

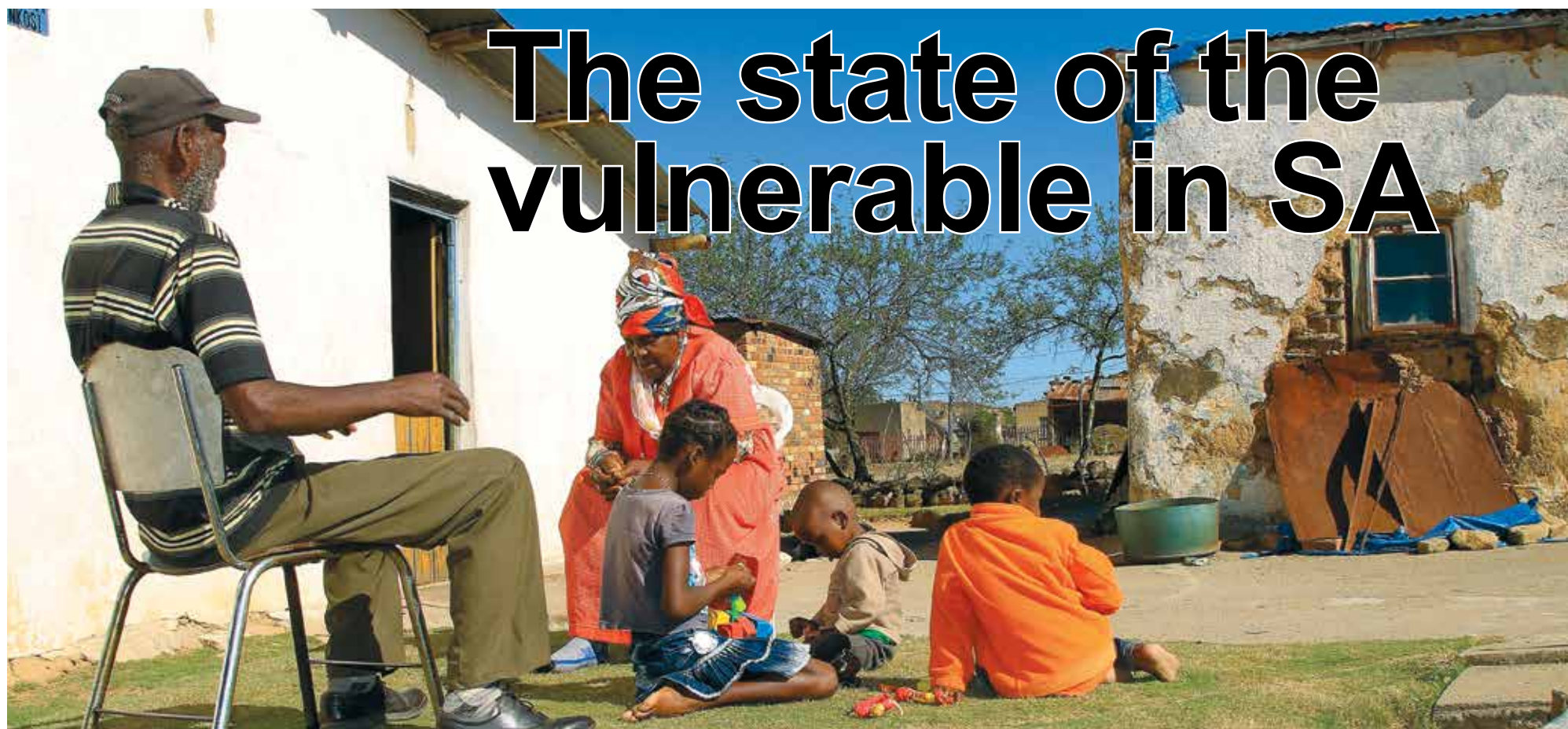
FIELDWORKER

The people behind the numbers

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www.statssa.gov.za

The state of the vulnerable in SA



Nearly one in 10 children live with their grandparents in skip-generation households. Photo: Mbongiseni Mdebele

Statistics South Africa conducts studies that show how the most vulnerable people in society live

The Constitution and the Bill of Rights afford all South Africans basic rights such as access to healthcare services, social security, sufficient food and water, adequate housing and a safe environment. Yet, research shows there are vulnerable groups in the country — children, the youth, the elderly and women — who still struggle to access these basic rights.

The annual General Household Survey (GHS) was introduced in 2002 to address the need identified by government to determine the level of development in the country and to measure, on a regular basis, the performance of programmes and projects implemented to address the needs of citizens. The survey is designed to measure the living conditions of South African households, as well as the quality of service delivery in a number of key service sectors. It covers six broad areas, namely education, health and social development, housing, household access to services and facilities, food security, and agriculture.

The information from the GHS releases was used to create two significant reports on vulnerable groups — *the Social profile of vulnerable groups in South Africa (2002 to 2012)* and *South Africa's young children: Their family and home environment, 2012*.

Social profile of vulnerable groups in South Africa (2002–2012):

The report addresses four vulnerable groups — women, children, youth, and the elderly. Let's take a look at some key findings relating to this report:

■ Vulnerable groups constitute a significant proportion of the South African population. Children, youth and older persons respectively comprised 36%, 37% and 8% of the total population in 2012.

A **double orphan** is a child whose biological parents have passed away.

Skip generation households are those in which grandparents raise grandchildren and parents are absent from the household.

■ The data showed that 4,0% of children were **double orphans**, 10,6% paternal orphans, 3,2% maternal orphans and 82,8% of children were not orphaned. 7,8% of children lived in **skip-generation households** with their grandparents.

■ About 65,1% of children lived in low-income households with a per capita income of less than R765 per month. Close to one-third (32,4%) of children lived in households without any employed members. Social grants and remittances were vital to improve the access to food and education. 61,8% of children (29,3% of the total population), and 68% of older persons accessed social grants in 2012.

■ More than half (56,8%) of female-headed households were poor compared to 36,3% of male-headed households. Almost seven-tenths (69,8%) of female-headed households in Limpopo reported a low income.

■ Almost half (49,7%) of households headed by younger youth (aged 15–24) did not have any employed members compared to 18,9% of households headed by older youth. Similarly, 41% of female-headed households were without a single employed member, compared to 20% of male-headed households.

■ The low household income contributed significantly to insufficient access to adequate food and increased experiences of hunger. The analysis shows that 22,2% of children in households without employed members experienced hunger compared to 12% of children in households that had at least one employed person. The percentage of house-

holds that experienced hunger declined consistently between 2002 and 2012.

■ Access to education had been improving consistently since 2002. The report questions the poor conversion of educational attendance into the completion of the secondary school phase, entry into higher education and completion of post-school qualifications. The largest percentage of the children (18,8%) and youth aged 15–24 years (38,9%) who dropped out of educational institutions, cited 'no money for fees' as the main reason.

■ By the age of 22, about 52,3% of youth were neither attending any educational institution, nor working. On the other hand, 24,8% were working and 20,7% were still attending an educational institution.

South Africa's young children: Their family and home environment, 2012

The report presents statistics on young children aged below five years in South Africa in 2012. It highlights the profile of biological parents and the home environment in which children are raised. According to this report:

■ There were 5,3 million children aged below five years in South Africa in 2012, representing about 10% of the population in the country.

■ Overall, there were slightly more male than female children aged below five years and 85% of South African young children were black African.

■ While both the biological parents of the majority (93%) of these children were alive,

only 36% lived with both parents. A total of 38% of fathers lived with their young biological children compared to a total of 79% of mothers. The findings also show that, of the 19% of children who lived with neither parent, 85% lived in households headed by their grandparents.

■ Mothers who lived with their biological children were comparatively younger and 48% had never married. Fathers were a bit older and were mostly legally married. Fathers who lived with their biological children were better positioned to improve the lives of their young children and their children lived in better conditions.

■ About 60% of young children received the child support grant. The highest percentages of child support grant recipients were children of mothers who had never married (73%) and those who lived with neither parent (69%).

■ About 36% of young children attended an Early Childhood Development Centre. Lowest attendance was observed for those who lived with their mothers only (31%) and those who lived with neither biological parent (39%).

■ The living conditions of children show that nearly 30% of young children lived in households that used a pit latrine without ventilation, bucket system or where there were no sanitation facilities.

■ The report also indicates that South African young children generally lived in formal dwellings and in households with piped water either in the dwelling or in the yard.



When you see this arrow it means the release is available on www.statssa.gov.za

Editorial

2014 is a significant year that calls for serious reflection.

As we celebrate 20 years of freedom and democracy, Fieldworker shares some of the key events that shaped and influenced the freedom and democracy we all enjoy today.

For Stats SA this is also a significant year as we mark 100 years since enactment of the Statistics Act. For us this will be a time to reflect on the history, current practices and future of official statistics and this centenary will be the pivot of our efforts to further enhance the reputation and credibility of Stats SA.

The use of official statistics in providing a picture of the progress made in building our economy and ensuring that the basic needs of society are met, cannot be underestimated. Census 2011 data shows how far we have come and provides a clear indication of the task that lies ahead in creating a better life for all South Africans. In this edition we also share recent data on the state of the vulnerable in our society, including our children, so that we can continue to provide programmes which support and protect the constitutional rights of these groups.

This is also a moment for us to reflect on our responsibilities as citizens, because this year we are challenged to become active in the political life of our country. This is necessary to ensure that we have a thriving democracy. We need to celebrate the long way we have come, but be mindful of the fact that each of us has a role to play in achieving Vision 2030 as outlined in the National Development Plan.

Let us work together in building a better South Africa for the future!



THE SOUTH AFRICA I KNOW, THE HOME I UNDERSTAND

Inside this edition: Business Register at the heart of economic statistics p2; 'The struggle for a better life is not over p3; State of the vulnerable p4-5; Economic info at your fingertips p6; Timeline to democracy p7; Test your knowledge p8



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Business register at the heart of economic statistics

The Business Register forms the pillar of the **Business Sampling Frame** which is used to draw samples for most economic statistics produced by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA). Fieldworker investigates further to understand why this register is important and how the information is used.

What is the Business Register?

A business register is a registry of business information which serves as a key source of economic information. It records when businesses enter, perform in and exit from the economy.

The Business Register forms the pillar of the Business Sampling Frame that is utilised as the sampling frame for the series of economic statistics produced by Stats SA. The defining characteristics of a reliable business register are that it is comprehensive in coverage, accurate in classification, and has updated contact information. Such a register must be maintained so that new businesses are included and dead units (businesses that are no longer operating) are removed.

What is the importance of the register?

In order for Stats SA to produce economic statistics, the Business Register has to provide an up-to-date Business Sampling Frame. It is important for the Business Register to be continuously updated to ensure that reliable information is kept so that survey areas do not need to verify the important aspects of the business before they conduct their surveys.

Furthermore, the Business Register serves as a statistical 'radar screen' which provides crucial information enabling government to facilitate and track the participation and contribution of legally registered businesses to the formal economy.

This information, together with information derived from the tax registry and other official data sources, serves as inputs to provide an overall picture of the economy.

How often is information on the Business Register updated?

Maintaining the Business Register is an ongoing process through constant interaction with businesses.



Many businesses make use of the information produced by Stats SA

The **Business Sampling Frame** is a list of businesses that operate within the borders of South Africa.

A **holding company** either directly or indirectly owns more than 50% or enough issued share capital of another company to secure voting control.

What does this process entail?

Updating the Business Register information entails confirming the legal or operational group structures (are they a stand-alone, a business with a number of branches, are they a **holding company** with a number of subsidiaries etc.); identifying the locations of the legal entities and their relevant contact persons; identifying the physical locations or branches of the businesses; identifying the economic activities that the businesses are involved in; collecting size indicators such as turnover, number of employees, salaries and wages.

In addition, other information such as the legal name, trading name, branch name, Income Tax (IT) number, Pay As You Earn (PAYE) number, contact person, physical address, telephone number, Value Added Tax (VAT) number, financial year end, email address, postal address, company registration address, Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) numbers etc. is also collected and updated.

Where and how is the information collected?

The information is collected from businesses that operate within the borders of South Africa through questionnaires and, in some cases, through Excel spread sheets. Stats SA staff collect the information by telephone, fax, emails and personal visits to businesses.

Why should businesses provide information to Stats SA?

The cooperation of businesses by providing their information puts Stats SA in a position to provide accurate, reliable and relevant economic indicators. Businesses can then use these indicators to look at seasonal or annual trends, growth patterns and they can even compare the performance of their business to the performance of their entire industry.

They can also analyse the data to make informed decisions and to draw plans. They should comply because they can use the economic indicators to make relevant business decisions.

They should also comply because they are required by law to do so.



Some of the items Stats SA price collectors, as pictured here in a liquor store, must monitor

How the CPI is compiled

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) releases the Consumer Price Index (CPI) every month, but how much is known about what goes into collecting all the information needed to compile this report?

The CPI measures changes in the level of prices of consumer goods and services that **households** buy over a period of time. The CPI is the official measure of inflation in South Africa and is the primary measure used by the Reserve Bank when determining interest rates. The basket of goods and services priced by the CPI is made up of the products identified in the Income and Expenditure Survey (IES). Price data on products are collected monthly using the Structured Product Description (SPD) and Pricing forms. The SPD is used to select a new product for pricing. Item specifications of the new product must be recorded on the form to ensure clear description of the item, for example, the price of a 2kg bag of Tastic rice. This is important so that the Price Collector can identify the exact same item for pricing in consecutive months. The Pricing form is used to price products that were previously selected for pricing.

About 70 000 prices are collected monthly. The collection is divided into two categories, namely field-based collection and Head Office collection. During field-based collections, Price Collectors (fieldworkers) actually visit sampled outlets and markets to record actual prices on the shop

A **household** is a person, or group of persons who live together and provide themselves jointly with food and/or other essentials for living

floor. Collection of prices for services is done via e-mail, telephone and through the Internet by Stats SA Head Office staff.

For field collection, 96 Price Collectors visit the retail outlets and rental agencies in 34 cities, small towns and rural areas across the country to collect prices on a monthly basis.

This is how field-based collection takes place

When visiting a new outlet, Price Collectors introduce themselves to store management. They request permission to collect prices every month and explain the importance and uses of the CPI.

After the interview, the Price Collector will select (or "initiate") items by completing an SPD form. The most popular item in the outlet should be selected to be priced. One criterion used to determine if an item is popular, is to consider how much shelf space it takes up.

Items that are less popular will occupy less shelf space.

Forms are captured at Head Office and pricing forms are printed and sent back to regions for the Price Collector to price the same items in the following month. It is important for the Price Collector to ensure that the same item used during the initial price collection is used for all future price collections.

At Head Office, data will be quality checked before calculation of the indices is done. The index is then calculated and the data released on the second last Wednesday of the month.

What goods and services does the CPI cover?

The current South African CPI uses the Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP) for goods and services. It is the international standard for the classification of household expenditure in the CPI. Stats SA has classified all expenditure items into 400 categories, arranged into the following 12 major groups:

- Food and non-alcoholic beverages (bread and cereal, meat, fish, milk, eggs and cheese, oils and fats, fruit, vegetables, sugar, sweets and desserts, cold and hot beverages)
- Alcoholic beverages and tobacco (wine, beer, spirits, tobacco and cigarettes)
- Clothing and footwear (men's shirts and sweaters, women's dresses)
- Housing and utilities (rentals for housing, electricity, water, maintenance and repair)
- Household contents and services (furniture, floor covering and textiles, appliances, tableware and equipment)
- Health (medical products, medical services)
- Transport (purchase of vehicles, petrol, running costs, public transport)
- Communication (e.g. postal services, telecommunications services and equipment)
- Recreation and culture (recreational equipment, recreational and cultural services, books, newspapers and stationery, package holidays)
- Education (primary, secondary and tertiary tuition)
- Restaurants and hotels (e.g. meals, accommodation)
- Miscellaneous goods and services (personal care, insurance, financial services, funeral expenses) — Deborah Pillay

Holiday inflation above average

If you were fortunate enough to go away during the December holidays, you may be looking back on how much it all cost you. CPI for December 2013 was 5.4%, slightly higher than the 5.3% of November 2013. But most of the specific holiday costs showed inflation rates above this average.

If you were travelling by car to your holiday destination, you would have experienced the 17c/l petrol price increase. This resulted in you paying 10% more in 2013 for petrol than you did in 2012. Long distance bus passengers were hit by a 26% monthly increase in their tickets. This scale of short term price increase is commonly employed by bus operators as demand increases at this time. Long distance bus tickets have increased by 7.9% since December 2012. In fact, from an inflation perspective, it would have been better to travel by airplane. The price of airfares have increased at 5% – slower than average inflation.

Once you got to your destination and checked into a hotel, you would have realised that you are now paying 8.5% more for the same room as you did the previous year. By comparison, restaurant prices have increased by 6.8%.

Perhaps you thought that you would book an all inclusive package holiday. This would cost you a hefty 13.2% more than if you had gone on the same holiday last year. — www.statssa.gov.za

'The struggle for a better life is not over'

As the country celebrates 20 years of democracy, the National Income Dynamics Study looks at the financial 'health' of South Africans. **Vienie Botha** reports

In 2008, a mother of seven living with her family in rural Eastern Cape had a monthly income of just over R200 per person, relying solely on money sent to her by her husband working in Gauteng to keep the family going. By 2010, she was able to lift her family above the poverty line by producing and selling agricultural products. The child support grants the family received also raised the monthly income.

However, by 2012, monthly earnings for this family was again well below the poverty line.

South Africa marks 20 years of democracy this year. As the country celebrates, it is also important to evaluate the progress made. The National Income Dynamics Study (NIDS) was launched by the National Planning Commission in 2008 to track the financial wellbeing of individuals and households in "waves" of two years.

The study revisits the sampled households every two years to measure their progress.

The first "wave" of NIDS took place in 2008, collecting information on 28 551 South Africans from just over 7 000 households. This information became the baseline that future waves are measured against. The second wave took place in 2010, and the third wave took place between April and December 2012.

"The message from this study is very clear. The struggle for a better life is not over. We have to work even harder to ensure that indeed by 2030 every South African can achieve a decent standard of living," Minister in the Presidency Trevor Manuel said at the launch of the third wave results of NIDS in December 2013.

He added that the study will help to determine whether policy interventions are moving the country forward towards the future we envision for South Africa. It helps us understand who is getting ahead and why, as well as who is lagging behind and why.

Data collected during the third wave



Quick facts

- For an average of 10% households per wave, the primary trigger for poverty entry was a fall in the household head's labour market earnings.
- Matriculants were 22 percentage points more likely to be employed in wave three than those without matric. Of those with some tertiary education, 77% were employed.
- Poorer households spend a higher percentage of their total household expenditure on food, leaving little money to spend on anything else.

Results of wave three of the National Income Dynamics Study can be downloaded from <http://www.nids.uct.ac.za/>



According to Minister in the Presidency Trevor Manuel the study helps us understand who is getting ahead, who is lagging behind and why. Photo: Mbongiseni Mndebele

show that grants play a very important role in the lives of vulnerable groups. Receiving additional income through social grants is generally a bigger trigger for exiting poverty than losing the grant triggers poverty. It suggests that the means tests used for social grants constitute a highly effective poverty targeting system.

Another example of a sampled family painted a more positive picture and also illustrated the importance of government grants.

A North West mother of three supported her family with a part time job and government grants in 2010. The family's income

was around R300 per person monthly.

When the family was visited again for the second wave of NIDS, the mother had lost her part time job and the family's only income was from the child support grants they received. The majority of the R500 total income per month was spent on food.

But the family's fortune changed by the third wave in 2012 when the mother found full-time employment. The salary and the child support grants the family received, helped to lift the family above the poverty line.

The study also found that the no-fee school policy has helped poorer households

decrease educational spending, leaving more money to spend on other essentials. Recipients of the child support grant aged 15–19 years old are six percent more likely to be enrolled in school than non-recipients.

Poverty over the three waves continued to decline. Poverty in single-parent households, which has a tendency to be higher than multi-parent families, decreasing from 75% in 2008 to 60% in 2012. But the study also found that lifting someone out of poverty remains difficult with a substantial number of households trapped in poverty in wave one remaining trapped in poverty in wave three.

Celebrating 100 years of Official Statistics

The country's statistics office was established through the Statistics Act, 1914 (No. 38 of 1914), passed by the Parliament of the Union of South Africa.

The Statistics Act sought to "provide for the collection of statistics relating to agricultural and to industrial, commercial, shipping, fishing and other business undertakings and other matters in the Union".

The year 1914 provides a landmark for data collection in South Africa, which focused on the collection of a wide range of population, social, economic, agricultural and infrastructural statistics for the Union of South Africa.

For almost 80 years, statistics relating to the African population was unreliable. The post-apartheid government sought to rectify this by conducting its first inclusive population census in 1996.

This was a watershed in the history of the country, and for the very first time a detailed and comprehensive picture was provided against which to measure progress of the newly elected democratic government.

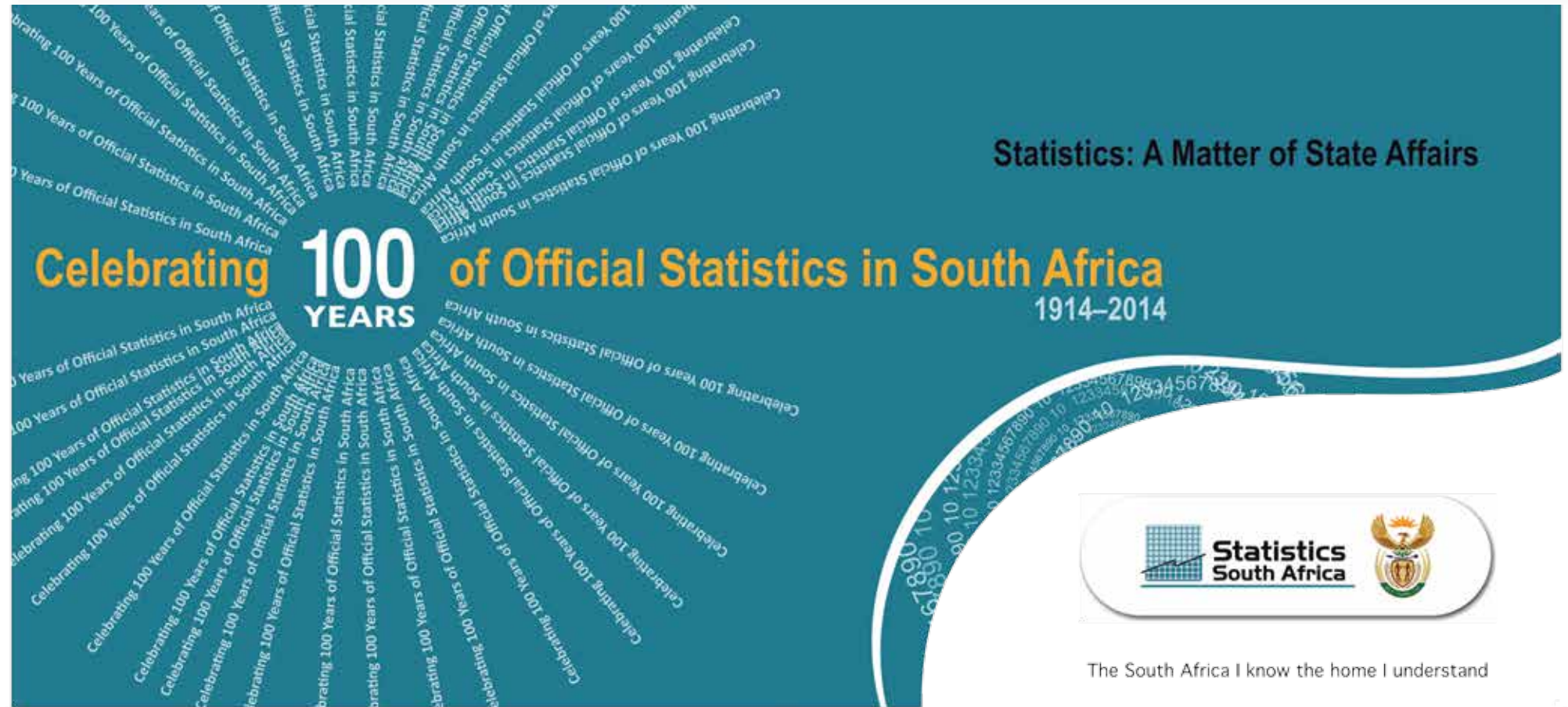
Through the enactment of the Statistics Act, 1999 (Act No. 6 of 1999) Statistics South Africa was provided with the legislative mandate to collect, produce and disseminate official and other statistics, conduct a census of the population, and coordinate the production of statistics among users in an independent manner. This mandate is carried out under the guidance of the Statistician-General and the Statistics Council.

As we celebrate 20 years of democracy, the use of official statistics as a measure of progress cannot be underestimated. It paints a picture of how far we have come and provides clear indicators of the task that lies ahead in order to ensure a better life for all South Africans.

Get to know your South Africa... your home, by accessing information on the economy and society on www.statssa.gov.za

Did you know?

For almost 80 years statistics on the black African population was unreliable

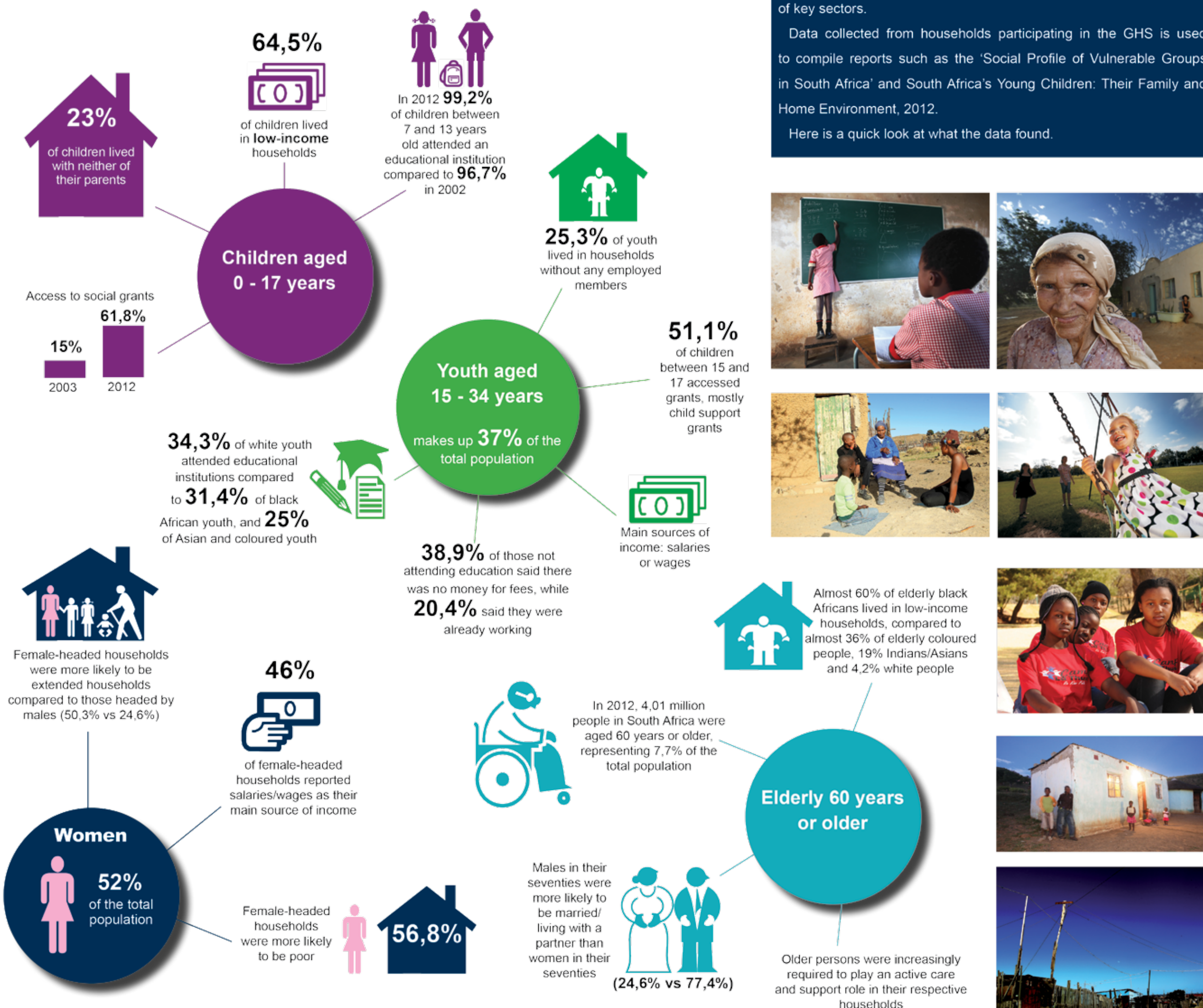


State of the Vulnerable

Source: GHS 2012

Social profile of vulnerable groups in South Africa (2002–2012)

The first report was released in 2010 to measure the situation of vulnerable groups in South Africa. The four vulnerable groups identified to be addressed in this report is: Women, Children, Youth and the Elderly.



South Africa's young children: their family and home environment 2012

This report presents statistics on young children aged below five years in South Africa in 2012. It highlights the profile of biological parents and the home environment in which children are raised.



Glossary:

Extended families – Families that comprise of parents, grandparents and other family members

Low-income households – The poorest 40% of households on average received an income of less than R765 per person per month while the poorest 20% of households earned less than R390 per person per month

Test your knowledge

How much do you remember from reading this newspaper?

1

According to the report on South Africa's young children how many children were aged below five in 2012?

a) 7 million
b) 6,2 million
c) 5,3 million
d) 5,5million

2

How many (%) children below five in South Africa lived with both parents? - South Africa's young children report, 2012?

a) 50%
b) 93%
c) 85%
d) 36%

3

Which study, commissioned by the National Planning Commission in 2008, visits households every two years to measure their progress?

a) National Income Dynamics Study
b) Income & Expenditure Survey
c) General Household Survey
d) Domestic Tourism Survey

4

Which retailers account for about 60% of total retail sales?

a) Food, beverages & tobacco in specialised stores
b) General dealers & stores selling textiles, clothing
c) Pharmaceuticals & medical goods, cosmetics & toiletries
d) Household furniture, appliances & equipment

5

An updated Business Register, which relies on information from businesses, allows for this type of statistics to be produced.

a) Social
b) Population
c) Household
d) Economic

6

This year Statistics South Africa celebrates 100 years of statistics. Which 1914 event is being celebrated?

a) The first census
b) Parliament passing the Statistics Act
c) Release of first official statistics
d) Appointment of the first Statistician-General

7

How many prices are collected monthly to compile the Consumer Price Index?

a) 100 thousand
b) 50 thousand
c) 70 thousand
d) 80 thousand

8

What does the Land transport survey cover?

a) Passengers and freight by land and road
b) Renting of trucks without drivers
c) In-house transportation
d) Metro buses

9

Passengers using this long distance mode of transportation had a 26% increase in ticket prices according to the December Consumer Price Index.

a) Airplane
b) Train
c) Taxi
d) Bus

10

In 2014 we celebrate 20 years of freedom and democracy. How many people voted in the first democratic elections in 1994?

a) 19,7 million
b) 14,5 million
c) 21,2 million
d) 18,9 million

Answers on page 7

Crossword

1

2

3

4

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10

children who lived with neither parent, 85% lived with these family members

9. The Social Profile of Vulnerable Groups in South Africa provides information on four groups namely children, youth, the elderly and which other group?

10. The monthly food and beverages survey does not include food and beverages sold at these of retailers.

Down:

1. This is the pillar of the Business Sampling Frame, which is used to draw samples for most economic surveys. (Two words)

2. According to the Land Transport Survey this type of transport is used by 60% of passengers.

5. From an inflation perspective it would have been better to travel by this mode of transportation to your holiday destination during December.

7. According to the National Income Dynamic survey poorer households spend a higher percentage of their total household expenditure on this item.

8. The 400 expenditure items in the CPI basket of goods and services, is further arranged into _____ major groups.

Across:

3. The number of activity types measured under total motor trade sales.

4. This body passed the Statistics Act of 1914.

6. According to South Africa's young children report 2012 of the 19% of

Answers on page 7

Statistical publications schedule

All releases can be accessed on www.statssa.gov.za on the day of release

Statistical Release	Release Date
Manufacturing: utilisation of production capacity by large enterprises	06 February 2014
Manufacturing: Production and Sales	11 February 2014
Retail Trade Sales	12 February 2014
Mining: Production and Sales	13 February 2014
Wholesale Trade Sales	13 February 2014
Motor Trade Sales	13 February 2014
Tourist Accommodation	17 February 2014
Food and Beverages	17 February 2014
Transport Statistics	17 February 2014
January - Consumer Price Index (CPI)	19 February 2014
Building plans passed and completed	20 February 2014
Statistics of civil cases of debt	20 February 2014
Tourism and Migration	24 February 2014
Statistics on liquidations and insolvencies	24 February 2014
4th Quarter - Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	25 February 2014
January - Producer Price Index (PPI)	27 February 2014
Contract Price Adjustment Provisions – Work group Indices	27 February 2014
Electricity generated and available for distribution	06 March 2014
Mining: Production and Sales	13 March 2014
Manufacturing: Production and Sales	13 March 2014
February – Consumer Price Index (CPI)	18 March 2014
Retail Trade Sales	19 March 2014
Motor Trade Sales	20 March 2014
Building plans passed and completed	20 March 2014
Statistics of civil cases of debt	20 March 2014
Statistics on liquidations and insolvencies	24 March 2014
Tourist Accommodation	24 March 2014
Food and Beverages	24 March 2014
Transport Statistics	24 March 2014
February – Producer Price Index (PPI)	27 March 2014
Wholesale Trade Sales	27 March 2014
Contract Price Adjustment Provisions – Work group Indices	27 March 2014
Perinatal deaths: 2011	27 March 2014
Tourism and Migration	31 March 2014
Quarterly Financial Survey (QFS) of private sector enterprises	31 March 2014
Quarterly Financial Survey (QFS) of municipalities	31 March 2014
Annual release on documented immigrants	31 March 2014

** Release dates are subject to change(s).

Stats SA provincial numbers

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