



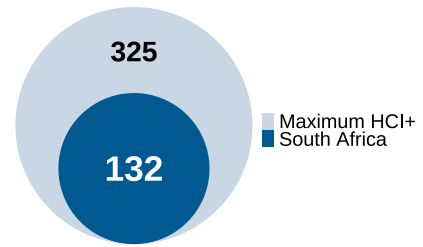
SOUTH AFRICA

Region: Sub-Saharan Africa
Income Category: Upper-middle Income

Human capital - people’s knowledge, skills, and health - drives productivity and growth. The Human Capital Index Plus (HCI+) measures the human capital a child born today can expect to accumulate over their working life, extending the original HCI by incorporating tertiary education and work experience. This brief summarizes **South Africa’s** HCI+ score and its performance in building human capital.

What is South Africa’s HCI+ and what does it mean?

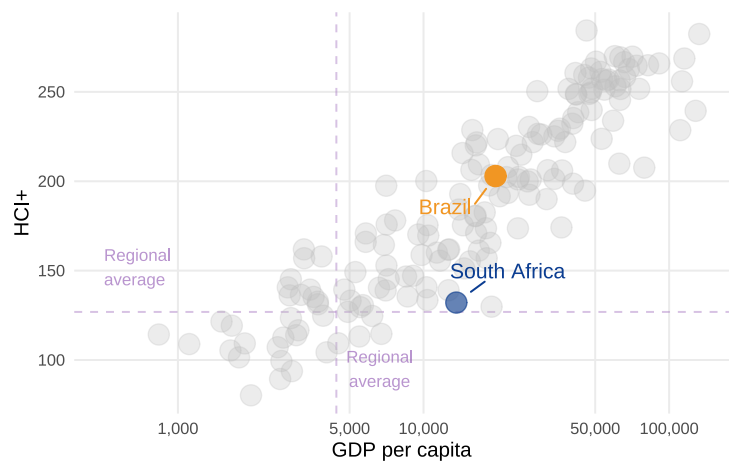
South Africa’s HCI+ score is 132 (out of a maximum of 325), reflecting its investments in health, education, and employment. A 10-point increase in the index would translate into approximately 10 percent higher future income. Closing the current gaps in these areas relative to high-performing countries with similar GDP per capita would boost future income by 137%.



How does South Africa’s HCI+ compare to other countries?

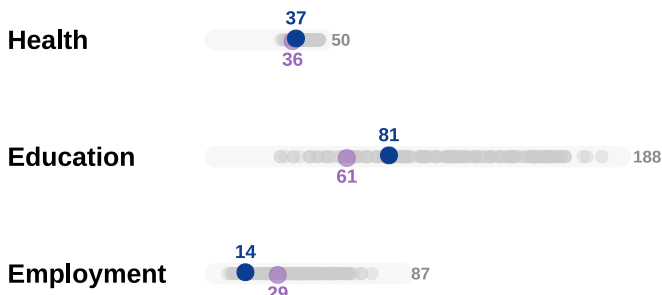
South Africa’s HCI+ is higher than the average for the **Sub-Saharan Africa region (126)** and lower than the average for **upper-middle-income countries (204)**.

South Africa’s HCI+ score is also **71 points lower than Brazil’s**.



What explains South Africa’s HCI+?

The HCI+ has three components corresponding to health, education, and employment.



The HCI+ score for the **Health pillar is 37**, slightly higher than the **regional average of 36**.

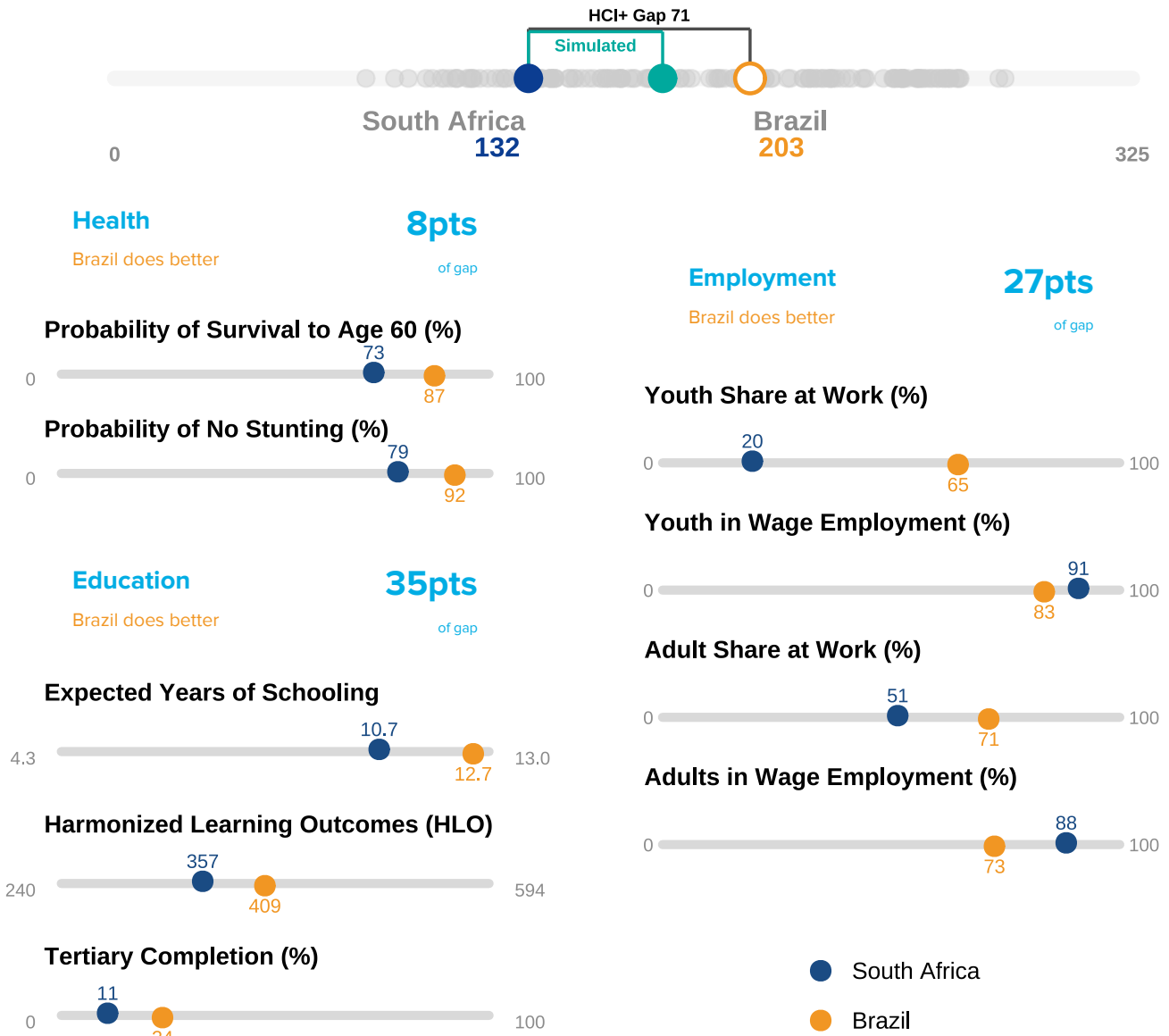
The HCI+ score for the **Education pillar is 81**, higher than the **regional average of 61**.

The HCI+ score for the **Employment pillar is 14**, lower than the **regional average of 29**.



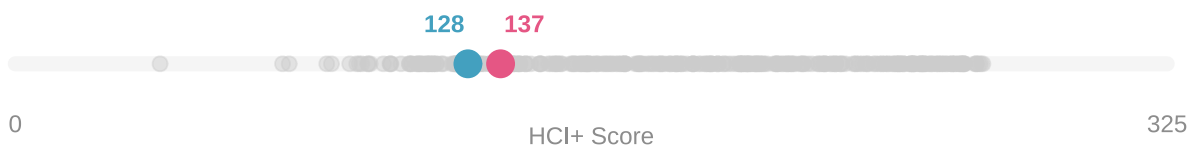
What indicators are responsible for South Africa's HCI+ gap with Brazil?

South Africa's HCI+ score (132) is lower than Brazil's (203). The indicators that account for the largest share of the HCI+ gap between South Africa and Brazil are **youth share at work, adult share at work, and expected years of schooling**. Raising these indicators to Brazil's levels would increase South Africa's score to **175**, boosting future income by approximately 43%.



What is South Africa's HCI+ gender gap?

The HCI+ score for **women in South Africa is 137** compared to **128 for men**. The 9-point gap indicates that women's earning potential will be 9% higher than men's due to differences in the human capital acquired by men and women in South Africa.



Note: All values are derived from internationally comparable public datasets.

