

Press Release



SOUTH AFRICAN
INSTITUTE OF
RACE RELATIONS

South Africa's Leading Research and Policy Organisation

www.sairr.org.za

For immediate release

17 January 2012

Media Contact: Lucy Holborn

Tel: 011 482 7221

E-mail: lucy@msairr.org.za

Public service employment growing four times faster than total employment

Employment in the public service is growing four times faster than total employment, according to the latest *South Africa Survey*, to be published by the South African Institute of Race Relations next week.

Public service employment grew by 22% over the last decade, from 1.1 million in 2001 to 1.3 million in 2011, while total employment grew by only 5% over the same period. In 2001 there were 12.5 million people employed in South Africa, a figure which rose to 13.1 million in 2011.

Of the 1.3 million public service employees, about 450 000 are teachers and nurses and a further 190 000 are employed by the South African Police Service, according to the data sourced from the Department of Public Service and Administration.

In addition to the 1.3 million public service employees (those working for national and provincial government), there are a quarter of a million people working for local governments, and several hundreds of thousands working in public institutions such as parastatals and section nine institutions, although an exact figure has not been published by the Government.

Ms Lucy Holborn, the research manager at the Institute, said, 'The increase in public sector employment is not a sustainable solution to our unemployment problem. The public sector wage bill already accounts for a third of all government spending.'

The Government's target of creating five million jobs by 2020 will require 40% growth in employment over the next decade, a growth rate eight times higher than has occurred over the past decade.

ends