

The largest proportion of African males (45,3%) was concentrated around jobs at the artisan or operator level. This is the case for all population groups, but by a smaller margin. For example, of young white males, 29,6% are in the artisan or operator group, while 28,7% are in the managerial and professional group.

Income

Income is unequally distributed by sex and population group among employed youth.

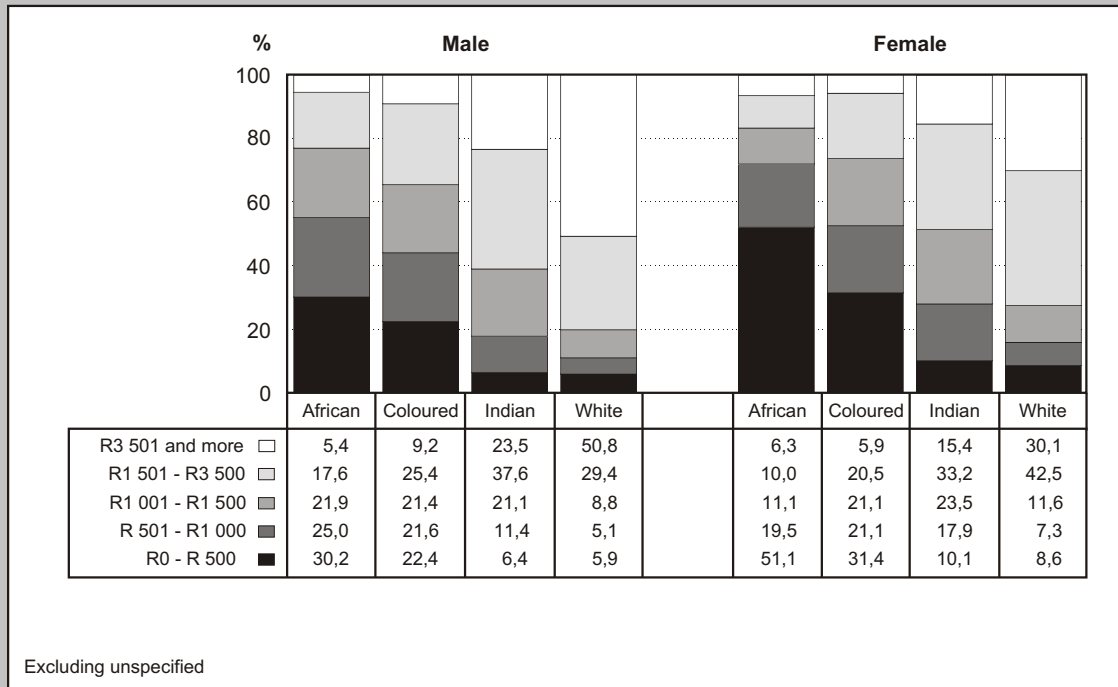
Data from Census '96 show that, among youth, distribution of income varied by population group in South Africa, between males and females as well as by provinces and urban and non-urban location.

Figure 5.10 shows that more than half of all working African male youth (55,2%) had a monthly income of R1 000 and less while among the employed African female youth, the proportion of people in this income group is as large as 70,6%.

In addition, 44,0% of all working coloured male youth and more than half (52,5%) of all working coloured female youth reported earning an income of R1 000 and less per month.

Although, on average, proportions of working youth (both males and females) among whites and Indians earning R1 000 or less were comparatively smaller, they also showed sex-based differences.

Figure 5.10: Monthly income of employed youth by population group and sex



About 17,8% of working Indian male youth compared with 28,0% of working Indian female youth was in this income category, while a comparatively lower proportion of 11,0% among working white male youth and 15,9% of working white female youth received similar amounts of money per month.

At the highest income category of R3 501 and more, African male youth and female youth were almost equally represented with 5,4% and 6,3% respectively. However, these proportions were smaller than those in the other population groups.

Among coloureds, those who were in the highest income category among male youth made up 9,2%, while among women they constituted 5,9%.

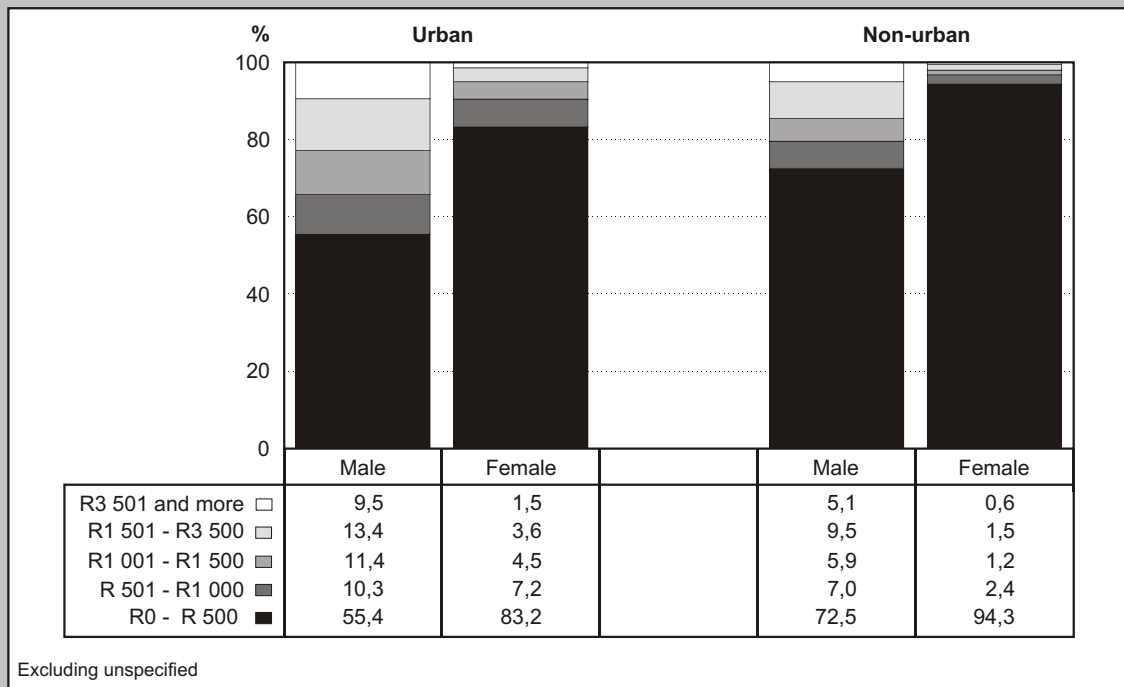
About a quarter of all working Indian male youth (23,5%) and 15,4% of all working Indian female youth were earning R3 501 and more per month.

On the other hand, more than half of all working white male youth (50,8%) and three out of every ten working white female youth (30,1%) were in this income band.

In addition to sex, one of the key factors that influence the income of workers is their milieu, i.e., whether they work in an urban or non-urban area.

Figure 5.11 shows the monthly income of employed youth by sex and milieu. While generally female youth tend to be concentrated in the lowest monthly income category, the percentage of females in this category was larger in non-urban areas (94,3%) than in urban areas (83,2%). Similarly, more male youth in non-urban areas (72,5%) than urban areas (55,4%) were earning a monthly income of R500 and less.

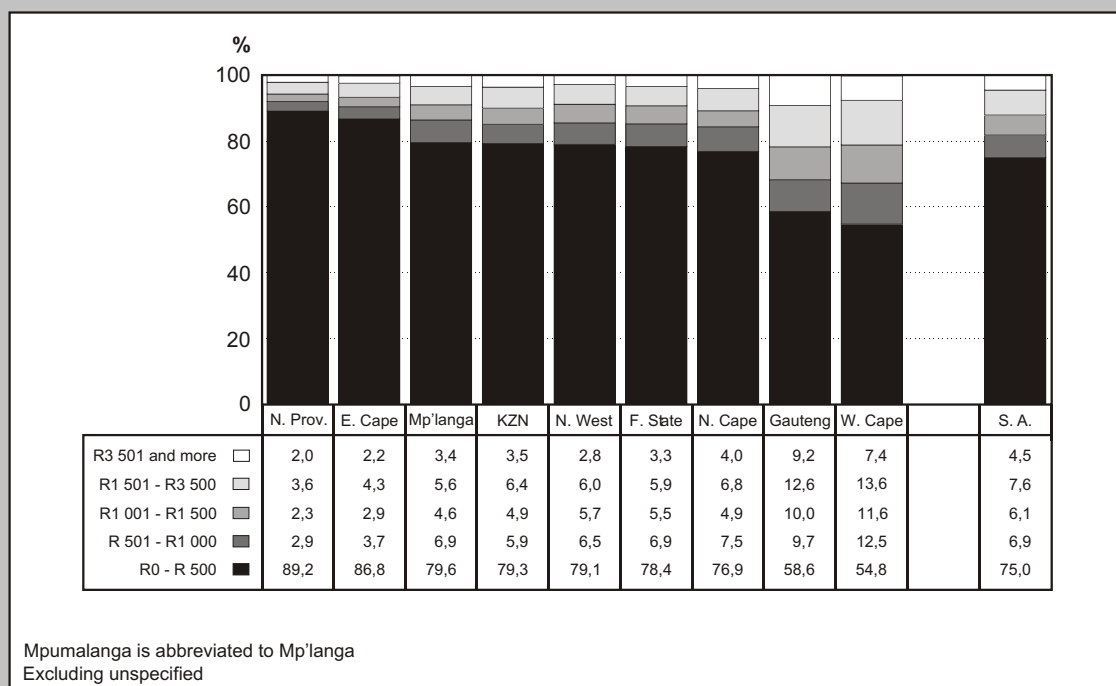
Figure 5.11: Monthly income of employed youth by milieu and sex



In the highest income category the same urban male bias is reflected. Less than 1% of young females in non-urban areas had a monthly income of R3 501 or more, compared with 5,1% of non-urban males; in urban areas 1,5% of young females were in this earning bracket compared with 9,5% of young males.

In provinces with large non-urban populations, the proportion of working youth (both males and females) with monthly incomes of R500 and lower tended to be higher than in the more urbanised provinces.

Figure 5.12: Monthly income of employed youth by province



While on the one hand three in every four working youths nationally (75,0%) had an income of R500 or less, in the four more rural of the nine provinces, the proportion of people in this income band ranged from 79,6% in Mpumalanga to 89,2% in Northern Cape.

Western Cape (54,8%) and Gauteng (58,6%) had the lowest proportions of working youth with a monthly income of R0 to R500.

At the highest income band of R3 501 and more, the proportion of working youth earning this amount per month ranged from 7,4% in Western Cape to as low as 2,0% in Northern Cape. Nationally only 4,5% of youth reported earning salaries in excess of R3 500 per month.