

## LETTING THE NUMBERS SPEAK

# Census 2011

The South African Statistics Council has released the much-anticipated Census 2011 results. Its report provides relevant and timely information on a wide range of matters, some of which is summarised below.

Population size	2001		2011	
	Number	%	Number	%
South Africa	44 819 778		51 770 560	
Western Cape	4 524 335	10	5 822 734	11.2
Eastern Cape	6 278 651	14	6 562 053	12.7
Northern Cape	991 919	2.2	1 145 861	2.2
Free State	2 706 775	6	2 745 590	5.3
KZN	9 584 129	21.4	10 267 300	19.8
NW	2 984 098	6.7	3 509 953	6.8
Gauteng	9 388 854	20.9	12 272 263	23.7
Mpumalanga	3 365 554	7.5	4 039 939	7.8
Limpopo	4 995 462	11.1	5 404 868	10.4
<b>Population group</b>				
Black Africans	35 416 166	79	41 000 938	79.6
Coloured	3 994 505	8.9	4 615 401	9
Indian/Asian	1 115 467	2.5	1 286 930	2.5
Whites	4 293 640	9.6	4 586 838	8.9
<b>Sex</b>				
Male	21 434 040	47.8	25 188 791	48.7
Female	23 385 737	52.2	26 581 769	51.3
<b>Age</b>				
0-14	14 365 288	32.1	15 100 089	29.2
15-64	28 239 279	63	33 904 480	65.5
65+	2 215 211	4.9	2 765 991	5.3

This article focuses on those census results that relate to the quality of, and access to, basic municipal services, as well as the accessibility of some non-municipal, yet basic services, such as housing.

### Accessibility of municipal services

The census report shows that, overall, access to basic municipal services has improved when compared with ten years ago. Significant progress has been made especially in terms of access to refuse removal services, the number of flush

toilets connected to municipal sewerage systems, access to piped water, and electricity, the provision of which are the constitutional responsibility of municipalities.

### Refuse removal

In 1996 only 52.1% of households had access to a weekly refuse removal service by municipalities. This has increased by 10% in 2011. Moreover, municipalities are providing refuse removal services to an additional 1.5% of all households, even though at frequencies of less than once a week. Households with no refuse removal services have now decreased by half.

### Flush toilets

There are now more households with flush toilets connected to municipal sewerage systems. In 2001, 50% had such a toilet and this has now risen by 7%. Furthermore, 8.8% of households now have access to ventilated pit toilets while those that use pit-toilets with no ventilation have decreased from 22.3% in 2001 to 19.3% in 2011. Households with no toilet have decreased from 13.3% to 5.2% in the past decade.

### Piped water

The distribution of piped water has also seen improvement. In 1996 only 60% of households had access to piped water. This has seen a 13.4% increase in the past 15 years. Fewer than 8.8% of households now lack access to piped water, less than half of those in this situation 15 years ago.

However, there are still marked provincial disparities in the distribution of water. In Gauteng, Free State, and Western Cape, 89.4%, 89.1% and 88.4% of households have access to piped water, respectively. However, more than 22.2% in the Eastern Cape, more than 14.1% in Limpopo and 14% in KwaZulu Natal still lack access to piped water.

### Electricity

Electricity as a source of energy for lighting, cooking and heating has also become more accessible. In 1996 only 58.2% of households lit their houses using electricity. This has now increased to 84.7% nationwide. Moreover, the census shows

that the percentage of households that use electricity as a source of energy for cooking, which was only 47.5% two decades ago, has risen to 73.9% in 2011. The proportion of households that use electricity for heating has likewise grown, from 46.3% in 1996 to 58.8% in 2011.

The accessibility of electricity is not evenly distributed in all provinces, though. The Western Cape leads in this respect, with 93.4% of households having access to electricity, followed by the Free State (89.9%), Gauteng (87.4%) and Limpopo (87.3%). On the other hand, the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal have the lowest usage of electricity for lighting at 75% (up from 42%) and 77% (up from 25.2%), respectively.

## Housing

Around 78% of the South African population live in formal housing, which includes houses of brick or concrete blocks, flats, townhouses, cluster houses in complexes and the like. Approximately 8% of the population live in traditional dwellings, such as huts and others that are made of traditional materials. Approximately 14% live in informal dwellings.

At 90% Limpopo has the highest proportion of its population living in formal houses, followed by Mpumalanga (83%). The Eastern Cape has the lowest proportion of formal houses and the highest proportion of traditional houses (23%), followed by KZN (19%). Gauteng (0.4%) and Western Cape (0.5%) have the lowest proportion of traditional houses. The highest proportion of informal houses (21%) is in the North-West, followed by Gauteng (19%) and the Western Cape (18%).

## Household goods

The census also covered the use of household goods such as televisions, telephones (both landlines and cell phones), radios, computers and refrigerators. The percentage of households with their own television, which was 54% in 2001, has now increased to 75%. While the use of cell phones has increased from 13% in 2001 to 89% in 2011, the use of landlines has decreased from 24% in 2001 to 15% in 2011. In 2001, 73% of households had a radio, which now has declined by 6%. However, there has been a 12% increase in the number of households with computers to 21%. Households with a refrigerator have increased from 51% to close to 70%.

## Internet access

Providing access to the internet is not a municipal function under the Constitution, nor is it considered

a basic service. However, it is a critical component of the development trajectory with which municipalities are concerned. Fewer than 35% of households nationwide have access to the internet, which is relatively low. Moreover, despite the fact that households with computer access have grown from 9% in 2001 to 21% in 2011, only 9% of the population has access to the internet at home. Most of those are found in the Western Cape (16%) and Gauteng (12%). Most people (16%) access the internet using cell phones, particularly in Mpumalanga, KZN and Free State, where 18%, 17%, and 16% of those who access the internet do so using cell phones. This is obviously related to the increase in accessibility of cell phones referred to above. Around 5% access the internet from their workplaces. The Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga, Limpopo and North-West, where more than 70% of those without any access to the internet live, have the lowest internet accessibility.

## Migration

The census shows significant migration between provinces. A large number of people migrated out of the Eastern Cape, the Northern Cape, the Free State, KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo. On the other hand, Gauteng and the Western Cape in particular received large numbers of people. More than a million people moved to Gauteng in the past decade; more than 44% of the population there was born elsewhere, while in the Western Cape the figure is 29%.

## Conclusion

The above overview shows that significant progress has been made in making municipal and non-municipal basic services more accessible. Yet the census report also shows that there is a disconcerting disparity between provinces when it comes to access to municipal services and their quality. For example, the numbers for the more 'urban' provinces, Gauteng and Western Cape, are consistently higher than for other provinces. At the same time, large numbers of people have moved to these provinces, putting pressure on municipalities there to maintain the extent and quality of services.

The migration out of provinces and municipalities also reduces the productive population there and may impact on the tax base from which municipalities may raise revenue.

Lastly, parts of the census results that deal with each individual municipality have been released and it is believed that these will assist in ensuring that municipalities' development plans are based on up-to-date information.



Zemelak Ayele  
Post-Doctoral Fellow