

South Africa



Introduction South Africa

Background: After the British seized the Cape of Good Hope area in 1806, many of the Dutch settlers (the Boers) trekked north to found their own republics. The discovery of diamonds (1867) and gold (1886) spurred wealth and immigration and intensified the subjugation of the native inhabitants. The Boers resisted British encroachments, but were defeated in the Boer War (1899-1902). The resulting Union of South Africa operated under a policy of apartheid - the separate development of the races. The 1990s brought an end to apartheid politically and ushered in black majority rule.

Geography South Africa

Location: Southern Africa, at the southern tip of the continent of Africa

Geographic coordinates: 29 00 S, 24 00 E

Map references: Africa

Area: *total:* 1,219,912 sq km
land: 1,219,912 sq km
water: 0 sq km

note: includes Prince Edward Islands (Marion Island and Prince Edward Island)

Area - comparative: slightly less than twice the size of Texas

Land boundaries: *total:* 4,862 km
border countries: Botswana 1,840 km, Lesotho 909 km, Mozambique 491 km, Namibia 967 km, Swaziland 430 km, Zimbabwe 225 km

Coastline: 2,798 km

Maritime claims: *territorial sea:* 12 nm
contiguous zone: 24 nm
exclusive economic zone: 200 nm
continental shelf: 200 nm or to edge of the continental margin

Climate: mostly semiarid; subtropical along east coast; sunny days, cool nights

Terrain: vast interior plateau rimmed by rugged hills and narrow coastal plain

Elevation extremes: *lowest point:* Atlantic Ocean 0 m
highest point: Njesuthi 3,408 m

Natural resources: gold, chromium, antimony, coal, iron ore, manganese, nickel, phosphates, tin, uranium, gem diamonds, platinum, copper, vanadium, salt, natural gas

Land use: *arable land:* 12.1%
permanent crops: 0.79%
other: 87.11% (2005)

Irrigated land: 14,980 sq km (2003)

Natural hazards: prolonged droughts

Environment - current issues: lack of important arterial rivers or lakes requires extensive water conservation and control measures; growth in water usage outpacing supply; pollution of rivers from agricultural runoff and urban discharge; air pollution resulting in acid rain; soil erosion; desertification

Environment - international agreements: *party to:* Antarctic-Environmental Protocol, Antarctic-Marine Living Resources, Antarctic Seals, Antarctic Treaty, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping, Marine Life Conservation, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution,

Wetlands, Whaling
signed, but not ratified: none of the selected agreements

Geography - note: South Africa completely surrounds Lesotho and almost completely surrounds Swaziland

People	South Africa
Population:	44,187,637 <i>note:</i> estimates for this country explicitly take into account the effects of excess mortality due to AIDS; this can result in lower life expectancy, higher infant mortality and death rates, lower population and growth rates, and changes in the distribution of population by age and sex than would otherwise be expected (July 2006 est.)
Age structure:	<i>0-14 years:</i> 29.7% (male 6,603,220/female 6,525,810) <i>15-64 years:</i> 65% (male 13,955,950/female 14,766,843) <i>65 years and over:</i> 5.3% (male 905,870/female 1,429,944) (2006 est.)
Median age:	<i>total:</i> 24.1 years <i>male:</i> 23.3 years <i>female:</i> 25 years (2006 est.)
Population growth rate:	-0.4% (2006 est.)
Birth rate:	18.2 births/1,000 population (2006 est.)
Death rate:	22 deaths/1,000 population (2006 est.)
Net migration rate:	-0.16 migrant(s)/1,000 population <i>note:</i> there is an increasing flow of Zimbabweans into South Africa and Botswana in search of better economic opportunities (2006 est.)
Sex ratio:	<i>at birth:</i> 1.02 male(s)/female <i>under 15 years:</i> 1.01 male(s)/female <i>15-64 years:</i> 0.95 male(s)/female <i>65 years and over:</i> 0.63 male(s)/female <i>total population:</i> 0.95 male(s)/female (2006 est.)
Infant mortality rate:	<i>total:</i> 60.66 deaths/1,000 live births <i>male:</i> 64.31 deaths/1,000 live births <i>female:</i> 56.92 deaths/1,000 live births (2006 est.)
Life expectancy at birth:	<i>total population:</i> 42.73 years <i>male:</i> 43.25 years <i>female:</i> 42.19 years (2006 est.)
Total fertility rate:	2.2 children born/woman (2006 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate: 21.5% (2003 est.)

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS: 5.3 million (2003 est.)

HIV/AIDS - deaths: 370,000 (2003 est.)

Nationality: *noun:* South African(s)
adjective: South African

Ethnic groups: black African 79%, white 9.6%, colored 8.9%, Indian/Asian 2.5% (2001 census)

Religions: Zion Christian 11.1%, Pentecostal/Charismatic 8.2%, Catholic 7.1%, Methodist 6.8%, Dutch Reformed 6.7%, Anglican 3.8%, other Christian 36%, Islam 1.5%, other 2.3%, unspecified 1.4%, none 15.1% (2001 census)

Languages: IsiZulu 23.8%, IsiXhosa 17.6%, Afrikaans 13.3%, Sepedi 9.4%, English 8.2%, Setswana 8.2%, Sesotho 7.9%, Xitsonga 4.4%, other 7.2% (2001 census)

Literacy: *definition:* age 15 and over can read and write
total population: 86.4%
male: 87%
female: 85.7% (2003 est.)

Government	South Africa
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Country name: *conventional long form:* Republic of South Africa
conventional short form: South Africa
former: Union of South Africa
abbreviation: RSA

Government type: republic

Capital: *name:* Pretoria (administrative capital)
geographic coordinates: 29 12 S, 28 10 E
time difference: UTC+2 (7 hours ahead of Washington, DC during Standard Time)
note: Cape Town (legislative capital); Johannesburg(judicial capital)

Administrative divisions: 9 provinces; Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North-West, Northern Cape, Western Cape

- Independence:** 31 May 1910 (from UK); note - South Africa became a republic in 1961 following an October 1960 referendum
- National holiday:** Freedom Day, 27 April (1994)
- Constitution:** 10 December 1996; this new constitution was certified by the Constitutional Court on 4 December 1996, was signed by then President MANDELA on 10 December 1996, and entered into effect on 3 February 1997; it is being implemented in phases
- Legal system:** based on Roman-Dutch law and English common law
- Suffrage:** 18 years of age; universal
- Executive branch:** *chief of state:* President Thabo MBEKI (since 16 June 1999); Executive Deputy President Phumzile MLAMBO-NGCUKA (since 23 June 2005); note - the president is both the chief of state and head of government
head of government: President Thabo MBEKI (since 16 June 1999); Executive Deputy President Phumzile MLAMBO-NGCUKA (since 23 June 2005); note - the president is both the chief of state and head of government
cabinet: Cabinet appointed by the president
elections: president elected by the National Assembly for a five-year term (eligible for a second term); election last held 24 April 2004 (next to be held April 2009)
election results: Thabo MBEKI elected president; percent of National Assembly vote - 100% (by acclamation)
- Legislative branch:** bicameral Parliament consisting of the National Assembly (400 seats; members are elected by popular vote under a system of proportional representation to serve five-year terms) and the National Council of Provinces (90 seats, 10 members elected by each of the nine provincial legislatures for five-year terms; has special powers to protect regional interests, including the safeguarding of cultural and linguistic traditions among ethnic minorities); note - following the implementation of the new constitution on 3 February 1997, the former Senate was disbanded and replaced by the National Council of Provinces with essentially no change in membership and party affiliations, although the new institution's responsibilities have been changed somewhat by the new constitution
elections: National Assembly and National Council of Provinces - last held 14 April 2004 (next to be held NA 2009)
election results: National Assembly - percent of vote by party - ANC 69.7%, DA 12.4%, IFP 7%, UDM 2.3%, NNP 1.7%, ACDP 1.6%, other 5.3%; seats by party -

ANC 279, DA 50, IFP 28, UDM 9, NNP 7, ACDP 6, other 21; National Council of Provinces - percent of vote by party - NA%; seats by party - NA

Judicial branch: Constitutional Court; Supreme Court of Appeals; High Courts; Magistrate Courts

Political parties and leaders: African Christian Democratic Party or ACDP [Kenneth MESHOE, president]; African National Congress or ANC [Thabo MBEKI, president]; Democratic Alliance or DA [Anthony LEON, president]; Freedom Front Plus or FF+ [Pieter MULDER, president]; Inkatha Freedom Party or IFP [Mangosuthu BUTHELEZI, president]; Pan-Africanist Congress or PAC [Motsoko PHEKO, president]; United Democratic Movement or UDM [Bantu HOLOMISA]

Political pressure groups and leaders: Congress of South African Trade Unions or COSATU [Zwelinzima VAVI, general secretary]; South African Communist Party or SACP [Blade NZIMANDE, general secretary]; South African National Civics Organization or SANCO [Mlungisi HLONGWANE, national president]; note - COSATU and SACP are in a formal alliance with the ANC

International organization participation: ACP, AfDB, AU, BIS, C, FAO, G-24, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC, ICCT, ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRC, IHO, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITU, ITUC, MIGA, MONUC, NAM, NSG, ONUB, OPCW, PCA, SACU, SADC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNITAR, UNMEE, UNWTO, UPU, WCL, WCO, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO, ZC

Diplomatic representation in the US: *chief of mission:* Ambassador Barbara Joyce Mosima MASEKELA
chancery: 3051 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008
telephone: [1] (202) 232-4400
FAX: [1] (202) 265-1607
consulate(s) general: Chicago, Los Angeles, New York

Diplomatic representation from the US: *chief of mission:* Ambassador Eric BOST
embassy: 877 Pretorius Street, Pretoria
mailing address: P. O. Box 9536, Pretoria 0001
telephone: [27] (12) 342-1048
FAX: [27] (12) 342-2244
consulate(s) general: Cape Town, Durban, Johannesburg

Flag description: two equal width horizontal bands of red (top) and blue separated by a central green band which splits into a horizontal Y, the arms of which end at the corners of the hoist side; the Y embraces a black isosceles triangle from

which the arms are separated by narrow yellow bands; the red and blue bands are separated from the green band and its arms by narrow white stripes

Economy	South Africa
Economy - overview:	South Africa is a middle-income, emerging market with an abundant supply of natural resources; well-developed financial, legal, communications, energy, and transport sectors; a stock exchange that ranks among the 10 largest in the world; and a modern infrastructure supporting an efficient distribution of goods to major urban centers throughout the region. However, growth has not been strong enough to lower South Africa's high unemployment rate, and daunting economic problems remain from the apartheid era - especially poverty and lack of economic empowerment among the disadvantaged groups. South African economic policy is fiscally conservative, but pragmatic, focusing on targeting inflation and liberalizing trade as means to increase job growth and household income.
GDP (purchasing power parity):	\$576.4 billion (2006 est.)
GDP (official exchange rate):	\$200.5 billion (2006 est.)
GDP - real growth rate:	4.5% (2006 est.)
GDP - per capita (PPP):	\$13,000 (2006 est.)
GDP - composition by sector:	<i>agriculture: 2.6%</i> <i>industry: 30.3%</i> <i>services: 67.1% (2006 est.)</i>
Labor force:	16.09 million economically active (2006 est.)
Labor force - by occupation:	<i>agriculture: 30%</i> <i>industry: 25%</i> <i>services: 45% (1999 est.)</i>
Unemployment rate:	25.5% (2006 est.)
Population below poverty line:	50% (2000 est.)
Household	<i>lowest 10%: 1.1%</i>

income or consumption by percentage share:	<i>highest 10%: 45.9% (1994)</i>
Distribution of family income - Gini index:	59.3 (1995)
Inflation rate (consumer prices):	5% (2006 est.)
Investment (gross fixed):	17.1% of GDP (2006 est.)
Budget:	<i>revenues: \$72.15 billion expenditures: \$75.93 billion; including capital expenditures of \$NA (2006 est.)</i>
Public debt:	32.9% of GDP (2006 est.)
Agriculture - products:	corn, wheat, sugarcane, fruits, vegetables; beef, poultry, mutton, wool, dairy products
Industries:	mining (world's largest producer of platinum, gold, chromium), automobile assembly, metalworking, machinery, textiles, iron and steel, chemicals, fertilizer, foodstuffs, commercial ship repair
Industrial production growth rate:	7.1% (2006 est.)
Electricity - production:	227.2 billion kWh (2004)
Electricity - production by source:	<i>fossil fuel: 93.5% hydro: 1.1% nuclear: 5.5% other: 0% (2001)</i>
Electricity - consumption:	207 billion kWh (2004)
Electricity - exports:	12.4 billion kWh (2004)
Electricity - imports:	8.026 billion kWh (2004)
Oil - production:	229,900 bbl/day (2004 est.)
Oil - consumption:	502,000 bbl/day (2004 est.)

Oil - exports: NA bbl/day (2001)

Oil - imports: 398,000 bbl/day (2006)

Oil - proved reserves: 7.84 million bbl (1 January 2002)

Natural gas - production: 2.23 billion cu m (2004 est.)

Natural gas - consumption: 2.23 billion cu m (2004 est.)

Natural gas - exports: 0 cu m (2004 est.)

Natural gas - imports: 0 cu m (2004 est.)

Natural gas - proved reserves: 28.32 million cu m (1 January 2005 est.)

Current account balance: \$-12.69 billion (2006 est.)

Exports: \$59.15 billion f.o.b. (2006 est.)

Exports - commodities: gold, diamonds, platinum, other metals and minerals, machinery and equipment

Exports - partners: Japan 9.9%, UK 9.7%, US 9.5%, Germany 6.5%, Netherlands 4.6% (2005)

Imports: \$61.53 billion f.o.b. (2006 est.)

Imports - commodities: machinery and equipment, chemicals, petroleum products, scientific instruments, foodstuffs

Imports - partners: Germany 14.2%, China 9.1%, US 7.9%, Japan 6.8%, Canada 6.3%, UK 5.6%, France 4.5%, Iran 4.2% (2005)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold: \$23.74 billion (2006 est.)

Debt - external: \$55.47 billion (30 June 2006 est.)

Economic aid - recipient: \$487.5 million (2000)

Currency (code): rand (ZAR)

Currency ZAR
code:

Exchange rand per US dollar - 6.85 (2006), 6.3593 (2005), 6.4597
rates: (2004), 7.5648 (2003), 10.5407 (2002)

Fiscal year: 1 April - 31 March

Communications South Africa

Telephones 4.729 million (2005)
- main lines
in use:

Telephones 33.96 million (2005)
- mobile
cellular:

Telephone *general assessment:* the system is the best developed and
system: most modern in Africa
domestic: consists of carrier-equipped open-wire lines,
coaxial cables, microwave radio relay links, fiber-optic cable,
radiotelephone communication stations, and wireless local
loops; key centers are Bloemfontein, Cape Town, Durban,
Johannesburg, Port Elizabeth, and Pretoria
international: country code - 27; 2 submarine cables; satellite
earth stations - 3 Intelsat (1 Indian Ocean and 2 Atlantic
Ocean)

Radio AM 14, FM 347 (plus 243 repeaters), shortwave 1 (1998)
broadcast
stations:

Radios: 17 million (2001)

Television 556 (plus 144 network repeaters) (1997)
broadcast
stations:

Televisions: 6 million (2000)

Internet .za
country
code:

Internet 645,179 (2006)
hosts:

Internet 150 (2001)
Service
Providers
(ISPs):

Internet 5.1 million (2005)
users:

Transportation South Africa

Airports: 731 (2006)

Airports - total: 146
with paved runways: over 3,047 m: 10
 2,438 to 3,047 m: 5
 1,524 to 2,437 m: 51
 914 to 1,523 m: 67
 under 914 m: 13 (2006)

Airports - total: 585
with unpaved runways: 1,524 to 2,437 m: 34
 914 to 1,523 m: 302
 under 914 m: 249 (2006)

Pipelines: condensate 100 km; gas 1,062 km; oil 966 km; refined products 1,354 km (2006)

Railways: *total:* 20,872 km
narrow gauge: 20,436 km 1.065-m gauge (8,868 km electrified); 436 km 0.610-m gauge (2005)

Roadways: *total:* 362,099 km
paved: 73,506 km (including 239 km of expressways)
unpaved: 288,593 km (2002)

Merchant marine: *total:* 3 ships (1000 GRT or over) 32,815 GRT/39,295 DWT
by type: container 1, petroleum tanker 2
foreign-owned: 1 (Denmark 1)
registered in other countries: 8 (Panama 3, UK 5) (2006)

Ports and terminals: Cape Town, Durban, East London, Port Elizabeth, Richards Bay, Saldanha Bay

Military South Africa

Military branches: South African National Defense Force (SANDF): South African Army, South African Navy (SAN), South African Air Force (SAAF), Joint Operations Command, Joint Support Command, Military Intelligence, Military Health Service (2005)

Military service age and obligation: 18 years of age for voluntary military service; women have a long history of military service in noncombat roles, dating back to World War I (2004)

Manpower available for military service: *males age 18-49:* 10,354,769
females age 18-49: 10,626,550 (2005 est.)

Manpower fit for military service: *males age 18-49: 4,927,757*
females age 18-49: 4,609,071 (2005 est.)

Manpower reaching military service age annually: *males age 18-49: 512,407*
females age 18-49: 506,078 (2005 est.)

Military expenditures - dollar figure: \$3.55 billion (2005 est.)

Military expenditures - percent of GDP: 1.5% (2005 est.)

Military - note: with the end of apartheid and the establishment of majority rule, former military, black homelands forces, and ex-opposition forces were integrated into the South African National Defense Force (SANDF); as of 2003 the integration process was considered complete

Transnational Issues

South Africa

Disputes - international: South Africa has placed military along the border to stem the thousands of Zimbabweans fleeing to find work and escape political persecution; managed dispute with Namibia over the location of the boundary in the Orange River

Refugees and internally displaced persons: *refugees (country of origin): 10,609 (Democratic Republic of Congo), 7,548 (Somalia), 5,764 (Angola) (2006)*

Trafficking in persons: *current situation:* South Africa is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children trafficked for forced labor and sexual exploitation; women and girls are trafficked internally - and occasionally to European and Asian countries - for sexual exploitation; women from other African countries are trafficked to South Africa and, less frequently, onward to Europe for sexual exploitation; men and boys are trafficked from neighboring countries for forced agricultural labor; Asian and Eastern European women are trafficked to South Africa for debt-bonded sexual exploitation
tier rating: Tier 2 Watch List - South Africa is placed on the Tier 2 Watch List for its failure to show increasing efforts to

address trafficking in 2005

Illicit drugs: transshipment center for heroin, hashish, marijuana, and cocaine; cocaine consumption on the rise; world's largest market for illicit methaqualone, usually imported illegally from India through various east African countries; illicit cultivation of marijuana; attractive venue for money launderers given the increasing level of organized criminal and narcotics activity in the region