



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

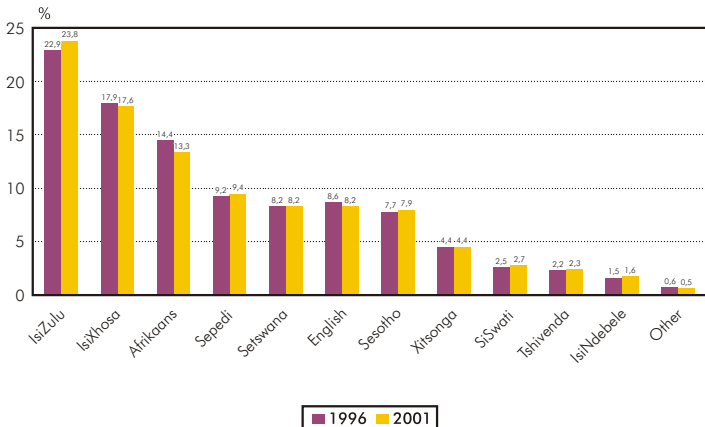
## Population by province – 1996 and 2001

	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
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>40 583 573</b>	<b>44 819 778</b>	<b>10,4</b>

- The census results show that the South African population increased from 40,5 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

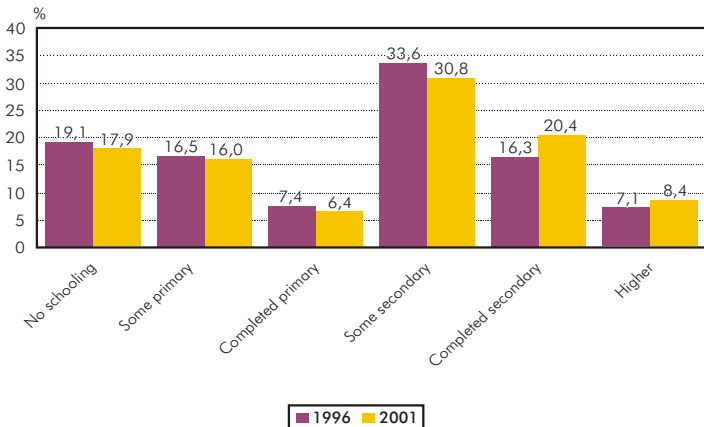
## Distribution of the population by language spoken most often at home – 1996 and 2001



- 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

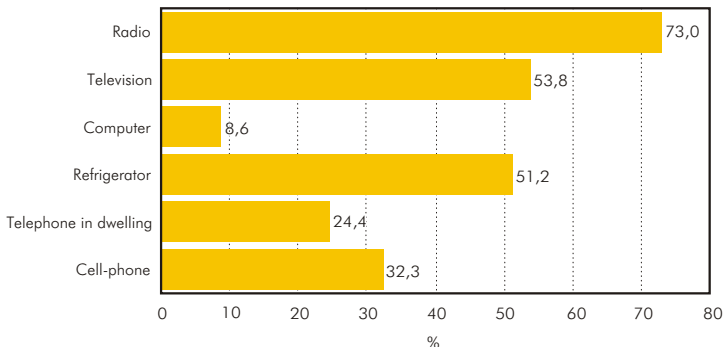
## Highest level of education of population aged 20 and above – 1996 and 2001



- 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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