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# Chapter 1

## 219

### 1.1 219.guide

Texified version of data for South Africa.

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South Africa

### 1.2 219.guide/South Africa

South Africa

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Geography (South Africa)  
 People (South Africa)  
 Government (South Africa)  
 Government (South Africa 2. usage)  
 Economy (South Africa)  
 Economy (South Africa 2. usage)  
 Communications (South Africa)  
 Defense Forces (South Africa)

### 1.3 219.guide/Geography (South Africa)

Geography (South Africa)

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Location:

Southern Africa, at the extreme southern tip of the continent

Map references: Africa, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

1,221,040 km<sup>2</sup>

land area:

1,221,040 km<sup>2</sup>

comparative area:

slightly less than twice the size of Texas

note:

includes Walvis Bay, Marion Island, and Prince Edward Island

Land boundaries:

total 4,973 km, Botswana 1,840 km, Lesotho 909 km, Mozambique 491 km,  
 Namibia 1,078 km, Swaziland 430 km, Zimbabwe 225 km

Coastline:

2,881 km

Maritime claims:

continental shelf:

200 m depth or to depth of exploitation

exclusive fishing zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

claim by Namibia to Walvis Bay exclave and 12 offshore islands administered by South Africa; South Africa and Namibia have agreed to jointly administer the area for an interim period; the terms and dates to be covered by joint administration arrangements have not been established at this time; and Namibia will continue to maintain a claim to sovereignty over the entire area

Climate:

mostly semiarid; subtropical along coast; sunny days, cool nights

Terrain:

vast interior plateau rimmed by rugged hills and narrow coastal plain

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:
  - 10%
- permanent crops:
  - 1%
- meadows and pastures:
  - 65%
- forest and woodland:
  - 3%
- other:
  - 21%

Irrigated land:
 

- 11,280 km<sup>2</sup> (1989 est.)

Environment:
 

- lack of important arterial rivers or lakes requires extensive water conservation and control measures

Note:
 

- Walvis Bay is an exclave of South Africa in Namibia; South Africa ← completely surrounds Lesotho and almost completely surrounds Swaziland

## 1.4 219.guide/People (South Africa)

People (South Africa)

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Population:
 

- 42,792,804 (July 1993 est.)

Population growth rate:
 

- 2.63% (1993 est.)

Birth rate:
 

- 33.77 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Death rate:
 

- 7.65 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Net migration rate:
 

- 0.15 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Infant mortality rate:
 

- 48.3 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:
 

- total population:
  - 64.81 years
- male:
  - 62.07 years
- female:
  - 67.63 years (1993 est.)

Total fertility rate:
 

- 4.4 children born/woman (1993 est.)

Nationality:
 

- noun:
  - South African(s)
- adjective:
  - South African

---

## Ethnic divisions:

black 75.2%, white 13.6%, Colored 8.6%, Indian 2.6%

## Religions:

Christian (most whites and Coloreds and about 60% of blacks), Hindu (60% of Indians), Muslim 20%

## Languages:

Afrikaans (official), English (official), Zulu, Xhosa, North Sotho, South Sotho, Tswana, and many other vernacular languages

## Literacy:

age 15 and over can read and write (1980)

total population:

76%

male:

78%

female:

75%

## Labor force:

13.4 million economically active (1990)

by occupation:

services 55%, agriculture 10%, industry 20%, mining 9%, other 6%

## 1.5 219.guide/Government (South Africa)

### Government (South Africa)

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Names: conventional long form:

Republic of South Africa

conventional short form:

South Africa

Abbreviation:

RSA

Digraph:

SF

Type:

republic

Capital:

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

Administrative divisions:

4 provinces; Cape, Natal, Orange Free State, Transvaal; there are 10 homelands not recognized by the US - 4 independent (Bophuthatswana, Ciskei, Transkei, Venda) and 6 other (Gazankulu, Kangwane, KwaNdebele, KwaZulu, Lebowa, QwaQwa)

Independence:

31 May 1910 (from UK)

Constitution:

3 September 1984

Legal system:

based on Roman-Dutch law and English common law; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction, with reservations

National holiday:

Republic Day, 31 May (1910)

Political parties and leaders:

white political parties and leaders:

National Party (NP), Frederik W. DE KLERK (majority party); Conservative Party (CP), leader NA (official opposition party); Democratic Party (DP), Zach DE BEER; Afrikaner Volksunie (AVU), Andries BEYERS

Colored political parties and leaders (see Note):

Labor Party (LP), Allan HENDRICKSE (majority party); National Party (NP); Democratic Party (DP); Freedom Party

Indian political parties and leaders:

Solidarity, J. N. REDDY (majority party); National People's Party (NPP), Amichand RAJBANSI; Merit People's Party

note:

the Democratic Reform Party (DRP) and the United Democratic Party (UDP) ← were

disbanded in May 1991

Other political or pressure groups:

African National Congress (ANC), Nelson MANDELA, president; Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), Mangosuthu BUTHELEZI, president; Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC) ←

Clarence MAKWETU, president

Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal, but voting rights are racially based

Elections:

House of Assembly (whites):

last held 6 September 1989 (next to be held by NA March 1995); results - NP 58%, CP 23%, DP 19%; seats - (178 total, 166 elected) NP 103, CP 41, DP 34; note - by February 1992, because of byelections, splits, and defections, changes in number of seats held by parties were as follows: NP 102, CP 36, DP 28, AVU 5, independent 7

## 1.6 219.guide/Government (South Africa 2. usage)

Government (South Africa 2. usage)

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House of Representatives (Coloreds):

last held 6 September 1989 (next to be held no later than March 1995); results - percent of vote by party NA; seats - (85 total, 80 elected) LP ← 69,

DRP 5, UDP 3, Freedom Party 1, independents 2; note - by October 1992 many representatives had changed their allegiance causing the following changes in seating: NP 44, LP 27, DP 6, Freedom Party 1, independents 6, vacant 1

House of Delegates (Indians):

last held 6 September 1989 (next to be held no later than March 1995); results - percent of vote by party NA; seats - (45 total, 40 elected) Solidarity 16, NPP 9, Merit People's Party 3, independents 6, other 6; note - due to delegates changing party affiliation, seating as of October 1992 is as follows: Solidarity 25, NPP 7, Merit People's Party 2, other 8, independents 3

note:

tentative agreement to hold national election open to all races for a 400-seat constituent assembly on 27 April 1994

Executive branch:

state president, Executive Council (cabinet), Ministers' Councils (from the

three houses of Parliament)

Legislative branch:  
 tricameral Parliament (Parlement) consists of the House of Assembly (Volksraad; whites), House of Representatives (Raad van Verteenwoordigers; Coloreds), and House of Delegates (Raad van Afgevaardigdes; Indians)

Judicial branch:  
 Supreme Court

Leaders:  
 Chief of State and Head of Government:  
 State President Frederik Willem DE KLERK (since 13 September 1989)

Member of:  
 BIS, CCC, ECA, GATT, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO (suspended), ICC, IDA, IFC, IMF, INTELSAT, ISO, ITU (suspended), LORCS, SACU, UN, UNCTAD, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO (suspended)

Diplomatic representation in US:  
 chief of mission:  
 Ambassador Harry SCHWARZ  
 chancery:  
 3051 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008  
 telephone:  
 (202) 232-4400  
 consulates general:  
 Beverly Hills (California), Chicago, Houston, and New York

US diplomatic representation:  
 chief of mission:  
 Ambassador Princeton N. LYMAN  
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 Thibault House, 225 Pretorius Street, Pretoria  
 telephone:  
 [27] (12) 28-4266  
 FAX:  
 [27] (12) 21-9278  
 consulates general:  
 Cape Town, Durban, Johannesburg

Flag:  
 actually four flags in one - three miniature flags reproduced in the center of the white band of the former flag of the Netherlands, which has three equal horizontal bands of orange (top), white, and blue; the miniature ↔ flags  
 are a vertically hanging flag of the old Orange Free State with a ↔ horizontal  
 flag of the UK adjoining on the hoist side and a horizontal flag of the old Transvaal Republic adjoining on the other side

## 1.7 219.guide/Economy (South Africa)

Economy (South Africa)

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Overview:

Many of the white one-seventh of the South African population enjoy incomes ↔  
 ,  
 material comforts, and health and educational standards equal to those of

Western Europe. In contrast, most of the remaining population suffers from the poverty patterns of the Third World, including unemployment and lack of job skills. The main strength of the economy lies in its rich mineral resources, which provide two-thirds of exports. Economic developments in ←  
the

1990s will be driven partly by the changing relations among the various ethnic groups. The shrinking economy in recent years has absorbed less than 10% of the more than 300,000 workers entering the labor force annually. Local economists estimate that the economy must grow between 5% and 6% in real terms annually to absorb all of the new entrants.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$115 billion (1992)

National product real growth rate:

-2% (1992)

National product per capita:

\$2,800 (1992)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

13.9% (1992)

Unemployment rate:

45% (well over 50% in some homeland areas) (1992 est.)

Budget:

revenues \$28 billion; expenditures \$36 billion, including capital expenditures of \$3 billion (FY93 est.)

Exports:

\$23.5 billion (f.o.b., 1992)

commodities:

gold 27%, other minerals and metals 20-25%, food 5%, chemicals 3%

partners:

Italy, Japan, US, Germany, UK, other EC countries, Hong Kong

Imports:

\$18.2 billion (f.o.b., 1992)

commodities:

machinery 32%, transport equipment 15%, chemicals 11%, oil, textiles, scientific instruments

partners:

Germany, Japan, UK, US, Italy

External debt:

\$18 billion (1992 est.)

Industrial production:

growth rate NA%; accounts for about 40% of GDP

Electricity:

46,000,000 kW capacity; 180,000 million kWh produced, 4,100 kWh per capita (1991)

Industries: mining (world's largest producer of platinum, gold, chromium), ←  
automobile

assembly, metalworking, machinery, textile, iron and steel, chemical, fertilizer, foodstuffs

Agriculture:

accounts for about 5% of GDP and 30% of labor force; diversified agriculture, with emphasis on livestock; products - cattle, poultry, sheep, wool, milk, beef, corn, wheat, sugarcane, fruits, vegetables; self-sufficient in food

Economic aid:

NA

Currency:

1 rand (R) = 100 cents

## 1.8 219.guide/Economy (South Africa 2. usage)

Economy (South Africa 2. usage)

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Exchange rates:

rand (R) per US\$1 - 3.1576 (May 1993), 2.8497 (1992), 2.7563 (1991), 2.5863 (1990), 2.6166 (1989), 2.2611 (1988)

Fiscal year:

1 April - 31 March

## 1.9 219.guide/Communications (South Africa)

Communications (South Africa)

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Railroads:

20,638 km route distance total; 20,324 km of 1.067-meter gauge trackage (counts double and multiple tracking as single track); 314 km of 610 mm gauge; substantial electrification of 1.067 meter gauge

Highways:

188,309 km total; 54,013 km paved, 134,296 km crushed stone, gravel, or improved earth

Pipelines:

crude oil 931 km, petroleum products 1,748 km, natural gas 322 km

Ports:

Durban, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Richard's Bay, Saldanha, Mosselbaai, Walvis Bay

Merchant marine:

5 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 213,708 GRT/201,043 DWT; includes 4 container, 1 vehicle carrier

Airports:

total:

899

usable:

713

with permanent-surface runways:

136

with runways over 3,659 m:

5

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

10

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

221

Telecommunications: the system is the best developed, most modern, and has the highest capacity in Africa; it consists of carrier-equipped open-wire lines, coaxial cables, ←

radio relay links, fiber optic cable, and radiocommunication stations; key centers are Bloemfontein, Cape Town, Durban, Johannesburg, Port Elizabeth, and Pretoria; over 4,500,000 telephones; broadcast stations - 14 AM, 286 FM ↔  
,  
67 TV; 1 submarine cable; satellite earth stations - 1 Indian Ocean ↔  
INTELSAT  
and 2 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT

## 1.10 219.guide/Defense Forces (South Africa)

Defense Forces (South Africa)

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### Branches:

South African Defense Force (SADF; including Army, Navy, Air Force, Medical Services), South African Police (SAP)

### Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 10,294,211; fit for military service 6,279,190; reach military age (18) annually 425,477 (1993 est.); obligation for service in Citizen Force or Commandos begins at 18; black and white volunteers for service in permanent force must be 17; national service obligation for ↔  
white

conscripts is one year; figures include the so-called homelands not recognized by the US

### Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$2.9 billion, about 2.5% of GDP (FY93 budget)