

Census '96 results

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) recently released the results of Census '96

Stats SA employed more than 100 000 people to collect information on persons and households throughout the country in 1996. Here is a summary of that information.

If there were a 100 people in South Africa...

- 52 of us would be women and 48 men;
- 34 of us would be younger than 15 years old, 29 between 15 and 30 years old, 24 between 30 and 50 years old and 13 older than 50 years,
- 21 of us would live in KwaZulu-Natal, 18 in Gauteng, 16 in the Eastern Cape

A big job

Stats SA employed more than 100 000 on the night of the count (9-10 October 1996). The country was divided into 86 000 small pockets of land, called enumerator areas.

An enumerator was assigned to each area. Questionnaires were made available in all 11 official languages. Separate questionnaires were compiled for the homeless and for those living in hostels or in institutions, such as prisons and homes for the aged and disabled. The information collected was processed in nine provincial centres, employing 5 000 people to work in shifts for nine months.

by *Etienne Vlok*

- and only two in the Northern Cape,
- 54 of us would live in urban areas and 46 in non-urban areas;
- seven of us would have disabilities of which three would have visual disabilities, one a physical disability and one a hearing disability
- of the 56 of us older than 20 years old, 11 would have no schooling, 13 would have some primary education, 19 would have some secondary education, 10 would have matric and only three would have higher education;
- 23 of us would speak isiZulu as our home language, 18 isiXhosa, 14 Afrikaans, nine Sepedi, nine English, eight Setswana, eight Sesotho, four Xitsonga, three Siswati, two Tshivenda and two Isindebele..

How many of us work?

- Of the 59 of us between 15 and 65 years old, 25 would not be economically active, 12 would be unemployed and 22 would have jobs
- Of the 22 of us working, six would earn less than R500 per month, seven would earn between R500 and R1 500 per month, seven would earn between R1 500 and R4 500 per month and only two would earn more than R4 500 per month

- Of the 22 of us working, seven would work in the social and public sector, three in manufacturing, three in wholesale and retail, two in agriculture, two in finance and insurance, one in mining and one in construction

If there were a 100 households in South Africa...

- 58 of us would live in houses or flats, 16 would live in shacks, and 18 in traditional houses,
- 33 of us would live in houses with two rooms or less, 56 would live in houses with between three and six rooms and only 11 in houses with seven or more rooms;
- 47 of us would use electricity for cooking, 23 wood and 22 paraffin;
- 16 of us would use electricity for

- heating, 28 wood and 15 paraffin;
- 58 of us would use electricity for lighting, 29 candles and 13 paraffin;
- 45 of us would have a tap inside our houses, 20 would use a public tap, 17 would have a tap in our yards and 13 would use a river or dam for water;
- 29 of us would have telephones in our houses or a cellular, 36 would use public telephones that are nearby and 19 would not have any access to a telephone.
- 51 of us would have a flush or chemical toilet, 32 would have a pit latrine and 12 would have no toilet facilities. ★

Reference

*Statistics South Africa, 1998 Census in Brief
Pretoria Stats SA (Available from Statistics South Africa)*

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