

# Press Release



South Africa's Leading Research and Policy Organisation

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## Increase in African graduates shows higher education has transformed

**The number of Africans being awarded degrees by South African universities has increased by more than 300%, according to data from the latest *South Africa Survey*, to be released by the South African Institute of Race Relations in Johannesburg next week.**

There were also large increases in the number of coloured and Indian graduates. According to the data, which was sourced from the Department of Higher Education and Training, the number of whites being awarded degrees also increased, but by a smaller proportion than the other population groups.

In 1991 some 8 514 Africans had been awarded degrees by South African public universities, going up to 36 970 by 2008, an increase of 334%.

In 1991 some 2 347 coloured people had been awarded degrees. This went up to 5 286 in 2008, an increase of 125%.

In 1991 some 2 333 Indians had been awarded degrees. This went up to 6 857 in 2008, an increase of 194%.

In 1991 some 27 619 whites had been awarded degrees. This went up to 31 527 by 2008, an increase of only 14%.

It is clear from this data that the racial profile of graduates is changing. An Institute researcher, Marius Roodt, said that this was evidence that transformation of the higher education sector was well under way. 'The increase in the number of black graduates in general, and African graduates in particular, shows that the tertiary sector in this country has made great strides in extending higher education.'

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