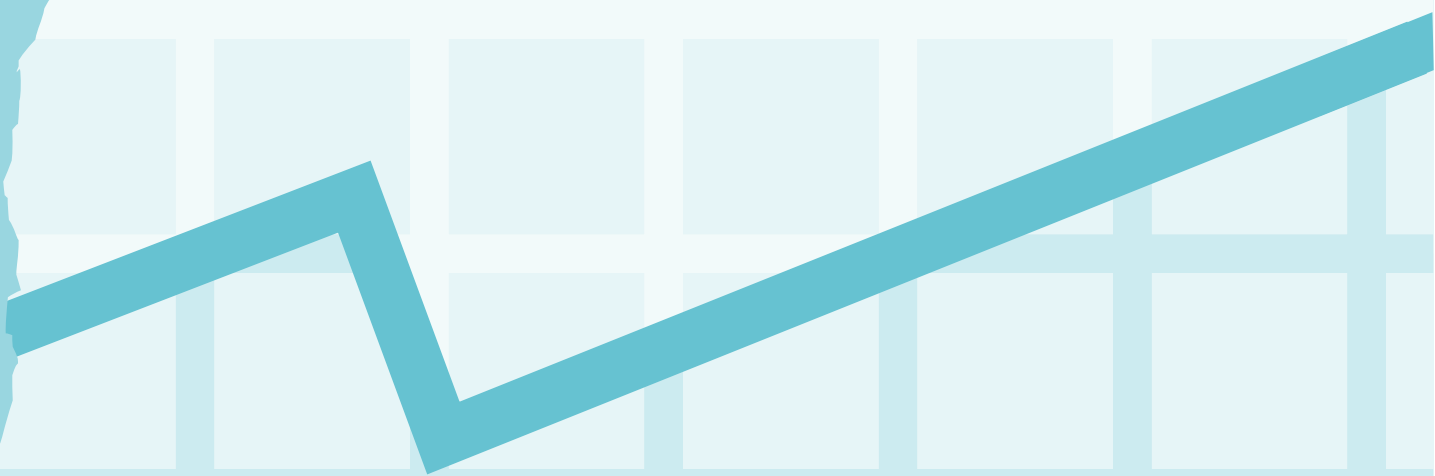


Statistics
South Africa



Annual

1998 Report

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Annual Report, 1998

Official Statistics in the new South Africa The First Five Years

Statistics South Africa
1999

Dr FM Orkin
Head

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Overview

by the Head



Mark Orkin
Head

'The results of Census '96 remind us that we have only started along a path towards that goal which was at the heart of our nation's founding consensus: namely to overcome together the legacy of our divided past.'

President NR Mandela, 20 October 1996

This is Stats SA's last annual report to South Africa's national democratic Parliament during its first five-year term of office. It will also be the last under the existing Statistics Act, if the new Bill is enacted by Parliament before it rises for the 1999 general election.

Therefore, in addition to presenting our activities during 1998 and our undertakings for 1999, the body of this report reviews how Stats SA and its main programmes have been transformed since the new management team assumed office. This overview also briefly indicates some of the challenges we shall face in the next five years in order to progress down the path identified by the President.

Three massive multi-year programmes have been brought to successful fruition by Stats SA in 1998:

- A set of final results from Census '96, the first nationwide count in a quarter of a century, were presented to Minister Trevor Manuel and



Launching the final results of Census '96

Stats SA's Pali Lehohla begins proceedings (far left).

State President Nelson Mandela (centre) with (left to right) Statistics Council Chair Joe Tsotetsi, Finance Minister Trevor Manuel, Stats SA Head Mark Orkin, and Statistics Council Vice-Chair Hillary Southall

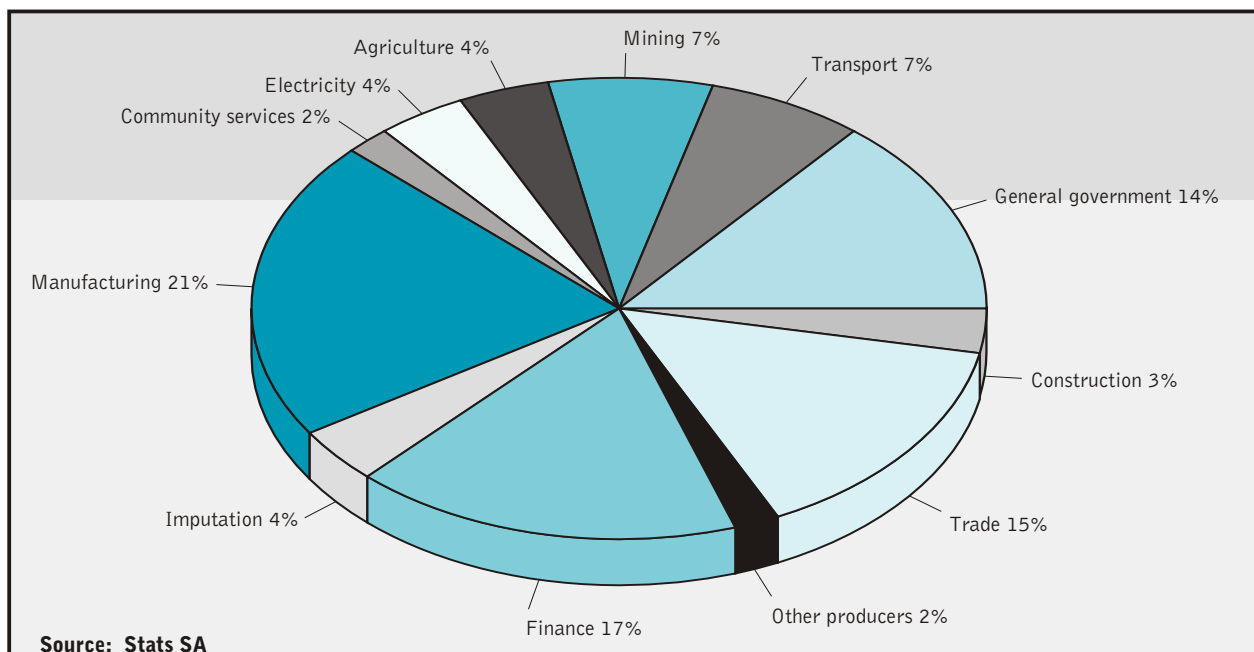
received by President Mandela on behalf of the nation in October 1998. The results have been linked to a detailed geographic information system (GIS) and can be run on a desktop computer, putting South Africa at the leading edge of census data production.

- Well before the end-1998 deadline, South Africa was the first developing nation to achieve compliance with the International Monetary Fund's Special Data Dissemination Standards (SDDS) in respect of the specified suite of key economic indicators. This involved halving previous turnaround times, while extending coverage. Progress towards compliance with the United Nations' revised system of national accounts is on schedule.
- With its nine modest provincial offices in place, Stats SA can now properly implement countrywide sample surveys. This capacity is aimed at the labour-force survey required by the government and the SDDS, but has already been successfully applied to two user-pay surveys for government departments and their international partners.

Far-reaching improvements over the last four years are also evident in other areas of Stats SA's ongoing undertakings:

- Stats SA is now making the patterns and trends in its data more accessible to policy-makers and users, on the Internet and in print. Topics dealt with in reports have included household development indicators, income and expenditure, gender statistics, provincial breakdowns, unemployment, and the conduct of Census '96.

Contribution of different economic sectors to total GDP at current prices for the first three quarters of 1998



- Vigorous organisational development has occurred. Since mid-1995 Stats SA has moved from 15% to 61% black employees, and from an all-white, all-male senior management team to one that is 40% black and 27% female. People with disabilities form nearly 2% of the staff. A performance-oriented staff appraisal system and modular training courses in statistics and administration have been introduced, at head office and in the provinces.
- An annual management cycle of planning, budgeting, individual goal-setting, and organisational evaluation is nearly complete; so, too, is the migration from the mainframe to a millenium-compliant PC-based computing environment.
- Stats SA has benefited from extensive technical assistance in all its operations, primarily from Sweden, but also Australia, Switzerland, Norway, the UN Population Fund and Canada. Through study tours and consultants' visits we have been able to draw widely on international good practice.

Our Swedish partners have remarked that 'the speed and flexibility of [this] transformation is probably without parallel anywhere in the world'. The resulting challenge that we identified in our last annual report was to render the transformation sustainable by consolidating our infrastructure and systems. The challenge has been heightened this year by fiscal constraints. While the Stats SA core budget has kept up with inflation, the census budget has been halved in real terms.

Stats SA is responding to these circumstances with innovative methodologies, closer collaboration with other departments, increased earning through extended user-pay arrangements and donor support, and bold management. Even so, there will be tough trade-offs. The effect may be illustrated by considering the three multi-year programmes described above.

- The census in 2001 will be redesigned as a large sample survey, gaining information from perhaps one household in six on average, and using the updated GIS as a sampling frame. This will dramatically reduce the largest outlays, on salaries for enumerators and data processors. The trade-off will be reduced accuracy in the population statistics of the smaller local authorities.
- The remaining re-engineering of the economic sample surveys will be carried through, as well as their migration to a modern computing environment. But the larger censuses of economic enterprises – which should occur every few years to calibrate the monthly or quarterly surveys – have been postponed. In similar vein, Stats SA will proceed with the upgrade of the business register, from which all economic samples are drawn, and will for the first time benefit from information supplied by

South African Revenue Services, and the Department of Trade and Industry. But the project will need to be partially funded by charging for economic releases.

- The initial plan for the survey programme, mindful of the SDDS priority, was to conduct a quarterly labour force survey (LFS) on a 'panel' basis while retaining the well-regarded annual October household survey (OHS) for development monitoring between population censuses. However, Stats SA will now have to limit the LFS to a bi-annual survey, abandon the OHS as a separate venture and 'piggy-back' some of its items on the LFS.

Infrastructural advances such as a management information system will be undertaken more slowly or with the help of donor funds. Donors have already paid for an employment survey, and are now paying for a survey of rural subsistence agriculture, the programme to build capacity in local government to report financial statistics, and a time-use study of household economic activity, all of which will contribute to improved national accounting.

In the longer term, Stats SA's vision is to move increasingly away from gathering primary data through censuses and surveys towards the use of cheaper 'register-based' data, whether about households or businesses,



A training workshop for the
October household survey, 1998

through seeking to facilitate the more comprehensive assembling of such information by responsible departments.

The new Statistics Bill – formulated jointly by the Statistics Council, Stats SA and their many stakeholders – facilitates the collaborative relationships necessary for such an integrated statistical system. Several interdepartmental efforts are already under way. The Bill also enhances the professional autonomy of Stats SA and the monitoring role of the independent Statistics Council.

At the same time, Stats SA expects to increase its South-South co-operation in statistics, by building upon the regional harmonisation of Census 2001 which it is driving for the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and the consultancies it has undertaken to other developing countries.

International observers note that Stats SA remains small, even in the developing world, relative to the size and complexity of the South African population and economy. We shall try to minimise the impact of the fiscal constraints by a concerted strategy of managed change: enhancing the capacity of staff to take the initiative in continuously improving their work processes and systems, and responding to users' evolving needs. By these means we hope to maximise our provision of the relevant, prompt and reliable statistical information which South Africa needs to plan and monitor its economic and social development.



Dr FM Orkin
Head
Statistics South Africa

Statistics South Africa in Transformation

- **The role of Stats SA**

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) aims to produce and disseminate official statistics which support economic growth, development and democracy. Official statistics should be impartial, reliable and relevant, and the sources of data protected by confidentiality rules. The gathering of statistical data must be transparent, and the production of statistical information scientific.

- **Stats SA's mission**

The mission of Stats SA is to be:

- relevant to policy making for growth and development;
- reliable in producing timely and accurate statistics;
- responsive to the statistical needs of users; and
- representative in staffing and advisory committees.

- **Statistical products**

In pursuit of these goals Stats SA produces:

- official economic statistics on all aspects of the economy derived from more than a hundred regular collections or surveys, enabling compilation of indices such as the producer and consumer price indices (PPI and CPI), and trends in employment, volumes and prices in various sectors;
- national and government accounts including the gross domestic product (GDP), input-output tables, and social-accounting matrices for planning;
- official demographic statistics based on a five-yearly population census and regular household surveys;
- vital statistics, for example on births and deaths, and other statistics compiled from administrative records; and
- analyses of the demographic, social and economic data that have been gathered.

Major Strategic Achievements of the First Five Years

The transformation of Stats SA's products, structures, systems and staffing since the new Head took office in July 1995 has been shaped by three key national policies, namely:

- the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP);
- the Growth, Employment and Redistribution policy (GEAR); and
- the goals of public service transformation set by the Department of Public Service and Administration.

Stats SA has implemented its mission in accordance with these policies during the past five years in the following notable respects:

- **Transforming Demography**

Stats SA's Chief Directorate of Demography was created to give due significance to South Africa's first post-apartheid national **population census**. Census planning and demarcation took place in 1995 and 1996, and the massive enumeration exercise in October 1996. Subsequently the Chief Directorate concentrated, during 1997 and 1998, on co-ordinating census processing in nine new provincial offices and on producing the first set of final census results.

In co-operation with the Department of Land Affairs and the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), the Chief Directorate also undertook development of a national computerised **geographical information system** (GIS). The GIS has given the IEC digitised, small-area planning information for the forthcoming general and provincial election, and has also provided a spatial basis for all census reporting.

Demography has led the establishment of nine new **provincial offices**. These will provide statistical information for planning and decision-making at a provincial and local level and also manage fieldwork for Stats SA's new household survey programme.

- **Re-engineering economic series**

The Chief Directorate of Economic Statistics and Surveys has focused on improving work processes, methodologies and technology in order to provide more comprehensive **economic indicators** and speedier turnaround for economic policy-making and monitoring. In particular, Stats SA achieved compliance with the International Monetary Fund's Special Data Dissemination Standards (SDDS) within the deadline – the first statistical agency in a developing country to do so.

Entire sets of **statistical collections** have been re-engineered. For example, 17 disparate collections on employment have been successfully replaced by three complementary economy-wide surveys. Similarly, the **national accounts** are being re-cast in accordance with the new United Nations' standards.

Key **stakeholders** have collaborated in the reconceptualisation of activities, for instance in financial statistics. The planning of a new business address register has been concluded after consultation with other government departments.

- **Research and Development**

The Chief Directorate of Research and Development was formed in 1996 to provide **methodological services and accessible statistical outputs**. Its role during the population census was to finalise the questionnaire and to implement and compute the special survey required for the early phases of the undercount adjustment. In 1998 it provided the analytical and publishing infrastructure to generate the first set of final census results.

At the same time a series of nine **user-friendly reports** on the provinces has been produced, based on the findings of the October household survey, as well as publications on gender statistics and on household incomes and expenditure. An integrated report on unemployment and employment was produced at the time of the Presidential job summit.

The **household survey programme** has been reorganised under this component. The design and reporting of the annual October household survey has been revised. Other innovative projects undertaken include a survey on victims of crime for the Secretariat for Safety and Security, and a rural livelihood survey.

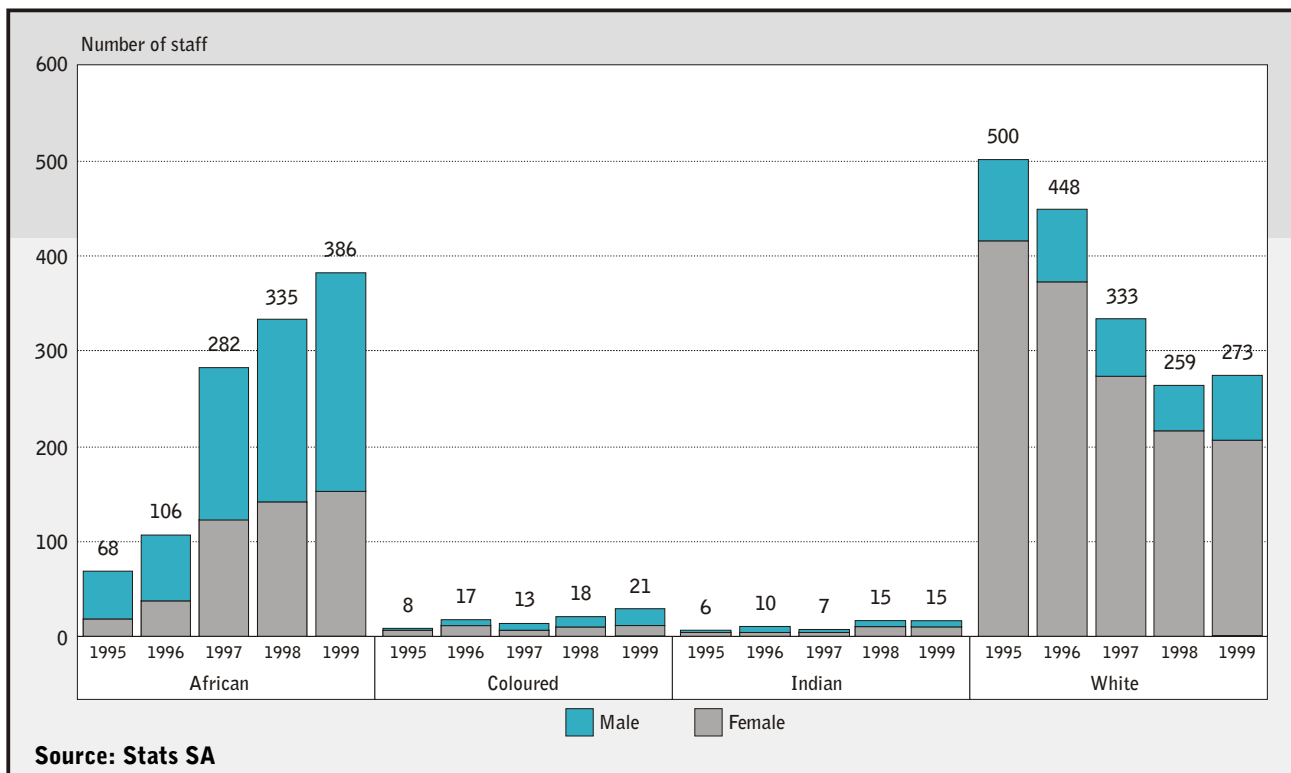


Minister Trevor Manuel with Stats SA's Debbie Budlender, author of **Women and men in South Africa**

- Organisational transformation

Following the comprehensive rationalisation which took place after mid-1995, some 270 **new appointments** were made in the total complement of approximately 750 positions. These include a highly skilled and diverse management echelon and the staff of the nine new provincial offices. A multi-faceted capacity-building programme is underway, covering statistics, computer applications, and managerial and administrative skills development, for both existing and new staff in head office and the provinces.

Stats SA staff by race and gender January 1995-1999



Through assertive **representivity recruitment** Stats SA has moved from less than 15% black staff in mid-1995 to 59% in January 1998, and 61% in January 1999. In the senior management team, which was entirely white and male previously, the proportions are now 40% black and 27% female. These figures already exceed the government targets set for 1999. Representivity of disabled persons has also improved from six to 11 people.

In 1997, Stats SA introduced a new performance-oriented staff appraisal system, after consultation with the relevant trade unions. It links **performance management** of each employee with capacity building for improved service delivery in line with Stats SA's goals. Every employee is now assessed annually. Assessment criteria include initiative and commitment as well as skills and experience.

Stats SA's new management team participated in several leadership development sessions during 1997, working together on a **strategic perspective** to improve both planning and operations. Six themes emerged from this process which were then assigned to cross-departmental task teams, drawing their members from all levels below senior management. During 1998 these teams presented their project proposals. Some are ready for implementation and others will be taken forward into the next round of strategic planning.

The **information technology** infrastructure has been revolutionised since 1996. Rapid migration is well underway from the mainframe to more flexible and productive PC-networks, supporting both statistical and management systems. By this means the millennium challenge is also being addressed. An Internet website was started in 1996, followed by an Intranet in 1998. Dissemination of outputs is increasingly electronic, although print products remain an important part of dissemination strategies.

In 1998 a new **name and logo** were adopted, reflecting the commitment to professionalism and service delivery of the restructured organisation. Finance Minister Trevor Manuel, the minister politically responsible for Stats SA, unveiled these at the annual general staff meeting.

Stats SA's senior management team

Standing, left to right:

Eric Udjo, Reg Gilbert, Motale Phirwa, Estelle Winnaar, Glenn Moss, Colleen du Toit, Jairo Arrow and Alfonso Fano

Seated, left to right:

Hennie Loots, Akiki Kahimbaara, Ros Hirschowitz, Mark Orkin, Pali Lehohla and Annette Myburgh

Not present: Pieter Gildenhuys



Effective Partnerships

- **Sustained international collaboration**

A wide-ranging programme of **technical assistance** between Stats SA and two of the world's leading statistical agencies, Statistics Sweden and the Australian Bureau of Statistics, has been undertaken since 1995. These activities improved the quality of economic statistical production, the planning and processing of Census '96, and the management and infrastructural development of Stats SA. The Swedish project has been extended for a further three years.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) consultants supported the census from 1996. Projects added during 1998 have included local government financial statistics, with Switzerland as the partner; and gender statistics, partnered by Norway. A study visit to Statistics Canada in 1997 on management development will be followed by another visit, by chief directors, to study statistical production.

- **The Interim Statistics Council and Stats SA**

In 1994, a task team was set up to review the Statistics Act. The project was taken over by the Interim Statistics Council working in close collaboration with Stats SA. With expert assistance from the Swedish, Australian and Canadian statistical agencies, a policy paper was produced and widely discussed during 1997. In 1998 a Statistics Bill was drafted, canvassed with the Minister, and approved by Cabinet for submission to Parliament in early 1999.

The Council also exercised its statutory right to advise the Minister regarding the outcome of Census '96. Drawing upon a task team report by eight experts, it both endorsed the results and recommended further research on certain issues to improve the conduct of the next population census.

- **Statistical networking for good governance**

During the past four years, Stats SA has received several requests from government departments and other public agencies for **co-operation and advice**, and has initiated partnerships to achieve more effective statistical production.

The various chief directorates have been involved, among others, with the Departments of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Finance, Health, Home Affairs, Land Affairs, Safety and Security, State Expenditure, several provincial governments, the Reserve Bank, South African Revenue Services, the South African Tourism Board, and the Joint Building Contract Committee.

In some instances these associations have involved joint ventures with international partners: for instance the victims of crime survey was undertaken with involvement from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Interregional Crime Research Institute (UNICRI) and the Secretariat for Safety and Security; the child labour survey with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Department of Labour; and natural resource accounting with the World Bank and the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

- **International contributions**

Starting in 1995, after the inaugural annual meeting of Southern African Development Community (SADC) government statisticians, Stats SA helped drive planning and fundraising to enhance the capacity for **statistical co-ordination by the SADC head office**. The programme of action was approved by the SADC Council of Ministers in 1998. Stats SA is also convening the collaborative effort among SADC countries regarding the round of **censuses planned by SADC members in 2000/01**.

Stats SA is an elected member of the **Council of African Statistical Development** of the UN Economic Commission for Africa. Since 1996 senior staff from Stats SA have consulted for international statistical agencies in Eastern Europe, the Far East, and at international consultative gatherings. Stats SA staff have also participated in local and international conferences on various aspects of official statistical production.



Economic Statistics and Surveys



Annette Myburgh
Chief Director

The Chief Directorate of Economic Statistics and Surveys is responsible for more than a hundred economic series covering all aspects of the economy, as well as their synthesis into the national accounts. The main functions of this Chief Directorate are to:

- conduct economic surveys regarding the major sectors: primary (such as agriculture and mining), secondary (such as manufacturing and construction), tertiary (such as wholesale and retail trade), services (such as catering and insurance), and transport;
- compile national accounts and government statistics;
- calculate indices such as the consumer price index (CPI), the producer price index (PPI) and associated building costs indices;
- conduct surveys on labour issues such as wages and employment levels; and
- maintain and update the business register, which serves as a sampling frame for all economic and labour surveys.

Key achievements of the past four years

- Restructuring and re-engineering

In the past, many of this component's series were reaching completion too slowly to be of relevance to policy-makers. The new management at Stats SA found that problems occurred all the way along the chain of production: gazetting; questionnaire design; reminders; data analysis; and reporting. These shortcomings were addressed in far-reaching ways. Firstly, the departmental structures were abolished in favour of 39 compact, accountable and integrated work teams. Secondly, highly qualified top management staff were recruited to implement rigorous structures and reporting procedures. This elicited impressive performance from both existing staff and new recruits whose employment substantially improved representivity and qualification profiles.

The Chief Directorate has concentrated on improving work processes and methodologies in order to meet international standards. The outcome is that compliance was achieved within the allocated two years with the International Monetary Fund's Special Data Dissemination Standards (SDDS), which demanded improvements in the quality, timeliness and coverage of economic collections.

Focused use was made of Swedish and Australian technical assistance while re-engineering of the design, sampling and production of the collections was undertaken. This entailed associated improvements in methodologies and computing systems. For example, 17 disparate labour series were re-conceptualised and replaced with three complementary economy-wide series, each addressing a particular aspect of the labour market.

- **Updating the system of national accounts**

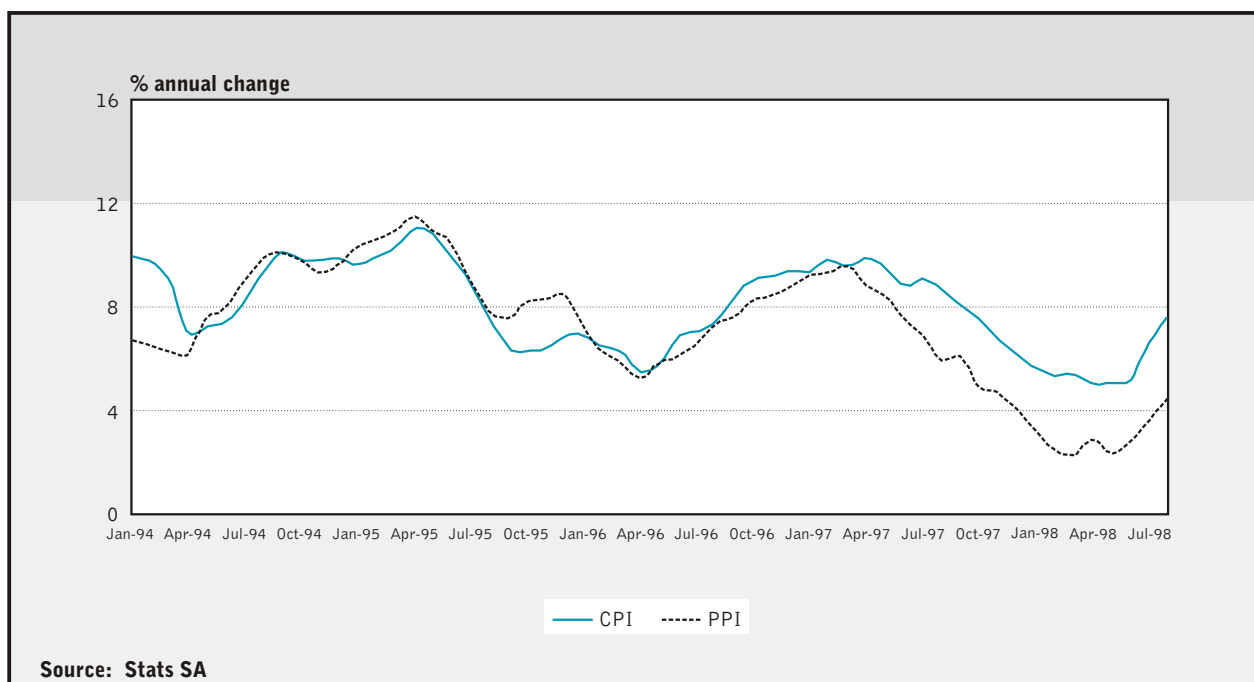
In another major re-engineering programme, the base year for reporting national accounts is being updated from 1990 to 1995. At the same time, progress according to schedule has been made with the implementation of the United Nations' 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA93), which enables improved integration of production, income, capital and financial accounts while allowing for harmonisation with international standards.

Key achievements of 1998

- **Meeting the Special Data Dissemination Standards (SDDS) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)**

The IMF's SDDS are intended to guide member countries in providing comprehensive, timely, accessible and reliable economic and financial statistics in a world of increasing economic and financial integration. South

Consumer price index (CPI) and producer price index (PPI)



Africa was the least-developed country among the first group of subscribers to the SDDS in August 1996. With other subscribing countries it was granted a transitional period to the end of 1998 to comply with the SDDS.

Early in 1998, Stats SA succeeded for the first time in meeting one of the key SDDS requirements: reporting of the monthly producer price index (PPI) within four weeks of the reference month. The production process of the consumer price index (CPI) was even further streamlined to enable publication within three weeks following the reference month.

By year-end, the mining, electricity and manufacturing production indices, as well as the results of the survey of total employment and earnings, were also published according to SDDS requirements, achieving overall compliance regarding all enterprise-based indices for which Stats SA is responsible. The remaining indicators will follow from the household-based labour force surveys mentioned in the Research and Development section of this report.

- **Improving the timeliness of sectoral census results**

The first results of the 1996 census of manufacturing were published within 24 months, a year sooner than the results of the previous manufacturing census in 1993. Stats SA took a number of steps to improve response rates, including the sending of regular electronic reminders to defaulting respondents. In addition, for the first time, 350 manufacturing firms were visited by Stats SA researchers and assistance was provided to respondents in completing the questionnaires.

- **Reviewing economic surveys and stakeholder participation**

A thorough strategic review of several economic collections took place in 1998. This involved determining the needs of the relevant users, as well as consulting users and respondents via advisory committees. Questionnaires and statistical releases were redesigned according to international best practice. Furthermore, the questionnaires were tested extensively through observing how users actually filled them in.

New samples are currently being designed for these collections. Improved data capturing, processing and analysis systems in a client-server environment are being built. The new re-engineered surveys will be implemented in 1999. The process will then be applied to other sectors until all one hundred series have been overhauled or replaced.

- **New business address register**

The business address register, which provides the sampling frame, is at the hub of collection of economic statistics. During 1998, the conceptual framework and technological support for a new business register system was finalised. This system will be developed and implemented in 1999.

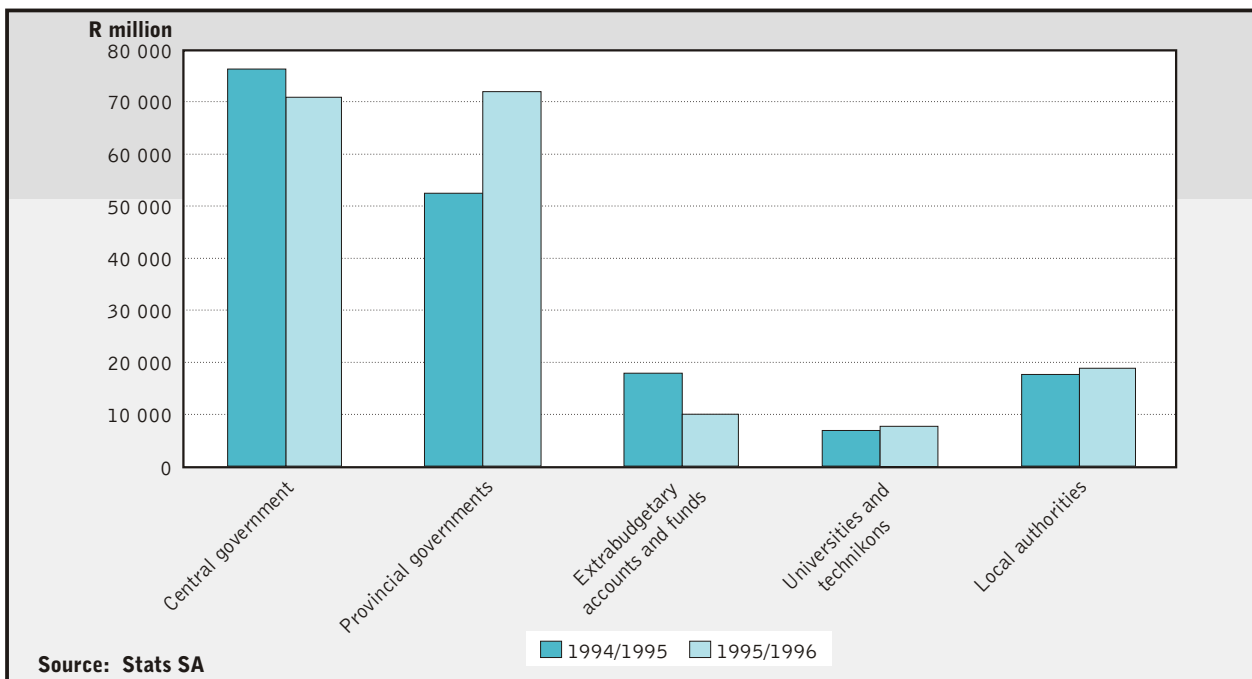
Stats SA procured from Statistics New Zealand its business frame system, which will hasten the introduction of a high-quality, millennium-compliant business register.

- **Re-engineered surveys implemented**

The first results of the revamped labour collection, the survey of total employment and earnings (STEE), were published in July 1998. This quarterly establishment-based survey provides information on employment and gross salaries and wages in the formal non-agricultural business sector. Due to the re-engineered survey, response rates improved from approximately 65% to 77%. The second labour collection, the survey of average monthly earnings, was piloted during 1998.

The re-engineered quarterly financial statistics survey was introduced in 1998. For the first time this survey also collected financial information on the construction sector.

Total expenditure according to levels of government



- **Re-casting and re-basing South Africa's national accounts**

The United Nations, in co-operation with other international organisations, published a revised version of a System of National Accounts in 1993 (SNA93). This publication contains a comprehensive set of concepts, definitions and classifications for compiling national accounts. With the help of a Statistics Sweden expert, Stats SA is working to update the national accounts system so that it meets required international standards. Several modules of training have been provided.

Revised national accounts estimates, with time series updated from 1993, will be published towards the middle of 1999.

- **Introducing a new economic activity survey**

An annual economy-wide economic activity survey was introduced for the first time during September 1998. The results will be used to compile estimates of gross domestic product and its components, as prescribed by the SNA93. This, in turn, will be used to monitor and develop government policy. These statistics will also be used by the private sector in analyses of comparative business and industry performance.

- **Investigating environmental statistics and accounting**

In response to national and international user needs, a World Bank-funded project to investigate the South African situation regarding environmental statistics and accounting was conducted during 1998. Two reports were produced and a workshop involving relevant stakeholders was held. Emanating from this initiative, Stats SA appointed an environmental economist during 1998.

- **Upgrading local government statistics**

A programme for improved collection of local government statistics was implemented during 1998. Funded by Swiss Development Co-operation, ten local government trainers were appointed: their primary responsibility involves building capacity of local government officials to provide reliable data on expenditure and performance.

With the proper management of follow-ups, response rates in local government surveys have improved markedly since 1994. For example, the response rate for the annual survey of actual and expected capital expenditure increased from 48% in 1995 through 84% in 1996 to 87% in 1997.

- **Adopting international classifications**

In order to speed up the adoption of changes in international classifications within Stats SA, a cross-departmental classification steering committee was established to oversee industrial, institutional, commodity, occupational, geographical, death and other classifications.

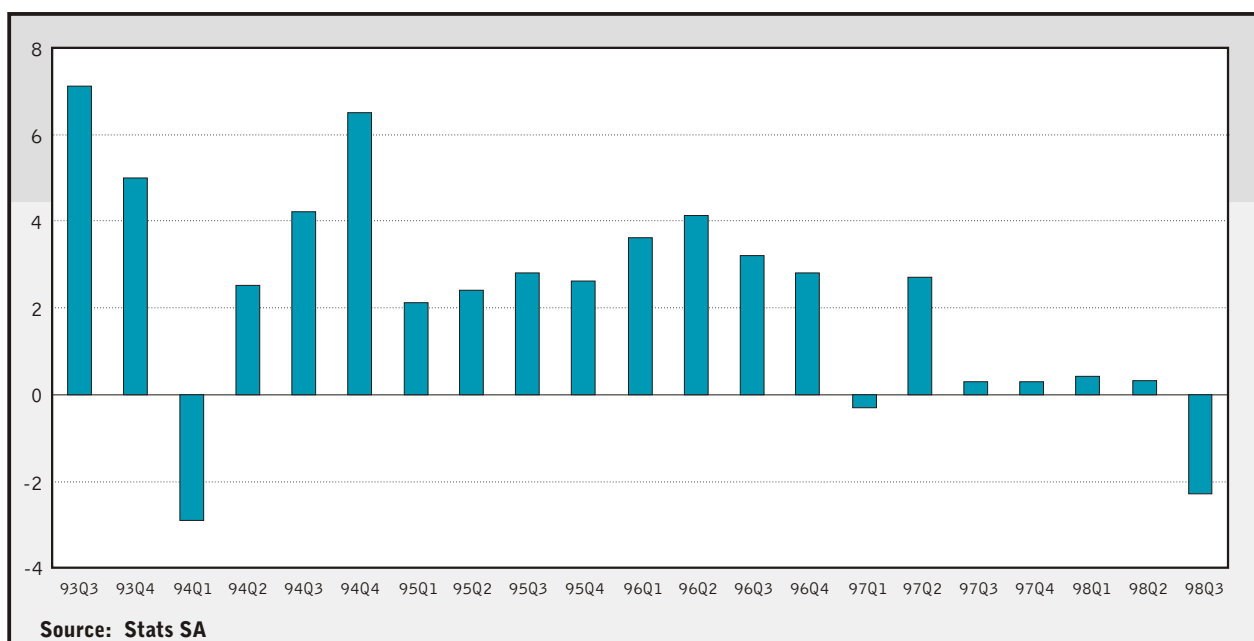
For the first time, the Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities was published on Stats SA's website.

- **Transformed work processes, standardisation and training**

Efforts continue to enhance performance and empower staff through innovative work processes underpinned by customised training. The work-team and project-management approaches were further improved through a supervision training programme, a programme of planning and project management, and a performance-management seminar provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Standardisation across all economic surveys regarding questionnaire design, data capturing, processing and analysis systems was enhanced through a questionnaire design course, a software course on design and lay-out of questionnaires, systems design courses, four different SAS courses (Basic, Advanced, Assist, Insight) and a sampling seminar.

**Growth in real gross domestic product at market prices
(quarter-on-quarter, seasonally adjusted, annualised rates)**



A help desk devoted to the SAS statistical package, managed by the Economic Statistics and Surveys Chief Directorate, has been established to provide technical assistance to all SAS users in Stats SA.

- **International technical assistance on economic statistics**

Various study visits have taken place under the auspices of the international assistance programme. For example, four Stats SA labour statisticians attended courses at the US Bureau of Labour Statistics, while two members of the national accounts directorate visited Statistics Sweden to look at international best practice regarding the implementation of the SNA93 and the relevant software systems.

An Australian expert visited Stats SA to advise on methodological issues involved in economic statistics surveys and in return a member of economic statistics and surveys visited the Australian Bureau of Statistics to study these issues further. Assistance was received from the ABS regarding the review of the monthly trading statistics of hotels survey.

Finally, an ABS trainer in SAS conducted four intensive 'train-the-trainer' courses for a group of Stats SA staff during April 1998. Internal trainers were identified from course participants, and they are now being utilised in the internal SAS training programme. About 100 Stats SA staff members were trained in SAS during 1998.

- **Stakeholder participation and interdepartmental co-operation**

In line with Stats SA's new user-driven approach, initiatives to involve stakeholders continued during 1998. Co-operation between the Chief Directorate, government departments and other institutions which have a role in statistical production has developed well.

- Members from the Departments of Finance and State Expenditure, the South African Reserve Bank and Statistics South Africa participate in an interdepartmental government statistics task team to promote better government financial and economic statistics.
- An interdepartmental task team with members from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, SATOUR, the South African Reserve Bank and Stats SA was established to discuss issues regarding tourism statistics and the possible construction of tourism satellite accounts. Subsequently, Stats SA joined a Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism work group on an integrated management information system for tourism.

- The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, the Development Bank of South Africa and Statistics South Africa set up an inter-departmental group to investigate and co-ordinate the environmental statistics and accounting situation in South Africa.
- An interdepartmental task team with members from the Department of Agriculture and Stats SA is addressing the lack of agricultural information arising from the abolition of several agricultural boards.
- Legislation governing the South African Revenue Services was amended to grant Stats SA access to information necessary to improve the business register. The New Zealand business frame software mentioned earlier specifically caters for this interaction.
- Representatives of the South African Reserve Bank and Stats SA, which are jointly responsible for co-ordinating the implementation of SNA93, successfully continued their collaboration.
- An interdepartmental task team studying concerns regarding valued-added tax (VAT) returns, made up of members from the South African Revenue Services, the South African Reserve Bank and Stats SA, concluded its work.
- Discussions were held with a member of the Interim Statistics Council who had conducted extensive academic research into manufacturing statistics. Follow-up investigations have been set in motion.
- Methodological issues are sometimes raised in the media by journalists or analysts. Stats SA regularly responds, and useful exchanges have resulted.
- **Surveys funded by users**

During 1998 Stats SA for the first time entered into arrangements whereby users pay for certain surveys which would otherwise have to be curtailed or cut due to reduced funding. The Department of Transport requested Stats SA to continue to administer and process road traffic collisions data supplied by the South African Police Services until its own new system is operational. It also requested Stats SA to sustain its monthly survey of price indices for the civil engineering industry.

Similarly, the Joint Building Contract Committee (JBCC) finalised an agreement with Stats SA whereby it charges subscribers in order for Stats SA to continue providing the long-established work group indices for contract price adjustments, widely used in the construction sector.

Forthcoming challenges for Economic Statistics

Strategic objectives for the coming year include the following:

- re-engineering of other economic surveys;
- the five-yearly re-basing and re-weighting of the PPI;
- finalising the re-basing of the national accounts to 1995;
- implementing the new UN System of National Accounts;
- finalising the results of the local government census;
- implementing the new system for the business register;
- introducing environmental statistics; and
- further empowering staff through extended statistical, computer and administrative training.

Demography



Pali Lehohla
Chief Director

The Chief Directorate of Demography is responsible for:

- planning and implementation of a population census every five years;
- management of the nine provincial offices which service the statistical needs of the regions and provide field capacity for the household survey programme; and
- provision and maintenance of a computerised geographical information system for census data, into which users' information can also be integrated.

In particular, this Chief Directorate provides demographic data to inform reconstruction and development, especially by ensuring adequate coverage of the historically marginalised. This data, in electronic and geo-referenced format, has been used extensively in planning for South Africa's 1999 general election.

Key achievements of the past four years

- **Census '96**

The most important challenge faced by Stats SA's new Chief Directorate of Demography involved implementation of the first post-apartheid national population census. In mid-1995, consultants from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the UN Statistical Division adjudged the preparations for this census as 'comprehensively deficient'. This meant that the new management had just one year to redesign all aspects of the gigantic process and implement them in time for the onset of enumeration.

Under the slogan 'Count us in', 100 000 fieldworkers enumerated the people of South Africa as members of a unified nation for the first time in 25 years. Following an extensive publicity campaign and careful testing of the questionnaire for less-literate respondents, households could choose to be interviewed in any of the 11 official languages when enumeration took place in October 1996.

Preliminary results, based on a sample of census questionnaires and a simple application of the post-enumeration survey (PES), were announced in mid-1997. During the ensuing 12 months, detailed processing of the nine million questionnaires took place at the nine provincial offices. The data were amalgamated into a huge database for analysis and production of results. At the same time, a sophisticated re-analysis of the PES was conducted by the Chief Directorate of Research and Development. This involved the matching

GOOD NEWS IN CENSUS 1996

IT IS welcome news that more financial relief is in sight for KwaZulu-Natal, which has long been criticised for its poor status with regard to financial allocations from the central government. This week's long-awaited release of the Census 96 results confirms that it and the Northern Province will be the main beneficiaries of revised provincial budget allocations over the next five years.

As expected, the census shows KZN has the highest provincial population (nearly 8.3 million) of the 9.3 million people living in South Africa. Its population is also relatively rural, employed, deprived of services and ill over half-a-million people to the last.

Finance Minister Trevor Manuel edged this data will compel the government to review its provincial budget allocation although it will still take another 7 KZN to get its full share in terms of formula which takes account of per capita and the "degree of rurality".

Nationally, the census presents major battles which the government to overcome - but there are many pluses. For example, numbers are not skewed by geographical bias.

The "head-counters" insist they are now fairly accurate, after having pointers of the census enumeration a although there will remain scepticism like the relatively low number of counted, they have even mentioned some of their methods.

Overall this is probably the most accurate completed for which comparable

1996 census to Mandela

THE final results of the 1996 population census would be handed to President Mandela in Pretoria today, Statistics SA said yesterday.

"The new results will enable the government and policy makers to plan and monitor progress more accurately,"

Census results boost State's bid to deliver

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) has announced that the 1996 population census results will be handed to President Nelson Mandela today. The census, which was conducted on 10 October 1996, is the first to be conducted in all 11 official languages. The results show that the population of South Africa is 9.3 million, with a growth rate of 1.2% since 1991. The census also provides information on the distribution of the population across the nine provinces, the level of education, and the employment status of the population. Stats SA has also announced that it will be releasing a series of reports on the census results over the next few weeks. These reports will provide a detailed analysis of the census data and will be available in all 11 official languages. The census results are expected to have a significant impact on the government's budgetary allocations for the next five years.

Census provides clearer picture of SA

Census statistics highlight plight of black women

By Steve Gossens

The results of South Africa's latest and most inclusive census have revealed glaring racial discrepancies, with white males dominating the upper income brackets and black females swelling the ranks of the unemployed.

The census, the first to be undertaken in post-apartheid South Africa, reveals that roughly 1.6 million of South Africa's 9.3 million people are unemployed.

There are about 1.6 million black males employed, while over 1 million white males hold down jobs.

About 2.5 million of the unemployed are black women, 1.2 million of whom are 15-64 years old.

provisional males with only 1.4 million females by contrast with 1.6 million for Whites or 1.6 million for Blacks. The latter figure is lower by just 1 million.

Over 1.6 million people speak Afrikaans, 1.2 million speak English, 1.1 million speak Xhosa and 1.1 million speak Zulu.

These figures include all forms of people who speak more than one language.

In the employment index, nearly 1.6 million males aged 15-64 years are employed, as are over 1.6 million females, making a total of 3.2 million.

The more than 1.6 million black Africans in this age

group are unemployed.

The largest group of unemployed people aged 15 to 64, about 1.2 million, work in tertiary occupations, followed by 1.1 million in crafts and trades, 1 million in unskilled and other jobs and just fewer than 1 million in professions.

Phileas and Gossens

International praise for revamped Stats SA

By Steve Gossens

The release of the final 1996 census results marks the culmination of a radical three-year overhaul of South Africa's Central Statistical Service (now known as Stats SA).

In this process, the CSS has had to put together questionnaires in all 11 official languages, learn to conduct surveys in rural areas, conduct surveys of the victims of crime, and do periodic in-depth income and expenditure surveys.

Transformation changes have replaced staffing, staff activities and products.

The process has won international praise: "The speed and flexibility of the transformation of the CSS is probably without parallel anywhere in the world," an expert from Statistics Sweden said.

Dr Mark Orkin, head of,

Stats SA, said the organisation had undergone tremendous restructuring and a "transformation drive" since 1995.

Even the image of the institution, which put together the census findings released yesterday is new, symbolised by a brand logo showing a globe.

Orkin said on "second-class methodology" was used during Census 96, unlike previous occasions when rural areas were rarely flown over and figures disputed.

The organisation had demarcated 88 000 enumeration areas for Census 96, and some of this data will be updated for Census 2001.

For the first time, many people in rural villages and informal settlements felt they were included.

Although some people in mainly white areas have

complained that they were not interviewed, Orkin said this was caused by residents' security fears.

He said questionnaires were carefully worked so as to be user-friendly and that all 11 official languages were used.

In the household survey programme, three new projects have been started. They are a new rural survey conducted in areas with little economic and infrastructural development; a survey of the victims of crime and, every fifth year, an income and expenditure survey.

One problem Stats SA will have to face is to speed its constant transitions and development, it says.

The 1996-99 core budget of 800-million is an increase, but there are questions marks as to whether this will bring South Africa's data collection up to international standards.

Census calls for renewed reform efforts - Mandela

President Nelson Mandela has called for renewed reform efforts in the wake of the 1996 population census. He said the census results showed that South Africa still has a long way to go in terms of economic and social development. He emphasized the need for the government to address the high unemployment rate, particularly among black women, and to improve the quality of education and healthcare. Mandela also highlighted the importance of the census in providing a clear picture of the country's needs and challenges. He urged the government to use the census data to inform policy-making and to ensure that the benefits of the new South Africa are shared by all citizens. He also mentioned the need for the government to address the housing crisis and to improve the living conditions of the poor. Mandela's remarks were made during a speech at the National Conference in Pretoria, where he was joined by other government officials and members of the public. He stressed that the census was a significant milestone in the country's history and that it provided a valuable tool for the government to plan for the future. He also mentioned the need for the government to address the issue of land reform and to ensure that the land is used in a way that benefits the majority of the population. He concluded his speech by calling for renewed reform efforts and for the government to remain committed to the principles of democracy and social justice.

of 340 000 PES records with the corresponding census information. This allowed for an improved adjustment for undercount. The methodology and calculations were reviewed by the Interim Statistics Council, which commissioned a report by a task team of eight experts. Census results were presented to President Mandela and Finance Minister Manuel, and made available to the public at a launch on 20 October 1998.

In November 1997, 80 Stats SA staff participated in a three-day workshop to evaluate the census process. The planning and implementation of the effectiveness of Census '96 was critically revisited and recommendations were documented. These have been taken up in the first three Census 2001 planning workshops, held during 1998, which covered costs, the GIS and systems integration.

- **The census and the national election**

Soon after the census, the Independent Electoral Commission requested Stats SA to convert the 90 000 enumerator areas into a digital geographical information system for use in demarcating electoral wards and voting districts. The project proceeded in collaboration with the IEC and the Department of Land Affairs, which provided the digitised background.

- **New provincial offices**

Members of the management team involved in census processing have formed the core of the new provincial offices. These offices have approximately 100 staff in all, and will henceforth help to meet provincial statistical information needs and manage fieldwork for Stats SA's enhanced household survey programme.

- **A regional approach to population censuses**

Stats SA initiated co-operation in regard to census planning among member countries of the Southern African Development Community, many of which are to conduct censuses in 2000 or 2001. The aim is to improve harmonisation of population statistics across the region.



Launching the final results of Census '96

Left: State President Nelson Mandela

Centre: (left to right) Stats SA Head Mark Orkin, Finance Minister Trevor Manuel and Statistics Council Chair Joe Tsotetsi

Right: Statistics Council Vice-Chair Hillary Southall

Project EAgle

Rural Informal EA



EA number: 6190374

Description: start at house no. 446 facing north until house no. 628, turn west until house no. 689, turn north until house no. 686, turn west until house no. 685, turn south until house no.684, turn west until house no.767, turn south until house no. 389, turn east until house no. 446 (starting point).

NB: Numbers on the map correspond with those on the households

Key achievements of 1998

- **The GIS and Census '96 products**

The creation of the national geographic information system, known as 'Project Eagle', commenced early in 1997 with a budget of R40 million. It was completed within budget, before the deadline, and to the specified quality levels. Contractors' field teams, managed with the help of consultants, worked in all nine provinces in 4 x 4 vehicles, sorting and verifying enumerator area boundaries with the assistance of satellite-fed positioning systems. At the same time, the Department of Land Affairs and its contractors were compiling the background maps and outlines of land parcels. Thereafter, these two aspects had to be combined and reconciled. The final product was an enumerator-area 'layer' linked to the official base-map information of South Africa, covering every square metre of land.

Stats SA then linked this geographical information system to the databases of household and individual information from the Census '96 results, using Australian SuperSTAR software and yielding an electronic product of enormous power. Early outputs were used successfully by the Independent Electoral Commission in the delimitation of voting districts for the 1999 general election. Subsequently, other 'layers' have been added to make the data even more useful, for example a layer of 10 000 place names and another of magisterial districts. In time, other users such as the Departments of Health, Water Affairs and Safety and Security will add their own layers. In this way, a powerful national planning instrument is being cumulatively developed.

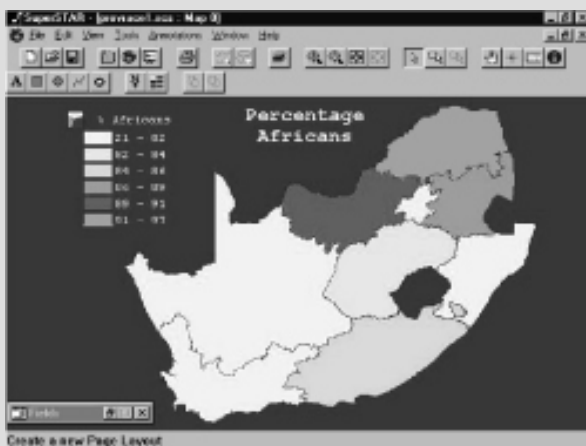
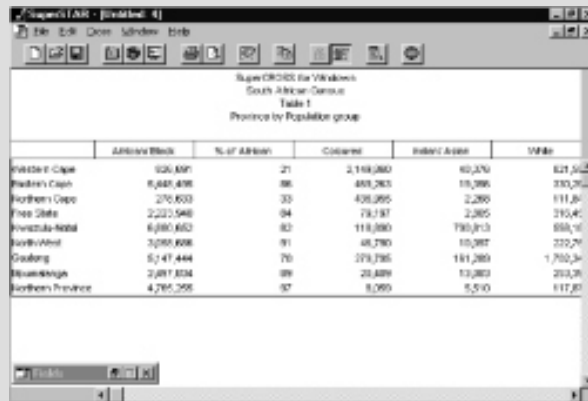
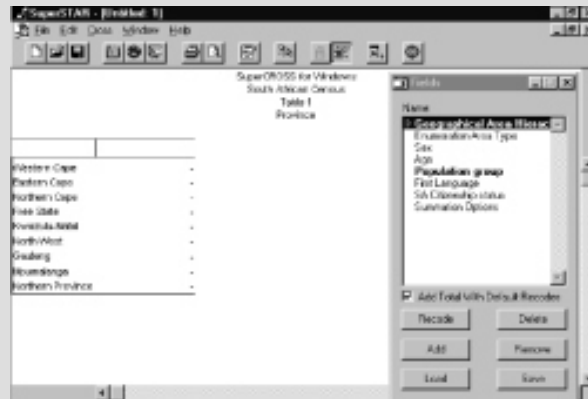
- **Census '96 data processing**

During the year under review, the coding, verification, punching and checking of the nine million questionnaires was executed in nine provincial centres by a total of 5 000 temporary employees, working in three shifts. Setting up these centres, training and monitoring the staff, supporting the local area networks, and calculating performance-related payments involved major logistical achievements.

Thereafter, the remaining census phase unfolded, namely the editing and integration of a comprehensive output database for use in the production of specialised census outputs. (The weighting of the data and shaping of the products are dealt with in the section on Research and Development.)

Stats SA's acquisition of SuperSTAR, a sophisticated Australian data processing software package, has substantially enhanced the value of census data. This allows users to compile multi-dimensional tables from millions of records in seconds, on a desktop PC, and then display them in thematic maps down to the level of enumerator areas, drawing upon the GIS. The point-and-click interface is designed for the benefit of managers, planners and decision-makers, not just statistical professionals.

Census data run in SuperSTAR



Building a map from census data using SuperCROSS software

- **Towards Census 2001**

Planning for Census 2001 has already begun. An initial evaluation workshop of Census '96 was held over three days late in 1997, involving 80 census managers from head office and the provinces and several international consultants. The write-up of pointers and recommendations fed into various formal planning sessions during 1998. One workshop dealt with budgeting for Census 2001, while another considered the maintenance of the GIS database. During October, a five-day planning session was initiated by the Head, with the assistance of two senior Statistics Sweden census experts. The output of this is a fresh, integrated planning framework which will guide all aspects of the conception and management of Census 2001.

In addition, a revised demarcation maintenance methodology for 2001 has been developed. This was tested in the field during late 1998 and will be implemented after April 1999.

- **Training**

Stats SA has provided substantial on-the-job training for staff it recruited during the phases of Census '96: cartography during GIS, computer skills during processing, and management and administration throughout. In many instances staff from one phase joined the next one. Some of the best continued and joined the new provincial offices, or components of head office such as household surveys or human resources. Training in the specialised skills necessary for conducting such large projects effectively is an endless challenge for Stats SA, from top management downwards.

A trial processing centre was established in Umtata during 1998, with 'additional to establishment' staff beginning with the capture of census administrative forms for future use. This training scheme will be extended to such staff in Northern Province during 1999.

- **Interdepartmental and private-sector collaboration**

While executing Census '96, the Chief Directorate of Demography has developed valuable relationships with many stakeholders over the past four years. The Department of Land Affairs, and in particular the Surveyor General's office, assisted Stats SA with the development and implementation of the demarcation methodology in those areas of the country where maps were not available; and later with Project Eagle. During the pre-enumeration phase of the census, Stats SA worked closely with the Department of Housing, Eskom and Telkom. Finally, during Project Eagle, Stats SA worked closely with the IEC and the Department of Land Affairs.

Census processing and Project Eagle would not have been possible in the limited time allowed without successful partnerships with the private sector, established

after intricate tender processes were concluded. One company assisted with project management of both these efforts. Four others were involved in GIS fieldwork and subsequent capturing of enumerator areas. A fifth helped with finalising the place names layer. These interactions greatly increased the capacity of Stats SA to deliver its products quickly and to the specified standards.

- **The provincial offices**

The nine new provincial offices grew out of the Census '96 processing centres established during early 1997. They are co-ordinated by a director who reports to the Chief Director of Demography. During 1997 the core management teams were supplemented by professional and administrative staff after a comprehensive recruitment process. With Swedish technical assistance a very detailed user-needs analysis was then conducted, involving widespread consultations with government and other stakeholders in the provinces. This in turn formed the basis for the organisational development programme in these offices. The provincial offices provide the following services:

- fieldwork, data collection, processing and production, especially in regard to the census and household surveys; and
- information services to users, especially the provincial governments.

During 1998 the following key activities have taken place in the provincial offices:

- processing of the 1996 population census;
- completion of the user-needs studies;
- fieldwork for various household surveys, including the 1998 October household survey, the rural livelihood survey and the first user-pay surveys such as the victims of crime survey;
- startup of information services to provincial governments; and
- ongoing organisational development, beginning with courses in statistics and the dissemination of Census '96 electronic information, and in administrative systems and procedures.



Provincial office managers

Standing left to right: Albert Galeboe, Bathi Mlalazi, Risenga Maluleke, Drusilla Mukasa

Seated left to right: Eddie Tiltman, Margaret Mhatu, Sathie Naidoo, Gwen Lehloeny.

Insert: Jean Ditsebe

- **International assistance**

A number of highly-regarded statistical agencies have provided invaluable support and expertise to the census. Since 1995, there has been a full-time advisor from the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) working with the census team. Statistics Sweden, funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), has made several essential contributions to, for example, data-processing, management, product development and marketing. Its programme provided both long-term advisers and short-term consultants. The Australian Bureau of Statistics, funded by AusAID, played a very active role in planning the management of the enumeration phase of the census, through short-term consultancies. Several Stats SA census staff also had the opportunity to visit both the ABS and Stats Sweden.

The Swedish long-term consultants were invaluable in the extensive recruitment campaign for the nine new provincial offices. They also facilitated detailed user-consultations.

Stats SA was represented at the International Conference on Population arranged by the International Union of the Scientific Study of Population. Representatives also advised on the census in Cambodia, at the request of the UN Statistical Division, and on the setting up of GIS units in the statistical offices of the former Soviet Union Republics, at the request of Stats Sweden. By invitation, the Head presented a paper on the census in a transitional society to a meeting of the statistical divisions of the UN Economic Commission for Europe and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Forthcoming challenges for Demography

Major challenges which this Chief Directorate will face during 1999 include:

- participating with other Stats SA components in the ongoing development and marketing of Census '96 products;
- planning and developing stakeholder relations and canvassing user needs in preparation for Census 2001;
- ensuring effective development and maintenance of the GIS;
- building staffing and infrastructural capacity at head office, provincial and sub-provincial level for Census 2001 and the GIS;
- fieldwork and related activities at provincial level for the household survey programme;
- building effective dissemination systems to provincial users; and
- ongoing organisational development, especially in regard to training and effective co-ordination between head office and the provinces.

Research and Development



Ros Hirschowitz
Chief Director

The Chief Directorate of Research and Development is responsible for:

- analysis of demographic, social and economic data and production of accessible narrative reports;
- household surveys, including the annual October household survey;
- compilation and collation of vital statistics from other data sources;
- consulting to Stats SA programmes regarding methodology, publishing and dissemination;
- editing, production and dissemination of user-friendly statistical products in a range of media formats; and
- user information services.

In addition, during 1998 the Chief Directorate took on responsibility for the production of publications and CD-ROM products from Census '96 data.

Key achievements of the past two years

This Chief Directorate was established in 1996. Key activities since then have been:

- **Analysis of Census '96 data**

A preliminary estimation of the population of South Africa was undertaken in 1997, based on a tally of individuals from a sample of census questionnaires. This was adjusted for undercount by a basic application of a post-enumeration survey (PES).

Subsequently a laborious process was undertaken of matching PES returns against the corresponding census questionnaires and statistically imputing unresolved instances. The improved undercount adjustment was applied to the electronically captured data to generate the final results. These, and the associated methodology, were made accessible in print format and via the Internet in time for the launch of final census results on 20 October 1998.

- **Methodological innovation in economic and vital statistics**

In response to the International Monetary Fund's Special Data Dissemination Standards, this Chief Directorate compiled a series of methodology papers describing how the main economic indicators are produced and calculated.

Living in Northern Province

Selected findings of

Bulletin of Statistics

Volume 11 No. 1

June 1998

Stats SA

Statistics South Africa

THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA POPULATION CENSUS, 1996

THE COUNT AND HOW IT WAS DONE

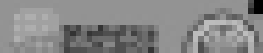
STATISTICS SOUTH AFRICA 1998

EVERY VICTIM OF CRIME

VICTIMS

OF

CRIME



THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA POPULATION CENSUS, 1996

COUNT US IN

CENSUS IN BRIEF

STATISTICS SOUTH AFRICA

ISSUE NO. 0019-11/1998

General Statistics

Stats SA

Unemployment Employment in South Africa

Stats News



Living in North West

Selected findings of the 1995 October household survey

Stats SA Statistics South Africa



Women and men in South Africa

Stats News

Creating the process news and



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- **Methodological innovation in economic and vital statistics**

In response to the International Monetary Fund's Special Data Dissemination Standards, this Chief Directorate compiled a series of methodology papers describing how the main economic indicators are produced and calculated. Following consultation with key stakeholders, improvements were made in several aspects of the gathering, calculating and reporting of administratively-based vital statistics (births, deaths, migration).

- **Publications and user information systems**

Surveying the victims of crime

Stats SA in 1998 conducted a countrywide household survey into victims of crime in partnership with the Secretariat for Safety and Security and the United Nations Development Programme. The survey examined crime from the point of view of the victim. The findings contained several important surprises.

About 20% of all *households* experienced at least one crime during 1997. The most frequent was housebreaking/burglary (7%), followed by theft of livestock, poultry, etc (5%). Approximately one household in 200 reported experiencing deliberate killing or murder.

Almost one-third of all households with an annual household income above R96 000 had experienced at least one crime in 1997, compared to about one-fifth in the lowest income group. However, the low-income groups were much larger, so the actual number of occurrences of crime was highest among the poor.

Some 15% of respondents in the survey reported that they *individually* had experienced at least one crime during 1997. Theft of personal property and assault were the most frequent crimes (approximately 5% each). One person in 200 had experienced a sexual offence. Of these, almost 80% were women.

Individuals in the coloured and the white population groups experienced crime to almost the same extent (17%), whereas African and Indian experience of crime (14% and 11% respectively) fell below the national average of 15%. Some 16% of men experienced at least one crime in 1997, compared to 13% of women. Poorer, less-educated people were more likely to be victims of violent crime.

The survey also showed that crime reporting to the police is relatively low in South Africa; the offender in most cases is known by the victim; the most likely places for robberies are in streets or alleys, but assaults, theft and sexual offences occur most often inside a dwelling; and 60% of people in South Africa believe that police effectiveness has improved or remained the same since 1994.

Numerous digests of data and accessible reports have been produced, covering not only Census '96 but the application of the October household survey data to provinces, and reports on themes such as gender, poverty and employment. All of these were made available free to stakeholders in print, and also placed on Stats SA's website.

The user enquiry service has continued to be a major source of information to the public, handling approximately 50 000 enquiries per year by telephone, fax and e-mail.

- **Household surveys**

In addition to the important annual October household survey, various other surveys have been conducted since 1996. For example, a rural survey among 6 000 households, funded by the Swedish International Development Agency, was undertaken in 1997, with the aim of establishing the extent of subsistence and small-scale agricultural activity among rural households.

Key achievements of 1998

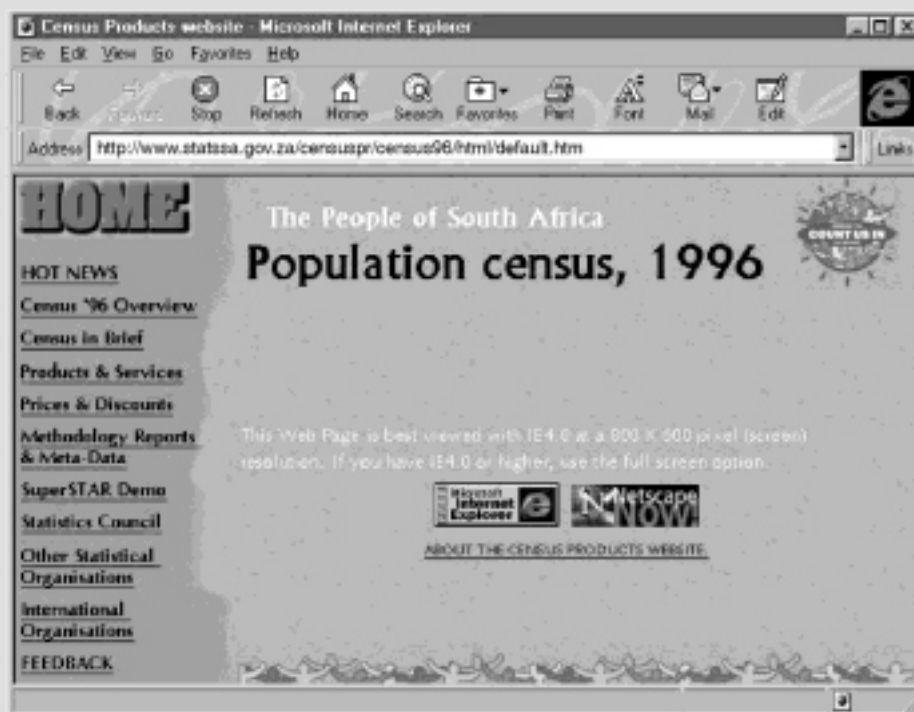
- **Analysis and Statistical Consulting**

The responsibilities of Research and Development involve it in a wide variety of collaborative activities with other components of Stats SA.

The post-enumeration survey was revisited to improve the undercount adjustment for the final Census '96 results. Some 340 000 records from the survey were matched by household and individual with the corresponding census questionnaires, and unresolved instances were estimated with complex statistical techniques. This led to the conclusion that ground-based reports tend to under-report the level of undercount in less-educated, more rural, larger families that are also more involved in migrant labour. The improved undercount adjustment was incorporated in the final results.

Various activities have flowed from the Census '96 results: establishment of a master sample for household surveys, reweighting of historical data sets in the light of the new results, and demographic modelling of population projections using parameters available from Census '96 data.

Census Products Website



A range of user-friendly interpretive reports was compiled, presenting *inter alia* conditions in South Africa's provinces based on the 1995 October household survey, a gender profile of society, the methodology involved in the improved application of the post-enumeration survey, how Census '96 was executed and the manner of calculating household and individual weights for Census '96 data.

As an input to the October Presidential job summit, key labour market trends evident in both the enterprise-based surveys of Economic Statistics and Surveys and in the household surveys done by Research and Development were analysed and presented in a report entitled *Unemployment and employment in South Africa*. The report also included first publication of the results of the 1997 special retrospective survey of employment, funded by Sida and analysed with assistance from the renowned Survey Research Centre at the University of Michigan.

A major focus during 1998 involved preparation of instruments for the measurement of poverty. Senior managers participated in international conferences and workshops on the topic. Together with representatives of other national departments, these managers participated in a task team convened under the Office of the Deputy President to develop new poverty indicators.

● Household Surveys

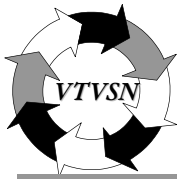
During 1998, three large-scale household surveys were undertaken:

- a victims of crime survey, commissioned by the Secretariat of Safety and Security, and financed jointly by that department and the United Nations Development Programme. Conducted among 4 000 households in March 1998, this survey gathered crime statistics from the perspective of victims, thereby supplementing data gathered from police records;
- a split-sample, split-question follow-up study to the 1997 special retrospective survey on employment, which tested different ways of asking questions about employment. The results of this survey will influence the design of Stats SA's new quarterly labour force survey; and
- the annual October household survey, conducted in 1998 among 20 000 rather than 30 000 households because of budget constraints, again covered key economic, demographic and development indicators.

● Publishing, Marketing and User Information Services

Notable achievements during 1998 included the following:

- layout and publication of *Census in Brief*, the highly-popular and widely-distributed summary of the results of the 1996 population census,



Villages and Townships Vital Statistics Network



**Statistics
South Africa**

Bi-monthly newsletter dedicated to the improvement of vital registration in villages and townships.
A collaborative effort between Stats SA sub-directorate of vital statistics and Stats SA provincial offices.

Editor - Dr Sulaiman Bah, Stats SA Head Office, Pretoria
Assistant Editor - Mr Kuberin Packirisamy, Stats SA Provincial Office, Kimberley

Issue No.5, September/October 1998

Your attention is drawn to the name change from Central Statistical Service (CSS) to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA). This name change is accompanied by a corresponding change in logo. The letterhead has been modified to reflect these changes.

Introductory remarks

Over the period, 25th - 28th October 1998, the Volkswagen Conference Centre at Midrand was buzzing with activity as it was the venue of the 16th Epidemiological Society of South Africa (ESSA) conference. Several members of this network actively participated in the conference. The range of papers and posters presented were interesting and quite diverse, ranging from communicable diseases to health systems, to demography to non-communicable diseases. Two of the papers presented were of particular interest to this network, namely: Mind your method: validating the verbal autopsy for use in health systems development by K Khan and others and The development of a district information system in the Northern Province, South Africa: Results of a situational analysis in the Halegratz pilot district by C J Badenhorst and others. In the former paper, the aim was to validate the verbal autopsy findings which describe the cause of death profile in the Agincourt field site in rural north-east South Africa. Such a study is of relevance in obtaining information on causes of death which occur outside hospitals. The authors found that deaths from infectious and parasitic diseases and violent and accidental deaths had 'sensitivities' over 80% and 'specificities' over 90%, while results for non-communicable diseases were lower than 70%. The authors concluded that the verbal autopsy findings were sufficiently valid to be used as a part of district health information system. Assuming that the results of the Agincourt study are generalisable to other non-urban areas of South Africa, will the information be of any value in the existing district health information systems? Questions along these lines were addressed in the second paper. The authors aimed to undertake a situational analysis of the existing information system in a pilot district of Halegratz. The authors found that data is considered to have little value at the level of collection. Feedback was essentially non-existent. The use of information for planning or management decisions was limited while confidence in the routine application of information was hindered by frequent abuses of roles and responsibilities in the information hierarchy. In conclusion, it was recommended that an integrated and comprehensive district information system be developed to support local decision making and capacity building in all districts in Northern Province. In this issue we report on another initiative in Northern Province.

Submissions from the provinces

In the last issue of the newsletter, under submission from KwaZulu-Natal, we reported on the involvement of the Durban Metropolitan Council in the collection, processing and publication of information on the birth notification forms for the local councils under its jurisdiction. In an effort to assess the completeness of the birth statistics collected by Durban Metro, Stats SA KwaZulu-Natal Office studied the council's publications closely and made the following observations:

- The spatial units, 'place names', were not well defined.
- The absence of distinctive areas in the council's list of place names.
- The omission of births taking place in certain provincial health hospitals.
- The absence of breakdown of the births by relevant demographic characteristics in the reports even though the information was collected.

- together with a range of other Census '96 print products;
- layout and publication, in a user-friendly and graphically illustrated presentation, of Stats SA's various provincial and thematic reports, mentioned above;
- development of Stats SA's expanding Internet publishing programme. The website recorded an average of over 3 000 'hits' per month throughout 1998, and 6 000 in the three weeks following the release of results from Census '96; and
- processing of over 4 000 requests per month by the users enquiries service plus an additional 3 000 requests in the three weeks following the release of Census '96 results.

- **Vital Statistics**

Much of the data presented and analysed by this component – particularly on tourism and migration, and also births, deaths and marriages – is gathered and captured by sources external to Statistics South Africa, notably the Department of Home Affairs. This necessitates close collaboration to improve data collection and delivery. Other institutions then use the analyses, including the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, the South African Tourism Board, the Department of Health, the Medical Research Council and various universities.

Major goals achieved by this component during 1998 included:

- clearance of the backlog in publications and reduction of turn-around time;
- re-engineering of existing series to meet user needs, and introduction of new publications;
- participation in efforts to improve the system of registration of births and deaths, especially in formerly disadvantaged areas; and
- strengthening the use of computer-assisted coding in vital statistics.

Important activities included the following:

- organising national workshops to strengthen channels of communication with major role players in the production of vital statistics and tourism and migration data;
- convening a national workshop to revive monitoring of the National Plan of Action for Children in South Africa (NPA) with the Office of the Deputy President and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF);
- setting up of a vital statistics network, including a newsletter, *Villages and Townships Vital Statistics Network*. This has focused, in particular, on collection of vital statistics in formerly disadvantaged areas;
- participating in a committee to improve the classification of deaths using international standards;
- providing Internet access to causes-of-death electronic data, aggregated in

Strategy and Planning, and Corporate Services

The Office of the Head, plus the Directorates of Finance, Human Resources and Information Services, provide the following support for the operations of Stats SA:

- strategic planning and management systems design;
- co-ordination of international relations;
- external media liaison and internal staff communications;
- financial planning and control;
- provisioning and administrative services;
- recruitment and development of staff;
- performance management and appraisal;
- organisational development and work process design;
- information technology and networking; and
- computer programming and systems design.

Key achievements of the past four years

- **Rationalisation**

Following the appointment of the new Head in mid-1995, Stats SA commenced a vigorous programme of rationalisation, applying the special public service regulations for the purpose. These provided for restructuring in alignment with national development priorities; a performance-oriented review of staff to determine who was to be absorbed into the new structure; integration of components previously fragmented under apartheid; and recruitment towards specified representivity targets.

The restructuring of Stats SA, then called Central Statistical Service, recognised the importance of demographic statistics for development planning under the RDP, of economic indicators for the implementation of the GEAR strategy, and of strategically directed organisational development in accordance with public sector transformation. Accordingly, the new Chief Directorate of Demography was set up to give due priority to population census and GIS activities, complemented by the new Chief Directorate of Research and Development for methodological innovation and household surveys. The Chief Directorate of Economic Statistics and Surveys was reconstituted into delivery-oriented work teams. The Office of the Head was created to lead strategy and planning and to improve management and administration. At the provincial level, the previous 'white South Africa' and 'homeland' offices were replaced by nine new offices with professional and administrative capacity.

- **Human resource and organisational development**

Through assertive representivity recruitment Stats SA has moved, since mid-1995, from less than 15% black staff to 59% in January 1998 to 61% in January 1999. At the management level, the previous all-white, all-male senior management team has been replaced by a highly qualified and diverse as well as widely experienced team, which is 40% black and 27% female. The number of disabled employees nearly doubled, from six to 11 people. The development of staff, both old and new, became a priority activity to achieve an integrated and capable organisation. Alongside improvements in areas such as recruitment, employment policies and conditions, and labour relations, a multi-faceted capacity-building programme was instituted, coupled to a new performance management and appraisal system.

Gender representivity in Stats SA's management echelon

Rank	July 1995			January 1997			January 1998			January 1999		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Assistant director	12	11	23	13	13	26	12	16	28	18	14	32
Deputy director	8	5	13	13	11	24	19	16	35	24	21	45
Director	6	0	6	11	4	15	9	2	11	9	2	11
Chief director	1	0	1	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Total	27	16	43	38	30	68	41	36	77	52	39	91
Percentage	63	37	100	56	44	100	53	47	100	57	43	100

At the organisational level, initiatives for leadership development, cultural change and value building have been taken to strengthen and spread Stats SA's transformation. The new vision and ethos was developed initially by management and subsequently communicated throughout the organisation in a process involving hundreds of staff members, followed by staff-driven strategic teams conceiving the projects necessary to take the transformation forward.

- **Management and information systems**

Organisation-wide strategic planning, budgeting and monitoring processes were introduced in anticipation of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework policy. Internal communications, from general meetings to e-mail, have been boosted. In the area of information technology the organisation has leapfrogged 15 years from a cumbersome mainframe environment to fast and flexible PC and client-server networks.

Key achievements of 1998

- **Strategic and financial planning**

For the second consecutive year strategic planning and budgeting were conducted in each deputy directorate and aggregated upwards to meet the requirements of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework policy. This involved management and many other staff in activity-based planning and costing in support of effective service delivery and management of resources. A carefully costed and prioritised three-year plan was completed and submitted to the Department of State Expenditure. Subsequently Stats SA furnished the required contribution to the Medium Term Expenditure Survey which provides government with a comprehensive picture of spending in terms of actual service delivery.

- **Advancing transformation**

During 1997, Stats SA management identified six strategic themes to advance the ongoing transformation and development of the organisation. These were:

- stakeholder relations;
- good statistical products;
- communication and marketing;
- technology and techniques;
- strategic planning; and
- organisational development.

Six cross-functional teams, each including staff from different levels, were then established to work together and propose plans of action in regard to each of these themes. The teams worked throughout 1998 and in November presented their proposals to management for further development of the organisation. Some are suitable for immediate implementation; others will be taken into the forthcoming cycle of strategic planning.

- **Completing the strategic management cycle in Stats SA**

During the past four years all organisational systems and procedures have been reviewed and are aligned with the new service-delivery orientation of the organisation. A task team comprising members from the Office of the Head and Human Resources is integrating the ingredients into an annual cycle to be implemented early in 1999. This will ensure that the established planning and budgeting cycle is followed up with appropriate allocation of resources and periodic monitoring of performance, at both an individual and organisational level. An additional feature of this approach will be the linking of activity planning to individual goal setting in directorates or work teams.

Marketing and Disseminating Census '96 Data

Stats SA has revolutionised its dissemination of the data from Census '96. PC-software, licensed from Australia, cross-tabulates millions of records in seconds, and interfaces seamlessly to present the results on maps based on Stats SA's new geographic information system. The package is designed for planners and managers (not just statistical professionals), who need only point-and-click to create tables and display frequencies on maps from national down to enumerator-area level.

Simultaneously, a business unit has been set up to co-ordinate all the marketing and distribution activities related to census products. While many of the census products are free, a charge is attached to products aimed at specialist users. The unit co-operates with Stats SA's users enquiries component and provincial offices in providing this service.

The range of free products available to the public has been greatly extended: *Census in Brief* is a pocket-sized booklet containing about ninety tables and graphs with national and provincial level information. These tables are also available on Stats SA's website. A *Summary report* is being prepared with chapters on the main census themes. All of the Census '96 methodological reports are also available free of charge. *The count and how it was done*, for instance, summarises three years of census planning, demarcation, enumeration, processing and dissemination. Free technical reports are also available on the calculation of the census undercount, and census definitions.

- **Establishment of cross-organisational councils**

In 1998 Stats SA's executive management established a series of councils to set policy for the service departments and improve lateral integration of planning, resource allocation and projects. The councils are co-chaired by senior members of the user departments and directors of the respective service departments. The idea for this came from Statistics Canada. The following councils are now in place:

- Finance;
- Information Systems;
- Human Resource Development; and
- Dissemination, Publicity and Marketing.

Proposals from the councils are forwarded to Stats SA's executive management echelon.

- **Developing the new Office of the Head (Directorate of Strategy and Planning)**

This directorate was set up in early 1997, and its staffing completed during 1998. It provides a range of strategic management and organisational development services to the Head in support of the vision and values of Stats SA, as well as internal and external communication and co-ordination of international programmes. The development of Stats SA's new business unit and the establishment of a statistical information service to parliament are also being managed from within this office.

- **Collaboration with the Statistics Council**

In 1994 a task group was charged with amending the Statistics Act and improving the representivity of the Statistics Council, which advises the responsible minister on statistical matters. A more broadly-based Interim Statistics Council was established and took over the project, working in close collaboration with Stats SA. In extensive consultations with stakeholders, a policy paper and a draft bill were drawn up, and the policy resolved with Finance Minister Trevor Manuel. The draft bill was then approved by Cabinet for submission to Parliament in February 1999, after amendments by the State Law Advisers.

The draft legislation is novel in several respects. Firstly it establishes the professional autonomy of the statistics department and its Head, as distinct from the financial and administrative accountability covered in the performance contract between the Head and the Minister. Secondly, the advisory role and investigative powers of the Statistics Council are increased.

Launching the new Stats SA



Thirdly, the conception of official statistics as an integrated system is underpinned by the establishment of relationships among respondents, users, producers and other stakeholders. Fourthly, a balance is created between the respondents' obligation to supply statistical data and the confidentiality of which they are assured.

The Interim Statistics Council also exercised its right to review the outcome of the population census. Drawing upon a report commissioned from a task team of eight experts, the Council recommended, and the Minister accepted, that the final results be adopted; and also that various demographic issues be further researched to inform the execution of Census 2001.

- **From CSS to Stats SA**

At the 1998 annual general meeting of all staff, Minister Trevor Manuel announced that the name of the agency was to change from Central Statistical Service to Statistics South Africa. The new name and logo reflect the professional and technical approach which the agency is seeking to apply to statistical production in the new South Africa. They also represent a departure from the apartheid-era ethos underlying the previous name and logo. Moreover, they accord with the practice of many other official statistical agencies in that the name of the country is indicated for international convenience.

- **Consultations by the Head**

The Head served on the review team of the Human Sciences Research Council appointed by the Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology. At the request of the Minister of Safety and Security he headed a broad-based committee of enquiry into the production and dissemination of crime statistics, which reported early in 1998.

The Department of Justice has requested inter-directoral support from Stats SA in conceiving and meeting its needs for organisational statistics. The Department of Agriculture will be collaborating with Stats SA on the replacing of statistics previously collected by marketing boards. South African Revenue Services has opened discussions on statistical matters of mutual interest.

- **Capacity building**

During the past year, Stats SA has continued to unfold its ambitious capacity-building programme in support of the vision of the organisation. Most of Stats SA's 649 staff members participated in some form of internal training programme during 1998. Some of the highlights of this programme were as follows:

- workshops 'cascading' the organisational vision were attended by more than 400 staff from both head office and the provinces;
- fifteen head office staff members underwent the Statistics in Action (STAC) course, which was then replicated in some of the provincial offices;
- forty-seven fieldworkers were trained to undertake survey research for the victims of crime study; and
- numerous team-building exercises were conducted (with Australian assistance) within the various operational components and for the six teams which worked on project proposals for Stats SA's ongoing strategic development.

Provincial capacity is being developed on an ongoing basis. The success of this was evident in the well-controlled fieldwork for the victims of crime and the special retrospective surveys. Activities have included:

- an intensive two-week course for trainers of fieldworkers; and
- another for the provincial information officers.

Training officer Ashwell Jenneker conducting a STAC course on public health



- **Performance management**

A personnel performance management system linked to organisational planning has been developed within Stats SA's Directorate of Human Resources. Three training modules are used to familiarise all staff with the performance cycle. Supervisors learn to work with staff on objective-setting and performance monitoring while staff discover how their work makes a contribution to the overall performance of the organisation. Dealing with performance problems, giving constructive feedback, and evaluating performance are other important aspects of the training. The remaining aspect of this system, goal-setting and monitoring in line with objectives, will be fully implemented during 1999.

In 1998 a total of 390 staff (out of the total staff complement of 649) received one or other form of promotion, notch increase or cash award. Of these, 71 followed from agreements in the central bargaining chamber of the public service. Two hundred and fifty-nine employees were not granted awards.

- **Labour relations**

Having satisfied the admission requirements, the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union (NEHAWU) has been included in Stats SA's departmental bargaining chamber, alongside the Public Servants Association (PSA). During the year under review, Stats SA concluded an organisational rights agreement with the PSA after detailed discussions. Both unions are involved in drafting the new chamber constitution as well as an affirmative action policy.

- **HIV/AIDS awareness campaign**

This programme commenced with several awareness workshops for Stats SA managers and staff members during May and June 1998. Guest speakers gave presentations on the socio-economic impact and legal implications of AIDS, and answered questions. Condoms are being distributed free until April 1999. In October 1998 staff assembled to watch the Deputy President's live broadcast to the nation, and to sign a pledge in support of HIV/AIDS initiatives.



World AIDS day at Stats SA

In December, World AIDS Day was marked with a mass meeting of staff, addressed by the Head and speakers from the Gauteng AIDS Programme and People Living With AIDS. The Hecate Industrial Theatre Group presented a powerful play about safer sex practices in everyday life.

October household survey, 1998



Its a long and winding road ...

A personal perspective on training at Stats SA by Tony McGregor, head of the training division

If you're not sure where you're going, you're liable to end up someplace else – and not even know it – Bob Mager, *Preparing Instructional Objectives*, 1962.

From a crowded training room in Pretoria to the vast valleys of the former Transkei seems like a journey through a couple of centuries, never mind a thousand kilometres. But this is what has happened during 1998 – people in those vast valleys have been touched by what went on in training sessions at Statistics South Africa. And not only in the former Transkei, but all over South Africa, in every corner of each of the nine provinces.

For Human Resource Development specialists it is always a rare and precious thing to be able to witness at first hand what has happened as a result of their efforts. To see what really happens when the rubber hits the road, as it were.

For me the rubber hit the road in Umtata when a group of mostly young people got into a 'bakkie' and headed for the hills beyond Libode and the awesome valleys flowing down to the Umzimvubu river. Here the skills conceived in faraway Pretoria were finally put into practice by the fieldworkers doing the interviews for the 1998 October household survey (OHS). I watched with some awe as newly-trained fieldworkers identified the enumerator area (EA) in the sample, identified the visiting points within the EA, set up appointments with members of the sampled households and finally conducted the interviews.

The long chain from Pretoria to Libode (and hundreds of other places) started with the identification of the essential skills needed to conduct the structured interviews that obtain the raw material which eventually becomes Stats SA publications like *Living in South Africa*, *Living in Mpumalanga*, etc.

The strategy we adopted in the training of fieldworkers for the OHS was to identify clearly the skills they would need to conduct the interviews and then train trainers from each province to train others in those skills. This two-tier approach means a maximum devolution of skills away from head office down to part-time fieldworkers. It means that we had to be very clear about the content of our training, because the lines were so long between where we were and where the skills would actually be used.

Once the essential fieldworker skills had been identified we then had to identify the skills needed by the trainers in order for them to transfer those skills most effectively. Especially since those trainers were not in fact training professionals but survey statisticians or survey managers.

We designed a trainer training workshop with a participants' manual. We also designed a fieldworkers' training workshop with participants' manual and supporting training materials. The trainers were then trained to run the training workshops for the fieldworkers, using the manuals and the training aids.

In this way the skills given to some 18 people in Pretoria during September eventually reached about 530 fieldworkers in the provinces, who in turn interviewed almost 20 000 people across the country during October.

- **Information systems**

The radical transformation of Stats SA's information technology and systems continued throughout 1998. Key developments in this year include:

- establishment of networking infrastructure for the new provincial offices including economical video-conferencing for regular management meetings and training;
- continuation of the migration from the mainframe to client-server environment and development of new applications for this environment;
- provision of processing and tabulation capacity for the production of census results;
- improvement of service to users through the help desk, which now handles about 600 calls per month;
- re-programming in order to prepare for the year 2000 (Y2K compliance); and
- modular in-house training and capacity-building.

- **Finance and provisioning**

In order to provide an enabling milieu for service delivery and better monitoring of resources, the Directorate of Finance and Provisioning has introduced several new systems:

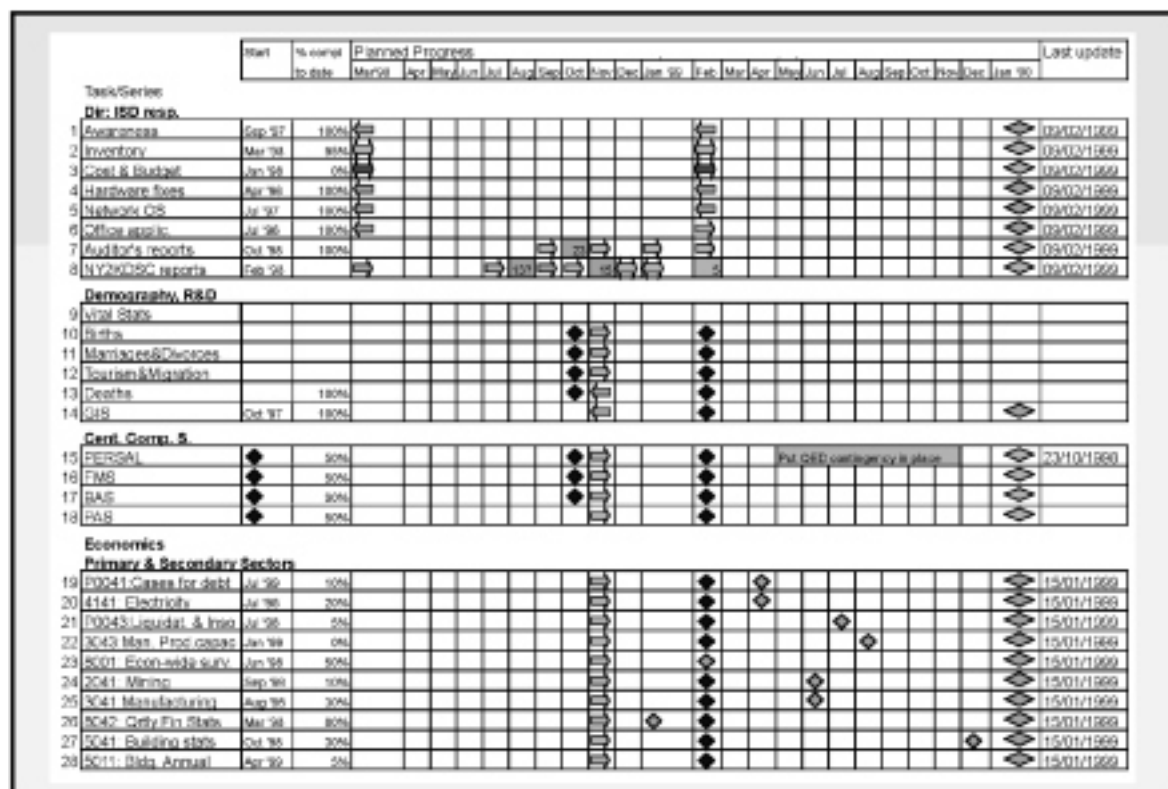
- it now co-ordinates annual budgeting via spreadsheet templates, with improved policies for budgeting lateral items like training;
- the stores have been re-organised and provisioning documentation upgraded in preparation for computerisation;
- the reporting of monthly variances has been reshaped to managers' needs;
- the internal audit function developed during the census has been extended to cover the provincial offices;
- the provincial office co-ordinator has been assigned administrative assistance with financial and provisioning matters;
- a spreadsheet-based point-of-entry expenditure system was developed in the Chief Directorate of Economic Statistics to control spending at the moment of requisition and well before entry into the accounting system; and
- loss-control investigations were assigned to a more senior manager in accordance with the public service's campaign against corruption, and several successful disciplinary actions and preventative measures ensued.

Forthcoming challenges for Strategy and Planning and Corporate Services

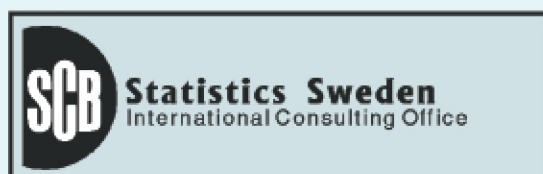
These include:

- extraction of periodic management information from new performance management and financial control systems, and introduction of time monitoring;
- ensuring sustainability of operational achievements through strategic exercises and the adoption of associated systems;
- finalising the establishment of the business unit and recruitment of staff;
- establishment of the Parliamentary information service based on analysis of needs;
- implementing a training programme for the management echelon emphasising leadership development, management skills and project management;
- extending the organisational development of the provincial offices;
- systematising information systems programming and finalising compliance with the millennium (Y2K) challenge;
- computerising of provisioning systems; and
- installing a full internal audit function.

Status report on Y2K compliance project as at 18 January 1999



International Relations



Statistics South Africa's international relations section, reporting to the Director in the Office of the Head, is responsible for planning and facilitating activities in the following areas:

- technical assistance programmes between Stats SA and other national statistical agencies, funded by their governments;
- liaison with governments and other international institutions, such as the UN Statistical Division and the World Bank, on issues and information pertinent to the world statistics community; and
- co-operation with member countries forming the Southern African Development Community regarding statistical services for regional growth and development.

During the year under review, Stats SA's international relations programmes flourished and expanded in all three areas, helping to place South African statistical production back in the regional and world arena after the years of isolation caused by apartheid.

Technical assistance

Mention has already been made in this report of the technical assistance received by Stats SA, and the impact this is beginning to have. The major programmes are elaborated on below.

- **Swedish and Australian assistance**

During 1998, Stats SA benefited from 45 training and capacity-building missions, both long- and short-term in the case of Statistics Sweden (funded by the Swedish International Development Agency), and short-term in the case of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (funded by AusAID). Twenty-seven Stats SA staff have travelled abroad for training and professional development, funded through these programmes.

Stats Sweden long-term consultants to Stats SA



Standing left to right: Lena Åström, Maphion Jambwa, Chris Denell
Seated left to right: Jan Redeby, Hans Nasholm, Per Cronholm

These two programmes have supported and improved Stats SA activities in all major components, including:

- re-engineering of the economic series;
- adopting the new UN System of National Accounts and re-basing to 1995;
- improving the business register inputs and software;
- census planning, demarcation, enumeration, logistics, processing, infrastructure and product development;
- installation of provincial office structures and user-needs analyses;
- household survey programmes;
- information technology infrastructure and programming;
- statistical and administrative capacity building; and
- management systems and financial planning.

Sida agreed to renew the collaboration with Stats Sweden, after a favourable mid-programme evaluation. Building sustainable systems and procedures will be the focus of the renewed Swedish assistance. The two 18-month phases of co-operation between Stats SA and the Australian Bureau of Statistics concluded in 1998. However AusAID has indicated its willingness to support the development of Stats SA for a further two years. Preliminary planning of this programme is underway with likely areas of emphasis being development of senior management, and regional co-operation.

- **Other partnerships**

Technical assistance and funding have been made available by other partners in specific areas. A senior consultant from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has provided expertise through all the phases of census activities. Several volunteers funded through the UNFPA have also worked for up to two years on activities as diverse as census operations, statistical analysis and information systems training.

The Swiss government is funding ten officers to help local authorities improve their financial statistical reporting. The officers were trained at head office for the last six months of 1998, and will be deployed from early 1999. Their initial introduction to local authorities will be in the financial census. A programme with Norway has already started on gender statistics. A time-use study of unpaid, predominantly female, labour time is envisaged, intended ultimately to inform the national accounts.

Finally, a study visit in 1997 to Statistics Canada on management and human resource development is being followed by another in early 1999, with the possibility of more extensive co-operation covering all major areas of statistical production and dissemination.

Officers from Economic Statistics and Surveys have benefited from study tours to, inter alia, the World Bank, the IMF and the US Bureau of the Census. Initial developments in environmental accounting were subsidised by the World Bank. Stats New Zealand is consulting, on a commercial basis, regarding the new business register.

- **Stats SA and SADC statistical capacity**

Following the inaugural meeting of SADC government statisticians in Windhoek in 1995, the Heads of Stats SA and the Central Statistics Office in Botswana obtained the support of their colleagues for a programme to enhance the capacity of SADC head office to undertake statistical co-ordination. The aim is to improve the collection and dissemination of regional economic and demographic statistics by SADC, as a contribution to the integration and development of the region.

The involvement of Sida and Statistics Sweden was enlisted because of their prior and current involvement with several SADC member countries' statistical agencies. With their assistance, progress was made in areas ranging from planning through to securing of funding. User needs were canvassed in the member countries, and a two-fold programme designed: on the one hand a programme of action, including trade statistics, prices, national accounts, migration, on the other the augmenting of the statistical component in the SADC.

The programme was approved by the SADC Council of Ministers in 1998. In anticipation of this approval, two workshops had already been held. At the same time, Stats SA suggested a collaboration among member countries regarding the round of censuses planned for 2000/01. The Chief Director of Demography is co-ordinating the committee undertaking this, and two major workshops have been held with donor support.

- **Wider engagements**

Since 1996 the Head has been an elected member of the Council on African Statistical Development, which meets annually in Addis Ababa under the auspices of the UN Economic Commission for Africa. He has participated in the re-organisation of the Council's activities into a range of focused programmes supported technically and financially by various international agencies.

The Head and two colleagues were invited to present a paper on censuses as examples of official statistics in transitional societies at the joint workshop of the statistical divisions of the UN Economic Commission for Europe and the OECD. The Head was also sponsored by the UK Department for International Development to help represent the view of developing countries at a multi-agency conference on development indicators. He subsequently had this topic included in the SADC programme of action.

The Chief Director of Demography was enlisted by the UN Statistical Department for two visits to Cambodia, advising on their preparedness for a population census. The Director of Census Planning and Operations was asked by Statistics Sweden to advise a conference of Eastern European states on geographical information systems.

As part of the South African government's programme of development aid to Palestine, Stats SA has been requested to provide assistance in training and household surveys for its new statistical office. This will be taken forward in 1999.

Budget, 1998/99

- **Deficit carried forward from the 1997/98 financial year**

Stats SA carried forward a book-entry deficit of R32 million from the 1997/98 financial year. At the same time, however, a credit of R19 million was due in respect of cheques which were printed for Census '96 fieldworkers during the last quarter of the 1996/97 financial year, but which were never cashed because they were replaced with adjusted payments. The cancellation of the cheques was made early in the next financial year but the government's cash accounting system does not allow for these credits to be accrued. Further, a saving of R7 million, which was achieved in non-census activities during 1996/97 was not permitted by State Expenditure to be carried into census spending in 1997/98. The real departmental over-expenditure on Census '96 is thus approximately R6 million (in a total four-year project cost of some R400 million), and is being recouped from the sale of census electronic products.

- **Budgeting**

The 1997/98 budget consisted of five programmes, viz.: Administration, Demographic and Social Statistics, Economic Statistics and Surveys, Research and Development, and Auxiliary and Associated Services. The activities relevant to the normal line functions of the department, i.e. Demographic and Social Statistics, Economic Statistics and Research and Development, were combined into one programme (Statistical Services) as from the 1998/99 financial year. At the same time the budget for the 1996 population census was extracted and placed in a separate programme. This will enable more effective control over the next census budget, which is several times greater in the peak year than that of the rest of the organisation.

The following table shows the original budget of Stats SA as well as adjustments for the financial year 1998/99:

Programme No.	Programme description	Original budget R 000	Additional funding and adjustments R 000	Total funds available R 000
1	Administration	22 801	(300)	22 501
2	Statistical Services	64 717	348	65 065
3	Population Census	5 000	2 652	7 652
4	Auxiliary and Associated Services	100		100
	Total	92 618	2 700	95 318

Planned spending for the financial year until March 1999 is reflected under the right-hand column, labelled 'Total funds available'.

The only material adjustment in the table is the extra amount of R2,652 million for Census '96, which was found from savings in other parts of the organisation to cover the one-month over-run of processing into the 1998/9 financial year.

Personnel costs, administrative expenditure and professional services

The planned breakdown among these categories is as follows:

Standard items	Budget R 000	Percentage of total budget
Personnel costs *	62 043	67,0
Administrative expenditure	18 592	20,1
Professional services	6 070	6,6

* An estimated amount of R750 000 will be spent on overtime costs. This is 1,2% of personnel costs.

Appendix 1: Stats SA Publications, 1998

Consolidated reports published during 1998

Bulletin of Statistics, March 1998 and June 1998
Building plans passed and buildings completed, 1995 and 1996
Census of agriculture (RSA), 1993
Censuses of agriculture (Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, North West, Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Northern Province), 1993
Census of construction, 1994
Census of electricity, gas and steam, 1995
Census of hospitals, community health care centres and other health services, 1993
Census of manufacturing. Principal statistics on a regional basis (RSA total, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, North West, Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Northern Province), 1993
Census of medical, dental and other health services: doctors, dentists, chiropractors and homeopaths, veterinary services and animal hospitals, 1994
Census of motor trade and motor repair services, 1993
Census of transport and allied services, 1992
Crimes, 1995/96
Recorded deaths, 1995
Road traffic collisions, 1995, 1996 and 1997
Tourism and migration, 1995 and 1996

Statistical releases

Nearly 300 separate statistical releases were published during the year under review.

Other publications and products, 1998

Living in Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga and Northern Province. Selected findings of the 1995 October household survey

Race and gender in local government employment
StatsNews, *August and December 1998*

Unemployment and employment in South Africa

Users Guide

Victims of crime. A national household survey

Women and men in South Africa

Women and men in South Africa's nine provinces

The people of South Africa. Population census, 1996:

Age tables for South Africa and its provinces

Calculating the undercount in Census '96

Census in Brief

The count and how it was done

Definitions

10% sample of unit records

Magisterial districts by population group and gender

Journal articles and formal conference papers by Stats SA staff, 1998

Arrow, J (1998). 'Economic statistics and surveys in South Africa. Shoring up democracy with reliable and relevant statistics'. *The Survey Statistician*, 38, June 1998.

Bah, S (1998). 'The making, unmaking and remaking of a national but stratified vital statistics system in the Republic of South Africa'. University of Western Ontario Discussion Paper, 98-3.

Bah, S (1998). 'How do South African urbanites die?' Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Demographic Association of Southern Africa (DEMSA), Midrand.

Bah, S (1998). 'Emerging patterns of divorce among South African Blacks/Africans'. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Demographic Association of Southern Africa (DEMSA), Midrand.

Bah, S (1998). 'Could the mortality transition currently underway in South Africa be described as being protracted and polarised?' Paper presented at the 16th Conference of the Epidemiological Society of South Africa, Midrand.

Bah, S and Rahman, MM (1998). 'Indirect estimation of pre-census baseline in the aftermath of a war'. University of Western Ontario Discussion Paper 98-4.

Kahimbaara, JA (1998). 'Migration to the urban areas of Gauteng and Western Cape, South Africa, according to the October household survey of 1995'. In Bond, D, McCaffety, M and Black, M (eds). *Recent Developments in Regional and Urban Statistics*, Conference Compendium, University of Ulster at Coleraine, Northern Ireland.

Louw, R (1998). 'Activities and functioning of the Classification Committees in Stats SA'. Paper presented at the United Nations Expert Group Meeting on International Economic and Social Classifications, New York.

Ndegwa, DG and Udjo, EO (1998). 'Differentials in female adult mortality in South Africa.' Paper presented at the Annual Congress of the South African Sociological Association, Rand Afrikaans University, Johannesburg.

Orkin, FM (1998). 'The politics and problematics of survey research, *American Behavioural Scientist*, 42(2).

Udjo, EO (1998). 'An evaluation of the age-sex distribution of Batswana from the 1991 Census'. *Southern African Journal of Demography*, 6(1).

Udjo, EO (1998). 'Trends in quantum and tempo of fertility in Botswana'. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Demographic Association of Southern

Appendix 2: Internal Seminar Series

Title	Date	Presenter
Population diversity and the census: a comparison of Brazil, South Africa and the United States of America	13 January 1998	Antonio McDaniel
The use of integrated character recognition in censuses and surveys: the case of Turkey	20 February 1998	Seref Hosgör
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General Information

For more information

Statistics South Africa publishes a wide range of statistics and other information on South African economic, demographic and social conditions. Details appear in the *Users Guide*. A schedule of forthcoming releases is updated weekly, and made available by fax, e-mail and on the Stats SA website.

User information services

Stats SA's user information services can be contacted at:

Tel.: (012) 310-8600 (08h00-16h00)
Fax: (012) 310-8500
E-mail: info@statssa.pwv.gov.za

Personal visits to obtain information can be made at Users Enquiries, 2nd floor, Statistics South Africa, Steyn's Building, 274 Schoeman Street, Pretoria.

Electronic data services

- Databank

Nearly all data published in Stats SA's statistical releases are recorded in the time-series databank. These time-series are available on CD-ROM or diskette. Users can also obtain user IDs and passwords which allow access to the time-series data on Stats SA servers.

- Statistics South Africa website

Most Stats SA releases and reports are made available at embargo time on the Stats SA website situated at www.statssa.gov.za

- Census '96 electronic projects

Contact Patrick Kelly at (012) 310-8290 or
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