

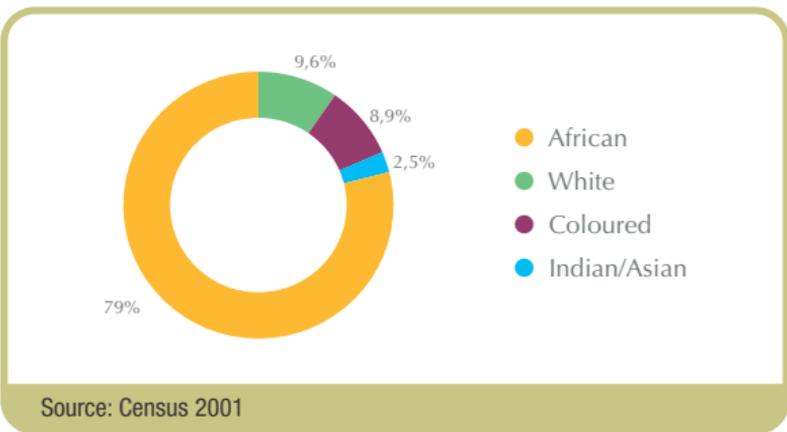


South Africa's people

South Africa is a country where various cultures form a unique nation, proud of their heritage and 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:

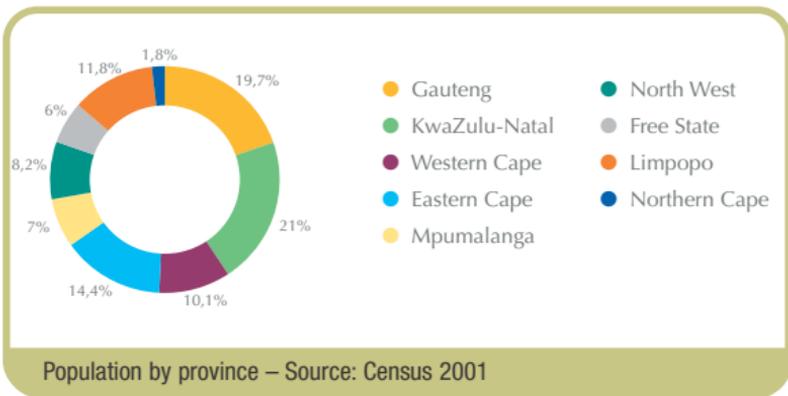


The South African population is made up of the following groups:

- 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-2006 population was estimated at 47,4 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.

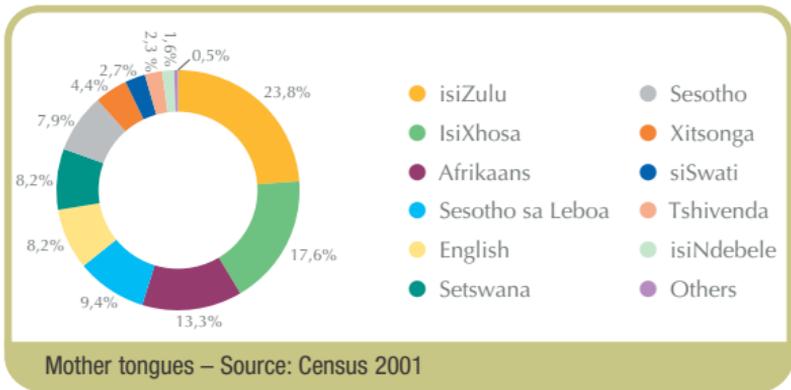
Official languages

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.

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.



To promote linguistic diversity, in 2006/07, the Department of Arts and Culture spent some R70 million on language programmes and activities, including the Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB). PanSALB aims to achieve equal status and use of all official languages, including Khoi, Nama, San and South African Sign Language. It received R39,09 million in 2006/07.

By February 2006, the Telephone Interpreting Service of South Africa (Tissa) had created over 60 jobs for previously unemployed people and would continue creating jobs in interpreting and call-centre management with its national roll-out. Over R30 million has been earmarked for Tissa for the next two years.

Tissa provides telephone-interpreting services to people who need to access government and aims especially to improve verbal communication between citizens and government agencies, thus

Fact:

Released by The Presidency in March 2006, the report *A Nation in the Making: A Discussion Document on Macro-Social Trends in South Africa*, said that most South Africans see themselves primarily as South African and not as members of a particular racial or ethnic group.

allowing citizens to exercise their right to use the language of their choice when dealing with government.

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. The Constitution guarantees freedom of worship.

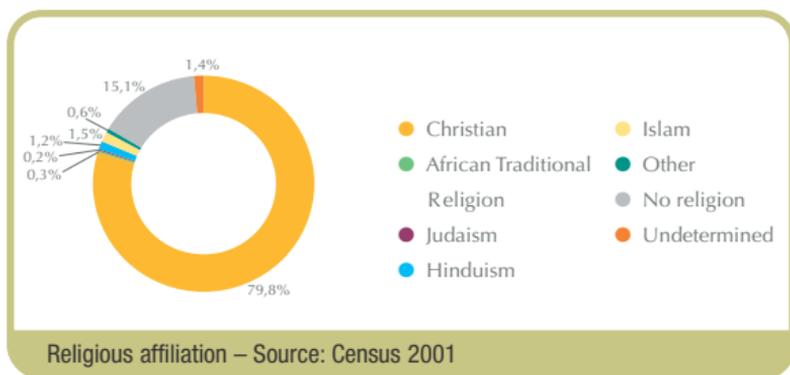
Christian churches

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



A report released in March 2006 by the National Opinion Research Centre at the University of Chicago in the United States of America stated that South Africans had a strong sense of pride in their country.

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 Cape Malays, who mostly descended from Indonesian slaves, make up most of this group with the remaining 20% being 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.

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.