



Statistics South Africa

CENSUS 2001

Key results



The count

- In October 2001, the people of South Africa were counted. Census night, or the night of the count, was 9-10 October 2001.
- The country was divided into 80 000 areas called enumerator areas (EAs). More than 100 000 people were employed to collect information.
- The information collected was processed using scanning technology. The captured data were edited and made accessible for analysis.
- In every census, some people or households are missed, or counted twice.
- During November 2001, therefore, a post-enumeration survey (PES) was conducted to measure undercount or overcount in the census.
- The numbers and percentages presented here are adjusted according to the PES findings.

General results

- On census night, there were 44,8 million people in South Africa.
- The province with the largest population was KwaZulu-Natal (9,4 million), followed by Gauteng (8,8 million).
- The province with the smallest population was the Northern Cape (0,8 million).
- The percentage of the population aged 0-14 decreased from 34,3% in 1996 to 32,1% in 2001.
- The percentage of the population 65 years and older increased from 4,8% in 1996 to 4,9% in 2001.
- Four out of five South Africans (79%) were black Africans.

Provincial population

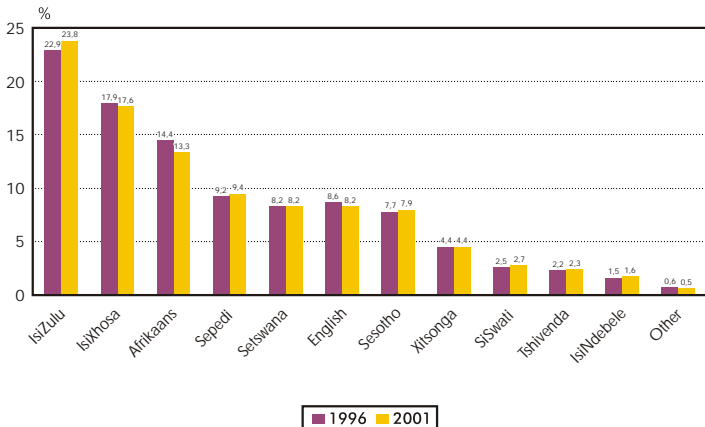
Population by province – 1996 and 2001

	1996	2001	% growth
Eastern Cape	6 302 525	6 436 763	2,1
Free State	2 633 504	2 706 775	2,8
Gauteng	7 348 423	8 837 178	20,3
KwaZulu-Natal	8 417 021	9 426 017	12,0
Limpopo	4 929 368	5 273 642	7,0
Mpumalanga	2 800 711	3 122 990	11,5
Northern Cape	840 321	822 727	-2,1
North West	3 354 825	3 669 349	9,4
Western Cape	3 956 875	4 524 335	14,3
South Africa	40 583 573	44 819 778	10,4

- The census results show that the South African population increased from 40,6 million people in 1996 to 44,8 million people in 2001 – a growth of 10%.
- The largest increase was in Gauteng (20%), followed by the Western Cape (14%). The Eastern Cape and the Free State each showed growth of less than 3%, while in the Northern Cape there were fewer people in 2001 than in 1996.
- Internal migration of people from the more rural provinces to the more urban provinces may in part explain these differences in population growth.

Language

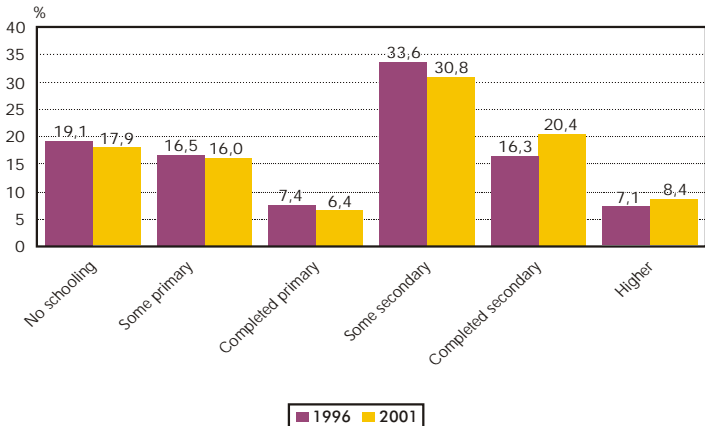
Distribution of the population by language spoken most often at home – 1996 and 2001



- This graph shows the percentage of the population that uses each official language as their home language.
- Despite the fact that English is recognised as the language of commerce and science, it was spoken by only 8,2% of South Africans at home in 2001, an even lower percentage than in 1996 (8,6%).
- By contrast, nearly a quarter of the population gave isiZulu as their home language. This is more than for the five least-spoken official home languages (Sesotho, Xitsonga, siSwati, Tshivenda and isiNdebele) put together (19%).

Education

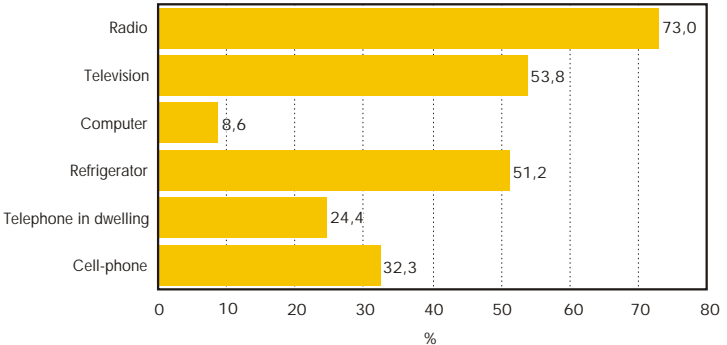
Highest level of education of population aged 20 and above – 1996 and 2001



- This graph clearly shows the gains made since 1996 in the numbers of people who had completed high school or tertiary education.
- By contrast, one in three South Africans aged 20 and older had not completed primary school or had no schooling at all.
- It should be noted that the graph does not include people younger than 20, so possible recent gains in successfully completed primary education are excluded.

Household goods

Percentage of households with selected household goods in working condition – October 2001



Excluding collective living quarters

- Nearly three-quarters of households in the country had a radio, well over half had a television, and just over half had a refrigerator. At the other end of the scale, fewer than 10% had a computer.
- This graph masks differences between population groups. For example, the much-spoken-of 'digital divide' is evident in the fact that less than 2% of African-headed households had a computer, as opposed to 46% of white-headed households.
- Similarly, only 12% of African-headed households had a telephone in the home, as against the national total of 24% shown in the graph. This may in part explain the popularity of cell-phones: twice as many African-headed households had cell-phones (25%) as had fixed-line telephones.

General information



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