

## Census 2001

### Small Area Statistics

#### 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

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Stats SA has received many requests from users, predominantly from provincial and local government, for access to geographically disaggregated Census 2001 information. The need for information at 'enumerator area level' (EA) was one of the most frequently emphasised needs. Apart from a few customised responses to some of these requests, to date the highest spatial resolution at which Census 2001 information has been provided is at sub-place level.

There are approximately 21 000 sub-place units across the country. Many of these sub-places cover large areas and populations. As characteristics of these areas, in particular access to services, are not even throughout the areas, planners at provincial and local levels find that information at this level is insufficient to enable specific planning and intervention, as well as the effective monitoring of service delivery targets.

In order to respond to continued user requests for Census 2001 information at a higher spatial resolution than the community profiles, whilst still ensuring confidentiality of information, this single 'off-the-shelf' information product has been designed to provide small area statistics based on Census 2001.

This national product is the *only* product to be provided to users who request data at a level lower than sub-place name. The product is based on a small area layer (SAL) that was created by combining all EAs with a population of less than 500 with adjacent EAs within the same sub-place. The final SAL consists of 56 255 polygons. Apart from the SAL the product also contains all the higher levels of geography.

#### 2. CONTENTS OF CD

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##### 2.1 Tables

This directory contains four tables in Excel format, namely:

1. Population in five-year age groups by gender (with randomised small numbers)
2. Percentage of population breakdown by highest level of education attained (no schooling, some primary, complete primary, some secondary, Grade 12/ Std 10, and higher) for age categories 0-4, 5-9, 10-14, 15-19, >20 (with randomised small numbers)
3. Percentage of households living in informal and traditional housing (grouped)
4. Percentage households without access to services (piped water, hygienic toilets, electricity for lighting, refuse removal, fixed line phone, cell-phone)

Tables 1 and 2 contain information on the entire population (including collective living quarters), whilst Tables 3 and 4 contain information on households living in housing units only (excluding collective living quarters)

## 2.2 Metadata

This directory contains the relevant information on the following topics:

1. Geography
2. Persons
3. Households and housing

## 2.3 Spatial data

This directory contains the spatial data, in shape file format, to enable users to link the data spatially to the different geographical hierarchies.

Apart from the spatial file, each Excel table also contains codes and names to enable users to aggregate data to the different geographical hierarchies.

## 3. GEOGRAPHY

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The South African geographical structure consists of the following geographical entities, which fit into different geographical hierarchical levels:

- South Africa
- Province
- District council (DC - Category C) or Metropolitan area (Category A)
- Local municipality (Category B), or District management area (DMA)
- Magisterial districts (MD)
- Main place (MP)
- Sub-place (SP)
- Small area layer (SAL)
- Enumerator area (EA)

While the structure is intended to be hierarchical, South Africa's geography has cross-boundary entities which complicate the picture. For example, there are eight municipalities which lie across provincial boundary lines. Users are advised to bear this in mind when using a specific hierarchy. For example, for the City of Tshwane, which lies in two provinces, one would not use the provincial hierarchy.

The small area layer has been generated to fill the gap between EAs and sub-places.

In some cases the small area layer cuts through magisterial districts. For this reason MDs are excluded from the Excel tables.

## 4. DETAILED METADATA

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Detailed Census 2001 metadata can be found from the following URL  
<http://www.statssa.gov.za/SpecialProjects/Census2001/Census2001.htm>

## 5. INTERPRETING THE DATA

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### 5.1 Confidentiality

All values less than 3 appear as either 3 or 0 in order to preserve confidentiality. As a result totals may differ from the sum of the separate numbers, may vary from table to table, and may also differ slightly from published figures. This effect will be more noticeable where low values predominate, e.g. in categories such as males aged 85+ in sparsely populated areas.

## 5.2 Adjustment for undercount

All figures have been adjusted for undercount, in accordance with the findings of the post-enumeration survey. Resulting numbers are rounded to the nearest whole number. This also contributes to the totals from specific breakdowns not always matching published figures.

## 5.3 Empty cells

Blanks are displayed in the data files where the entire small area was vacant or contained no housing units, only collective living quarters.

## 5.4 Extract from the *Report of the Census Sub-Committee to the South African Statistics Council on Census 2001*

“Preliminary investigations indicate that the 2001 census probably resulted in:

- an underestimate of the number of children below age five\*
- an over-estimate of the number of teenagers aged between 10 and 20
- an underestimate of the number of men relative to the number of women\*
- an underestimate of the number in the white population
- higher than expected numbers aged 80 and older, in the African population
- an underestimate of the number of foreign-born, since some identified themselves incorrectly as being South African-born
- age misstatement in the range 60-74
- an overestimate of the extent of unemployment
- an underestimate of those who were employed for only a few hours per week
- an underestimate of household income
- an overestimate the number of paternal orphans and the number of fathers missing from the household.

\* This is a common feature of censuses, particularly in developing countries.

In addition:

- Scanning problems caused some births to be recorded in the wrong province. The number of cases is relatively small and should not lead to too much distortion for most purposes for which these data are used; however, it does produce obviously erroneous results in when one tries to estimate the extent of inter-provincial migration of those born since the previous census.
- The fertility data (numbers of children ever born, children surviving) are problematic.”

For further details of these investigations see the full report of the *Census Sub-Committee*

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The data were gathered in October 2001. Since then, there have been demographic changes in South Africa associated, inter alia, with internal and external migration, and population growth. This means that population profiles may have changed at differing geographic levels. Stats SA is not responsible for any damages or losses, arising directly or consequently, which might result from the application or use of these data.

## **7. CONTACT DETAILS**

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Please do not hesitate to contact Stats SA User Information Services for additional information or queries:

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