

# FreeFACTS

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## 60m of us – what it means

**Latest population estimates for South Africa from Stats SA show that there are now 60 million South Africans, an increase of nearly 50% compared to the mid-1990s.**

Gauteng is now, by some way, the most populous province in the country, with more than one-in-four South Africans making their home there. It is still the preferred destination for South African and foreign migrants – between 2016 and 2021 more than a million people moved there.

The only other provinces which saw their populations grow by more than 100 000 as a result of migration were the Western Cape (nearly 300 000 people moved there between 2016 and 2021) and North West (just fewer than 120 000 people relocated to that province between 2016 and 2021).

The two most striking findings from Stats SA's latest population estimates are the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on South Africa as well as the decline in South Africa's fertility rate. Between July 2020 and June 2021 nearly 660 000 deaths were recorded in South Africa, more than 25% more than in the previous period and the highest since 2008, when the country was in the midst of the HIV/Aids pandemic. It is clear that the virus has had a significant impact on the country with a corresponding decrease in life expectancy.

At the same time, South Africa's fertility rate is now at a record low. On average South African women have 2.3 children in their lifetime. For a country to maintain its population a fertility rate of 2.1 is required, South Africa is still above that but the trend is clear. However, declining fertility is a function of development – women delay having children and have fewer children when they decide to do so as more educational and employment opportunities become open to them.

The key challenge for policymakers in the future will be how to ensure that young people today will have opportunities in the future – nearly 30% of South Africans are under the age of 15. If we do not implement policies which will give our young people a prosperous future South Africa will continue to become even more violent and unstable.

— **Marius Roodt**

## JOIN US

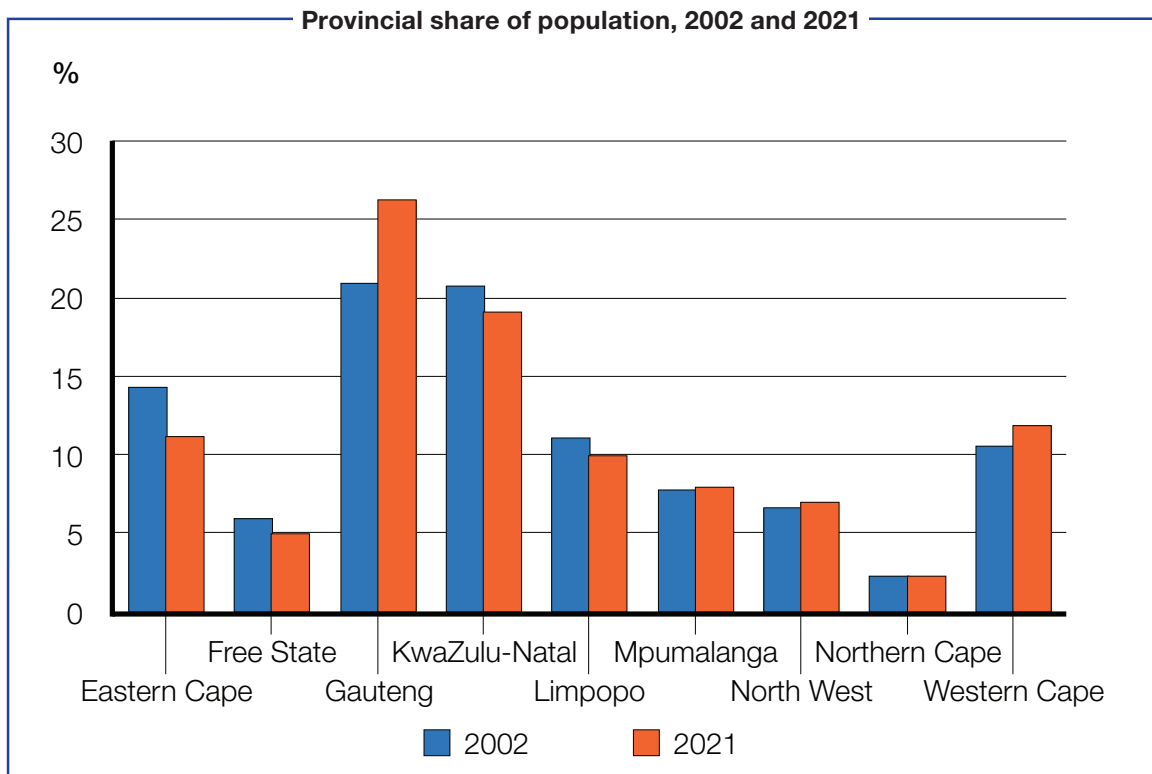
The IRR is an advocacy group that fights for your right to make decisions about your life, family and business, free from unnecessary government, political, and bureaucratic interference. FreeFACTS publishes evidence that communities are better off when individuals are free to make decisions about how 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.

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Ts and Cs apply.**

# Demographics

Population, by province, 2021		
Province	Population	Proportion of population
Eastern Cape	6 676 590	11.1%
Free State	2 932 441	4.9%
Gauteng	15 810 388	26.3%
KwaZulu-Natal	11 513 575	19.1%
Limpopo	5 926 724	9.9%
Mpumalanga	4 743 584	7.9%
North West	4 122 854	6.9%
Northern Cape	1 303 047	2.2%
Western Cape	7 113 776	11.8%
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>60 142 979</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Stats SA, *Mid-year population estimates, 2021*, Statistical release P0302, pvii

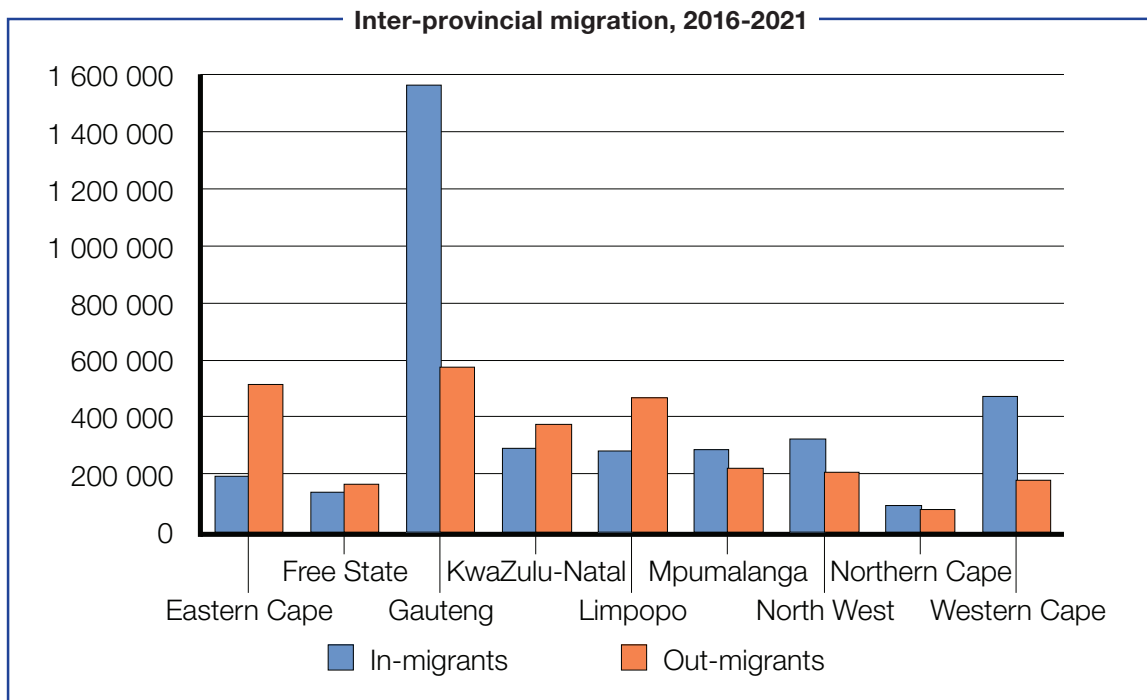


# Demographics

Migration, 2016-2021			
Province	In-migrants	Out-migrants	Net migration
Eastern Cape	192 839	512 504	-319 665
Free State	134 907	164 042	-29 135
Gauteng	1 564 861	573 271	991 590
KwaZulu-Natal	288 998	373 366	-84 368
Limpopo	281 289	469 960	-188 671
Mpumalanga	283 137	220 641	62 496
North West	320 679	204 053	116 626
Northern Cape	88 433	76 837	11 596
Western Cape	470 657	178 136	292 521

Source: Stats SA, *Mid-year population estimates, 2021*, Statistical release P0302, p25

In the same period it is estimated that there was net-migration of 852 991 foreigners into South Africa.

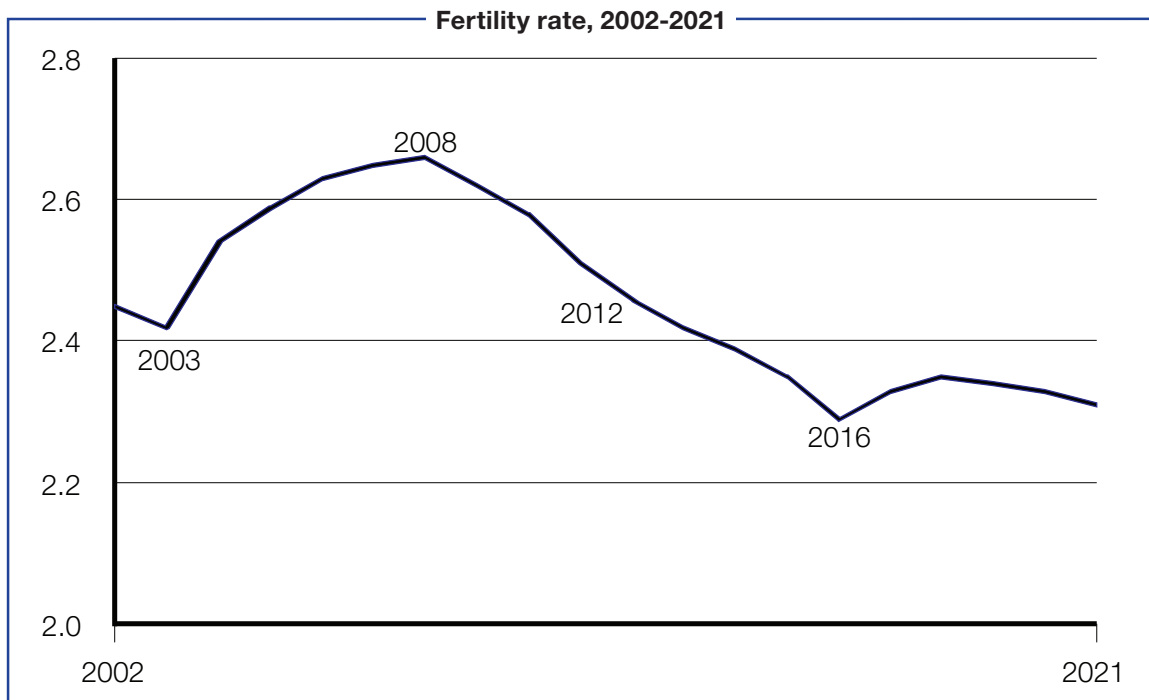


# Demographics

Fertility rate, 2002-2021			
Year	Fertility rate	Year	Fertility rate
2002	2.45	2012	2.46
2003	2.42	2013	2.42
2004	2.54	2014	2.39
2005	2.59	2015	2.35
2006	2.63	2016	2.29
2007	2.65	2017	2.33
2008	2.66	2018	2.35
2009	2.62	2019	2.34
2010	2.58	2020	2.33
2011	2.51	2021	2.31

Source: Stats SA, *Mid-year population estimates, 2021*, Statistical release P0302, p7

Note: The fertility rate is the average number of children a woman will have in her lifetime. For a population to remain constant the fertility rate needs to be 2.1.



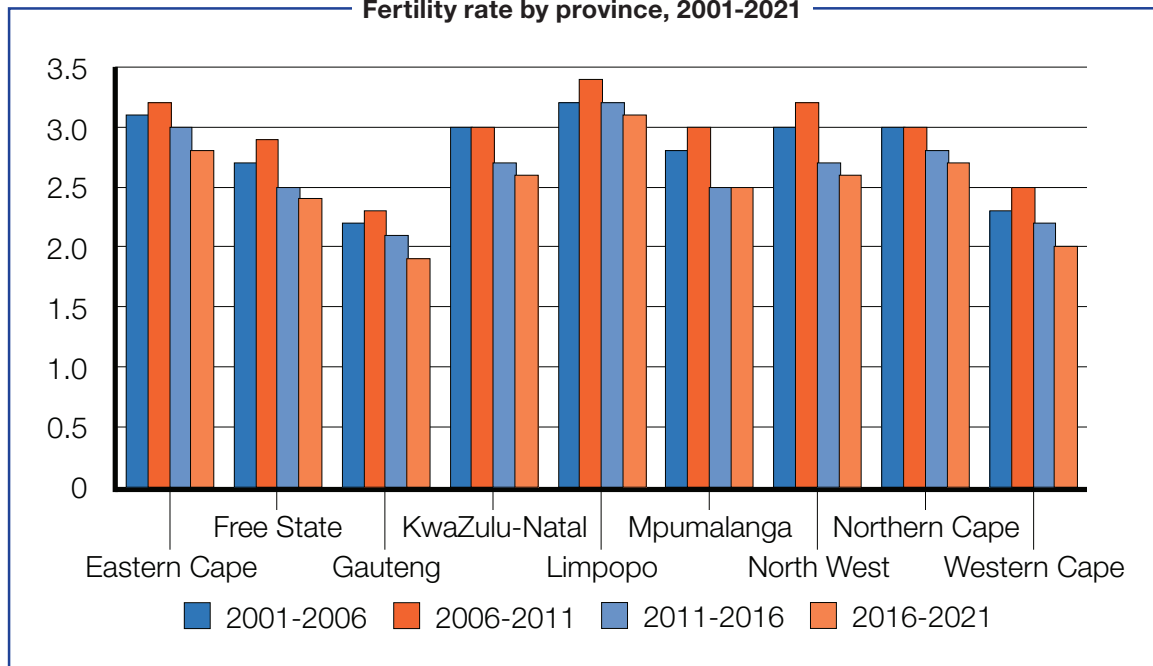
# Demographics

Fertility rate, by province, 2001-2021

Province	2001-2006	2006-2011	2011-2016	2016-2021
Eastern Cape	3.1	3.2	3.0	2.8
Free State	2.7	2.9	2.5	2.4
Gauteng	2.2	2.3	2.1	1.9
KwaZulu-Natal	3.0	3.0	2.7	2.6
Limpopo	3.2	3.4	3.2	3.1
Mpumalanga	2.8	3.0	2.5	2.5
North West	3.0	3.2	2.7	2.6
Northern Cape	3.0	3.0	2.8	2.7
Western Cape	2.3	2.5	2.2	2.0

Source: Stats SA, Mid-year population estimates, 2021, Statistical release P0302, p21

Fertility rate by province, 2001-2021



## Demographics

### Life expectancy by province (males), 2001-2021

Province	2001-2006	2006-2011	2011-2016	2016-2021
Eastern Cape	51.4	52.8	57.8	58.7
Free State	45.0	47.0	53.6	55.5
Gauteng	54.5	56.8	61.9	63.1
KwaZulu-Natal	46.7	48.6	55.7	57.4
Limpopo	52.9	54.5	59.1	61.2
Mpumalanga	51.5	53.2	58.5	60.8
North West	48.7	50.7	56.3	57.7
Northern Cape	51.3	52.3	56.0	57.6
Western Cape	59.2	60.9	64.3	64.9

Source: Stats SA, *Mid-year population estimates, 2021*, Statistical release P0302, p22

### Life expectancy by province (females), 2001-2021

Province	2001-2006	2006-2011	2011-2016	2016-2021
Eastern Cape	55.3	57.8	63.9	65.0
Free State	47.6	50.5	58.5	61.4
Gauteng	59.0	61.0	66.6	67.7
KwaZulu-Natal	51.0	53.6	61.8	63.6
Limpopo	58.2	60.8	65.6	66.5
Mpumalanga	56.0	58.4	64.9	66.0
North West	51.8	54.4	62.7	64.7
Northern Cape	55.9	57.8	62.6	64.3
Western Cape	63.7	65.9	69.9	70.3

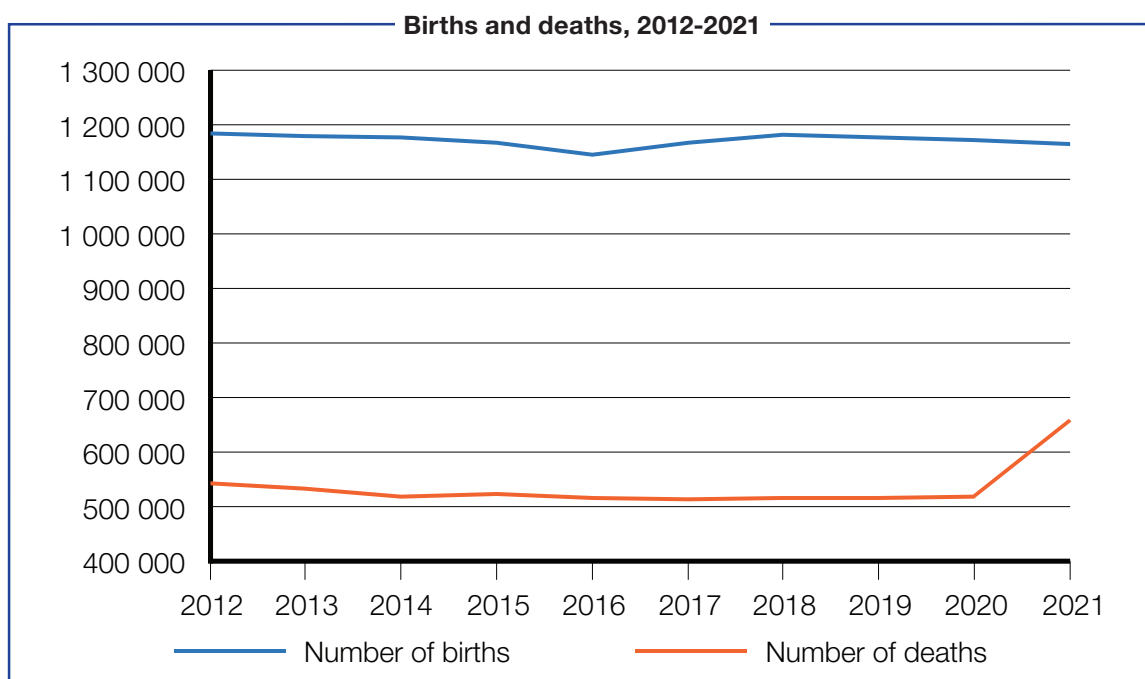
Source: Stats SA, *Mid-year population estimates, 2021*, Statistical release P0302, p23

# Demographics

Number of births and deaths, 2002-2021		
Year	Number of births	Number of deaths
2002 <sup>a</sup>	983 092	596 983
2003	991 067	617 135
2004	1 057 881	645 841
2005	1 102 207	673 977
2006	1 137 157	696 827
2007	1 171 370	696 160
2008	1 196 958	686 582
2009	1 203 604	643 045
2010	1 203 967	603 347
2011	1 192 033	561 381
2012	1 184 320	544 956
2013	1 179 957	535 678
2014	1 177 893	521 005
2015	1 167 002	525 739
2016	1 145 354	517 030
2017	1 168 092	515 722
2018	1 182 107	516 635
2019	1 178 116	518 613
2020	1 173 943	519 865
2021	1 166 304	659 913
<b>Change: 2002-2021</b>	<b>18.6%</b>	<b>10.5%</b>
<b>Change: 2020-2021</b>	<b>-0.7%</b>	<b>26.9%</b>

Source: Stats SA, *Mid-year population estimates, 2021*, Statistical release P0302, p14

a This refers to the period of July to June, i.e. 2002 measures births and deaths between July 2001 and June 2002.



# Demographics

Population by age and province, 2021			
Province	Population aged 15 and younger	Population aged 16-59	Population 60 and older
Eastern Cape	32.6%	55.9%	11.5%
Free State	28.5%	61.7%	9.8%
Gauteng	23.5%	68.0%	8.5%
KwaZulu-Natal	31.3%	60.5%	8.2%
Limpopo	34.0%	57.0%	9.0%
Mpumalanga	29.3%	62.6%	8.1%
North West	28.6%	62.4%	9.0%
Northern Cape	29.3%	60.6%	10.1%
Western Cape	24.4%	65.2%	10.4%
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>28.3%</b>	<b>62.5%</b>	<b>9.2%</b>

Source: Stats SA, *Mid-year population estimates, 2021*, Statistical release P0302, p29

