



SOUTH AFRICA



GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Matamela Cyril RAMAPHOSA

Head of Government

President Matamela Cyril RAMAPHOSA

Government Type

parliamentary republic

Capital

Pretoria (administrative capital); Cape Town (legislative capital); Bloemfontein (judicial capital)

Legislature

bicameral Parliament consists of the National Council of Provinces (90 seats) and the National Assembly (400 seats)

Judiciary

Supreme Court of Appeals (consists of the court president, deputy president, and 21 judges); Constitutional Court (consists of the chief and deputy chief justices and 9 judges)

Ambassador to US

Charge d'Affaires Yoliswa MVEBE

US Ambassador

Charge d'Affaires Jessica "Jessye" LAPENN

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 1,219,090 sq km
Land: 1,214,470 sq km
Water: 4,620 sq km

Climate

mostly semiarid; subtropical along east coast; sunny days, cool nights

Natural Resources

gold, chromium, antimony, coal, iron ore, manganese, nickel, phosphates, tin, rare earth elements, uranium, gem diamonds, platinum, copper, vanadium, salt, natural gas

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

middle-income emerging market with abundant supply of natural resources; well-developed financial, legal, communications, energy, and transport sectors; unemployment, poverty, and inequality remain a challenge

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)

\$767.2 billion (2017 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)

\$13,600 (2017 est.)

Exports

\$94.93 billion (2017 est.)

partners: China 9.5%, US 7.7%, Germany 7.1%, Japan 4.7%, India 4.6%, Botswana 4.3%, Namibia 4.1% (2017)

Imports

\$89.36 billion (2017 est.)

partners: China 18.3%, Germany 11.9%, US 6.6%, Saudi Arabia 4.7%, India 4.7% (2017)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

56.5 million (July 2020 est.)

Population Growth

0.97% (2020 est.)

Ethnicity

black African 80.9%, colored 8.8%, white 7.8%, Indian/Asian 2.5% (2018 est.); **note:** colored is a term used in South Africa, including on the national census, for persons of mixed race ancestry

Language

isiZulu (official) 24.7%, isiXhosa (official) 15.6%, Afrikaans (official) 12.1%, Sepedi (official) 9.8%, Setswana (official) 8.9%, English (official) 8.4%, Sesotho (official) 8%, Xitsonga (official) 4%, siSwati (official) 2.6%, Tshivenda (official) 2.5%, isiNdebele (official) 1.6%, other 1.9% (2017 est.)

Religion

Christian 86%, ancestral, tribal, animist, or other traditional African religions 5.4%, Muslim 1.9%, other 1.5%, nothing in particular 5.2% (2015 est.)

Urbanization

urban population: 67.4% of total population (2020)

rate of urbanization: 1.97% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

