

Monthly Drought Bulletin

June 2026

I. Overview

During June 2026, below-normal to near-normal rainfall was received mostly over the eastern half of the country, while above-normal rainfall was more prevalent over the western and southern parts of the country. Below-normal rainfall was received in large parts of KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng, Mpumalanga, the Limpopo Province, and the eastern parts of North West, extending into the eastern Free State. Above-normal rainfall was observed in large parts of the Western Cape extending to parts of the Eastern and Northern Cape.

The Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) analysis for June 2026 indicates somewhat dry conditions over large parts of KwaZulu-Natal, extending into adjacent areas of Mpumalanga, the Eastern Cape, and the Free State, as well as isolated areas elsewhere across the country. However, moderately dry conditions were experienced in isolated areas of KwaZulu-Natal, extending into adjacent parts of the Eastern Cape.

During the 3-month assessment period (April to June 2026), above-normal rainfall was received over nearly the entire Western Cape, extending into large parts of the Northern Cape and the southwestern-half of the Eastern Cape, as well as in isolated areas elsewhere across the country. Below-normal to near-normal rainfall was mostly received over the eastern-half of the country, with below-normal rainfall being more prevalent across KwaZulu-Natal and also in isolated areas elsewhere.

The 3-month Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) indicates somewhat dry conditions, with moderately dry conditions in isolated areas mainly over KwaZulu-Natal, extending into the northeastern parts of the Eastern Cape, southern parts of Mpumalanga and the eastern and western parts of the Free State. The remainder of the country experienced somewhat dry conditions in isolated areas except over the Western Cape.

During the 6-month period from January to June 2026, somewhat dry conditions were experienced over most parts of KwaZulu-Natal, but also in small, isolated areas across the country except Gauteng and the Limpopo Province. Moderately dry conditions were observed in areas along the Eastern Cape-KwaZulu-Natal border.

The 12- and 24-month SPI maps indicate areas where prolonged droughts exist, in other words, where below-normal rainfall occurred over one year or longer. On the 12-month SPI map, somewhat dry with moderately dry conditions are most noticeable over KwaZulu-Natal extending to the northeastern parts of the Eastern Cape as well as in the western parts of the Northern Cape and northwestern parts of the Western Cape. The 24-month SPI map indicates somewhat dry conditions in isolated areas across the country, reflecting persistent long-term rainfall deficits. These conditions suggest that sustained periods of above-normal rainfall will be required for full recovery.

2. Rainfall assessment (1- and 3-monthly maps)

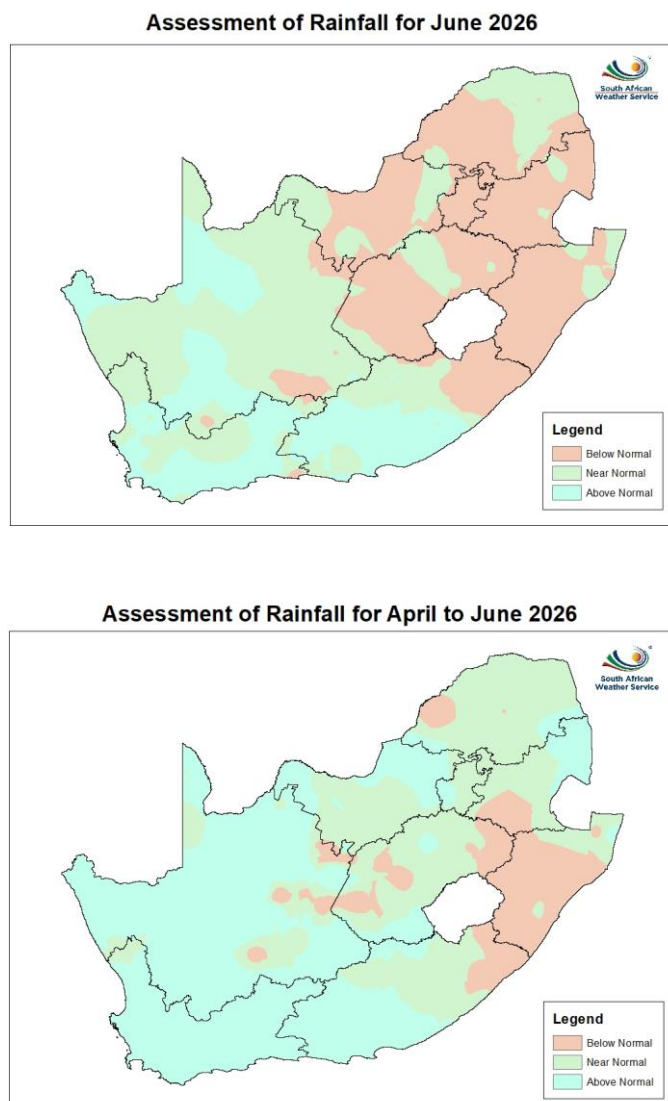


Figure 1: Assessment of rainfall maps for 1-month (June 2026; top) and for 3-month (April to June 2026; bottom)

3. Indications of Drought

3.1. Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI)

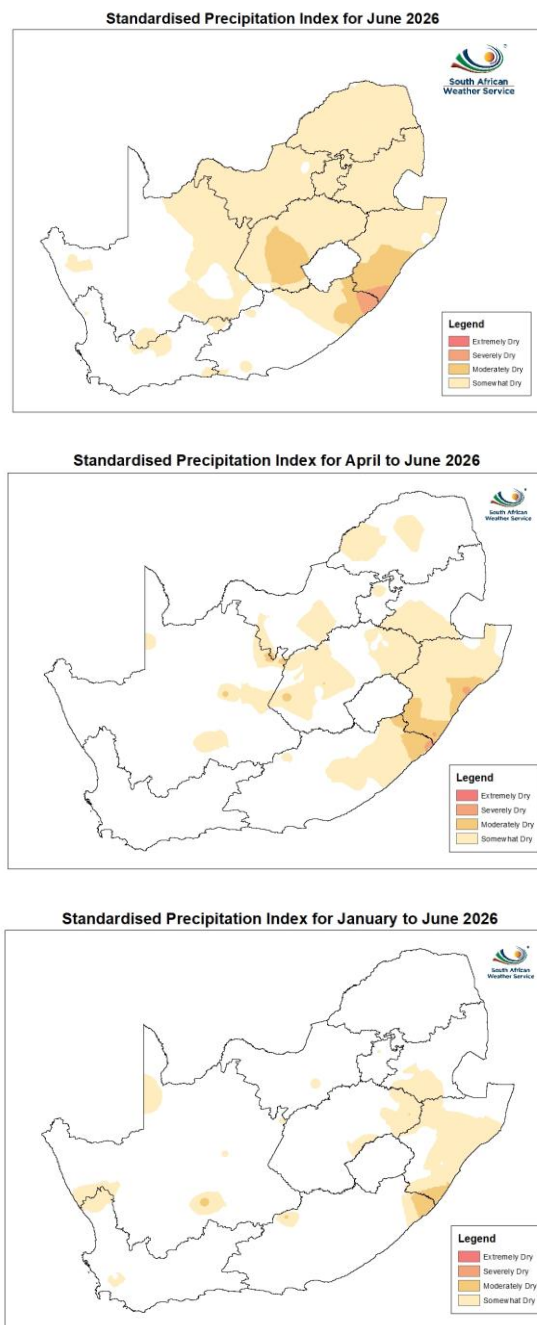
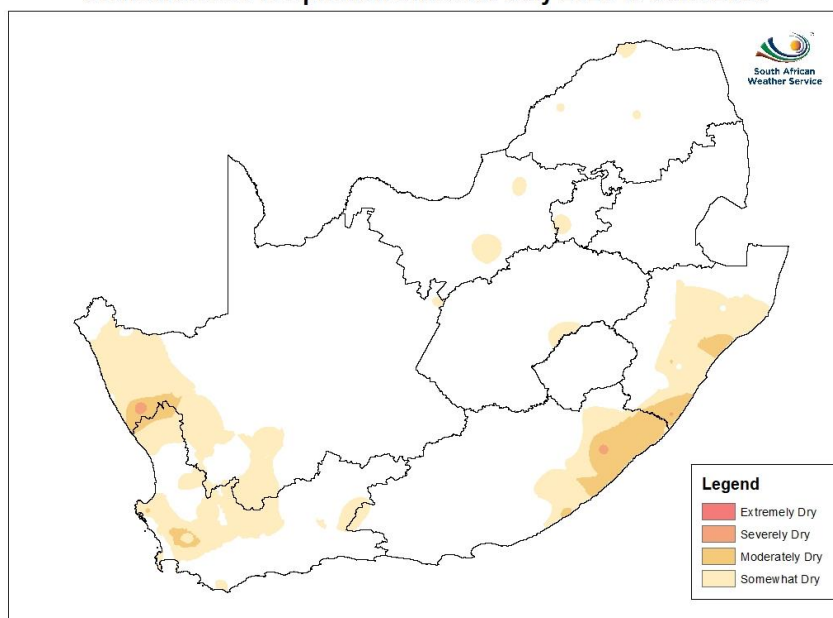


Figure 2: Short to medium-term SPI Maps for 1-month (June 2026; top), 3-month (April to June 2026; middle) and 6-month (January to June 2026; bottom)

Standardised Precipitation Index for July 2025 to June 2026



Standardised Precipitation Index for July 2024 to June 2026

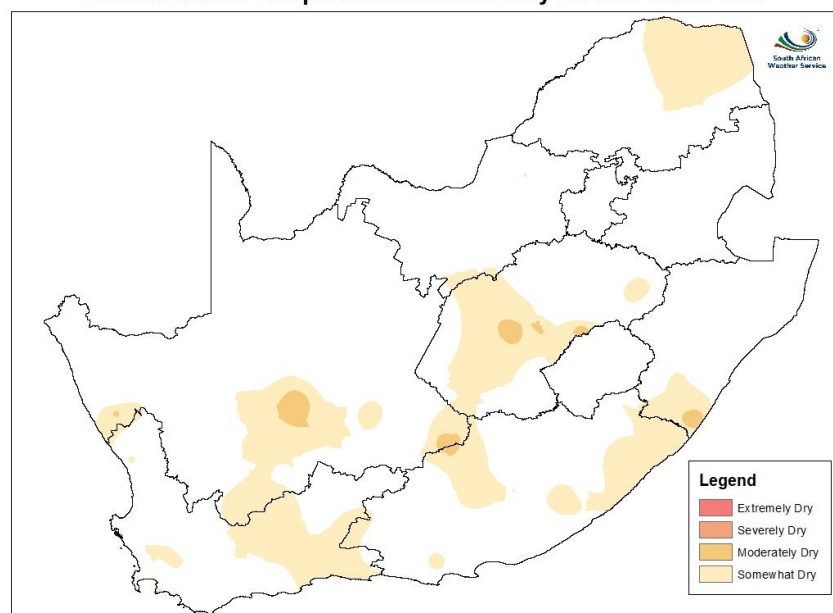


Figure 3: Long-term 12-month SPI map (July 2025 to June 2026; top) and 24-month SPI map (July 2024 to June 2026; bottom).

3.2 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI) and Temperature Condition Index (TCI)

The use of VCI and TCI help to monitor the severity of drought by comparing the current state of vegetation to that of the same period in the previous year. Low VCI and TCI values signify poor vegetation health, while high values indicate thriving conditions.

Figure 4 shows the spatial distribution of vegetation conditions across South Africa. Relative to the same period last year, the KwaZulu Natal and the northeastern parts of the Eastern Cape are experiencing notable vegetation stress, while much of the northern and southern parts of the country show signs of improved vegetation health.

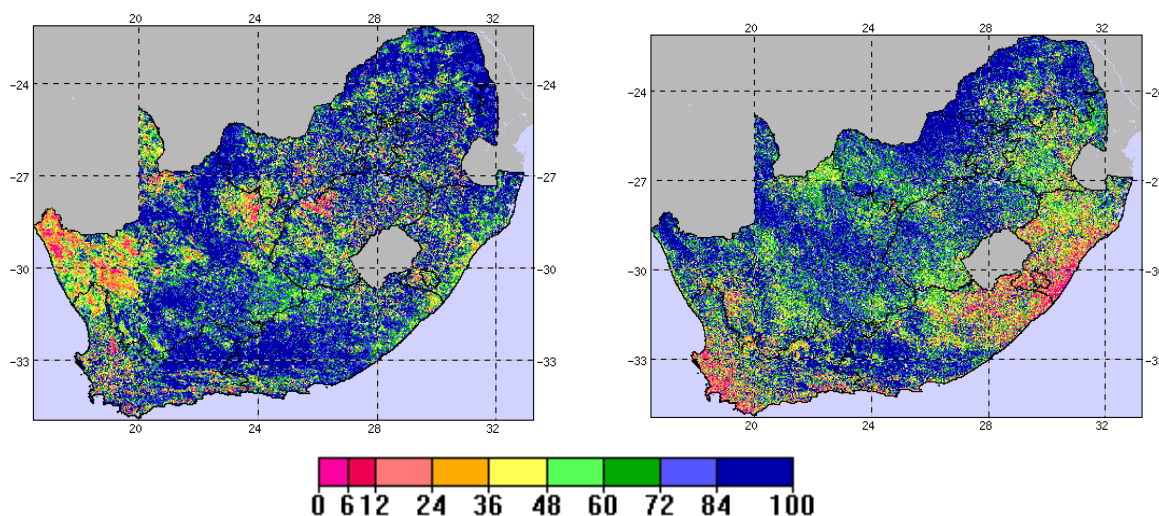


Figure 4: VCI (left) and TCI (right) in the week of the 1st of July 2026.

4. Drought stricken regions

4.1 SPI and SPEI

The SPI maps in Figures 5, 6 and 7 show continued drying across the KwaZulu Natal and the north the northeastern parts of the Eastern Cape. Figures 5-7 present SPI and Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index (SPEI) results for the KwaZulu Natal and the northeastern parts of the Eastern Cape, demonstrating persistent extreme drought conditions in the southern region around Mthatha, Paddock and Margate in KwaZulu Natal. These prolonged drought conditions increase the risk of water shortages and reduced agricultural productivity across the affected areas.

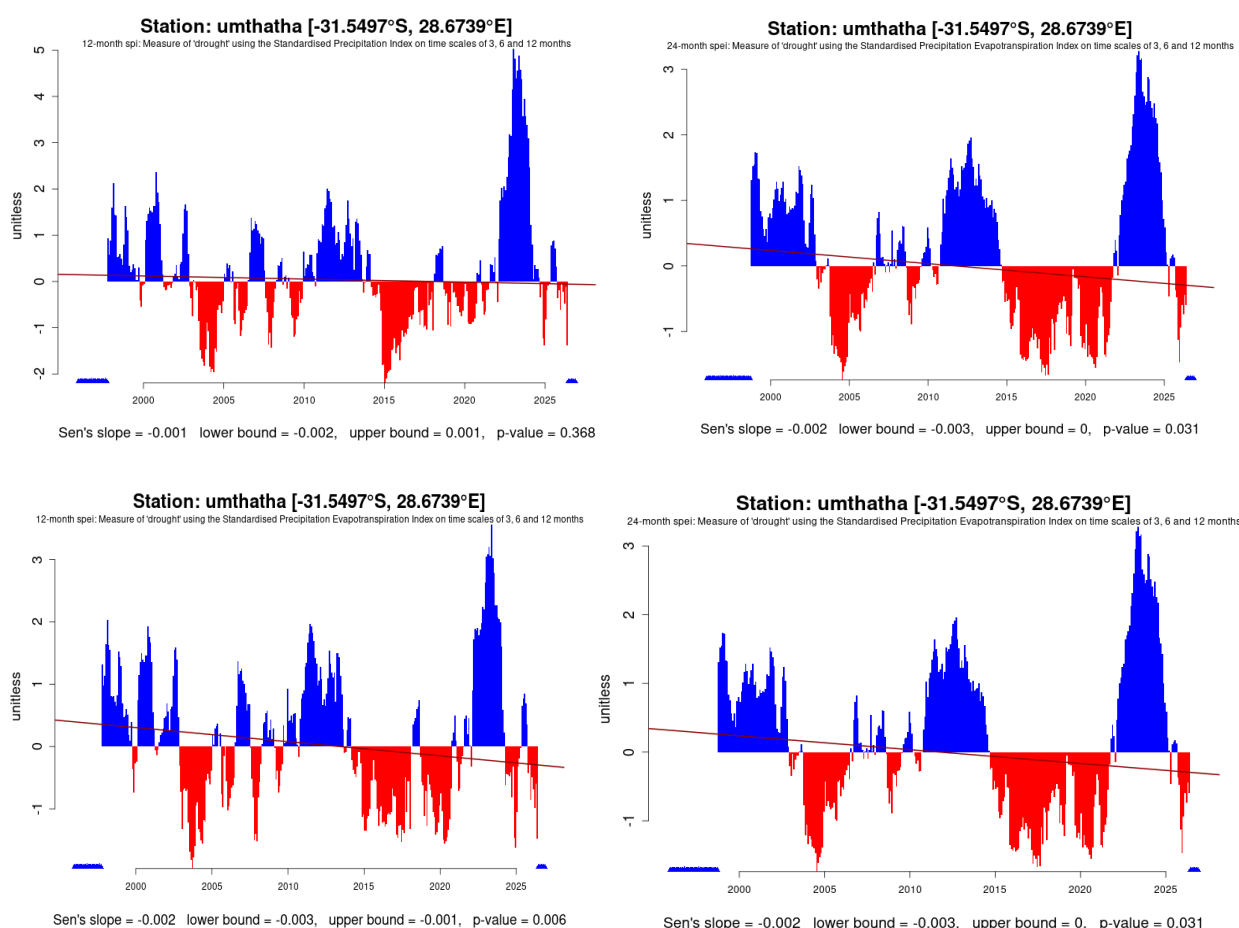


Figure 5: Time series plots for Mthatha weather station for 12- and 24-month SPI (top) and SPEI (bottom).

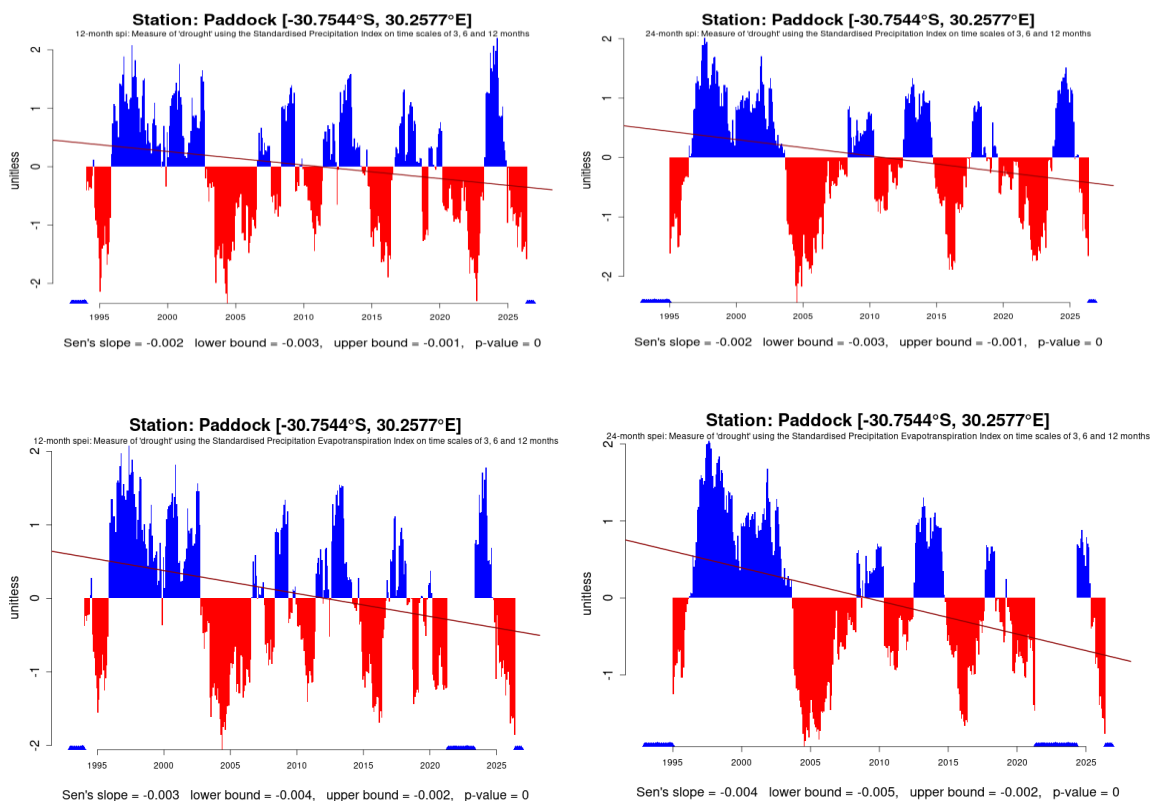
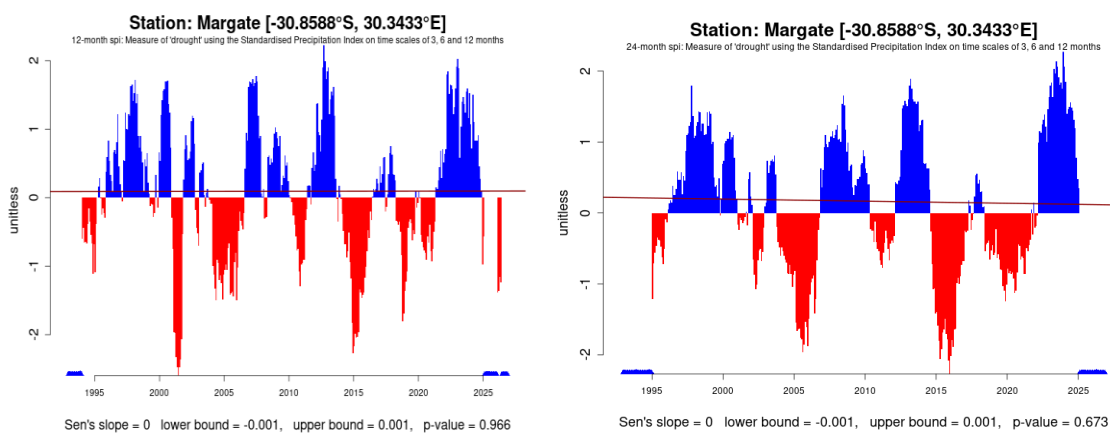


Figure 6: Time series plots for Paddock weather station for 12- and 24-month SPI (top) and SPEI (bottom).



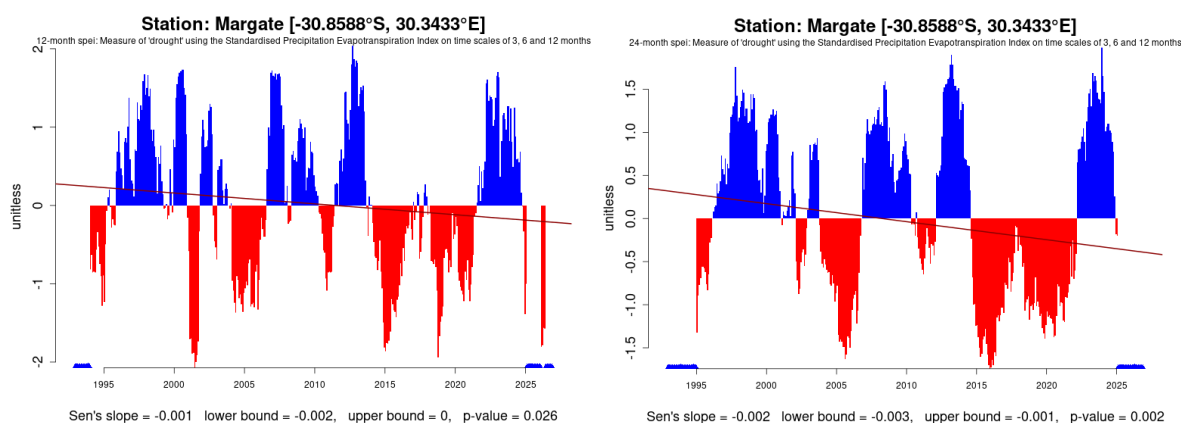


Figure 7: Time series plots for Margate weather station for 12- and 24-month SPI (top) and SPEI (bottom).

5. Dam levels

The table below presents the average dam levels per province for the week of 7 July 2026, compared with the corresponding period in the previous year. Dam levels declined in the KwaZulu Natal (8.3%) and Gauteng (-1.5%), while increases were recorded in the Limpopo (12.8%), Eastern Cape (6.8%), the Western Cape (4.3%) and the Northern Cape with (3.9%).

Table: Provincial Dam levels in the week of the 7th of July 2026 and for the same period in 2025. (Source: DWS).

Provinces	% Of Full Capacity	
	Last Year	This Week
	2025/07/06	2026/07/06
Eastern Cape	82.4	89.2
Free State	100.8	100.3
Gauteng	101.4	99.9
Kwazulu-Natal	97.3	89
Limpopo	87.2	100
Mpumalanga	99.1	99.2
Northern Cape	98.2	102.1
North West	101.4	102.9
Western Cape	70.2	74.5

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