



# Living in Eastern Cape

Selected findings of  
the 1995 October  
household survey

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# **Living in Eastern Cape**

## **Selected findings of the 1995 October household survey**

**Central Statistics  
1998**

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The detailed statistical tables on which this publication is based are available as 'October household survey', CSS statistical release **P0317** (South Africa as a whole), and **P0317.1** to **P0317.9** (the nine provinces). These can be ordered from Central Statistics, Pretoria, in both printed and electronic format.

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*Living in North West. Selected findings of the 1995 October household survey* (forthcoming, 1998)

*Living in Western Cape. Selected findings of the 1995 October household survey* (forthcoming, 1998)

Preliminary estimates of the size of the South African population, based on the population census conducted in October 1996, were issued by the CSS in July 1997. These suggested that there are fewer people (37,9 million) in the country, and that urbanisation (55%) has been more rapid, than was previously realised.

The new census numbers may have an effect on some of the weights and raising factors that were used in this report, since these are presently based on projections of population and household size to 1995, using the 1991 census estimates as baseline.

The new CSS management believes that the model used to adjust the actual count of people found in the 1991 census probably overestimated population growth rates in the country, hence overestimating the size of the population and number of households.

*The number of people, the number of households and the percentages reported here will therefore probably need to be modified at a later date when the CSS has more complete information about household size and distribution of the population by race and age from Census '96. Nevertheless, these overall trends should be accepted as indicative of the broad patterns in households in South Africa in general, and Eastern Cape in particular, during 1995.*

# Contents

	Page
<b>Section 1: Introduction</b>	
Background	1
The research process	2
The questionnaire	2
Drawing a sample	2
The fieldwork	4
Data capture	4
Weighting the sample	4
Data analysis and report writing	5
Comparison with 1994 data	5
<b>Section 2: The main findings regarding individuals</b>	
The population of Eastern Cape	7
Age distribution	10
Migration	13
Education	14
Employment and unemployment in Eastern Cape	15
The employed in Eastern Cape	24
Economic sector	28
Income distribution among the employed who are working as employees	30
The informal economy	34
<b>Section 3: The main findings regarding households</b>	
Types of dwellings in which households live	39
Access to facilities and services	41
Electricity for lighting	41
Electricity for cooking	42
Obtaining wood for domestic use among Africans in non-urban areas	43
Water for drinking	44
Sanitation	45
Health-care facilities	46
Telephones	47
Household income	47
Feelings of safety and security	49
<b>Section 4: Disability in Eastern Cape</b>	
<b>Section 5: Conclusion</b>	

# List of Figures

	<b>Page</b>
Figure 1: Population of Eastern Cape by population group	7
Figure 2: Percentage population of South Africa in urban and non-urban areas by province	8
Figure 3: Percentage of the population of Eastern Cape in urban areas by population group compared with South Africa as a whole	9
Figure 4: Percentage of the population of Eastern Cape in non-urban areas by population group compared with South Africa as a whole	9
Figure 5: Among Africans in Eastern Cape, age distribution by gender	10
Figure 6: Among coloureds in Eastern Cape, age distribution by gender	11
Figure 7: Among whites in Eastern Cape, age distribution by gender	11
Figure 8: Age distribution of all population groups in Eastern Cape by gender	12
Figure 9: Age distribution of all population groups in South Africa by gender	13
Figure 10: Level of education by population group and gender among those aged 20 years and above in Eastern Cape	14
Figure 11: Level of education by population group and gender among those aged 20 years and above in the whole of South Africa	15
Figure 12: The employment status of the economically active population in South Africa and Eastern Cape	16
Figure 13: Unemployment rates by population group and gender in Eastern Cape (expanded definition compared with strict definition)	17
Figure 14: Unemployment rates by population group and gender in South Africa (expanded definition compared with strict definition)	18
Figure 15: Unemployment rates in South Africa by province and type of area	19
Figure 16: Unemployment rates in Eastern Cape by population group in urban and non-urban areas	20
Figure 17: Unemployment rates in South Africa by gender and province	21
Figure 18: Unemployment rates in Eastern Cape by population group and gender	21
Figure 19: Distribution of the unemployed by age, population group and gender in Eastern Cape	22
Figure 20: Distribution of the unemployed by age, population group and gender in South Africa	23
Figure 21: Occupation of employed people in Eastern Cape	24
Figure 22: Occupation of employed people in South Africa	25
Figure 23: Occupation of employed Africans by gender in Eastern Cape	25
Figure 24: Occupation of employed coloureds by gender in Eastern Cape	26

Figure 25:	Occupation of employed whites by gender in Eastern Cape	27
Figure 26:	Economic sector of those employed in Eastern Cape	28
Figure 27:	Economic sector of those employed in South Africa	29
Figure 28:	Percentage of employees in each gross monthly income category in Eastern Cape	30
Figure 29:	Percentage of employees in each gross monthly income category in South Africa	31
Figure 30:	Percentage of employed Africans working as employees in each gross monthly income category in Eastern Cape	32
Figure 31:	Percentage of employed coloureds working as employees in each gross monthly income category in Eastern Cape	33
Figure 32:	Percentage of employed whites working as employees in each gross monthly income category in Eastern Cape	33
Figure 33:	Workers involved in the informal sector as a percentage of the total number of workers in each province	34
Figure 34:	Workers for own account in the informal sector by economic sector and gender in Eastern Cape	35
Figure 35:	Workers for own account in the informal sector by economic sector by gender in South Africa	35
Figure 36:	Workers for own account in the informal sector by occupation and gender in Eastern Cape	36
Figure 37:	Workers for own account in the informal sector by occupation and gender in South Africa	37
Figure 38:	Type of dwelling in which African households live in urban and non-urban areas in Eastern Cape	39
Figure 39:	Size of dwelling by population group of heads of households in Eastern Cape	40
Figure 40:	Average households size by population group in urban and non-urban areas in Eastern Cape	41
Figure 41:	Source of energy for lighting in urban and non-urban African households in Eastern Cape	42
Figure 42:	Source of energy for cooking in urban and non-urban African households in Eastern Cape	43
Figure 43:	Source of water for drinking in urban and non-urban African households in Eastern Cape	44
Figure 44:	Type of sanitation used among African households in urban and non-urban areas in Eastern Cape	45
Figure 45:	Source of health-care used by households by population group in Eastern Cape	46
Figure 46:	Percentage of households in each annual income quintile by population group and gender of head of household in Eastern Cape	48
Figure 47:	Feeling safe in one's neighbourhood, by population group of head of household in Eastern Cape	49
Figure 48:	Feeling safe inside one's own home, by population group of head of household in Eastern Cape	50



# Section 1

## Introduction

### Background

South Africa's democratically-elected government is committed to a better life for all the country's inhabitants. The extent of change this requires nationally, and in Eastern Cape in particular, can be quantified through a programme of household surveys. The most comprehensive and regular of these surveys – the Central Statistical Service's (CSS) annual *October household survey* (OHS) – is able to provide detailed information about the living conditions and life circumstances of all South Africans, both nationally and in all nine provinces.

In addition, a programme of household surveys should make it possible not only to describe the situation in a country (or parts of the country) at a given point in time, but also to measure change in people's life circumstances as and when new government policies are implemented.

The first comprehensive CSS household survey in the country was conducted in October 1993. It was repeated, with modifications to the questionnaire, in 1994 and 1995. The former 'TBVC states' (Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei) were initially excluded from the survey but, in 1994 and 1995, the entire country was covered.

This report is a summary of the *provincial* findings of the 1995 OHS in Eastern Cape. It paints a demographic, social and economic picture of life in that province and draws comparisons between Eastern Cape and South Africa as a whole.

Eastern Cape occupies 169 580 square kilometres of land (14% of the total land of the country), and has a population density of 38,2 people per square kilometre. It is home to some 16% of South Africa's total population, according to estimates based on the 1991 population census. Of these, approximately 65% live in non-urban areas, giving Eastern Cape a predominantly rural character. This is partially because two of the former 'TBVC states' (Transkei and Ciskei), which were largely rural, have been incorporated into this province.

The average rainfall of Bisho, the capital of Eastern Cape, is approximately 62 mm in January and 31 mm in July, indicating that the province is generally on the dry side. In 1991, the life expectancy of the inhabitants of Eastern Cape was estimated at between 60 and 65 years, the second lowest compared to other provinces.

## **The research process**

We now turn our attention to the methodology used in the 1995 OHS to gather the information on which this report is based. The following steps constituted the research process for the 1995 OHS:

- Questionnaire design
- Drawing a sample
- Fieldwork
- Data capture
- Weighting the sample back to the population
- Data analysis
- Report writing

Each step is discussed in more detail below.

### **The questionnaire**

The 1995 OHS questionnaire, in the same vein as previous ones, contains questions about the household as a whole, as well as on all individual members.

In the household section, questions are asked about type of dwelling (or dwellings) in which the household lives, access to facilities such as electricity, tap water, toilets, regular refuse removal, access to health and social welfare services, and the safety and well-being of the household.

In the section completed for each individual in the household, questions are asked on age, gender, education, marital status, migration, use of health services, economic activity, unemployment, employment and self-employment.

Questions are also asked on births and deaths in the household, but these are not discussed in the present report.

### **Drawing a sample**

In 1995, information was obtained from 30 000 households. Of these, 5 345 were situated in Eastern Cape, having been selected from 77 magisterial districts.

- Of the total of 3 000 enumerator areas (EAs) that were drawn for the sample, country-wide, 536 EAs were drawn from Eastern Cape, and ten households were visited in each EA.

- The 1995 sample was stratified by province, urban and non-urban areas, and population group.
- The 1991 population census was used as a frame for drawing the sample. However, this census had certain shortcomings, affecting the drawing of all OHS samples between 1993 and 1995:
  - ⇒ The former 'TBVC states' were excluded in the 1991 census. Consequently, their size had to be estimated when drawing samples of households. This exclusion affected the sample frame in Eastern Cape, since the former Ciskei and Transkei areas are now situated in this province.
  - ⇒ Certain parts of the country, particularly rural areas in the former 'self-governing' territories, were not demarcated into clearly defined EAs, and the households in these districts were not listed. Instead, a 'sweep census' was done, covering an entire magisterial district.
  - ⇒ In other areas of the country, particularly informal settlements, aerial photography was used to estimate population size, backed by small-scale surveys among households in areas where the photographs were taken.
  - ⇒ No allowance was made for new informal settlements, which were springing up all over South Africa at the time, to be incorporated into the sampling frame.

In the 1995 OHS, some attempts were made to overcome the sampling problems resulting from difficulties with the 1991 population census. For example, magisterial districts where a 'sweep census' had taken place were sub-divided into smaller units, and new informal settlements were incorporated into the boundaries of existing enumerator areas. However, when implementing the sampling plan, difficulties were experienced. For example, fieldworkers became confused about the exact boundaries of particular EAs when taking these changes into account.

In addition, fieldwork for the 1995 OHS took place at the same time as CSS staff were demarcating new EA boundaries for the 1996 census. As a consequence, old 1991 census and new 1996 census EA boundaries were, on occasion, confused during OHS fieldwork.

These problems were taken into account in the weighting procedures adopted, and this is discussed in the later part of this chapter.

## **The fieldwork**

In the households which were sampled, information was collected through face-to-face interviews, whereby fieldworkers administered a questionnaire to a responsible person in each household.

The fieldwork for the 1995 OHS was combined with fieldwork for an *income and expenditure survey* (IES), used primarily to calculate weights for household purchases in calculating the consumer price index (CPI). The same households were visited for both the OHS and the IES: fieldworkers first administered the OHS questionnaire, and returned at a later date to administer the questionnaire for the IES.

In some cases, however, problems were experienced in returning to the same household, particularly in informal settlements and in rural areas, where addresses were not available, and where demarcation of the EA or listings of households had not been undertaken for the 1991 census.

These problems were solved, as far as possible, during the data-capture process by matching responses to common questions in the two surveys.

## **Data capture**

Data capture of both the 1995 OHS and the IES took place at the head office of the CSS. This process involved an attempt to link the information contained in the 1995 OHS with that from the IES. This was an important exercise because, if successful, details concerning household income and expenditure patterns (IES) could be added to details about education, employment and overall life circumstances (OHS). This would have provided a more comprehensive socio-economic description of life in South Africa.

However, difficulties were encountered in linking the two data sets. For example, information in the OHS on type of dwelling, household income and access to services did not always coincide with the IES data. These problems were generally solved by identifying the incompatibilities and adjusting the data within head office, but sometimes revisits to households had to be made. The linking of the two data sets caused considerable delays in data capture.

## **Weighting the sample**

Data concerning households were weighted by the estimated number of households in the country, in the various provinces according to the proportions found in urban and non-urban areas in the 1991 population census, and by the race of the head of the household. First, we weighted the data on individuals, and then the weight assigned to the head of household was used as the weight for the household.

Data on individuals within households were weighted by race and gender, according to 1991 CSS estimates of the population living in urban and non-urban areas in the nine provinces.

The original aim was to weight the data by magisterial district, but this was not possible because of the EA boundary problems, as previously described. Boundary problems could only be overcome by weighting the sample to a higher level, namely the provinces.

All further discussions in this report are based on weighted figures. However, preliminary estimates based on the October 1996 population census have shown that South Africa's population is smaller than previously thought, and that urbanisation has been more rapid. But the preliminary estimates are based on a limited set of variables, and it is therefore not possible at this stage to use the 1996 census as a basis for weighting this data set. The numbers and percentages in this report, based on weights derived from the 1991 population census, should therefore be regarded as indicative, rather than definitive.

### **Data analysis and report writing**

The data were made available for report writing as a series of tables and cross-tabulations. This summary report is based on these tables.

### **Comparison with 1994 data**

The CSS is still grappling with sampling issues, based on attempts to use the incomplete sampling frame generated by the 1991 population census.

Since different methodologies were used for drawing the sample in 1994 and 1995, and since diverse problems were encountered as a result of these varying sampling techniques, the 1994 and 1995 OHS data sets are not directly comparable in all respects. They are essentially separate snapshots of different parts of the country during two consecutive years.

However, there are certain similarities between these two surveys when looking at overall broad patterns. For example, access to water and toilet facilities remains problematic in non-urban areas in both surveys. Unemployment remains high, and the proportion of Africans in elementary occupations such as cleaning and garbage removal remains similar.

Following on the 1996 population census, there should in future be a more accurate sampling frame on the basis of which to draw samples. We will then develop a standardised methodology for sampling, after which it may be more possible to compare household survey results over time. Calculations of the standard errors, confidence intervals and design effects of certain selected variables in 1994 and 1995 have, however, been undertaken. These are available from CSS on request.

In this report, we have avoided making comparisons between 1994 and 1995 because we cannot, on the basis of two surveys, as yet calculate whether variations in answers are due to genuine developmental changes, to sampling error, or to other sources of error such as misunderstanding of questions. As more household surveys are conducted over time, however, it should become increasingly possible to compare the data, particularly if the 1996 population census yields a better sampling frame.

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## Section 2

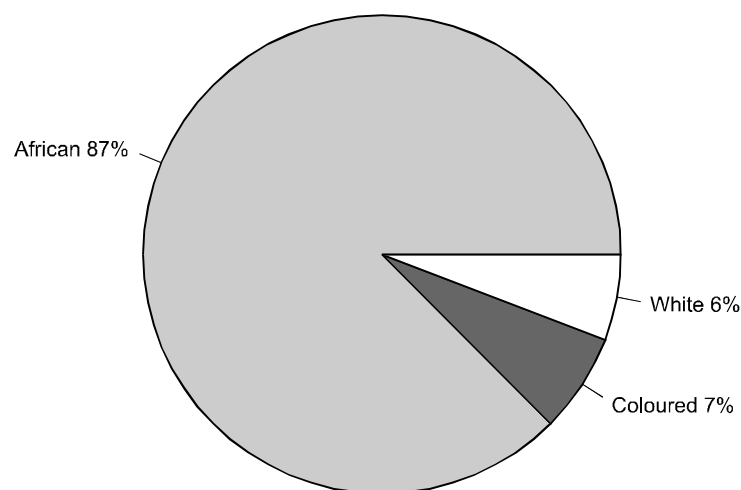
### The main findings regarding individuals

#### The population of Eastern Cape

Eastern Cape is the third most populous province in South Africa after KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng. As with all provinces, except for Western and Northern Cape, Africans are in the majority in Eastern Cape, as shown in Figure 1.

Africans constitute 87%, coloureds 7%, whites 6% and Indians fewer than 1% of the population of Eastern Cape. The proportion of coloureds in the province is larger than the proportion of whites – slightly different from the national trend.

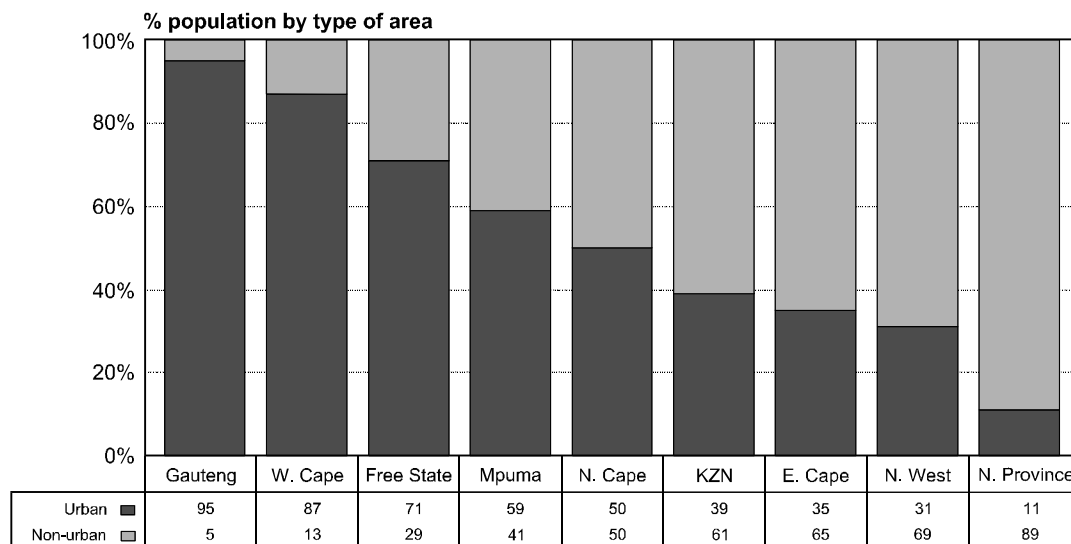
Since the proportion of Indians is so small, this group has been excluded as a separate category from any further analysis in this report, but is included in all totals describing the province as a whole.



Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 1: Population of Eastern Cape by population group**

The distribution of the population between urban and non-urban areas differs greatly by province. Eastern Cape is predominantly non-urban (65%), as indicated in Figure 2. But it is Northern Province which has the highest proportion of people living in non-urban areas in the country (89%), while Gauteng and Western Cape have the highest proportion of residents living in urban areas (95% and 89% respectively).



Source: October household survey, 1995

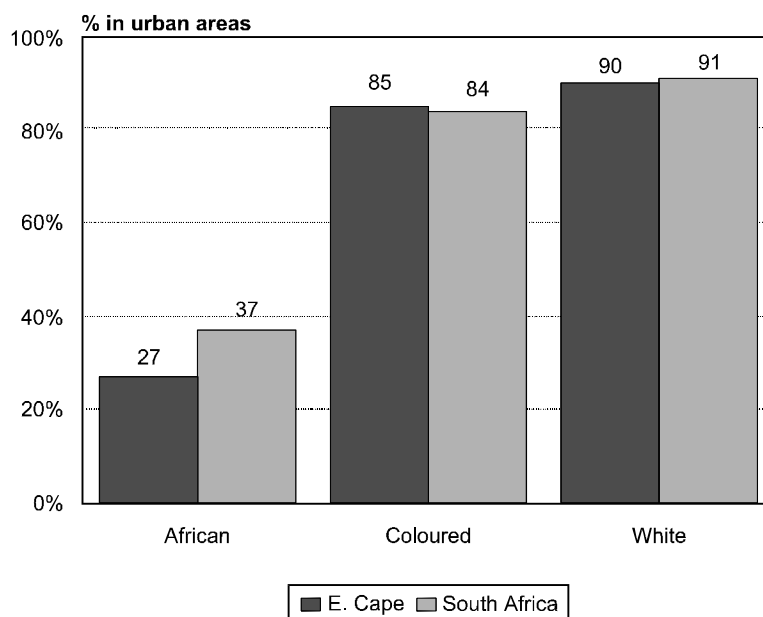
**Figure 2: Percentage population of South Africa in urban and non-urban areas by province**

Eastern Cape is more rural in character than South Africa as a whole. According to the national report on the 1995 October household survey (OHS), the South African population is almost equally distributed between urban (50%) and non-urban (50%) areas (Hirschowitz and Orkin, 1996:6).

As in every other province in South Africa, the distribution of the estimated population of Eastern Cape in urban and non-urban areas varies by population group. In this province, 27% of Africans live in urban areas, as against 37% nationally; and 85% of the coloured and 90% of the white population lives in urban areas, compared to 84% of coloureds and 91% of whites nationally (Figure 3).

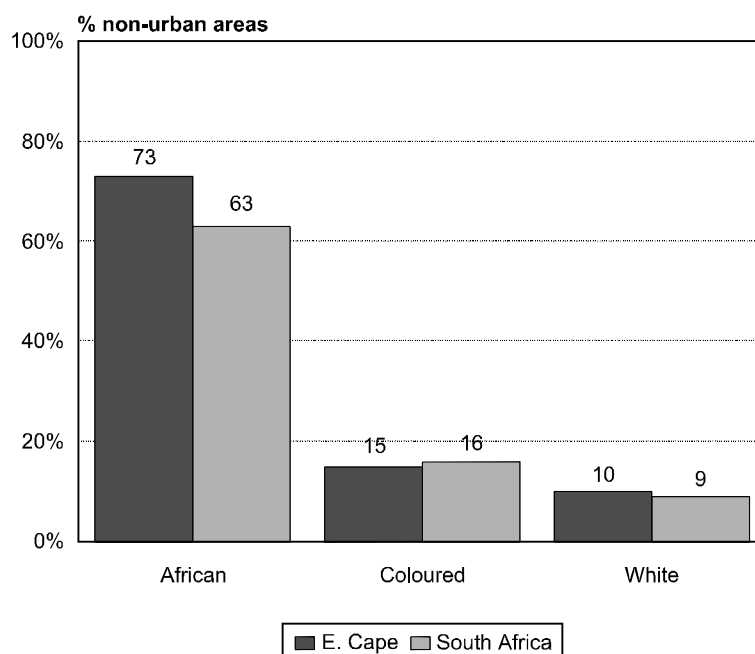
As Figure 4 indicates, a large proportion of the African population (73%) in Eastern Cape lives in non-urban areas, compared to 63% in the country as a whole. Both nationally and provincially, the majority of the African population is found in non-urban areas, while the majority of the coloured and white population lives in urban areas.





Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 3: Percentage of the population of Eastern Cape in urban areas by population group compared with South Africa as a whole**



Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 4: Percentage of the population of Eastern Cape in non-urban areas by population group compared with South Africa as a whole**

## Age distribution

Figures 5 to 7 depict the estimated age distribution among the various population groups in Eastern Cape. The figures indicate that the provinces' African population is relatively young, with children under the age of 15 constituting more than 44% of the total African population (48% of males and 41% of females) in Eastern Cape. With such an age structure, the youth dependency ratio, or the proportion of youth (below 15 years) to adults (15 years or more) – a ratio of 0,84 to 1 – is very high. This means that, for every hundred adults over the age of 15, there are 84 children to support. The extremely broad base of the population pyramid is typically characteristic of underdeveloped (rather than developed) areas.

However, to gauge the full implications of youth dependency ratios, they should be seen in conjunction with unemployment rates.

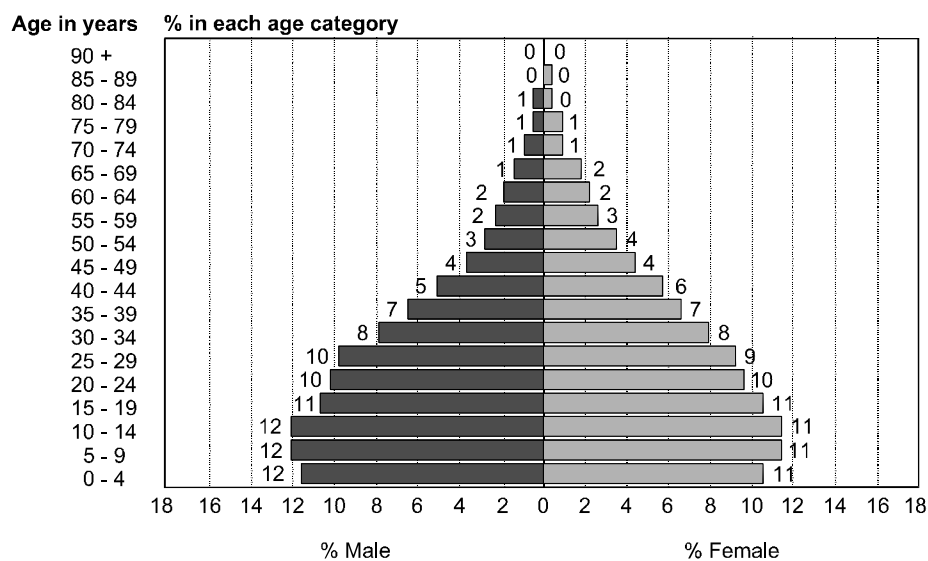


Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 5: Among Africans in Eastern Cape, age distribution by gender**

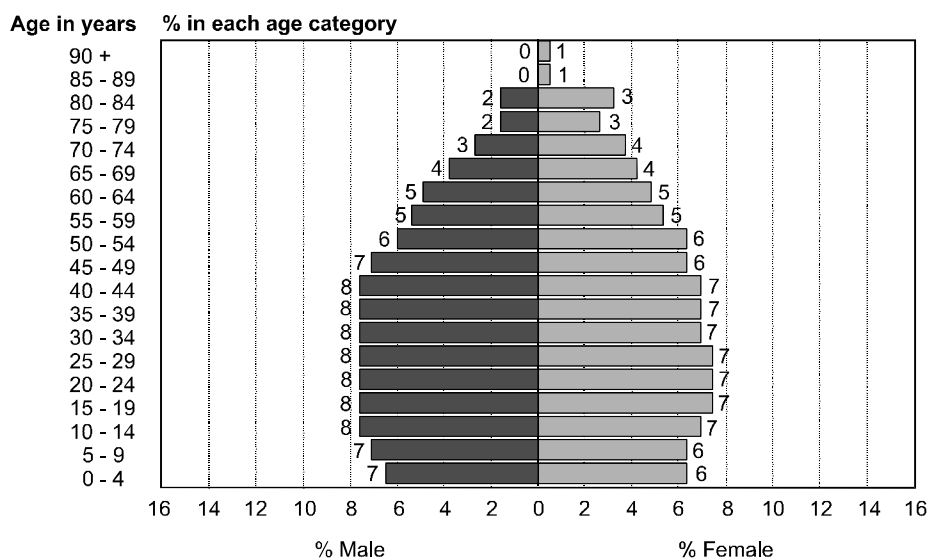
The estimated age distribution of the coloured population in Eastern Cape, as indicated in Figure 6, shows some differences to African distribution, with 34% of the coloured population (36% of males and 33% of females) being below the age of 15. The youth dependency ratio for the coloured population is 0,55 – considerably lower than the African ratio of 0,84 to 1.

The age distribution of the white population is closer to the profile of a developed country, as indicated in Figure 7, and its youth dependency ratio at 0,36 is very much lower than that of both the African and coloured population in Eastern Cape.



Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 6: Among coloureds in Eastern Cape, age distribution by gender**



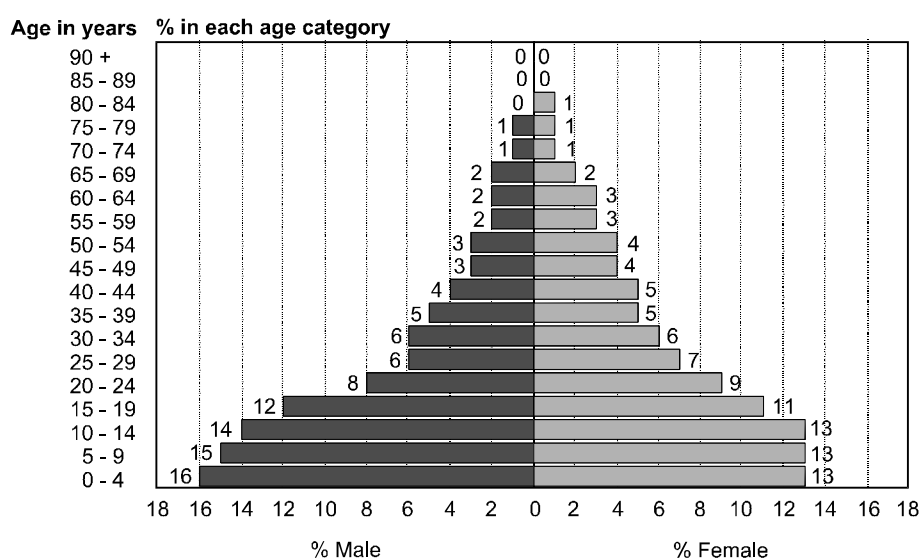
Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 7: Among whites in Eastern Cape, age distribution by gender**

Figures 8 and 9 show that there is a higher proportion of children of all population groups under the age of 15 in Eastern Cape (42% altogether – 39% of females and 45% of males) than there are in the country as a whole. Figure 8 also shows a sharp drop in the proportion of males in the 20-24 age category, indicating the possibility of migration to the more urban provinces in search of work.

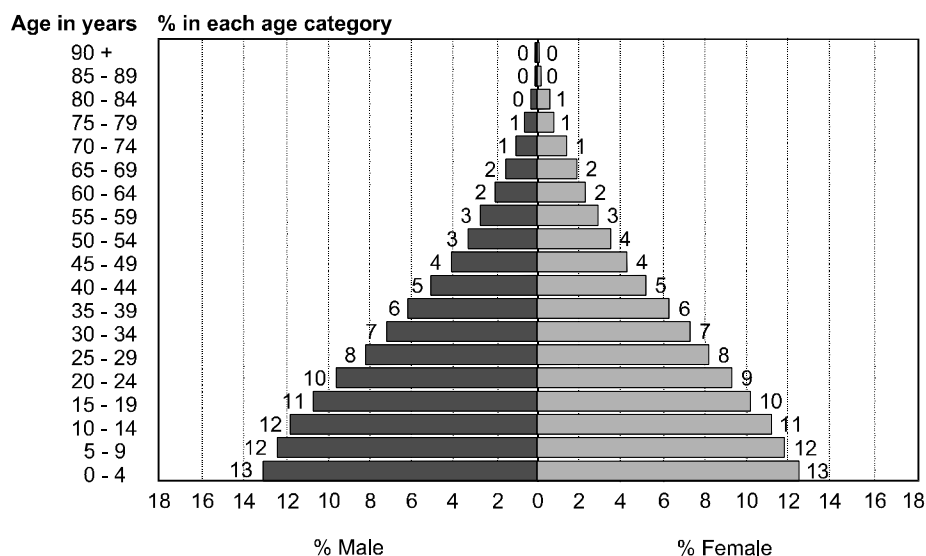
The youth dependency ratio in Eastern Cape (0,84) is very high when compared to the national ratio (0,60). While there are sixty children to support for every hundred adults nationally, this increases to 84 children for every hundred adults in Eastern Cape.

Fertility rates in non-urban areas are generally higher than those in urban areas. This phenomenon, combined with the high percentage of Eastern Cape's population living in non-urban areas, goes some way to explaining the very high youth dependency ratio in the province when compared to the national ratio.



Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 8: Age distribution of all population groups in Eastern Cape by gender**



Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 9: Age distribution of all population groups in South Africa by gender**

Females dominate the gender structure in Eastern Cape, comprising 57% of those in the 15 to 64 year age group – well above the South African average of 51%. The mining industry’s history of large-scale recruitment of (necessarily male) migrant workers from the Transkei, coupled to the more-recent large-scale movement of men to the Western Cape in search of work may, in part, explain this phenomenon.

## Migration

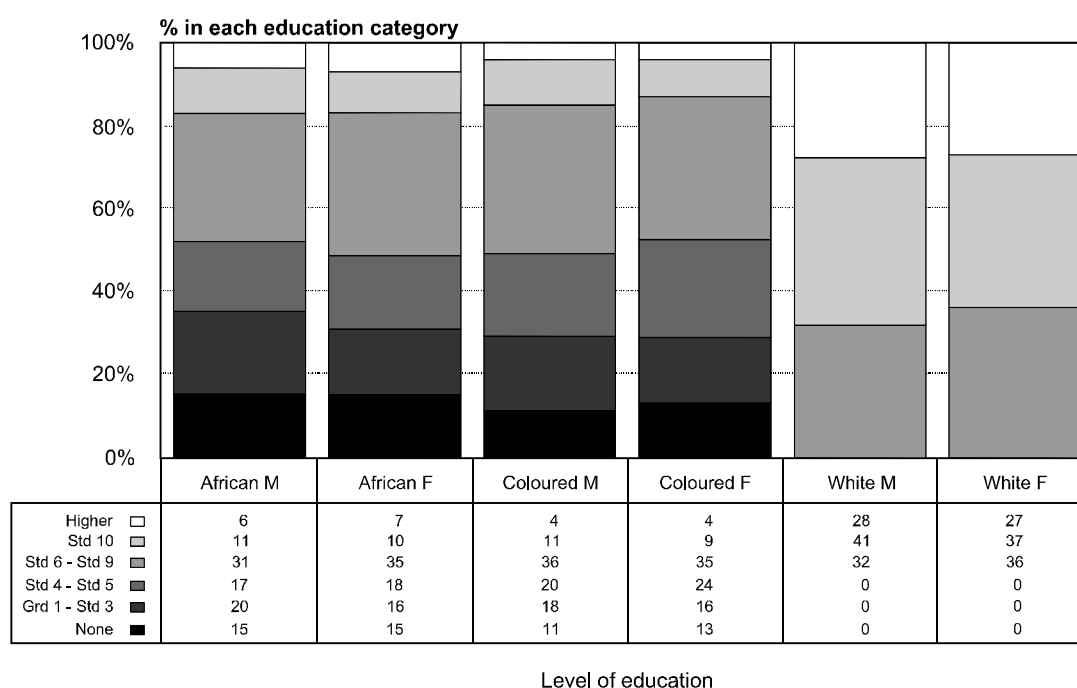
Relatively few people move into Eastern Cape from other provinces. Of the total population now resident in Eastern Cape, 95% were born there. Of the remaining 5%, 2,9% have come into the province from KwaZulu-Natal, while Western Cape accounts for 1,2% and Gauteng 0,9% of those who have moved into the province and are still living there.

Proportionately more people have moved out of Eastern Cape than into the province. Of the total population born in Eastern Cape, 90% are still living there. Of those who have left the province, the largest proportion of those moved to Western Cape (5%), followed by Gauteng (3%) and KwaZulu-Natal (1%).

## Education

Access to education in Eastern Cape varies by population group and gender. This is in line with the national picture (Hirschowitz and Orkin, 1996:12). Among those aged 20 years or more, a striking difference exists in educational attainment between Africans and coloureds on the one hand, and whites on the other. Variation in educational attainment by gender is also striking. As many as 15% of African males and females, and 11% of coloured males and 13% of coloured females in the province, have never attended school, while all whites have attended school.

In addition, 37% of African males and 34% of African females, and 38% of coloured males and 40% of coloured females have not received any secondary school qualifications (higher than Standard 5), while practically all whites have done so (Figure 10). Moreover, 84% of Africans and 87% of coloureds have not attained Standard 10, while only 34% of whites (32% of males and 36% of females) have not completed Standard 10.

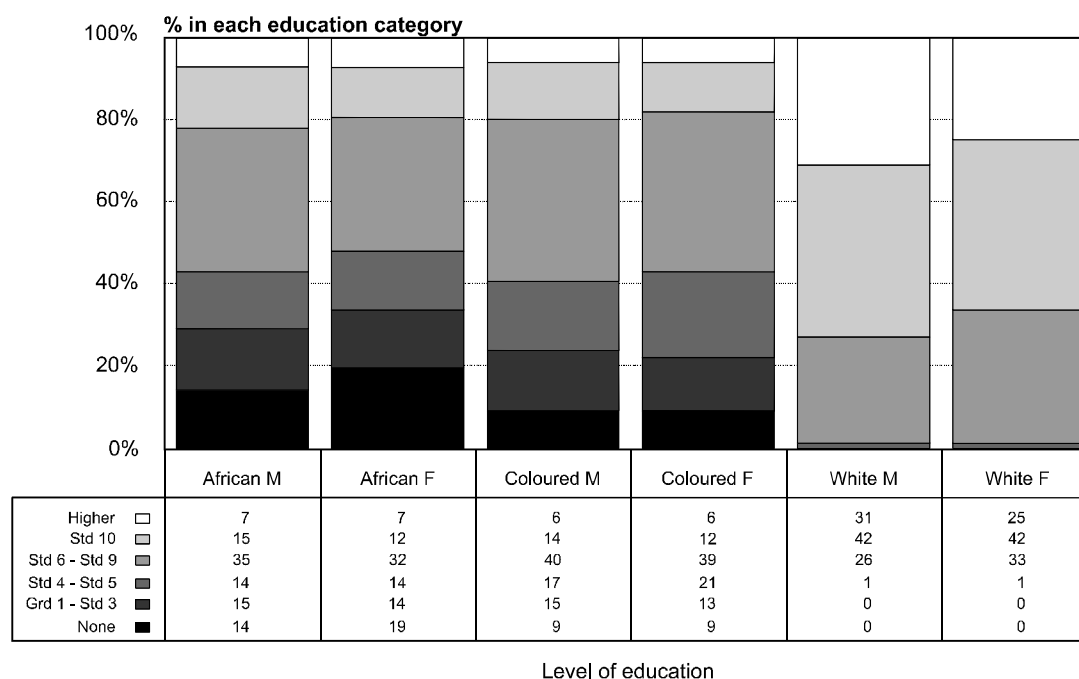


Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 10: Level of education by population group and gender among those aged 20 years and over in Eastern Cape**

At secondary level, the proportion of students who leave school before completing Standard 10 is high for both African males and females. Only 11% of African males and 10% of African females have completed Standard 10, while only 6% of African males and 7% of African females have attained post-school qualifications. The picture for coloured males and females is very similar. Among whites, however, a different picture emerges. As many as 41% of males have completed Standard 10, while 28% have post-school qualifications; and 37% of females have completed Standard 10, while 27% have post-school qualifications.

As far as educational attainment is concerned, the situation in Eastern Cape is similar to that of the overall national picture. In the country as a whole, 43% of African males, and 47% of African females, and 41% of coloured males and 43% of coloured females, have received only a primary school (Standard 5 or lower) education, if any, compared with 1% of white males and females. In the country as a whole, and in Eastern Cape, relatively fewer Africans and coloureds, compared to whites, complete Standard 10 or obtain higher qualifications. This is demonstrated in Figure 11.



Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 11: Level of education by population group and gender among those aged 20 years and over in the whole of South Africa**

## Employment and unemployment in Eastern Cape

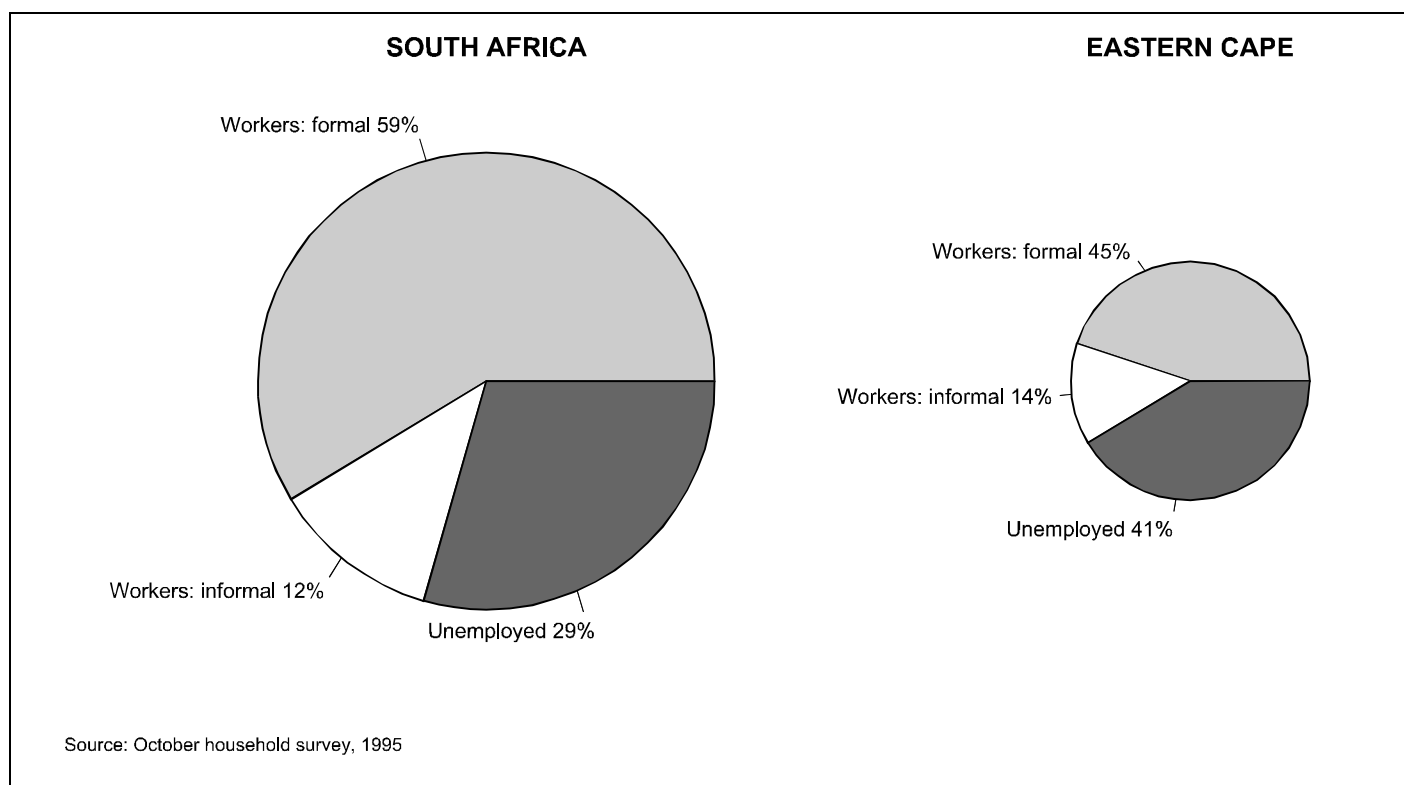
### The economically active population

In Eastern Cape, 55% of people aged 15 years or more are economically active. This refers to all those who are available for work, and includes both the employed and the unemployed who are available for work. People who are not available for work, for example those under the age of 15 years, students, scholars, full-time housewives or homemakers, retired people, pensioners, the severely disabled and others who are permanently unable to work, are excluded from the definition of the economically active population.

## The unemployed

At least two definitions of unemployment are used in South Africa – the strict and the expanded definition. Both definitions include people who are aged 15 years or older and who, though unemployed, are available for work. But they differ from each other in the following way. A requirement of the first or strict definition is that a given individual has taken specific steps to seek employment in the four weeks prior to a given point in time. The second or expanded definition focuses on the desire to work and the availability for work, irrespective of whether or not the person has taken active steps to find work (Hirschowitz and Orkin, 1996:15). The expanded definition, therefore, makes provision for those people that are known as the ‘discouraged’ unemployed.

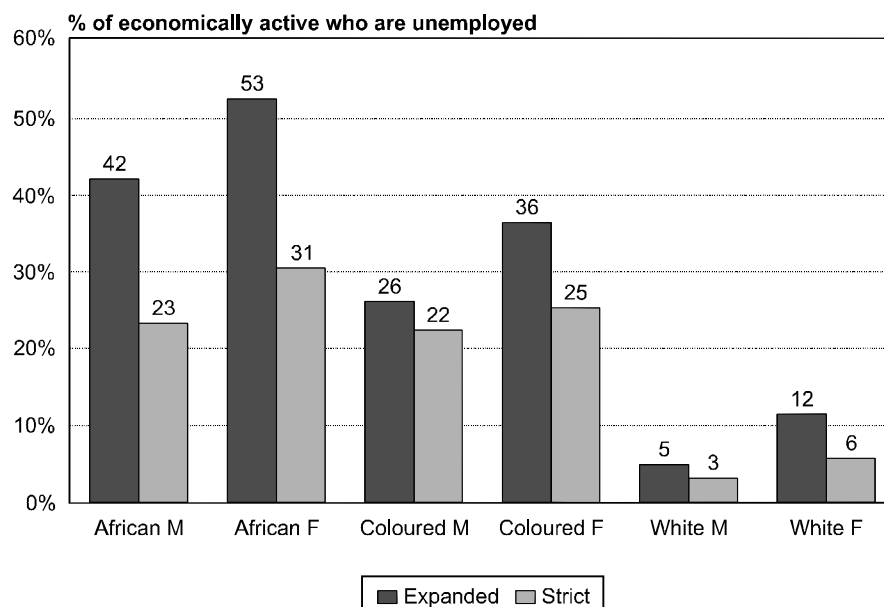
Unemployment is higher in Eastern Cape than in South Africa as a whole. Of the economically active in the province, 41% were recorded as being unemployed in 1995 using the expanded definition, as compared to 29% nationally (Figure 12). Proportionately fewer people work in Eastern Cape formal sector (45%) than in South Africa as a whole (59%), while 14% work in the informal sector, compared to the national figure of 12%.



**Figure 12: The employment status of the economically active population in South Africa and Eastern Cape**



Unemployment varies by population group and gender. Figure 13 compares the unemployment rates among males and females within the main population groups of Eastern Cape, using both the expanded and strict definition of unemployment. The figure indicates that 53% of African females are unemployed when using the expanded definition, compared to 31% when using the strict definition. Likewise, 12% of white women are unemployed according to the expanded definition, compared to 6% when using the strict definition.

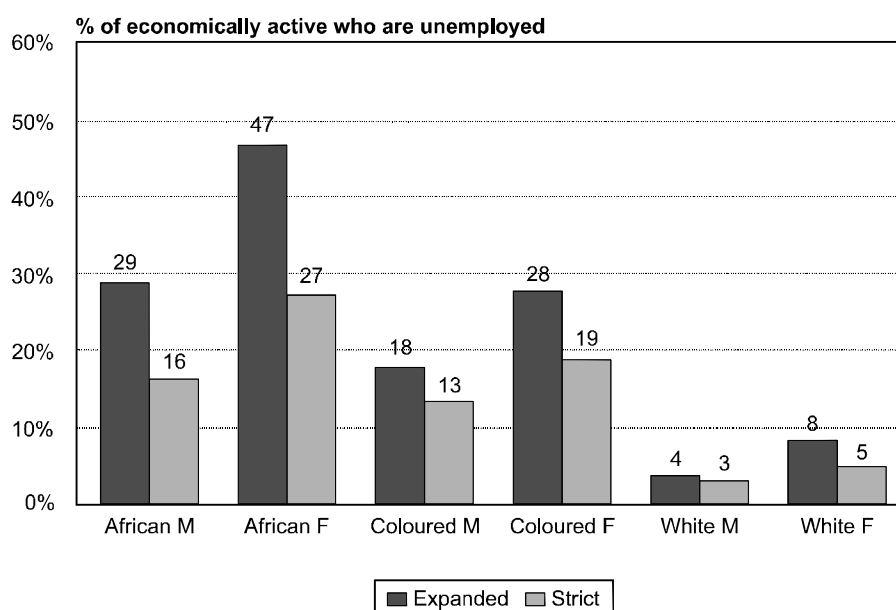


Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 13: Unemployment rates by population group and gender in Eastern Cape (expanded definition compared with strict definition)**

Forty-two percent of African males in Eastern Cape are found to be unemployed when using the expanded definition, compared to 23% with the strict definition. The comparable figure for white males is 5% when using the expanded, and 3% when using the strict definition. For coloured males it is 26% when using the expanded definition, and 22% on the strict definition.

The 1995 OHS figures indicate that the rate of unemployment in Eastern Cape is higher than the national rate. In the whole country, 47% of African females were defined as unemployed using the expanded definition, compared with 27%, when using the strict definition (Figure 14). The comparable figure for coloureds and white females is 28% and 8% respectively, when using the expanded definition, compared with 19% and 5%, when using the strict definition. Figure 14 further indicates that 29% of African males nationally were found to be unemployed when using the expanded definition, compared with 16% using the strict definition. The comparable figure for white males is 4%, using the expanded definition, and 3% when using the strict definition.



Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 14: Unemployment rates by population group and gender in South Africa (expanded definition compared with strict definition)**

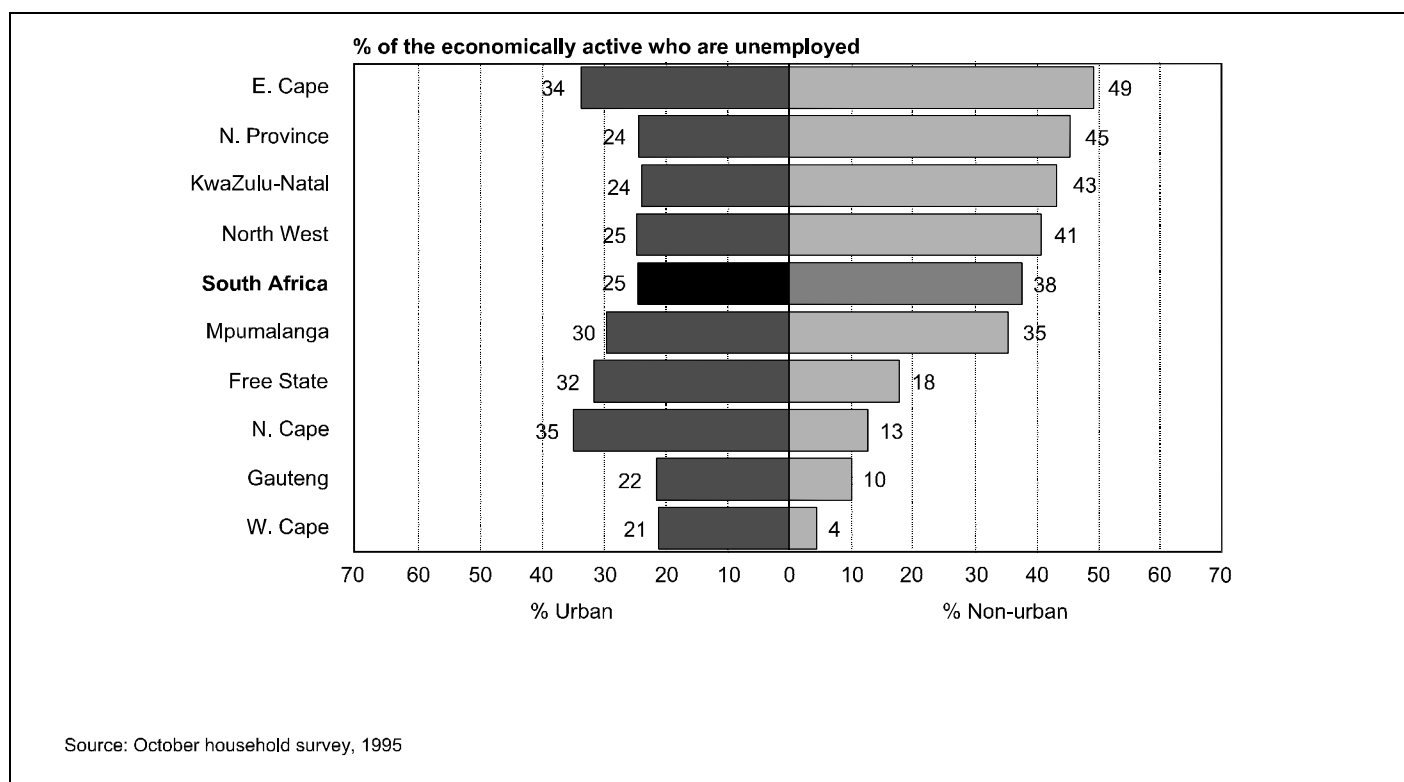
It has been widely recognised that the strict definition of unemployment, with its narrow approach to unemployment, is less useful than the expanded definition. Far from being voluntary, the decision to stop looking for work is contingent upon a wide assortment of reasons, including transport costs, food and other difficulties related to job hunting. Job searching entails costs, both economic and psychological, as well as risks. It is in this context that the World Bank has referred to those who have given up looking for work as the 'discouraged' unemployed. This applies particularly to those in non-urban areas, where employment or income-generating activities are scarce, and transport is expensive.

In the light of these factors, the CSS has approached the unemployment rate in terms of the expanded definition. It is the proportion of people in the economically active population who are not in paid employment or self-employment at a given point in time, but who are available for work or for other income generating activities, and who want to be employed or

self-employed. All of the following graphs are consequently based on the expanded definition of unemployment.

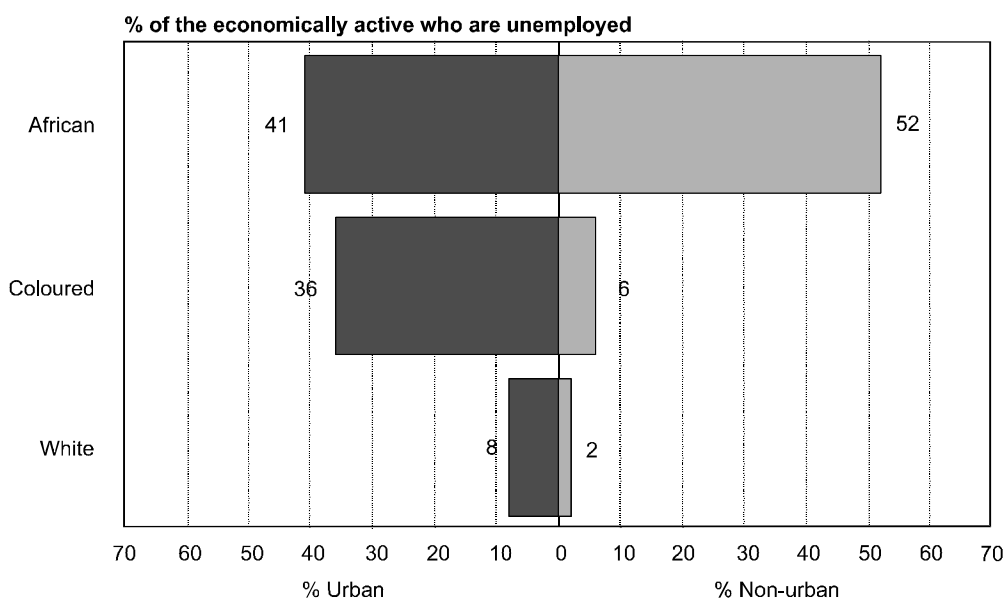
Unemployment varies by province as well as by urban as against non-urban areas. Figure 15 shows that Eastern Cape has the highest unemployment in non-urban areas of all the provinces (49%), followed by Northern province (45%).

This level of unemployment in the non-urban areas of Eastern Cape (49%) is considerably higher than it is in non-urban areas nationally (38%), as indicated in Figure 15. The urban unemployment rate (34%) in Eastern Cape is the second highest in the country, after Northern Cape (35%).



**Figure 15: Unemployment rates in South Africa by province and type of area**

The rate of unemployment among the various population groups in Eastern Cape differs by urban and non-urban areas. Figure 16 indicates that, within the coloured and white communities, unemployment is higher in urban areas than in non-urban areas. This is in marked contrast to the situation in the African community, where the urban unemployment rate (41%) is lower than the non-urban rate (52%). However, the small sample size of coloureds and whites in non-urban areas needs to be taken into account when interpreting these findings.

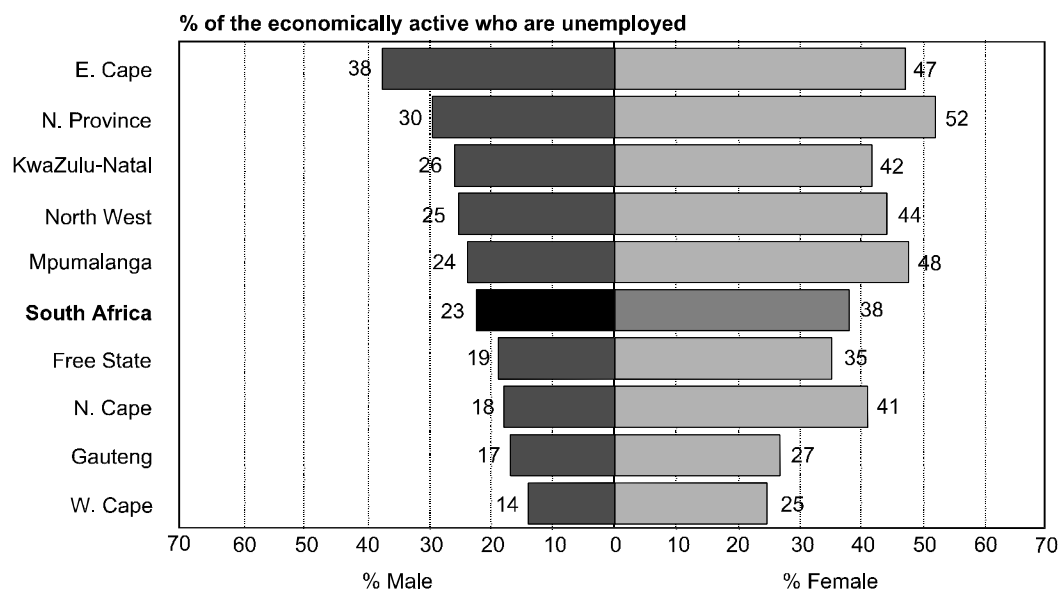


Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 16: Unemployment rates in Eastern Cape by population group in urban and non-urban areas**

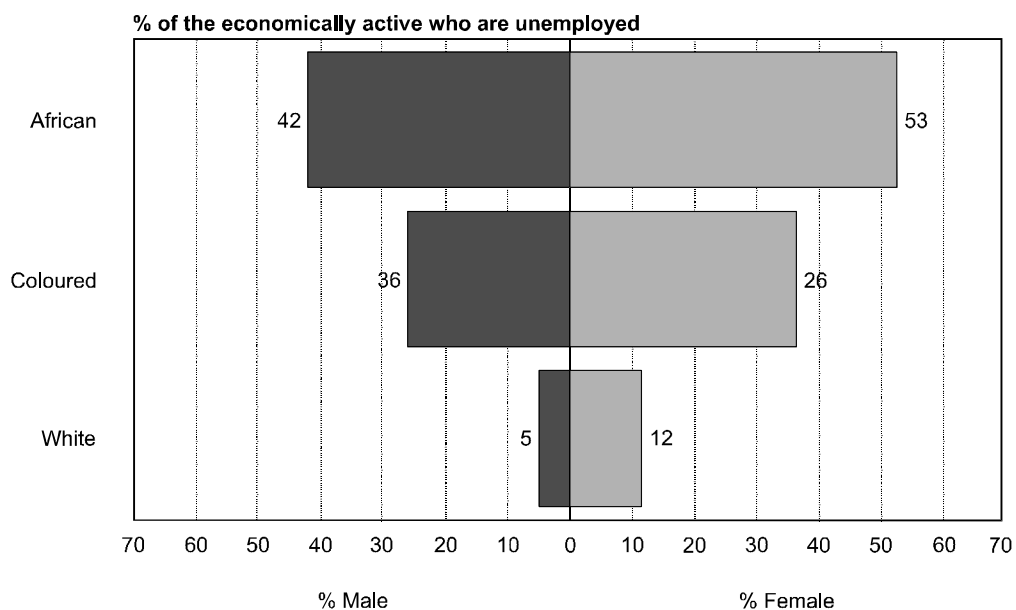
Among males, Eastern Cape's unemployment rate (38%) is the highest in South Africa, followed by Northern Province (30%) (Figure 17). Among females in Eastern Cape, the unemployment rate of 47% is the third highest, after Northern Province (52%) and Mpumalanga (48%). The rate of female unemployment nationally is calculated at 38%.

Among Africans generally, and particularly African females, the rate of unemployment in Eastern Cape is very high. As figure 18 shows, 53% of African females are unemployed, as against 42% of African males in Eastern Cape. Among whites, however, the unemployment rate is lower, with 12% of females and 5% of males unemployed. The coloured community follows a similar pattern, with an unemployment rate of 36% among females and 26% among males.



Source: October household survey, 1995

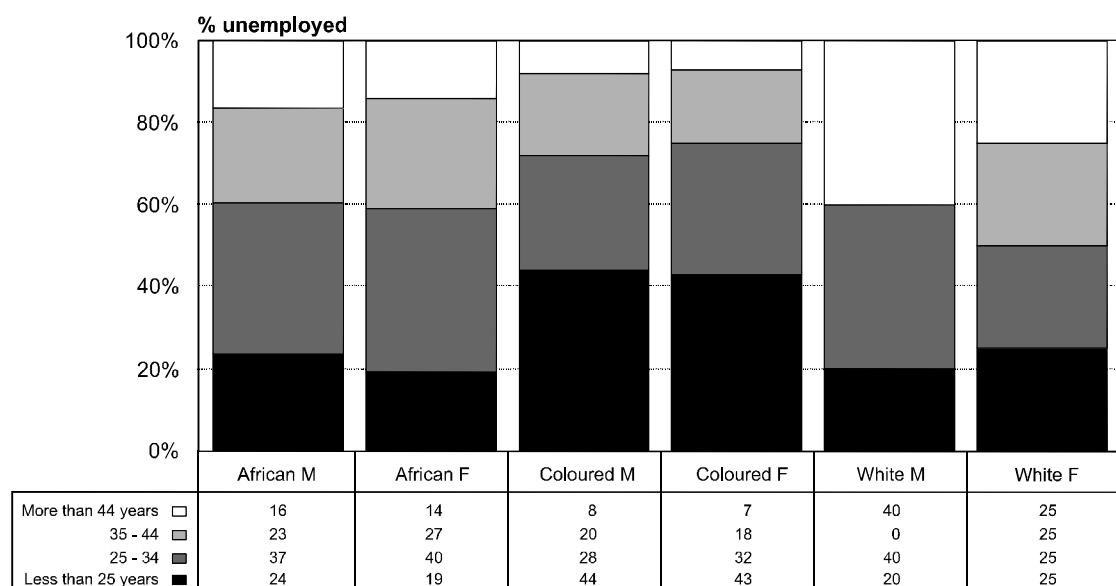
**Figure 17: Unemployment rates in South Africa by gender and province**



Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 18: Unemployment rates in Eastern Cape by population group and gender**

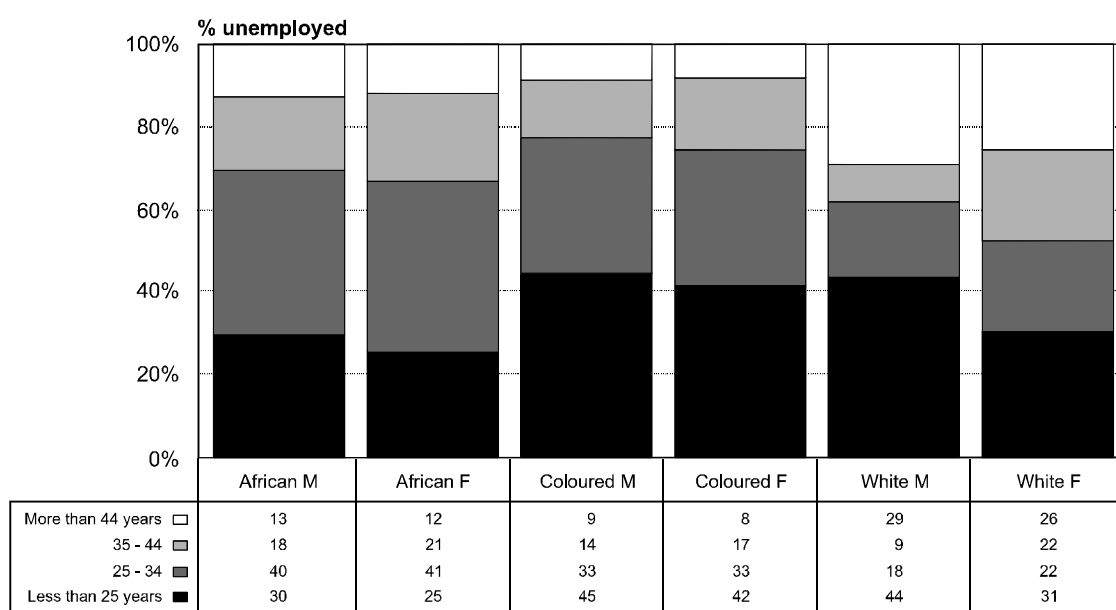
Age is another variable to take into account when measuring the rate of unemployment. Among the unemployed in Eastern Cape, there are proportionately more African males (37%) and females (40%) aged between 25 and 34 years than there are in the other age categories. The same picture is found among whites. Among coloureds, however, the unemployed are likely to be younger, since 44% of all unemployed males and 43% of unemployed females are aged 25 years or younger (see Figure 19).



Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 19: Distribution of the unemployed by age, population group and gender in Eastern Cape**

Nationally, age as a variant of unemployment reveals distributional patterns similar to those obtained provincially. The age distribution pattern of unemployment among Africans and coloureds remains the same nationally as in Eastern Cape. People who are mostly affected by unemployment are those falling within the 25 to 34 age category and younger (Figure 20). However, among unemployed whites in South Africa as a whole, the higher proportion is found among males under the age of 25 (44%), while the female distribution of unemployment is similar in all age categories, the largest category being those under the age of 25 years (31%).



Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 20: Distribution of the unemployed by age, population group and gender in South Africa**

## The employed in Eastern Cape

A high percentage of those employed in Eastern Cape are found in lower-level occupations. Figure 21 shows that 33% of employed males and 40% of employed females are engaged in elementary occupations. These include messengers, domestic workers and gardeners. A further 19% of females in the province are in the semi-professional and technical occupations.

The four leading occupational groups for males in the province are elementary occupations (33%), artisan and craft work (17%), machine operation and assembly (13%) and sales and service work (12%).



Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 21: Occupation of employed people in Eastern Cape**

Elementary work is more common in Eastern Cape than it is in the country as a whole: Figure 22 indicates that, in South Africa as a whole, 26% of employed males and 36% of employed females are found in elementary occupations, compared to 33% and 40%, respectively, in Eastern Cape (Figure 21).

The kind of work done by employed people in the province varies by population group and gender. Among Africans, 40% of males and 48% of females are engaged in elementary occupations. A further 19% of African females are in the semi-professional and technical occupations. Relatively few African males (5%) and females (3%) are in managerial occupations (Figure 23).





Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 22: Occupation of employed people in South Africa**



Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 23: Occupation of employed Africans by gender in Eastern Cape**

Whilst a large proportion of both employed coloured males (35%) and females (42%) are found in elementary occupations, Figure 24 indicates that there is some movement among males into more skilled artisan and craft jobs (24%). Among females, there is a move into clerical (20%) and sales and service (14%) occupations. As with Africans, an extremely small proportion of coloured workers (3% of males and 2% females) are in managerial occupations.



Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 24: Occupation of employed coloureds by gender in Eastern Cape**

A different picture emerges among whites in Eastern Cape, as indicated in Figure 25. The four leading occupations for white males are artisan and craft work (32%), management (17%), semi-professional and technical work (14%) and sales and service work (11%). White males are likely to be found in top echelon white collar occupations or in highly skilled blue collar occupations. In addition, a relatively large proportion of white males are found in professional occupations (10%). White females, however, tend to be found largely in clerical occupations (41%), although a sizeable proportion (23%) are found in the semi-professional and technical category, for example teaching and nursing assistants.

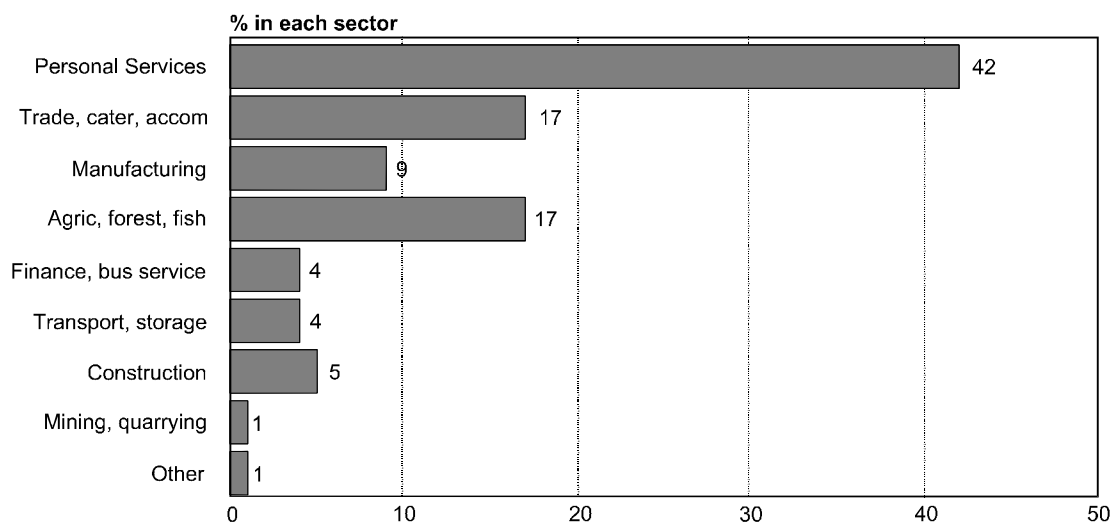


Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 25: Occupation of employed whites by gender in Eastern Cape**

## Economic sector

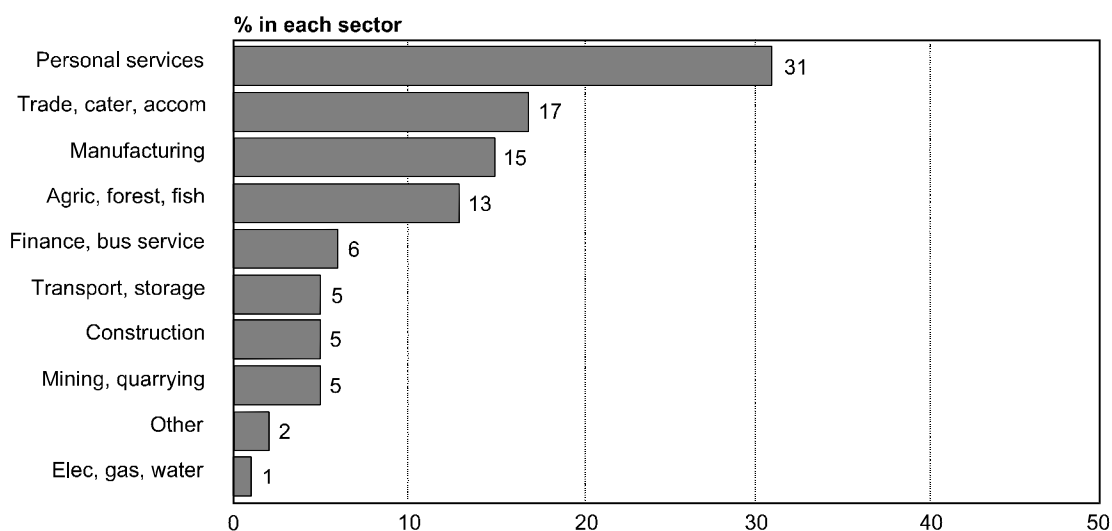
Figure 26 indicates the economic sectors in which employed people in Eastern Cape work. A large proportion (42%) are employed in the personal services sector, followed by trade, catering and accommodation (17%) and agriculture, forestry and fishing (17%).



Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 26: Economic sector of those employed in Eastern Cape**

In both Eastern Cape and South Africa, the relative importance of the personal services and trade, catering and accommodation sectors as employment creators is notable. However, in Eastern Cape, personal services contributed 42% to total employment, compared with only 31% in South Africa (Figure 27). Other substantial economic sectors in which people in the whole of South Africa work are trade, catering and accommodation (17%), manufacturing (15%) and agriculture, forestry and fishing (13%). There is relatively little employment in the manufacturing sector in Eastern Cape (9%), compared to the country as a whole (15%).



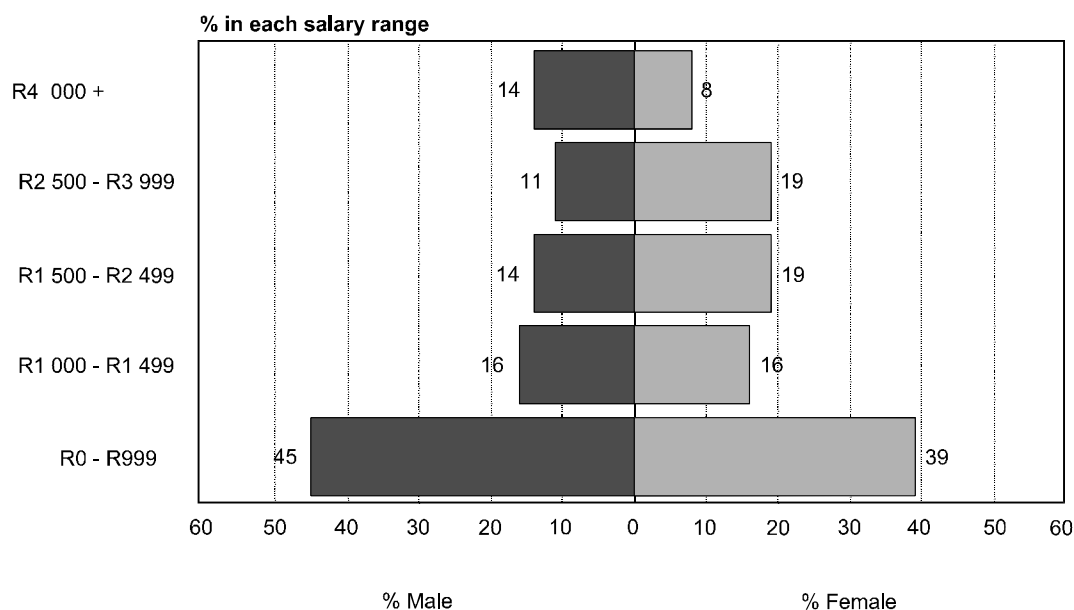
Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 27: Economic sector of those employed in South Africa**

## Income distribution among the employed who are working as employees

This analysis of income distribution is based on a sub-set of employed people, namely those who are working as employees. It excludes the self-employed and those who employ others to work for them.

Figure 28 gives an approximation of income distribution of employees in Eastern Cape. It indicates that 45% of male and 39% of female employees were earning R999 or less per month in October 1995, while relatively few employees (14% of males and 8% of females) were earning R4 000 or more.



Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 28: Percentage of employees in each gross monthly income category in Eastern Cape**

Generally, employees in Eastern Cape earn lower incomes than those in South Africa. The most striking feature of incomes of employees in this province is the lower amount earned by male employees compared to females. This may be explained by the relatively large proportion of women in semi-professional (19%) and clerical occupations (16%), while a large proportion of men is found in blue collar work (See Figure 21). Figure 29 shows that 32% of male employees and 31% of female employees throughout the country earn R999 or less per month. On the other hand, 18% of male employees and 11% of female employees throughout the country receive R4 000 or more per month. The situation of low pay in both South Africa and Eastern Cape may be due to the low levels of skill, especially among African employees, who are largely found in elementary occupations.

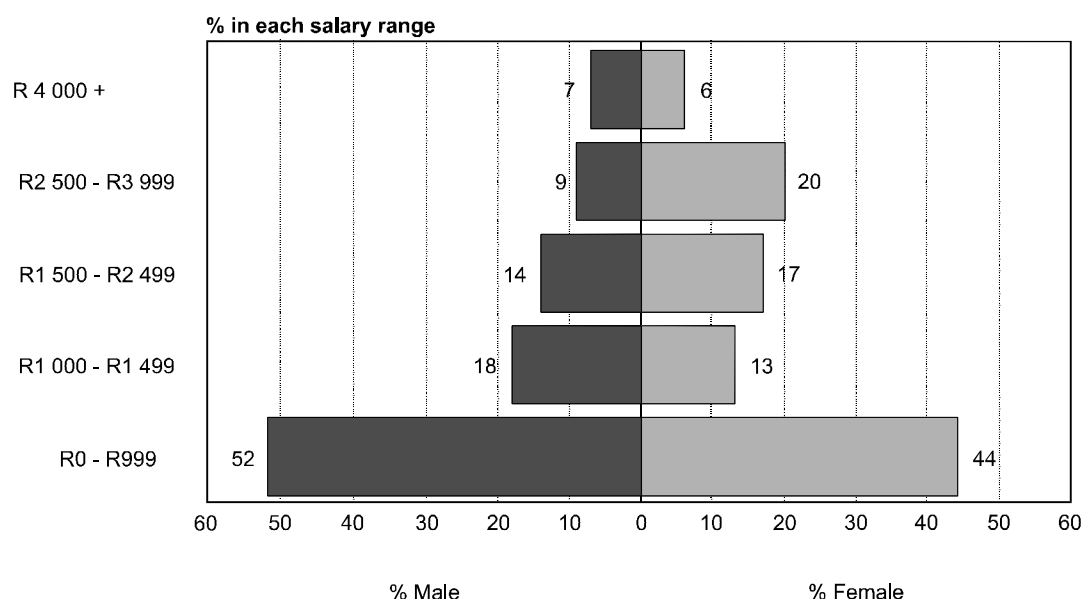


Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 29: Percentage of employees in each gross monthly income category in South Africa**

Low incomes are disproportionately located in the African and coloured communities, as Figures 30 and 31 indicate. This applies particularly to males. For example, Figure 30 indicates that 52% of African males earn R999 or less per month, and Figure 31 shows that 54% of coloured males are in this income category. Figure 30 further indicates that 44% of all African female employees earn between R0 and R999 as their gross monthly income. But as many as 50% of coloureds earn this amount (Figure 31). On the other hand, only 7% of all African and coloured male employees earn R4 000 or more per month (Figure 30 and 31).

At the upper end of the scale, 6% of all African female employees receive R4 000 and more per month as the gross monthly income, as against 3% of coloureds. The coloured income picture should be treated with caution, however, since relatively small numbers of people are involved in the higher income groups.



Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 30: Percentage of employed Africans working as employees in each gross monthly income category in Eastern Cape**

White male employees are the top earners in the province. Figure 32 indicates that 54% of white male employees are in the top income category, while 21% are in the second highest category. Among white females, however, there is a different income distribution. Relatively few are found in the bottom (14%) or the top (14%) income categories, but 32% are in the middle category of R 1 500 to R 2 499 gross income per month





Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 31: Percentage of employed coloureds working as employees in each gross monthly income category in Eastern Cape**



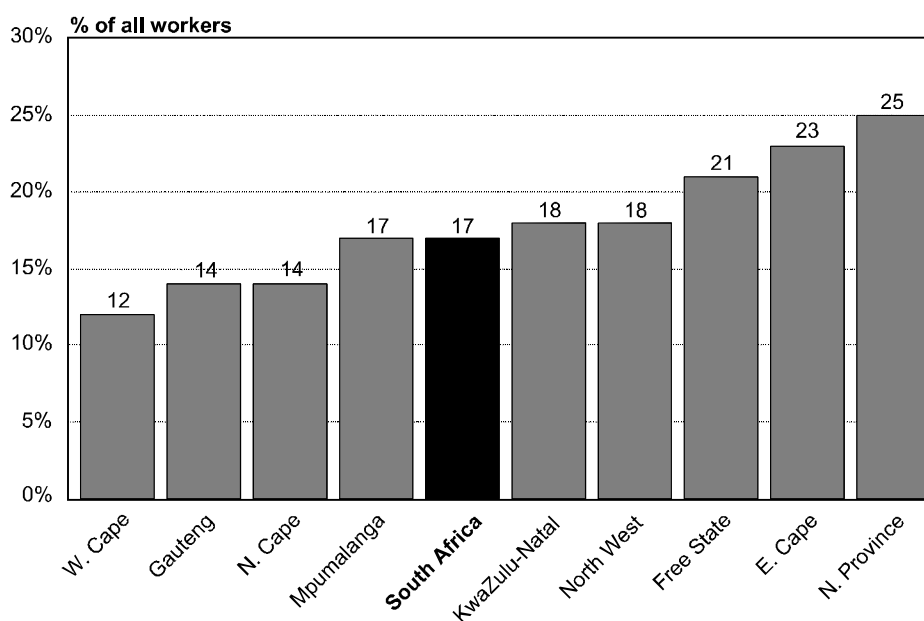
Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 32: Percentage of employed whites working as employees in each gross monthly income category in Eastern Cape**

## The informal economy

The reader will recall, from Figure 12, that 14% of all economically active people in Eastern Cape work in the informal sector. This is slightly higher than the national situation, where 12% work in this sector. Among all those in the sector in Eastern Cape, 71% are workers for own account, and 29% are employees.

The involvement of workers in the informal sector varies by province. Figure 33 indicates the proportion among those who are actually working, and who are found in the informal sector. It indicates that Eastern Cape has the second largest percentage of workers (23%) involved in informal sector, after Northern Province (25%). The national figure is 17%.

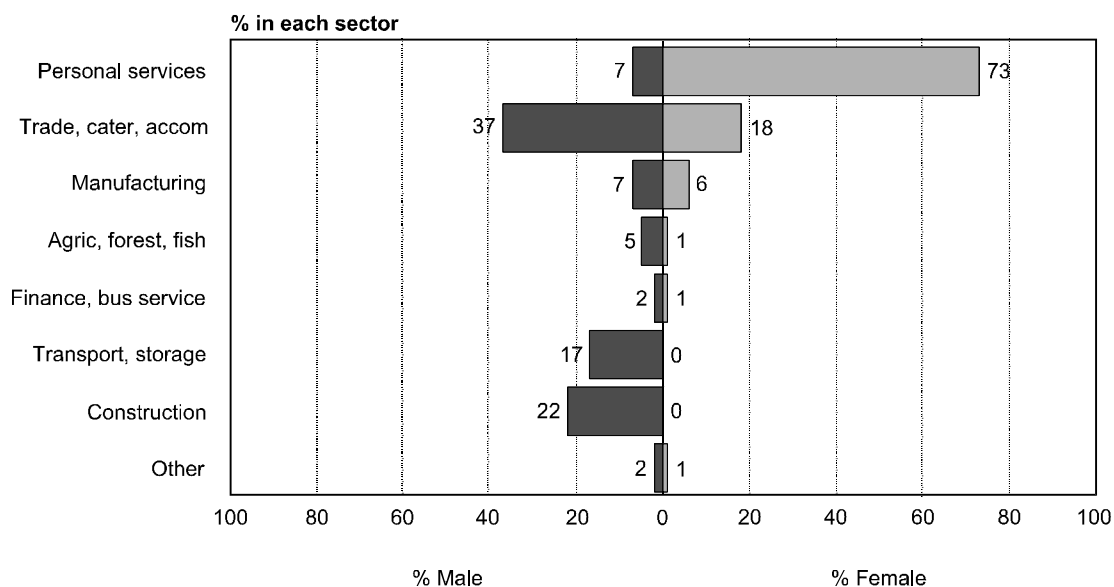


Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 33: Workers involved in the informal sector as a percentage of the total number of workers in each province**

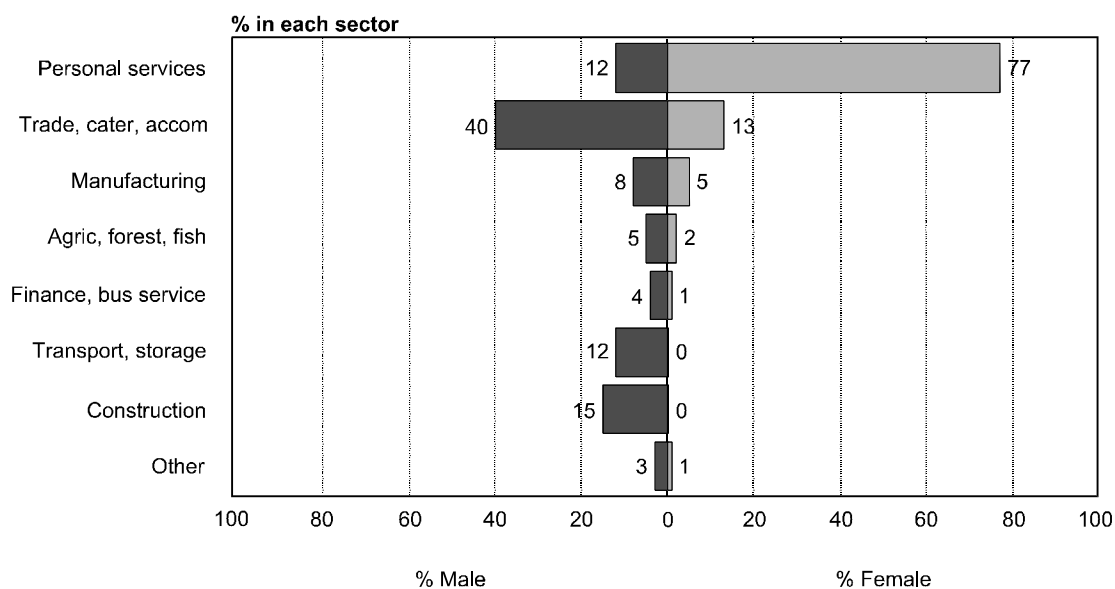
Informal sector workers in Eastern Cape tend to cluster into certain distinct economic sectors. For example, as indicated in Figure 34, almost three-quarters (73%) of female own account workers in the informal sector are found in the personal services sector, while 18% are found in trade, catering and accommodation. Relatively few males (7%) and females (6%) are in small-scale informal manufacturing.

This concentration of informal sector workers into certain distinct economic sectors is also a national feature: in South Africa as a whole, more than three-quarters of female own account workers (77%) are found in personal services, while 40% of males are found in the trade, catering and accommodation sector (Figure 35). Relatively few males (8%) and females (5%) are in small-scale manufacturing.



Source: October household survey, 1995

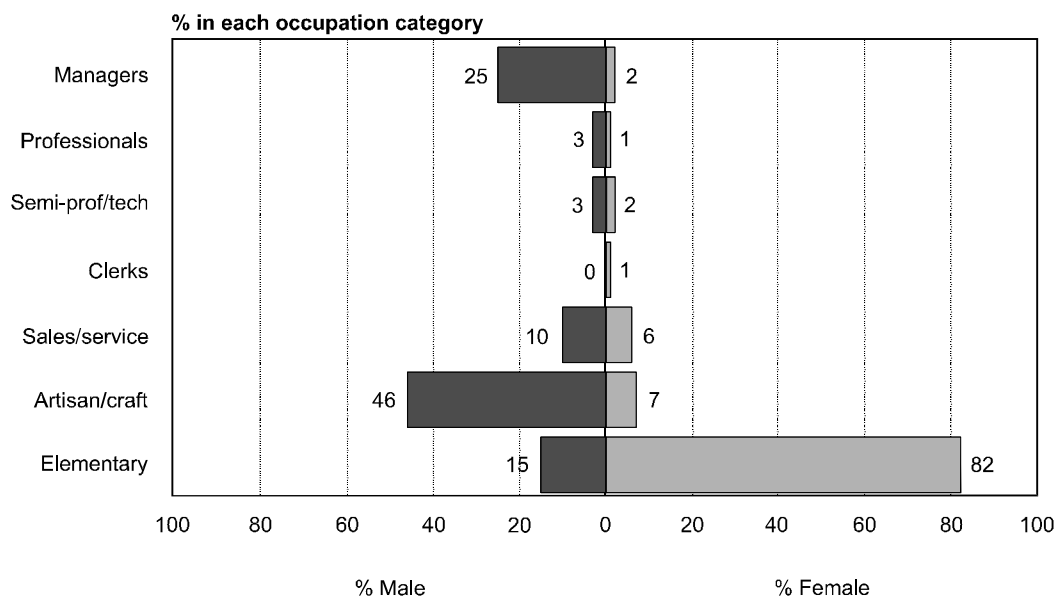
**Figure 34: Workers for own account in the informal sector by economic sector and gender in Eastern Cape**



Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 35: Workers for own account in the informal sector by economic sector and gender in South Africa**

Figure 36 reveals that more than three-quarters (82%) of informal sector female workers for own account in Eastern Cape are in elementary occupations such as street vending, domestic work and scavenging. Males, on the other hand, are found in more diverse occupations, with artisan and craft activities such as building, house painting and wood-working accounting for 46%. A large proportion of males described their occupation in terms of managing or running a micro-business, such as a taxi or a spaza shop (25%). This has given undue weight to the managerial occupational category in Figure 36.



Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 36: Workers for own account in the informal sector by occupation and gender in Eastern Cape**

The national pattern of occupations among workers for own account in the informal sector resembles that of Eastern Cape (Figure 37). Eighty-two percent of female own account workers are found in elementary occupations; these include occupations such as street vending, domestic work and scavenging. Males, on the other hand, are found in more diverse occupations, such as artisan and craft work (41%).



Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 37: Workers for own account in the informal sector by occupation and gender in South Africa**

**PLEASE TURN THE PAGE**

## Section 3

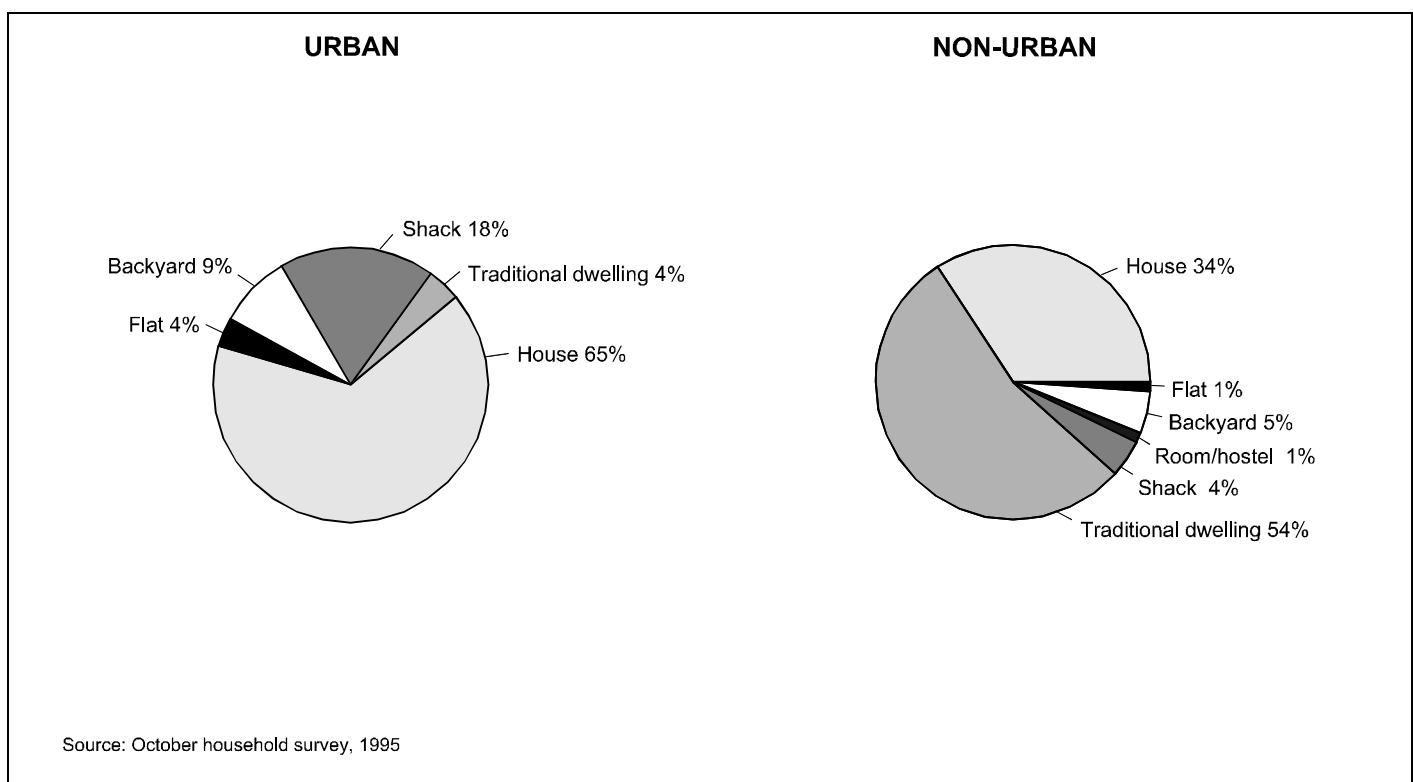
### The main findings regarding households

#### Types of dwellings in which households live

It was estimated that, in October 1995, approximately 61% of households in Eastern Cape were living in formal brick structures such as houses, flats or backyard rooms. On the other hand, 31% were living in traditional dwellings, 8% in shacks and 1% in hostels, compounds or single rooms in a building.

The distribution of dwellings among households in Eastern Cape varies by population group. Among Africans, 53% of households live in formal brick structures (including 6% in backyard rooms), while 37% live in traditional dwellings, 9% in shacks, and 1% in hostels, compounds or single rooms in a building. Among coloureds, 91% of households live in formal brick structures, increasing to 100% among whites.

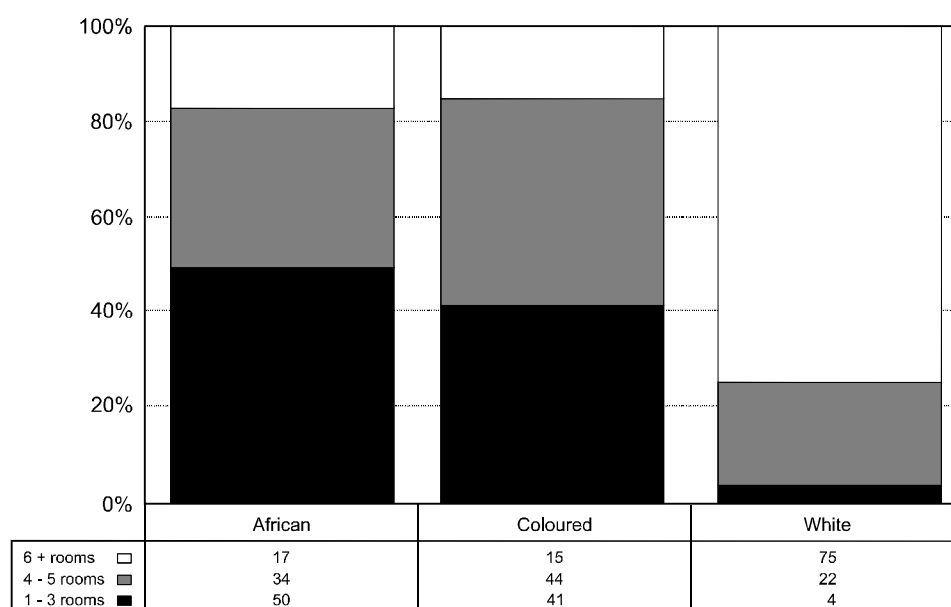
In South Africa as a whole, 61% of African households live in formal brick structures, while 21% live in traditional dwellings, 10% in shacks, and 8% in hostels, compounds or single rooms. Eastern Cape, therefore, has proportionately more traditional dwellings than the rest of the country. Dwellings housing Africans in Eastern Cape vary according to urban and non-urban areas. As many as 54% of dwellings in non-urban areas are traditional, while 18% of dwellings in urban areas are shacks, as indicated in Figure 38.



**Figure 38: Type of dwelling in which African households live, in urban and non-urban areas, in Eastern Cape**

Nationally, 38% of dwellings in non-urban areas are traditional, while 16% of dwellings in urban areas are shacks. This suggests that households in the non-urban areas of Eastern Cape are more likely to be found in traditional dwellings than they are in the country as a whole.

In Eastern Cape, as in the other provinces, the size of dwellings vary by population group. Figure 39 shows that 84% of African and 85% of coloured households live in dwellings containing five or fewer rooms (kitchens included, but excluding bathrooms), compared with 26% of white households.

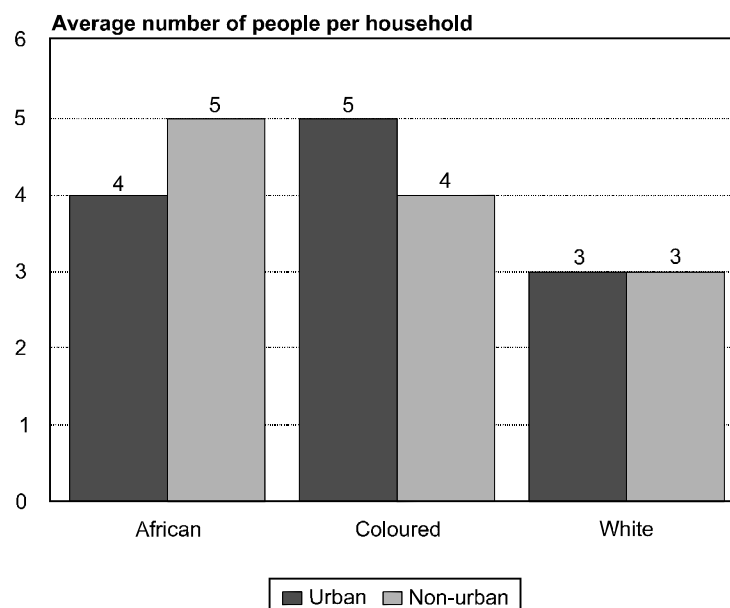


Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 39: Size of dwelling by population group of head of household in Eastern Cape**

White households in Eastern Cape, which are relatively smaller (Figure 40), tend to live in larger dwellings. On average, white households in both urban and non-urban areas consist of three people, while African households contain an average of four people in urban areas, and five people in non-urban areas. Conversely, coloured households contain an average of five people in urban areas and four people in non-urban areas. This is exactly the same as the national profile.





Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 40: Average household size by population group in urban and non-urban areas in Eastern Cape**

## Access to facilities and services

When comparing access to facilities and services such as electricity and piped tap water in the dwelling, not only population group differences, but also urban/non-urban discrepancies, are noteworthy.

### Electricity for lighting

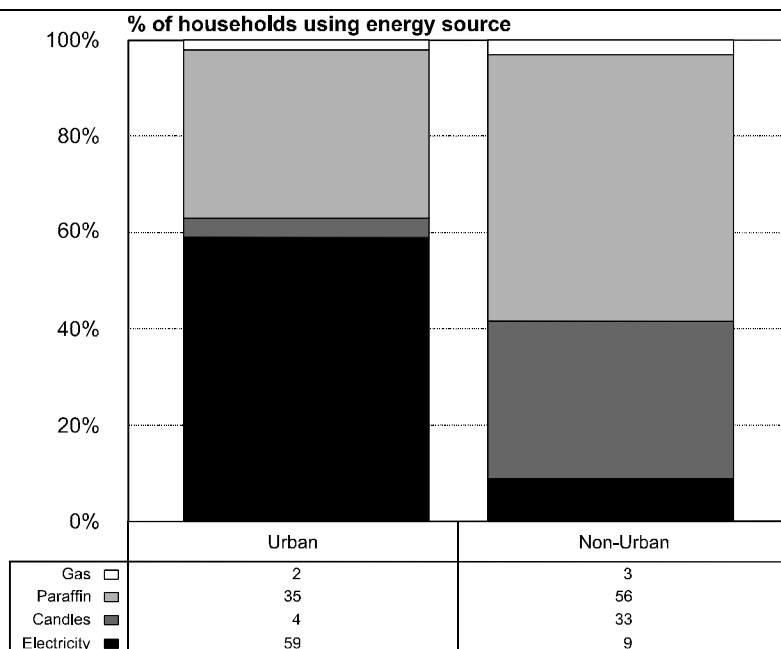
Eastern Cape, being largely non-urban, is one of the provinces where a small proportion of African households use electricity as the main source of energy for lighting. In South Africa as a whole, 51% of all African households use electricity as their main energy source for lighting, as against 84% of coloured and 99% of white households.

In Eastern Cape, however, electricity for lighting is unevenly distributed by population group. Just over a quarter (26%) of all African households use electricity as their main energy source for lighting, as against 72% of coloured and 99% of white households.

The source of energy most frequently used for lighting in African households in Eastern Cape is paraffin (49%), which is one of the sources of energy least used in white households (less than 1%), while only 14% of coloured households use it as a main source of energy for

lighting. Among African households in this province, however, there are marked urban/non-urban differences as far as access to electricity for lighting is concerned.

Figure 41 indicates that, in urban areas, 59% of African households in Eastern Cape make use of electricity as the main source for lighting, as against 9% in non-urban areas. More than half of the non-urban African households in this province use paraffin for lighting (56%), as against 35% in urban areas.



Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 41: Source of energy for lighting in urban and non-urban African households in Eastern Cape**

Nationally, 81% of African households in urban areas make use of electricity as the main source of energy for lighting, as against 24% in non-urban areas.

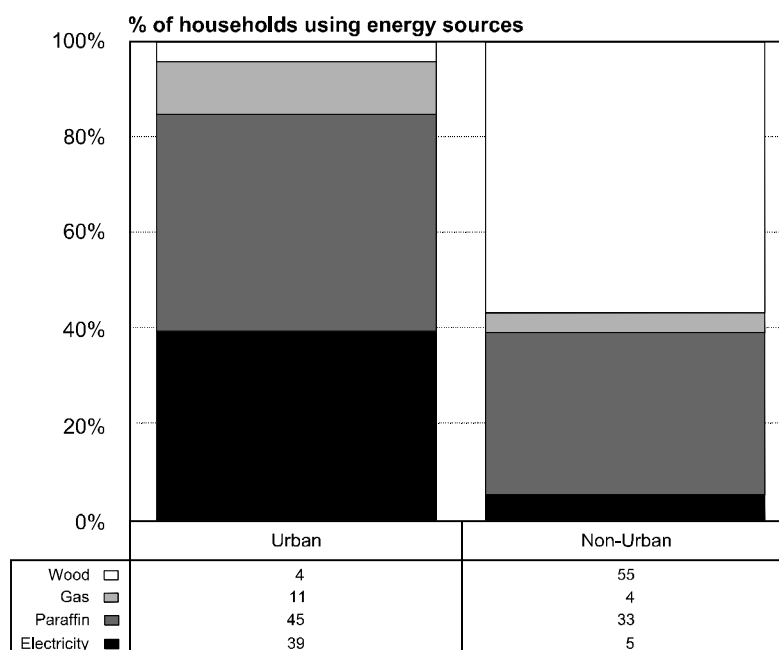
### Electricity for cooking

Proportionately fewer Eastern Cape households make use of electricity as the main source for cooking, compared to lighting. This is probably because it is more expensive to use electricity for cooking.

Altogether, 16% of African households living in Eastern Cape use electricity for cooking, compared with 56% of coloured households, and 94% of white households. Nationally, 42% of African households use electricity for cooking, compared with 75% of coloured and 98% of white households. This gives an indication of the extent of disadvantage in Eastern Cape as far as access to electricity for cooking is concerned.

## Obtaining wood for domestic use among Africans in non-urban areas

Figure 42 indicates that, among African households in Eastern Cape, 39% of those in urban areas use electricity for cooking, compared with only 5% in non-urban areas. This is very low compared to the national figure of 71% of African households in urban areas and 16% in non-urban areas who use electricity for cooking. Figure 42 also shows that more than half (55%) of non-urban African households use wood and 33% use paraffin for cooking purposes.



Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 42: Source of energy for cooking in urban and non-urban African households in Eastern Cape**

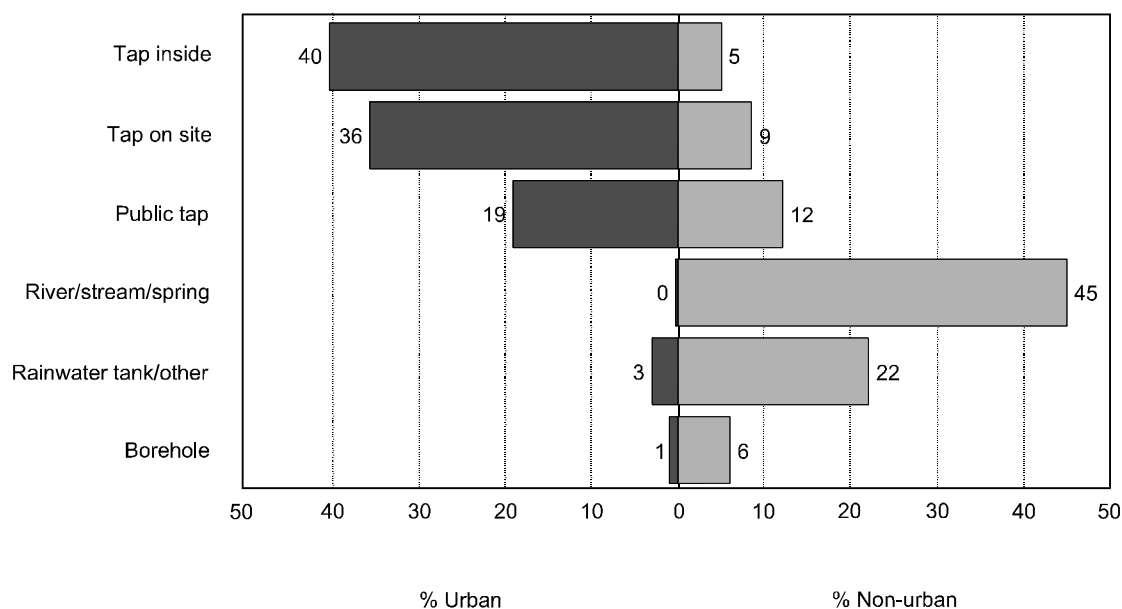
A large proportion of non-urban African households that use wood in Eastern Cape obtain it either from the *veld* (27%) or from indigenous forests (44%), while relatively fewer rely on woodlots (11%), commercial plantations (14%), merchants (4%) or trees growing on the site of the dwelling (1%).

In non-urban areas of Eastern Cape, 51% of Africans who fetch wood travel more than a kilometre to collect it.

Wood is a scarce resource and, in Eastern Cape, 64% of households that rely on it for cooking cannot always obtain the proper quantity required for such purposes. Regular payment for wood is relatively infrequent in African non-urban households in Eastern Cape: 19% always pay, 18% sometimes pay and 63% never pay for wood.

## Water for drinking

Among African households in Eastern Cape, the differences between urban and non-urban areas regarding the sources of water used for drinking purposes are noteworthy. Figure 43 indicates that, in urban areas, 40% of African households have a tap inside the dwelling, while a further 36% have a tap on site.



Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 43: Source of water for drinking in urban and non-urban African households in Eastern Cape**

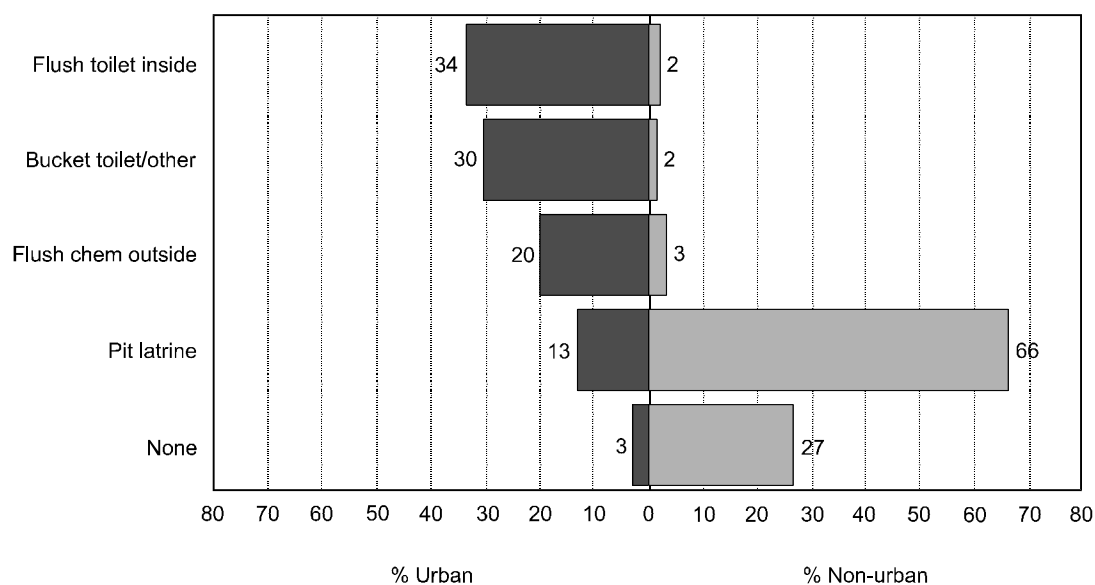
In non-urban areas, however, only 5% of African households have a tap inside the dwelling, and 9% have a tap on site. These Eastern Cape figures are far lower than the already-low national figures of 12% and 21% respectively. Nine in every 20 African households (45%) in non-urban areas obtain water from a river or a stream and 6% obtain water from a borehole.

Among African households who have to fetch water from a source which is not on site, as many as 21% travel at least one kilometer to reach the source.

## Sanitation

Flush toilets inside the dwelling are found in almost all white dwellings (98%), but in only 13% of African households in Eastern Cape.

Access to sanitation among African households in Eastern Cape again differs starkly along the urban/non-urban divide. Figure 44 indicates that 34% of urban African households in Eastern Cape have a toilet inside the dwelling, as against 2% of non-urban ones. In non-urban areas, 66% of African households make use of a pit latrine, while in urban areas, only 13% of African households make use of this type of facility. Approximately, one in every four (27%) African non-urban households in Eastern Cape has no toilet facility at all, compared to 3% of urban households.



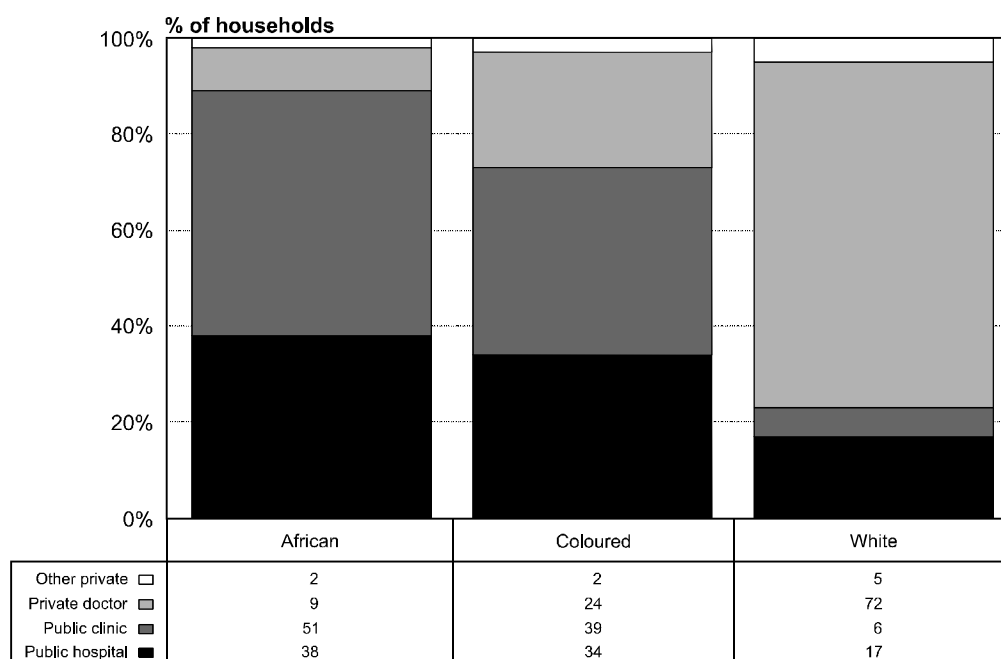
Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 44: Type of sanitation used among African households in urban and non-urban areas in Eastern Cape**

## Health-care facilities

The public sector caters for the health requirements of most households in Eastern Cape. Figure 45 shows that the vast majority of African and coloured households make use of public health-care facilities when they need them, while white households tend to use the private sector.

As many as 89% of African households make use of public health-care facilities (51% go to a public clinic and 38% go to a public hospital when they need care), compared to 73% of coloured households (39% go to a public clinic and 34% go to a public hospital), while white households tend to use the private sector (72% go to a private doctor and 5% go to other private facilities).



Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 45: Source of health-care used by households by population group in Eastern Cape**

On the other hand, 72% of white households make use of private doctors and a further 5% make use of other private facilities when they require health-care.

The same picture is found nationally. Approximately four-fifths of African households (80%) make use of public health-care facilities compared to 61% of coloured households. Two-thirds of white households (67%) make use of private sector doctors, and a further 14% make use of other private health-care facilities when they require health-care.

## **Telephones**

Relatively fewer households in Eastern Cape (18%) have a telephone inside the dwelling, compared to 33% countrywide. While as many as 90% of white households in Eastern Cape have a telephone inside the dwelling, only 27% of coloured and 7% of African households have one.

Among African households who use telephones outside the dwelling, 30% travel at least ten kilometres to reach this service.

Cellular telephones were relatively uncommon in Eastern Cape in October 1995; only 1% of all households had one.

## **Household incomes**

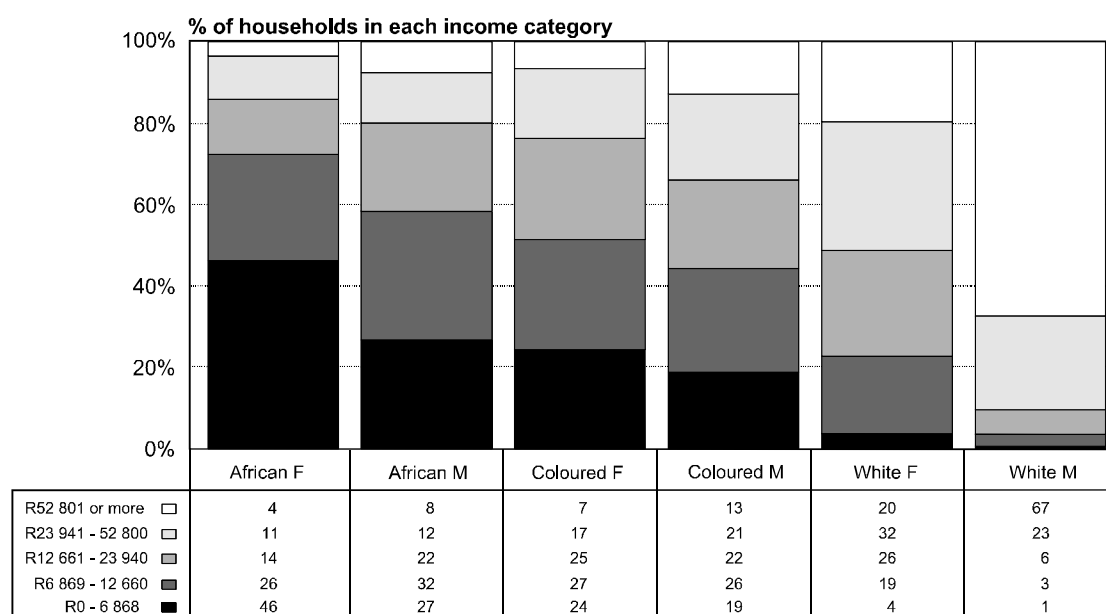
In this report, household incomes are recorded into five groups or national quintiles, according to ascending income levels, with each group or quintile containing approximately 20% of all households in the country. This allows calculation of the proportion of the total national income received by each income group.

The household incomes discussed in this section are based on data contained in the income and expenditure survey (IES), and not the OHS.

African households in Eastern Cape tend to be the poorest in the province: 37% have incomes between R0 and R6 868 per annum, compared with only 22% of coloured and 3% of white households. The corresponding national percentages are 26%, 12%, and 2% respectively, indicating that household incomes in Eastern Cape are worse for Africans and coloureds than they are in South Africa generally.

Looking at the top quintile of R52 801 or higher, we find that in 44% of white households in Eastern Cape are in this category, compared with 10% of coloured and 6% of African households.

Figure 46 indicates that 46% of African female-headed households in Eastern Cape are in the lowest category of R0-R6 868, compared with 24% of coloured and 4% of white female-headed households. On the other hand, 27% of African male-headed households are in this category, compared with 19% of coloured and 1% of white male-headed households.



Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 46: Percentage of households in each annual income quintile by population group and gender of head of household in Eastern Cape**

As many as 67% of white male-headed households are in the R52 801 or more income category, compared with 13% of coloured male-headed households and 8% of African male-headed households.

But only 20% of white female-headed households are in this category, compared with 7% of coloured and 4% of African female-headed households.

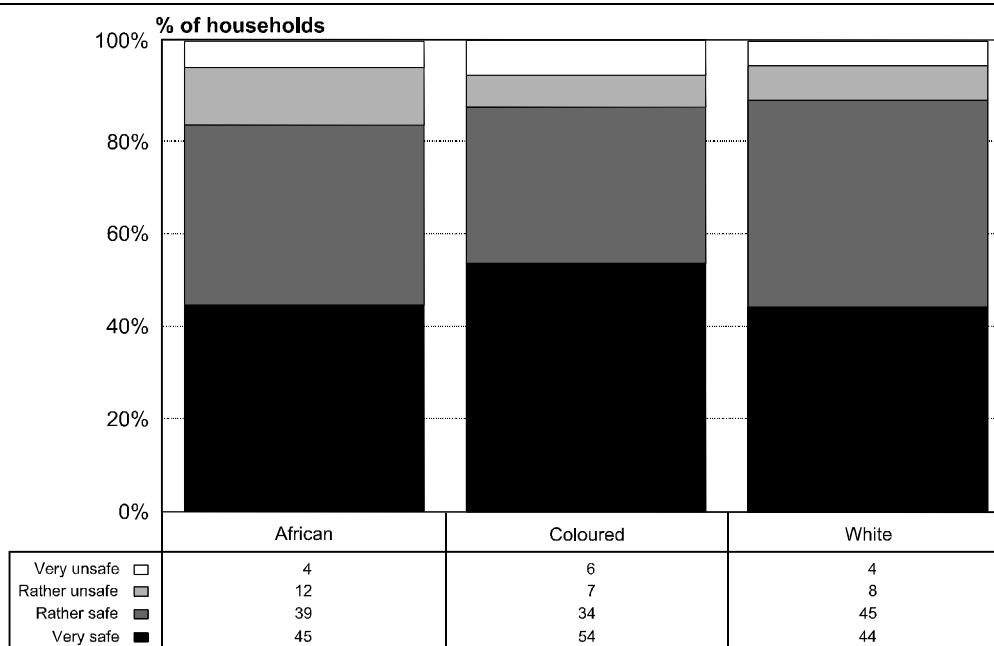
There is a close correlation in the IES between income and expenditure. Therefore, either income or expenditure can be used to describe the financial situation of Eastern Cape households.



## Feelings of safety and security

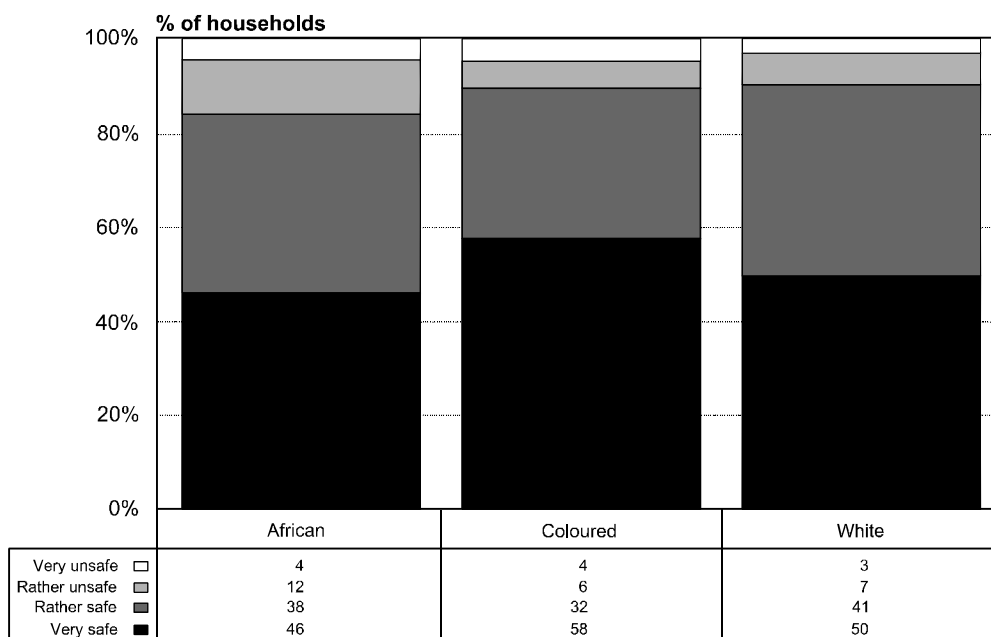
High unemployment and high levels of crime tend to go hand in hand. In South Africa as a whole, individuals in about 766 000 households were reportedly victims of crime in the 12 months prior to the October 1995 interviews. The most common type of crime was robbery, (56% of all households that had experienced any crime), followed by assault (25%).

In Eastern Cape, proportionately few respondents said that the household felt rather unsafe or very unsafe in 1995, either in the neighbourhoods in which they lived or else in their own homes (Figures 47 and 48).



Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 47: Feeling safe in one's neighbourhood, by population group of head of household in Eastern Cape**



Source: October household survey, 1995

**Figure 48: Feeling safe inside one's own home, by population group of head of household in Eastern Cape**

Forty-five percent of African households felt very safe in their neighbourhoods compared to 54% of coloured households and 44% of white households, while 46% of African households felt very safe in their own homes, compared to 58% of coloured households and 50% of white households.

The figures are slightly higher than the national ones, implying that households in this province feel safer in the province compared to the country as a whole. Countrywide, 45% of African households felt very safe in their particular neighbourhoods compared to 41% of coloured households and 32% of white households, while 47% of African households felt very safe in their own homes, compared to 45% of coloured households and 39% of white households.

## **Section 4**

### **Disability in Eastern Cape**

Approximately one in every 20 (5%) people in the province are reported as being disabled, further analysed as follows (percentages are given to one decimal place, because of the small proportions involved):

- 2,0% of the population have a visual disability.
- 0,7% of the population have a hearing or speech disability.
- 0,5% of the population have a mental disability.
- 1,6% of the population have a physical disability.

This may be an undercount, as some disabilities may have not been reported because of a possible stigma attached to them. A similar proportion of males and females, Africans, coloureds, Indians and whites, and those living in urban or non-urban areas, are reported as being disabled. Approximately 5% of the African population is disabled, compared with 6% of the coloured, and 5% of the white population.

**PLEASE TURN THE PAGE**

## Section 5

### Conclusion

There are a number of aspects of life in Eastern Cape that have been brought into sharp focus by the 1995 October household survey. These include racial and gender disparities in all spheres of life, as well as large differences in life circumstances along the urban/non-urban divide. In addition, the extent of unemployment in the province, and the type of employment opportunities that are available, have been highlighted. This report has emphasised how this province is, in many ways, more disadvantaged compared with the rest of South Africa.

Sixty-three percent of Africans, in the province live in non-urban areas. Proportionately more young African children, women and older people than men are found in non-urban areas of the province. The education level of inhabitants tends to be lower in non-urban areas, and income-generating or employment opportunities are fewer or non-existent.

African households in non-urban areas are unlikely to have access to electricity, tap water, flush toilets or telephones. Fetching wood and carrying water are important non-urban life-sustaining activities. As such, work is not necessarily waged work, and householders may be involved in such activities as subsistence agriculture, exchange of goods and services or fuel gathering.

This report has drawn attention to some areas of weakness in the 1995 October household survey. To address these, future household surveys will need to:

- develop appropriate indicators to measure changes in the life circumstances of all South Africans (including Eastern Cape) over time;
- improve sampling methodology; and
- undertake additional household survey-based research including time-use, informal sector and subsistence agricultural surveys.

The 1995 OHS has shown that vast inequalities exist in Eastern Cape. As these are addressed, household surveys will need to monitor carefully not only racial disparities and inequalities, but also discrepancies in urban and non-urban life circumstances, gender differentials and income and employment patterns – not only in each province, but also between the provinces, and comparatively, between each province and the national profile.

## Reference

Hirschowitz, R and M Orkin (1996), *Living in South Africa. Selected findings of the 1995 October Household Survey*, Central Statistics (CSS), Pretoria.