

SOUTH AFRICA YEARBOOK 2012/13



Land and its people

Situated at the southern tip of Africa, South Africa boasts an amazing variety of natural beauty and an abundance of wildlife, birds, plant species and mineral wealth. In addition, its population comprises a unique diversity of people and cultures.

The southern tip of Africa is also where archaeologists discovered 2,5-million-year-old fossils of man's earliest ancestors, as well as 100 000-year-old remains of modern man.

The land

Stretching latitudinally from 22°S to 35°S and longitudinally from 17°E to 33°E, South Africa's surface area covers 1 219 602 km².

According to *Census 2011*, the shift of the national boundary over the Indian Ocean in the north-east corner of KwaZulu-Natal to cater for the Isimangaliso Wetland Park led to the increase in South Africa's land area.

Physical features range from bushveld, grasslands, forests, deserts and majestic mountain peaks, to wide unspoilt beaches and coastal wetlands.

The country shares common boundaries with Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Swaziland, while the Mountain Kingdom of Lesotho is landlocked by South African territory in the south-east.

The 3 000-km shoreline stretching from the Mozambican border in the east to the Namibian border in the west is surrounded by the Atlantic and Indian oceans, which meet at Cape Point in the continent's south-western corner. Prince Edward and Marion islands, annexed by South Africa in 1947, lie some 1 920 km south-east of Cape Town.

The oceans and coastline

The warm Mozambique-Agulhas Current skirts the east and south coasts as far as Cape Agulhas, while the cold Benguela Current flows northwards along the west coast as far as southern Angola. The contrast in temperature between these two currents partly accounts for significant differences in climate and vegetation, as well as differences in marine life.

Owing to the cold waters of the west coast being much richer in oxygen, nitrates, phosphates and plankton than those of the east coast, the South African fishing industry is centred on the west coast.

The 3 000-km coastline is an even, closed one with few bays or indentations naturally suitable for harbours.

Saldanha Bay on the west coast is the only ideal natural harbour, but the area lacks fresh water and does not offer natural lines of penetration to the interior.

Rivers and lakes

None of the country's rivers are commercially navigable and most river mouths are unsuitable as harbours because large sandbanks block entry for most of the year.

South Africa has no significant natural lakes,

but several artificial lakes are used mostly for crop irrigation.

The Orange River is South Africa's largest river. Rising in the Drakensberg Mountains, it traverses through the Lesotho Highlands and joins the Caledon River between the Eastern Cape and the Free State. Before it empties into the Atlantic Ocean, it forms the border with Namibia.

Other major rivers include the Vaal, Breede, Komati, Lepelle (previously Olifants), Tugela, Umzimvubu, Limpopo and Molopo rivers.

Relief features

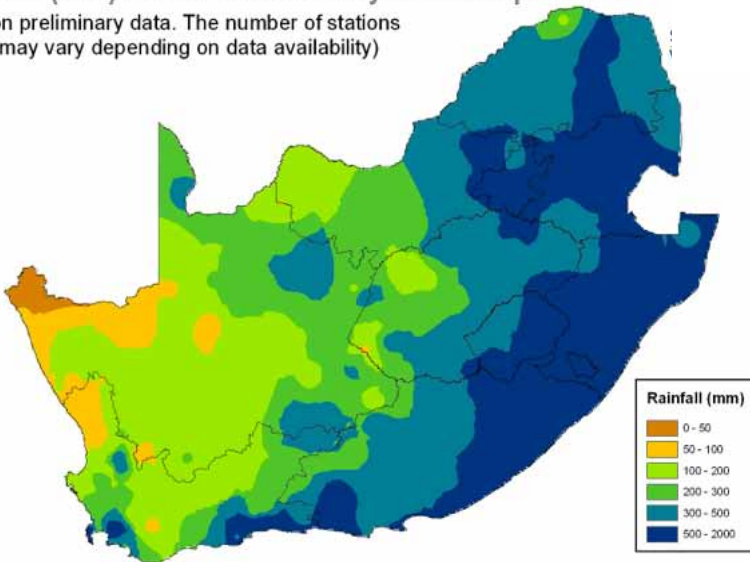
South Africa's surface area falls into two major physiographic categories: the interior plateau and the land between the plateau and the coast. Forming the boundary between these two areas is the Great Escarpment, the most

Rainfall (mm) for the season July 2011 to April 2012

(Based on preliminary data. The number of stations used may vary depending on data availability)

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prominent and continuous relief feature of the country. Its height above sea level varies from about 1 500 m in the dolerite-capped Roggeveld scarp in the south-west, to 3 482 m in the KwaZulu-Natal Drakensberg.

Inland from the escarpment lies the interior plateau, which is the southern continuation of the great African plateau stretching north to the Sahara Desert. The plateau is characterised by wide plains with an average height of 1 200 m above sea level. The dissected Lesotho plateau, which is more than 3 000 m above sea level, is the most prominent.

Between the Great Escarpment and the coast lies an area which varies in width from 80 km to 240 km in the east and south, and 60 km to 80 km in the west. At least three major subdivisions are recognised – the eastern plateau slopes, the Cape folded belt and adjacent regions, and the western plateau slopes.

Average temperatures (°C) in South Africa

City	Summer		Winter	
	Max	Min	Max	Min
Bloemfontein	31	15	17	-2
Cape Town	26	16	18	7
Durban	28	21	23	11
East London	26	18	21	10
George	25	15	19	7
Johannesburg	26	15	17	4
Kimberley	33	18	19	3
Mthatha	27	16	21	4
Musina	34	21	25	7
Nelspruit	29	19	23	6
Pietermaritzburg	28	18	23	3
Polokwane	28	17	20	4
Port Elizabeth	25	18	20	9
Pretoria	29	18	20	5
Richards Bay	29	21	23	12
Skukuza	33	21	26	6
Thohoyandou	31	20	24	10
Upington	36	20	21	4

Source: South African Weather Service

Climate

A subtropical location, moderated by ocean on three sides of the country and the altitude of the interior plateau, account for the warm temperate conditions.

Famous for its sunshine, South Africa is a relatively dry country, with an average annual rainfall of about 464 mm, compared to a world average of about 860 mm. While the Western Cape gets most of its rainfall in winter, the rest of the country is generally a summer-rainfall region.

At the same time, temperatures in South Africa tend to be lower than in other countries at similar latitudes – such as Australia – owing mainly to greater elevation above sea level.

On the interior plateau the altitude – Johannesburg lies at 1 694 m – keeps the average summer temperatures below 30°C. In winter, for the same reason, night-time temperatures can drop to freezing point or lower in some places.

South Africa's coastal regions are therefore relatively warm in winter. There is, however, a striking contrast between temperatures on the country's east and west coasts, owing respectively to the warm Agulhas Current and cold Benguela Current that sweep the coastlines.

The people

It is Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu who coined the well-known phrase “the Rainbow Nation” to describe the melting pot of people and cultures living together in South Africa.

South Africa is a nation of diversity, with more than 50 million people and a wide variety

Languages according to mother tongue

Language	Percentage	Language	Percentage
isiZulu	22,7%	isiNdebele	2,1%
isiXhosa	16%	siSwati	2,5%
Afrikaans	13,5%	Tshivenda	2,4%
Sesotho sa Leboa	9,1%	Xitsonga	4,4%
English	9,6%	Sesotho	7,6%
Setswana	8%	Sign Language	0,5%

Source: Statistics South Africa (Census 2011)

of cultures, languages and religious beliefs.

Black South Africans are in the majority, making up 79,2% of the population, while white and coloured people each make up about 9%, and the Indian/Asian population 2,5%.

Languages

English is the mother tongue of only 9,6% of the population, but it is the language most widely understood, and the second language of the majority of South Africans. English is also most widely used for official and commercial communication.

Owing to South Africa's cultural diversity, the country has 11 official languages. They are Afrikaans, English, isiNdebele, isiXhosa, isiZulu, Sesotho sa Leboa, Sepedi, Setswana, siSwati, Tshivenda and Xitsonga.

According to *Census 2011*, isiZulu is the most common home language, spoken by nearly a quarter of the population. It is followed by isiXhosa at 17,6%, Afrikaans at 13,3%, Sesotho sa Leboa at 9,4%, and Setswana and English each at 8,2%.

Government developed the Use of Official Languages Bill in 2012, as part of promoting social cohesion. Another important part of promoting social cohesion was the protection and promotion of indigenous knowledge systems, which included promoting formal indigenous knowledge education and assisting indigenous communities to establish cooperative structures to organise themselves.

Religion

According to August 2012 polls released by

the Win-Gallup International Religiosity and Atheism Index, which measures global self-perceptions on belief, religious South Africans dropped from 83% of the population in 2005 to 64% in 2012.

According to the survey, 28% of South Africans do not consider themselves religious and 4% said they were atheists.

The provinces

South Africa is divided into nine provinces, each with its own legislature, premier and executive councils. They are the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Northern Cape, Free State, North West, Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Limpopo.

Eastern Cape

The Eastern Cape, at 169 966 km², is roughly the size of Uruguay. It is South Africa's second-largest province after the Northern Cape, taking up 13,9% of the total land area.

The province has a population of more than 6,8 million people, the majority of whom speak isiXhosa, followed by Afrikaans and English.

It is a region of great natural beauty, particularly the rugged cliffs, rough seas and dense green bush of the stretch known as the Wild Coast. The region boasts remarkable natural diversity, ranging from the dry, desolate Great Karoo to the lush forests of the Wild Coast and the Keiskamma Valley; the fertile Langkloof Valley, renowned for its rich apple harvests; and the mountainous southern Drakensberg region at Elliot.

Various floral habitats meet in the province, ranging from tropical forests in the north to the more temperate woods of the south.



The province is home to a number of higher education institutions, including the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, the University of Fort Hare and the Walter Sisulu University of Technology.

It has airports in Port Elizabeth, East London, Mthatha and Bhisho, and boasts two major harbours in East London and Port Elizabeth respectively.

Eastern Cape

Capital: Bhisho

Principal languages:

isiXhosa	78,8%	 
Afrikaans	10,5%	
English	5,6%	

Population: 6 562 053

Percentage share of the total population: 12,67%

Area: 168 966 km²

Source: Statistics South Africa (*Census 2011*)

Agriculture, fisheries and forestry

The fertile Langkloof Valley in the south-west has enormous deciduous fruit orchards, while sheep farming predominates in the Karoo.

The Alexandria-Grahamstown area produces pineapples, chicory and dairy products, while coffee and tea are cultivated at Magwa. People in the former Transkei region are dependent on cattle, maize and sorghum farming. An olive nursery has been developed in collaboration with the University of Fort Hare to form a nucleus of olive production in the Eastern Cape.

The coastal areas receive good summer rainfall and have a moderate climate, becoming more subtropical to the north-west, which makes it particularly suitable for forestry.

The basis of the province's fishing industry is squid, some recreational and commercial fishing for line fish, the collection of marine resources, and access to line-catches of hake.

Industry

With two harbours and four airports offering direct flights to the main centres and an excellent road and rail infrastructure, the province has been earmarked as a key area for growth and economic development.

The Provincial Industrial Development Strategy identified the sectors that can diversify the economy and create jobs.

A total of 110 472 work opportunities had been created in the province by the end of 2011/12, which exceeded the target of 94 504 job opportunities announced for Phase 2 of the Expanded Public Works Programme. The target for 2012/13 is 116 958 work opportunities.

The two industrial development zones (IDZs) have delivered much-needed investment, with the East London IDZ securing private investors to the amount of R4,063 billion in the automotive, aquaculture, agro-processing, renewable energy and business process outsourcing sectors.

Of the R4,063 billion, R3,3 billion is earmarked for two renewable energy projects – the Langa Renewable Energy Project in Berlin, and the Ikhwezi Photovoltaic Project.

The Nelson Mandela Legacy Bridge is currently under construction at former President Nelson Mandela's birthplace, Mvezo Village in the Eastern Cape. This is likely to boost the tourism sector locally and in the province as a whole. The bridge, which joins two districts, OR Tambo to the east and Amathole to the west, will cut the distance between Mvezo Village and its closest town, Dutywa, by at least 50 minutes. Its construction contributed to job creation and skills development in the local communities, such as steel fixing, bricklaying, paving and carpentry.

The Coega IDZ now has 21 operating investors, which represents R1,24 billion in private sector investments. To date, this has created 3 645 construction jobs, and 2 985 direct jobs. Another R7,6 billion projects are being implemented.

Eskom is committed to invest over R10 billion in energy infrastructure over the next six years, including increasing transfer of power to the Nelson Mandela Bay and Buffalo City metropolitan municipalities.

A construction project on the N2 Wild Coast is estimated to create well in excess of 6 800 direct jobs and open up the Wild Coast and key towns such as Port St Johns for investment and economic development.

Free State

The Free State, a province of wide horizons and blue skies, farmland, mountains, goldfields and widely dispersed towns, lies in the heart of South Africa, with Lesotho nestling in the hollow of its bean-like shape. Between the Vaal River in the north and the Orange River in the south, this immense rolling prairie stretches as far as the eye can see.

According to the *Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2011*, there were over 2,7 million people in the Free State on about 129 480 km² of land. The main languages spoken are Sesotho, Afrikaans and isiXhosa.

In May 2011, Manguang, comprising Bloemfontein, Botshabelo and Thaba Nchu, became South Africa's newest metropolitan authority. It has an established institutional, educational

Free State

Capital: Bloemfontein

Principal languages:


Sesotho	64,2%
Afrikaans	12,2%
isiXhosa	7,5%

Population: 2 745 590

Percentage share of the total population: 5,3%

Area: 129 825 km²

Source: Statistics South Africa (Census 2011)



and administrative infrastructure and with Bloemfontein being South Africa’s judicial capital, the province houses the Supreme Court of Appeal. Important towns include Welkom, Sasolburg, Odendaalsrus, Kroonstad, Parys, Phuthaditjhaba, Bethlehem and the charming village of Clarens situated in the rolling foothills of the Maluti Mountains.

Some of South Africa’s most valued San rock art can be found in the Free State. Other key tourist attractions in the province include the Golden Gate National Park, the annual air show in Bethlehem, the Cherry Festival in Ficksburg, and the Fauresmith International Endurance Ride equestrian event.

The annual Mangaung African Cultural Festival, known as Macufe, is hosted in partnership with the Tourism Authority and the Performing Arts Centre of the Free State.

The Vredefort Dome, 10 km in diameter, about 100 km south-west of Johannesburg, is South Africa’s seventh World Heritage Site.

Agriculture

Agriculture dominates the Free State landscape, with cultivated land covering 32 000 km² and natural veld and grazing 87 000 km² of the province. Field crops yield almost two thirds of the gross agricultural income of the province. Animal products contribute a further 30%, with the balance generated by horticulture.

The Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme seeks to support smallholder farmers – both subsistence and commercial – as well as the beneficiaries of land-reform programmes. To this end, the Free State received

R102,9 million in 2011 from government.

Known as the “bread basket” of South Africa, about 90% of the province is under cultivation for crop production. It produces about 45% of the country’s sunflower crop, 34% of the total maize crop, 37% of wheat, 53% of sorghum, 33% of potatoes, and almost all of its cherries (90%). Red meat and dairy are also important products and game hunting is a fast-growing industry.

Mining

Mining is the Free State’s major employer with a gold reef of more than 400 km stretching across the Free State from Gauteng. South Africa’s largest gold-mining complex is Free State Consolidated Goldfields, with an area of 330 km².

The province has 12 gold mines, producing 30% of South Africa’s output and making it the fifth-largest producer of gold in the world. Gold mines in the Free State also supply a substantial portion of the total silver produced in the country. Uranium occurring in the gold-bearing conglomerates of the goldfields is extracted as a by-product.

Bituminous coal is mined and converted to petrochemicals at Sasolburg.

The Free State also produces high-quality diamonds from its kimberlite pipes and fissures, and the country’s largest deposit of bentonite is found in the Koppies district.

Manufacturing and industry

The Free State economy has been very reliant on primary sectors such as agriculture and mining, but it is now increasingly growing its manufacturing sector, which accounts for about 14% of the provincial gross domestic product (GDP).

The most important manufacturing subsectors, besides chemicals, are food and beverages, textiles, furniture, agriprocessing, jewellery and engineering products.

Some 14% of the province’s manufacturing is classified as being in high-technology industries – the highest of all provincial economies. The northern Free State’s chemicals sector

is one of the most important in the southern hemisphere.

Petrochemicals company Sasol, based in the town of Sasolburg, is a world leader in the production of fuels, waxes, chemicals and low-cost feedstock from coal. Sasol is also the world leader in Fischer-Tropsch technology, a catalysed chemical reaction in which carbon monoxide and hydrogen are converted into liquid hydrocarbons, producing a synthetic petroleum substitute for use as synthetic lubrication oil or as synthetic fuel.

Gauteng

Although Gauteng is the smallest of the nine provinces, it is the economic centre of South Africa and the continent. Responsible for over 34,8% of the country's and 10% of the entire continent's GDP, it is also Africa's financial-services capital.

Financial and business services, logistics, manufacturing, property, telecommunications and trade are some of the province's most important economic sectors.

The population of 11 million people have the highest per-capita income level in the country. The province blends cultures, colours and first- and third-world traditions in a spirited mix, flavoured by a number of foreign influences.

Most overseas visitors enter South Africa via OR Tambo International Airport.

Johannesburg, widely referred to as Joburg and nicknamed Jozi, is the capital of the province and a city of contrasts. South of Johannesburg lies Soweto, the most populous black urban residential area in the country, with a population of more than a million.

Some 50 km north of Johannesburg lies South Africa's administrative capital, Pretoria.

In 2012/13, the Gauteng Provincial Government spent more than R500 million on the construction and maintenance of roads in the province. Through the S'hambaSonke road maintenance project, 100 new contractors were capacitated and 6 500 jobs created, benefitting cooperatives and companies owned by women, youths and people with disabilities.

Gauteng

Capital: Johannesburg

Principal languages:



isiZulu	19,79%
Afrikaans	12,4%
Sesotho	11,5%
English	13,27%

Population: 12 272 263

Percentage share of the total population: 23,7%

Area: 18 178 km²

Source: Statistics South Africa (Census 2011)

The magnificent Union Buildings, which overlook the city from where it sits on Meintjieskop, represent the official seat of the South African Government and house the offices of the country's President. The industrial area of Rosslyn and the townships of Soshanguve and GaRankuwa are situated north of Pretoria. Cullinan, which is well known for its diamonds, and Mamelodi lie to the east. To the west lies Atteridgeville. Other important Gauteng towns include Krugersdorp and Roodepoort on the West Rand; and Germiston, Springs, Boksburg, Benoni, Brakpan and Kempton Park on the East Rand. Vanderbijlpark and Vereeniging in the south of the province are major industrial centres, while Heidelberg, Nigel and Bronkhorstspuit, to the east, are of agricultural importance.

The province houses some of the most important educational and health centres in the country. The University of Pretoria is the largest residential university in South Africa, while the University of South Africa, known as Unisa, is believed to be the largest correspondence university in the world. Other universities include the University of the Witwatersrand and the University of Johannesburg. The province also has several other tertiary learning institutions such as universities of technology and further education and training colleges.

Gauteng is also home to leading research institutions such as the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), the Agricultural Research Council, the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute and the Human Sciences Research Council.

Mining and manufacturing

Manufacturing includes basic iron and steel, fabricated and metal products, food, machinery, electrical machinery, appliances and electrical supplies, vehicle parts and accessories, and chemical products.

The major gold and diamond mining houses all have their headquarters in Johannesburg, the biggest being Anglo American and De Beers.

There are 159 mines, of which 44 are gold mines. Together they account for a quarter of South Africa’s total mineral production with gold-mining constituting 80% of Gauteng’s output.

Although gold-mining and ancillary industries provide thousands of jobs, the importance of mining is declining compared to the manufacturing and financial sectors. Mining produces only 6% of Gauteng’s total income and 31% of export earnings.

Technology

More than 60% of South Africa’s research and development takes place in Gauteng.

The CSIR is one of South Africa’s leading science and technology research, development and implementation centres. Located in Pretoria, the CSIR’s research and development areas include biosciences; built environment; information and communication; materials science and manufacturing; natural resources and the environment; mineral resources; space technology; nanotechnology and synthetic biology.

The Innovation Hub in Pretoria is Africa’s first internationally accredited science park and a

full member of the International Association of Science Parks. Its community has become a regional centre of innovation and knowledge creation, linked to the fast-moving world of global interconnectivity, and made up of small, medium and micro-enterprises and multinational companies, employing over 1 000 people.

In 2012, the Climate Innovation Centre and a Bioscience Park was established at the Innovation Hub to help entrepreneurs to develop and commercialise green technologies that will help disadvantaged communities.

Industry and agriculture

A large area of Gauteng falls within the so-called “Maize Triangle”. The province is an integrated industrial complex with major areas of economic activity in three subregional areas, namely the Vaal Triangle; the East, West and Central Rand; and Pretoria. Johannesburg houses the Johannesburg Stock Exchange Limited, the largest securities exchange in Africa.

KwaZulu-Natal

KwaZulu-Natal, or “KZN” as it is widely known, is one of the country’s most popular holiday destinations. It includes South Africa’s lush subtropical east coast – washed by the warm Indian Ocean, stretching from Port Edward in the south to Mozambique in the north.

The province also boasts sweeping grasslands in the east and the majestic Drakensberg mountain range in the west.

The summer-rainfall coastal regions are hot and humid, with a subtropical climate. The Midlands area is drier, with extremely cold conditions in winter and snow on the high-lying ground. In the north, the subtropical strip extends around Swaziland to the edge of the escarpment.

The province has a population of more than 10 million people living on 92 100 km² of land. isiZulu is spoken by the majority of the people, followed by English.

Visitors can enter the province through the King Shaka International Airport at La Mercy,

KwaZulu-Natal

Capital: Pietermaritzburg



Principal languages:

isiZulu	77,8%
English	13,1%
Afrikaans	1,5%

Population: 10 267 300

Percentage share of the total population: 19,8%

Area: 94 361 km²

Source: Statistics South Africa (Census 2011)

In August 2012, President Jacob Zuma unveiled a statue of former President Nelson Mandela in Howick at the site where he was arrested in 1962. Howick is famous for its beautiful scenery and its close proximity to the magnificent Howick Falls, a major landmark and popular tourist attraction.

north of Durban or use the extensive national road network. There are also two major harbours – the port of Durban, which is one the busiest in Africa, and Richards Bay, which is an important coal-export harbour.

The province boasts several nature reserves including the Royal Natal National Park, Giant's Castle and the Kamberg Nature Reserve.

It also has several tertiary institutions of learning, including the University of KwaZulu-Natal and the Durban Institute of Technology.

KwaZulu-Natal is the only province with a monarchy specifically provided for in the Constitution.

Industry and agriculture

KwaZulu-Natal has a diverse industrial sector, with major industries having developed around the port of Durban, as well as agricultural and forestry industries.

Major industries in the province are agriculture, forestry, aluminium, petro-chemicals, automotive manufacturing, steel production, plastics and packaging, paper and board manufacturing, and a range of industries associated with imports and exports through the two major ports of Durban and Richards Bay.

Richards Bay is the centre of operations for South Africa's aluminium industry. The Richards Bay Coal Terminal is instrumental in securing the country's position as the world's second-largest exporter of steam coal.

Richards Bay Minerals is the largest sand-mining and mineral-processing operation in the world.

A 50-year master plan is being developed by the Richards Bay IDZ aimed at attracting billions from investment and at positioning the IDZ to take advantage of business opportunities emanating from government's new special economic zone strategy. The sugar-

cane plantations along the Indian Ocean coastal belt form the mainstay of the region's economy and agriculture.

The coastal belt is also a large producer of subtropical fruit and sugar, while the farmers in the hinterland concentrate on vegetables, dairy and stock farming.

Another major source of income is forestry in the areas around Vryheid, Eshowe, Richmond, Harding and Ngome, which is also known for its tea plantations.

Limpopo

South Africa's northernmost province shares borders with Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Botswana, making it the ideal gateway to Africa. Named after the Limpopo River that flows along its northern border, the province is rich in wildlife, natural beauty and historical and cultural treasures.

The province is linked to the Maputo Development Corridor through the Phalaborwa Spatial Development Initiative, which is a network of rail and road corridors connected to the major seaports, opening up Limpopo for trade and investment. This is complemented by the presence of smaller airports in centres such as Phalaborwa and Musina, as well as the Gateway International Airport in Polokwane, the capital city, which lies strategically in the centre of the province.

The Great North Road, running through the centre of the province, strings together a series of towns such as Bela-Bela, with its popular mineral spa; Modimolle, with its beautiful Waterberg mountain range; Mokopane;

Limpopo

Capital: Polokwane

Principal languages:

Sesotho sa Leboa 52,9%

Tshivenda 16,7%

Xitsonga 16,9%

Population: 5 404 868

Percentage share of the total population:

10,4%

Area: 125 754 km²



Source: Statistics South Africa (*Census 2011*)

The provincial “Ku Luma Vukanyi” (Tasting of the First Fruit) Ceremony is celebrated in Limpopo in February each year to mark the start of the marula season. Marula trees grow abundantly in the northern and northeastern parts of Limpopo. It is not only a source of nutrition, but is also used for a variety of other products such as traditional medicine, haircare products, beer, jam and soap.

Between January and March each year, hundreds of unemployed women from rural Limpopo make marula beer which they sell to locals, as well as in Johannesburg and other parts of Gauteng. The money they earn help them to support their families.

Polokwane; Makhado, at the foot of the Soutpansberg mountain range; and Musina, which is well-known for its majestic baobab trees. The crossing into Zimbabwe is at Beit Bridge.

Phalaborwa and Thabazimbi are Limpopo’s major mining centres, while the town of Tzaneen in the picturesque Magoebaskloof is known for its tea plantations, forestry products and tropical fruits.

Census 2011 statistics indicate that the province’s 5,5 million people live on about 123 910 km² of land. The majority speak Sesotho sa Leboa, followed by Tshivenda and Xitsonga.

The province is in the Savanna Biome, an area of mixed grassland and trees, generally known as bushveld. Natural resources include more than 50 provincial nature reserves and several private game reserves. The largest section of the Kruger National Park is along Limpopo’s eastern boundary, which borders on Mozambique.

Several museums and national monuments bear testimony to the ancient people and fearless pioneers who braved the unknown.

Living museums include the Bakone Malapa Museum near Polokwane and the Tsonga Open-Air Museum near Tzaneen. Mapungubwe (“Place of the Jackal”) Hill, some 75 km from Musina, is a world heritage site. It served as a natural fortress for its inhabitants from about 950AD to 1200AD.

Agriculture

Limpopo produces a wide range of agricultural products. The area is a potato belt and is known for its superior quality potatoes for high-end markets. It also produces 75% of the country’s mangoes; 65% of its papayas; 36% of its tea; 25% of its citrus, bananas and litchis; 60% of its avocados and two thirds of its tomatoes.

Other products include coffee, nuts, guavas, sisal, cotton, tobacco, cotton, sunflower, maize, wheat and grapes. In addition, more than 170 plantations produce timber.

Most of the higher-lying areas are devoted to cattle and game ranching, earning a reputation for quality biltong (salted, dried meat), which is a popular South African delicacy.

Industry and mining

Limpopo also has abundant mineral resources, making mining the critical sector of the province’s economy by contributing 22% of the gross geographic product. Metals include platinum, chromium, nickel, cobalt, vanadium, tin, limestone and uranium clay.

Other reserves include antimony, phosphates, fluorspar, gold, diamonds, copper, emeralds, scheelites, magnetite, vermiculite, silicon, mica, black granite, corundum, feldspar and salt.

The Medupi power station, a new dry-cooled, coal-fired power station, is under construction near Lephalale. It is expected to create around 40 000 job opportunities.

Mpumalanga

Spectacular scenic beauty and an abundance of wildlife, make the province one of South Africa’s major tourist destinations.

Mpumalanga, which means “Place Where the Sun Rises”, is home to just more than 3,6 million people, according to the *Mid-Year Population Estimates 2011 Report*, with the principle languages being Siswati en isiZulu

With a surface area of only 79 490 km², it is the second-smallest province after Gauteng, yet has the fourth-largest economy in South Africa.

Bordered by Mozambique and Swaziland in the east, and Gauteng in the west, it is situated mainly on the high plateau grasslands of the Middleveld. In the north-east, it rises towards mountain peaks terminating in an immense escarpment. In some places, this escarpment plunges hundreds of metres down to the low-lying area known as the Lowveld.

The province has a network of excellent roads and railway connections, making it highly accessible. Owing to its popularity as a tourist destination, Mpumalanga is also served by a number of small airports, including the Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport.

Mbombela (previously Nelspruit) is the capital of the province and the administrative and business centre of the Lowveld area. Other important towns are eMalahleni (previously Witbank), Standerton, Piet Retief, Malelane, Ermelo, Barberton and Sabie, which lies in the centre of one of the largest man-made forests in the world. Mpumalanga lies mainly within the Grassland Biome. The escarpment and the Lowveld form a transitional zone between this grassland area and the Savanna Biome.

The Maputo Corridor, which links the province with Gauteng, and Maputo in Mozambique, facilitates economic development and growth for the region.

Agriculture and forestry

Mpumalanga is a summer-rainfall area divided by the escarpment into the Highveld region with cold frosty winters and the Lowveld region with mild winters and a subtropical climate. The escarpment area sometimes experiences snow on the high ground. Thick mist is common during the hot, humid summers.

Agriculture, as the backbone of the province's economy, employs 8,1% of its total workforce, compared to the national average of 4,7%. Although the agricultural sector's contribution to the province's GDP has declined from 4,2% in 1996 to 3,5% in 2010, the comparative advantage of agriculture over the same industry in the national economy remains, providing the province with expansion opportunities within the sector.

An abundance of citrus fruit and many other subtropical fruit – mangoes, avocados, litchis, bananas, papayas, granadillas, guavas – as well as nuts and a variety of vegetables are produced here.

Mbombela is the second-largest citrus-producing area in South Africa and is responsible for one third of the country's orange exports. The Institute for Tropical and Subtropical Crops is situated in the city.

Groblersdal is an important irrigation area, which yields a wide variety of products such as citrus, cotton, tobacco, wheat and vegetables. Carolina-Bethal-Ermelo is mainly a sheep-farming area, but potatoes, sunflowers, maize and peanuts are also grown there.

Industry and manufacturing

Most of the manufacturing production in Mpumalanga occurs in the southern Highveld region; especially in Highveld Ridge, where large petrochemical plants such as Sasol 2 and Sasol 3 are located.

Large-scale manufacturing occurs especially in the northern Highveld area, particularly chrome-alloy and steel manufacturing.

In the Lowveld subregion, industries concentrate on manufacturing products from agricultural and raw forestry material. The growth in demand for goods and services for export via Maputo will stimulate manufacturing in the province.

Mpumalanga is rich in coal reserves with eMalahleni the biggest coal producer in Africa. South Africa's major power stations are situ-

Mpumalanga

Capital: Nelspruit

Principal languages:

siSwati 27,67%

isiZulu 24,1%

isiNdebele 10%

Population: 4 039 939

Percentage share of the total population:
7,8%

Area: 76 495 km²

Source: Statistics South Africa (*Census 2011*)



ated in this province. Kendal power station's cooling towers are currently the largest structures of their type in the world. When Kusile power station near Delmas is completed in 2016, it will be the country's biggest, contributing a massive 4 800 megawatts of electricity to the national grid.

One of the country's largest paper mills is situated at Ngodwana, close to its timber source. Middelburg, which produces steel and vanadium, is home to Columbus Stainless, South Africa's only producer of stainless steel flat products.

Northern Cape

The Northern Cape is South Africa's largest province, taking up almost a third of the country's total land area. However, the province is sparsely populated with only 1,1 million people on 361 830 km² of land.

Afrikaans is spoken by about 68% of the people, while Setswana, isiXhosa and English are also widely spoken.

The last remaining true San (Bushman) people live in the Kalahari area, mainly along the Orange and Vaal rivers. Many fossils and San rock engravings have been found here, some of which are displayed at the McGregor Museum in Kimberley.

The province lies to the south of its most important asset, the mighty Orange River, which provides the basis for a healthy agricultural industry. The Northern Cape borders the Atlantic Ocean in the west with Namibia and Botswana to the north-west and north, respectively. It is fringed by the Swartberg mountain range on its southern border.

With two major airports at Kimberley and Upington, and an excellent road network, the province's interior is easily accessible from South Africa's major cities, harbours and airports. Sutherland hosts the southern hemisphere's largest astronomical observatory, the multinational-sponsored Southern African Large Telescope.

In May 2012, the Northern Cape was chosen as one of two sites to host the Square Kilometre Array radio-telescope (better known as the SKA Project). Developed by scientists from 17 countries, it will be the largest and most advanced radio telescope in the world. Among many other benefits, the province's tourism and hospitality industry is benefiting from the project, as scientists and other interested parties, are flooding into the town of Carnarvon.

The province has several national parks and conservation areas, including the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, Ai-Ais/Richtersveld Transfrontier Conservation Park and Augrabies Falls National Park.

The largest part of the province lies in the dry Nama-Karoo Biome, which contains a number of fascinating plants, including the elephant's trunk ("halfmens" or half-man) tree, aloe ("kokerboom" or quiver tree) and a variety of succulents. The area is well known for its spectacular annual explosion of spring flowers, which attract thousands of tourists.

Agriculture and industry

The economy of the province's Karoo region depends on sheep farming, while the karakul-pelt industry is one of the most important in the Gordonia district.

The province has fertile agricultural land, especially in the Orange River Valley, where at Upington, Kakamas and Keimoes a variety of fruit is cultivated. The Vaalharts Irrigation Scheme near Warrenton facilitates the production of wheat, fruit, peanuts, maize and cotton.

Wine is also produced in the Northern Cape's Orange River wine region, which accounts for 25,6% of South Africa's Colombard vines and 10% of Chenin Blanc. The 2010/11 production season will be remembered for the floods in

Northern Cape

Capital: Kimberley

Principal languages:


Afrikaans	53,75%
Setswana	33,08%

Population: 1 145 861
(Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2011)

Percentage share of the total population: 2,2%

Area: 372 889 km²

Source: Statistics South Africa (Census 2011)



the middle and especially the lower parts of the Orange River. A second spell of flooding occurred in early February 2011, which caused large-scale damage to crops and agricultural infrastructure.

In 2012, work was underway to add 40 000 tons of grapes to meet the shortage in the production of grapes for wine, juice and raisins. To this end, the Northern Cape Vineyard Development Scheme was formed with the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, the National Agricultural Marketing Council, the Land Bank, Distell, Winetech and Oranjerivier Wynkelders, better known as OWK.

The Niewoudtville Rooibos Tea processing initiative is centred on development and economic empowerment of the smallholder farmers. It is aimed at unlocking economic potential, creating sustainable jobs and increasing the skills base. The installation of the pasteurisation equipment has been completed and tea has been exported to countries such as Germany, Spain and Japan.

Mining

Mining contributes 27,6% to the gross regional domestic product. Iron-ore mining in the north-eastern corner of the province has been expanding despite the global recession, driven largely by a demand for steel from China. Sishen is the biggest iron-ore mine in the country and its owner, Kumba Iron Ore, is engaging in a new project at Kolomela (previously known as South Sishen). New manganese projects are also underway.



Diamond mining, in contrast, has seen declining volumes and jobs losses. Diamond mining is increasingly moving away from the older mines to alluvial mining along the Orange River and its tributaries and in the Atlantic Ocean.

The province also has copper, asbestos, fluorspar, semi-precious stones and marble.

North West

South Africa's North West province is bordered by Botswana in the north and is fringed by the Kalahari desert in the west, Gauteng to the

North West

Capital: Mahikeng			
Principal languages:			
Setswana	63,38%		
Afrikaans	8,96%%		
isiXhosa	5,51%		
Population: 3 509 953			
Percentage share of the total population:			
	6,8%		
Area: 140 882 km ²			

Source: Statistics South Africa (*Census 2011*)

east, and the Free State to the south. It is known as the "Platinum Province", owing to its wealth of this precious metal.

The province has a population of 3,2 million people who mainly speak Setswana.

Mafikeng is the capital city and well known for the Mafikeng Siege, which took place in October 1899 during the Anglo-Boer/South African War.

Most of the province's economic activity is concentrated between Potchefstroom and Klerksdorp, as well as in Rustenburg and the eastern region, where more than 83,3% of the province's economic activity takes place.

The province boasts a variety of tourist attractions including Sun City, the Pilanesberg National Park, the Madikwe Game Reserve, and the De Wildt Cheetah and Wildlife Trust. A portion of one of South Africa's seven Unesco world heritage sites also fall within the borders of North West namely the Taung hominid fossil site, which has been incorporated into South Africa's Cradle of Humankind.

Mining and manufacturing

Mining contributes 23,3% to the North West's economy, and makes up 22,5% of the South African mining industry. The Rustenburg and Brits districts produce 94% of the country's platinum, which is more than any other single area in the world. In addition to granite, marble, fluorspar and diamonds, the province also produces a quarter of South Africa's gold. Employment along the Platinum Corridor, from Pretoria to eastern Botswana, accounts for over a third of the province's total employment.

North West's manufacturing sector is centred in the municipalities of Brits, Rustenburg, Potchefstroom, Klerksdorp and Mafikeng, which account for more than 50% of the province's total manufacturing production.

The industries in Brits concentrate on manufacturing and construction, while those in Klerksdorp are geared towards the mining industry. In the manufacturing arena, auto motive parts, machinery, electronic, audio, and medical equipment are manufactured using local materials and resources.

Agriculture

Some of the largest cattle herds in the world are found at Stellaland near Vryburg, which explains why this area is often referred to as the Texas of South Africa. Marico is also cattle country.

North West is South Africa's major producer of white maize. The areas around Rustenburg and Brits are fertile, mixed-crops farming land, with maize and sunflowers being the most important crops.

Western Cape

Situated on the south-western tip of the African continent, the Western Cape with its wide beaches and breathtaking scenery, complemented by a rich variety of cultures, historical landmarks, world-class restaurants and entertainment, is a world-famous tourist destination.



Table Mountain, the Cape winelands, Robben Island and the Kirstenbsch Botanical Gardens are among the province's most popular tourist attractions.

The Western Cape is also known for its floral diversity. The Cape Floristic Region World Heritage Site, comprising eight separate protected areas, covers an area of more than 553 000 ha stretching from the Cape Peninsula to the Eastern Cape.

The Knysna-Tsitsikamma region has the country's biggest indigenous forests.

According to *Census 2011*, about 5,8 million people live in the Western Cape on 129 370 km² of land. Afrikaans is spoken by the

Western Cape

Capital: Cape Town		
Principal languages:		
Afrikaans	49,6%	
isiXhosa	24,7%	
English	20,2%	
Population: 5 822 734		
Percentage share of the total population:		
11,2%		
Area: 129 462 km ²		

Source: Statistics South Africa (*Census 2011*)

majority, with isiXhosa and English being the other main languages. *Census 2011* statistics also indicate that the Western Cape has the lowest rate of unemployment.

The province has a strong network of higher education institutions including the universities of Cape Town, Stellenbosch and the Western Cape, and has the highest adult education level in the country.

The cold Atlantic Ocean along the West Coast is a rich fishing area, while the warmer Indian Ocean skirts the province's southern beaches.

Cape Town, often referred to as the "Mother City", houses Parliament and is South Africa's legislative capital.

Visitors to the province can disembark at one of the province's two main airports, Cape Town International or George Airport or at the seaports of Cape Town, Mossel Bay and Saldanha.

Agriculture and fisheries

The Western Cape's sheltered valleys between mountains are ideal for the cultivation of export-grade fruit such as apples, table grapes, olives, peaches and oranges.

A variety of vegetables is cultivated in the eastern part of the Western Cape, while the Swartland and Overberg districts are well-known as the country's prime wheat-growing areas.

The agricultural sector is critical for the Western Cape economy, accounting for 60% of regional exports.

South Africa's 300-year-old wine industry is based in the south of the province. The region produces 3,1% of the world's wine and ranks as number nine in overall volume production, with 100 200 ha under vines for wine production.

Some 75% of all South African fishing take place along the Western Cape coastline. The rich fishing grounds on the west coast are protected from exploitation by a 200 km commercial fishing zone and a strict quota system. Snoek, Cape lobster, abalone, calamari, octopus, oysters and mussels are among the delicacies produced in these waters.

Key exports are also fruit, wine, wool and ostrich. The high quality of exports, combined with the relative weakness of the local currency, makes the products some of the most affordable high-quality exports in the world.

Hortgro, the fruit industry body, in partnership with the Western Cape Department of Agriculture, is establishing 600 ha of fruit trees for various empowerment projects, creating 570 permanent and 545 temporary job opportunities.

In 2012, the department allocated R11 million towards food security projects. Six Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) wine firms exhibited their wines in Nigeria in 2012;

another six travelled to Holland for business and 22 wine businesses, six of which were BEE, participated in the Yantai International Wine Show in China.

Industry

The Western Cape economy contributes roughly 14,5% to South Africa's GDP, growing at an average of 3,2% a year. Sectors such as finance, real estate, information and communication technology, retail and tourism have shown substantial growth, and are the main contributors to the regional economy.

Cape Town remains the economic hub of the province, encompassing industrial areas such as Epping, Montague Gardens, Parow and Retreat.

Many of South Africa's major insurance companies and banks, as well as petroleum companies and the largest segment of the printing and publishing industry are based in the Western Cape.

After Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal, the Western Cape's manufacturing sector is the third-largest contributor to the national manufacturing sector. The clothing and textile industry remains the most significant industrial source of employment in the province.

Acknowledgements

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Beeld

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