

# Overview of the number of workers organised in public service unions or staff associations

There are around 1,8 million employees in the South African public sector. The following tables refer to members of the public services and teaching services of the

central government and the homeland administrations. Local government unions and unions organising in parastatals and other government institutions are excluded.

Union/staff association	Membership (approximate)
Public Servants Association (PSA) (all categories)	103 000
Public Servants Union (PSU) (in Natal only)	2 500
Natal Public Servants Association (NPSA)	26 000
Public Servants League (PSL)	40 000
Natal Provincial Administration Personnel Association (NPAPA) (mainly in Pietermaritzburg)	3 500
National Education Health and Allied Workers Union (NEHAWU) (organised in central public service and in all homeland services)	100 000
South African Nursing Association (SANA)	66 000
South African Democratic Teachers Union (SADTU) (organised in central and allhomeland teaching services)	100 000
Hospital Personnel Association (HOSPERSA)	40 00
Institute for Public Servants (IPS)	20 000

These are very rough figures of the numbers of organised public service employees. The figures are, however, misleading, as some employees are members of two and even three unions/staff associations. There are a number of other professional associations whose membership is not listed above. On the

basis of this very cursory analysis, it would be fair to say that about 400 000 – 450 000 out of 1 million public service employees (central and homeland administrations) are organised, while around 600 000 are unorganised.