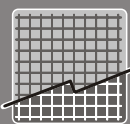


THE
YOUNG PEOPLE
OF
SOUTH AFRICA

Selected findings from Census '96



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**Statistics South Africa
Pretoria
2001**

**Mr PL Lehohla
Statistician-General**

THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Executive summary

"Youth are a valued possession of the nation. Without them there is no future. Their needs are immense and urgent." — former president of South Africa, Nelson Mandela.

After the transition to democracy in 1994, South Africa emerged as a society with a variety of inherent problems. The legacy of racial and gender inequality inherited from the policies of the previous government impacted negatively on the living conditions of certain sectors of the population. These policies had affected areas such as the provision of basic services, e.g. water and electricity, and proper housing, as well as access to education, health care and jobs.

Since 1994 government has made it its business to address these imbalances. Particular attention has been paid to improving the living conditions of rural communities, women and the youth.

Using data from Census '96 this report presents a comprehensive picture of the youth of South Africa. Areas highlighted include the demographic profile, marital status and childbearing patterns of the youth, and their access to education and participation in the labour market.

The statistics presented in the study provide a baseline measurement to facilitate planning, implementation and monitoring of policies for developing the youth as an important sector of the population.

According to the National Youth Act of 1996, youth in South Africa are defined as persons in the age group 14 to 35 years. This age bracket is used in most instances to define youth in this report. However, in some sections of the report this age bracket differs somewhat. For example, as 15 is the age at which children are permitted formally to enter the labour market, this age is used as the lowest age in the chapter on the labour market. Another deviation from the ages included in the usual age bracket is in the case of statistics relating to childbearing in which case 12 years is used as the lowest age in the age bracket. The choice of 12 years as the lowest age was prompted by the fact that a small percentage of girls at age 12 and 13 have a first child.

Demographic profile

- Of the 40,6 million people living in the country in October 1996, just over 16,1 million or forty per cent were youth, i.e. people in the age bracket 14 to 35. South Africa's population is thus relatively youthful, a feature of the population of many developing countries.
- Nearly four in every five of the youth in the country were African, somewhat less than one tenth coloured, one tenth white and the remaining three per cent Indian.
- The proportion of African youth (79%) is higher than the proportion of Africans in the entire population (77%) while the proportion of white youth (10%) is smaller than the proportion of whites in the population as a whole (11%).
- About 21% of all youth in South Africa live in KwaZulu-Natal – followed by Gauteng (20%) and Eastern Cape (14%). Only 2% of the country's youth live in Northern Cape.

- Proportionally, more youth are moving into urban areas (57%) compared to the rest of the population (54%).
- Indian youth are the most urbanised (97%), followed by whites (91%) while African youth are the least urbanised (48%).

Marital status and childbearing

- Women in South Africa tend to marry earlier than men. In the 20-24 years age category, seven per cent of women married according to traditional African custom and eight per cent according to civil/religious rites. In the same age bracket, two per cent of men married according to traditional African custom and three per cent according to civil/religious rites.
- Proportionally more women than men were likely to indicate that they were divorced or separated from their spouses. Four per cent of women in the 30-35 years age category were either divorced or separated from their spouses compared with 25% of men in the same age category.

Age of mother at birth of first child

- Of all women aged between 12 and 35 years who had given birth to at least one child, 0,7% had given birth to their first child at the age of 12 and 1% at the age of 13 years.
- Proportionally, more women (11%), in this age group (12-35) gave birth to their first child at the age of 20 years.
- African women tend to give birth to a first child at a younger age than women in other population groups. About one per cent of African women gave birth to their first child at 12 years of age, compared to a small fraction of a percentage of women in other population groups.

Education

- The highest proportion of children was enrolled in educational institutions at the age 14 years (94%) and 15 years (93%).
- Of the 14 year-old youth that were studying, two per cent did not have any formal education – increasing to four per cent among those aged 35 years.
- From 29 years onwards, the proportion of youth studying with little, if any education, increases.
- One per cent of youth aged 20 had qualifications in higher education. This rose significantly to 31% among those aged 35 years.

- Twelve per cent of all youth that were not studying in 1996 did not have any formal education. In the 14 year-old group this percentage was higher (52%) than in the age group 35 years (16%).
- Most youth in the age group 17 to 35 years had ‘some secondary’ education.

The labour market

- There were 14,7 million youth in South Africa in the age group 15 to 35 years. Of these, 48,5% were not economically active, 30,0% were employed while 21,5% were unemployed.

The employed

- The community, social and personal services sector provided the highest proportion of jobs (19,6%) to youth. This was followed by trade (15,3%) and agriculture (11,0%).
- Most employed female youth worked in private households (26,5%) followed by employment in community services (14,2%).
- Most male youth were employed in community services (26,2%) followed by employment in manufacturing (15,4%).
- The highest proportion of employed young females had elementary jobs (36%) while the highest proportion of males were craftsmen (23%).
- Four per cent of employed male youth – compared with 2,6% employed female youth – worked in management positions.
- More than two in every five employed African male youth (45,0%) worked as artisans and operators while about half (50,0%) of employed African female youth held elementary jobs.
- About 54,0% of employed African male youth and 69,0% of employed African female youth earned R1 000 and less per month in 1996.

Unemployment

- The overall unemployment rate for youth in South Africa according to Census '96 was 40,8%.
- Eastern Cape had the highest unemployment rate (55,6%), followed by Northern Province (53,5%) while Western Cape (22,3%) and Gauteng (35,8%) had the lowest rates.
- The unemployment rate for economically active youth was higher for females (49,6%) than for males (33,0%).

- The problem of lack of jobs is more intense in non-urban areas where the unemployment rate was at 51,3% compared to 35,7% in urban areas.
- African youth, both males (46,7%) and females (55,7%), had the highest unemployment rates compared to other population groups.
- The unemployment rates for both male youth and female youth without any formal education was 33,8% and 52,3% respectively.

In October 1996, the first non-racial, nation-wide census in South Africa's history was conducted. For the first time in a quarter of a century, the census included all South Africans in every part of the country. The results of Census '96 thus provided a comprehensive picture of the entire population.

Due to its full-scale coverage, Census '96 highlighted numerous inequalities ignored in previous censuses. These included areas such as access to services. By showing the interaction between demographic, economic, social and political factors, Census '96 provides indispensable information for effective policy formulation and development planning.

The aim of this report is to give a picture of youth in South Africa based on an analysis of Census '96 data.

Demarcation and enumeration

In preparation for Census '96, the country was first divided into 86 000 little clusters each with 100-200 households called enumerator areas (EAs). These enumerator areas included suburbs, townships, informal settlements, as well as farms and villages. Close to 100 000 enumerators were employed to collect information by means of questionnaires. Enumerators visited people in their homes, in hostels, prisons and other institutions. The homeless were also enumerated. In total, nine million households were visited.

Questionnaires

Whereas in earlier censuses questionnaires were printed only in English and Afrikaans, the Census '96 questionnaire was made available in all the eleven official languages of South Africa. Respondents in each household could select the language of their choice when supplying information by interview or by filling out the form.

Different questionnaires were used to accommodate different situations. There were questionnaires for:

Households

- This type of questionnaire was designed to obtain information on persons who belonged to a household on census night. Information requested included, for example the age, educational status and access to services of all persons in the household.

Hostels

- This questionnaire in the form of a summary book was designed specifically for people living in hostels, e.g. mine compounds or hostels of local authorities. The supervisor or hostel manager was required to list all the households and persons living in the hostel. The people themselves supplied information on separate questionnaires.

Special institutions and homeless persons

This questionnaire was designed to obtain information on the type of institution and a list of the inmates.

This questionnaire contained a small sub-set of only seven questions as against the approximate 50 questions in the household and personal questionnaires.

A special questionnaire was designed for homeless persons and this was administered during a sweep on census night. In order to facilitate coding and data entry, results obtained during this type of enumeration were later transcribed to standard enumerator books for special enumeration.

Adjusting for under-count

In certain instances, households or individuals were erroneously missed, resulting in an under-count, or counted twice, resulting in an over-count. Immediately after enumeration, a nation-wide post-enumeration survey was undertaken. This served as a 'post-mortem' to estimate the percentage of undercount.

A total of one per cent of the total number of census enumerator areas (EAs) countrywide was sampled. Some skilled enumerators from Statistics South Africa had to re-list the households within these EAs and later revisit them to check the count.

The results from this exercise were compared with those from the wider census by matching household and individual. Accordingly, an improved adjustment of 10,6% for 'undercount' was achieved.

Chapter outline of the remainder of the report

In the second chapter, the report focuses mainly on the demographic background of the youth in South Africa. The chapter gives a total breakdown of youth by population group, province, urban-rural distribution, first language, and sex.

In the third chapter, three aspects are examined, marital status and childbearing amongst young women, and internal migration of youth in South Africa.

Youth and education is the theme of the fourth chapter. The chapter highlights important issues on the educational status of youth in South Africa. Topics dealt with include the level of youth enrolment in educational institutions, highest educational achievement of those attending or not attending educational institutions.

The last two chapters deal with the labour market in South Africa in relation to the youth.

First, in chapter five, labour statistics are analysed in order to identify the level of employment among youth in South Africa. The analysis looks at employment sectors, occupational status and monthly income.

In chapter six, the rate of unemployment among the youth in South Africa is discussed. Differences in unemployment rate, urban and non-urban, in the nine provinces are highlighted. The chapter concludes by a discussion of other factors that underpin the differences in unemployment among youth. These include sex, population group and the level of education.

The demographic picture of youth in South Africa

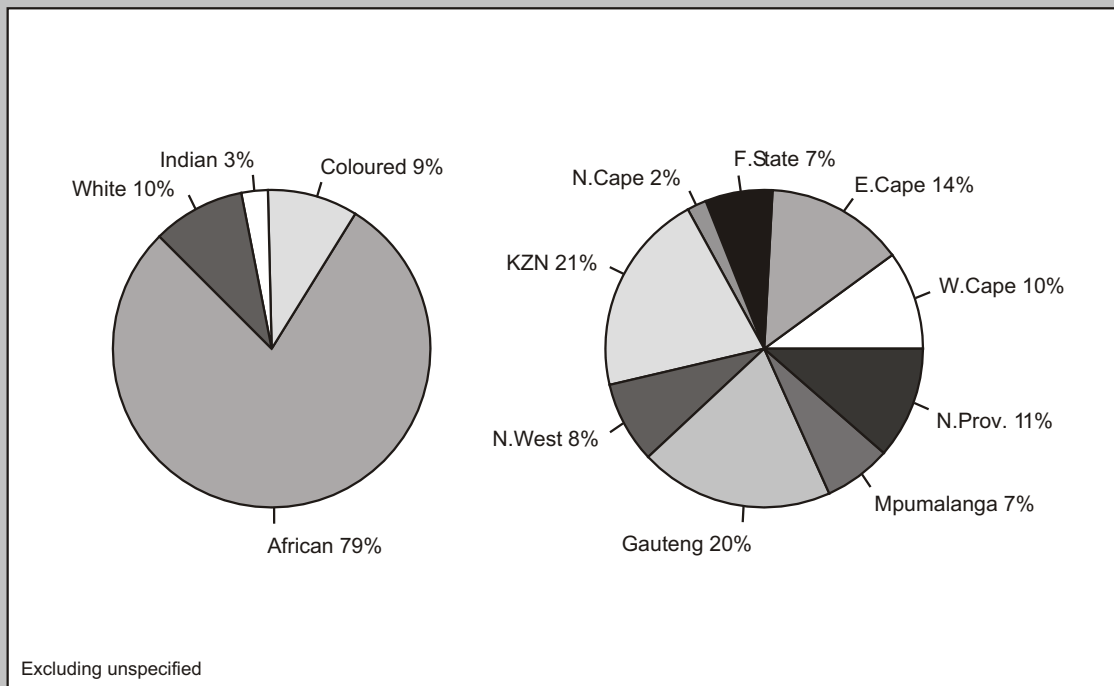
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Who are the youth and where are they in the country?

The National Youth Act of 1996 defines youth as persons aged from 14 to 35 years.

In 1996 there were 16,1 million youth in South Africa, constituting approximately 40% of the 40,6 million people countrywide. Of these, African youth accounted for 79%, coloured youth 9%, Indian youth 3% and whites 10%.

Figure 2.1: The youth of South Africa by population group and province



The proportion of African youth (79%) is increasing, compared to the proportion of Africans in the entire population (77%), while the proportion of white youth is decreasing (10%) compared with the proportion of whites in the country as a whole (11%).

In South Africa as a whole, counting all people, 21% of people lived in KwaZulu-Natal at the time of Census '96, while 20% lived in Gauteng, 14% in Eastern Cape, 11% in Northern Province, and 10% in Western Cape. Thus there seems to be a movement of younger people from predominantly rural provinces such as Northern Province and Eastern Cape into mainly urban provinces like Gauteng.

A further breakdown of the young population of South Africa into each of the nine provinces by population group is shown in Table 2.1. The table shows that African youth form the largest proportion of the population in seven of the nine provinces. At least 97% of the youth in Northern Province are African followed by 92% in North West and 90% in Mpumalanga. This is reflected in the distribution of the people by race in the country as a whole.

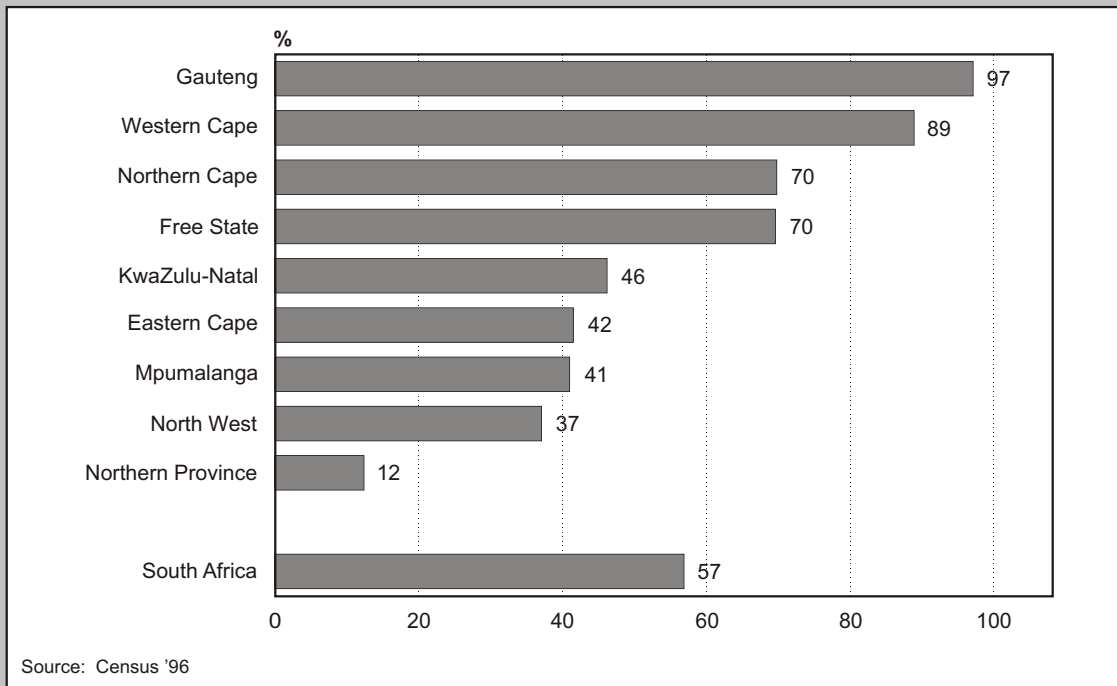
Fifty seven per cent of the youth live in urban areas as against 54% of all South Africans. This confirms the view that youth are moving into urban areas. However, as regards the nine provinces, vast differences can be observed in the urban/non-urban distribution of the youth in each of them.

Table 2.1: The youth of South Africa by population group and province

Province	African		Coloured		Indian		White		Unspecified
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number
Western Cape	39 937	25	87 455	54	1 607	1	27 494	17	4 568
Eastern Cape	198 198	86	18 821	8	757	0	10 799	5	1 172
Northern Cape	11 398	35	16 755	52	83	0	3 598	11	435
Free State	93 133	86	3 308	3	121	0	10 908	10	396
KwaZulu-Natal	278 649	83	4 841	1	31 764	10	17 589	5	2 464
North West	124 605	92	1 924	1	373	0,3	7 913	5,8	605
Gauteng	235 962	74	12 195	4	6 627	2,1	61 426	19,3	2 130
Mpumalanga	101 563	90	861	1	507	0,4	9 232	8,2	565
Northern Province	178 196	97	310	0	197	0,1	3 889	2,1	1 059
Total	1 261 644	78	146 474	9	42 038	2,6	152 851	9,5	13 397

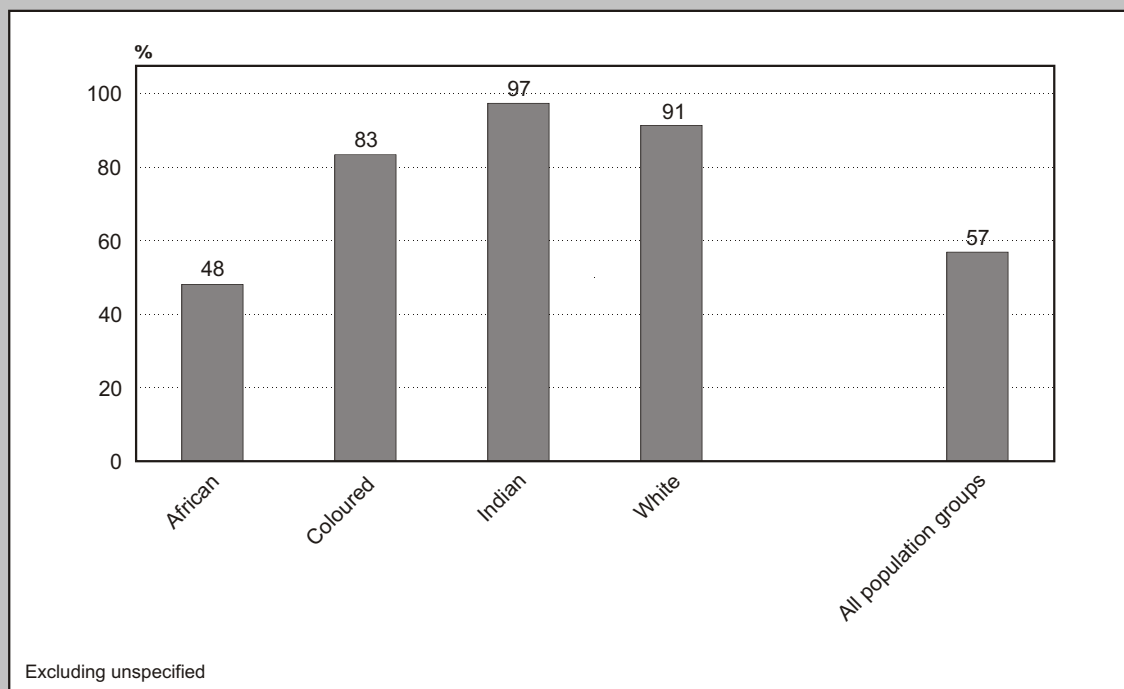
Figure 2.2 shows that Gauteng has the largest proportion (97%) of youth who live in urban areas, followed by Western Cape, (89%), Northern Cape and Free State (70%). On the other hand, Mpumalanga, (41%), North West (37%) and Northern Province, (12%) have the least urbanised youth in the country.

Figure 2.2: Percentage of youth living in urban areas by province



Differences in terms of urbanisation of youth are also observable among the population groups in South Africa. Figure 2.3 indicates that there are proportionally more Indian youth in urban areas (97%) followed by whites, (91%), and coloured youth, (83%) and then African (48%).

Figure 2.3: Percentage of youth living in urban areas by population group



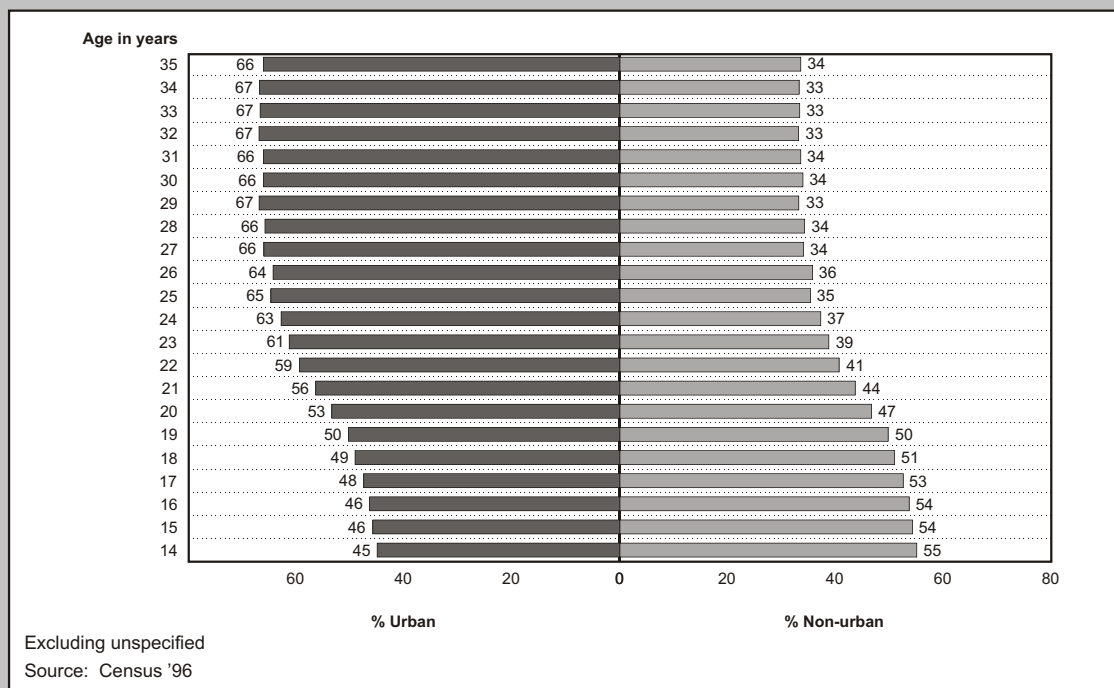
In the country as a whole, 48% of African youth, compared to 47% of older Africans (35+ years) were living in urban areas in 1996. This shows the tendency of some African youth to move into urban areas rather than to remain in non-urban areas.

Internal migration of youth in South Africa

In general, South Africans, particularly African males tend to live in non-urban areas when they are children and then to migrate to urban areas when they are youths.

As Figure 2.4 shows, around the age of 14-18 years, there is a higher concentration of younger males in non-urban areas. However, there is a steady decrease in the proportions of youth in each single age category in non-urban areas as people migrate to urban areas.

Figure 2.4: Migratory pattern of male youth between urban and non-urban areas by age in years



At about the age of 14 years, a proportionally large number of male youth (55%) were living in non-urban areas at the time of Census '96. The proportion of youth living in non-urban areas decreases steadily with increasing age. Around the age of 19 years, youth living in both urban and non-urban areas formed equal proportions.

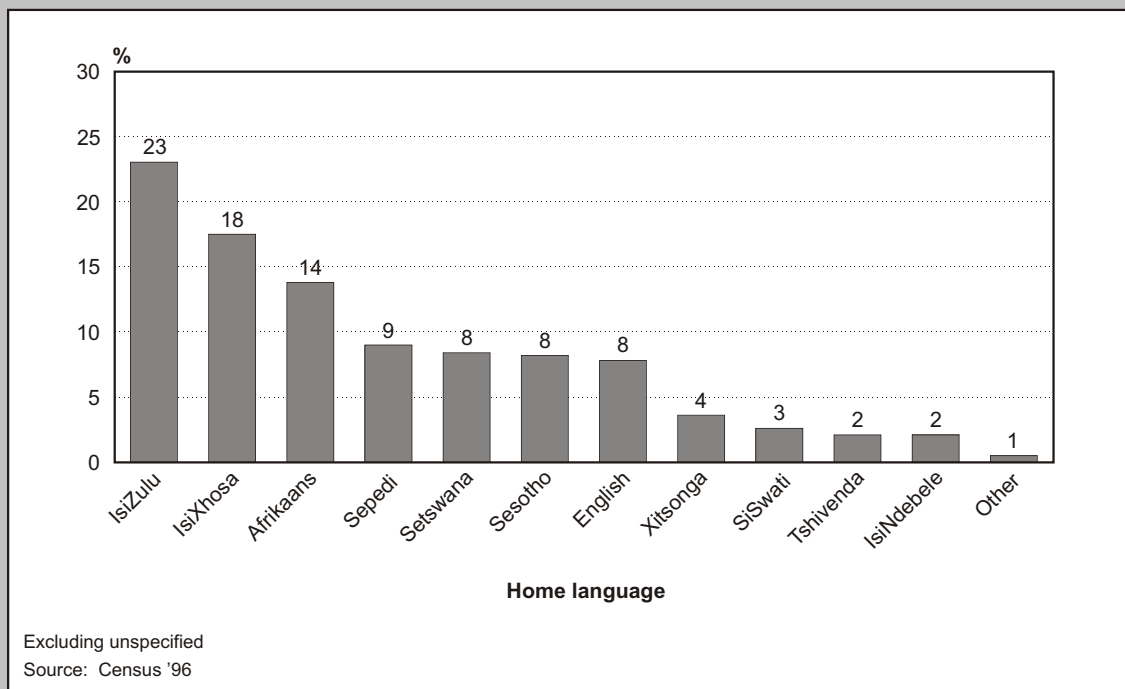
About six in every ten male youth or 66% in the 35 years age group were living in urban areas in 1996.

To complete the picture for South Africa generally, there is a return to the non-urban areas as people retire or lose their jobs. Both older and younger people cluster in non-urban areas while those of working age cluster in urban areas.

Languages of South Africa as spoken by the youth

Eleven official languages are spoken in South Africa. Figure 2.5 below shows that among the youth, isiZulu is the most widely spoken home language (24%), followed by isiXhosa (18%).

Figure 2.5: Percentage of youth in each language category



In the country as a whole, 23% of people speak isiZulu as their home language. The proportion of isiZulu speakers in the country is therefore increasing.

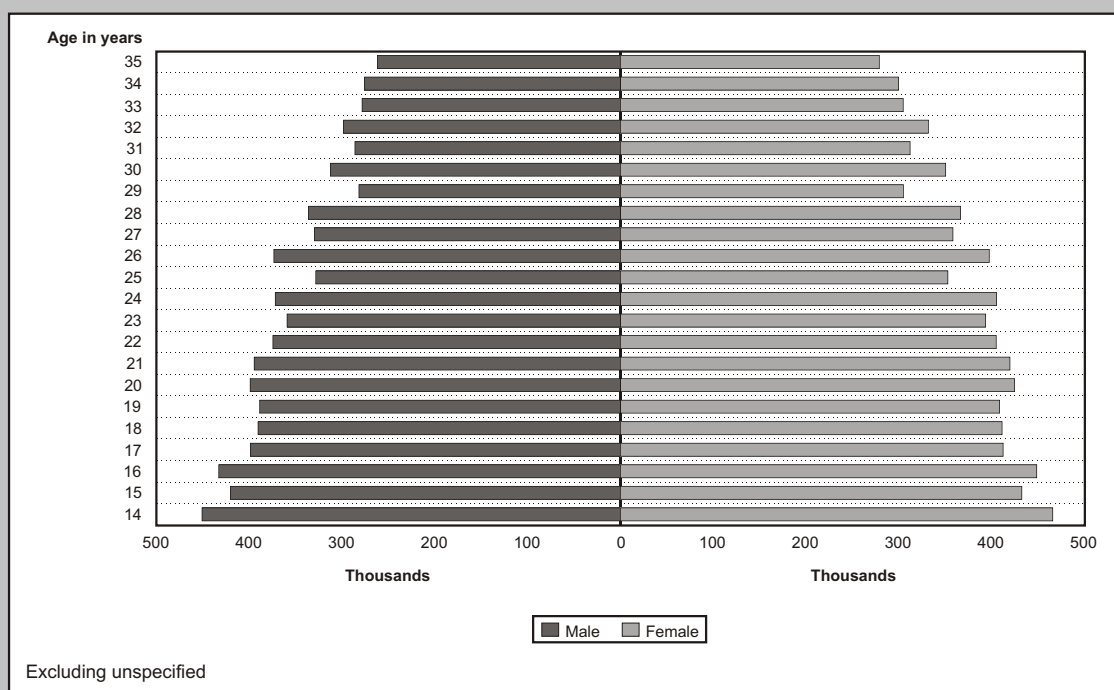
The age-sex distribution of the youth

The age distribution of the population in South Africa characteristically resembles that of other developing countries, with a large proportion of young people. Youth aged from 14 years to 35 years account for 40% of the entire population in the country.

Figure 2.6 below shows the age-sex structure of the youth aged from 14 years to 35 years on census night in October 1996.

Characteristically, the structure in Figure 2.6 is broader at the bottom indicating the higher concentration of youth in the younger age groups. Thereafter, it narrows down towards the top with increasing age.

Figure 2.6: The youth of South Africa in single year age categories by sex



However, the overall distribution structure, as shown in Figure 2.6, masks some notable differences between the four population groups in South Africa. A common factor among all four population groups is that youth aged around 14 years tend to be proportionally more than those aged 35 years.

Implications

The proportion of the African population, particularly African youth, is increasing in proportion to the population of the country as a whole.

The white population is ageing with a proportionally smaller percentage of youth (10%) compared to the proportion of whites in the population as a whole (11%).

Young Africans show a tendency to move from non-urban into urban areas, probably in search of higher education or work opportunities. Nevertheless, large proportions remain in non-urban areas. Both rural development and urban renewal are important for the youth of our country, particularly for those from formerly disadvantaged communities.

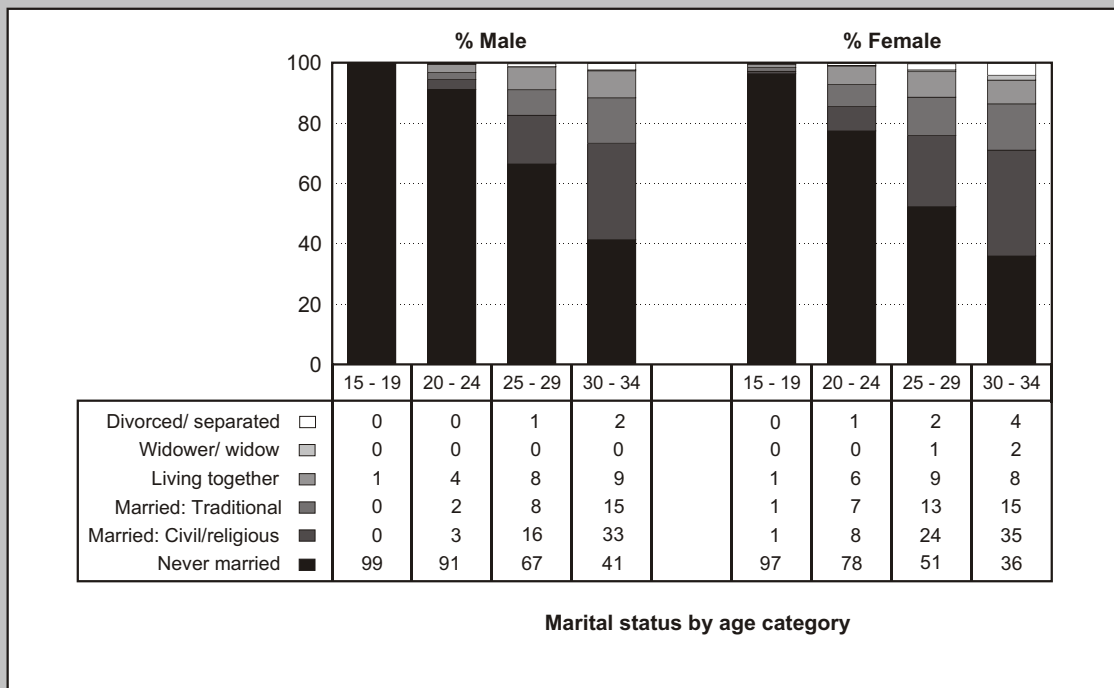
Marital status and childbearing

3

Marital status

South African women tend to marry earlier than men. Figure 3.1 below indicates that in the 20-24 year age group 7% of women entered traditional marriages and 8% civil/religious marriages while married men in the same age bracket accounted for a smaller proportion: 2% in traditional marriages, and 3% in civil/religious marriages.

Figure 3.1: Marital status of youth by age and sex



In general, more female than male youth were married, either according to civil, religious or traditional rites.

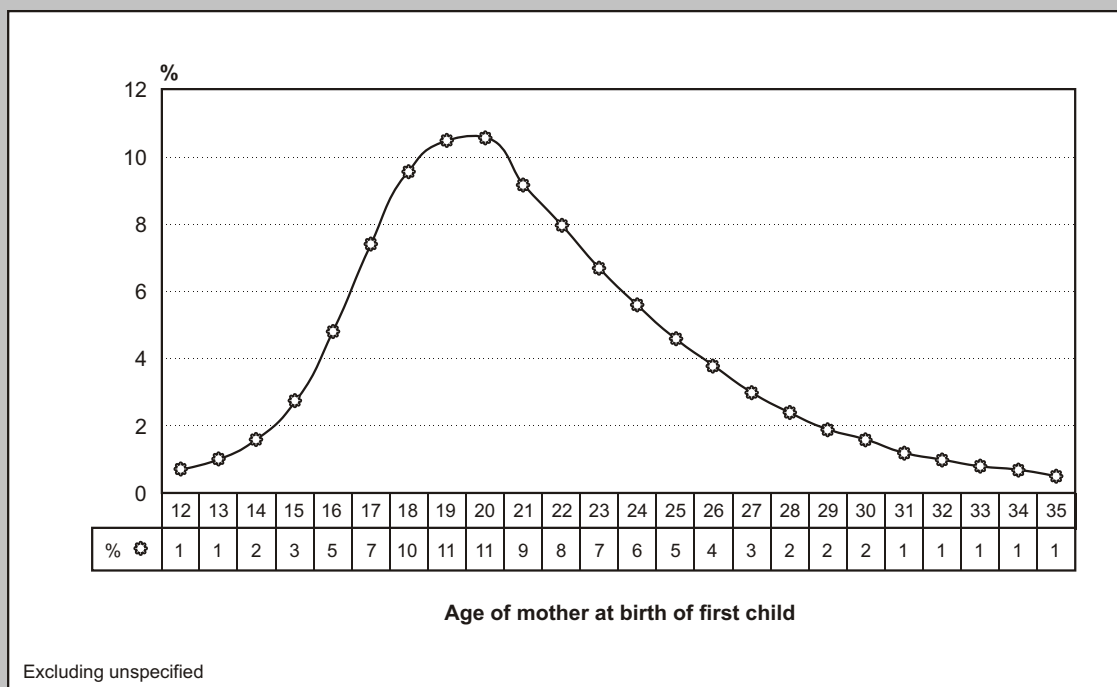
At 30-34 years of age, 15% females had entered traditional marriages and 35% civil/religious ones while among males in the same age bracket the percentages were 15% and 33% respectively.

Similarly, proportionally more females than males in all age categories of youth (Figure 3.1) indicated that they had been divorced or separated from their spouses. For example, 2% of males aged 30-34 years indicated that they were divorced or separated compared with 4% females in the same age bracket.

Age of mother at birth of first child

Findings from Census '96 (Figure 3.2) indicate that among all women aged 12-35 who had given birth to at least one child, 0,7% had given birth to their first child at the age of 12 years, and 1,0% at the age of 13 years.

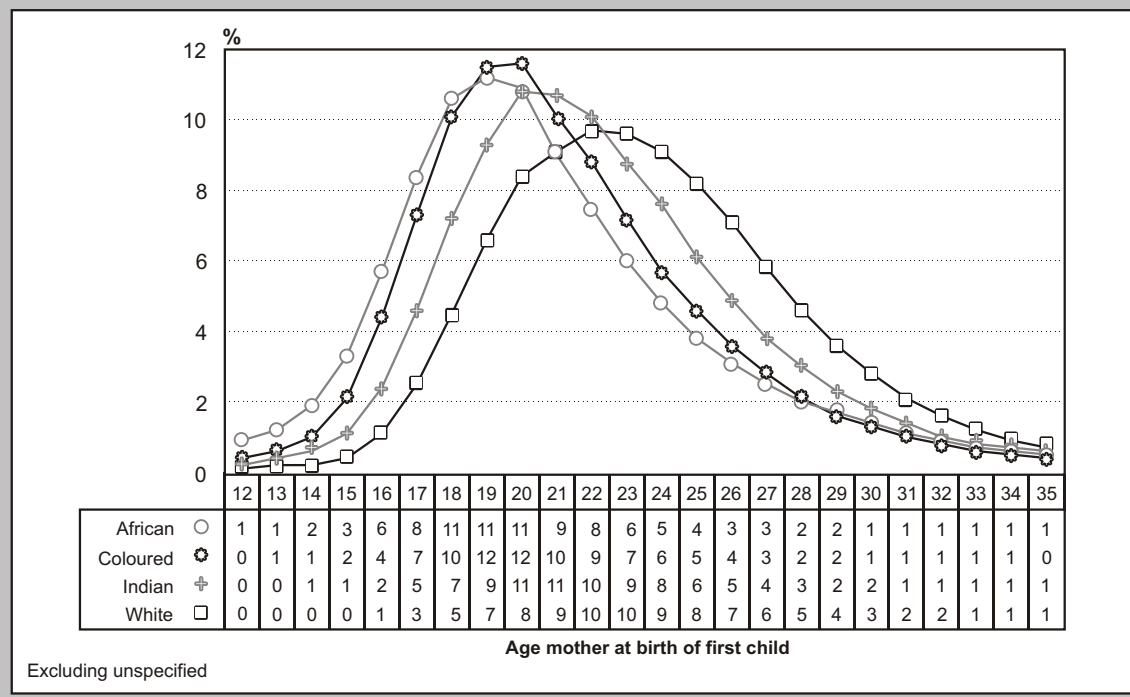
Figure 3.2: Age of mothers when their first child was born



The graph shows that the largest percentage of women gave birth to their first child between the ages of 18 and 22.

Figure 3.3 shows the percentages of young women who have ever given birth, by their age at time of birth of their first child, in each population group.

Figure 3.3: Age and population group of mothers when their first child was born



Generally, African women tend to have given birth to their first children at a younger age, compared to women in other population groups. Slightly under one percent of African young women compared to 0,4% of coloured women, 0,2% of Indians, and 0,1% among white female youth reported having given birth to their first child at 12 years of age.

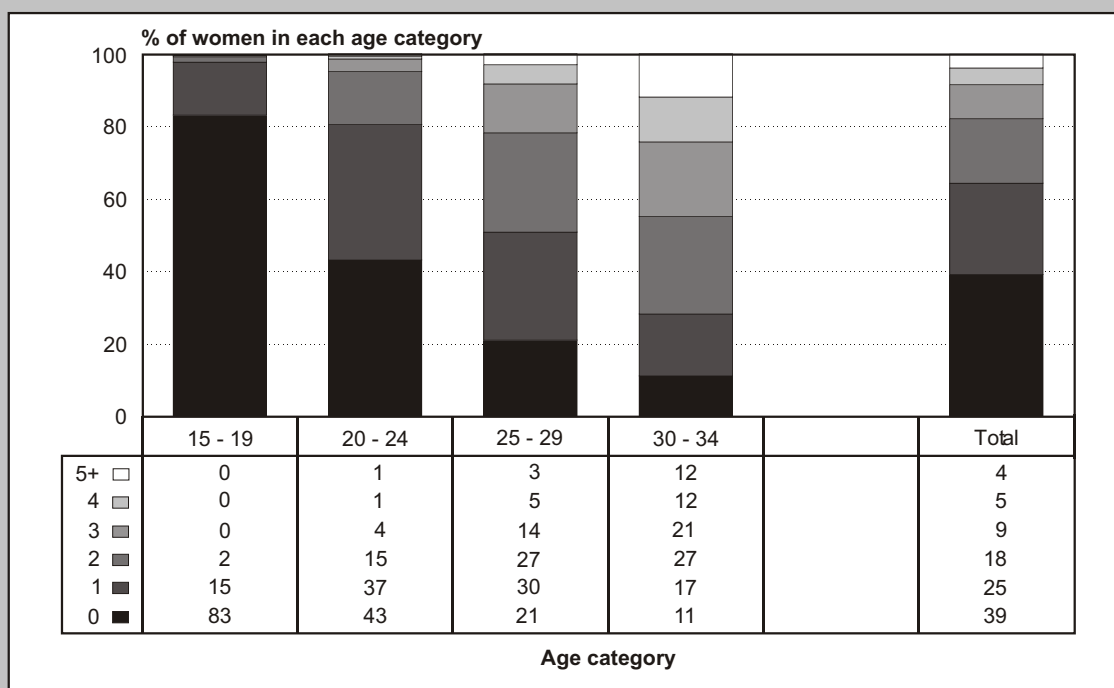
Among African women, the largest proportion of women had given birth to their first child at 19 years of age (11%). For coloured and Indian women, the peak age is 20 years (12% and 11% respectively). Among white women the peak age is 22 years (10%).

Figure 3.4 indicates that on average, among all the female youth aged 15 to 34 years, two in every five (39%) had never given birth to any children. One in every four (25%) had given birth to one child, 18% had given birth to two children. Those who had given birth to five or more children make up 3% of the entire population of young women.

In October 1996, 83% of young women in the 15-19 years age category had never given birth to any children, 15% had given birth to one child, and 2% to two children.

The proportion (43%) of young women aged 20-24 years who had never given birth was smaller than that of younger women in the 15-19 years age brackets (83%). Figure 3.4 indicates that 37% of women aged 20-24 years had given birth to only one child, 15% to two children and 4% to three children.

Figure 3.4: The number of children ever born to young women by age category of the mother



Among women aged 25-29 years, 30% had given birth to one child, followed by 27% who had given birth to two children, and 14% to three. Three per cent of women in this age bracket indicated having given birth to five or more children.

The proportion of young women who had given birth to five or more children was highest (12%) among those aged 30-34 years compared with younger women in the other age categories. Equally, those who had given birth to four children (12%), and three children (21%), were comparatively higher than in other categories. However, those who had given birth to two children (27%), and one child (17%) were proportionally fewer. About one in every ten women in this age category (11%) had not given birth.

Implications

There is a growing tendency among the youth to either postpone or disregard marriage. For instance, while by age 30-34 years many female youth (51%), were already married in October 1996, a large proportion (36%) indicated that they had never been married.

One of the important aspects about childbirth to emerge from Census '96 is that some female youth become mothers for the first time in their early adolescent years. There are females, particularly among African and coloured youth, who indicated that they had their first born children at the age of 12 years. This situation demonstrates the need for efficient, intervening strategies and policies to empower the youth particularly females with regard to decisions on reproduction.

Adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive behaviour and health has become one of the major population concerns in South Africa. Apart from the resultant population changes, the devastating impact of HIV/Aids and other sexually transmitted diseases on the youth of South Africa adds to the complexity of adolescent sexual and reproductive problems.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA

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In South Africa, the official compulsory age for school attendance is from 7 years to 15 years. Children who are in the last two years of compulsory education, i.e. 14 and 15 years, fall within the category of youth.

Education levels of youth aged 14-35 years

Table 4.1 below shows the total population of youth of South Africa in each age category by their highest level of educational attainment.

Those who indicated that they had no formal education are proportionally fewer among younger youth. However, as Table 4.1 indicates, the proportion of youth without any formal education gradually increases with growing age, from a smaller proportion of 5% among those aged 14 years to a larger proportion of 15% among those aged 35 years. Nationally, 8% of all youth indicated having had no formal education.

Table 4.1: Highest level of education attained by youth by age

Age	No schooling	Some primary	Complete primary	Some secondary	Less than matric & cert./dipl.	Matric/Grade 12	Higher	Other qualification
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
14	5	43	23	28	0	0	0	0
15	5	30	17	47	1	0	0	0
16	5	22	14	57	1	1	0	0
17	4	15	11	64	2	4	0	0
18	5	13	9	61	1	12	0	0
19	5	11	8	55	1	20	1	0
20	6	11	7	50	1	24	2	1
21	6	11	6	46	1	27	3	1
22	6	11	6	42	1	29	4	1
23	7	12	6	40	1	29	5	1
24	7	12	6	38	1	28	6	1
25	8	12	6	35	1	28	7	1
26	9	13	7	36	1	26	7	1
27	9	14	7	35	1	25	8	1
28	10	15	8	35	1	23	8	1
29	9	15	8	35	2	22	9	1
30	12	16	8	34	2	19	8	1
31	11	17	9	34	2	18	8	1
32	12	18	9	34	2	16	8	1
33	13	18	9	34	2	16	8	1
34	14	19	9	33	2	15	8	1
35	15	18	9	32	2	15	8	1
Total	8	17	10	42	1	18	4	1

A large proportion of youth in the age category 14-17 years has only studied up to primary level, that is, between grades 1 and 7. This group constitutes 43% among 14-year-old youth down to 15% among those aged 17 years. The national proportion of all youth with similar educational qualifications stood at 17% in 1996.

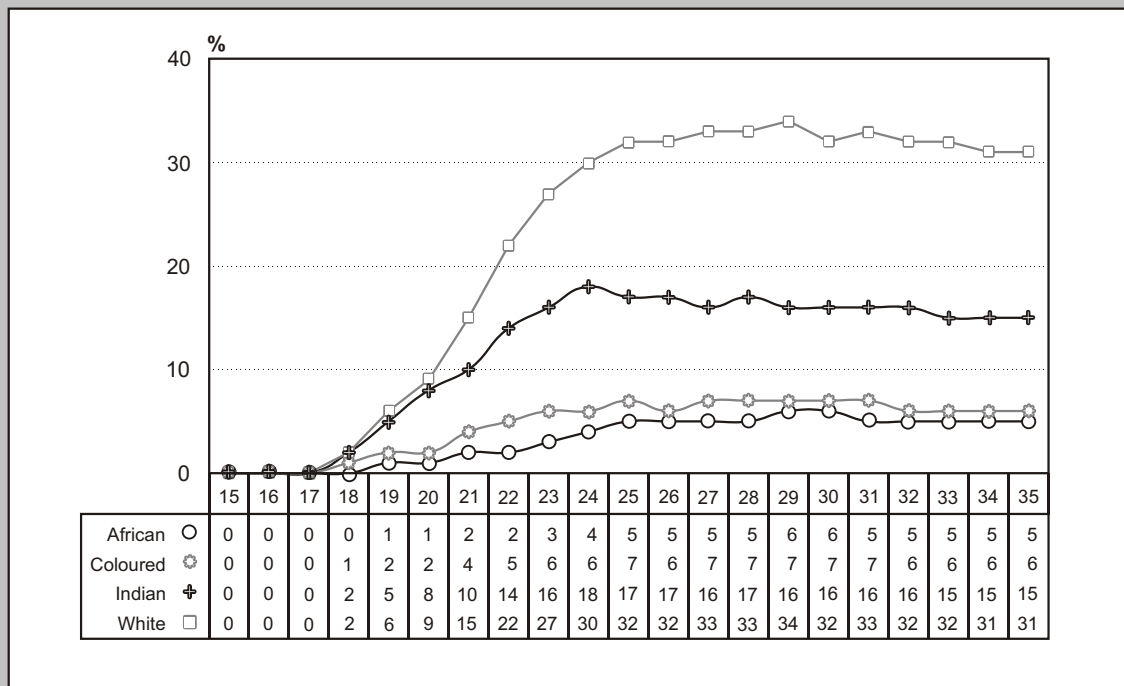
Generally youth whose highest educational level was ‘some secondary’, that is grades 8 to 11, were in the majority in all the age categories except the 14 years age category. Nationally more than two in every five youth (42%) had ‘some secondary’ education.

The proportions of youth with standard 10 or matric (grade 12) as their highest qualification was largest (29%) among those in the 23 years age category. A smaller proportion of 15% of youth in the 35 years age category had standard 10/grade 12 or matric. Of all the youth in South Africa, those who had matric as their highest qualification made up 18%.

Only 1% of youth aged 35 years had qualifications higher than matric while nationally those with similar qualifications made up 4% in 1996.

On average, white youth form the largest percentage of the youth with post-matric qualifications, followed by Indian youth and coloured youth. Figure 4.1 shows that at 18 years, 2% of white and Indian youth respectively, and 1% of coloured youth already had post-matric qualifications.

Figure 4.1: Youth with post-matric qualifications by population group and age



Among African youth, the acquisition of post-matric qualifications is slightly delayed to 19 years (1%) and the proportion of youth with such qualifications remains comparatively small throughout, for example, 5% among those aged 35 years.

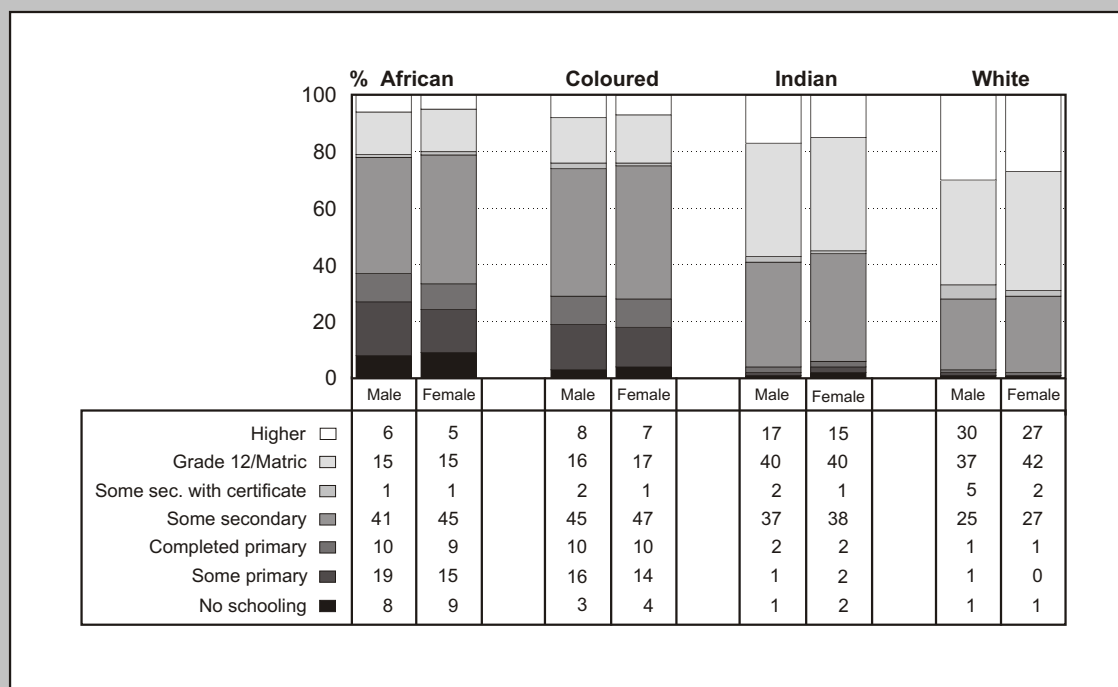
Coloured youth show a similar trend to African youth but with better levels. The proportion of coloured youth with post-matric qualifications is relatively small throughout, for example with only 6% among coloured youth aged 35 years with such qualifications.

Compared to Africans and coloureds, the percentage of Indian youth with post-matric qualifications is larger throughout, e.g. 10% among those aged 21 years, 18% among those aged 24 years and 15% among those aged 35 years.

Among white youth however, Figure 4.1 portrays a picture totally different to that of other population groups, particularly Africans: 15% of white youth aged 21 years have post-matric qualifications. This proportion doubles to 30% among those aged 24 years. At 35 years, three in every ten white youth reported having post-matric qualifications.

The picture of the education levels attained by youth in the different population groups in South Africa is shown in Figure 4.2 below.

Figure 4.2: Highest qualification of youth by population group and sex



Comparatively, African youth are the most disadvantaged group as regards access to educational opportunities. Eight per cent of young African males and nine per cent of African females reported having had no formal education while 41% of African males and 45% of African females had completed 'some secondary' education (between grade 8 and 11) as their highest qualification.

Although the proportion of youth without any formal education was relatively smaller among both male and female coloured youth, (3% and 4% respectively), they also share similar characteristics with African youth. Forty five per cent of coloured male youth, and forty seven per cent of coloured female youth had some secondary education.

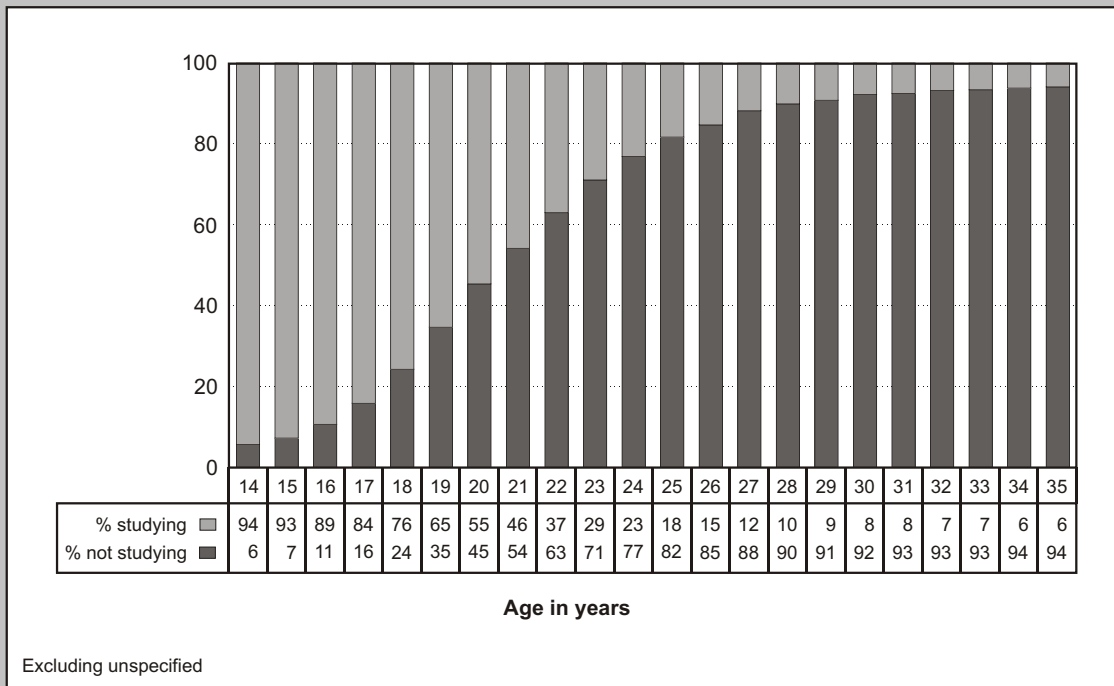
Among Indian youth and white youth in particular, those with lower qualifications only form a small proportion. A large proportion of Indian youth, i.e. 57% of Indian males and 55% of young Indian females had matric or higher qualifications while among white youth 67% of males and 69% of female youth had matric.

The percentage of youth with post-matric qualifications was proportionally higher among whites, both males and females, compared with other population groups.

Attendance of educational institutions

Figure 4.3 shows the percentage of youth in each age category by whether or not they were studying. The highest proportion of youth who were studying at the time of Census '96 were 14 years old (94%).

Figure 4.3: Percentage of studying and non-studying youth in each age category



From 15 years upward, the proportion of youth in each age category that was studying decreased. For example, 12% among those aged 27 years were studying decreasing to 6% of all those aged 35 years.

Those who were studying

Among those who indicated that they were studying, Table 4.2 indicates that there were those who did not have any formal education. Among those aged 14 years, this proportion is 2%, and it gradually decreases with increasing age to 1% among those aged from 19 to 21 years. Then it starts to increase, so that those who were studying and did not have any formal education constitute 4% of the youth aged 35 years.

Table 4.2: Highest level of education among youth who were studying, by age

Age	No schooling	Some primary	Complete primary	Some secondary	Less than matric & cert./dipl.	Matric/Grade 12	Higher	Other qualification
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
14	2	45	24	29	0	0	0	0
15	2	30	18	49	0	0	0	0
16	2	21	15	61	0	1	0	0
17	1	13	11	70	0	4	0	0
18	1	9	9	70	0	10	0	0
19	1	7	7	68	0	16	1	0
20	1	5	5	65	0	21	1	0
21	1	4	4	62	0	25	3	1
22	1	4	3	58	1	28	4	1
23	1	4	3	54	1	31	6	1
24	1	5	3	50	1	32	8	1
25	2	5	3	44	1	35	10	1
26	2	6	3	41	1	35	12	2
27	2	5	3	35	1	36	16	2
28	2	6	3	32	1	35	18	2
29	2	6	3	29	1	34	23	2
30	3	8	3	27	2	31	24	2
31	3	8	4	26	2	30	25	3
32	3	8	4	25	2	28	27	3
33	3	9	4	24	3	27	28	3
34	3	9	4	23	3	25	30	3
35	4	9	4	22	3	25	31	3

The largest proportion of 14 year old youth who were studying had some primary education, i.e. grades 1 to 6 (45%) followed by those with some secondary education, grades 8 to 11 (29%), and finally those who had completed primary education, grade 7 (24%).

Among the youth who were studying further, as age increases, the proportion with some secondary education (grades 8 to 11) tends to decrease, while the proportion with matric or higher tends to increase, and then to level off from the age of 29 years and older.

Those who were not studying

Table 4.3 displays the highest education level of youth that were not studying in October 1996 within each single year age category from 14 to 35 years.

Table 4.3: Highest level of education among non-studying youth, by age

Age	No schooling	Some primary	Complete primary	Some secondary	Less than matric & cert./dipl.	Matric/Grade 12	Higher	Other qualification
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
14	52	30	8	9	0	1	-	-
15	41	32	10	16	0	1	-	-
16	30	32	11	25	0	1	-	-
17	20	29	12	35	0	4	0	0
18	16	23	11	36	0	14	0	0
19	12	19	9	35	0	23	1	0
20	10	17	9	36	0	26	2	0
21	10	16	8	35	1	27	2	1
22	10	15	8	35	1	28	4	1
23	9	15	8	36	1	27	5	1
24	9	15	8	36	1	26	5	1
25	10	14	7	35	1	26	6	1
26	10	15	8	36	1	24	6	1
27	10	15	8	36	1	23	7	1
28	11	16	8	36	1	21	7	1
29	10	15	8	36	1	21	7	1
30	13	17	9	35	1	18	7	1
31	12	17	10	35	1	17	7	1
32	13	18	10	35	1	16	7	1
33	14	19	10	35	1	15	7	1
34	14	19	10	34	1	14	7	1
35	16	19	9	33	1	14	7	1
Total	12	17	9	35	1	20	5	1

In comparing those who were studying (Table 4.2), and those who were not studying (Table 4.3) in 1996, those who did not have any formal education are proportionally more at all ages.

More than half (52%) of 14 year old youth and about two in every five 15 year old youth (41%) who were not studying did not have any formal education at all (Figure 4.3). Nationally across all age categories more than one in every ten youths (12%) who were not studying at all had no formal education.

About three in every ten youths within each of the age categories 14, 15 and 16 years that were not studying in 1996 had only some primary education.

However, among youth in each of the age categories from 17 to 35 years, those whose highest qualification was 'some secondary', that is grades 8 to 11, were in the majority with 33% among youth aged 17 years and also 33% among those aged 35 years.

Nationally those whose highest educational achievement was up to or between grades 8 to 11 and were not studying at the time of Census '96 were in the majority (35%) followed by those who had matric (20%).

Implications

Prospects for a life of quality, particularly in relation to job opportunities and general living standards, remains a major concern in respect of a large proportion of youth in South Africa.

There is a large proportion of youth whose future and quality of life, particularly in relation to job opportunities and general living standards, is still a major point of concern in South Africa.

These are youth who regardless of their age were not studying in 1996 – for example, 6% in the 14 years age group and 7% in the 15 years age group. In addition, despite compulsory education, 52% of those aged 14 years and 41% of those aged 15 years did not have any formal education.

Introduction

Census '96 revealed that in respect of the labour market disparities existed in respect of population group, place of residence and sex. These disparities have been extensively documented in many publications of Statistics South Africa.

Data from Census '96 also show the effects of these factors in respect of the participation of youth in the labour market. In this chapter we show that among the economically active youth access to jobs varies on the basis of population group, place of residence and sex. Among employed youth there are some variations in occupational status and income.

Labour market status of those aged 15-35 years

The total working-age population comprises of people between the ages of 15 years and 65. Below the age of 15 years work is not legal. This report focuses on the age group 15 to 35 years of age. A comparison is drawn between the youth and people in the age group 36-65 years as well as the working age population as a whole in order to highlight some disparities between these groups in relation to the labour market.

More than nine in every ten youth aged 15 years (93%) reported being at school in 1996. Census figures show that by this age a small proportion had dropped out of school. The proportion in school was however lower than that of youth in school aged 13 years (95%) and 14 years (94%).

Tables 5.1 and 5.2 show that there were 14,7 million people aged between 15 and 35 years in South Africa in 1996.

Among the youth, labour market status identifies those who were economically active (7,7 million) and those who were not (7,0 million). Among the economically active 4,5 million were employed and 3,1 million unemployed, according to the expanded definition of unemployment. Among those who were not economically active, 0,7 million were housewives or homemakers, 4,8 million students or scholars and 0,1 million were permanently disabled and thus unable to work.

Table 5.1: The labour market status for those aged 15-35 years by population group

Population	Population aged 15-35 years	Economically active	Not economically active	Employed	Unemployed	Labour force participation rate ¹	Labour absorption Rate ²	Unemployment rate ³
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)
	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	%	%	%
African	11 558 966	5 651 506	5 907 460	2 812 890	2 838 616	48,9	24,3	50,2
Coloured	1 335 431	887 547	447 884	664 579	222 968	66,5	49,8	25,1
Indian	394 255	235 060	159 195	200 008	35 052	59,6	50,7	14,9
White	1 385 870	922 174	463 696	869 415	52 759	66,5	62,7	5,7
S.Africa	14 674 522	7 696 287	6 978 235	4 546 892	3 149 395	52,4	31,0	40,8

Table 5.2: The labour market status for those aged 15-35 years by province

Province	Working age population	Economically active	Not economically active	Employed	Unemployed	Labour force participation rate ¹	Labour absorption Rate ²	Unemployment rate ³
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)
	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	%	%	%
W.Cape	1 432 343	955 606	476 737	741 066	214 540	66,7	51,7	22,5
E.Cape	2 054 152	828 413	1 225 739	367 280	461 133	40,3	17,9	55,7
N.Cape	284 548	173 167	111 381	111 258	61 909	60,9	39,1	35,8
F.State	983 444	527 649	455 795	330 259	197 390	53,7	33,6	37,4
KZN	3 053 002	1 511 202	1 541 800	800 129	711 073	49,5	26,2	47,1
N.West	1 234 908	647 320	587 588	349 385	297 935	52,4	28,3	46,0
Gauteng	2 946 499	1 968 289	978 210	1 275 633	692 656	66,8	43,3	35,2
Mpumalanga	1 037 678	506 177	531 501	302 537	203 640	48,8	29,2	40,2
N.Prov.	1 647 948	578 464	1 069 484	269 345	309 119	35,1	16,3	53,4
S.Africa	14 674 522	7 696 287	6 978 235	4 546 892	3 149 395	52,4	31,0	40,8

¹ The labour force participation rate (LFPR) (f) is the sum of those who are employed (d) and unemployed (e) expressed as a percentage of those aged 15-35 years (a).

² The labour absorption rate (g) is the number of employed people (d) expressed as a proportion of those aged 15-35 years (a).

³ The unemployment rate (h) is the number of people who are unemployed (e) expressed as a percentage of both the employed (d) and the unemployed (e).

Labour force participation rate

Labour force participation rate shows the proportion (in percentages) of the economically active population, i.e. employed people and those unemployed but looking for a job (expanded definition from Census '96) among all those of working age (15-65 years) or 15-35 years in the case of this report. In other words, the sum of employed and unemployed, expressed as a percentage of the total of those aged 15-35 years (including the 'not economically active').

Figures from Census '96 show that the labour force participation rate was lowest for African youth (48,9%), followed by Indian youth (59,6%). Coloured and white youth had the highest rate at 66,5% each; see Tables 5.1 and 5.2.

The labour force participation rate for the youth in each population group is generally higher than in the 36-65 age group. This discrepancy is particularly apparent in the white population youth with a labour participation rate of 66,5% as compared to 34,4% for those 36-65 years.

For the country as a whole, Tables 5.3 and 5.4 indicate that the labour force participation rate of 52,4% for the youth is lower than that of the people aged 36-65 years (64,7%).

Table 5.3: The labour market status for those aged 15-35 years, 36-65 years and 15-65 years by population group

Population group	Labour force participation rate			Labour absorption rate			Unemployment rate		
	15-35 yrs	36-65 yrs	15-65 yrs	15-35 yrs	36-65 yrs	15-65 yrs	15-35 yrs	36-65 yrs	15-65 yrs
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
African	48,9	34,7	55,1	24,3	44,2	31,6	50,2	60,7	42,5
Coloured	66,5	38,6	64,9	49,8	52,7	51,3	25,1	22,4	20,9
Indian	59,6	43,4	58,4	50,7	51,7	51,3	14,9	11,2	12,2
White	66,5	34,4	66,6	62,7	63,2	63,6	5,7	6,8	4,6
S.Africa	52,4	64,7	57,5	31,0	48,5	38,0	40,8	25,0	33,9

Table 5.4 indicates, that overall a large number of youth indicated that they were not available for work. However, in provinces like Gauteng and Western Cape, many people reported the contrary. Northern Province had the lowest labour force participation rate among youth (35,1%) followed by Eastern Cape (40,3%). Western Cape (66,7%) and Gauteng (66,8%) had the highest. As regards people aged 36-65 years, Eastern Cape had the lowest labour force participation rate (53,0%) followed Northern Province (56,1%).

Nationally, youth had a labour force participation rate of 52,4%, Tables 5.3-5.4, compared to 64,7% for those aged 36-65 and 57,5% for the entire working age population (15-65 years).

Table 5.4: The labour market status for those aged 15-35 years, 36-65 years and 15-65 years by province

Province	Labour force participation rate			Labour absorption rate			Unemployment rate		
	15-35 yrs	36-65 yrs	15-65 yrs	15-35 yrs	36-65 yrs	15-65 yrs	15-35 yrs	36-65 yrs	15-65 yrs
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
W.Cape	66,7	65,8	66,7	51,7	58,1	54,8	22,5	11,7	17,9
E.Cape	40,3	53,0	45,4	17,9	31,7	23,4	55,7	40,2	48,5
N.Cape	60,9	59,6	60,7	39,1	48,6	43,4	35,8	18,5	28,5
F.State	53,7	71,9	61,3	33,6	56,3	42,9	37,4	21,6	30,0
KZN	49,5	58,3	53,0	26,2	42,1	32,2	47,1	27,7	39,1
N.West	52,4	67,3	58,6	28,3	48,6	36,3	46,0	27,9	37,9
Gauteng	66,8	77,1	71,5	43,3	62,0	51,3	35,2	19,6	28,2
Mpumalanga	48,8	67,6	55,7	29,2	51,7	37,4	40,2	23,5	32,9
N.Prov.	35,1	56,1	42,3	16,3	35,3	22,8	53,4	37,0	46,0
S.Africa	52,4	64,7	57,5	31,0	48,5	38,0	40,8	25,0	33,9

The labour absorption rate

The labour absorption rate gives a measurement in percentages of the proportion of the employed people among those aged 15-35 years.

Table 5.3 shows that among African youth, proportionally fewer people indicated that they were employed, compared to youth in other population groups. The labour absorption rate for African youth was (24,3%) followed by coloured (49,8%), Indian youth (50,7%) and white youth (62,7%).

The labour absorption rate for the youth in all population groups is generally lower than that of people aged between 36 and 65 years. The discrepancy in this regard is wider among African youth (24,3%) compared to older Africans in the 36-65 years age category, Table 5.3.

Comparing the provinces, Northern Province with 16,3% and Eastern Cape with 17,9% had the lowest labour absorption rate among the youth while Gauteng with 43,3% and Western Cape with 51,7% had the highest. The labour absorption rate for youth in the country as a whole was 31,0%

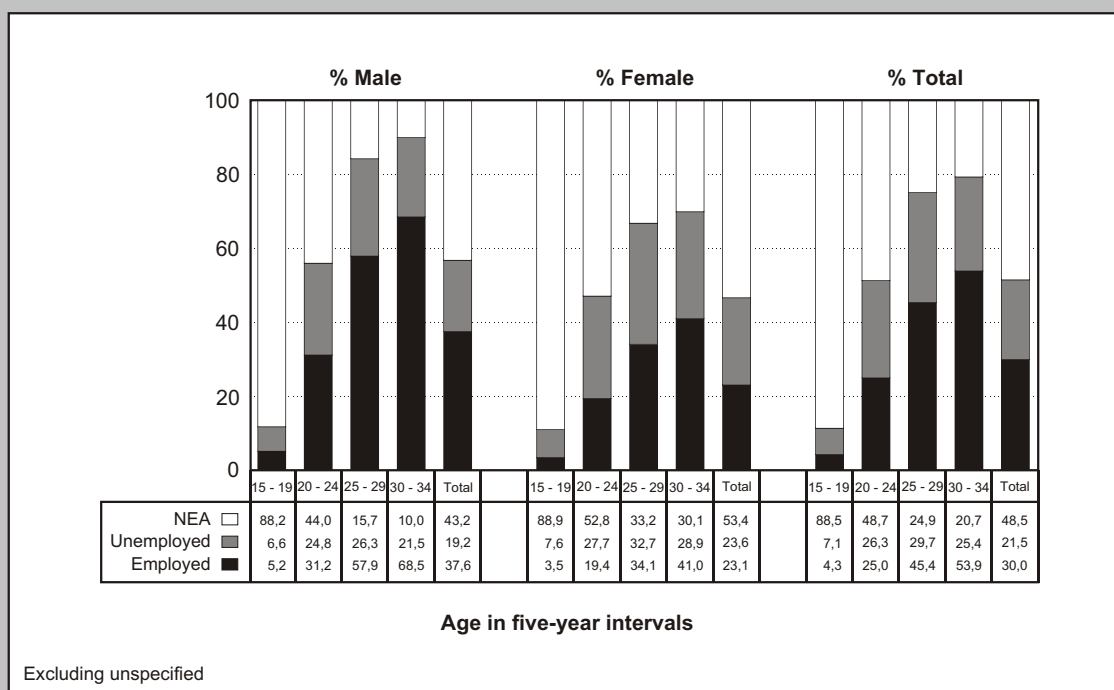
Table 5.4 shows that the labour absorption rates for youth in each of the nine provinces as well as nationally was lower compared to this rate for older people in the 36-65 age group. The gap between the youth and those aged 36-65 years was wider particularly in Northern Province, where the labour absorption rate for the latter group was 35,3% about 20% higher than for the former (16,3%).

Figure 5.1 shows the economic status of youth in the five year age-categories from the age of 15 years to 34 years by sex.

In comparing males and females, the figure shows that proportionally higher percentages of females are not economically active compared to males across all the five year age categories. For example 44,0% of males aged 20-24 years compared to 52,8% of females in the 20-24 years age category were not economically active.

About 43,2% of male youths aged 15-34 years, compared with 53,4% female youths, were not economically active.

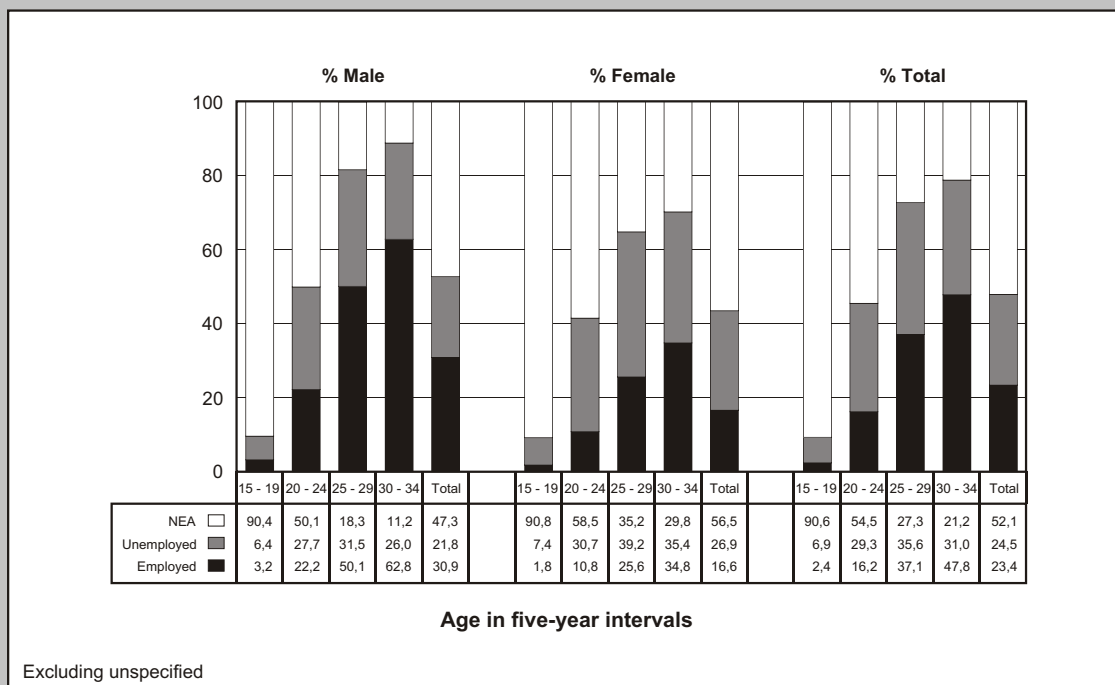
Figure 5.1: The labour market status of South African youth in five-year age intervals by sex



The proportions of youth that were not economically active tend to be larger among Africans than among the other population groups, particularly females, as Figure 5.2 indicates.

While 48,5% of all youth aged 15-34 years were not economically active, among African youths, 52,1% were not economically active.

Figure 5.2: Economic status of African youth in five-years age intervals by sex



While on average, a higher percentage among African females (56,5%) were not economically active compared to their male counterparts (47,3%), both percentages were higher in comparison with the national percentages of those of working age, (43,2% among all males and 53,4% among all females).

Youth employed in South Africa by industry

The distribution of jobs by industry for employed youth aged 15-35 years and those aged 36-65, is shown in Figure 5.3.

The highest proportion of jobs held by both the youth (19,6%) and those aged 36-65 (19,7%) were in community, social and personal services. These included jobs in the civil service.

The second largest proportion of jobs held by employed youth was in trade-related services (15,3%) followed by manufacturing (14,2%) and agriculture (11,0%).

However, for those aged 36-65 years, the private household industry provided the second largest proportion of jobs (15,4%), followed by manufacturing (13,6%) and trade (12,1%).

Figure 5.3: Comparing employed people aged 15 to 35 years and 36 to 65 years in South Africa by industry

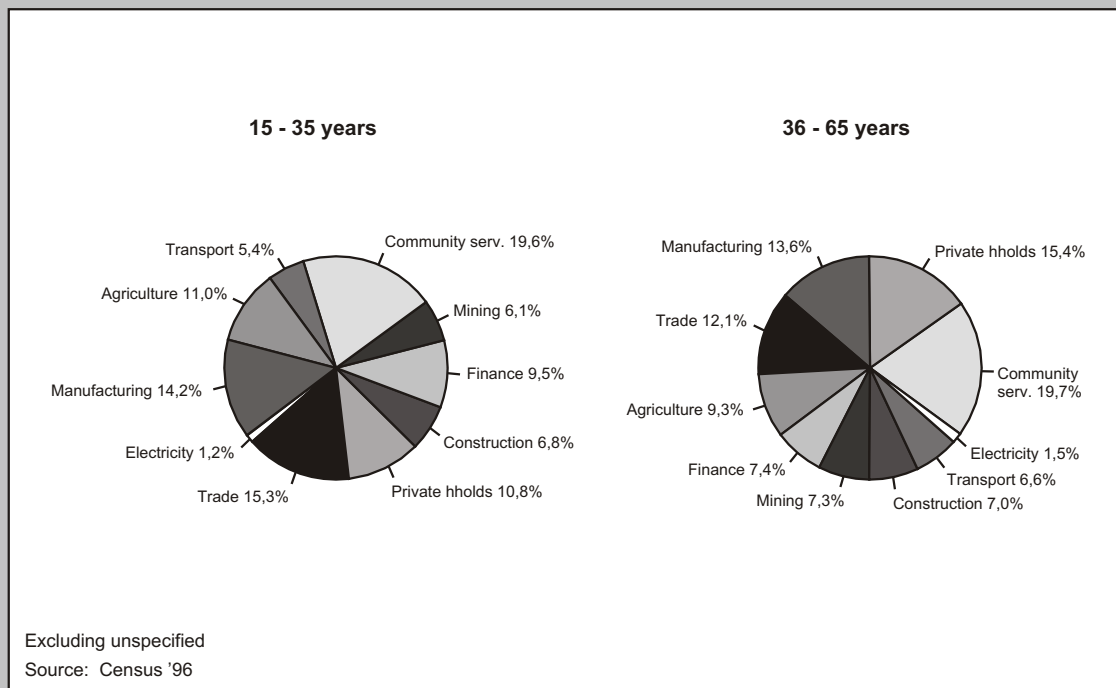
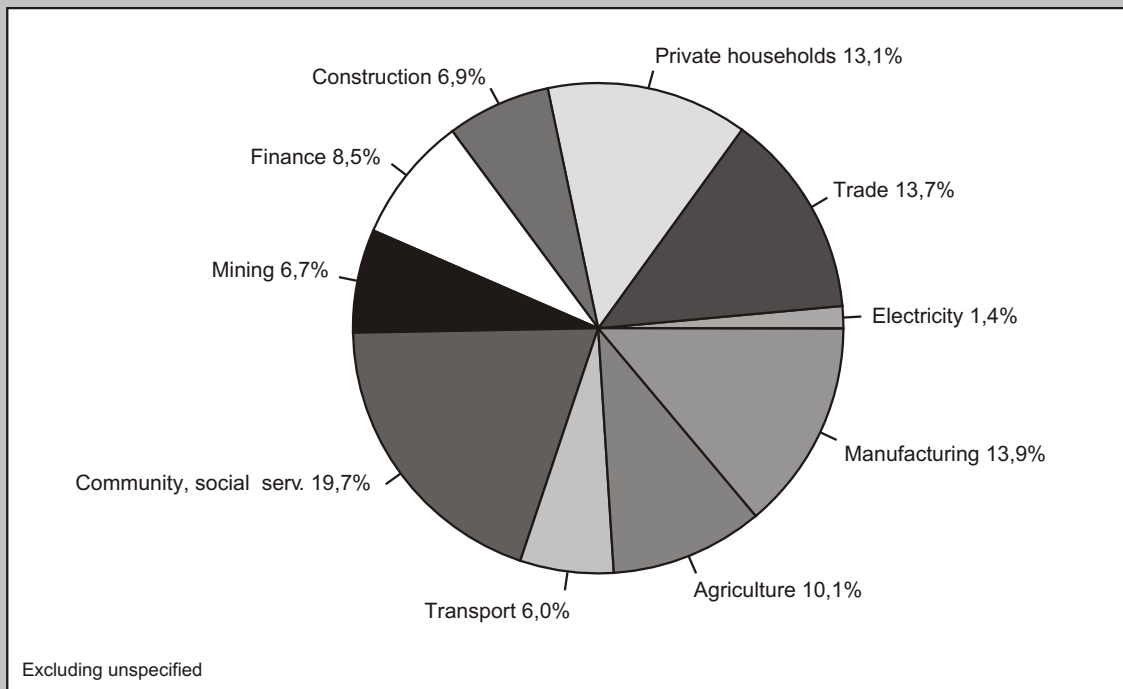


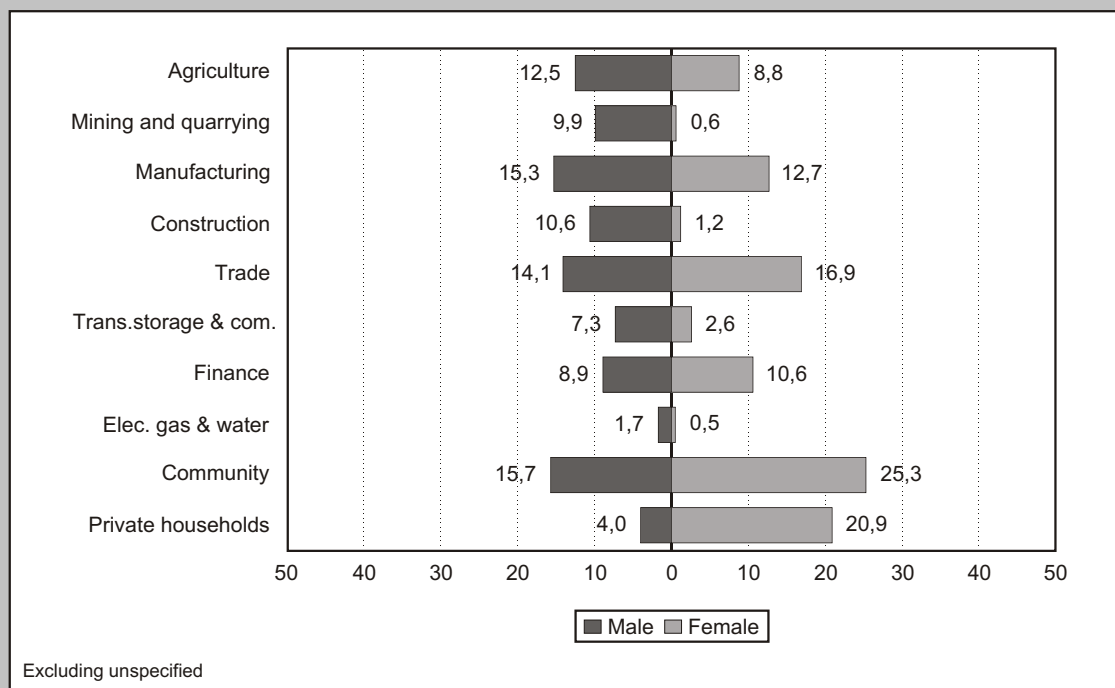
Figure 5.4: All the employed people in South Africa (aged 15-65 years) by industry



The national picture of job distribution by industry for all employed people aged 15-65 years as shown in Figure 5.4 resembles that of the youth wherein industries such as manufacturing (13,9%) and trade (13,7%) replace the private household industry in providing a large proportion of jobs.

A comparison in job distribution between the employed youth and the older employed people aged 36-65 reveals a gender bias. Data from Census '96 indicate that certain types of industries tend to employ proportionately more males, while others employ proportionately more females as Figure 5.5 indicates.

Figure 5.5: The employed youth in South Africa by industry and sex



A proportionally large concentration of young females worked in private households (20,9%), followed by those in community, social and personal services (25,3%), and trade (16,9%).

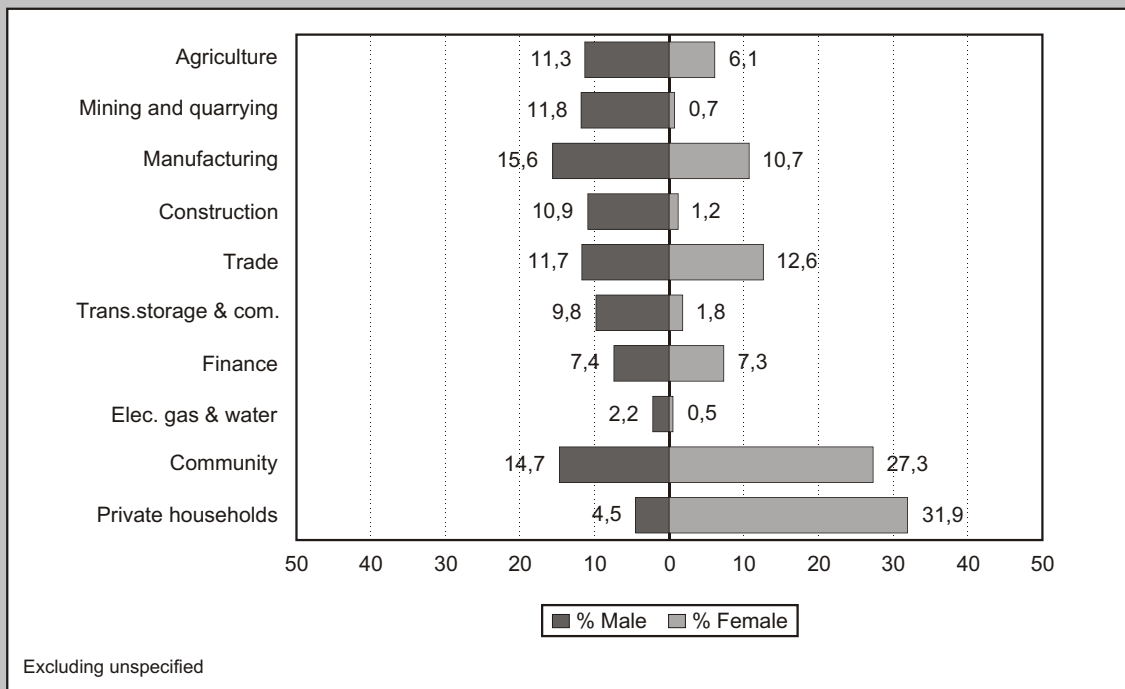
Young males on the other hand, held more jobs in community, social and personal services (15,7%) followed by those in manufacturing (15,3%) and trade (14,1%).

In comparing young, employed females and males, (Figure 5.5), and those employed aged 36-65 years (Figure 5.6), it is clear that young females have generally moved away from jobs in private households and community, social and personal services in favour of other job industries.

While 31,9% of females aged 36-65 years were working in private households, this proportion decreased to 20,9% among young females. Jobs in community, social and personal services also decreased from 27,3% among females aged 36-65 years to 25,3% among females aged 15-35 years.

On the other hand, industries that attracted more young females than those aged 36-65 years include trade (16,9% among female youth and 12,6% among the 36-65 age group), finance (10,6% among young females and 7,3% among the 36-65 years age group), and agriculture, (8,8% for young females and 6,1% among females aged 36-65 years).

Figure 5.6: Those employed aged 36-65 by industry and sex



Proportionally more young males were in trade related jobs (14,1%) than males aged 36-65 years (11,7%). The proportion of jobs held by young males in finance (8,9%) and community, social and personal services increased compared to jobs held by males in the 36-65 years age category.

On the other hand, mining seems to have attracted proportionally few young males (9,9%) than those aged 36-65 years (11,8%).

Occupational status of employed youth

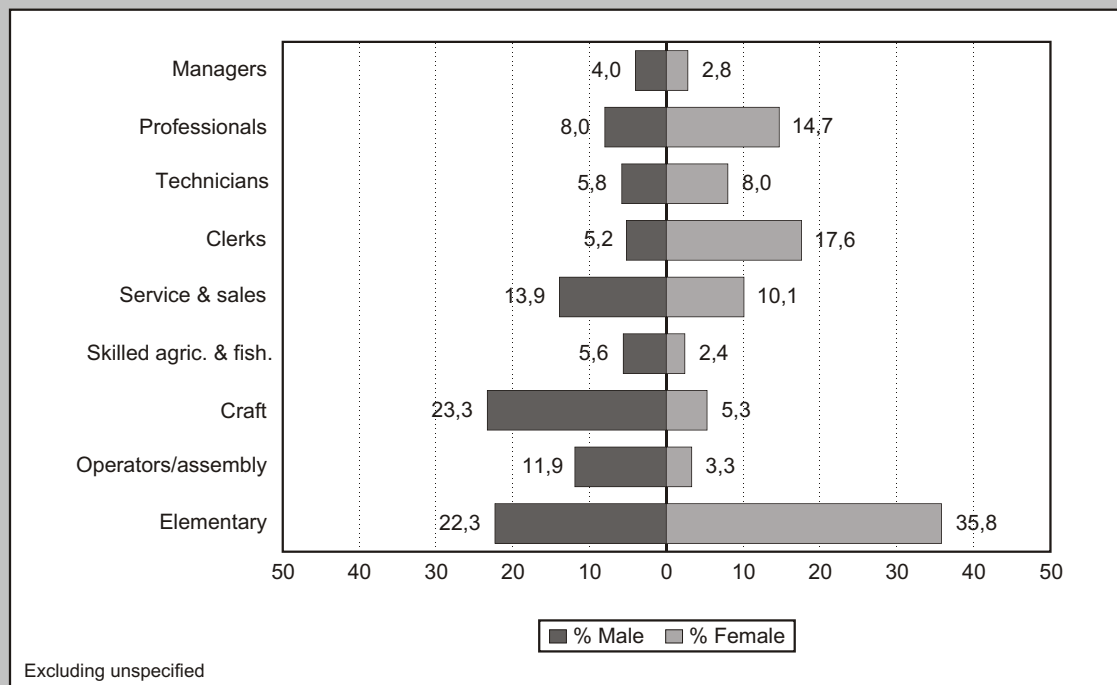
The differences between males and females identified above regarding work in the different industries also emerge in the occupations. Data from Census '96 also reflect population group differences in the occupations of those employed.

More than a third (35,8%) of all employed female youth were in elementary jobs as against about a fifth (22,3%) of employed male youths. Proportionally fewer female youth were in elementary jobs (35,8%) compared with females aged 36-65 years (46,1%)

On the other hand, the proportion of male youth in elementary jobs is similar to that of employed males in general.

The second largest proportion of employed female youth worked as clerks (17,6%), followed by professionals (14,7%), and those in retail services and sales (10,1%).

Figure 5.7: The employed youth by occupational status and sex



For male youth, 23,3% worked as craftsmen followed by 22,3% who were in elementary jobs and 13,9% in services and sales related jobs.

In comparing female youth with females aged 36-65 years, employed female youth show a positive move from elementary and operational jobs towards other higher jobs i.e. clerical jobs and service and sales related jobs.

For instance, Figure 5.8 shows that while 46,1% of all females aged 36-65 years old were doing elementary jobs, only 35,8% among young females were in similar jobs.

On the other hand, from a proportion of 11,8% among females aged 36-65 years, the proportion of clerks increased to 17,6% among young females.

The proportion of jobs at management level among employed male youth (4,0%) and female youth (2,8%), is relatively smaller compared to males (7,0%) and females (3,2%) in the 36-65 years age category.

Figure 5.8: Those employed aged 36-65 years by occupational status and sex

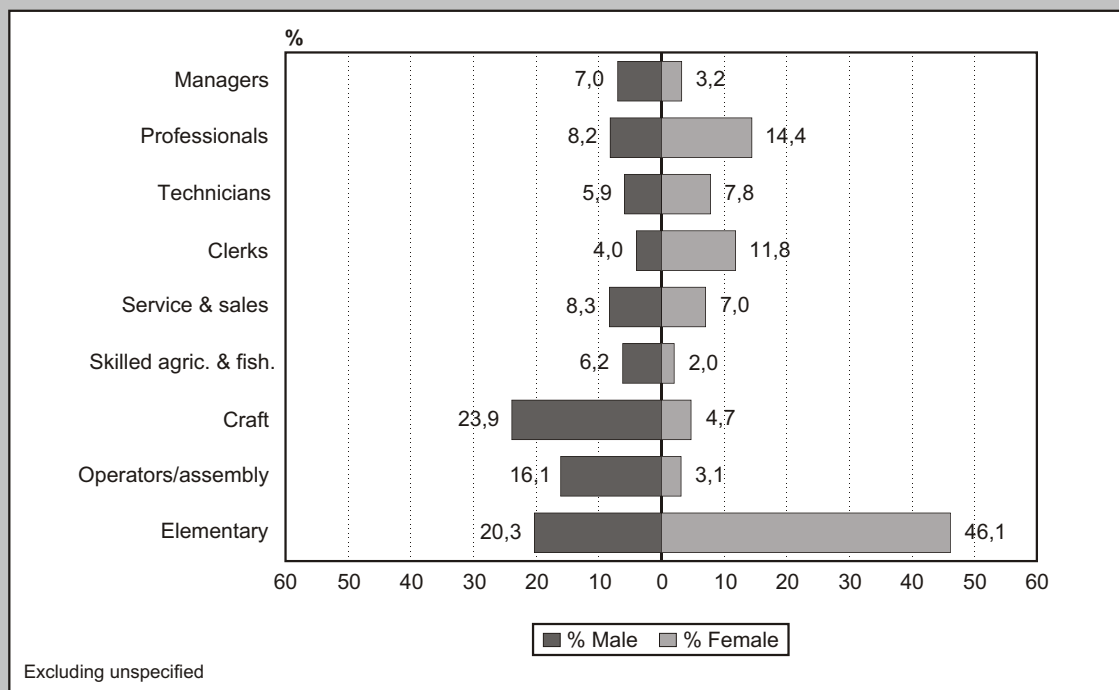


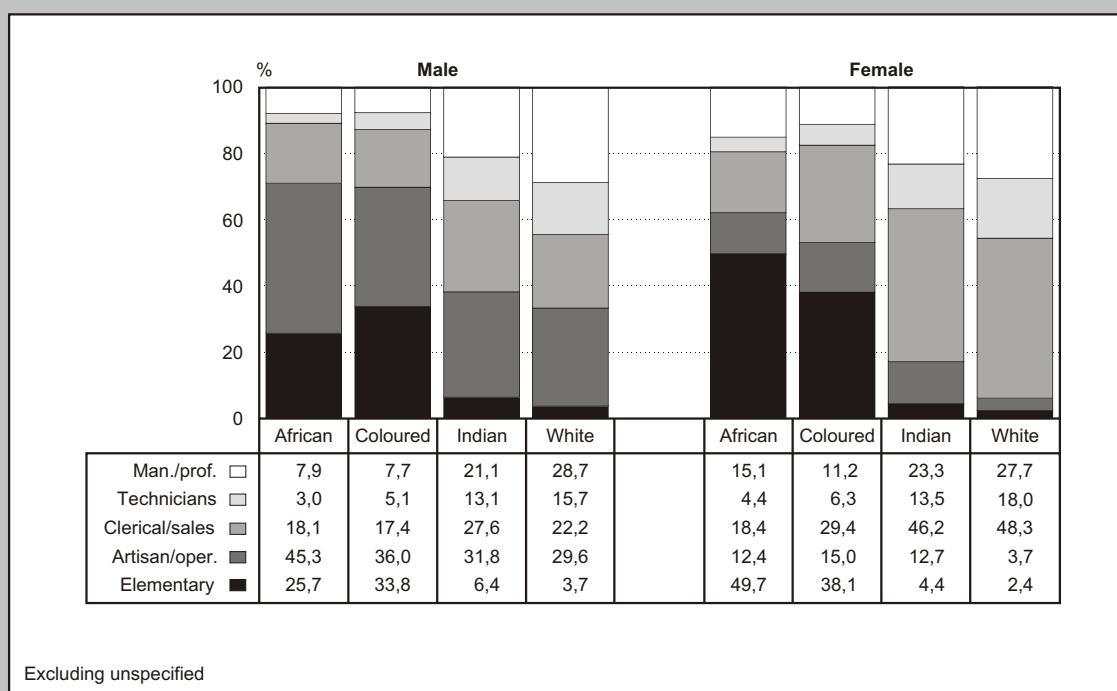
Figure 5.9 below shows the proportions of employed youth in each population group by sex and occupational status.

Some of the differences in occupational status among the employed males and females become more prominent when each population group in South Africa is viewed individually.

While on average, elementary jobs account for the largest share of jobs held by African people, Figure 5.9 shows that about half (49,7%) of employed African female youth compared with 25,7% of employed African male youth held jobs at this level.

The proportion of employed African males with jobs at the elementary level was (26,0%) lower than that among coloured males (33,8%) employed at the same level. Among employed African females, about (49,7%) were in elementary jobs as against (38,1%) among coloured employed female youths in the same job category.

Figure 5.9: The employed youth by population group, sex and occupational status



The largest proportion of African males (45,3%), as is the case among males in all other population groups, was concentrated around jobs at the artisan or operator level.

Income

Income is unequally distributed by sex and population group among employed youth.

Data from Census '96 show that, among youth, distribution of incomes varied by population group in South Africa, between males and females as well as by provinces and urban and non-urban location.

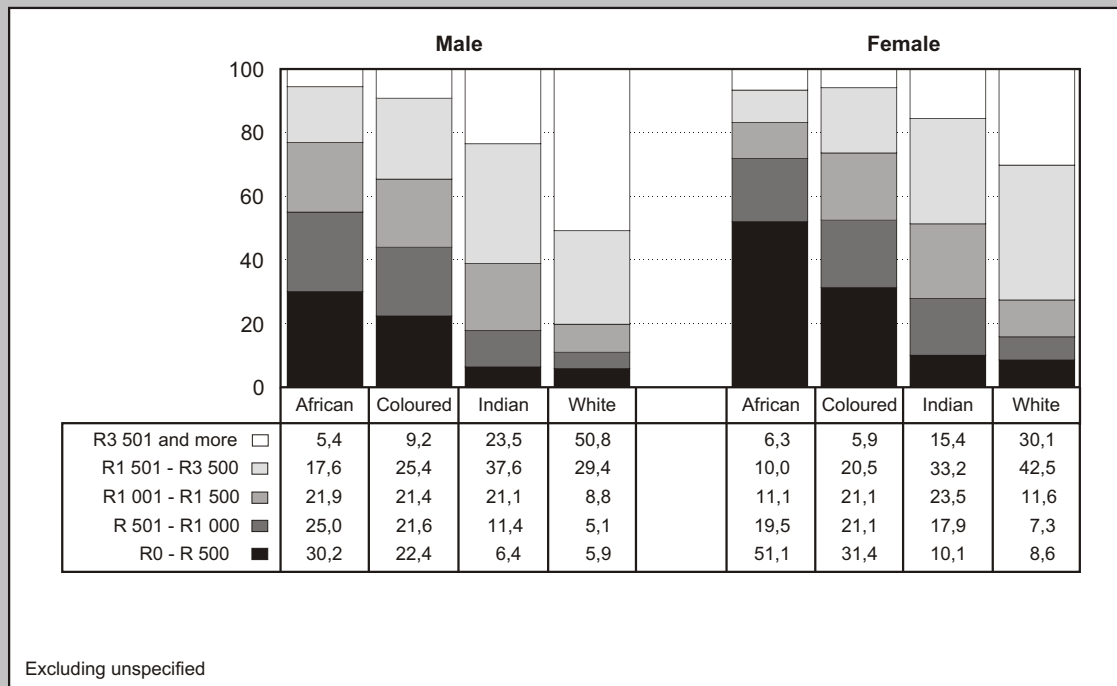
Figure 5.8 shows employed people.

Figure 5.10 shows that more than half of all working African male youth (55,2%) had a monthly income of R1 000 and less while among the employed African female youth, the proportion of people in this income group is as large as (70,6%).

In addition, 44,0% of all working coloured male youth and more than half (52,5%) of all working coloured female youth reported earning an income of R1 000 and less per month.

Although, on average, proportions of working youth (both males and females) among whites and Indians earning R1 000 or less were comparatively smaller, they also showed sex-based differences.

Figure 5.10: Monthly income of employed youth by population group and sex



About 17,8% of working Indian male youth compared with 28,0% of working Indian female youth was in this income category, while a comparatively lower proportion of 11,0% among working white male youth and 15,9% of working white female youth received similar amounts of money per month.

At the highest income quintile of R3 501 and more, African male youth and female youth were almost equally represented with 5,4% and 6,3% respectively. However, these proportions were comparatively smaller than those in the other population groups.

Among coloureds, those who were in the highest income quintile among male youth made up 9,2% while among women, they constituted 5,9%.

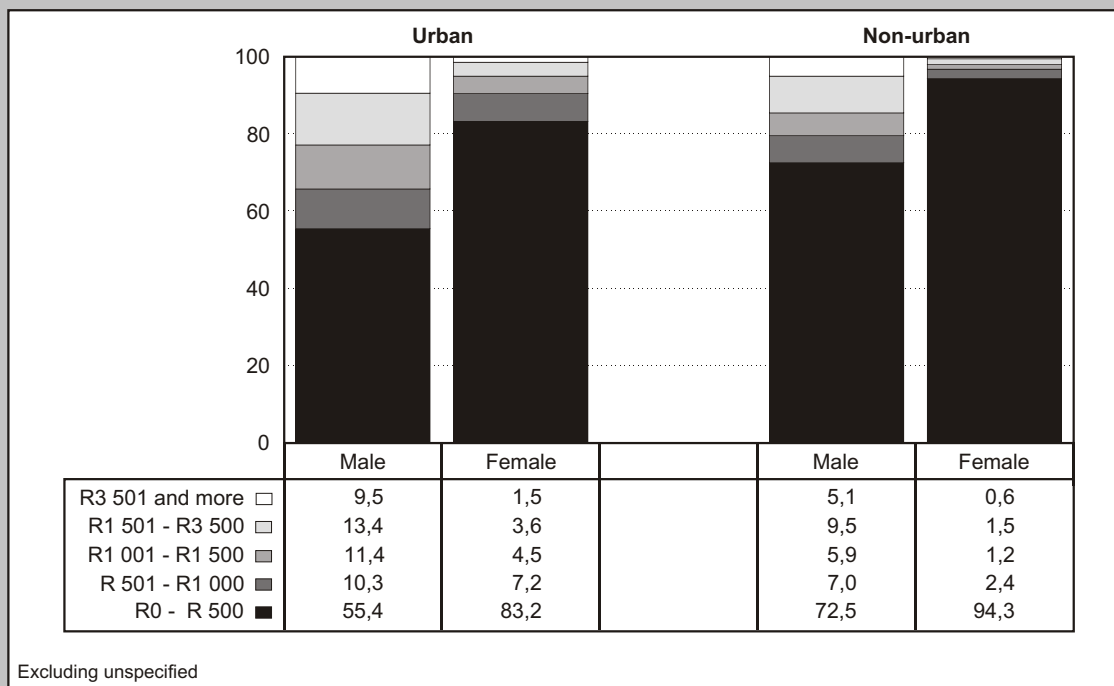
About a quarter of all working Indian male youth (23,5%) and 15,4% of all working Indian female youth were earning R3 501 and more per month.

On the other hand, more than half of all working white male youths (50,8%) and three out of every ten working white female youths (30,1%) were in this income band.

In addition to sex, one of the key factors that influence the income of workers is their milieu, i.e., whether they work in an urban or non-urban area.

Figure 5.11 shows the monthly income of employed youth by sex and milieu. While generally female youth tend to be more concentrated around the lowest monthly income quintile, the percentage of females in this earning quintile was larger in non-urban areas (94,3%) than in urban areas (83,2%). Similarly, more male youth in non-urban areas (72,5%) than urban areas (55,4%) were earning a monthly income of R500 and less.

Figure 5.11: Monthly income of employed youth by milieu and sex

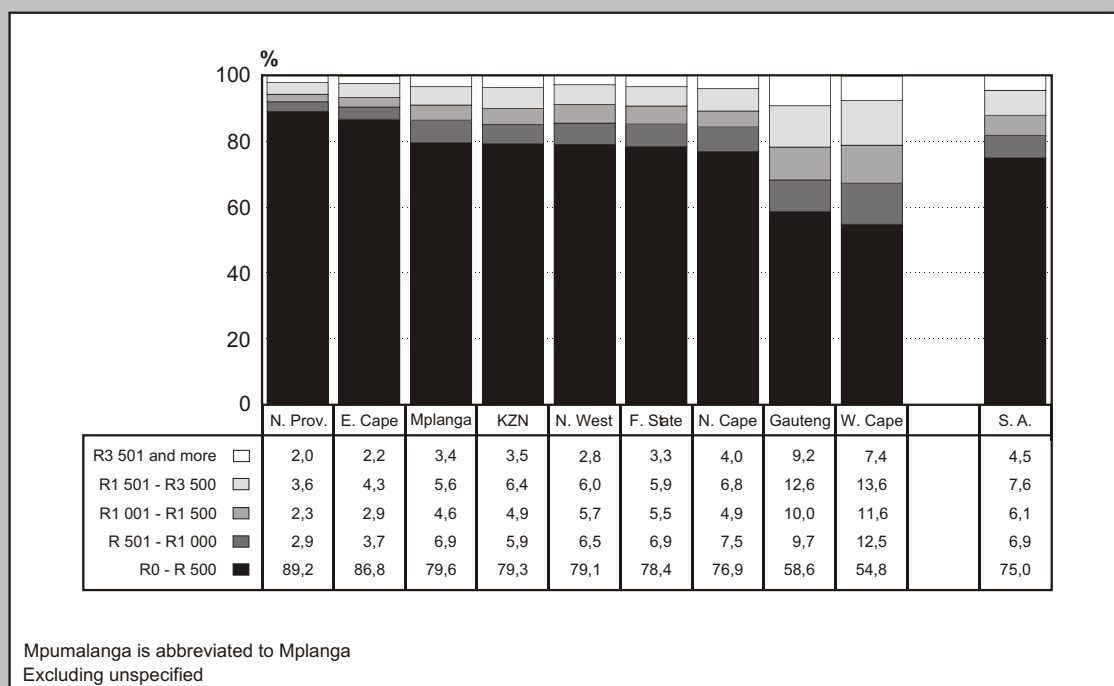


In the highest income quintile the situation was reversed. Less than one per cent of young females in non-urban areas compared with 5,1% of non-urban males had a monthly income of R3 501 or more while among young females 1,5% of those in urban areas compared with 9,5% of males in urban areas were in this earning bracket.

In provinces with large non-urban populations, the proportion of working youth, (both males and females) with monthly incomes of R500 and lower tended to be higher when compared with the more urbanised provinces.

Figure 5.12 below shows income for employed youths countrywide by province.

Figure 5.12: Monthly income of employed youth by province



While on the one hand three in every four working youths nationally (75,0%) had an income of R500, in the four more rural of the nine provinces, the proportion of people in this income band ranged from 79,6% in Mpumalanga to 89,2% in Northern Province.

Western Cape (54,8%) and Gauteng (58,6%) had the lowest proportions of working youth with a monthly income of R0 to R500.

At the highest income band of R3 501 and more, the proportion of working youth ranged from 7,4% in Western Cape to as low as 2,0% in Northern Province. Nationally only 4,5% of youth reported earning salaries in excess of R3 500 and more per month.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA

PLEASE TURN THE PAGE

South African youth and unemployment



At least two definitions of unemployment are used in South Africa – the official definition (also called the strict definition) and the expanded definition.

While both definitions include people aged 15 or older who are not employed but are available for work, the main requirement as regards the official definition is that an individual must have taken specific steps to seek employment in the four weeks prior to a given point in time. With the expanded definition however, the main focus is on the availability for work, irrespective of whether or not a person has taken active steps to find work.

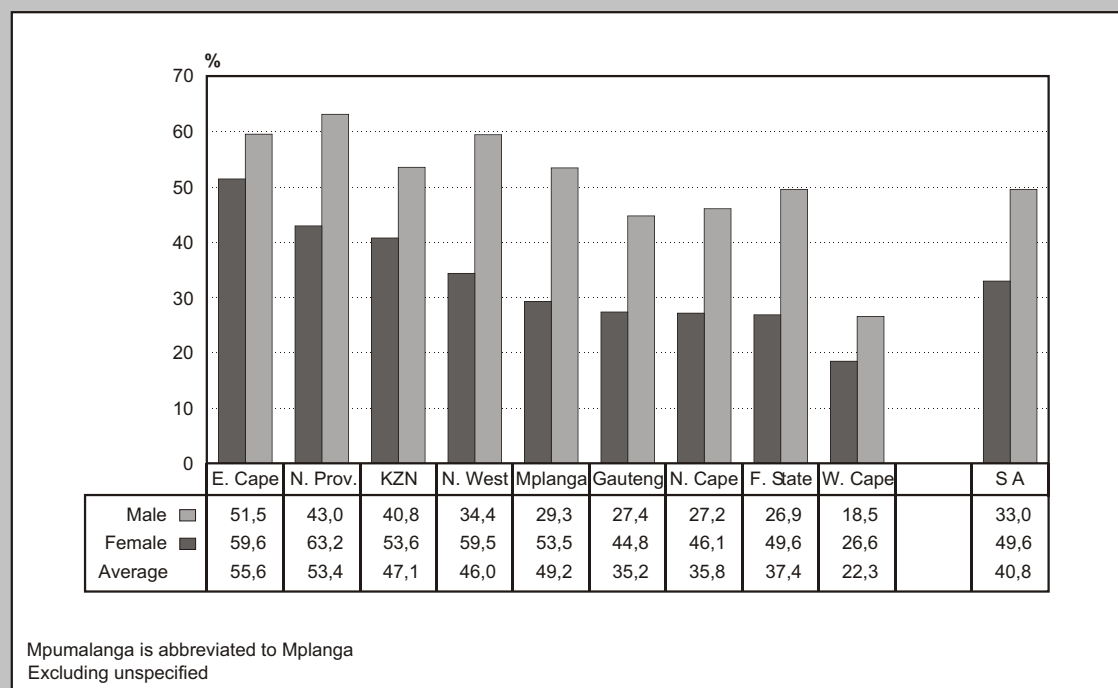
Unemployment rates calculated according to the official definition are, by definition, lower compared with the expanded definition.

During Census '96 only the expanded definition was used, since it was a de facto census.

On the whole, the expanded unemployment rate among youth in South Africa, according to Census '96 is 40,8%.

Figure 6.1 shows that the expanded unemployment rate was 40,8% for all youth of both sexes countrywide. For male youth it was 33,0% while for females it was 49,6%.

Figure 6.1: Unemployment (expanded definition) among youth in each province by sex



Eastern Cape had the highest expanded unemployment rate for youth (55,6%), followed by Northern Province (53,4%), Mpumalanga (49,2%) and KwaZulu-Natal (47,1%).

Of all the provinces, Northern Province recorded the highest expanded unemployment rate among young females (63,2%) followed by Eastern Cape (59,6%) and North West (59,5%).

Expanded unemployment rates for young males in all the nine provinces were relatively lower compared to those for females. The lowest expanded unemployment rate was recorded in Western Cape (18,5%), followed by Free State (26,9%) and Northern Cape (27,2%).

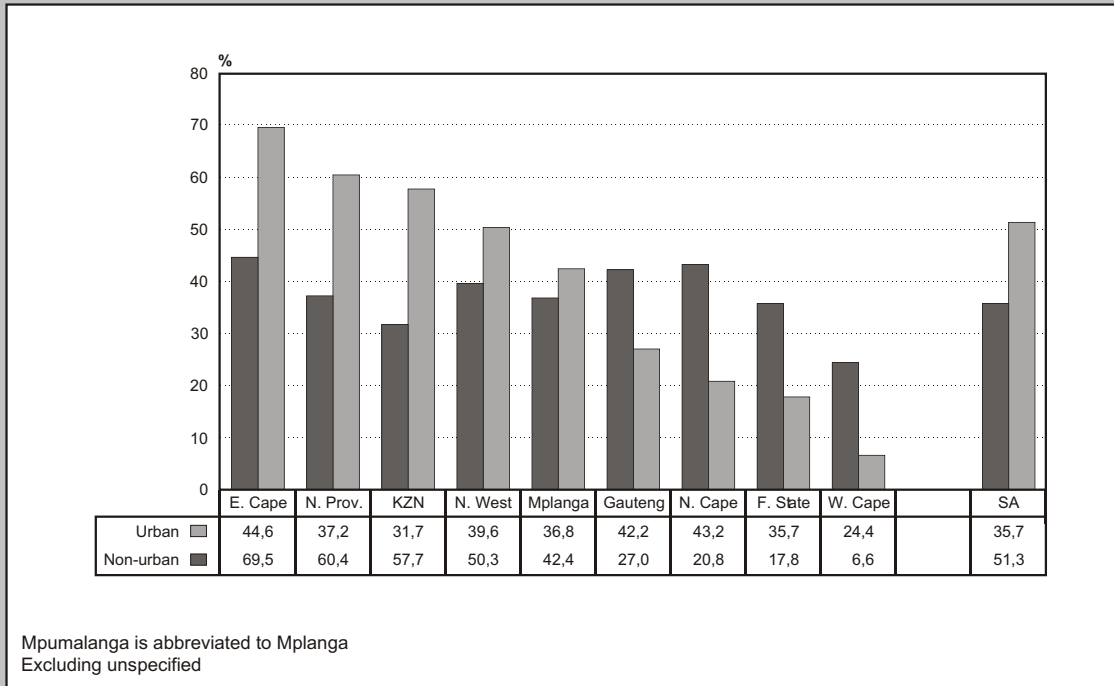
After Eastern Cape (51,5%), Northern Province had the second highest rate of expanded unemployment (43,0%) for young males followed by KwaZulu-Natal (40,8%).

The five provinces out of a total of nine that appear in Figure 6.1 with an average expanded unemployment rate that is higher than the national average of 40,8% and Free State with an expanded unemployment rate of 37,4% were part of the former homeland system. A greater part of the territory that used to belong to the old homeland system was mostly rural. Therefore, in addition to sex being a factor in the level of unemployment among the youth, the milieu, that is, whether people live in urban or non-urban, also appears to be influential.

Nationally more than five in every ten economically active youth (51,3%) in non-urban areas were unemployed, compared to a lower proportion of (35,7%) in urban areas.

In five of the nine provinces, all of which were formerly part of the old homeland system, Figure 6.2 shows a higher expanded unemployment rate in non-urban than in urban areas.

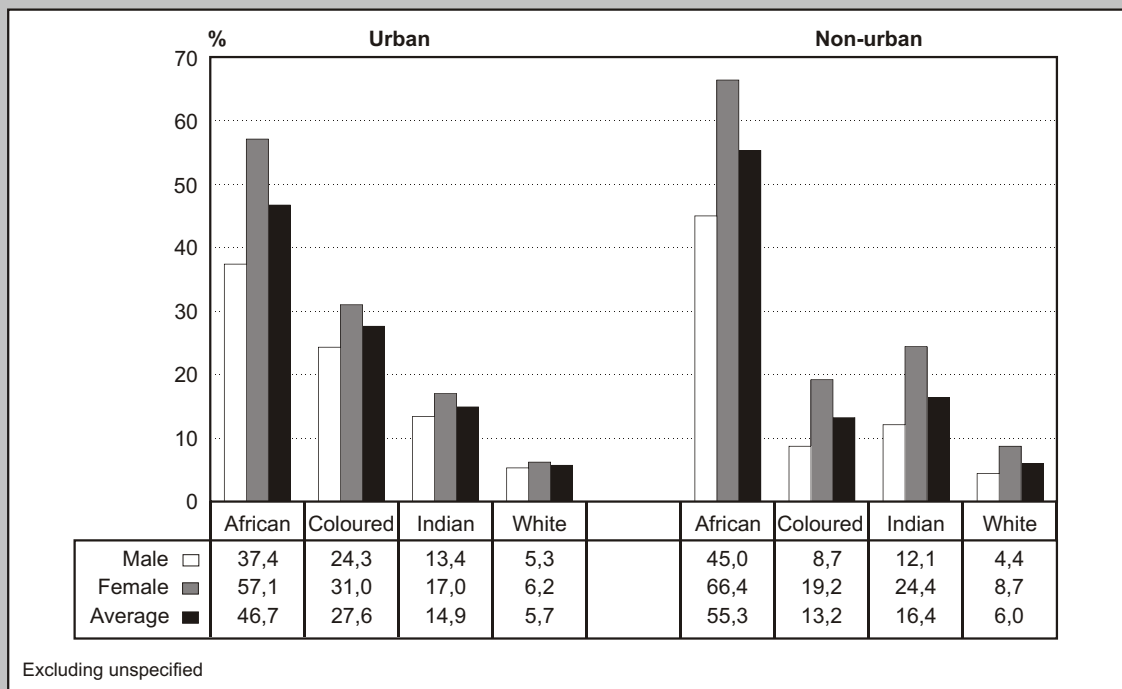
Figure 6.2: Unemployment among youth by province and milieu (expanded definition)



Comparing unemployment among the population groups

While the expanded unemployment rate among youth in South Africa stood at 40,8% in October 1996, there were significant variations among the youth in the different population groups in the country. For instance, as Figure 6.3 shows the unemployment rate among economically active Africans both in urban (46,7%) and non-urban areas (55,3%) is comparatively higher than that for other population groups, (e.g. coloureds, (27,6% urban; 13,2% non-urban).

Figure 6.3: Unemployment rate among youth by milieu, population group and sex

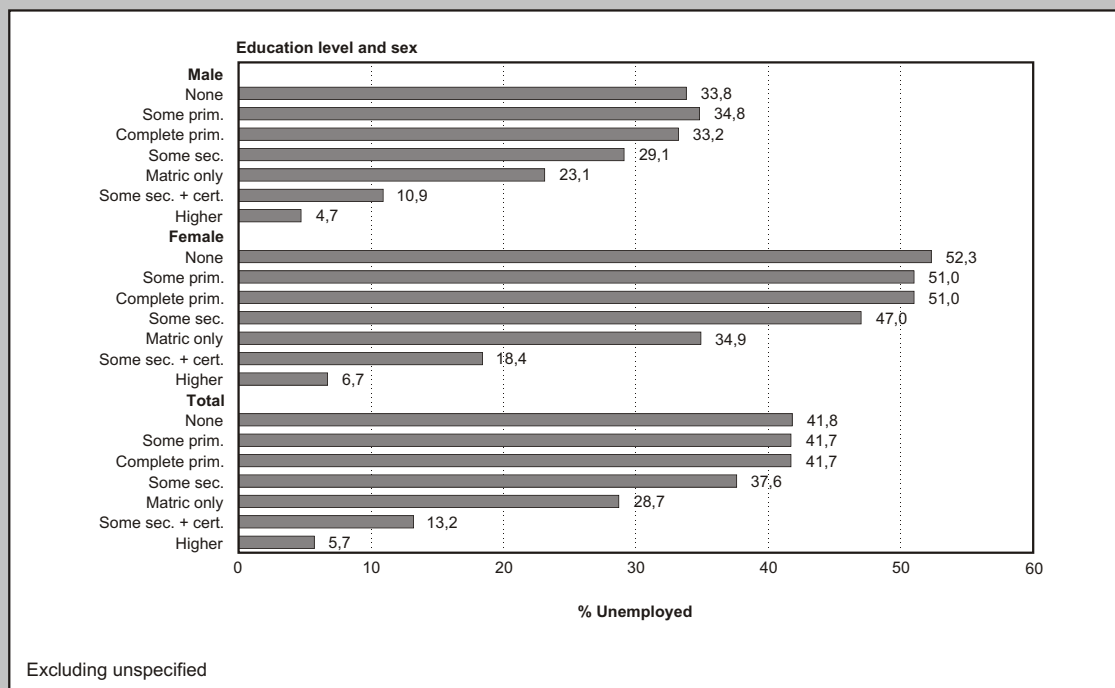


Unemployment and education

Education and gender had an impact on unemployment rates. Figure 6.4 shows wide variations between economically active male and female youth sharing similar education qualifications regarding unemployment rates.

Proportionally fewer males than females across all educational levels indicated that they were unemployed in 1996.

Figure 6.4: Unemployment rate (expanded definition) of economically active youth by level of education and sex



While 33,8% of economically active male youth were unemployed, among females with similar educational status 52,3% were unemployed.

There is a difference of more than ten percentage points between the proportion of unemployed economically active male youth with matric only (23,1%) and their female counterparts (34,9%).

Implications

On average, the unemployment rate of 40,8% among youth in South Africa in October 1996 was high. Of the four population groups, Africans had the highest unemployment rate followed by coloureds.

Women in particular showed to be highly affected by unemployment. Whereas about half (49,6%) of all young females who were economically active had no jobs, about 33,0% of men were unemployed.

Such discrepancies also appeared between the various provinces in South Africa where other provinces such as Eastern Cape recorded an unemployment rate among youth of 55,6% while Western Cape recorded 22,3%.

Conclusion

This report is aimed at highlighting some of the essential findings from Census '96 about the youth of South Africa. The report singles out the youth as an important but often neglected sector of the society. Some of the problems faced by the youth in South Africa are of a unique nature and have major implications on the nature and scope of service delivery in the country both presently and in the future. It is therefore important that such problem areas be fore-grounded to facilitate proper planning and implementation of developmental policies.

Youth form a large constituency (40%) within the population of South Africa and their proportion, particularly among Africans, is on the increase. Figures on the age of mothers at first childbirth point to one of the major population concerns in South Africa, (Department of Welfare, 1998), and the National Population Unit (1989, 2000), namely, the adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive behaviour.

That about 12% of all young females in South Africa became mothers while they were between 12 and 16 years of age highlights the seriousness of the problem of unwanted and unplanned pregnancy particularly among teenagers of school-going age. Also highlighted, is the problem of the inaccessibility of proper healthcare facilities and education on reproductive health and contraceptives.

Added to this, is the devastating impact of HIV/Aids and other sexually transmitted diseases, particularly on the youth in South Africa. Because of 'the deprivation trap' a large percentage of youth live in abject poverty. Their households do not have adequate money for basic needs and as a result youth, particularly females, become vulnerable to abuse and prostitution. Under such circumstances, youth are often left powerless regarding decisions and choices pertaining to the quality of their own lives.

Education is a very valuable means through which people are empowered. The unavailability of proper learning facilities for youth, particularly African youth in rural areas and peripheral urban squatter settlements has resulted in notable differences in educational achievements among the youth in South Africa. Large percentages of African youth (8%) indicated having had no formal education at all, while on the one hand only a small minority (5%) of African youth compared to (28%) of white youth, acquired post-matric qualifications.

Without proper qualifications, the chances of one getting a job are remote. Also, the type of jobs available for those with inadequate qualifications is also at an elementary level. A large percentage of female youth (21%) worked as domestic workers in private households and on average, 26% of youth held jobs at elementary level in 1996. This includes 25,7% of African youth and as low as 2,4% among white youth.

The repercussions of the differences in the employment industries and the levels of employment among the youth are notable in their monthly incomes. Many youth, particularly females both in urban areas (83,2%) and non-urban areas (94,3%), live under extreme conditions of poverty with monthly salaries that can barely meet their basic needs. Four in every ten employed African youth and a quarter of all employed coloured youth were earning a monthly income of R500 and less.

Added to this, is the fact that the extremely high unemployment rates among the youth. Two in every five economically active youth (40,8%) were unemployed in 1996. Unemployment was particularly high in provinces that are mostly rural, i.e. Eastern Cape, (55,7%), Northern Province (53,4%) and KwaZulu-Natal (47,1%). The unemployment rate for older economically active people aged between 36-65 years is 25,0%, quite low compared to that of the youth.

Of all the population groups, African youth had the highest rate of unemployment of 50,2% more than half of those that were economically active. The situation is worse among African youth in non-urban areas where on average 55,3% of economically active youth were unemployed in 1996; 45,0% among young males and 66,4% among young females.

In conclusion, while the 50,2% unemployment rate for the economically active African youth might be high, it is lower compared to the 60,7% for economically active people aged 36-65 years. Similarly, the 5,7% unemployment rate for white youth is lower compared to the 6,8% rate for those aged 36-65 years. However, the unemployment rate for coloured youth (25,1%) and Indian youth (14,9%), should be a point of concern as it is higher than that for coloureds and Indians aged 36-65 years, i.e. 22,4% and 11,2% respectively.