

Provincial Statistics (Part 1) - Western Cape

1995

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WESTERN CAPE POPULATION HAS HIGHEST LIFE EXPECTANCY

The population of the Western Cape has the highest life expectancy of all the provinces and 94,6% of the adults are literate. The report is the first of a series of ten reports published by the CSS, which undertake a detailed statistical investigation of each of the nine provinces of SA, as well as a tenth report on South Africa as a whole. The reports provide information on various demographic, socio-economic and economic statistics gathered by the CSS at both national and provincial level.

Provincial Statistics 1995, Part 1: Western Cape, is an invaluable instrument to provide decision-makers and planners in the public and private sectors with a demographic, socio-economic and economic profile of the Western Cape. It should also satisfy the need for statistical information on the Western Cape with regard to researchers, developers, investors and the general public. The publication strives to give the reader an idea of the statistics compiled by the CSS as well as other government departments such as the Weather Bureau and the Department of Education.

Information provided in the report ranges from statistical demographic information on population, language and age group, to information on tourism, housing and education. Labour statistics and various economic statistics on transport, mining, construction and the service sectors in the Western are also included.

According to the report, the life expectancy of 67,7 years of age for the population of the Western Cape is the highest life expectancy of all the provinces. It is well above the national average of 62,8 years and Gauteng's 66 years. An adult literacy rate of 94,6% for the province is also indicated, compared with an adult literacy rate of 82,2% for the RSA as a whole in 1991. This information is derived from the Human Development Index (HDI), measuring people's quality of life through indicators such as longevity, health and communicative ability. On the relative ranking of the HDI, the Western Cape compares well with countries such as Venezuela and Singapore.

Other information in this report relates to the size of the predominantly winter rainfall region of the Western Cape which comprises 10,6% (129 370 km²) of the total area of the RSA (1 219 090 km²). According to the CSS's mid-year estimates the 3 721 200-strong population of the Western Cape comprises 9,0% of that of the whole country (41 244 430). Its population density of 28,8 per square kilometre compares well with the average for the rest of South Africa (33,8) and Gauteng (374,7).

After Gauteng (37,7%) and KwaZulu/Natal (14,8%), the Western Cape (13,7%) is the main contributor to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the country. A per capita income of R13 490 for 1993 is the second highest in the country and is only surpassed by Gauteng at R19 261 per capita. The inflation rate in the province for

1995 is 8,7% - the same as that of the RSA. Although the main contributor to the Gross Geographic Product (GGP) of the province is still manufacturing (23,1%), both tourism (20,5%), and the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry (6,5%) are playing an ever increasing role in the economy of the province.

Another interesting characteristic of the Western Cape is that the home language of 62,2% (2 125 793) of the inhabitants (3 417 674) is Afrikaans. English is second with 20,0% (683 535) and isiXhosa third with 15,3% (522 904).

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