

# Top Incomes in South Africa over a century<sup>\*</sup>

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**Abstract:** There have been important studies of recent income inequality and of poverty in South Africa, but very little is known about the long-run trends over time. There is speculation about the extent of inequality when the Union of South Africa was formed in 1910, but no hard evidence. In this paper, we provide evidence that is partial - being confined to top incomes - but which for the first time shows how the income distribution changed on a (near) annual basis from 1913 onwards. We present estimates of the shares in total income of groups such as the top 1 per cent and the top 0.1 per cent, covering the period from colonial times to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. For a number of years during the apartheid period, we have data classified by race. The estimates for recent years bear out the picture of South Africa as a highly unequal country, but allow this to be placed in historical and international context.

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## Introduction

Income inequality in South Africa has received much attention. There have been important studies of recent inequality and poverty.<sup>1</sup> In this paper, we approach the subject from a different direction: the extent and evolution of top incomes. We present estimates of the shares in total income of groups such as the top 1 per cent and the top 0.1 per cent, covering, with gaps, more than a hundred years. As in other countries, top incomes are difficult to measure with precision. They are often not well covered by the household surveys that are today the primary source of evidence about the distribution of income. A partial picture can, however, be obtained from the information contained in the income tax returns, and these are the source employed in this paper.

In this field, and in the related area of national income totals, South African researchers were among the pioneers. Leslie (1935, 1936 and 1937) used income tax data to examine the effect on the South African distribution of income of the abandonment of the Gold Standard by Britain in 1931. Frankel and Herzfeld (1943) published estimates of the European income distribution in South Africa based on the income tax returns, but making use of control totals from the census of population and from the national accounts. Their use of external information to complement income tax data pre-dated by ten years the study of upper income groups in the US by Kuznets (1953). Graaff (1946) assembled a series based on South African Super Tax data covering the years 1915 to 1942 to examine the stability of the distribution and the causes of fluctuations in income concentration. In seeking to exploit the (more than) century of income tax data now available for South Africa, we are therefore following in a long-established research tradition.

The picture obtained from tax data is only a partial one because not everyone has to provide income information to the tax authorities, and in earlier years the tax-paying population was a small minority of the total population; they were the better-off and, in the case of South Africa, very largely White. The picture is partial in that the income recorded, gross income assessed for tax purposes, does not necessarily capture the full extent of the economic advantage accruing to those at the top of the distribution, and certain categories of income, notably dividends, are incompletely covered. Conclusions drawn from the income tax data are therefore surrounded by qualifications.

The tax data do however provide insight into the degree of inequality at the top. Combined with external information about the total population and the total income, as in the pioneering work of Frankel and Herzfeld (1943) but covering all races, the tax returns allow estimates to be made of the share of the top 1 per cent. Taken together, our historical series covers, with some gaps, more than a

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<sup>1</sup> See, for example, McGrath, 1983, McGrath and Whiteford, 1994, Klasen, 1997 and 2005, Nattrass and Seekings, 1997, Terreblanche, 2002, Dollery, 2003, van der Berg and Louw, 2004, Leibbrandt, Woolard and Woolard, 2009, and Leibbrandt et al., 2010.

hundred years. This was an eventful period. It goes from the colonial days (with estimates for the Cape Colony from 1903), through the establishment of the Union of South Africa in 1910, followed by effective independence in 1931, the systematisation of segregation in the form of apartheid following the National Party government elected in 1948, the declaration of a republic in 1961, international sanctions and trade boycotts, to the establishment of multi-racial democracy and the election of the ANC government in 1994. Throughout this history, there was much concern about the high levels of poverty in South Africa, and it is on the bottom of the income distribution that attention has rightly focused. At the same time, poverty has to be seen in the context of the distribution as a whole. As noted by Leibbrandt et al., “in addition to high poverty levels, South Africa’s inequality levels are among the highest in the world” (2010, page 9). Our estimates of top incomes allow us to examine whether that has always been the case. The conclusion of Graaff (1946) was that the degree of income concentration (derived from the Pareto coefficient) was “fairly stable” over the long period. Did this stability, however, remain in the apartheid years? Or was there a long-run trend in top income shares? In a recent article on inequality, van der Berg asked “what was the case in South Africa over the past century?” and went on to say that “no data exist to give a definitive answer” (2011, page 125). Our estimates are not definitive, but they provide a point of departure for those seeking to understand the long-run pattern of income inequality in South Africa.

Many readers will want to go first to the results. However, an appreciation of the methods used to arrive at the estimated top income shares is necessary to give due weight to their limitations. We therefore begin in section 1 with a description of the income tax data (further details are given in Alvaredo and Atkinson, 2011). As already explained, the tax data cannot be employed on their own. The published distributions of taxpayers by income ranges have to be accompanied by external control totals for the total adult population and for total household income, and these are described in section 2. The results for top income shares in South Africa from 1903 to 2010 are set out in section 3, where we consider the changing shape of the upper tail, and examine the ethnic composition of top income-receivers. The findings for South Africa are set in international context in section 4, where we make comparisons with the findings for Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the UK (from Atkinson and Piketty, 2007 and 2010 and the World Top Incomes Database). The main conclusions are summarised at the end.

## **1. Where do the estimates come from?**

The basic sources used in this paper are the tables published by the income tax authorities for the Cape Colony (data for 1903-1907) and the Union of South Africa (data from 1913). The Union was formed as a British Dominion in May 1910

from the former colonies of Cape of Good Hope, Natal, Orange River Colony (or Free State) and Transvaal. Income tax was introduced into the Cape Colony with effect for incomes for the year starting on 1 July 1903 and information on the tax was published in the *Report of the Commissioner of Taxes for the year 1904-1905*, and in subsequent reports. The tax was levied in the new Dominion with effect for incomes for the year starting on 1 July 1913. In what follows, we denote the “income year” (IY) by the calendar year in which the income period began, in this case 1913. Information on the distribution of taxpayers by ranges of income was published on a regular basis in the *Annual Report of the Commissioner for Inland Revenue* (less detailed data were published initially also in the *Official Year Book of the Union*).

The taxation of individual income under the Union from 1913 involved a *Normal tax*, covering (in IY1915) persons with income in excess of £300 a year, and a *Super Tax*, in force until IY1958, levied on higher income persons, covering (in IY1915) persons with incomes in excess of £2,500 a year. The statistics for the former cover a larger proportion of the population (some 58,000 taxpayers in IY1916, compared with fewer than 2,000 Super Tax payers), but the Normal tax statistics exclude dividend income, a point discussed further below. In later years, information was published in *South African Statistics*, which appeared biennially from 1968. In 2009, the National Treasury and the South African Revenue Service began a new publication entitled *2008 Tax Statistics*, containing information for IY2002 to IY2005, which was continued over 2009-2012, and is expected to appear regularly.

The data employed here are not in the form of individual tax records, which no longer exist for most of the period studied; rather we make use of published tabulations. The information necessary for the estimation of top income shares is the distribution of taxpayers assessed by ranges of income and, ideally (present in many, but not all, years) the amount of income in each range. Interpolation is involved (see Atkinson, 2007), but the tabulations are in many cases extremely detailed: for example, in the data for IY1917 there are 29 ranges, 10 of which contain fewer than 100 observations (one containing only 5 taxpayers). We have been able to locate income tax data for most income years. The data sources are listed by income year in Appendix Table A.1.<sup>2</sup> There is however an important gap for the years 1994 to 2001.<sup>3</sup> This limits our capacity to record distributional changes during this crucial period. It also means that we find it hard to judge the comparability of the earlier estimates with those from 2002 onwards, the latter

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<sup>2</sup> The publications were obtained from the (incomplete) collections in the British Library of Political and Economic Science (London School of Economics), the University of Cambridge Royal Commonwealth Society Library, the South Africa Parliament Library, the University of Cape Town Library, the Oxford University Libraries, the University of Harvard Libraries and the New York Public Library.

<sup>3</sup> The unavailability of statistics for this period has been confirmed to us by the Treasury of South Africa and the South Africa Revenue Service.

being additionally affected by some changes in the tax code, mainly the partial inclusion of capital gains in taxable income, offset by the omission of dividend income (see below).

The data are the product of an administrative process, and this process can affect the resulting estimates. Two important features should be discussed here. The first is the definition of taxable income. As in any income tax system, certain types and amounts of income were exempted. In 1951 these exemptions included (in addition to the emoluments of the Governor-General) interest up to £25 from the Post Office Savings Bank, war pensions and miners' phthisis awards, and – of particular significance for top incomes – dividend income. Under the Normal Tax/Super Tax regime, dividend income was not assessed under the Normal Tax but under the Super Tax. A separate Dividend tax was levied (with higher rates for companies engaged in gold mining and in diamond mining). The Super Tax data are therefore more complete and for this reason have been used in earlier studies such as Graaff (1946). However, they cover a smaller fraction of the upper incomes. The estimates prior to the 1940s are limited to the share of the top 0.05 per cent, whereas using the Normal Tax data we are able to estimate the share of the top 1 per cent.<sup>4</sup> In view of this, we give two series: series A (Table A.4A) based on Normal Tax data excluding dividends, up to 1953, and series B (Table A.4B) based on the Super Tax data. Following the abolition of Super Tax in 1959, the series B is continued using the Personal Income Tax data, which included dividend income to varying degrees. Initially some 2/3 of dividends accruing to top taxpayers were taxed, but in the statistics available from 2002 dividends received by residents and non-residents from South African resident companies are not included (although reported in tax returns).

The second feature concerns the timing of assessments. The data for the early part of the period refer to incomes whose assessment has been completed within the fiscal year following the income year (see Table A.1). In some, typically the higher-income and more complicated cases, assessment may take longer to be completed, and for quite a number of later years there are data based on a 24-month period of assessment. Earlier studies have drawn attention to this issue, but have tended to regard the 12-month assessment period as adequate: “it is unlikely that the (fairly complete) sample given is biased in favour of the exclusion of incomes of any particular size” (Graaff, 1946, p. 28). The impact on the estimated shares of different assessment periods depends on the proportion covered within the 12 months, and on the nature of those incomes requiring longer assessment. In Table A.5, we have shown the proportion of assessments (and of tax assessed) within 12 months, compared with the final totals reported as of 1955. The

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<sup>4</sup> The two sources cannot be combined in any straightforward way, since the definition of taxable income differs in the two cases, and taxpayers may be ranked differently in the two sets of tables. After the abolition of the Super Tax, 2/3 of dividends accruing to top taxpayers were taxed through the Normal Tax.

evidence for the income years prior to 1940 is re-assuring, since typically around 90 per cent of assessments had been completed, and the average tax per assessment did not differ greatly. However, from 1940, during the war, the proportion assessed fell and the proportion of tax assessed fell to a greater extent. The latter suggests that the taxpayers assessed later were not a random drawing: as shown in Table A.6, the difference in the top 1% share could be as much as 8 percentage points, which would give a quite different picture. In view of these findings, we have decided not to use the tax data for the years after 1939 for which we have only +12 month figures (the results for these years (IY1940-IY1943, and IY1950) are shown for reference in Table A.7). For the other years, estimates are based on the longest assessment period available. For the period from IY1955 to IY1961, the information is mostly available only for a 12-month assessment period, and we have assumed that, in these post-war conditions, these estimates are more complete.

## **2. How can the tax figures be set in context?**

In isolation, the tax statistics cannot tell us a great deal about income inequality. The figures have to be related to the total population and to total income. Neither of these totals is easy to estimate and the South African case is particularly difficult.

### *Control total for population*

The income tax in South Africa, as in most countries, was originally levied on the tax unit, treating a married couple as one unit, but since IY1990 has been based on the individual. We need therefore control totals for tax units from 1913 to 1989 and for total individuals from 1990. The derivation of these totals involves the following steps: (1) making an estimate of total population, (2) exclusion of those aged under 15, to arrive at an assumed total of “individuals” for tax purposes, and (3) before 1990, subtraction of the number of married women to arrive at a total for “tax units”. The selection of the age of 15 to define tax units is arbitrary but does not seem unreasonable.

We focus here on the estimation of the total population of South Africa, which is surrounded by a number of difficulties. (Steps (2) and (3) are described in the Appendix). The chapter on population in the 1949 *Handbook on race relations in South Africa* (Hellmann, 1949) opens with the statement that “the statistical facts concerning the bulk of our population are ... utterly inadequate. ...Our Office of Census and Statistics has done excellent work, but it lacks the essential statistical raw material” (Sonnabend, 1949, p. 4). The first simultaneous count in the four territories later incorporated into the Union was carried out in 1904, but

only four censuses of population in the next 45 years covered non-Europeans (1911, 1921, 1936 and 1946), and there was only incomplete registration of births and deaths. There were over that period also censuses in 1918, 1926 and 1931, but these covered only the European population. Moreover, there were grounds for supposing that the censuses in the early years significantly under-stated the size of the non-European population. “Each successive census enumeration of Africans, and to a lesser degree, of Coloured, has become more accurate and complete. The fact that the census of 1936 revealed the presence of 6,596,689 Natives against 4,697,813 in 1921 must be partly due to the inclusion in 1936 of a considerable number left out in the previous census. This likewise holds good, though to a lesser degree, of the census for 1946” (Sonnabend, 1949, p. 10). Working in the opposite direction was the fact that the 1946 census was based on the *de facto* population: i. e. those actually present. As a result, “a large number of immigrants and temporary labourers from neighbouring territories are included in the Union totals” (Sonnabend, 1949, p. 5).

The weaknesses of the South African population census may well have intensified during the apartheid period. Orkin, Lehohla and Kahimbaara say of the 1991 census “it was a pastiche of small-area detail, of variable quality, from the four ‘states’ and ‘White’ South Africa. ... The counts from [the ‘White’] areas were generally accepted as reasonably accurate. But in many urban ‘townships’, informal settlements and peasant-farmed rural areas, where the residents were overwhelmingly African, mapping was not uniformly available or else various areas were deemed inaccessible due to political unrest. In some cases household interviews were conducted but without prior demarcation. ... In others, dwellings were counted on aerial photographs, and populations then imputed using household densities obtained from sample surveys” (1998, p. 268). It is therefore scarcely surprising that the *adjusted* data from the 1991 census give a total of 31.0 million compared with an *enumerated* total of 26.3 million (*South African Statistics 2009*, Table 2.3), a difference of 18 per cent.

In intermediate years, a further difficulty has been the fact that the published figures for years before 1991 are affected by the exclusion of the population of Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei (referred to as “the TBVC states”). This has the consequence that the table for total population in *South African Statistics 2009* (Table 2.3) has figures for 1904, 1911, 1921, 1936, 1946, 1951, 1960 and 1970 covering the whole of South Africa (except for Walvis Bay), but the data for 1980 and 1985 exclude the TBVC states. Figures are given for 1991 on the same basis and with the 1994 boundaries. The differences are large: it is estimated that the population of the former TBVC states at the 1991 census was 6.751 million.

In view of the difficulties caused by these two types of “missing” population (the under-enumerated and the TBVC states), we have worked back from the

current mid-year population estimates (published by Statistics South Africa in the annual publication P0302), but have used the UN Population Division estimates to cover the period before 1991 (the sources are given in Table A.2). This takes the series back to 1950. At that date, the series is some 7 per cent higher than the mid-year estimates published in the *Official Yearbook of the Union* (OYB) for 1954-55, p. 680. There is the further hiatus in the 1930s noted above. The OYB number 18 for 1938 reported (page 1035) that the population estimates had been revised in the light of the 1936 census, and the upward revision was substantial: the estimate for the total population in 1935, for example, was 9.4 million, compared with 8.6 million in the previous edition of the OYB (page 1047), an increase of 10 per cent. For 1949 and earlier years, we have therefore used the estimates given in Feinstein (2005, p. 258), which adjust for under-enumeration progressively from 1922.

The resulting series for total tax units and total adults are given in Table A.3A; the series for the Cape Colony are given in Table A.3B.

### *Control total for total income*

The tax records only cover a part of total household income. One of the major contributions of Kuznets' study *Shares of upper income groups in incomes and savings* (1953) was to combine income tax data with national accounts estimates of total income. However, he was not the first, having been preceded by South African economists Frankel and Herzfeld, who made estimates of the European income distribution in South Africa in 1943. Drawing attention to the limited coverage of the tax return data on their own, these authors argued that "by combining the national income and income tax statistics ... it is possible to obtain a more general picture" (1943, pp. 121-2).

The national income estimates provide our starting point here. Our aim is to compare the incomes recorded in the tax returns with the total of household income after transfers but before tax as recorded in the national accounts. This means that the comparison total is larger than the total of income that would be subject to tax if the personal tax allowances were removed; the control total includes for example Post Office Savings Bank interest that is not taxable if below a specified amount. To this extent, we are understating the top income shares since this non-taxable income is omitted from the numerator. The household income totals are however less than total national income. As is explained by Frankel and Herzfeld (1943, p. 128), household income is obtained by subtracting "income which is not distributed to individuals", that is undistributed company profits and the profits of official bodies, and by adding back the interest paid by government and official bodies and transfer payments such as unemployment relief. Their total (not including transfer payments) for 1939/40 came to 94 per cent of national income. For 1953, the first overlapping year between the



household income series of the Bureau of Census and Statistics and the net national income series of Frankel, the ratio is also 94 per cent.

In the South African context, it should be noted that the control total does not include incomes paid to foreign factors of production. There is an important distinction between national income and domestic income (see Franzsen, 1954, and Samuels, 1963). Geographical income “is reduced to a national basis by *adding* the income accruing to factors owned by its own citizens, but employed outside its frontiers, and *deducting* the income accruing to factors owned by foreigners, but employed within its frontiers” (Bureau of Census and Statistics, 1954, page 356). The most important deductions by the Bureau of Census and Statistics are for the wages of foreign workers employed in South African mines, profit income accruing to the owners of foreign capital invested in the Union, and interest paid abroad. This leads estimated total national income in 1951-52 to be some 90 per cent of total geographical income (although Franzsen, 1954, Table 1, suggests that the deduction for foreign capital is overstated). Multiplying 90 per cent by the earlier 94 per cent suggests that the household income series is some 85 per cent of geographical (domestic) product.

The control totals used here (see Appendix, Section A.4) are derived by working backwards from the recent published national accounts series to the older period. For 1953-2010, the National Accounts of South Africa give total Households’ Disposable Income plus the Taxes on Income and Wealth paid by households: i.e. total household gross income. For the years before 1953, a series for household disposable income does not exist. Consequently we have linked the previous series backwards following net national income, assuming that household income moved in line. The need to make this assumption introduces a further element of uncertainty surrounding the control totals, although, given the long history of research on national income in South Africa, there are good reasons for believing that the South African totals are more reliable than those used in many other countries.

The resulting series for total reference income is given in Table A.3A.

### *Summary*

We have devoted some space to the processes by which we arrived at the estimates examined in the next sections of the paper. It is not straightforward to go from the published income tax tabulations to estimates of top income shares. It is necessary to examine the structure of the tax system and how it has been administered. The income tax data can only be interpreted in the light of external information and the assembly of this information for a period of some hundred years requires a considerable investment. An understanding of these processes is

necessary to appreciate the limitations of the estimates, but may also provide confidence in their use.

### 3. Top income shares in South Africa

Our estimates for top income shares span a period that saw substantial growth in average real income per head, but at far from a uniform rate. As may be seen from Figure 1, average real income per adult rose from 1913 to 1928, fell in the Great Depression, and then grew rapidly up to the beginning of the 1970s. Growth was un-interrupted by the Second World War. In 1913, South Africa had a much lower per capita GDP than Australia, Canada and New Zealand (Feinstein, 2005, p. 6), but it grew faster from 1913 to 1950 than these other Dominions. By 1971, real income per head was some 4 times its 1913 value. Real income per adult then, however, began to decline, so that by 1994, real income per adult was some fifth lower than a quarter of a century before. Only in the 21st century has growth in real income per adult been resumed.

What was happening to top incomes over this period? Figure 2 shows the shares of the top 1 per cent, top 0.5 per cent and top 0.05 per cent. The results relate to tax units (up to IY1990) and to assessed (gross) income before tax. At the beginning of the period, the top 1 per cent numbered 26,500 tax units. At that time the number of white tax units was some 600,000, so that, if the top 1 per cent had all been white, they would have been some 4½ per cent of the white total. The series marked with solid symbols is Series A, derived from the Normal Tax data excluding dividends. As may be seen, where the series may be compared there is a noticeable difference, but the movements over time are similar. For the years 1944 to 1949 where there is overlap, the series B estimates are higher by 7.5 per cent (top 1 per cent), 8.8 per cent (top 0.5 per cent), and 14.4 per cent (top 0.05 per cent). In what follows, where combining series A and B, we increase the series A estimates by these percentages.

In 1913 the share of the top 1 per cent was over 20 per cent, meaning that this group had on average more than 20 times their proportionate share. For the top 0.5 per cent, the share was around 15 per cent, and for the top 0.05 per cent around 5 per cent, implying that these groups had, respectively, 30 and 100 times their proportionate shares. This is a high level of concentration, but not without parallel before the First World War: the top 1 per cent share in the Netherlands in 1914 was over 20 per cent.

It is evident from Figure 2, however, that the position of top income groups has been far from stable over time. The instability is in part short-run. Both the First and Second World Wars saw an upward spike in the top shares. But, leaving these episodes aside, the overall impression is that of a continuing downward

trend from 1913 to the 1980s. The share of the top 1 per cent was halved. Our conclusions about the long-run development differ therefore from those of Graaff, who found that: “the concentration (and so the distribution) of incomes ... is stable in the long period” (1946, p. 46). He was, of course, only able to use data for the first part of the century, but our conclusions also differ in that we are using control totals to estimate the shares in total income. We should also note that the downward trend is not constant: the speed of fall in top income shares was faster in the 1930s and in the 1950s.

The long-run fall over much of the twentieth century shown in Figure 2 is similar to the pattern in other countries (discussed further in the next section). In the majority (but not all) of those countries, there was a reversal of this trend in the final part of the century. Figure 2 suggests that the same is true in South Africa. As noted earlier, the hiatus in the production of the necessary statistics means that we should be cautious in joining the points for 1993 and 2002. It is possible that the increase reflects greater effectiveness in collecting tax, and the inclusion of capital gains, so that the true increase is over-stated; on the other hand, the omission of dividend income works in the opposite direction. There was also the move from a tax unit to an individual basis for taxation. Taking the post-2002 figures on their own, we can see that top income shares have increased, even with the recent fall since the outburst of the world crisis in 2008.

The recent figures bear out the picture of South Africa as a highly unequal country. The share of the top 5 per cent, which in 2005 began at about 150,000 Rand, is over 33 per cent, and that of the top 1 per cent, which began at about 400,000 Rand, is above 15 per cent. The top 0.1 per cent, which began at around 1 million Rand, has fifty times their proportionate share of gross income; the top 0.05 per cent has some seventy times their proportionate share.<sup>5</sup>

### *The changing shape of the upper tail of the distribution*

The rate of decline in top shares differs across the different income groups. Whereas the share of the top 0.5 per cent went from around 15 per cent to around 6 per cent (a fall of some 60 per cent), the share of the next 0.5 per cent fell from 6 per cent to around 3½ per cent, which is a proportionately smaller decline. This suggests that the *shape* of the upper part of the distribution has been changing; it is not simply a question of all incomes being scaled back proportionately.

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<sup>5</sup> Even though the number of taxpayers is well above 10% of the control total for the population, the series for the top 10% income share is not given from 1971 to 2010, as the resulting P90 value is usually very close to (and sometimes below) the threshold under which employees are only subject to PAYE, and not included in the statistics used here (these workers are not required to file a tax return).

The changing shape may be examined by looking at the “shares within shares”: the share, for example, of the top 0.5 per cent in the total income of the top 1 per cent. In 1914, this share was around three-quarters (15 per cent out of 20 per cent). By 1939 the proportion had fallen a little to around 70 per cent, and by the end of the 1980s it was down to around 60 per cent. The within-group distribution became less concentrated. The shares-within-shares calculation has the advantage of not relying on the control totals for income, and thus avoiding the uncertainties surrounding these totals noted in Section 2. It is also directly related to the Pareto coefficient. If the share of the top 0.5 per cent is denoted by  $S_{0.5}$  and the share of the top 1 per cent is denoted by  $S_1$ , then, if the upper tail of the distribution follows a Pareto distribution, then the coefficient,  $\alpha$ , can be estimated from the income shares, using the formula that  $1 - 1/\alpha = \log_{10}\{S_1/S_{0.5}\}/\log_{10}\{2\}$ . In Figure 3, this Pareto-Lorenz coefficient is plotted for these shares, and using the share of the top 0.05 per cent in the income of the top 0.5 per cent. Since the distribution is only approximately Pareto in form, these coefficients do not coincide, but it may be seen that they move closely together.

A number of early researchers examined the fit to the South African data of the Pareto distribution. Leslie (1935) found values for the Pareto coefficient “greater than Pareto found in European countries” (1935, p. 279), suggesting less inequality at the top in South Africa. He reports a wide range, but our estimates suggest that the coefficient was between 1.7 and 2 from 1913 until after the Second World War. The coefficient then rose, starting at the end of 1940s, indicating less inequality among those at the top of the distribution. From the end of the 1950s up to the 1980s, the Pareto coefficient was broadly between 2.5 and 3. To see the implications of this rise, we may note that a value of  $\alpha = 2$  implies that people at the entry to the top 1 per cent see those above as having on average twice their income, whereas a value of 3 would mean that the advantage was only some  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times. When we turn to the recent years, however, we see that  $\alpha$  has fallen back to around 2 for the years 2002-2010. On this basis, the concentration of incomes at the top is returning to its pre-war level.

To this point, we have not discussed the very earliest estimates: those for the Cape Colony for 1903 to 1907. The Colony contained, in 1907, some 1.2 million tax units, compared with 2.7 million tax units in the Union in 1913. We have not been able to make any estimates of total income for the Colony, so that the results are presented in Table A.11 in terms of shares-within-shares. The findings may be compared to those for the Union in 1914. The top 0.5 per cent in 1907 had 70 per cent of the total income of the top 1 per cent, which is quite close to the 72 per cent for the Union seven years later, but higher up the scale the incomes appear less concentrated.

One major factor influencing the South African distribution of income is the racial composition of the population. From IY1956 to IY1987, the South African income tax statistics are published with a classification by race: White, Coloured, Asian and African (not included for all years). For these years, we can see the make-up of the top income groups in Table A.8.

In the mid-1950s, the top income groups were overwhelmingly White. In 1956, the top 5 per cent consisted of 325,400 tax units, of whom 320,000 were White, 3,700 were Asian, 1,400 were coloured and 160 were classified as African (the term used in the publication is “Bantu”). The composition did shift over the following thirty years: in 1987 the top 5 per cent consisted of 782,000 tax units, of whom 708,000 were White, 24,300 were Asian, 30,300 were coloured and 19,200 were African. The proportionate increase for Africans was large (a factor of 120). This raises the question as to how this was possible during the apartheid era, and at a time when the relative incomes of Africans remained unchanged. The estimates of Leibbrandt et al. show that in 1956 the average per capita income of Africans was 8.6 per cent of that for whites, and in 1987 the figure was virtually the same (8.5 per cent) (2010, Table 1.1) (over the same period, the relative per capita incomes of Asians went from 21.9 per cent to 30.2 per cent). The proportionate increase may have been large, but the actual numbers of non-Whites was still small. Top incomes at the end of the 1980s remained highly concentrated by race: in 1987, Whites were 90.6 per cent of the top 5 per cent, 96.7 per cent of the top 1 per cent, and 97.5 per cent of the top 0.1 per cent. The last of these figures means that of the 15,600 tax units in this group, which began at about 100,000 rand per year, only some 400 were non-White. There was only limited change in the degree of dominance of the White population in the upper income groups over this period.

What did the African taxpayers do? For the earlier part of the period, the tax statistics contained information on the sources of income by race.<sup>6</sup> In IY1965 (from the *Report of the Secretary for Inland Revenue for the year 1966-67*, Table 16), for example, there were 6,100 African taxpayers in total (with positive incomes). Three-quarters (75.4 per cent) received their income from employment; 13.2 per cent were engaged in retail trade; and 8.0 per cent had income from investments as their main source (largely interest). Of those African taxpayers in employment, 41 per cent worked for state, provincial or local government, 24 per cent in manufacturing or construction, and 21 per cent in services other than government. Therefore, government employment played a crucial role as income source for Africans at the upper end of the distribution.

The gap in the data between 1994 and 2001 prevents us from analysing the dynamics of top incomes in the crucial years immediately following the end of apartheid. Evidence from households’ surveys conducted in 1993, 2000 and 2008

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<sup>6</sup> Table A.10 provides the composition of top incomes between 1954 and 1961.

(see Leibbrandt et al., 2010) indicates that inequality increased steadily, both within the whole population and within each racial group, especially among Africans. Van der Berg and Louw, 2004, note that “rising black per capita incomes over the past three decades have narrowed the interracial income gap, although increasing inequality within the black population seems to have prevented a significant decline in aggregate inequality” (pp. 568-569). At the same time, poverty has remained virtually constant (or fallen slightly) over the same period. Both facts (increasing inequality and stable poverty) are consistent with the rising trend in top income shares recorded in our estimates for the period since 2002.

### *Summary*

Our estimates of top income shares provide hard evidence about the way in which income inequality in South Africa has changed over the past hundred years. At the formation of the Union, the top 1 per cent received over a fifth of total income. There was a fall in top income shares in South Africa over much of the twentieth century, and incomes within the top groups became less concentrated up to the end of the 1980s. The dominance of the White population among top income receivers was slightly reduced.

In recent years, however, top income shares have begun to rise again, justifying the widespread view that incomes in South Africa are highly unequally distributed. The share of the top 5 per cent in gross income in 2010 approaches 40 per cent, that of the top 1 per cent is close to 17 per cent.

## **4. South Africa in international context**

Our data on top incomes have the advantage of covering virtually the entire period since South Africa became, when the Union was formed, a self-governing dominion, and increasingly acquired further political powers, culminating in full independence. In this regard, its initial political history was similar to that of Australia, Canada and New Zealand, and it is therefore useful to draw a parallel. Moreover, these are all countries where natural resources have played a key role in their development and are likely to have affected the distribution of income. As noted by Feinstein, the four countries are “natural benchmarks”: “all four had achieved their initial growth in the nineteenth century by exporting primary products from their farms, forests, and mines, and were seeking in the twentieth century to develop their secondary industries with the aid of protective duties. All four were relatively small, and struggling to compete with larger, well-established industrial nations such as Britain and the United States” (2005, p. 132). At the same time, there are major differences, such as the differing sizes of the indigenous population.

In Figure 4 we compare the findings for the share of the top 1 per cent in South Africa with those for the three other dominions and for the United Kingdom (the former colonial power). It may be noted that the South African series starts the earliest. The comparison begins after the First World War. At that time, South Africa had the highest share of the top 1 per cent of all the countries shown, apart from the UK (where the data are limited for the first half of the century). The top 1 per cent share in Canada was around 15 per cent in the 1920s and the shares in Australia and New Zealand were close to 10 per cent. As we have seen, the top shares fell in South Africa over the twentieth century, but the fall was less sharp than in the UK and North America. By the middle of the century, the share of the top 1 per cent in South Africa was about half as high again as the equivalent share in the UK.

The share of the top 1 per cent continued to be higher in South Africa in the post-war period. By the end of the 1970s, the shares had fallen to between 5 and 8 per cent in the other countries, but in South Africa the share remained stubbornly at 10 per cent or higher. Subsequently, the gap began to narrow, as the top shares increased in the Anglo-Saxon countries after 1981, but South Africa is now tending in the same direction. The top share today is higher than in the UK and Canada, and much higher than in Australia and New Zealand. At some 17 per cent, the top share in South Africa is essentially the same as in the United States.

How much of this long-run difference can be attributed to the impact of racial differences? Suppose that we consider the distribution for South Africa just among the White population (see Table A.9, which shows estimates for the period 1956 to 1987). The orders of magnitude are clear from the following calculation. In 1956, the overall share of the top 1 per cent was 13.9 per cent. Since at the time the White population represented 20 per cent of all tax units, and constituted the vast majority of the top income recipients, this corresponded to approximately the share of the top 5 per cent of the White population. Such an income share (13.9 per cent for the top 5 per cent, as Table A.9 shows) would have placed them at that time well below the share recorded in 1956 in New Zealand (23.5 per cent). However, in contrast to what happened to top shares in most countries, there was only a modest decline over time in the degree of concentration within the White population. The share of the top 1 per cent was initially around 5 per cent, but by the end of the period had fallen to 4 per cent. The modest size of the fall means that, by the 1980s, there was much less difference from the Australian and New Zealand figures (for the whole population). This also means that income concentration has historically been rather similar within the White population in South Africa and within the total population in Australia, New Zealand or the UK.

What about the distribution *within* the top 1 per cent? Figure 5 compares the shape of the upper part of the distribution as reflected in the Pareto-Lorenz coefficients calculated from the shares of the top 0.5 and 1 per cent (as noted

earlier, the Pareto coefficient calculation is not affected by differences in the estimation of total incomes, where the different country estimates have followed similar but not identical procedures, see Atkinson, 2007). In this respect, the legacy of colonialism in South Africa was not one of greater concentration. Indeed, the coefficient for South Africa tends to be at the high end, along with New Zealand (a higher value indicates less concentration). The main exception is the Second World War downward spike.

The evidence in Figures 4 and 5 may be summarised as indicating that - despite the distinctive features of the South African historical experience - there is a surprising degree of commonality in the changes over the past hundred years. Local policies have undoubtedly been significant, but have probably been more important in determining levels of poverty and the lower part of the income distribution. To explain the changes in top income shares, and the shape of the upper tail, we need to look at global as well as local forces.

## 5. Summary

The income tax publications offer a rich store of historical data about the evolution of top incomes in South Africa. Together with estimates for the earlier Cape Colony, the series span more than a hundred years. The construction of the estimates has been described at some length in order to underline their limitations, which mean that there are several potential sources of error. Nonetheless, they provide a basis for placing the recent data on inequality in its long-run historical context and furnish evidence about distributional change in earlier periods.

Our estimates track the evolution of top incomes over a long run of years, including the first half of the century when real incomes grew and the later decades that led to the collapse of apartheid. Top income shares were not stable. There were short-run movements and long-term trends. The share of the top 1 per cent was halved between 1914 and 1993. The degree of concentration within the top 1 per cent declined: people at the entry point in 1914 saw those above as having on average twice their income, whereas in the early 1990s the advantage was only some 1½ times.

The income tax data for 1956 to 1987 allow us to examine the racial composition of the top income groups. These were, unsurprisingly, overwhelmingly White, and the degree of dominance was little reduced. At the same time, the non-White groups increased their representation (in the case of Africans by a factor of 120), and this shows that some mobility took place during the apartheid years.



How far was South Africa different? We have compared top income shares in South Africa with three other former dominions: Australia, Canada, and New Zealand, as well as with the UK. Immediately after the First World War, South Africa had the highest share of the top 1 per cent of all the countries apart from the UK. Although top shares fell in South Africa, this fall does not appear to have been, at least up to 1980, at a faster rate than in the other dominions. The initial differences, with South Africa having high top shares, appear to have been a persistent feature. Today, in terms of top income shares, South Africa ranks with the most unequal Anglo-Saxon countries. At the same time, as has been observed by earlier researchers, there is no greater concentration *within* the upper income groups.

The time series presented here will, we hope, provide the basis for detailed investigation of the impact of South African institutions and policies, past and present. But the similarity of the changes over time in top incomes across the four ex-dominions suggests that national developments have to be seen in the light of common global forces.

## APPENDIX

### A.1 The Income Tax in South Africa

Prior to the formation of the Union of South Africa, the taxation of incomes and profits (apart from mining profits) was enforced in the Cape Colony and in Natal. The Additional Taxation Act, 1904, introduced income taxation in the Cape of Good Hope, both on companies and persons, subjecting to tax for the first time “all taxable incomes arising or accruing during the twelve months ended 30th June 1904, exceeding £1,000 per annum” (Additional Taxation Act, 1904, section 50). The incomes of married women without community of property were assessed individually. Taxable income referred to employment income, including employment in the public service, rents of all property in the Cape Colony, dividends and interest, and “any other source of income whatever arising or accruing in Cape Colony” (*Report of the Commissioner of Taxes for the Year 1904-1905*, p. 42). In IY1903 there were 2,193 taxpayers.

The Income Tax Act, 1908, regulated income taxation in Natal, but was short lived. On the establishment of the Union in 1910, the Natal income tax was abolished, while that in the Cape was allowed to lapse, as it was not re-enacted after 1909. By 1914 the need for additional revenue had rendered it necessary for the Union government to incorporate an income tax into its fiscal system. The Income Tax Act, 1914, established the income tax (later called the Normal Tax) in all the territory of the Union. “It was estimated that there would be 5,000 taxpayers. The number of assessments made was 5,742” (5,140 individuals and 602 companies), *Report on the Working of the Income Tax Act, 1914, for the Year ended 30th June 1915*, p. 2.<sup>7</sup>

The Union income tax was based on personal reporting. The tax had a limited scope, as provision was made for the exemption of all incomes under £1,000, as well as for a fixed abatement of £1,000 in respect of all taxable incomes. Individuals were exempted from taxation on dividends and debenture interest received from companies which had paid the income tax or the mining profits tax. The maximum tax rate was, in 1913-1914, 1 shilling and 6 pence per pound of taxable income for those individuals with taxable incomes above £24,000.<sup>8</sup> As a result of fiscal necessity due to the First World War economic conditions, the exemption and the abatement were reduced to £300 for income year 1914-1915, no abatement was allowed for taxable incomes above £24,300, family-based allowances were introduced, and the maximum tax rate was increased to 2s (Act No. 23 of 1915). For tax year 1916, a super tax was also levied on the annual incomes of individuals which exceeded £2,500 averaged over the two IY1914 and IY1915 (and Act No. 35 of 1916), with a maximum rate of 3s in the pound.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Hut and poll taxes were imposed on the native population. In 1915, native taxes represented 9% of the Union tax collections, while the income tax (on persons and companies together) was 11%. In 1919 those figures were 5% and 30% respectively.

<sup>8</sup> 1 pound = 20 shillings; 1 shilling = 12 pence.

<sup>9</sup> The feature of averaging taxable incomes over two years only applied to tax year 1916, when the Super Tax was levied on the mean income subject to Normal Tax and dividends that accrued over the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 1914 - 30<sup>th</sup> June 1916.

A reform through the Income Tax Consolidation Act, 1917, re-structured income taxation around a main tax, the Normal Tax, supplemented by the Super Tax (in force until income year 1958-1959) and by other levies on incomes arising in the Union.<sup>10</sup> Taxable income was all income, other than exempt income, less all allowable deductions. Dividends were not taxed under Normal Tax but subject to Super Tax. Interest on Union Loan Certificates and Savings Levy Certificates were exempted as well as interest on small savings accounts and on some treasury bonds up to a threshold. A distinction was introduced between married and single persons by granting different abatements (for married individuals it was initially £300 a year, subject to the taxable income not exceeding £24,300, while for single persons it was reduced by £1 for every £ of taxable income in excess of £300). It remained the case that the tax was paid by only a small minority of the population.<sup>11</sup>

The *Super Tax* was paid by an even smaller number of people. It was an additional tax on incomes exceeding £2,500 (limit lowered to £2,000 since income year 1940, and to £1,775 since income year 1943), applying only to individuals who were resident or carrying business in the Union. The abatement of £2,500 was subject to a reduction of 10s. for every pound by which the supertaxable income exceeded £2,500, i.e., no abatement was applicable to incomes above £7,500. Its main purpose was to tax the top income resident at a higher rate than the non-resident and thus reduce the liability of double taxation. The sources of income from which the Super Tax was derived were the same as for the Normal Tax, plus dividends.<sup>12</sup> Since income year 1931 the Super Tax was extended to private companies and, where a number of private companies were controlled by a single person, all their income was aggregated for the purpose of determining the amount of Super Tax payable. The Super Tax survived until income year 1958 (with some changes under the provisions of the Income Tax Act of 1941), when it was provided that a fraction of dividends received (ranging from 0% for taxable incomes below R2,600, to 66.6% for taxable incomes above R4,600) would be included in the Normal Tax base.

From 1959, block rates took the place of the progressive-rate formula that had been applied before. There was also a change in the year of assessment. Until income year 1961-1962, the year of assessment covered the twelve months between 1st July of year  $t$  and 30th June of year  $t+1$ . Since income year 1963-1964, the assessment year covers the twelve months between 1st March of year  $t$  and the end of February of year  $t+1$ . Due to the change in timing, there was a shorter transitional income year of eight months between 1st July 1962 and 28th

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<sup>10</sup> The *Dividend Tax* fell mainly on the profits of foreign capital invested in the Union through limited liability companies and served "to secure a higher rate of tax in respect of unearned income as distinct from income arising from personal exertion. It also enables tax to be recovered in bulk at the source." (Report 1918-1919, p. 11). The *Excess Profits Duty* (starting income year 1916 and ending 30th June 1920) was a temporary tax levied on increased trading profits during the First World War.

<sup>11</sup> "The whites who are occupied -i.e., have some definite income-earning occupation- numbered, according to the census of 1918 (omitting children under fifteen), 478,000, so that not one in eight of them, even, pays income tax" (Lehfeldt (1922), pp. 57-58).

<sup>12</sup> For an account of the evolution of income taxation in the first years of the Union, see Kock (1927).

February 1963, for which no income tabulations were produced. This coincided with the transition to the pay-as-you-earn system of tax collection.

In the twenty-first century, the Personal Income tax is the government's main source of income and is still levied in terms of the Income Tax Act of 1962. Tax is applied on taxable income that, in essence, consists of gross income less exemptions and allowable deductions. More than 95% of the tax comes from a pay-as-you-earn schedule. The Standard Income Tax on Employees (SITE) is not a separate kind of tax but a payment towards the employee's income tax liability: as it is the case in many countries, employees receiving only labour income below a given threshold are not required to file a tax return, as SITE is their full and final liability. Taxed income includes labour income (cash remuneration, cash allowances and non-cash fringe benefits), pensions, capital income (interest from bank accounts above a given threshold, dividends from foreign companies; dividends from South African to varying degrees), business income and rents. One fourth of net capital gains are today included in the definition of income. In fact, although capital gains taxation has been broadly discussed over the last forty years (see South African Revenue Service (2009), Franzsen Commission (1968), Margo Commission (1987), Katz Commission (1995)), it was not introduced until 2001 through the Taxation Laws Amendment Bill (B17-2001) and the Taxation Law Amendment Act.

Both the Normal Tax and the Super Tax were originally levied on the tax unit, treating the married couple as one unit. In the late 1980s, a process of eliminating gender discrimination started. In 1988, the salaries of married women only subject to the Standard Income Tax on Employees (SITE) began to be taxed separately; this affected mainly low earning women. In 1990 the incomes of married women became subject to tax separately from her husband's income. Although taxed individually, until 1994 women faced a higher rate than their husbands': three different tax schedules affected married "persons", unmarried persons and married women.

The Income Tax Act defines a spouse in relation to any person as a partner in marriage, customary relationship or union recognised as a marriage; the definition also includes a same-sex relationship. For spouses married in community of property, income received by spouses is treated as being received in equal shares by each spouse; however, a salary from a third party is treated as being the income of the spouse who receives that salary, as well as benefits from pension, provident and retirement annuity funds; income earned from carrying on a trade jointly accrues to each partner according to the agreed profit-sharing ratio. Since 1995 a single tax rate structure is applicable to all individuals irrespective of gender or marital status.

## *A.2 Sources of Income Tax Tabulations*

The sources of income tax tabulations are listed in detail in Table A.1. There are the following gaps in coverage:

1. IY1951 and IY1952, as a result of arrears of wartime work, no publication between Report 1951-52 (published in 1953) and Report 1953-56 (published in 1957);
2. IY1960 and IY1962 as a result of the introduction of PAYE;
3. IY1966, IY1968, IY1970, IY1973, IY1976 and IY1977;
4. IY1994-IY2001.

### *A.3 Control totals for tax units and individuals*

The sources for the three steps identified in the text are set out in Table A.2, covering (1) total population (described in Section 2), (2) the age structure of the population, and (3) marital status for women.

Data on the population by age has been interpolated from yearly figures obtained from publication P0302 (Table 6) for 2006, the censuses for 2001 (Table 4.3) and 1996 (Table 2.16), and data from the United Nations (1994), which give the age composition at 5-year intervals from 1990 back to 1950.

For the period prior to 1990, the number of tax units is obtained from the number of people aged 15 and over minus the estimated proportion who are married women. The ratio of married women to those aged 15 and over is taken from the census of population for those years where all races are covered: 1911, 1921, 1936, 1946, 1951, 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1991. It is simply assumed that the same proportion applies for the two “missing” groups: the under-enumerated and the TBVC states. The ratio is linearly interpolated.

Concerning the white population, the problems derived from under-enumeration and from the exclusion of the TBVC states are unsurprisingly much more limited. In the revision of estimates following the 1936 census mentioned in Section 1, the numbers for the white population remained virtually untouched when OYB 1938 (p. 1035) and OYB 1937 (p. 1047) are compared. At the moment of the 1991 census it was estimated that only 6,000 white individuals lived in the TBVC states. However, the count of white individuals was not immune to the problems of the 1991 census: Statistics South Africa, 2009, Table 2.3 reports a 10% difference between enumerated individuals (4.522 million) and adjusted figures (5.068 million). There is also a large and evident discrepancy between this adjusted total and the mid-year estimate published in P0302 1998, Table 1.2, which reports a white population of 4,328 million. Louis van Tonder, demographer at Statistics South Africa, has acknowledged that the mid-year estimates for 1991 published in 1998 were too low, the number having been revised now to 4,754 million. For our series we have used the largest figure, but this does not affect the top share estimates among the White population, as these estimates stop in 1987.

For the period prior to 1990 and along the lines of the previous paragraphs, the number of tax units of white origin is obtained from the number of people aged 15 and over minus the proportion of married women. The total population, the fraction of married women and the percentage of those aged 15 and over is

taken from the census of population for those years where Europeans were covered: 1911, 1918, 1921, 1926, 1936, 1946, 1951, 1960, 1970, 1980, and 1991. We also provide the number of white adults for 1991-2007, although our estimates of top income shares among the white population stop in 1987. In this case, the information comes from the censuses 1996 and 2001, and from the mid-year estimates for 2002-2007. Intermediate years have been linearly interpolated.

For the Cape of Good Hope, the population, the percentage aged 15 and over and the percentage of married women are based on the Census figures for 1904 (only total and white population available) and 1911. The estimates for individual years are interpolated linearly, and extrapolated backwards to 1903. The percentage aged 15 and over and the percentage of married women for 1903 are set at the level of 1911.

#### *A.4 Control totals for income*

The control totals used here are derived by working backwards from the national accounts series for Households' Disposable Income plus the Taxes on Income and Wealth paid by households. The series for 1953-2007 are taken from the National Accounts of South Africa. The South African Reserve Bank webpage, Online Statistical Queries, provides the last updated figures. The national accounting methodology is described in South African Reserve Bank (2005).

For the years before 1953, a series for household disposable income does not exist. Consequently we have linked the previous series backwards following the net national income from (i) Bureau of Census and Statistics (1956, page 157) for 1953-1954, and (ii) Bureau of Census and Statistics (1954, page 359). These are mainly based on the research of Frankel (1941, 1943 and 1944, Frankel and Neumark, 1940, and Frankel and Herzfeld, 1943).<sup>13</sup>

The previous series have been extrapolated backwards to cover the years 1911 and 1917-1938 following the rate of change in the domestic income given in Franzsen (1954, Table 1), also based on the work of Frankel. The years 1912-1916 have been interpolated following the Net Domestic Product series in Stadler (1963), Table 5.

As the published series used for 1953-2007 refer to calendar years, the control totals have been adjusted to reflect the year of income tax assessment (i.e. for income years " $t/t+1$ " from 1953/1954 to 1961/1962, the control total is the average of household income in calendar years  $t$  and  $t+1$ ; we also take into account the change in the tax year from 1962). For years before 1953, the published figures refer to the same period of tax assessment, so no adjustments were required.

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<sup>13</sup> Bureau of Census and Statistics (1954, 1956) use the fiscal year as time unit; therefore the value of national income for fiscal year 1953/1954 is identified in the publications as 1954, whereas it is here referred to as 1953.

### *A.5 The price index*

The price index (2010=100) has been constructed from the following sources:

- (i) From 1946 to 2010, the GDP deflator. The GDP in current prices and constant prices are taken from the South African Reserve Bank webpage, Online Statistical Queries.
- (ii) From 1913 to 1946, the previous series has been linked backwards following the evolution of the retail price index, from South African Statistics 1995.

### *A.6 Tables of control totals*

Table A.3A displays the number of adults aged 15 and over, the number of tax units, the number of white tax units, the control total for income, the average income per adult in Rands 2010, the price index between 1913 and 2010, and the highest scheduler tax rate at the top. Table A.3B gives the reference totals for population in the Cape of Good Hope for years 1903-1907.

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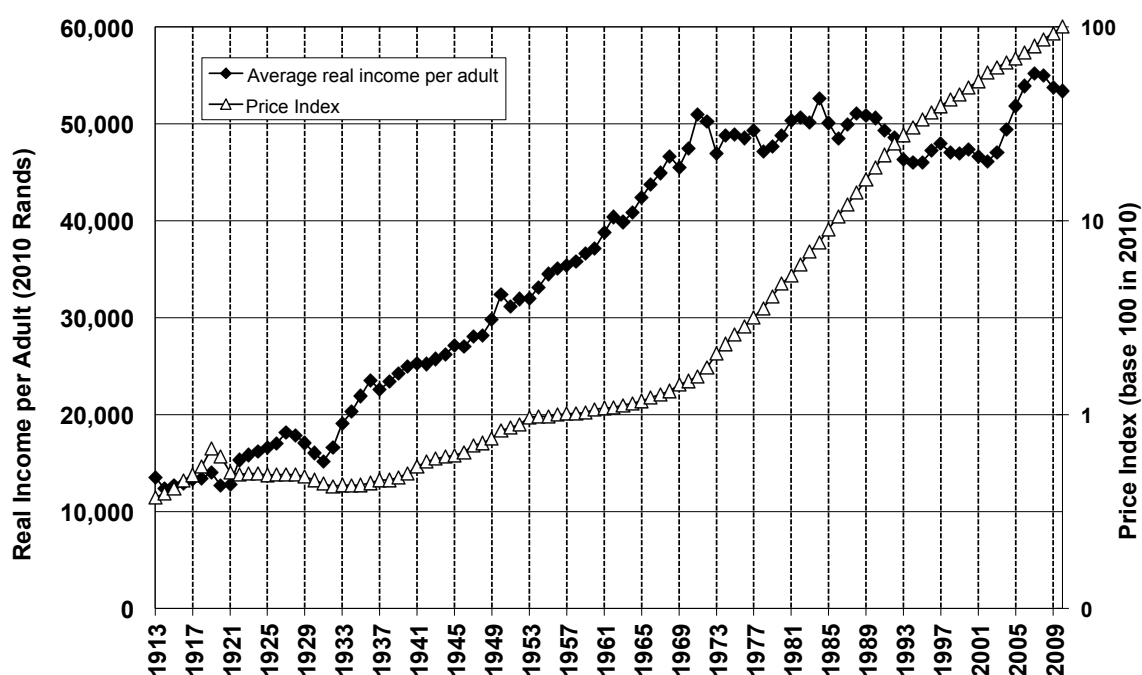
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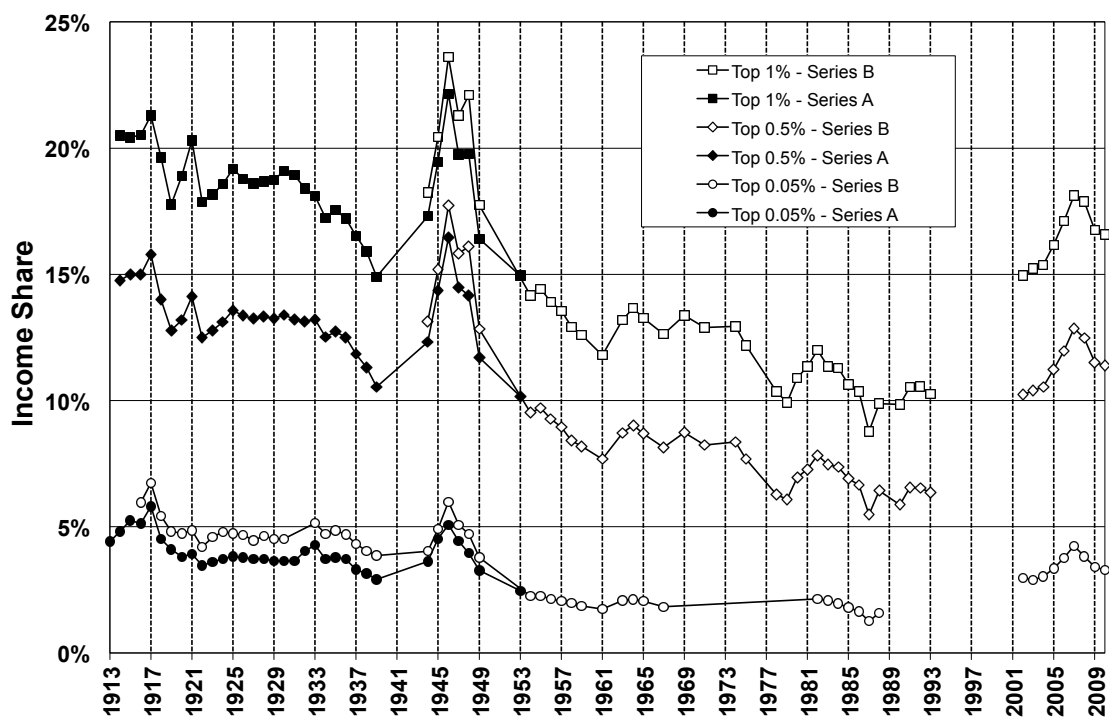
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**FIGURE 1.**  
Average real income and price index in South Africa, 1913-2010

Source: Table A.3A.

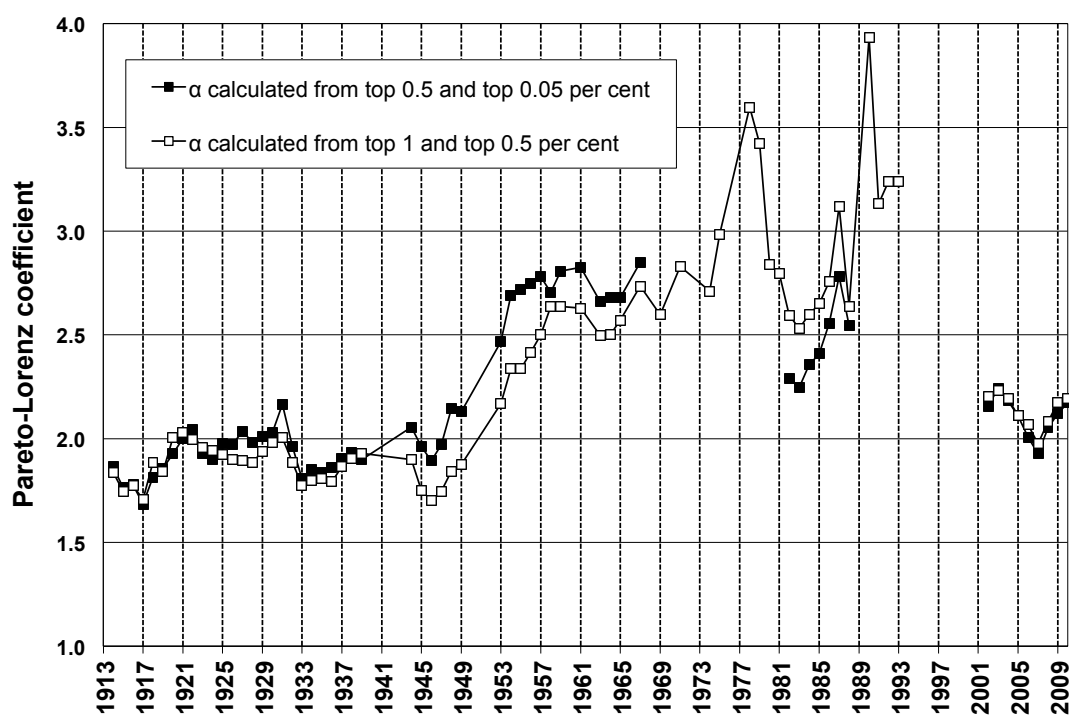
Notes: Figure reports the average real income per adult (aged 15 and above), expressed in 2010 Rands. The Price Index is equal to 100 in 2010.



**FIGURE 2**  
Top income shares in South Africa, 1913-2010

Sources: Table A.4A and Table A.4B.

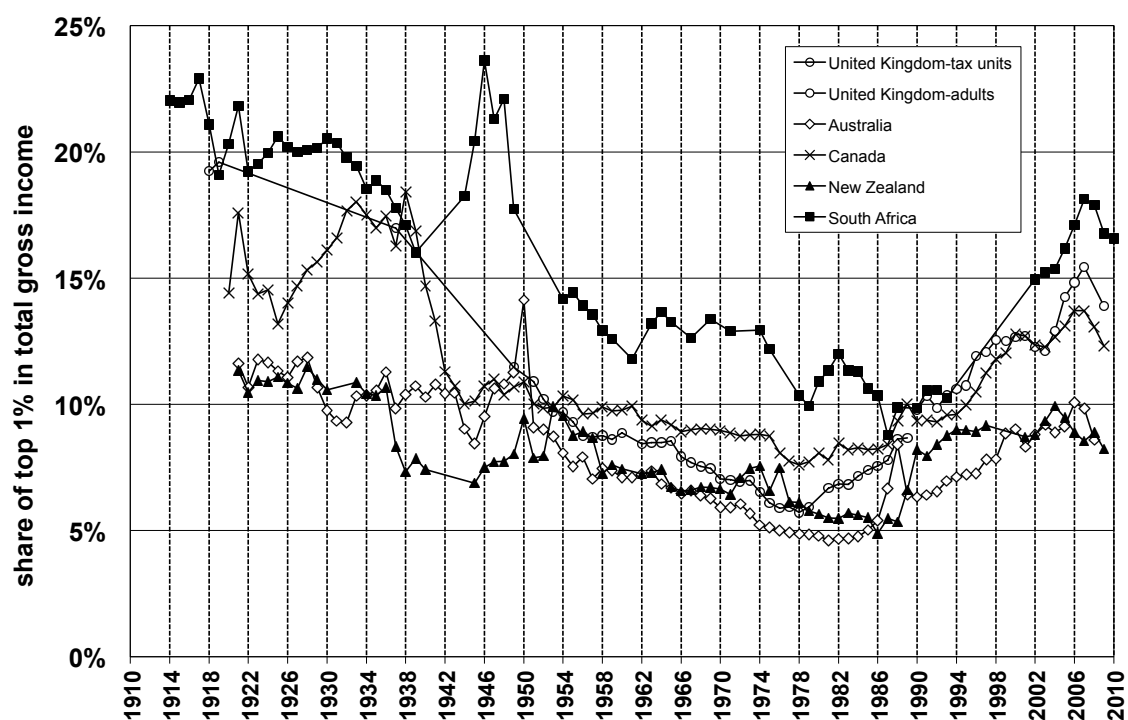
Notes: Series A (Table A.4A) based on Normal Tax data excluding dividends, and Series B (Table A.4B) based on the Super Tax data. Following the abolition of Super Tax in 1959, the Series B is continued using the Personal Income Tax data, which included dividend income to varying degrees.



**FIGURE 3**  
Pareto-Lorenz coefficients in South Africa 1913-2009

Sources: Table A.4A and Table A.4B.

Notes: The series A have been adjusted for the omission of dividends, as explained in the text.

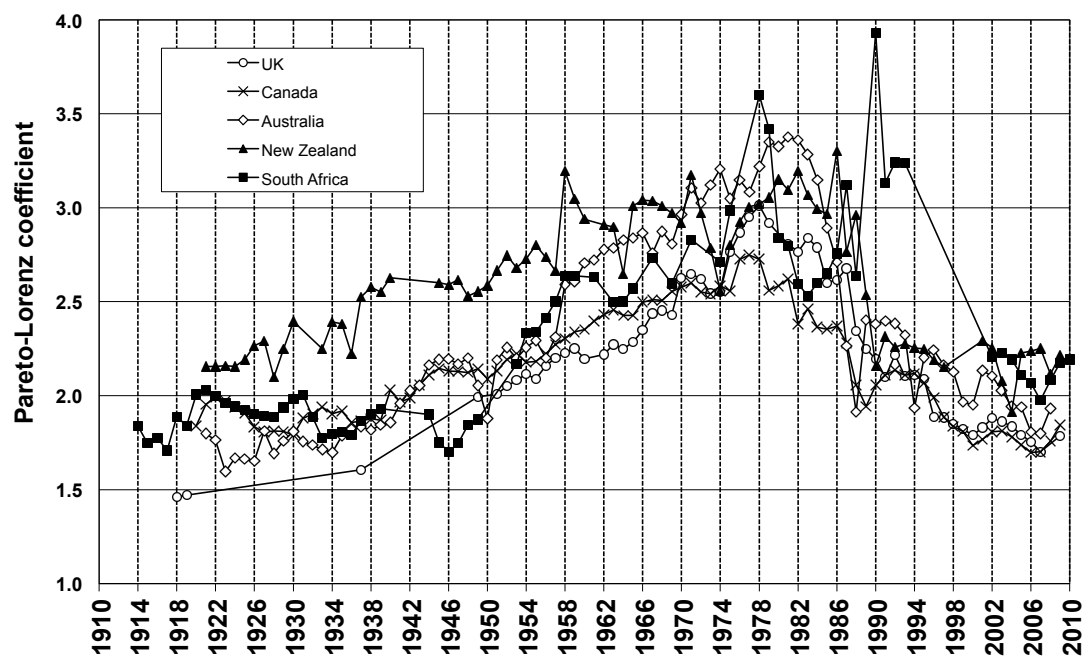


**FIGURE 4**

Top 1% Income Shares in UK, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa

Sources: World Top Incomes Database; South Africa: Table A.4A and Table A.4B.

Notes: South African pre-1944 figures adjusted for the omission of dividends; New Zealand observations for 1998-2000 omitted since affected by tax changes; Canada LAD series linked to earlier series at 1994.



**FIGURE 5**  
Pareto-Lorenz coefficients  
in UK, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa

Sources: World Top Incomes Database; South Africa: Table A.4A and Table A.4B.

Notes: South African pre-1944 figures adjusted for the omission of dividends; New Zealand observations for 1998-2000 omitted since affected by tax changes; Canada LAD series linked to earlier series at 1994.



TABLE A.1 Sources on Income Taxes Data in Cape Colony, Union of South Africa and South Africa 1903-2010

Year	Income year ending	Sources		Comments
<b>Cape Colony</b>				
1903	30th June 1904	Report of the Commissioner of Taxes for the year 1905-1906	p. 13. First year of operation of income tax (non-definitive information in Report of the Commissioner of Taxes for the year 1904-1905, p. 18).	
1904	30th June 1905	Report of the Commissioner of Taxes for the year 1906-1907	p. 8 (non-definitive data in Report of the Commissioner of Taxes for the year 1905-1906, p. 14).	
1905	30th June 1906	Report of the Commissioner of Taxes for the year 1907-1908	p. 5 (non-definitive data in Report of the Commissioner of Taxes for the year 1906-1907, p. 9).	
1906	30th June 1907	Report of the Commissioner of Taxes for the year 1907-1908	p. 6	
1907	30th June 1908	Report of the Commissioner of Taxes for the year 1908-1909	p. 10	
<b>Union of South Africa</b>				
1913	30th June 1914	Report on the Working of the Income Tax Act, 1914, for the Year ended 30th June 1915, Union of South Africa	p. 9	compiled +1 year
1914	30th June 1915	Report of the Commissioner for Inland Revenue and Commissioner of Taxes for the year 1915-1916	Normal Tax, Statement G	compiled +1 year
		Also in Official Yearbook of the Union No 4, 1921	Normal Tax, p. 608	compiled +1 year
1915	30th June 1916	Report of the Commissioner for Inland Revenue for the year 1916-1917	Normal Tax, Statement H; Super Tax, Statement O	compiled +1 year
		Also in Official Yearbook of the Union No 2, 1918	Normal Tax, p. 684	compiled +1 year
1916	30th June 1917	Report 1917-1918	Normal Tax, Statement J; Super Tax, Statement P	compiled +1 year
		Also in Official Yearbook of the Union No 3, 1919	Normal Tax, p. 794	compiled +1 year
1917	30th June 1918	Annual Report of the Commissioner for Inland Revenue for the year 1918-19	Normal Tax, p. 25; Super Tax, p. 29	compiled +1 year
1918	30th June 1919	Report 1919-20	Normal Tax, p. 20; same tabulation in in OY No 4, 1921, p. 814; Super Tax, p. 24	compiled +1 year
1919	30th June 1920	Report 1920-21	Normal Tax, p. 23; Super Tax, p. 27	compiled +1 year
1920	30th June 1921	Report 1921-22	Normal Tax, p. 24; Super Tax, p. 28	compiled +1 year
1921	30th June 1922	Report 1922-23	Normal Tax, p. 22; Super Tax, Statement N	compiled +1 year
1922	30th June 1923	Report 1923-24	Normal Tax, p. 17; Super Tax, p. 21	compiled +1 year
1923	30th June 1924	Report 1924-25	Normal Tax, p. 17; Super Tax, p. 22	compiled +1 year
1924	30th June 1925	Report 1925-26	Normal Tax, p. 25; Super Tax, p. 30	compiled +1 year
1925	30th June 1926	Report 1926-27	Normal Tax, p. 30; Super Tax, p. 35	compiled +1 year
1926	30th June 1927	Report 1927-28	Normal Tax, p. 30; Super Tax, p. 36	compiled +1 year
1927	30th June 1928	Report 1928-29	Normal Tax, p. 30; Super Tax, p. 36	compiled +1 year
1928	30th June 1929	Report 1929-30	Normal Tax, p. 30; Super Tax, p. 36	compiled +1 year
1929	30th June 1930	Report 1930-31	Normal Tax, Statement XXIX; Super Tax, Statement XXXV	compiled +1 year
1930	30th June 1931	Report 1931-32	Normal Tax, Statement XXIX; Super Tax, Statement XXXV	compiled +1 year
1931	30th June 1932	Report 1932-33	Normal Tax, Statement XXX; Super Tax, Statement XXXVI	compiled +1 year
1932	30th June 1933	Report 1933-34	Normal Tax, Statement XXXI; Super Tax, Statement XXXVII	compiled +1 year
1933	30th June 1934	Report 1934-35	Normal Tax, Statement XXXI; Super Tax, Statement XXXVII	compiled +1 year
1934	30th June 1935	Report 1935-36	Normal Tax, Statement XXXI; Super Tax, Statement XXXVII	compiled +1 year
1935	30th June 1936	Report 1936-37	Normal Tax, Statement XXX; Super Tax, Statement XXXVI	compiled +1 year
1936	30th June 1937	Report 1937-38	Normal Tax, Statement XXX; Super Tax, Statement XXXVI	compiled +1 year
1937	30th June 1938	Report 1938-39	Normal Tax, Statement XXX; Super Tax, Statement XXXVI	compiled +1 year
1938	30th June 1939	Report 1939-40	Normal Tax, Statement XXX; Super Tax, Statement XXXVI	compiled +1 year
1939	30th June 1940	Report 1940-41	Normal Tax, Statement XXX; Super Tax, Statement XXXVI	compiled +1 year
1940	30th June 1941	Report 1941-42	Normal Tax, Statement XXX; Super Tax, Statement XXXVI	compiled +1 year
1941	30th June 1942	Report 1942-43	Normal Tax, Statement XXX; Super Tax, Statement XXXVI	compiled +1 year
1942	30th June 1943	Report 1943-44	Normal Tax, Statement XXX; Super Tax, Statement XXXVI	compiled +1 year
1943	30th June 1944	Report 1944-45	Normal Tax, Statement XXX; Super Tax, Statement XXXVI	compiled +1 year
1944	30th June 1945	Report 1945-46	Normal Tax, Statement XXVIII; Super Tax, Statement XXXV	compiled +1 year
		Report 1946-47	Normal Tax, Statement XXXVIII; Super Tax, Statement XXXIX	compiled +2 years
1945	30th June 1946	Report 1946-47	Normal Tax, Statement XXVIII; Super Tax, Statement XXXIV	compiled +1 year
		Report 1947-48	Normal Tax, Statement XXXVIII; Super Tax, Statement XXXIX	compiled +2 years
1946	30th June 1947	Report 1947-48	Normal Tax, Statement XXVII; Super Tax, Statement XXXIV	compiled +1 year
		Report 1949-50	Normal Tax, Statement XLI; Super Tax, Statement XLII	compiled +3 years
1947	30th June 1948	Report 1948-49	Normal Tax, Statement XXXII; Super Tax, Statement XXXIV	compiled +1 year
		Report 1949-50	Normal Tax, Statement XXXVII; Super Tax, Statement XXXVIII	compiled +2 years
1948	30th June 1949	Report 1949-50	Normal Tax, Statement XXVIII; Super Tax, Statement XXXIV	compiled +1 year
		Report 1950-1951	Normal Tax, Statement XXXIX; Super Tax, Statement XXX	compiled +2 years
		Report 1951-1952	Normal Tax, Statement XXXI; Super Tax, Statement XXXII	compiled +3 years
1949	30th June 1950	Report 1950-1951	Normal Tax, Statement 27; Super Tax, Statement 28	compiled +1 year
		Report 1951-1952	Normal Tax, Statement XXIX; Super Tax, Statement XXX	compiled +2 years
1950	30th June 1951	Report 1951-1952	Normal Tax, Statement XXVII; Super Tax, Statement XXVIII	compiled +1 year
1951	30th June 1952			No report published (see Report 1953-1956, p. 1)
1952	30th June 1953			No report published (see Report 1953-1956, p. 1)
1953	30th June 1954	Report 1953-1956	Statement 11, number of taxpayers and tax amounts only	compiled +2 years
1954	30th June 1955	Report 1953-1956	Statement 12, number of taxpayers and tax amounts only	compiled +3 years
			Statement 12, number of Normal taxpayers and tax amounts only (not used); Statement 13 Classification of Rebates, total number of taxpayers; Statement 15, incomes classified according to source in groups of income, including dividends and other capital income	compiled +1 year
		Report 1956-1957	Statement 13, number of Normal taxpayers and tax amounts only (not used); Statement 15 Family Circumstance, total number of taxpayers; Statement 17, incomes classified according to source in groups of income, including dividends and other capital income	compiled +2 years
1955	30th June 1956	Report 1956-1957	Statement 14, number of Normal taxpayers and tax amounts only (not used); Statement 16 Family Circumstance, total number of taxpayers; Statement 18, incomes classified according to source in groups of income, including dividends and other capital income	compiled +1 year
		Report 1957-1958	Statement 12, number of Normal taxpayers and tax amounts only (not used); Statement 14 Family Circumstance, total number of taxpayers; Statement 16, incomes classified according to source in groups of income, including dividends and other capital income	compiled +2 years
1956	30th June 1957	Report 1957-1958	Statement 13, number of Normal taxpayers and tax amounts only (not used); Statement 15 Family Circumstance, total number of taxpayers and classification by ethnic origin; Statement 17, incomes classified according to source in groups of income, including dividends and other capital income	compiled +1 year
1957	30th June 1958	Report 1958-1959	Statement 12, number of Normal taxpayers and tax amounts only (not used); Statement 13 Family Circumstance, total number of taxpayers and classification by ethnic origin; Statement 14, incomes classified according to source in groups of income, including dividends and other capital income	compiled +1 year
1958	30th June 1959	Report 1959-1961	Statement 12A, number of Normal taxpayers and tax amounts only (not used); Statement 13A Family Circumstance, total number of taxpayers and classification by ethnic origin; Statement 14A, incomes classified according to source in groups of income, including dividends and other capital income	compiled +2 years
1959	30th June 1960	Report 1959-61	Statement 12B, number of Normal taxpayers and tax amounts only (not used); Statement 13B Family Circumstance, total number of taxpayers and classification by ethnic origin; Statement 14B, incomes classified according to source in groups of income, including dividends and other capital income	compiled +1 year
1960				

**TABLE A.1 Sources on Income Taxes Data in Cape Colony, Union of South Africa and South Africa 1903-2010**

Year	Income year ending	Sources	Comments
<b>Republic of South Africa</b>			
1961	30th June 1962	Report 1961-1962	Statement 12, number of taxpayers and tax amounts only (not used); Statement 13 Family Circumstance, total number of taxpayers by ethnic origin in 47 income ranges, Statement 14, incomes classified according to source in groups of income, including dividends and other capital income, in 24 income ranges
1962	29th February 1964	Report 1963-1965	Statement 12, number of taxpayers and tax amounts only (not used); Statement 13 Family Circumstance, total number of taxpayers by ethnic origin in 47 income ranges; Statement 14, incomes classified according to source in groups of income, including dividends and other capital income, in 21 income ranges
1963		Report 1965-1966	Statement 12, p.S1, number of taxpayers and tax amounts only (not used); Statement 13, p.S11 Family Circumstance, total number of taxpayers by ethnic origin in 47 income ranges; Statement 14, p.S36, incomes classified according to source in groups of income, including dividends and other capital income, in 21 income ranges
1964	28th February 1965	SAS 1970 Report 1965-1966	p. T-10 has data for the number of white taxpayers only Statement 12, p.S111, number of taxpayers and tax amounts only (not used); Statement 13, p.S121 Family Circumstance, total number of taxpayers by ethnic origin in 47 income ranges; Statement 14, p.S146, incomes classified according to source in groups of income, including dividends and other capital income, in 21 income ranges
		Report 1966-1967	Table 12, p.T46, number of taxpayers and tax amounts only (not used); Table 13, p. T56 Family Circumstance, total number of taxpayers by ethnic origin in 47 income ranges; Table 14, p. T82, incomes classified according to source in groups of income, including dividends and other capital income, in 21 income ranges SAS 1968 has data on number of taxpayers by ethnic origin only (not used)
		SAS 1968	p. T-10, number of white taxpayers only
1965	28th February 1966	SAS 1970 Report 1966-1967	Table 12, p.T114, number of Normal taxpayers and tax amounts only (not used); Table 13, p. T124 Family Circumstance, total number of taxpayers by ethnic origin in 47 income ranges; Table 14, p. T150, incomes classified according to source in groups of income, including dividends and other capital income, in 21 income ranges (not used)
1966	28th February 1967	SAS 1970	p. T-11, number of taxpayers only, by ethnic origin
1967	29th February 1968	SAS 1972	p. S-10, number of white taxpayers only
1968	28th February 1969	SAS 1974	p. S-11, number of taxpayers only, by ethnic origin
1969	28th February 1970	SAS 1974	p. 19.11, number of white taxpayers only
1970	28th February 1971	SAS 1976	p. 19.12, number of taxpayers only, by ethnic origin
1971	29th February 1972	SAS 1976	p. 19.12, number of taxpayers only, by ethnic origin excluding African (the term used in the publication is "Bantu")
1972	28th February 1973	SAS 1978	p. 19.11, number of white taxpayers only
1973	28th February 1974	SAS 1978	p. 19.11, number of white taxpayers only
1974	28th February 1975	SAS 1978	p. 19.12, number of taxpayers only, by ethnic origin excluding African (the term used in the publication is "Bantu")
1975	29th February 1976	SAS 1980	p. 19.12, number of taxpayers only, by ethnic origin excluding African (the term used in the publication is "Bantu")
1976	28th February 1977	SAS 1982	p. 19.11, number of white taxpayers only
1977	28th February 1978	SAS 1982	p. 19.11, number of white taxpayers only
1978	28th February 1979	SAS 1986	p. 19.26, number of taxpayers only, by ethnic origin excluding African (the term used in the publication is "Bantu"). Older figures in SAS 1982, p. 19.12, number of taxpayers only, by ethnic origin, excluding African (the term used in the publication is "Bantu")
1979	29th February 1980	SAS 1986	p. 19.25, number of taxpayers only, by ethnic origin, excluding blacks. SAS was not published for 1984 (see Preface to SAS 1986)
1980	28th February 1981	SAS 1986	p. 19.24, number of taxpayers only, by ethnic origin, excluding African (the term used in the publication is "Bantu")
1981	28th February 1982	SAS 1986	p. 19.23, number of taxpayers only, by ethnic origin, excluding African (the term used in the publication is "Bantu")
1982	28th February 1983	SAS 1986	p. 19.23, number of taxpayers only, by ethnic origin, excluding African (the term used in the publication is "Bantu")
1983	29th February 1984	IRSB No. 4, 1986 SAS 1988	p. 10, number of taxpayers and tax assessed only
1984	28th February 1985	SAS 1988	p. 19.21, number of taxpayers only, by ethnic origin
1985	28th February 1986	IRSB No. 6, 1988 SAS 1988	p. 14, number of taxpayers and tax assessed only
1986	28th February 1987	SAS 1990	p. 19.20, number of taxpayers only. The numbers are lower than those reported in IRSB, but they include the break up by ethnic origin.
1987	29th February 1988	SAS 1990	p. 19.27, number of taxpayers only, by ethnic origin
1988	28th February 1989	SAS 1994	p. 19.27, number of taxpayers only, by ethnic origin
1989	28th February 1990	SAS 1994	p. 19.21, number of taxpayers and tax collection only; also in SAS 1992
1990	28th February 1991	SAS 1994	p. 19.20, number of taxpayers and tax collection only; also in SAS 1992
1991	29th February 1992	SAS 1994	p. 19.20, number of taxpayers and tax collection only; also in SAS 1992
1992	28th February 1993	SAS 1995	p. 19.18 number of taxpayers and tax collection only
1993	28th February 1994	SAS 1995	p. 19.18 number of taxpayers and tax collection only
1994			
1995			
1996			
1997			
1998			
1999			
2000			
2001			
2002	28th February 2003	2008 Tax Statistics, National Treasury and South African Revenue Service	Taxable income and number of taxpayers from Table 2.1.1
2003	29th February 2004	2008 Tax Statistics, National Treasury and South African Revenue Service	
2004	28th February 2005	2009 Tax Statistics, National Treasury and South African Revenue Service	Taxable income and number of taxpayers from Table A2.1.1
2005	28th February 2006	2010 Tax Statistics, National Treasury and South African Revenue Service	
2006	28th February 2007	2011 Tax Statistics, National Treasury and South African Revenue Service	
2007	29th February 2008	2012 Tax Statistics, National Treasury and South African Revenue Service	
2008	28th February 2009	2012 Tax Statistics, National Treasury and South African Revenue Service	
2009	28th February 2010	2012 Tax Statistics, National Treasury and South African Revenue Service	
2010	28th February 2011	2012 Tax Statistics, National Treasury and South African Revenue Service	

**Notes:**

"Compiled +1 year" means assessments included in the data are those compiled up to 12 month after the end of the tax year.

"Compiled +2 year" means assessments included in the data are those compiled up to 24 month after the end of the tax year.

"Compiled +3 year" means assessments included in the data are those compiled up to 36 month after the end of the tax year.

SAS denotes South African Statistics; IRSB denotes Inland Revenue Statistical Bulletin.

**TABLE A.2 Sources of population data, South Africa**

Source of total population		Source of percentage aged 15 and over	Source of percentage of married women
(1)		(2)	(3)
<b>A. Total population</b>			
1904 to 1950	Feinstein (2005), p. 259		
1911		OYB 1921, pages 137, 153 and 157	OYB 1918, pages 170 and 172
1921			OYB 1937, pages 1058-9
1936		Mitchell, 2003, page 17	OYB 1940, page 1012
1946		Mitchell, 2003, page 17	SYB 1964, page A-19
1951			SYB 1964, page A-19
1960			SYB 1964, page A-19
1970			SAS 1976, page 1.28
1980			SAS 1982, page 1.21
1991			SAS 1992, page 1.11
1950 to 1991	UN Population Division website, <i>World Population Prospects: the 2008 Revision</i> , linked backwards from 1991.	Interpolated from <i>The Sex and Age Distribution of the World Populations</i> (UN, 1994), page 726, which gives age composition at 5-year intervals from 1950.	
1991 to 1998	P0302, 1998, Table 1	Interpolated between <i>Population Census 1996</i> Table 2.16 and <i>2001</i> Table 4.3	
1999	P0302, 1999, Table 1	See above	
2000	P0302, 2000, Table 2.1	See above	
2001	P0302, 2001, Table 2.1	<i>Population Census 2001</i> , Table 4.3	
2002	P0302, 2002, Table 2.1	Interpolated	
	Linked backwards from 2003 using UN population total described above		
2003	P0302, 2003, Table 2	Interpolated	
2004	P0302, 2004, Table 12	Interpolated	
2005	P0302, 2005, Table 8	Interpolated	
2006	P0302, 2006, Table 6	P0302, 2006, Table 6	
2007	P0302, 2007, Table 4	Interpolated	
2008	P0302, 2008, Table 7	Interpolated	
2009	P0302, 2009, Table 12	P0302, 2009, Table 12	
2010	P0302, 2010, Table 11	P0302, 2010, Table 11	
2011	P0302, 2011, Table 11	P0302, 2011, Table 11	
<b>B. White population</b>			
1911	SAS 2009, Table 2.3	OYB 1918, page 166	OYB 1918, page 170
1918	OYB 1921, page 137	OYB 1921, page 156	OYB 1921, page 156
1921	SAS 2009, Table 2.3	OYB 1927-1928, page 882	OYB 1937, page 1058
1926	SAS 2009, Table 2.3	OYB 1927-1928, page 882	OYB 1937, page 1059
1931	OYB 1938, page 1034	OYB 1937, page 1058	OYB 1937, page 1059
1936	SAS 2009, Table 2.3	OYB 1938, page 1045	OYB 1938, page 1046
1946	SAS 2009, Table 2.3	SYB 1964, page A-17	SYB 1964, page A-19
1951	SAS 2009, Table 2.3	SYB 1964, page A-17	SYB 1964, page A-19
1960	SAS 2009, Table 2.3	SYB 1964, page A-17	SYB 1964, page A-19
1970	SAS 2009, Table 2.3	SAS 1976, page 1.25	SAS 1976, page 1-28
1980	SAS 2009, Table 2.3	SAS 1982, page 1.18	SAS 1982, page 1-21
1991	SAS 2009, Table 2.3	SAS 1993, page 1.10	
1996	Census 1996 Statistics South Africa webpage	Census 1996 Statistics South Africa webpage	
2001	Census 2001 Statistics South Africa webpage	Census 2001 Statistics South Africa webpage	
2002	P0302 2002 Table 1.2		
2003	P0302 2003 Table 2	P0302 2003 Table 2	
2004	P0302 2004 Table 12	P0302 2004 Table 12	
2005	P0302 2005 Table 8	P0302 2005 Table 8	
<b>C. Total population Cape of Good Hope</b>			
1904	OYB 1918, page 152		
1911	OYB 1918, page 152	OYB 1918, pages 167 and 169	OYB 1918, pages 170 and 172
<b>D. White population Cape of Good Hope</b>			
1904	OYB 1918, page 150	SYB 1913, page 31	
1911	OYB 1918, page 150	OYB 1918, page 169	OYB 1918, page 170

**Notes:**

OYB denotes *Official Yearbook*; SYB denotes *Statistical Yearbook*; SAS denotes *South African Statistics*; P0302 denotes *Statistics South Africa: Statistical Release P0302 Mid-year population estimates*.

**TABLE A.3A Reference Totals for Population, Income, and Inflation, South Africa 1913-2010**

	(1) # Adults aged 15 and over  000	(2) # Tax Units  000	(3) # White Tax Units  000	(4) Total Reference Income  (million 2010 Rands)	(5) Average Income per Adult  (2010 Rands) (4)/(1)	(6) Price Index  (2010=100)	(7) Highest Marginal Tax Rate at the Top  (%)
1913	4,393	2,652	601	59,420	13,527	0.373	7.50
1914	4,464	2,694	604	55,119	12,349	0.392	7.50
1915	4,534	2,735	606	57,369	12,653	0.417	25.00
1916	4,605	2,777	608	59,443	12,910	0.457	25.00
1917	4,675	2,818	610	62,205	13,307	0.488	25.00
1918	4,744	2,859	612	63,637	13,413	0.540	25.00
1919	4,707	2,835	636	65,955	14,013	0.669	25.00
1920	4,776	2,876	659	60,645	12,699	0.606	25.00
1921	4,843	2,920	683	62,120	12,826	0.505	25.00
1922	4,937	3,006	704	75,535	15,301	0.490	35.00
1923	5,023	3,098	725	79,530	15,832	0.497	35.00
1924	5,116	3,189	746	82,697	16,165	0.495	35.00
1925	5,206	3,279	767	86,382	16,593	0.488	35.00
1926	5,309	3,371	788	90,426	17,032	0.490	35.00
1927	5,403	3,462	809	97,925	18,123	0.490	33.00
1928	5,498	3,555	831	98,346	17,888	0.489	33.00
1929	5,591	3,648	852	95,537	17,086	0.478	35.00
1930	5,686	3,742	874	91,062	16,015	0.460	35.00
1931	5,782	3,838	895	87,805	15,185	0.440	35.00
1932	5,877	3,937	912	97,527	16,594	0.428	35.00
1933	5,974	4,034	930	113,972	19,079	0.434	35.00
1934	6,066	4,133	947	123,065	20,288	0.431	32.00
1935	6,161	4,234	964	135,076	21,923	0.433	32.00
1936	6,293	4,337	981	148,050	23,527	0.443	32.00
1937	6,428	4,445	997	145,153	22,581	0.459	33.00
1938	6,564	4,554	1,012	153,525	23,390	0.458	32.00
1939	6,700	4,664	1,027	162,595	24,267	0.474	42.00
1940	6,836	4,775	1,043	170,651	24,962	0.496	52.50
1941	6,973	4,887	1,058	176,312	25,284	0.538	52.50
1942	7,109	4,998	1,073	179,361	25,232	0.571	60.38
1943	7,247	5,112	1,089	186,552	25,744	0.591	60.38
1944	7,384	5,226	1,104	193,422	26,194	0.607	60.38
1945	7,524	5,343	1,119	204,039	27,119	0.615	64.88
1946	7,666	5,462	1,135	206,872	26,987	0.641	64.88
1947	7,735	5,552	1,151	216,865	28,037	0.693	66.83
1948	7,940	5,649	1,167	223,742	28,178	0.713	75.50
1949	8,078	5,742	1,183	240,523	29,773	0.750	75.50
1950	8,192	5,930	1,199	265,289	32,385	0.826	75.50
1951	8,343	5,906	1,216	260,190	31,187	0.857	75.50
1952	8,503	6,018	1,236	271,464	31,927	0.892	81.79
1953	8,670	6,134	1,255	277,283	31,983	0.970	51.27
1954	8,842	6,254	1,275	292,732	33,107	0.980	51.27
1955	9,018	6,377	1,295	310,933	34,478	0.978	51.27
1956	9,205	6,508	1,315	322,650	35,052	0.998	55.73
1957	9,397	6,642	1,335	332,622	35,397	1.009	55.73
1958	9,594	6,779	1,355	343,684	35,822	1.012	44.58
1959	9,800	6,922	1,375	359,182	36,653	1.024	50.00
1960	10,014	7,072	1,395	371,671	37,117	1.065	50.00
1961	10,246	7,270	1,513	396,805	38,728	1.079	50.00
1962	10,487	7,476	1,632	423,550	40,387	1.083	50.00
1963	10,736	7,689	1,751	427,993	39,864	1.118	50.00
1964	10,989	7,906	1,870	448,456	40,808	1.140	50.00
1965	11,245	8,127	1,988	476,576	42,380	1.173	50.00
1966	11,565	8,397	2,107	506,410	43,787	1.225	50.00
1967	11,891	8,673	2,226	534,059	44,911	1.275	50.00
1968	12,226	8,958	2,344	570,470	46,661	1.324	50.00
1969	12,573	9,254	2,463	572,509	45,533	1.425	50.00

**TABLE A.3A Reference Totals for Population, Income, and Inflation, South Africa 1913-2010**

	(1) # Adults aged 15 and over  000	(2) # Tax Units  000	(3) # White Tax Units  000	(4) Total Reference Income  (million 2010 Rands)	(5) Average Income per Adult  (2010 Rands) (4)/(1)	(6) Price Index  (2010=100)	(7) Highest Marginal Tax Rate at the Top  (%)
1970	12,937	9,564	2,582	614,122	47,471	1.486	50.00
1971	13,288	9,862	2,654	677,503	50,986	1.575	50.00
1972	13,654	10,173	2,725	685,957	50,238	1.748	50.00
1973	14,031	10,494	2,797	658,145	46,907	2.069	50.00
1974	14,413	10,822	2,869	703,193	48,789	2.309	50.00
1975	14,796	11,152	2,941	723,774	48,917	2.582	50.00
1976	15,207	11,505	3,013	737,794	48,518	2.851	50.00
1977	15,619	11,863	3,084	770,439	49,327	3.169	50.00
1978	16,038	12,227	3,156	755,332	47,095	3.539	50.00
1979	16,471	12,605	3,228	785,114	47,665	4.075	50.00
1980	16,923	13,000	3,300	825,892	48,803	4.747	50.00
1981	17,367	13,342	3,358	873,382	50,289	5.218	50.00
1982	17,829	13,698	3,417	902,766	50,635	5.945	50.00
1983	18,300	14,061	3,475	916,907	50,105	6.930	50.00
1984	18,769	14,423	3,533	986,843	52,578	7.728	50.00
1985	19,229	14,777	3,592	962,804	50,071	9.027	50.00
1986	19,787	15,208	3,650	959,613	48,496	10.567	50.00
1987	20,339	15,633	3,708	1,015,622	49,935	12.099	45.00
1988	20,898	16,065	3,767	1,067,159	51,065	13.936	45.00
1989	21,485	16,517	3,825	1,093,009	50,873	16.341	45.00
1990	22,113	22,113	4,042	1,118,446	50,578	18.877	44.00
1991	22,917	22,917	3,942	1,128,924	49,261	21.846	43.00
1992	23,690	23,690	3,842	1,150,555	48,566	25.030	43.00
1993	25,023	25,023	3,741	1,159,779	46,348	27.615	43.00
1994	25,861	25,861	3,641	1,191,241	46,064	30.265	46.33
1995	26,723	26,723	3,541	1,230,939	46,063	33.367	46.66
1996	27,181	27,181	3,441	1,282,689	47,191	36.066	45.00
1997	27,768	27,768	3,448	1,331,325	47,945	38.990	45.00
1998	28,536	28,536	3,456	1,341,809	47,022	41.996	45.00
1999	29,325	29,325	3,463	1,376,357	46,935	44.967	45.00
2000	29,650	29,650	3,470	1,404,862	47,381	48.928	42.00
2001	30,528	30,528	3,477	1,423,939	46,643	52.679	42.00
2002	31,095	31,095	3,479	1,434,911	46,147	58.342	40.00
2003	31,518	31,518	3,241	1,482,159	47,026	61.580	40.00
2004	31,609	31,609	3,320	1,560,918	49,382	65.504	40.00
2005	31,798	31,798	3,330	1,648,162	51,832	69.070	40.00
2006	32,124	32,124	3,337	1,731,464	53,899	73.579	40.00
2007	32,561	32,561	3,345	1,796,487	55,173	79.523	40.00
2008	33,258	33,258	3,432	1,827,969	54,964	86.122	40.00
2009	33,820	33,820	3,428	1,816,981	53,725	92.711	40.00
2010	34,487	34,487	3,513	1,840,961	53,381	100.000	40.00

**Notes:**

Tax units for 1913-1989 estimated as the number of married couples and single adults aged 15 and over.

Tax units for 1990-2010 estimated as the number of adults aged 15 and over.

**TABLE A.3B Reference Totals for Population, Cape of Good Hope 1903-1907**

	(1) # Adults aged 15 and over 000	(2) # Tax Units 000	(3) # White Tax Units 000
1903	1,622	1,153	267
1904	1,637	1,164	265
1905	1,652	1,174	263
1906	1,667	1,185	261
1907	1,683	1,196	260

*Notes:*

Tax units estimated as number of married couples and single adults aged 15 and over.

**Table A.4A Top income shares (series A: excluding dividend income), South Africa 1913-1953**

	Top 5%	Top 1%	Top 0.5%	Top 0.25%	Top 0.1%	Top 0.05%	Top 0.01%	Top 5-1%	Top 1-0.5%	Top 0.5-0.25%	Top 0.25-0.1%	Top 0.1-0.05%	Top 0.05-0.01%	Top 0.01%
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)
1913 (a)					6.42	4.41	1.82					2.01	2.59	1.82
1914 (a)		20.50	14.76	10.59	6.80	4.82	2.13					1.98	2.69	2.13
1915 (a)		20.42	15.00	11.03	7.28	5.26	2.42					2.02	2.83	2.42
1916 (a)		20.53	14.98	10.92	7.14	5.13	2.39					2.01	2.73	2.39
1917 (a)		21.30	15.79	11.72	7.87	5.81	2.86					2.06	2.95	2.86
1918 (a)		19.63	14.00	10.04	6.38	4.50	2.01					1.87	2.49	2.01
1919 (a)		17.77	12.79	9.13	5.78	4.10	1.89					1.68	2.21	1.89
1920 (a)		18.90	13.19	9.22	5.64	3.82	1.51					1.82	2.31	1.51
1921 (a)		20.30	14.11	9.78	5.88	3.92	1.52					1.96	2.41	1.52
1922 (a)		17.88	12.50	8.67	5.20	3.47	1.34					1.73	2.13	1.34
1923 (a)		18.17	12.78	8.90	5.37	3.60	1.38					1.77	2.22	1.38
1924 (a)		18.58	13.11	9.15	5.53	3.73	1.46					1.80	2.27	1.46
1925 (a)		19.18	13.58	9.49	5.72	3.83	1.51					1.88	2.32	1.51
1926 (a)		18.79	13.36	9.38	5.66	3.79	1.47					1.87	2.32	1.47
1927 (a)		18.60	13.25	9.27	5.58	3.72	1.44					1.85	2.28	1.44
1928 (a)		18.68	13.33	9.33	5.61	3.74	1.44					1.87	2.30	1.44
1929 (a)		18.74	13.25	9.22	5.50	3.63	1.34					1.87	2.30	1.34
1930 (a)		19.10	13.39	9.30	5.54	3.64	1.31					1.90	2.33	1.31
1931 (a)		18.93	13.21	9.16	5.50	3.64	1.33					1.86	2.30	1.33
1932 (a)		18.39	13.12	9.34	5.85	4.03	1.73					1.81	2.30	1.73
1933 (a)		18.10	13.22	9.55	6.08	4.28	1.96					1.80	2.33	1.96
1934 (a)		17.25	12.53	8.91	5.49	3.71	1.44					1.78	2.27	1.44
1935 (a)		17.55	12.72	9.07	5.58	3.78	1.48					1.80	2.30	1.48
1936 (a)		17.20	12.51	8.94	5.49	3.72	1.45					1.78	2.27	1.45
1937 (a)		16.52	11.84	8.34	5.00	3.30	1.18					1.70	2.11	1.18
1938 (a)		15.90	11.31	7.93	4.76	3.15	1.16					1.61	1.99	1.16
1939 (a)		14.90	10.54	7.34	4.40	2.92	1.09					1.48	1.83	1.09
1940 (b)														
1941 (b)														
1942 (b)														
1943 (b)														
1944 (c)		17.31	12.31	8.58	5.28	3.63	1.46					1.66	2.17	1.46
1945 (c)		19.45	14.35	10.33	6.50	4.53	1.84					1.97	2.68	1.84
1946 (d)		22.15	16.45	11.93	7.51	5.09	2.23					2.43	2.86	2.23
1947 (c)		19.74	14.48	10.39	6.49	4.43	1.69					2.06	2.74	1.69
1948 (d)		19.76	14.16	9.92	5.97	3.96	1.45					2.01	2.50	1.45
1949 (c)		16.41	11.70	8.19	4.93	3.28	1.22					1.65	2.06	1.22
1950 (b)														
1951														
1952														
1953 (e)	36.43	14.95	10.17	6.79	3.85	2.46		21.47	4.78	3.39	2.94	1.39		

**Notes:**

- (a) Estimates are based on assessments compiled up to 12 months after the end of the income year, which cover around 95% of total assessments.
- (b) Estimates for 1940-1943 and 1950 are presented in Table A.7 for illustrative purposes, as they are also based on assessments issued up to 12 months after the end of the income year but only cover 70-80% of total assessments.
- (c) Estimates are based on assessments compiled up to 24 months after the end of the income year, and also cover around 95% of total assessments.
- (d) Estimates are based on assessments compiled up to 36 months after the end of the income year, and also cover around 95% of total assessments.
- (e) The results for 1953 are based on Pareto interpolation on the number of assessments by ranges of income only (the information on incomes by ranges is not available) compiled up to 36 months after the end of the income year. There is information on the number of assessments by income ranges compiled up to 24 months after the end of the tax year; top income shares, in this case, are the following: Top 5%: 36.06, Top 1%: 14.80%, Top 0.5%: 10.06%, Top 0.25%: 6.72%, Top 0.1%: 3.81%, Top 0.05%: 2.43%, a difference of around 1% (not 1 percentage point) with respect of top shares





**Table A.4B Top income shares (series B including dividend income), South Africa 1914-2010**

	Top 10%	Top 5%	Top 1%	Top 0.5%	Top 0.25%	Top 0.1%	Top 0.05%	Top 0.01%	Top 10-5%	Top 5-1%	Top 1-0.5%	Top 0.5-0.25%	Top 0.25-0.1%	Top 0.1-0.05%	Top 0.05-0.01%	Top 0.01%
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
1975	(g)		12.18	7.68	4.81	2.59				22.52	4.50	2.87	2.23			
1976		34.70														
1977																
1978	(g)	31.48	10.35	6.28	3.80					21.13	4.08	2.48				
1979	(g)	29.79	9.93	6.08	3.72					19.86	3.85	2.36				
1980	(g)	30.58	10.89	6.95	4.45	2.48				19.69	3.94	2.50	1.98			
1981	(g)	32.21	11.35	7.27	4.71					20.86	4.08	2.56				
1982	(g)	33.17	12.00	7.84	5.22	3.12	2.14			21.18	4.16	2.61	2.10	0.98		
1983	(g)	30.92	11.34	7.46	5.02	3.03	2.08	0.90		19.58	3.88	2.44	1.99	0.95	1.18	0.90
1984	(g)	31.24	11.30	7.38	4.91	2.91	1.96	0.80		19.94	3.92	2.47	2.00	0.95	1.16	0.80
1985	(g)	29.52	10.64	6.91	4.57	2.68	1.80			18.88	3.73	2.34	1.89	0.89		
1986	(g)	28.90	10.35	6.66	4.34	2.49	1.64	0.62		18.54	3.70	2.31	1.85	0.86	1.02	0.62
1987	(g)	25.35	8.78	5.48	3.47	1.94	1.25			16.58	3.30	2.01	1.53	0.88		
1988	(g)	26.34	9.88	6.43	4.21	2.42	1.59	0.36		16.45	3.46	2.22	1.79	0.83		
1989	(g)		7.19	4.47	2.80	1.54	0.99				2.73	1.67	1.26	0.55	0.63	0.36
1990	(g)	29.27	9.85	5.88	3.35					19.42	3.98	2.52				
1991	(g)	30.45	10.54	6.57						19.91	3.96					
1992	(g)	30.37	10.56	6.54	4.07					19.81	4.02	2.47				
1993	(g)	28.95	10.27	6.36	3.93					18.68	3.91	2.43				
1994																
1995																
1996																
1997																
1998																
1999																
2000																
2001		34.36	14.95	10.24	7.05	4.32	2.98	1.24		19.41	4.71	3.19	2.73	1.34	1.74	1.24
2002		35.14	15.23	10.39	7.08	4.27	2.90	1.15		19.92	4.84	3.31	2.81	1.37	1.75	1.15
2003		35.26	15.38	10.55	7.24	4.41	3.03	1.22		19.89	4.83	3.31	2.83	1.38	1.80	1.22
2004		36.50	16.18	11.23	7.80	4.82	3.35	1.40		20.32	4.95	3.43	2.98	1.48	1.95	1.40
2005		37.67	17.10	11.96	8.42	5.32	3.76	1.65		20.57	5.14	3.54	3.10	1.56	2.11	1.65
2006		39.31	18.12	12.86	9.15	5.89	4.25	1.99		21.19	5.25	3.71	3.26	1.65	2.26	1.99
2007		39.91	17.89	12.48	8.72	5.46	3.83	1.67		22.03	5.41	3.75	3.26	1.63	2.16	1.67
2008		38.43	16.76	11.52	7.95	4.90	3.41	1.47		21.67	5.24	3.57	3.05	1.49	1.94	1.47
2009		38.19	16.58	11.38	7.81	4.78	3.28	1.36		21.61	5.21	3.56	3.03	1.50	1.93	1.36
2010																

**Notes:**

- Estimates are based on assessments compiled up to 12 months after the end of the income year, which cover around 95% of total assessments. The estimate for 1914-1915 is based on the average income of 1914 and 1915.
- Estimates for 1940-1943 and 1950 are presented in Table A.7 for illustrative purposes, as they are also based on assessments issued up to 12 months after the end of the income year, but only cover 70-80% of total assessments.
- Estimates are based on assessments compiled up to 24 months after the end of the income year, and also cover around 95% of total assessments.
- Estimates are based on assessments compiled up to 36 months after the end of the income year, and also cover around 95% of total assessments.
- Estimates based on assessments compiled up to 12 months after the end of the tax year.
- Estimates are based on Pareto interpolations on the number of tax assessments only, compiled up to 24 months after the end of the tax year.
- Estimates are based on Pareto interpolations on the number of tax assessments only. Exact compilation period unknown; it is presumed that they correspond to assessments compiled at least 24 months after the end of the income year, as they come from SAS. Estimates for 1989 are affected by an abnormally low number of tax assessments reported in the tabulations (52% of those assessed in 1988).
- Even though the number of taxpayers is well above 10% of the control total for the population, the series for the top 10% income share is not given from 1971 to 2010, as the resulting P90 value is usually very close to (and sometimes below) the threshold under which employees are only subject to PAYE, and not included in the statistics used here (these workers are not required to file a tax return).

**TABLE A.5 Normal Tax and Super Tax: Number of tax assessments and tax assessed, South Africa 1913-1953**

	Normal Tax						Super Tax					
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
	# tax assessment	value of tax	# tax assessments compiled +12 months	(3)/(1)	value of tax compiled +12 months	(5)/(2)	# tax assessments compiled +24 months	(7)/(1)	value of tax compiled +24 months	(9)/(2)	# tax assessment	value of tax compiled +12 months
As of 1955	000	£000	000	%	£000	%	000	%	£000	%	000	£000
1913	5.54	178	5.14	92.7	167.2	93.9						
1914	44.13	843	39.71	90.0	787.2	93.4					1.14	336
1915	47.18	1,031	40.18	85.1	925.8	89.8					1.66	572
1916	53.62	1,348	48.25	90.0	1,213	90.0					2.22	847
1917	66.21	1,806	57.87	87.4	1,563	86.6					2.38	709
1918	79.56	1,924	71.23	89.5	1,653	85.9					3.35	991
1919	62.99	2,175	53.60	85.1	1,773	81.5					2.52	1,080
1920	106.65	2,132	96.45	90.4	1,913	89.7					1.93	787
1921	82.47	1,620	76.77	93.1	1,515	93.5					2.03	785
1922	81.77	1,645	78.30	95.8	1,562	95.0					2.43	1,036
1923	88.64	1,833	84.27	95.1	1,754	95.7					2.65	1,146
1924	88.79	1,924	85.73	96.6	1,859	96.6					2.95	1,205
1925	69.90	1,825	66.26	94.8	1,736	95.1					3.12	1,313
1926	71.73	1,915	67.43	94.0	1,790	93.5					3.50	1,324
1927	76.97	1,691	72.51	94.2	1,584	93.7					3.49	1,456
1928	71.14	1,593	66.70	93.8	1,479	92.8					3.07	1,214
1929	68.47	1,751	65.99	96.4	1,658	94.7					2.56	898
1930	85.79	1,745	82.72	96.4	1,675	96.0					1.96	660
1931	74.28	1,430	71.59	96.4	1,372	95.9					2.15	965
1932	69.81	1,516	68.05	97.5	1,469	96.9					2.99	1,631
1933	47.92	1,326	46.46	97.0	1,275	96.2					3.42	1,603
1934	50.66	1,166	48.54	95.8	1,097	94.1					4.16	1,898
1935	59.47	1,394	57.32	96.4	1,316	94.4					4.95	2,284
1936	69.15	1,664	65.17	94.2	1,543	92.7					4.64	1,903
1937	73.72	1,786	67.83	92.0	1,642	91.9					4.58	1,849
1938	77.55	1,604	73.12	94.3	1,465	91.3					4.75	2,325
1939	81.60	2,846	76.25	93.4	2,575	90.5					9.41	5,745
1940	158.17	6,000	135.68	85.8	4,687	78.1					11.34	6,284
1941	192.35	7,169	161.99	84.2	5,440	75.9					13.60	7,332
1942	214.77	9,324	172.59	80.4	6,683	71.7					19.30	8,619
1943	242.07	10,610	172.04	71.1	6,555	61.8					20.46	8,987
1944	269.54	11,565	156.44	58.0	6,011	52.0	254.08	94.3	10,516	90.9	25.29	15,242
1945	317.43	15,723	178.22	56.1	7,284	46.3	291.81	91.9	14,098	89.7	29.58	20,528
1946	332.16	18,377	189.47	57.0	9,101	49.5					33.68	17,189
1947	287.50	14,012	131.98	49.3	6,024	43.0	247.23	92.4	12,750	91.0	37.52	19,701
1948	314.71	17,895	159.44	50.7	7,760	43.4	281.84	89.6	15,572	87.0	37.94	19,101
1949	335.31	18,078	162.40	48.4	7,666	42.4	300.69	89.7	15,827	87.5	48.58	28,175
1950	393.62	25,526	191.57	48.7	10,941	42.9					53.05	21,192
1951	505.14	23,805									58.44	19,529
1952	570.77	27,626									63.21	19,096
1953	544.85	26,188					544.85	100.0				

Notes:  
Column (1) and (11) display the number of tax assessments to the Normal and Super taxes as of 1955, informed in the Report of the Commissioner for Inland Revenue, 1953-1956. Columns (2) and (12) show the value of tax collected for those taxes by the same date. The table also reports the number of assessments to the Normal Tax, compiled up to 12 months (column 3) and up to 24 months (column 7) after the end of the income year, and the number of assessments to the Super tax (column 11) compiled up to 12 months after the end of the income year. The organization of the information in the published tabulations does not allow to provide the number of assessments to the Super Tax compiled up to 24 months after the end of the income year after 1943. Columns (5), (9) and (15) give the amounts of tax collected.

**Table A.6 Top shares and sensitivity to compilation period, South Africa 1944-1949**

	compilation period (1)	Top 1% (2)	Top 0.5% (3)	Top 0.25% (4)	Top 0.1% (5)	Top 0.05% (6)	Top 0.01% (7)	% Assessments Normal Tax (8)	% Value of Normal Tax assessed (9)
1944	+12 months	12.72	9.05	6.45	4.08	2.88	1.26	58.04	51.98
	+24 months	17.31	12.31	8.58	5.28	3.63	1.46	94.26	90.93
1945	+12 months	12.90	9.30	6.78	4.34	3.08	1.37	56.14	46.33
	+24 months	19.45	14.35	10.33	6.50	4.53	1.84	91.93	89.66
1946	+12 months	14.59	10.71	7.85	5.09	3.61	1.55	57.04	49.53
	+36 months	22.15	16.45	11.93	7.51	5.09	2.23	98.30	98.00
1947	+12 months	12.85	9.40	6.82	4.31	3.00	1.22	49.34	42.99
	+24 months	19.74	14.48	10.39	6.49	4.43	1.69	92.42	90.99
1948	+12 months	12.58	8.98	6.41	3.97	2.71	1.08	50.66	43.36
	+24 months	18.55	13.33	9.36	5.65	3.76	1.39	89.56	87.02
	+36 months	19.76	14.16	9.92	5.97	3.96	1.45	98.25	97.60
1949	+12 months	11.10	7.80	5.53	3.40	2.32	0.92	48.43	42.40
	+24 months	16.41	11.70	8.19	4.93	3.28	1.22	89.68	87.55

**Table A.7 Top Income Shares in South Africa, 1940-1943 and 1950****Assessments issued up to 12 months after the end of the income year**

	Top 1%	Top 0.5%	Top 0.25%	Top 0.1%	Top 0.05%	Top 0.01%
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
<b>A. Excluding dividends</b>						
1940	16.02	11.71	8.62	5.65	4.10	1.90
1941	15.55	11.30	8.17	5.25	3.74	1.66
1942	15.25	10.96	7.79	4.89	3.41	1.43
1943	14.02	10.05	7.13	4.44	3.11	1.35
<b>B. Including dividends</b>						
1940				6.27	4.58	2.13
1941				5.78	4.14	1.86
1942				5.38	3.81	0.00
1943				4.84	3.43	1.52
1950	12.11	8.88	6.43	3.97	2.68	1.04

Table A.8 Composition by Race in Top Income Groups, South Africa 1956-1987

	Top 5%				Top 1%				Top 0.5%				Top 0.1%				Top 0.05%				Top 0.01%			
	White	Coloured	Asian	African	White	Coloured	Asian	African	White	Coloured	Asian	African	White	Coloured	Asian	African	White	Coloured	Asian	African	White	Coloured	Asian	African
1956	98.38	0.44	1.13	0.05	98.49	0.09	1.37	0.04	98.81	0.07	1.10	0.03	99.12	0.02	0.82	0.03	99.18	0.00	0.82	0.00	99.83	0.00	0.17	0.00
1957	98.32	0.48	1.13	0.07	98.48	0.09	1.38	0.06	98.85	0.08	1.02	0.05	99.29	0.06	0.59	0.05	99.37	0.05	0.49	0.09	99.92	0.00	0.08	0.00
1958	98.31	0.52	1.09	0.08	98.51	0.09	1.35	0.06	98.74	0.08	1.15	0.03	99.00	0.08	0.89	0.03	99.27	0.12	0.58	0.03	99.73	0.00	0.27	0.00
1959	98.26	0.60	1.06	0.08	98.64	0.09	1.23	0.05	98.84	0.06	1.05	0.04	99.07	0.03	0.88	0.02	99.37	0.02	0.61	0.01	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1960																								
1961	98.37	0.58	0.97	0.07	98.51	0.10	1.33	0.06	98.66	0.07	1.23	0.04	99.38	0.02	0.57	0.03	99.62	0.03	0.35	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1962																								
1963	98.22	0.53	1.15	0.10	98.36	0.11	1.44	0.09	98.50	0.08	1.34	0.08	99.13	0.07	0.74	0.06	99.36	0.09	0.50	0.05	99.60	0.09	0.26	0.04
1964	98.15	0.61	1.15	0.09	98.30	0.14	1.48	0.08	98.45	0.11	1.38	0.06	99.19	0.05	0.70	0.06	99.51	0.03	0.42	0.05	99.69	0.03	0.21	0.07
1965	98.24	0.58	1.09	0.08	98.33	0.15	1.43	0.09	98.53	0.12	1.27	0.08	99.34	0.04	0.58	0.05	99.61	0.00	0.34	0.05	99.78	0.00	0.19	0.03
1966																								
1967	98.29	0.57	1.05	0.09	98.55	0.12	1.23	0.10	98.61	0.11	1.18	0.10	99.20	0.06	0.69	0.05	99.47	0.09	0.41	0.03	99.48	0.10	0.39	0.03
1968																								
1969	98.35	0.51	1.06	0.08	98.37	0.20	1.33	0.10	98.45	0.16	1.29	0.09	99.12	0.08	0.75	0.04	99.28	0.06	0.65	0.01	99.28	0.06	0.65	0.01
1970																								
1971	98.27	0.63	1.10	0.00	98.34	0.21	1.45	0.00	98.28	0.21	1.50	0.00	98.86	0.16	0.98	0.00	98.86	0.16	0.98	0.00	98.86	0.16	0.98	0.00
1972																								
1973																								
1974	97.84	0.83	1.33	na	98.10	0.21	1.69	na	98.15	0.16	1.69	na	99.17	0.03	0.81	na	99.17	0.03	0.81	na	99.17	0.03	0.81	na
1975	98.05	0.77	1.19	na	98.20	0.23	1.57	na	98.10	0.21	1.68	na	98.96	0.06	0.98	na	98.96	0.06	0.98	na	98.96	0.06	0.98	na
1976																								
1977																								
1978	97.25	1.28	1.47	na	98.33	0.29	1.38	na	98.32	0.24	1.45	na	98.50	0.24	1.26	na	98.50	0.24	1.26	na	98.50	0.24	1.26	na
1979	97.01	1.50	1.49	na	98.30	0.29	1.41	na	98.24	0.23	1.52	na	98.55	0.16	1.29	na	98.55	0.16	1.29	na	98.55	0.16	1.29	na
1980	96.51	1.68	1.81	na	97.70	0.42	1.88	na	97.65	0.36	1.99	na	98.70	0.22	1.08	na	98.78	0.19	1.03	na	98.78	0.19	1.03	na
1981	96.06	1.96	1.98	na	97.65	0.46	1.89	na	97.73	0.35	1.92	na	98.39	0.21	1.40	na	98.39	0.21	1.40	na	98.39	0.21	1.40	na
1982	95.86	2.01	2.13	na	97.53	0.56	1.91	na	97.65	0.42	1.93	na	98.38	0.33	1.28	na	98.71	0.25	1.04	na	99.50	0.09	0.41	na
1983	95.55	2.30	2.15	na	97.73	0.51	1.76	na	97.80	0.33	1.87	na	98.33	0.21	1.45	na	98.98	0.06	0.95	na	99.53	0.00	0.47	na
1984	94.62	2.26	2.41	0.71	96.84	0.74	2.14	0.28	97.00	0.57	2.22	0.21	97.80	0.38	1.72	0.10	98.01	0.36	1.51	0.12	98.63	0.23	1.05	0.09
1985	94.43	2.37	2.40	0.80	97.04	0.75	1.88	0.33	97.37	0.47	1.93	0.23	97.93	0.37	1.57	0.14	98.04	0.29	1.54	0.13	98.33	0.14	1.19	0.34
1986	92.90	2.87	2.85	1.38	96.54	0.90	2.17	0.38	96.78	0.67	2.26	0.29	96.96	0.52	2.36	0.16	96.90	0.53	2.40	0.17	96.61	0.33	2.65	0.40
1987	90.55	3.88	3.11	2.46	96.65	1.15	1.69	0.50	97.15	0.78	1.69	0.38	97.46	0.46	1.92	0.17	97.52	0.36	1.94	0.18	98.08	0.22	1.30	0.41

Notes: The table reads as follows: in 1956, 98.37% of the top 5% income receivers were White, 0.44% were Coloured, 1.13% were Asian and 0.05% were African (the term used in the official reports is "Bantu").

**Table A.9 Top income shares among the white population (including dividend income), South Africa 1956-1987**

	Top 10%	Top 5%	Top 1%	Top 0.5%	Top 0.25%	Top 0.1%	Top 0.05%	Top 0.01%	Top 10-5%	Top 5-1%	Top 1-0.5%	Top 0.5-0.25%	Top 0.25-0.1%	Top 0.1-0.05%	Top 0.05-0.01%	Top 0.01%
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
1956 (a)	20.77	13.94	5.33	3.42	2.15	1.14			6.83	8.61	1.91	1.27	1.01			
1957 (a)	20.47	13.65	5.15	3.30	2.07	1.10			6.82	8.50	1.85	1.23	0.98			
1958 (a)	19.94	13.18	4.93	3.17	2.00	1.08			6.77	8.25	1.77	1.16	0.92			
1959 (a)	19.33	12.68	4.59	2.90	1.80	0.95			6.65	8.09	1.69	1.10	0.85			
1960																
1961 (a)	18.50	12.08	4.47	2.88	1.83	1.01			6.42	7.61	1.59	1.04	0.83			
1962																
1963 (b)	21.41	14.17	5.38	3.49	2.25				7.24	8.79	1.89	1.25				
1964 (b)	22.42	14.79	5.59	3.62	2.32				7.63	9.20	1.97	1.30				
1965 (b)	22.82	14.91	5.59	3.63	2.33				7.90	9.33	1.96	1.29				
1966 (c)	22.76	14.77	5.44	3.52	2.25											
1967 (c)	22.91	14.72	5.31	3.40	2.15				8.19	9.41	1.92	1.25				
1968																
1969 (c)	24.05	15.80	5.80	3.64					8.26	10.00	2.16					
1970																
1971 (c)	23.95	15.45	5.39	3.34					8.49	10.06	2.05					
1972																
1973																
1974 (c)	23.57	15.32	5.52	3.53					8.25	9.80	1.99					
1975 (c)	22.92	14.52	4.97	3.11					8.39	9.55	1.86					
1976	22.21	13.85	4.53	2.79												
1977	20.01	12.32	3.88	2.35												
1978 (c)	20.16	12.37	3.88	2.35					7.78	8.50	1.53					
1979 (c)	19.07	11.77	3.78						7.30	7.99						
1980 (c)	19.84	12.64	4.48	2.88					7.20	8.16	1.60					
1981 (c)	20.68	13.10	4.71	3.08					7.58	8.40	1.63					
1982 (c)	21.37	13.71	5.19	3.52	2.41	1.49	1.05		7.66	8.52	1.68	1.11	0.92	0.44		
1983 (c)	18.43	11.63	4.20	2.81	1.91	1.16	0.80		6.80	7.43	1.39	0.91	0.75	0.36		
1984 (c)	19.83	12.73	4.81	3.24	2.19	1.31	0.89		7.10	7.92	1.57	1.06	0.88	0.42		
1985 (c)	17.90	11.34	4.10	2.72	1.81	1.06	0.71		6.56	7.24	1.38	0.91	0.75	0.35		
1986 (c)	18.07	11.52	4.18	2.75	1.81	1.04	0.68		6.56	7.34	1.44	0.94	0.77	0.35		
1987 (c)	15.65	9.78	3.33	2.14	1.39	0.79	0.51		5.87	6.45	1.19	0.75	0.60	0.27		

**Notes:**

As tax statistics do not provide a decomposition of tax assessments by ethnic origin between 1913 and 1955, this table assumes that all taxpayers were white in those years. For 1956-1987, as only the number of taxpayers is decomposed by ethnic origin, estimates are based on Pareto interpolations.

(a) Estimates are based on Pareto interpolations on the number of tax assessments only, compiled up to 12 months after the end of the tax year.

(b) Estimates are based on Pareto interpolations on the number of tax assessments only, compiled up to 24 months after the end of the tax year.

(c) Estimates are based on Pareto interpolations on the number of tax assessments only. Exact compilation period unknown. Given the publication dates of SAS, it is presumed that they correspond to assessments compiled at least 24 months after the end of the income year.

**Table A.10 Income Composition in Top Income Groups, South Africa 1954-1961**

	Top 5%					Top 1%					Top 0.5%					Top 0.1%					Top 0.05%				
	Business and Services Income	Employment Income	Farm Income	Capital Income	Business and Services Income	Employment Income	Farm Income	Capital Income	Business and Services Income	Employment Income	Farm Income	Capital Income	Business and Services Income	Employment Income	Farm Income	Capital Income	Business and Services Income	Employment Income	Farm Income	Capital Income					
1954	14.8	66.5	6.2	12.5	25.0	43.4	9.5	22.1	27.7	35.4	10.4	26.4	26.8	26.9	10.1	36.2	24.4	25.1	9.6	41.0					
1955	14.8	64.4	7.9	12.8	24.8	41.0	11.5	22.7	26.5	34.3	12.4	26.8	25.6	26.9	10.9	36.7	23.5	25.2	9.9	41.3					
1956	13.5	65.9	8.6	12.0	23.4	40.7	14.3	21.6	25.0	33.8	15.9	25.3	24.8	24.2	17.3	33.7	23.7	21.1	17.6	37.6					
1957	13.3	67.5	6.9	12.3	22.2	44.4	10.8	22.6	23.8	37.5	11.7	26.9	23.1	28.8	11.4	36.7	20.7	27.0	10.6	41.8					
1958	11.5	71.6	4.7	12.3	20.3	49.4	7.3	22.9	22.3	42.4	8.0	27.3	21.6	31.1	8.4	39.0	19.4	28.5	7.3	44.7					
1959	11.3	71.9	5.3	11.6	19.8	50.9	8.2	21.1	22.3	43.5	9.0	25.2	22.6	32.6	9.4	35.5	21.5	29.5	9.0	40.0					
1960																									
1961	9.7	72.8	6.0	11.5	17.8	51.9	9.7	20.6	20.6	43.0	11.0	25.4	20.3	32.6	11.6	35.6	18.7	30.2	10.9	40.3					

	Top 5-1%					Top 1-0.5%					Top 0.5-0.1%					Top 0.1-0.05%					Top 0.05%				
	Business and Services Income	Employment Income	Farm Income	Capital Income	Business and Services Income	Employment Income	Farm Income	Capital Income	Business and Services Income	Employment Income	Farm Income	Capital Income	Business and Services Income	Employment Income	Farm Income	Capital Income	Business and Services Income	Employment Income	Farm Income	Capital Income					
1954	8.1	81.6	4.1	6.2	19.4	59.7	7.6	13.3	28.3	40.3	10.6	20.8	30.9	30.1	11.1	27.9	24.4	25.1	9.6	41.0					
1955	8.1	80.3	5.5	6.1	21.2	54.7	9.7	14.4	27.0	38.6	13.3	21.1	29.0	29.8	12.5	28.7	23.5	25.2	9.9	41.3					
1956	7.0	82.2	5.0	5.8	20.2	54.3	11.1	14.4	25.2	39.4	15.1	20.4	26.6	29.5	16.9	27.0	23.7	21.1	17.6	37.6					
1957	7.7	81.9	4.5	5.9	18.9	57.7	9.1	14.2	24.3	42.5	11.9	21.4	27.2	31.8	12.8	28.1	20.7	27.0	10.6	41.8					
1958	6.2	84.7	3.1	6.0	16.7	62.5	6.0	14.8	22.7	48.8	7.8	20.7	25.3	35.6	10.2	28.9	19.4	28.5	7.3	44.7					
1959	6.1	84.5	3.5	5.9	15.3	64.8	6.6	13.3	22.1	49.5	8.8	19.5	24.6	37.9	9.9	27.6	21.5	29.5	9.0	40.0					
1960																									
1961	4.8	85.3	3.9	6.0	12.6	68.5	7.2	11.7	20.8	48.9	10.7	19.6	22.9	36.6	12.8	27.7	18.7	30.2	10.9	40.3					

Notes: Fractiles defined by size of total income. For each fractile, the first four columns (summing to 100%) give the percentage of business income and income from services and professions, employment income (wages and salaries), farming income and capital income (dividends, interest, rents and other investment income) in total income. Details on methodology are presented in Appendix. Source: Computations based on tax return statistics

**Table A.11 Top income shares within shares, Cape of Good Hope 1903-1907**

	Top 1% within Top 5% (1)	Top 0.5% within Top 1% (2)	Top 0.1% within Top 1% (3)	Top 0.25% within Top 0.5% (4)	Top 0.05% within Top 0.1% (5)	Top 0.01% within Top 0.05% (6)	Top 0.01% within Top 0.1% (7)	Pareto-Lorenz Coefficient (8)	verted Pareto-Lorenz Coefficient (9)
<b>A. Whole population</b>									
1903					0.69	0.39	0.27	2.35	1.74
1904					0.69	0.39	0.27	2.34	1.74
1905					0.70	0.42	0.29	2.17	1.85
1906					0.68	0.38	0.26	2.43	1.70
1907	0.44	0.70	0.28	0.68	0.65	0.33	0.21	3.08	1.48
<b>B. White population</b>									
1903				0.69	0.66	0.37	0.24	2.61	1.62
1904				0.69	0.66	0.37	0.24	2.61	1.62
1905				0.70	0.68	0.41	0.28	2.22	1.82
1906				0.68	0.66	0.34	0.23	2.82	1.55
1907	0.42	0.66	0.23	0.65	0.61			2.89	1.53