

## Mid-year estimates P0302

1991 - 1998

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**THE POPULATION OF SOUTH AFRICA IS PROVISIONALLY ESTIMATED TO BE**

**42 130 500 BY MID 1998 GIVEN THE 1996 CENSUS FIGURES AS THE BASE POPULATION AND THE ASSUMPTIONS MADE IN THE ESTIMATION OF FERTILITY AND MORTALITY.**

*The population of South Africa is estimated to have grown from 40,58 million in October 1996 to 42,13 million in mid 1998 given the 1996 Census figures as the base population, and the assumptions made in the estimation of fertility and mortality.*

**Background to changes in methodology used, and the new reporting format adopted**

The results of the 1996 census and the changes that have taken place in the RSA since 1991 have profound implications for the preparation of population projections or mid-year estimates, and the way the results are presented.

The differences in methodology used in the 1991 Census as compared to the 1996 Census account for most of the variation in the results obtained from them. For this reason, the intercensal estimates for 1991 to 1995 published by Stats SA in June 1995 have been revised in a manner that is independent of the 1991 Census figures. The methodology used for doing this is elaborated upon in the explanatory notes.

In the past, the reporting of mid-year estimates gave a strong emphasis to breakdowns according to the four population groups, i.e. Africans/blacks, coloureds, Indians/Asians and whites. Methodologically, this was facilitated by the availability of vital statistics data on births and deaths, broken down according to these population groups. However, as from 1991, vital statistics was no longer collected by these categories. Information on mortality and fertility needed for performing population projections and deriving mid-year estimates would therefore have had to be obtained through indirect demographic techniques. Such techniques perform poorly when the numbers are very small and the reported vital events are few. As population groups (other than Africans/blacks) are largely concentrated in a few provinces, the problem of small numbers will arise when doing analyses by province and population groups. Also in the 1996 population census, close to one per cent belonged to the categories of either 'other' or 'unstated' population group. It would be necessary to report on this population group as well. For these reasons, it is not feasible at present to adopt the previous style of reporting, by giving breakdown by four population groups at provincial and national levels. In this report, breakdowns by population groups are done only at the national level and the population groups reported are five, the fifth being, 'other and unstated'.

**Summary**

The report presents results at 16 levels of aggregation/disaggregation, namely: RSA; urban and non-urban areas; 5 population groups; and 9 provinces. The results of the mid-year estimates are shown in Table 1.1 through 1.3. The estimates have been plotted on graphs and shown in Figures 1 through 17, which show normal growth in the population estimates from mid 1991 to mid 1998. The growth rates that underlie

these estimates are summarised in Table B. These growth rates are ‘inferred’ growth rates which differ from actual growth rates obtained from two consecutive censuses. After projection and subsequent interpolation, the ranking order of the different population subgroups did not change.

Estimates for the economically active population at mid-year have also been provided. These estimates are given in Tables 2.1 through 2.3. The procedure for obtaining these estimates is further explained in the explanatory notes.

## **Explanatory notes**

### ***A. Population estimates***

#### **Overview**

Traditionally, population projections have been performed mostly by the cohort-component method which in essence uses a deterministic macro-simulation approach. Recent research efforts in the field of projections have seen the development of stochastic macro-simulation wherein the concept of uncertainty is introduced into the projection model as well as the use of micro-simulation. If and when possible, depending on resources available, population projections will be developed at varying degrees of sophistication and complexity. For example, population projection models will be made by Stats SA in future with and without taking AIDS into account. A separate multi-regional migration module will be considered for internal migration.

It is hoped that some of these issues will be addressed in preparing the detailed population projection report in 1999. In this statistical release, only the base population estimates are given (without taking account of additional AIDS deaths, internal migration (including non-urban to urban migration) or uncertainty.

In preparing this report, we made use of only the 1996 Census data. The data were used in three respects:

1. In providing the base population for doing the projections.
2. In providing fertility estimates used for estimating the population aged, 0-4 in 2001.
3. In providing mortality estimates used for deriving five-year survivorship probabilities.

#### **Base population**

The base population used was the 1996 Census data which had been adjusted for undercount by the

post-enumeration survey. The reported ages of the population were used as they were without any adjustments made to them. A small proportion of the population had unstated ages. This proportion was distributed among the population of known ages through a standard procedure explained below. Projections were done on the population with known ages and an adjustment factor for pro-rating the population of unknown ages,  $k$  was calculated and was applied to the projected population. The adjustment factor,  $k$ , is calculated as follows:

$$k = P_T / (P_T - P_u)$$

where  $P_T$  is the total population over all ages (including those with unknown ages)

$P_u$  is the population of unknown ages.

The adjustment factors obtained are given in Table A.

Table A. Adjustment factors for unknown ages in 1996		
		Adjustment factor for unknown ages, $k$
	Gender	1996
RSA	Males	1.013249
	Females	1.011280
Urban	Males	1.013399
	Females	1.010921
Non-urban	Males	1.013069
	Females	1.011682
Africans/Blacks	Males	1.012713
	Females	1.011033
Coloureds	Males	1.008511
	Females	1.007423
Indians/Asians	Males	1.009092
	Females	1.008806

Whites	Males	1.016343
	Females	1.013680
Other and unstated	Males	1.081407
	Females	1.049809
Western Cape	Males	1.012425
	Females	1.008996
Eastern Cape	Males	1.009130
	Females	1.007416
Northern Cape	Males	1.012227
	Females	1.009987
Free State	Males	1.011974
	Females	1.010441
KwaZulu-Natal	Males	1.015138
	Females	1.013524
North West	Males	1.009349
	Females	1.007395
Gauteng	Males	1.014680
	Females	1.012884
Mpumalanga	Males	1.019284
	Females	1.016576
Northern Province	Males	1.013774
	Females	1.012319

**Note:** The categories used in the first column are non-overlapping since the provinces totals add up to RSA, the five population groups add up to RSA and the urban/non-urban locations also add up to RSA.

#### **Estimation of population aged 0-4**

From the census data, reported fertility (births in the past twelve months) per woman and parity (average

number of children ever born per woman) were obtained. However, due to the misunderstanding of the reference period, reported fertility often underestimates true fertility. There is therefore the need to adjust the reported fertility estimates. The method opted for is that of Arriaga (1983). In that method, the reported parities are transformed into age-specific fertility rates and are subsequently cumulated. These cumulated rates are compared with another set of cumulated rates obtained from the reported fertility to obtain adjustment factors. Adjustment factors could be based on age groups 20-24, 25-29 or 20-29.

Adjustment factors based on women in the age group of 20-29 years have been used, as they usually give estimates that lie between those obtained from either the 20-24 age group or the 25-29 age group. The program used for doing this is FERTPF in the United Nations Software Package for Mortality Measurement (MORTPAK). Note that there are other methods for indirectly estimating fertility which would not necessarily give the same results. With direct techniques, it is possible to arrive at a fixed value, but with indirect methods, the values and variances vary slightly within an acceptable range.

The adjusted age-specific fertility rates are used to obtain an estimate of the average annual number of births. This is multiplied by five to obtain average number of births for five years. This number is separated into males and females using an assumed sex ratio at birth. For each pair of male and female life tables, the respective number of five-year births is multiplied by the five-year survivorship ratio from birth to obtain an estimate of the population aged 0-4.

### **Life table and survivorship ratios**

A life table is the demographer's way of representing the effects of mortality. In the absence of complete statistics on reported deaths, methods have been devised to obtain life tables either from correcting the reported deaths for incompleteness or from using a completely different approach based on information on the survivorship of a respondent's kin (sons, daughters, sisters, mother, father or spouse). The method independent of the reported deaths in a given country, but dependent on reported deaths in other countries (through the use of model life tables). The methods convert the proportions of dead kin among all reported kin (by five-year age groups of respondent) into a series of life table probabilities of surviving to a given age in childhood or from one adult age to another, and their corresponding time locations. Given the time trend of these probabilities, one can use interpolation or extrapolation to obtain a point probability estimate at a given date (within an acceptable range). The life table for a given date can then be constructed using probability estimates derived from either childhood mortality or adult mortality or both. The choice has to be guided by performance of the models and by prior knowledge about expected mortality conditions which are likely to prevail.

From the census data, information on number of women, children dead, children surviving, classified by five-year age groups of mother was used to calculate probabilities of surviving in childhood using the Trussell version of the Brass method. The census data collected on childhood mortality does not give breakdowns by gender. Hence this procedure could only be done for both male and female combined. The program used for doing this is QFIVE developed by the United Nations. Further, data on respondents whose mothers were still alive ('not orphaned') together with information on mean age at child-bearing and children ever born was used to calculate female adult mortality through the 'maternal orphanhood'

method of Hill and Trussell, and through the maternal orphanhood method of Brass. Finally, data on respondents whose fathers were still alive, together with information on mean age at paternity, were used to calculate male adult mortality through the 'paternal orphanhood' method of Brass. For specific estimates derived from these methods, the time trends were plotted. Linear regression equations were fitted, and estimates of intercepts and slopes of the fitted straight lines were obtained. These estimates were then used to obtain point estimates of life table probabilities of surviving to given ages for dates referring to mid 1996.

In order to decide on which points to combine in deriving a life table, diagnostics were performed on these estimates. The diagnostics showed that estimates for survivorship during childhood performed far better than estimates of probabilities of surviving during adulthood (with male adult mortality performing even better than female adult mortality). Life tables constructed using the combination of estimates of childhood and adult mortality did not prove plausible (with life expectancies at birth exceeding 80 years in several instances). However, when life tables were constructed with only one childhood mortality estimate as input (probability of surviving to age 5,  $l(5)$ ), the results proved plausible, in accordance with expected mortality differentials. As a result, the life tables obtained were based on  $l(5)$ . In order to obtain separate life tables for males and females as required, the sex differential embodied in the selected model life table was assumed. Specifically,  $l(5)$  was taken as a male value for the male life table and as a female value for the female life table. The program used for estimating female adult mortality using Hill-Trussell method is ORPHAN in MORTPAK while the program used for obtaining the life table from the  $l(5)$  estimate is MATCH also in MORTPAK. As South Africa has a heterogeneous population, the Coale Demeny West model was used as the reference model life table.

The desired five-year survivorship ratios were obtained directly from the outputs of the MATCH program.

Note that there are other methods for constructing life tables and the results of all the different methods would not necessarily be the same.

### **Forward projection**

The census data by age and gender was grouped into five year age groups (with the exception of 0-1, 1-4 and the open interval 75+) and applied to the appropriate survivorship ratios to obtain a population forwardly projected to 2001. It is the total of the projected population that is compared with the 1996 population to obtain the growth rates as further explained below.

### **Growth rates and interpolation**

Using the census totals for 1996 and the projected totals for 2001, exponential growth of the population was assumed and the 'inferred' growth rate,  $r$ , was obtained as follows:

$$P_{t2} = P_{t1} * \exp (r *(t2- t1))$$

where t1 is the initial time and t2 is the final time.

$$\text{Hence, } r = 0.2 * \log_e (P_{2001} / P_{1996})$$

Regarding the population estimates for the period, 1991-1996, one could either use growth rates derived for that period (using backward projection of the 1996 census to 1991 and inferring the growth rate from the totals) or assume that the growth rates for the period, 1996-2001 would be applicable for the earlier period as well. Both methods were attempted but the latter procedure gave more plausible results and hence has been adopted.

For any given date, tx , either prior to 1996 or after 1996, the mid-year population estimate is obtained as follows:

$$P_{tx} = P_{1996.775} * \exp (r *(tx- 1996.775))$$

where 1996.775 is the decimalised equivalent of the Census night, 10 October 1996.

Note that the ‘inferred’ growth rates should not be confused with actual growth rates obtained from data from two censuses. In the same way, growth rates obtained by assuming the population is ‘stable’ (intrinsic growth rate), differ from actual growth rates. The growth rates calculated are shown in Table B.

Note that these inferred growth rates would change once the projection model is revised to incorporate some of the aspects discussed in the overview section.

Table B. Exponential growth rates inferred from the population projected through cohort-component method, 1991 - 1998

		Exponential growth rates, <i>r</i>
	Gender	1991-1998
RSA	Males	0.023545
	Females	0.019957
Urban	Males	0.022469

	Females	0.020077
Non-urban	Males	0.026649
	Females	0.021314
Africans/Blacks	Males	0.026520
	Females	0.022473
Coloureds	Males	0.020682
	Females	0.018207
Indians/Asians	Males	0.017039
	Females	0.015679
Whites	Males	0.010300
	Females	0.007426
Others and unspecified	Males	0.016872
	Females	0.013745
Western Cape	Males	0.020230
	Females	0.017868
Eastern Cape	Males	0.023132
	Females	0.017087
Northern Cape	Males	0.015498
	Females	0.013769
Free State	Males	0.021158
	Females	0.018874
KwaZulu-Natal	Males	0.023806
	Females	0.018876
North West	Males	0.022793
	Females	0.020645
Gauteng	Males	0.021956

	Females	0.021826
Mpumalanga	Males	0.026812
	Females	0.023906
Northern Province	Males	0.033112
	Females	0.025307

**Note:** The categories used in the first column are non-overlapping since the provinces totals add up to RSA, the five population groups add up to RSA and the urban/non-urban locations also add up to RSA.

### **Reconciling the totals with the sum of the components**

In preparing mid-year estimates for the total population and for some of its components, there is often discrepancy between the sum of the initial estimates of the components and the total population. There is need then to adjust for the differences to arrive at final estimates. The procedure for controlling is known variously as, iterative proportional fitting, raking and rim-weighting.

In this report, controlling was done for males and females separately. The program used for doing this is CTBL32 in Population Analysis Software (PAS) by the US Bureau of Census. The total for each population sub-group was obtained by summing the estimates for males and females.

### ***B. Estimation of economically active population***

#### **Definition**

The phrase *economically active* refers to a person aged 15 years or more who is either employed or unemployed but who is looking for work. In other words, someone who is working or who wants to work and is seeking work is defined *aseconomically active*.

Crude activity rate is the percentage of the total population that is economically active.

Age-specific activity rate is the percentage of the population in a given age group that is economically active.

#### **Economically active population**

When a series of age-specific activity rates are available from two or more censuses, there are techniques for projecting those rates. Those rates could then be used to obtain estimates of the economically active

population by applying them to projected populations. In this case, as only a one-census approach is being used, another option has to be used. The method used is as follows:

Crude activity rates were calculated from the 1996 Census data and these rates were equally applied to all the mid-year estimates. The totals were then reconciled with the sub-components as was done with the population estimates above.

### ***C. Note to users who would like to prepare special population estimates***

1. If a user needs to estimate the population of a given population group at the provincial level for a non-census date, one option is as follows: He/she might have to make the assumption that the national growth rate for that population group applies at the provincial level and proceed with applying that rate on the provincial total of that population group. Other options are possible.

2. If a user needs to estimate the population at sub-provincial level for a non-census date, one option is as follows: He/she might have to estimate the ratio of that sub-provincial total to the province total and apply that ratio on the provincial estimate at the desired date. Other options are possible.

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## 1. Mid-year population estimates, 1991 - 1998

### 1.1 RSA, urban and non-urban

Mid-year population estimates								Census totals	Mid-year population estimates	
		1991.5	1992.5	1993.5	1994.5	1995.5	1996.5	1996.775	1997.5	1998.5
RSA	Males	17240900	17651600	18072200	18502700	18943600	19394900	19520887	19857000	20330100
	Females	18958000	19340200	19730000	20127800	20533500	20947400	21062685	21369700	21800400
	Total	36198900	36991800	37802200	38630500	39477100	40342300	40583573	41226700	42130500
Urban	Males	9516100	9724500	9937500	10155100	10377400	10604600	10667928	10836700	11073800
	Females	10034200	10230500	10430600	10634700	10842700	11054800	11113880	11271100	11491500

	Total	19550300	19955000	20368100	20789800	21220100	21659400	21781807	22107800	22565300
Non-urban	Males	7724800	7927100	8134700	8347600	8566200	8790300	8852960	9020300	9256300
	Females	8923800	9109700	9299400	9493100	9690800	9892600	9948806	10098600	10308900
	Total	16648600	17036800	17434100	17840700	18257000	18682900	18801765	19118900	19565200

1. Mid-year population estimates, 1991 - 1998

1.2 Population groups

Mid-year population estimates								<i>Census</i>	Mid-year population	
								<i>totals</i>	<i>estimates</i>	
		1991.5	1992.5	1993.5	1994.5	1995.5	1996.5	1996.775	1997.5	1998.5
Africans/Blacks	Males	12985800	13332400	13687900	14052300	14426300	14809600	14916712	15202700	15605800
	Females	14414300	14739600	15071900	15411400	15758100	16112100	16210919	16473900	16843400
	Total	27400100	28072000	28759800	29463700	30184400	30921700	31127631	31676600	32449200
Coloureds	Males	1566600	1599000	1632000	1665800	1700100	1735200	1744920	1770900	1807200
	Females	1687400	1718200	1749400	1781200	1813500	1846400	1855526	1879800	1913800
	Total	3254000	3317200	3381400	3447000	3513600	3581600	3600446	3650700	3721000
Indians/Asians	Males	468800	476700	484800	493100	501400	509800	512231	518500	527200
	Females	491500	499300	507100	515000	523000	531100	533365	539400	547700
	Total	960300	976000	991900	1008100	1024400	1040900	1045596	1057900	1074900
Whites	Males	2050900	2071800	2092900	2114000	2135300	2156800	2162699	2178400	2200200
	Females	2187100	2203000	2219000	2235100	2251300	2267600	2271998	2283800	2300200
	Total	4238000	4274800	4311900	4349100	4386600	4424400	4434697	4462200	4500400
Other and Unstated	Males	168800	171700	174600	177500	180500	183500	184326	186600	189700
	Females	177700	180200	182600	185100	187700	190200	190878	192800	195400
	Total	346500	351900	357200	362600	368200	373700	375204	379400	385100

1. Mid-year population estimates, 1991 - 1998

1.3 Provinces

Mid-year population estimates								<i>Census</i>	Mid-year population	
								<i>totals</i>	<i>estimates</i>	
		1991.5	1992.5	1993.5	1994.5	1995.5	1996.5	1996.775	1997.5	1998.5
Western Cape	Males	1742000	1777100	1813000	1849600	1886900	1925000	1935494	1963700	2003100
	Females	1841700	1874500	1907900	1941900	1976500	2011600	2021381	2047300	2083800
	Total	3583700	3651600	3720900	3791500	3863400	3936600	3956875	4011000	4086900
Eastern Cape	Males	2577500	2637200	2698300	2760700	2824500	2889800	2908056	2956600	3024800
	Females	3105400	3158400	3212100	3266700	3322300	3378800	3394469	3436200	3494500
	Total	5682900	5795600	5910400	6027400	6146800	6268600	6302525	6392800	6519300
Northern Cape	Males	380800	386600	392700	398700	404700	410900	412681	417200	423700
	Females	398200	403600	409100	414700	420300	426000	427639	431800	437700
	Total	779000	790200	801800	813400	825000	836900	840321	849000	861400
Free State	Males	1162800	1187400	1212500	1238100	1264300	1290900	1298348	1318100	1345900
	Females	1210000	1232900	1256000	1279700	1303800	1328300	1335156	1353400	1378700
	Total	2372800	2420300	2468500	2517800	2568100	2619200	2633504	2671500	2724600
KwaZulu-Natal	Males	3489100	3572300	3657500	3744700	3833800	3925100	3950527	4018500	4113900
	Females	4047800	4124100	4201800	4280900	4361600	4443700	4466493	4527200	4612400
	Total	7536900	7696400	7859300	8025600	8195400	8368800	8417021	8545700	8726300
North West	Males	1464900	1498400	1532600	1567500	1603200	1639600	1649835	1676900	1715100
	Females	1530800	1562500	1594700	1627600	1661200	1695400	1704990	1730400	1766100
	Total	2995700	3060900	3127300	3195100	3264400	3335000	3354825	3407300	3481200
Gauteng	Males	3354200	3418700	3493700	3570400	3648600	3728600	3750845	3810200	3893600
	Females	3210000	3280200	3351900	3425100	3499800	3576300	3597578	3654400	3734000

	Total	6564200	6698900	6845600	6995500	7148400	7304900	7348423	7464600	7627600
Mpumalanga	Males	1184000	1215900	1248600	1282200	1316800	1352100	1362028	1388500	1425700
	Females	1269600	1300100	1331000	1363200	1395900	1429400	1438683	1463500	1498700
	Total	2453600	2516000	2579600	2645400	2712700	2781500	2800711	2852000	2924400
Northern Province	Males	1892000	1957900	2023300	2090900	2160700	2232800	2253072	2307300	2384200
	Females	2344500	2404100	2465200	2527900	2592100	2657900	2676296	2725400	2794500
	Total	4236500	4362000	4488500	4618800	4752800	4890700	4929368	5032700	5178700

## 2. Estimated economically active population, 1991 - 1998

### 2.1 RSA, urban and non-urban

Estimated economically active population								<i>Census figures</i>	Estimated economically active population	
		1991.5	1992.5	1993.5	1994.5	1995.5	1996.5	1996.775	1997.5	1998.5
RSA	Males	7056600	7224700	7396900	7573100	7753500	7938300	7989823	8127400	8321000
	Females	6229300	6354900	6483000	6613700	6747000	6883000	6920906	7021800	7163300
	Total	13285900	13579600	13879900	14186800	14500500	14821300	14910729	15149200	15484300
Urban	Males	4675800	4780500	4887500	4996800	5108600	5222800	5254686	5339600	5458900
	Females	4099500	4180400	4262900	4346900	4432700	4520100	4544466	4609300	4700100
	Total	8775300	8960900	9150400	9343700	9541300	9742900	9799151	9948900	10159000
Non-urban	Males	2380800	2444200	2509400	2576300	2644900	2715500	2735138	2787800	2862100
	Females	2129800	2174500	2220100	2266800	2314300	2362900	2376440	2412500	2463200
	Total	4510600	4618700	4729500	4843100	4959200	5078400	5111578	5200300	5325300



		Estimated economically active population						Census	Estimated economically	
								figures	active population	
		1991.5	1992.5	1993.5	1994.5	1995.5	1996.5	1996.775	1997.5	1998.5
Western Cape	Males	857200	875500	893700	912300	931300	950700	956045	970400	990500
	Females	721400	732700	750700	760700	774300	788100	791910	802100	816400
	Total	1578600	1608200	1644400	1673000	1705600	1738800	1747956	1772500	1806900
Eastern Cape	Males	756700	775200	793600	812500	831800	851500	857038	871700	892400
	Females	797800	823400	815000	839200	853500	868100	872147	882900	897900
	Total	1554500	1598600	1608600	1651700	1685300	1719600	1729186	1754600	1790300
Northern Cape	Males	165400	168100	170900	173600	176300	179100	179863	181900	184900
	Females	130400	131900	134000	135800	137700	139500	140058	141400	143400
	Total	295800	300000	304900	309400	314000	318600	319921	323300	328300
Free State	Males	520500	532200	543800	555600	567700	580000	583448	592600	605500
	Females	435600	443000	454200	460800	469500	478300	480796	487400	496500
	Total	956100	975200	998000	1016400	1037200	1058300	1064244	1080000	1102000
KwaZulu-Natal	Males	1317300	1350300	1383400	1417200	1451900	1487300	1497255	1523700	1560900
	Females	1233400	1254000	1286100	1304600	1329200	1354300	1361236	1379700	1405800
	Total	2550700	2604300	2669500	2721800	2781100	2841600	2858491	2903400	2966700
North West	Males	615700	630600	645400	660500	676000	691800	696177	707900	724500
	Females	512500	522000	536300	545000	556300	567700	570935	579400	591400
	Total	1128200	1152600	1181700	1205500	1232300	1259500	1267112	1287300	1315900
Gauteng	Males	1872400	1910800	1953900	1998000	2043000	2089000	2101915	2136200	2184300
	Females	1490800	1520100	1563500	1590800	1625500	1661100	1670985	1697400	1734400
	Total	3363200	3430900	3517400	3588800	3668500	3750100	3772900	3833600	3918700
Mpumalanga	Males	474900	488300	501700	515600	529800	544300	548405	559400	574600

	Females	380300	388600	400400	408400	418200	428200	431005	438400	449000
	Total	855200	876900	902100	924000	948000	972500	979410	997800	1023600
Northern Province	Males	476600	493700	510600	528000	545900	564500	569677	583700	603500
	Females	527100	539300	542900	568500	582900	597700	601834	612900	628400
	Total	1003700	1033000	1053500	1096500	1128800	1162200	1171511	1196600	1231900

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