



SA YEARBOOK 2009/10
THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE



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The distinctive charm of South Africa comes from its history and also by moments of great change and strides of progress brought about by a people united in a diversity of religious beliefs, cultures and languages. The country's physical features range from bushveld through deserts and forests, up majestic mountain peaks down to wide unspoilt beaches and coastal wetlands.

South Africans are ready to become the centre of the world's attention, pulling out all the stops to showcase the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ and make it the best World Cup ever.

The people

According to Statistics South Africa's (Stats SA) *Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2009*, that were released in July 2009, there were 49 320 500 people in South Africa, of which 52% were female.

Of the total population, 79,3% classified themselves as African; 9,1% as white; 9% as coloured; and 2,5% as Indian/Asian. Africans were in the majority with more than 39 million of the total South African population. The white population was estimated at 4,5 million, the coloured population at 4,4 million and the Indian/Asian population at 1,3 million.

Nearly one third (31,4%) of the population were younger than 15 years and 7,5% (3,7 million) were 60 years or older.

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 participate in the cultural life of his or her choice, but no one may do so in a manner that is inconsistent with any provision of the Bill of Rights. Each person has the right to instruction in his or her language of choice where this is reasonably practicable.

Official languages

The diversity of the unique cultures of South Africa means that there are 11 official languages. These are English, Afrikaans, isiXhosa, isiZulu, isiNdebele, Sesotho sa Leboa, Sesotho, Setswana, siSwati, Tshivenda and Xitsonga. The Constitution also requires the Pan South African Language Board to promote the use of the Khoi, Nama and San languages, and sign language.

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.

Estimates by population group and gender

Population group	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percentage of total population	Number	Percentage of total population	Number	Percentage of total population
African	18 901 000	79,2	20 235 200	79,5	39 136 200	79,3
Coloured	2 137 300	9,0	2 295 800	9,0	4 433 100	9,0
Indian/Asian	635 700	2,6	643 400	2,5	1 279 100	2,6
White	2 194 700	9,2	2 277 400	9,0	4 472 100	9,1
Total	23 868 700	100,0	25 451 800	100,0	49 320 500	100,0

Source: *Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2009*

Religion

Religious groups

According to the Constitution, everyone has the right to freedom of conscience, religion, thought, belief and opinion.

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.

Number of individuals by church

Churches	Number
Dutch Reformed	3 005 698
Zion Christian	4 971 932
Catholic	3 181 336
Methodist	3 305 404
Pentecostal/Charismatic	3 422 749
Anglican	1 722 076
Apostolic Faith Mission	246 190
Lutheran	1 130 987
Presbyterian	832 495
Bandla Lama Nazareth	248 824
Baptist	691 237
Congregational	508 825
Orthodox	42 251
Other Apostolic churches	5 609 070
Other Zionist churches	1 887 147
Ethiopian type churches	880 414
Other Reformed churches	226 495
Other African independent churches	656 644
Other Christian churches	3 195 477
African Traditional Belief	125 903
Judaism	75 555
Hinduism	551 669
Islam	654 064
Other beliefs	269 200
No religion	6 767 165
Undetermined	610 971
Total	44 819 778

Source: Statistics South Africa (*Census 2001*)

Christian churches

There are various Christian churches throughout the country.

The Church of England in Southern Africa has congregations among all sections of the community. 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.

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.

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 all churches.

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

African independent churches (AICs)

The largest grouping of Christian churches is the AICs, represented by the 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. The 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 northern KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga, 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, with its sister churches, the Nederduitsch Hervormde Kerk and the Gereformeerde Kerk, have congregations countrywide.

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.

The Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa, the Dutch Reformed Church in Africa and the smaller Reformed Church in Africa, with predominantly Indian members, are some of the smaller churches.

Other churches with Afrikaans-speaking adherents, some with very large memberships, include the Apostolic Faith Mission and the Afrikaanse Protestantse Kerk.

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, and 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, Church of Scientology 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 and a minority are Christians.

The Muslim community in South Africa is small, but growing rapidly, with a number of people from South Africa's different cultural groups embracing the religion.

The Jewish population numbers less than 100 000. Of these, the majority are Orthodox Jews. Buddhism is barely organised in South Af-

rica. 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 tip of Africa with a coastline of about 3 000 km. The country stretches 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's biggest neighbours are the Atlantic and Indian oceans, which meet at the south-western corner of the continent.

The warm Mozambique-Agulhas current skirts the east and south coasts as far as Cape Agulhas, while the cold Benguela current flows northwards along the west coast as far as southern Angola.

The contrast in temperature between these two currents partly accounts for 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 does not offer 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

Although the country is classified as semi-arid, it has considerable variation in climate. 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. Being in the southern hemisphere, the seasons in South Africa are opposite to those of Europe and North America.

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 south-

ern 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 the 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 22: *Tourism*.)

Western Cape

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

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

Western Cape

Capital: Cape Town

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

Population: 5 356 900 (*Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2009*)

Area (km²): 129 370



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 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.

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.

The people

More than 5,3 million people live in the Western Cape on 129 370 km² of land (*Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2009*). Afrikaans is spoken by the majority, with isiXhosa and English being the other main languages.

A potpourri of diverse cultural backgrounds gives the province a cosmopolitan ambience, 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.

Agriculture and marine fisheries

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.

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 overfishing by foreign vessels by means of a 300-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 province has the lowest unemployment rate in the country, namely 19,7% (*Labour Force Survey, 2009*), compared with the national average of 23,2%.

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% were historically disadvantaged).

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

The Provincial Government implemented an initiative called “Die Plek Plan”, to create economic opportunities in rural and peri-urban areas. “Plek” is a contraction of the words “plaaslike” (local) and “ekonomiese” (economic). It works with municipalities and communities to identify projects that can create economic opportunities, and whose development is subsidised by the Rural Economic Assistance Fund with R20 million.

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 provinces. 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 is 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.

2010 FIFA World Cup™

Government is using the hosting of the 2010 World Cup to fast-track the growth and development of the country. Towns and cities have geared up to host thousands of ticket holders during 2010.

The investment in 2010 will benefit South Africans long after the tournament.

Cape Town is ready to host the World Cup. Preparations include:

- Green Point Stadium, which will host eight matches during the tournament, including a quarter-final and a semi-final
- R12 billion of investment in the Cape Town International Airport
- developing the Integrated Rapid Transport System

- developing public viewing areas (PVAs)
- provincial road-infrastructure upgrades, including the Koeberg interchange and the N2 Corridor
- FIFA’s Centre of Hope in Khayelitsha
- opportunities for volunteers and young people to develop skills and experience during the event
- upgrading the Philippi Stadium at a cost of R54 million as a “venue-specific” training site
- building at least six new hotels in the Western Cape
- building overall capacity in delivering health services.

The Final Draw on 4 December 2009 at the Cape Town International Convention Centre attracted a worldwide television viewership of 700 million people.

Eastern Cape

The Eastern Cape, with its vast natural resources, offers the adventurer and ecotourist a memorable experience. The province, with its 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 airports situated in Port Elizabeth, East London, Mthatha and Bhisho.

Eastern Cape

Capital: Bhisho

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

Population: 6 648 600 (*Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2009*)

Area (km²): 169 580



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 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.

The people

The Eastern Cape has almost seven million people living on 169 580 km² of land (*Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2009*). The majority of the people speak isiXhosa, followed by Afrikaans and English.

Agriculture, fishing and forestry

The Eastern Cape Provincial Government has approved the Provincial Cooperative Strategy to establish a cooperative development fund in 2009/10. Rural development and agrarian transformation are strategic priorities. Resources were provided to enable ownership by worker groups, namely pineapple farming in Peddie, chicory farming in Alexandria, citrus on the banks of the Kat River and at Addo, fruit farmers in Langkloof and the paprika farmers in Keiskammahoek.

The Eastern Cape has excellent agricultural and forestry potential. The fertile Langkloof Valley in the south-west has enormous deciduous

fruit orchards, while the Karoo interior is an important sheep-farming area. Angora wool is also produced here.

The Alexandria-Grahamstown area produces pineapples, chicory and dairy products, while coffee and tea are cultivated at Magwa. People in the former Transkei region are dependent on 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 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 (EU).

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

Industry

Trends in the Gross Domestic Product by Region (GDP-R) figures over the past five years suggest that the province experienced growth in line with the national average of above 4% per year. The Expanded Public Works Programme played a critical role in creating employment opportunities, especially for youth and women. From 2004 to 2008, over 212 000 employment opportunities were created and more than 50 000 people trained.

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 Government has allocated additional

resources to the Coega Development Corporation for the further development of the Automotive Supplier Park.

The Provincial Industrial Strategy 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.

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. During 2008/09, the automotive sector in the province attracted investment in excess of R3 billion.

The Provincial Government uses state procurement to build the cooperative and SMME sectors. In the 2008/09 financial year alone, government, through the Eastern Cape Development Corporation, disbursed R95 million in loans to the Emerging Contractor Programme and another R114 million to SMMEs.

With two harbours and four airports offering direct flights to the main centres, and an excellent road and rail infrastructure, the province has been earmarked as a key area for growth and economic development. Environmentally friendly projects include the Fish River Spatial Development Initiative (SDI), the Wild Coast SDI and the 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.

The East London IDZ plans to establish a "science" or technopark, where a culture of innovation and competitiveness of its associated business and knowledge-based institutions will be enhanced.

The Eastern Cape Provincial Government intends to support a number of key interventions to enhance the performance of Coega, including linkages with a number of logistical interventions in the Nelson Mandela area. Despite the economic downturn, Coega was expected to secure at least eight new investors for about R5,1 billion in the 2009/10 financial year.

2010 World Cup

The Eastern Cape is ready to play its part in hosting the 2010 World Cup. By mid-2009, the Provincial Government had invested R50 million in the refurbishment of sports facilities in Buffalo City.

The Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium was completed a year before the 2010 kick-off.

Hospitality services were expanded to ensure that a sufficient number of beds are available to accommodate tourists who will visit the province. More than 1 200 people have been trained in the hospitality sector.

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

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.

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.

Phase One of the Bhisho Airport was completed in 2008 and Mthatha Airport is being upgraded at a cost of R60 million.

KwaZulu-Natal

KwaZulu-Natal is South Africa's domestic tourism leader. 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.

The ports of Durban and Richards Bay are some of the busiest in South Africa. 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. The iSimangaliso Wetland Park is a world heritage site. 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 province boasts several universities of technology, universities and other educational institutions, including the University of KwaZulu-Natal and the Durban Institute of Technology.

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

The people

KwaZulu-Natal has more than 10 million people living on 92 100 km² of land (*Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2009*). 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.

Agriculture and industry

According to Stats SA, the average economic annual growth for KwaZulu-Natal for the period 2004 to 2008 was 4,1%, compared to 3,65% from 2001 to 2004.

The manufacturing sector is the largest in this province in terms of contribution to GDP (21%).

The Gijima SMME Upliftment Programme, co-ordinated by the Department of Economic Development and funded by the EU, is on track to reach its target of creating or saving 3 000 jobs according to the funding agreement.

From the inception of the Land Reform Programme of the former Department of Land Affairs in 1999 to 2009, the Provincial Land Reform Office had transferred 602 projects, resulting in the relocation of 329 070 ha to 106 694 beneficiaries.

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.

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.

2010 World Cup

KwaZulu-Natal has recently seen the biggest investment in infrastructure programmes in its history. This included:

KwaZulu-Natal 

Capital: Pietermaritzburg

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

Population: 10 449 300 (*Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2009*)

Area (km²): 92 100

- the R2,6-billion Moses Mabhida Stadium, which boasts a 350-m arch spanning the stadium
- R259 million that was made available for infrastructure development of stadiums in four district municipalities.

All of Durban's public-transport projects, which are being funded by national government to the amount of R1,2 billion, were expected to be completed by the first quarter of 2010.

These include additional dedicated public transport lanes, an innercity distribution system, park-and-ride facilities using existing car parks and buses, upgrades to major intersections, a freeway management system, a closed-circuit television (CCTV) road-monitoring system and a traffic call centre.

Durban's new King Shaka International Airport was expected to start operating in May 2010, in time for the FIFA World Cup, and a shuttle service would be provided for passengers between the airport and a central transport hub in the city.

A 10- to 15-m-wide promenade along the beachfront will give access to the fan park and to the stadium through an existing underpass, which will be widened and upgraded.

The pilot People Mover System – a wheelchair-friendly service with large windows – travels along a designated route within the city and along the beachfront, servicing over 500 000 people a year. The service, which is monitored by cameras to make it safe, runs every 15 minutes between 06:00 and 23:00.

Northern Cape

The Northern Cape is noted for its San rock art, diamond diggings, 4X4 safaris and the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. It is a vast stretch of semi-desert land. The distance from the capital, Kimberley, on the eastern border to Springbok (in the west) is more than 900 km. It is a large, dry region of fluctuating temperatures and varying topographies.

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 and at Upington. The Northern Cape has an excellent road network, which makes its interior easily ac-

cessible 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

Northern Cape		
Capital:	Kimberley	
Principal languages:	Afrikaans	68%
	Setswana	20,8%
Population:	1 147 600 (Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2009)	
Area (km²):	361 830	

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 just more than one million people on 361 830 km² of land (*Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2009*). About 68% of the population speak Afrikaans. Other languages spoken are Setswana, isiXhosa and English. The last remaining true San (Bushman) people live in the Kalahari area of the Northern Cape. The area, especially along the Orange and Vaal rivers, is rich in San rock engravings. A good collection can be seen at the McGregor Museum in Kimberley. The province is also rich in fossils.

Agriculture and industry

The Northern Cape is enjoying tremendous growth in value-added activities, including game farming. Food production and processing for the local and export market are 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 Gordonias 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 allows 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, and business advice and counselling to SMMEs.

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.

Agriculture is still one of the mainstay sectors of the Northern Cape's economy and is therefore critical in overall economic planning. In this regard, agricultural development programmes such as the Farmer Support and Development Programme and the Comprehensive Agriculture Support Programme were expected to be strengthened by funding of R49 million in 2009. More than R7 million of this was allocated to wine development. In 2009/10, more than R90 million was allocated to farmer support and development.

Mining

Kimberley 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, fluorspar, 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 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 opened 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

The 2010 Mass Mobilisation Programme was launched in Kimberley in January 2009. The Northern Cape will not be hosting any matches during the 2010 FIFA World Cup™. Buses will travel from the province to other host cities.

PVAs will provide the people of the Northern Cape with the opportunity to participate in the World Cup.

Free State

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

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 pro-

duced 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

According to the *Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2009*, there are more than 2,9 million people in the Free State on about 129 480 km² of land. The main languages spoken are Sesotho and Afrikaans.

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

Agriculture has always been considered to be the main sector in the province’s economy.

The Free State is a summer-rainfall region, which 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 area.

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 underway.

Mining

The province is the world's fifth-largest gold producer, with mining the major employer. It is also a leader in the chemicals industry, being home to the giant synthetic-fuels company, Sasol.

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

The Provincial Government has developed a number of strategies and policy documents to bring about shared benefits of freedom in the economic front. These include the policy to support SMMEs and a supply chain management policy to ensure preferential procurement. By June 2008, the Free State Development Corporation had approved loans totalling over R32 million primarily for SMMEs.

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

The upgraded Free State Stadium in Bloemfontein will host five first-round matches and one second-round match during the World Cup. Refurbishment was completed by November 2008, ahead of the FIFA-required deadline.

Other projects included:

- Mangaung activity corridor and the establishment of the intermodal facility
- finalising funding and business plans for the upgrading of access roads from the N8 to Bloemfontein Airport and the airport itself
- revamping resorts, water distribution and purification works
- ICT development and upgrade
- establishing a sports museum
- installing CCTV cameras in Mangaung.

Cooperation with Lesotho and the Northern Cape will extend the economic benefits of the event far beyond the borders of the Free State.

Free State		
Capital: Bloemfontein		
Principal languages: Sesotho		64,4%
Afrikaans		11,9%
isiXhosa		9,1%
Population: 2 902 400 (<i>Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2009</i>)		
Area (km²): 129 480		

North West

North West boasts a year-round sunny climate, exciting wildlife destinations like the Pilanesberg National Park and Madikwe Game Reserve, various cultural and historical attractions and Sun City and Lost City. Also known as the “Platinum Province”, North West 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. Most economic activity is concentrated in the Southern Region (between Potchefstroom and Klerksdorp), Rustenburg, and the Eastern Region, where more than 83,3% of GDP-R of the province is generated.

An amount of R3,1 billion was allocated to address infrastructure needs in the 2009/10 financial year.

The people

Of the 3,4 million people living in the North West, 65% live in the rural areas (*Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2009*).

Mining

Mining has always been strong in the North West, and more is being done in terms of mineral beneficiation in the province, making the most of the natural advantage that the province enjoys.

Mining is responsible for more than a third of the province's GDP. Platinum comes from the Rustenburg and Brits districts, which produce more platinum than any other single platinum-production area in the world. Diamonds are mined at Lichtenburg, Koster, Christiana and Bloemhof. Fluorspar is exploited at Zeerust. Granite and marble are also mined, and copper and nickel by-products also yield substantial earnings annually.

Recent projects included:

- the development of a granite-beneficiation operation that involves the cutting and polishing of granite slabs and tiles for both the local and export market
- new investments to mine and process limestone into cement for export have been concluded for the Mafikeng area
- International Ferro Metals, a successful new ferrochrome mine in the North West with a processing plant adjacent to the mine, is expected to be one of the lowest-cost producers of ferrochrome in the world, minimising chrome handling
- the Minerals Park Project in the Mafikeng IDZ will focus on, among other things, diamond-beneficiating operations, including the cutting, polishing and manufacturing of diamond jewellery.

Manufacturing

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

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

In the manufacturing area, automotive parts, electrical machinery, electronic, and audio and medical equipment are being manufactured in the province using local material.

The Centre for Advanced Manufacturing (CFAM) was originally started in Potchefstroom. It is a self-sufficient business that initially supplied a comprehensive re-engineering service to the extrusion and mining industry. The CFAM has also developed equipment that can be used to add value to affordable cereals such as maize meal and thus offers food that is ideal for low-cost feeding schemes in rural areas.

With the assistance of Invest North West, the North West is keeping up with the global trend of developing science parks. The proposed North West Science Park in Potchefstroom will include a related community employment and entrepreneurial centre. Initial grant funding of R40 million is required to ensure self-sustainability, even at only 60% occupancy.

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 GDP-R and 19% to formal employment.

Some 5,9% of the South African GDP in agriculture and 16,96% of total labour in agriculture are

North West

Capital: Mafikeng

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

Population: 3 450 400 (*Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2009*)

Area (km²): 116 320



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.

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 being the official match venue.

The stadium was also used for the Confederations Cup in June 2009.

Gauteng

Gauteng continues to serve as the economic engine room of the country and the subcontinent, responsible for over 34,8% of the country's GDP.

Although it is the smallest of South Africa's nine provinces, covering only 1,4% of the country's land area, it contributes about a third of the country's total GDP. 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.

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

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 Kliptown, 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; and one of the largest shopping malls, the 65 000-m² Maponya Mall, which attracts on average 1,5 million people a month.

Some 50 km north of Johannesburg lies Pretoria, dominated by government departments 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 known 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. Mamelodi; and Cullinan, known for its diamonds, lies to the east. To the west, lies Atteridgeville.

Other important Gauteng towns include Krugersdorp and Roodepoort on the West Rand; and Germiston, Springs, Boksburg, Benoni, Brakpan and Kempton Park on the East Rand.

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

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

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 uni-

versity in the world, the University of South Africa, known as 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.

The people

Gauteng is the most densely populated province in South Africa. About 10,53 million of the country's people (*Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2009*) live in this province. The level of urbanisation is 97%.

Manufacturing

Manufacturing is one of the key drivers of the economy of the province. Mining dominates the western areas of Gauteng and manufacturing the eastern parts.

Gauteng is the centre of the country's motor-manufacturing industry. The manufacturing sector alone employs about 600 000 people in over 9 000 enterprises. This includes basic iron and steel, fabricated metal products, food, machinery, electrical machinery, appliances and electrical supplies, vehicle parts, accessories and chemical products.

Technology

A large number of institutions engaged in R&D and innovation choose Gauteng as their preferred site of operation. The Innovation Hub in Pretoria is Africa's first internationally accredited science park and a full member of the International Association of Science Parks. Its community has become a regional centre of innovation and knowledge creation, linked to the fast moving world of global interconnectivity.

The Innovation Hub has created a unique space for high-tech entrepreneurs, world-class businesses, academics, researchers and venture capitalists to meet, network and prosper. In 2008, there were 68 companies resident within The Innovation Hub precinct, made up of SMMEs and multinational companies, employing in excess of 1 000 people.

Agriculture and industry

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

A large area of the province falls within the so-called "Maize Triangle". The districts of Bronkhorstspruit, Cullinan and Heidelberg hold important agricultural land, where 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 subregional areas, namely the Vaal Triangle; the East, West and Central Rand; and Pretoria.

The Vaal Triangle has a strong manufacturing sector; the West Rand concentrates on primary mining; and the Central Witwatersrand is dominated by the manufacturing and finance sectors, with mining capital playing a major role.

All sectors rely heavily on the Vaal Dam (on the Vaal River), from where water is piped across the province.

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

By August 2009, the refurbishment of Soccer City, Loftus Versfeld and Ellis Park stadiums was on track. Johannesburg will host the International Broadcasting Centre and develop a multimillion rand precinct around Nasrec.

Soccer City, near Soweto, Johannesburg, will host the opening and final matches of the 2010 World Cup as well as the opening and closing ceremonies.

Gauteng

Capital: Johannesburg

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

Population: 10 531 300 (*Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2009*)

Area (km²): 17 010



In 2009, the telecommunications infrastructure was being upgraded to meet international standards as well as local and international demands.

The roads and transport infrastructure was being revamped to ensure quick and easy travelling to the match venues and tourist destinations while OR Tambo International Airport, which is the main port of entry, is ready to welcome and process large numbers of soccer lovers and tourists.

In 2009, the hospitality industry was working to improve accommodation and related services.

Dedicated police, emergency, medical, health, traffic and disaster-management services were preparing to ensure quality service delivery.

Mpumalanga

Mpumalanga is aptly called “Paradise Country” and people are drawn to the province by the magnificent scenery, the fauna and flora and the saga of the 1870 gold-rush era. Mpumalanga means “Place where the Sun Rises”. 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 known 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.

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

Over the past five years, the provincial economy achieved an average growth of 4,7%. Even though it is one of the smaller provinces, Mpumalanga has a population of about 3,6 million people.

Agriculture and forestry

Agriculture in Mpumalanga, which holds 17% of the medium-potential arable land in South Africa, is characterised by a combination of commercialised farming, subsistence and livestock farming and emerging crop farming. Higher demands for agricultural products due to continuing population growth in the country, increases in the export of agricultural goods via Maputo harbour and potential for increased agricultural production are expected to boost this sector in future.

Mpumalanga		
Capital:	Nelspruit	
Principal languages:	siSwati	30,8%
	isiZulu	26,4%
	isiNdebele	12,1%
Population:	3 606 800 (Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2009)	
Area (km²):	79 490	

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 and 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.

Industry and manufacturing

Most of the manufacturing production in Mpumalanga occurs in the southern Highveld region, especially in the Highveld Ridge where large petrochemical industries such as Sasol II and III are located. Large-scale manufacturing occurs especially in the northern Highveld area, in particular, chrome alloy and steel manufacturing.

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

Since 2005, the Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency has facilitated more than R1,2-billion investment into the province.

During 2008, 16 657 SMMEs accessed business-development support and 284 SMMEs received financial support.

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.

Anglo Coal, Sappi, Columbus Stainless and York Timbers invested R11,3 billion in the province between 2004 and 2008 and created close to 5 000 jobs.

The recommissioning of three power stations in the province by Eskom is another important on-

going investment project that has presented opportunities to municipalities in the 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, which was launched in December 2008; the Moloto Rail Development Corridor; Water for All, Heritage, Greening Mpumalanga; and various tourism programmes.

2010 World Cup

In June 2009, work on developing the show-grounds into a world-class outdoor events and recreational and cultural hub began. The facility will stage various shows, exhibitions and cultural events ahead of and beyond 2010.

The Mbombela Stadium, with a capacity of 46 000 seats, will host four matches in Nelspruit. In 2008, construction had commenced on the Matsafeni access road, the R40 high-occupancy vehicle lane, and the P166 and N4 interchange site. An integrated 2010 Safety and Security Plan has been developed.

Limpopo

Limpopo, South Africa's northernmost province, borders onto Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Botswana, making it the ideal entrance to Africa. Named after the Limpopo River that flows along its northern border, the province is rich in wildlife, spectacular scenery and a wealth of historical and cultural treasures.

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

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 caters for about 38 000 passengers a year.

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.

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.

Several museums and national monuments bear testimony to ancient people 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.

The people

According to the *Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2009*, about 5,2 million people live on about 123 910 km² of land in Limpopo.

Limpopo		
Capital:	Polokwane	
Principal languages:	Sesotho sa Leboa	52,1%
	Xitsonga	2,4%
	Tshivenda	15,9%
Population:	5 227 200 (<i>Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2009</i>)	
Area (km²):	123 910	

Agriculture

Limpopo contributes 6,7% to the national GDP. 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 create many employment opportunities in the Tzaneen area.

The climatic conditions in this province allow for double harvesting seasons, which ultimately translate 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 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 and mining

Major international mining operations contribute 20% to Limpopo's economy, making mining the primary driver of economic activity. The province is also the world's largest producer of antimony, a strategic element used in alloys and medicine.

Limpopo is rich in mineral deposits, including platinum-group metals, iron ore, chromium, high- and middle-gradings coking coal, diamonds, antimony, phosphate and copper, as well as mineral reserves such as 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 manufac-

tured 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 viable investment opportunities.

2010 World Cup

The Peter Mokaba Stadium in Polokwane will host five of the 2010 World Cup matches.

Following a major refurbishment, Polokwane International Airport was re-launched at the end of 2008, and has the capacity to cope with the expected influx of tourists to the region.

Acknowledgements

Original text by Theuns and Heila van Rensburg
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