

Provincial Statistics (Part 7) - Gauteng

1995

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Gauteng: Economic Powerhouse of South Africa

Gauteng covers only 1,4% of the total area of South Africa, but is home to 17,1% of the country's inhabitants. As such, it is by far South Africa's most densely-populated province, with 374,7 persons per square kilometre compared to the national average of 33,8.

This is according to the Central Statistical Service's latest provincial report, Provincial Statistics 1995 (report number 00-90-07), which also notes that Gauteng has the highest per capita income of all the provinces.

Of the province's 7 048 300 inhabitants, blacks form a majority (63,1% or 4 444 500) compared to whites, who constitute 30,5% or 2 153 100) of Gauteng's inhabitants.

Gauteng is a highly urbanised area, with only 4% of inhabitants living in non-urban areas (those without any form of established local authority).

One fifth (20,5%) of Gauteng's inhabitants speak Afrikaans as their home language, as against 18,4% who speak isiZulu and 16,1% who speak English. The cosmopolitan character of the province is illustrated by the fact it is home to 34,4% of South African inhabitants who do not have an official language as their home language.

After the Western Cape, the inhabitants of Gauteng have the highest life expectancy of all provinces - 66 years compared to the national average of 62,8 years. The adult literacy rate in the province, which refers to those who are 15 years and older and can read, write and speak their home language, is 92,9%, as against 82,2% for the country as a whole.

Gauteng has a *per capita* income of R19 261 in 1993 - the highest of all the provinces - compared to the national average of R8 704.

While the mining industry contributes only 5,1% to the gross geographic product (GGP) in the province, Gauteng has 159 mines (44 gold mines) which employ more than 190 000 people. The tertiary sector (including trade, finance, insurance, real estate and business services) is the main contributor to Gauteng's GGP (61,6%), followed by manufacturing (27,1%). Gauteng contributes 37,7% of South Africa's gross domestic product (GDP), followed by KwaZulu/Natal (14,8%) and the Western Cape (13,7%). During the period under review, the inflation rate for the province was 8,6%, marginally lower than the national average of 8,7% .

The full statistical report on Gauteng report is available from the publications

subdivision of Central Statistics, 274 Schoeman Street, Steyn's Arcade, Pretoria, 0001, at R20,00 per copy.

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