data section.

The **About This Map** panel (just above the legend) describes in plain text what the map is currently showing. Click the panel header to expand or collapse it.

The map controls (top-right of the map) include:

- + / - — zoom in and out
-  — reset the map view to its default position
- **Download icon** — download the current map view as a PNG image



Downloads

Map image

Click the **download icon** in the map controls (top-right of the map) to save the current map view as a PNG image, including the legend and branding.

Panel image

Click the **download icon** in the right panel to save the full panel — all charts and statistics for the selected geography, section, and active filters — as a PNG image.

CSV

Click the **CSV button** in the right panel to download the raw data for the current section and geography as a CSV file.

Note: CSV files always export the complete dataset for the selected geography — active filters do not affect what is exported. For Population Data, the CSV always includes all four census years regardless of the year currently selected. Counts are rounded to the nearest integer.



Data Notes

- **Source:** Statistics South Africa (Stats SA). Census years: 1996, 2001, 2011, 2022.
- **Geography:** All 213 Category B (local) and Category A (metropolitan) municipalities.
- **Population groups:** Black African, Coloured, Indian or Asian, White, Other, and Unspecified — as defined by Stats SA.
- **"Other" and "Unspecified":** Included in downloaded CSV files even where not visible in the charts.
- **Rounding:** Counts shown in the dashboard and exported CSVs are rounded to the nearest integer. The underlying data uses floating-point estimates from Stats SA's weighted methodology.
- **2022 Census:** Stats SA has published notes on data quality and coverage for the 2022 Census. Users are encouraged to consult these when interpreting results.