

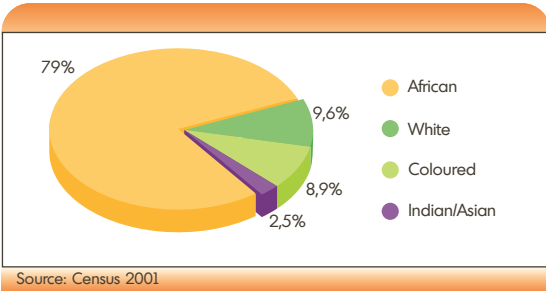


South Africa's people

South Africa is a country where various cultures form a unique nation, proud of their heritage and of their unity in diversity.

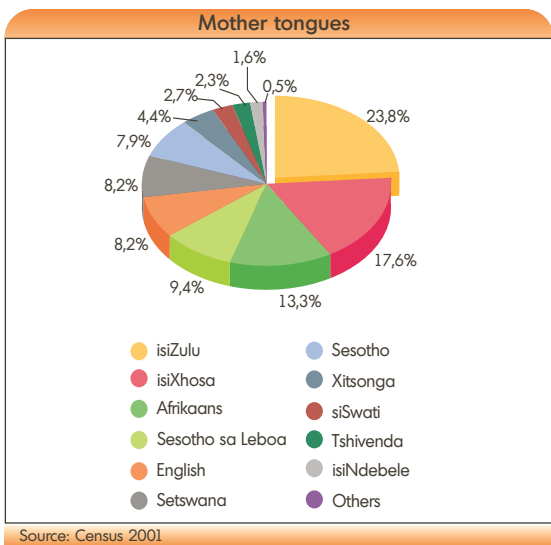
People

According to the 2001 Census, there were 44 819 778 people in South Africa on the night of 10 October 2001. They classified themselves as follows:



The South African population is made up of the following groups:

- Nguni people (the Zulu, Xhosa, Ndebele and Swazi)
- Sotho-Tswana people (including the Southern, Northern and Western Sotho [Tswana])
- Tsonga
- Venda
- Afrikaners
- English-speakers

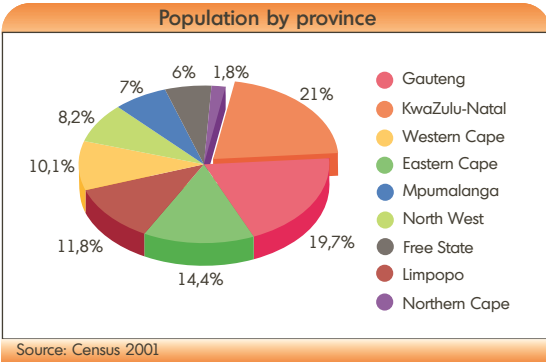


- coloureds
- Indians
- those who have immigrated to South Africa from the rest of Africa, Europe and Asia and maintain their own strong cultural identities
- a few members of the Khoi and the San.

The mid-2005 population was estimated at 46,9 million people.

Languages

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 states that everyone has the right to use the language and to participate in the cultural life of his/her choice, but no one may do so in a manner inconsistent with any provision of the Bill of Rights. Each person also has the right to instruction in the language of his/her choice where this is reasonably practicable.



Official languages

To cater for South Africa's diverse peoples, the Constitution provides for 11 official languages, namely Afrikaans, English, isiNdebele, isiXhosa, isiZulu, Sesotho sa Leboa, Sesotho, Setswana, siSwati, Tshivenda and Xitsonga.

Recognising the historically diminished use and status of the indigenous languages, the Constitution expects government to implement positive measures to elevate the status, and advance the use of these languages.

National and provincial governments may use any two or more official languages. While communication with the public tends to be produced in more than one language, internal communication takes place mostly in English.

According to a report of the University of South Africa's Bureau of Market Research on *National Personal Income of South Africans by Population Group, Income Group, Life Stage and Lifeplane 1960 – 2007*, in 2001, 4,1 million out of 11,2 million households in South Africa lived on an income of R9 600 or less per year. This decreased to 3,6 million households in 2004, even after taking the negative effect of price increases on spending power into account. On the other hand, the number of households receiving a real income of R153 601 or more per year rose from 721 000 in 1998 to more than 1,2 million in 2004.



In 2003, Cabinet approved the National Language Policy Framework to promote the equitable use of the 11 official languages and to ensure redress for previously marginalised indigenous languages.

In March 2004, the Department of Arts and Culture launched the Language Initiatives Programme. Of particular importance to provinces is the setting up of nine language research and development centres, one for each of South Africa's nine indigenous languages, at tertiary institutions situated among communities where those languages are spoken.

The centres are the implementation agencies of the National Language Policy. In 2004/05, government spent R9 million establishing these centres. During 2004/05, the department spent over R10 million rolling out the Telephone Interpreting Service for South Africa. The project employs about 60 full-time personnel, who include interpreters, project managers and call-centre operators.

About R2 million has been dedicated to a pilot project aimed at developing literature in indigenous African languages.

Religion

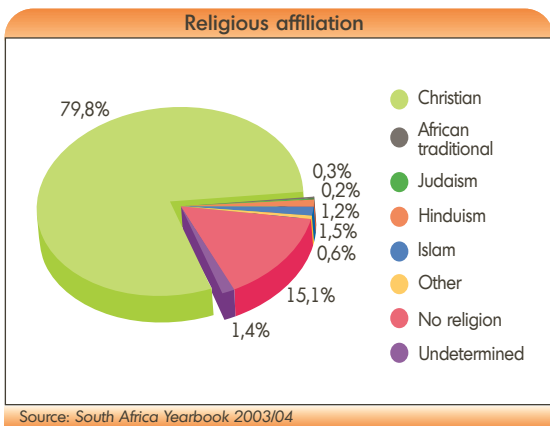
Religious groups in South Africa

Almost 80% of South Africa's population is Christian. Other religious groups include Hindus, Muslims and Jews. A minority of South Africa's population do not belong to any of the major religions, but regard themselves as traditionalists or of no specific religious affiliation.

Freedom of worship is guaranteed by the Constitution.

Christian churches

Churches continue to play a critical role as agents of social change and transformation in pursuit of equality and the creation of a human-rights culture.



African independent churches (AICs)

The largest grouping of Christian churches is the AICs, and one of the most dramatic aspects of religious affiliation has been the rise of this movement.

There are 4 000 or more independent churches with a combined membership of more than 10 million.

Most are regarded as Zionist or Apostolic churches.

The Zion Christian Church is the largest of these churches in South Africa and the largest church overall, with over four million members.

Afrikaans churches

The Dutch Reformed family of churches represents some 3,5 million people. The Nederduits Gereformeerde Kerk has about 1 200 congregations countrywide. The other churches are the Uniting Reformed Church of South Africa and the smaller Reformed Church in Africa, with predominantly Indian members. The Nederduitsch Hervormde Kerk and the Gereformeerde Kerk are regarded as sister churches.

The Roman Catholic Church

In recent years, the Roman Catholic Church has grown strongly in numbers and influence, even though South Africa is predominantly Protestant. It works closely with other churches on the socio-political front.

Other Christian churches

Established churches in South Africa include the Methodist Church, the Church of the Province of Southern Africa (Anglican Church), and various Lutheran, Presbyterian, Congregational and Baptist churches. Together, these churches form the nucleus of the South African Council of Churches.

The largest traditional Pentecostal churches are the Apostolic Faith Mission, the Assemblies of God and the Full Gospel Church, but there are numerous others.

A number of charismatic churches have been established in recent years. Also active in South Africa, among the smaller groups, are the Greek Orthodox and Seventh Day Adventist churches.

African traditionalists

Because the traditional religion of the African people has a strong cultural base, the various groups have different rituals, but there are certain common features.

A supreme being is generally recognised, but ancestors are of great significance. As a result of close contact with Christianity, many people find themselves in a transitional phase somewhere between traditional African religion and Christianity.

Other religions

Two-thirds of South Africa's Indians are Hindus.

The Muslim community in South Africa is small, but is growing strongly. The major components of this community are the Cape Malays, who are mainly descendants of Indonesian slaves, as well as 20% of people of Indian descent.

The Jewish population is less than 100 000. Of these, the majority are Orthodox Jews.

Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities

The Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities is a constitutional body, which became active in January 2004 after 18 commissioners were sworn in during November 2003.

The commission is funded through transfers from the Department of Provincial and Local Government. Its mission is to develop and promote peace, friendship, humanity, tolerance and national unity among cultural, religious and linguistic communities.

This will be achieved by facilitating the development of programmes to foster sensitivity, respect and understanding for cultural, religious and linguistic diversity and also by mediating in intercommunity conflict situations and facilitating harmonious co-existence.

Local lexicon

bakkie (pronounced bucky) – refers to a small pick-up truck/van
dumpie – South African beer served in a brown 340 ml bottle
howzit – a greeting that translates roughly as ‘How are you?’ or ‘How are things?’
sawubona – good day/hello
voetsek – go away/beat it
hamba kahle – a farewell greeting meaning go gently/go well
kunjani? – how are you?
indaba – a meeting/debate
lekker – nice/pretty/good.

Source: Annual Report, International Marketing Council