

THE POPULATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION

Some notes on the size and distribution of the South African population were given on pages 59-60 of the 1971 *Survey* and in fact sheet RR. 11/72. On 3 January, the Department of Statistics issued a statistical news release giving the following mid-year estimates of the population in 1973:

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Totals</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
African	7 983 000	8 234 000	16 217 000	70,6
White	1 973 000	1 985 000	3 958 000	17,2
Coloured	1 050 000	1 094 000	2 144 000	9,3
Asian	332 000	336 000	668 000	2,9
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	11 338 000	11 649 000	22 987 000	100,0

The Minister of Statistics has given the following figures on the distribution of the African population based on preliminary results of the 1970 census¹:

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Common area—urban	4 368 920	29,0
—rural	3 664 280	24,4
Homelands	7 003 160	46,6
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	15 036 360	100,0

These data differ from those given in the references mentioned earlier. It should also be borne in mind that some large towns inhabited by Africans are situated just within the boundaries of certain homelands. Although they are in effect dormitory suburbs of "white" cities their residents are included in the enumeration of the homeland population for census purposes.

POPULATION GROWTH AND IMMIGRATION

In a booklet prepared for the Industrial Development Corporation, Professor J. L. Sadie gave the following population projections²:

	<i>2000 A.D.</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>2020 A.D.</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
African	37 293 000	74	62 798 000	77
White	6 890 000	14	9 204 000	11
Coloured	4 890 000	10	7 720 000	10
Asian	1 215 000	2	1 617 000	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	50 288 000	100	81 339 000	100

¹ Hansard 18 col. 1003, 13 June.

² J. L. Sadie. Projections of the South African population 1970-2020. Johannesburg, I.D.C., 1973. (Percentages calculated by the writer.)

The figures for Whites include an annual immigration figure of 30 000 persons per annum. Sadie points out that the white population "will be growing at an ever decreasing rate, with or without immigration though, . . . in the latter case the absolute level will remain a few percentage points higher". He also indicates that "unless birth control is going to be applied more extensively than during the last five to seven years, the prospects are that the ranks of the Coloured population are going to be very substantially swollen". In the case of the African population, Sadie's projections imply a doubling of numbers between 1970 and 1994 and another doubling between 1994 and the year 2020. He concludes that "the need for a sustained and vigorous family planning programme, which will reduce fertility more rapidly than is implied in our projections, is obvious".

Migration Statistics issued by the Department of Statistics on 11 June indicated that the net gain in White immigrants in 1972 had fallen below 30 000 per annum to 24 973 persons.

The latest Economic Development Programme produced by the Department of Planning has pointed out that over the past six years, the average level of net (White) immigration has been somewhat higher than 30 000 persons per annum and that this supply has to a large extent supplemented the White labour force. The programme estimates that the expected White growth rate of 1,54 per cent per annum in the endogenous population rises to 2,31 per cent per annum if this immigration level of 30 000 Whites is maintained over the next five years.

The question of family planning has been receiving a great deal of attention, more particularly in connection with the Black and especially the African group. The Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa has announced that oral contraceptives are to be issued free to all women, irrespective of race, provided that such women are members of a Health Department family planning clinic. This decision encountered a certain amount of controversy.³ The *Star* of 19 September reported the Minister of Health's announcement that the Government had decided to initiate, finance, and control a national family planning scheme.

VITAL STATISTICS

The Minister of Statistics said that at the latest period for which such statistics were available (1969-1971) the life expectancy of each race group was⁴:

		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
White	64,5	72,3
Coloured	48,8	56,1
Asian	59,3	63,9

Similar information for Africans was not available.

³ *Star*, 7 May; *Sunday Times*, 13 May; *Rand Daily Mail*, 25 June.

⁴ Hansard 18 cols. 1000-1001, 13 June.

ILLEGITIMACY

The Minister of Statistics reported that the number of registered illegitimate births in 1971 was⁵:

	<i>Number</i>
White	2 634
Coloured	32 220
Asian	1 928

Similar information for Africans was not available.

IMMORALITY AND MIXED MARRIAGES

The Minister of Justice said that 484 charges under section 16 of the Immorality Act were referred to Attorneys-General during 1972, and in 353 instances (73 per cent) prosecution was approved. Between 1 July 1971 and 30 June 1972 the following numbers of persons were prosecuted and convicted under this provision⁶:

	<i>Prosecutions</i>			<i>Convictions</i>		
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
White	365	17	382	184	9	193
Coloured	11	132	143	4	59	63
Asian	6	8	14	1	2	3
African	10	177	187	7	100	107
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	392	334	726	196	170	366

It is necessary, yet again, to point out that while many face the stigma of prosecution under this Act, roughly only half the prosecutions result in convictions.

A threat by the Minister of the Interior, Dr. C. Mulder, to act against South African passport holders who contravened South Africa's Immorality Act in neighbouring Black states caused a certain amount of controversy.⁷

The Commission of Inquiry into the Mental Disorders Act (commonly known as the Van Wyk Commission) has recommended that the Government investigate the use of castration as a means of treating people suffering from abnormal sex drives.⁸

A Turkish man and Indian woman were obliged to leave South Africa in order to marry,⁹ as were a White Natal farmer and his Japanese fiancée. A young White South African was refused permission to bring his Coloured wife and children into the Republic.¹⁰

POPULATION REGISTRATION

The new identity documents required by White, Coloured and Indian people were mentioned on pages 25 and 28 of the 1970

⁵ Hansard 15 cols. 917-8, 25 May.

⁶ Hansard 4 cols. 222-3, 27 February.

⁷ *Rand Daily Mail*, 4, 5 and 8 January; *Star*, 4 and 9 January; *Sunday Times*, 7 January; *Rapport*, 7 January; *Sunday Express*, 7 January.

⁸ *Sunday Tribune*, 25 February; *Star*, 26 February.

⁹ *Rand Daily Mail*, 5 January; *Sunday Times*, 7 January and 4 February; *Star*, 23 August.

¹⁰ *Rand Daily Mail*, 25 June; *Star*, 9 and 12 July.

Survey and further information was given on page 65 of the 1972 *Survey*. The Minister of the Interior has estimated that some 2 600 000 White people hold identity cards, of whom some 440 000 have received the new documents. It will probably take three years before the new documents have been issued to all White South Africans.¹¹

Dr. Trefor Jenkins, head of the S.A. Medical Research Institute's department of sero-genetics and his deputy Dr. G. Nurse have questioned the validity of the Government's methods of determining a person's racial group.¹²

A Population Registration and Identity Documents Amendment Bill was introduced in 1973 and later promulgated as Act No. 36 of 1973. It is directed, in the main, at tightening administrative controls upon the racial classification of people classified as "Bantu". It is a measure with retrospective effect to 1953 regularising the *de facto* exercise of powers delegated to the Secretary of the Interior by the head of the Bantu Reference Bureau and his personnel. It entitles specified officials administratively to notify people who have been issued with an (African) reference book that they have been classified as members of an indicated ethnic group and also to seize any other identity documents in which their race is not reflected as "Native" or "Bantu".

¹¹ Hansard 12 col. 811, 4 May.

¹² *Sunday Tribune*, 24 June.