South Africa Fact Sheet

N.B.
- All figures have been converted into dollars at the following rates for one Rand: 1980—$1.30; 1979—$1.20; 1978—$1.15.
- Sources, referred to in abbreviated form in the text, are listed on the last page.
- The racial categories used are those of the South African government.
- South African government statistics on the African majority are increasingly fragmented and incomplete because of the apartheid policy of Bantustan 'independence' (see below). Where possible the figures used here are for South Africa as a whole.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Racial Breakdown</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African 20,084,319 72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White 4,453,273 16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coloured 2,554,039 9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian 794,639 3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 27,886,270 100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SURVEY, 1979 & 1980: includes preliminary 1980 census figures and 1979 estimates of the population of the Transkei, Bophuthatswana, and Venda (see Bantustans below).

Land
Area: 472,359 sq. miles (larger than Germany, France, Italy and Portugal combined) —YEARBOOK, 1979.
Land Reservation: Under the Land Acts of 1912 and 1936 87% of the country's territory has been reserved for Whites, 13% for Africans. Africans may not own land in White areas and may not remain in White areas without a permit. Indians and Coloureds must live in segregated areas in the territory reserved for Whites.

The Bantustans: The fragmented areas designated for Africans are called Bantustans, homelands, or national states. As of 1978 10,998,700 Africans lived in White areas and 8,972,000 Africans lived in the Bantustans. Of ten designated Bantustans, the White government has promoted 'independence' for the Transkei, Bophuthatswana, and Venda but they have not been recognized by any other country.

Forced Removals: Between 1948 and 1976 the White government removed 2,108,000 Black South Africans from White areas to areas designated for Blacks.—BLACK SASH, 1977.

Government
The South Africa Act of 1909 and the Republic of South Africa Act of 1961 restrict voting for and membership in the governing parliament to Whites. The National Party government proposes giving Blacks political rights only in the Bantustans and in areas of local government.
Economy

Gross National Product, 1979: $55.30 billion (R 46.08 billion). — SA RESERVE BANK.


Major Trading Partners, 1979: Imports from—West Germany ($1.57 billion); Britain ($1.50 billion); USA ($1.49 billion); Japan ($961 million); France ($565 million). Exports to—Switzerland ($1.85 billion); USA ($1.69 billion); Britain ($1.16 billion); Japan ($1.14 billion); West Germany ($1.09 billion); France ($421 million). (Note: Switzerland is a principal marketing point for diamonds and gold coins. Figures do not include exports of gold bullion, uranium, and platinum or imports of oil and weapons.) — FM, July 4, 1980.


Income and Employment

Workforce, estimate for 1981:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African</td>
<td>7,537,000</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>1,970,000</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coloured</td>
<td>1,023,000</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>254,000</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>10,784,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Migrant Labor: In 1979 3,687,061 Africans, approximately half the total African workforce, registered as work seekers under the terms of the legislation regulating migratory contract labor. There are no complete statistics on the total number of African migrant workers. — SURVEY, 1980.

Estimated Employment of African Labor by Occupation, 1981: Agricultural workers (3,024,000); Production workers (1,278,000); Laborers (1,229,550); Domestic workers (1,000,000); Service workers (351,300); Transport workers (256,449); Clerical and Sales workers (179,163); Professionals (158,085); Artisans/Apprentices (35,130); Foremen/Supervisors (21,078); Administrators/Managers (3,513). — Riekert Commission report, cited in SURVEY, 1979.

Distribution of Income, 1977:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coloured</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

— SURVEY, 1978

African Income in the Bantustans: In 1976 only 13% of the total income earned by Africans was generated within the Bantustans. — MERCABANK (SA), July, 1980.
Employment and Average Monthly Wages:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Manufacturing, 1980</th>
<th>Mining, 1979</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African</td>
<td>772,100</td>
<td>$308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>314,300</td>
<td>$1273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coloured</td>
<td>241,900</td>
<td>$355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>89,000</td>
<td>$399</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SURVEY, 1980


Domestic Workers: In Johannesburg the average weekly wage for domestic workers is $21 for a work week that is often 70 hours. In smaller cities and towns the average wage is $13 per week and in rural areas it is $9 per week or less.—NYT, Mar. 30, 1981.

African Income vs. Poverty Level: In 1980 the estimated percentages of African households in major urban areas with incomes below the Household Subsistence Level (HSL) were: Johannesburg (62%); Pretoria (58%); Durban (65%); Port Elizabeth (70%). The HSL estimates the minimum income essential for the subsistence of an African family of six.—SURVEY, 1980.

Rural Areas: It has been estimated that 75% of African families live below the Poverty Datum Line, another estimate of minimum household income necessary for subsistence.—STAR, Oct. 11, 1980.

African Unemployment: The government’s Minister of Manpower estimated in 1980 that there were more than 1 million unemployed Africans; other estimates put African unemployment as high as 25%, or almost 2 million people.—RDM, Nov. 7, 1980.

Education

Attendance: Primary and high school education has been compulsory and free for Whites, but neither compulsory nor free for Africans. In 1981 the government began the introduction of compulsory education for 45,000 African pupils, about 1.5% of all African students. All public education remains racially segregated with racially differentiated curricula.—NYT, Jan. 14, 1981; SURVEY, 1979.


Education Levels for Africans: About half of all African children attend school. In 1980 it was reported that of African children who had started school 34% had reached high school and 9% had taken examinations to complete high school.—NYT, Nov. 12, 1980; FM, May 22, 1981.


Health

Infant Mortality per 1,000: Whites—12; Urban Africans—69; Rural Africans—282.—RDM, Aug. 14, 1980.

Malnutrition: Malnutrition is "endemic to the Black rural districts" of South Africa, although the government promoted the export of $2 billion worth of food in 1980.—NYT: Nov. 23, 1980.


US-South Africa Economic Ties

US Companies Doing Business in South Africa, 1980: More than 300 US companies have significant operations in South Africa.—US CONSULATE.

US Investment in South Africa, 1980:
- Total: $2.01 billion ($1.67 billion in 1976).—US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.
- As Percentage of Total Foreign Investment in South Africa: approximately 20% (US investment is second only to that of Britain).—SA RESERVE BANK, 1980.
- Average Rate of Profit: 14.9% after local taxes.—FM, June 27, 1980.

Major US Corporate Operations in South Africa: Mobil Oil ($450 million investment—3.065 workers); Caltex ($334 million investment—2.066 workers); Ford Motor Co. ($213 million investment—5.626 workers); General Motors ($129 million investment—3.460 workers); IBM ($360 million annual sales—1.500 workers); Goodyear ($20 million investment—2.534 workers); Fluor ($42 billion oil-from-coal project contractor—14.000 workers); Union Carbide ($51 million investment—2.249); Kennecott ($130 million investment—1.853 workers); Phelps Dodge ($130 million investment); Newmont Mining ($127 million investment—1.500 workers).—Figures from company reports. US CONSULATE, and press reports.
US Bank Loans to South Africa: As of June, 1980 loans outstanding from US banks totalled $1.37 billion; in June, 1978 loans had totalled $2.25 billion.—US FEDERAL RESERVE BANK.

More than 125 US banks have made loans to government and private borrowers in recent years. Among significant lenders have been: Citibank (NY), Manufacturers Hanover (NY), Chase Manhattan (NY), Chemical Bank (NY), Morgan Guaranty (NY), Irving Trust (NY), BankAmerica (CA), Crocker National Bank (CA), Wells Fargo (CA), Arizona Bank (AZ), Continental Illinois Bank (IL), First Chicago Bank (IL), Northwestern Bank (MN), Riggs Bank (DC), First National Bank (MA).—CDE HANDBOOK, 1978.

Repression and Control

The Terrorism Act allows indefinite incommunicado detention without charge or trial. The Internal Security Act allows the preventive detention of persons alleged to be engaged in activities which could endanger the security of the state and authorizes "banning" without charge or trial. A banned person is restricted to a given area, may not be present at a gathering of two or more people, speak publicly, have writings published, or be publicly quoted. The Unlawful Organizations Act allows the outlawing of any organization alleged to be threatening public safety or order. The Population Registration Act requires registration and classification of all South Africans by race. The Abolition of Passes Act applies only to Africans, and is the key to the administration of apartheid and labor control: all Africans over age 16 are required to be fingerprinted and carry a pass book at all times with a record of Bantustan identification, employment, permits to enter White areas, taxes, and family status.

Torture: "All the evidence indicates that torture is extensively inflicted on political detainees and the Government sanctions its use."—AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, 1978.

Detention Without Trial: In 1980 at least 956 people were detained without trial by the Security Police, based on press reports; official figures were not yet available. The Second Police Amendment Act of 1980 prohibits the publication of the names of persons believed detained under the Terrorism Act without police permission; thus people may "disappear" under police detention with the press barred from reporting on their cases.—FOCUS, Mar.-April, 1981.

Hangings: In 1980 a total of 129 people were hanged in South Africa: 85 Africans, 43 Coloureds, 1 Indian, and 1 White.—FM, Mar. 6, 1981.

Prison Population: The average daily prison population during 1978 was 99,292. Of these prisoners 95,015 were Black and 4,257 were White.—SURVEY, 1979.

Bannings: 161 people were known to be restricted by banning orders without charge or trial as of June, 1981.—STAR, June 13, 1981.

SOURCES

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RDM
Survey
SA Reserve Bank
The Star
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US Commerce Dept.
US Federal Reserve Bank
Yearbook

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NEW YORK TIMES.
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QUARTERLY BULLETIN, South African Reserve Bank.
THE STAR, international aerial weekly of South African daily newspaper.
AMERICAN FIRMS, SUBSIDIARIES AND AFFILIATES—SOUTH AFRICA, American Consulate General, Johannesburg.
SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS, US Department of Commerce.
COUNTRY EXPOSURE LENDING SURVEY, US Federal Reserve Bank.
SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIAL YEARBOOK.

This fact sheet was prepared by Richard Leonard. Africa Fund research associate.