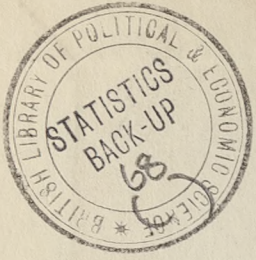


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UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

OFFICE OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS, PRETORIA

FOURTH CENSUS OF THE POPULATION OF THE UNION  
OF SOUTH AFRICA, 4th MAY, 1926

(ENUMERATION OF EUROPEANS ONLY)

# REPORT

WITH

SUMMARIES AND ANALYSIS OF THE  
DETAILED TABLES, PARTS I TO XI



PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

PRICE . . . . 10s. 6d.

THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER, PRETORIA  
1931

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P R E F A C E .

The Act of Union lays down the principle that a quinquennial Census of the European population must be taken. The ostensible cause is the necessity for a re-delimitation of seats in the Union Parliament at short intervals. South Africa thus possesses (although only in respect of its white population) what most population statisticians regard as exceedingly desirable, but very few countries yet possess.

Experience has, however, taught that the maintenance of a quinquennial enumeration is only possible if the Census is confined to its proper functions, and consequently the desire of persons and organisations to make use of it to secure additional information, not falling strictly within the scope of a Census, must be kept within rigid bounds. The detail that is being demanded about the population of the country is increasing yearly, and involved and costly tabulations have to be undertaken to supply the information required. Curtailment is, therefore, essential to complete the detailed tabulation of a Census inside the five years before the next one becomes due. As an illustration may be cited the fact that the tabulations undertaken for the Census of the European population, taken in 1926, took as long to complete as the whole of the Census of all races, taken in 1921, including the preparation of the Final Report. Extensive new tabulations were required especially in respect of occupations and fertility of marriage, but in most of the tables new details have been given.

The work of the Census in the Union has hitherto also been hampered by the unsuitable nature of the buildings in which operations have been carried on. A commencement was recently made with the first section of a new block of buildings, which will permanently house the Office of Census and Statistics. These buildings have been designed to facilitate the work of the Census and should materially assist in speeding up the publication of the tabulations of the Census of 1931.

It is a source of very high satisfaction to me that I am able to pay tribute to the zeal, the diligence and the efficiency of the permanent staff in charge of the Census. Not only was it not necessary, as on former occasions, to second officials from other departments to assist in the supervision, but for a considerable period while the preparatory work was in progress the section in charge of population statistics was short-staffed. Moreover, during the past fifteen months, the greater part of my own time was occupied in duties extraneous to those of my office. To carry through the vast organisation and the control of large numbers of men who are temporarily engaged for the Census—men, who in most cases possess no knowledge of the requirements or experience of the work of a Census—required on the part of the permanent officers not only a very fine capacity for detail, but also high co-ordinating ability. The experience of previous Censuses possessed by Mr. A. W. Carruthers, Assistant Director, and Mr. E. Peel Pearce, Statistician in charge of Population Statistics, has been of very great value. It is with great pleasure that I testify to the valuable services rendered by these officials and by the permanent staff of the office generally.

The district supervision was on this occasion carried out entirely by permanent officers of the Public Service, chiefly magistrates, and much credit is due to them for the fact that the Census was carried through without a hitch.

J. E. HOLLOWAY,  
*Director of Census and Statistics.*

Pretoria,  
March, 1931.

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PREFACE

The Act of Union laid down the principle that a departmental census of the European population must be taken. The extension of the census to the population of the Union is the subject of this report. It is the object of this report to show the progress of the census in the various countries of the Union.

Experience has shown that the maintenance of a departmental census is a task of no small importance. It is necessary to have a system of organization which will enable the census to be taken in a regular and systematic manner. The census is a task of no small importance. It is necessary to have a system of organization which will enable the census to be taken in a regular and systematic manner.

The work of the Census Commission in the Union has been carried out in a regular and systematic manner. It is necessary to have a system of organization which will enable the census to be taken in a regular and systematic manner.

It is a source of great satisfaction to me that I am able to lay before you the results of the census in the Union. The census is a task of no small importance. It is necessary to have a system of organization which will enable the census to be taken in a regular and systematic manner.

The census is a task of no small importance. It is necessary to have a system of organization which will enable the census to be taken in a regular and systematic manner.

W. H. HOLLAND

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The total cost of enumeration was £33,071. Per capita cost for the Union was 4½d.; in Urban areas, 1·8d.; and in Rural areas, 7·6d. (Par. 6.)

The number of enumerators employed was 4,142. (Par. 7.)

Supervisors were appointed for each Magisterial District, numbering 217. All supervisors were Government officials. (Par. 11.)

## SECTION II.—PROGRESSION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE EUROPEAN POPULATION.

The preliminary results of the census were published on the 10th June, 1926, and showed a total of 1,672,106 persons. The final audited figure was 1,676,660 and was published on the 13th June, 1927. (Par. 13.)

The increase in the European population over 1921 numbered 151,172, equal to 10·34 per cent. The Provincial increases were: Natal, 16·13 per cent.; Transvaal, 11·99 per cent.; Cape, 8·53 per cent.; and Orange Free State, 7·65 per cent. (Par. 16.)

The increase in the Urban population was: crude, 15·07 per cent.; adjusted, 12·44 per cent.; and in the Rural population: crude, 4·38 per cent.; adjusted, 7·51 per cent. (Par. 22.)

The drift of population from Rural areas to the towns in the five years is estimated to be 23,500. Of the 217 Magisterial Districts, 139 or 64 per cent. failed to retain their own natural increase of population. (Par. 23.)

New Urban Local Government areas established during the intercensal period 1921–1926, numbered 48, and 6 were abolished. (Par. 24.)

Visitors to the Union at date of Census numbered 7,762, and of these, 3,548 were members of ships' crews. (Par. 34.)

Members of Imperial Forces stationed in the Union at date of Census numbered 804 (Naval 802, Military 2). 716 were adults and 88 minors. (Par. 38.)

## SECTION III.—SEXES.

Males exceeded females in the European population to the number of 37,176. (Par. 39.)

The masculinity of the population was 104·5 to every 100 females. In 1904 the masculinity was 131·9. (Par. 43.)

## SECTION IV.—AGES.

The median age, i.e. the age above and below which there are equal numbers of individuals living, was between the ages of 22 and 23. For males it was between the ages of 22 and 23, and for females between 21 and 22. (Par. 57.)

The mean age, i.e. average age, was 25·9, males 26·3, and females 25·5. (Par. 58.)

Adults and Minors. The proportion of adults in the European population was 52·37, and of minors 47·63. Male adults 52·74 and minors 47·26. Female adults 51·98, and minors 48·02. (Par. 64.)

There were nine centenarians in the European population at the date of Census (one male aged 100 years and eight females—three 100 years, two 101, one 103, and two 106). (Par. 65.)

## SECTION V.—OFFICIAL LANGUAGES SPOKEN.

Of Europeans 7 years of age and over, 58·52 per cent. were bilingual; 21·61 per cent. spoke English only; 19·62 per cent. spoke Afrikaans or Dutch only; and 0·25 per cent. spoke neither official language. The number of persons able to speak both official languages increased by 182,179, or 28·63 per cent., as compared with 1921. (Par. 68.)

## SECTION VI.—PARENTAGE.

Dutch South African, 56·9 per cent.; British South African, 12·8 per cent.; English, 13·2 per cent.; Scottish, 4·7 per cent.; Irish, 2·2 per cent.; Welsh, 0·5 per cent.; Hebrew, 4·3 per cent.; German, 2·5 per cent.; Netherlander, 0·6 per cent.

South African Dutch and Netherlands stock combined 57·5 per cent.; British stock, 33·7 per cent. (Par. 79.)

## SECTION VII.—ORPHANHOOD.

The total number of orphan children under 15 years of age was 58,039. Of these, 3,773 had lost both parents, and 54,266 had lost one parent. Of the latter, 33,935 were fatherless and 20,331 were motherless. (Par. 87.)

## SECTION VIII.—MARITAL CONDITION.

The proportionate distribution of Europeans according to marital condition was: Never Married, 59·4 per cent.; Married, 36·3 per cent.; Widowed, 3·7 per cent.; Divorced, 0·3 per cent. (Par. 92.)

Married males exceeded married females by 1,904. (Par. 93.)

Widows exceeded widowers by 28,579. (Par. 97.)

Females divorcees exceeded male divorcees by 114. (Par. 99.)