



# The land and its people

South Africa, with its rich history and multitude of cultures, is a land of possibility and opportunity. Its biggest asset is undoubtedly its diverse mix of people proud of their heritage and the country's remarkable achievements during the First Decade of Freedom.

The country boasts some of the world's most breathtaking scenery, and features an amazing display of bird and wildlife species, including the Big Five (lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo and rhino).

South Africa is often called the Cradle of Humankind, for this is where archaeologists discovered 2,5-million-year-old fossils of our earliest ancestors, as well as 100 000-year-old remains of modern man.

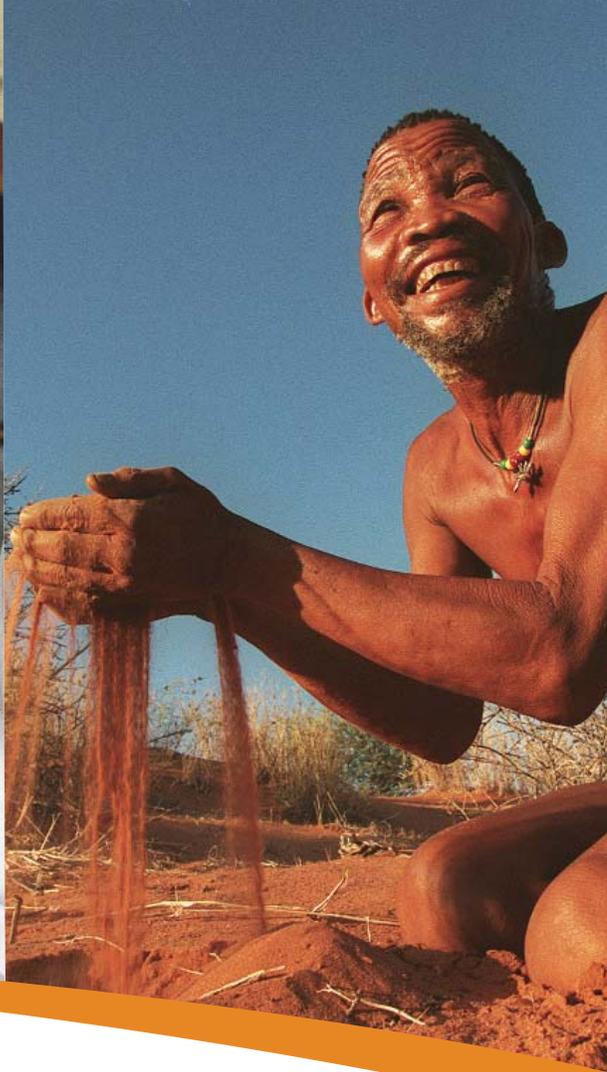
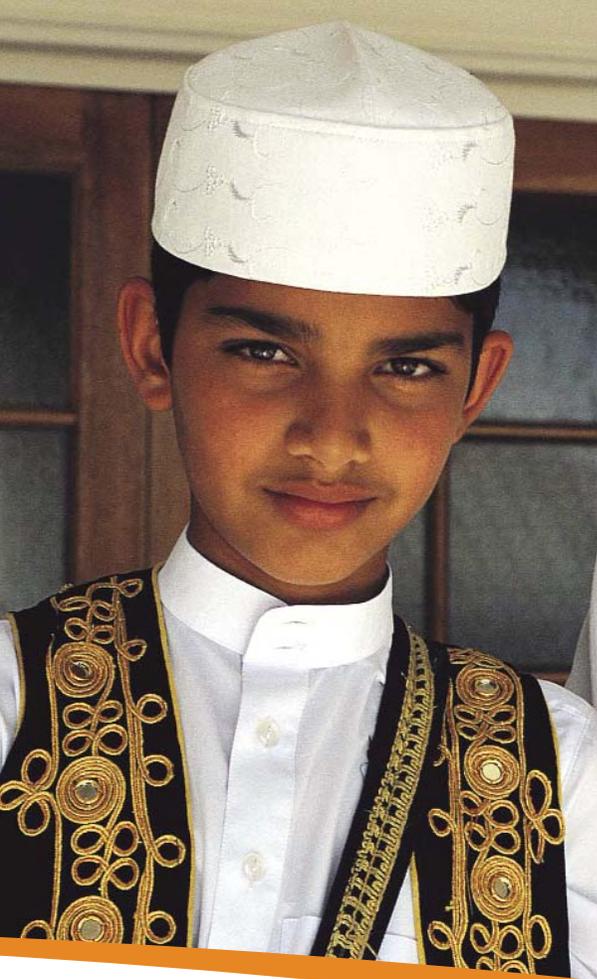
## The people

The results of the second democratic Census (Census 2001) were released in July 2003.

On the night of 10 October 2001, there were 44 819 778 people in South Africa. Of these, 79% classified themselves as African; 9,6% as White; 8,9% as Coloured; and 2,5% as Indian/Asian.

According to Statistics South Africa, there were an estimated 46 429 823 people in South Africa in 2003 (*Mid-Year Estimates, 2003*). Of these, 36 914 284 were Black, 4 131 096 Coloured, while some 1 140 097 classified themselves as Indian and 4 244 346 as White.

Of the total number of people in South Africa in



2003, 22 150 308 were male and 24 279 515 female.

The South African population consists of the following groups: the Nguni (consisting of the Zulu, Xhosa, Ndebele and Swazi people); the Sotho-Tswana, who include the Southern, Northern and Western Sotho (Tswana people); the Tsonga; Venda; Afrikaners; English; Coloureds; Indians; and those who have immigrated to South Africa from the rest of Africa, Europe and Asia and maintain a strong cultural identity. A few members of the Khoi and the San also live in South Africa.

## Languages

According to the South African Constitution, 1996 (Act 108 of 1996), everyone has the right to use the

language and to participate in the cultural life of his or 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 or her choice where this is reasonably practicable.

## Official languages

The Constitution recognises 11 official languages, namely Afrikaans, English, isiNdebele, isiXhosa, isiZulu, Sepedi, 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.

According to Census 2001, isiZulu is the mother tongue of 23,8% of the population, followed by isiXhosa (17,6%), Afrikaans (13,3%), Sepedi (9,4%), and English and Setswana (8,2% each).

The least-spoken indigenous language in South Africa is isiNdebele, which is spoken by 1,6% of the population.

### Language policy

The National Language Service (NLS) provides a range of language services for official documentation, develops and promotes national language policy, and gives advice on standardising and disseminating information on a range of terminology. The NLS is responsible for implementing the National Language Policy Framework (NLPF).

The NLS was recently involved in, among others, the following activities:

- The production of a multilingual *AIDS Manual*.
- Education-terminology projects.
- Human-language technology applications to facilitate electronic spell-checking in indigenous official languages.
- Collaboration contracts with nine tertiary institutions to develop Mathematics terminology in all nine African languages. The creation of about 10 000 terms resulted in the launch of the *Mathematics Terminology Dictionary* in June 2003.

The demand by government departments for English editing services nearly doubled in 2003, and

the demand for translation into Afrikaans, of legislation in particular, remained high. There was also a marked increase in requests for translation into the African languages, especially isiZulu.

South Africa's growing presence in the international arena has increased the demand for translation from and into foreign languages.

### National Language Policy Framework

In 2003, the Cabinet approved the NLPF, which is guided by the following principles:

- promoting and protecting linguistic and cultural diversity.
- supporting democracy through the entrenchment of language equity and language rights
- asserting the view that multilingualism is a resource.
- encouraging the learning of other South African languages.

Where government is required to communicate comprehensive information, documents will be published in all 11 official languages; otherwise national government departments will publish documents simultaneously in at least six languages on a rotational basis. Provinces will formulate their own policies according to regional circumstances. The NLPF will be phased in progressively.

The NLS received a once-off amount of R11,9 million in 2004/05 to implement the NLPF.

The implementation of the NLPF will increase the demand for translation and editing work and interpreting services, especially in the African languages.

The Language Professions Council Bill is intended to regulate the accreditation and monitoring of practitioners within the disciplines of translation and interpretation.

The South African Languages Bill was expected to be introduced to Parliament in 2004. It is intended to provide a regulatory framework for the use of all official languages.

### Telephone Interpreting Service of South Africa (TISSA)

The TISSA project was launched in March 2002 to facilitate access to public services in South Africans' languages of choice.



South Africa has 12 public holidays:

New Year's Day – 1 January  
Human Rights Day – 21 March  
Good Friday – Friday before Easter Sunday  
Family Day – Monday after Easter Sunday  
Freedom Day – 27 April  
Workers' Day – 1 May  
Youth Day – 16 June  
National Women's Day – 9 August  
Heritage Day – 24 September  
Day of Reconciliation – 16 December  
Christmas Day – 25 December  
Day of Goodwill – 26 December

If any of these days falls on a Sunday, the following Monday becomes a public holiday.

The TISSA is a project of the Ministry of Arts and Culture, funded by the Ministry and co-managed during the first phase by the Department of Arts and Culture and the Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB).

Through this project, interpreters bridge language barriers via telephone. It is the first project of its kind in South Africa.

By June 2004, the project had been implemented in key departments.

### **Pan South African Language Board**

PanSALB was created in terms of Section 6 of the Constitution and defined by the PanSALB Act, 1995 (Act 59 of 1995). Section 4 sets out the organisation's independence and impartiality, and also provides that no organ of State or any other person is allowed to interfere with the Board or its staff's activities.

The Board provides for the recognition, implementation and furtherance of multilingualism in South Africa, and the development of previously marginalised languages.

This is based on PanSALB's vision, which is to achieve equal status and use of all official languages, including Khoe, Nama, San and South African Sign Language.

The Board promotes multilingualism in South Africa by:

- creating conditions for the development and equal use of all official languages
- fostering respect for and encouraging the use of other languages in the country
- encouraging the best use of the country's linguistic resources to enable South Africans to free themselves from all forms of linguistic discrimination, domination and division.

The Board may also make recommendations on language legislation, practice and policy, and render advice on the co-ordination of language planning in South Africa.

PanSALB may investigate the alleged violation of any language right, policy or practice. It may also summon any person, body or State organ to give evidence. PanSALB is furthermore empowered to negotiate or mediate in cases of language conflict and attempt to achieve conciliation.

From its inception until the end of March 2004, 344 written complaints were lodged with PanSALB.

During the 2003/04 financial year, 22 complaints were lodged, compared with 87 complaints in the previous year.

The PanSALB Amendment Act, 1999 (Act 10 of 1999), provided the Board with a progressive shift from being a watchdog State organ to addressing the country's language development needs.

The Amendment Act also provided for the establishment of National Lexicography Units (NLUs) for all official languages. The purpose of these Units is to compile monolingual explanatory and other dictionaries to satisfy the needs of the different linguistic communities.

### **National Lexicography Units**

Eleven NLUs have been established and registered as Section 21 companies since 2000, namely:

- Afrikaans: *Buro van die Woordeboek van die Afrikaanse Taal*
- English: Dictionary Unit for South African English
- isiNdebele: *IsiHlathululi-Mezwi SesiNdebele*
- isiXhosa: isiXhosa NLU
- isiZulu: *Isikhungo Sesichamazwi SesiZulu*
- siSwati: Silulu SesiSwati NLU
- Setswana: Setswana NLU
- Sesotho: *Sesiu sa Sesotho* NLU
- Sesotho sa Lebowa: Sesotho sa Lebowa Dictionary Unit
- Tshivenda: Tshivenda NLU
- Xitsonga: Xitsonga NLU.

The NLUs are financed on a monthly basis by PanSALB.

### **National language bodies**

National language bodies have been established for all 11 official languages.

The Khoe and San national language bodies were officially launched in October 1999 in Upington,



In February 2004, the first Parliamentary Conference on Multilingualism was held in Cape Town. The Conference formed part of Parliament's initiative to promote linguistic diversity and multilingual education.

Northern Cape, to promote and develop the Khoe and San languages. They conduct surveys in communities where the Khoe and San languages are spoken to record and standardise new terminology and words, and liaise closely with other professional bodies that can help to enrich and expand the Khoe and San languages.

These advisory bodies assist PanSALB in its endeavours to promote multilingualism as a national resource, and to take meaningful decisions regarding the standardisation, orthography, terminology and literature issues of each language.

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

In 2002, the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities Act, 2002 (Act 19 of 2002), was passed.

The 18-member Commission was appointed by President Thabo Mbeki in September 2003. It has identified critical focus areas which include:

- public education and information
- undertaking investigation and assisting with dispute resolution
- undertaking policy research
- facilitating the establishment of community councils
- convening the first National Consultative Conference by December 2004.



The Western Cape Provincial Government launched the isiXhosa web portal in March 2004.

The isiXhosa component forms part of the trilingual web portal called the *Cape Gateway*.

The portal provides Western Cape residents with government information and services in the province's three official languages: isiXhosa, English and Afrikaans.

The portal is also used for publishing provincial tenders online.

## Religion

### Religious groups

Almost 80% of South Africa's population follows the Christian faith. Other major religious groups are the 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, and the official policy is one of non-interference in religious practices.

### Christian churches

There are many official and unofficial ecumenical relations between the various churches. The most important of these links is perhaps the South African Council of Churches (SACC), even though it is not representative of the full spectrum of churches.

The major African indigenous churches, most of the Afrikaans churches, and the Pentecostal and charismatic churches are, as a rule, not members of the SACC, and usually have their own co-ordinating liaison bodies.

Church attendance in South Africa is favourable in both rural and urban areas, and the churches are well served by a large number of clerics and officials.

On the whole, training for the ministry is thorough and intensive, and based on a variety of models. Patterns of ministry vary greatly.

Apart from the work of the churches, a number of Christian organisations operate in South Africa, doing missionary work, giving aid and providing training. (A comprehensive register appears in the *South African Christian Handbook 2003/04*.)

The broadcasting of religious radio and television programmes reflects the importance of religion in South Africa. Many newspapers carry a daily scriptural message, and various religious magazines and newspapers are produced.

### 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.

Although these churches originally resulted from a number of breakaways from various mission churches (the so-called 'Ethiopian' churches), the AICs have developed their own dynamics and momentum, and continue to flourish. The majority are no longer regarded as Ethiopian churches, but rather Zionist or Apostolic churches. The Pentecostal movement also has its independent offshoots in this group.

The Zion Christian Church (ZCC) is the largest of these churches in South Africa and the largest church overall. More than a million members gather twice a year at Zion City, Moria, near Polokwane in Limpopo, at Easter and for the September festival. Traditionally, Easter is the religious highlight of the year. ZCC members, estimated to be over four million, are not obliged to make the pilgrimage, but have loyally observed the tradition for more than 80 years.

The 4 000 or more independent churches have a membership of more than 10 million people, making this movement the single most important religious group in South Africa.

The independent churches attract people from rural and urban areas. There are, for example, hundreds of separate churches in rural KwaZulu-Natal, and at least 900 from all ethnic groups in the urban complex of Soweto alone. In the northern KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga areas, these churches serve more than half the population.

## **Afrikaans churches**

The *Nederduitsch Gereformeerde* (NG) family of churches in South Africa – the Dutch Reformed churches – represents some 3,5 million people. The *NG Kerk* is the largest of the three churches with a total of about 1 200 congregations countrywide.

The other churches are the United 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.

There are several other churches with Afrikaans-speaking adherents, some with very large memberships. The *NG Kerk* also has six fully fledged English-language congregations, one congregation for Dutch-speaking people, and four for Portuguese-

speaking people. In total, there are about 2 000 members in each of these congregations.

## **Roman Catholic Church**

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

## **Other Christian churches**

Other established churches in South Africa include the Methodist Church, the Church of the Province of Southern Africa (Anglican Church), various Lutheran and Presbyterian churches, and the Congregational Church.

Although the different Baptist groups are not large, they represent a strong church tradition. Together, these churches form the nucleus of the SACC.

The largest traditional Pentecostal churches are the Apostolic Faith Mission, the Assemblies of God and the Full Gospel Church, but there are numerous others. Many of them enjoy fellowship in groups such as the Church Alliance of South Africa, and operate in all communities.

Since 1984, hundreds of independent charismatic churches have mushroomed across the country. The biggest of these groups is the International Federation of Christian Churches (IFCC), with Rhema Church, with its 32 000-strong congregation, spearheading the movement. The IFCC, representing over 400 churches, also belongs to the SACC.

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 far greater importance, being the deceased elders of the group. They are regarded as part of the community; indispensable links with the

spirit world and the powers that control everyday affairs. These ancestors are not gods, but because they play a key part in bringing about either good or ill fortune, maintaining good relations with them is vital; they have to be appeased regularly through a variety of ritual offerings.

While an intimate knowledge of herbs and other therapeutic techniques, as well as the use of supernatural powers, can be applied for the benefit of the individual and the community, some practitioners are masters of black magic, creating fear among people. 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

Most Indians retained their Hindu religion when they originally came to South Africa. Today, some two-thirds of South Africa's Indians are Hindus.

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

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

Buddhism is barely organised in South Africa. The number of Parsees has decreased, while there is a small group of Jains in Durban. Followers of the Baha'i faith are establishing groups and temples in various parts of the country.

Number of individuals by religion  
(Census 2001)

Religion	%
Christian	79,8%
African traditional	0,3%
Judaism	0,2%
Hinduism	1,2%
Islam	1,5%
Other	0,6%
No religion	15,1%
Undetermined	1,4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

## The land

The Republic of South Africa occupies the southernmost part of the African continent, stretching latitudinally from 22° to 35° S and longitudinally from 17° to 33° E. Its surface area is 1 219 090 km<sup>2</sup>.

It has common boundaries with the republics of Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe, while the Republic of Mozambique and the Kingdom of Swaziland lie to the north-east. Completely enclosed by South African territory in the south-east is the mountain Kingdom of Lesotho.

To the west, south and east, South Africa borders on the Atlantic and Indian oceans. Isolated, 1 920 km south-east of Cape Town in the Atlantic, lie the Prince Edward and Marion islands, annexed by South Africa in 1947.

## The oceans

South Africa is surrounded by the ocean on three sides – to the west, south and east – and has a coastline of about 3 000 km. The coastline is swept by two major ocean currents – the warm south-flowing Mozambique-Agulhas and the cold Benguela. The former skirts the east and south coasts as far as Cape Agulhas, while the Benguela Current flows northwards along the west coast as far as southern Angola.

The contrast in temperature between these two currents partly accounts for important differences in climate and vegetation between the east and west coasts of South Africa. It also accounts for the differences in marine life. The cold waters of the west coast are much richer in oxygen, nitrates, phosphates and plankton than those of the east coast. Consequently, the South African fishing industry is centred on the west coast.

## The coasts

The coastline itself is an even, closed one with few bays or indentations naturally suitable for harbours. The only ideal natural harbour along the coastline is Saldanha Bay on the west coast. However, the area lacks fresh water and offers no natural lines of penetration to the interior.

Most river-mouths are unsuitable as harbours because large sandbars block entry for most of the

year. These bars are formed by the action of waves and currents, and by the intermittent flow, heavy sediment load and steep gradients of most South African rivers. Only the largest rivers, such as the Orange and Limpopo, maintain narrow permanent channels through the bars. For these reasons, the country has no navigable rivers.

## Relief features

The surface area of South Africa 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 prominent and continuous relief feature of the country. Its height above sea level varies from approximately 1 500 m in the dolerite-capped Roggeveld scarp in the south-west, to a height of 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 itself is characterised by wide plains with an average height of 1 200 m above sea level.

Surmounting the plateau in places are a number of well-defined upland blocks. The dissected Lesotho plateau, which is more than 3 000 m above sea level, is the most prominent. In general, the Escarpment forms the highest parts of the plateau.

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

## Climatic features

The subtropical location, on either side of 30° S, accounts for the warm temperate conditions so typical of South Africa, making it a popular destination for foreign tourists.

The country also falls squarely within the subtropical belt of high pressure, making it dry, with an abundance of sunshine.

The wide expanses of ocean on three sides of South Africa have a moderating influence on its climate. More apparent, however, are the effects of the warm Agulhas and the cold Benguela currents along the east and west coasts respectively. While Durban (east coast) and Port Nolloth (west coast) lie more or less on the same latitude, there is a difference of at least 6° C in their mean annual temperatures.

Gale-force winds are frequent on the coasts, especially in the south-western and southern coastal areas.

## Rainfall

South Africa has an average annual rainfall of 450 mm, compared with a world average of 860 mm.

Sixty-five percent of the country receives less than 500 mm per year, which is generally accepted as the minimum amount required for successful dry-land farming. Twenty-one percent of the country, mainly the arid west, receives less than 200 mm per year.

In Cape Town, the capital city of the Western Cape, the average rainfall is highest in the winter months, while in the capital cities of the other eight provinces, the average rainfall is highest during summer.

South Africa's rainfall is unreliable and unpredictable. Large fluctuations in the average annual rainfall are the rule rather than the exception in most areas of the country. Below-average annual rainfall is more commonly recorded than above-average total annual rainfall. South Africa is periodically afflicted by drastic and prolonged droughts, which often end in severe floods.

## Temperatures

Temperature conditions in South Africa are characterised by three main features. Firstly, temperatures tend to be lower than in other regions at similar latitudes, for example, Australia. This is due primarily to the greater elevation of the subcontinent above sea level.

Secondly, despite a latitudinal span of 13 degrees, average annual temperatures are remarkably uniform throughout the country. Owing to the

increase in the height of the plateau towards the north-east, there is hardly any increase in temperature from south to north as might be expected.

The third feature is the striking contrast between temperatures on the east and west coasts.

Temperatures above 32° C are fairly common in summer, and frequently exceed 38° C in the lower Orange River valley and the Mpumalanga Lowveld.

## **Frost, humidity and fog**

Frost often occurs on the interior plateau during cold, clear, winter nights, with ice forming on still pools and in water pipes. The frost season (April to October), is longest over the eastern and southern plateau areas bordering on the Escarpment. Frost decreases to the north, while the coast is virtually frost-free. Average annual relative humidity readings show that, in general, the air is driest over the western interior and the plateau. Along the coast, the humidity is much higher, and at times may rise to 85%. Low stratus clouds and fog frequently occur over the cool west coast, particularly during summer. The only other area that commonly experiences fog is the 'mist belt' along the eastern foothills of the Escarpment.

## **Sunshine**

South Africa is famous for its sunshine. Generally speaking, April and May are the most pleasant months when the rainy season over the summer-rainfall region has ended, and before the rainy season in the winter-rainfall area has begun. At this time of year, the hot summer weather has abated and the winds are lighter than during the rest of the year.

In certain areas, however, notably the hot, humid KwaZulu-Natal coast, Mpumalanga and Limpopo, June and July are the ideal holiday months.

## **The provinces**

In terms of the Constitution of South Africa, the country is divided into nine provinces, each with its own Legislature, Premier and executive councils. The provinces, with their own distinctive landscapes, vegetation and climate, are the Western Cape, the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, the Northern Cape,

Free State, North West, Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Limpopo. (See chapter 21: *Tourism*.)

## **Western Cape**

The Western Cape is situated on the southern-most tip of the African continent. It is a region of majestic mountains; beautiful valleys; wide, sandy beaches; and breathtaking scenery.

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

Visitors to the Western Cape can disembark at Cape Town International Airport, George Airport or at the ports of Cape Town, Mossel Bay or Saldanha. A network of roads also leads to Cape Town, the capital, also known as the Mother City.

Other important towns in the province include Saldanha, a notable harbour for iron exports and the fishing industry; Worcester and Stellenbosch in the heart of the winelands; George, renowned for its indigenous timber and vegetable produce; Oudtshoorn, known for its ostrich products and the world-famous Cango Caves; and Beaufort West on the dry, sheep-farming plains of the Great Karoo.

The Western Cape boasts one of the six accepted floral kingdoms of the world. The smallest of them all, the Cape floral kingdom, locally called *fynbos*, contains more plant species than the whole of Europe. These include the famous proteas and heathers.

The Knysna-Tsitsikamma region has the country's biggest indigenous forests; a fairyland of ancient forest giants, ferns and colourful birdlife. Products of the forests include sought-after furniture made from the indigenous yellowwood, stinkwood and white pear.

## **The people**

More than 4,7 million people live in the Western Cape on 129 370 km<sup>2</sup> of land (*Mid-Year Estimates, 2003*). The majority of them are Afrikaans-speaking, while the other main languages are isiXhosa and English. The Western Cape has the highest adult-education level in the country, with only 5,7% of people aged 20 years or older having undergone no

schooling (Census 2001). The province has a strong network of higher education institutions.

A potpourri of diverse cultural backgrounds gives the province a cosmopolitan ambiance, resulting in a demographic profile quite different from that of the national pattern. The profile draws on elements from different parts of Europe, south-east Asia, India and Africa, which are richly reflected in the diversity of the area.

The official unemployment figure for the province is 20,6% (*Labour Force Survey, September 2003*). This was somewhat lower than the national unemployment rate of 28,2% in 2003.

### **Agriculture and marine fishery**

The Western Cape is rich in agriculture and fisheries.

Primary industries, i.e. agriculture, forestry and fishing, and mining and quarrying contributed 5,4% to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the province in 2002, which translated to R7 287 million [Gross Domestic Product per Region (GDPR), 2002].

The agricultural sector plays a key role as an agent of growth, accounting for more than 9% of provincial employment, more than 55% of all South African agricultural exports, and 23% of the national agricultural contribution to GDP.

The sheltered valleys between the mountains provide ideal conditions for the cultivation of top-grade fruits, such as apples, table grapes, olives, peaches and oranges. In the eastern part of the Western Cape, a great variety of vegetables are cultivated.

The province can be divided into three climatic regions. The area around the Cape Peninsula and the Boland, further inland, is a winter-rainfall region with sunny, dry summers.

Towards George, along the south coast, the climate gradually changes to year-round rainfall, while inland, towards the more arid Great Karoo, the climate changes to summer rainfall.

The Western Cape is known as one of the world's finest grape-growing regions. Many of its wines have received the highest accolades at international shows.

The wheat-growing Swartland district around Malmesbury and the Overberg around Caledon, form the bread basket of the country.

The inland Karoo region (around Beaufort West), and the Overberg district (around Bredasdorp), produce wool and mutton, as well as pedigree Merino breeding stock.

Other animal products include broiler chickens, eggs, dairy products, beef and pork. The Western Cape is the only province with an offset point for the export of horses. This earns the country millions of Rand in foreign revenue.

The province has also established itself as the leading facilitator in the export of ostrich meat to Europe, and boasts the most export abattoirs in the country, from which products to the value of about R1 billion are exported per year.

The Klein Karoo region around Oudtshoorn is the centre of the ostrich-farming industry in South Africa. Fine leatherware, ostrich feathers and meat are exported to destinations all over the world.

The provincial Department of Agriculture's ostrich-breeding herd at Oudtshoorn is the only one in the world for which production data for several generations of ostriches can be connected to their pedigrees.

The plankton-rich cold Benguela Current flows along the west coast of the province and is considered to be one of the world's richest fishing grounds. This resource is protected against over-fishing by foreign vessels by means of a 200-km commercial-fishing zone and a strict quota system.

Snoek, Cape lobster, abalone, calamari, octopus, oysters and mussels are among the most sought-after piscatorial delights.

### **Western Cape**

**Capital:** Cape Town

**Principal languages:** Afrikaans 55,3%  
isiXhosa 23,7%  
English 19,3%

**Population:** 4 740 981 (*Mid-Year Estimates, 2003*)

**Area (km<sup>2</sup>):** 129 370

**% of total area:** 10,6%

**GDPR\* at current prices (2002):** R159 623 million

**% of total GDP\*\*:** 14,2%

\* GDPR (Gross Domestic Product per Region)

\*\* GDP (Gross Domestic Product)



## **Industry**

The Western Cape economy contributed 14,2% (at current prices) to South Africa's GDP in 2002 and grows at an average 3,3%, which is higher than the national average. The tertiary sector, which involves finance, real estate, retail and tourism, has shown tremendous growth and is the main contributor to the Gross Geographical Product (GGP). The value of residential property has increased significantly.

Major insurance companies and banks are based in the Western Cape, while the majority of South Africa's petroleum companies and the biggest segment of the printing and publishing industry are located in Cape Town.

Information and communications technology is also one of the fastest growing sectors in the province and operations are being expanded to other countries.

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.

Cape Town remains the economic hub of the province, encompassing industrial areas such as Epping, Montagu Gardens, Parow and Retreat. Along the west coast the Saldanha Steel Project has led to increased economic activity.

## **Tourism**

The Western Cape's natural beauty, complemented by a history of hospitality, excellent wine and colourful cuisine, truly makes the province one of the world's greatest tourist attractions.

The tourism industry in the Western Cape contributes 14% to the total GDP of the province and is the most important growth force in the province.

In 2003, more than nine million overseas tourists visited the Western Cape. In September 2003, the single, unified Destination Marketing Organisation (DMO) for Tourism was launched. The DMO brings together the marketing efforts of the City of Cape Town and the Western Cape Provincial Government to ensure maximum benefit from limited resources.

The Western Cape Government hopes to develop tourism through a 10-year plan called the Integrated Tourism Development Framework.

## **Eastern Cape**

The Eastern Cape, a land of undulating hills, endless, sweeping, sandy beaches, majestic mountain ranges and emerald green forests, is in surface area the second-largest of the nine provinces.

The region boasts a 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, renowned for its rich apple harvests; and the mountainous southern Drakensberg region at Elliot.

The main feature of the Eastern Cape is its astonishing coastline lapped by the Indian Ocean. With its long stretches of undisturbed sandy beaches, rocky coves, secluded lagoons and towering cliffs, the coastline provides the province with a rich natural tourist attraction.

The graceful curve of Algoa Bay provides an ideal setting for the port of Port Elizabeth while there are also good harbour facilities at East London. The province is serviced by three airports situated in Port Elizabeth, East London and Umtata.

The architecture of many of its cities and towns reflects the rich heritage of its people. Important towns in the province include Bisho, the capital, Uitenhage, which has important motor vehicle-manufacturing and related industries; King William's Town, rich in early settler and military history; Grahamstown, also known as the City of Saints because of its more than 40 churches; Graaff-Reinet, with its interesting collection of historic buildings; Cradock, the hub of the Central Karoo; Stutterheim, the forestry centre of the province; Aliwal North, famous for its hot sulphur springs; and Port St Johns, the largest town on the Wild Coast.

In the Eastern Cape, various floral habitats meet. Along the coast, the northern tropical forests intermingle with the more temperate woods of the south. This makes for an interesting forest habitat of various species endemic to this region.

Age-old forests occur at Keiskammahoek, Dwesa, Port St Johns and Bathurst; dune forests are

found at Alexandria; and mangroves along the Wild Coast.

Rolling grasslands dominate the eastern interior of the province, while the western central plateau is savanna bushveld. The northern inland is home to the aromatic, succulent Karoo.

### The people

The Eastern Cape has more than 6,5 million people living on 169 580 km<sup>2</sup> of land. The language most spoken is isiXhosa, followed by Afrikaans and English.

The province has a number of tertiary institutions. Despite the high quality of education facilities, 22,8% of the population aged 20 years or older have never received any schooling, while 6,3% have completed some form of higher education (Census 2001).

In 2003, the unemployment rate of the province stood at 31,8% (*Labour Force Survey, September 2003*).

The dominant productive sectors in the province at current prices are manufacturing (17,1% of GDP), finance/real estate/business services (18,5% of GDP), and wholesale/retail/trade/hotels and restaurants (12,8% of GDP).

The province's GDP in 2001 represented just over 8% of national GDP, while the province's share of the national population was around 15,5%.

### Agriculture, fishing and forestry

The Eastern Cape has excellent agricultural and forestry potential. The fertile Langkloof Valley in the south-west has enormous deciduous fruit orchards, while the Karoo interior is an important sheep-farming area. Angora wool is also produced here.

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.

Extensive exotic forestry plantations in the high rainfall areas of Keiskammahoe provide employ-

ment for large numbers of the population. The province is a summer-rainfall region with high rainfall along the coast, becoming gradually drier behind the mountain ranges into the Great Karoo.

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

Ostrich exports are doing very well. The provincial Department of Agriculture has been hailed for the support it is giving this industry. Each ostrich-export establishment has a resident official veterinarian, which is a requirement for exporting ostrich products to the European Union. This industry earns the province some R94,4 million per year in foreign revenue.

The game industry is enjoying unprecedented demand in the international market. The health-conscious consumer is increasingly demanding lean organic game meat. The gross foreign earnings from this industry amount to R23,5 million per year.

### Industry

The metropolitan economies of Port Elizabeth and East London are based primarily on manufacturing, the most important being motor manufacturing. The province is the hub of South Africa's automotive industry.

Several of the world's biggest motor manufacturers, such as Volkswagen, Ford (Samcor), General Motors (Delta) and Daimler Chrysler, have plants in the Eastern Cape.

### Eastern Cape

**Capital:** Bisho

**Principal languages:** isiXhosa 83,4%  
Afrikaans 9,3%  
English 3,6%

**Population:** 6 503 201 (*Mid-Year Estimates, 2003*)

**Area (km<sup>2</sup>):** 169 580

**% of total area:** 13,9%

**GDP at current prices (2002):** R88 032 million

**% of total GDP:** 7,9%



With two harbours and three 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. Environmentally friendly projects include the Fish River Spatial Development Initiative (SDI), the Wild Coast SDI, and two Industrial Development Zones (IDZs), namely the West Bank (East London) and the Coega IDZs. The latter, 20 km east of the Port Elizabeth-Uitenhage metropolises, was the first IDZ to be earmarked and is one of the biggest initiatives ever undertaken in South Africa. Plans for the development of the area as an export-orientated zone include the building of the Port of Ngqura. The first ship will be able to dock at the Coega/Ngqura Port by September 2005.

The French investment and industrial company Pechiney invested R18,6 billion in an aluminium smelter at Coega. The R40-million contract for building the IDZ village was awarded largely to emerging small, medium and micro enterprises, and includes female contractors.

The East London IDZ has been awarded an operator's licence.

The forestry developments and the construction of the N1 toll road as part of the Wild Coast SDI is expected to create more than 20 000 jobs. An additional 5 000 jobs are expected to be created in the mining sector through upstream and downstream investment.

The Kei Rail Project, being undertaken at a cost of R663 million over the next three years, is expect-

ed to ensure integration of the former Transkei economy with the IDZs. The Project will also serve to stimulate the agricultural, agro-forestry and furniture industry in the area, including the development of a chipping plant at Langeni.

## KwaZulu-Natal

Aptly called South Africa's garden province, this verdant region forms the east coast of South Africa, stretching from Port Edward in the south, and northwards to the Mozambique boundary. It is a province with a subtropical coastline, sweeping savanna in the east, and the magnificent Drakensberg mountain range in the west. The warm Indian Ocean washing its beaches makes it one of the country's most popular holiday destinations.

Visitors to KwaZulu-Natal can either disembark at Durban International Airport or Durban Harbour, or make use of the extensive national road network.

Durban is one of the fastest-growing urban areas in the world. Its port is the busiest in South Africa and is one of the 10-largest in the world. The Port of Durban handles over 30 million tons (t) of cargo annually with a value of more than R100 billion. The Port of Richards Bay handles about 1 000 containers per month. Combined, these two ports handle about 78% of South Africa's cargo tonnage.

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

Pietermaritzburg is the capital and important towns include Richards Bay, an important coal-export harbour; and many coastal holiday resorts, such as Port Shepstone, Umhlanga Rocks and Margate. In the interior, Newcastle is well-known for steel production and coal-mining, Estcourt for meat processing, and Ladysmith and Richmond for mixed agriculture. The KwaZulu-Natal coastal belt yields sugar cane, wood, oranges, bananas, mangoes and other tropical fruit.

Some of South Africa's best-protected indigenous coastal forests are found along the subtropical coastline of KwaZulu-Natal, for example, at Dukuduku and Kosi Bay. It is also along this coast that the magnificent St Lucia Estuary and Kosi Bay lakes are located. In 1999, the Greater St Lucia Wetlands Park was declared a World Heritage Site.

### KwaZulu-Natal

**Capital:** Pietermaritzburg

**Principal languages:** isiZulu 71,4%  
English 35%  
Afrikaans 2,4%

**Population:** 9 761 032 (*Mid-Year Estimates, 2003*)

**Area (km<sup>2</sup>):** 92 100

**% of total area:** 7,6%

**GDP at current prices (2002):** R183 094 million

**% of total GDP:** 16,3%



Separating KwaZulu-Natal from the mountain Kingdom of Lesotho, the Drakensberg runs 200 km along the western boundary of the province.

The northern part of the province, south of the Swaziland border, is typical African savanna, providing a natural backdrop for its rich wildlife, protected in several game parks.

### **The people**

KwaZulu-Natal has almost 9,8 million people living on 92 100 km<sup>2</sup> of land (*Mid-Year Estimates, 2003*). The principal language spoken is isiZulu, followed by English and Afrikaans. Remnants of British colonialism, together with Zulu, Indian and Afrikaans traditions make for an interesting cultural mix in the province.

The province counts several universities, technicians and other educational institutions among its assets.

A total of 21,9% of the population of the province aged 20 and above have received no form of education (Census 2001).

KwaZulu-Natal was the second-highest contributor to the South African economy during 2001, at 16,3% (at current prices) of GDP.

The key strength of this province's economy is its trade and transport infrastructure.

It ranks second after Gauteng in terms of contribution to GDP, and third in terms of household expenditure. However, with an unemployment rate of 31,3%, it has the second-highest unemployment rate of the provinces (*Labour Force Survey, September 2003*).

### **Agriculture and industry**

Richards Bay is the centre of operations for South Africa's aluminium industry. Bayside Aluminium is a major producer of primary aluminium, while the Richards Bay Coal Terminal is instrumental in securing the country's position as the second-largest exporter of steam coal in the world. Richards Bay Minerals is the largest sand-mining and mineral-processing operation in the world.

The motor vehicle-manufacturing industry has created a considerable multiplier effect in component- and service-providers. The automotive leather industry

has grown rapidly, with exports significantly increasing foreign exchange earnings. In recent times, the province has undergone rapid industrialisation owing to its abundant water supply and labour resources. Industries are found at Newcastle, Ladysmith, Dundee, Richards Bay, Durban, Hammarsdale, Richmond, Pietermaritzburg and Mandeni.

The sugar-cane plantations along the Indian Ocean coastal belt form the mainstay of the economy and agriculture of the region. The coastal belt is also a large producer of subtropical fruit, while the farmers in the hinterland concentrate on vegetable, dairy and stock-farming. Another major source of income is forestry, in the areas around Vryheid, Eshowe, Richmond, Harding and Ngome. Ngome also has tea plantations.

The summer-rainfall coastal regions of this province are hot and humid with a subtropical climate. The KwaZulu-Natal Midlands between the coastal strip and the southern Drakensberg Escarpment are drier, with extremely cold conditions in winter and snow on the high-lying ground. In the north, the subtropical strip extends further around the Kingdom of Swaziland to the edge of the Escarpment.

The Dube Trade Port project, incorporating the construction of the King Shaka International Airport at La Mercy, makes it an economic and logistics hub that will be the first of its kind in Africa. The province has committed R50 million per annum over five years to this project.

### **Northern Cape**

The Northern Cape lies to the south of its most important asset, the mighty Orange River, which provides the basis for a healthy agricultural industry. The landscape is characterised by vast arid plains with outcroppings of haphazard rock piles. The cold Atlantic Ocean forms the western boundary.

This region covers the largest area of all the provinces and has the smallest population. Its major airports are situated at Kimberley, the capital, and Upington. The Northern Cape is serviced by an excellent road network, which makes its interior easily accessible from South Africa's major cities, harbours and airports.

Important towns are Upington, centre of the karakul sheep and dried-fruit industries, and the most northerly wine-making region of South Africa; Springbok, in the heart of the Namaqualand spring-flower country; Kuruman, founded by the Scottish missionary Robert Moffat; and De Aar, hub of the South African railway network. Sutherland is the coldest town in the country and host to the southern hemisphere's largest astronomical observatory, the multinational-sponsored Southern African Large Telescope.

Other important Northern Cape towns include the sheep-farming towns of Carnarvon, Colesberg, Kenhardt and Prieska.

Apart from a narrow strip of winter-rainfall area along the coast, the Northern Cape is a semi-arid region with little rainfall in summer. The weather conditions are extreme – cold and frosty in winter, with extremely high temperatures in summer.

The largest part of the province falls within the Nama-Karoo Biome, with a vegetation of low shrubland and grass, and trees limited to water courses. The area is known worldwide for its spectacular display of spring flowers which, for a short period every year, attracts thousands of tourists.

This Biome is home to many wonderful plant species, such as the elephant's trunk (*halfmens*), tree aloe (*kokerboom*) and a variety of succulents.

The province has several national parks and conservation areas. The Kalahari Gemsbok National Park, together with the Gemsbok National Park in

Botswana, is Africa's first transfrontier game park, known as the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. It is one of the largest nature-conservation areas in southern Africa and one of the largest remaining protected natural ecosystems in the world. The Park provides unfenced access to a variety of game between South Africa and Botswana, and has a surface area of more than 3,6 million hectares (ha).

The Ai-Ais-Richtersveld Transfrontier Conservation Park spans some of the most spectacular scenery of the arid and desert environments in southern Africa. Bisected by the Orange River, which forms the border between South Africa and Namibia, it comprises the Ai-Ais Hot Springs Game Park in Namibia, and the Richtersveld National Park in South Africa. Some of the distinctive features in the area include the Fish River Canyon (often likened to the Grand Canyon in the United States of America) and the Ai-Ais hot springs. This arid zone is further characterised by a unique and impressive variety of succulent plant species.

Nowhere is the Orange River more impressive than at the Augrabies Falls, which ranks among the world's greatest cataracts on a major river. The Augrabies Falls National Park was established to preserve this natural wonder.

## The people

The Northern Cape is sparsely populated and houses some 818 848 people on 361 830 km<sup>2</sup> of land (*Mid-Year Estimates, 2003*). About 68% of the population speaks Afrikaans. Other languages spoken are Setswana, isiXhosa and English.

The official unemployment rate of the Northern Cape is 27,5% (*Labour Force Survey, September 2003*).

The last remaining true San (Bushman) people live in the Kalahari area of the Northern Cape. The area, especially along the Orange and Vaal rivers, is rich in San rock engravings. A good collection can be seen at the McGregor Museum in Kimberley. The province is also rich in fossils.

## Agriculture and industry

The Northern Cape is displaying a tremendous growth in value-added activities, including game-farming.

### Northern Cape

**Capital:** Kimberley

**Principal languages:** Afrikaans 68,0%  
Setswana 20,8%  
isiXhosa 6,2%

**Population:** 818 848 (*Mid-Year Estimates, 2003*)

**Area (km<sup>2</sup>):** 361 830

**% of total area:** 29,7%

**GDPR at current prices (2002):** R225 46 million

**% of total GDP:** 2,0%



Food production and processing for the local and export market is growing significantly.

Underpinning the growth and development plan of the province are the investment projects that link up with the existing plans of the Namaqua Development Corridor. The focus is on the beneficiation and export of sea products.

The economy of a large part of the Northern Cape, the interior Karoo, depends on sheep-farming, while the karakul-pelt industry is one of the most important in the Gordonia district of Upington.

The province has fertile agricultural land. In the Orange River Valley, especially at Upington, Kakamas and Keimoes, grapes and fruit are intensively cultivated.

Wheat, fruit, peanuts, maize and cotton are produced at the Vaalharts Irrigation Scheme near Warrenton.

### **Mining**

The Northern Cape is rich in minerals. The country's chief diamond pipes are found in the Kimberley district. In 1888, the diamond industry was formally established with the creation of De Beers Consolidated Mines. Alluvial diamonds are also extracted from the beaches and the sea between Alexander Bay and Port Nolloth.

The Sishen Mine near Kathu is the biggest source of iron ore in South Africa, while the copper mine at Okiep is one of the oldest mines in the country. Copper is also mined at Springbok and Aggenys. The province is also rich in asbestos, manganese, fluorspar, semi-precious stones and marble.

Until recently, the majority of small-to medium-scale alluvial operations were concentrated along or near the current Vaal River system. With the rapidly depleting deposits available for mining, there has been a gradual shift towards the Orange River system. Two recent larger-scale investments also show continued prospects in this sector.

Since 2000, the Northern Cape Office of the Department of Minerals and Energy has issued some 190 mining licences, mostly to small-scale operations able to employ local people. The majority of these licences (75%) are for diamonds.

Licences are also issued for tiger-eye, salt, sand and gravel, manganese and rose quartz.

### **Free State**

The Free State lies in the heart of South Africa, with the Kingdom of 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.

The capital, Bloemfontein, has a well-established institutional, educational and administrative infrastructure and houses the Supreme Court of Appeal. The province has a well-known university and many other training institutions.

Important towns include Welkom, the heart of the goldfields and one of the few completely pre-planned cities in the world; Odendaalsrus, another gold-mining town; Sasolburg, which owes its existence to the petrol-from-coal installation established there; Kroonstad, an important agricultural, administrative and educational centre; Parys, on the banks of the Vaal River; Phuthaditjhaba, well-known for the beautiful handcrafted items produced by the local people; and Bethlehem, gateway to the Eastern Highlands of the Free State.

The national road, which is the artery between Gauteng and the Western and Eastern Cape, passes through the middle of the Free State.

### **The people**

The Free State is the third-largest province in South Africa.

It houses more than 2,7 million people on about 129 480 km<sup>2</sup> of land (*Mid-Year Estimates, 2003*). The main languages spoken are Sesotho and Afrikaans. Some 16% of people aged 20 years or older have received no schooling (Census 2001).

According to the *Labour Force Survey* of September 2003, the official unemployment rate is 28,6%.

Many of the towns display a cultural mix clearly evident in street names, public buildings, monuments and museums. Dressed-sandstone buildings abound on the Eastern Highlands, while beautifully decorated Sotho houses dot the grasslands. Some of South Africa's most valued San rock art is found

in the Free State. The districts of Bethlehem, Ficksburg, Ladybrand and Wepener have remarkable collections of this art form.

### Agriculture

This summer-rainfall region can be extremely cold during the winter months, especially towards the eastern mountainous regions where temperatures can drop as low as 9,5° C. The western and southern areas are semi-desert.

Known as the Granary of The Country, the Free State has cultivated land covering 3,2 million ha, while natural veld and grazing cover 8,7 million ha.

Field crops yield almost two-thirds of the gross agricultural income of the province. Animal products contribute a further 30%, with the balance coming from horticulture.

Ninety percent of the country's cherry crop is produced in the Ficksburg district, while the two largest asparagus canning factories are also situated in this district. Soya, sorghum, sunflowers and wheat are cultivated, especially in the eastern Free State, where farmers specialise in seed production. About 40% of the country's potato yield comes from the high-lying areas of the Free State.

The province produces about 100 000 t of vegetables and 40 000 t of fruit each year. The main vegetable crop is asparagus, both white and green varieties. The industry is expanding and becoming increasingly export-orientated. However, most produce leaves the province unprocessed (*Provincial Economies, 2003*).

#### Free State

**Capital:** Bloemfontein

**Principal languages:** Sesotho 64,4%  
Afrikaans 11,9%  
isiXhosa 9,1%

**Population:** 2 738 231 (*Mid-Year Estimates, 2003*)

**Area (km<sup>2</sup>):** 129 480

**% of total area:** 10,6%

**GDPR at current prices (2002):** R64 310 million

**% of total GDP:** 5,7%



In terms of floriculture, the Free State has an advantage due to the opposing seasons of the southern and northern hemispheres.

The province exports about 1,2 million of cut flowers per year.

### Mining

The mining industry is the biggest employer in the Free State. Investment opportunities are substantial in productivity-improvement areas for mining and related products and services.

South Africa is the world's largest producer of gold. A gold reef of over 400 km long, known as the Goldfields, stretches across Gauteng and the Free State; the largest gold-mining complex being Free State Consolidated Goldfields, with a mining area of 32 918 ha.

Some 82% of the region's mineral production value is derived from this activity, primarily in the goldfields region, which comprises the districts of Odendaalsrus, Virginia and Welkom. Twelve gold mines operate in the province. Roughly 30% of South Africa's gold is obtained from this region, and the province qualifies for fifth position as a global producer, with Harmony Gold Refinery the only refinery authorised to sell gold directly to jewellery manufacturers.

Harmony Gold Refinery and Rand Refinery are the only two gold refineries in South Africa.

Gold mines in the Free State also supply a substantial portion of the total silver produced in the country, while considerable concentrations of uranium occurring in the gold-bearing conglomerates of the goldfields are extracted as a by-product.

Bituminous coal is mined in the province and converted to petrochemicals at Sasolburg.

Diamonds from this region, extracted from kimberlite pipes and fissures, are of a high quality.

The largest deposit of bentonite in the country occurs in the Koppies district.

### Manufacturing and industry

Since 1989, the Free State economy has changed from being dependent on the primary sector to being a manufacturing, export-orientated economy. The Free State GDPR amounted to about

R64 310 million in 2003, which represented a 5,7% contribution to the South African economy.

For the rest of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period, projections indicate that the Free State GDPR will increase further – R36,110 billion in 2003; R37,532 billion in 2004; and R39,079 billion in 2005 (*Provincial Economies, 2003*).

In 2002, the manufacturing industry contributed 11,7% at current prices to the total value added at basic prices (GDPR, 2002). Some 14% of the province's manufacturing is classified as being in high-technology industries, which is the highest percentage of all the provincial economies.

An important manufacturing industry in the province can be found in the northern Free State, which is one of the most important chemical hubs in the southern hemisphere. SASOL is the exclusive world leader in Fischer-Tropsch technology. The province has competitive advantages in the production of certain fuels, waxes, chemicals and low-cost feedstock from coal.

The growth in high-tech industries is significant in the context of the changing contribution of the gold-mining industry to GGP.

The province's three-tier development strategy centres on competitiveness, empowerment, capacity-building and beneficiation.

## **North West**

North West is centrally located in the sub-continent with direct road and rail links to all of the southern African countries, and its own airport. The province borders on Botswana and is fringed by the Kalahari desert in the west and the Witwatersrand area in the east.

The province is divided into five regions, namely the Central, Bophirima (towards the west), Southern, Rustenburg and Eastern regions.

Most economic activity is concentrated in the Southern Region (between Potchefstroom and Klerksdorp), Rustenburg, and the Eastern Region, where more than 83,3% of GGP of the province is produced.

## **The people**

Of the 3 791 984 people in the North West, 65%

live in the rural areas (*Mid-Year Estimates, 2003*). The official unemployment rate is 29,4% (*Labour Force Survey, September 2003*).

The province has the lowest number of people aged 20 years and older (5,9%) who have received higher education. The literacy rate is in the region of 57%.

## **Mining**

Mining contributes 25,6% to the economy at current prices and 17,8% of total employment in the North West. It makes up 15,5% of the mining GDP in South Africa. North West is also the dominant province in mineral sales with a contribution of 17,8% to the South African mining sector (*Provincial Economies, 2003*).

Diamonds are mined at Lichtenburg, Koster, Christiana and Bloemhof, while Orkney and Klerksdorp have gold mines.

The area surrounding Rustenburg and Brits boasts the largest single platinum-production area in the world. Marble is also mined here. Fluorspar is exploited at Zeerust.

## **Manufacturing**

Manufacturing contributes 7% of the province's GDP and 9% of its employment opportunities. It provides 6% of the South African manufacturing sector's contribution to GDP.

Manufacturing is almost exclusively dependent on the performance of a few sectors in which the province enjoys a competitive advantage. These are fabricated metals (51%), the food sector (18%) and non-metallic metals (21%) (*Provincial Economies, 2003*).

Industrial activity is centred around the towns of Brits, Klerksdorp, Vryburg and Rustenburg.

The Brits industries concentrate mostly on manufacturing and construction, while those at Klerksdorp are geared towards the mining industry, and those at Vryburg and Rustenburg towards agriculture.

The Platinum SDI will unlock further development. It is situated on the Coast-to-Coast highway that links the Port of Maputo in Mozambique to Walvis Bay in Namibia.

Approximately 200 potential project opportunities in tourism, manufacturing, agriculture and mining have been identified.

Five anchor projects within the Platinum SDI have been identified with an estimated R4,3-billion capital investment component, around which there are dozens of other development and investment opportunities. Employment along the Platinum Corridor, from Pretoria to eastern Botswana, accounts for over a third of total employment in North West. The aim of the Mafikeng IDZ is to create jobs and enhance the economic potential of the Central Region, the entire North West and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

In June 2004, the provincial Department of Transport and Roads, together with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, the North West Parks and Tourism Board, and Invest North West concluded a feasibility analysis on air-transport service between Johannesburg and Mafikeng.

The Department also submitted an application to the Cabinet to consider awarding Mafikeng Airport international status, specifically for air cargo, which is a prerequisite for the development of the Mafikeng IDZ.

## Agriculture

Agriculture is of extreme importance to the North West. It contributes about 6,2% of the total GDP and 19% to formal employment.

Some 5,3% of the South African GDP in agriculture and 16,96% of total labour in agriculture are

based in the North West (*Provincial Economies, 2003*).

The province is an important food basket in South Africa. Maize and sunflowers are the most important crops and the North West is the biggest producer of white maize in the country.

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. The areas around Rustenburg and Brits are fertile, mixed-crop farming land.

## Gauteng

Although the smallest of the nine provinces, Gauteng (meaning Place of Gold) is the powerhouse of South Africa and the heart of its commercial business and industrial sectors.

Gauteng's economy has grown at an impressive rate over the past five years.

According to figures released by Statistics South Africa, the province recorded an average real economic growth rate of 5,3% in 2002. The GDP grew at an average of 3,1% between 1996 and 2002. Gauteng's contribution to South Africa's GDP during 2002 was 33,8% (at current prices), the largest of all the provinces.

The province is not only an important contributor to the country's GDP, it also plays a critical role in the regional SADC and Africa's economies. It generates about 9% and 25% of the total African continent and SADC gross national products respectively.

Gauteng represents the highest per capita income level in the country.

It is also the financial services capital of Africa. More than 70 foreign banks have their head offices here, as do at least the same number of South African banks, stockbrokers and insurance giants.

The three most important sectors contributing to GDP are financial and business services, logistics and communications, and mining.

The growth and development plans for the province are underpinned by the Blue IQ projects. These consist of 11 different mega projects in economic-infrastructure development, in the areas of

### North West

**Capital:** Mafikeng

**Principal languages:** Setswana 65,4%  
Afrikaans 7,5%  
isiXhosa 5,8%

**Population:** 3 791 984 (*Mid-Year Estimates, 2003*)

**Area (km<sup>2</sup>):** 116 320

**% of total area:** 9,5%

**GDP at current prices (2002):** R73 520 million

**% of total GDP:** 6,6%



technology, tourism, transport and high-value-added manufacturing.

The aim is to attract some R100 billion in direct investment over the next 10 years. Gauteng's main cities are Johannesburg, the largest city in southern Africa; and Pretoria, the administrative capital of the country.

The province blends cultures, colours and first- and third-world traditions in a spirited mix that is flavoured by many foreign influences.

Gauteng's primary attraction is business opportunity, but there is more to this province. A wealth of culture is to be found in the museums, galleries, art routes and historical battlefields.

Most overseas visitors enter South Africa via Johannesburg International Airport.

Johannesburg, nicknamed *Egoli* (place of gold), is the capital of the province and is a city of contrasts. Mine-dumps and headgear stand proud as symbols of its rich past, while modern architecture rubs shoulders with examples of 19th-century engineering prowess. Gleaming skyscrapers contrast with Indian bazaars and African *muti* (medicine) shops, where traditional healers dispense advice and traditional medicine.

The busy streets ring out with the calls of fruit-sellers and street vendors. An exciting blend of ethnic and western art and cultural activities is reflected in theatres and open-air arenas throughout the city.

South of Johannesburg is Soweto, developed as a township for Black people under the Apartheid system. Most of the struggle against Apartheid was fought in and from Soweto, which is estimated to be inhabited by over two million people. Soweto is a city of enterprise and cultural interaction. It is a popular tourist destination with sites such as Kliptown, where the Freedom Charter was drawn up; the home of former President Nelson Mandela; the Hector Petersen Memorial site; restaurants and shopping malls. It boasts one of the largest hospitals on the continent, the Chris Hani-Baragwanath Hospital.

Some 50 km north of Johannesburg lies Pretoria. As administrative capital of South Africa, the city is dominated by government services and the diplomatic corps of foreign representatives in South Africa.

Pretoria is renowned for its colourful gardens, shrubs and trees, particularly beautiful in spring when some 50 000 jacarandas envelop the avenues in mauve. The city developed at a more sedate pace than Johannesburg, and town planners had the foresight to include an abundance of open spaces. Pretoria has more than 100 parks, including bird sanctuaries and nature reserves.

An air of history pervades much of central Pretoria, especially Church Square, around which the city has grown. Many buildings of historical and architectural importance have been retained or restored to their former splendour.

North of Pretoria is the industrial area of Rosslyn and the township of Soshanguve. To the east is Cullinan, known for its diamonds.

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. The hominid sites at Swartkrans, Sterkfontein and Kromdraai (also known as the Cradle of Humankind) are a World Heritage Site.

Vanderbijlpark and Vereeniging in the south of the province are major industrial centres, while Heidelberg, Nigel and Bronkhorstspuit to the east are important agricultural areas.

Although the province is highly urbanised and industrialised, it contains wetlands of international importance, such as Blesbokspruit near Springs.

## **The people**

Gauteng is the most densely populated province in South Africa. It houses more than 9,4 million of the country's people (*Mid-Year Estimates, 2003*). The level of urbanisation is 97%.

Gauteng recorded an unemployment rate of 28,2% in the *Labour Force Survey*, September 2003.

Gauteng has the most important educational and health centres in the country. Pretoria boasts the largest residential university in South Africa, the University of Pretoria, and what is believed to be the largest correspondence university in the world, the University of South Africa.

According to the recent Biotechnology Audit ([www.egolibio.co.za](http://www.egolibio.co.za)), Gauteng hosts 41% of core

biotechnology companies in South Africa. In addition, Gauteng is home to leading research institutions such as the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, the Agricultural Research Council, Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute and various universities. More than 60% of South Africa's research and development takes place in Gauteng.

According to the 2001 Census findings, only 8,4% of adults in the province have received no schooling.

Johannesburg has two residential universities. There are several teacher-training colleges, technical colleges and universities of technology in the province.

### Manufacturing

The manufacturing sector in Gauteng has over 9 300 firms, employing more than 600 000 people. Industries that have contributed significantly to this output are basic iron and steel; fabricated and metal products; food; machinery, electrical machinery, appliances and electrical supplies; vehicle parts and accessories; and chemical products.

The automotive parts and components industry in Gauteng, with its 200 firms, employs about 38 000 workers and contributes an estimated 4,3% of the province's GGP. This equates to an industry worth about R13 billion per year.

### Technology

The economy of the province is being re-aligned to

move away from traditional heavy industry markets and low value-added production towards sophisticated high value-added production, particularly in information technology, telecommunications and other high-tech industries.

In an international survey in 2000, Gauteng was identified as one of 46 global hubs of technological innovation. The burgeoning 'high-tech' corridor in Midrand (halfway between Pretoria and Johannesburg) is the most rapidly developing area in the country.

### Agriculture and industry

Gauteng's agricultural sector is geared to provide the cities and towns of the province with daily fresh produce, including dairy products, vegetables, fruit, meat, eggs and flowers.

A large area of the province falls within the so-called Maize Triangle. The districts of Bronkhorstspruit, Cullinan and Heidelberg hold important agricultural land, where ground-nuts, sunflowers, cotton and sorghum are produced.

This summer-rainfall area has hot summers and cold winters with frost. Hail is common during the summer thunderstorms.

Gauteng 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. The Vaal Triangle has a strong manufacturing sector; the West Rand concentrates on primary mining; and the Central Witwatersrand is dominated by the manufacturing and finance sectors, with mining capital playing a major role. All sectors rely heavily on the Vaal Dam (on the Vaal River), from where water is piped across the province.

Agriculture made up a small share of the provincial economy and accounted for R2,1 billion of the GDP (at current prices) in 2002. Important agricultural products include selected grain crops, certain vegetables, herbs and flowers.

Food, food processing and beverages make up around R9,9 billion of GGP. The food-processing sector located in Gauteng is similar in size to Malaysia's entire food-processing industry. There are about 4 000 food-processing companies cur-

#### Gauteng

**Capital:** Johannesburg

**Principal languages:** isiZulu 21,5%  
Afrikaans 14,4%  
Sesotho 13,1%  
English 12,5%

**Population:** 9 415 231 (*Mid-Year Estimates, 2003*)

**Area (km<sup>2</sup>):** 17 010

**% of total area:** 1,4%

**GDP at current prices (2002):** R379 374 million

**% of total GDP:** 33,8%



rently operating in South Africa, of which roughly half are based in Gauteng. These companies employ around 50 000 of the estimated 183 000 people working in the sector.

The competitive trade areas which are being explored include: organics, essential oils, packaging, floriculture, medicinal plants, natural remedies and health foods. High-value niche crops include the nutritious njugo bean, morogo and cowpeas.

Most steel in South Africa is produced and consumed in Gauteng.

South Africa is also one of the top 10 primary producers of aluminium in the world. The value of this industry in Gauteng is worth around US\$20 million.

Johannesburg houses the JSE Securities Exchange, the largest in Africa.

## **Mpumalanga**

Mpumalanga means Place Where The Sun Rises. It is 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, which roll eastwards for hundreds of kilometres. In the north-east, it rises towards mountain peaks and terminates in an immense Escarpment. In some places, this Escarpment plunges hundreds of metres down to the low-lying area known as the Lowveld.

The area has a network of excellent roads and railway connections, making it highly accessible. Because of its popularity as a tourist destination, Mpumalanga is also served by a number of small airports.

The Cabinet approved the designation of Kruger Mpumalanga Airport as an international airport in April 2003. This entailed the transfer of the status of Nelspruit International Airport to the Kruger Mpumalanga Airport, with the former downgraded to 'national airport' status.

Nelspruit is the capital of the province and the administrative and business centre of the Lowveld. Witbank is the centre of the local coal-mining industry; Standerton, in the south, is renowned for its large dairy industry; Piet Retief in the south-east is a production area for tropical fruit and

sugar, while a large sugar industry is also found at Malelane in the east; Ermelo is the district in South Africa that produces the most wool; Barberton is one of the oldest gold-mining towns in South Africa; and Sabie is situated in the forestry heartland of the country.

The Maputo Corridor, which links the province with Gauteng and Maputo, in Mozambique, heralds a new era in terms of economic development and growth for the region.

As the first international toll road in Africa, the Corridor aims to attract investment, unlock local economic potential of the landlocked parts of the country and thus generate sustainable economic growth that will lead to sustainable high-quality jobs.

Mpumalanga produces about 80% of the country's coal and remains the largest production region for forestry and agriculture. Mining, manufacturing and electricity contribute about 65% of the province's GDP, while the remainder comes from government services, agriculture, forestry and related industries. Mpumalanga is the fourth-biggest contributor to the country's GDP.

The best-performing sectors in the province include mining, manufacturing and services. Tourism and agroprocessing are potential growth sectors in this province.

The province falls mainly within the Grassland Biome. The Escarpment and the Lowveld form a transitional zone between this grassland area and the Savanna Biome. Long sweeps of undulating grasslands change abruptly into thickly forested ravines and thundering waterfalls of the Escarpment, only to change again into the subtropical wildlife splendour of the Lowveld.

Sabie and Graskop provide a large part of the country's total requirement for forestry products. These forestry plantations are an ideal backdrop for ecotourism opportunities, with a variety of popular hiking trails, a myriad waterfalls, patches of indigenous forest and a variety of nature reserves.

Lake Chrissie is the largest natural freshwater lake in South Africa and is famous for its variety of aquatic birds, especially flamingos.

## The people

Even though it is one of the smaller provinces (79 490 km<sup>2</sup> in surface area), Mpumalanga has a population of more than 3,2 million (*Mid-Year Estimates, 2003*). According to the 2001 Census results, some 27,5% of those aged 20 years or older have not undergone any schooling, while the population growth rate is higher than the national average.

Mpumalanga's official unemployment rate is 25% (*Labour Force Survey, September 2003*).

## Agriculture and forestry

This 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 high ground. Thick mist is common during the hot, humid summers.

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

Nelspruit is the second-largest citrus-producing area in South Africa. It is responsible for one-third of the country's export in oranges. The Institute for Tropical and Subtropical Crops is situated here.

Groblersdal is an important irrigation area which yields a wide variety of products such as citrus fruit, cotton, tobacco, wheat and vegetables.

Carolina-Bethal-Ermelo is sheep area. Potatoes, sunflower seeds, maize and peanuts are also produced in this region.

## Industry

Mpumalanga is very rich in coal reserves. The country's biggest power stations, three of which are the biggest in the southern hemisphere, are situated here. Unfortunately, these cause the highest levels of air pollution in the country. Secunda, where the country's second petroleum-from-coal installation is situated, is also located in this province.

One of the country's largest paper mills is situated at Ngodwana, close to its timber source. Middelburg produces steel and vanadium, while Witbank is the biggest coal producer in Africa.

## Limpopo

Limpopo lies within the great elbow of the Limpopo River and is a province of dramatic contrasts – from true Bushveld country to majestic mountains, primeval indigenous forests, latter-day plantations, unspoilt wilderness areas and a patchwork of farming land.

Limpopo has a strong rural basis. Its growth strategy centres on addressing infrastructure backlogs, the alleviation of poverty, and social development.

Limpopo is the gateway to the rest of Africa. It is favourably situated for economic co-operation with other parts of southern Africa as it shares borders with Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

The province is linked to the Maputo Development Corridor through the Phalaborwa SDI, a network of rail and road corridors connecting to the major seaports, which will open 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 Maputo Corridor will link the province directly with Maputo Port, creating development and trade opportunities, particularly in the south-eastern part of the province.

The highest average real-economic-growth rate recorded in South Africa between 1995 and 2001 was that of Limpopo at 3,8% (GDPR).

## Mpumalanga

**Capital:** Nelspruit

**Principal languages:** siSwati 30,8%  
isiZulu 26,4%  
isiNdebele 12,1%

**Population:** 3 246 729 (*Mid-Year Estimates, 2003*)

**Area (km<sup>2</sup>):** 79 490

**% of total area:** 6,5%

**GDPR at current prices (2002):** R77 835 million

**% of total GDP:** 6,9%



The provincial economy more than doubled in size from R36 961 billion (at current prices) in 1995 to R77 835 billion (at current prices) in 2002. In 1995, the provincial economy was 6,7% of national GDP. It reached 6,9% in 2002.

Investments totalling some R24 billion occurred in the province between 1998 and 2003.

Substantially, these investments were in the mining sector, which was a dominant sector at 19,5% of the GDP (2002).

Polokwane is the capital city and lies strategically in the centre of the province. The Gateway International Airport carries 20 000 passengers per annum, generating revenue of R2,6 million.

The Great North Road running through the centre of the province strings together a series of interesting towns. Bela-Bela, with its popular mineral spa, is near the southern border of the province.

Further north lies Modimolle with its table-grape industry and beautiful Waterberg range; Mokopane; Polokwane; Makhado at the foot of the Soutpansberg mountain range; and Musina, with its thick-set baobab trees.

The crossing into Zimbabwe is at Beit Bridge, where the South African section of this important route north into Africa ends.

Other important Limpopo towns include the major mining centres of Phalaborwa and Thabazimbi, and Tzaneen, producer of tea, forestry products and tropical fruits.

This province is in the Savanna Biome, an area of mixed grassland and trees, which is generally known as Bushveld. A trip through this summer-rainfall area soon convinces one that this is tree country.

The biggest section of the Kruger National Park is situated along the eastern boundary of Limpopo with Mozambique.

### The people

In Limpopo, more than 5,4 million people live on about 123 910 km<sup>2</sup> of land (*Mid-Year Estimates, 2003*).

According to the Census 2001 results, more than a third of those in Limpopo aged 20 years and older have not received any form of education or schooling.

The official unemployment rate for Limpopo is 30,6% (*Labour Force Survey, September 2003*).

Several museums and national monuments bear testimony to ancient peoples and fearless pioneers who braved the unknown. Living museums include the Bakone Malapa Museum near Polokwane, where Bapedi tribesmen practise age-old skills for the benefit of visitors, and the Tsonga Open-Air Museum near Tzaneen. Mapungubwe (Place of The Jackal) Hill, some 75 km from Musina, used to be a natural fortress for its inhabitants from about AD 950 to 1200.

Discoveries of valuable archaeological artefacts, including many golden artefacts, have been made in this area, as well as in the northern part of the Kruger National Park.

### Agriculture

The Bushveld is cattle country, where controlled hunting is often combined with ranching.

About 80% of South Africa's hunting takes place in Limpopo. The industry is estimated to be worth R650 million per year.

Sunflowers, cotton, maize and peanuts are cultivated in the Bela-Bela-Modimolle area. Modimolle is also known for its table-grape crops.

Tropical fruit, such as bananas, litchis, pineapples, mangoes and pawpaws, as well as a variety of nuts, are grown in the Tzaneen and Makhado areas. Extensive tea and coffee plantations create many employment opportunities in the Tzaneen area.

### Limpopo

**Capital:** Polokwane

**Principal languages:** Sepedi 52,1%  
Xitsonga 22,4%  
Tshivenda 15,9%

**Population:** 5 413 586 (*Mid-Year Estimates, 2003*)

**Area (km<sup>2</sup>):** 123 910

**% of total area:** 10,2%

**GDP at current prices (2002):** R72 562 million

**% of total GDP:** 6,5%



The province produces about 75% of the country's mangoes; 65% of its papaya; 36% of its tea; 25% of its citrus, bananas, and litchis; 60% of its avocados; two-thirds of its tomatoes; and 285 000 t of potatoes (*Provincial Economies, 2003*).

Zebediela, one of the largest citrus estates in the country, is situated south of Polokwane. The estate harvested some 10 000 bags of oranges and 5 000 cartons of oranges every day between April and September 2003.

The largest tomato farm in South Africa lies between Tzaneen and Makhado. Extensive forestry plantations are also found here. Plantations of hard woods for furniture manufacturing have also been established.

Many of the rural people practise subsistence farming.

The northern and eastern parts of this summer-rainfall region are subtropical with hot, humid summers and mist in the mountainous parts. Winter throughout the province is mild and mostly frost-free.

### **Industry**

Mining is a significant economic activity in the province. According to figures released by the Minerals Bureau, in 2002 the mining sector employed about 49 000 people in Limpopo.

Limpopo is rich in mineral deposits including platinum, group metals, iron ore, chromium high- and middle-grading coking coal, diamonds, antimony, phosphate and copper, as well as mineral reserves like gold, emeralds, scheelite, magnetite, vermiculite, silicon and mica. Base commodities

such as black granite, corundum and feldspar are also found in the province.

Mining's contribution to GDP at current prices increased from 16,5% in 1995 to 21,8% in 2003.

The province is a typical developing area, exporting primary products and importing manufactured goods and services. It has a high potential and capacity with the right kind of economic development, and is an attractive location for investors. Resources such as tourism, rain-fed agriculture, minerals and an abundant labour force offer excellent investment opportunities.

The manufacturing sector's contribution to GDP improved slightly in 2003 to 3,8%, from 3,7% in 2002.

### **Tourism**

Limpopo is endowed with bountiful natural resources, including 54 provincial reserves and many private game reserves. A few hours from Gauteng, Limpopo boasts the Waterburg mountain range, which supports thriving farming and game ranching, nature reserves and resorts.

Moving further eastwards takes you into the heart of the 'Big Five' parks of the country and some of the prime game farms in Africa, including the Kruger National Park. (See chapter 21: *Tourism*).

The number of tourists visiting the province increased by 52% from 75 000 in 1995 to 114 000 in 2000, and by 59% to 193 000 between 2000 and 2002. To expand this industry, 11 tourism destinations containing 21 tourism projects are being developed by the provincial Government.

## Acknowledgements

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