

CENSUS2011

a guide for spiritual leaders, ministry leaders and
business leaders with a kingdom mindset.



eKERK
Jesus - sigbaar, voelbaar, verstaanbaar

WHAT **YOU NEED TO KNOW** ABOUT THE 2011 SA CENSUS

The most important aim of the research and trend analysis of the e-church is to look at the world in view of our mandate to make disciples of all nations. We believe that spiritual workers and leaders in the kingdom have to be informed of what is happening in the world and around us. It is extremely important to know what is happening in our own country, cities and towns.

During 2011, the South African government, through StatsSA, launched an extensive census, and the detailed results were released about a year later in October 2012. The documents are available online to all users, free of charge. We are convinced that it is an excellent opportunity to make sure of the real state of our country and its wonderful people!

However the census statistics, figures and graphics can be overwhelming. For this reason we compiled this trend report to help you understand the main points of this census and also offer you one or two applications for our local faith communities. Naturally it will be a good idea to make your own deductions of how the census results will affect your unique ministry – even if you have to discuss this with your colleagues and immediate ministry leaders!

This report will accompany you through the most important statistics, and then we have divided the main points into

household, technological, training and demographic applications for the church.

Feel free to share this report with others and send it to people who you know will benefit from it.

Without further delay, this is what you have to know about the 2011 South African census.



29.2%

of South African's population is younger than 14 years. And only 5.3% are older than 65. 25,478,108, or 49,2%, of the whole population is younger than 24 years.

GENERATIONS



CENSUS 2011: A QUICK REVIEW

1. **40.5%** of the population has matric.
2. **88.9%** of people has cell phones – only **14.5%** has land lines. **68.4%** has fridges. **21.4%** has computers. **74.5%** of people has television. **67.5%** has a radio. The popularity of land line telephones and radios are the only household appliances that have declined over the past 10 years.
3. **64.8%** of households does not have access to the internet. **16.3%** has access via cell phones.
4. **29.2%** of South Africa's population is younger than 14. And only **5.3%** is older than 65. 25,478,108, or 49,2% of the country's population is younger than 24. South Africa's population currently grows at **1.45%** per annum.
5. **8.9%** of South Africa's people is white. **13.5%** is Afrikaans.
6. Only **73.4%** of the population has access to water on their plot of land.
7. **35%** of South Africa's population lives in the Western Cape or Gauteng respectively. These two provinces consist of only **12%** of the country's surface area.
8. **49.7%** of the Western Cape people speaks Afrikaans. Only **13.5%** of people countrywide speaks Afrikaans. Just the Northern Cape (**53.8%**) consists of a larger percentage of Afrikaans speaking people.
9. **29.8%** of South Africans who would like to/have to work is unemployed. The Western Cape has the lowest unemployment figure (**21.6%**), and Limpopo the highest (**38.9%**). More women (**34.6%**) than men (**25.6%**) are unemployed.
10. **77.6%** of South Africans has formal housing.



29.8%

of South Africans that want to, or can work, are unemployed. The Western Cape has the highest unemployment (21.6%), and Limpopo the lowest (38.9%). More women (34.6%) than men (25.6%) are unemployed.

DOMESTIC



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The nineteenth century was known as a great era of missionary zeal and activity.

The primary aim was to bring Christianity to the “heathen” world. This revival was seen as obedience to the Biblical instruction of missionary work in Matthew 28:19 and Mark 16:15. David Bosch, in his book *Transforming Mission*¹, however advise the following paradigm shift in this era:

“The era of post-modernism is at hand. In this total new world the NG Church has to find itself and its identity anew. This would not happen; a time of uncertainty and divergent approaches would follow, also with regard to the church mission.”

Today there again is a renewed call to a fresh understanding of the concept of mission work. We live in a world characterised by relationships, where local relationships and connections triumph.

Mission work can no longer be exclusively regarded as reaching the farthest of the far. We have always had to travel far to love people. Now people who are the farthest from us can be reached in an instant, and once again makes us think of the question: What do we do to reach people in our own backyard?

As local faith communities we have to realise that the people closest to us also need our attention, time and resources. ‘Missionary work’ should therefore not exclusively contain spiritual messages, but also

make provision for basic human needs such as housing, food, water and security.

One of the biggest challenges for our communities may be the following: it is not local or national government’s sole duty to provide for our fellow man with regard to their household, but it also is the responsibility of the local church. Faith communities through the country should ask themselves: what can we do to provide in the basic needs of people closest to us?

That is where real missionary work starts.

In his latest book, *The Coming Jobs War*², Jim Clifton writes that one of the most basic needs in life is that of a ‘good job’. He further describes it that a ‘good job’ is one where one works at least 30 hours per week, and that has a life sustaining salary. This definition excludes any piece work, casual work or other hand-outs.

Even more important is the fact that Jim Clifton said the following:

“The desire for a good job is the current will for the world, and whether or not you have a good job defines your relationship with your city, your country, and the whole world around you.”

Our being is linked to a good job.

¹ <http://www.amazon.com/Transforming-Mission-Paradigm-Theology-Missiology/dp/0883447193>

² <http://www.amazon.com/Coming-Jobs-War-Jim-Clifton/dp/1595620559>

Therefore, when we read that 29,8% of South Africans who want to and is able to work is unemployed, then we have to realise that almost a third of our population might struggle with human dignity, and with an extremely limited connection to the rest of our people, our cities and eventually our country.

What will it look like when local faith communities start taking an interest in the people in their communities who are unemployed? There are various practical ways to support unemployed people among us. Whether by helping them to join networks with appropriate training or sensitive emotional guidance – there is so much to do!

What wonderful potential it could have for our country.



40.5%

of all people in South Africa graduated from high school. 20.8% of all students never completed their primary school education.

EDUCATION

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The division of secondary education of South Africans is alarming. The 2011 census indicates that only 40,5% of South Africans has a matric qualification. 20,8% of South Africans has not completed primary school.

Another interesting fact is that the figures differ to a large extent between various language and ethnical groupings. It may be that training levels will differ substantially between various parts of our society.

What does this trend mean for the church?

Firstly, a local community will have to be very aware of the average level of training in its community.

With regard to high and sophisticated training, the following could apply. Access and utilisation of modern technology in the segment also means that the church can experiment with innovative, new ways of training. Here the question of the use of the internet, multimedia content, social networks and web seminars is raised. Mobile platforms should also offer more and more opportunities for this in the near future.

However when a community notice that there are huge levels of illiteracy and limited schooling, other aspects have to be taken into consideration.

In these instances some church members might not be able to read or write properly. We then have to ask ourselves: how does someone

function in such an instance as part of our congregation if they cannot read the Bible or understand our training material?

Local congregations will have to use unique solutions, and loving guidance, to take all believers on this journey, whether despite or at the expense of, their individual level of training.

The church should especially take note of this in the choice of types of training, subjects and distribution channels.



88.9%

of South Africans own working cellphones. Only 14.5% have landlines. 68.4% own fridges. 21.4% own computers. 74.5% of the people have a TV set. 67.5% have a radio.

TECHNOLOGY

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As we mentioned in previous trend reports, South Africans are leading the way with regard to international innovation in mobile technology.

According to the census 88,9% of South African households has access to cell phones, and a meagre 14.5% has access to a landline telephone.

This percentage has grown astronomically between censuses. In 2001 only 32,3% of households had access to a cell phone. In 2011 only 21.4% of households had access to computers. This figure grew from 8,6% in 2001, and we can assume that the strong growth trend will continue in the future.

68.4% of households has fridges. 74.5% has television. 67.5% has a radio.

64.8% of households has no access to the internet. 16.3% has access via cell phones – but this figure is bound to increase in the near future as mobile technology improves, and cell phones get smarter. This percentage is almost just as much as the 18,9% who has another form of internet access, namely 8,6% at home, 4,7% at work, and 5,6% elsewhere.

Landline telephones and radios are the only of the household appliances that have declined in popularity over the 10 years between censuses. This decline must have something to do with the unbelievable popularity of cell phones.

One of the consequences of the high number of households that have access to cell phones is that many South Africans' experience of the

internet is on a mobile appliance, in other words on a very small screen, possibly in black and white, and possibly only in text format.

How does this affect the church?

If the church would like to use the internet as a channel to reach and serve people, the limited access of church members to technology should be taken into account. Certain congregations' income levels allow diverse and advanced internet connections.

The average church in South Africa has to carefully think about how graphic and complex their internet media is. The use of multimedia content could miss most of the users.

Of course there are good ways of using mobile technology. One is to send out text messages. E-mails in text format will be more visible and useful than complicated e-mail communication.

Most social networks are also accessible via cell phones with internet access. Social network exposure is a strategy that the church could use wisely to reach members and the general public – especially when trends are taken into consideration.



35.0%

of South Africa's population lives in either Gauteng or the Western Cape. These two provinces make up only 12% of the country's surface.



DEMOGRAPHY

DEMOGRAPHY

The census results again confirmed the increasing diversity of our country's population. With regard to ethnicity, language, age and geographic distribution we are one of the most widely dispersed nations in the world.

However that does not mean that specific patterns and trends aren't visible.

One of the most interesting things in the census results is the age distribution of our people. 29.2% of South Africa's population is younger than 14 years of age. And only 5.3% is older than 65. 49,2% of the country's population is younger than 24. This means that about half of our country's people are in the student / young working phase of their life.

With regard to our local congregations this again points to the important role of youth focus and ministry directed at our future generations. Within a few years this group of young people will be the policy makers in our country, and they deserve our present attention and investing.

Another substantial trend is the urbanisation of our population. Although the Western Cape and Gauteng provinces jointly comprise only 12% of our country's surface, up to 35% of the people live there. More and more people relocate to cities in search of better work, a higher income and find a means of livelihood for their families.

It has an implication to both sides for faith communities. In general rural congregations could experience a decline in church attendance, while urban congregations are experiencing increased attendance. Whatever the case may be, spiritual leaders should be aware of people's need for security, stability and a certain future – whether they find themselves in rural areas or in cities.

With regard to South Africa's language preferences, we see that Afrikaans as home language is spoken mainly in the Northern Cape and then in the Western Cape. Afrikaans is the third largest home language beside Zulu and Sotho. English is the fourth most popular home language.

What we can learn from this is that Afrikaans certainly not dead or phased out in our country. It is still relevant to offer services, material, talks and other aspect of ministry in

Afrikaans when it serves your community. On the contrary, we notice that the popularity of Afrikaans is growing, especially among the younger generation.

CONCLUSION

There are numerous other statistics and facts that could help you to form your ministry and leadership around South Africans' unique composition. We are indeed a country unlike any other, with fascinating people, trends and customs.

Our prayer is that you will not only be informed by the research of the government, or other organisations such as the e-church, but that you will also be guided by the work of the Holy Spirit in your life.

“So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life – and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.”

[Romans 12:2 The Message]

If you would like to know more, or read the reports, visit the StatsSA web page at the following link:

<http://www.statssa.gov.za/Census2011/Products.asp>

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