

SOUTH AFRICA

Region: Africa

Income group: Upper-middle income

Summary: South Africa has reported 4 metadata sources, which collect information on international labour migration statistics. There are two survey based sources: the *South African Census of Population and Households and Quarterly Labour Force Survey*. There are also two administrative records: the *Tourism and Migration Statistical Release* and the *Documented Immigrants*. The Statistics South Africa carries out all the sources.

Geographically all of the sources cover whole country, however different population groups. Surveys obtain statistics on the following population groups, which are also covered by administrative records such as:

- *Nationals (citizens) in the country,*
- *Nationals (citizens) employed in the country,*
- *Foreigners (non-citizens) living in the country, and*
- *Foreign workers (non-citizens) living in the country.*

Administrative records generate statistics from other following population groups:

- *Exit nationals (citizens) leaving for temporary purposes,*
- *Foreigners (non-citizens) entering the country to live,*
- *Foreigners (non-citizens) entering country for temporary purposes,*
- *Transit migrants,*
- *Refugees, and*
- *Asylum seekers.*

Periodicity of data collection varies depending on the type of sources. *South African Census of Population and Households* in South Africa was last processed in 2011; *Quarterly Labour Force Survey* is carried out every 5 years; the *Tourism and Migration Statistical Release* collects the data every month starting from 1980's; the register of *Documented Immigrants* is held every year starting from 2011.

Age coverage also varies depending on the type of sources. Surveys cover persons aged 15 years and older, whereas administrative records comprise population groups of all ages.

Both surveys and administrative records collect the data on demographic characteristics and migration related characteristics. The five essential demographic characteristics are covered by the surveys such as age, gender, marital status, educational attainment, and household size. In the administrative records, data on age and sex can be found. It is important to note that both surveys include questions on country of birth, which helps to identify foreigners in the country. The country of previous residence for foreigners is collected. Administrative records focus on questions related to country of citizenship, which bring similar outcomes to surveys. Followed by this information, questions on reason for coming to a country and year of arrival are asked.

Labour related characteristics are obtained through surveys and include employment status, occupation, industry/economic sector, status in employment, hours usually worked, disability, earnings/wages rates, and household income.

The definitions of “*international migrant workers*”, “*employment*”, “*overseas visitor*”, and “*country of residence*” are applied in the sources. To classify occupations and industry, nationally and internationally adapted classifications are used.

Micro data files from the surveys and administrative records are available for research and analysis outside agencies at different costs or for free.

Metadata sources:

Type of source	Name of the source	Agency Responsible	Periodicity of data collection	Year the source started	Year of the last source
Q1. Census	Population 2011 South African Census of Persons and Households	Statistics South Africa	-	-	2011
Q2. Survey	Household Quarterly Labour Force Survey	Statistics South Africa	Every 5 years	-	-
Q3. Border/Admission Statistics	Tourism and Migration Statistical Release (P0351)	Statistics South Africa	Monthly	1980s	-
Q6. Administrative Sources	Documented Immigrants in South Africa	Statistics South Africa	Annually	2011	-

Findings:

The latest *South African Census of Population and Households* in the South Africa was carried out in 2011 by the Statistics South Africa covering the country's entire population. There are four population groups examined in the *South African Census of Population and Households*:

- *Nationals (citizens) in the country,*
- *Nationals (citizens) employed in the country,*
- *Foreigners (non-citizens) living in the country, and*
- *Foreign workers (non-citizens) living in the country.*

The *South African Census of Population and Households* obtains detailed data on demographic characteristics of these population groups. The questions on the topic of international migration related characteristics comprise country of birth, country of citizenship, and country of previous residence for foreigners. In addition to demographic characteristics, the *South African Census of Population and Households* covers labour related characteristics of all current household members such as:

- Employment status,
- Occupation,
- Industry/economic sector,
- Disability,
- Individual earnings per month, and
- Household income.

In order to classify occupation South African Standard Classification of Occupations is applied. The International Standard Industrial Classification revision 3 is in practice for industry classification.

Micro-data files from the *South African Census of Population and Households* are available for research and analysis outside the agency for free if downloaded online or can be delivered at the cost of \$25.

The **Quarterly Labour Force Survey** in South Africa is held every 5 years by the Statistics South Africa. Sample frame used to develop a sample is taken from Population Census. It geographically measures the whole country and amasses information on the following four population groups aged 15 years and over:

- *Nationals (citizens) in the country,*
- *Nationals (citizens) employed in the country, and*
- *Foreign workers (non-citizens) living in the country.*

The **Quarterly Labour Force Survey** retrieves the data on demographic characteristics, of each person in a household. The survey covers international migration related characteristics, such as country of birth, country of previous residence for foreigners, and foreign workers in the country. For the population groups assessed in the survey, the data on labour related characteristics is available, particularly for:

- Employment status,
- Occupation,
- Industry/economic sector,
- Status in employment,
- Individual earnings per month,
- Wage or earnings rate per time period, and
- Hours usually worked.

The survey includes questions on the following possible benefits that may be received from employer:

- Unemployment benefits,
- Retirement pension,
- Health insurance or subsidized health care,
- Paid vacation, and
- Other benefits such as maternity leave/paternity leave, sick leave.

The **Quarterly Labour Force Survey** contains questions, which help to collect information on immigrants and return migrants such as: ‘*Have you ever lived outside this country?*’ and ‘*When did you arrive to this country?*’ Also it obtains the information on person’s situation at the time prior to leaving the previous country of residence by asking for a reason for leaving this country.

“**Employment**” refers to an activity in which a person performs work for pay, profit or family gain. Such a person can be self-employed, an employer, an employee or a working family member. To classify occupation South African Standard Classification of Occupations is applied, where 1 digit is used to release the data. International Standard Industrial Classification revision 3 is in practice for industry classification, where 1 digit is used to release the data.

Micro data are from the source available for research and analysis outside the agency at the cost of R300.

The **Border/Admission Statistics** are covered by **Tourism and Migration Statistical Release** from Statistics South Africa. It processes the following six population groups of all age groups:

- *Exit nationals leaving for temporary purposes,*
- *Foreigners (non-citizens) entering country to live,*
- *Foreigners (non-citizens) entering country for temporary purposes,*
- *Refugees,*
- *Asylum seekers, and*
- *Transit migrant.*

The statistics accumulates demographic characteristics of these population groups, such as age and sex. To collect evidence on international migration related characteristics the questions on country of residence and country of citizenship are raised at the source. “**Overseas visitor**” refers to any person traveling to South Africa who is not a resident of South Africa and whose main purpose of the trip is other than the exercise of an activity remunerated

from within the economy of South Africa. “*Country of residence*” is the country where a person spends the predominant amount of time in; and has there his or her centre of economic interest. “*International migrant workers*” are foreign arrivals whose purpose of visit is work and have work permits.

For the register of work permits foreign workers, the *Documented Immigrants in South Africa* is carried out by Statistics South Africa every year, starting from 2011. The source geographically appraises the whole country and collects data on the holders of working permits of all ages.

In the register, data can be found on demographic characteristics such as age and sex. Migration related characteristics accessible through the source are country of citizenship and nationality.

“*International migrant workers*” are defined as migrants who have been issued work permits.

Micro data is available for research and further analysis outside the agency free of charge.

Q1. Population Census

SOURCE

Title of source: 2011 South African Census of Population and Households

Year of last census: 2011

Agency responsible: Statistics South Africa

COVERAGE

Geographical coverage: Whole country

Population groups covered: Nationals (*citizens*) in the country, nationals (*citizens*) employed in the country, foreigners (*non-citizens*) living in the country, foreign workers (*non-citizens*) living in the country.

- **Publication/dissemination of data on population groups covered:** Nationals (*citizens*) in the country, nationals (*citizens*) employed in the country, foreigners (*non-citizens*) living in the country, foreign workers (*non-citizens*) living in the country.

TOPICS COVERED

Demographic characteristics: Age, marital status, household size, sex, educational attainment.

International migration related characteristics: Country of birth, country of citizenship, country of previous residence for foreigners.

- **Coverage for international migration related characteristics:** All persons
- **Exceptions for international migration related characteristics:** N.A.

Information about household members left to live abroad: No

Labour related characteristics of all current household members: Employment status, occupation, industry/economic sector, disability, individual earnings per month, household income.

- **Age coverage:** 15+

Remittances related characteristics: N.A.

Information on immigrants and return migrants: No

- **Information on the situation of the person prior to leaving the household last time is obtained:** N.A.

Data collected and not published/disseminated: No

CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

Definition of international migrant workers: N.A.

Definition of national (citizen) living abroad: N.A.

Definition of employment: N.A.

CLASSIFICATION

Classification used for occupation: SASCO

- **Number of digits used to release occupation data:** 1

Classification used for industry: ISIC rev 3

- **Number of digits used to release industry data:** 1

Classification used for status in employment: N.A.

Classification used for status in education: N.A.

DATA COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION

Data collection method: Face-to face interview by census enumerator using paper questionnaire (PAPI)

Compulsory participation of households: Yes

Official estimate of under-coverage rate: 14.6% of total population

Dissemination of results:

- Printed publications – Various reports on www.statsa.gov.za;
- Electronic format;
- Web site – www.statsa.gov.za;
- iOs Apps, SuperCross, GeoSpatial products (all on web site).

Metadata has been prepared and disseminated: Yes

Micro-data is available outside NSO/responsible agency: Yes

- **Limitations:** N.A.
- **Cost of obtaining micro-data:** Downloadable for free or can be sent for a cost of R300 (approximately \$25).

Q2. Household Survey

SOURCE

Title of survey: Quarterly Labour Force Survey

Agency responsible: Statistics South Africa

PERIODICITY AND COVERAGE

Periodicity of data collection: Every 5 years

Year the survey first started: N.A.

Geographical coverage: Whole country

Population groups covered: Nationals (*citizens*) in the country, nationals (*citizens*) employed in the country, foreign workers (*non-citizens*) living in the country

- **Publication/dissemination of data on population groups covered:** Nationals (*citizens*) in the country, nationals (*citizens*) employed in the country, foreign workers (*non-citizens*) living in the country

Age coverage: 15+

TOPICS COVERED

Demographic characteristics: Age, marital status, household size, sex, educational attainment.

International migration related characteristics: Country of birth, country of previous residence, foreign workers in the country, country of origin.

- **Coverage for international migration related characteristics:** Not for all persons - Country of birth, country of previous residence
- **Exceptions for international migration related characteristics:** 15+

Information about household members left to live abroad: No

Labour related characteristics of all current household members: Employment status, occupation, industry/economic sector, status in employment, individual earnings per month, wage or earnings rate per time period, hours usually worked.

Benefits received from the employer: Unemployment benefits, retirement pension, health insurance or subsidized health care, paid vacation, maternity leave/paternity leave, sick leave.

Remittances related characteristics: No

Information on immigrants and return migrants: Persons who ever lived outside this country, period of arrival to this country.

- **Information on the situation of the person prior to leaving the country of residence is obtained:** Reason for leaving previous (last) country of residence

Data collected and not published/disseminated: No

Information on persons who left to live or work abroad (*recruitment, communication, assistance etc.*): N.A.

CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

Definition of international migrant workers: N.A.

Definition of national (citizen) living abroad: N.A.

Definition of employment: It refers to an activity in which a person performs work for pay, profit or family gain. Such a person can be self-employed, an employer, an employee or a working family member.

CLASSIFICATION

Classification used for occupation: SASCO

- **Number of digits used to release occupation data:** 1

Classification used for industry: ISIC rev 3

- **Number of digits used to release industry data:** 1

Classification used for status in employment: N.A.

Classification used for status in education: N.A.

DATA COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION

Data collection method: Face-to-face interview by interviewer using paper questionnaire (PAPI)

Compulsory participation of households: Yes

Dissemination of results: Printed publications – Quarterly Labour Force Survey; Electronic format; Web site – www.statsa.gov.za

Metadata has been prepared and disseminated: Yes

Micro-data is available outside NSO/responsible agency: Yes

- **Limitations:** N.A.
- **Cost of obtaining micro-data:** R300

SAMPLE DESIGN

Sample frame used: Population Census

Completed sample size: N.A.

Evaluation of the overall response rate or refusal rate: N.A.

Q3. Border/Admission Statistics

SOURCE

Title of source: Tourism and Migration Statistical Release (P0351)

Agency responsible: Statistics South Africa

PERIODICITY AND COVERAGE

Periodicity of data collection: Every month

Year the statistics first started: 1980`s

Population coverage: Exit nationals (*citizens*) leaving for temporary purposes, foreigners (*citizens*) entering the country to live, foreigners (*non-citizens*) entering country for temporary purposes, refugees, asylum seekers, transit migrants.

- **Publication/dissemination of data on population groups covered:** Exit nationals (*citizens*) leaving for temporary purposes, foreigners (*citizens*) entering the country to live, foreigners (*non-citizens*) entering country for temporary purposes, refugees, asylum seekers, transit migrants.

Age coverage: All ages

CHARACTERISTICS OF PERSONS COVERED

Demographic characteristics: Age, sex

Migration related characteristics: Country of residence, country of citizenship, reason for coming to country, year of arrival.

Labour related characteristics: N.A.

Data collected and not published/disseminated: No

CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

Definition of overseas visitor: It refers to any person traveling to South Africa who is not a resident of South Africa and whose main purpose of the trip is other than the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the economy of South Africa.

Definition of country of residence: It is the country where a person spends the predominant amount of time in; and has there his or her centre of economic interest.

Definition of international migrant workers: It refers to foreign arrivals whose purpose of visit is work and have work permits.

CLASSIFICATION

Classification used for occupation: N.A.

- **Number of digits used to release occupation data:** N.A.

Classification used for industry: N.A.

- **Number of digits used to release industry data:** N.A.

Classification used for status in employment: N.A.

Classification used for status in education: N.A.

DATA COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION

Data collection method: Scanning of passports

Dissemination of results: Web site – www.statsa.gov.za

Metadata has been prepared and disseminated: Yes

Micro-data is available outside NSO/responsible agency: N.A.

Q6. Administrative Sources

SOURCE

Title of source: Documented Immigrants in South Africa

Agency responsible: Statistics South Africa

Kind of source: Register of work permits issued to foreign workers

PERIODICITY AND COVERAGE

Periodicity of data release: Every year

Year the source first started: 2011

Geographical coverage: Whole country

Population coverage: Permit holders

- **Publication/dissemination of data on population groups covered:** N.A.

Age coverage: All ages

DATA COLLECTED ON PERSONS IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE SOURCE

Demographic characteristics: Age, sex

Migration related characteristics: Country of citizenship, nationality

Labour related characteristics: N.A.

Data collected and not published/disseminated: No

CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

Definition of international migrant workers: It refers to migrants who have been issued work permit.

Definition of short-term migrant worker: N.A.

Definition of a national (citizen) living abroad: N.A.

Definition of employment: N.A.

Definition of individual earnings: N.A.

CLASSIFICATION

Classification used for occupation: N.A.

- **Number of digits used to release occupation data:** N.A.

Classification used for industry: N.A.

- **Number of digits used to release industry data:** N.A.

Classification used for status in employment: N.A.

Classification used for status in education: N.A.

DATA COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION

Compulsory registration for the population groups covered: Yes

Official estimate of coverage rate: N.A.

Dissemination of results: Web site – www.statsa.gov.za

Metadata has been prepared and disseminated: Yes

Micro-data is available outside NSO/responsible agency: Yes

- **Limitations:** N.A.
- **Cost of obtaining micro-data:** For free