

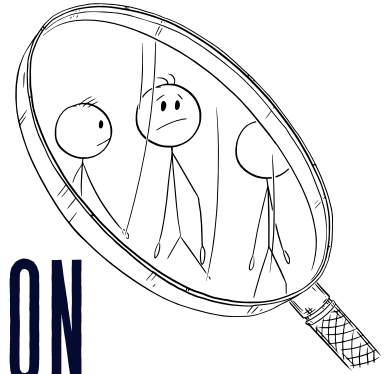
A stylized orange sun icon with a semi-circular base and numerous sharp, triangular rays of varying lengths radiating upwards.

EDUCATIONALS

WHO PAYS TAX



WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM TO KEEP
SOUTH AFRICA RUNNING, PAYING OUT GRANTS,
RUNNING HOSPITALS, SCHOOLS, ROAD REPAIRS
AND MORE



SOUTH AFRICA'S POPULATION (2025 ESTIMATES)

According to Nations Geo, South Africa's population stood at approximately 64.83 million as of August 14, 2025

Statistically, mid-2024 estimates put the population just over 63 million, with women slightly outnumbering men

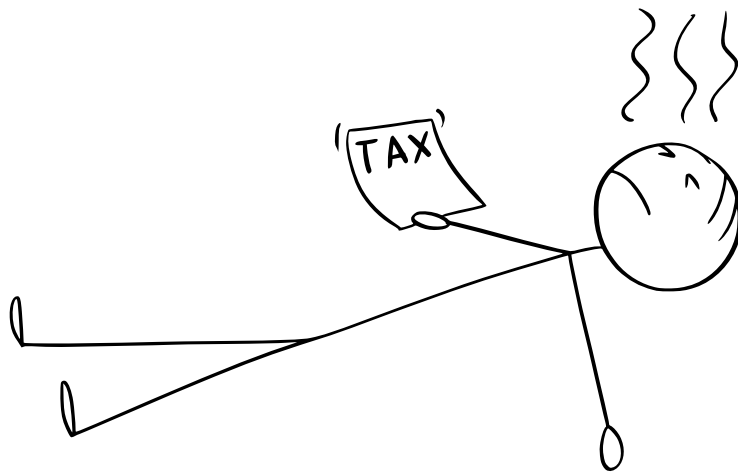
Roughly 64.8 million people call South Africa home today

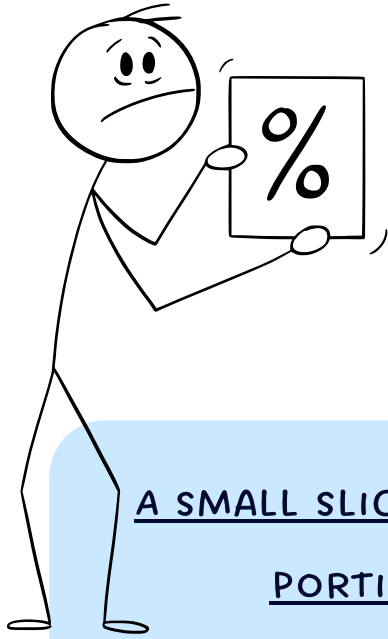


HOW MANY INDIVIDUALS PAY TAX?

There are just over 7 million registered individual taxpayers contributing to the country's revenue

Treasury data suggests around 7.5 million taxpayers expected in 2024/25, though only about 5.2 million earn above the tax-free threshold; over 1 million of those are government employees





CONCENTRATION OF TAX CONTRIBUTION

A SMALL SLICE OF THESE TAXPAYERS DELIVER A MASSIVE PORTION OF THE INCOME TAX COLLECTED:

About 862,000 individuals (just ~13% of the 7 million taxpayers) pay 59% of all personal income tax

Another figure: 978,140 people pay 60.9%, while 235,542 contribute 33%, illustrating how top earners disproportionately shoulder the tax burden

In more detail: roughly 200,000 high-earners (earning over R1 million a year) contribute 45% of total personal income tax, with around 40,000 of them working in government



HOW MANY COMPANIES PAY CORPORATE TAX?



A TINY FRACTION OF COMPANIES ARE RESPONSIBLE
FOR MOST OF THE CORPORATE TAX REVENUE:

Just 770 companies (0.1% of all firms) pay
around 66% of corporate income tax

Another source cites 1,051 companies paying
72.3% of corporate income tax

IN 2017/18, ONLY 993,069 OUT OF 3.7 MILLION
COMPANIES HAD TAXABLE INCOME. OF THOSE:

370 large companies (0.2% of all companies)
paid 57.7% of company tax, chiefly from
finance, manufacturing, and retail sectors





TAX REVENUE SOURCES (2021–2023)

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021/22, THE BREAKDOWN OF
SOUTH AFRICA'S TAX REVENUE SOURCES WAS
APPROXIMATELY:

- Personal Income Tax (PIT): 35.5%
- Value-Added Tax (VAT): 25.0%
- Company Income Tax (CIT): 20.7%
- Other taxes: 18.8%



PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER — HERE'S WHY IT MATTERS

POPULATION VS. TAXPAYERS

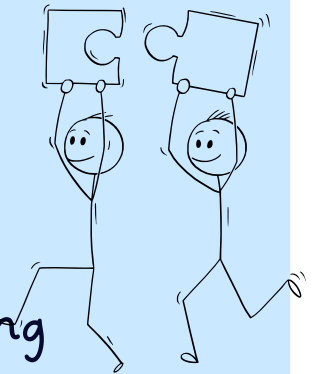
Out of ~64.8 million people, around 7 million individuals actively pay tax—just 11% of the total population

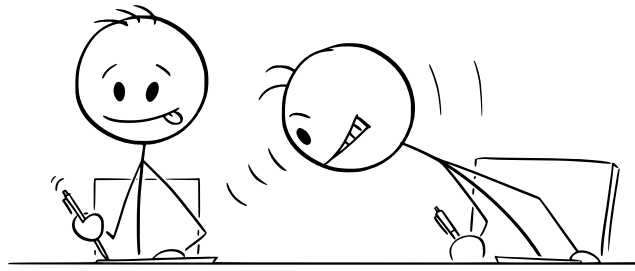
DISPROPORTIONATE SHARES

A very small group of taxpayers (less than 2 million) provide the majority of personal income tax revenue. Similarly, a few hundred companies shoulder most of the corporate taxes

FISCAL BACKBONE

That means a tiny minority—both among workers and businesses—carry a disproportionate share of taxation, enabling the government to fund vital services like healthcare, education, and infrastructure for the entire nation





SUMMARY TABLE

Category	Numbers & Key Stats
Total population (2025)	~64.8 million
Individual taxpayers	~7 million total; ~5.2 million above threshold
High-earner contributors	862,000 individuals pay 59% of PIT; 200,000 high-earners pay 45% of PIT
Company taxpayers	770–1,051 companies pay 66%–72% of CIT
PIT's share of tax revenue	35.5%; VAT: 25%; CIT: 20.7%

SO YES, A VERY SMALL PERCENTAGE OF WORKING
PEOPLE AND COMPANIES KEEP THE WHEELS OF
GOVERNMENT—AND BY EXTENSION THE COUNTRY
—TURNING



SOURCES:

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