

March 2024
Country Profile

SOUTH AFRICA

Contents

- 1. Quick Infos: Republic of South Africa 3
 - 1.1. State and Politics 3
 - 1.2. Geography 3
 - 1.3. Society 4
 - 1.4. Economy..... 5
 - 1.5. Foreign Affairs 5
- 2. A Short History..... 6
- 3. The Political System of South Africa 8
 - 3.1. Executive Power 8
 - 3.1.1. Executive: National Level 8
 - 3.1.2. Executive: Provincial Level 9
 - 3.2. Judicial Power..... 9
 - 3.3. Legislative Power 9
 - 3.3.1. National Level..... 9
 - 3.3.2. Provincial Level 12
- 4. Economy 12
 - 4.1. SWOT Analysis 12
 - 4.2. GDP, Debt, Inflation 13
 - 4.3. Consolidated Government Expenditure by Function 15
 - 4.4. Export and Import 15
- 5. Society and Development Status 17
 - 5.1. The Development Status in Comparison..... 17
 - 5.2. Education..... 18
 - 5.3. Unemployment 19
- 6. Sustainability 20
 - 6.1. Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2024 20
 - 6.2. CO2 Emissions..... 20
- 7. List of References 21

1. Quick Infos: Republic of South Africa¹

1.1. State and Politics

Form of government	(Federal) Republic
Governance	1.1. Parliamentary democracy with a strong executive authority and federal elements
Capital	Pretoria (executive power), Cape Town (legislative power), Bloemfontein (judicial power: Supreme Court)
Official Language	11 official languages: isiZulu (23,8%), isiXhosa (17,6%), Afrikaans (13,3%), English (8,2%), sePedi (9,4%), Setswana (8,2%), seSotho (7,9%), Xitsonga (4,4%), siSwati (2,7%), tshiVenda (2,3%), South-Ndebele (1,6%), other languages (0,6%)
National Holiday	Freedom Day on 27th of April in 1994 (Day of the first free and democratic elections)
Provinces	Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, North-West-Province, Western Cape
Communities	8 metropolitans, 44 districts, 205 local municipalities
President	Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, ANC (since 15 th February 2018)
Vice-President	Mr Paul Shipokosa Mashatile, ANC (since 6 th February 2023)
Ruling Party	ANC (African National Congress)
External reference document	National Development Plan (2011): Vision for 2030
Parliament	1. Bicameral system consisting of the National Assembly (400 seats) and the National Council of Provinces (90 seats)
Opposition parties	DA, EFF, IFP, FF+, ACDP, ActionSA (more information p.8)

1.2. Geography

Area	1.219.602 km (3,4 times bigger than Germany) (Germany: 357.127 km ²)
Neighbouring States	Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Lesotho
Climate	Usually semi-arid (dry); it varies from Subtropical to Mediterranean at the coast
Natural resources	Gold, chromium, antimony, coal, iron ore, manganese, nickel, phosphates, tin, rare earths, uranium, diamonds, platinum, copper, vanadium, salt, natural gas
Cities/ metropolitan areas	Johannesburg (6,3 Mio.), Cape Town (5 Mio.), Durban (3,3 Mio.), Pretoria (2,9 Mio.), Port Elizabeth (1,3 Mio.), Vereeniging (803.000)

¹ Sources: African Economic Outlook (2017), CIA – The World Factbook (2018), Republic of South Africa (2017), Statistisches Bundesamt (2017), Stats SA (2011), UNDP (2016), Worldbank (2016), World Bank (2022), South African Government (2022), The World Bank| Data (2023). Republic of South Africa (2023), Reuters (2023), Stats SA (2023), Statistisches Bundesamt (2024), macro trends (2024), SARS (2024)

1.3. Society

Population	60.8 Mio. (2024)	Germany: 83,27 Mio. (2024)
Density of population	50 inhabitants per km ² (2024)	Germany: 239 inhabitants per km ² (2024)
Growth of population	1.00 % per year (2024)	Germany: -0.05% (2024)
Birth rate	18,75 births per 1000 inhabitants (2024)	Germany: 9,32 (2024)
Birth rate per women	2,3 children per women (2023)	Germany: 1,5 (2024)
Death rate	9.4 deaths per 1000 inhabitants (2024)	Germany: 12.7 (2022)
Infant mortality rate (under 5-years old)	26.8 per 1000 live births (2024)	Germany: 2.6 per 1000 live births (2024)
Life expectancy	62.89 years (2024)	Germany: 82.18 years (2024)
Demographic Groups	Black African 81.4%, Coloured 8,2%, White 7,3%, Indian/Asian 2,7% (2022)	
Religions	Christians 79,8% (Protestants 36,6%, Catholics 7,2%, other Christians 36%), Muslims 1,5%, Hindus 1,2%, African Traditional 0.3%, Judaism 0.2% (2022)	
Internet access	72% of the population (2023)	Germany: 91.6% (2022)
Mobile phones	1,74 per Person (2019)	Germany: 1,33 per Person (2019)

1.4. Economy

Gross domestic product	401.47 bill. US\$ (2024) 405.11bill. US (2022); 338,19 bill. US\$ (2020); 405,09 bill.US\$ (2018); 323,49 bill. US\$ (2016); 381,2 bill. US\$ (2014)
Economy growth	1.8% (2024) 1.9% (2022) -6% (2020) 1,6% (2018); 0,7% (2016); 1.4% (2014)
Main economic sectors	Mining, manufacturing (especially chemical industry), transport, agriculture, tourism
Unemployment rate	32.1% (Q4:2023); 34,4% (2021); 32,5% (2020); 27,1% (2018)
Expanded Unemployment	41.1% (Q4:2023)
Youth Unemployment	59.4% (Q4:2023)
Currency	South African Rand (ZAR)
Exchange rate	1 ZAR = 0,048 EUR; 1 EUR = 20,79 ZAR (March 1 st , 2024) ²
Trade associations	South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SACCI), Business Unity South Africa (BUSA), National African Federated Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NAFCOC)
Trade unions	Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), National Council of Trade Unions (NACTU), Federation of Unions of South Africa (FEDUSA), Confederation of South African Workers Unions (CONSAWU), Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU)
Top 5 countries SA exports to	China (11.9%), United States (7.8%), Mozambique (7.2%), Netherlands (5.7%), Japan (4.8%) (January 2024)
Top 5 countries SA imports from	China (20.3%), Germany (8.4%), India (8.1%), United States (7.6%), United Arab Emirates (4.0%) (January 2024)

1.5. Foreign Affairs

Responsible Department	Department of International Relations & Cooperation
Minister of International Relations and Cooperation	Naledi Pandor (ANC) since February 2019
Reference document	White Paper on Building a Better World: The Diplomacy of Ubuntu (2011)
Memberships	United Nations, BRICS, NEPAD, APRM, NAM (Non-Aligned Movement), AU, SADC, Commonwealth, WTO, UNCTAD, ICAO, IDA, IFC, IMF, ILO, IMO, ITU, UPU, WMO, WHO, IPU, IBRD, FAO
Military expenditure	0,7% of GDP, 3 bill US\$ (2022)

²The current exchange rate can be found on the following page: <https://www.oanda.com/lang/de/currency/converter/>

2. A Short History³

Time/Date	Events
3,5 Mio. years ago	Bone findings in the Sterkfontain Caves (1947: „Mrs. Ples“; 1997: „Little Foot“) and Taung (1924: „Kind von Taung“) prove the existence of the Hominid Species (early form of the human).
50.000 years	Evidence of the Khoisan (San and Khoikhoi) in Fish Hoek and at the Cheo Caves.
1000 BC	Bantu people (e.g. Sotho, Tswana, Zulu) immigrated to the area of today’s South Africa.
1030 – 1290	Mining and the development of the trading centre Mapungubwe, close to today’s mining town Musina.
1488 (April)	While shipping the southern tip of Africa, the Portuguese Bartolomeu Diaz discovered the “Cape of Storms”, which was later renamed “Cape of Good Hope”.
6 June 1652	Cape Town was founded as a resupply camp of the Dutch East India Company (VOC), which became a part of its trade route to India.
1806	The Cape Colony became Crown Colony after defeating the Dutch in Bloubergstrand, Bore republic Orange Free State and the Republic of South Africa were founded.
1836 – 1841	Approximately 6.000 Boers (Vortrekker) migrated to the North.
16. Dec. 1838	The Battle of Blood River was concluded by a victory of the Boers against the Zulu.
1869	Diamonds were discovered in Kimberley (Northern Cape).
1880 – 1881	“First Boer War” prevented Great Britain’s effort to expand more.
1886	Gold was discovered at Witwatersrand, which led to the foundation of Johannesburg.
1889 – 1902	“Second Boer War”(known as South African War) against the British led to the capitulation of the Orange Free State and Transvaals (1902). Integration of the Boer Republic in the Empire.
1910	The Union of South Africa was founded as a British dominion.
1912	The South African Native National Congress was founded, which renamed itself African National Congress (ANC) in the 1920s.
1913	Natives Land Act: Act of the South African parliament with the aim to regulate the acquisition of land by “natives”.
1914	The National Party (NP) was founded, which introduced and implemented the System of Apartheid after the electoral victory in 1948.
1952 and 1953	Defiance Campaign of the ANC against the System of Apartheid.
26 June 1955	Passage of the „Freedom Charter“ in Kliptown, close to Johannesburg.
21 March 1960	During the Sharpeville massacre 69 demonstrators got killed by shooting, afterwards the ANC and the radical Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) got prohibited.

³ Hagemann, A. (2007) and Pabst, M. (2008), S. 198, Deutsche Welle (2018). More information: BBC (2022) <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14094918>

31 May 1961	The Republic of South Africa was founded (RSA) after the resignation of the Commonwealth of Nations (March), which was claimed by the Asian and African member states.
12 June 1964	Nelson Mandela and other ANC-leaders got arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment on charges of sabotage (Rivonia Trial).
1976	Start of the Soweto uprising, after approximately 15.000 students demonstrated against substandard education (Bantu Education Act 1953) and Afrikaans as language of education; more than 575 people died; since 1994 the „Youth Day“ has been a national holiday (the 16 th of June).
1986	Increasing isolation of the apartheid regime due to the imposition of sanctions by the USA and EC.
5 July 1989	The president Pieter Willem Botha met the arrested Nelson Mandela.
2 Feb. 1990	The prohibition of the ANC, the Pan African Congress (PAC) and the communistic SACP was lifted.
20 Dec. 1991	The multi-party negotiations CODESA were convened (Convention for a Democratic SA).
18 Nov. 1993	An interim government was set up by CODESA for a peaceful passage to democracy.
26-29 April 1994	First democratic elections (National holiday „Freedom Day“ on the 27 th of April); Nelson Mandela was inaugurated as the South African State President at a ceremony in Pretoria on 10 th of May.
5 Dec. 1995	The Truth and Reconciliation Commission was founded; Final Report in October 1998
7 Feb. 1997	South Africa’s new constitution was approved and implemented.
2 June 1999	Thabo Mbeki (ANC) became the second State President after the second national elections in South Africa.
July 2001	37 African States passed the New African Partnership for Development (NEPAD).
9 July 2002	The African Union (AU) was founded in Durban as a successor organization of the OAU.
14 April 2004	The ANC was re-elected in national elections and Mbeki maintained his position as State president.
Dec. 2007	Jacob Zuma was elected as ANC-president.
25 Sept. 2008	After the resignation of Mbekis, Kgalema Motlanthe became interim president of South Africa. Electricity crisis (January) and xenophobic assaults in several townships (May).
22 April 2009	Victory of the ANC in the national elections; Jacob Zuma became the new State President.
2010	World football championship took place in nine South African cities.
2014	ANC wins parliamentary elections; Jacob Zuma remains president.
2016	For the first time in South Africa's history, the Constitutional Court confirms that the President has not complied with the Constitution. The Court orders a repayment of funds that were misused during the construction of his residence.
18 Dec. 2017	Vice President Cyril Ramaphosa wins the vote at the ANC party conference and is elected new party leader. He prevails against Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Jacob Zuma's ex-wife and former minister.
16 Feb. 2018	Former vice president and ANC leader Cyril Ramaphosa is elected president. Jacob Zuma, shaken by corruption scandals, resigns the day before, precluding the vote of no confidence announced by the ANC and opposition.
May 2019	National parliamentary and provincial elections. Victory of the ANC and confirmation of Ramaphosa as President of South Africa.
July 2021	Jacob Zuma sentenced to 15 months in jail for contempt of court, followed by protests and looting in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal

3. The Political System of South Africa

3.1. Executive Power

3.1.1. Executive: National Level⁴

The Republic of South Africa consists of a President, who serves both as Head of State and as Head of Government, a Vice-president and several ministers, whose business divisions cover at least one department. The President is elected by the parliament and can be re-elected only once. All members of the cabinet are appointed by the President and are members of the parliament as well. The government is in the Union Buildings in Pretoria. On May 29, 2019, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced his cabinet. The most recent cabinet reshuffle was in March 2023.

Ministry	Name (of Minister)
State president and head of government	Mr. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, ANC (Successor of Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma, ANC, 2009-2018)
Deputy President	Mr. Paul Mashatile, ANC
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development	Ms. Angela Thokozile Didiza
Basic Education	Ms. Matsie Angelina Motshekga
Communications and Digital Technologies	Mr. Mondli Gungubele
Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs	Ms. Thembu Nkadimeng
Defence and Military Veterans	Ms. Thandi Modise
Employment and Labour	Mr. Thembelani Thulas Nxesi
Finance	Mr. Enoch Godongwana
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	Ms. Barbara Creecy
Health	Dr Mathume Joseph Phaahla
Higher Education, Science and Innovation	Dr. Bonginkosi "Blade" Nzimande
Home Affairs	Dr. Pakishe Aaron Motsoaledi
Human Settlements	Ms. Mmamoloko Kubayi
International Relations and Cooperation	Ms. Grace Naledi Pandor
Justice and Correctional Services	Mr. Ronald Lamola
Mineral Resources and Energy	Mr. Samson Gwede Mantashe
Police	Mr. Bheki Cele
Presidency for Electricity	Dr. Kgosientsho David Ramokgopa
Presidency for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation	Ms. Maropene Ramokgopa
Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities	Dr. Nkosazana Clarice Dlamini Zuma
Presidency	Ms. Khumbudzo Ntshavheni
Public Enterprises	Mr. Pravin Jarnadas Gordhan
Public Service and Administration	Ms. Noxolo Kiviet
Public Works and Infrastructure	Mr. Sihle Zikalala
Small Business Development	Ms. Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams
Social Development	Ms. Lindiwe Zulu
Sports, Arts and Culture	Mr. Zizi Kodwa
Tourism	Mr. Patricia de Lille
Trade, Industry and Competition	Mr. Ebrahim Patel
Transport	Ms Sindisiwe Chikunga
Water and Sanitation	Mr. Senzo Mchunu

⁴ Parliament of the Republic of South Africa (2024)

3.1.2. Executive: Provincial Levels

The federal elements of the presidential democracy are the nine provinces, which arose out of the four provinces and six autonomic homelands after the end of the apartheid. In each case, a premier serves as the head of government of one of the nine provinces. Eight of nine provinces are ruled by the African National Congress. In the province Western Cape, the Democratic Alliance superseded the ANC as head of government in 2009.

Province	Premier
Northern Cape	Zamani Saul (ANC)
Eastern Cape	Oscar Mabuyane (ANC)
Free State	Mxolisi Dukwana (ANC)
Limpopo	Chupu Stanley Mathabatha (ANC)
Mpumalanga	Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane(ANC)
KwaZulu-Natal	Nomusa Dube-Ncube (ANC)
North West	Bushy Kaobitsa Maape (ANC)
Gauteng	Panyaza Lesufi (ANC)
Western Cape	Alan Winde (DA)

3.2. Judicial Power⁶

The South African legal system is based on Roman-Dutch law, English common law and traditional forms of law (so-called African customary law) and thus represents a hybrid form.

The court organization is divided into superior courts (Constitutional Court, Supreme Court of Appeal, High Courts), lower courts, specialist courts and military courts.

Today's Constitutional Court began its work in 1995 after the new constitution came into force and sits on Constitution Hill (photo) in Johannesburg. It is the highest authority in constitutional matters and consists of eleven judges, whose term of office is 12 to 15 years. The Chief Justice of South Africa is the most senior judge of the Constitutional Court and the head of South Africa's judiciary. Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng was Chief of Justice in South Africa from 2011 to 2021. The position was filled in 2022 and is now held by Justice Raymond Zondo.

The Supreme Court of Appeal is located in Bloemfontein and is the highest ordinary court in non-constitutional matters. It hears appeals from the Specialist Courts (labor law, land issues, electoral law, tax law) and criminal and civil appeals from the High Courts. The President of the Supreme Court of Appeal has been MB Molemela since 2022.

The High Courts are responsible for provincial jurisdiction as well as appeals from the Lower Courts on civil and criminal matters. The Lower Court system consists of the Magistrates' Court at the regional and district level, as well as the traditional Chief's and Headman's Courts and Small Claims Courts.

3.3. Legislative Power

3.3.1. National Level

The South African two-chamber system consists of the National Assembly (NA) and the National Council of Provinces (NCOP). In accordance with their political relative strength every province appoints ten members for the 90 seats in the National Council of Provinces. All 400 delegates of the National Assembly are elected every five years according to the proportional representation and with the aid of regional and national lists of the parties. The head of the party or the coalition of parties, which receive most of the votes in the parliament, will be appointed as State president. The parliament is located in Cape Town. Next parliamentary elections will be held in May 2024.

⁵ Provincial Government of South Africa (2024)

⁶ The South African Judiciary (2024)

Political Parties of the National Assembly⁷

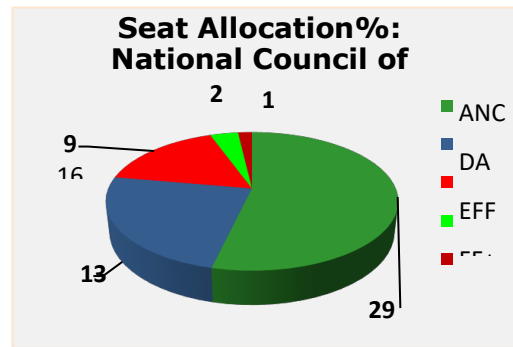
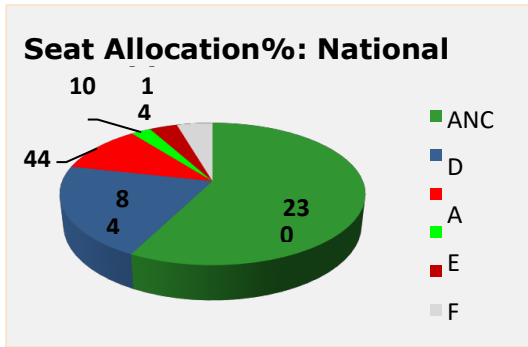
	Party	Party leader	Foundation	Political Orientation ⁸	Youth-organisation
	African National Congress (ANC) 230 Seats	Cyril Ramaphosa (since December 2017)	1912 (African Native National Congress)	Centre-left to left, partly nationalist tendencies	African National Congress Youth League
	Democratic Alliance (DA) 84 Seats	John Steenhuisen	2000 (merging of the Democratic Party, New National Party and Federal Alliance)	In the broadest sense political centre; especially liberal positions in terms of fiscal policy	Democratic Alliance Youth
	Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) 44 Seats	Julius Malema	17. August 2013 (Malema was president of the ANC Youth League until his expulsion from the ANC 2012)	Left-wing populist, left-radical, anti-capitalist, pan-African, nationalist	EFF Students Command
	Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) 14 Seats	Velenkosini Fiki Hlabisa	1975 (Inkatha National Cultural Liberation Movement)	Liberal-conservative, traditionalist, anti-communist	IFP Youth Brigade
	Freedom Front Plus (FF+) 10 Seats	Dr. Pieter Groenewald	1994 FF; 2004 Federation with Conservative Party and Afrikaner Eenheds Beweging	Conservative, nationalist	FF+ Youth
	African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP) 4 Seats	Kenneth Meshoe	1993	Conservative, Christian Democratic	ACDP Youth Foundation
	United Democratic Movement (UDM) 2 Seats	Bantu Holomisa	1997 (Roelf Meyer (NP), B. Holomisa (ANC) and Tom Taylor (ANC))	Centre-left, social-democratic	United Democratic Movement Youth Vanguard
	African Transformation Movement (ATM) 2 Seats	Vuyolwethu Zungula	2018	Conservative, Christian Democratic	
	GOOD 2 Seats	Patricia de Lille	2018 (Separation from DA)	Social-democratic	
	National Freedom Party (NFP) 2 Seats	Ivan Rowan Barnes	2011 (Separation from IFP)	Traditionalistic, social democratic	NFP Youth Movement, NFP Women Movement
	African Independent Congress (AIC) 2 Seats	Mandla Galo	2005 (founded by several citizens in Matatiele, Eastern Cape)	Social-Conservative	
	Congress of the People (COPE) 2 Seats	Mosiua Lekota	2008 founded from former ANC members	Social democratic to left-liberal	Congress of the People Youth Movement
	Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) 1 Seat	Narius Kolebe Moloto	1959 (Separation from ANC)	Pan-African, socialist	Pan Africanist Youth Congress of Azania
	Al Jama-ah 1 Seat	Ganief Hendricks	2007	Islamic tendencies	

⁷ On the impact of the ANC-dominated party system on political, social and economic development in South Africa, see also De Jager, N. (2012), pp. 149-170 and Thuynsma, Heather A. (ed.) (2017). Political Parties in South Africa. Do they Undermine or Underpin Democracy? Africa Institute of South Africa/Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Pretoria.

⁸ The parties' orientation is mainly to the left of the center and can only be assessed on a tendency basis.

Elections⁹: 2019

Allocation of the 400 Seats in the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces after the Elections in 2019



Elections: Results since 1999

Party	2019		2014		2009		2004		1999	
	Votes %	Seats	Votes %	Seats	Votes %	Seats	Votes %	Seats	Votes %	Seats
African National Congress (ANC)	57,5	230	62,15	249	65,9	264	69,9	279	66,35	266
Democratic Alliance (DA)	20,77	84	22,23	89	16,66	67	12,37	50	(DP) 9,58	38
Congress of the People (COPE)	0,27	2	0,67	3	7,42	30	-	-	-	-
Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP)	3,38	14	2,4	10	4,55	18	6,97	28	8,58	34
Independent Democrats (ID)	-	-	-	-	0,92	4	1,73	7	-	-
United Democratic Movement (UDM)	0,45	2	1	4	0,85	4	2,28	9	3,42	14
Freedom Front Plus (FF+)	2,38	10	0,9	4	0,83	4	0,89	4	0,8	3
(New) National Party (NNP)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,87	28
African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP)	0,84	4	0,57	3	0,81	3	1,6	7	1,43	6
United Christian Democratic Party (UCDP)	-	-	0,12	-	0,37	2	0,75	3	0,78	3
Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC)	0,19	1	0,21	1	0,27	1	0,73	3	0,7	3
Azanian People's Organisation (AZAPO)	0,07	-	0,11	-	0,22	1	0,25	1	0,17	1
Minority Front (MF)	0,07	-	0,12	-	0,25	1	0,35	2	0,3	1
African People's Convention (APC)	0,11	-	0,17	1	0,2	1	-	-	-	-
Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF)	10,79	44	6,35	25	-	-	-	-	-	-
National Freedom Party (NFP)	0,35	2	1,57	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
African Independent Congress (AIC)	0,28	2	0,53	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Agang SA	0,08	-	0,28	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
African Transformation Movement (ATM)	0,44	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GOOD	0,40	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Al Jama-ah	0,18	1	0,14	-	0,15	-	-	-	-	-
Others (total)	1,45	-	0,43	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

⁹ Own graphic, see Electoral Commission of South Africa (2019).

3.3.2. Provincial Level¹⁰

Provincial Legislatures

Together with the elections for the national parliament, the people's representatives are elected in the nine provinces. While the ANC dominates eight of the nine provinces, the Democratic Alliance won the majority of votes in the Western Cape. In the remaining provinces, the Democratic Alliance (DA) is in opposition together with the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF). In its home province of KwaZulu-Natal, the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) is now the official opposition party. Shortly after its increase in seats and strength in 2019 it began to decline, however in 2022/2023 its support has seen a steady incline.

4. Economy

4.1. SWOT Analysis¹¹

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relatively big African Market with 60 million consumers • Relatively good infrastructure (roads, telecommunication) • Possibility to enter a market of the neighbouring countries due to good connections in other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (Total population Sub-Saharan Africa: 1.21 billion (2022)) • Relatively stable political conditions and rule of law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of high-skilled workers • Problems with the electricity supply, especially for industries, which consume much energy • High criminality • Partly inflated bureaucracy • Lack of education, ailing education and health system • 19,6% of population of working age between 15-49 years are HIV positive (2022)¹²
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High investment needs in the fields of energy, water, transport and telecommunication • Dependence on imports for highly developed products • Increasing middle class with rising consumer needs • Relatively young population structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recurring debates (especially within the ruling party ANC) about the nationalization of specific branches of industry (e.g. mining) • Present electricity crisis and continuous loadshedding • Social inequality • Exaggerated pay demands and pay increases (violent strikes)

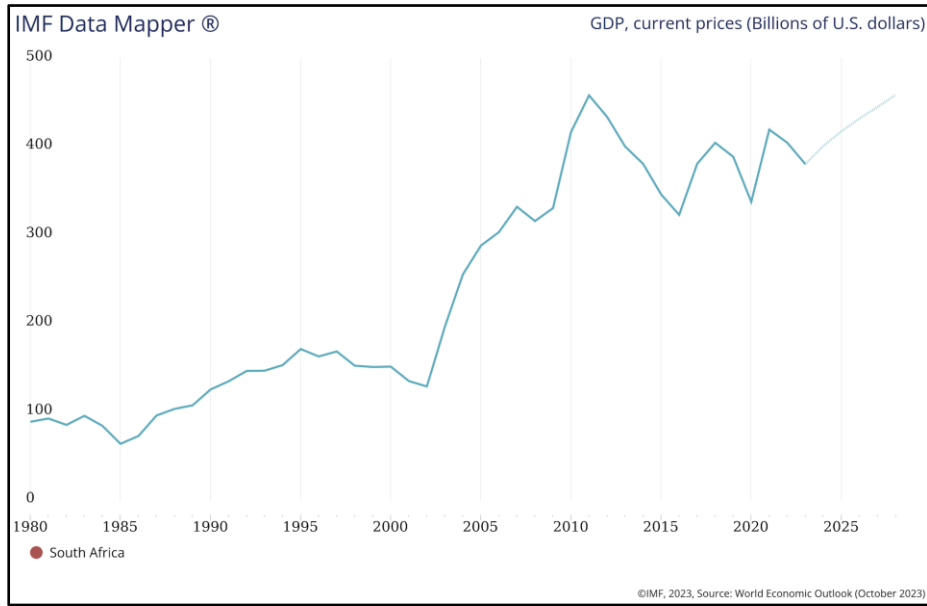
¹⁰ Own graphic: see Electoral Commission of South Africa (2019), South African Government (2024)

¹¹ More information: Stumpf, H. (2012), page 63.

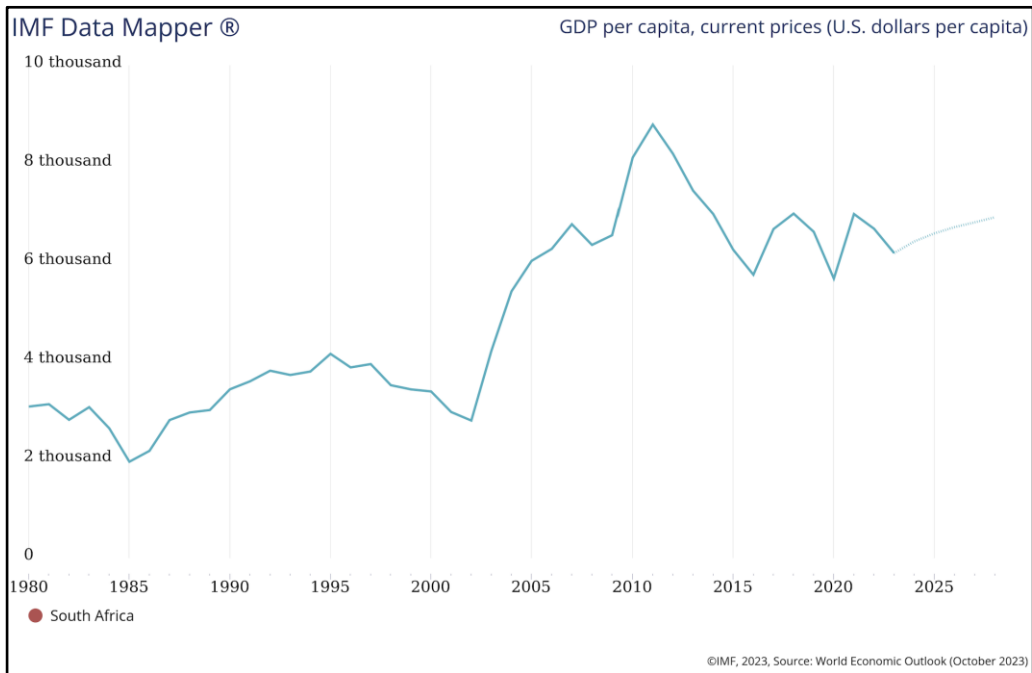
¹² Republic of South Africa: Republic Communication and Information System (2022)

4.2. GDP, Debt, Inflation

GDP between 1980 and 2024

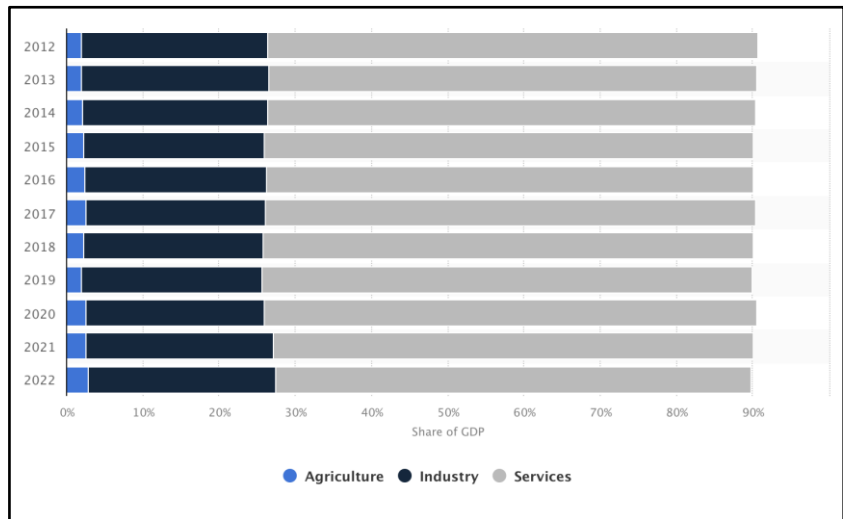


GDP per capita between 2010 and 2022 in US\$

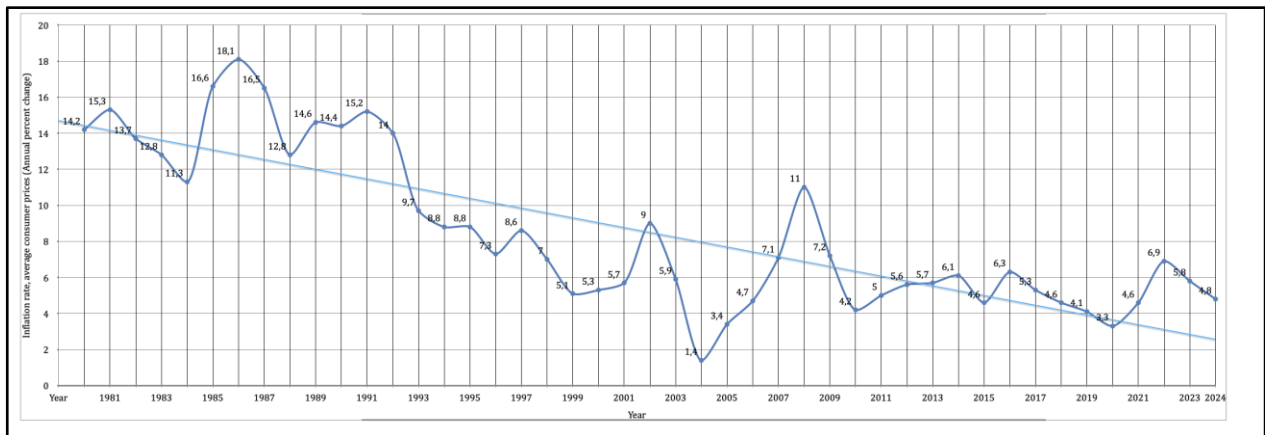


Distribution of GDP across Economic Sectors¹³

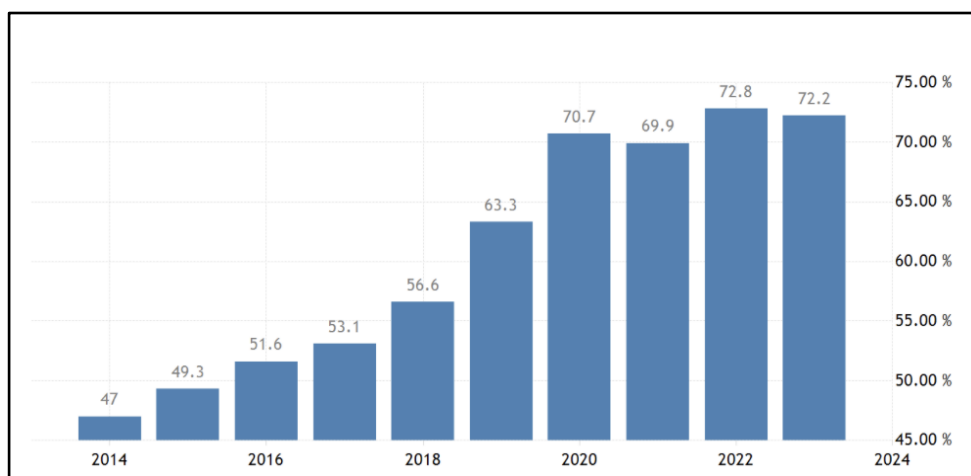
2022	
● Agriculture	2.83%
● Industry	24.68%
● Services	62.3%



Development of the Inflation Rate (average consumer prices) between 1980 and 2024¹⁴



Government Debt % of the GDP¹⁵



¹³ World Bank (2024) {Graphic: Statista}

¹⁴ IMF (2024)

¹⁵ Trading Economics (2023)

4.3. Consolidated Government Expenditure by Function¹⁶

Functional classification	Total for 2021/2022 (in Rand (billion)) (% of total expenditure)	Change in contributions of economic and functional classification of expenditure to total expenditure, 2021/2022 compared with 2014/15
Education	431,0 (19,7%)	0.4
Health	267,8 (12,2%)	1.2
Social protection	342,2 (15,6%)	2.3
Housing & community amenities	71,5 (3,3%)	-1.2
Economic affairs	208,8 (9,5%)	-0.7
Defence	51,7 (2,4%)	-0.6
General public services	565,2 (25,8%)	0.6
Public order and safety	190,3 (8,7%)	-1.3
Environmental protection	13,4 (0,6%)	-0.2
Recreation, culture and religion	45,0 (2,1%)	0.4
Allocated expenditure	2 187,0	

4.4. Export and Import

Important Trade Partners: Development¹⁷

Exports (2024)	%	Imports (2024)	%
China	11.9	China	20.3
USA	7.8	Germany	8.4
Mozambique	7.2	India	8.1
Netherlands	5.7	USA	7.6
Japan	4,8	United Arab Emirates	4.0

Exports (2019)	%	Imports (2019)	%
China	11,1	China	23,1
USA	8,1	Germany	9,2
Germany	6,2	USA	5,7
Japan	4,8	India	4,2
Botswana	4,8	Saudi Arabia	3,4

Exports (2023)	%	Imports (2023)	%
China	11.9	China	23.1
Germany	8.6	Germany	8.9
USA	7.7	USA	8.2
United Kingdom	5.6	India	6.9
Japan	4,6	United Arab Emirates	3.3

¹⁶ Own graphic, see Stats SA (2023)

¹⁷ Own graphic, see SARS (2024).

Exports and Imports by Goods and by Percent¹⁸

Exports (2023)	%	Imports (2023)	%
Pearls, Precious Stones, Metals, Coins	18%	Mineral Fuels, Oils, Distillation Products	21%
Ores Slag and Ash	15%	Machinery, Nuclear Reactors, Boilers	12%
Vehicles other than Railway, Tramway	12%	Electrical, Electronic Equipment	12%
Mineral Fuels, Oils, Distillation Products	11%	Commodities not specified according to kind	8.2%

Exports (2022)	%	Imports (2022)	%
Pearls, Precious Stones, Metals, Coins	21%	Machinery	21.3
Mineral Fuels, Oils, Distillation Products	14%	Mineral products	16.9
Ores Slag and Ash	13%	Chemical products	12.6
Vehicles other than Railway	9.1%	Vehicles, aircraft, ships	7.7

Exports (2017)	%	Imports (2017)	%
Precious metals	33,3%	Machines	24,4
Mineral products	19,5%	Mineral products	16,6
Metals	10,4%	Transportation	11,5
Transportation	12,1%	Chemical products	10,8

¹⁸ Own graphic, see The Economist Intelligence Unit (2016), Trading Economics (2023), Trading Economics (2024).

5. Society and Development Status

5.1. The Development Status in Comparison

Category	Human Development	Corruption	Transformation	Stability	Governance	Distribution of Wealth
Index	Human Development Index 2021 ¹⁹	Corruption Perceptions Index 2023 ²⁰	Bertelsman Index 2022 ²¹	Fragile States Index 2023 ²²	Ibrahim Index of African Governance 2022 ²³	Gini coefficient as measure of inequality ²⁴
South Africa	Rank: 109 out of 191	Rank: 83 out of 180	Rank: Political Transformation: 19 out of 137 Economic Transformation: 53 out of 137	Rank: 78 out of 179 (with 179 being the most stable)	Rank: 6 out of 54	Rank: 1 st out of 163 Score: 63/100 Rank 1: most unequal; Rank 162: most equal Income distributed with perfect equality: index = 0. Income distributed with perfect inequality: index = 100
Comparison of Neighbouring countries						
Namibia	139	59 (53)	PT: 23 ET: 68	112 (103)	8	2 nd Score: 59.1
Botswana	117	39 (34)	PT: 15 ET: 22	122 (120)	5	10 Score: 53.3
Zimbabwe	146	149 (157)	PT: 91 ET: 127	16 (13)	29	13 Score: 50.3
Mozambique	185	145 (153)	PT: 89 ET: 106	21 (40)	26	8 Score: 54
Eswatini	144	130 (85)	PT: 112 ET: 112	58 (42)	35	6 Score: 54.6
Lesotho	168	93 (74)	PT: 64 ET: 86	66 (62)	17	30 Score: 44.9
Comparison of BRICS						
Brazil	87	104 (96)	PT: 29 ET: 30	71 (110)	-	17 Score: 48.9
India	132	93 (81)	PT: 50 ET: 65	73 (72)	-	86 Score: 35.7
China	79	76 (77)	PT: 116 ET: 29	101 (85)	-	68 Score: 38.2
Russia	52	141 (135)	PT: 84 ET: 39	53 (67)	-	85 Score: 36
Comparison of Germany, France and USA						
Germany	9	9 (12)	-	166 (165)	-	126 Score: 31.7
France	28	20 (23)	-	162 (159)	-	123 Score: 32.4
USA	21	24 (16)	-	141 (158)	-	47 Score: 41.5

¹⁹ UNDP (2022)

²⁰ Transparency International (2023)

²¹ Bertelsmann Stiftung (2022)

²² Fund for Peace (2023)

²³ Mo Ibrahim Foundation (2023)

²⁴ Wisevoter (2023)

Civil Rights and Press Freedom

Index: Freedom in the World 2024²⁵

The Freedom in the World Index of the U.S. NGO Freedom House investigates political rights as well as civil liberty and divides the world in free, partly free and not free countries.

South Africa rated as "Free". Neighbouring states: Namibia, Botswana and Lesotho were also rated as "Free". Mozambique was rated as "Partly Free". Zimbabwe and Eswatini were rated as "Not Free". China and Russia as BRICS Countries were rated as "Not Free". India was rated as "Partly Free" and Brazil as "Free". Germany, France and the USA were also rated as Free.

Index: Reporters without Borders Index 2023²⁶

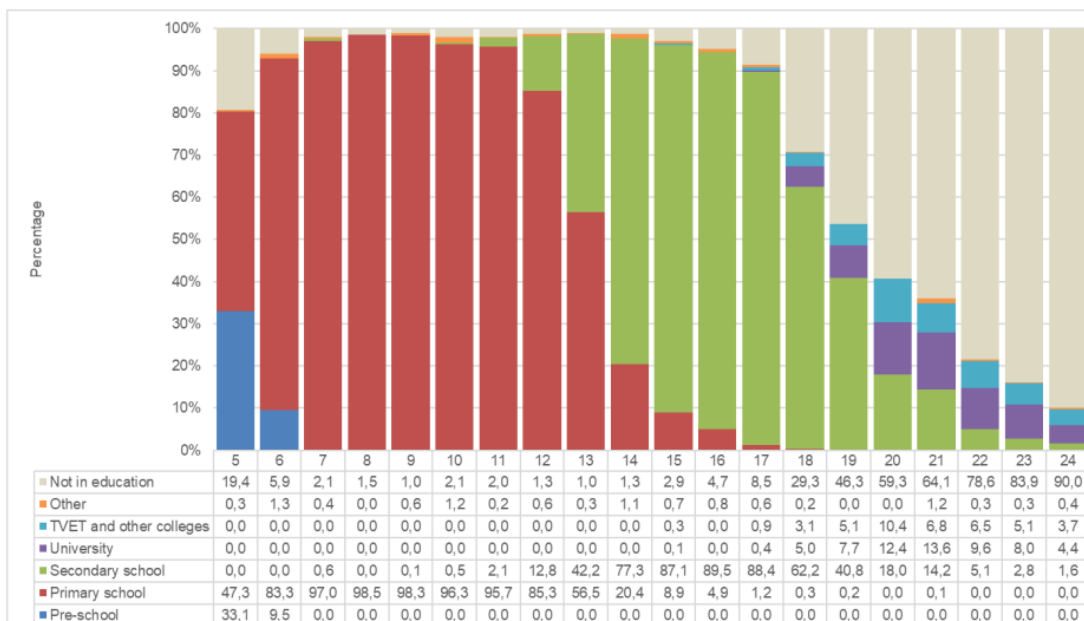
South Africa ranks 25/180. According to Reporters without Borders South Africa guarantees press freedom and has a well-established culture of investigative journalism.

Remarks:

1. The Human Development Report of the UNDP consists, among other things, of the Human Development Index (HDI), which is a summary measure of average achievement in three key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, having a decent standard of living and being knowledgeable.
2. The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) of the NGO Transparency International reflects the extent to which politicians and officials of a specific investigated country perceive corruption.
3. The Bertelsmann Transformation Index (BTI) of the Bertelsmann Foundation measures the quality of democratic and market-based structures.
4. The Failed States Index of the newspaper Foreign Policy and the Think Tank Fund for Peace estimates the risk of a breakdown of the state. The higher the rank the higher the risk.
5. The Ibrahim Index of African Governance rates African States in terms of the rule of law, security, human rights, human development and economic opportunities.
6. The Gini coefficient measures the deviation compared with a perfect income distribution. 0 means that there is a perfect equal distribution of income, 100 means that there is an absolute unequal distribution of income. The given numbers were taken from Wisevoter.

5.2. Education

Type of Educational Institution attended by Population 5-24 Years, 2021²⁷



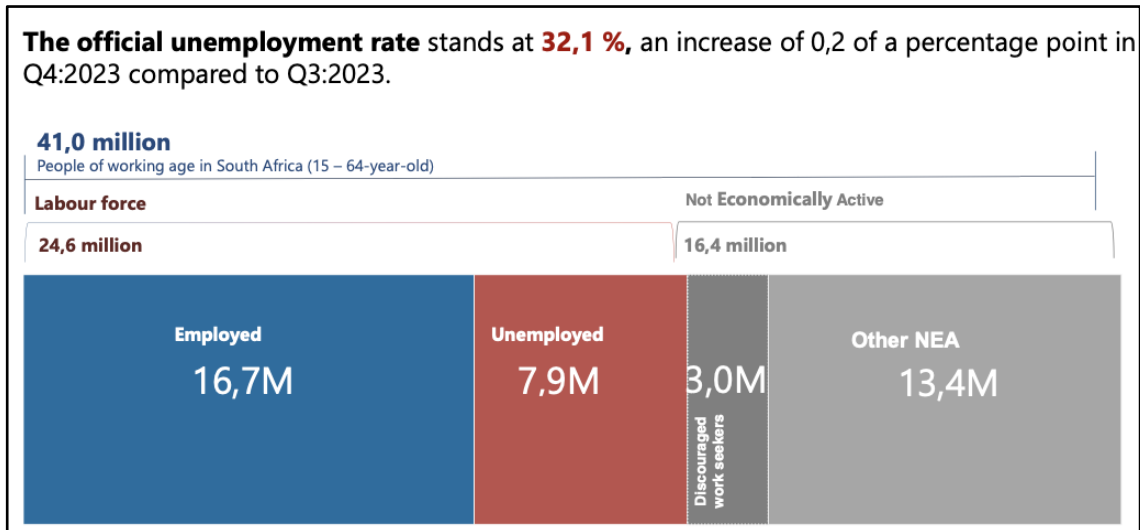
²⁵ Freedom House (2024)

²⁶ Reporters without Borders (2023)

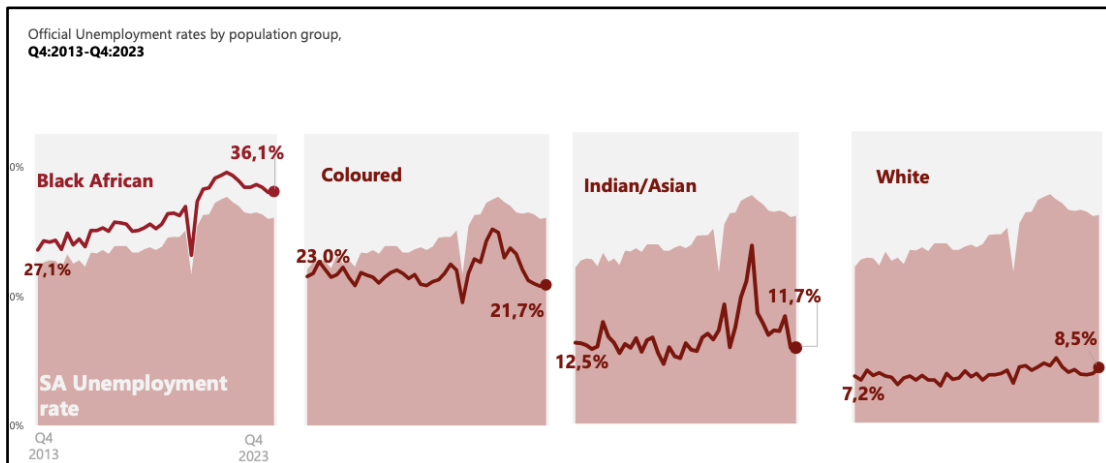
²⁷ Stats SA (2021)

5.3. Unemployment²⁸

The official unemployment rate in the 4th quarter of 2023 is 32.1%.



On average, black Africans are significantly more likely to be unemployed.



²⁸ Stats SA: Quarterly Labour Force Survey Q4 2023 (2024)

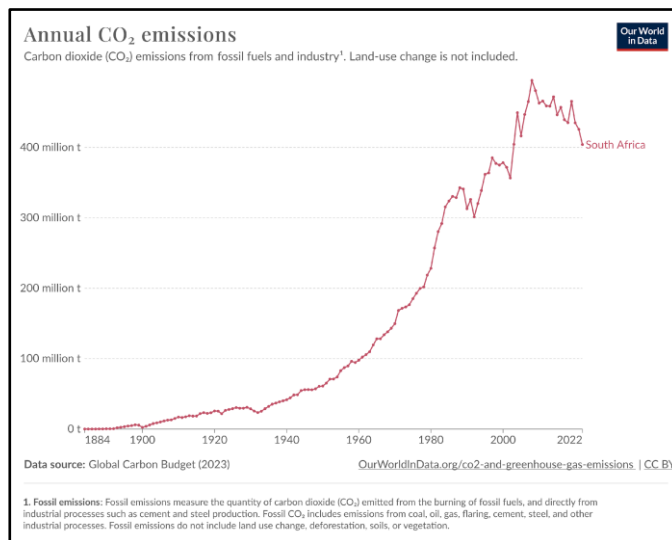
6.Sustainability

6.1. Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2024²⁹

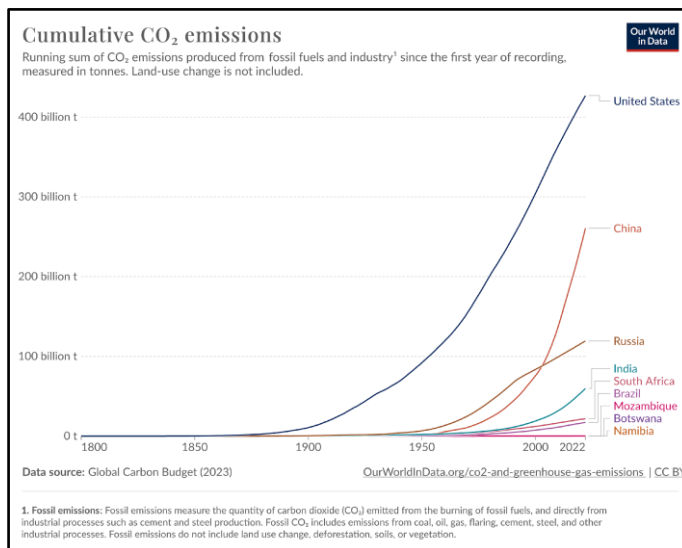
South Africa ranks 45 out of 67 and received the following rating across the CCPI's four categories: very low in Renewable Energy, low in Climate Policy and GHG Emissions, and high in Energy Use.

6.2. CO2 Emissions

South Africa was Africa's largest CO2 emitter in 2022, ranking 15th in the world. In the following graph: South Africa's annual CO2 emissions since 1984.



South Africa is also leading the way in Africa in a global historical comparison, but is well behind countries such as the USA, China and Russia. The following chart shows cumulative CO2 emissions by selected countries.



²⁹ Germanwatch (2024)

7. List of References

- African Economic Outlook (2017). *Entrepreneurship and Industrialisation*. Online: <http://www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/en/home> (consulted 08.03.2018).
- Bertelsmann Stiftung (2022). *Transformationsindex BTI 2022 (Status Index)*. Online: <https://bti-project.org/en/?&cb=00000>
- Böhler, W. und Weber, J. (2009). *Südafrika nach den Wahlen*. In: KAS-Auslandsinformationen, pp. 7-48.
- Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) – The World Fact Book (2018). *South Africa*. Online: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/sf.html> (consulted 08.03.2018).
- De Jager, Nicola und du Toit, Pierre, Friend or Foe (2012). *Dominant Party Systems in Southern Africa: Insights from the Developing World*. New York und Tokio 2012, pp. 149-170.
- Deutsche Welle (15.02.2018). *Cyril Ramaphosa ist neuer Präsident Südafrikas*. In: Deutsche Welle. Online: <http://www.dw.com/de/cyriil-ramaphosa-ist-neuer-pr%C3%A4sident-s%C3%BCdafrikas/a-42600045> (consulted 08.03.2018).
- Economist Intelligence Unit (2016). South Africa Fact Sheet. Online: http://country.eiu.com/article.aspx?articleid=1066416090&Country=South%20Africa&topic=Summary&sub_8 (consulted 08.03.2018).
- Freedom House (2024). *Freedom in the World 2024*. Online: <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world>
- Fund for Peace (2023). *The Failed States Index*. Online: <https://fragilestatesindex.org/2023/06/14/fragile-states-index-2023-annual-report/>
- Germanwatch (2024). *Climate Change Performance Index*. Online: <https://ccpi.org/country/zaf/>
- Hagemann, A. (2007). *Kleine Geschichte Südafrikas*. C.H. Beck, Munich.
- IMF (2018). South Africa. Online: <http://www.imf.org/en/Countries/ZAF> (consulted 08.03.2018).
- macrotrends (2024). *South Africa Population 1950-2024*. Online: <https://www.macrotrends.net/global-metrics/countries/BRA/south-africa/population>
- Mo Ibrahim Foundation (2018). *The Ibrahim Index of African Governance 2018*. Online: http://iiag.online/http://s.mo.ibrahim.foundation/u/2018/11/27173840/2018-Index-Report.pdf?_ga=2.66402606.1012296603.155411887-1199299150.155411887 (consulted 01.04.2019).
- Mo Ibrahim Foundation (2023). *The Ibrahim Index of African Governance 2017*. Online: <http://iiag.online/> (consulted 08.03.2018).
- National Treasury South Africa (2018). *2018 Budget Highlights*. Online: <http://www.treasury.gov.za/documents/national%20budget/2018/sars/Budget%202018%20Highlights.pdf> (consulted 04.04.2018).
- OECD (2014). *Development Aid at a Glance – Statistics by region*. Online: <https://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/documentupload/2%20Africa%20-%20Development%20Aid%20at%20a%20Glance%202016.pdf> (consulted 08.03.2018).
- Pabst, M. (2008). *Südafrika – Becksche Länderreihe*. 2nd. Ed. C.H. Beck, Munich.
- Parliament of the Republic of South Africa (2018). *How Parliament is structured*. Online: <https://www.parliament.gov.za/how-parliament-is-structured> (consulted 08.03.2018).
- Parliament of the Republic of South Africa (2024). *Ministers*. Online: <https://www.parliament.gov.za/ministers>
- Provincial Government of South Africa (2018). *Provincial Government of South Africa*. Online: <https://provincialgovernment.co.za/> (consulted 04.04.2018).
- Provincial Government of South Africa (2024). *Provincial Premiers*. Online: <https://provincialgovernment.co.za/units/type/5/premiers>
- Reporters without Borders (2023). *2023 World Press Freedom Index*. Online: <https://rsf.org/en/2023-world-press-freedom-index-journalism-threatened-fake-content-industry>
- Republic of South Africa (2017). *South Africa Yearbook 2016/2017*. Online: <https://www.gcis.gov.za/sites/default/files/docs/resourcecentre/yearbook/SAYearbook2016-17.pdf> (consulted 06.03.2018).
- Republic of South Africa (2021) Statistical Release. Mid-year population estimate. Online: <http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0302/P03022021.pdf> (consulted 12.07.2023)
- Republic of South Africa: Republic Communication and Information System (2022). *Official Guide to South Africa 2021/22*. Online: <https://www.gcis.gov.za/official-guide-south-africa-202122>
- Reuters (2023) South Africa's unemployment rate rises amid power crisis. Online: <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/south-africas-unemployment-rate-rises-329-q1-2023-05-16/> (consulted 12.07.2023)
- SARS (2024). *Trade Statistics*. Online: <https://www.sars.gov.za/customs-and-excise/trade-statistics/>
- Schulz-Herzenberg, C.; Southall, R. (2014). *Election 2014: The campaigns, results and future prospects*. Jacana Media, Auckland Park.
- South African Government (2018). *Government Leaders*. Online: <https://www.gov.za/about-government/leaders> (consulted 04.04.2018).

South African Government (2022). *Statistics South Africa's Census 2022* Online: <https://www.gov.za/about-sa/south-africans-people#:~:text=Black%20Africans%20remain%20the%20dominant,2%2C7%25%20in%202022>

South African Government (2024). *National legislature (Parliament)* Online: [https://www.gov.za/about-government/government-system/national-legislature-parliament#:~:text=Parliament%20is%20the%20legislative%20authority,Council%20of%20Provinces%20\(NCOP\)](https://www.gov.za/about-government/government-system/national-legislature-parliament#:~:text=Parliament%20is%20the%20legislative%20authority,Council%20of%20Provinces%20(NCOP)).

Suhr, Henning (2018). *Zwischen Machtanspruch und Machtteilung: Südafrikas Parteien lernen den Umgang mit Koalitionen*. Online: https://www.kas.de/documents/252038/253252/7_dokument_dok_pdf_53747_1.pdf/2c2a613d-afa0-aa11-c426-cec6e943d283?version=1.0&t=1539646888000 (consulted 27.03.2019)

Suhr, Henning (2019). *Licht aus, Spot an: Wahlkampf in Südafrika in Zeiten der Energiekrise*. Online: <https://www.kas.de/laenderberichte/detail/-/content/licht-aus-spot-an-wahlkampf-in-suedafrika-in-zeiten-der-energiekrise-2> (consulted 03.04.2018)

Statistisches Bundesamt (2017). *Zahlen und Fakten*. Online: <https://www.destatis.de/DE/ZahlenFakten/GesellschaftStaat/Bevoelkerung/Bevoelkerung.html> (consulted 08.03.2018).

Statistisches Bundesamt (2024). *Deaths per 1000 inhabitants: Germany, months*. Online: <https://www-genesis.destatis.de/genesis/online?sequenz=tabelleErgebnis&selectionname=12613-0005&language=en#abreadcrumb>

Stats SA (2011). *Statistics South Africa*. Online: http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=3839 (consulted 06.03.2018).

Stats SA (2021). *General Household Survey*. Online: <https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0318/P03182021.pdf>

Stats SA (2019). *Quarterly Labour Force Survey Q4:2018 (2019)*. Online: http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0211/Presentation_QLFS%20Q4_2018.pdf (consulted:01.04.2019).

Stats SA (2024). *Quarterly Labour Force Survey Q4 2023*. Online: <https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0211/Presentation%20QLFS%20Q4%202023.pdf>

Stats SA (2023). *Statistics South Africa on Quarterly Labour Force Survey quarter three 2023* Online: <https://www.gov.za/news/media-statements/statistics-south-africa-quarterly-labour-force-survey-quarter-three-2023-14#:~:text=This%20resulted%20in%20a%20net,the%20third%20quarter%20of%202023>

Stats SA (2023). *The shift in government spending patterns over time*. Online: <https://www.statssa.gov.za/?p=16928>

Stumpf, H. (2012). *South Africa*. In: Deutsche Industrie- und Handelskammer für das südliche Afrika (Ed.), *Annual Report 2012*, Johannesburg.

The South African Judiciary (2024). *The South African Judicial System*. Online: <https://www.judiciary.org.za/index.php/the-south-african-judicial-system>

Thuynsma, Heather A. (ed.) (2017). *Political Parties in South Africa. Do they Undermine or Underpin Democracy?* African Institute of South Africa/Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation, Pretoria.

Trading Economics (2018). *South Africa Government Debt to GDP*. Online: <https://tradingeconomics.com/south-africa/government-debt-to-gdp> (consulted 08.03.2018).

Trading Economics (2023). *South Africa Imports*. Online: <https://tradingeconomics.com/south-africa/imports> (consulted 13.07.2023)

Transparency International (2023). *Corruption Perceptions Index 2023*. Online: <https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2023>

UNDP (2022). *Human Development Index*. Online: <https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/human-development-index#/indicies/HDI>

Wisevoter (2023). *Gini coefficient by country*. Online: <https://wisevoter.com/country-rankings/gini-coefficient-by-country/#:~:text=Economy-,Introduction,countries%2C%20states%2C%20or%20cities>.

World Bank (2016). *Country Profile – South Africa*. Online: http://databank.worldbank.org/data/Views/Reports/ReportWidgetCustom.aspx?Report_Name=CountryProfile&Id=b450fd57&tbar=y&dd=y&inf=n&zm=n&country=DEU (consulted 08.03.2018).

World Bank (2022). *Military expenditure (current USD) - South Africa*. Online: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/MS.MIL.XPND.CD?locations=ZA>

World Bank (2023). *DataBank*. Online: <https://data.worldbank.org/country/south-africa> (consulted 12.07.2023)

World Bank (2024). *World Development Indicators* Online: <https://databank.worldbank.org/source/world-development-indicators>