

KEY FACTS AND TRENDS

Population

- The population of South Africa (including all ten homelands) was 38,5m in 1991.
- Africans make up 76%, Asians 3%, coloured people 9% and whites 13% of the total.
- Some 89% of Asians, coloured people and whites are already urbanised, while only 50% of Africans are.
- A total of 18m South Africans are under the age of 19, four fifths of whom are African.
- More than half the African population is under the age of 19 years.

Housing and transport

- The Less Formal Townships Establishment Act was passed in July 1991 to speed up the establishment of such townships and to allow for the provision of basic services.
- The Upgrading of Land Tenure Rights Act of 1991 gave full ownership rights to all people holding 99-year leasehold rights.
- Budgeted expenditure on housing for 1991/92 was R1,56bn, which was 1,8% of the total budget.
- The Independent Development Trust allocated R750m for one-off capital subsidies for the development of 100 000 sites for occupation by informal settlers.
- According to Eskom, about two thirds of the population of South Africa (including the ten homelands) had no access to electricity in 1991.
- The amount owing to African local authorities as a result of rent and service boycotts increased from R764m in 1989 to R1,15bn in 1990.
- The proportion of the transport budget that was spent on roads declined from 73% in 1975/76 to 41% in 1990/91.
- The taxi industry's share of African commuter transport increased from 29% in 1987 to 44% in 1991.

Employment

- The African economically active population increased from 5,2m in 1970 to 7,4m in 1990 (ie by 44%), while the white economically active population increased from 1,5m to 2m (ie by 32%) over the same period.
- Blacks occupied 4 987 positions in high-level manpower occupations (excluding nursing and education) in 1965 (ie 3%) and 71 499 in 1989 (ie 14%).
- Ninety-three percent of semi-skilled and unskilled

labour in 1965 was provided by blacks, thus filling 2m jobs. In 1989, 96% (3m) was provided by blacks.

- There were 1 372 black managers in 1965, constituting 2% of all managers. This figure increased to 18 066 (9%) in 1989.
- Job opportunities in the agricultural sector decreased from 28% of job opportunities in the formal economy in 1946 to 10% in 1990; those in government increased from 7% in 1946 to 17% in 1990; and those in the manufacturing sector increased from 12% in 1946 to 19% in 1990.
- Jobs in the manufacturing sector increased by 0,3% in the period 1980 to 1989.
- The employment absorption capacity of the economy between the years 1965 and 1970 was 74%, while it was only 22% between 1980 and 1985.
- Only 9% of people entering the labour market between 1985 and 1990 got jobs in the formal sector.
- Full-time employment in the informal sector increased by 20% between October 1989 and October 1990.
- As many as 4m people (or 29% of the economically active population) are wholly or partly employed in the informal sector in South Africa (including the 'independent' homelands).
- In 1990 women represented 36% of the workforce but only 13% of management.
- Only 4,5% of the top civil servants in 1991 were black and 0,6% were African.
- The average cost of living for a black family living in a South African township increased from R1 033 in 1990 to R1 217 in 1991, ie by 18%.
- The ratio of white to African real earnings in the manufacturing sector was 5,5 to one in 1972 and 3,4 to one in 1989.

Labour

- Membership of unions grew from 2,1m in 1989 (in 212 unions) to 2,4m in 1990 (198 unions), comprising 22% of the economically active population.
- COSATU remained the largest union federation in 1991, claiming a membership of 1,2m.
- Union dissatisfaction over the government's introduction of value added tax culminated in a two-day stayaway in November 1991 involving an estimated 3m workers and 86 deaths.
- The number of strikes decreased from 942 in 1989 to 885 in 1990, but the number of workers involved increased – from 197 504 in 1989 to 341 097 in 1990.
- The first-ever profit- and performance-based wage settlement was signed in 1991 between the Anglo American Corporation of South Africa's Ergo gold mine and the National Union of Mineworkers.

Business

- Africans owned less than 4% of the total number of businesses in South Africa (excluding the 'independent' homelands) in 1990.
- In March 1991 the South African Reserve Bank estimated that the informal sector contributed between 6% and 8% to GDP.
- Fifty-seven percent of African consumers were optimistic about the future of the economy for the 12-month period subsequent to May 1991, while 37% expected the economy to deteriorate.
- The corporate sector spent R840m on social upliftment programmes in 1990/91 compared to R495m in 1987/88.

Land

- The Abolition of Racially Based Land Measures Act, which was promulgated in June 1991, repealed the Black Land Act of 1913, the Development Trust and Land Act of 1936 and all other provisions regulating the ownership of land according to race.
- The Upgrading of Land Tenure Rights Act converted inferior forms of rural (and urban) African land tenure into full freehold ownership.
- In 1990 three coloured people, six Indians and 3 153 whites received loans from the Land Bank. No Africans received loans from the bank between 1986 and 1990.
- In 1991, 81% of land in the white-designated area was suitable for farming but only 16% was potentially arable.
- In the homelands 93% of the land was suitable for farming but only 12% was potentially arable.
- According to the *Abstract of Agricultural Statistics* for 1991, between 1968 and 1988 the number of employees on farms in South Africa (excluding the ten homelands) declined by 30%.
- In 1965 agriculture contributed 9% to GDP, whereas by 1988 it contributed only 6%.
- From the beginning of 1991 the six agricultural colleges under the control of the Department of Agricultural Development (white own affairs) admitted students on a non-discriminatory basis.

Education

- In 1989, whereas 44% of African standard 10 pupils took history, only 0,4% took technical subjects.
- The number of Africans at universities increased from 18 289 in 1980 to 100 632 in 1990 (ie by 450%).
- Between 1986 and 1990 enrolment at technikons increased from 43 486 to 83 448 (ie by 92%), while enrolment at universities increased from 211 938 to 291 471 (ie by 38%).
- The African education budget constituted 48%

(R8,65bn) of the education budget in 1991/92, compared with 16% (R6m) 20 years before.

- The gap in per capita expenditure between African and white schools narrowed from 18 to one in 1969 to four to one in 1989.
- The number of classrooms built by the Department of Education and Training (DET) increased from 25 884 in 1979 to 59 792 in 1991 (ie by 131%).
- African pupil enrolment was 4,8m (ie 71% of total pupil enrolment) in 1980 and 6,8m (ie 79% of total pupil enrolment) in 1990.
- White pupil enrolment declined from 959 422 in 1980 to 924 234 in 1990 (ie by 4%).
- The retention rate at DET schools (ie the proportion of pupils who did not drop out of school before standard 10) improved from 6% in 1980 to over 30% in 1990.
- Qualified teachers made up 53% of the total number of DET teachers in 1990, compared with 42% in 1988.
- Between 1987 and 1990 African enrolment at teacher training colleges increased from 21 297 to 32 247 (ie by 51%), while white enrolment decreased from 13 606 to 9 467 (ie by 30%).

Health and welfare

- In 1989, 69% of whites, 33% of Indians and 30% of coloured people, but only 5% of Africans, were members of medical aid schemes.
- In 1990 the overall population/doctor ratio in South Africa (excluding the 'independent' homelands) was 1 340 to one, but the ratio for the non-independent homelands was 15 625 to one.
- Although hospitals were desegregated in May 1990, 22 provincial hospitals admitted no African patients during 1990.
- Only 4% of patients admitted to previously white hospitals in 1990 were black.
- At the end of 1990 between 119 000 and 168 000 people in South Africa were believed to be infected with the human immuno-deficiency virus (HIV).
- According to SANTA, 100 000 people in South Africa could be suffering from tuberculosis.
- About 16,3m South Africans (or 45% of the population) were living below the minimum living level in 1991.
- The infant mortality rate per 1 000 live births for South Africa (excluding the 'independent' homelands) was 50 in 1989, compared to 113 for the rest of Africa, 55 for Latin America and ten for Europe.
- A report published by the Department of National Health and Population Development showed that some previous downward trends in disease indicators had been reversed, mainly as a result of the worsening economic situation. The malnu-

trition mortality rate for Africans had declined from 15,3 per 100 000 people in 1979 to 6,9 in 1985 but had then risen to 9,5 in 1988. The director general of health, Dr Coen Slabber, said that South Africa was facing a 'quiet catastrophe as child mortality rates continued to soar and nutritional problems worsened'.

- Between 1965 and 1991 the gap between African and white old-age pensions narrowed from 7 to one to 1,4 to one.

The Economy

- Real economic growth in 1990 was -0,9%. The Bureau for Economic Research at the University of Stellenbosch estimated a rate of 0,5% or less in 1991, top South African businessmen predicting close to zero growth for the year.
- The inflation rate for 1990 was 14,4%, compared with 14,7% the year before. A rate of 15,2% was projected for 1991 by *Econovision*.
- The annual rate of increase in the producer price index was 12,3% in 1990, compared with 15,2% in 1989. *Econovision's* estimate for 1991 was 11,6%.
- Food prices rose by 27% in the 12 months to November 1991.
- The prime overdraft rate in 1990 was 21%. In April 1991 it dropped to 20%, but it increased to 20,25% in October.
- The surplus on the current account of the balance of payments in 1990 was R5,8bn, compared with R3,1bn in 1989. The South African Reserve Bank estimated that the 1991 figure would be R6bn or more.
- Net capital outflow in 1990 was R2,9bn, compared with R4,3bn in 1989 and R1,4bn between January and September 1991.
- Total net foreign exchange reserves rose by R2,9bn in 1990, compared with a decline of R1,2bn the previous year. A rise of R3bn was forecast by *Econovision* for 1991.
- The average price of gold was \$384 per fine ounce in 1990, compared with \$382 in 1989. *Econovision* projected an average of \$362 for 1991.
- The nominal external value of the commercial rand was 38,6 American cents in 1990, compared with 38,1 in 1989. *Econovision* projected an exchange rate of 36,1 American cents for 1991.
- Real prime rate in 1990 was 5,56%, the highest since 1984. In September 1991 it was 4%.
- According to the South African Chamber of Business, the business confidence index dropped

from 95,7 in 1989 to 92,3 in 1990 to an average of 87,9 between January and November 1991.

- Real gross domestic product (GDP) per head in 1989 (at R3 320) was 11% lower than in 1975 (at R3 740). Real GDP per head has declined since 1987 by an average of 1,5% a year.

Politics

- During 1991, three agreements dealing with violence and intimidation were signed – the first between the ANC and the IFP in Durban at the end of January, the second between the government and the ANC at D F Malan Airport in Cape Town the following month, and the third on 14 September in Johannesburg between all three, along with various other organisations. This last agreement, the National Peace Accord, contained codes of conduct for the security forces as well as for political organisations.
- The Land Acts of 1913 and 1936, the Population Registration Act of 1950 and the Group Areas Act of 1966 were repealed.
- By October 1991, 38 countries had established some form of diplomatic representation in South Africa, in comparison with 28 in February 1990.
- Defence spending increased from R9,94bn in 1989/90 to R10,07bn in 1990/91 and then declined to R9,76bn in 1991/92, which meant that defence spending declined by 27% in real terms over the three-year period.
- The ANC claimed to have enrolled 700 000 members by July 1991 and to have established 14 regional offices in South Africa.
- AZAPO claimed a membership of over 250 000.
- Inkatha transformed itself into a fully fledged political party in December 1990, to be known as the IFP. It claimed a membership of 1,8m in July 1990.
- Leadership of the PAC, which claimed a membership of over 200 000 in March 1991, was conferred on Mr Clarence Makwetu in December 1990 following the death of the PAC's previous president, Mr Zephania Mothopeng.
- The UDF, which had been formed in 1983, was dissolved in August 1991.
- Enabling legislation making provision for the creation of the country's first nonracial local government structures was gazetted.
- Fatalities in political violence dropped from 3 699 in 1990 to 2 672 last year (ie by 28%).