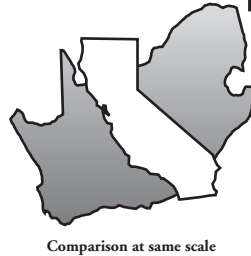


# US in the WORLD

CONNECTING PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES TO ENSURE A HEALTHY PLANET

## California



**California**  
Area: 158,706 sq. miles  
Population: 32.3 million

**South Africa**  
Area: 471,445 sq. miles  
Population: 42.5 million

## South Africa



**Largest metropolitan areas by population (1996):** Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange City (15,495,155), San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose (6,605,428), San Diego (2,655,463)

**Largest urban areas by population (1995):** Cape Town (2,727,000), Johannesburg (2,172,000), Pretoria (1,314,000)

Water rationing, bans on sprinkling lawns, and other conservation measures are familiar to Californians in times of possible water shortage. For many South Africans, water shortage is a more painful reality: some 20 percent of South Africans lack access to safe water in their homes or neighborhoods; many others must fetch it from a pump far from their houses.

But the most populous U.S. state and Africa's fourth most populous country have more in common than water issues. Both are geographically diverse, with deserts, large semiarid zones, rich agricultural land, temperate forests, and long coastlines.

This geographical diversity is matched by ethnic and racial diversity and by volatile histories. Early Spanish settlers and others from eastern United States, sparked by the mid-19th century gold rush, displaced California's

native inhabitants. Similarly, Dutch (in the 17th century) and British (in the 19th century) colonizers subjugated the indigenous people of Africa's southern tip. Unlike native Californians, blacks remained the majority in South Africa, and were exploited and controlled by apartheid racial separation practices until the country's transition to a multiracial democracy in the early 1990s.

Both economies rely on their mineral wealth and agricultural lands. South Africa is the world's largest gold and diamond producer, and has important deposits of other minerals and coal. Since its gold rush, logging, vegetable and fruit farming, and high-tech industry have given California a broad, diverse economic base.

With large, growing populations, issues of air and water pollution, water supply, biodiversity, environmental justice, immigration, and migrant la-

bor confront both South Africa and California.

Inequalities of wealth take a toll on the environment in both regions. Pollution is felt acutely by the poor, with dirty industry and recycling facilities located near their communities. South Africa, in particular, faces specific environmental hazards spurred by poverty. Indoor air pollution from cooking fires, for example, is one of the most serious environmental health problems in the country. Impoverished farmers intensively work already fragile lands, creating problems of erosion and shortages of land for future cultivation.

Demand for land infringes on wilderness areas in California, where old growth forest protection is challenged by the timber industry. But South Africans living near preserve areas rarely have the clout to challenge wildlife protection policies.

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## Demographic and Health Trends

- The nation's most populous state, California is growing slightly faster than the United States as a whole. Nearly 4.4 million people were added through natural increase and migration between 1990 and 1997. At the same time, the "Golden State" lost nearly 2 million residents to other states.
- Because of immigration, California has more Hispanics and Asians than African Americans. By 2000, no single racial or ethnic group will be a majority, as non-Hispanic whites are

projected to make up less than 50 percent of the total state population.

- California has the most urbanized population in the nation, with 93 percent living in urban areas.
- Seventy-eight percent of Californians live in three major metropolitan areas: Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Francisco. But the fastest growth rates have been in interior counties. The population of the Sierra Nevada region, for example, has tripled since 1970.

## Natural Resources and Wildlife Issues

- California has lost 91 percent of its wetlands, more than any other state, to oil drilling, agriculture, and development. Bird species endangered by loss of coastal, interior, and riparian wetlands include the California clapper rail, brown pelican, Southwestern willow flycatcher, and the least Bell's vireo.
- The air in Los Angeles failed to meet the federal ozone standard for 91 days in 1996.
- Water pollution led to 1,300 beach closings in 1995.
- Greater Los Angeles has the most road congestion in the country. California has three of the five urban ar-

reas whose residents waste the most time per capita in traffic jams (San Francisco/Oakland, San Bernardino/Riverside, and Los Angeles).

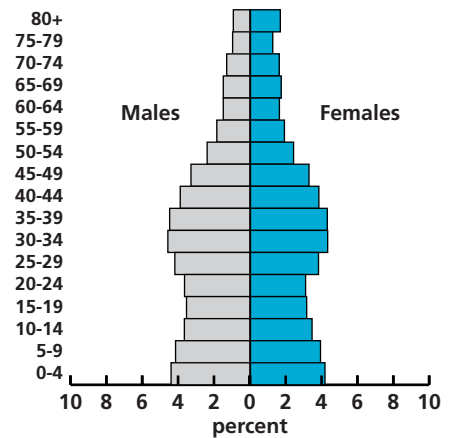
- California, Arizona, and Nevada share rights to more than 2.4 trillion gallons of water annually from the Colorado River. In recent years, California has exceeded its 1.4 trillion-gallon yearly allotment.
- Among California's 82 endangered and threatened animals—more than any other state—are the California condor, bald eagle, and northern spotted owl. The total number of endangered threatened plant and animal species (200) is second only to Hawaii.

## Socioeconomic Factors

- Agriculture is an \$18 billion a year industry, yet the state is losing over 100,000 acres of farmland annually to urban sprawl.
- Tourism is one of California's major industries, generating \$55.7 billion in 1995.

- With a total 1994 gross state product (GSP) of \$875.7 billion, California's economy easily is the largest in the country and larger than all but 10 countries in the world. On a per capita basis, however, its GSP ranks 11th among the states.

## POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX

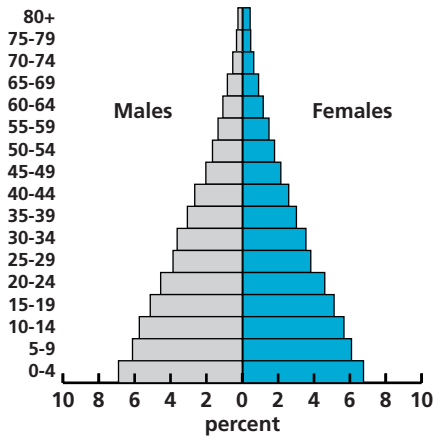


## CALIFORNIA FACTS

|                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Population, 1997:</b> 32.3 million                    |
| <b>Projected population, 2025:</b> 49.3 million          |
| <b>Annual growth rate:</b> 1.3%                          |
| <b>Doubling time (at current rate):</b> 54 years         |
| <b>Average number of children per woman:</b> 2.5         |
| <b>Infant deaths per 1,000 live births:</b> 6.3          |
| <b>Life expectancy:</b> 73 (male), 79 (female)           |
| <b>Persons per square mile:</b> 207                      |
| <b>Percent urban:</b> 93                                 |
| <b>Endangered/threatened animals:</b> 82 species         |
| <b>Endangered/threatened plants:</b> 118 species         |
| <b>Percent of land protected:</b> 11                     |
| <b>Wetlands loss, 1780-1980:</b> 91%                     |
| <b>Daily water use per capita:</b> 1,431 gallons         |
| <b>Water use for domestic purposes:</b> 13%              |
| <b>Water use for agriculture:</b> 64%                    |
| <b>Water use for industry:</b> 2%                        |
| <b>Water use for energy production:</b> 21%              |
| <b>Cropland per capita:</b> 1.5 acres                    |
| <b>Energy use per capita:</b> 41.4 barrels of oil equiv. |
| <b>Persons per motor vehicle:</b> 1.4                    |
| <b>Adults who are high school graduates:</b> 80%         |
| <b>Elected officials who are women:</b> 23%              |
| <b>Labor force in agriculture:</b> 4%                    |
| <b>Labor force in industry:</b> 16%                      |
| <b>Labor force in services:</b> 80%                      |
| <b>Gross State Product, 1994:</b> \$27,922 per capita    |

# SOUTH AFRICA

## POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX



## SOUTH AFRICA FACTS

|                                       |                            |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Population, 1997:                     | 42.5 million               |
| Projected population, 2025:           | 45.5 million               |
| Annual growth rate:                   | 1.5%                       |
| Doubling time (at current rate):      | 46 years                   |
| Average number of children per woman: | 3.2                        |
| Infant deaths per 1,000 live births:  | 53                         |
| Life expectancy:                      | 54 (male), 58 (female)     |
| Persons per square mile:              | 90                         |
| Percent urban:                        | 57                         |
| Threatened animals:                   | 205 species                |
| Threatened plants:                    | 953 species                |
| Percent of land protected:            | 5.7                        |
| Wetlands loss, through 1980s:         | 0%                         |
| Percent with access to safe water:    | 79                         |
| Percent with adequate sanitation:     | 53                         |
| Daily water use per capita:           | 259 gallons                |
| Water use for domestic purposes:      | 17%                        |
| Water use for agriculture:            | 72%                        |
| Water use for industry:               | 11%                        |
| Cropland per capita:                  | 0.9 acres                  |
| Energy use per capita:                | 12.9 barrels of oil equiv. |
| Persons per motor vehicle:            | 8                          |
| Percent of girls in secondary school: | 84                         |
| Percent of boys in secondary school:  | 71                         |
| Women as % of national legislature:   | 25                         |
| Labor force in agriculture:           | 13%                        |
| Labor force in industry:              | 32%                        |
| Labor force in services:              | 55%                        |
| GDP per capita, 1995:                 | US\$3,127                  |

## Demographic and Health Trends

- Despite the country's current growth rate of 1.5 percent per year, South Africa's population is expected to increase only 7 percent by 2025—largely due to deaths from AIDS. If the growth rate were to remain at 1.5 percent, the population would grow to 65 million in 2025.
- Given South Africa's young age structure, high numbers of births are expected to continue as large numbers of people under age 15 reach their childbearing years.
- The 1991 Census recorded a

population that is 75 percent black, 13 percent white, 8 percent "coloured" (mixed race), and 3 percent Asian.

- Life expectancy varies widely by race. A white infant can expect to live to age 72, an Asian to age 68, blacks to age 64, and people of mixed race to age 63.
- Diarrhea and acute respiratory infection are the two leading causes of death among children under age 5. Respiratory infections are associated with indoor air pollution.

## Natural Resources and Wildlife Issues

- Urban sprawl has led to loss of productive land, loss of habitat, and loss of biological diversity.
- Coal burning generates more than 80 percent of the country's electricity and contributes to air pollution and acid rain. In urban areas, air pollution—both indoors and outdoors—is the greatest environmental hazard. The use of leaded gasoline and coal for cooking and heating exacerbates the problem.

tural runoff and urban discharge pollute rivers.

- Increasing demand for water threatens to outpace supply. Agricul-

■ Soil erosion and desertification are problems for agriculture. Salinization of soil is a threat in dry areas.

■ South Africa has 23,000 known species of plants—more than twice the number per square kilometer than any other African country. Threatened animal species include the cheetah, lion, mountain zebra, and the wandering albatross.

## Socioeconomic Factors

- South Africa's economy is based on mineral extraction. The country is the world's largest producer of gold and diamonds.
- Though South Africa's economy is one of the strongest in the region, an estimated 50 percent of blacks do not have formal jobs.

mixed race—are located in squalid squatter settlements.

- Approximately 1 million households—almost all black or

■ About one-half of all South Africans are illiterate. Until late 1993, apartheid supported segregation in housing, schooling, employment, property ownership, and other sectors. Today, the black-led government has desegregated schools and made schooling compulsory for all children.

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Prosperous industry and agriculture have attracted immigrant and migrant labor to South Africa from throughout the region. In California, immigration and seasonal migration by Mexicans and Central Americans is opposed by some, who assert these immigrants overtax the state economy, schools, and social services.

Both societies are highly urbanized and confront environmental pressures associated with large cities. Los Angeles' air is the dirtiest on the continent, second only to Mexico City. In South Africa, one in four urban households lives in a squatter settlement with no water or sewer service, creating environmental and public health dangers. Coal-fired power plants and cars powered by leaded fuel dangerously pollute urban air. More than 90 percent of the wetlands in the San Francisco delta and estuary have been lost to agriculture and development, endangering native species.

### Responding to Challenges

Noting the threat to wetland restoration and the potential for further destruction as Southern California becomes increasingly densely populated, the Sierra Club and the Wetlands Action Network have called for the Southern California Coastal Wetlands

Complex, a 200-mile stretch of coastline from Mugu Lagoon to the Tijuana Estuary, to be recognized as a "Wetland of International Importance" under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance signed in Ramsar, Iran in 1971. The convention, an international treaty, provides the framework for international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. The case is currently under consideration by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Office of International Affairs.

In South Africa, the U.S. Agency for International Development has funded a \$70 million, seven-year Shelter and Urban Development Support project.

The project supports local organizations' environmental education, training, and evaluation programs, as well as government planning and delivery of environmentally sustainable housing and urban services. Local groups in 64 communities have received "community impact grants" to expand environmental and housing services in poor

neighborhoods.

Local communities, the South African government, international development agencies, and a variety of international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) support other development projects in South Africa. The

**P**eople in California and South Africa, along with all other living creatures, need clean and healthy air, water, and land, and a stable climate. But as people strive to meet these fundamental needs and improve their lives, they make demands on Earth's resources—and leave footprints. No species demands as much and leaves as many footprints as humans do. The number of people on the planet has a direct impact on the environment and how resources are used. But the level of consumption and the ways in which natural resources are used also directly affect the health of the planet—locally, regionally, globally.

No matter where one lives, the activities of *all* humans will ultimately determine the well-being of *all* humans.

U.S. Peace Corps, which sent 30 volunteers to South Africa in 1997, and many NGOs have long provided educational, community development, and health programs to assist South Africa's black communities—promoting efforts that helped lead to the end of apartheid. ■

**DEFINITIONS:** **Doubling Time:** The number of years it will take for a population to double, assuming a *constant* rate of natural increase. **Average Number of Children Per Woman:** Known as the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) or the average number of children a woman would have in her lifetime, assuming that birth rates remained constant throughout her childbearing years. **Endangered Species:** Any species in danger of extinction throughout all, or a significant portion of its habitat. **Threatened Species:** Any species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all, or a significant portion of its habitat. **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** The value of all goods and services produced within a nation in a given year. **Gross State Product (GSP):** The value of all goods and services produced within a state. It is the state counterpart of the nation's GDP.

**SOURCES:** Major sources are International Labour Organization; National Center for Health Statistics; UNICEF; U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis; U.S. Department of Agriculture; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Geological Survey; The World Conservation Union (IUCN); and World Resources Institute. For a complete list of sources, contact PRB.

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