southern africa
PERSPECTIVES
#6/77

South Africa Fact Sheet

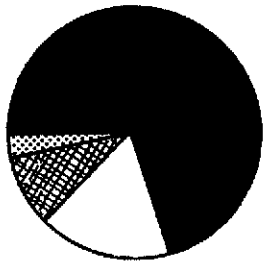
KEY

African
White
Coloured (mixed black and white)
Indian

N.B.—All figures have been converted into dollars at the rate of one Rand = $1.15
—Sources, referred to in abbreviated form in the text, are listed on the last page.
—South African race classification categories are used throughout.

POPULATION

RACIAL BREAKDOWN:



African	**18.6 million**	**71%**
White	**4.3**	**16%**
Coloured (mixed black and white)	**2.4**	**9%**
Indian	**.7**	**3%**
	26.1 Total	

Yearbook '77

URBAN-RURAL BREAKDOWN: More than three-quarters of non-African groups live in urban areas. Based on 1970 figures, 29.3% of Africans live in white urban areas, 24.3% on white farms and 46.4% in African bantustans (special reserves). —*SABF*

LAND

AREA: 472,359 sq. miles (larger than Germany, France, Italy and Portugal combined). —*Yearbook '77*

LAND RESERVATION: 87% of the total land is reserved for Whites; 13% for Africans. Indians and Coloureds are required to live in designated sections in White areas. —*Yearbook '77*

GOVERNMENT

Only whites have the vote. The government operates on a parliamentary system. The country is an independent Republic, having left the British Commonwealth in 1961.

IMPORTANT DATES

8th C.—First known African settlement.
1652 —First Europeans arrive.
1886 —Discovery of gold.
1906 —Bambatha's Rebellion; uprisings in South Africa and Namibia mark a high point of early African resistance to white rule.
1910 —Union formed and constitution adopted.
1912 —African National Congress founded to fight for African rights. Later organizations include the Pan Africanist Congress and the Unity Movement of South Africa.
1919 —South Africa granted mandate over Namibia by League of Nations.
1948 —National Party comes to power; apartheid is pursued as official policy.
1960 —Sharpeville Massacre; 69 Africans are killed as police fire on a peaceful demonstration called to protest pass laws.
1976 —African student uprisings spread from Soweto throughout the country; close to 1,000 people are killed.

ECONOMY

GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT, 1976: $31.89 billion (In real terms, a decline of 1% from 1975.) —*FM 4/15/77*

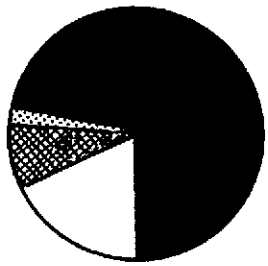
VALUE OF TRADE 1976 vs. 1975: Imports—$8.54 billion (+11%); Exports, excluding gold—$5.57 (+34%); Gold exports—$2.70 billion (-7.6%) —*SA Reserve Bank*

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS-EXPORTS 1976 IN ORDER OF VALUE: Imports—machinery and electrical equipment; transport equipment; petroleum products; chemicals and allied products. Exports—Gold; base metals and articles; diamonds and other precious and semi-precious stones; prepared foodstuffs, spirits, tobacco. —*FM 4/15/77*

MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS, 1976: Imports—USA, UK, West Germany, Japan; Exports—UK, Japan, West Germany, USA. —*FM 4/15/77*

INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT

WORKFORCE, 1975 :



African	7.0 million	71%
White	1.8	16%
Coloured	.8	8%
Indian	.2	2%
	9.8 Total	

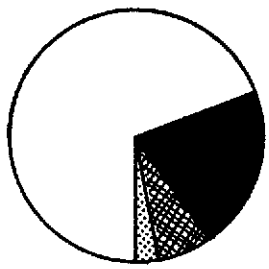
—*FM 4/15/77*

MIGRANT LABOR:

—The number of African migrants is variously estimated at between one-third and one-half of the total African workforce. —*Survey '76*

—The largest percentage of migrants is found in mining, where migrants make up about 87% of the African workforce. —*FM 6/10/77*

DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME, 1975:



African	23%	
White	67%	
Coloured	7%	
Indian	3%	
	100%	Total

—*FM 5/6/77*

EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES:

EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES OF AFRICANS AND WHITES IN MAJOR INDUSTRIES

	Mining 1975		Manufacturing 1976		Agriculture	
	Empl.	wages/mo.	Empl.	wages/mo.	Empl.	wages/mo.
African	591,730	$ 90.85	757,700	$134.55	1,964,320 (1975)	Generally less than $16 cash, (1975)
White	91,632	$678.50	300,200	$632.50	93,966 (1970)	Total estimated net $1.1 billion (73-74)

— Mining and Manufacturing figures, *Survey '76*. Agriculture employment and African income figure, *Survey '75*. White income figure, *FM 5/30/75*.

PER CAPITA INCOME, 1975: $ 14.38 African
209.30 White

Through 1976, African per capita income rose at a higher rate than white income, but the gap between them contined to grow. Between 1973 and 1975, the difference rose from $165.03 to $194.93.

AVERAGE MONTHLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME, 1975:
$ 83.95 African
711.85 White
243.80 Coloured
366.85 Indian
—*X Ray March/April '76*

AFRICAN INCOME VS. POVERTY LEVEL: The Household Subsistence Level is estimated to be the amount needed to provide basic necessities for an African family of six. It makes no provision for taxes, medical care, education or savings.
—In April, 1977, the HSL for an urban African family was calculated at $150 a month. At that time, average African pay in the retail trade was $94.30; in manufacturing $162.15. —*FM 5/2/77*
—In 1975, with the poverty line set at $127.65, a study showed that 63.5% of African households had monthly incomes of less than $92. —*FM 11/19/76*

UNEMPLOYMENT: African unemployment was generally estimated at over one million in mid-1977. —*U. of Pretoria and other sources.* Non-African unemployment stood at 22,000 as of February, 1977. —*SA Reserve Bank*

US-SOUTH AFRICA ECONOMIC TIES

US COMPANIES DOING BUSINESS IN SOUTH AFRICA: 480 (January, 1975) —*U. of Indiana study*

US INVESTMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA
- —TOTAL: $1.67 billion (1976) —*US Commerce Dept.*
- —AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA: 17.1% (1973) —*Survey '76*
- —RATE OF RETURN: 12% (1976) —*US Commerce Dept.*
  (Prior to South Africa's current recession, US return on investment in the Republic was 17-20%, vs. 10-11% elsewhere outside the US. —*BF)*
- — TOP AREAS OF INVESTMENT, 1975 (in order of magnitude): Petroleum; mining and smelting; trade, machinery; chemicals and allied products. —*US Commerce Dept.*
- — MAJOR INVESTORS BY SIZE OF INVESTMENT*: petroleum—Mobil ($1/3 billion), Caltex (more than $225 million); transportation—GM ($150 million), Ford (more than $100 million), Chrysler ($45 million—SA unit merged with SA-owned company in 1976); mining and chemicals—Union Carbide (over $100 million), Kennecott ($130 million), Phelps-Dodge (over $100 million); communications—General Electric (more than $125 million), ITT ($50-$70 million —through minority position in SA-owned company since 1977), IBM ($8.4 million).
  * Figures are estimates based on available resources including company documents — *ICCR*
- — MAJOR INVESTORS BY SIZE OF WORKFORCE: GM (5,800); Mobil (3,300); Coca-Cola (3,000). *US Consulate, SA, May 1976*

LOANS BY US BANKS TO SOUTH AFRICA
- — TOTAL LOANS OUTSTANDING: $3 billion (mid-1977 estimate) —*Committee to Oppose Bank Loans to South Africa*
- — MAJOR US LENDERS: Citibank, Manufacturers Hanover Trust, Chase Manhattan, Morgan Guaranty, Bank of America, First National Bank of Boston, First National Bank of Chicago, Continental Illinois, Kidder-Peabody & Co. Inc.

EDUCATION

ATTENDANCE AND COSTS: School attendance is compulsory and free for white children 7-16. It is not compulsory for African children, who must pay fees and other costs which average $50 a year. —*NYT 7/15/76*

PERCENTAGE OF SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN ACTUALLY IN SCHOOL:
Age 7-14—white, 100%, African 75%
Age 13-18 (secondary school)—white, 66.3%; African, 4% —*NYT 7/15/76*

GOVERNMENT PER PUPIL EXPENDITURES ON EDUCATION, 1975: White—$517.50; African—$46. —*FM 6/25/76*

STUDENTS RECEIVING BA'S JUNE 74-MAY 75: White—9,038; African—548. —*Survey '76*

HEALTH

INFANT MORTALITY (deaths under one year) PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS
—NATIONAL*: Whites, 18.4; Coloureds, 115.5; Indians, 32. (1974) —*Survey '76*
* no data available for Africans.
—CITY OF JOHANNESBURG: Whites, 20.3: Africans, 95.5; Coloureds, 66.1; Indians, 29.3 (1970) —*SAFB*

LIFE EXPECTANCY*
Males: White, 64.5; Coloureds, 48.8; Indians 59.3.
Females: Whites, 72.3; Coloureds, 56.1, Indians, 63.9.
* no data available for Africans —*Survey '76*

CONTROL AND REPRESSION

THE LAW: The government has the right to ban or place under house arrest anyone considered likely to further any aim of "communism," which, as defined, includes stirring up race antagonisms. A banned person must stay in a certain area, may not attend meetings, or meet with other banned people. Banned Africans may be banished to remote areas. The government may detain anyone for 180 days without trial. Those arrested under the Terrorism Act may be detained indefinitely in solitary confinement. Africans at all times must carry passbooks which include work and living permits; failure to produce a passbook on demand is ground for arrest.

DETENTION:
—As of April 1977, more than 1,000 persons were known to have been detained since January 1975. That number included at least 150 children under 16. —*Focus 10 May '77*
—As of March 25, 1977, 471 persons were believed to be in detention, among them at least 133 students. —*SANA May '77*
—At least 25 detaineees have died in detention since March of 1976, according to a September, 1977 report by the African National Congress.

BANNING: At the end of 1976, 146 banning orders were in force. Of these 50 were put into effect during the year. —*Focus 10 May '77*

PASS LAW VIOLATIONS:
—Nearly 10.5 million Africans were arrested under pass laws between 1948 and 1973. —*X Ray Nov./Dec. 1975*
—In 1976, 250,000 Africans were arrested under the pass laws and related influx control laws. —*Focus 10 May '77*

SOWETO

"Soweto is a bastard child born out of circumstances following the dispossession of the African people and the discovery of gold in the Witwatersrand. It was born out of white greed and racism perpetrated against the Africans." *A Window on Soweto,* by Joyce Sikakane

A survey of 186 homes in Soweto, selected by random sampling methods, was carried out in late 1975 by the University of Witwatersrand's Department of Pediatrics. Among the findings:
* 61% of families have incomes below the poverty level.
* Among children 10-12, 45% have malnutrition.
* Average household size is five or more people; the average household has 2.5 beds.
* 87% of homes use candles for light. Only 5% have electricity or gas.
* Only one-quarter of adults have gone beyond elementary school.

—*SA Medical Journal 4/9/77*

SOURCES

BF	*Basic Facts on the Republic of South Africa and the Policy of Apartheid,* Julian R. Friedman, UN Centre Against Apartheid, April 1977
FM	*Financial Mail,* South African financial journal
Focus	*Focus,* publication of the International Defense and Aid Fund, Britain
Implications of Apartheid	*Implications of Apartheid on Health and Health Services in South Africa,* UN Centre Against Apartheid, June 1977
ICCR	Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, National Council of Churches, New York
NYT	*New York Times,* U.S. daily newspaper
SANA	Southern African News Agency, Geneva
SABF	*South Africa: Basic Facts and Figures,* South African Institute of Race Relations, 1973
	SA Medical Journal
SA Reserve Bank	*South African Reserve Bank Quarterly Bulletin,* March 1977
The Star	*The Star* (Johannesburg), South African daily newspaper
Survey '75, '76	*A Survey of Race Relations in South Africa,* annual publication of South African Institute of Race Relations
US Commerce Dept	*US Commerce Dept.*, various bulletins
US Consulate	American Consulate General, Johannesburg: *American Firms, Subsidiaries and Affiliates—South Africa,* May 1976.
X Ray	*X Ray,* publication of The Africa Bureau, Britain
Yearbook '76 '77	*State of South Africa Yearbook*

This fact sheet was prepared by Karen Rothmyer, research associate of the Africa Fund. Our thanks also to Anne Fuller for research assistance and Lynn Goodwin for layout.