

SECTION 4 POPULATION AGED 26 YEARS AND ABOVE



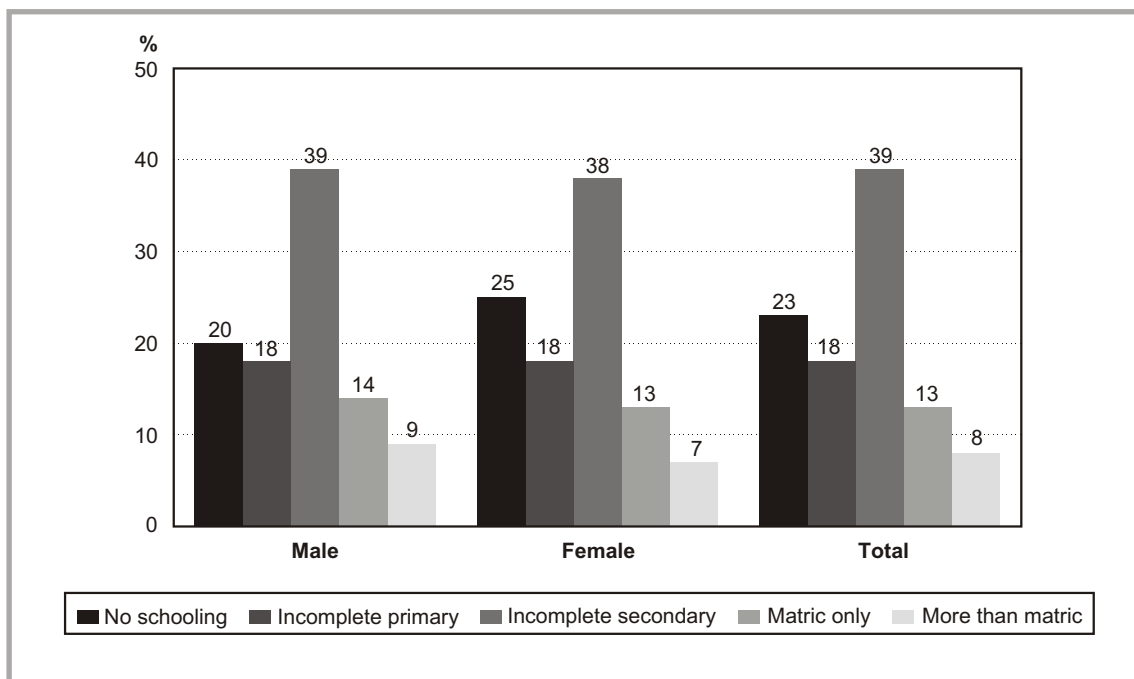
The focus of this section is on people aged 26 years and above. This covers ages in which people are much less likely than at younger ages to be still engaged in formal education. The section looks at the highest grade completed, highest post-school qualification and employment status by education as well as at earnings by education within this age group. The total number of people in this age group at the time of Census '96 was 17 476 621, of whom 54% were women, 72% were African, and 39% lived in rural areas.

HIGHEST CLASS COMPLETED

South African law currently provides for nine years of compulsory schooling. This effectively means that all South Africans should complete at least grade 7. This provision was, however, not applicable for those aged 26 years and above at the time of Census '96. The analysis below, by sex, population group and locality, reveals that there were significant numbers who did not manage to go as far as grade 7 in their studies.

Figure 6 shows the highest grade completed by those aged 26 years and above at the time of the census. The percentage of women with no formal schooling (at 25%) was noticeably higher than that of men (at 20%). Conversely, the percentage of men who had completed matric or more was higher (at 23%) than the percentage of women who had completed this level (20%).

FIGURE 6: POPULATION AGED 26 YEARS OR MORE BY HIGHEST EDUCATION LEVEL AND SEX



Apartheid policies have left their legacy in terms of the educational achievement of adult South Africans. Table 2 shows the number and percentage of women and men aged 26 years and above in each population group who had received no formal schooling. The table shows that African women fared worst, with close on a third having received no schooling. The percentage of African men in this age group with no schooling was slightly lower, at 26%, or 1,4 million people. White people fared best, with only 2% of those aged 26 years and above not having received any formal schooling. In addition, of the 3,8 million people with no schooling, 3,5 million (93%) were African. Further, within each population group, there were more women than men with no formal schooling. In the Indian population group, of the number of people with no formal schooling, 76% were women.

TABLE 2: POPULATION AGED 26 YEARS OR MORE WITH NO FORMAL SCHOOLING BY POPULATION GROUP AND SEX

	Male			Female			Total		
	No schooling	%*	Total	No schooling	%*	Total	No schooling	%*	Total
Population group	Number	%*	Number	Number	%*	Number	Number	%*	Number
African/Black	1 432 594	26	5 597 947	2 071 651	31	6 702 105	3 504 245	28	12 300 052
Coloured	86 019	12	729 742	98 397	12	854 016	184 416	12	1 583 758
Indian/Asian	9 130	4	248 952	29 671	11	274 147	38 800	7	523 100
White	19 296	2	1 235 058	19 817	1	1 348 623	39 114	2	2 583 681
Total	1 554 975	20	7 872 876	2 231 635	24	9 251 771	3 786 609	22	17 124 647

* Each percentage stands on its own as a percentage of the total number in that category.

HIGHEST POST-SCHOOL QUALIFICATION

Overall, at the time of Census '96 1,5 million people had post-school qualifications. Table 3 records the field of study of those women and men aged 26 years and above who had obtained a post-matric qualification. It shows that approximately a third (33%) of higher educated women in the 26 plus age group were qualified in the education field, followed by 12% each in arts and in medical sciences. In contrast, 16% of men were qualified in technical fields, followed by 15% in education and 10% in economics and management.

TABLE 3: POPULATION AGED 26 YEARS OR MORE WITH A POST-MATRIC QUALIFICATION BY FIELD OF STUDY AND SEX

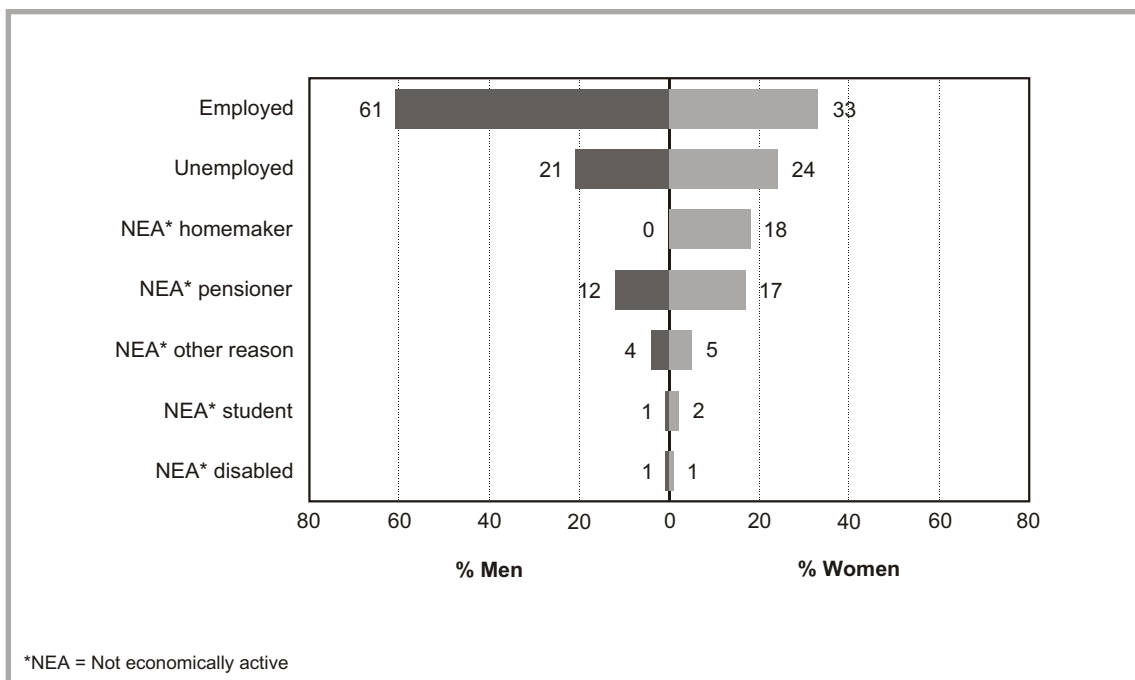
Field of study	Male	%	Female	%	Total	%
Arts	72 901	9	86 199	12	159 100	10
Science	50 758	6	18 932	3	69 690	5
Law	17 655	2	6 312	1	23 967	2
Theology	7 869	1	2 396	0	10 265	1
Economics and management	80 781	10	36 624	5	117 405	8
Education	123 104	15	232 186	33	355 290	23
Medical sciences	23 243	3	86 832	12	110 075	7
Engineering	33 112	4	2 990	0	36 102	2
Administration and clerical	20 911	3	41 870	6	62 781	4
Protection	31 887	4	5 445	1	37 332	2
Building sciences	7 365	1	1 507	0	8 872	1
Technical	128 621	16	20 460	3	149 081	10
Computing	8 377	1	10 638	2	19 015	1
Veterinary science	1 233	0	2 860	0	4 093	0
Other	215 564	26	140 716	20	356 280	23
Total	823 380	100	695 967	100	1 519 347	100

EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

Census '96 revealed that 38% of people in the working age population of 15-65 years were employed in October 1996, a further 19% were unemployed² and 43% were classified as not economically active (NEA). The NEA population can be further subdivided into categories such as homemaker, full-time student, pensioner, disabled and others. The two figures which follow illustrate the differences in the labour market status of the population aged 26 years or more by sex, population group and location. This provides the background against which the analysis of educational achievement that follows can be understood.

Figure 7 illustrates the distribution of men and women aged 26 years or more across the different labour market categories. It shows very different patterns for women and men. While over six in ten (61%) men aged 26 or more were employed in October 1996, this was the case for 33% of women of this age. Women were much more likely than men to be in all the other labour market categories except those not working on account of disability. In particular, women predominated among those not economically active because they were homemakers. Close on one in five (18%) of women aged 26 or more were in this category in October 1996, compared to less than 1% of men.

FIGURE 7: LABOUR MARKET STATUS OF WOMEN AND MEN AGED 26 YEARS OR MORE



² According to expanded definition of unemployment – see subsection 'Unemployed people' p. 20.

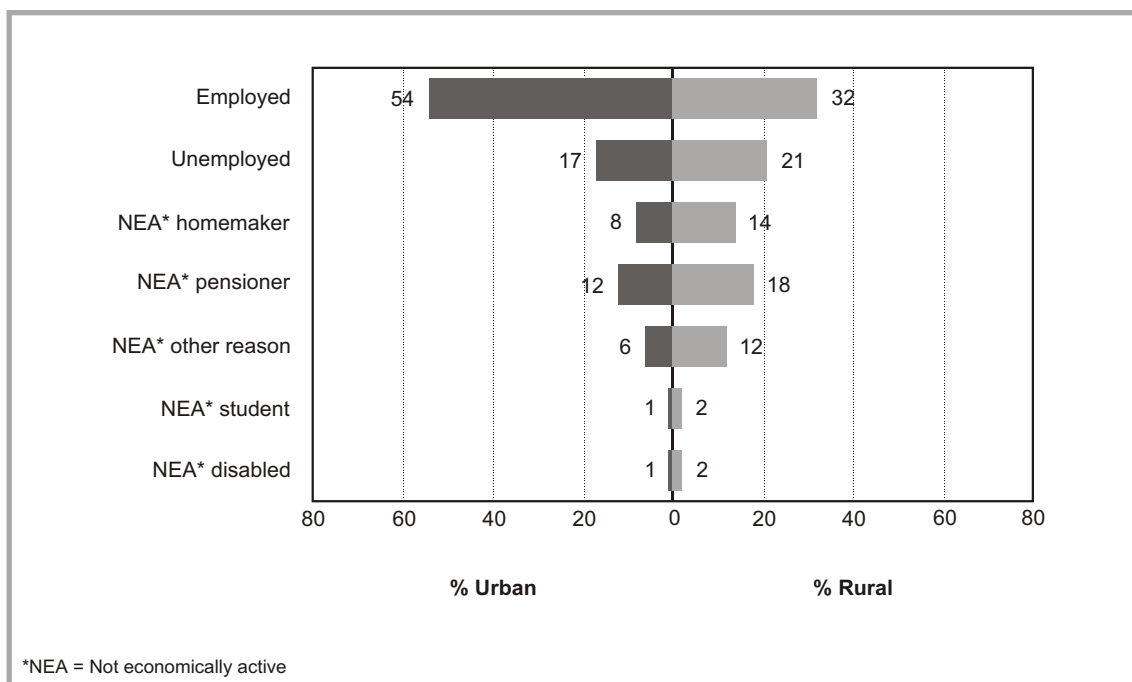
Table 4 shows the percentage distribution of the population aged 26 years or more by labour market status and population group. It shows that, while 61% of white people of this age were employed, this was the case for only 41% of African people, while 54-55% of coloured and Indian people of this age group were employed. Conversely, only 2% of white people in the age group were unemployed, compared to 24% of African people, 10% of coloured and 5% of Indian people. Homemakers were most common among the Indian population group.

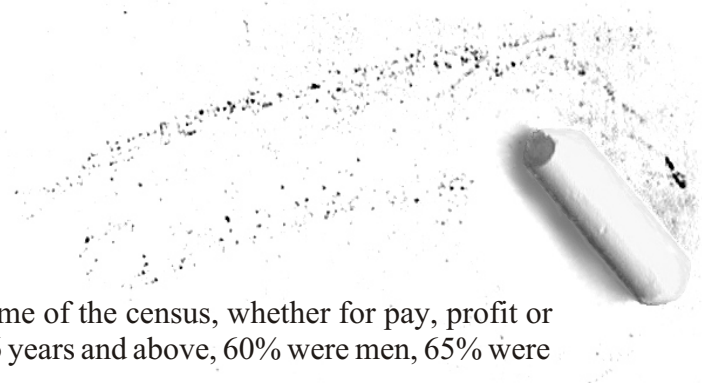
TABLE 4: LABOUR MARKET STATUS OF POPULATION AGED 26 YEARS OR MORE BY POPULATION GROUP

Labour market status	African %	Coloured %	Indian %	White %	Total %
Employed	41	55	54	61	46
Unemployed	24	10	5	2	19
NEA - homemaker	8	13	22	14	10
NEA - pensioner	14	13	11	19	15
NEA - other	10	5	4	3	8
NEA - student	2	0	1	0	2
NEA - disabled person	1	3	2	1	1
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Figure 8 reveals that people in urban areas were much more likely than those in rural areas to be employed. On the other hand, rural people were somewhat more likely than urban to be unemployed. The starkest differences between urban and rural were in the not economically active labour market categories. Rural people were markedly more likely than urban to be found in every one of these categories.

FIGURE 8: LABOUR MARKET STATUS OF POPULATION AGED 26 YEARS OR MORE BY LOCATION





EMPLOYED PEOPLE

Employed people are those who were working at the time of the census, whether for pay, profit or family gain. Of the 7,4 million employed people aged 26 years and above, 60% were men, 65% were African and 28% were living in rural areas.

Figure 9 shows that employed women tended to be slightly better educated than employed men. For example, 15% of employed women aged 26 plus had post-matric qualifications compared to 12% of employed men in this age category, and 19% of employed women and 17% of employed men had matric. Conversely, 12% of employed women in this age category had no formal education, compared to 14% of employed men.

FIGURE 9: EMPLOYED POPULATION AGED 26 YEARS OR MORE BY SEX AND LEVEL OF EDUCATION

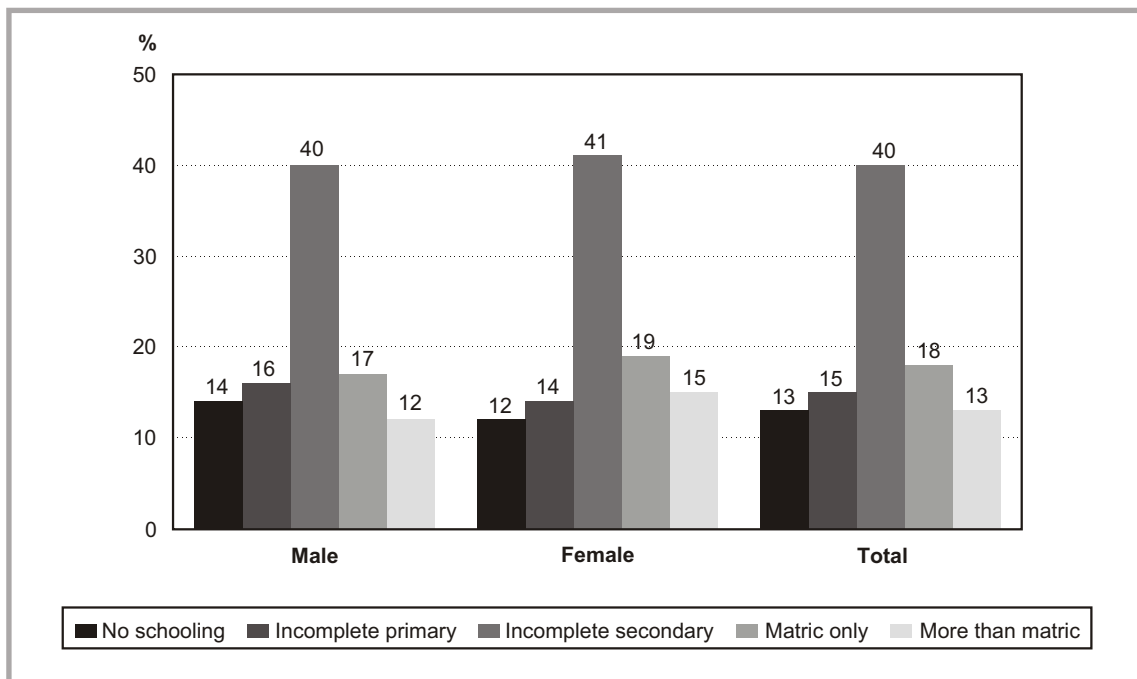


Figure 10 displays the differences in educational qualifications of employed people aged 26 years or more across the four population groups. Close on a fifth of employed African people in this age group had no formal schooling, compared to 2% or less of the white and Indian groups. Conversely, only around one in twelve coloured and African employed people aged 26 years and above had more than a matric qualification, compared to 17% of employed Indian people and over a third (35%) of employed white people.

FIGURE 10: EMPLOYED POPULATION AGED 26 YEARS OR MORE BY POPULATION GROUP AND LEVEL OF EDUCATION

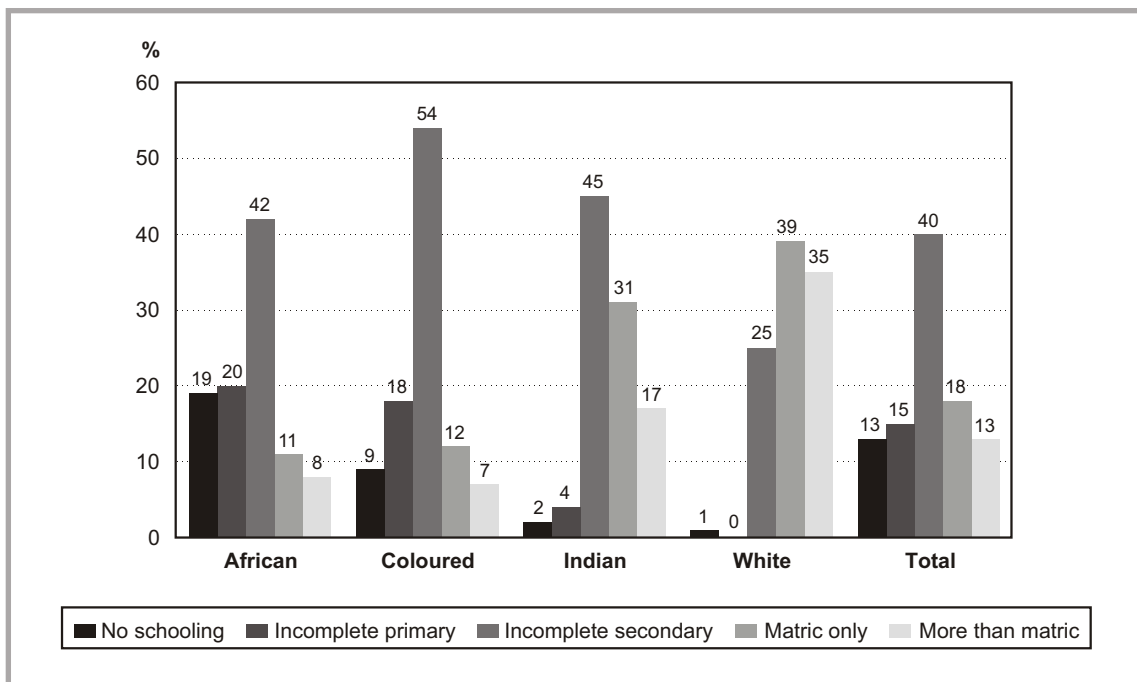
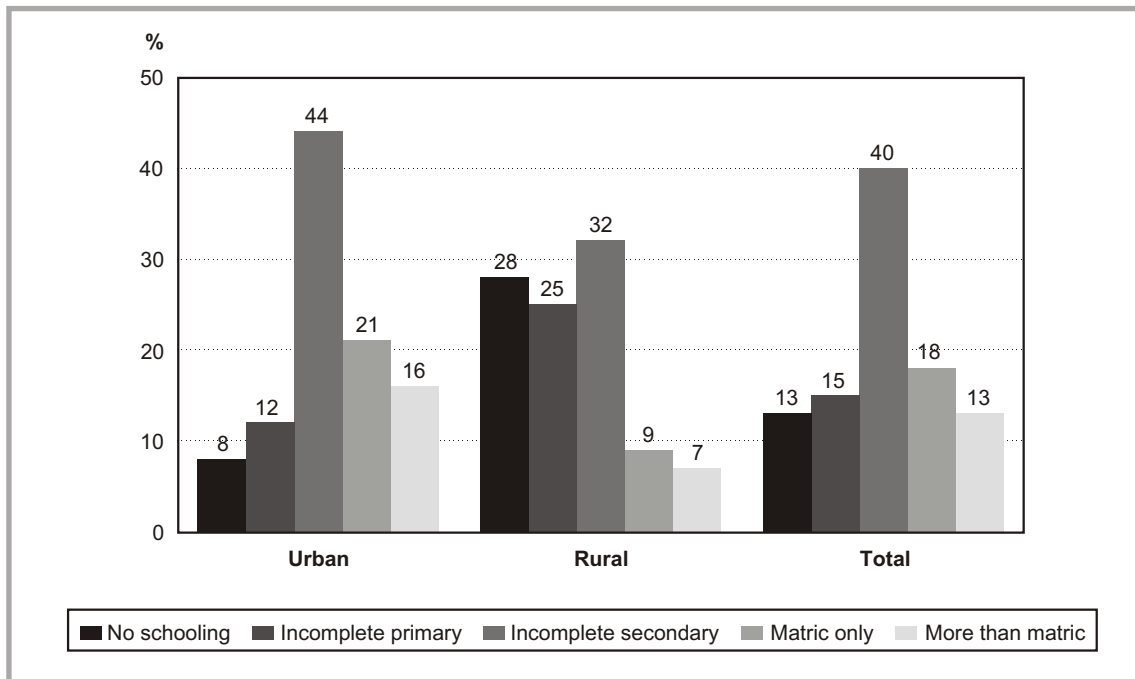




Figure 11 compares the markedly different situations of employed people in urban and rural areas. In urban areas, only 8% of employed people aged 26 years and above had no formal schooling, compared to 28% of employed people in this age group in rural areas. Conversely, 16% of employed people aged 26 years and above in urban areas had a qualification higher than matric. This was the case for only 7% of employed people in rural areas.

FIGURE 11: EMPLOYED POPULATION AGED 26 YEARS OR MORE BY LOCATION AND LEVEL OF EDUCATION



UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE

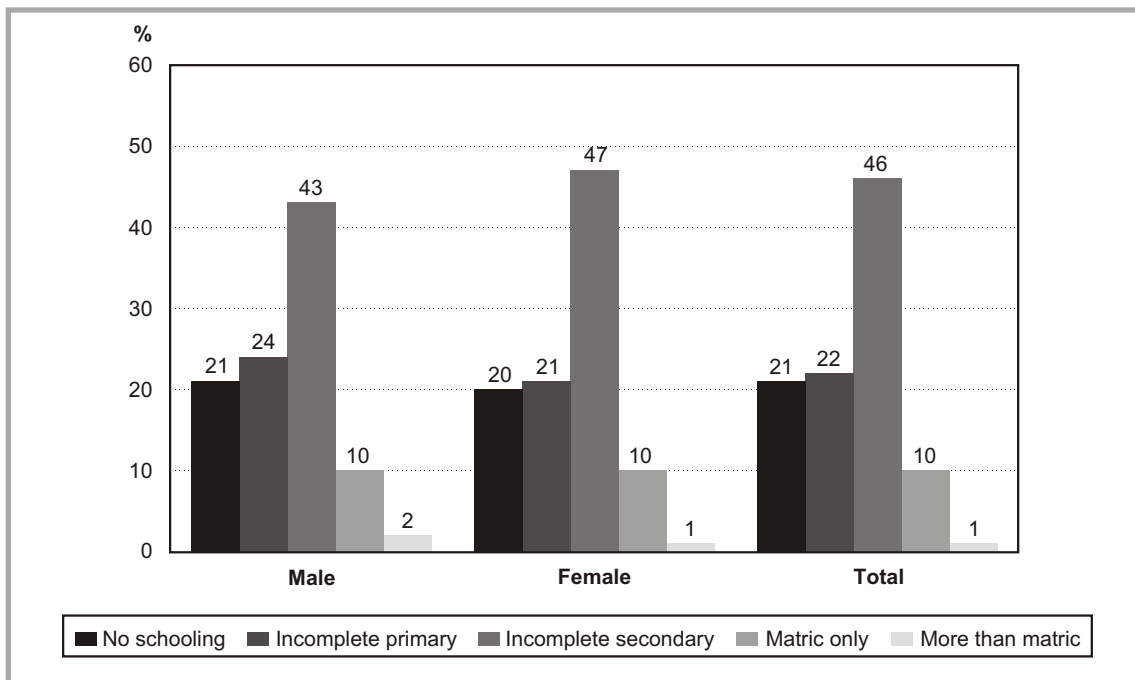
Unemployed people are defined as those who did not have work at the time of the census, but were looking for work.

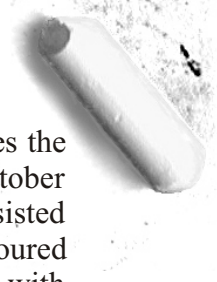
According to the official or strict definition of unemployment, persons must have taken specific steps to seek work in the four weeks prior to the interview or the reference date in order to be regarded as unemployed. This is not a requirement for the expanded definition of unemployment. In the 1996 census, no questions were asked about job-seeking behaviour, so the unemployment figures obtained are according to the expanded definition.

Overall, unemployed people were less educated than employed people. While 13% of people aged 26 years and above who were employed at the time of Census '96 had no formal schooling, this was the case for 21% of unemployed people. Conversely, 13% of employed people in this age group had a qualification higher than matric, compared to only 1% of unemployed people.

More men than women were employed. However, of the 3,1 million people in this age group who were unemployed and looking for work at the time of the census, the majority (57%) were women. Figure 12 shows that there were very small differences in the educational qualifications of unemployed women and men.

FIGURE 12: UNEMPLOYED POPULATION AGED 26 YEARS OR MORE BY SEX AND LEVEL OF EDUCATION





In Census '96, 91% of all people recorded as unemployed were African. Figure 13 illustrates the educational qualifications of unemployed people according to the four population groups in October 1996. In each group, the largest proportion of unemployed people aged 26 years and above consisted of those with incomplete secondary schooling. The similarities end there. In the African and coloured groups, the remaining unemployed people clustered in the categories representing those with incomplete primary or no formal schooling. In the white and Indian groups, on the other hand, the clustering was in the categories representing those with matric or higher qualifications.

FIGURE 13: UNEMPLOYED POPULATION AGED 26 YEARS OR MORE BY POPULATION GROUP AND LEVEL OF EDUCATION

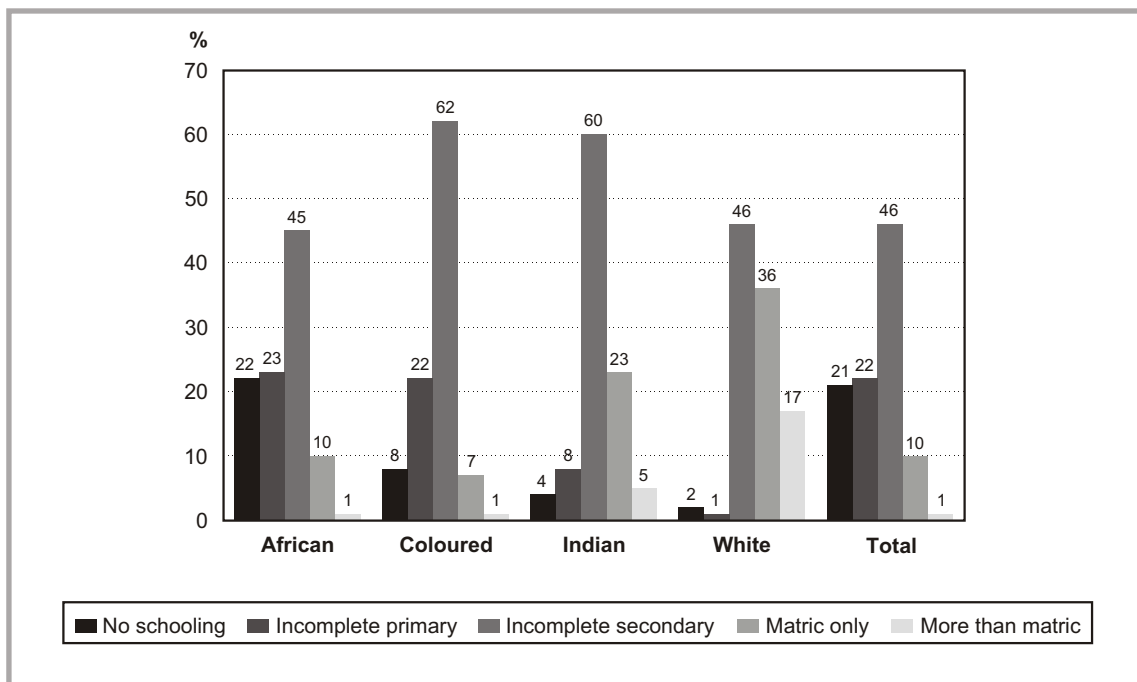
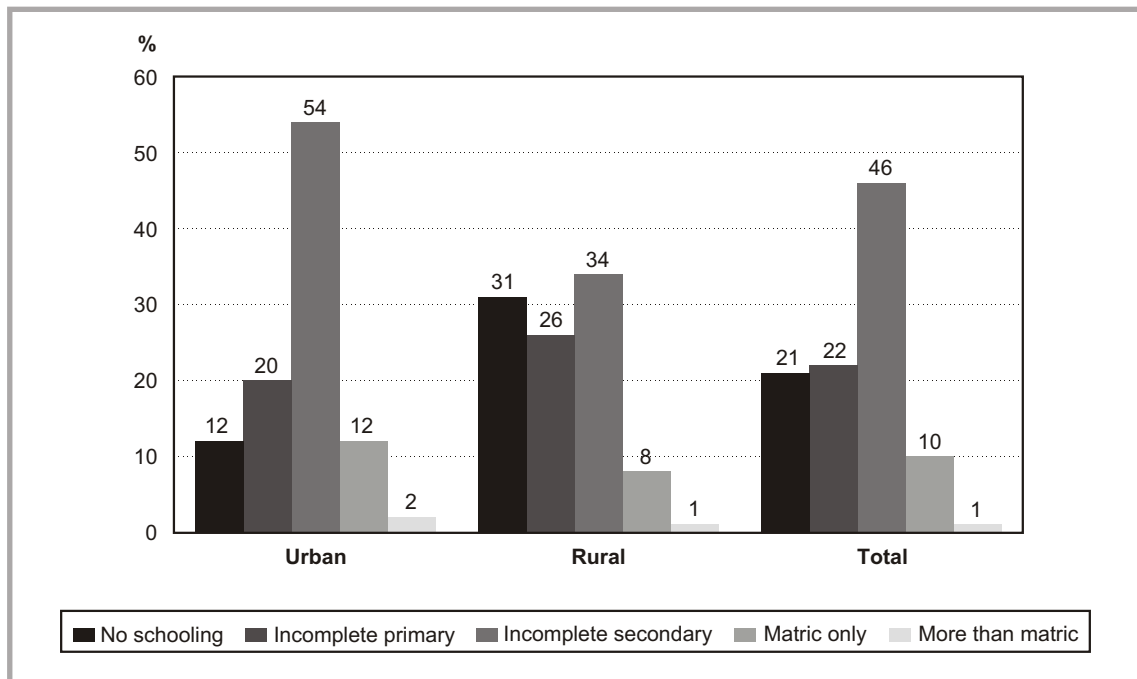
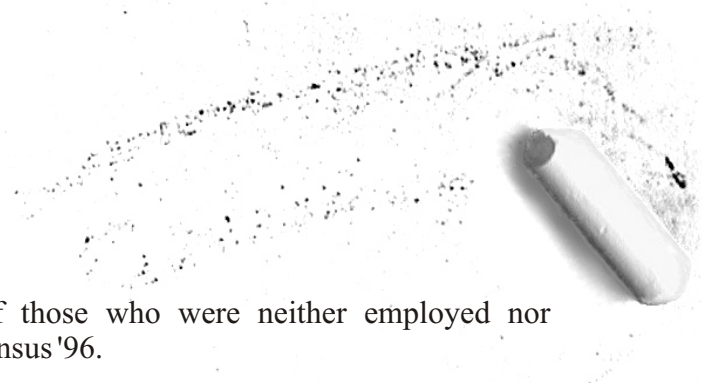


Figure 14 compares the educational status of unemployed people aged 26 years and above in urban and rural locations. Overall, 43% of people aged 26 or more who were unemployed at the time of the census were living in rural areas. Close on a third (31%) of unemployed people of this age in rural areas had no formal schooling, compared to 12% of unemployed people in urban areas. In both urban and rural areas, very few unemployed people had qualifications higher than matric. In rural areas, only 9% had matric or higher.

FIGURE 14: UNEMPLOYED POPULATION AGED 26 YEARS OR MORE BY LOCATION AND LEVEL OF EDUCATION





NOT ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION

The not economically active population consists of those who were neither employed nor unemployed and were not seeking work at the time of Census '96.

Women accounted for 72% of the 5,9 million people aged 26 years and above who were not economically active at the time of the census. Rural people accounted for 52% of the not economically active, and African people for 72%.

Figure 15 reveals almost identical educational profiles among women and men in the not economically active labour market category. As with the graph in respect of unemployed people, it shows only very minor differences between women and men in respect of educational status. However, when the picture for men and women combined is compared with that in Figures 9 (employed) and 12 (unemployed), the figure shows that people who were not economically active tended to have lower educational levels than either the employed or unemployed. Thus 36% of all economically inactive people aged 26 years and above had no formal education, compared to 21% of unemployed people in this age group and 13% of the employed. At the upper end of the scale, a slightly larger percentage (3%) of the economically inactive had post-matric qualifications than among the unemployed (1%). The percentage of employed people with post-matric qualifications (13%) was significantly higher than that of people in either of the other two labour market categories.

FIGURE 15: NOT ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION AGED 26 YEARS OR MORE BY SEX AND LEVEL OF EDUCATION

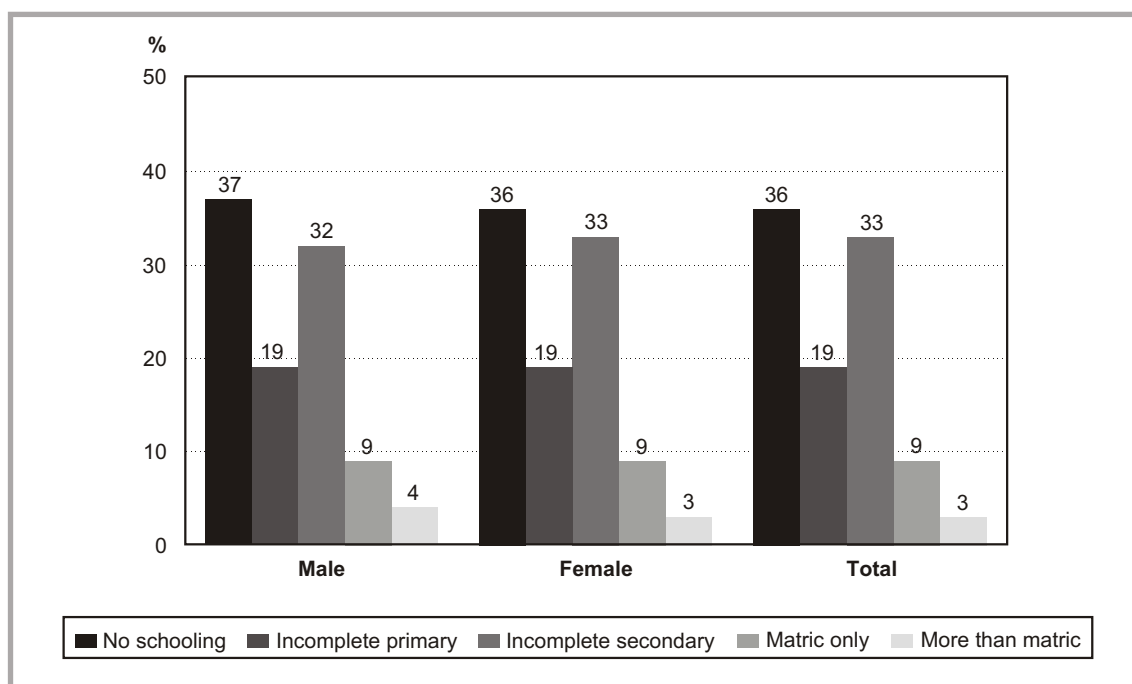


Figure 16 compares the situation of not economically active people aged 26 years and above across population groups. It shows that close on half (47%) of African people in this labour market category and age group had no formal education, compared to 16-18% of coloured and Indian people and only 2% of white people. Conversely, close on half (48%) of white people who were not economically active had matric or a higher qualification, compared to 16% of Indian people, and 6% or less of African and coloured people in this labour market category and age group.

FIGURE 16: NOT ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION AGED 26 YEARS OR MORE BY POPULATION GROUP AND LEVEL OF EDUCATION

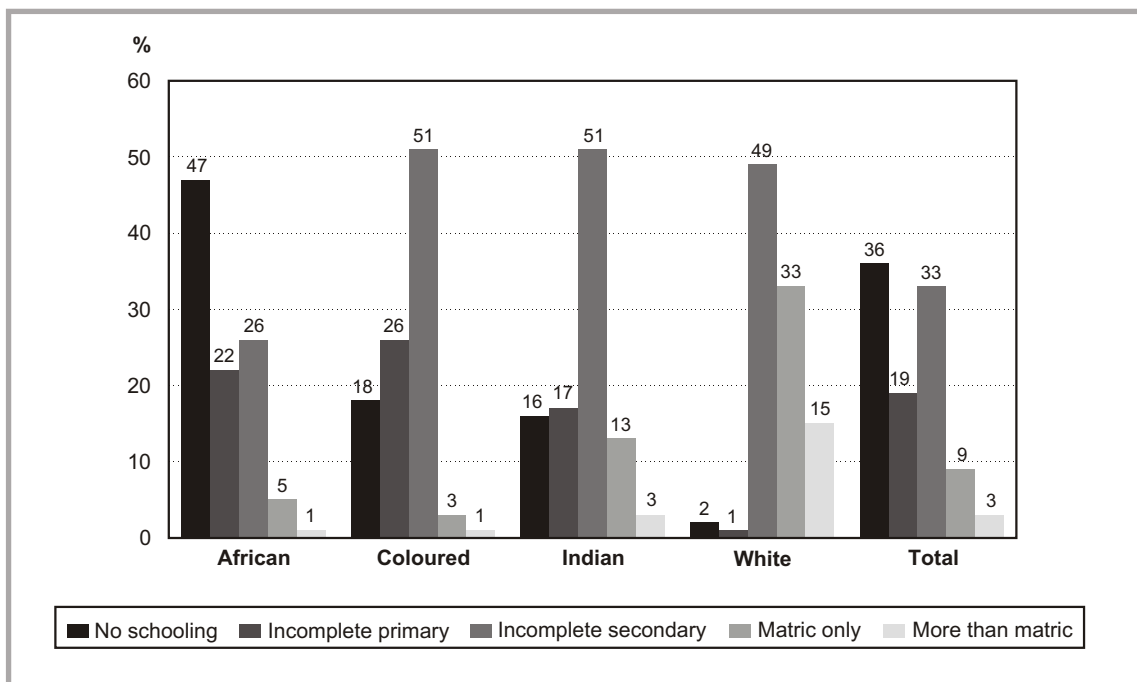
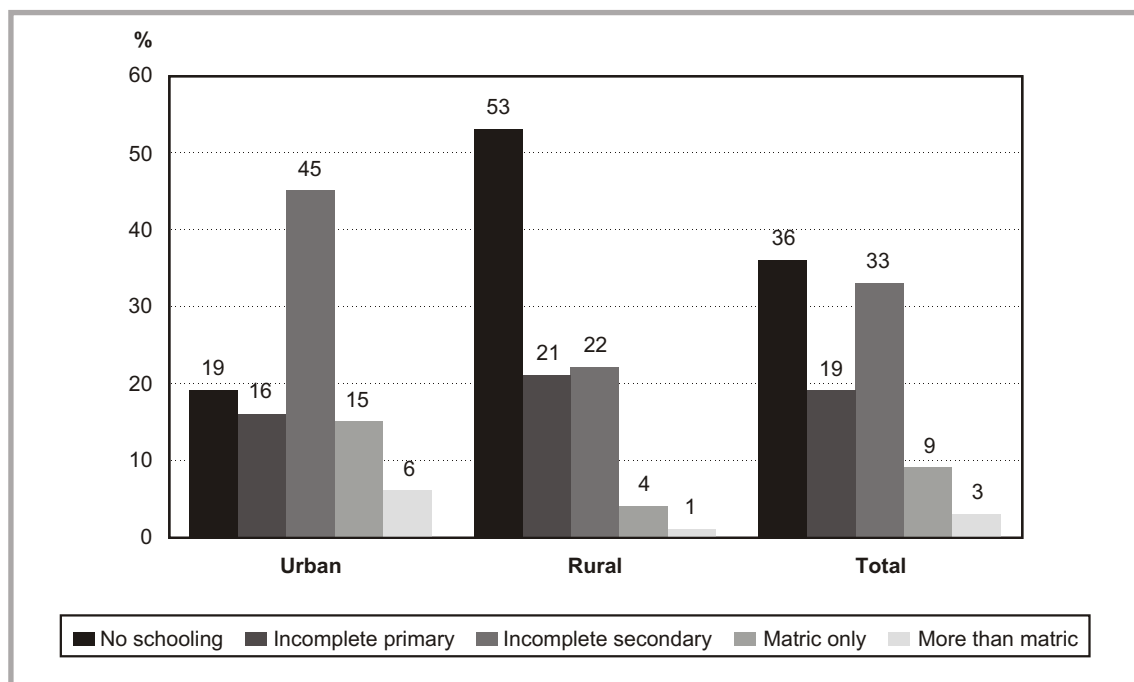




Figure 17 completes the picture with the rural–urban comparison. The figure reveals that over half (53%) of rural people aged 26 years and above who were not economically active at the time of Census '96 had no formal education, compared to under one in five (19%) in urban areas. Only one in twenty (5%) rural people in this age group who were not economically active had matric or a higher qualification, compared to over one in five (21%) urban people.

FIGURE 17: NOT ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION AGED 26 YEARS OR MORE BY LOCATION AND LEVEL OF EDUCATION



EARNINGS BY EDUCATION

The Census '96 questionnaire included a question that asked about the personal income of each individual member of a household. Employment is not the only source of income. However, if we restrict the analysis to employed people, the reported amounts provide a good indication of the financial returns to employment for different individuals. As in previous sections, the analysis here looks at the different patterns among people with different levels of educational qualification by sex, population group and locality.

Figure 18 shows the percentage of employed people with monthly incomes of R500 or less at each of the educational levels. Overall, 53% of employed people with no education were earning R500 or less per month, compared with 3% with post-secondary qualifications. The differences in income between employed men and women with the same educational qualifications are marked. For both women and men, the percentage earning this low level decreased with increasing education. However, at each level of education, a higher percentage of women than men had an income of R500 or less per month.

FIGURE 18: PERCENTAGE OF EMPLOYED POPULATION EARNING R500 OR LESS BY SEX AND LEVEL OF EDUCATION

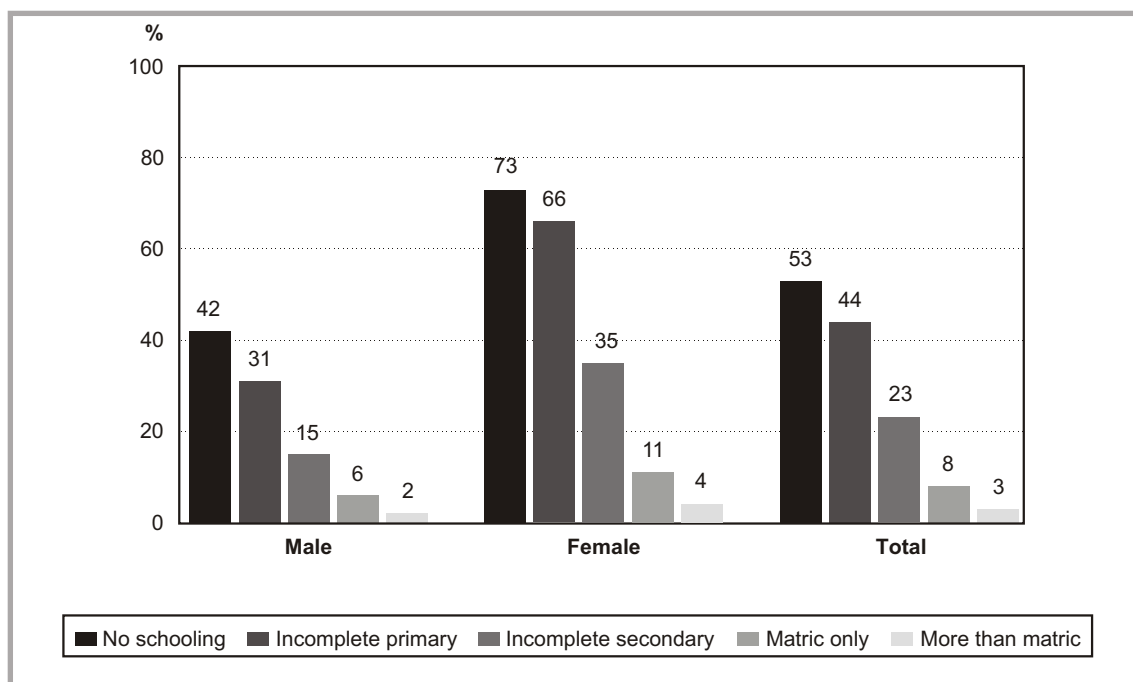




Figure 19 shows the income situation in respect of population group and educational level. Here again, for each population group except the white one, the percentage of employed people aged 26 years and above with incomes of R500 or less drops as educational level increases. The anomaly within the white group occurs in respect of those with lower educational levels. Whereas 17% of the extremely small number of employed whites aged 26 years or more with no formal schooling had an income of R500 or less, this was the case in respect of 27% of those with incomplete primary. In both of the categories, there are relatively few employed white people.

Another interesting feature of Figure 19 is the fact that, among employed people with no schooling, a higher proportion of coloured (60%) than African (53%) people had a monthly income of R500 or less. Among those with incomplete primary, the percentages were similar (44%) for African and coloured. For higher levels of education there was the more usual pattern of African people faring worst.

FIGURE 19: PERCENTAGE OF EMPLOYED POPULATION EARNING R500 OR LESS BY POPULATION GROUP AND LEVEL OF EDUCATION

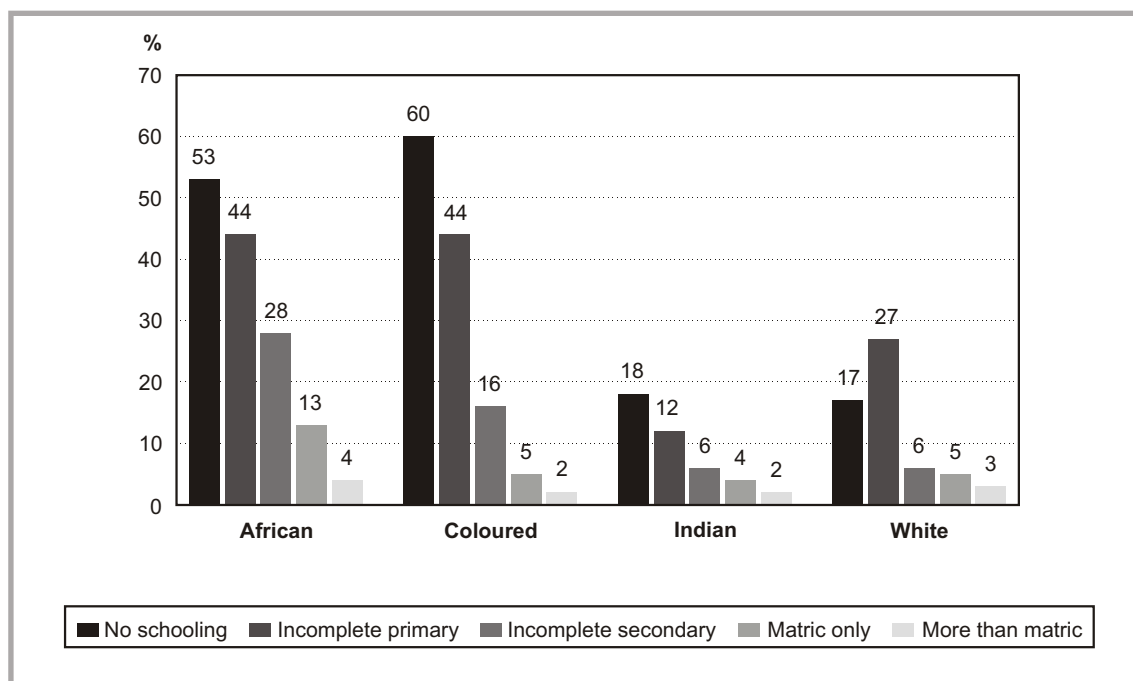


Figure 20 compares the situation in urban and rural areas. Again, within each of the two locations, the percentage of employed people aged 26 years and above with incomes of R500 or less decreases with increasing educational achievement. The differences in income between urban and rural areas are very stark. In October 1996, among those with incomplete secondary education and matric, more than twice as high a percentage of employed rural dwellers as urban dwellers had incomes of R500 or less.

FIGURE 20: PERCENTAGE OF EMPLOYED POPULATION EARNING R500 OR LESS BY LOCATION AND LEVEL OF EDUCATION

