

South Africa is often called "A World in One Country" because of the contrast in its technologically advanced cities, its unspoilt natural beauty and the many cultures that make up the South African nation.



The sunny weather, scenic beauty and a wide array of fauna and flora make South Africa a destination of choice for regional and international tourists.

South Africa is often called the “Cradle of Human-kind”, for it is where archaeologists discovered 2,5-million-year-old fossils of our earliest ancestors, and 100 000-year-old remains of modern man.

The people

According to the *Community Survey 2007*, there are 48 502 063 people in South Africa. Of these, 79% classify themselves as African; 9,6% as white; 8,9% as coloured; and 2,5% as Indian/Asian. Africans are in the majority (about 38 million) and constitute 79% of the total South African population. The white population is estimated at 9,6 million, the coloured population at 4,2 million and the Indian/Asian population at 2,6 million.

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

Languages

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

Official languages

The Constitution recognises 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.

According to Census 2001, isiZulu is the mother tongue of 23,8% of the population, followed by isiXhosa (17,6%), Afrikaans (13,3%), Sesotho sa Leboa (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.

Although English is the mother tongue of only 8,2% of the population, it is the language most widely understood, and the second language of the majority of South Africans. However, government is committed to promoting all the official languages.

National Language Service (NLS)

The NLS is a chief directorate in the Department of Arts and Culture with the task of meeting the constitutional obligations on multilingualism by managing language diversity through language planning, human-language technologies (HLTs) and terminology projects. It also provides a translation and editing service in the official languages and foreign languages.

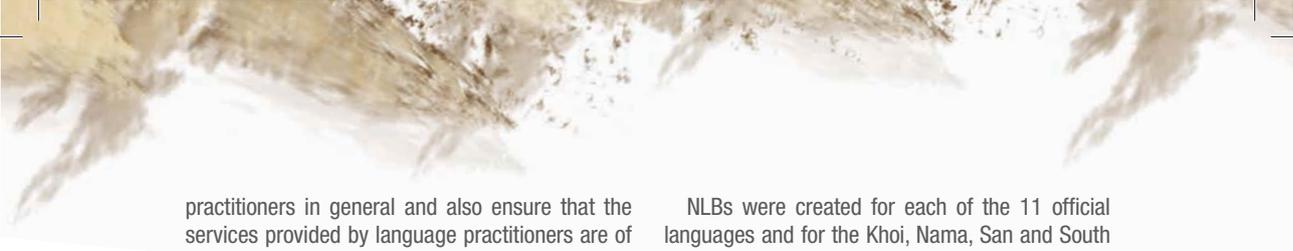
As part of its strategy to strengthen and promote social cohesion through multilingualism and also to transform the South African society into an information society, the NLS has embarked on the development of HLT applications that will connect South Africans equipped with nothing but a normal telephone to government information and services regardless of the level of literacy and location.

The development of spellcheckers and machine-aided translation tools will contribute to consistency and quality of documents rendered in or translated into all official languages, as required by the National Language Policy Framework (NLPF). Once the National HLT Strategy aimed at coordinating HLT activities in government structures has been approved by Cabinet, the strategy will be fully implemented and the key element, the National Centre for HLT, will be established.

To address the status of indigenous languages, the NLS introduced a bursary scheme to encourage students to study in specialised language fields as well as the most disadvantaged languages, siSwati, isiNdebele, Xitsonga and Tshivenda. At the end of 2007, 49 postgraduate students and 30 undergraduate students received their degrees.

The NLS is facilitating the establishment of the African Language Practitioners’ Council, which will regulate the language profession. It will also go a long way to elevating the status of language





practitioners in general and also ensure that the services provided by language practitioners are of an acceptable standard.

Telephone Interpreting Service of South Africa (Tissa)

Tissa provides telephone-interpreting services to people who need to access government, and aims to improve verbal communication between citizens and government agencies, thus allowing citizens to exercise their right to use the language of their choice when dealing with government.

Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB)

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

The board champions the recognition, implementation and promotion of multilingualism in South Africa, and the development of previously marginalised languages.

PanSALB's vision is to achieve equal status and use of all official languages, and the Khoi, 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 renders 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.

It is furthermore empowered to negotiate or mediate in cases of language conflict and attempts to achieve conciliation.

PanSALB works through provincial language committees (PLCs), national language bodies (NLBs) and national lexicography units (NLU).

NLBs were created for each of the 11 official languages and for the Khoi, Nama, San and South African Sign Language.

The aim is to develop each of the designated languages through the technical subcommittees, such as the Standardisation Subcommittee that standardises terminologies, spelling and orthography rules; and the Literature Subcommittee that develops forums for the production and recognition of literature for each of the designated languages.

The Language in Education Subcommittee looks into matters that deal with language in education while the Communication Subcommittee attends to communication issues such as the production of journals on issues related to language development. The NLBs also do research and initiate projects for the various designated languages.

The 11 NLU, which compile and create dictionaries, were created by PanSALB and incorporated in terms of Section 21 of the Companies Act, 1973 (Act 61 of 1973). These NLU have produced monolingual, bilingual and multilingual dictionaries.

The PLCs comprise the status language planning, translation and interpreting, linguistic human rights and mediation and language in education subcommittees.

PanSALB has nine provincial offices that carry out the administrative function of PanSALB, and form the base on which PanSALB's three structures operate in the provinces.

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 fall on a Sunday, then the following Monday becomes a public holiday.



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 aims to contribute to social transformation and nation-building. Its mission is to promote and develop peace, friendship, humanity, tolerance and national unity among linguistic communities. To achieve this, the commission:

- is a channel of communication between the State and communities
- monitors compliance by the State and civil society
- mediates in intercommunity conflict situations and facilitates harmonious co-existence
- facilitates the development of programmes that foster sensitivity, respect for and understanding of cultural, religious and linguistic diversity
- lobbies government departments and legislative authorities to identify laws undermining or supporting those rights, and recommends the repeal of laws that undermine those rights and the enactment of laws that support them.

Religion

Religious groups

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

The Constitution guarantees freedom of worship 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. One of the most important of these links is the South African Council of Churches (SACC), although it is not representative of the full spectrum of churches.

The Church of England in Southern Africa has congregations among all sections of the community. 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 churches are well served by a large number of clerics and officials.

On the whole, training for the church ministry is thorough and intensive, and based on a variety of models due to the variety of church denominations.

Apart from the work of the churches, a number of Christian organisations (para-church organisations) operate in South Africa, doing missionary and evangelical work, and providing aid and training.

Regular religious programmes on radio and television, and the abundance of places of worship, reflect the importance of religion in South Africa. Many newspapers carry a daily scriptural message, and various religious magazines, newspapers and books are produced and sold in religious bookshops.

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 "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. The teaching is a syncretism between Christianity and African Traditional Religion. More than a million members gather twice a year at Zion City, Moria, east of Polokwane in Limpopo, at Easter and for the September festival.

Traditionally, Easter is the religious highlight of the year. ZCC members, estimated to exceed 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 most important religious group in South Africa.

The independent churches attract people from both 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 Afrikaans churches are predominantly Protestant. Of these churches, the Dutch Reformed Church family of churches in South Africa is the largest and represents about 3,5 million people. The Dutch Reformed Church, also known as the Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk, has about 1 200 congregations countrywide.

Other churches are the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa, the Dutch Reformed Church in 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 of the Dutch Reformed Church.

There are several other churches with Afrikaans-speaking adherents, some with very large memberships, such as the Apostolic Faith Mission and the Afrikaanse Protestantse Kerk.

The Dutch Reformed Church also has six fully fledged English-language congregations, one congregation for Dutch-speaking people, and four for Portuguese-speaking people. There are about 2 000 members in each of these congregations.

Roman Catholic Church

The Roman Catholic Church has grown significantly in number and influence in recent years. It works closely with other churches on the socio-political front. The Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference, founded more than 50 years ago, is the representative body of this church in southern Africa.

Other Christian churches

Other established churches in South Africa include the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, the Methodist 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, they 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.

Hundreds of independent charismatic churches have mushroomed across the country. The largest of these groups is the International Fellowship of Christian Churches (IFCC). Rhema Church, with its 32 000-member congregation, spearheads

the movement. The IFCC, representing more than 400 churches, is also a member of the SACC. Also active in South Africa, among the smaller groups, are the Greek Orthodox Church, the Seventh Day Adventist churches, the Church of the Nazarenes and the Salvation Army.

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 and they have to be appeased regularly through a variety of ritual offerings.

While an intimate knowledge of herbs and other therapeutic techniques, and 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 between African Traditional Religion and Christianity.

Other religions

The majority of Indians who originally came to South Africa were Hindu. They retained their Hindu religion and today some two thirds of South Africa's Indians are Hindus. The rest are Muslims

Number of individuals by religion (Census 2001)

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





and a minority are Christians. The Muslim community in South Africa is small, but growing rapidly. The Cape Malays, who are mostly descended from Indonesian slaves, make up most of this group, with the remaining 20% being of Indian descent.

The Jewish population numbers less than 100 000. Of these, the majority are Orthodox Jews. Buddhism is barely organised in South Africa. However, the Nan Hua Buddhist temple has been built at Bronkhorstspruit near Pretoria. 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.

The land

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 km². The country has common boundaries with Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe, while Mozambique and 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, some 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

South Africa's surface area falls into two major physiographic categories: the interior plateau, and the land between the plateau and the coast. Forming the boundary between these two areas is the Great Escarpment, the most prominent and continuous relief feature of the country. Its height above sea level varies from about 1 500 m in the dolerite-capped Roggeveld scarp in the south-west, to 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.

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 km to 240 km in the east and south, and a mere 60 km to 80 km in the west. At least three major subdivisions are recognised: the eastern plateau slopes, the Cape folded belt and adjacent regions and the western plateau slopes.

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. About 65% of the country receives less than 500 mm per year, which is generally accepted as the minimum amount required for successful dry-land farming.

About 21% 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

South Africa 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 20: *Tourism*.)

Western Cape

The Western Cape is situated on the southernmost tip of the African continent. It is a region of majestic mountains; beautiful valleys; wide, sandy beaches; and breathtaking scenery, making it one of South Africa's prime tourist destinations.





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, fondly known as the "Mother City".

Cape Town houses Parliament and is the country's legislative capital.

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 world's six accepted floral kingdoms. Although it is the smallest of them all, the Cape Floral Kingdom, which is characterised by fynbos, contains more plant species than the whole of Europe. These include the famous proteas and heathers.

Covering an area of more than 553 000 hectares (ha), the Cape Floristic Region World Heritage Site comprises eight separate protected areas stretching from the Cape Peninsula into the Eastern Cape.

The Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden is included in this area, which makes it a world-first for South Africa, since no other world heritage site includes a botanical garden.

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 trees.

Tourism

The Western Cape's natural beauty, complemented by its famous hospitality, cultural diversity, excellent wine and colourful cuisine, make the province one of the world's greatest tourist attractions.

The people

More than 5,2 million people live in the Western Cape on 129 370 km² of land (*Community Survey, 2007*). Afrikaans is spoken by the majority, with isiXhosa and English being the other main languages.

The province has a strong network of Higher Education (HE) institutions, including the University

of Cape Town, Stellenbosch University, the University of the Western Cape and the Cape Peninsula University of Technology. A potpourri of diverse cultural backgrounds gives the province a cosmopolitan ambiance, resulting in a demographic profile quite different from 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 17% (*Labour Force Survey, March 2008*).

Agriculture and marine fishery

The Western Cape is rich in agriculture and fisheries. 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 is 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, and 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 outlet for the export of horses. This earns the country millions of rands in foreign revenue.

Western Cape



Capital: Cape Town

Principal languages:

Afrikaans	55,3%
isiXhosa	23,7%
English	19,3%

Population: 5 278 585 (*Community Survey, 2007*)

Area (km²): 129 370

% of total area: 10,6%





The province has also established itself as the leading facilitator in the export of ostrich meat to Europe. In addition to meat, fine leatherware and ostrich feathers are also exported to destinations all over the world.

The plankton-rich cold Benguela current flows along the west coast of the province, which is considered to be one of the world's richest fishing grounds.

This resource is protected from 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 from this region.

Industry

The average growth in the Western Cape's gross domestic product (GDP) stands at 5,8%, having averaged over 5 % since 2004.

Between 2004 and 2008, the Western Cape welcomed 270 investment projects to the province, valued at R6,4 billion and creating 61 746 jobs.

The backbone of the Western Cape's economy is small, medium and micro-enterprises (SMMEs). Between 2004 and 2008, the province spent R56 million in financial and mentoring support to assist 38 121 SMMEs (of which 80% are historically disadvantaged).

These, and 4 355 tourism SMMEs and 6 267 entrepreneurs were beneficiaries of support infrastructure programmes.

In 2004, infrastructure-led growth was an idea.

By 2008:

- R252,1 million was realised through the careful release of property assets and investing it in health and education infrastructure

- R2,8 billion was invested in improving and extending the province's road infrastructure, realising 104 623 kilometres of road, including the widening of the N2, the Koeberg Interchange

- R184 million was spent on upgrading taxi ranks, public transport routes, paths for bicycles and pedestrians and disability access.

Many of South Africa's major insurance companies and banks are based in the Western Cape.

The majority of the country's petroleum companies and the largest segment of the printing and publishing industry are located in Cape Town.

Information and communications technology (ICT) is 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.

The Western Cape is poised for significant economic investment, including:

- upgrading the airport, in response to the numbers of airlines that come directly to Cape Town from diverse destinations, now bringing 1,7 million foreign visitors a year
- constructing the multibillion Rand Cape Town film studio, Dreamworld
- a R4-million call centre training facility.

Total population by province – Census 1996, 2001 and Community Survey, 2007

Provinces	Census 1996	Census 2001	% change	CS 2007	% change
Eastern Cape	6 147 244	6 278 651	2,1	6 527 747	4,0
Free State	2 633 504	2 706 775	2,8	2 773 059	2,4
Gauteng	7 624 893	9 178 873	20,4	10 451 713	13,9
KwaZulu-Natal	8 572 302	9 584 129	11,8	10 259 230	7,0
Limpopo	4 576 133	4 995 534	9,2	5 238 286	4,9
Mpumalanga	3 124 203	3 365 885	7,7	3 643 435	8,2
Northern Cape	1 011 864	991 919	-2,0	1 058 060	6,7
North West	2 936 554	3 193 676	8,8	3 271 948	2,5
Western Cape	3 956 875	4 524 335	14,3	5 278 585	16,7
South Africa	40 583 573	44 819 778	10,4	48 502 063	8,2





2010 FIFA World Cup™

South Africa is preparing to host the 2010 World Cup. Government is using the hosting of the 2010 World Cup to fast-track the growth and development of the country. The investment in 2010 will benefit South Africans long after the tournament.

Cape Town's preparations are well on track. These include:

- dedicated bus and taxi lanes from the R300 into Cape Town along the N2
- expanding the Cape Town International Airport through a R2-billion expansion investment
- the rail connection between the upgraded airport and the Cape Town Central Station, whose construction is scheduled to commence early in 2009 and which represents a R1-billion investment in the Western Cape
- upgrading the Cape Town Central Station
- doubling the capacity of the Cape Town Convention Centre
- building at least six new hotels in the Western Cape by 2010
- building the Green Point Stadium, which will be completed by December 2009
- completing phase one of the Koeberg Interchange
- the N2 Corridor, scheduled to continue to expand its provision of public-transport priority lanes.

Eastern Cape

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

The region boasts remarkable natural diversity, ranging from the dry, desolate Great Karoo to the lush forests of the Wild Coast and the Keiskamma Valley; the fertile Langkloof, renowned for its rich apple harvests; and the mountainous southern Drakensberg region at Elliot.

The Eastern Cape's main feature is its spectacular coastline lapped by the Indian Ocean. With its long stretches of pristine sandy beaches, rocky coves, secluded lagoons and towering cliffs, the coastline provides the province with an unsurpassed natural tourist attraction.

The graceful curve of Algoa Bay provides an ideal setting for the port of Port Elizabeth. East London offers equally favourable harbour facilities. The province is serviced by three airports situated in Port Elizabeth, East London and Mthatha.

The architecture of many of its cities and towns reflects the rich heritage of its people.

Important towns in the province include Bhisho, 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-rich Karoo.

The people

The Eastern Cape has almost seven million people living on 169 580 km² of land. The majority of the people speak isiXhosa, followed by Afrikaans and English.

The province has a number of HE institutions, including the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, the University of Fort Hare and the Walter Sisulu University of Technology. Primary education is nearly universal, with only 2,6% of children not attending primary school. Some 84% of adults are functionally literate and 96% of youths are literate.

The infant mortality rate has decreased consistently from 4,2% in 2003/04 to 3,32% in 2006/07.

According to the *Labour Force Survey*, released in March 2008, the official unemployment figure is 23,1%.

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.

Working closely with local municipalities, communities and key stakeholders, the special-



purpose vehicle, AsgiSA (Eastern Cape) Pty Limited will play a facilitative role in unlocking investment opportunities estimated at more than R4,2 billion through rural development zones. These programmes include forestry development and timber processing, intensive agriculture and agroprocessing.

The development of alternative and local vegetable marketing and processing facilities through an agri-park concept ensures that excess household production is appropriately channelled to benefit producers.

The agri-park initiative has been developed in co-operation with the University of Fort Hare. The first satellite agri-park is being initiated at Dutywa.

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 the farming of cattle, maize and sorghum.

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 Keiskammahoek provide employment 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 Eastern Cape Provincial Government plans to develop the province's forestry and timber industry by creating up to 100 000 ha of plantations over the next 10 years.

The Eastern Cape has been selected as the national pilot for the implementation of biofuels, through the mass planting of canola. This project has the potential to create 21 600 direct and indirect job opportunities.

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

Ostrich exports are flourishing and 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.

The game industry is enjoying unprecedented demand in the international market due to health-conscious consumers increasingly demanding lean organic game meat.

Industry

The Mzimvubu Project is key to turning around the economy of the region to establish a modern agro-industrial economy centred around Mthatha, in the same way that the industrial development zones (IDZs) of Coega and East London are clustering industrial development in those areas.

The Provincial Industrial Strategy, launched in May 2008, outlines broad government efforts that are necessary to transform the structure and distribution of industrial activity in the Eastern Cape to meet particular economic, social and political objectives. These objectives include job creation (and job retention), increased and sustained growth, income distribution, spatial distribution of economic activity, deracialising ownership of the economy and promoting social forms of ownership.

The metropolitan economies of Port Elizabeth and East London are based primarily on manufacturing, the most important industry 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 DaimlerChrysler, have plants in the Eastern Cape.

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 the West Bank (East London) and 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 railway from Mthatha to East London was refurbished and the process of finding an operator for the line initiated.

The Eastern Cape is becoming more accessible as the Provincial 2010 Public Transport Plan, which links air, road, rail, maritime, taxi and bus operations, is being implemented.

Eastern Cape

Capital: Bhisho

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

Population: 6 527 747 (Community Survey, 2007)

Area (km²): 169 580





In 2008/09, substantial resources were being invested in the road network. This included R1,5 billion for building new roads, rebuilding existing roads and maintenance.

The extension of the N2 from Kei Mouth to Port St Johns – the Wild Coast meander – will unlock the tourism potential of the scenic coastline. In addition, the 248-km road will also facilitate agricultural and economic productivity, and access to government services at schools, clinics and police stations.

Some R363 million has been allocated for Expanded Public Works Programme projects in road construction, providing job opportunities for 6 000 people.

The R78-million upgrade of the Bhisho Airport was completed in 2008 and Mthatha Airport is being upgraded at a cost of R60 million.

2010 World Cup

In King Sabata Dalindyebo Municipality, the final design for a new 15 000-seater stadium had been approved and R100 million has been allocated for the construction of this facility.

In Buffalo City, two stadiums – Absa Stadium, which seats 10 000 and Bhisho Stadium with 20 000 seats – are being refurbished. The city has been identified as a basecamp city for training prior to and during the 2010 World Cup.

The provincial Department of Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture has partnered with the Educational Institute for Service Studies in Port Alfred, to upscale the capacity of bed-and-breakfast owners.

Parallel to the football spectacular, there will be an arts and culture programme. A crafters' database was being compiled, together with three additional crafter-hubs in Dimbaza, Dispatch and Flagstaff. Fan parks – public viewing areas with large-screen TVs, entertainment and food and beverage stands – will be established for the tournament.

KwaZulu-Natal

Aptly called South Africa's "Garden Province", KwaZulu-Natal is one of the country's most popular holiday destinations. This verdant region includes South Africa's lush subtropical east coast. Washed by the warm Indian Ocean, it stretches from Port Edward in the south, and northwards to the Mozambique boundary.

In addition to the magnificent coastline, the province also boasts sweeping savanna in the east, and the majestic Drakensberg mountain range in the west.

Visitors to KwaZulu-Natal can either disembark at Durban International Airport, which handles more than 2,5 million passengers a year, or at Durban harbour. Alternatively, they can make use of the extensive national road network.

KwaZulu-Natal is one of the major tourist destinations in South Africa.

Durban is one of the fastest-growing urban areas in the world. Its port is the busiest in South Africa and one of the 10 largest in the world. The port of Richards Bay handles over 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.

Richards Bay is an important coal-export harbour. The province has several popular 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.

The province is also well known for its active conservation activities. There are several reserves in the province such as the Royal Natal National Park, Giant's Castle and the Kamberg Nature Reserve.

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. It has since been renamed iSimangaliso Wetland Park. Separating KwaZulu-Natal from 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, which is protected in several game parks.

The people

KwaZulu-Natal has more than 10 million people living on 92 100 km² of land (*Community Survey, 2007*). 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 boasts several universities, universities of technology and other educational institutions, including the University of KwaZulu-Natal and the Durban Institute of Technology.

Agriculture and industry

KwaZulu-Natal ranks second as a major contributor to the economy, accounting for 16,7% of South Africa's GDP.

The KwaZulu-Natal Government has embarked on a strategy to attract investors to the province. A project involving a developer from the United Arab Emirates comprises a multibillion-rand investment on the northern side of uThukela River in the Macambini area. The project will be implemented in phases and will create thousands of permanent jobs. This will be the fifth project of its kind in the world based on the concept of a "city within a city".

The project will be a fully integrated tourist destination located on about 7 500 ha. It will comprise a variety of market-segmented residential communities, entertainment attractions, hospitality, education, healthcare, leisure, retail and commercial offerings.

Richards Bay is the centre of operations for South Africa's aluminium industry. The Richards Bay Coal Terminal is instrumental in securing the country's position as the 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. 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, which is also known for its 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 around Swaziland to the edge of the escarpment.

The KwaZulu-Natal Growth Fund provides medium- to long-term funding for sustainable infrastructure and related projects in the province. The fund's Investment Committee has approved projects with an estimated value of R414 million spread across key economic sectors such as manufacturing, transportation and logistics and agriprocessing.

2010 World Cup

On 25 November 2007, the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ Preliminary Draw took place in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal.

The province hosted representatives from 204 of the 208 soccer-playing nations of the world as well as a contingent of international media – the largest FIFA representation ever.

One of the distinctive features of the Moses Mabhida Stadium under construction in Durban, is the multimedia centre, which will tell the story of the people of KwaZulu-Natal. This multimedia centre will offer information about KwaZulu-Natal's economic and cultural activities.

The 2007/08 financial year saw major development initiatives, beginning with the Dube Trade Port and King Shaka International Airport, an investment of R6,8 billion and the soccer stadium of R2,6 billion. The plans for the multimedia interpretation centre at uMgungundlovu, Palace of King Dingane, have been completed.

The KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government is upgrading stadiums and building multipurpose sports facilities to allow some of its communities to host teams during the 2010 tournament.

The selected municipalities for the projects include uMgungundlovu, Amajuba, Ugu and Uthungulu.

KwaZulu-Natal

Capital: Pietermaritzburg

Principal languages:	isiZulu	80,9%
	English	13,6%
	Afrikaans	1,5%

Population: 10 259 230 (Community Survey, 2007)

Area (km²): 92 100





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 at Upington. The Northern Cape has 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, second most important junction of South Africa's railway network. Sutherland is host to the southern hemisphere's largest astronomical observatory, the multinational-sponsored Southern African Large Telescope.

South Africa has been shortlisted as one of two countries to host the Square Kilometre Array (SKA), a giant next-generation radio telescope being developed by scientists from 17 countries. The proposed SKA will be located in the Northern Cape. Other important Northern Cape towns include the sheep-farming towns of Carnarvon, Colesberg, Kenhardt and Prieska, which are renowned for their semi-precious stones and variety of succulents.

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 for its spectacular display of spring flowers that attracts thousands of tourists every year.

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.

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 more than one million people on 361 830 km² of land (*Community Survey, 2007*). About 68% of the population speak Afrikaans. Other languages spoken are Setswana, isiXhosa and English. The official unemployment rate of the Northern Cape is 25,7% (*Labour Force Survey, March 2008*). 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. According to the results of the *2007 Community Survey* conducted by Statistics South Africa:

- the number of households having access to piped water in the Northern Cape has increased to 94,8%
- 87,3% of households have access to electricity
- 73,2% of households have access to water-borne sanitation.

Agriculture and industry

The Northern Cape is enjoying tremendous growth in value-added activities, including game farming. Food production and processing for the local and export market is also 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, where 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 cultivated intensively. Wheat, fruit, peanuts, maize and cotton are produced at the Vaalharts Irrigation Scheme near Warrenton.

The Integrated Provincial SMME Strategy will allow the province to implement effective second-economy interventions to address poverty, underdevelopment and marginalisation. Small Enterprise Development Agency offices have been established in all five districts to offer non-financial support, business advice and business counselling to SMMEs. Between 2006 and 2008, 3 572 SMMEs were assisted.

The Northern Cape has identified business process outsourcing and offshoring as one of the projects capable of providing a considerable number of job opportunities through the establishment of call centres. The first-ever call centre in Ga-Segonyana in the Northern Cape was launched in February 2008. The Finnish Government has committed itself to assist the province with the development of the Northern Cape Information Society Strategy and Development Plan through the Provincial Information Society Programme.

It seeks to create, use and share information and knowledge to empower communities and individuals to achieve their full potential, promote sustainable development and improving the quality of life.

Since 2004, the Provincial Government has spent in excess of R1,6 billion on infrastructure projects.

Agriculture is still one of the mainstay sectors of the Northern Cape's economy and is therefore critical in the overall economic planning. In this regard, agricultural development programmes like the Farmer Support and Development Programme and the Comprehensive Agriculture Support Programme were expected to be strengthened by improved funding of R53 million in 2008.

Tourism

The province has tabled a Tourism Bill to further strengthen the tourism industry and prepare the province for the 2010 World Cup and beyond. The tourism industry has the

potential to contribute significantly to the region's GDP, hence the Provincial Government's investment of R18 million in 15 tourism information offices, upgrades and promotion projects.

Mining

Kimberley, the capital of the Northern Cape, is often referred to as the "Diamond Capital of the World".

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 Aggeneys. The province is rich in asbestos, manganese, fluor-spar, semi-precious stones and marble.

Until recently, the majority of small- to medium-scale alluvial operations were concentrated along or near the Vaal River system. With the deposits available for mining declining rapidly, there has been a gradual shift towards the Orange River system.

Two recent larger-scale investments also show continued prospects in this sector.

As part of the implementation of the economic development initiatives, the province established the Diamond, Gemstone and Jewellery Hub that will host the State Diamond Trader.

The Gold Chain Technology Project, focusing on the production of gold and silver chains for the export market, was launched in 2008. The total investment amounts to R82 million.

The Provincial Government and private investors are to open a gold jewellery-manufacturing facility worth R100 million in Kimberley, in an effort to ensure that more value is added to precious metals locally, with finished products destined for export markets.

2010 World Cup

As the 2010 World Cup approaches, co-operation between the public and private sectors as seen and

Northern Cape		
		
Capital: Kimberley		
Principal languages:	Afrikaans	68%
	Setswana	20,8%
Population: 1 058 060 (Community Survey, 2007)		
Area (km²): 361 830		





demonstrated in some key infrastructure projects, will ensure that the Northern Cape and its cities and towns are placed in a position to optimise the benefits of this event.

The province is developing the Northern Cape Sports Academy, with the multipurpose sports complex to be constructed being a central element of its strategy.

Free State

The Free State lies in the heart of South Africa, with Lesotho nestling in the hollow of its bean-like shape. Between the Vaal River in the north and the Orange River in the south, this immense rolling prairie stretches as far as the eye can see.

The capital, Bloemfontein, has a well-established institutional, educational and administrative infrastructure, and houses the Supreme Court of Appeal.

The city, also referred to as the “City of Roses”, is home to some of the province’s many tertiary educational institutions, including the University of the Free State and the Central University of Technology.

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.

Nestled in the rolling foothills of the Maluti mountains in the north-eastern Free State, the Golden Gate Highlands National Park is the province’s prime tourist attraction. The park derives its name from the brilliant shades of gold cast by the sun on the spectacular sandstone cliffs, especially the imposing Brandwag rock, which keeps vigil over the park. The N1, which is the artery between Gauteng and the Western and Eastern Cape, passes through the middle of the Free State. The annual Mangaung African Cultural Festival, popularly called Macufe, is hosted in partnership with the Tourism Authority and the Performing Arts Centre of the Free State.

The people

The Free State houses more than 2,7 million people on about 129 480 km² of land (*Community Survey, 2007*). The main languages spoken are Sesotho and Afrikaans. According to the *Labour Force*

Survey released in March 2008, the official unemployment rate is 24,3%.

Many of the towns display a cultural mix that is 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. 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 generated by 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.

In terms of floriculture, the Free State has an advantage due to the opposing seasons of the southern and northern hemispheres. The province exports some 1,2 million t of cut flowers per year.

The development of agriculture as a sustainable economic contributor, especially regarding emerging and small farmers, is one of the high-impact projects which are currently underway.

Mining

The mining industry is the major 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 Lejweleputswa (formerly 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 lies in fifth position as a global producer.

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.

The Free State Provincial Government has approved the establishment of two biofuel plants in Bothaville and Hoopstad.

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 GDP amounting to about R75 827 million in 2004, representing a 5,5% contribution to the South African economy.

By 2008, the province had completed the first phase of the Harrismith Logistics Hub, which when completed, will become the multinodal freight logistical base in the Free State. The second phase of the project will commence in 2009 and will entail the mobilisation of stakeholders and participants

such as freight companies. The Provincial Government has set aside R2 million for the initial stages of the second phase.

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. 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 gross geographic product. The province’s development strategy centres on competitiveness, empowerment, capacity-building and beneficiation.

2010 World Cup

Free State Stadium in Bloemfontein will host five first-round matches and one second-round match during the World Cup. It has 48 000 seats.

The province was expected to embark on the following projects from 2007:

- developing the N8 Road-Development Corridor
- rehabilitating and reviving the rail network from Thaba Nchu to Bloemfontein
- constructing an international convention centre, which will be linked to other 2010 initiatives such as the revamping of the Bloemfontein Airport, Macufe and the intermodal transport facility.

By February 2008, all the major master plans regarding transport, ICT, and safety and security had been finalised. Co-operation with Lesotho and the Northern Cape will extend the economic benefits of the event far beyond the borders of the Free State.

North West

North West, also known as the “Platinum Province”, is centrally located on the subcontinent with direct road and rail links to all southern African countries, and with its own airport near the capital city, Mafikeng. The province borders Botswana and is fringed by the Kalahari Desert in the west and the Witwatersrand area in the east. North West is divided into the Central, Bophirima (towards the west), Southern, Rustenburg and Eastern regions.

Free State		
Capital: Bloemfontein		
Principal languages:	Sesotho	64,4%
	Afrikaans	11,9%
	isiXhosa	9,1%
Population: 2 773 059 (Community Survey, 2007)		
Area (km²): 129 480		





Most economic activity is concentrated in the Southern Region (between Potchefstroom and Klerksdorp), Rustenburg, and the Eastern Region, where more than 83,3% of gross domestic product per region (GDPR) of the province is generated.

The province offers several tourist attractions, including the internationally renowned Sun City, the popular Pilanesberg National Park, the Madikwe Game Reserve and the Rustenburg Nature Reserve.

The GDP in constant 2000 prices grew from R58 billion in 1996 to more than R72 billion in 2006. Since the launching of the Provincial Growth and Development Strategy in 2004, the economic growth per year consistently outperformed the annual population growth of the province, registering growth rates of 3,6%, 4,9% and 4,3%, in 2004, 2005 and 2006, respectively.

According to the *Labour Force Survey* released in March 2008, the official unemployment rate in the province was 24%.

The people

Of the 3,6 million people living in the North West, 65% live in the rural areas (*Community Survey, 2007*). The *Community Survey* indicates in terms of access to basic services that:

- 90% of households have access to piped water
- 82,3 % use electricity as a source of domestic power
- 57,1% of people have access to refuse removal
- 90,1% have access to sanitation above Reconstruction and Development Programme standards.

Mining

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.

Projects in the province include the following:

- One of the programmes of the Mafikeng Industrial Development Initiative is the establishment of the Mining Supply and Industrial Park that will result in the creation of a mining goods- and -service warehouse and delivery park for the convenience and benefit of most mining companies around Rustenburg.
- By early 2008, the Platinum Beneficiation Project was in its implementation stage. A trust was established and a company registered to

beneficiate platinum into jewellery products. A further agreement between the province and Canada will also be finalised to complete a platinum theme park. The Business Incubation Centre, which is located at Orbit College, is up and running.

- The Granite Project is located in Bethanie and was allocated R40 million in this Medium Term Expenditure Framework period.

Manufacturing

Manufacturing contributes 7% to the province's GDP and 9% of its employment opportunities. It provides 2,6% 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 in 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, situated on the Coast-to-Coast highway that links the port of Maputo in Mozambique to Walvis Bay in Namibia is expected to unlock further development. About 200 potential project opportunities in tourism, manufacturing, agriculture and mining have been identified.

Agriculture

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

Some 5,9% of the South African GDP in agriculture and 16,96% of total labour in agriculture are based in the North West (*Provincial Economies, 2004*). The province is an important food basket in South Africa. Maize and sunflowers are the most important crops, and the North West is the major producer of white maize in the country.

North West

Capital: Mafikeng

Principal languages:

Setswana	65,4%
Afrikaans	7,5%
isiXhosa	5,8%



Population: 3 271 948 (*Community Survey, 2007*)

Area (km²): 116 320





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.

2010 World Cup

Rustenburg is the official hosting city in the North West, with the Royal Bafokeng Stadium in Rustenburg being the official match venue.

The stadium will also be used for the Confederations Cup in June 2009. By January 2009, all major refurbishments to the stadium had been completed.

Preparations in the province include:

- road infrastructure that will link Rustenburg and its environs to the Royal Bafokeng Stadium
- capacity-building in respect of volunteers and other service-providers
- greening and beautification of the host city
- upgrading and enhancing the host city’s health facilities
- an improved network of transport facilities
- upliftment of the economy through skills development, the craft industry and the performing arts
- enhancing the local municipalities’ emergency and disaster management services.

Gauteng

Although it is the smallest of the nine provinces, Gauteng is the powerhouse of South Africa and the heart of its commercial business and industrial sectors.

Johannesburg, nicknamed “Egoli” (Place of Gold), is the capital of the province and 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.

Gauteng continues to strengthen its position as the economic engine of the country and the continent.

The *2007 Community Survey*, conducted by Statistics South Africa, shows that the percentage of informal settlements in the province has dropped to 22,6%. The percentage of households using electricity remains the highest in the country at 83,5%. The percentage of households with piped water stands at

97,9%. Gauteng has the highest population in the country, at 10 451 713 people. One in four households in the country stays in the province.

The three most important sectors contributing to GDP are finance, real estate and business services; manufacturing; and general government services.

Sustained growth has led to a steady reduction in unemployment. According to the *Labour Force Survey*, March 2008, unemployment in Gauteng declined from 30,4% in September 2001 to 19,5% in September 2007.

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

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

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 also a popular tourist destination, with sites such as Kiptown, where the Freedom Charter was drawn up; the home of former President Nelson Mandela; the Hector Petersen Memorial site; and restaurants and shopping malls. It boasts one of the largest public hospitals on the continent, the Chris Hani-Baragwanath Hospital.

The 65 000 m² Maponya Mall attracts on average 1,5 million people a month. Some 50 km north of Johannesburg lies Pretoria, dominated by government services and the diplomatic corps of foreign representatives in the country.

Pretoria is the administrative capital of South Africa and home to the Union Buildings. Pretoria, also known as the “Jacaranda City”, is renowned for its colourful gardens, shrubs and trees, particularly beautiful in spring when some 50 000 flowering jacaranda trees 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 space. 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.

The industrial area of Rosslyn and the townships of Soshanguve and GaRankuwa are situated north of Pretoria. Cullinan, known for its diamonds, lies to the east. Other important Gauteng towns include Krugersdorp and Roodepoort on the West Rand, and Germiston, Springs, Boksburg, Benoni, Brakpan and Kempton Park on the East Rand.

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

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 10 million of the country's people (*Community Survey, 2007*). The level of urbanisation is 97%.

The province houses some of 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, Unisa.

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 the Human Sciences Research Council. More than 60% of South Africa's research and development (R&D) takes place in Gauteng.

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

Manufacturing

The manufacturing sector in Gauteng includes more than 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.

In 2008, the Ford Motor Company announced a R1,5-billion investment in South Africa. Part of the investment will go towards the expansion of the production capacity of its motor assembly plant in Tshwane.

The Automotive Supplier Park in Tshwane will be expanded to accommodate the growing demand from a range of new motor manufacturers. The logistics centre will be extended and the Gauteng Provincial Government will explore the creation of supplier parks related to the heavy vehicle industry for export purposes.

A total of 4 404 direct jobs were created in the Automotive Supplier Park between 2002 and 2007, with 70% of them being for people from historically disadvantaged backgrounds. A further 2 000 employment opportunities were created in the support functions to the component suppliers.

Other initiatives undertaken to boost growth and job creation include the acceleration of work to establish a jewellery-manufacturing precinct at the OR Tambo International Airport and a plan to revive and increase the capacity of the Ekandustria Industrial Park in Metsweding.

Technology

A large number of institutions engaged in R&D and innovation choose Gauteng as their preferred site of operation. In 2008, the Innovation Hub in Pretoria was expected to be expanded to accommodate 40 high-tech SMME companies. In 2008, there were 68 companies in the hub's Incubation Programme, employing a total of 850 people.

The collaboration between Gauteng and the Department of Science and Technology has resulted in the province being included as part of the key programmes under the Co-operation Framework on Innovation Systems between Finland and South Africa (Cofisa). The 30-month Cofisa programme will focus on the capacity development of key stakeholders and knowledge transfer between the first and second economies.

Tourism

Tourist arrivals to the province continue to grow, creating jobs and other economic opportunities for the people. One in every two foreign visitors in

Gauteng



Capital: Johannesburg

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

Population: 10 451 713 (*Community Survey, 2007*)

Area (km²): 17 010





South Africa visits Gauteng, making the province the country's highest earner of tourism income.

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 Bronkhorstspuit, Cullinan and Heidelberg hold important agricultural land, where groundnuts, 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 sub-regional 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.

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 about US\$20 million. Johannesburg houses the JSE Limited, the largest securities exchange in Africa.

2010 World Cup

Soccer City, near Soweto, Johannesburg, will host the final match of the 2010 World Cup. It will accommodate 94 700 soccer fans. Ellis Park in Johannesburg, the venue of the 1995 Rugby World Cup final, will undergo a major renovation before the 2010 World Cup. It will have 61 000 seats.

Loftus Versfeld Stadium (50 000 seats) in Pretoria will also host 2010 World Cup games. Some R40 million was set aside in 2007/08 for the rehabilitation of the R21 highway to improve connectivity between Pretoria and the OR Tambo International Airport.

The province has won the right to host SoccerEx, the largest football business exhibition in the world, over the next three years. It provides an international platform to showcase the province's readiness to host the 2010 World Cup.

The opening and closing ceremonies as well as a number of group matches will be hosted in the province.

Mpumalanga

Mpumalanga means "Place where the Sun Rises". Because of the province's spectacular scenic beauty and abundance of wildlife, it is one of South Africa's major tourist destinations.

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

Bordered by Mozambique and Swaziland in the east and Gauteng in the west, it is situated mainly on the high plateau grasslands of the Middleveld, 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, such as the Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport.

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; and Piet Retief in the south-east is a production area for tropical fruit and sugar.

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.

Mpumalanga



Capital: Nelspruit

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

Population: 3 508 000 (Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2007)

Area (km²): 79 490





As the first international toll road in Africa, the Maputo Corridor is attracting investment and releasing the local economic potential of the land-locked parts of the country. The best-performing sectors in the province include mining, manufacturing and services. Tourism and agriprocessing are potential growth sectors in the province.

Mpumalanga falls mainly within the Grassland Biome. The escarpment and the Lowveld form a transitional zone between this grassland area and the Savanna Biome.

Long stretches 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 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 many 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, Mpumalanga has a population of more than 3,6 million people (*Community Survey, 2007*).

Mpumalanga's official unemployment rate is 22,9% (*Labour Force Survey, March 2008*).

In Mpumalanga, 82% of households have access to electricity for lighting, 77% of households live in formal dwellings, 66% of households have access to a refrigerator, 78% of households have access to a cellphone and 41% of households have access to sanitary facilities.

Agriculture and forestry

The province 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 and 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 mainly a sheep-farming area, but potatoes, sunflowers, maize and peanuts are also produced in this region.

To facilitate the growth of the agricultural sector, the province will increase the cultivation and processing of soya beans into biofuels. During 2007, soil analysis was done to identify suitable soil for soya-bean production. In addition, a farmer outreach programme was started and private-sector support for the programme was secured. In 2008/09, R20 million was allocated to initiate a pilot project on 8 000 hectares (ha) of land, with a view to expanding the scale in the 2009/10 financial year.

During 2007/08, the allocation of R30 million for the Masibuyel' Emasimini Project was used to provide 52 tractors, seeds and fertilisers to the rural poor to maximise food production in poor rural areas. A total 11 935 ha of land were ploughed and planted to benefit 5 913 people. In the 2008/09 financial year, R35 million was allocated to scale up support to deliver 83 tractors, plough and plant 15 000 ha of land, thereby reaching 5 916 new beneficiaries.

Industry

Mpumalanga is very rich in coal reserves. The country's major 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 South Africa'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.

The province's flagship programmes include the Maputo Development Corridor; the Moloto Rail Development Corridor; the Water for All, the Heritage, Greening Mpumalanga; and tourism programmes.

In September 2007, the unemployment rate in Mpumalanga stood at 22,9%.

2010 World Cup

A provincial "one-stop" 2010 office has been established, which will act as a central point of co-ordination of the 2010 World Cup programmes and activities, incorporating the Department





of Culture, Sport and Recreation, the host city Mbombela and the 2010 Directorate in the Premier's Office. The Mbombela Stadium, with a capacity of 46 000 seats, will host the first four matches in Nelspruit.

Tourism

Mpumalanga is an ancient land, with evidence of human habitation stretching back 100 000 years, and the first major kingdoms and mining empires beginning 46 000 years ago. The region's pre-colonial history is, however, still largely unexplored.

Bordering on Swaziland, and encompassing huge areas of the world-renowned Kruger National Park as well as private game reserves, Mpumalanga offers untold opportunities to view a unique concentration of wildlife – either on camping safari or in the air-conditioned luxury of a five-star game lodge.

Limpopo

Limpopo, South Africa's northernmost province, lies within the great elbow of the Limpopo River. It 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, which is 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 airport carries about 38 000 passengers a year.

Statistics South Africa's figures show that Limpopo's economy grew from 4,1% in 2005 to 4,6% in 2006. Limpopo has been experiencing an average economic growth of 4,2% in the last four years. Limpopo is also beginning to observe a gradual decline in the unemployment rate. The unemployment rate decreased from 35,6% in March 2006 to 27,6% in September 2007.

Polokwane is the capital city and lies strategically in the centre of the province.

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 lie Modimolle with its table-grape industry and beautiful Waterberg mountain 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 shows that this is tree country.

Rich in natural beauty, culture and wildlife, Limpopo is an ideal breakaway destination for tourists. The province's natural resources include more than 50 provincial reserves, as well as several private game reserves. The largest section of the Kruger National Park is situated along the eastern boundary of Limpopo with Mozambique.

The people

In Limpopo, more than 5,2 million people live on about 123 910 km² of land (*Community Survey, 2007*). 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 tribespeople 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. It was declared a world heritage site in 2003. Valuable archaeological artefacts, including many golden objects, have been discovered 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 this province. As the largest producers of various crops in the agricultural market, Limpopo is exploiting this capacity as a resource for agritourism. For instance, the Modimolle Grape Festival is celebrated in January.





The province developed the Limpopo Agricultural Development Strategy, whose priority lies in the development of agricultural hubs – a concept adapted to suit areas with the greatest potential to increase land availability for agricultural production while enhancing the broader economy of such areas. Two of the five hubs identified are Nandoni in the Vhembe District and Nebo Plateau in the Sekhukhune District.

Sunflowers, cotton, maize and peanuts are cultivated in the Bela-Bela-Modimolle area. 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 also create many employment opportunities in the Tzaneen area.

The climatic conditions in this province allow for double harvesting seasons, which ultimately translates into Limpopo becoming the national food basket. It produces about 60% of the country's tomatoes; 75% mangoes; 65% papaya; 33% oranges; 36% tea; 25% citrus, bananas and litchis; and 60% of its avocados. It has initiated a process to open market access for exporting some of its fresh produce to the People's Republic of China.

More than 45% of the R2-billion annual turnover of the Johannesburg Fresh Produce Market comes from Limpopo. The largest tomato farm in South Africa lies between Tzaneen and Makhado. Extensive forestry plantations are also found here.

Plantations of hard wood for furniture manufacturing have also been established and 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. The Agribusiness Academy at Tompi Seleka and Madzivhandila was officially launched in 2007 in collaboration with the Flemish government. This academy mentors and trains small-scale farmers, including providing refresher courses for extension officers. The Agribusiness Academy is also supporting an agritourism initiative at Ha-Makuya in the Vhembe District in partnership with the University of the Witwatersrand.

The revitalisation of the Tshivhase Tea Estate in the Vhembe District has reached a stage where rural people of Limpopo can proudly produce their own tea.

Industry

Mining is a significant economic activity in the province. 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.

The province is a typical developing area, exporting primary products and importing manufactured goods and services. It has high potential and capacity with appropriate 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.

Tourism

The dropping of fences between state-owned nature reserves and private game farms is opening up a new chapter in public-private partnerships within the conservation field.

Limpopo has defended its market share of international arrivals by maintaining its presence in the market and by designing new tourism products. It has developed through partnership with Open Africa and the European Union three new routes, namely "Seraki", "Land of Legends" and "Bush to Beach".

The opening of the "Bush to Beach" route, which links Limpopo through the Giriyondo border post to Mozambique has opened up opportunities for 4x4 tourism packages. The Limpopo Tourism and Parks has developed a stronger marketing drive to popularise these routes for domestic and international travellers.

2010 World Cup

The Peter Mokaba Stadium in Polokwane will host some of the 2010 World Cup matches. It will have a capacity of 46 000 seats. By mid-2008, the development, upgrading and construction of the terminal of Polokwane International Airport was nearing completion. The objective is to develop it into a regional commercial and cargo hub.

Limpopo 

Capital: Polokwane

Principal languages:	Sesotho sa Leboa	52,1%
	Xitsonga	22,4%
	Tshivenda	15,9%

Population: 2 238 286 (Community Survey, 2007)

Area (km²): 123 910



Acknowledgements

Original text by Theuns and Heila van Rensburg
Pan South African Language Board
Bulletin of Statistics (March 2004), published by
Statistics South Africa
Labour Force Survey (March 2008), published by
Statistics South Africa
Provincial Economies (May 2003), published by
the Department of Trade and Industry
Community Survey 2007, published by Statistics
South Africa
Statistics South Africa

www.cesa.org.za
www.cr/commission.org.za
www.fs.gov.za
www.geda.co.za
www.gov.za
www.limpopo.gov.za
www.pansalb.org.za
www.places.co.za
www.southafrica.info
www.mpumalanga.info

Suggested reading

- Bowie, B. East London: *Heart of Buffalo City*. East London: Lucky Bean Publishers, 2005.
- Brown, GW. *et al. Cape Town Uncovered: A People's City*. Cape Town: Double Storey, 2005.
- Balson, S. *Children of the Mist: The Lost Tribe of South Africa*. Queensland, Australia: Interactive Press, 2007.
- Brown, D. *To Speak of this Land: Identity and Belonging in South Africa and Beyond*. Pietermaritzburg: University of KwaZulu-Natal Press, 2007.
- Chipkin, I. *Do South Africans Exist: Nationalism, Democracy and the Identity of the People*. Johannesburg: Wits University Press, 2007.
- Contemporary South Africa*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2004.
- City of Johannesburg: A World-Class African City!* Johannesburg: Chris van Rensburg Publications, 2004.
- Distiller, N and Steyn, M. *Under Construction: Race and Identity in South Africa Today*. Sandton, Heinemann, 2004.
- Delius, P ed. *Mpumalanga: History and Heritage*. Pietermaritzburg: University of KwaZulu-Natal Press, 2007.
- Desai, A and Goolam V. *Inside Indenture: A South African Story 1860 – 1914*. Durban: Madiba Publishers, 2007.
- Earle, J. *Sasol First Guide to Weather in Southern Africa*. Cape Town: Struik, 2004.
- Field, S. *et al. eds. Imagining the City: Memories and Cultures of Cape Town*. Cape Town: Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) Press, 2007.
- Goldblatt, D, Krog, A and Powell, I. *Some Afrikaners Revisited*. Cape Town: 2007.
- Hendriks, HJ. *Studying Congregations in Africa*. Wellington (Cape): Lux Verbi, 2004.
- Hollman, J. ed. *Customs and Beliefs of the !Xam Bushmen*. Johannesburg: Wits University Press, Philadelphia: Ringing Rocks Press, 2004.
- Huffman, TN. *Mapungubwe: Ancient African Civilisation on the Limpopo*. Johannesburg: Wits University Press, 2004.
- Hollman, JC, ed. *Customs and Beliefs of the !Xam Bushmen*. Johannesburg: Wits University Press, 2007.
- Jenkins, E. *Falling into Place: The Story of Modern South African Place Names*. Cape Town: David Philips, 2007.
- Jeppie, S. *Language, Identity, Modernity: The Arabic Study Circle of Durban*. Cape Town: HSRC Press, 2007.
- Joburg! The Passion Behind a City*. Johannesburg: Affinity Publishing, 2006.
- Joubert, L. *Scorched: South Africa's Changing Climate*. Johannesburg: Witwatersrand University Press, 2006.
- Kok, P. *et al. eds. Migration in South Africa and Southern Africa: Dynamics and Determinants*. Cape Town: HSRC, 2005.
- L'Ange, G. *White Africans: From Colonisation to Liberation*. Cape Town: Jonathan Ball, 2005.
- Lee, P. *Compromise and Courage: Anglicans in Johannesburg 1864 – 1999*. Pietermaritzburg: Cluster Publications, 2005.

- 
- Meckel, D and Ole, K. *Straight Talk: Voices from the New South Africa*. Cape Town: Struik, 2004.
- Mitchley, C. ed. *South African Heritage: A Guide to Our Land, Our People, History and Culture*. Caledon: Mill Street Publications, 2005.
- Mohammed, A. *Not White Enough, Not Black Enough: Racial Identity in the South African Coloured Community*. Cape Town: Double Storey, 2005.
- Oduyoye, M and Kanyoro, M. *The Will to Arise: Women, Tradition and the Church in Africa*. Pietermaritzburg: Cluster Publications, 2006.
- Odendaal, F, Suich, H and Rojas V. *Richtersveld: The Land and its People*. Cape Town: Struik, 2007. Pietermaritzburg: Cluster, 2006.
- Oduyoye, M A and Musimbi, K R K, eds. *The Will to Rise: Women, Tradition and the Church in Africa*.
- Reimold, W and Roger G. *Meteorite Impact! The Danger from Space and South Africa's Mega-Impact: The Vredefort Structure*. Johannesburg: Chris van Rensburg Publications, 2005.
- Robbins, D. *On the Bridge of Goodbye: The Story of South Africa's Discarded San People*. Cape Town: Jonathan Ball, 2007.
- Schoeman, K. *The Early Mission in South Africa/Die Vroeë Sending in Suid-Afrika 1799 – 1819*. Pretoria: Protea Book House, 2005.
- Schadeberg, J. *Tales from Jozi: Photographs by J Schadeberg, edited by S Fraser*. Pretoria: Protea Book House, 2007.
- Tyson, PD and Preston-Whyte, RA. *Weather and Climate of Southern Africa*; 2nd ed. Cape Town: Oxford University Press Southern Africa, 2004.
- Westby-Nunn, T. *Hout Bay: An Illustrated Historical Profile*. Cape Town: Westby-Nunn Publishers, 2005.
- Weinberg, P. *Moving Spirit: Spirituality in Southern Africa*. Cape Town: Double Storey, 2006.
- Wittenberg, G. *Resistance Theology in the Old Testament: Collected Essays*. Pietermaritzburg: Cluster Publications, 2007.

