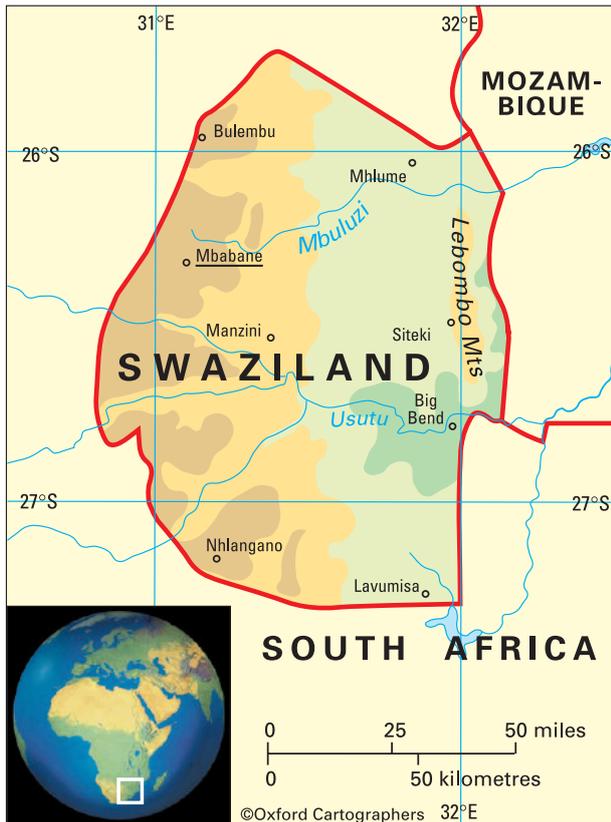


Swaziland



KEY FACTS

Joined Commonwealth:	1968
Population:	1,203,000 (2011)
GDP p.c. growth:	1.8% p.a. 1990–2011
UN HDI 2012:	World ranking 141
Net primary enrolment:	84.9% (2007)
Net secondary enrolment:	34.9% (2011)
Gross tertiary enrolment:	5.9% (2011)
Adult literacy:	87.8% (2011)

Geography

Area:	17,364 sq km
Coastline:	none
Capital:	Mbabane

The Kingdom of Swaziland is a small landlocked country in the east of Southern Africa, bounded to the east by Mozambique and elsewhere by South Africa.

The country comprises four regions: Hhohho (in the north), Manzini (west-central), Lubombo (east) and Shiselweni (south).

Society

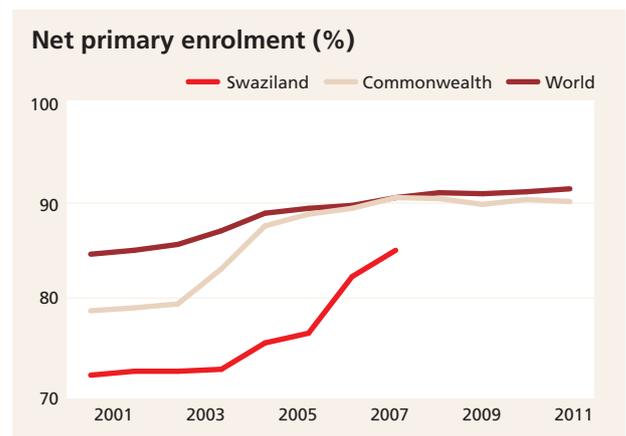
Population per sq km:	69
Life expectancy:	49 years
Official languages:	siSwati, English

Population: 1,203,000 (2011); 21 per cent live in urban areas; growth 1.6 per cent p.a. 1990–2011; birth rate 29 per 1,000 people (49 in 1970); life expectancy 49 years, having fallen sharply since the latter 1990s due to AIDS (48 in 1970, 61 in 1990 and 60 in 1997).

Swazis make up 90 per cent; persons of other African, European or mixed descent ten per cent. Large numbers of Mozambicans fled to Swaziland to escape the civil war, but repatriation was completed in 1993.

Language: siSwati is the national language and English widely spoken.

Religion: Christians about 60 per cent and most of the rest hold traditional beliefs. Traditional beliefs often coexist with Christian beliefs.



Health: Public spending on health was four per cent of GDP in 2010. Services are provided by the state, missions and some industrial organisations. Seventy-one per cent of the population uses an improved drinking water source and 57 per cent have adequate sanitation facilities (2010). Infant mortality was 69 per 1,000 live births in 2011 (150 in 1960). In 2011, 26.0 per cent of people aged 15–49 were HIV positive.

Media: The English-language dailies are *The Times of Swaziland/Sunday Times* and *The Swazi Observer/The Weekend Observer*.

Three national radio stations and the sole national television channel, Swazi TV, are public services.

Some 35 per cent of households have TV sets (2006). There are 37 personal computers per 1,000 people (2006).

Communications: Country code 268; internet domain '.sz'. Public telephones are widely available. Mobile phone coverage is good in urban areas. There are internet cafes in Mbabane and Manzini, and post offices in all the main towns.

There are 63 main telephone lines, 637 mobile phone subscriptions and 181 internet users per 1,000 people (2011).

Education

Governance

Ministry of Education and Training

Mbabane

Tel: +268 2 404 2491

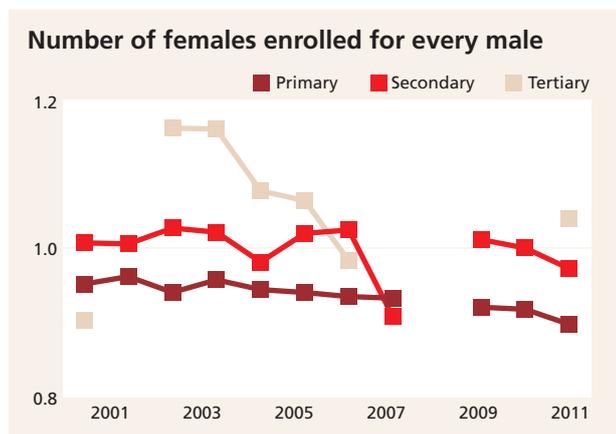
Minister: Wilson Ntshangase

Principal secretary: Patrick N Muir

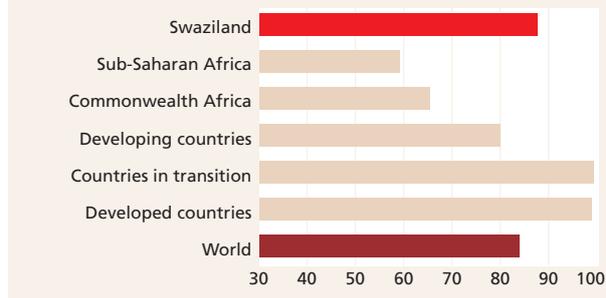
Policy and plans

Public spending on education was 7.8 per cent of GDP in 2011.

The National Development Strategy Vision 2022, launched in August 1999, is for Swaziland to be among the top ten per cent of the medium human development group of countries in the UN's Human Development Index by 2022. The Ministry of Education and Training plays a key role in national development, with the objective of providing quality education to all its citizens at all levels, in formal and non-formal education.



Adult literacy (%)



The government has introduced a new curriculum in the pre-vocational subjects of agriculture, business, home economics and technical studies, which was piloted in 16 high schools throughout the country.

Schools

Gross enrolment overall: 66.7% (2011)

Primary female–male ratio: 0.90:1 (2011)

Secondary female–male ratio: 0.97:1 (2011)

Primary pupil–teacher ratio: 29:1 (2011)

Secondary pupil–teacher ratio: 16:1 (2011)

There are seven years of compulsory education starting at the age of six. Primary school comprises seven years and secondary five, with cycles of three and two years. Some 67 per cent of pupils complete primary school (2010). The school year starts in January.

Tertiary

The University of Swaziland offers degrees in agriculture, commerce, education, health sciences, humanities, sciences and social sciences, and incorporates the Institute of Distance Learning. Swaziland College of Technology provides diploma and certificate courses in building, business, education and engineering. The Vocational and Commercial Training Institute offers business and technical training. The female–male ratio for gross enrolment in tertiary education is 1.00:1 (2011). Literacy among people aged 15–24 is 94 per cent (2010). There is a national library and a mobile library service to remoter parts of the country.

Further information

Government of Swaziland: www.gov.sz

Commonwealth Secretariat: www.thecommonwealth.org

Commonwealth Education Online: www.cedol.org

Education institutions

University of Swaziland: www.uniswa.sz

Swaziland College of Technology: www.scot.co.sz

Swaziland Library Association: www.swala.sz