



# FreeFACTS

No 8/2018 / December 2018 / Issue 8

Find us online at [www.irr.org.za](http://www.irr.org.za)

## Quality of life in South Africa – apartheid casts a long shadow

**This edition of *Free FACTS* looks at the quality of life of South Africans.**

Two things are apparent – white South Africans in general have the best quality of life, while black South Africans have the worst. White South Africans fare well on most indicators, such as the matric pass rate, incomes, low levels of unemployment, and access to medical aid. Conversely, black people do relatively poorly on these indicators.

This tells us two things. White South Africans have fared relatively well since 1994. This is partly because of the legacy of apartheid, which resulted in their having, on average, higher levels of education, and higher incomes and family wealth.

Furthermore, to a large degree, white South Africans could no longer depend on the government, after 1994. This saw an increase in levels of entrepreneurship and involvement in the private sector. On the other hand, black South Africans, who had been disadvantaged through racist policies during apartheid and before, have continued to remain on average poorer than other race groups, and whites in particular. Although there have been significant improvements in the living standards and material circumstances of many black South Africans since 1994, these have stagnated since 2007.

This can be attributed to governance failures of the administration of Jacob Zuma, and the implementation of increasingly left-wing economic policies under his government. This saw decreases in employment levels, and stagnation of income levels. This affected all South Africans, but black South Africans in particular.

The solution is to implement policies which encourage economic activity rather than retard it. At the same time, the government needs to give ordinary South Africans control over their lives. It must also protect property rights, and halt harmful policies such as Expropriation without Compensation and National Health Insurance. People should be given more control over their children's education, how they receive medical care, and how their communities are policed. You can read about the IRR's proposals on education [here](#), health [here](#), and policing [here](#).

Policies which result in economic growth will benefit all South Africans, and are the only way to sustainably combat unemployment and poverty, and improve the lives of all who live in this country.

— **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.**

## What is the Quality of Life Index?

The Quality of Life Index (QOLI) was developed by the Centre for Risk Analysis (CRA), the IRR's sister organisation. A scoring system was developed, across a range of indicators to determine a QOLI score. The scores for each indicator were then collated to give an overall QOLI score for each population group.

**Table 1** presents a comparison of the results of the 2016 National Senior Certificate (matric) examinations. White candidates performed the best with a near perfect pass rate of 99%. Indian/Asian candidates performed second best with a pass rate of 92.8% and Black candidates performed worst with a pass rate of 69.3%.

Race	Proportion passed	QOLI Score
Black	69.3%	6.9
Coloured	85.4%	8.5
Indian/Asian	92.8%	9.3
White	99.0%	9.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	<b>7.5</b>

Source: IHS Global Insight Southern Africa, *Regional explorer version 1160*

**Table 2** shows the unemployment rate based on the expanded definition, which includes people who have given up looking for work.

Race	Rate	QOLI Score
Black	41.5%	5.9
Coloured	27.7%	7.2
Indian/Asian	16.4%	8.4
White	11.7%	8.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>37.2%</b>	<b>6.3</b>

Source: Stats SA, *Labour Force Survey Historical Revision March Series 2001 to 2007*, Statistical release P0210, 28 August 2008, pp7, 23; *Quarterly Labour Force Survey Quarter 2: 2017*, Statistical release P0211, 31 July 2018, pp39–40, pp43–50

a Stats SA's expanded definition of unemployment measures anybody without a job who wanted to work and was available to take up employment in the reference period, but who was not actively seeking work.

**Table 3** shows the proportion of households, by race, spending R10 000 or more per month. White households perform the best with a proportion of 65.7% of households spending R10 000 or more per month. Indian/Asian households perform second best with a proportion of 41.3%. Black households perform worst with only 9.5% of households spending above that threshold.

Race	Proportion	QOLI Score
Black	9.5%	1.0
Coloured	25.5%	2.6
Indian/Asian	41.3%	4.1
White	65.7%	6.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>16.9%</b>	<b>1.7</b>

Source: Stats SA, *General Household Survey 2017*, Statistical release P0318, 21 June 2018, pp171-172

a CRA calculations.

**Table 4** shows the levels of access to piped water for each of the four race groups. Coloured households have the best access to piped water, at 98.1%. Indian/Asian households are second best with a proportion of 97.5% and Black households are worst with a proportion of 86.7%.

**Table 4: Household access to piped water by race, 2017**

Race	Piped water <sup>a</sup>	QOLI Score
Black	86.7%	8.7
Coloured	98.1%	9.8
Indian/Asian	97.5%	9.8
White	94.8%	9.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>88.6%</b>	<b>8.9</b>

Source: Stats SA, *General Household Survey 2017 (P0318)*, 21 June 2018, p35

a Includes piped water in the dwelling, inside the yard/on-site, and off-site/from a neighbour's tap or at a communal stand.

**Table 5** shows the levels of access to a flush toilet, chemical toilet or a pit latrine among households. White households perform best with 99.1% having access to a basic sanitation facility. Indian/Asian households perform second best with a proportion of 98.5%. Black households fare the worst with a proportion of 79%. Thus, more than a fifth of Black households do not have access to proper sanitation facilities.

**Table 5: Households with access to a functioning basic sanitation facility<sup>ab</sup> by race, 2017**

Race	Basic sanitation facility	QOLI Score
Black	79.0%	7.9
Coloured	96.5%	9.7
Indian/Asian	98.5%	9.9
White	99.1%	9.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>82.7%</b>	<b>8.3</b>

Source: CRA calculations from data provided by the Stats SA

a Includes flush toilet connected to a public sewerage system, flush toilet connected to a septic tank, chemical toilet, pit latrine/toilet with ventilation pipe.

b CRA calculations.

**Table 6** reviews refuse collection data across the different provinces and for the four race groups. Waste removal is not only a measure of a municipality's ability to deliver services, but is also an integral part of efforts to maintain a healthy and safe environment. White households perform best, with 7.7% having irregular or no waste removal, followed by the Coloured population at 11.9%. Black households perform worst with 29.8% having problems with waste removal.

**Table 6: Irregular or no waste removal by race, 2017**

Race	Irregular or no waste removal	Score
Black	29.8%	7.0
Coloured	11.9%	8.8
Indian/Asian	16.4%	8.4
White	7.7%	9.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>26.0%</b>	<b>7.4</b>

Source: Stats SA, *General Household Survey 2017*, 21 June 2018, pp167-168

**Table 7** shows the proportion of households with medical aid coverage. White households perform best with 71.7% of households having medical cover. Indian/Asian households perform second best with 48.6% and Black households perform the worst with a proportion of just 10%.

Race	Proportion	Score
Black	10.0%	1.0
Coloured	20.1%	2.0
Indian/Asian	48.6%	4.9
White	71.7%	7.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>16.8%</b>	<b>1.7</b>

Source: Stats SA, *General Household Survey 2017*, 21 June 2018

a CRA calculations.

**Table 8** provides an aggregate score. Not surprisingly, the aggregate scores place the White population in top position with a score of 8.0. Black people perform worst with an index score of 5.2.

Race	Literacy rate	Unemployment (expanded definition)	Spending R10 000 or more per month	Households in houses owned but not yet paid off to bank	Access to piped water	Energy for cooking	Access to a basic sanitation facility	Waste removal	Medical aid coverage	Index score
Black	6.9	5.9	1.0	0.3	8.7	8.1	7.9	7.0	1.0	5.2
Coloured	8.5	7.2	2.6	1.1	9.8	8.9	9.7	8.8	2.0	6.5
Indian/Asian	9.3	8.4	4.1	2.0	9.8	9.2	9.9	8.4	4.9	7.3
White	9.9	8.8	6.6	2.4	9.5	8.6	9.9	9.2	7.2	8.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>5.6</b>