

Provincial Statistics (Part 5) - KwaZulu/Natal

1995

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KWAZULU/NATAL HOUSES MAJORITY OF SA POPULATION

The latest Central Statistical Service (CSS) report entitled Provincial Statistics 1995: Part 5 (report number 00-90-05) indicates that KwaZulu/Natal had an adult literacy rate of 84,3% for the province in 1991, compared with 82,2% for the country as a whole. The province houses 21% of the total RSA population, with 74,6% of all isiZulu and 37,4% of all English home language speakers in the country.

KwaZulu/Natal houses the only monarchy in the country. This "garden" province is bordered by both the Drakensberg and the Indian Ocean, with the warm Agulhas current creating a sub-tropical climate in large parts of the province.

With no border changes under the new dispensation, KwaZulu/Natal has a surface area of 92 100 km², which is only 7,6% (1 219 090 km²) of the total area of the country.

Of all Blacks (31 460 970) in the country, 22,9% live in KwaZulu/Natal. Within the province, Blacks comprise 82,7% of the total number of inhabitants (8 713 100), with Asians the second largest group at 9,2% (799 300). Of the total Asian population in the RSA (1 051 450), 76% of Asians live here. Of all isiZulu speakers, 74,6% live in KwaZulu/Natal. The province also houses 37,4% of all English home language speakers (3 497 104) in the RSA.

According to the **Human Development Index (HDI)** which was calculated by the Central Statistical Service (CSS) for the RSA and the provinces for 1980 and 1991, the inhabitants of KwaZulu/Natal have the third lowest life expectancy of all the provinces, with North-West having the lowest (59,7 years) and Eastern Cape the second lowest (60,7 years). This index is a measure of people's ability to live a long and healthy life, to be able to communicate, to participate in the life of the community and to have sufficient means to afford a decent living. The life expectancy for the inhabitants of KwaZulu/Natal is calculated to be 61,6 years, compared with a national average of 62,8 years and 60,7 years for the Eastern Cape and 66,0 years for Gauteng. On the relative ranking of the HDI, KwaZulu/Natal compares well with countries such as China and Egypt. This index also indicates an adult literacy rate of 84,3% for the province in 1991, compared with 82,2% for the country as a whole. **Adult literacy** refers to persons who are 15 years and older who can read, write and speak their home language.

The **October Household Survey (OHS)** a survey with a sample of approximately 30 000 households conducted by the CSS in 1994, is the source of a number of very interesting indicators of social development. This survey shows that:

* 45% of all inhabitants in KwaZulu/Natal live in fully paid off dwellings - 37,6% in urban and 59,5% in non-urban areas;

* 97,9% of Asians and 99,1% of Whites have access to running tap-water in the dwelling, compared

to only 25,9% of Blacks;

* 98,5% of Asians use electricity as the main energy source for cooking, while 33,1% of Blacks still use wood. For heating purposes, 45,4% of Blacks use wood, of which only 30,7% have access to electricity;

* the total unemployment rate (expanded definition) in KwaZulu/Natal is 32,2% which is comparable with the 32,6% for the RSA as a whole. The unemployment rate for males is 25,7% and for females 39,9%.

The annual per capita income of KwaZulu/Natal is R6 157 for 1993, which does not compare well with the national average of R8 704. The inflation rate of 8,5% for 1995, the third lowest of all the provinces, is below the national average of 8,7%.

Although the main contributor to the Gross Geographic Product (GGP) of KwaZulu/Natal is manufacturing, sectors such as the wholesale and retail trade and accommodation and catering service industries are playing an ever increasing role in contributing to the economy of the province.

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