

FreeFACTS

No 2/2020 / February 2020 / Issue 22

Find us online at www.irr.org.za

SA's changing demographics – implications for policy

This edition of *FreeFACTS* looks at South Africa's demographics and how they have changed since the end of apartheid, in some cases significantly.

The overall population of the country has seen major growth. The population grew by nearly 50% between 1996 and 2019, increasing from 40.6 million people to 58.8 million people. There was substantial growth in two provinces in particular, Gauteng and the Western Cape. Gauteng saw its population nearly double in that period and the Western Cape had a population increase of nearly 75%. This trend will continue, as it is expected that between 2016 and 2021 nearly 1.5 million people will move to Gauteng.

This has been coupled with rapid urbanisation. Between 1990 and 2018 the proportion of South Africans living in cities increased from just over half to nearly two-thirds and that trend will continue. This has implications for policy makers and governing a country that is primarily urbanized is different from one where a large proportion of the population live outside cities.

South Africa must embrace this – cities are hubs of innovation and can often be engines of economic growth for a country. We must ensure that policy helps make our cities pleasant places to work and live, while not neglecting those who still live in rural South Africa.

In addition, South Africa's fertility rate is dropping and will soon reach the minimum replacement level. In 2019 the country's fertility rate was 2.3 – this means the average woman in South Africa will have 2.3 children in her lifetime. The minimum fertility rate required for a population to remain constant is 2.1. Coupled with rising life expectancy South Africa could soon have a fairly large elderly population and a working population which remains constant. This also has implications for policy makers.

The increase in life expectancy is one of the (very rare) successes of the Zuma administration and is likely due to increased access to ARVs for people suffering from HIV/AIDS. Another success has been the drop in the mortality of infants and children younger than five years old.

South Africa's demographics have changed markedly since the end of apartheid and policies – especially those around cities and city management – need to reflect that fact. — **Marius Roodt**

JOIN US

The IRR is an advocacy group that fights for your right to make decisions about your life, family and business, free from unnecessary government, political, and bureaucratic interference. FreeFACTS publishes evidence that communities are better off when individuals are free to make decisions about how they want to live, be educated, work, access healthcare, think, speak, own property, and protect their communities. If you agree with the issues we stand for, welcome to the team. There are millions of people just like you who are tired of South African politicians, activists, and commentators attempting to rein in your freedom to decide. Take control and make sure your voice is heard by becoming a friend of the IRR.

**SMS YOUR NAME
TO 32823
SMS costs R1.
Ts and Cs apply.**

Demographics

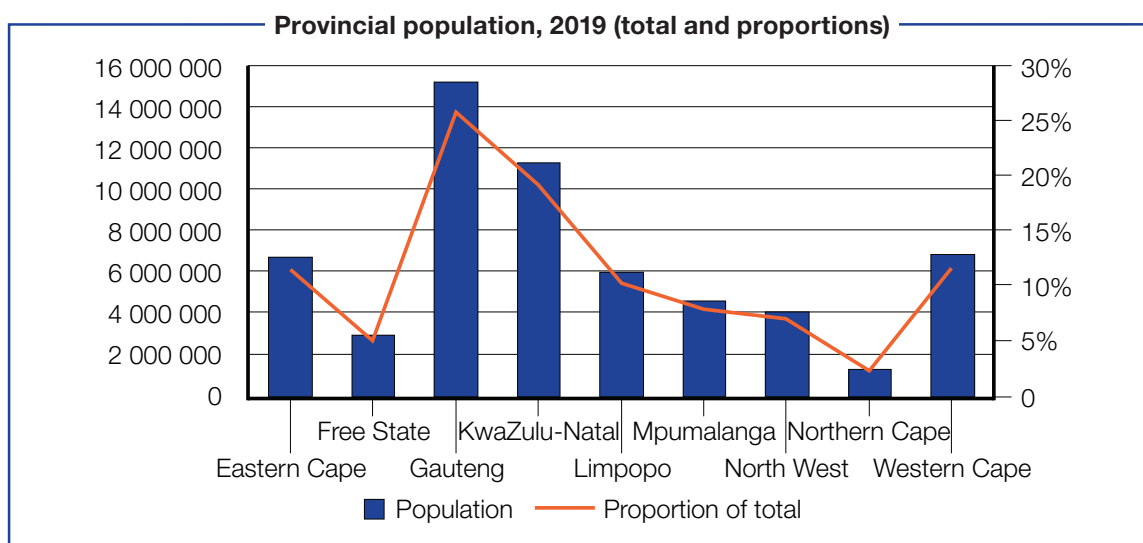
Population by province, 1996-2019

Province	1996		2001		2019		Change (1996-2019), population
	Population	Proportion of total	Population	Proportion of total	Population	Proportion of total	
Eastern Cape	6 147 244	15.1%	6 278 651	14.0%	6 712 276	11.4%	9.2%
Free State	2 633 504	6.5%	2 706 775	6.0%	2 887 465	4.9%	9.6%
Gauteng	7 834 125	19.3%	9 388 854	20.9%	15 176 116	25.8%	93.7%
KwaZulu-Natal	8 572 302	21.1%	9 584 129	21.4%	11 289 086	19.2%	31.7%
Limpopo	4 576 566	11.3%	4 995 462	11.1%	5 982 584	10.2%	30.7%
Mpumalanga	3 123 869	7.7%	3 365 554	7.5%	4 592 187	7.8%	47.0%
North West	2 727 223	6.7%	2 984 098	6.7%	4 027 160	6.9%	47.7%
Northern Cape	1 011 864	2.5%	991 919	2.2%	1 263 875	2.2%	24.9%
Western Cape	3 956 875	9.7%	4 524 335	10.1%	6 844 272	11.6%	73.0%
South Africa^a	40 583 573	100.0%	44 819 778	100.0%	58 775 022	100.0%	44.8%

Source: Stats SA, *Census 2011: Census in brief*, Statistical release P03-01-41, Table 2.1, p18; *Mid-year population estimates 2019*, Statistical release P0302, 29 July 2019, Table 11, pp17-18

a Figures may not add up vertically, owing to rounding.

This table, and the ones below, show show the large increases in particular provinces, in particular Gauteng and the Western Cape. These are the two provinces in the country with the most dynamic economies in the country and it is unsurprising that they have both seen significant in-migration. Coupled with the rapid urbanisation of South Africa this has significant implications for policy makers in the country.



Demographics

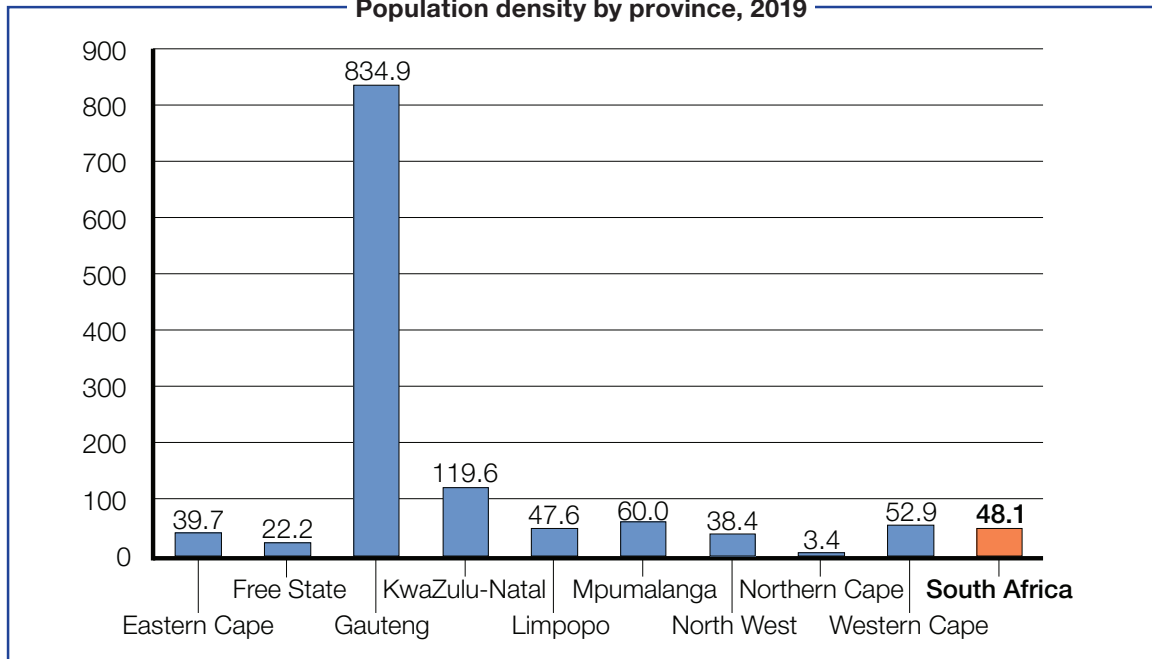
Population density by province, 2019

Province	Provincial population	Area km ²	People per km ^{2a}
Eastern Cape	6 712 276	168 966	39.7
Free State	2 887 465	129 825	22.2
Gauteng	15 176 116	18 178	834.9
KwaZulu-Natal	11 289 086	94 361	119.6
Limpopo	5 982 584	125 754	47.6
Mpumalanga	4 592 187	76 495	60.0
North West	4 027 160	104 882	38.4
Northern Cape	1 263 875	372 889	3.4
Western Cape	6 844 272	129 462	52.9
South Africa	58 775 022	1 220 813	48.1

Source: Stats SA, *Census 2011*, Statistical release P0301.4, 30 October 2012, Table 2.1, p9, Table 3.1, p15; *Mid-year population estimates 2019*, Statistical release P0302, 29 July 2019, Table 11, pp17-18

a IRR calculations.

Population density by province, 2019



Demographics

Internal migration ^a by province, 2011-16						
<i>Province</i>	<i>Eastern Cape</i>	<i>Free State</i>	<i>Gauteng</i>	<i>KwaZulu-Natal</i>	<i>Limpopo</i>	<i>Mpumalanga</i>
Eastern Cape	—	12 955	145 191	97 667	13 915	16 725
Free State	8 331	—	80 931	7 765	6 471	10 645
Gauteng	46 172	35 833	—	62 216	91 749	73 188
KwaZulu-Natal	24 743	11 972	217 596	—	9 314	35 649
Limpopo	4 467	5 794	329 721	8 206	—	47 333
Mpumalanga	4 942	5 112	131 621	12 382	22 977	—
North West	4 975	11 306	103 754	5 856	19 102	11 413
Northern Cape	4 289	8 620	16 212	5 501	2 575	4 213
Western Cape	48 710	7 639	59 224	12 490	5 523	6 927
Immigrants	34 613	29 095	434 994	68 530	99 678	65 869
In-migration^b	181 242	128 326	1 519 244	280 613	271 304	271 962
<i>Province</i>	<i>North West</i>	<i>Northern Cape</i>	<i>Western Cape</i>	<i>Out-migration</i>	<i>In-migration</i>	<i>Net migration</i>
Eastern Cape	37 476	8 041	173 832	505 803	181 242	-326 171
Free State	23 467	8 951	12 041	158 327	128 327	-30 276
Gauteng	98 385	11 182	86 848	505 574	1 519 244	1 013 670
KwaZulu-Natal	11 344	7 714	32 433	350 766	280 614	-70 152
Limpopo	32 237	2 584	11 304	441 645	271 305	-170 340
Mpumalanga	13 146	2 273	9 596	202 050	271 962	69 913
North West	—	22 611	8 736	187 753	306 934	119 182
Northern Cape	12 345	—	17 705	71 460	82 321	10 861
Western Cape	7 962	12 197	—	160 673	458 720	298 047
Immigrants	70 572	6 768	106 227	—	—	—
In-migration^b	306 934	82 321	458 722	—	—	—

Source: Stats SA, *Mid-year population estimates 2019*, Statistical release P0302, 29 July 2019, Table 8, p15

a The figures in the table show the number of people moving in and out of each province. For example, 12 955 people moved from the Eastern Cape to the Free State, while 128 326 moved into the Free State from all the other provinces.

b IRR calculations.

Demographics

Internal migration by province, 2016-21						
Province	Eastern Cape	Free State	Gauteng	KwaZulu-Natal	Limpopo	Mpumalanga
Eastern Cape	—	13 178	147 729	99 306	14 149	16 974
Free State	8 538	—	83 285	7 964	6 634	10 924
Gauteng	52 381	40 711	—	70 764	104 073	83 250
KwaZulu-Natal	26 277	12 717	231 241	—	9 864	37 877
Limpopo	4 702	6 092	347 269	8 640	—	49 723
Mpumalanga	5 371	5 552	143 213	13 440	24 957	—
North West	5 427	12 336	113 419	6 388	20 832	12 499
Northern Cape	4 567	9 187	17 309	5 862	2 746	4 491
Western Cape	53 435	8 435	65 554	13 826	6 105	7 669
Immigrants	39 158	32 978	494 571	77 542	112 866	74 593
In-migration	199 856	128 008	1 495 861	204 426	288 077	281 026
Province	North West	Northern Cape	Western Cape	Out-migration	In-migration	Net migration
Eastern Cape	38 019	8 168	176 784	514 308	199 855	-314 453
Free State	24 076	9 200	12 361	162 982	141 185	-21 797
Gauteng	111 893	12 709	98 925	574 705	1 643 590	1 068 885
KwaZulu-Natal	12 066	8 191	34 448	372 681	303 732	-68 949
Limpopo	33 848	2 718	11 857	464 848	302 226	-162 622
Mpumalanga	14 286	2 473	10 420	219 711	297 949	78 238
North West	—	24 712	9 537	205 099	336 180	131 081
Northern Cape	13 162	—	18 869	76 193	89 252	13 059
Western Cape	8 824	13 464	—	177 313	493 621	316 308
Immigrants	80 005	7 616	120 420	—	—	—
In-migration	298 160	81 083	316 837	—	—	—

Source: Stats SA, *Mid-year population estimates 2019*, Statistical release P0302, 29 July 2019, Table 8, p15

Demographics

Urban and rural populations as a proportion of total population, emerging markets, 1990 and 2018

Country	Urban			Rural ^a		
	1990	2018	Change	1990	2018	Change
Brazil	73.9%	86.6%	17.2%	26.1%	13.4%	-48.7%
Bulgaria	66.4%	75.0%	13.0%	33.6%	25.0%	-25.6%
Chile	83.3%	87.6%	5.2%	16.7%	12.4%	-25.7%
China	26.4%	59.2%	124.2%	73.6%	40.8%	-44.6%
Colombia	69.5%	80.8%	16.3%	30.5%	19.2%	-37.0%
Czech Republic	75.2%	73.8%	-1.9%	24.8%	26.2%	5.6%
Egypt	43.5%	42.7%	-1.8%	56.5%	57.3%	1.4%
Estonia	71.2%	68.9%	-3.2%	28.8%	31.1%	8.0%
Greece	71.5%	79.1%	10.6%	28.5%	20.9%	-26.7%
Hungary	65.8%	71.4%	8.5%	34.2%	28.6%	-16.4%
India	25.5%	34.0%	33.3%	74.5%	66.0%	-11.4%
Indonesia	30.6%	55.3%	80.7%	69.4%	44.7%	-35.6%
Jordan	73.3%	91.0%	24.1%	26.7%	9.0%	-66.3%
Kuwait	98.0%	100.0%	2.0%	2.0%	0.0%	-100.0%
Latvia	69.3%	68.1%	-1.7%	30.7%	31.9%	3.9%
Lithuania	67.6%	67.7%	0.1%	32.4%	32.3%	-0.3%
Malaysia	49.8%	76.0%	52.6%	50.2%	24.0%	-52.2%
Mauritius	43.9%	40.8%	-7.1%	56.1%	59.2%	5.5%
Mexico	71.4%	80.2%	12.3%	28.6%	19.8%	-30.8%
Morocco	48.4%	62.5%	29.1%	51.6%	37.5%	-27.3%
Oman	66.1%	84.5%	27.8%	33.9%	15.5%	-54.3%
Pakistan	30.6%	36.7%	19.9%	69.4%	63.3%	-8.8%
Peru	68.9%	77.9%	13.1%	31.1%	22.1%	-28.9%
Philippines	47.0%	46.9%	-0.2%	53.0%	53.1%	0.2%
Poland	61.3%	60.1%	-2.0%	38.7%	39.9%	3.1%
Qatar	92.8%	99.1%	6.8%	7.2%	0.9%	-87.5%
Romania	53.2%	54.0%	1.5%	46.8%	46.0%	-1.7%
Russia	73.4%	74.4%	1.4%	26.6%	25.6%	-3.8%
Slovakia	56.5%	53.7%	-5.0%	43.5%	46.3%	6.4%
South Africa	52.0%	66.4%	27.7%	48.0%	33.6%	-30.0%
Sri Lanka	18.5%	18.5%	0.0%	81.5%	81.5%	0.0%
Thailand	29.4%	49.9%	69.7%	70.6%	50.1%	-29.0%
Turkey	59.2%	75.1%	26.9%	40.8%	24.9%	-39.0%
United Arab Emirates	79.1%	86.5%	0.0%	20.9%	13.5%	-35.4%
Venezuela	84.3%	88.2%	4.6%	15.7%	11.8%	-24.8%
Vietnam	20.3%	35.9%	76.8%	79.7%	64.1%	-19.6%

Source: World Bank, wdi.databank.org, World Development Indicators, accessed 10 October 2019

a IRR calculations.

Demographics

Fertility rate ^a , 2002-19		
Year	Rate	GDP per head ^b
2002	2.45	45 798
2003	2.42	46 287
2004	2.54	47 605
2005	2.59	49 335
2006	2.63	51 331
2007	2.65	53 334
2008	2.66	54 322
2009	2.62	52 838
2010	2.58	53 823
2011	2.51	54 968
2012	2.46	55 543
2013	2.42	56 232
2014	2.39	56 549
2015	2.37	56 470
2016	2.36	55 914
2017	2.34	55 930
2018	2.33	55 595
2019	2.32	N/A
2002-19	-5.3%	—

Source: Stats SA, *Mid-year population estimates 2019*, Statistical release P0302, 29 July 2019, Table 2, p4; South African Reserve Bank (SARB), www.resbank.co.za, time series data, accessed 10 October 2019

a The average number of children born alive to a woman during her child-bearing span (15-49 years) if she were to bear children. For example, a girl born in 2002 would be expected to have, on average, 2.45 children in her lifetime if she bore children.

b At constant 2010 prices.

N/A — Not available.

The decline in the fertility rate reflects how South Africa continues to develop - as women have greater access to education and employment opportunities they generally have fewer children. This also means that South Africa's population growth will slow and we will have a growing older population compared to younger people. This also has significant implications for policy makers as the country's median age continues to increase. The tables below also show how South Africa's birth rate is also continuing to decline.

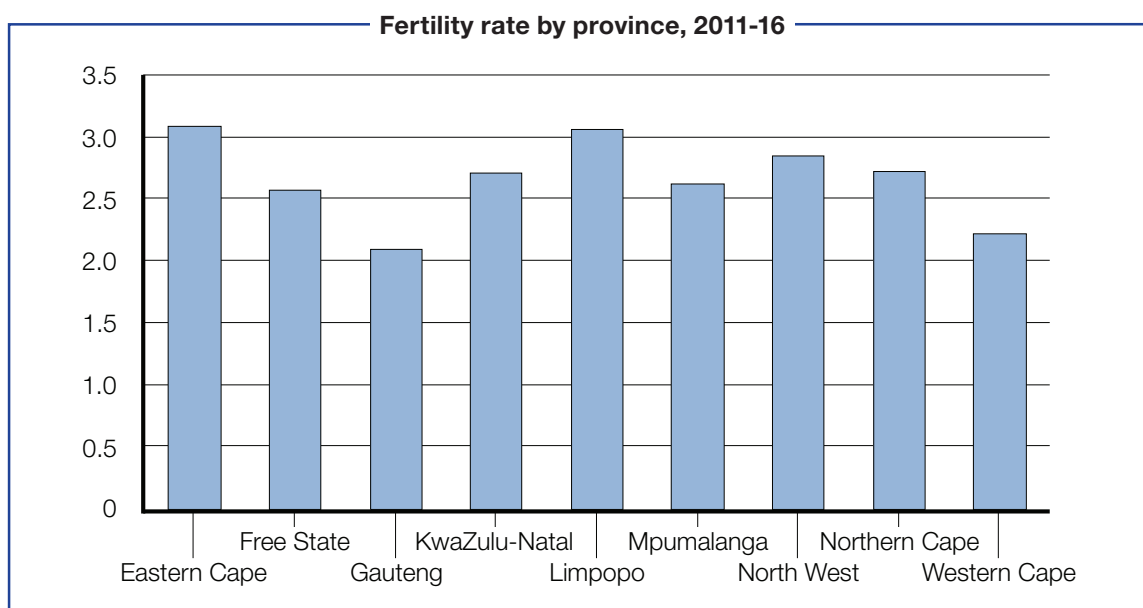
Demographics

Fertility rate ^a by province, 2001-21					
Province	2001-06	2006-11	2011-16	2016-21 ^b	Change 2001-21
Eastern Cape	3.25	3.26	3.08	2.88	-11.4%
Free State	2.72	2.86	2.57	2.34	-14.0%
Gauteng	2.15	2.38	2.09	1.91	-11.2%
KwaZulu-Natal	2.94	2.98	2.71	2.70	-8.2%
Limpopo	3.00	3.25	3.06	2.87	-4.3%
Mpumalanga	2.91	2.96	2.62	2.54	-12.7%
North West	3.09	3.25	2.84	2.65	-14.2%
Northern Cape	3.10	3.02	2.72	2.67	-13.9%
Western Cape	2.33	2.46	2.22	2.00	-14.2%

Source: Stats SA, *Mid-year population estimates 2019*, Statistical release P0302, 29 July 2019, Figure 8, p11

a The average number of children born alive to a woman during her child-bearing span (15-49 years) if she were to bear children. For example, girls born in the Eastern Cape between 2001 and 2006 would in future be expected to have an average of 3.25 children each, if they bear children.

b Projections.



Demographics

Birth rate ^a , 2002-19			
Year	Rate	Year	Rate
2002	21.2	2012	22.3
2003	21.1	2013	21.9
2004	22.3	2014	21.5
2005	23.0	2015	21.2
2006	23.4	2016	20.9
2007	23.8	2017	20.6
2008	24.0	2018	20.2
2009	23.8	2019	19.9
2010	23.4		
2011	22.8	2002-19	-6.1%

Source: Stats SA, *Mid-year population estimates 2019*, Statistical release P0302, 29 July 2019, Appendix 2, p21

a Births per 1 000 people in a given year.

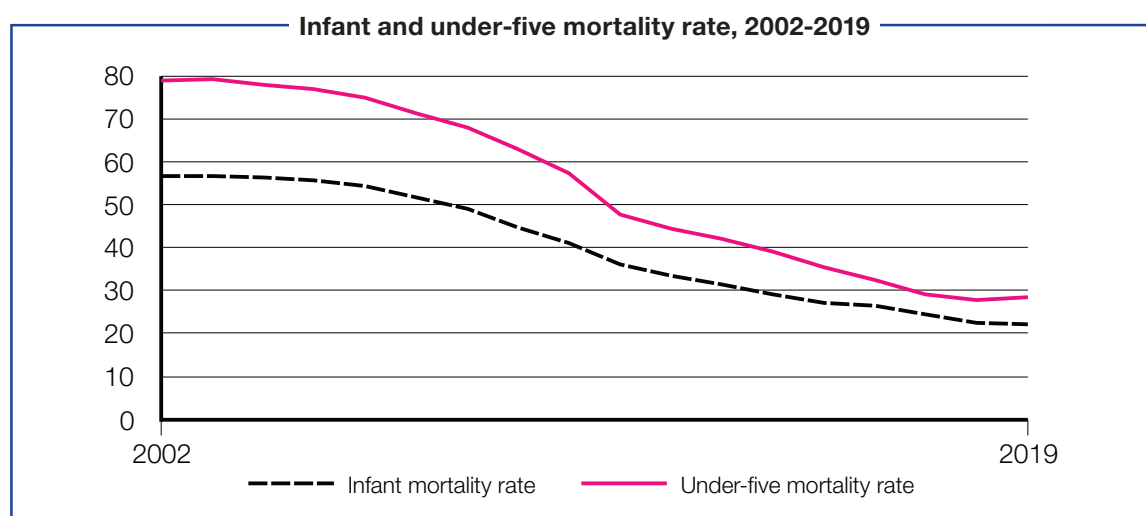
Infant and under-five mortality rate, 2002-19					
Year	Infant mortality rate ^a	Under-five mortality rate ^b	Year	Infant mortality rate ^a	Under-five mortality rate ^b
2002	56.5	79.0	2012	33.4	44.5
2003	56.5	79.1	2013	31.5	42.2
2004	56.3	77.7	2014	29.0	38.9
2005	55.6	76.7	2015	27.1	35.3
2006	54.2	74.9	2016	26.3	32.4
2007	51.6	71.3	2017	24.3	29.1
2008	48.9	68.0	2018	22.4	27.8
2009	44.6	62.8	2019	22.1	28.5
2010	40.9	57.2			
2011	36.1	47.7	2002-19	-60.9%	-63.9%

Source: Stats SA, *Mid-year population estimates 2019*, Statistical release P0302, 29 July 2019, Appendix 2, p21

a The number of deaths of infants under one year of age, per 1 000 live births.

b The number of children who die by the age of five, per 1 000 live births.

This has been one of the great successes of post-apartheid South Africa and shows how well the country has done on this measure. This is likely a reflection on improved primary health outcomes and indicates despite the great damage the Zuma administration did to the country's economy there were, indeed, also some successes.



Demographics

Life expectancy at birth ^a by sex, 2002-19			
Year	Male	Female	Total
2002	53.7	58.0	55.9
2003	53.0	56.8	55.0
2004	52.4	56.3	54.4
2005	52.2	56.5	54.4
2006	52.3	56.6	54.5
2007	53.1	57.4	55.3
2008	54.0	59.0	56.6
2009	55.2	60.8	58.1
2010	56.4	62.3	59.4
2011	57.8	63.5	60.7
2012	58.2	63.9	61.1
2013	58.9	65.1	62.1
2014	59.3	65.5	62.5
2015	59.9	66.2	63.1
2016	60.4	67.0	63.8
2017	60.8	67.2	64.1
2018	61.1	67.5	64.4
2019	61.5	67.7	64.7
2002-19	14.5%	16.7%	15.7%

Source: Stats SA, *Mid-year population estimates 2019*, Statistical release P0302, 29 July 2019, Appendix 2, p21

This is another indicator where South Africa has done fairly well. The increase in life expectancy likely reflects the widespread availability of ARVs to combat HIV/AIDS. Although South Africa's life expectancy is still lower than other countries with similar incomes and at similar levels of development the trend is positive. following the Mbeki's administration of the crisis.

