

MARKET DECISIONS DATABASES SINCE INCEPTION AND UPDATES (September, 2026)



GOVERNMENT RELEASES OVER TIME

DATABASE	MD UPDATE	LEVEL	UPDATE TIMELINE	SOURCE and IMPORTANCE
CENSUS GEOGRAPHY DIFFERS FROM URBAN/NON URBAN TO SUB PLACE LEVELS.				
Census 1991	1998	Urban/Non Urban RSA (535) Homelands (87)		File from StatsSA before 1994
Census 1996	2000	Sub-Place (12827)	5 year	RSA and Bantustans incorporated Population and Households separated
Census 2001 Census ² Release 2005	2010	Sub-Place (21243)	5 year	Incorporation of the homelands Population and Households separated
Community Survey 2007	2017	Municipality (234)	5 year	Mid-point between 2 Census periods
Census 2011 Census ² Release 2012	2022	Sub-Place (22108)	10 year	Undercount - 14.6% Population and Households separated
Community Survey 2016	2017	Municipality (234)	5 year	Mid-point between 2 Census periods
Census 1996, 2001 and 2011 comparison	2019	Ward level as at 2011 wards (4277)& Municipality (234)	2017	As at 2011 boundaries. Major changes in births/deaths as well
Census 2022	2024	Municipality (213)		Latest update Undercount 40%
Census 2022	2025	Wards (4468)	2025	Latest update Age, Gender, Pop
Wards	2026	Wards (4485)		Ward Maps, boundary changes
IEC	2025	Ward (4468) Voters	2024	IEC/StatsSA Update Voters/Pop, last update: October 2026
MUNICIPALITY (213) LAST UPDATE				
IDP 2015 onwards	2025	Municipality (213)	Annual	Checking population data for comparison in IDP, Dist/Muni
Pop Comparison 2016	2024	Municipality (213)	Annual	StatsSA MYPE
Households 2016	2024	Municipality (213)	Annual	StatsSA MYPE
Pop_Age 2016	2024	Municipality (213)	Annual	StatsSA MYPE
Taxpayers 2019	2024	Municipality (213)	Annual	South African Revenue Services
IEC 2011	2024	Municipality (213)	Every 2 years	Independent Electoral Commission
DISTRICT COUNCIL (52) LAST UPDATE				
Births 1998 to 2025	2024	District Council (52)	Annual	Stats SA
Births/Deaths to 2024	2024	District Council (52)	Annual	Stats SA
Pop_Age	2023	District Council (52)	Annual	Stats SA MYPE
Households 2023	2023	District Council (52)	Annual	Stats SA MYPE
PROVINCIAL (9) LAST UPDATE				
Births 1999	2024	Province (9)	Annual	StatsSA release
Building Plans* 1999	2022	Province (9)	Annual	StatsSA release
Mortality 1999	2024	Province (9)	Annual	StatsSA release
Pop distribution % 2002_	2025	Province (9)	Annual	StatsSA release
Households 2011_	2025	Province (9)	Annual	StatsSA MYPE
Population & Voters 2011	2024	Province (9)	Annual	StatsSA MYPE, IEC
Medical Aid Coverage 2017	2024	Province (9)	Annual	MRC, CMS, and GHS
Migration Streams 2021	2026	Province (9)	Annual	StatsSA release
Personal Taxpayers 2017	2024	Province (9)	Annual	South African Revenue Services
Provincial Population 1996_2025	2025	Province (9)	Annual	Provincial check
Social Grants 2019	2024	Province (9)	Annual	SASSA and StatsSA
General Household Survey GHS 2016-2024	2024	Province (9)	Annual	StatsSA
Household Expenditure, by deciles	2023	Province (9)	1 x 5 years	Stats SA <i>Currently being checked</i>
International Tourist Arrival 2000	2026	Country of origin and Border Posts	Monthly & Annual	DHA/StatsSA

*Building plans data has a lot of missing data, so we use this only where the municipality has a complete set of data from 2010 onwards.

MARKET DECISIONS: UPDATE AND RELEASES

History matters. Since 1996, Market Decisions has built and maintained a valuable record of South Africa's changing population and geography. Historical data provides an essential reference for understanding trends, comparing population estimates and tracking changes over time.

Previous users of Census² retain access to the full historical databases. These records have practical applications, including our comparison of Census 2022 population figures with IEC data, using ward-level data from 1996 to 2011. However, changes to ward boundaries over time mean that such comparisons must be interpreted with care.

SUB-PLACE DATA : File Name: stopped in 2022 for Sub Place	Release date	No of Fields	Geo Link	MD
Census 1996 - Demography (Pop) & Socio-Economic (Hhlds)	1998	178 & 169	15,989 SP	Incorporation of RSA & Bantustans
Census 2001 - Demography (Pop) & Socio-Economic (Hhlds)	2005	231 & 236	21,243 SP	Rural to Urban migration starts
Community Survey 2007 – Population & Households	2009	74 & 92	257 Muni	IDP/Municipal check
Census 2001 and CS 2007 comparison	2009	33	257 Muni	IDP/Municipal check
Community Survey 2007 Pop aged 16 to 65 Economically active	2009	85	257 Muni	IDP/Municipal check
Census 2011 – Demography (Pop) & Socio-Economic (Hhlds) Introduction of municipal and settlement classification: 2015	2013	72 & 85 & 25	22,109 SP	Internal verification across 9 provinces
Community Survey 2016 - Population & Households	2017	204 & 116	234 Muni	IDP/Municipal check
Census 1996, 2001, 2011 – Ward comparison Pop & Households	2018	157 & 111	4,277	2011 boundary
Census 2022 at Municipal Level. The undercount is high, and the Post Enumeration Survey highlighted this	2023	213		Latest update
Census 2022 at Ward Level compared with IEC data	2025	47	4468	Added names
Census 2022 at Sub Place Maps only	2026		24742	Data not released

MUNICIPALITY (213 fields (8 of which are Metros))				
FILE NAME	UPDATE	FIELDS	RELEASE	MD INFORMATION
IDP 2015 onwards	2025	Published report	Annual	Verification. Most IDP's contracted out.
Census 2011 vs Census 2022	2024	62	Annual	StatsSA MYPE, Internal data compared with IDP and others. MIIF is added
Households 2016	2024	26	Annual	StatsSA MYPE
Pop_Age 2016	2024		Annual	StatsSA MYPE – No longer released
Taxpayers 2019 onwards	2024	41	Annual	For income direction and wealth, Source: SARS
IEC 2011	2024	22	Every 2 years	Compares with population
DISTRICT COUNCIL (52 fields (8 of which are Metros))				
Births 1998 onwards	2024	32	Annual	Municipal Growth and check*
Deaths 2018 onwards	2024	23	Annual	2020 (Update MRC, 2023)
Pop_Age	2023	40	Annual	StatsSA MYPE projections
Households 2023	2023	12	Annual	Stats SAMYPE projections
PROVINCE (9)				
Births 1999	2024	12	Annual	StatsSA release, compared against age
Building Plans* 1999	2022		Annual	StatsSA release, but not a full sample
Mortality 1999	2024	12	Annual	StatsSA release compared with MRC
Pop distribution % 2002_	2025	11	Annual	StatsSA release
Households 2011_	2025	9	Annual	StatsSA MYPE
Population & Voters 2011	2024	13	Annual	StatsSA MYPE, IEC
Medical Aid 2017	2024	14	Annual	CMS and GHS comparison
Migration Streams 2021	2026	14	Annual	StatsSA release
Personal Taxpayers 2017	2024	36	Annual	SARS Annual report analysed and verified
Population 1996_2025	2025		Annual	StatsSA release
Social Grants 2019	2024	17	Annual	SASSA and a check on GHS as well
General Household Survey GHS 2016-2024	2024	Population 68 Households 107	Annual	Demographic/Economic (18 variables) check against other releases
Household Expenditure, by deciles	2023	In progress	1 x 5 years	Currently being checked. Queries to StatsSA

CENSUS 2022 by Sub Place

Our datasets are being updated as Stats SA releases new information, with demographic data (people) and economic data (households) forming the foundation. These are progressively complemented by consumption, property valuations, property sales and transaction values to provide a more comprehensive, strategic dataset.

Where requested, demographic and household variables are combined into a single dataset, with separate totals for people and households. We maintain the highest standards possible within the limits of available source data, using a Comments column to flag relevant limitations, information and clarifications.

WARD LEVEL PLUS+	LAST UPDATE			
FILE NAME	UPDATE	GEO-LEVEL	RELEASE	MD INFORMATION
Census 2022	2024	Ward = 4468. Ward boundaries as at 2020	2026	Ward check and connect. Compared with IEC voters and summary of issues
MDC	2026	Wards = 4485 boundaries as at 2026	2026	File released and may be adjusted before local government elections
Census 2022*	2024	Sub Place 24,742 SP	Census 2022	DU Dwelling unit count.
Sub Place		Revision of settlements		In progress

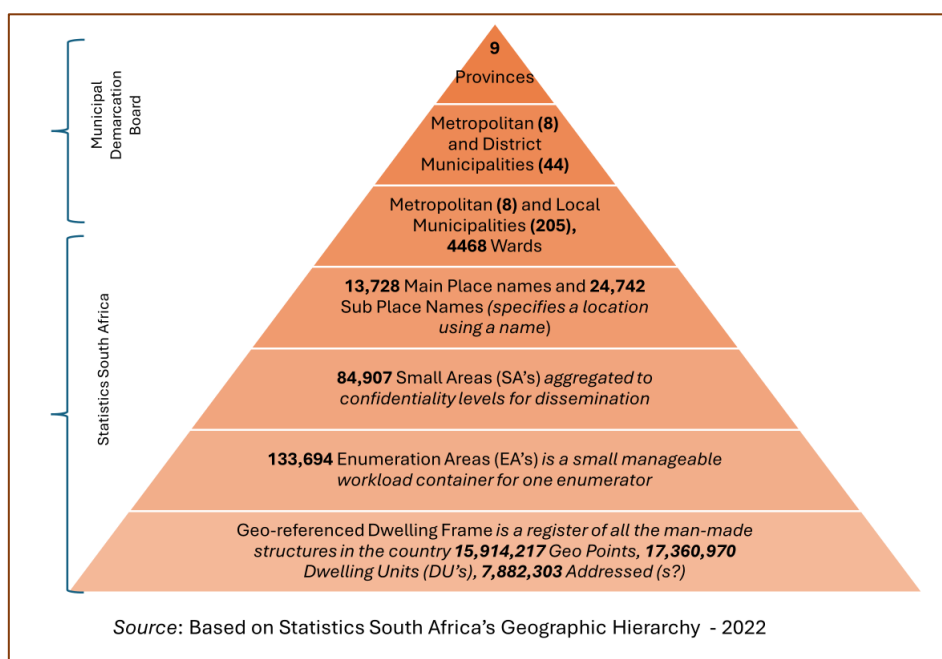
Census 2022 no data published at Sub Place due to high undercount. Only DU Dwelling unit count is provided. This is related to fieldstaff at micro level

Important Note: Dwelling Unit (DU) Counts and Geographic Structure

A word of caution: The DU count represents structures on land, irrespective of whether anyone lives in them. They should therefore not be interpreted as a count of dwelling units or occupied households. Stats SA explains that Enumeration Areas (EAs) are the smallest geographical working units used for census operations. The EA framework underpins operational workloads and the dissemination and publication of census data.

Market Decisions does not work directly with Enumeration Areas, and prefers sub-place for meaningful analysis. As further data becomes available, we will verify and assess the information before publication, ensuring that its interpretation and limitations are clearly communicated.

Geographic structure: The hierarchy and relationships between the relevant spatial units are outlined below.



Note: The hierarchy and the number of geographic units can change between census periods. The diagram distinguishes between the administrative boundaries maintained by the Municipal Demarcation Board and the finer geographic layers produced by Stats SA.

SHOPPING CENTRES IN SOUTH AFRICA

SHOPPING CENTRES – ANNUAL RELEASE IN MARCH/APRIL				
SACSC Directory >5,000 n= 1450	2025	Micro GEO Location Point	Directory every 2 years	Release first quarter of each year
Expanded SACSC Directory >2500 n = 2874	2026	Micro GEO Location Point	Annually	Release first quarter of each year
SACSC Removed Centres n = 684	2026	Micro GEO Location Point	Annually	Release first quarter of each year
SACSC Proposed Centres n = 100	2026	Micro GEO Location Point	Annually	Continuously updated. Release twice per annum
Sub-Saharan African Shopping directory >5,000 n=495	2026	Micro GEO Location Point	Updated every two years	Expansion into the continent

TOURISM IN SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNATIONAL INBOUND TOURISM - ANNUAL				
Tourist arrival by country since 1999	2025	The world and South Africans travelling out	Monthly and Annually	By country of origin, continent, reason, age, travel mode

SHOPPING CENTRES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

SHOPPING CENTRES –RELEASE EVERY THREE YEARS				
SSA Directory >5,000 n= 880 on GIS	2026	Micro GEO Location Point		Currently being updated, and GIS version include smaller centres
International Airports	2025	Micro Geo location		World Bank/UNWTO information

OTHER RELEASES BY US... ON AN ONGOING BASIS, AS REQUESTED

SA POST OFFICE				
Postal codes	2023	22190 Codes removed duplicates = 15566.	No updates from SAPO	9738 Geo-coded. Clients use a database
AFRICA PROFILER				
Quick info Demography, Economy, etc	2024	Country level, province level, admin district	Annual	Maps from ADC in Michigan. USA
AFRICA COUNTRY GIS				
AS REQUESTED BY CLIENTS	2025	All 54 countries, excludes the 4 Overseas territories.	On request	Based on last census release and updates as they become available

RETAILER DIRECTORY – 2025 – Updated once every two years – Original Source SACSC Retailer Directory	
Variable	Explanation
Holding company	Where listed, or where independent but having multiple brands
Retail Brand/s	700 companies with well over 50,000 brands and growing
Main Retail Classification	As per international retail classification, with local retailer input
Sub Retail Classification	As per international retail sub classification, with local retailer input
Retailer Positioning	As per retailer annual reports or other
Region/s of Operation	As per retailer annual reports or other
Publicly listed	Yes/No
Website	Website for holding company,
No of stores for each brand	This is split per brand/chain