

POVERTY

Poverty trends

Number and proportion^a of people living on less than \$1/day,^b 1996–2005

Year	Number	Proportion
1996	1 899 874	4.5%
1997	2 243 576	5.2%
1998	2 604 366	6.0%
1999	2 931 253	6.6%
2000	3 205 217	7.1%
2001	3 653 756	8.0%
2002	4 451 843	9.7%
2003	4 374 079	9.4%
2004	4 296 654	9.1%
2005	4 228 787	8.8%

Source: Global Insight Southern Africa, *Regional Economic Focus*, 2006

a. On the measure of extreme poverty used by the World Bank, both the percentage and the absolute number of people living in poverty have increased in the period between 1996 and 2005, peaking in 2002. It seems that while groups who started off with more money have made financial gains, the situation for the lowest earners has worsened in terms of incomes. The social wage has alleviated some of the suffering of those in the most dire circumstances.

b. Constant 2000 prices.

Number of people living on less than \$1/day, 1996–2005

