



Policy Brief

Thinking Policy Together

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Assessing Labour Productivity for Mombasa County

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Overview of the County

Mombasa County is a member of the Jumuiya ya Kaunti za Pwani (JKP) economic bloc and hosts the country's second-largest city in the country. The county is classified as a non-ASAL county experiencing less than 10 per cent aridity levels. Mombasa County covers an area of 294.7 km² and has six sub-counties namely: Changamwe, Jomvu, Kisauni, Likoni, Mvita, and Nyali.

Key Highlights

The productivity of Mombasa County is characterized by the following:

- i. The services sector has the largest share of the county's Gross Value Added (GVA). Manufacturing has the highest share of industry GVA while transportation and storage services dominate the services sector.
- ii. The quality of labour requires interventions to increase secondary school enrolment rates and reduce stunting, teenage pregnancy, child poverty, and food poverty.
- iii. The essential infrastructure requires intervention to increase access to internet connectivity.
- iv. The services sector is the highest employer with the majority in wholesale and retail trade. In agriculture, employment is concentrated in fish farming. In manufacturing, employment is concentrated in textiles and wearing apparel, and food and beverages.
- v. Labour productivity is highest in the industry while the agriculture sector has the lowest labour productivity.

To enhance productivity, there is a need to:

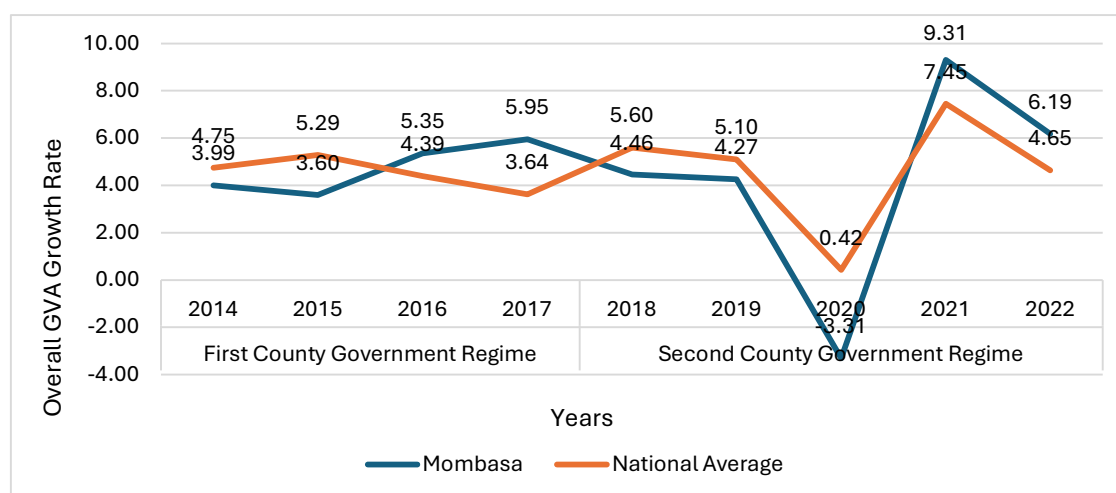
- i. Promote urban and peri-urban farming to support food security in the county and increase agriculture productivity.
- ii. Leverage investing in the blue economy to create jobs and increase county output.
- iii. Secure the quality of labour by implementing nutritional programmes to reduce stunting and reduce teenage pregnancies through creating awareness and supporting teenage mothers to continue with education. Also, prioritize implementing 100 per cent secondary school transition rates to enable acquisition of skills.
- iv. Encourage investments in manufacturing to support the transformation of the agriculture sector through fish processing, agro-processing, and textile industry. This also includes supporting the County Aggregation Industry Park to enhance the productivity of the MSMEs.

Mombasa County Economic Performance

Mombasa County contributes on average 5.1 percent of the National Gross Value Added with an average GVA of Ksh 385,755.6 million. The GVA per capita for Mombasa County is Ksh 319,254.03 with an average population growth of 2.2 per cent and overall poverty levels at 31.8 per cent.

Mombasa County has shown a steady growth in GVA with an average growth rate of 4.42 percent in 2013-2022, which is higher than the national average growth of 4.37 percent. The highest growth rate was in 2021.

Figure 1: Mombasa County GVA growth rate

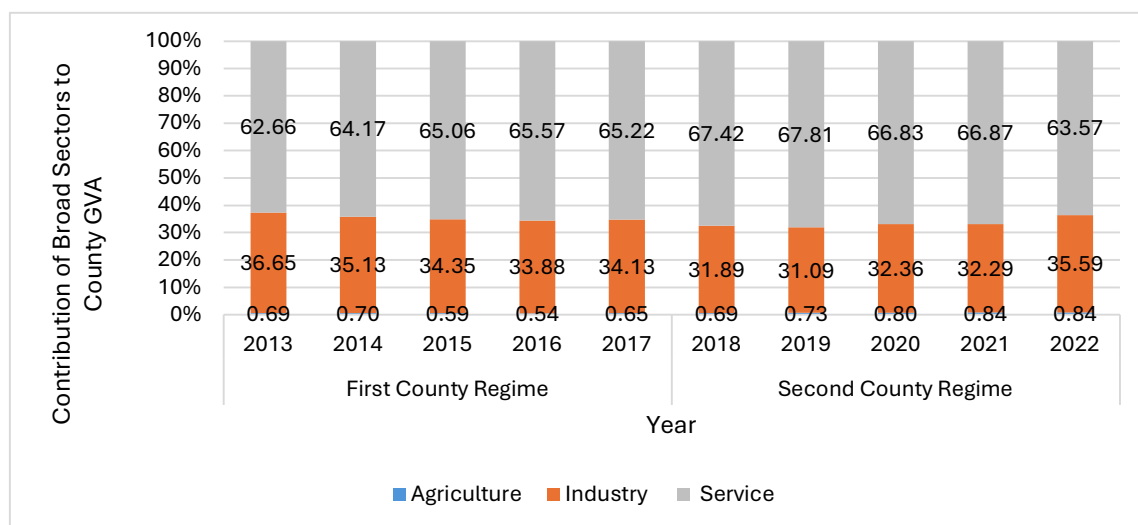


Data source: KNBS 2023-Gross County Product

Sectoral Analysis of GVA

The services sector is dominant in Mombasa County with an average contribution to GVA of 65.52 per cent. The industry sector is second, contributing an average of 33.74 per cent to the GVA while the agriculture sector is very low at about 0.71 per cent (Figure 2).

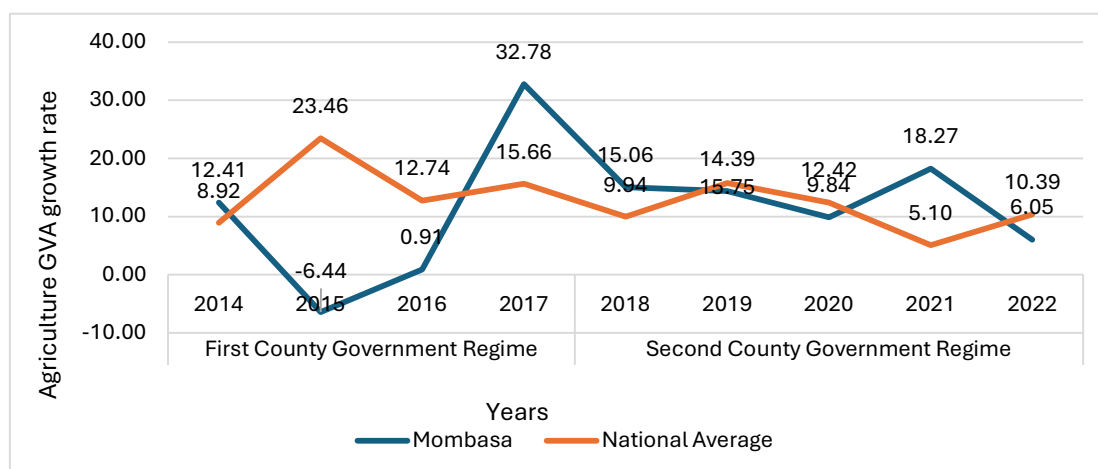
Figure 2: Contribution of broad sectors to Mombasa County GVA



Data source: KNBS 2023-Gross County Product

The average growth rate of agriculture GVA in 2013-2022 is 11.47 per cent, which is below the national average of 12.71 per cent (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Mombasa County agriculture GVA growth rate



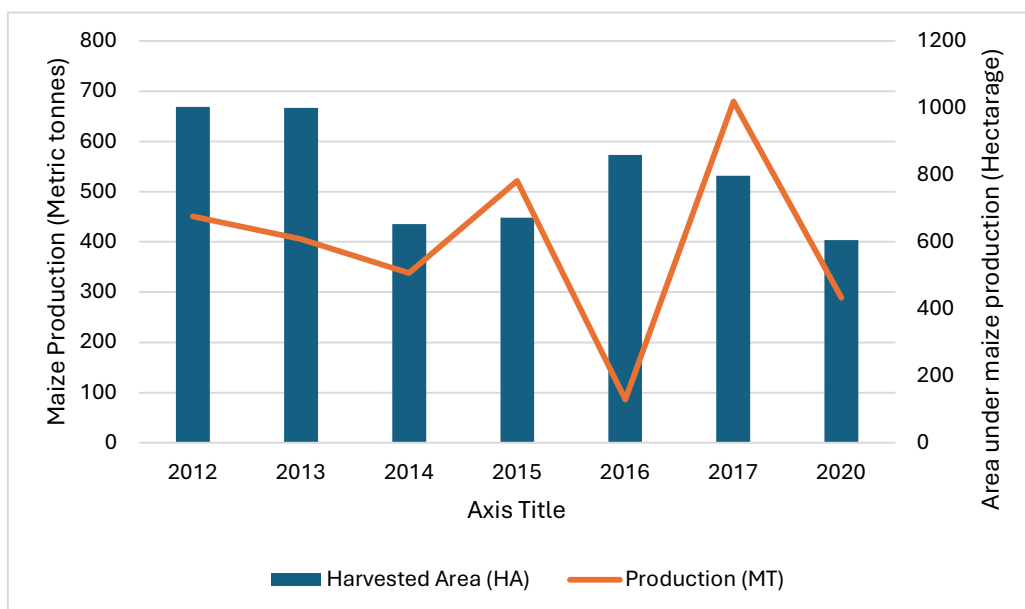
Data source: KNBS 2023-Gross County Product

Agriculture sector

The agriculture sector in Mombasa County is very small with fishing as the most common practice. Crop production in the rural areas and urban farming is also common. Maize production is still predominant although the growing of high-value vegetables and fruits is

being promoted. The area under maize production has generally declined over the years while maize production is erratic (Figure 4).

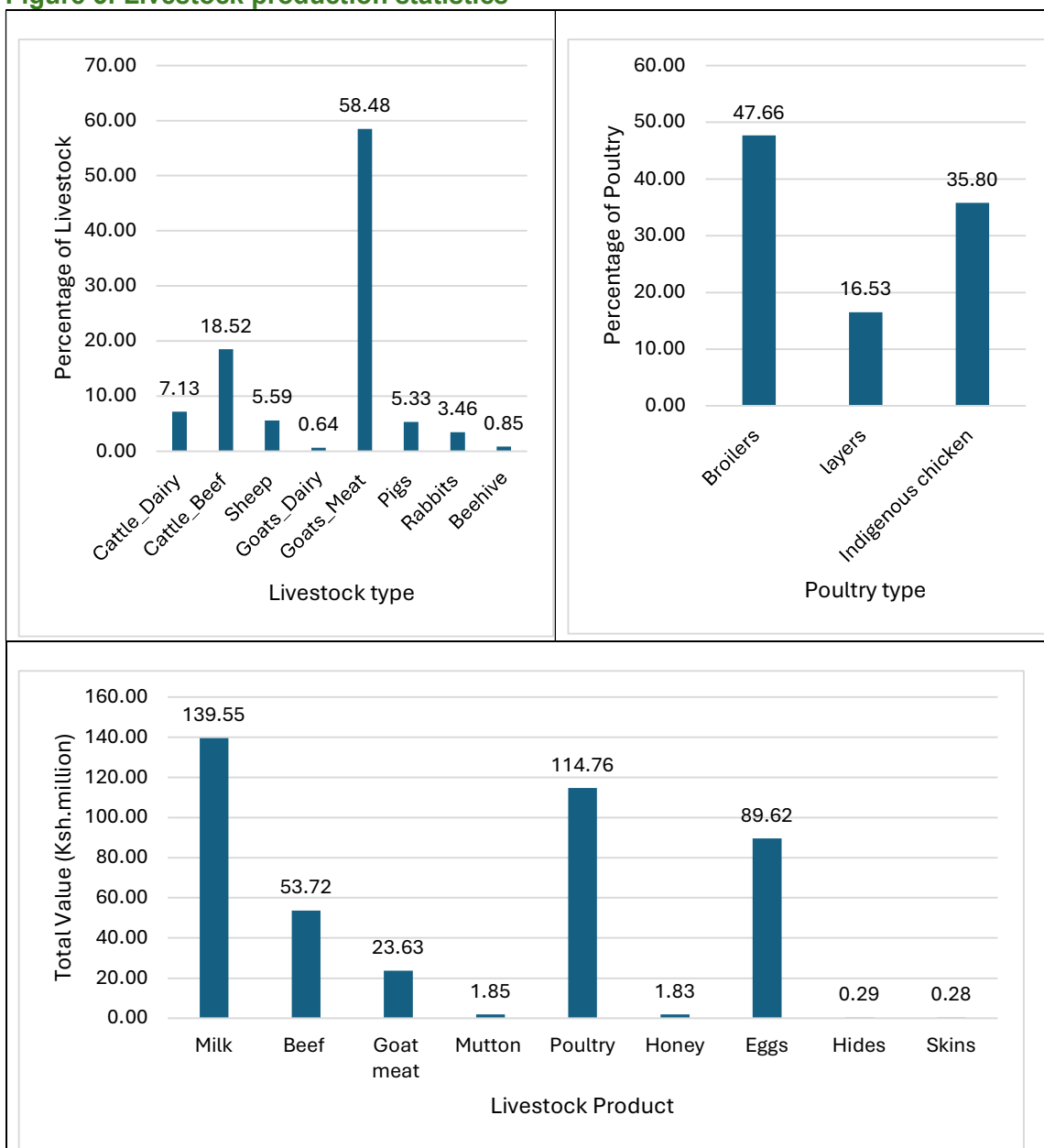
Figure 4: Maize production and area under maize production



Data source: National Information Platform for Food and Nutrition (NIPFN)

Livestock production is on a small scale. The most common livestock is meat goats and beef cattle (Figure 5). Poultry farming is also practiced and highly diversified with broilers as the most common poultry type. Milk, poultry meat, and eggs have the highest economic value among the livestock products.

Figure 5: Livestock production statistics

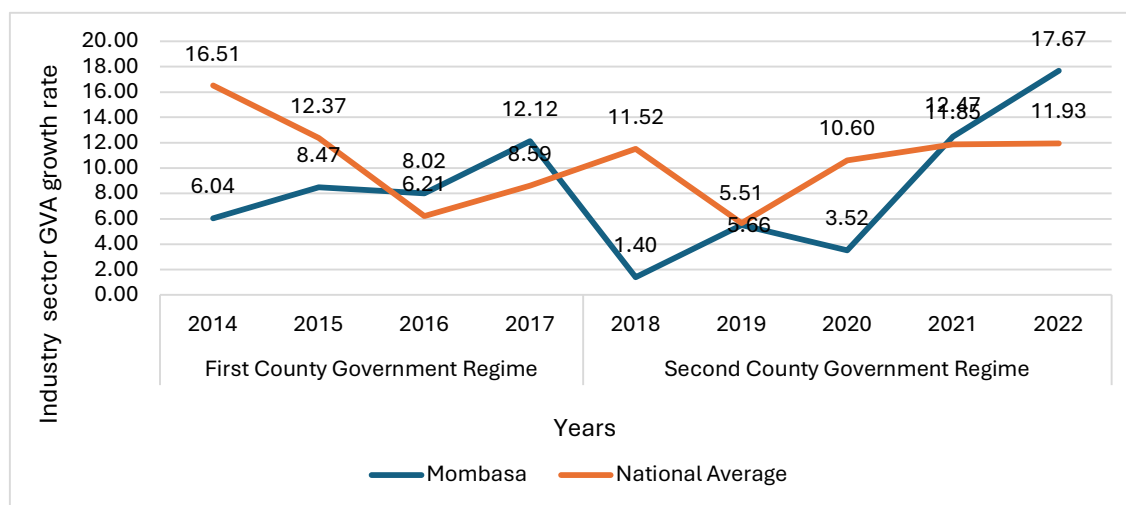


Data source: National Information Platform for Food and Nutrition (NIPFN)

Industry Sector

The average growth rate of the industry sector is 8.36 per cent, which is below the national average of 10.58 per cent (Figure 6).

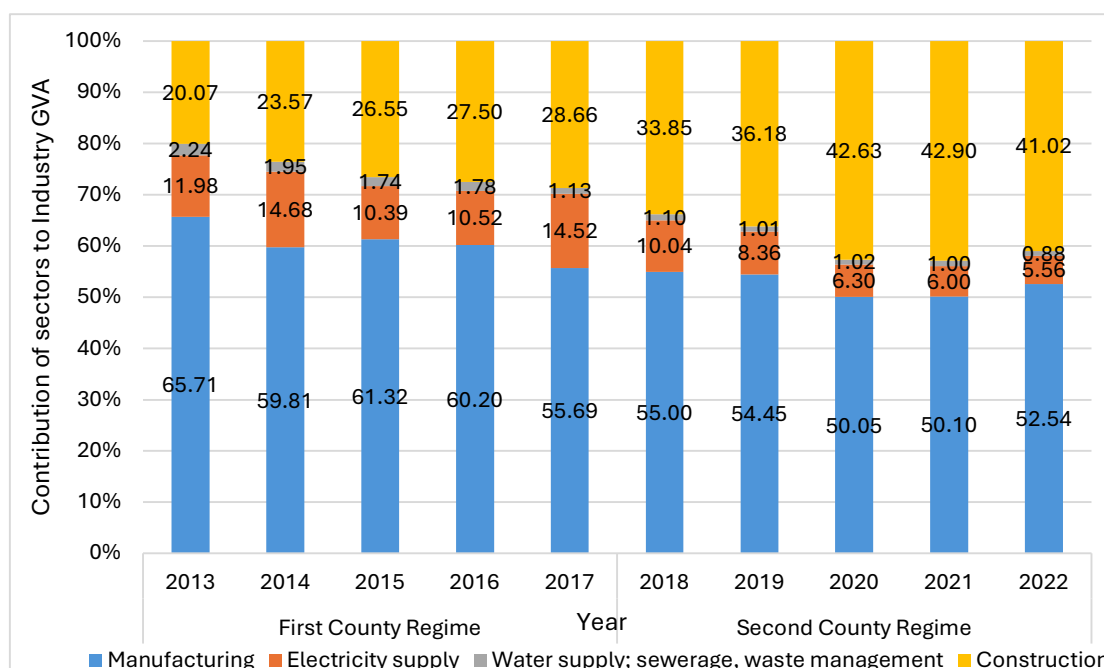
Figure 6: Mombasa County industry GVA growth rate



Data source: KNBS 2023-Gross County Product

Manufacturing is another important sector in Mombasa County as it dominates the industry sector as shown in the Figure 7.

Figure 7: Contribution of industry sub-sectors to the industry sector GVA

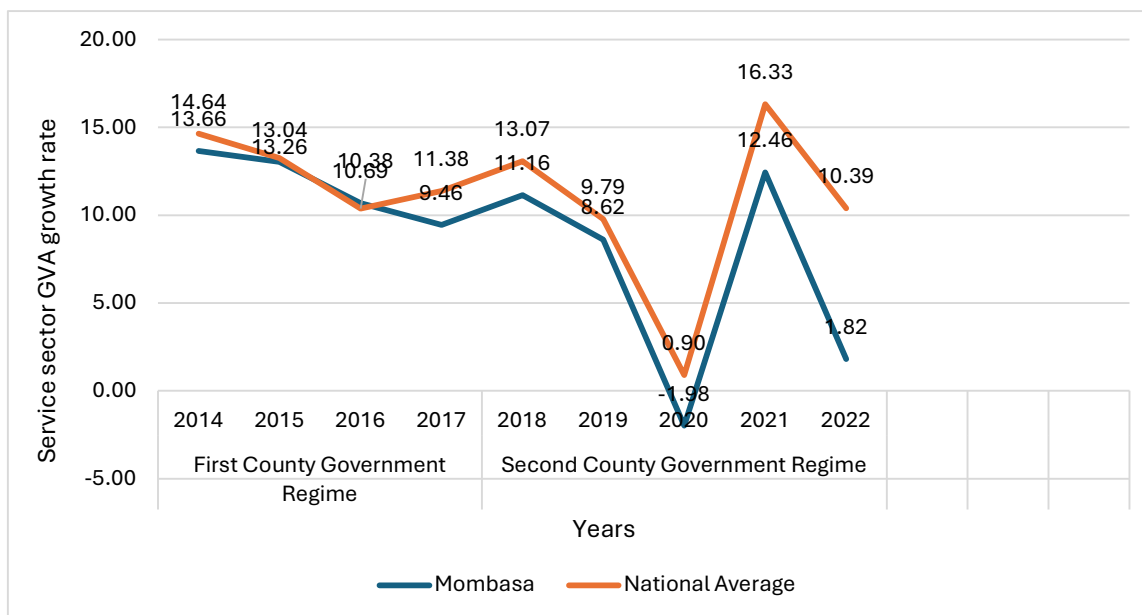


Data source: KNBS 2023-Gross County Product

Services Sector

The average growth rate in the services sector is 9.35 per cent, which is below the national average of 11.13 per cent.

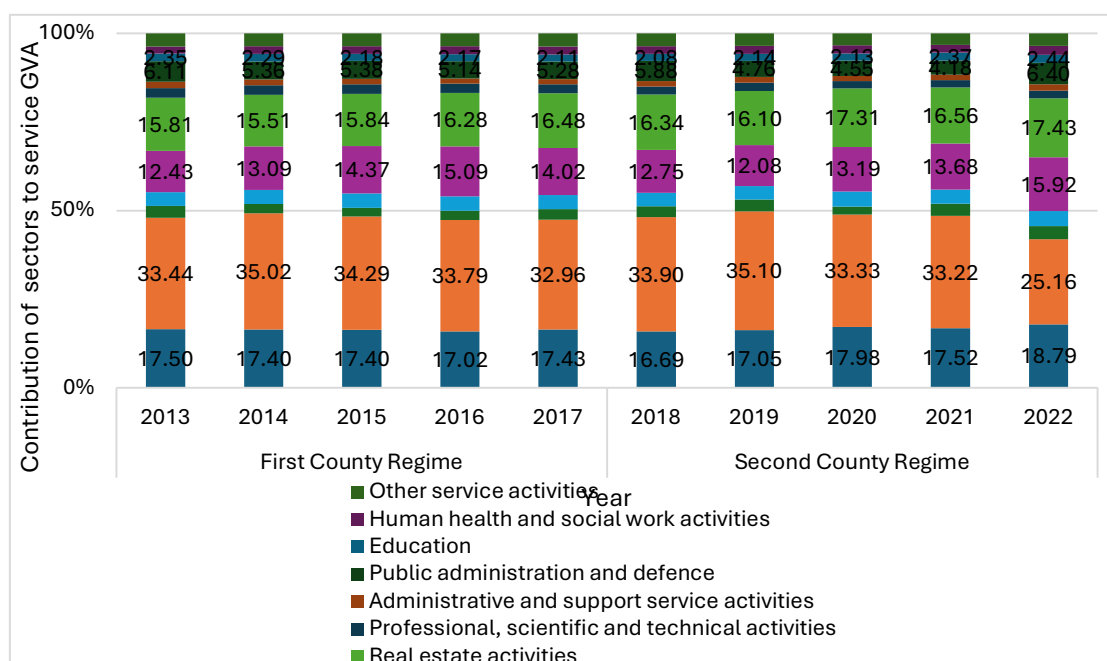
Figure 8 : Mombasa County services sector GVA growth rate



Data source: KNBS 2023-Gross County Product

The transportation and storage sub-sector, dominates the services sector with the highest contribution to service GVA at 33.02 per cent (Figure 9). The wholesale and retail trade sub-sector is the second highest contributor to services GVA at 17.48 per cent. The real estate activities sector is third at an average of 16.37 per cent.

Figure 9: Contribution of sub-sectors to services sector GVA



Data source: KNBS 2023-Gross County Product

Quantity and Quality of Labour Force in Mombasa County

Mombasa County has a total of 792,072 working-age population, which is about 65.55 per cent of the total county population (Table 1). Most of the working-age population is youthful (18-34 years) at 56.47 per cent.

Table 1: Distribution of the working-age population by age categories

Working population age	Male	Female	Total	Percentage of total working age population (%)
15-17	27,984	30,074	58,058	7.33
18 -24	83,382	99,026	182,408	23.03
25-34	131,180	133,665	264,845	33.44
35-64	160,216	126,545	286,761	36.20
Total	402,762	389,310	792,072	

Data Source: KNBS (2019), Kenya Population and Health Census - KPHC 2019

Most of the population in Mombasa sub-counties are persons in the working age categories. Changamwe has the highest Percentage of working-age persons at 68.23 per cent (Table 2).

Table 2: Sub-county land area distribution of working age population by age category

Sub-county	Total population	Working age population categories				Working age population (15-64) as a Percentage of the total sub-county population
		15-17	18 –24	25 –34	35-64	
Changamwe	131,882	5,773 (6.42)	18,995 (21.11)	30,991 (34.44)	34,221 (38.03)	89,980 (68.23)
Jomvu	163,412	7,564 (7.25)	22,898 (21.94)	36,072 (34.56)	37,853 (36.26)	104,387 (63.88)
Kisauni	291,924	14,610 (7.81)	43,240 (23.12)	63,448 (33.93)	65,719 (35.14)	187,017 (64.06)
Likoni	250,354	11,987 (7.43)	40,487 (25.08)	57,432 (35.58)	51,518 (31.91)	161,424 (64.48)
Mvita	154,166	8,355 (8.13)	23,788 (23.14)	27,184 (26.45)	43,461 (42.28)	102,788 (66.67)
Nyali	216,565	9,769 (6.67)	33,000 (22.53)	49,718 (33.94)	53,989 (36.86)	146,476 (67.64)

Data source: KNBS (2019), Kenya Population and Health Census - KPHC 2019

Mombasa County has high-performance socioeconomic indicators that affect the quality of labour. However, interventions are required to increase secondary school enrolment rates and reduce stunting and teenage pregnancies (Table 3).

Table 3: Human capital indicators

Human capital indicators	County	National average
Literacy rate	94.70	78.41
Pre-primary net enrolment rate (2019)	80.06	67.51
Primary school net enrolment rate (2020)	67.40	77.72

Secondary school net enrolment rate (2020)	31.90	54.18
Average years of schooling (2014)	9.20	7.78
Percentage of children 12 -23 months fully vaccinated (%)	78.60	74.97
Percentage of stunted children	13.50	19.75
Percentage of teenage pregnancy	10.80	15.79
Primary to secondary transition rates (2020)	86.40	86.13
Pupil-teacher ratio (primary school)	24.00	28.28
Food poverty headcount (%)	29.30	33.63
Child poverty headcount (%)	32.20	42.67

Data source: KNBS (2022), Kenya Demographic and Health Survey - KDHS 2022; KNBS (2019), Kenya Population and Health Census - KPHC 2019; Ministry of Education (2020; 2021 Basic Education Statistical Booklet; KNBS 2021-Kenya Poverty Report

Mombasa County performed higher than the national average for essential infrastructure indicators (Table 4).

Table 4: Essential infrastructure and other resources indicators

Essential infrastructure indicators	County	National average
Percentage of households with access to electricity (2019 Census)	85.90	38.52
Distribution of population using the internet (2019 Census)	39.20	18.69
Rural Access Index (2018)	95.12	63.72
Access to improved sanitation (2018)	86.00	59.04
Access to improved water (2018)	82.60	65.33

Financial inclusion level (2021)	89.80	81.01
The proportion of primary schools with internet	51.10	27.65
Proportion of secondary schools with functional internet	63.60	35.13
Percentage of households by housing material composite-finished materials(adequate) (2019)	94.28	51.71
Per cent age of households using bank usage (overall)	56.10	38.18
Percentage of households using mobile money	88.60	78.58

Data sources: KRB 2018, KPHC 2019, FinAccess 2021, KIHBS 2015/16

County Employment Statistics

The employment-to-population ratio is at 52.10 per cent. Most of those working are youthful (18-34 years) at about 28.17 per cent while those 35-64 years are at 23.57 per cent.

The Percentage of those employed by gender is 41.33 per cent for males and 28.63 per cent for females. The unemployment rate is relatively high at 17.65 per cent and higher for the youth (18-34 years) at 11.68 per cent and those aged 35-64 years at 5.63 per cent. The Percentage of persons between 5-7 years old working is 1.44 per cent indicating that the county has low levels of child labour.

Table 5: Garissa County employment statistics

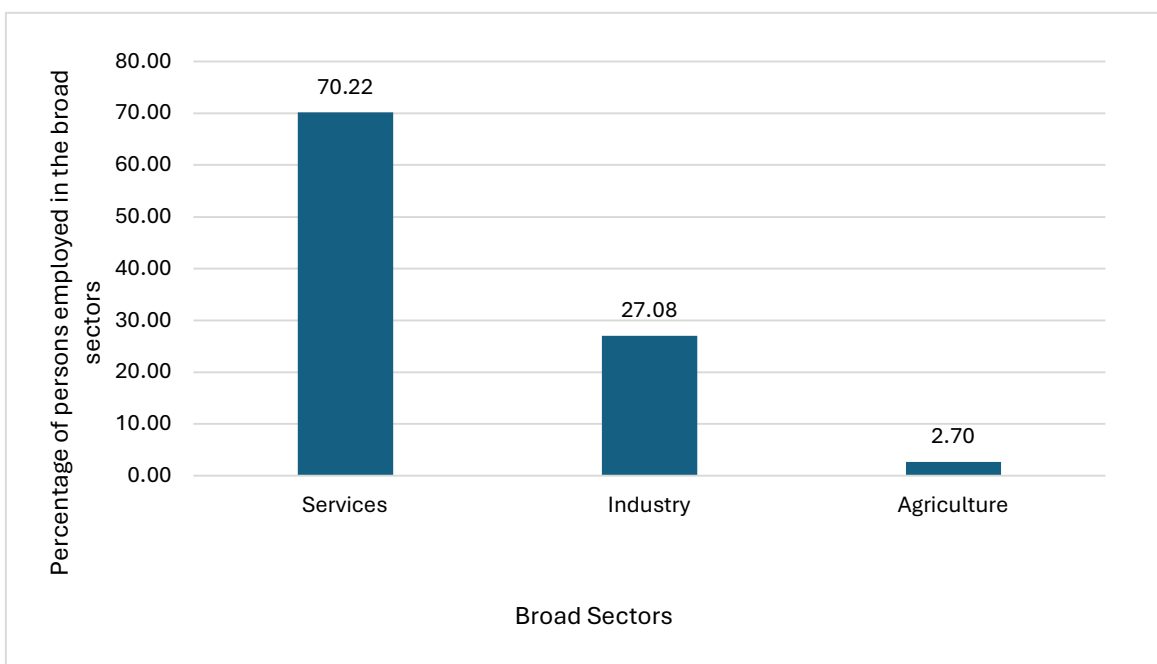
Employment statistics	Youth	Non-youth
Employment to population ratio (%)	28.17	23.57
Unemployment rate	11.68	5.63
Percentage of persons 5–17 years old working	1.44	-
Inactivity rate	16.18	12.27

Data source: KNBS (2019), Kenya Population and Health Census - KPHC 2019

Sectoral Employment

The services sector is the highest employer in Mombasa County at 70.22 per cent followed by the industry sector at 27.08 per cent (Figure 10). The agriculture sector is third at 2.70 per cent.

Figure 10: Percentage of persons employed in the broad sectors

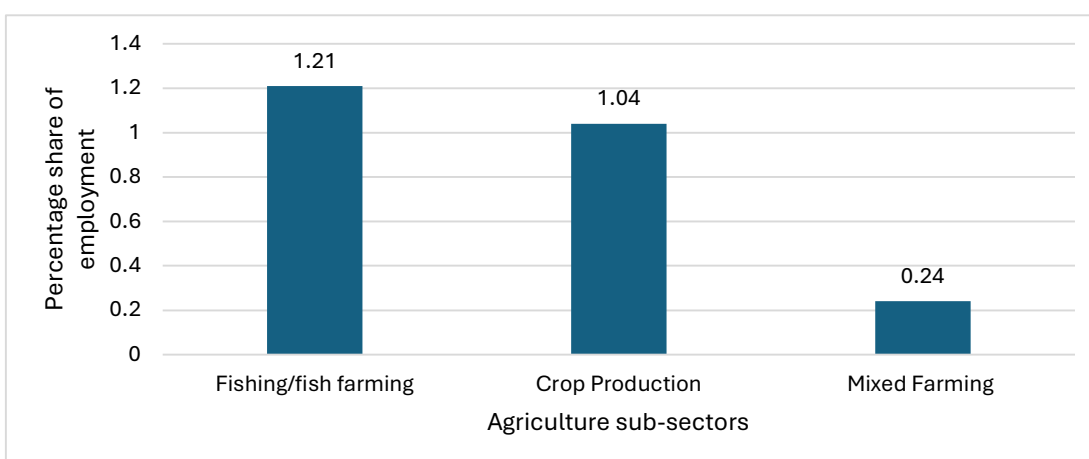


Data source: KNBS (2019), Kenya Population and Health Census - KPHC 2019

Agriculture Sector

In the agriculture sector, the majority are those practicing fishing/fish farming (Figure 11).

Figure 11: Percentage share of employment in agriculture sub-sectors

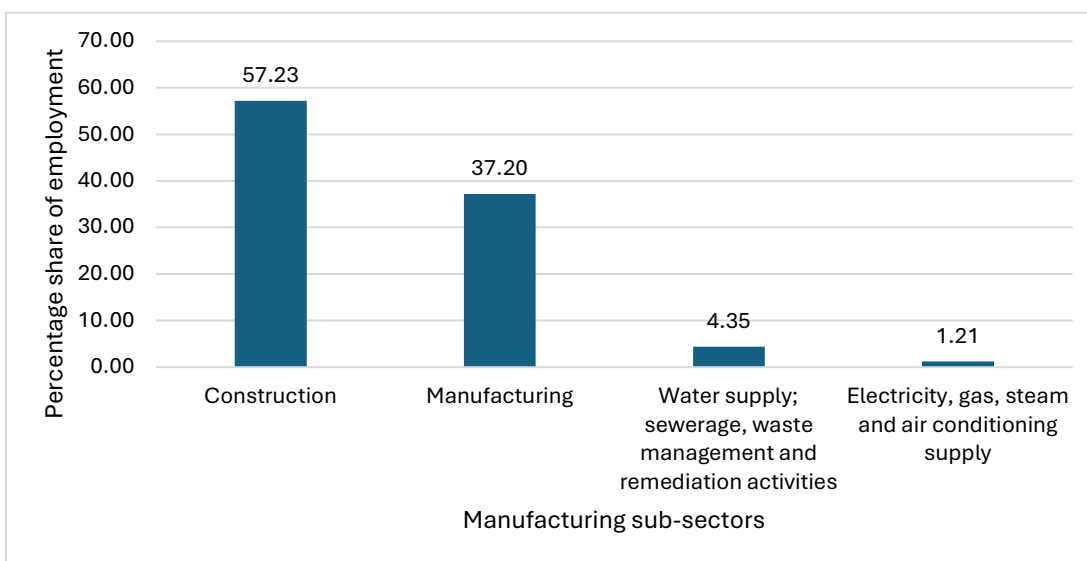


Data source: KNBS 2021- Kenya Continuous Household Survey

Industry Sector

The majority of those working in the industry sectors are in construction (Figure 12).

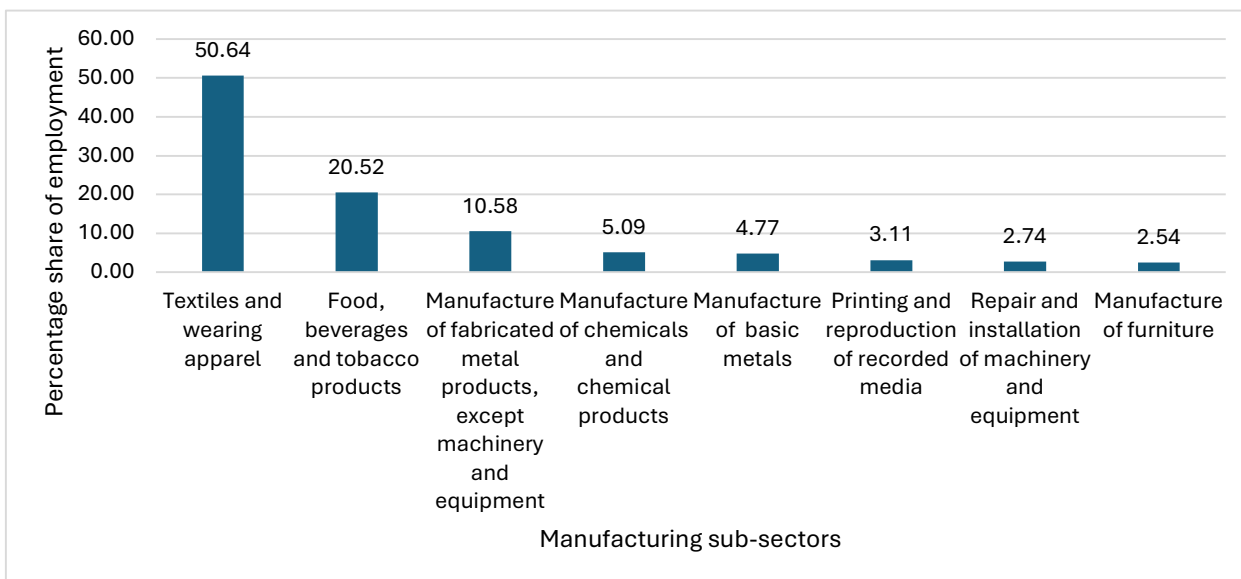
Figure 12: Percentage share of employment in the industry sectors



Data Source: KNBS 2021- Kenya Continuous Household Survey

A disaggregation of employment in manufacturing shows that the majority of those employed in the sector work in low-technology manufacturing sub-sectors such as manufacture of textiles and wearing apparels and manufacture of food and beverages (Figure 13).

Figure 13: Percentage share of employment in manufacturing sub-sectors

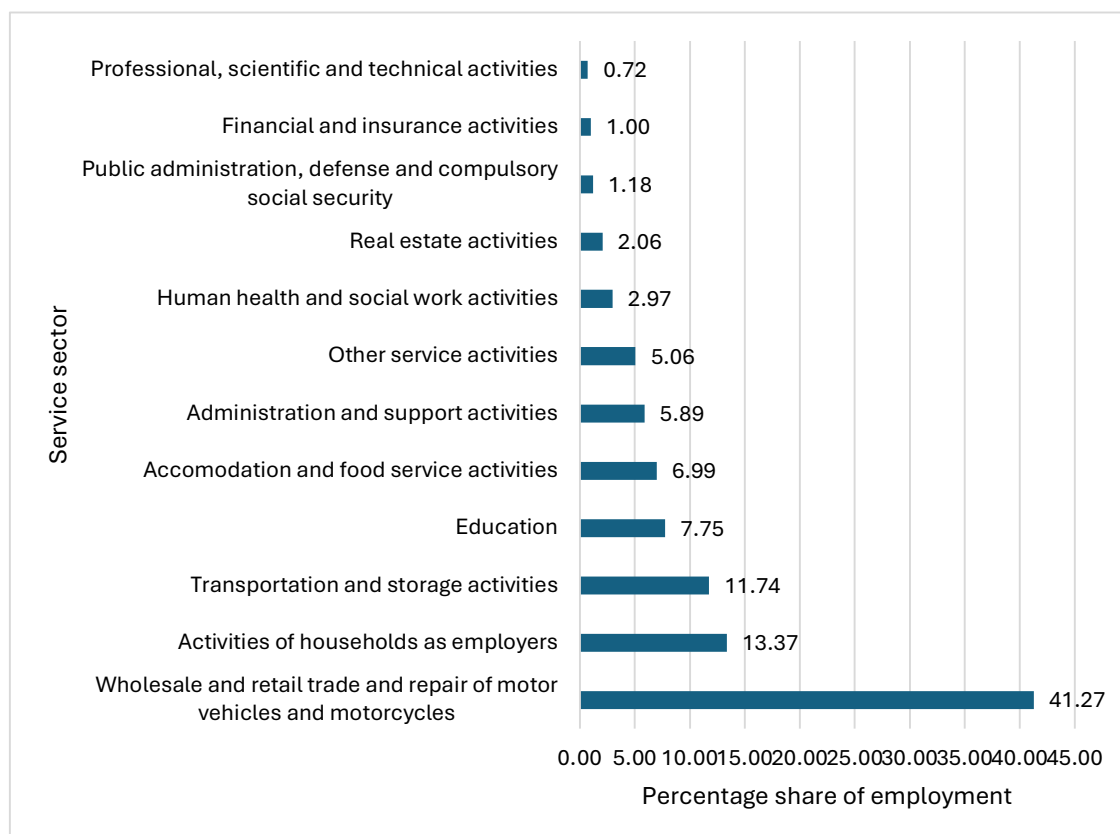


Data source: KNBS 2021- Kenya Continuous Household Survey

Services Sector Employment

The majority of those working in the services sector are in wholesale and retail trade, and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (Figure 14).

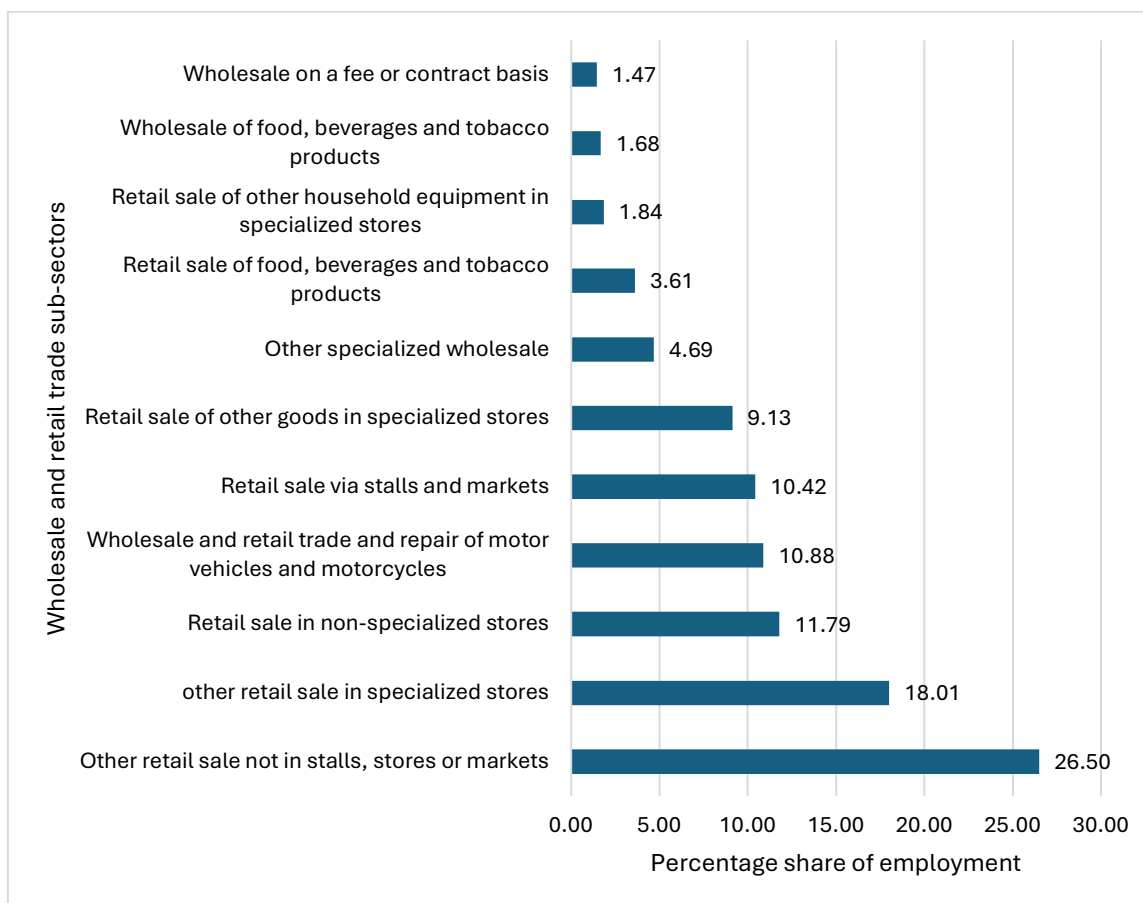
Figure 14: Percentage share of employment in the service sector



Data source: KNBS 2021- Kenya Continuous Household Survey

In the wholesale and retail trade, and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, the majority work in other retail not in stalls, stores or markets (Figure 15).

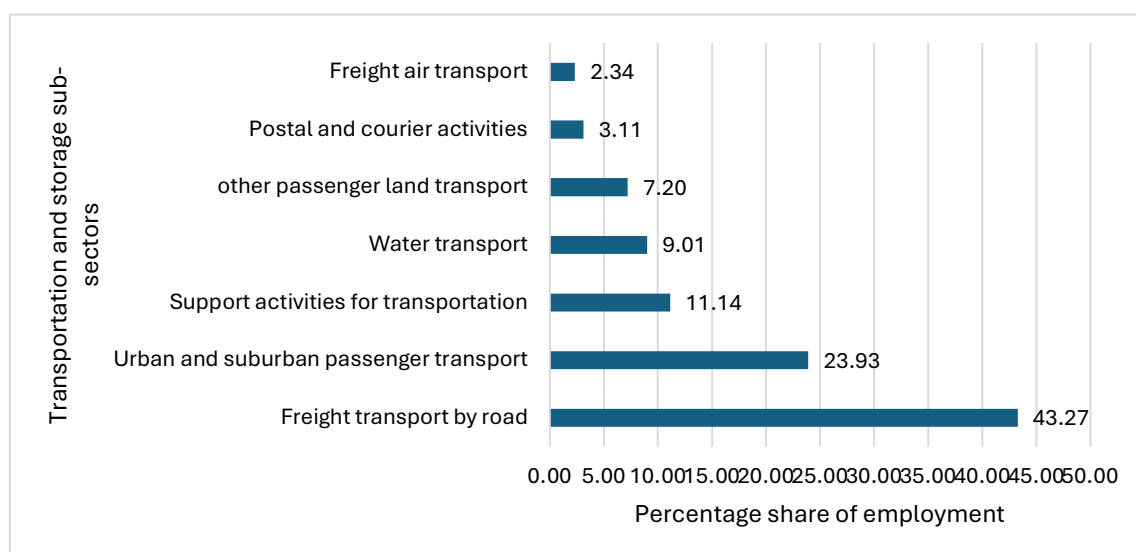
Figure 15: Per cent age of persons employed in the wholesale and retail trade, and repair of motor vehicle sub-sectors



Data source: KNBS 2021- Kenya Continuous Household Survey

In the transportation and storage sub-sector, the majority of those employed are in freight transport by road (Figure 16).

Figure 16: Percentage share of employment in the transportation and storage sub-sectors

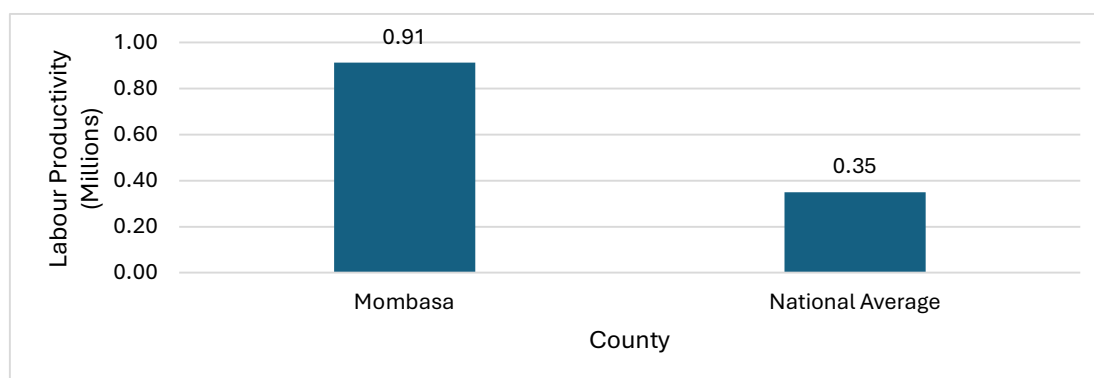


Data source: KNBS 2021- Kenya Continuous Household Survey

Labour Productivity

Labour productivity¹ for Mombasa County is higher than the national average (Figure 17).

Figure 17: Labour productivity ratios (millions)

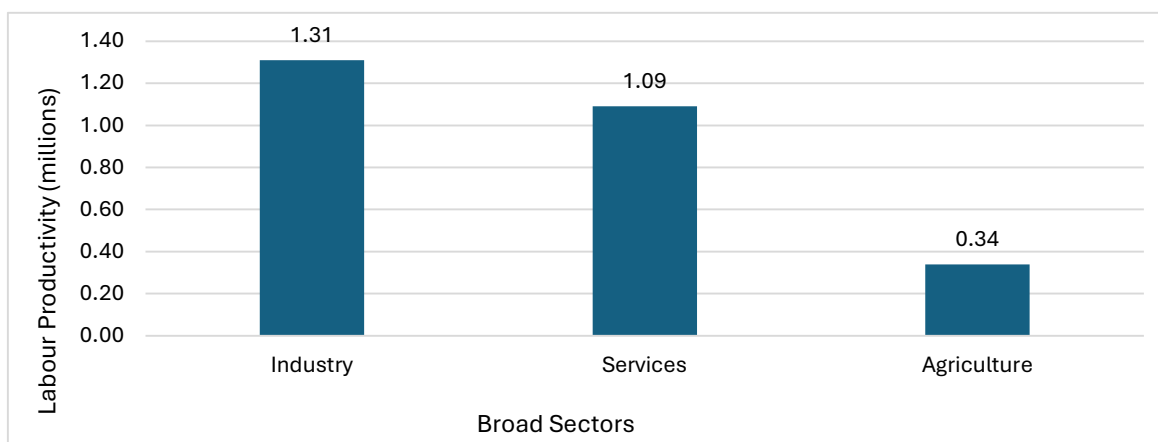


Data source: Author's computation using KNBS 2023-Gross County Product and KNBS 2021- Kenya Continuous Household Survey

The industry sector had the highest productivity, followed by the services sector, while the agriculture sector had the lowest labour productivity (Figure 18).

¹ The measure used is the apparent labour productivity measured as gross value added per person employed.

Figure 18: Labour productivity by sectors

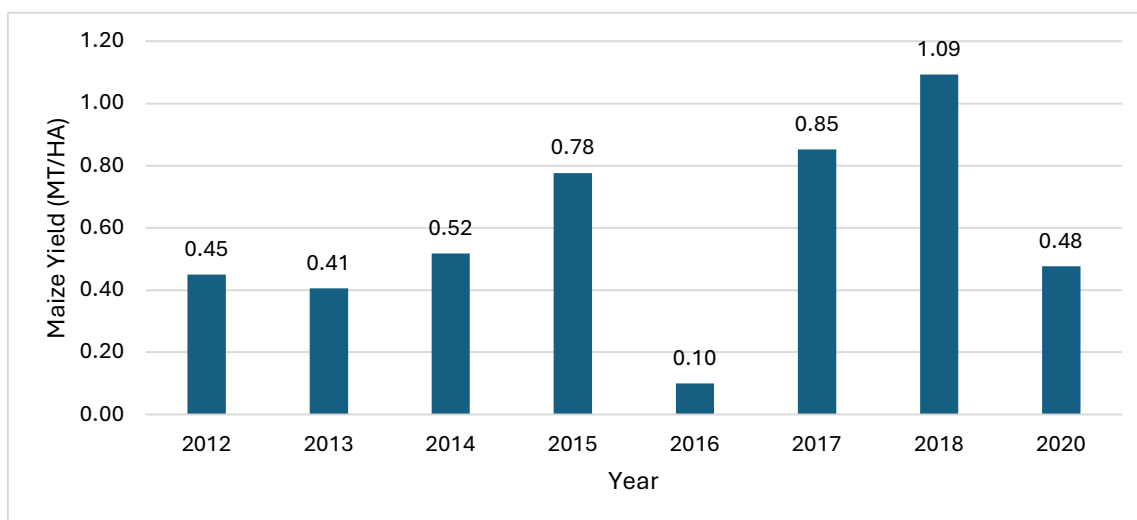


Data source: Author's computation using KNBS 2023-Gross County Product and KNBS 2021- Kenya Continuous Household Survey

Agriculture Sector

Maize productivity as measured by maize yields has been fluctuating over the years (Figure 19). The average yields for the eight (8) years under review is 0.58 MT/HA which is lower than other counties within the same aridity classification.

Figure 19: Maize yield (MT/HA)

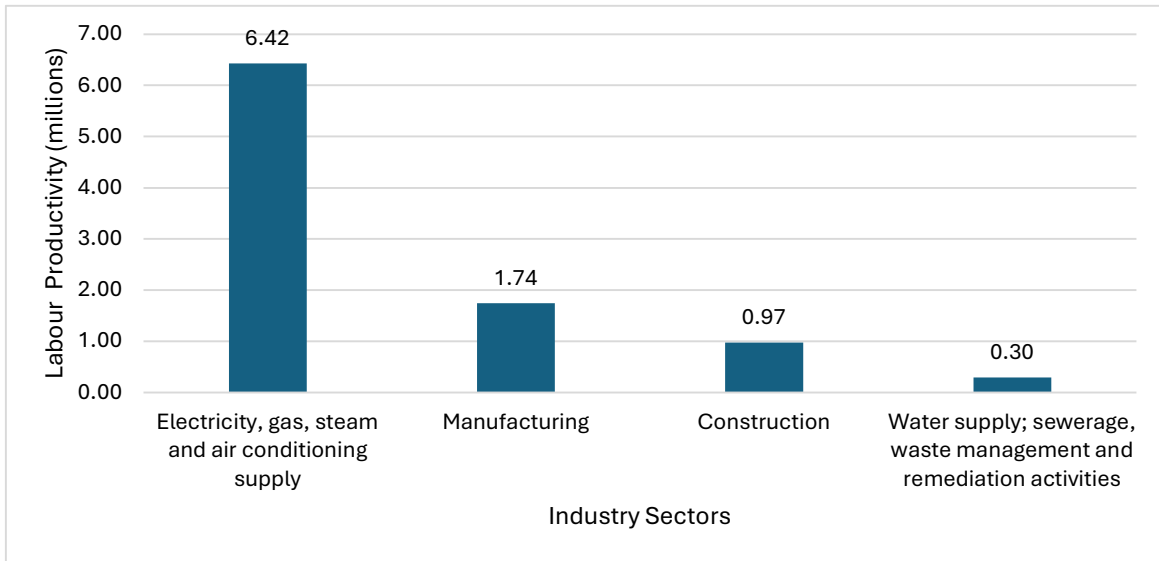


Data source: National Information Platform for Food and Nutrition (NIPFN)

Industry Sector

Electricity, gas, steam, and air conditioning supply and manufacturing sectors had the highest labour productivity in the industry sector (Figure 20).

Figure 20: Labour productivity by industry sectors

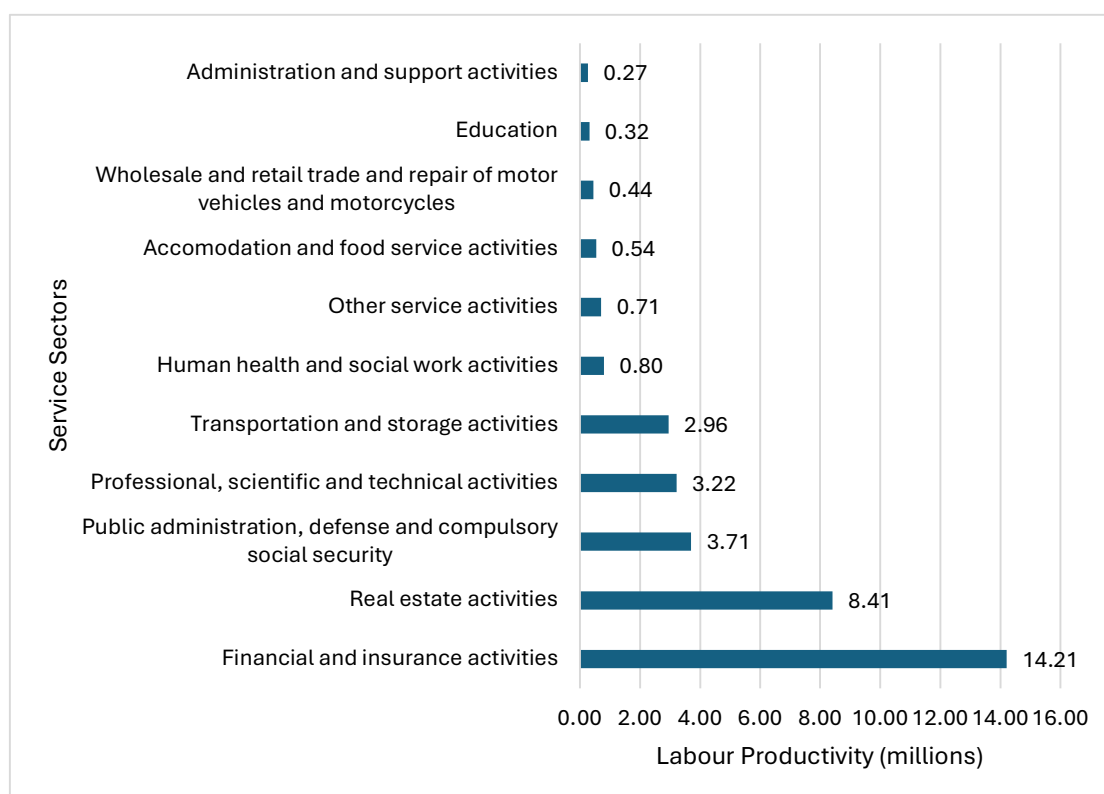


Data source: Author's computation using KNBS 2023-Gross County Product and KNBS 2021- Kenya Continuous Household Survey

Services Sector

Financial and insurance activities sub-sector had relatively higher labour productivity when compared with other sub-sectors within the services sector (Figure 21).

Figure 21: Labour productivity in services sectors



Data source: Author's computation using KNBS 2023-Gross County Product and KNBS 2021- Kenya Continuous Household Survey

Key Messages

- i. The services sector is dominant in Mombasa County's gross value added. The industry sector share is a substantive sector. Agriculture is small with highly diversified poultry farming. Manufacturing has the highest share of industry while transportation and storage services dominate the services sector.
- ii. The indicators of quality of labour performed within the national averages. However, interventions are required to increase secondary school enrolment rates and reduce stunting, teenage pregnancy, child poverty, and food poverty.
- iii. The essential infrastructure indicators are higher than the national average. Interventions are however required in internet connectivity.
- iv. The services sector is the highest employer with the majority in wholesale and retail trade, with employment concentrated in other retail not in stalls, stores, or markets. In agriculture, employment is concentrated in fish farming. The majority of those working in the industry sectors are in construction. In manufacturing, employment is concentrated in the manufacture of textiles and wearing apparel, and the manufacture of food and beverages.
- v. Labour productivity is higher than the national average. The industry sector had the highest productivity, while the agriculture sector had the lowest labour productivity among the broad sectors.

Policy Recommendations

- i. Promote urban and peri-urban farming to support food security in the county and increase agriculture productivity.
- ii. Leverage investing in the blue economy to create jobs and increase county output.
- iii. Secure the quality of labour by implementing nutrition-sensitive social protection programmes to tackle stunting, child poverty, and food poverty. Also, prioritize reducing teenage pregnancies through creating awareness and supporting teenage mothers to continue with education. Also, implement 100 per cent secondary school transition rates to enable the acquisition of skills.
- iv. Encourage investments in manufacturing to support the transformation of the agriculture sector through fish processing, agro-processing, and textile industry. This also includes supporting the County Aggregation Industry Park to enhance the productivity of the MSMEs.

Acknowledgment

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