

Statistics South Africa (StatsSA) Geography Website

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Abstract

With the evolution of the Internet and advances in computer technology it is now possible to greatly reduce the time between a request for information and the generation of the final request. Previously manual requests had to be submitted for census related statistics and maps. These requests were processed in sequence by operators and the timelines were not guaranteed. It would take anything from a day to a week to provide the results to the client, then there was also the issue of how to get the data to the client which largely dependent on StatsSA's resources and the clients resources.

StatsSA's geography division has designed a website which was developed to service the growing need for Statistics not only in a spreadsheet format. On the website requests can now be processed real time which allows users to view result almost immediately. The advantages of this system, firstly, significantly reduce turn around time from start of request to result. Secondly new updates to data become available almost immediately over the web.

The Geography website launched at the StatsSA's workshops in October/November 2006 around the country impressed NON-GIS and GIS attendees. The website offers one, census information on the old and new boundaries packaged into various tools for the different users.

The website offers

Contact information - for the managers within the Geography Division

Projects – Dwelling Frame – displays dwelling frame points and attributes with imagery.

Projects – Imagery – Allows one to have a look at imagery coverage that StatsSA has for the country

Tools – Reporting - Census 2001 data on all geography levels and make comparisons of the data across the geography levels for a particular Census 2001 category.

Tools – GIS Viewer - It is an interactive advanced mapping tool that gives one many mapping functionalities

Tools - Profiles 2006 - Profiles 2006 displays the Census 2001 data according to the new Municipal Demarcation Board's (MDB) boundaries as of December 2005.

Tools – Census Atlas - This tools was created by the Geography Division for the Census 2001 data launch.

Quick Maps – Predefined maps on a few census categories.

Phase II of Website – Community Survey Data integrated into the different tools and other survey data. Also a revamp of the site together with changes according to what is more in with the times.