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Mid-year population estimates 2008

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Summary

- This release uses the cohort-component methodology to estimate the 2008 mid-year population of South Africa.
- For 2008, we estimate three variants namely low, medium and high. The low variant estimates the population at 47,8 million and the high variant estimates the population at 49.0 million. The medium variant (best estimate) for the 2008 mid-year population is estimated at 48,7 million.
- Fifty-two per cent (approximately 25,2 million) of the population is female.
- Gauteng has the largest share of the South African population. Approximately 10,5 million people (21,5 percent of the population) live in this province. KwaZulu-Natal is the province with the second largest population, with approximately 10,1 million people (20,8%) living in this province. With a population of approximately 1,1 million people (2,3%), the Northern Cape remains the province with the smallest share of the South African population.
- Nearly one-third (32%) of the population is younger than 15 years and approximately 7% (3,5 million) is 60 years or older. Of those younger than 15, approximately 22% (3,4 million) live in KwaZulu-Natal and 19% (2,94 million) live in Gauteng.
- Life expectancy at birth is estimated at approximately 50,3 years for males and 53,9 years for females.
- The estimated overall HIV-prevalence rate is approximately 11,0%. The HIV-positive population is estimated at approximately 5,35 million.

Table A: Mid-year estimates for South Africa by population group and sex, 2008

Population group	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percentage of total population	Number	percentage of total population	Number	Percentage of total population
African	18 528 000	79,0	20 037 100	79,4	38 565 100	79,2
Coloured	2 105 800	9,0	2 273 400	9,0	4 379 200	9,0
Indian/Asian	614 700	2,6	628 800	2,5	1 243 500	2,6
White	2 196 300	9,4	2 302 900	9,1	4 499 200	9,2
Total	23 444 800	100,0	25 242 200	100,0	48 687 000	100,0



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30 July 2008

Introduction

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) subscribes to the specification of the IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) and publishes the population estimates for the country annually. The estimates cover all the residents of South Africa at the 2008 mid-year. The estimates given here may change as new data or information become available.

The approach of Stats SA is to keep its population projections relatively stable. It is important to follow this approach users find it difficult to interpret rates and indices with unstable or variable denominator data.

In February 2007 Stats SA conducted the Community Survey (CS), a nationally representative large-scale survey which was designed to provide demographic and socio-economic data at the municipal level. The fertility, mortality, and migration data from the Community Survey have been used to adjust the mid-year population estimates and produce a revised set of projections. We *do not*, however, use the CS as our base population. Most projections in South Africa therefore use 1985 as base population. Other data sources (e.g. age and sex structures from the 1996 and 2001 Censuses, the CS 2007 and other demographic sources) were important in "re-directing" the current projections.

This release provides estimates for three variants (high, medium and low). These variants are done at national level by age and sex based on fertility and mortality data from the CS. The high variant estimate approximates the age and sex structures from the Community Survey without using the Census data from 1996 and 2001 to make any adjustment. As seen in Appendix A, the result of this approach is higher projection of the published 1996 and 2001 census estimates. For the low variant, the projection is done in such a way as to ensure the population estimates by population group and sex approximate the population estimates of Census 2001.

The medium variant should be regarded as the best estimate for 2008. For the medium variant, we assume lower out-migration rates for whites compared to the low variant. This leads to higher estimates for whites in 2001. For the Asian and Black/African population groups we assumed higher levels of in-migration after 2001. The population estimates for coloureds were also higher than the 2001 Census estimate mainly due to adjusted fertility and mortality assumptions before 2001. Tables 1 and 2 show the population estimates under the three variants for 2008. Detailed information are available on www.statssa.gov.za/

Table 1: Population estimates (in millions) for the 2008 mid-year for the low, medium and high variants by population group.

	High variant	Medium variant	Low variant
African	38,73	38,57	38,12
Coloured	4,44	4,38	4,35
Indian/Asian	1,27	1,24	1,23
White	4,58	4,50	4,14
Total	49,03	48,69	47,84

Table 2: Population estimates (in millions) for the 2008 mid-year for the low, medium and high variants by province

	High variant	Medium variant	Low variant
Eastern Cape	6,60	6,58	6,34
Free State	2,90	2,88	2,85
Gauteng	10,54	10,45	10,29
KwaZulu-Natal	10,18	10,11	9,96
Limpopo	5,30	5,27	5,20
Mpumalanga	3,62	3,59	3,54
Northern Cape	1,13	1,13	1,11
North West	3,45	3,43	3,37
Western Cape	5,30	5,26	5,18
Total	49,03	48,69	47,84

Appendix A shows that the difference between the three variants is relatively small for the African population. For the white population there is considerable variation between the three variants. In addition, Appendix A shows that the population totals of coloureds and Asians are very dissimilar between the variants.

Table 3 compares the revised set of estimates for 2008 with the previous estimates (those used to construct the 2007 mid-year estimates). This table confirms that the largest adjustments were made for the coloured, Asian, and white populations.

Table 3: Comparison between revised and previous mid-year estimates, 2008

	Revised estimates	Previous estimates	Deviation	Per cent deviation
Black African	38 565 100	38 460 300	104 800	0,27
Coloured	4 379 200	4 288 900	90 300	2,11
Indian/Asian	1 243 500	1 183 100	60 400	5,10
White	4 499 200	4 338 600	160 600	3,70
South Africa	48 687 000	48 270 800	416 200	0,86

A revised time series for the 2001–2008 population estimates is available at: www.statssa.gov.za/. National and provincial population estimates were produced using the

Spectrum model (UNAIDS, 2005). The cohort-component method of estimation is used for national and provincial estimates. A detailed description of the population estimates methodology of Stats SA is available at: www.statssa.gov.za/.

The medium variant national population estimates for 2008

Stats SA estimates that fertility has declined from an average of 2,9 children per woman in 2001 to 2,4 children by 2008.

Only documented migrants are considered for the purposes of these estimates.

For 2008, life expectancy at birth is estimated at 50,3 years for males and 53,9 years for females. Life expectancy for both sexes at birth is estimated at 52,2 years.

This release assumes that 25 % of adults in need of ART, will receive ART in 2008 and 40% of the children under 15 years will receive ART. The estimates also take the administration of nevirapine treatment to pregnant HIV-positive women and the promotion of alternative infant feeding options into account. The median time lapse from becoming HIV-positive until death due to AIDS is estimated to be 10 years for both males and females, and a female-to-male HIV prevalence ratio of 1,22 was assumed for 2008. The adult HIV prevalence rate (the proportion of adults who are infected with HIV) is shown in Table 4. The total HIV prevalence rate was estimated at 11,0% in 2008, while the HIV-positive population is estimated at 5,35 million.

Table 4: Estimated adult HIV-prevalence rates, 2008

Women 15–49	Women 20–64	Men 20–64	Adults 20–64	Adults 15–49	Total population
19,6	19,3	18,8	19,1	18,8	11,0

Table 5 shows the mid-year estimates for 2008 by population group and sex. The mid-year population is estimated at approximately 48,7 million. Africans are in the majority (approximately 38,6 million) and constitute about 79 per cent of the total South African population. The white population is estimated at 4,5 million, the coloured population 4,4 million and the Indian/Asian population 1,2 million. Fifty-two per cent (approximately 25,2 million) of the population is female.

Table 5: The medium variant mid-year estimates by population group and sex, 2008

Population group	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percentage of total population	Number	Percentage of total population	Number	Percentage of total population
African	18 528 000	79,0	20 037 100	79,4	38 565 100	79,2
Coloured	2 105 800	9,0	2 273 400	9,0	4 379 200	9,0
Indian/Asian	614 700	2,6	628 800	2,5	1 243 500	2,6
White	2 196 300	9,4	2 302 900	9,1	4 499 200	9,2
Total	23 444 800	100,0	25 242 200	100,0	48 687 000	100,0

Table 6 shows that the implied rate of growth for the South African population has been declining steadily between 2001 and 2008. The estimated overall growth rate declined from approximately 1,5% between 2001–2002 to 0,8 % for 2007–2008. The growth rate for females is lower than that of males.

Table 6: Estimated annual population growth rates, 2001–2008

	2001–2002	2002–2003	2003–2004	2004–2005	2005–2006	2006–2007	2007–2008
Male	1,50	1,40	1,30	1,23	1,13	1,02	0,92
Female	1,41	1,31	1,20	1,11	0,99	0,86	0,74
Total	1,45	1,35	1,25	1,16	1,06	0,94	0,82

Table 7 shows the 2008 mid-year population by age, sex and population group for the medium variant. Approximately one-third of the population is aged 0–14 years and approximately 7% older than 60 years.

Table 7: Mid-year population estimates by population group, age and sex, 2008

Age	African			Coloured			Indian/Asian			White			South Africa		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
0-4	2 214 300	2 157 000	4 371 300	211 300	208 700	420 000	48 600	47 400	96 000	128 300	124 200	252 500	2 602 500	2 537 300	5 139 800
5-9	2 263 000	2 207 900	4 470 900	211 900	209 600	421 500	46 300	45 100	91 400	137 200	133 100	270 300	2 658 400	2 595 700	5 254 100
10-14	2 251 400	2 205 400	4 456 800	210 200	208 000	418 200	51 600	50 500	102 100	153 100	148 700	301 800	2 666 300	2 612 600	5 278 900
15-19	2 172 300	2 138 600	4 310 900	204 100	203 100	407 200	54 700	53 900	108 600	165 400	160 600	326 000	2 596 500	2 556 200	5 152 700
20-24	1 961 700	2 007 600	3 969 300	188 500	193 300	381 800	59 600	57 500	117 100	159 500	156 000	315 500	2 369 300	2 414 400	4 783 700
25-29	1 734 600	1 851 000	3 585 600	182 600	194 700	377 300	62 200	58 700	120 900	142 600	141 000	283 600	2 122 000	2 245 400	4 367 400
30-34	1 517 400	1 632 900	3 150 300	186 700	201 200	387 900	53 400	51 700	105 100	135 800	134 400	270 200	1 893 300	2 020 200	3 913 500
35-39	1 095 600	1 310 800	2 406 400	170 300	187 700	358 000	44 300	44 600	88 900	147 700	146 200	293 900	1 457 900	1 689 300	3 147 200
40-44	732 300	939 900	1 672 200	140 800	158 700	299 500	40 000	41 300	81 300	169 200	167 700	336 900	1 082 300	1 307 600	2 389 900
45-49	678 600	879 900	1 558 500	121 500	138 200	259 700	37 500	38 900	76 400	171 400	174 500	345 900	1 009 000	1 231 500	2 240 500
50-54	574 600	754 000	1 328 600	94 900	110 500	205 400	33 700	35 600	69 300	166 700	172 800	339 500	869 900	1 072 900	1 942 800
55-59	448 400	592 000	1 040 400	69 100	84 300	153 400	29 000	31 700	60 700	153 200	160 400	313 600	699 700	868 400	1 568 100
60-64	342 400	464 600	807 000	47 700	61 900	109 600	22 200	25 500	47 700	135 900	148 400	284 300	548 200	700 400	1 248 600
65-69	244 400	356 300	600 700	31 000	44 500	75 500	14 700	18 500	33 200	99 900	116 200	216 100	390 000	535 500	925 500
70-74	156 700	256 200	412 900	19 500	33 400	52 900	8 900	12 900	21 800	64 300	85 300	149 600	249 400	387 800	637 200
75-79	87 000	160 500	247 500	10 000	20 600	30 600	4 900	8 300	13 200	36 100	60 800	96 900	138 000	250 200	388 200
80+	53 300	122 500	175 800	5 700	15 000	20 700	3 100	6 700	9 800	30 000	72 600	102 600	92 100	216 800	308 900
Total	18 528 000	20 037 100	38 565 100	2 105 800	2 273 400	4 379 200	614 700	628 800	1 243 500	2 196 300	2 302 900	4 499 200	23 444 800	25 242 200	48 687 000

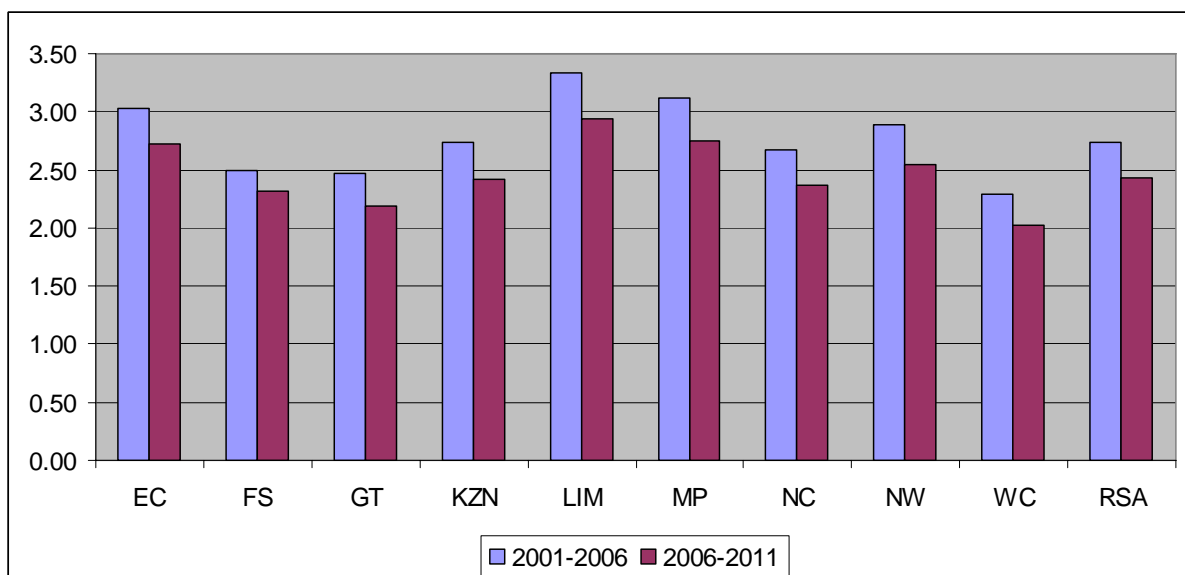
All numbers have been rounded off to the nearest hundred.

Medium variant provincial population estimates for 2008

The provincial estimates have been substantially adjusted. Data from the CS regarding fertility, mortality and migration imply that the Eastern Cape has a lower growth rate than previously estimated. Migration flows to the Western Cape and Guateng also appeared to have been underestimated.

Figure 1 shows the provincial fertility estimates for the period 2001–2006 and 2006–2011. Gauteng and the Western Cape have the lowest level of fertility while Limpopo has the highest level of fertility for the period 2006–2011.

Figure 1: Provincial average total fertility rates for the periods 2001–2006 and 2006–2011



Figures 2 and 3 show the average provincial life expectancies at birth for males and females for the periods 2001–2006 and 2006–2011. Western Cape has the highest life expectancy at birth for both males and females. KwaZulu-Natal has the lowest life expectancy at birth.

Figure 2: Provincial average life expectancy at birth, 2001–2006 and 2006–2011 (males)

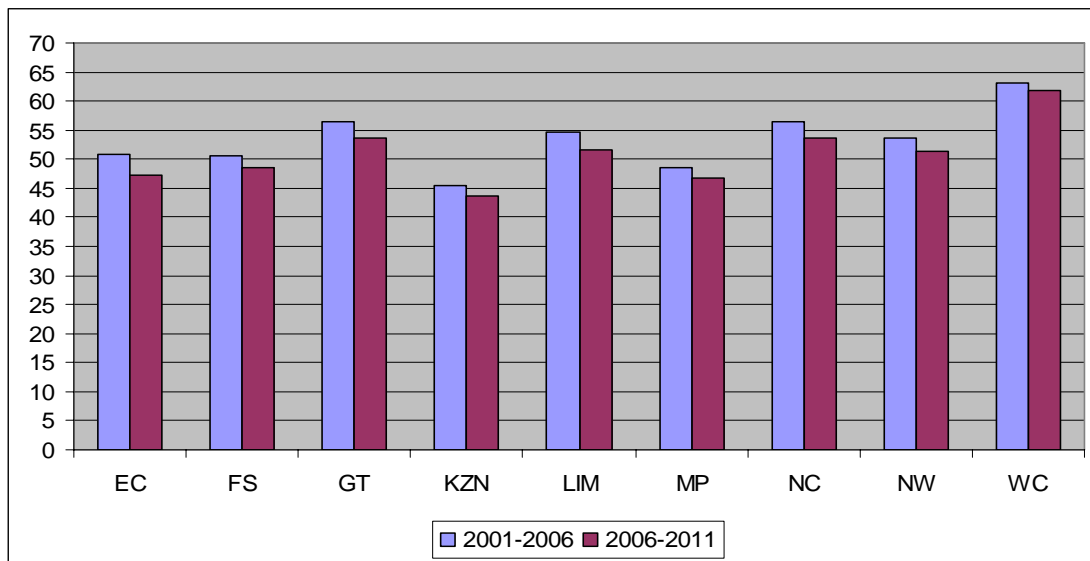


Figure 3: Provincial average life expectancy at birth, 2001–2006 and 2006-2011 (females)

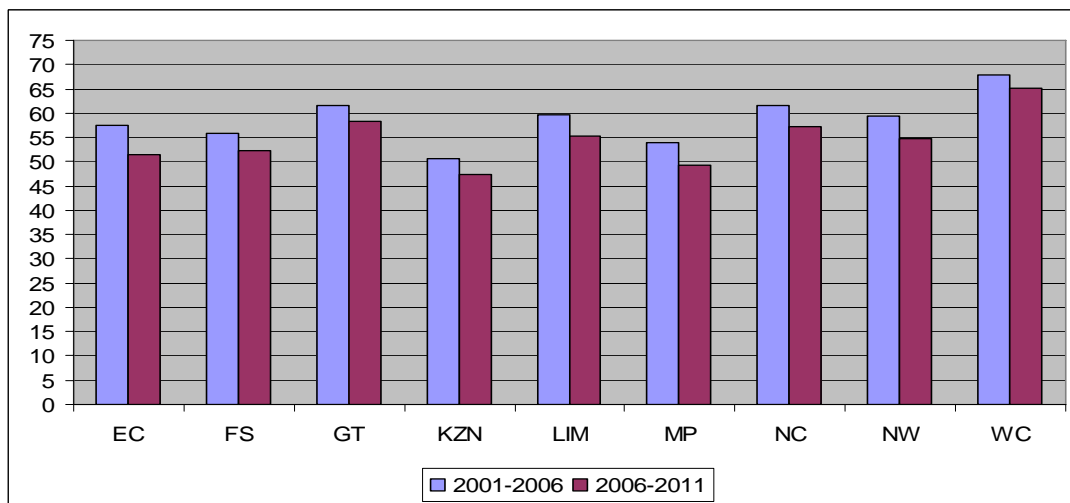


Table 8 shows the estimated percentage of the total population residing in each of the provinces from 2001 to 2008. The provincial estimates show that since 2006 Gauteng had the largest share of the population, followed by KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape. Nearly eleven per cent of the population live in Western Cape. The Northern Cape has the smallest population. Free State has the second smallest share of the South African population, with approximately six per cent of the population.

Table 8: Percentage distribution of the projected provincial share of the total population, 2001–2008

Province	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Eastern Cape	14,4	14,3	14,1	14,0	13,8	13,7	13,6	13,5
Free State	6,2	6,1	6,1	6,0	6,0	6,0	5,9	5,9
Gauteng	20,0	20,2	20,5	20,7	20,9	21,2	21,3	21,5
KwaZulu-Natal	21,3	21,2	21,1	21,0	20,9	20,9	20,8	20,8
Limpopo	11,1	11,0	11,0	10,9	10,9	10,8	10,8	10,8
Mpumalanga	7,4	7,4	7,4	7,4	7,4	7,4	7,4	7,4
Northern Cape	2,4	2,4	2,4	2,4	2,4	2,3	2,3	2,3
North West	7,1	7,1	7,1	7,1	7,1	7,1	7,1	7,0
Western Cape	10,1	10,2	10,3	10,5	10,6	10,7	10,7	10,8
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Table 9 shows the detailed provincial mid-2008 population estimates by age and sex based on the new boundaries. Where necessary the totals by age were reconciled with the national totals, for males and females separately¹.

Nearly one-third (32%) of the population is younger than 15 years and approximately 7% (3,5 million) is 60 years or older. Of those younger than 15, approximately 22% (3,4 million) live in KwaZulu-Natal and 19% (2,94 million) live in Gauteng. The estimates in Table 9 show that approximately 37% of Limpopo's population and 35% of Mpumalanga's population is younger than 15 years. Gauteng is the province which has the smallest share (28%) of its population younger than 15 years. The smallest province, Northern Cape, has nearly one-third (32%) of its population aged less than 15 years.

¹ Due to the rounding off of data in the tables to the nearest 100, the population totals by sex and age may not always correspond with the totals presented elsewhere.

Table 9: Provincial mid-year population estimates by age and sex, 2008

Age	Eastern Cape			Free State			Gauteng			KwaZulu-Natal			Limpopo		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
0–4	347 800	343 500	691 300	144 600	140 900	285 500	549 500	529 200	1 078 700	528 500	522 000	1 050 500	319 800	311 500	631 300
5–9	373 000	356 200	729 200	149 100	147 700	296 800	509 700	493 200	1 002 900	572 200	564 000	1 136 200	332 500	315 000	647 500
10–14	422 600	395 100	817 700	151 400	151 400	302 800	431 200	425 500	856 700	610 600	600 400	1 211 000	356 400	333 700	690 100
15–19	431 200	403 600	834 800	151 800	152 100	303 900	412 100	411 600	823 700	589 600	583 100	1 172 700	349 400	327 700	677 100
20–24	343 000	341 300	684 300	139 800	144 100	283 900	469 100	462 800	931 900	521 900	540 000	1 061 900	272 800	274 200	547 000
25–29	252 500	269 600	522 100	121 300	132 700	254 000	541 600	524 600	1 066 200	437 600	479 400	917 000	199 700	227 100	426 800
30–34	195 800	222 100	417 900	105 500	119 800	225 300	554 400	515 000	1 069 400	369 000	412 300	781 300	152 800	191 300	344 100
35–39	146 100	188 300	334 400	85 500	104 700	190 200	431 000	428 700	859 700	267 100	331 800	598 900	110 800	153 600	264 400
40–44	111 400	154 100	265 500	67 200	82 600	149 800	307 400	320 100	627 500	190 200	255 200	445 400	81 800	119 000	200 800
45–49	111 500	158 200	269 700	64 000	77 200	141 200	276 700	295 400	572 100	173 700	239 200	412 900	75 800	111 000	186 800
50–54	103 100	145 800	248 900	56 400	68 500	124 900	229 600	251 300	480 900	150 200	205 600	355 800	67 300	98 100	165 400
55–59	86 600	119 800	206 400	45 600	56 000	101 600	176 600	194 800	371 400	126 200	172 400	298 600	56 900	81 000	137 900
60–64	71 500	100 100	171 600	35 600	44 800	80 400	132 100	151 000	283 100	99 200	140 800	240 000	45 700	64 500	110 200
65–69	58 400	90 100	148 500	24 200	32 600	56 800	86 000	103 200	189 200	69 000	107 500	176 500	34 800	53 200	88 000
70–74	42 600	71 300	113 900	15 500	24 200	39 700	49 400	66 500	115 900	42 000	76 600	118 600	23 900	44 200	68 100
75–79	24 700	45 200	69 900	8 200	14 800	23 000	25 400	39 800	65 200	22 900	50 500	73 400	15 000	33 300	48 300
80+	16 000	37 200	53 200	5 200	12 700	17 900	16 700	35 900	52 600	14 500	40 300	54 800	11 300	29 700	41 000
Total	3 137 800	3 441 500	6 579 300	1 370 900	1 506 800	2 877 700	5 198 500	5 248 600	10 447 100	4 784 400	5 321 100	10 105 500	2 506 700	2 768 100	5 274 800

All numbers have been rounded off to the nearest hundred and may therefore lead to small differences in the overall totals by age and sex.

Table 9: Provincial mid-year population estimates by age and sex, 2008 (continued)

Age	Mpumalanga			Northern Cape			North West			Western Cape			All provinces		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
0–4	209 600	205 600	415 200	55 800	54 100	109 900	187 000	181 500	368 500	260 000	248 800	508 800	2 602 600	2 537 100	5 139 700
5–9	214 500	212 400	426 900	62 400	60 700	123 100	182 400	187 300	369 700	262 500	259 300	521 800	2 658 300	2 595 800	5 254 100
10–14	215 000	214 400	429 400	63 600	62 900	126 500	172 500	182 100	354 600	242 900	247 100	490 000	2 666 200	2 612 600	5 278 800
15–19	206 700	203 500	410 200	59 000	57 900	116 900	165 200	173 800	339 000	231 600	242 900	474 500	2 596 600	2 556 200	5 152 800
20–24	183 700	185 000	368 700	51 000	51 300	102 300	151 200	161 300	312 500	236 600	254 400	491 000	2 369 100	2 414 400	4 783 500
25–29	153 000	163 300	316 300	44 600	46 200	90 800	141 800	149 000	290 800	229 800	253 500	483 300	2 121 900	2 245 400	4 367 300
30–34	127 400	143 200	270 600	39 600	42 400	82 000	133 500	140 200	273 700	215 200	234 000	449 200	1 893 200	2 020 300	3 913 500
35–39	95 600	118 200	213 800	33 100	38 000	71 100	112 200	120 000	232 200	176 500	206 000	382 500	1 457 900	1 689 300	3 147 200
40–44	71 900	89 300	161 200	26 100	30 700	56 800	90 700	93 700	184 400	135 800	163 000	298 800	1 082 500	1 307 700	2 390 200
45–49	66 000	79 400	145 400	25 400	29 900	55 300	90 400	86 600	177 000	125 600	154 600	280 200	1 009 100	1 231 500	2 240 600
50–54	57 100	67 900	125 000	23 300	27 600	50 900	76 100	75 400	151 500	106 800	132 600	239 400	869 900	1 072 800	1 942 700
55–59	45 100	53 600	98 700	19 200	22 900	42 100	56 200	59 200	115 400	87 400	108 700	196 100	699 800	868 400	1 568 200
60–64	33 600	40 800	74 400	15 900	19 300	35 200	43 500	49 400	92 900	71 300	89 700	161 000	548 400	700 400	1 248 800
65–69	23 500	31 700	55 200	11 700	14 400	26 100	29 900	37 300	67 200	52 400	65 400	117 800	389 900	535 400	925 300
70–74	14 200	22 800	37 000	7 800	10 300	18 100	18 800	26 500	45 300	35 300	45 500	80 800	249 500	387 900	637 400
75–79	8 100	15 300	23 400	4 200	6 200	10 400	10 300	16 700	27 000	19 400	28 400	47 800	138 200	250 200	388 400
80+	5 900	12 700	18 600	2 700	5 700	8 400	7 100	16 200	23 300	12 500	26 500	39 000	91 900	216 900	308 800
Total	1 730 900	1 859 100	3 590 000	545 400	580 500	1 125 900	1 668 800	1 756 200	3 425 000	2 501 600	2 760 400	5 262 000	23 445 000	25 242 300	48 687 300

All numbers have been rounded off to the nearest hundred

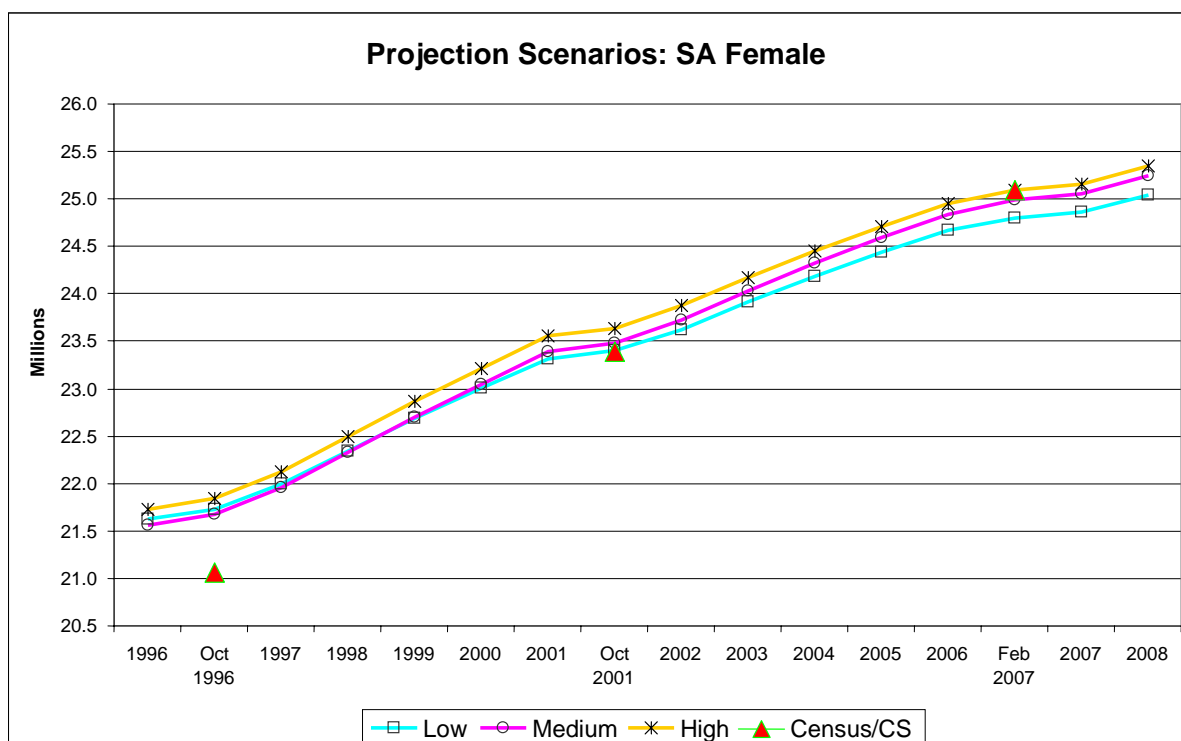
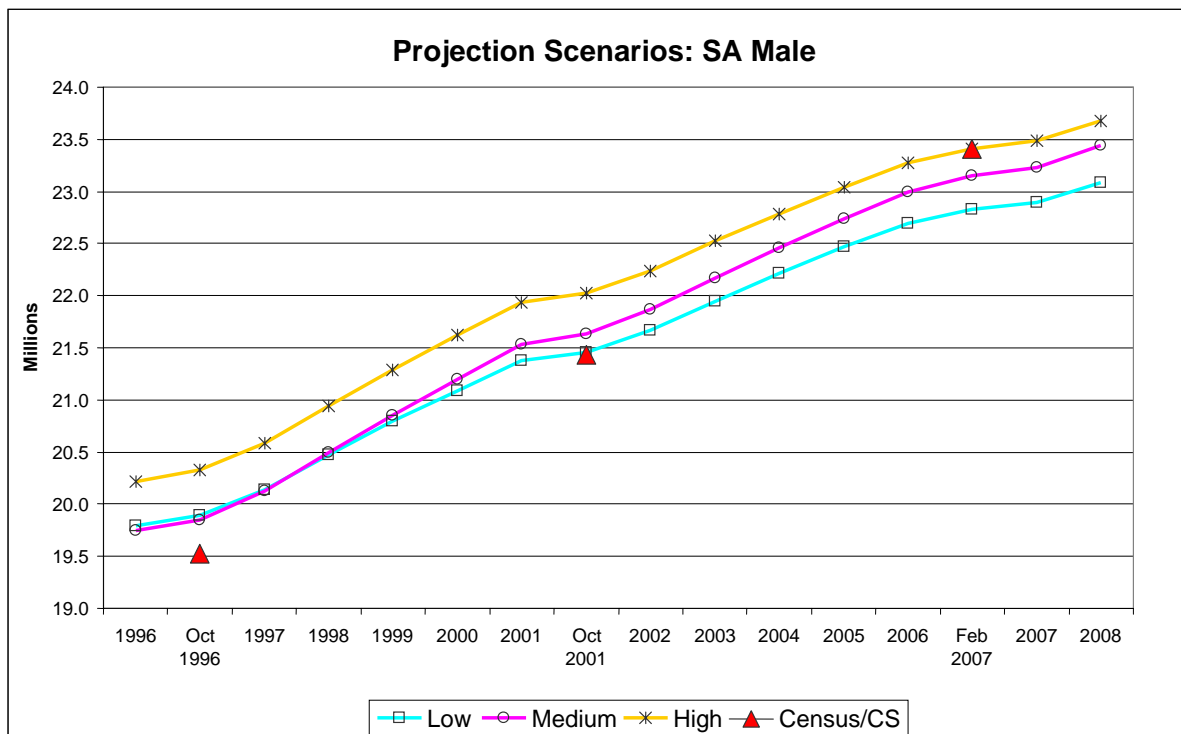
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Appendix A² Projection scenarios for South Africa



² Note that the scale of the Figures in Appendix A varies.

