



Regional Explorer (ReX)

A unique database for Analysing South Africa's sub-national socioeconomic data

Regional eXplorer (ReX) is a consolidated platform of integrated databases that provides accurate and up-to-date statistics down to the local municipal level for South Africa. ReX information is output for a broad range of topics, including economic, socioeconomic, demographic, and development data.

South African users may be aware that the process of collecting existing data and published studies is usually time consuming. Even once collected, the data are often inconsistent or outdated and in a format not supported by standard software platforms. ReX overcomes these challenges and gives the user vast amounts of data right at their fingertips through an easy-to-use interface that is compatible with Microsoft Excel®.



ReX is the first port of call for consistent and reliable geographically distributed data. ReX is ideal for policy makers, private or academic researchers, and consultants who wish to utilise South African-specific spatial information to assist in planning and decision-making processes. Subscribers find ReX an indispensable tool due to its comprehensive coverage, ease of use, and support from a well-established and reputable international research and analysis company.

Sources and methodology

ReX combines different sources of sub-national information. We bring you the relevant data from various sources:

- Bureau for Market Research (BMR) at UNISA
- Statistics South Africa (StatsSA)
- South African Reserve Bank (SARB)
- South African Revenue Services (SARS)
- Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- Chamber of Mines of South Africa (CM)
- Cement and Concrete Institute (CNCI)
- South African Petroleum Industry Association (SAPIA)
- National Electricity Regulator (NER) and Eskom
- Government departments, including the National Treasury and the DTI
- Various development agencies
- Selected private research houses
- And many more

Each of the data sources come with their own strengths and weaknesses. Our deep experience with data, research, and modelling frameworks is applied to the reworking of primary data to ensure consistency across a wide range of variables. National and sub-national verification tests are applied to ensure that the entire ReX model is internally and externally consistent. ReX makes use of various models and modeling techniques to provide users with the most reliable and accurate information, including a macroeconomic model to measure business activity, a cohort component demographic model to measure household activity, a labour market model to measure labour activity, and a household income model to measure the interaction between business and households. Additional custom-built models provide extra analysis on socioeconomic variables such as household infrastructure and education levels.

A detailed and user-friendly “Help Centre” is included in every ReX subscription, providing;

- An illustrated, step-by-step methodology for each model
- A detailed literature review and list of data sources used in ReX
- An illustrated guide, including videos, on how to use ReX
- Interactive maps of all geographies covered by ReX
- Detailed definitions for all topics covered by ReX

ReX is a “living” database that is continually updated and refined as more data become available. Updates are made available to subscribers on a quarterly basis, and we encourage active two-way communication with subscribers regarding the content and functionality of the service.

Geographical coverage

The following areas form the geographic coverage within ReX:

- National
- Metropolitan municipalities
- Sub-metropolitan regional breakdowns
- Provinces
- District municipalities
- Magisterial districts
- Local municipalities

The software also allows custom regions to be defined. These regions can be a combination of provincial and magisterial districts, or a combination of municipalities, which allows significant flexibility in customising areas for specialised analysis.

ReX provides you with:

- Access to a unique, electronic interface to extract regional data
- Access to an electronic “Help Centre” that highlights the step-by-step methodology followed in compiling the database, and guidelines for some content interpretation and electronic maps of all geographies covered
- Access to our team of analysts, economists, and econometricians who develop and maintain the database and who advise clients on data interpretation and methodology reasoning
- Quarterly updates of regional data
- The ability to extract complex charts (such as population pyramids and development diamonds) on the fly and directly into Excel®
- Single-day training session on the use and functionality of the database (maximum of four users per session) at the IHS office in Centurion, Pretoria



Database content

The ReX database starts from the year 1996 and runs to the present for all modules. The frequency for all the modules is annual, with the exception of the IHS Global Insight Weather Module, which is a monthly dataset. Macroeconomic and demographic variables also include five-year forecasts.

Database content tables

1. Demographic

- Population by gender, age, and race
- Population growth rate
- Number of households by race
- Number of people by first language

2. Development

- Human development index (HDI) by race
- Gini coefficient by race
- Number of people in poverty by race (R / month, \$1 and \$2 / day)
- Highest level of education
- Functional literacy by race
- Population density by race
- Urbanisation by race

3. Labour module

- Economically active population by race and gender
- Number of unemployed people by race and gender
- Unemployment rate by race and gender
- Formal employment by 34 detailed SIC sectors
- Informal employment by 6 broad SIC sectors

4. Income and Expenditure

- Households by income category and race
- Personal and disposable income by race
- Per capita and per household income by race
- Expenditure per product type
- Retail sales by retail category
- Index of buying power

5. Economic

- Gross value added (GVA-R) by 34 detailed SIC sectors (nominal, real, per capita)
- Gross domestic product (GDP-R) (nominal, real, per capita)
- Labour remuneration (nominal)
- Gross operating surplus
- Tress Index
- Location quotient

6. International Trade

- Imports and exports
- By trade bloc and economic sector
- By geographic area and economic sector
- By country, Rand
- By harmonized system (HS), two digit

7. Environment and weather

- Size of area
- Land cover
- Average monthly and annual rainfall
- Average monthly minimum, maximum, and mean temperatures
- Average hours sunshine per day

8. Crime

- Violent and property crimes reported
- Composite crime index

9. Household infrastructure

- Households by access to sanitation
- Formal and informal housing
- Households by access to electricity
- Refuse removal data per household
- Municipality infrastructure index

10. Tourism

- Trips by purpose of trip
- Trips and bed nights by origin of tourist
- Total tourism spend

From a global forecasting leader with a regional focus

IHS is broadly recognised as an undisputed leader in economic analysis and forecasting. We provide the most comprehensive economic and financial coverage of countries, regions, and industries available from any source. Our Pretoria-based team is a leading provider of analysis and forecasts on the South African economy. We have experience in applying our skills to business problems in the real world, and provide strategic advice to large multinationals, small high-growth businesses, as well as government and non-governmental organisations. Our consulting research has earned us a reputation for accuracy and innovation.

About IHS

IHS (NYSE: IHS) is the leading source of information and insight in critical areas that shape today's business landscape. Businesses and governments in more than 165 countries around the globe rely on the comprehensive content, expert independent analysis and flexible delivery methods of IHS to make high-impact decisions and develop strategies with speed and confidence. IHS has been in business since 1959 and became a publicly traded company on the New York Stock Exchange in 2005. Headquartered in Englewood, Colorado, USA, IHS is committed to long-term, sustainable growth and employs more than 6,000 people in more than 30 countries around the world.

For more information

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