

# SOUTH AFRICA

## Capital

Pretoria (administrative capital); Cape Town (legislative capital); Bloemfontein (judicial capital)

## Ethnic Groups

Black African 80.9%, Colored (persons of mixed race ancestry who developed a distinct cultural identity over several hundred years) 8.8%, White 7.8%, Indian/Asian 2.6%

## Languages

isiZulu (official) 25.3%, isiXhosa (official) 14.8%, Afrikaans (official) 12.2%, Sepedi (official) 10.1%, Setswana (official) 9.1%, English (official) 8.1%, Sesotho (official) 7.9%, Xitsonga (official) 3.6%, siSwati (official) 2.8%, Tshivenda (official) 2.5%, isiNdebele (official) 1.6%, other 2%

## Religions

Christian 86%, ancestral, tribal, animist, or other traditional African religions 5.4%, Muslim 1.9%, other 1.5%, nothing in particular 5.2%

## Population

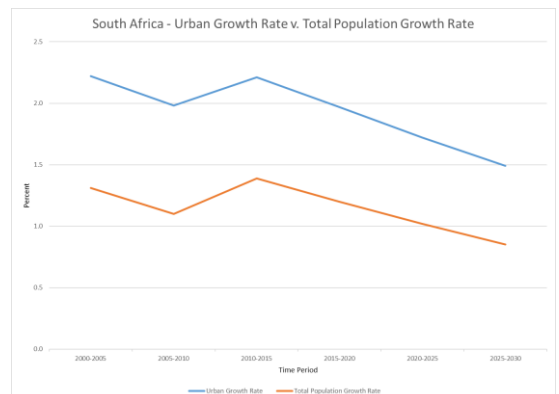
Total: 58 million  
Median age: 28 years  
Population growth rate: 0.91%  
Urban: 68.8%  
Rural 31.2%

## Fertility

Birth rate: 18.24 births/1,000 population  
Total fertility rate: 2.17 children born/woman  
Sex ratio of population: 0.98 male(s)/female

## Mortality

Death rate: 9.25 deaths/1,000 population  
Life expectancy at birth: 65.6 years  
Maternal mortality rate: 119 deaths/100,000 live births  
Infant mortality rate: 24.99 deaths/1,000 live births



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## Migration

Net migration rate: 0.11 migrants/1,000 population

## Health

Current health expenditure: 8.6% of GDP

Physician density: 0.79 physicians/1,000 population

Adult obesity: 28.3%

Alcohol consumption per capita: 7.21 liters of pure alcohol

## Education

Education expenditures: 6.6% of GDP

Literacy: 95%

## Population Distribution

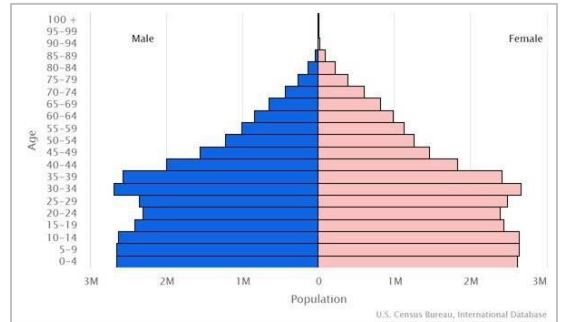
the population concentrated along the southern and southeastern coast, and inland around Pretoria; the eastern half of the country is more densely populated than the west

## Demographic Profile

South Africa's youthful population is gradually aging, as the country's total fertility rate (TFR) has declined dramatically from about 6 children per woman in the 1960s to roughly 2.2 in 2014 and has remained at this level as of 2022. This pattern is similar to fertility trends in South Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa, and sets South Africa apart from the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa, where the average TFR remains higher than other regions of the world. Today, South Africa's decreasing number of reproductive age women is having fewer children, as women increase their educational attainment, workforce participation, and use of family planning methods; delay marriage; and opt for smaller families.

As the proportion of working-age South Africans has grown relative to children and the elderly, South Africa has been unable to achieve a demographic dividend because persistent high unemployment and the prevalence of HIV/AIDS have created a larger-than-normal dependent population. HIV/AIDS was also responsible for South Africa's average life expectancy plunging to less than 43 years in 2008; it rebounded to 63 years as of 2017. HIV/AIDS continues to be a serious public health threat, although awareness-raising campaigns and the wider availability of anti-retroviral drugs is stabilizing the number of new cases, enabling infected individuals to live longer, healthier lives, and reducing mother-child transmissions.

Age Structure



Population Distribution

